

ABSTRACT

Title of Document Archeological Research Center in Gözlükule, Tarsus, Turkey
 Şahin Arıkoğlu, M.Arch, 2011

Directed By: Professor Garth C. Rockcastle
 School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation

The goal of my Thesis Project is to design an Archeological Research Center located in the Historic City of Tarsus which is located in southern Turkey.

This design exercise will try to combine and layer the archeological research activity above the actual existing excavation site of Gözlükule (An archeological mound located in Tarsus). The logic being that the research spaces above will become a “protective shell” for what is being unearthed and displayed below.

I have chosen The City of Tarsus as the site for the Archeological Research Center for the following reasons:

- Modern City of Tarsus literally sits on top of the ancient Roman and Biblical City of St.Paul which needs to be excavated and preserved as a world historic site.
- Thesis site is the Gözlükule Mound that is situated above the city of Tarsus. The Mound is an archeological site with ongoing excavation.
- Recently Tarsus has gained international importance as a pilgrimage location for Christian tourists.

- Tarsus American College “TAC” is located adjacent to the site and is an important educational center in Turkey that will support and benefit from archeological research conducted adjacent to its campus.
- My thesis project will be to develop a model and guidelines for protecting, preserving and displaying the archeological remains excavated at the site.
- By keeping and preserving archeological findings at the site of their excavation, I will be making a counter argument for displacing and displaying them at other locations.
- My goal for designing a center for archeological research in Tarsus will be to utilize its building form to focus and organize the existing urban pattern adjacent to the site by creating visual and physical connections between fields.

Archeological Research Center in Gözlükule, Tarsus, Turkey

by

Sahin Arikoglu

Thesis submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School of the

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of the requirements for the degree of

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Advisory Committee:

Professor Garth Rockcastle, Chair

Dr. Lindley Vann, Committee Member

Professor Brian Kelly, Thesis Coordinator

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Dedication

This thesis is dedicated to my grandmother, Mjgan Arık.

Bu tezi anneannem Mjgan Arık'a armağan ediyorum.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Garth Rockcastle, Lindley Vann and Brian Kelly for their guidance during the course of this thesis.

I would also like to thank my father Kaya Arıkoğlu for being a lifetime mentor and my mother Nevin Arıkoğlu for believing in me.

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Important Note by the Author

Due to the limited scholarly research done on the Archeological mound of Gözlükule, most of the design solutions were derived from my analysis and the collaborations that took place at the meetings with my thesis advisors. Therefore, the bibliography and footnotes of this document is limited in quantity.

Site, Context and Place

Tarsus



Figure 1.1

The city of Tarsus, highlighted on the map of Turkey with a red dot (Figure 1.1) is located near the southern coast of Turkey. Tarsus is surrounded by the Taurus Mountains on the west and north sides, and the Cilician planes on its south and east sides. It is located in one of the most fertile agriculture regions of Anatolia. Selecting Tarsus as the site for my thesis will combine my interests in archeology with my familiarity with Tarsus.

My secondary school education was completed at Tarsus American College (TAC) which is located in the historic part of the city. TAC is a private school that was established after the US Civil War in 1881 by American missionaries for providing higher education in English for the

Christian population of Turkey. After Turkish Republic was established in 1923, the school continued to enroll male students and much later became coeducational.

As a TAC student, I commuted from Adana to my school in Tarsus, which is approximately a distance of 45km. During these daily rides, I recall passing by the historic buildings such as Saint Paul Church (Figure 1.2) and the archeological site of Gözlükule Mound. (Figure 1.2)



Figure 1.2

During my years at TAC, there seemed to be continuous excavations conducted on the Gözlükule mound. However, these excavations were performed with very little notice and were never accessible or visible by the public for creating archeological sense awareness. Prof. Ekrem

Akurgal, who is a prominent Turkish archeologist, wrote about the Gözlükule Mound as containing significant Hittite ruins that are yet to be excavated.

“...Today no spectacular remains exist to give evidence of the former importance of the very ancient town of Tarsus. On the other hand, works of the Hittite period unearthed by Gözlükule by Professor Hetty Goldman and now kept in the Adana museum can be counted among the major historical discoveries of Anatolia...”¹

Biblical and Ancient History of Tarsus

It is speculated, during the Roman period Tarsus was a major sea port on the Mediterranean. This is supported by the chronicles of historian Prudence J. Jones in which he mentions that Cleopatra sailed from Egypt to meet with Anthony in Tarsus.

“... Cleopatra travelled from Alexandria to Cilicia on a luxury ship. She was dressed, according to Plutarch, as Aphrodite. It is likely, however, that she portrayed herself as Isis, whom Plutarch either understands or interprets for his Greek-speaking audience as Aphrodite in addition to Cleopatra's association with Isis by virtue of her status as pharaoh, her arrival by ship suggests Isis Pelagia, the aspect of the goddess that relates to seafaring. Cleopatra's dramatic arrival served a political purpose as well. The spectacle of her barge sailing up the River Cydnus to Tarsus stole the spotlight from Anthony as those assembled in the marketplace, where Anthony awaited her arrival on the speaker's platform, rushed to the harbour. Anthony, deprived of his audience, sent word to Cleopatra inviting her to dinner. She replied by inviting him to dine with her on her barge...”²

The entry to the ancient seaport of Tarsus, Cleopatra's Gate, is now located just west of the Gözlükule Mound and is situated on the main vehicular boulevard leading to town center. The proximity of Cleopatra's Gate to Gözlükule Mound indicates that both were once sited on the edge of the harbor which has since been stilted as the river has receded by erosion. This would lead us to believe that the Gözlükule site was elevated above the harbor on a prominent hill and could possibly have contained very significant ancient structures and relics yet to be discovered. In the late Roman period, as the birth place of St. Paul, Tarsus became a center for Christianity. Paul who resided in Tarsus repeatedly sailed from it to preach his version of the bible to other Mediterranean cities. The illustrated map (1.3) shows Paul's distant voyages with Tarsus as the

¹ Ord. Prof. Dr. Ekrem Akurgal, Haset Kitabevi, Ancient Civilizations and Ruins of Turkey, pp. 345

² Prudence J. Jones, House Publishing Limited, Cleopatra: the last pharaoh, pp. 63-64

hub for his travels. Today Tarsus once again has become an important site for visiting Christian pilgrims who frequent St. Paul's house, and "St. Paul's Well". They also stop by the Church of St. Paul for prayer and communing. Recently, the German President Christian Wolf and his wife have visited the sites of Tarsus and subsequently have offered contributions for preserving and restoring its monuments. Such high level international interest for Tarsus would certainly justify and support my thesis proposal for locating an archeological research center on the Gozlukule Mound.

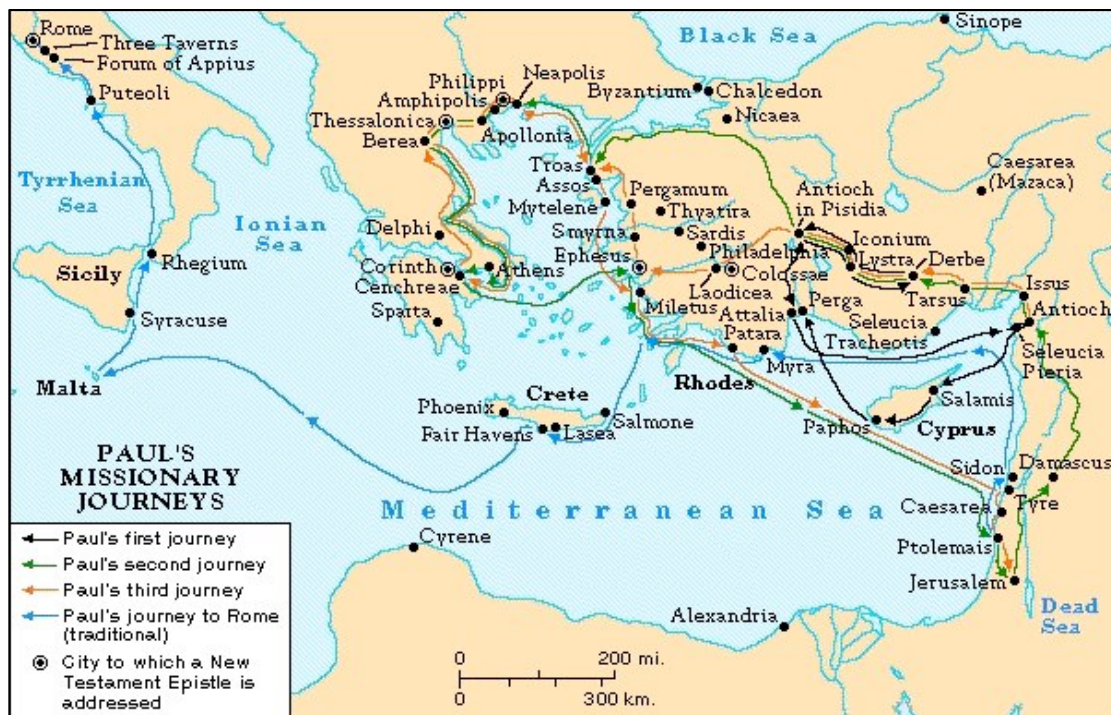


Figure 2.1

Plans (Topography, easements, utilities, existing structures, vegetation, soils, hydrology, wetlands, microclimate, existing land uses, transportation patterns, etc.;

The Gozlukule Mound sits on the highest elevation in the center of Tarsus. The topograph's “unnatural” shape suggests that it may have been manmade and later covered over with the rubble of consecutive structures.



Figure 3.1

The figure/ground drawing (Figure 3.1) above, we can see that Tarsus urban pattern does not adhere to any geometrical plan for street layouts. Instead, it seems to have a naturally formed plan and a pattern of buildings which address irregular streets. The town center located on the main street is indicated by commercial and public buildings with larger foot prints. This is where the Ottoman religious complexes, commercial buildings and the public baths are located.

The majority of the residential and mixed use buildings located in the central district have shops in the ground floor and living units on the upper levels. Streets leading to St. Paul`s Well and House have been closed to traffic to become pedestrian with limestone building`s that have been renovated. These historic buildings are mostly refurbished as cafes, shops and restaurants.

(Figure 3.2)



Figure 3.2

Just west of the historic center an entire section of the Roman Road (Figure 3.3.) has been excavated, protected and is exhibited. The depth, width and the axis of this road indicate that it may run continuous below the foundations of existing city fabric. This major discovery further reinforces the expectation that the entire Roman City may lie intact below the present city.



Figure 3.3

The major highway “E-5” defines the south edge of the Gozlukule site. There is a major shopping center called “Afra” that is wedged between the site and the highway. This massive abandoned and neglected shopping mall is surrounded by a parking lot that isolates it and unable it to engage the city in an attempt to create an urban space around its perimeter. It’s large footprint and over scaled massing is clearly non contextual (Figure 3.4) The removal of this building would allow a possibility to create a green park area which could serve as a formal entry to the Gözlükule archeological site. If designed properly the vehicular traffic would be abandoned at this point and clear pedestrian path continuing to the site could be developed. This

could be similar in use to the entry parking, ticketing and information sequence at site of Pompeii in Italy.



Figure 3.4:

Fortunately, all of the Gözlükule Mound has been identified and protected as “SIT Alanı” (primary archeological zone). The mound in its entirety is protected, undisturbed and predominantly planted with pine trees. Besides the excavated area at the top of the site, there is an Ottoman structure on the West end of the site. Figure 3.5



Figure 3.5

Unfortunately, there are other areas near the site that contain archeological evidence but are not yet designated as historic zones.

The Tarsus American School is located on the north slope of the Gözlükule Mound and it most likely has archeological remains below the substructures of its buildings but not officially designated as archeological sites. In the diagram below (Figure 3.6) the two separate parcels of the school campus are illustrated in green. My thesis will designate areas that are believed to have archeological remains, and will look into ways of preserving them while allowing the school to continue its function by making a clear distinction between their boundaries. In Figure 3.7, I put a “hypothetical” Hittite Citadel plan on the Gozlukule Mound, by looking at other

Hittite sites, such as “Karatepe”. I over-laid it as a walled town that strategically uses the mound’s higher elevation for defensive advantage.



Figure 3.6



Figure 3.7

In Figure 3.8 I composed an image that combines the Hittite Citadel with a “Greek City” plan. It is known that there was a Greek period in Tarsus, but not enough archeological evidence exists to help us reconstruct the ancient city. However, in this figure I layered the plan of Pergamon on the modern city of Tarsus and combined it with the Hittite Citadel.



Figure 3.8

Finally, in Figure 3.9 I added the Roman plan, which incorporates the recent archeological excavations of the ancient Roman road. There are speculations about the existence of a Roman theater just East of Tarsus American School.



Figure 3.9

Site Drawings and Photographs, Site Sections and context Elevations

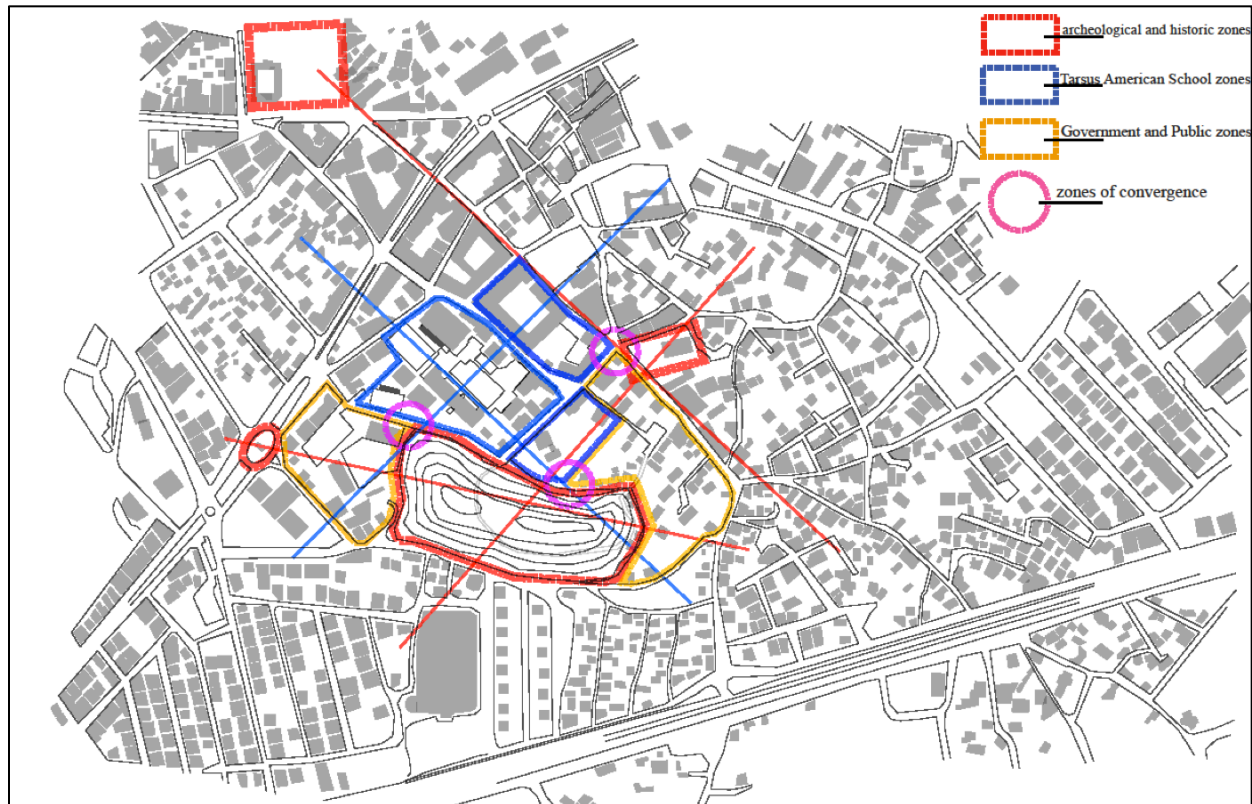


Figure 4.1

Figure 4.1 illustrates separate zones that exist in present day Tarsus. The areas highlighted in red are the important historic landmarks and/or archeological sites. The areas highlighted with blue are the parcels that belong to Tarsus American School. The Orange highlighted areas indicate land belonging to the public domain. The drawing also shows axis lines that indicate visual connections between different zones. The intersection between Orange, Blue and Red zones (shown as a purple circle) is an area where there is a potential for layering and overlapping different uses that my thesis will focus on. This particular area is comprised of school land, archeological land and residential land. The thesis will look for ways in which these overlapping zones can be connected and clarified by locating the Archeological Research Center at their

intersection. The Gözlükule Mound will play a very important role in anchoring the different zones of the site. (See Figure 4.2)



Figure 4.2

Tarsus American School

Located in the northwest edge of the Gözlükule Mound, Tarsus American School (TAC) is an educational campus that has existed since 1888. It was first established under the name of “St. Paul’s Institute of Tarsus”³ and later evolved to its present shape with significant alterations in

³ For more information regarding the history of Tarsus American School please see the website <http://www.tac.k12.tr/en/genel/default2.aspx?mid2=6&mid1=1>

buildings built after the ending of the Ottoman Empire and birth of the Turkish Republic to today. Initially, the school only accepted male students, later by 1986, it graduated its first coed class. I attended TAC school for seven years for my middle school and high school education. For that reason I have an understanding of the values of Tarsus American School and its traditions. It is very important to note that the Stickler Building shown in Figure 4.3 is regarded by the student body as the campus iconic building. The images of Stickler Building keep appearing on t-shirts and other objects that are being sold by the alumni. Many stories are kept alive from generation to generation about the ghosts that have once dwelled in the Stickler Building.



Figure 4.3

Stickler itself is a unique building representing American Colonial style. The school has had an enduring relationship with its sponsor the USA Board since it was established in 1888.

It is important to remember that the school was known as “St. Paul’s Institute” and it was established not for Turkish students but for other Christian minorities. That may be a reason why the architecture of its buildings do not reflect a regional style. I have attached a narrative by one of the first teachers of Tarsus American School below that describes the students.

In 1888, the St. Paul’s Institute was founded at Tarsus, and I had the honour of taking a prominent part in its work. The object of the Institute was to educate young men of different nationalities, especially those of the Armenians, throughout Cilicia. The founders naturally wanted some one who could make a good start. My services, at Tarsus as a tutor on advanced subjects, in connection with the Evangelical Church of Tarsus, were already much in requisition. I had not only students from the native protestant Churches under my tutelage, but many from the Gregorian Aemenian and Greek Churches also.⁴

The school now has original “American Colonial” style buildings mixed with newer contemporary styles that form the present day campus. The entry to the campus has been a site planning problem that has endured for many years. The majority the students who commute from surrounding cities arrive to the campus on busses that are not accommodated properly. In Figure 4.4 I have indicated the vehicular entry to the school, which shows that there is no direct approach from the E5 highway. The busses that arrive from the Adana follow a very confusing and meandering path that comes from the east side of the campus as shown in Figure 4.4.

⁴ *Stanley John Weyman*, Chicago and New York: Rand, McNally & Company, Publishers, The house of the Wolf, pp. 79

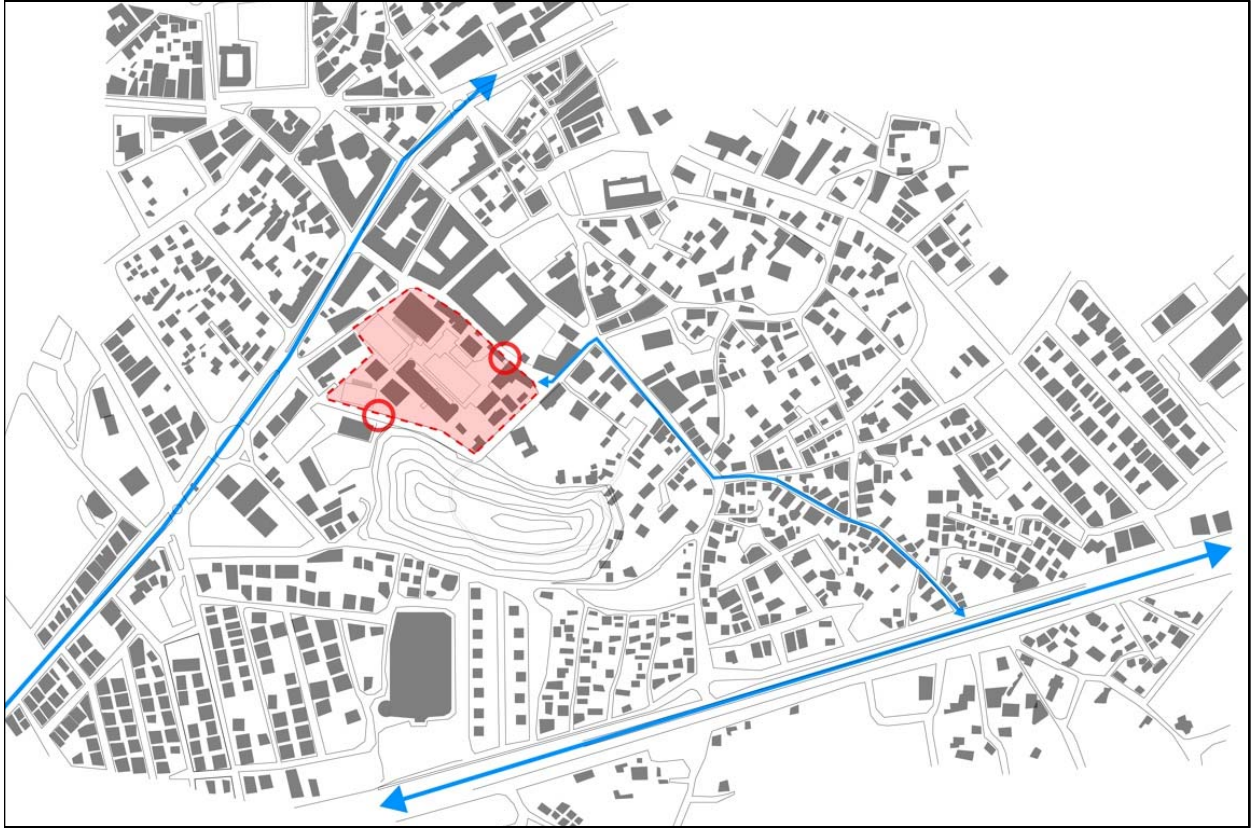


Figure 4.4

The previous Figure 4.1 indicates linear connection that follows the front of the Stickler Building and extends to the Gözlükule Mound.

