

# Architecture as Pedagogy: The School Building

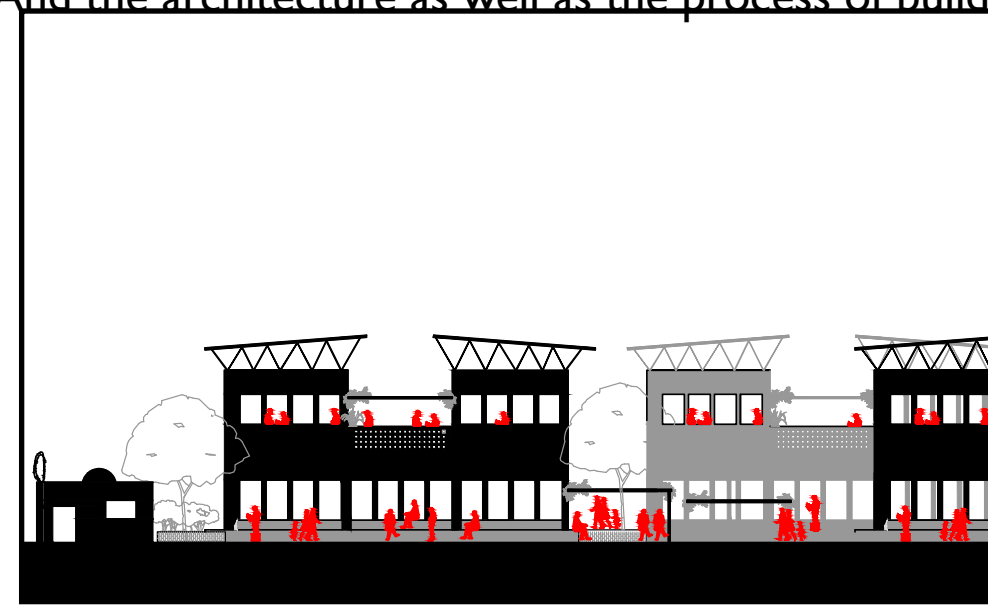
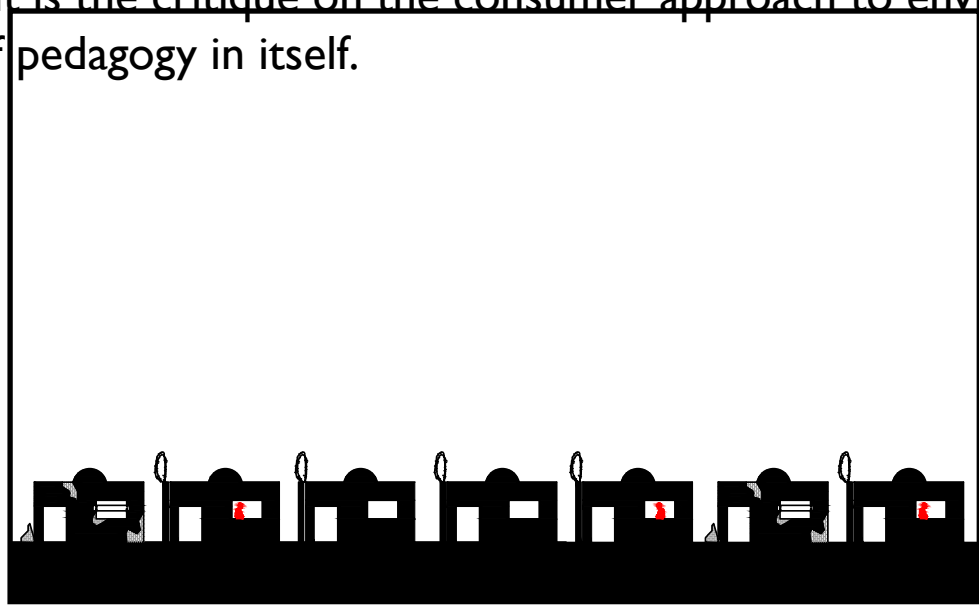
This project is based on the research of the Studio which looked at the phenomenon of abandoned housing in Mexico, focusing on the Border City of Juarez where there is the highest percentage of vacated, foreclosed, abandoned and vandalized (social) housing. The main problems was identified as the flawed process of housing production and distribution, its emphasis on ownership alone, and lack government accountability as well as lack of effective structures of governance in neighborhood scale. The researches lead to a collective strategy to focus on the "Riberas Del Bravo" District as a prototype and address the cycle of decay creating and feeding the abandoned housing phenomenon ,social decay, economic decay, urban/physical decay. The urban plan for this prototype site consists of several startup project both architectural and infrastructural.

The urban strategy for the Area was devised in 7 main phases of enhancing and empowering communities, Densification (along with de-densification and agricultural production) and formalization. This project is located on the border of the proposed de-densified area with the densified area. Within the Urban plan this project is a secondary and higher education facility which addresses the need for secondary educational facilities as we figured out through the urban design and as pointed out by the PDU (municipal development plan). The school is meant to function as a "Community managed School" which in the later stages also functions as a community center. The Vocational Training aspect of the facility is developed at the same time as the infrastructural projects in the Urban Plan in order to train a portion of the unemployed in Riberas del Bravo for participation in the other development projects such as the Material bank, the water infrastructure and agriculture. The architecture of this project aims to create a new/other/alternative, architectural language which is a critique to the existing manufactured urban fabric of housing and its limited possibilities. With a new "knowledge" and know-how for Through the means of communally constructing an essential public building in several ways such as, environmentally sensitive design, the building and inhabitation process, the treatment of public and shared space, and most importantly wants to challenge the notion of home ownership as an identity maker by introducing a more appealing options of shared ownership facilities.

