

Gardens of Dialectics  
*A story of decay and reconstruction.*



-JOURNAL-

The drawings and studies I have been working on.  
A description of the process and the dialogues between ideas.

IMAGES FROM THE  
EXAMPLE SITE









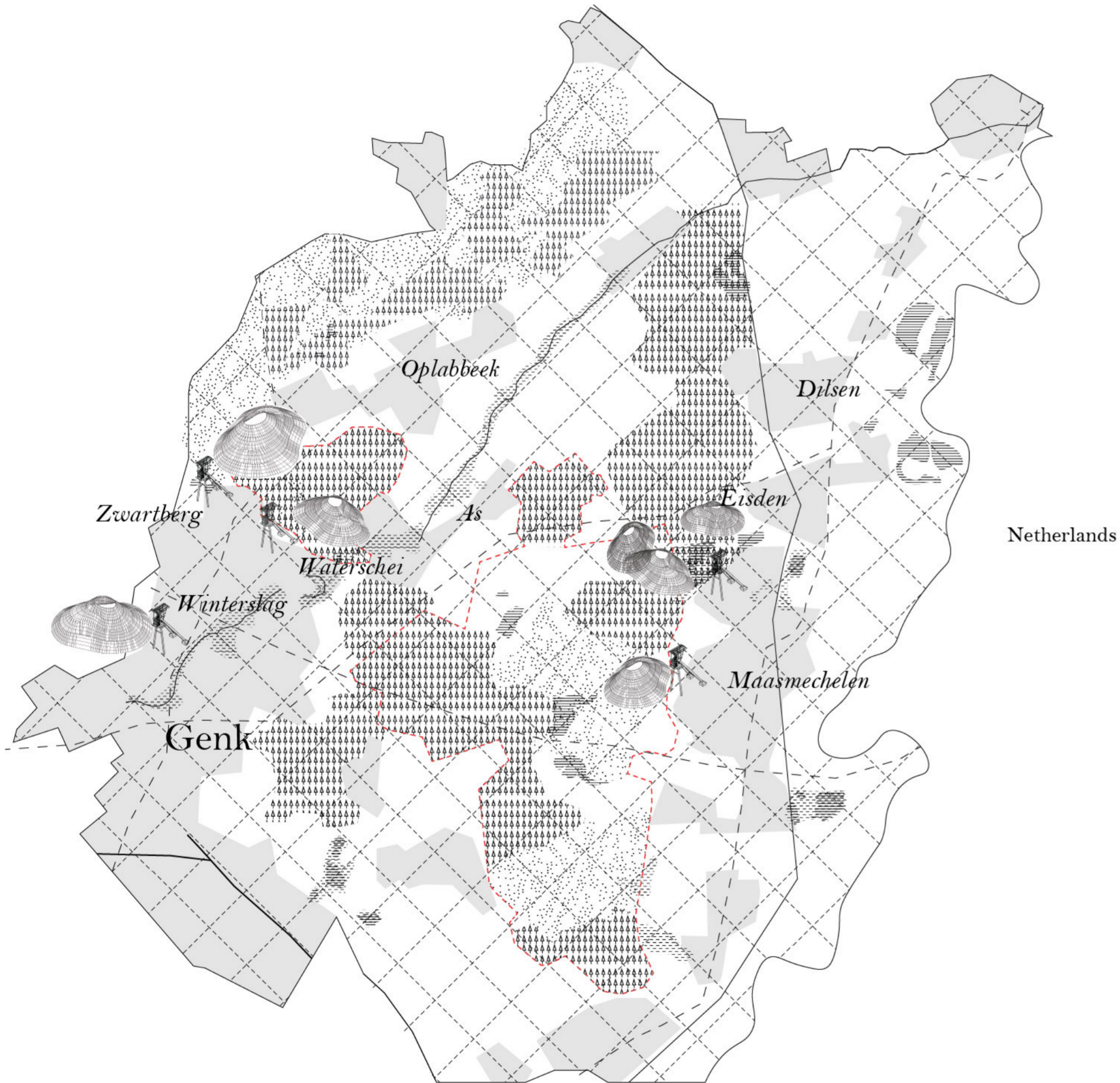




CONTEXT

### Kempe Region

The project is an example for depopulating regions that were dependent from the exploitation of natural resources.



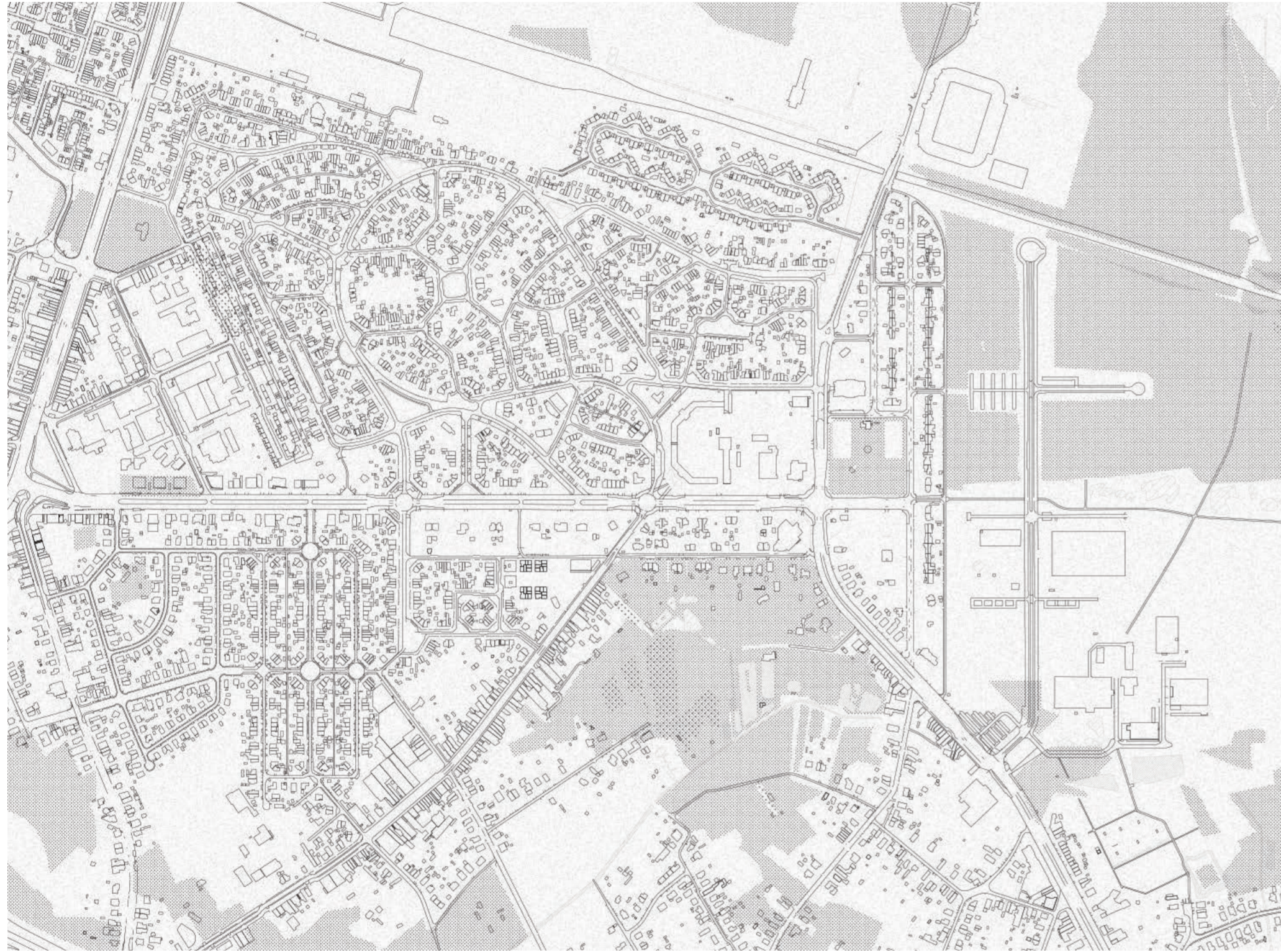
### Genk

The city rapidly grew around the opening of three mines.

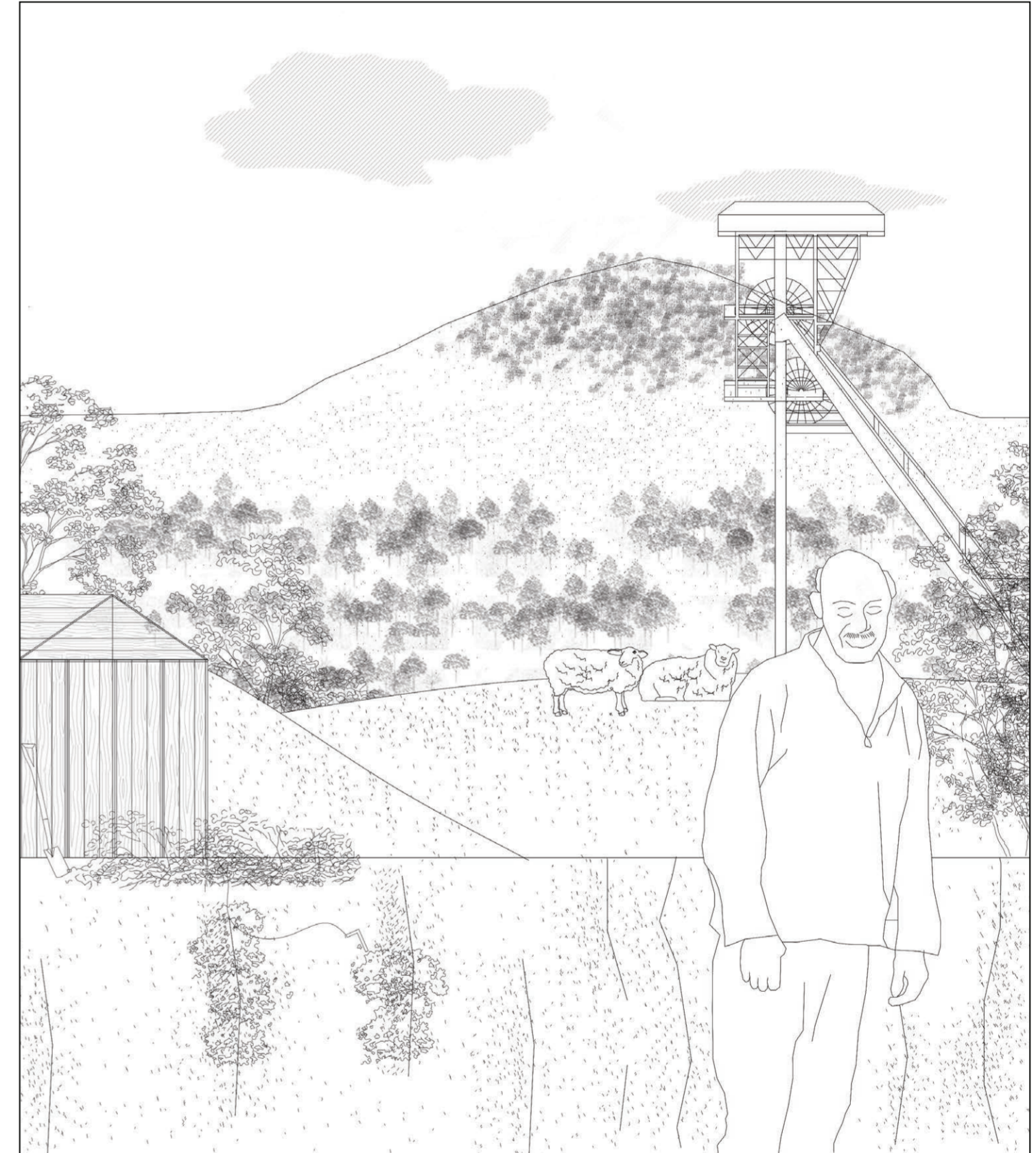


## General plan of the town

Waterschei is a perfect example of Garden City in connection with the former extraction site

