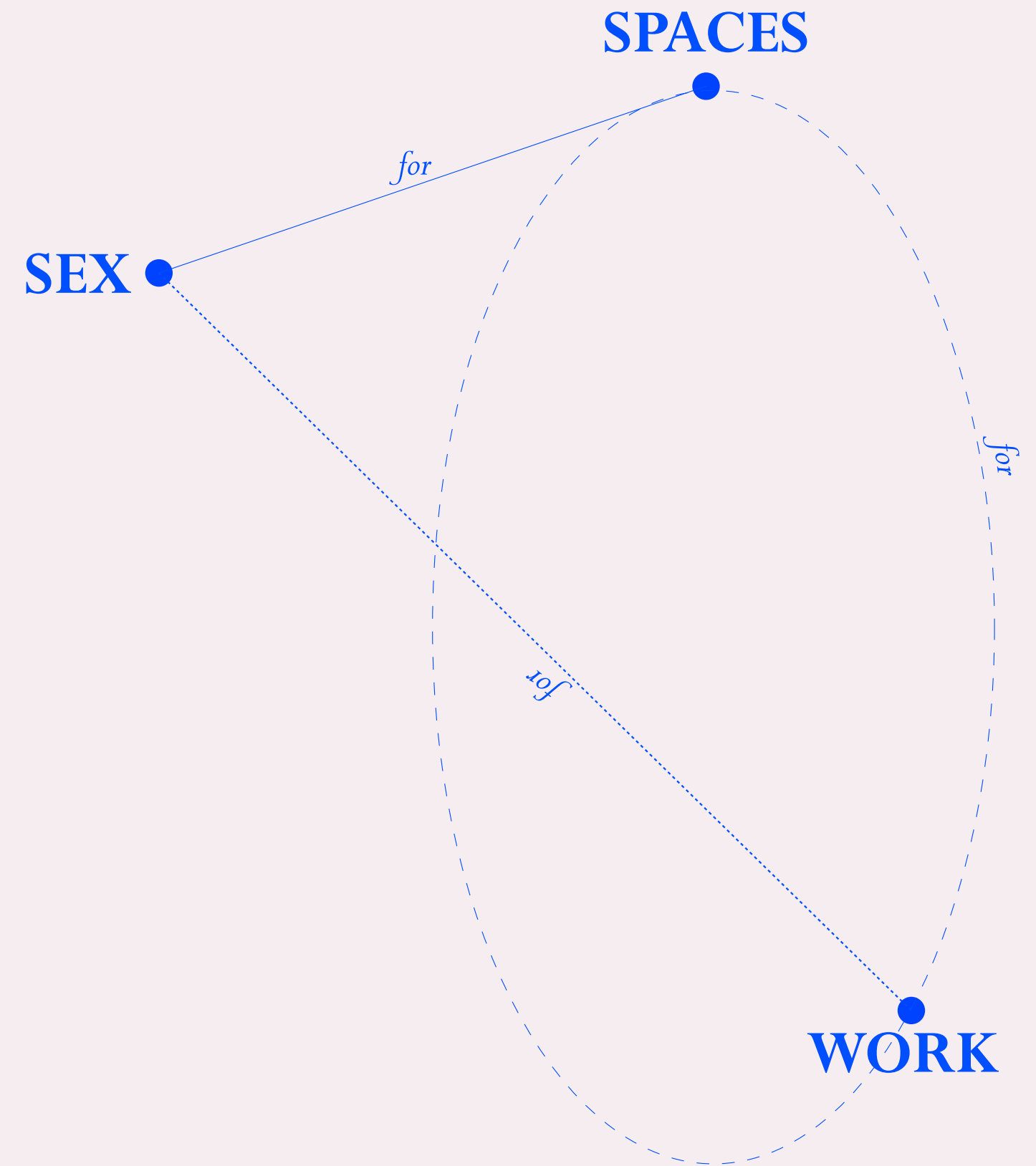




An intersectional feminist approach to brothels in the context of decriminalisation

Contents

INTRODUCTION. PROBLEMATIZING SPACES OF STIGMA AND NEGLECTION
RESEARCH

I. CARTOGRAPHY OF SPACES FOR SEX WORK

II. UMWELT MAPPING

III. FIGURATIVE NETWORKS

IV. A SPACE FOR SEX WORK.

V. EMANCIPATORY SPATIAL SEQUENCE

VI. GARDENS OF QUEER PLEASURES

VII. INTERIORS FOR EXO-DOMESTIC SEXUALITY

VIII. CONCLUSION



Brothel interiors, De Wallen

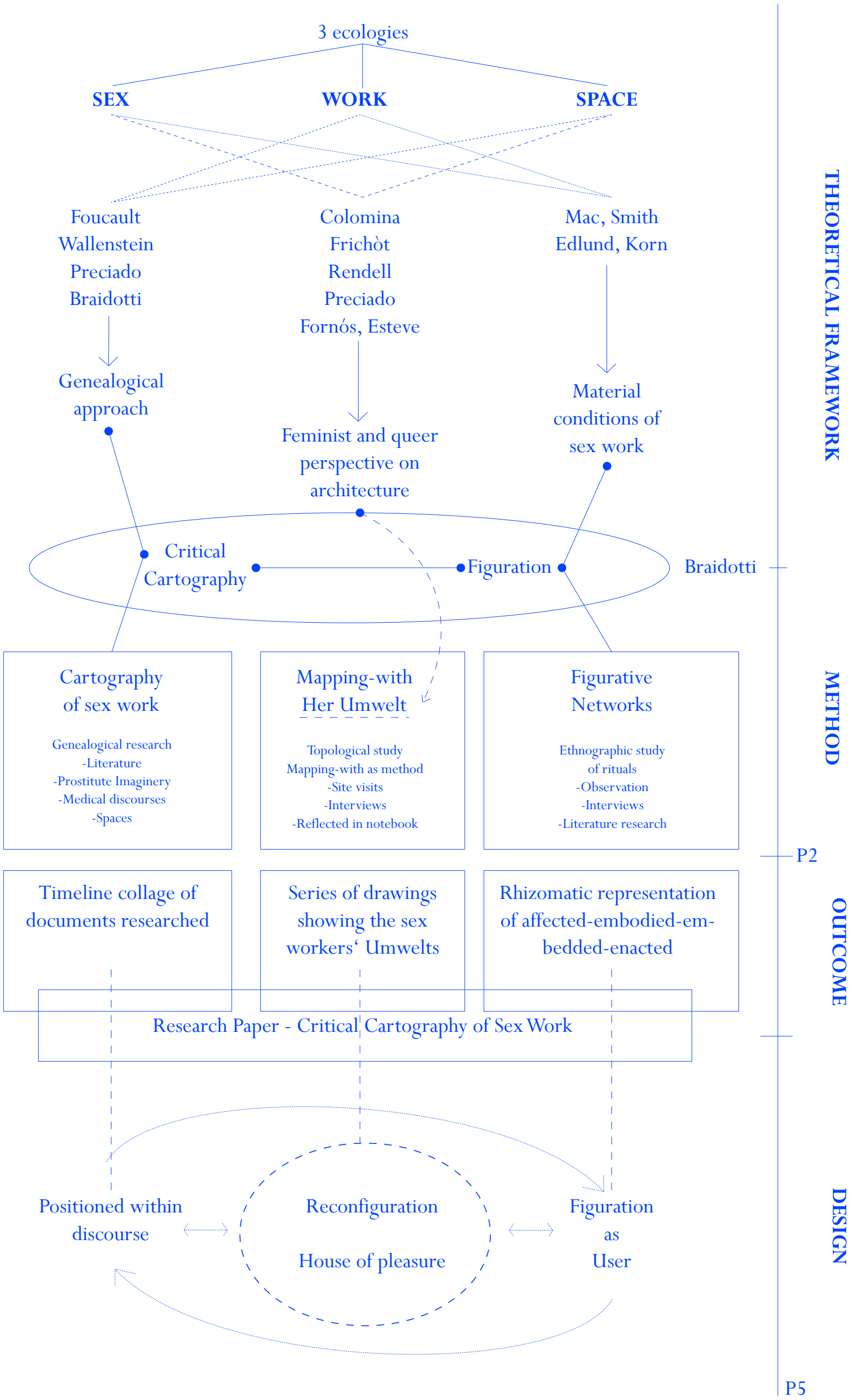


Memorial for Eunice

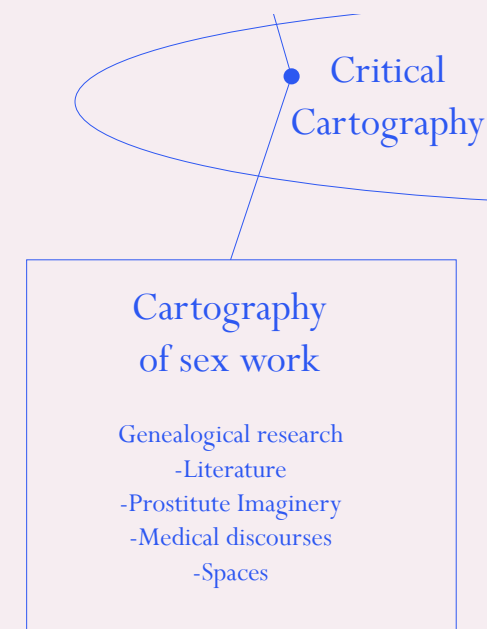
Eunice was a sex worker that got murdered in her working space in Brussels



Demonstration for sex workers' Rights

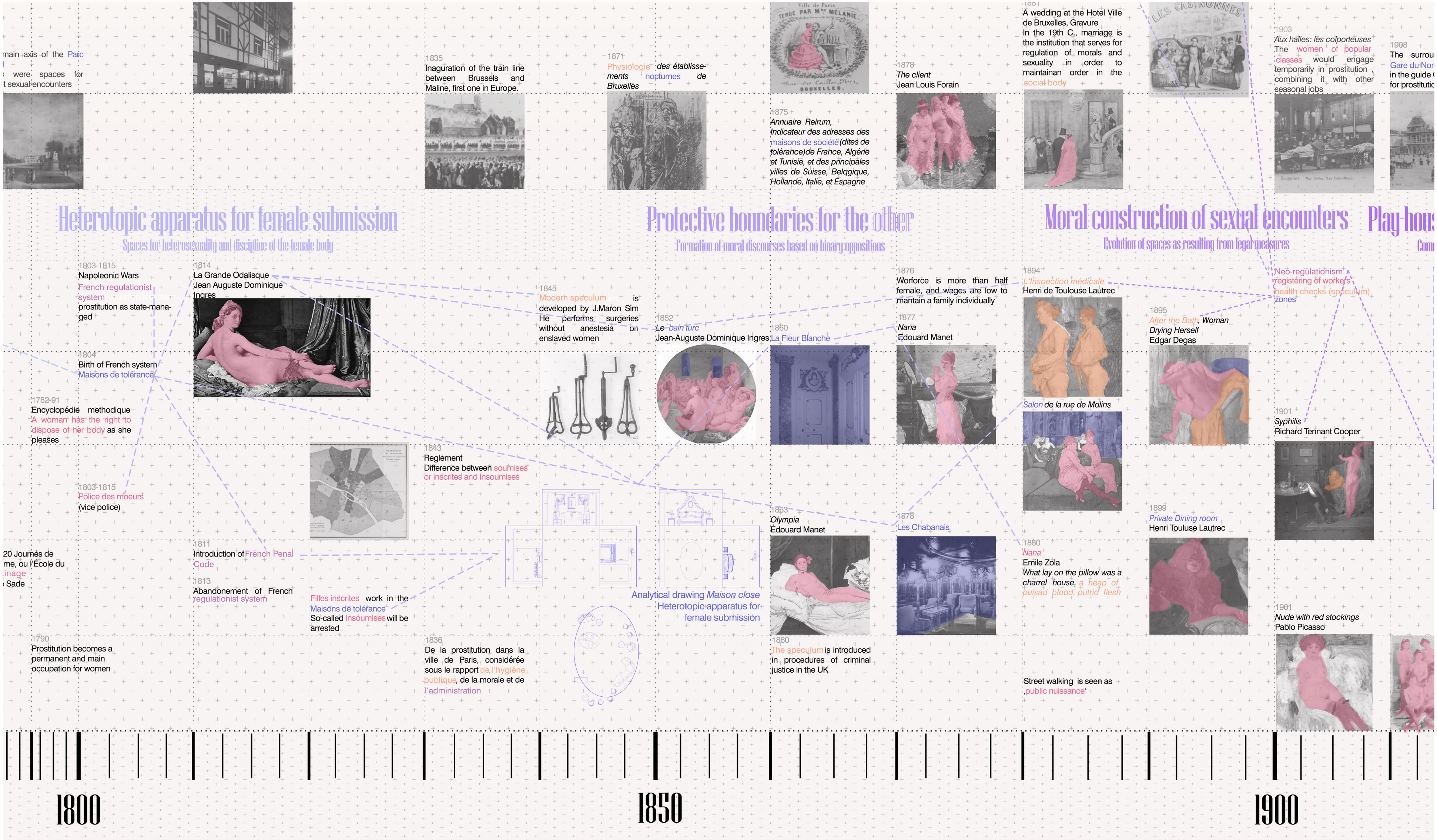


I. CARTOGRAPHY OF SPACES FOR SEX WORK



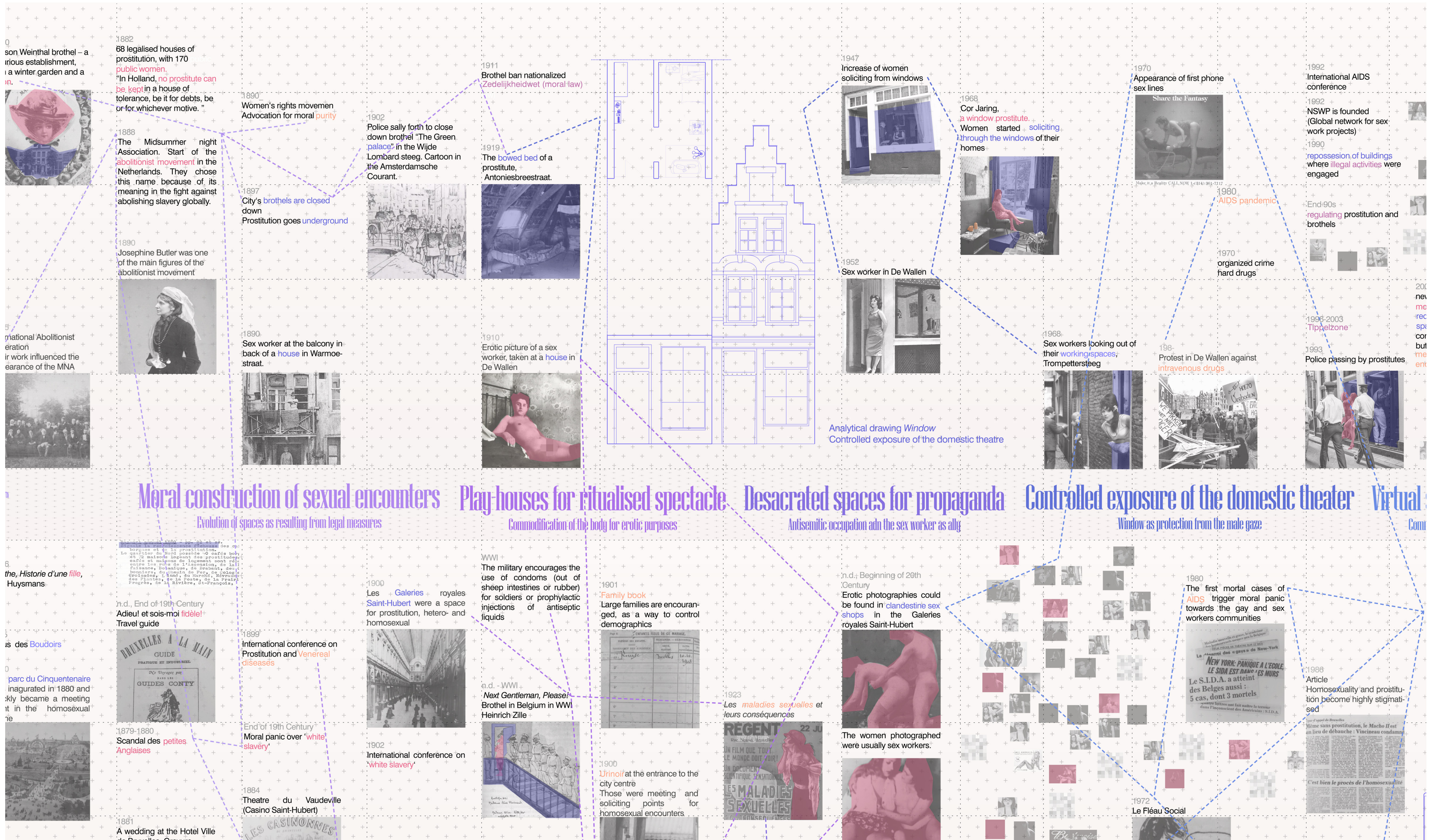
“A cartography is a theoretically based and politically informed reading of the present. A cartographic approach fulfills the function of providing both analytic and exegetical tools for critical thought and also creative theoretical alternatives.”

-Rosi Braidotti, Nomadic subjects



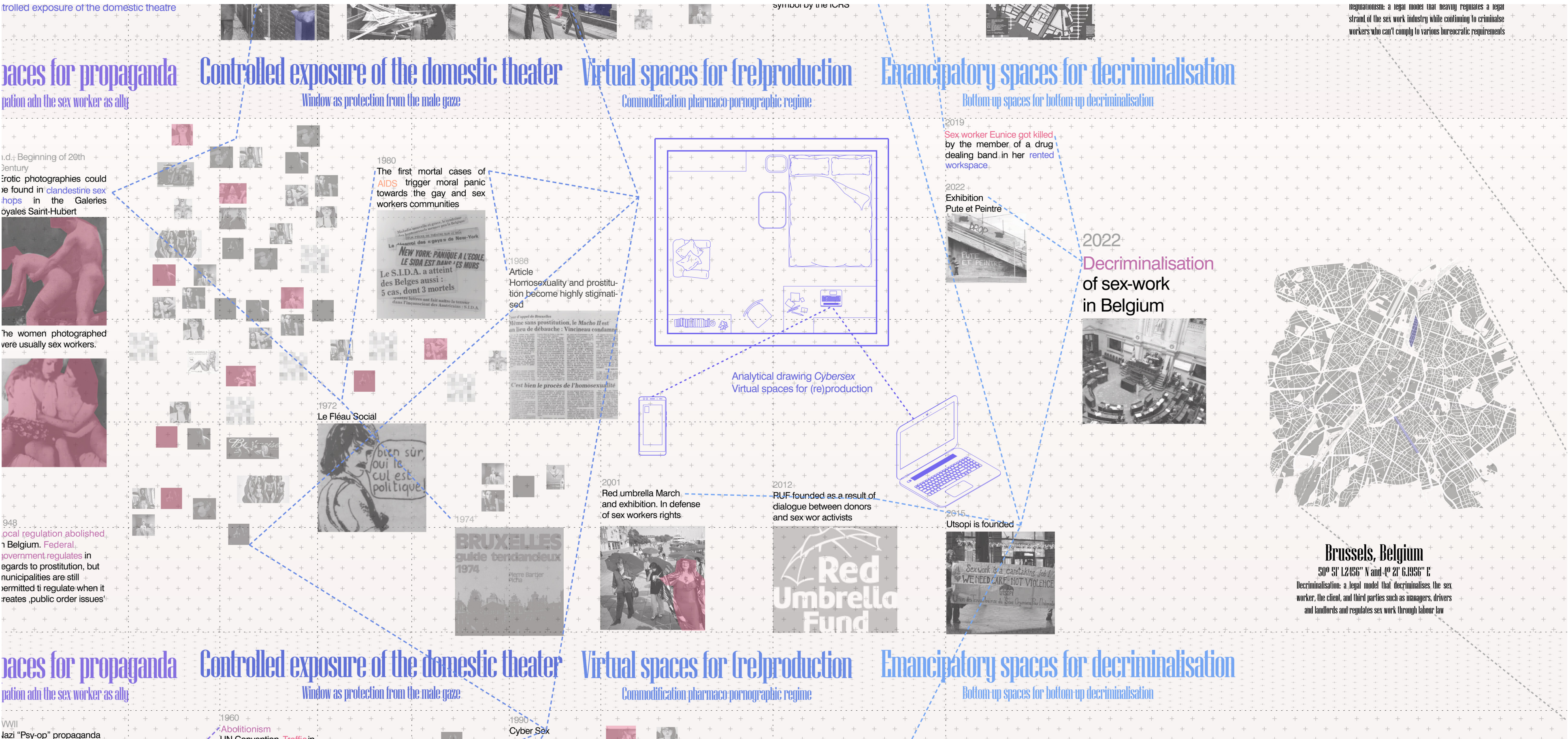
The appearance of 'Maisons Close' as product of the colonial male gaze

2nd Network: Heterotopic Apparatus for female submission



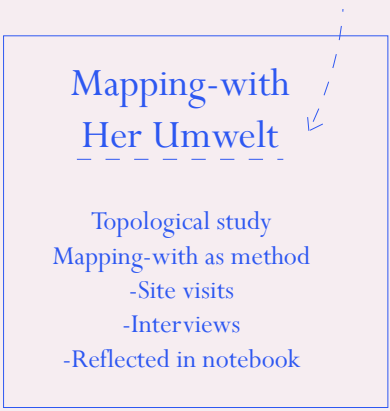
The sex workers' loss of ownership in the context of the dutch red-light district

8th Network: Controlled exposure of the domestic theatre

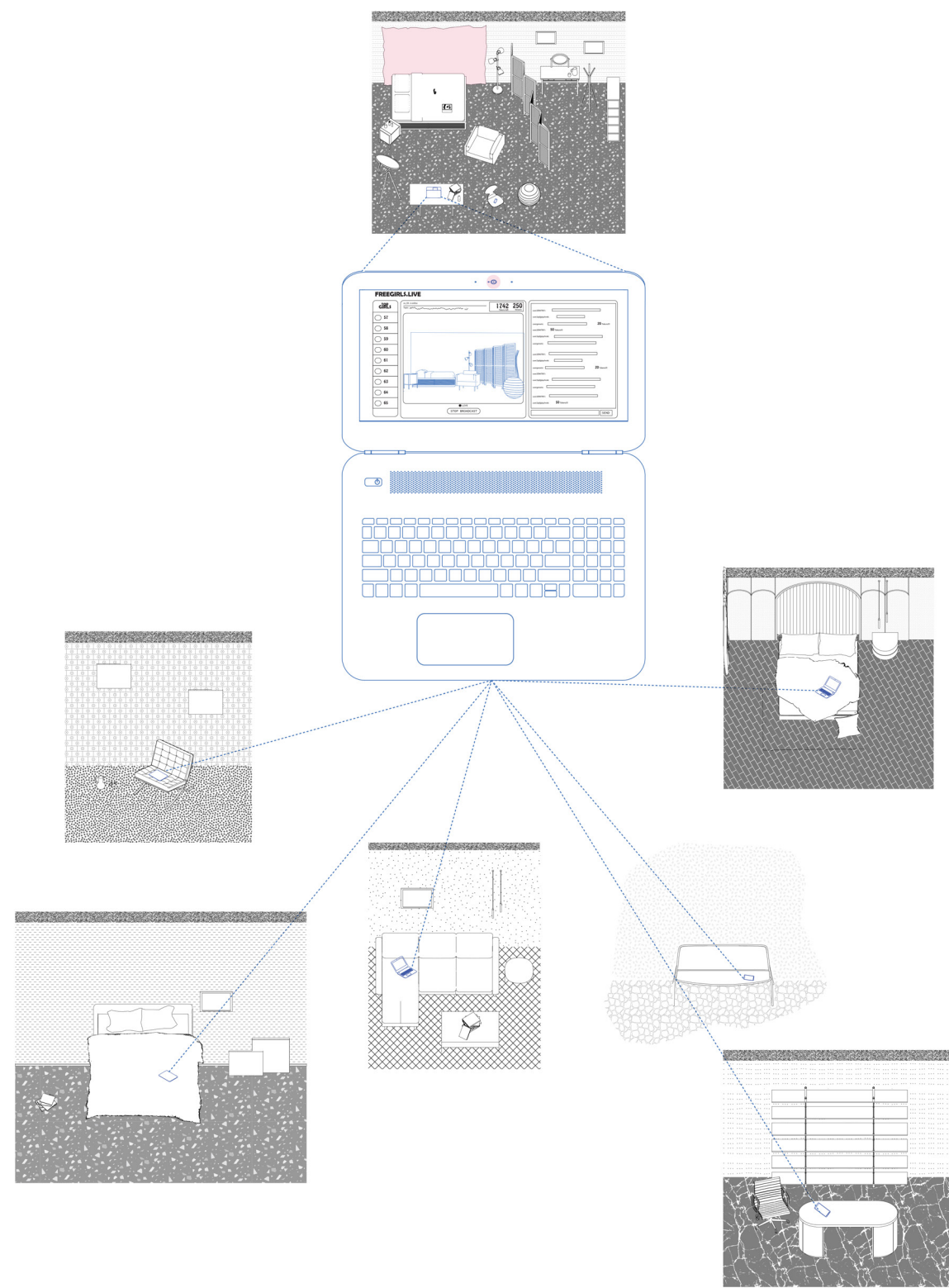


Decriminalisation: A legal model that decriminalises the sex worker, the client and third parties (such as other co-workers) and regulates the sex industry through labour law. Belgium is the first European country to implement this system. Contrary to Regulationism (the current system in Germany and the Netherlands), decriminalisation offers more rights and protection to workers.

