



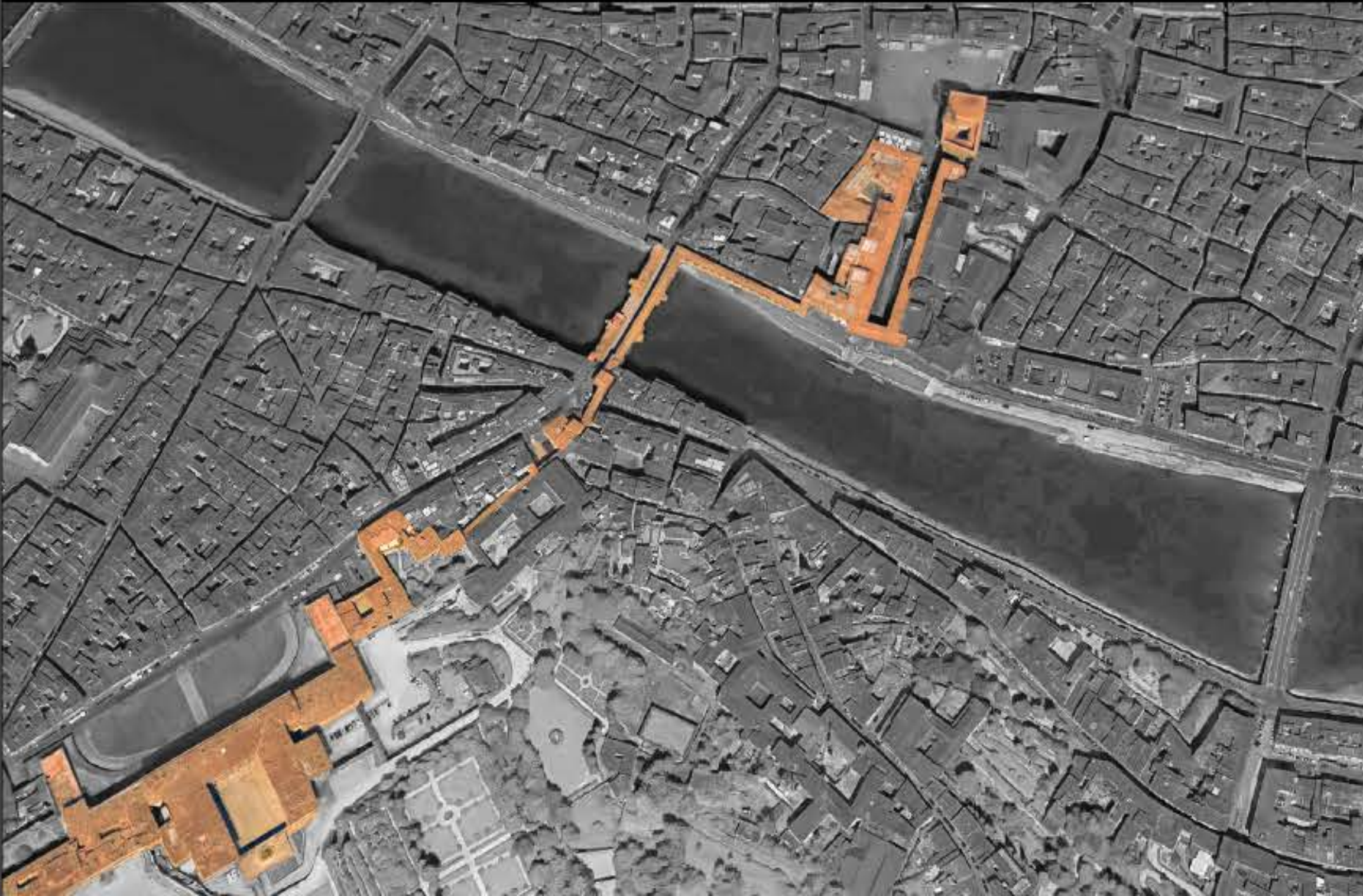
Ponte Vecchio

Built: 1333
Site: Florence, Italy
Architect: Taddeo Gaddi

The Ponte Vecchio, or "The Old Bridge" was built in 1345 to connect the downtown Florence city-center to the farmlands outside of it. The bridge has a long history of destruction and reconstruction due to weather and war. Various architects have stepped in to make changes over the span of hundreds of years, but Taddeo Gaddi designed the original framework from which all additions/ changes stem from. This project is full of both history and modern design thinking, with a unique approach to spatial conditions.