Problems and Opportunities:

The Gözlükule Archeological Mound is presently neglected and has no defined perimeter security. The areas excavated have been merely protected with makeshift canvas coverings to keep dirt and rain out (Figure 5.1).



Figure 5.1

The unsecured site has some residential property located on its East edge that directly enter on to it. Locating the Archeological Research Center on the edge of a secured site will establish supervision as well as constant monitoring of the excavated areas. My thesis will suggest perimeter security for the entire Gözlükule Mound and designate controlled entry points. There is an opportunity to develop the entire site as an archeological park with light weight non-permanent structures that accommodate research, display and information center functions. The center may simply serve as a gateway to an open air museum that displays archeological findings

in a park like setting. This concept could be similar to the one at “Karatepe Museum” (See Photo) which only provides overhead canopy system for “open air” museum display. My proposal could also develop facilities for an educational center that combines continuing archeological research, publishing and displaying with teaching regional history. It is hoped that the research activity will be incorporated and become part of the Tarsus American School’s educational curriculum and program. This association and cooperation will benefit both the school and the independent research center. Their joint faculty, staff and students will be able to share information and facilities. Their physical adjacency will reinforce Tarsus American College’s educational quality and this in turn will reinforce recruitment of higher caliber of teaching staff. Likewise, the archeological center’s researchers and staff will benefit from Tarsus American College’s extensive educational, athletic, and social programs while taking advantage of its extensive public relations and networking at national and regional levels.

The diagram above (5.2) suggests these connections.

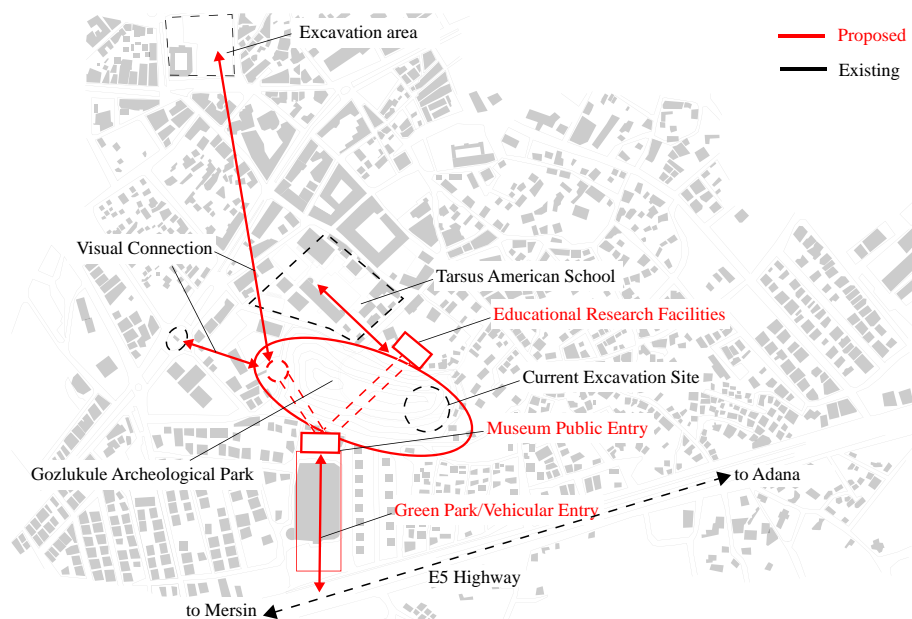


Figure 5.2

Siting Precedents:

Karatepe Archeological Site and Open Air Museum:

Karatepe (Azatiwataya) is a Neo-Hittite fortress sited on the Taurus Mountains east of Adana and located within the **Karatepe-Arslantaş National Park**. It is remarkable in concept that the all archeological findings have remained on site and displayed outside as an open air museum.

Designed by the Turkish architect Turgut Cansever, the museum structures simply consists of slender columns that hold up series of concrete canopies which serve as coverings over displayed artifacts and protect them. The natural topography under the canopies is continuously left undisturbed but it is left accessible for future excavations. (Figures 6.1, 6.2) Similar to the display structures the staff housing is raised above the landscape on concrete stilts. All built structures are left in brut unfinished, unpainted concrete that is in stark contrast with the natural vegetation surrounding it. I have included Karatepe open air museum as precedent for developing the Gözlükule Mound. I am aware that my site is in an urban setting and therefore must deal with those additional parameters.



Figure 6.1



Figure 6.2



Photo 6.3



Photo 6.4

Athens Archeological Museum:

The new Athens Archeological Museum is situated at the bottom of the Acropolis and oriented to match the geometry and orientation of the Parthenon Temple. From the Bernard Tschumi's own words below it is clear that the design addressed the need for storing the ancient Greek sculptures.

"...The challenges of designing the New Acropolis Museum began with the responsibility of housing the most dramatic sculptures of Greek antiquity. This collection of objects shaped the program even before a site was chosen. The building's polemical location added further layers of responsibility to the design. Located at the foot of the Acropolis, the site confronted us with sensitive archeological excavations, with the presence of the contemporary city and its street grid and with the Parthenon itself, one of the most influential buildings in Western civilization. Combined with a hot climate in an earthquake region, these conditions moved us to design a simple and precise museum with the mathematical and conceptual clarity of ancient Greece..."⁵

⁵ Bernard Tschumi's statement regarding the project, it is published in this website: <http://www.arcspace.com/architects/Tschumi/>

The main structure of the building is concrete frame, and as seen in Figure 6.6, the columns divide into two smaller columns as they get closer to the foundation. It is particularly interesting that during the pre-construction phase of this project, archeologists continued to discover additional remains of the Classical Athenian city. The design layout was readjusted to accommodate the new remains that were eventually incorporated in to the museum's display which became an important part of the archeological collection.⁶



Figure 6.5

Another interesting aspect of the project was the alignment of new building with the orientation of the Parthenon located on the Acropolis. This created a geometric connection with the Classical monument in situ that can be seen in Figure 6.5.

⁶ For more information regarding the Acropolis Museum design please see: <http://www.arcspace.com/architects/Tschumi/>



Figure 6.6

Ephesus Terrace Housing Research Canopy Structure:

Not too long ago there were new discoveries made at the Ephesus site in Turkey. A canopy system was designed and built by the European sponsors, which provides covered spaces both for the archeologists excavating and the visitors viewing. The interior spaces are depicted in Figure 6.7 as open areas that have continuing archeological excavation below while glass pathways above allow viewing. The light weight structure above protects the areas below it, while various openings in the roof permit good ventilation during the summer.



Fig 6.7

To minimize the bearing on the archeological excavation area the support are located at the perimeter at strategic points. (See Fig 6.8)



Fig.6.8

Roman Antiquities Museum in Merida:

The project consists of a museum dedicated to the Roman Heritage. Similar to the Acropolis Museum in Athens this project is also very close to an ancient site. During its construction phase they located various remains that were combined to exhibition. In Figure 6.9 we can see how close the museum is to the actual ruins. (The museum is shown with a red dot in this image).



Figure 6.9

“...The primary goal was to build a museum that would offer people an opportunity to understand aspects of the town's Roman heritage. Without falling into a strict imitation of Roman architecture, Moneo adopted the Roman construction system - massive masonry-bearing walls filled with concrete. Other Roman building techniques, materials, and proportions were utilized as well, and prominence was given to construction as an expression of architecture itself. The materiality of the Roman brick wall becomes, finally, the most important feature in the architecture of the museum...”⁷

In his design the architect Moneo revives the ancient construction system, where he uses Roman geometries and materials, see Figure 6.10. There are parallel walls and rhythmic clear stories in the design that allows daylight to penetrate deep inside the building for further highlighting the interior spaces.⁸

⁷ Description of the museum project from Archidose.org, <http://www.archidose.org/Jul99/072699.html>

⁸ The building's architecture is explained in the Archinform website: <http://eng.archinform.net/projekte/1788.htm>



Figure 6.10

Technical Considerations and Program

Programatic design objectives and approach

The program for the archeological research center to be located on the Gözlükule site will be developed as a “wish list” of spaces required for such an institution. The final program needs to be tested and made to accommodate the design objectives for the site. In the design process the site parameters will define the final sizes of areas and their relationship to each other.

Special problems, issues and possible examples

As was noted on section 3 Plans and B.1 above the Gözlükule Mound is designated as “SIT Alanı 1” which means that only “temporary” archeological excavation and research functions can be placed on the site. Temporary means that any structure placed on the site should be made of light removable material supported by only surface foundations. On the perimeter of the mound the designation “SIT Alanı 2” will allow more permanent public structures that are placed totally above surface. As in all “SIT” designated areas the building permits need to be reviewed and approved by the “Anıtlar Koruma Kurulu” (Commission for Protecting National Monuments). The approval process to obtain a building permit is long and tedious and needs to be coordinated by the Tarsus Municipality.

It is for seen that commission will only approve uses that support archeological exploration and display. Therefore, the design program must incorporate and relate all educational functions with archeological uses.

Program Tabulation

Below is a tentative program for my proposed “Archeological Research Center”. The area tabulations were determined by studying various examples from similar precedents.

Thesis Design Program for the Gözlikule Archeological Research Center:

Archeological Exhibition + Research Total 4,490m² + 510m² = with circulation 5,000m²

A)Exhibit Areas: Total	2,320m ²	
Exhibit Spaces	600m ²	
Information Center	140m ²	
Gift Shop	80m ²	
Cafeteria + Kitchen	420m ²	
Terrace	360m ²	
Storage	600m ²	
Offices	120m ²	
 B) Research Center: Total		
2,170m ²		
b.1) Teaching Areas <i>otal</i>		900m ²
- Lecture hall 150 seating + stage	360m ²	
- Classrooms 60m ² x 4	240m ²	
- Studios 90m ² x 2	180m ²	
- Library	120m ²	
 b.2) Research Areas Total		270m ²
- Cataloging	90m ²	
- Media Laboratory	90m ²	
- Publication Room	90m ²	
 b.3) Living Areas Total		1000m ²
- Private suites (8 units) X (30m ²) =	240m ²	
- Students dorms (12 units 2 people each) X(20m ²)=	240m ²	
- Lounge	100m ²	
- Dining Room + Kitchen	100m ²	
- WC + Baths	50 m ²	

Structural mechanical implications

The requirement for a “light weight temporary structure” stated earlier implies that all buildings should be designed using light weight steel elements supported by limited surface bearing point foundations. The structures should also allow reconfiguration to accommodate and be revised with future requirements of the site. The mechanical HVAC systems should be minimized while natural means should be used to developed and utilized to provide bodily comfort in the buildings. There may be some mechanical requirement needed for the research and display spaces that require controlled temperatures and humidity for preserving delicate archeological findings. Providing natural day light in to all spaces should be preferred to using heat generating incandescent lighting. Since the only available sewer and water infrastructure is located on the perimeter of the Gözlükule Mound, all spaces with such requirements should be placed on the edges of the site.

Sustainability goals or consideration

Although, the site is located within the city of Tarsus it should not connect to its utilities and infrastructure. The archeological research center should be designed to be self sufficient and independent in order to sustaining itself. All power, water and sewerage needs should be developed by natural means on site as not to depend on and burden the existing municipal infrastructure of Tarsus. Designing for self sufficiency in itself will attempt to create a prototypical model for archeological explorations in remote locations and also serve as an educational tool for teaching sustainability. The Tarsus American College students and surrounding communities will benefit from such research.

Applicable building codes and their impact on the architecture

The Gözlükule Mound is designated as a “Arkeolojik SIT Alanı” which means the area is protected and is only also suitable for archeological research and display.

Initial Design Schemes

In the previous chapters I presented the framework for my design process to take place. In its preparation one thing that remained in my mind was that the possibility of using the Gözlükule Mound to generate an urban design armature to clarify the surrounding context. Creating a public building that spans across the site with a light weight canopy system or systems that became an idea fired my imagination. A lightweight modular system that could be mounted and dismantled on site depending on the specific areas of excavation could be a rational proposal for a dynamic museum and research center. By the end of the Fall Semester, I was able to suggest different iterations of spanning across the Gözlükule Mound that could combine a scheme for a archeological museum building and a research center.

Structural Bridge Scheme 1:

In this scheme the archeological mound is spanned with a long indoor bridge that is also used for exhibiting archeological artifacts. This scheme provides an entrance to the mound by demolishing the Afra Shopping Mall. This provides a visible entry from the E5 highway along with an area for cars to park. (See figure 8.1)



Figure 8.1

The structure of the bridge consists of modular bays, that are supported by a single central column and is braced for lateral stability. There are also platforms as seen in Figure 8.2, which are movable and modular. These platforms could be rearranged to accommodate archeological work in situ. Through later excavations, as the archeological footprint slowly reveals itself the platforms would accommodate it and allow for research to be carried out in any specific location.

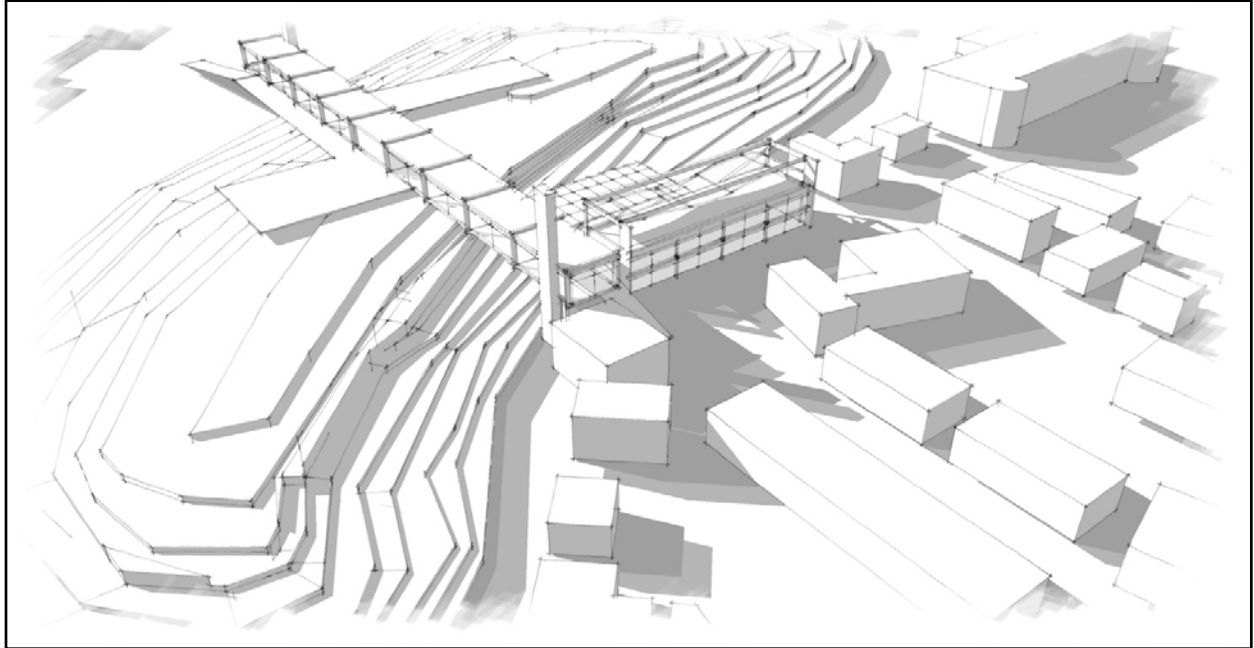


Figure 8.2

In figure 8.3 it is shown how the platform connects to the second level of the proposed archeological research center. This way any material that is excavated could directly come inside the research building without any contact of cranes or any other machine that transports these artifacts.

The bridge structure has two towers that are placed at the end of each side. In this tower there are elevators that are meant for both service and handicap accessibility. Furthermore, the tower elements are elongated vertically in order to make an urban connection with the existing fabrics, both the collegiate fabric in the north and the commercial fabric in the south. The connection to the gym tower of Tarsus American School is shown in Figure 8.4.

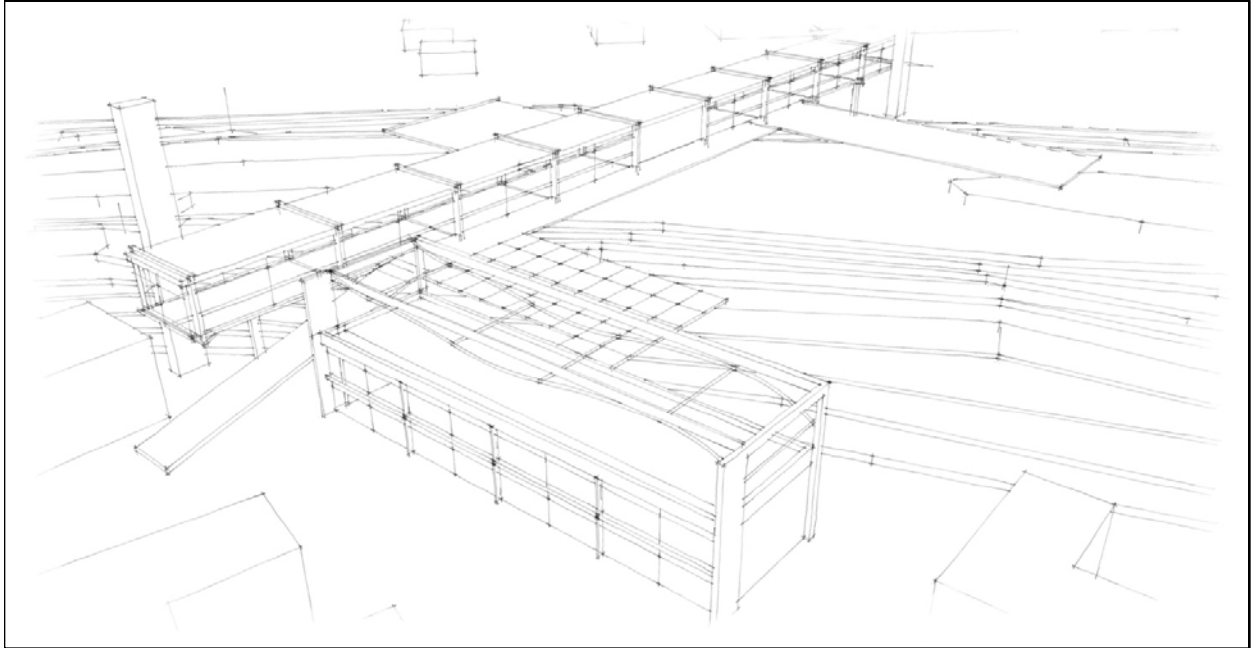


Figure 8.3

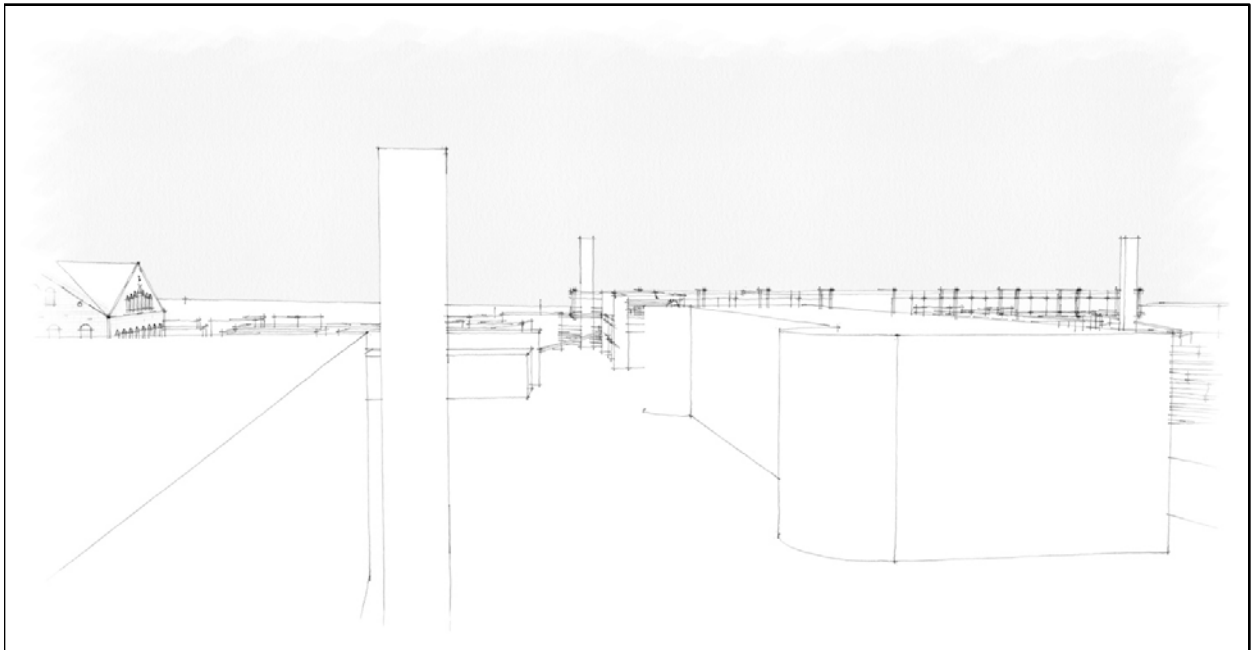


Figure 8.4

Structural Bridge Scheme 2:

In this iteration, the structural bridge is different in its placement and structure. It connects the commercial portion on the south side of the Gözlükule mound to its north side as seen in Figure 8.5.