II. UMWELT MAPPING



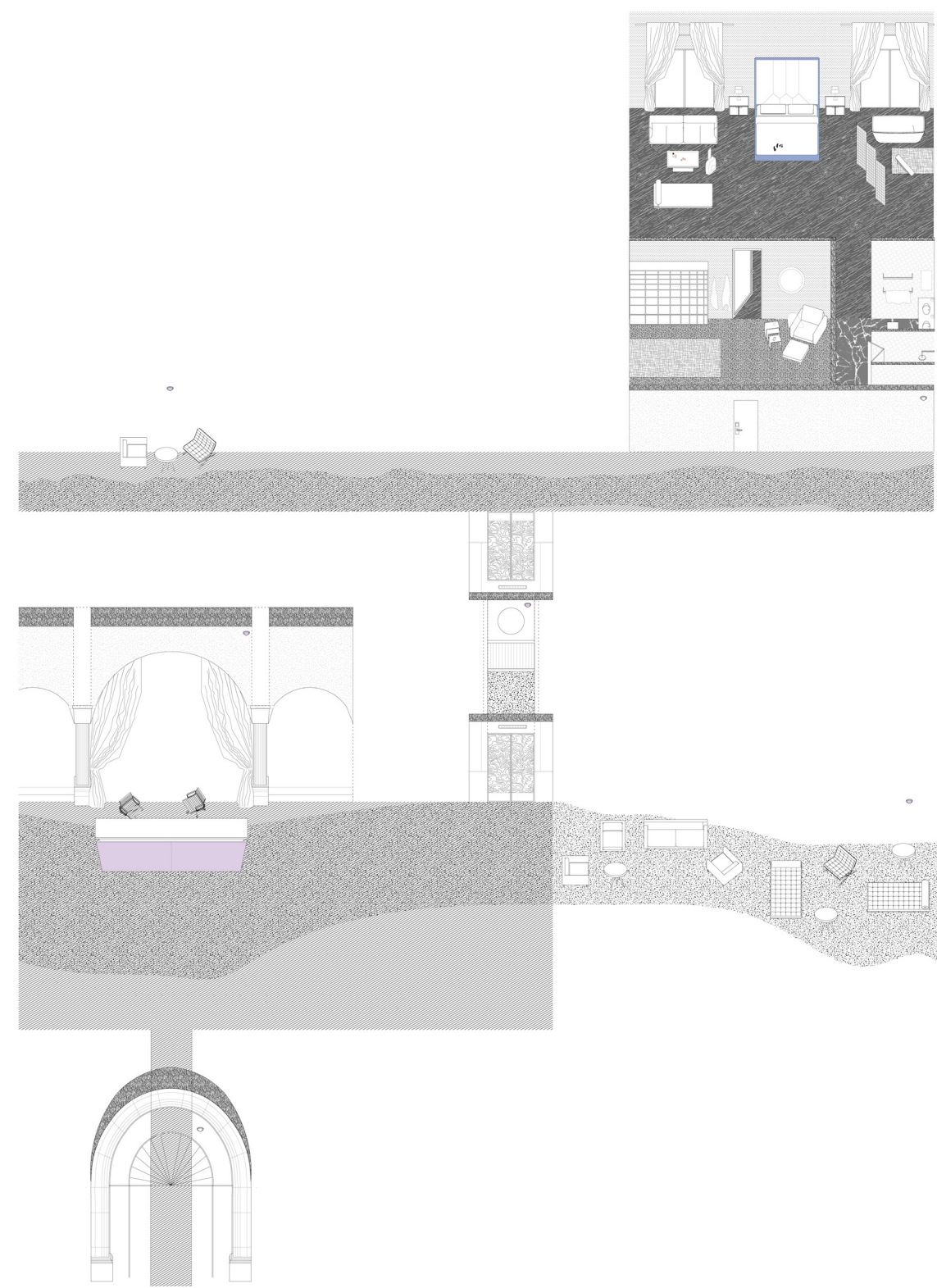
“Discourses have material consequences that require ethical responses.”
-Karen Barad and Stacy Alaimo, Material feminism



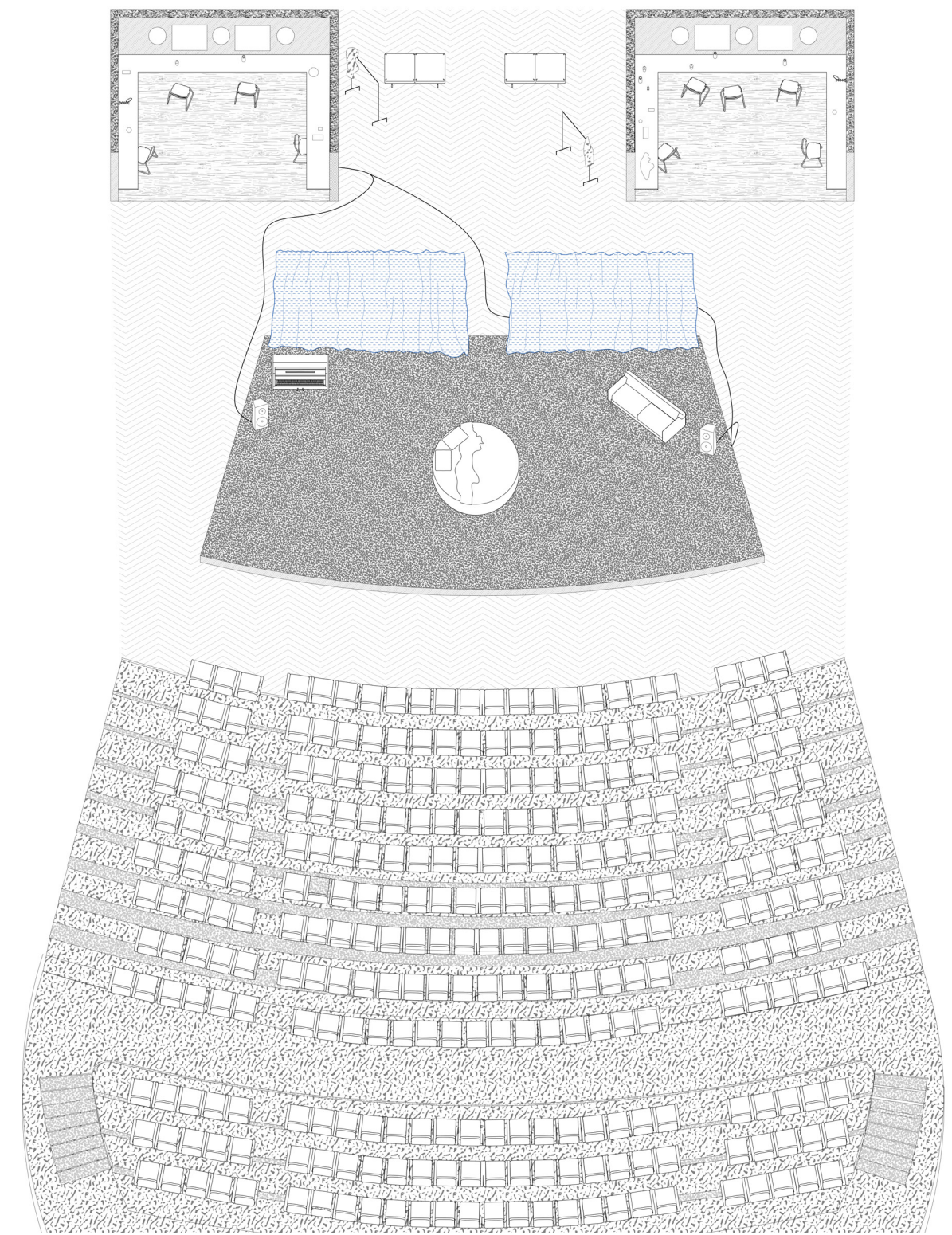
Cam



Window



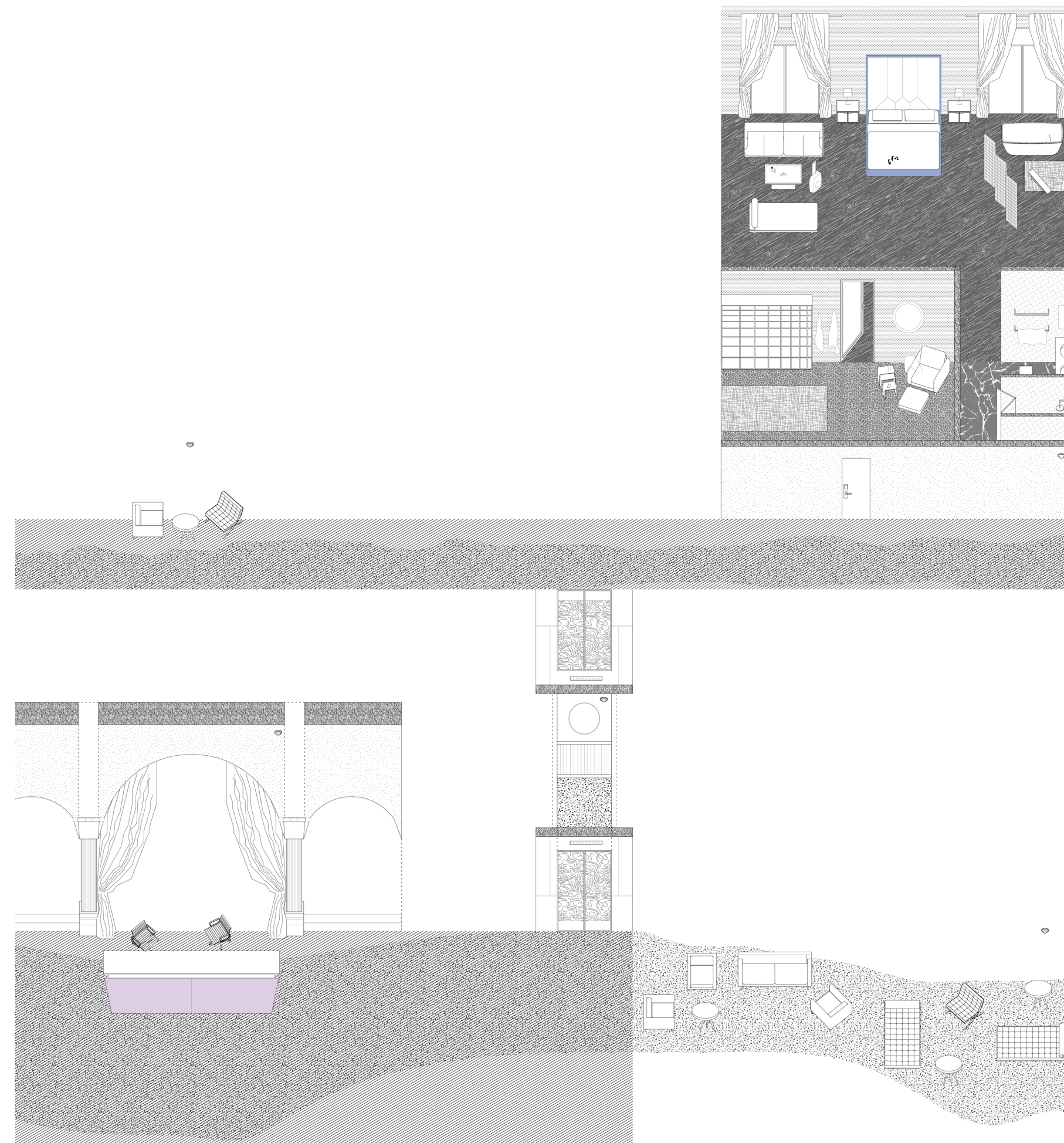
Hotel room



Theatre

Umwelt mapping

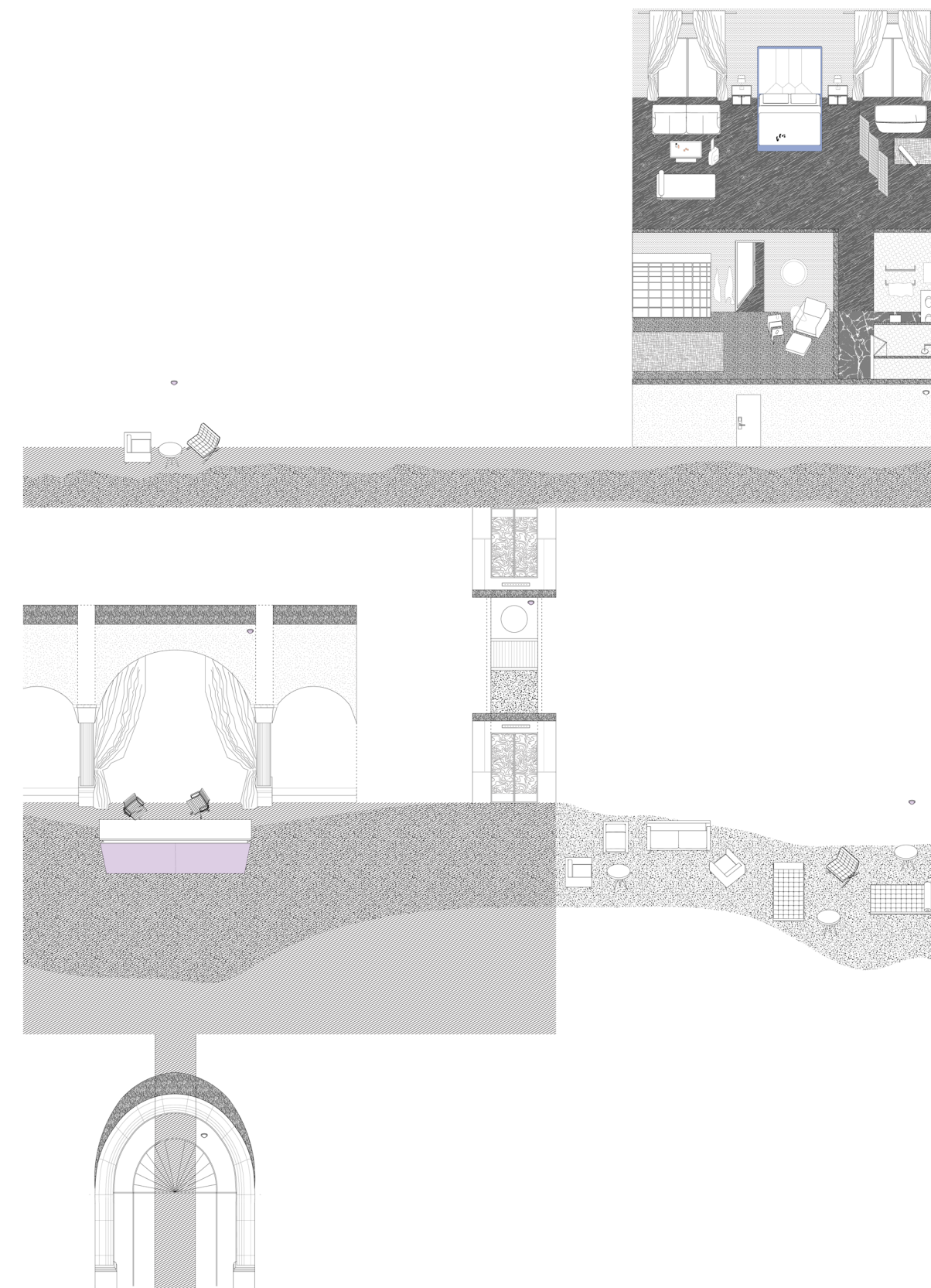
Relational study of 4 spatialities for sex work



Panoptical mode of control
Hotel room



Window

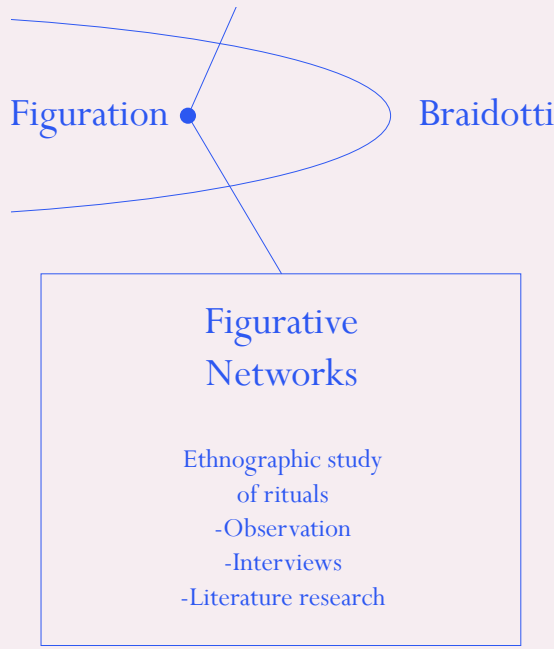


Hotel room

Materialisation of control

Window and Hotel room

III. FIGURATIVE NETWORKS

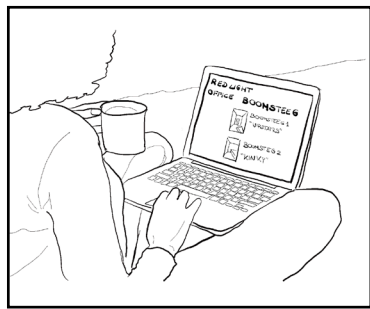


“A figuration is a living map, a transformative account of the self (...). Figurations differ from classical metaphors in precisely their commitment to account the material conditions that sustain these different subject positions.”

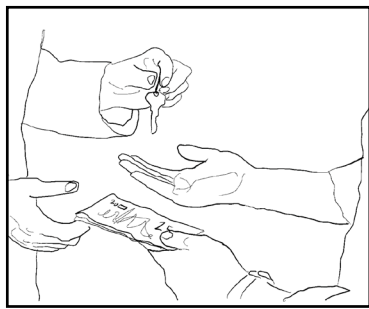
-Rosi Braidotti, Nomadic subjects



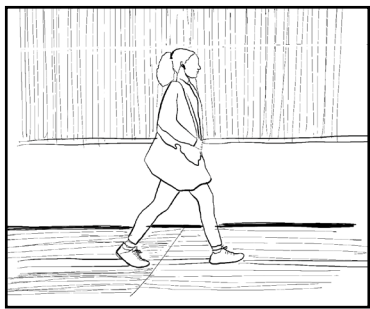
Carmen
is a worker in a red light district
She works in the Unwell of the Window



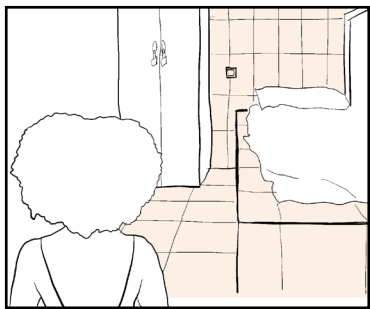
"WE ALWAYS HAVE TO BOOK THE ROOMS IN ADVANCE ..."



"... IT DEPENDS ON THE RENTAL AGENCY, BUT USUALLY YOU HAVE TO PAY UP FRONT"



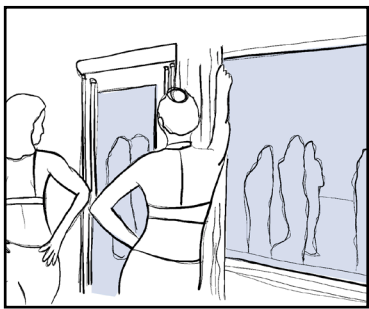
"I USUALLY LOOK LIKE I'M GOING TO THE GYM WHILE I'M ON MY WAY TO THE WINDOWS"



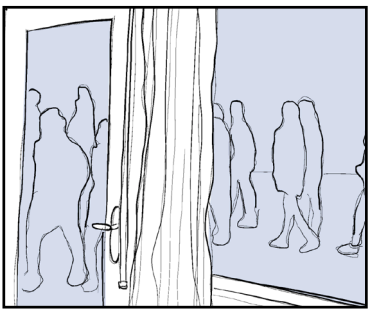
"IT'S A LOT OF MONEY FOR A ***HOLE, IF YOU ASK ME"



"I ALWAYS GET READY QUICKLY THERE. NO TIME TO LOSE!"



"WE TALK ABOUT EVERYTHING IN THE WINDOWS, AND IT'S BEAUTIFUL TO SEE THE WORLD PASSING BY FROM THERE ..."



"... WE FEEL THAT WE'RE IN CONTROL, AND TOGETHER"



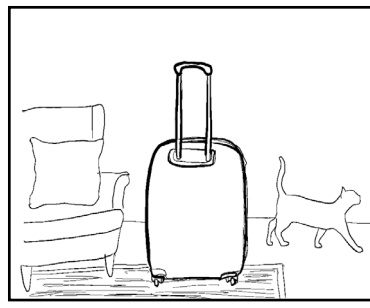
"THERE ARE CERTAIN CODES THAT SHOW THE CLIENT IF A WORKER OFFERS BOOM OR OTHER 'SPECIAL' SERVICES"



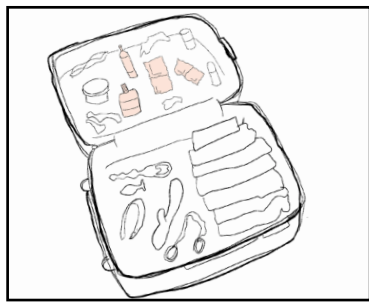
"THE WINDOW NEEDS ME TO HAVE CONTROL OVER WHO COMES IN, AND TO CHECK THAT THEY ARE NOT DRUNK OR SO ..."



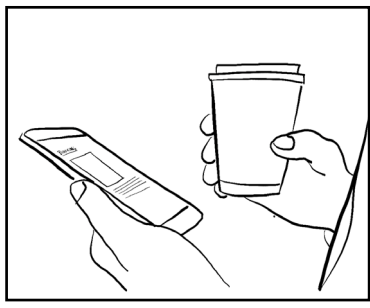
Kristina
is an escort for female and male clients
She works in the Unwell of the Hotel room



"I ALWAYS HAVE A SUITCASE READY. THE BOOKINGS ARE USUALLY ON SHORT NOTICE"



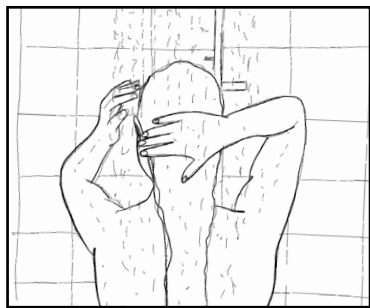
"THE SUITCASE HAS EVERYTHING I MIGHT NEED"



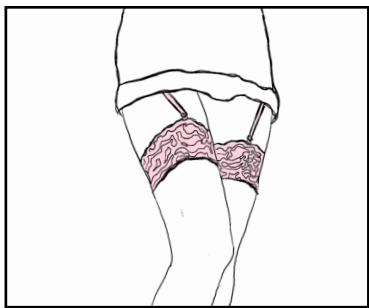
"MY LUCK. THE BOOKINGS ALWAYS COME IN WHEN I'M OUT ..."



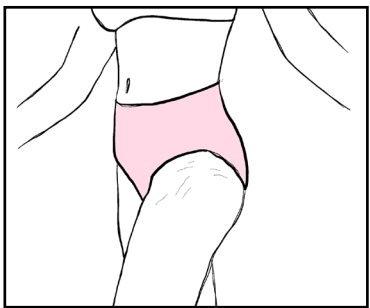
"... SO I HAVE TO RUN HOME TO GET ALL DETAILS AND PREPARE"



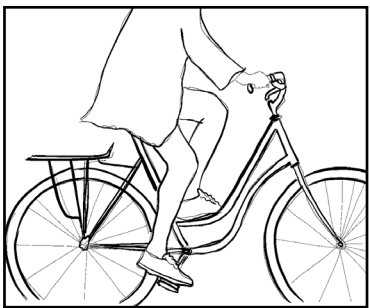
"SHOWER IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING FOR ME. OBVIOUSLY FOR HYGIENIC REASONS, BUT IT ALSO CALMS MY NERVES"



"DEPENDING ON THE AGENCY, I HAVE TO WEAR DIFFERENT CLOTHES. THE HETEROSEXUAL ONE ALWAYS EXPECTS EXPENSIVE LINGERIE ..."



"WHEREAS AT THE LESBIAN ONE I CAN WEAR A BIT MORE... WELL, LIKE MYSELF"



"I'M A MESS, ALWAYS RUSHING WITH THE BIKE AND THEN I ARRIVE. SUPER SWEATY"



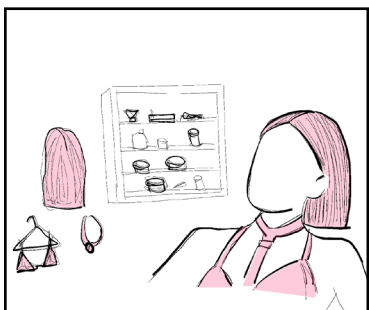
"THE HOTELS CAN BE VERY ANNOYING. THEY DIRECTLY KNOW WHAT I DO ..."



Paula
is a cam show artist.
She works in the Unwell of the Cam



"I THINK THAT THE HARDEST PART OF MY JOB IS THE PREPARATION. I ALWAYS HAVE TO THINK OF NEW SHOWS TO STAY INNOVATIVE"



"I USUALLY WEAR A WIG. HELPS ME TO GET INTO THE PERFORMER MOOD. TYPES OF CLOTHES IT DEPENDS ON THE SHOW'S THEME"



"HERE WE GO"



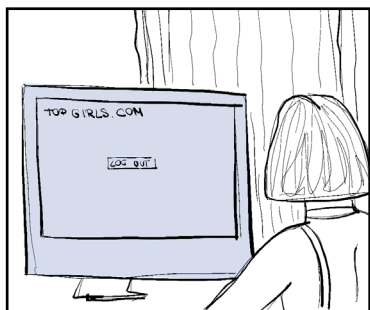
"I ALWAYS HAVE IT PLAYFUL THROUGH ASKING MY VIEWERS FOR A PREFERENCE ON TOYS. IT GIVES THEM A FALSE ILLUSION OF CONTROL"



"SOMETIMES I DO A CAM SHOW, BUT THAT'S NOT ALWAYS THE CASE. CANNING IS MUCH MORE ..."



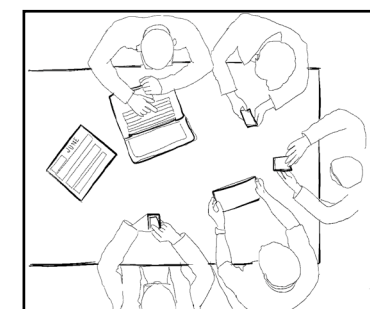
"I ALWAYS END THE SHOW WHO I FEEL LIKE IT. I HAVE TO SAY ..."



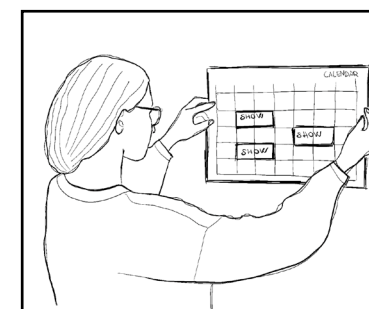
"... I DO LOVE MY HOME OFFICE"



Eric and Joelle
are erotic performers in sex shows.
They work in the Unwell of the Theatre



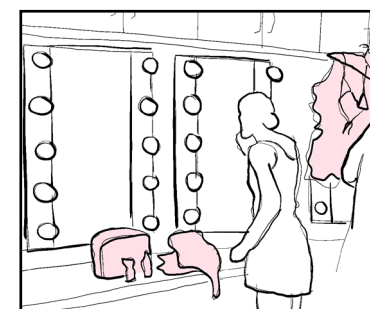
"WE HAVE MEETINGS EVERY MONTH TO SCHEDULE THE SHOWS AND TALK ABOUT HOW EVERYONE IS DOING ..."



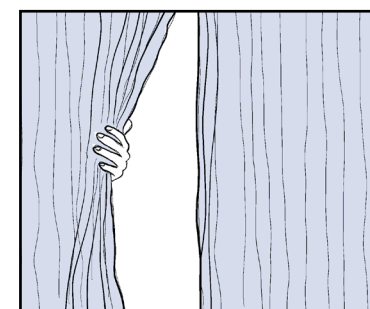
"... PERSONALLY, I LOVE HAVING A FIXED SCHEDULE AND INCOME, AS WELL AS A TEAM"



"SINCE WE ALWAYS ACT TOGETHER, I THINK WE SUPPORT EACH OTHER TO PREPARE PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY BEFORE A SHOW ..."



