

Rediscovering public space in the inner ring of Skopje

Methods and Analysis “Positions in Practice”
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- 1/ Observation and analysis
- 2/ Theory and precedent study
- 3/ Design intervention
- 4/ Reflection



Traditional



KenzoTange master plan

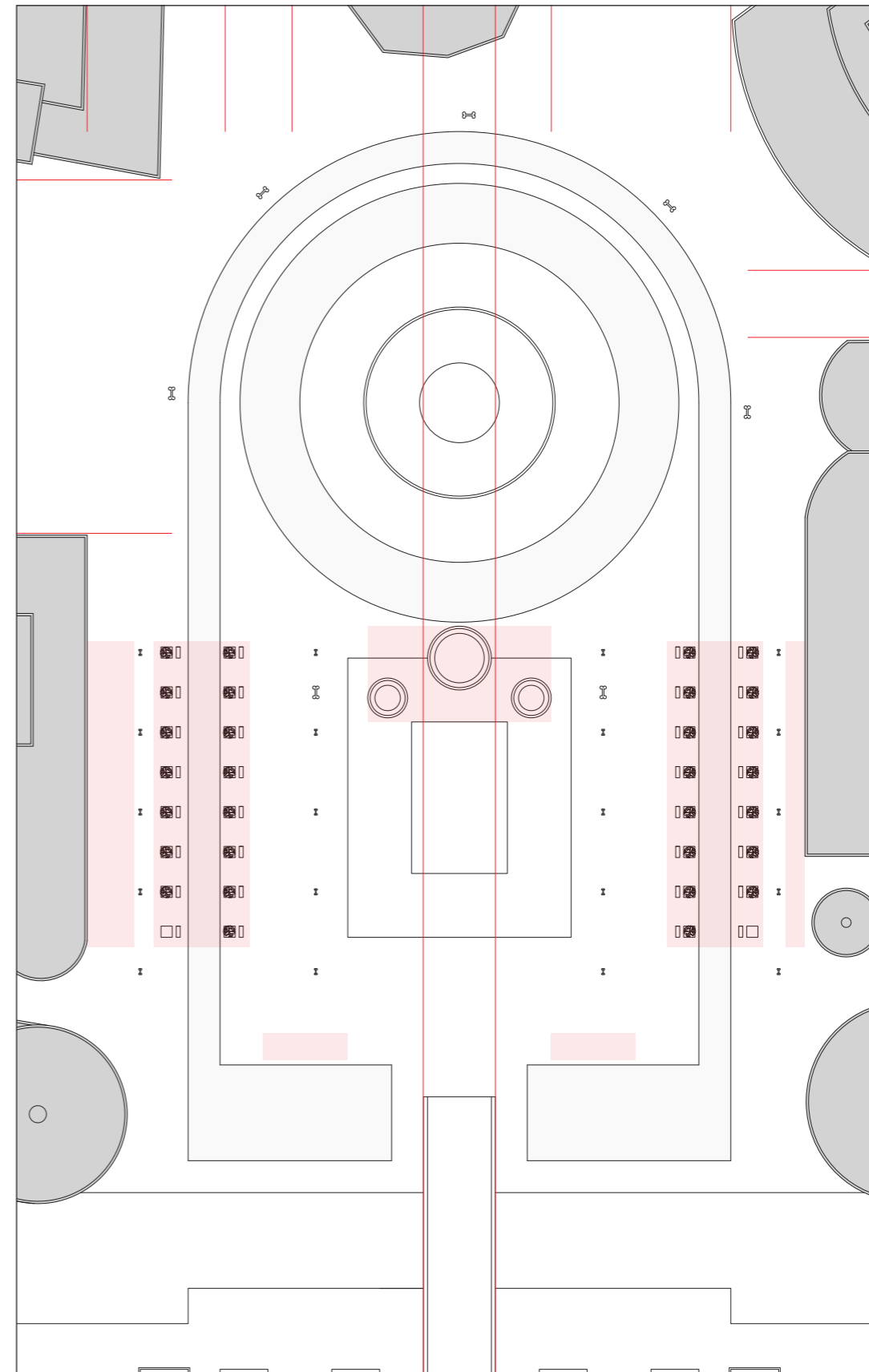


Skopje 2014

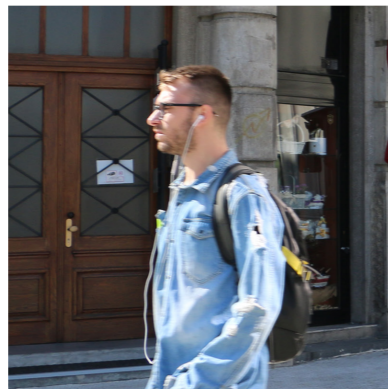
The image of Skopje



The activities in Alexander Square



The appropriation and space



Passing by

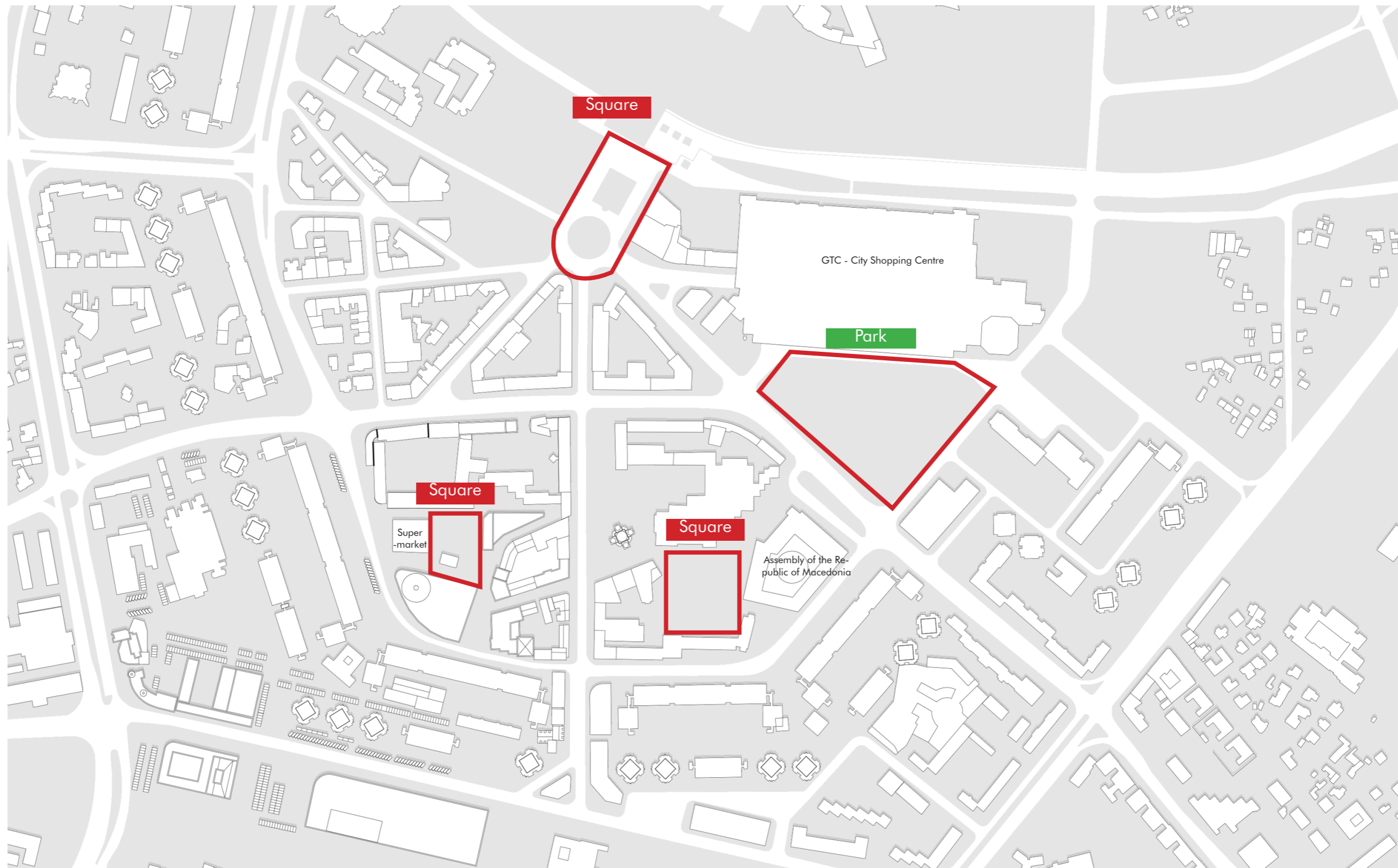
Sitting

Selling

Walking in fountain

Observing what people are doing on Alexander Square:
People are passing by or sit on the benches, merchants sell their goods, and children are playing in the fountain.
There is not a wide variety of activities and all the activities are recurring (repetitive).

The **activities** in Alexander Square

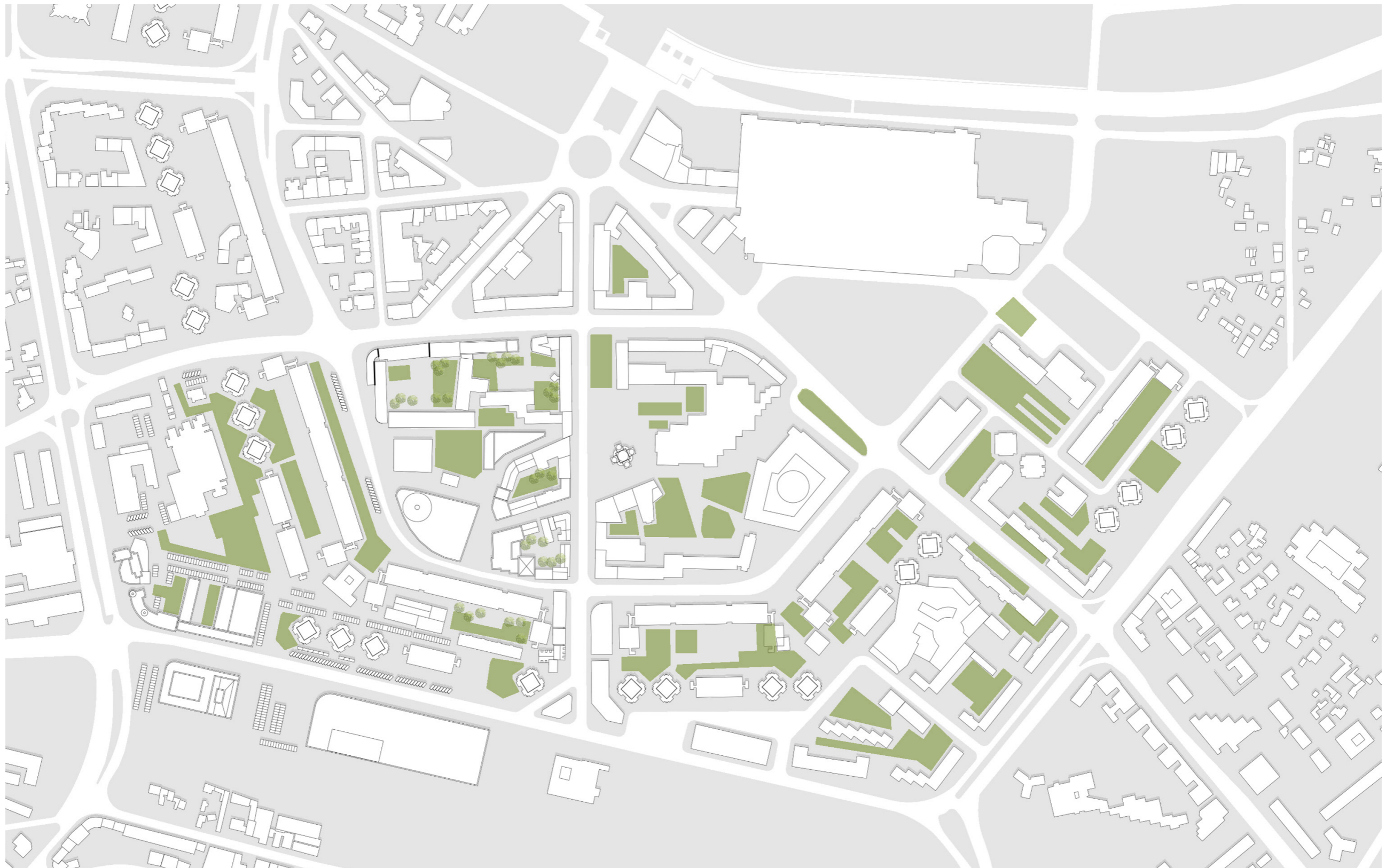


There are 4 public spaces:
Park “ Woman Warrior“ with green and statues, Alexander Square next to Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia and work as parking,
and VMRO Square behind the tourist center.

The **public spaces** in inner ring area of Skopje



A courtyard behind the alley



There are many courtyards in Skopje.
They are surrounded by residential buildings, thus easily accessible for locals.

The **courtyards** in the inner ring of Skopje



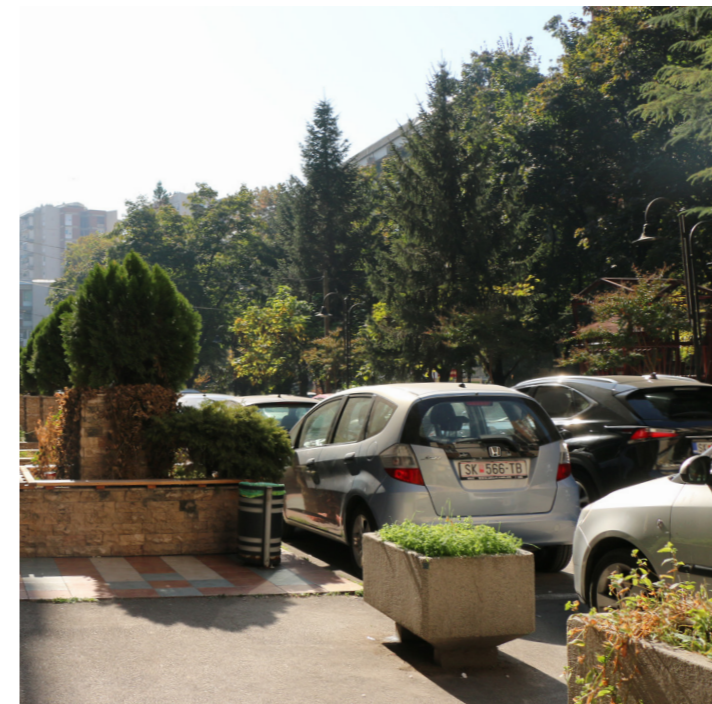
Garden plots with bare soil



The height differences



Greenery with poorly maintained object



Nearby traffic

The green areas are uninviting:
Vegetation is of poor quality, height differences create additional boundary, objects are lacking or unattractive (no incentive), nearby traffic creates noise and block view

The current situation of these courtyards



“We liked meeting other people in the green area that used to be here. Now that it has been replaced, this is no longer possible.” The elders sitting the bench



“We don’t have a place to play sports. We want more places to play and gather together.”
Two teenagers after school

Interviewing locals about the public space



Design aim

To redevelop the courtyards within the inner ring of Skopje to increase social interaction

2/ Theory and Precedent study

Greatly simplified, outdoor activities in public spaces can be divided into three categories, each of which places very different demands on the physical environment: **necessary activities**, **optional activities**, and **social activities**.

To draw people, it needs to be busy and complex enough for **social interactions** among strangers to be optimized. To offer such conditions, the best locations for 'triangulation' combined **various spatial elements** such as props with edges or thresholds.

Graphic representation of the relationship between the quality of outdoor spaces and the rate of occurrence of outdoor activities.

When the quality of outdoor areas is good, optional activities occur with increasing frequency. Furthermore, as levels of optional activity rise, the number of social activities usually increases substantially.

	Quality of the physical environment	
	Poor	Good
Necessary activities	●	●
Optional activities	●	●●●
"Resultant" activities (Social activities)	●	●●

Life Between Buildings: Using public space, Jan Gehl



'Fourth places': The contemporary public settings for informal social interaction among strangers, Patricia Simões Aelbrecht

To increase social interaction, optional activities can be stimulated by providing a **good quality environment** with **various spatial elements**.

*The provision of **greenery** in residential communities increases the opportunity for **social activity** and enhances the **social bonding** among the residents*

*A study of outdoor interactional spaces in high-rise housing
, Shu-Chun Lucy Huang*

*the **greenness** of neighbourhood spaces is positively linked to the number of individuals involved in **social activity**, the structure of green spaces (nature, design, sports facilities) heavily **influences activities** and the extent to which people are drawn to it.*

*Urban green areas and their potential for social interaction
, Kerstin Krellenberg, Juliane Welz, Sonia Reyes-Päcke*

Green areas determine what type of activities can take place
The green could increase social interaction.

The theory about **green**

*The most preferred landscapes are those close to boundary elements allowing for taking refuge... When the water element is used as restrictive, it can **create pleasing spaces** by meeting these requests of people.*



*Purposes of Waterscapes Usage in Landscape Architecture,
Tugba Duzenli & Doruk Görkem Özkan*

*Water element also plays an **orienting role** in open spaces... It can **direct people** to the point which is desired to be emphasized according to its **usage**.*



*Purposes of Waterscapes Usage in Landscape Architecture,
Tugba Duzenli & Doruk Görkem Özkan*

*“ **Water features** with complex and unique forms are more likely to encourage the observers’ **social interaction**. ” (Shu-Chun Lucy Huang,2006)*

Water features can be used to increase social interaction as well as draw people in and guide them.

The theory about **water**



Hypothesis

Social interactions within the courtyards can be stimulated by combining architectural elements for **activities** and quality nature (**green & water**).

