

# HISTORIC AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION

February 15, 2023

**HDRC CASE NO:** 2023-038  
**ADDRESS:** 202 N ST MARYS ST  
130 N ST MARYS ST  
**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** NCB 405 BLK LOT N 109.8 FT OF 1 & 2  
NCB 405 (SAA- OMI TRACT), LOT 10  
**ZONING:** D, HE, RIO-3  
**CITY COUNCIL DIST.:** 1  
**LANDMARK:** Individual Landmark  
**APPLICANT:** Anthony Byron  
**OWNER:** St Mary's Catholic Church  
**TYPE OF WORK:** Construction of a 17-story hotel tower  
**APPLICATION RECEIVED:** January 31, 2023  
**60-DAY REVIEW:** Not applicable due to City Council Emergency Orders  
**CASE MANAGER:** Edward Hall  
**REQUEST:**

The applicant is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for approval to construct a hotel tower to feature seventeen stories, not including the river level, to feature an overall height of approximately 203 feet. The proposed hotel received final approval in May 2019 but has since been amended regarding height.

## APPLICABLE CITATIONS:

*UDC Section 35-670. Criteria for Certificate of Appropriateness—Generally*

- (b)(4)C. Design Characteristics of "RIO-3" River Improvement Overlay District - 3.
- i. The historic work of Robert Hugman, CCC and WPA construction work, Ethel Harris tile work, and work of the National Youth Administration shall be respected and preserved in all construction efforts. Adherence to the intent and spirit of those plans is essential in all construction.
  - ii. Traditional, formal street level design precedents shall be respected, but at the river level, the more informal, handcrafted style shall be maintained.
  - iii. The integrity of historic properties shall be preserved as provided for in section 35-610. Historic differences between street level designs and river level designs shall be respected.
  - iv. The traditional design context of the area shall be respected at two (2) levels: the broader downtown context and the immediate block as it faces the river.
  - v. In new buildings that have more than one (1) facade, such as those that face the street and the river, the commission shall consider visual compatibility with respect to each important facade.
  - vi. The microclimate of the River Walk level shall be maintained and, during construction, shall be given extra protection. Downtown operations staff will be consulted to provide specific instructions for construction procedures.
  - vii. Over-crowding of plant life or altering levels of light and water along the river shall not be permitted.
  - viii. Enhance the pedestrian experience with high-quality building designs that include balconies facing the river and the primary entrance facing the street.
  - ix. Ensure adequate solar access on the River Walk.

*Section 35-672. Neighborhood Wide Design Standards*

- (a) Pedestrian Circulation. Pedestrian access shall be provided among properties to integrate neighborhoods.

(2) Link the various functions and spaces on a site with sidewalks in a coordinated system.

Provide pedestrian sidewalks between buildings, parking areas and built features such as outdoor plazas and courtyards.

(5) Pedestrian Access Along the River Walk Pathway Shall Not Be Blocked.

A. Queuing is prohibited on the River Walk pathway.

B. Hostess stations shall be located away from the River Walk pathway so as to not inhibit pedestrian flow on the

River Walk pathway. That is, the hostess station shall not be located in such a manner to cause a patron who has

stopped at the hostess stand to be standing on the River Walk pathway. Pedestrian flow shall be considered

"inhibited" if a pedestrian walking along the pathway has to swerve, dodge, change direction or come to a complete stop to avoid a patron engaged at the hostess stand.

C. Tables and chairs shall be located a sufficient distance from the River Walk pathway so that normal dining and

service shall not inhibit the flow of pedestrian traffic. See inhibited definition in subsection B. above.

(c) Views. The river's course (both natural and manmade), and San Antonio's street pattern, creates unique views of

certain properties from the public ROW. These properties often occur at prominent curves in the river or where a street

changes direction and a property appears to be a terminus at the end of a street.

(1) Architectural Focal Point. When a property is situated in such a manner as to appear to be the terminus at the end

of the street or at a prominent curve in the river, the building shall incorporate into its design an architectural feature that will provide a focal point at the end of the view. (see Figure 672-3) An architectural feature will be

considered to be a focal point through any of the following methods, but not limited to:

A. Additional height.

B. Creation of a tower.

C. Variation in roof shape.

D. Change of color or materials.

E. Addition of a design enhancement feature such as:

i. Embellished entrance areas.

ii. Articulated corners, especially when entrance is at corner, rounded or chamfered corners ease the

transitions from one street facade to the adjoining facade.

iii. Recessed or projecting balconies and entrances.

### *Section 35-673. Site Design Standards*

(a) Solar Access. The intent of providing and maintaining solar access to the San Antonio River is to protect the river's

specific ecoclimate. The river has a special microclimate of natural and planted vegetation that requires certain levels and

balanced amounts of sunlight, space and water. Development must be designed to respect and protect those natural

requirements, keeping them in balance and not crowding or altering them so that vegetation does not receive more or less

space and water, but particularly sunlight, than is required for normal expected growth.

(1) Building Massing to Provide Solar Access to the River. Building massing shall be so designed as to provide direct

sunlight to vegetation in the river channel as defined:



A. The area to be measured for solar access shall be a thirty-foot setback from the river's edge or from the river's

edge to the building face, whichever is lesser, parallel to the river for the length of the property.

B. The solar calculations shall be measured exclusive to the applicant's property; that is, shades and shadows of

other buildings shall not be included in the calculations. The solar calculations shall only measure the impact of

new construction and additions. The shading impact of historic buildings on the site may be excluded from the calculations.

C. The defined area shall receive a minimum of 5.5 hours of direct sunlight, measured at the winter solstice, and

7.5 hours of direct sunlight, measured at the summer solstice.

D. Those properties located on the south side of the river (whose north face is adjacent to the river) shall only be

required to measure the sunlight in the 30-foot setback on the opposite bank of the river.

E. Those properties within the river improvement overlay district not directly adjacent to the river are still subject to the provisions of this section. To determine the solar access effect of these buildings on the river the

applicant must measure the nearest point to the river of an area defined by a thirty-foot setback from the river's

edge, parallel to the river for the length of their property that would be affected by their building. For those

buildings on the south side of the river, the 30-foot setback shall be measured only on the opposite bank.

F. However, in those cases where the above conditions cannot be met due to the natural configuration of the

river, existing street patterns, or existing buildings, the HDRC may approve a buildings mass and height as

allowed by table 674-2.

G. If there is a conflict with this section and another section of this chapter this section shall prevail.

(b) Building Orientation. Buildings should be sited to help define active spaces for area users, provide pedestrian connections between sites, help animate the street scene and define street edges. Consideration to both the street and

riverside should be given. The placement of a building on a site should therefore be considered within the context of the

block, as well as how the structure will support the broader design goals for the area.

(2) Primary and Secondary Entrances.

A. Orient a building's primary entrance toward the street with subordinate entrances located on the riverside

and/or the interior of the property. On a major thoroughfare street it is acceptable to provide the primary entrance through a common courtyard and then to a street.

B. The primary entrance shall be distinguished by architectural features such as, but not limited to: an entry

portal; change in material or color; change in scale of other openings; addition of columns, lintels or canopies.

C. Secondary entrances shall have architectural features that are subordinate to the primary entrance in scale and

detail. For purposes of this division subordinate means that the entrance is smaller in height and width, and has

fewer or simpler architectural elements.

(f) Plant Materials. A number of soil conditions converge in the San Antonio area to create unique vegetation ecosystems.

Along the route of the San Antonio River, the soil conditions vary greatly from the northern boundary near Hildebrand to the city limits near Mission San Francisco de la Espada (Mission Espada) and therefore native and indigenous plants will

vary accordingly. Landscaping should reflect the unique soil characteristics of the specific site.

(3) Install Trees to Provide Shade and to Separate Pedestrians From Automobile Traffic. Install street trees along the property line or in the ROW abutting all streets according to minimum requirement standards established in subsection 35-512(b), except where this conflicts with existing downtown Tri-Party improvements in "RIO-3." In

"RIO-3" the owner has the option of placing trees at the property line, or along the street edge.

(g) Paving Materials. An important San Antonio landscape tradition is the use of decorative surfaces for paving and other

landscape structures. Paving materials and patterns should be carefully chosen to preserve and enhance the pedestrian experience.

(1) Vary Walkway, Patio and Courtyard Paving to Add Visual Interest on the Riverside of Properties Abutting the

River. Pervious paving is encouraged where feasible and appropriate to the site.

(i) Street Furnishings. Street furnishings are exterior amenities, including but not limited to, tables, chairs, umbrellas,

landscape pots, wait stations, valet stations, bicycle racks, planters, benches, bus shelters, kiosks, waste receptacles and

similar items that help to define pedestrian use areas. Handcrafted street furnishings are particularly important in San

Antonio, and therefore this tradition of craftsmanship and of providing street furniture is encouraged.

(2) Street Furnishing Materials.

A. Street furnishings shall be made of wood, metal, stone, terra cotta, cast stone, hand-sculpted concrete, or solid surfacing material, such as Corian or Surell.

(4) Street furnishings, such as tables and chairs may not be stored (other than overnight storage) in such a way as to

be visible from the river pathway.

(j) Lighting. Site lighting should be considered an integral element of the landscape design of a property. It should help

define activity areas and provide interest at night. At the same time, lighting should facilitate safe and convenient circulation for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists. Overspill of light and light pollution should be avoided.

(1) Site Lighting. Site lighting shall be shielded by permanent attachments to light fixtures so that the light sources are not visible from a public way and any offsite glare is prevented.

A. Site lighting shall include illumination of parking areas, buildings, pedestrian routes, dining areas, design features and public ways.

B. Outdoor spaces adjoining and visible from the river right-of-way shall have average ambient light levels of

between one (1) and three (3) foot-candles with a minimum of 0.5-foot candles and a maximum of six (6) footcandles

at any point measured on the ground plane. Interior spaces visible from the river right-of-way on the river level and ground floor level shall use light sources with no more than the equivalent lumens of a one hundred-watt incandescent bulb. Exterior balconies, porches and canopies adjoining and visible from the river

right-of-way shall use light sources with the equivalent lumens of a sixty-watt incandescent bulb with average

ambient light levels no greater than the lumen output of a one hundred-watt incandescent light bulb as long as

average foot candle standards are not exceeded. Accent lighting of landscape or building features including

specimen plants, gates, entries, water features, art work, stairs, and ramps may exceed these standards by a

multiple of 2.5. Recreational fields and activity areas that require higher light levels shall be screened from the

river hike and bike pathways with a landscape buffer.

C. Exterior light fixtures that use the equivalent of more than one hundred-watt incandescent bulbs shall not emit

a significant amount of the fixture's total output above a vertical cut-off angle of ninety (90) degrees. Any structural part of the fixture providing this cut-off angle must be permanently affixed.

D. Lighting spillover to the publicly owned areas of the river or across property lines shall not exceed one-half

( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of one (1) foot-candle measured at any point ten (10) feet beyond the property line.

(2) Provide Lighting for Pedestrian Ways That is Low Scaled for Walking. The position of a lamp in a pedestrian-way light shall not exceed fifteen (15) feet in height above the ground.

(3) Light Temperature and Color.

A. Light temperature and color shall be between 2500° K and 3500° K with a color rendition index (CRI) of

eighty (80) or higher, respectively. This restriction is limited to all outdoor spaces adjoining and visible from the

river right-of-way and from the interior spaces adjoining the river right-of-way on the river level and ground

floor level. Levels shall be determined by product specifications.

(4) Minimize the Visual Impacts of Exterior Building Lighting.

A. All security lighting shall be shielded so that the light sources are not visible from a public way.

B. Lighting (uplighting and downlighting) that is positioned to highlight a building or outdoor artwork shall be

aimed at the object to be illuminated, not pointed into the sky.

C. Fixtures shall not distract from, or obscure important architectural features of the building. Lighting fixtures

shall be a subordinate feature on the building unless they are incorporated into the over-all design scheme of the building.

(5) Prohibited Lighting on the Riverside of Properties Abutting the River.

A. Flashing lights.

B. Rotating lights.

C. Chaser lights.

D. Exposed neon.

E. Seasonal decorating lights such as festoon, string or rope lights, except between November 20 and January 10.

F. Flood lamps.

(6) Minimize the visual impacts of lighting in parking areas in order to enhance the perception of the nighttime sky

and to prevent glare onto adjacent properties. Parking lot light poles are limited to thirty (30) feet in height, shall have a 90° cutoff angle so as to not emit light above the horizontal plane.

(l) Access to Public Pathway Along the River. These requirements are specifically for those properties adjacent to the

river to provide a connection to the publicly owned pathway along the river. The connections are to stimulate and enhance

urban activity, provide path connections in an urban context, enliven street activity, and protect the ambiance and character of the river area.

(3) Clearly define a key pedestrian gateway into the site from the publicly owned pathway at the river with distinctive architectural or landscape elements.

A. The primary gateway from a development to the publicly owned pathway at the river shall be defined by an architectural or landscape element made of stone, brick, tile, metal, rough hewn cedar or hand-formed concrete or through the use of distinctive plantings or planting beds.

(n) Service Areas and Mechanical Equipment. Service areas and mechanical equipment should be visually unobtrusive and should be integrated with the design of the site and building. Noise generated from mechanical equipment shall not exceed city noise regulations.

(1) Locate service entrances, waste disposal areas and other similar uses adjacent to service lanes and away from major streets and the river..

C. Air intake and exhaust systems, or other mechanical equipment that generates noise, smoke or odors, shall not be located at the pedestrian level.

#### *Sec. 35-674. Building Design Principles*

(a) Architectural Character. A basic objective for architectural design in the river improvement overlay districts is to encourage the reuse of existing buildings and construction of new, innovative designs that enhance the area, and help to establish distinct identities for each of the zone districts. At the same time, these new buildings should reinforce established building traditions and respect the contexts of neighborhoods.

When a new building is constructed, it shall be designed in a manner that reinforces the basic character-defining features of the area. Such features include the way in which a building is located on its site, the manner in which it faces the street and its orientation to the river. When these design variables are arranged in a new building to be similar to those seen traditionally, visual compatibility results.

(b) Mass and Scale. A building shall appear to have a "human scale." In general, this scale can be accomplished by using familiar forms and elements interpreted in human dimensions. Exterior wall designs shall help pedestrians establish a sense of scale with relation to each building. Articulating the number of floors in a building can help to establish a building's scale, for example, and prevent larger buildings from dwarfing the pedestrian.

(1) Express facade components in ways that will help to establish building scale.

A. Treatment of architectural facades shall contain a discernible pattern of mass to void, or windows and doors to solid mass. Openings shall appear in a regular pattern, or be clustered to form a cohesive design. Architectural elements such as columns, lintels, sills, canopies, windows and doors should align with other architectural features on the adjacent facades.

(2) Align horizontal building elements with others in the blockface to establish building scale.

A. Align at least one (1) horizontal building element with another horizontal building element on the same block face. It will be considered to be within alignment if it is within three (3) feet, measured vertically, of the existing architectural element.

- (3) Express the distinction between upper and lower floors.
- A. Develop the first floor as primarily transparent. The building facade facing a major street shall have at least fifty (50) percent of the street level facade area devoted to display windows and/or windows affording some view into the interior areas. Multi-family residential buildings with no retail or office space are exempt from this requirement.
- (4) Where a building facade faces the street or river and exceeds the maximum facade length allowed in Table 674-1 divide the facade of building into modules that express traditional dimensions.
- A. The maximum length of an individual wall plane that faces a street or the river shall be as shown in Table 674-1.

Table 674-1

Description	RIO-1	RIO-2	RIO-3	RIO-4	RIO-5	RIO-6
Maximum Facade Length	50 ft.	50 ft.	30 ft.	75 ft.	75 ft.	50 ft.

- B. If a building wall plane facing the street or river and exceeds the length allowed in Table 674-1, employ at least two (2) of the following techniques to reduce the perceived mass:
- Change materials with each building module to reduce its perceived mass; or
  - Change the height with each building module of a wall plane. The change in height shall be at least ten (10) percent of the vertical height; or
  - Change the roof form of each building module to help express the different modules of the building mass; or
  - Change the arrangement of windows and other facade articulation features, such as, columns, pilasters or strap work, which divides large planes into smaller components.
- (5) Organize the Mass of a Building to Provide Solar Access to the River.
- A. One (1) method of doing so is to step the building down toward the river to meet the solar access requirements of subsection 35-673(a).
- B. Another method is to set the building back from the river a distance sufficient to meet the solar access requirements of subsection 35-673(a).
- (c) Height. Building heights vary along the river corridor, from one-story houses to high-rise hotels and apartments. This diversity of building heights is expected to continue. However, within each zone, a general similarity in building heights should be encouraged in order to help establish a sense of visual continuity. In addition, building heights shall be configured such that a comfortable human scale is established along the edges of properties and views to the river and other significant landmarks are provided while allowing the appropriate density for an area.
- (1) The maximum building height shall be as defined in Table 674-2.
- A. Solar access standards subsection 35-673(a), and massing standards subsection 35-674(b) also will affect building heights.

Table 674-2

Description	RIO-1	RIO-2	RIO-3	RIO-4	RIO-5	RIO-6
Maximum # of Stories	5	10	None	7	5	4
Maximum Height in Feet	60 ft.	120 ft.	None	84 ft.	60 ft.	50 ft.

- (3) On the street-side, the building facade shall appear similar in height to those of other buildings found traditionally in the area.
- If fifty (50) percent of the building facades within a block face are predominantly lower than the maximum height

allowed, the new building facade on the street-side shall align with the average height of those lower buildings within

the block face, or with a particular building that falls within the fifty (50) percent range. However, the remainder of

the building may obtain its maximum height by stepping back fifteen (15) feet from the building face.

(4) Designation of a development node provides for the ability to increase the building height by fifty (50) percent

from the requirements set out in article VI.

(d) Materials and Finishes. Masonry materials are well established as primary features along the river corridor and their

use should be continued. Stucco that is detailed to provide a texture and pattern, which conveys a human scale, is also part

of the tradition. In general, materials and finishes that provide a sense of human scale, reduce the perceived mass of a

building and appear to blend with the natural setting of the river shall be used, especially on major structures.

