



Le Belle Addormentate

Sleeping Beauties

Delft University of Technology

1st mentor Susanne Pietsch

2nd mentor Rufus van den Ban

3rd mentor Lidy Meijers



Awakening Italy's dormant towns through community engagement



A sleeping beauty reawakened



Angera as a sleeping beauty



Angera

A post-industrial town on Lake Maggiore



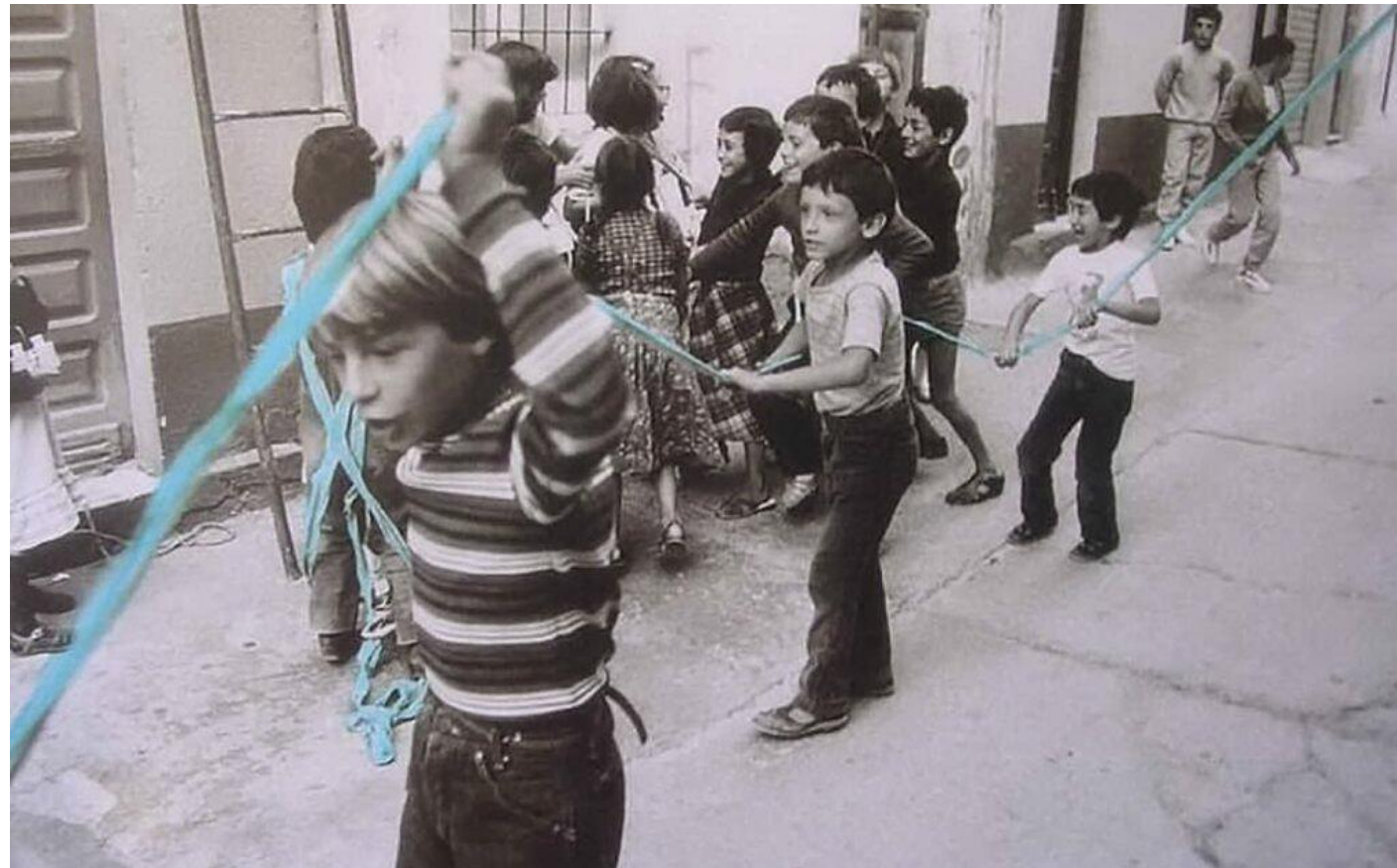
Problem statement

Industry closures, youth emigration, and low birth rates leading to aging population and neglected infrastructure



Problem statement

Strategies focusing on superficial measures and neglecting deeper social needs



Project aim

A community-driven strategy for revitalizing declining post-industrial towns
with Angera as a testing ground

How can spatial and organizational practices revitalize Italy's dormant **towns** impacted by the decline of **industrial** activities and facilitate **community** development?

Research question



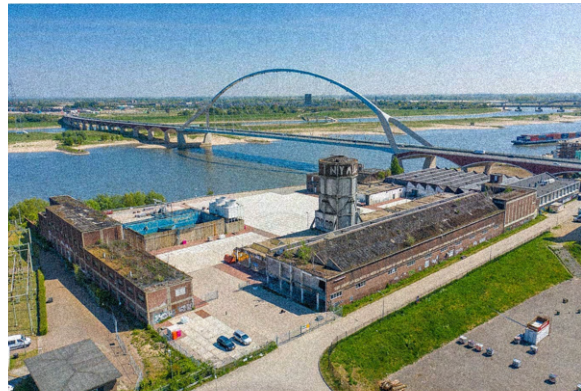
Research framework

town



Monte Carasso, CH

industrial



NYMA, NL

commoning



Prinzessinnengarten, DE



Farm Cultural Park, IT



Blackhorse Workshop, UK



Stad in de Maak, NL



Ostana, IT



Common Ground, KS



Poortgebouw, NL

Case studies

How can spatial and organizational practices revitalize Italy's dormant towns impacted by the decline of industrial activities and facilitate community development?



Preliminary conclusion

How can spatial and organizational practices revitalize Italy's dormant towns impacted by the decline of industrial activities and facilitate community development?



Program

Criterion:

**focus on cultural production
instead of consumption**

Strategies:

- social cohesion
- entrepreneurship
- education

...

Preliminary conclusion

How can spatial and organizational practices revitalize Italy's dormant towns impacted by the decline of industrial activities and facilitate community development?



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-education
...

Organizational

Criterion:
facilitate collaborative processes

**attract investors and secure funding
through strategic partnerships**

Strategies:
-engage important actors
-business plan
-local traditions
-collaborative hands-on construction
-local expertise
-organic phasing
...

Preliminary conclusion

How can spatial and organizational practices revitalize Italy's dormant towns impacted by the decline of industrial activities and facilitate community development?



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Spatial

Criterion:
**create focal point(s) as
testing ground and catalyst**

Strategies:
-use and revalue existing infrastructure
-minimal interventions
-hybrid functions
-transformation framework
...

Preliminary conclusion

How can spatial and organizational practices revitalize Italy's dormant towns impacted by the decline of industrial activities and facilitate community development?



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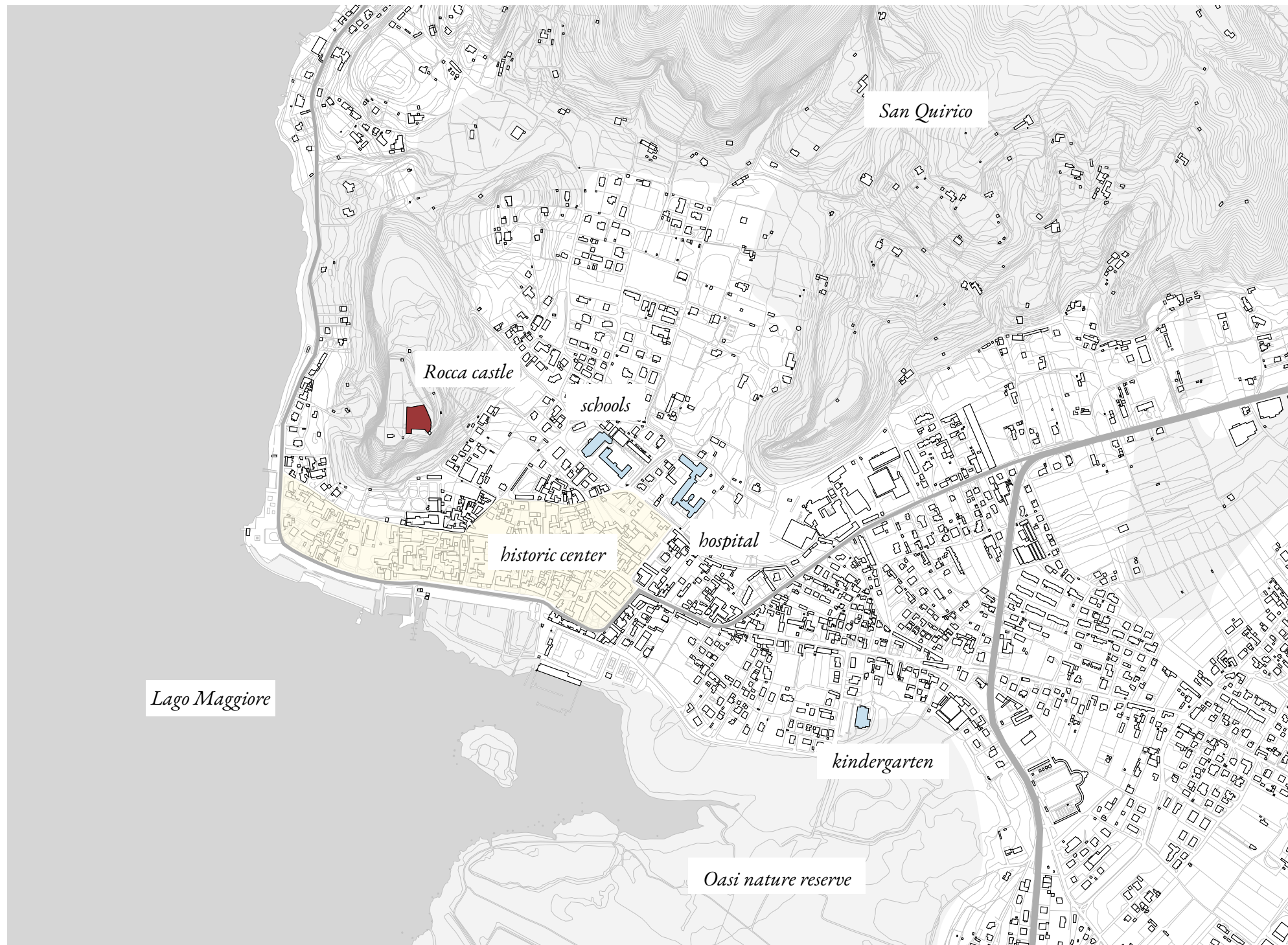
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Need of a strategic plan

