



The Atrium EXPRESS POST OFFICE

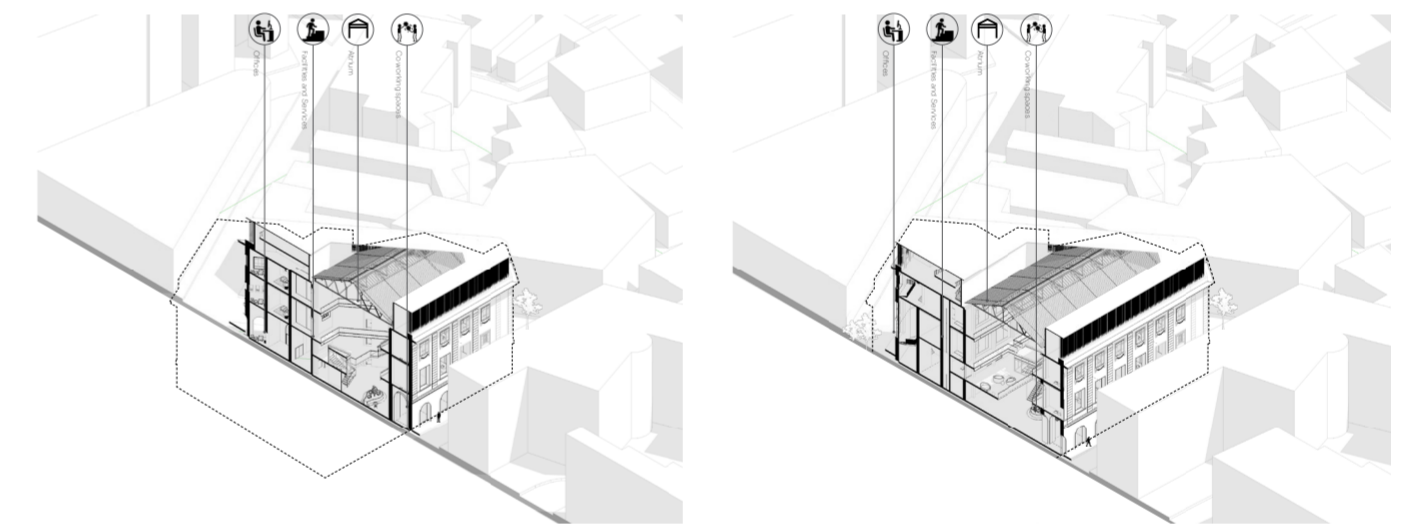
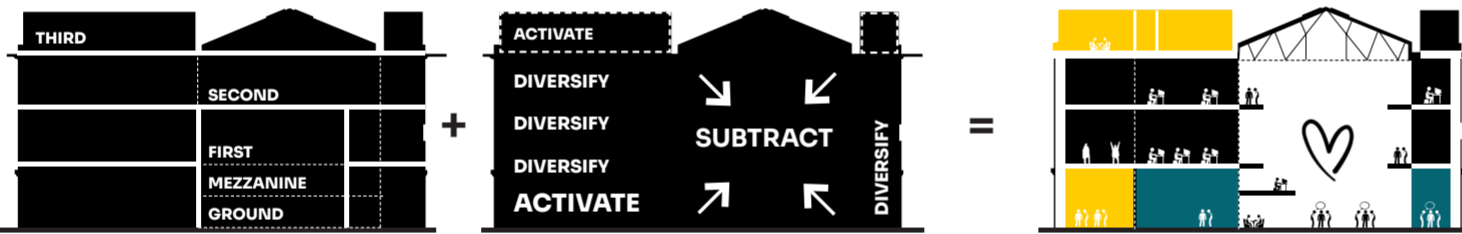
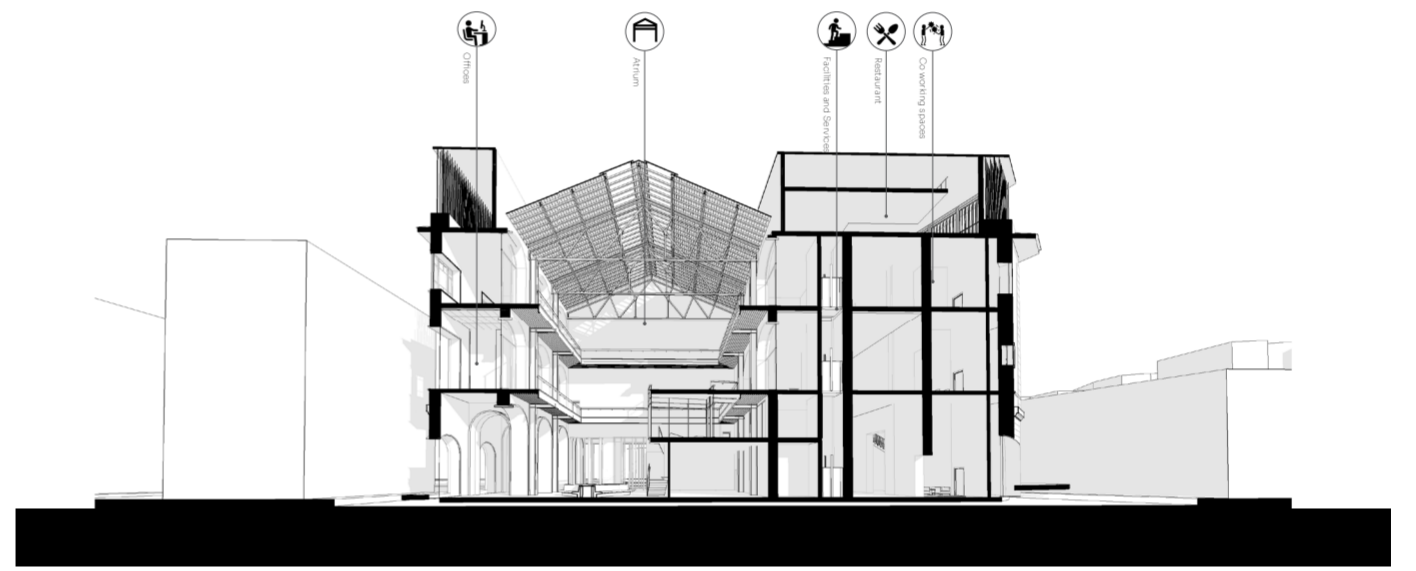
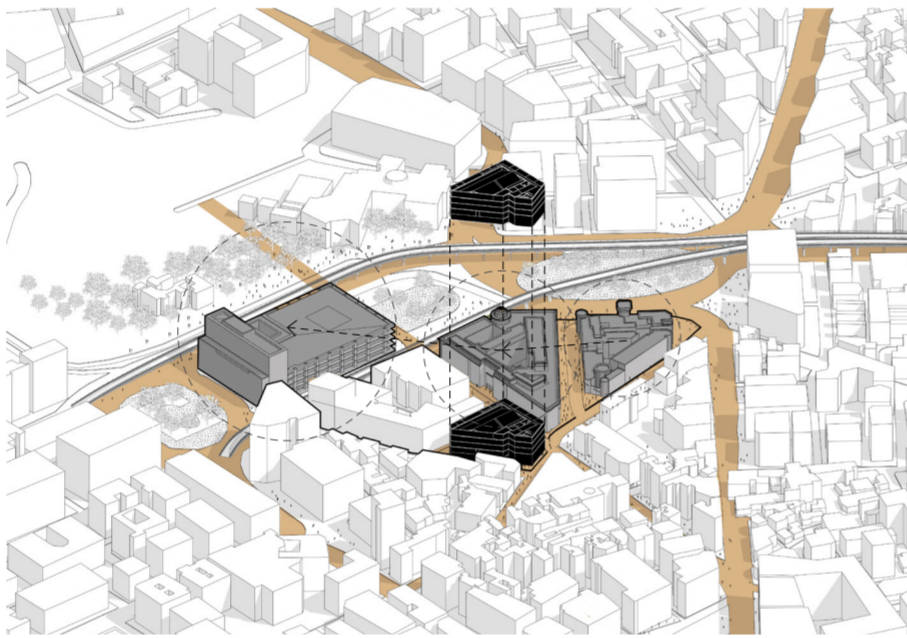
THE LARGEST EGYPTIAN ADAPTIVE REUSE