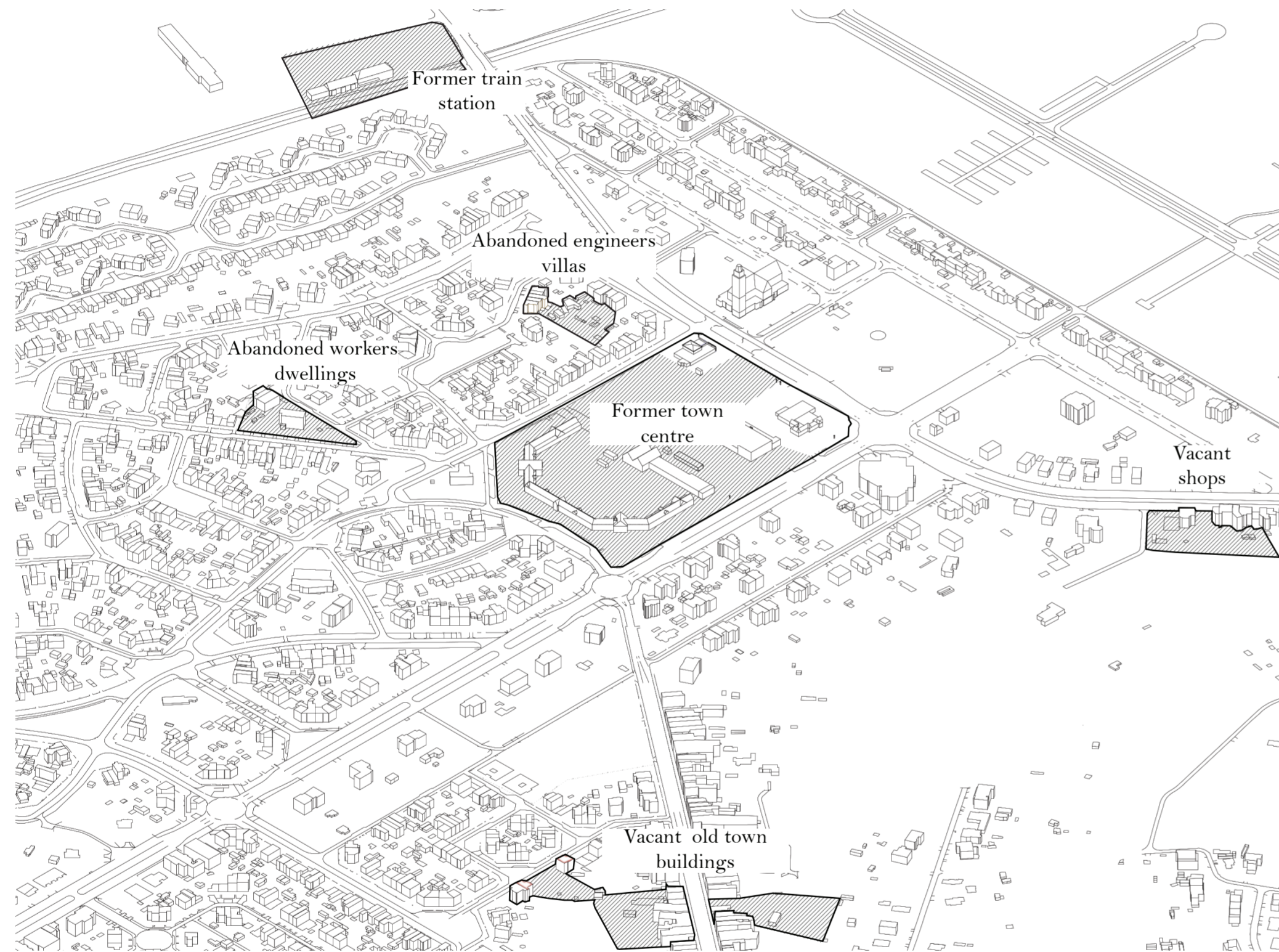


## Landscape and identity



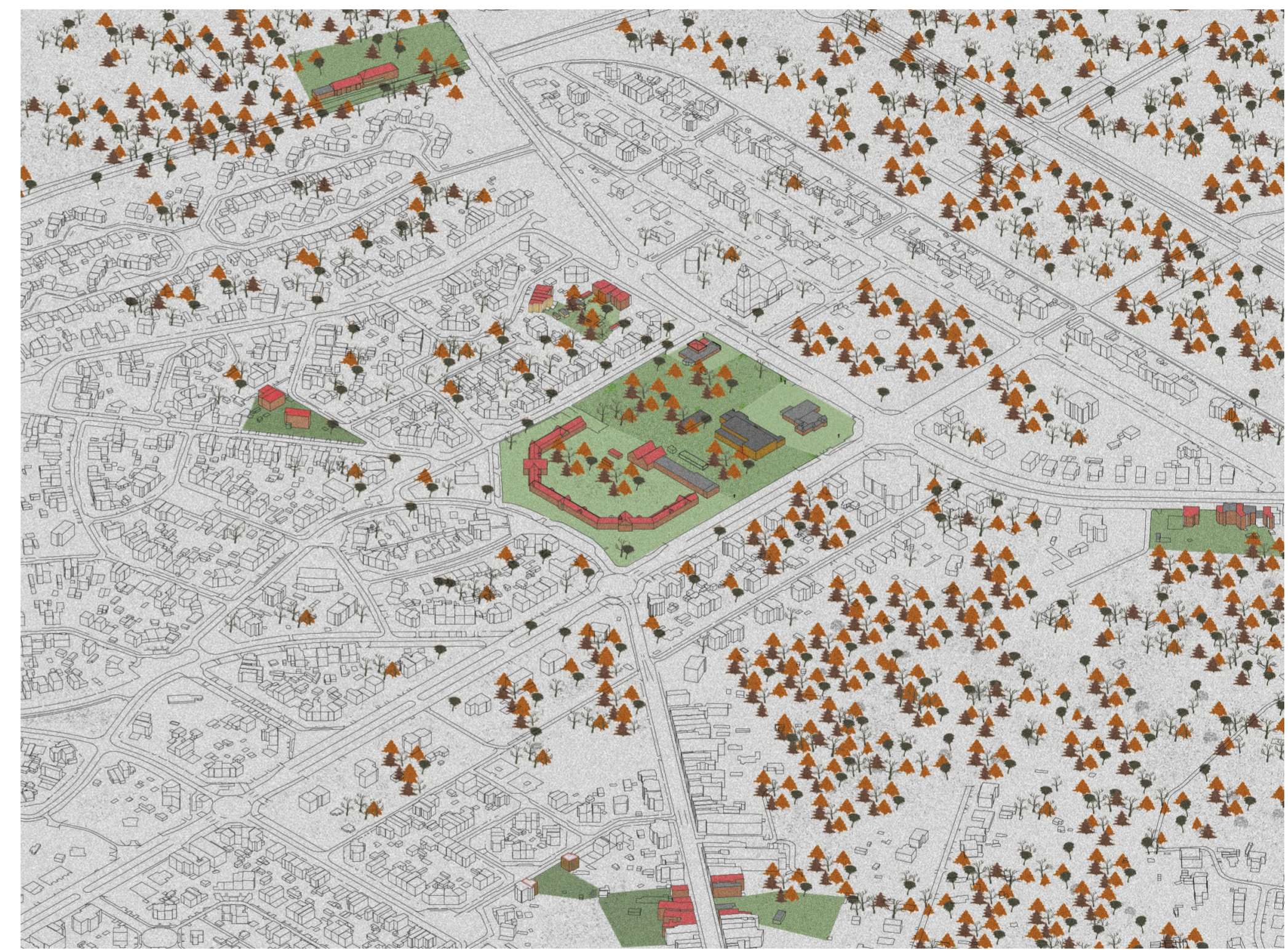
**Axometric view of the town**

the demographic decay is visible through the presence of abandoned plots

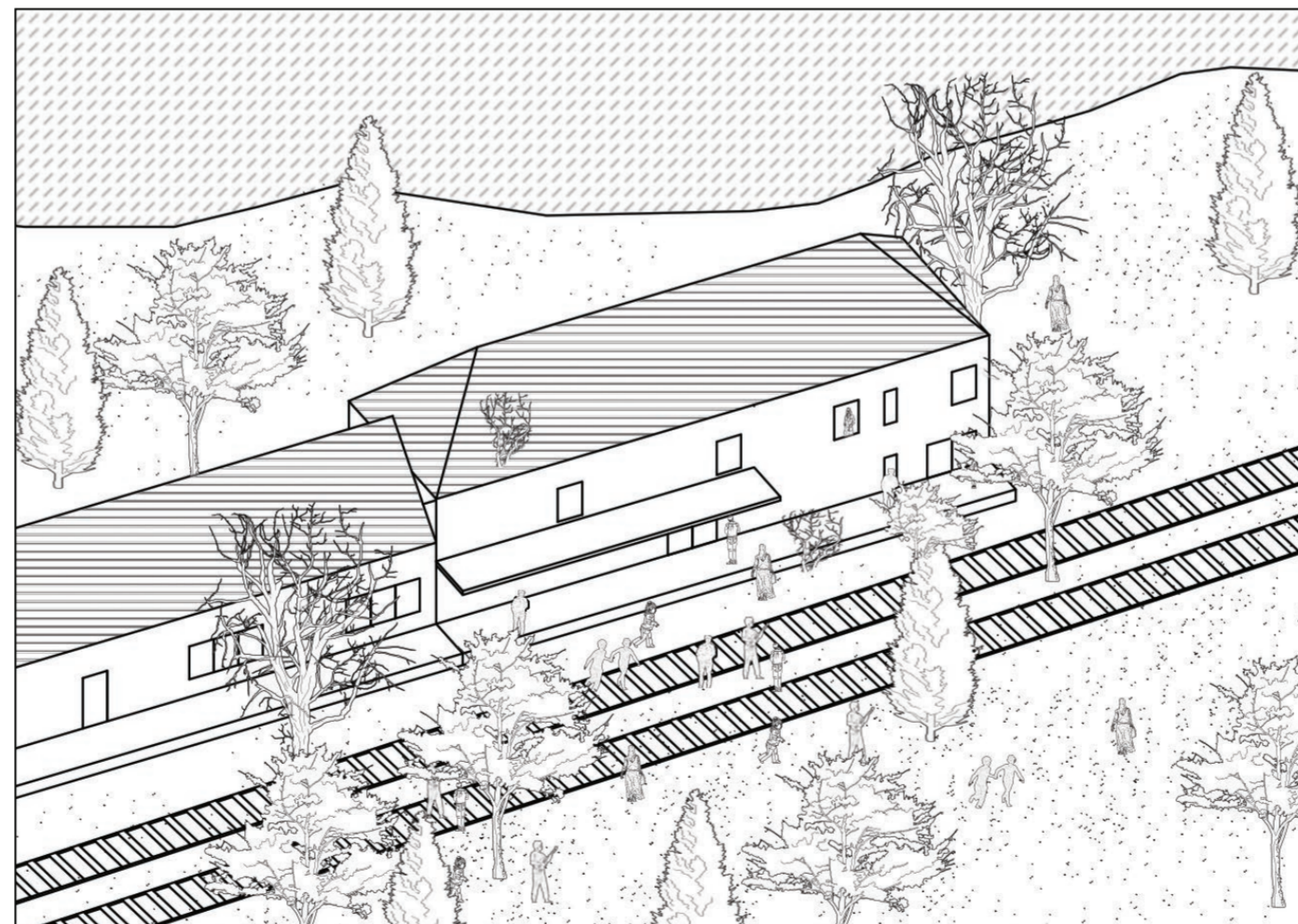
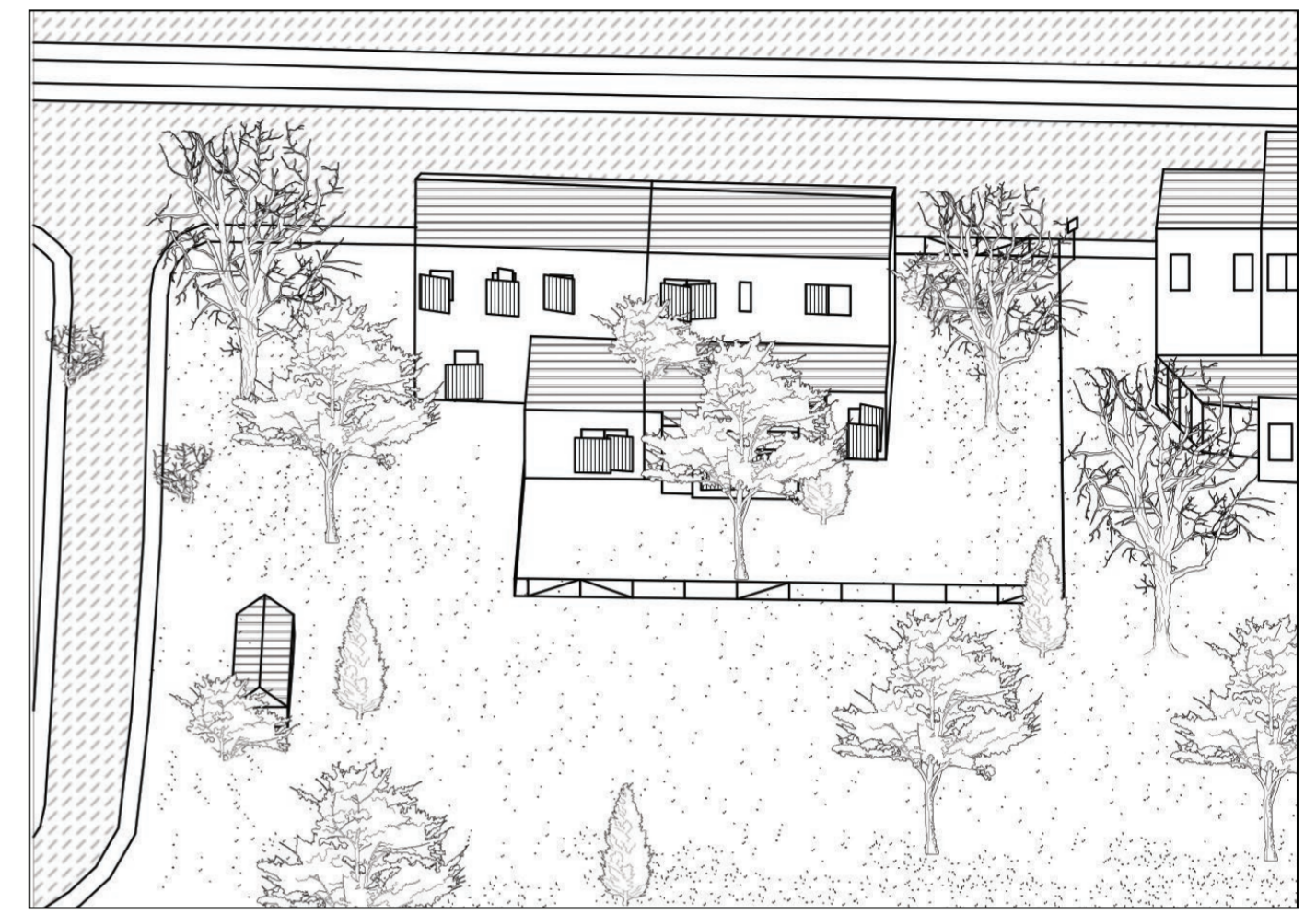
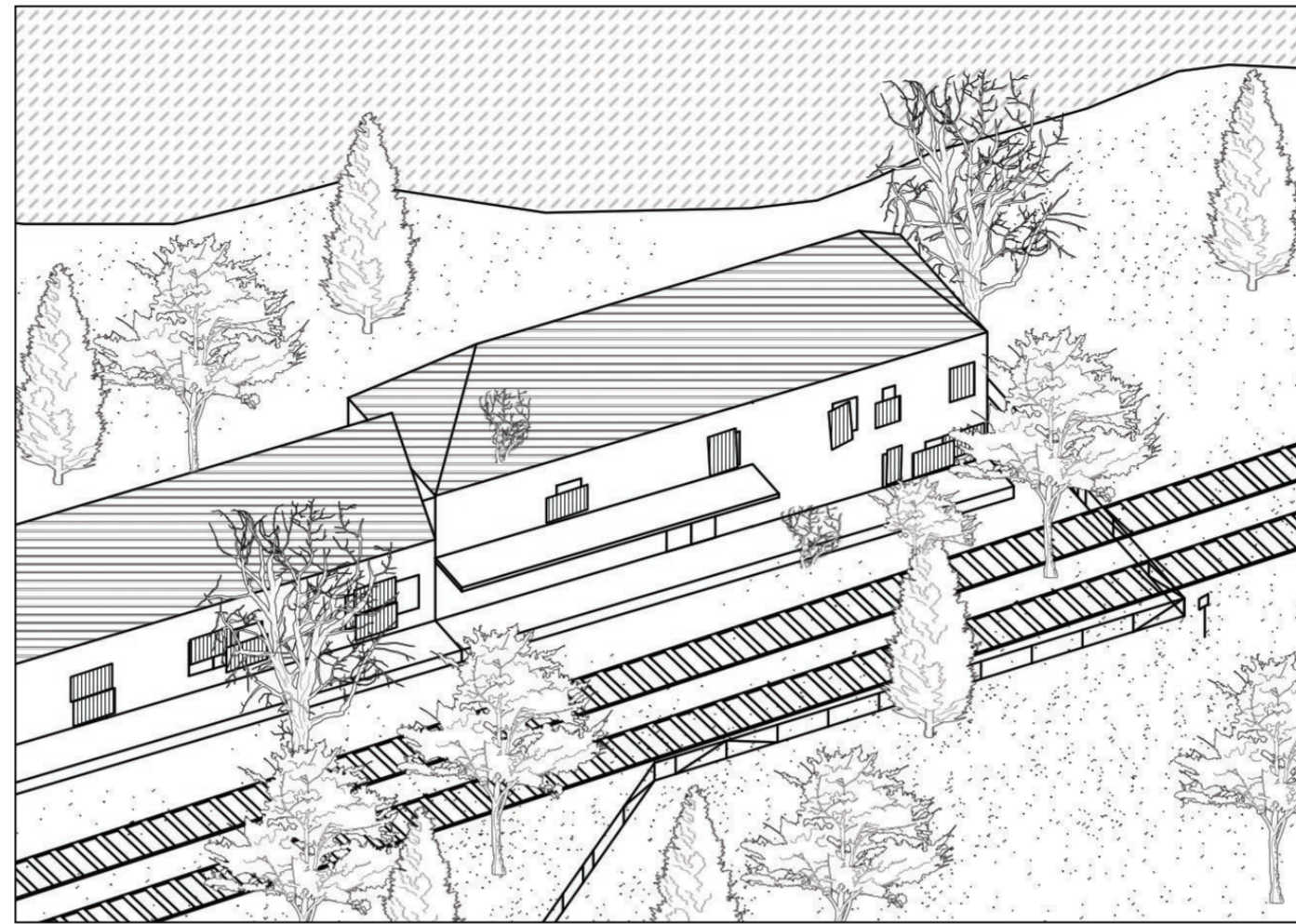
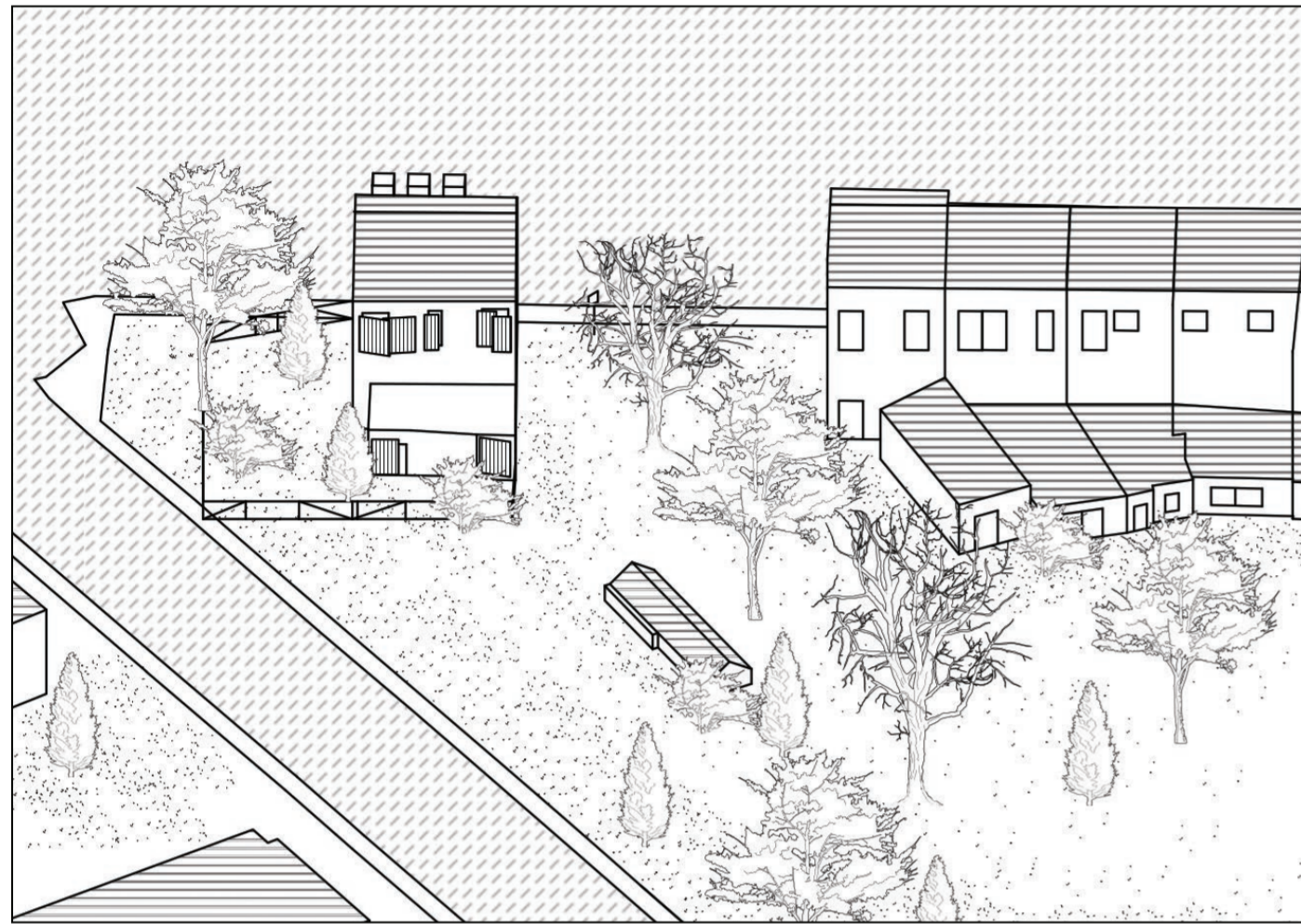


**Axometric view of the town**

the project proposes a framework of reclaimed plots

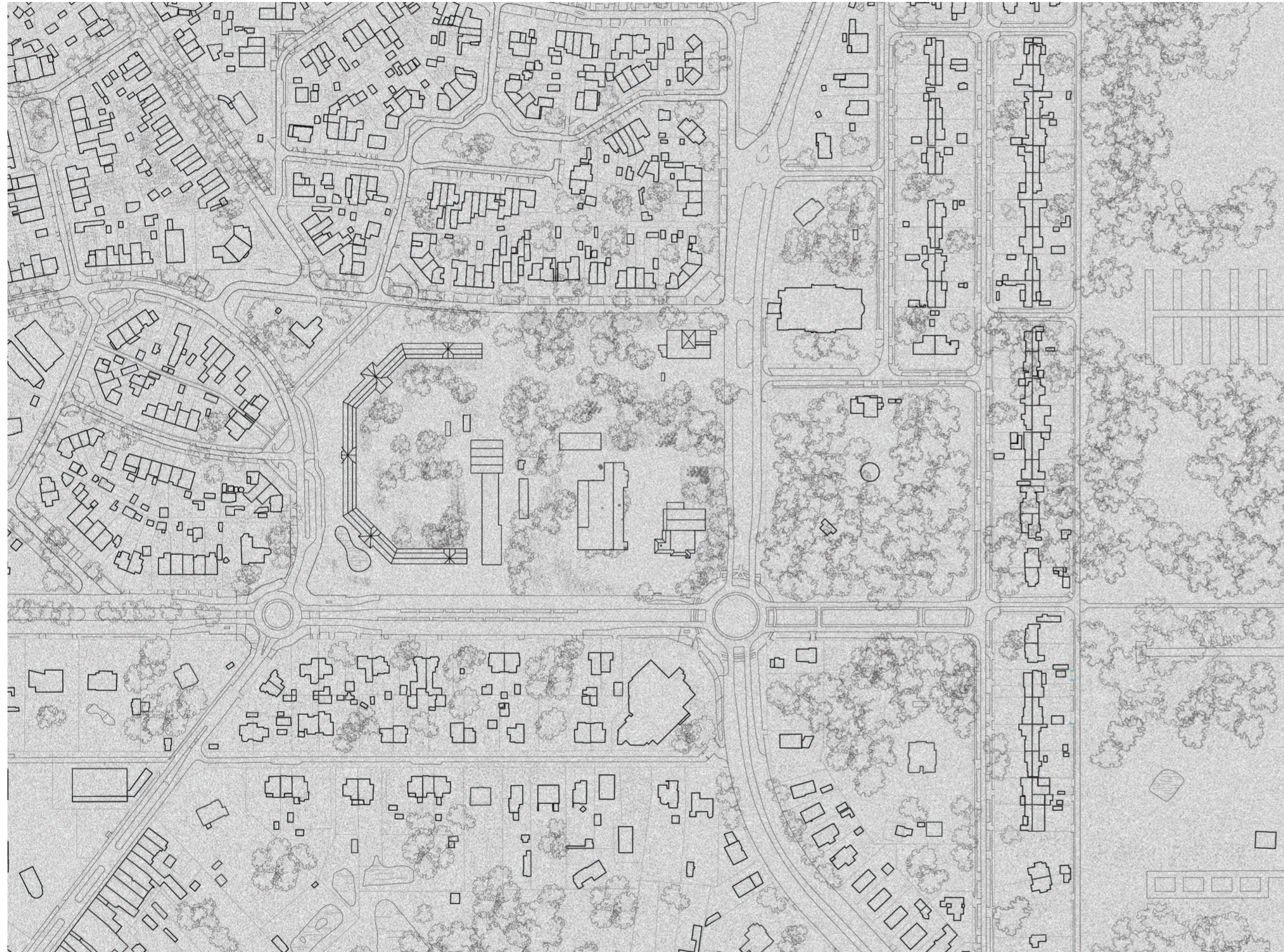


Axonomic view of town abandoned plots  
from the condition of abandonment to the reclamation

