



Shibuya Hanging Lantern.

The Shibuya Hanging Lantern was designed in the final seven weeks of instructor Neil Denari's winter 2005 "Building; Trees" studio. Tokyo's maximization of value from tiny spaces inspired the premise of the studio, the exploration of vertically branching building typologies.

The studio stipulated a vertically branching building, constrained by a limited building envelope and a site footprint of only 6.5 by 12 meters, over an existing canopy above a subway entrance at Shibuya Crossing, Tokyo's busiest pedestrian intersection. The astronomical real estate values here can justify the contortions of a project largely dependent on air rights.

The studio's stated intention to provide a test bed for exploring the feasibility of branching structures called for attention to accessibility and egress issues. The project was further constrained by the goal of serving a net area of 1000 square meters while limiting gross area to 1500 square meters, and by the provision of a detailed list of program components in which the volume must be subdivided.

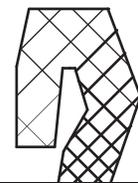
The Shibuya Hanging Lantern takes the underlying tree-like premise of the vertically branching building

and turns it on its head, branching downward rather than up. Coupling a branching building with an extremely narrow footprint guarantees engagement with a circulation challenge, a problem compounded by the beefed-up core required to support a building half of which dangles audaciously above a public right-of-way. In the spirit of a city where land is so valuable that every available niche, no matter how small, finds a use, I endeavored to develop the proposal with a deadpan attention to architectural realities, wasting as little space as possible, accepting the twisting and occasionally awkward circulation, and testing the feasibility of the structural system I had come up with.

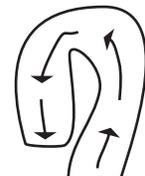
My intention for the design was that it should simultaneously support three distinct readings, as illustrated in the diagrams at right.

1. The building should visually express some notion of the structural forces acting on it. The mass cantilevers out to the west to offset the imbalance of the hanging tower on the east; the building transitions from heavy and opaque to light and transparent as it transitions from a heavy structural core to a light steel system capable of thinness because it is primarily in

Winter 2005.
Studio instructor: Neil Denari.
Rendered with Rhinoceros, Photoshop



Structural expression diagram.



Loop expression diagram.



Bifurcated expression diagram.

Provided program components.

