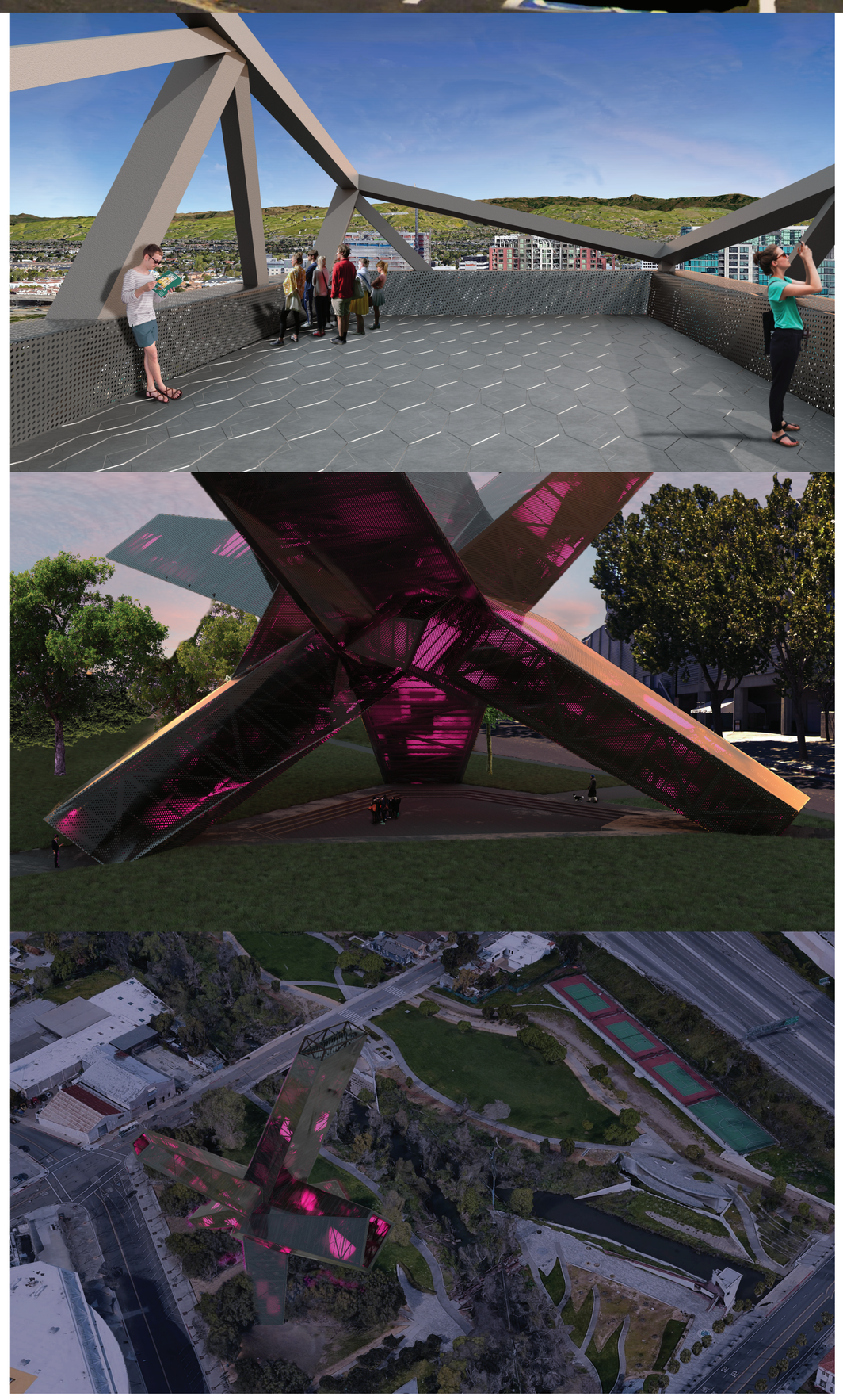
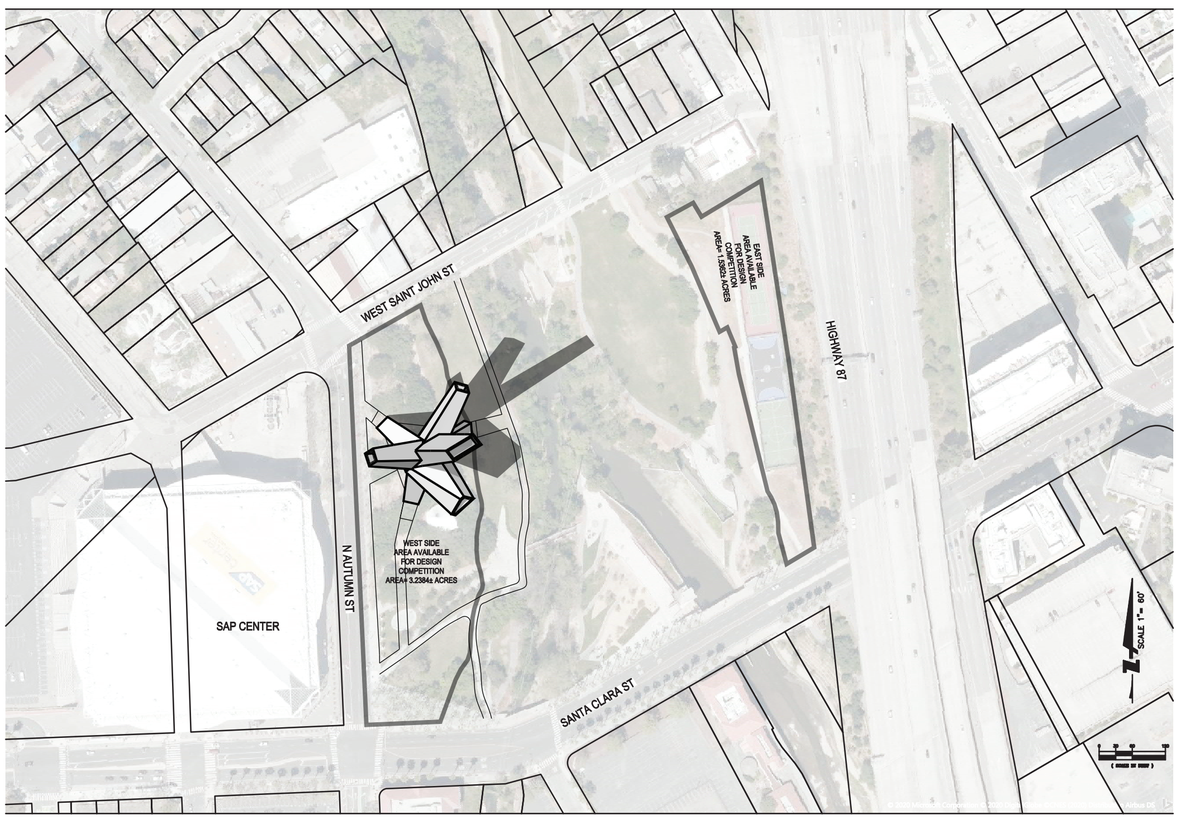
Convergent Horizons

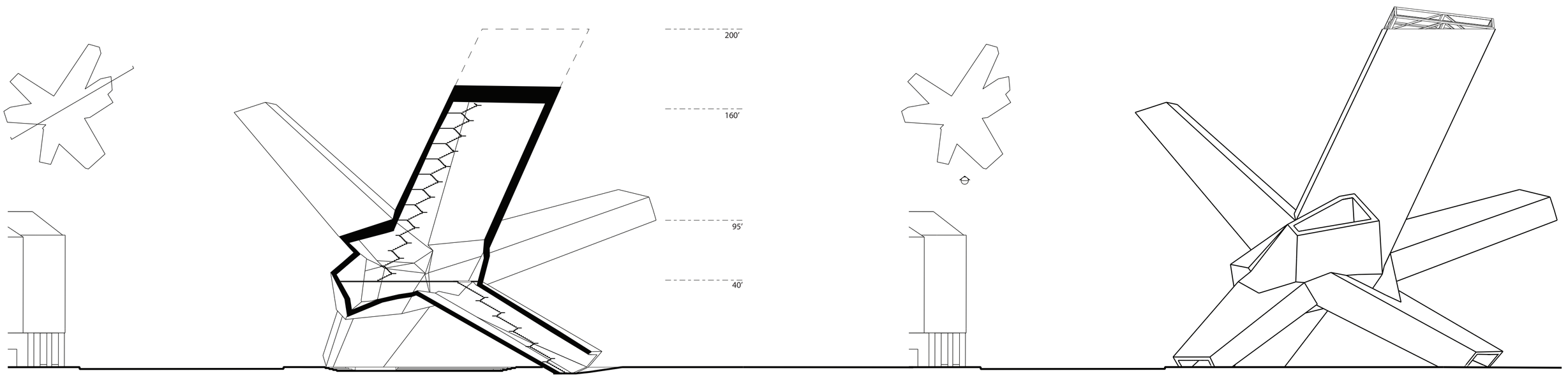
The challenge of creating an iconic form for Silicon Valley within the low height limit of 200 feet is addressed in this proposal by a figural form that allows for multiple viewing points. Typical observation towers, the Eiffel Tower, Space Needle, and even the Wheel in London soar to heights above 400’ and can reach up to 1000’+. Therefore, to create an iconic form that cannot be taller than even the tallest building in San Jose requires a rethinking of the typology of observation tower.

