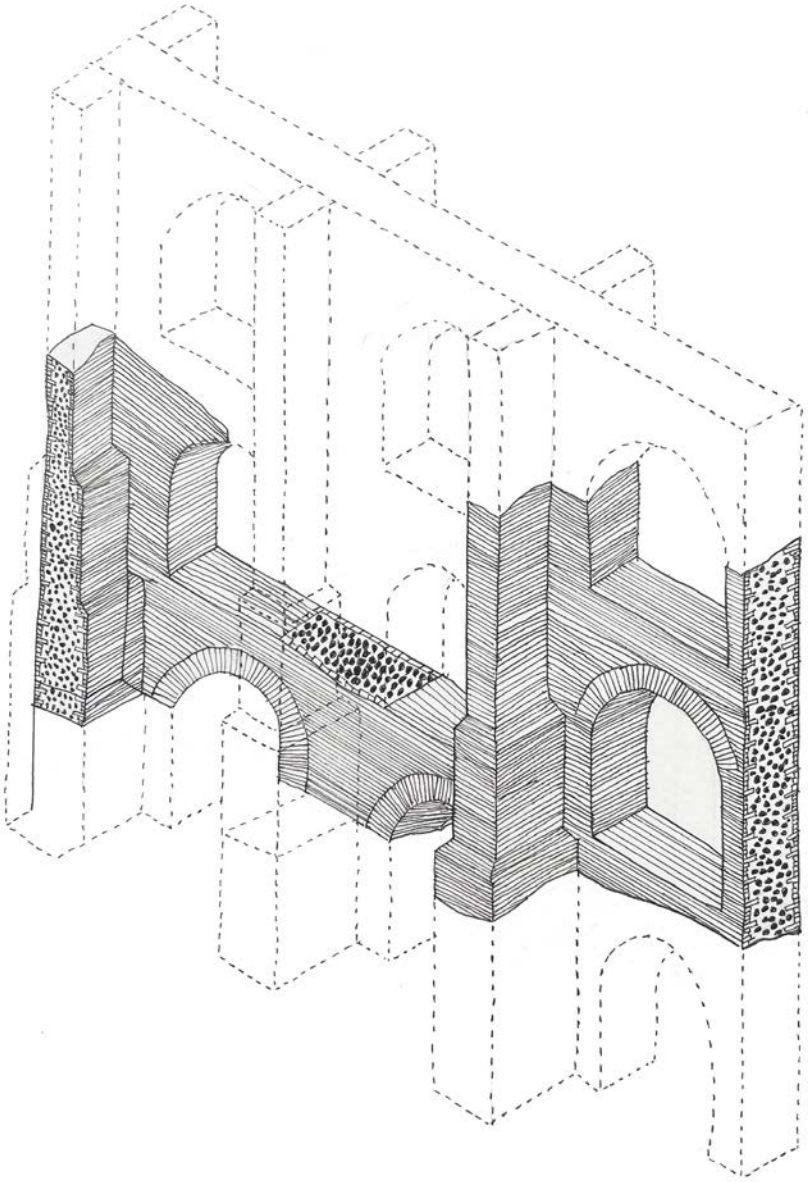


Karen Astley

CV & Portfolio

Part 2 Architectural Assistant

Image above: Axonometric hand sketch of the Aroe Valley Bridge, part of the aqueduct of Patras in Roman Greece

Curriculum Vitae

Personal Statement

I am a determined and a hard-working individual who has a passion for sustainable architecture and architectural history. What excites me the most is the opportunity to learn, explore, design and build environmentally friendly architecture. I believe that as future architects, we have a significant role to play in shaping the world and mitigating climate change

My interest in architectural history has led me to write a first class dissertation in which I compared the structural technologies of several historical structures through hand-drawn sketches to understand the importance of contextual differences on structural efficiency. Also,during my postgraduate studies, I had the chance to work on modular design and parametric design processes which opened a new perspective in my understanding of design. I have always been an enthusiastic learner who has enjoyed working in a team as well as taking individual responsibilities.

To view my undergrad portfolios please visit : https://issuu.com/karenpelinastley/

Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, UK - karenpelina@gmail.com - 07551 505 825

Education

Continuing I 01.2023 — **University of Kent**
RIBA Part 3 PGDip
Canterbury, UK

07.2021 I 09.2019 — **University of Kent**
RIBA Part 2 Master of Architecture (MArch)
Canterbury, UK
GPA : 2:1

07.2018 I 09.2013 — **Izmir Institute of Technology**
Faculty of Architecture , BA (Hons)
Izmir, Turkey
GPA : 3.16 / 4

07.2016 I 02.2016 — **Universita Degli Studi Di Ferrarà**
Dipartimento di Architettura
Ferrara, Italy (Erasmus Program)

Awards

Writing Award for Dissertation
(University of Kent 2021)

Experience

10.2023 I 07.2021 — **Peter Jackson Architects (PJArchitecture)**
Whitstable, Kent, UK
Supervised by a senior architect in a small practice, had the chance to experience all RIBA stages for mostly residential projects around Kent. Attended client meetings, worked on sketch designs, submitted planning applications, prepared Building Regulation drawings and Tender documents, attended contract meetings and liaised with the contractors.

07.2019 I 01.2019 — **Ege Detay Group, Izmir, Turkey**
Equivalent to RIBA Stages 4 to 6, technical drawings for external facades were prepared , constructed and handed over.

08.2017 I 06.2017 — **SN Architects, Istanbul,Turkey**
Assisted with 2 architects, RIBA Stage 4 Equivalent technical drawings were prepared for a large scale sports center in Istanbul.

08.2015 I 06.2015 — **SURYAPI, Istanbul, Turkey**
Assisted with structural engineers and architects, day to day progress was recorded of the construction site of a large scale mall (AXIS AVM), equivalent to RIBA Stage 5.

Software Skills

Autocad	(%80)
Turbocad	(%80)
Adobe Photoshop	(%75)
Lumion Rendering	(%65)
Twinmotion	(%65)
Adobe Indesign	(%60)
Sketchup	(%55)
Rhinoceros 3D	(%55)
Revit	(%50)
Adobe Illustrator	(%45)
Grasshopper	(%30)
Archicad	(%20)
MS Office	(%85)

Language Skills

English: Advanced
Turkish: Native Language
Italian: Beginner

Hobbies

Travelling, Dancing,Hiking,
Playing Tennis

Personal Skills

Hardworking ,Determined,
Energetic, Enthusiastic

Contents

Professional Portfolio (UK)

Academic Portfolio

Selected Professional Works

01.

Copperfield, Leysdown, Sheerness, UK

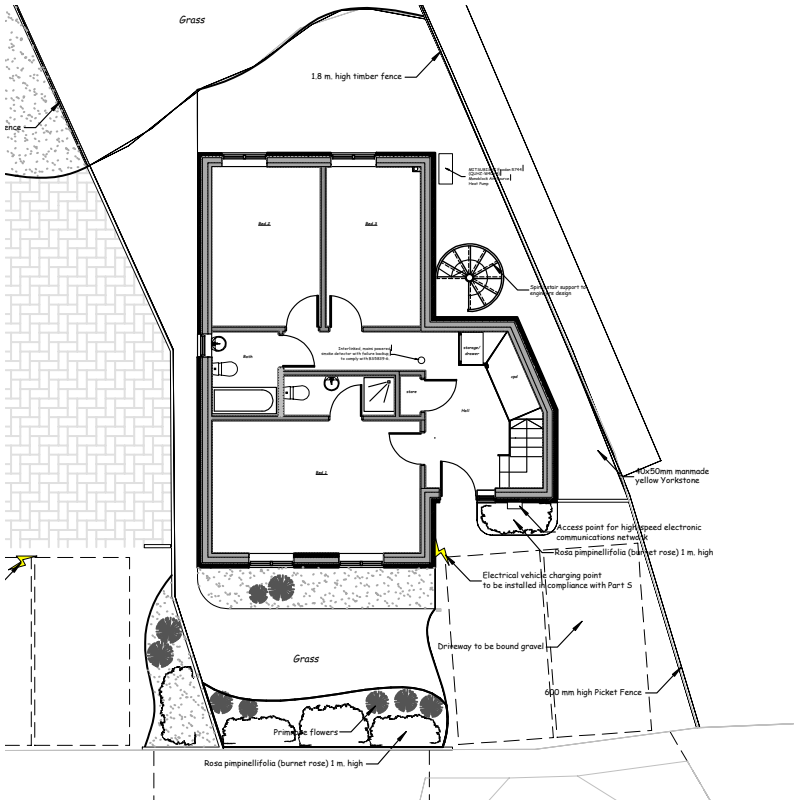
PJArchitecture, RIBA Stages: 3-6

When working in Peter Jackson Architects in Whitstable (now PJArchitecture), Copperfield was one of the projects that I assisted my mentor through RIBA Stages 3-6. The project was a new build 3 bed dwelling for a regular developer client. The dwelling was granted planning approval with the condition that it would achieve at least a 50% reduction in Dwelling Emission Rate compared to the Target Emission Rate.

