Royal Norwegian Embassy
Chancery Renovation

SCHEMATIC DESIGN

U.S. Department of State

Foreign Missions Board of

Zoning Adjustment

4 May, 2018

Project 112351

2720 34th St. NW
Washington, DC 20008
USA

STATSBYGG

NORWEGIAN EMBASSY

FENTRESS ARCHITECTS

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1.0 ARCHITECTURE

1.1 Project Background:

The Royal Norwegian Chancery located at 2720 34th Street NW is part of a campus which includes the Ambassador's residence and landscaped grounds located in northwest Washington, DC. The buildings sit on a slightly sloping property of 0.84 acres. The site is bounded by Massachusetts Avenue on the south, 34th Street on the east, an alley on the west, and an adjacent residential single-family house on the north.

The Ambassador's residence faces Massachusetts Avenue, the Embassy Row of Washington which includes many of the foreign service missions of the world. The building was designed by John J. Whelan and completed in 1931, the second foreign service mission to be constructed in the United States. The building was designed in the English neo-renaissance style that borrowed heavily from the grand architectural styles of old Europe. The three-story façade is clad in Indiana limestone. The roof is covered in clay tile. The structural frame was constructed of wood and steel. Wood from many regions of the U.S. was used to finish the ornate interiors. The existing Ambassador's Residence will be undisturbed as part of the Embassy Renovation project.

In 1940 an annex was constructed to accommodate an increase in staff from six to forty. Its usefulness was short-lived and it was demolished along with an adjacent structure to construct the larger Chancery building in the late 1970s. Currently the buildings are linked by a garden wall with neoclassical detailing compatible with the residence facing the street and a row of exterior cement plaster columns facing the garden. Between the wall and columns is a single lane lap-pool. Research suggests the wall was built soon after the residence with the pool and terrace built later with the Chancery.

Completed in 1978, the Chancery building was designed by Sverdrup and Parcel in the modernist style, consisting primarily of rectangular volumes with vertical, recessed punched windows. The building is a two-story structure with a basement level for parking. It is constructed of steel framing with hollow core planks on open web joists at the second floor and roof. The exterior skin consists of gravity supported limestone walls, fiberglass batt insulation, metal studs and an interior gypsum wallboard finish. The roof is a modified bituminous sheet membrane with plastic dome skylights. The building is not accessible according to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Fig. 1.1.1 - Existing Ambassador's Residence

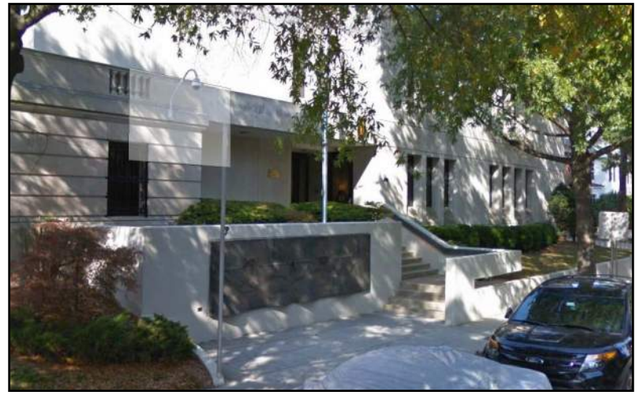


Fig. 1.1.2 - Chancery Entry

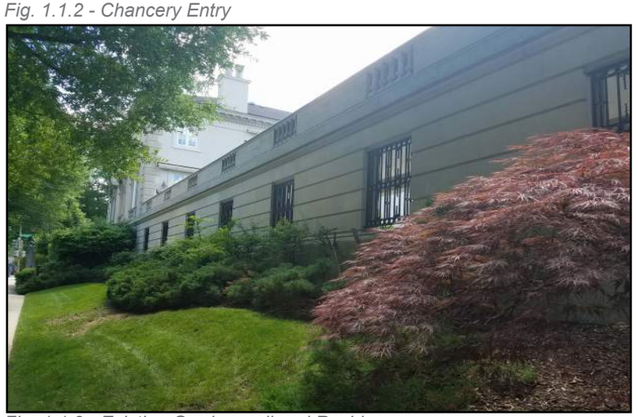


Fig. 1.1.3 - Existing Garden wall and Residence

1.0 ARCHITECTURE

1.2 Program Requirements:

1.2.1 Programming Process

The primary method of gathering the programming and design information for this report was through a review of the previously developed program report by tegn_3 architects in Oslo, Noway (issued on 11/13/2016) and a series of work sessions held with Statsbygg, Embassy Staff and the design team members. The subjects of these meetings covered a wide variety of subjects including but not limited to; site accessibility, building usage for special events, MFA requirements, Embassy staff needs and building programmatic needs.

The programming process is a vital part of a successful project. All subsequent planning and design work is built upon the foundation of an accurate and sufficiently detailed program document. The program approach undertaken and represented herein has been to identify and document the space needs for the Chancery.

Effective project planning and construction cost budgeting necessitates that both quantitative and qualitative aspects of the building design be addressed in the Program Report. Frequently only quantitative criteria is defined. The programming methodology utilized in this report involves both. Also contained in this section are descriptions of individual rooms and departments which are represented in the Space Allocation Tables on the following pages. These descriptions outline the qualitative aspects of several spaces within the building and may include desired adjacencies, general location within the building and any detailed architectural features required.

Finally, the Program Criteria Matrices summarize and compile the descriptions of the qualitative features of various spaces. These matrices are divided into individual spaces which reflect the Space Allocation Table.

The Program Criteria Matrices provide information on items such as:
- Architectural issues - Wall finishes, floor finishes, ceiling type and height, etc.
- HVAC issues (especially important in museums) - temperature and humidity levels, control, hours of operation, etc.
- Audio/Visual systems - video monitors, projectors, amplification, performance criteria, etc.
- Special equipment - copies, scanners, printers, high density storage, curatorial equipment, etc.
- Communications - telephone, data, public address system, etc.
- Life Safety Requirements - fire alarm, wet sprinklers, dry sprinklers, etc.

The importance of identifying both the qualitative and the quantitative information early in the design process is evident when considering how the Basis of Design report will be used. It is not merely a guideline for the Architect to design the building but will also be used to help establish preliminary building construction budgets. A more accurate preliminary construction budgeting effort is possible when something is known about both quality and quantity of the building.

This Program Report will provide the basis of further design development of the site and building for the Project. The actual configurations and design solutions developed might differ somewhat in area and quality as all design parameters are gathered and optimized as the actual solutions evolve. Nevertheless, this will provide a solid foundation from which the entire team may collectively progress to the realization of a successful project.

1.0 ARCHITECTURE

1.2.2 Program Space Descriptions:

Main Entry

The Main Entry and Lobby space of the Chancery acts as the front door of Norway providing a glimpse into Norwegian Culture while also providing a space for meetings, Consular services and cultural exchange. A new plaza court will be established to create a gracious and welcoming experience for all visitors to the Embassy and the Consulate. The existing Larvikite sculpture will be relocated within the plaza court to promote art in Norway. The proposed at-grade entry along 34th Street, which moves the reception and Consulate down to street level, provides a fully accessible and welcoming entrance to the Embassy. Within the lobby space, natural materials such as Norwegian spruce glulam beams, exposed Oppdal stone walls and stone or terrazzo flooring create a comfortable and culturally relevant waiting space for visitors to the Embassy and Consulate. A new elevator, which may be clad in translucent panels with back-lit artwork will project through the space, providing connection through out the building and down to the Garage level. Open view to adjacent spaces such as the large meeting room and new Garden Room provide connection throughout the embassy and promote interaction and natural flow throughout the space.