Preliminary conclusion



Context

Map of Angera



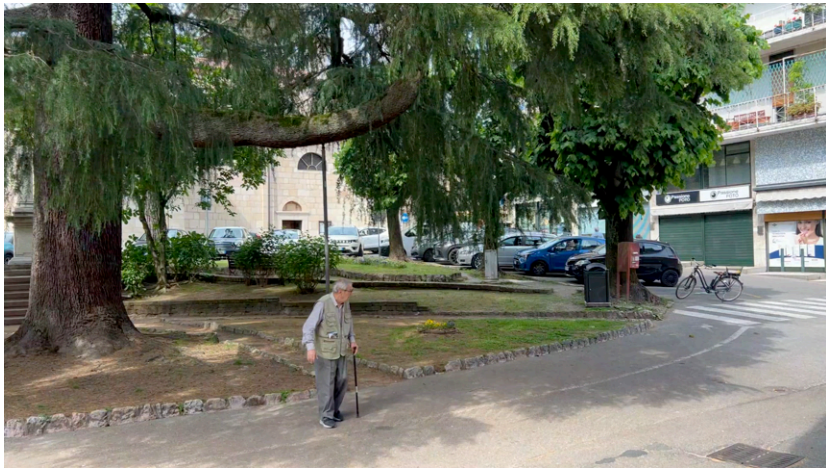
Lakeside alley



Piazza Garibaldi



Main Street, via Mario Greppi



Piazza Parrocchiale

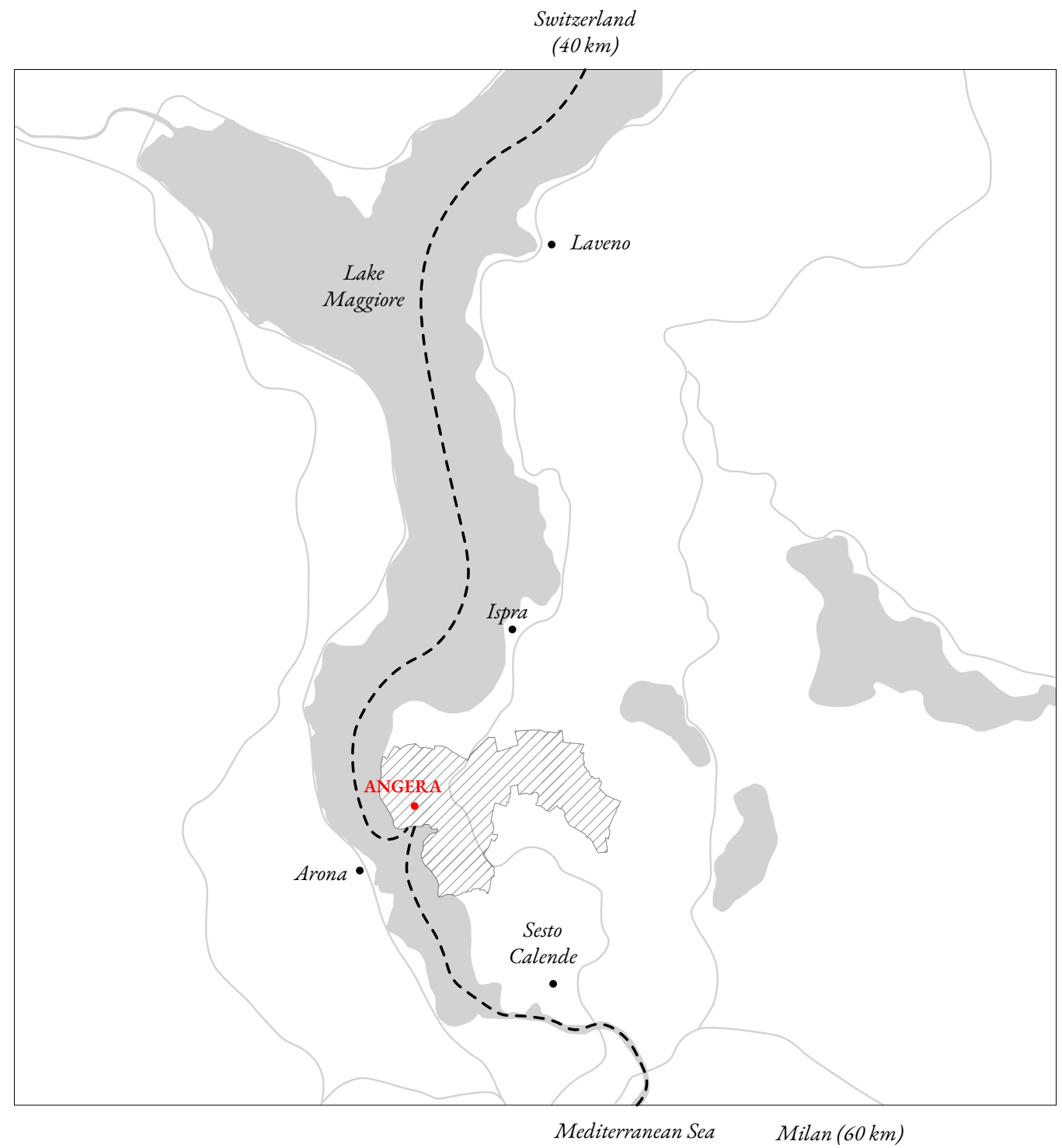


Circolo operaio community center



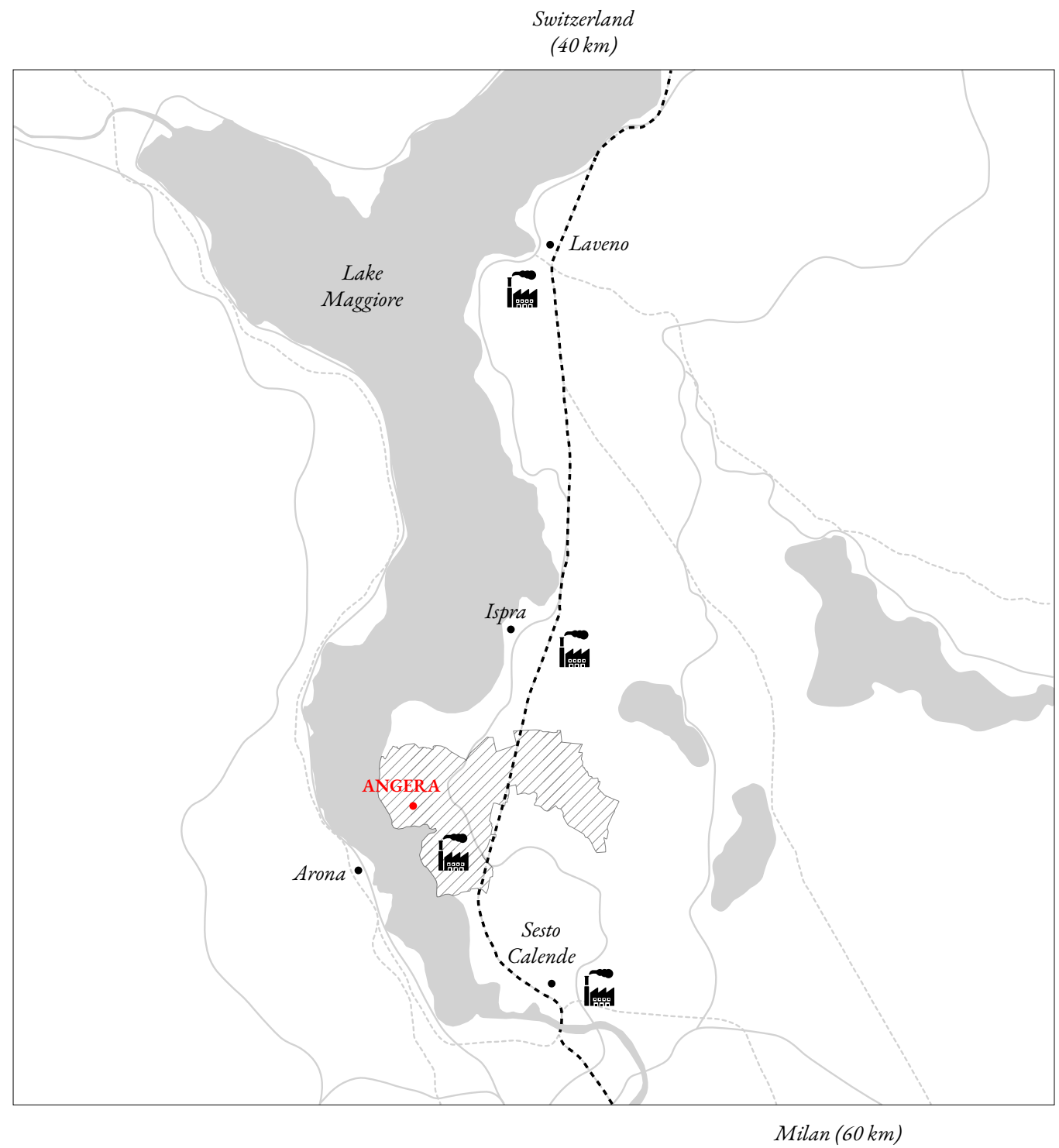
San Quirico hill

Context



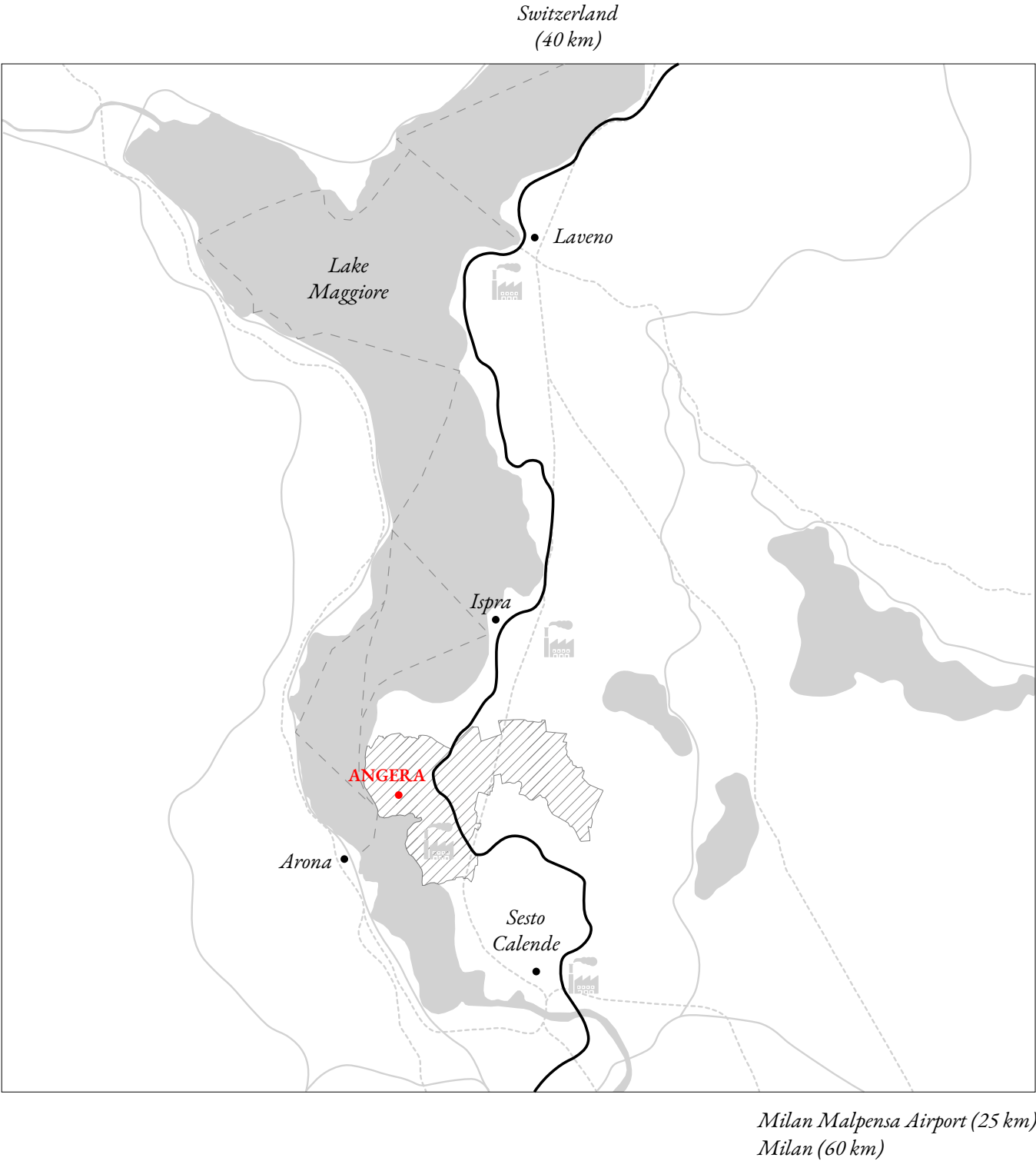
Angera's evolution

Strategic commercial node, <1900



Angera's evolution

Industrial emergence, 1900-1990



Angera's evolution
 Lack of attraction, >1990



Gastronomer



Mother of two



Woman who lived in Soara



Theater maker and primary school teacher



Elderly couple



High end tailor



Retired artist in wheelchair



Woman who lived in Soara



5th generation of Rossi d'Angera



Saffron farmers



Carpenter



Artist

Conversations with locals



Mother of two



“Mums are destined to become taxi drivers here.”

Conversations with locals



Theater maker and primary school teacher

