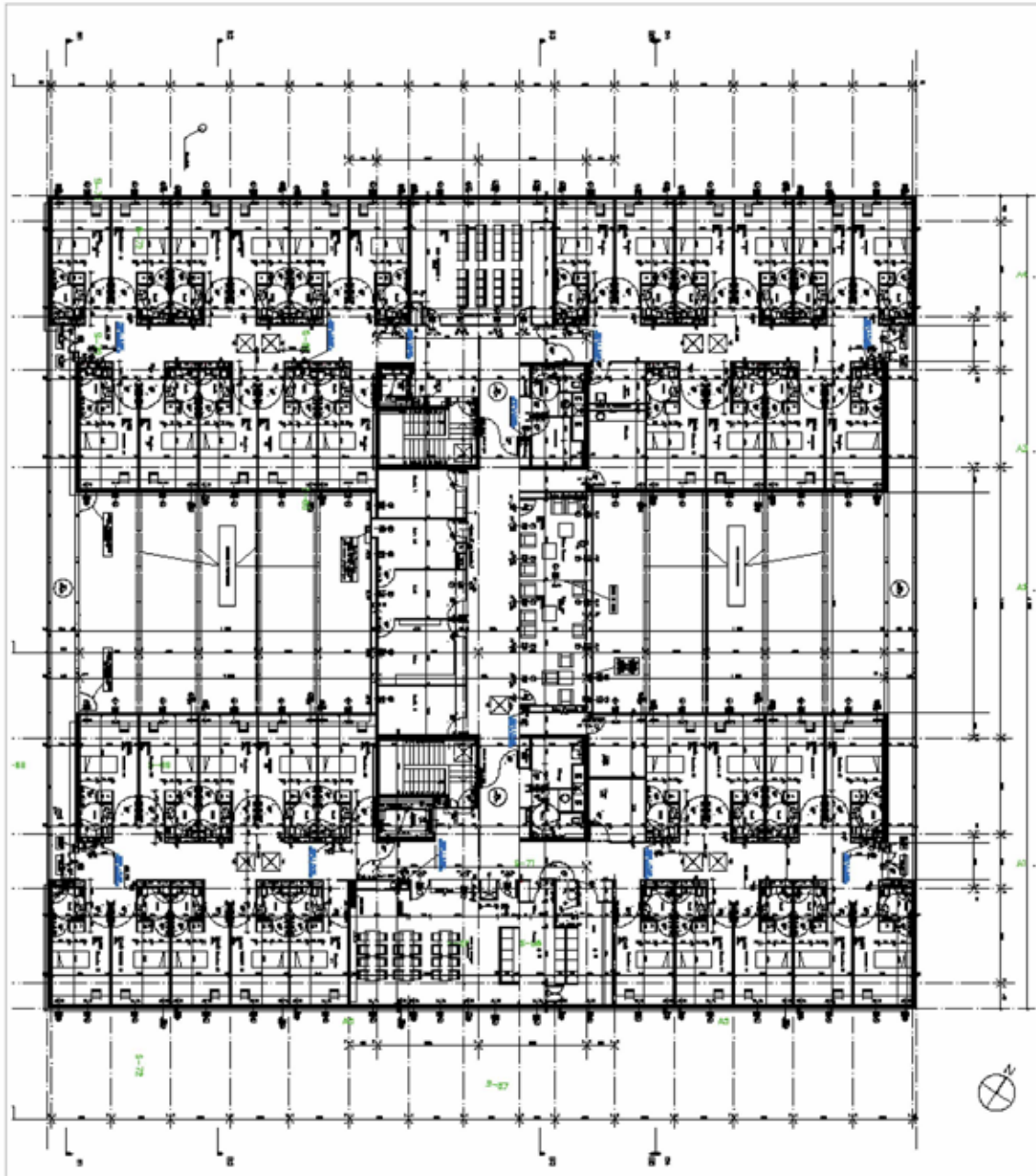


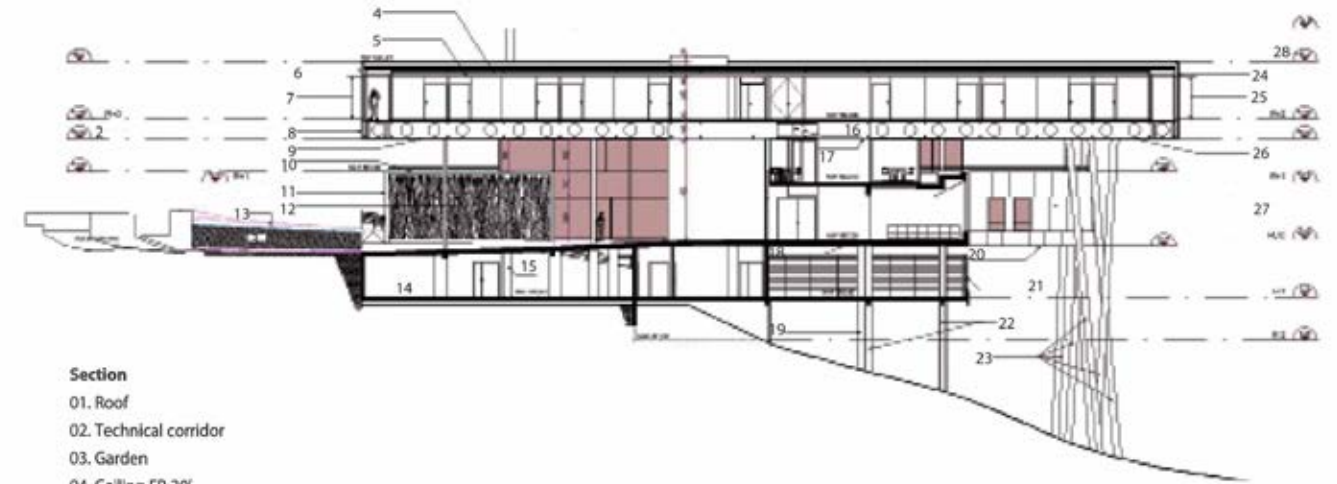
# NEW HEALTH FACILITIES

The image shows a modern architectural courtyard. The walls are white and the floor is a light-colored, polished material. On the left, there is a glass railing and a dark-framed entrance. On the right, there is a glass railing and a dark-framed entrance. A small tree is planted in the center of the courtyard. In the background, a person is standing in a doorway. The sky is blue and the overall atmosphere is bright and clean.