- How to use architectural elements to shape gardens and guide people

- *Querini Stampalia Foundation*
- *Tomba Brion*



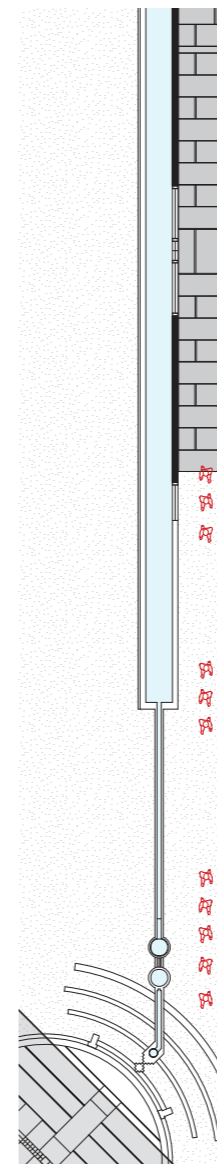
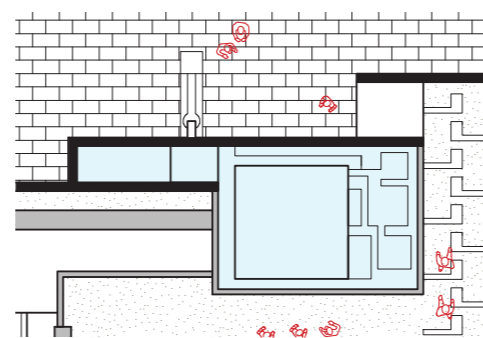
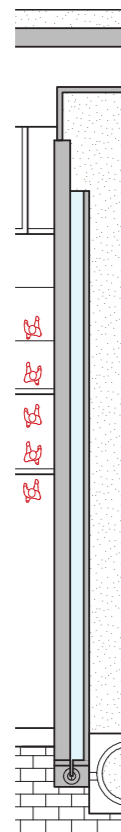
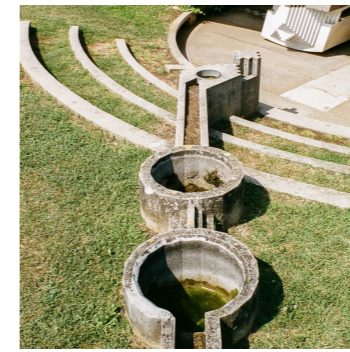
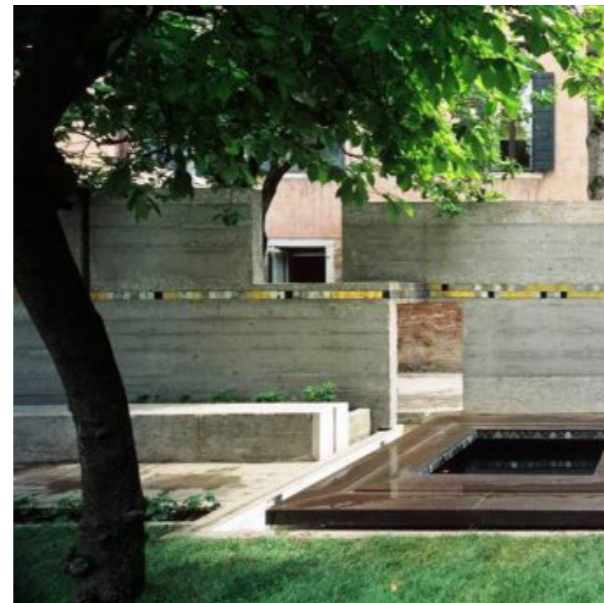
Carlo Scarpa

-How to design the play elements to stimulate activities

- *Aldo Van Eyck: The Playgrounds and the City, Aldo van Eyck, Rudi Fuchs*
- *Aldo Van Eyck: Seventeen Playgrounds, Amsterdam, Anna van Lingen, Denisa Kollarova*



Aldo van Eyck



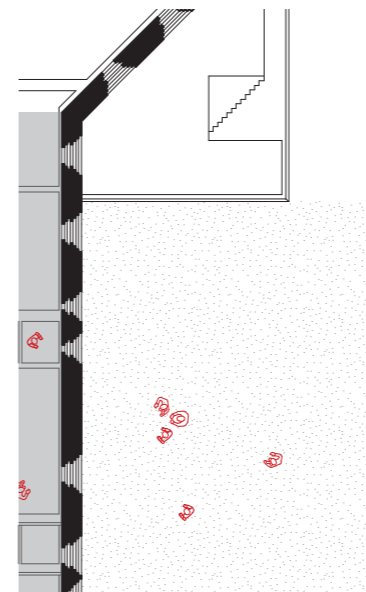
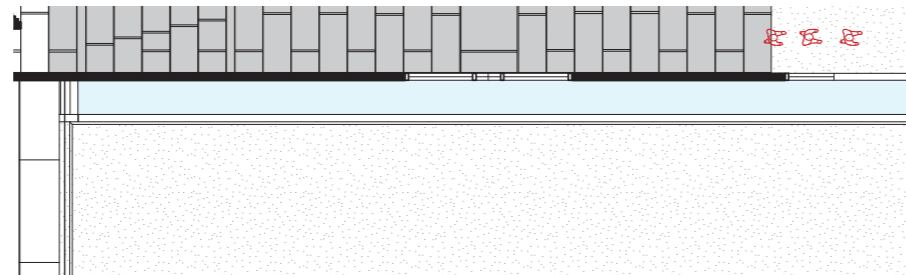
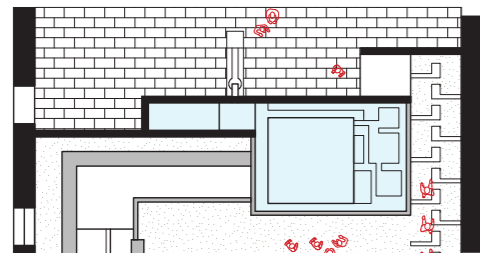
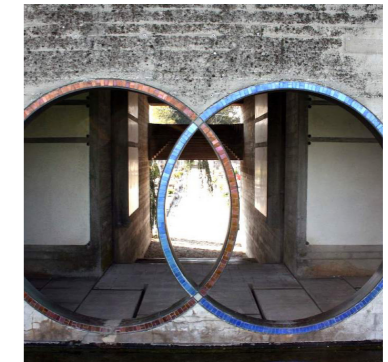
Long shape basin ,Querini Stampalia Foundation

Flat rectangle basin ,Querini Stampalia Foundation

Extra long shape basin with metaphor, Tomba Brion

Details of basins

The precedent study: Basin



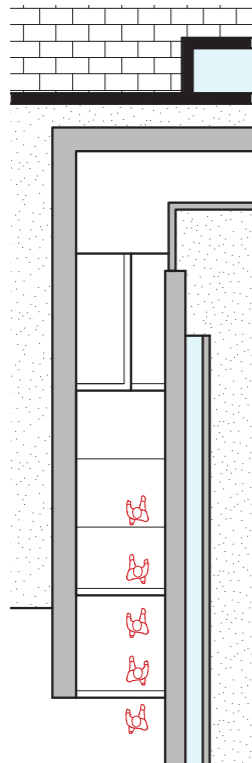
Wall A, Querini Stampalia Foundation

Wall B, Tomba Brion

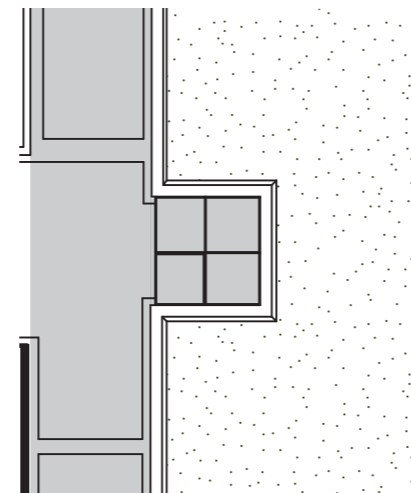
Wall C, Tomba Brion

Details of walls

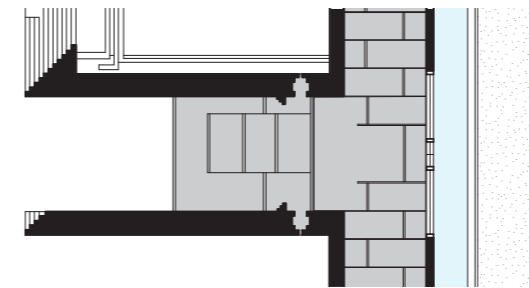
The precedent study: Wall



Levelling, Querini Stampalia Foundation

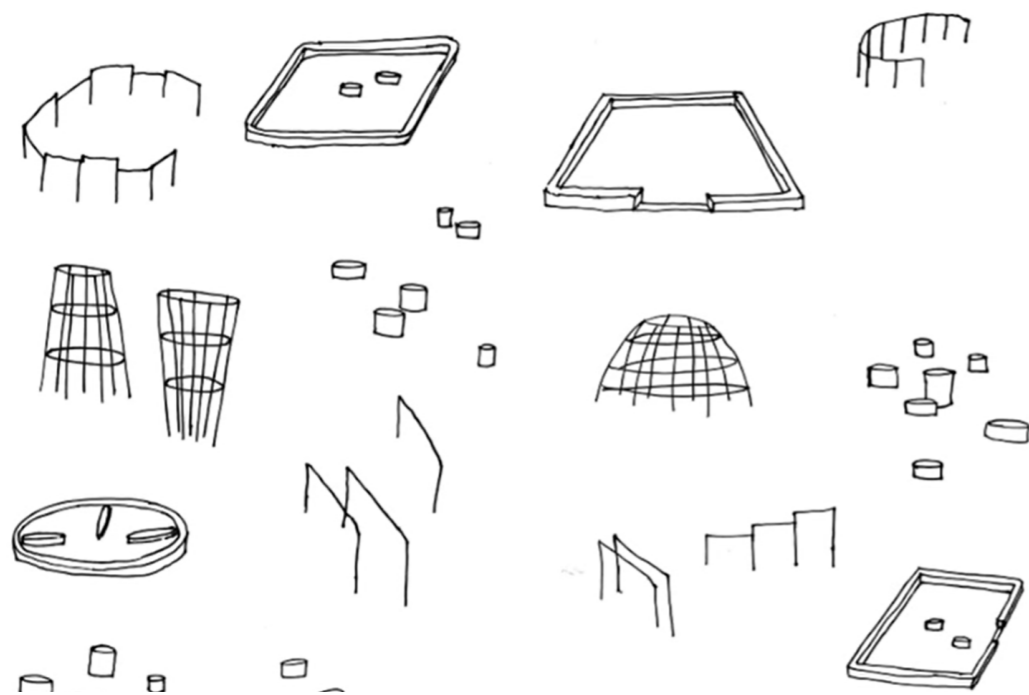


Levelling, , Tomba Brion



Levelling, Tomba Brion

The precedent study: Leveling



Levelling, Querini Stampalia Foundation

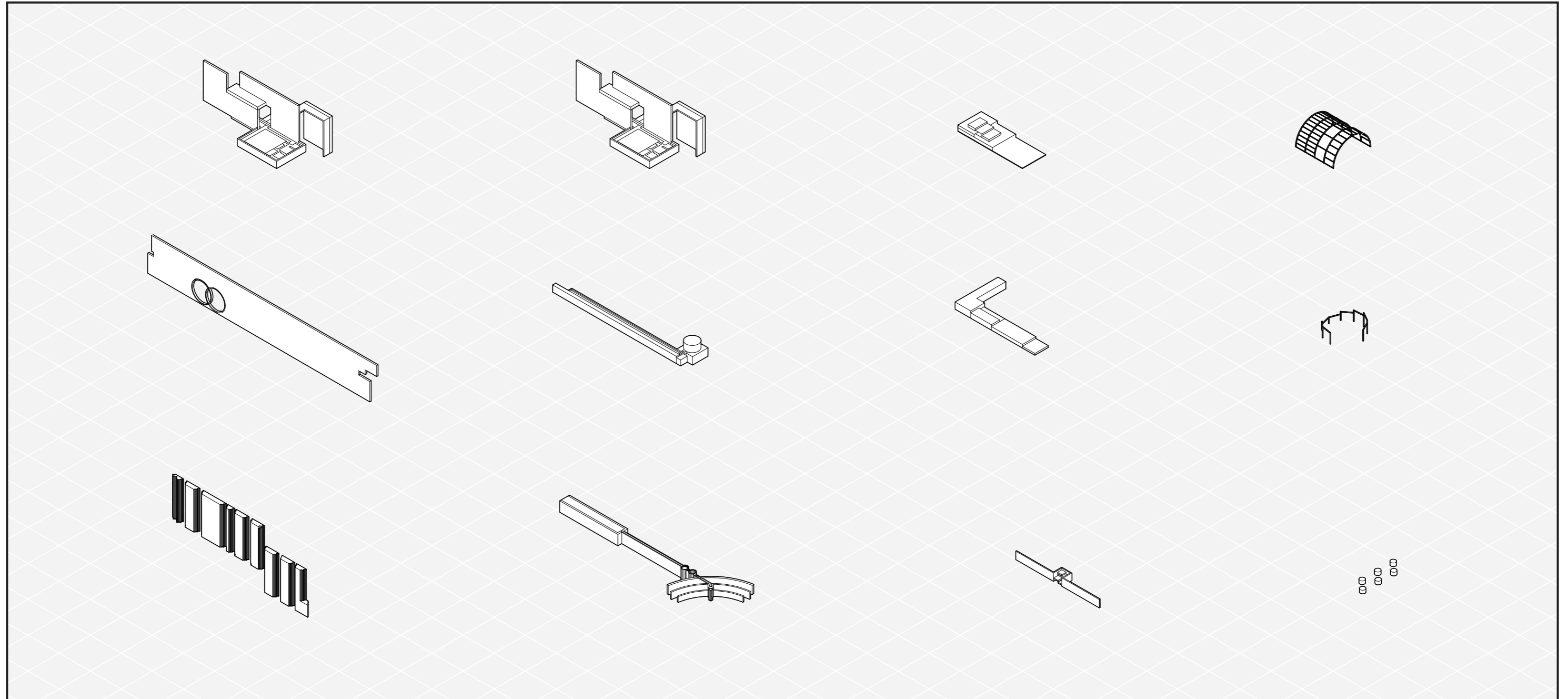


Levelling, , Tomba Brion



Levelling, Tomba Brion

The precedent study: Play elements



Walls

Basins

Levellings

Play elements

Instrument of architectural elements based on precedent studies

3/ Design intervention



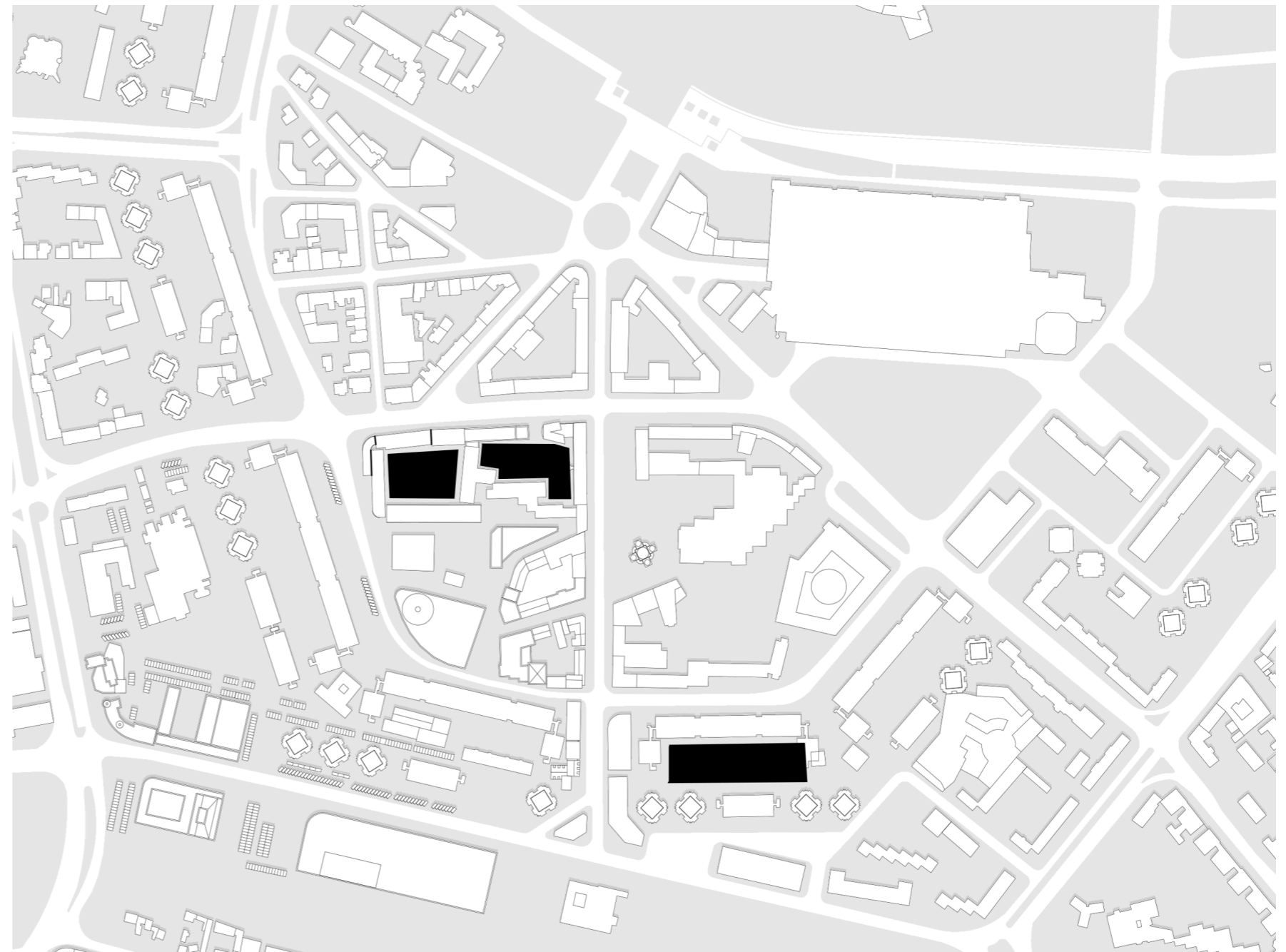
Site 1



Site 2



Site 3



These three sites are dealing with three representative issues.