The bridge is carried structurally from its sides only with repetitive support. In figure 8.7-8.9 the structure is illustrated. The pedestrian walkways are on the sides right next to the supporting structure and the areas that are dedicated for both archeological research and exhibition.



Figure 8.5

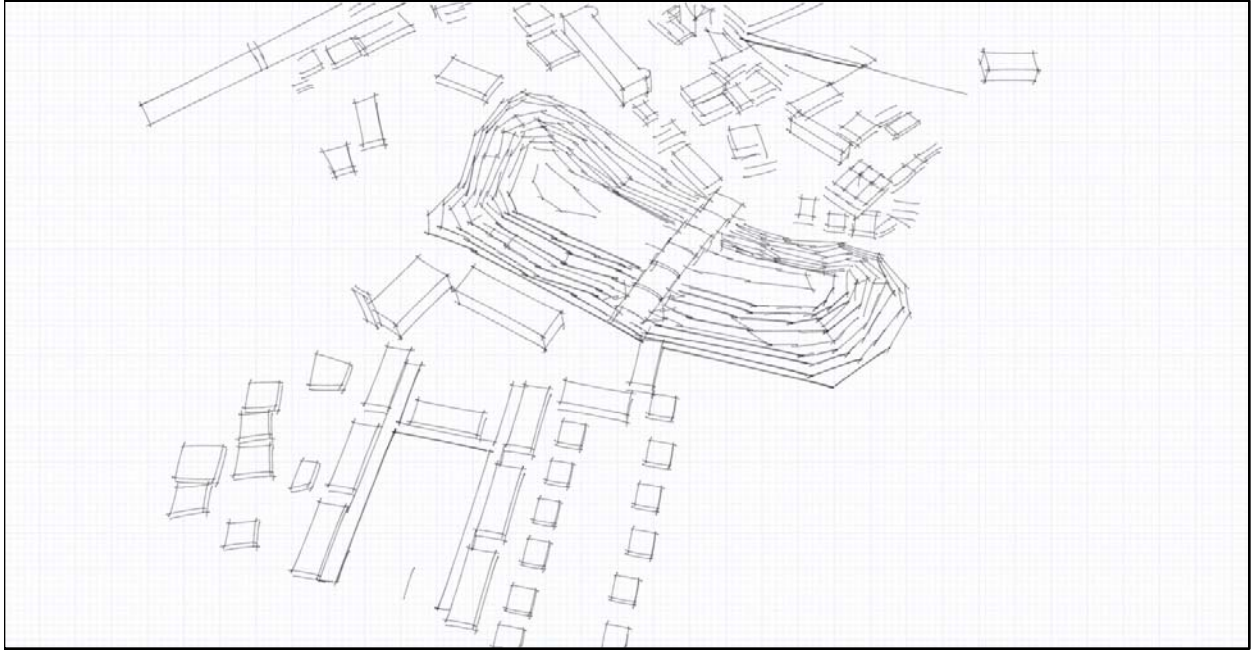


Figure 8.6

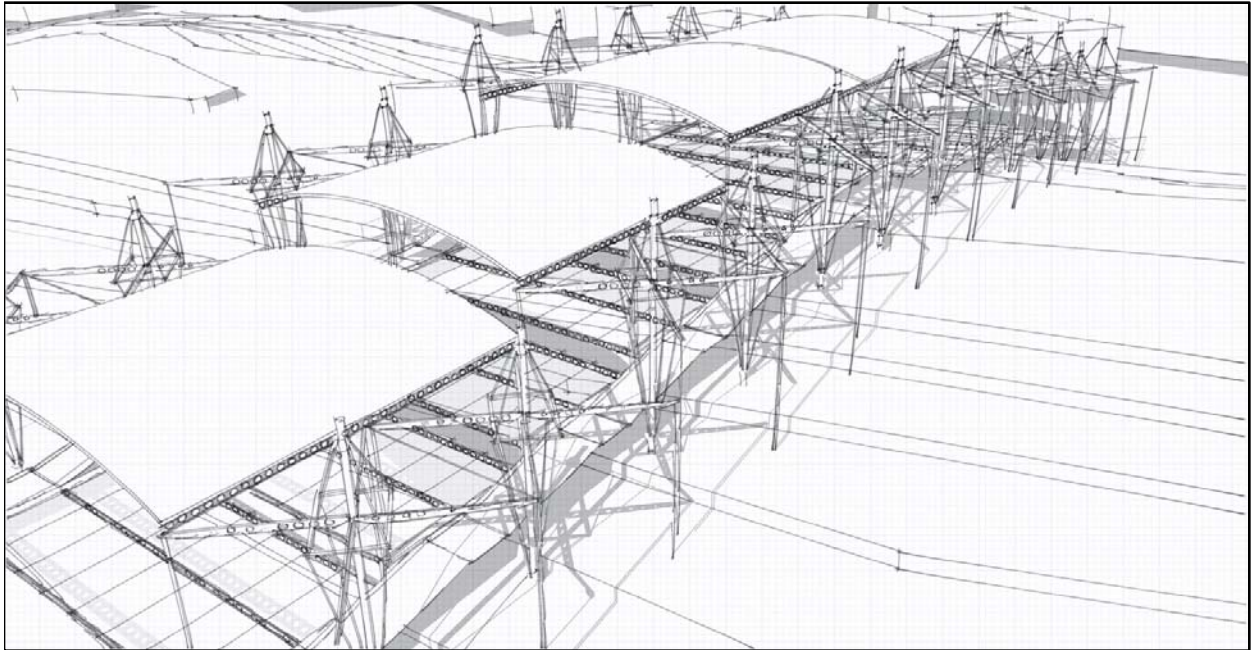


Figure 8.7

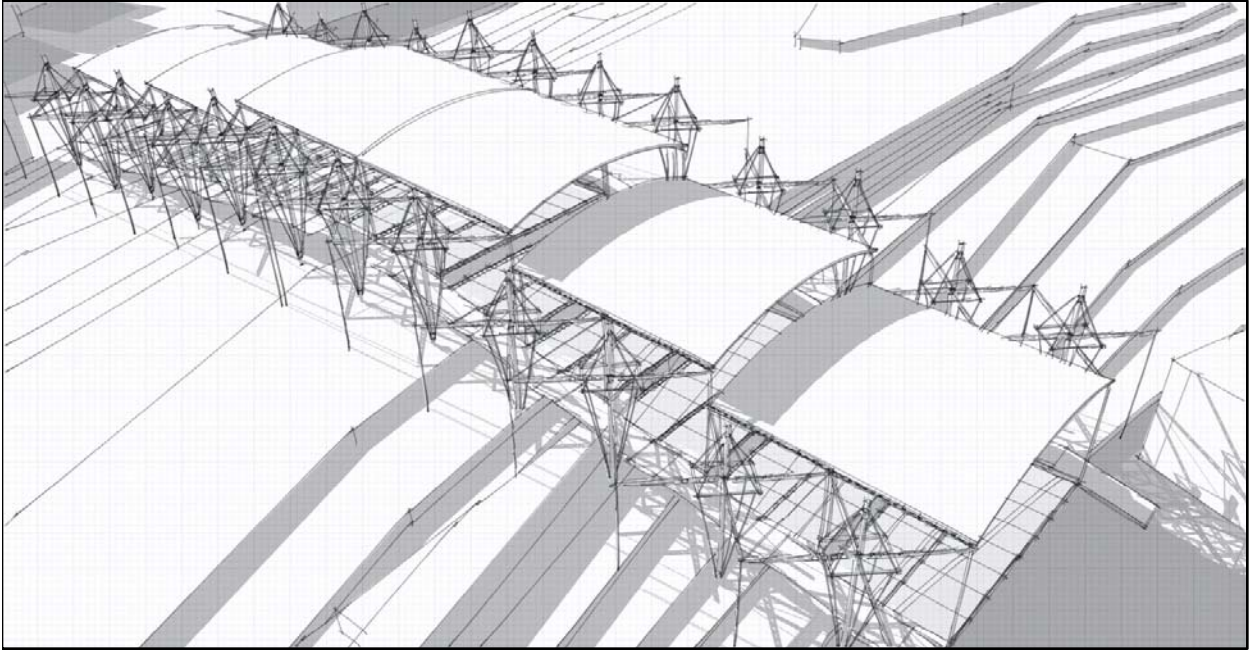


Figure 8.8

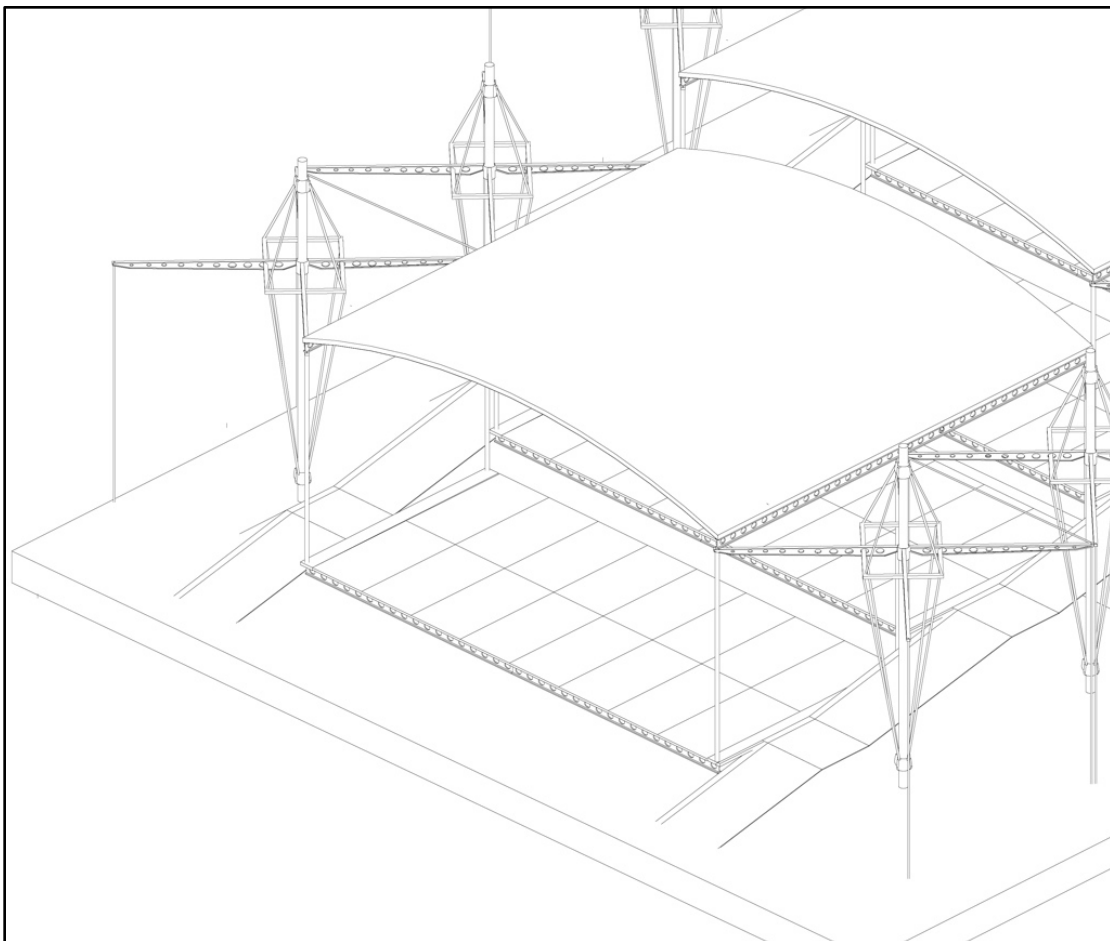


Figure 8.9

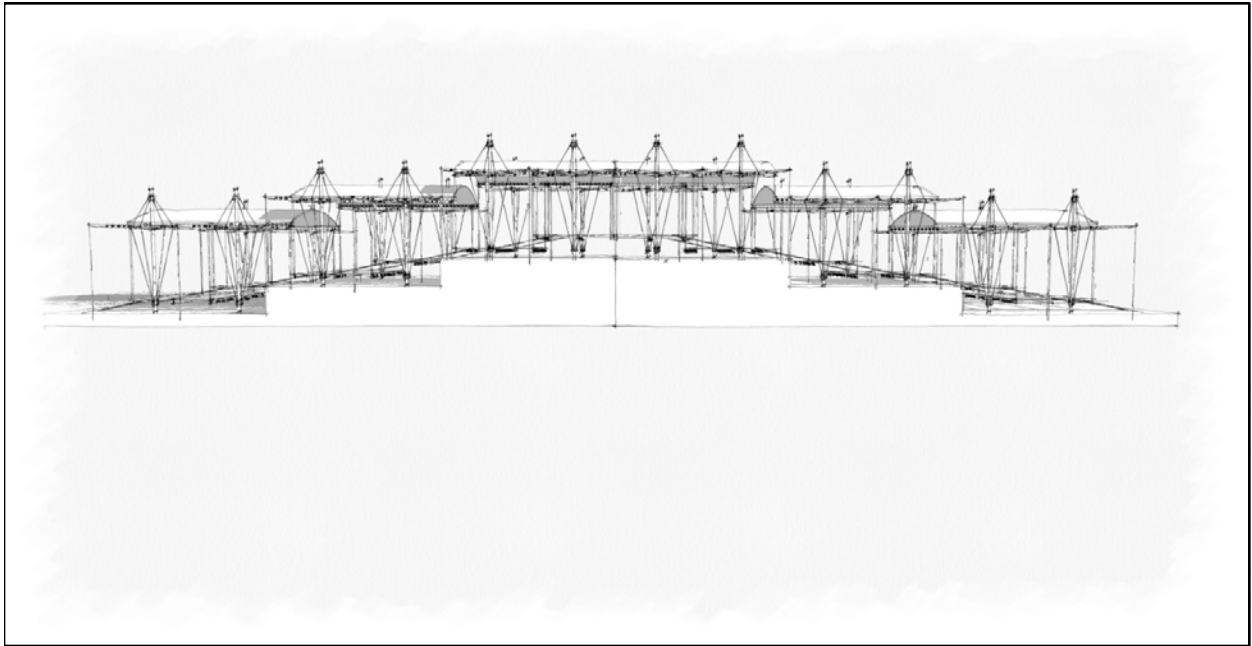


Figure 8.10

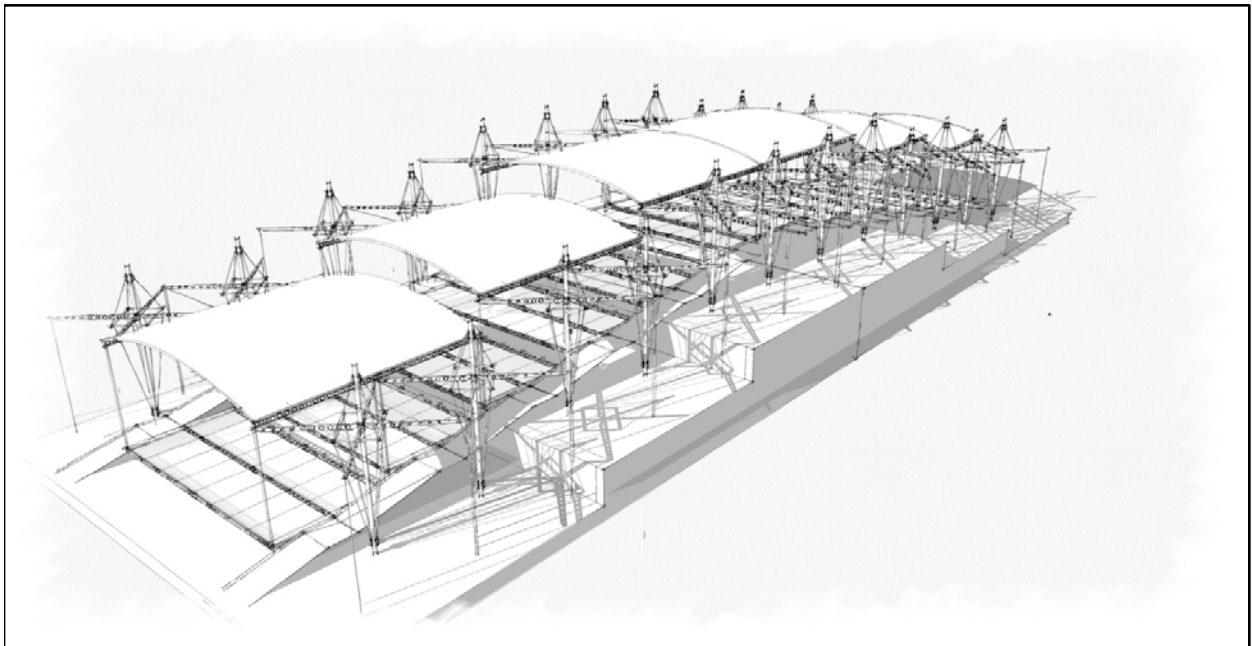


Figure 8.11

Archeological Research Center Scheme 1:

An archeological research center is proposed, and is the main building of the design. This is the only building that is designated for long term. The structures shown previously were all made out of sustainable materials and modular, so tat it could be reused for future site expeditions.

However, this building is where researchers from around the world would come to live, teach and work in.

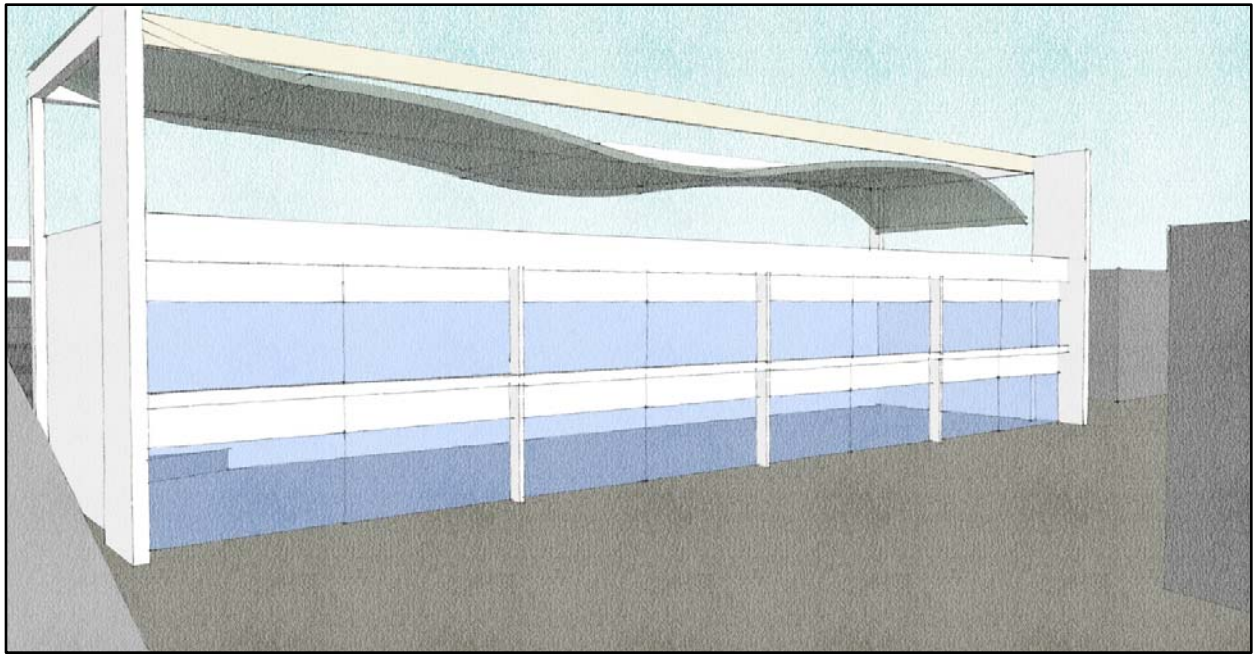


Figure 8.12

Final Design Approach

Introduction to the Final Design Proposal

- Why are we interested in “Archeology” ?
- Why do we want to know about the past civilizations and their way of life?
- Why do we insist on trying to discover who we were and how we lived before we became what we are now?