Garden Room

The new Garden Room provides a new space that celebrates the culture and heritage of Norway through the architecture and landscape. The use of mass timber columns and beams will celebrate the rich woodworking heritage of Norway. Details and connections as the wood meets the ground or as beams intersect with columns will further enhance the experience. Flooring within the space could be wood with carpeted “panels’ which create smaller space around which furniture may be clustered when the space is not in use. The flexibility provided by the space makes it an ideal space in which to hold a variety of events, from formal seated dinners with a tent space out in the garden, cocktail parties and even lectures and symposiums. The garden room will also provide a critical connection to the new renovated garden space. The use of folding glass walls which can open the space up to the garden creates a natural connection to the outdoors and invites visitors to explore and appreciate the beautiful landscape.

Lunchroom

A new lunchroom for use by staff has been included in the programming of the renovated Chancery. This space will provide equipment for preparing lunch and also seating throughout for staff to gather and socialize. A new fold-able glass wall will provide access to the garden for Embassy staff and a covered patio area with seating will provide shaded space for the staff to enjoy. During special events, the lunchroom and adjacent Large Meeting Room may be utilized by Catering staff to prepare and serve food. Infrastructure has been integrated to support these additional functions of the space.

Social Hub

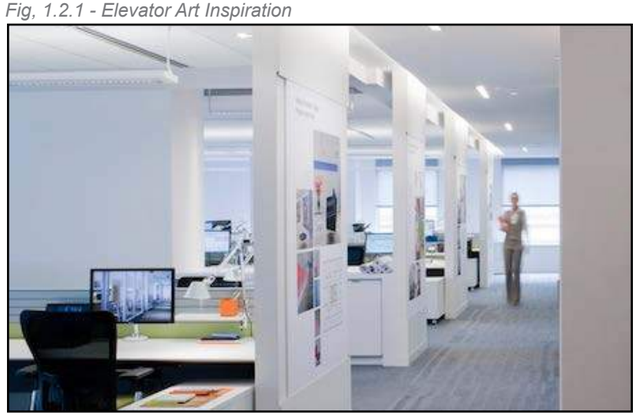
A new space has been created by enclosing the existing exterior patio on the North side of the building providing the opportunity to develop a social space for Embassy staff to use for informal meetings, breaks and social interaction. The two story space provides a gathering space which is filled with light from the floor to ceiling windows and also a large skylight. This space acts as the connector or “hub” for Embassy staff and Local staff and encourages interaction between the various staff positions within the building. Adjacent the hub on both the 1st and 2nd floors are the toilet rooms which help to activate the space. In addition to lounge seating, a coffee bar will provide additional incentive to visit the hub and partake in casual interactions which help to build camaraderie and rapport amongst the staff.

Meeting Rooms

Meeting rooms of various sizes have been located throughout the building. These spaces range from a large 20 + person conference room on the first floor, to smaller 8 person teaming rooms on both the 1st and 2nd floor. This greatly improves the Embassy’s ability to hold meetings, both internally but also with outside agencies who will now be able to visit the Embassy. All meeting rooms are to be provided with Wi-Fi, Monitors or presentation screens, Teleconference equipment and audio (where needed). Conduit and connections will be provided in this contract, however, this equipment will be provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA).

1.0 ARCHITECTURE

Fig, 1.2.1 - Elevator Art Inspiration



Fig, 12.2 - Open Office Concept

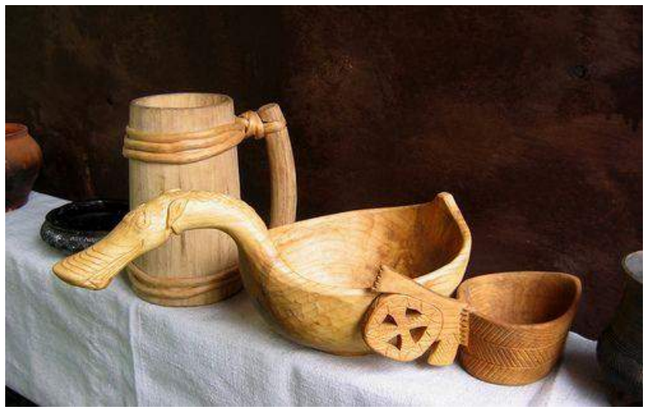
Fig, 1.2.3 - Social Hub Concept

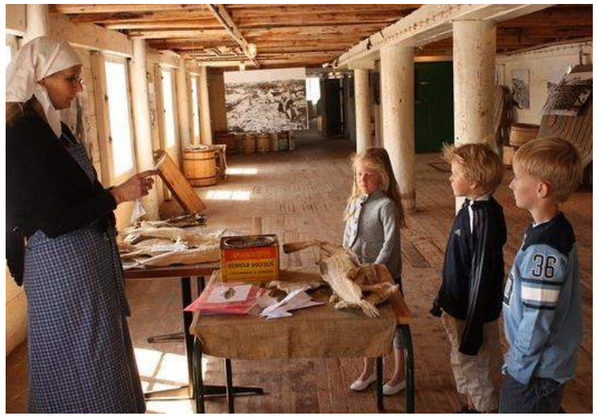
Office Areas

Staff accommodations will be a combination of Private and Open Office areas. These space are intended to provide quality work space with natural light, adequate airflow and clean aesthetics to encourage an enjoyable and productive work experience for the staff. These efficient spaces will provide durable spaces which will provide flexibility while also taking under consideration any privacy needs that may be required as staff conduct Embassy business. Print areas have been provided within each area to support staff and optimize efficiency.

Archive

The Archive space, located on the 2nd floor provides various security functions for the Embassy and it's staff. Within the Secure Zone is a work space for handling sensitive information and storage of archive documents. Also within the Secure Zone is a secure meeting area which can function as both a meeting room and also a command center during critical events. The Archive will be on backup power so as to remain functional in the event of an interruption in power. Also within the Secure Zone Similar to a SCIF space one might see in a US Department of Defense Building, the Archive area will provide small lockers outside the space for staff to store their phones or small electronics as these are not permitted within the space. Also included within the Secure Zone is the space within the Embassy with the highest security - the Vault. The Vault is used by staff to handle secret and confidential information. As such, the contractor is to provide a core and shell space, utilizing specific walls types described within the "Materials" section of this document. The MFA will finish out the space once the overall construction has been completed.





1.0 Architecture

1.3 Design Statement

The architecture is an expression and response to the following:

- The vision and values of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA);
- The context of the existing Ambassador's Residence and culturally significant neighborhood; and
- Cultural and heritage of the people of Norway.

Vision and Values of the MFA

The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) has a vision that says, "we work for Norwegian interests, Norwegian citizens, and a peaceful, fair and sustainable world."

MFA has the following guiding values:

- Handlekraft (vigor)
- Arbeidsglede (joy of work)
- Profesjonalitet (professional)
- Åpenhet (openness)

Existing Context

The Royal Norwegian Chancery is located at 2720 34th Street NW, intersection of 34th Street and Massachusetts Avenue NW close to the entrance to the Naval Observatory in Northwest Washington, DC. The property is part of a campus which includes the Ambassador's residence (3401 Massachusetts Avenue NW), consulate, chancery and landscaped grounds. The Ambassador's residence faces Massachusetts Avenue, the Embassy Row of Washington which includes many of the foreign service missions of the world. The original residence was completed in 1931, the second foreign service mission to be constructed in the United States. The design is an Italianate structure consisting of a symmetrical tripartite arrangement of rusticated base, piano nobile, and top. The symmetrical and robust Indiana limestone façade includes quoining and ornamental bracketed cornice. Piano Nobile fenestration consists of pedimented limestone openings with Juliette balcony balustrade. Slate roof is hipped and symmetrically arranged in alignment with the façade. The residence is a beautifully articulated expression of early 20th century neo-classical architecture. A rusticated one story limestone garden wall extends to the north as part of the 34th Street experience.

The intent is to create a renovated Chancery that compliments and is deferential to the existing original fabric.

Culture and Heritage of the People of Norway

The history of Norway is dramatic and rich. Areas we have focused attention into the design are:

- The tradition of woodworking and ship building;
- The rich natural resources including minerals such as copper, oil and gas, and fisheries; and
- The warm hospitality of its people.