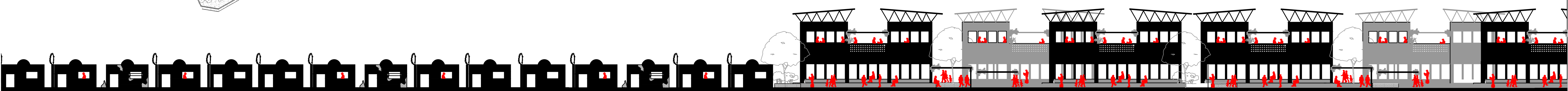
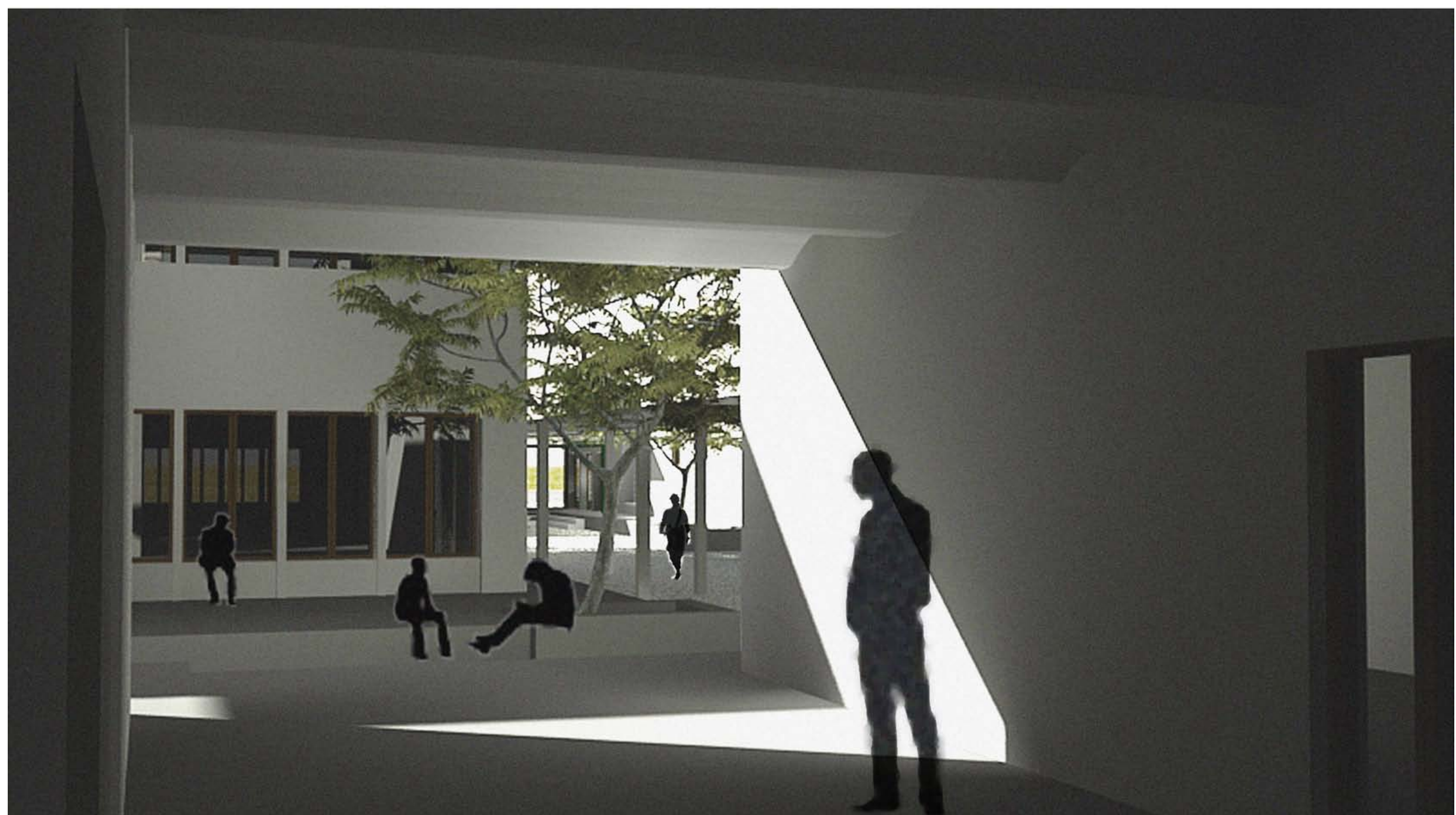
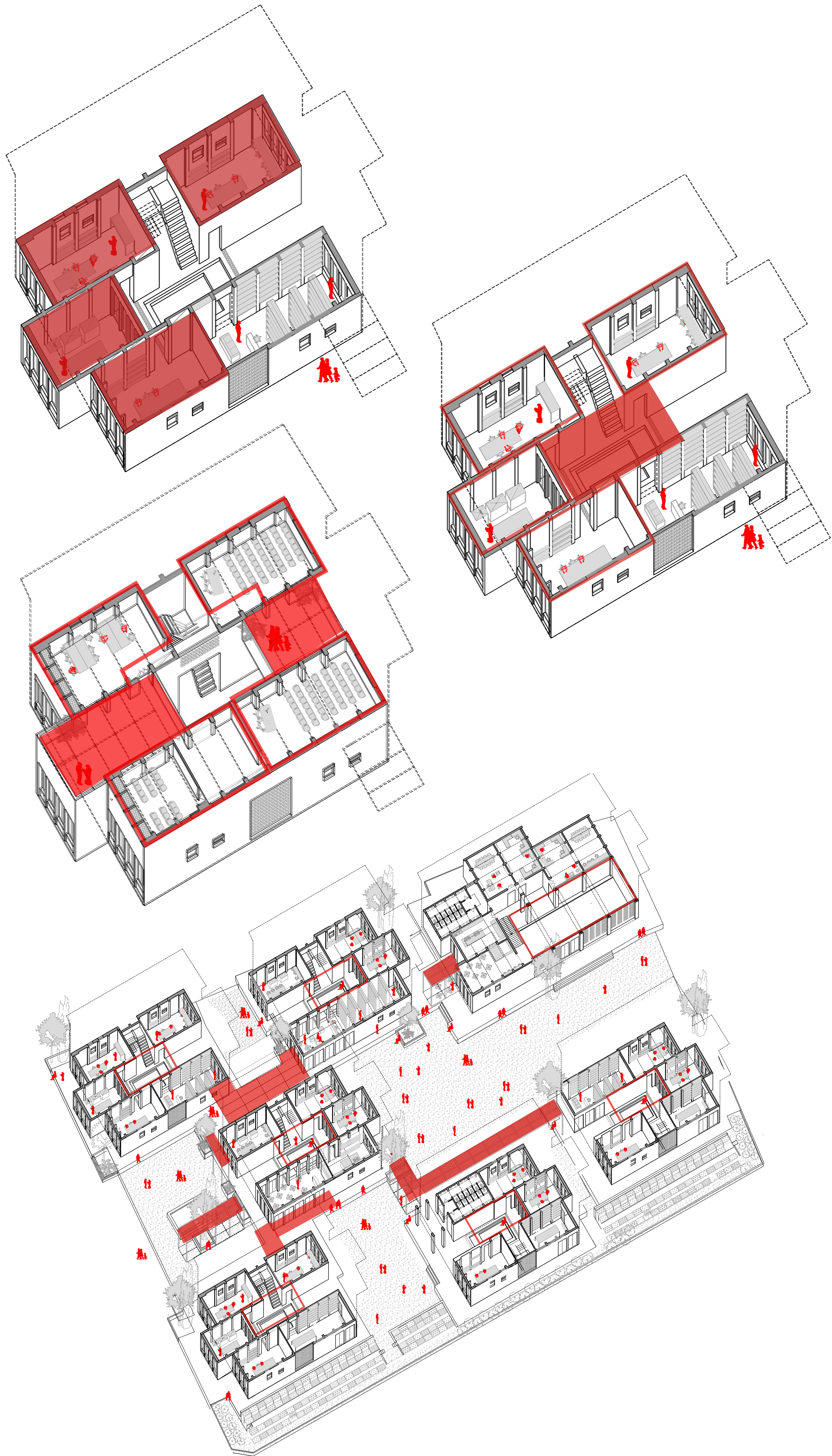
In the process of production and distribution of social housing, the idea of low cost building has omitted architectural design from the housing fabric, by presenting it as an "Open Design" which supposedly can be extended or changed. However the construction of this Open Design Unit is a completely closed process (starting with financial institutions, municipal authorities and developers and builders. ) which ends in the concrete molded fabric of the area treating the inhabitants as a financial unit and the building as the ultimate identity creating commodity.

