



Reorganising Architecture

A new archive for the Flemish Architecture institute

Alessandra D'Acunto
P5 Presentation
Interiors Buildings Cities

Content

- I. Archives as a typology
- II. The VAI
- III. If not De Singel, where?
- IV. Synthesis

I. Archive as a typology

“The archive extends far beyond a mere repository of buildings. It gives access to ideas, positions, education, knowledge and images, and that across generations. It gives insight into the social context in which designs were created. At the same time, the archive shows alternatives. Archives are not repositories of truths but places of research. They are incubators of new ideas, breeding grounds for speculation about the future, ... Without research or interpretation, the archive has little meaning.”

Sofie de Caigny, former director, Flemish Architecture Institute | VAI

Maquette room, VAI



archive



CIVA's Archive, Bruxelles



archive - open archive - exhibition



Prats Nogueras Blanchard gallery,
Barcelona

archive - open archive - museum - house museum



Moore D. (n.d.). Sir John Soane's
Museum - Dome Area



Reproduction of the photo throughout
a model in scale 1:12,5

Exclusive Detour: Explore the Archives


Tags

[Collection]

[Rotterdam Architecture Month 2025]

What's behind the secure doors of the collection? Who decides what can go in there? Join the special Thursday Night Detour through the archives during Rotterdam Architecture Month and get to know the National Collection in a unique way.

5 June 2025 19:00 - 20:00



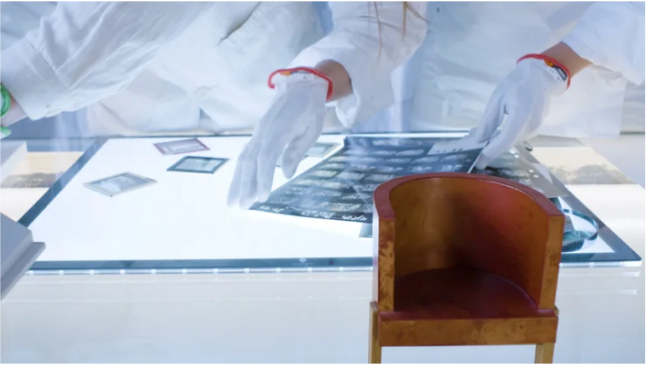
Detour through the collection. Photo: Nohely Koeyers

The Collection

every day 13-15

📍 Hall 2

Unboxing – explore the ArkDes Collection




Every afternoon, ArkDes curators showcase never-before-seen items from the museum's collection.

From the Arkdes website

The Collection

Digitisation of the ArkDes Collection



Learn about how we are working to digitise our collection. It's a continuous, long-term endeavour to preserve the collection for the future and make it accessible to the public.

archive - open archive - digitalisation

Unfolding the Archives

In the Unfolding the Archives series, the Flanders Architecture Institute exhibits major pieces, hidden treasures and striking discoveries from its collection. It enriches contemporary architectural themes with a historical dimension, shows newly acquired archives to visitors for the first time, or elucidates prominent figures or moments from architectural history.

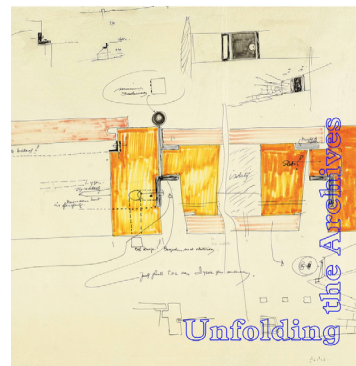


Unfolding the Archives #1

The first edition starts at the beginning. The Flanders Architecture Institute became a collections management organisation in 2018. This transition was seized upon as an opportunity to launch a major assimilation campaign. During the inventorying and processing of the archives, beautiful, unexpected and sometimes moving documents came to light. The exhibition brings together a wide range of documents: drawings, diaries, sketches, musings and letters, offering an insight into the richness of the collection.

Moreover, the project shows the path travelled by an architectural archive: from the collection of the artefacts (in sometimes challenging circumstances) to carefully considered and in-depth processes, to its opening up to a wide audience. A unique glimpse behind the scenes of the archive.

[READ MORE](#)



Unfolding the Archives #2 Juliaan Lampens

For the second edition of **Unfolding the Archives**, the Flanders Architecture Institute draws on the oeuvre of Juliaan Lampens (1926-2019). Based on a selection of unique archive pieces, the exhibition offers an unprecedented insight into this architect's working method.

[READ MORE](#)



Unfolding the Archives #3 Bataille & ibens

The third episode in the series *Unfolding the Archives* shines the spotlight on interior architects Bataille & ibens. The exhibition takes 'detail' as its starting point and, in so doing, offers a new perspective on the oeuvre of the famous designer duo.

[READ MORE](#)



Unfolding the Archives #4 Construction Firms

In the fourth instalment of *Unfolding the Archives*, we immerse you in the world of construction firms. The exhibition introduces you to the construction industry and how it changed since the end of the nineteenth century. With hidden treasures from the archives of construction firms, we offer you a glimpse behind the scenes of the building process.

[READ MORE](#)



Unfolding the Archives #5 Diarama

For the fifth edition of *Unfolding the Archives*, the Flanders Architecture Institute presents a selection of diapositives from its collection. Some 35,000 slides – depicting architectural practice in all its facets – were digitised as part of a special project in 2021. The interactive exhibition *Diarama* allows visitors to make their own changing slide collages.

23.06.2022-11.09.2022

[READ MORE](#)



Unfolding the Archives #6 Marcel Raymaekers, pioneer in circular architecture

How do contemporary designers look at building practices from the past? For this sixth edition of the exhibition series *Unfolding the Archives*, Rotor, UGent and the Flanders Architecture Institute take you into the world of designer Marcel Raymaekers (b. 1933).

06.09.2023-17.03.2024

[READ MORE](#)

