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Design Description

Costana Resort, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

Costana Resort

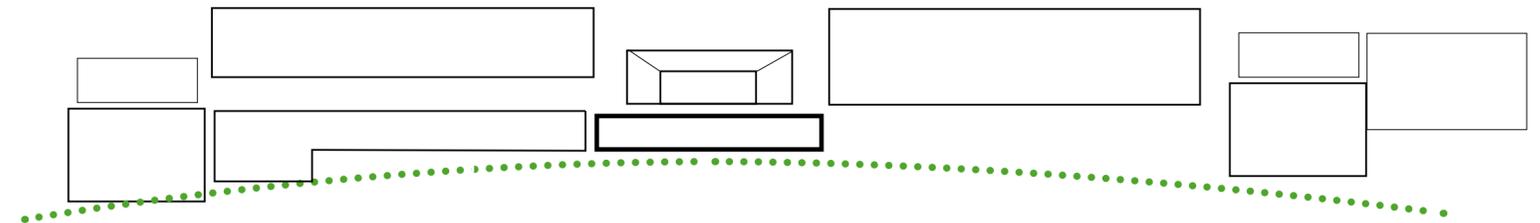
Design Description

Costana is a sensorial retreat perched above the banks of the Uruguay River, which forms the natural border between Brazil and Argentina. Located in the northwestern region of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, this area is deeply marked by the cultural layers of the Jesuit missions and the Guarani indigenous heritage. Though rich in historical and natural landmarks, the region lacks high-end hospitality infrastructure that honors its identity and meets the needs of both regional residents and tourists from both Brazil and the neighboring country.

The resort's architecture responds to this gap with respect and reinvention. Inspired by the vernacular 'costeiros'—traditional riverside fishing huts—the design avoids caricature and instead reinterprets their spatial wisdom. Elevated terraces and a continuous wooden skin wrap the building, creating a microclimate buffer that addresses the region's wide thermal variation (3°C to 31°C) and river valley winds. This wrap-around balcony also echoes the regional tradition of sharing chimarrão (a gaucho tea ritual) in shaded, semi-open spaces.

The spatial strategy draws from the logic of transatlantic ships, organizing the program into functional decks: the upper deck houses the reception, panoramic lounges, and a restaurant; the middle deck features the indoor pool and main dining areas; and the lower deck opens to a cascading pool landscape inspired by nearby natural formations such as Salto do Yucumã—the world's longest longitudinal waterfall.

Private bungalows are embedded into the terraced topography, each offering immersive views and secluded contact with nature. A mirrored water ceiling crowns the covered restaurant, reflecting daylight and continuing the emotional presence of the river into the arrival experience. This detail, inspired by Brazilian modernist master Paulo Mendes da Rocha, blurs boundaries between architecture, nature, and cultural memory.