Where under the skin The institutionalized fabric created by this manufactured units hides Control under the guise of open design. Creating fabrics where the individual is embodied in a single unit which is the suburban dream reduced to its bare essentials; House on a plot with walls around.-

This model (critique) is a reversal of this process where there is "Closed Design, Open building", the specifically designed and defined architecture that can house several functions without the allure of always leaving the possibility of extensions open. The building process is however transparent and illustrated step by step for low tech building and for the untrained builder. In this way it is the critique on the consumer approach to environment. And the architecture as well as the process of building is a form of pedagogy in itself.



In the new model(the critique) "social space" is taken as a core and the other spaces and programs are arranged around it. This creates a spatial sign of the in between spaces always being places of social attraction/ areas shared between two different units (in different levels. ) Creating a more complex urbanity. The institutional fabric of riberas is also evident in the way programs are arranged in it. Centralized and in large portions/ meant for fast, easy and efficient access only much like the planning of a traditional school facility. In the new model a reversal of this process happens where big parcels of program form the school are fragmented into small parts (ex. 7 libraries instead of one big library.) and combined with a collection of the more typical spaces in the program (Classes and workshops)



# Phase I School Building Sc. 1/300

In this phase the infrastructural work for the urban plan is being conducted and the school starts functioning as a vocational training institution as soon as the first cluster is completed.

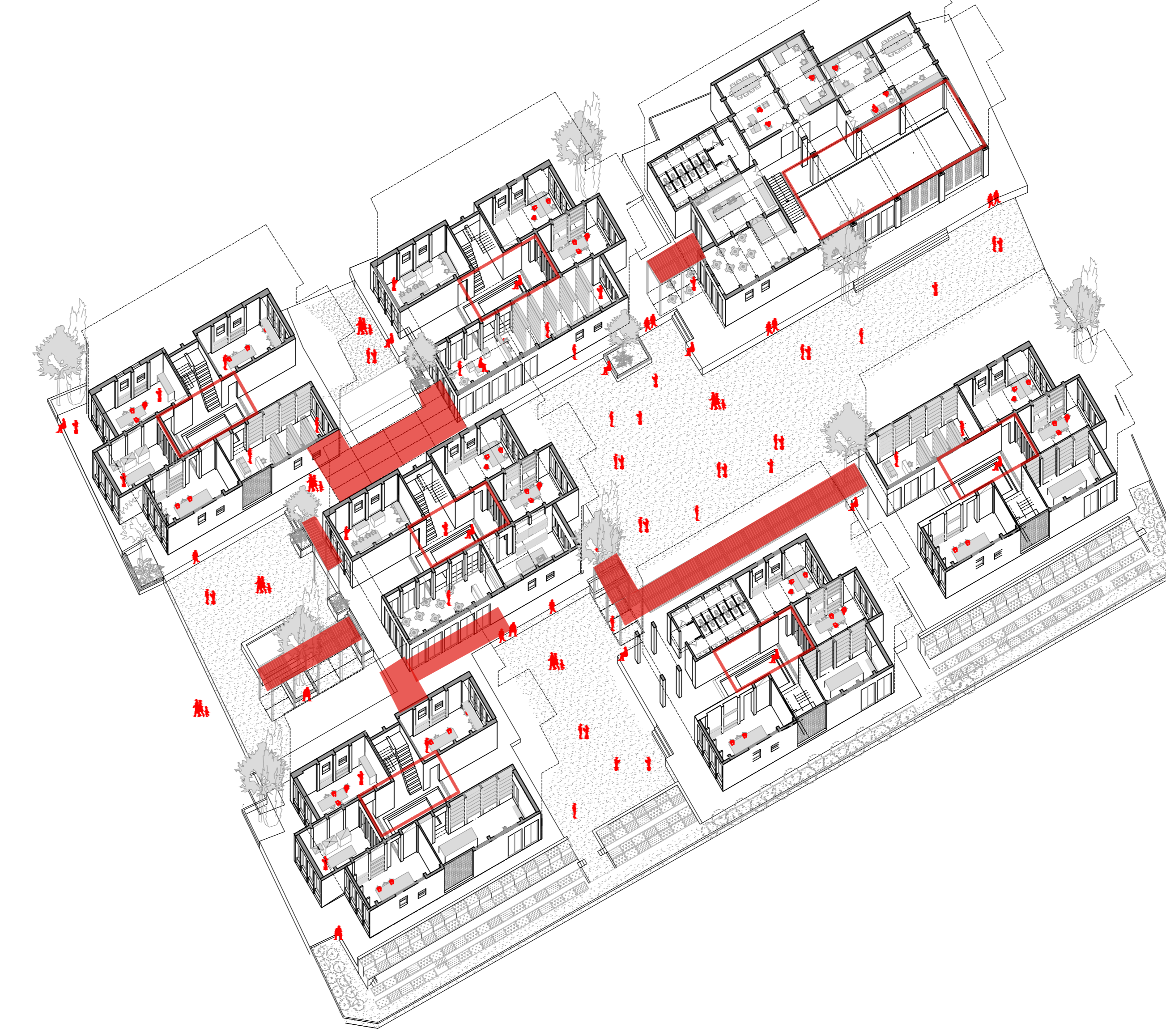
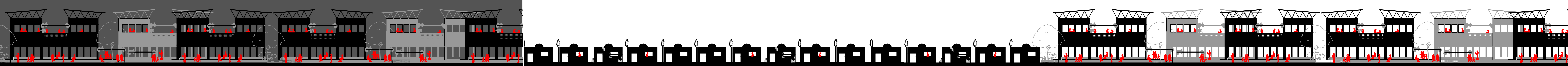
The training for builders, woodworkers, metal workers and etc start at this stage with an up to 40 students.