LINKS

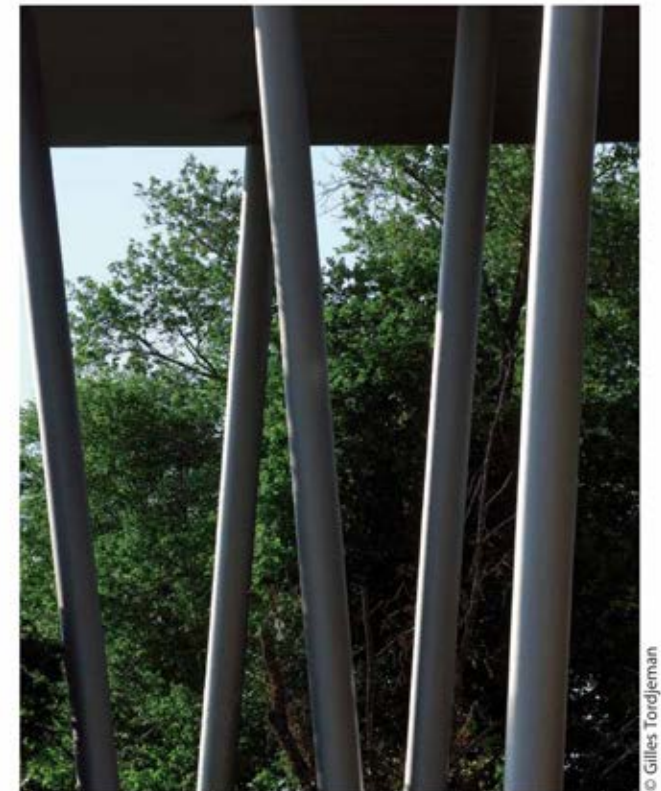


Second Floor Plan



#### Section

01. Roof
02. Technical corridor
03. Garden
04. Ceiling FR 30'
05. Detachable ceiling
06. Metallic covering
07. Perforated metallic covering
08. Metallic covering
09. Metallic covering
10. Bamboo railing
11. Varnished concrete
12. Bamboo
13. Small plaza
14. Parking
15. Smoke extraction
16. Central technical corridor
17. Ceiling
18. Solid concrete slab
19. Galvanized tube pillar for floor walkway
20. Fibre-cement ceiling
21. 20mm diameter galvanized steel cylinders interwoven between vertical galvanized sheets of 60x20
22. Concrete pillar
23. Metallic pillar
24. Metallic covering
25. Perforated metallic covering
26. Metallic covering
27. Metallic covering
28. Roof



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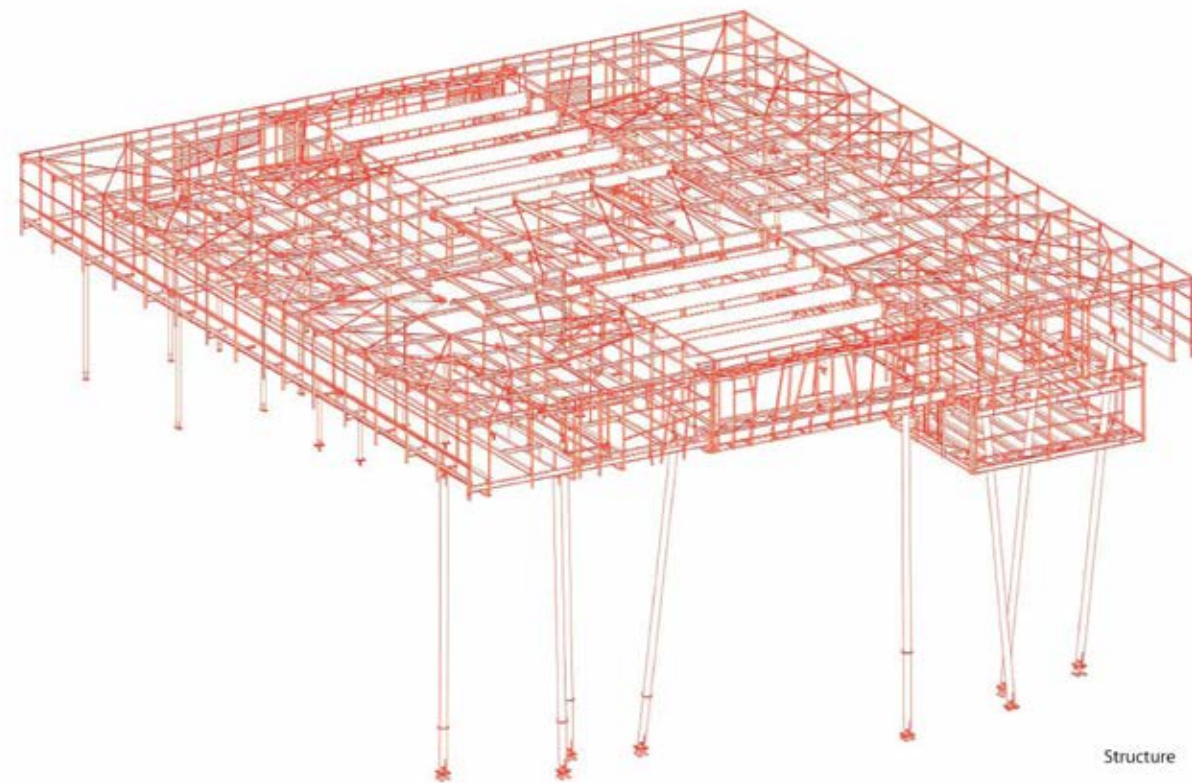


