



5 MINUTE CITY

STUDIO BACKDOOR 2022

5 MINUTE CITY

CATEGORY

Architecture | Urbanism

MEDIUM

A district on Taylor Yard: canals and locks, a rail deck, a footbridge over the river

LOCATION

Los Angeles

YEAR

2022

Taylor Yard redrawn so that what a day needs is five minutes away on foot: home, work, school, food and the river. The rail is lowered under a planted deck and canals are cut in from the river, so distance is measured in minutes walked. It asks what Los Angeles could be if it were planned around the walk rather than the drive.

01
R E N D E R S



























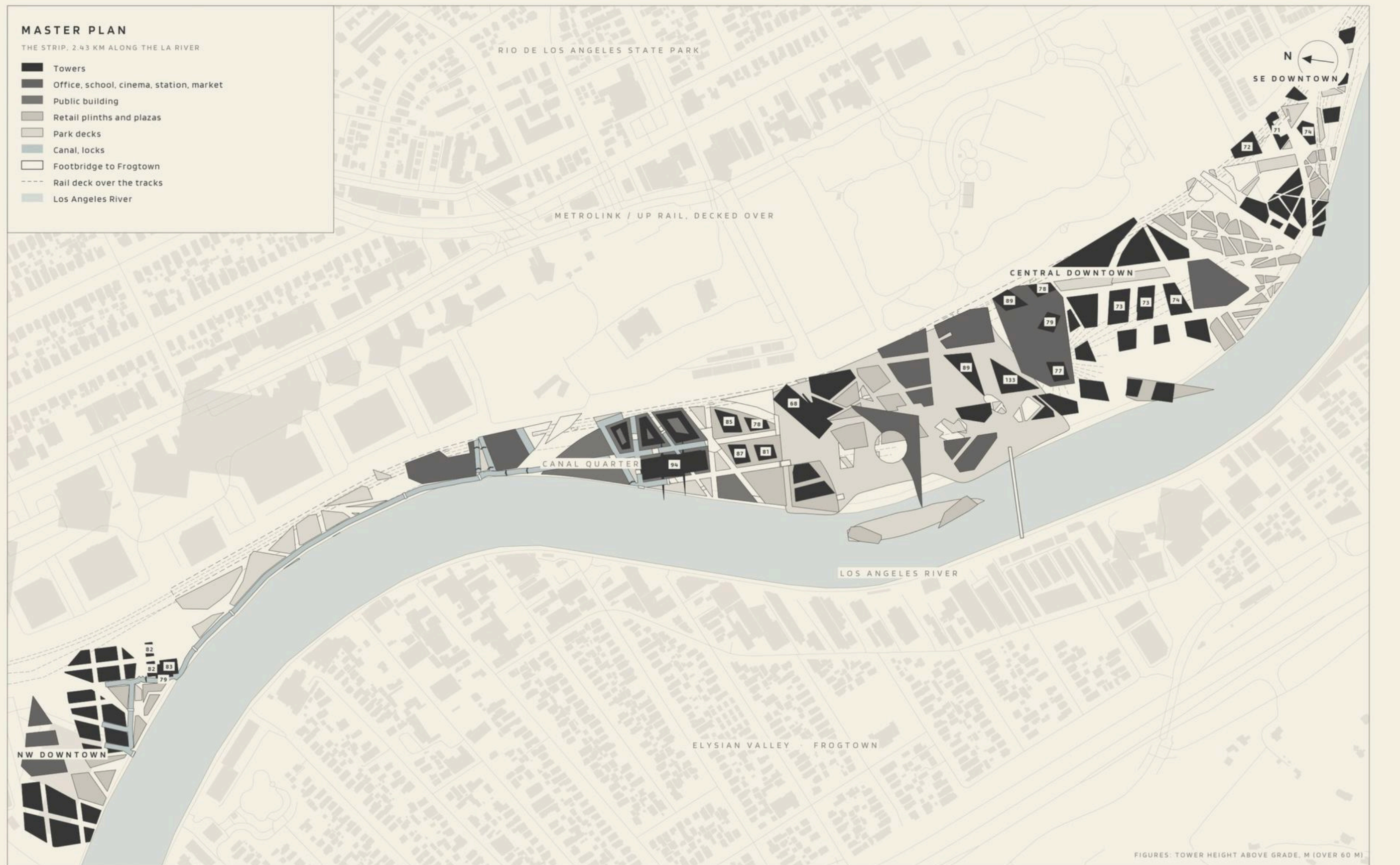






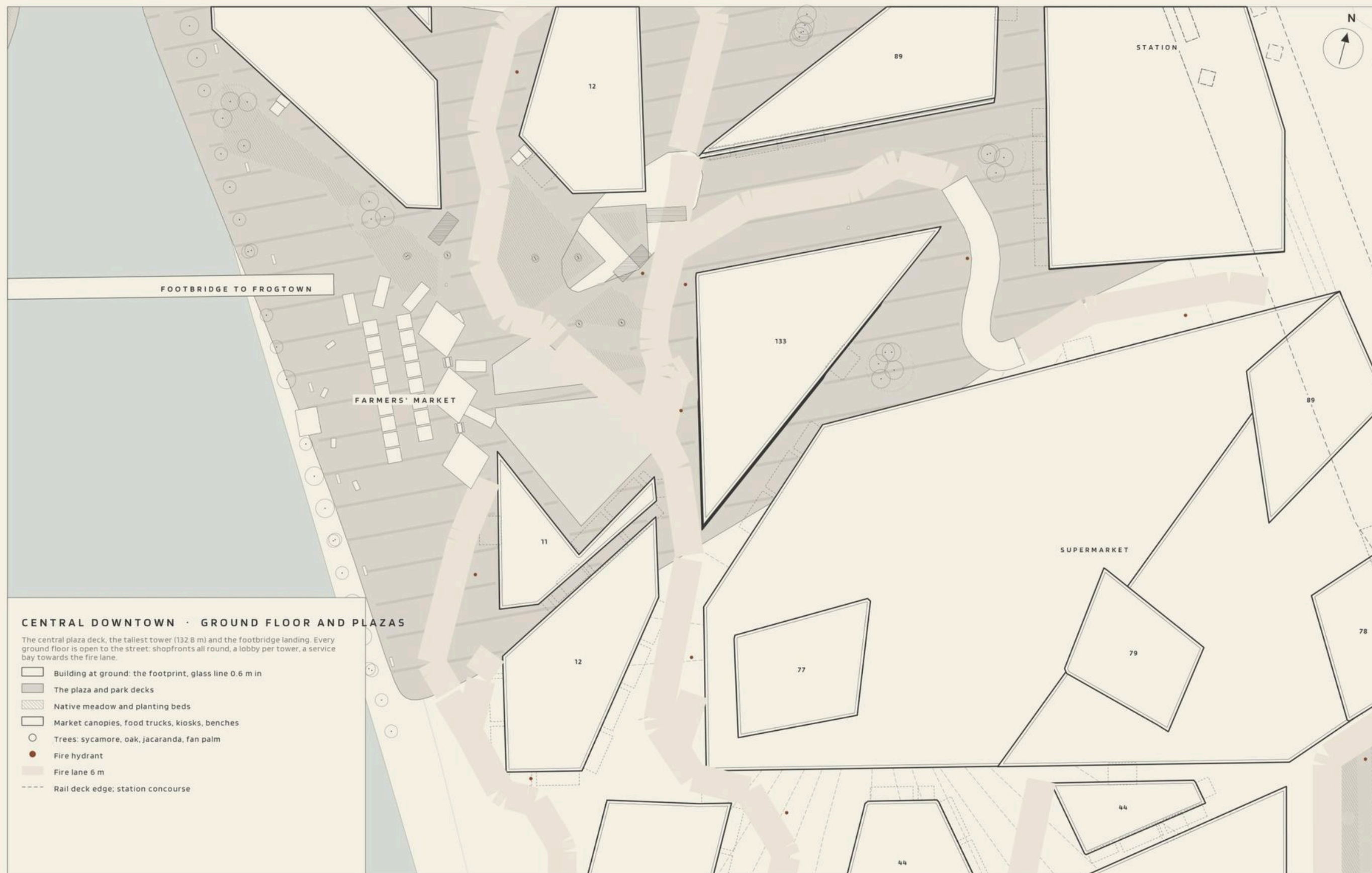
0 2

D R A W I N G S



MAP DATA © OPENSTREETMAP CONTRIBUTORS

0 100 200 300 400 500 M



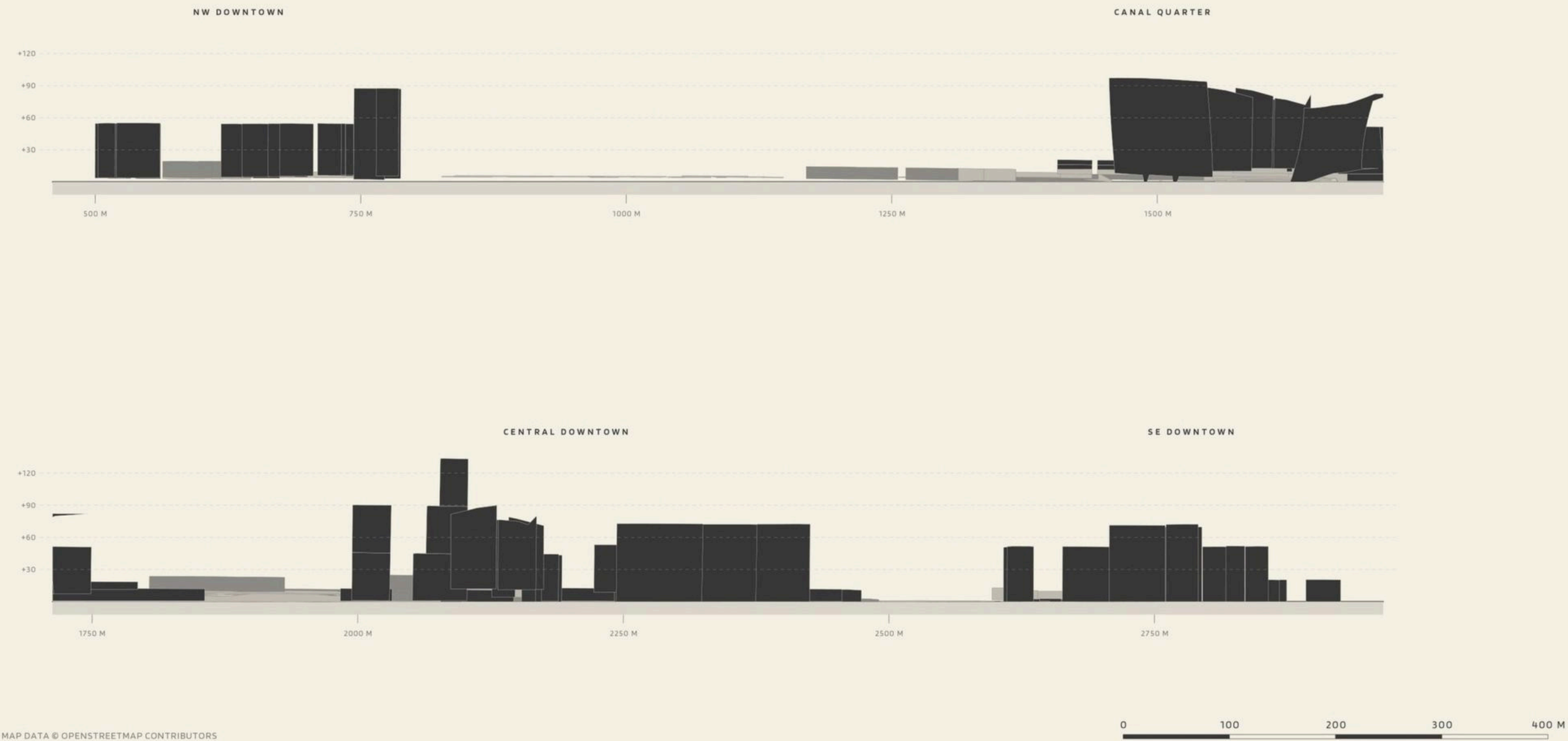
