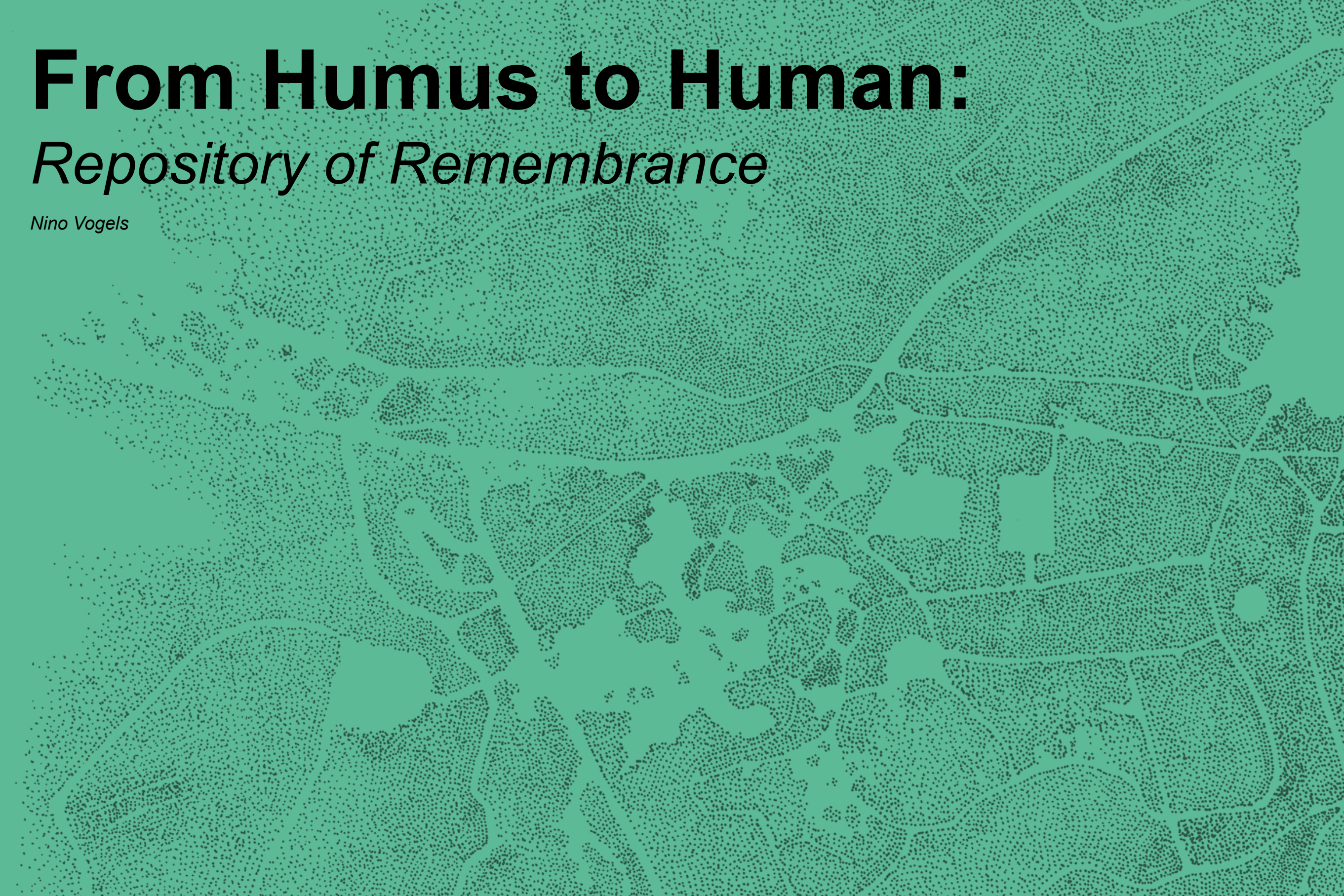


From Humus to Human:

Repository of Remembrance

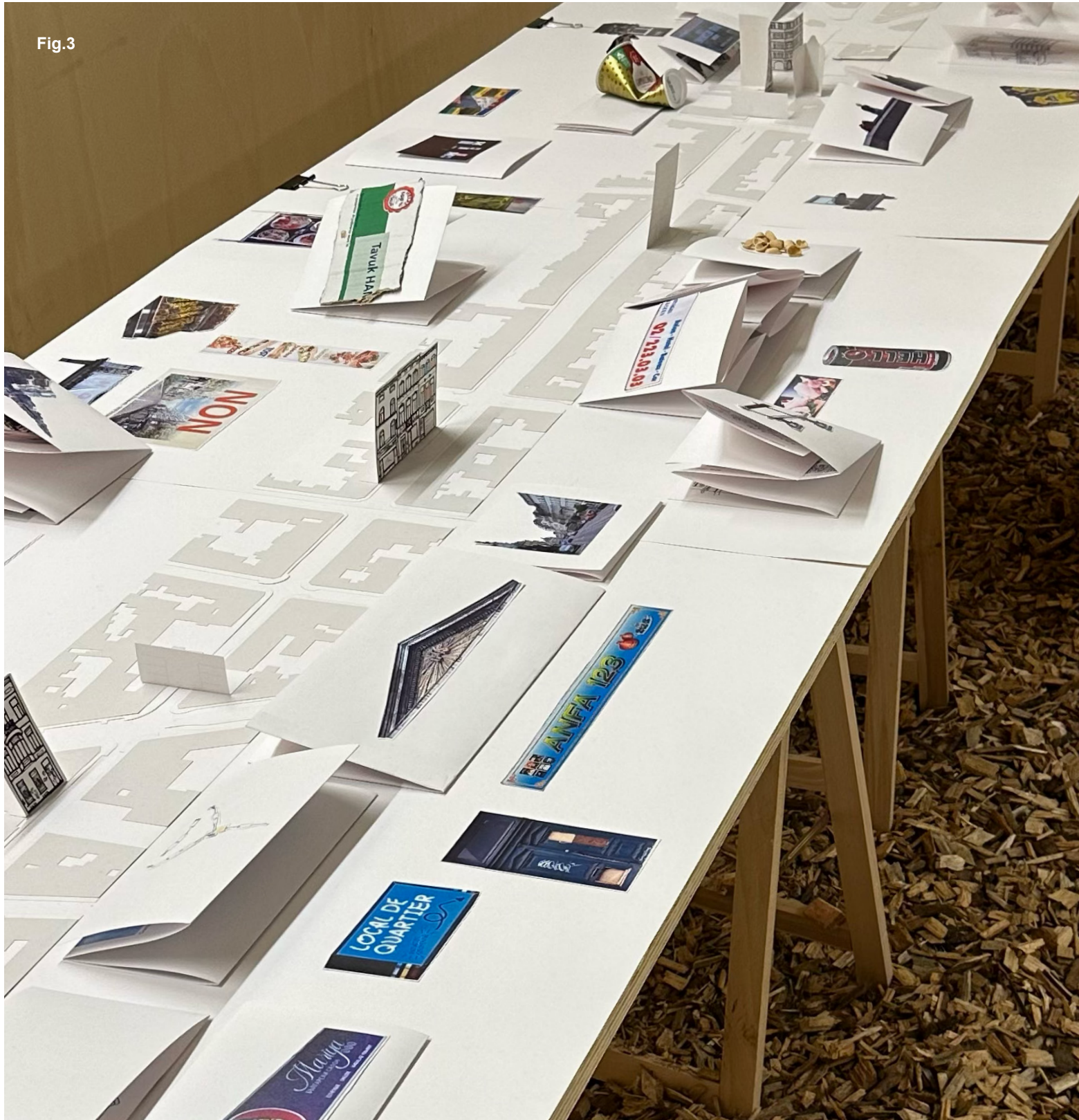
Nino Vogels





Last green in town

Fig.3



An ode to ordinary life

From Humus to Human

Fig.4

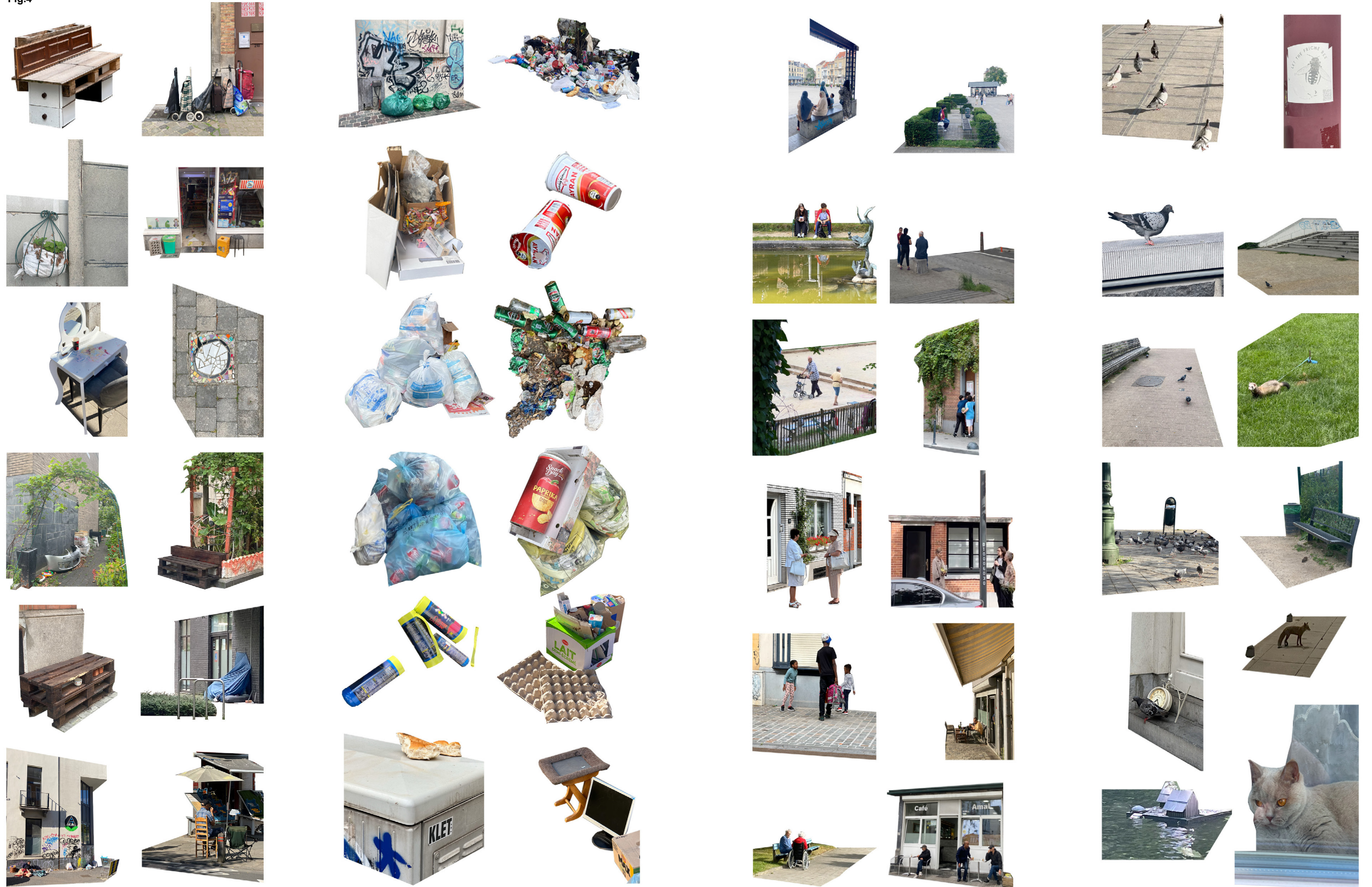


Fig.5



Fig.6

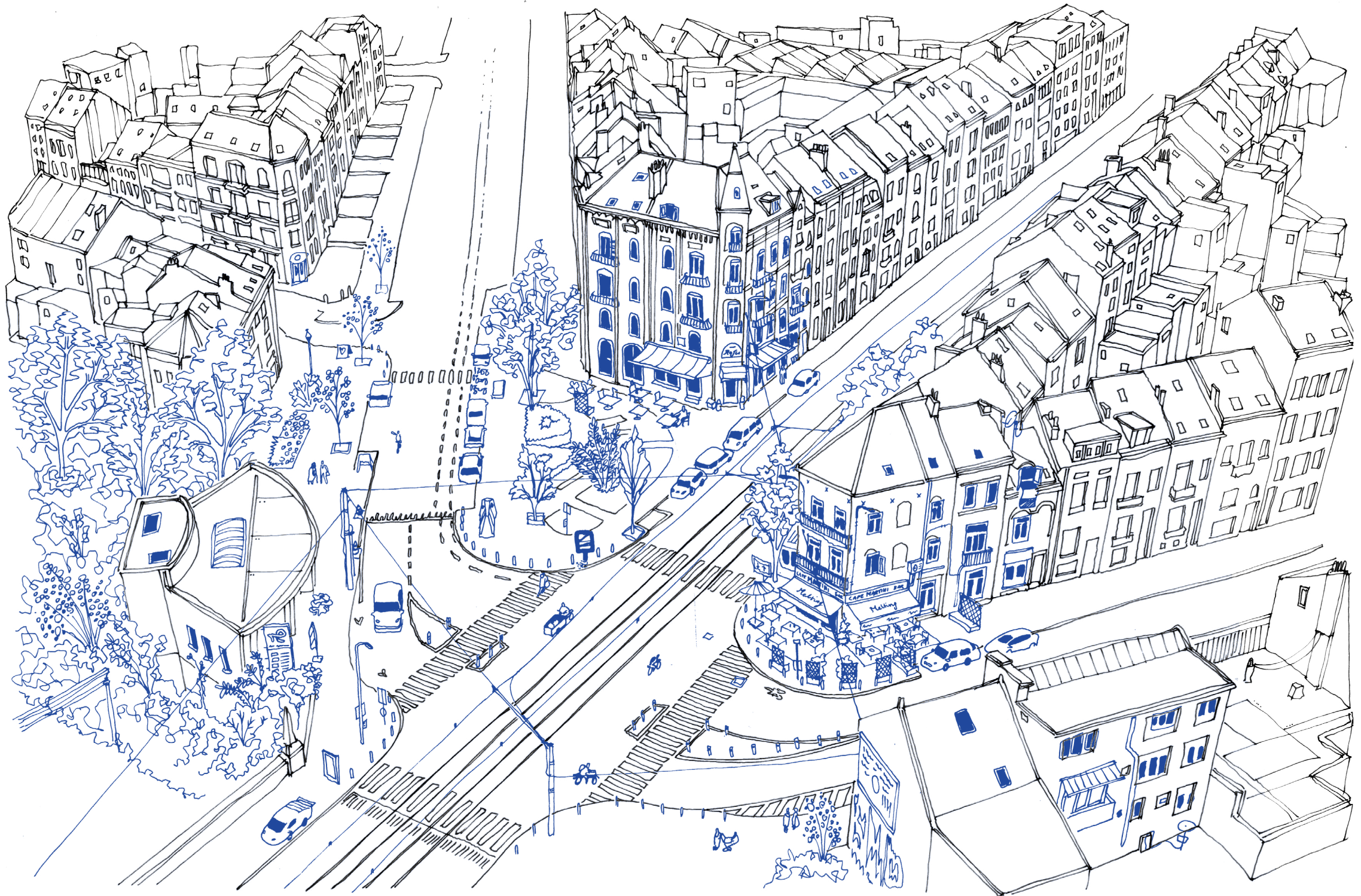




Fig.7



Fig.8

Sense of belonging

Fig.7,8
'Contemporary Nomads: My Home is Where My Coffin Is'
© Ann Van de Vyvere, 2010

The very origin of the term “human” in Latin is similar to the root of the word “humus,” both symbolizing the concept of earth.

Humus

[ˈhyü-məs]

The Latin word for earth (a rich and nutrient-filled soil).

Humilis

[ˈhju:məlis]

Humble, low, lowly, small, slight; shallow

Humilitas

[ˈhuˈmi.li.ta:s]

Humilis (“humble”) + tās (“-ity”), one who is grounded or near to the earth

Humō

[ˈhu.mo:]

to bury (figuratively) to perform funeral rites

Humanus

[ˈhu:ˈma:nus]

Derivative of homō (“man, human, person”)

Human

[ˈhju:mən]

Of or belonging to a man, human, humane”, adjective

the second creation story tells us that humans were created from the earth, soil, **humus** and given God’s breath of life.

Türbe قبرت

The word is derived from the Arabic 'Turbah' (meaning "soil/ground/earth"), which can also mean a mausoleum, but more often a funerary complex, or a plot in a cemetery.

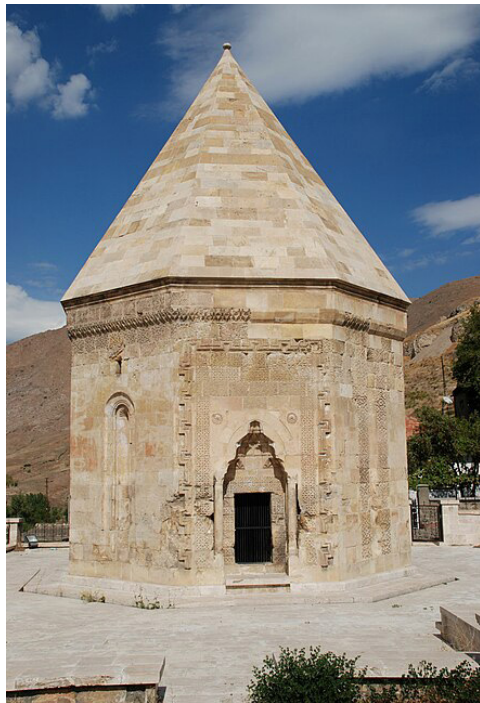


Fig.9
Persian style Türbe in Divriği, Turkey
Image © Bertramz, 2011



Fig.10

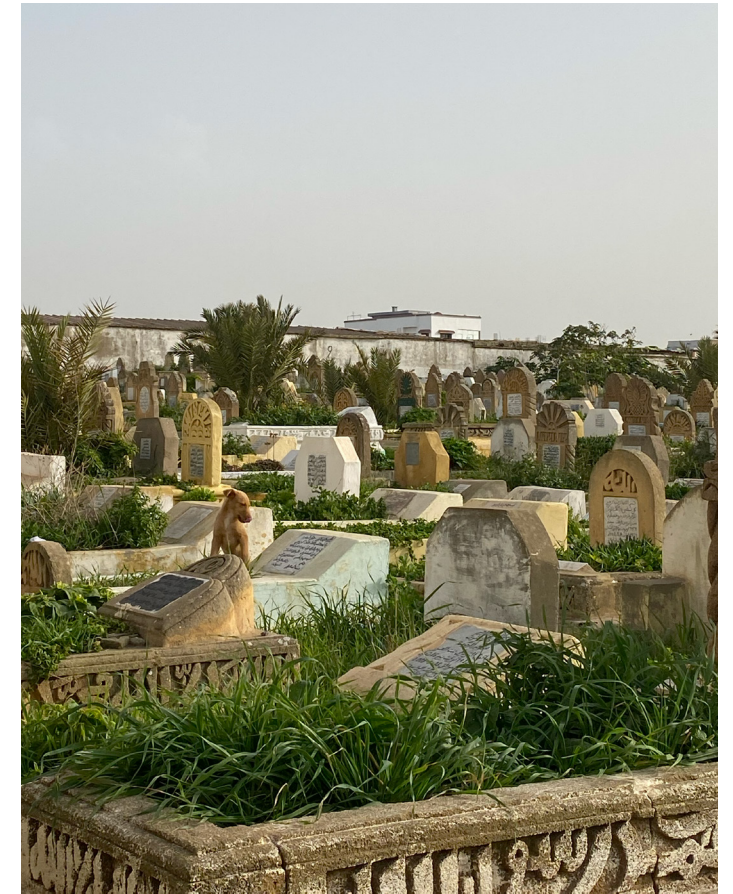


Fig.11

Fig.10
Man in front of 'Cimetière Sidi Benachir' in Salé
Morocco,
© own image, 2023

Fig.11
Detail 'Cimetière Sidi Benachir' in Salé
Morocco,
© own image, 2023



Fig.13



Fig.12

Fig.12
'Cimetière Sidi Benachir' in Salé Morocco,
© own image, 2023

Fig.13
Screenshot "Brusselse serie 'Grond' krijgt
wereldwijde release op Netflix" © Bruzz



Fig.14

Fig.14
Untitled (from the Silueta series), 1973-1977
© Ana Mendieta, 2023

Soil and afterlife



Fig.15



Fig.15
Samasara, 2023

Fig.16
Priest in Lalibela,
Ethiopia





Fig.18



Fig.17

Fig.17,18
Ritual cut, Tanya Preminger

Movement of Soil

Fig.19



Fig.20

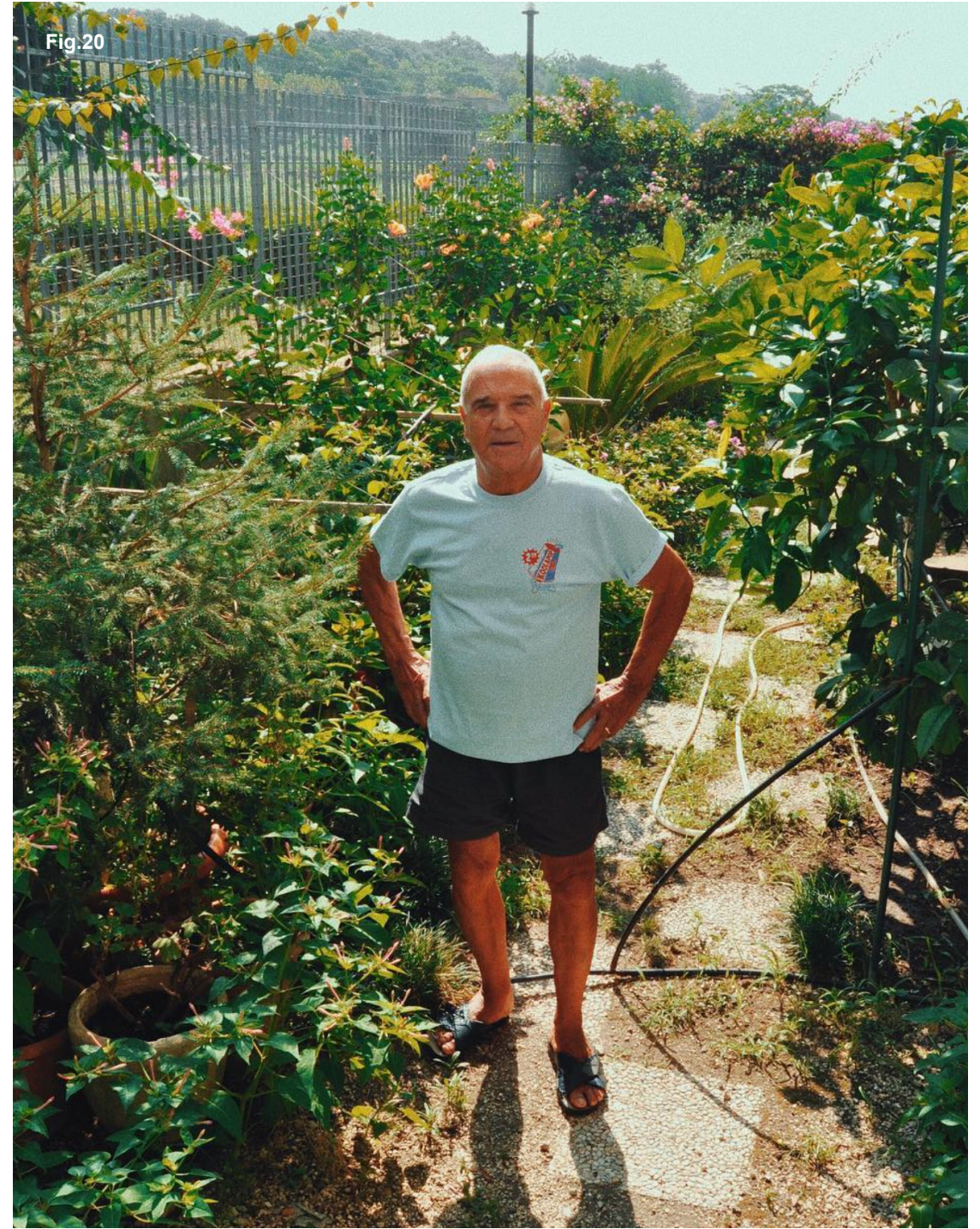


Fig.19,20
Ciro Arienzo in his garden,
Own image



Fig.22



Fig.21

Fig.21
"The Interior of the Colosseum," c.1775 by
William Pars
Image © The Atlantic, 2017

Fig.22
"Inside the Colosseum" c. 1780 by Francis
Towner,
Image © The Atlantic, 2017

Brussels was born from its natural soil. Situated alongside the unpredictable waters of the river Zenne and surrounded by numerous ponds, this area, while inhospitable to our distant ancestors, proved to be more suitable for habitation compared to other regions. In the beginning of the 10th century, 'Bruocsella', the settlement (sele, sala, zaal) in the swamp (bruoc, broek, meaning marshland that floods in winter) came into being (Fig.27).