(1) Use indigenous materials and traditional building materials for primary wall surfaces. A minimum of seventy-five

(75) percent of walls (excluding window fenestrations) shall be composed of the following:

A. Modular masonry materials including brick, stone, and rusticated masonry block, tile, terra-cotta, structural

clay tile and cast stone. Concrete masonry units (CMU) are not allowed.

B. Other new materials that convey the texture, scale, and finish similar to traditional building materials.

C. Stucco and painted concrete when detailed to express visual interest and convey a sense of scale.

D. Painted or stained wood in a lap or shingle pattern.

(2) The following materials are not permitted as primary building materials and may be used as a secondary material

only:

A. Large expanses of high gloss or shiny metal panels.

B. Mirror glass panels. Glass curtain wall buildings are allowed in RIO-3 as long as the river and street levels

comply with 35-674(d)(1) above.

(3) Paint or Finish Colors.

A. Use natural colors of indigenous building materials for properties that abut the River Walk area.

B. Use matte finishes instead of high glossy finishes on wall surfaces. Wood trim and metal trim may be painted

with gloss enamel.

C. Bright colors may highlight entrances or architectural features.

(e) Facade Composition. Traditionally, many commercial and multi-family buildings in the core of San Antonio have had

facade designs that are organized into three (3) distinct segments: First, a "base" exists, which establishes a scale at the

street level; second a "mid-section," or shaft is used, which may include several floors. Finally a "cap" finishes the composition. The cap may take the form of an ornamental roof form or decorative molding and may also include the top

floors of the building. This organization helps to give a sense of scale to a building and its use should be encouraged.

In order to maintain the sense of scale, buildings should have the same setback as surrounding buildings so as to maintain

the street-wall pattern, if clearly established.

In contrast, the traditional treatment of facades along the riverside has been more modest. This treatment is largely a result

of the fact that the riverside was a utilitarian edge and was not oriented to the public. Today, even though orienting buildings to the river is a high priority objective, it is appropriate that these river-oriented facades be simpler in character than those facing the street.

(1) Street Facade. Buildings that are taller than the street-wall (sixty (60) feet) shall be articulated at the stop of the street wall or stepped back in order to maintain the rhythm of the street wall. Buildings should be composed to include a base, a middle and a cap.

A. High rise buildings, more than one hundred (100) feet tall, shall terminate with a distinctive top or cap. This

can be accomplished by:

- i. Reducing the bulk of the top twenty (20) percent of the building by ten (10) percent.
- ii. By stepping back the top twenty (20) percent of the building.
- iii. Changing the material of the cap.

B. Roof forms shall be used to conceal all mechanical equipment and to add architectural interest to the structure.

C. Roof surfaces should include strategies to reduce heat island effects such as use of green roofs, photo voltaic panels, and/or the use of roof materials with high solar reflectivity.

(2) Fenestration. Windows help provide a human scale and so shall be proportioned accordingly.

D. Curtain wall systems shall be designed with modulating features such as projecting horizontal and/or vertical mullions.

(3) Entrances. Entrances shall be easy to find, be a special feature of the building, and be appropriately scaled.

A. Entrances shall be the most prominent on the street side and less prominent on the river side.

B. Entrances shall be placed so as to be highly visible.

C. The scale of the entrance is determined by the prominence of the function and or the amount of use.

D. Entrances shall have a change in material and/or wall plane.

E. Entrances should not use excessive storefront systems.

(4) Riverside facade. The riverside facade of a building shall have simpler detailing and composition than the street facade.

A. Architectural details such as cornices, sills, lintels, door surrounds, water tables and other similar details

should use simple curves and handcrafted detailing.

B. Stone detailing shall be rough hewn, and chiseled faced. Smooth faced stone is not permitted as the primary building material, but can be used as accent pieces.

C. Facades on the riverside shall be asymmetrical, pedestrian scale, and give the appearance of the back of a building. That is, in traditional building along the river, the backs of building were designed with simpler details, and appear less formal than the street facades.

(g) Awnings, Canopies and Arcades. (See Figure 674-2) The tradition of sheltering sidewalks with awnings, canopies and arcades on commercial and multi-family buildings is well established in San Antonio and is a practice that should be continued. They offer shade from the hot summer sun and shelter from rainstorms, thereby facilitating pedestrian activity.

They also establish a sense of scale for a building, especially at the ground level. Awnings and canopies are appropriate locations for signage. Awnings with signage shall comply with any master signage plan on file with the historic preservation officer for the property. Awnings and canopies installed at street level within the public right-of-way require licensing with the city's capital improvements management services (CIMS) department. Canopies, balconies and awnings installed at river level within the public right-of-way require licensing with the city's downtown operations department.

(1) If awnings, arcades and canopies are to be used they should accentuate the character-defining features of a building.

A. The awning, arcade or canopy shall be located in relationship to the openings of a building. That is, if there are a series of awnings or canopies, they shall be located at the window or door openings. However awnings, canopies and arcades may extend the length of building to provide shade at the first floor for the pedestrian.

B. Awnings, arcades and canopies shall be mounted to highlight architectural features such as moldings that may be found above the storefront.

C. They should match the shape of the opening.

D. Simple shed shapes are appropriate for rectangular openings.

E. Odd shapes and bubble awnings are prohibited except where the shape of an opening requires a bubble awning, or historic precedent shows they have been previously used on the building.

F. Canopies, awnings and arcades shall not conflict with the building's proportions or with the shape of the openings that the awning or canopy covers.

G. Historic canopies shall be repaired or replaced with in-kind materials.

(2) Materials and Color.

A. Awnings and canopies may be constructed of metal, wood or fabric. Certain vinyl is allowed if it has the appearance of natural fiber as approved by the HDRC.

B. Awning color shall coordinate with the building. Natural and earth tone colors are encouraged. Fluorescent

colors are not allowed. When used for signage it is appropriate to choose a dark color for the canopy and use light lettering for signage.

(3) Incorporating lighting into the design of a canopy is appropriate.

A. Lights that illuminate the pedestrian way beneath the awning are appropriate.

B. Lights that illuminate the storefront are appropriate.

C. Internally illuminated awnings that glow are prohibited.

#### *UDC Section. 35-675. Archaeology.*

When an HDRC application is submitted for commercial development projects within a river improvement overlay

district the city archeologist shall review the project application to determine if there is potential of containing intact

archaeological deposits utilizing the following documents/methods:

(1) The Texas Sites Atlas for known/recorded sites, site data in the files of the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory and the Texas Historical Commission;

(2) USGS maps;



- (3) Soil Survey maps;
- (4) Distance to water;
- (5) Topographical data;
- (6) Predictive settlement patterns;
- (7) Archival research and historic maps;
- (8) Data on file at the office of historic preservation.

If after review the city archeologist determines there is potential of containing intact archaeological deposits, an archaeological survey report shall be prepared and submitted. If, after review by the city archeologist, a determination is made that the site has little to no potential of containing intact archaeological deposits, the requirement for an archaeological survey report may be waived.

Upon completion of a survey, owners of property containing inventoried archaeological sites are encouraged to educate the public regarding archaeological components of the site and shall coordinate any efforts with the office of historic preservation.

## FINDINGS:

- a. The applicant is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for approval to construct a hotel tower to feature seventeen stories, not including the river level, to feature an overall height of approximately 203 feet. The proposed hotel received final approval in May 2019 but has since been amended regarding height.
- b. PREVIOUS APPROVAL – The Historic and Design Review Commission issued final approval of the proposed new construction at the May 29, 2020, Historic and Design Review Commission hearing, with the following stipulations:
  - i. That a salvage and reuse plan for existing stone elements must be provided as part of the final landscaping plan. *This stipulation has been met.*
  - ii. That any curb cut on N St Mary's should be limited in width to no more than twenty-five (25) feet in width and should not result in a change of grade at the pedestrian level as to not interrupt pedestrian traffic on N St Mary's.
  - iii. Archaeology – Archaeological investigations shall be required. The archaeological scope of work should be submitted to the Office of Historic Preservation archaeologists for review and approval prior to beginning the archaeological investigation. The project shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations regarding archaeology.
- c. EXISTING STRUCTURE – The proposed development necessitates the demolition of the existing rectory building and gift shop which was constructed between 1966 and 1967. It was designed by architect Harvey P. Smith Jr. of Harvey P. Smith & Associates for the Archdiocese of San Antonio. Designed in the New Formalist Style, character-defining features of the building include repeating exposed-aggregate panels with half-moon cutouts at bottom along the north, west, and south sides and a toothed concrete third-floor canopy with quatrefoil cutouts. At the June 19, 2019, Historic and Design Review Commission hearing, the Commission determined that no additional steps, including potential designation, were needed regarding the existing structures with the exception of those noted in the above stipulations. Consistent with the UDC, the existing structure is eligible for demolition.
- d. PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION – Per the UDC Section 35-672(a) in regards to pedestrian circulation, an applicant shall provide pedestrian access among properties to integrate neighborhoods. The applicant has proposed a pedestrian pathway parallel to the site on N St Mary's and has not impacted the existing pedestrian pathway at the River Walk. Staff finds this to be appropriate and consistent with the UDC.
- e. ARCHITECTURAL FOCAL POINT – According to the UDC Section 35-672(c)(1), properties that appear to be the terminus at the end of the street or at a prominent curve in the river shall incorporate into their design an architectural feature that will provide a focal point at the end of the view. At the corner of the structure where N

St Mary's intersects the San Antonio River, the applicant has proposed corner glazing elements that transition to both the south façade's curtain wall system as well as the cementitious panel system on the west façade. Staff finds this to be appropriate and consistent with the UDC.

- f. **SOLAR ACCESS** – The UDC Section 35-673(a)(1) provides guidelines for solar access to the San Antonio River in regards to new construction. The applicant has provided a solar study noting compliance with the UDC.
- g. **CURB CUTS** – The current site currently features a curb cut at the southernmost portion of the site, adjacent to the bridge. The UDC Section 35-672(b)(1)(A) notes that curb cuts should be limited to two on parking areas or structure facing only one street and one for each additional street face. Staff finds that any curb cut here should be limited in width and should not result in a change of grade at the pedestrian level as to not interrupt pedestrian traffic on N St Mary's. The applicant is responsible for complying with the UDC regarding any curb cuts on N St Mary's.
- h. **SITE DESIGN** – According to the UDC Section 35-673, buildings should be sited to help define active spaces for area users, provide pedestrian connections between sites, help animate the street scene and define street edges. Primary entrances should be oriented toward the street and shall be distinguishable by an architectural feature. The proposed new construction features a primary elevation that fronts N St Mary's and one that fronts the river. The applicant has incorporated entrance and pedestrian oriented elements that address the human scale and pedestrian traffic on each façade that addresses the public right of way.
- i. **LANDSCAPE DESIGN** – Per the UDC Section 35-673(e) regarding landscape design, a variety in landscape design must be provided with no more than seventy-five (75) percent of the landscape materials, including plants being the same as those on adjacent properties. Additionally, according to the UDC Section 35-674(f), indigenous, non-invasive plant species and tropical plant species are permitted. The applicant has provided detailed landscaping plans for the river level. The proposed river level landscape design is consistent with the previous approval.
- j. **MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT** – The UDC Section 35-673(n) addresses service areas and mechanical equipment and their impact on the public. Service areas and mechanical equipment should be visually unobtrusive and should be integrated with the design of the site and building. Noise generated from mechanical equipment shall not exceed city noise regulations. The applicant has noted that mechanical equipment will be screened by a mechanical penthouse.
- k. **BUILDING SCALE & MASSING (Street Level)**– According to the UDC Section 35-674(b) a building shall appear to have a “human scale”. To comply with this, a building must (1) express façade components in ways that will help to establish building scale, (2) align horizontal building elements with others in the blockface to establish building scale, (3) express the distinction between upper and lower levels, (4) in this instance, divide the façade of the building into modules that express traditional and (5) organize the mass of a building to provide solar access to the river. The applicant has proposed some human-scaled elements at the street level such as storefront and entrance canopies.
- l. **BUILDING SCALE & MASSING (River Level)** – The applicant has a pedestrian entrance at the river level as well as balconies that overlook the River Walk. Additionally, staff finds that the applicant has taken steps to introduce river-facing elements that reduce the scale of the proposed new construction, such as recessed balconies and a change in materials.
- m. **FAÇADE COMPOSITION** – According to the UDC Section 35-674, high rise buildings, more than one hundred (100) feet in height shall terminate with a distinctive top or cap. In addition to this, curtain wall systems shall be designed with modulating features such as projecting horizontal and/or vertical mullions, entrances shall be easy to find, be a special feature of the building and be appropriately scaled and the riverside façade of a building shall have simpler detailing and composition than the street façades. The applicant has proposed three distinct masses that are separated by horizontal breaks in building massing and has proposed that curtain wall systems be separated distinctly by mullion systems. The applicant has also provided distinction between the base, tower and tower cap.
- n. **BUILDING HEIGHT** – The applicant has proposed to increase the overall building height from 14 stories to 17 stories to feature a total of approximately 203' in height. According to the UDC Section 35-674(c) in regards to the height of new construction in RIO districts, there are no height restrictions for new construction in RIO 3 other than the solar access standards. The proposed building height is appropriate.

- o. **BUILDING HEIGHT** – Section 35-674(c)(3) states that building facades shall appear similar in height to those of other buildings found traditionally in the area. This section also states that if fifty (50) percent of the building facades within a block face are predominantly lower than the maximum height allowed, the new building façade on the street-side shall align with the average height of those lower buildings within the block face, or with a particular building that falls within the fifty (50) percent range. The block on N St Mary’s features multiple structures that feature heights comparable to that which has been proposed.
- p. **MATERIALS** – In regards to materials and finishes, the UDC Section 35-674(d)(1) states that indigenous and traditional building materials should be used for primary wall surfaces. A minimum of seventy-five (75) percent of walls (excluding window fenestrations) shall be composed of the following: Modular masonry materials including brick, stone, and rusticated masonry block, tile, terra-cotta, structural clay tile and cast stone. Concrete masonry units (CMU) are not allowed. However according to 35-674(d)(2)(B), glass curtain wall panels are allowed in RIO-3 as a secondary material as long as the river and street levels comply with 35-674(d)(1). The applicant has proposed materials that include glass curtain wall systems, stone veneer, GFRC panels and metal panels. Staff finds the proposed materials to be generally appropriate.
- q. **WINDOWS** – The UDC Section 35-674(e)(2) provides information in regards to proper window fenestration and installation. For window openings that are not included within a curtain wall system, an inset of at least two to three inches within each wall is required. The applicant is responsible for complying with this section of the UDC. Additionally, staff finds that dark colored frames should be used.
- r. **CANOPIES** – The applicant has proposed canopies at the street level. Staff finds the proposed canopy to be appropriate and consistent with the UDC.
- s. **LIGHTING DESIGN** – Lighting design for any project located in a RIO district is an important aspect of not only that particular project’s design, but also the adjacent buildings as well as the River Walk. According to the UDC Section 35-673(j), site lighting should be considered an integral element of the landscape design of a property. The applicant has submitted a lighting plan noting lighting at the River Walk level.
- t. **OUTDOOR FURNITURE** – The applicant has proposed outdoor seating areas on the site. All river level patio furniture should be consistent with the UDC. At no time should patio furniture be installed in a manner that impacts or impedes the pedestrian pathway at the river level.
- u. **ARCHAEOLOGY** –The project area is within a River Improvement Overlay District and the San Antonio Downtown National Register of Historic Places District. The property is also adjacent to the historical alignment of the San Antonio River, an area known to contain significant historic and prehistoric archaeological deposits. A review of historic archival documents identifies structures within, or in close proximity to, the project area as early as 1873. Thus, the property may contain sites, some of which may be significant. Therefore, an archaeological investigation is required. The project shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations regarding archaeology, as applicable.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval based on findings a through u with the following stipulations:

- i. That any curb cut on N St Mary’s be limited in width to no more than twenty-five (25) feet in width and should not result in a change of grade at the pedestrian level as to not interrupt pedestrian traffic on N St Mary’s.
- ii. **ARCHAEOLOGY** – An archaeological investigation is required. The project shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations regarding archaeology, as applicable.

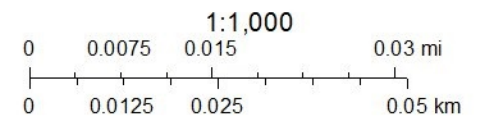


# City of San Antonio One Stop



June 12, 2019

—— User drawn lines





CITY OF SAN ANTONIO  
**OFFICE OF HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION**

**Historic and Design Review Commission**  
***Design Review Committee Report***

DATE: February 7, 2023

HDRC Case #: 2023-038

Address: 202 N St Mary's

Meeting Location: Webex

APPLICANT: Tony Byron

DRC Members present: Jeff Fetzer, Scott Carpenter, Jimmy Cervantes, Andi Rodriguez (Centro)

Staff Present: Edward Hall

Others present: Mark Hornberger, Co Chao (HMI)

**REQUEST:**

Construction of a 17-story hotel tower; increase of three floors in height to a total of 203'

**COMMENTS/CONCERNS:**

TB: Overview of changes to the proposed new construction from previous HDRC review (in May 2020)

MH: Overview of proposed design changes (primarily an overview of height)

JF: Questions regarding revised documents and previous stipulations

SC: Questions regarding allowed height (project is consistent with the UDC)

JF: Believes that adding the three floors enhances the design; structure has more balanced facade arrangement.

JF: A side by side of both elevations should be provided for presentation.

SC: Agrees that the additional height provides improved proportions.

AR: Agrees with JF and SC.

AR: Questions regarding how the project will impact traffic and parking.

TB: Will find additional parking for increased room count; third party valet service will likely provide parking services.

JC: The increase in height seems to take away from the adjacent church.