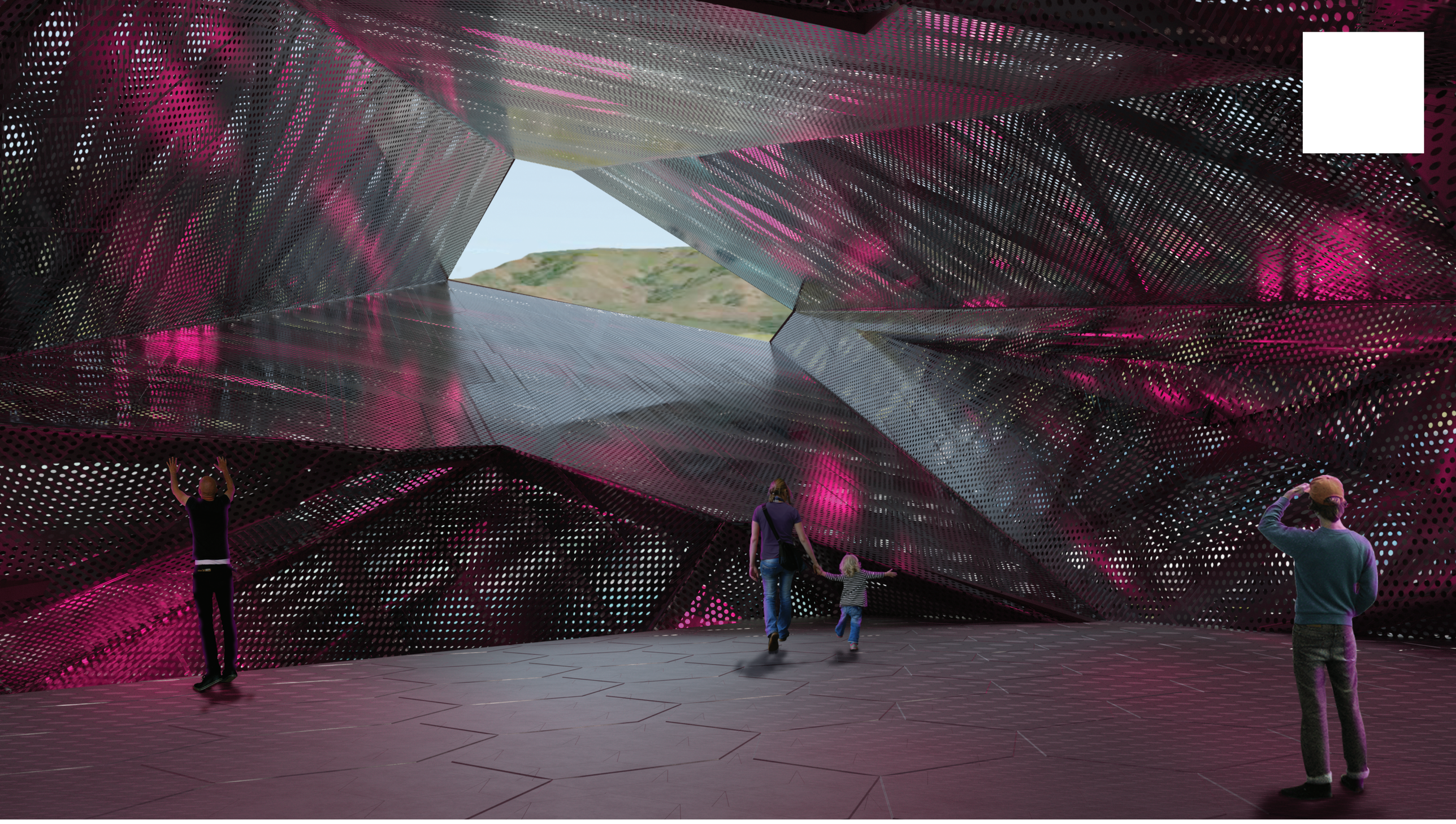
Due to the imposed height restrictions, the form of this observation tower breaks the traditional typology of observation towers that loom high above the city with a singular viewing platform. Instead, this tower takes a crystalline form and responds to the