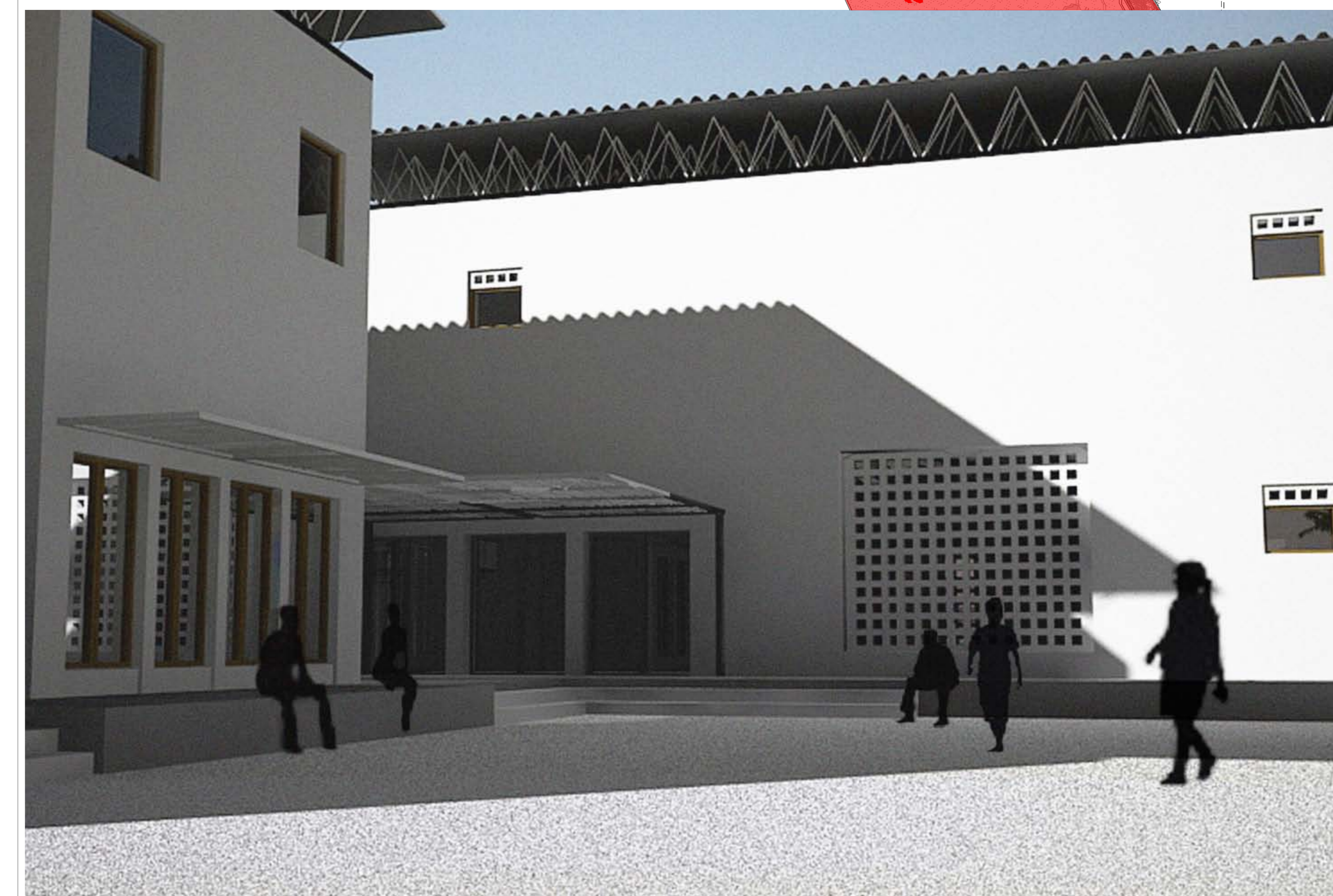
# Site Plan Sc. 1/200



# Elevation A Sc. 1/200



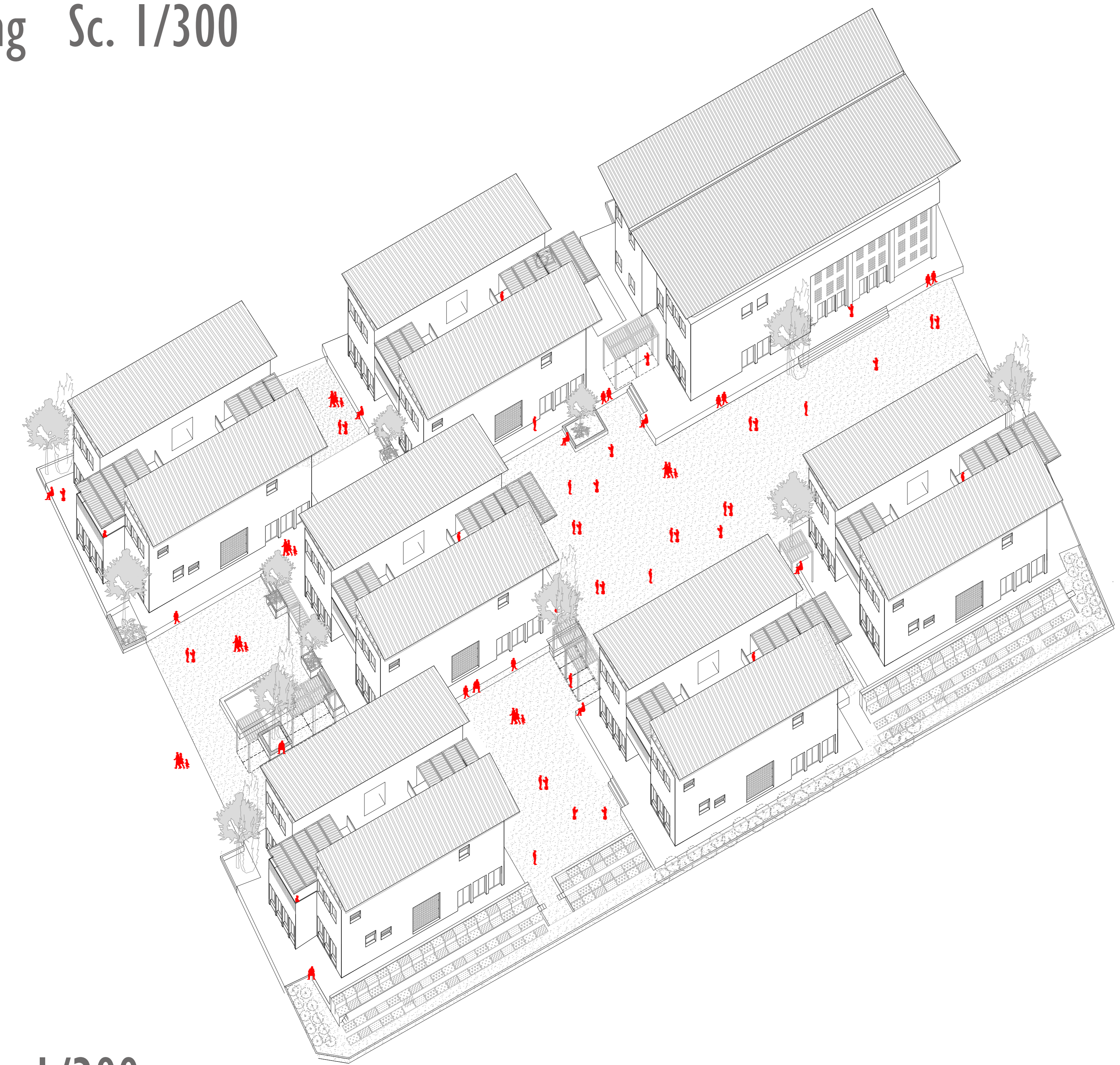
Each model contains a collection (1+1+) of Class room/workshops which are all accessed through a secondary system of interwoven spaces here the courtyard.  
 The courtyard is the meeting point, social communal space of the model which is the only access route to the different units. Of the building and is unavoidable.  
 The core houses different functions in different units - depending on those functions it is either only accessible from the courtyard or from outside directly (ex. Here it is a kind of the school's library).  
 The second floor follows the same sequence of spaces and the social space is a covered balcony.  
 The courtyards and balconies are plugged into the outside spaces and a dialectic of semi-closed/closed/open is maintained through these transitions.  
 Now we will see how the several units are arranged on site and how these arrangements define the open spaces of the design.  
 The first connector in between elements of this transition between the unit and the whole is the pergola which is a shading structure very useful to the desert climate of ribera del braso.  
 The open spaces are surrounded and over looked by the units around them, and they are defined by function of the core of those units, their orientation, their situation towards outside the site. This courtyard is an active courtyard formed by the entrance to the unit from the pedestrian boulevard and the active spaces around it: library center/ lunch hall and cafe.  
 In the southern courtyards which are a connection to the agricultural area and very hot and sunny, small scale agriculture units are placed.  
 North/shaded/facing residential/ library space used frequently.  
 "the plaza like social space" connects all the units together and is used for large activities.



# Phase III School Building Sc. 1/300

The last phase of the building is intended for 750-800 students and community facilities.

