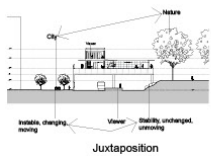
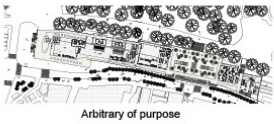
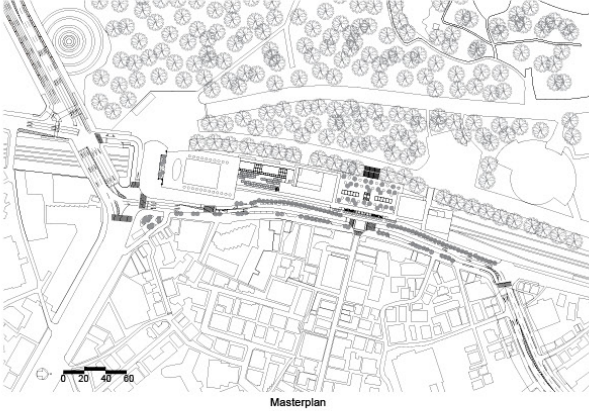
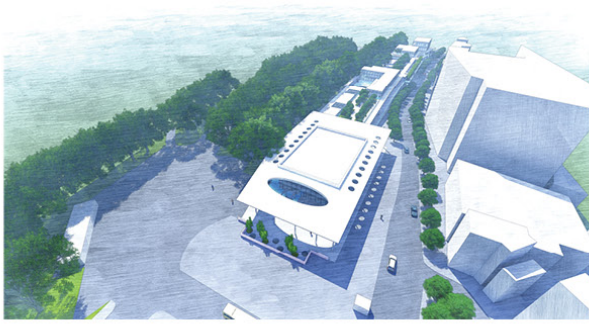


# Movement yet Stillness--Design of the New Harajuku Station

Miao Si | Instructor: Manuel Tardits | I-AUD | Meiji University



**Intention and site selection**  
 Stillness is a subjective experience that is constantly felt by the experienced meditator. It is also felt by athletes who have peak experiences and people who hike in nature. This experience can contextualize the mind and gives us a moment of recuperation, after which we gain a sense of calm and new perspectives. This is an experience also felt in the far east classic gardens, as well as in some contemporary buildings. This thesis explores the principles of instilling this subjective state.