height limits by branching off into four arms that each frames the context uniquely. One arm reaches to the sky, maxing out the buildable height to generate views out of the immediate context toward the rest of the valley and the mountains beyond. The other arms offer a lower view pointing directly into the immediate context to remind individuals of the community that they are a part of.

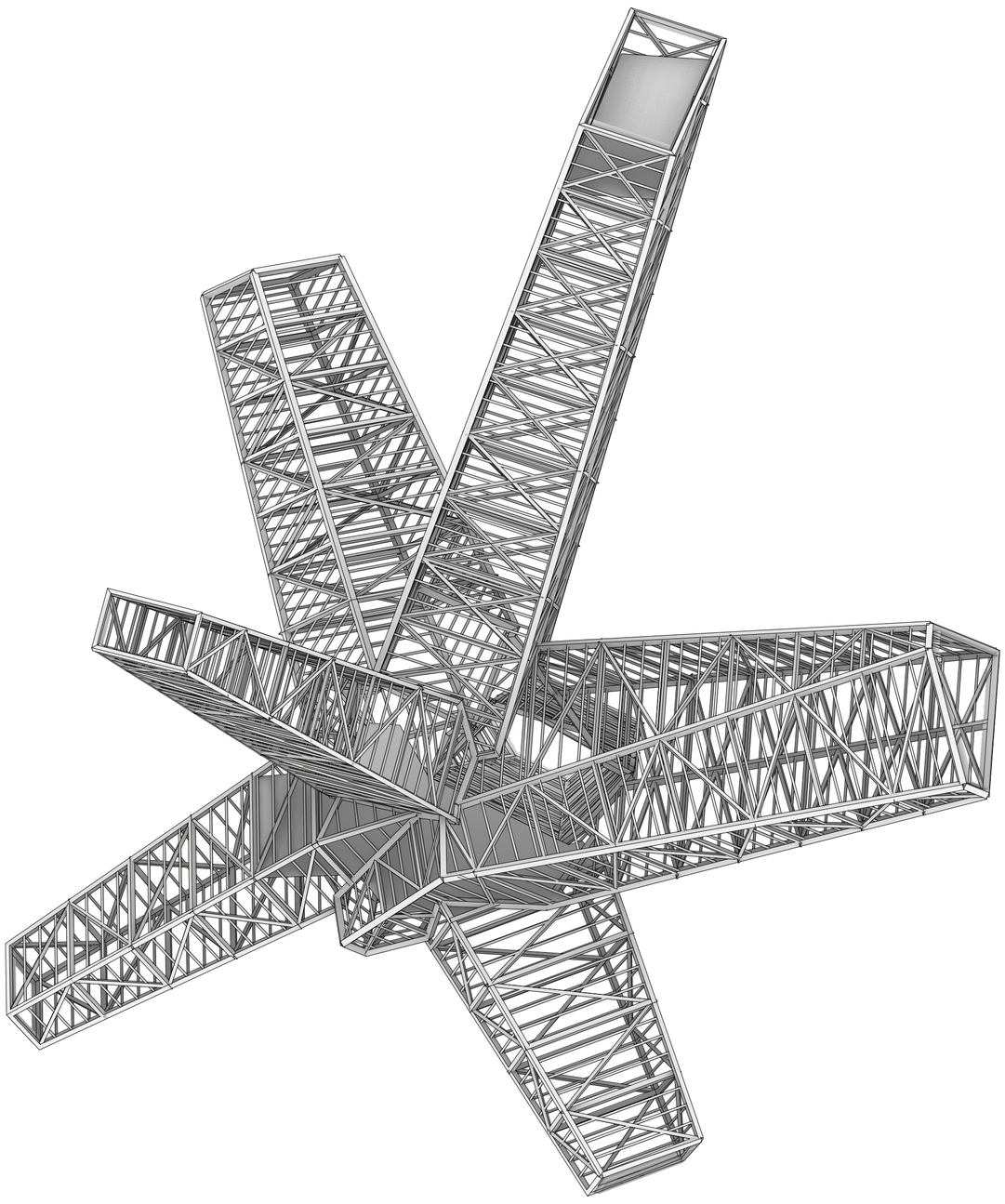
To address environmental concerns, the tower is clad in a patterned skin of perforated metal and solar panels that produce all of the electricity needed to power an