

LINDA PEDERSEN PARK OBSERVATION TOWER

PROGRESS CONCEPTUAL DESIGN PACKAGE

07.17.2026

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Visual Landmark

At Linda Pedersen Park, several opportunities emerge that could help the future tower shape a more meaningful and engaging experience within the park. The park's location along a heavily traveled roadway creates a unique opportunity for the tower to serve as a visual landmark, capturing the attention of passing motorists and establishing a stronger identity for the site. Rather than functioning solely as an observation structure, the tower could become a recognizable gateway element that draws visitors into the park.

Meaningful Site Lines

Observations from the site revealed that the surrounding landscape remains visually limited until reaching approximately 40 feet above grade. This suggests that the previous tower concept emphasizing multiple intermediate lookout points may not fully capitalize on the visitor experience, as meaningful panoramic views are primarily achieved near the top of the structure. A more effective design approach may be to concentrate resources on creating a compelling approach to the tower, a highly activated base, and a memorable upper observation experience, while also investing in a strong and cohesive material expression that gives the tower a distinct architectural identity.

Park Activation

The park already supports a strong recreational culture, particularly around fishing and outdoor activities. Any future tower or promenade design should acknowledge and complement these existing uses. Enhancing the approach to the tower could also help activate underutilized portions of the park and encourage visitors to engage with the broader site rather than treating the tower as a singular destination.

Educational Outlook

In addition to recreation, the park presents strong potential as an educational resource for the community. The tower and its surrounding landscape could support school field trips, environmental education programs, exhibits, and learning opportunities focused on the region's coastal systems, wildlife habitats, and history. By combining recreation, education, and landmark-driven design, the project has the opportunity to create a destination that is both locally meaningful and regionally recognizable.

Key views



[🔗](#) 40' Eye Level 

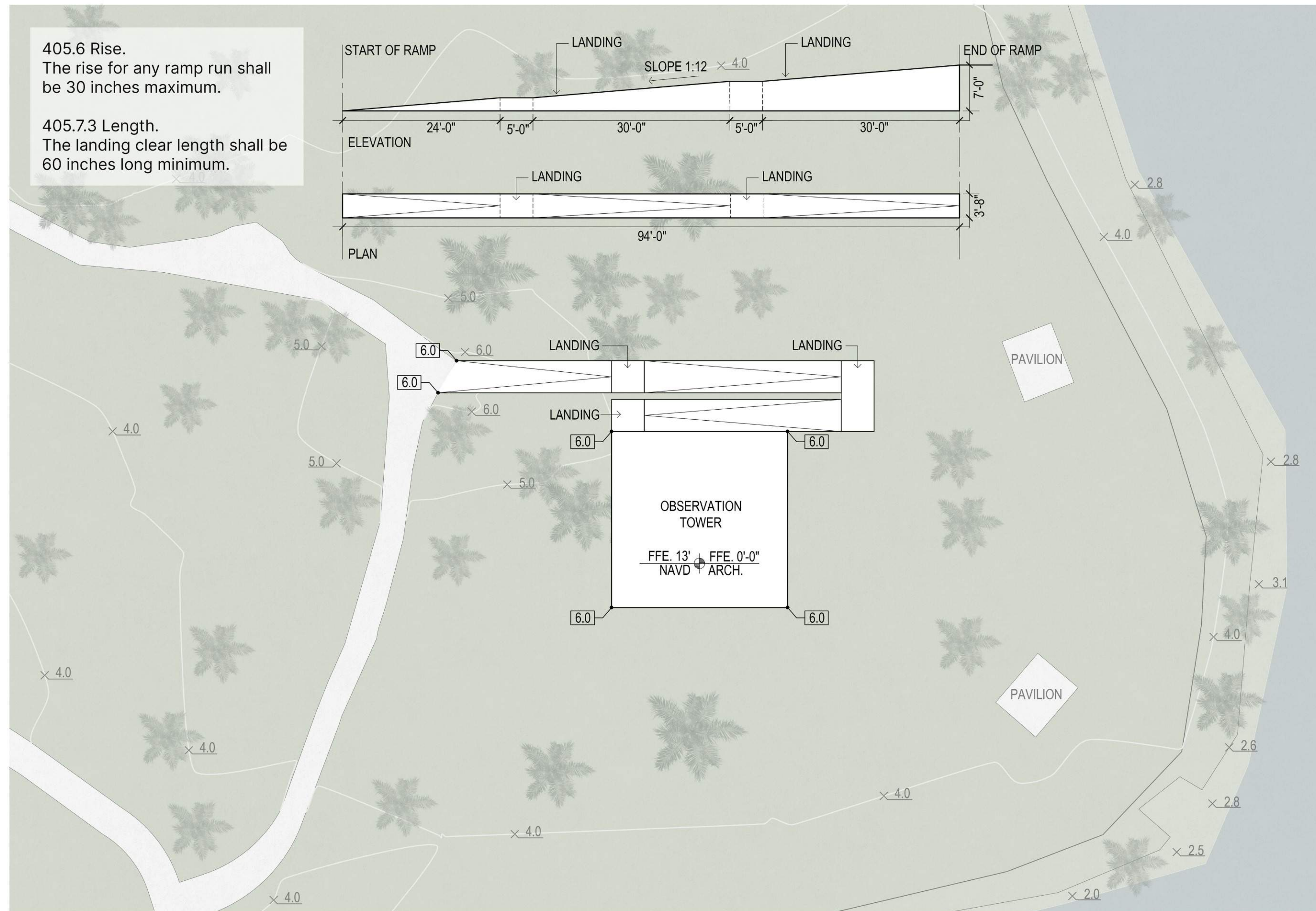


[🔗](#) 50' Eye Level 

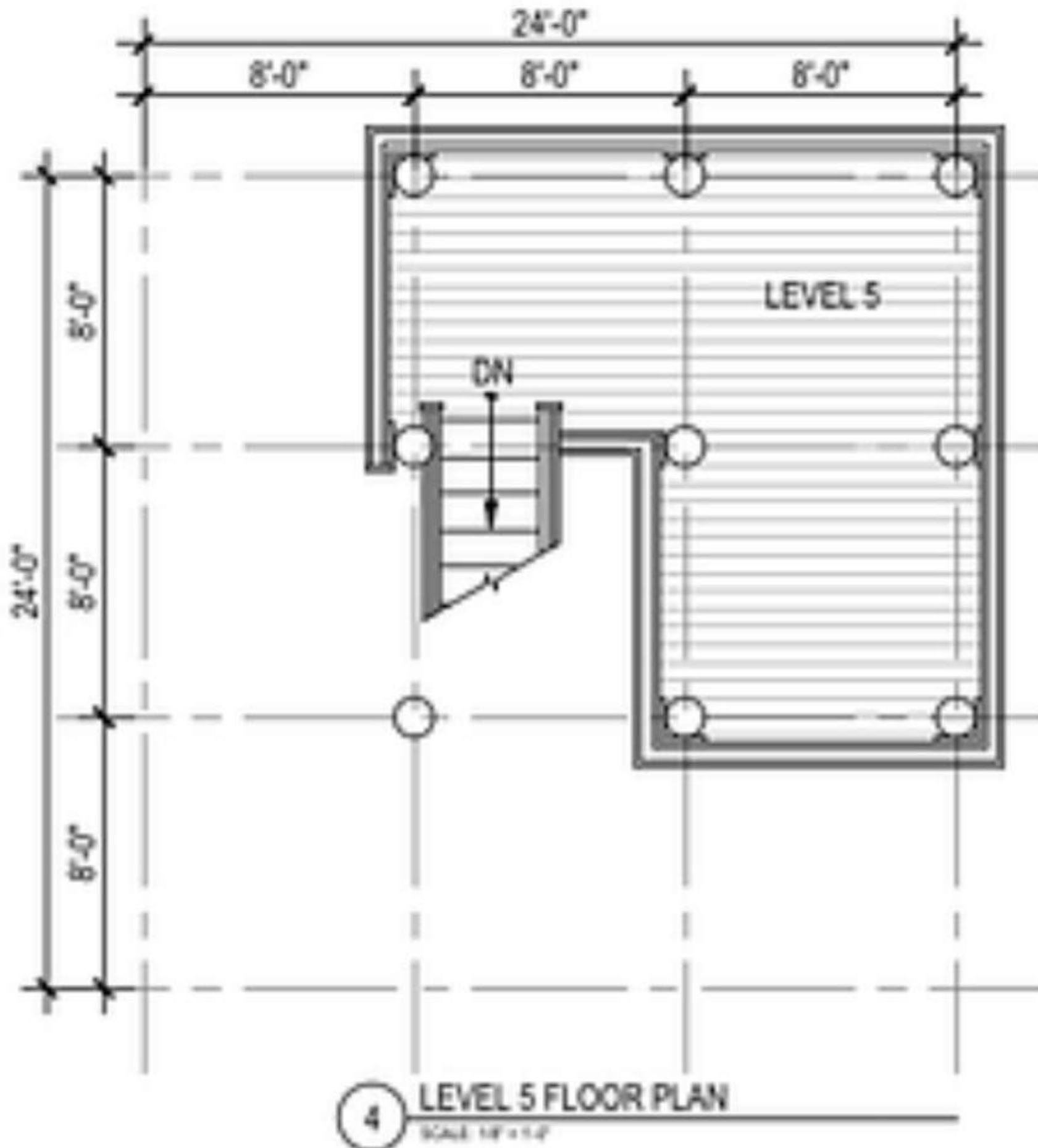
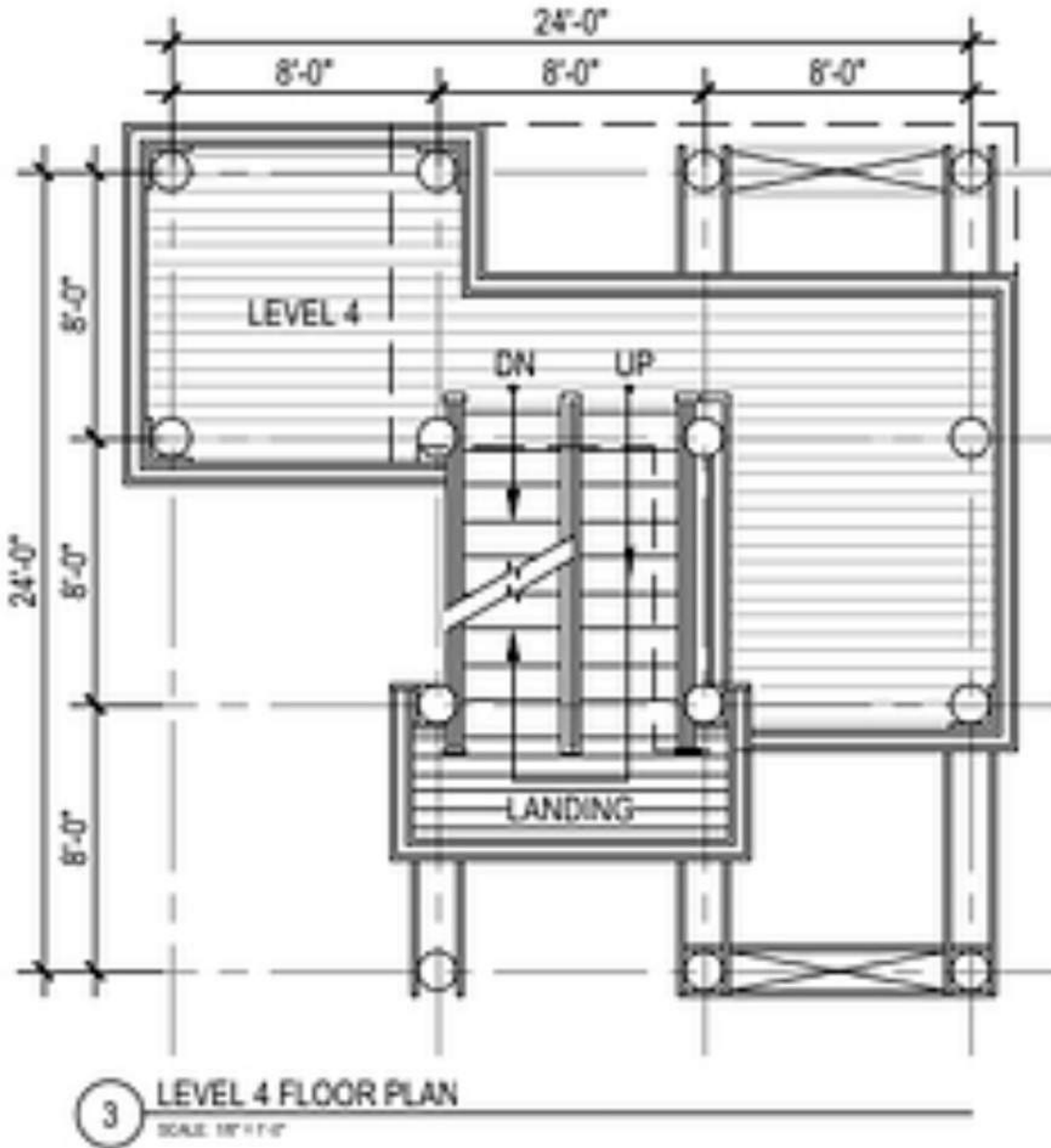
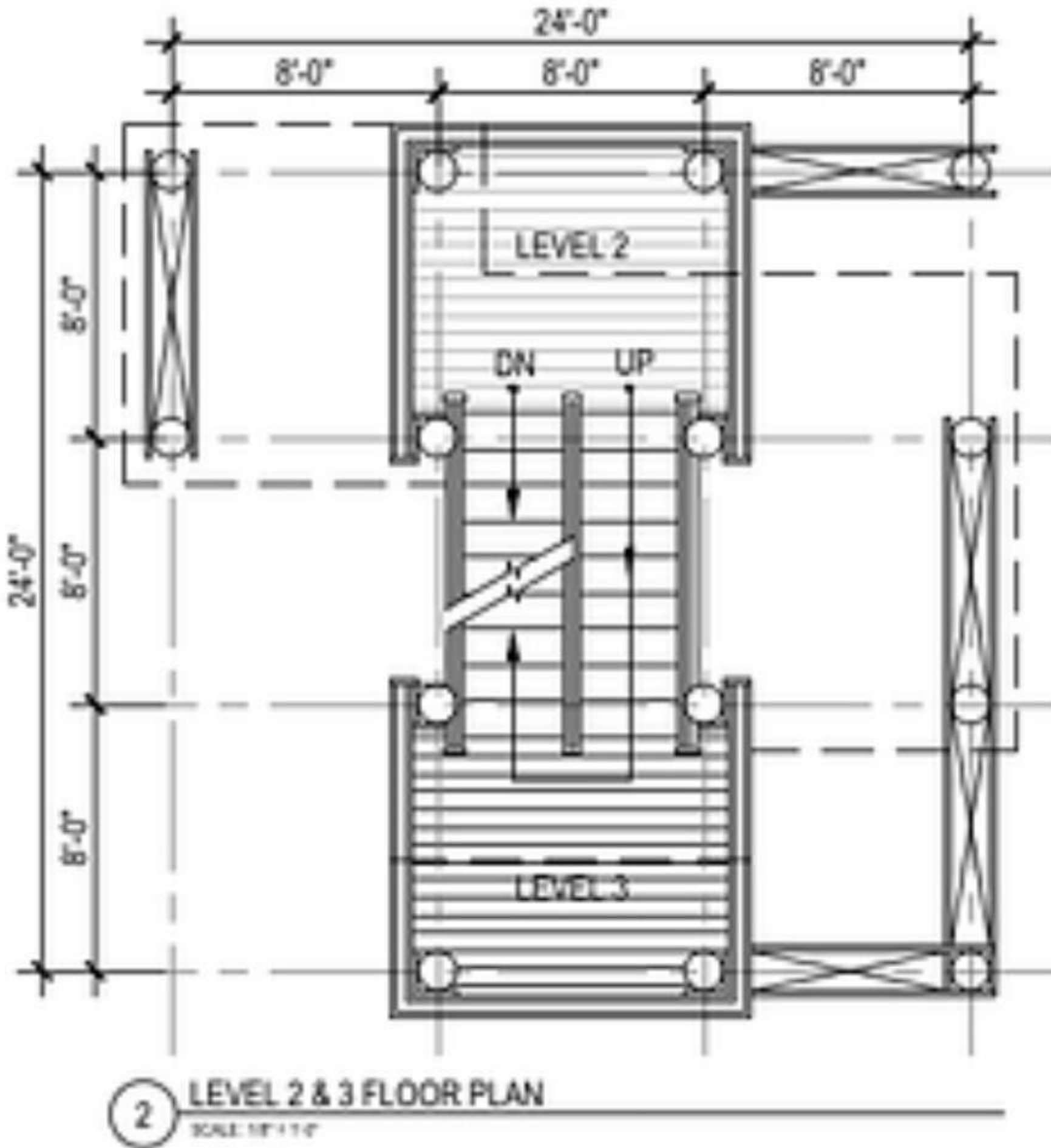
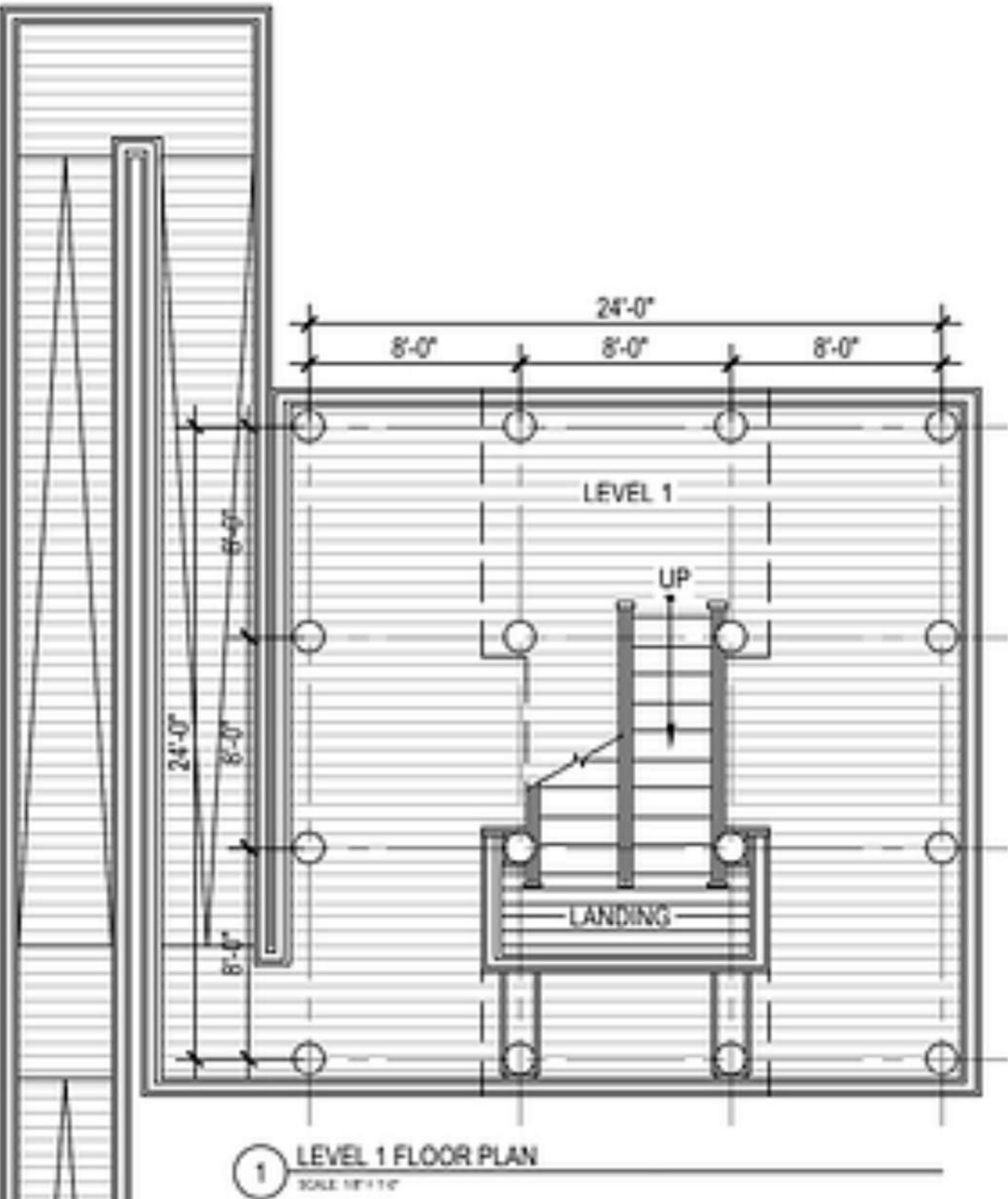