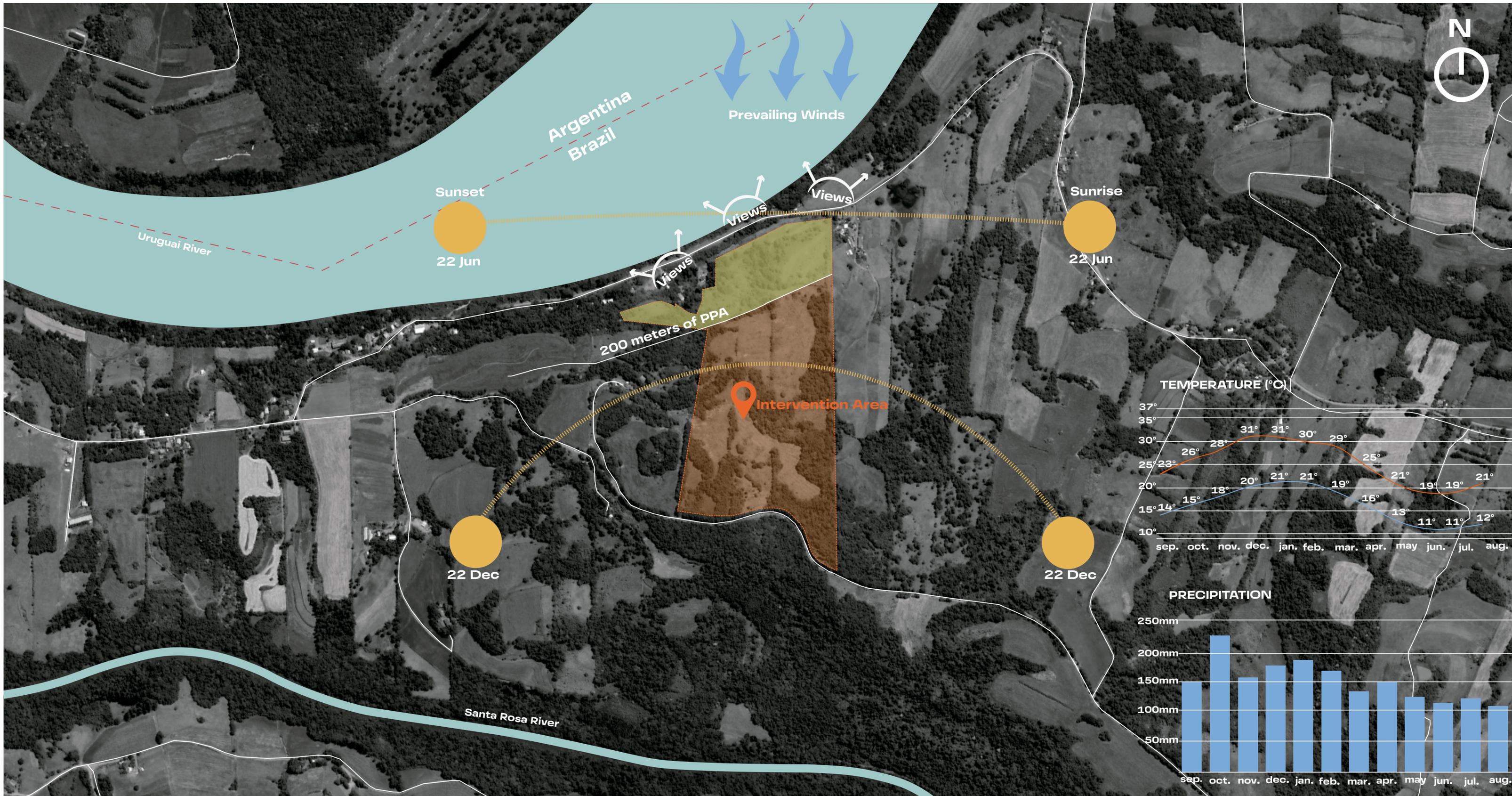
Site Analysis

Costana Resort, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil



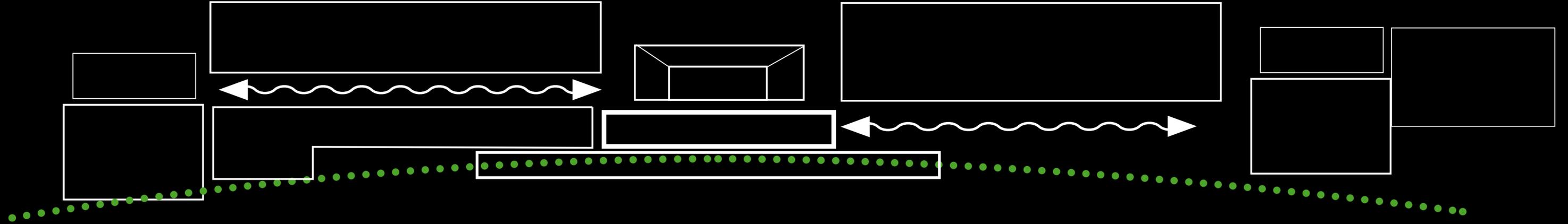
Intervention Area





Concept Design