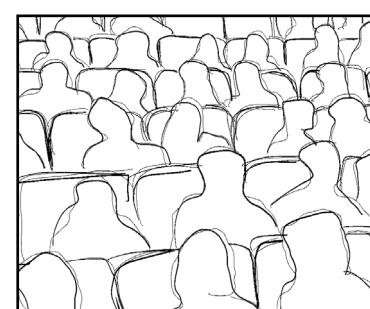
"... AS WELL AS WITH THE OTHER PERFORMERS. I WOULD SAY THAT THE DRESSING ROOMS ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT SPACE FOR US ..."



"... IT CREATES A SENSE OF COMMUNITY THAT HELPS US 'FACE THE PUBLIC'"



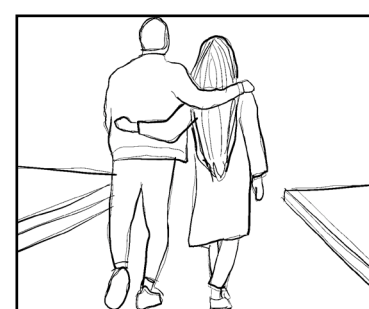
"THE SHOWS ARE LETO SAY, QUITE HETEROSEXUAL. THERE'S A QUEER SCENE GROWING - SO I FEEL THAT THINGS ARE CHANGING SLOWLY"



"THE PUBLIC IS GENERALLY OK, BUT DEPENDS ON THE DAY. WE LIKE BEING WATCHED, SO IT'S PART OF OUR JOB"



"AND YES, WE DO HAVE SEX IN 'REAL LIFE'. BUT DIFFERENTLY THAN ON STAGE"



"WE'RE TOGETHER IN 'REAL LIFE'. IT'S NOT NECESSARY TO DO THIS JOB, BUT I THINK IT CERTAINLY HELPS"

Figurative networks

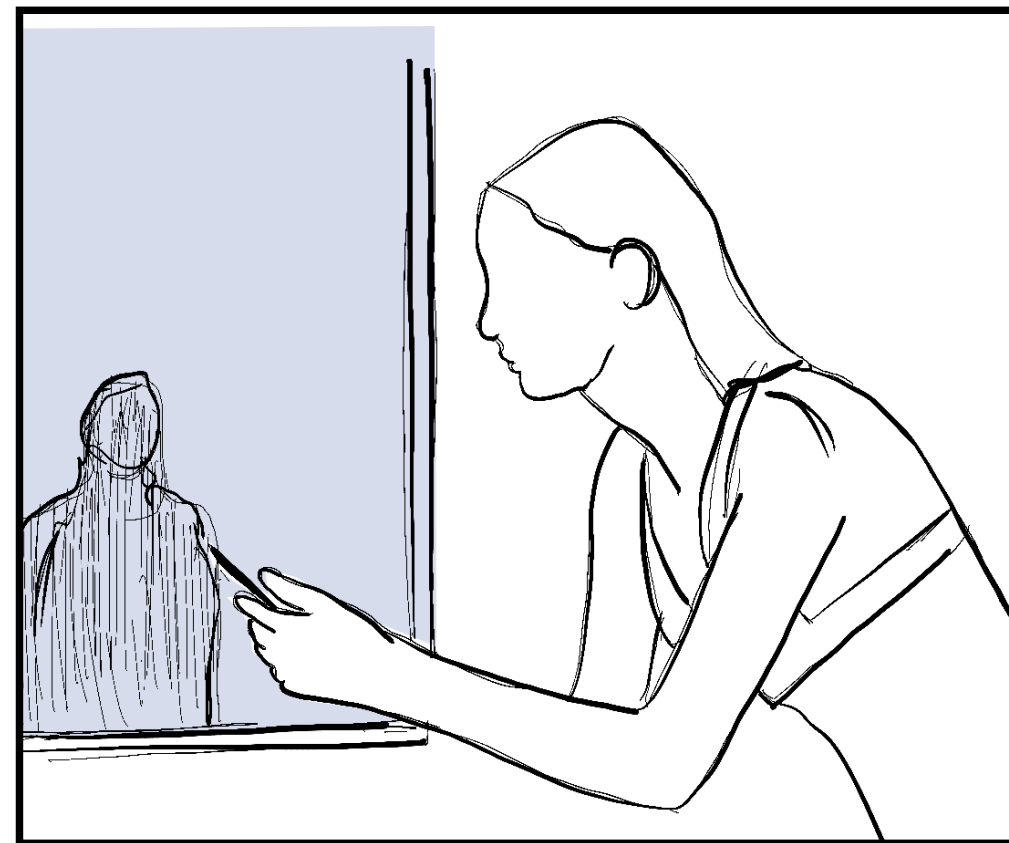
Traces of an ethnographic study



Carmen
is a worker in a red-light district
She works in the Umwelt of the *Window*

Window workers

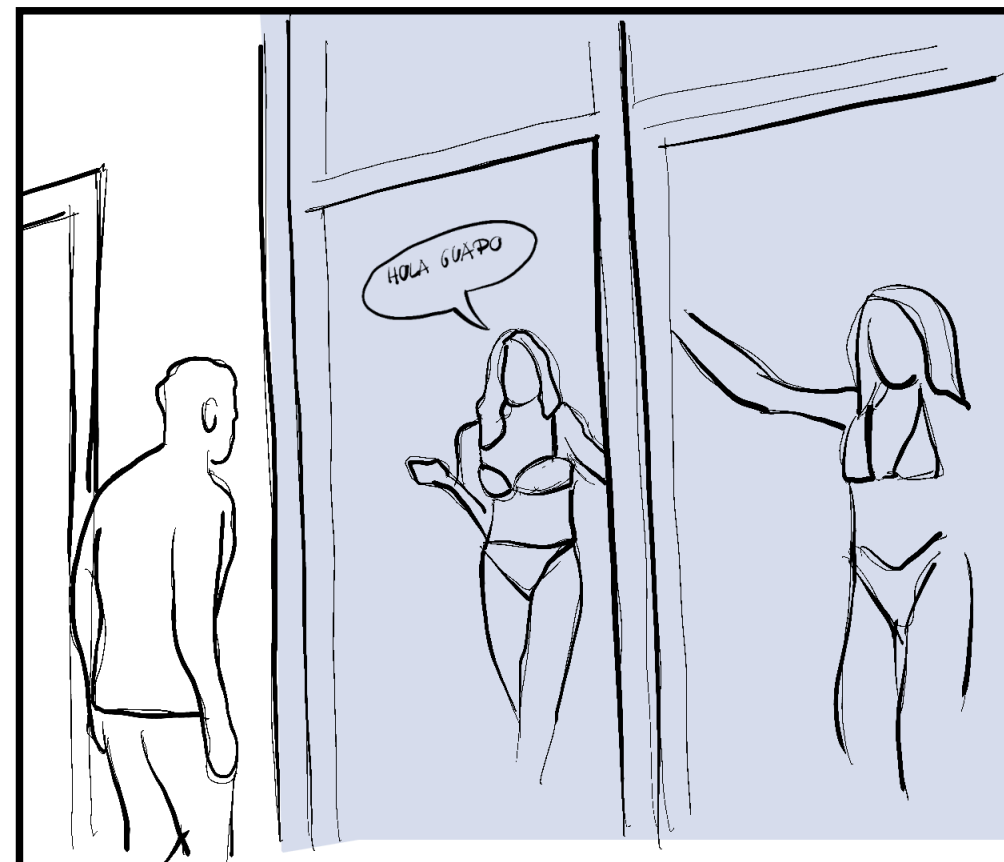
Carmen - Traces of an ethnographic study



... AND THEY'RE ALWAYS THE ONES WHO
DON'T PAY. THEY JUST WANT TO MESS
AROUND, AND NO WORKER WOULD TAKE
THEM IN. OUR CLIENTS ARE DIFFERENT...

Forced spatial and legal isolation

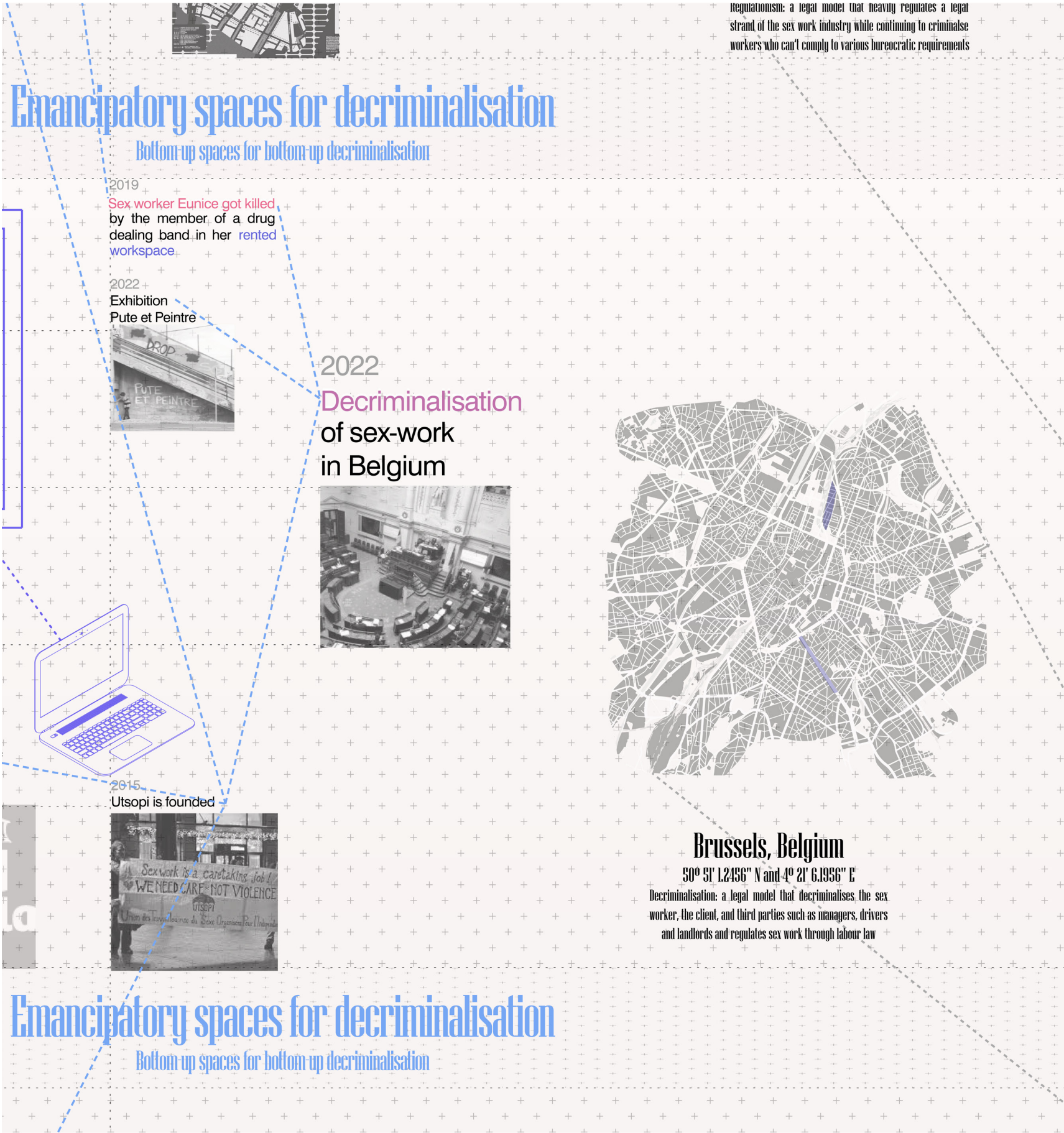
Carmen - Traces of an ethnographic study



" THE WINDOW ALLOWS ME TO HAVE CONTRULL
OVER WHO COMES IN, AND TO CHECK THAT
THEY ARE NOT DRUNK OR SO ...

Collective emancipation

Carmen - Traces of an ethnographic study

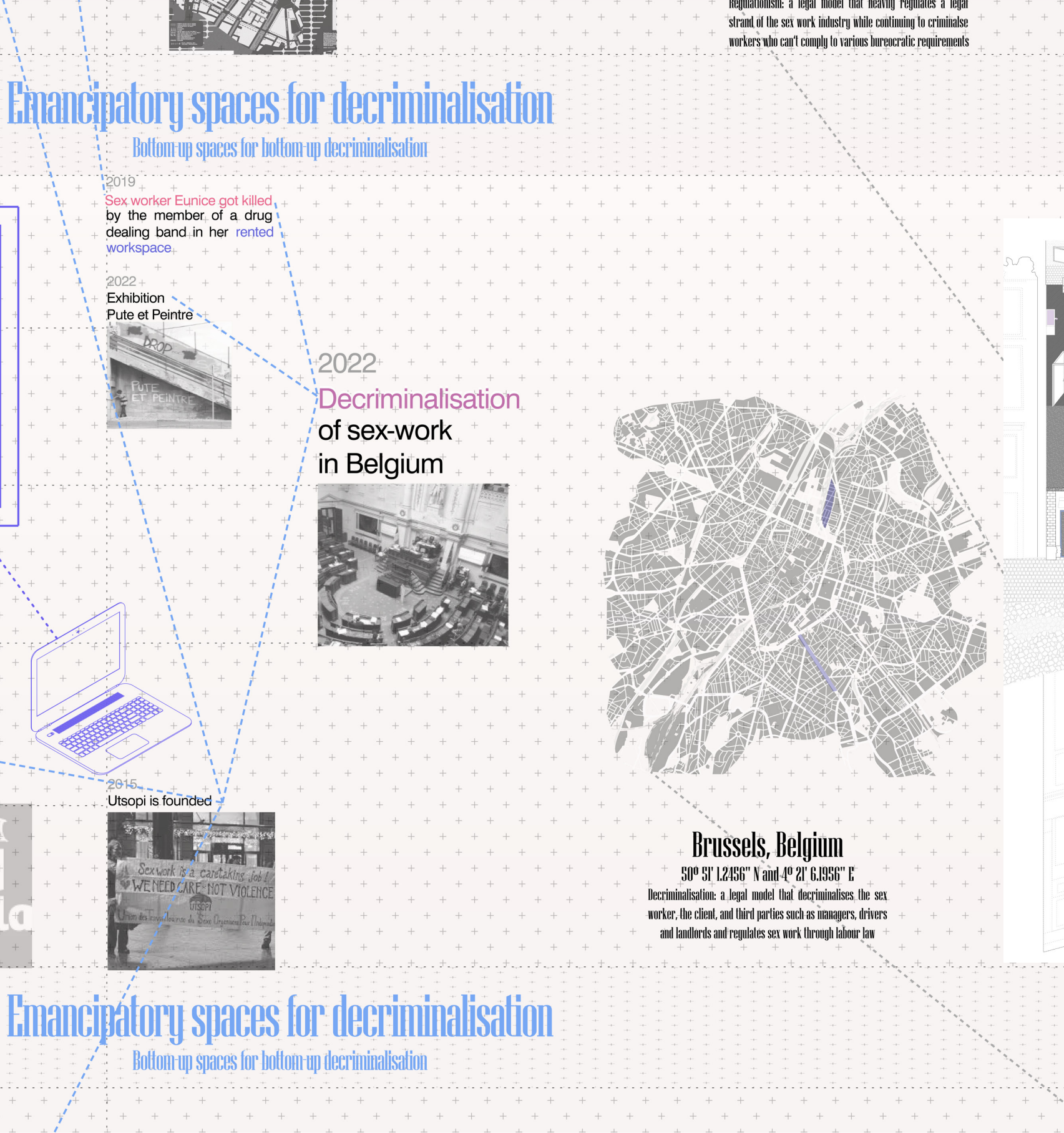


Location: Brussels, Belgium - 2023

Collective emancipation
Program for design

A space for sex work

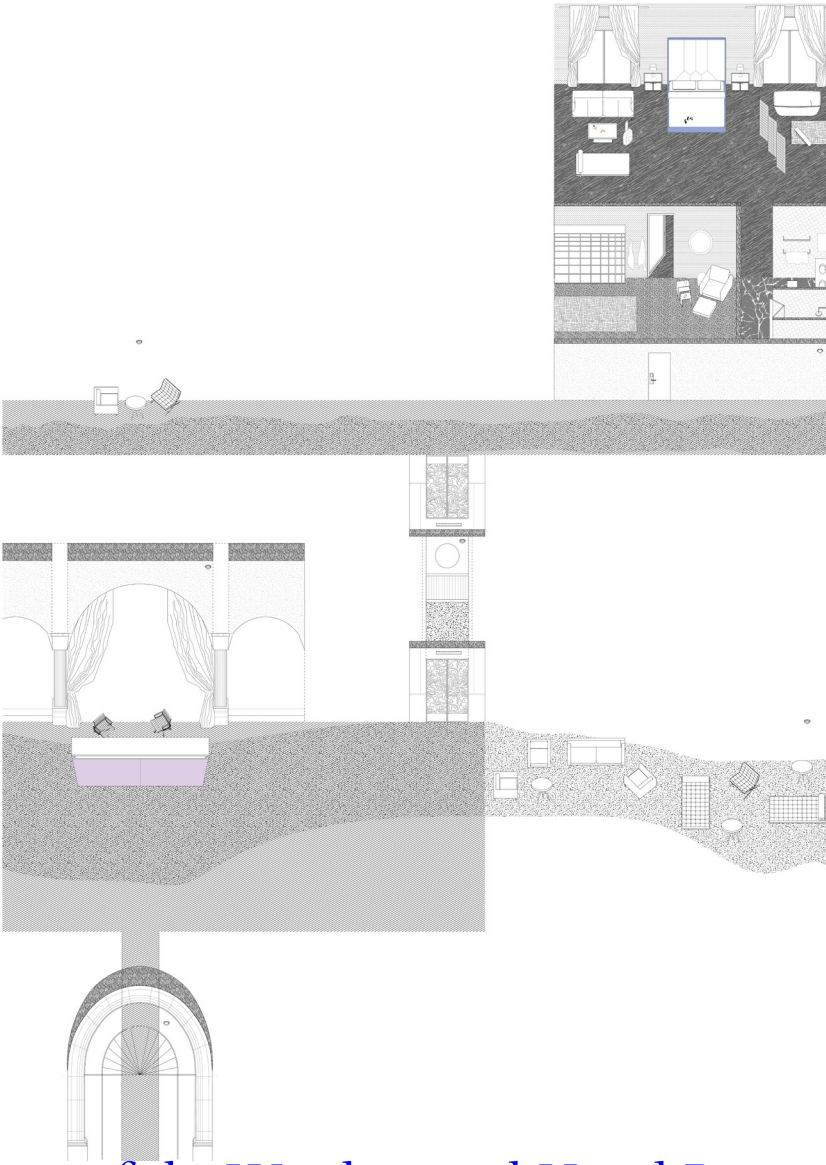
Research Conclusion



Location: Brussels, Belgium - 2023

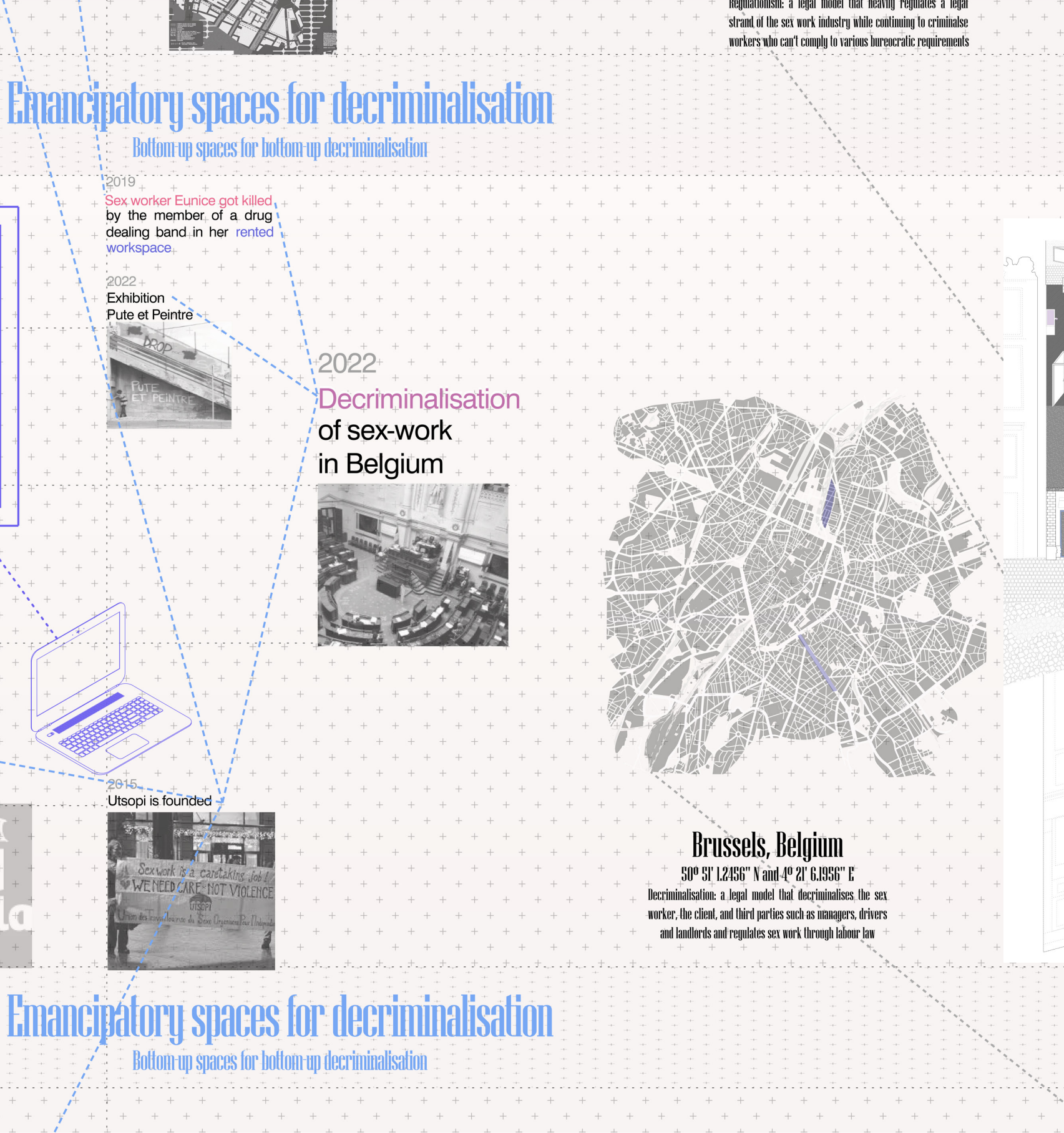


Program: Working spaces of the Window and Hotel Room

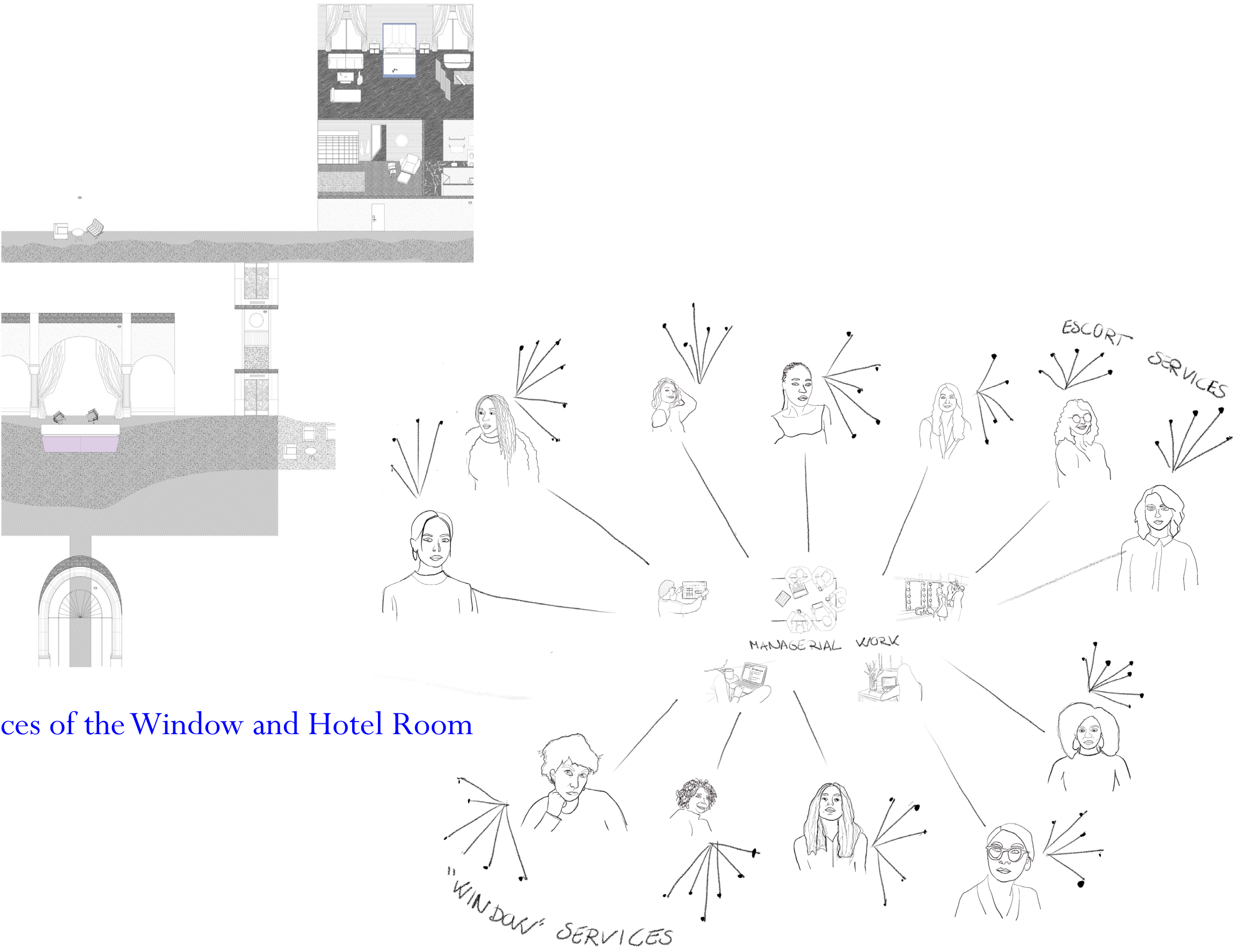


Collective emancipation

Program for design



Location: Brussels, Belgium - 2023



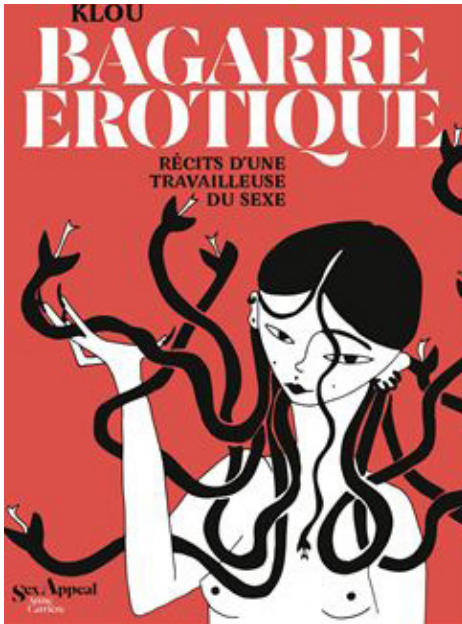
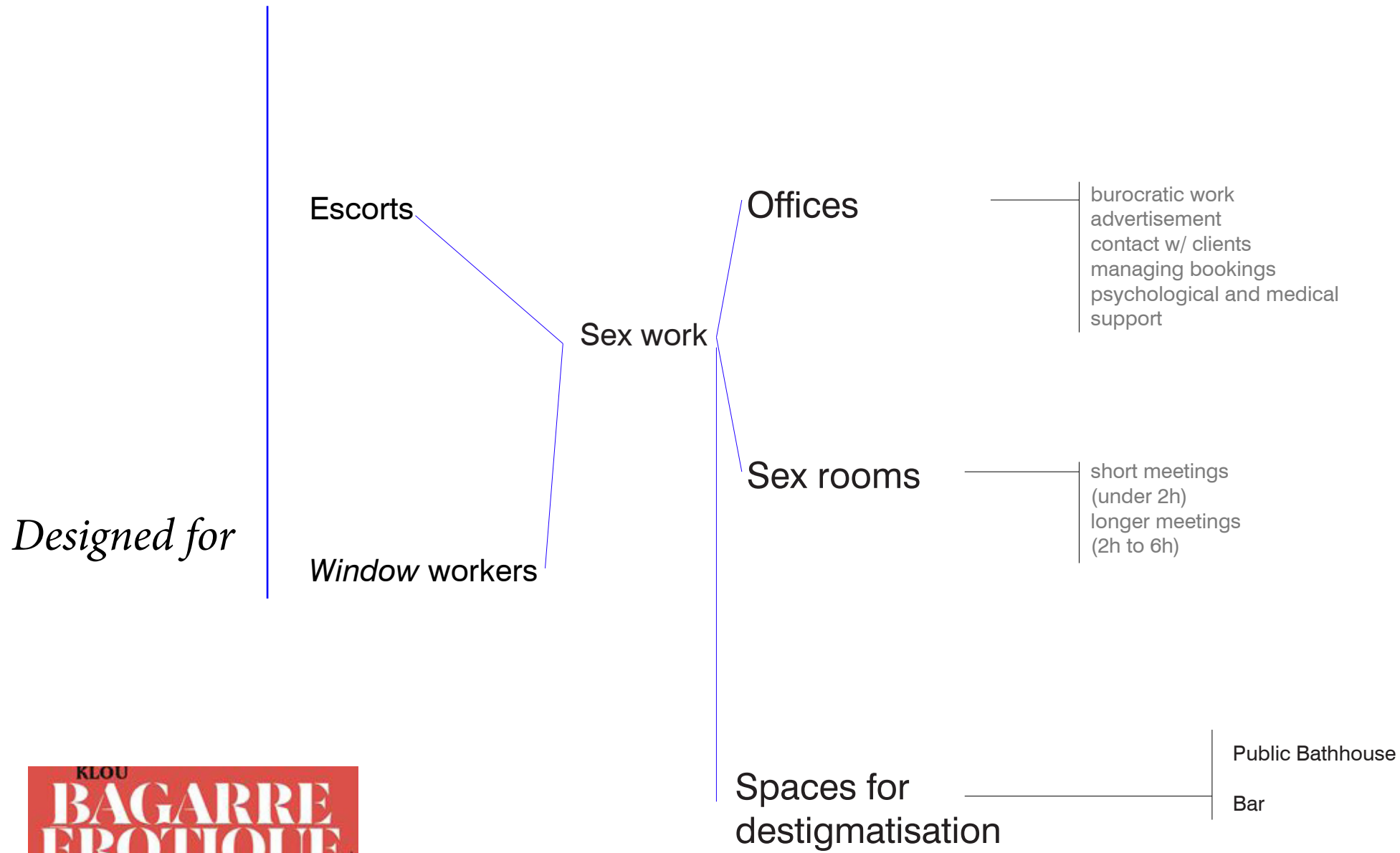
Program: Working spaces of the Window and Hotel Room