[🔗](#) 60' Eye Level 

TOWER OPTION 1



SCALE: 1/16" = 1'-0"

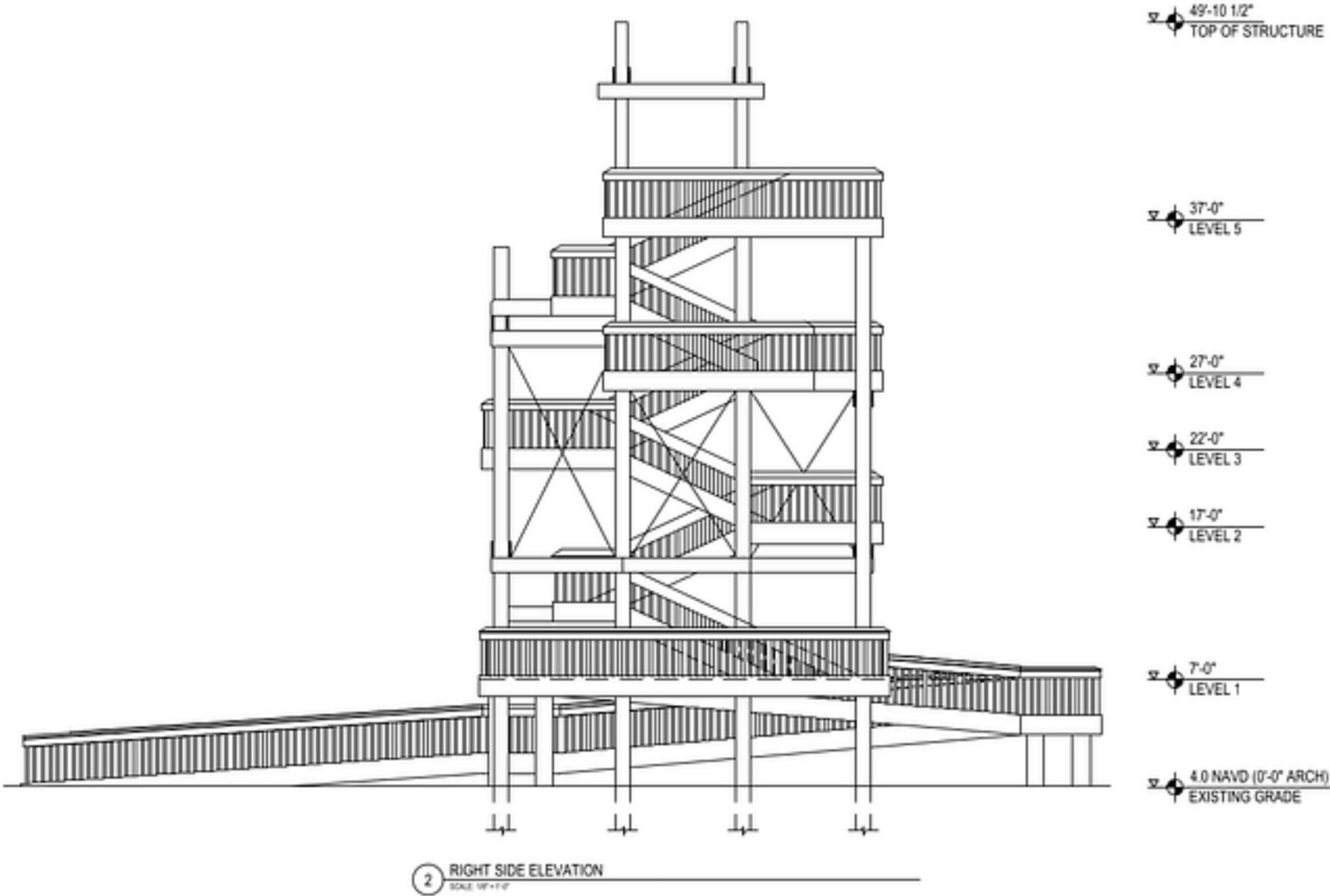
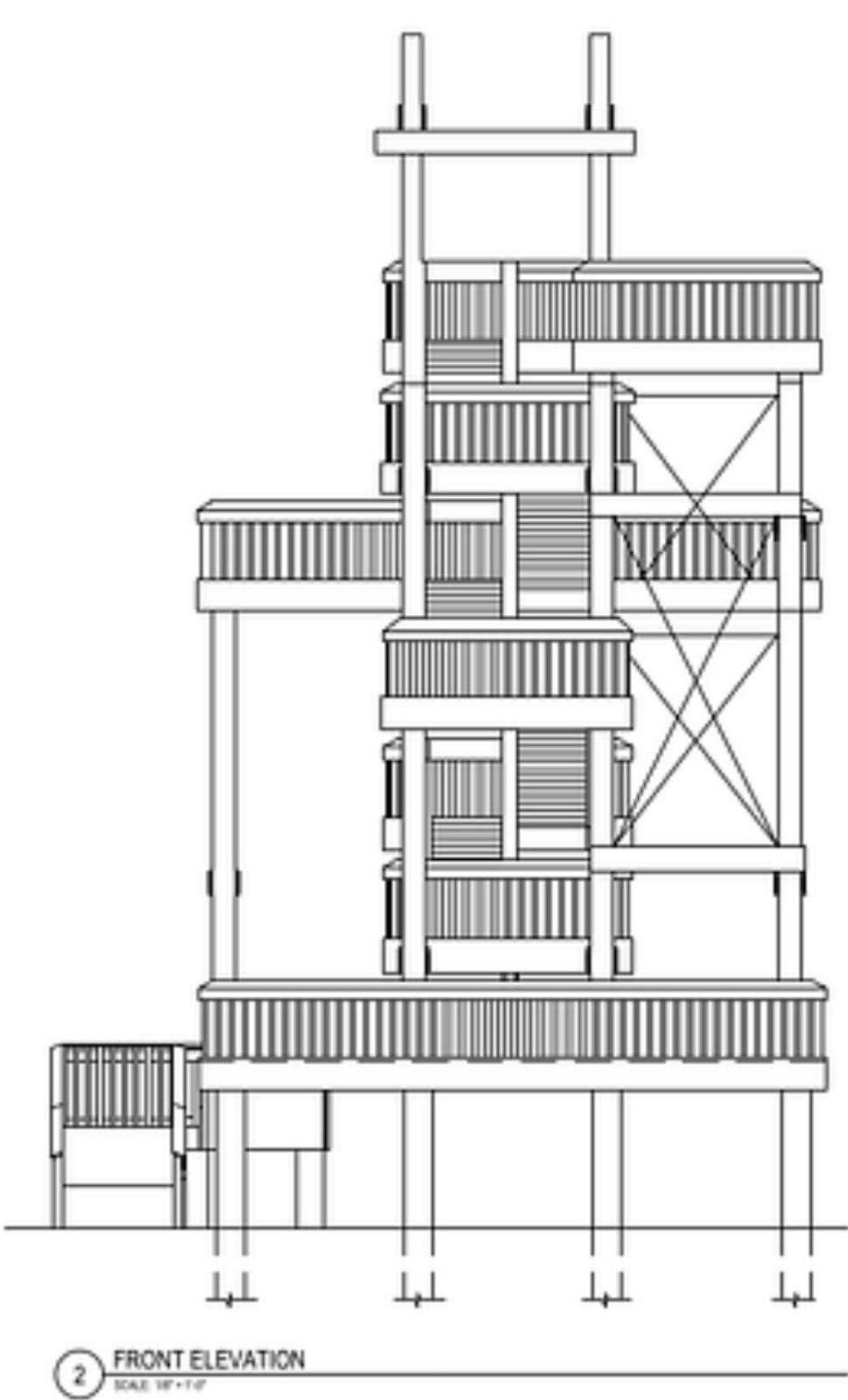