**OVERALL COMMENTS:**



# Hotel Sul Fiume

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

**HDRC PRESENTATION RESUBMITTAL**

February 8, 2023

**Hornberger + Worstell**

Architects and Planners  
170 Maiden Lane  
San Francisco, CA 94108

415.391.1080  
[design@hwiarchitects.com](mailto:design@hwiarchitects.com)

SMS-SAR Hospitality, LLC.



ORIGINAL TOTAL

REVISIONS

NEW TOTAL

147 Original Guestrooms

45 Guestrooms Added

192 New Guestrooms

14 Floors

3 Floors Added

17 Floors

Gross Area: 126,289 SF

8,025 SF per Floor  
24,075 SF per 3 Floors

Gross Area: 150,364 SF

Original Height: 174’-8”

9’-8” per Floor  
29’-0” per 3 Floors

New Height: 203’-8”





# hotel **SUL FIUME**

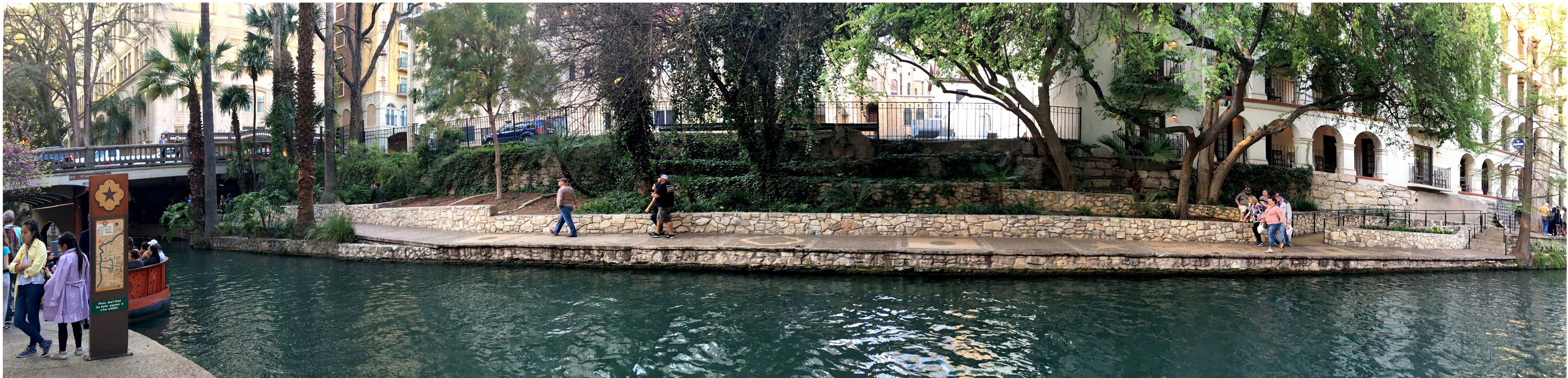
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- 1 Stone Veneer/Finish 1
- 2 Stone Veneer/Finish 2
- 3 dri-design Panel/Color 1
- 3A dri-design Panel/Color 2
- 4 Morin Metal Panel/Color Coil Finish
- 5 Curtain Wall Glass/Vitro Solarban 70, Opti-Gray
- 6 Curtain Wall Spandrel Glass/Vitro Solarban 70, Opti-Gray
- 7 Curtain Wall/Mullions & Extensions
- 8 Bronze (VS 10B) Accent on Doors
- 9 Canopy/Balcony C-Profile Fascia





**UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT CODE**  
APPENDIX G DESIGN STANDARDS

Chapter 9 – San Antonio Riverwalk Rio-3

D. Materials and Finishes

1. Utilize local materials and traditional building materials for primary wall surfaces. A minimum of seventy-five (75) percent of walls (excluding windows fenestrations) must be composed of the following:

Modular Masonry materials including brick, stone, and nesticated masonry block, tile, terra-cotta, structural clay tile, and cast stone

2.b. Glass curtain wall buildings are allowed in Rio-3 as long as the river and street levels comply with statement 1 above.



West Elevation - St. Mary's Street Rectory Entry



- T.O. Parapet 203'-8"
- Roof 198'-8"
- Level 18 188'-8"
- Level 17 174'-8"
- Level 16 161'-0"
- Level 15 151'-4"
- Level 14 141'-8"
- Level 13 132'-0"
- Level 12 122'-4"
- Level 11 112'-8"
- Level 10 103'-0"
- Level 09 93'-4"
- Level 08 83'-8"
- Level 07 74'-0"
- Level 06 64'-4"
- Level 05 54'-8"
- Level 04 44'-0"
- Level 03 26'-0"
- Level 02 15'-0"
- Level 01 0'-0"
- Level 00 -10'-8"

WEST  
ELEVATION





- Top of Mechanical  
180' - 0"
- Level 16  
170' - 0"
- Level 15 Roof  
Penthouse  
160' - 0"
- Level 14 Penthouse  
146' - 0"
- Level 13  
134' - 0"
- Level 12  
124' - 0"
- Level 11  
114' - 0"
- Level 10  
104' - 0"
- Level 9  
94' - 0"
- Level 8  
84' - 0"
- Level 7  
74' - 0"
- Level 6  
64' - 0"
- Level 5  
54' - 0"
- Level 4  
44' - 0"
- Level 3.5  
35' - 0"
- Level 3  
26' - 0"
- LEVEL 2 -  
RECTORY  
16' - 0"
- Ground Level  
0' - 0"

WEST ELEVATION (14-STORY)



- T. O. Parapet  
203' - 8"
- Roof  
198' - 8"
- Level 18  
188' - 8"
- Level 17  
174' - 8"
- Level 16  
161' - 0"
- Level 15  
151' - 4"
- Level 14  
141' - 8"
- Level 13  
132' - 0"
- Level 12  
122' - 4"
- Level 11  
112' - 8"
- Level 10  
103' - 0"
- Level 09  
93' - 4"
- Level 08  
83' - 8"
- Level 07  
74' - 0"
- Level 06  
64' - 4"
- Level 05  
54' - 8"
- Level 04  
44' - 0"
- Level 03  
28' - 0"
- Level 02  
15' - 0"
- Level 01  
0' - 0"

WEST ELEVATION (17-STORY)

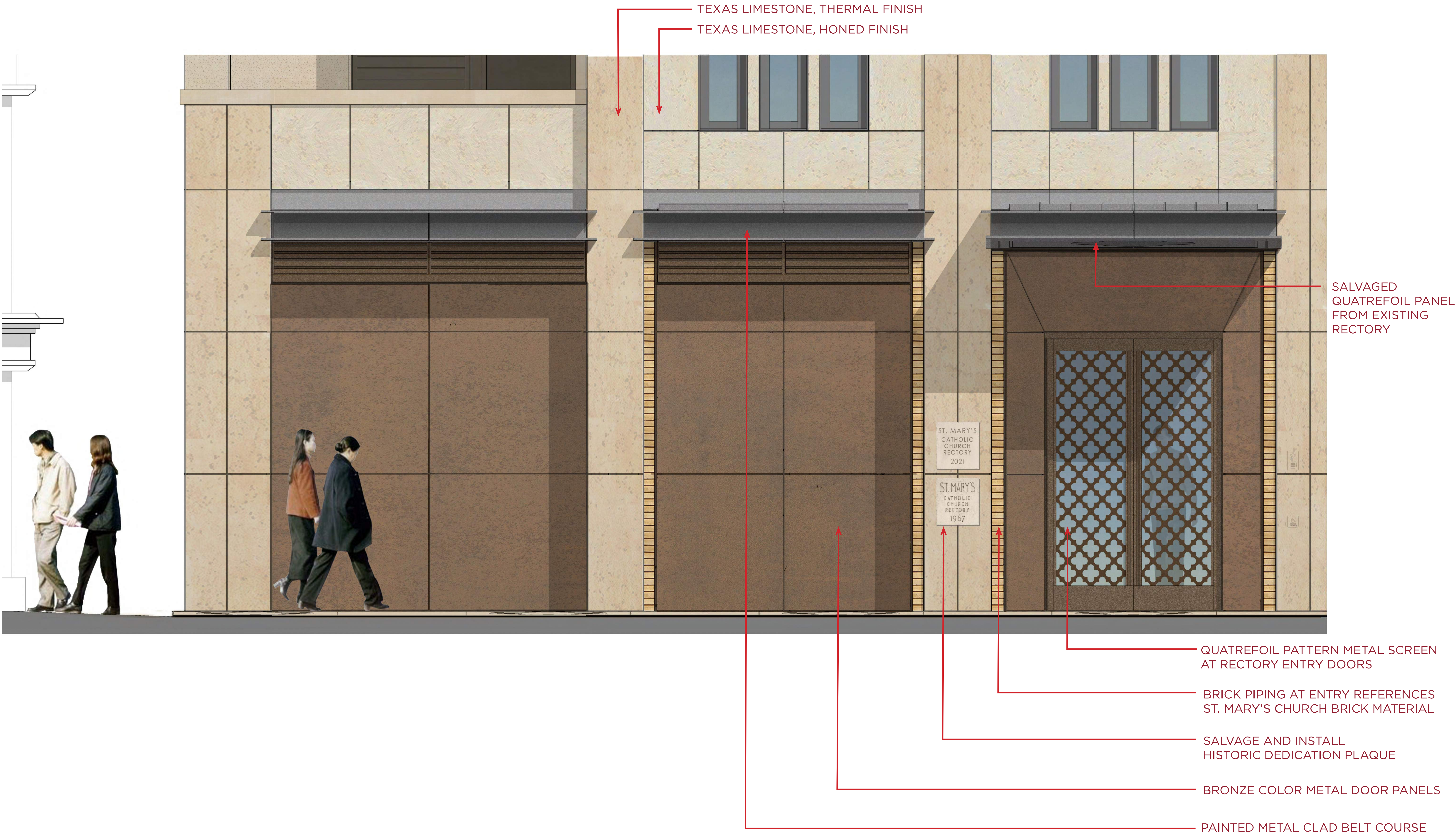


Enlarged West Elevation - St. Mary's Street Rectory Entry





# Enlarged West Elevation - St. Mary's Street Rectory Entry





South Elevation - River Walk



T. O. Parapet	203'-8"
Roof	198'-8"
Level 18	188'-8"
Level 17	174'-8"
Level 16	161'-0"
Level 15	151'-4"
Level 14	141'-8"
Level 13	132'-0"
Level 12	122'-4"
Level 11	112'-8"
Level 10	103'-0"
Level 09	93'-4"
Level 08	83'-8"
Level 07	74'-0"
Level 06	64'-4"
Level 05	54'-8"
Level 04	44'-0"
Level 03	28'-0"
Level 02	15'-0"
Level 01	0'-0"
Level 00	-10'-8"

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SOUTH ELEVATION (14-STORY)



SOUTH ELEVATION (17-STORY)



Enlarged South Elevation - River Walk



SOUTH ELEVATION - RENDERED



East Elevation

- T. O. Parapet  
203'-8"
- Roof  
198'-8"
- Level 18  
188'-8"
- Level 17  
174'-8"
- Level 16  
161'-0"
- Level 15  
151'-4"
- Level 14  
141'-8"
- Level 13  
132'-0"
- Level 12  
122'-4"
- Level 11  
112'-8"
- Level 10  
103'-0"
- Level 09  
93'-4"
- Level 08  
83'-8"
- Level 07  
74'-0"
- Level 06  
64'-4"
- Level 05  
54'-8"
- Level 04  
44'-0"
- Level 03  
26'-0"
- Level 02  
15'-0"
- Level 01  
0'-0"
- Level 00  
-10'-8"

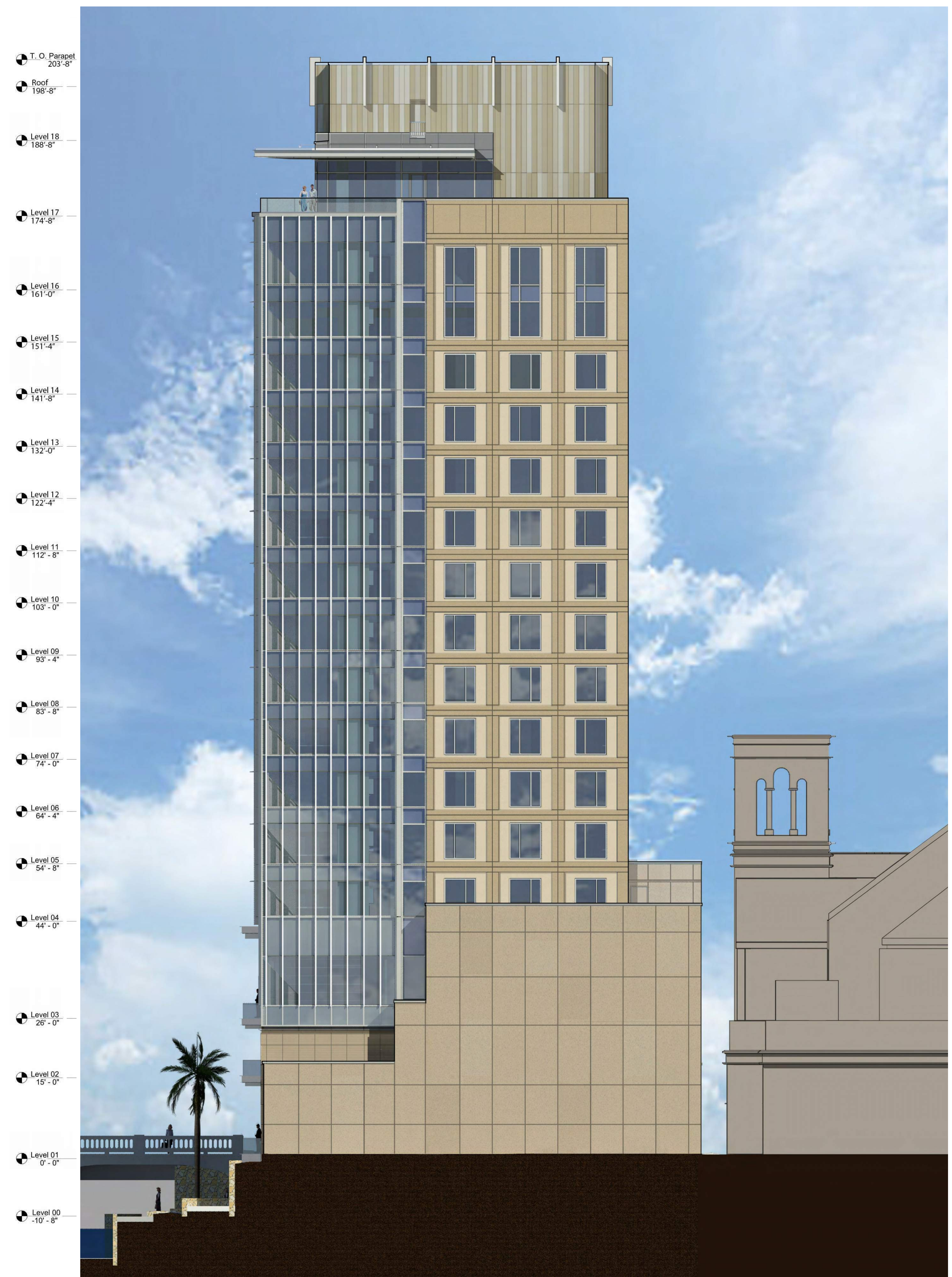


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EAST ELEVATION (14-STORY)



EAST ELEVATION (17-STORY)



North Elevation



- Level 00 -10' - 8"
- Level 01 0' - 0"
- Level 02 15' - 0"
- Level 03 26' - 0"
- Level 04 44' - 0"
- Level 05 54' - 8"
- Level 06 64' - 4"
- Level 07 74' - 0"
- Level 08 83' - 8"
- Level 09 93' - 4"
- Level 10 103' - 0"
- Level 11 112' - 8"
- Level 12 122' - 4"
- Level 13 132' - 0"
- Level 14 141' - 8"
- Level 15 151' - 4"
- Level 16 161' - 0"
- Level 17 174' - 8"
- Level 18 188' - 8"
- Roof 198' - 8"
- T. O. Parapet 203' - 8"



NORTH  
ELEVATION

HDRC Presentation ReSubmittal 02.01.2023

SMS-SAR Hospitality, LLC.

hotel **SULFUME**

| San Antonio, Texas

**Hornberger + Worstell**





- Top of Mechanical 180' - 0"
- Level 16 170' - 0"
- Level 15 Roof Penthouse 160' - 0"
- Level 14 Penthouse 146' - 0"
- Level 13 134' - 0"
- Level 12 124' - 0"
- Level 11 114' - 0"
- Level 10 104' - 0"
- Level 9 94' - 0"
- Level 8 84' - 0"
- Level 7 74' - 0"
- Level 6 64' - 0"
- Level 5 54' - 0"
- Level 4 44' - 0"
- Level 3.5 35' - 0"
- Level 3 26' - 0"
- LEVEL 2 - RECTORY 15' - 0"
- Ground Level 0' - 0"
- River Walk Level -12' - 0"

