

# Atlas of Details



## **Marcel Breuer, Breuer House**

Author(s): Francesco De Marchi, Davide Bergo

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URL: <https://www.detailsinsection.org/projects/house-breuer>

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Atlas of Details is a research project to demonstrate how insightful a section can be, in order to represent the complexity of the architectural artifact, since it allows the simultaneous perception of materiality and form, of building envelope and interior spaces. Atlas of Details is a project by The Formwork, an association established by professors and PhD candidates with diverse academic backgrounds (history, architectural design, technology, preservation) working at the IUAV University in Venice and at the Milan Politecnico. For more information about the Atlas of Details and The Formwork, please contact [info@theformwork.org](mailto:info@theformwork.org).

## **The Formwork**

Cultural association

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# Marcel Breuer

# Breuer House

1947-1948

### Text

Francesco De Marchi  
IUAV Venezia

### Drawings

Francesco De Marchi  
Davide Bergo  
IUAV Venezia

### Architect

Marcel Breuer (1902-1981)

### Name of the building

*Breuer house*

### Site

Sunset Hill Road, New Canaan, CT (US)

### Client

*Marcel Breuer*

### Contractors

Irving Wood, Dr. General Contractor

### Engineer

Benjamin L. Spivak

### Other actors

Charles Re (excavations)  
James D. Taylor (electrical installation);  
W. R. Johnson (plumbing and heating system);  
Hope's Windows Inc. (windows)

### Project

1957 july-december: first project  
1958 april - 1961 september: intermediate solutions and completed project