Users: Non-hierarchical collective of sex workers

IV. A SPACE FOR SEX WORK

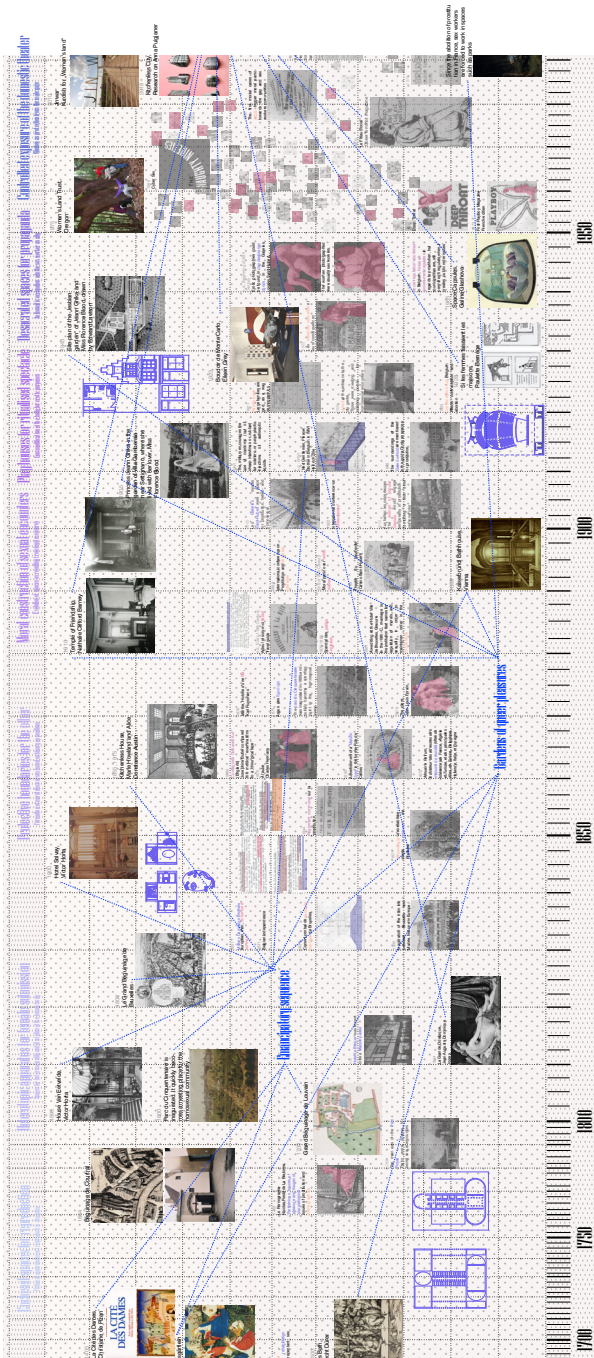
Rethinking brothels in the framework of decriminalisation

HÔTEL DE LA BAGARRE EROTIQUE



The graphic novel ‘Bagarre erotique’, by Klou Bagarre, was published right before the approval of decriminalisation of sex work in Belgium. It tells from a sex woker perspective, the practice as a space for feminist and queer struggle.

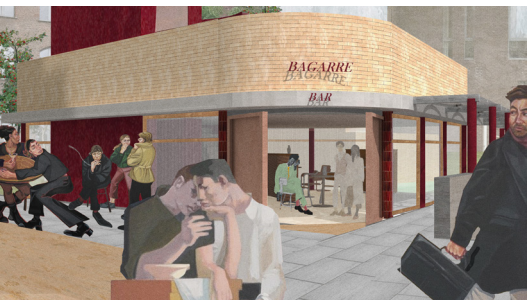
Collective emancipation
Program for design



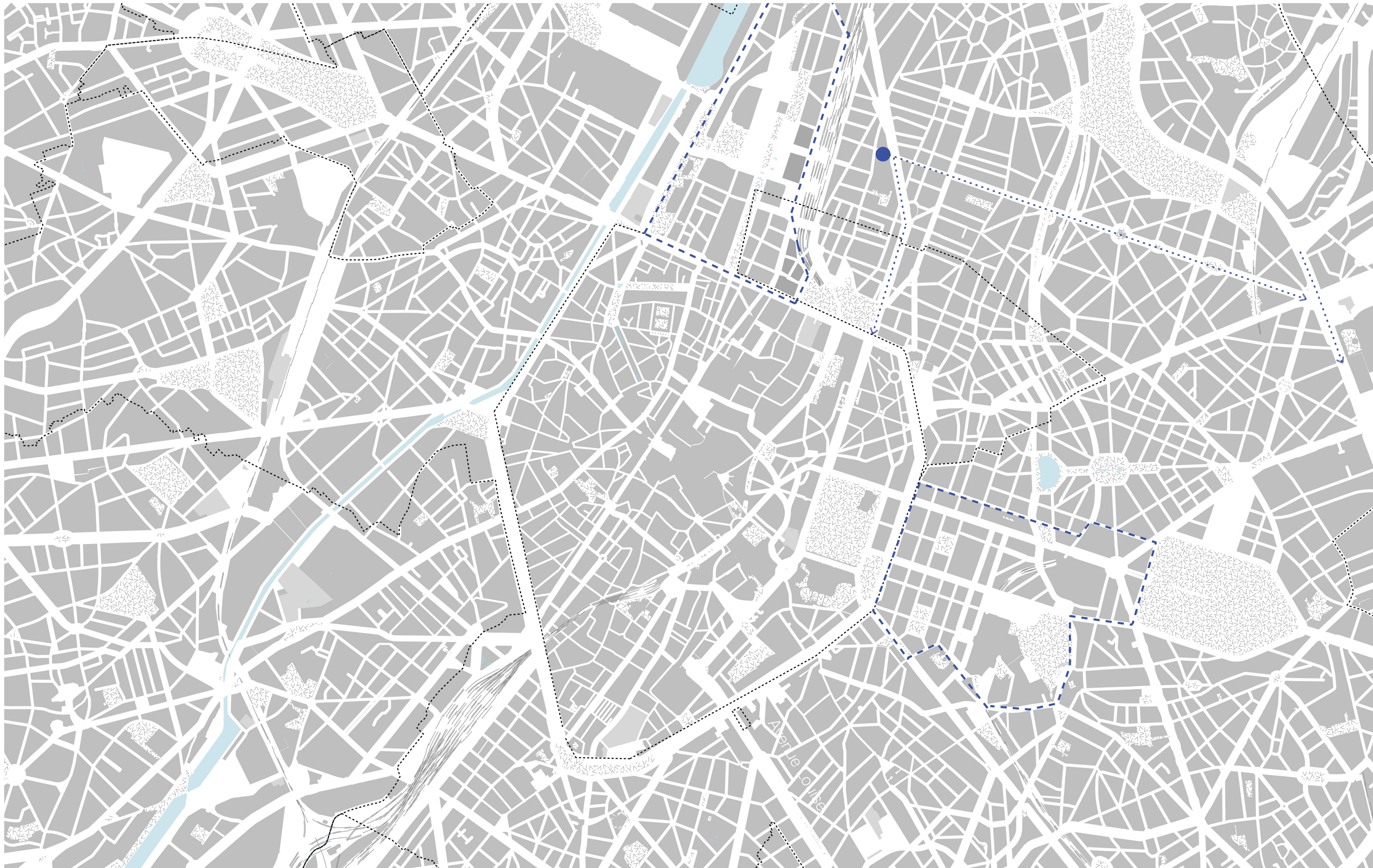
Cartography of feminist references



Relational studies of transitions



Design as performance



Rue Rogier, Schaerbeek, Brussels, Belgium

Contextualizing the design



Existing synergical network of support for sex worker's

Contextualizing the design



LUCA University of the Arts



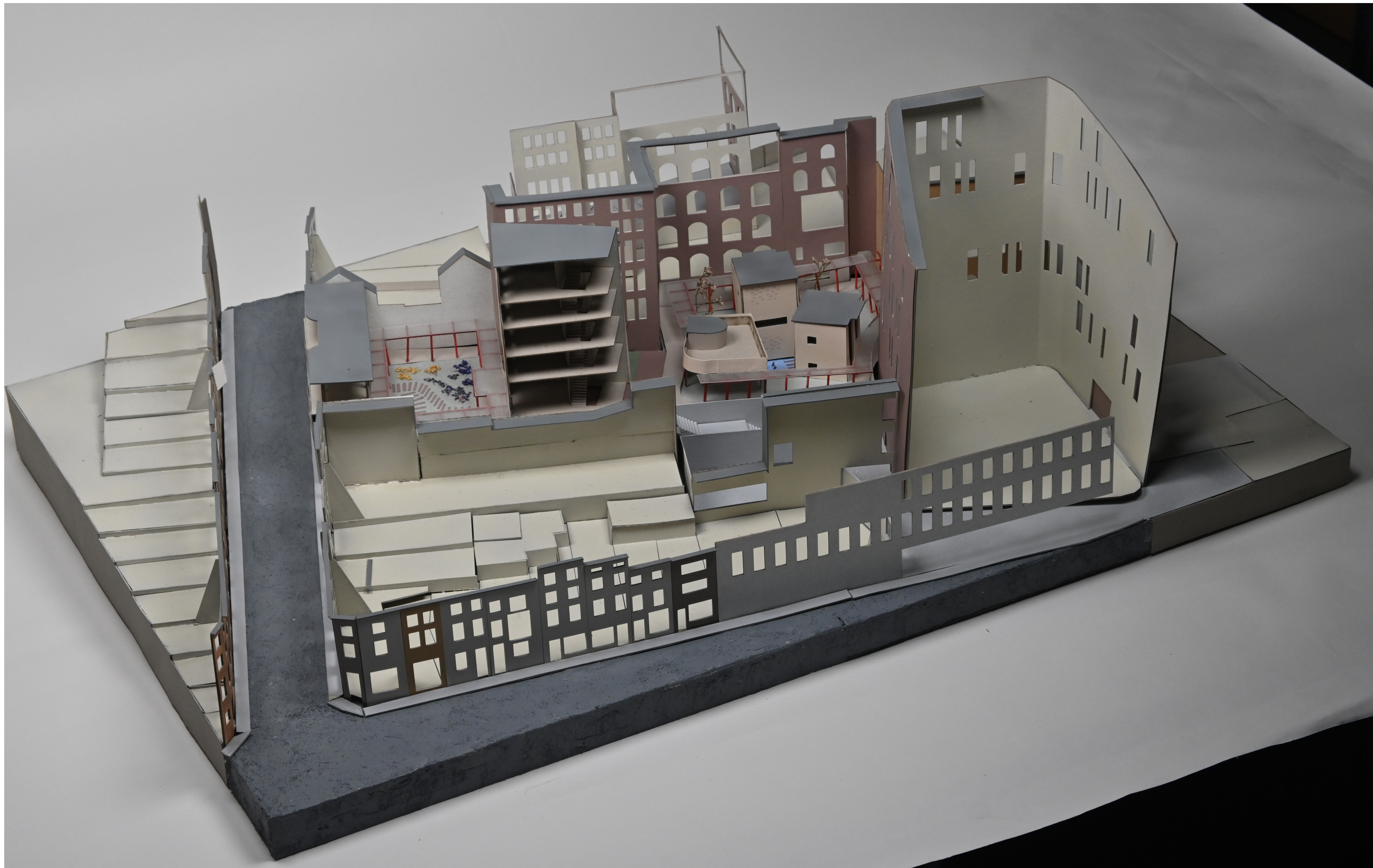
Dwelling



Small shops, Offices

Different functions within the neighbourhood

Contextualizing the design



Site model

Contextualizing the design



LUCA University of the Arts



Dwelling



Small shops, Offices

Site model

Contextualizing the design

HOTEL DE LA BAGARRE EROTIQUE



I. EMANCIPATORY SPATIAL SEQUENCE

II. GARDENS OF QUEER PLEASURES

III. INTERIORS FOR EXO-DOMESTIC SEXUALITY

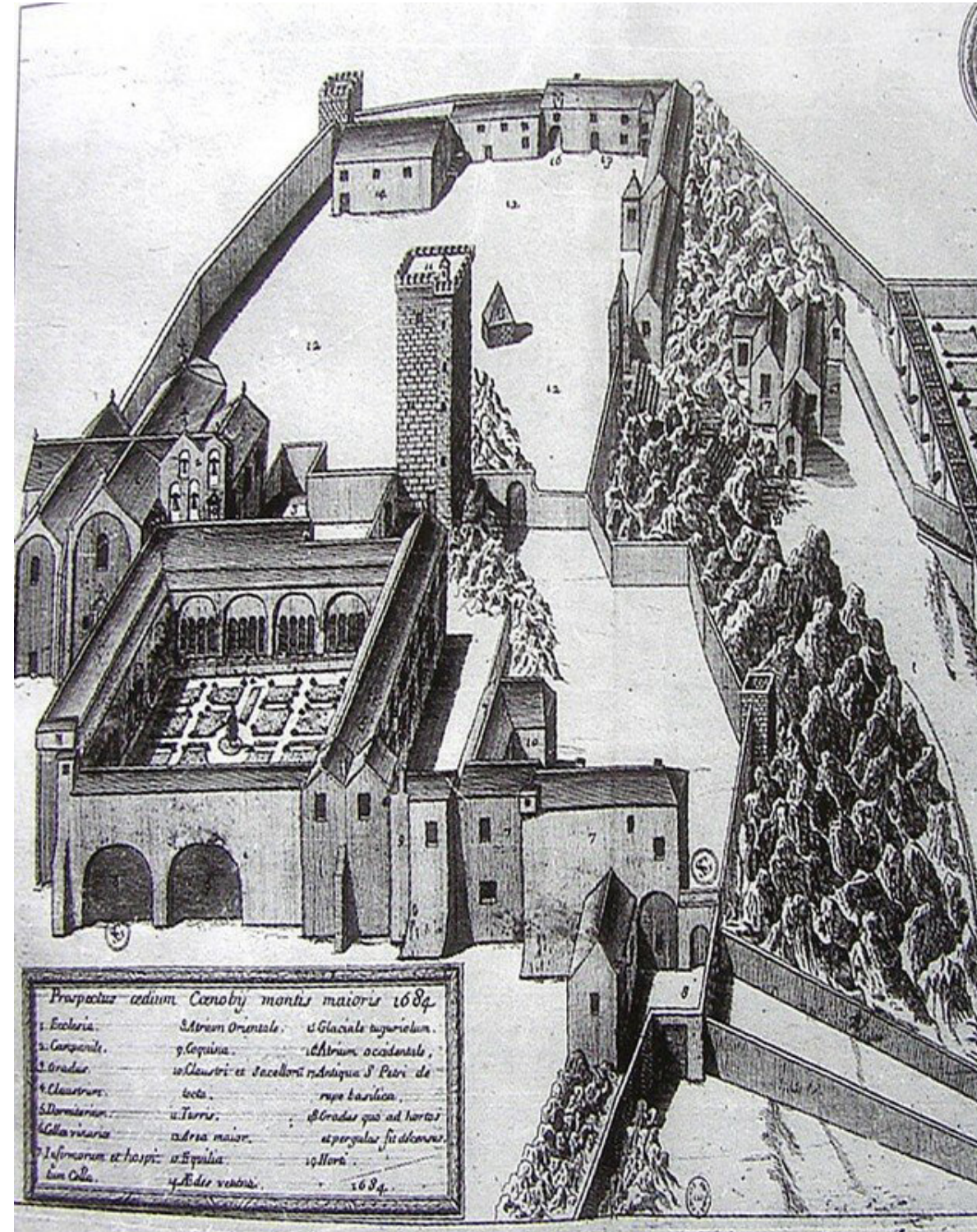
Levels of design
Contextualizing the design

V. EMANCIPATORY SPATIAL SEQUENCE

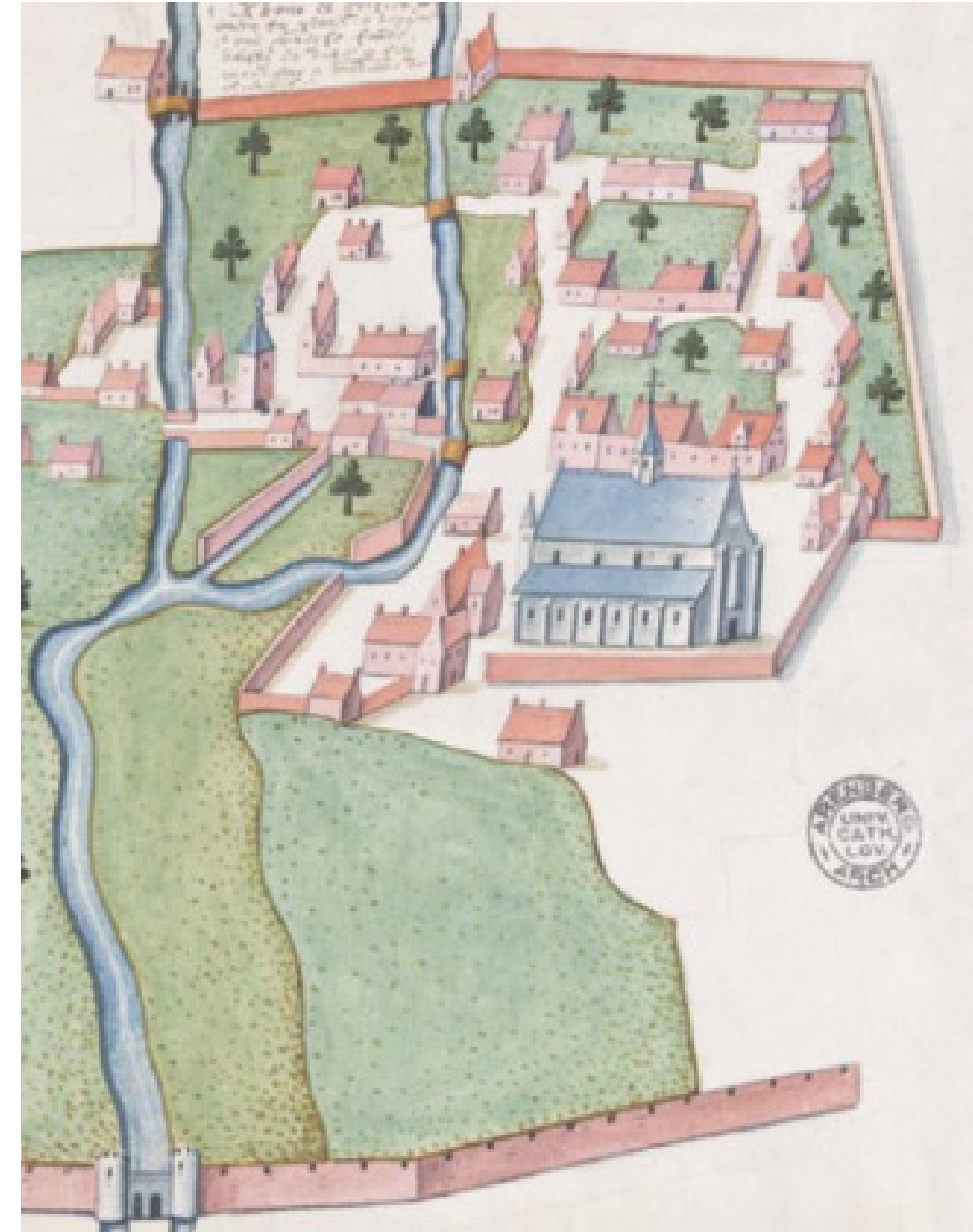
Synergical arrangement of spaces

“Caring for each other is political work”

