

# INTERNATIONAL ONLINE ACCOUNTANTS



**Site and Brief**  
 This project is for the conversion of a disused distillery bottling plant into an up to date office space that is to be equipped with a separate café business - which will be available to the wider public. The office space is to be used by International Online Accountants, the company describe themselves to be 'modern and forward thinking', and require a current and up to date design for their new premises. The Cork Distillers bottling plant was built in 1964. Designed by the prolific cork architect Frank Murphy for Cork Distillers. The existing site is a long expansive factory building, broken up into five blocks. Murphy assigned each block its own material, which helped break up the mass of the building. Offices occupied the front of the building, the offices featured a glazed yellow brick front and a neat window arrangement. Behind these offices was the bottling area. The bottling area occupied the largest space of the building, an impressive and more worthy sawtooth roof with a span of 30m sat above the space.

**Research**  
 I first began to research the bottling plant in order to gain a greater understanding of the existing site and buildings history. I became very interested in the more modular elements of the building, so I decided to look at building with similar architectural languages. I chose to houses as my precedent studies, the Edith Farnsworth House, and the Rietveld-Schroeder House. The first precedent study I looked at was the Edith Farnsworth house in Illinois, USA. The house was designed by Mies van der Rohe for the Chicago doctor Edith Farnsworth as a weekend getaway and summer house. The house was designed in the International style and consists of eight white vertical I-beams which connect the roof and floor slabs to the plate glass that wraps around the whole house. For my second precedent study I looked at the Rietveld Schroeder house in Utrecht was built in 1924 and designed by Dutch architect Gerrit Rietveld for the Truus Schröder-Schröder family. The house was designed in the De Stijl style. Mrs Truus Schröder-Schröder family commissioned the house to be designed with a minimal amount of walls, the living space on the first floor of the house is an open space with a system of sliding and revolving panels to allow the users to divide up the space as they deem fit. De Stijl, also known as Neoplasticism is a dutch art movement, founded in Leiden in 1917. De Stijl focuses on abstract and simple (compared to the art deco and art nouveau movements that happened prior to de stijl) graphics that were centred on basic visual elements such as geometric shapes. One of the main drivers of the movement was the artist Theo Van Doesburg. In 1917 he founded the journal De Stijl as a means to recruit like-minded artists to his movement.

**Concept**  
 For my concept I first looked at the elements that make up the building, here I began to look at the fenestration on the south elevation of the building. First I sketched and illustrate the windows and their surroundings. After I studied the windows I took the shapes that the windows are made up of and started to rearrange the shapes to make new forms. I realised how modular all of my concept sketches were and the similarities between them and De Stijl.