Site selection



Shopping and passing by

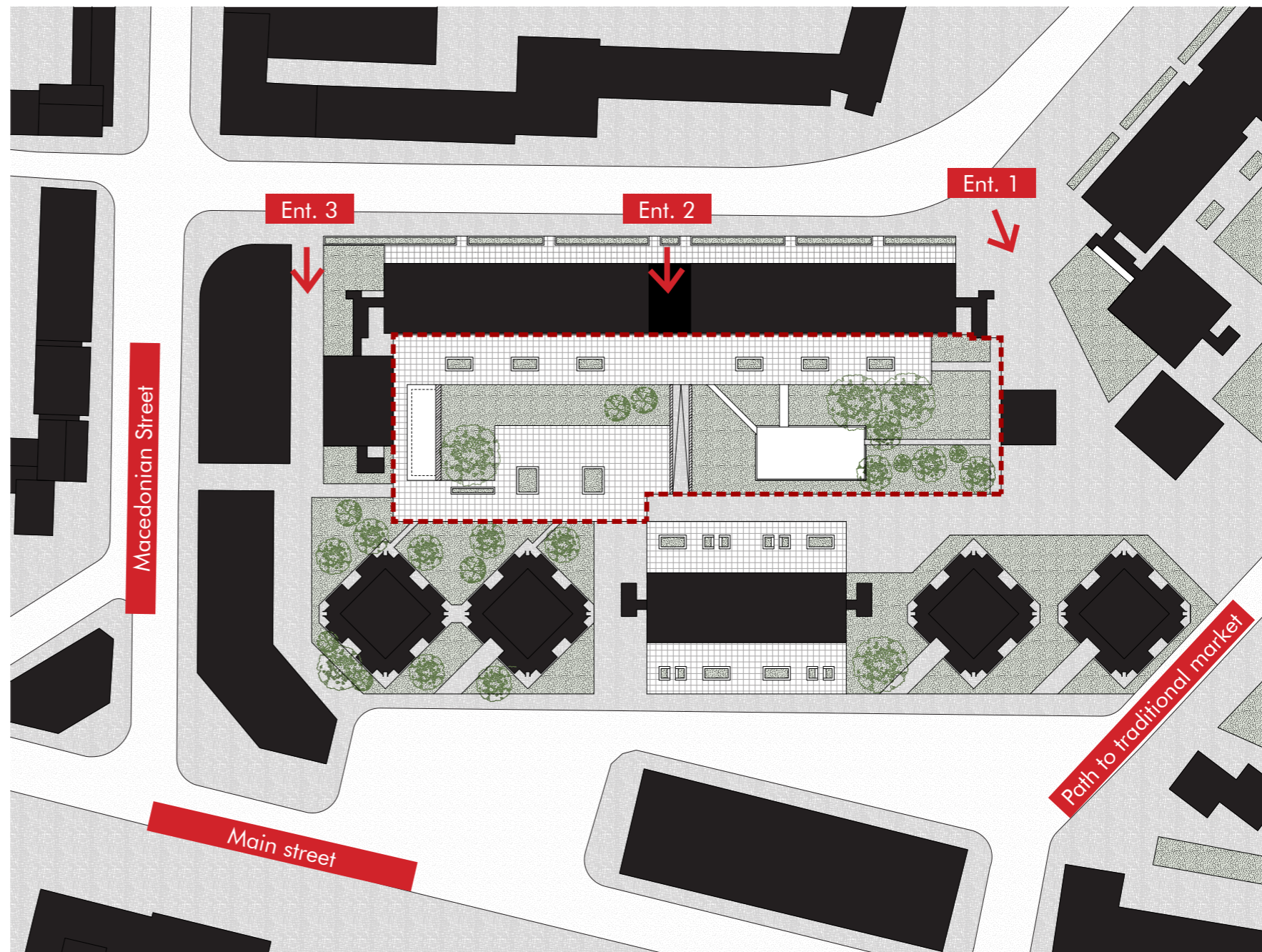


Residents



Entrance

Entrance and Users



Site 1



Garden plots with bare soil



Garden plots with bare soil

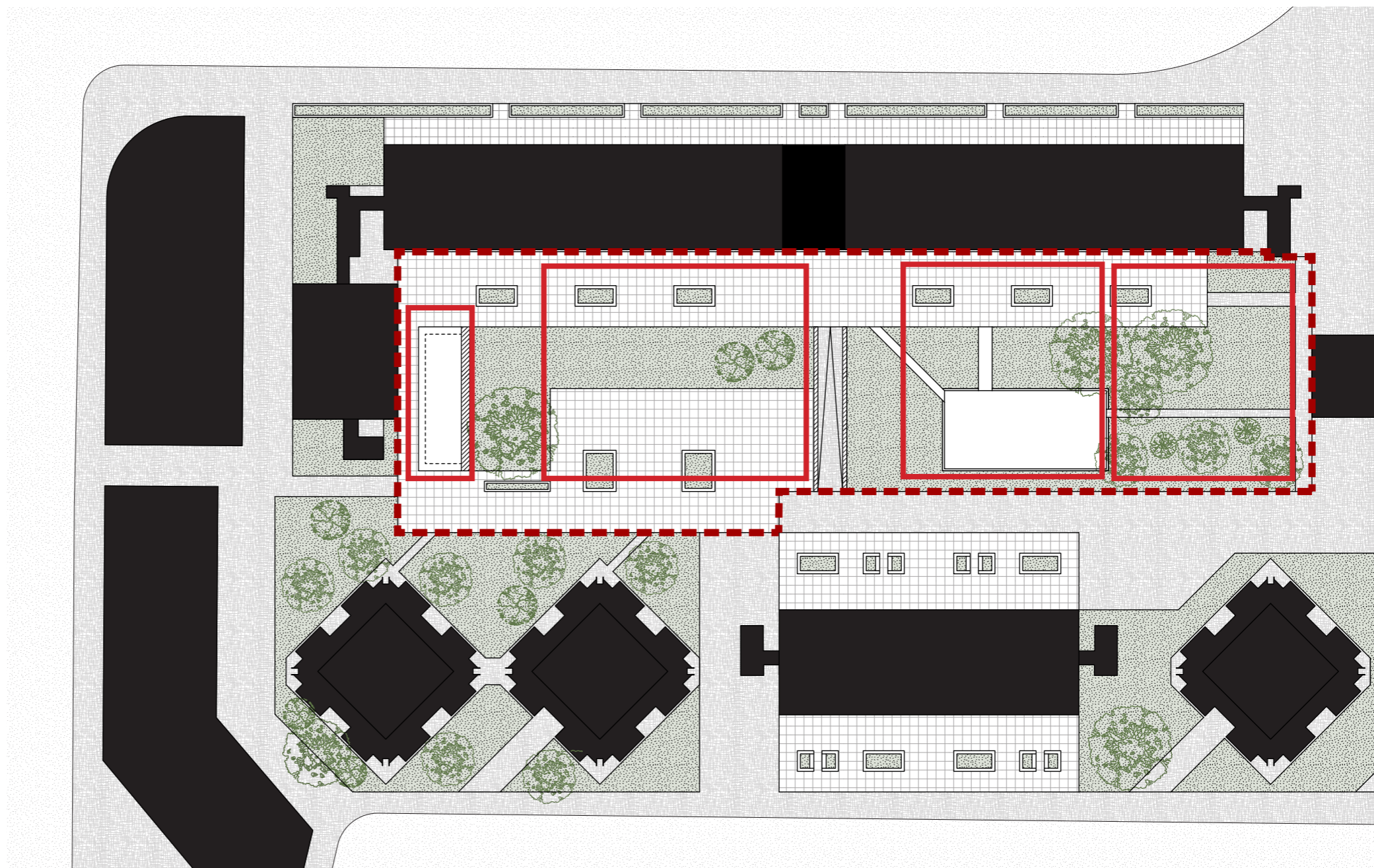


Green area with poorly maintained object



Nearby traffic

The current **green** situation of Site 1



Intervention area

Current situation



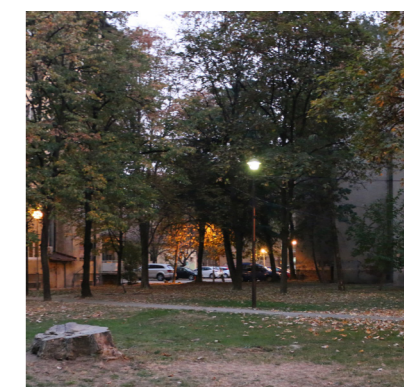
Outdoor Cafe



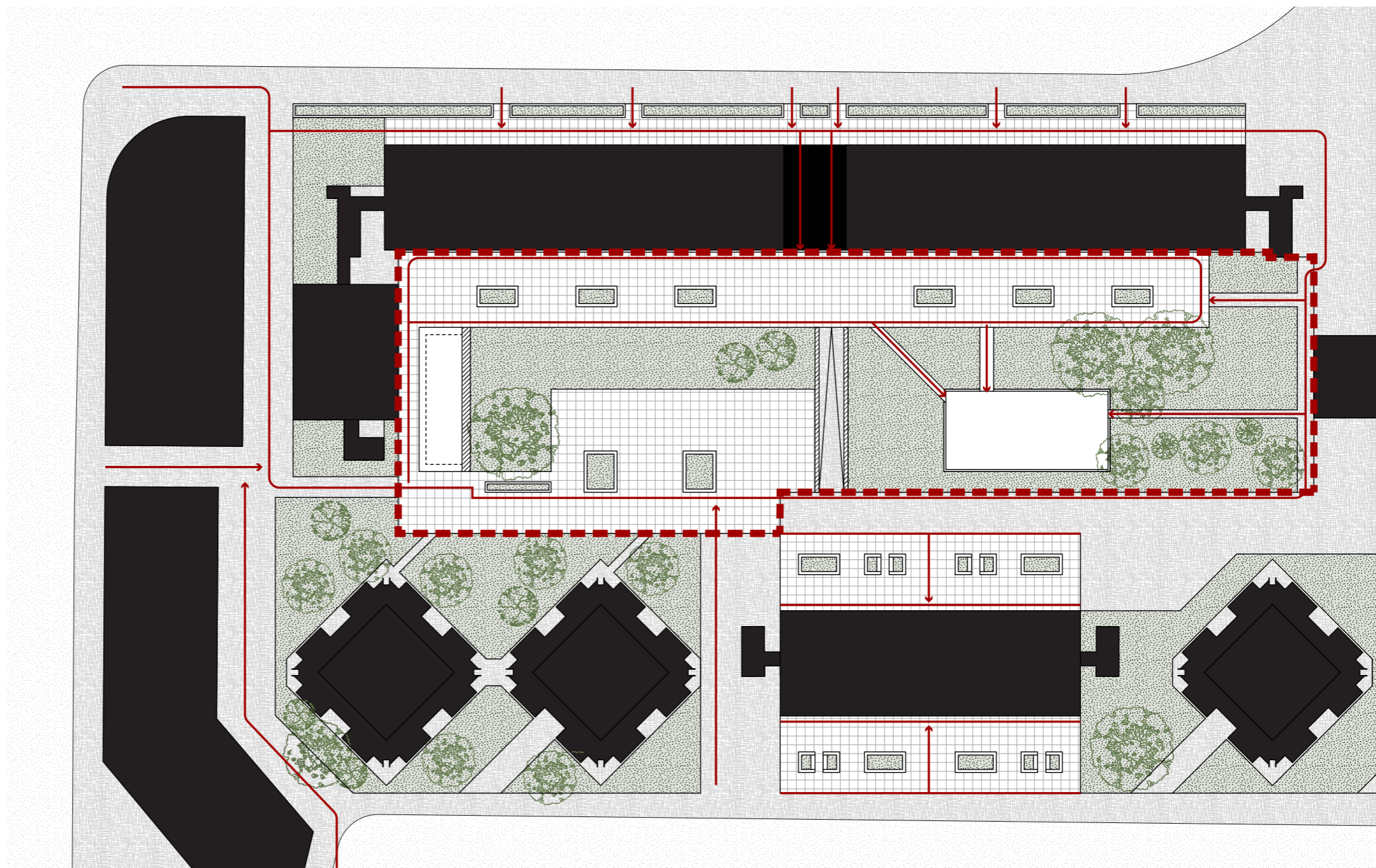
Basketball hoop






Playground

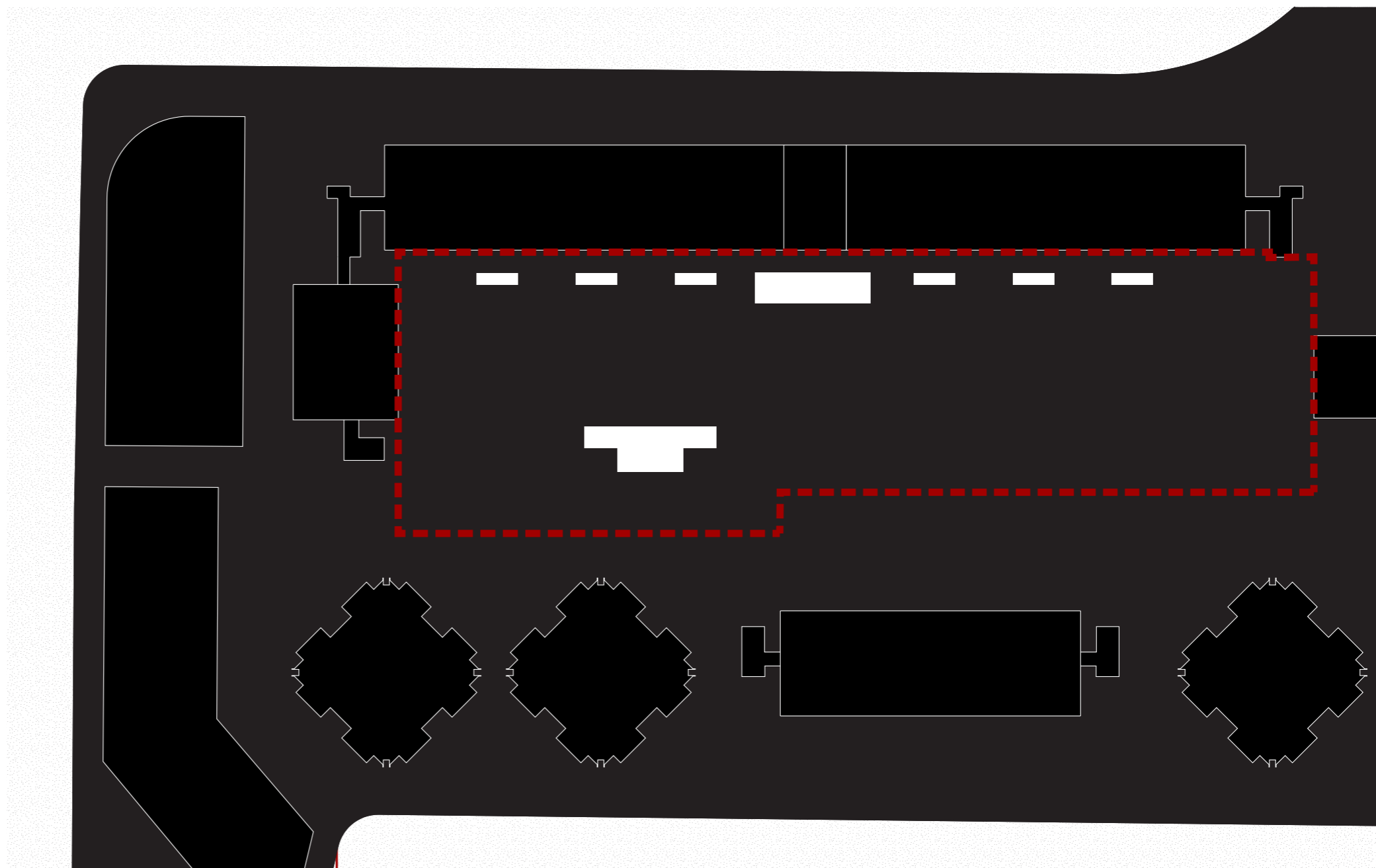


Vegetation



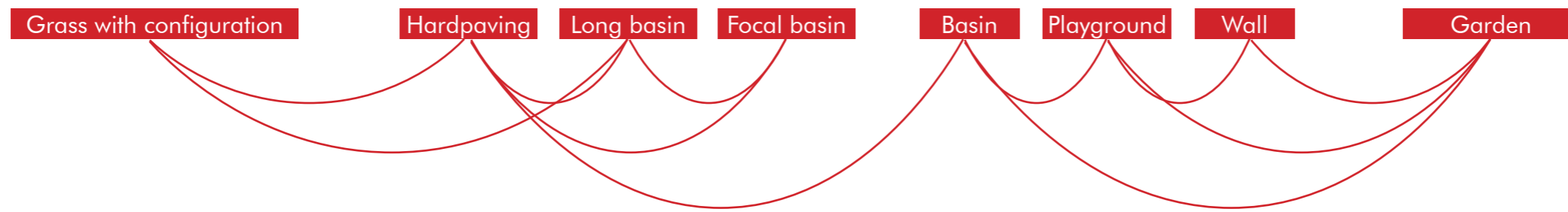
-  *green space*
-  *circulation*
-  *cafe, basketball hoop, playground*

The **usage** of the space

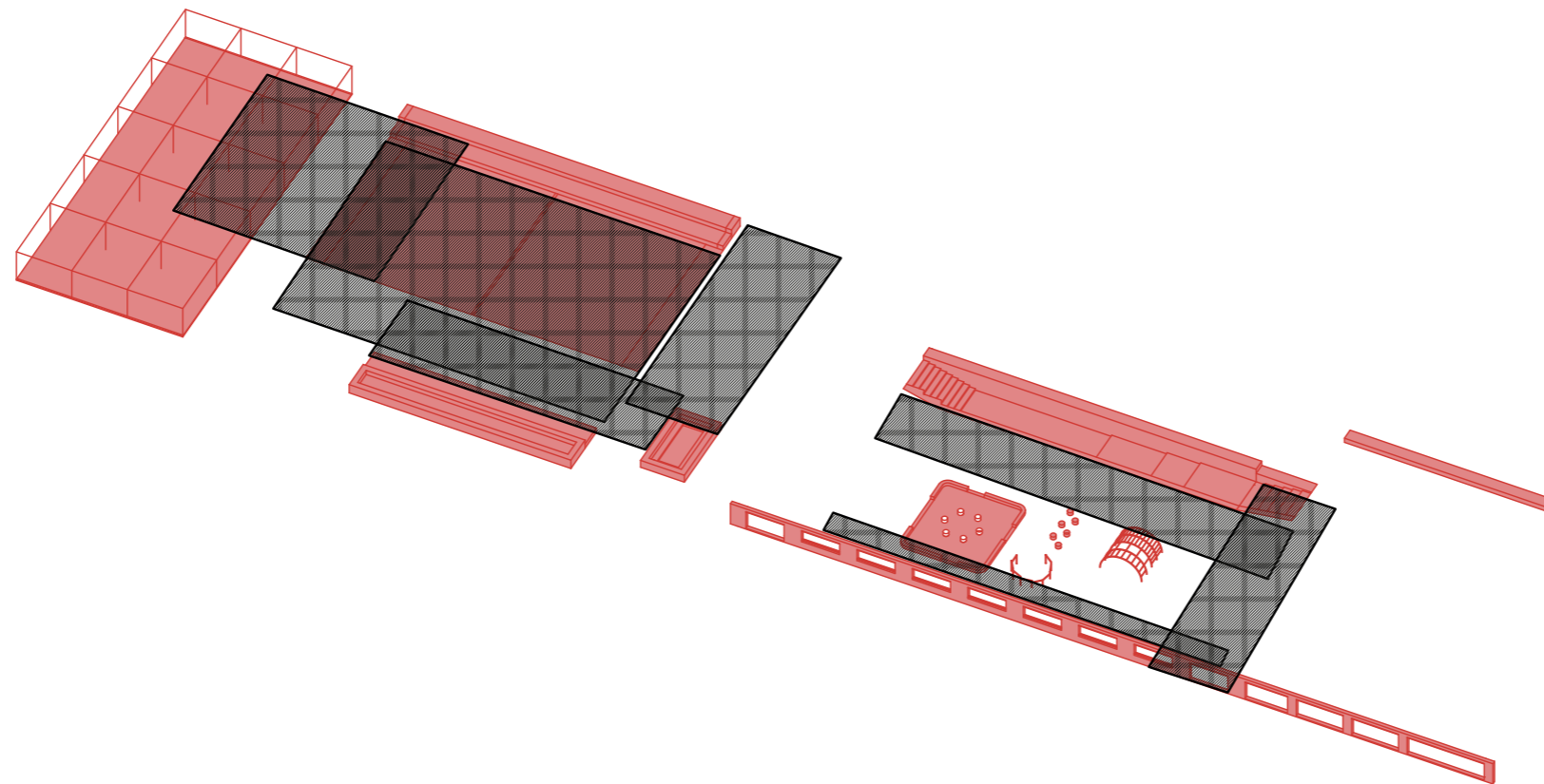


Few space for activities:
mark the buildings, circulation space, parking space, uninviting green, and
specific programs(outdoor cafe, basketball hoop, playground) as black part,
then the white part is available space for other activities

