

GOLDEN GATES

Territorial framework map of the city of Ravenna, Italy



Ravenna: an open-air UNESCO site

Ravenna is a city in Italy, a province of the Emilia-Romagna region, and has 8 UNESCO sites on its territory. The peculiarity of Ravenna is given by the relationship between the very high concentration of UNESCO sites and the small distance in which they are located from each other. In practice, the city center can be considered as a large UNESCO site since all 7 sites are about 20 minutes away from each other on foot; if we exclude Sant'Apollinare in Classe, the other 7 sites are located inside or close to the ancient walls of the historic city.

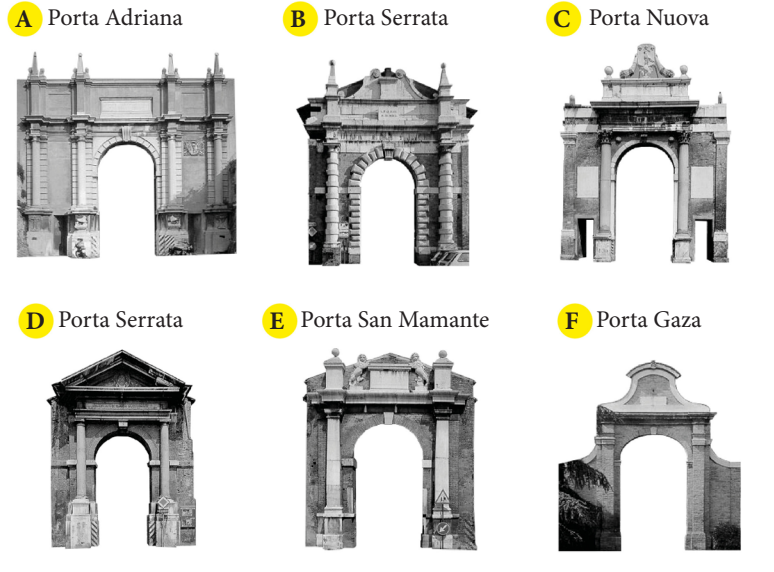
The walls of Ravenna have Roman origins and have undergone modifications and variations from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance during the Venetian occupation. The thick and high walls, still intact and well preserved, are interspersed at strategic points by the Gates - *Porta* in Italian - that guaranteed controlled access to the city itself. Each Gate had a specific nature and appearance based on its function and the place where it stood. The Gate was the main visual element of a city; the main streets were often guarded by ornate and majestic Gates to charm the stranger or celebrate the visits of important figures, as well as to present the city itself; others had a particularly rough image to intimidate enemies, or had a lesser architectural complexity due to the secondary streets they served.

Ravenna currently has seven Gates: Porta Adriana, Porta Gaza, Porta San Mamante, Porta Sisi, Porta Ravennana, Porta Nuova and Porta Serrata. The origins of the names of these Gates are uncertain given their change over time depending on the various events that occurred within the city.

Nowadays Gates have exhausted their function. No longer being part of the city wall system, they have become isolated monuments often in the center of roundabouts or parking areas; the relationship of limit or threshold that would normally be created between a person and a closed Gate does not exist, as pedestrians and bicycles easily pass through it. The aim of the project presented here is to restore value to the historic Gates by transforming them into new Visitor Centers in close relation with the UNESCO monuments present in the city. Considering the historic city as a large open-air UNESCO center, the gates would become the new information entrances for citizens and tourists.