“I always tell my husband: if I win the lottery, I want to build a place in Angera for everyone where people can come together, share stories, and learn from each other across generations.”

Conversations with locals



Gastronomer



“There used to be this big event: La Festa dell’Uva, that would bring the whole town together as well as people from outside. There is nothing anymore.”

Conversations with locals



Saffron farmers



“There is no network, but there is no will either.”

Conversations with locals



Strategic plan

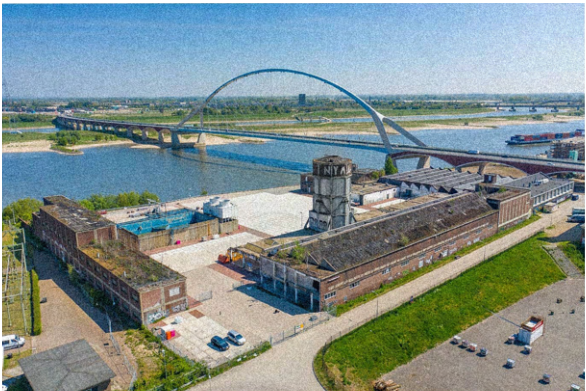
A network and critical mass needed

town



Monte Carasso, CH

industrial



NYMA, NL



Farm Cultural Park, IT



Blackhorse Workshop, UK



Strategic plan

Support from larger stakeholders



Education / Entrepreneurship



Commercial



Cultural

Strategic plan

A new communal node



Strategic plan

The Soara factory



10 min walking (850 m)
20 min walking (1.4 km)

Strategic plan

The Soara as a testing ground



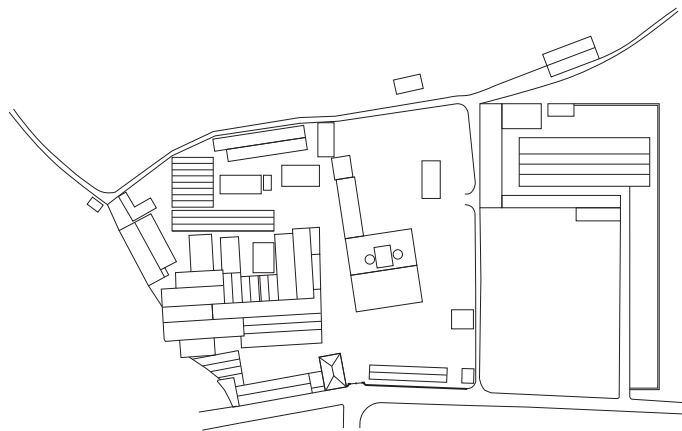
Soara



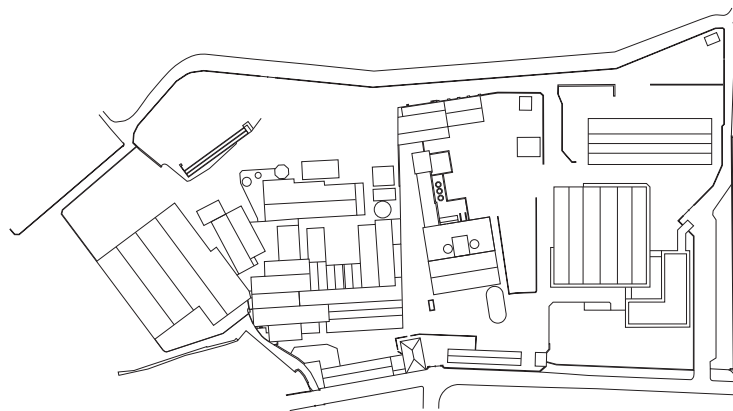
Historic overview

Production of magnesium salts and lime (1909 - 1990)