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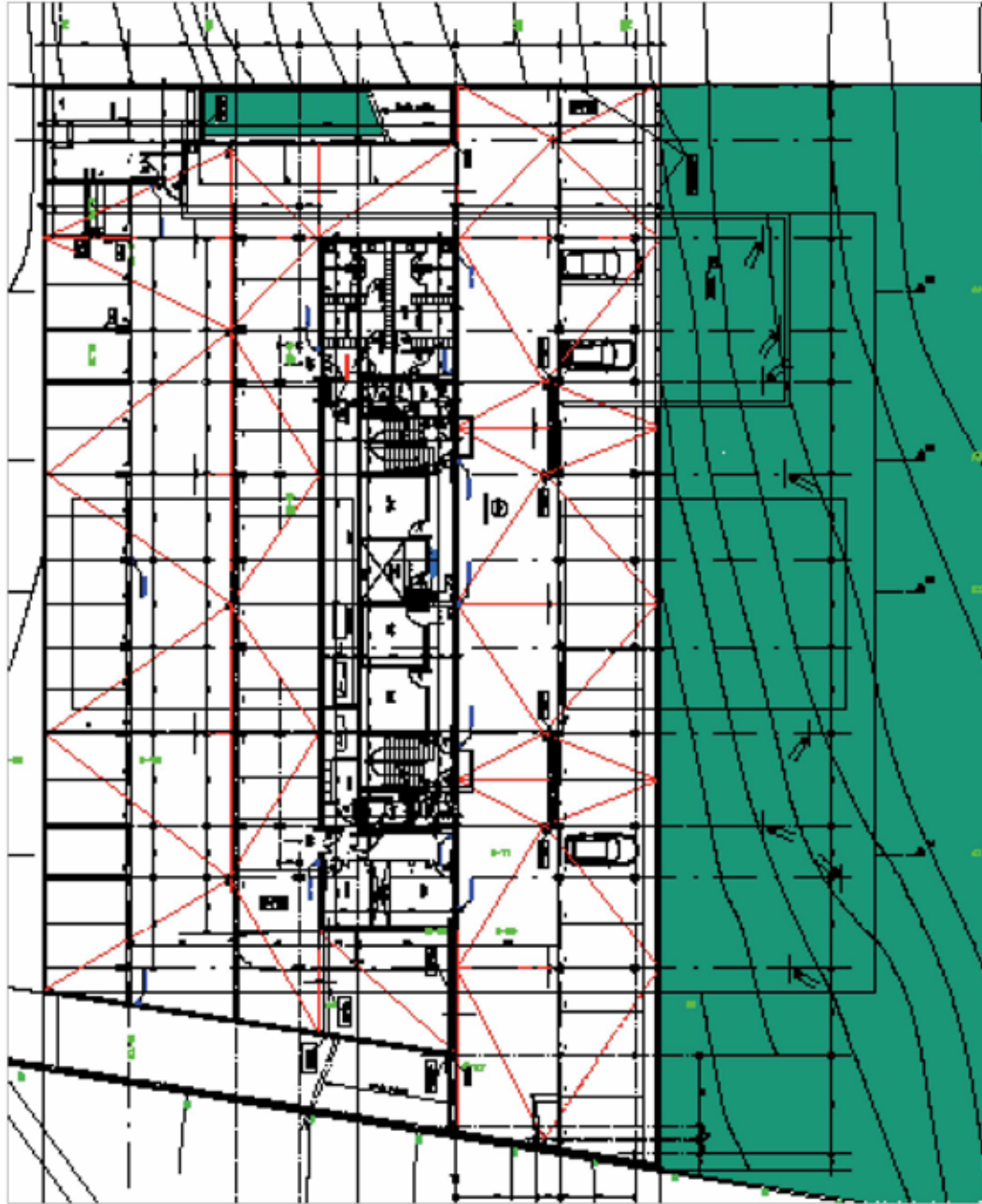