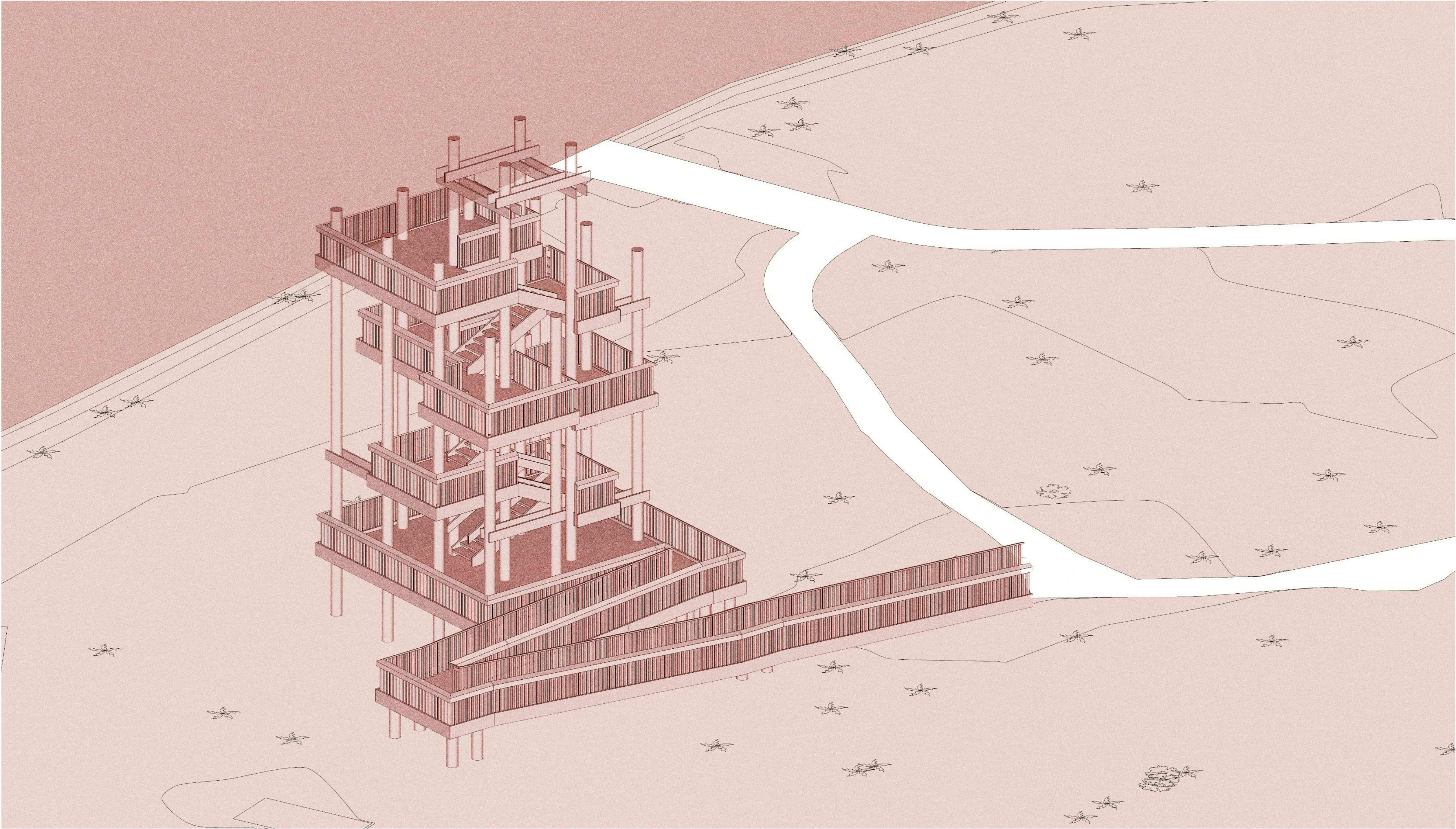
LINDA PEDERSEN PARK OBSERVATION TOWER | OPTION 1A ELEVATIONS

- Pros:

 - The tower is set at a good height with optimal views of the surrounding landscape.
 - Proved to be durable since its construction in 1994.
- Cons:

 - Intermediate lookouts do not provide interesting or new perspectives to the viewer. A more selective placement of lookout areas would prioritize higher-value experiential and material investments, promoting a more efficient and strategic use of construction resources.
 - Tower becomes an easy canvas for graffiti.