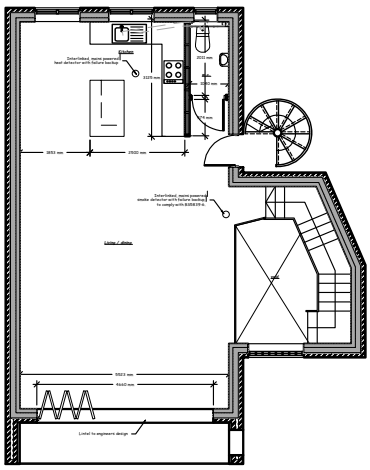
I was engaged in the sketch design, I prepared all the Stage 4 General Arrangement drawings, I applied for a Full Plans Application. I regularly liaised with several of the relevant parties including the client, the planning officer, the approved inspector , the energy consultant, the solar panel consultants, the heat pump suppliers, etc. I also contacted statutory undertakers such as Southern Water to apply for a new sewer connection and surface water connection. The project was completed in October 2023.

All below drawings have been prepared by myself.

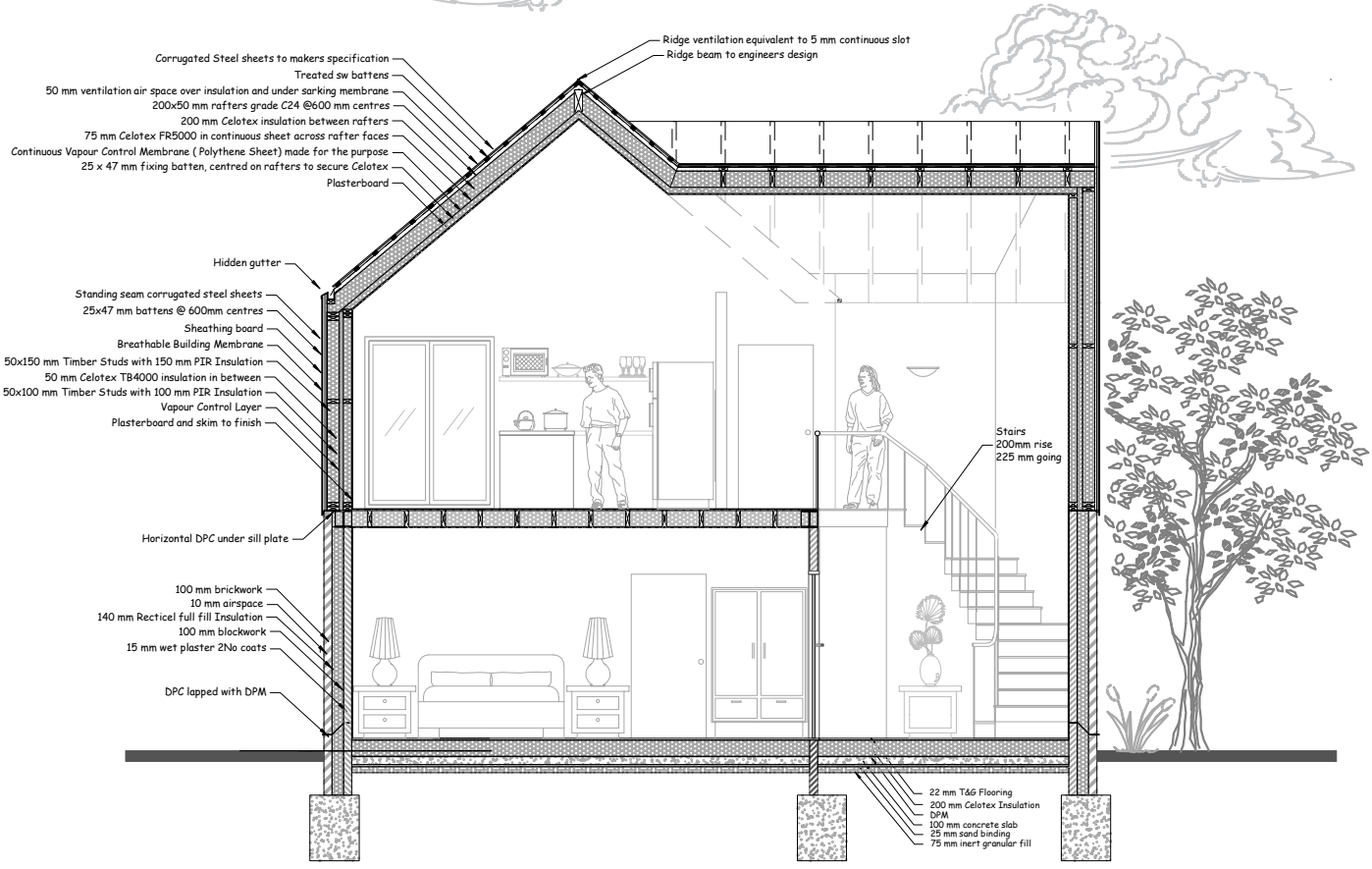
1. Perspective view of Copperfield Not to scale, (Sketchup, Twinmotion, Photoshop)



2. Copperfield Ground Floor Plan , Not to scale, (Turbocad)



3.Copperfield First Floor Plan , Not to scale, (Turbocad)



4.Copperfield Cross Section , Not to scale, (Turbocad)

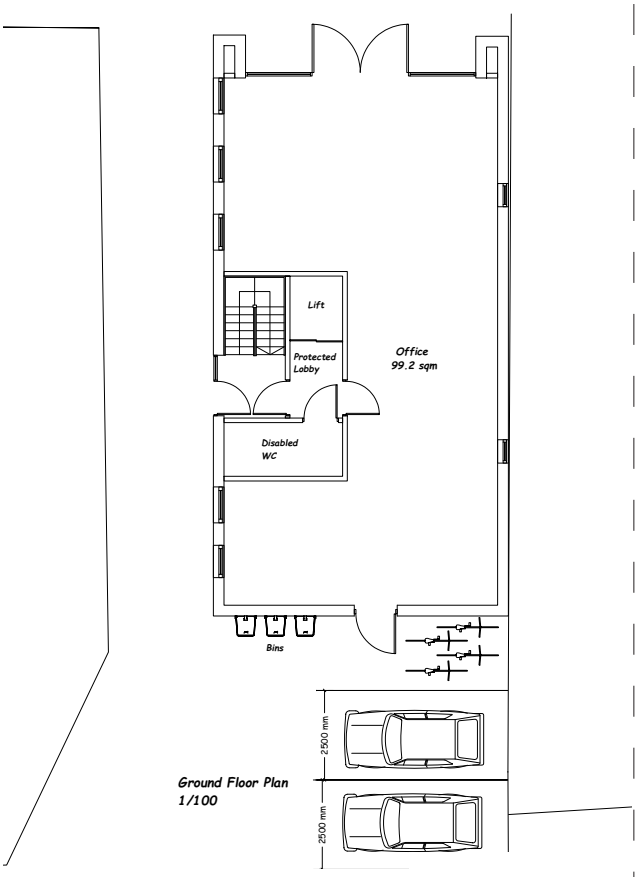
02. Park Road, Sittingbourne, Kent, UK

PJArchitecture, RIBA Stages: 0-3

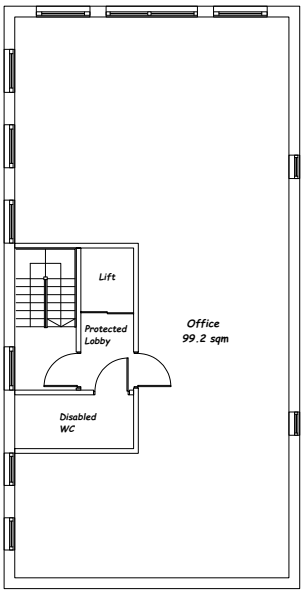
Following my mentors meeting with the client, I prepared sketch designs for a 3 storey office building near the High Street of Sittingbourne and joined the pre-application meeting with the planning officer. The initial planning application was refused due to lack of width for the refuse vehicles to reach the site. I liaised with the planning officer, the transport consultants and refuse collection companies to establish a solution and the second planning application was approved. All below drawings have been prepared by myself.