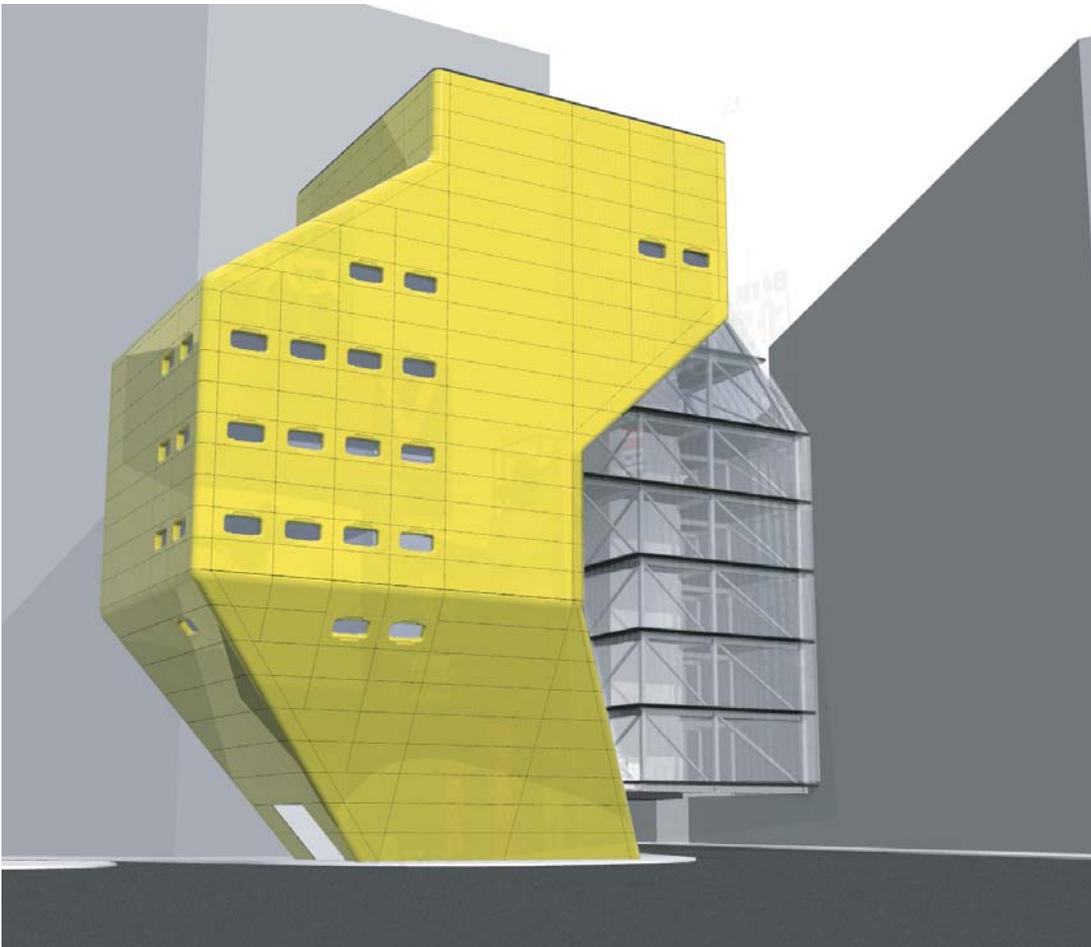
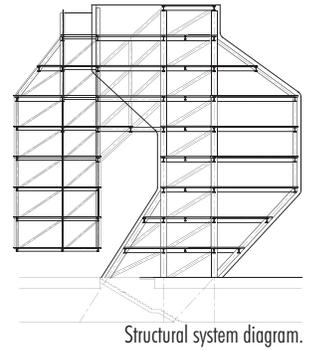
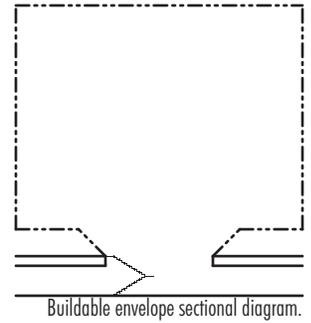
type	floor	name	description	size (m2)
Store	2	Onitsuka Tiger	shoes	30
Store	3	Beams T	t shirts	40
Store	4	Groovisions	toys, design, offices	40
Store	4	Apple	elec.	40
Store	4	Prada Jr.	clothes, etc	40
Store	5	X Large	clothes, etc	40
Store	5	Ninja Tune	Music	30
Store	5	plus minus zero	electrical goods	25
Store	5	Muji	clothing	20
Store	6	hhstyle.com	furniture showroom	85
Store	6	Terminal	airport aesthetic stuff	20
Store	6	Mooks	retro clothes	30
Store	8	lammfromm	t shirts, gift	20
Store	8	Sputnik	furniture, lifestyle, café	60
office	7	Wonderwall	interiors/products	50
office	7	Snoozer	music magazine	40
office	7	Atelier Bow Wow	architects	45
misc	1	bar 2	bar	20
misc	1	MFTG atm	ATMs	2
misc	2	karaoke 1	karaoke room	10
misc	3	Exrealm	café	50
misc	3	karaoke 2	karaoke room	10
misc	4	Pause	café/gallery/shop	35
misc	5	bar 1	bar	30
misc	6	karaoke 3	karaoke room	10
misc	6	karaoke 4	karaoke room	10
misc	7	Shima	hair salon	30
misc	8	tanning salon	tanning salon	30
misc	8	capsule hotel	capsule hotel	50
misc		toilets	toilets	40
total square meters				1000

tension. The repetitious brace frames are located in nearly every bay, giving every effort to make the project look plausible, and are lined up in order to direct lines of force cleanly, as well as to index the typical direction of force on the building.