TOWER OPTION 2



Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park

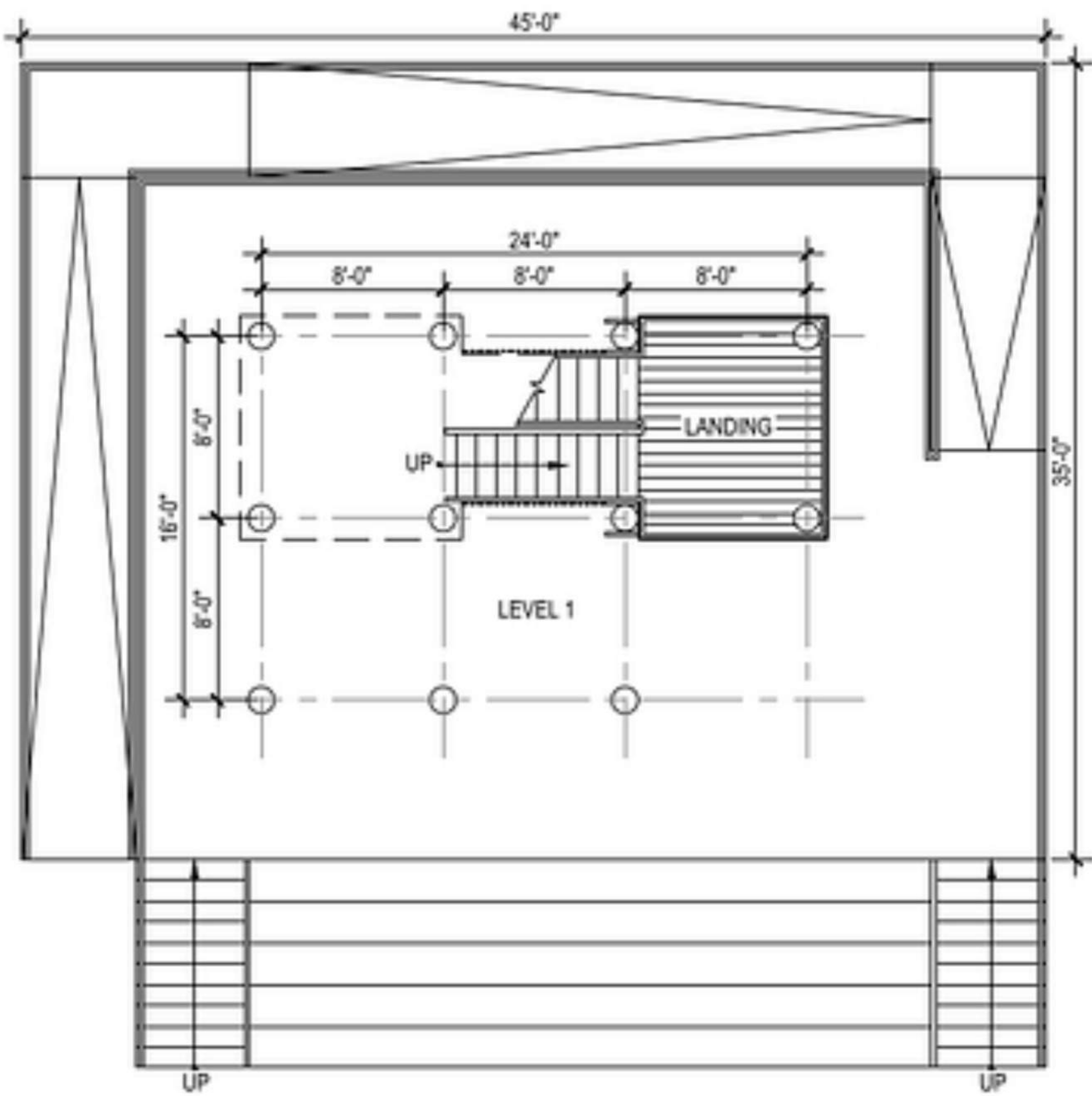


Tampa Electric Manatee Viewing Center

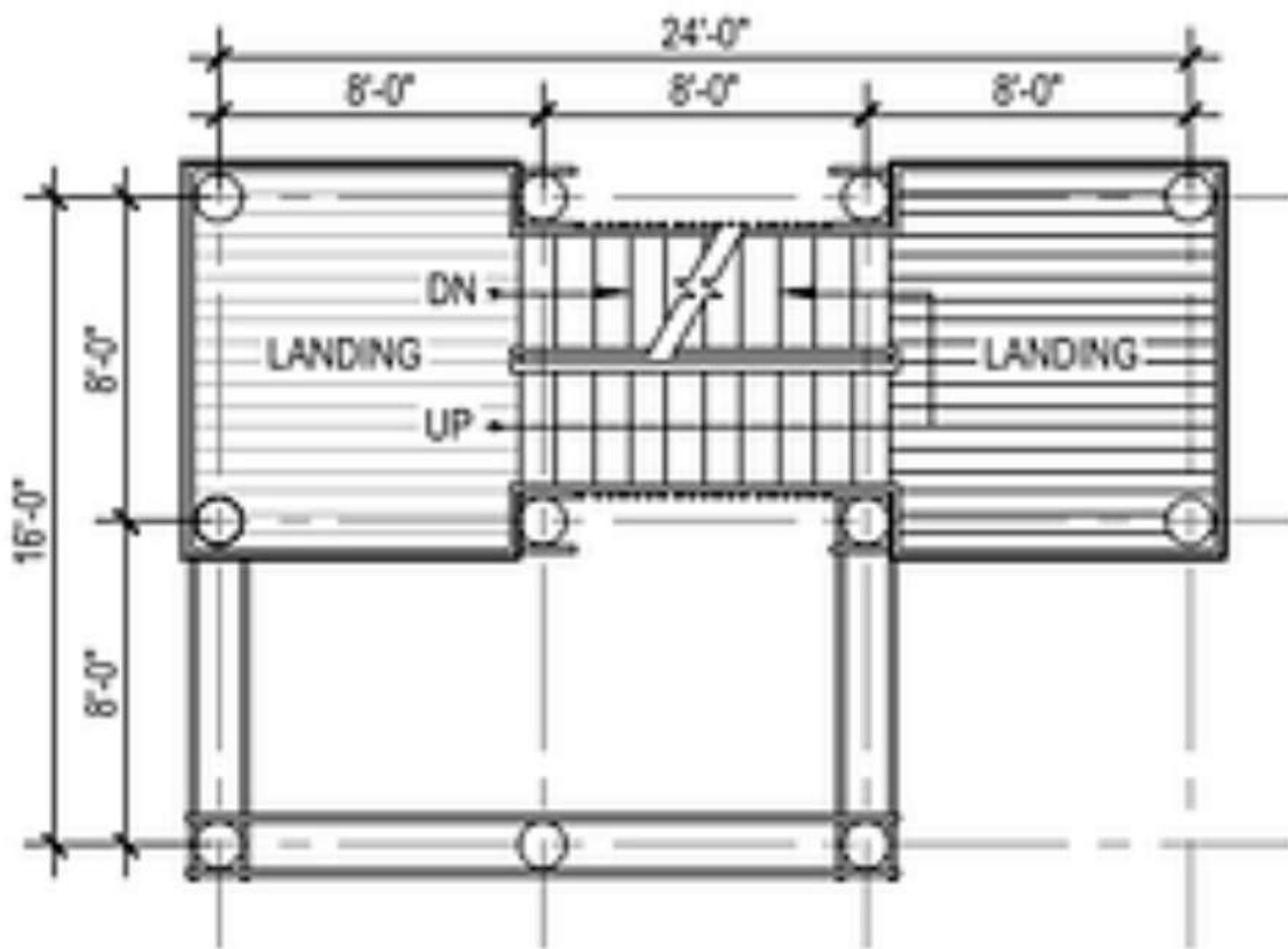


Crews Lake Observation Tower

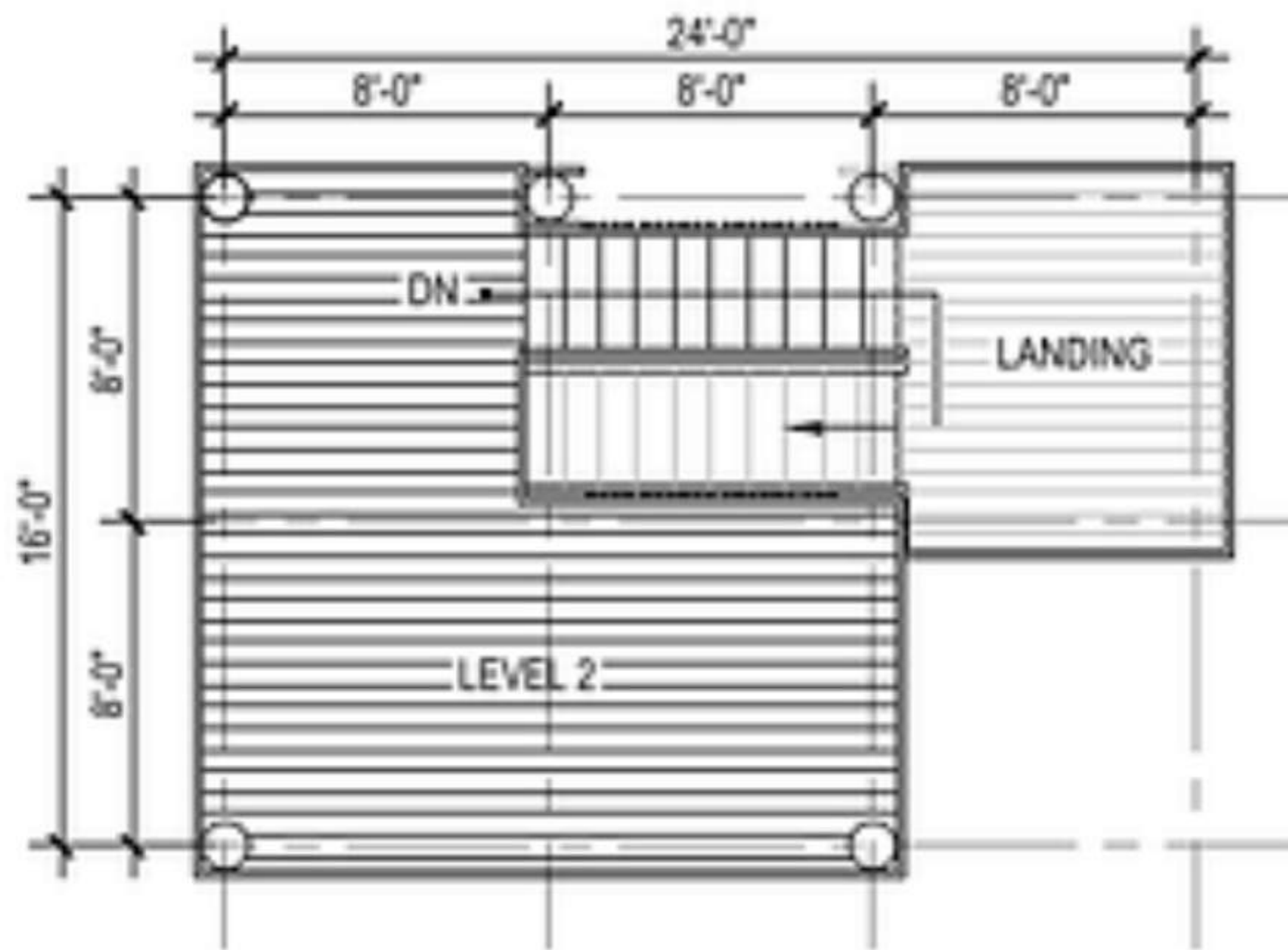




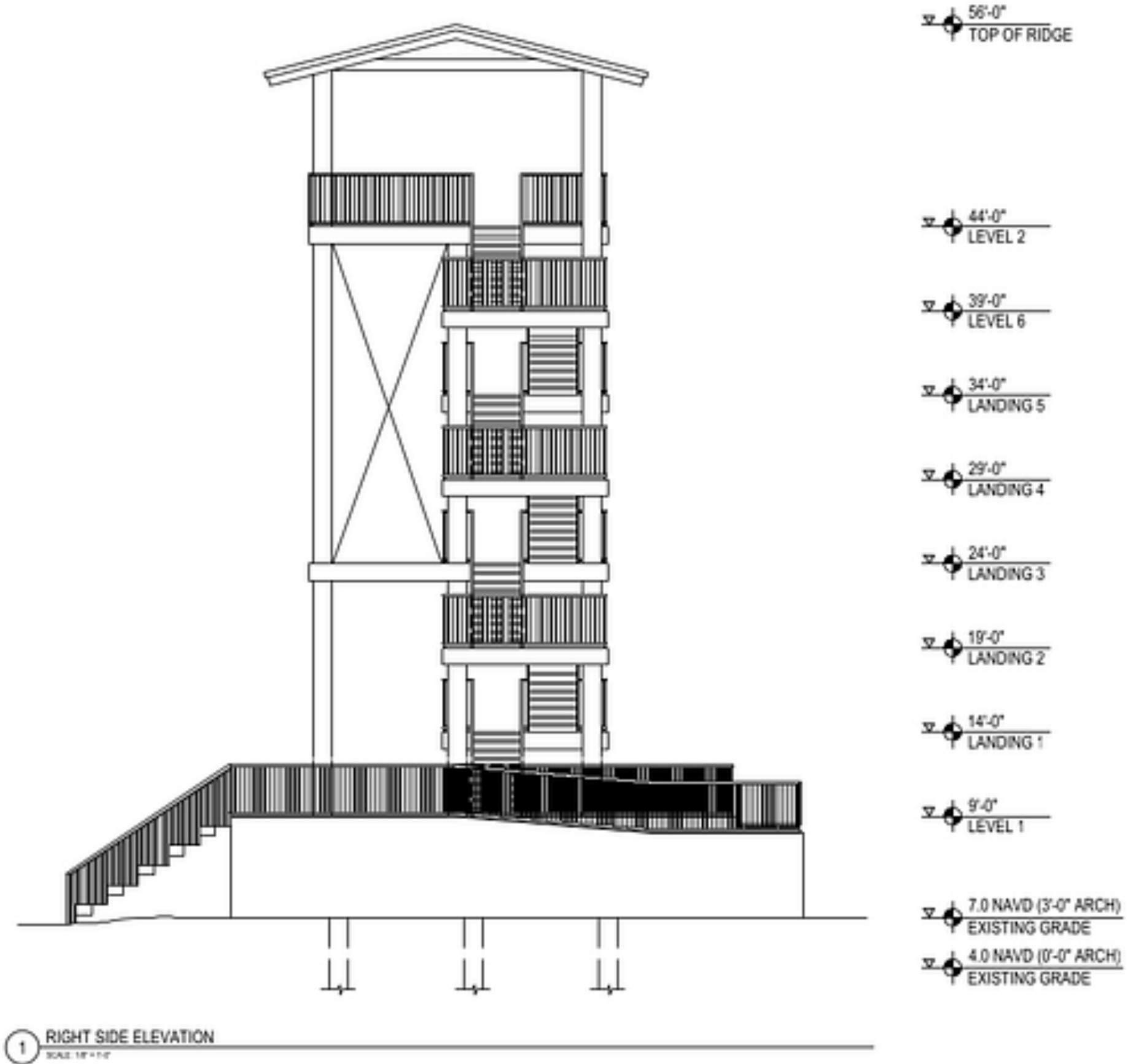
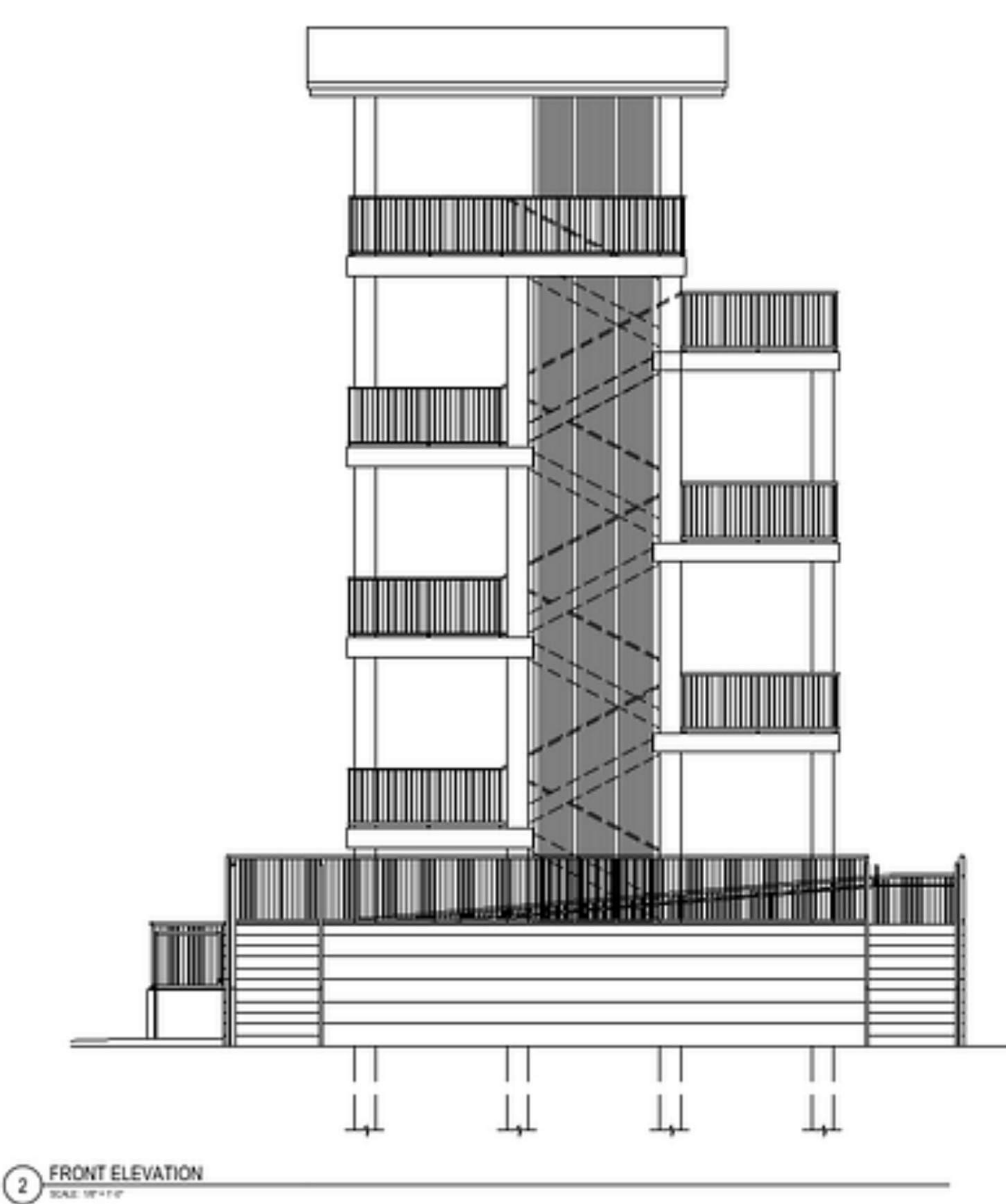
1 LEVEL 1 FLOOR PLAN
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"