From the VAI website

II. The VAI

Flemish architecture institute



Flemish Architecture institute’s
locations in Antwerp





International Arts Center De Singel,
Antwerp

V&A Offices inside the campus



III. If not De Singel, where?

Competition for the reconversion of the Sint-Hubertus church, Bovenbouw

0 2 km

Flemish Architecture institute's locations in Antwerp





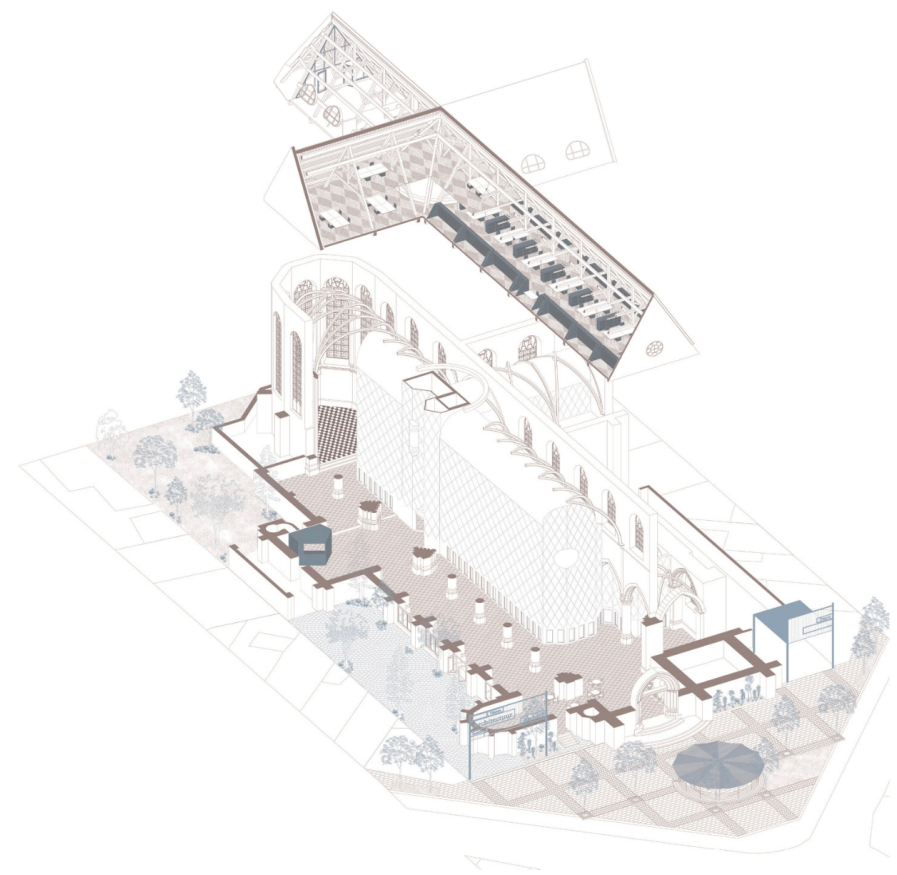
St. Hubertus kerk, Berchem, Antwerpen



Low threshold entrance







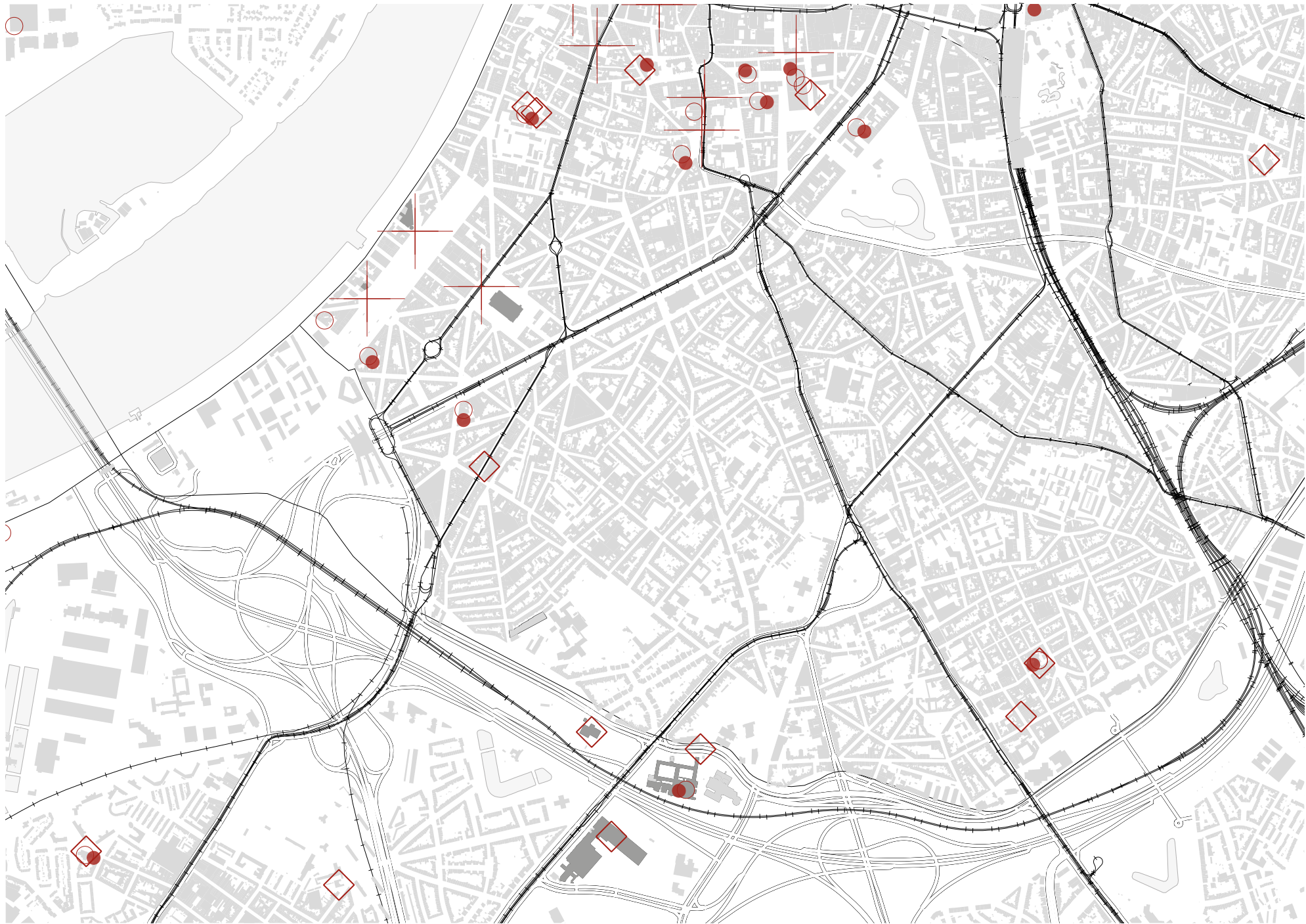
Inner courtyard as an entrance



Competition for the reconversion of the
Sint-Hubertus church, Bovenbouw

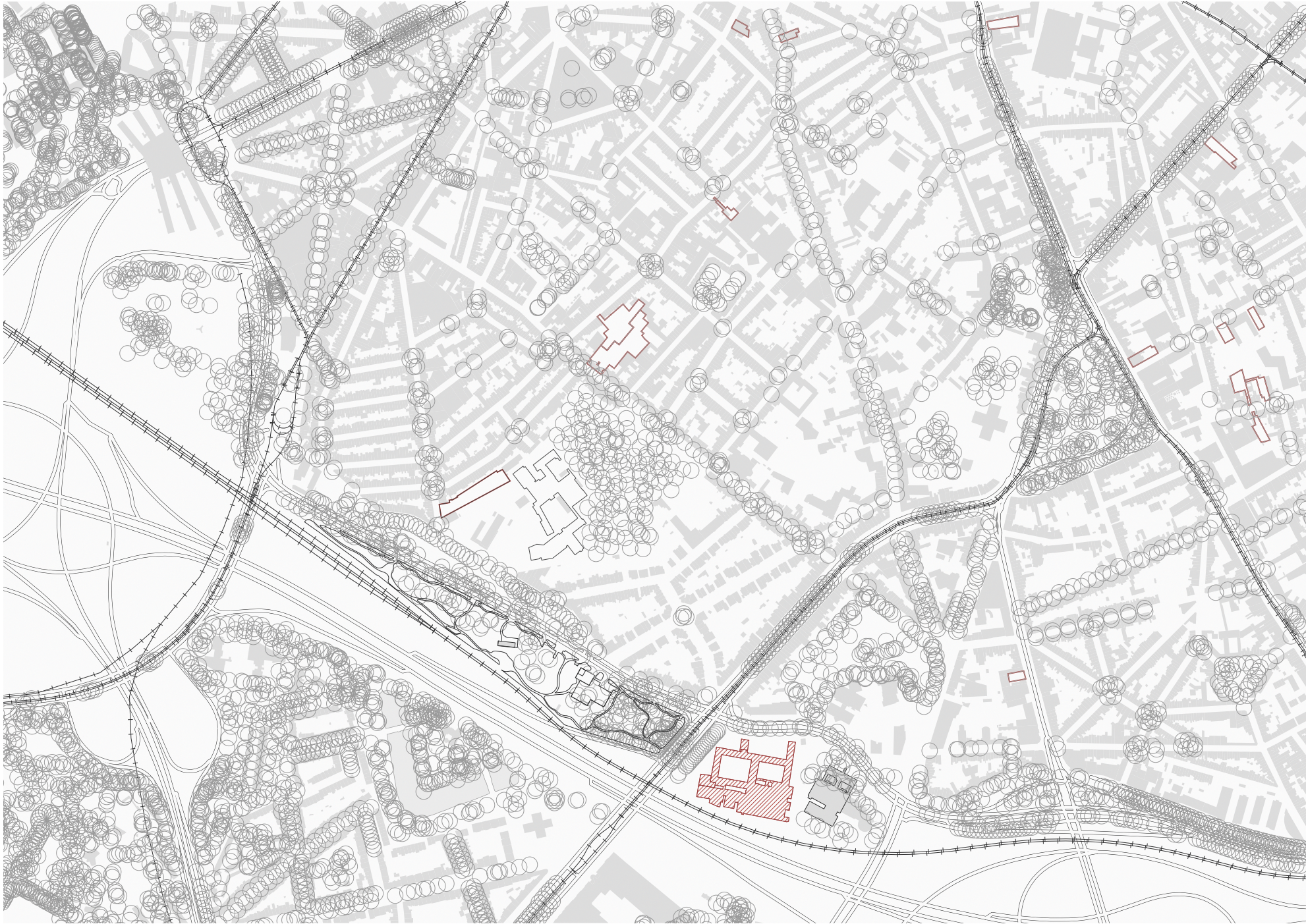


- Legenda
-  museum
 -  culture
 -  theatre
 -  concertal

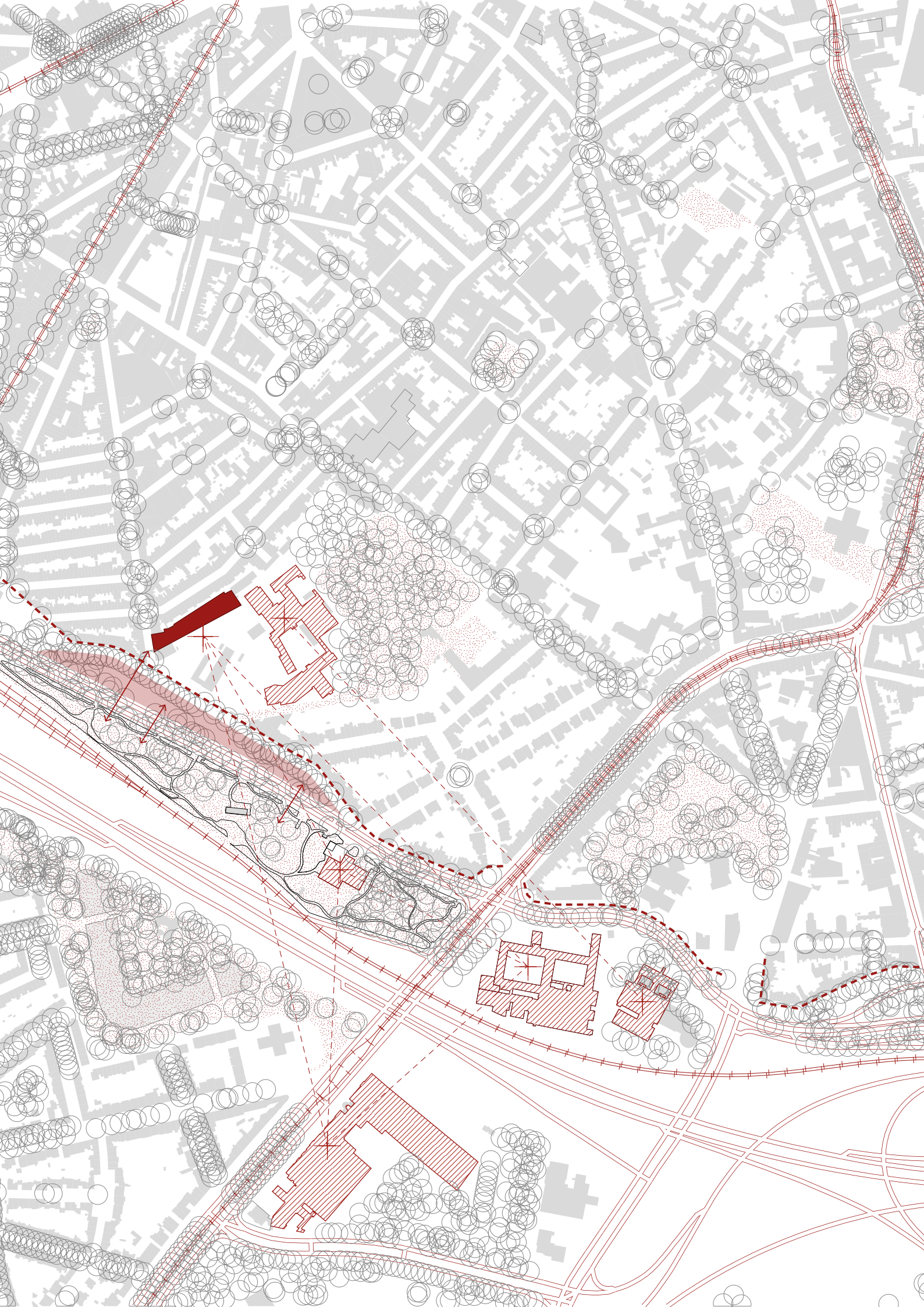


Culture
Antwerp





Empty Buildings in the nearby of De
Singel



View from the BP-building, Antwerp



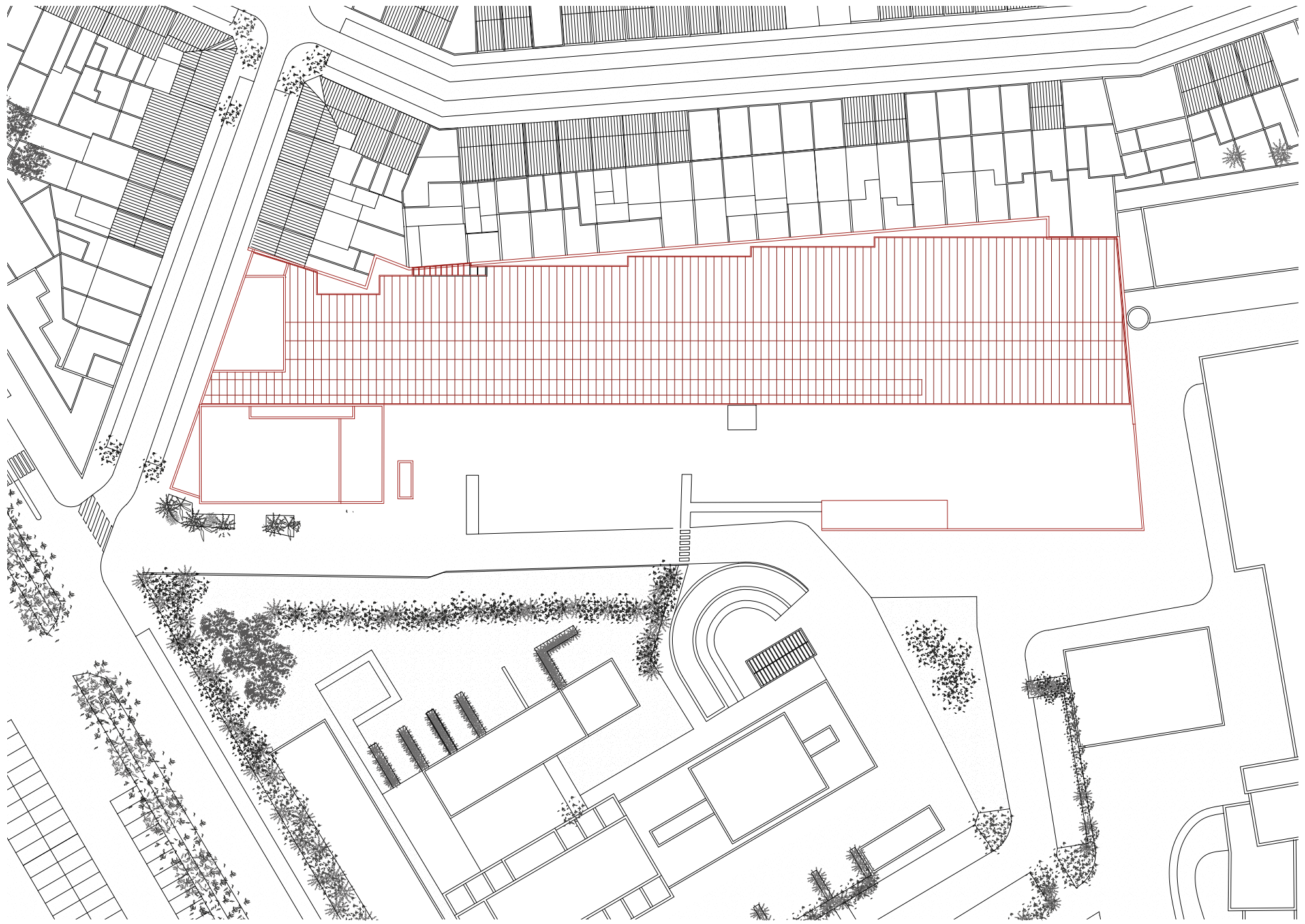
Lange Elzenstraat 123, Antwerpen



© Stadsarchief Antwerpen
www.felixarchief.be

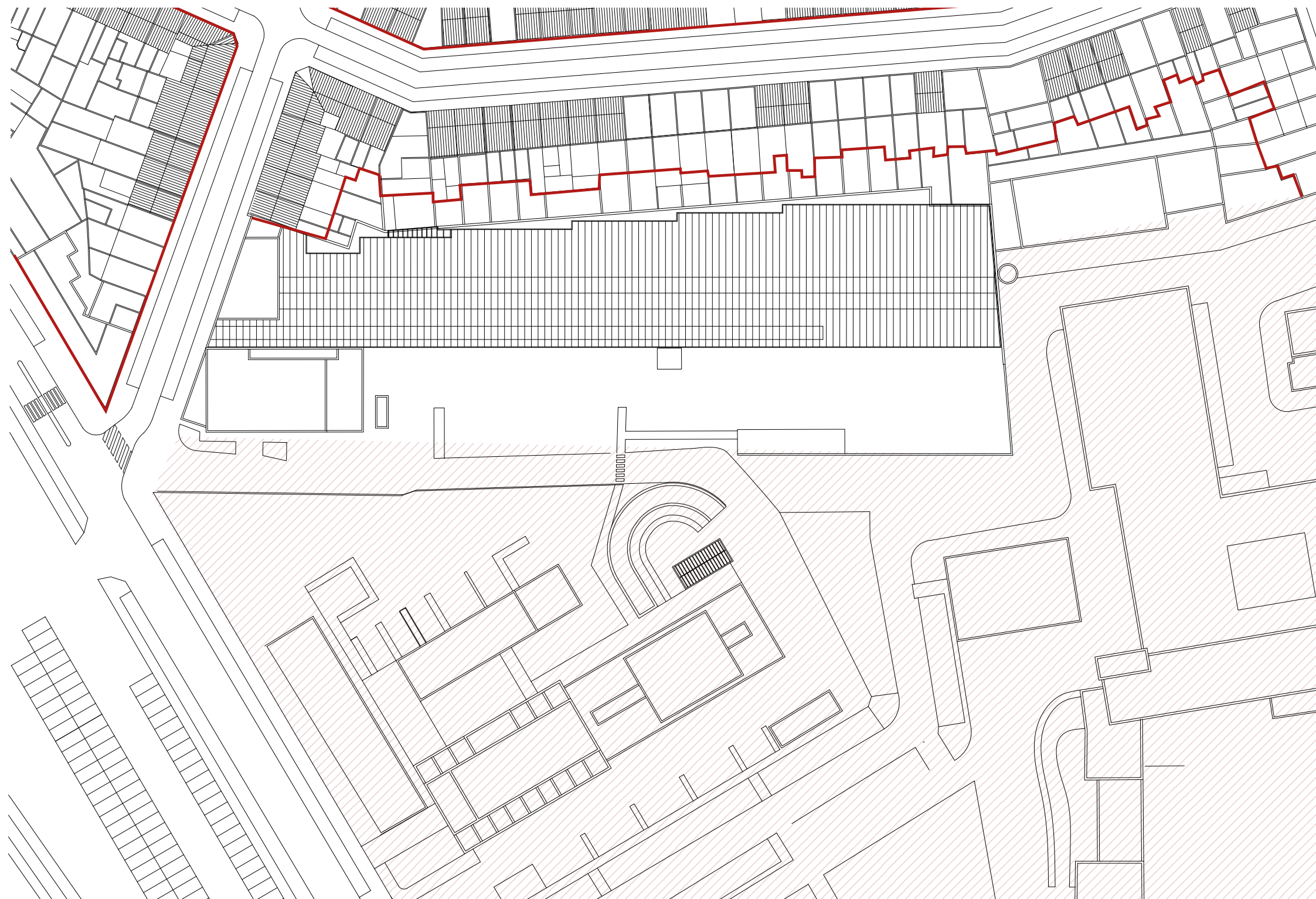
1936
Lange Elzenstraat 123, Antwerpen

from the Felix Archive



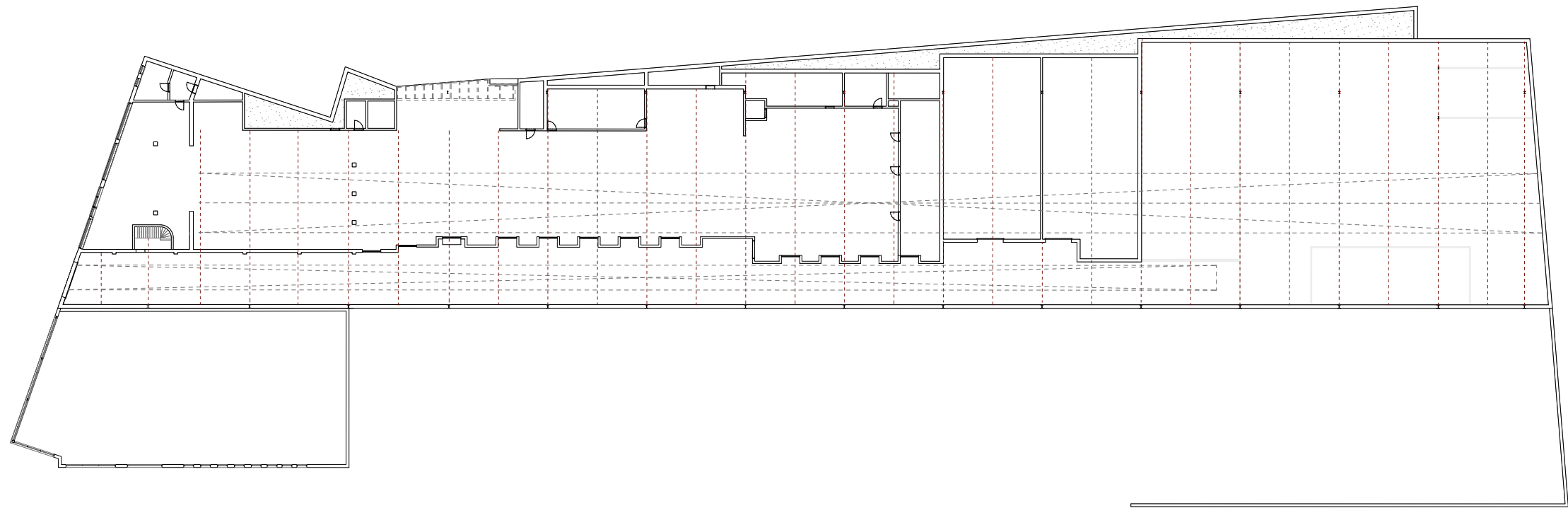
Lange Elzenstraat 123, Antwerpen
Current Situation