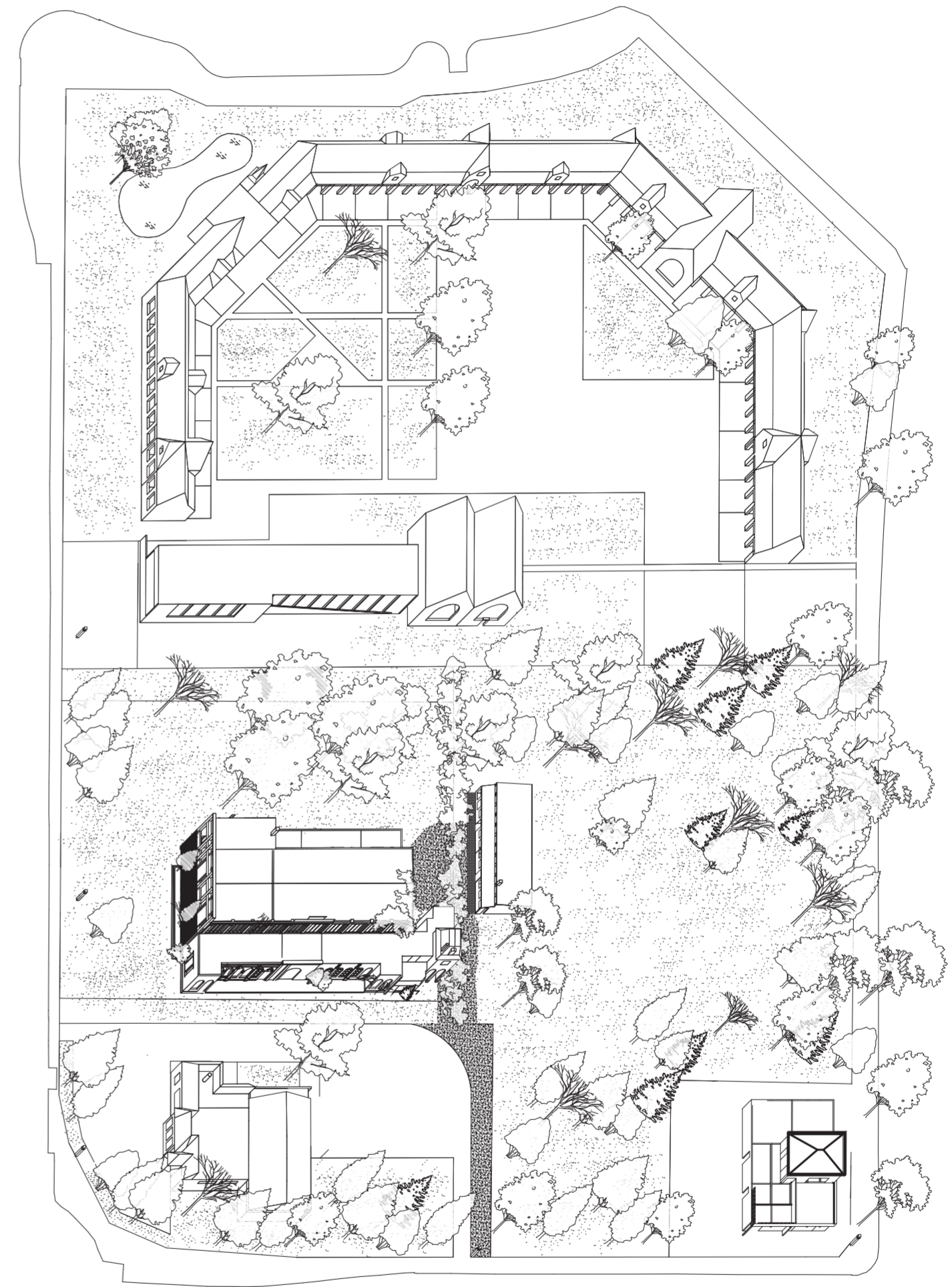


SITE

General plan of the example site  
between town and forest



Axonomic view of the example site









**View of the garden**  
a white gatespost reveal hints of a past identity



**View of the garden**  
the structure is built around the presence of the portico



**View of the garden**  
the white threshold is built and plants are added



**View of the garden**  
the porticos introduce the process to the buildings



View of the garden  
the threshold between garden and outside



View of the garden  
the threshold between the gardens



**View of the garden**  
vegetation becomes denser where inhabitants can enjoy solitary walks

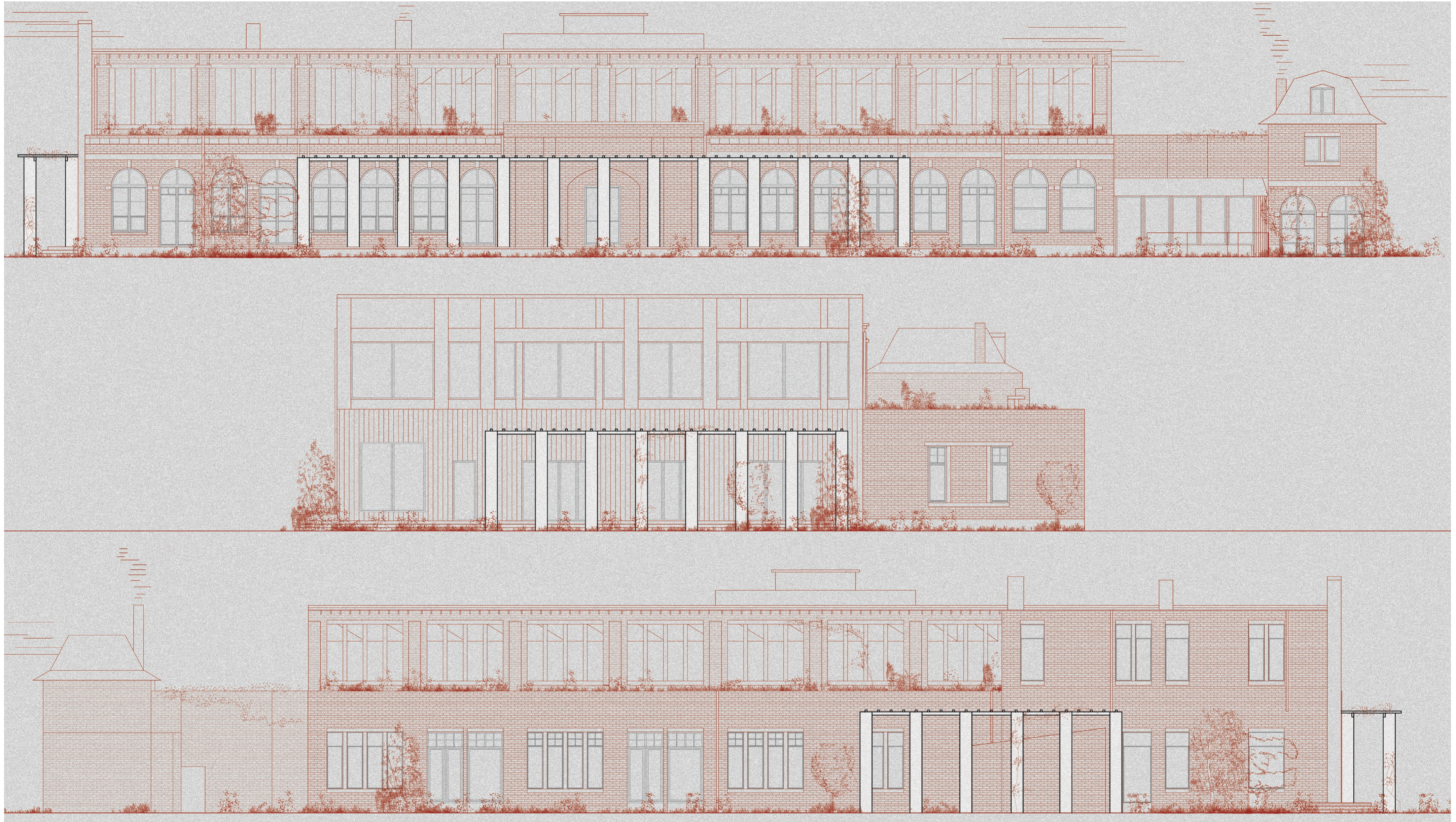


**View of the garden**  
in the center, the vegetation is higher and wildlife can take place

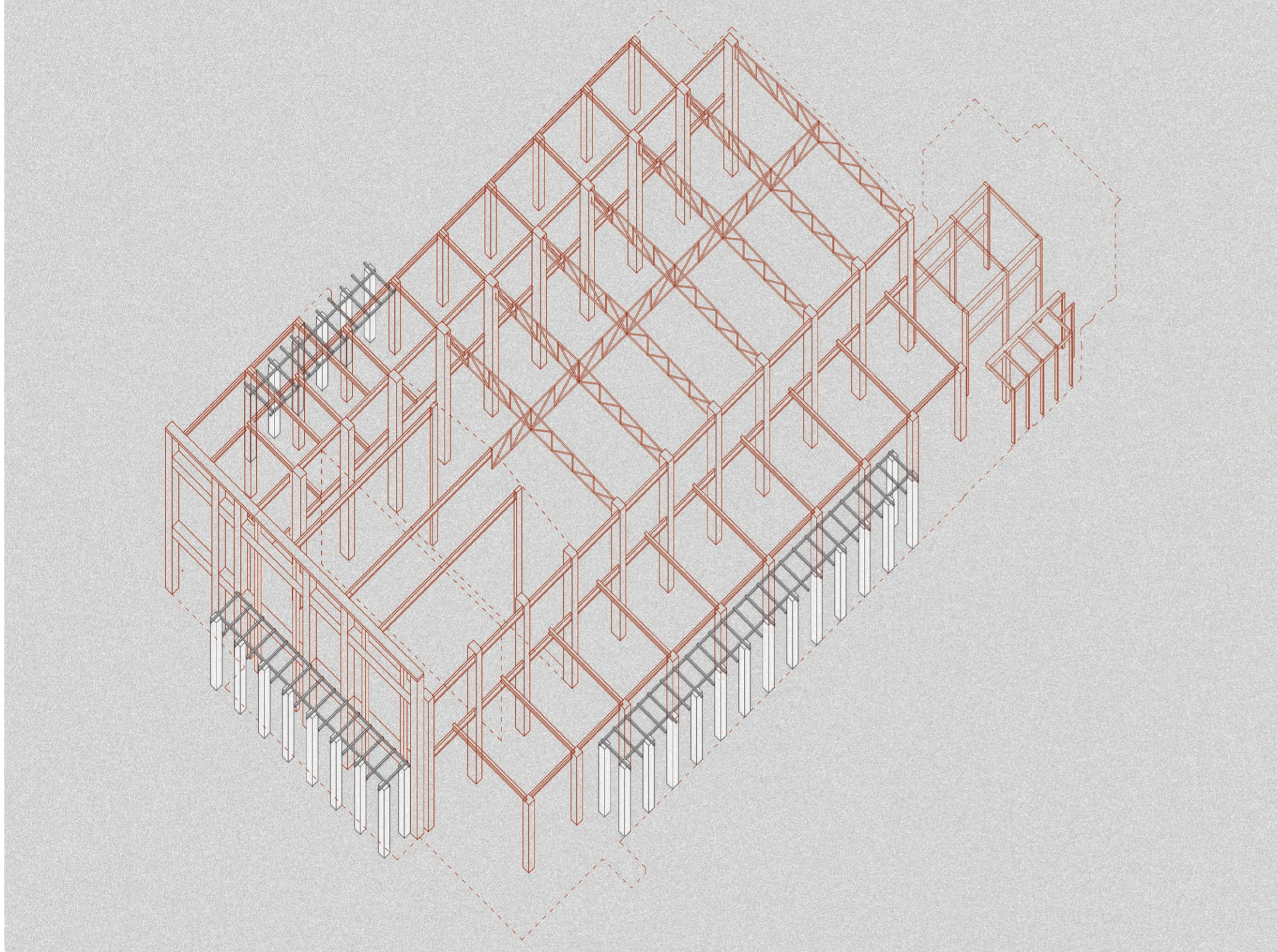


BUILDING

**Building elevations**  
the white porticos reveal the transformation to the outside

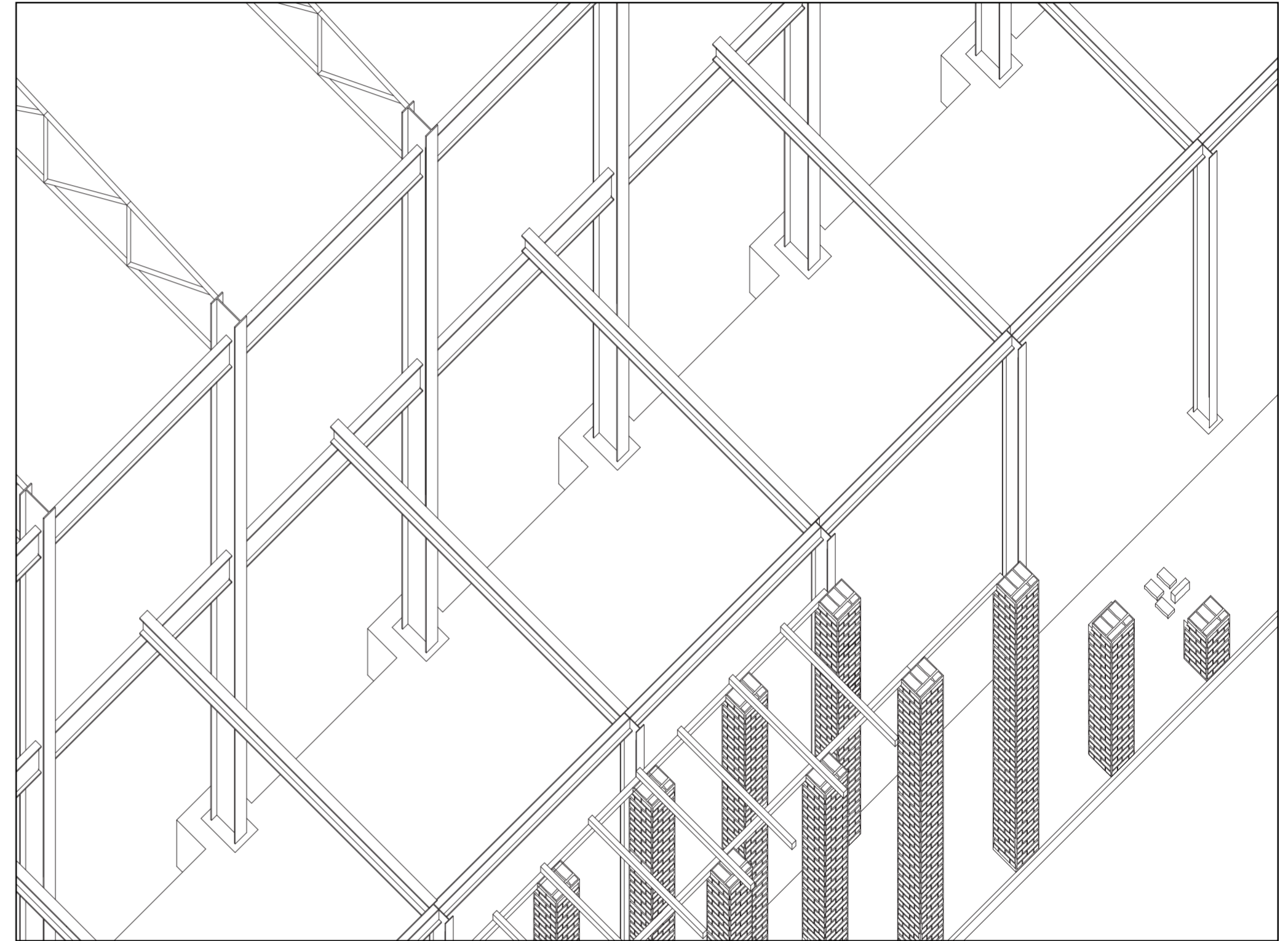


Structural diagram

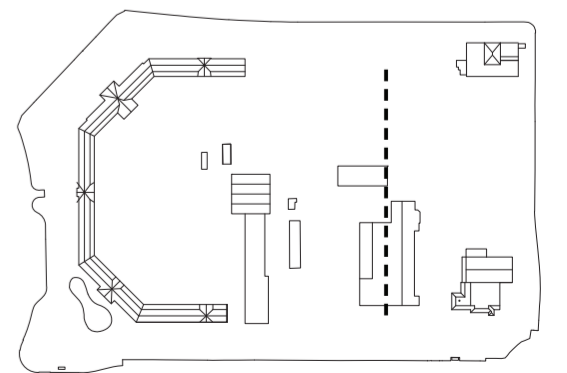


Detail of the structure

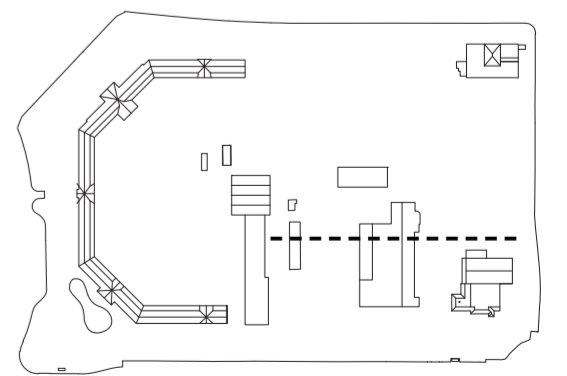
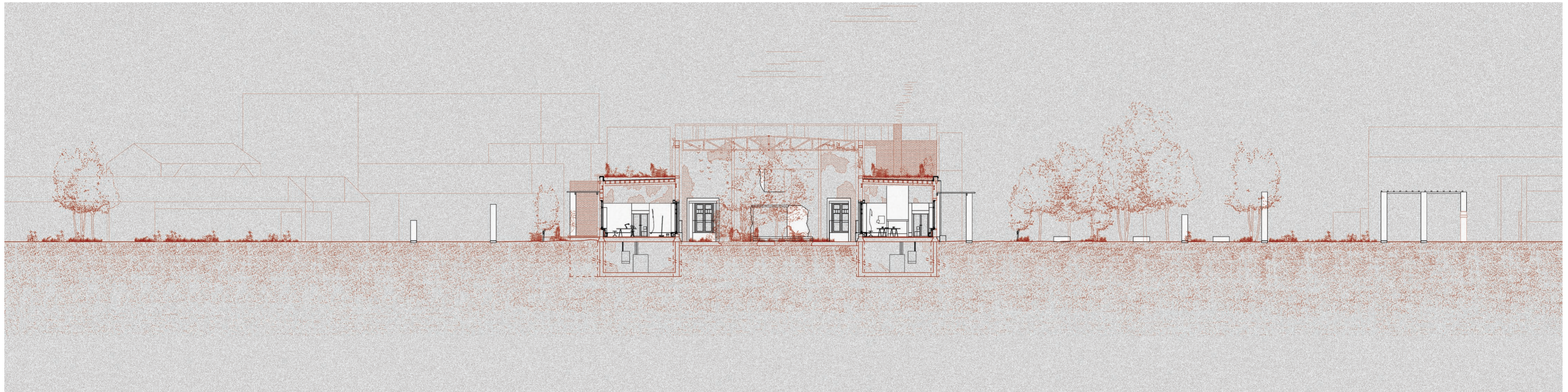
the original steel structure of the building is re-iterated by the porticos construction

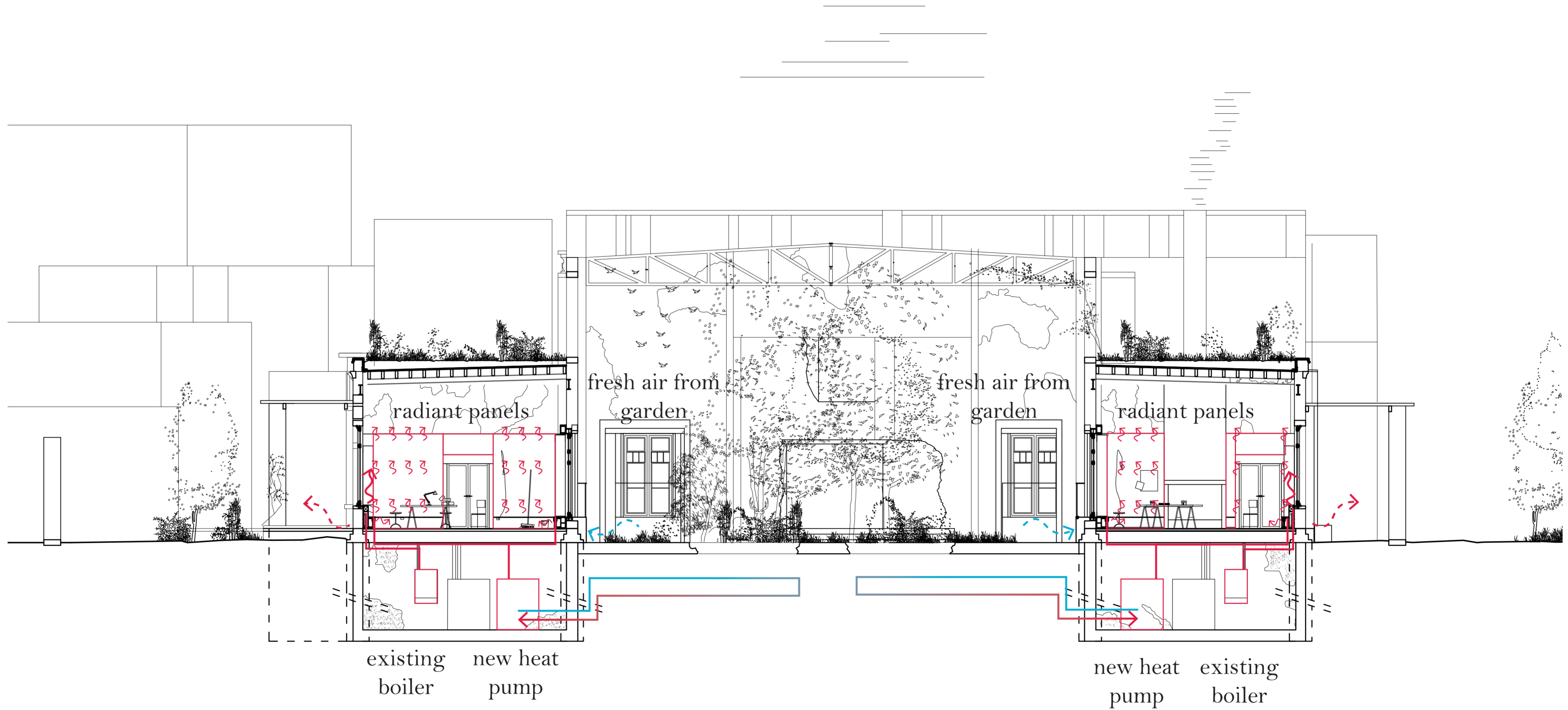


General longitudinal section of the building

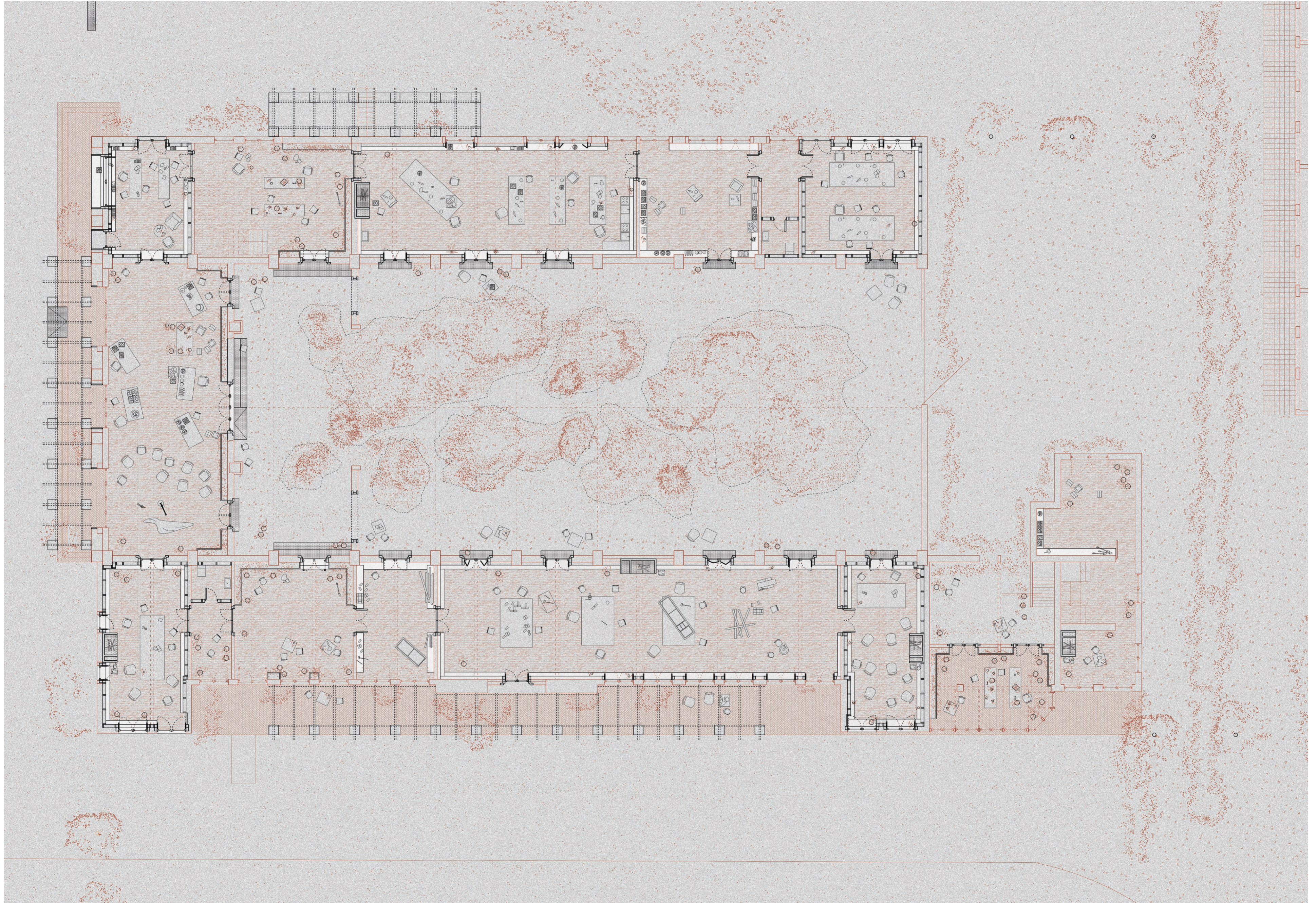


General transversal section of the building





**General plan**  
central garden and activities in the perimetral interiors



**General plan**  
to different degrees of "openness" responds different activities

**Ruined walls**  
Garden  
1°C / 25°C



**Painted walls**  
Wintergarden, seasonal  
collective events  
15°C / 23°C



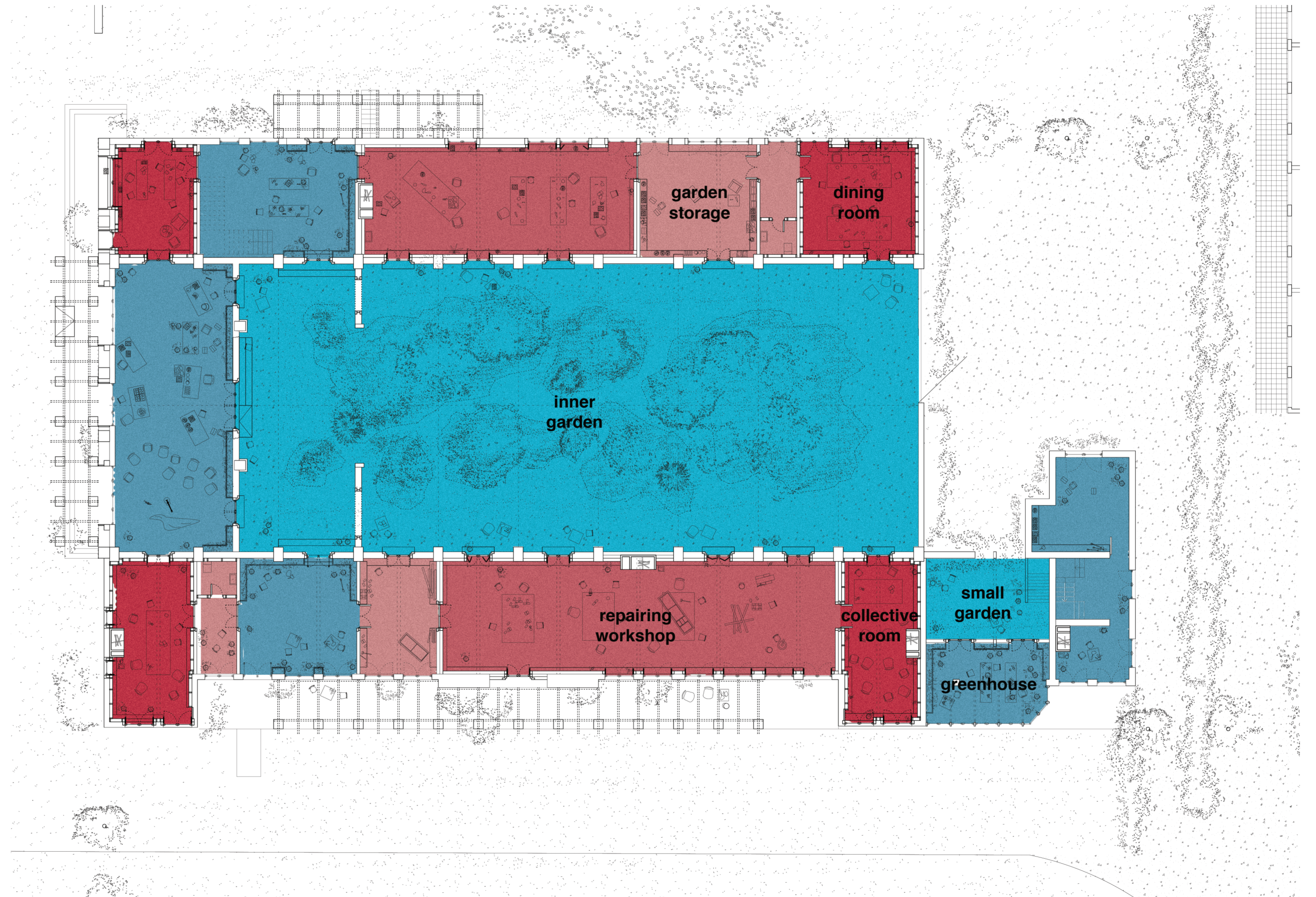
**Partial panels**  
Storage and deposit  
17°C / 21°C