MAP DATA © OPENSTREETMAP CONTRIBUTORS

0 10 20 30 40 50 M

LONG SECTION

THE STRIP UNFOLDED ALONG THE LOS ANGELES RIVER, SEEN FROM THE RIVER

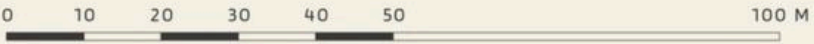
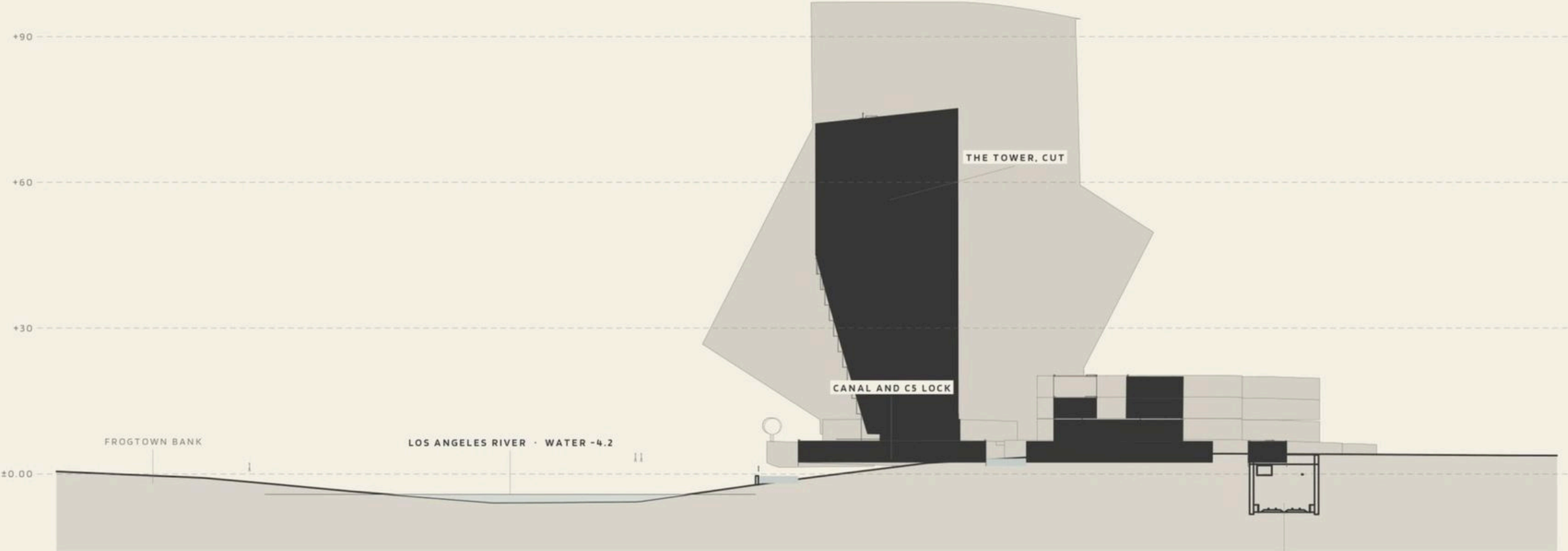
Every building of the city projected to its station along the river centreline (0 m at the upstream, north-west end of the drawn reach), in two rows. Towers dark; plinths, decks and parks light. The three downtowns rise at the ends and at the central plaza; the canal quarter sits between.



SECTION A

RIVER, CANAL, TOWER AND RAIL DECK

Across the strip at the C5 canal, looking north-west. The buildings are cut solid on the ground of the yard; the river is drawn at its water surface (bed +1.8 m). The canal and its lock step down to the river; the rail corridor runs in a cut beneath a planted deck.