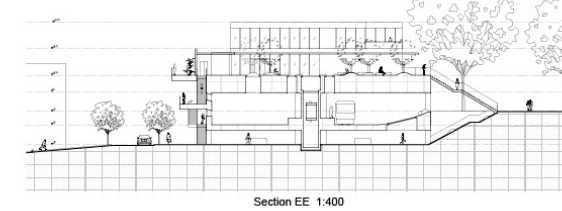
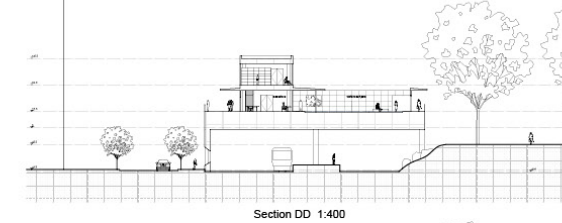
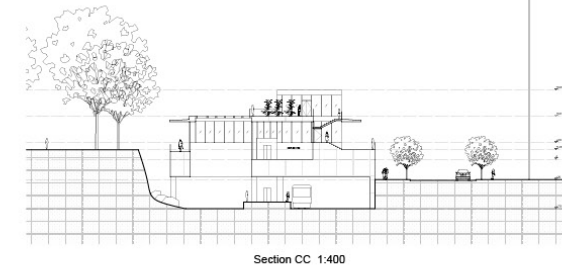
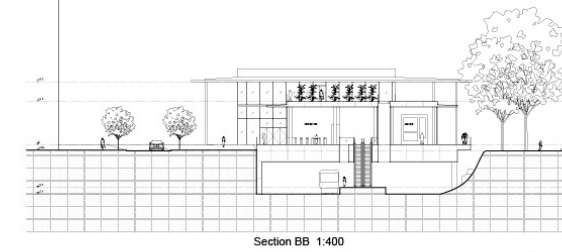
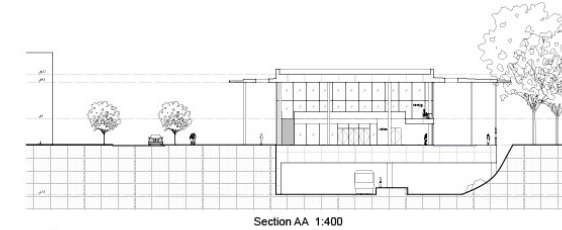
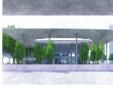
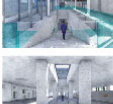
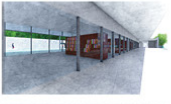
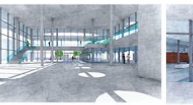
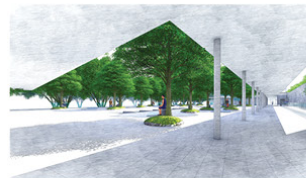
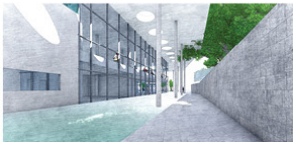
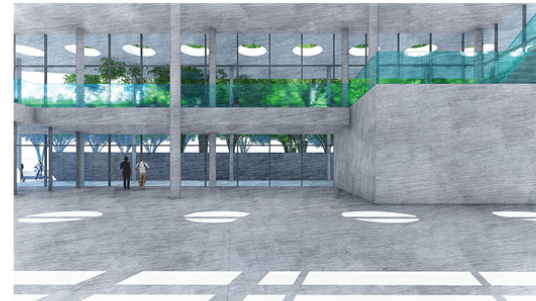
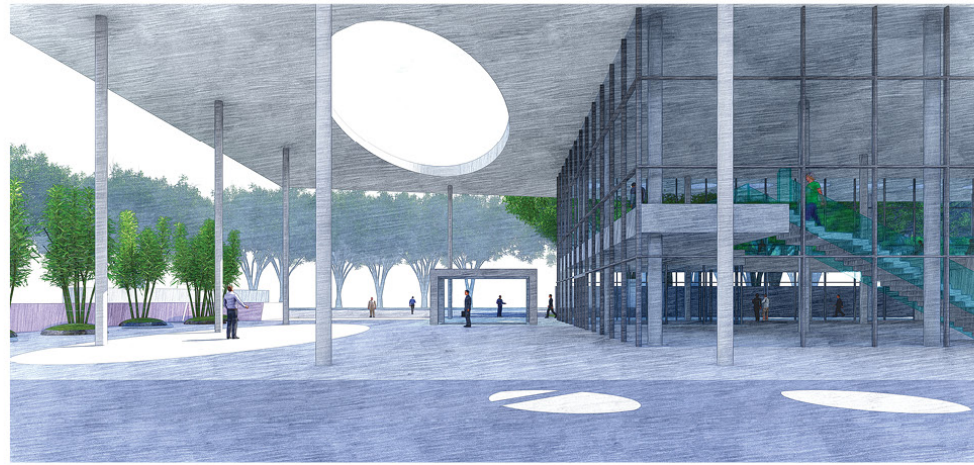
If one can only have the stillness experience in the museums or the libraries, then the experience can only benefit a very limited number of people. This design chose a train station as the site because now it can benefit its various groups of users daily without them even realizing it. Especially Harajuku station's site condition has a lot of potentials to be discovered and integrated. The Meiji Shrine on the west side offers a great amount of greenery. Takeshita St is busy and chaotic. Omotesando St is famous for its luxury shopping experience.

