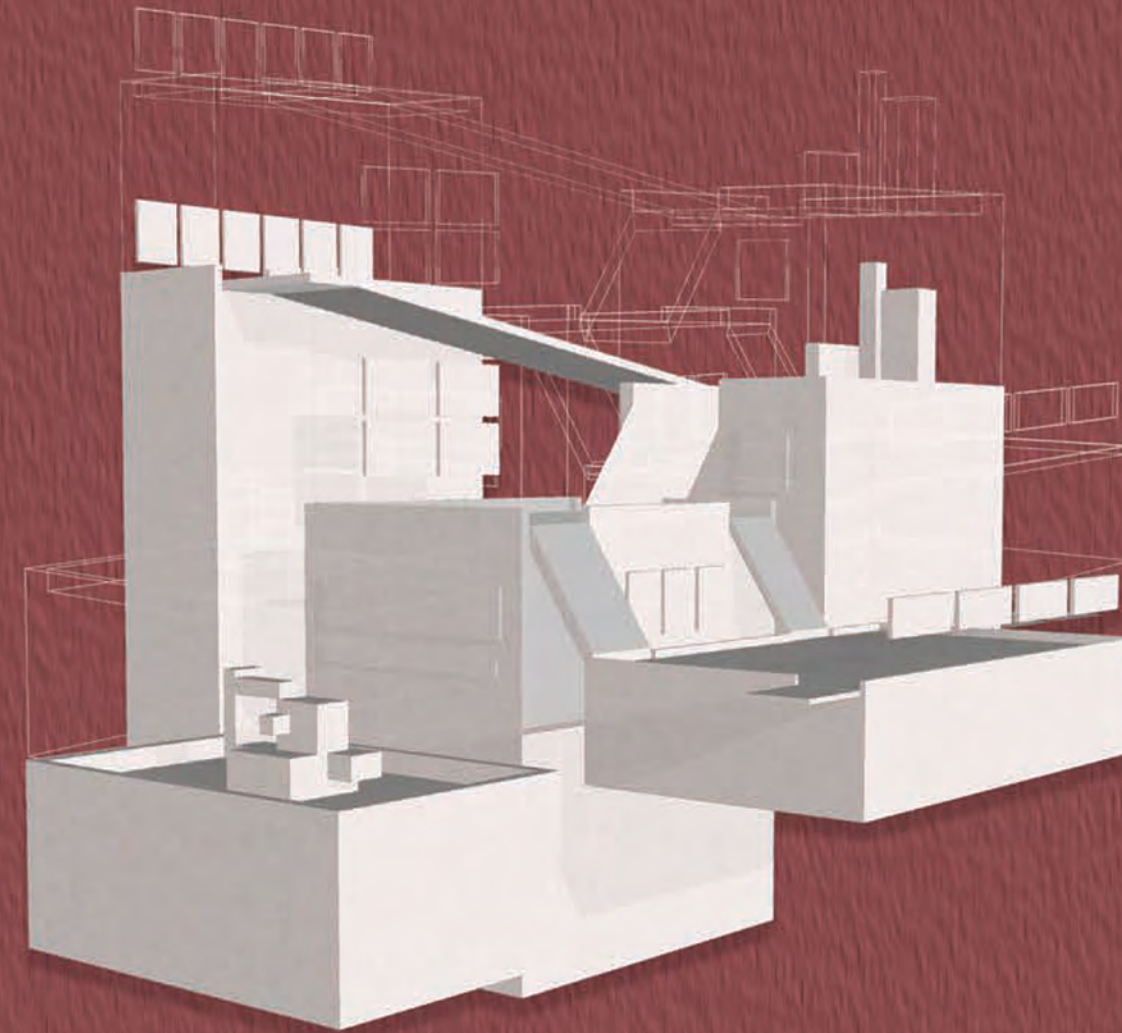


suspended section

*contemporary art center expansion
a study in section*

Location Atlanta, GA
Date Fall 2018
Program Cultural
Area 60,000 sqft
Type Academic
Professor Justin Miller

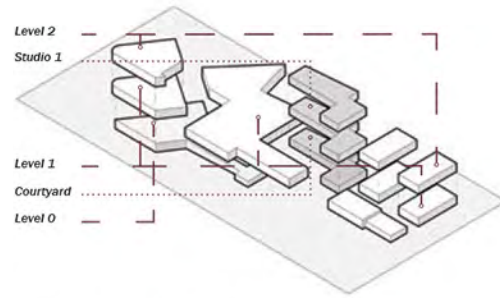
The Atlanta Contemporary Art Center currently exists as a 32,000 sqft conglomeration of red brick industrial buildings. The expansion of the facility aims to double the area of the center while preserving the history and character of the original structure, as the existing facades hold a historic landmark designation. The new addition and remodeled interior engage the art center's occupants through a various spatial elevations and proportions.