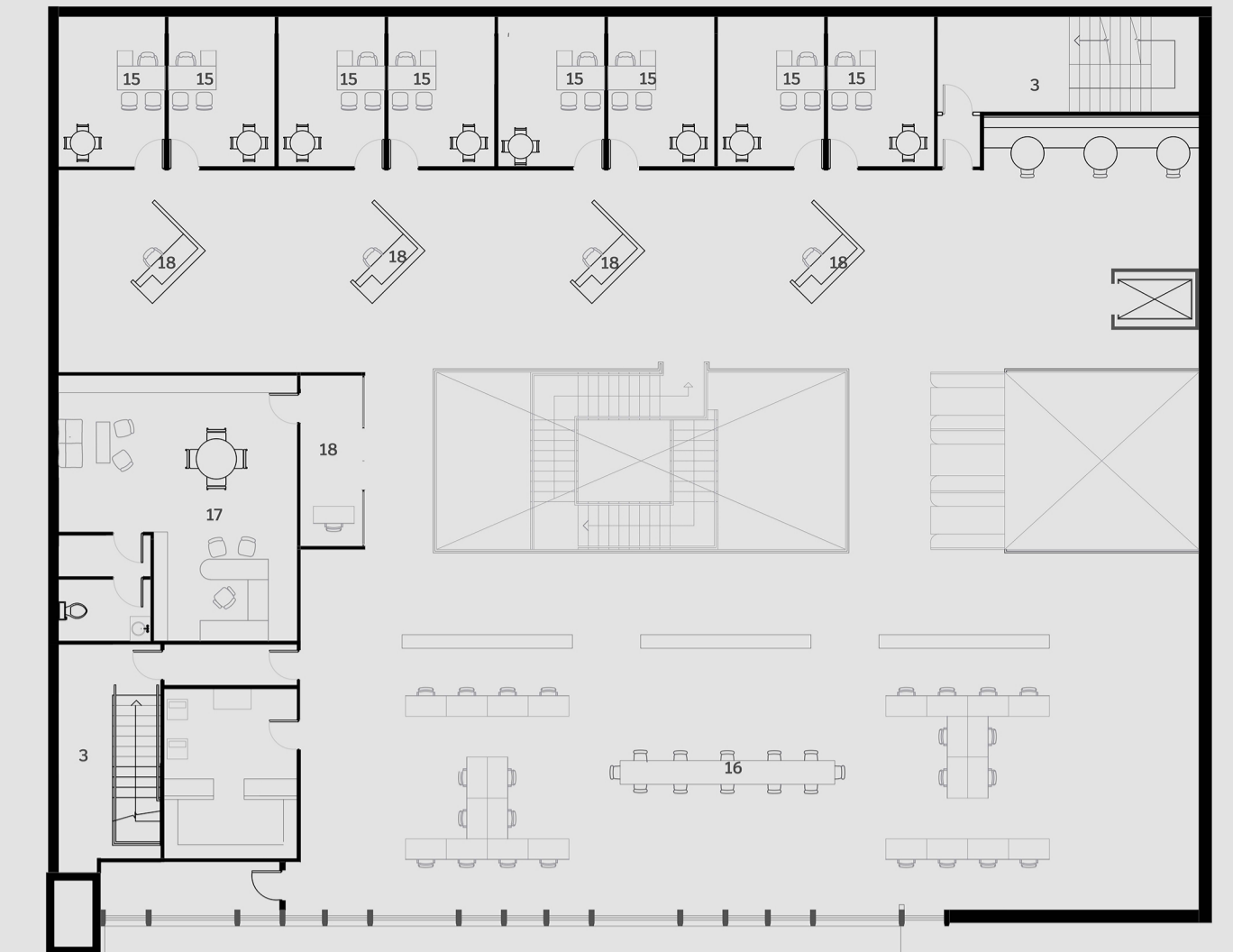
**Design Development**  
 I started my design development by doing some bubble plans. First I chose where my entrances would be. The entrance to my office building is on the side of the building. I put the office entrance here so I could have large windows to allow a lot of unobstructed light to enter the reception, circulation and hot desking areas. The entrance to the café is on the front of the building, this is to enable the entrance to the café to be completely separate from the accountant's office. I chose to put the café on this side so that passersby on the walkway adjacent to the site can clearly see the café and go in. The interior of the space is centred around the void, the staircase cuts through void. Most of the spaces work around the void, this was to be reminiscent of De Stijl artwork where the paintings are focused around a central geometric shape.

On the basement level there is a kitchen, cleaners store, sanitary facilities (male bathrooms and a male shower, female bathrooms and a female shower, and an accessible toilet), a storage facility for archived files with an area for photocopying, there are break out spaces near the archives so someone can work with the files without having to travel far. On the basement I wanted to group the spaces that were either social or not imperative to day to day working together.