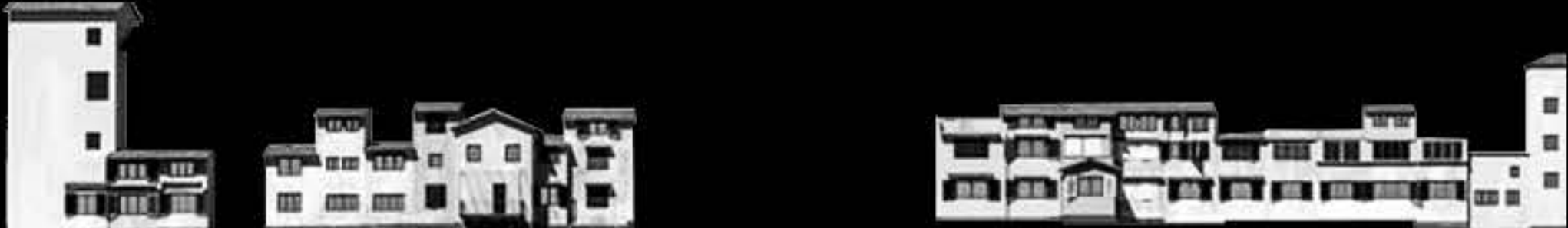
Vasari Corridor

The Vasari Corridor was built in 1564 by Giorgio Vasari as an attachment to the top of the shops standing on the east facade. This bridge was used as a private access tunnel for the Medici family to travel from their residence at the Palazzo Pitti to the Gallery Uffizi and the Palazzo Vecchio. This tunnel exists as part of the spatial composition of the bridge, while also acting as a parasite to the site surrounding it, spreading through various buildings of a range of importance.

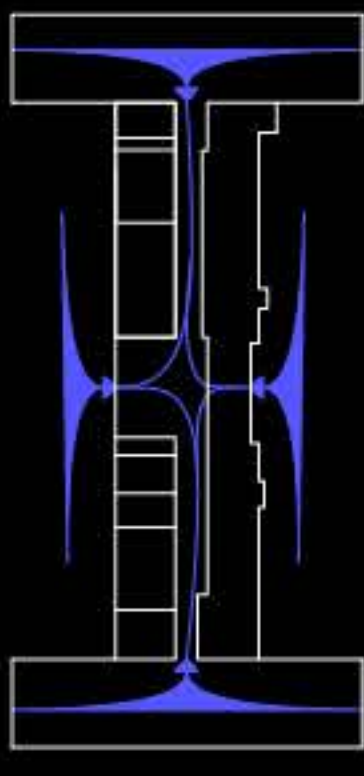


Saddlebag

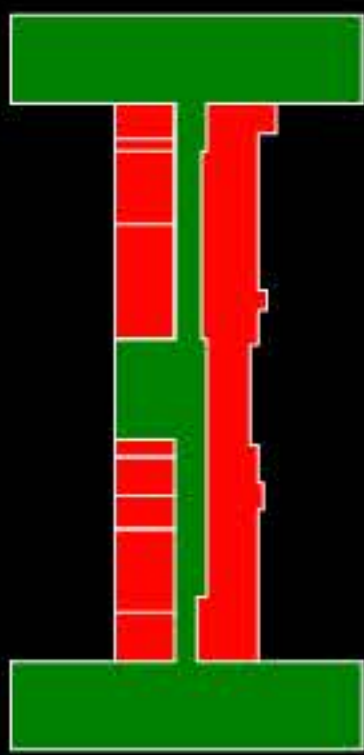
The Ponte Vecchio is composed much like a saddlebag for a horse/packmule. The foundation of the bridge stands as the original element, serving as an efficient way to cross into the city of Florence from the farmland outside of it. Over hundreds of years, massing and program were attached to the side facades of the bridge, appearing to be hanging overtop of the original foundation.