-Molly Smith and Juno Mac, Revolting Prostitues

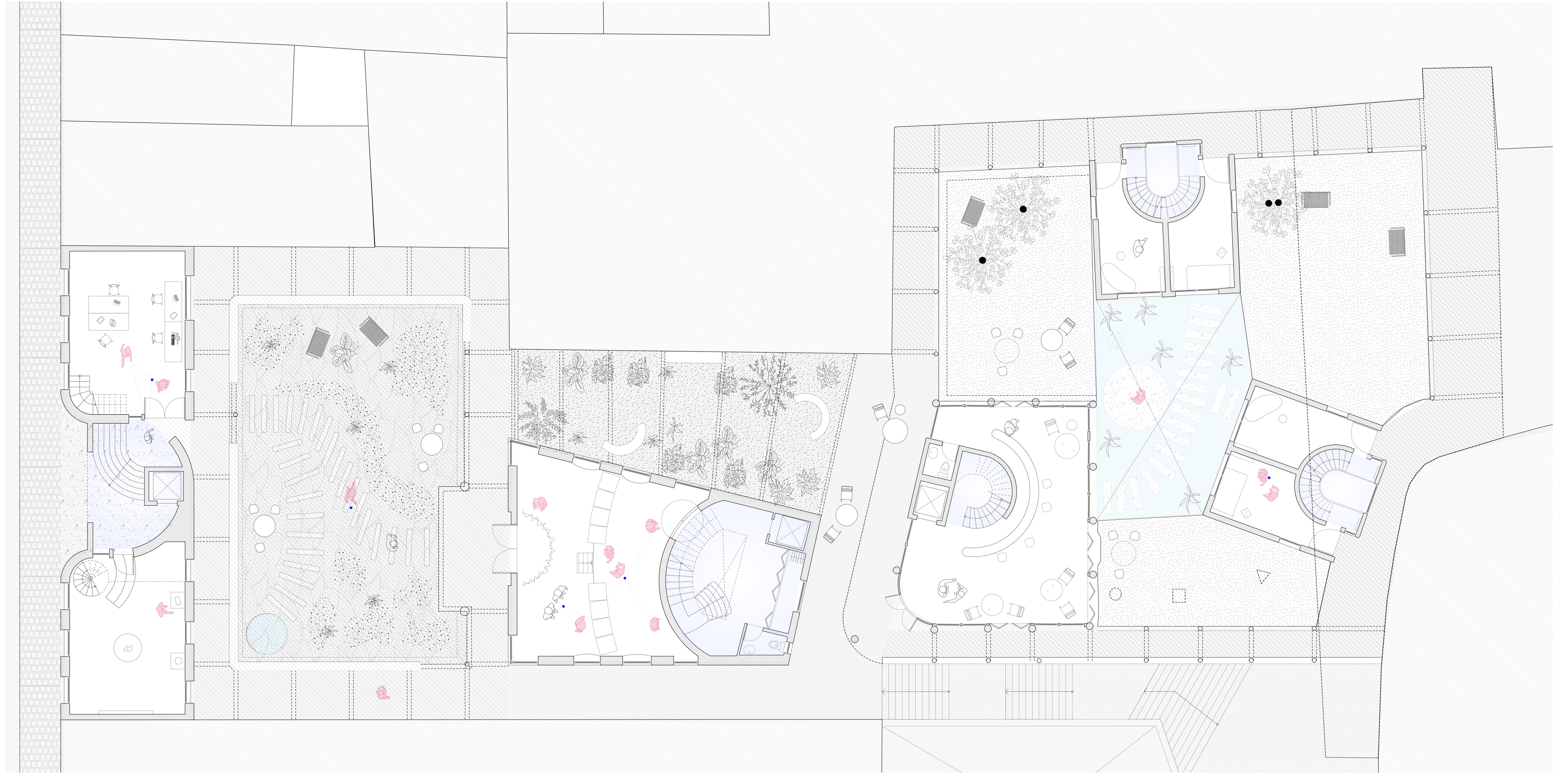


Abbaye d'Montmajour

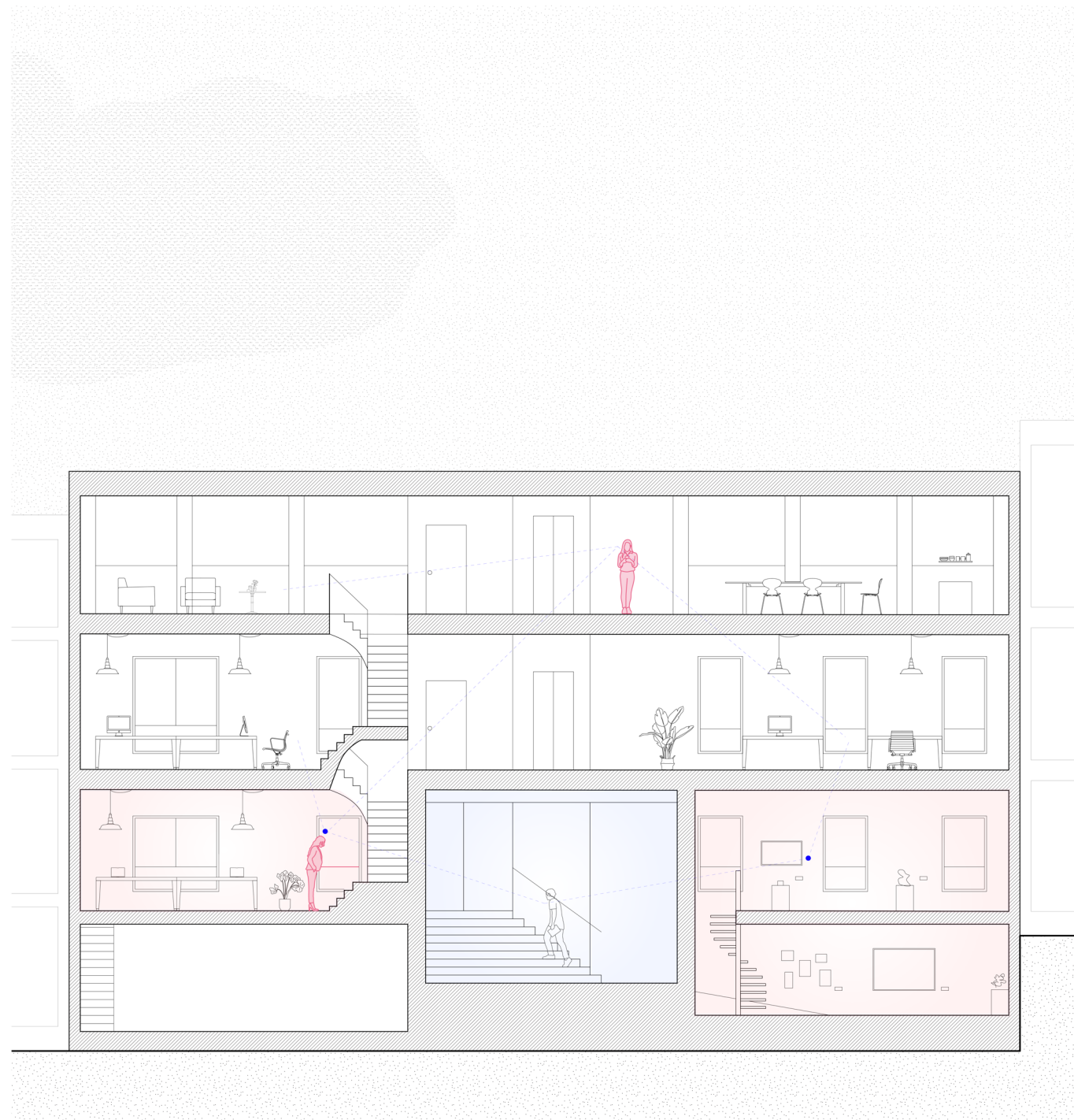


Grand Beguinage de Louvain

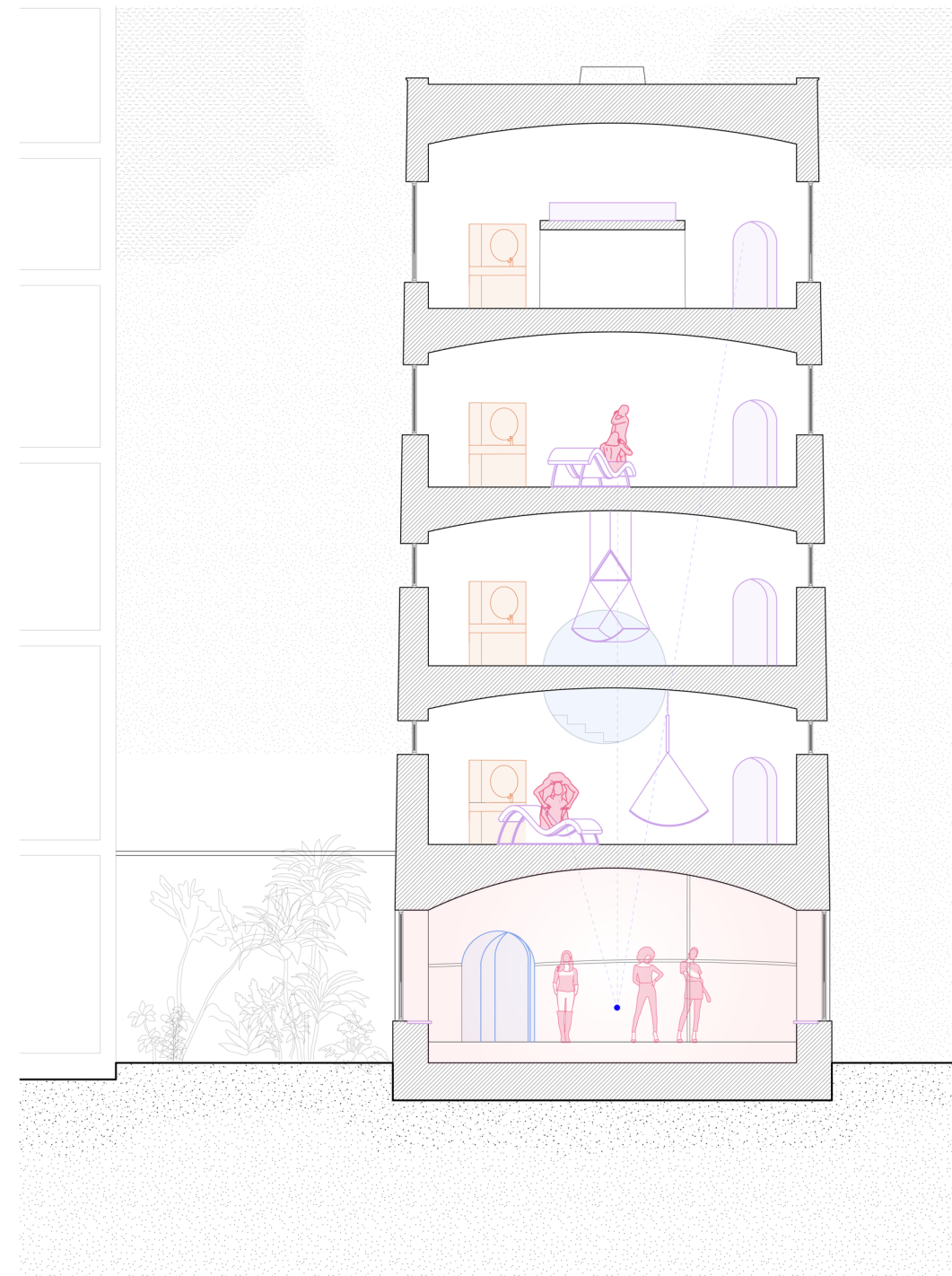
Feminist references
Emancipatory spatial sequence



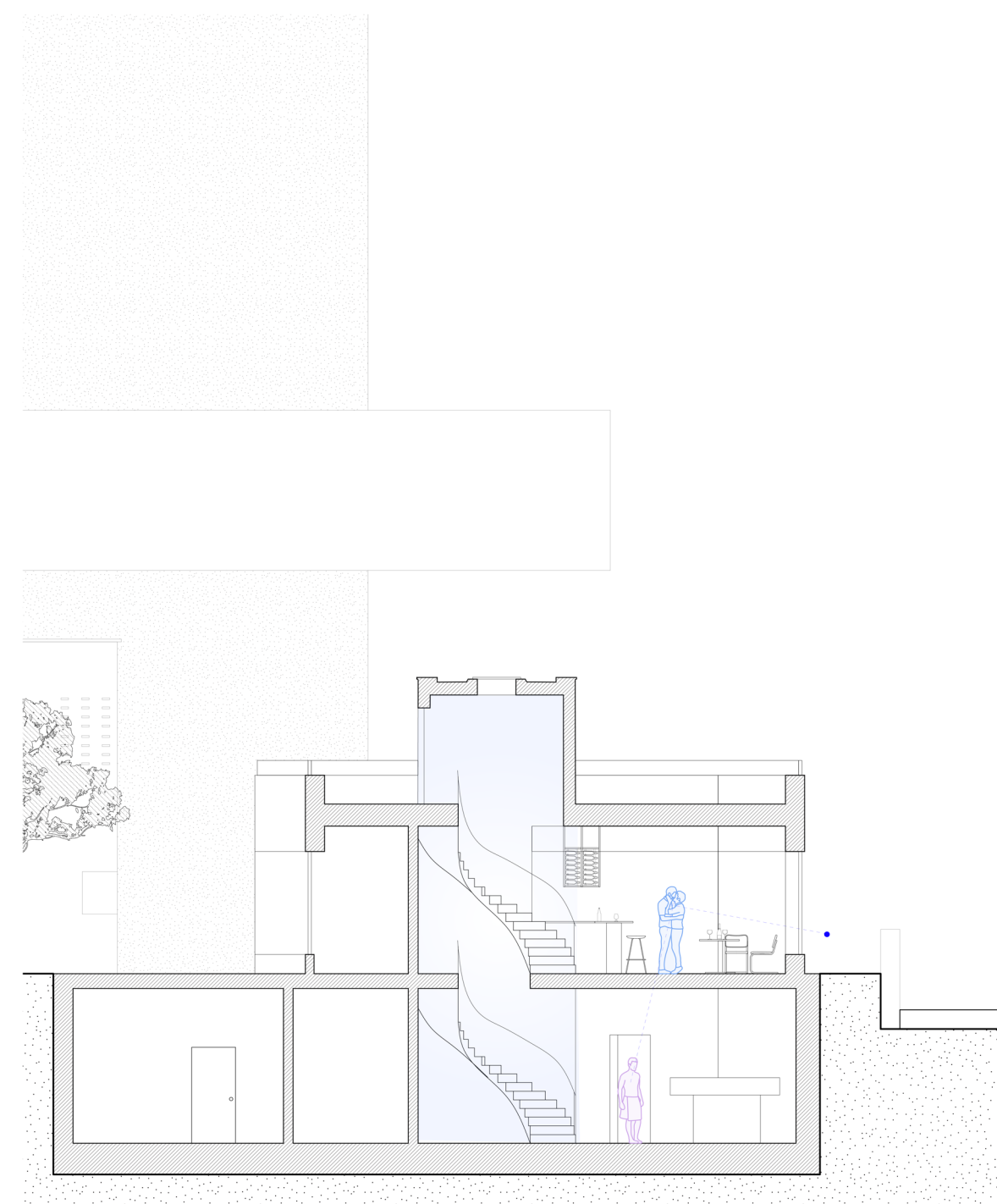
Floorplan 'Interior world'
Emancipatory spatial sequence



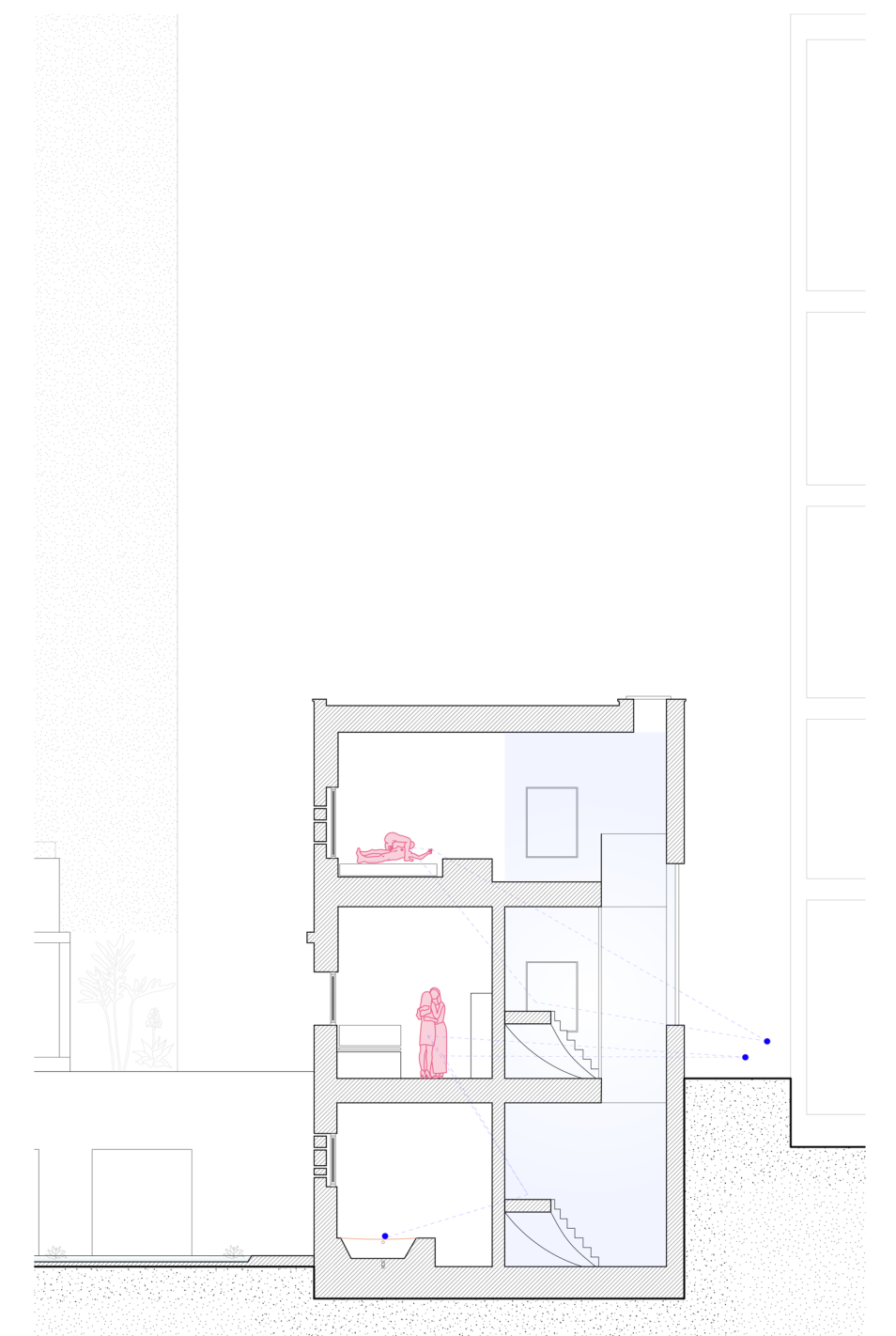
Offices



Tower



Bar / Bathhouse



Bathhouse / Escort spaces

Sections 'Interior world'

Emancipatory spatial sequence



Offices



Tower



Bar / Bathhouse



Bathhouse / Escort spaces

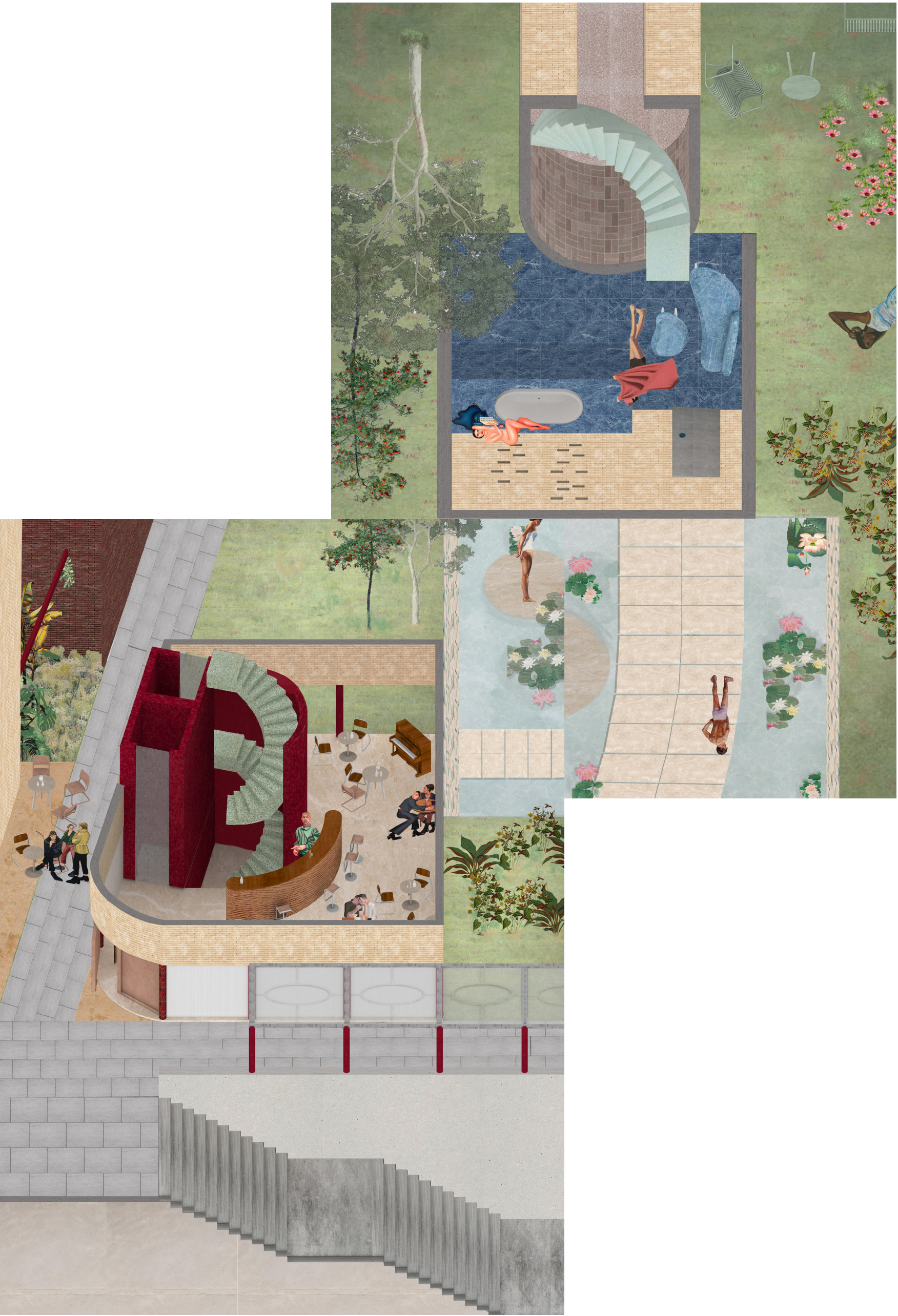
Relational studies of transitions

Emancipatory spatial sequence



A space for sex work

Relational studies of transitions
Emancipatory spatial sequence

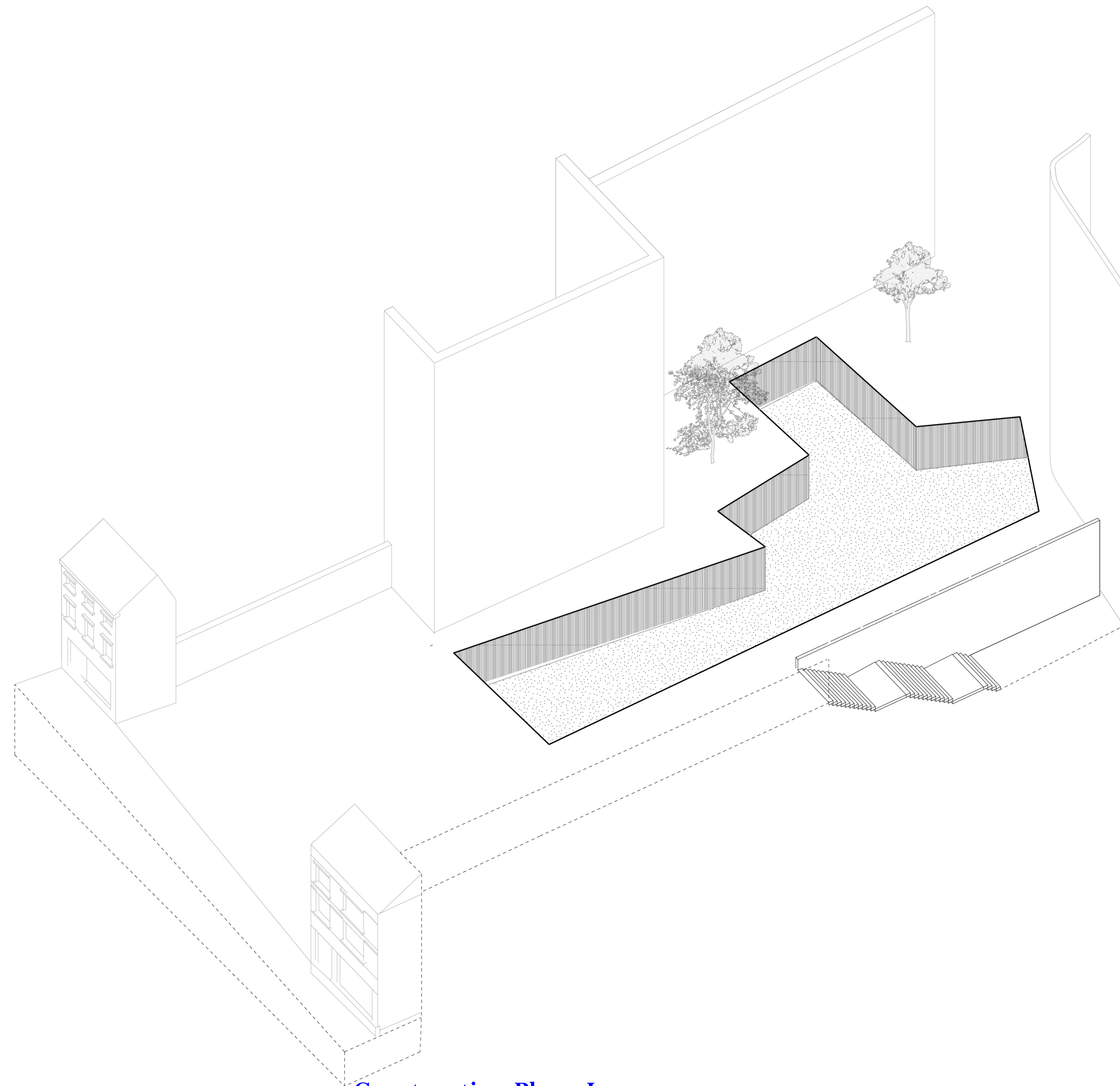


Design I

V.O. THE HOTEL AS PERCEIVED BY THE PUBLIC

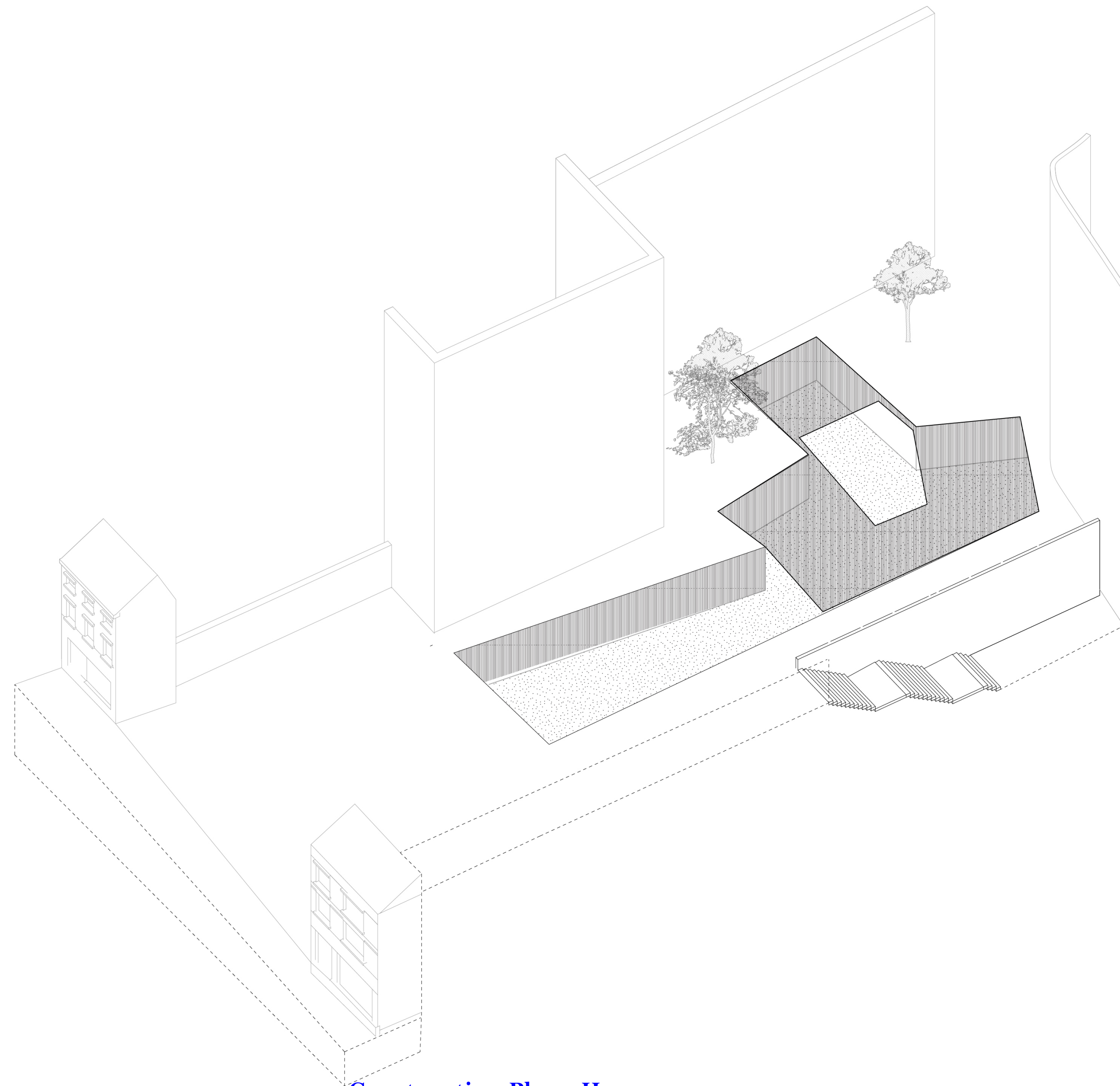
INCLUDING

[THE STROLL TO THE BATHHOUSE]