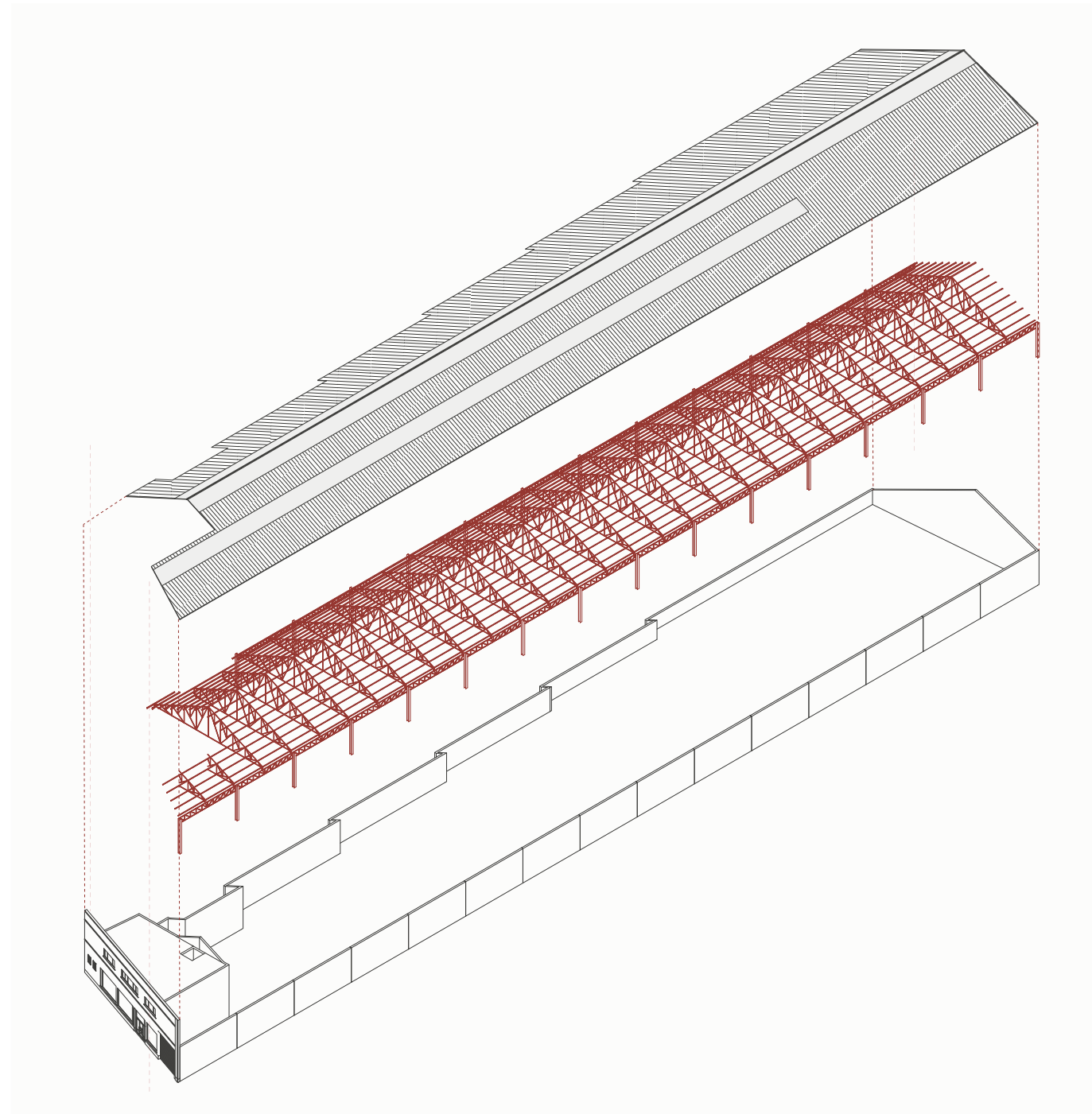
Analysis of the context





Lange Elzenstraat 123, Antwerpen
Current ground floor plan



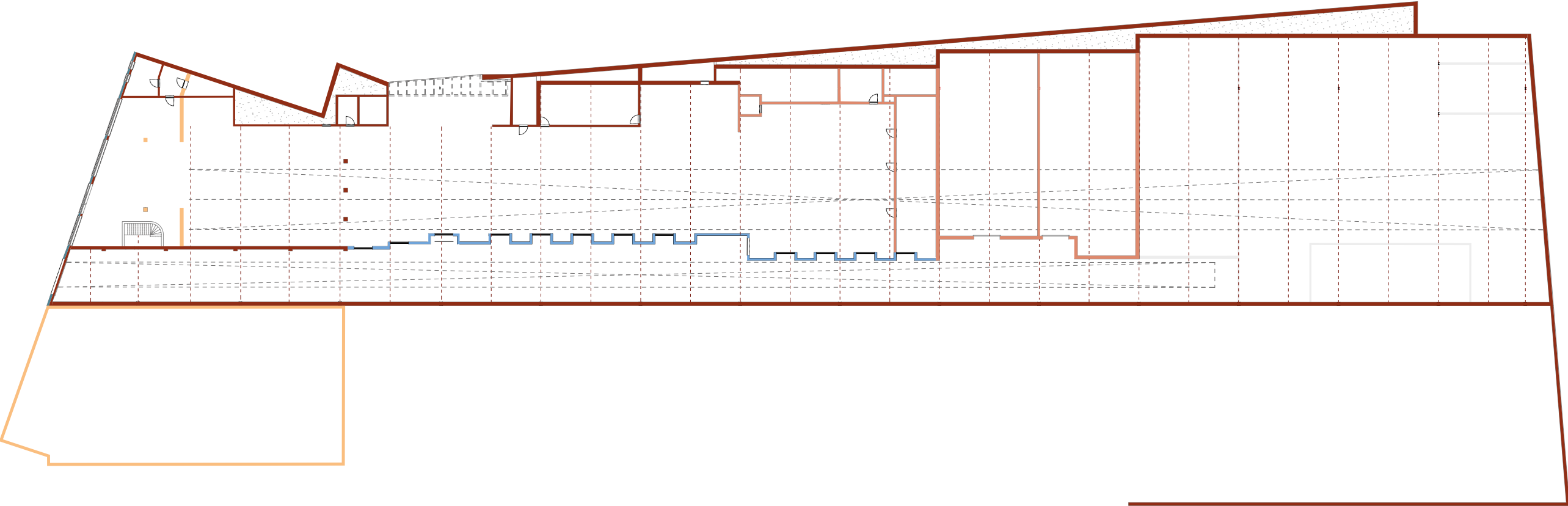


Axonometric view of the current
state



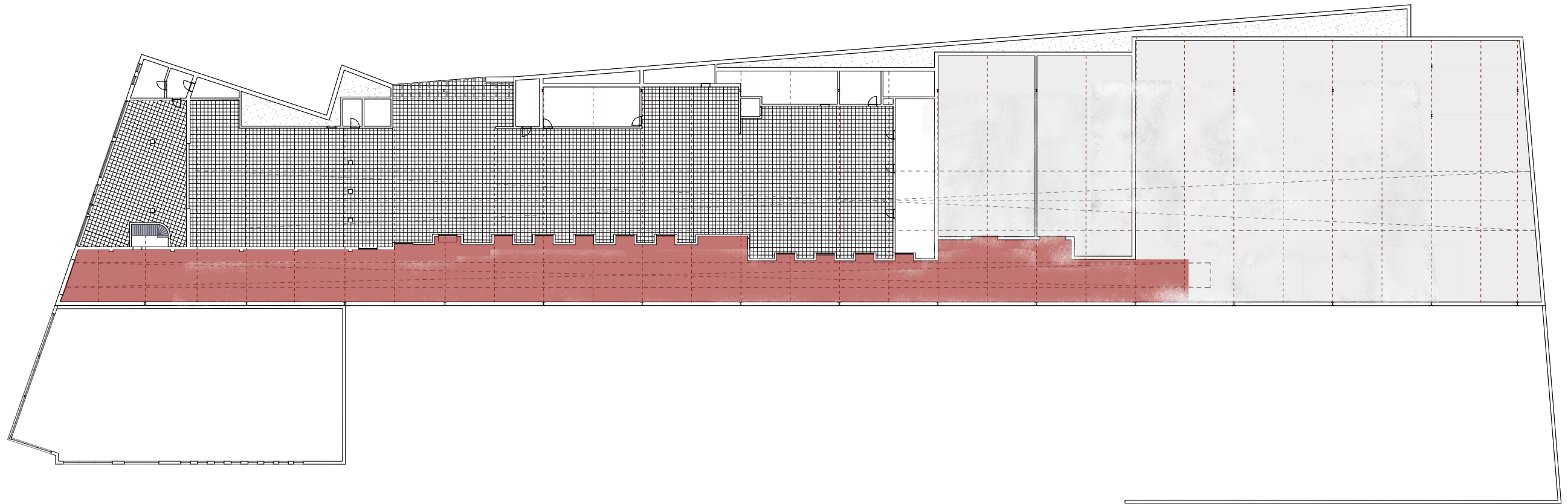
Under the shed

- bricks
- concrete blocks
- clay blocks
- concrete



Lange Elzenstraat 123, Antwerpen





Lange Elzenstraat 123, Antwerpen