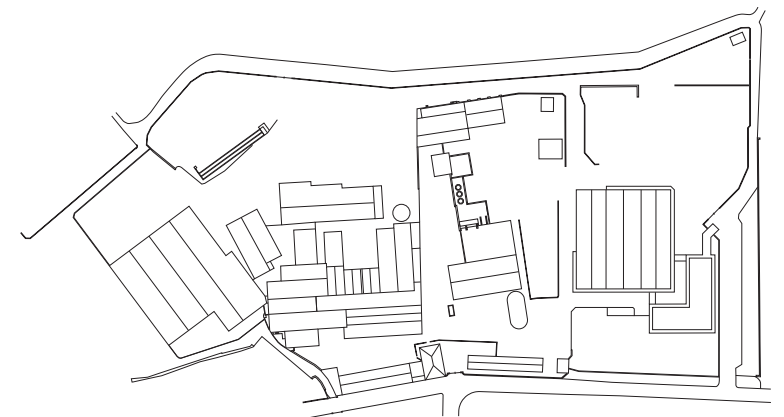
1909



1970



2025



Historic overview

Original plan and its additions and demolitions



Rocca castle

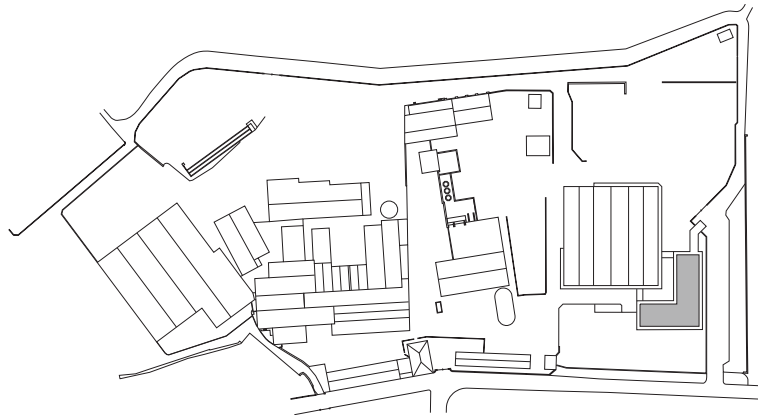


Soara factory



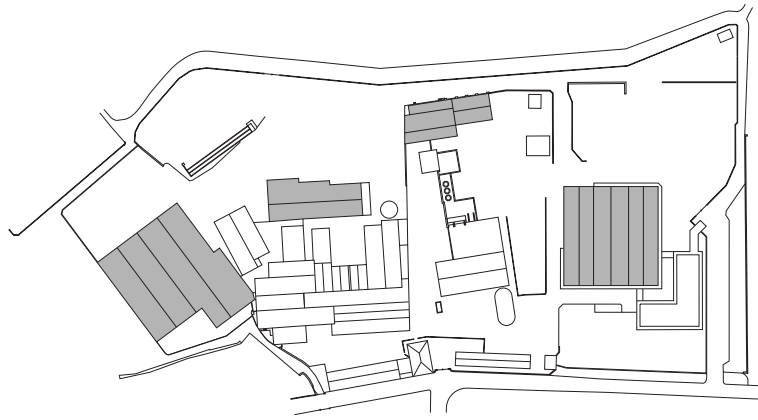
Guiding theme

Soara as a castle of the people



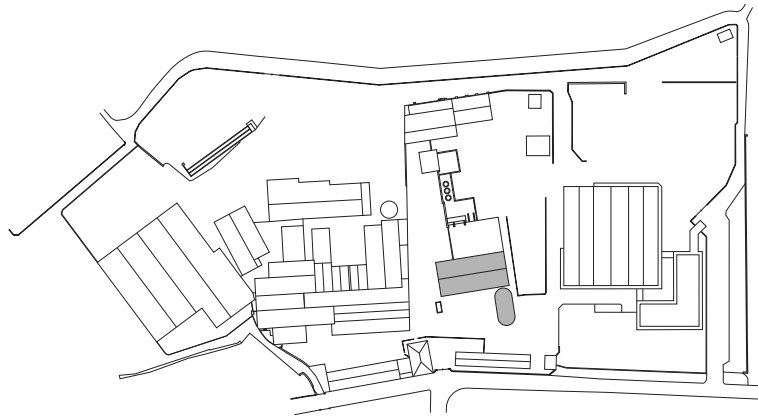
Current conditions on site

Cosimo's workshop and exhibition space in former offices



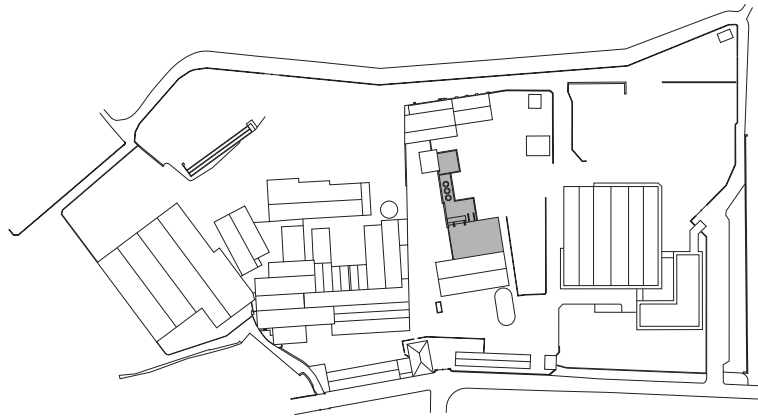
Current conditions on site

Large halls and warehouses



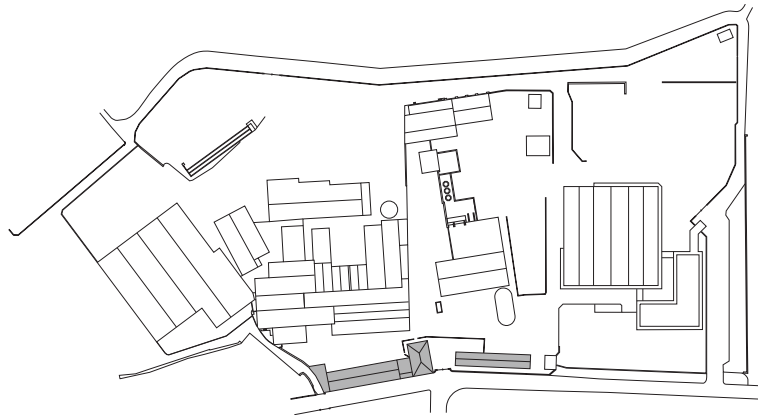
Current conditions on site

Former lime kiln as a landmark



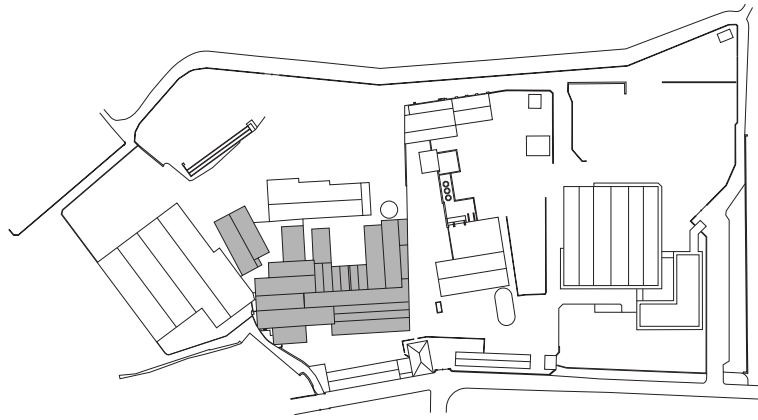
Current conditions on site

Former basins and lime kiln



Current conditions on site

Former carpentry, gatekeeper's house, and canteen



Current conditions on site

Former production area



Current conditions on site

Urgency for action



Current plans for the site

Disconnected from local heritage, no community involvement, lack of meaning

Magico Realismo

Magic Rationalism



Preliminary conclusion

Magico Realismo

Magic Rationalism



Organizational

Criterion:

**weave lasting ties between
the site and the town**

Preliminary conclusion

Magico Realismo

Magic Rationalism



Organizational

Criterion:

**weave lasting ties between
the site and the town**

Architectural

Criterion:

**use what there is
as a starting point**

Preliminary conclusion

industrial



commoning



Försterhaus Reute, DE



Common Ground, KS



Collective involvement strategy

Festivities as a powerful tool for placemaking and community engagement



commoning



Prinzessinnengarten, DE



Collective involvement strategy

Collaborative hands-on construction



Strategic plan

1 Community involvement

Study and identification of underused lots

Conceptual vision proposal

Development team is formed

Collective design discussions and workshops

Draft project proposal and action plan

Building 1 prepared and rented out to generate initial income



Strategic plan

2 First execution phase

Material collection

Building workshop set up and safety measures

Planting workshop

Festa dell'Uva

Weaving connections with the town



Strategic plan

3 Second execution phase

Site purchase

Collective design discussions and workshops

Design development and construction drawings

Acquire building permits

Material sourcing and experimentation

Construction

First residents moving in and gradual opening of community facilities



Strategic plan



Strategic plan

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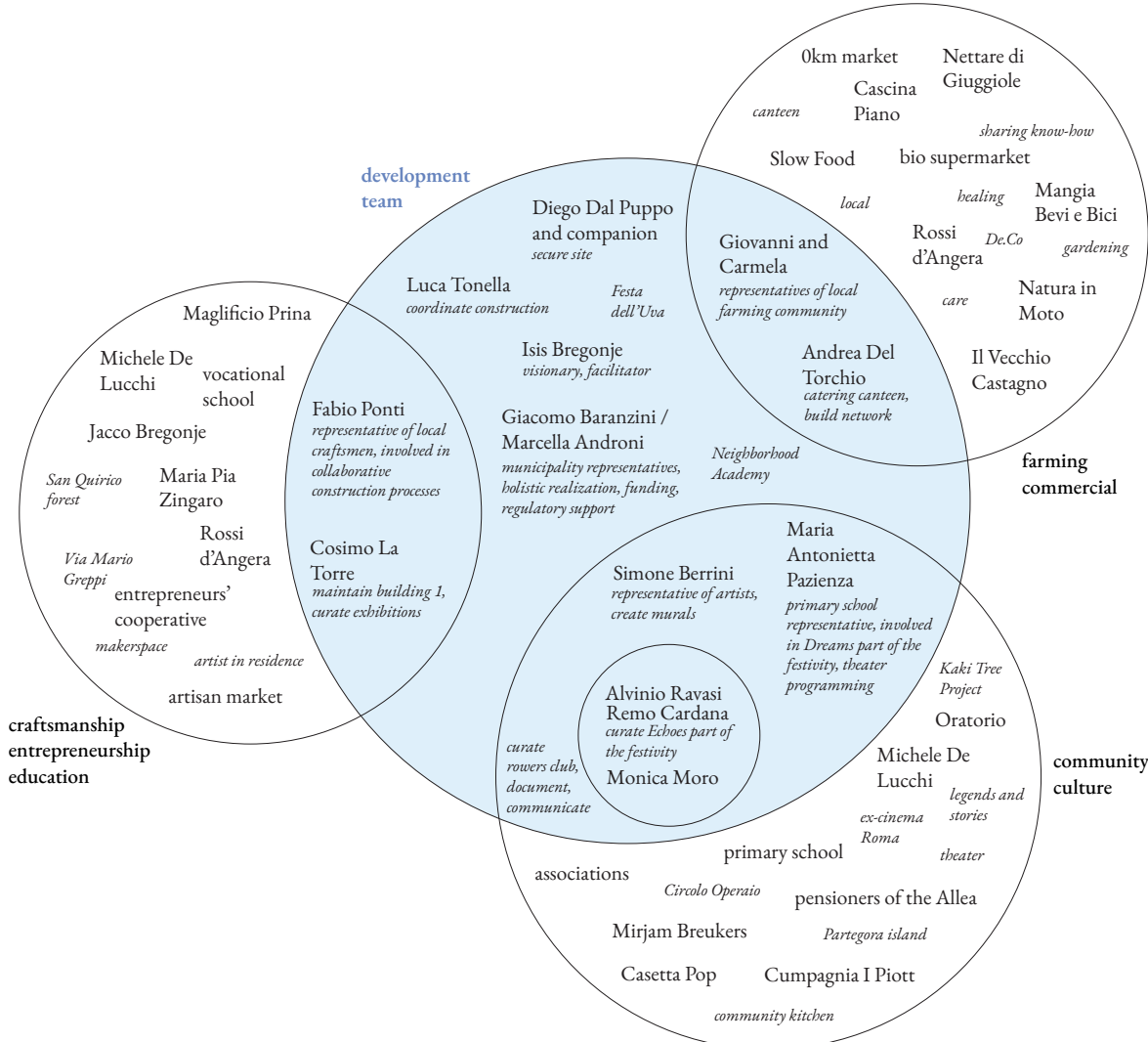


Collectively working towards a shared plan

Project in space



Collectively working towards a shared plan
Collecting technical knowledge, photographs and oral histories



Collectively working towards a shared plan

Development team with broader network through subgroups



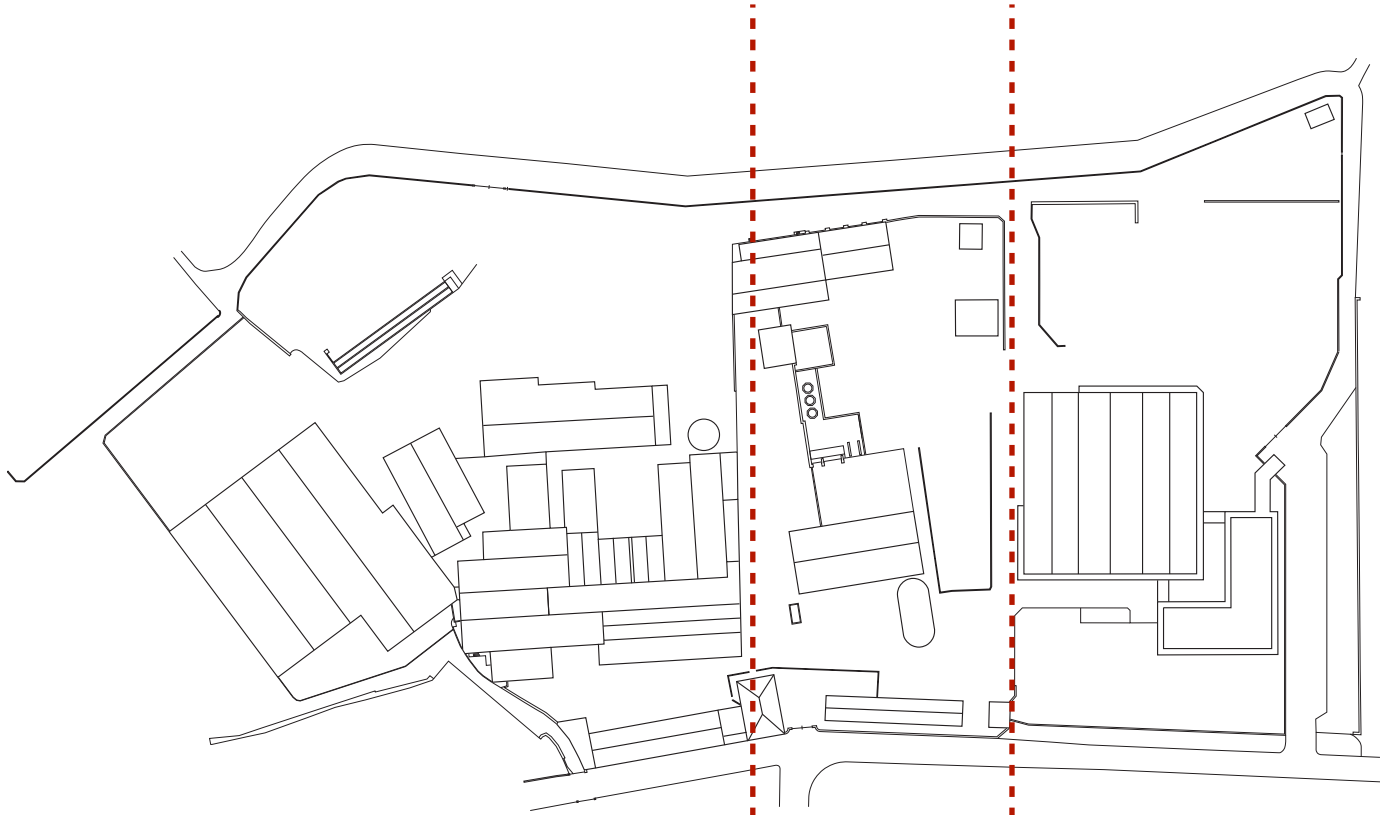
Collectively working towards a shared plan

Site model as a working tool



Strategic plan

Heart of the site



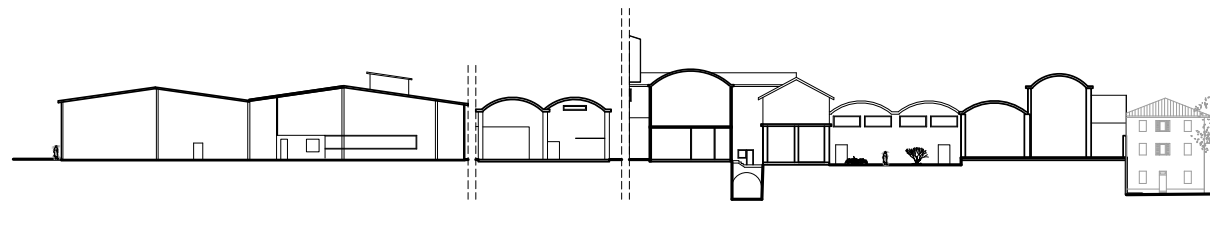
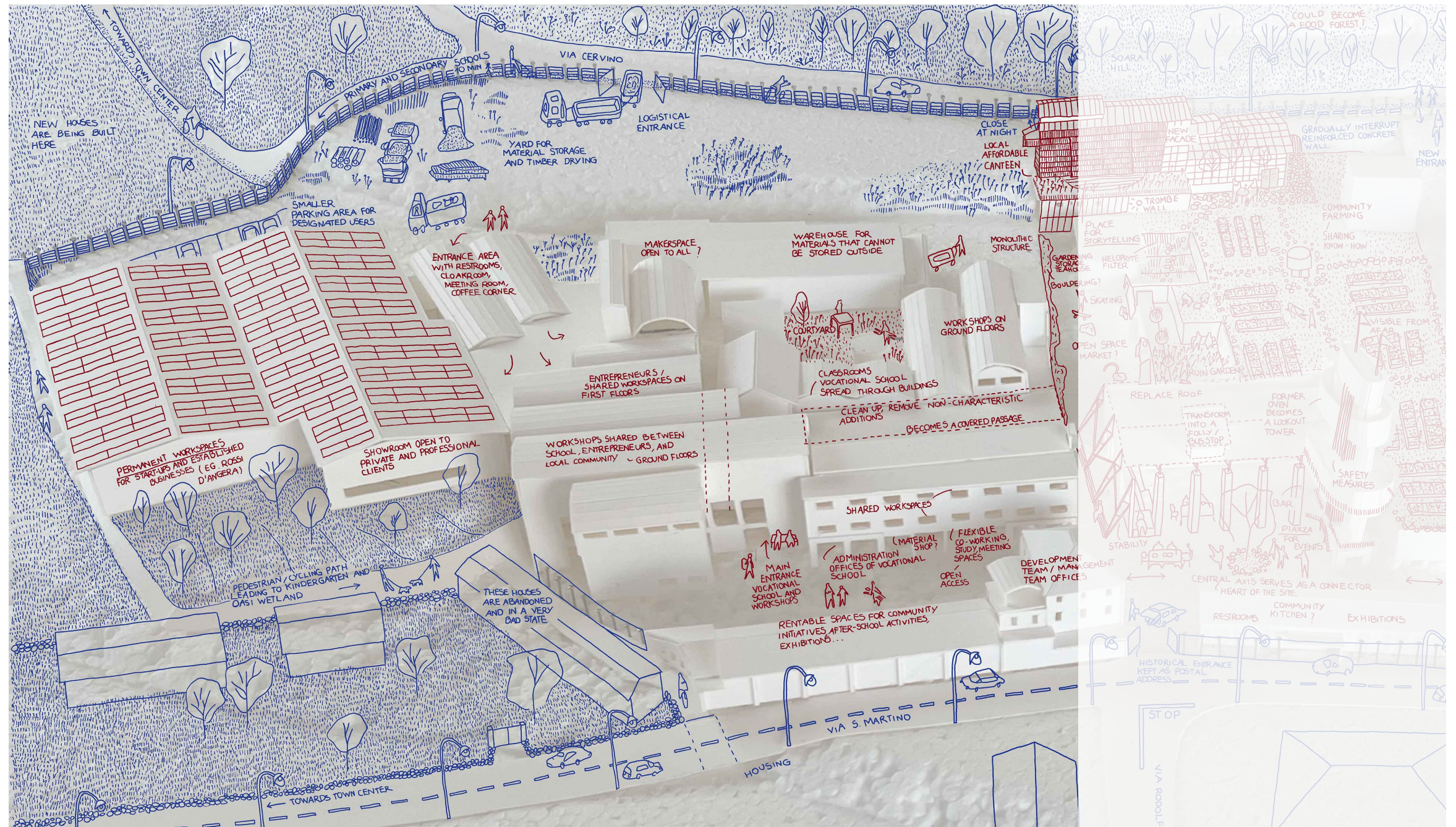
Education / Entrepreneurship