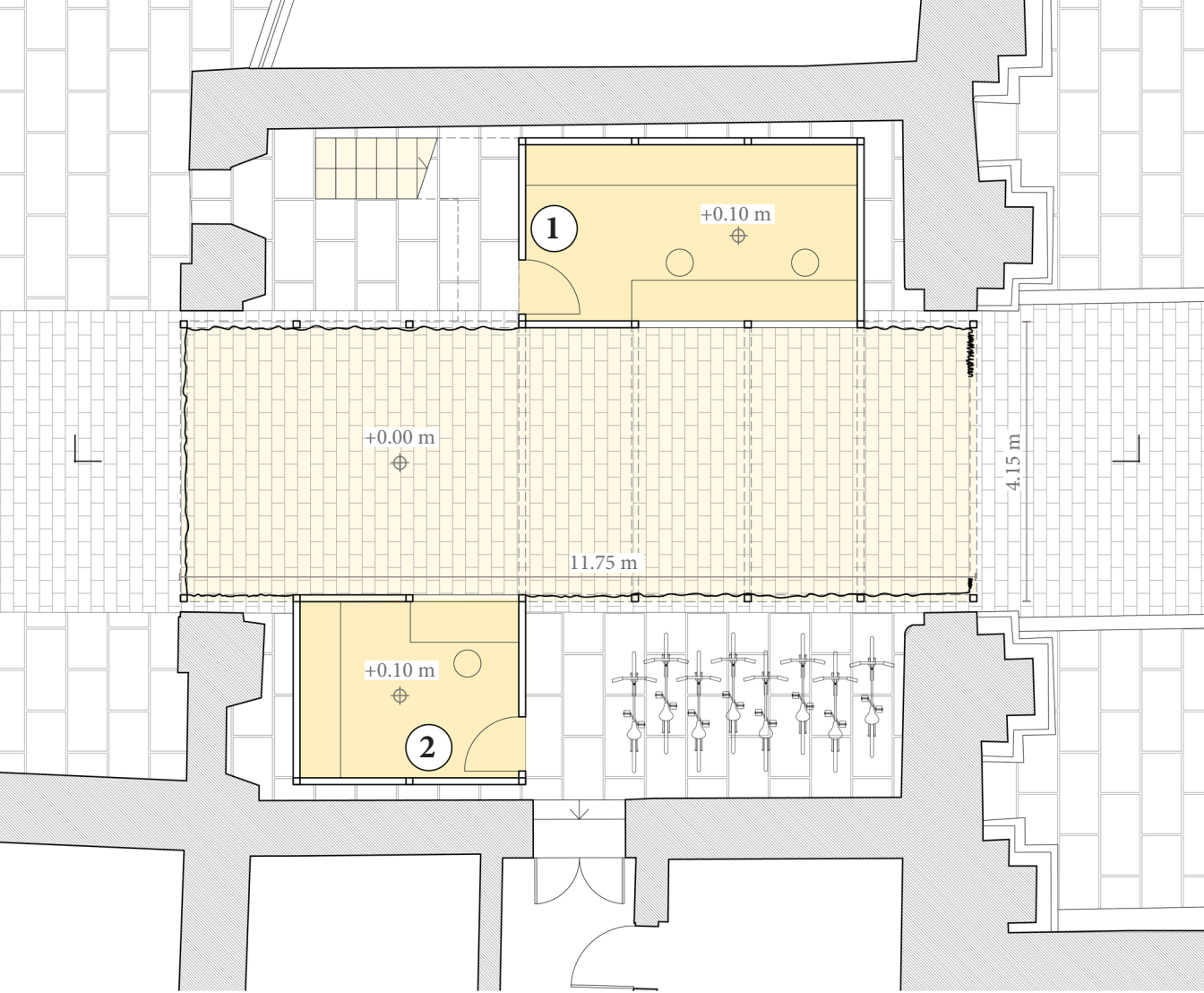
The pavilions mainly consist of a central body, given by the extrusion of the shape of the entrance to the Gate, to which auxiliary bodies containing services such as ticket office, coffee bar, bike sharing and others are added in relation to the specific size of each of the 6 Gates. The project is made with light metal structures using a dry assembly technique. This choice favors ease of construction, economic savings and respect for the existing given that the pavilion, being reversible, does not affect or modify the existing, except its perception. The golden color of the pavilion is a tribute to the Byzantine mosaics present inside the churches and basilicas of the city.

The project aims to restore the value of crossing the Gate intended as the moment of crossing a threshold; the Gate thus returns to be a visual and physical object that must be overcome in order to access the road that enters the city.