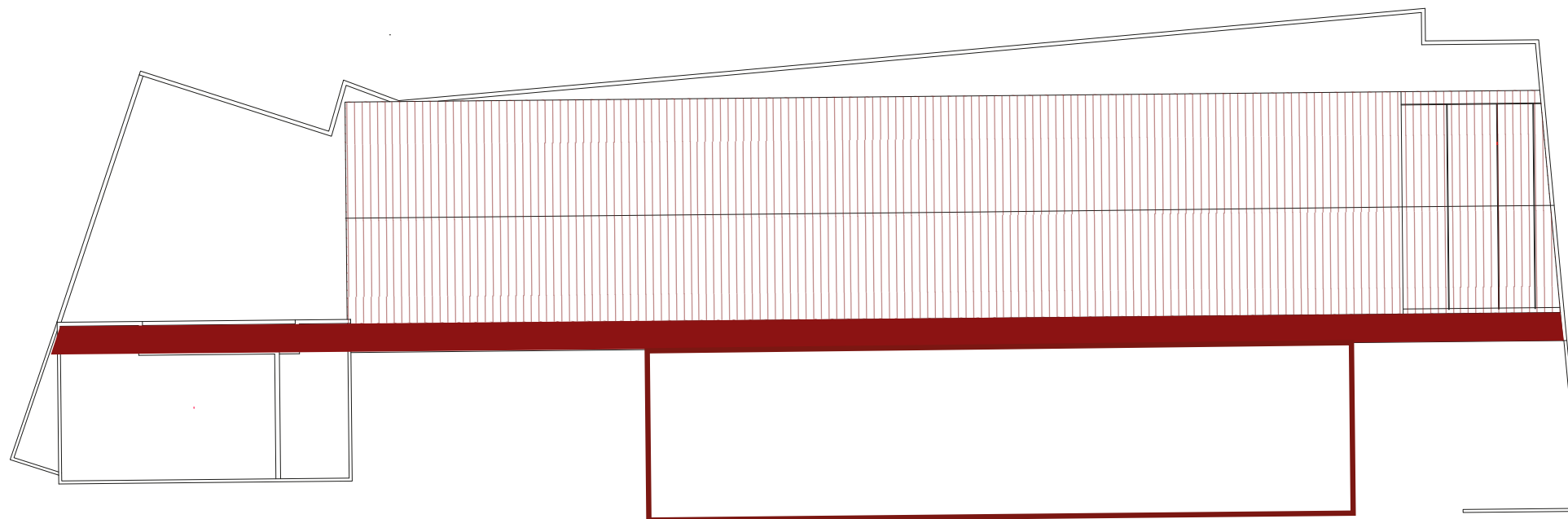




The back of the shed

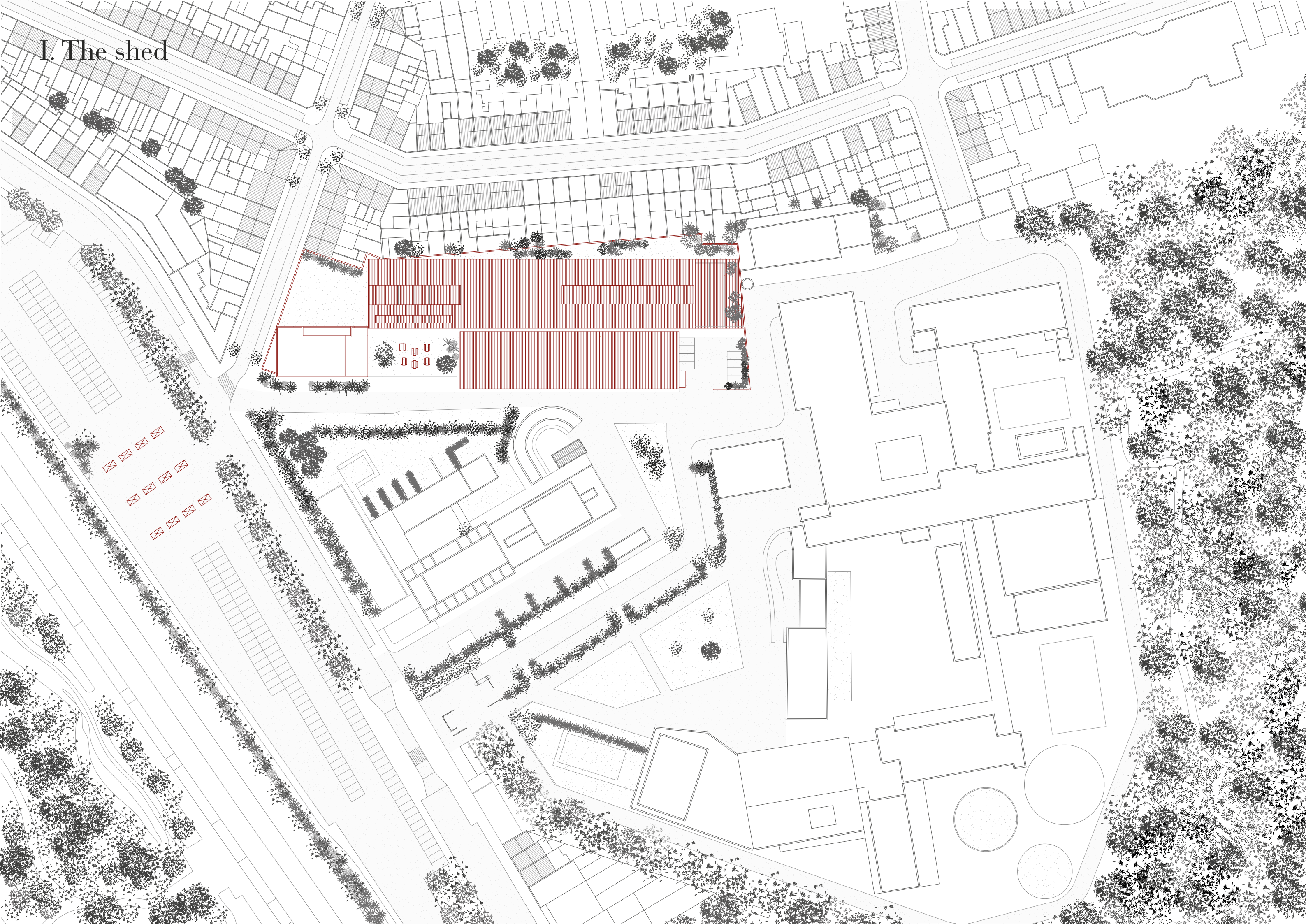
IV. Syntesis

- I. The Shed
- II. The Corridor
- III. The Archive
- IV. The Courtyards

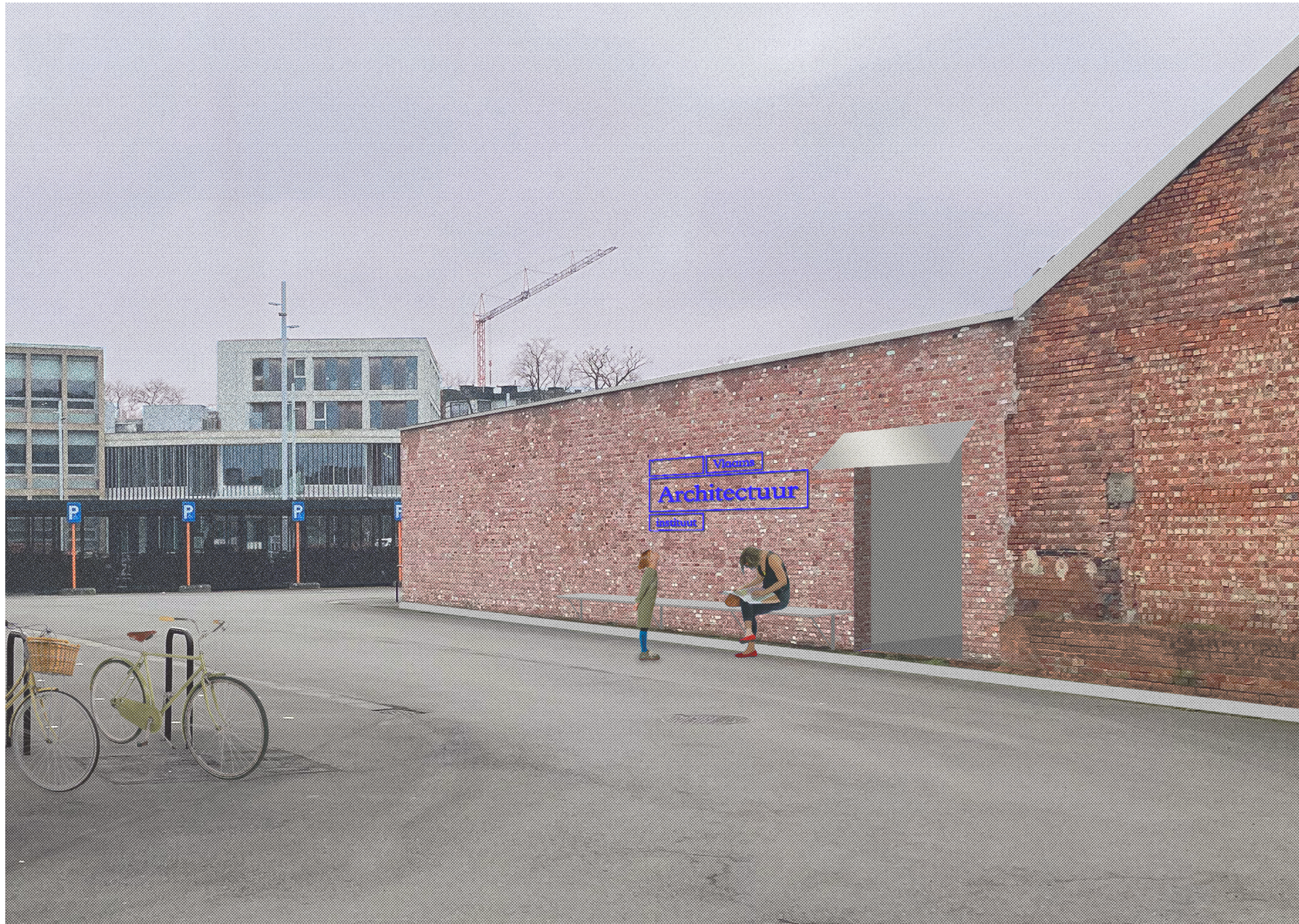


The four elements

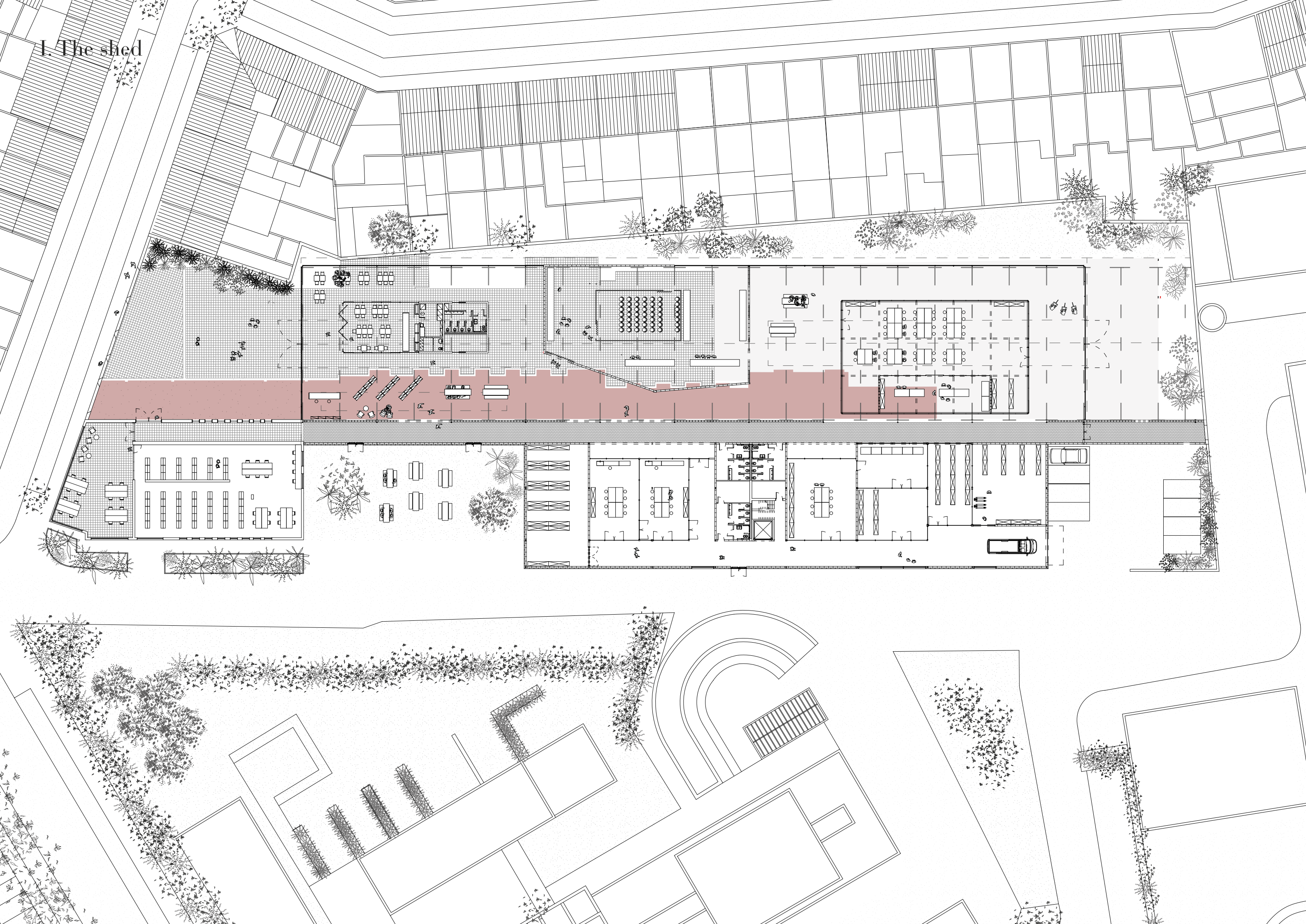
I. The shed

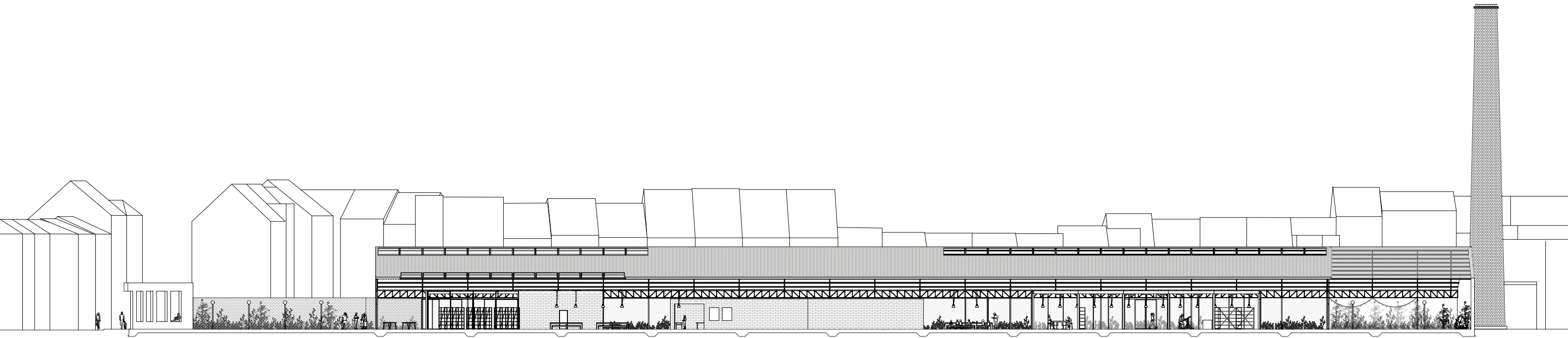


I. The shed