Cultural

Commercial

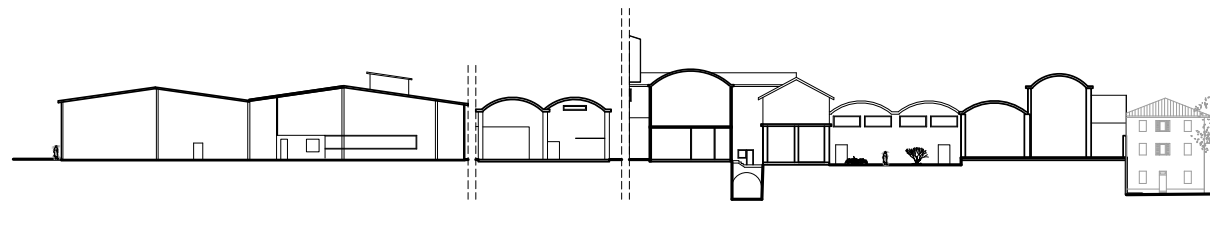
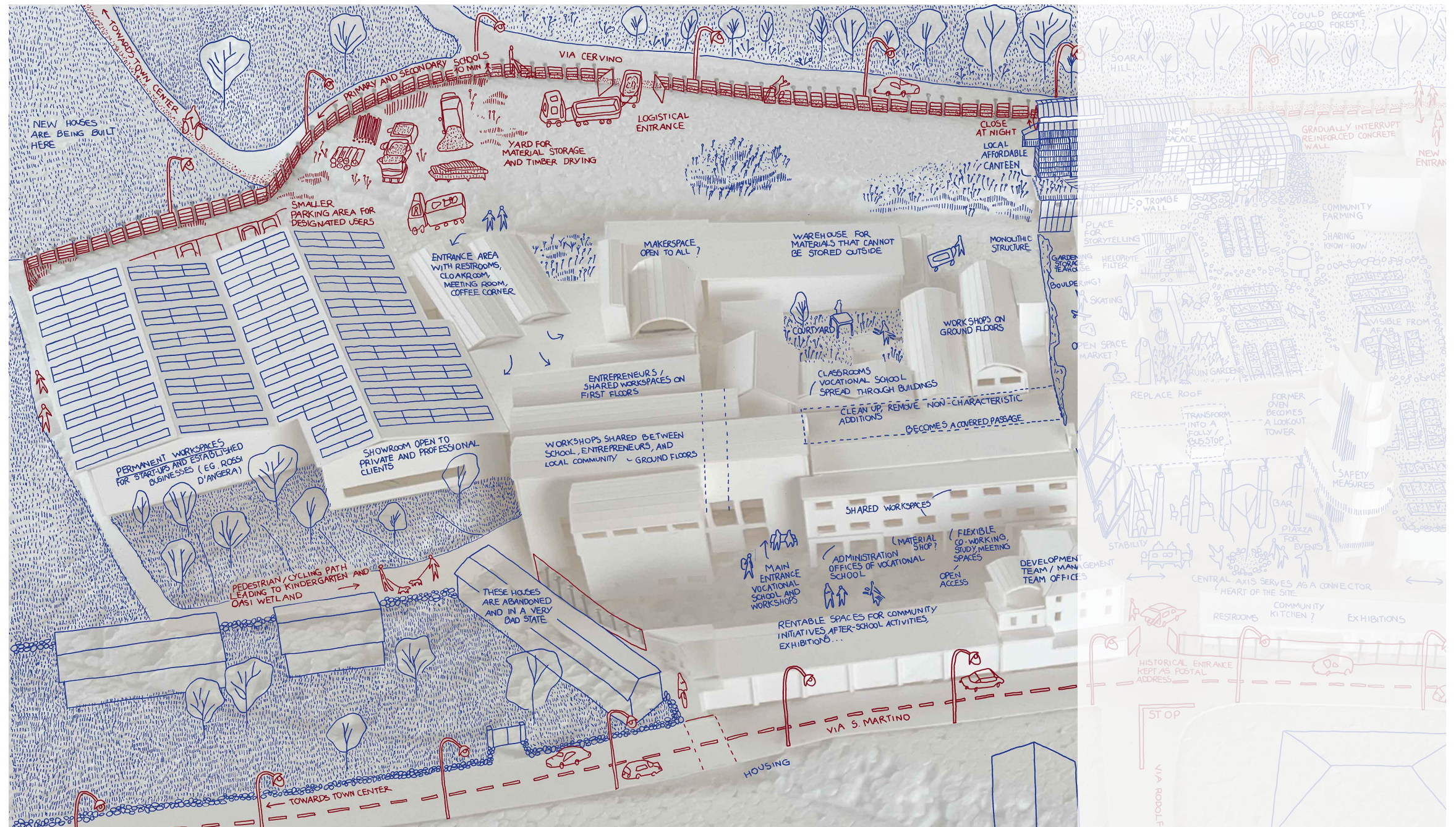