Trying to understand ourselves is what makes us humans and very different from other animals. Therefore, archeological research becomes an important aspect of discovering our shared past and enables us to place our present life in a continuous perspective of time.

The main question my thesis attempted was to speculate and to try to answer “How can we preserve our past by conducting archeological research in an existing urban environment that is rapidly changing?” How is it possible to allow for urban growth, expansion, and change while at the same time trying to preserve in the same context what remains from our distant past. In my thesis I have proposed that these two, seemingly opposing, goals could actually coexist and even produce mutual benefits. My design attempts to integrate excavation, display, education and research in an archeological site that is also enveloped by the historic city of Tarsus.

My thesis is in Tarsus, a historic Roman city that is located in Southern Anatolia. The Anatolian land mass connects Mesopotamia (The Cradle of Civilization) to the European Continent serving as a bridge between cultures and the civilizations. Western Europe, which presently claims to be

the center of global enlightenment, has the roots of its civilization imbedded in the East. To properly understand the Western Civilization we must also understand its origins which are located in the Eastern Mediterranean. Many of the ancient civilizations were centered in Anatolia which is now “Modern Turkey”. Anatolia has over 7,000 archeological sites. Many of these significant sites are buried under existing historic cities and are presently populated. Tarsus is one of these cities that is built over an ancient city which was once Hittite, Roman, Byzantine, Seljuk and then Ottoman. As the city of St. Paul’s birth place, Tarsus has played an important role in the spread of Christianity to the Western Mediterranean. I have selected the “Gozlukule Mound” located in Tarsus to propose ways of integrating archeological excavation and research with urban design parameters.

In my thesis I have taken the premise that archeological findings should be preserved in their original context. This means that findings unearthed in the Tarsus, Gözlükule Mound should be displayed on the site itself and become a generator of interest for the entire city. To be able to successfully carry out archeological excavation and research in this urban context I decided to clearly define and secure the perimeter of the site. Then I limited the public access points and integrated them with the existing city streets. While the site area needed to be secured I allowed a pedestrian movement through the site which allowed and encouraged public viewing from it. This pedestrian path created a South to North connection, right across the site providing a major link from the highway to the center of the urban fabric located around Tarsus American College and the St. Paul Church. This enabled visitors to leave their parked busses on the South side and visit the Archeological and Biblical sites on the North as pedestrians.

Another premise I tried to achieve was to physically incorporate archeological knowledge in to local educational environment of Tarsus with the hope that future generations would develop interest in their archeological past and this would strengthen and guarantee their support for preserving and protecting all historic sites in the future. Therefore, I created a direct link between my proposed Gözlükule Archeological Research Center and the Tarsus American School campus. I am hoping that this would allow a private local educational center to become affiliated with a prestigious international research center. Both the archeological staff at the center and the faculty of Tarsus American College could share common facilities and by being adjacent they would create a very unique academic environment. This would inevitably improve both the level of teaching and research at the same time and perhaps even help the college recruit higher quality of teachers.

My thesis is aimed at demonstrating that architectural intervention should always be contextual to its locality. The local character of a place should always be preserved and enhanced and be shared globally. Globalism need not make our world “generic” by spreading name brand merchandise and services at the expense of eliminating what is so special about each particular place. In fact the very special places such as the one I selected as my site located in Tarsus needs to be known globally so that it can be shared to enrich our common culture. Why should people know that Cleopatra and Anthony met in Tarsus only from a Hollywood legend when they could actually tour the site and see the remains in that very real Roman city. This is why I have

proposed in my thesis design that “Ancient Tarsus” should remain in “Modern Tarsus”. Making it so would globalize its importance as real place and real city.

This may, just perhaps, make us pause before occupying cities such as Baghdad and not protecting its archeological museum.

Proposed Design Inventory

- An international archeological research center, where its excavation site is not hindering the urban everyday life of the city. Instead, it is meant to diversify and contribute to the character of the city by making the archeological heritage more open and accessible to its public.
- Providing modern and comfortable architectural environment for conducting archeological researcher and living accommodations.
- Creating a light weight structural system that gently makes contact to the terrain while not disturbing what is bellow grade.
- Creating a strong connection with the E5 highway in order to make an urban gesture to draw visitors to the excavation site and museum while also providing a resting stop for transit travelers who passing by to continue to the Mediterranean coast.
- Combining the research on the archeological center with the Tarsus American School educational curriculum. This would give the school and its students the knowledge of their

local history making their school open up to the outside world and be more engaged with the community.

- Designing a urban connection through the archeological park that leads movement from the south end of the mound towards historic St. Paul's Church.
- Further excavation of the Roman Amphitheater that could serve as a place of performance for the educational community as well as the local community in Tarsus.
- Placing the buildings on the periphery of the Mound that would complement and reinforce its presence.
- Building a 2.5 meter high periphery security wall that encloses the Mound so that it valuable archeological artifacts are protected.
- Creating a link to the Afra Shopping Mall via the ramp from the north-south bridge which can also collect the circulation generated from the E-5 highway.



Figure 9.1



Figure 9.2



Figure 9.3

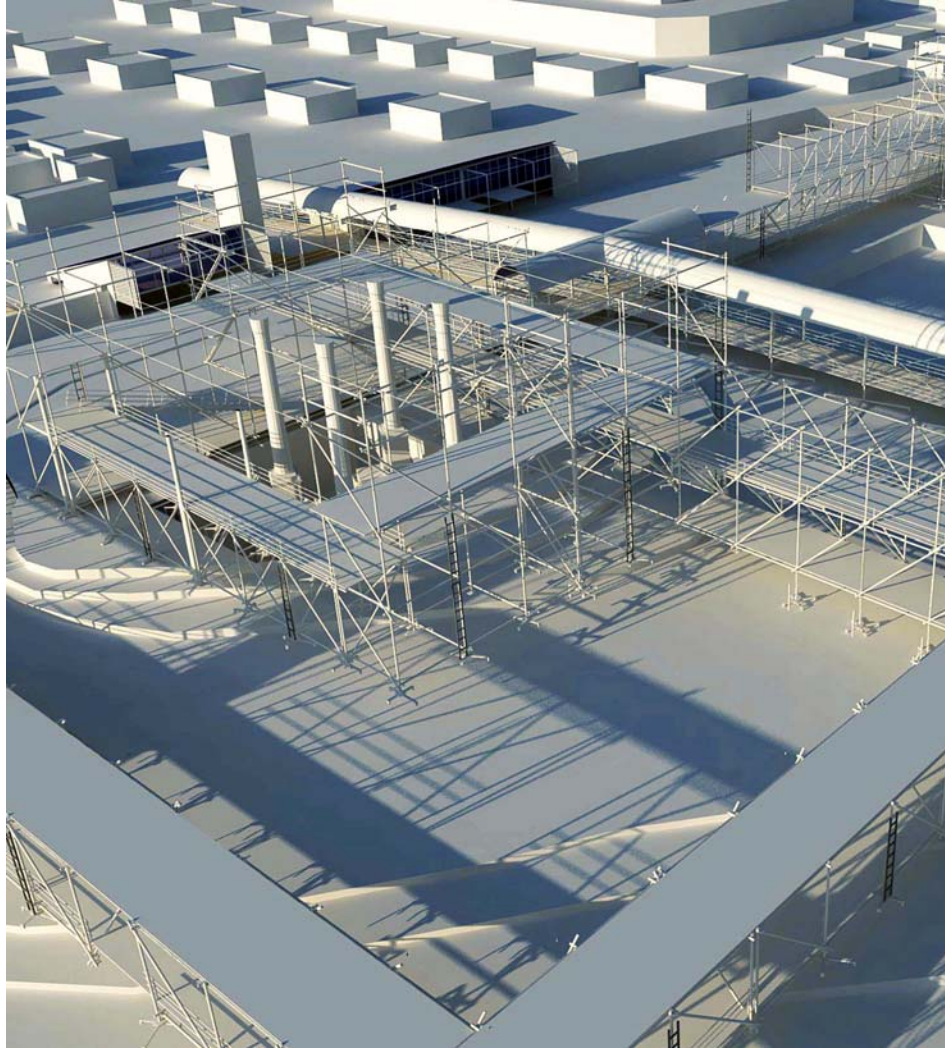


Figure 9.4



Figure 9.5

North-South Bridge

The Gözlükule Mound is a physical barrier that interrupts the pedestrian movement from the center of historic Tarsus to the south (Fig 3.1). To manage getting over this area people are forced to traverse over fences and walls in a most difficult manner. Perceived as an urban impediment the local people have no interest in preserving the mound as a historical site and continue to remove trees as they wish. There are no formal measures taken to protect and secure the area, therefore the site has become forgotten, neglected and continuously vandalized. My proposal for a pedestrian bridge to traverse over the site allows people to pass through the mound in a defined and controlled fashion while being able to view archeological activity performed below (Fig 10.1). The bridge is a very important part of the project and it accomplishes four distinct functions. First, it makes a north–south urban connection (Fig 10.2). Second, it allows viewing of archeological activity from above (Fig 9.3). Third, it acts as the primary museum circulation allowing entrance for the visitors who have purchased their tickets to enter the exhibit spaces. Fourth and lastly, it connects all the separate pavilions of the archeological center for the research staff and students. Therefore, the North-South connector is an urban device that creates and defines the landscape of the Gözlükule Mound. The subsidiary walkway connections to this bridge are individually secured and controlled so that the main public movement does not mistakenly enter into museum exhibits. The 5m x 5m module of each bay of the bridge becomes the overall planning grid that is used in archeological excavations (Fig. 10.3). This grid helps connect the walkways that are used for excavation of each area.