The Proposed Design

The architectural elements of the façade are delineated into a balanced collage of three distinct parts:

- Curvilinear copper expression;
- Limestone bookend expression;
- Transparent curtainwall and wood expression.

Fig.1.3.1 - Original Embassy Residence

Fig. 1.3.2 - Existing Garden Facade of Chancery

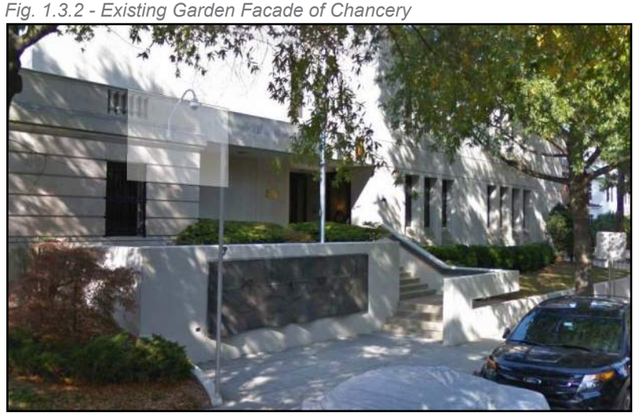


Fig. 1.3.3 - Chancery Entry

1.0 Architecture

Fig, 1.3.4 - Proposed Chancery Entry

Fig, 1.3.5 - Montaine Family Library - Buffalo, New York

Fig, 1.3.6 - Replica Statue of Liberty - Visnes, Norway

Curvilinear Copper Expression

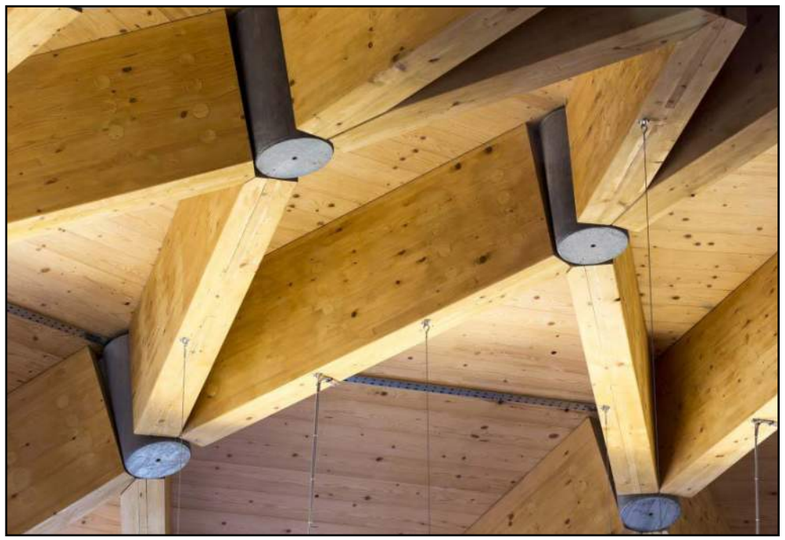
The curvilinear copper expression is formed as a direct response to the one-story rusticated limestone garden wall. The roof form and the existing wall reads as an historic composition in scale and proportion roughly two-thirds façade and one-third mansard roof. This form and proportion is common in neo-classical garden structures and orangeries in Europe and America. The mansard falls back from the front façade as it rises making the intersection with the existing Residence deferential. The use of copper is an expression of the rich mineral resources of Norway and a nod to the copper supplied to America for the construction of the Statue of Liberty in New York City. The shape slopes down towards the garden and forms the enclosure for the Garden Room – the signature hospitality space in the project. The roof is a dynamic glue laminated timber structure made of Norwegian Spruce, expressing the rich woodworking history of Norway. The western façade is composed of a folding glass wall system opening out onto the newly restored garden space. The copper mansard continues north past the existing garden wall, continues downward to the ground/entry plane forming the ceremonial new entrance to the Embassy. A portal opening creates a dignified, open and transparent greeting and gesture of hospitality towards visitors to the Embassy or the Consulate.

Limestone Bookend Expression

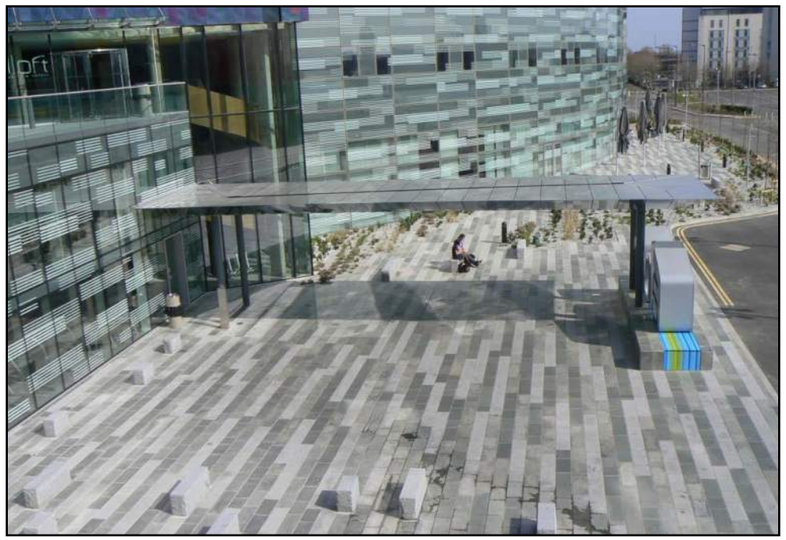
The existing Residence robustly anchors the southern edge of the property facing Massachusetts Avenue. Similarly, the northern end of the property needs a proper bookend to the campus of buildings. Create a bookend signifies and closes the edge of the diplomatic buildings and marks the beginning of the residential neighborhood. An alternate also considers using Larvikite granite which would serve the purpose of the robust bookend to the campus and express the rich geological history of Norway. The fenestration of the limestone portion is significantly enlarged to provide an open and professional workplace environment. The western elevation fronts the alley and the backyards of the residential neighborhood. To mitigate the exposure of glazing to the neighbors, the design proposes a vertical screen wall trellis consisting of Virginia Creeper, a climbing vine very similar in color and texture to those found in Norway. The new trellis will also provide diffused western light for those working in the office spaces.

Transparent Curtainwall and Wood Expression

The remaining portions of the façade on the southern and eastern sides consist of a curtainwall system providing maximum southern daylight and views to the garden. The curtainwall is accentuated with vertical wooden fins made of a hardwood appropriate for long term weather exposure. The wood expresses the tradition of wood and warms up the composition of the façade.