**Bridging meditation-induced and architecture-induced stillness**  
 Although there are many styles of meditation, a method based on my personal daily practice developed by reading and learning from Zen monks is simplified below:

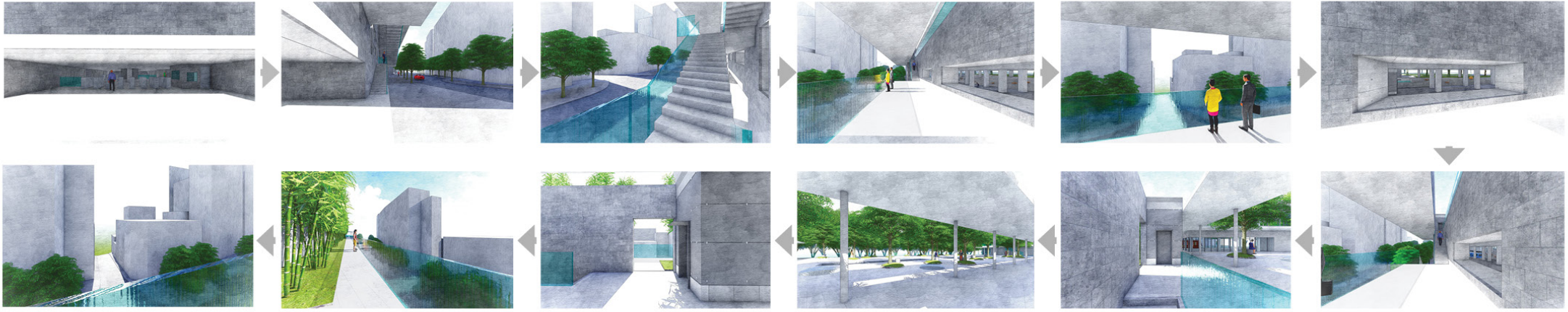
- 1) Situate yourself in a place with minimal outside distraction.
- 2) Concentrate on the object the focus (e.g. breath, overall relaxed sensation, divine image), while constantly letting go and dis-identifying with arising thoughts and emotions in each moment.
- 3) Gradually identify with the background of silent stillness from where all thoughts and emotion arise.

Based on these three steps in meditation, three corresponding strategies are generated for instilling stillness:

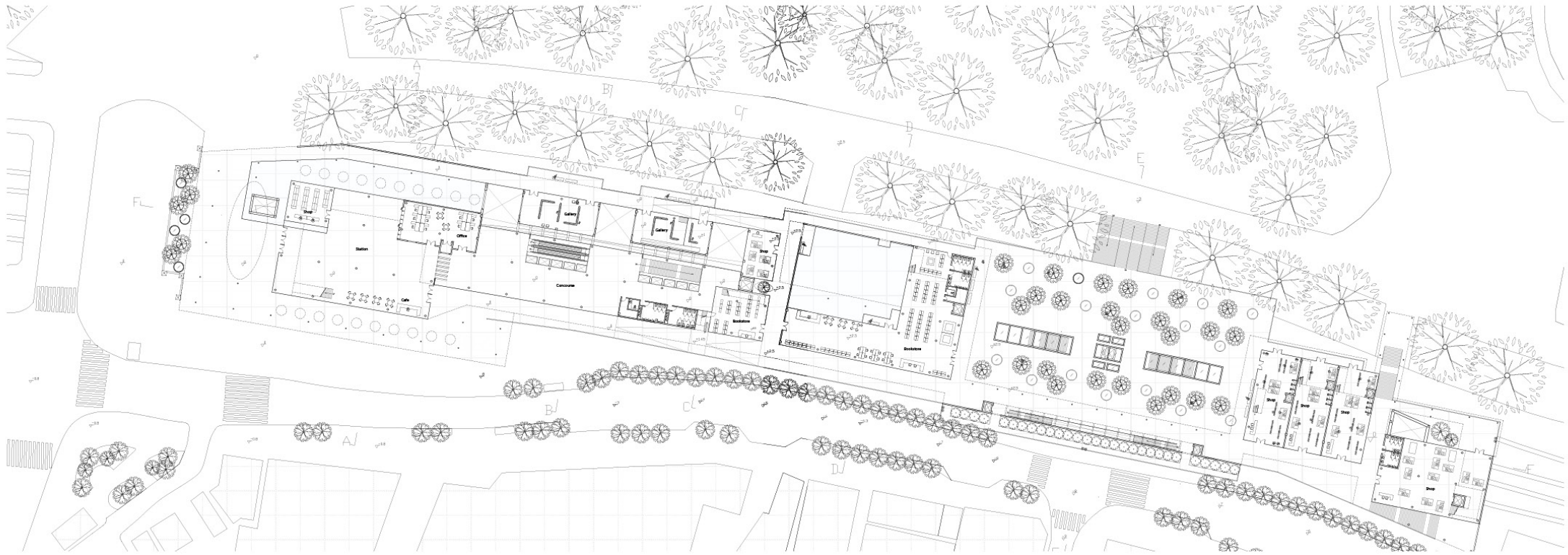
- 1) Block or override the outside world. Similar to avoiding distraction in meditation, architecture can also block or filter outside distractions with its own devices.
- 2) Offer a series of experiences composed of anticipation, variation, and composure to lead one into an explorer role.
- 3) Redirect one's attention to the attributes of stillness: silence, stability, contemplativeness/infinity, eternity, perfection, incomprehensibility, non-attachment, and self-containment.