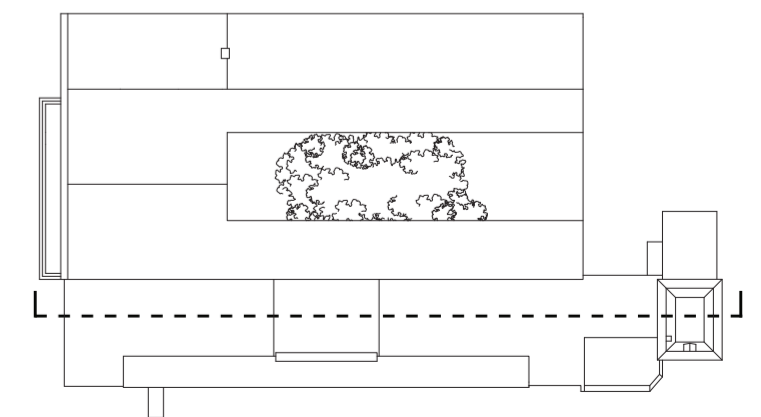


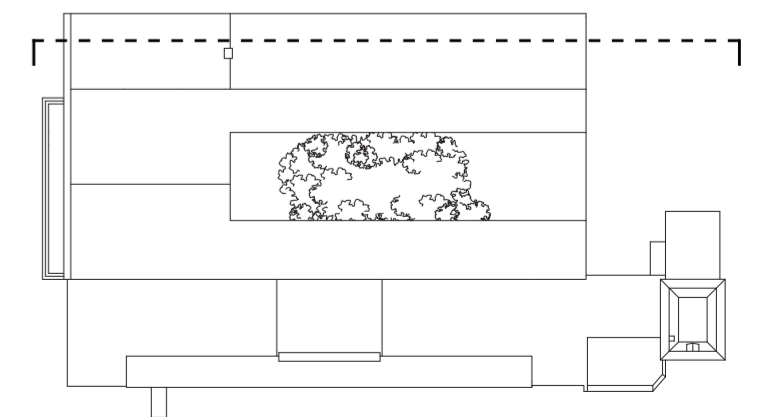
**Partial panels  
with insulation**  
Manual workshops and  
activities  
19°C / 21°C



**Complete panels with  
insulation**  
Reunions and collective  
discussions  
21°C









Reclamation process on the model  
front facade





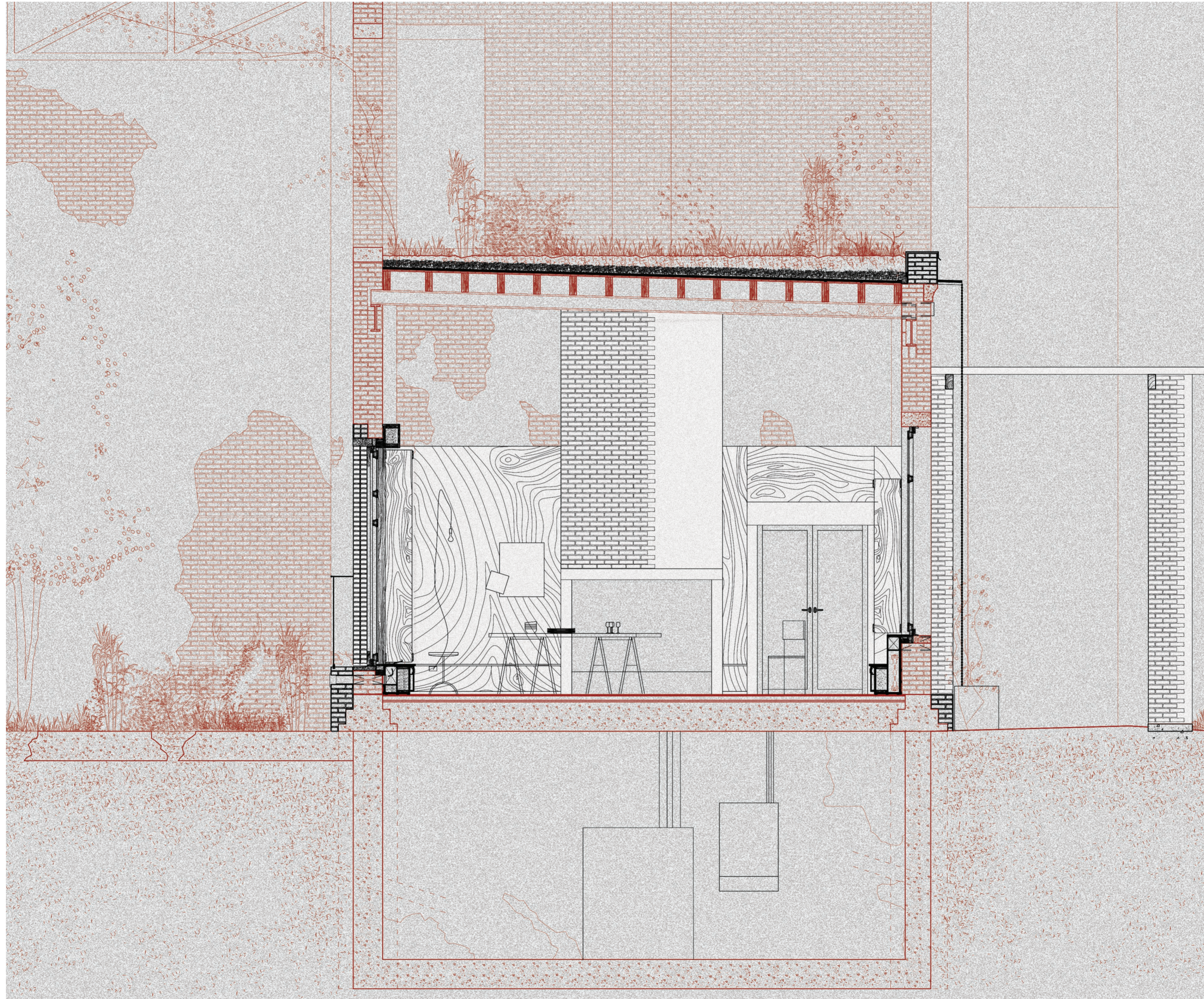
Reclamation process on the model  
central garden



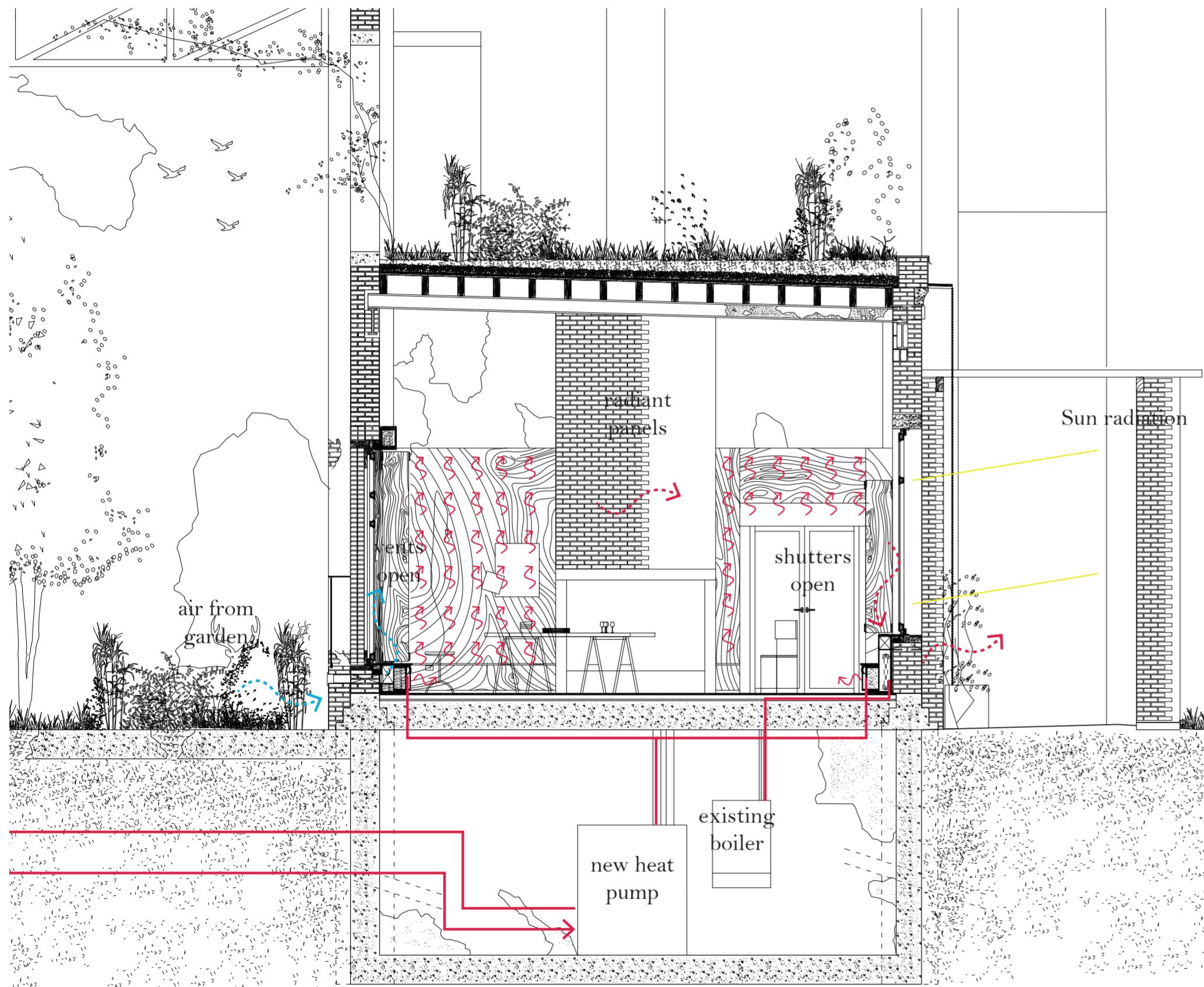


CONSTRUCTION

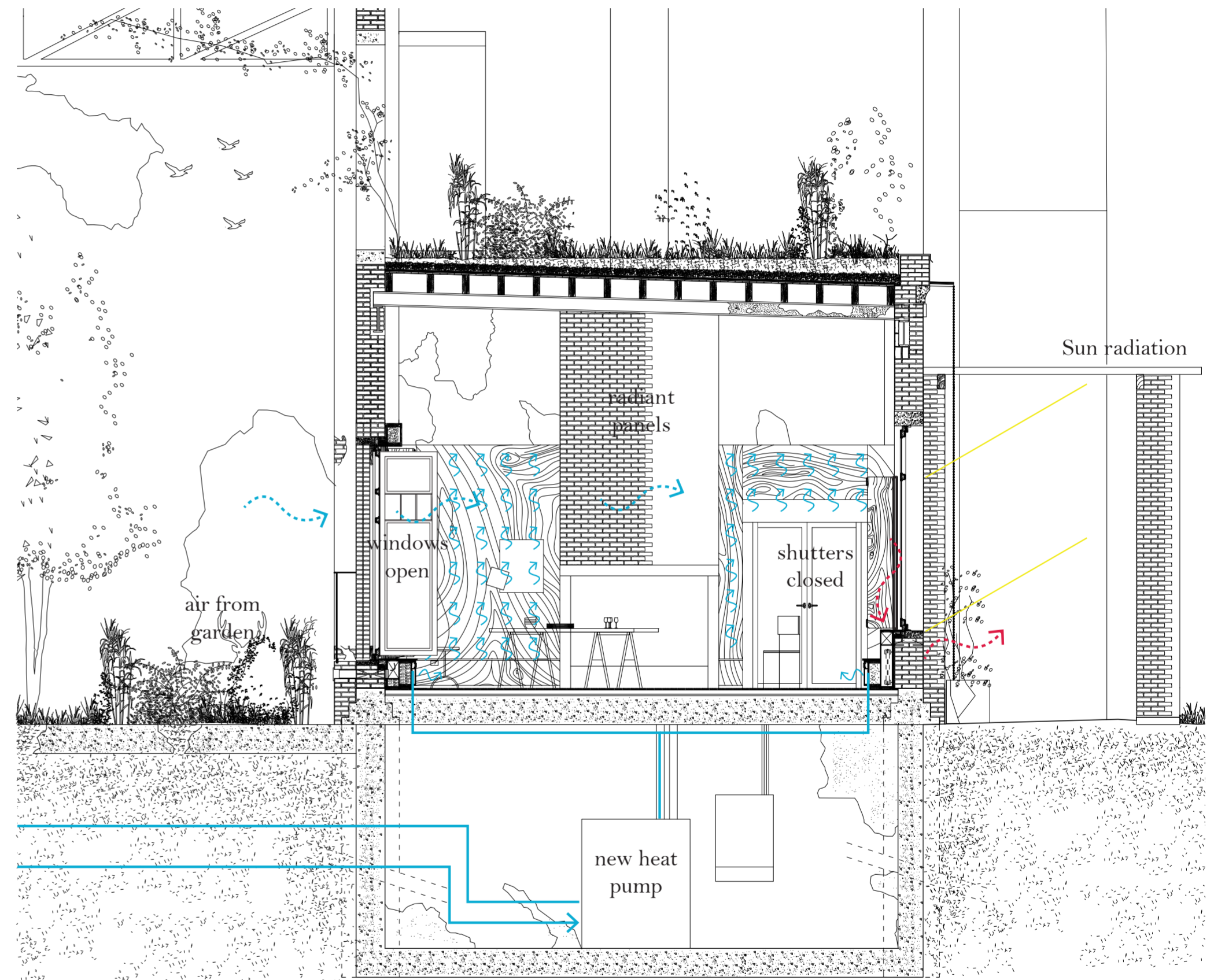
Section of room  
showing the restored elements in white