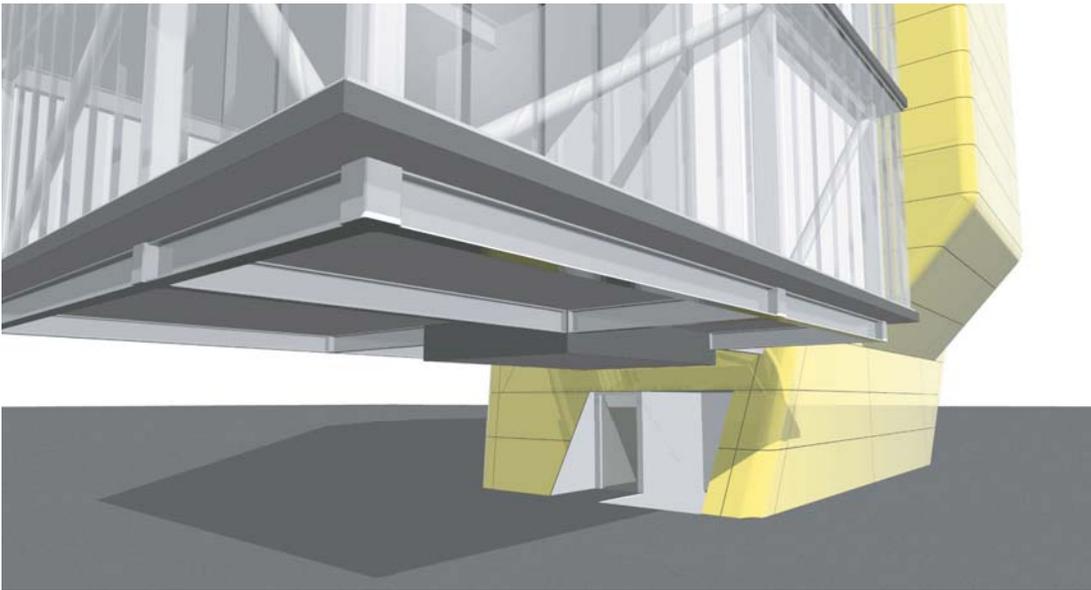
2. The building should read as a continuous loop of occupiable spaces, rather than as two towers emanating from a base. A bridge at the second floor, a concession to pragmatic and structural necessity, is exposed to the elements, providing a sense of transition and minimizing visual impact on the building's image. Program is loosely organized, with dining facilities mainly in the lower portion of the solid mass, offices and services clustered near the top, and stores in the transparent mass and throughout.

3. The building should read as a vertically branching or bifurcating element, and downward. Like two pantlegs that do not match, the selection of two envelope materials with distinctly different characters reinforce this reading. The opaque solidity of the heavy leg, clad in formed aluminum panels, contrasts with the light translucency and exposed steel frame of the channel-glass clad leg.