2 LANDINGS 1-5 FLOOR PLAN
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

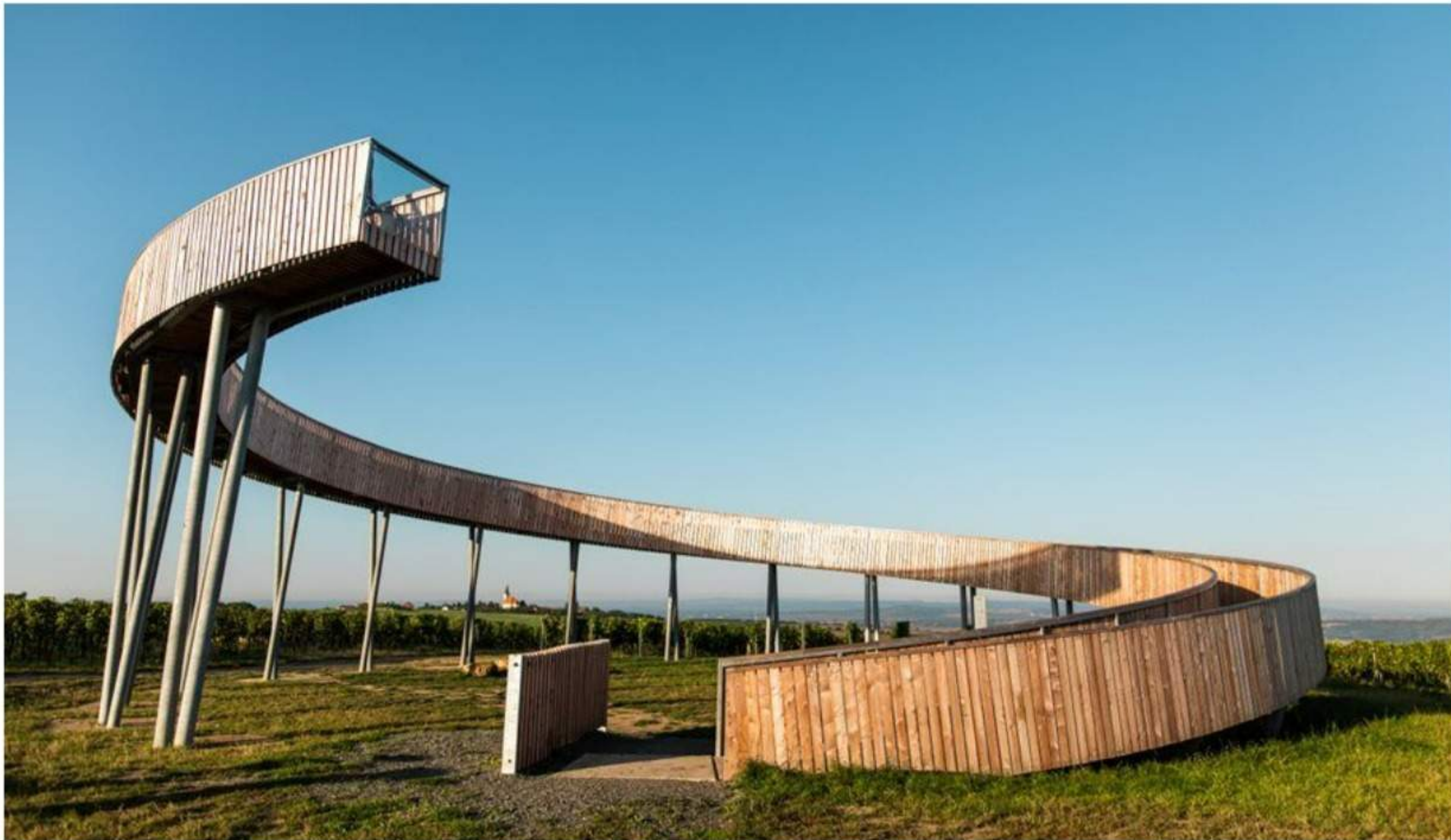


3 LEVEL 2 FLOOR PLAN
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

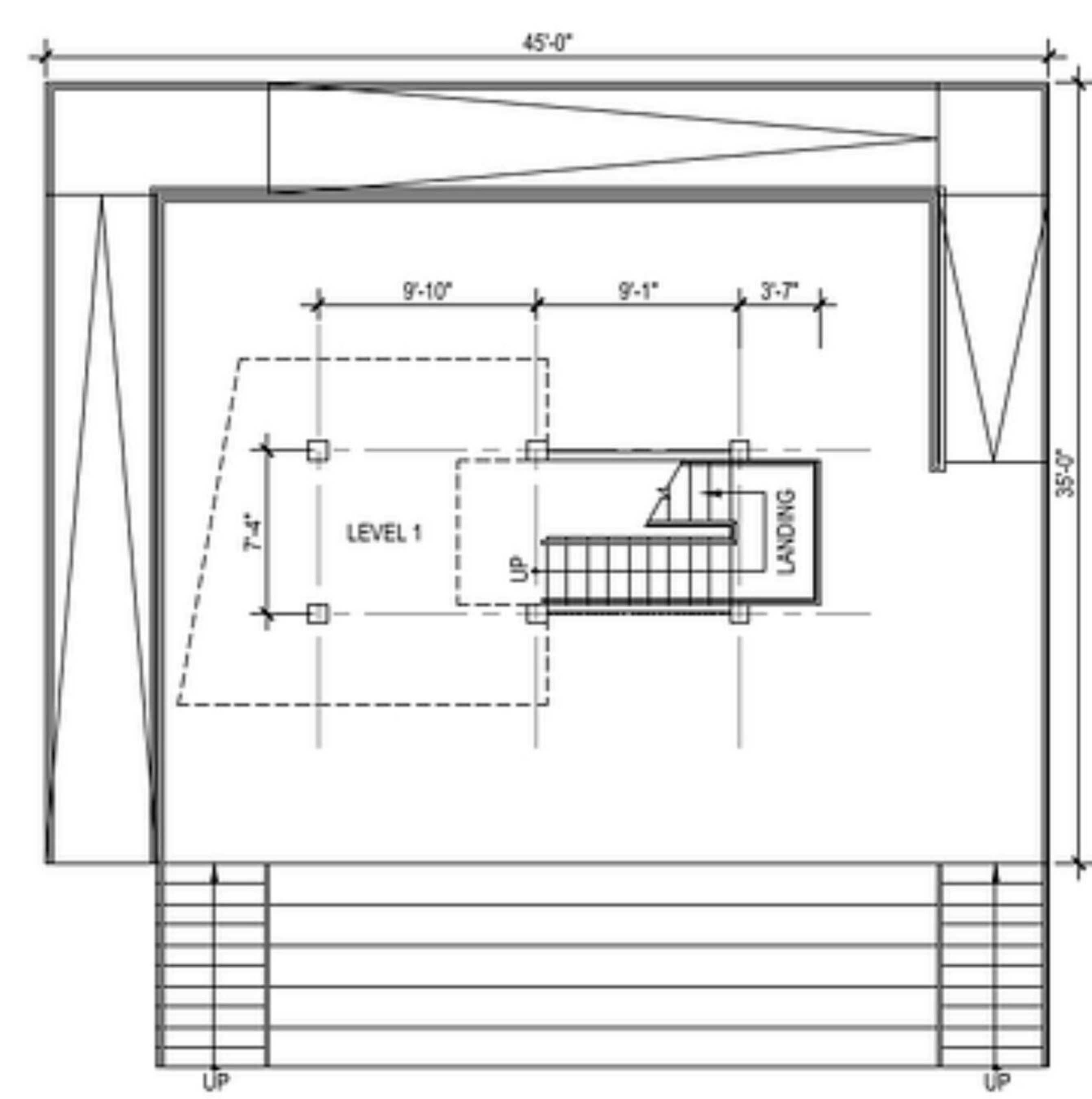




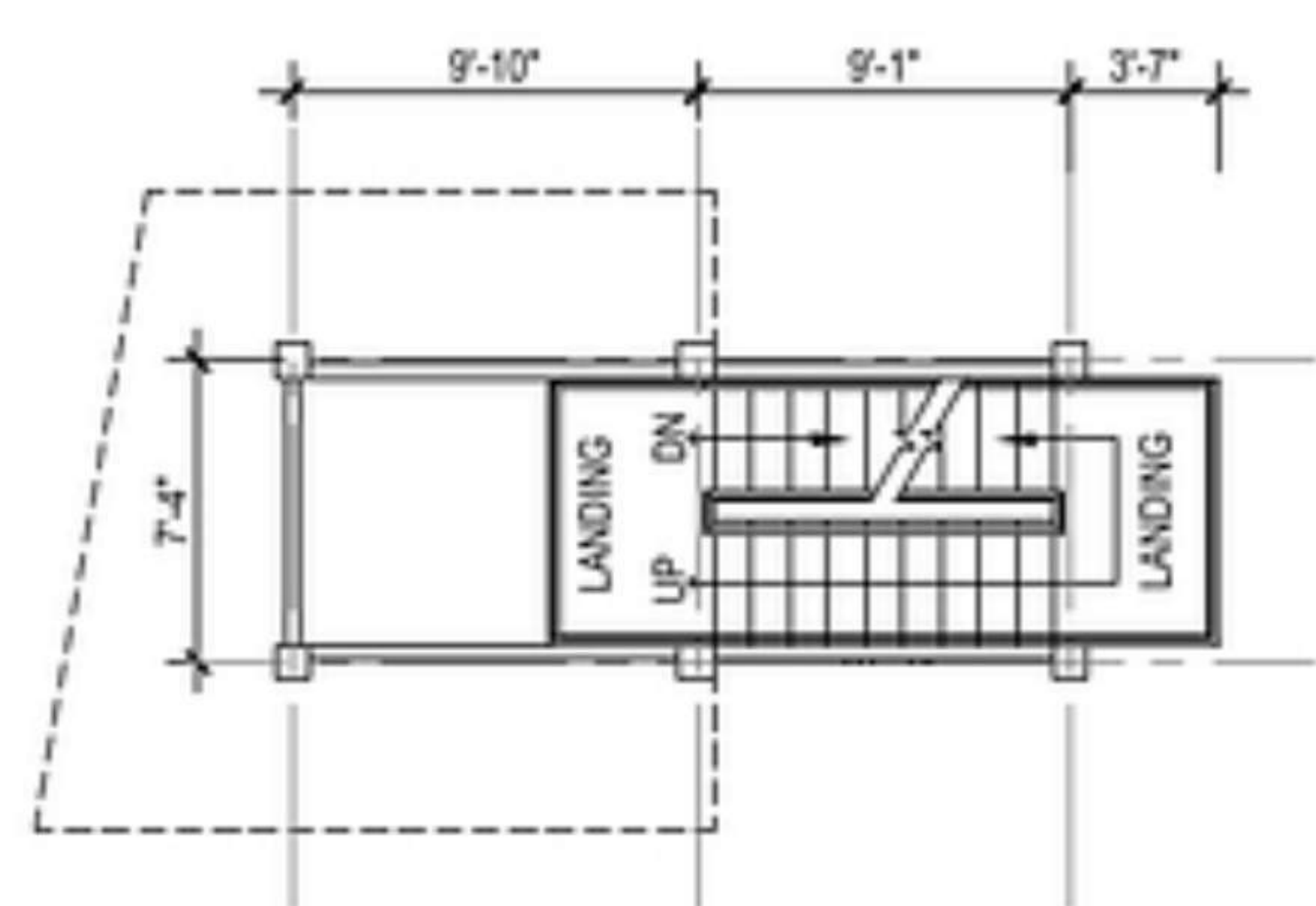
TOWER OPTION 3



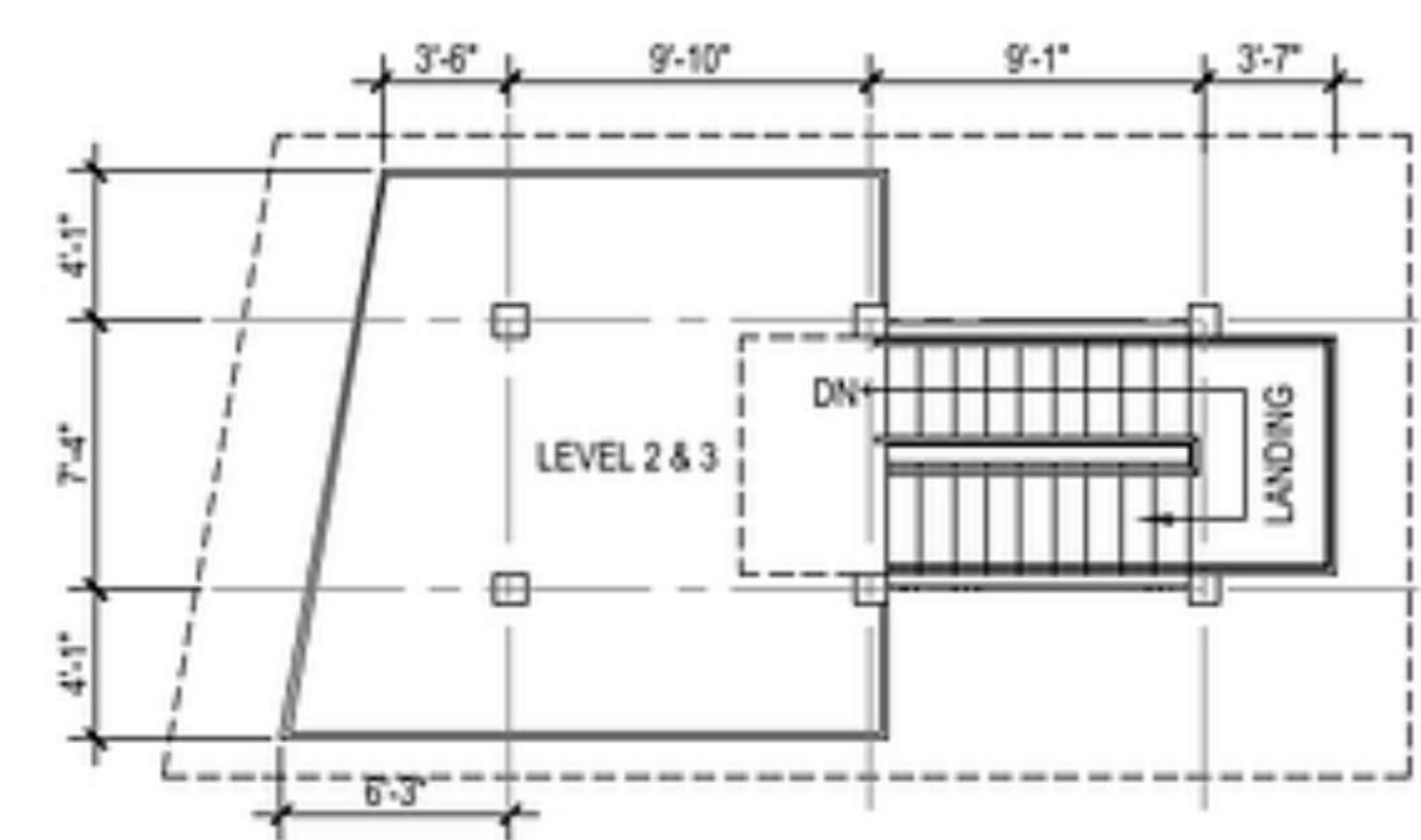




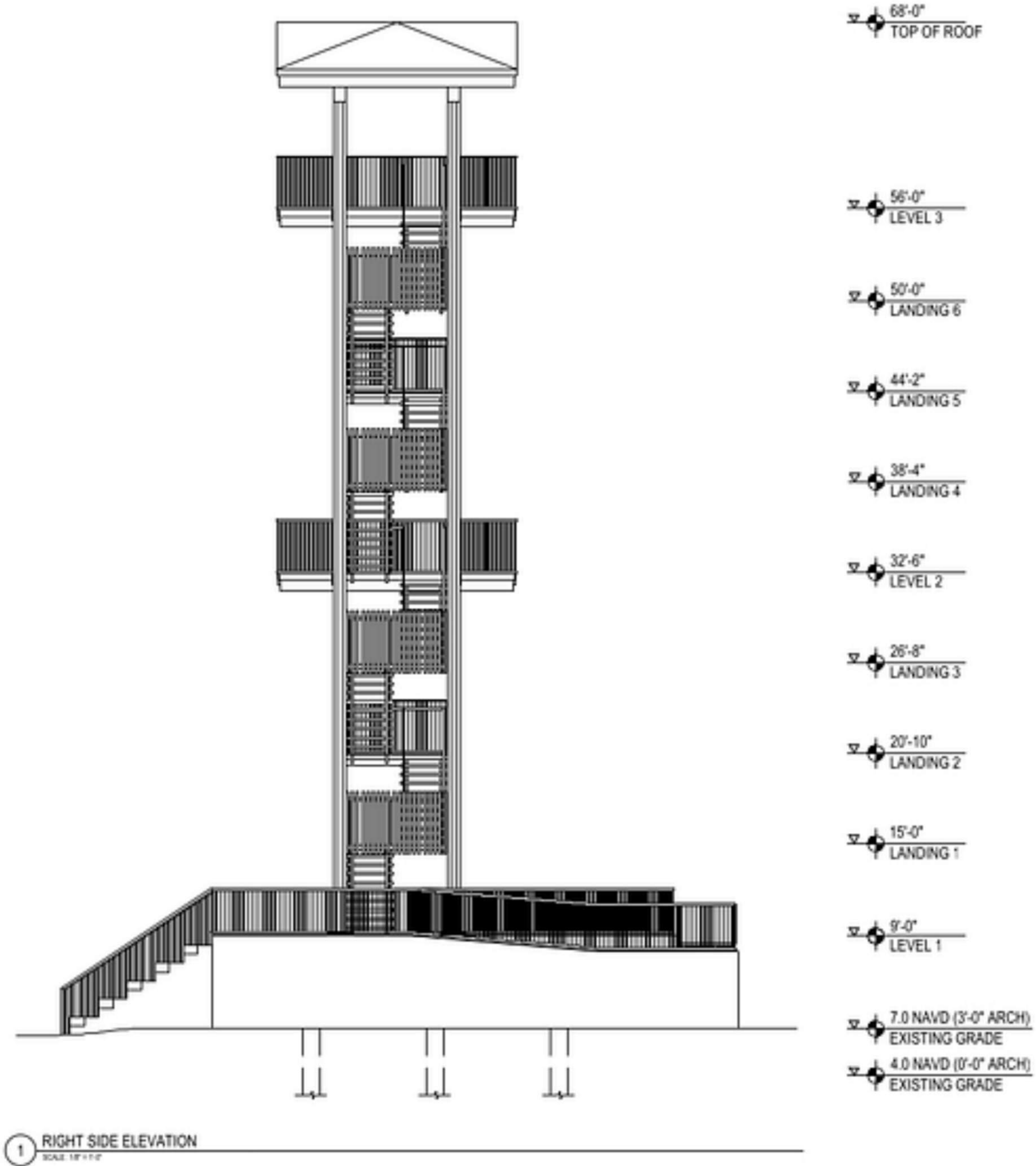
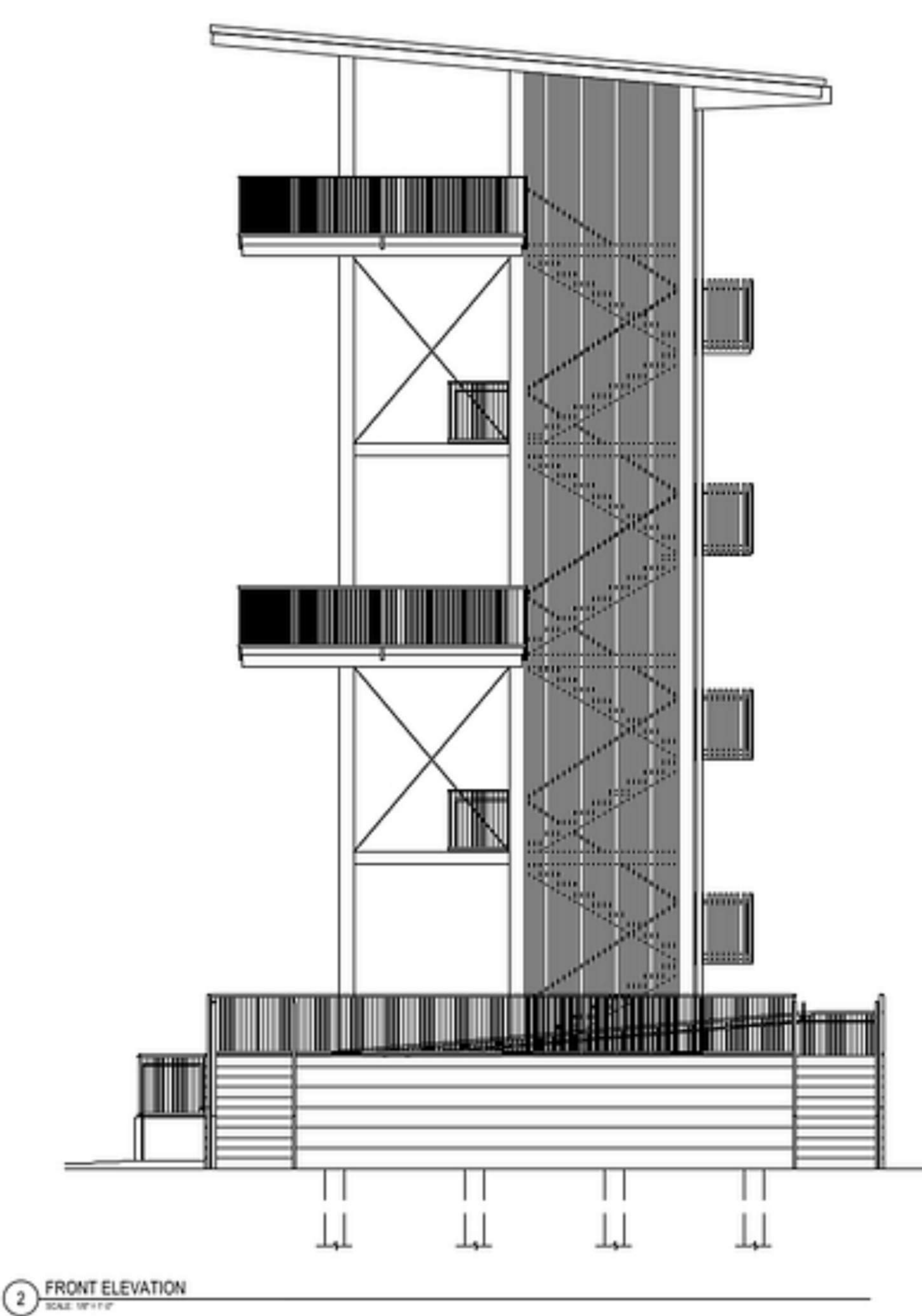
1 LEVEL 1 FLOOR PLAN
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