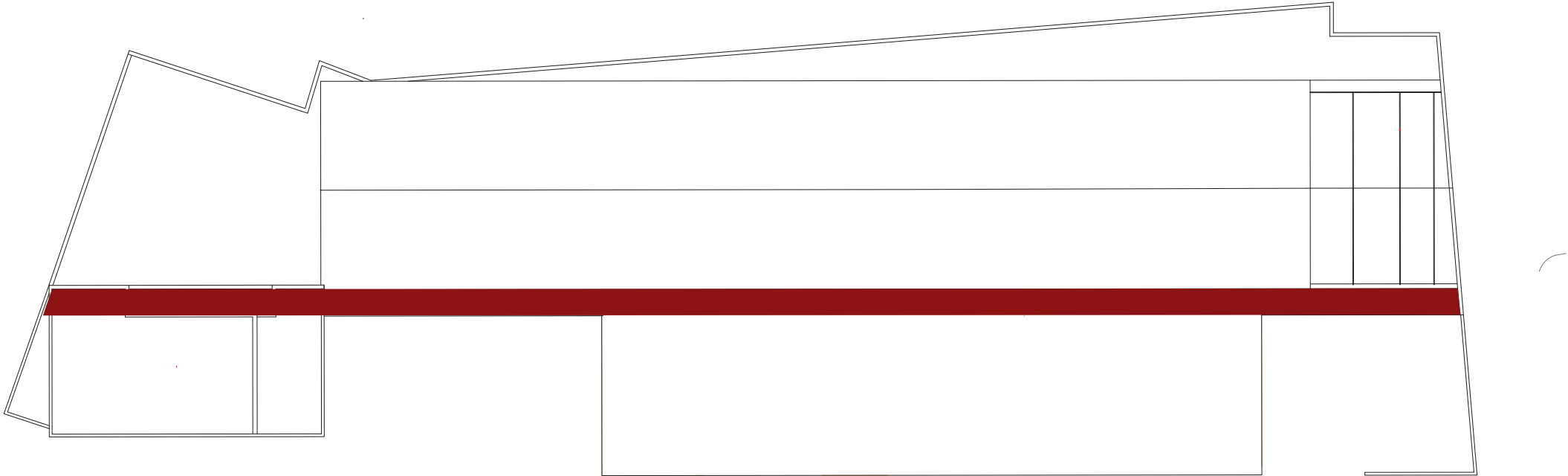


I. The shed



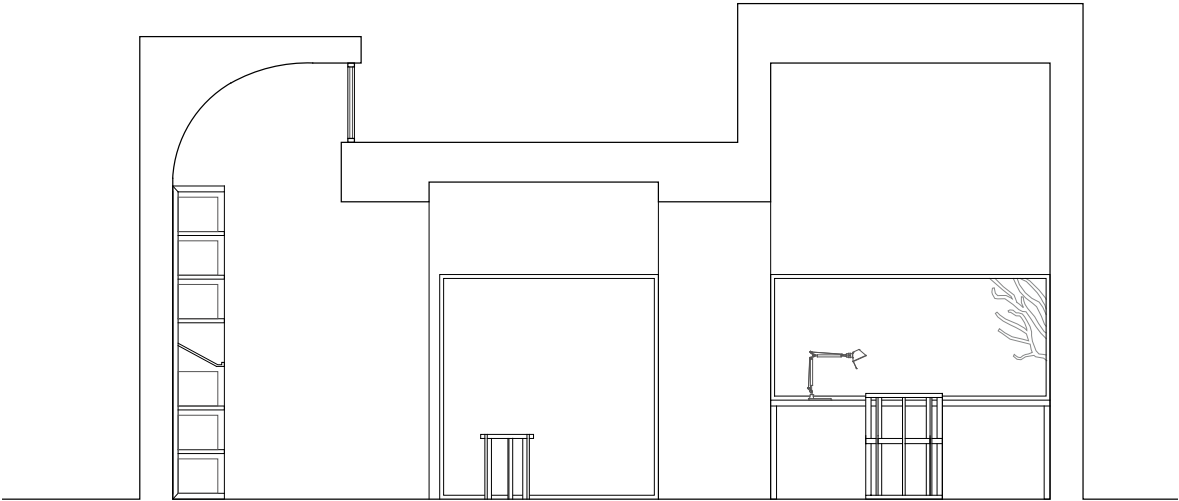
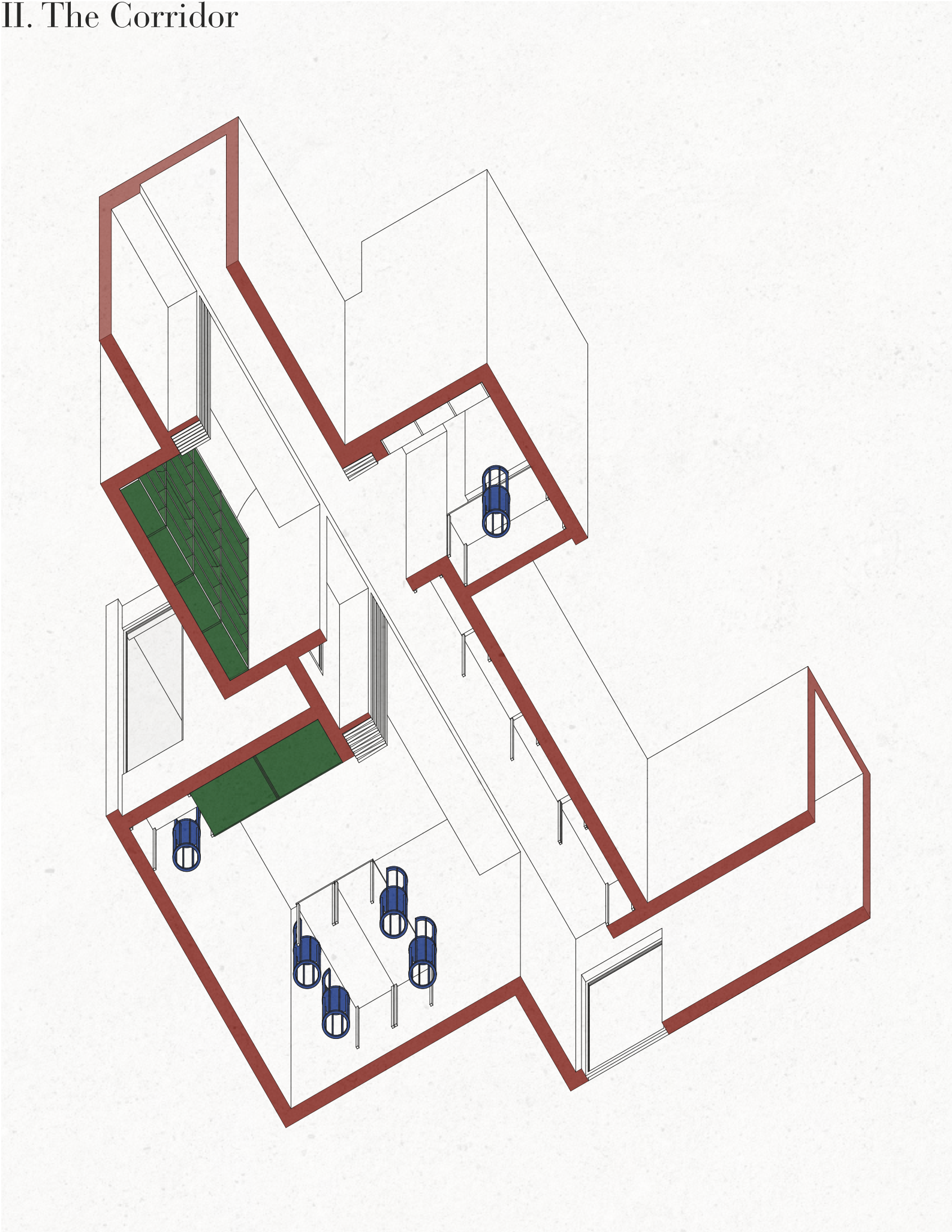


II. The Corridor



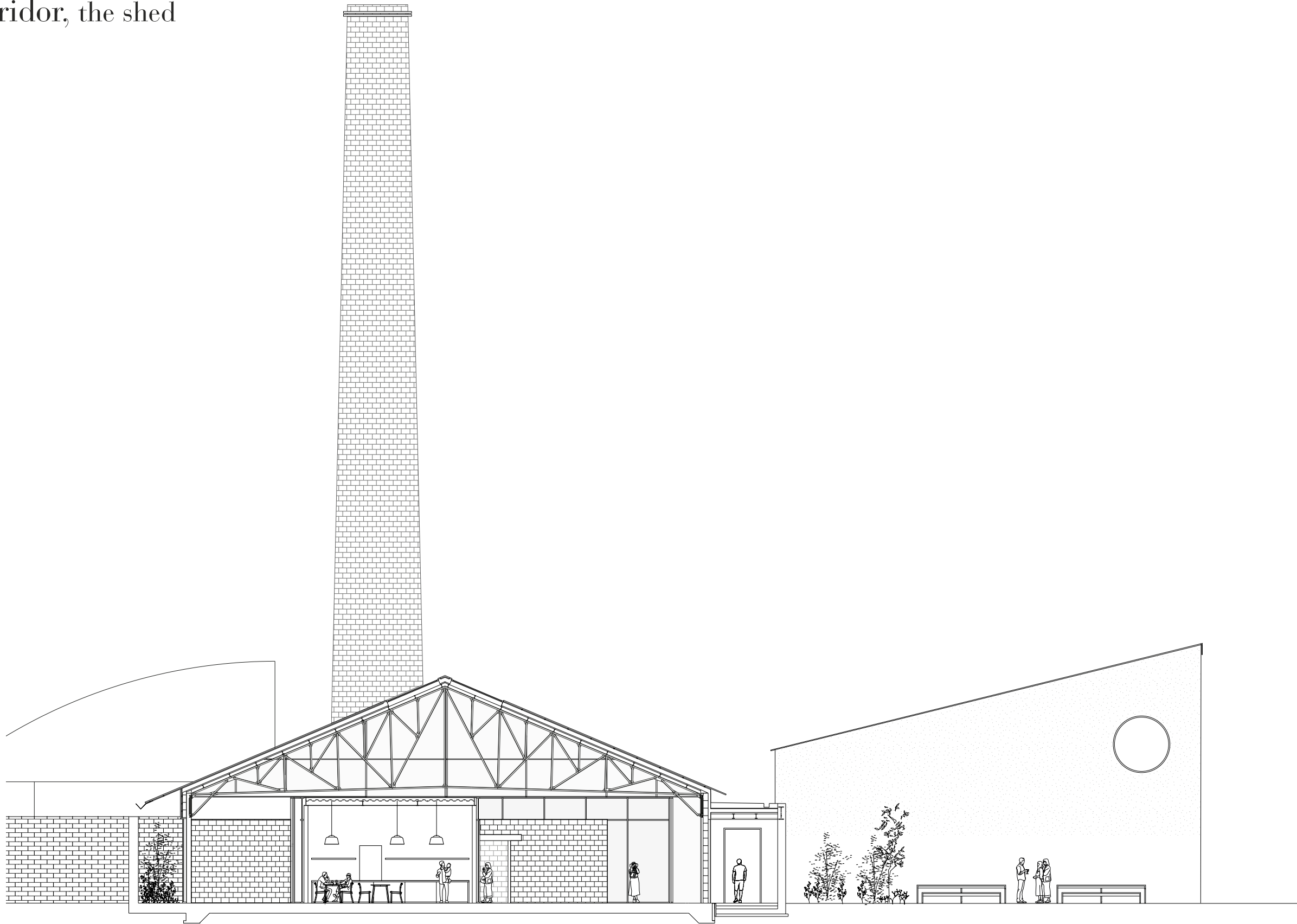
Corridor as a negotiation element

II. The Corridor



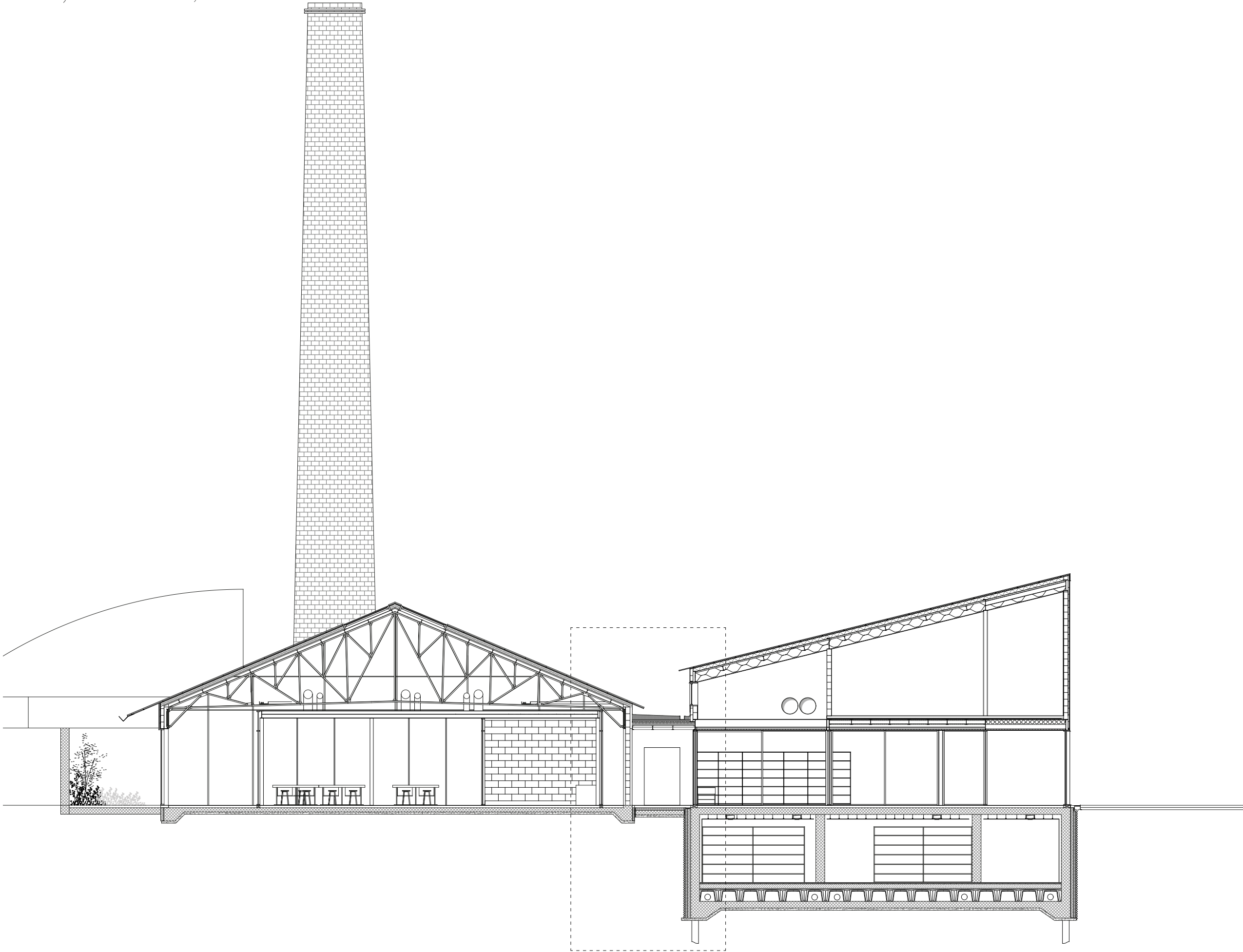
Room for an archive
Reflection on the domesticity of the spaces
and the corridor as a expanding space