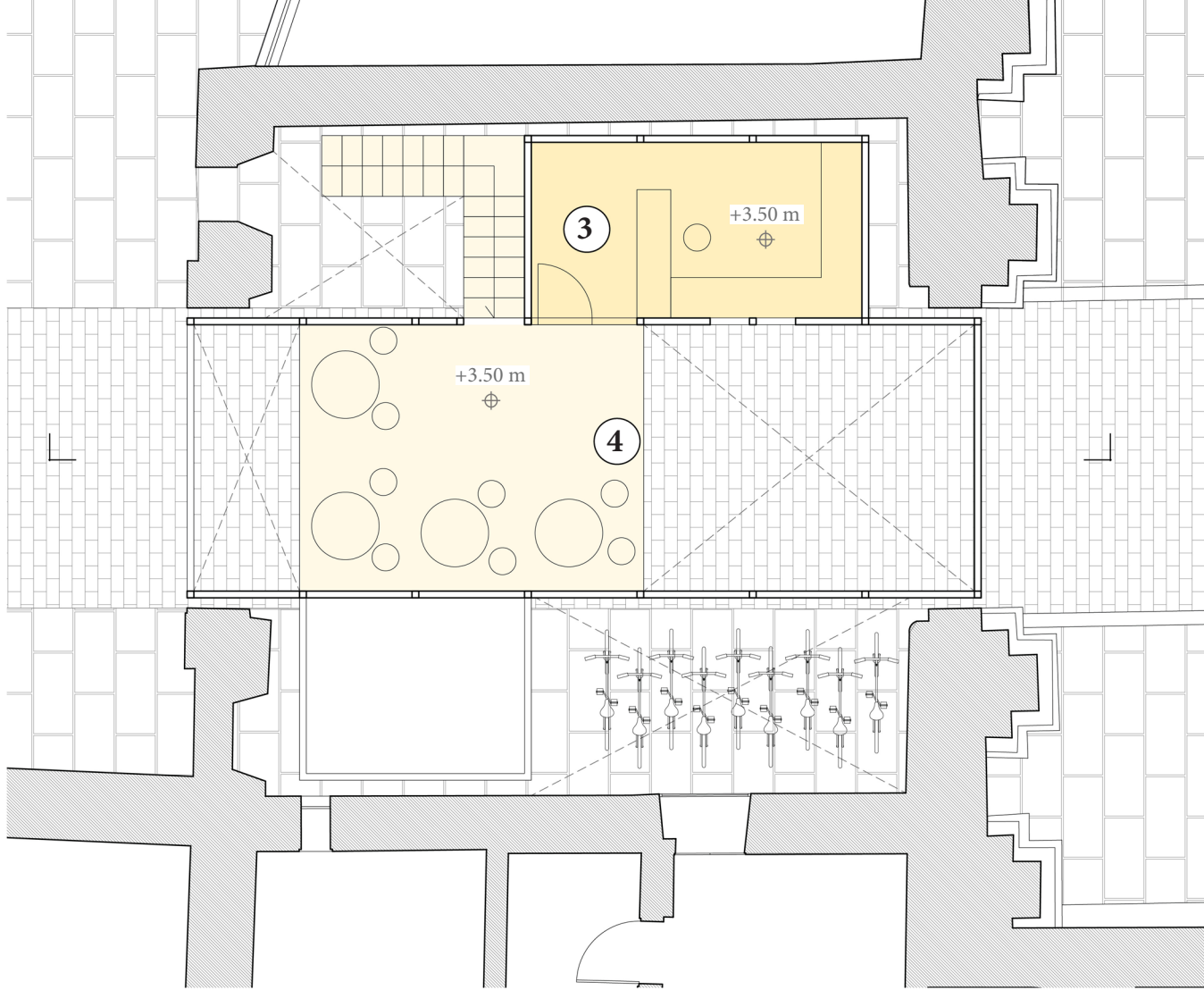
Ground floor plan +0.00 m / scale 1:200

- 1 - Ticket and info point
- 2 - Bike sharing point