5. Perspective view of the offices from the street (Turbocad, Twinmotion, Photoshop)

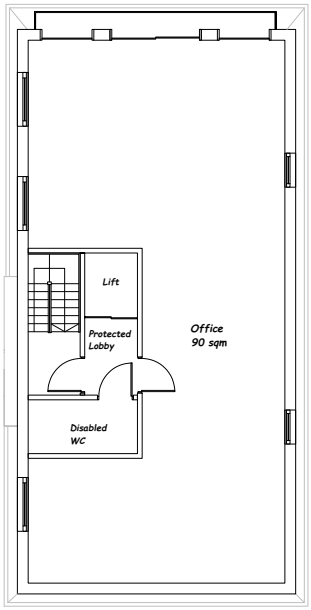
6. Side Elevation (Turbocad, Twinmotion, Photoshop)



7.Ground Floor Plan , Not to scale (TurboCad)



8.First Floor Plan , Not to scale (TurboCad)



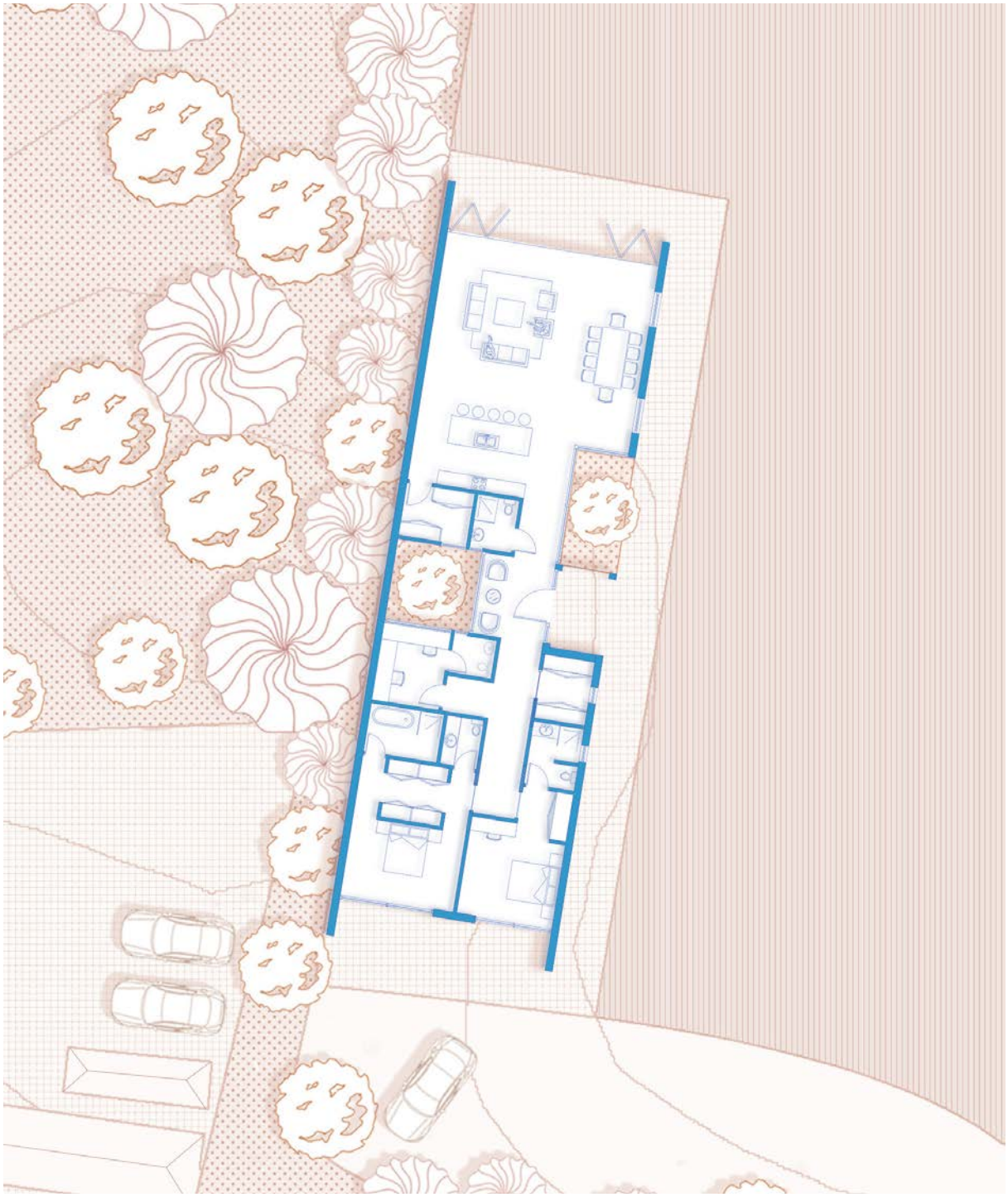
9.Second Floor Plan , Not to scale (TurboCad)

10.Approved Design , Not to scale (TurboCad)

03. Barnsole Vineyard, Canterbury, UK

PJArchitecture, RIBA Stages: 0-2

This project was a conversion of a vineyard storage into a Resident. My mentor and I prepared separate sketch designs for this project. The views from within the property and the light entering the rooms were the leading aspects of my design. To preserve and enhance the industrial feeling Corten steel cladding was proposed externally. All below drawings have been prepared by myself.



1.Concept Plan, Not to scale, (Turbocad, Photoshop)

12.External Image (TurboCad, Sketchup, Twinmotion and Photoshop)

13. Side Elevation, View of the entrance (TurboCad, Sketchup, Twinmotion and Photoshop)

15.Internal Image illustrating the courtyard (Sketchup, Twinmotion and Photoshop)

14. Internal Images (Sketchup, Twinmotion and Photoshop)

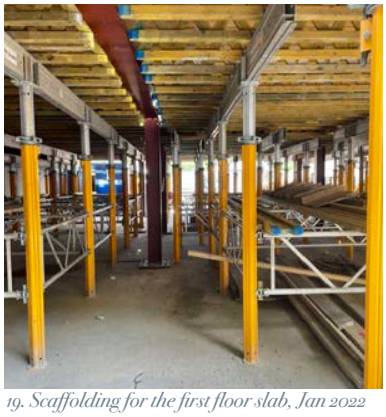
04. Heritage Court, Dover, UK

PJArchitecture, RIBA Stages: 4-5, Part 3 Case Study

The Heritage Court project is a 4 storey apartment building with undercroft parking in Dover. Following a Design and Build Contract, the client was encouraged by the Contractor to change the structural system from masonry to steel frame. I was tasked with researching steel frame details, and creating a 3D structural model to comprehend the positioning of steel columns and beams based on the engineers' drawings to eliminate any potential issues related to cold-bridging.The construction cost of this project was around £3million.

17. Construction Site, August 2022

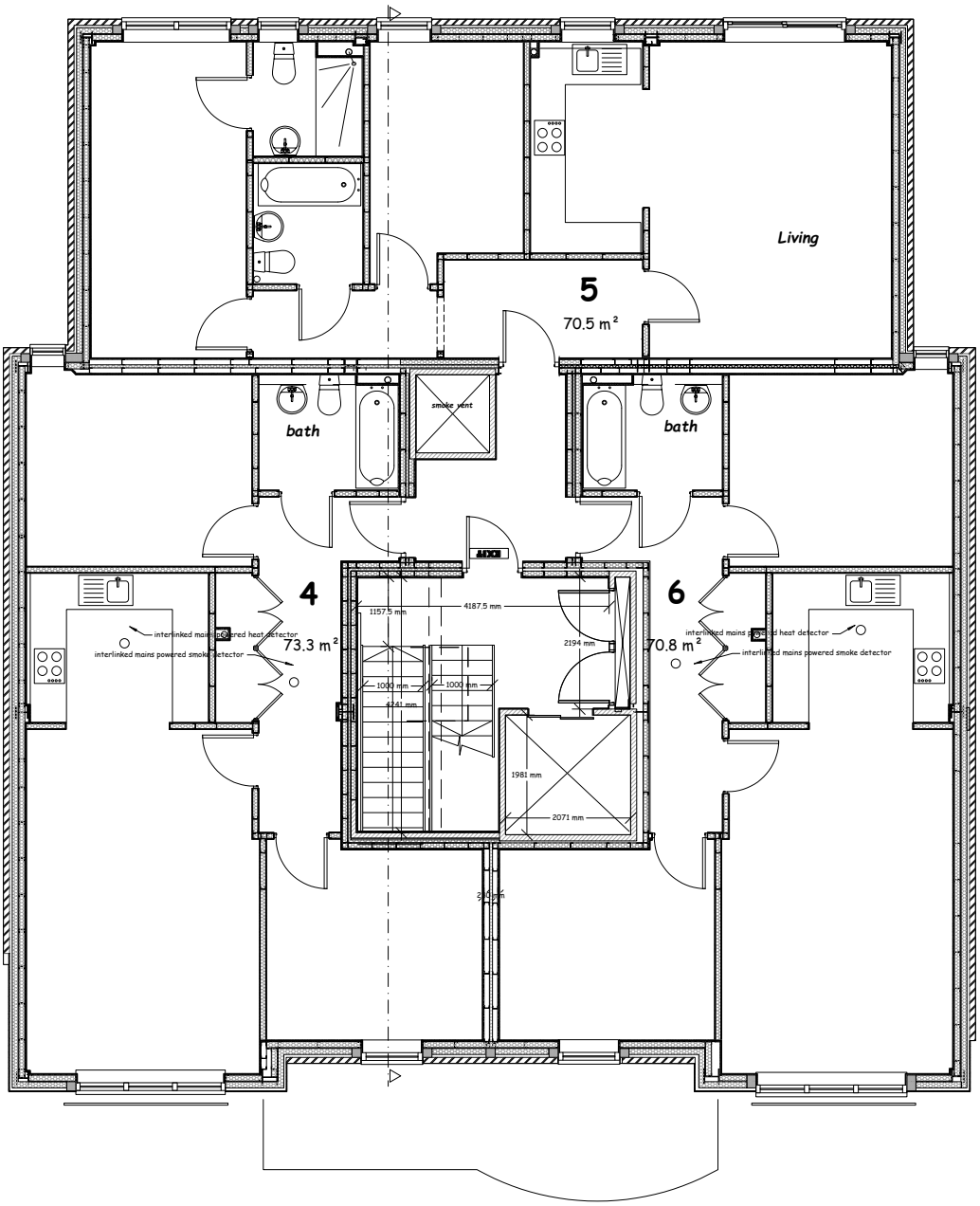
18. Watertight Construction Site, June 2023