### Building permit

1947

### Start of construction works

1947

### End of construction works

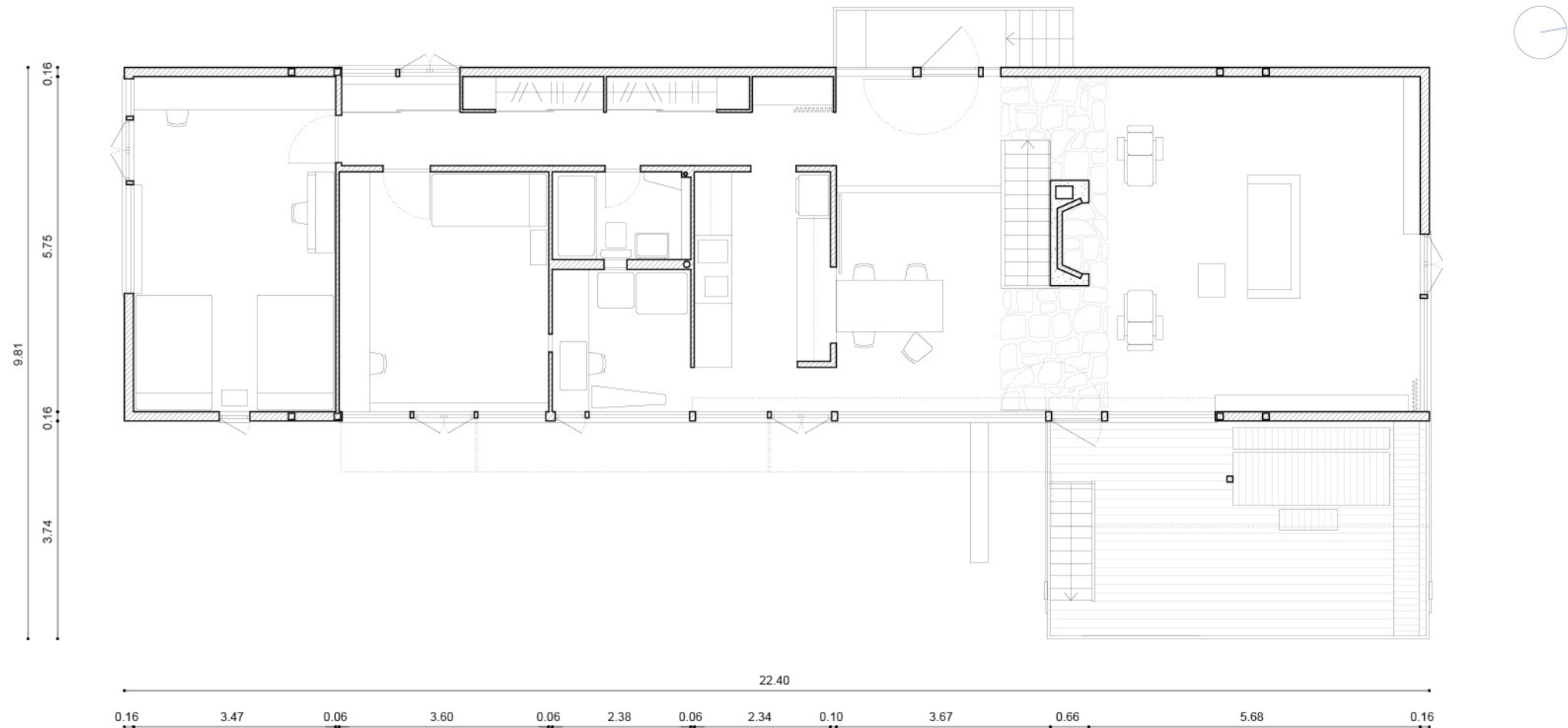
1948

### Prizes

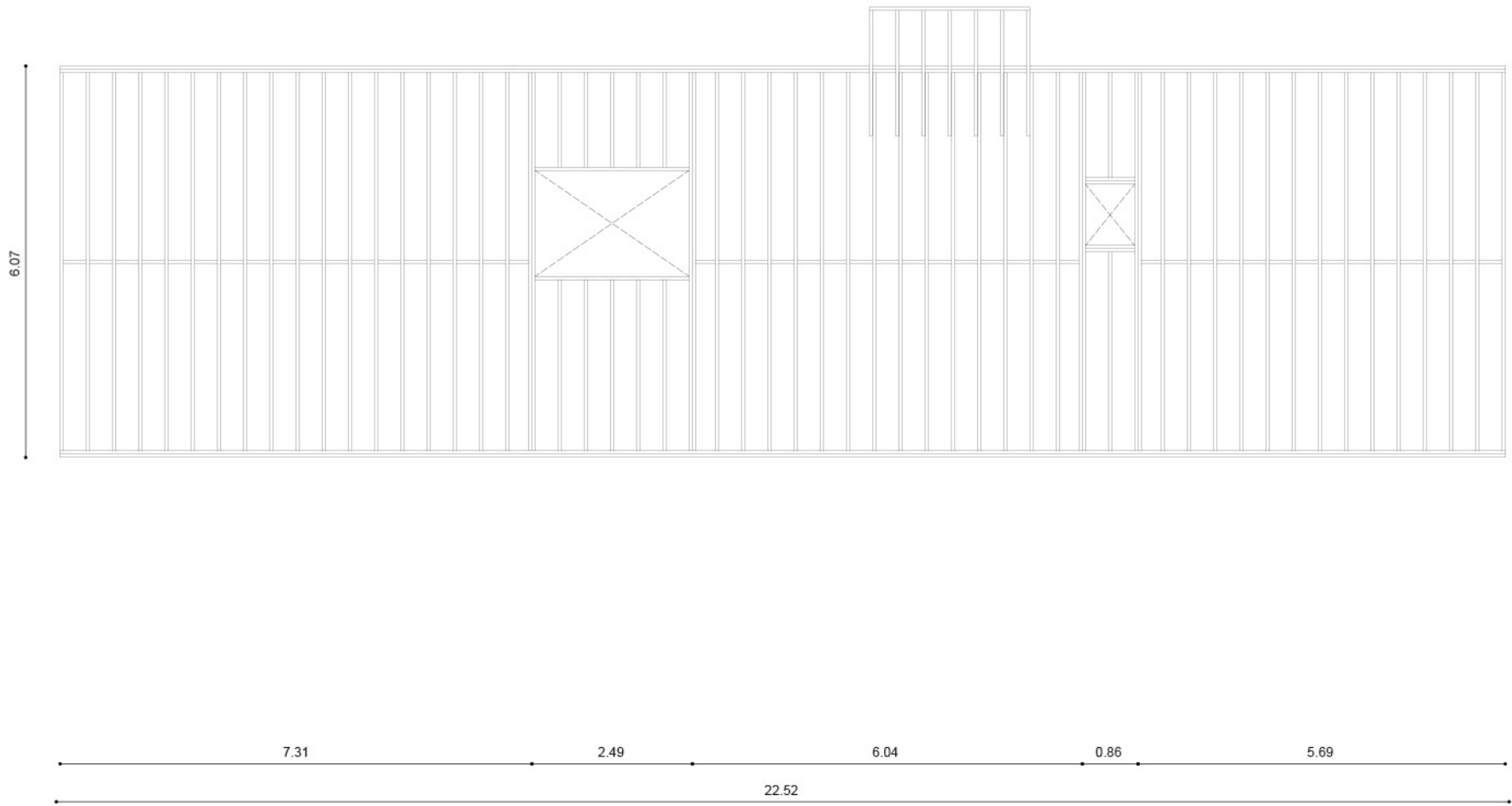
Premio regionale IN/ARCH per il Lazio 1963

### Construction system

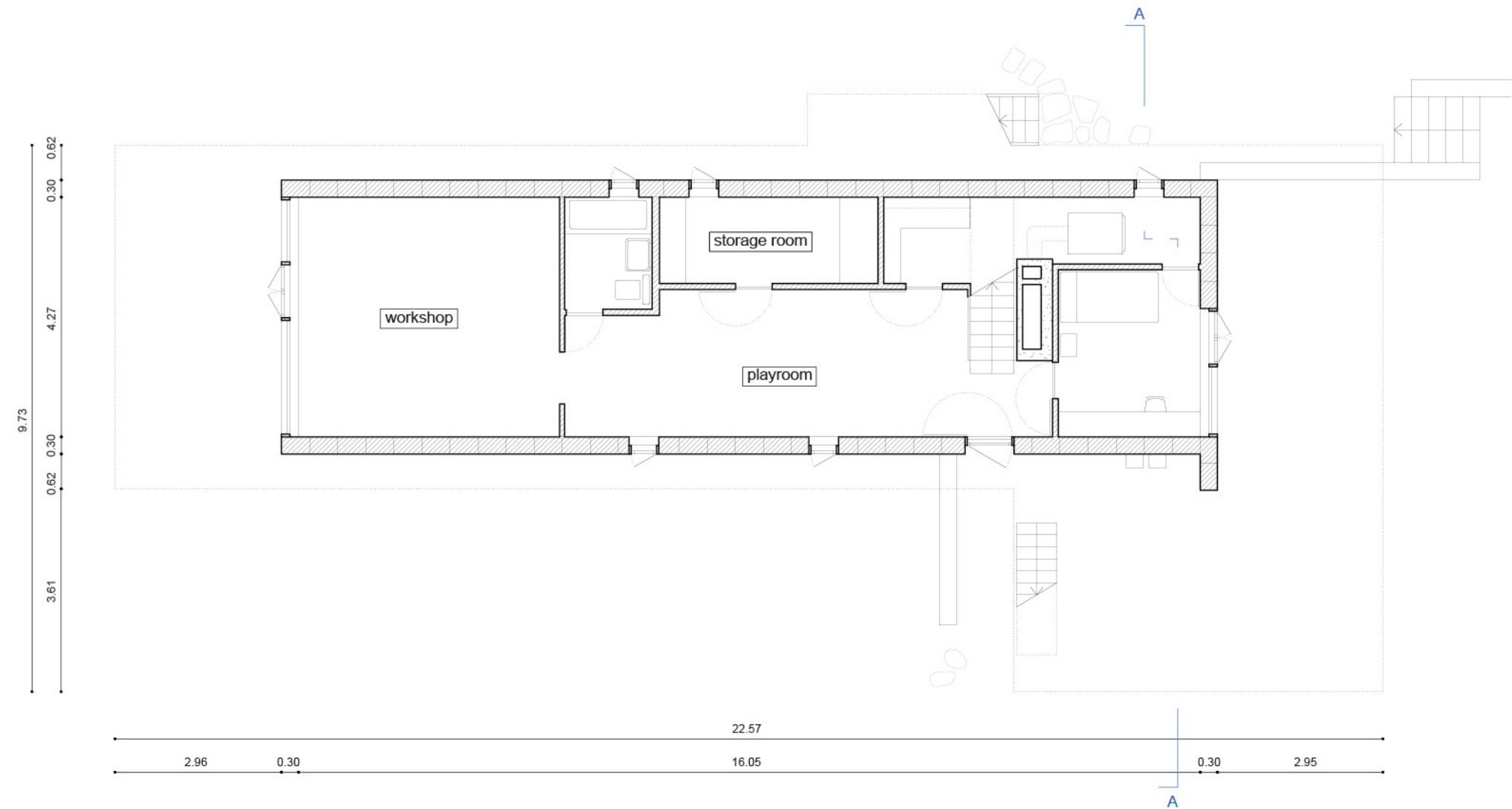
The construction of the house is very similar to traditional American timber frame construction. However, it is adapted and integrated to achieve significant overhangs without the use of heavy concrete or steel beams. The strong overhangs are supported by the rigid end sections of the two long walls of the house, which are stiffened and structurally supported by means of diagonal bracing and the boards, which are also laid diagonally. The floor slab against the ground is made of concrete blocks plastered both inside and out, the raised main floor is clad with a t&g planking laid vertically or diagonally.