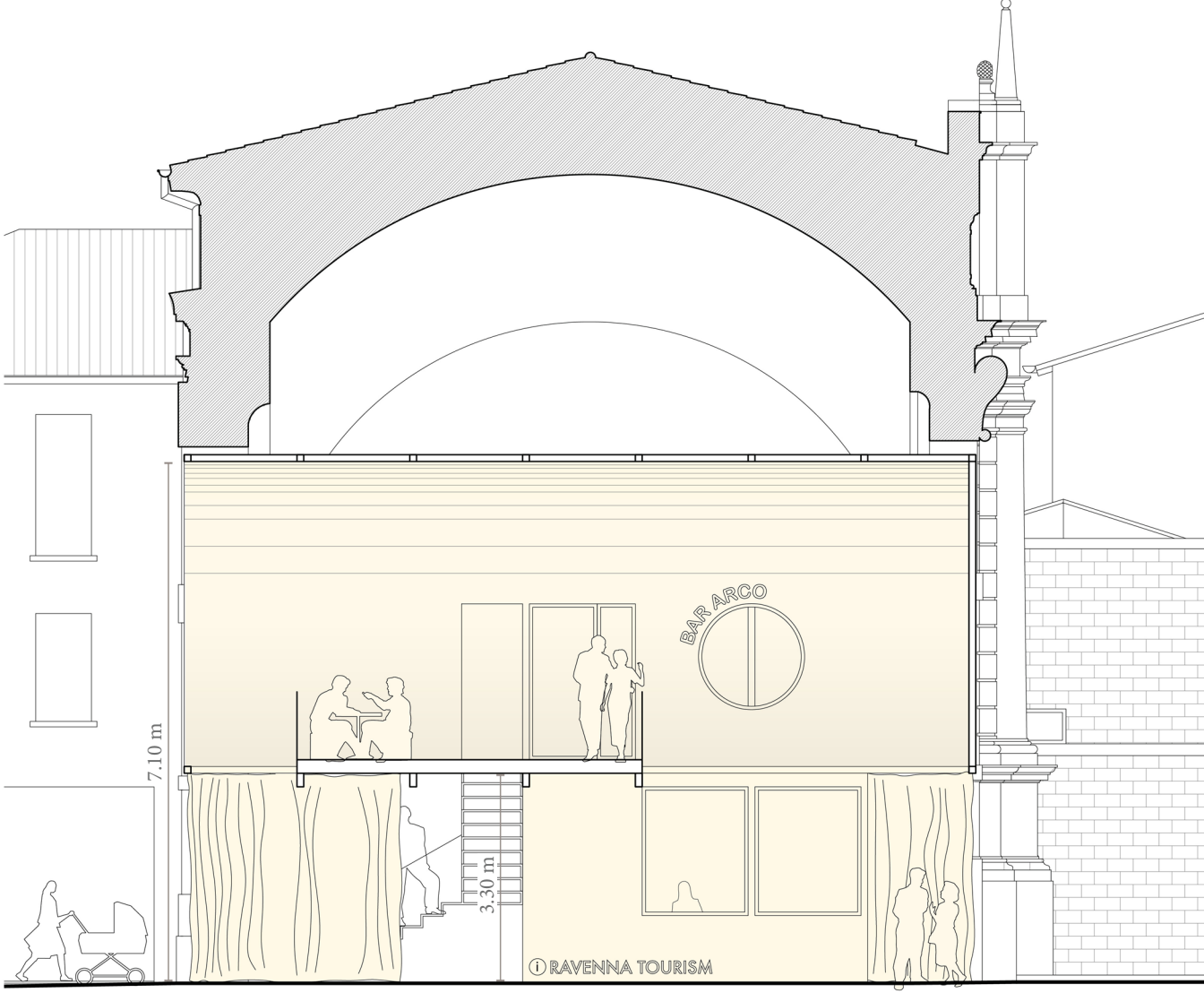


First floor plan +3.10 m / scale 1:200

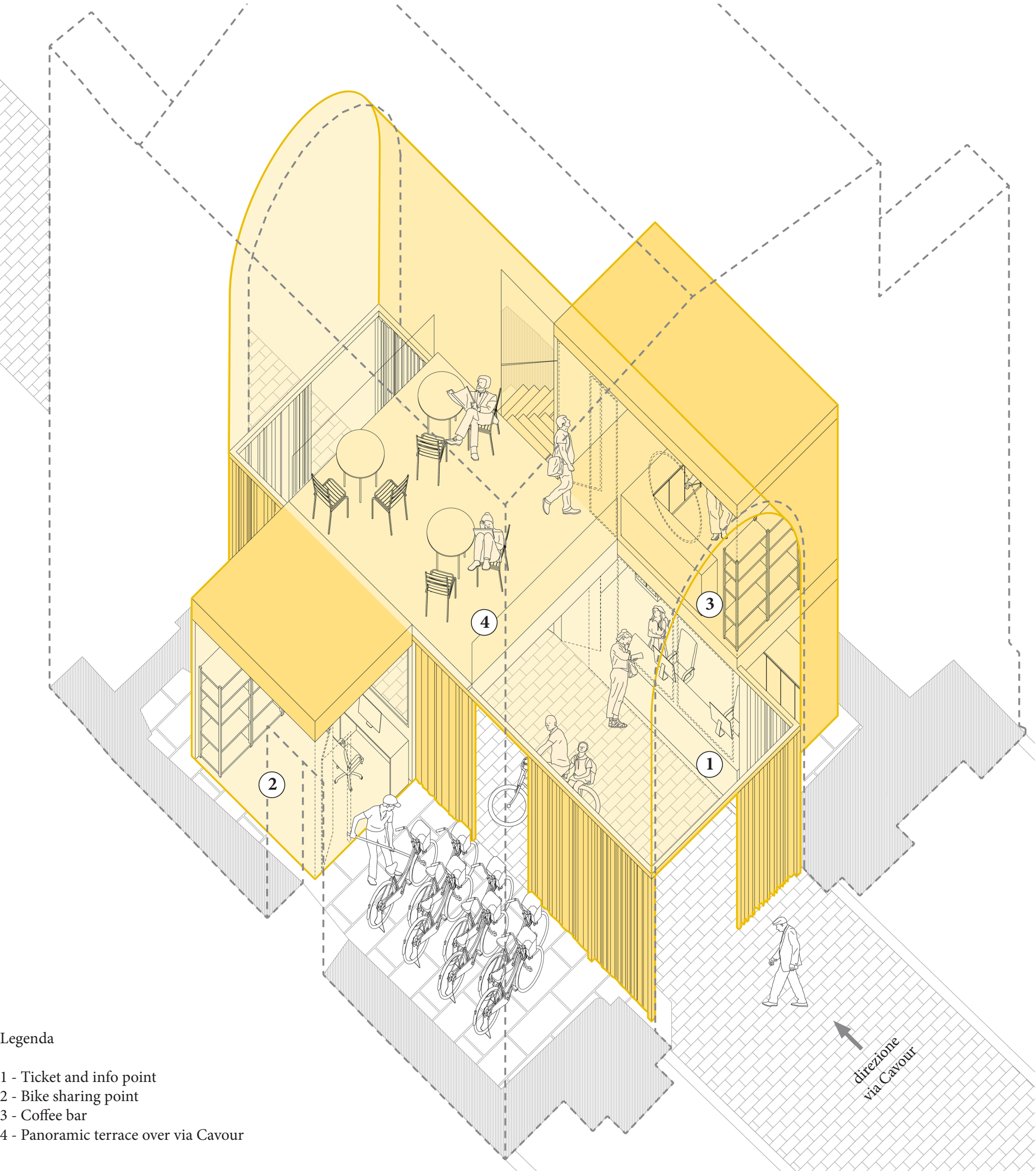
- 3 - Coffee bar
- 4 - Panoramic terrace



Longitudinal section / scale 1:200



Nord-west axonometry



Photorealistic rendering of the project in Porta Adriana