LED mesh concealed within the skin. The lighting is programmable, turning the skin of the tower into a performance element with patterns, messages, and designs shining through the skin. At night, the skin glows with moving light that does not negatively affect local and migratory wildlife.



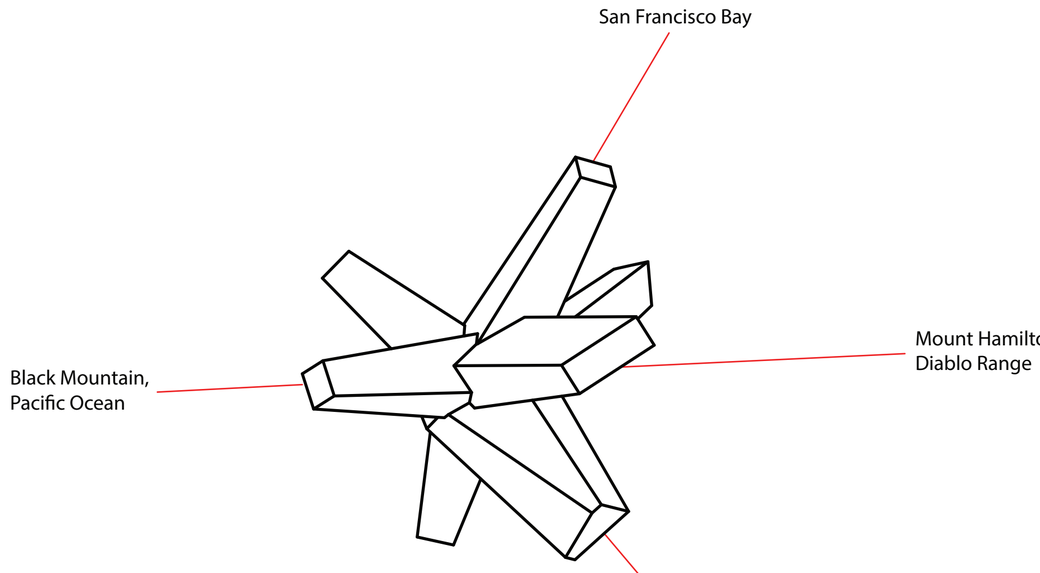


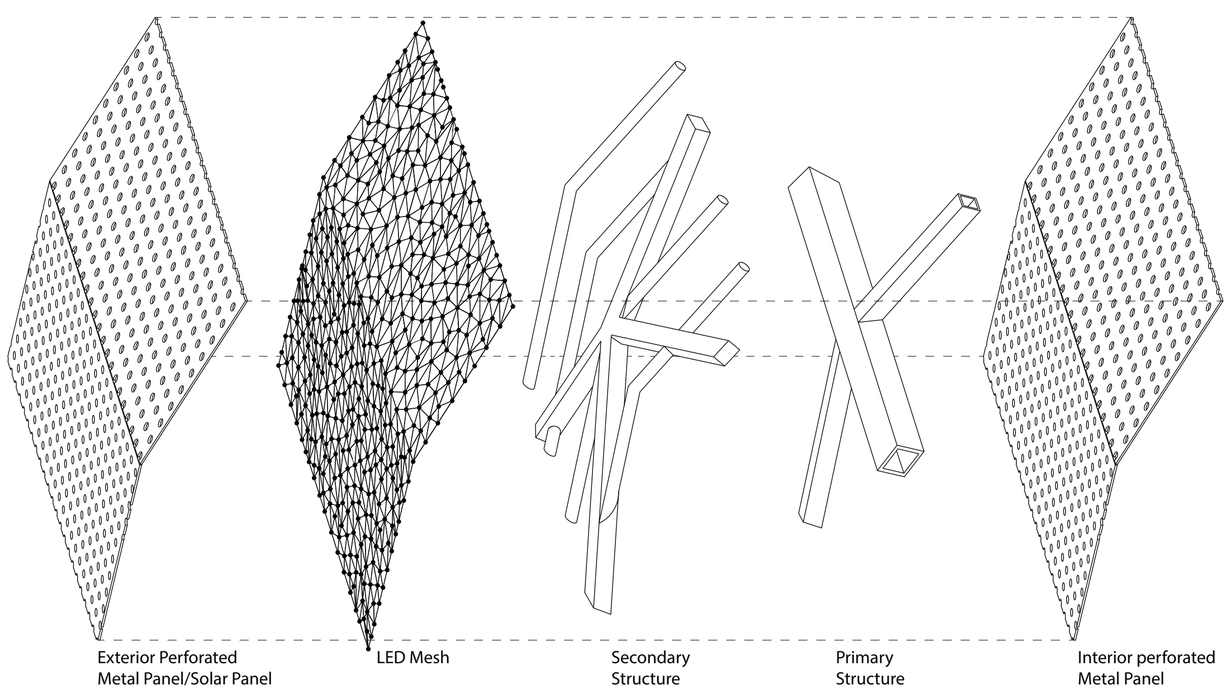


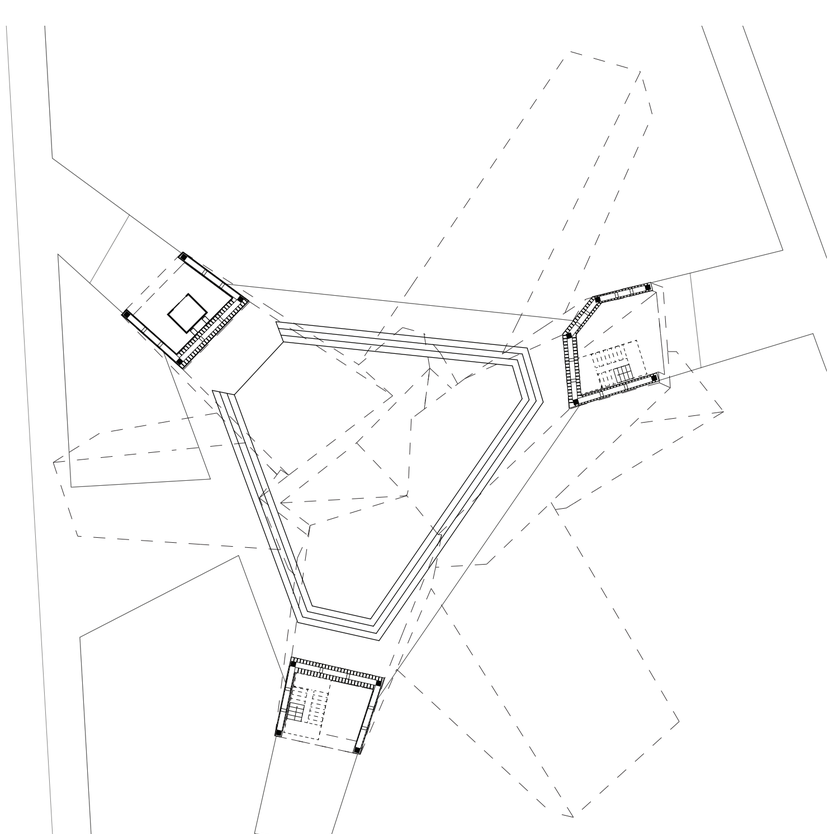




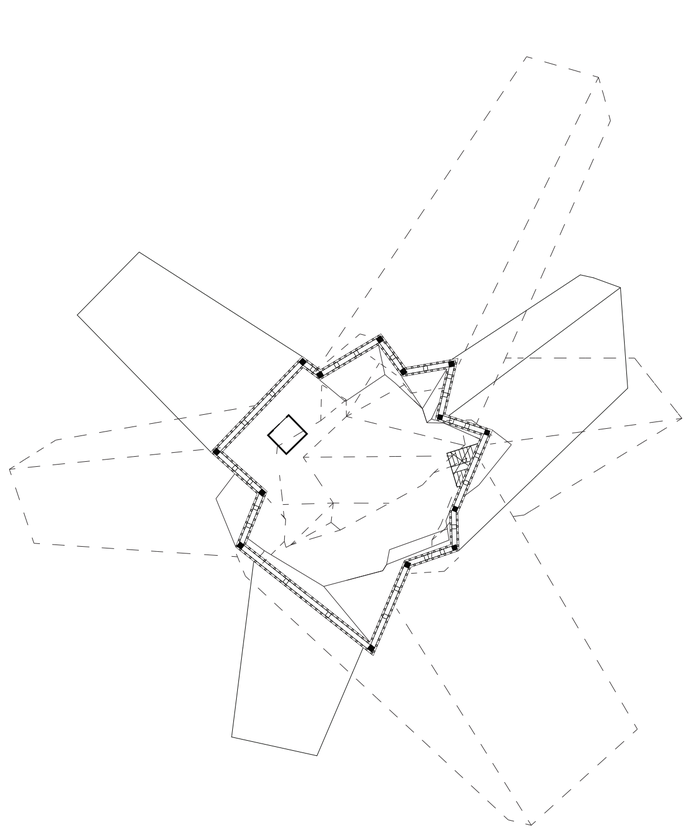
Space Frame
Structure



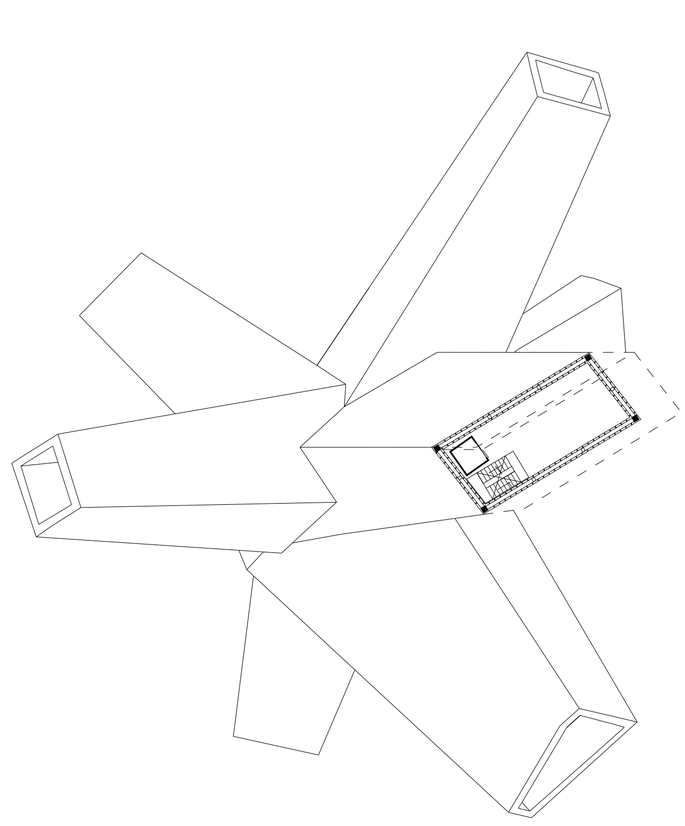




Ground
Floor Plan



Level 2
Floor Plan



Level 3
Floor Plan