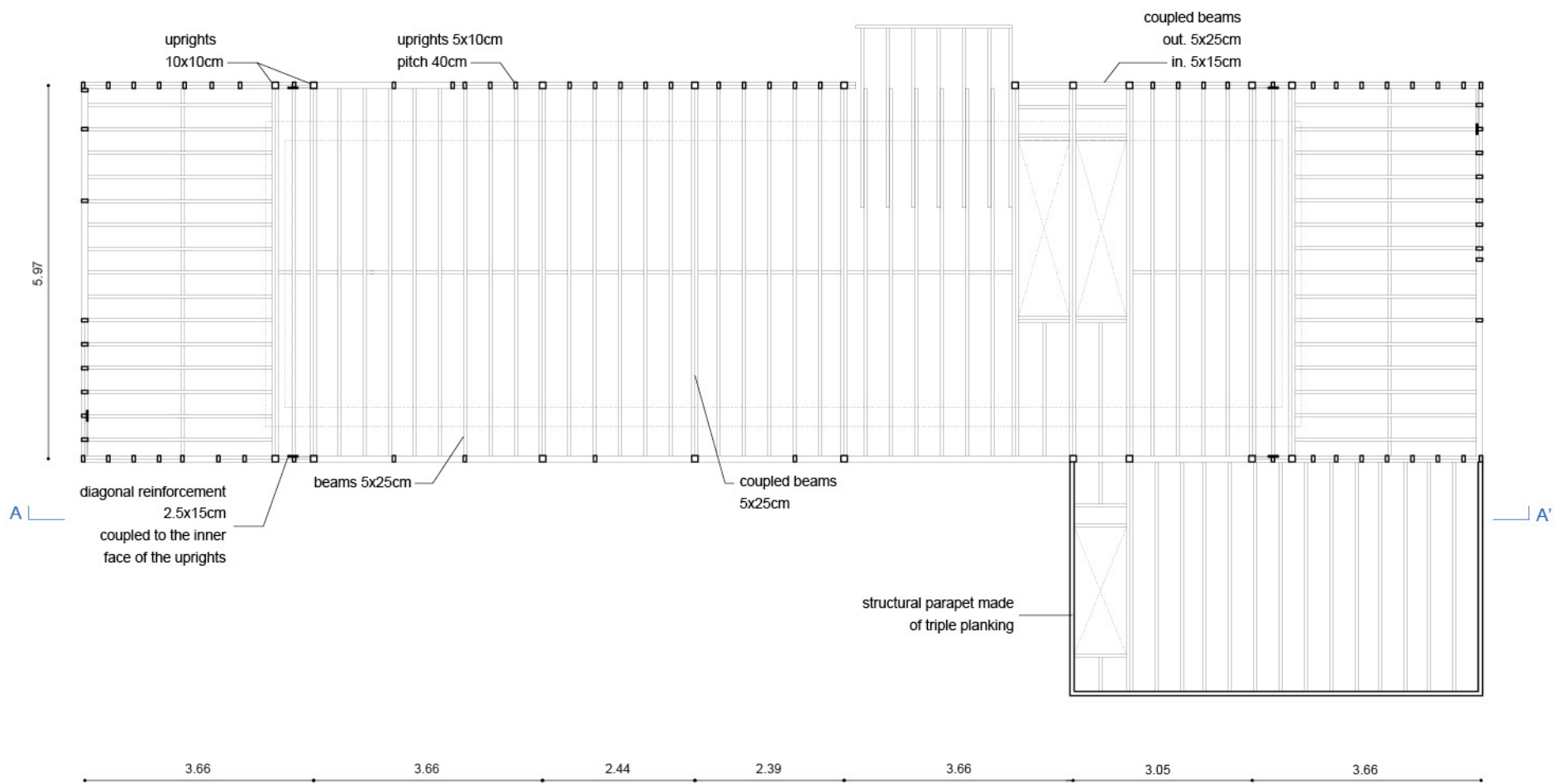
First floor plan  
Scale 1:100



Structural plan of the roof  
Scale 1:100

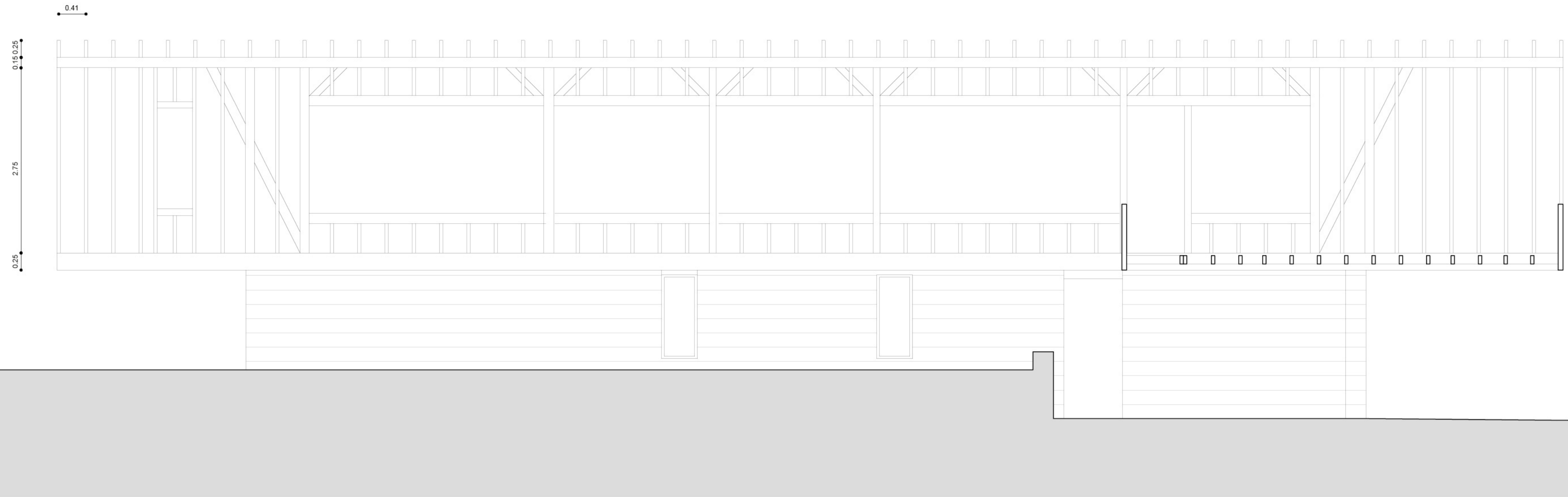


Ground floor plan  
Scale 1:100

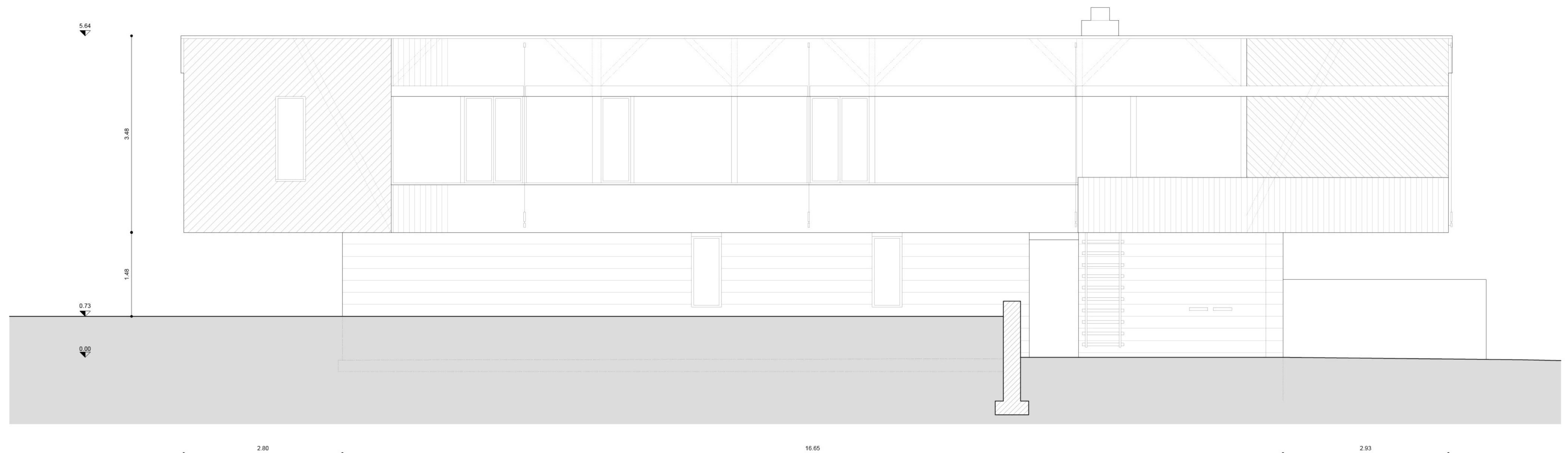