CANAL PLAN

LOCKS, POOLS AND LEVELS

A Venice-like quarter where homes and shops meet the LA River: about 1.4 km of 6-8 m water between open stone quays, one link along the bank, held in steps by five locks so the water stays within about 1.5 m of the quay.

WATER LEVELS

NW pool	+3.35
Upper pool (link, C0, C1)	+2.50
Lower pool (C8)	+1.10
C0 / C1 above their locks	+3.30 / +3.35
C5 above its lock	+3.15
C5 below, to the river	-0.45
C9 basin	+1.05
C2 basin	+2.80

LOCKS

Chamber 30 m at the arm width (6.7-8.0 m); timber mitre gates at 20° with balance beams at both ends; chamber drawn empty at the lower level. Lifts 0.80-1.15 m; C5 3.60 m. Weirs at the two river mouths (NW crest +3.40, C5 crest -0.40).

BRIDGES

Nine flat, step-free stone bridges at quay level, 3 m wide, steel-plate parapets 1.1 m (deck levels marked).

- Canal water
- Quay walls and coping
- Lock: upper / lower pool
- The plinths, decks and parks
- The towers

Canal, locks, bridges, quays

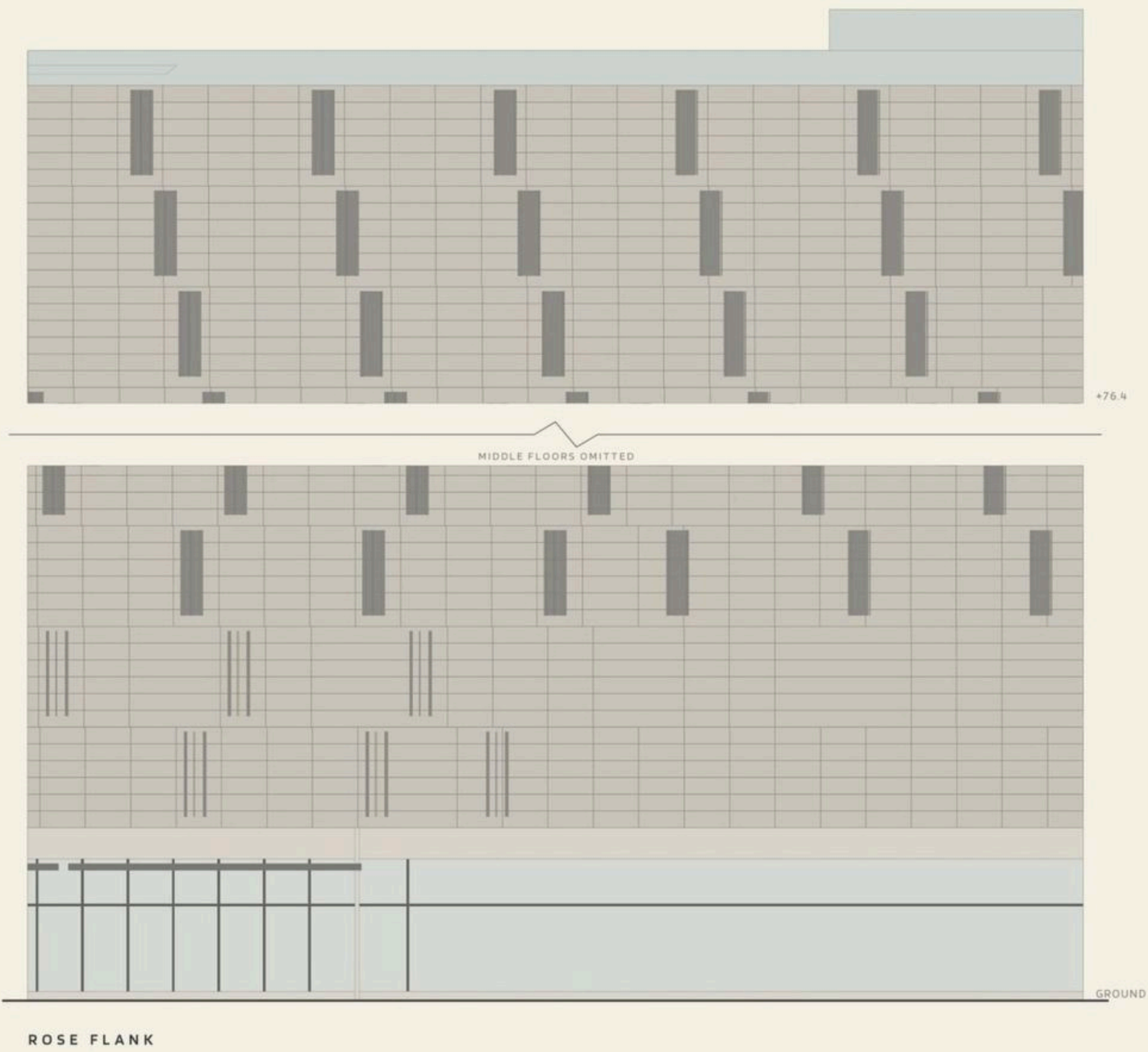
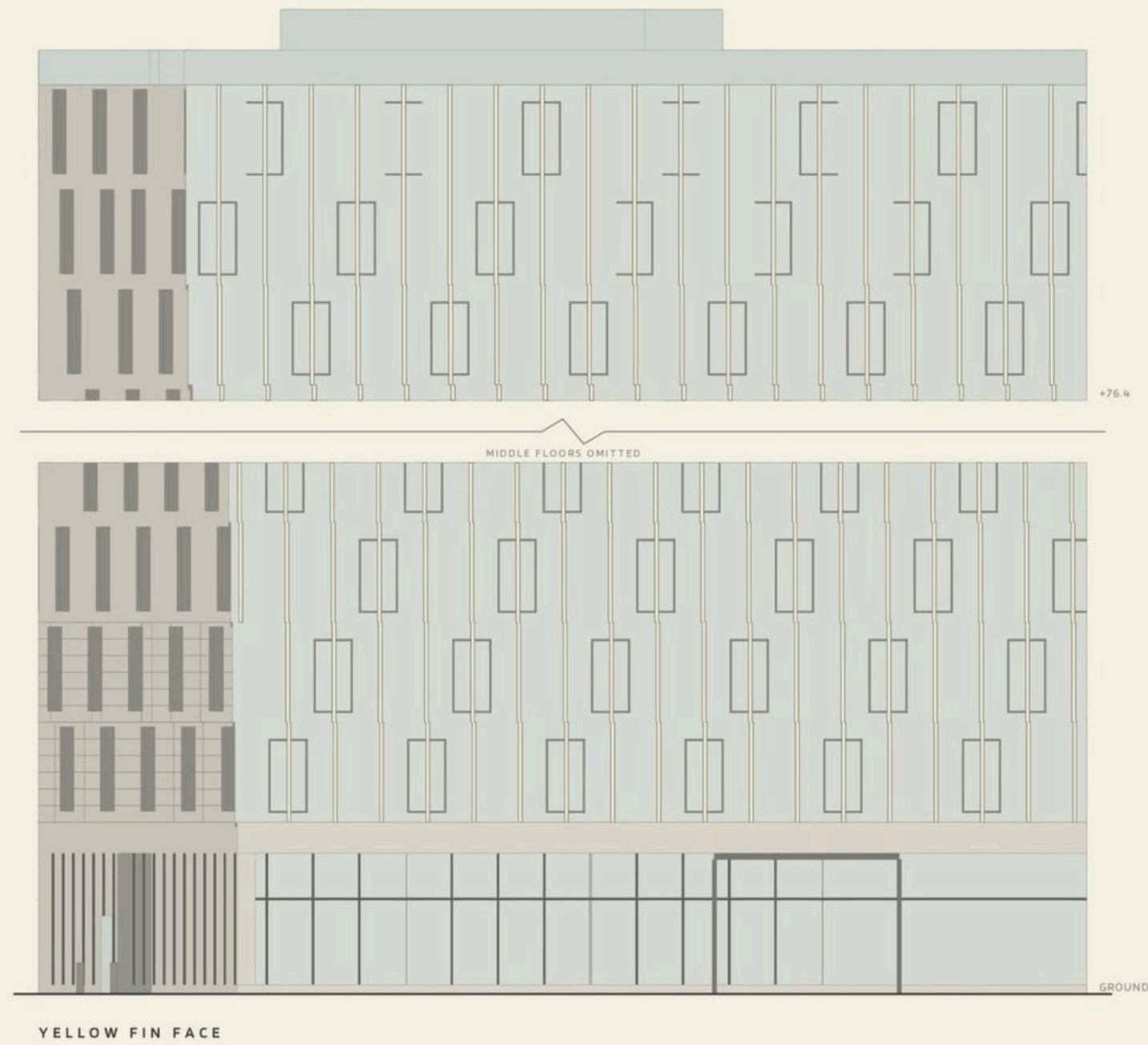
MAP DATA © OPENSTREETMAP CONTRIBUTORS