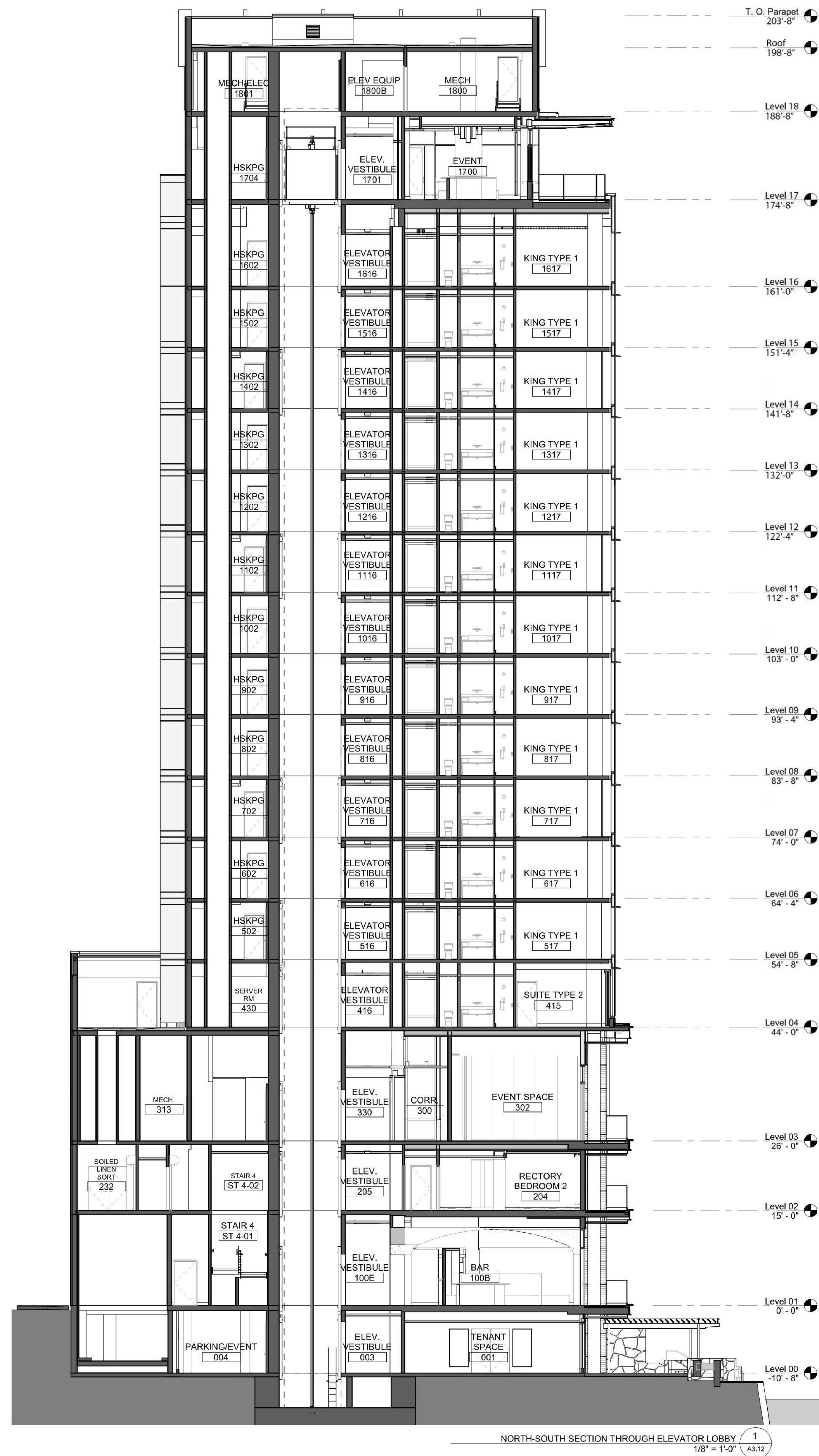
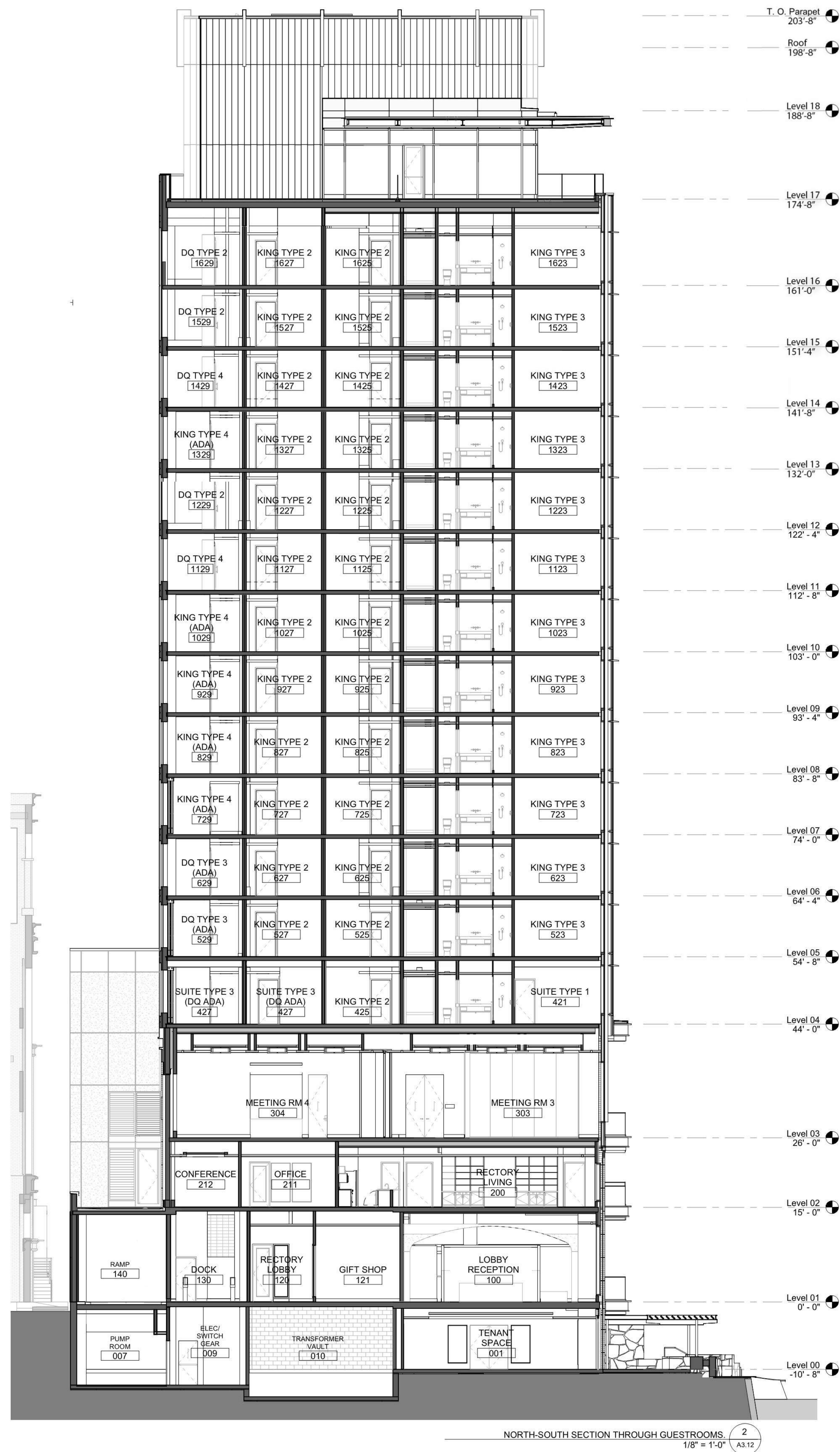
NORTH ELEVATION (14-STORY)



- T. O. Parapet 203' - 8"
- Roof 198' - 8"
- Level 18 188' - 8"
- Level 17 174' - 8"
- Level 16 161' - 0"
- Level 15 151' - 4"
- Level 14 141' - 8"
- Level 13 132' - 0"
- Level 12 122' - 4"
- Level 11 112' - 8"
- Level 10 103' - 0"
- Level 09 93' - 4"
- Level 08 83' - 8"
- Level 07 74' - 0"
- Level 06 64' - 4"
- Level 05 54' - 8"
- Level 04 44' - 0"
- Level 03 26' - 0"
- Level 02 15' - 0"
- Level 01 0' - 0"
- Level 00 -10' - 8"

NORTH ELEVATION (17-STORY)



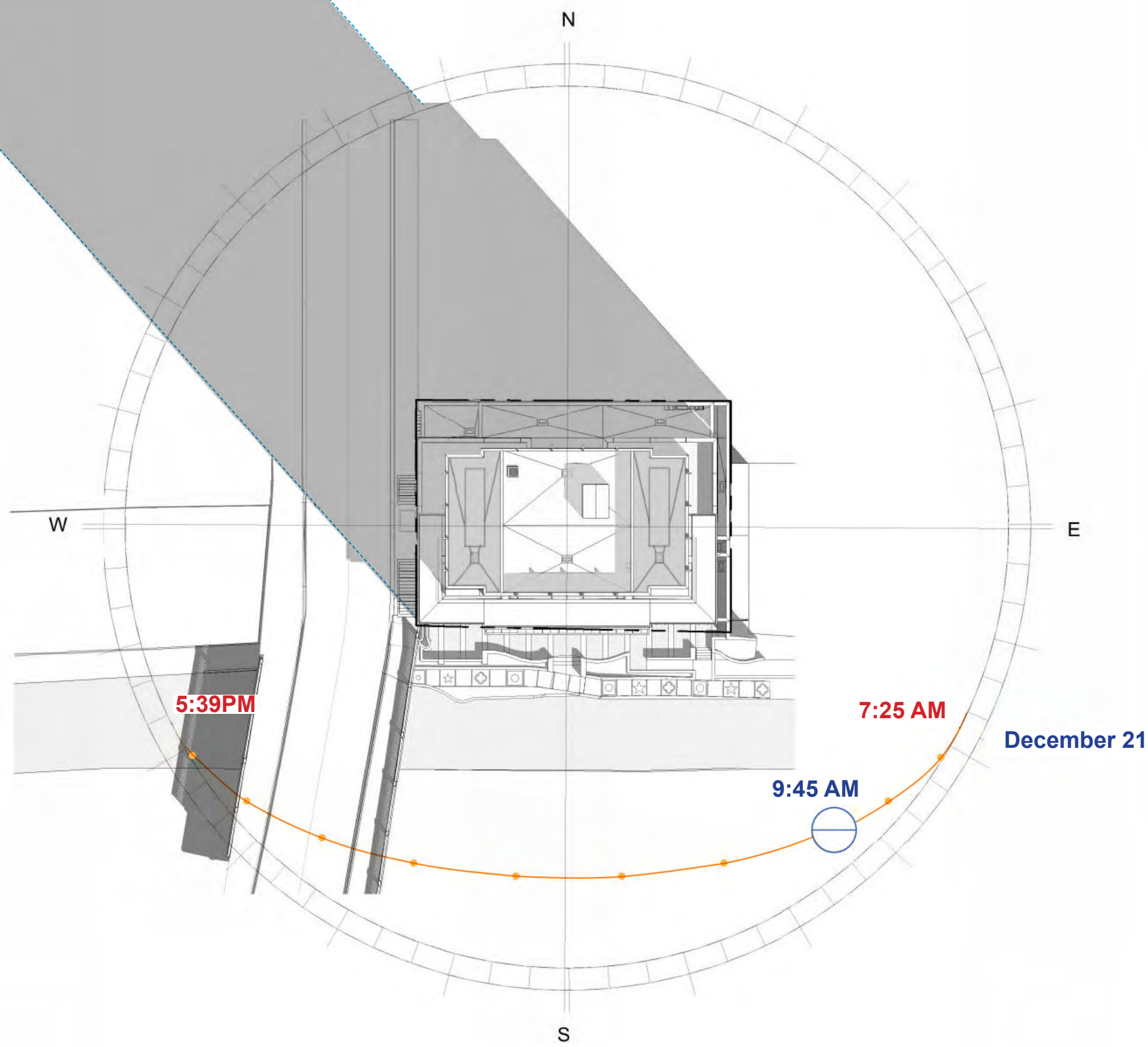




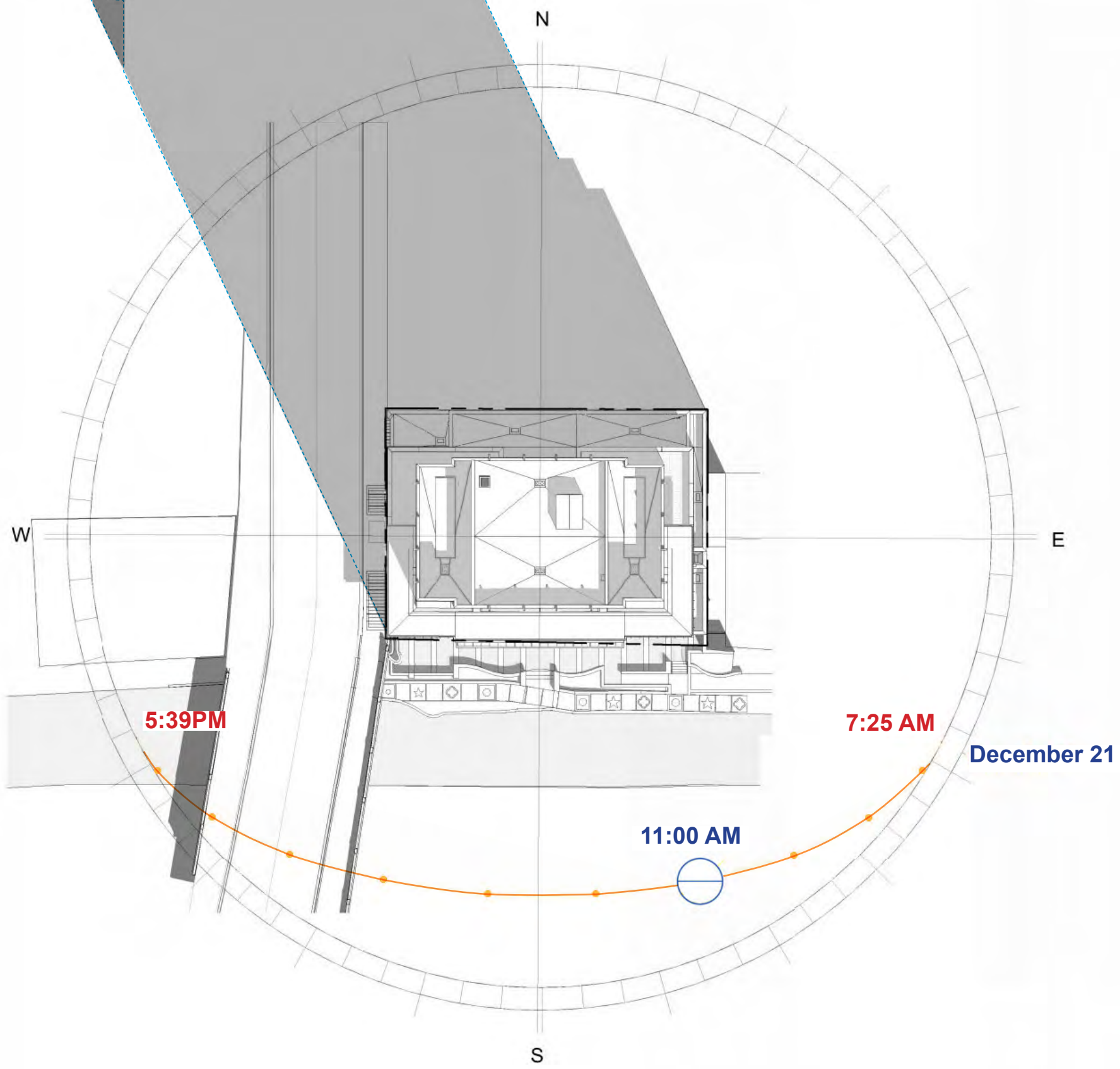
Solar Studies: Winter

5.5 HOURS

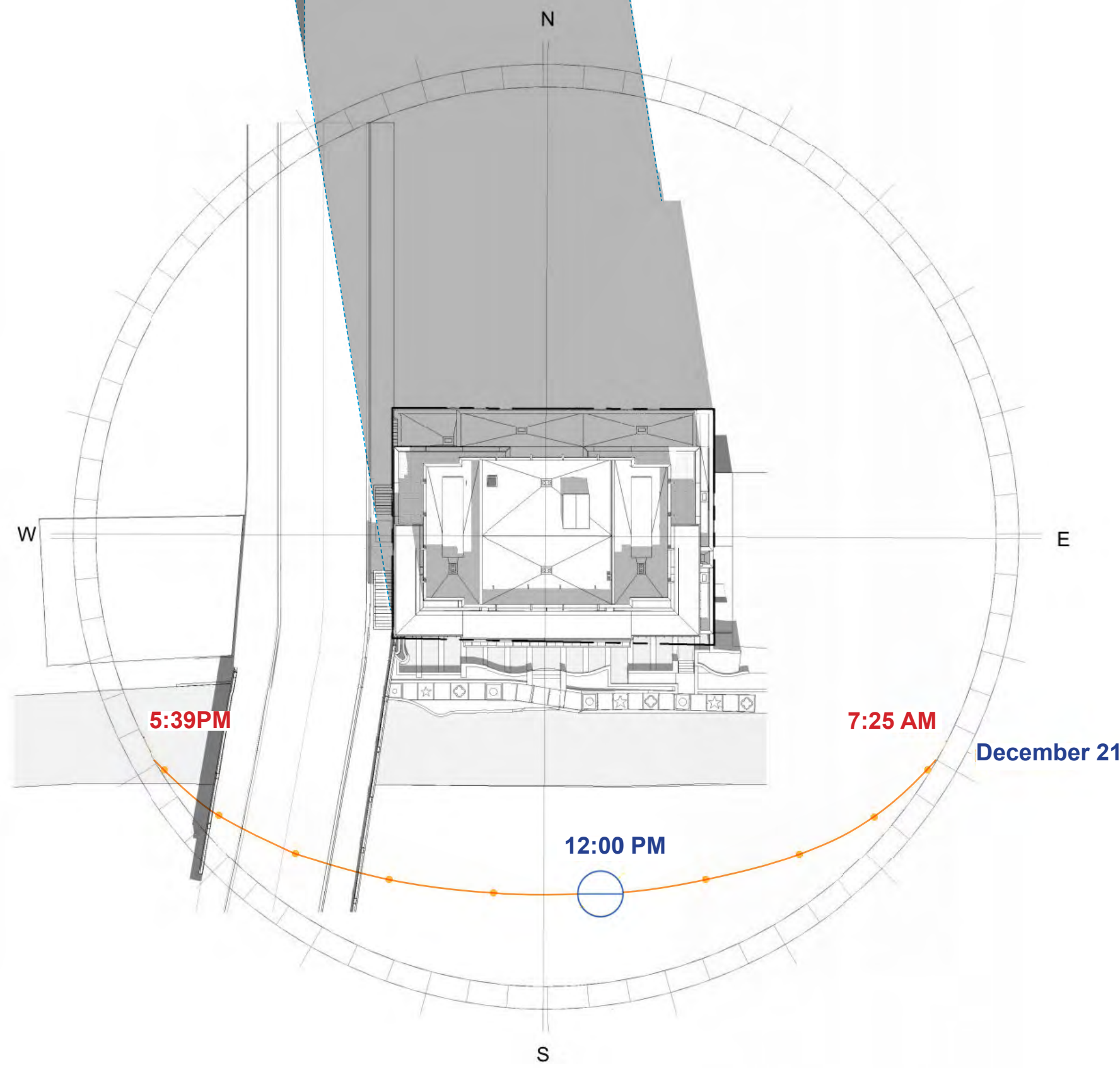
17-STORY SHADOW PROFILE  
14-STORY SHADOW PROFILE