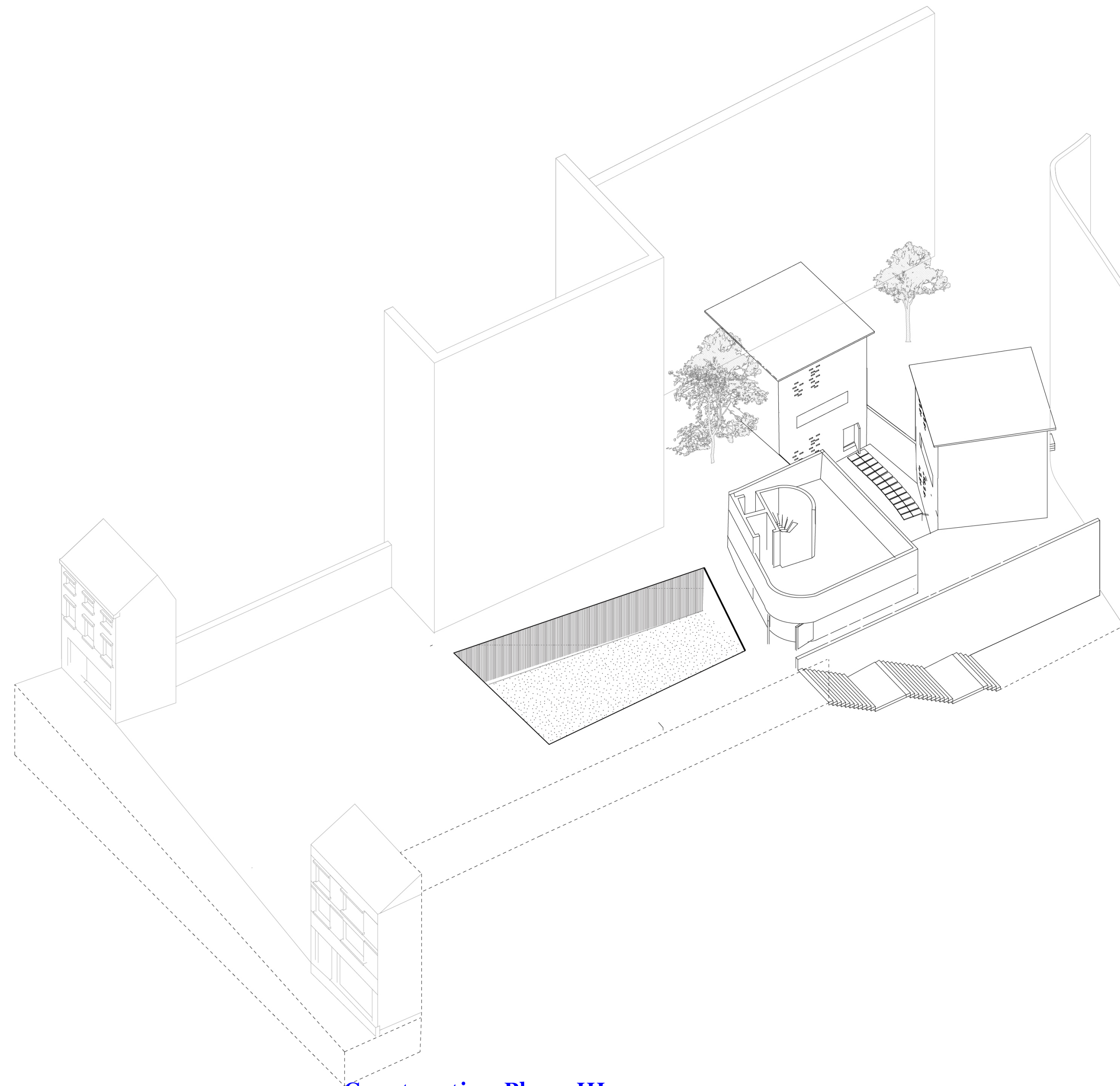
Construction Phase I

Emancipatory spatial sequence

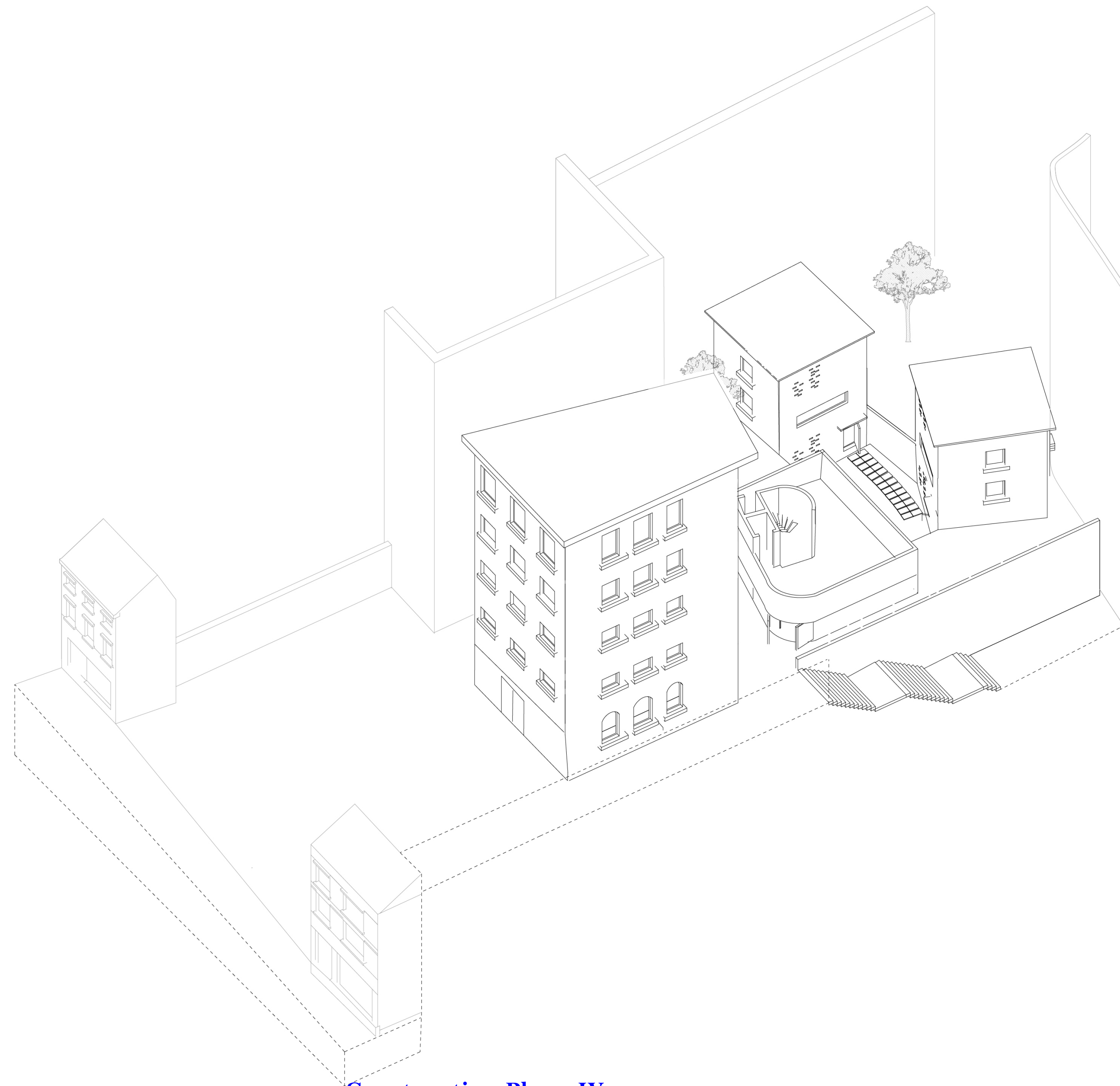


Construction Phase II

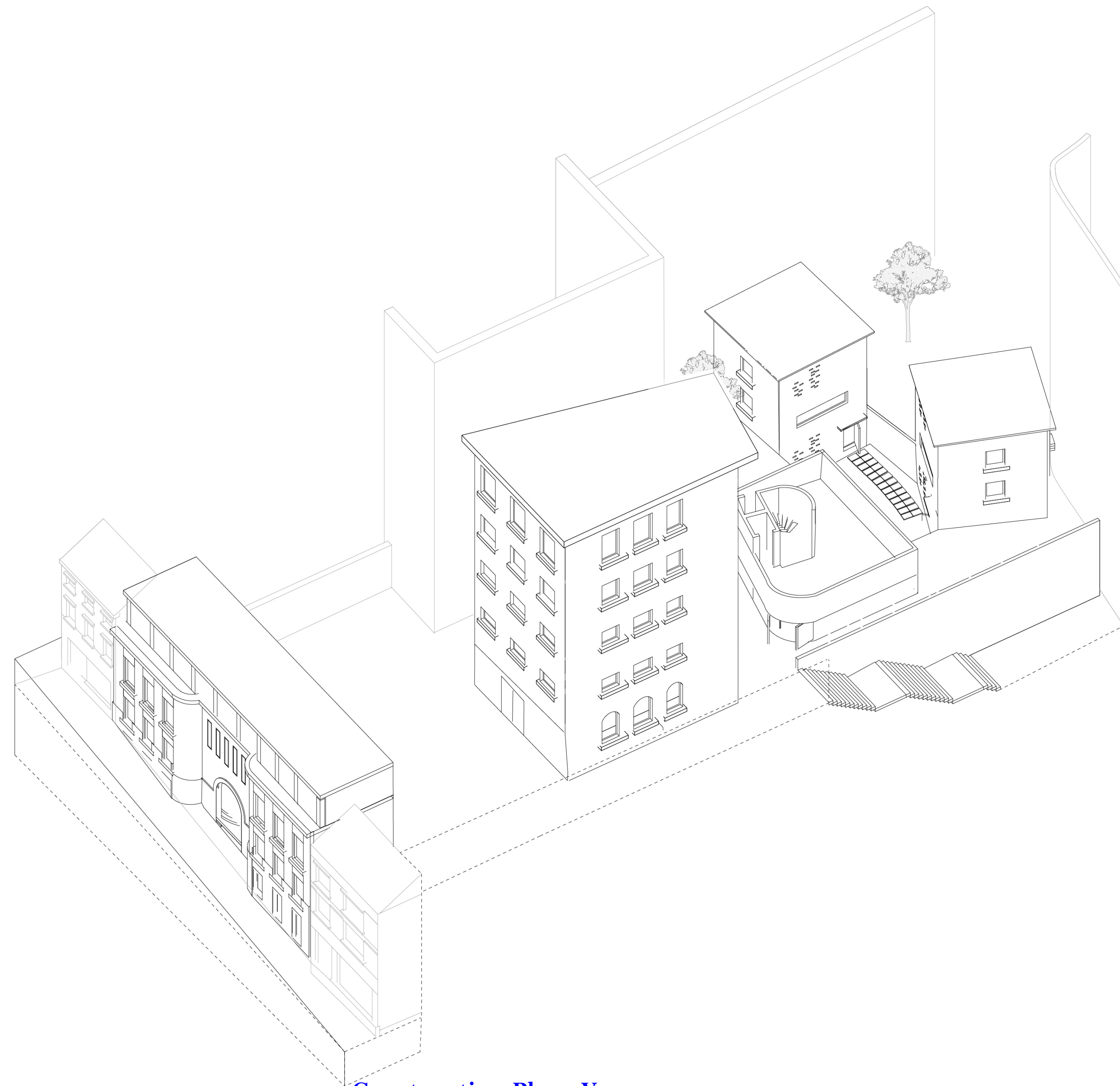
Emancipatory spatial sequence



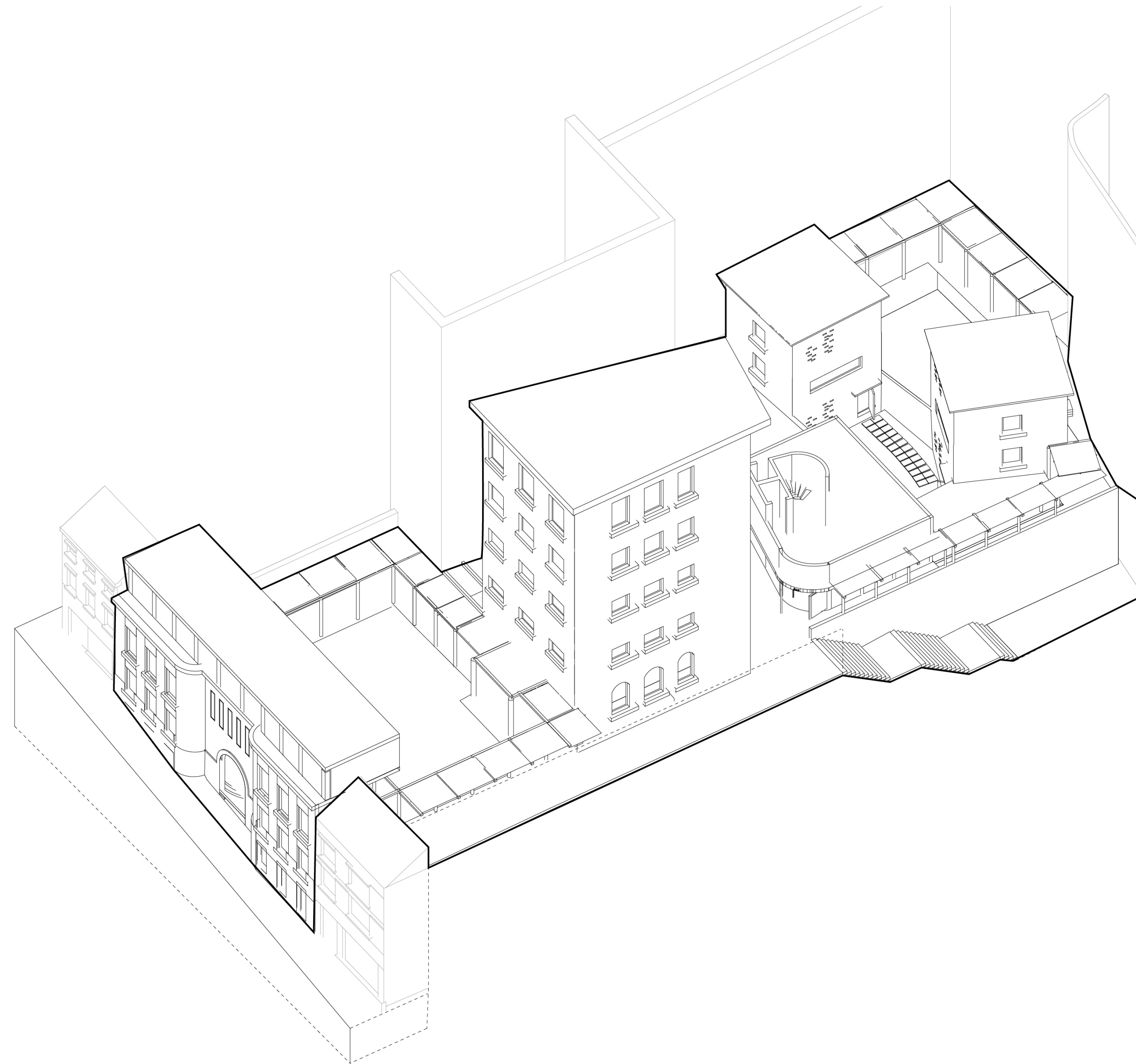
Construction Phase III
Emancipatory spatial sequence



Construction Phase IV
Emancipatory spatial sequence



Construction Phase V
Emancipatory spatial sequence



Finalisation of construction

Emancipatory spatial sequence

~The stroll to the Bathhouse~



Departure

A Stroll to the Bathhouse



A space for sex work

A Stroll to the Bathhouse

Design I

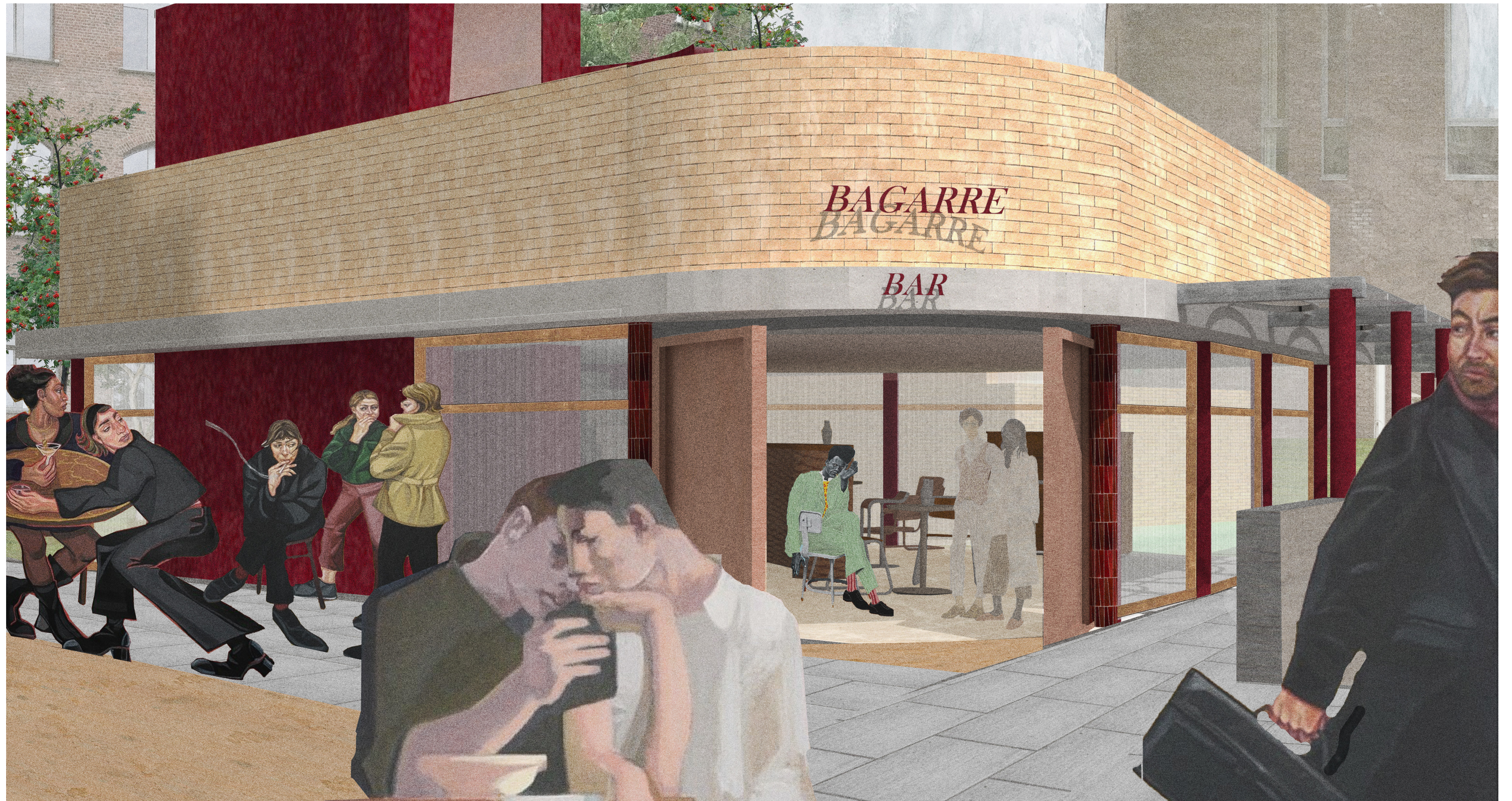




A space for sex work

A Stroll to the Bathhouse

Design I







A space for sex work

A Stroll to the Bathhouse

Design I



A space for sex work

A Stroll to the Bathhouse

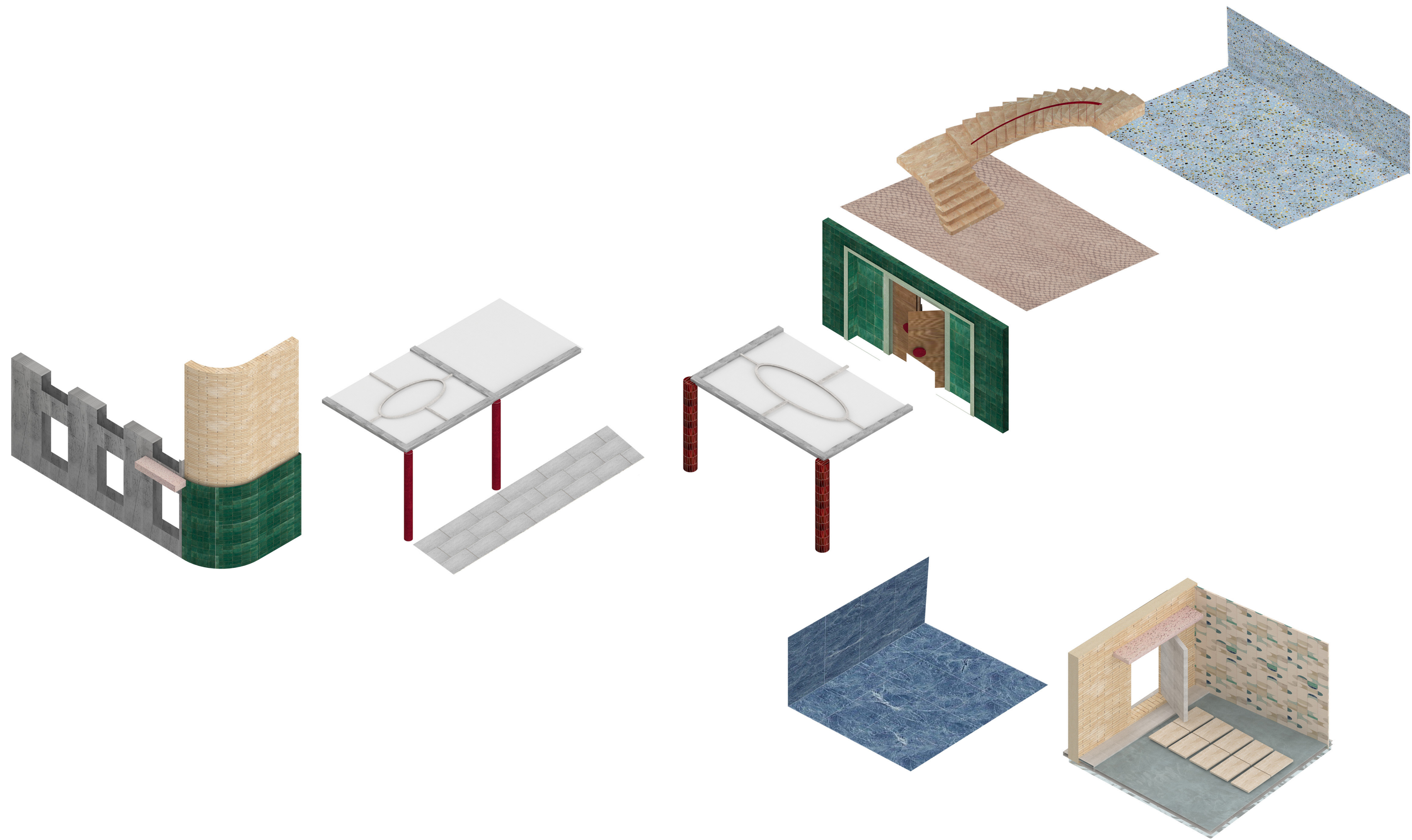
Design I



A space for sex work

A Stroll to the Bathhouse

Design I



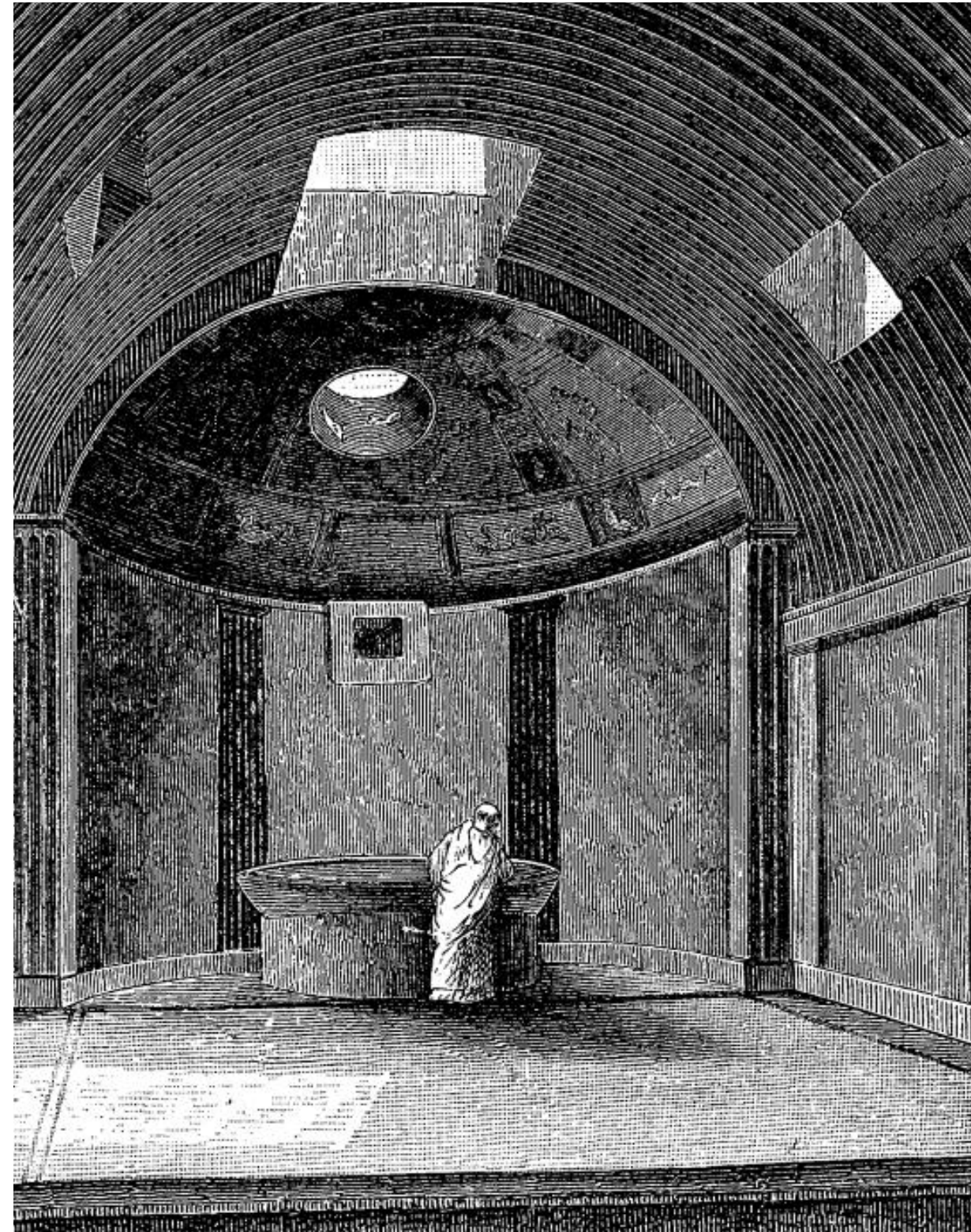
Materialisation of walkthrough
Emancipatory spatial sequence