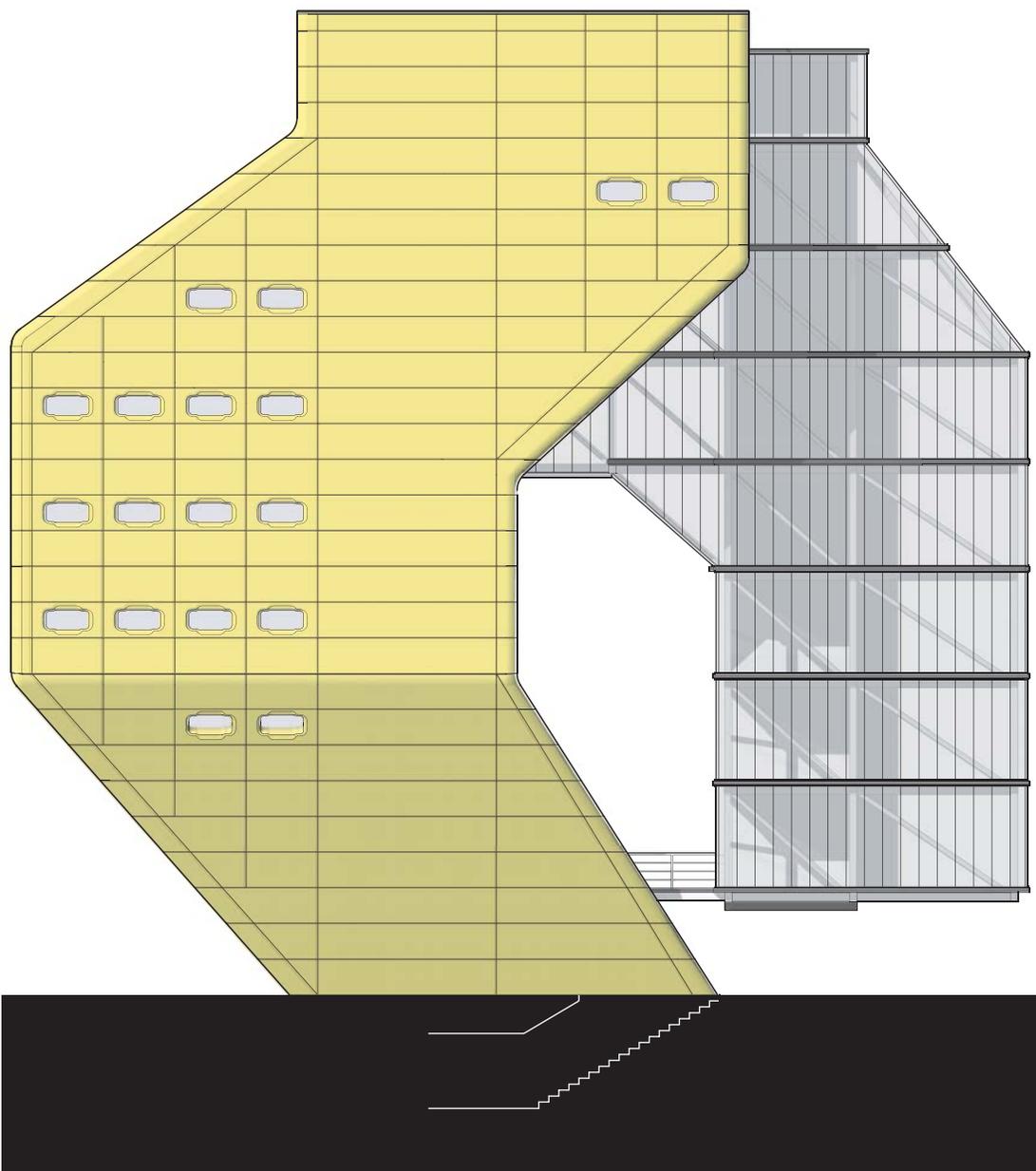
While the design of the Shibuya Hanging Lantern seeks to test an architectural proposition about using air rights, its imageable and instantly recognizable profile serves as an iconic monument to Shibuya's commercialism and its role as a nexus of hipness.



Southwest corner.
Rendered with Rhinoceros.

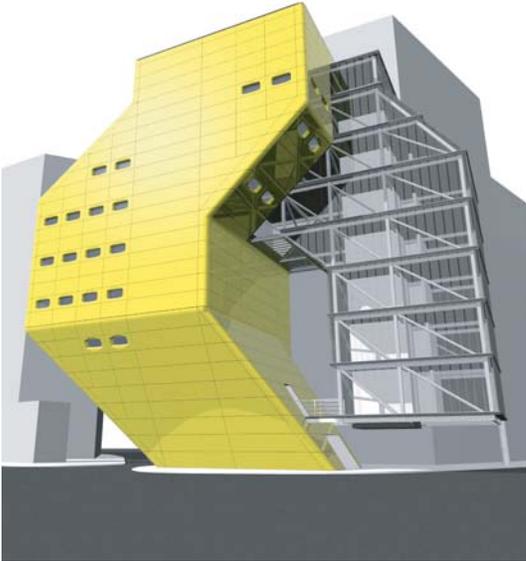


Detail of channel-glass clad building mass and subway entrance.
Rendered with Rhinoceros.