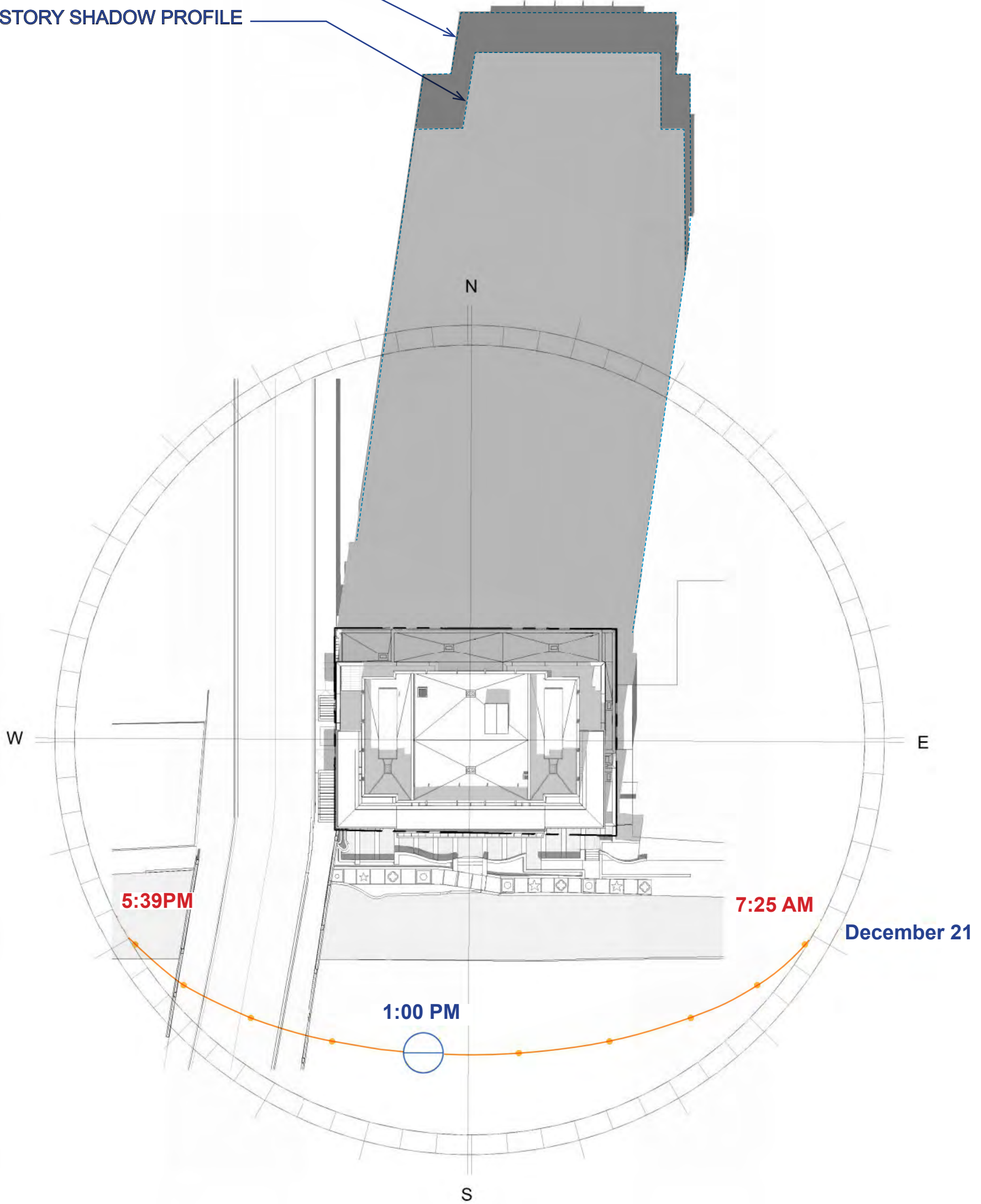
17-STORY SHADOW PROFILE  
14-STORY SHADOW PROFILE



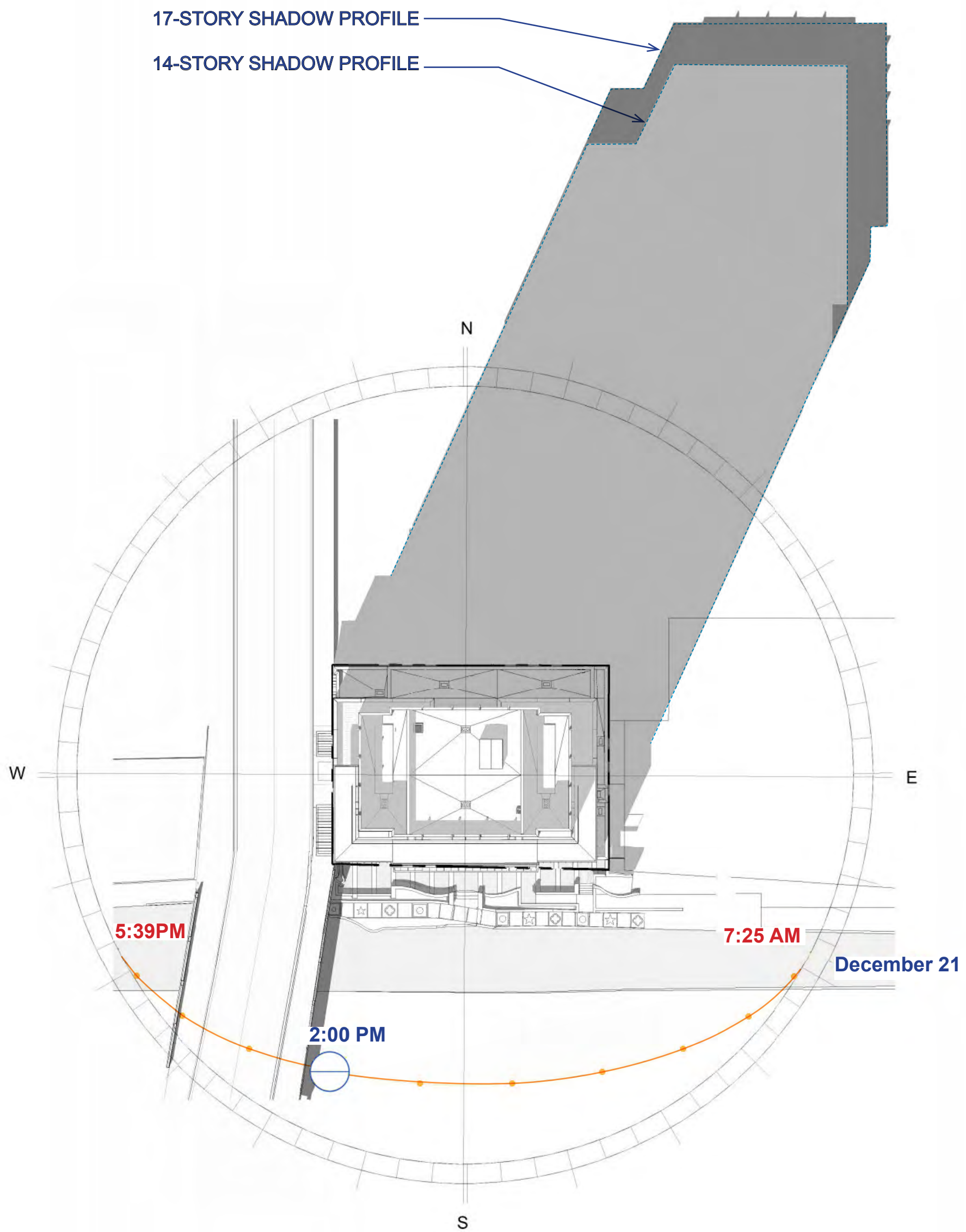
17-STORY SHADOW PROFILE  
14-STORY SHADOW PROFILE



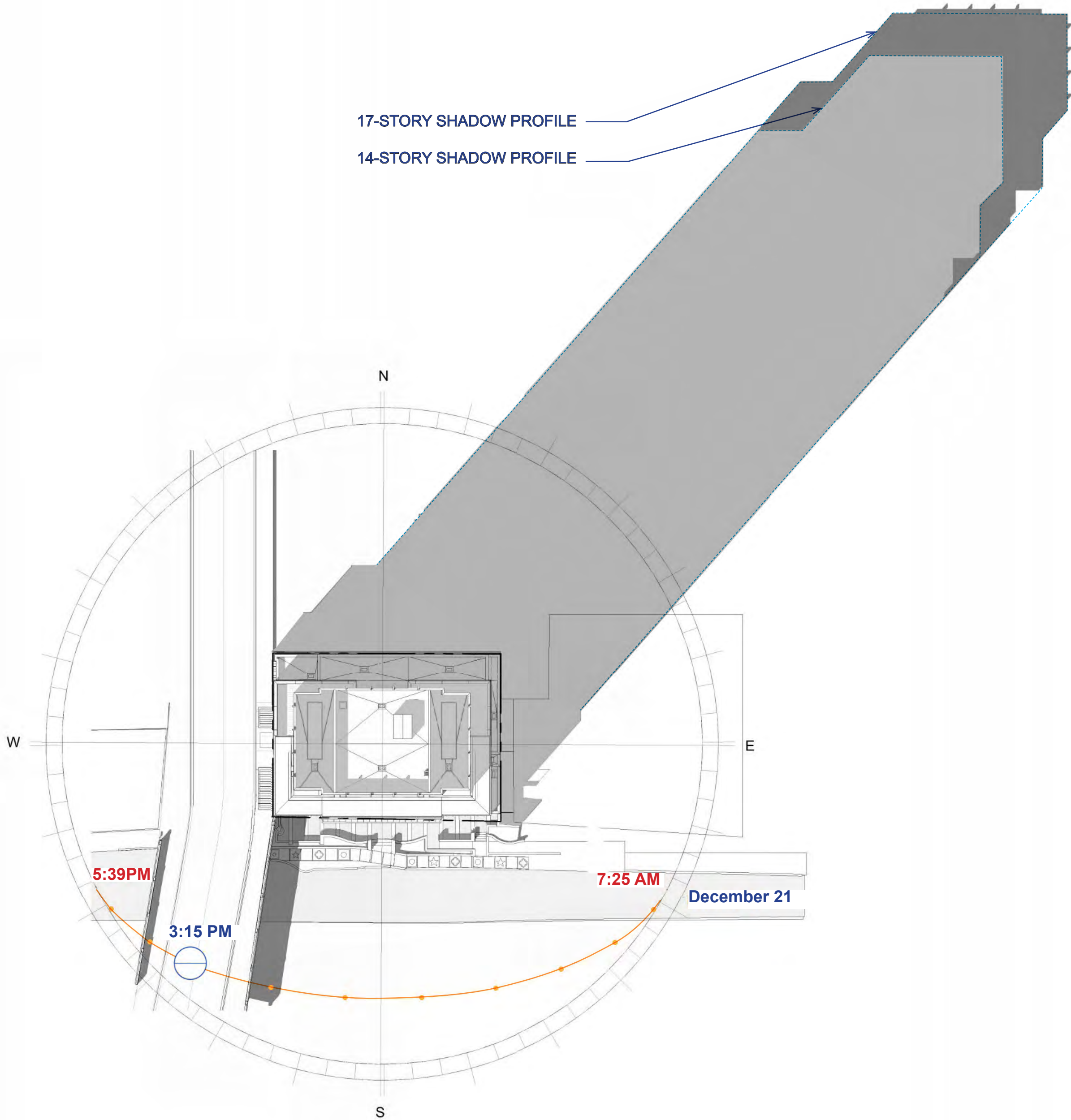
17-STORY SHADOW PROFILE  
14-STORY SHADOW PROFILE



17-STORY SHADOW PROFILE  
14-STORY SHADOW PROFILE



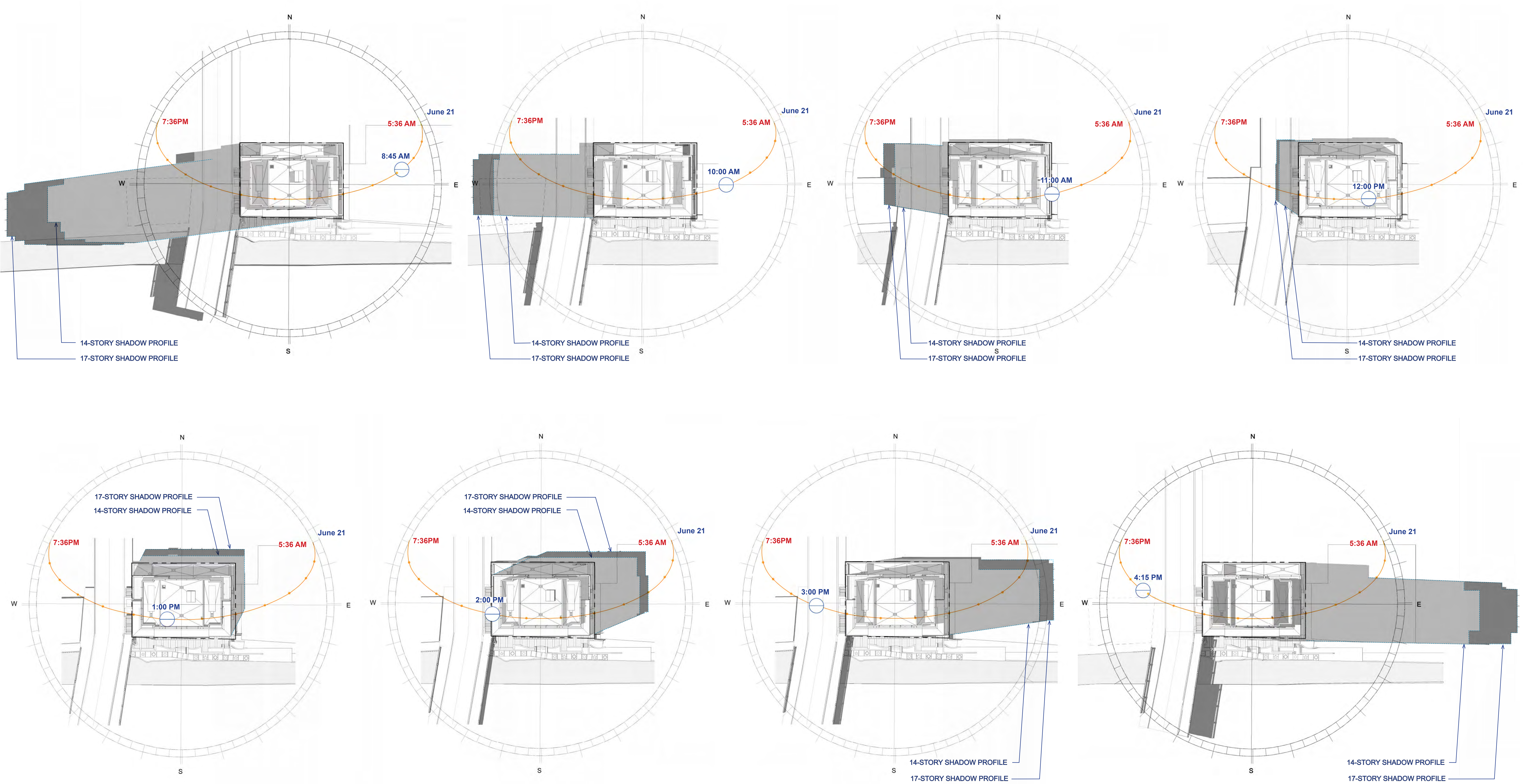
17-STORY SHADOW PROFILE  
14-STORY SHADOW PROFILE