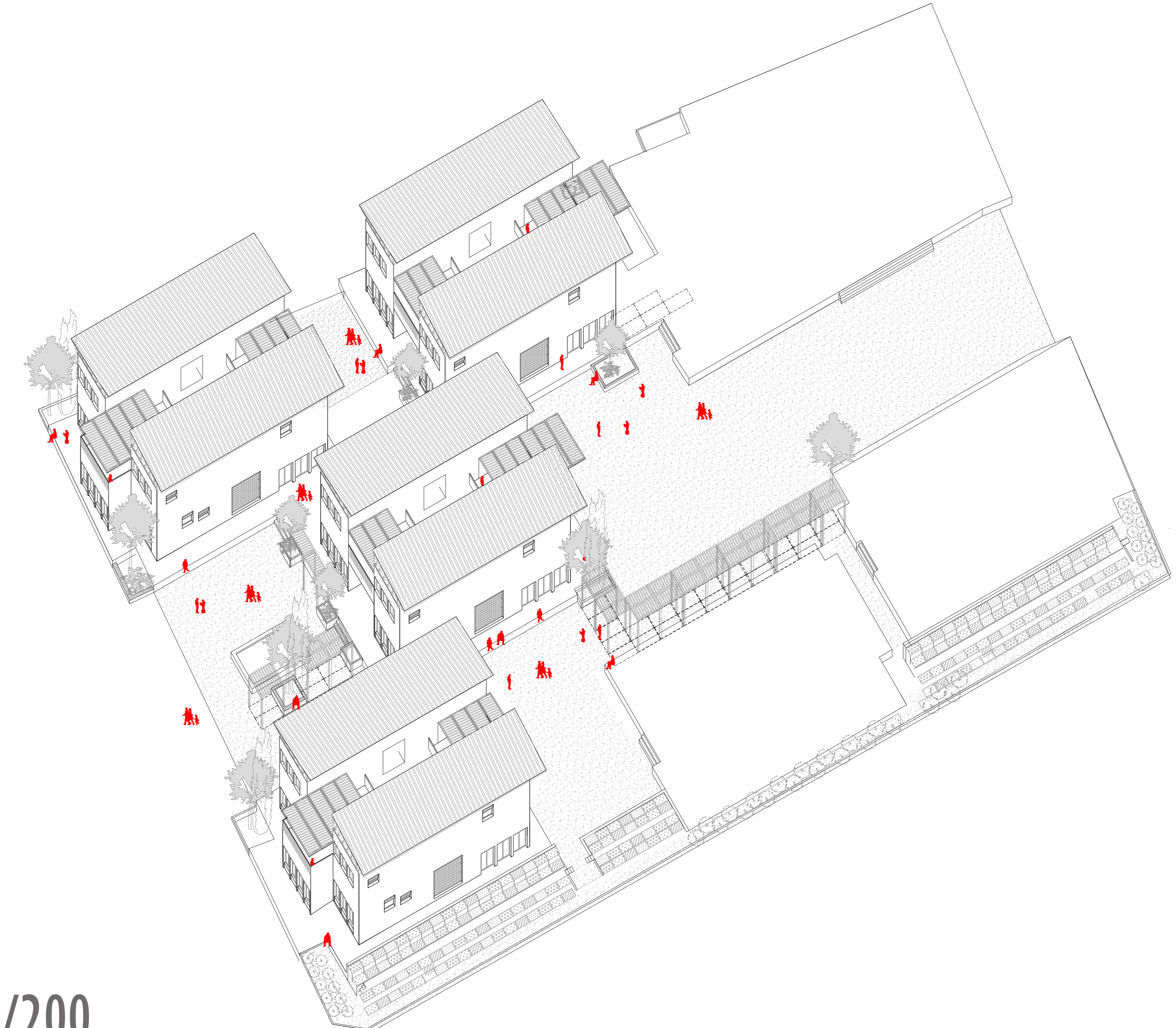
- program:
- 7000 sqm. Total
  - 3500 sqm. Classrooms and workshops:
  - 1800 sqm. workshops
  - 1700 sqm. classrooms
  - 1600 sqm. Services
  - 700 sqm. Administrative
  - 1200 sqm. exhibit/Community center



# Phase II School Building Sc. 1/300

The last phase of the building is intended for 750-800 students and community facilities.

- program:
- 7000 sqm. Total
  - 3500 sqm. Classrooms and workshops:
  - 1800 sqm. workshops
  - 1700 sqm. classrooms
  - 1600 sqm. Services
  - 700 sqm. Administrative
  - 1200 sqm. exhibit/Community center