Fig, 1.3.7 - Mass Timber Structure



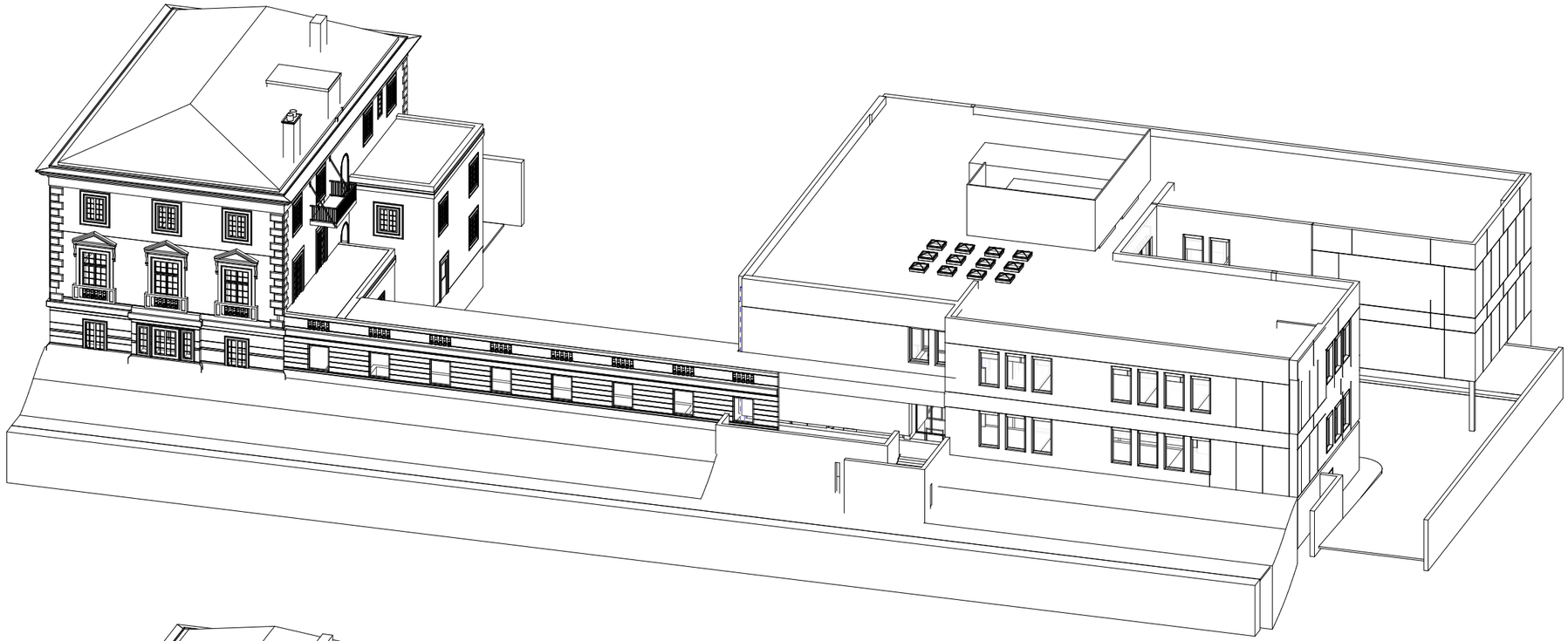
Fig, 1.3.8 - Larvikite Stone Plaza

Fig, 1.3.9 - Climbing Vines, NMBU - Ås, Norway

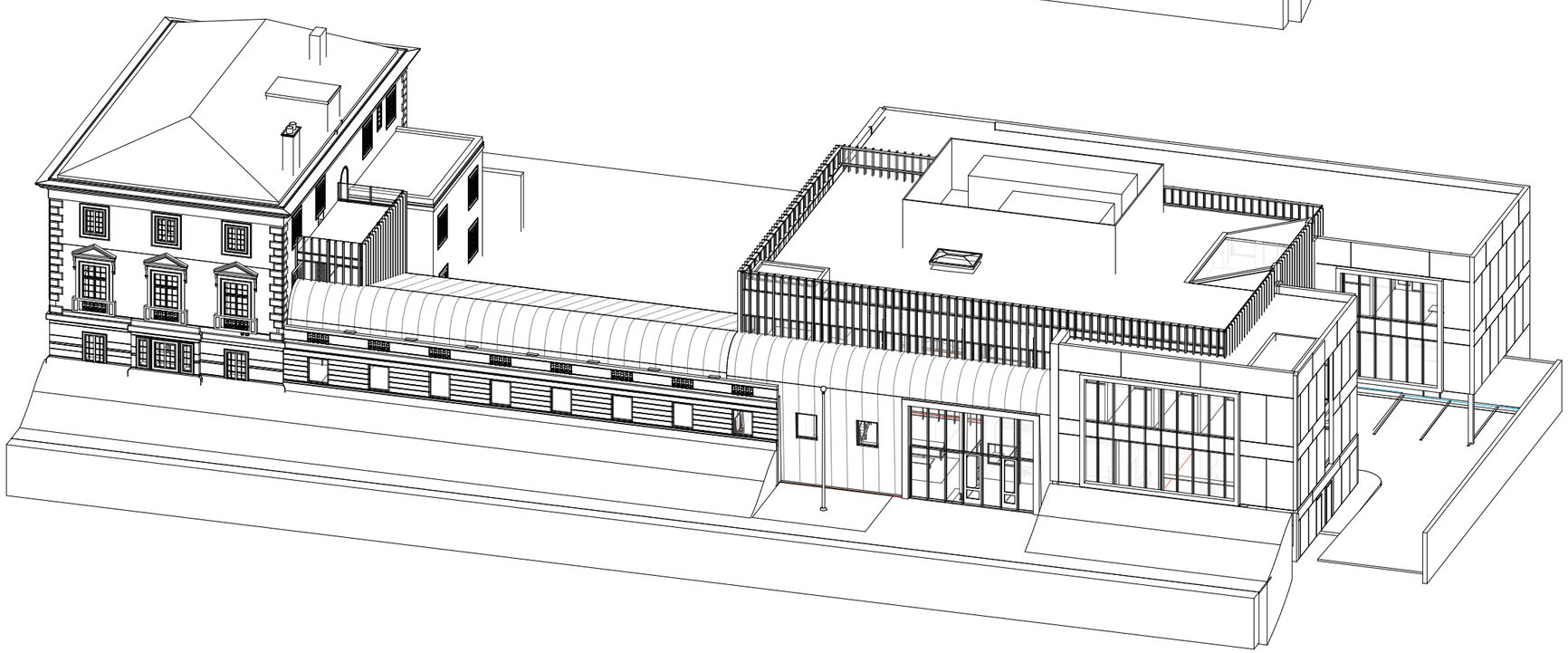
Fig, 1.3.10 - National Academy of Sciences, Washington DC

Fig, 1.3.11 - Copper Cladding - Gateway Building - Bainbridge, Washington

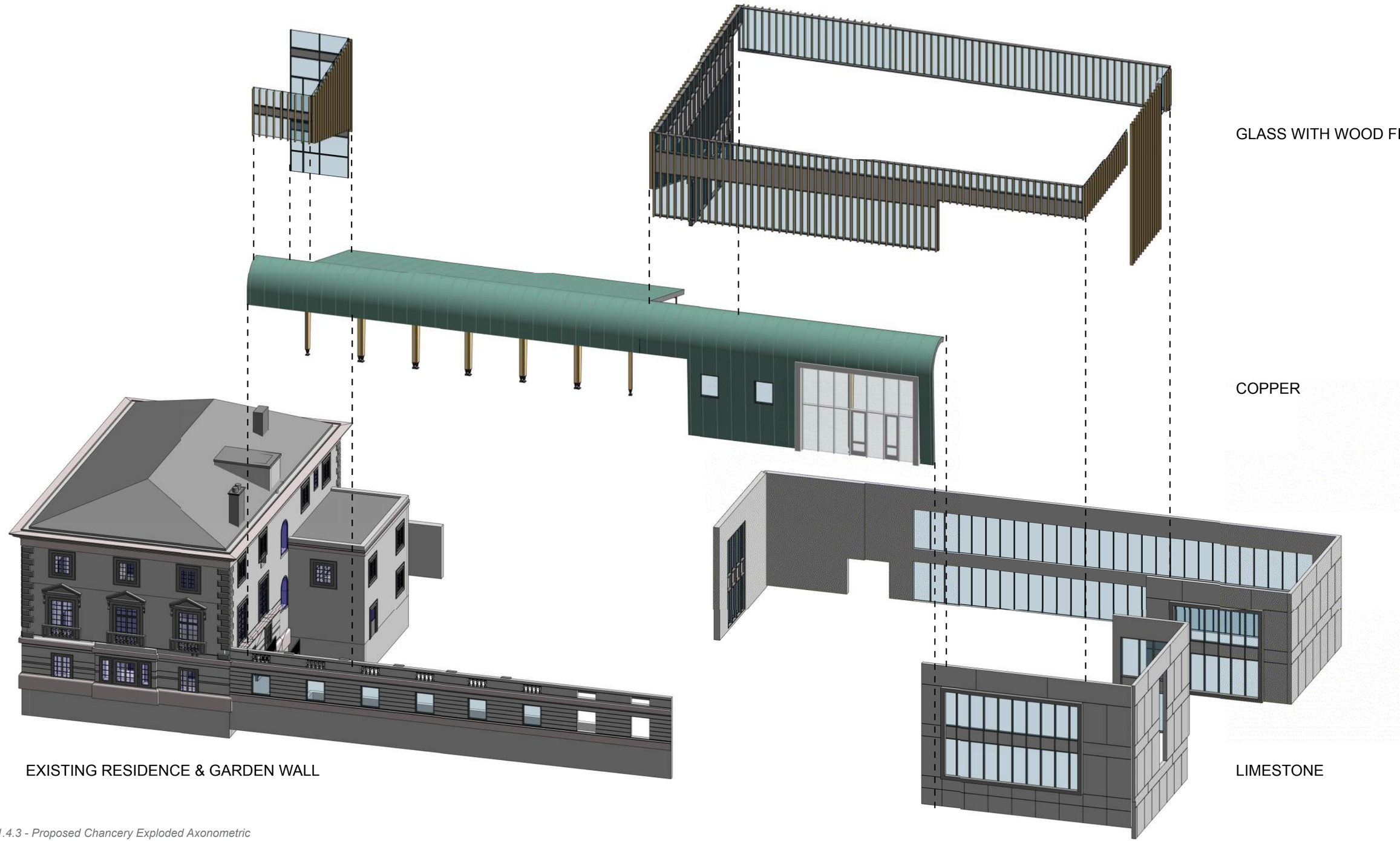
Fig, 1.3.12 - US Census Bureau - Suitland, Maryland