TOWER ELEVATIONS

A TYPICAL TOWER (T3): YELLOW FIN FACE AND ROSE FLANK

FIN S	glazed terracotta, pale yellow #EFE3A0, 120 x 450 mm at 1.50 m, full height, cut to the sliced top
GLASS	full-height low-iron glass 450 mm behind the fins; a 300 mm slab band per 3.2 m floor shows through
FLANK	rose glazed terracotta rainscreen #B65A62, 1.50 x 0.60 m panels, 8 mm open joints; recessed 0.6 m window slots
GROUND	5.5 m: recessed lobby glass, bronze canopy 4 m, retail frontage, peach stone fascia and plinth
ROOF	parapet within the top; screened plant zone in bronze louvres; solar rows

Facade design



THE WHOLE CITY IN ITS PLACE: THE 2.4 KM STRIP ON THE NORTH-EAST BANK OF THE LOS ANGELES RIVER, TAYLOR YARD
THE MASSING, 2022, BLACK: TOWERS, PLINTHS, DECKS, THE SINGULAR BUILDINGS · THE TERRAIN, CUT AS A BLOCK
CONTEXT IN GREY: NEIGHBOURING BUILDINGS AS LIGHT BOXES, STREETS, THE RIVER BANKS, THE RAIL; SEEN FROM THE SOUTH-SOUTH-WEST



THE CITY TAKEN APART: FIVE LAYERS LIFTED 420 M APART, SEEN FROM THE SOUTH-WEST
THE MASSING BLACK - GREY THREADS TIE EACH LAYER TO THE ONE BELOW

TOWERS
THE MASSING, 2022
86 TOWERS TO 132.8 M, AND THE OFFICES
ENVELOPES (NOT DRAWN)

PLINTHS, DECKS, SOLITAIRES
THE MASSING, 2022
RETAIL, PLAZAS, PARK DECKS,
PATHS, PUBLIC BUILDINGS

CANAL, LOCKS, BRIDGES
THE LINK ALONG THE BANK,
THE NORTH-WEST AND MIDDLE
NETWORKS, FIVE LOCKS

NORTH-WEST PORTAL
TRACKS 9.3 M BELOW THE DECK
RAIL PORTAL

GROUND
THE TERRAIN UNDER
THE STRIP, THE LOS ANGELES
RIVER BESIDE IT

COVERED RAIL CORRIDOR
1,903 M OF DECK OVER THE
LOWERED TRACKS, DECK DASHED,
THE OPEN CUTS BEYOND

TALLEST TOWER, 132.8 M
THREE STACKED SOLIDS

STATION
THE BOX OVER THE MAIN LINE

CINEMA
THE SOLITAIRE, LIFTED ON ITS PILOTIS

THE LINK LOCK
CHAMBER 30 X 7 M, UPPER +2.50, LOWER +1.10
LOCK

FOOTBRIDGE TO FROGTOWN
129 M, THREE SPANS OVER THE RIVER
FOOTBRIDGE

VENT SHAFTS
8, IN THE PLAZAS AND ON OPEN GROUND
VENTS

SOUTH-EAST PORTAL
THE TRACKS LEAVE THE CUT
RAIL PORTAL