# Solar Studies: Summer

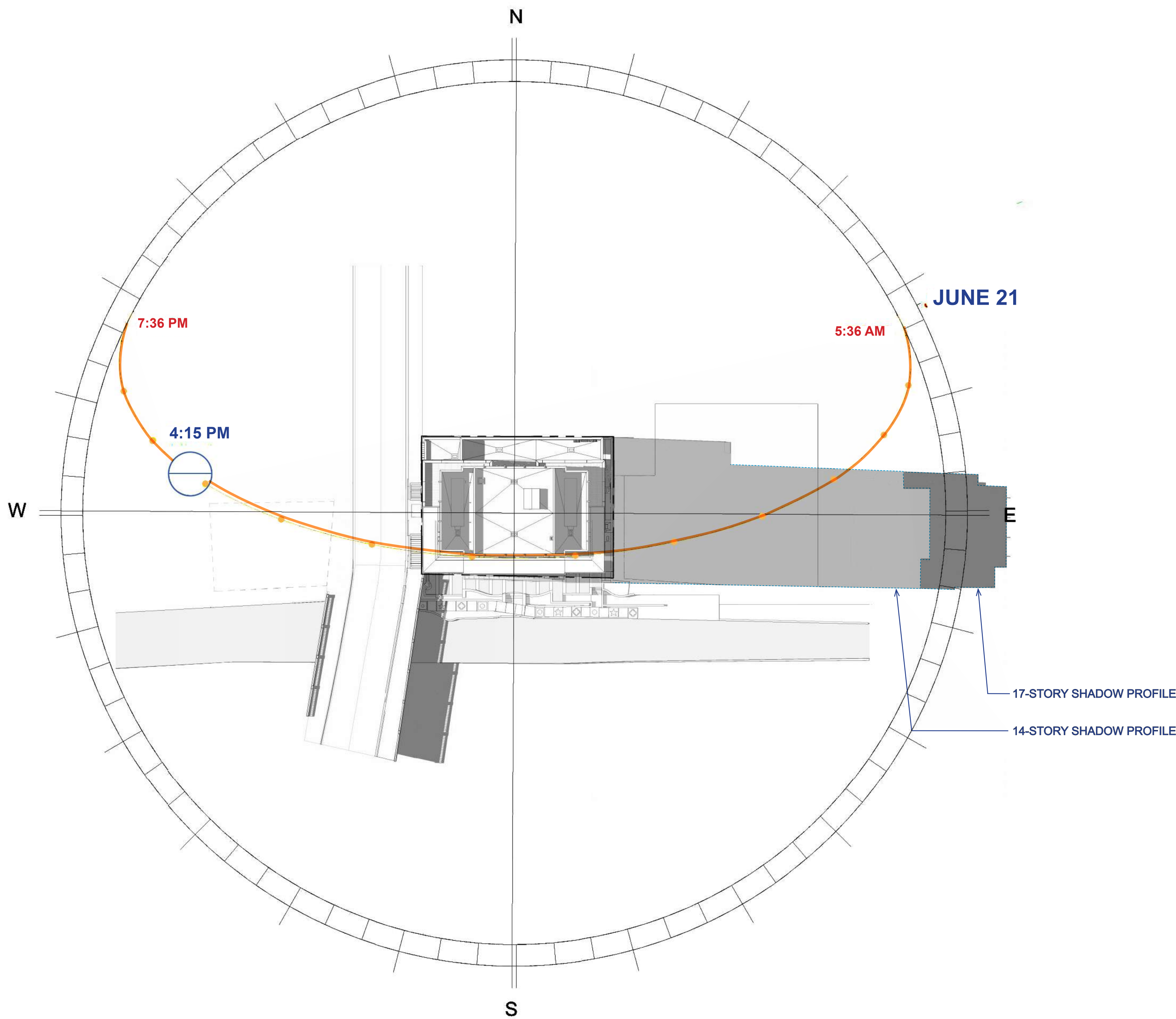
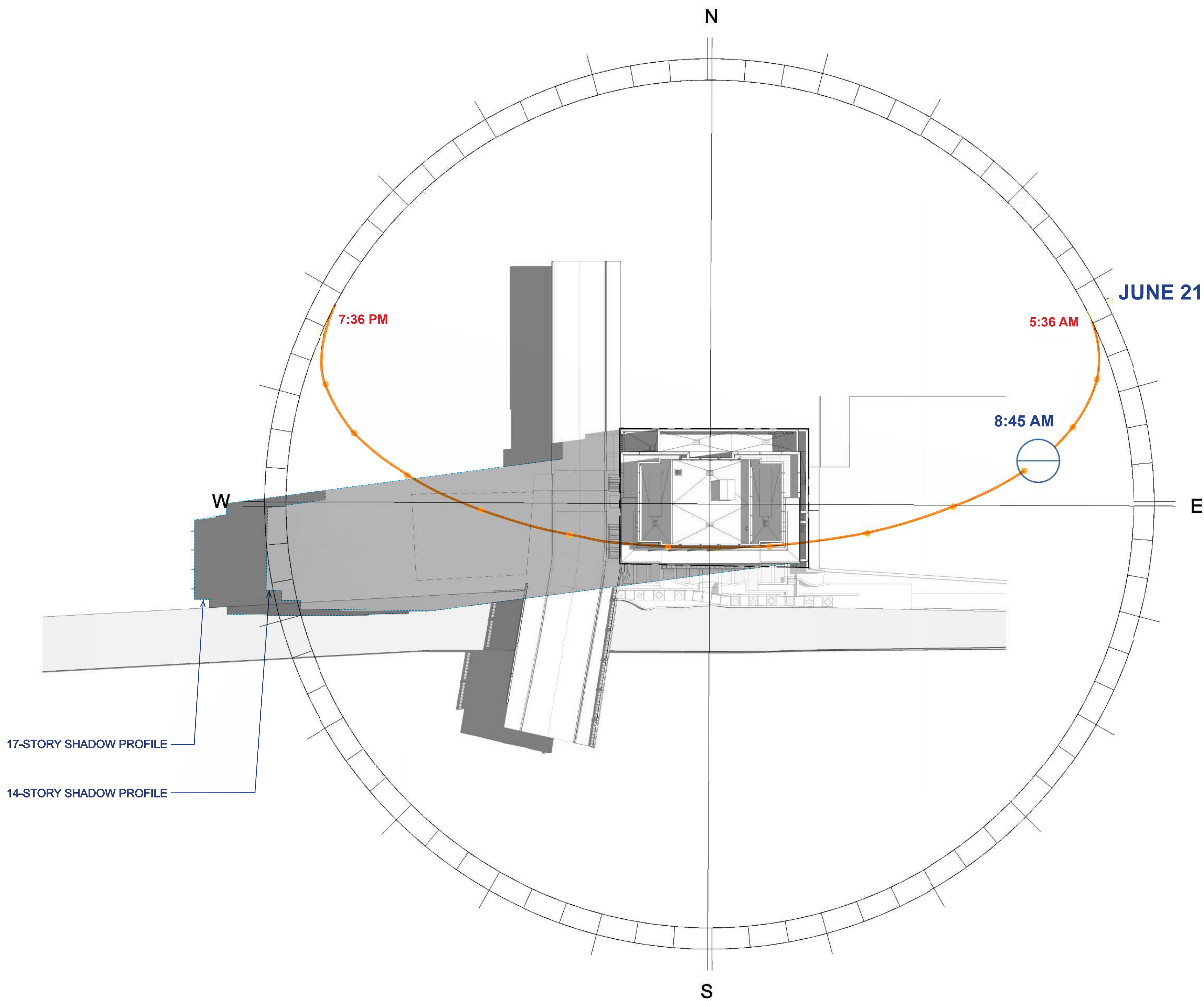
7.5 HOURS





# Solar Studies: Summer

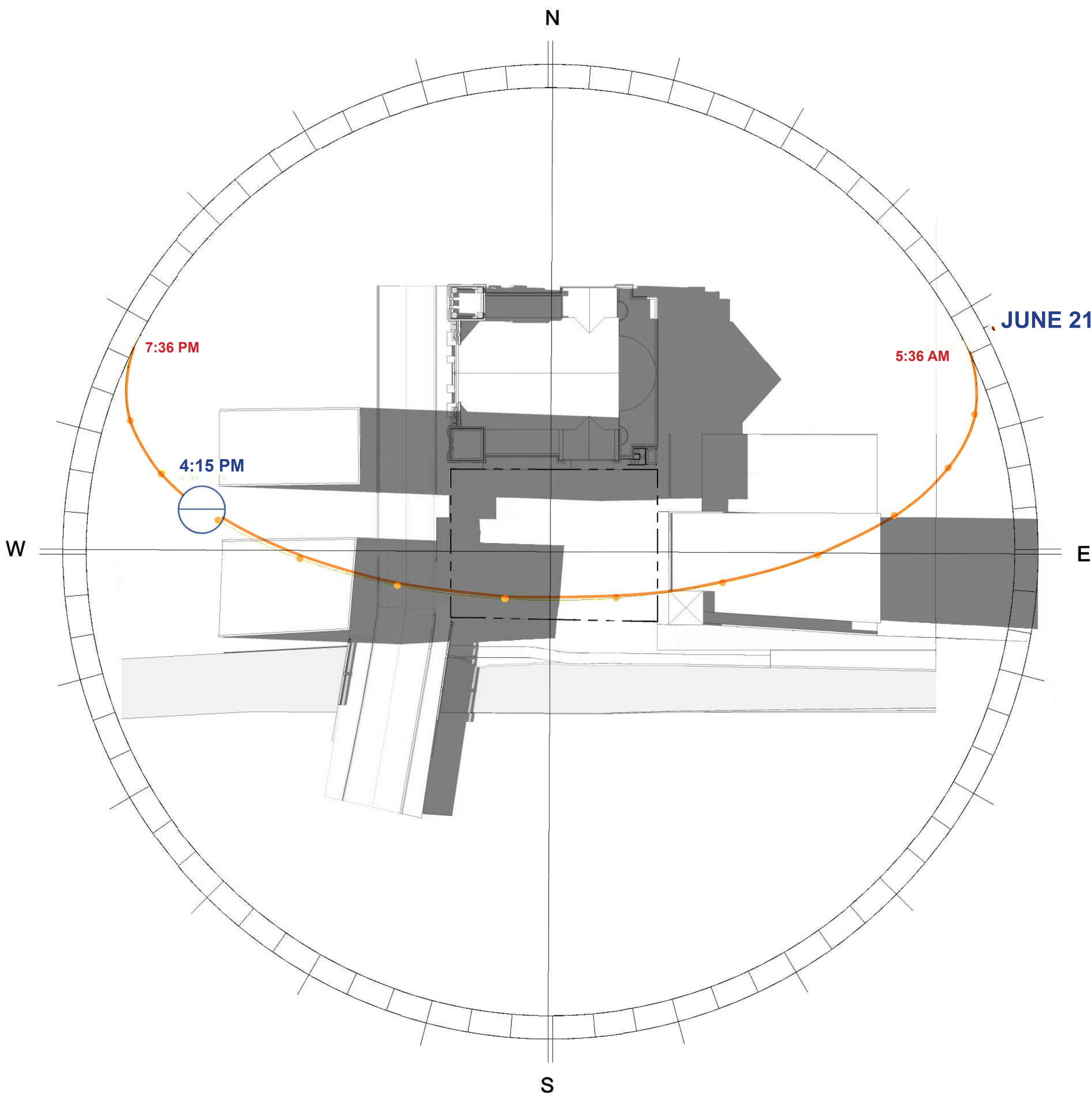
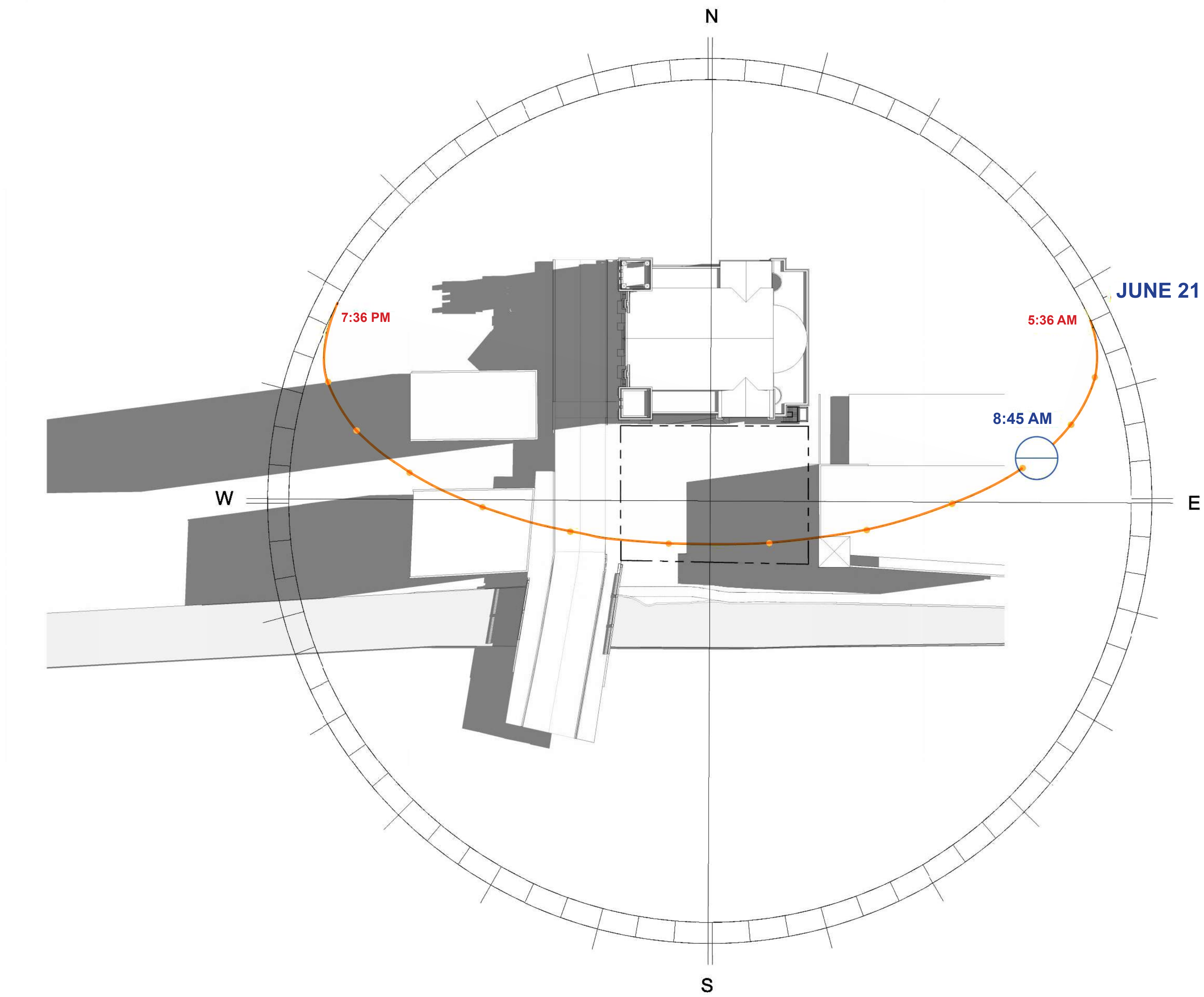
HOTEL & RECTORY ONLY





Solar Studies: Summer

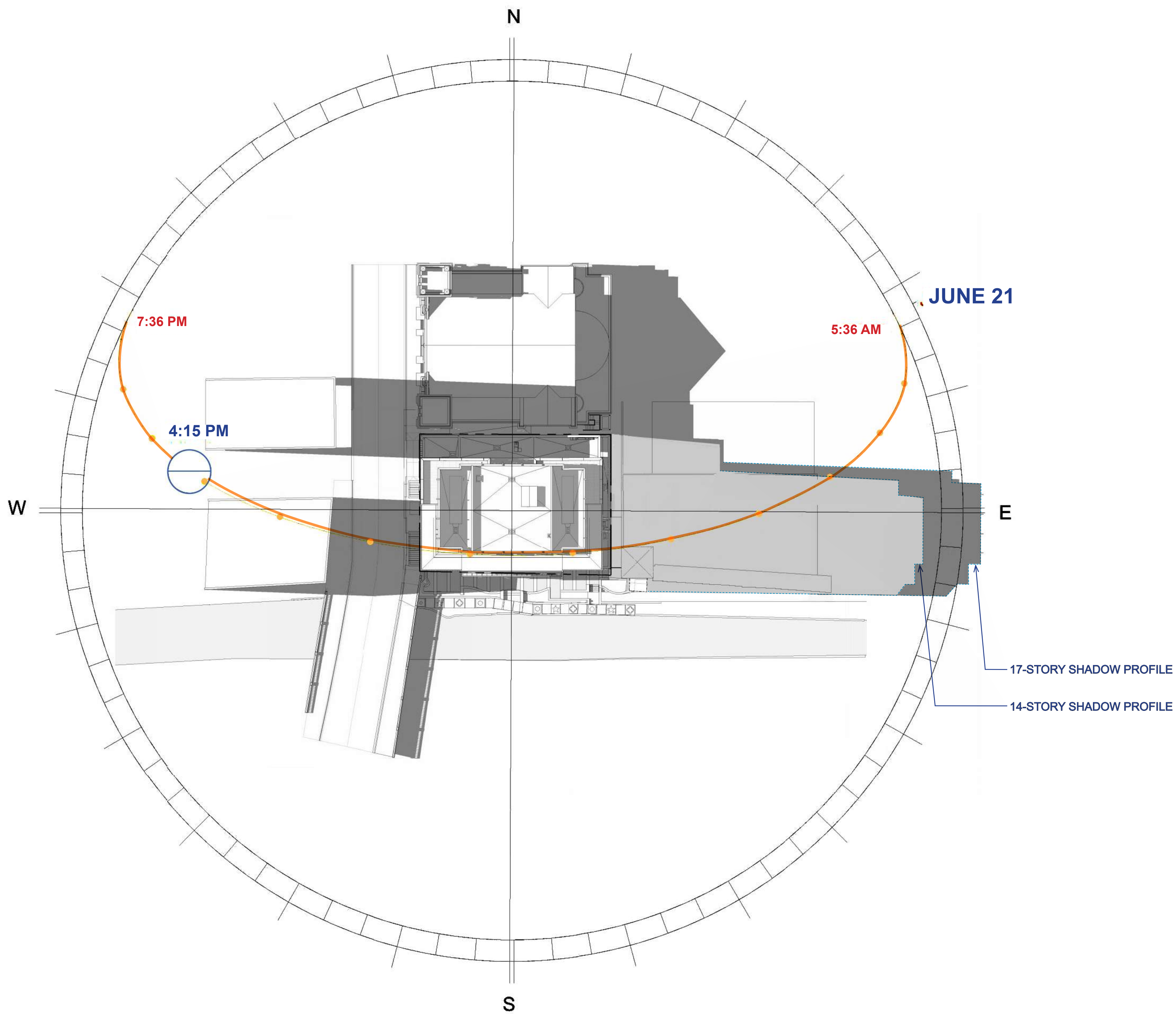
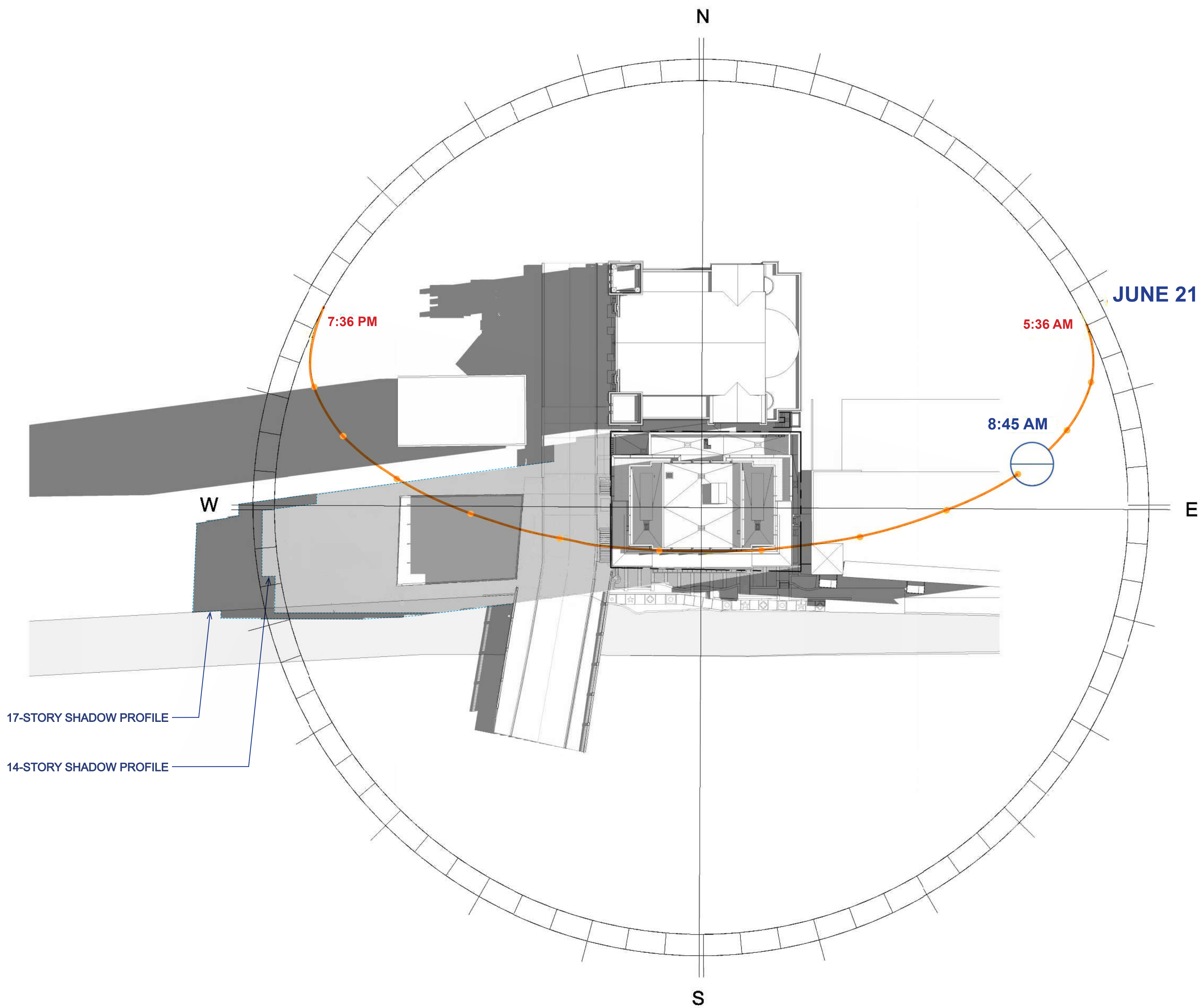
EXISTING ADJACENT BUILDINGS ONLY