Nineteenth century grand design meets the needs of 21st century business

Historic Cairo post office transformed into commercial and cultural hub

The historical concept of the post office occupies a unique place in the culture and business life of Egypt – the first civilisation to create a postal service, which came into being around 4,000 years ago. In recent decades, going back more than a century, postal facilities have not just been venues to deposit letters and parcels for distribution, but have acted as financial centres – places for monetary savings, withdrawals and transfers. In effect they were banks.

Now, one such landmark building in Cairo has been given a new lease of life – along with a contemporary and prominent role to play in the business and cultural aspects of the city's activities.



Co-working
Exhibition

The
Atrium



To act as a social magnet in Attaba Square, the building needs to have a diverse program catering to different needs while also being contextual to the urban fabric

A new heart for a restored landmark Restoration work includes bringing back to life the atrium which now forms the heart of the building. During its original construction this had also been the case, but subsequent renovations had resulted in it being enclosed.

Building on grandeur
Just as in the 19th century the Colis Postaux acted a repository of funds, a place of transaction and a centre for communication - now, in the 21st century, it is being transformed into a venue for business, connectivity and culture. Dubai-based architect company Verform has taken the existing site - in all its belle epoque glory - and with a number of sympathetic, sustainable and appropriate additions has put it once more at the heart of its community.

Where pensions were once withdrawn, deals are struck, where people previously lined up in front of counters, now they linger over coffee, and in a place where hard-earned cash was deposited to a teller, local businesses can network, amidst displays of cultural artifacts and artistic works.

