MOBILITIES OF EQUALITY

HOW TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE CAN ACT AS A SPATIAL EQUALIZER

Deimjanas Gološčiapovas 6283853
AR4AP120 Public building studio
Supervisors: Stefan Witteman, Stefano Corbo

HISTORY OF EXTRACTION

HISTORY OF EXTRACTION



The state, ExxonMobil, EBN

363 billion euros generated for the goverment treasury

2.246 billion m3 gas extracted

Local residents

267.466 damage reports

11.880 adresses deemed unsafe to live in

Higher constant stress, lower health and distrust in goverment

(Tweede Kamer der Staten-Generaal, 2023)

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

NEW OPPORTUNITIES



(Provincie Groningen, 2024)

POST GAS GRONINGEN IN 30 YEARS

3.5 billion euros for social agenda over 30 year timeline

All damage from earthquakes recovered no matter the cost or time

200 million euros invested into leisure sector

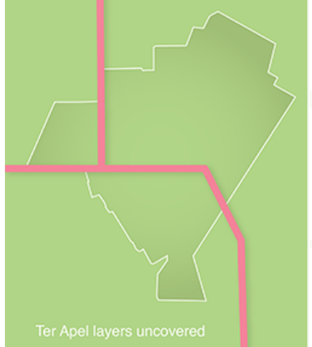
(Nij Begun, n.d.)

NEW OPPORTUNITIES



NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Beyond Ter Apel



Ter Apel layers uncovered

The Map

Through time and place, across geological layers and through the air, Ter Apel reveals itself as a complex and layered landscape. By mapping the historical, social, and cultural context of Ter Apel, located in Westerwolde, Groningen, an interconnected ecosystem begins to emerge. This ecosystem is shaped by the city center, the surrounding agricultural landscape, and the Ter Apel forest, each contributing to the identity of the area and influencing how people and nature interact.

The map zooms in on specific stories and locations, highlighting annually, or weekly events and activities in the shopping center, the monastery, and the COA center.

It features links between themes that reveal Ter Apel as a complex, interconnected system, supported by in-depth information on specific topics. At the same time, it offers an overall, zoomed-out view, showing how Ter Apel is embedded within wider landscapes, histories, and networks, and how local practices connect to broader spatial and ecological contexts.

Spatial Development

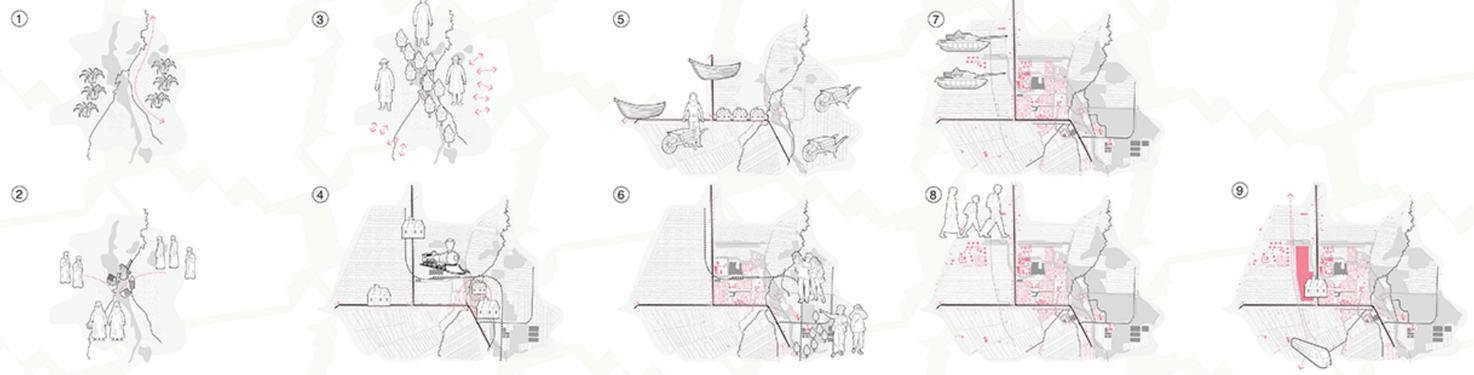
In this first phase, Ter Apel was an untouched landscape of raised bogs crossed only by the natural course of the Ruiten Aa. The area was isolated with almost no permanent habitation. This changed when the monastery was founded in 1465, accompanied by a church and living quarters with facilities.

Around 1857, large-scale peat extraction began on the raised bog. With the canal reaching Ter Apel, the previously isolated Westerwolde became accessible from the south, and the village developed into a canal settlement with characteristic linear housing.

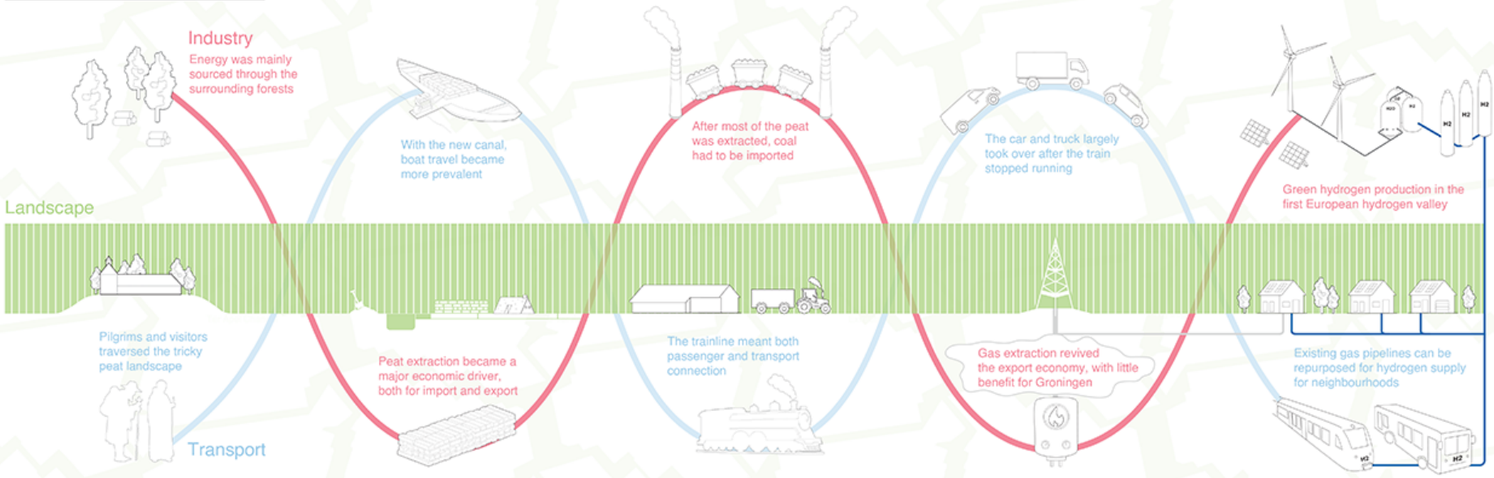
The landscape evolved from peat exploitation toward village development, with industry emerging along the waterways and railway further boosting connectivity and economic growth. Later, new neighborhoods developed and the monastery became a cultural and tourist landmark.

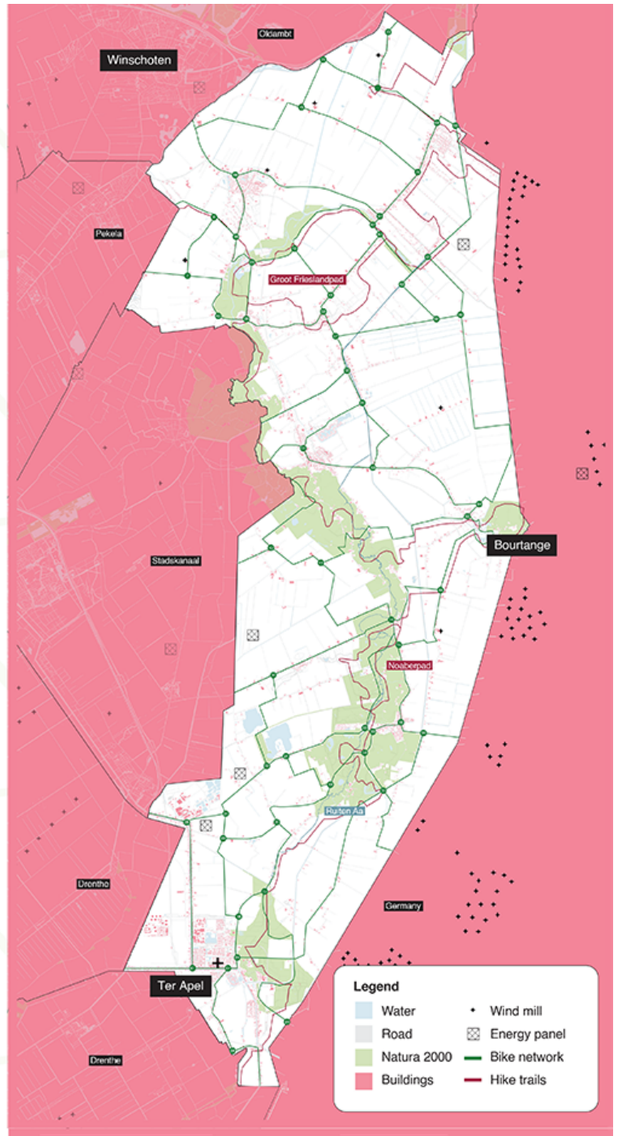
From 1980 to 2010, a NATO depot brought military presence, jobs and improved infrastructure to the village, adding an industrial character. Since 2010, Ter Apel is nationally known for the Asylum Reception Centre (ACZ), giving the village a prominent role in migration alongside its traditional village identity.

In the future, Ter Apel has planned a new railway station on the Nedersaksenlijn to strengthen its regional connectivity. Together with Westerwolde's energy transition and plans for a greener and more pedestrian-friendly city centre, Ter Apel aims to improve its accessibility, liveability and long-term sustainability.



Intersecting Timelines





Events

Christmas in the Monastery
December and January

A Christmas fair, atmospheric lighting, and hundreds of nativity scenes on display.

Winter Wonder Walk
December 12th

A 6.5km illuminated walk through the village and forests with lights, music, and fires.

Choral Concert
December 21th

Christmas concert by Vocal Ensemble Chaverim featuring Scandinavian composers.

Carnival (Steekje Los)
February 14th &15th

Ter Apel (renamed Kloosterwieke) hosts the largest carnival in the North. Includes a massive parade and tent parties.

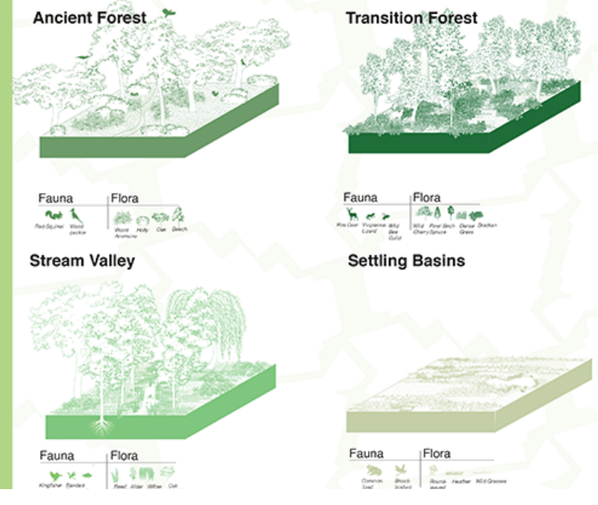
Fantasy Festival
December 4th & 5th

A festival where you "dream with your eyes open," featuring bands (like SEED), workshops, and entertainers.

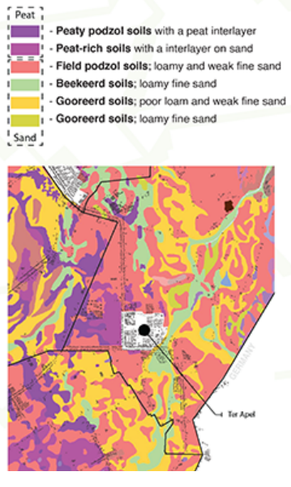
Medieval Ter Apel
Sept 5th & 6th

The most authentic medieval festival in the Netherlands. Re-enactors, battles, and a 1465-style market.

Habitat Types



Soil



Opening Times

Attractions

A Museum Monastery
4.5★ Museum
Boslaan 3, 9561LH

+31 0599581370
https://www.kloosterterapel.nl/

H Arends Cafe & Lunchroom
4.4★ €1-10
Hoofdstraat 59, 9561JC

I Vistaria't Scholletje
4.6★ €1-10
Nederveen Cappelstraat 160, 9561 KW

Groceries

B Omar Market
Nearest groceries from new train station

Hoofdstraat, 9561JE

Supermarkets

In Shopping Center

C Jumbo **D** Lidl
Nederveen Cappelstraat

E Aldi *Marktstraat*

F Coop *De Omloop*

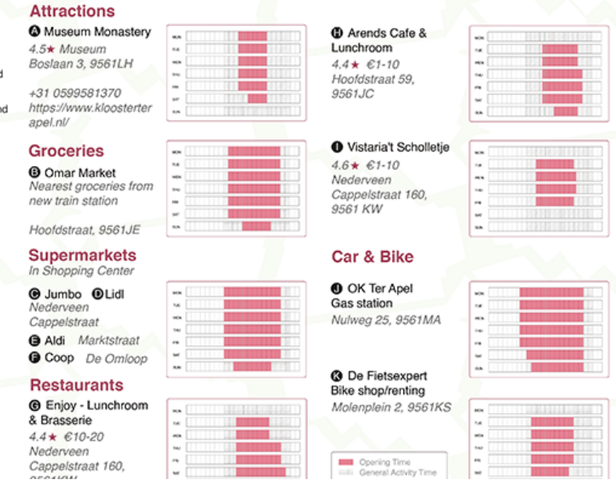
Restaurants

G Enjoy - Lunchroom & Brasserie
4.4★ €10-20
Nederveen Cappelstraat 160,

Car & Bike

J OK Ter Apel Gas station
Nulweg 25, 9561MA

K De Fietsexpert Bike shop/renting
Molenplein 2, 9561KS



Nearby Places

Groningen

Groningen is the largest city as well as the economic and cultural centre of the northern part of the country. The lively city centre offers historic architecture, museums, shops, cafés and a vibrant nightlife.

Winschoten

Located north of Ter Apel, Winschoten is a regional town known for its shopping centre, historic market square and green surroundings.

Bourtange

Bourtange is one of the most recommended places to visit in Westerwolde. This star-shaped fortress village dates back to the 16th century and offers a unique glimpse into Dutch military history, canals and open landscapes.

Emmen

Emmen holds the closest hospital near Ter Apel, is home to the popular Wildlands Adventure Zoo and has a modern city centre.

Colofon

Ter Apel, Westerwolde, Groningen Province

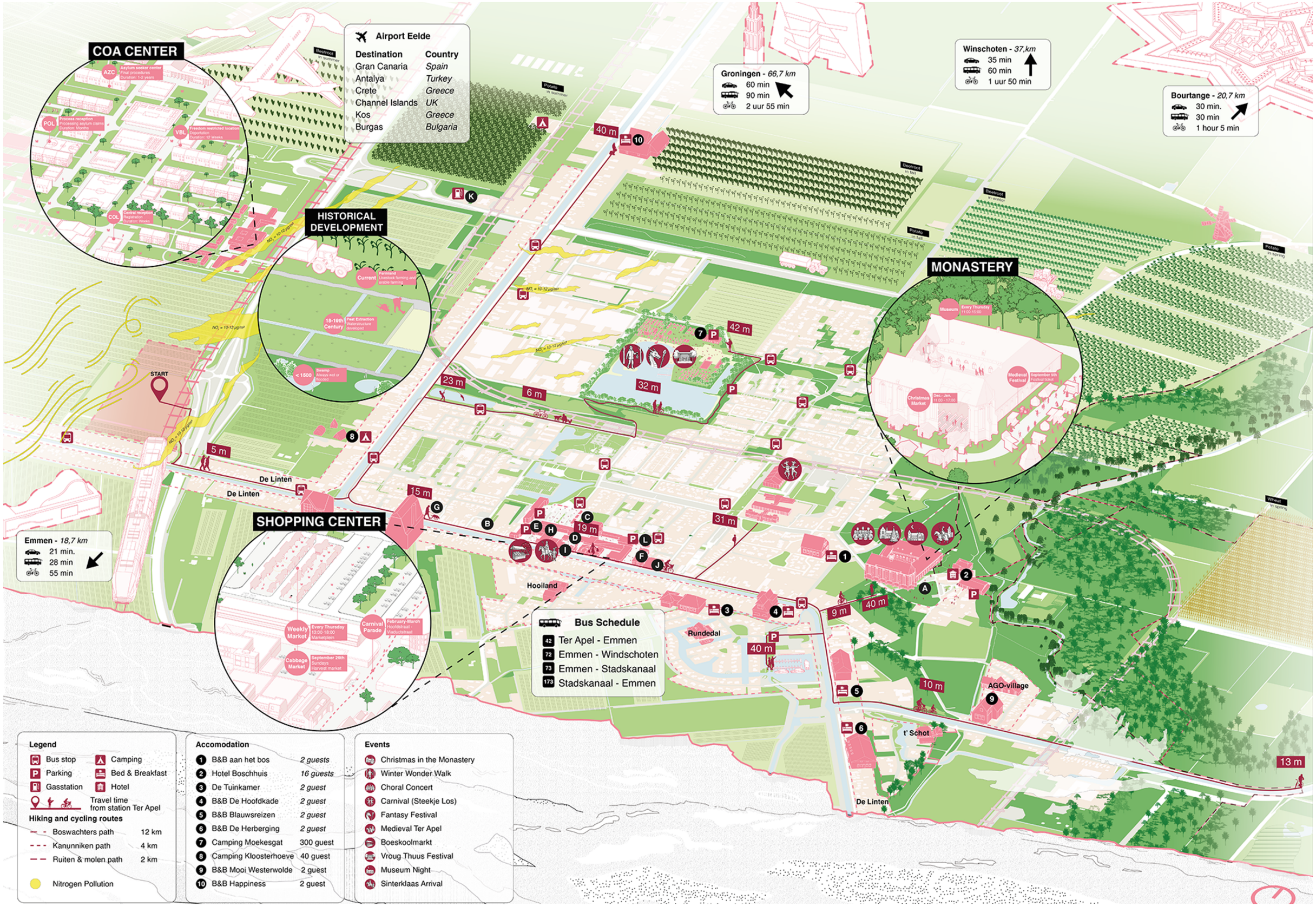
Graduation Studio Public Building
Department Architecture, TU Delft

Tutors
Stefan Witteman
Stefano Corbo

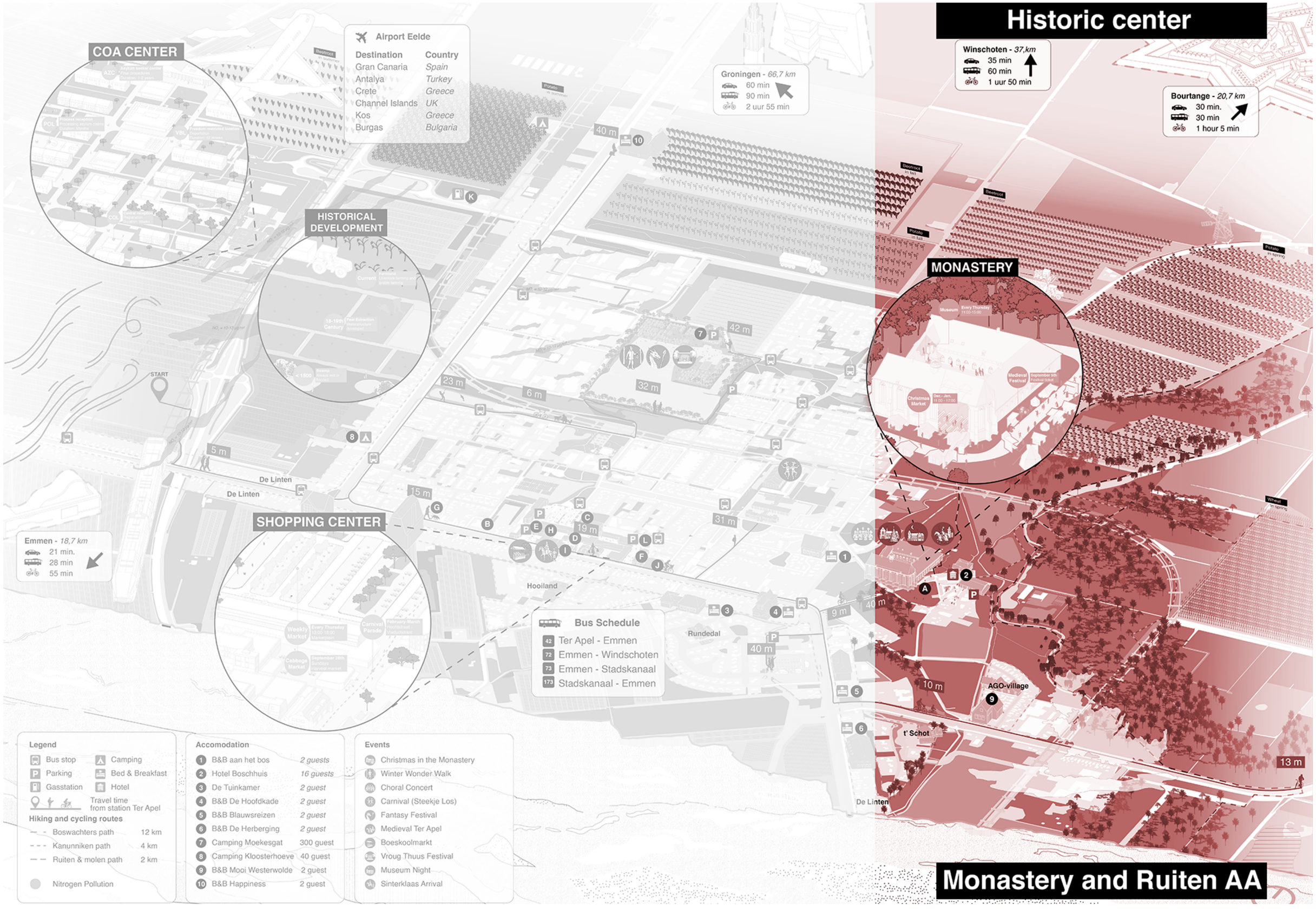
Students
Acelya Öcalan
Sharon Boer
Jim van Dongen
Fenna Dortmans
Wanja Franssen
Deimjanas Gološčiapovas
Kaj Hartsuiker
Marko Lojanica
Chris van der Maas
Celina van der Raaf
Isa van Wezep
Zhuoran Zhang