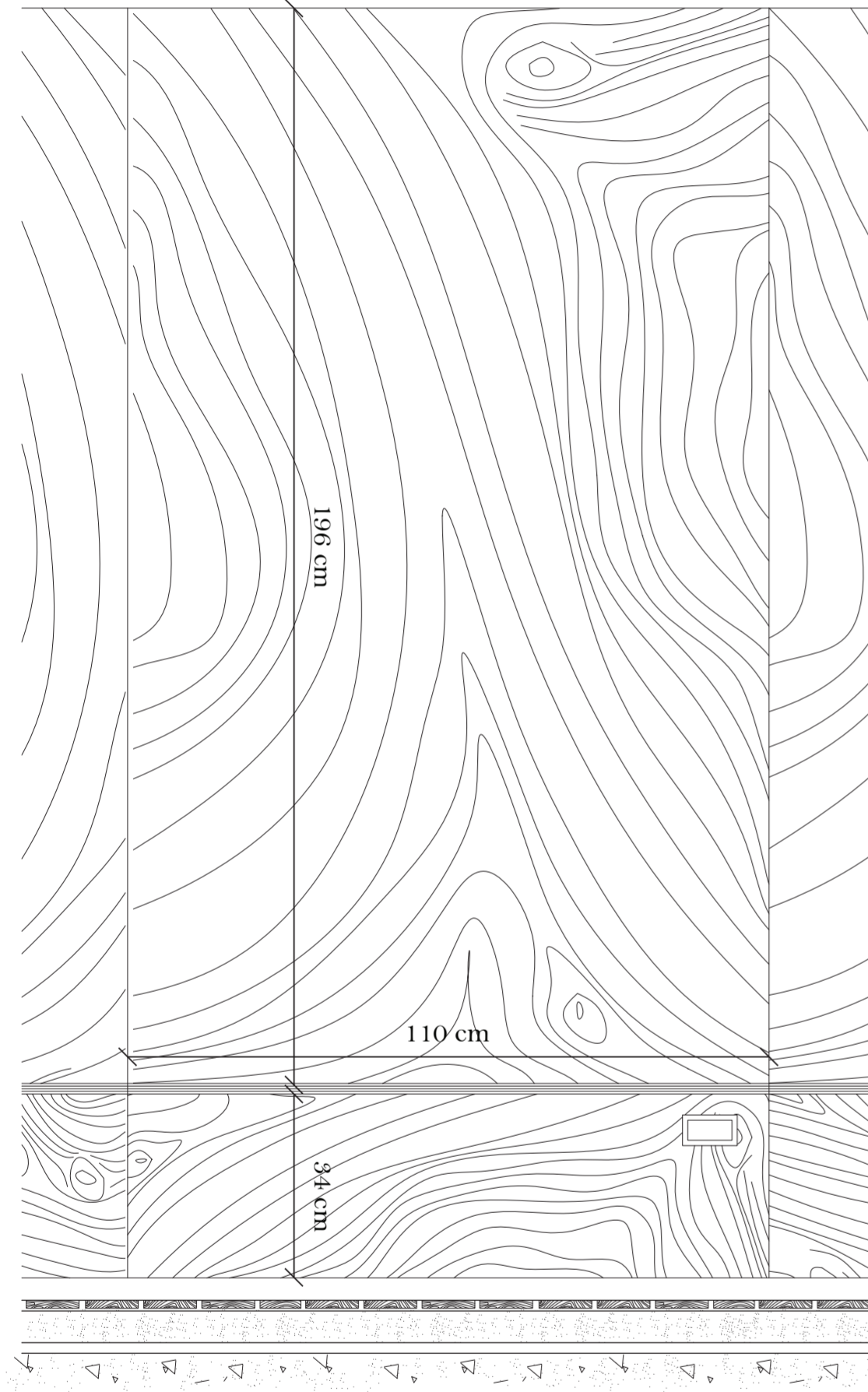
Climate strategy  
winter



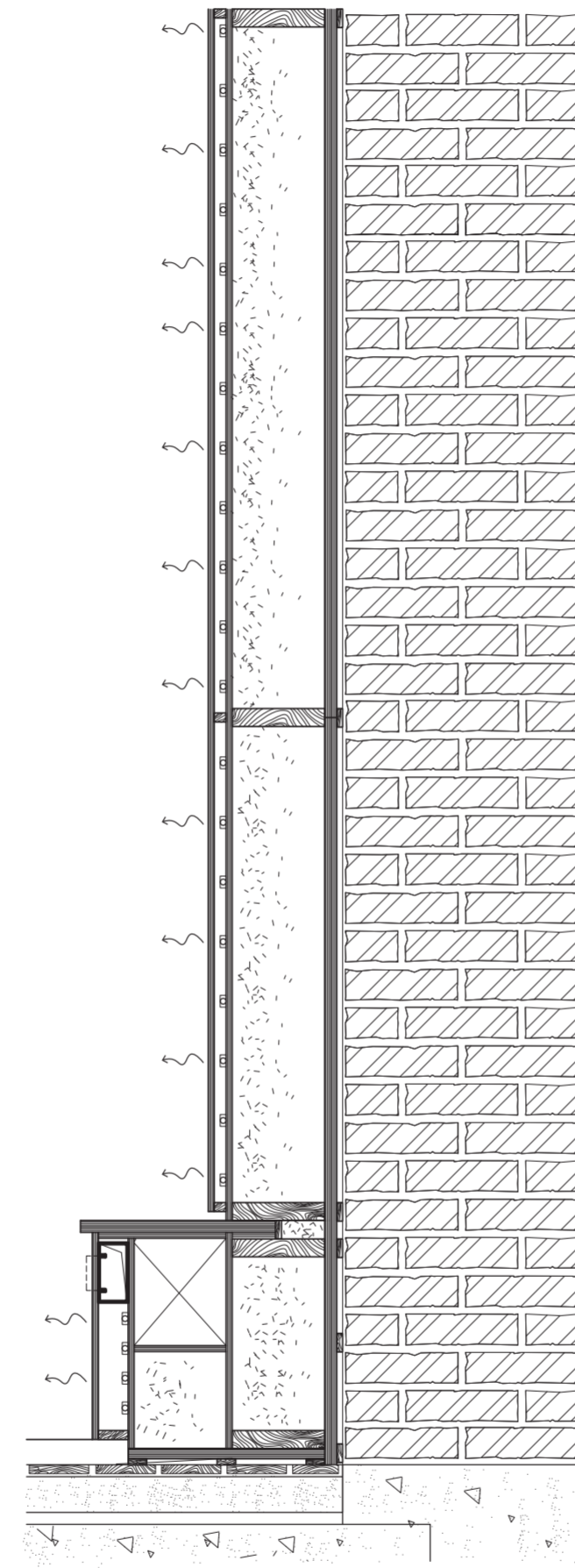
Climate strategy  
summer



Section of the panels

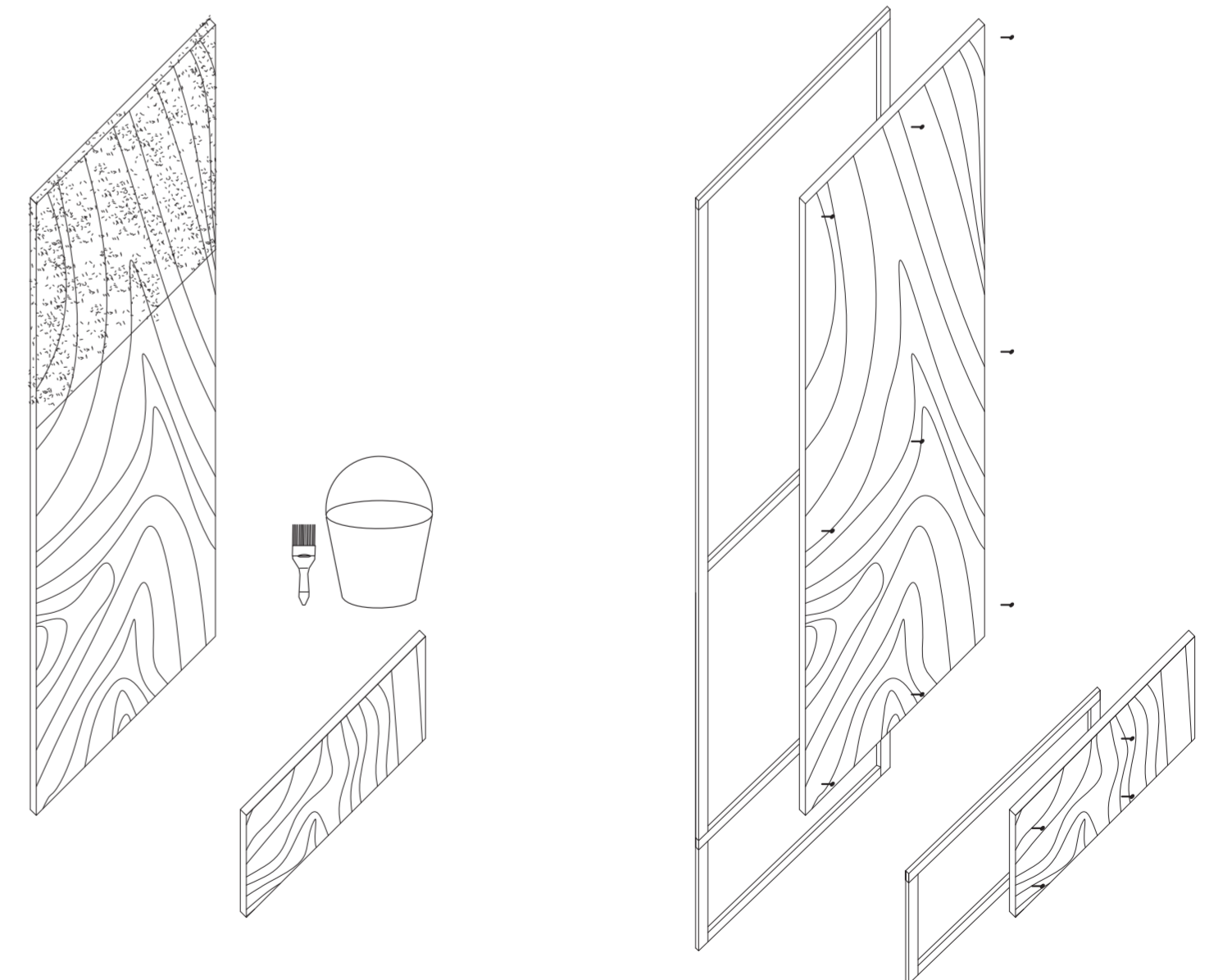
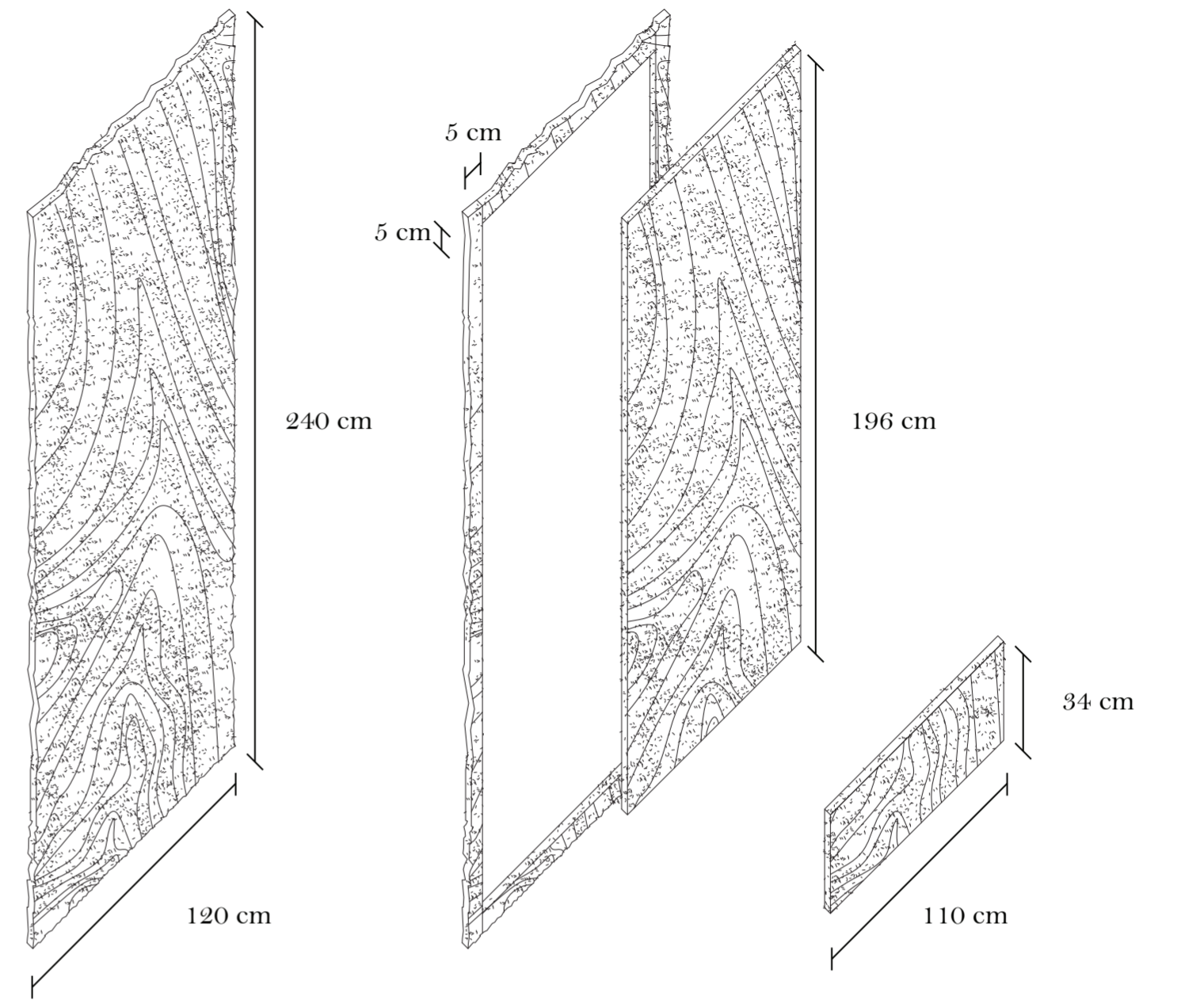


panels elevation

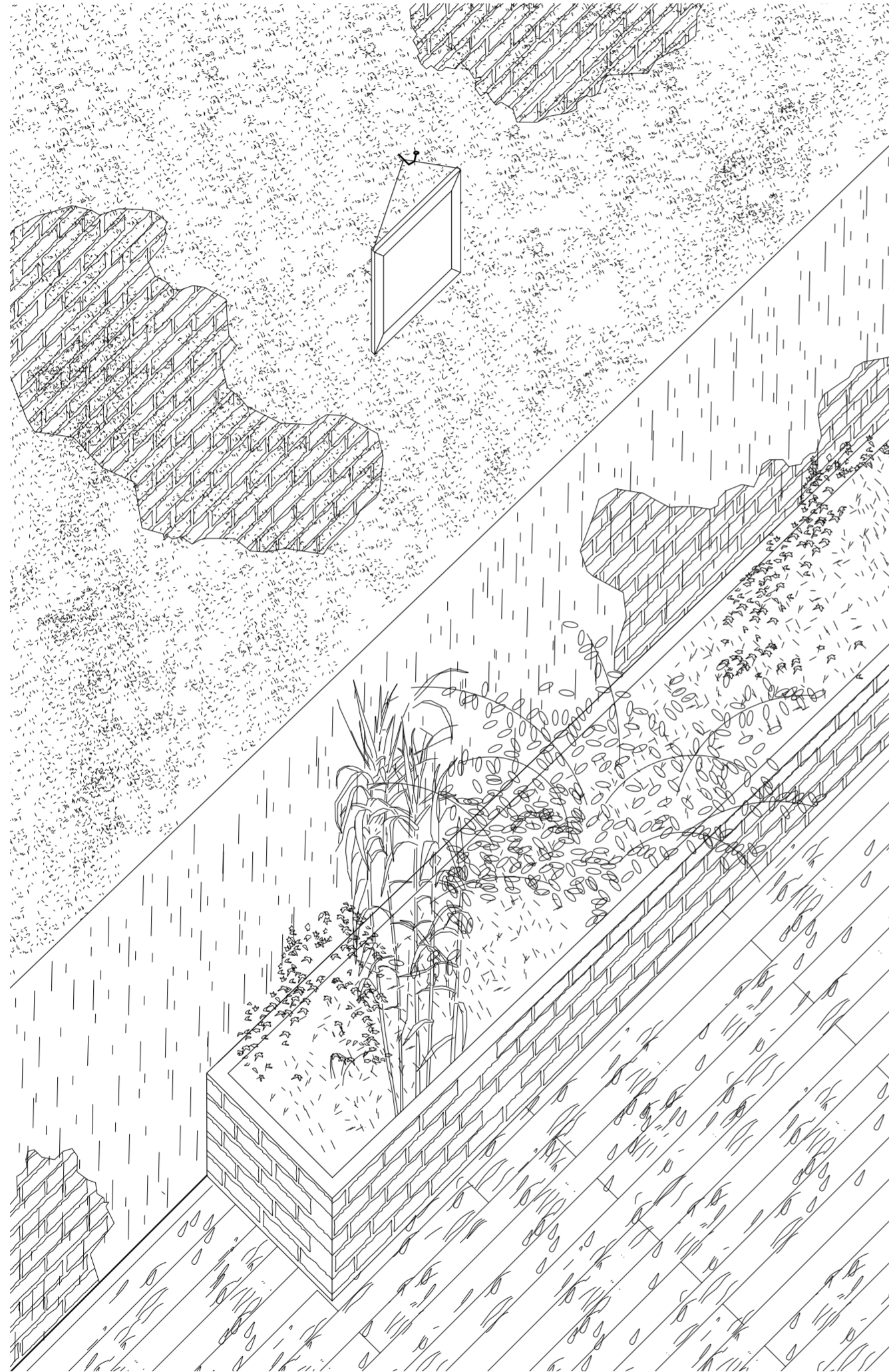


technical layer insulation layer existing wall

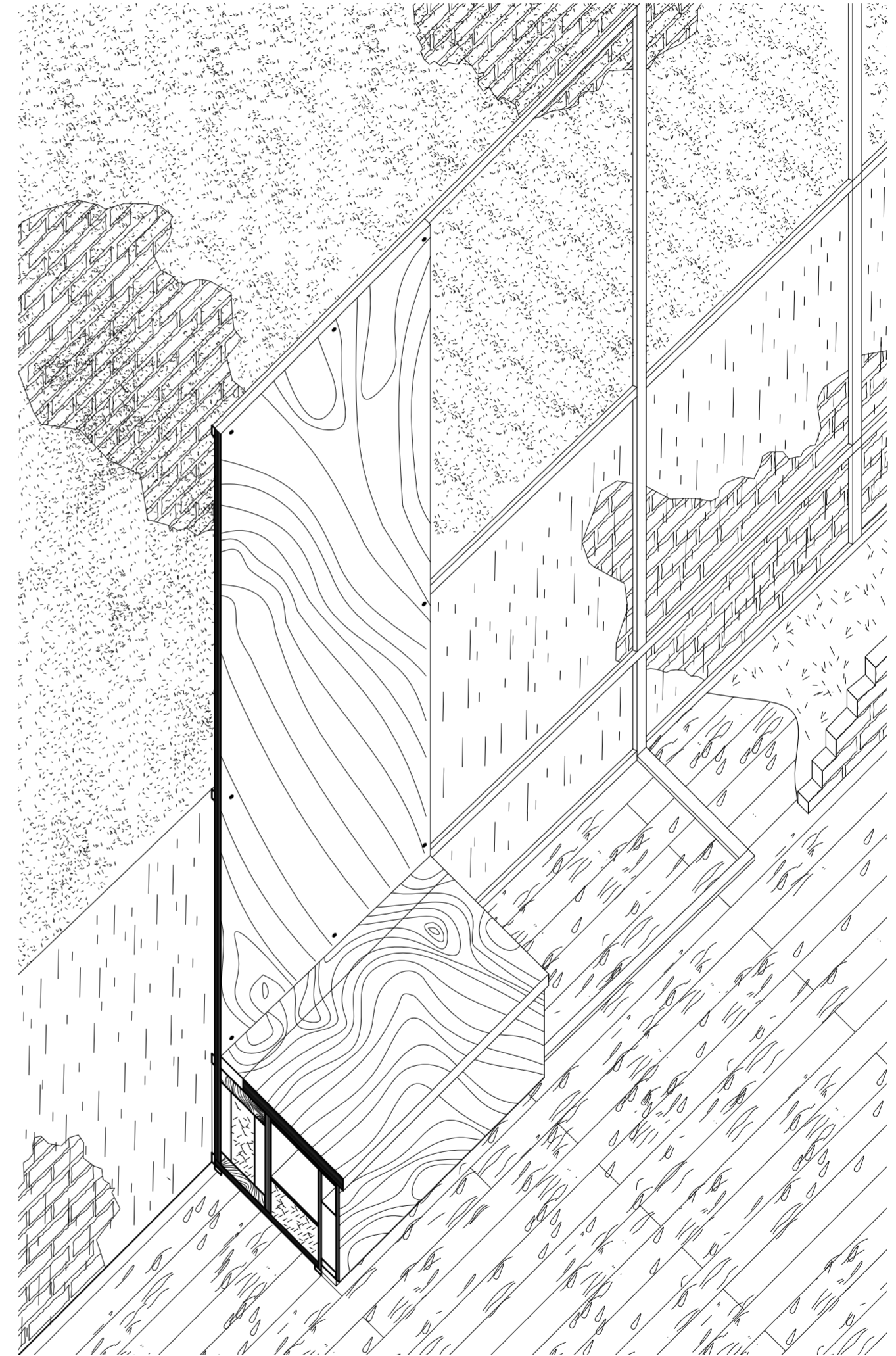
Process of panels reclamation and restoration



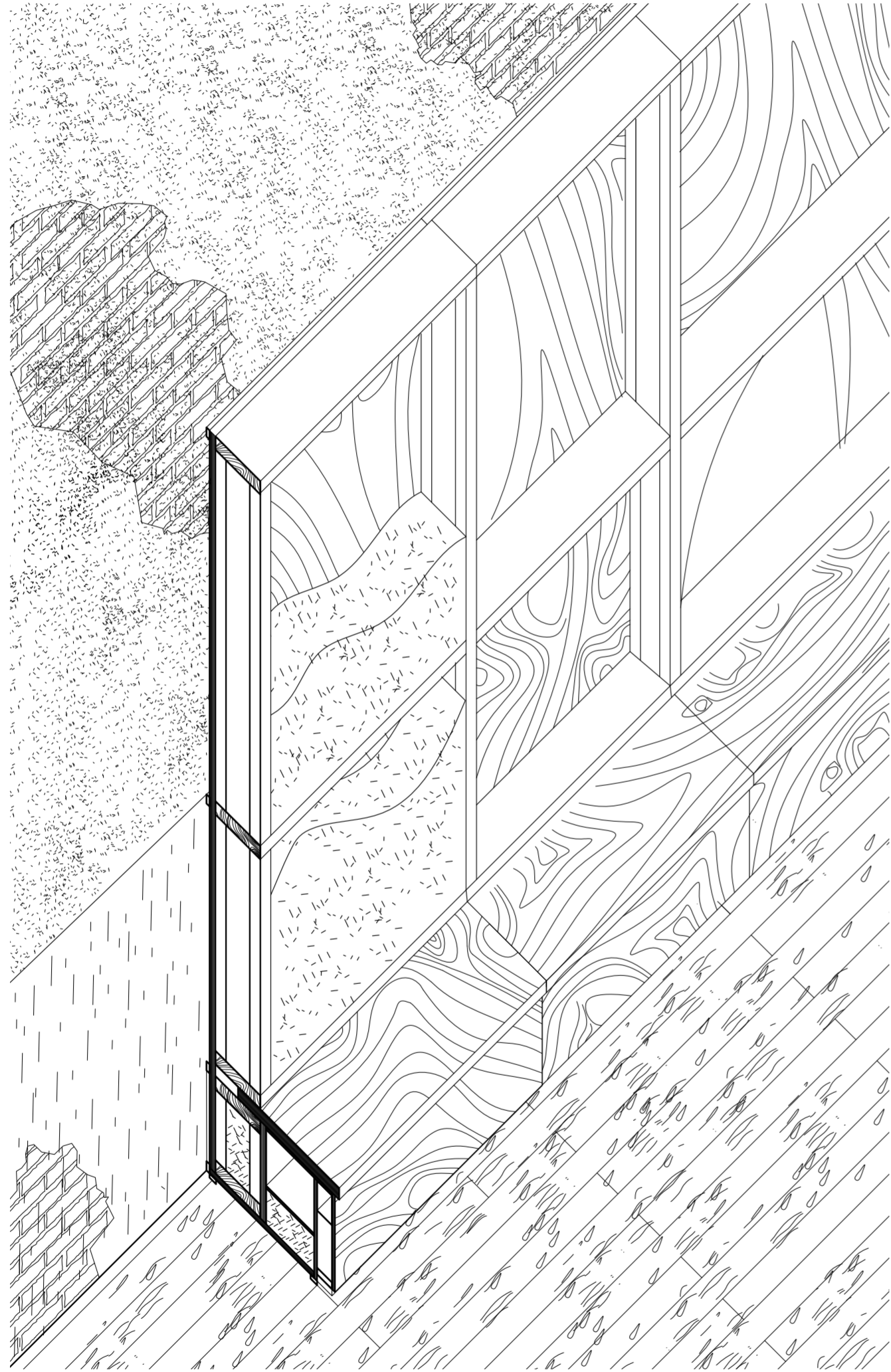
Axometric view of the panels  
the wall is painted until 1.6m height



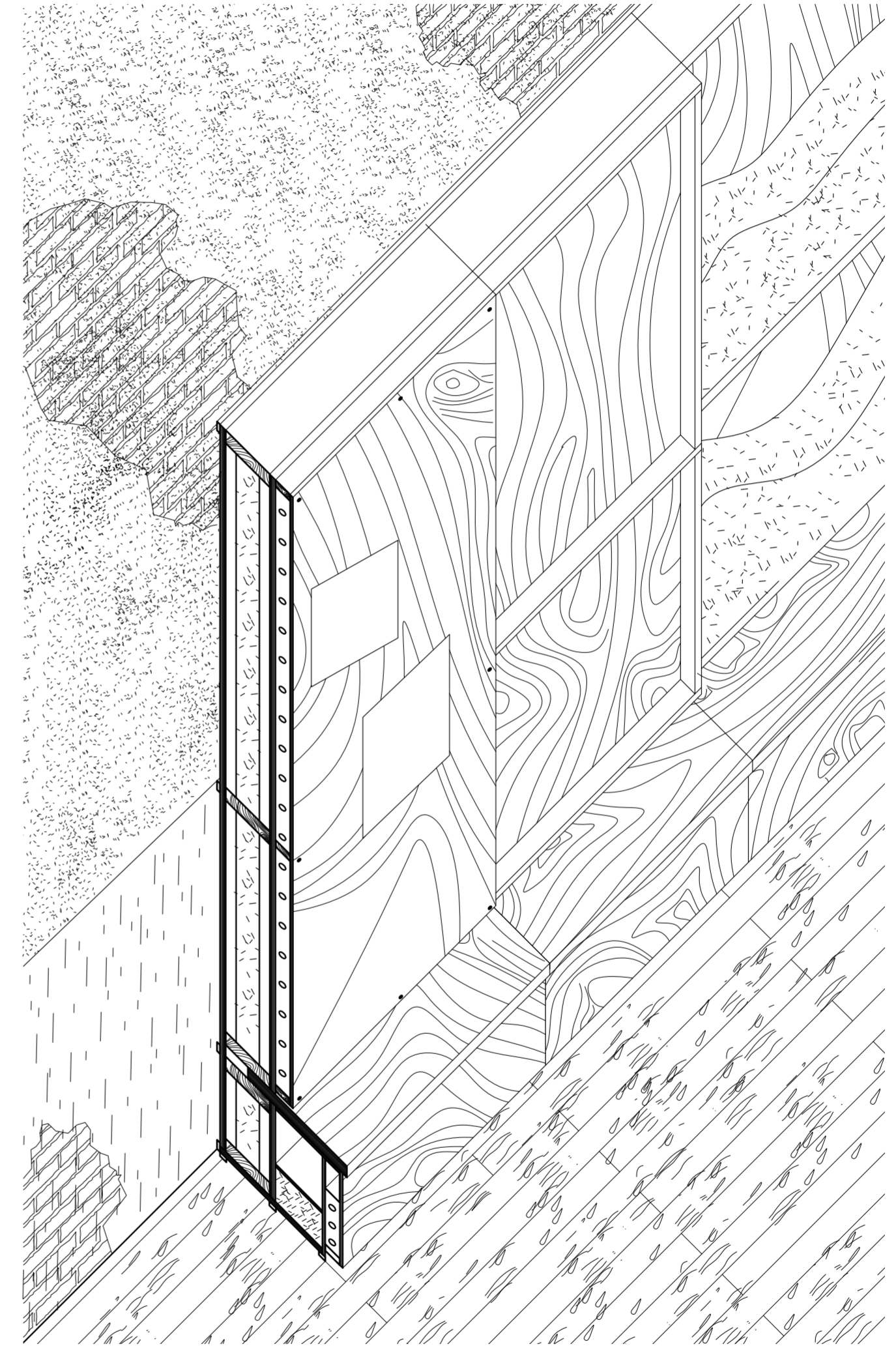
Axometric view of the panels  
first protection layer of panels