Structural plan of the first floor  
Scale 1:100





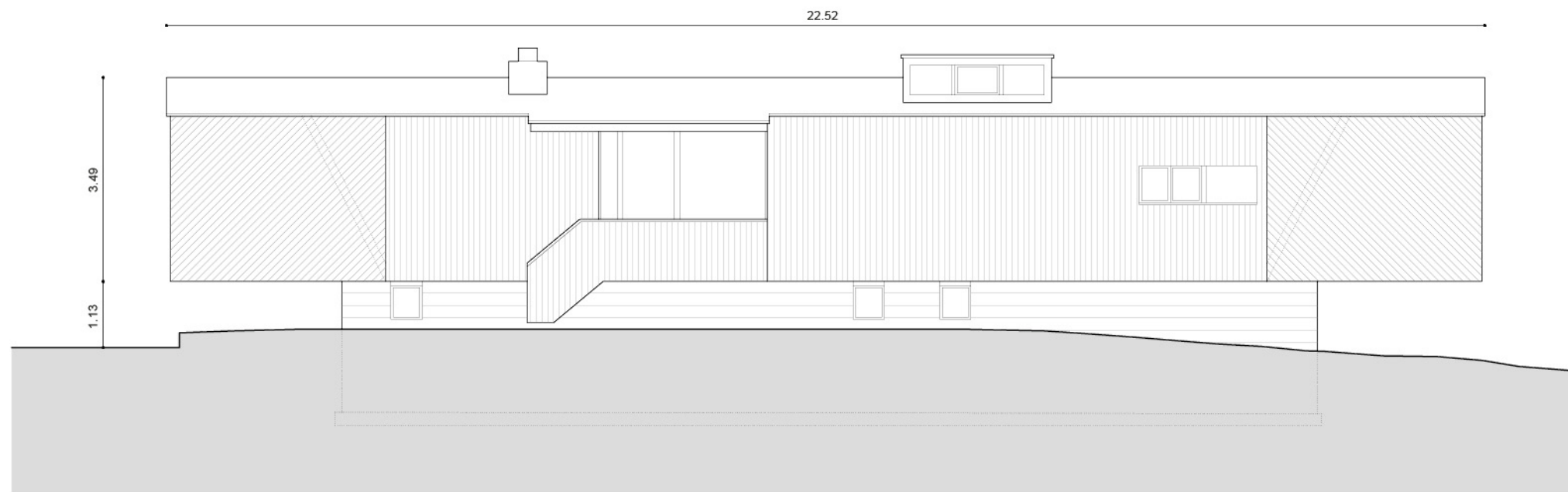
AA'. Structural section  
Scale 1:50



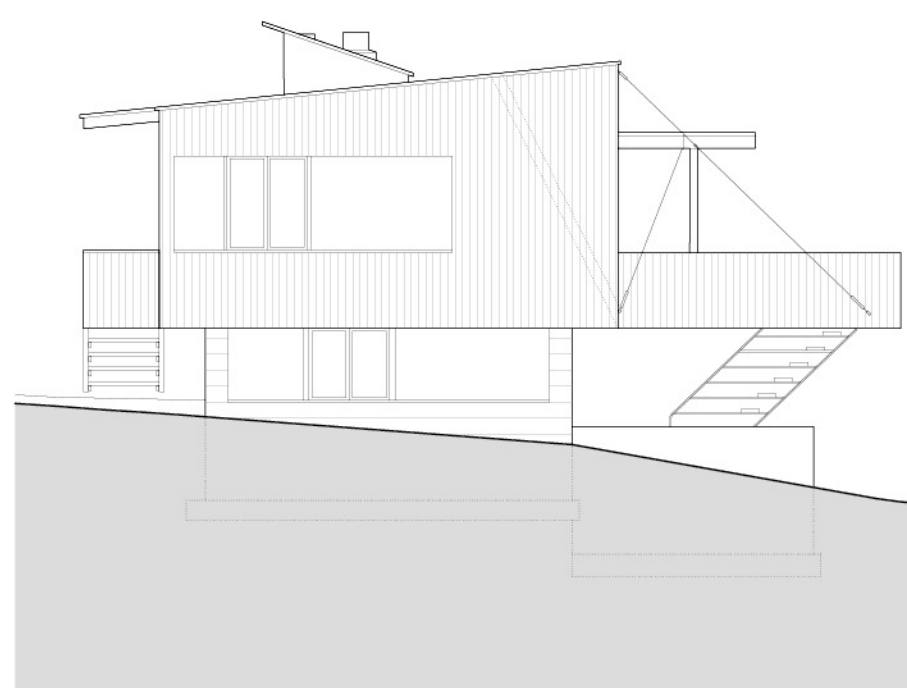
East elevation with structure  
Scale 1:50