Noni map



Interaction between space



Outdoor cafe
Grass with configuration

Basketball Hoop
Hardpaving playground

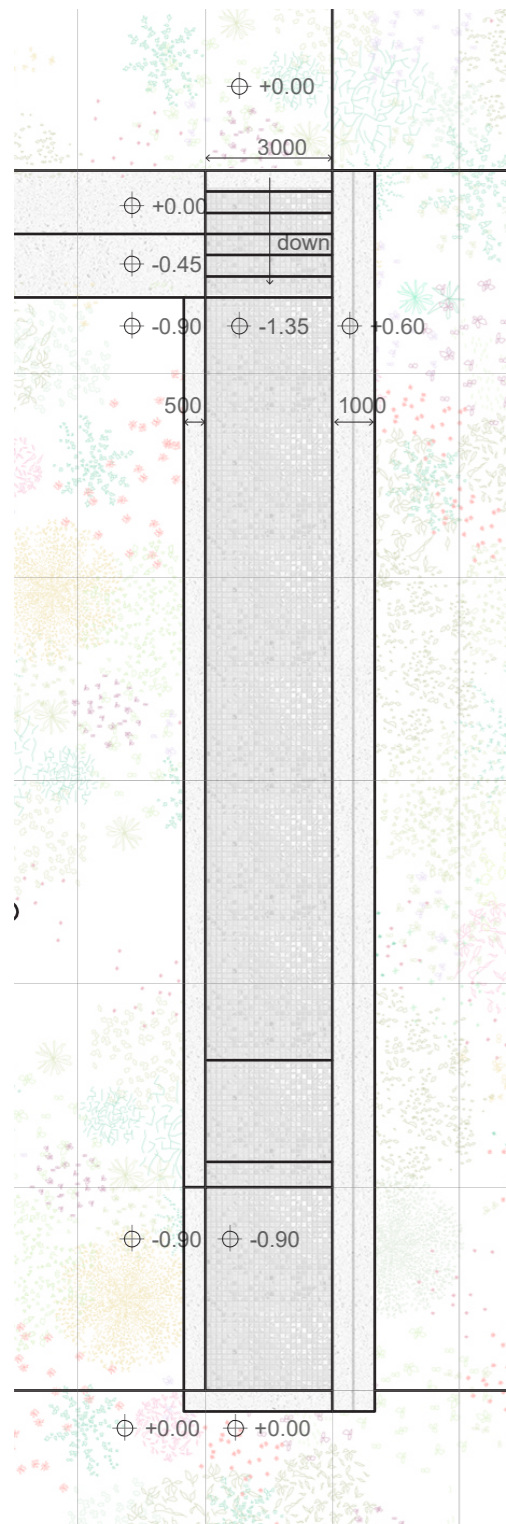
Playground
Playground

Vegetation
Garden

Design the new architectural elements

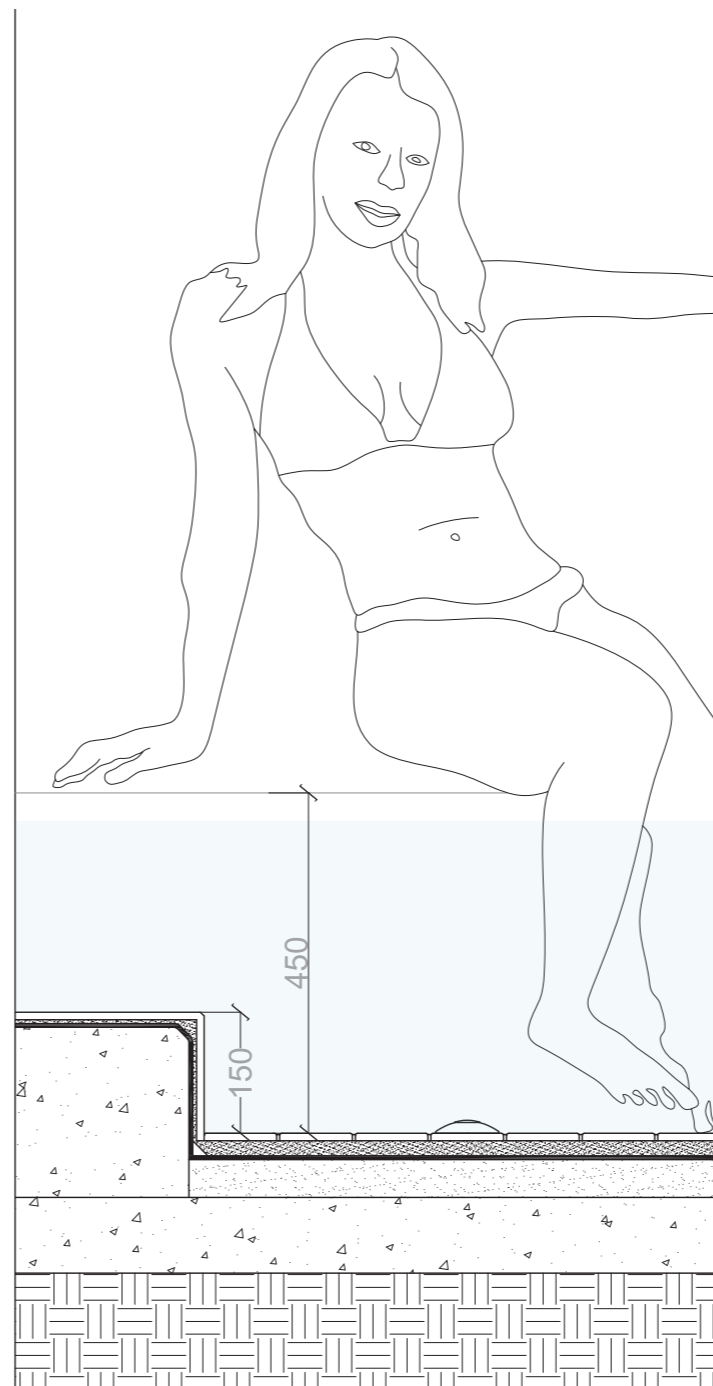
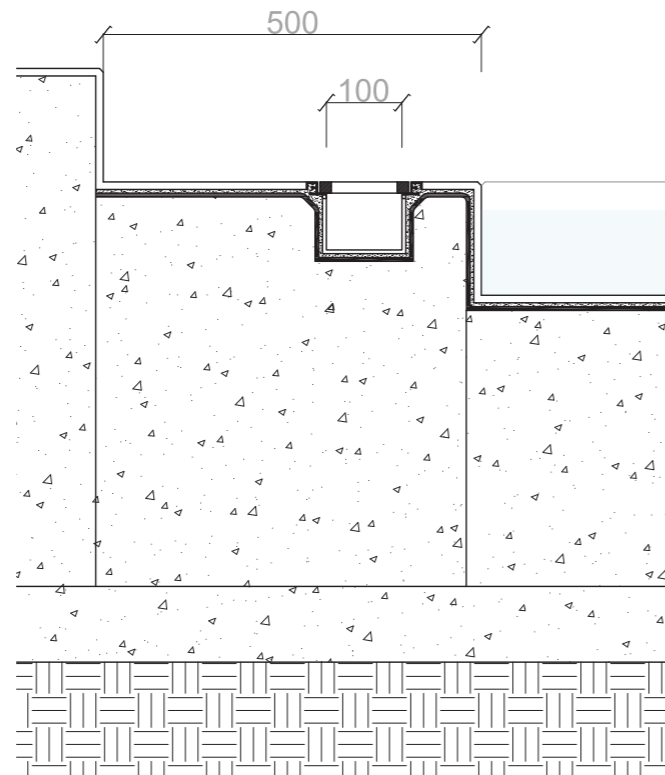


Playground



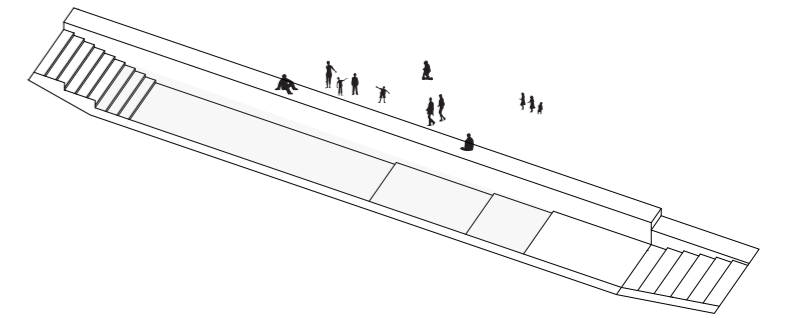
Plan

- mortar finished
- bonding agent
- rubber tape(corner)
- the grout
- mosaic
- the adhesive 30mm
- cementitious waterproofer 5mm
- screed 50mm
- structural concrete 100mm

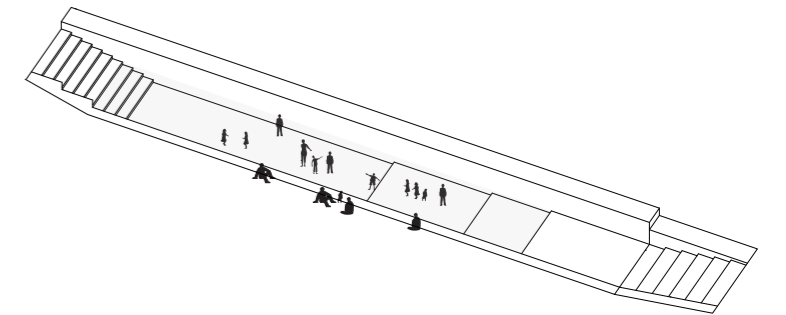


Details (1 to 10)