January 2026

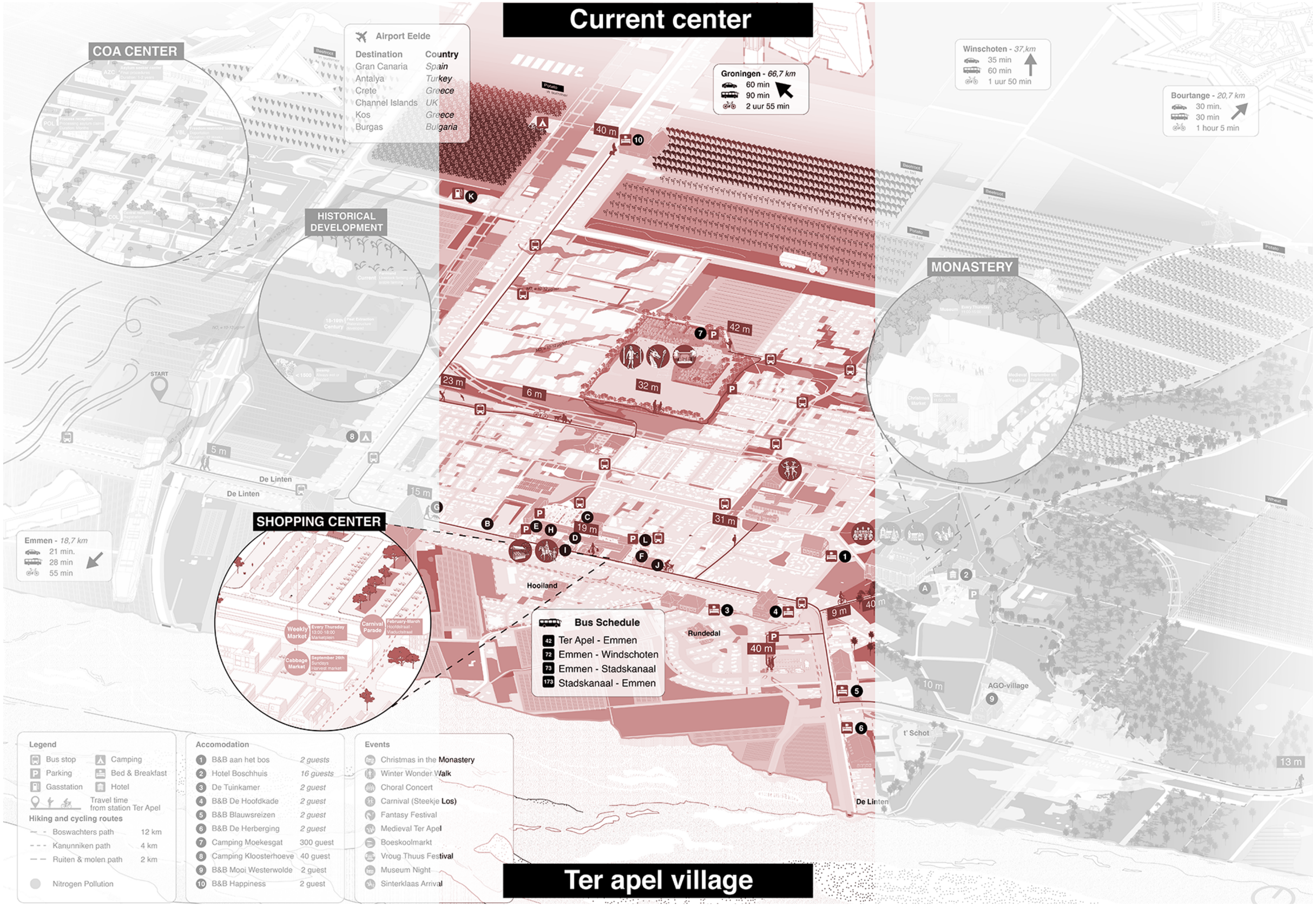
NEW OPPORTUNITIES



NEW OPPORTUNITIES



NEW OPPORTUNITIES



NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Future center

Airport Eelde

Destination	Country
Gran Canaria	*Spain*
Antalya	*Turkey*
Crete	*Greece*
Channel Islands	*UK*
Kos	*Greece*
Burgas	*Bulgaria*

COA CENTER

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

SHOPPING CENTER

Emmen - *18,7 km*
21 min.
28 min
55 min

Groningen - *66,7 km*
60 min
90 min
2 uur 55 min

Winschoten - *37,km*
35 min
60 min
1 uur 50 min

Bourtange - *20,7 km*
30 min.
30 min
1 hour 5 min

MONASTERY

Bus Schedule
42 Ter Apel - Emmen
72 Emmen - Windschoten
73 Emmen - Stadskanaal
173 Stadskanaal - Emmen

Legend
Bus stop
Parking
Gasstation
Camping
Bed & Breakfast
Hotel
Travel time from station Ter Apel

Hiking and cycling routes

Boswachters path	12 km
Kanunniken path	4 km
Ruiten & molen path	2 km

Accomodation

1 B&B aan het bos	*2 guests*
2 Hotel Boschhuis	*16 guests*
3 De Tuinkamer	*2 guest*
4 B&B De Hoofdkade	*2 guest*
5 B&B Blauwsreizen	*2 guest*
6 B&B De Herberging	*2 guest*
7 Camping Moekesgat	300 guest
8 Camping Kloosterhoeve	40 guest

Events
Christmas in the Monastery
Winter Wonder Walk
Choral Concert
Carnival (Steekje Los)
Fantasy Festival
Medieval Ter Apel
Boeskoolmarkt
Vroug Thuus Festival
Museum Night
Sinterklaas Arrival

Project site, AZC center

NEW OPPORTUNITIES



(Nedersaksenlijn, 2024)

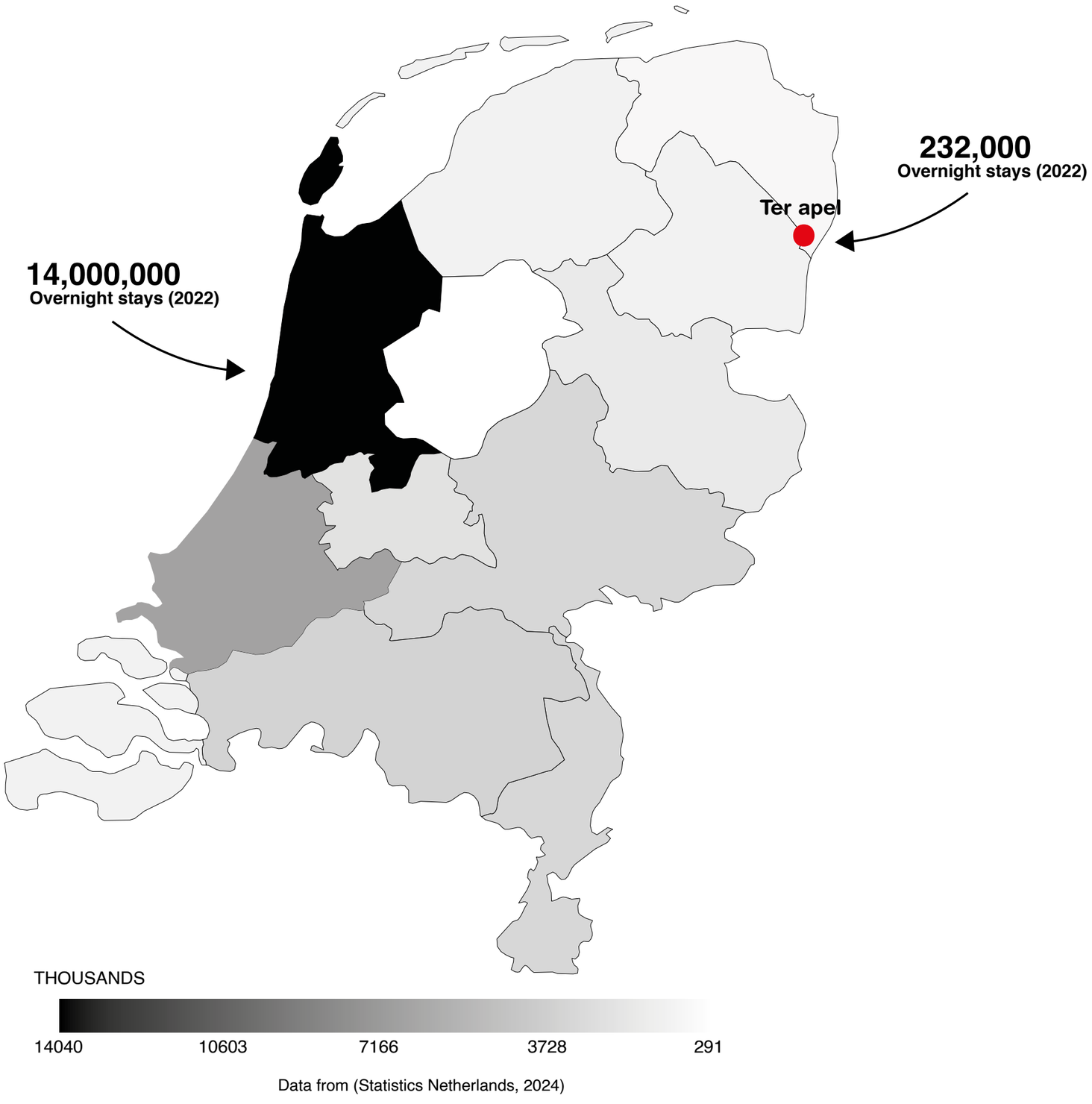
NEDERSAKSENLIJN PROJECTION

15000 jobs created
10000 houses built
5000 people passing through everyday

POTENTIAL FOR TOURISM

POTENTIAL FOR TOURISM

OVERNIGHT STAYS IN EACH DUTCH PROVINCES



Data from (Statistics Netherlands, 2024)

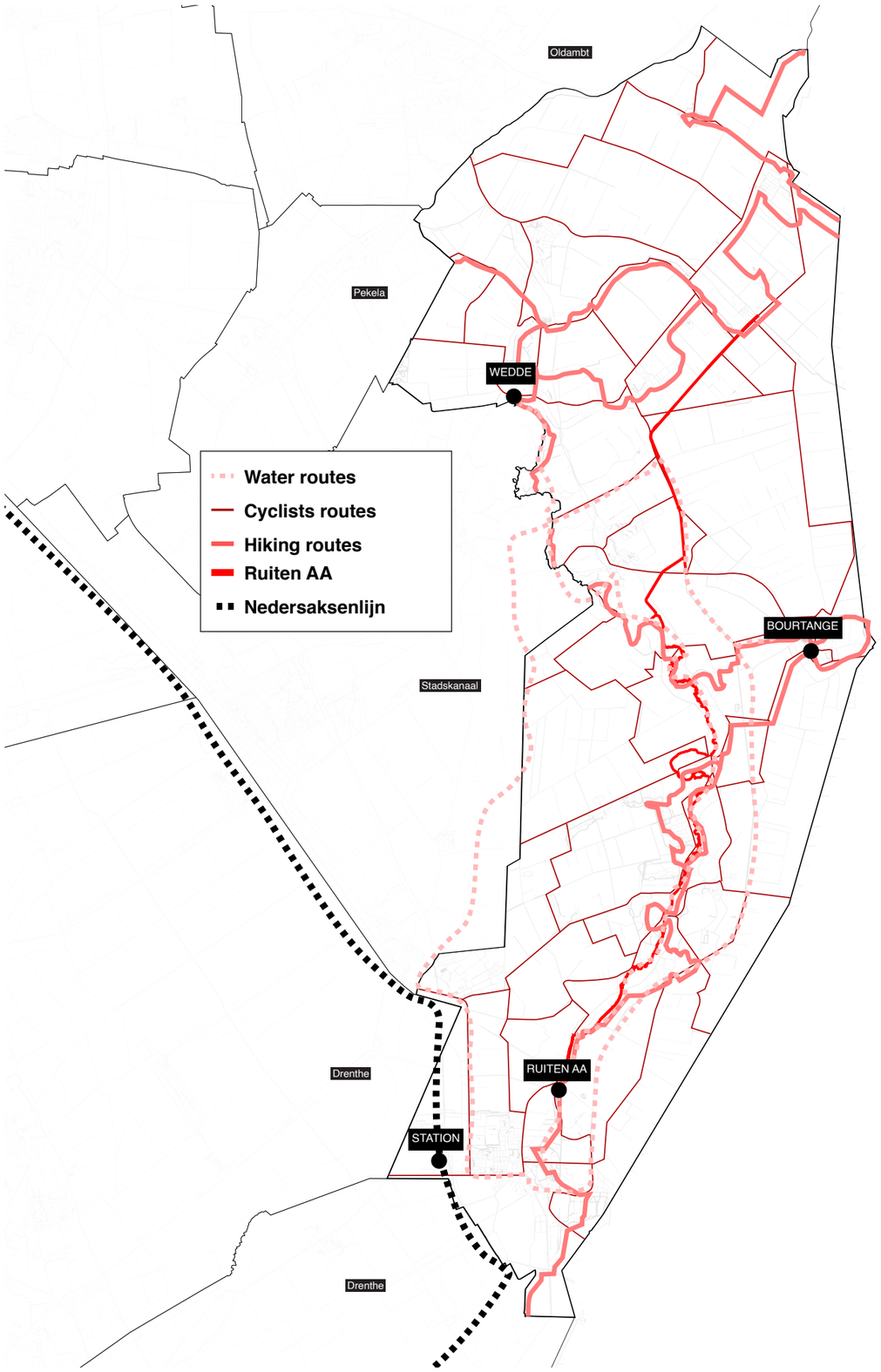
Second least visited province

- **40%** of East Groningen Tourism, **the goal is to double it by 2030**
- Authenticity, **Nature**, Low Prices, **German market**
- **Bad image**, lack of accomodations

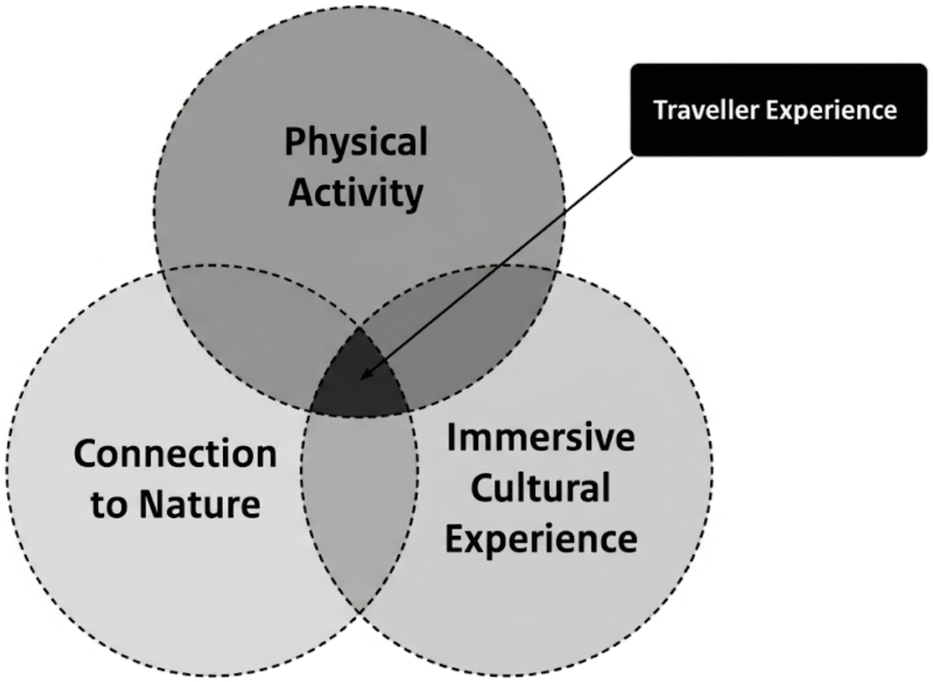
(Gemeente Westerwolde, 2023)

ADVENTURE TOURISM

ADVENTURE TOURISM



ADVENTURE TOURISM



(Centre for the Promotion of Imports from developing countries (CBI, 2026)

A type of tourism involving exploration or travel.