**Axometric view of the panels**  
The structure holding the insulation is added



**Axometric view of the panels**  
radiant panels and white timber plates



**View of the room**

The walls are just painted and bricks are stacked to create flower pots



**View of the room**

The first line of paneling is added to the walls



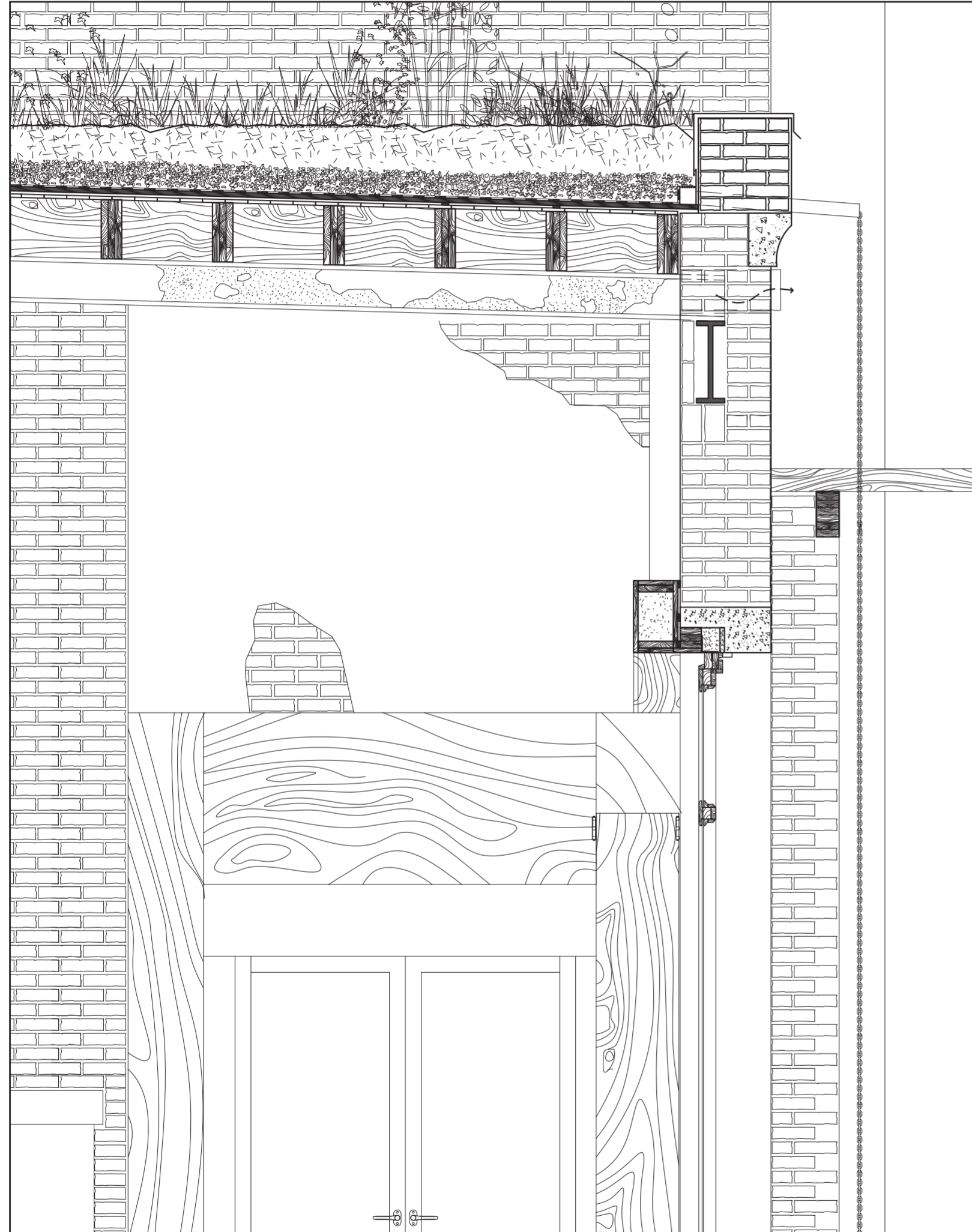
**View of the room**  
The panels are added to the ceiling



**View of the roof**  
the roof garden collects elements from the surroundings

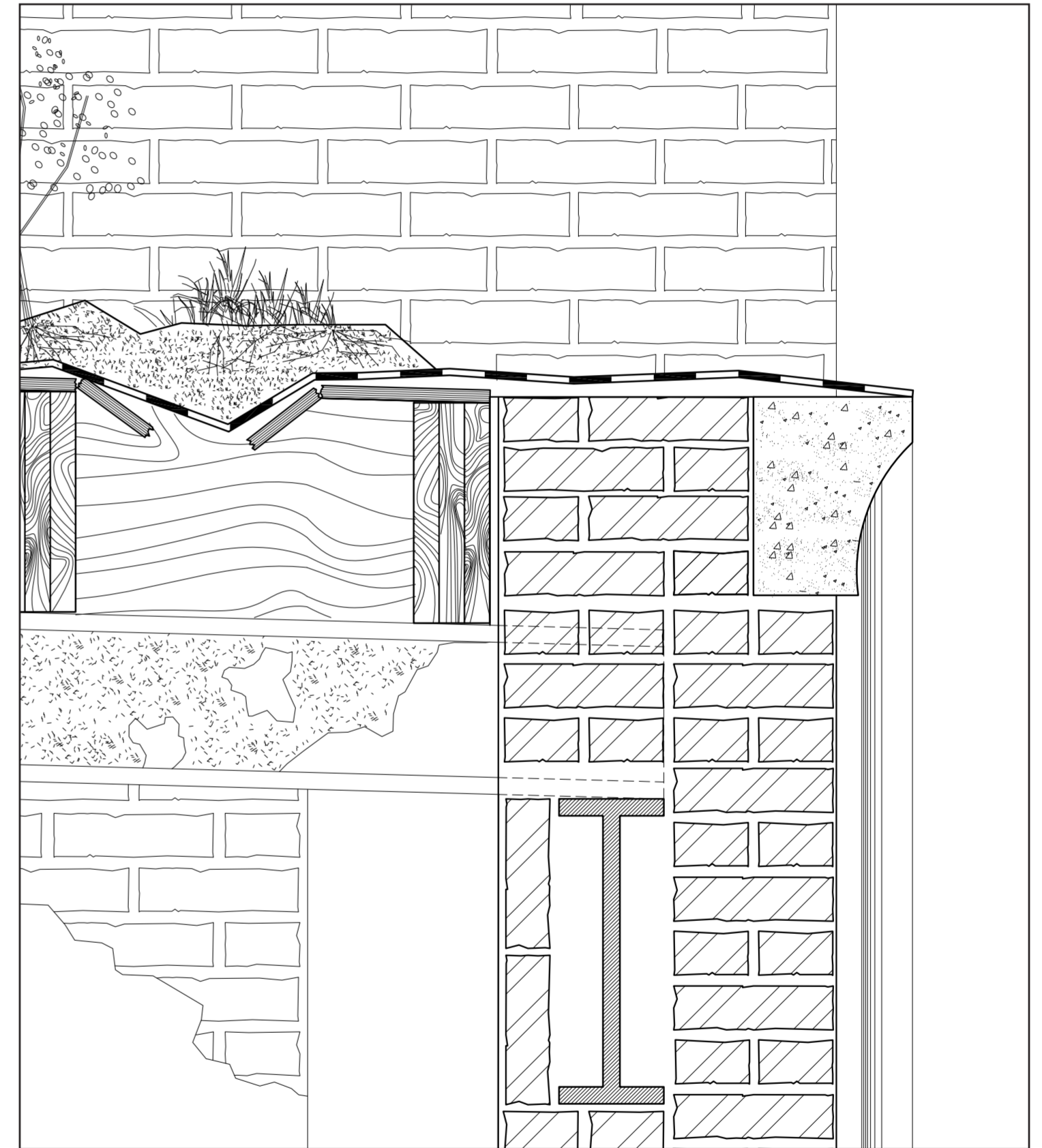


Section of the roof

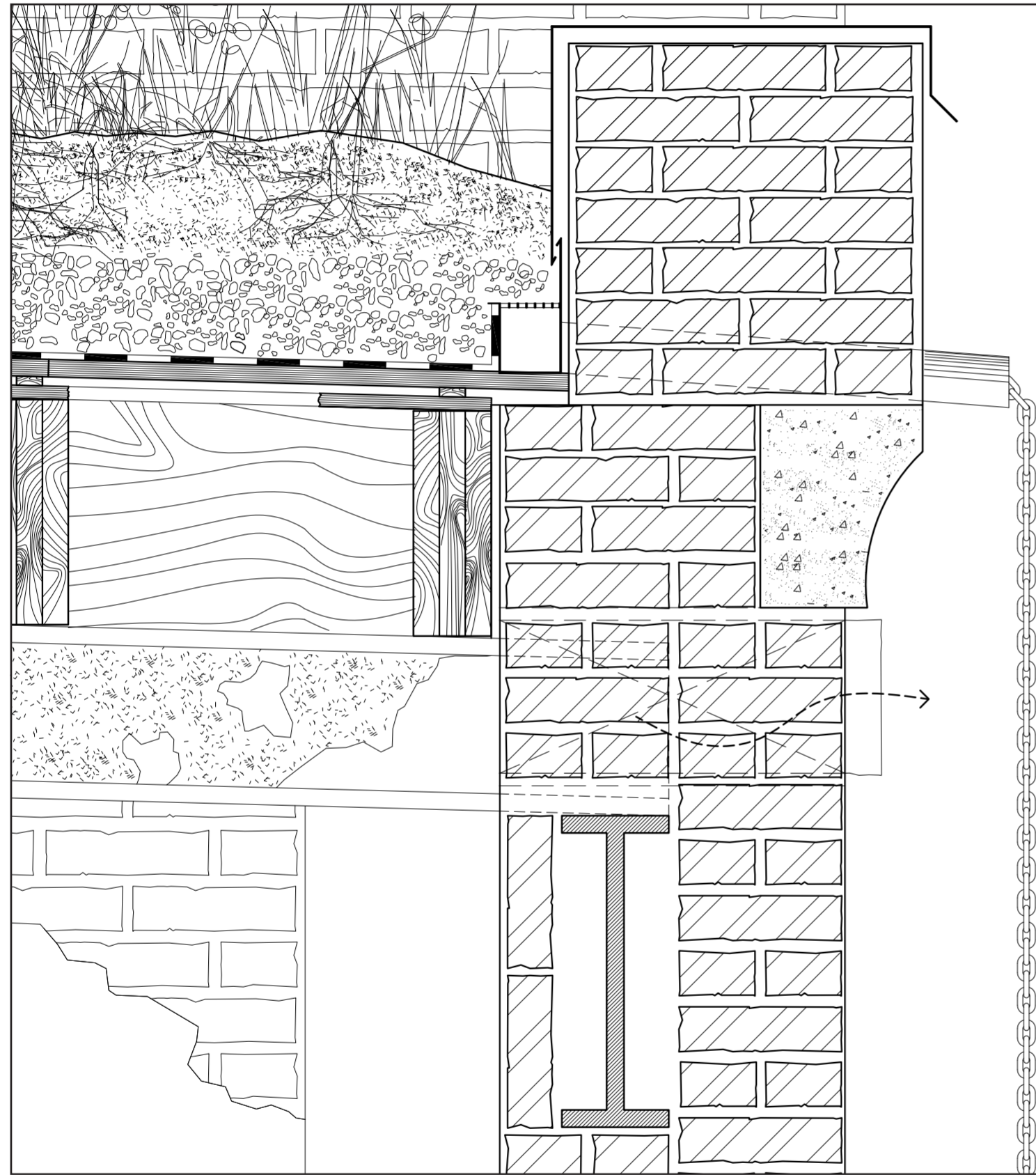


Detail of the roof

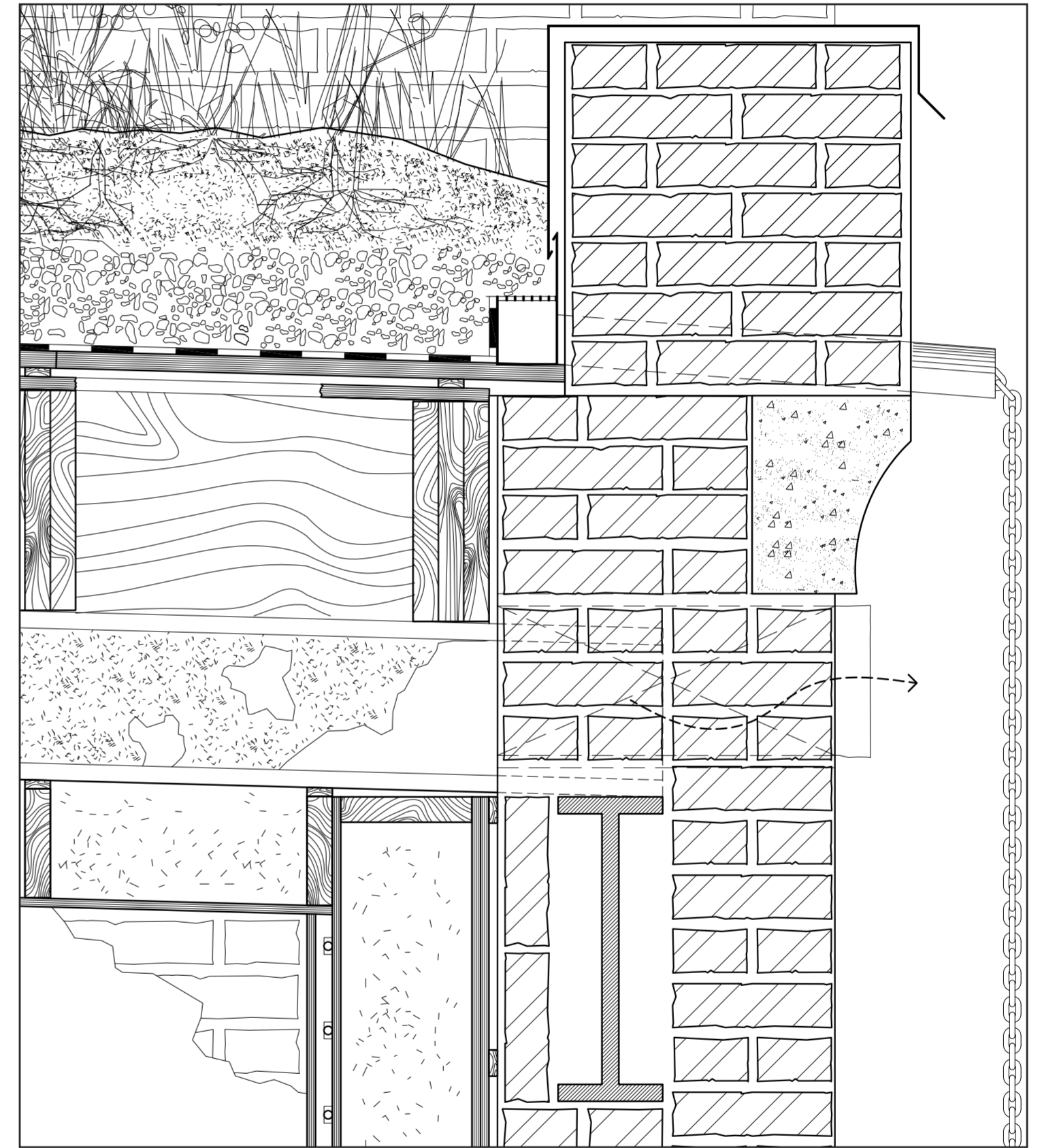
actual state with sand and dust deposit ruining the structure



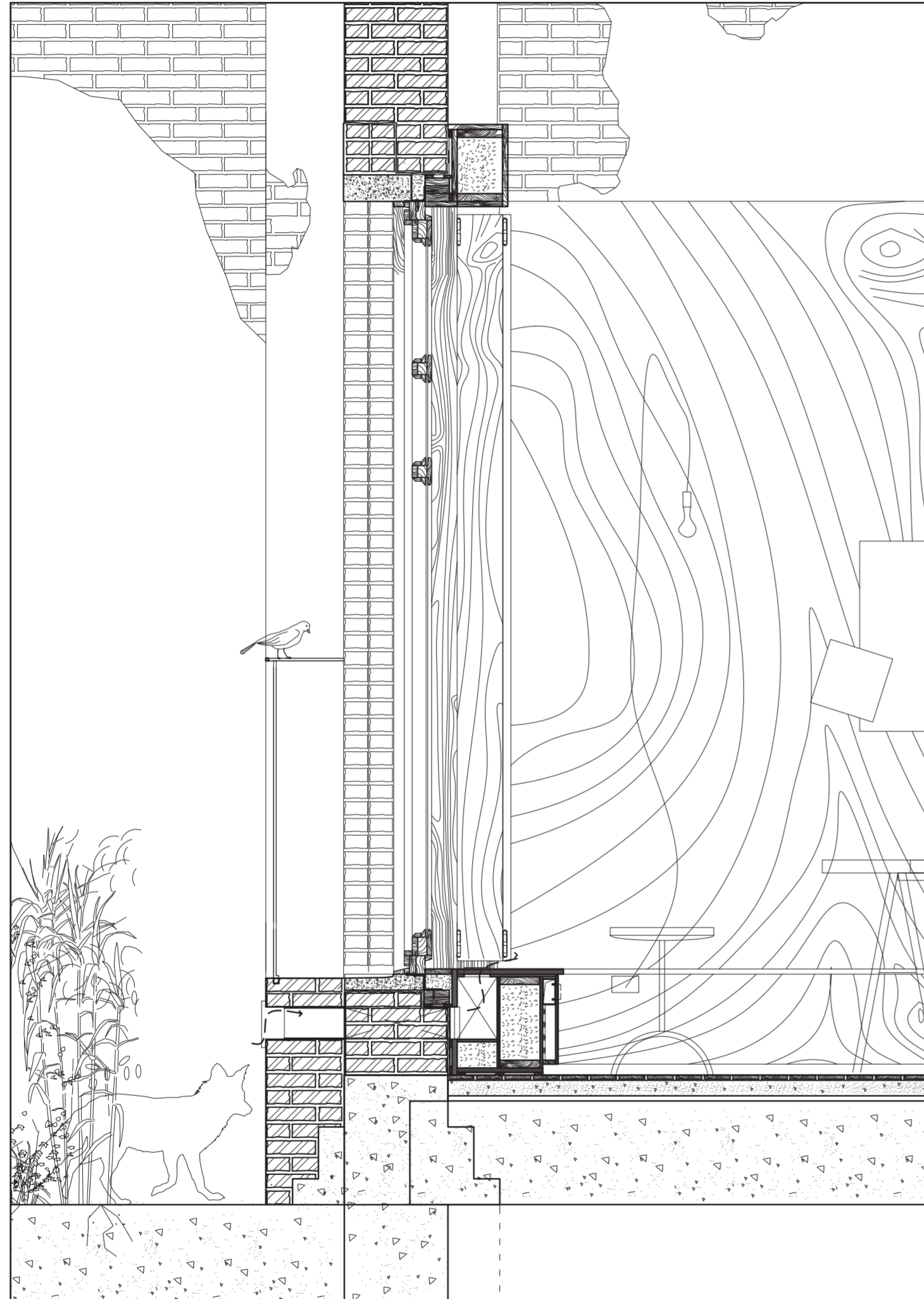
Detail of the roof  
roof garden with reclaimed bricks cornice