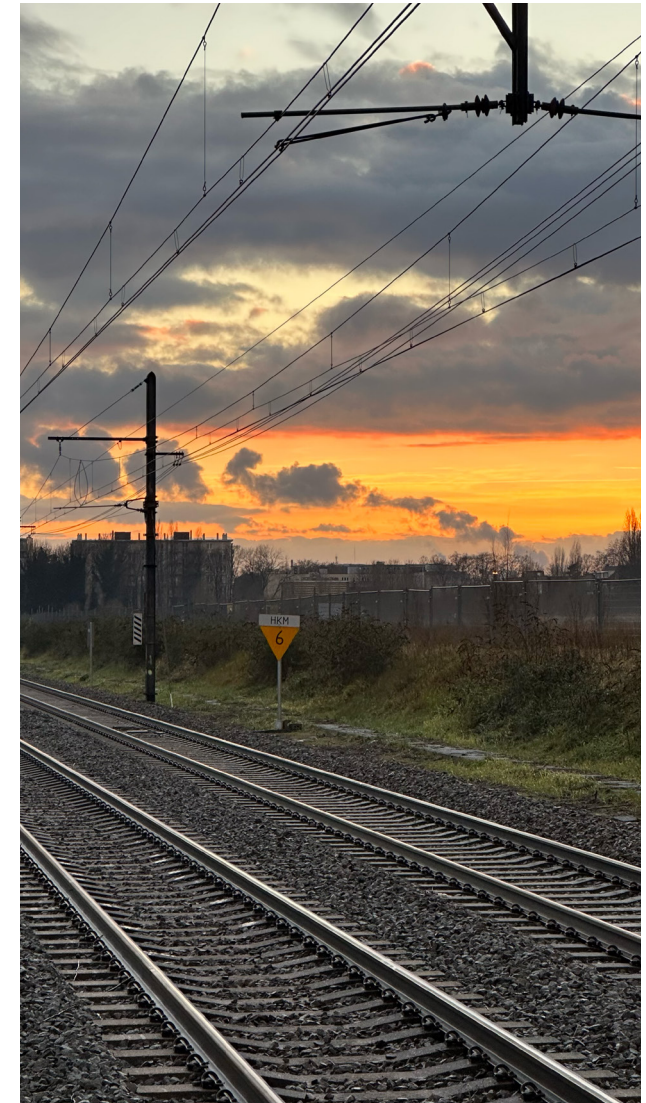


Fig.23

Dynamic of La Friche

From Humus to Human

The constant movement of the submerged land caused continuous changes in the natural environment. Over the centuries, new vegetation grew and different animals managed to settle in the Brussels marsh. Due to its moving nature, Brussels has always been a place of exchange of flora and fauna.



From Humus to Human

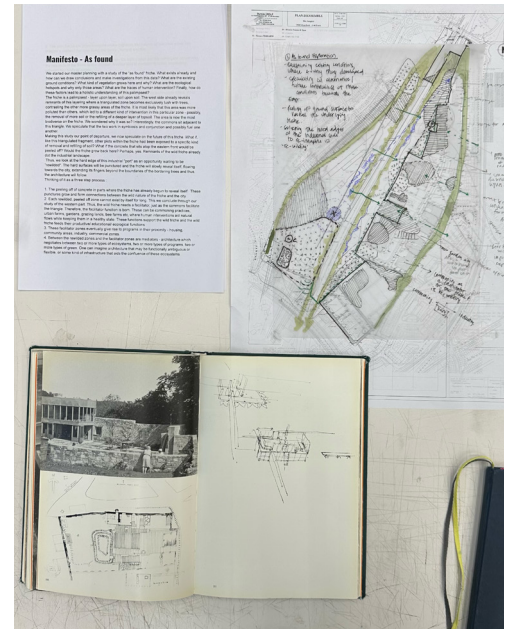
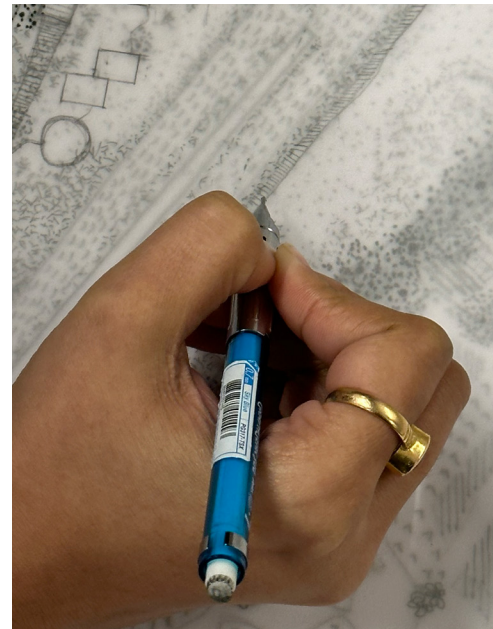















Fig.4 As found mapping, hand drawn
 (by Nino Vogels, Prajwal Gaikwad & Tarini Vajpeyi)



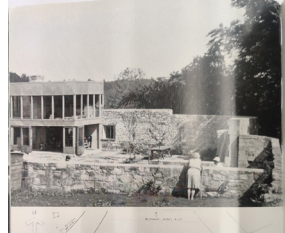
Underlayer (Ground conditions)	Overlay 1 (vegetation)
 concrete/asphalt	 Peripheral tree line
 firm ground	 friche trees
 trackbed	 shrubs/low bushes
 turf	 planted trees
 planted/managed ground	 communal gardens
 Marshy soil	 private gardens
 marshy soil - triangle patch	

From Humus to Human



*as found is a small affair:
it's about being careful*

Peter Gootman



Manifesto - As found

We started our master planning with a study of the "as found" friche. What exists already and how can we draw conclusions and make investigations from this data? What are the existing ground conditions? What kind of vegetation grows here and why? What are the ecological hotspots and why only those areas? What are the traces of human intervention? Finally, how do these factors lead to a holistic understanding of this palimpsest?

The friche is a palimpsest - layer upon layer, soil upon soil. The west side already reveals remnants of this layering where a triangulated zone becomes exclusively lush with trees, contrasting the other more grassy areas of the friche. It is most likely that this area was more polluted than others, which led to a different kind of intervention in this particular zone - possibly, the removal of more soil or the refilling of a deeper layer of topsoil. The area is now the most biodiverse on the friche. We wondered why it was so? Interestingly, the commons sit adjacent to this triangle. We speculate that the two work in symbiosis and conjunction and possibly fuel one another.

Making this study our point of departure, we now speculate on the future of this friche. What if, like this triangulated fragment, other plots within the friche had been exposed to a specific kind of removal and refilling of soil? What if the concrete that sits atop the eastern front would be peeled off? Would the friche grow back here? Perhaps, yes. Remnants of the wild friche already dot the industrial landscape.

We look at the hard edge of this industrial "port" as an opportunity waiting to be "rewilded". The hard surfaces will be punctured and the friche will slowly reveal itself, flowing towards the city, extending its fingers beyond the boundaries of the bordering trees and thus, the architecture will follow. Simultaneously, the city begins to infiltrate the friche with its "urban green".

1. The peeling off of concrete in parts where the friche has already begun to reveal itself. These punctures grow and form connections between the wild nature of the friche and the city.

2. As a rule, we retain the ground surfaces of the industries as outlines or borders within which we build. We do not exceed the limits of these boundaries in order to let the friche erupt from the remaining paving. We retain the Rova industrial buildings and move the remaining industries to other parts of Brussels. The primary access road is also retained.

3. For the masterplan vision, we imagine a new kind of living environment - where housing, industry and nature are intertwined. A kind of densification of functions that prevents isolated operations.

4. The zoning of programmes in this new neighbourhood masterplan is determined in a layered system with varying degrees of "living with nature", Typologies of mixed housing and retail towards the city in the east reinvigorate the surrounding urban fabric, low rise housings with mediator community functions are placed in the middle, and finally, scattered housing with commoning/ research activities are closest to the wild friche.

5. Each rewilded, peeled off zone cannot exist by itself for long. This we conclude through our study of the western part. Thus, the wild friche needs a mediator, just as the commons facilitate the triangle and mediate between the city and the wild friche. Therefore, the mediator function is born, where human interventions aid natural flows while keeping them in a healthy state and connected to the new urban environment. These functions support the wild friche and the wild friche feeds their commercial/productive/residential/ educational/ ecological functions.

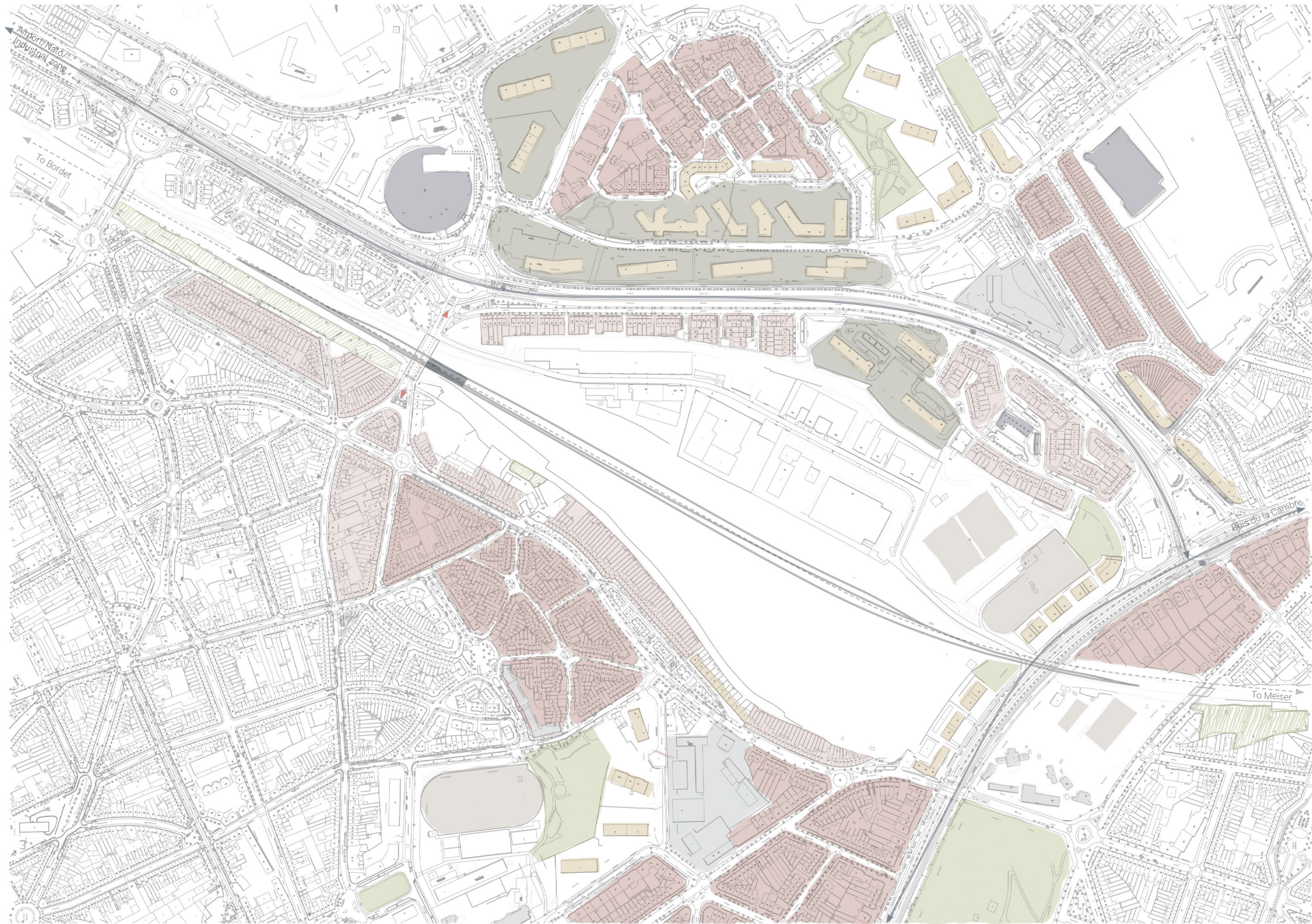
6. Mediator functions can we defined as an intervention which negotiates between two or more types of ecosystems, two or more types of programs, two or more types of green. One can imagine architecture that may be functionally ambiguous or flexible, or some kind of infrastructure that aids the confluence of these ecosystems, or even landscapes. We hope to find our own proposals in these mediators.

7. The train tracks are green corridors where migratory birds perch on electrical poles. We imagine a wetland that runs along the tracks, forming a buffer and resting place for them and other non-human species.

8. On the two ends are the bridging functions - the train station and the wahis park, connecting the two ends of the friche to one another. Another kind of mediator function, negotiating between two kinds of zones.

9. The eventual aim is to allow nature to take precedence, and to let architecture follow. What kind of architecture will come about when nature takes the lead? How will boundaries be negotiated? How will it create its space in the as found?

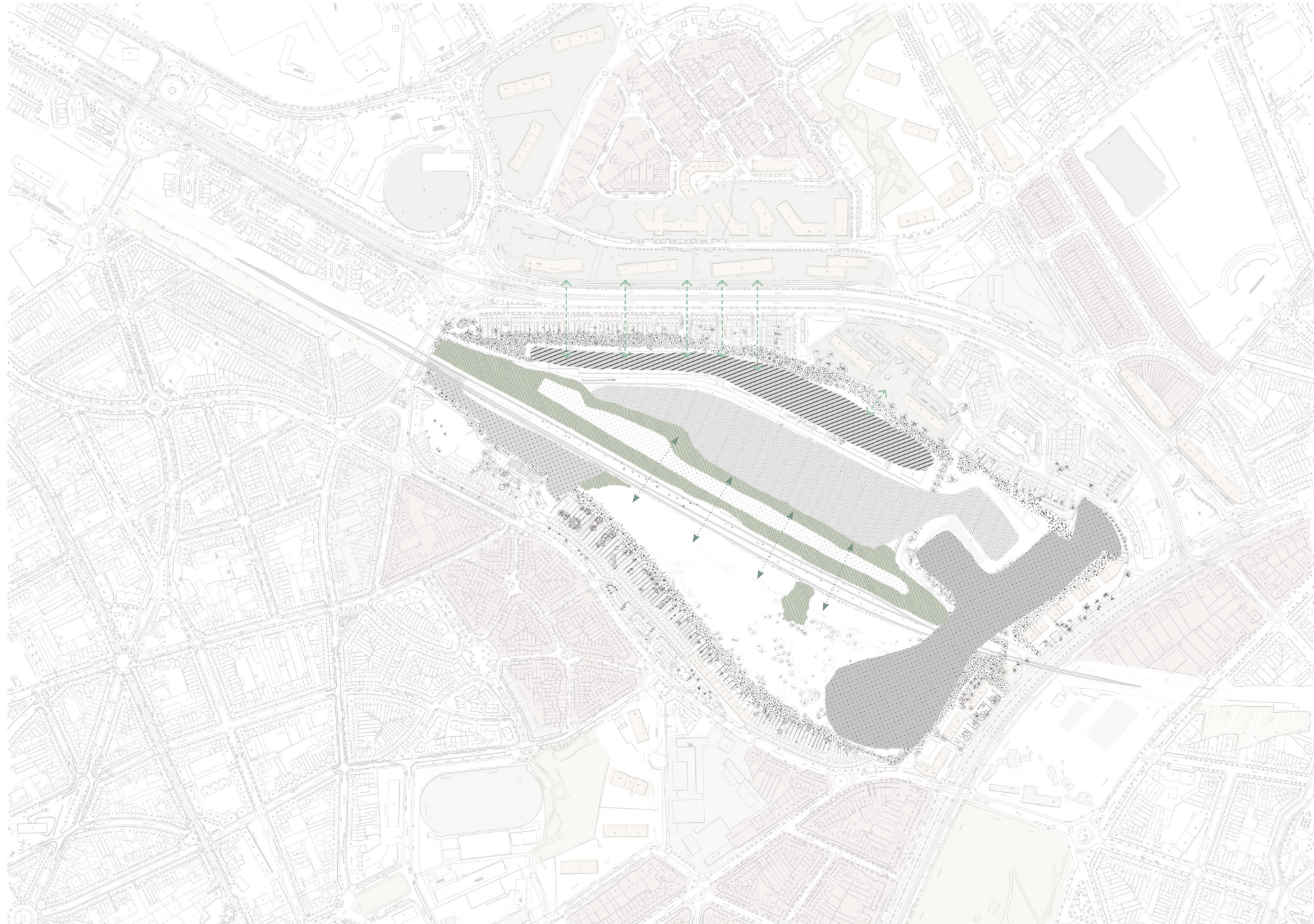
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1. Context study

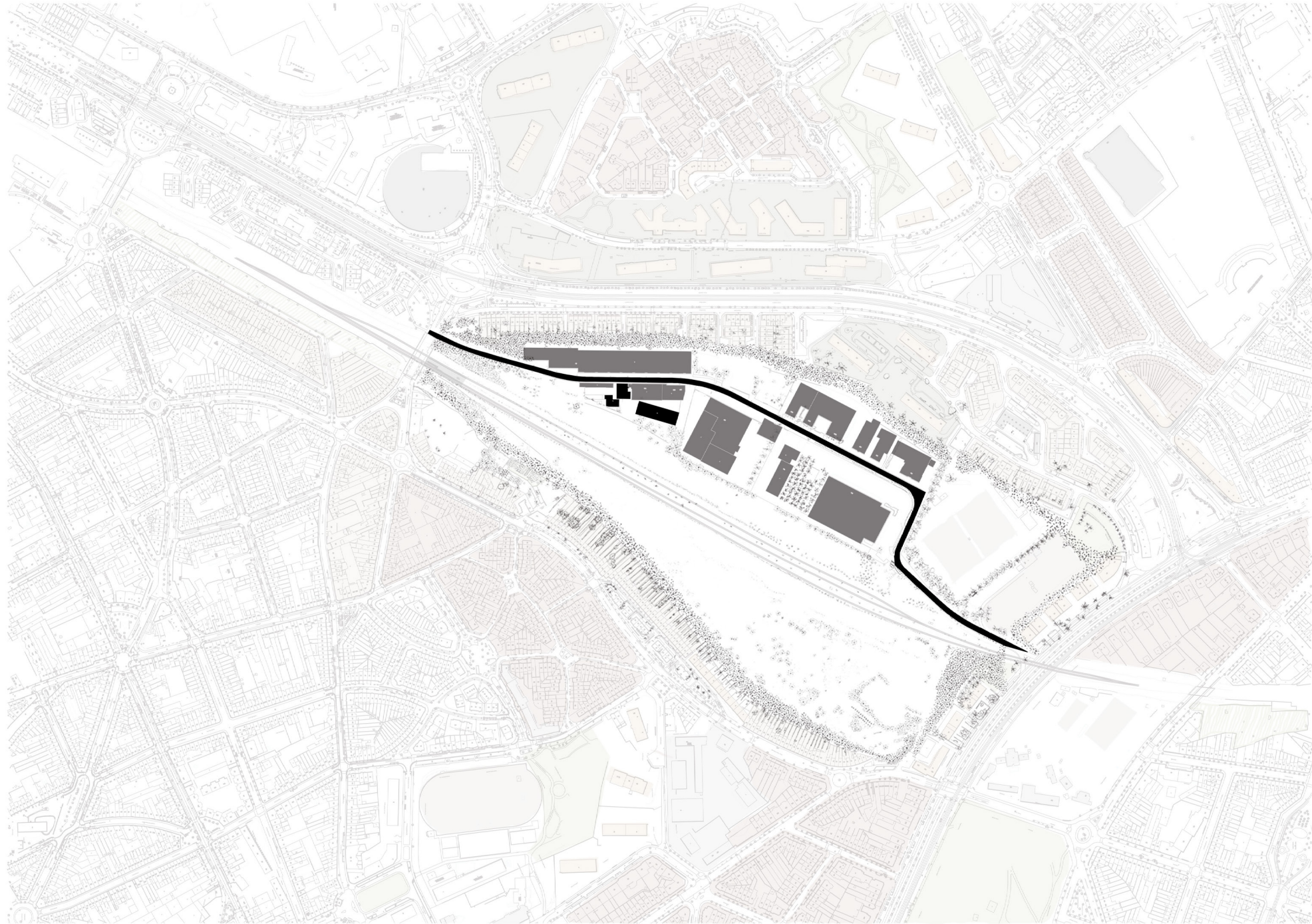
- Schools
- Commercial
- Sports facilities
- Garden city
- Garden city (2)
- High rise residential
- Residential greens
- Public parks
- Communal greens