- **Physical activity,**
- **Natural environment**
- **Cultural immersion.**

ADVENTURE TOURISM

Soft Adventure Activities	Hard Adventure Activities
Definition: Low-risk, widely accessible, limited skill required • Bird watching • Boat trips • Camping • Culture • Cycling • Ecotourism • Fishing • Food tourism • Hiking, walking • Horseback riding • Hot air ballooning • Kayaking/canoeing • Safaris/off-road 4x4 driving • Scuba diving • Snorkelling • Swimming • Volunteering • Zip-lining	**Definition:** Higher-risk, demands specialised training/equipment, physically demanding • Abseiling/rappelling • Caving • Climbing (mountain/rock/ice) • Diving • Jungle survival • Kite surfing • Land sailing • Marathons/ultra marathons • Mountain biking • Paragliding/hang gliding • Skiing • Trekking • Whitewater rafting • Wind surfing • Yachting/sailing

(Centre for the Promotion of Imports from developing countries (CBI, 2026)

Hard vs Soft Adventure tourism

- Soft adventure tourism has **broader apeal**
- Some soft adventure tourism activities are already present in Westerwolde

	Backpackers	Fully independent travellers	Small group travellers
AGE	14-45	30-80	30-80
BUDGET	Low budget Time rich	Mid budget Time rich	Mid/Luxury budget Time poor
WHO	Gap year students	Friends, Couples, Family	Small groups, on tours

TOP MARKETS IN EUROPE: Germany 63%, Netherlands 48% , United Kingdom 43%

(Centre for the Promotion of Imports from developing countries (CBI, 2026)

Wide range of age groups

- **Germany and Netherlands** top markets
- From **low budget to luxury budget**

ADVENTURE TOURISM

8 nights average stay

Average trip 3000$

76% of total trip cost is spent local supliers

277$ spent on local souvenirs

Figure 9: Adventure activities undertaken by Dutch outbound tourists in 2024 and 2025

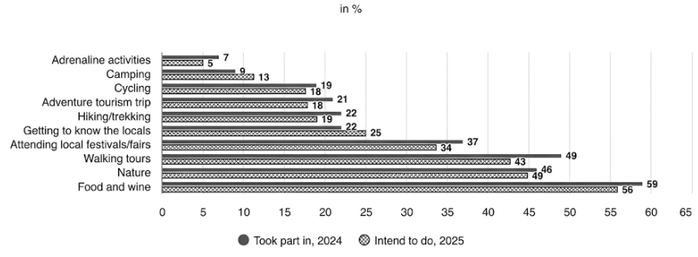
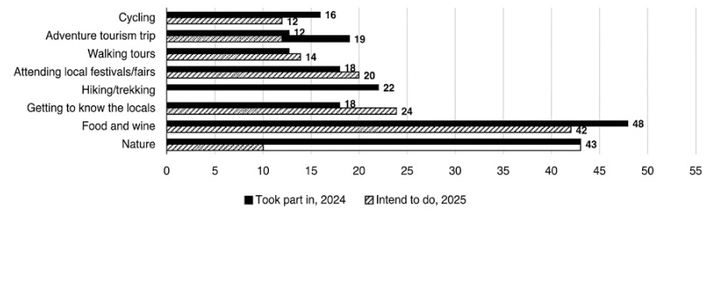


Figure 4: Adventure activities undertaken by German outbound tourists in 2024 and 2025



(Centre for the Promotion of Imports from developing countries (CBI, 2026)

Tourists mostly spend on **local supliers**

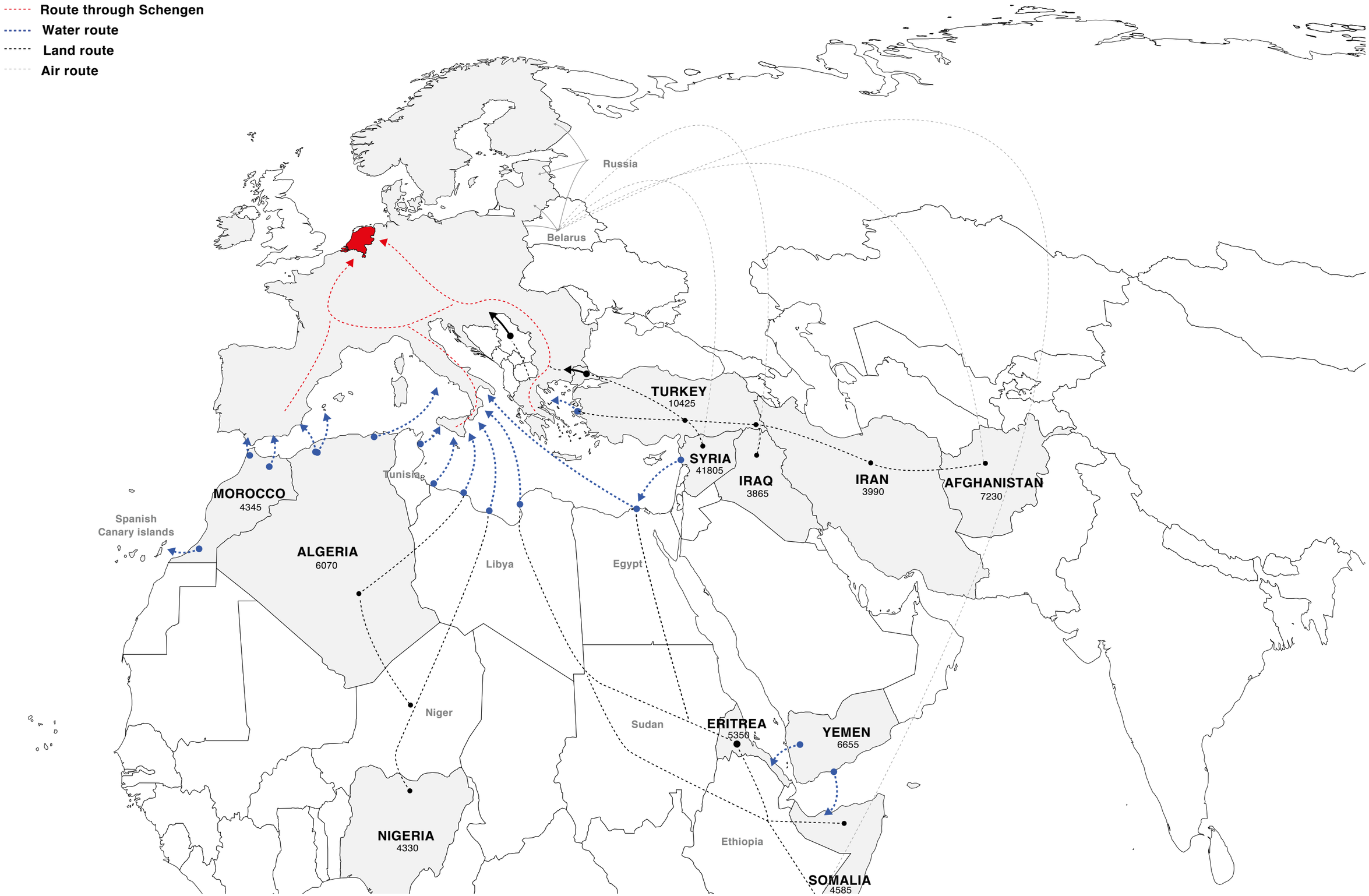
- Food, Nature, Getting to know the locals, Fairs and festivals rank high.
- **Average trip 3000$**

GLOBAL MOBILITIES AND IMAGE OF CRISIS

GLOBAL MOBILITIES AND IMAGE OF CRISIS

Refugee routes to the Schengen zone and the Netherlands

Refugees from top 10 most common countries of origin in the Netherlands (2019-2023)



GLOBAL MOBILITIES AND IMAGE OF CRISIS

Entering

Registration center



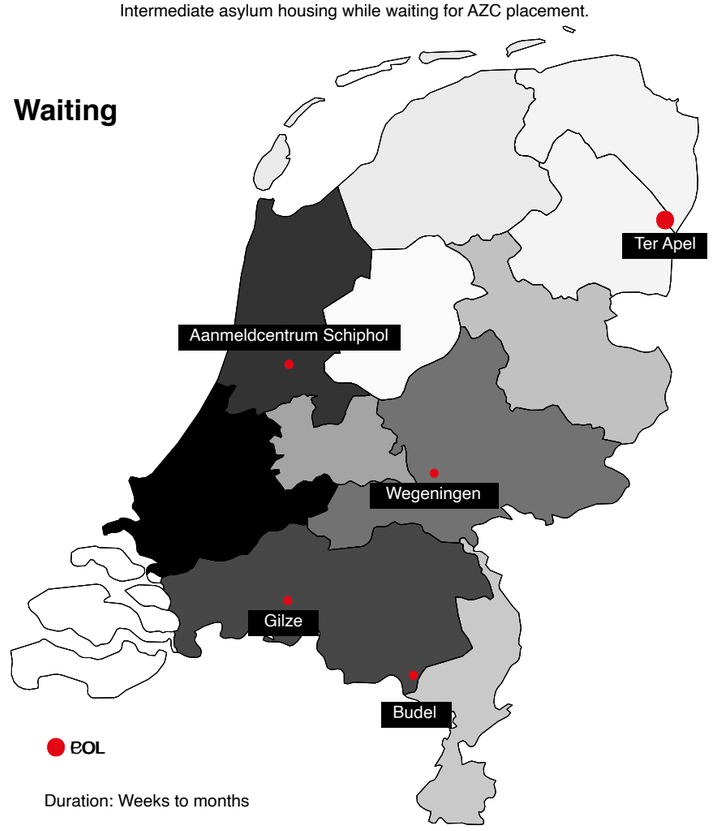
PROJECTED NUMBER OF ASYLUM SHELTERS BY 2026

19000 15360 10940 6530 2109

Waiting

POL(Proces Opvang Locatie/Process Reception Location)

Intermediate asylum housing while waiting for AZC placement.



Duration: Weeks to months

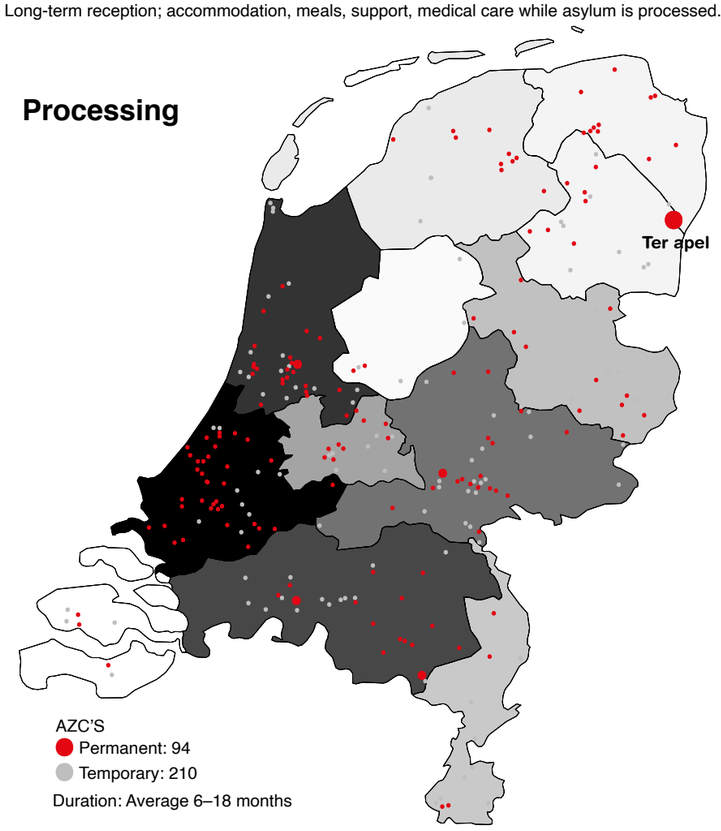
PROJECTED NUMBER OF ASYLUM SHELTERS BY 2026

19000 15360 10940 6530 2109

Processing

AZC(Asielzoekerscentrum/Asylum Seeker Center)

Long-term reception; accommodation, meals, support, medical care while asylum is processed.



Duration: Average 6–18 months

PROJECTED NUMBER OF ASYLUM SHELTERS BY 2026

19000 15360 10940 6530 2109

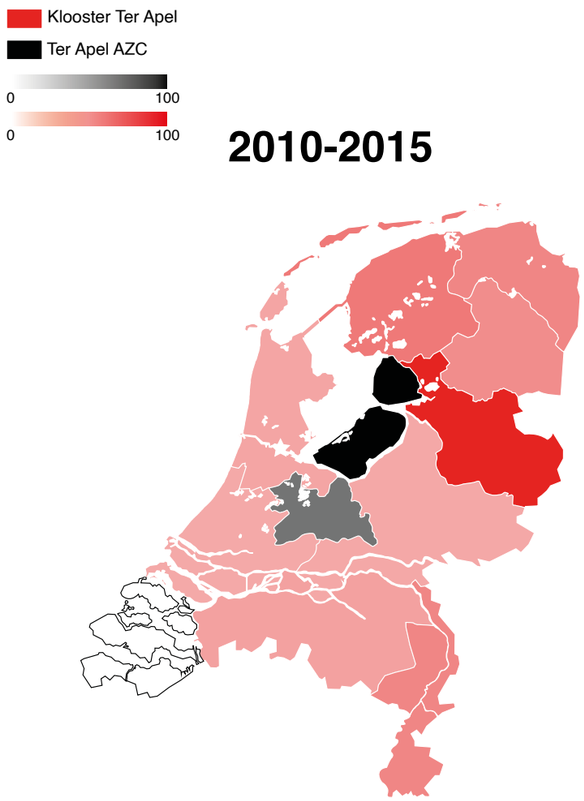
GLOBAL MOBILITIES AND IMAGE OF CRISIS

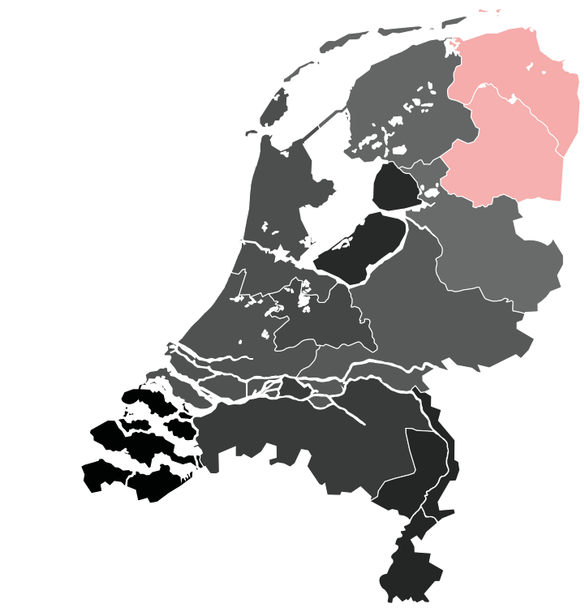


("NRC." 2022)



("DutchNews," 2022)





Google trend data (Google, n.d.)

GLOBAL MOBILITIES AND IMAGE OF CRISIS

Ter Apel by most common crime commited



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AlleCijfers.nl. (2025, December 4). Woonplaats Ter Apel (gemeente Westerwolde) in cijfers. https://allecijfers.nl/woonplaats/ter-apel/



Reasons for unwated behaviour (Staring et al., 2025):

- Temporal locations
- No possibility to work
- Lack of mental health care
- **Lack of daily activities**

GLOBAL MOBILITIES AND IMAGE OF CRISIS

Heritage Ter Apel (c. 1465–1980s)

Ter Apel is remembered as a quiet monastery village in the forest, built around the 15th-century Kruisherenklooster “Domus Novae Lucis”, a place of religion, hospitality and later museum heritage walks.



Departure centre “back door” (c. 1996–2000)

From 1996, the former NATO site is remembered as a Vertrekcentrum for rejected asylum seekers, the “back door” of the Dutch asylum system where people stayed just before enforced return.









“Asylum capital” of the Netherlands (c. 2015–2021)

In these years, Ter Apel lives in Dutch memory as a permanently overcrowded asylum hub – news about “full shelters”, nuisance and political tension, a place that functions as a barometer for national migration pressure.







Structural crisis & court fights (2023–present)

From 2023 onwards, Ter Apel is remembered as a structurally unsafe and overfull site, with inspection reports speaking of a “very serious safety situation”, emergency regulations and court cases about exceeding the 2,000-person cap.



NATO depot & employment (1984–1994)



In this phase, people remember Ter Apel mainly as a NATO/POMS depot that opened in 1984 and brought hundreds of defence jobs, until its closure was announced in 1994 and locals feared losing their main employer.

National “front door” (c. 2001–2014)



After 2001, Ter Apel is remembered as the national front door: the IND registration centre where almost all asylum seekers first report, are fingerprinted and interviewed, with a large COA centre attached.

2022 reception crisis & sleeping outside (2022)



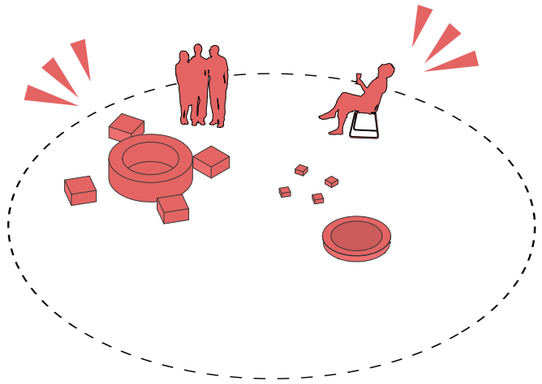
Summer 2022 fixes one brutal image in people’s minds: hundreds of asylum seekers, including families, sleeping outside the gates in Ter Apel, with UNHCR and Artsen zonder Grenzen calling the situation inhumane and stepping in.

TER APEL'S NEW CIVIC HEART

TER APEL'S NEW CIVIC HEART

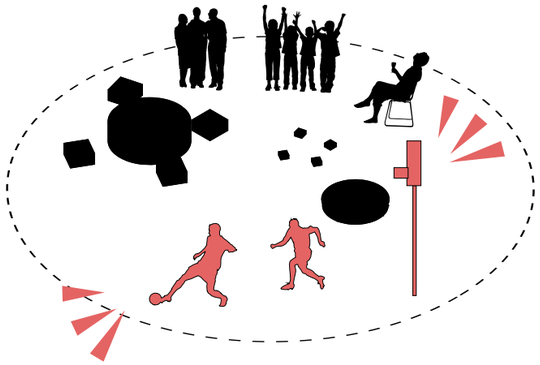
LOCALS

A place for meeting and encounters



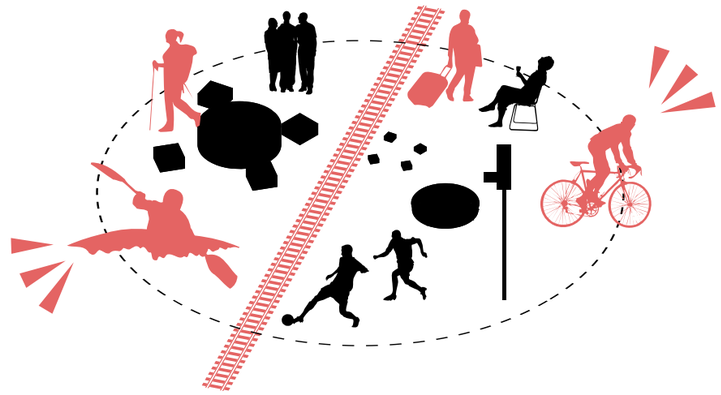
ASYLUM SEEKERS

Sports and events



TOURISTS

New image of Ter apel



NEW VILLAGE CENTER

FREE DAILY ACTIVITIES

TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE

How can a transit hub be designed to create coexistence between locals, tourists and asylum seekers in the age of globalized flows?

USERS	SUB QUESTIONS	THEORY
Asylum seekers	How can architecture provide un-commodified spaces that integrate the free daily activities for refugees with the leisure infrastructure required to boost the local tourism economy?	Liquid Modernity
Ter Apel locals	How can the design of shared tourism infrastructure orchestrate meaningful interactions that humanize the "refugee" and shift the public image of a Ter Apel?	Manuel Castells Giorgio Agamben
Hiking tourists	How can the architectural design of a transit hub utilize shared tourist infrastructure to facilitate slow tourism and social responsibility of visitors?	Nij begun and Cittaslow

INTERSECTION OF FLOWS

FLOWS OF PEOPLE
- REFUGEES
- TOURISTS
- LOCALS

FLOW TYPES
- BUS 73
- BIKE LANES
- TRAIN LINE

STADSKANAAL

MUSSELKANAAL

TUNNEL

N366

NEW DEVELOPMENT

POTENTIAL FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

STATION

EMMEN

GERMANY/ EMMEN

TRAIN SLOPES

5 ‰ **IDEAL** (900m)

10‰ **ACCEPTABLE** (459m)

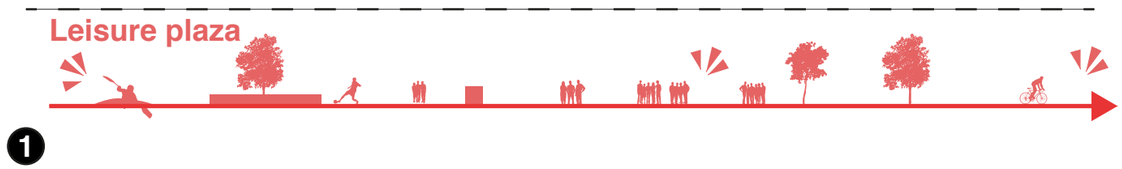
10‰ **STEEP** (180m)

RAISED TRAIN LINE

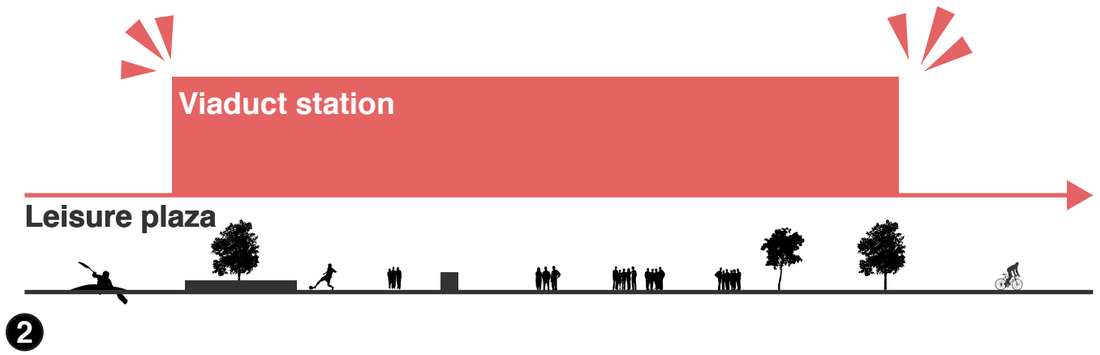
NIEUW WEERDINGE

CENTER/MONASTERY/RUITEN AA

INTERSECTION OF FLOWS



1



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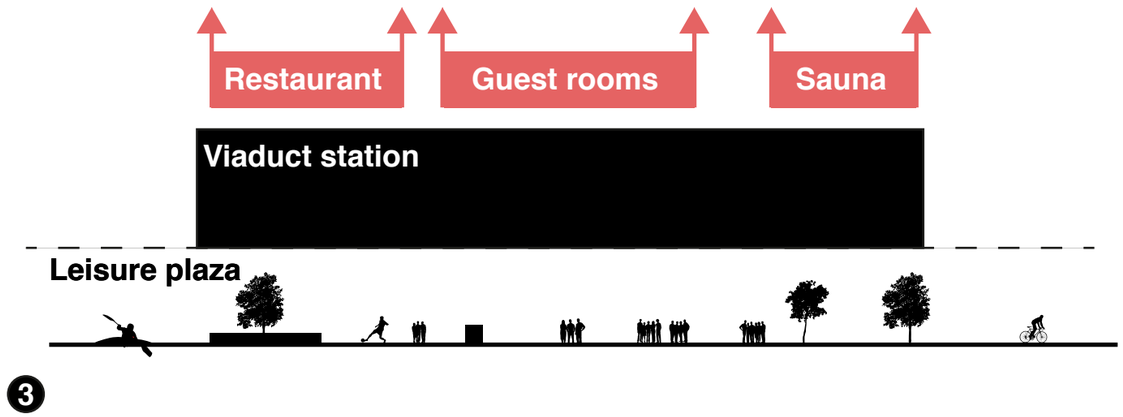