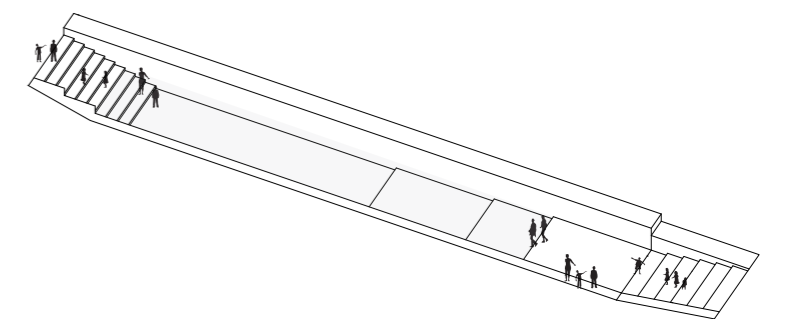
Basin1



watching



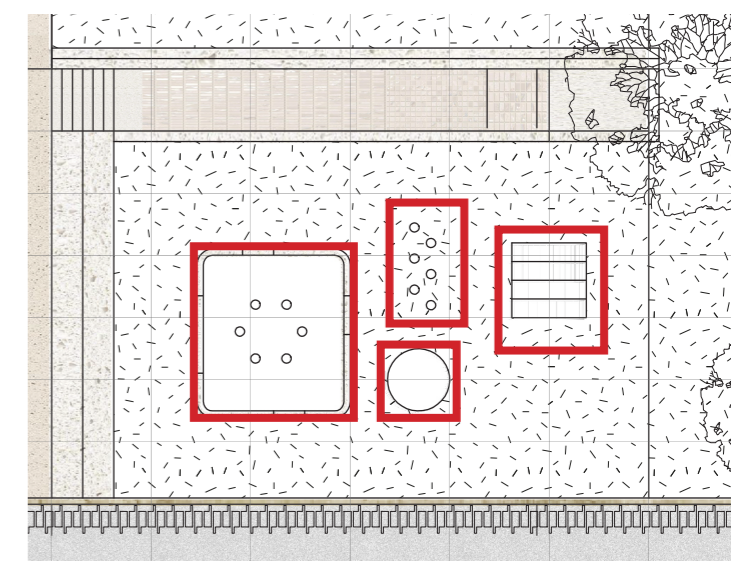
playing with water



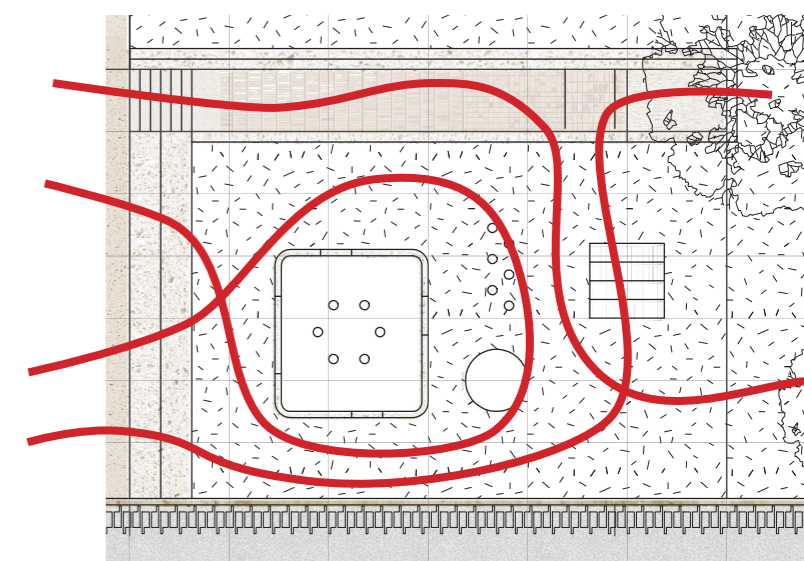
levelling



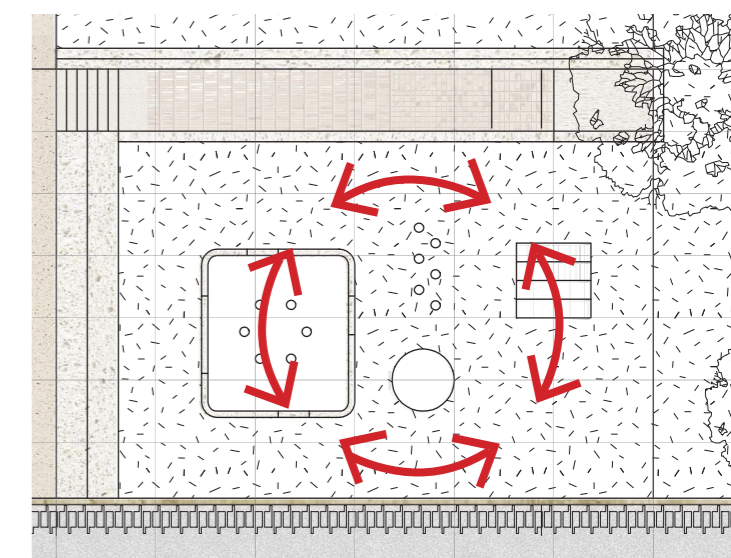
playful elements



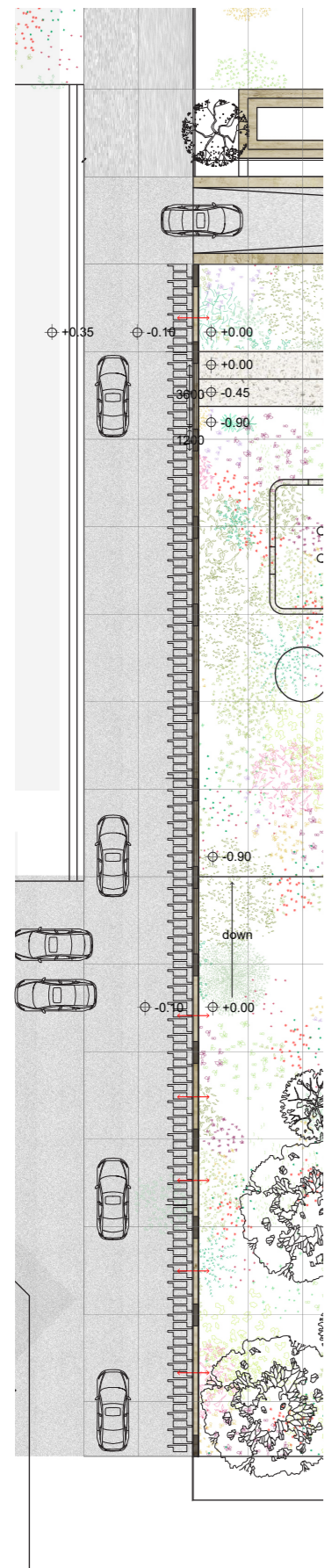
configuration



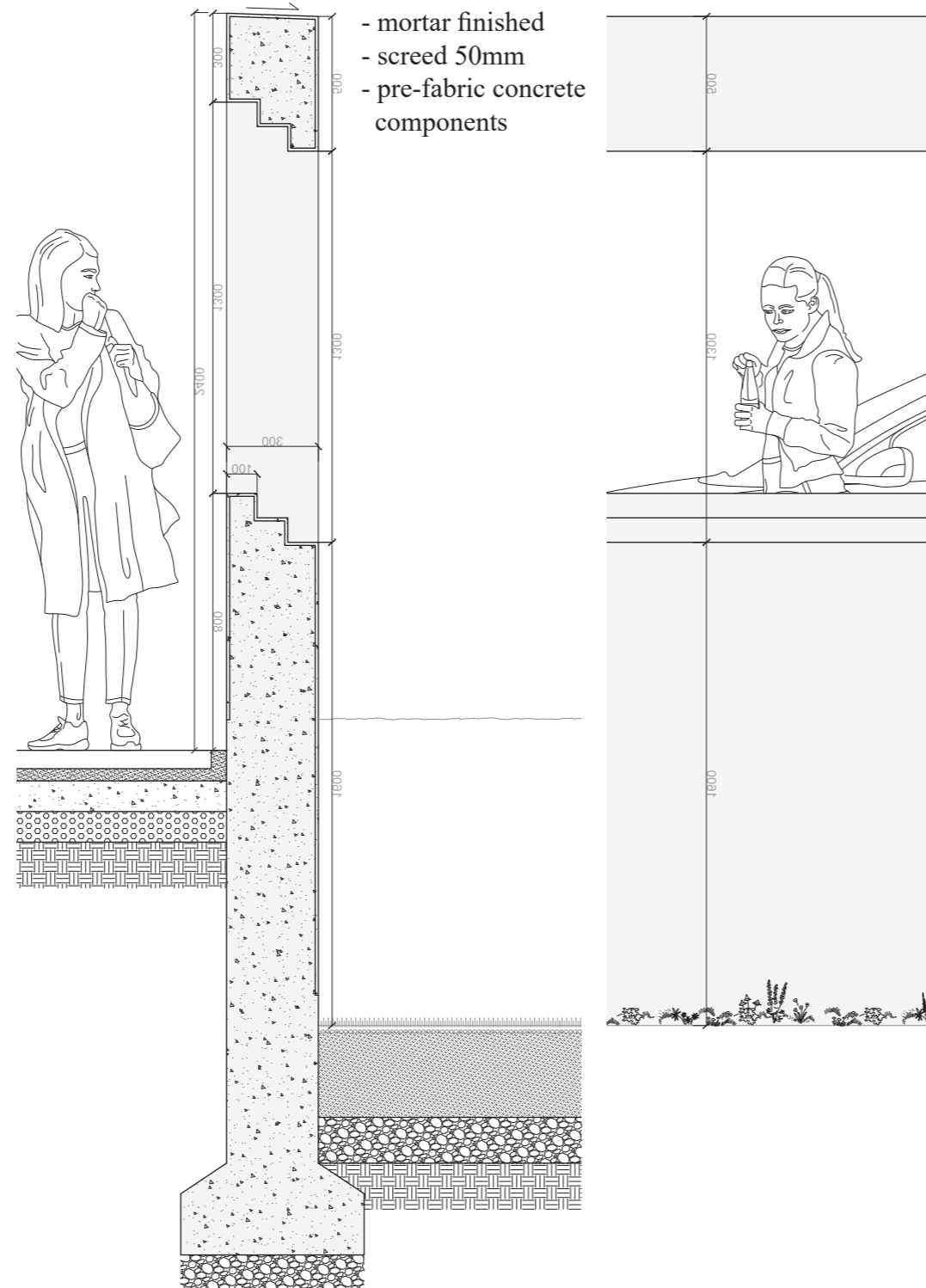
entering



free play order



Plan



Detail 1 to 20

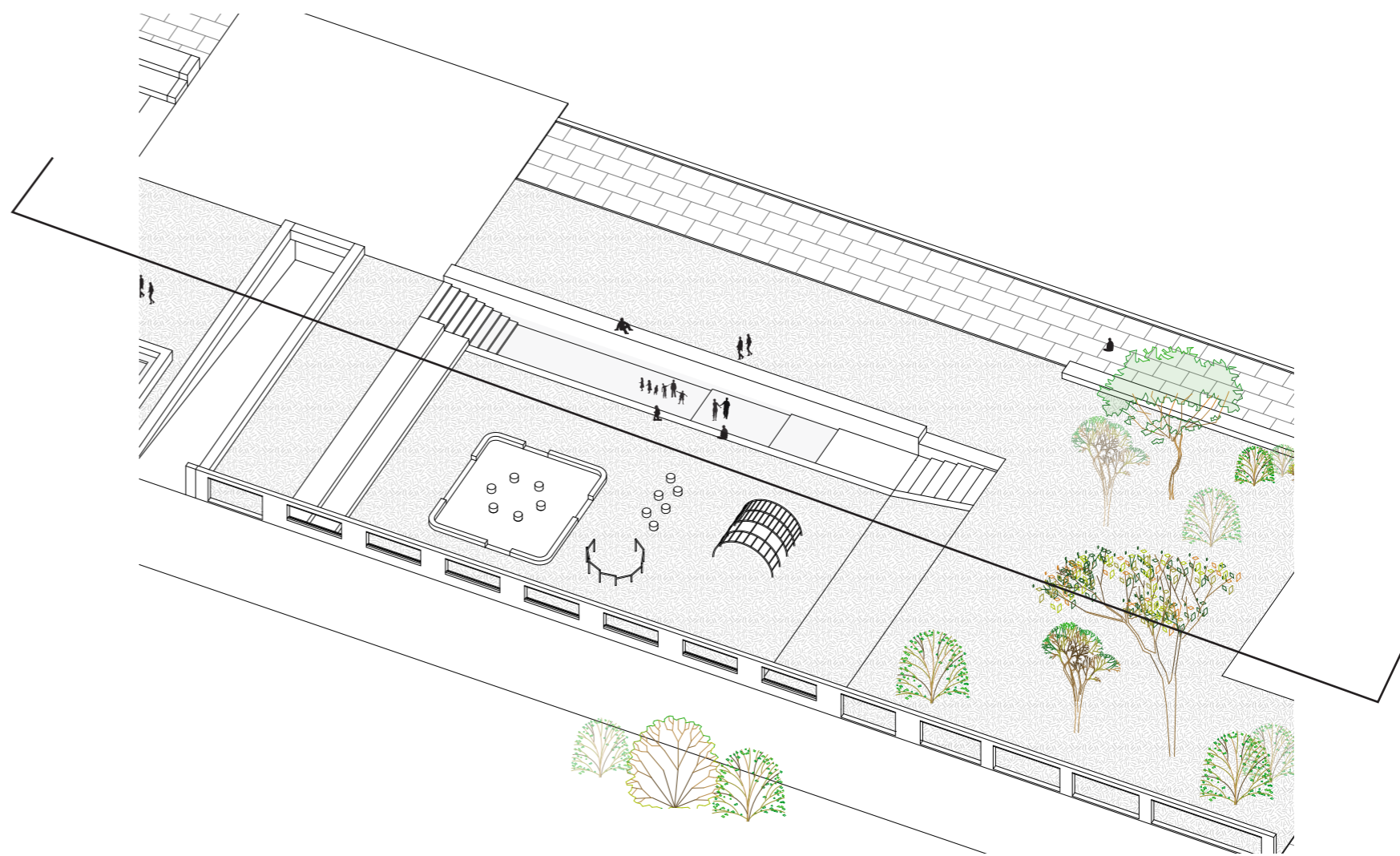


current situation



frame the view

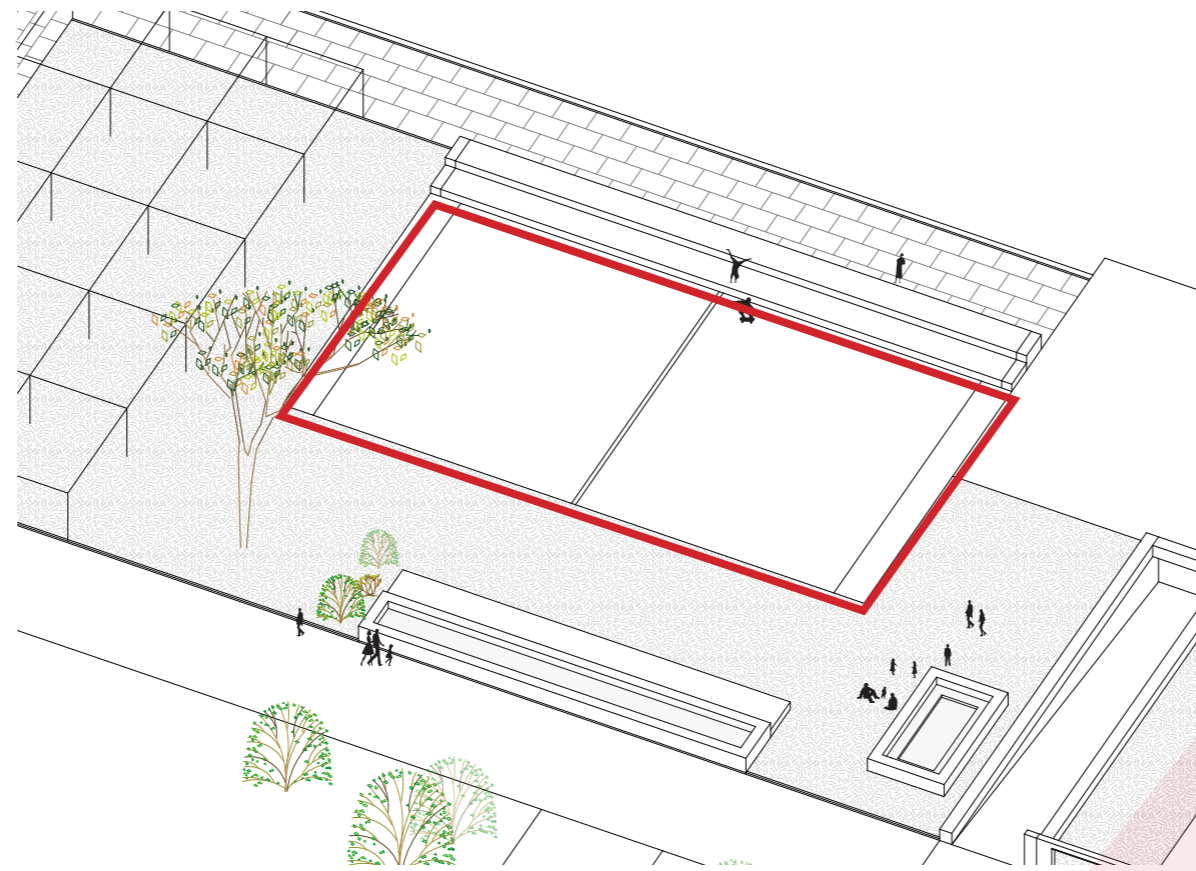
Threshold between traffic and green



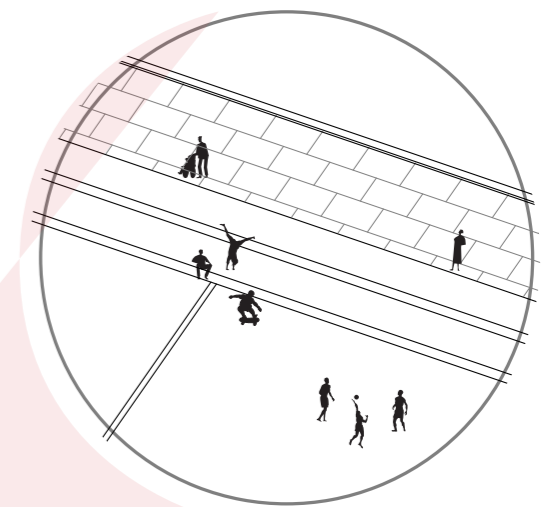
From vegetation to garden



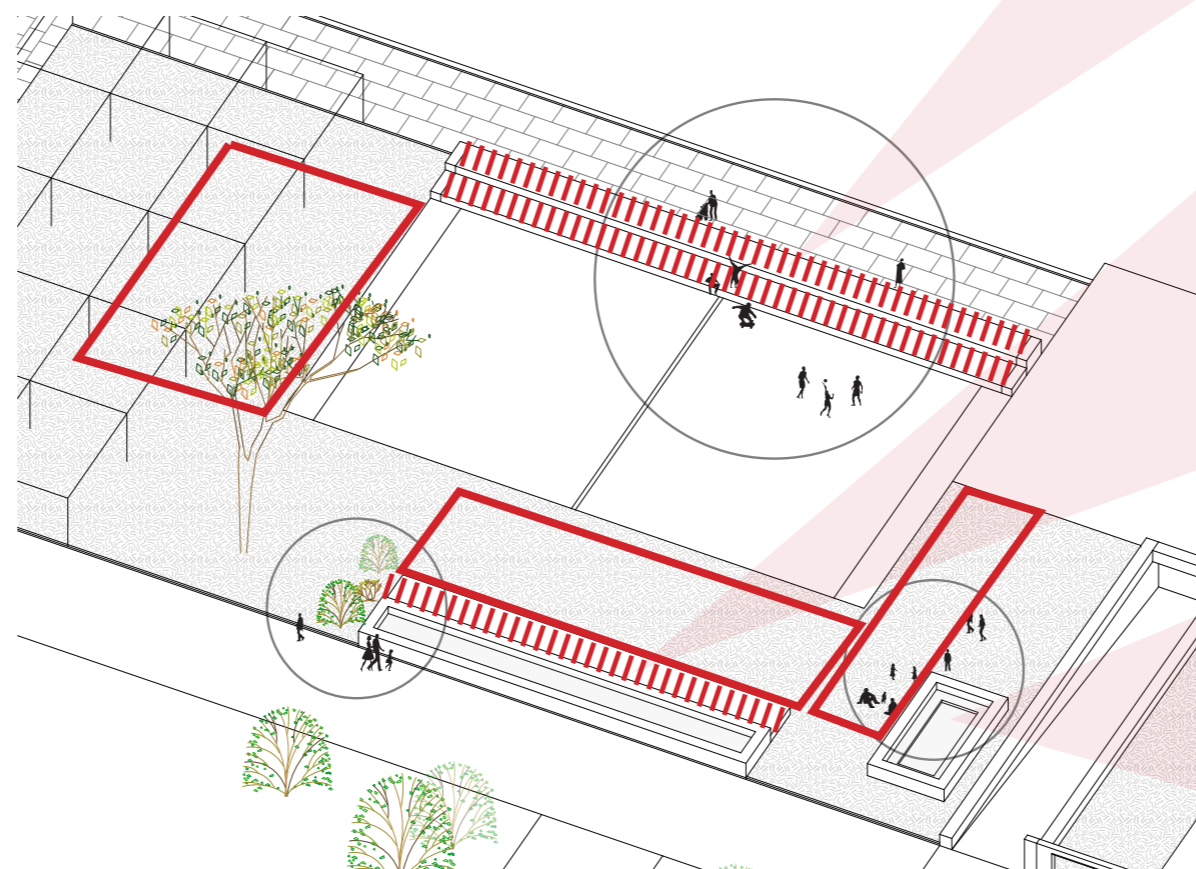
Instead of using the rubber floor spesic for sport court, materials selection is hard paving as the square.



basketball court



threshold and stage of the court



extension space

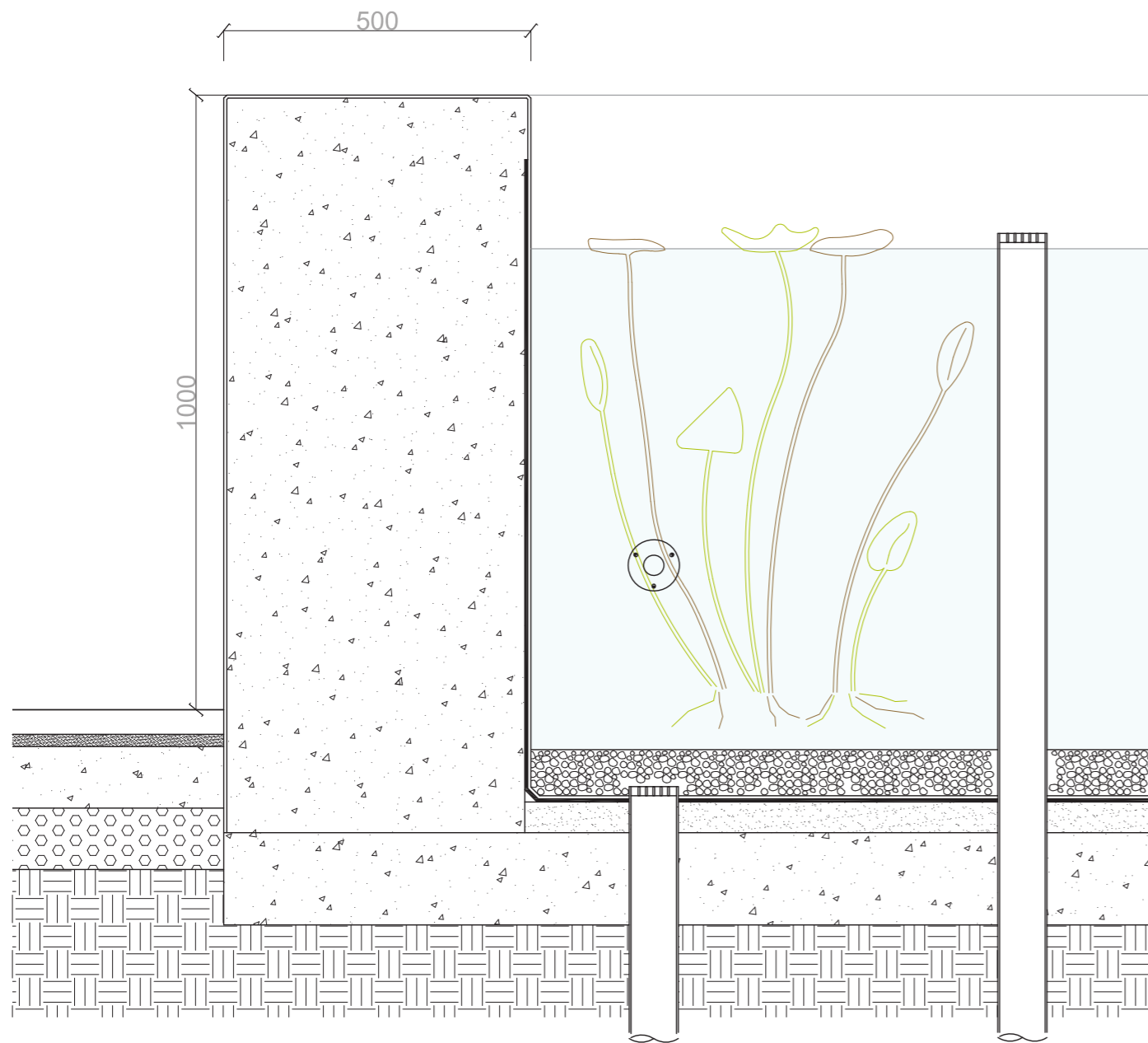


basin worked as threshold and stage



focal point in between entrance and green

Hard paving for the court and square



- mortar finished
- bonding agent
- rubber tape(corner)

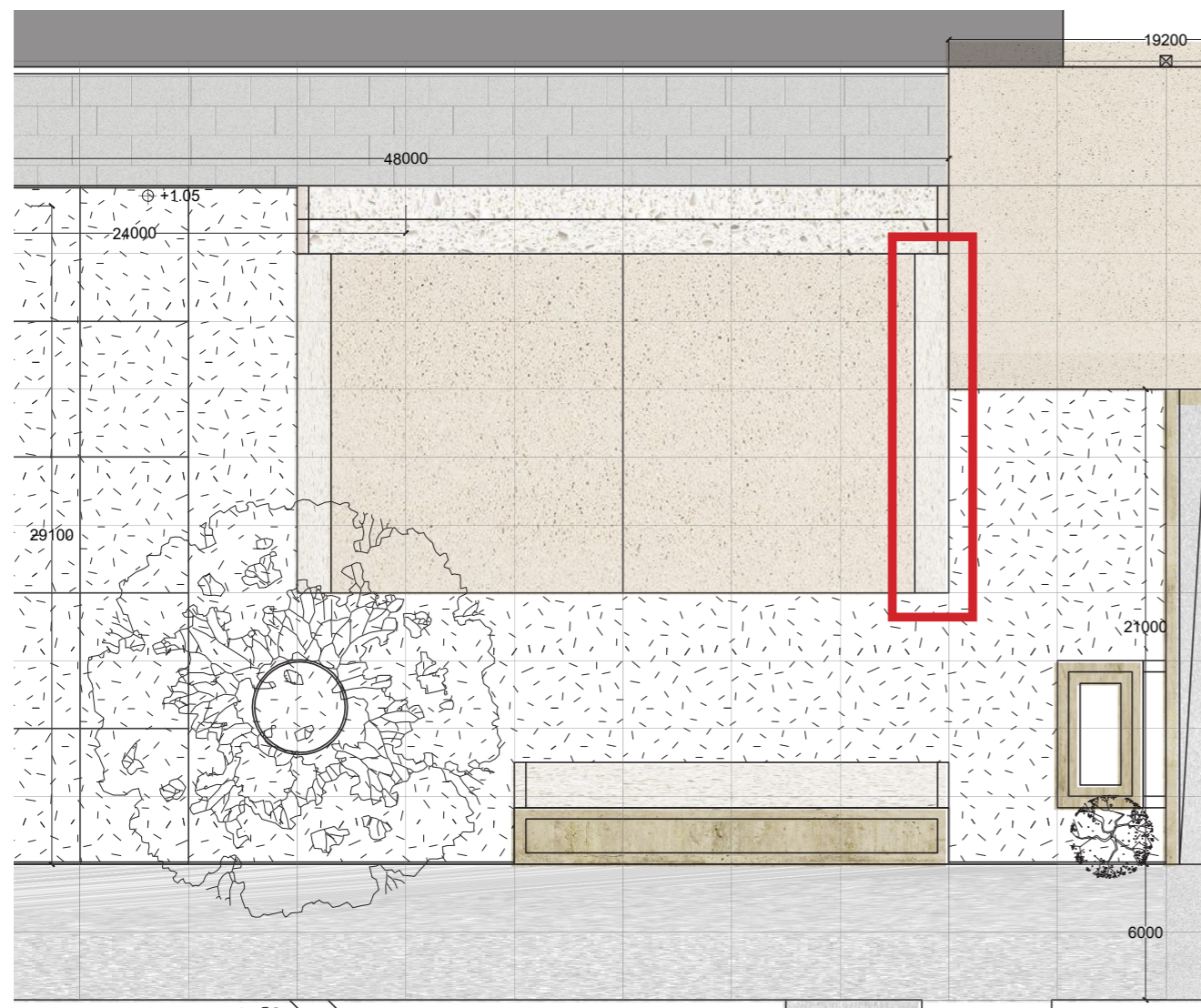
- water inlet
- overflow drainage
- drainage

- soil
- filter sheet
- filtration

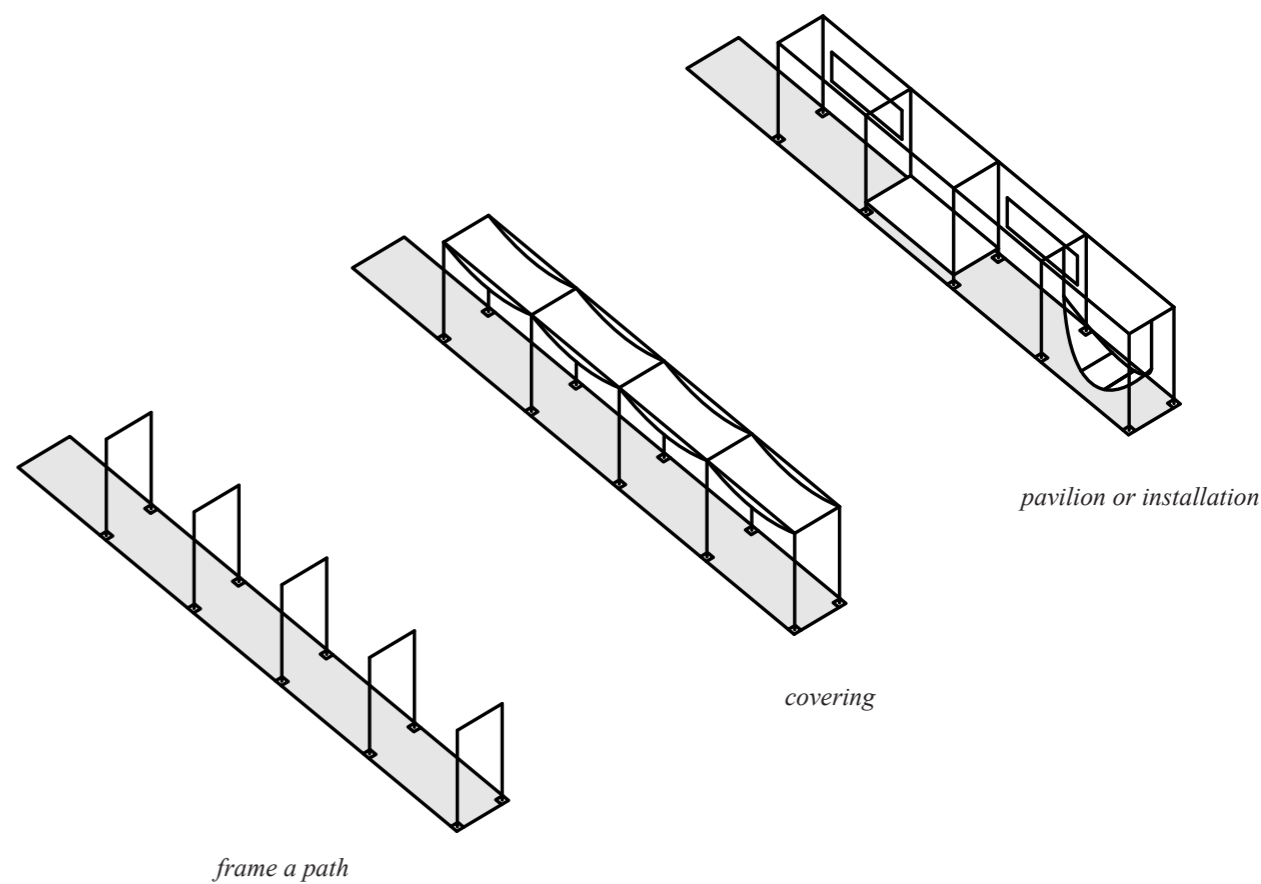
- cementitious
waterproofer 5mm
- screed 50mm
- structural concrete 100mm

Detail 1 to 10

Basin 2



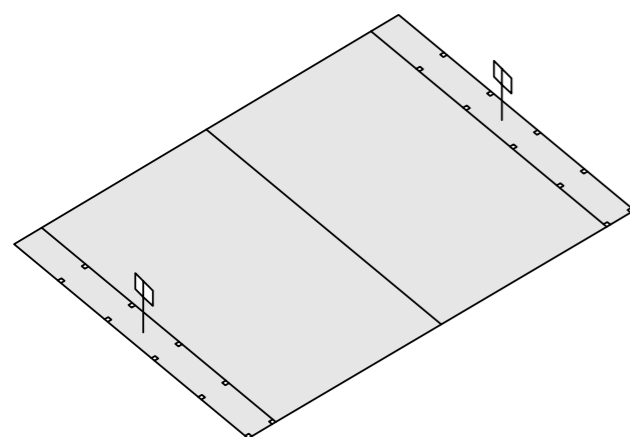
basketball court, other sports, and the edge area