Detail of the roof  
roof garden with internal paneling and insulation



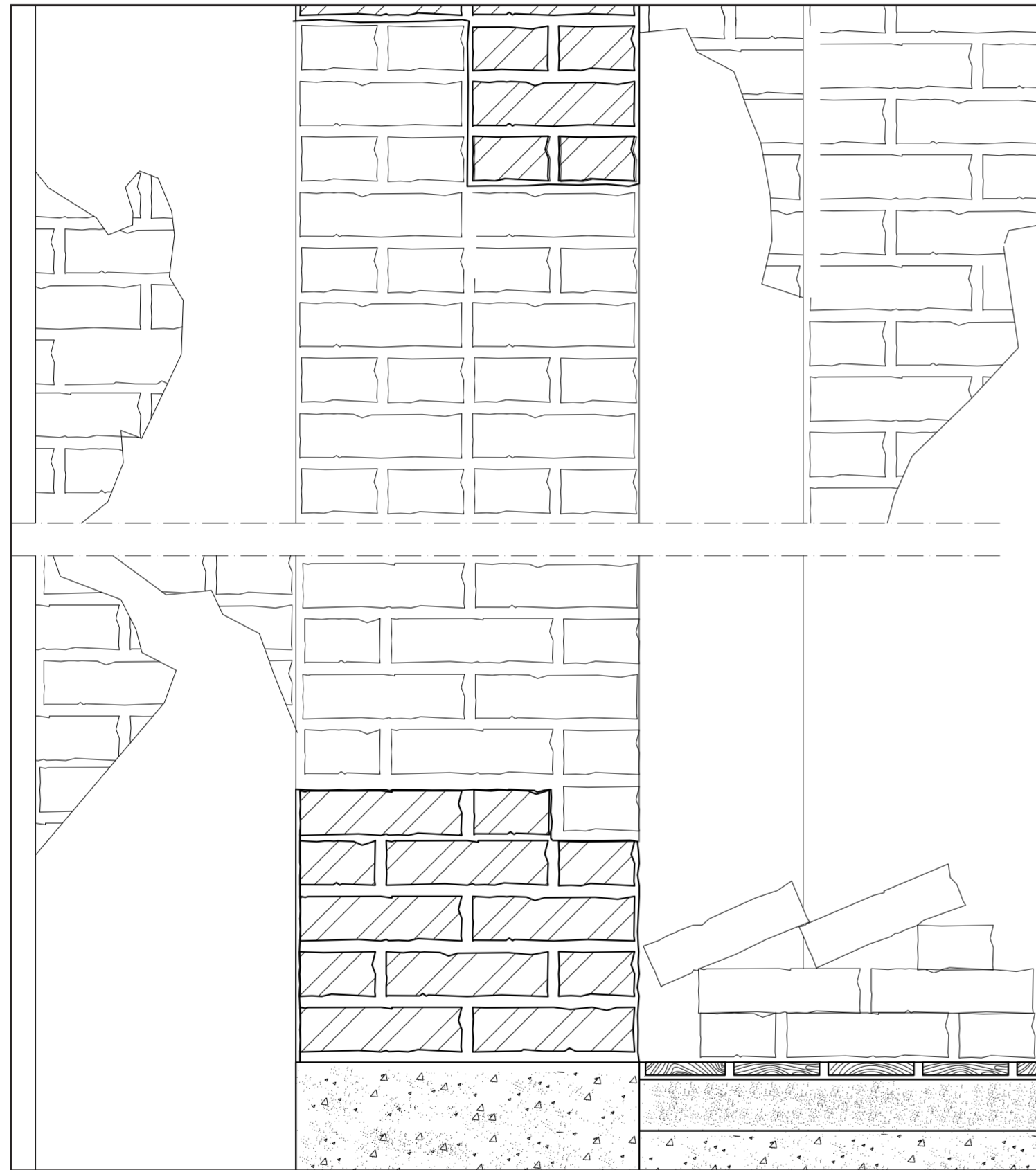
Section of the window



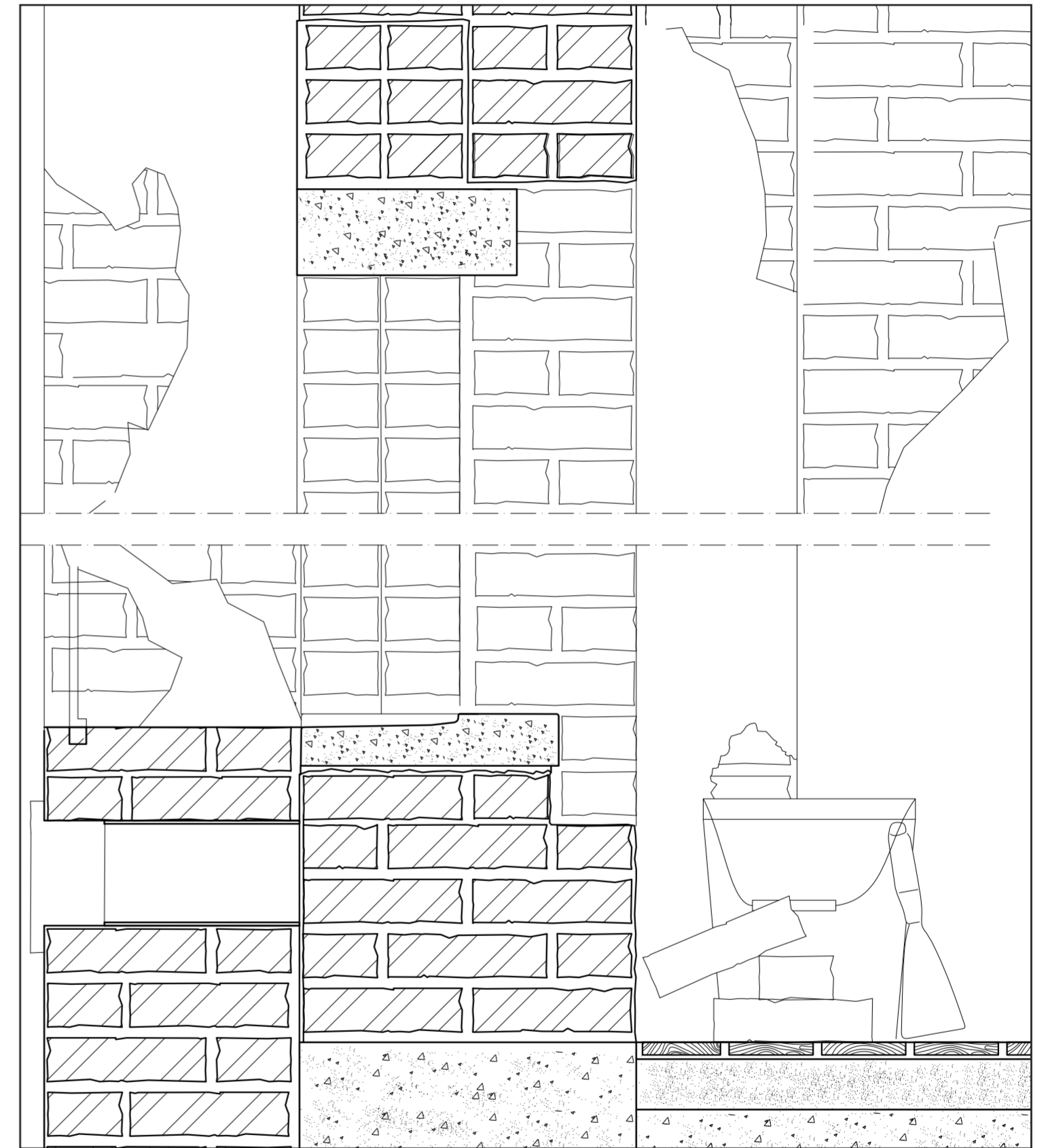
View of the window  
from the garden the new window recalls the white porticos of the outside



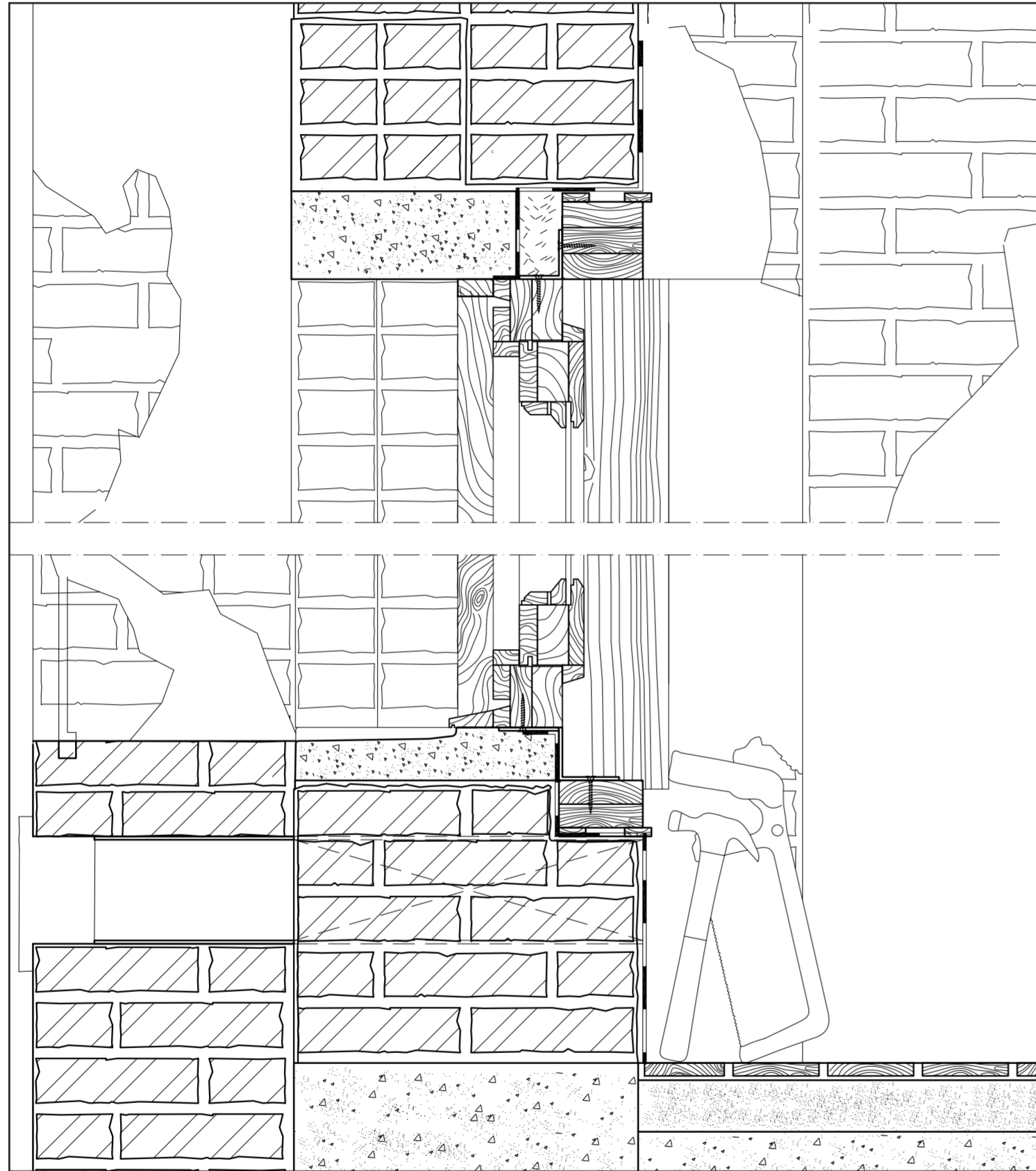
Detail of the window  
section with bricks removal



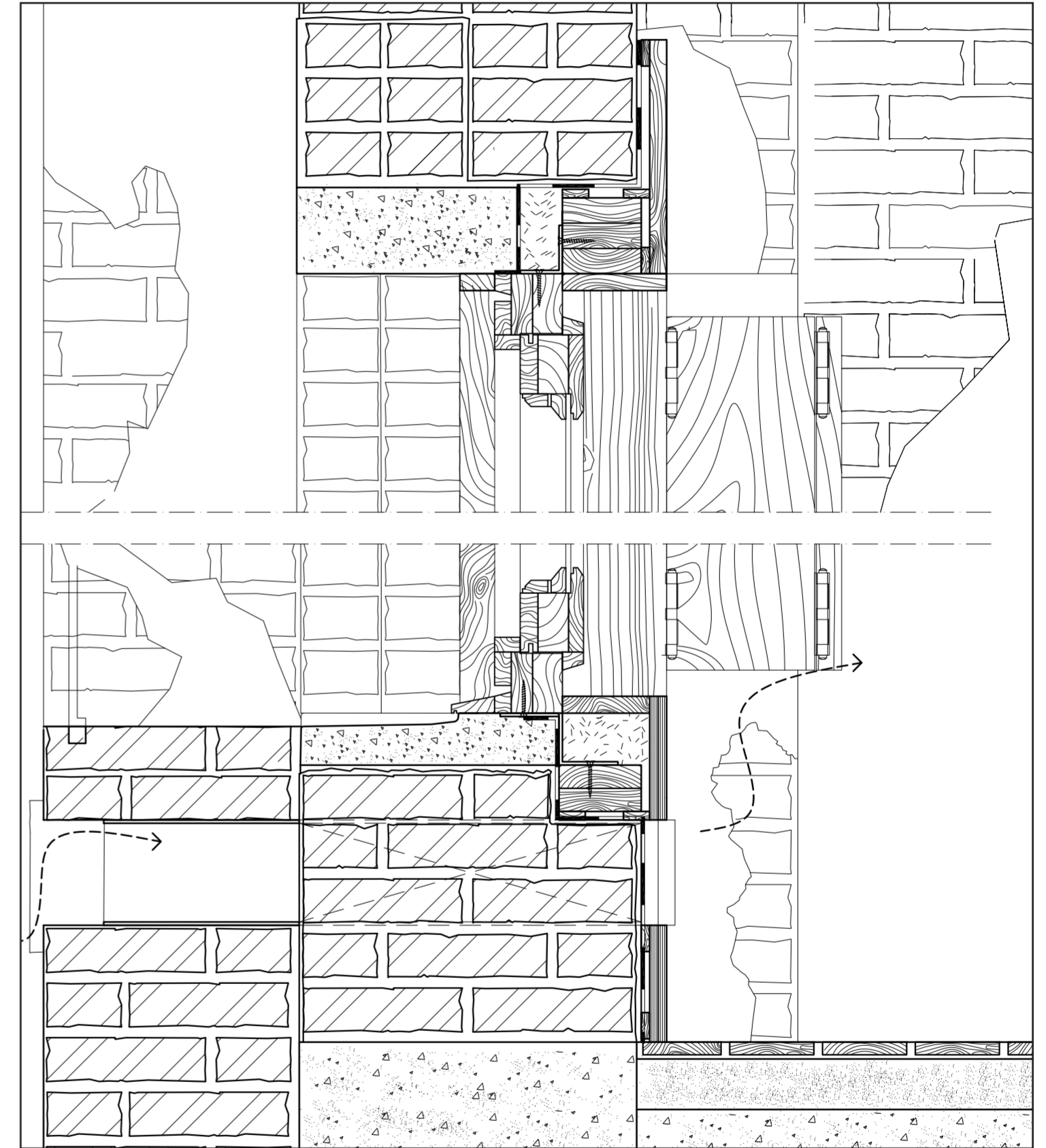
Detail of the window  
section with brick balcony



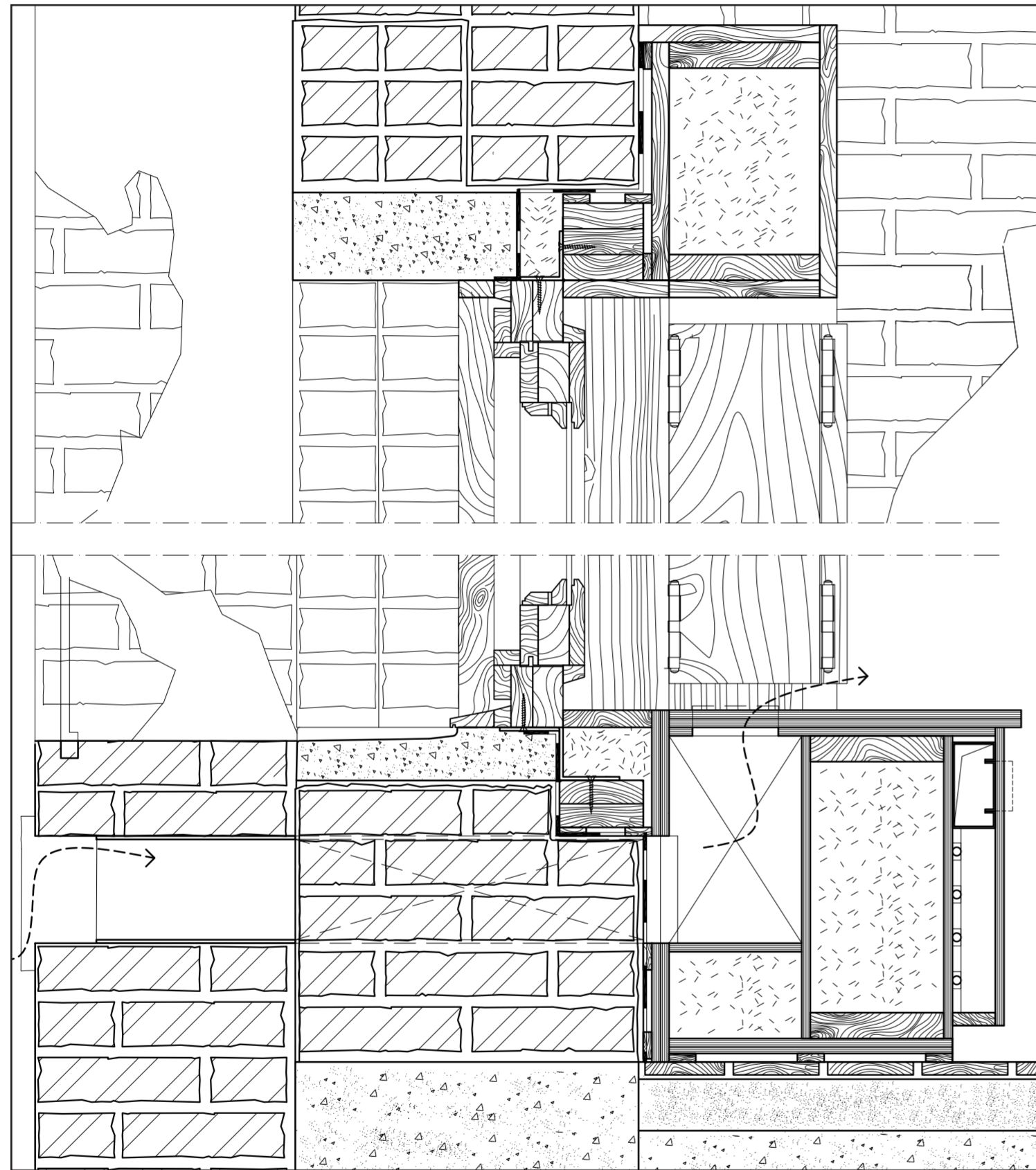
Detail of the window  
section with reclaimed window



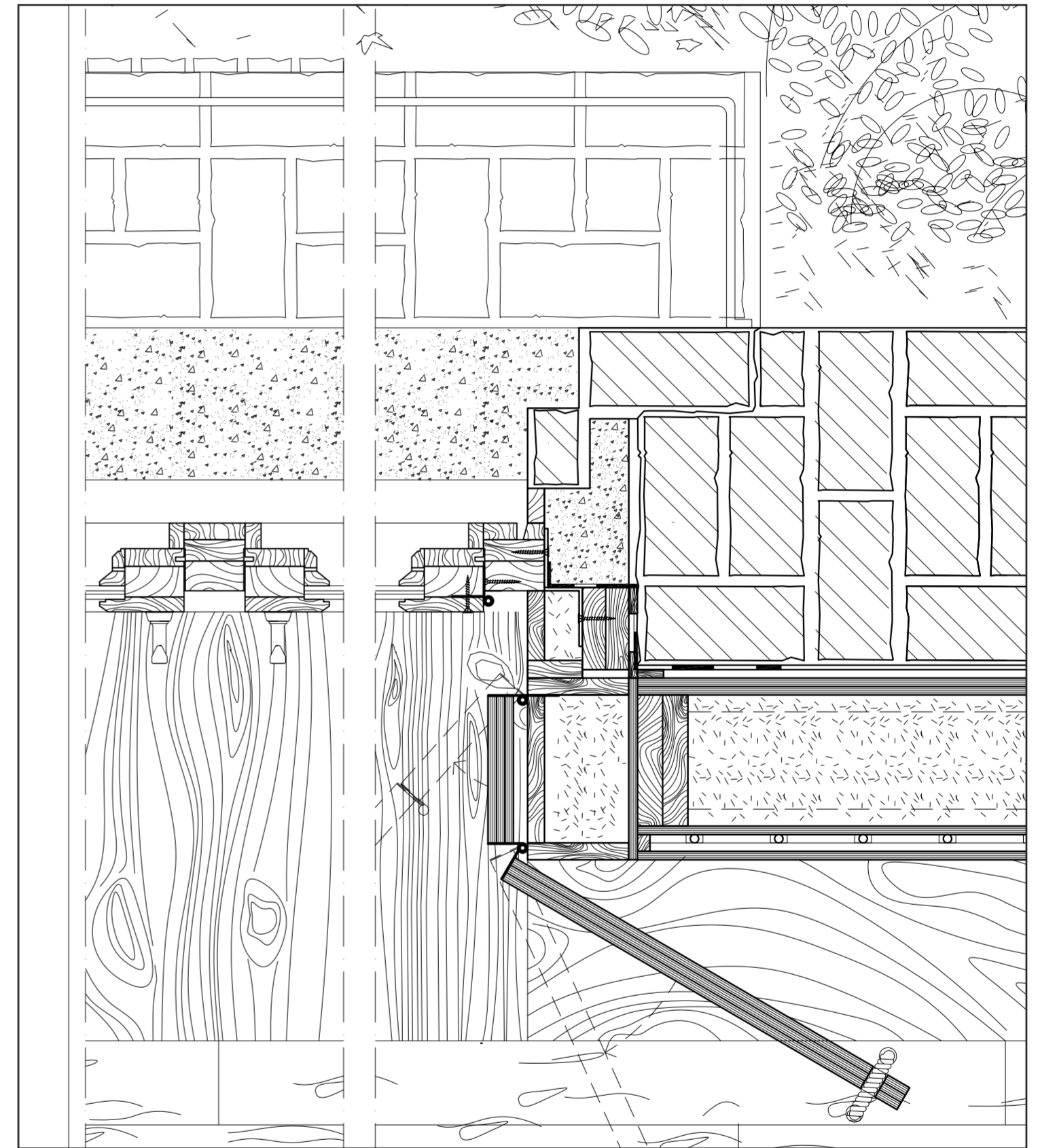
Detail of the window  
section with reclaimed window and shutters