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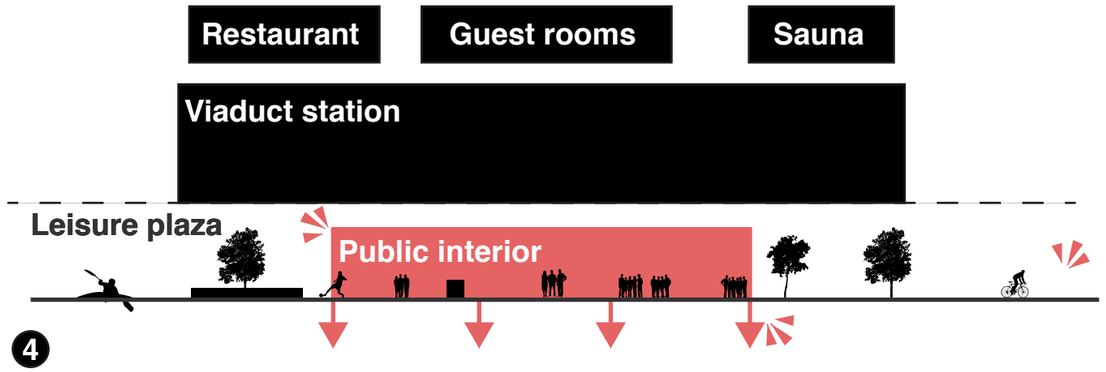
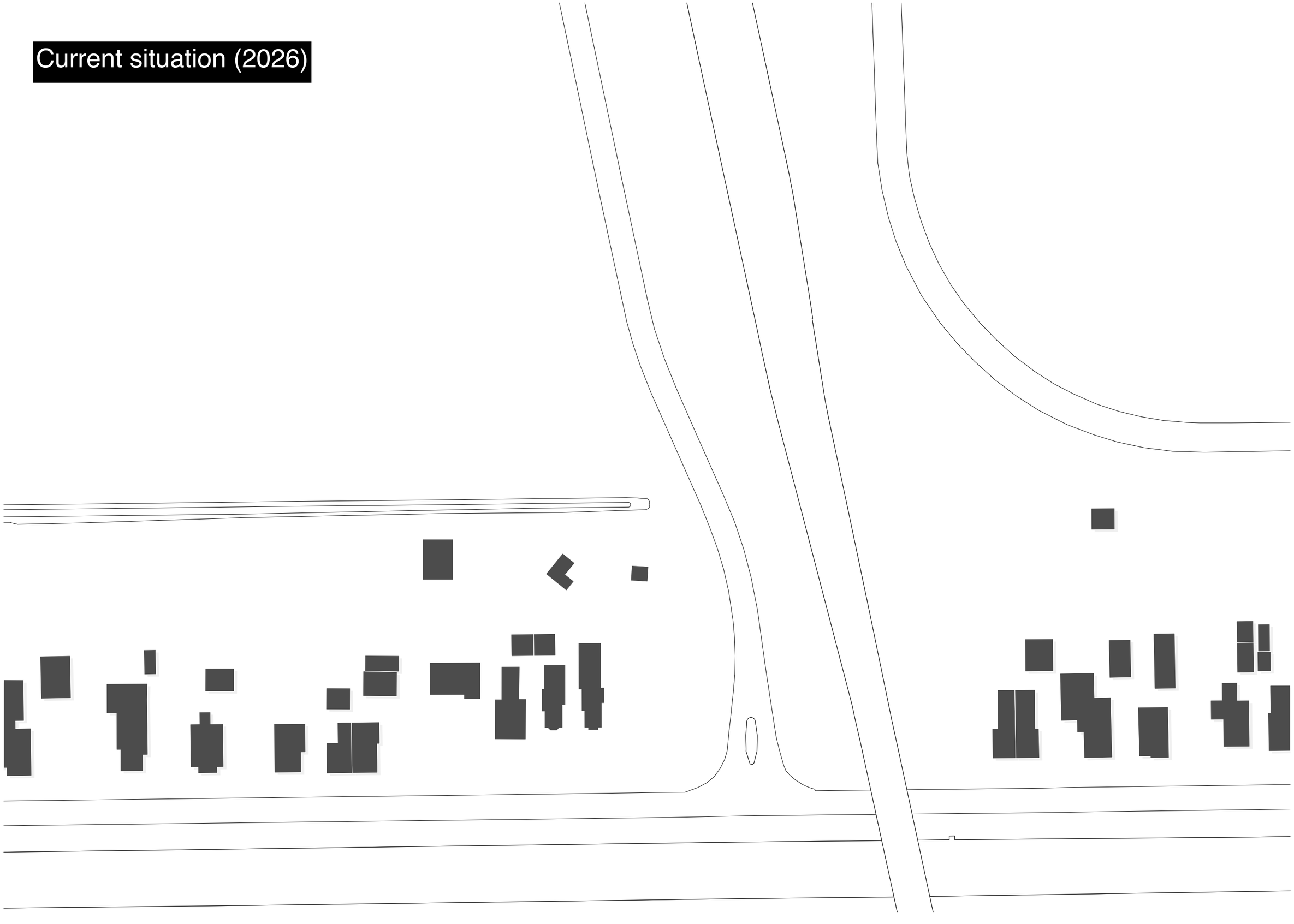
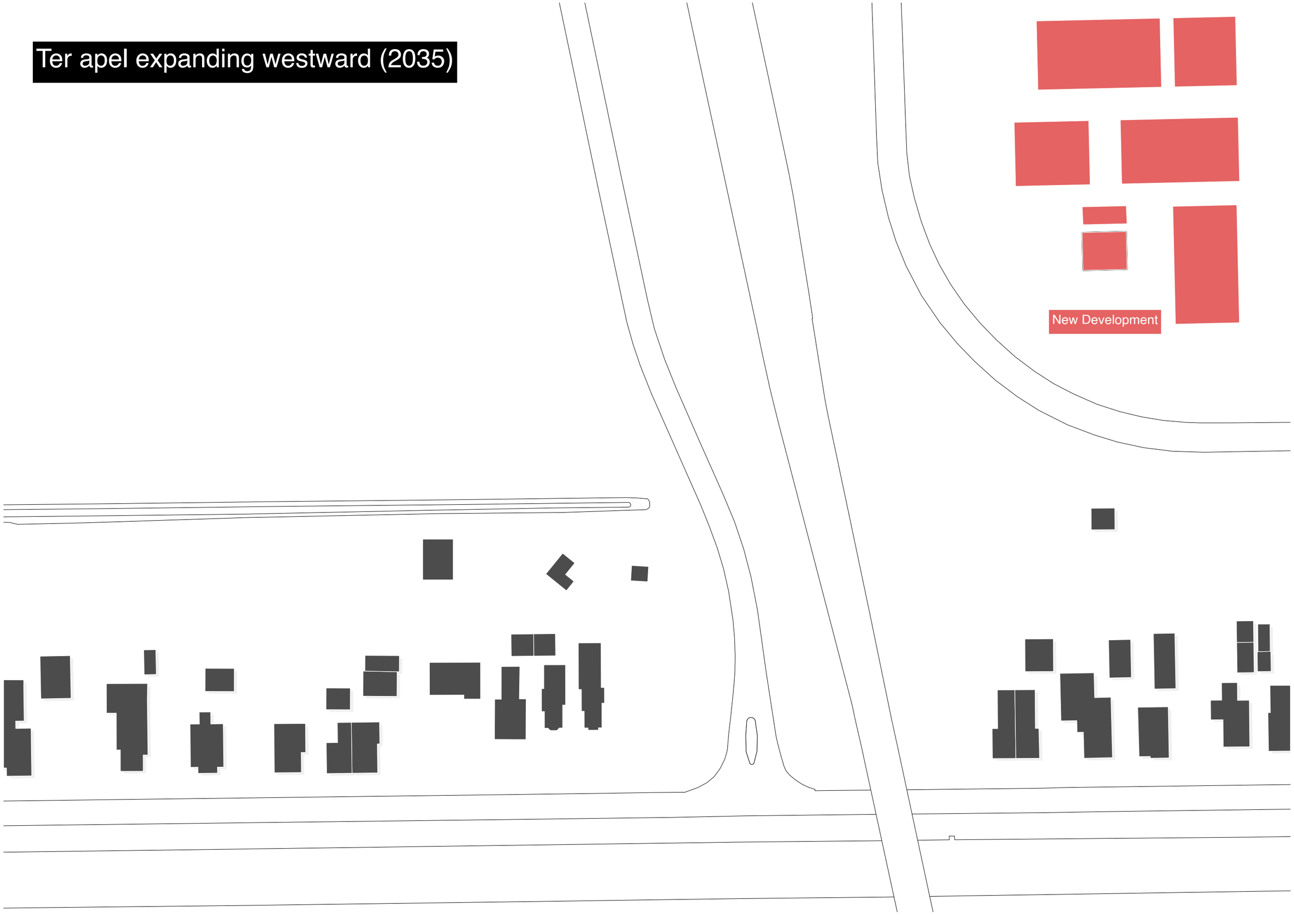


4

Current situation (2026)



Ter apel expanding westward (2035)