II. The Corridor, the shed

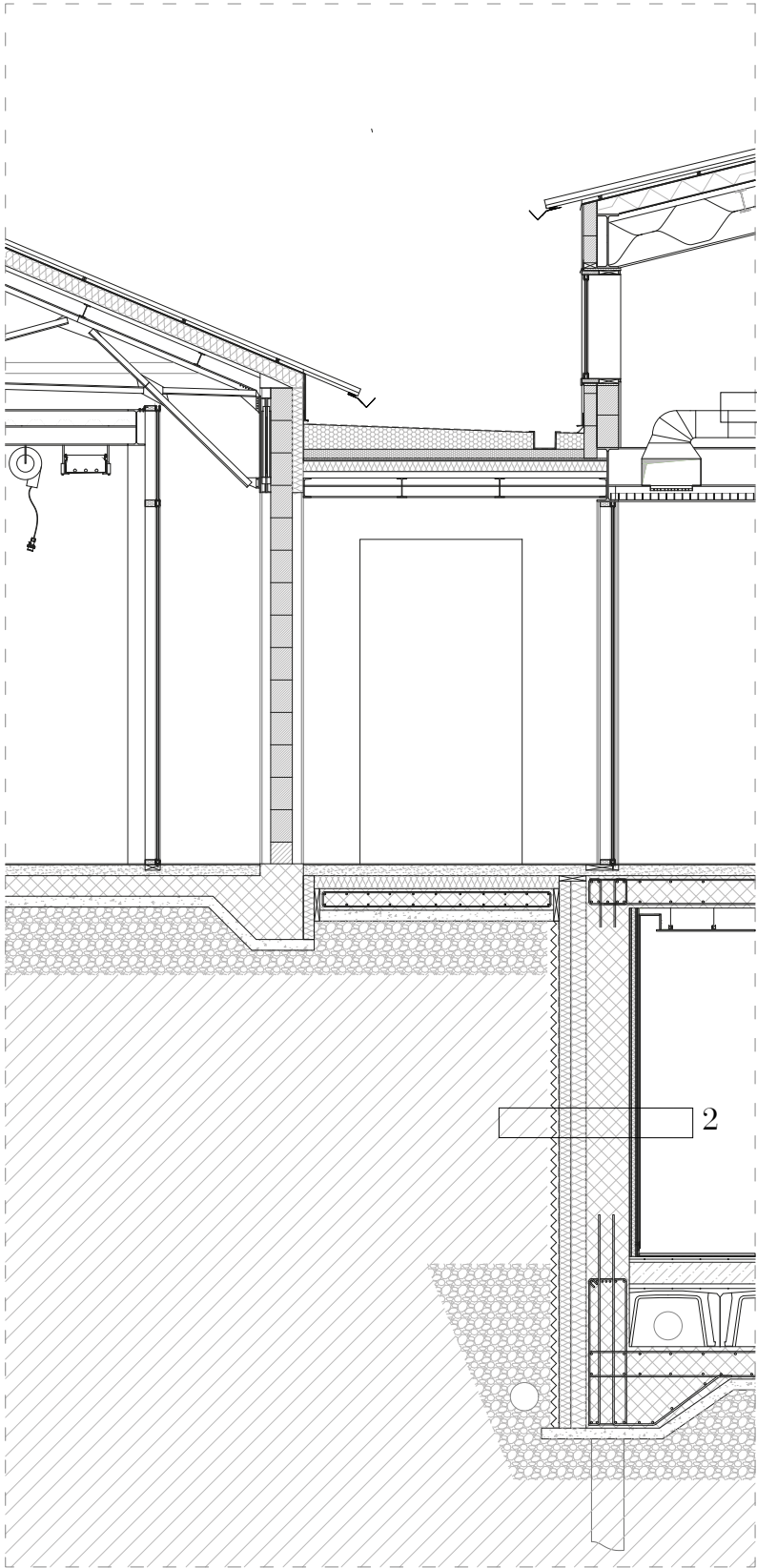


Interaction between the shed and the corridor

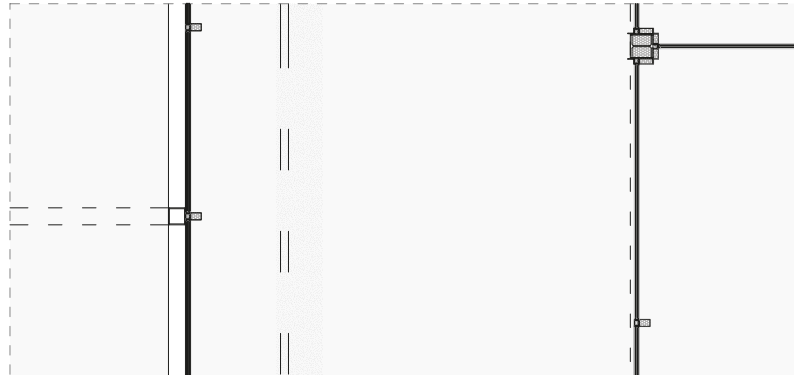
II. The Corridor, the archive, the shed

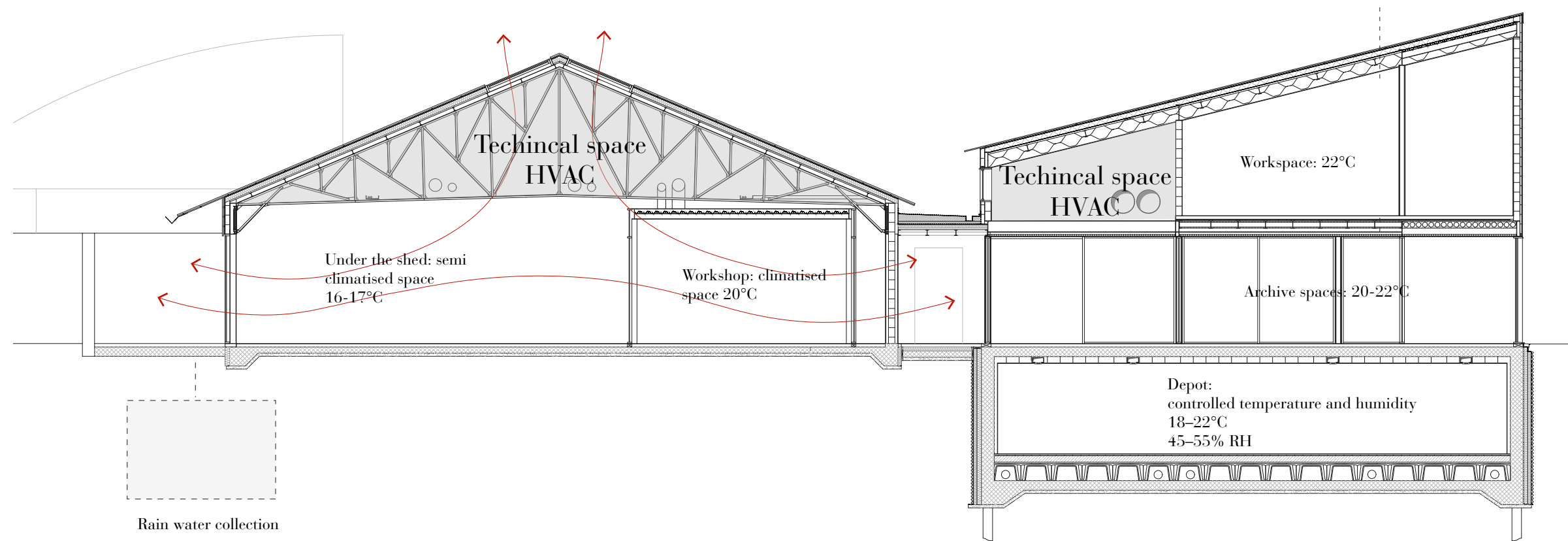


II. The Corridor



- 1
mineral render
hemp blocks as infill and insula-
tion
PCS natural interior plaster
- 2
dry wall
hemp fiber insulation panels
reinforced concrete structure
hard insulation
waterproof membrane
root barrier



