POWER + PLANT

TRANSFORMATION | REIMAGENATION | MEANINGFUL SHIFT

This project is focused on the adaptive re-imagining of the Ijora Power Station, a once-vital symbol of energy for Lagos and its surrounding regions. Commissioned by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on February 10, 1956, the oil-burning power station became a prominent feature of the Lagos landscape, but over time it has fallen into disuse, representing both the past glory of industrial power and the environmental challenges posed by greenhouse gas emissions. Located in the Ebute Metta Ward of Lagos Mainland, the power station now presents a unique opportunity to address both environmental and social issues, particularly through adaptive reuse that acknowledges its historical significance while reimagining its future role in the city.

Informed by the idea of linguistic anagrams—restructuring elements to form something new and meaningful—the design concept aims to transform the building's form and function, challenging the past and setting the stage for a sustainable and positive future. Drawing on Lagos' rich and diverse cultural heritage, we identified three interconnected themes that guided the design approach: Context (Environment), Tradition (Culture), and Modern Urban Vernacular (Adaptive Re-use). These themes reflect the city's vibrant culture and its evolving urban landscape, offering a framework for creating a building that resonates with both the local community and its contemporary needs.

To integrate the fine grain of Lagos' informal arts and its dynamic urban environment, the design envisions a large-scale yet responsive building that fosters vibrant, liveable conditions. Traditional vernacular courtyard buildi ngs inspired the spatial organization, emphasizing natural shade, ventilation, and comfort. By reinterpreting this tradition within the context of a modern urban vernacular, the design seeks to balance scale and intimacy, creating internal sheltered courtyards and distinct functional pods under a unified roof structure.
The existing form of the power station, a rectangular mass, evokes memories of a "memory box," symbolizing how art, culture, and heritage are deeply shaped by lived experiences. Our approach opens the building's interior to foster connections, while its main façades—currently facing away from the city—are reimagined. A new public square on the south façade completes the building's form and creates a welcoming space that draws visitors naturally into the heart of the project.

While respecting the industrial character of the original structure, the design is further enriched by referencing traditional cultural elements. These include the vibrant patterns of Adire textiles, the dynamic energy of festivals and performing arts, and the visual language of dance. By infusing the building with these cultural references, we aim to not only celebrate Lagos' heritage but also create a beacon for a brighter, more sustainable future, where industry and culture coexist harmoniously.



Context Plan

THOUGTH PROCESS | INFLUANCES | FORM GIVING



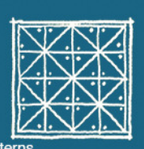
Traditional Yoruba courtyard rectangular square



Modern informal urban vernacular



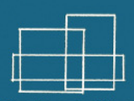
Traditional Adire / Aso Oke/ Ankara Patterns