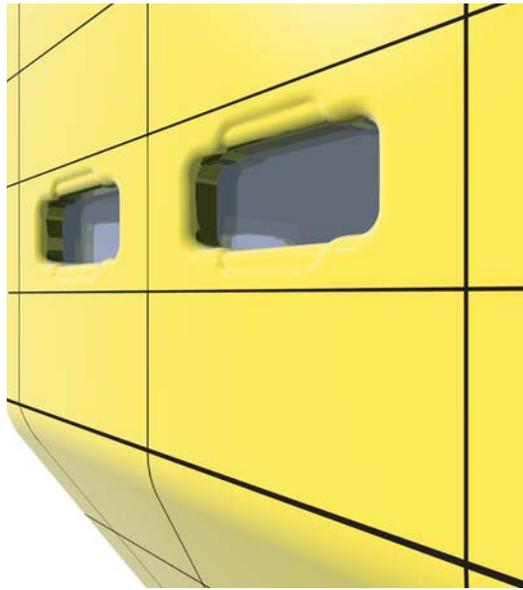


- ⊕ top of parapet : +27.5m
- roof t.o.c. : +24m
- level 8 : +21m
- level 7 : +18m
- level 6 : +15m
- level 5 : +12m
- level 4 : +9m
- level 3 : +6m
- level 2 : +3m
- level 1 : +0m

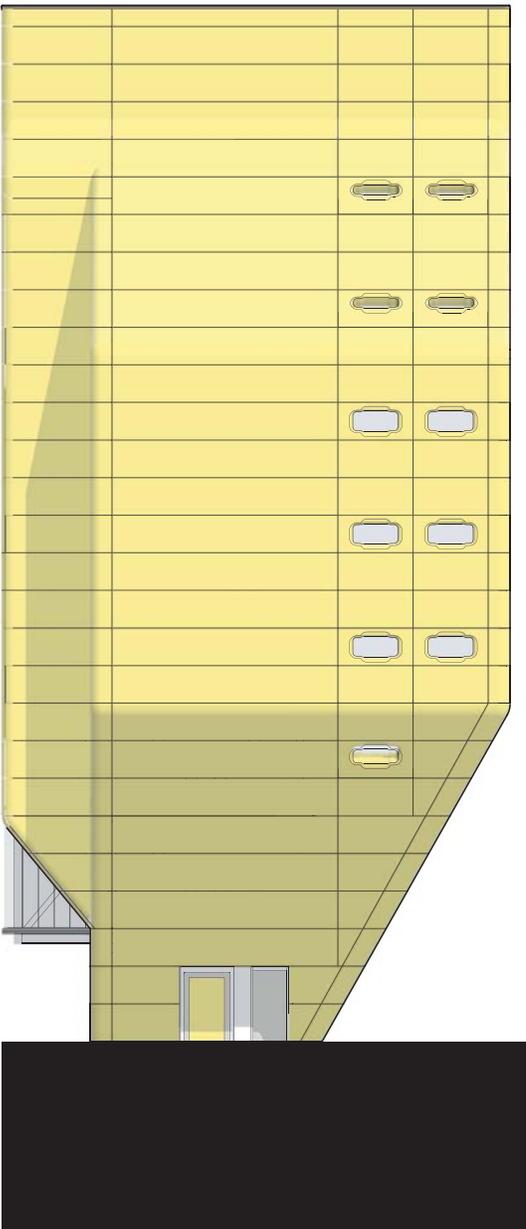
South elevation.
scale = 1:200
Composed with Illustrator, AutoCAD,
Photoshop, and Rhino.