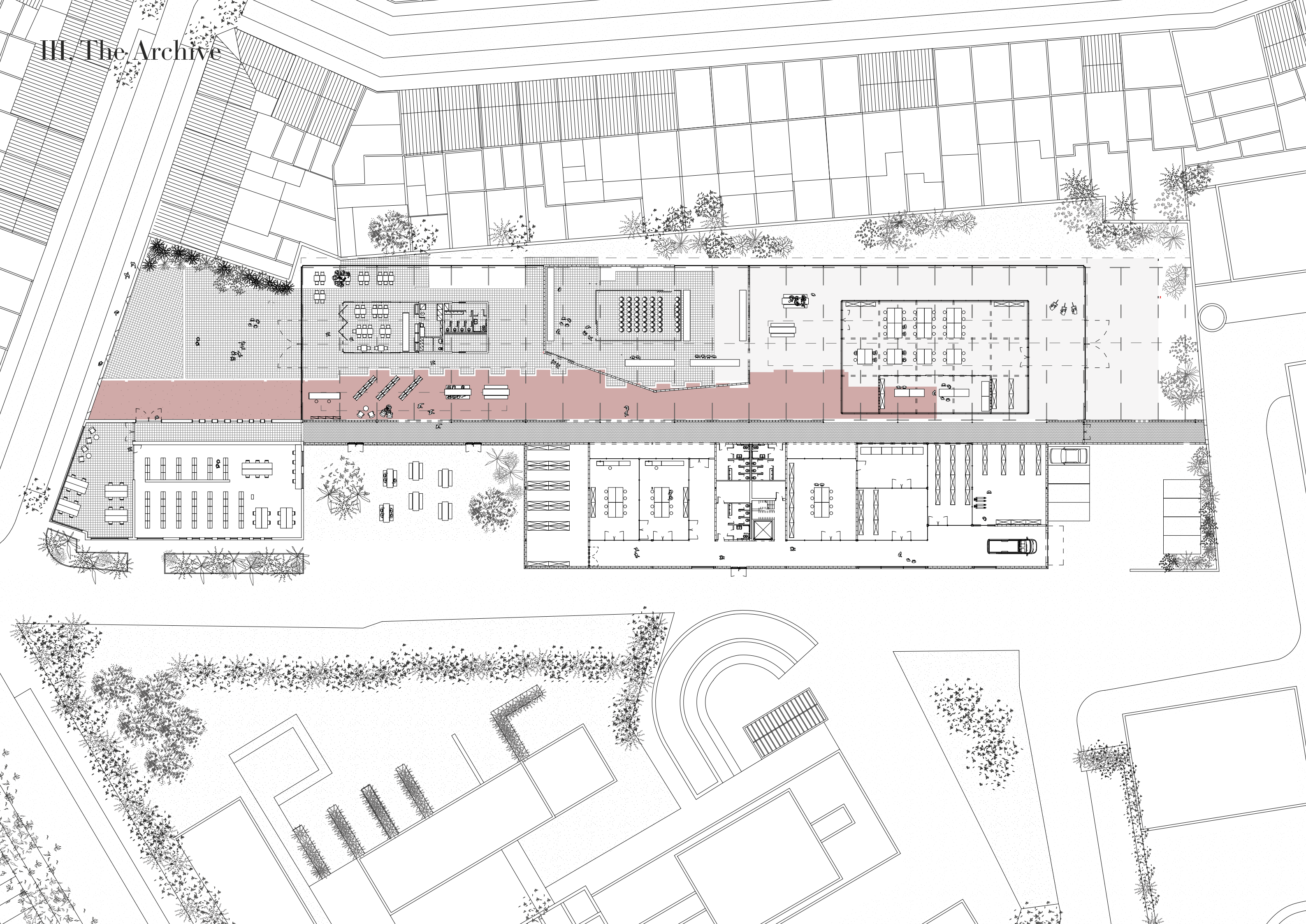


Climate diagram

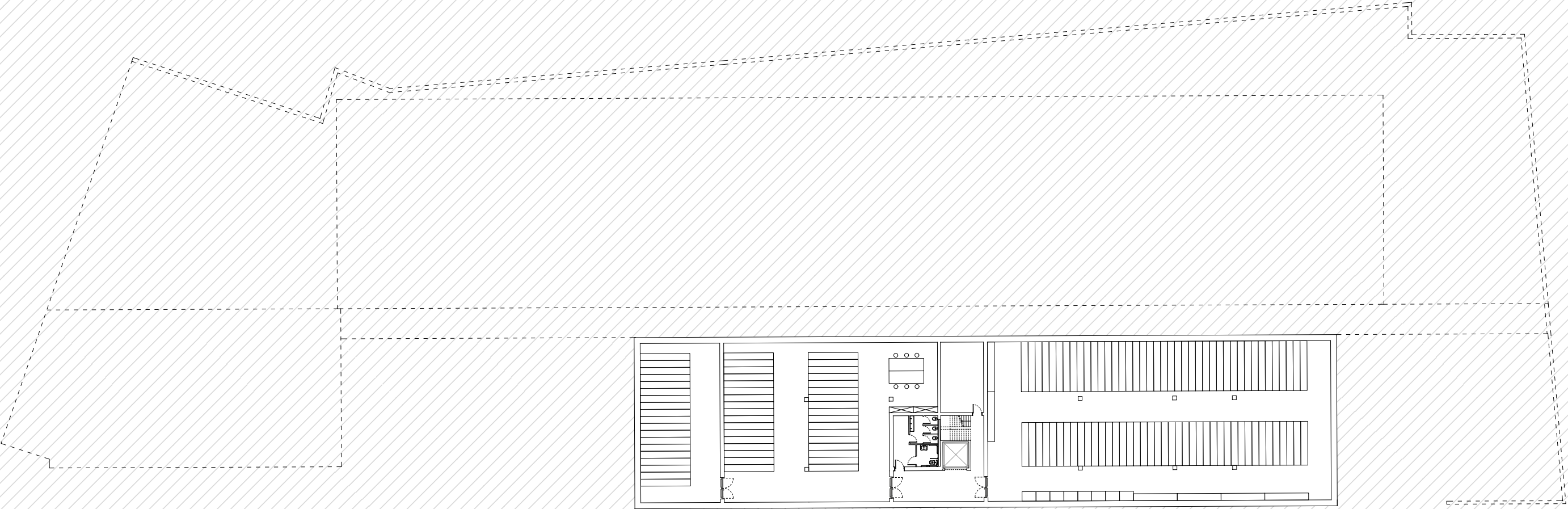
III. The Archive



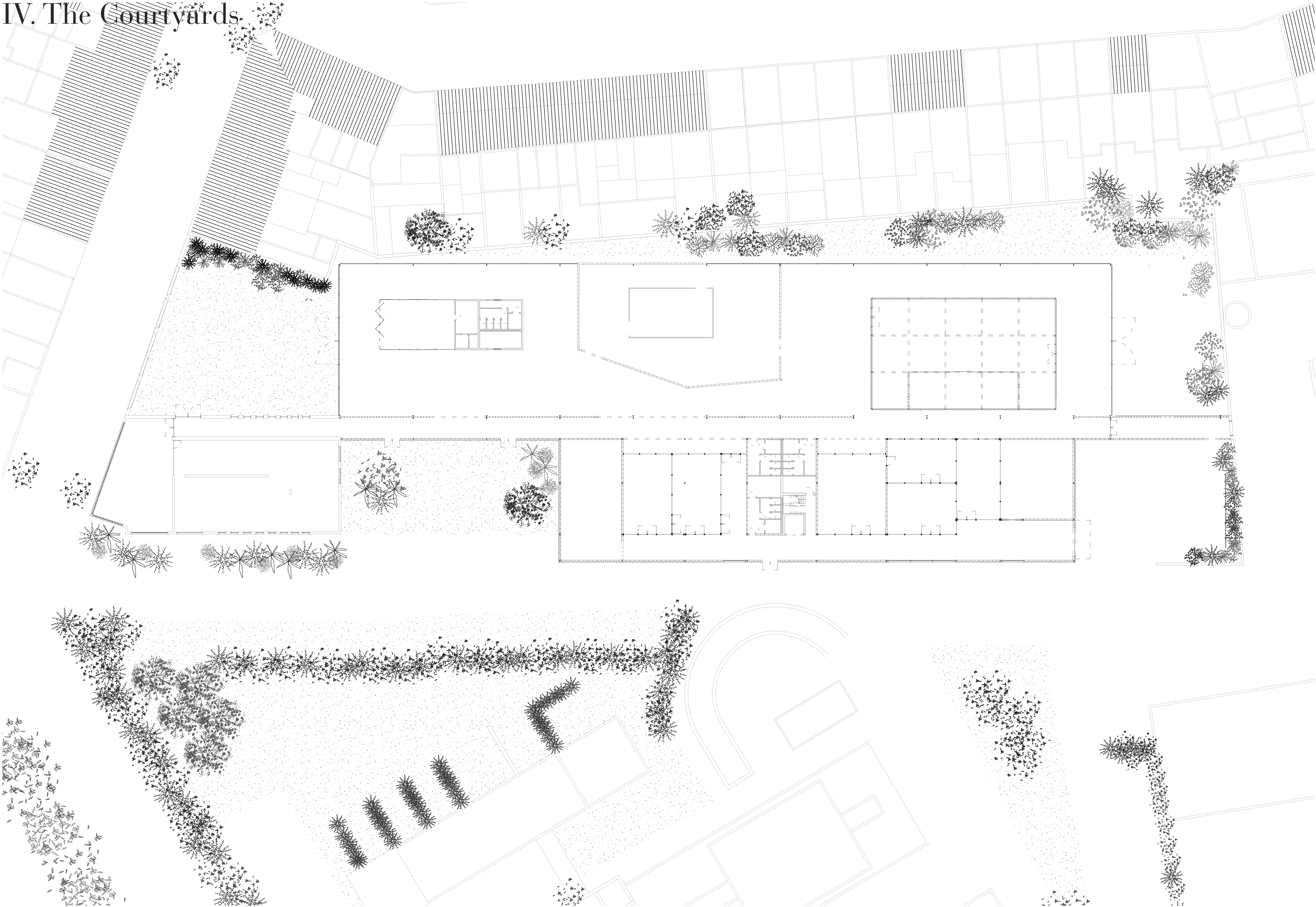
III. The Archive



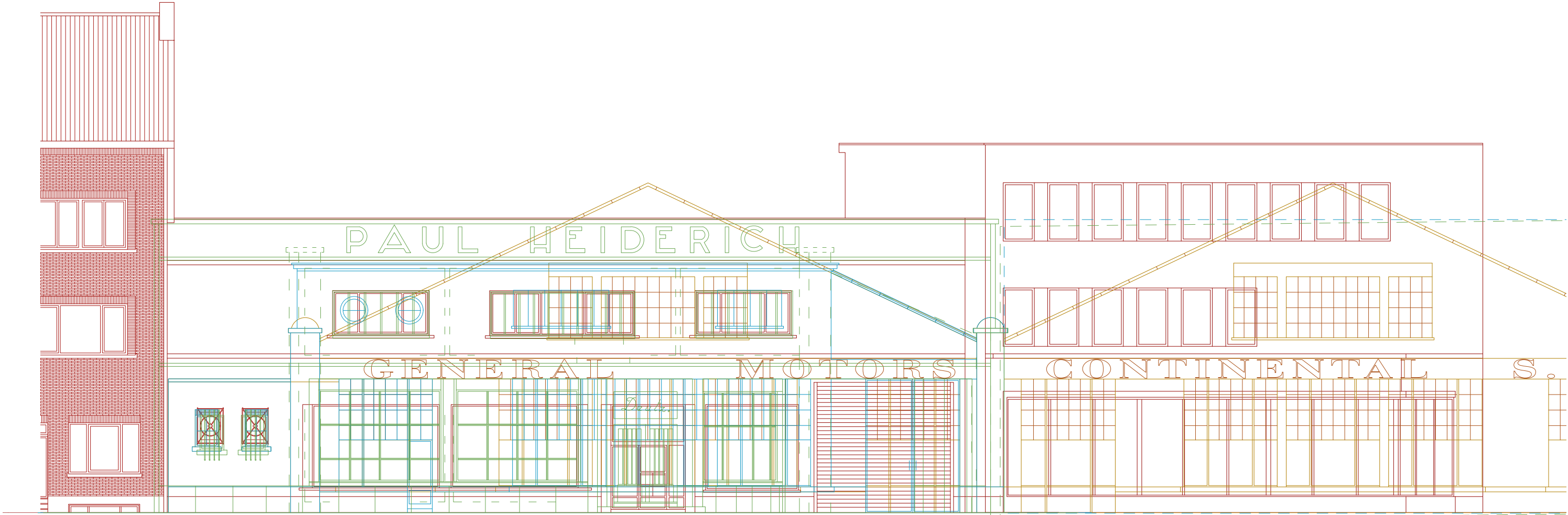
III. The Archive



IV. The Courtyards

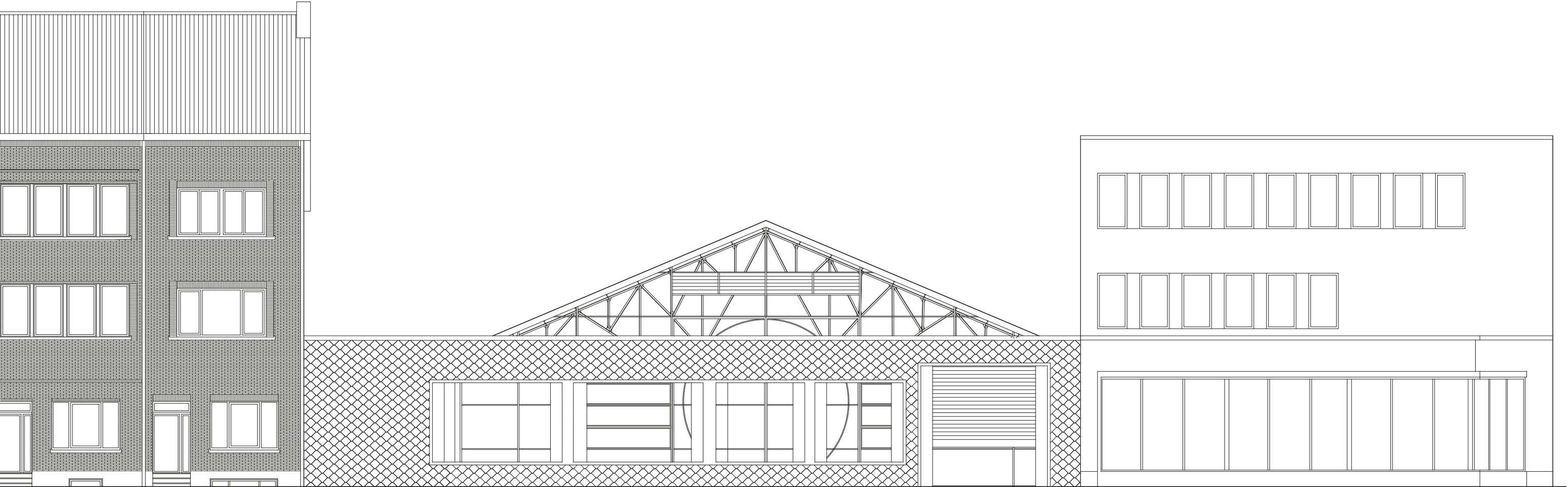


IV. The Courtyards



Facades overlapping

IV. The Courtyards



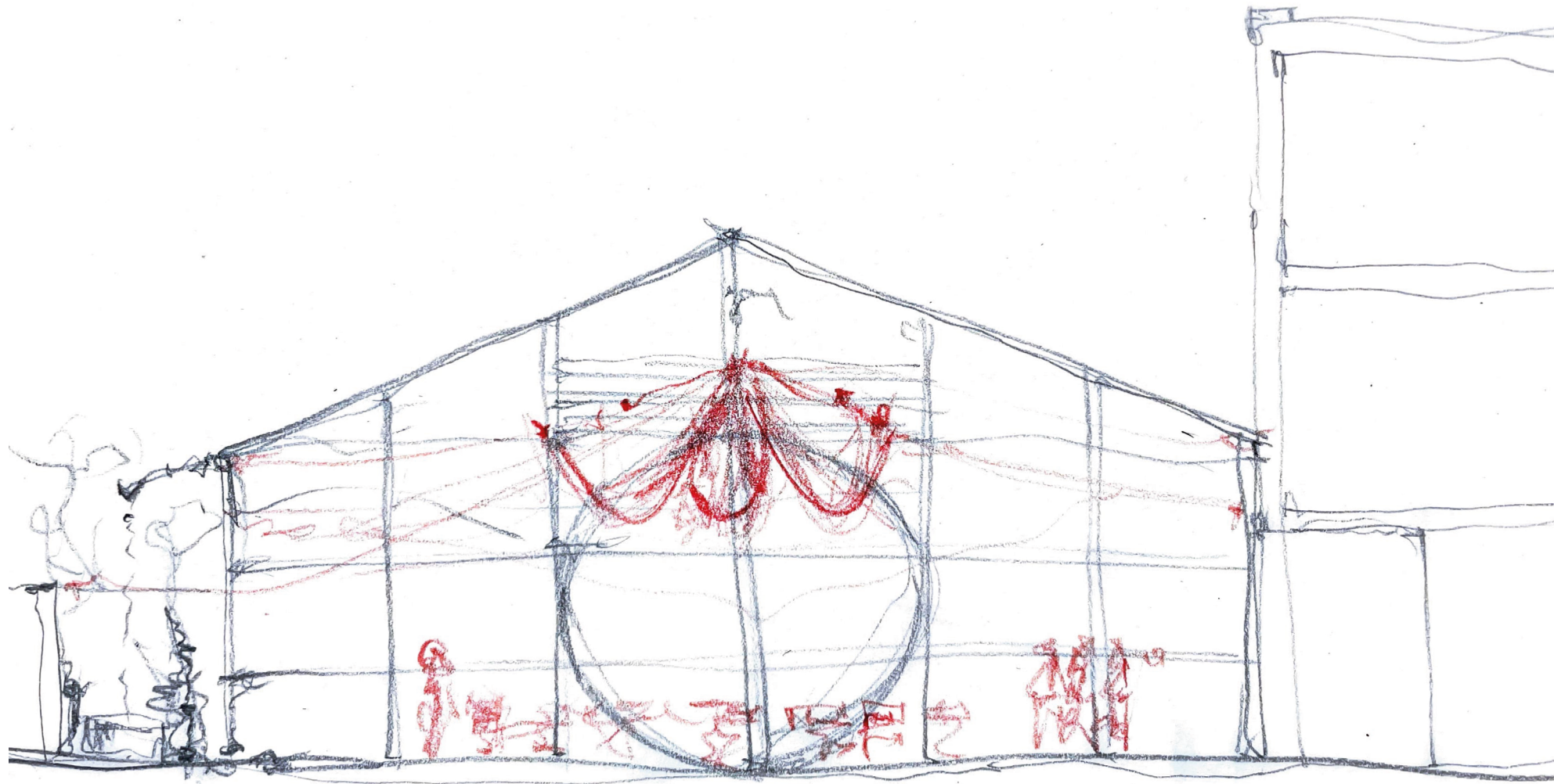
Facade's proposal

IV. The Courtyards



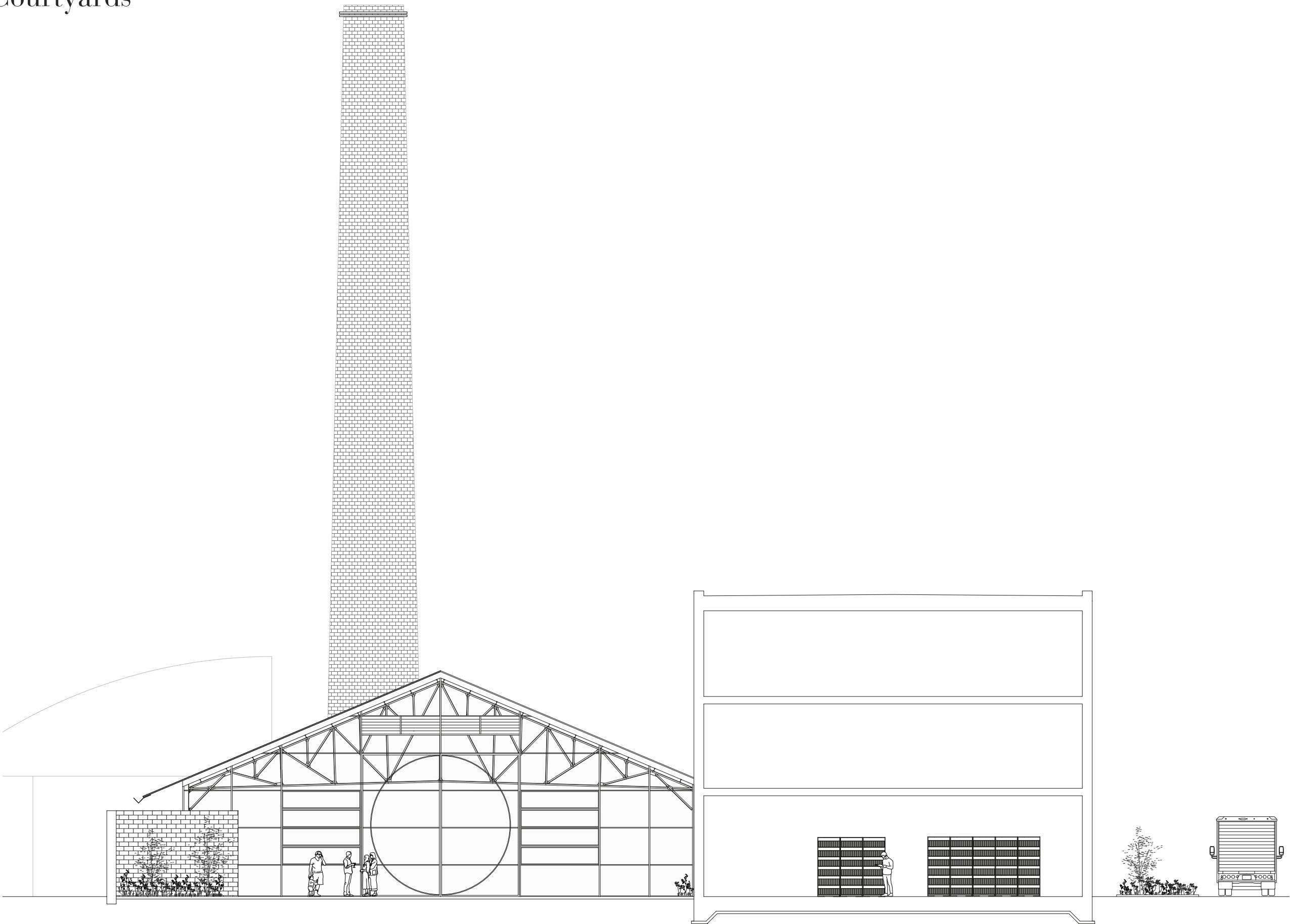