Costana Resort, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil









Lower Deck

Pool Bar

SPA/Gym

Upper Deck

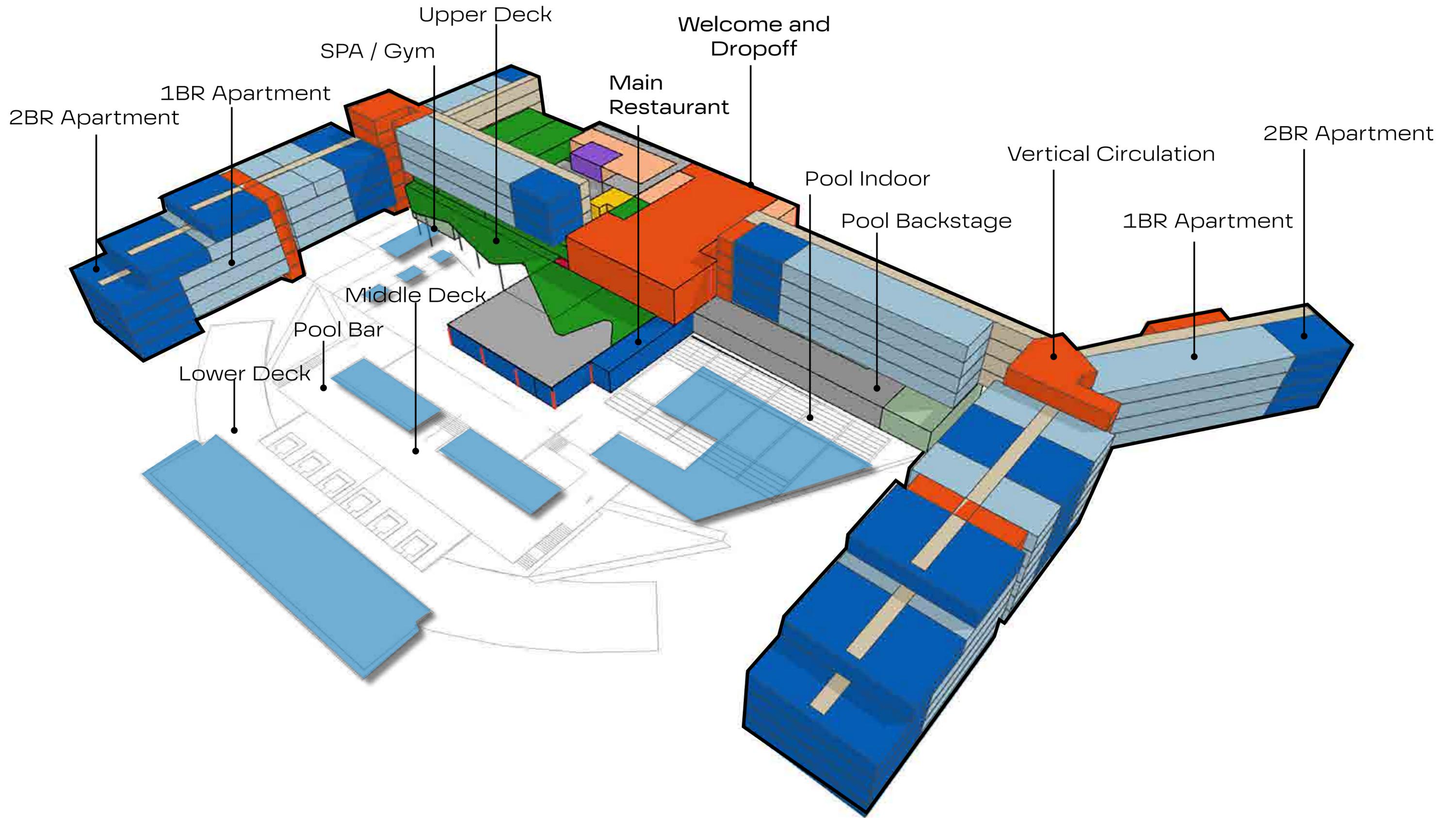
Welcome and Dropoff

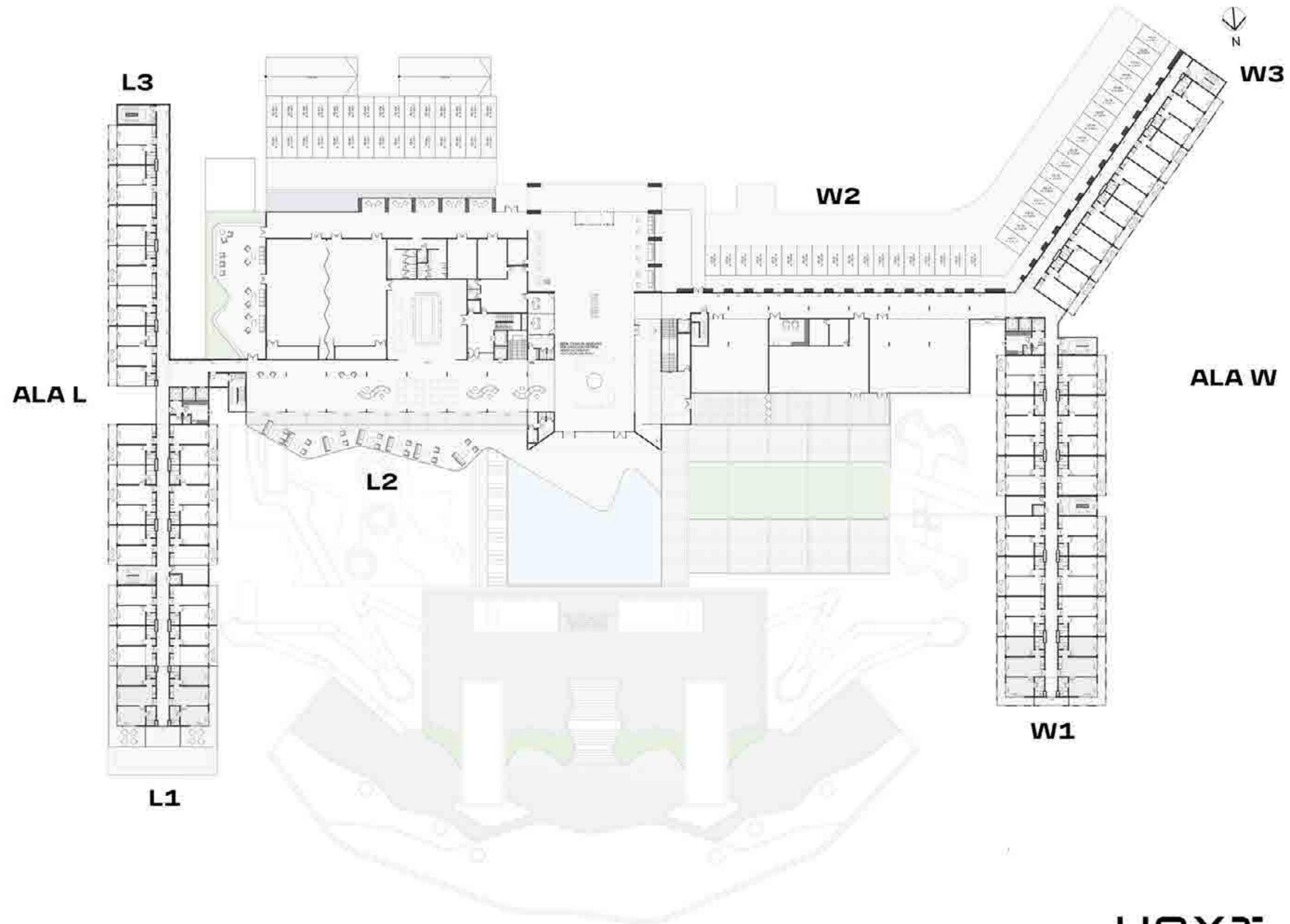
Indoor Pool