Shelter; Ventilation; & Natural Light



Traditional + Urban Vernacular informs simplistic & hybrid



Screening / shading device and decorative panels



Repetitive Geometric forms



Dynamic visual aesthetics



Festivals; Celebrations; & Traditional Dancing



Torrential Rains



Harmattan Dust Storms



Context I Lagos Lagoon; rolling hills; and built environment



Rhythm; Movement; & Dynamic Motion



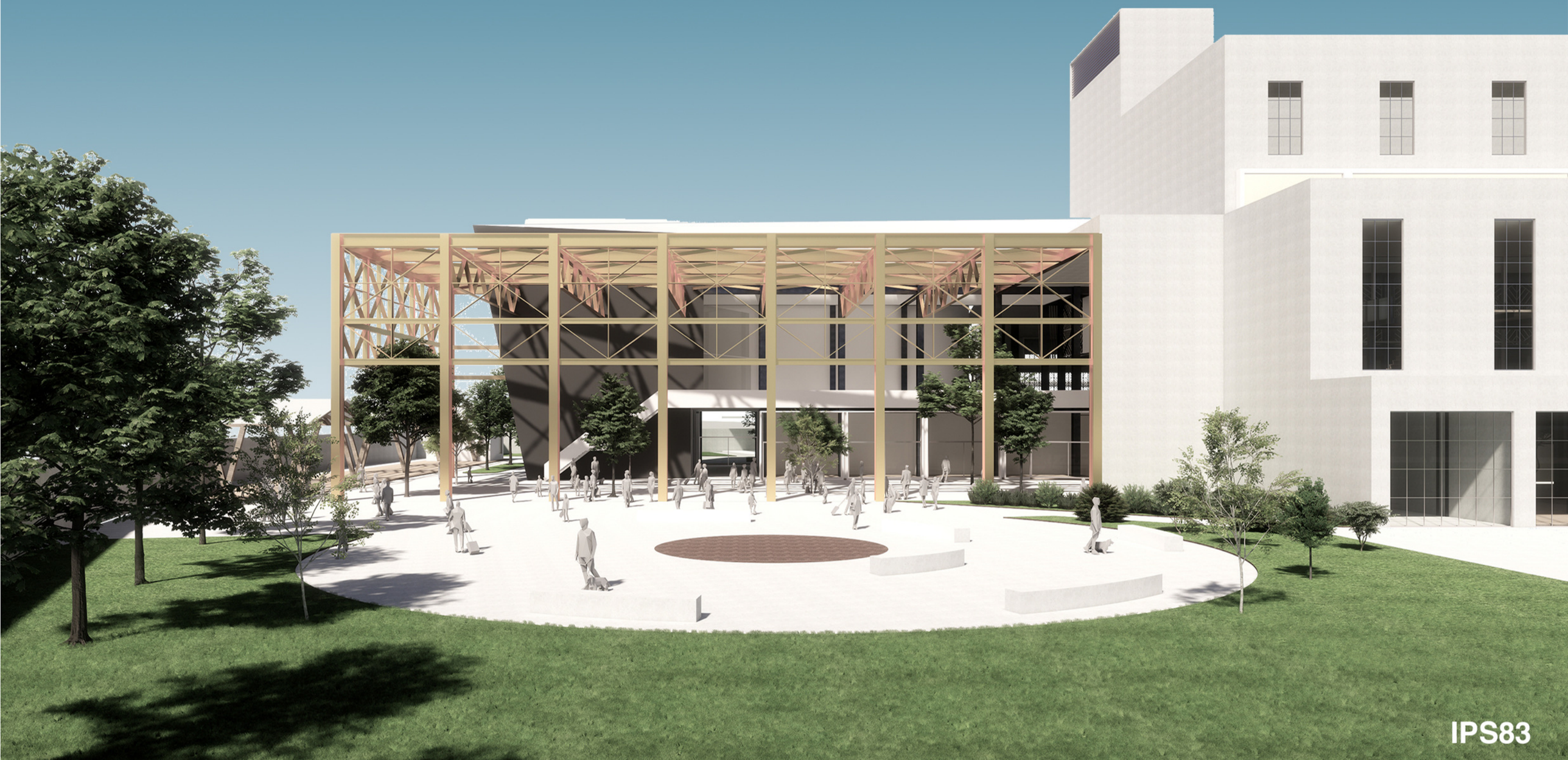
Climatic Response



Rhythmic Screening



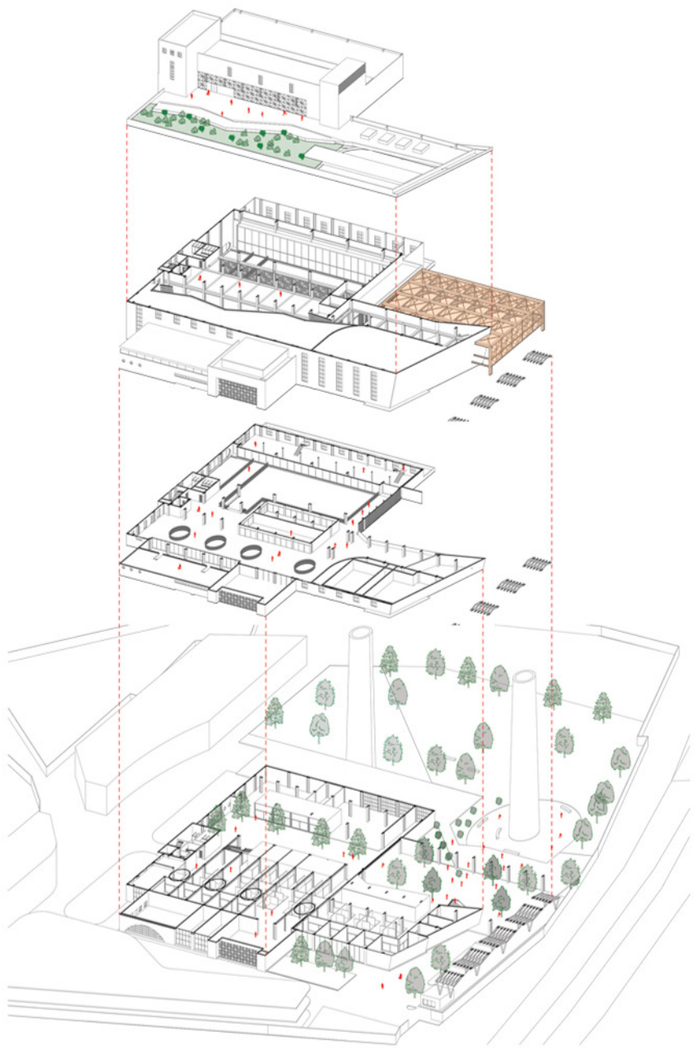
Harmonising with the environment; organic flowing curves and