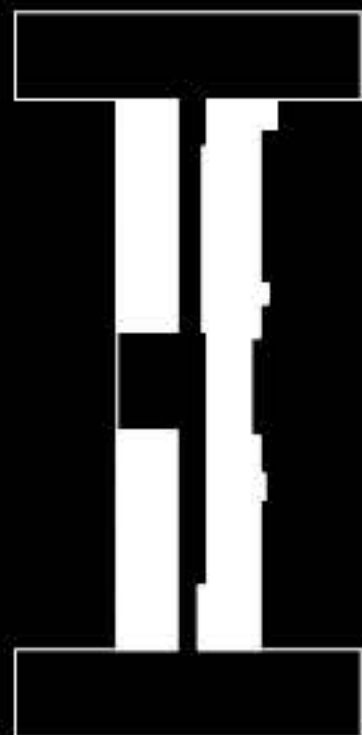
Plan Diagrams



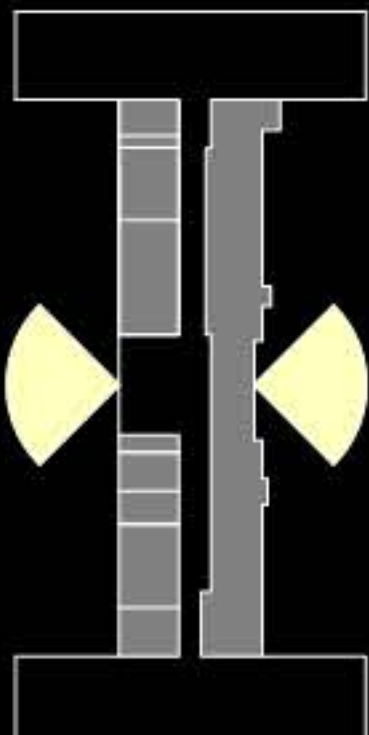
AIR CIRCULATION



PUBLIC / COMMERCIAL

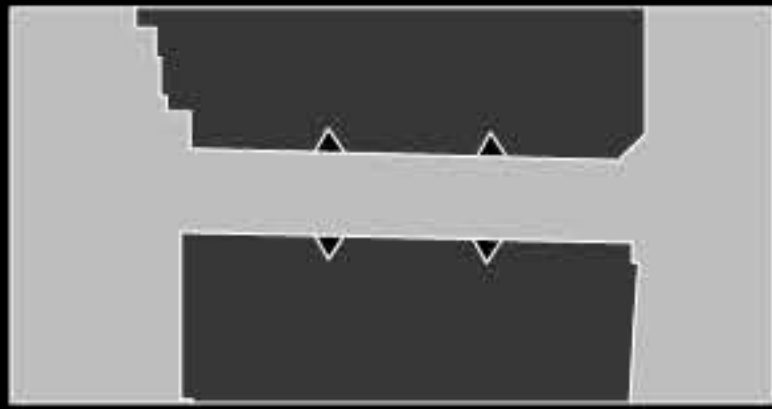


SOLID / VOID



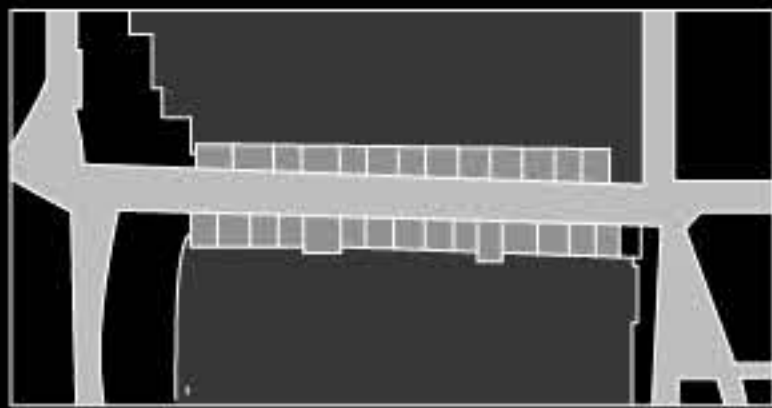
SIGHT LINES

Timeline



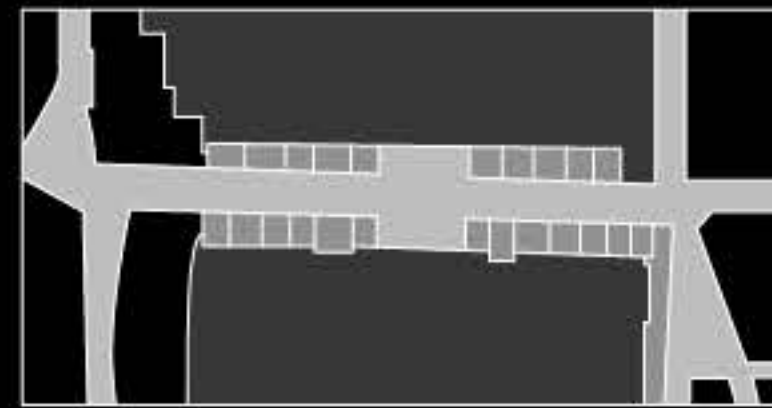
1333-

The original Ponte Vecchio is built, allowing the transport of livestock into the city-center