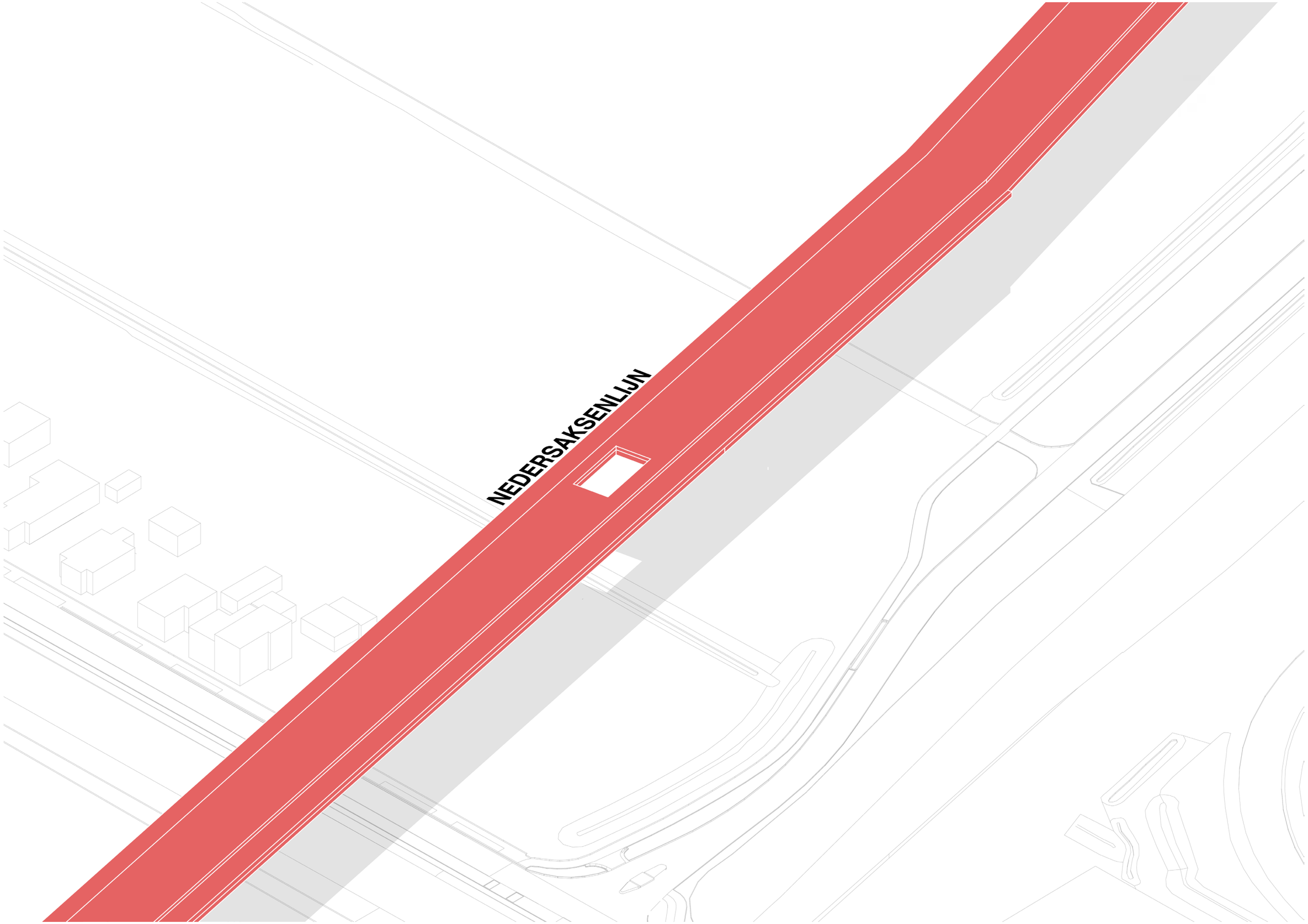



Nedersaksenlijn (2040)
New Development
Station

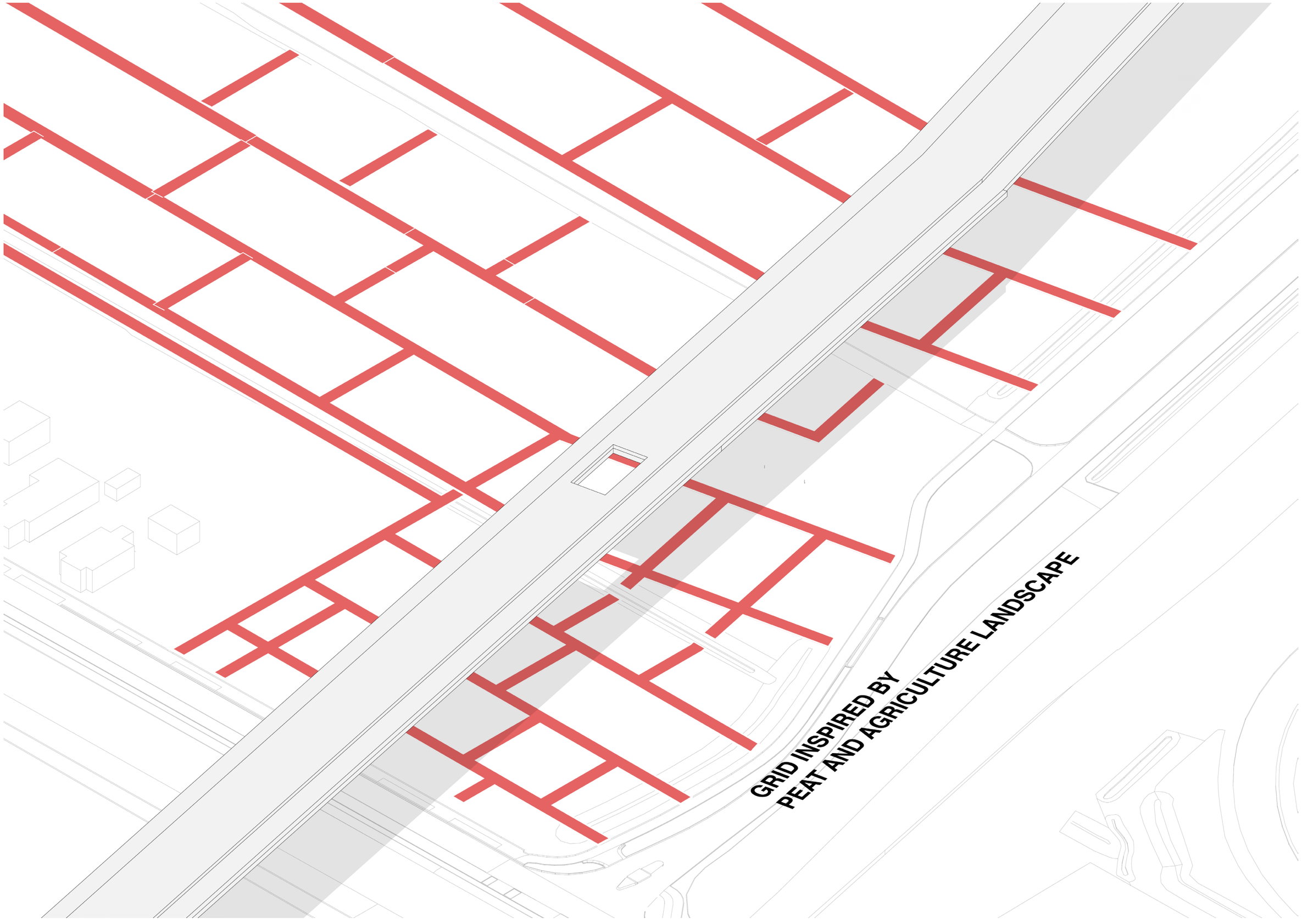
INTERSECTION OF FLOWS



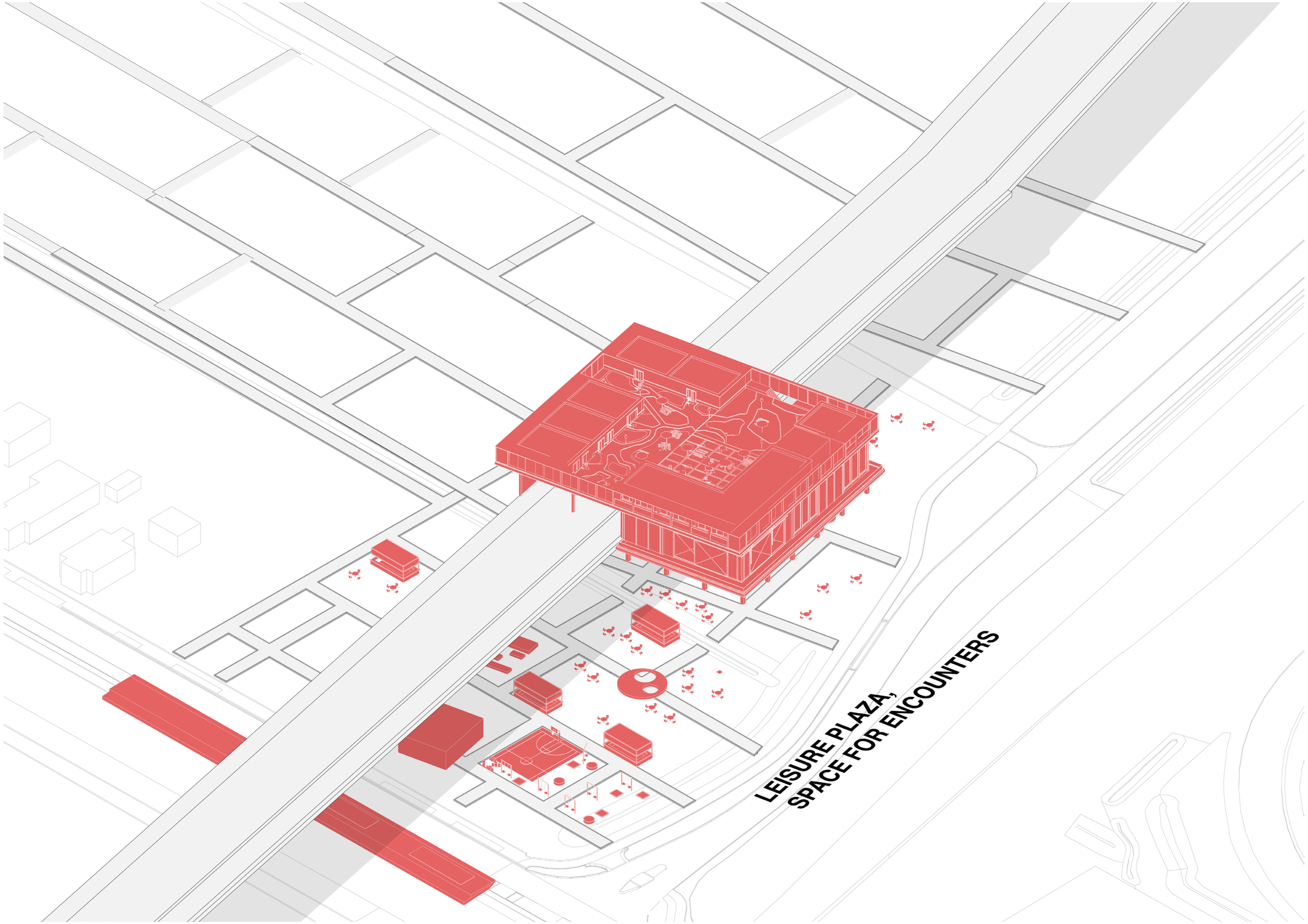
ORCHESTRATING ENCOUNTERS


NEDERSAKSENLIJN

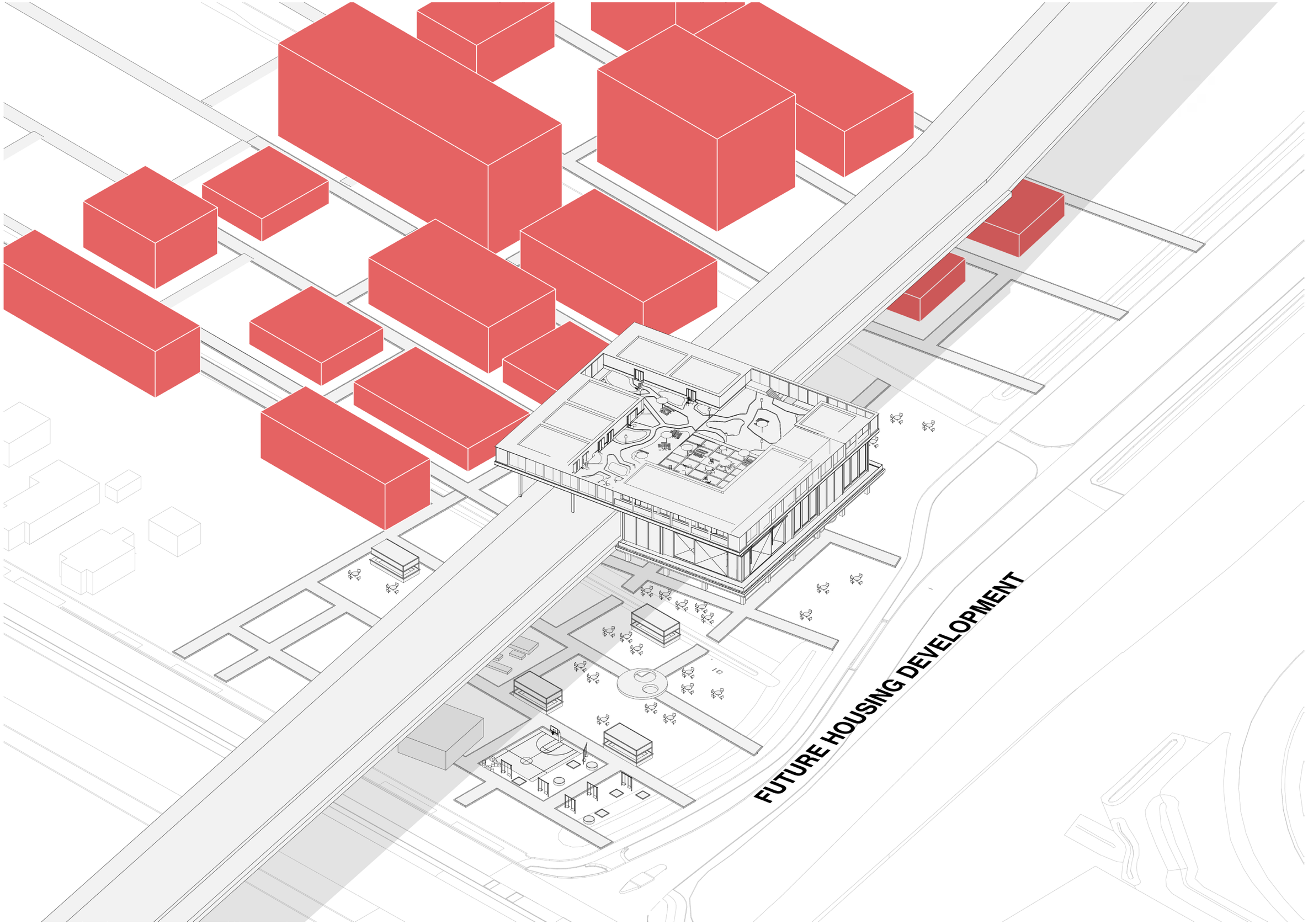
ORCHESTRATING ENCOUNTERS



ORCHESTRATING ENCOUNTERS

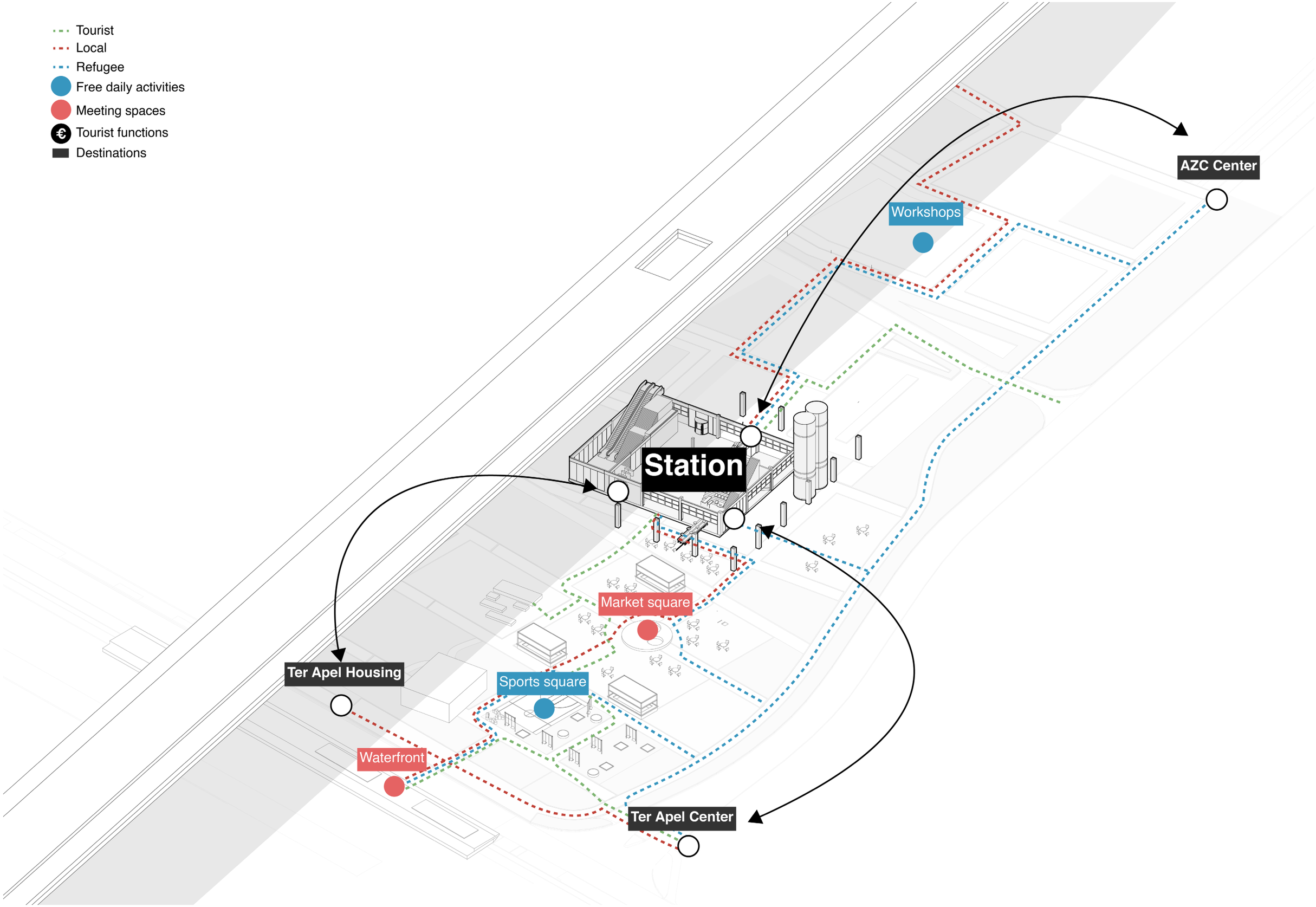


ORCHESTRATING ENCOUNTERS



ORCHESTRATING ENCOUNTERS

- Tourist
- Local
- Refugee
- Free daily activities
- Meeting spaces
- € Tourist functions
- Destinations



ORCHESTRATING ENCOUNTERS

- Tourist
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- Refugee
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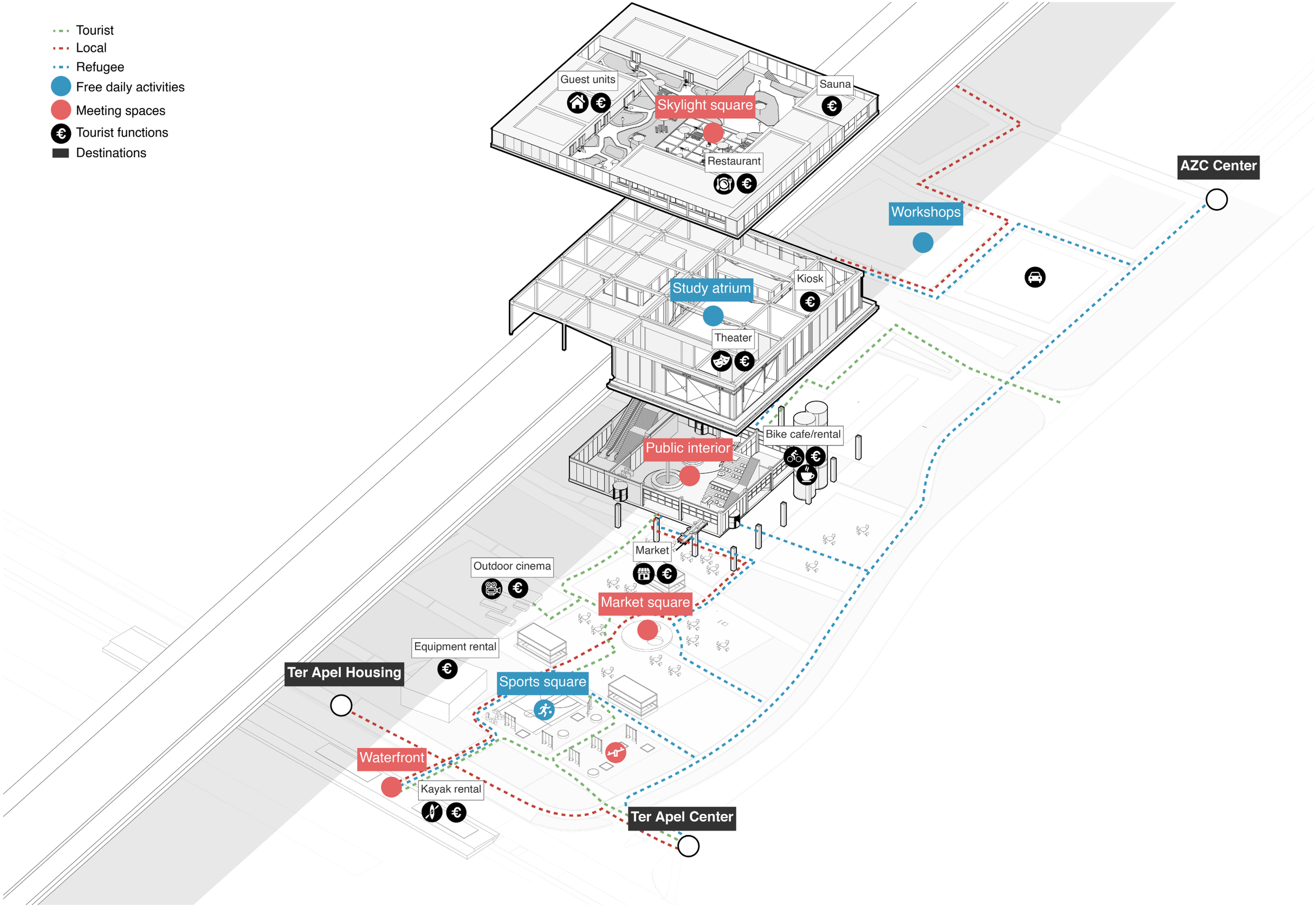


48 HOURS IN LEISURE PLAZA

DAY 1

ARRIVE

NEDERSAKSENLIJN BRINGS YOU TO TER APEL, GATE OF WESTER WOLDE

RENT A ROOM

RENT A ROOM ON TOP OF THE STATION ROOF WITH A VIEW TO AUTHENTIC LOCAL LANDSCAPE

EXPLORE TER APEL

RENT WATER EQUIPMENT, A BIKE OR HIKE THROUGH TER APEL AND VISIT THE LOCAL MARKET, CITY CENTER AND MONASTERY

EXPLORE WESTERWOLDE

EXPLORE WESTERWOLDE'S RUITEN AA AND ITS TOURISM NETWORK THROUGH ACTIVE EXPLORATION, GO TO BOURTANGE AND SEE AHISTORIC CITY IN SHAPE OF A STAR