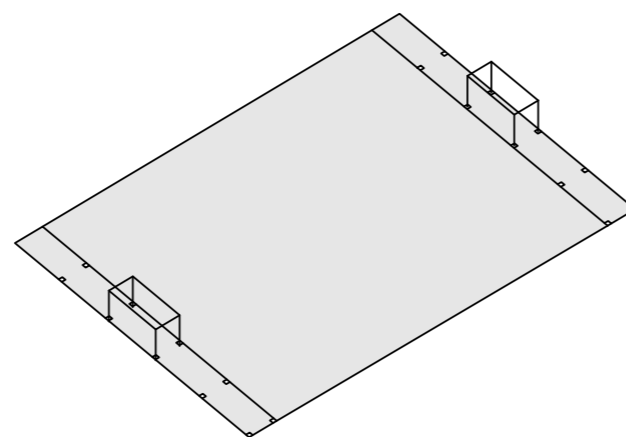
frame a path

covering

pavilion or installation



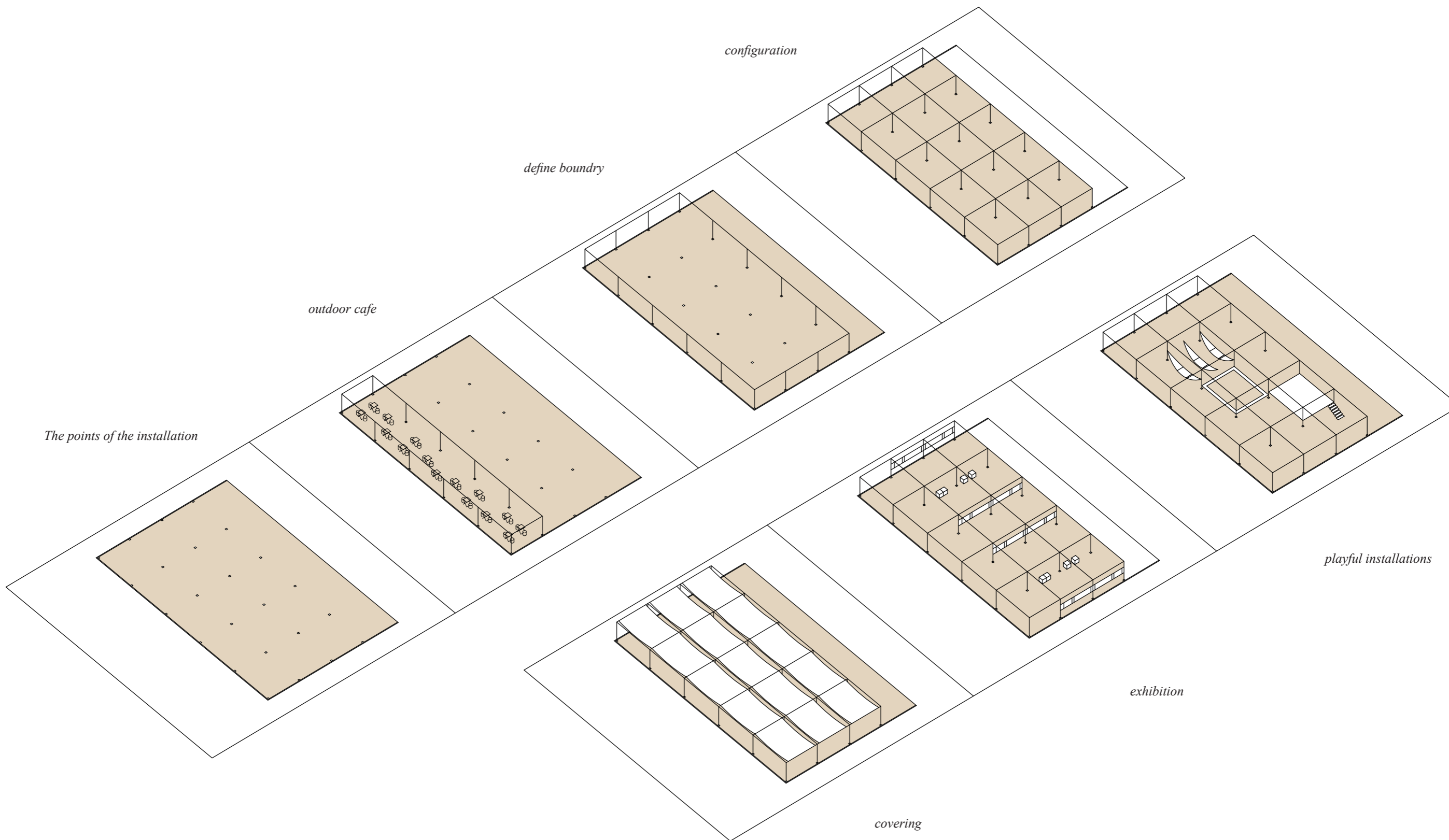
basketball court



other sports

configuration

The edge of the hard-paving



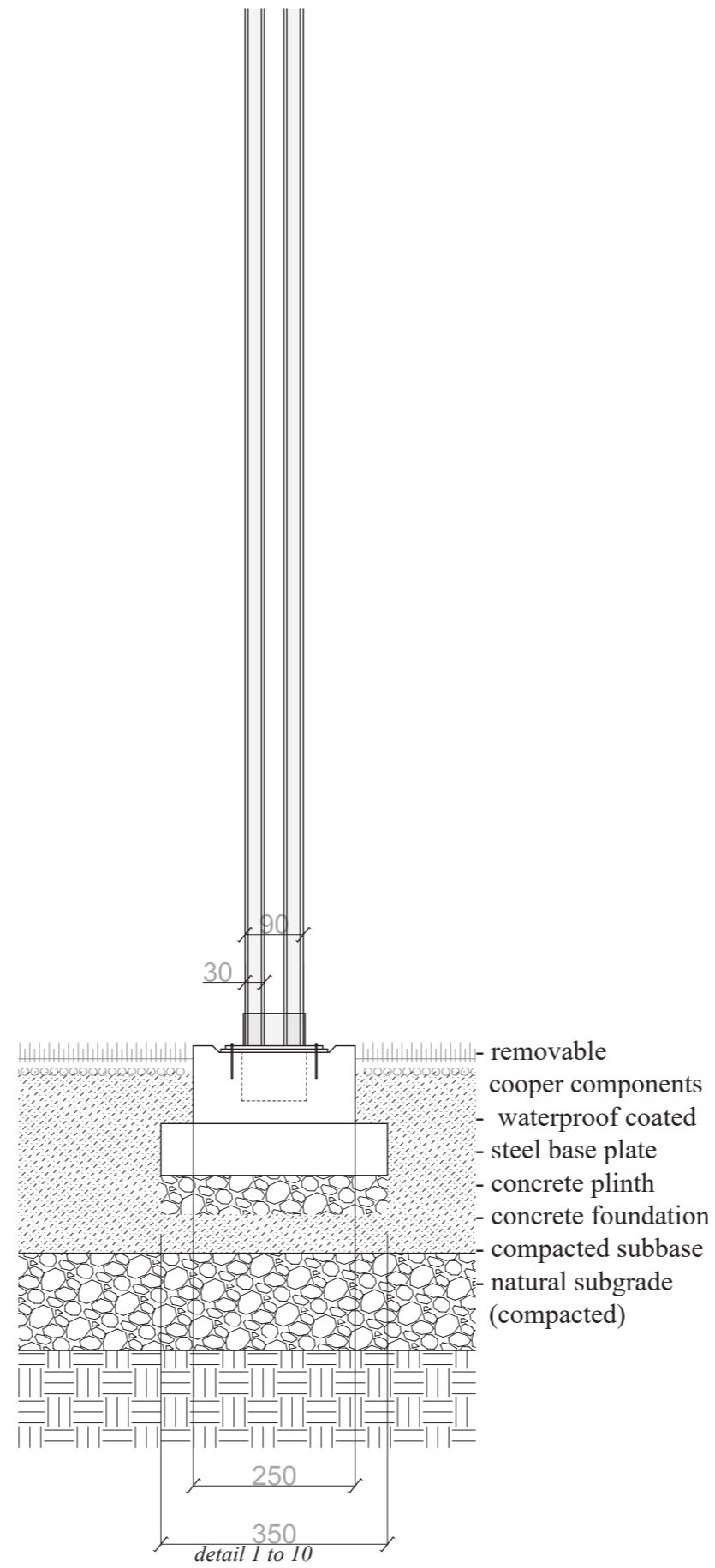
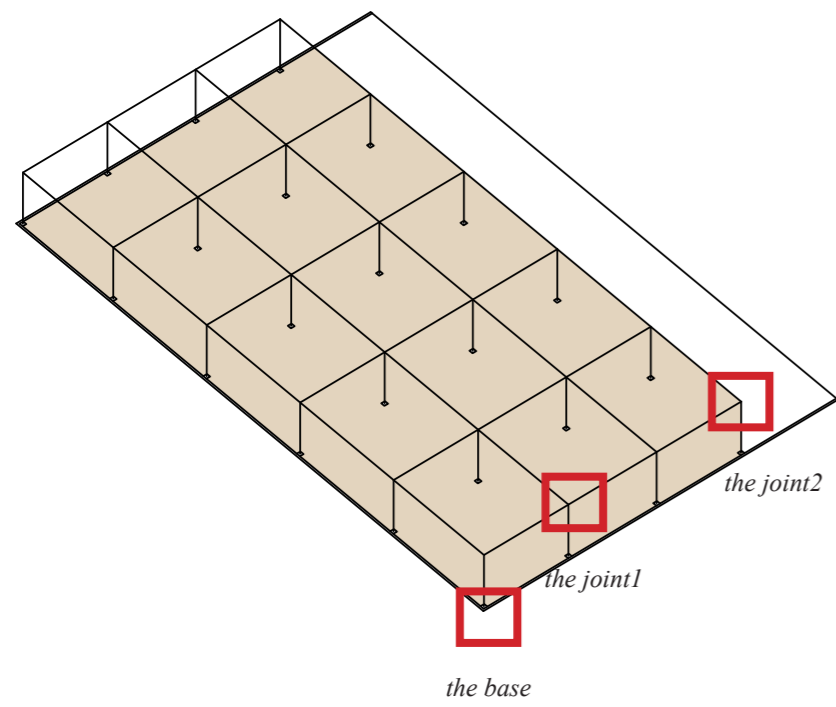
Configuration
from outdoor cafe to multi-use space



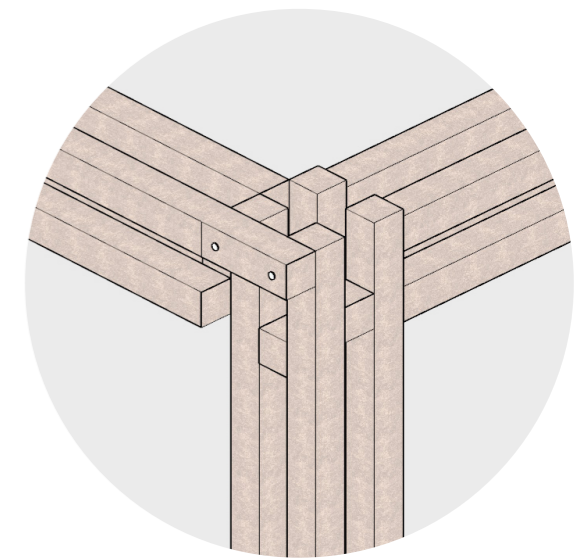
Cafe and extension space from the court



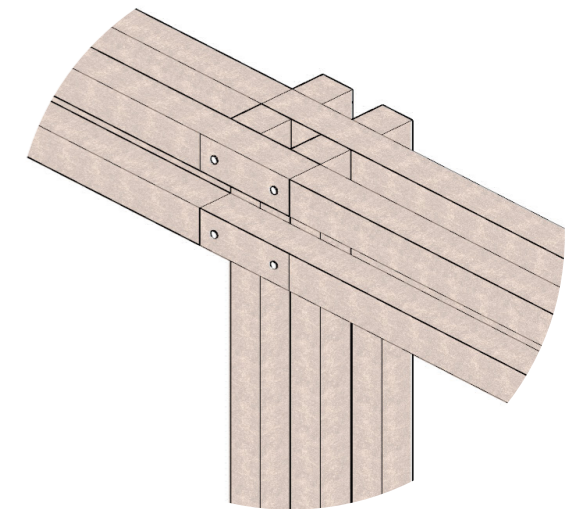
Exhibition or installations



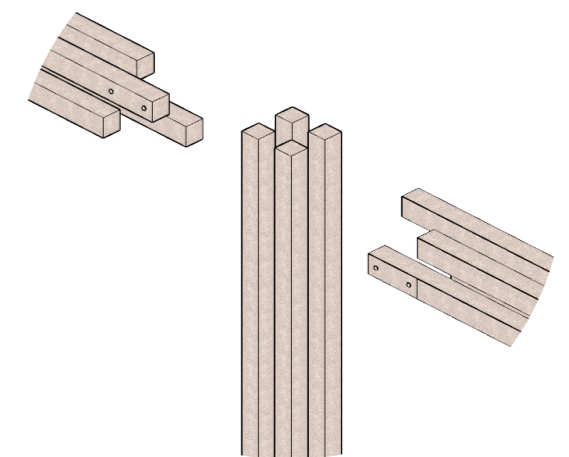
Flexible installation



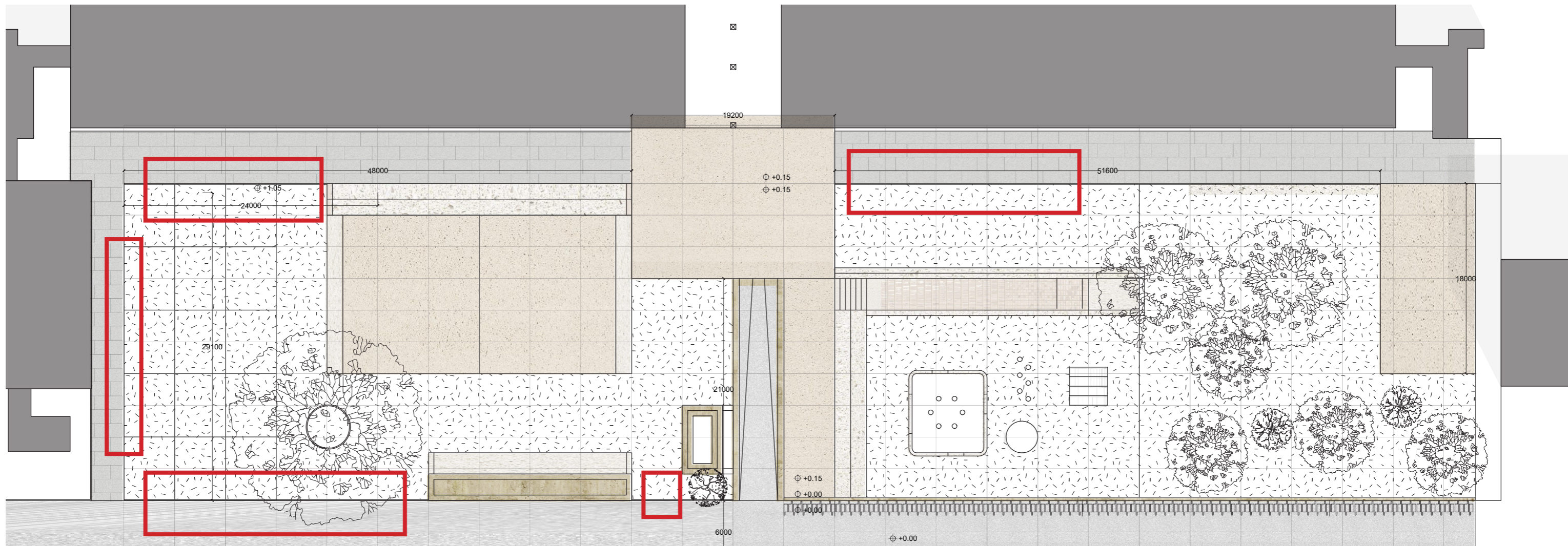
corner joint



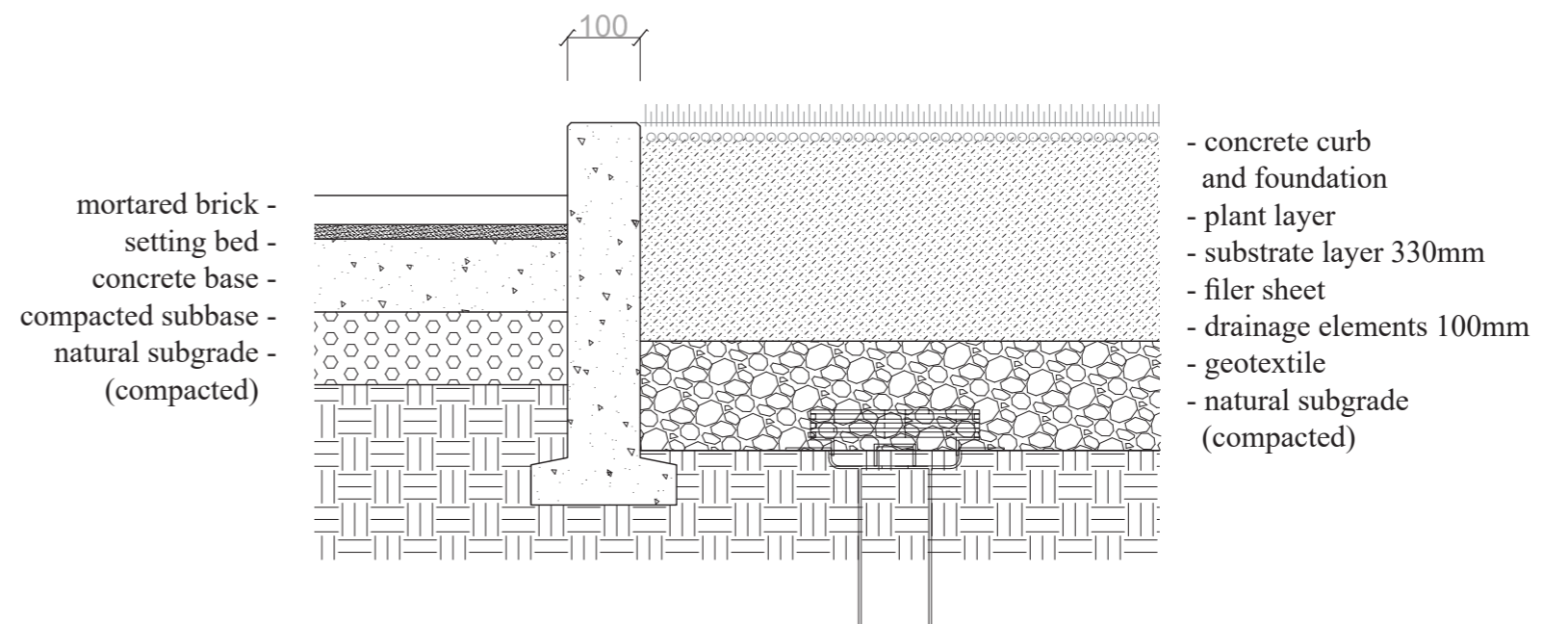
joint one direction



joint



plan (scale bar)



- mortared brick
- setting bed
- concrete base
- compacted subbase
- natural subgrade (compacted)

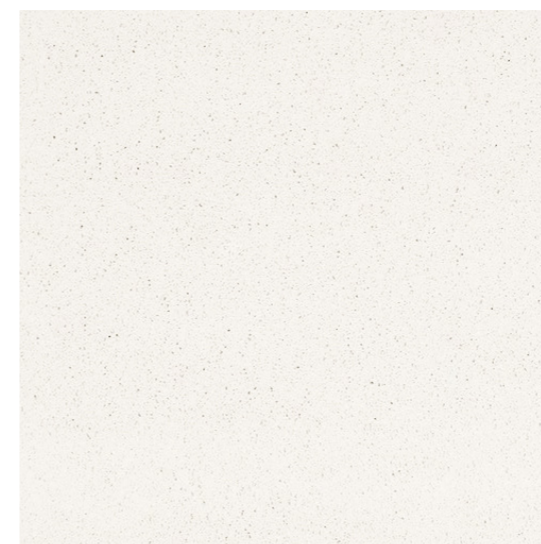
- concrete curb and foundation
- plant layer
- substrate layer 330mm
- filer sheet
- drainage elements 100mm
- geotextile
- natural subgrade (compacted)