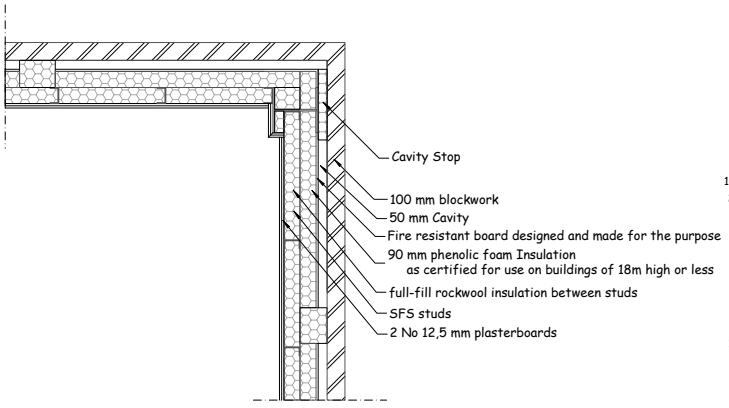
19. Scaffolding for the first floor slab, Jan 2022

20. Lightweight steel frame walls, June 2023

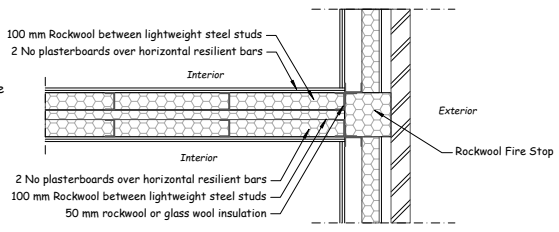
21. Ceiling installation, September 2023



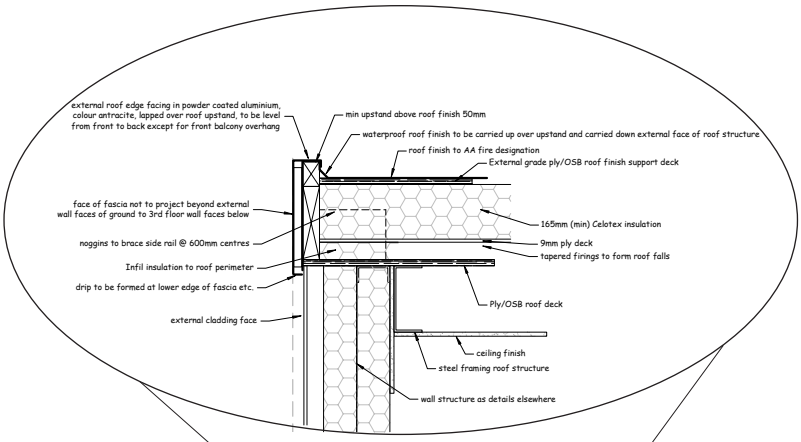
22.Second Floor Plan (TurboCAD)



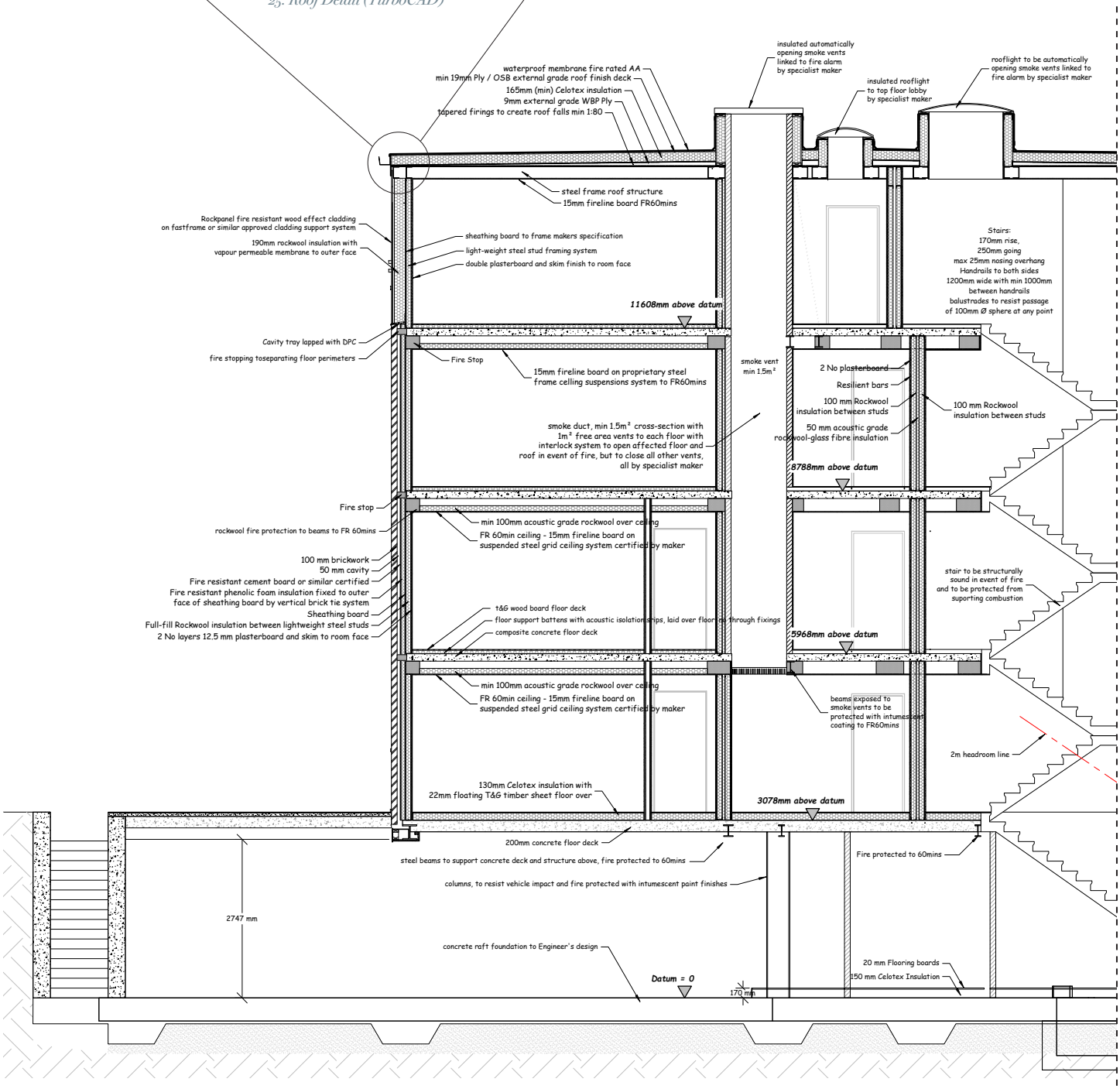
23. Plan, Wall Layers (TurboCAD)