The contemplative walk from Takeshita St to the upper plaza



Upper platform level 1:400



**Surrender, reject and insert**

All the volumes arrange themselves in a horizontal fashion and remain lower than the background screen of about 22m trees. The new building itself surrenders to the existing nature. A wall is established to reject the Takeshita St. But circulations are also arranged for going up and crossing the wall to see what there is behind. An open plaza is behind the wall and its trees merge with the trees in the shrine. An upper platform is inserted into the urban fabric. Below the upper platform is the train platform and on top of it is programs. Programs include not only the train station functions but also a book store and some shops. There is continuous roof cover all the walking paths on the upper platform. They invite people to come by their form and a sense of protection. Under the roofs and other platform areas outside, there is no specific program. One can call them the urban landscape which gives people comfort to explore. Connections are provided at different spots of the site, which connect previously separated areas and mix different groups of people.

**Embed, share and justify**

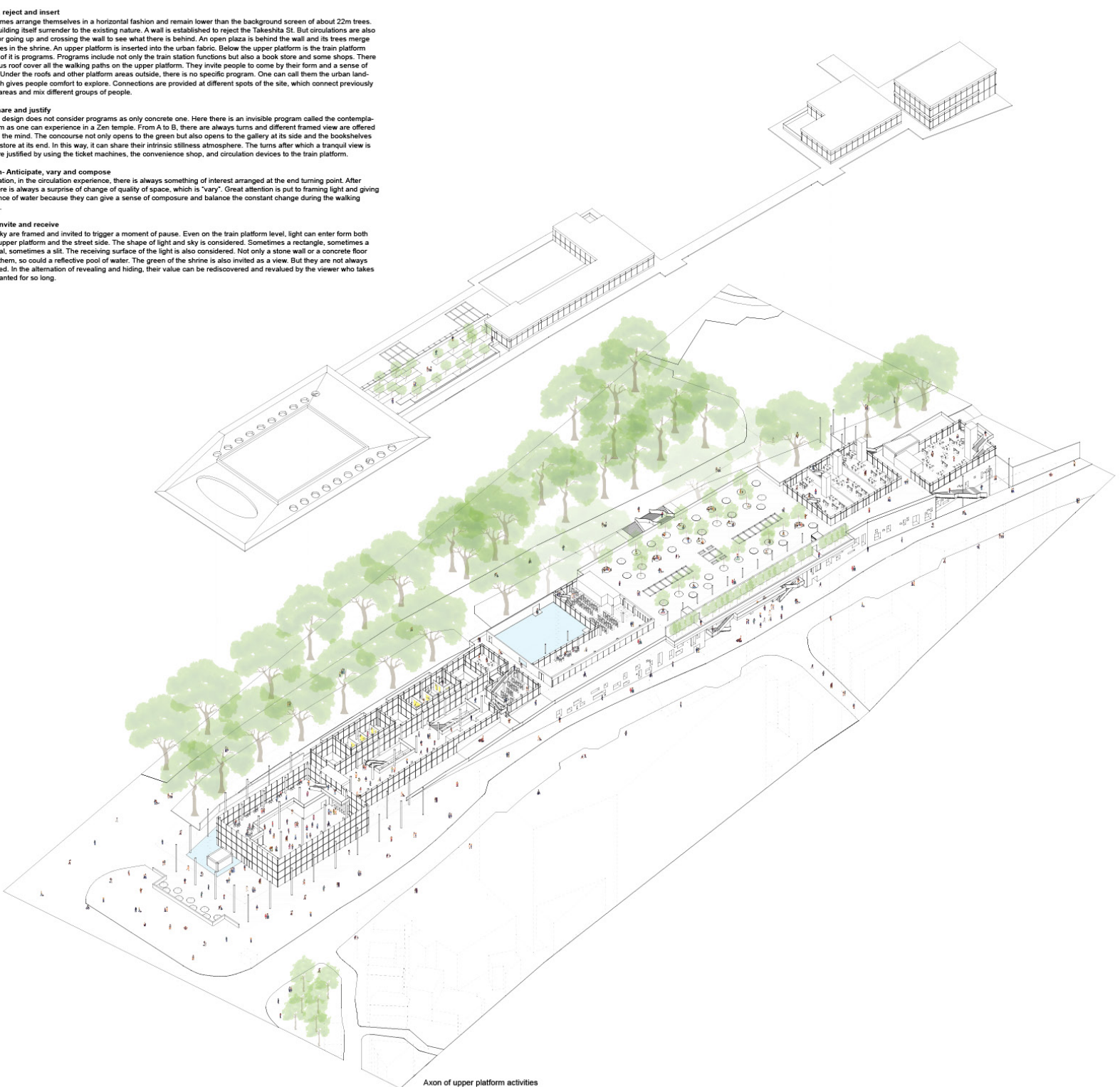
The overall design does not consider programs as only concrete one. Here there is an invisible program called the contemplative program as one can experience in a Zen temple. From A to B, there are always turns and different framed view are offered for quieting the mind. The concourse not only opens to the green but also opens to the gallery at its side and the bookshelves in the bookstore at its end. In this way, it can share their intrinsic stillness atmosphere. The turns after which a tranquil view is revealed are justified by using the ticket machines, the convenience shop, and circulation devices to the train platform.