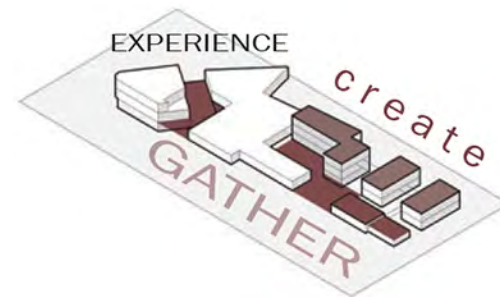
suspended section

contemporary art center expansion

The part of the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center expansion aligns with the mission of the art center: the viewing of art, the creation of art, and community engagement through public and private gathering. Each of those programmatic elements are blocked out within the site and consist of both existing space and newly designed space. The existing raised courtyard, which sits about 4.5 ft above entry level, was dropped a full level to build a subterranean cafe and gift shop off of the new exhibition courtyard. To mitigate the change in floor elevation between the various programmatic sections of the building, a focal ramping gallery was installed as shown in the rendering to the right.



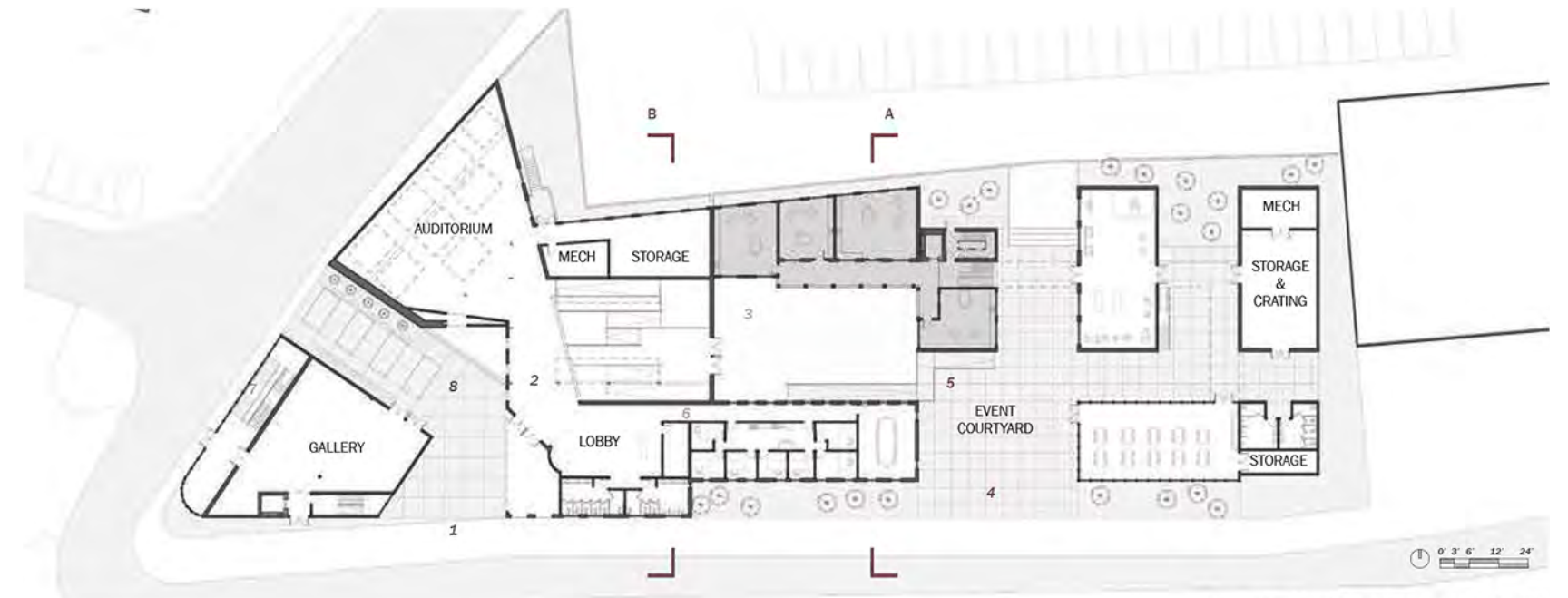
Level diagram denoting the offset levels in grey



The part of the expansion reflects the three missions of the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center.