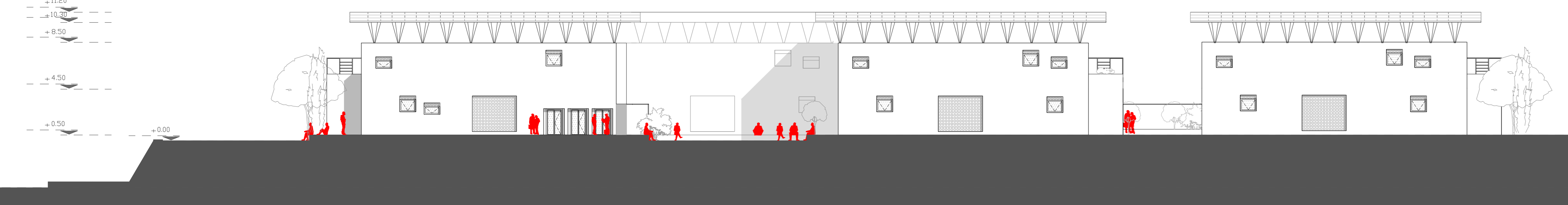
# Ground Floor Plan Sc. 1/200



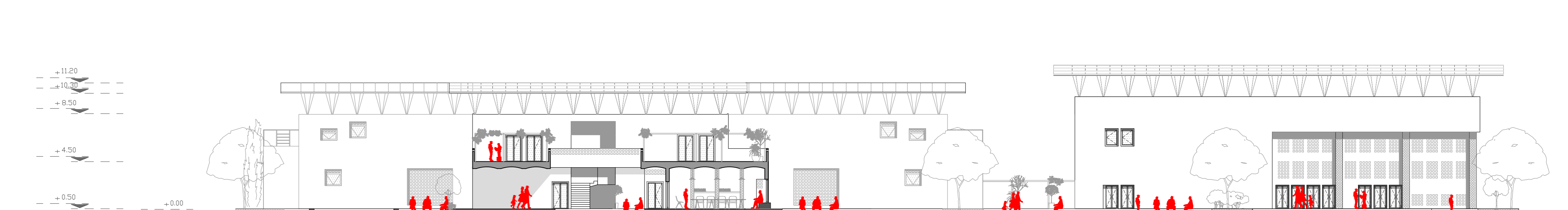
# First Floor Plan Sc. 1/200



# Elevation B Sc. 1/200



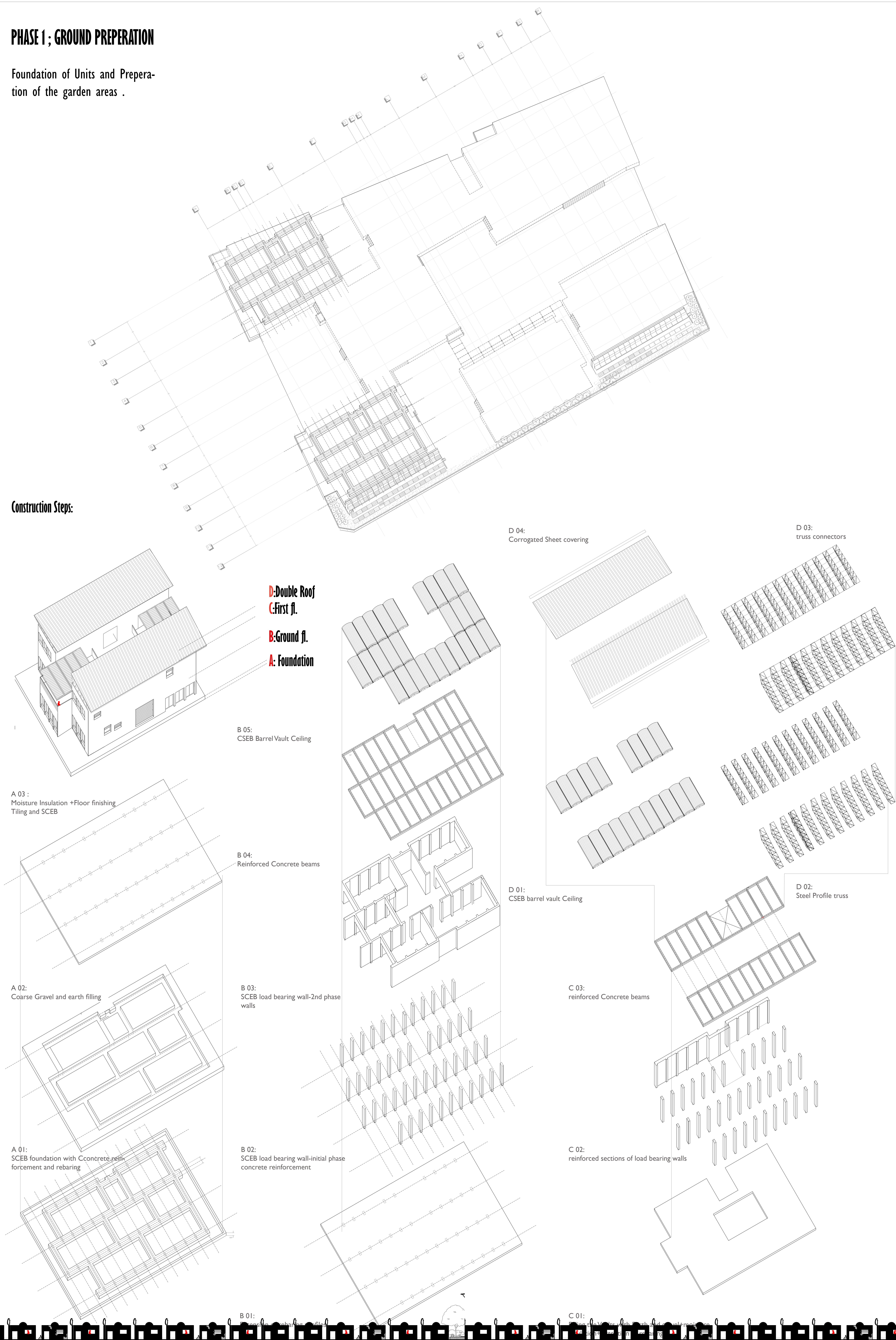
# Section B Sc. 1/200



# PHASE 1 : GROUND PREPERATION

Foundation of Units and Preperation of the garden areas .