From Humus to Human



2. Masterplanning vision

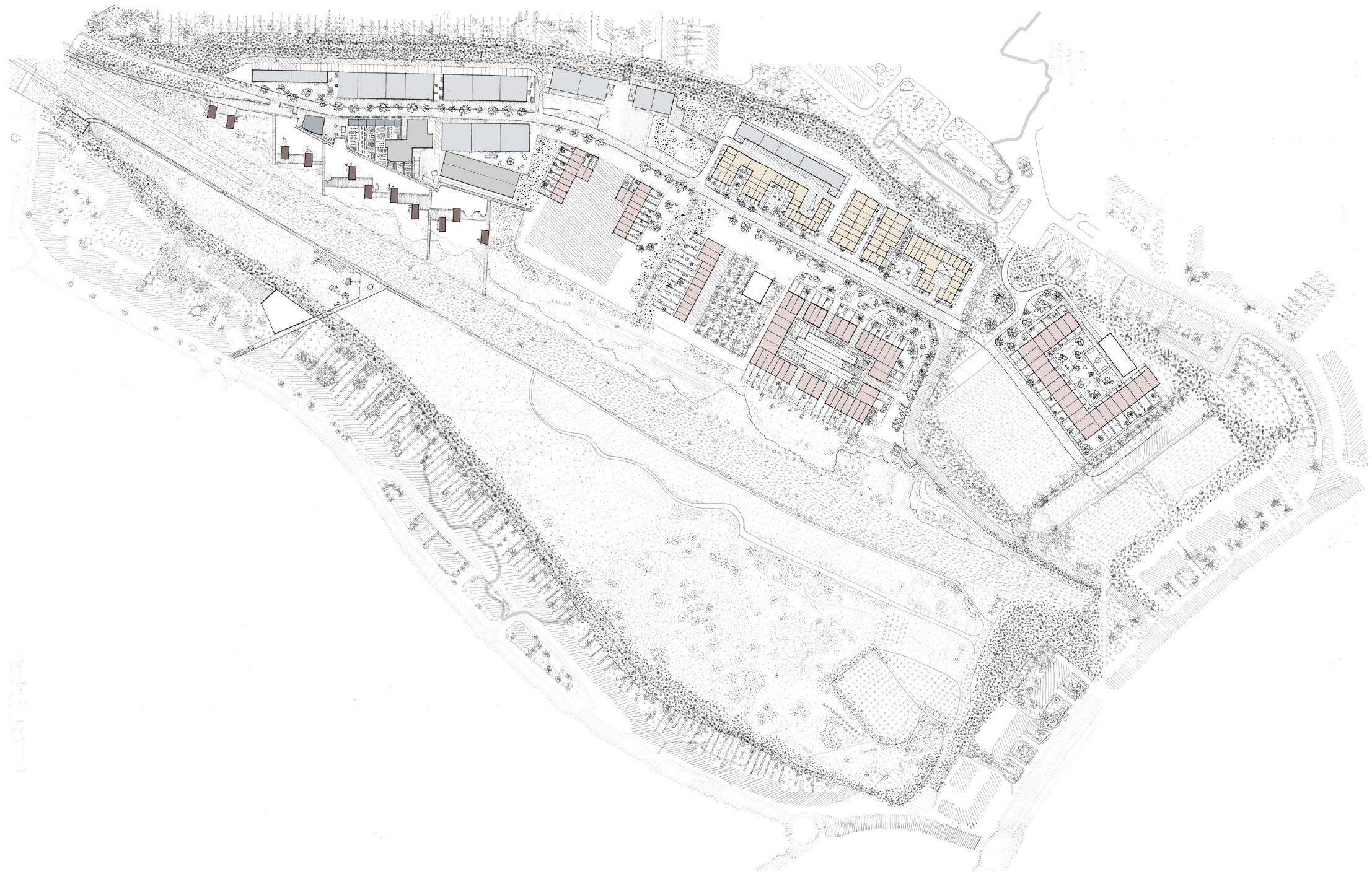
- Housing with public front
- Low rise housing with mediator
- Friche housing/communing
- Educational/ research zone
- Wetland
- Bringing in the friche zone
- Bringing in the urban greens



3. What to keep?

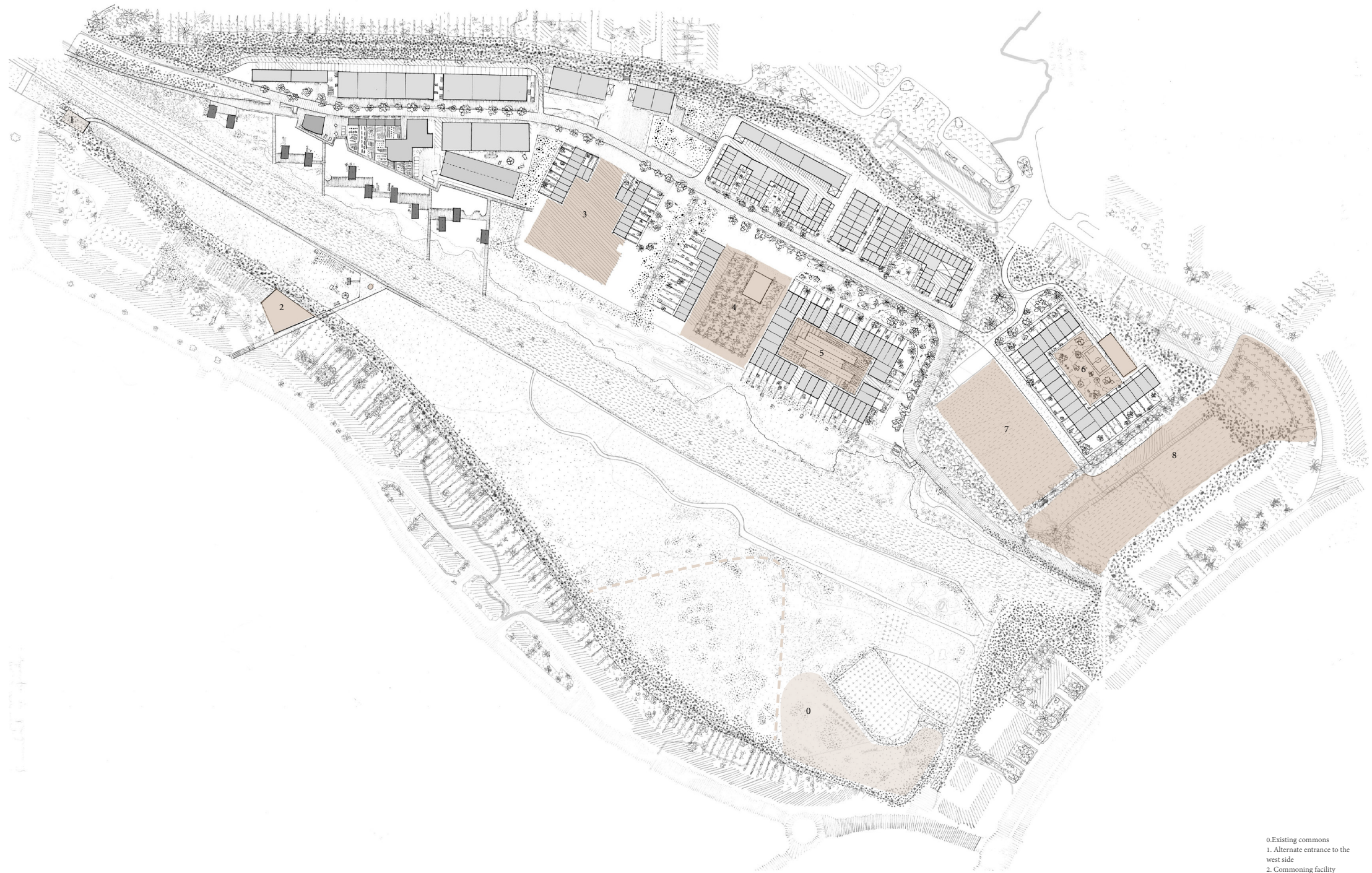
■ As found/ original entities
■ Building extents & Surfaces

From Humus to Human



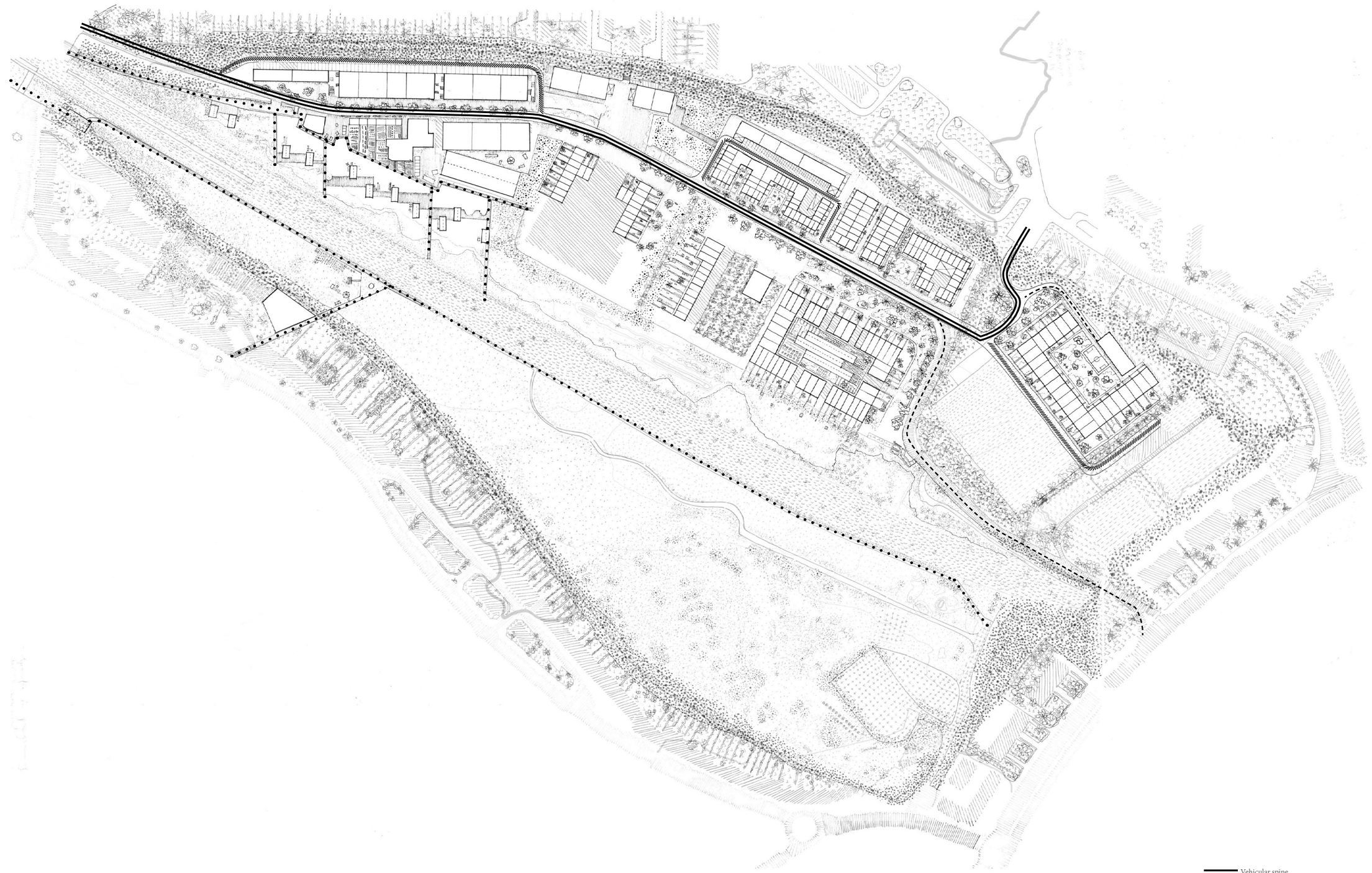
4. Proposed functions/zoning

- Housing + public / retail front
- Production / Small businesses
- Research residences
- High rise residential



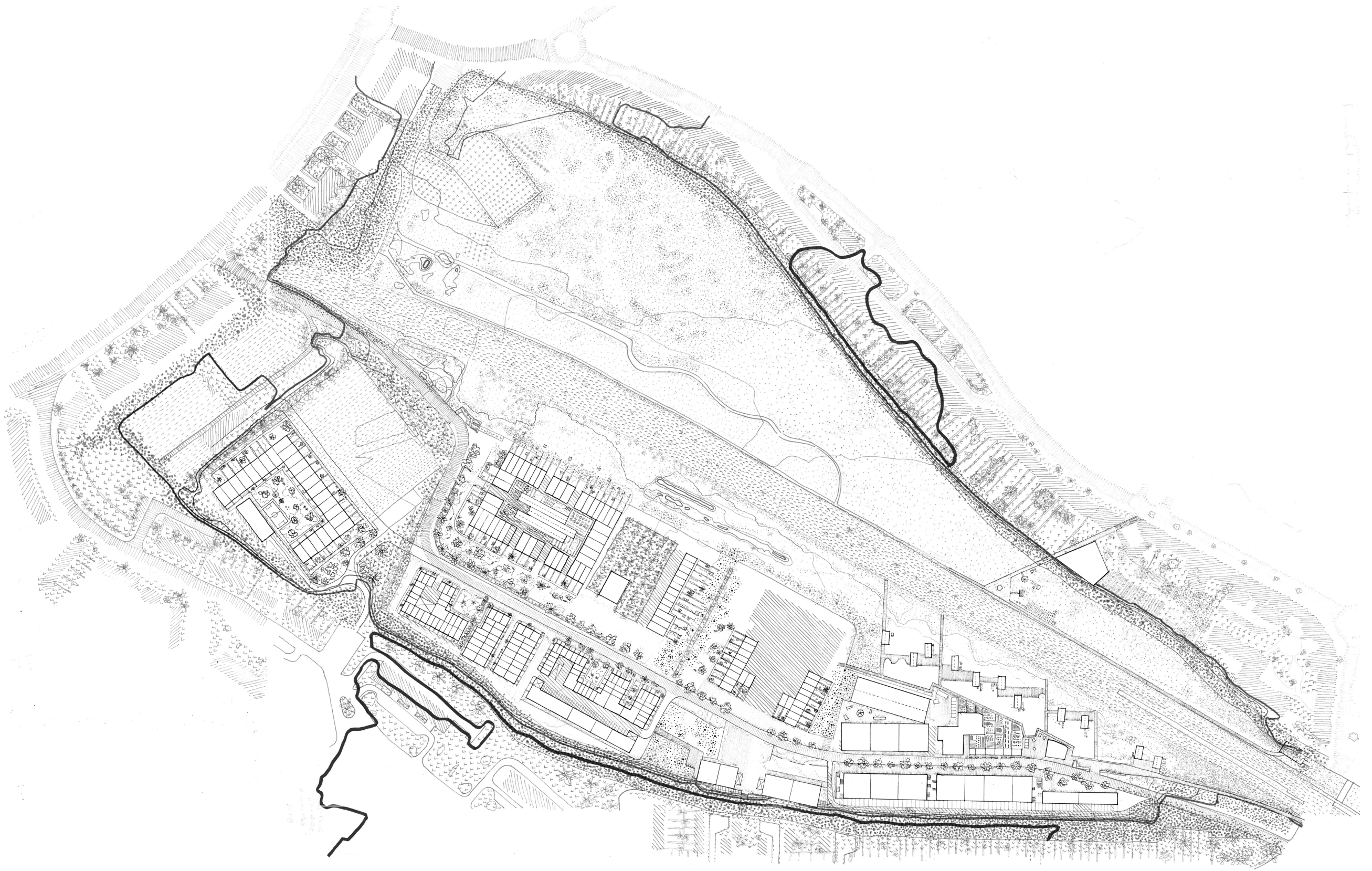
5. Mediators

- 0. Existing commons
- 1. Alternate entrance to the west side
- 2. Commoning facility
- 3. Bathhouse of enchantments
- 4. Repository of remembrance
- 5. Urban farming incubator
- 6. Sports/ public park
- 7. School



6. Routing/ circulation

- Vehicular spine
(Cars, loading/ unloading trucks + bikes)
- Secondary vehicular roads for parking
& servicing
- - - Pedestrian + bike path

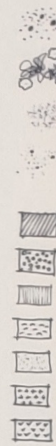








Legend



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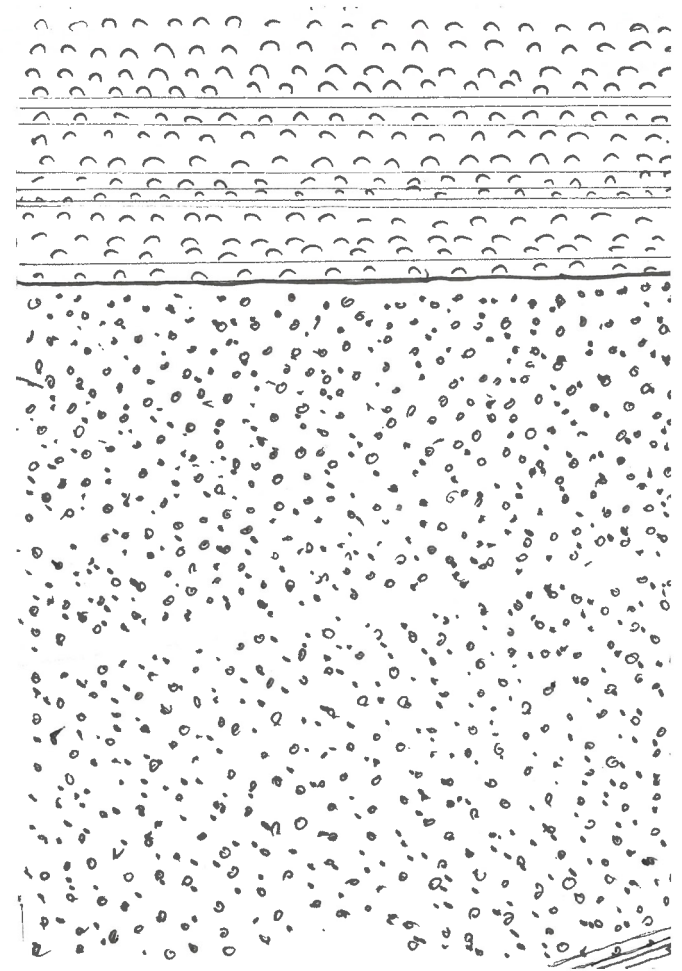
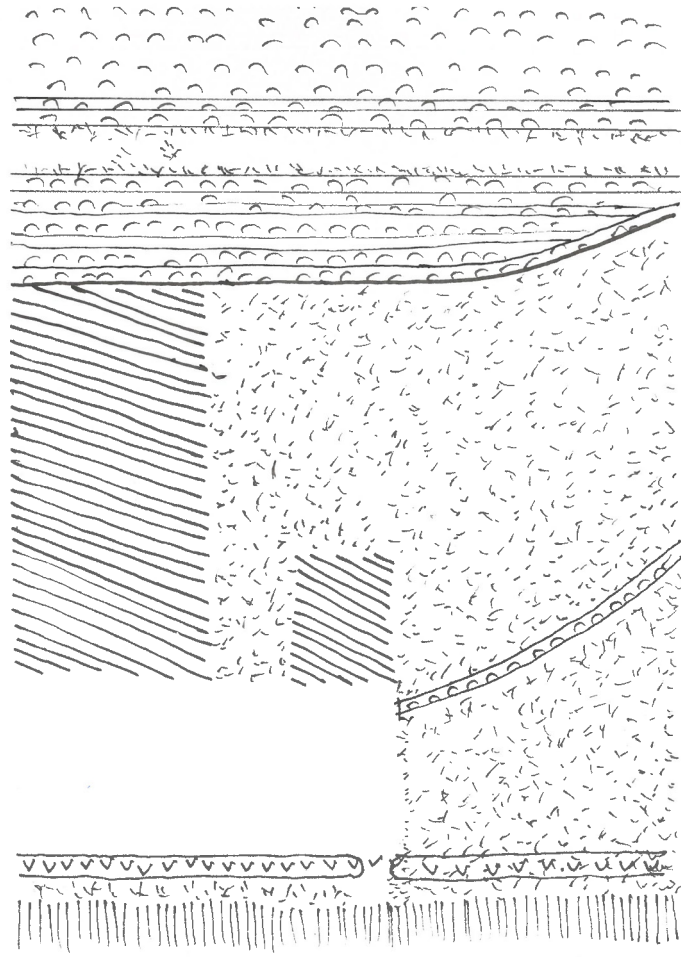
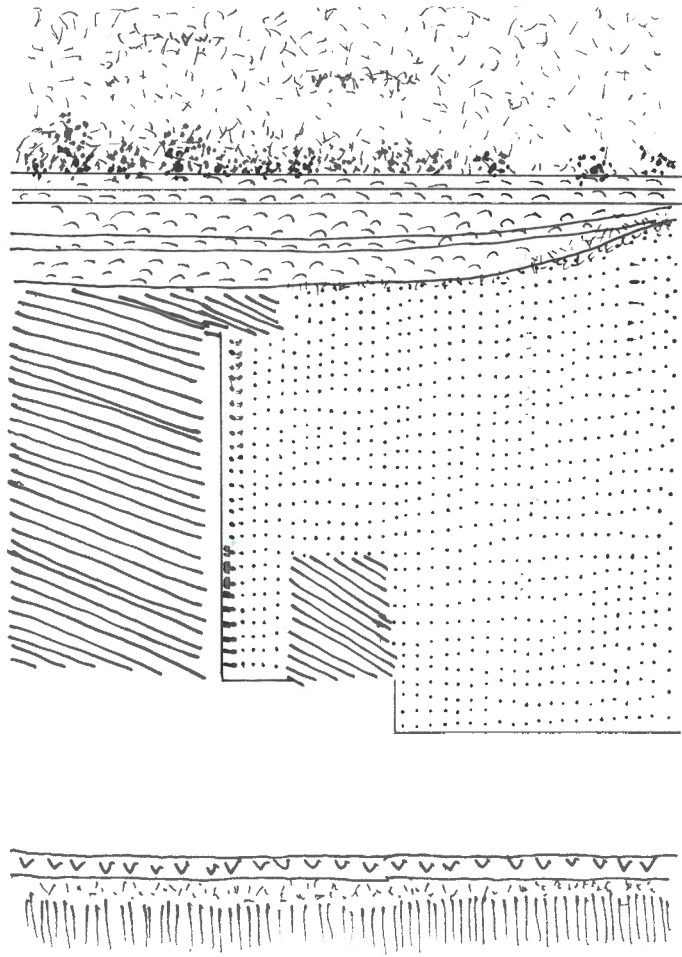