Structure

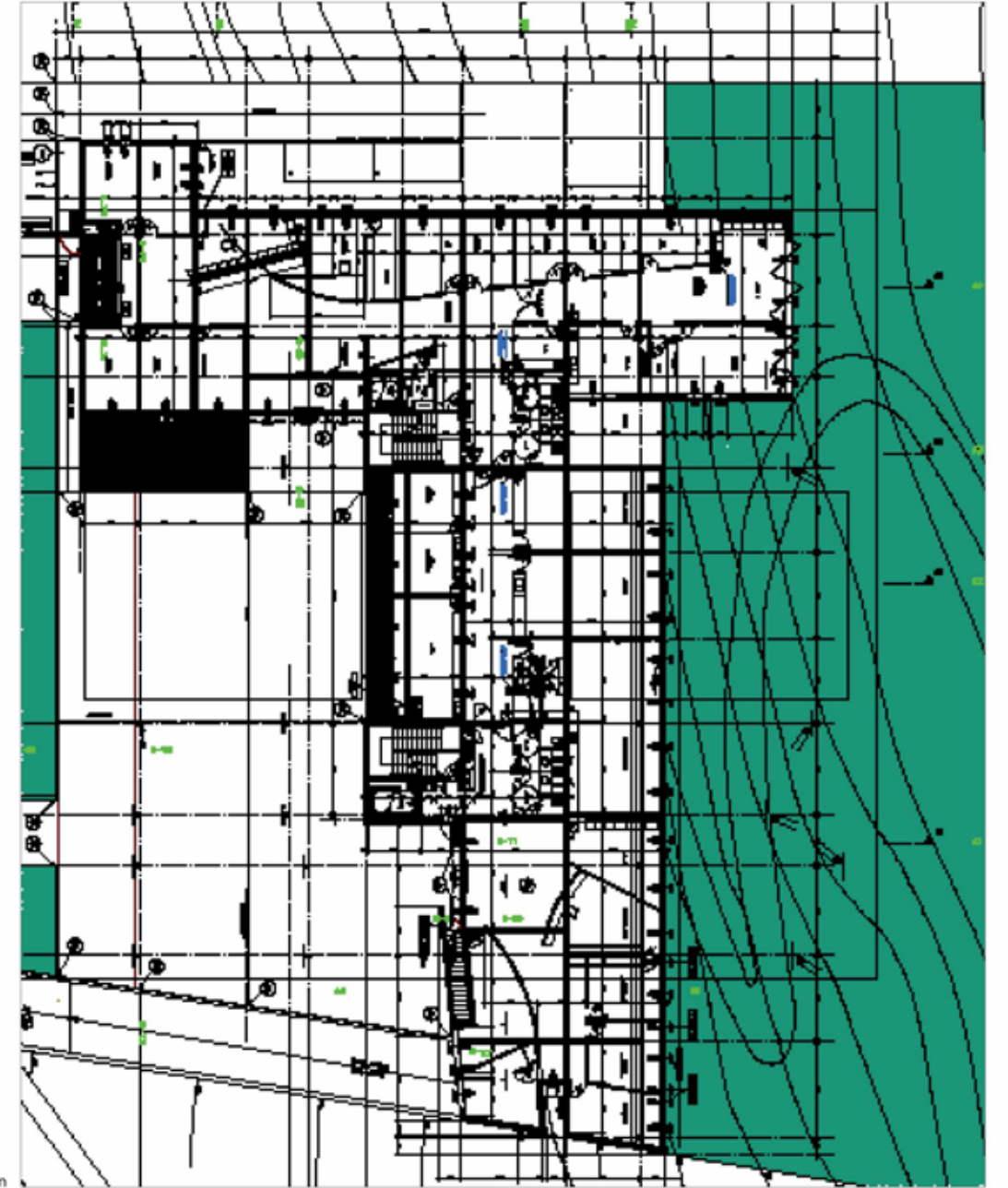


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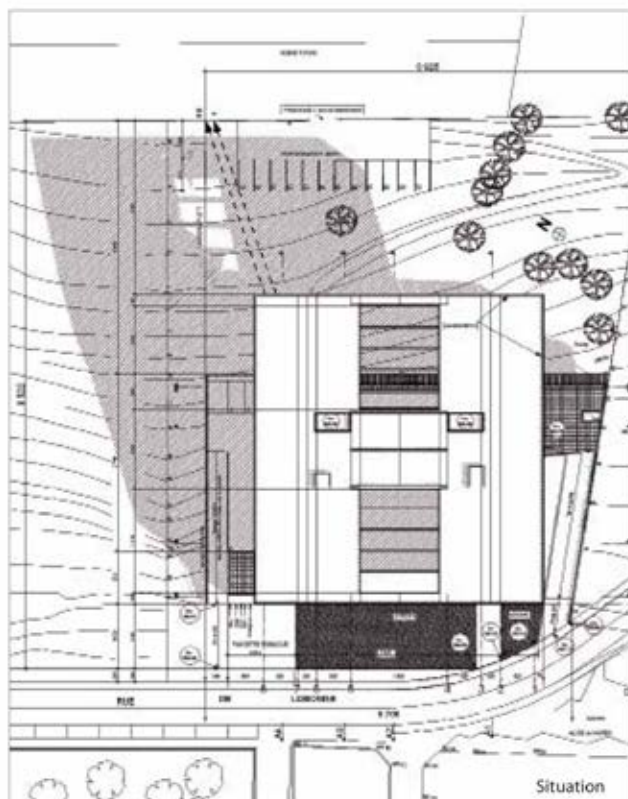