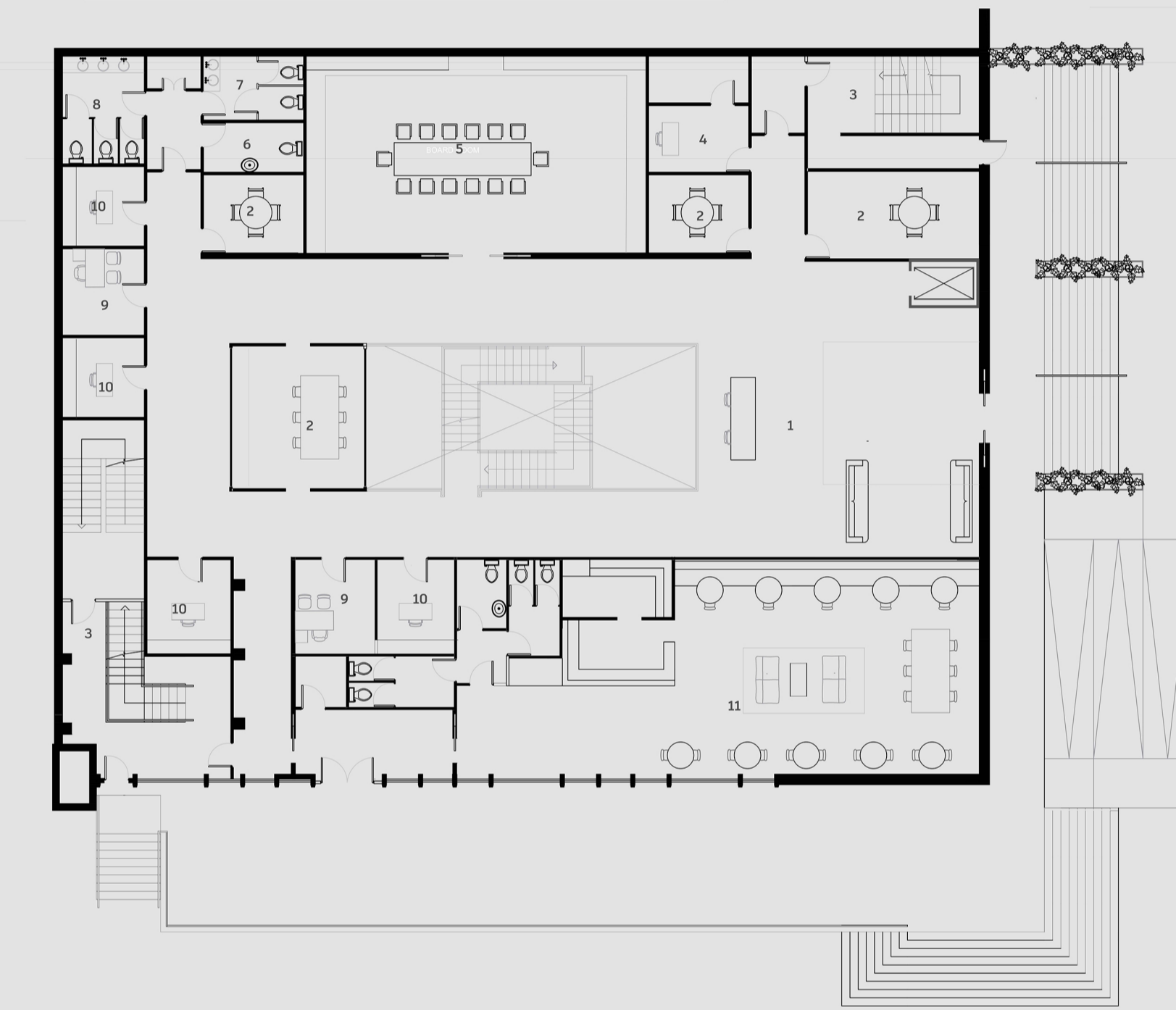
On the ground floor there is a reception, boardroom, four meeting rooms, two audit managers offices, four assistant audit managers offices, I wanted to keep the meeting rooms and boardroom on the ground floor near reception so that visitors would not be intruding or disturbing the employees who are working (especially as the hot desking spaces are in an open plan area I wanted to give those employees as much privacy as possible). There is also a utilities managers office, bathrooms, and the café.

There is a lobbied entrance to the café so that employees in the office can go to café without having to go outside, the lobby also enables both the café and accountants' office can lock their own doors for security reasons. The majority of the offices and work spaces are on the first floor. There are eight offices for the senior partners, as well as four work stations for their personal assistants, the managing directors office, a work station for their personal assistant, a hotdesking area for twenty people. My goal for the first floor was to group most of the work spaces together.

**Conclusion**  
 I feel that I was able to adhere to the brief and provide the client with an office space that is modern and has all the requirements for a forward thinking an innovative company. For my materials for the office I first decided to look to the materials commonly seen in De Stijl furniture and Architecture. I also looked at the material make up of the windows - glass, steel, and concrete. I used glass, steel elements, wood, and leather for some of the furnishings. For my reception desk I used cortex, hilmac, steel, and sibirised ash. For my coffee shop, I decided to introduce more colour - in keeping with some of the more colourful elements of De Stijl. I have chosen materials such as: copper, and bright tiles. As well hilmacs counter tops for the service area. I feel that my research into work that may have influenced Frank Murphy has a strong effect on my own design intervention to give a sense of continuity to the new functions the building is now housing.