Nino Vogels



Urban Architecture

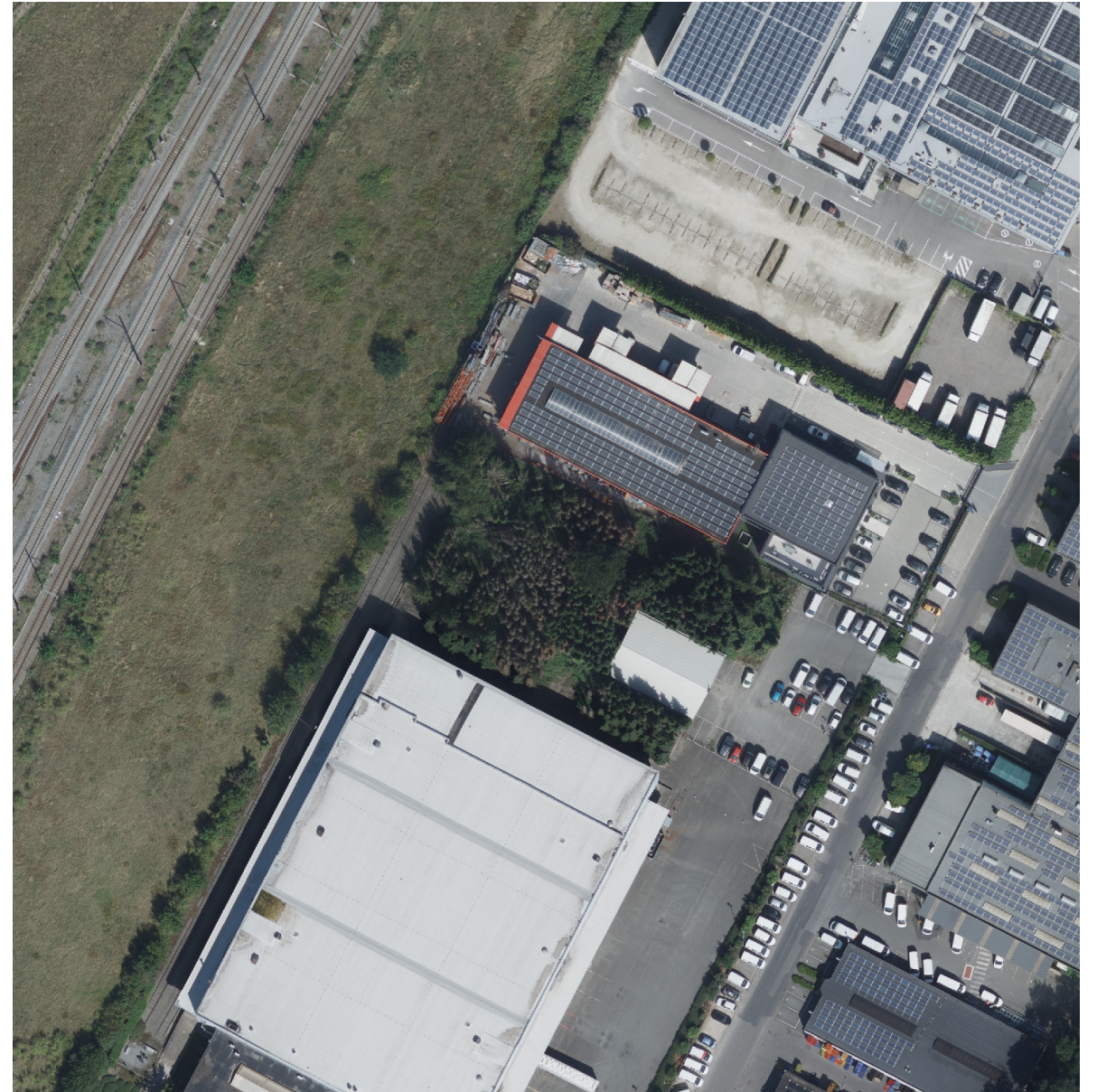
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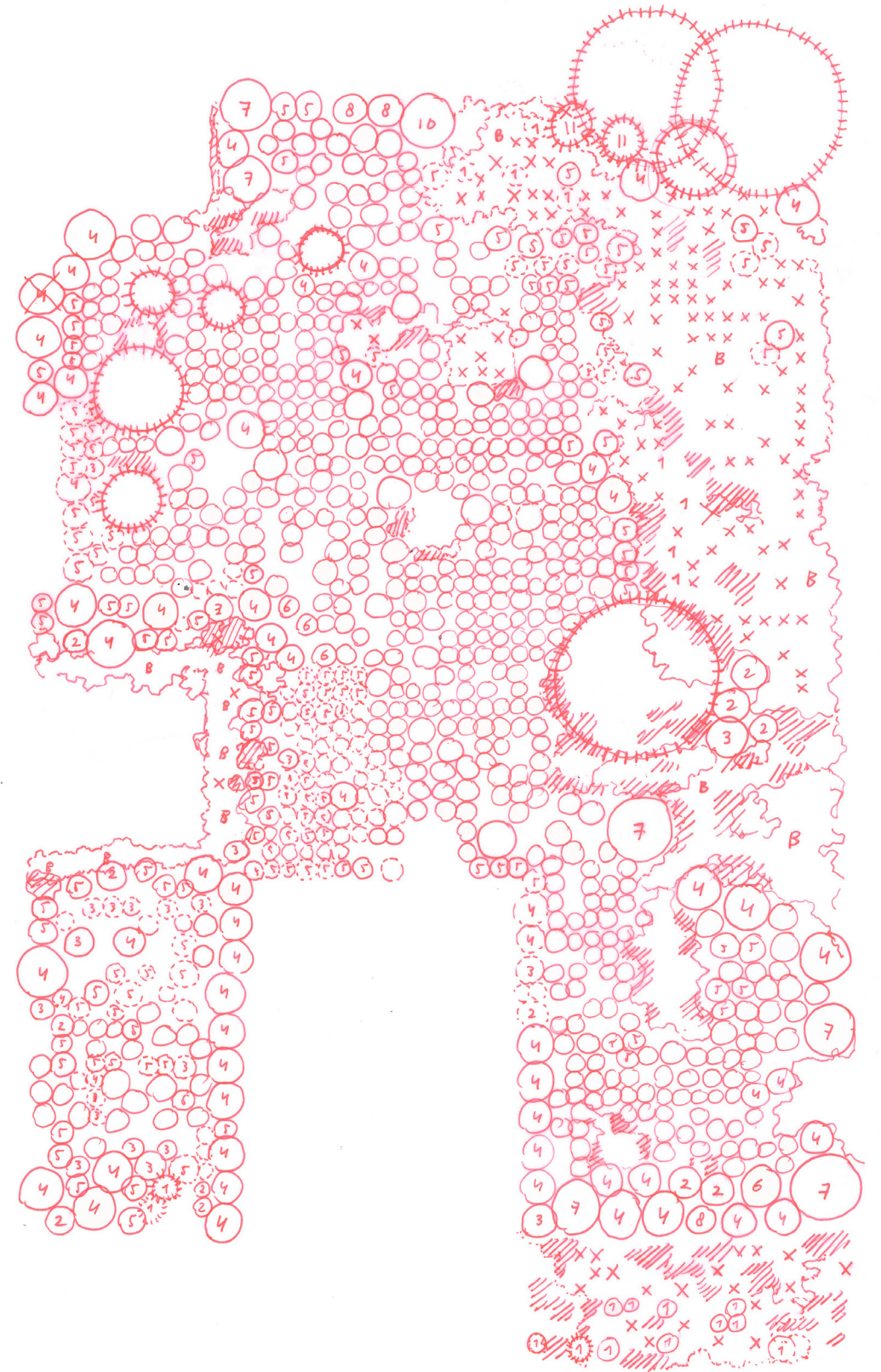
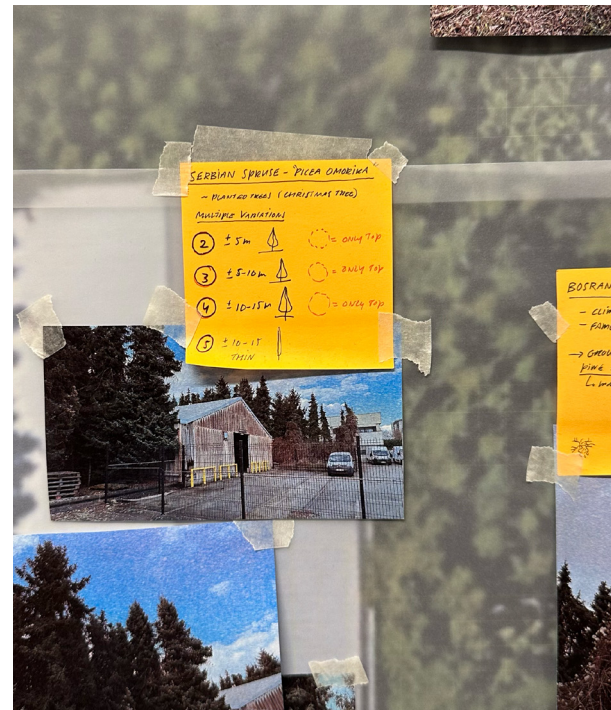
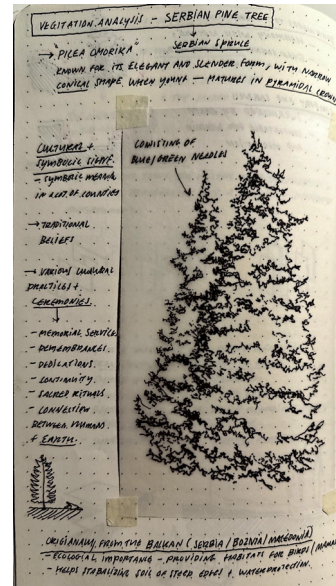


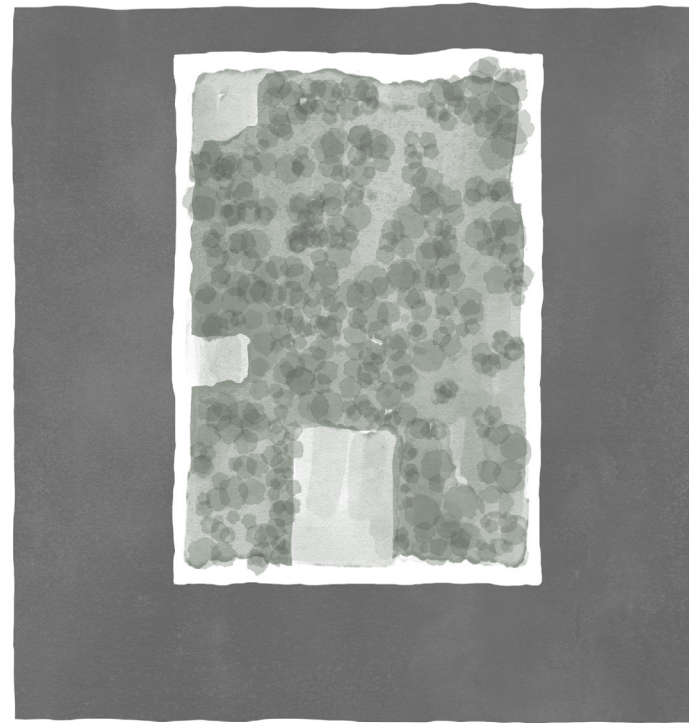
Nino Vogels

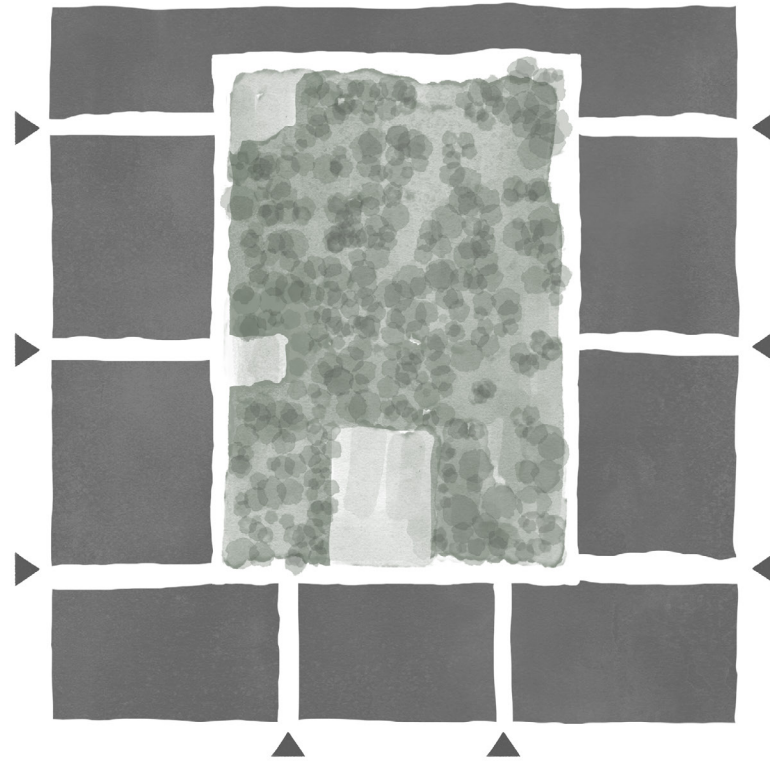


Urban Architecture

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From Humus to Human

MOROCCAN DWELLING ANALYSIS

→ DWELLING IN MEDINA OF RABAT

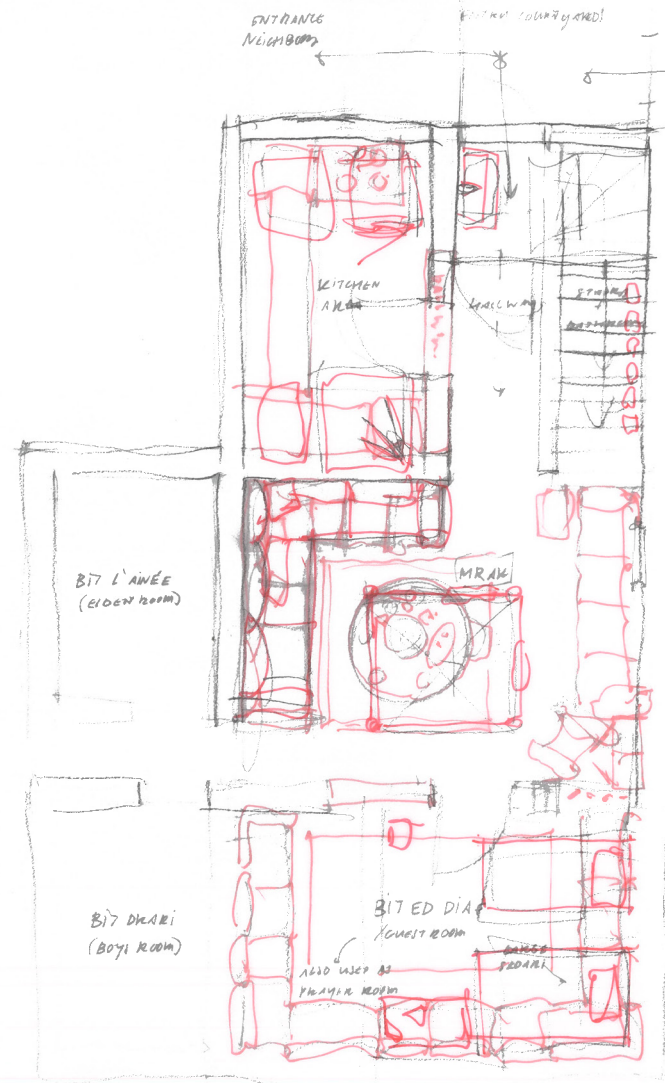
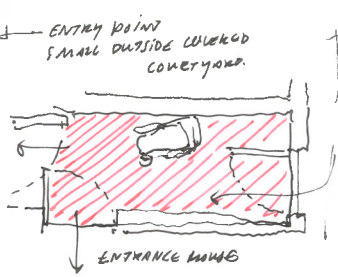
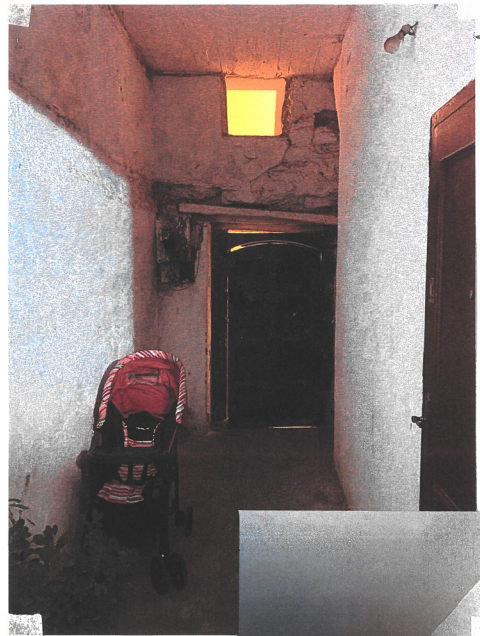
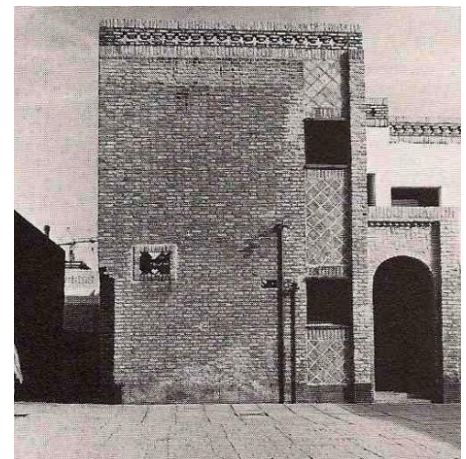
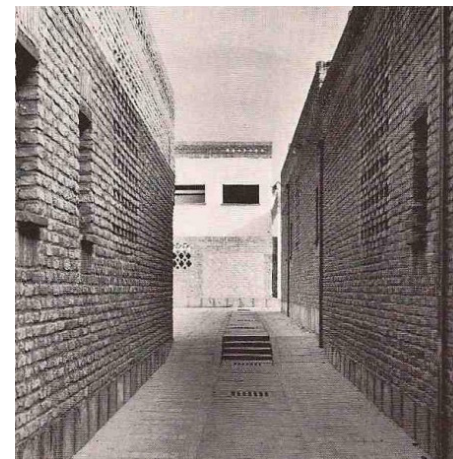
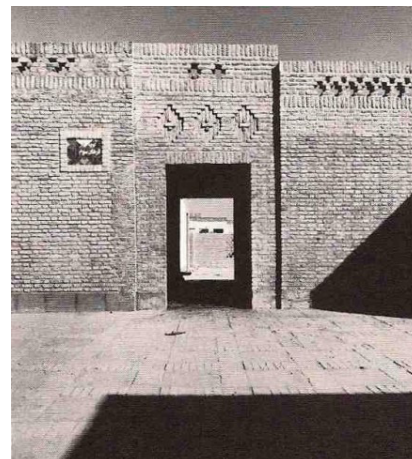
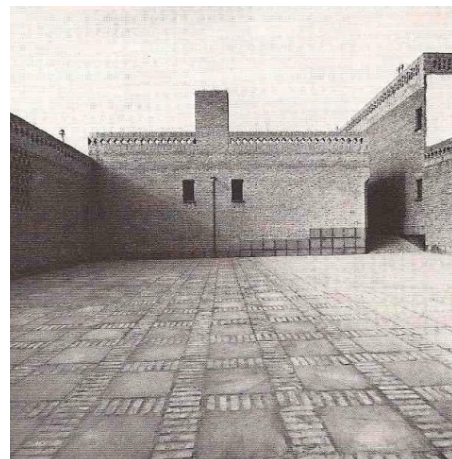
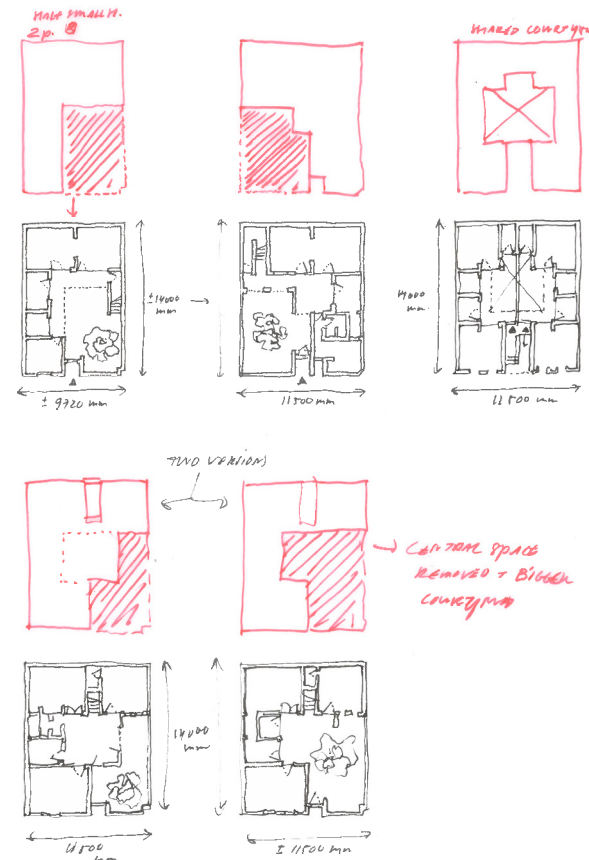
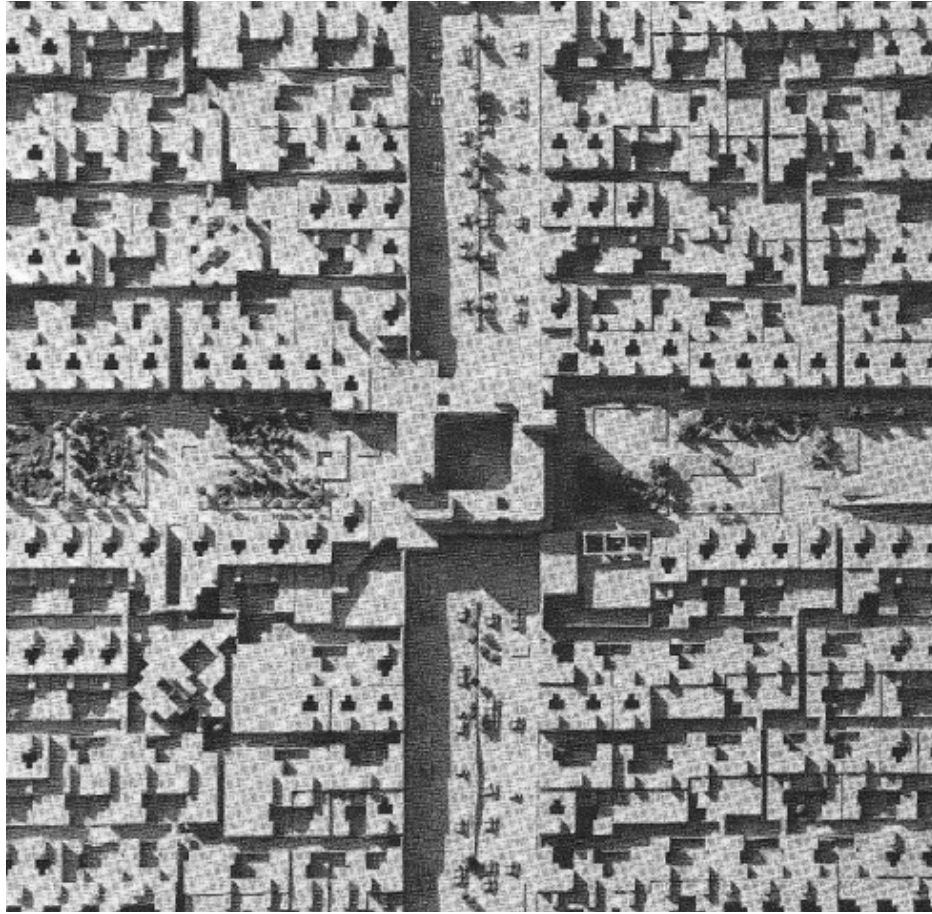