Basement Plan



Ground Floor Plan





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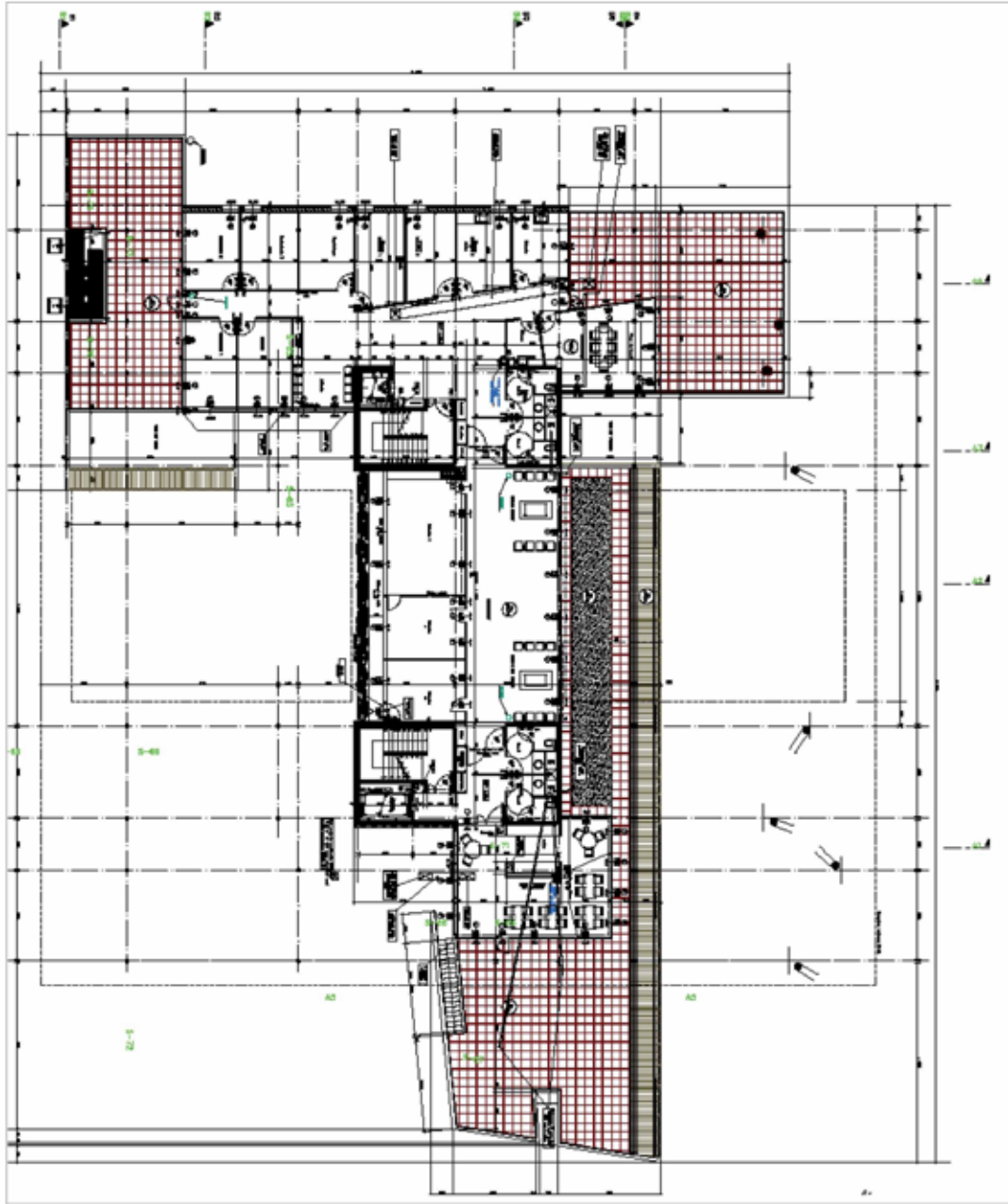