A permeable facade as a gathering
opportunity

IV. The Courtyards

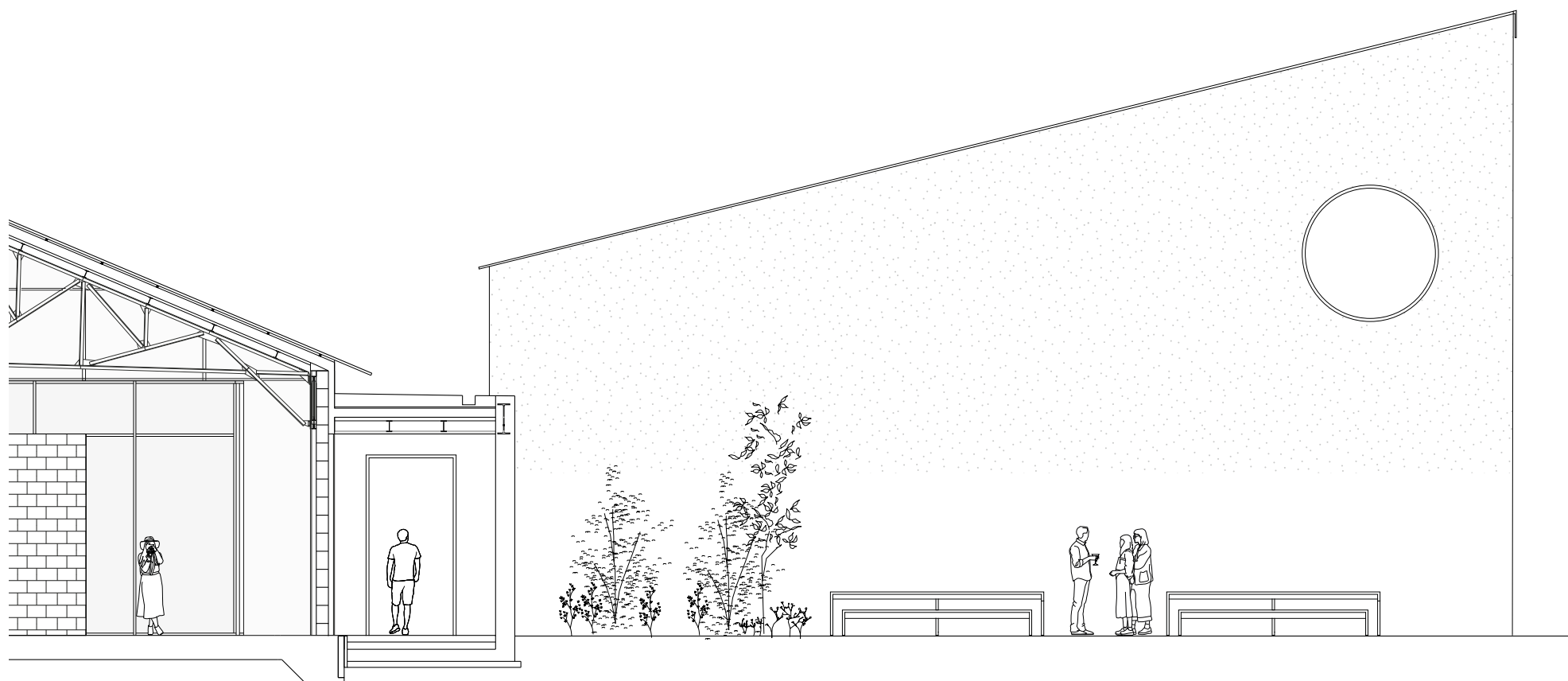


An open theatre

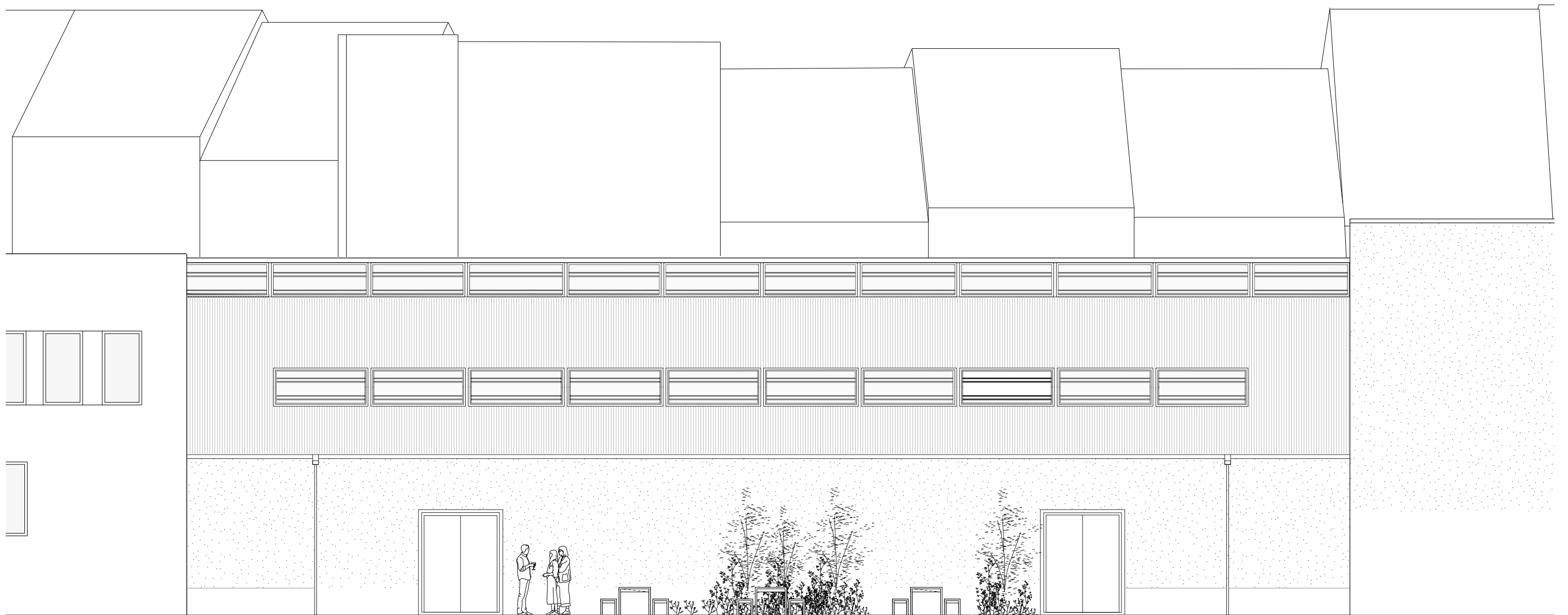
IV. The Courtyards



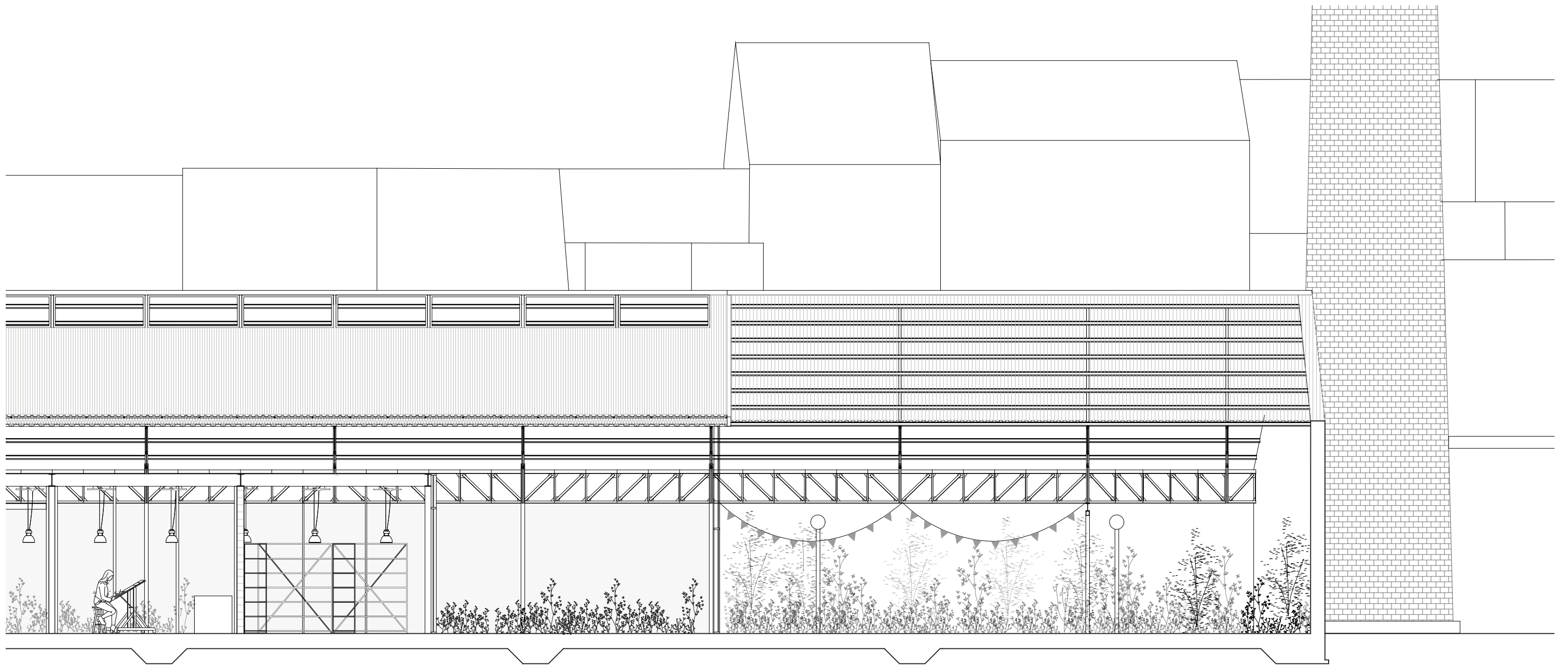
A courtyard as a moment of tran-
sition



A courtyard to create a relation
with the School and the companies



A courtyard to create a relation
with the School and the companies



A more intimate courtyard



A more intimate courtyard