## Construction Steps:

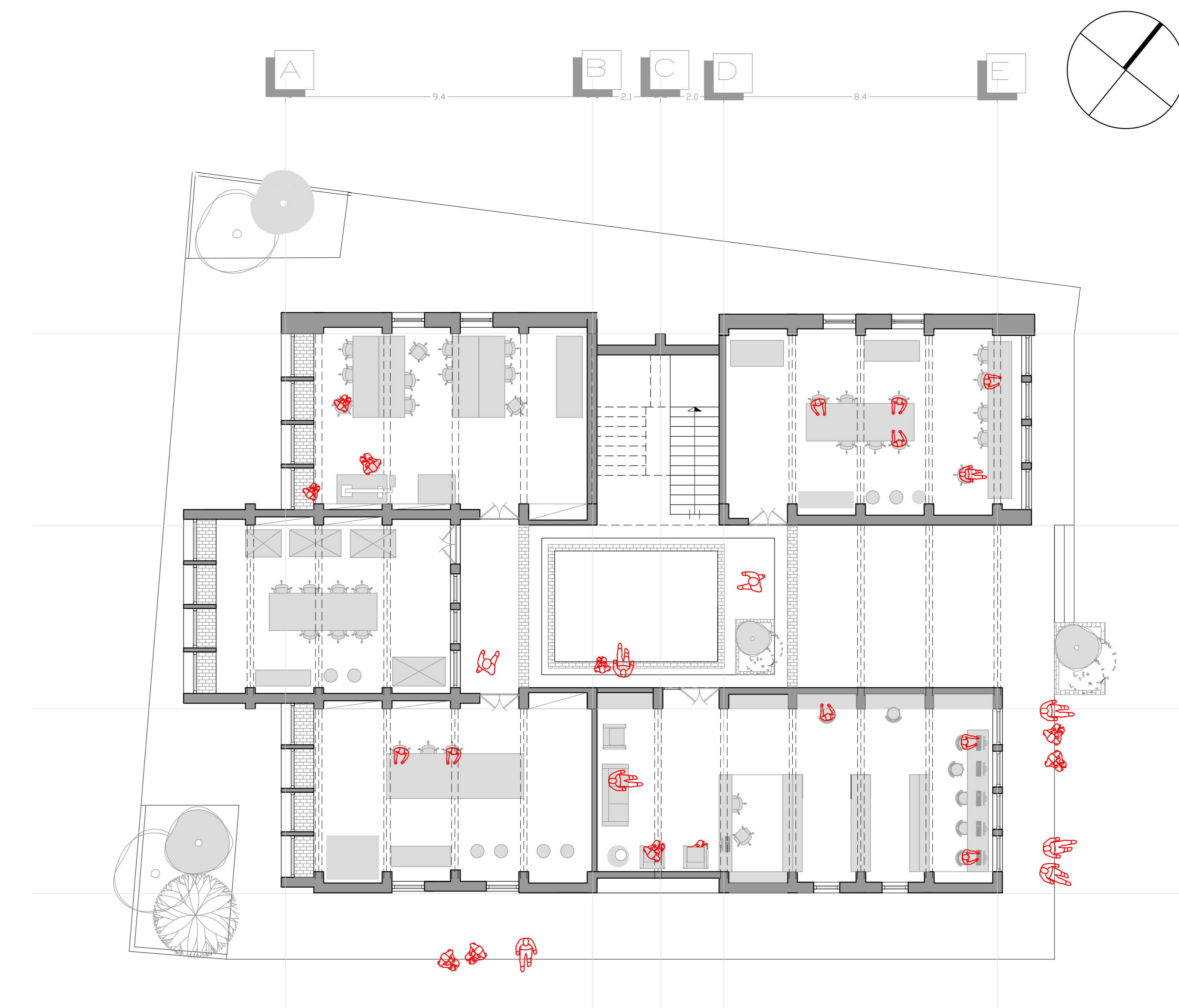


Section B-B Sc. 1/100

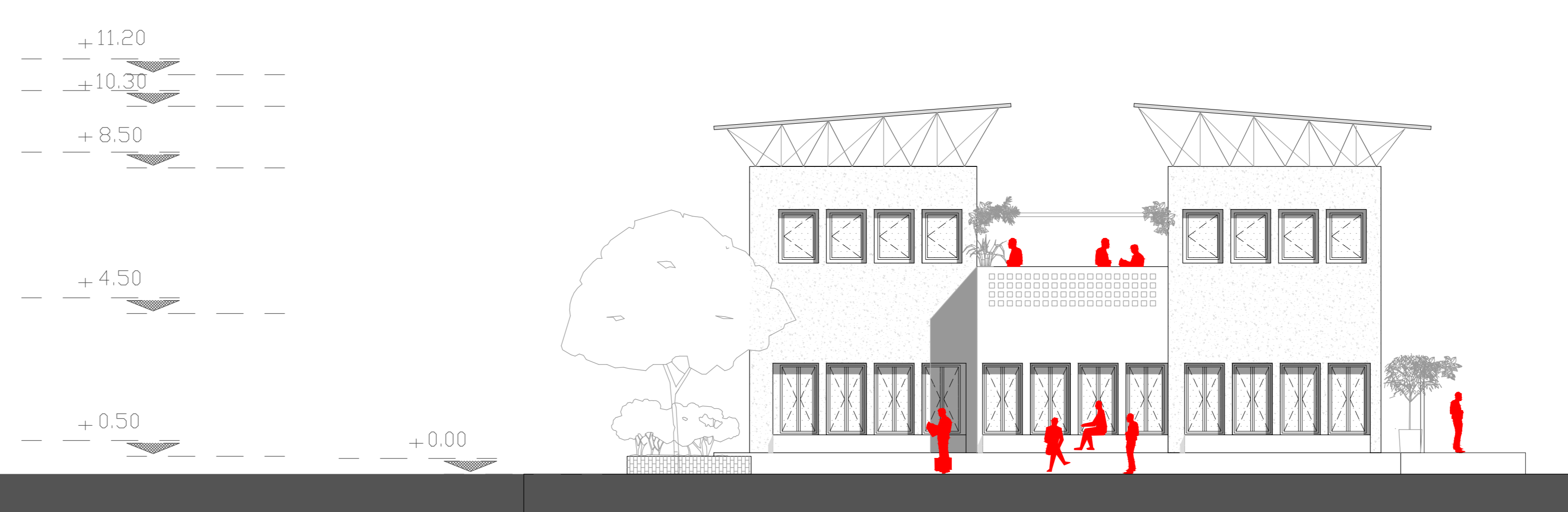
Class Cluster Plan Oblique Sc. 1/100