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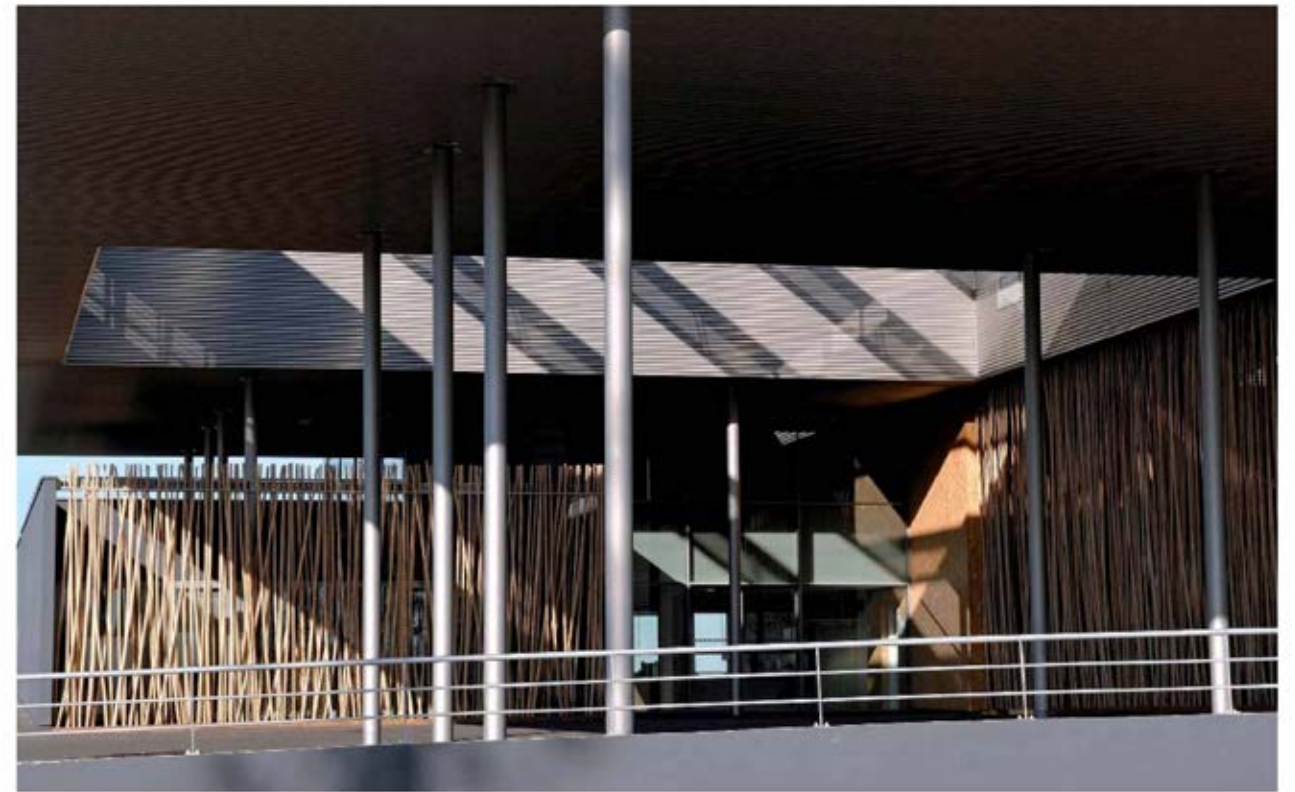
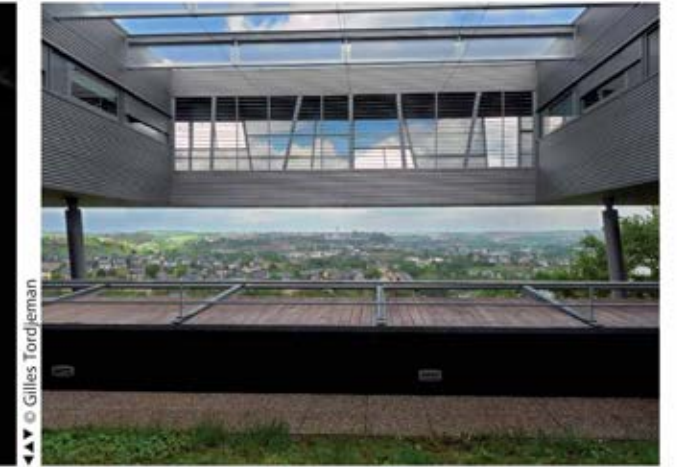