Figure 10.1



Figure 10.2

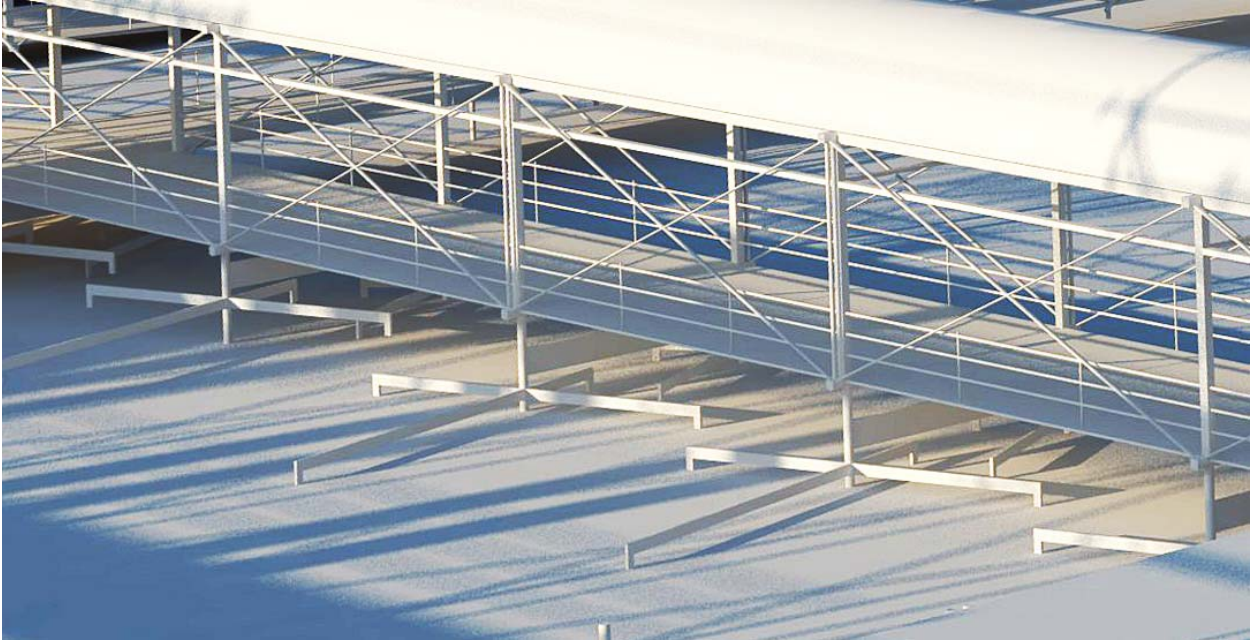


Figure 10.3

North South Bridge Process Images

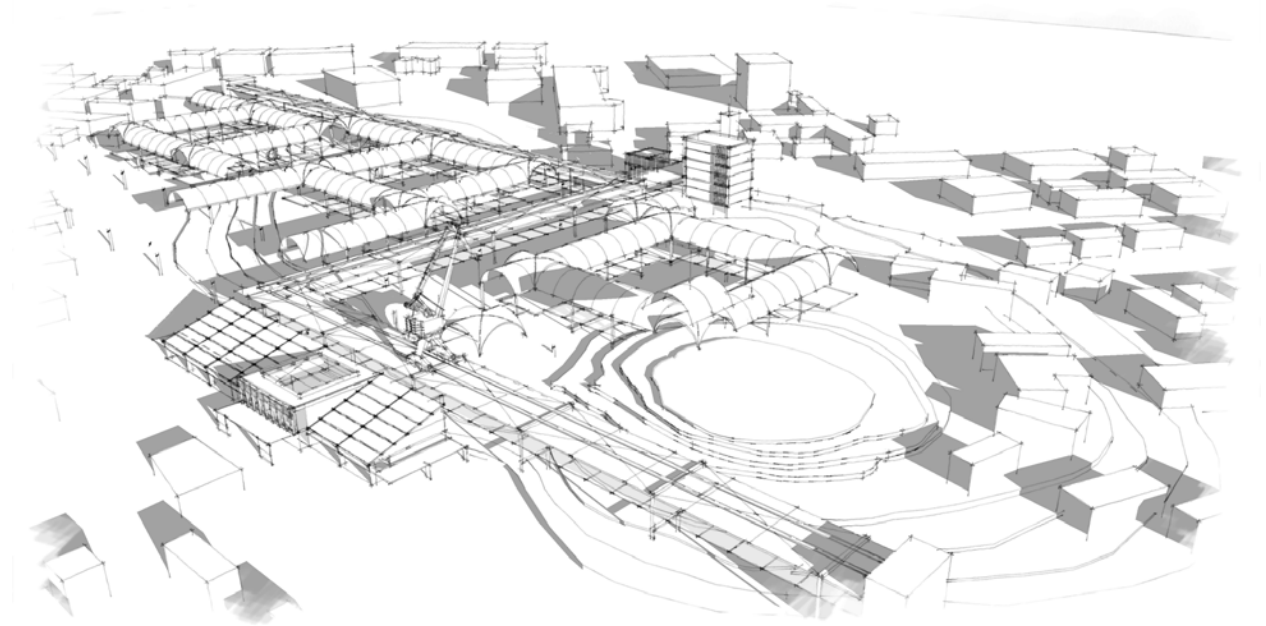


Figure 10.4

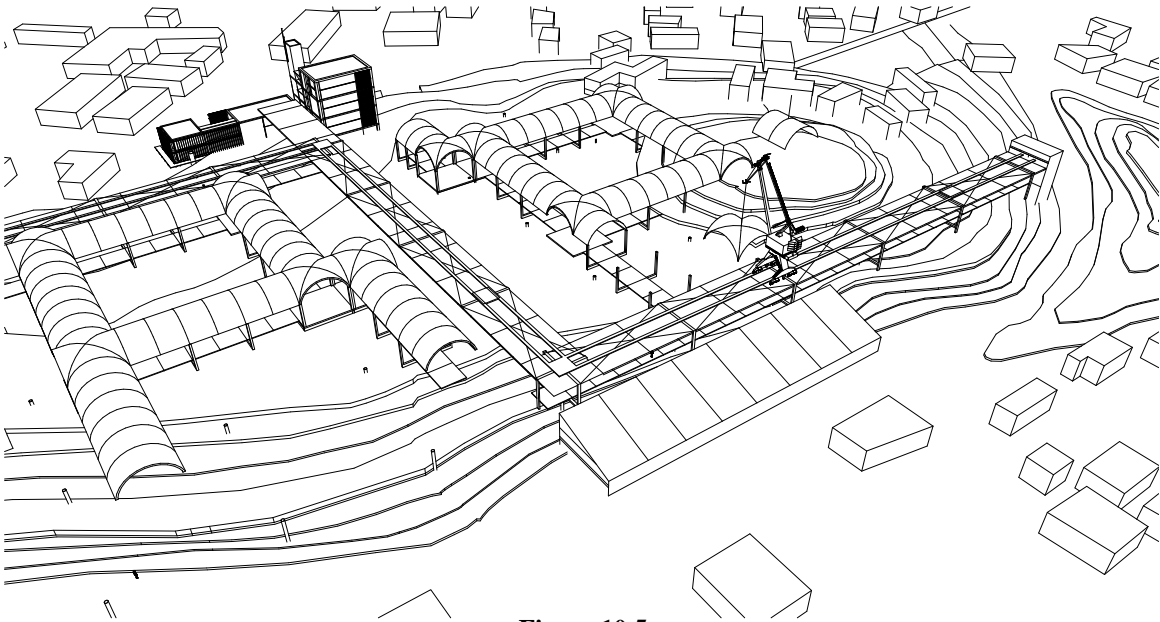


Figure 10.5

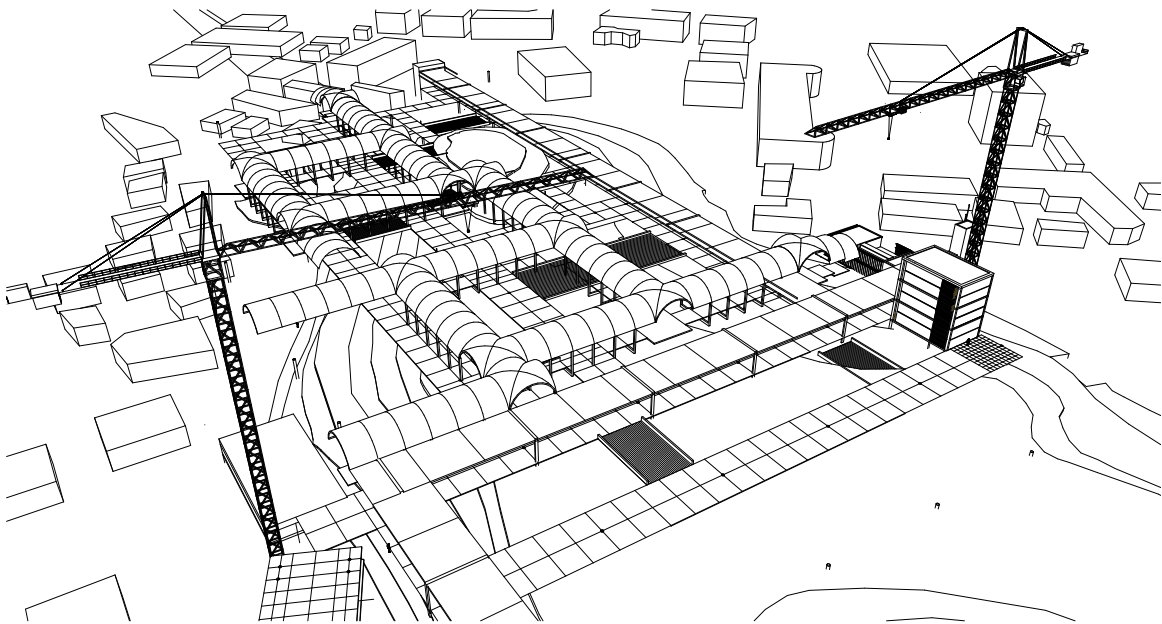


Figure 10.6

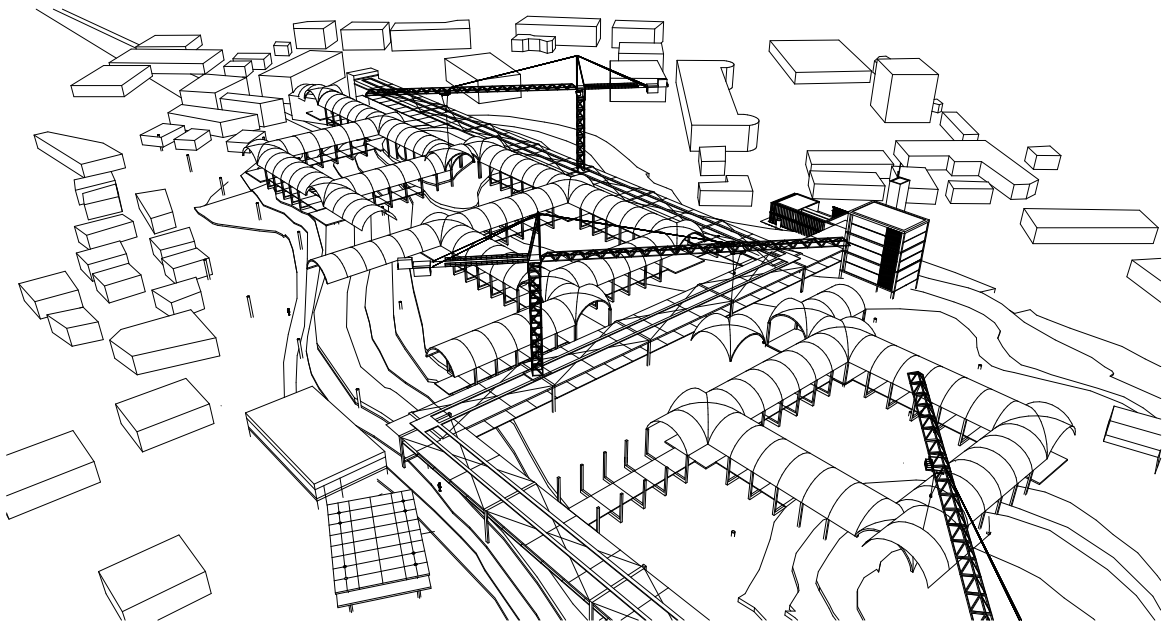


Figure 10.7

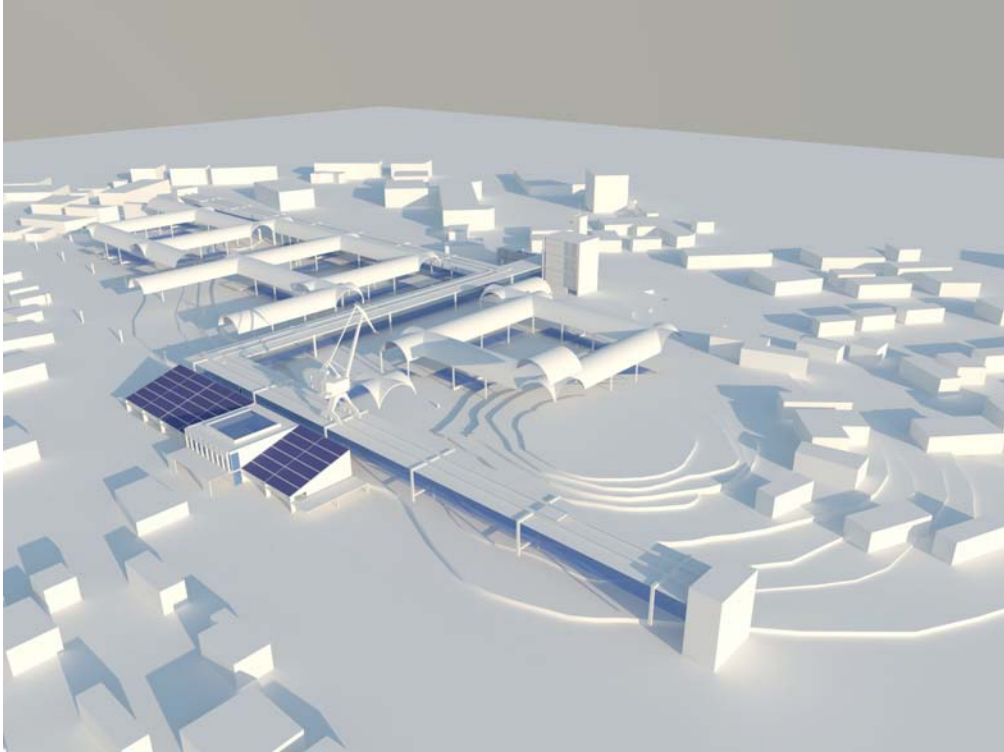


Figure 10.8

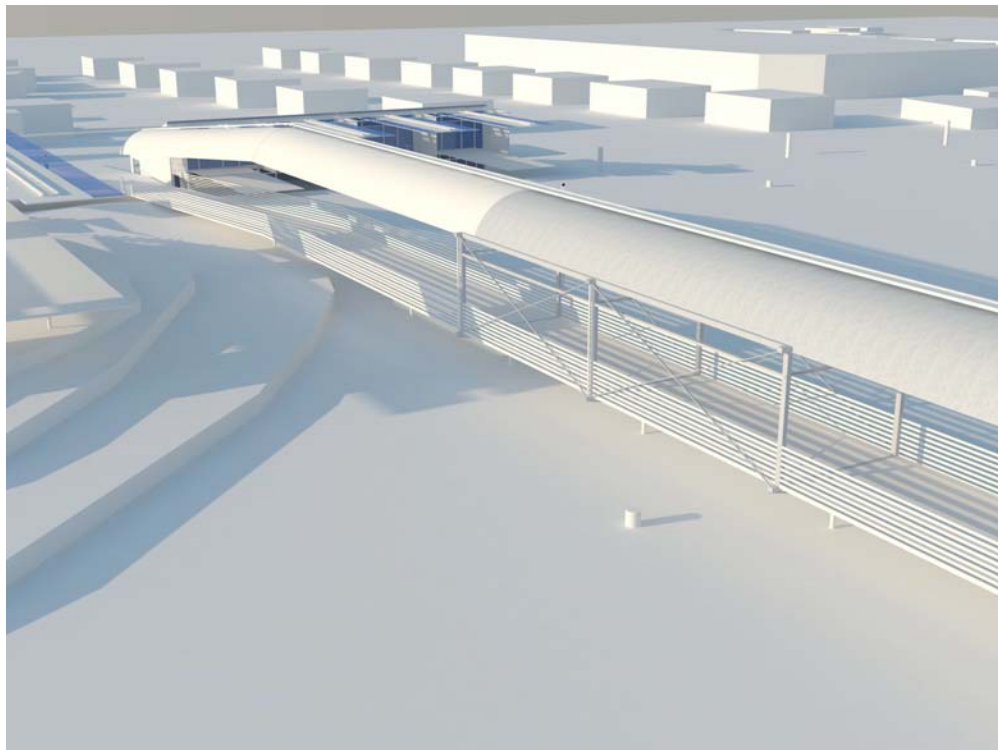


Figure 10.9

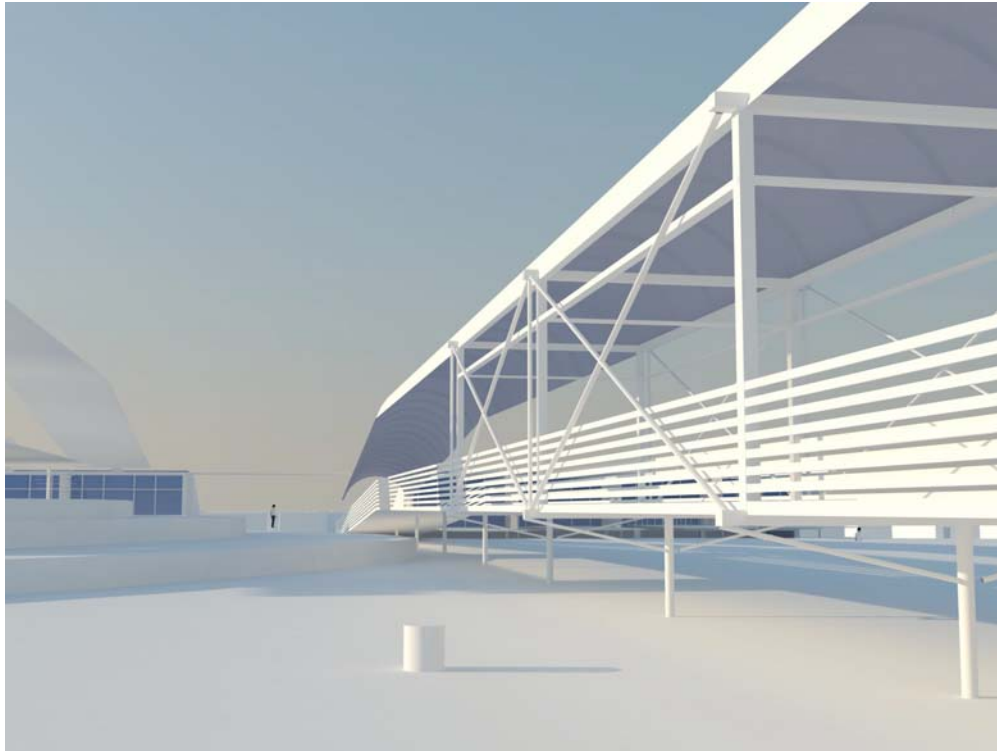


Figure 10.10

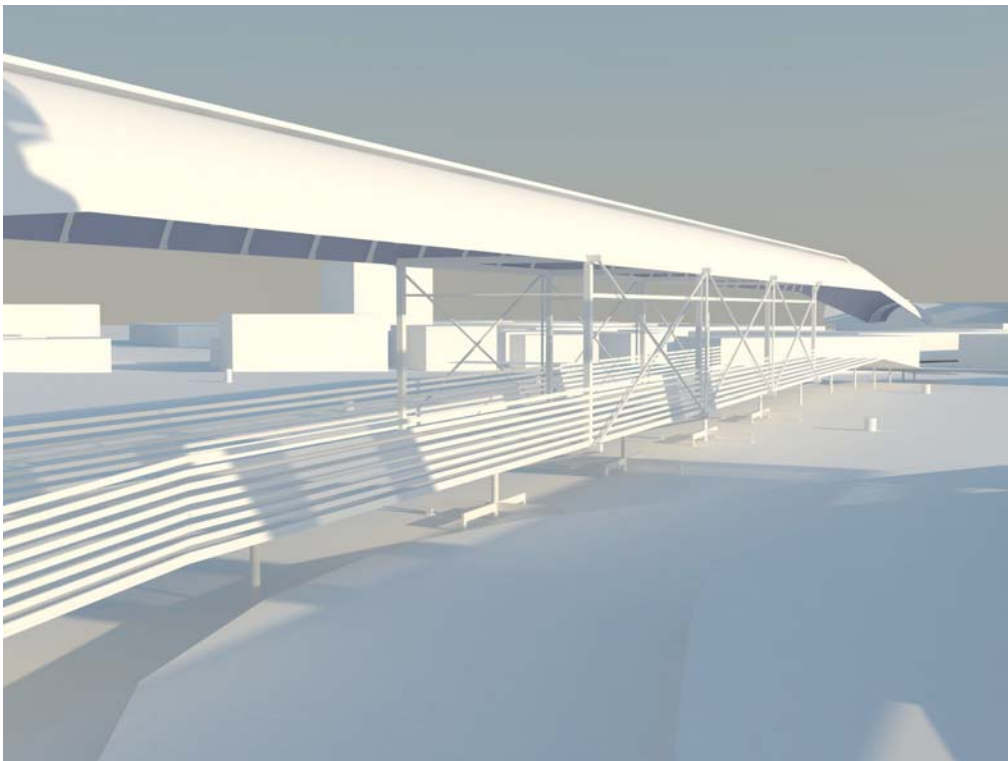


Figure 10.11

Temporary Walkways

Since there is no definite map that accurately describes exactly where there maybe archeological remains, my thesis proposes to lay temporary flexible walkways for conducting excavation (Fig. 11.11-11.13) These walkways also serve as platforms for visitor to view archeological work in progress (Fig. 11.2-11.4). Thus, the archeologists may continue their work and make adjustments according to their discoveries. The walkways employ the same 5m x 5m module used on the bridge while using the same scaffolding kit of parts as those used in local building constructions. These scaffolding elements are affordable and easy to erect and dismantle on site according to the needs of the project (Fig. 11.7). The current site plan in Figure 9.1 illustrates a hypothetical layout of the archeological walkway grid to illustrate how various arrangements could be laid out and be connected to the north-south bridge.

The foundations used in the temporary walkways use a similar principle of weight distribution as used on the north-south bridge. The entire weight of the walkway is distributed to 16 separate bearing points per bay as opposed to 4 bearing points employed by the bridge (Fig.10.3-11.7). This is accomplished by using the light-weight operable feet that can rotate 360 degrees in order sensitively adapt itself to rest on an uneven terrain while causing minimum impact and disruption on the archeological site (Fig.10.3).

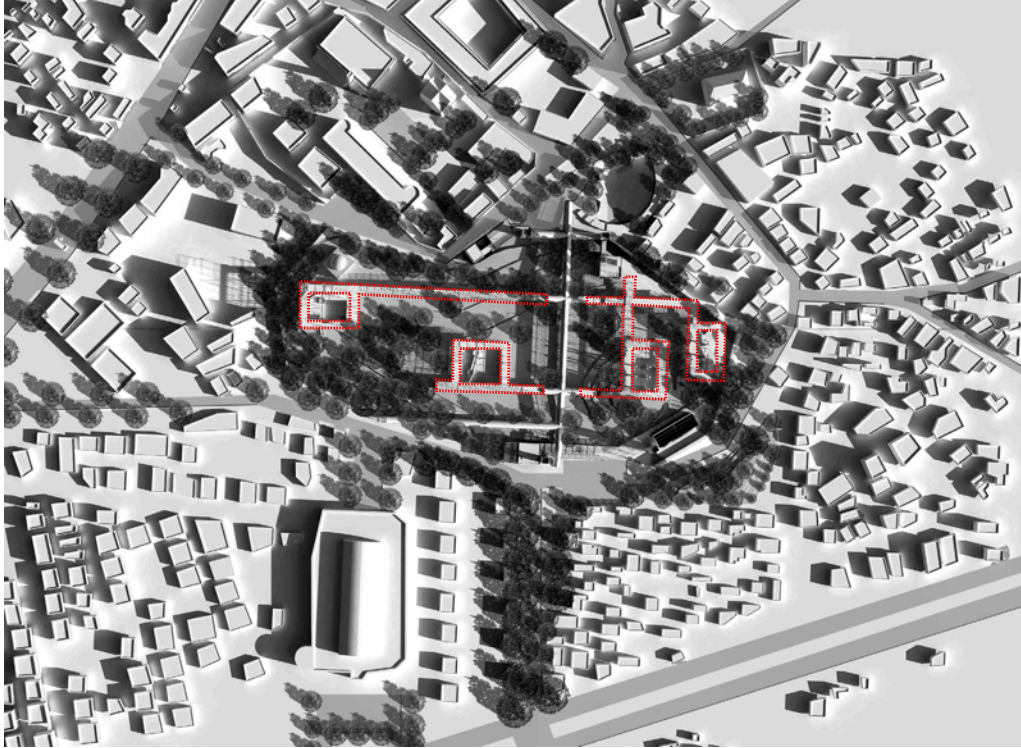


Figure 11.1



Figure 11.2



Figure 11.3

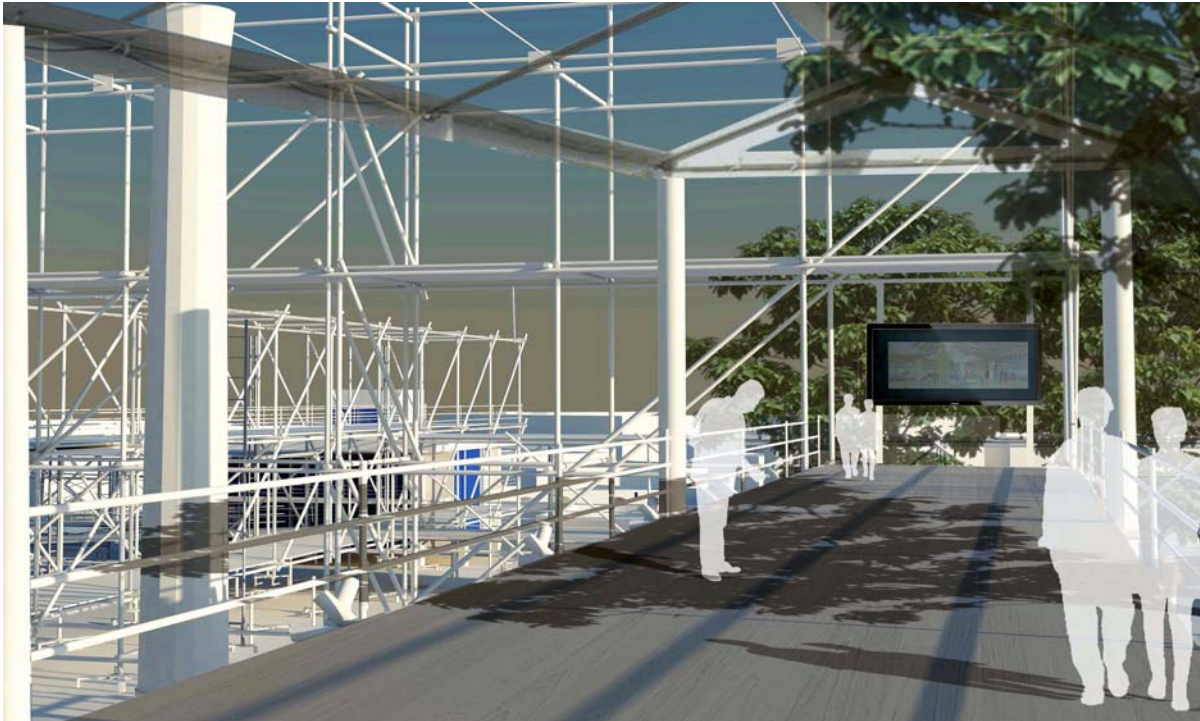


Figure 11.4

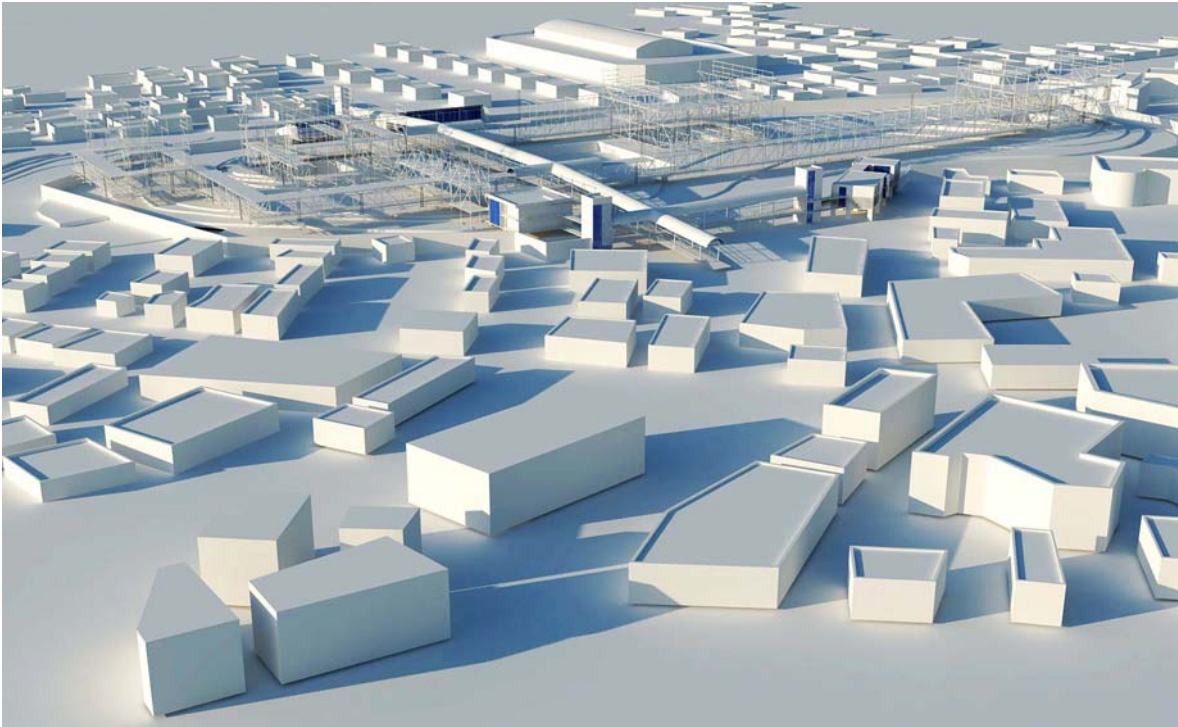


Figure 11.5

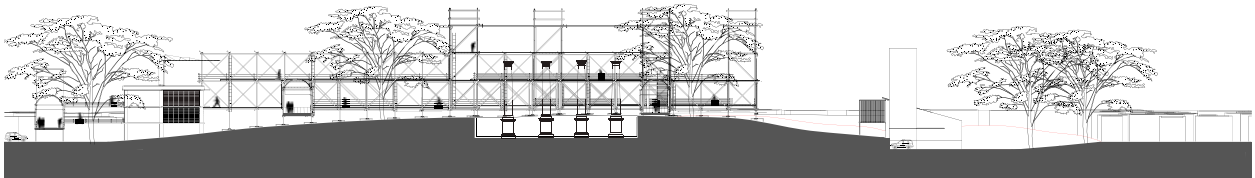


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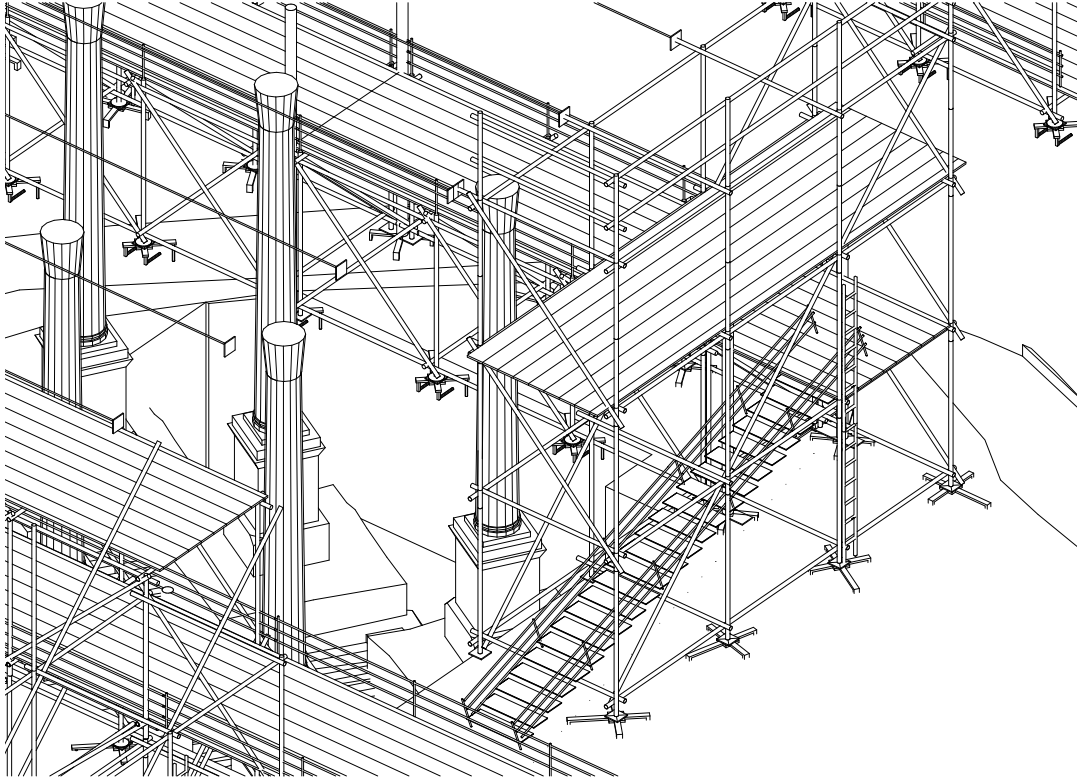