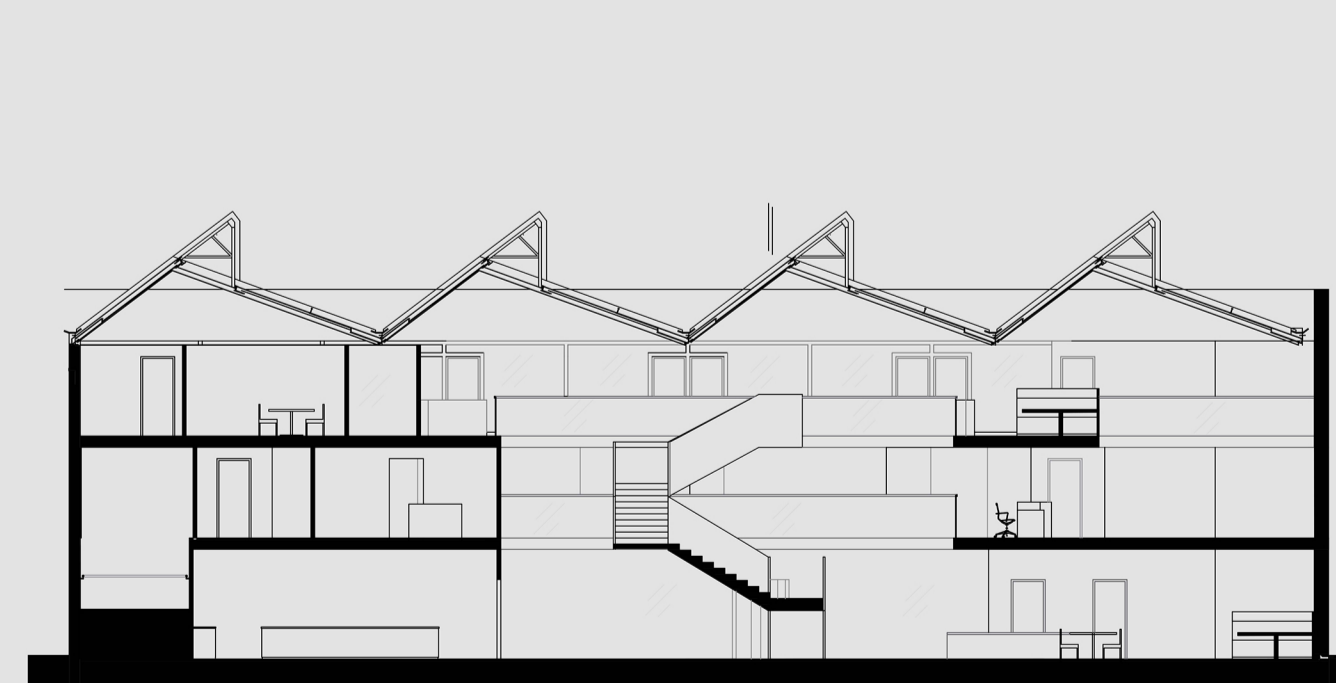
GRUND FLOOR PLAN  
SCALE 1:100



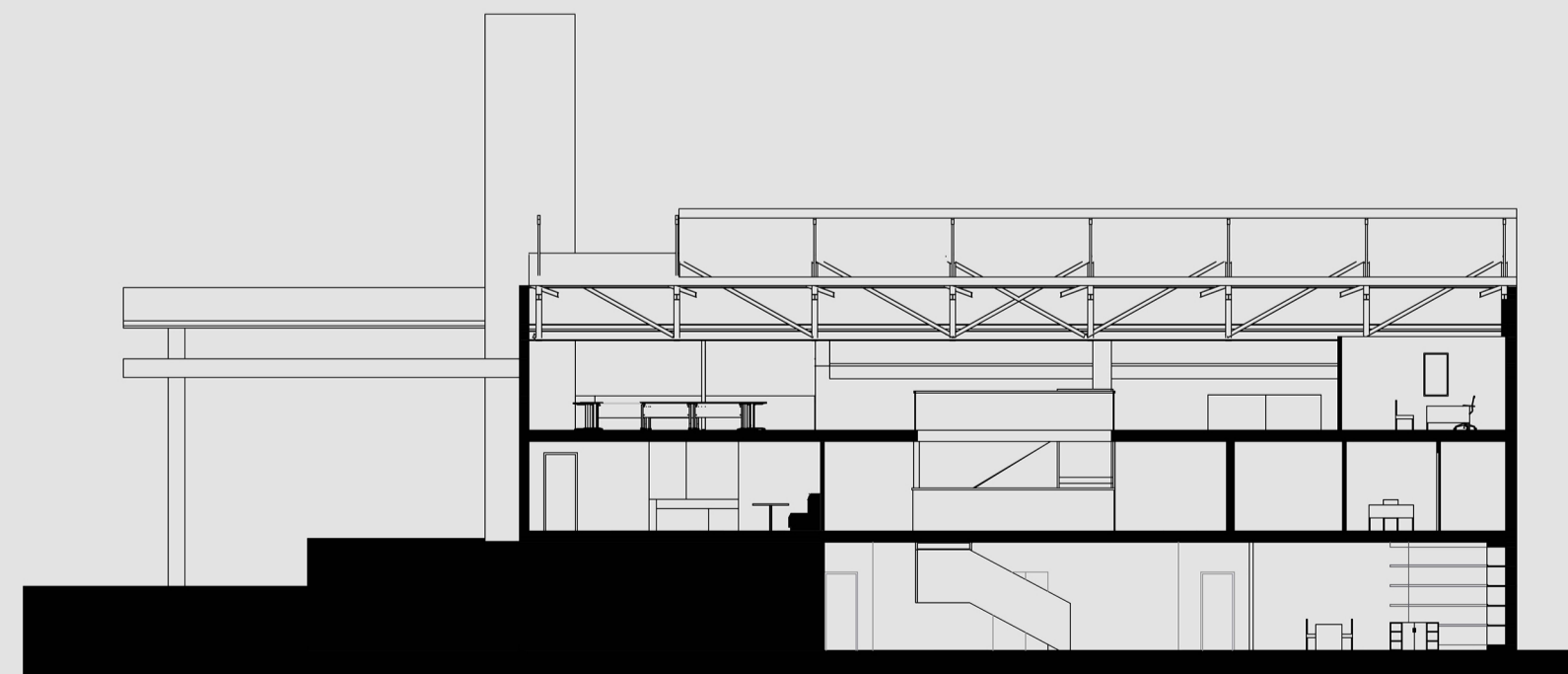
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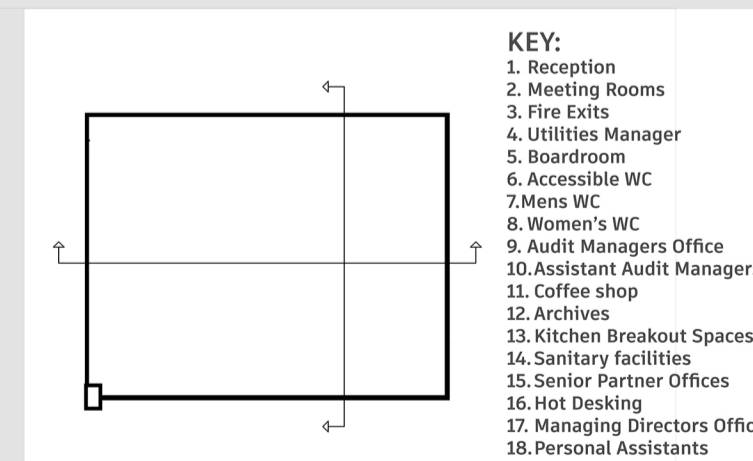
BASEMENT LEVEL PLAN  
SCALE 1:100



SECTION A-A  
SCALE 1:100



SECTION B-B  
SCALE 1:100



- KEY:**
1. Reception
  2. Meeting Rooms
  3. Fire Exits
  4. Utilities Manager
  5. Boardroom
  6. Accessible WC
  7. Mens WC
  8. Women's WC
  9. Audit Managers Office
  10. Assistant Audit Managers
  11. Coffee shop
  12. Archives
  13. Kitchen Breakout Spaces
  14. Sanitary facilities
  15. Senior Partner Offices
  16. Hot Desking
  17. Managing Directors Office
  18. Personal Assistants