24. Plan, Party Walls and External Walls (TurboCAD)



25. Roof Detail (TurboCAD)

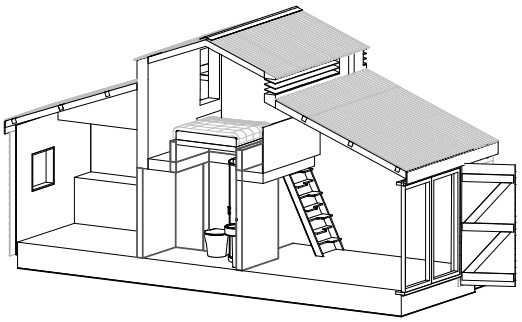


26. Cross Section of the flats (TurboCAD)

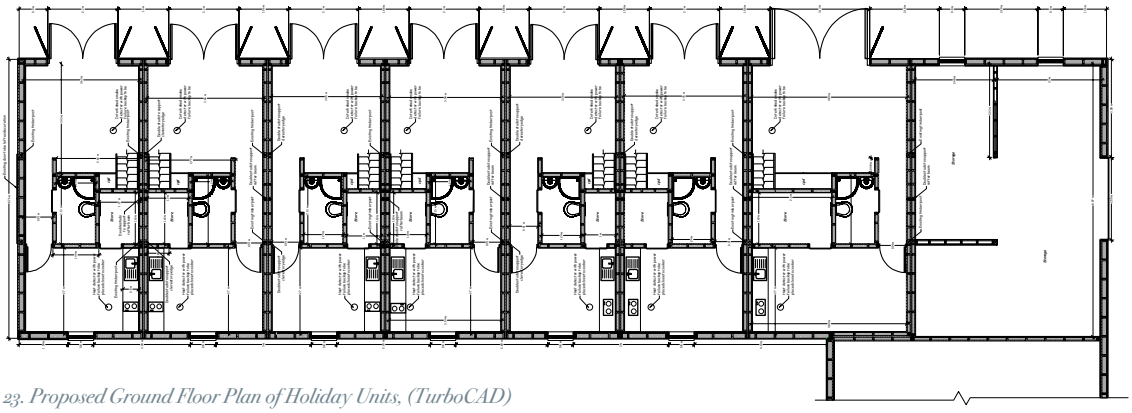
05. Plum Pudding Stables, Birchington, UK

PJArchitecture, RIBA Stages: 4

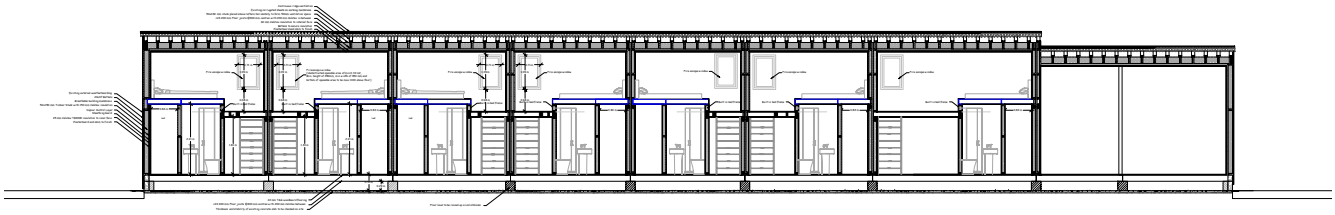
Plum Pudding Stables was a conversion project of stables to holiday let units. Following approval of planning application, I prepared a detailed 3D model of the existing structure and the proposed structure. I prepared Stage 4 General Arrangement drawings, liaised with the client and applied for Full Plans Application. All below drawings have been prepared by myself.



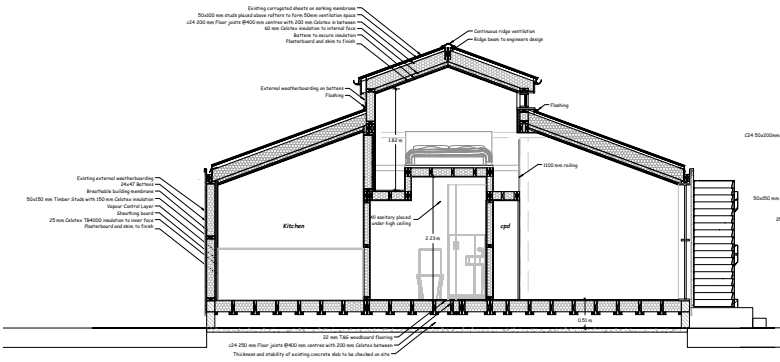
22. Proposed 3D Section of Holiday Units (TurboCAD)



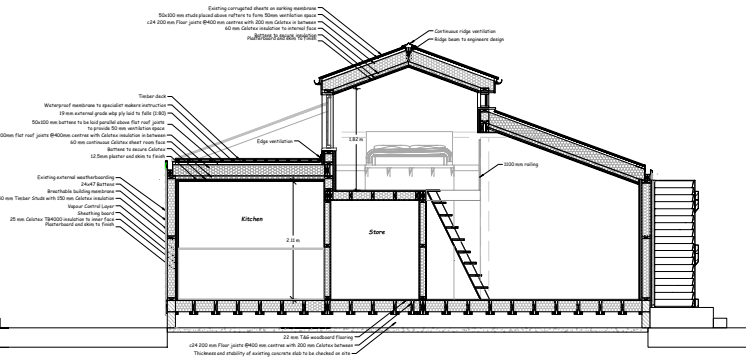
23. Proposed Ground Floor Plan of Holiday Units, (TurboCAD)



24. Proposed Longitudinal Section of Holiday Units (TurboCAD)



25. Proposed Cross Section AA of Holiday Units (TurboCAD)



26. Proposed Cross Section BB of Holiday Units (TurboCAD)

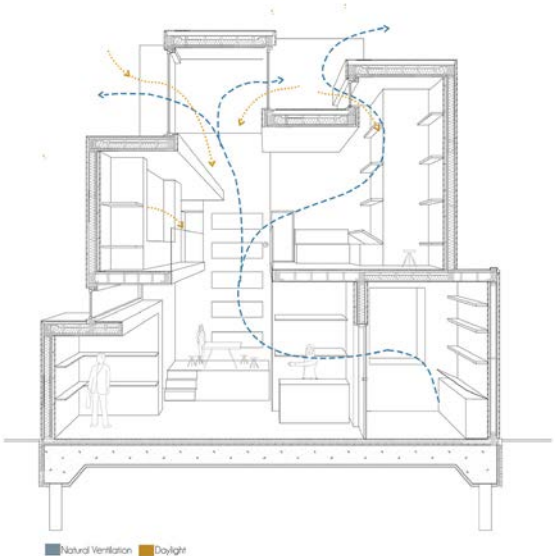
Selected Academic Works

06.

Recycled Textile Hub

As an answer to "U.N. Sustainable Development Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns" this project concentrates on the overconsumption of textile and proposes a route of Circular Economy to address the problem. Situated in London, near East India Dock Basin, the project includes market spaces selling second-hand clothing. It introduces an industry where unsellable clothing is shredded and upcycled, along with a textile school collaborating with the industry. The site also offers services such as tailors, stylists, and rental stores.

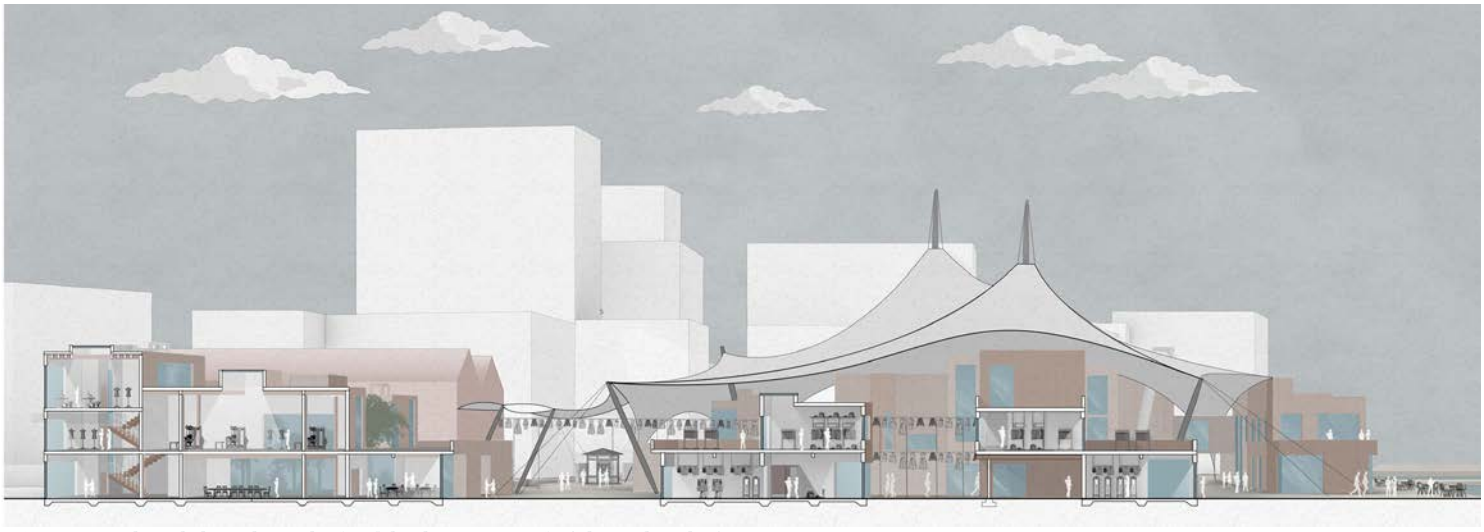
The site contains two warehouses which will be reused as the dropping off point and the industry, as recycling these buildings would not only keep the historical industrial sense in the project but will also reduce the embodied carbon of the project. Given the extensive use of textiles in the project, a tensile membrane structure made from recycled plastic is incorporated over the market space. This structure not only shields clothing from rain but also adds vibrant colors to the interiors.