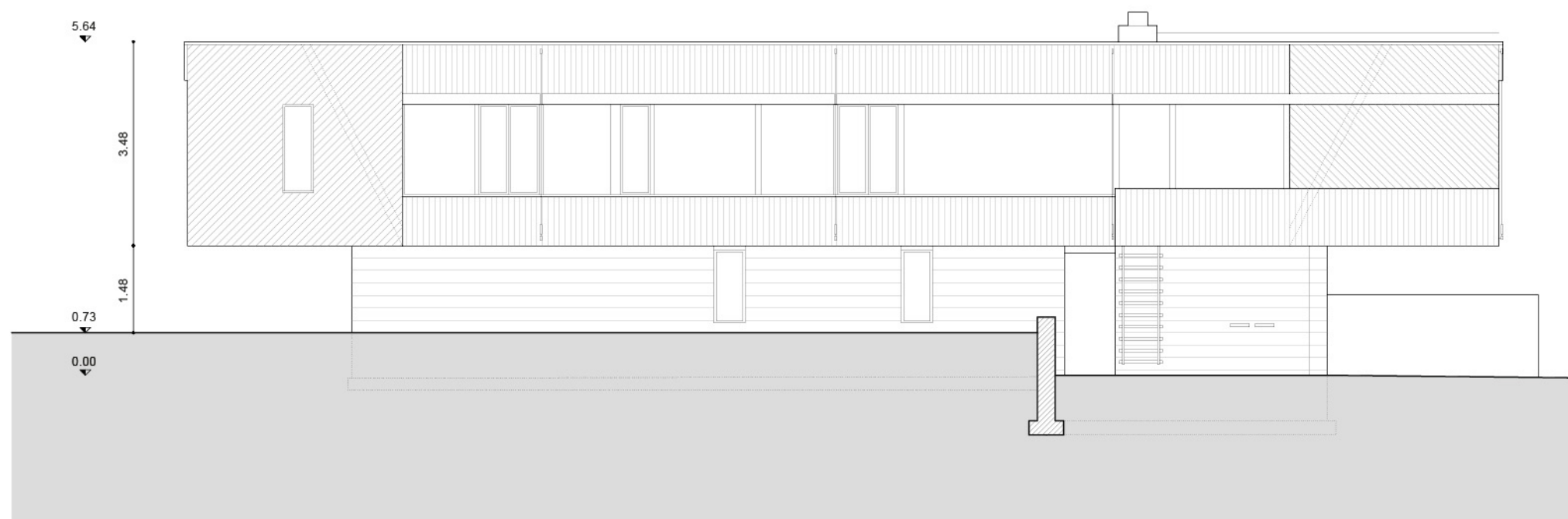




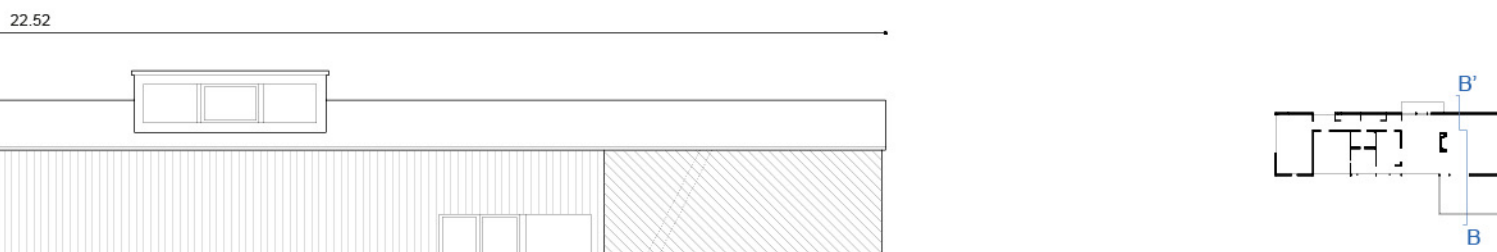
West elevation  
Scale 1:100