SAUNA

ENJOY THE VIEWS ON LANDSCAPE FROM THE ROOFTOP AS YOU RELAX IN THE SAUNA

DAY 2

GRAB BREAKFAST

ENJOY BREAKFAST AT A BIKE RENTAL/REPAIR CAFE

EXPLORE WESTERWOLDE AGAIN

EXPLORE WESTERWOLDE WITH A DIFFERENT TYPE OF MOBILITY

CATCH UP ON YOUR WORK

RENT A WORK POD AND WORK FROM THE TER APEL STATION IN PEACE
WITH A VIEW TO WESTERWOLDE'S LANDSCAPE

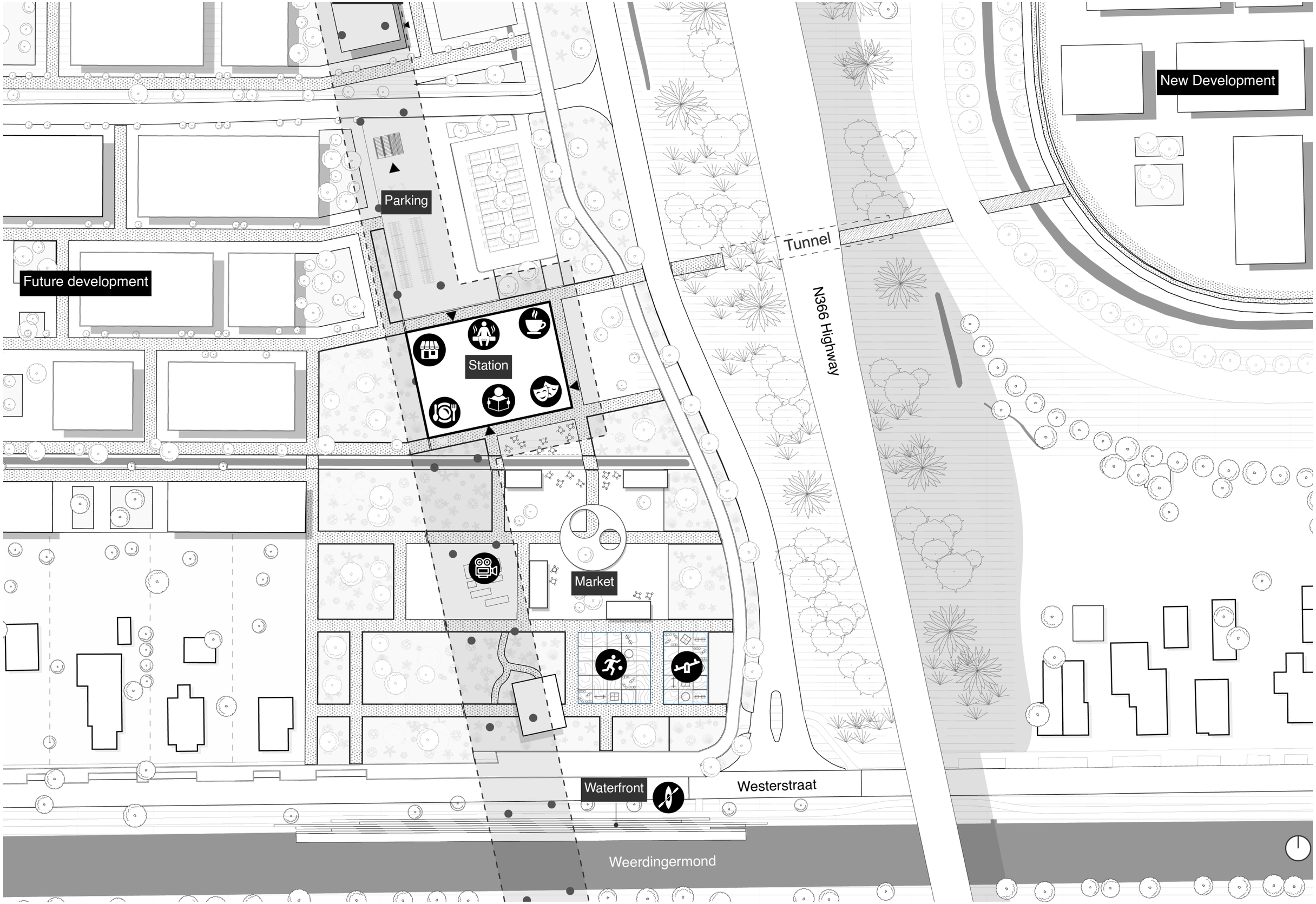
EAT DINNER AT A RESTAURANT

ENJOY THE ROOFTOP VIEW AND EAT LOCAL PRODUCE PREPARED IN THE STATION'S RESTAURANT

A LOCAL PLAY

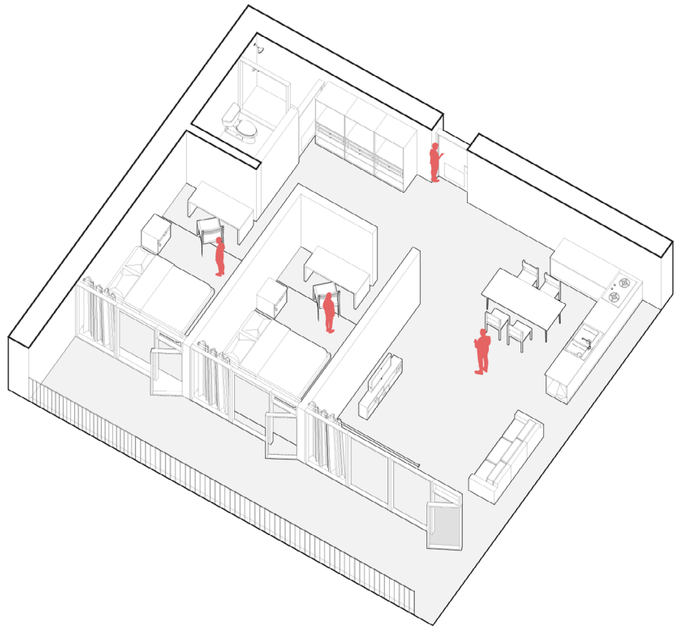
GO TO THE THEATER TO ENJOY A SMALL PLAY, TALK OR A COMEDY SHOW

ORCHESTRATING ENCOUNTERS



Small group travellers

2x Double units



2 double beds

Living room+Kitchen

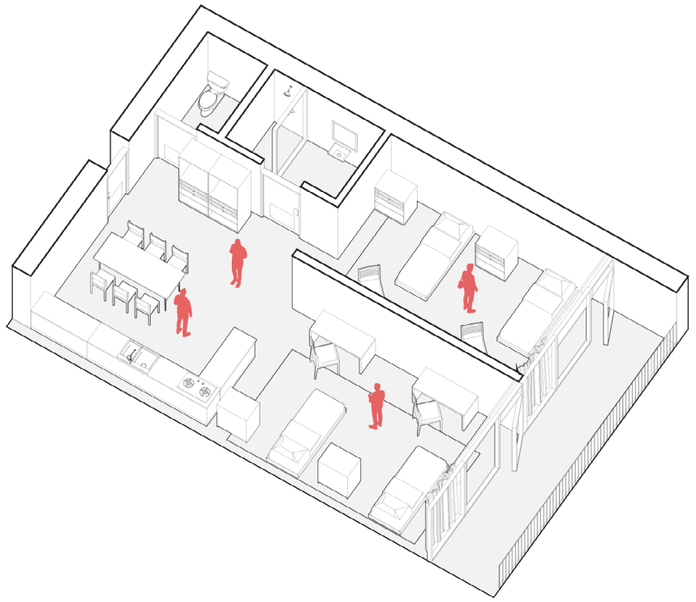
Shower/toilet

85 m2 gfa

20m2 Loggia

Backpackers

1x Dorm unit



4 single beds

Shared kitchen

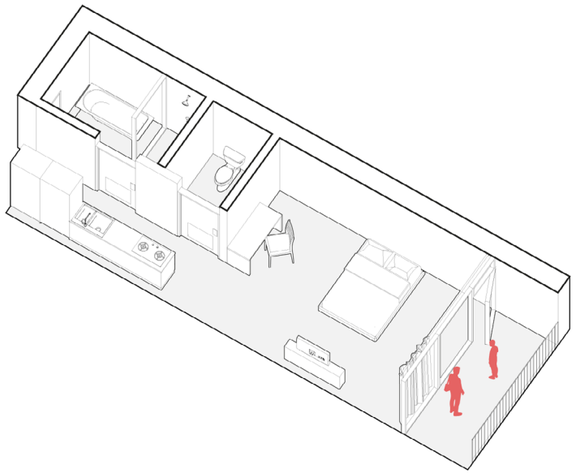
Shared shower/toilet

80m2 gfa

13m2 Loggia

Fully independent travellers

4x Single unit



1 double bed

Kitchenette

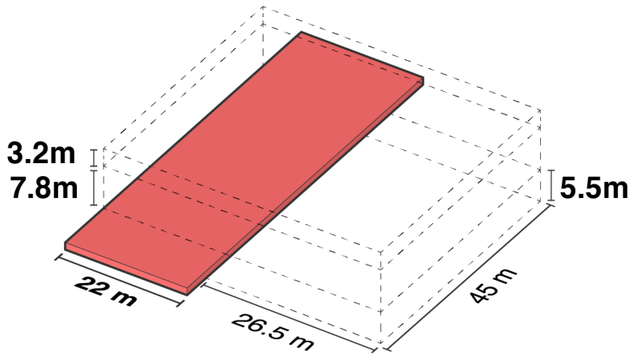
Bath/Shower/Toilet

40m2 gfa

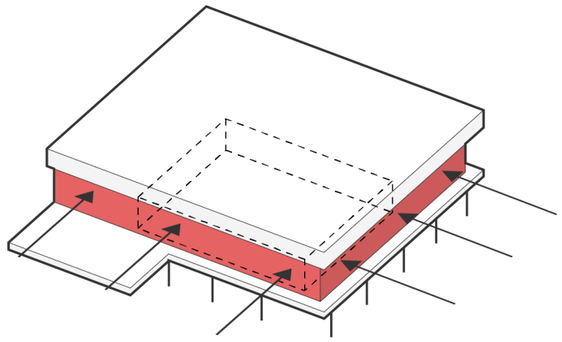
6.5m2 Loggia

SPATIAL EQUALIZER

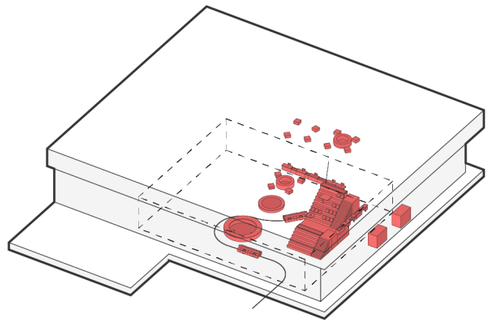
SPATIAL EQUALIZER



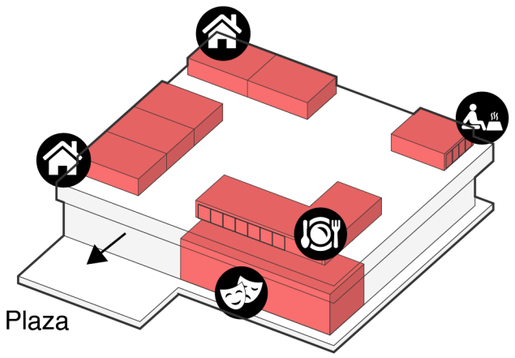
Dimensioning tied to the viaduct



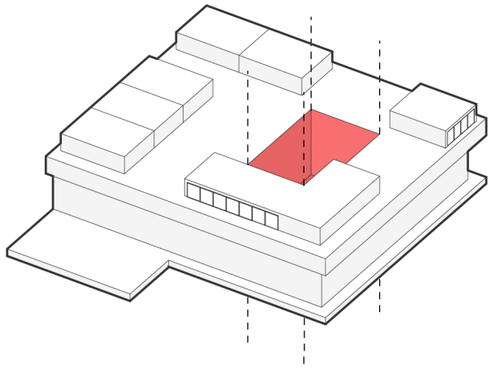
Expressing the three layers



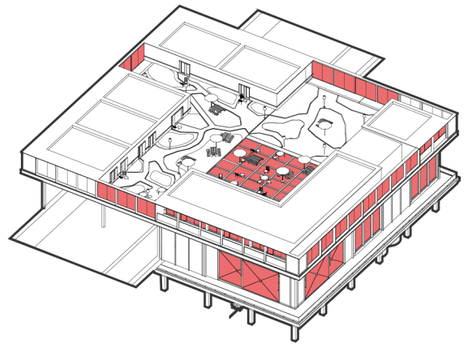
Creating encounters



Activating tourism



Void



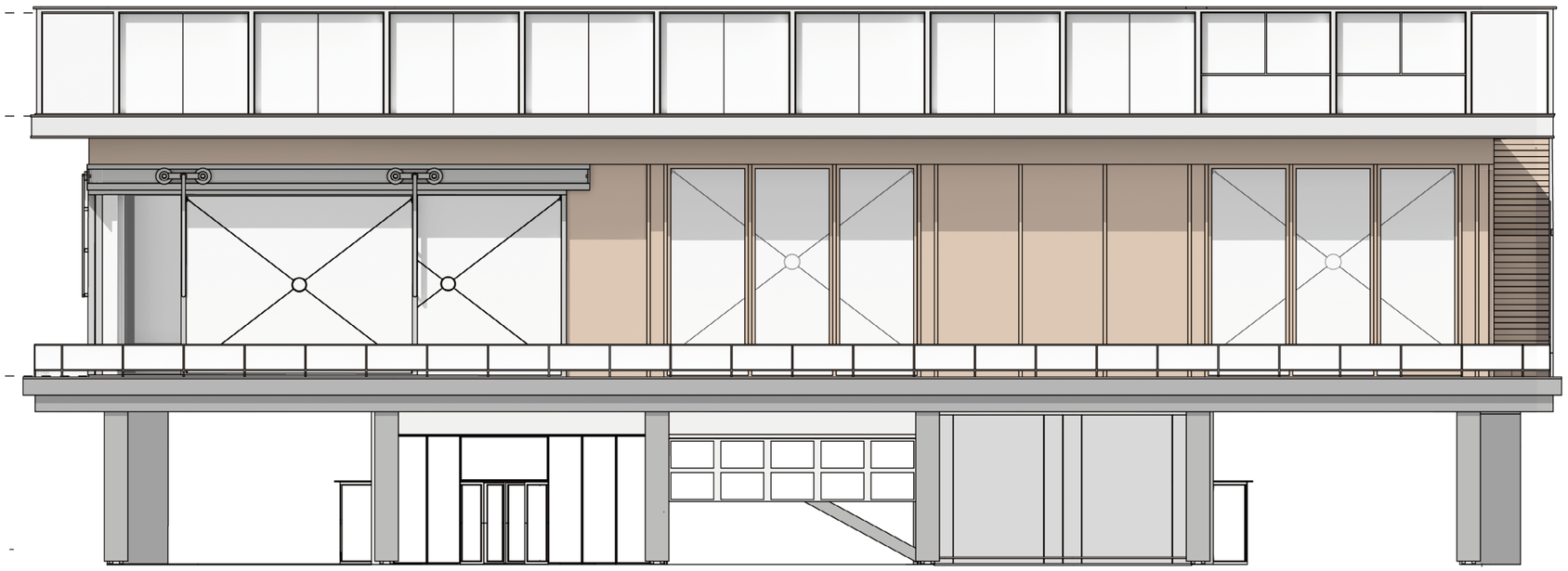
Establishing visual connections

SPATIAL EQUALIZER

Transparent
Roof garden

Tensioned Timber
Industrial living room

Concrete
Train viaduct



East elevation 1/200

Perforated Metal



Reflective glazing



Glulam



Aluminium elements



Concrete