Figure 11.7

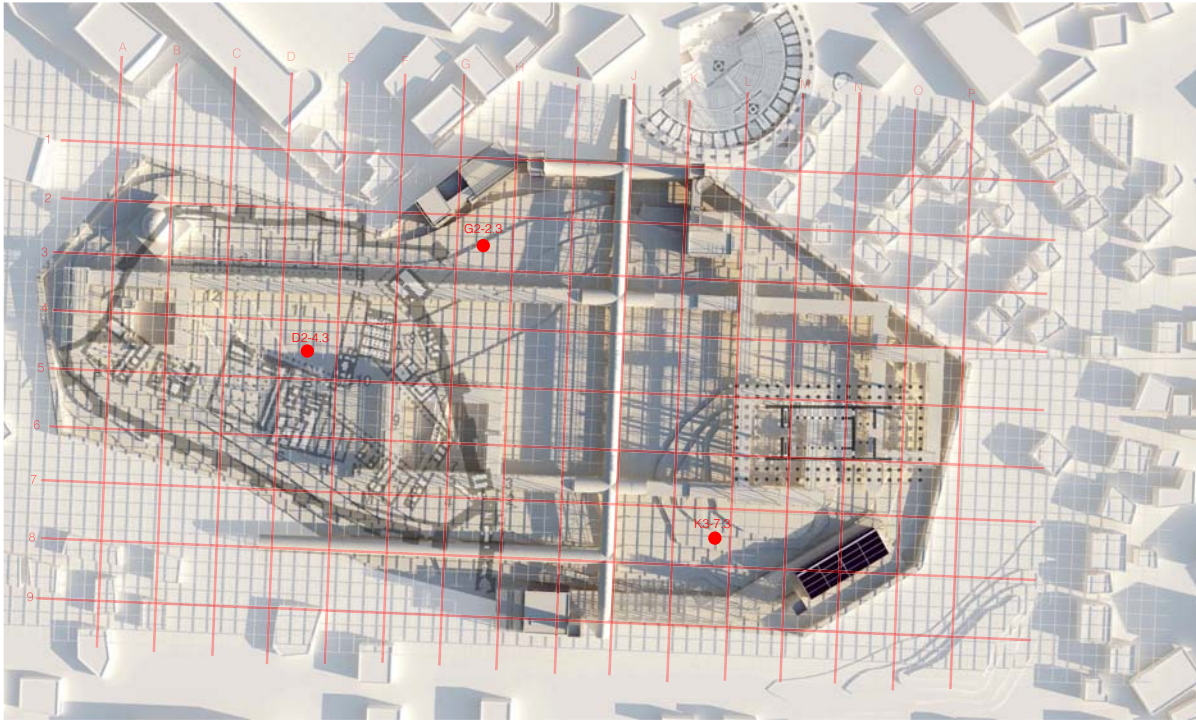


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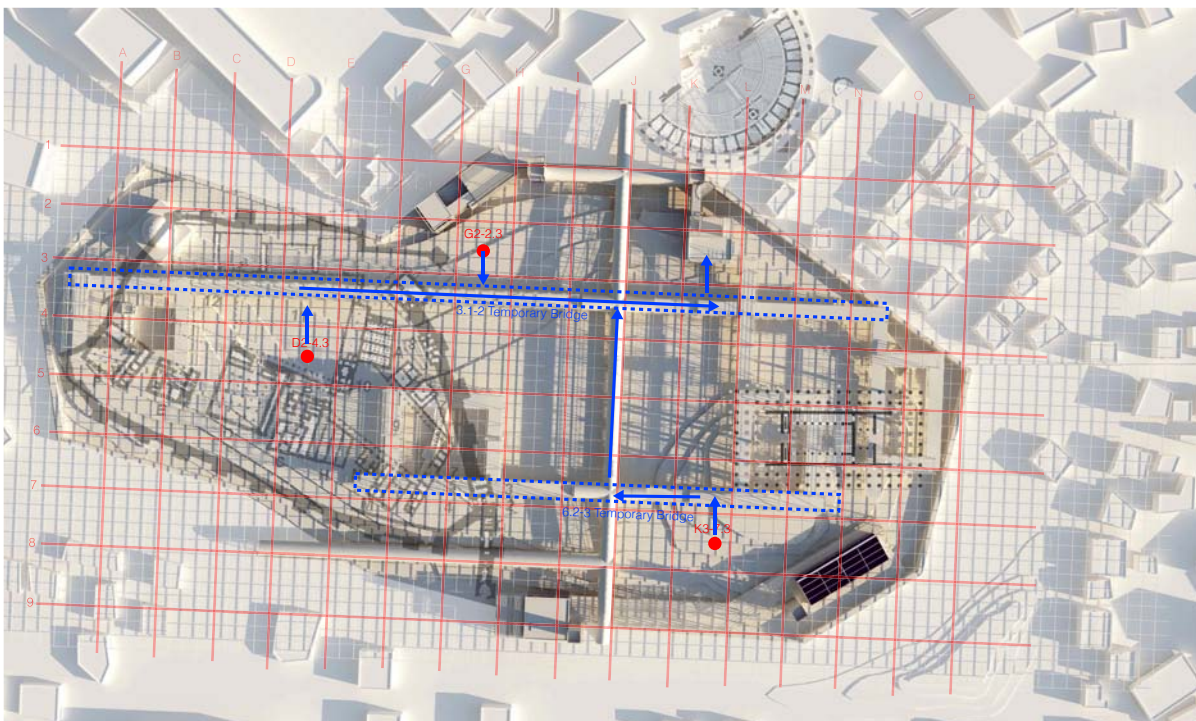