**Circulation-Anticipate, vary and compose**

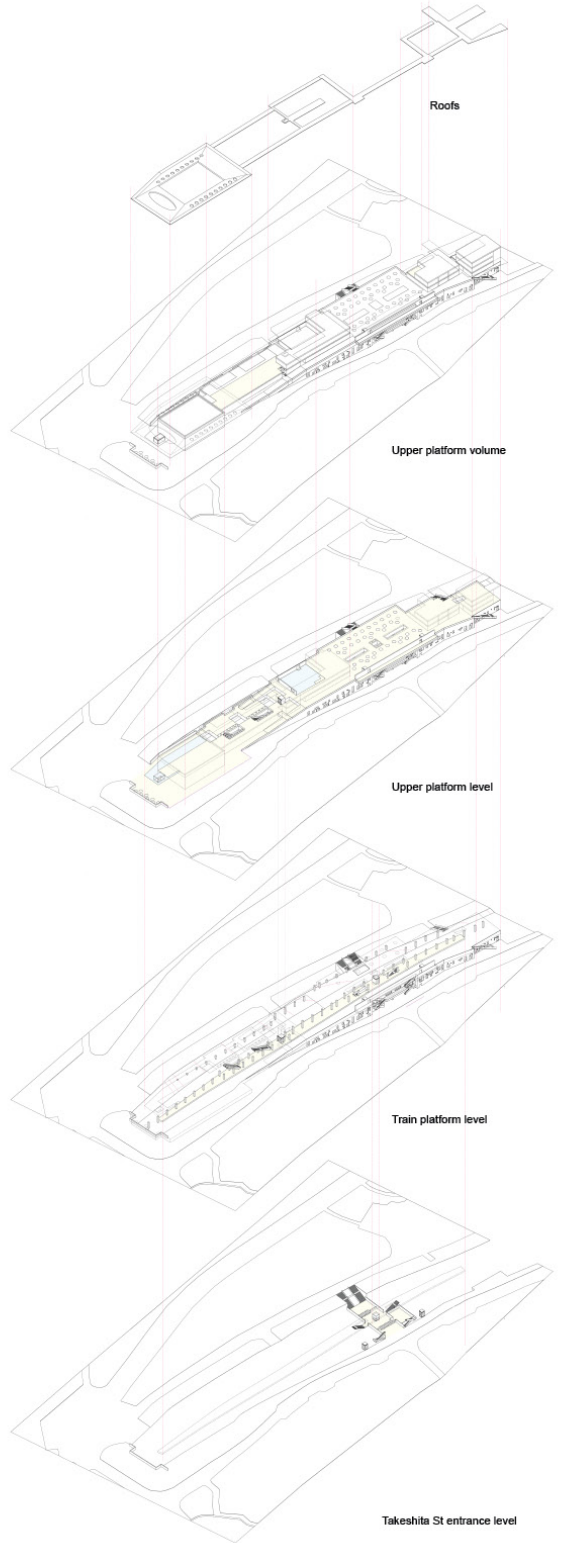
For anticipation, in the circulation experience, there is always something of interest arranged at the end turning point. After turning, there is always a surprise of change of quality of space, which is "vary". Great attention is put to framing light and giving an experience of water because they can give a sense of composure and balance the constant change during the walking experience.

**Framing-Invite and receive**

Light and sky are framed and invited to trigger a moment of pause. Even on the train platform level, light can enter from both the above upper platform and the street side. The shape of light and sky is considered. Sometimes a rectangle, sometimes a circle or oval, sometimes a slit. The receiving surface of the light is also considered. Not only a stone wall or a concrete floor welcomes them, so could a reflective pool of water. The green of the shrine is also invited as a view. But they are not always fully revealed. In the alternation of revealing and hiding, their value can be rediscovered and revalued by the viewer who takes them for granted for so long.