Solar Studies: Summer

HOTEL & RECTORY ONLY





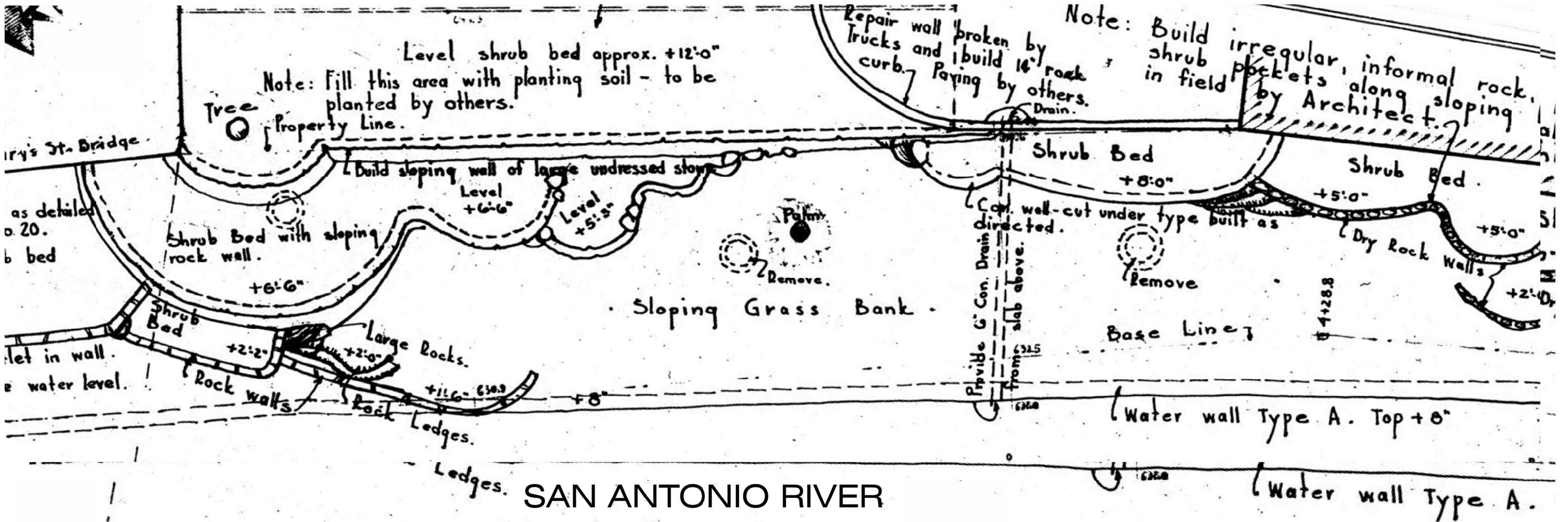
St Mary's Riverwalk





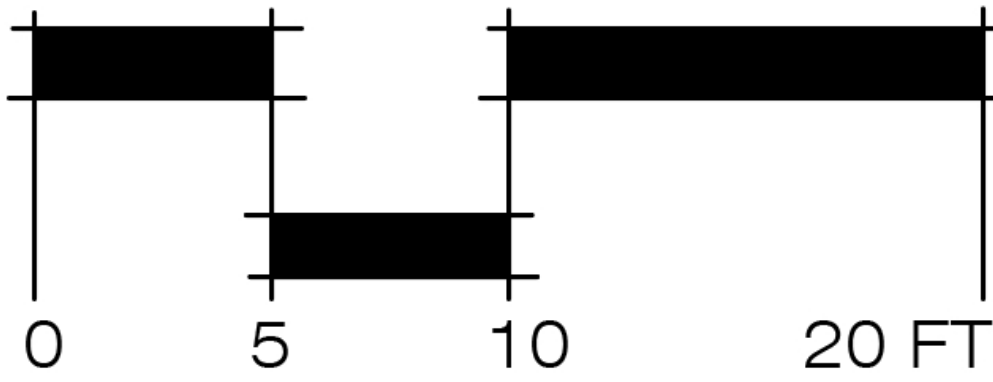
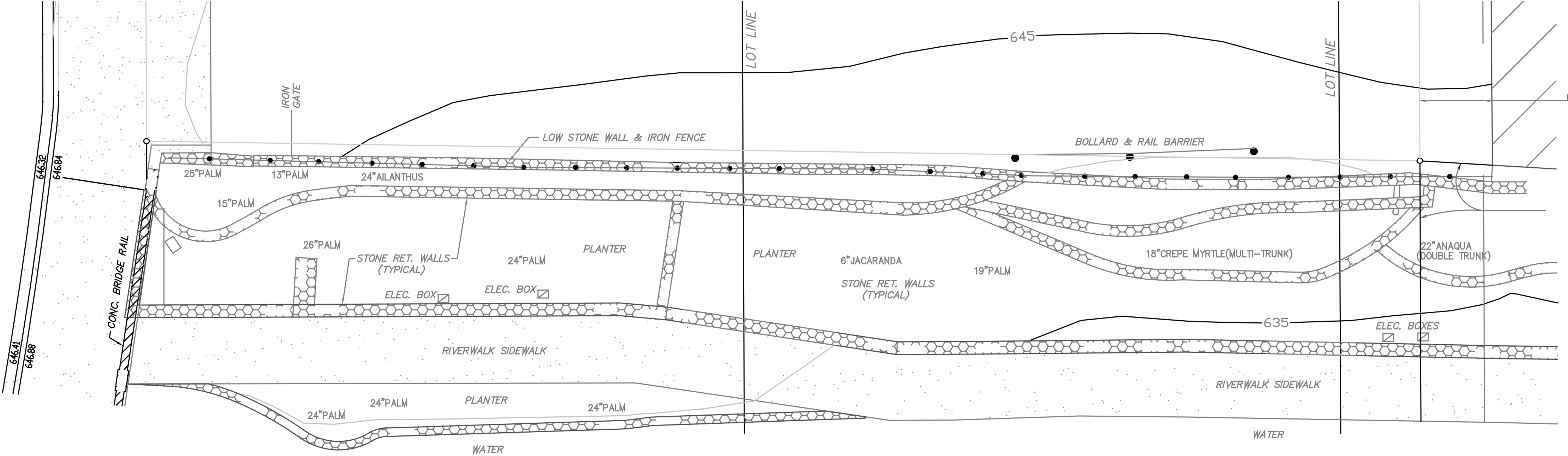
St Mary's Riverwalk Landscape Plan

HUGMAN'S PLAN (1940)





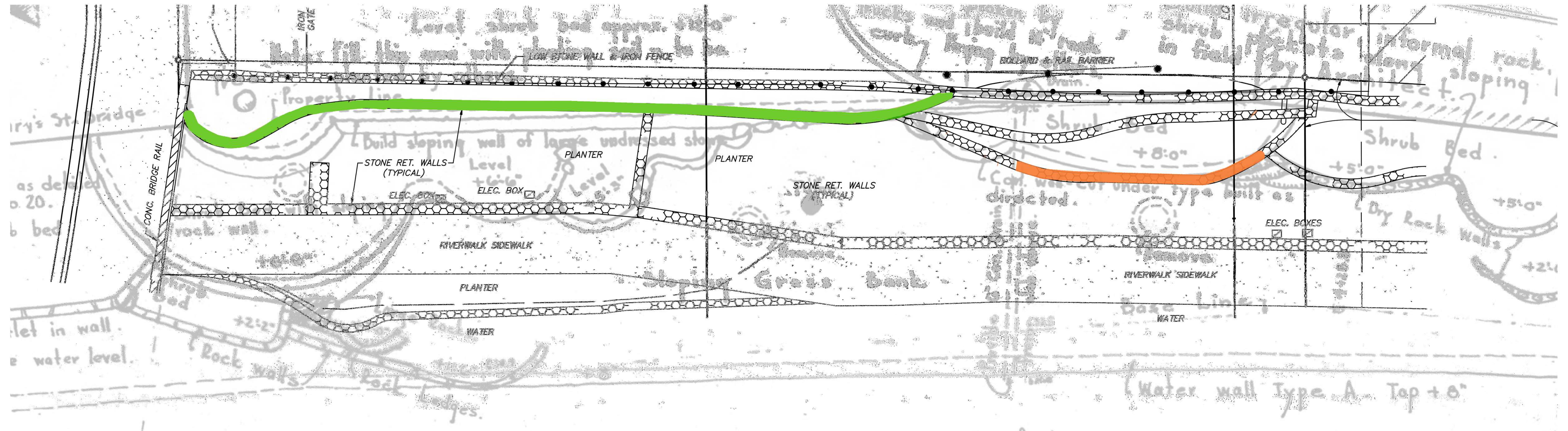
# St Mary's Riverwalk Landscape Plan







# St Mary's Riverwalk Landscape Plan

## EXISTING WALLS IDENTIFIED WITH HUGMAN'S PLANS

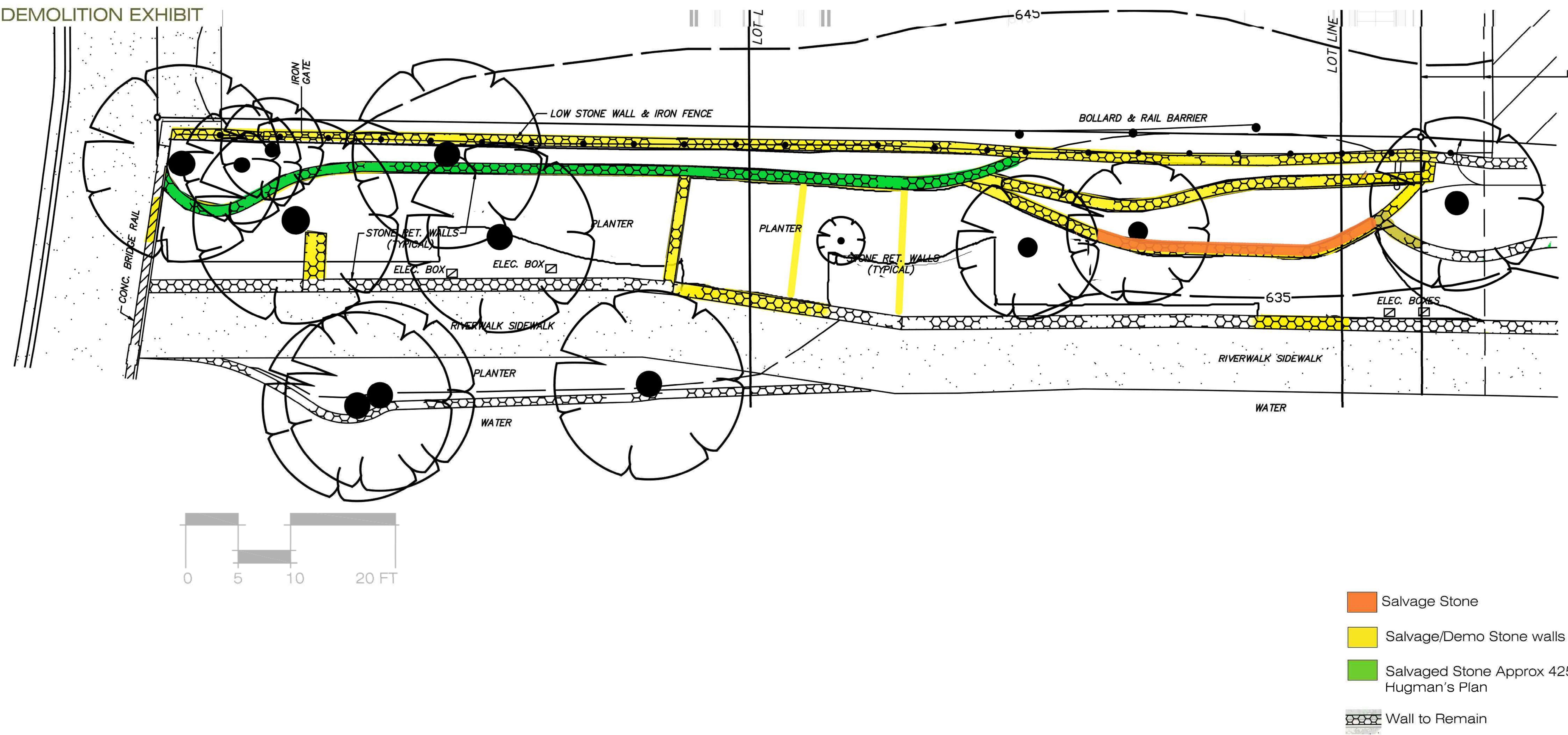


### Legend

-  Existing Wall Identified with Hugman's Plan
-  Existing Wall alternate stone type