VI. GARDEN OF QUEER PLEASURES

Encounters between the intimate and the public

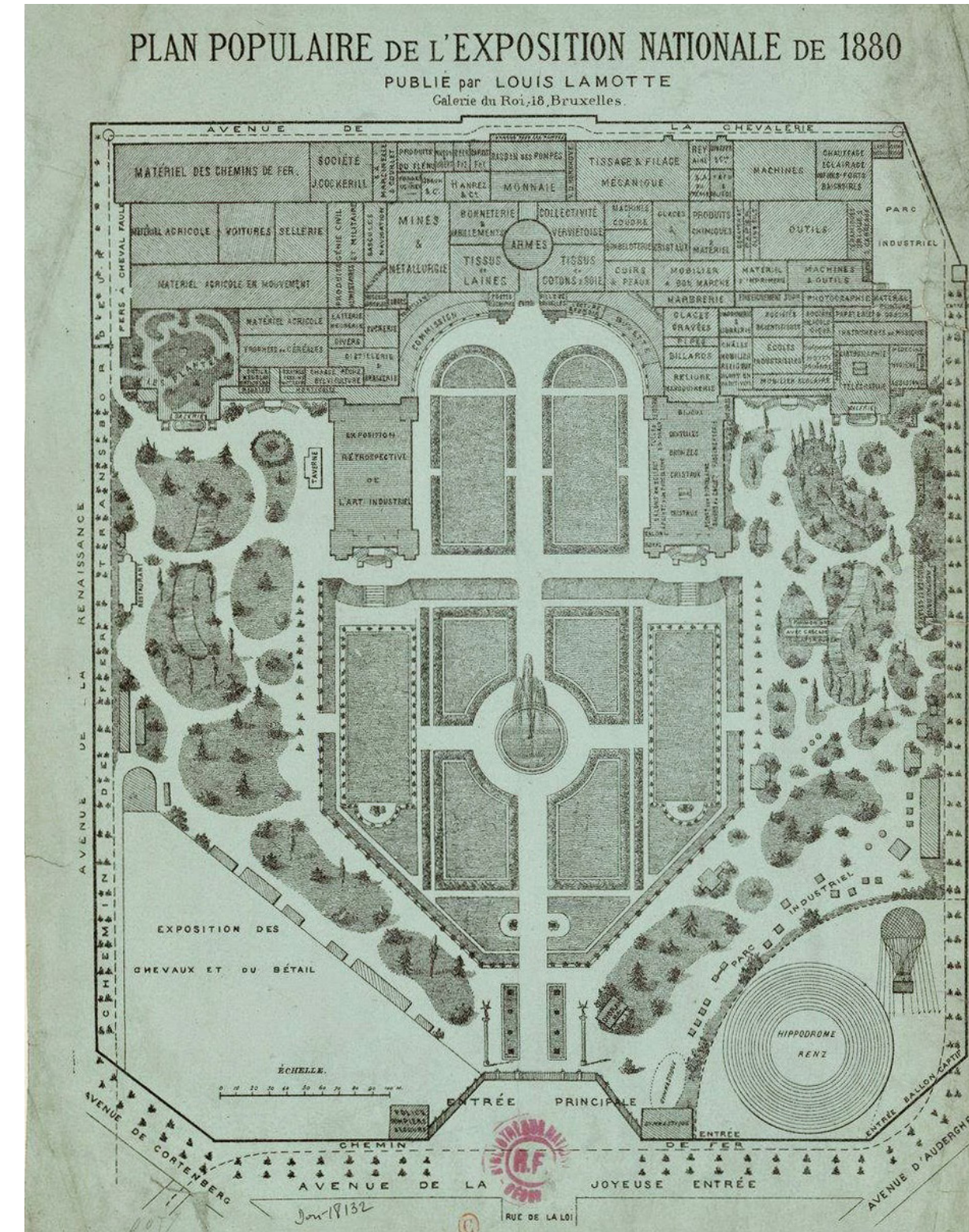
“(Gardens functioned) as physical and spiritual arenas in which women strove to assert control, define their identity, struggle with sexual feelings or embrace the world”

-Sue Bennet



*Caldarium,
Harry Thurston Peck*

A space for sex work



*Parc du Cinquenaire,
Louis Lamotte*

Feminist references
Garden of queer pleasures

Design II



Flower garden

Secret garden

Wet garden

Floorplan of Gardens
Garden of queer pleasures



Wet garden

Garden of queer pleasures

A space for sex work

Design II



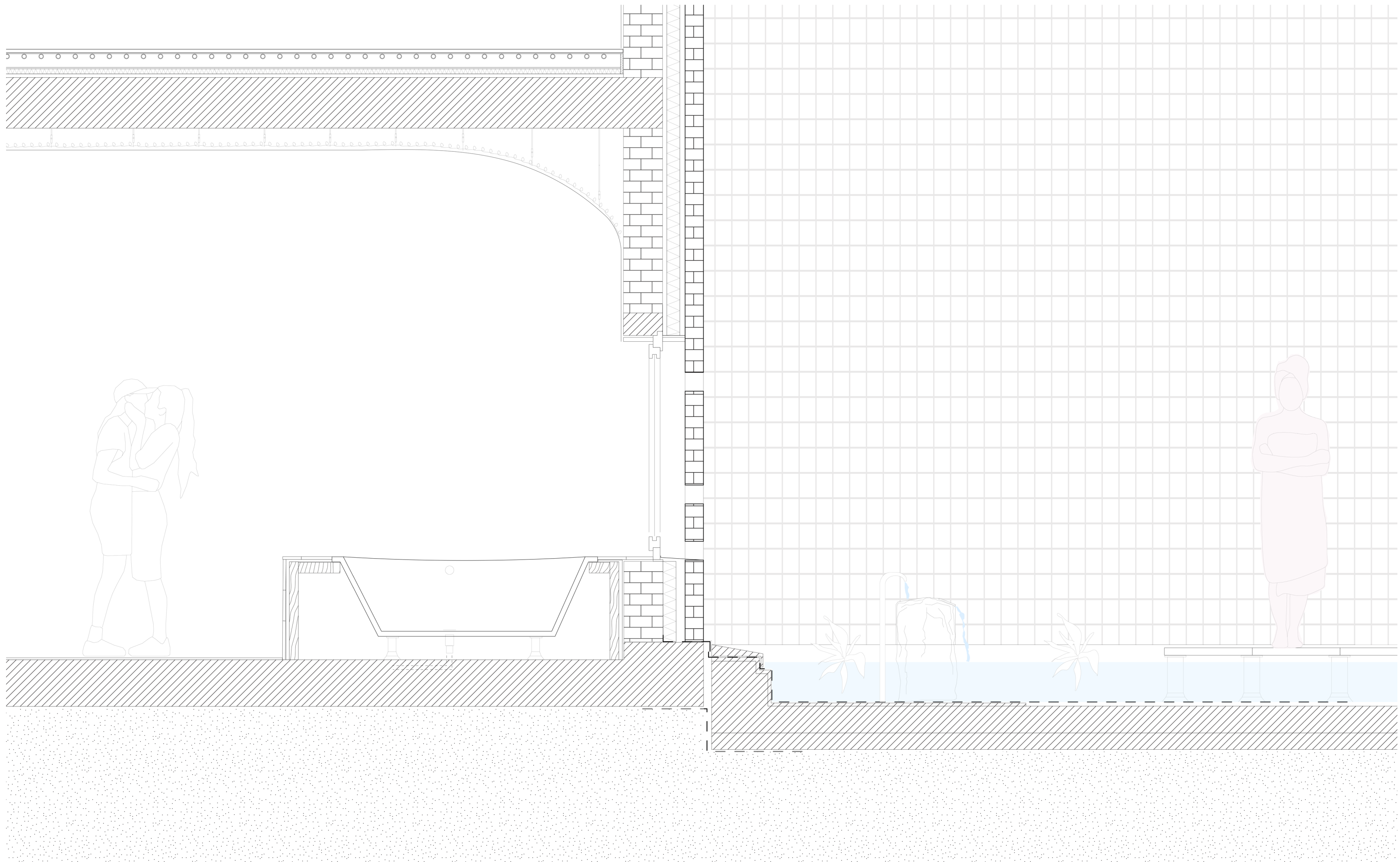
Wet garden
Garden of queer pleasures

A space for sex work



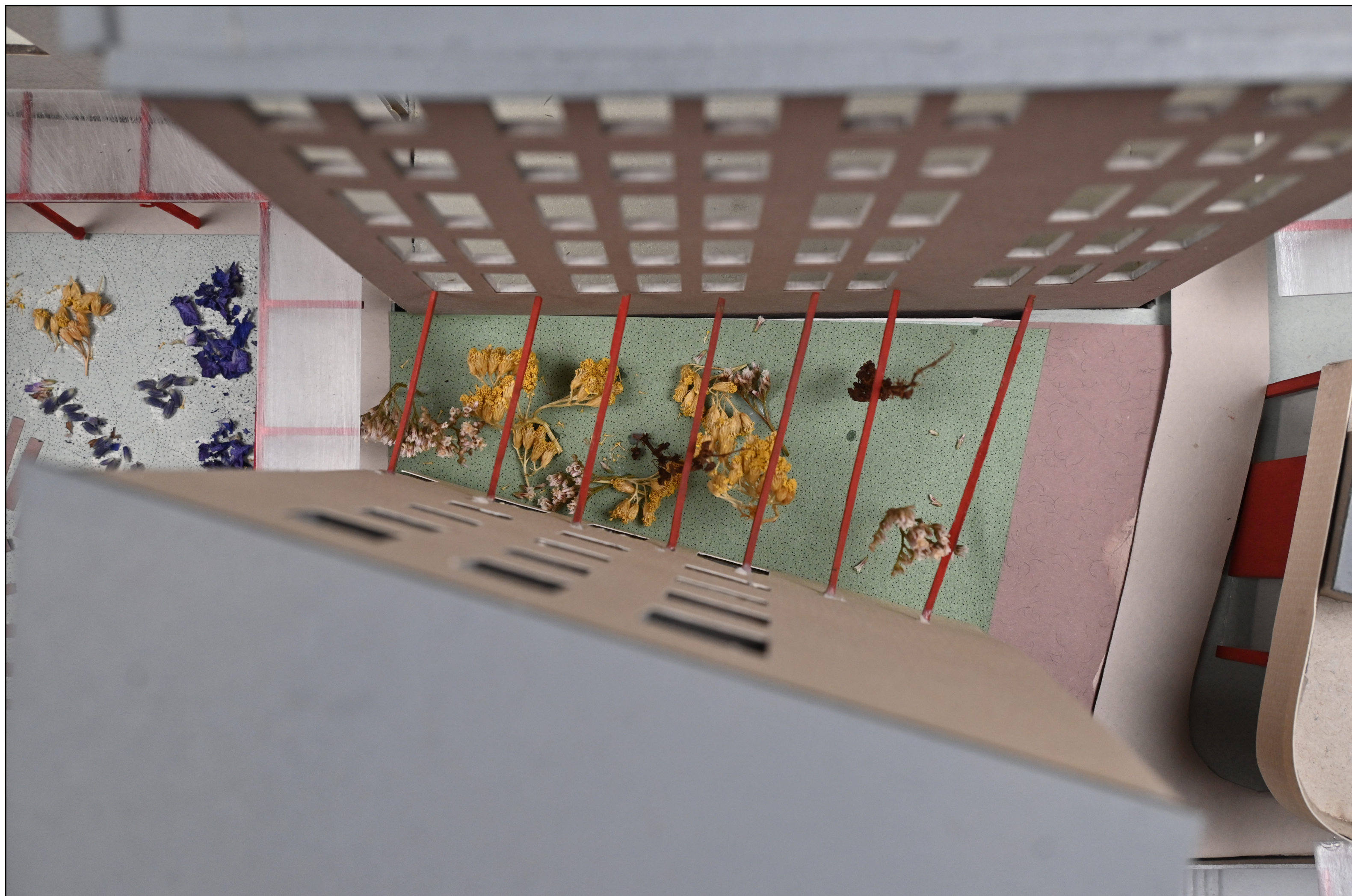
Nelumbo Nucifera
Lotus flower

Design II



Rooms for escorts - Wet garden

Detail 1:20



Secret garden
Garden of queer pleasures

A space for sex work

Design II



Secret garden
Garden of queer pleasures

A space for sex work

Design II



Flower garden
Garden of queer pleasures

A space for sex work

Design II



Lavandula
Lavender



Passiflora Incarnata
Passiflora



Maticaria Recutita
Chamomile



Echinacea
Coneflower



Flower garden - Entrance to tower
Garden of queer pleasures

VII. INTERIORS FOR EXO-DOMESTIC SEXUALITY

Rethinking intimacy and eroticism from a feminist perspective



*The temple of Friendship,
Natalie Clifford Barney*



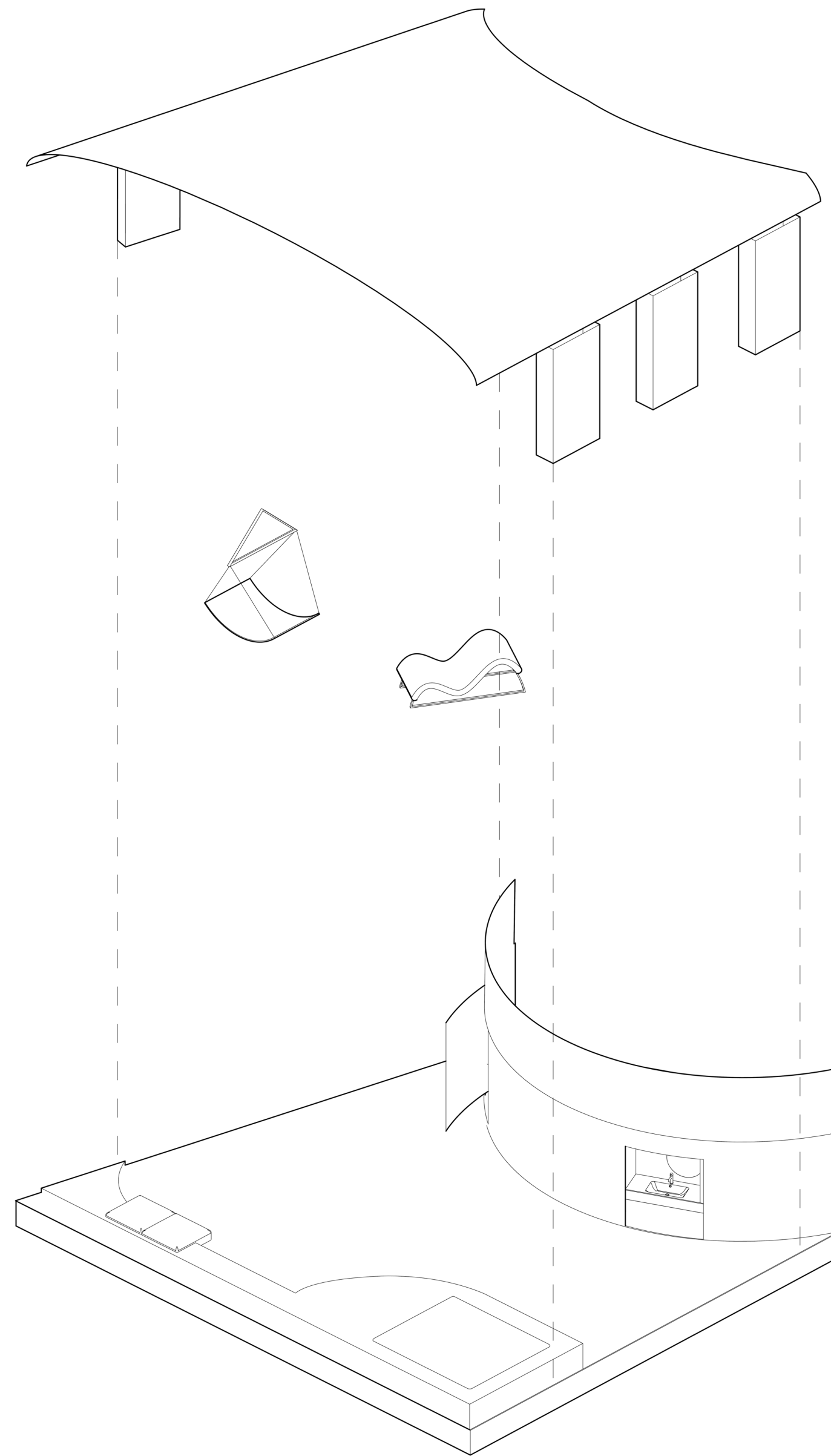
*Monte carlo Boudoir,
Eileen Grey*

Feminist references

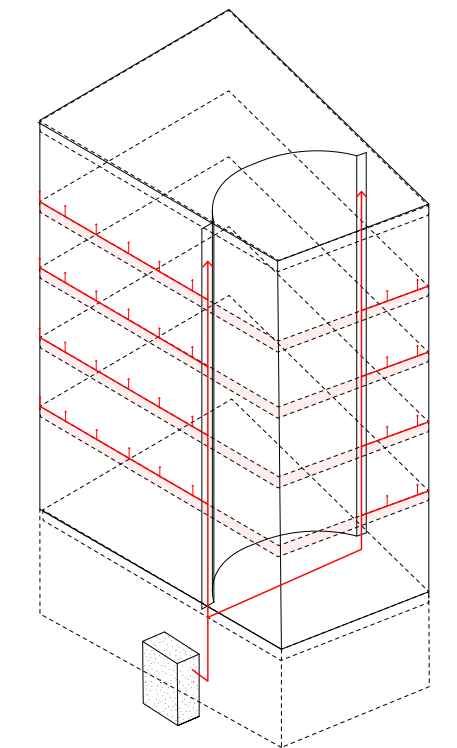
Interiors for exo-domestic sexuality

“The space doesn’t need to be sexual (...) The sex worker can bring the ‘sexy’ with her. What I would like is a space that is clearly used for what we do, without becoming a sex dungeon (...). A space that I can adapt to create a safe relation with the client”

-Sira, worker in a lesbian escort agency, Interviewed in April 2022 in Amsterdam



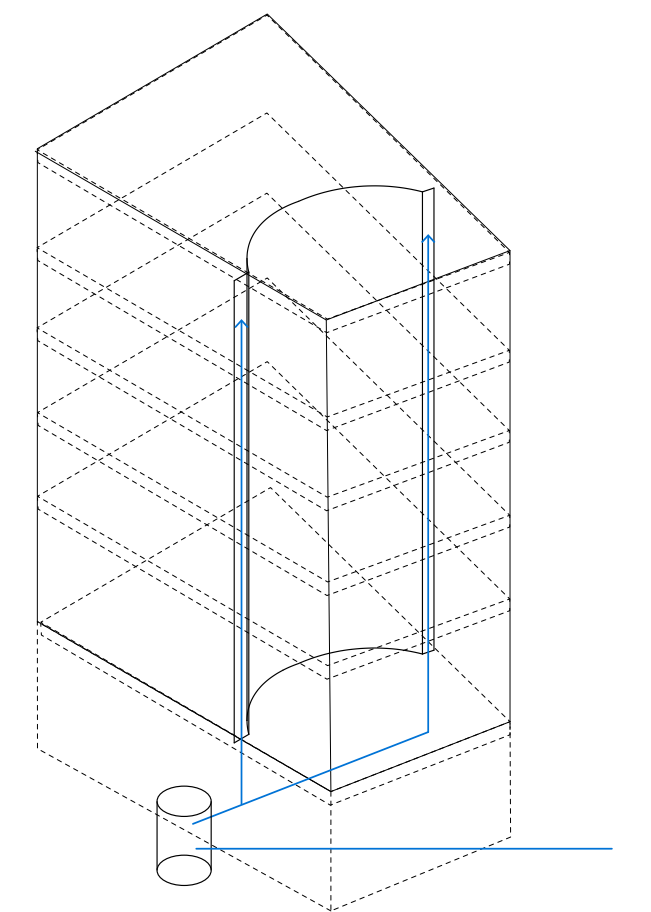
System axonometric of sex rooms
Interiors for exo-domestic sexuality



Heat

Climatisation of sex rooms

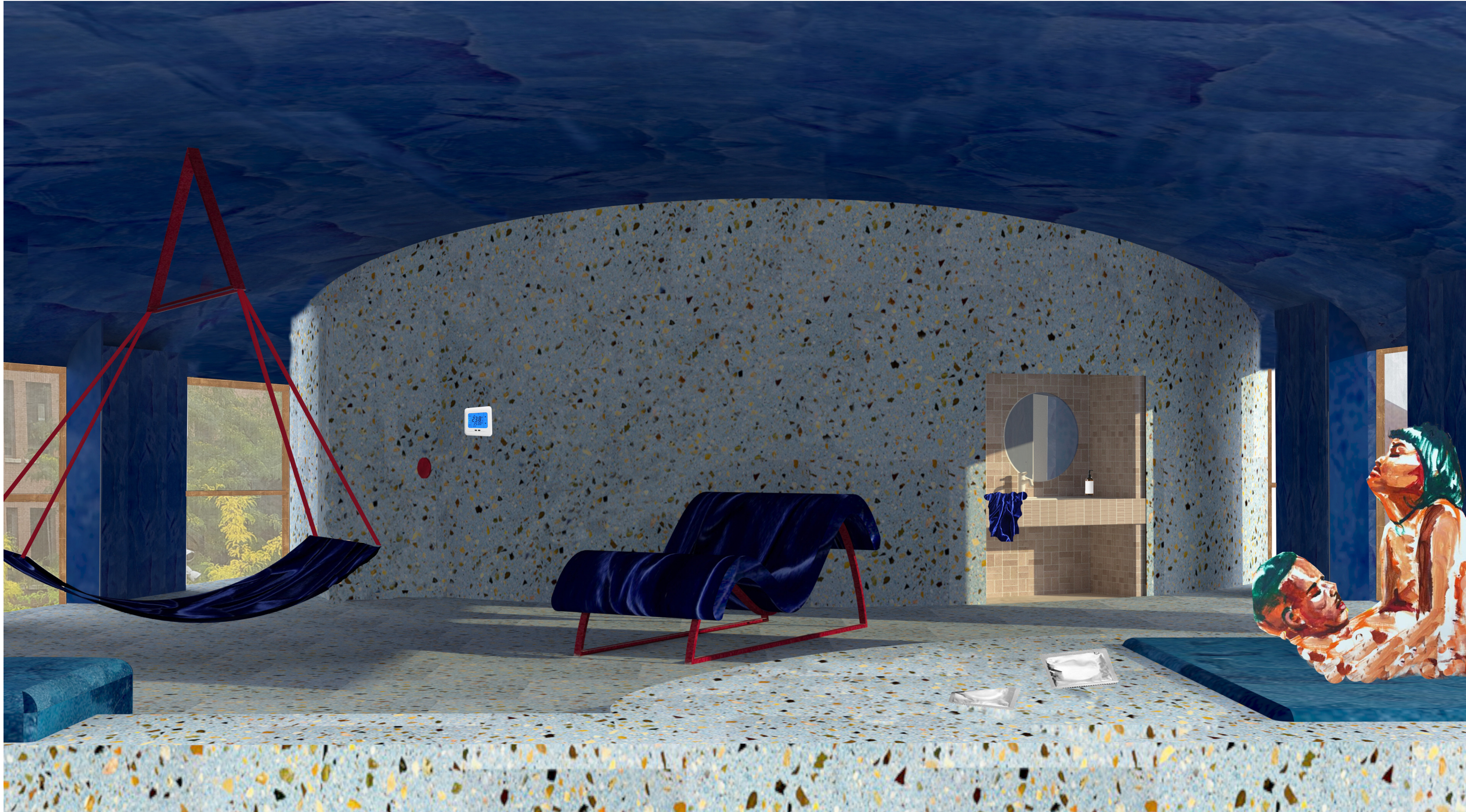
Interiors for exo-domestic sexuality



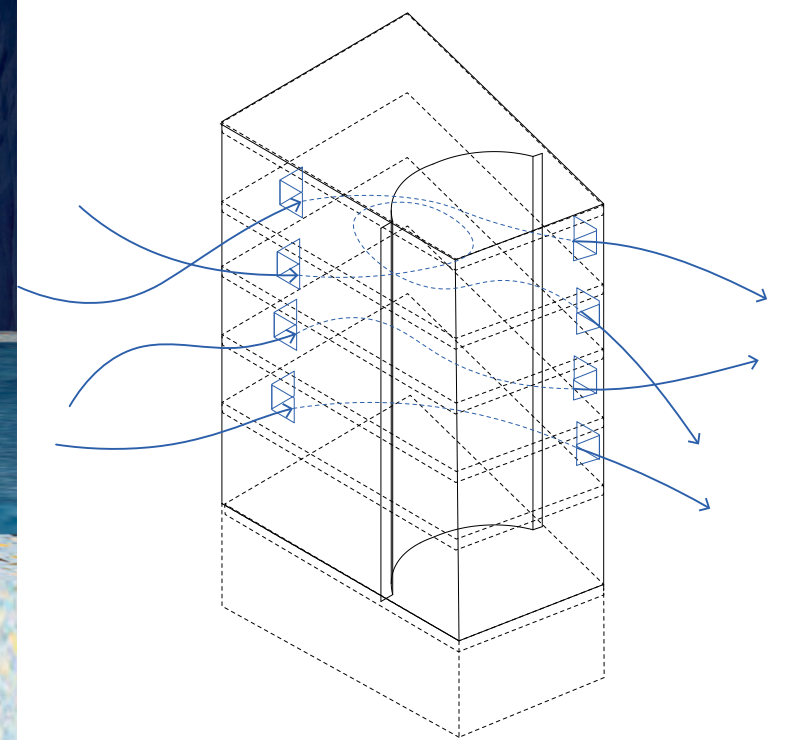
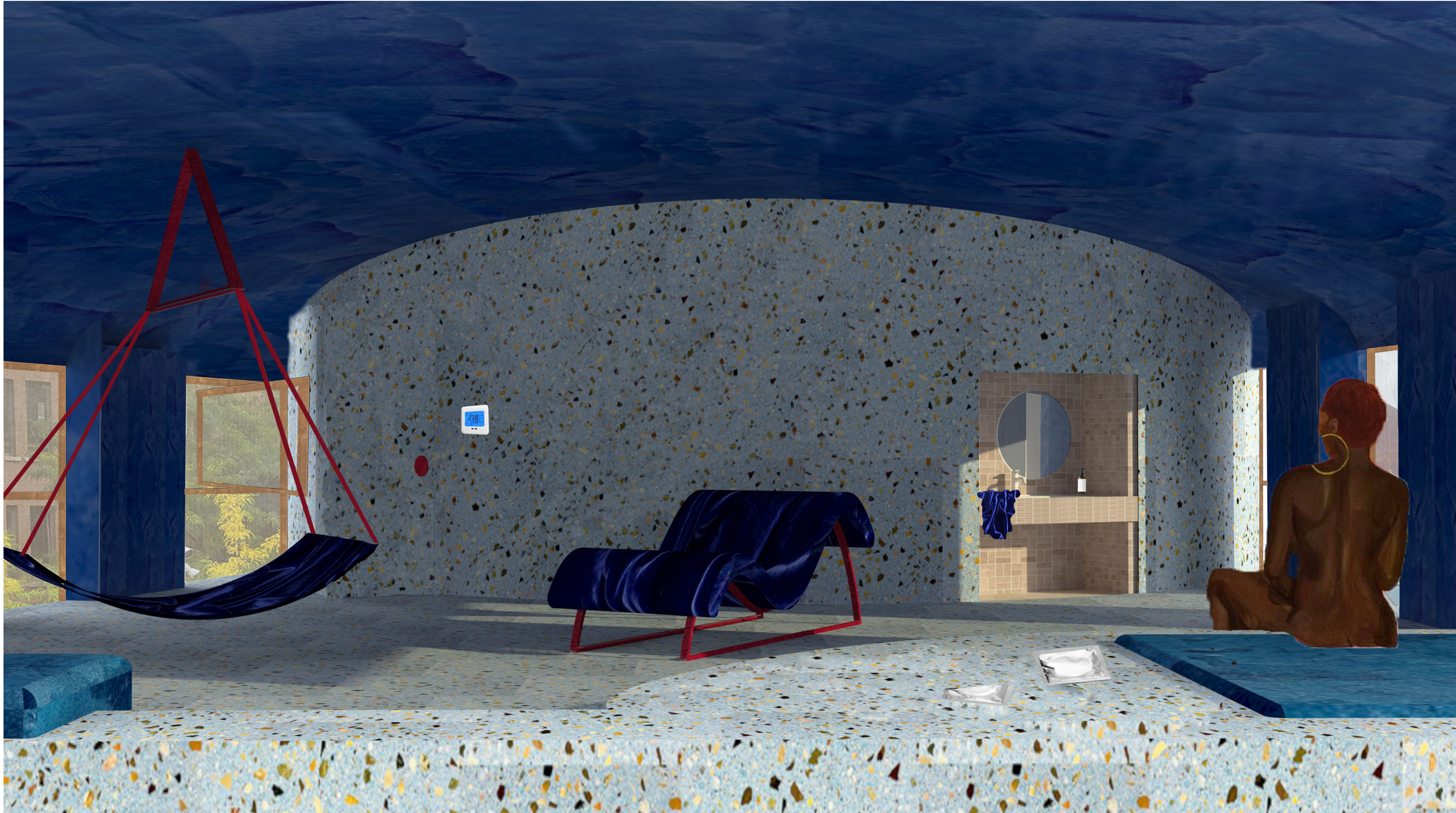
Water