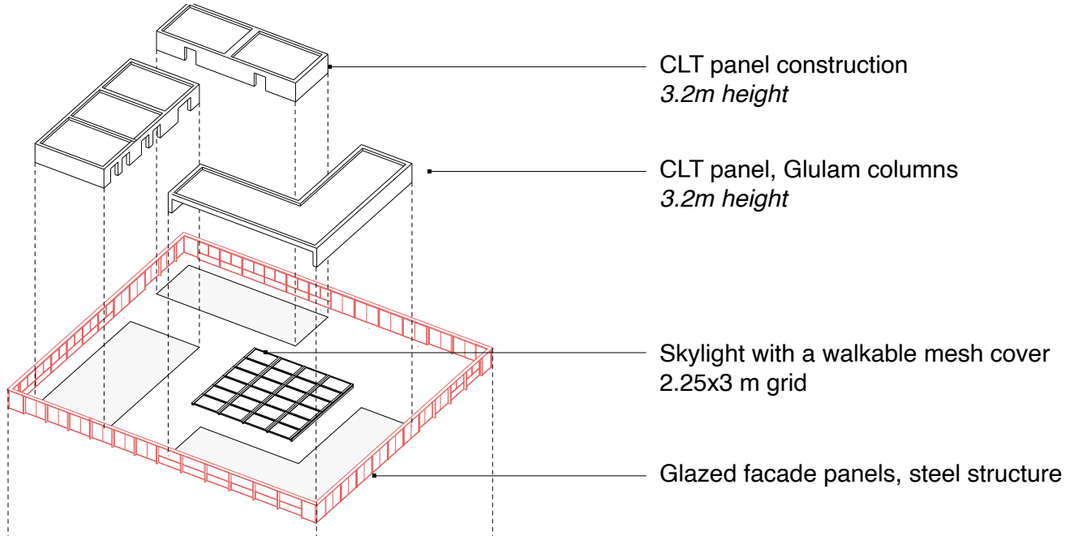


Garage doors

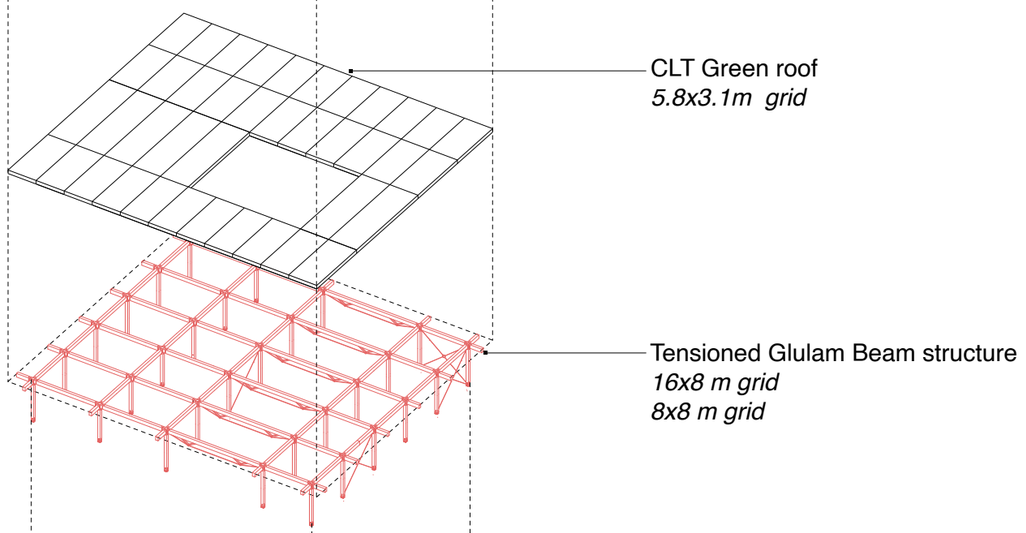


SPATIAL EQUALIZER

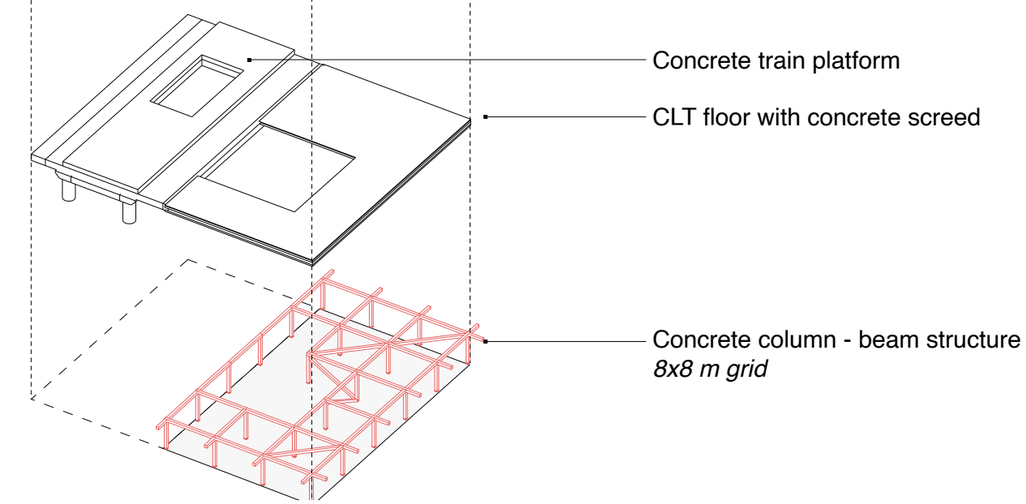
Rooftop



Public interior



Viaduct station




OPEN
Refugees
Museum Klooster
40

SPATIAL EQUALIZER

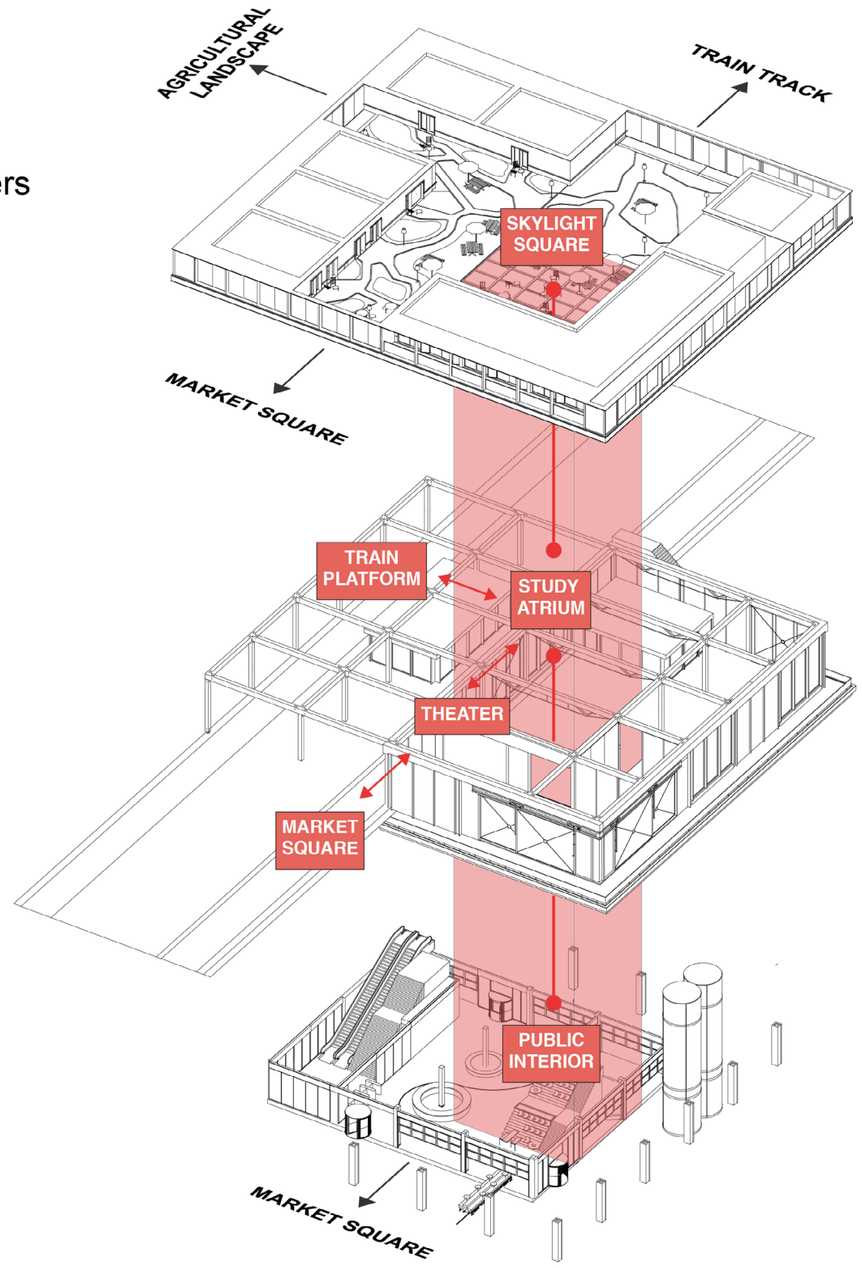
VISUAL CONNECTION DIAGRAM

CONCEPT

Connecting the layers

Framing views

Open facade



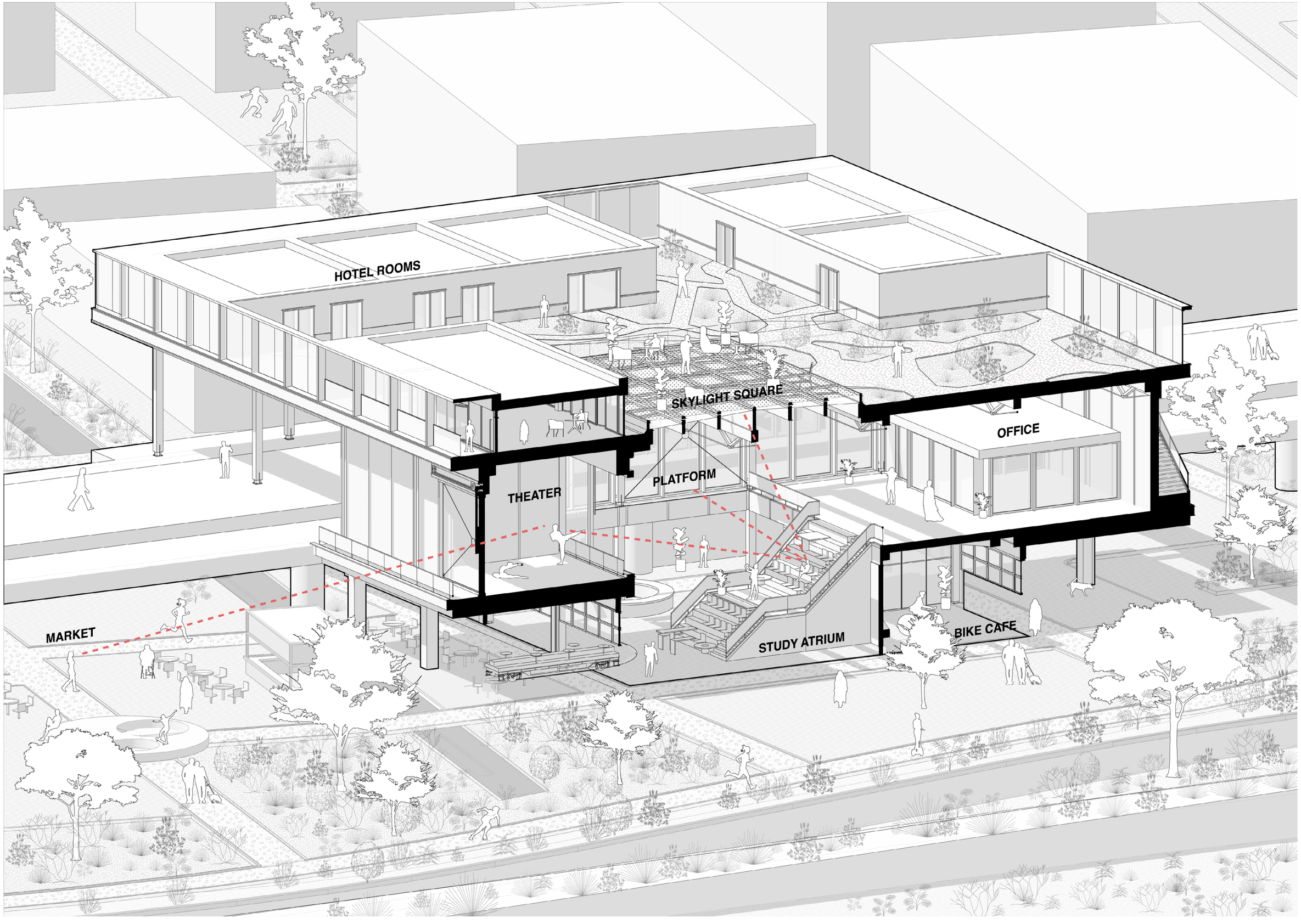
TOOLS

Walkable skylight

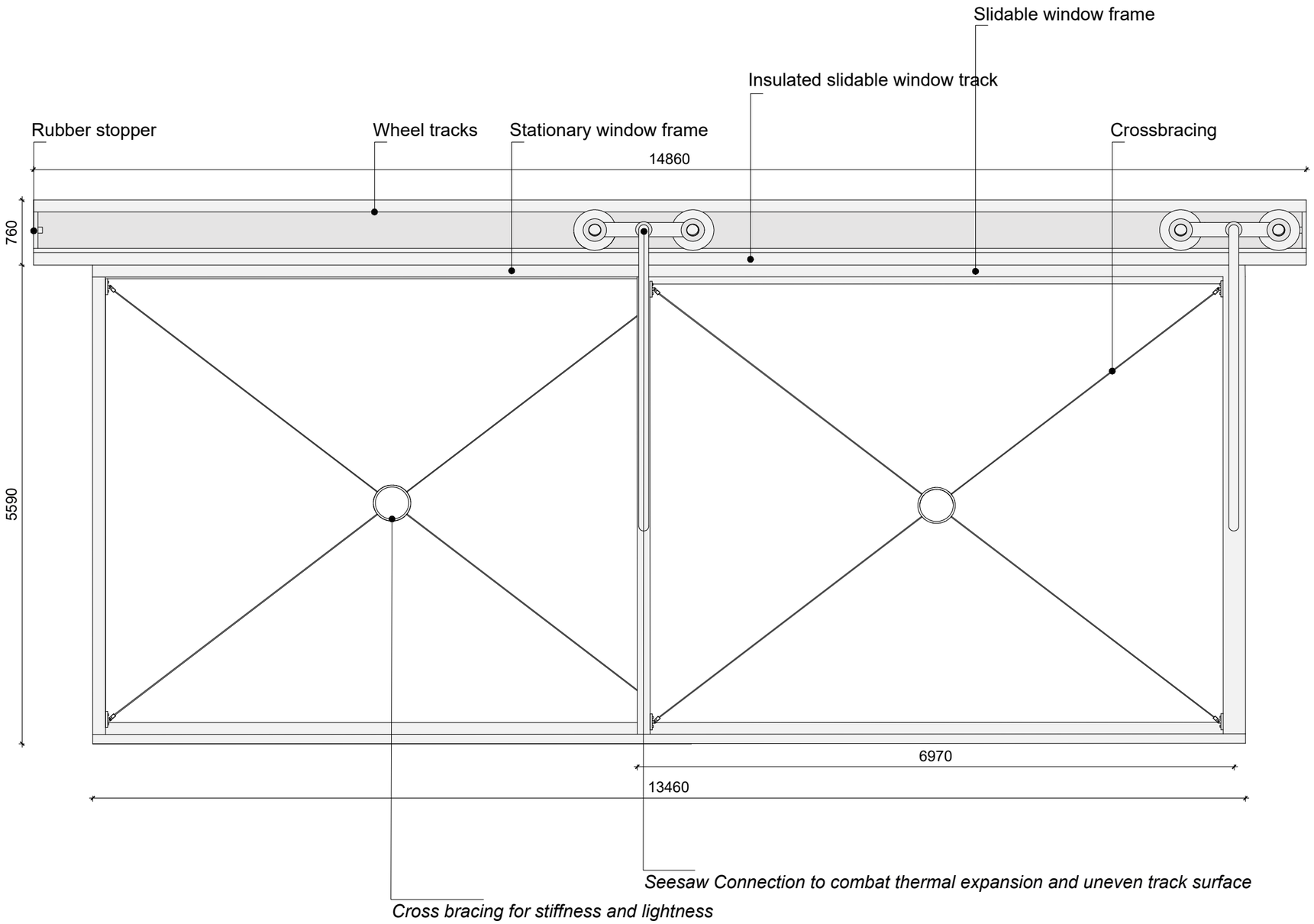
Openable theater window

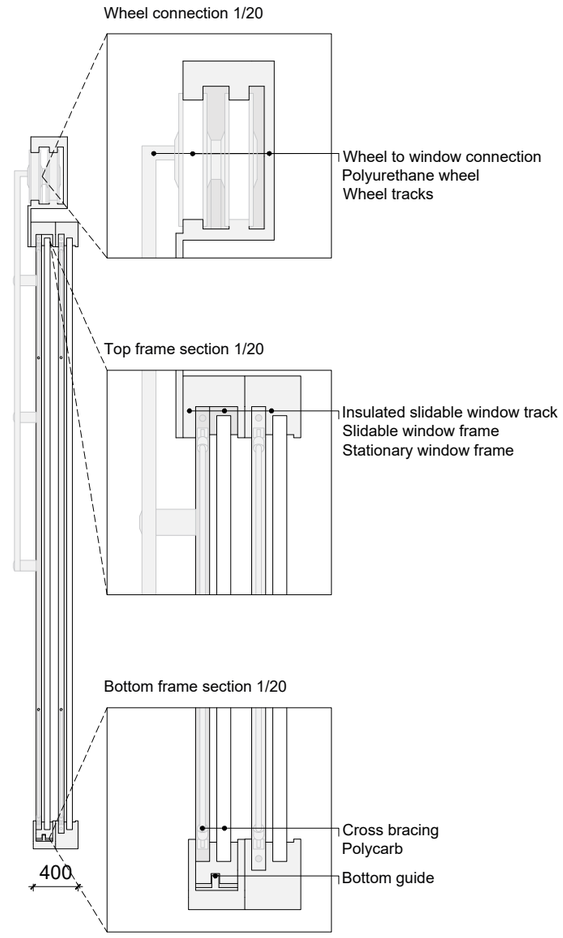
Liftable Transparent facade

SPATIAL EQUALIZER



SPATIAL EQUALIZER



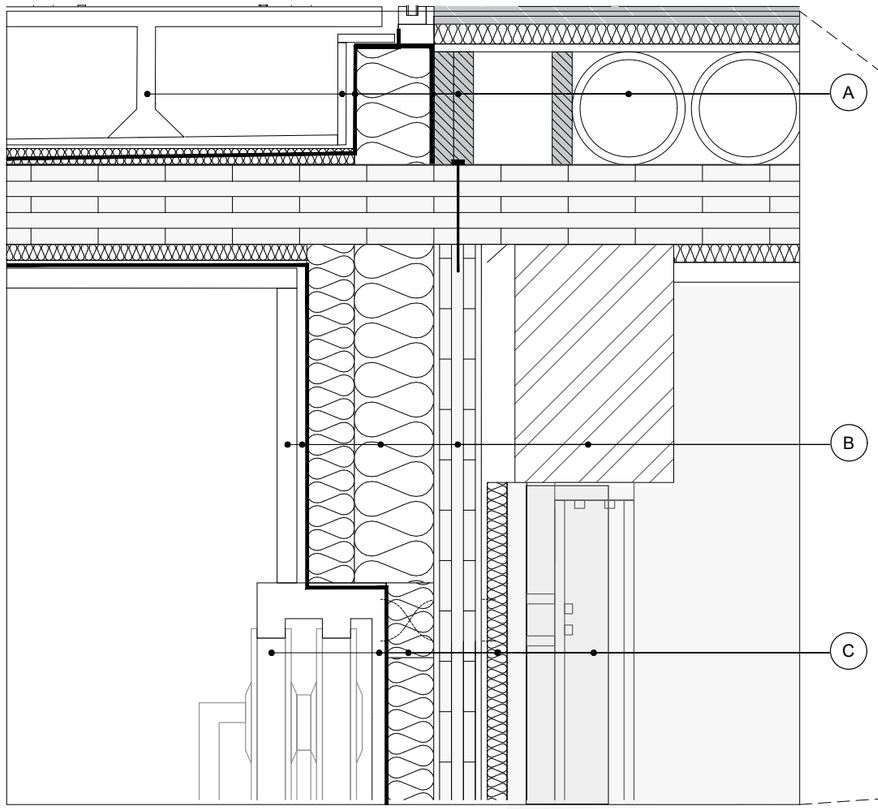


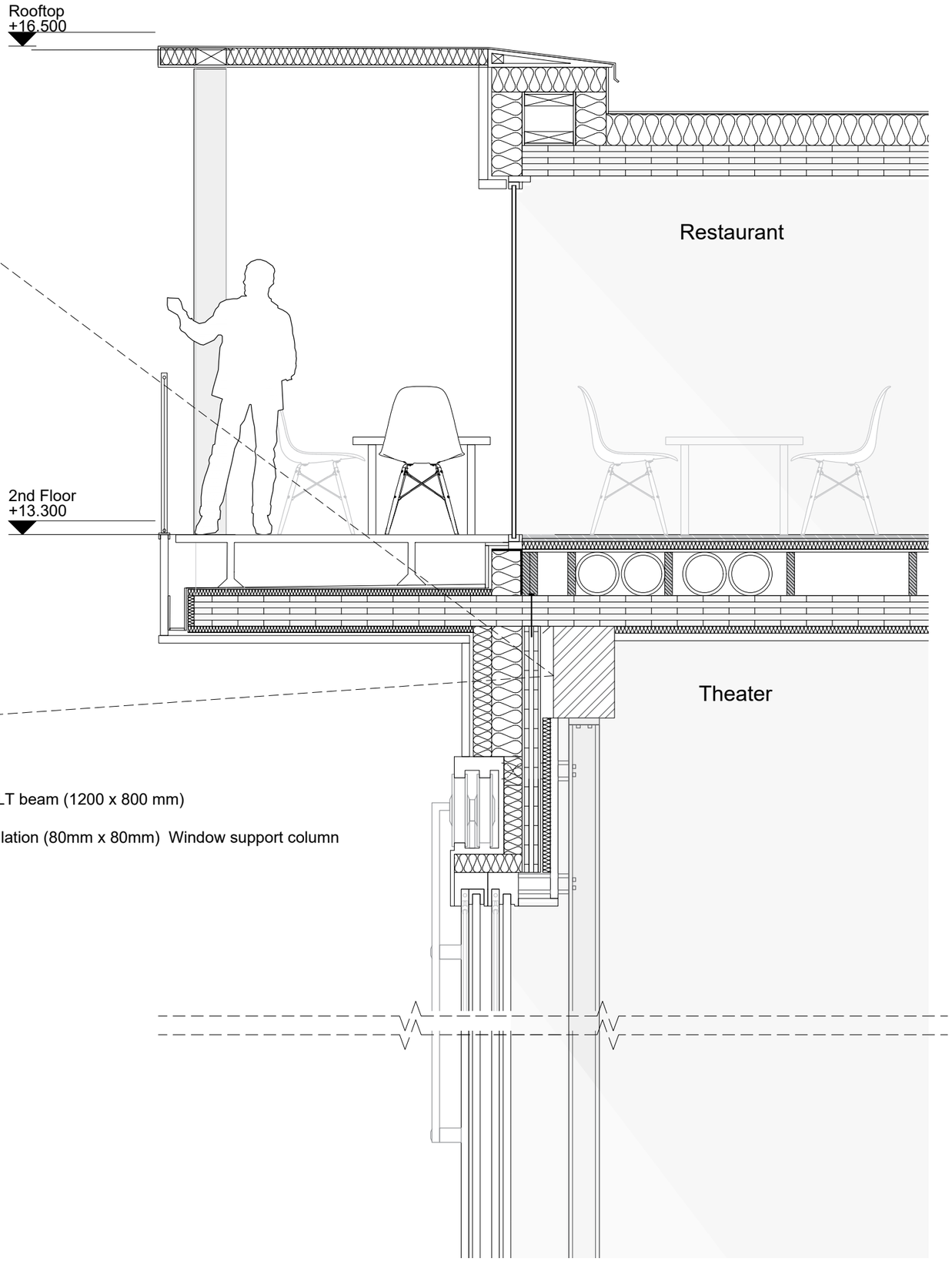
Polycarbonate mass = 40 m2*2.6kg/m2 = 104 kg
Steel mass = 0.5 m3*2.7kg/m2 = 149 kg

Target push force required: 25 KG force
F= cmg, c = 0.1 (Polyurathane wheel on aluminium)
F= 0.1*253*9,81= 250 N = 25 KG force

SPATIAL EQUALIZER

Window to restaurant balcony connection 1/10 scale





(A) Support pad, Metal flashing, Water proofing membrane, L shaped bracket, Accoustic battens, Installations

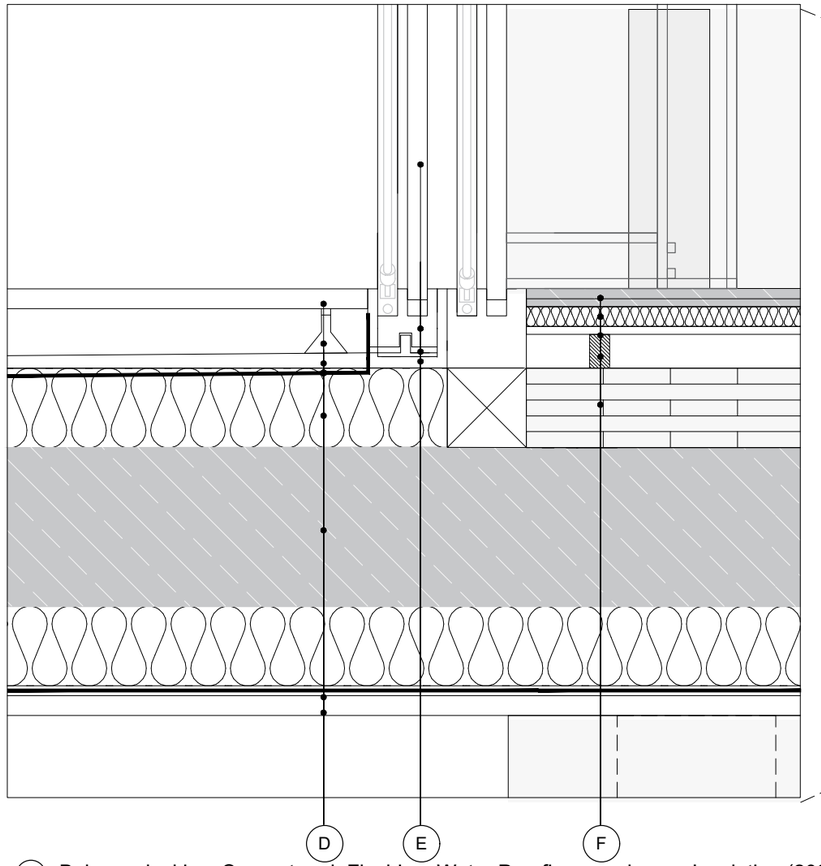
(B) GLT facade panel, Ventilation Cavity/Cladding hooks, Thermal Insulation (200mm), CLT wall (250 mm), GLT beam (1200 x 800 mm)

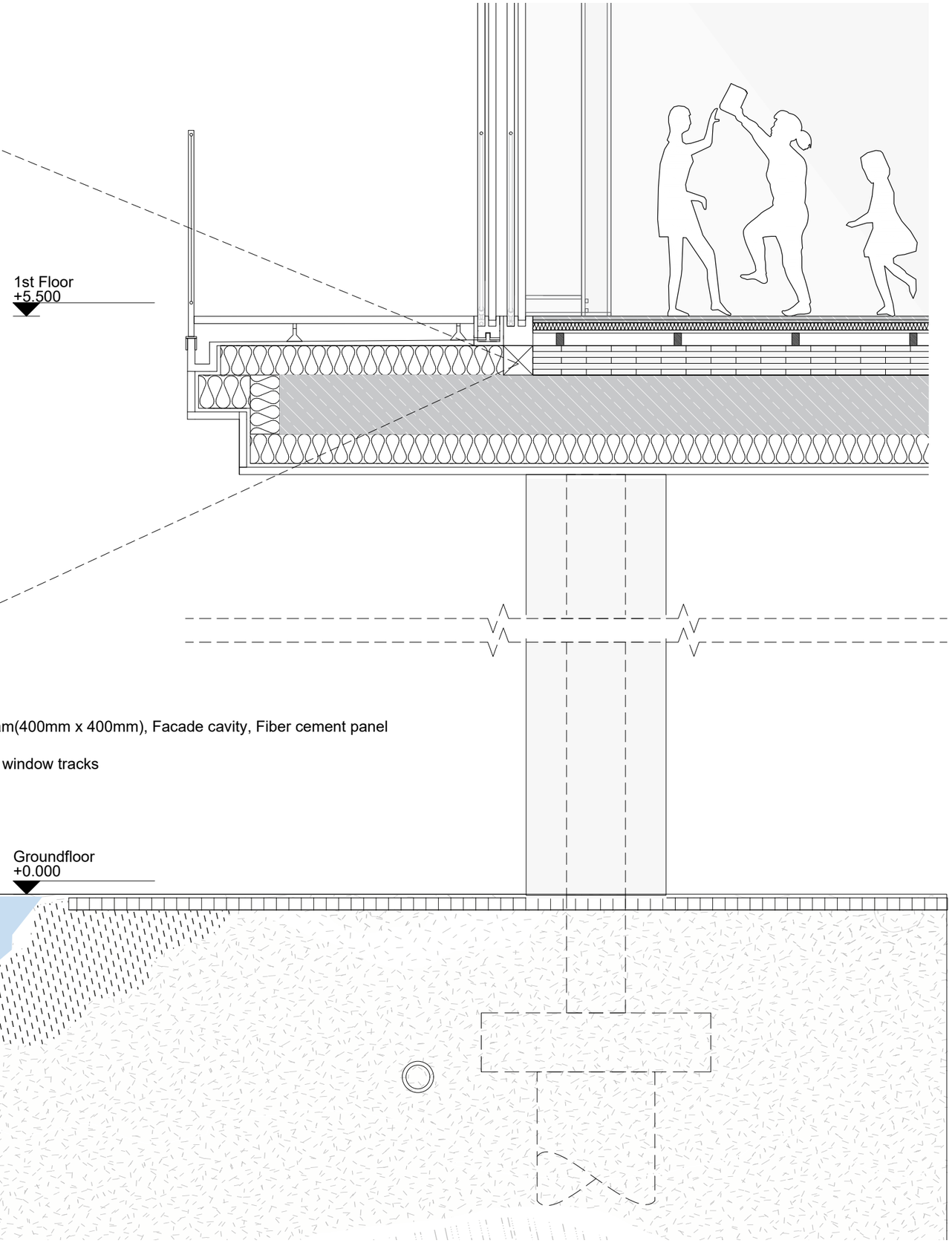
(C) Polyurethane wheel (R = 200mm) , Aluminium Sliding window casing and tracks, Thermal break, Sound insulation (80mm x 80mm) Window support column

Window to theater balcony connection 1/10 scale

SPATIAL EQUALIZER

Window to theater balcony connection 1/10 scale



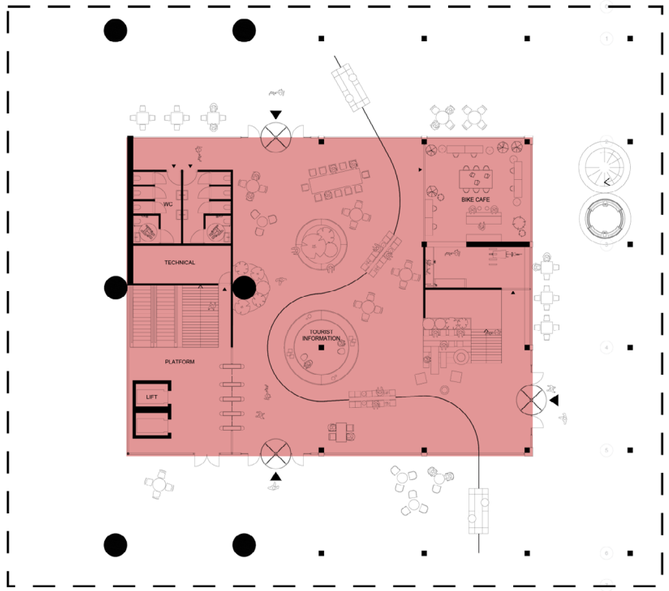


(D) Balcony decking, Support pad, Flashing, Water Proofing membrane, Insulation (200 mm), Concrete beam(400mm x 400mm), Facade cavity, Fiber cement panel