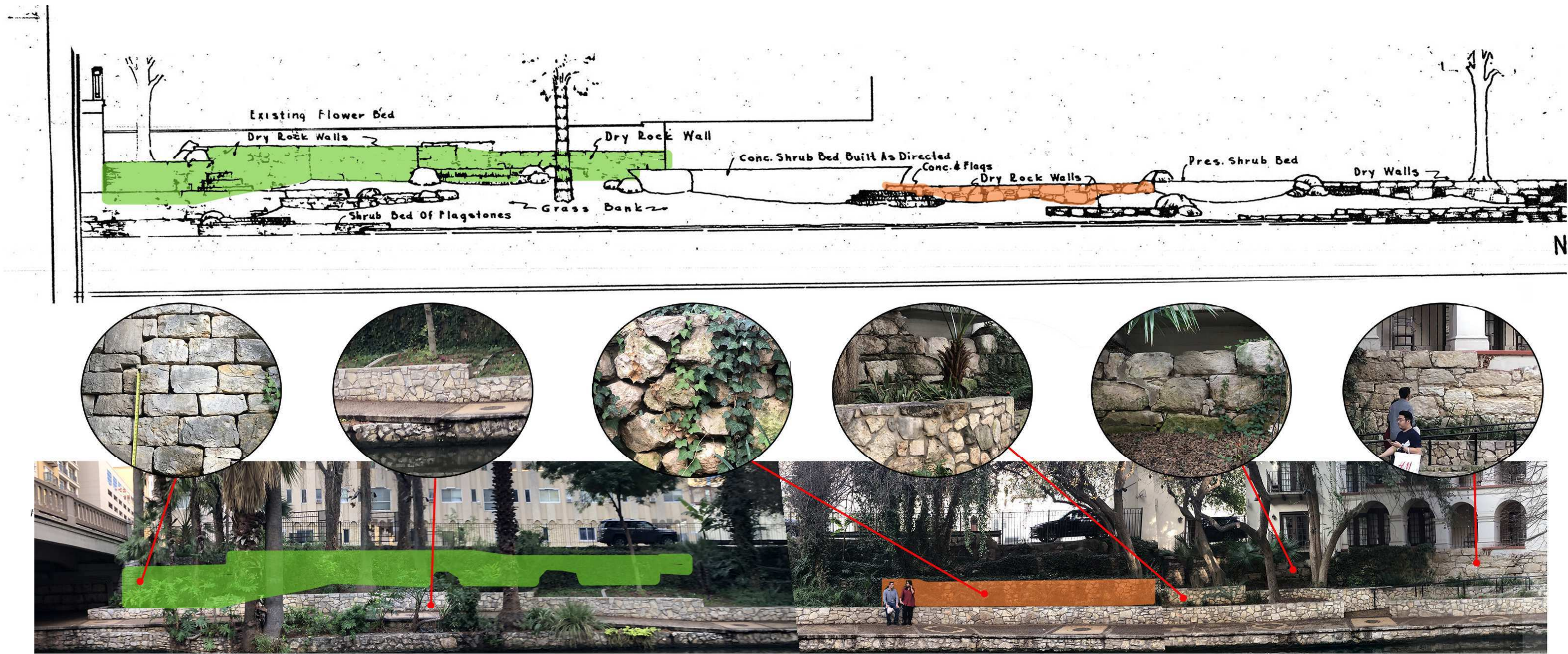


# St Mary's Riverwalk Landscape Plan





St Mary's Riverwalk Landscape Plan

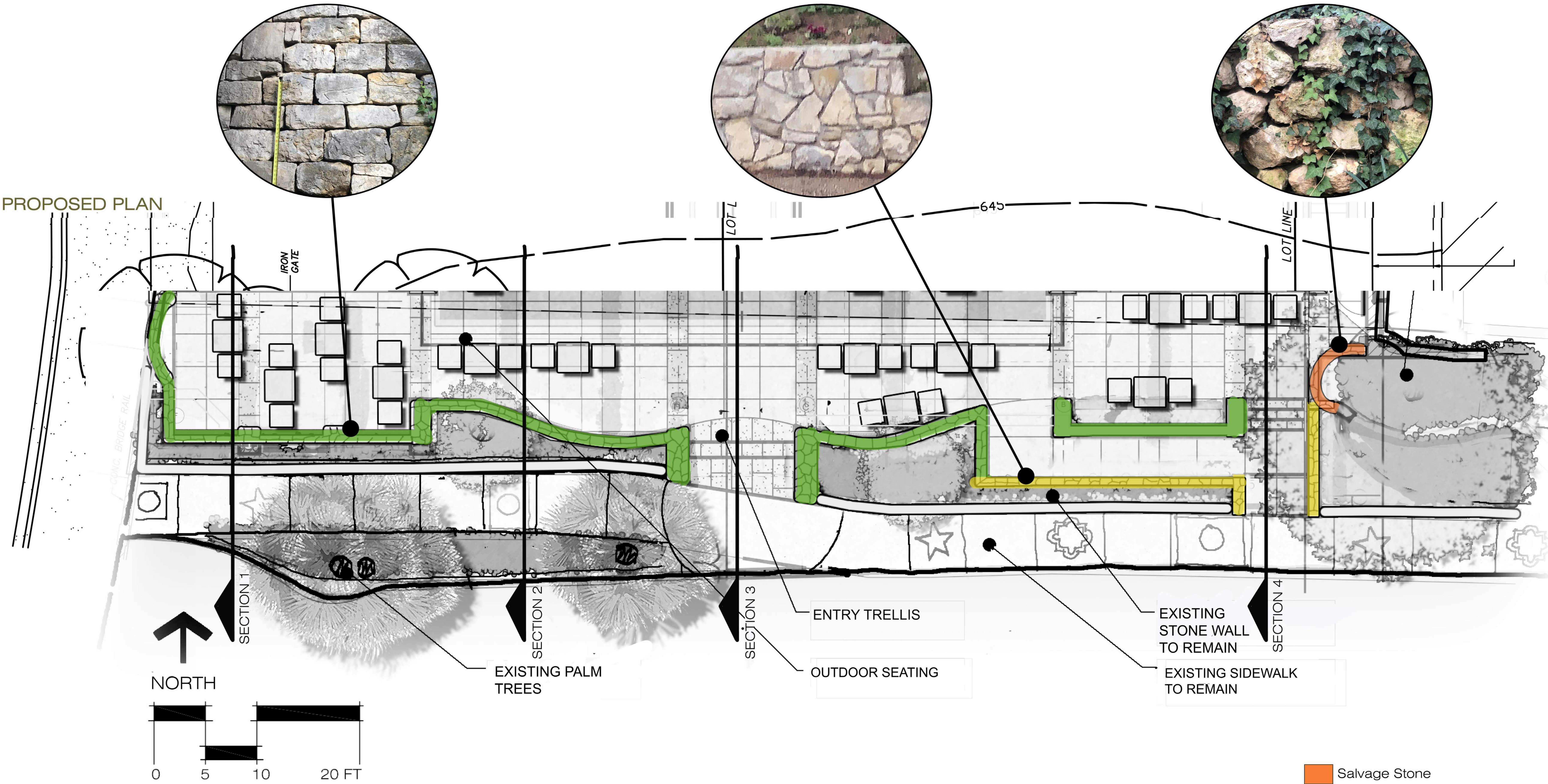








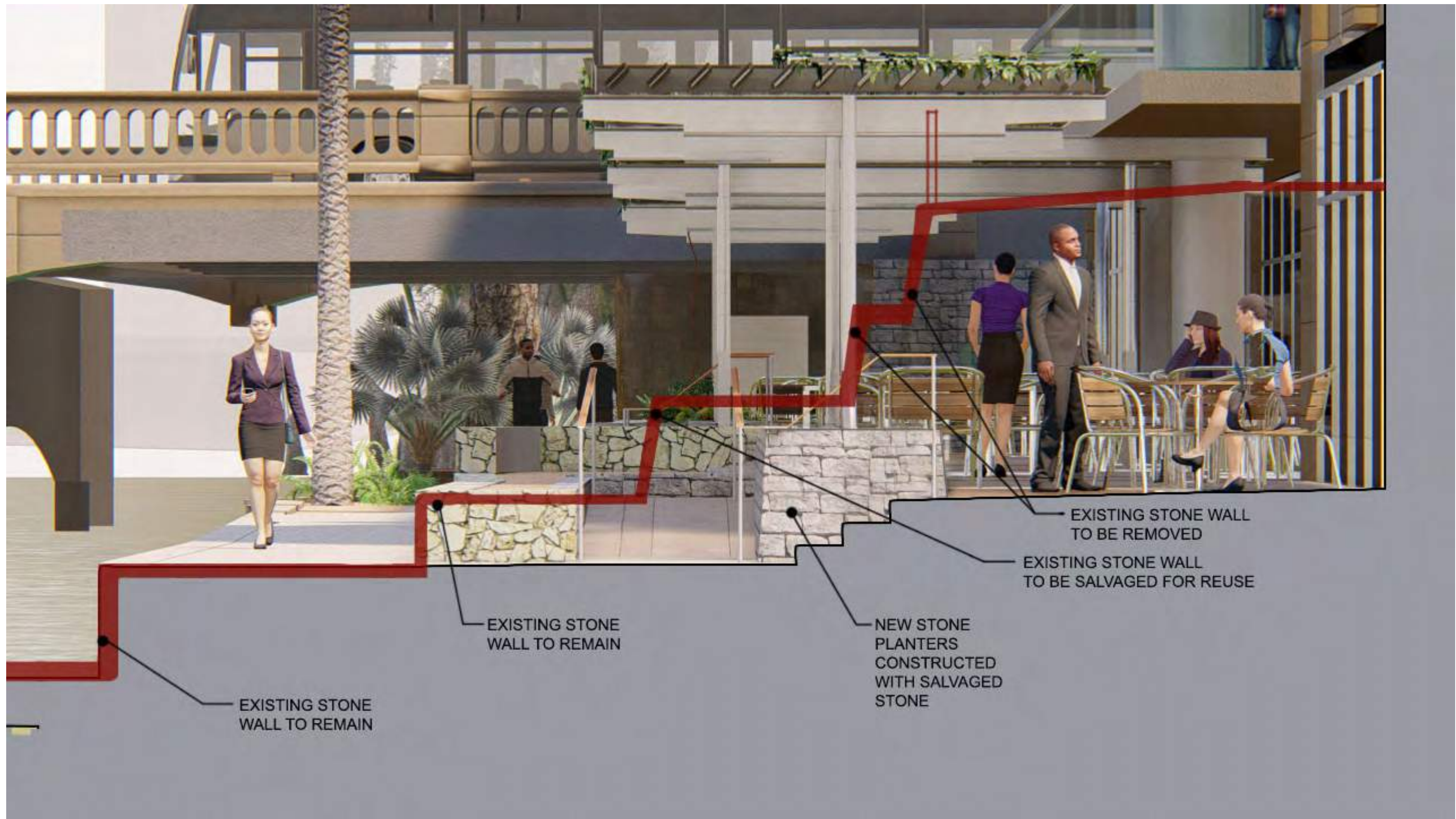
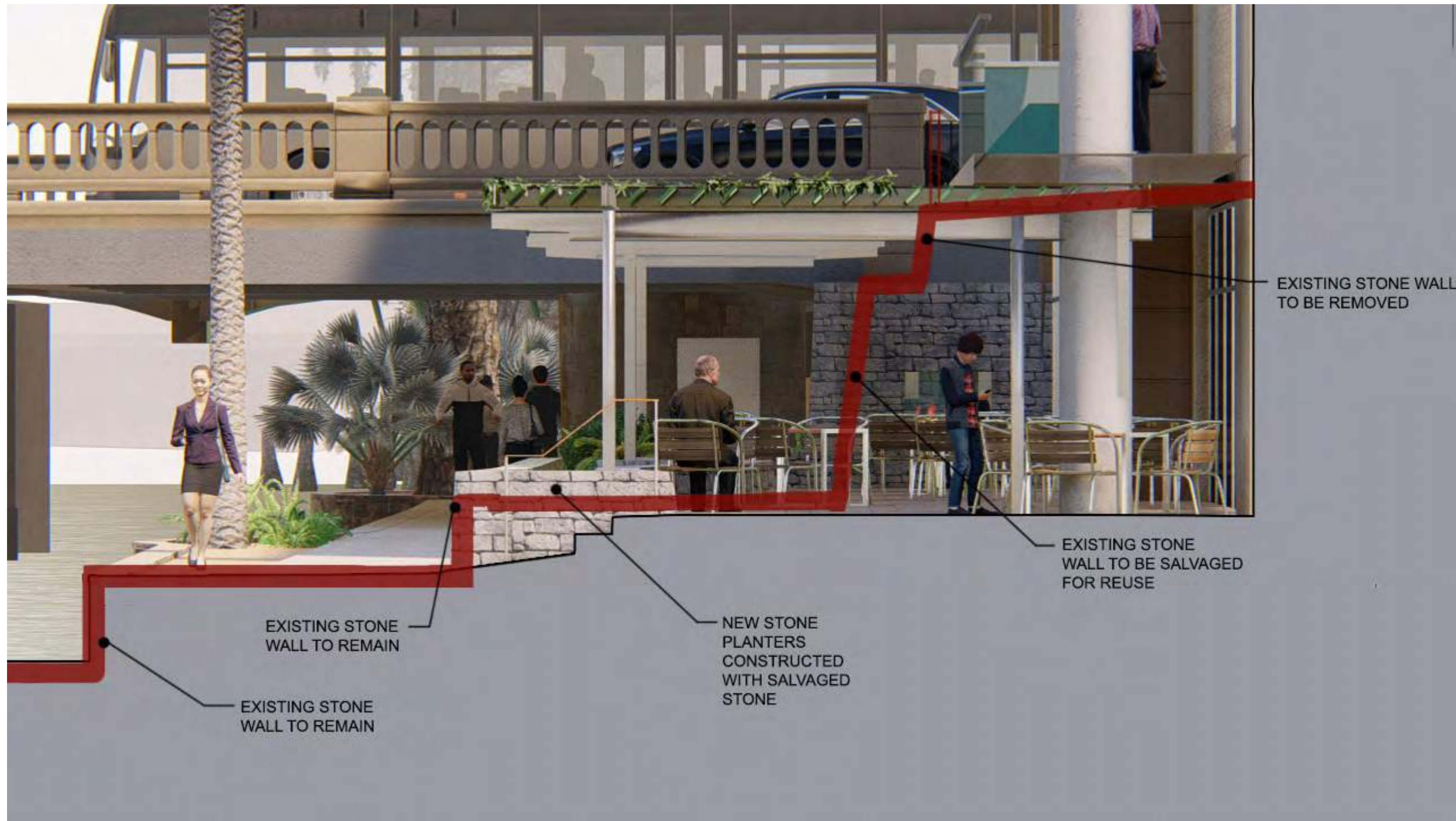
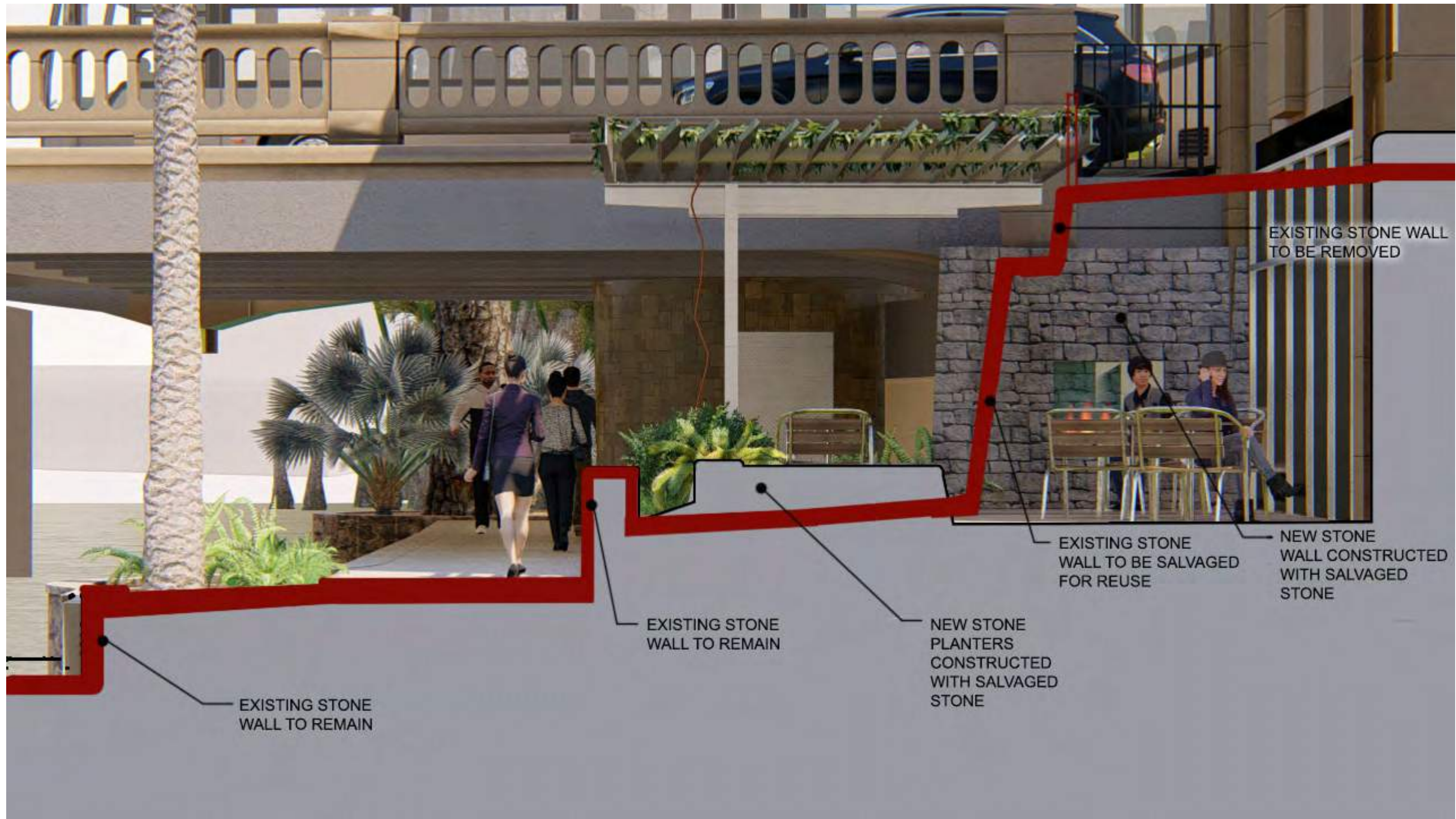
St Mary's Riverwalk Landscape Plan/Stone Salvage Plan



- Salvage Stone
- Salvage Stone
- Salvaged Stone from Hugman Wall  
Approx 412 sqft  
Install to match Hugman pattern



St Mary's Riverwalk Landscape Sections





















St. Mary's Riverwalk Hotel - Summary of Existing Stone Retaining Walls

		Area (SF)	Percentage
HUGMAN WALL RECTANGULAR DRYSTACK	Designed Wall - Hugman's Design (Presumed)	425	
	Existing Wall - Hugman's Design (Presumed)	445	
	Existing Wall - <i>Demo and Salvage Stone</i>	445	100%
	New Wall - <i>Rebuilt with Salvaged Stone</i>	412	93%
HUGMAN WALL ROUNDED DRystack	Designed Wall - Hugman's Design (Presumed)	75	
	Existing Wall - Remaining from Hugman's Design	60	80%
	Existing Wall - <i>Demo and Salvage Stone</i>	60	100%
	New Wall - <i>Rebuilt with Salvaged Stone</i>	46	77%
MORTARED IRREGULAR FLASTONE	Designed Wall - Hugman's Design	0	
	Existing Wall	307	
	Existing Wall - <i>Demo and Salvage Stone</i>	46	15%
	Existing Wall - <i>Preserved</i>	261	85%
	New Wall - <i>Rebuilt with Salvaged Stone</i>	42	91%