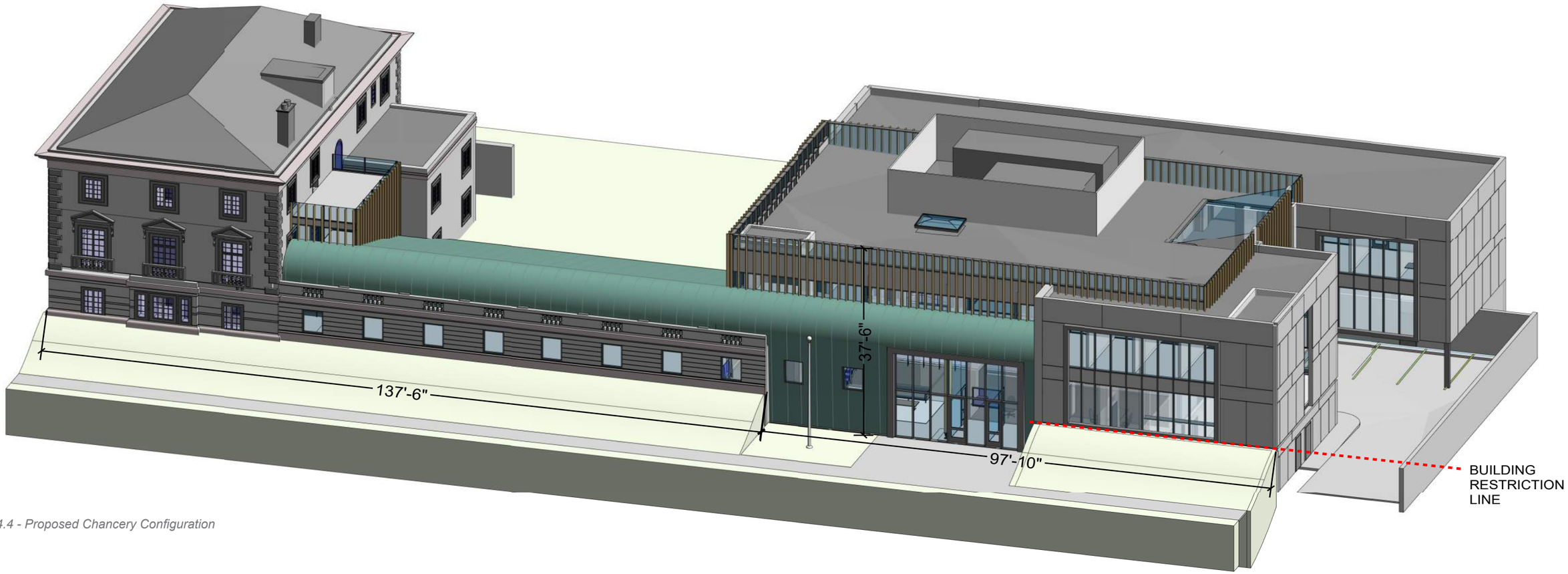
Fig, 1.4.1 - Existing Chancery



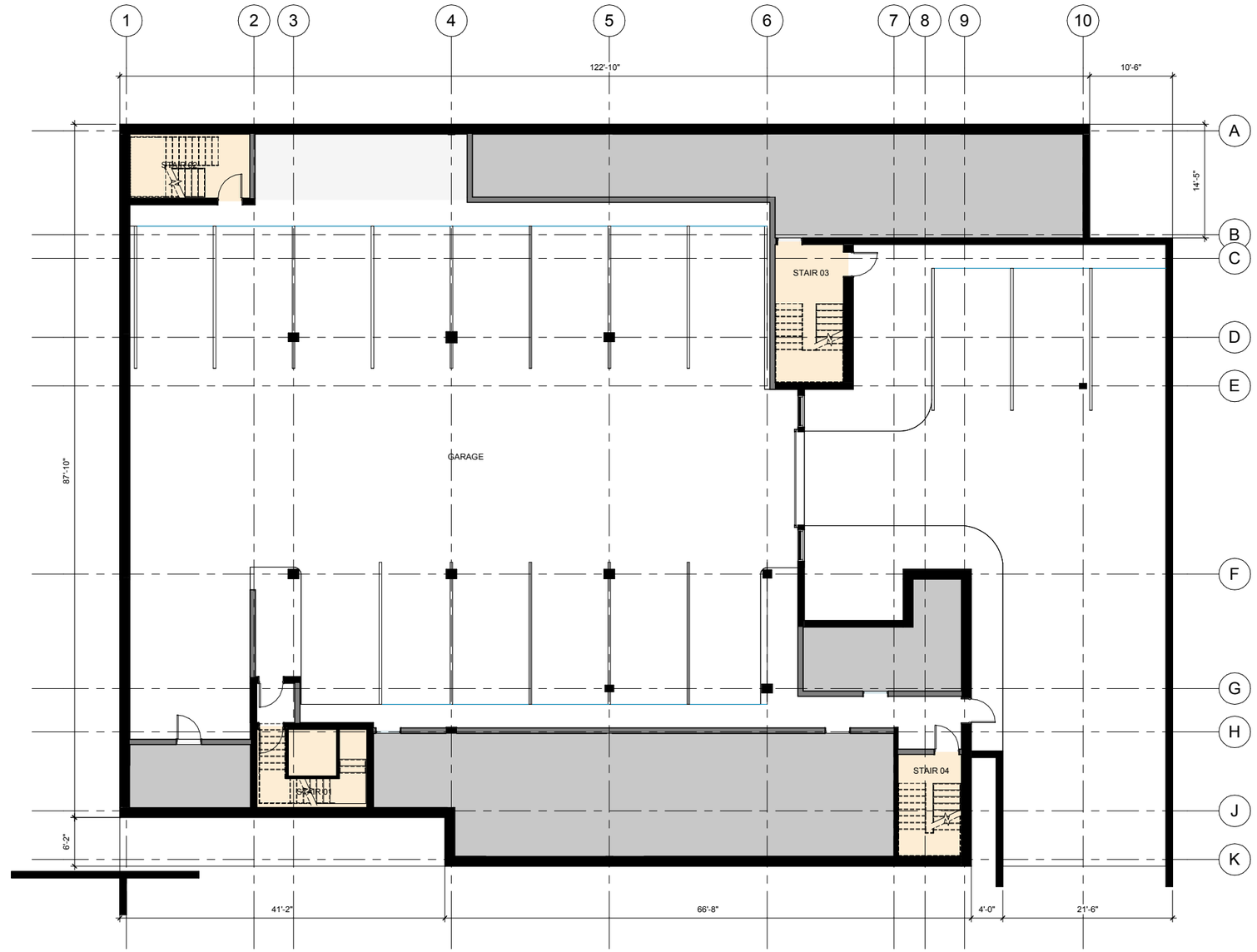
Fig, 1.4.2 - Proposed Chancery



Fig, 1.4.3 - Proposed Chancery Exploded Axonometric



Fig, 1.4.4 - Proposed Chancery Configuration



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NORWEGIAN EMBASSY

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NORWEGIAN EMBASSY RENOVATION