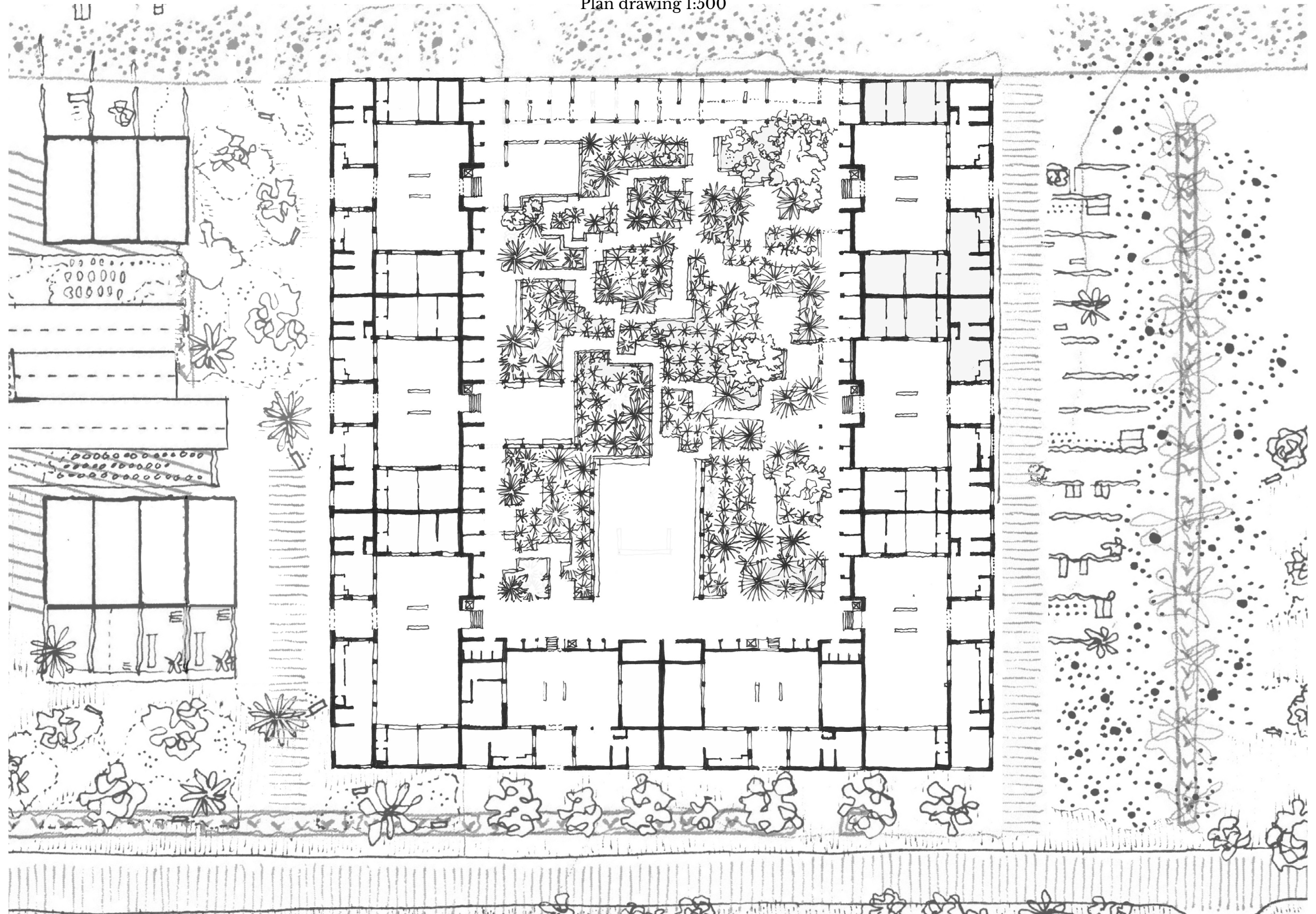
Fig.7

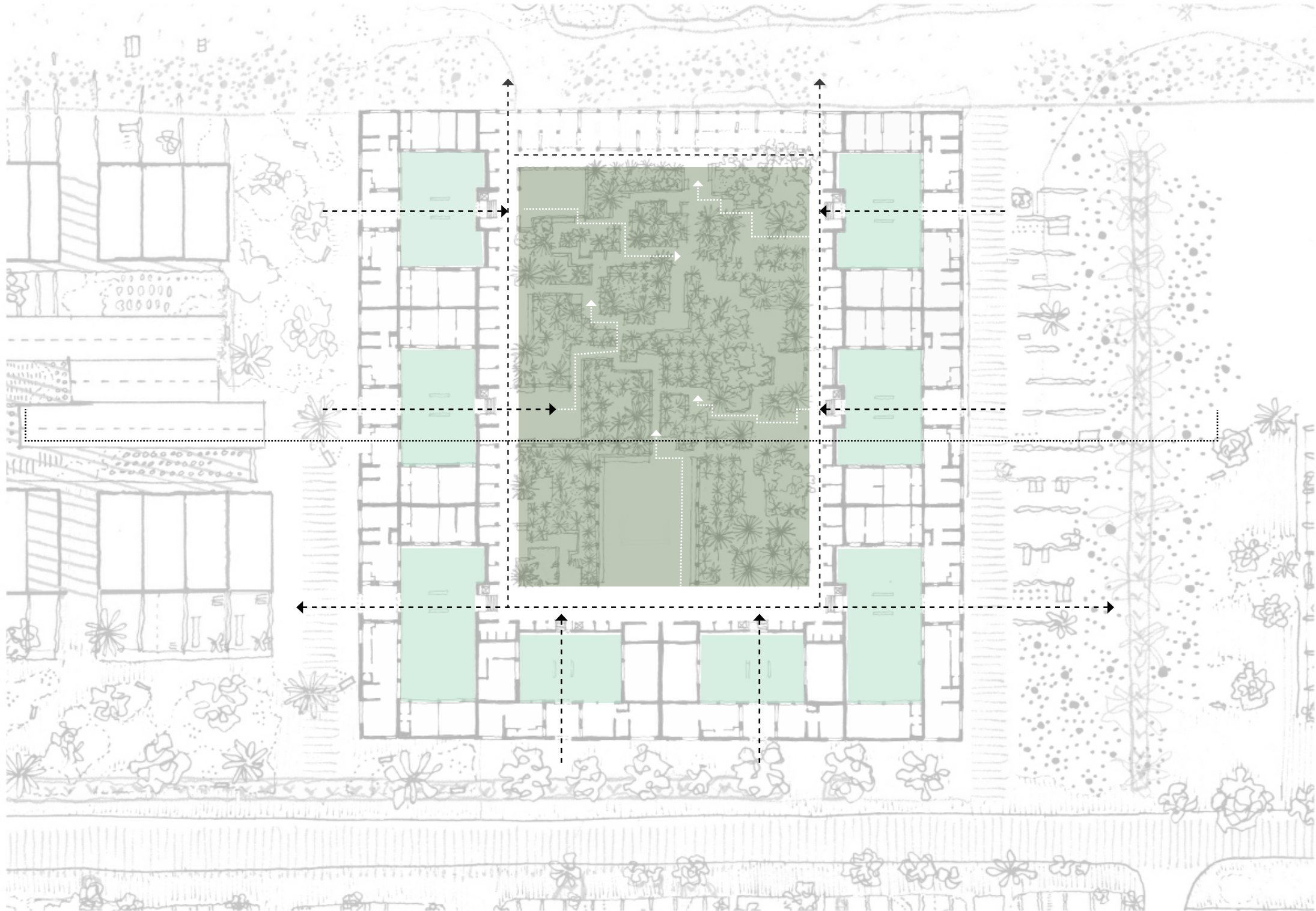
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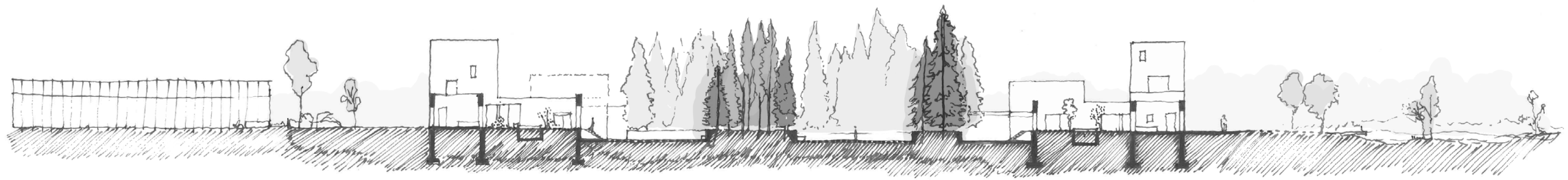


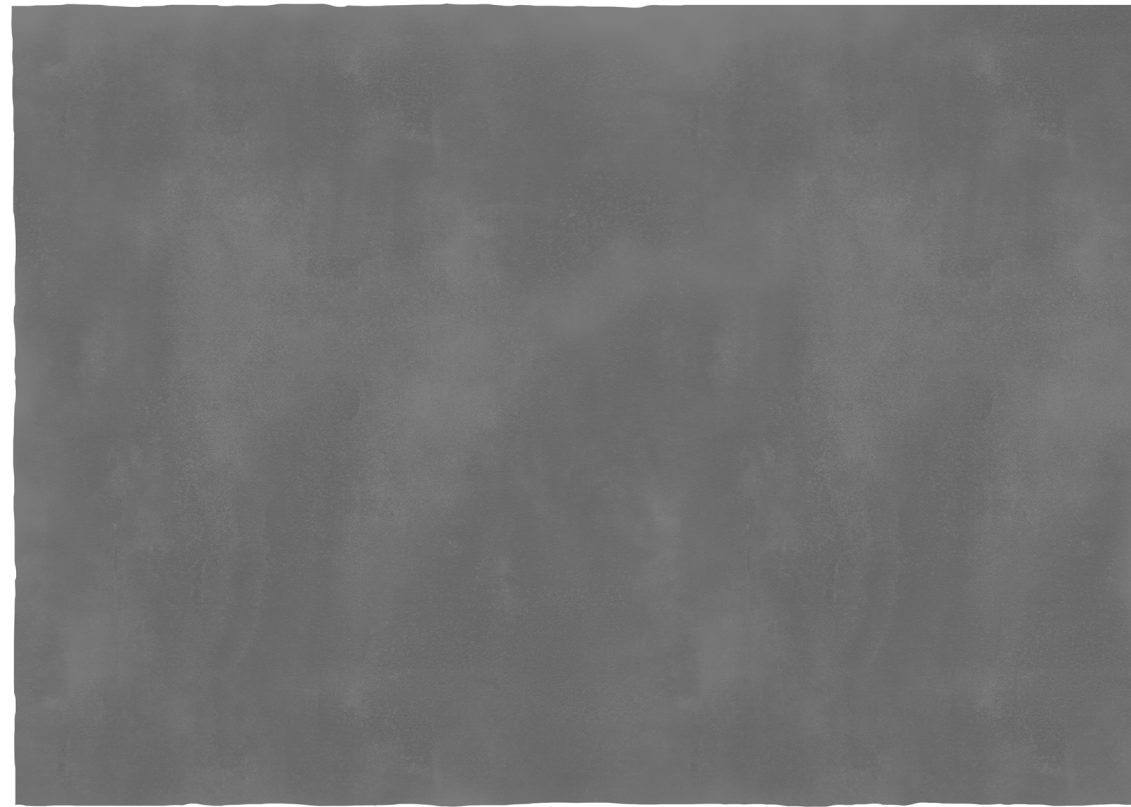
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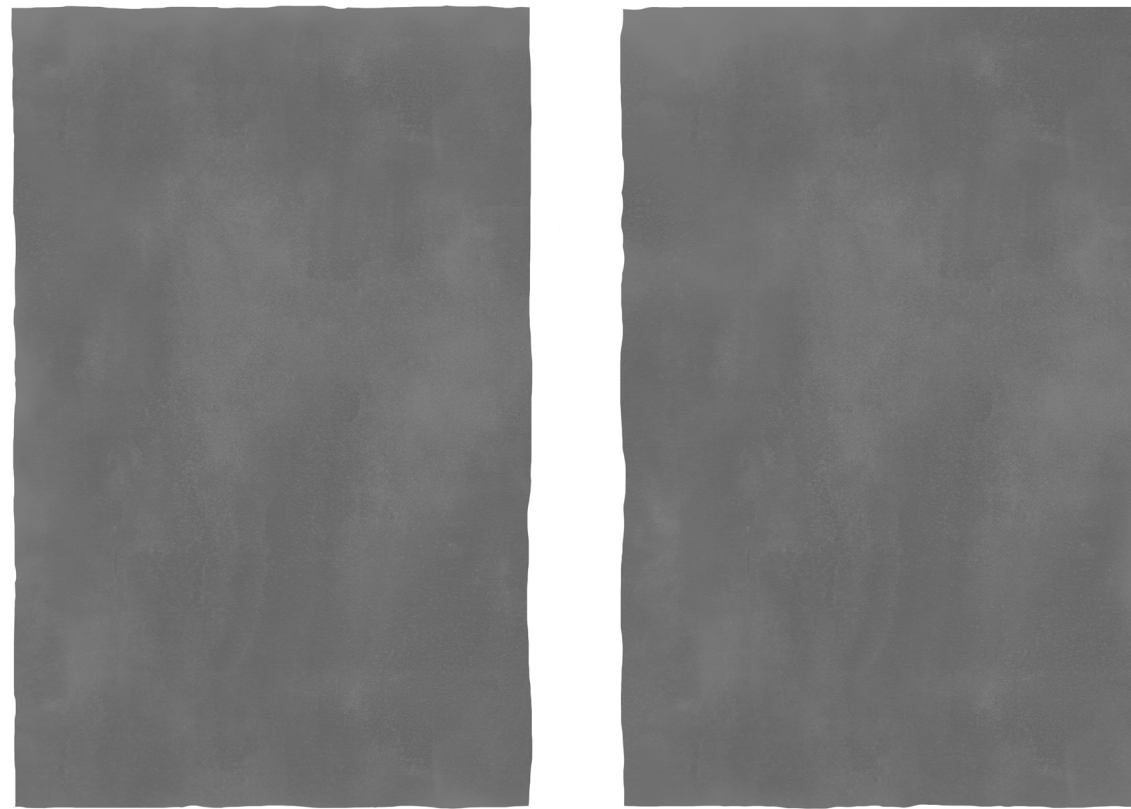
Urban Architecture