Detail 1 to 10

The boundary of green and hard paving



existing surroundings



smooth texture paving



concrete wall

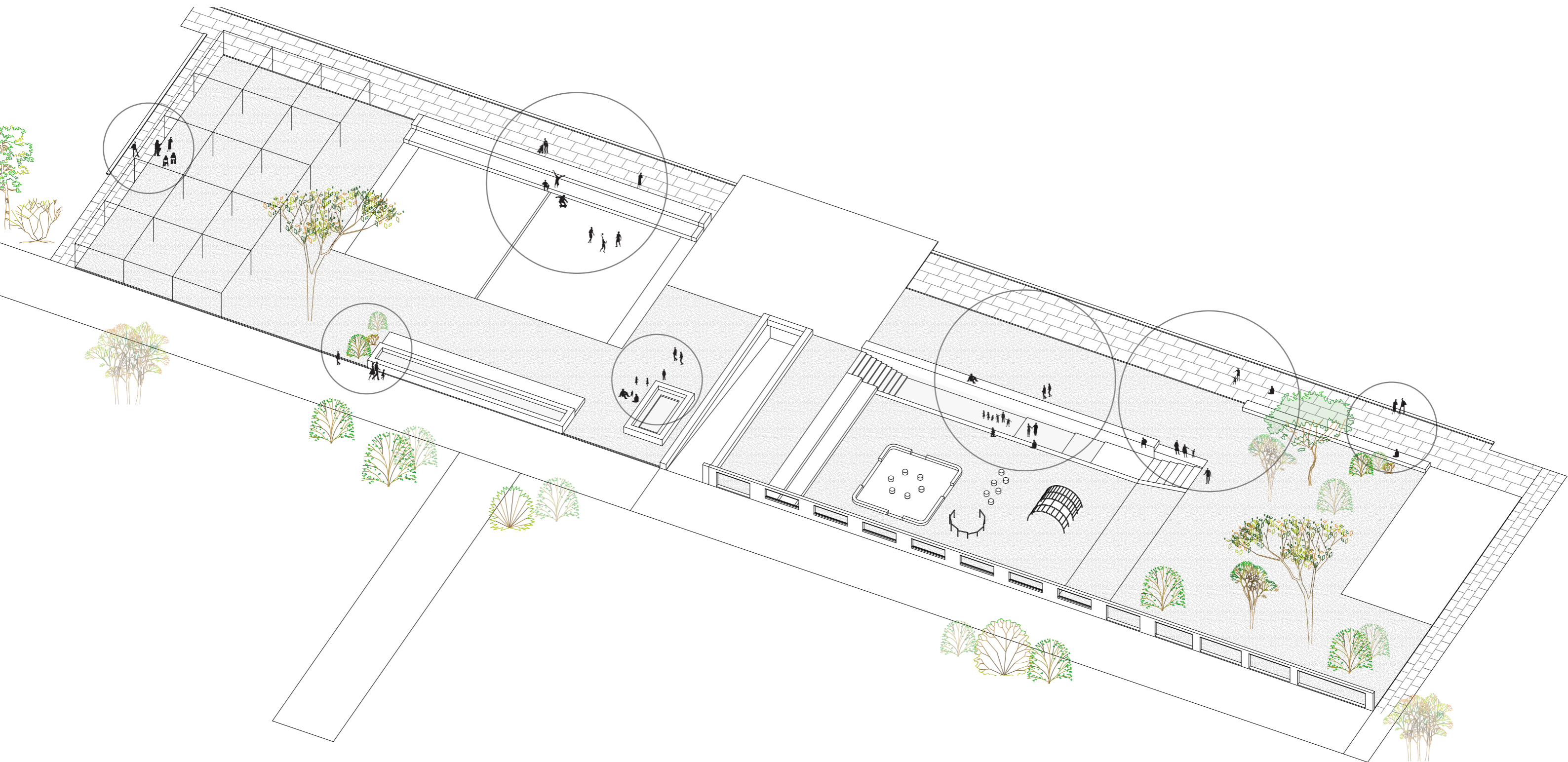


tiles

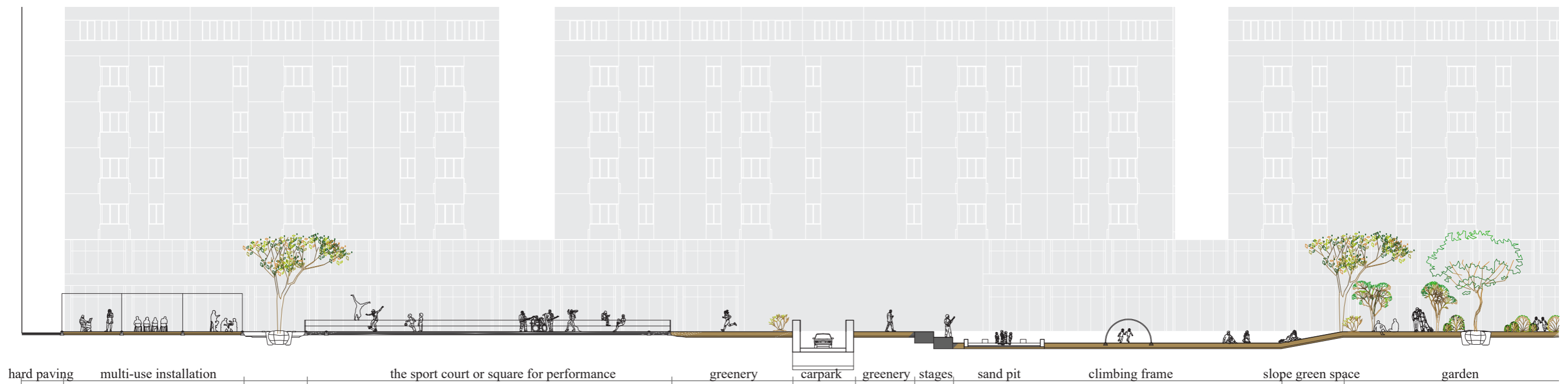
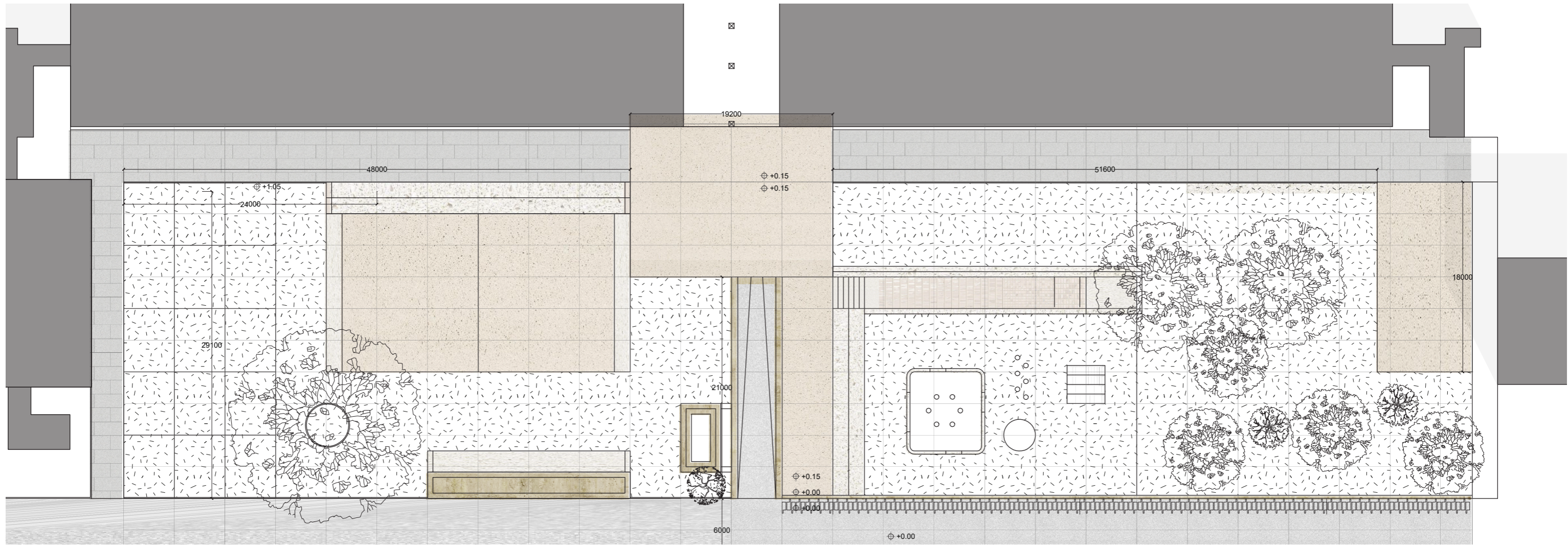
mosaic

rough texture paving

Materials match existing colour and texture



By applying the architectural elements from the precedent study, the courtyard can be redeveloped into a multi-use space that allows for social interaction to take place.



Space for various kind of activities, and people can continuous walk through the courtyards



Attracted by place with nature and activities



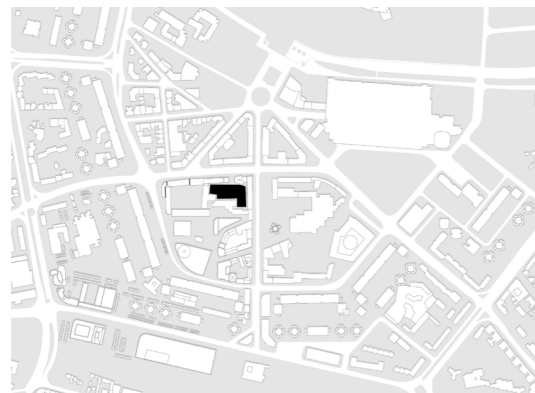
Original situation of entrance



3/ Design intervention
//Site 2



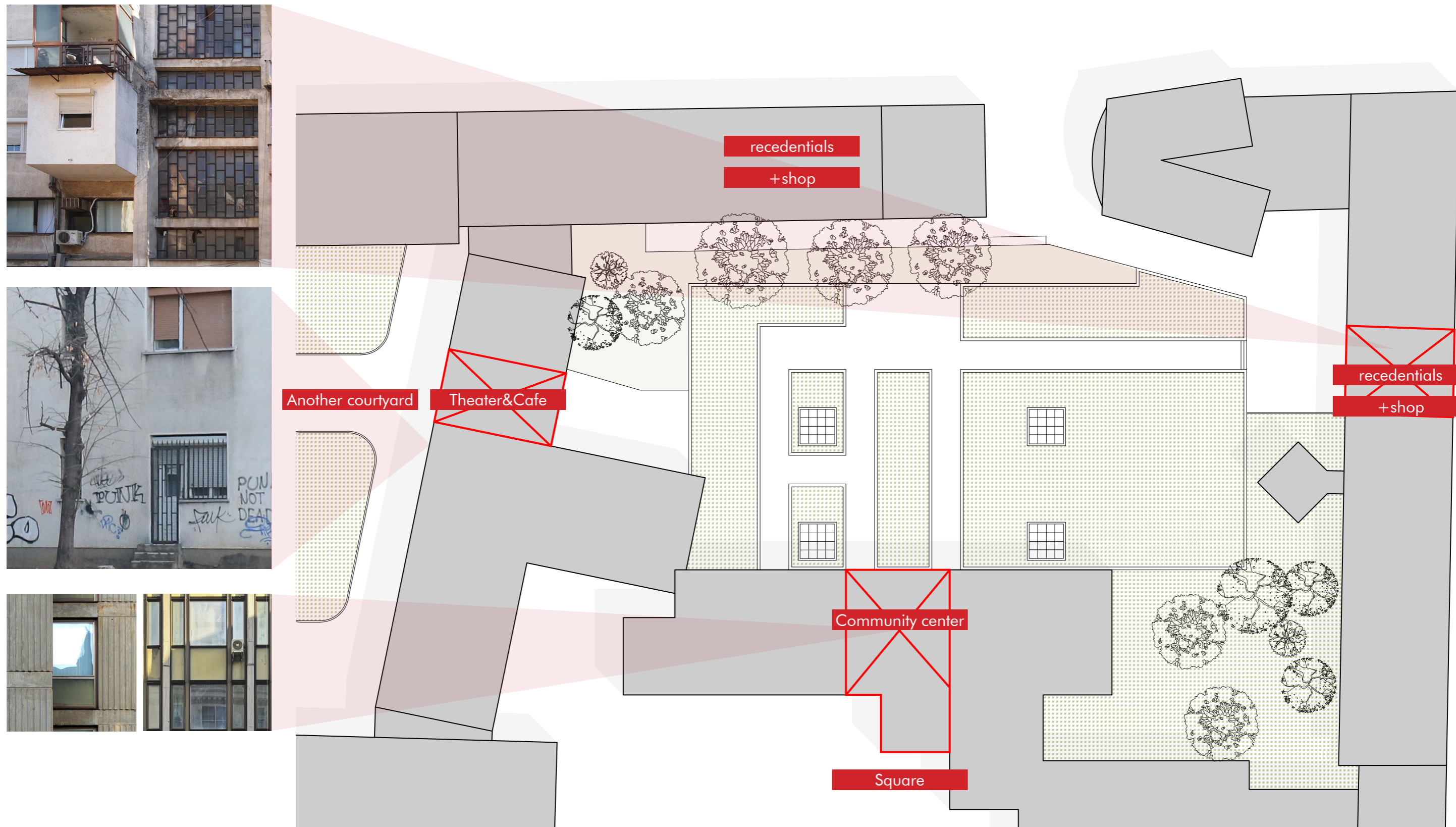
skylight



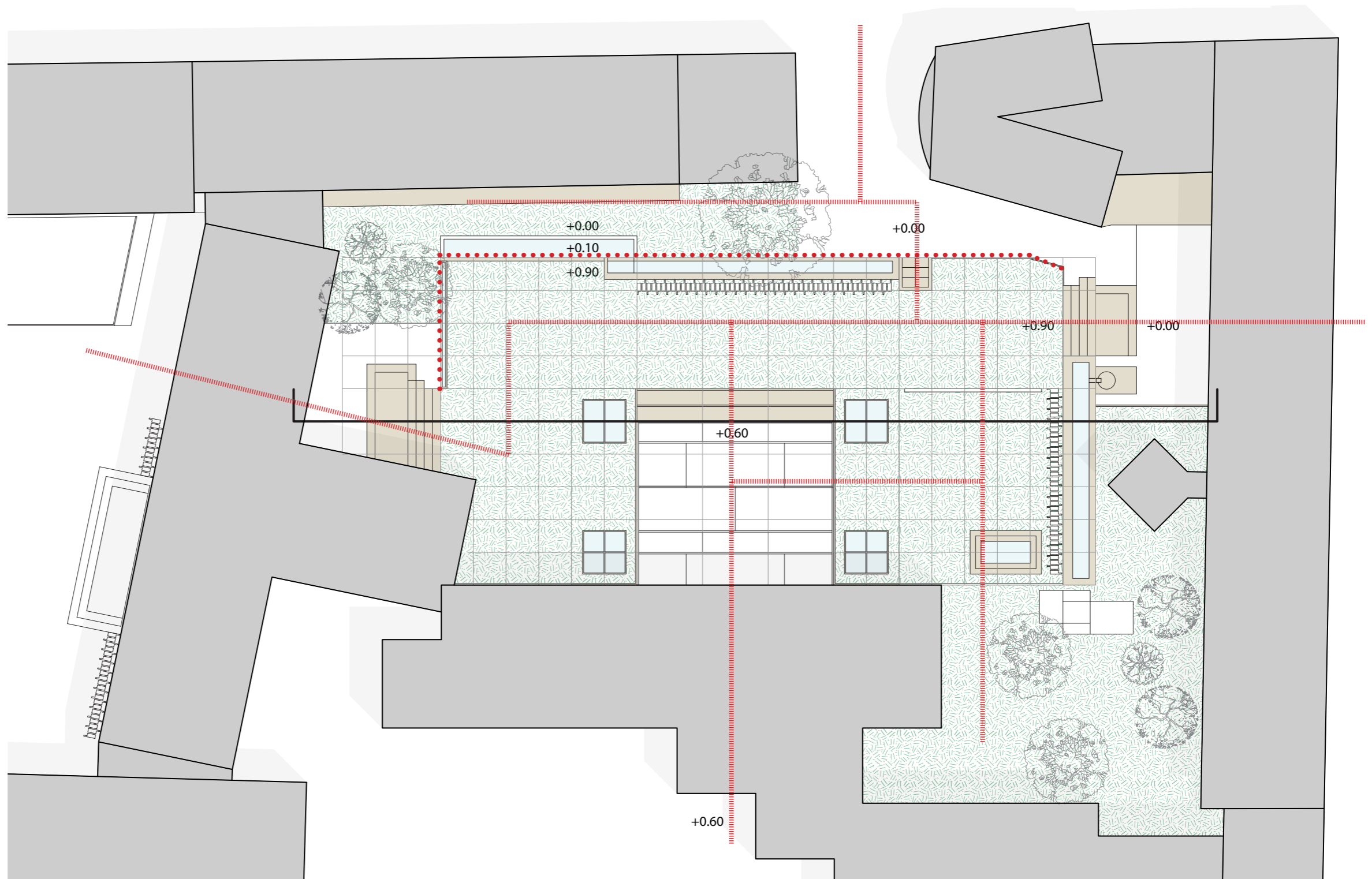
Site2



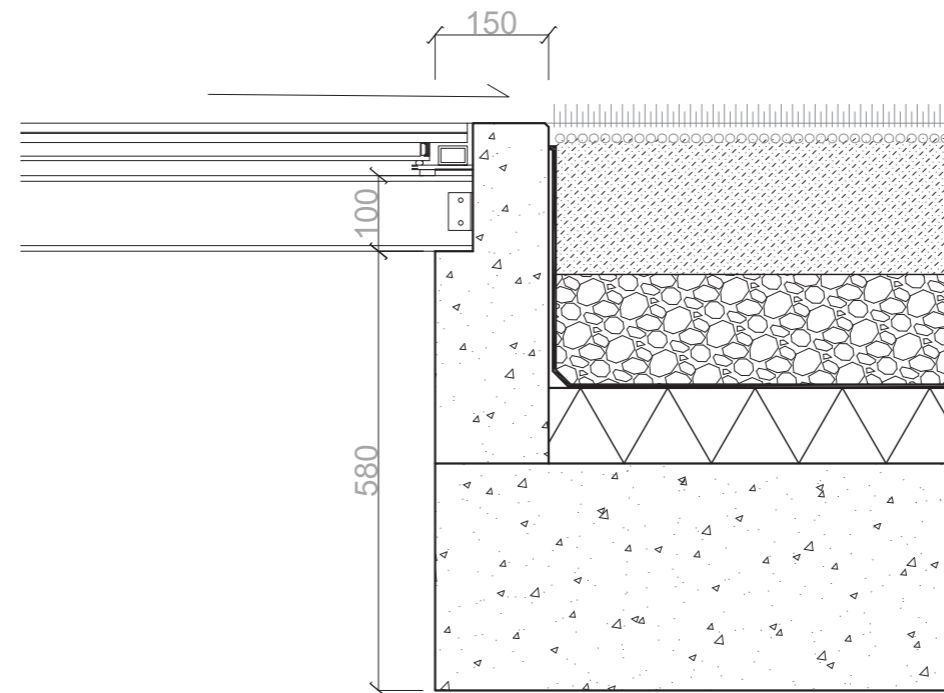
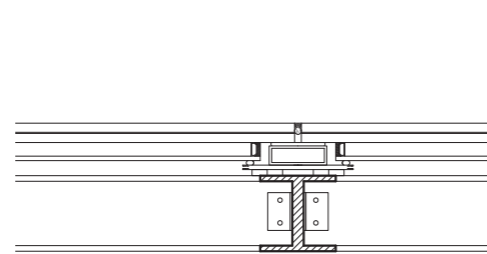
Uninviting green



Original plan

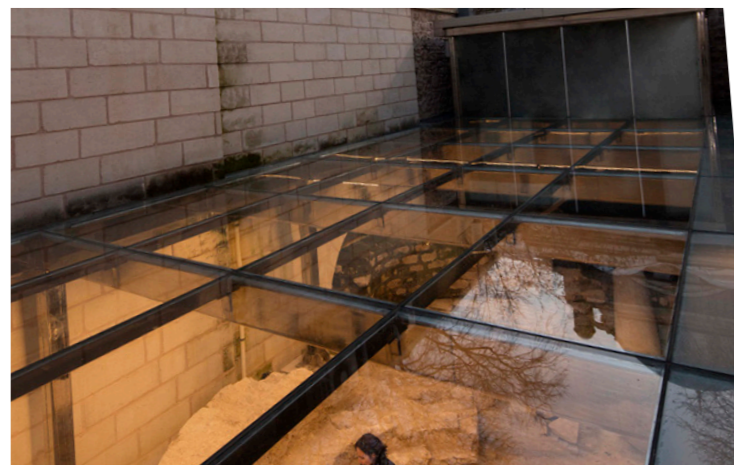


Intervention plan



- plant layer
- substrate layer 230mm
- filter sheet
- drainage elements 100mm
- waterproof
- installation layer and protection layer
- basement concrete floor