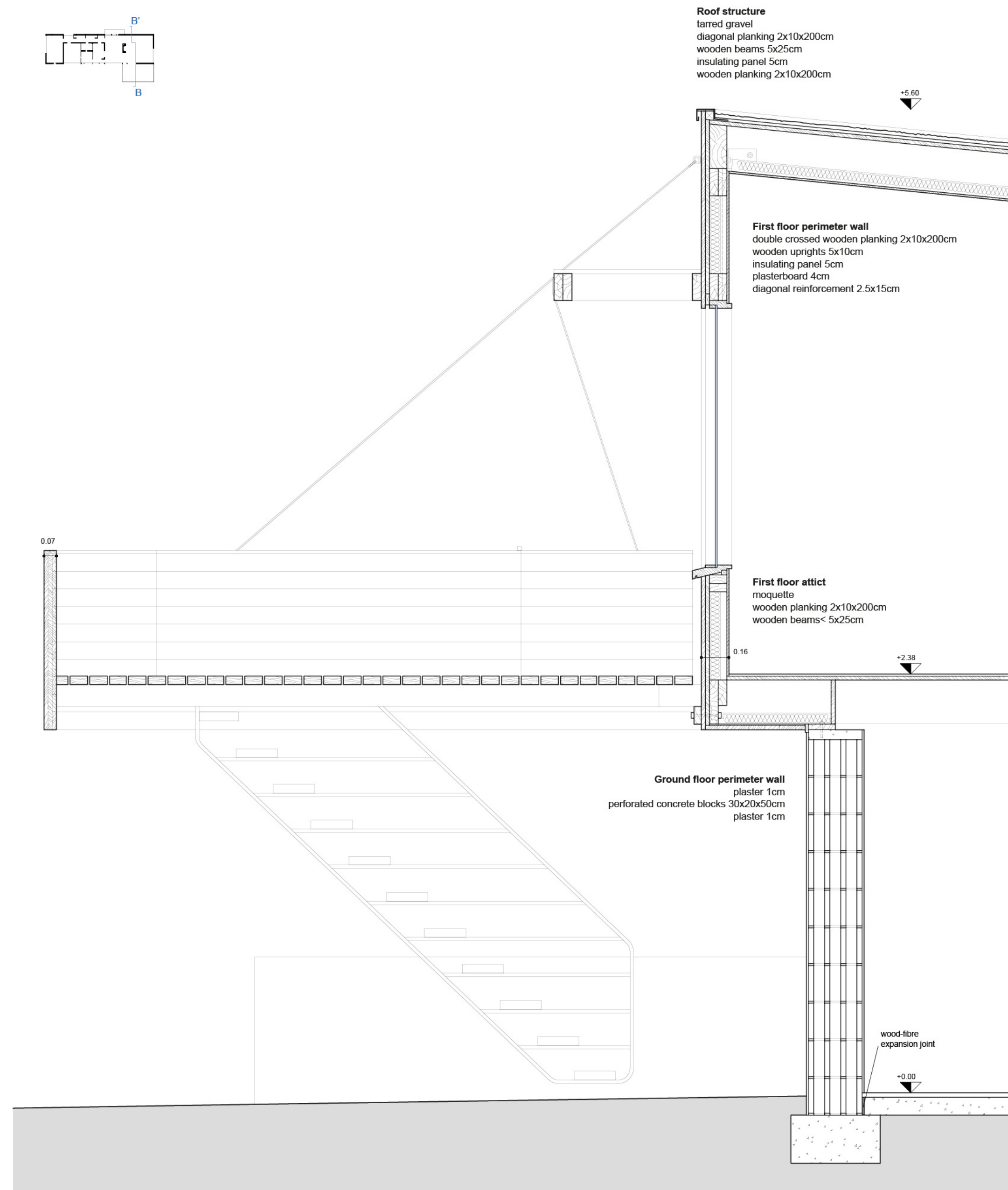
South elevation  
Scale 1:100

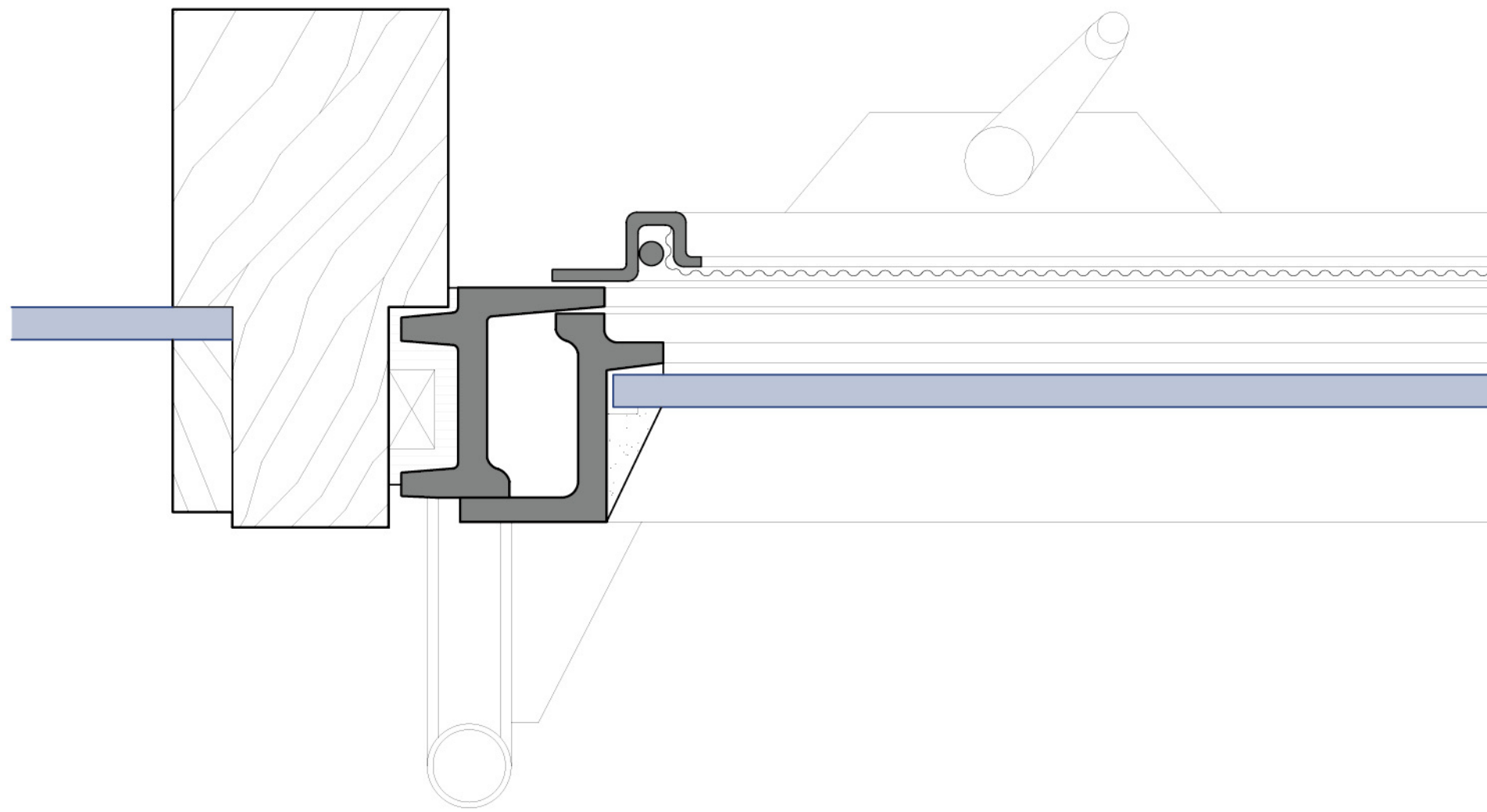
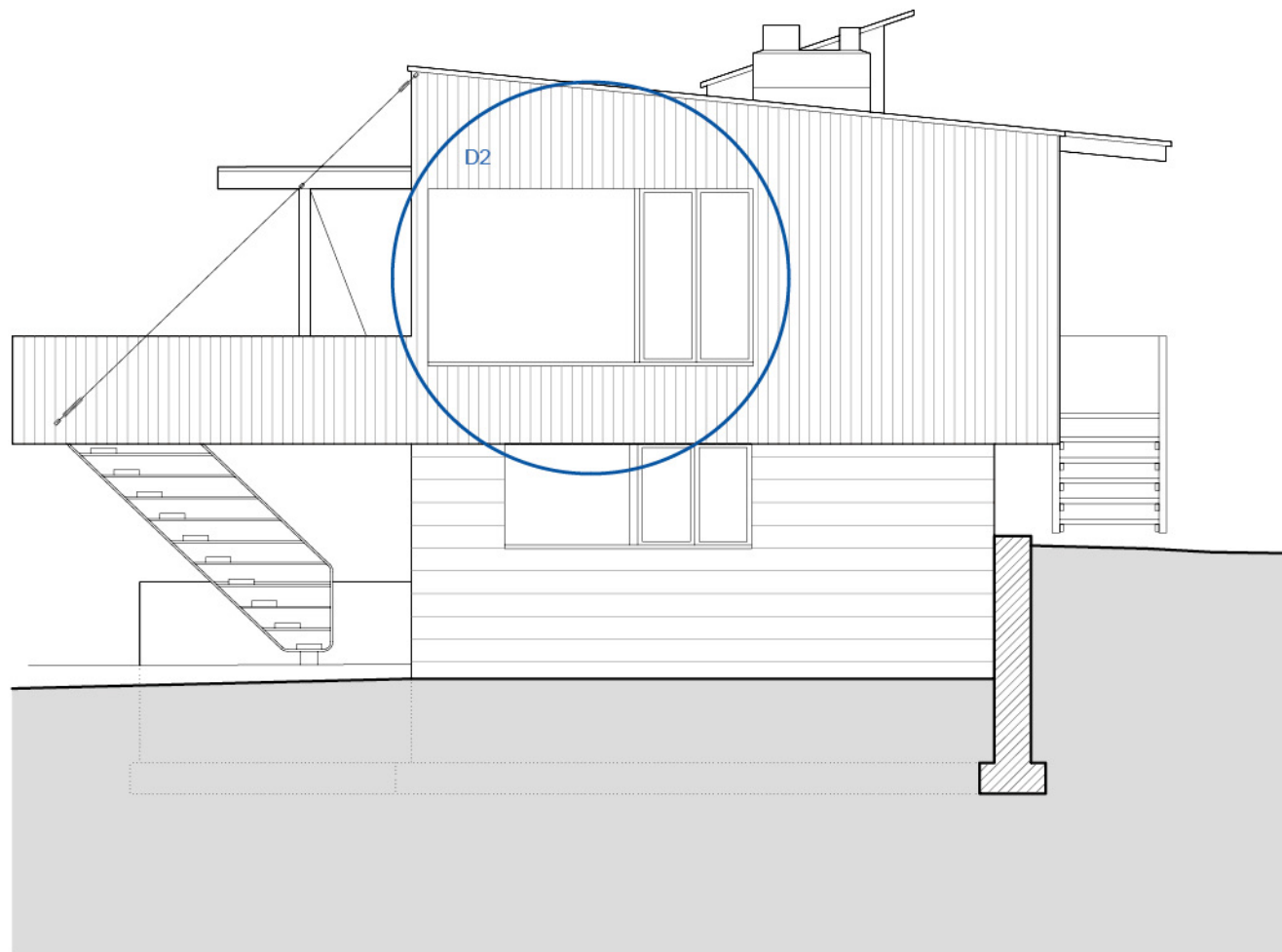