1. Section of the initial prototype, not to scale

2. Cross Section through the Shops and the Courtyard , not to scale, (Rhino, photoshop)

2. Perspective view of the shops (Rhino, Photoshop)



3.Cross Section through the Fashion School and the Shops, not to scale, (Rhino, Photoshop)

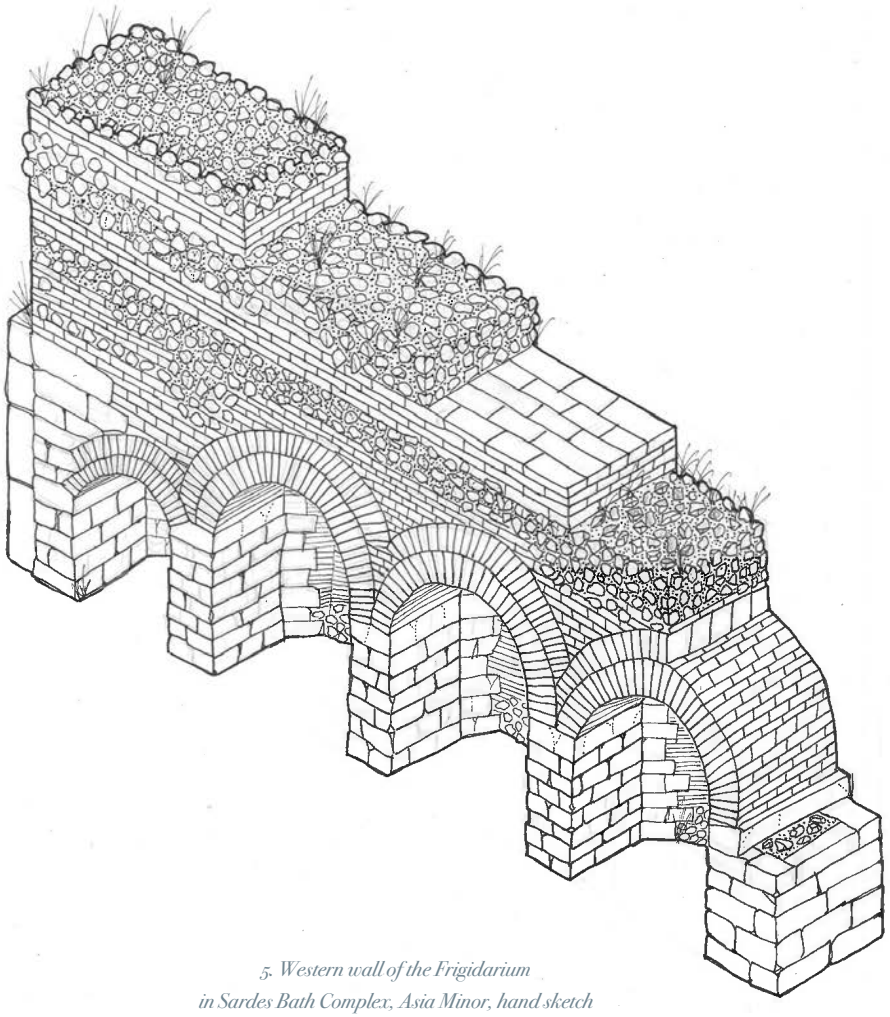
4. Site plan , not to scale, (Rhino, photoshop)

4. Perspective view of the shops (Rhino, photoshop)

07.
Research Sketches

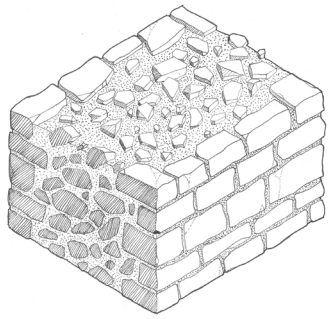
For my dissertation in my final year I realised I had a passion in architectural history and I decided to study the structural technologies in historical times. In this first class dissertation, I compared the building techniques and materials of private dwellings, baths and aqueducts built in the 2nd century A.D. in the metropolitan Rome with the ones built in the Roman provinces of Greece and Asia Minor (current Turkey) . Hand-drawn axonometric sketches were prepared as a method to understand the contextual differences on structural efficiency.

This dissertation made me understand that contraty to popular belief, concrete was not one of the greatest inventions that spreaded from the capital Rome to the provinces but instead, it was an undesirable choice for the local builders of certain provinces at the time, as every region had various features, different geographical constraints and abundant of distinct materials which shaped its own efficient building techniques.

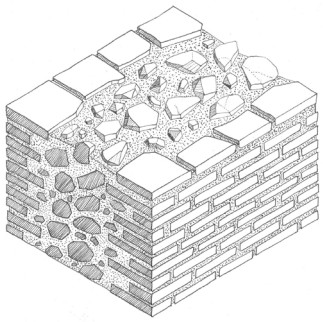


5. Western wall of the Frigidarium
in Sardes Bath Complex, Asia Minor, hand sketch

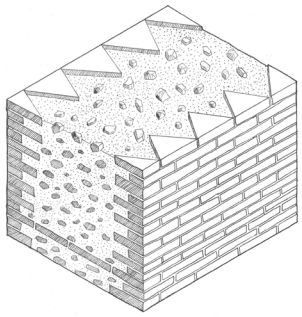
Ancient Masonry Methods



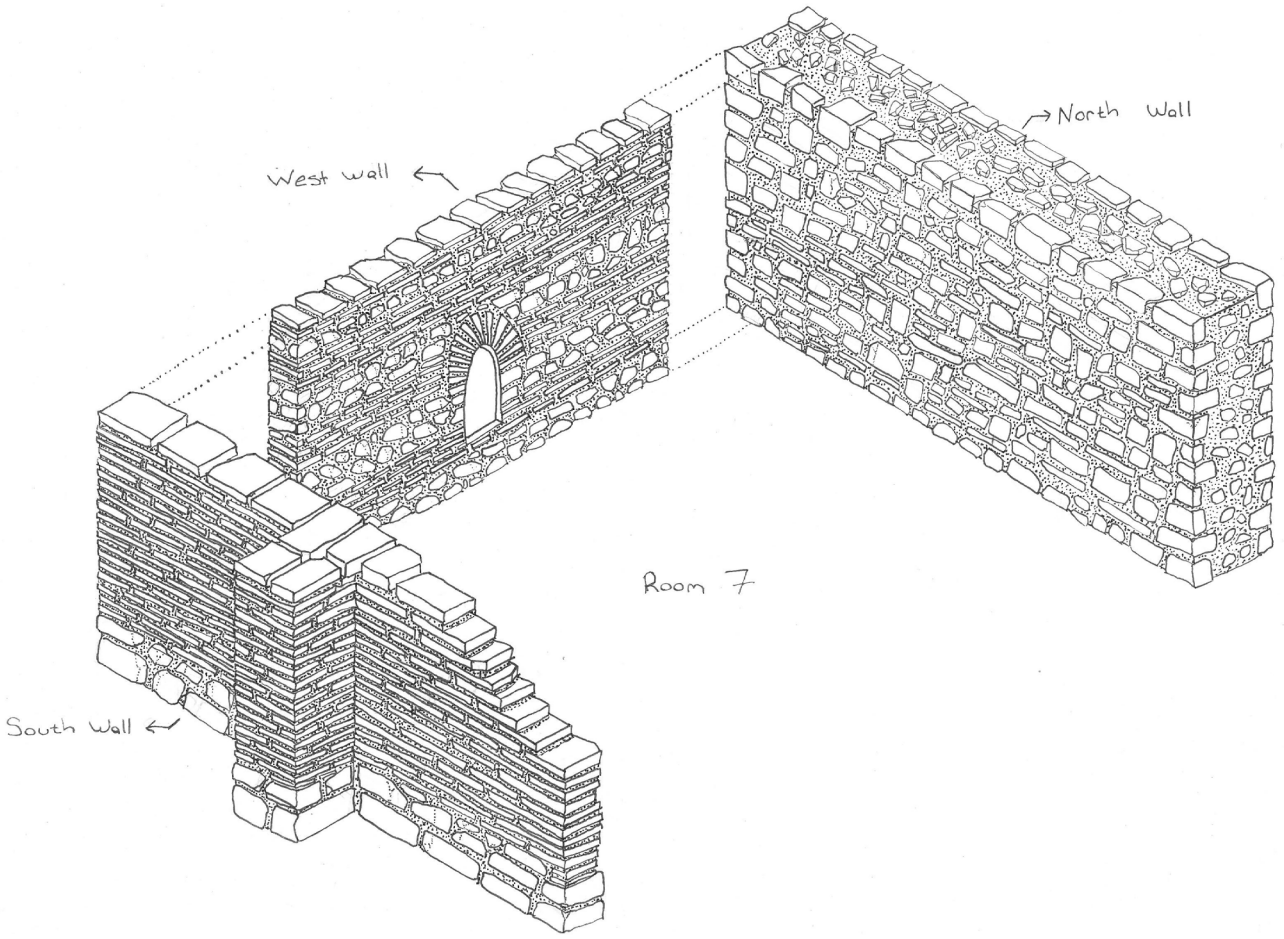
6. Common masonry method used in Asia Minor. Rubbled masonry core is covered with ashlar masonry made out of quarry stones which were abundant in the region. Hand sketch