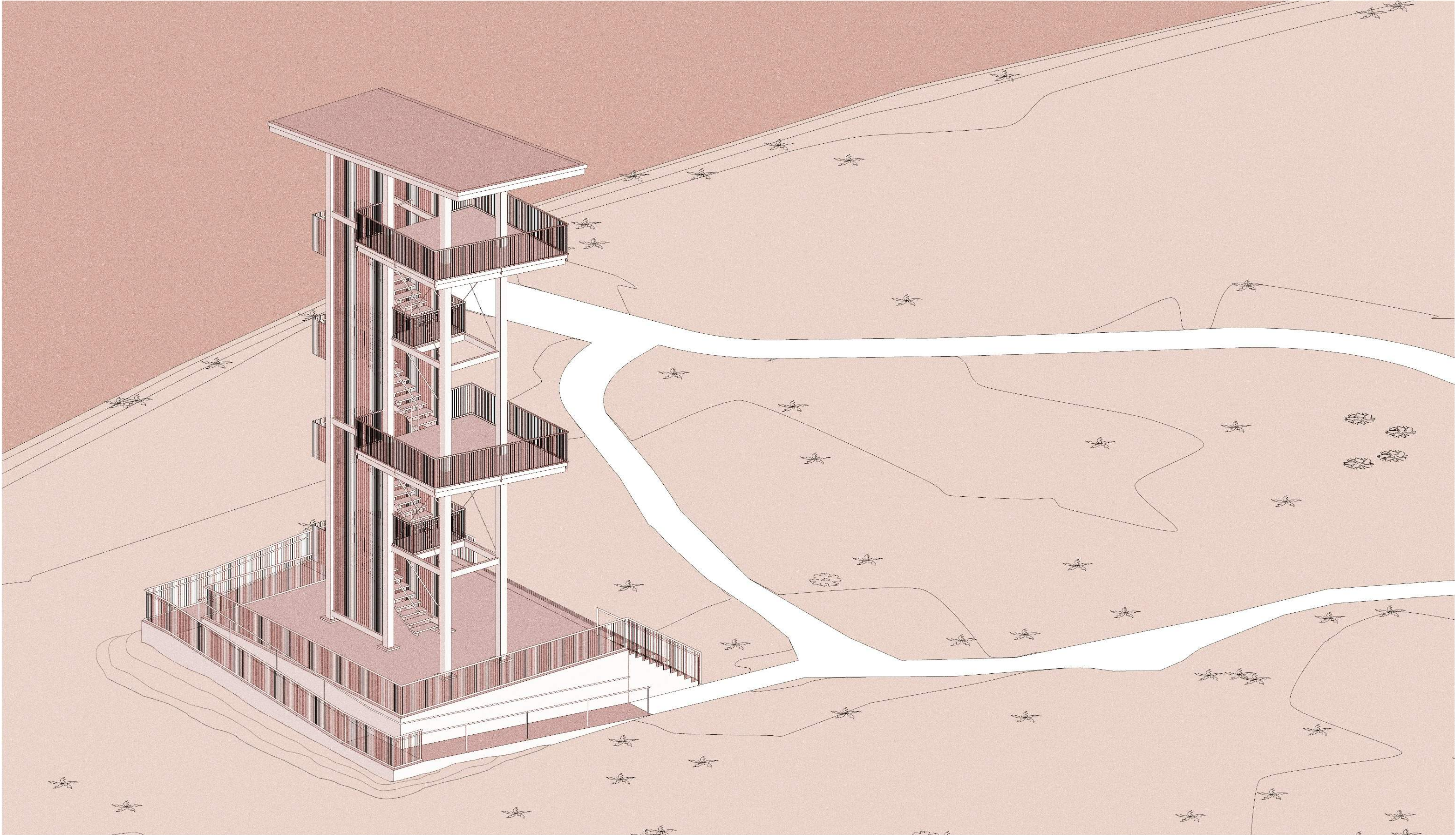


2 LANDINGS 1-5 FLOOR PLAN
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"



3 LEVEL 2 FLOOR PLAN
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"



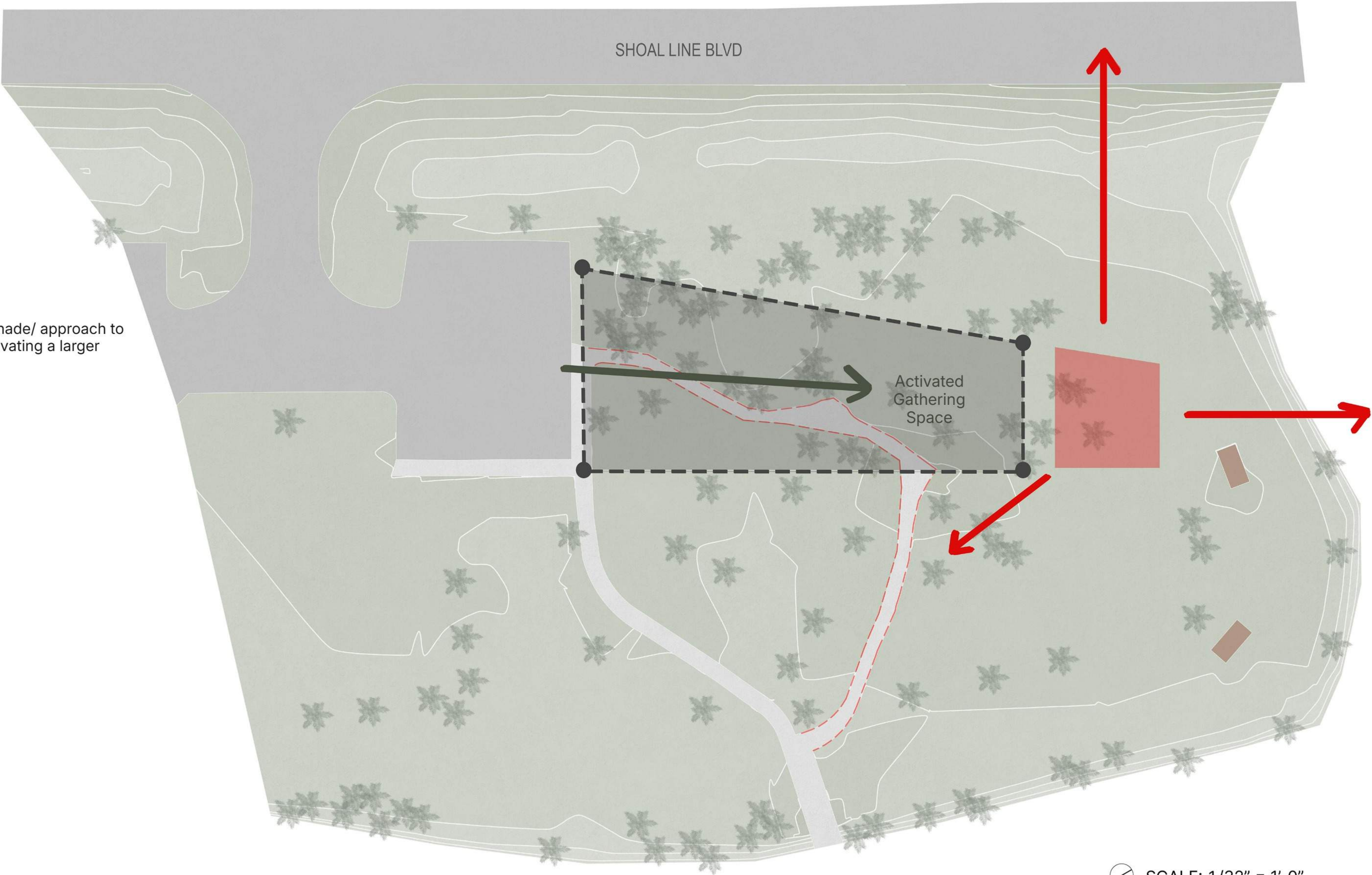


INTEGRATING THE PARK

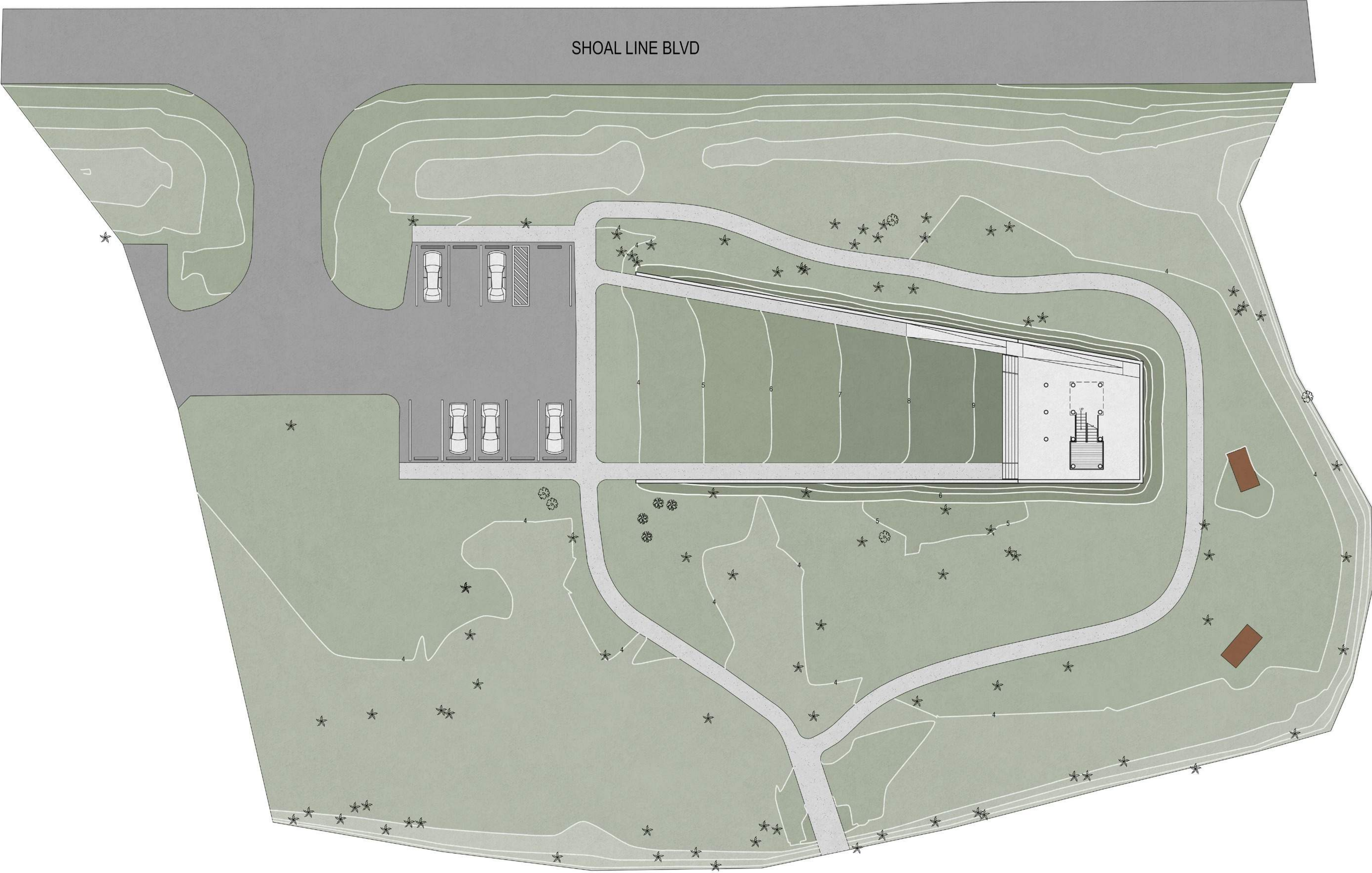
The observation tower creates an opportunity to reimagine the surrounding park as a flexible community destination, supporting recreation, events, and year-round programming.