East elevation  
Scale 1:100

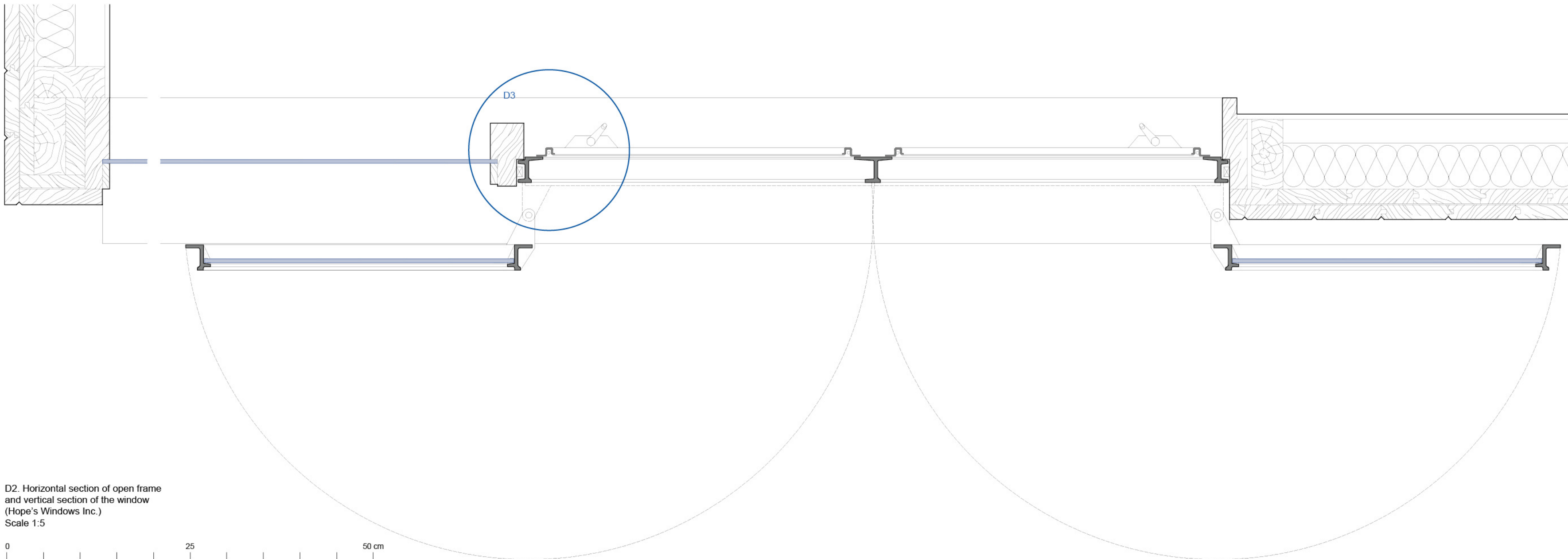
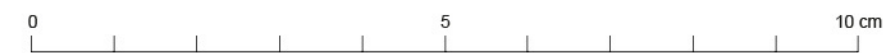


BB'. Transverse section  
Scale 1:100





D3. Detail with frame opening system  
Scale 1:1



D2. Horizontal section of open frame  
and vertical section of the window  
(Hope's Windows Inc.)  
Scale 1:5