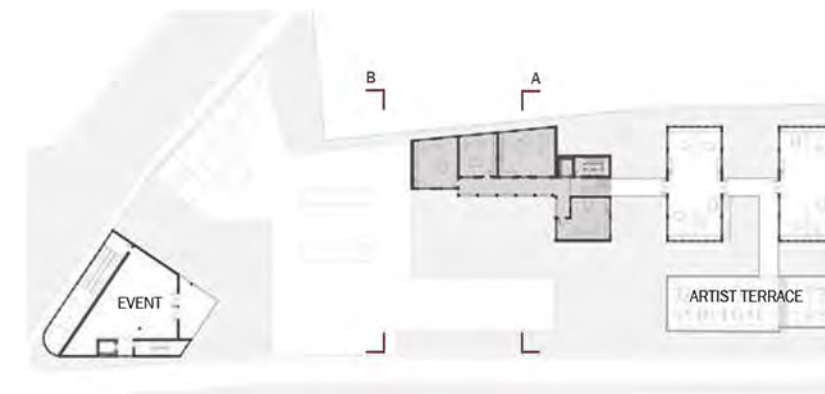
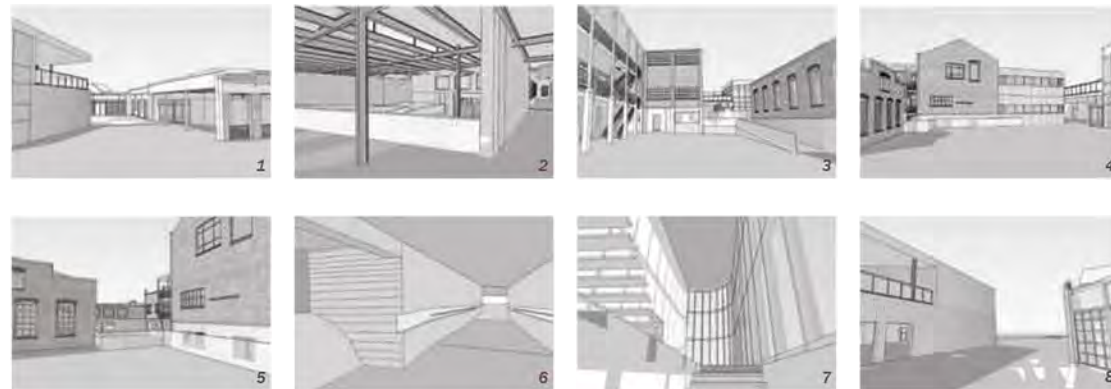
Section perspective through the ramping gallery that allows visitors to be suspended among the artwork



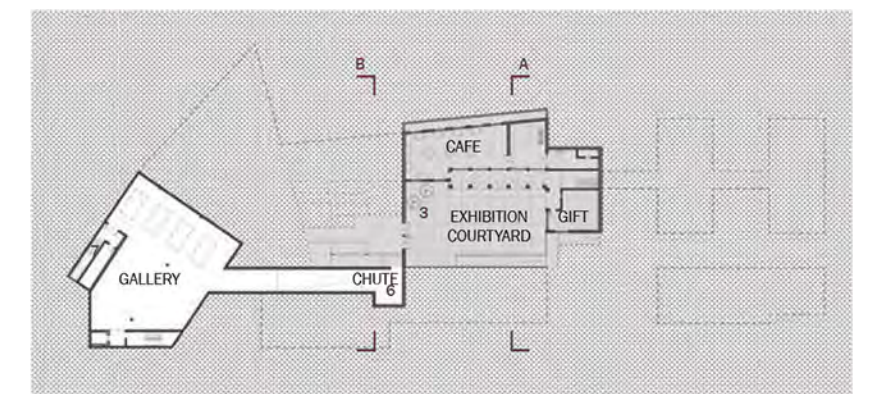
Plan of Level 1 and Studio 1, denoted by the grey tone

The building functions on a series of half-levels, creating a circulation path that allows visitors to experience the art and art center both horizontally and vertically. The newly designed half-levels engage the current chute space, which is a historic coal chute under the main level of the center, used as a gallery. Now, the chute space serves as an underground link between the exhibition courtyard, the main building and the new gallery complex on the western end of the site. The eastern half of the site is optimized for the creation of contemporary art, housing a workshop, exterior work spaces, and artist studios that accommodate the center's artist-in-residence program.