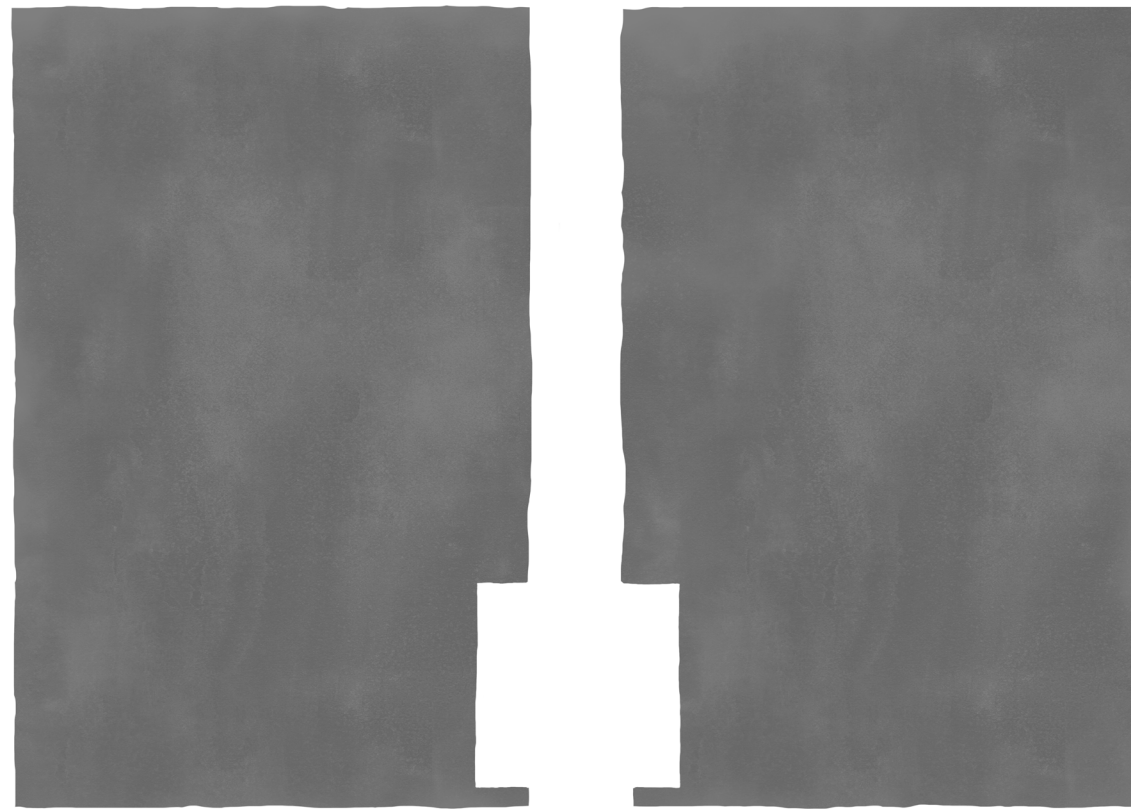


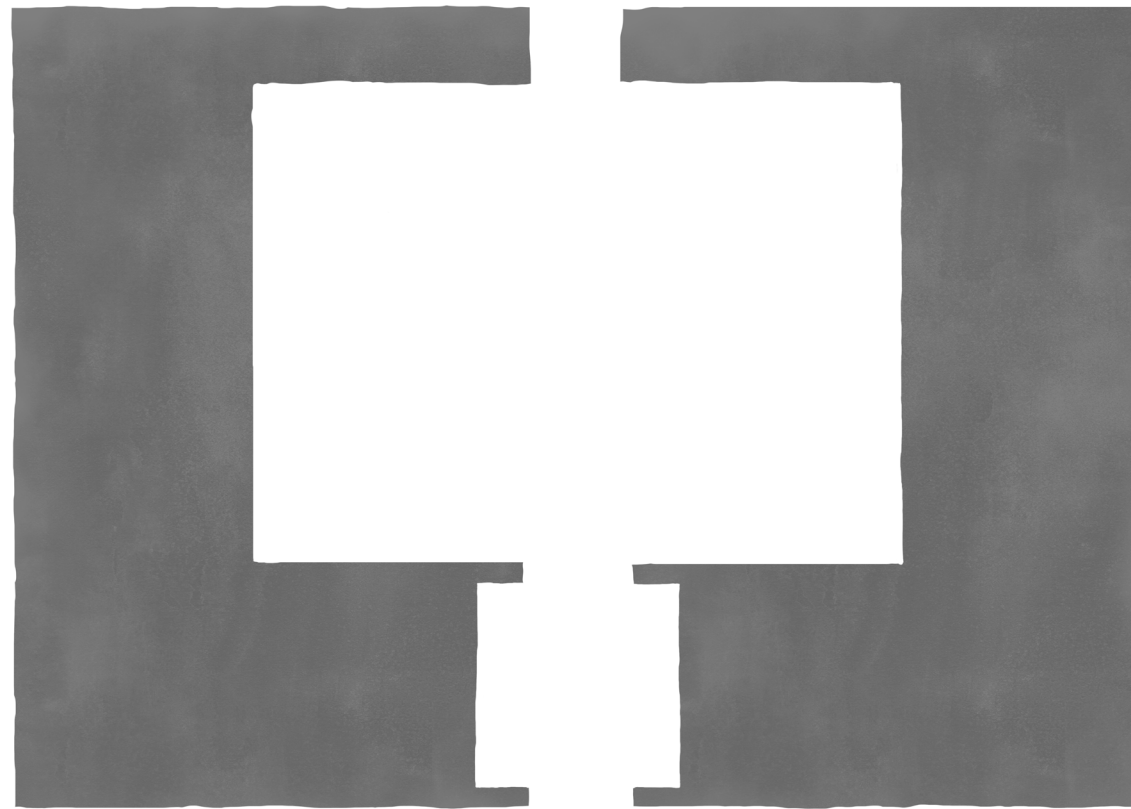


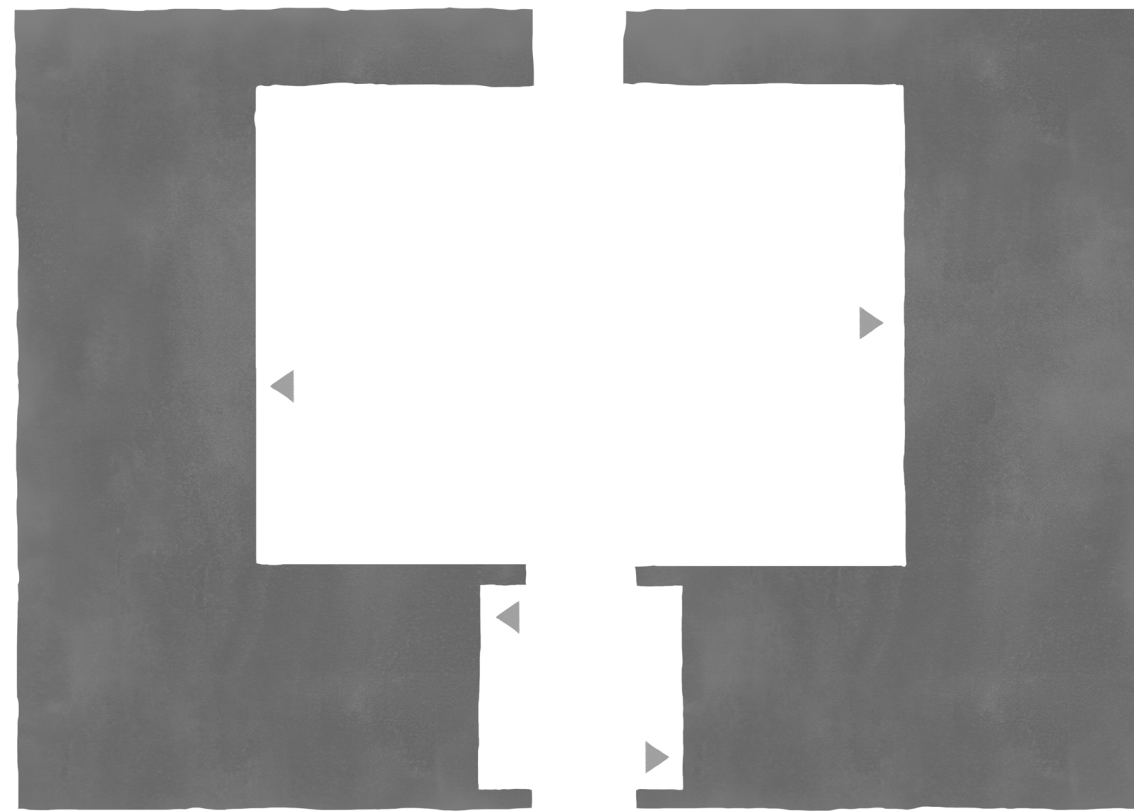


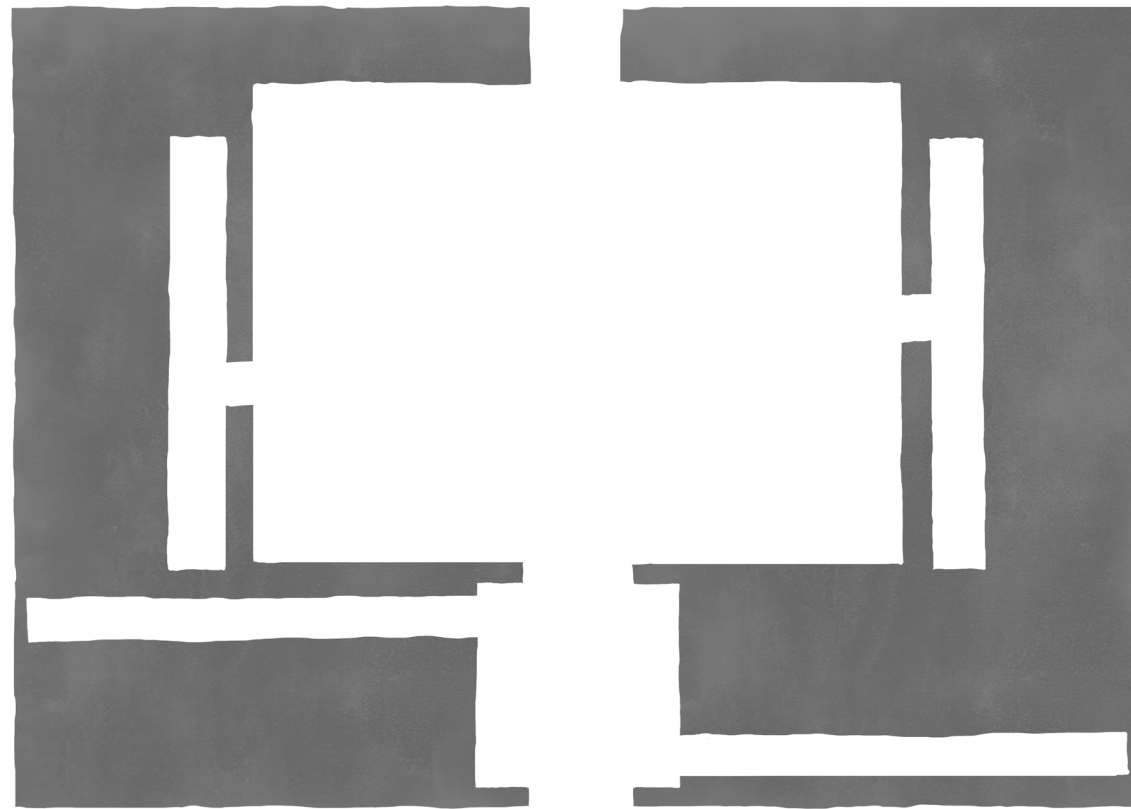


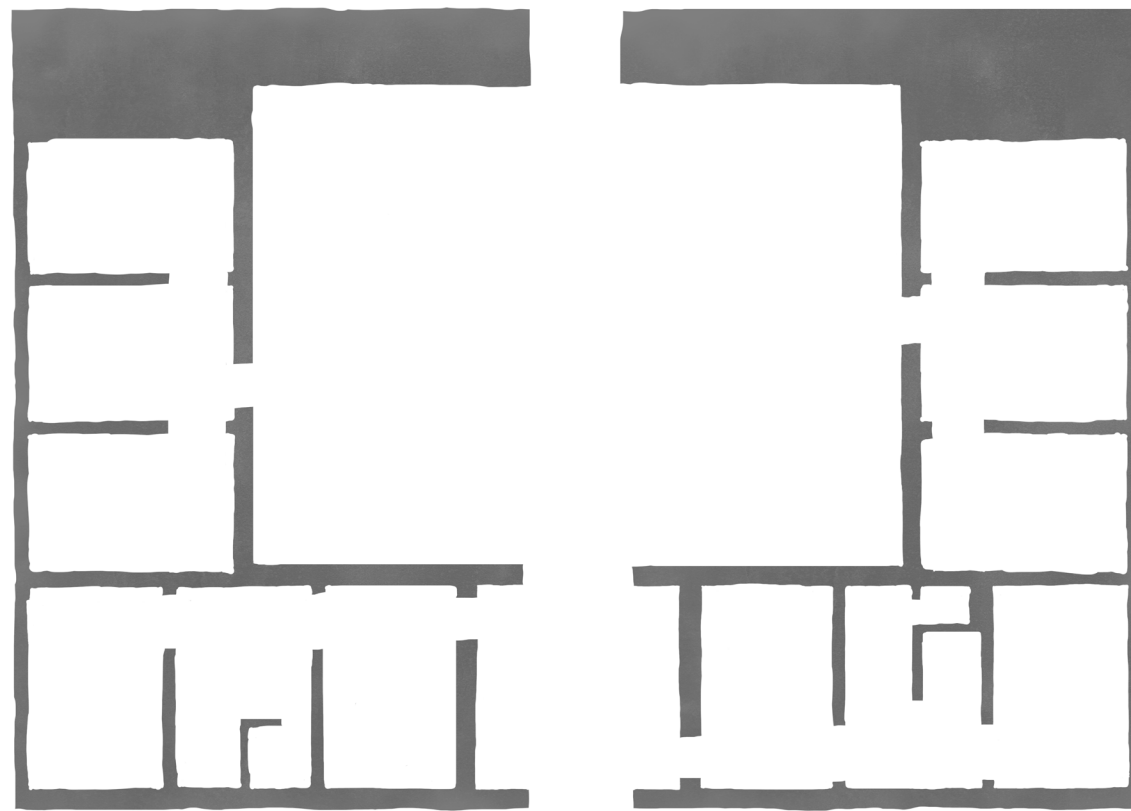


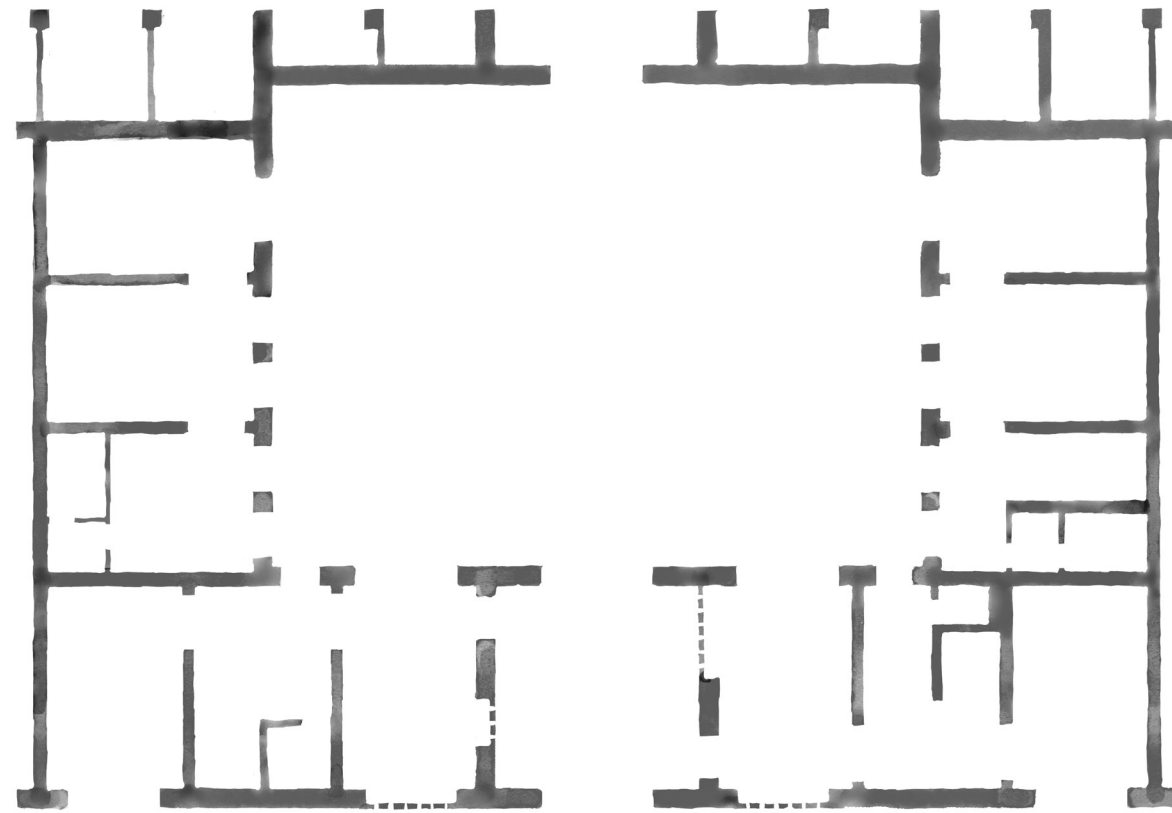


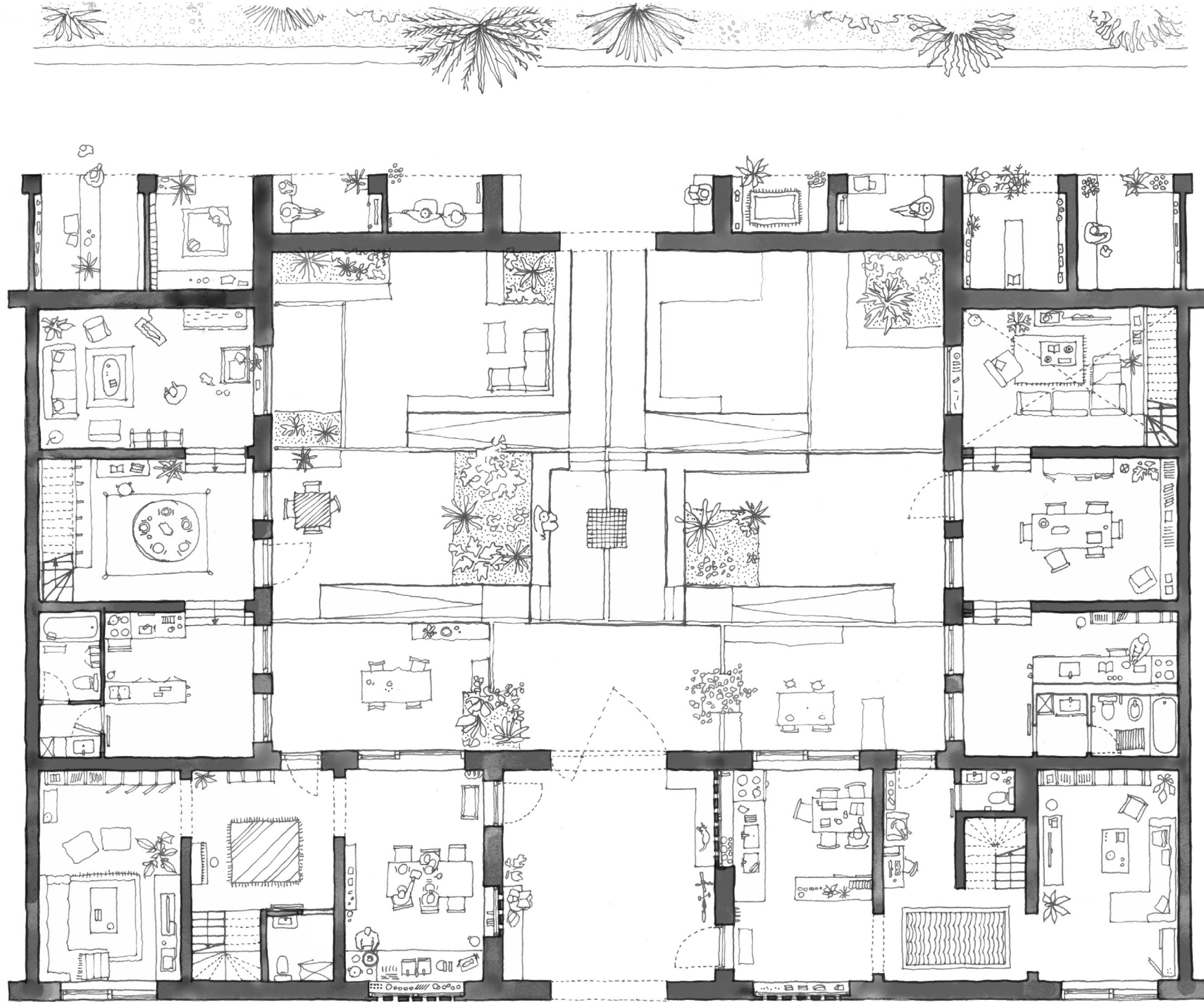


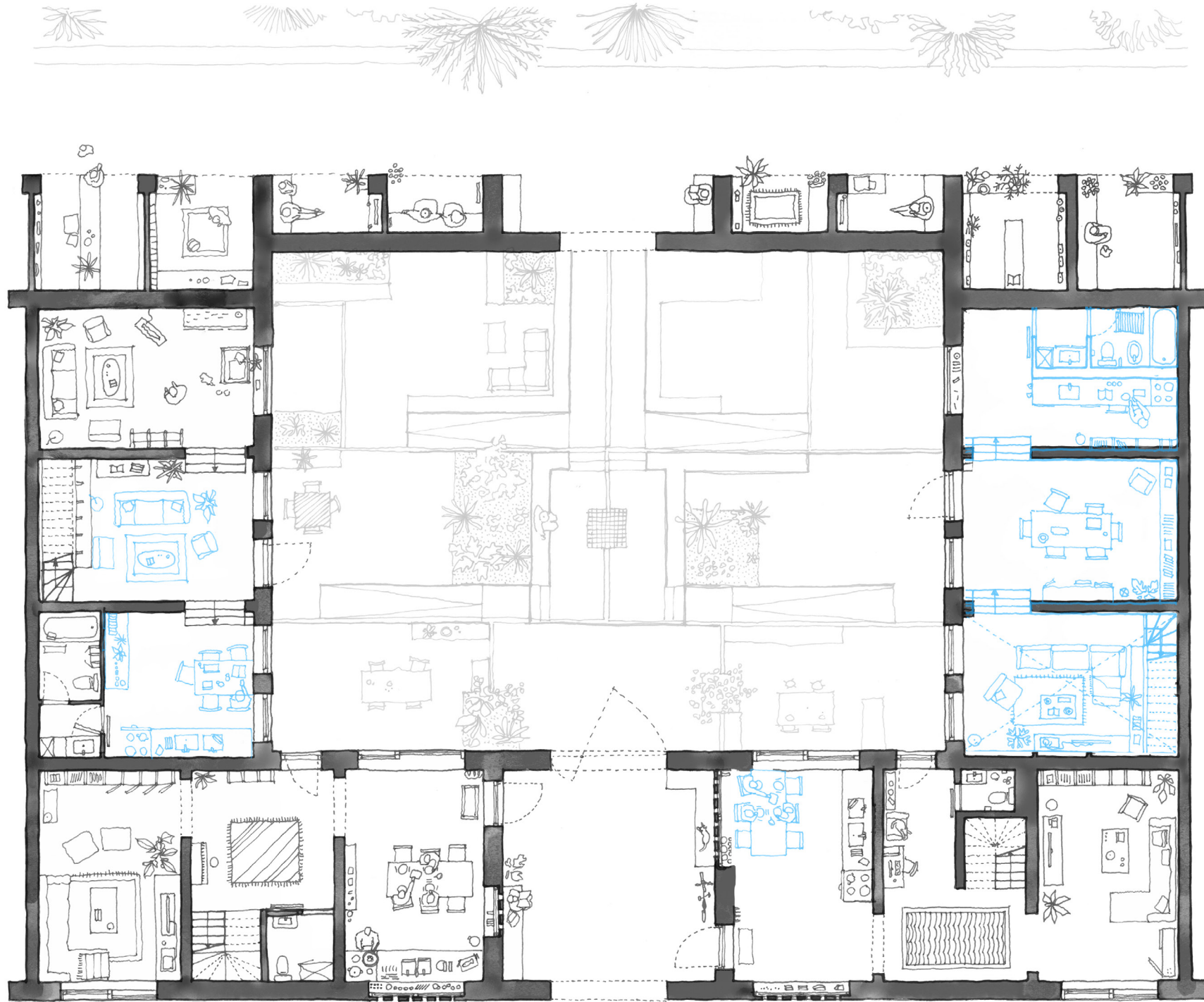


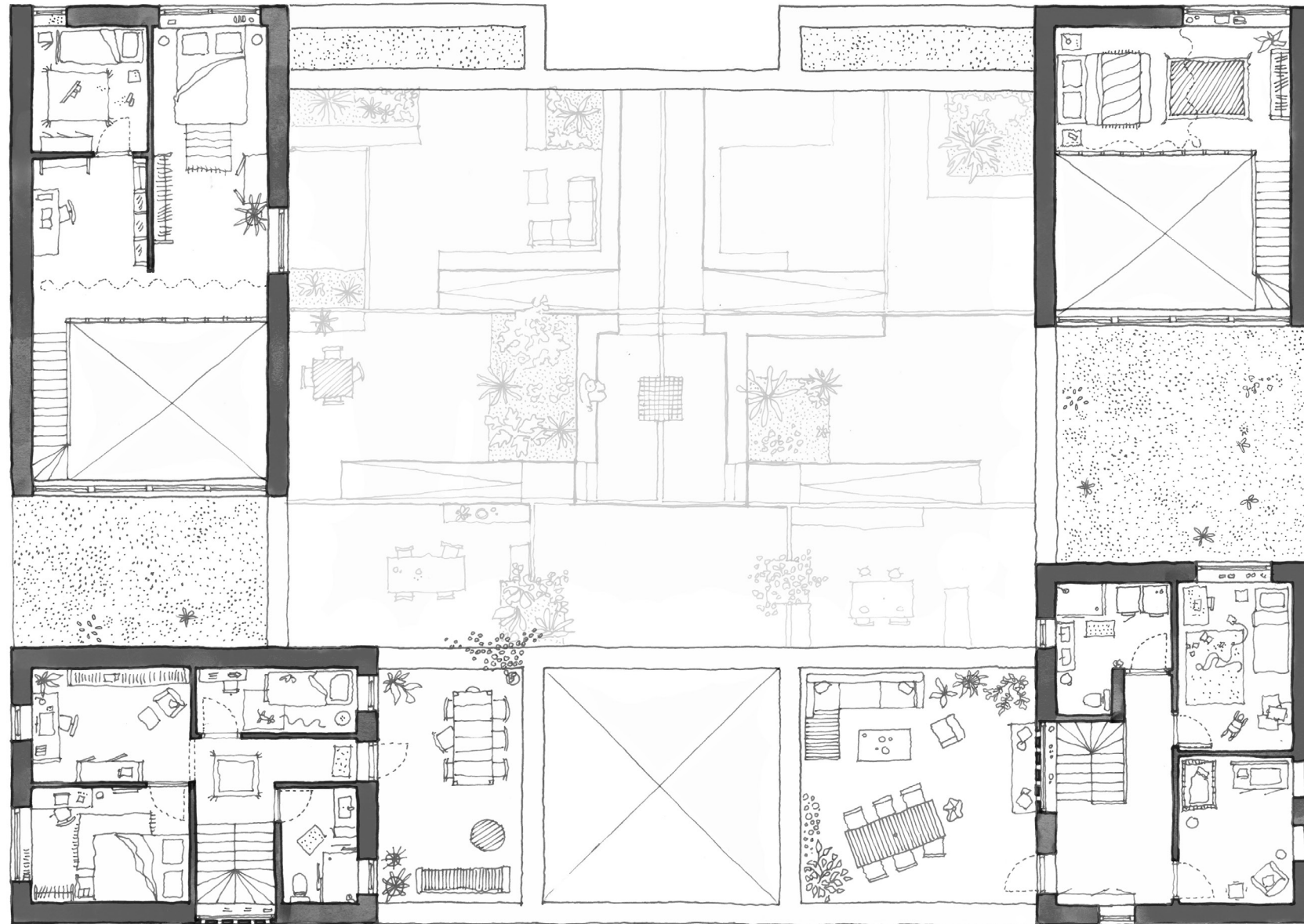
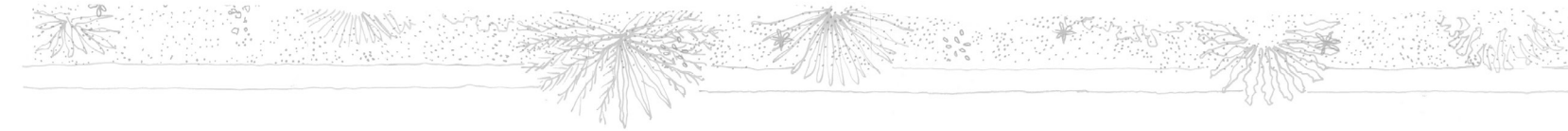