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First Floor Plan





J. Lacombe & M. de Florinier Architectes

## Sainte-Marie Psychiatric Clinic

The project is built on a steep north-facing site and is composed of a psychiatric clinic with forty bedrooms, a medico-psychological centre and a day-care hospital, all centred around a shared set of technical services offering art and music therapy, corporal and verbal expression, pottery and cookery courses, as well as a memory workshop. The total floor area is 3 495 sqm for a total cost of €3 800 000 H.T. The centre has been operational since 2007.

The site is located near the northern rim of the plateau right beside the existing road, and slopes down steeply to the north. Its eastern side is lined by tall oak trees forming a small copse. At the top of the site, a vast horizontal slab extends the level of the access road which overhangs the site, leaving space below for a covered parking while also providing a solid platform for the main construction.

The unique solution proposed stems from the decision to set the most important part of the project, the forty bedrooms of the clinic, on the uppermost storey overlooking the tree tops, thus freeing the lower levels for a more spacious approach to the planning of the medico-psychological centre, the offices and the technical services. In opting for an H-shaped plan, the architects were able to arrange symmetrically the four 10 bedroom units around a core composed of the medical staff premises and the reception and dining areas, while at the same time minimizing the length of the connecting corridors. The care units and common areas were then located at strategic points so that they could serve for both orientation and spatial punctuation. The H-shaped plan also permitted each room and every part of the building to be provided with generous windows looking out on to the different views, while providing plenty of natural light. It was the definition of this part of the programme as a flat open slab-like construction of tree-top height, six metres above the access platform, which finally defined the nature of the project. This large slab is independently supported, using a wide-spanned steel structure, thus making available as much ground space as possible while at the same time allowing for a generous service space set between the slab floor and the external soffit.

The result is a building full of surprises where the interplay between the stepped volumes and open spaces creates a delightfully unconventional environment. That was the architectural as well as therapeutic aim of the architects: to reach beyond the geometry of urban normality, to help the mildly depressive patients compose a new vision of the world by confronting them with a reality that is subtly and stimulatingly different. The idea was to banish the notion of "ghetto" and enable people, in a state of depression or dependence, not to feel socially excluded.



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**Photographs:**

Gilles Tordjeman

Claude Foulquier

**Location:**

Rodez, France