IPS83



Proposed internal view of covered Public Atrium



3rd Floor

Theatre
Gallery
Roof Terrace Garden

2nd Floor + Mezzanine

Recording Studio's
Radio Station
Co-Working Office space

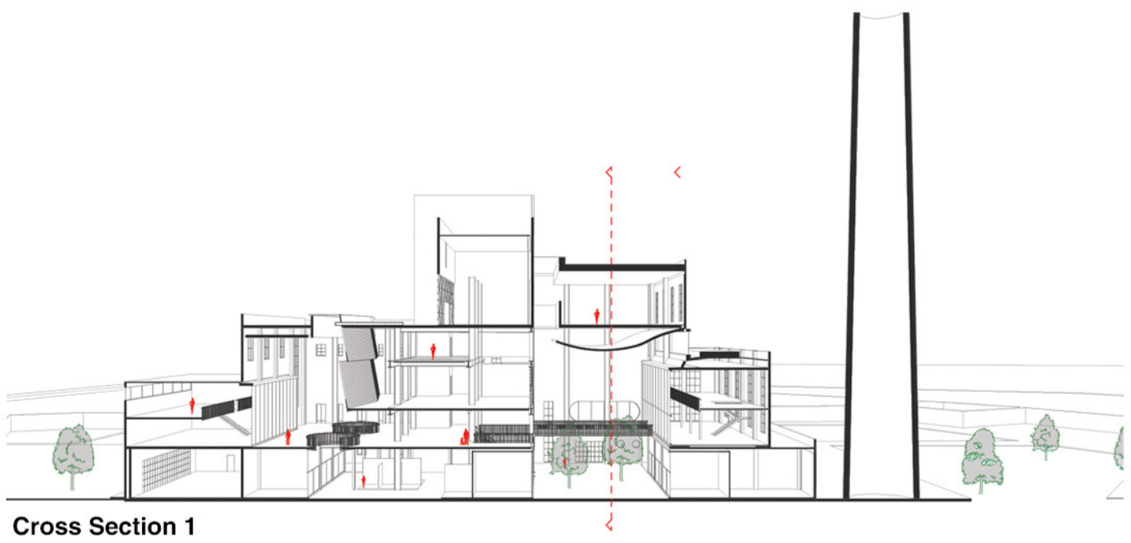
1st Floor + Mezzanine

Cinema
Studio + Lecture rooms
Atelier + Class rooms
WIFI Lounge and breakaway areas
Co-Working Office space

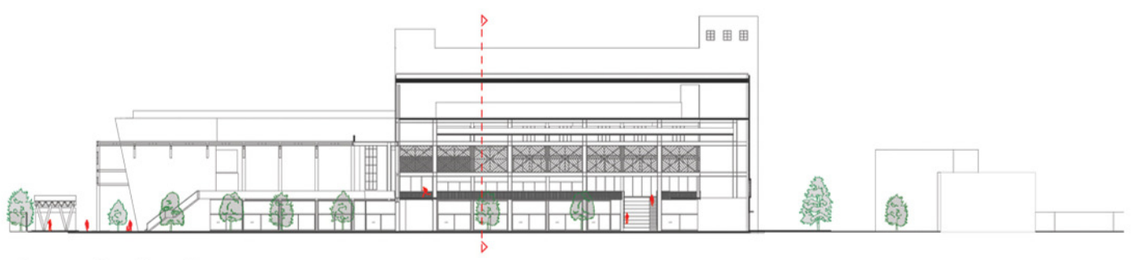
Ground Floor

Retail
Informal Market
Restaurant
Community Centre
Skills Development Workshops
Sculpture Garden
Landscaped Park

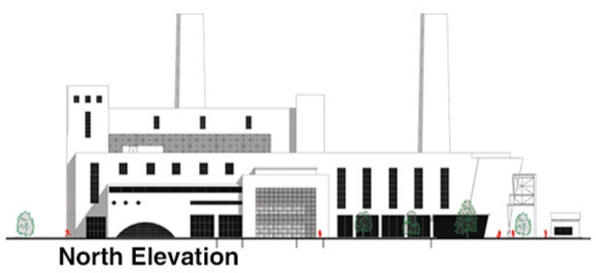
Exploded Axonometric Floor Plans



Cross Section 1



Cross Section 2



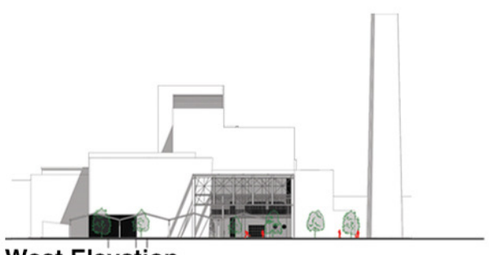
North Elevation



East Elevation



South Elevation



West Elevation



Proposed internal view of Internal Courtyard



Proposed view of Internal Courtyard