**Detail of the window**  
section with double glazed window and paneling



**Detail of the window**  
plan with double glazed window and paneling



View of the window  
the walls are just painted



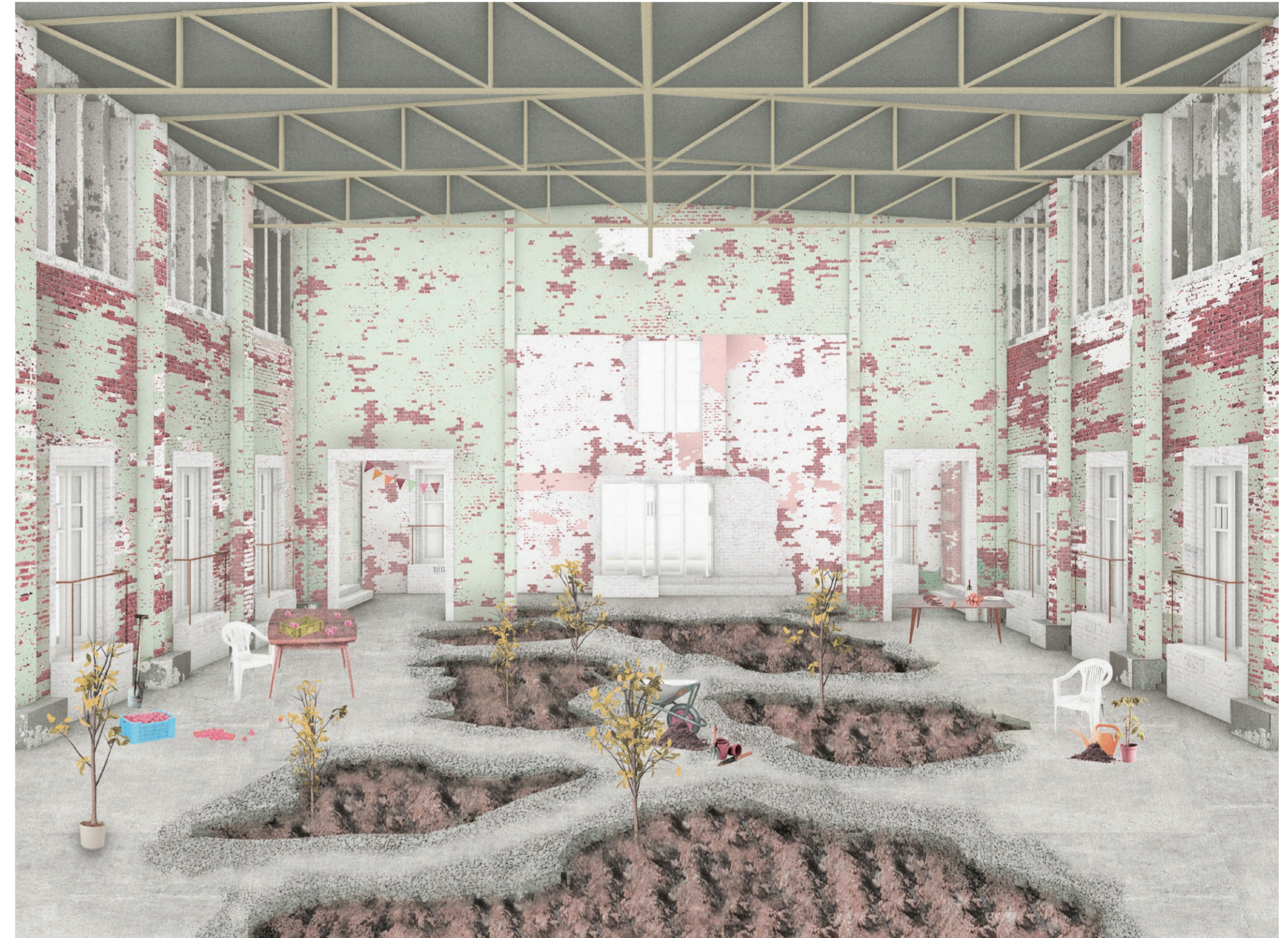
View of the window  
the first line of paneling is added to the wall



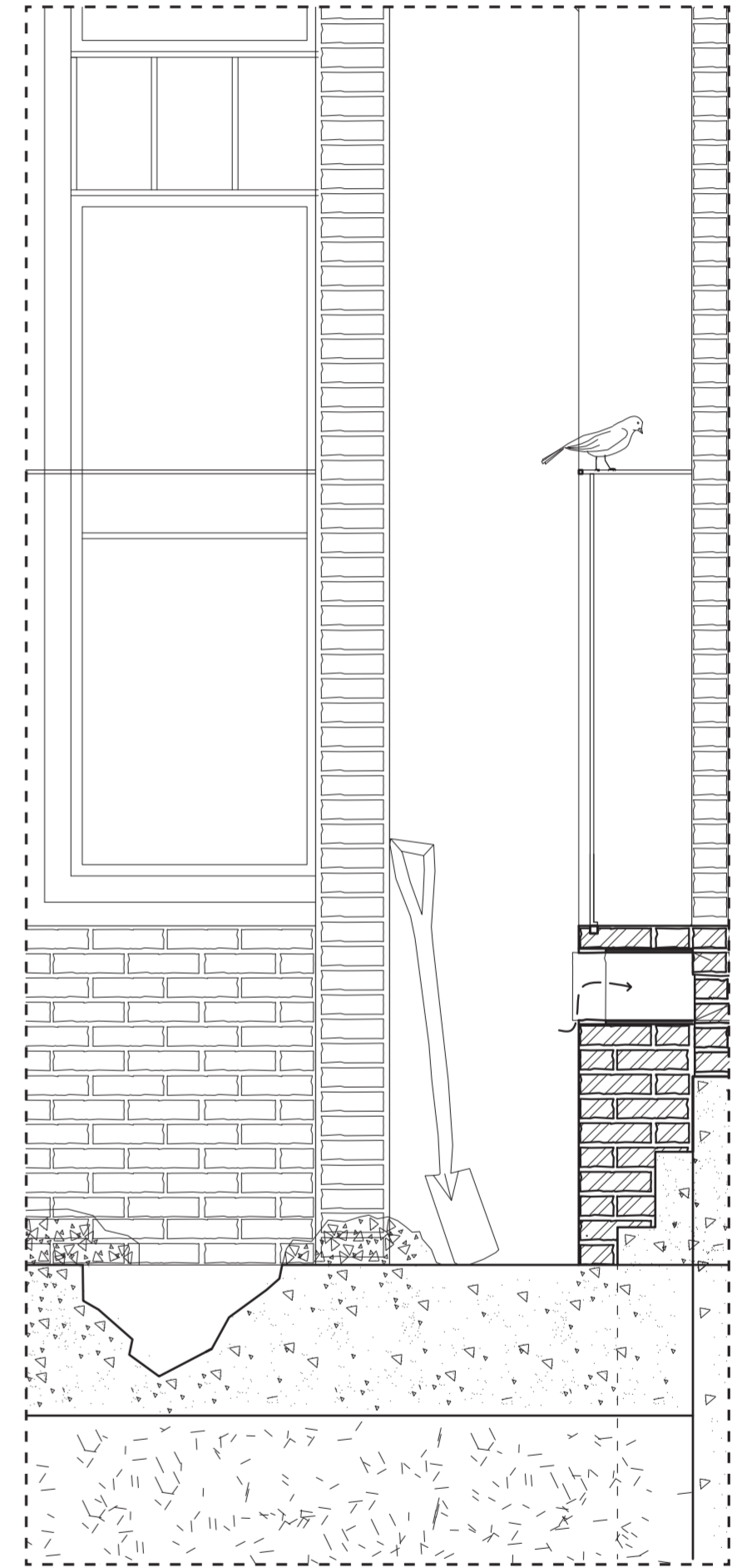
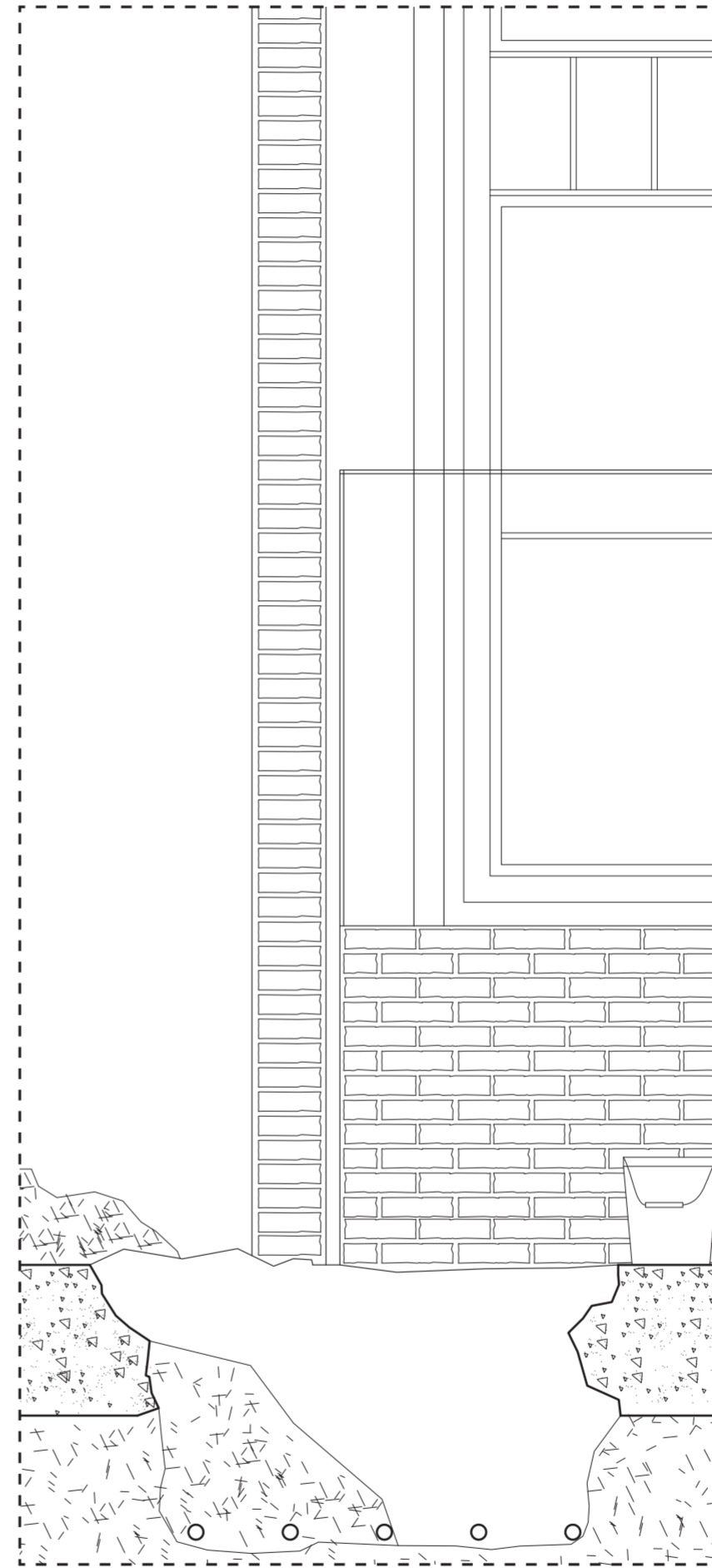
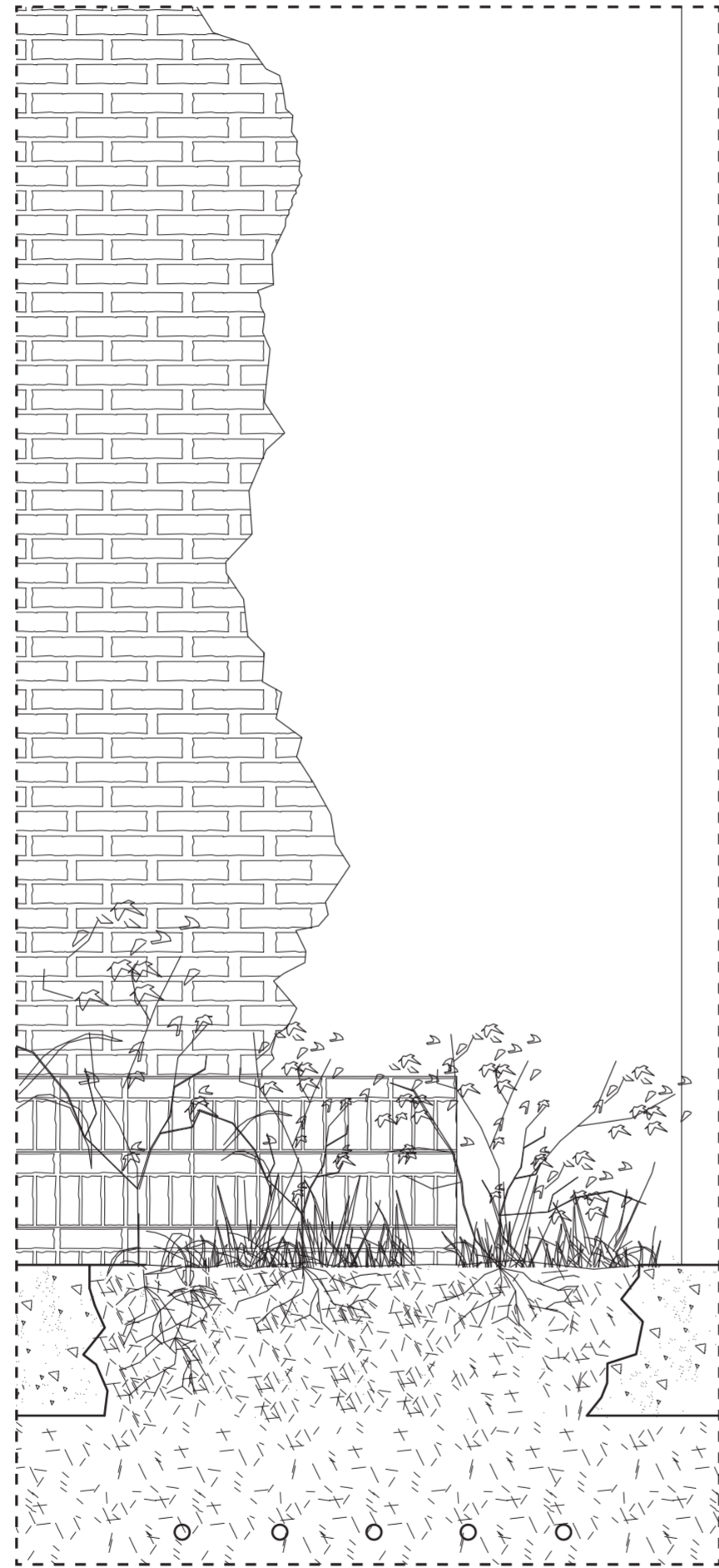
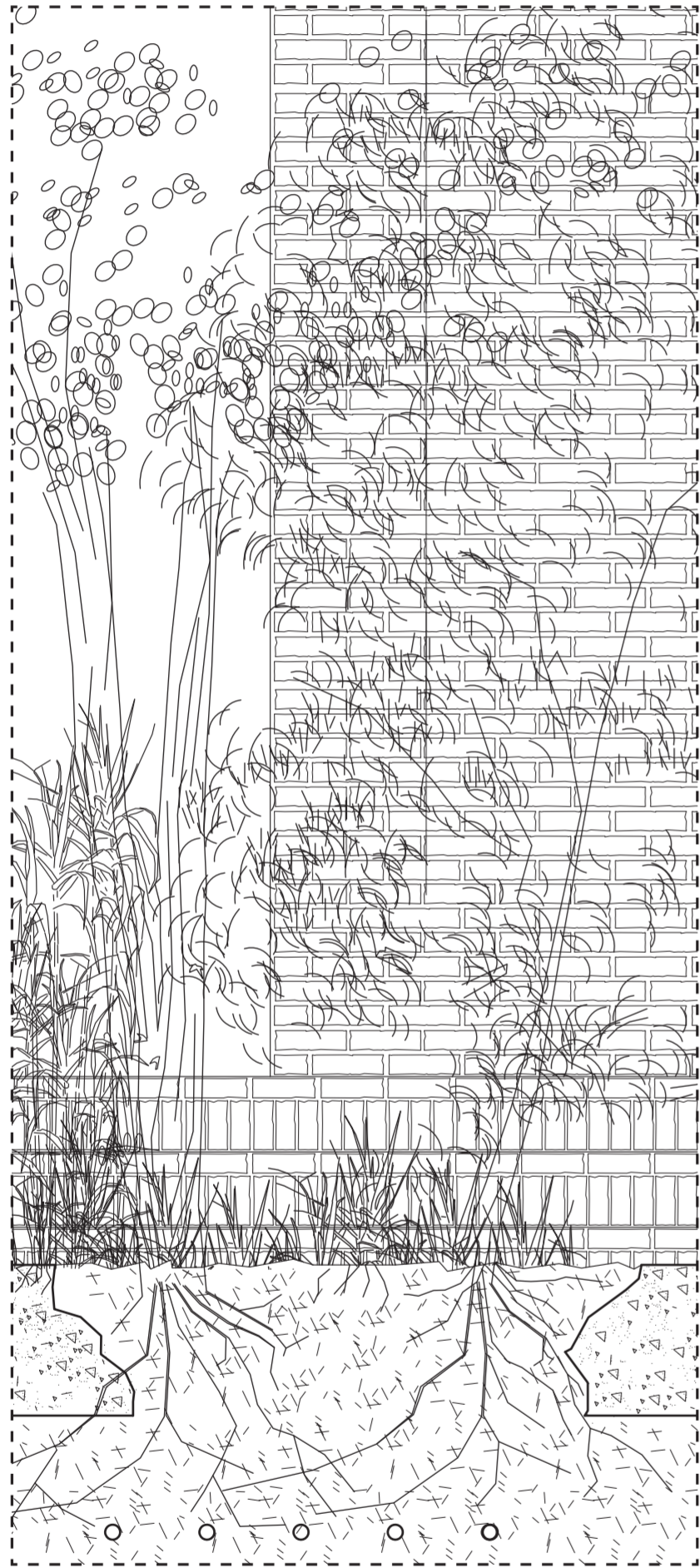
**View of the window**  
the panels arrive to the ceiling



**View of the central hall**  
the community contribute in creating holes and planting vegetation,  
it is a collective celebration



Central garden section  
it is a process developed in space and time



**View of the central hall**

in some years the vegetation will become denser and thicker, revealing the dialectic of community and nature that inform the project



CONCLUSIONS

**View of the room**  
spaces for kids to play and rooms for the elderlies to rest.



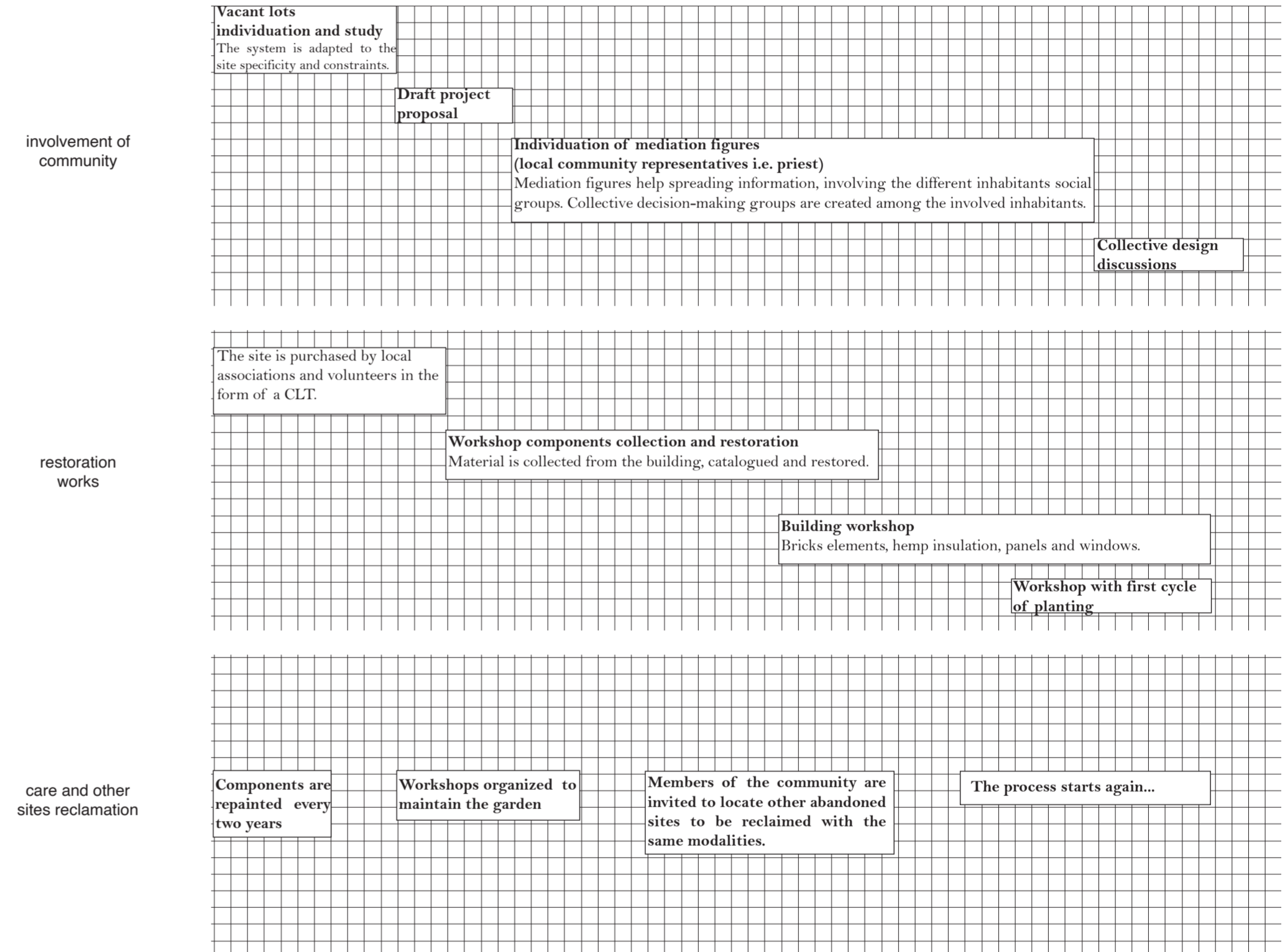
**View of the portico**  
The project constitute a reference point and an institution within the town's activities.



**View of the window**  
 the components are repainted and the process starts again



**Temporal organization of tasks and activities**



Town general view on model  
scenario with forest.



Town general view on model  
scenario with community reclamation.



Town perspective  
the sites are left abandoned



Town perspective  
the sites are reclaimed by the community



**Town perspective**

conclusion: perhaps new people will join the process of transformation of the image of the town, from problematic neighborhood to positive example of living a balanced relationship with nature



