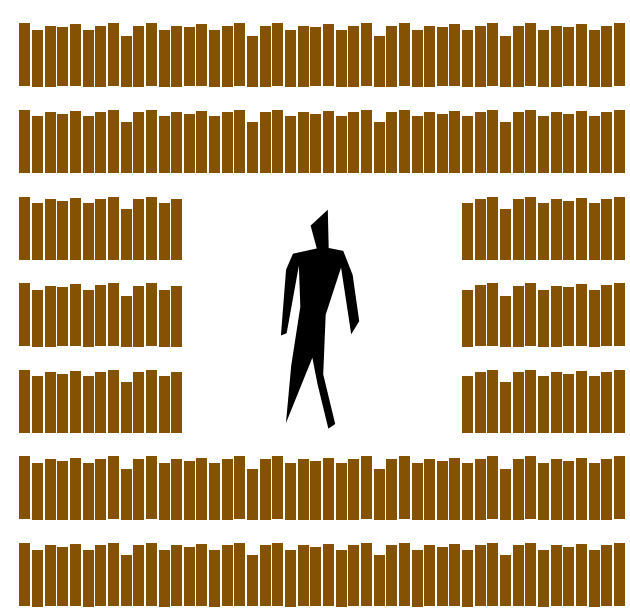


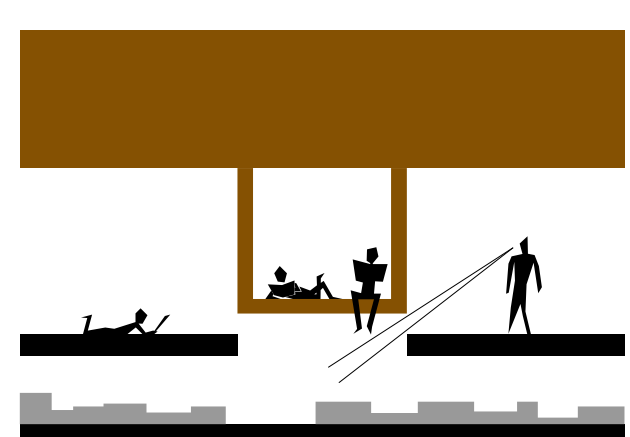
SITEPLAN 1:500

The most important feature of a library is the sensation of being surrounded by books. While digital media is gaining more significance in information transfer today, books are still the physical representations of the knowledge of a community. The main reading hall has a large space, books cover every wall. It is penetrated by light and air, but the presence and the mass of books are overwhelming. The duality of high-density knowledge and the vast space leads to a truly inspiring library environment. The grid structure of the building resembles the essence of a library: a large bookcase.



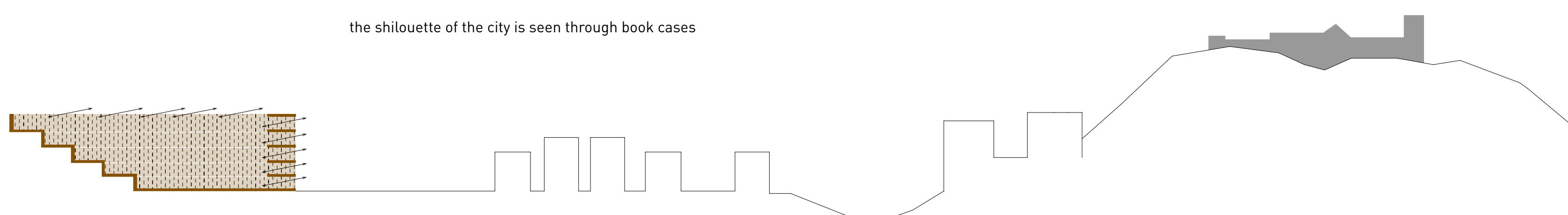
sensation of being surrounded by massive amount of books

The new building is built upon the ruins of the castrum Emona. On the level of Zoisova Cesta, next to the main entrance a platform has been planned with voids and open air caskets hung from the building, where people can lie down, read a book, while seeing the ruins in a public, yet intimate milieu. This area can be interpreted as an "in between" space on the border of the library and the city. It plays a similar role connecting the ruins and the library by the vertical axis. The key concept was to bring life onto this zone to maintain the cultural connection with the past.



ruins of Emona can be seen from the open air reading caskets

The main reading hall has a strong visual connection with the most important topological feature of Ljubljana: the castle hill, which can be seen from any point of the great hall. The lobby and the traffic access are also located towards the inner city and the old NUK building. The windows and the reading boxes along the facade are the foreground of the scenery of the cityscape, what gives the readers many interpretations. The large and bright reading room with all the books is visible from the outside. The facade of the building consists of transparent glazing and semi-transparent glazing with screen painting. It is a perforated skin which lets more light in where it is necessary and less where it is not needed. It provides continuous visual contact between the city and the library space.



the silhouette of the city is seen through book cases

The building fits within, and extends the system of urban spaces. The main entrance connects to the French Revolution Square as the original NUK building. It also connects to the wide areas of Zoisova street extending it to a public square. The openings of the building and the entrance are all oriented towards the inner city and the castle hill.