Figure 11.9

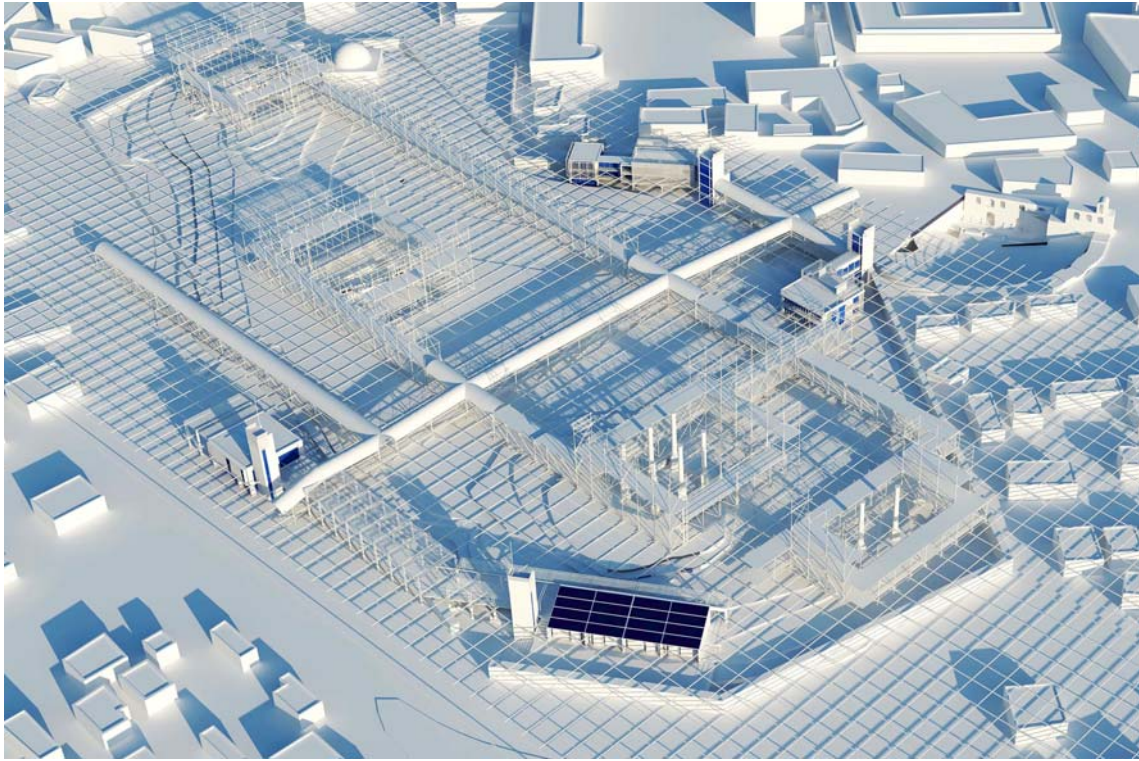


Figure 11.10

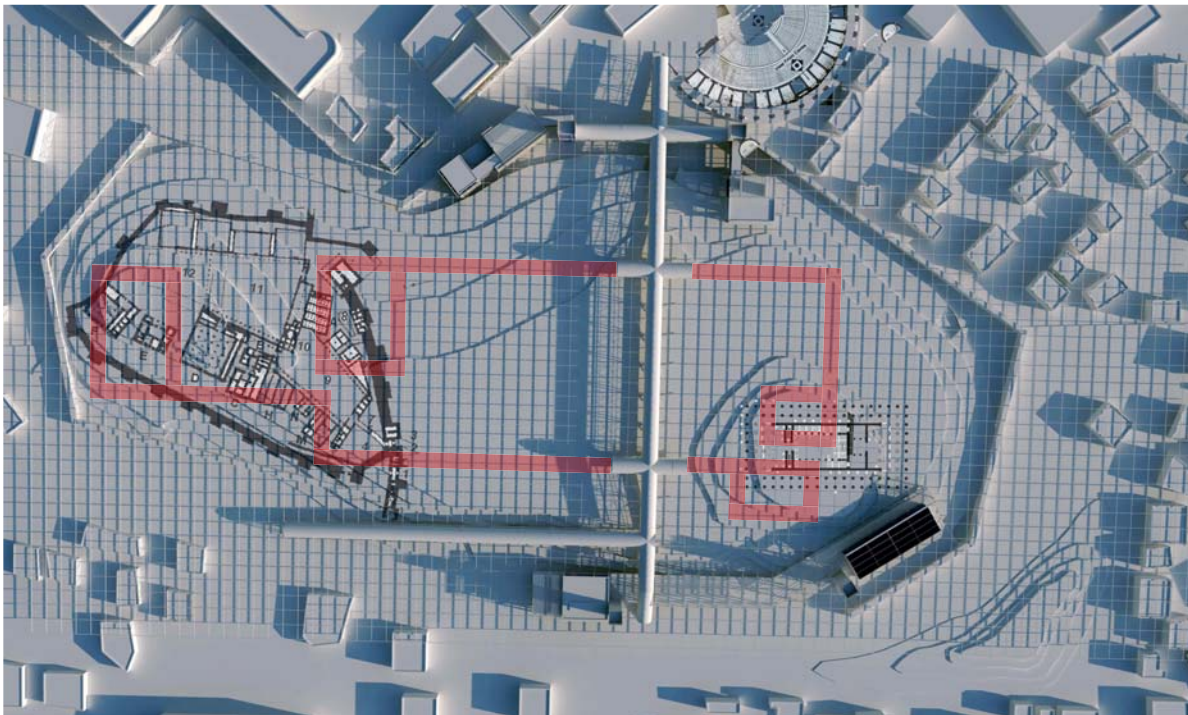


Figure 11.11

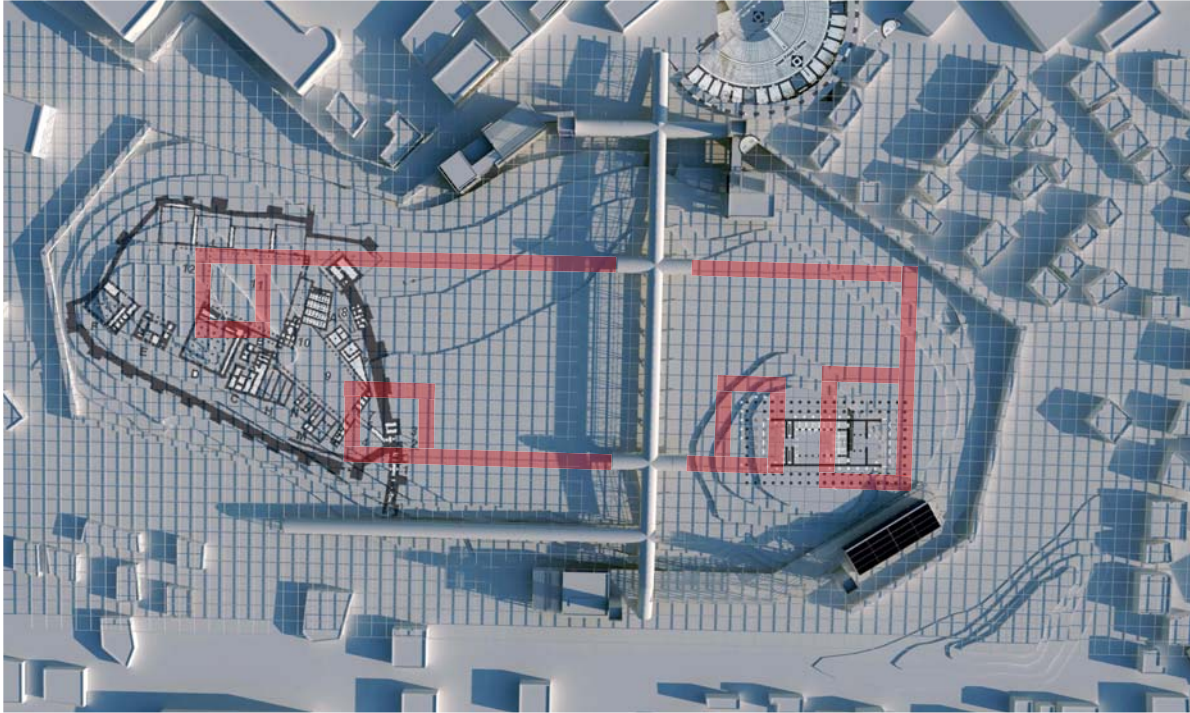


Figure 11.12

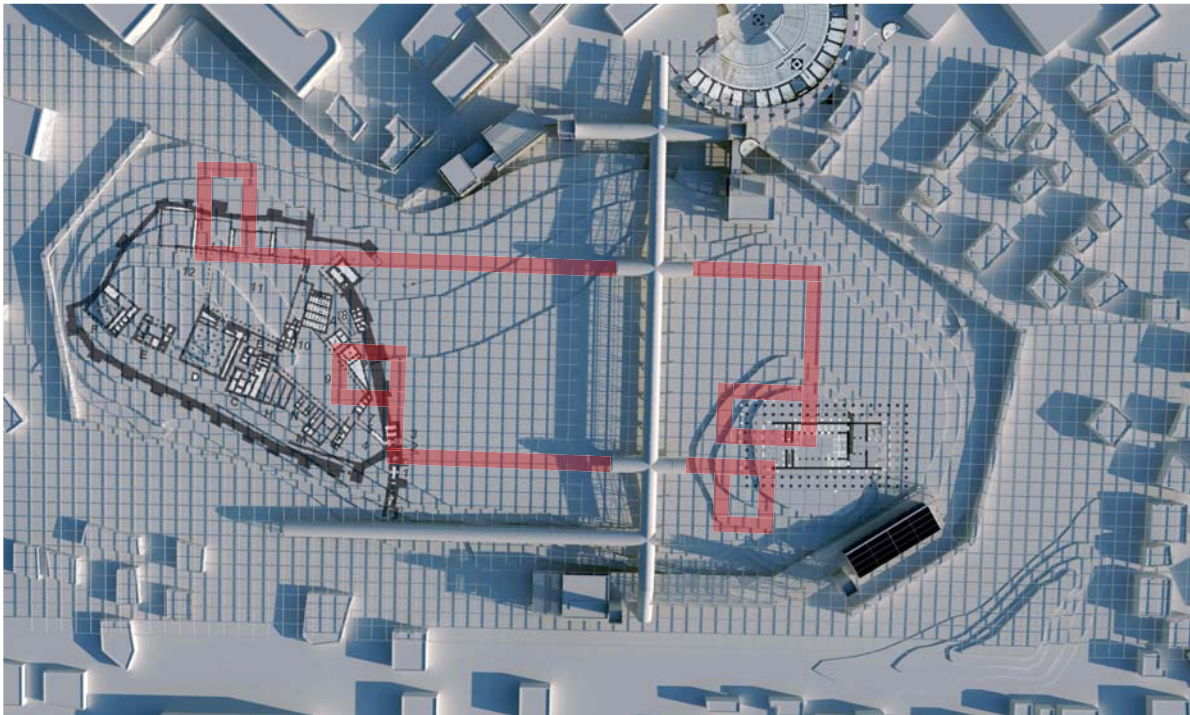


Figure 11.13

Process Images for the proposed Temporary Walkways

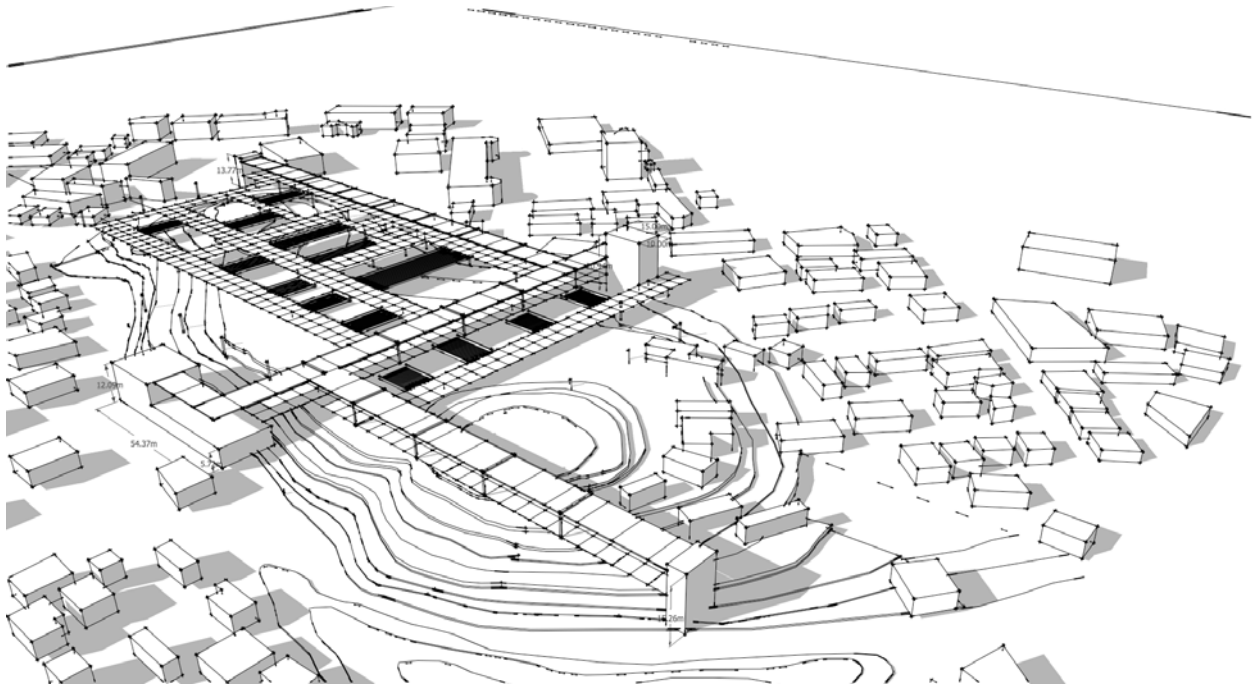


Figure 11.14

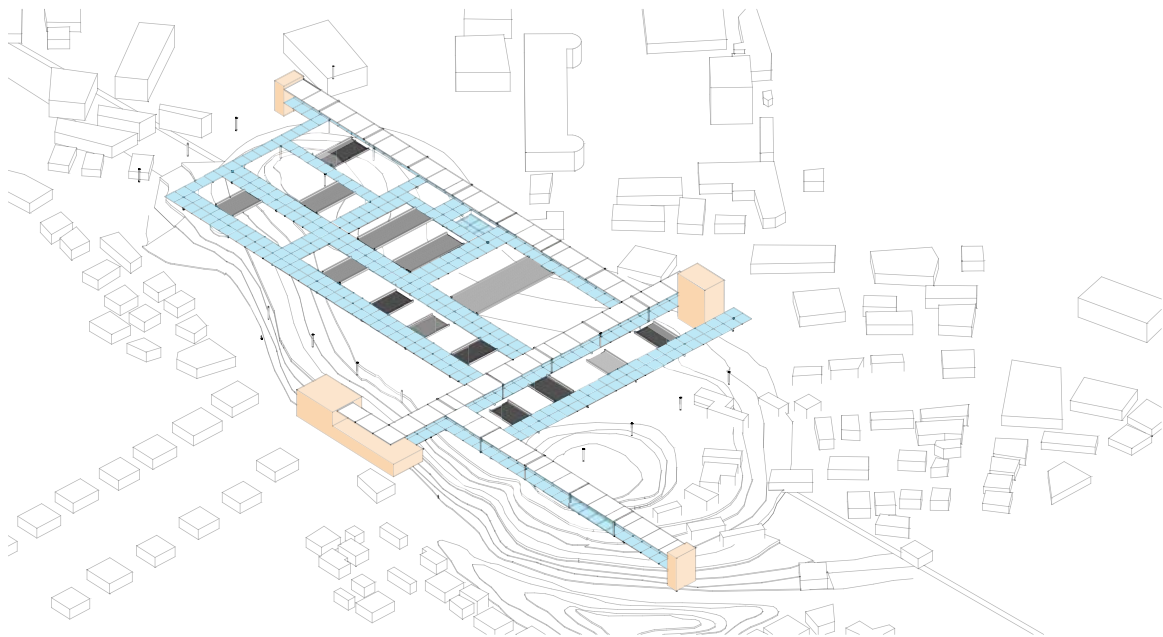


Figure 11.15

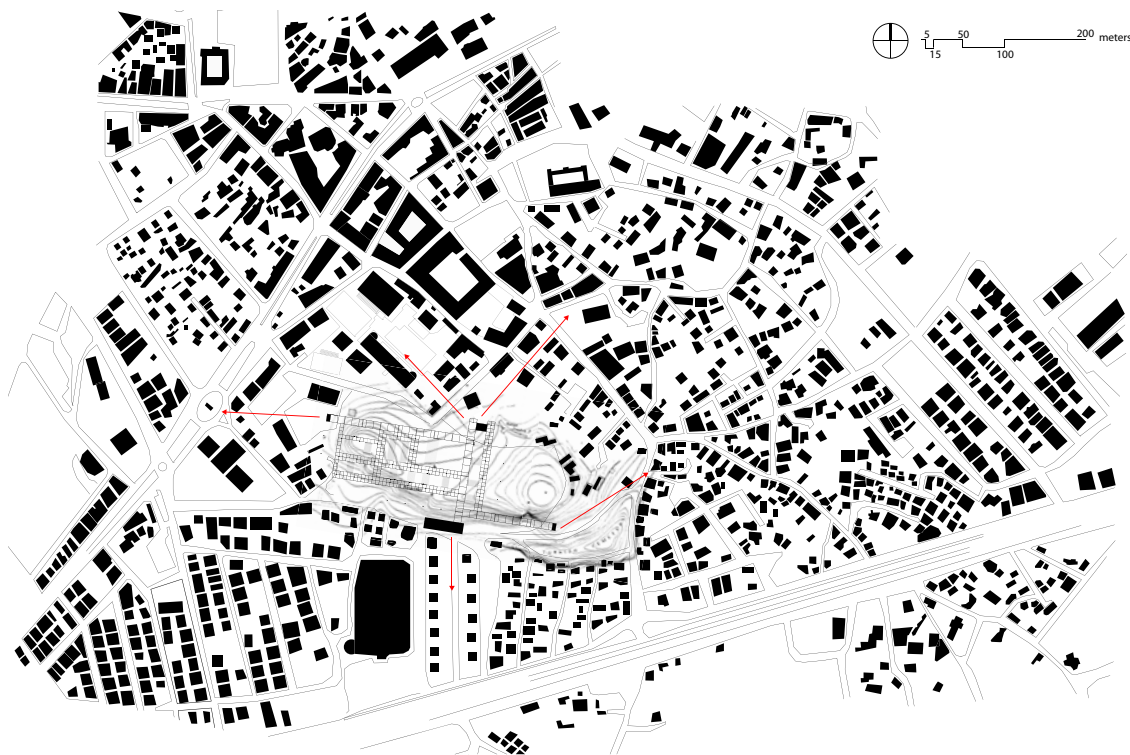


Figure 11.16

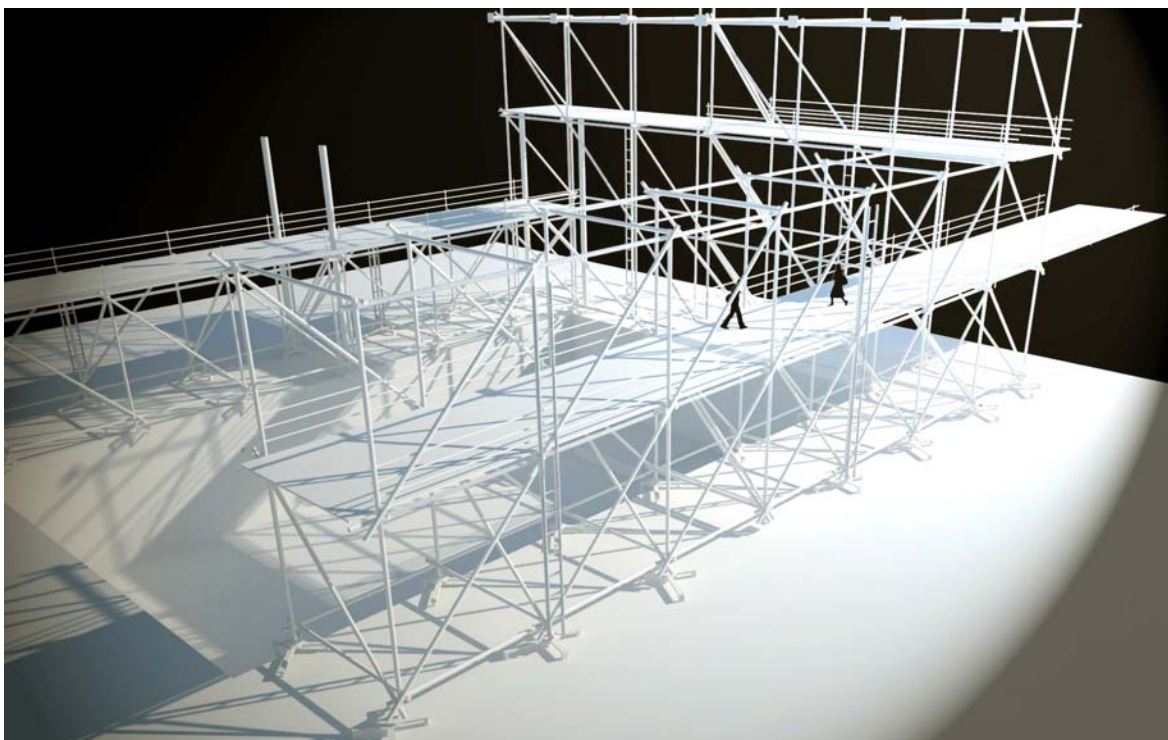


Figure 11.17

South Buildings

On the south edge of the Mound I have proposed two separate structures (Fig. 12.1). One being the permanent Archeological Museum Building, strategically located near the center of the Mound (Fig.12.6). This museum makes a direct physical and visual connection with the E5 highway at its South (Fig.12.2).

This building houses the enclosed exhibition of major archeological artifacts that need to be displayed indoors (Fig. 12.5). The ticketing for the museum and the entire site is located here. The indoor exhibition also opens up to an outdoor terrace on its west end, which provides views of the outdoor museum (Fig. 12.7). At the ground level the proposed museum building has a Lecture Hall and a Reception Room where visiting professors of archeology may give talks about their research work (Fig. 12.4).

At the east end of the South Buildings there is a public cafeteria and rest room facilities (Fig. 12.8). This end of the building that provides outdoor dinning and other accommodations is located between the west end of the Mound, and facing the quiet Turkish cemetery on its south. The cafeteria is located on the upper level of the building and on the lower level there are ample restrooms. These buildings were designed to provide an interface of the visitors with the archeological community. This location also provides easy access for people who are traveling on the highway to the Mediterranean coast and who may need to make a quick stop for food and using the restroom facilities.

These buildings on the south side are linked to each other by an open terrace that has minor archeological artifacts displayed (Fig. 12.9). It is a standard practice in archeological museums that various archeological pieces are left outside but with close proximity to security. These are usually much larger pieces that are hard to be moved or stolen. This exhibition terrace also serves as an expansion seating area for the indoor cafeteria allowing people to dine outdoors in good weather.