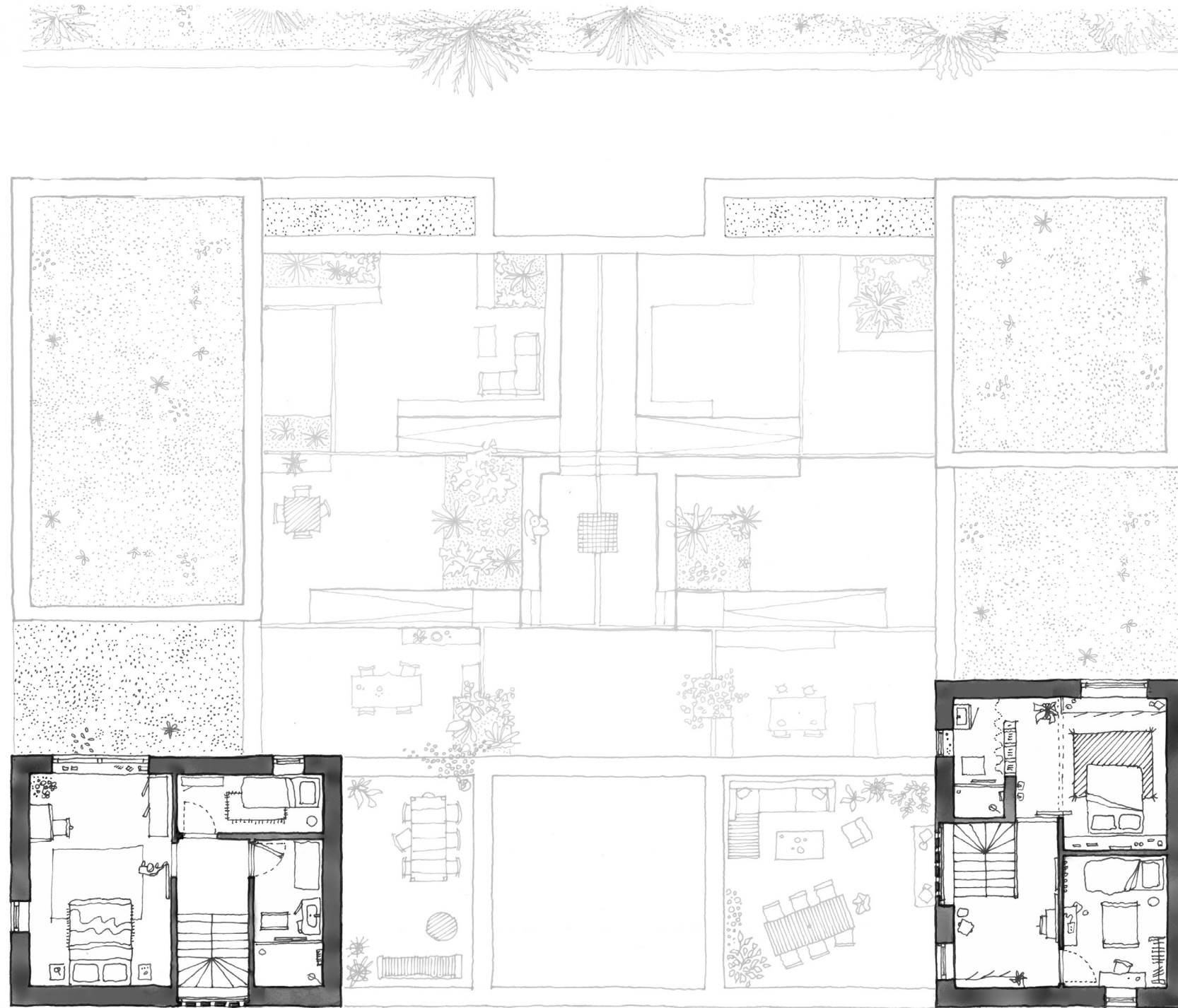


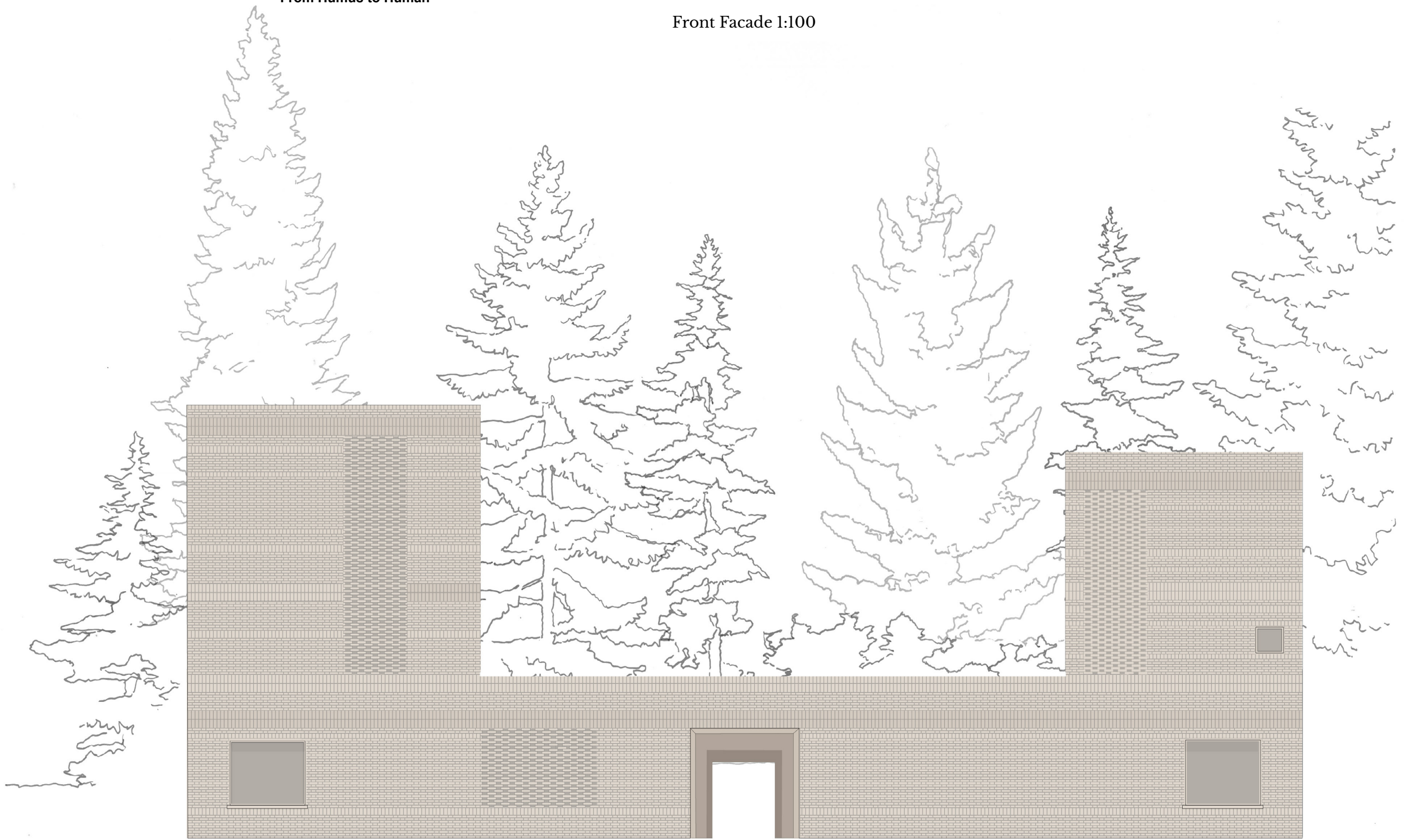








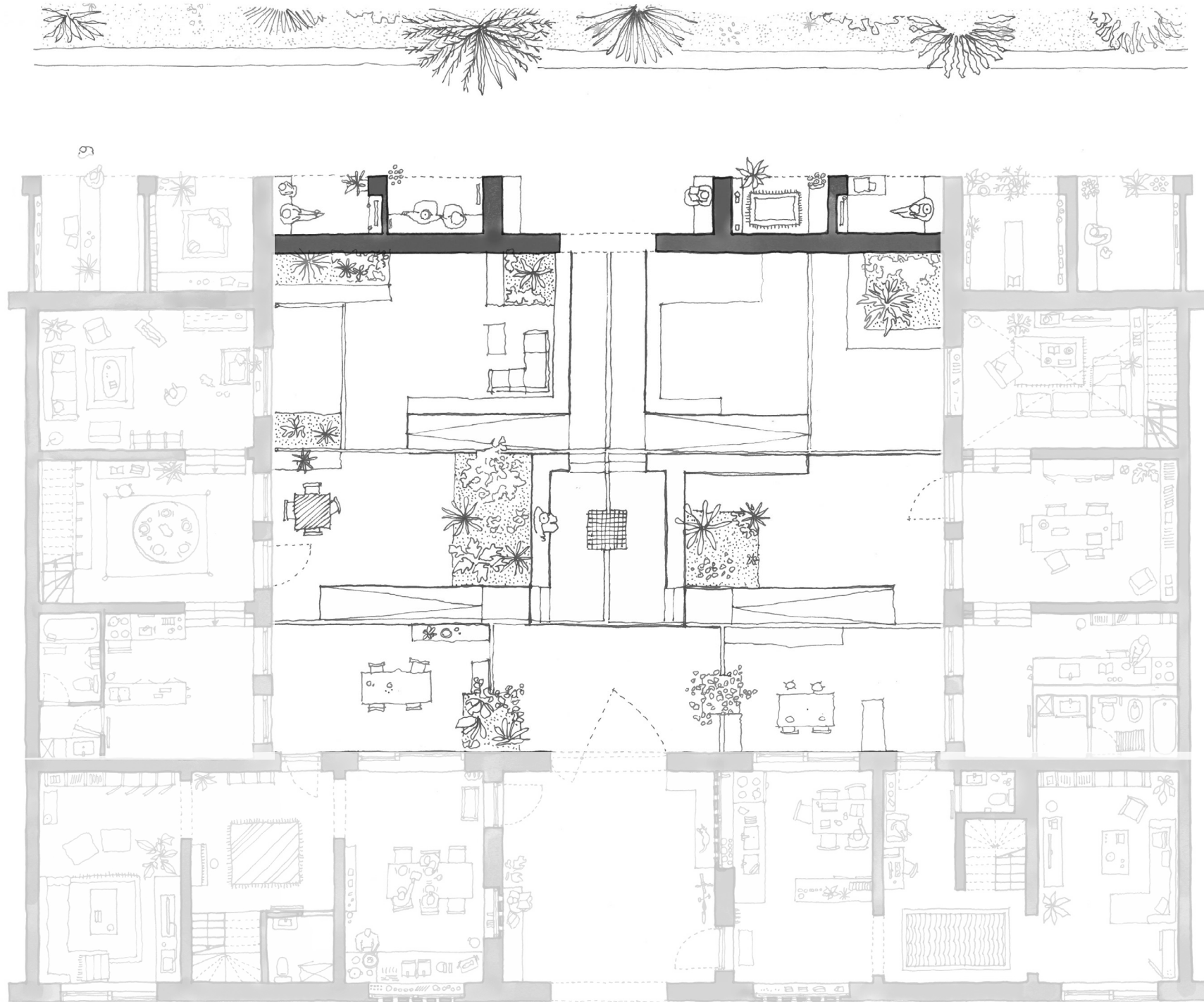




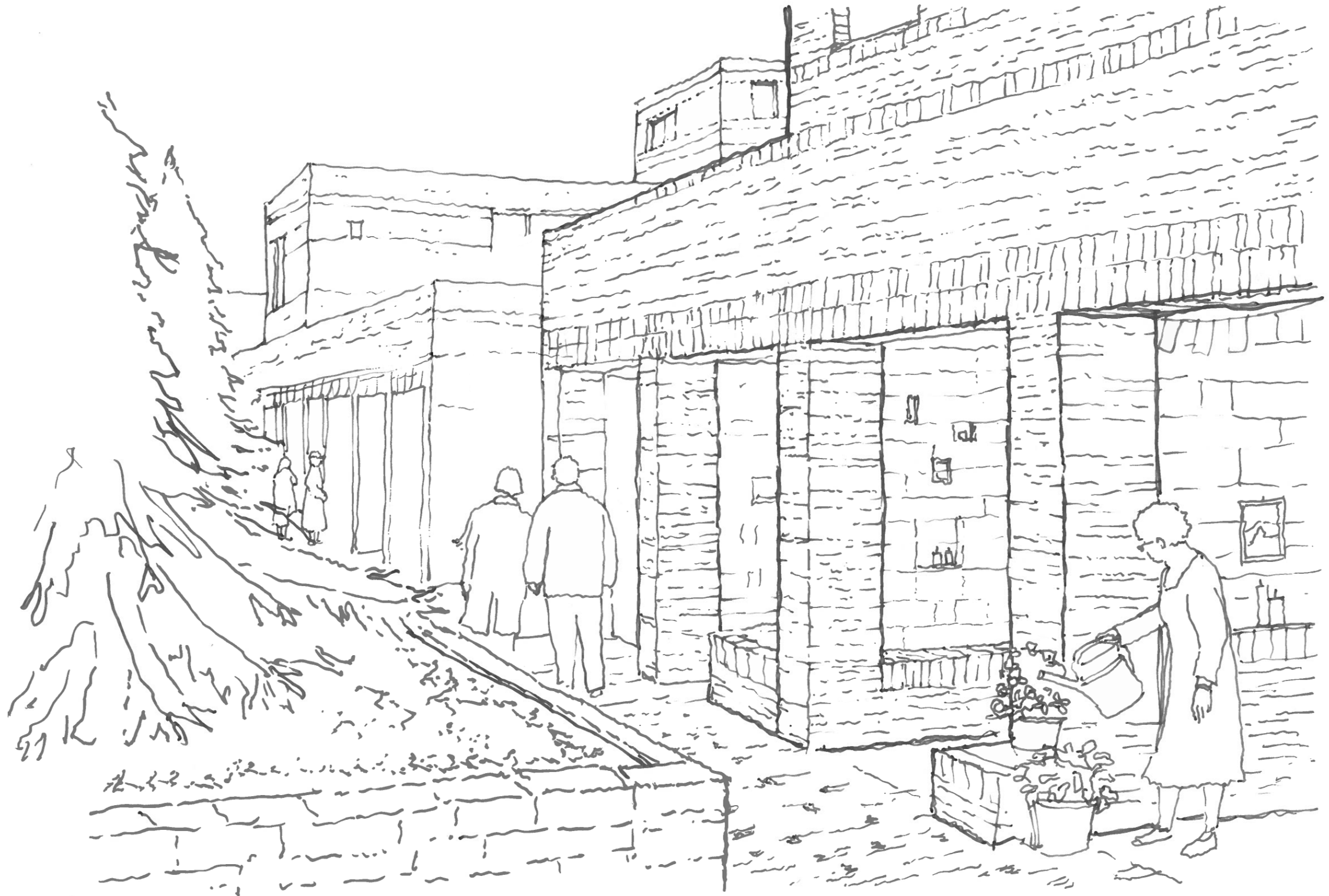


















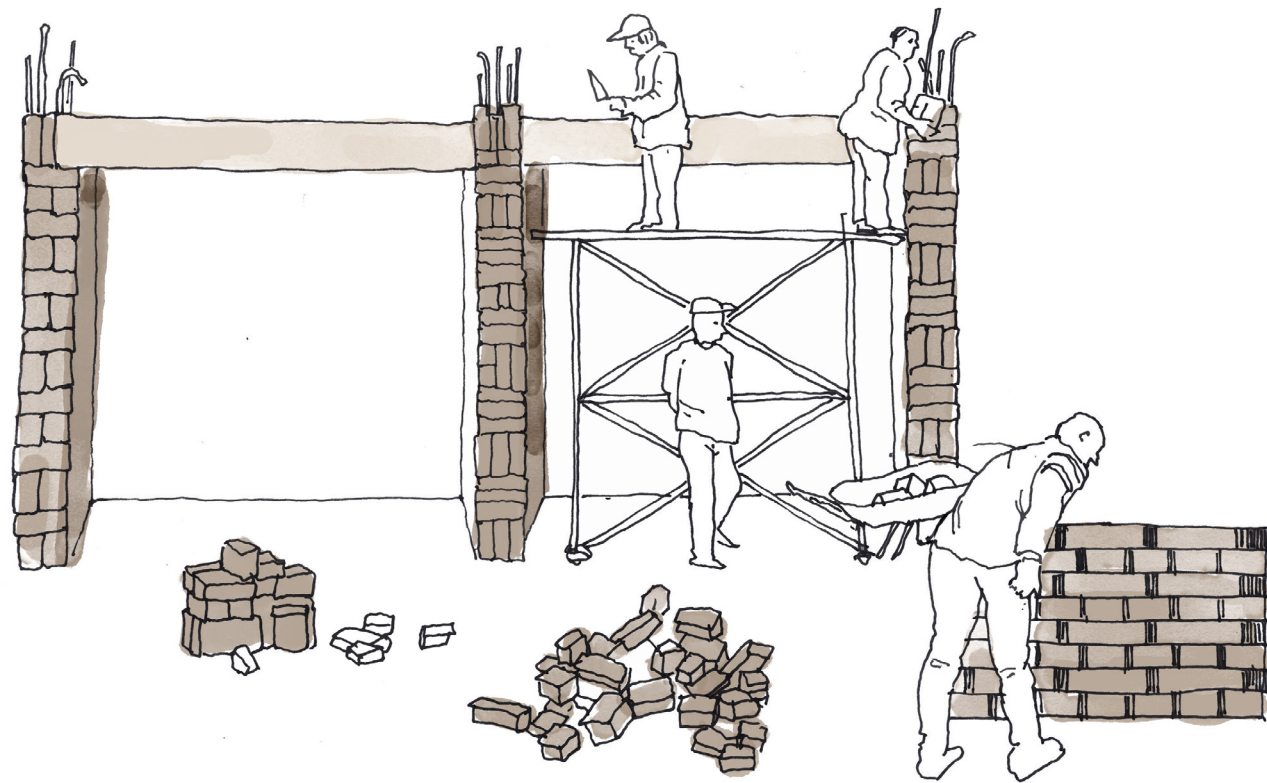


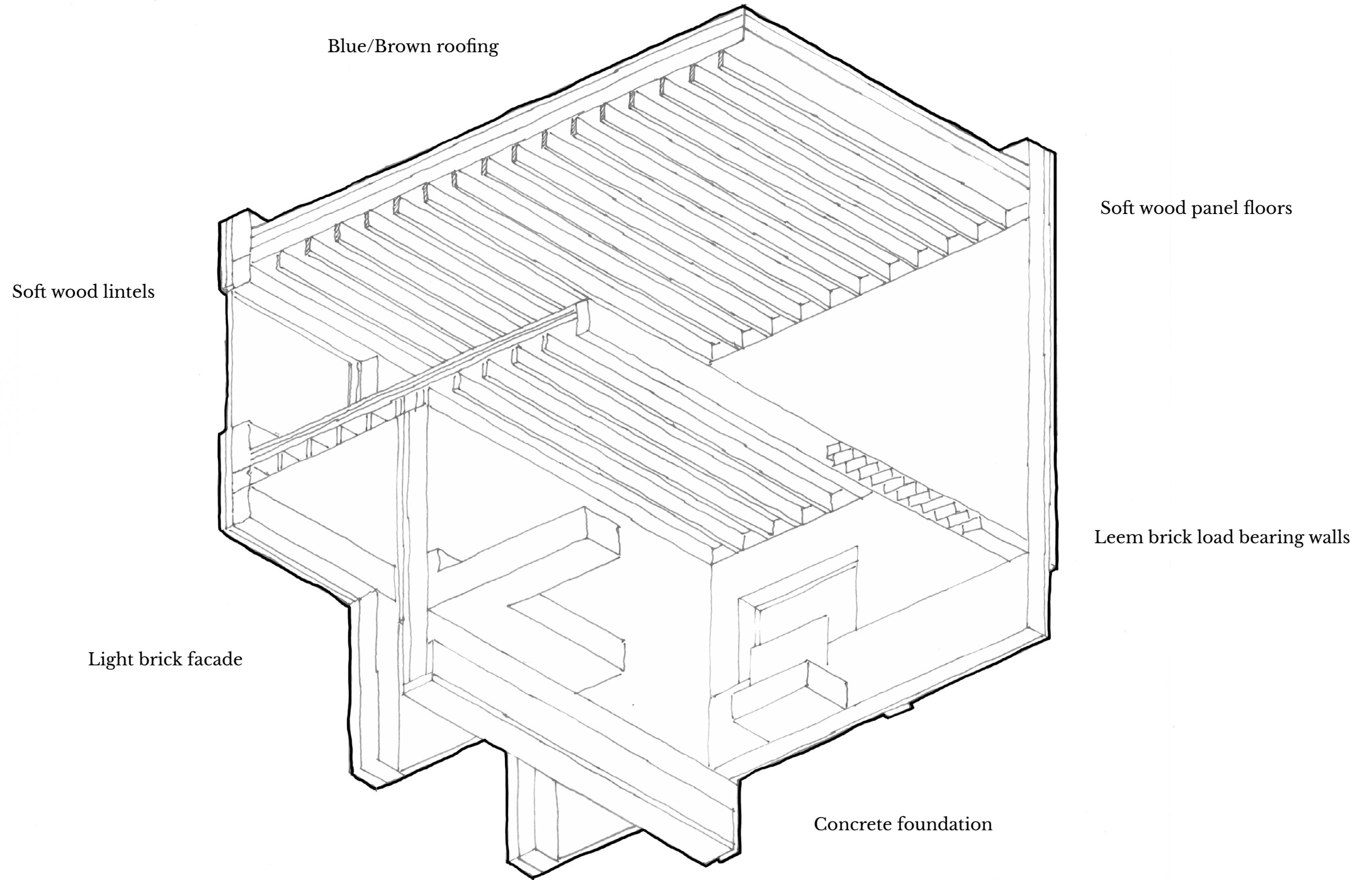












Light brick facade

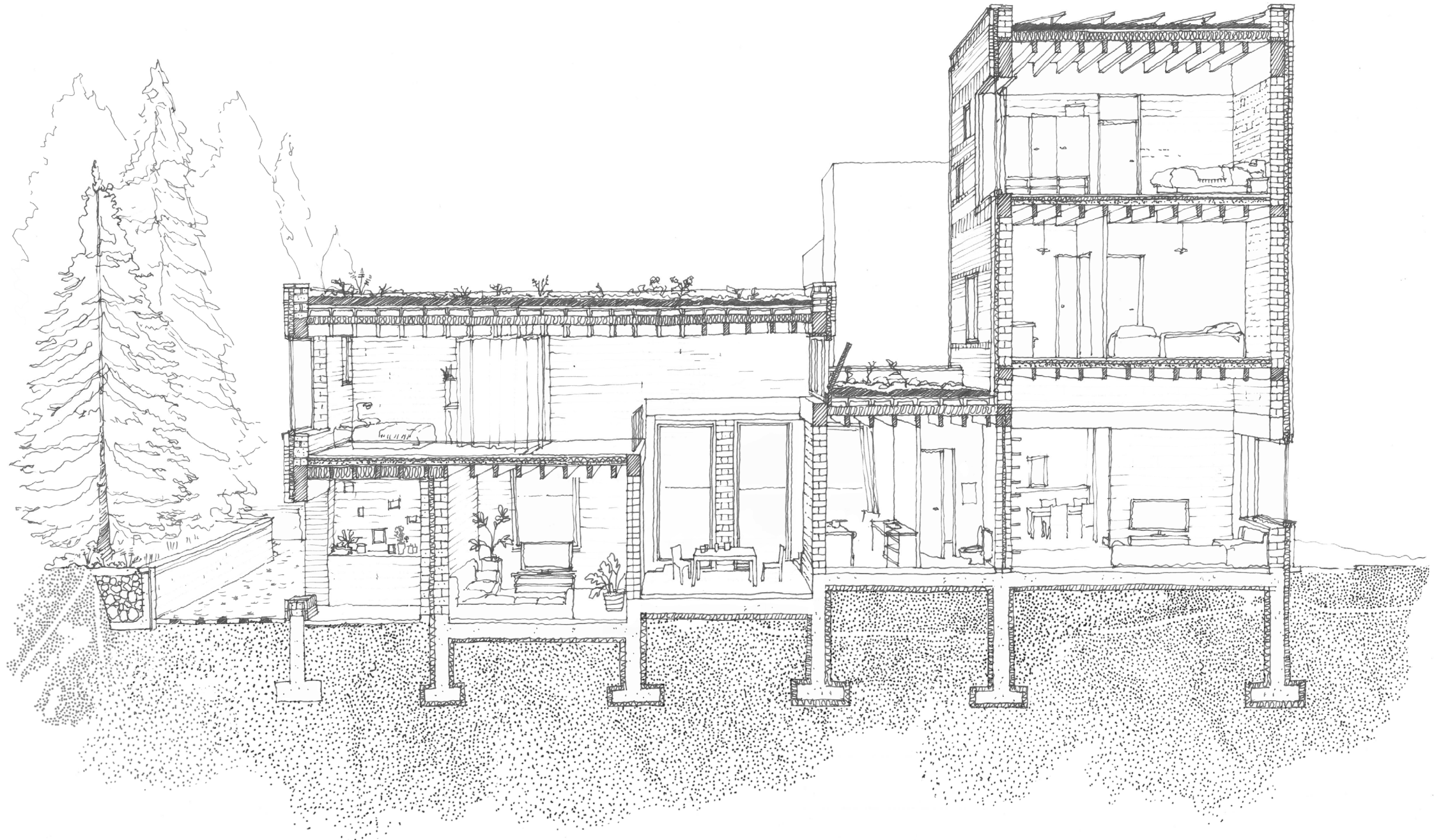
Soft wood lintels

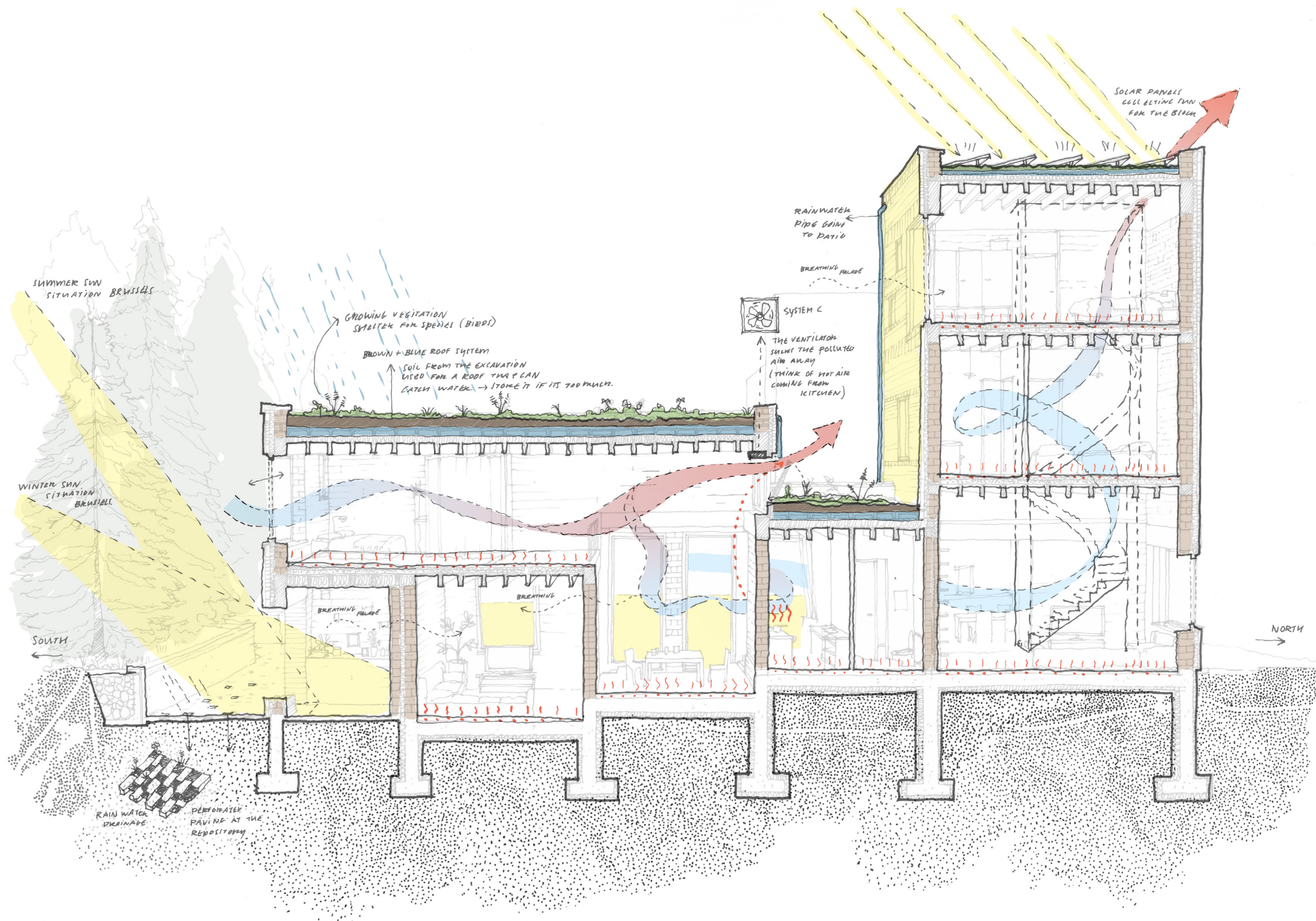
Blue/Brown roofing