2720 34TH STREET NW, WASHINGTON DC

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BASEMENT - EXISTING A-1.00

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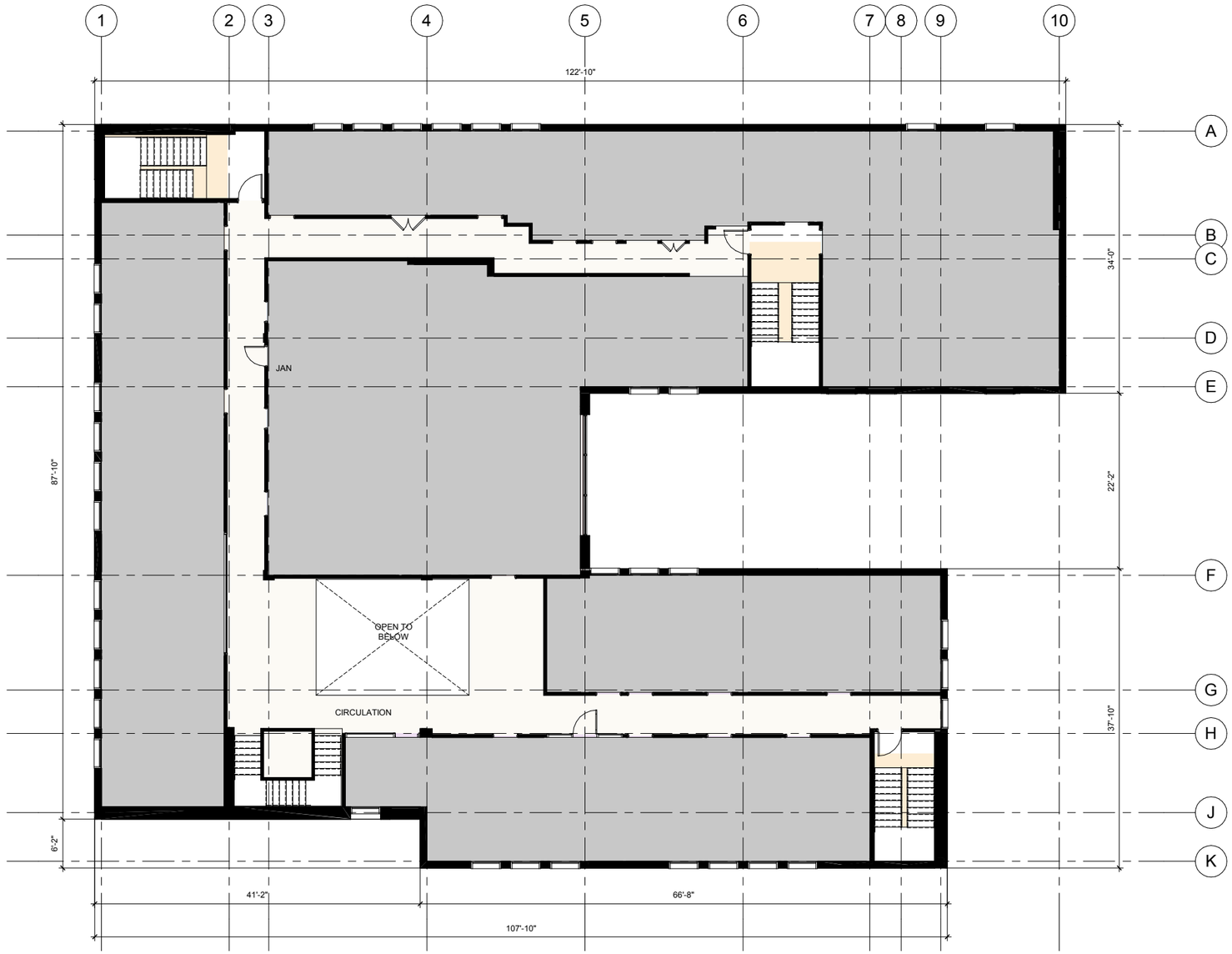

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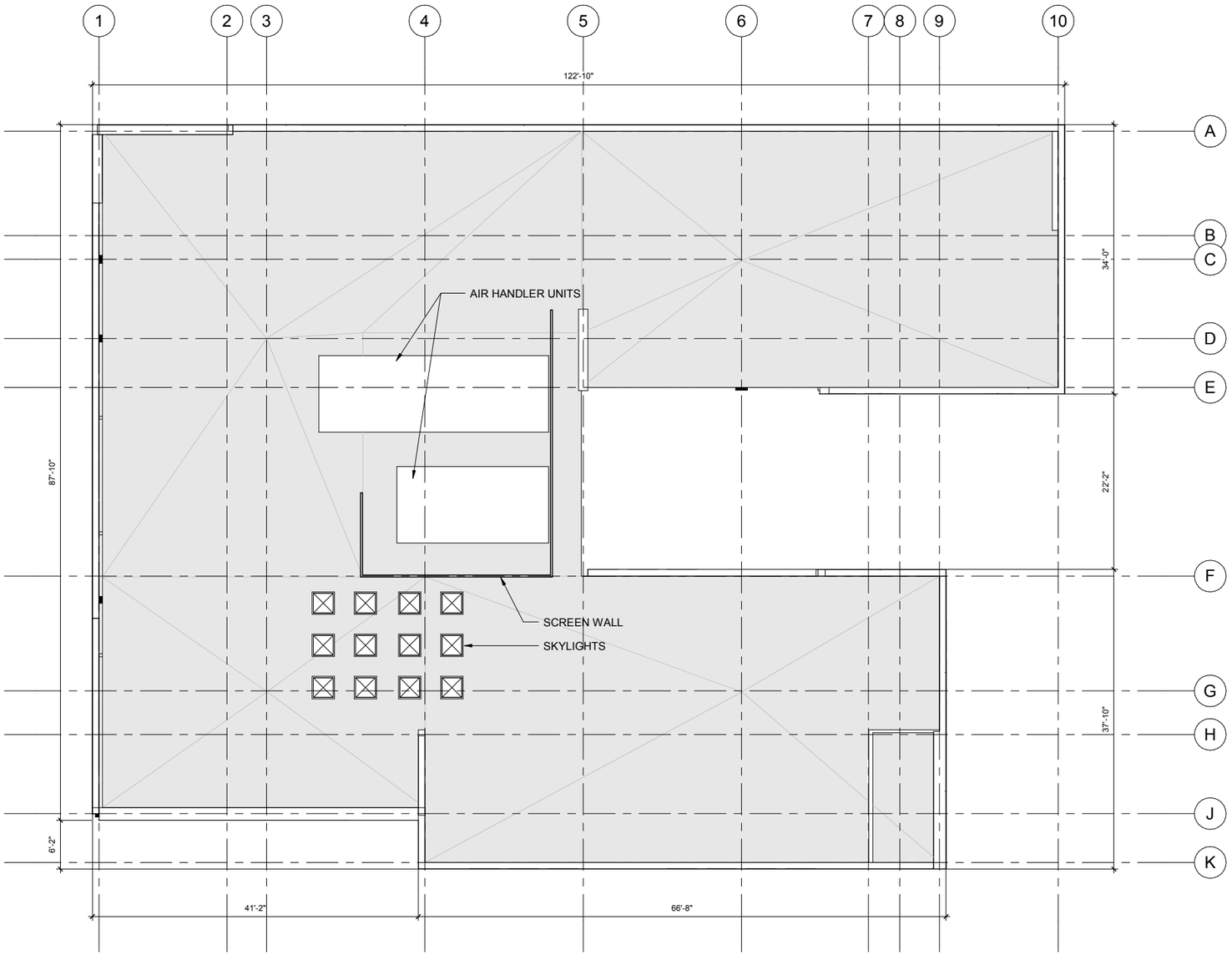