Site Analysis:

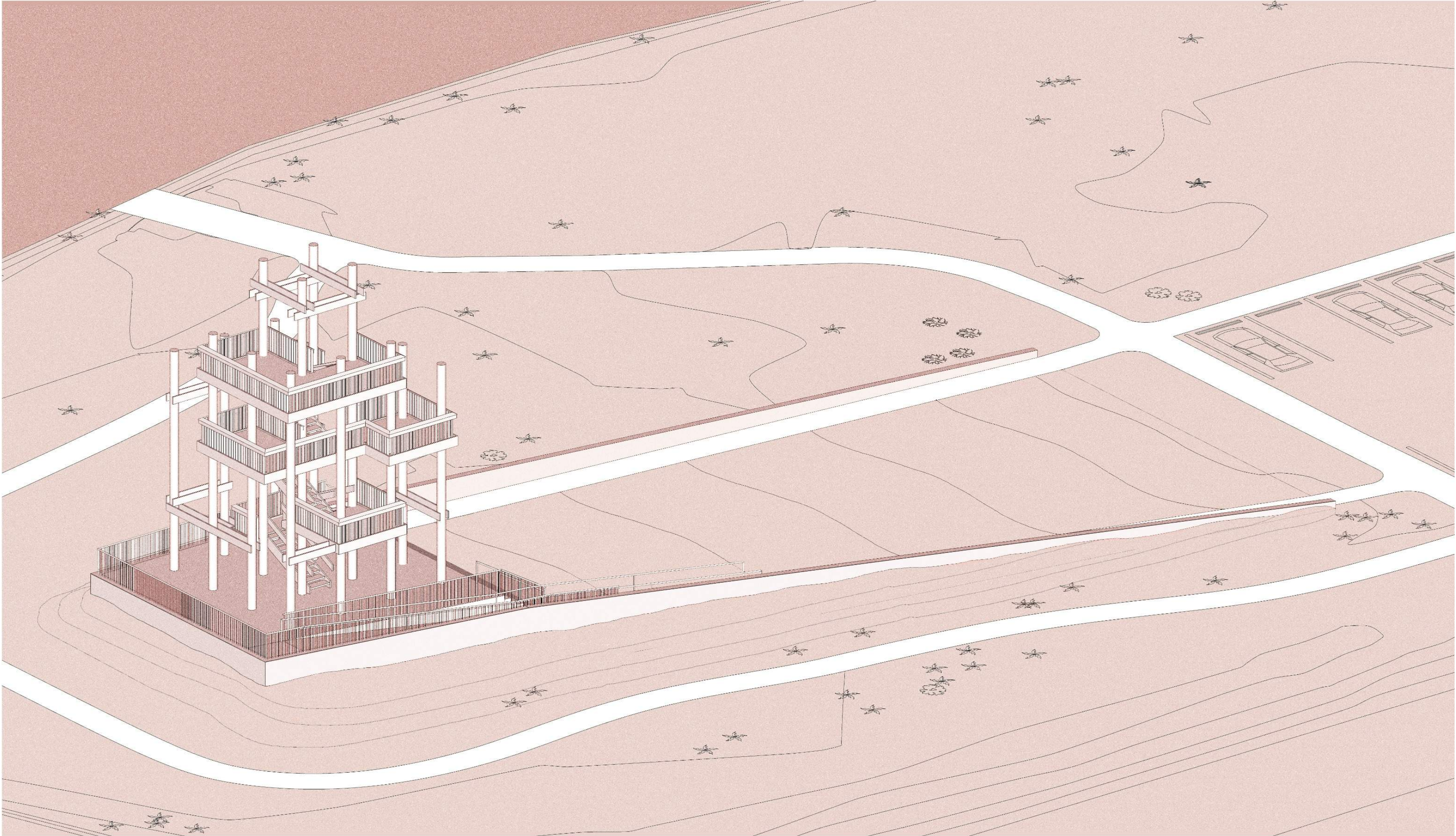
- Creating a promenade/ approach to the tower and activating a larger area of the park.



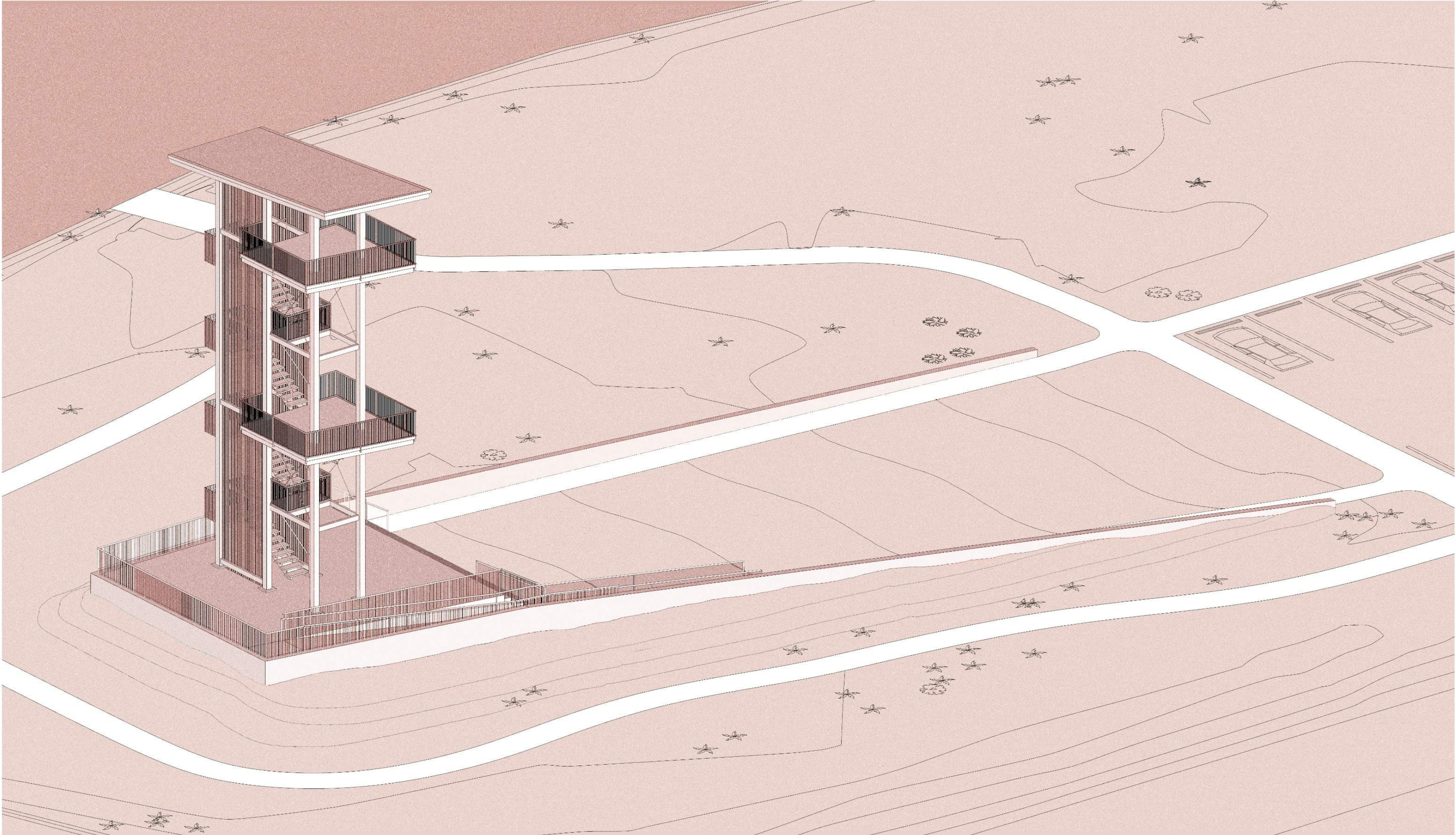
SCALE: 1/32" = 1'-0"



SCALE: 1/32" = 1'-0"