7.Common masonry method used in Roman Greece. Rubbled masonry core covered with brick facing. Hand sketch



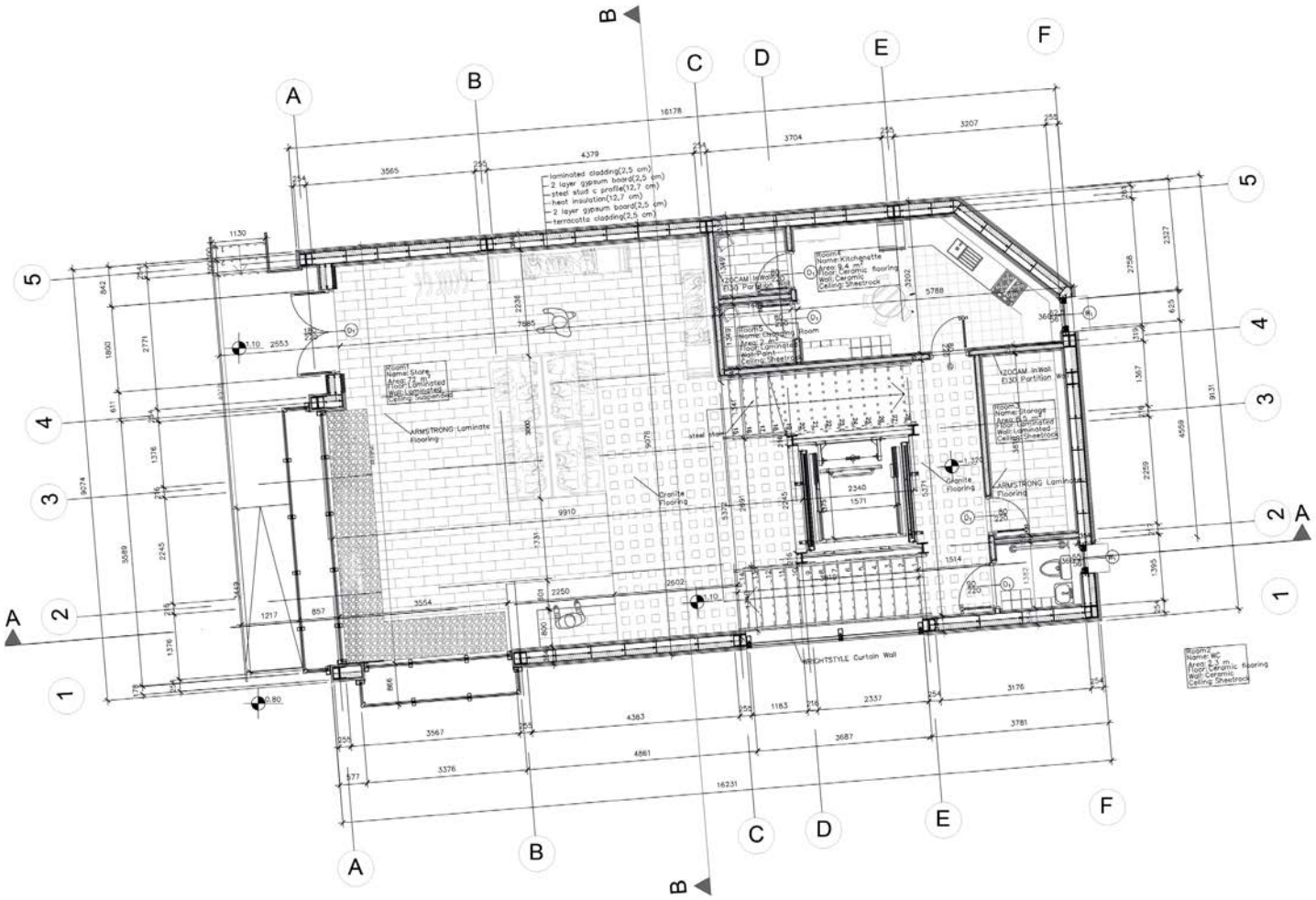
8.Common masonry method used in Italy. Roman concrete core covered with brick facing. (Opus Testaceum) Hand sketch



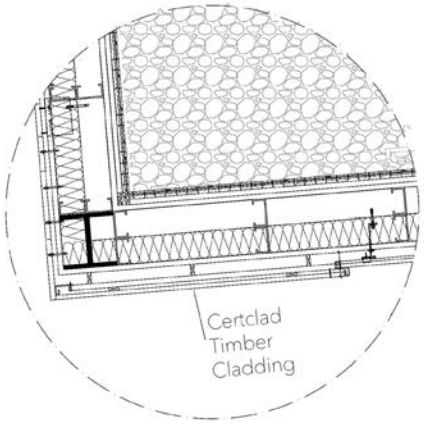
9.Hand sketch illustrating different types of wall remains visible of a dwelling in Tsamadou Streets in Patras, Greece, Hand sketch

08.

