

STILTE-OORD GALMAARDEN

UNIVERSAL DESIGN

2019-725



For the redevelopment of the ruin of the partly burnt down St. Peter's Church in Galmaarden, this design focuses on preserving the character of this ruin by leaving a large part of the ruin open and on the other hand reconnecting with nature. Key to this is that the place of silence should be accessible and pleasant for everyone, each with their own limitations and possibilities.

To strengthen the connection with nature, nature is literally and figuratively introduced into the ruins. In the side aisles of the ruin there will be a gallery of trees on each side, following the rhythm of the church's columns. These tree galleries are repeated outside, forming a grid of *Aceraceae Acer rubrum* 'Scanlon' trees.

During summer they form pleasant shady spots to read a book or to meditate, in autumn they colour the space in front of the ruins deep orange and in winter they lose their leaves, allowing more light when the sun stands lower. Therefore, the trees inside and in front of the ruin, also function as a natural sun protection system throughout the seasons.

A paved suggestion path is provided between the trees in such a way that everyone, young or old, disabled or not, can always reach the ruin easily. The place of silence will be demarcated by shrubs of about 2 meters high. This provides a visual demarcation towards the village and offers a sense of seclusion.

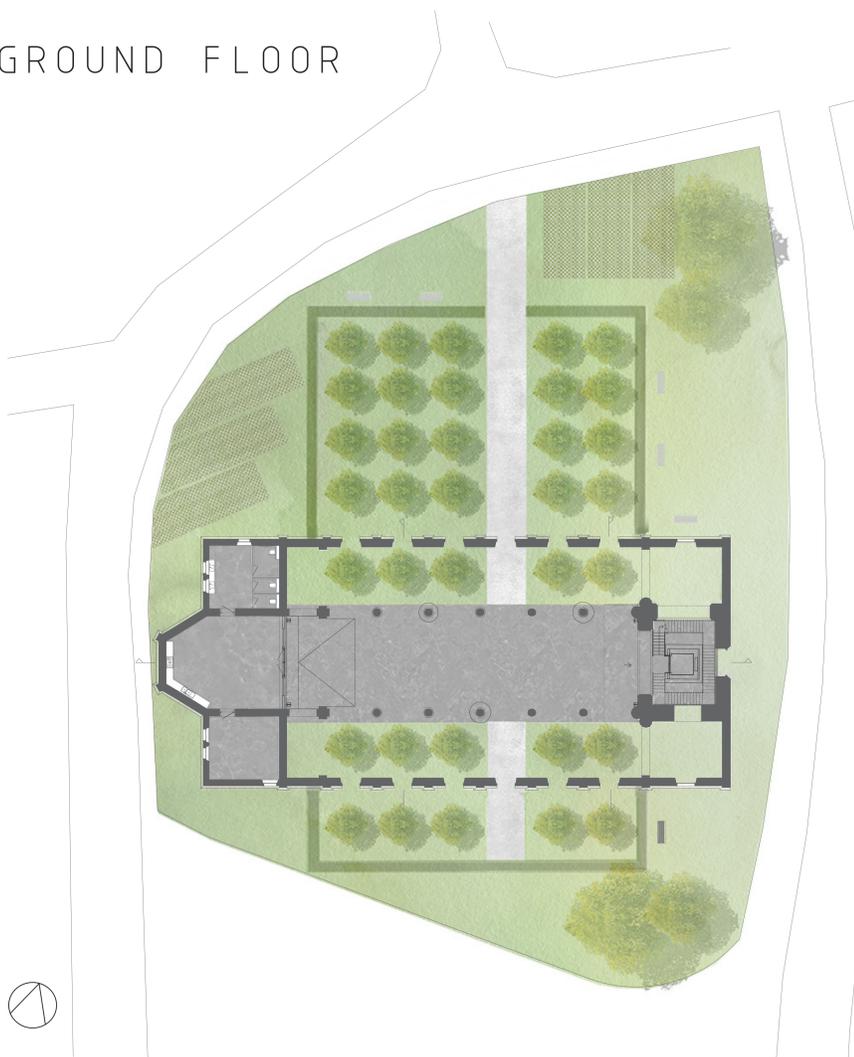
Although the central aisle of the ruin also belongs to the outdoor space, it is covered by the new beam-shaped construction above it so that even when it rains one can still sit outside and do yoga, for example.

The other common areas are provided in the old choir and the left and right apse. In the right apse there will be a spacious sanitary block with a wash basin that is easily accessible for wheelchairs and enough space to keep a turning circle of 1m50 free. The left apsis will function as a more intimate therapy/ meditation / yoga space with a flexible layout so that the space is available for all kinds of preferences and possibilities.