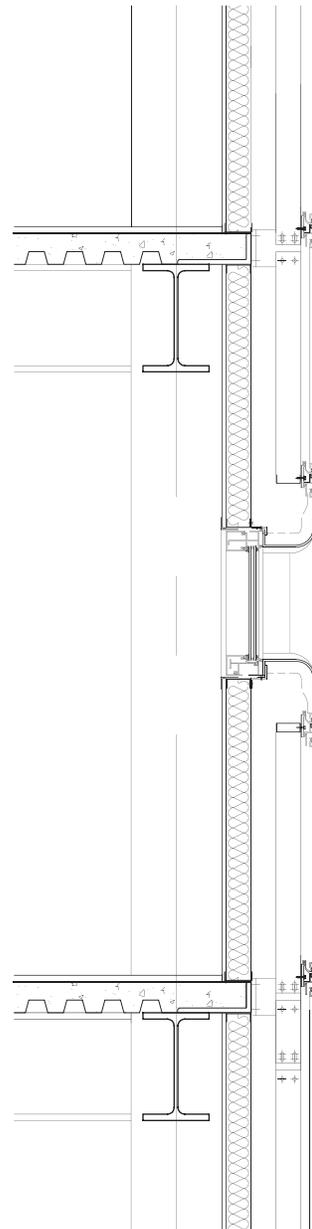
Far left: South facade.
Rendered with Rhinoceros.



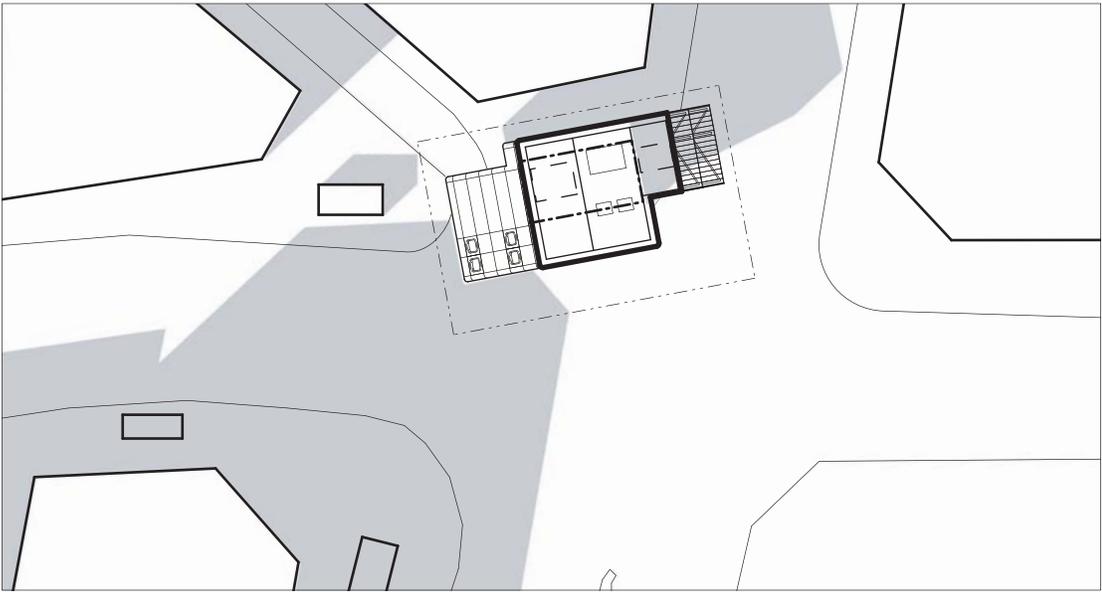
Detail of formed aluminum panel facade.
Rendered with Rhinoceros.