Clothing Store in Cesme Marina, Turkiye

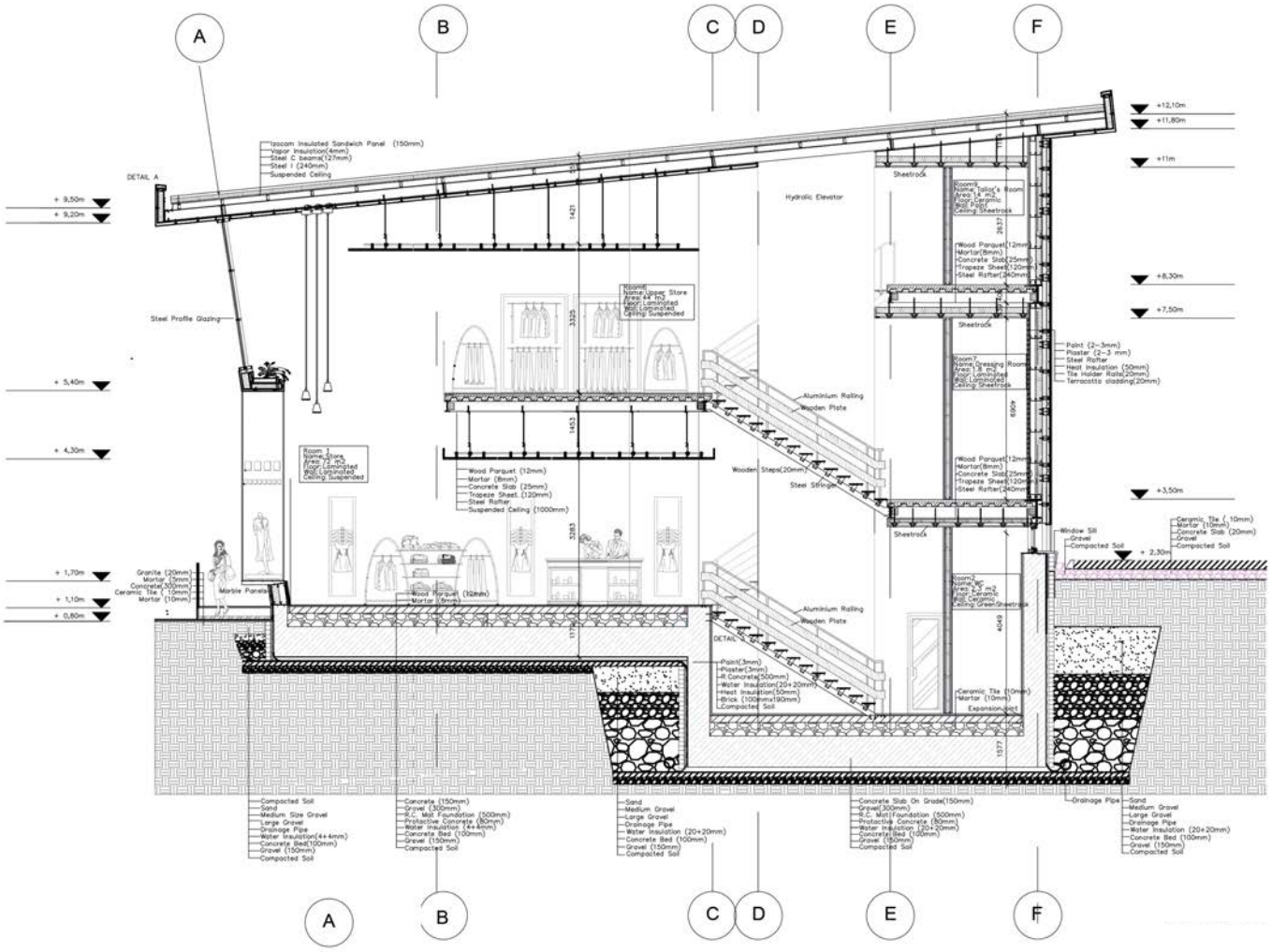


10. Ground Floor Plan, not to scale (Autocad)

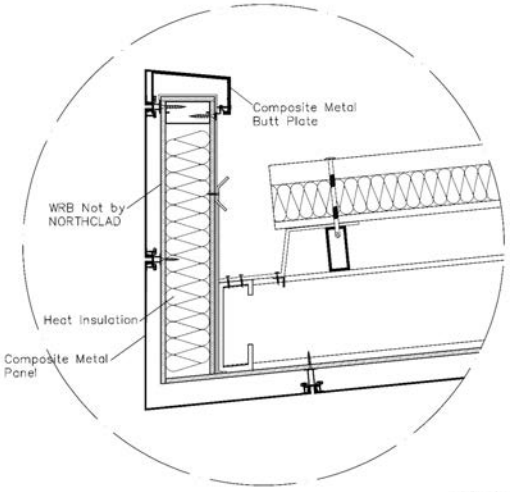


11. Plan Corner Detail (Autocad)

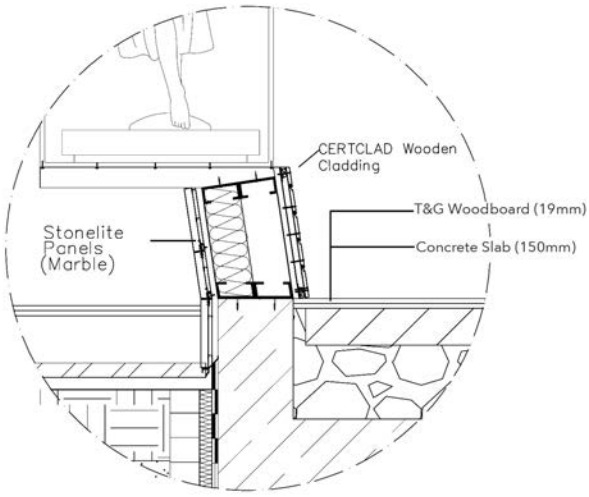
During my Technology classes in year 3 of my undergrad in Turkiye, in groups of 2, we designed and prepared the technical drawings of a clothing store in Cesme, Izmir. The store we designed was of steel frame and following an in-depth research of steel frame, we prepared detailed drawings for the store. We opted for a steel frame construction for the store, confident that the properties of steel would effectively address the damp conditions near the marina. This choice also provided us with increased structural flexibility, allowing for larger spans and cantile-vered edges.



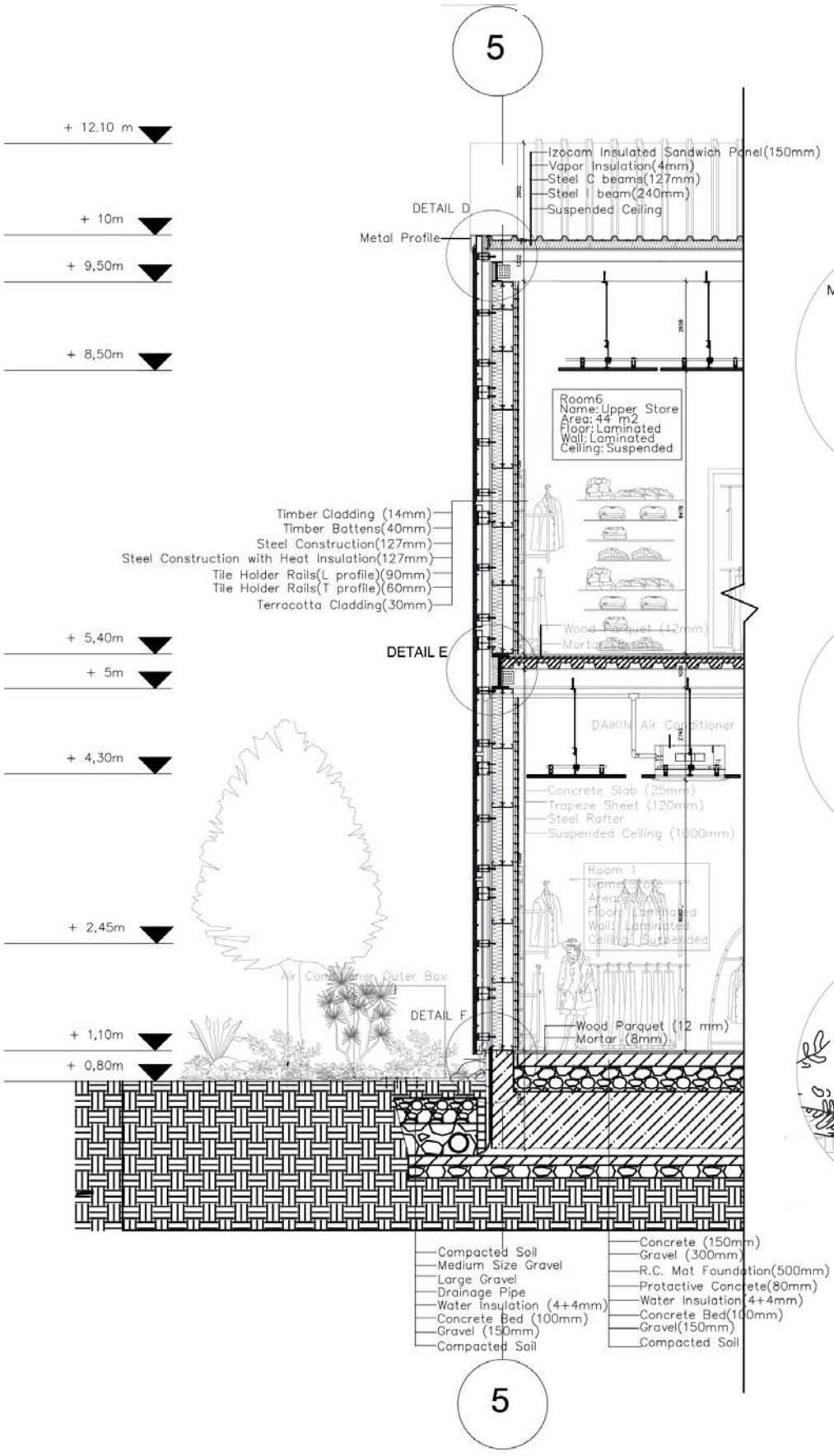
12. Cross Section AA (Autocad)



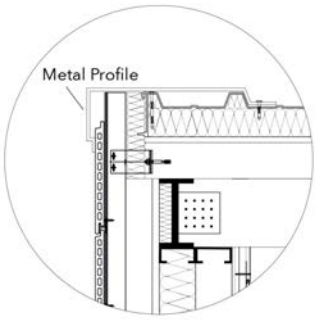
13. Gutter Detail (Autocad)



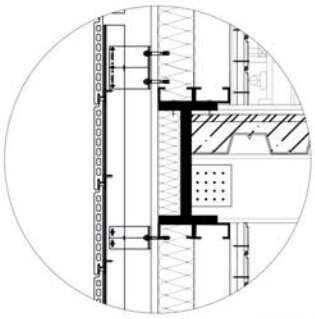
14. Floor Detail (Autocad)



15. Section BB (Autocad)



16. Detail D (Autocad)



17. Detail E(Autocad)

18. Detail F (Autocad)