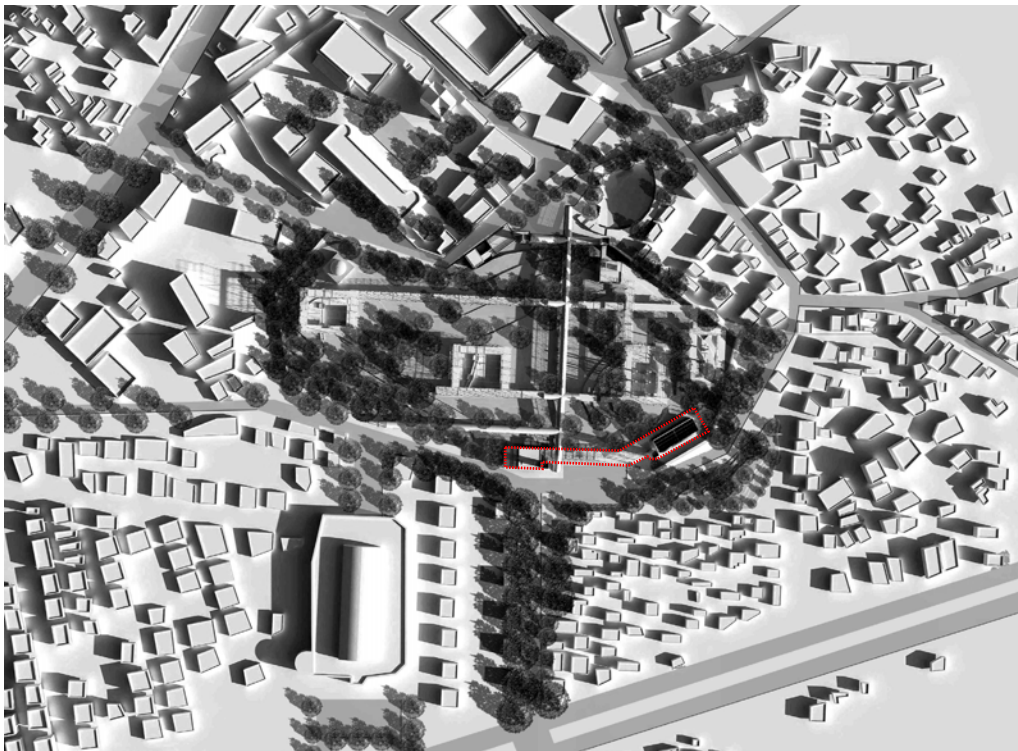


Figure 12.1



Figure 12.2

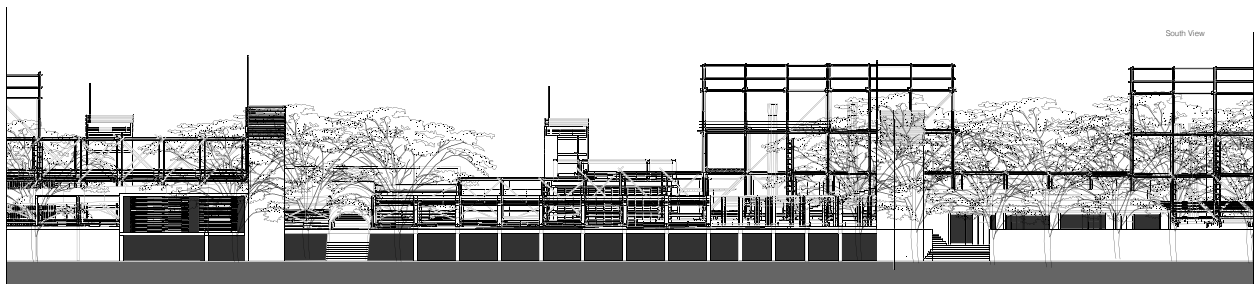


Figure 12.3

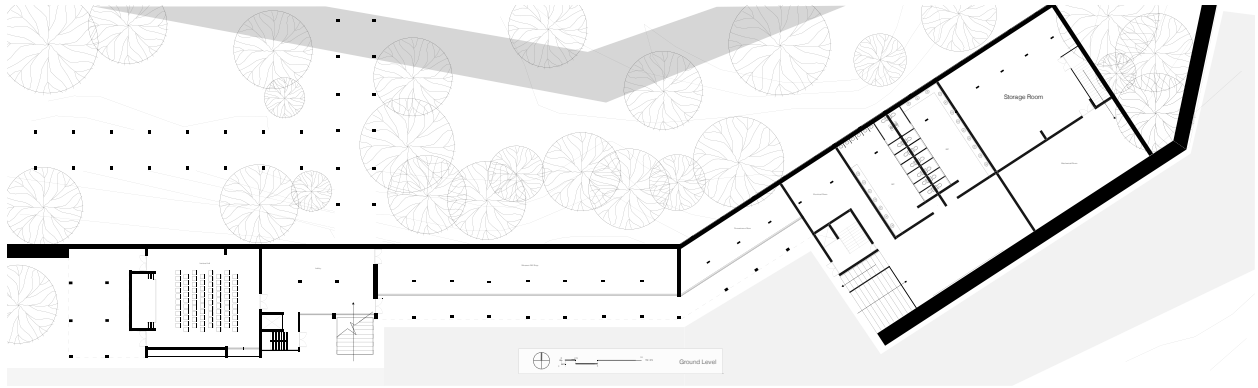


Figure 12.4

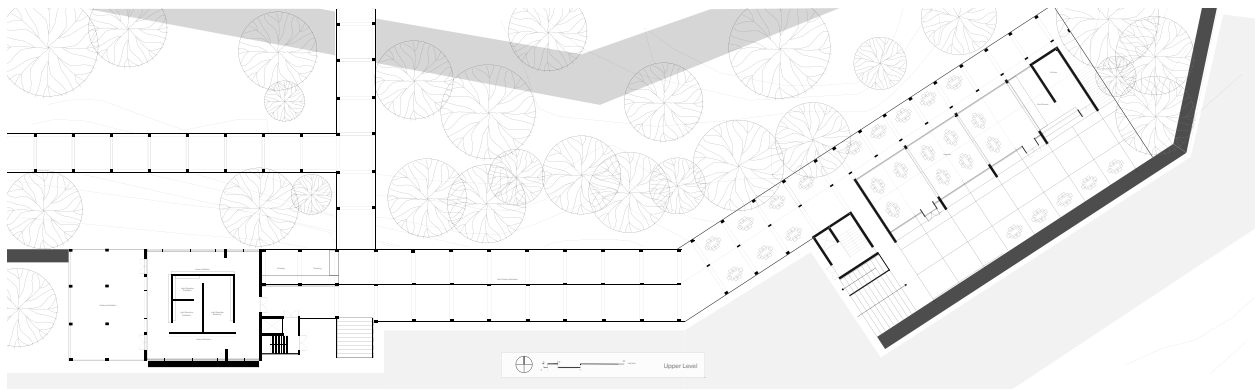


Figure 12.5

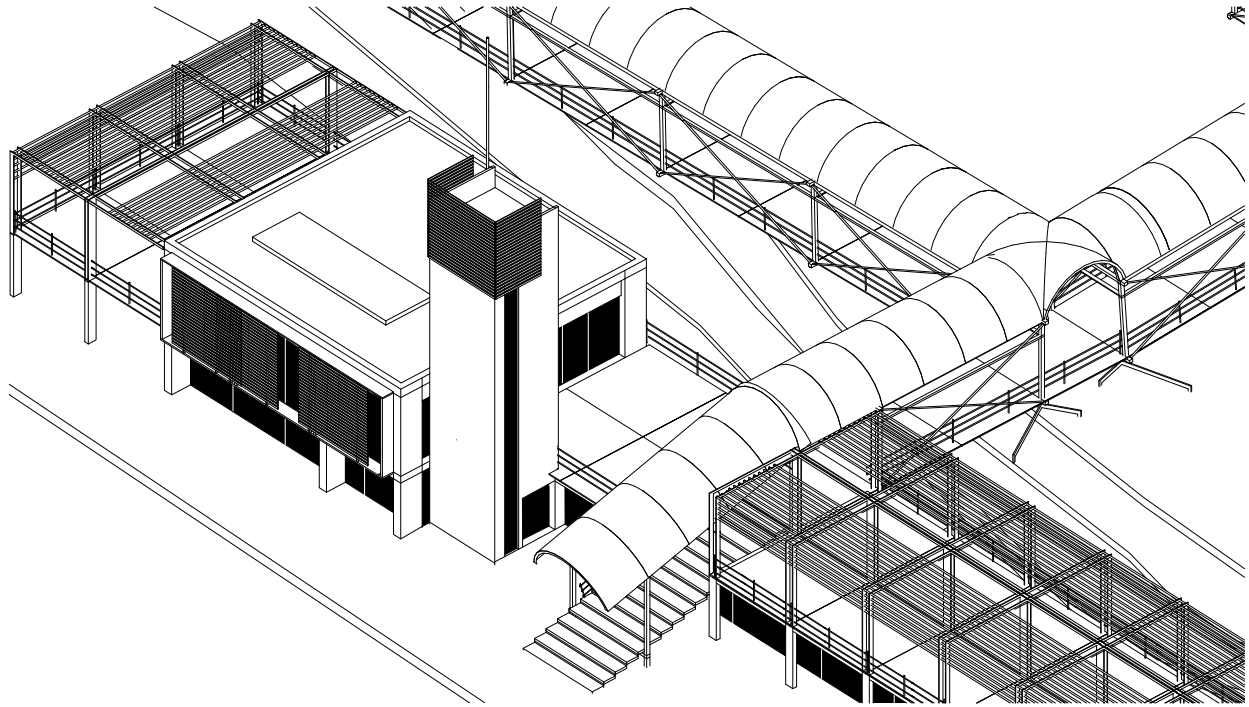


Figure 12.6



Figure 12.7



Figure 12.8



Figure 12.9

South Building Process images

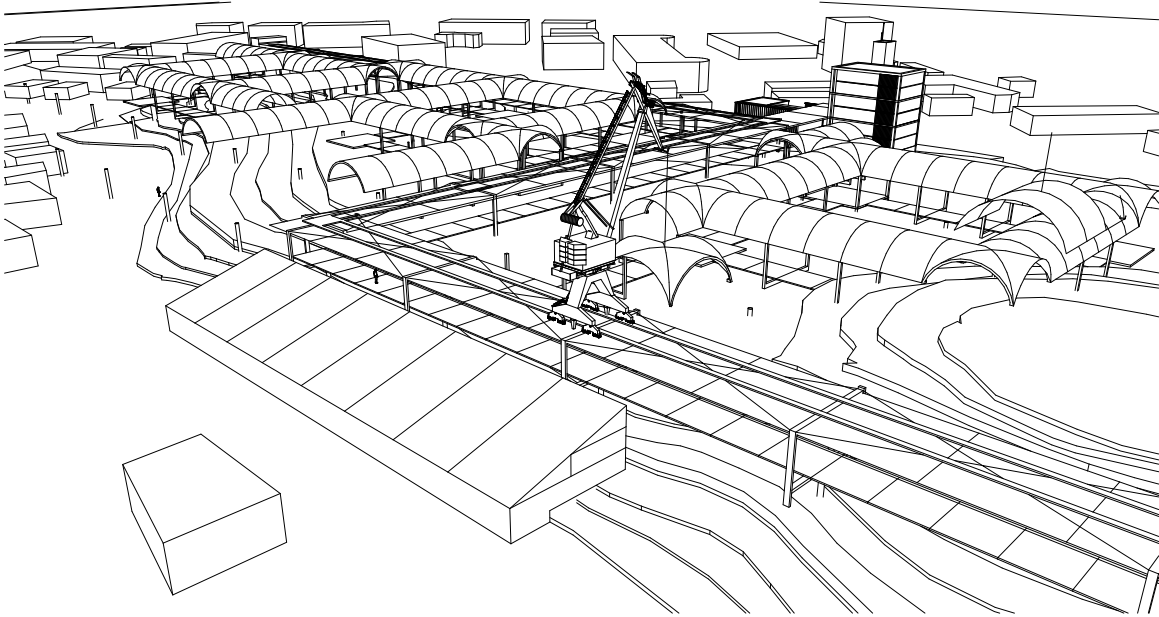


Figure 12.10

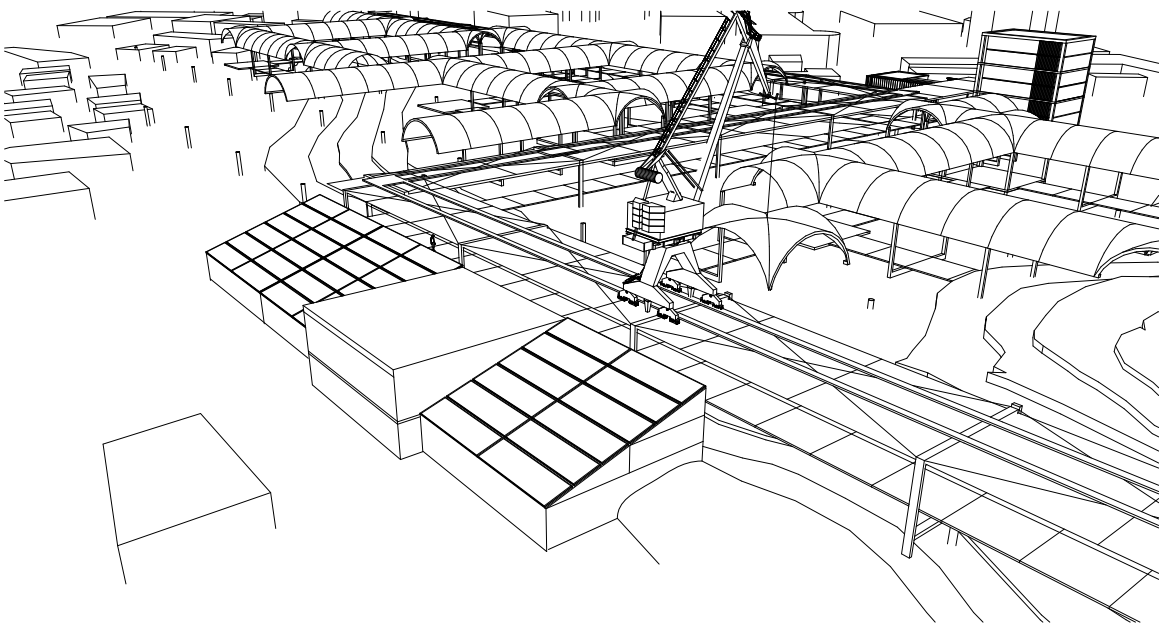


Figure 12.11

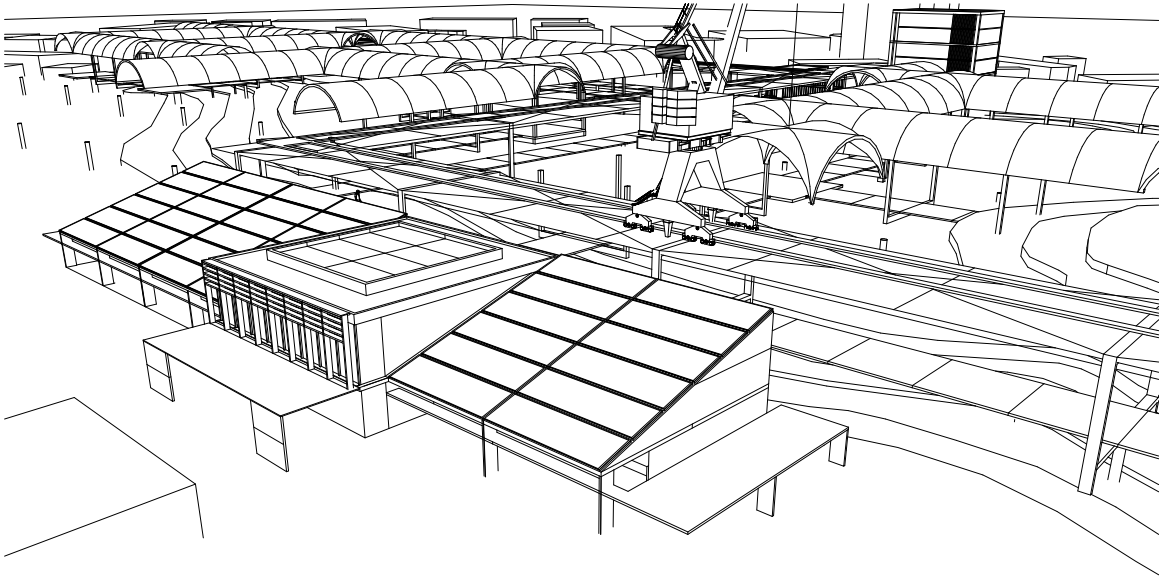


Figure 12.12

North Buildings

At the north side of the Gözlükule Mound I have located two other buildings that complete my programmatic requirements (Fig. 13.1). The larger one is the archeological research lab building while the other contains the residential rooms for staff, teachers and students (Fig. 13.2).

In its diagram, the residential building is divided into two main volumes, one which provides bed rooms and the other accommodates their daily social activities (Fig. 13.10-13.11). The social spaces are comprised of an archeological library, kitchen, dining room, and a quiet area dedicated for relaxed study (Fig. 13.4).

Between these two volumes is a terrace that is dedicated for large dinner parties. On the ground level the building allows for a passage way which is secured by a large gate. This entry creates an entry connection to the Tarsus American School campus whose students can use parts of the archeological research center and the site for educational purposes.

The Archeological Lab is located adjacent to the boundaries of the mound and the Roman amphitheater (Fig. 13.5-13.7). Its location on the northeast allows for it to become an end to the temporary bridge. It is programmed to have double height vertical space for allowing large pieces of artifacts to enter and exit the building using the large swinging doors (Fig. 13.6). Prior to finalizing the design of this building I produced many different alternatives and tested them. I considered large mounted cranes, cranes that were operable and other various methods to bring oversized archeological pieces into this building (fig 10.4-10.8). The final version incorporated a simple lift system that would be able to lower itself down to the terrain and then lift the archeological artifacts up to the first level of the building. From there they would be hauled inside the building using the horizontal pulleys located on the east facade. For this process, the building is comprised of a large space dedicated for archeological reconstruction and re-assembly. There are also meeting rooms and office spaces located at the north end of the large space (Fig 13.3-13.4).

These two buildings located on the North are connected by continuing the elevated walkway of the north-south bridge. Parking is accommodated under the residential building, since most

archeologists come from other distant locations driving their utility vehicles. They can conveniently park right under the residential building and continue to walk up through the ramp of the north-south bridge into the Archeological Lab. These two buildings would be able to remain open 24-7 and become independent from everyday urban activity.



Figure 13.1

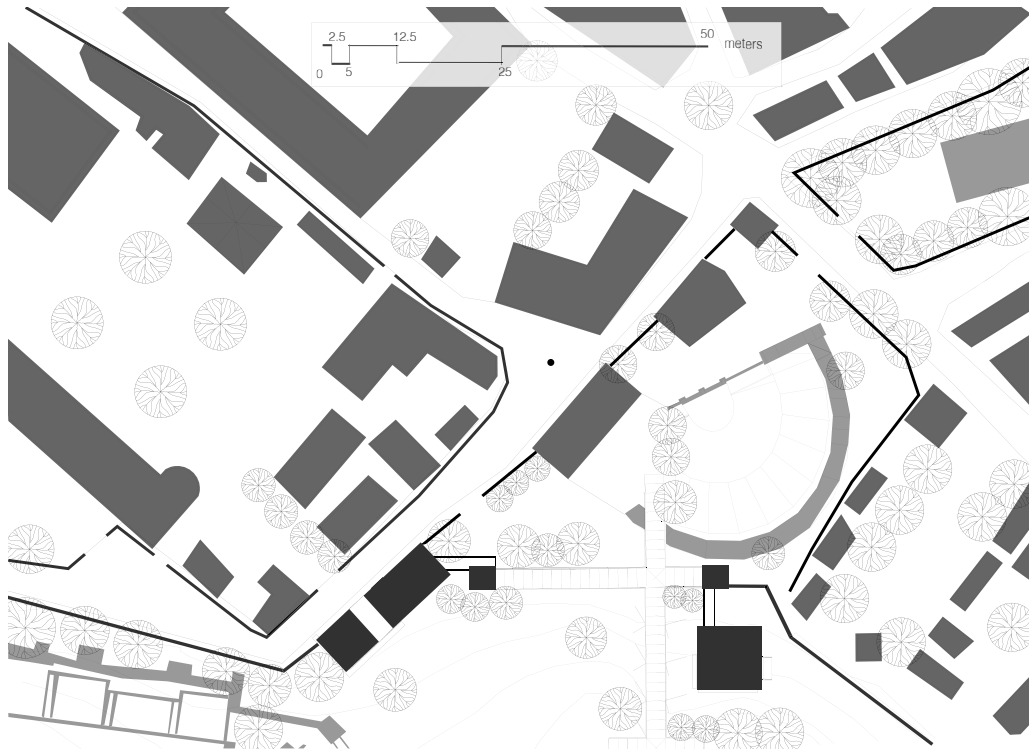


Figure 13.2

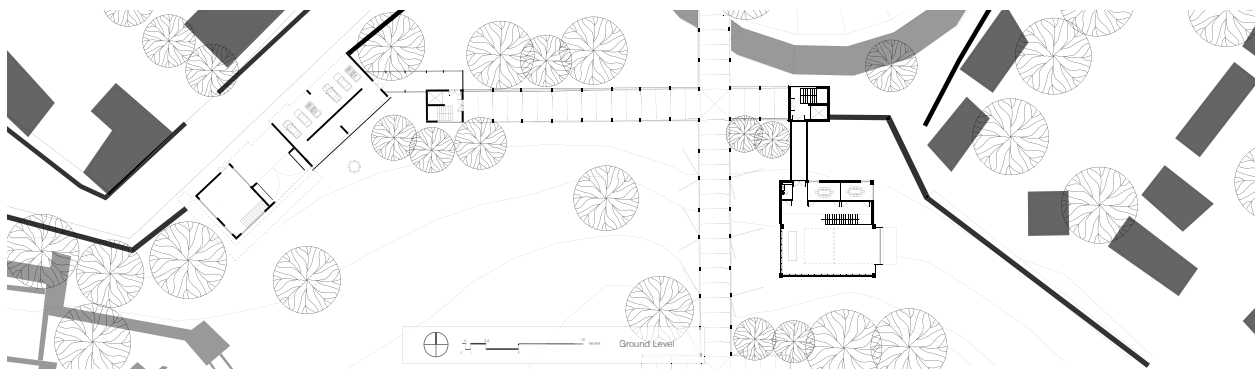


Figure 13.3

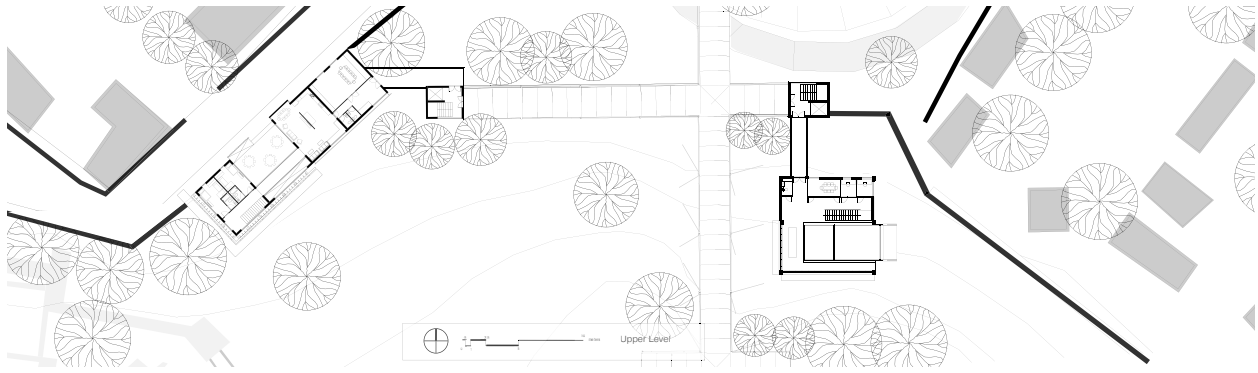


Figure 13.4

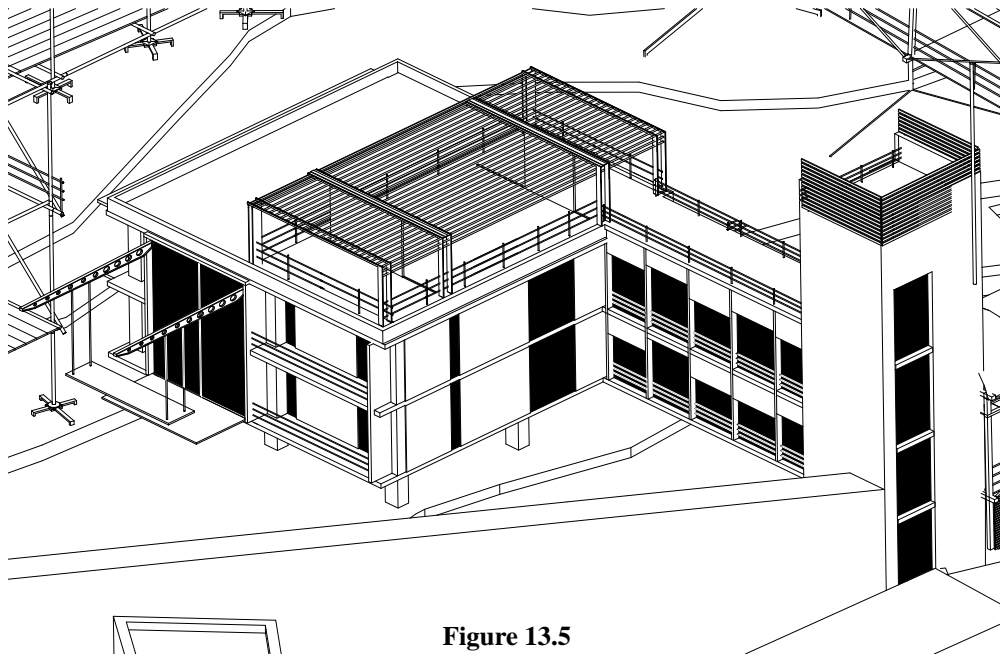


Figure 13.5



Figure 13.6



Figure 13.7



Figure 13.8



Figure 13.9



Figure 13.10



Figure 13.11



Figure 13.12

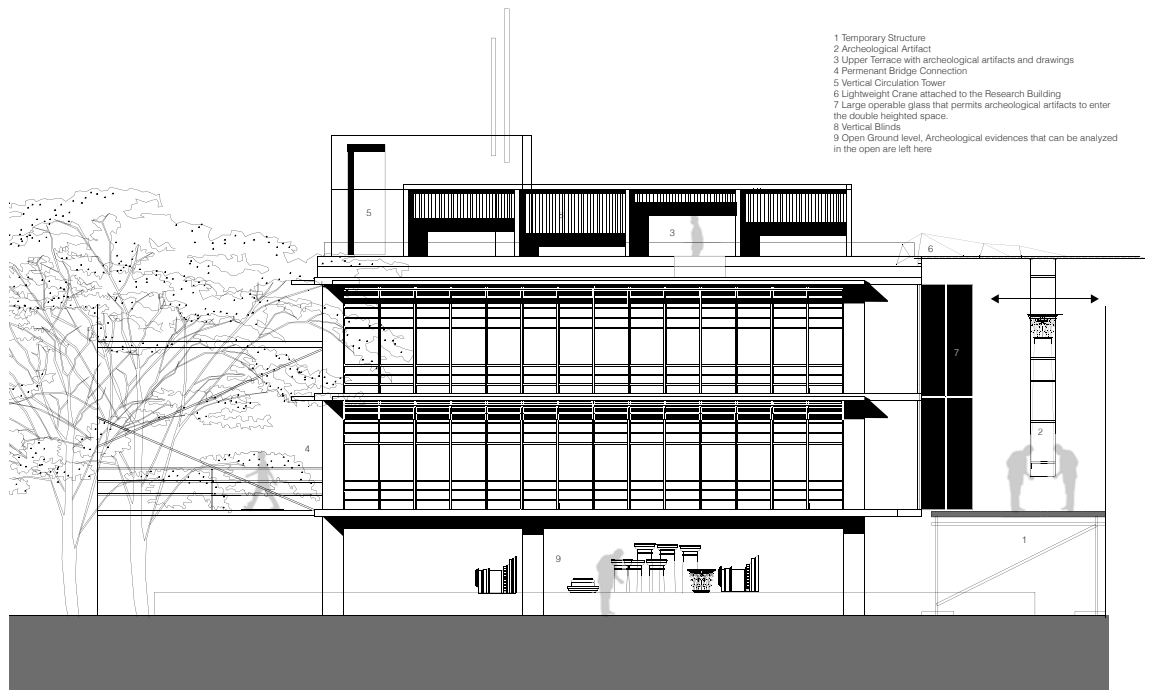


Figure 13.13

Conclusion

In my thesis “Archeological Research Center in Tarsus” I have tried to combine all the architectural concerns and interests that I have accumulated in my past six years of formal education. I denoted my education as being “formal”, because being a third generation architect in my family I must acknowledge that I have attained many dialectic and artistic attitudes from my predecessors.

Since my early education formed from mixing of the cultures of Europe, Asia and America, I have selected my thesis site to be in the historic city of Tarsus where I have completed my secondary education. I believe that, the city of Tarsus, like me, was also a product of mixed cultures and people of different civilizations that lived in that geography.

My thesis began with addressing the issues of designing an archeological research center within the urban context of Tarsus. In so doing, I have tried to combine the past, present and future urban aspirations of this city to regain its importance as a place of historical importance. I have proposed to reactivate the archeological site of Gözlükule by placing a complex of buildings in and around the existing excavation site. The significance of my proposal is strengthened by the combination of various functions of archeological exploration, such as research, display and education to be all located in the same vicinity. I believe that these aspects will be able to reinforce archeological discourse at a international scale. I also believe that placing such a center in Tarsus will help preserve its regional cultures as well as promoting it as place of global significance that should be preserved for the future of humanity.

My thesis project has given me a chance to propose an architecture that can evolve in time by gradually enhancing the existing uniqueness of being in Tarsus. In so doing, I have attempted to create a truly regional architecture in spirit rather than making stylistic references. My thesis proposal has become, in essence, a frame work for conducting archeological exploration and research on the “Gözlükule Mound”.

It is important to recall that this particular site was explored in the past by the re-known archeologist Hetty Goldman. Following her exploration, nearly a century ago, the site was left abandoned and now has become forgotten with minimum archeological activity or interest generated. My thesis proposes to resume this excavation on the site and at the same time ensuring its permanence.

In developing my premise to re-establish excavation on the Gözlükule site and to locate a center for archeological research, I have realized that a key factor in successfully placing such a use in an urban environment is its ability to create social benefits for its locality. That is why I have included uses in my program that would generate tourism and educational income for Tarsus. These would become tangible gains for the native population and make my proposal initially more feasible as well as being sustainable in the long term. Since archeological research is a very long term commitment, I have tried to infuse my project with the everyday public life of Tarsus. My design proposes to create an “open museum” by allowing public access and viewing to traverse directly through the excavation site. The central pedestrian walkway spine I have

proposed “howers” above the archeological excavation area as a bridge that links the major motorway to the city’s historic center. This bridge is anchored at both ends with permanent buildings that relate to their adjacent urban context. In that way, the buildings serve as gateways to the site, as well as fulfilling the programatic requirements of my research center. The functions such as museum display, conference rooms, studio workshops, classrooms and staff housing functions are all accommodated in separate pavilions. These separate but integrated structures are aggregated strategically to be subservient to the excavation site to which they are serving. The entire archeological site is also secured on its perimeter by a continuous perimeter wall that allows visual connection with the city outside it at specific locations. My design therefore attempts to define and secure as well as integrate and join the Gözlükule archeological site with the urban fabric of Tarsus. I am hoping that this thesis will help ignite the imagination of the local people of Tarsus to make their city, once again, a center for cultural research and exchange at an international scale. Archeology in this case serves as a catalyst for urban design by giving it a mission for creating a sense of place.

As a part of humanities “Archeology” can be interpreted as a journey to discover our commonalities. The contributions of ancient civilizations as translated to our present day cannot be narrowly interpreted and confined by the current international borders of any nation. The knowledge gained from trying to understand ancient cultures carries universal importance in forming our global cultural memory. This is what binded us together in the past and hopefully it is what will bring us back together, once again.

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