Axon of upper platform activities



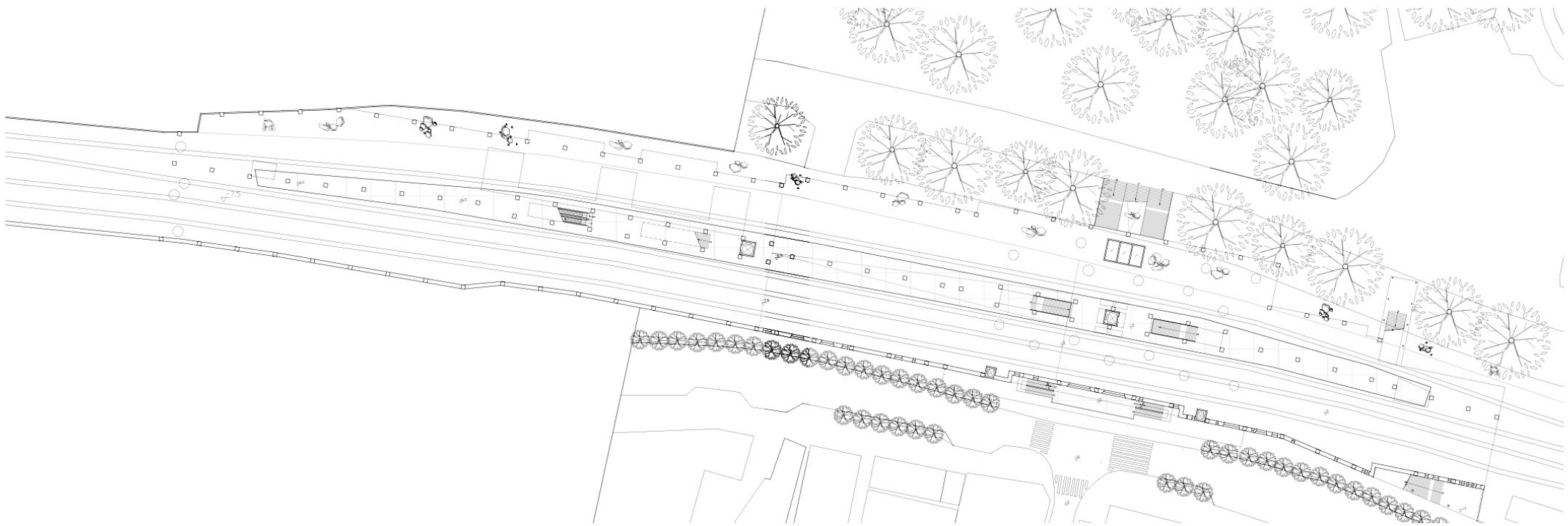
Roofs

Upper platform volume

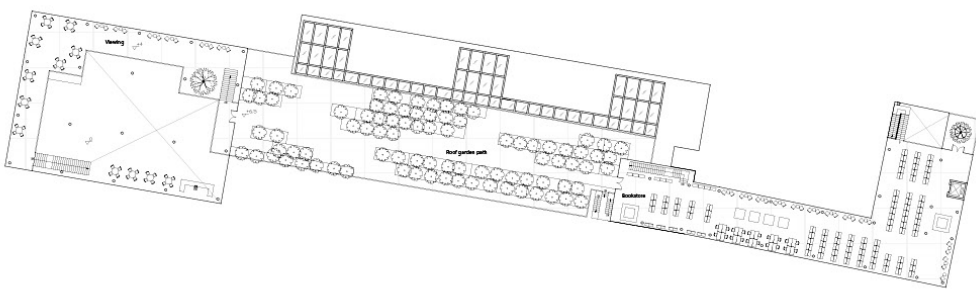
Upper platform level

Train platform level

Takeshita St entrance level



Train platform level 1:400