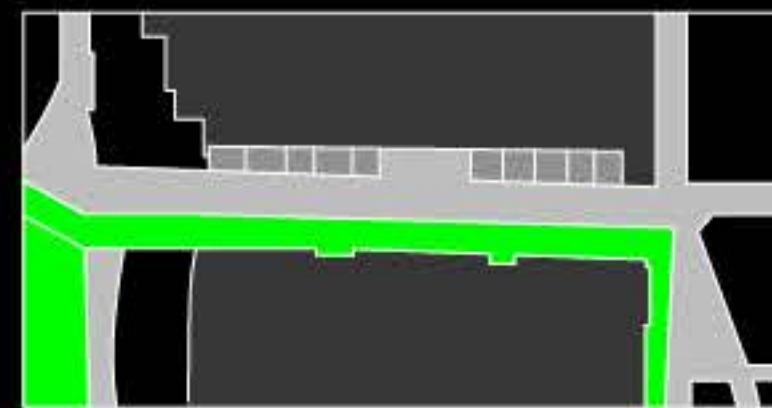
1545-

After collapsing to a flood the bridge was rebuilt with the addition of the shops. At the time, the only shops were butchery-related, causing heavy pollution into the Arno River and the air around the site.



1565-

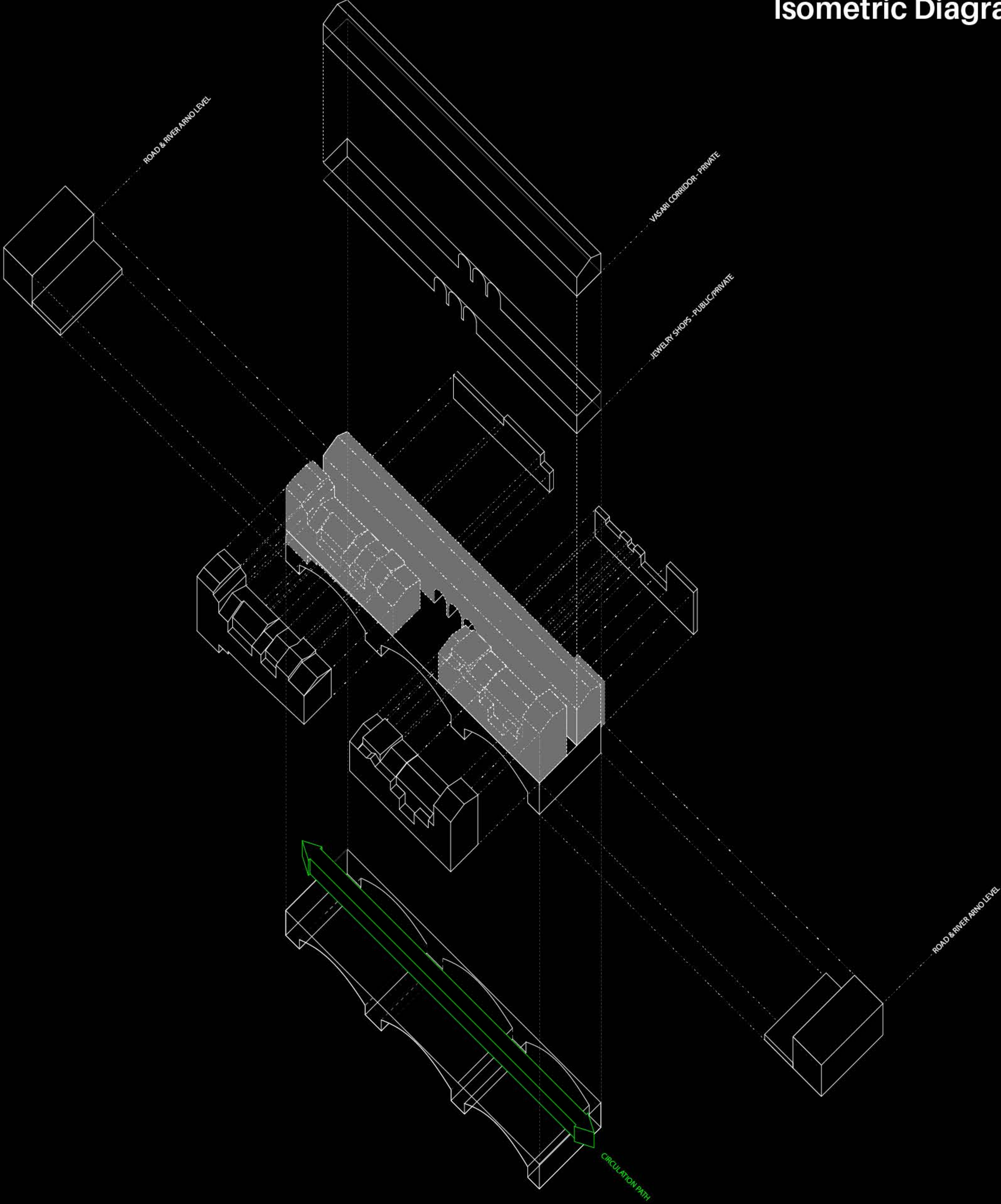
The temporary shops are replaced with a more fortified, permanent composition of shops, allowing for openings on both facades to allow airflow and site views. This design move helped combat the pollution tremendously.