CONCEPT RENDERINGS

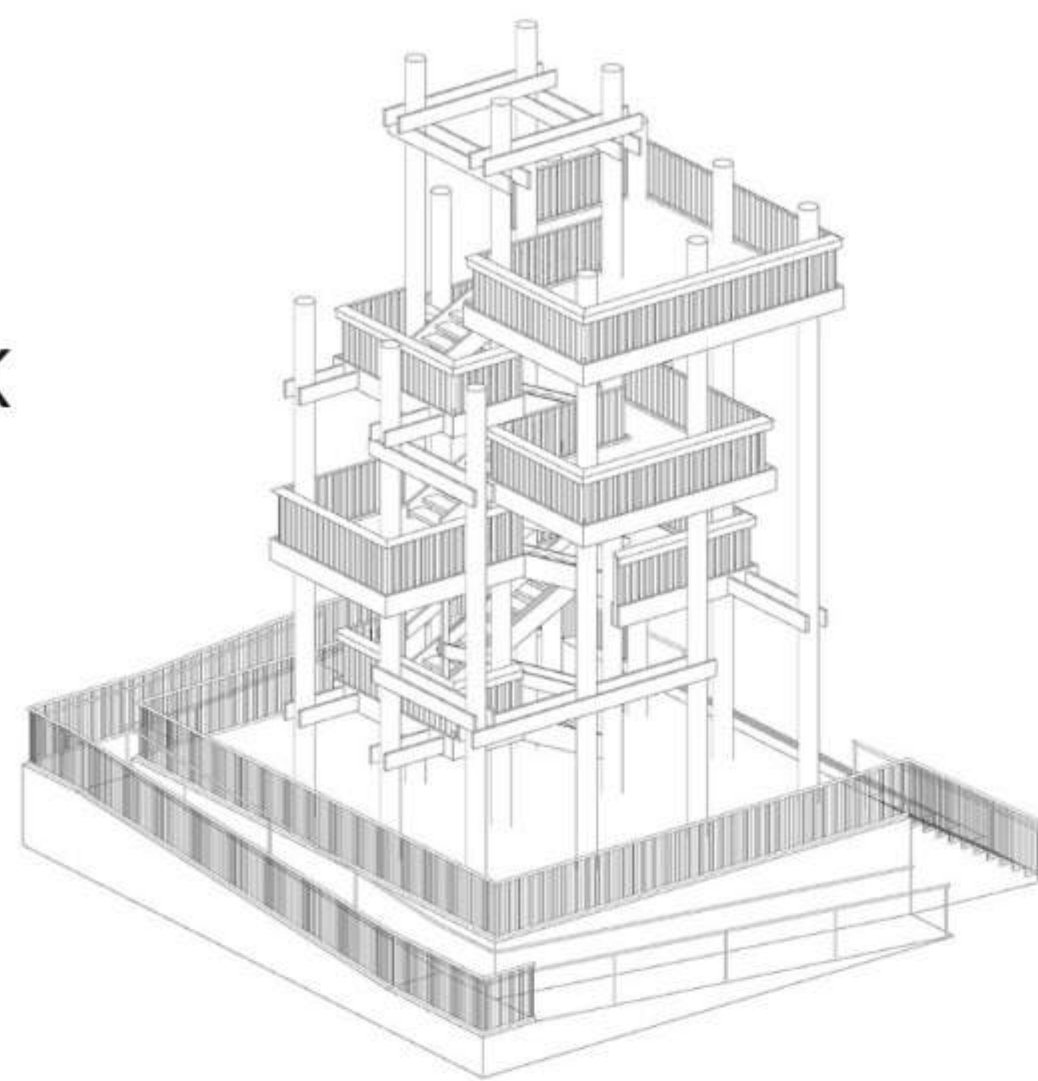






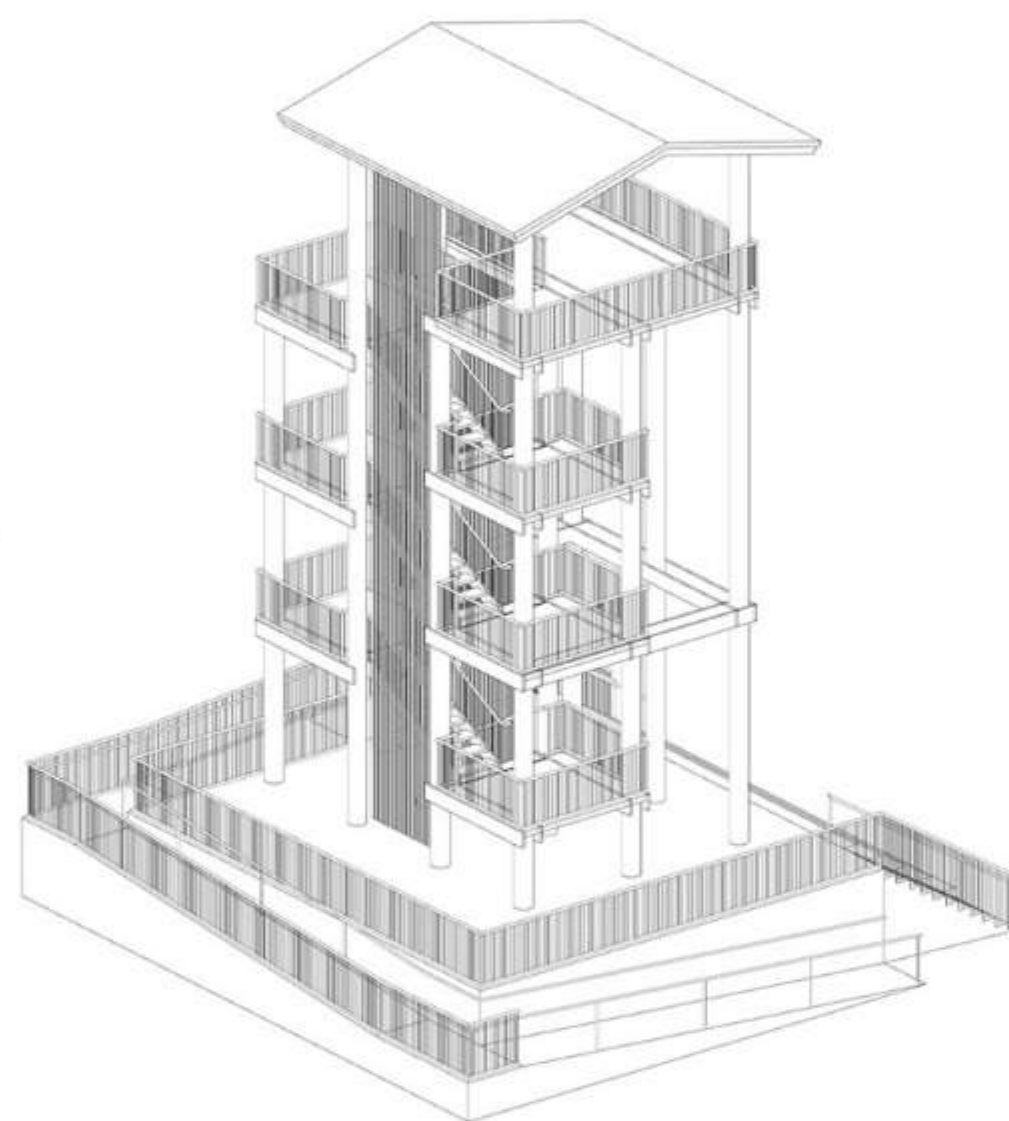
Tower Option 1B

Cost Assumption: \$400K-\$600K



Tower Option 2B

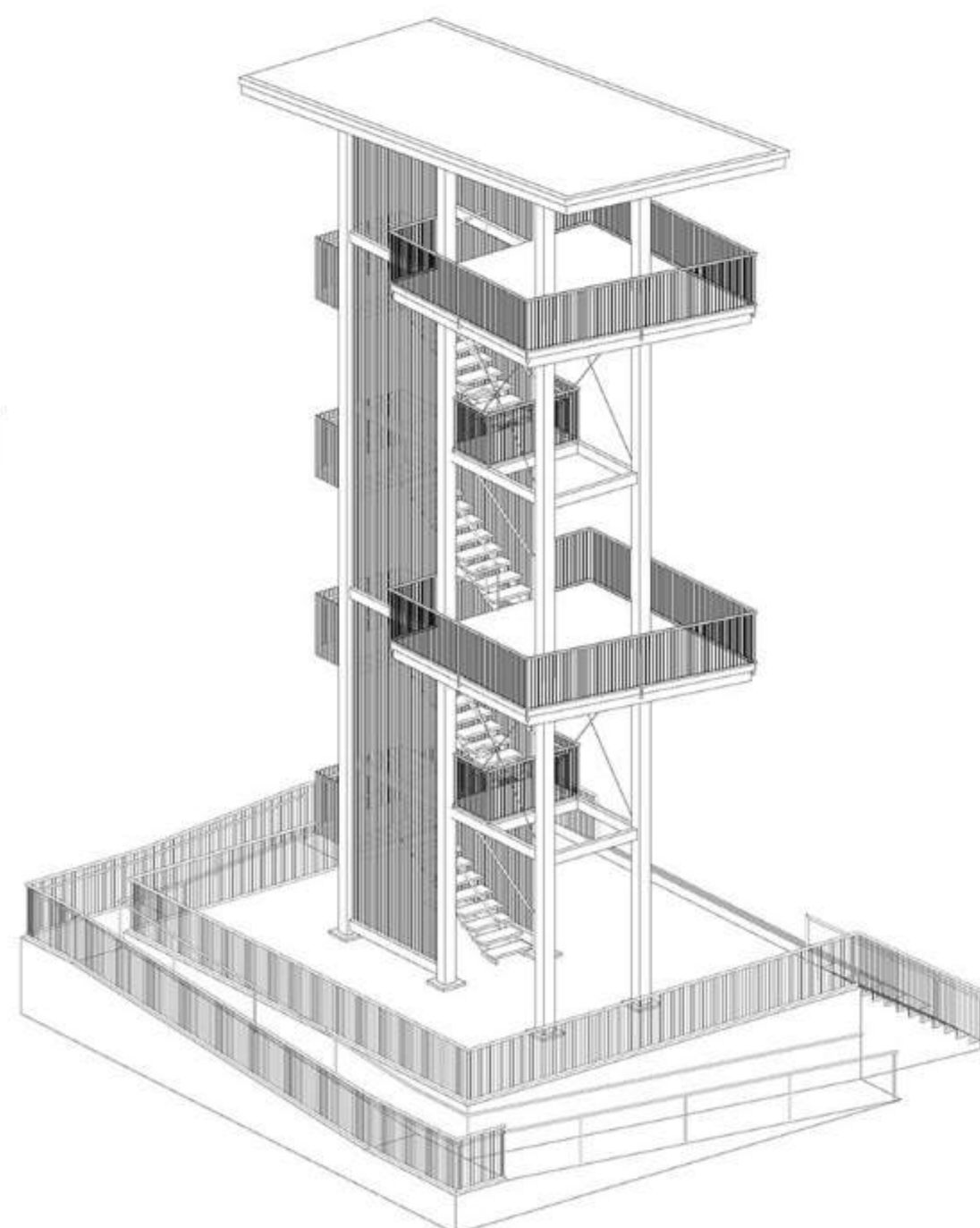
Cost Assumption: \$500K-\$700K



Tower Option 2B

Tower Option 2B

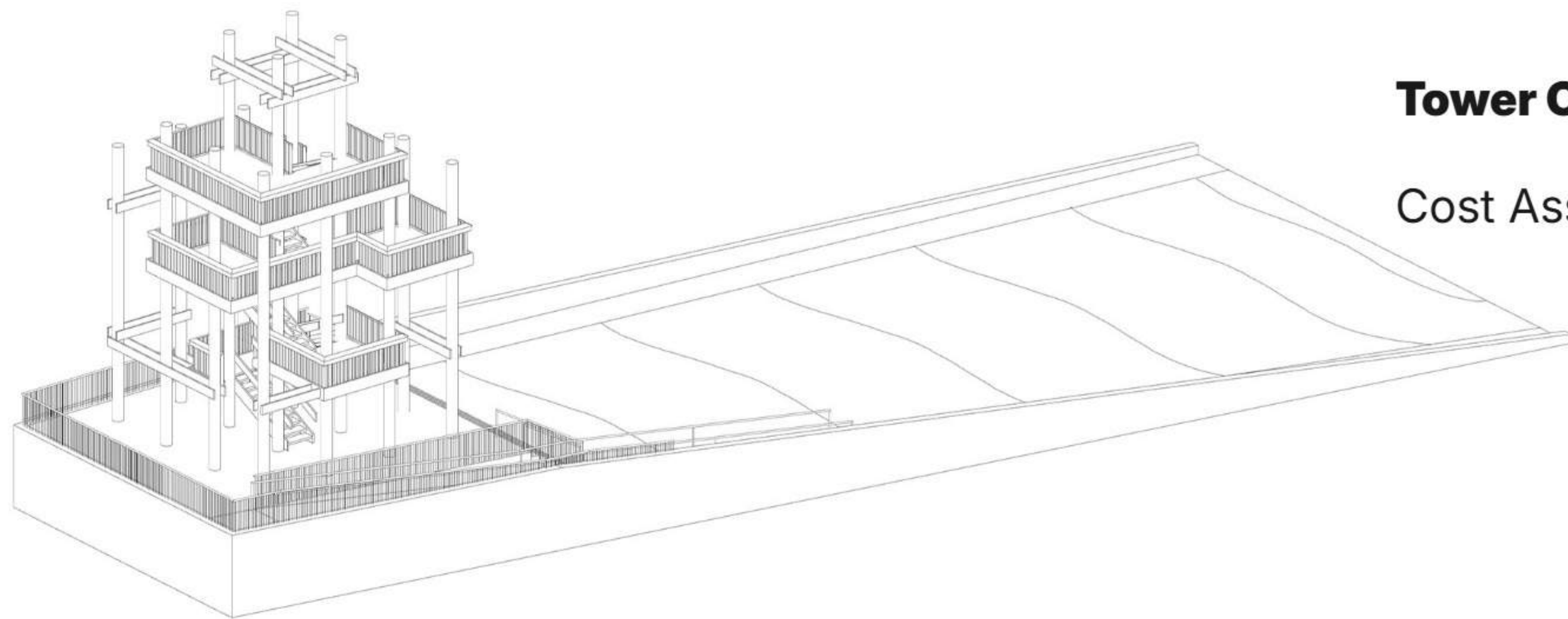
Cost Assumption: \$800K-\$1M



Tower Option 3B

Tower Option 1C

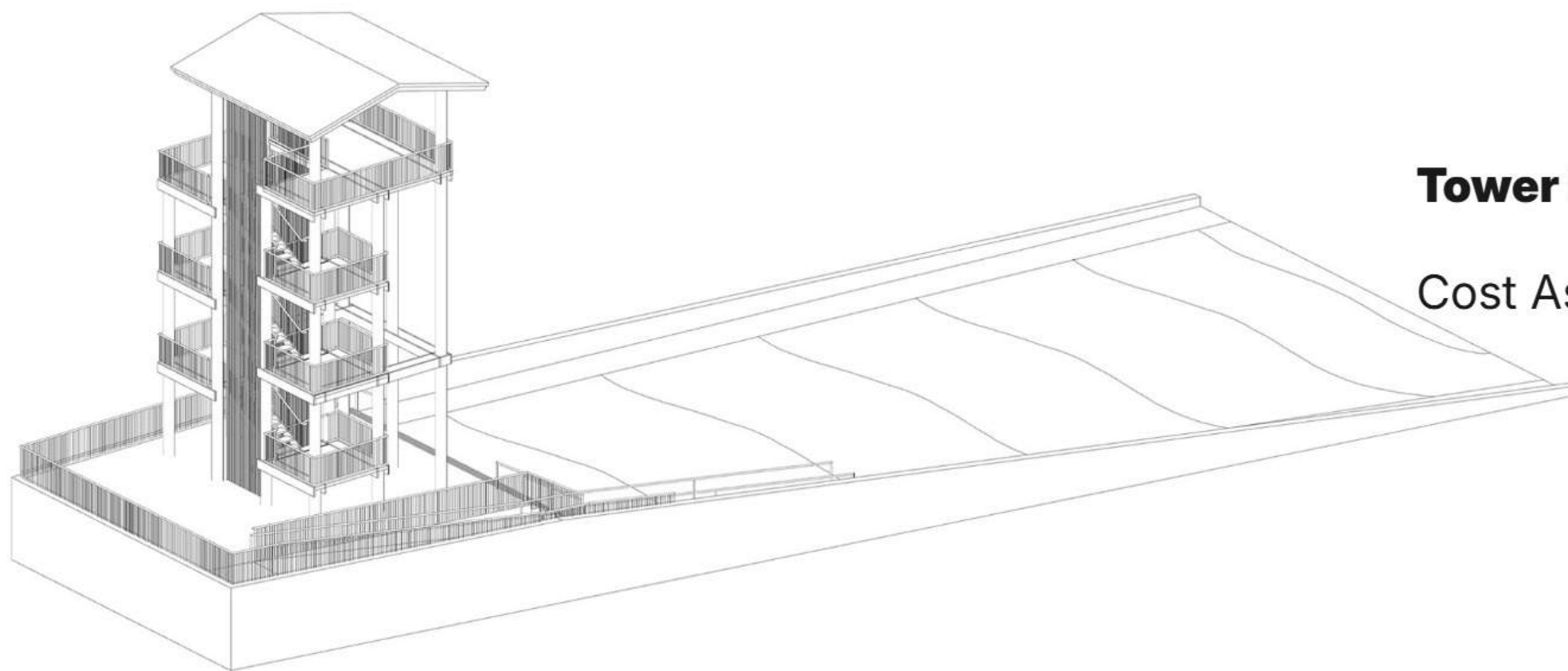
Cost Assumption: \$1.5M-\$1.7M



Tower Option 1C

Tower Option 2C

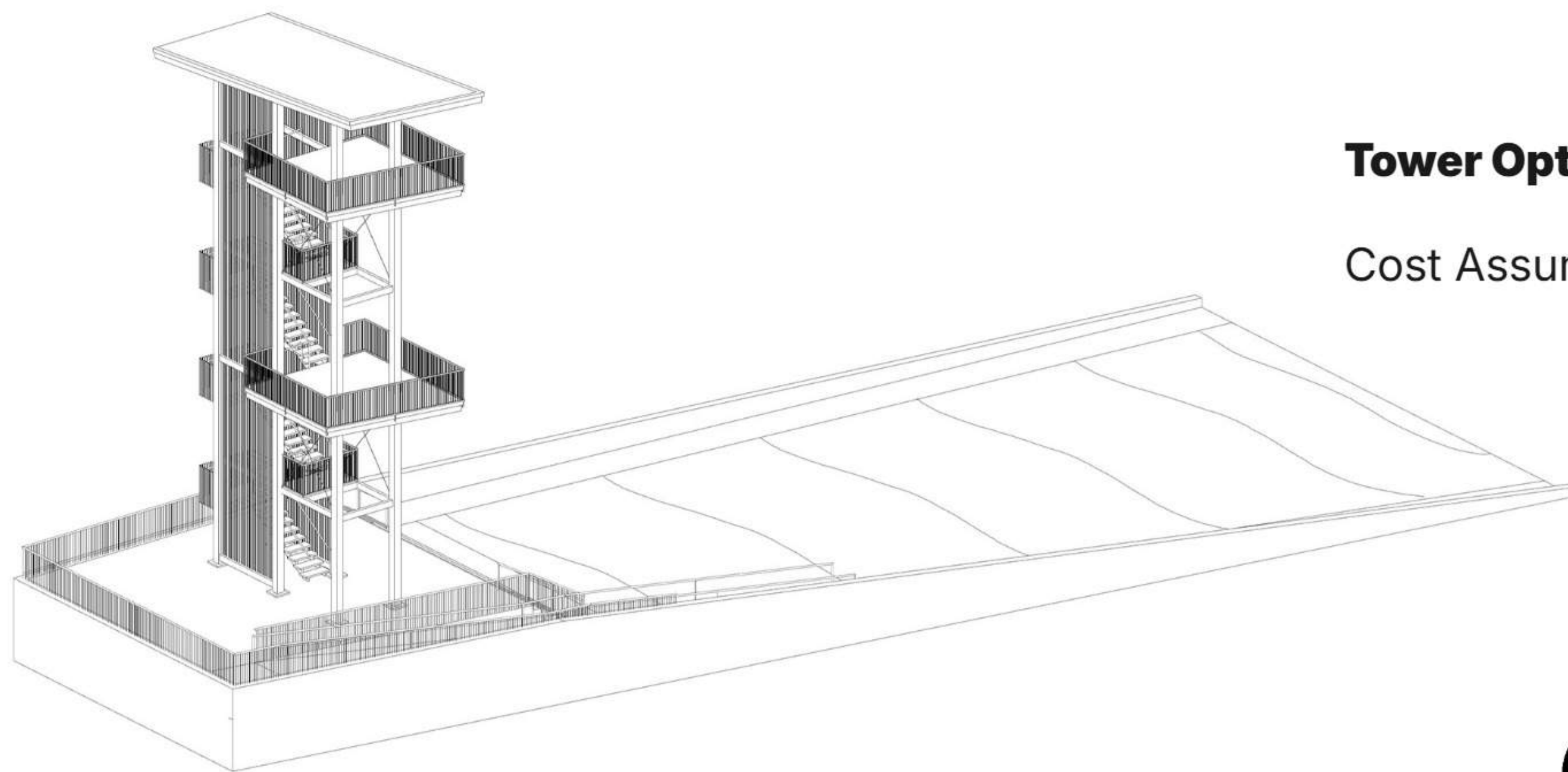
Cost Assumption: \$1.6M-\$1.8M



Tower Option 2C

Tower Option 2C

Cost Assumption: \$1.9M-\$2.2M



Tower Option 3C

MORE THAN AN OBSERVATION TOWER









From Observation Tower to Community Destination



Long-Term Community Investment

A lasting investment that will serve residents, visitors, and future generations for years to come.

Flexible Community Programming

A flexible event lawn designed to support farmers markets, concerts, fitness classes, festivals, and other community events throughout the year.

Community Destination

The vision is to elevate an already successful park into a signature destination that offers new experiences while preserving everything the community already values.

Economic & Tourism Benefits

Strategic investments increase the park's ability to attract visitors, support local businesses, and create recurring programming.