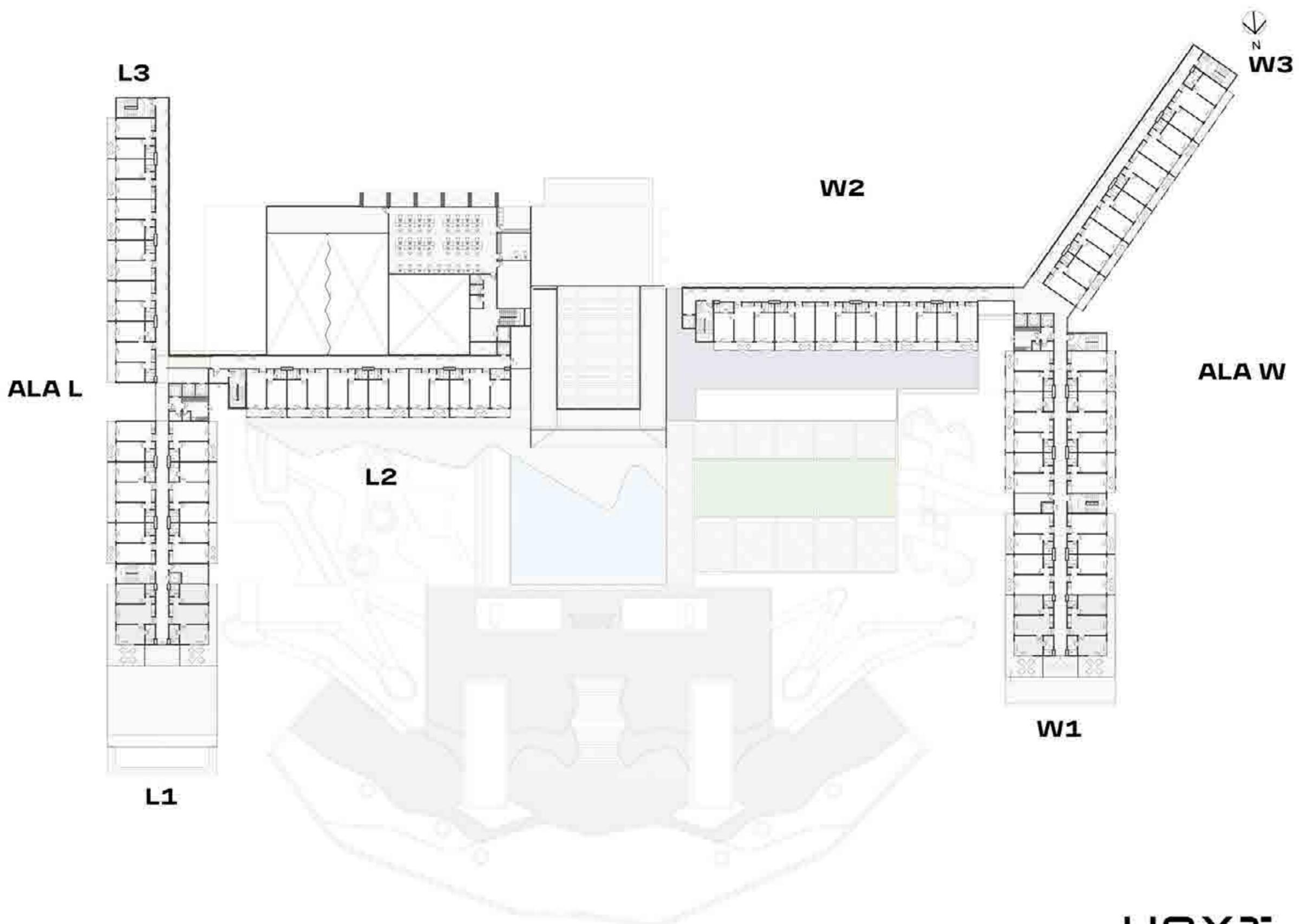
Middle Deck



- MAP LEGEND
- 01 GATEHOUSE
 - 02 SERVICE GATEHOUSE
 - 03 PARKING LOT
 - 04 BUNGALOW
 - 05 SALES AND RESTAURANT
 - 06 SPORTS COMPLEX
 - 07 WELCOME AND DROP-OFF
 - 08 OUTDOOR PLAYGROUND
 - 09 UPPER DECK
 - 10 SPA/GYM
 - 11 INDOOR POOL
 - 12 APARTMENTS
 - 13 BUNGALOW
 - 14 MAIN RESTAURANT
 - 15 MIDDLE DECK
 - 16 POOL BAR
 - 17 LOWER DECK
 - 18 LOOKOUT POINT









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