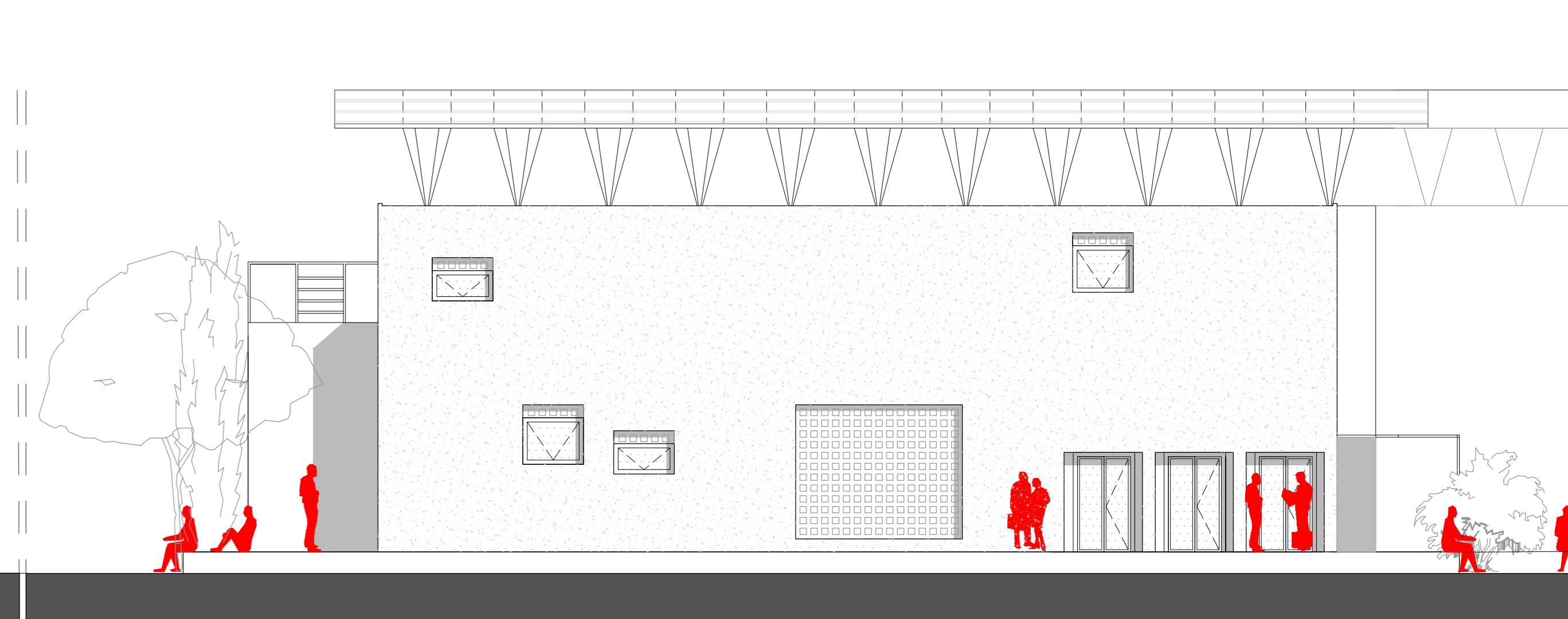
First Floor Plan Sc. 1/100



Ground Floor Plan Sc. 1/100



Elevation A Sc. 1/100



Elevation B Sc. 1/100