(E) Polycarbonate window (50 mm), Aluminium window casing (300 mm), Slidable window guide, Insulated window tracks

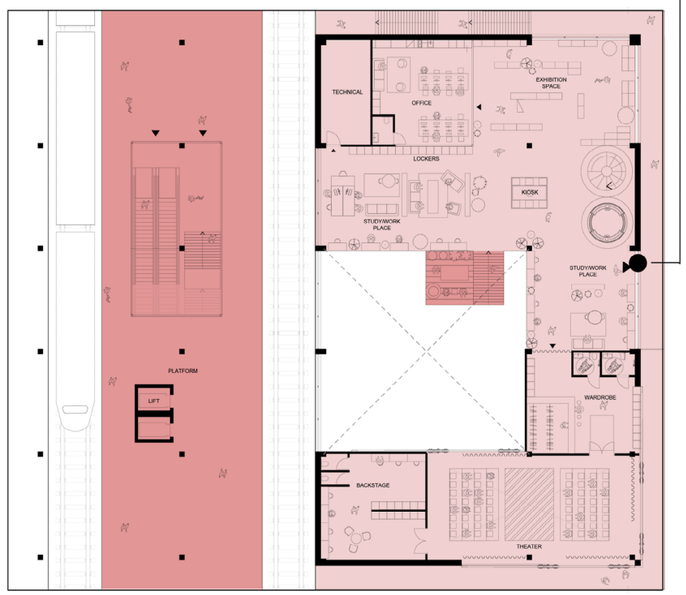
(F) Concrete floor finish, Sound insulation, Plywood, Acoustical battens, CLT floor slabs (250 mm)

SPATIAL EQUALIZER

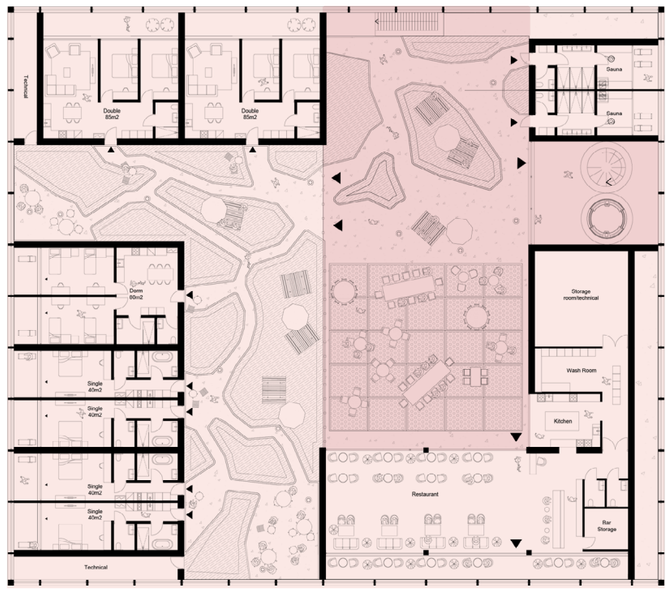


Groundfloor

After 22:00 this door can only be used by hotel guests



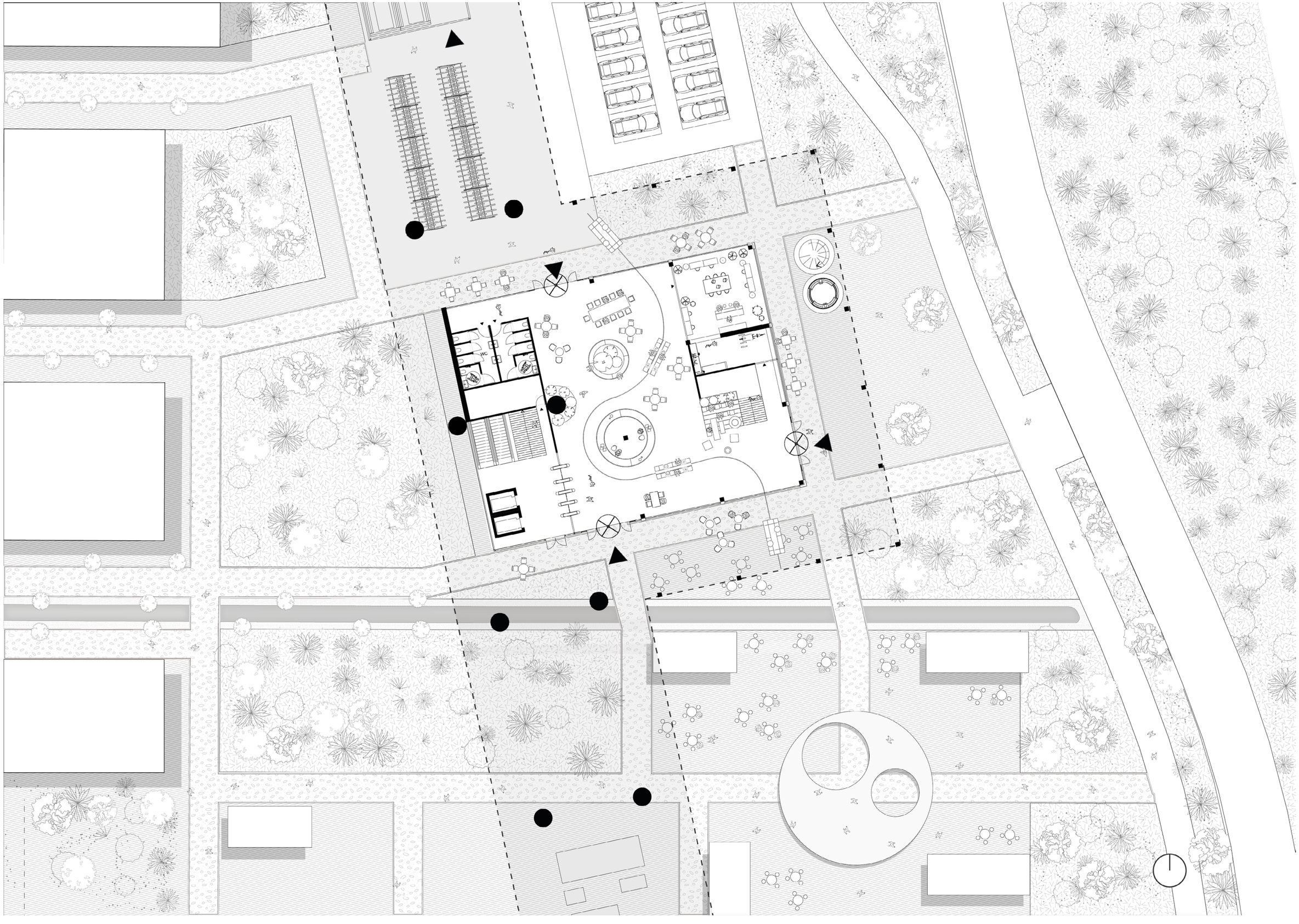
First floor



Rooftop

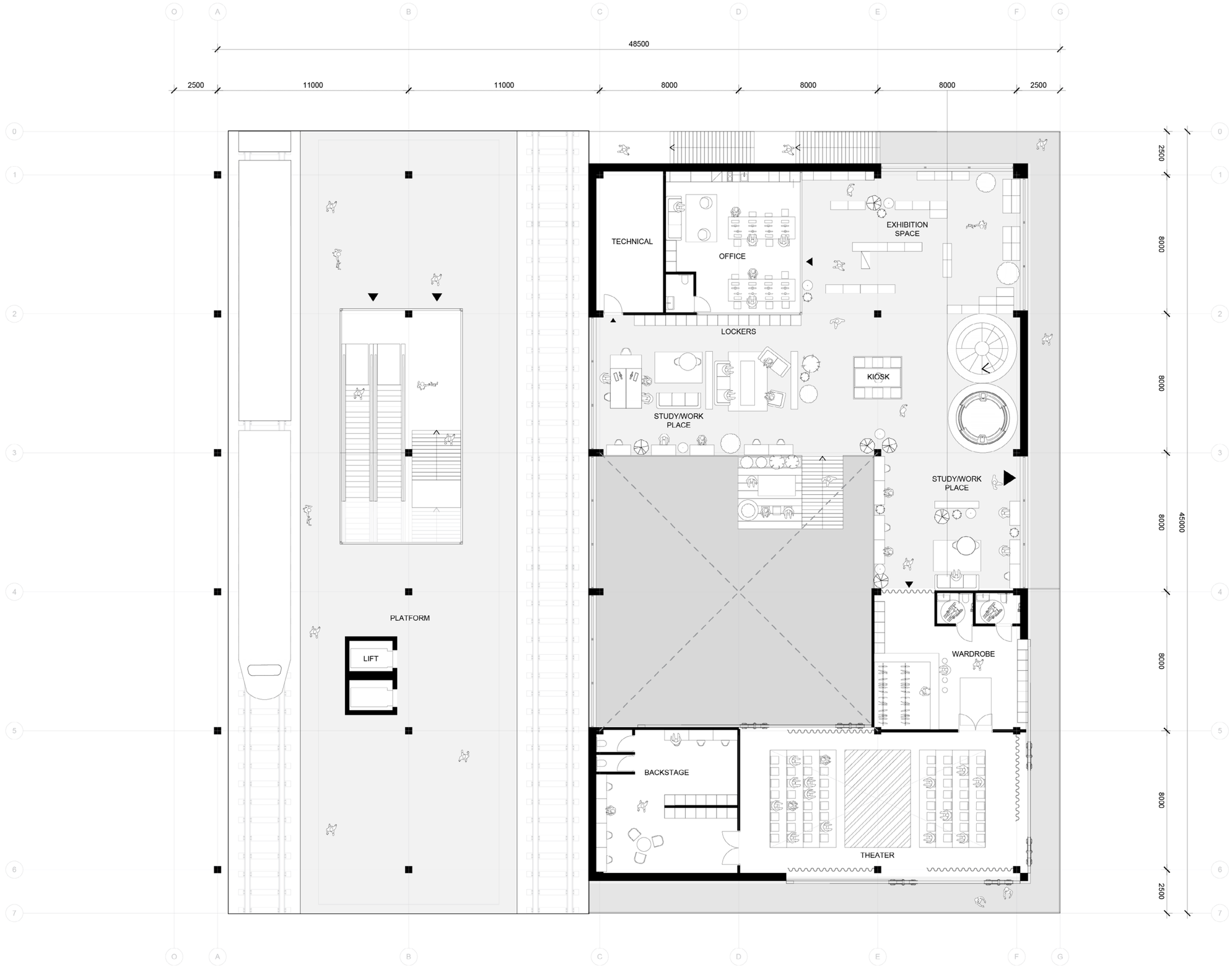
Public 24/7 **Semi-Public 8:00-22:00** **Private**

SPATIAL EQUALIZER



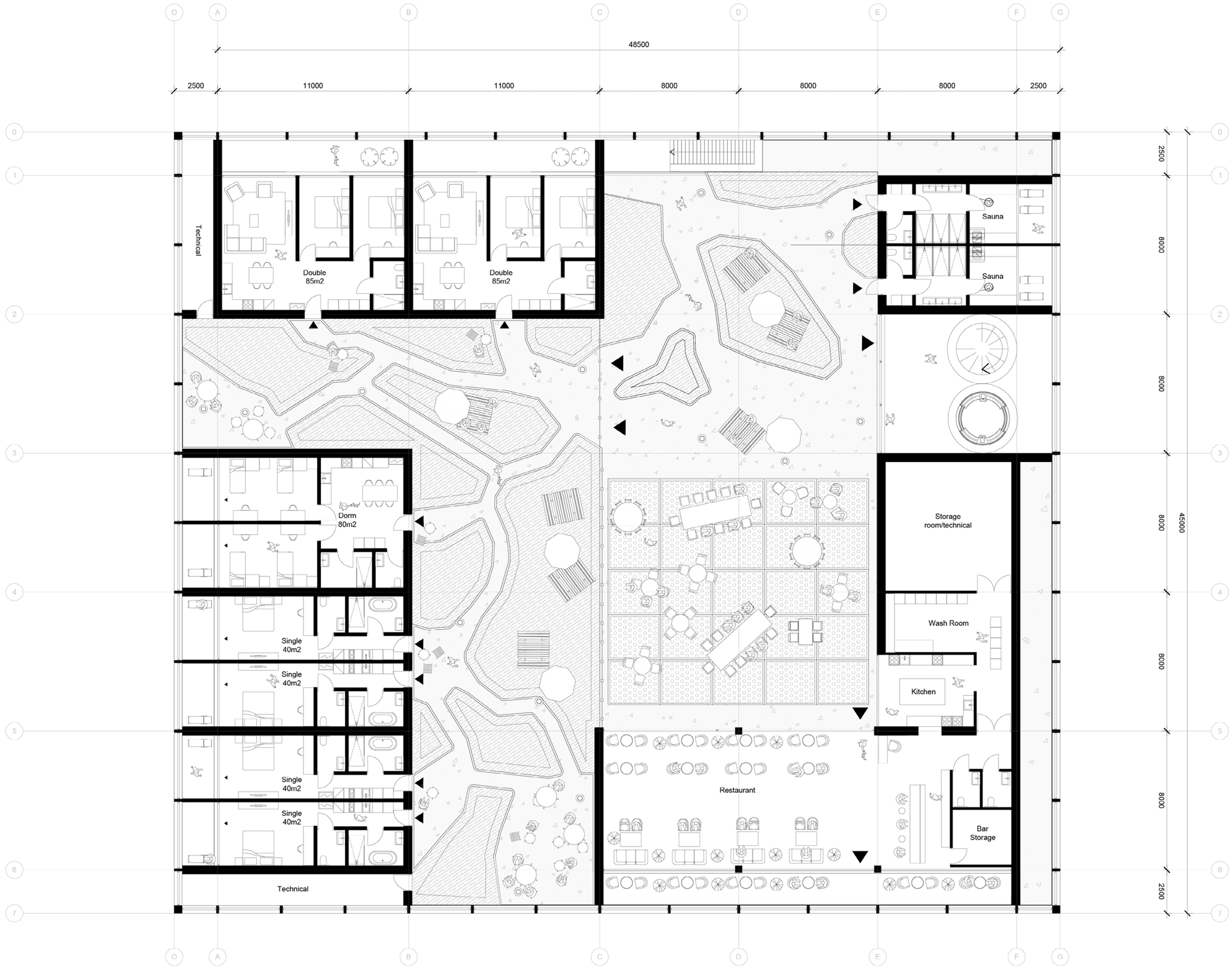


SPATIAL EQUALIZER





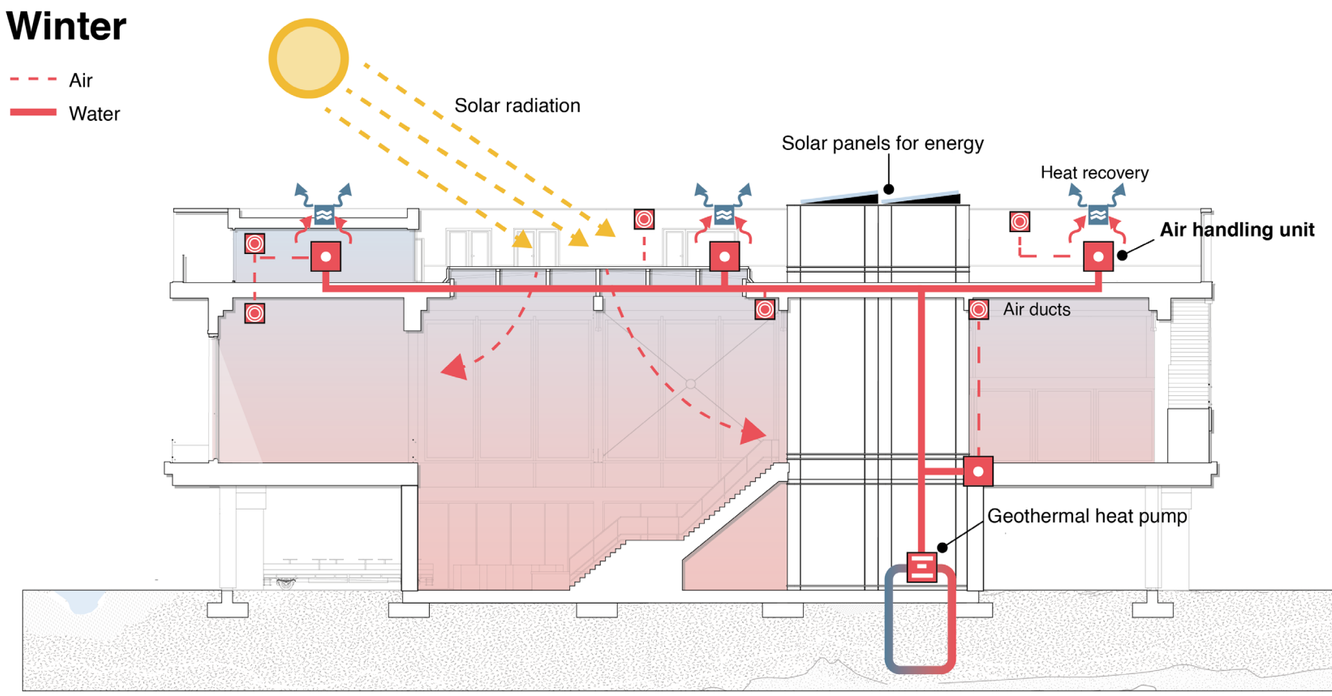
SPATIAL EQUALIZER

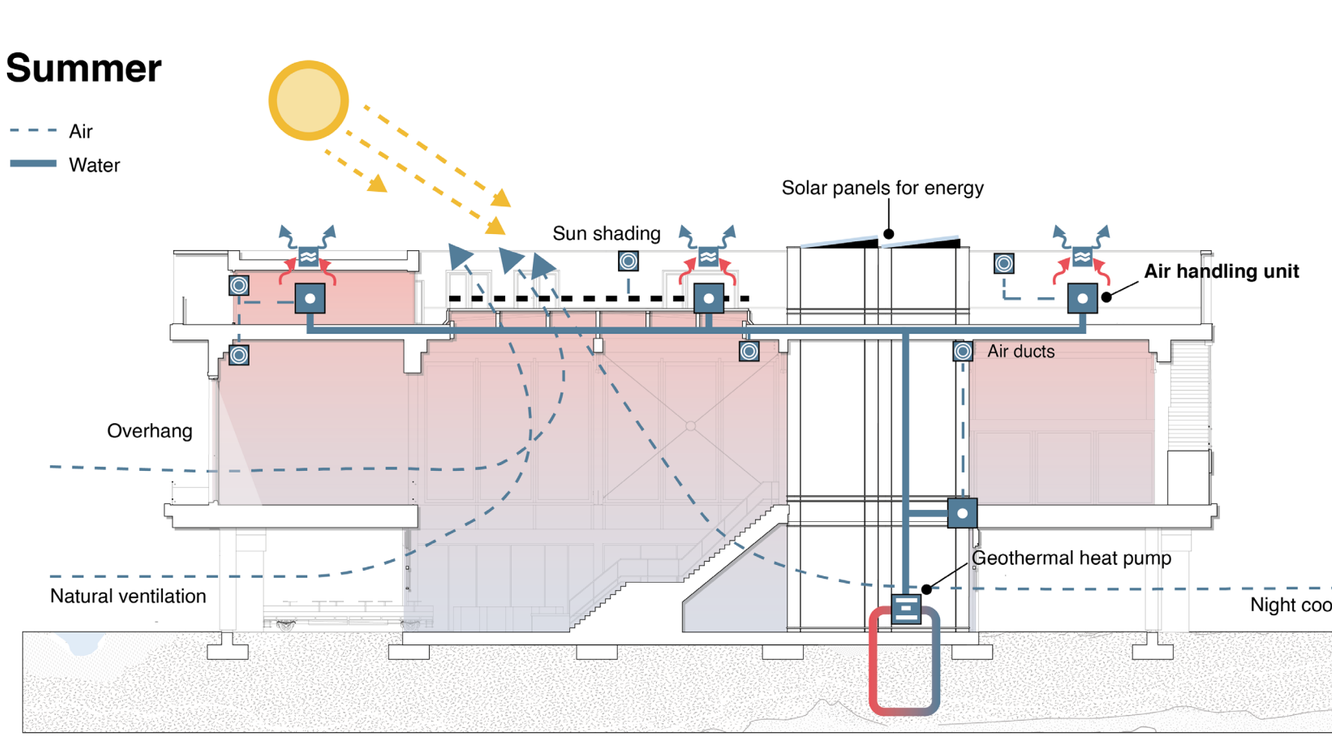




CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABLITY

CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY





VIDEO

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fpME5HU0zxnQEd5Wl6l7J8fYVRZbI__f/view?usp=sharing



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