1565-

The Vasari Corridor is added to the bridge. (see diagram to the left)

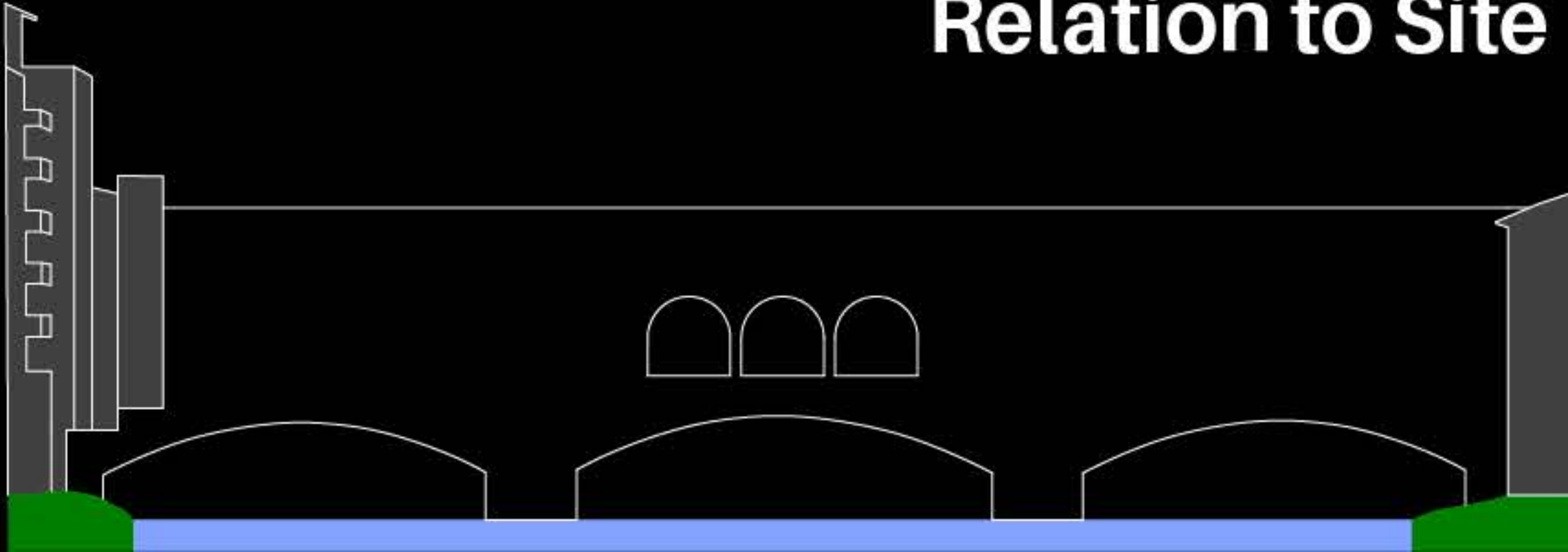
Isometric Diagram



Proportion Diagram



Relation to Site





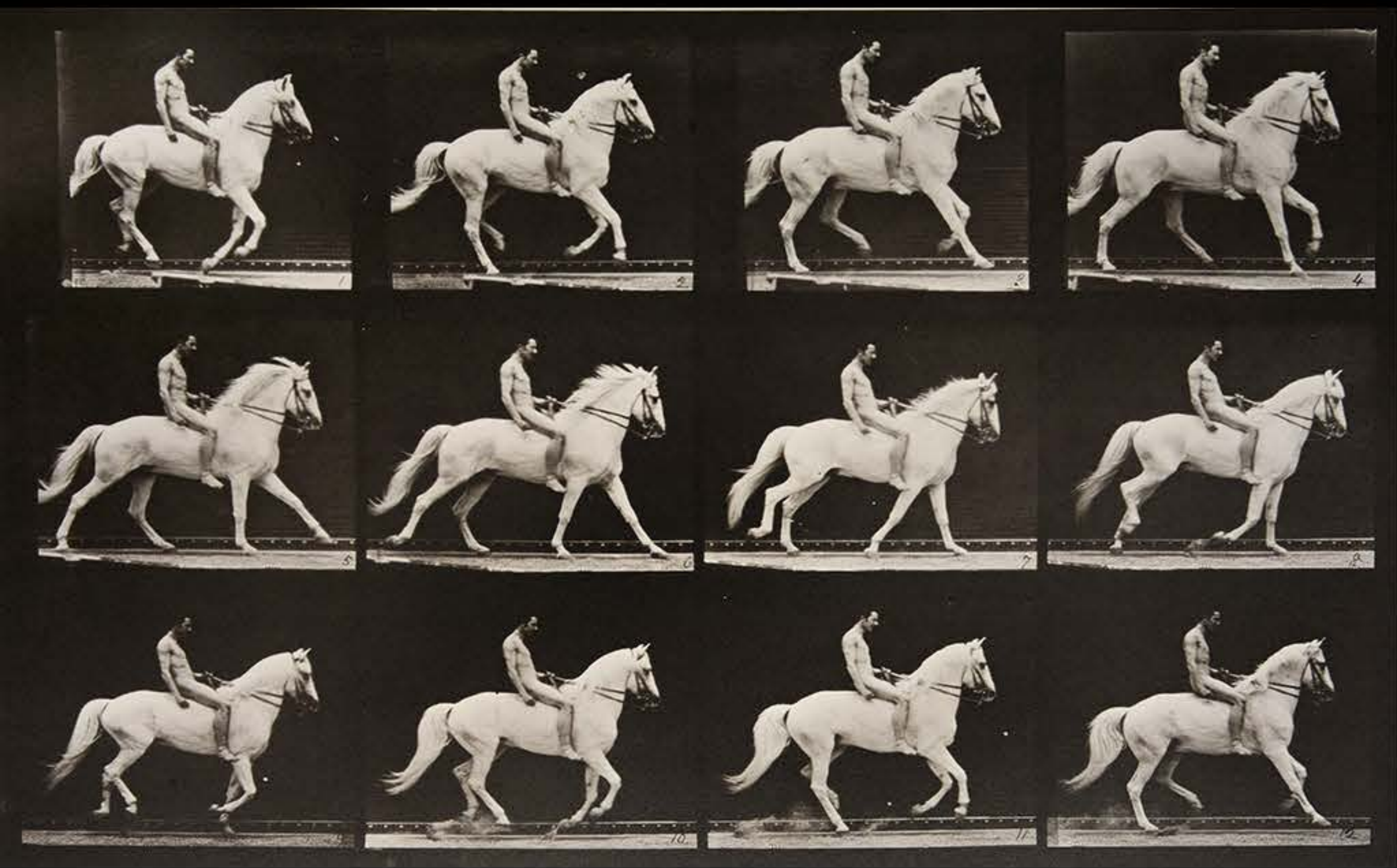
Mirroring & Symmetry

When designing the bridge, the immediate site condition of the Arno River was used to achieve a mirroring effect that would complete a symmetrical composition at the right times of day.

Shop Massing

When designing the bridge, the immediate site condition of the Arno River was used to achieve a mirroring effect that would complete a symmetrical composition at the right times of day.

Secondary Precedents



Eadweard Muybridge- “Human and Animal Locomotion”

Human and Animal Locomotion was the first scientific study to be conducted through photography. Published in 1887, Muybridge uses the (at the time) new technology of photography to capture still images within a cycle of movement in various human and animal studies. The project creates a feeling of time through immediate experiences, composing the essence of temporal motion blur.

John Curtins School of Medical Research

Built: 2006
Site: Canberra, Australia
Architect: Lyons Architecture

John Curtins School of Medical Research is a building that achieves the essence of temporal moments, captured in time. Each element of the facade serves as a correlation to Eadweard Muybridge’s Human and Animal Locomotion.