Climatisation of sex rooms

Interiors for exo-domestic sexuality



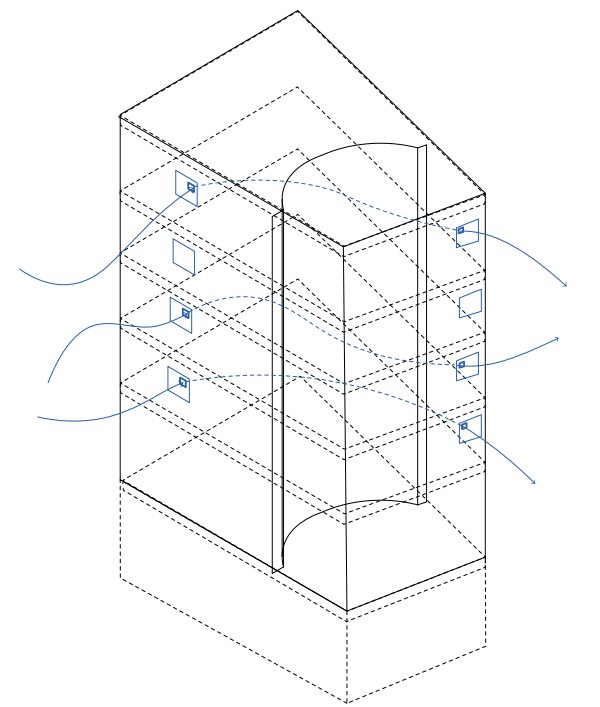
Climatisation of sex rooms
Interiors for exo-domestic sexuality



Ventilation - Summer

Climatisation of sex rooms

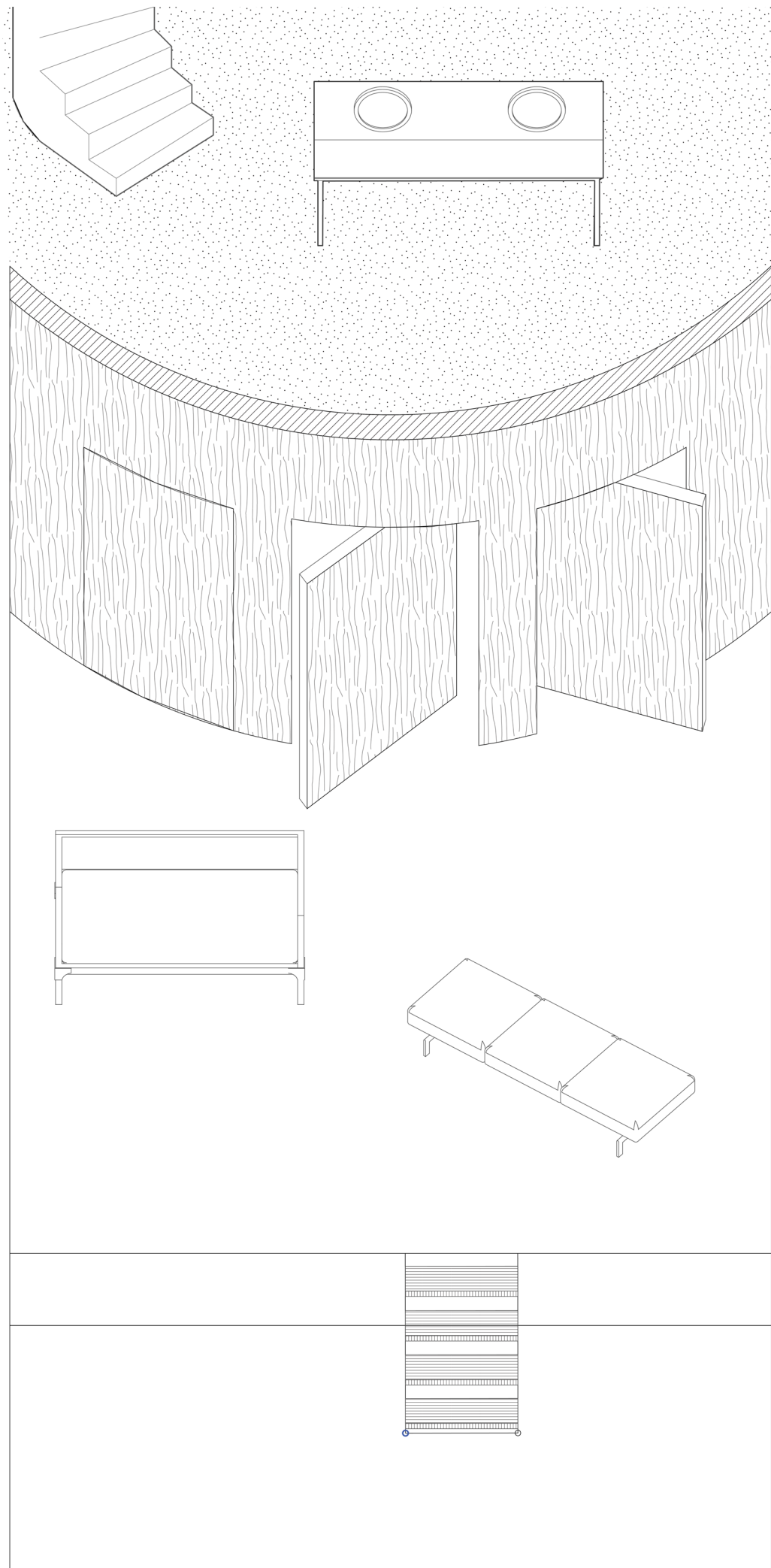
Interiors for exo-domestic sexuality



Ventilation - Winter

Climatisation of sex rooms

Interiors for exo-domestic sexuality



Boudoir as space of colletivity and transition
Interiors for exo-domestic sexuality

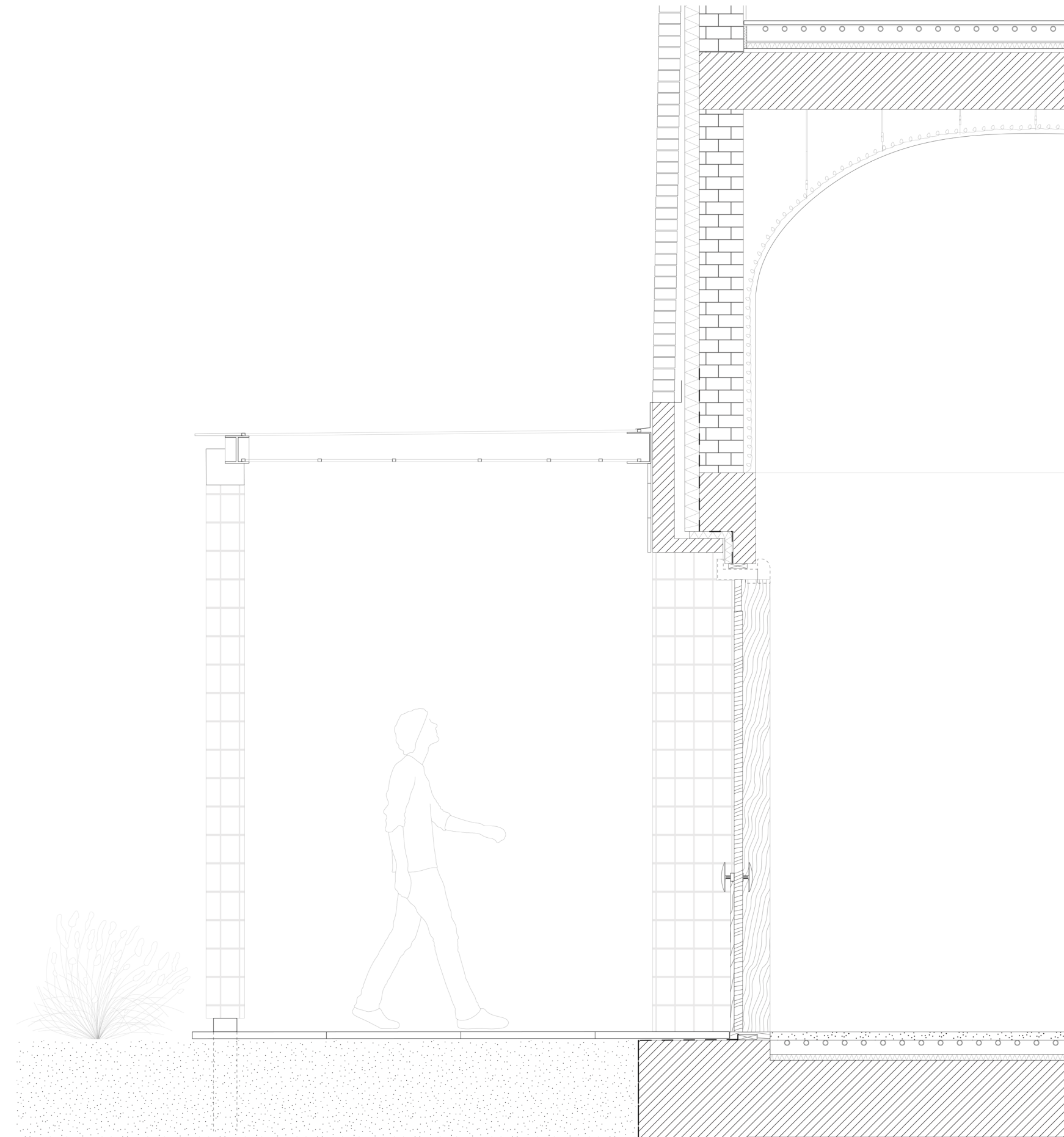


Circulation of tower

Interiors for exo-domestic sexuality

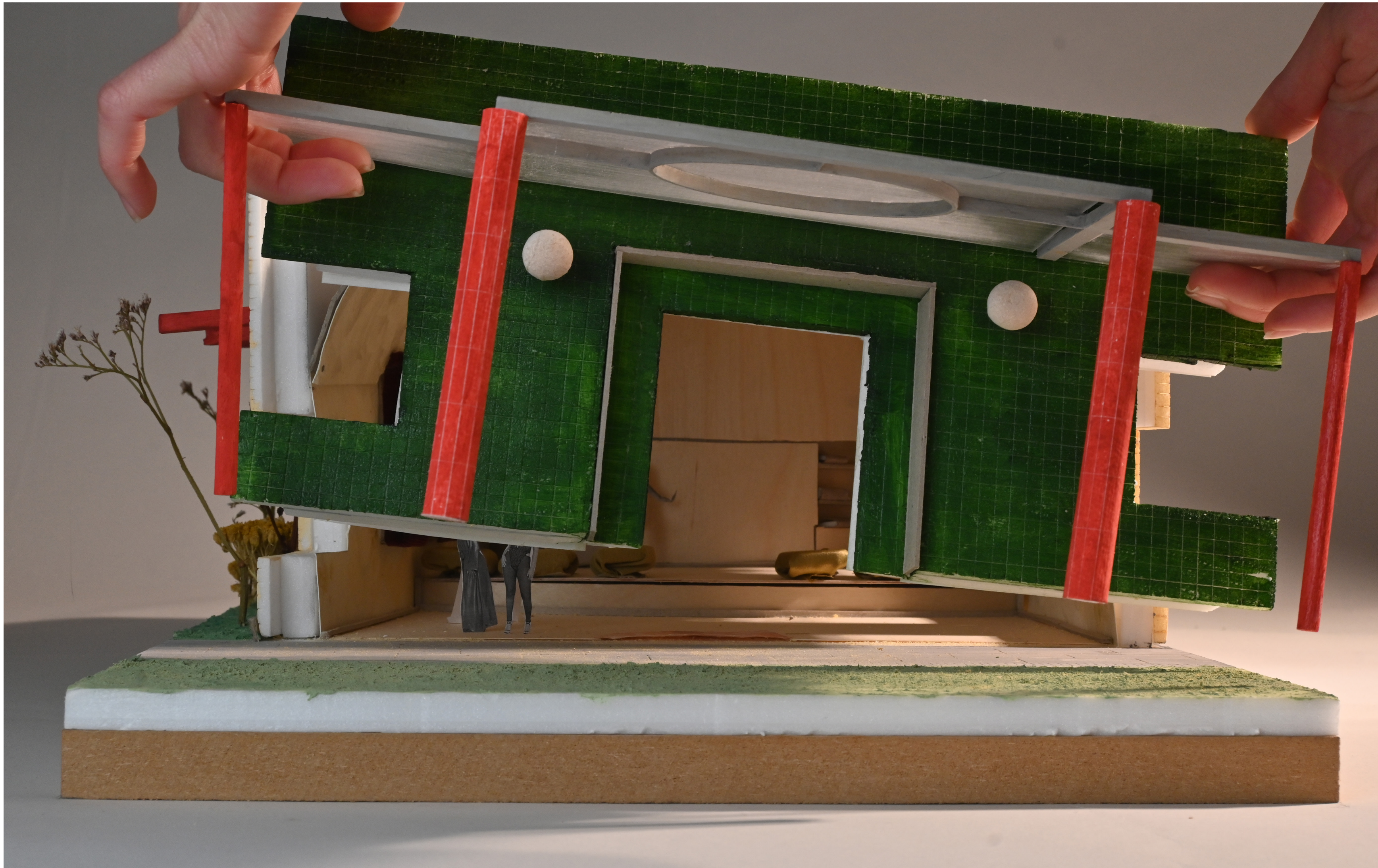
~The Meeting in Velvet~





Entrance to tower, Detail 1:20

The Meeting in Velvet









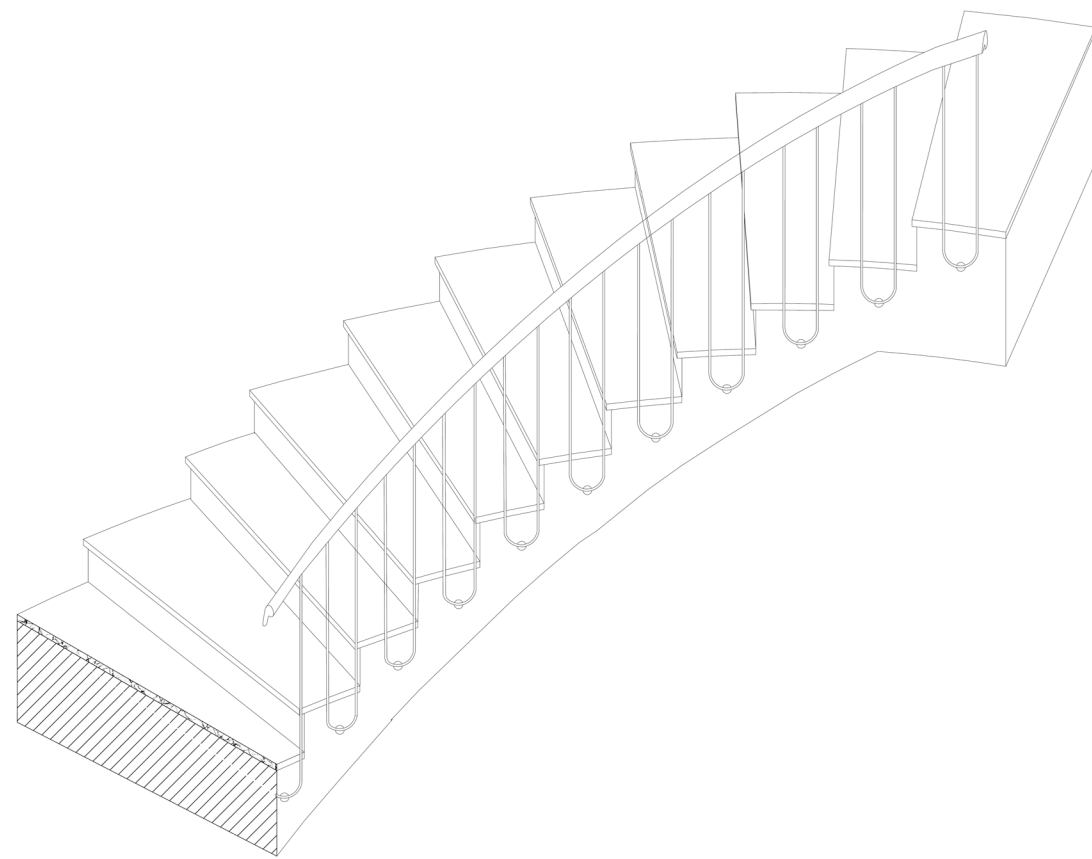
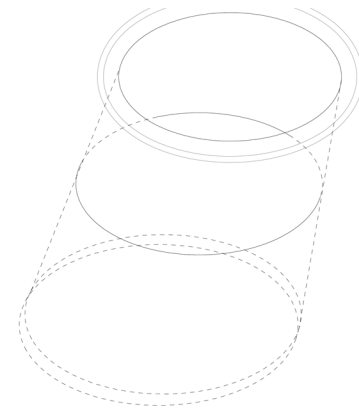
A space for sex work

The Meeting in Velvet

Design III

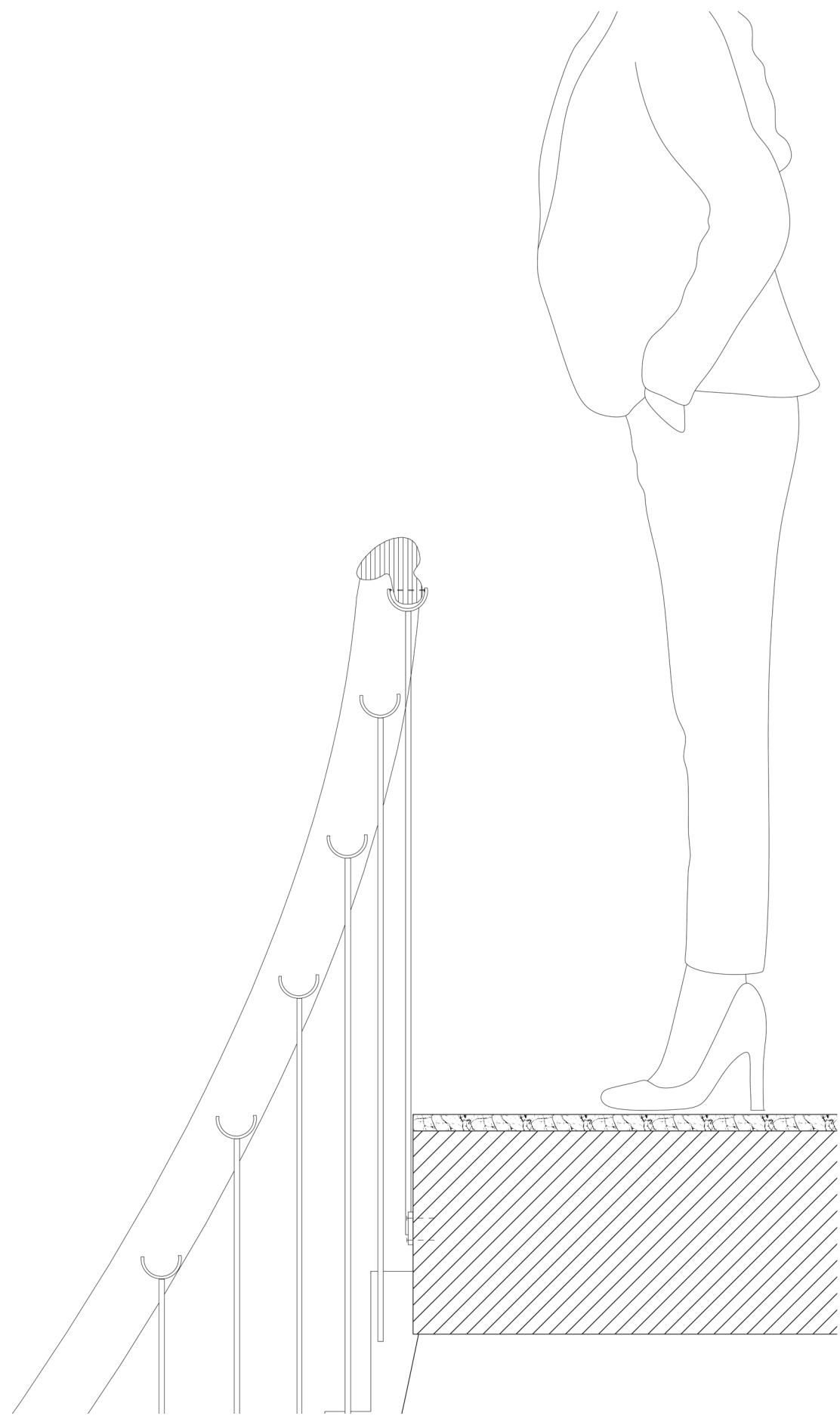
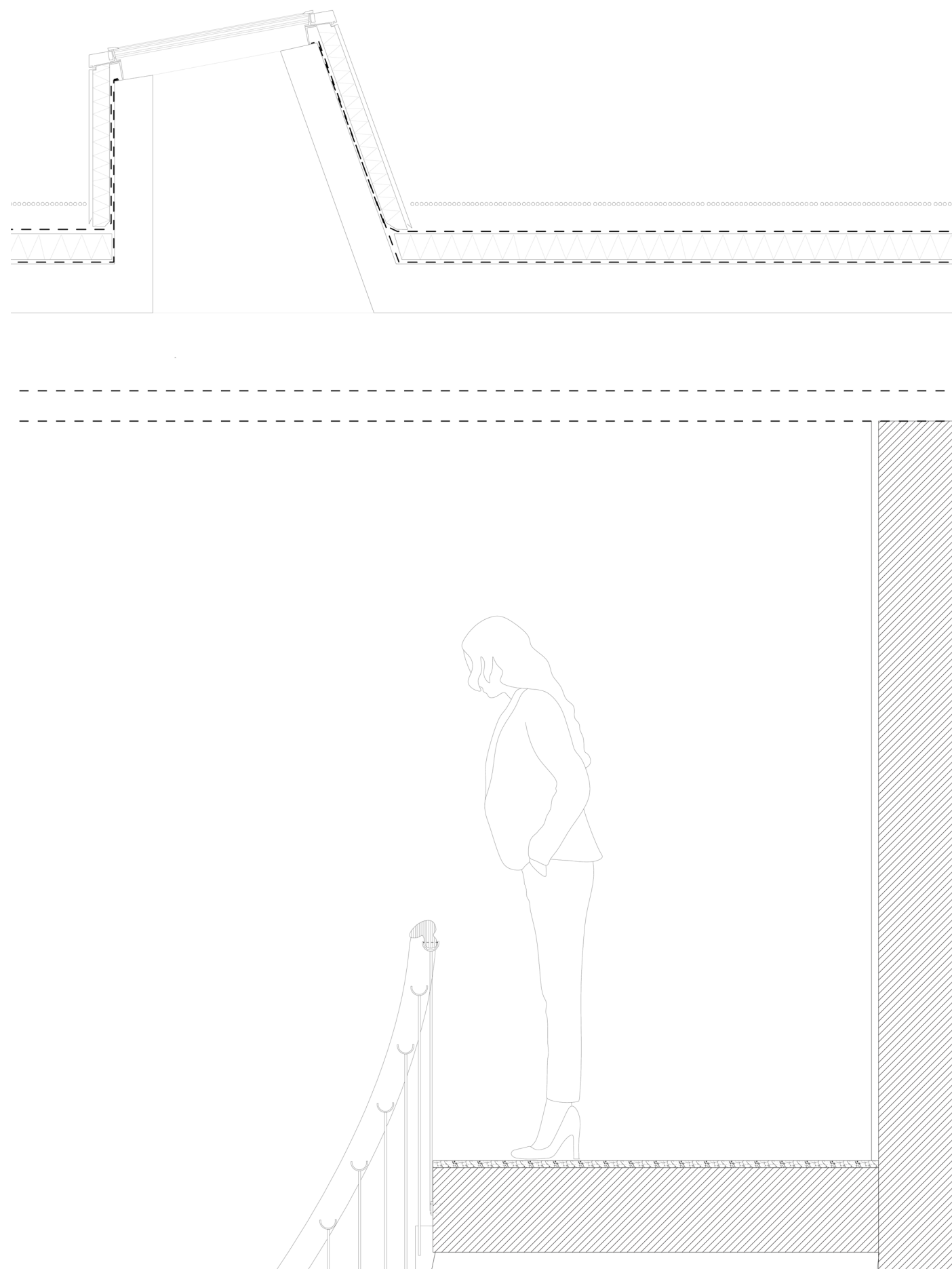






Elementss of circulation

The Meeting in Velvet



Details 1:10, 1:5
The Meeting in Velvet





VIII. CONCLUSION





~The End~

Thank you!