The choir will be divided into two levels. Downstairs there will be a large communal kitchen and dining area. This will be lit by daylight thanks to the large glass section - with door openings - that separates the choir from the outdoor areas. The floor above is a spacious and bright yoga room thanks to the large windows. The abundance of daylight makes it pleasant for every visitor and indispensable for the deaf and hard of hearing as you can best see the facial expressions of a conversation partner in daylight.

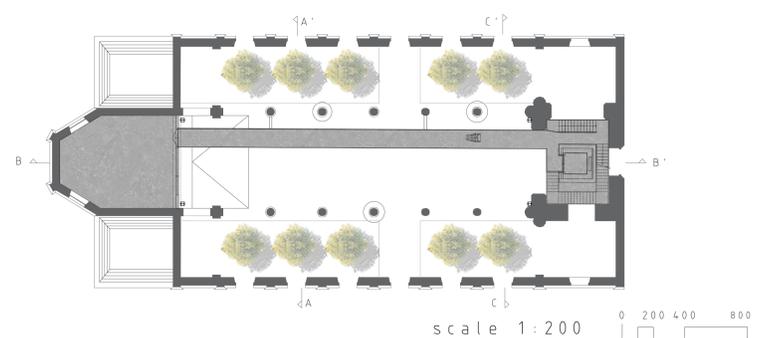
Thanks to this clear division of the communal and private zones, the entire project is logically arranged so that people can find their way intuitively.

GROUND FLOOR



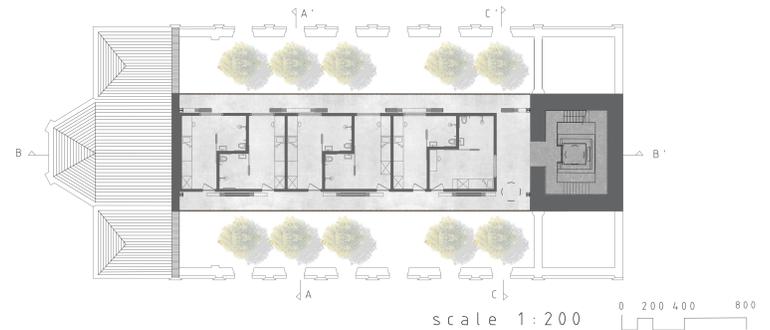
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FIRST FLOOR



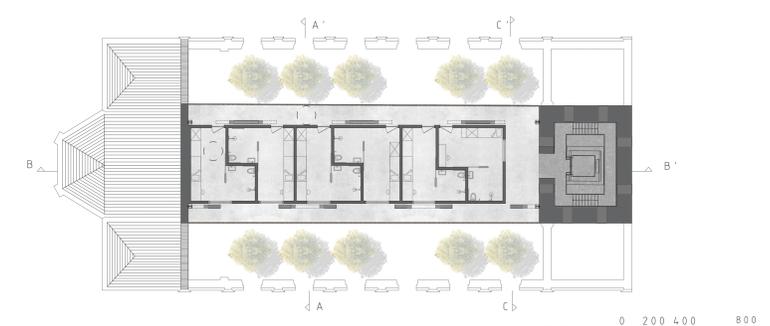
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SECOND FLOOR



scale 1:200

THIRD FLOOR



scale 1:200

The circulation takes place entirely in the old church tower. The size of the elevator herein is adapted to the turning circle of a wheelchair. Around this elevator also a staircase with double banister turns. From the tower on the second floor in the choir, a barrier-free hanging path leads to the tower. The hanging path runs across the nave and is therefore also outside. It is reinforced in two places at the church arches and has a similar finish with wooden slats like the gateways at the units, but on a smaller scale.

The private area with the sleeping units is located in the 'floating' beam-shaped volume above the nave. People can get here through the circulation duct in the tower.

The supporting structure consists of trusses on both sides of the extension. These trusses carry the loads to the four steel H columns that are placed against the walls of the ruin. Between the trusses are the units. On the sides, are the passerelles. The passerelles are 1,50m wide to ensure smooth circulation. They still enlist to the outside but are covered against rain and wind. The passerelles are finished with wooden slats in such a way that when you walk on the passerelles, you are half inside, half outside. In this way you stay connected with nature and the trees, while at the same time providing the necessary security and privacy.

The sleeping units consist on one side of a functional wall with a bench, bed, desk and closet. On the other side is the bathroom with a sliding door that is easy to open with a horizontal handle. Next to each door, there is provided at least 50 cm so that it is easy for everyone to open the doors. As in the bathroom downstairs, a wash basin accessible for wheelchairs is planned in each room. A large window overlooks the trees and the nature reserve behind, and at the same time some privacy through the wooden slats on the outside of the passerelles is created.

CROSS SECTION AA'



scale 1:200

CROSS SECTION BB'



scale 1:200

CROSS SECTION CC'



scale 1:200