Soft wood panel floors

Leem brick load bearing walls

Concrete foundation



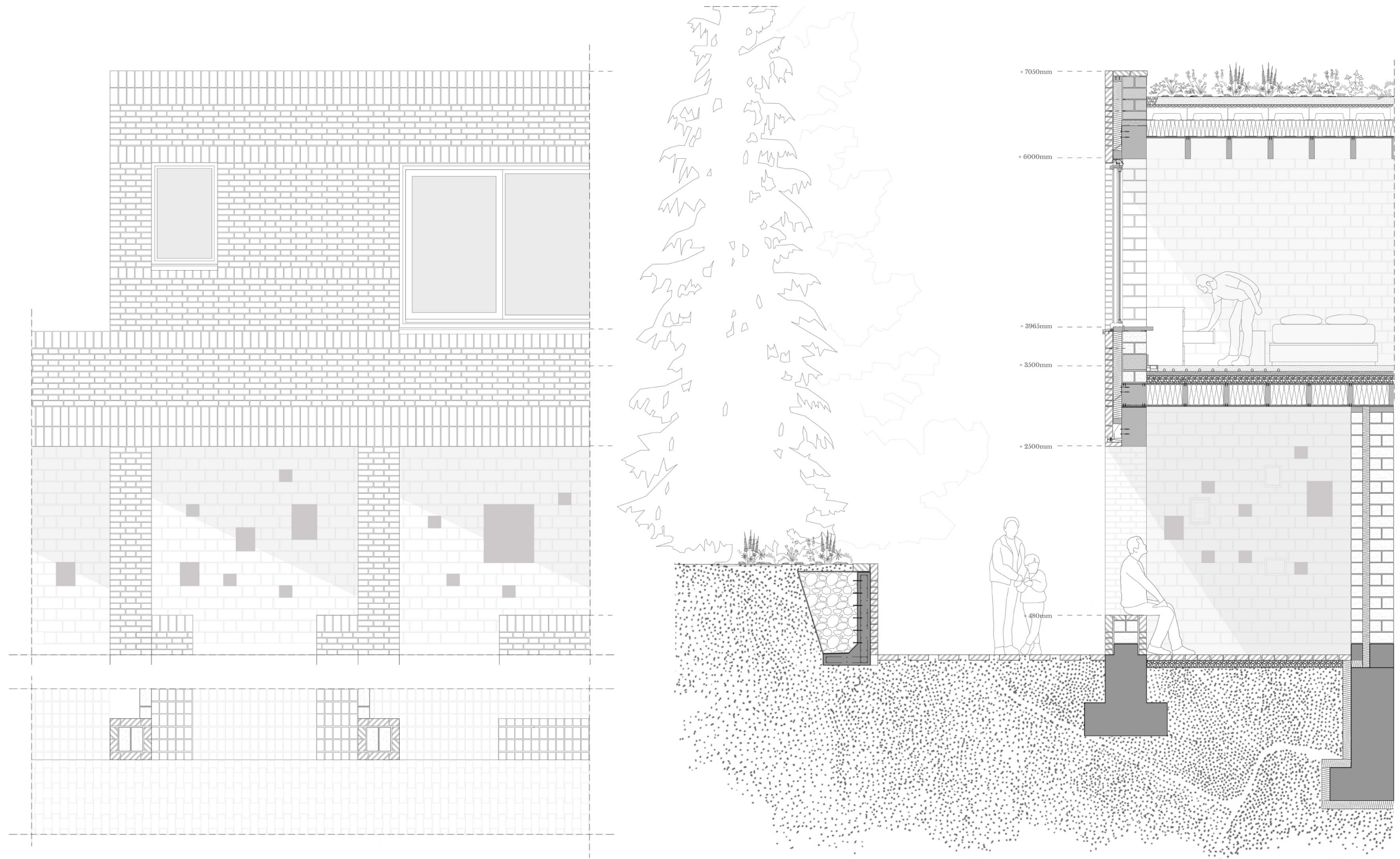


From Humus to Human

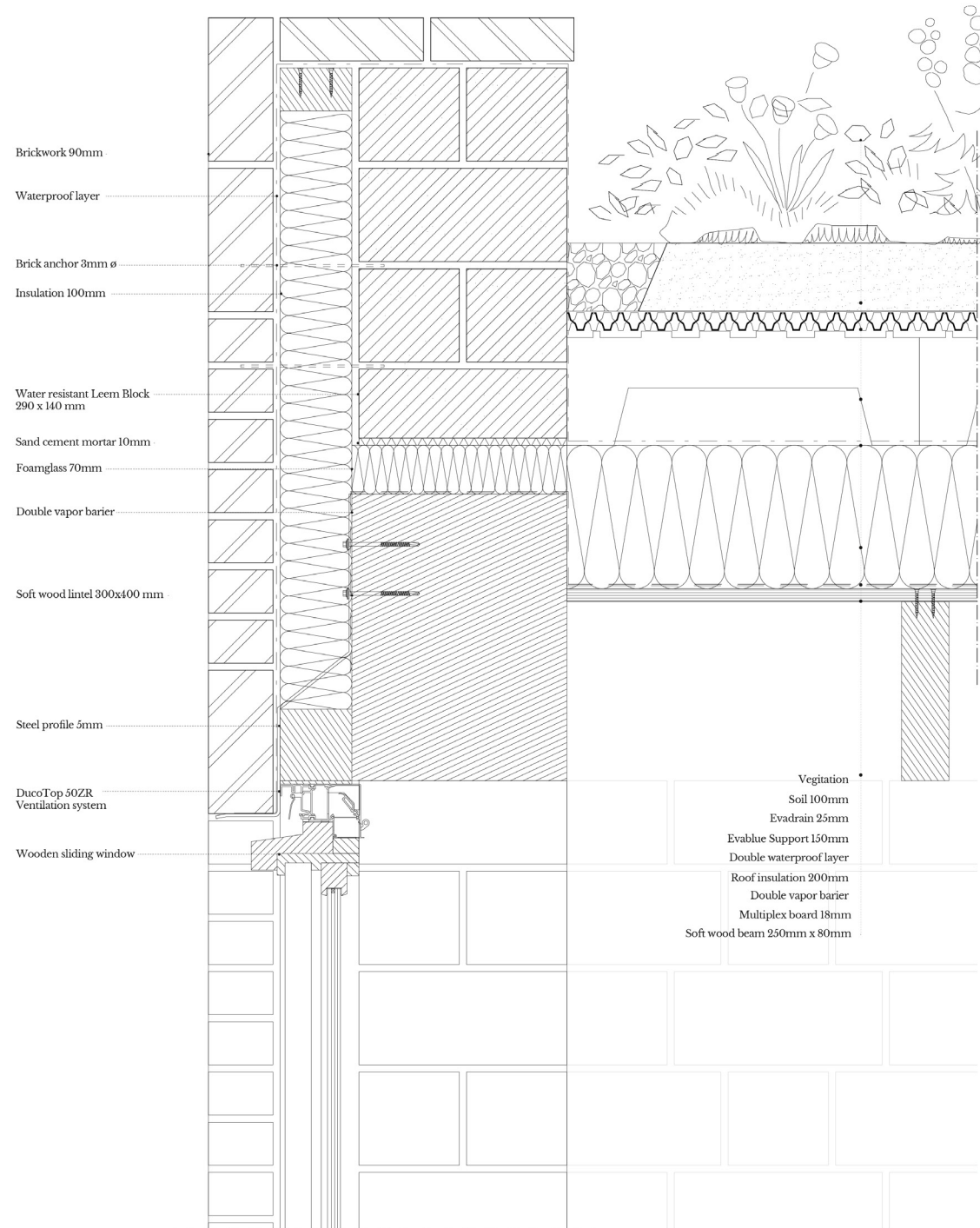
Fragment 1:20

Facade 1:20

Section 1:20

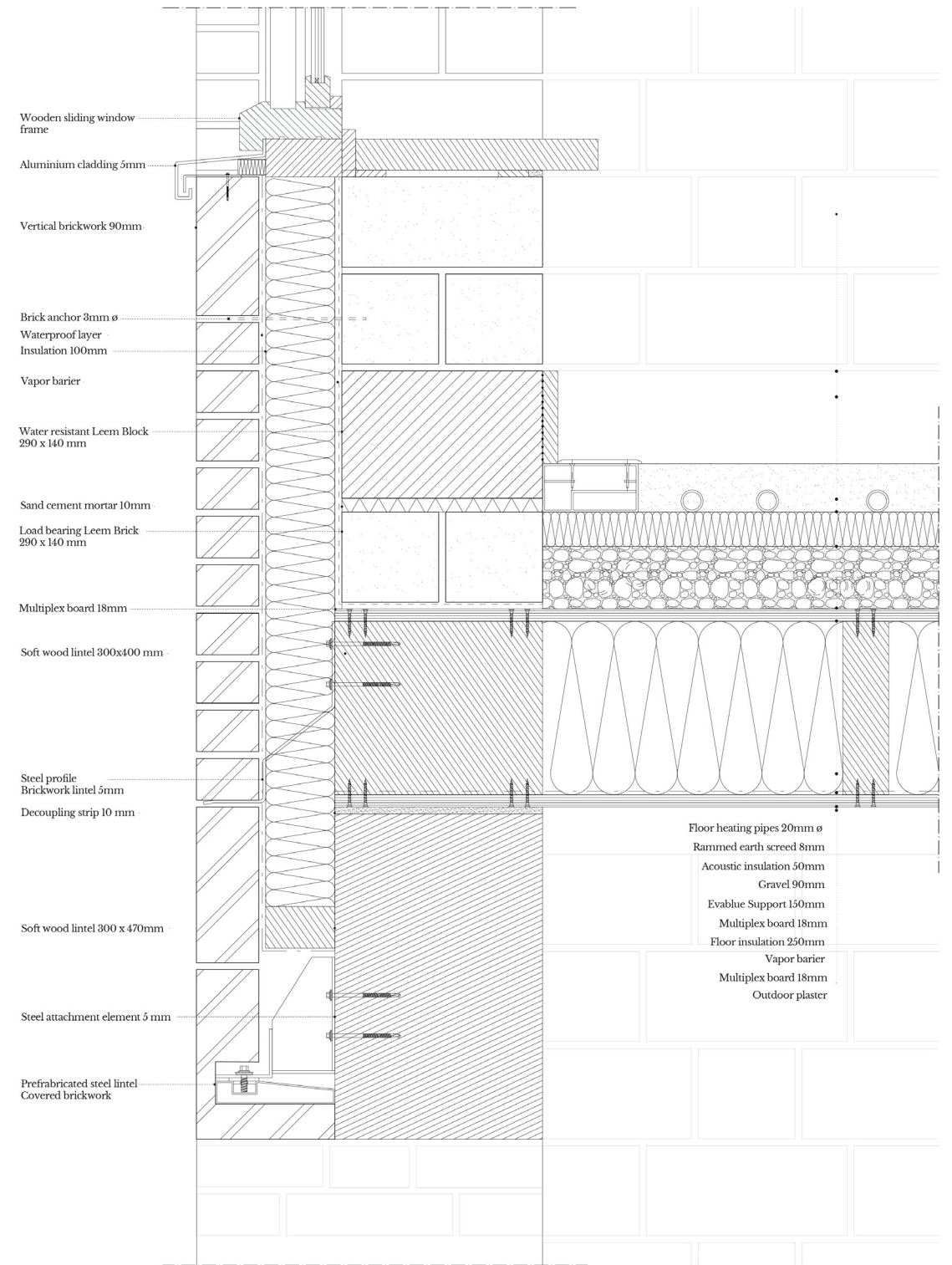


From Humus to Human



Roof detail 1:5

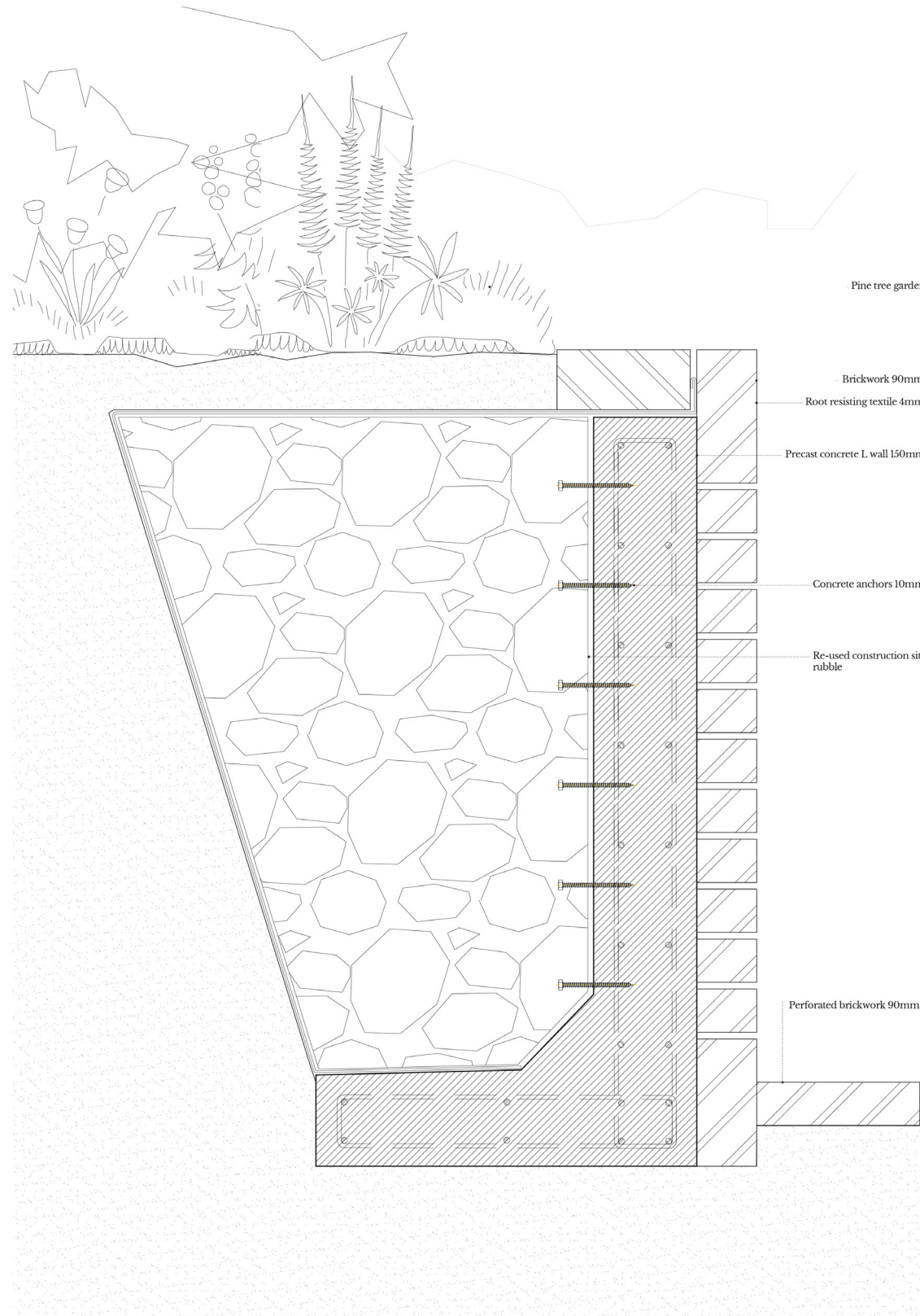
Nino Vogels



Flooring detail 1:5

Urban Architecture

From Humus to Human



Retaining wall detail 1:5