Strategic plan
Self-sustaining ecosystem



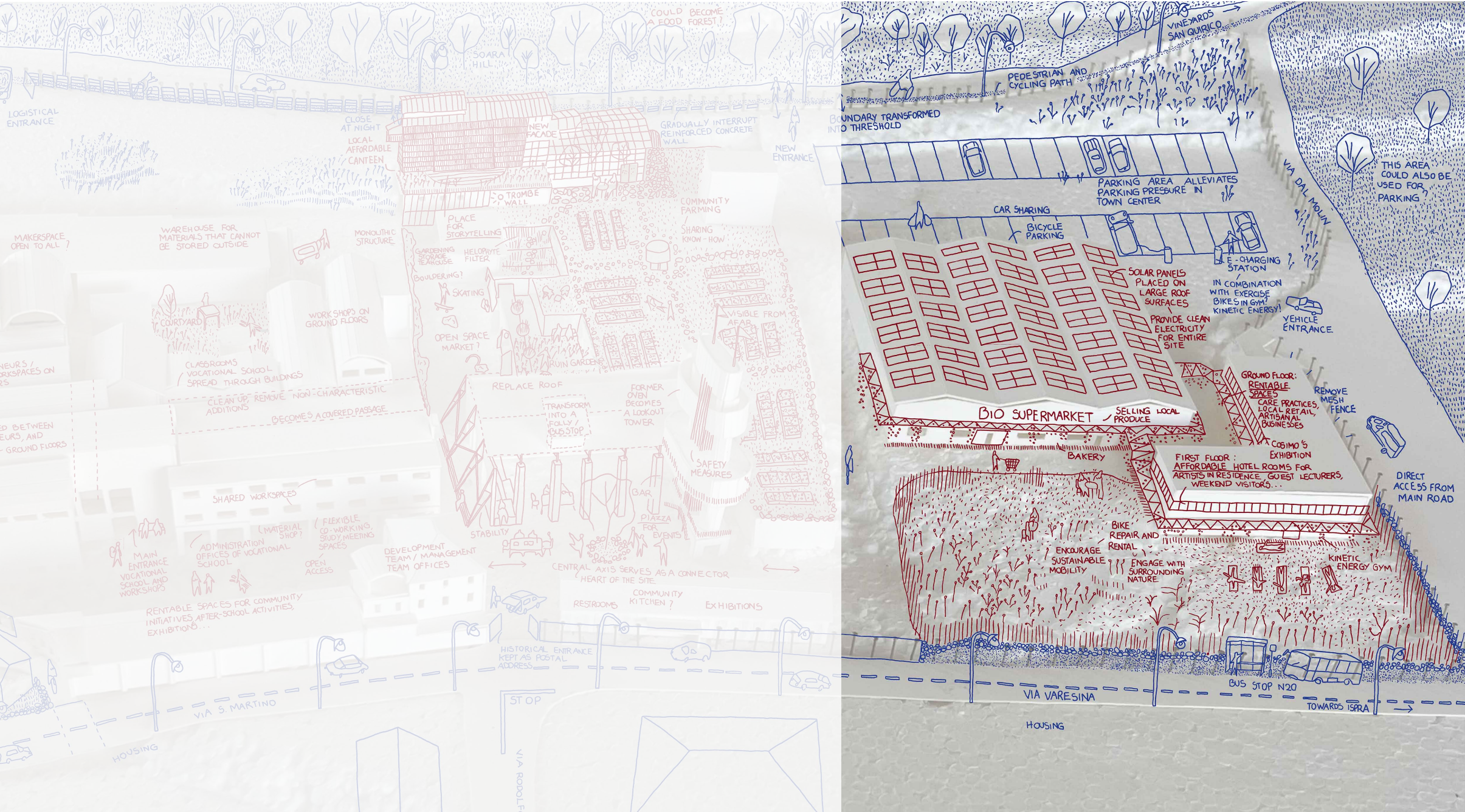
Urban approach

Education / entrepreneurship program



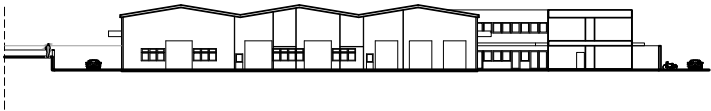
Urban approach

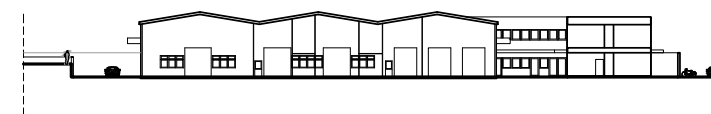
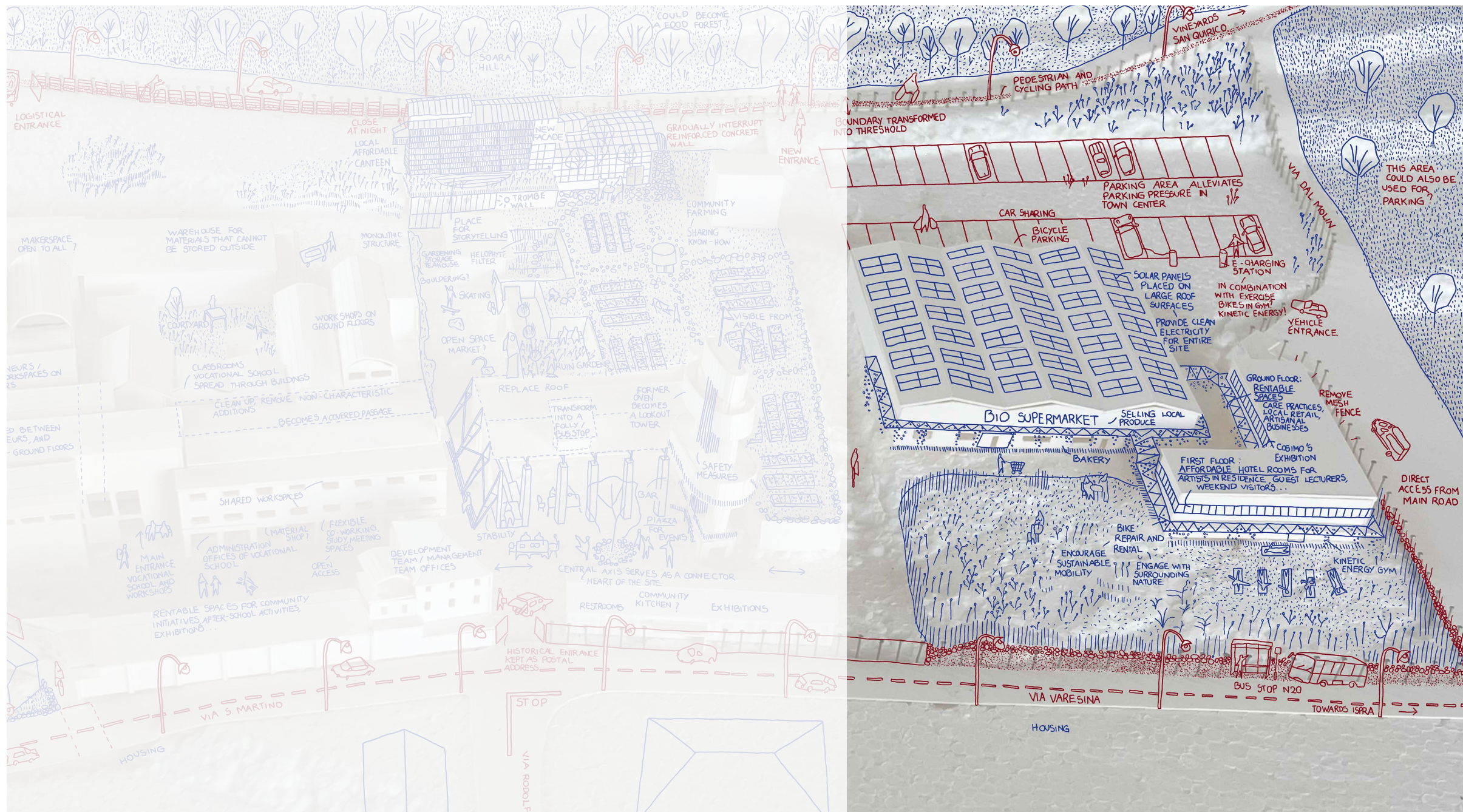
Logistics



Urban approach

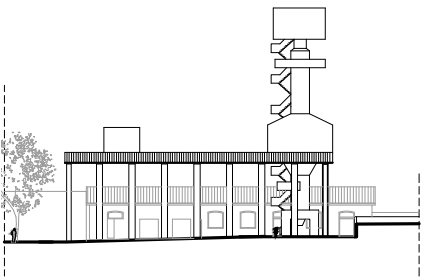
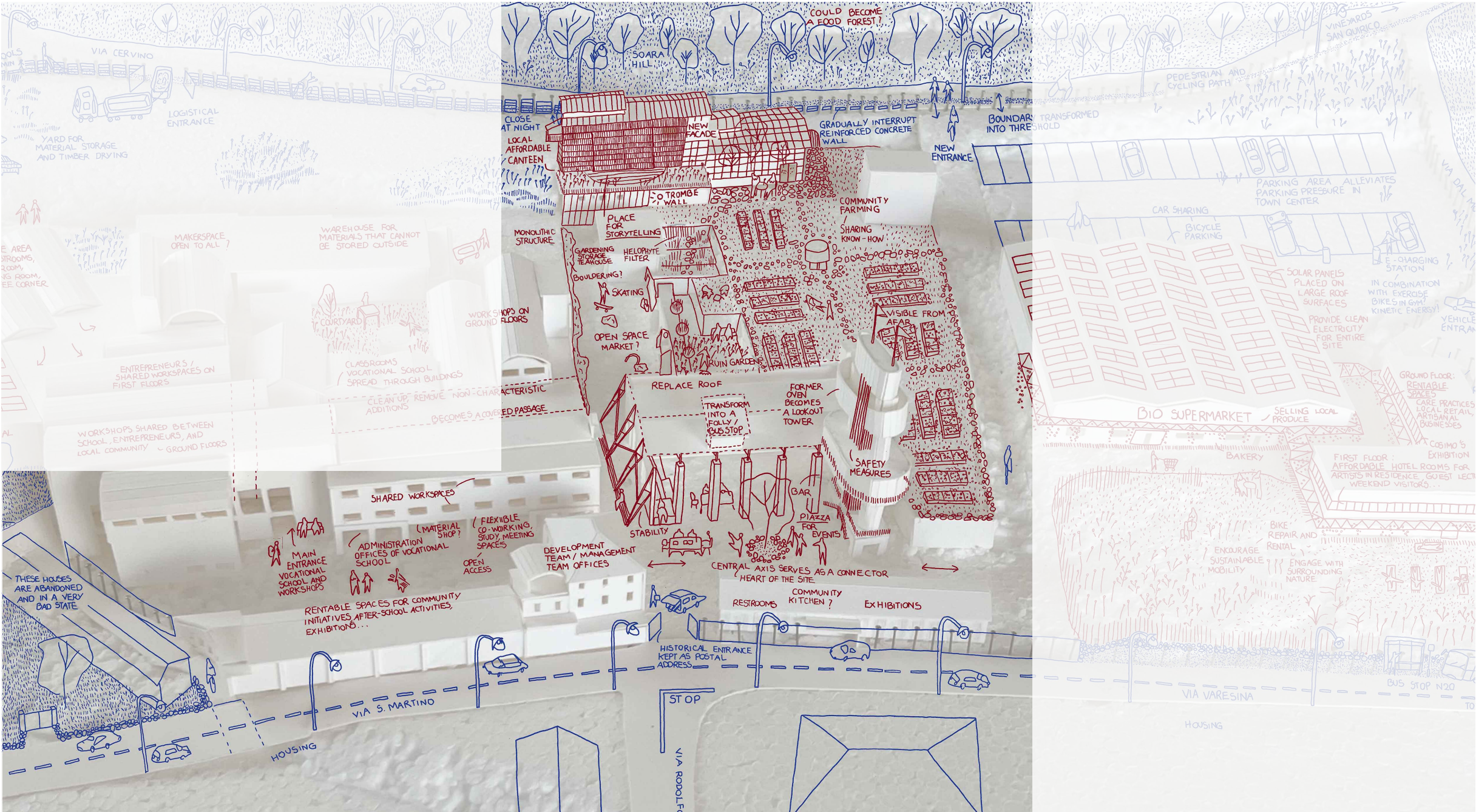
Commercial program