- walk-table glass
- steel structural frame





In between the courtyard and residentails



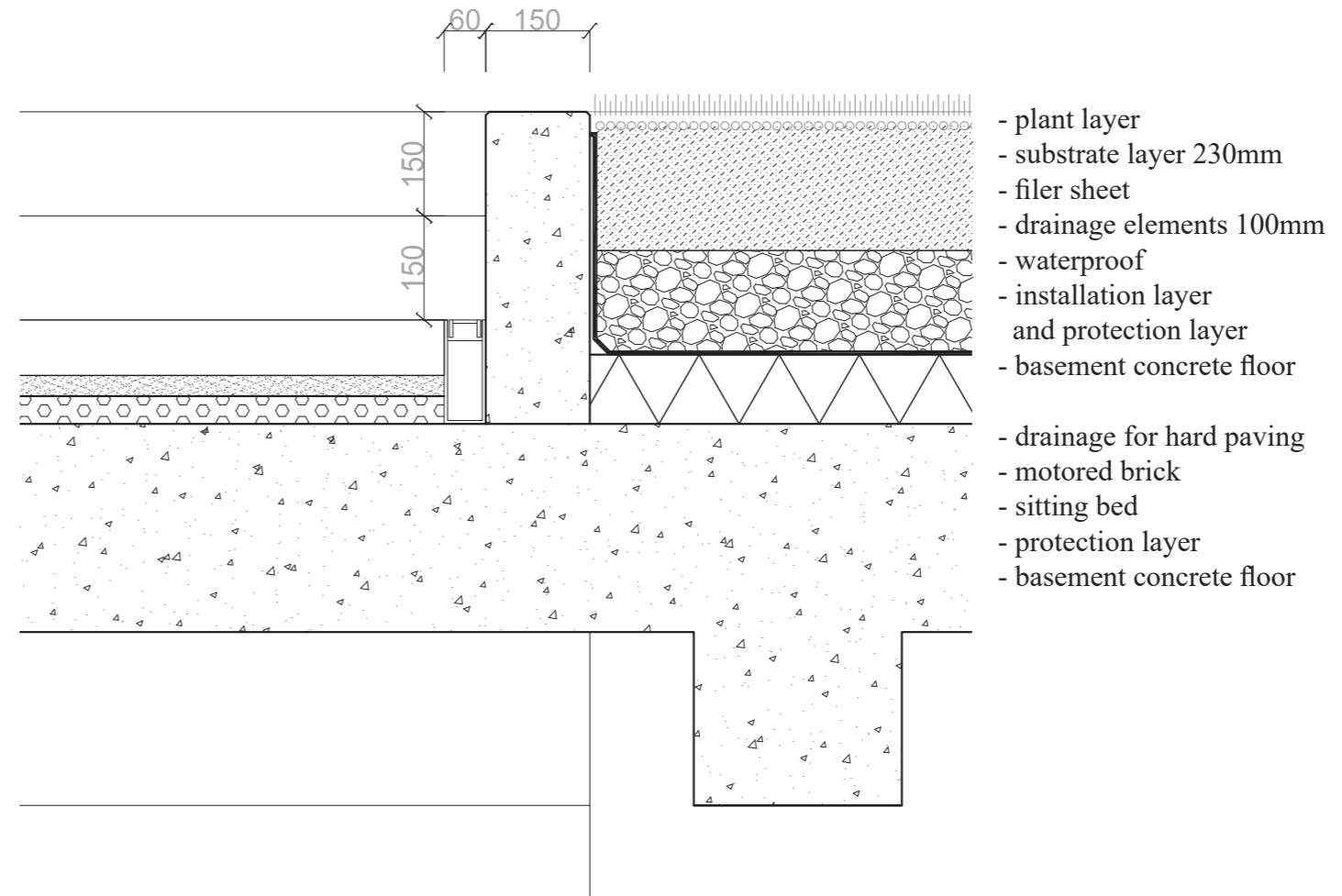
Basin as guidance and focal point

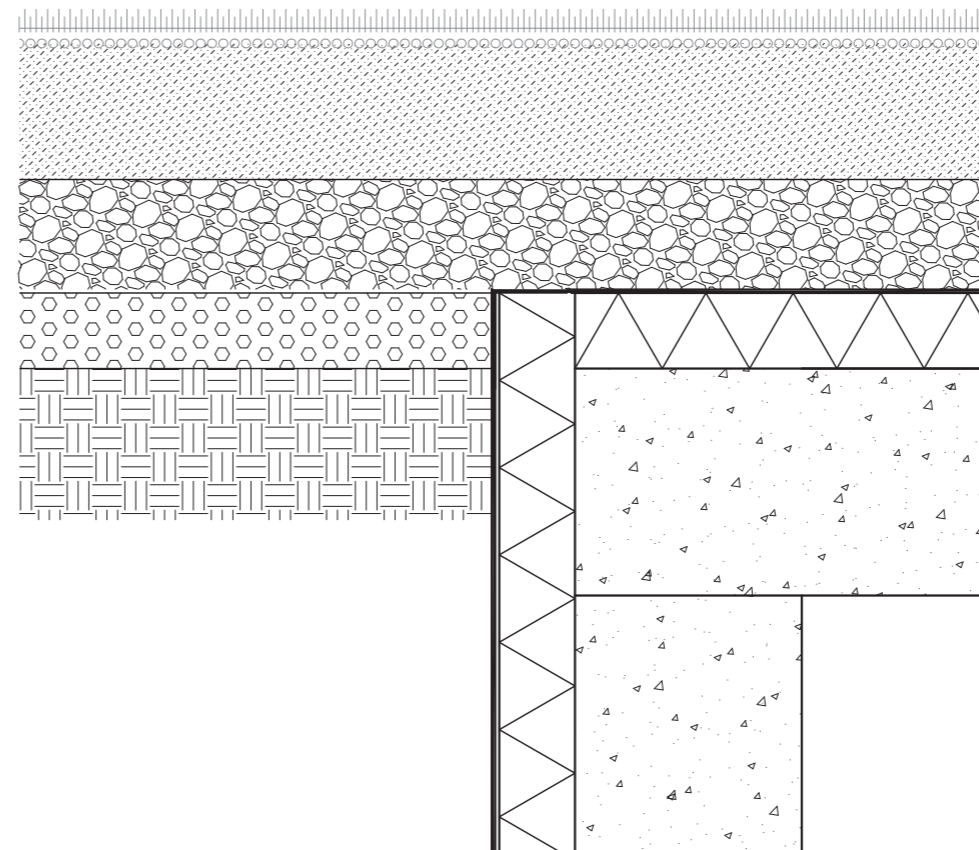


In between the courtyard and community center



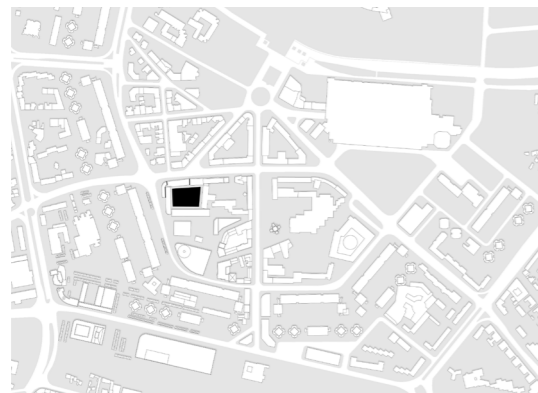
Entering the courtyard





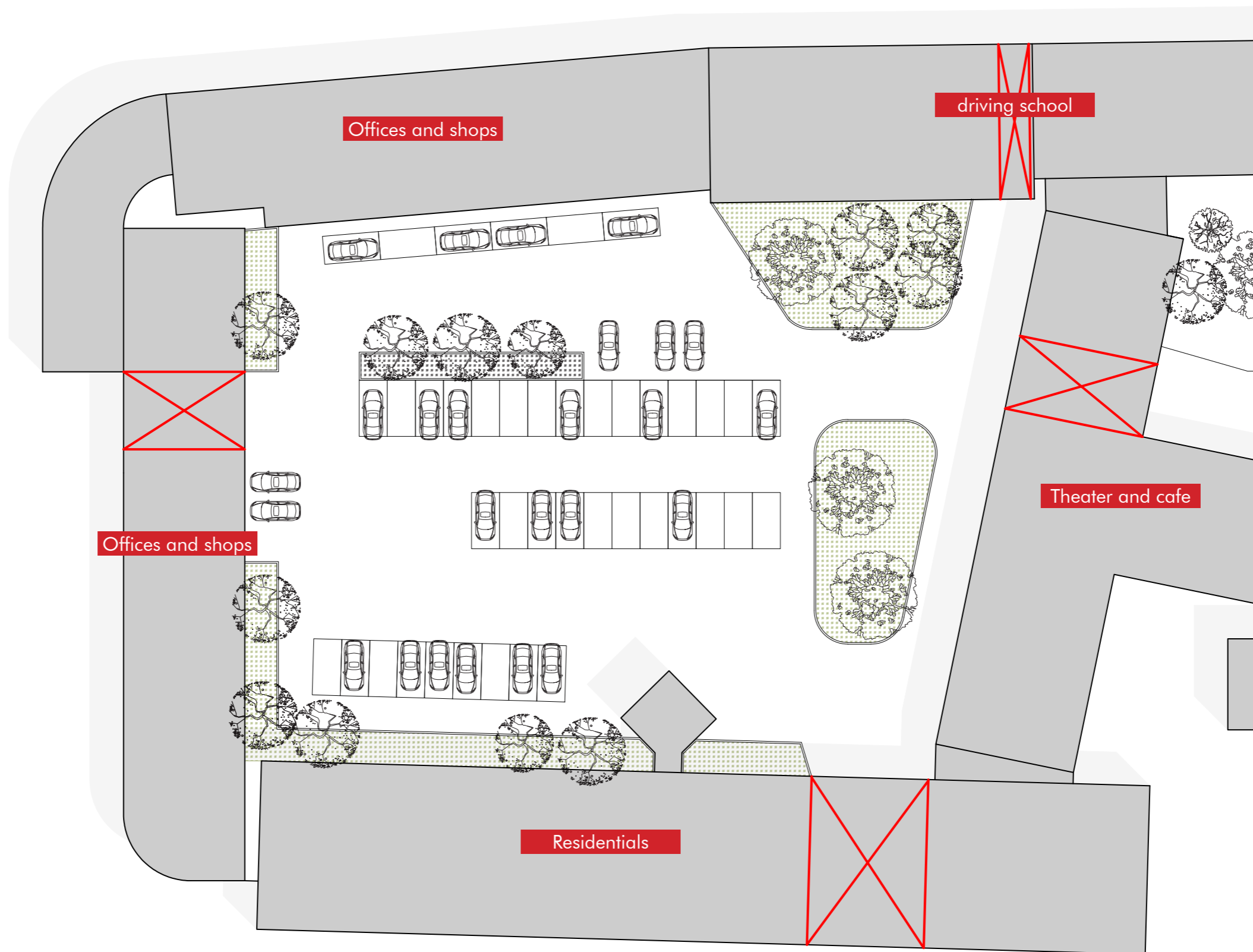
- plant layer
- substrate layer 230mm
- filer sheet
- drainage elements 100mm
- waterproof
- installation layer and protection layer
- basement concrete floor
- compacted subbase
- natural subgrade (compacted)

3/ Design intervention
//Site 3

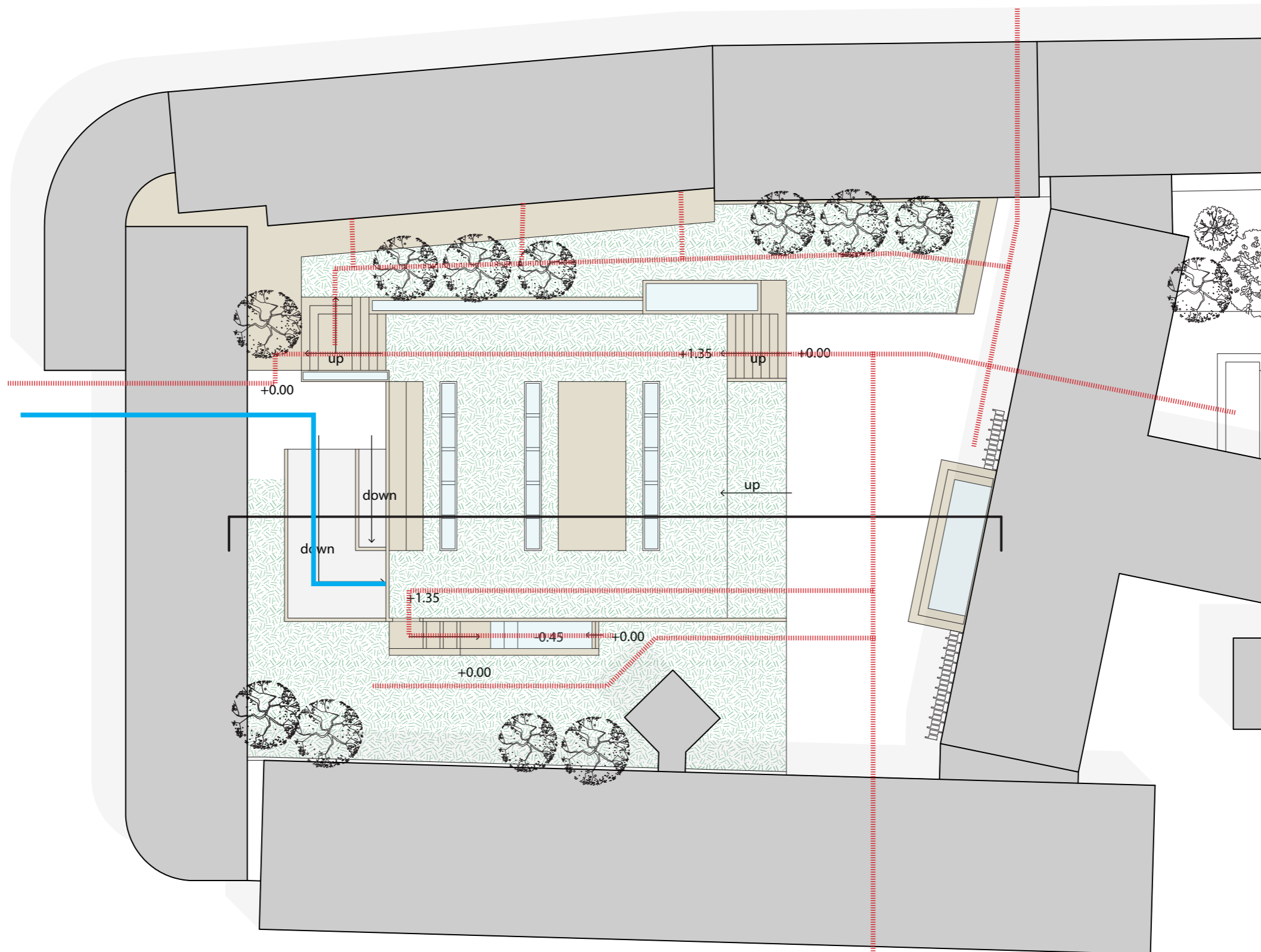


Site3

Parking and greenery



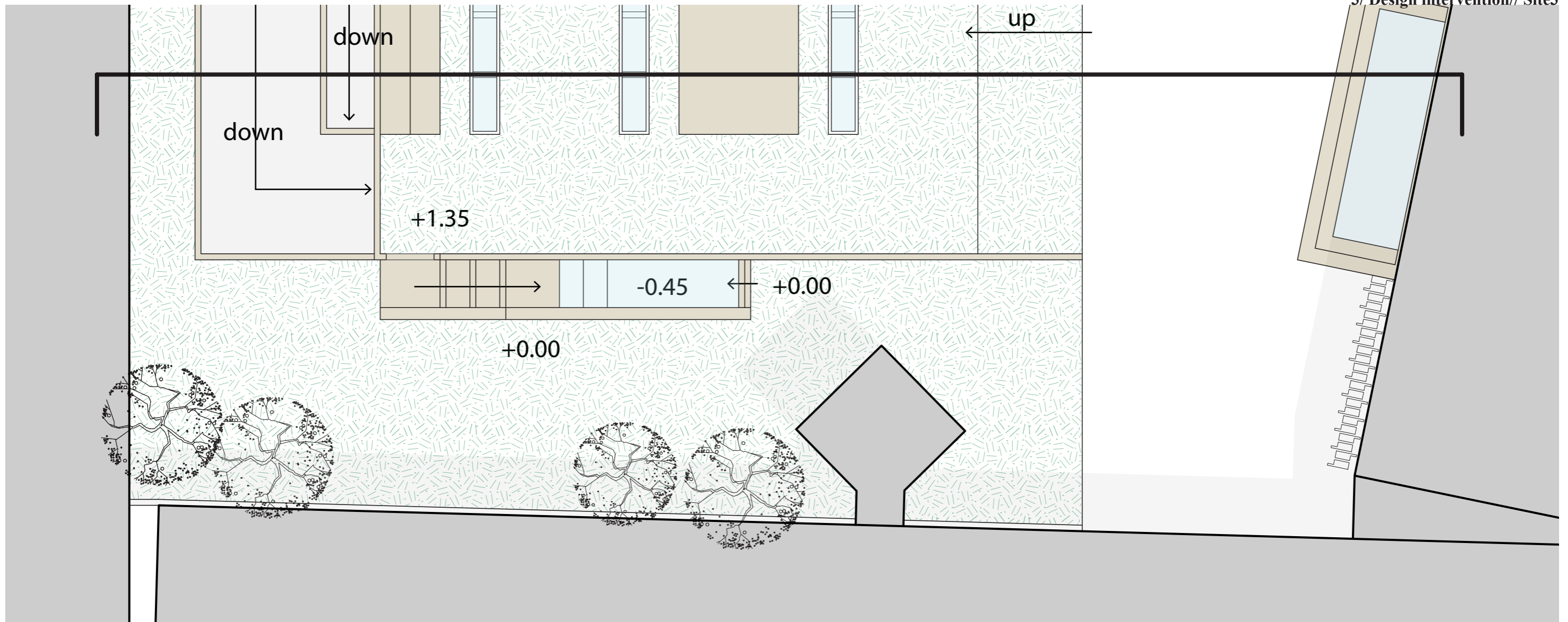
Original plan



Intervention plan



Car park and courtyard



continuous walking through the courtyards



In between the courtyard and residentails



In between the courtyard and offices

Scale to the courtyards in the city?



The courtyards in the inner ring of Skopje



Alexandar Square



Old bazaar

observation of the water feature in Skopje

Due to their physical qualifications, water elements are also one of the important design elements which can make the space a focal point contributing their memorability and can direct/orientate the users easily gaining importance in terms of the urban memory.

*The effects of water elements in urban space perception,
Kürkçüoğlu, E., & Akin, O.*

*The water element in the space can show a feature of providing **continuity** when it moves by following a circulation. These types of waterscapes can comply with walking and strolling activity*

*Purposes of Waterscapes Usage in Landscape Architecture,
Tugba Duzenli & Doruk Görkem Özkan*

Mind map urban park

By extending the basins out of the courtyards and introduce a water feature in the street, it creates a focal point by which people can locate and navigate between the courtyards.

4/ Reflection

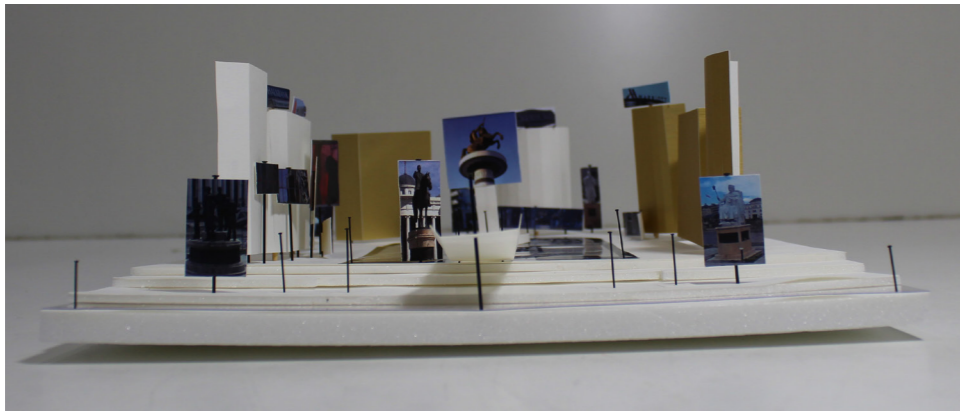


reading, observation (appropriation), interviews

contextual analysis



the context is missing



the power of image

conceptual analysis



scale (section)

Now

disciplinary analysis



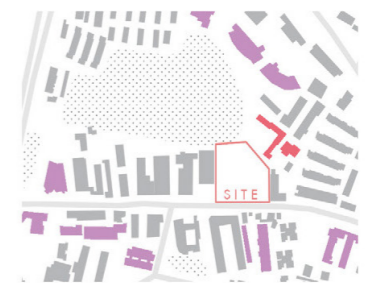
Green space



Lively street



Residential



Schools and offices

surroundings

Before

Thank you :D