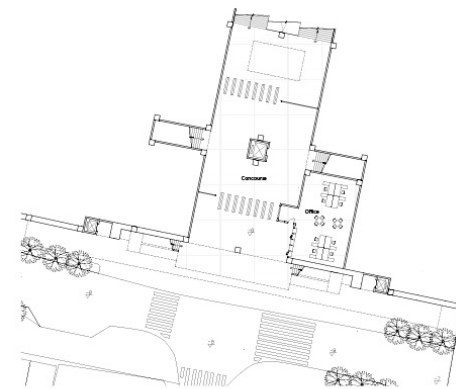
Train station and bookstore 2nd level 1:400



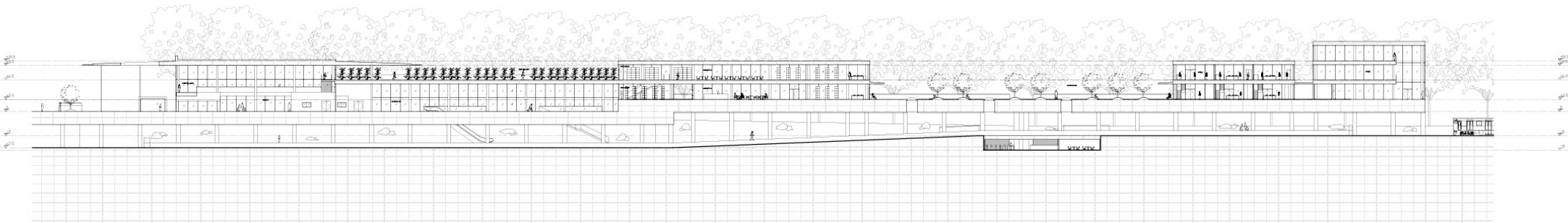
Shop 2nd level 1:400



Shop 2nd level 1:400



Takeshita St entrance level 1:400



Section FF 1:400