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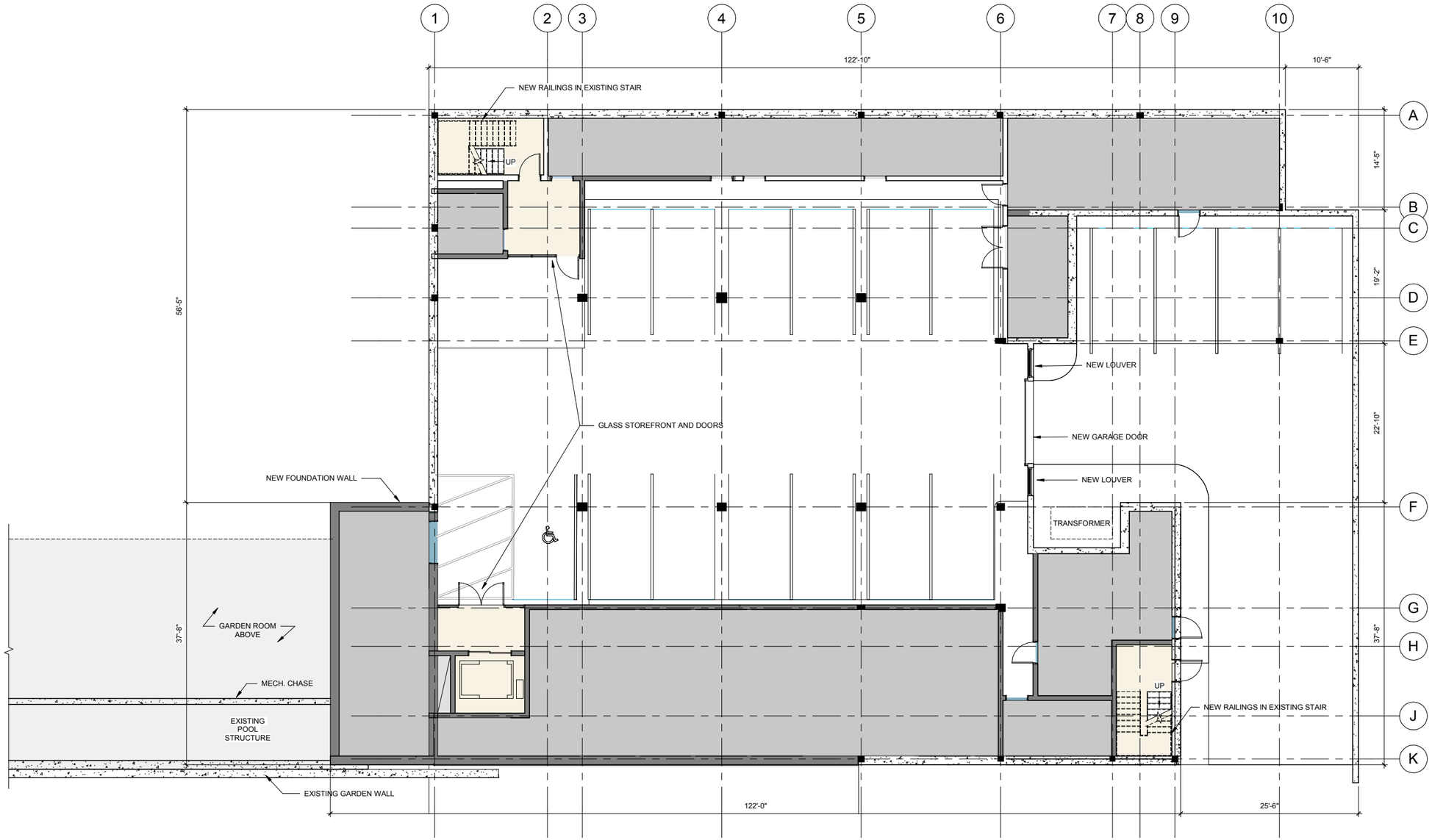

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2720 34TH STREET NW, WASHINGTON DC

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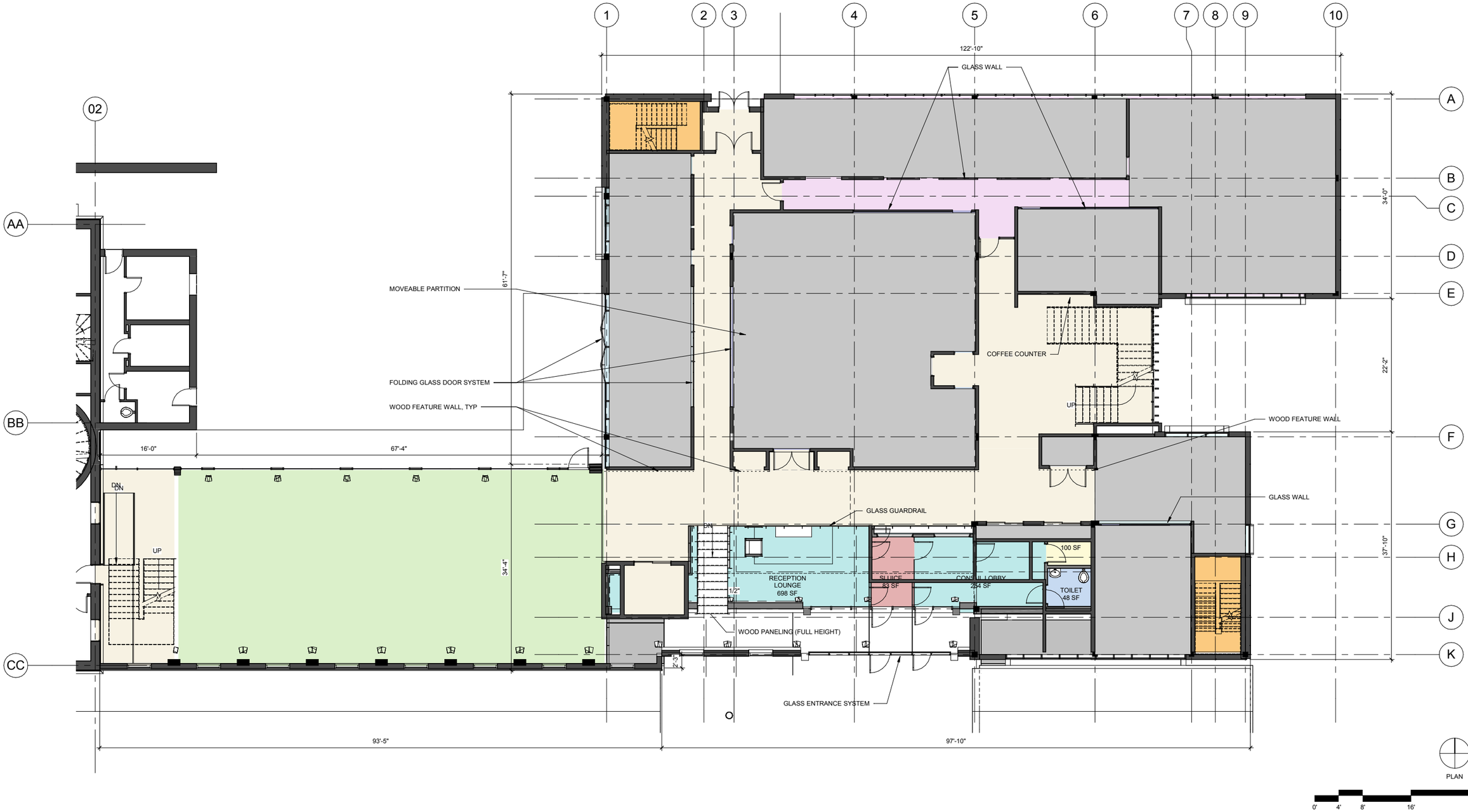
A-2.00