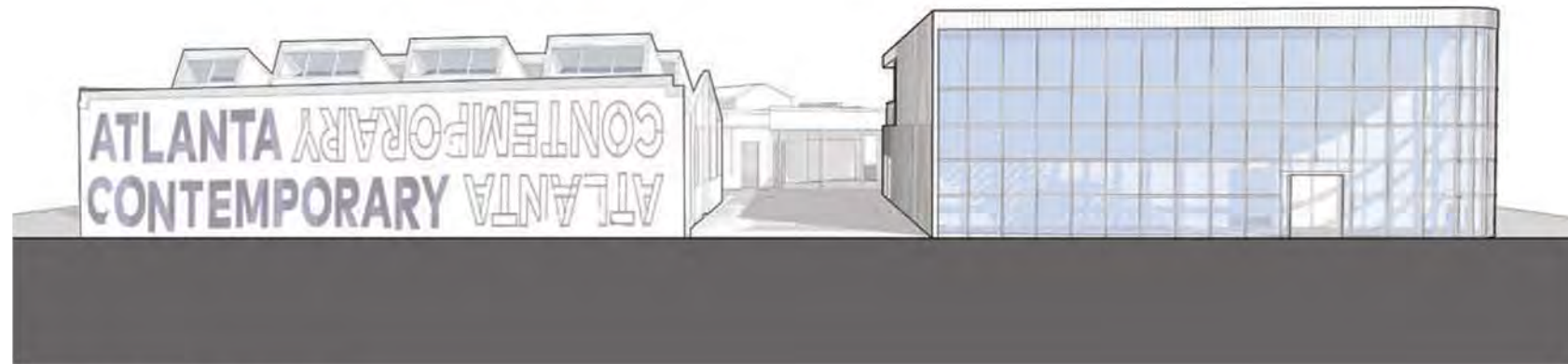
The visitor circulation route is both horizontal and vertical, as shown in the vignettes to the right.



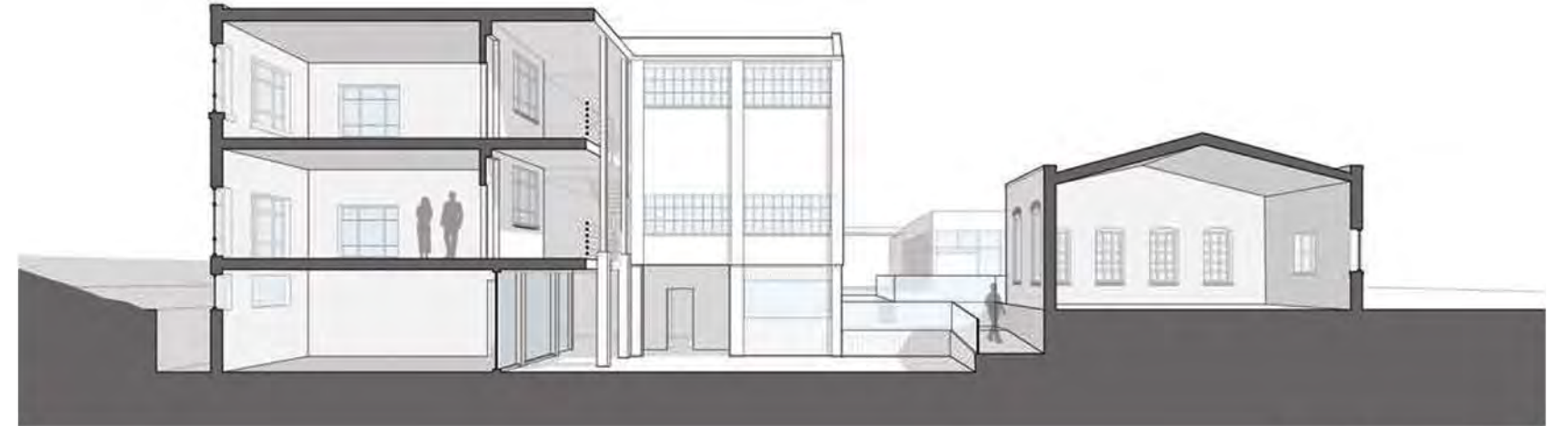
Plan of Level 2 and Studio, denoted by the grey tone



Plan of Level 0 and Courtyard, denoted by the grey tone



Western elevation showing how the gallery building directs visitors to the entrance



Section through sunken courtyard showing additional underground level

The center courtyard is pressed down into the ground, creating a new level underneath the artist studios, shown on the left side of the section above. The new subterranean level includes a courtyard and a gift shop that can be accessed by both artists, gallery visitors and event guests. The lowered courtyard connects back up to street level with the ramp shown in the section.

The elevation on the left page shows the juxtaposition of the existing Atlanta Contemporary mural and the new glazed gallery expansion.