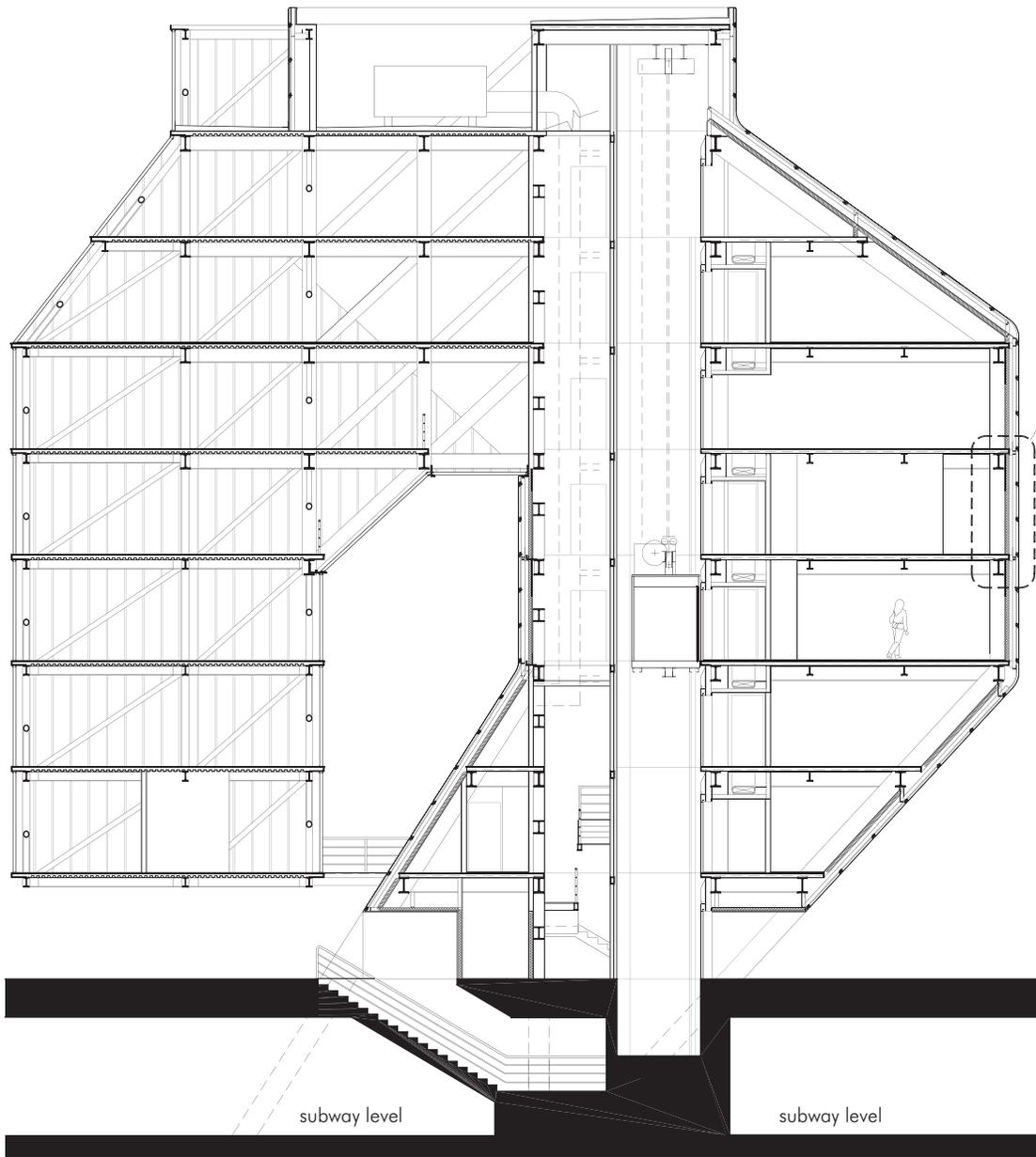
Far left: West elevation.
scale = 1:200
Composed with Illustrator, AutoCAD,
Photoshop, and Rhino.



Envelope and window panel detail.
scale = 1:30
Drawn with AutoCAD.



North
 Site plan, Shibuya Crossing, Tokyo's
 busiest pedestrian intersection.
 scale = 1:800
 Composed with Illustrator, AutoCAD,
 Photoshop, and Rhino.



- ⊕ top of parapet : +27.5m
- roof t.o.c. : +24m
- level 8 : +21m
- level 7 : +18m
- window detail (where occurs):
see previous page.
- level 6 : +15m
- level 5 : +12m
- level 4 : +9m
- level 3 : +6m
- level 2 : +3m
- level 1 : +0m

Building section.
 scale = 1:200
 Drawn with AutoCAD.