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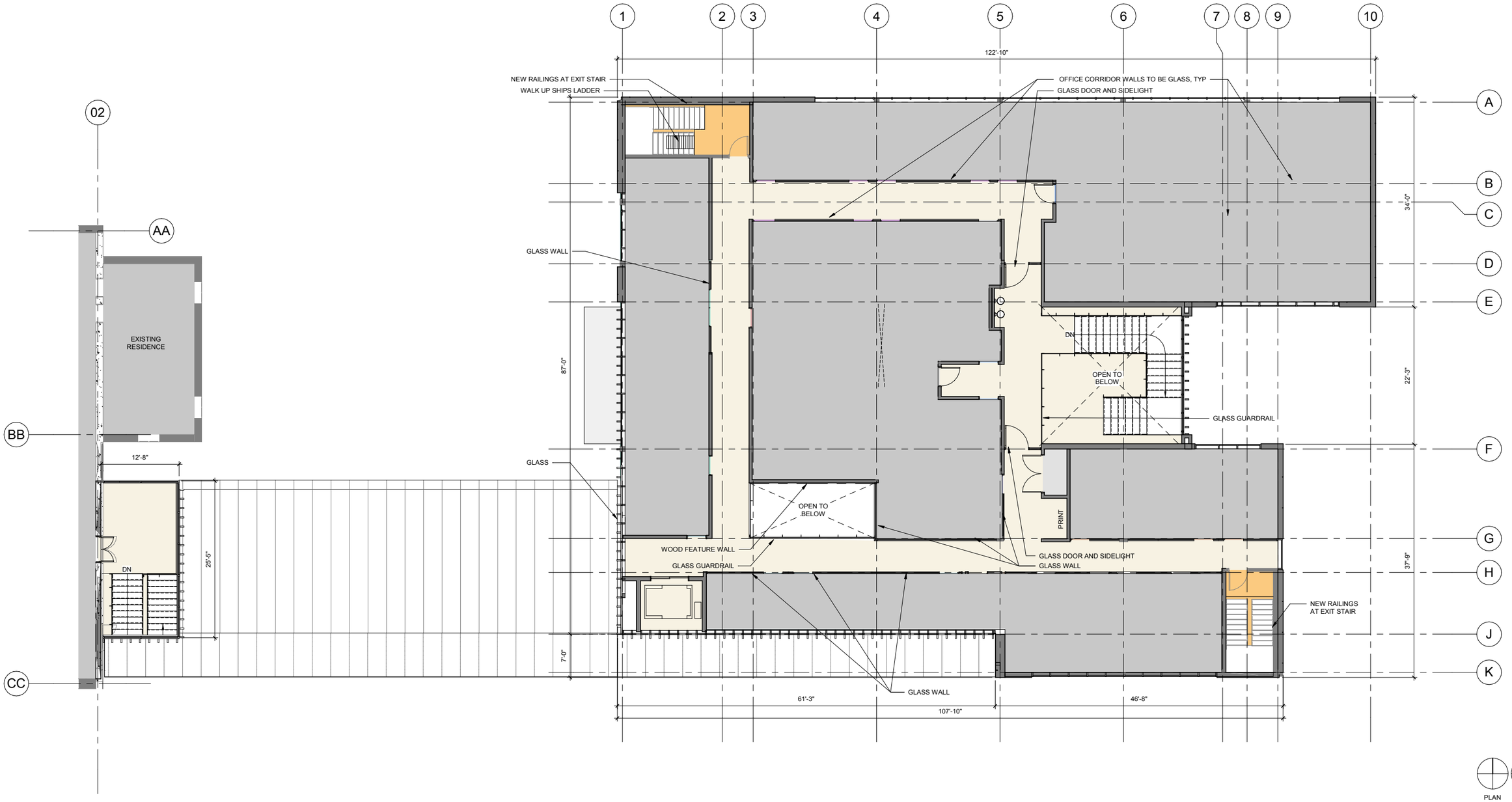

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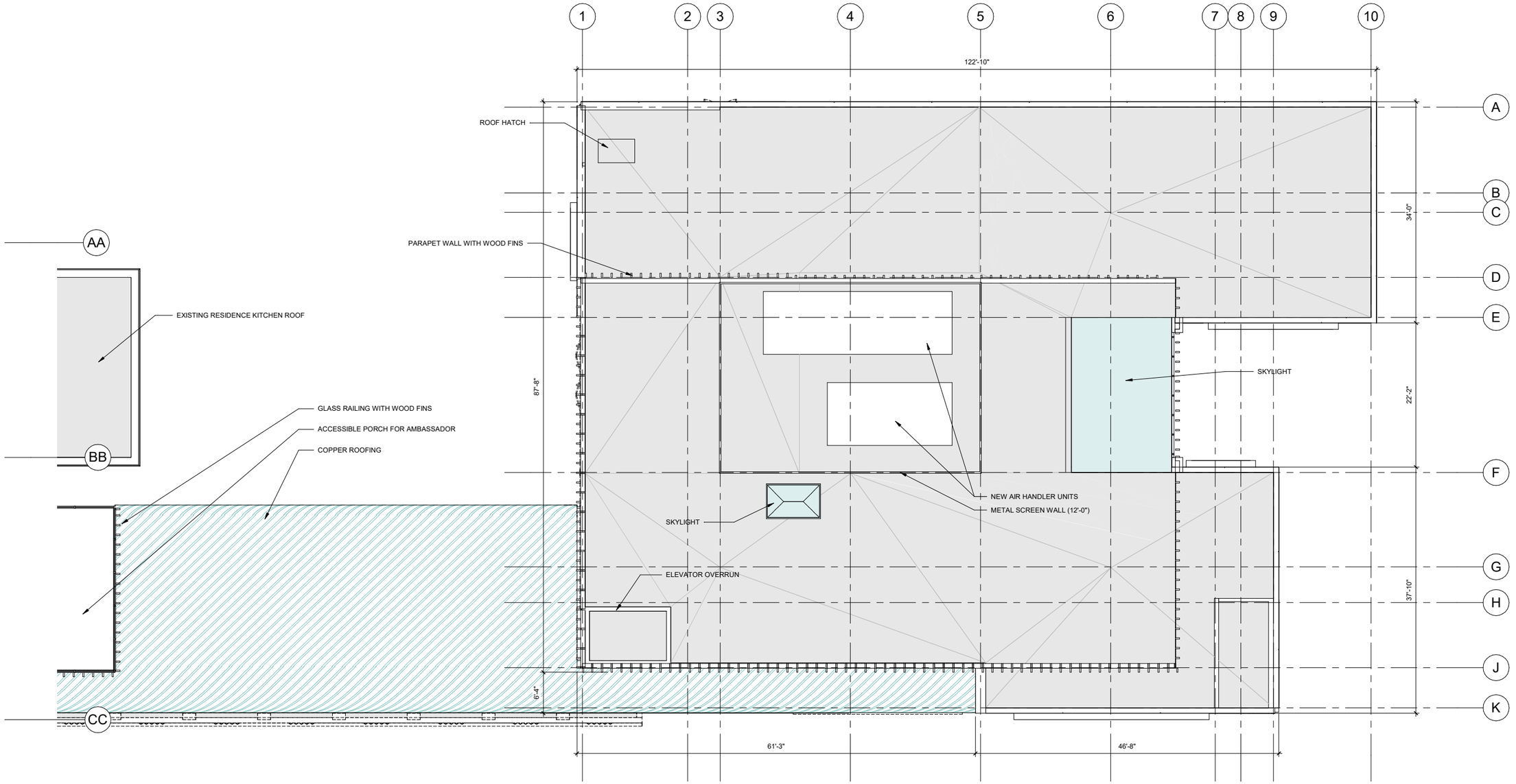

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