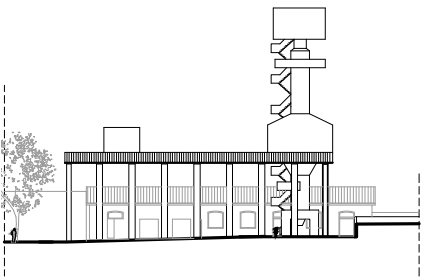
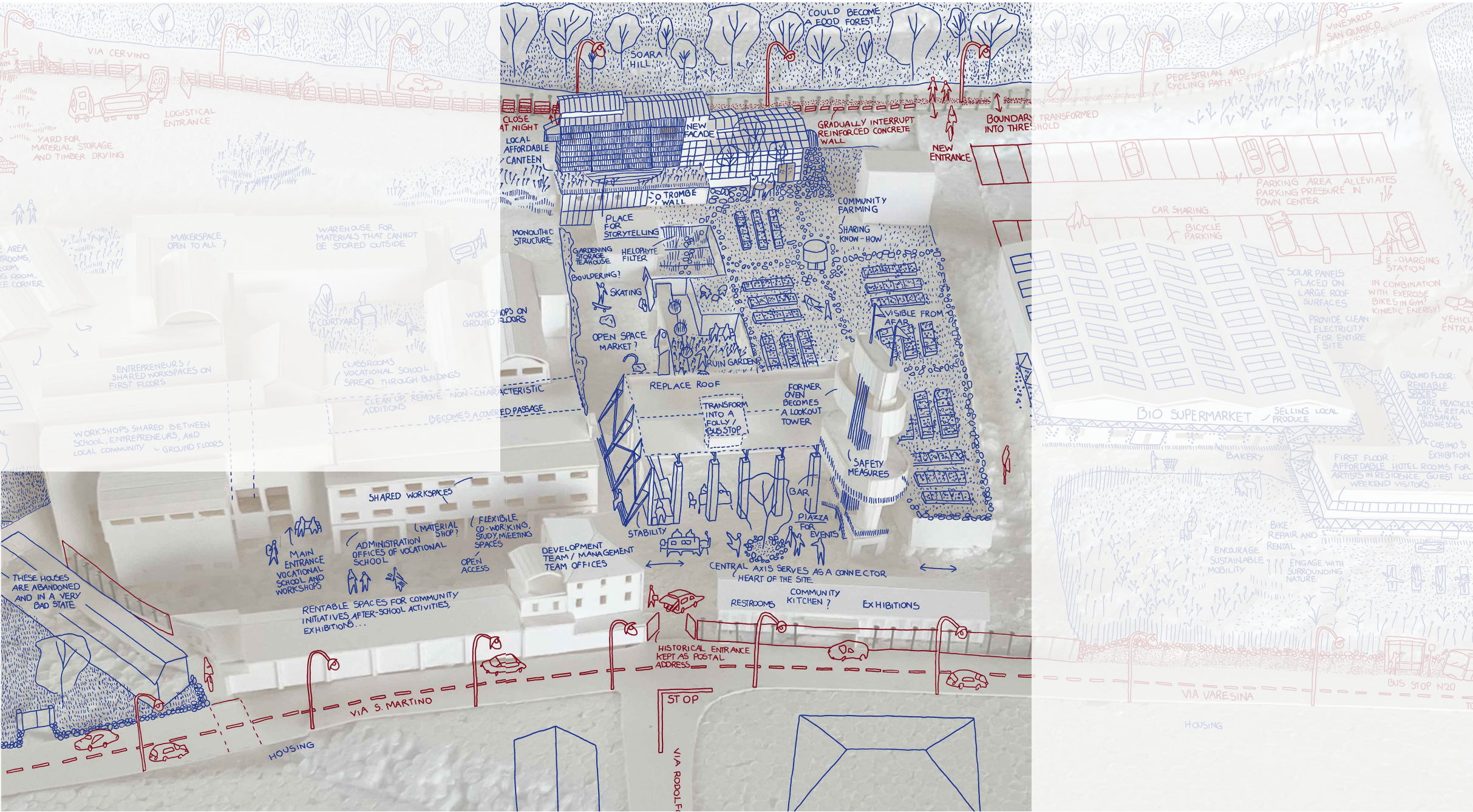
Urban approach

Logistics



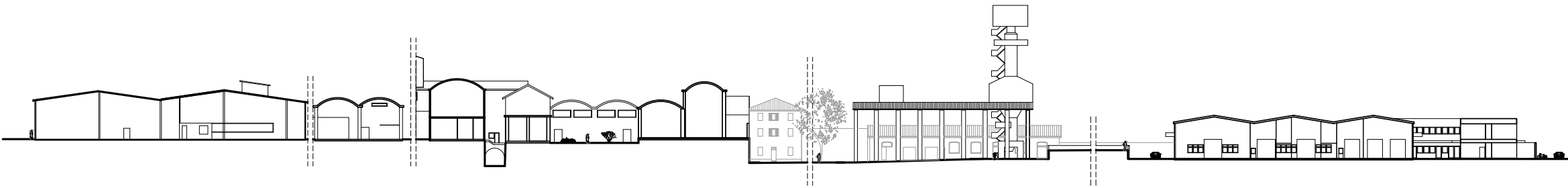
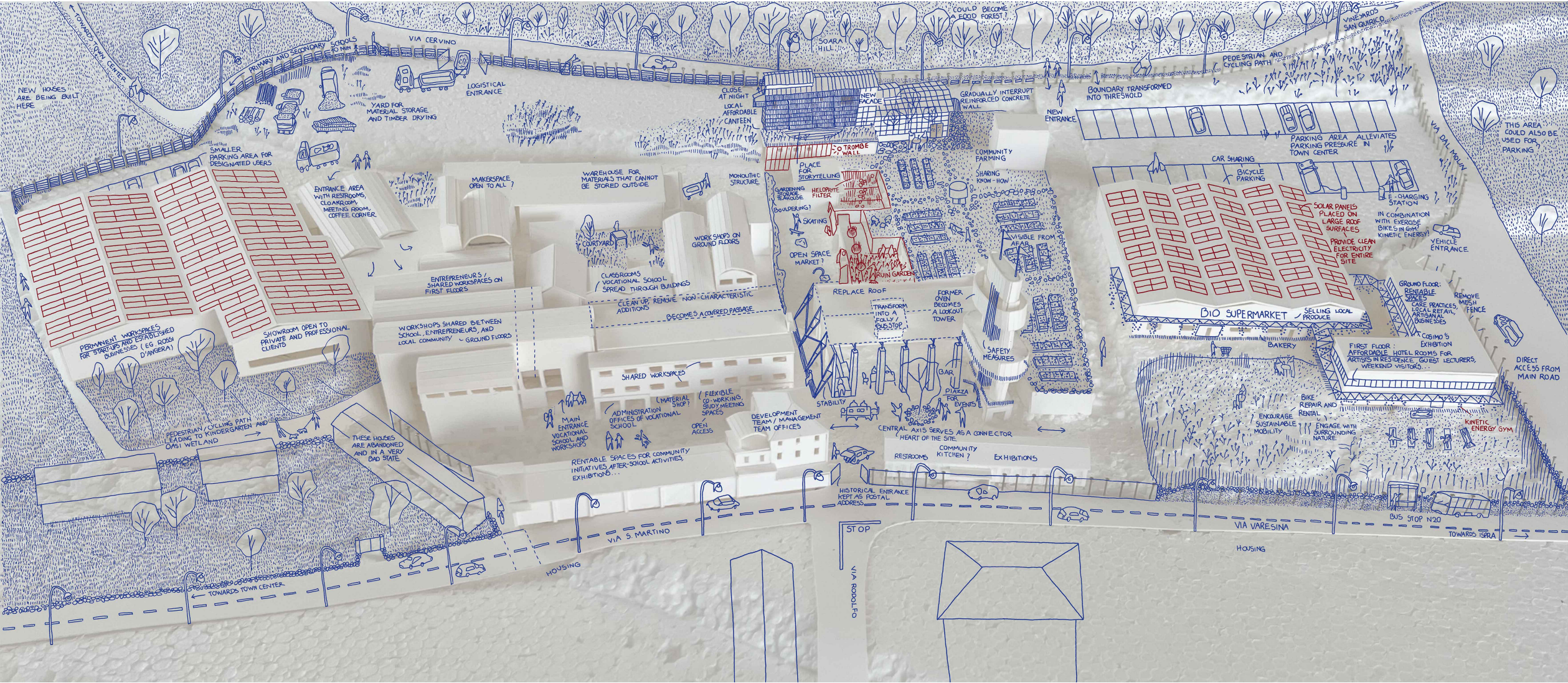
Urban approach

Cultural program

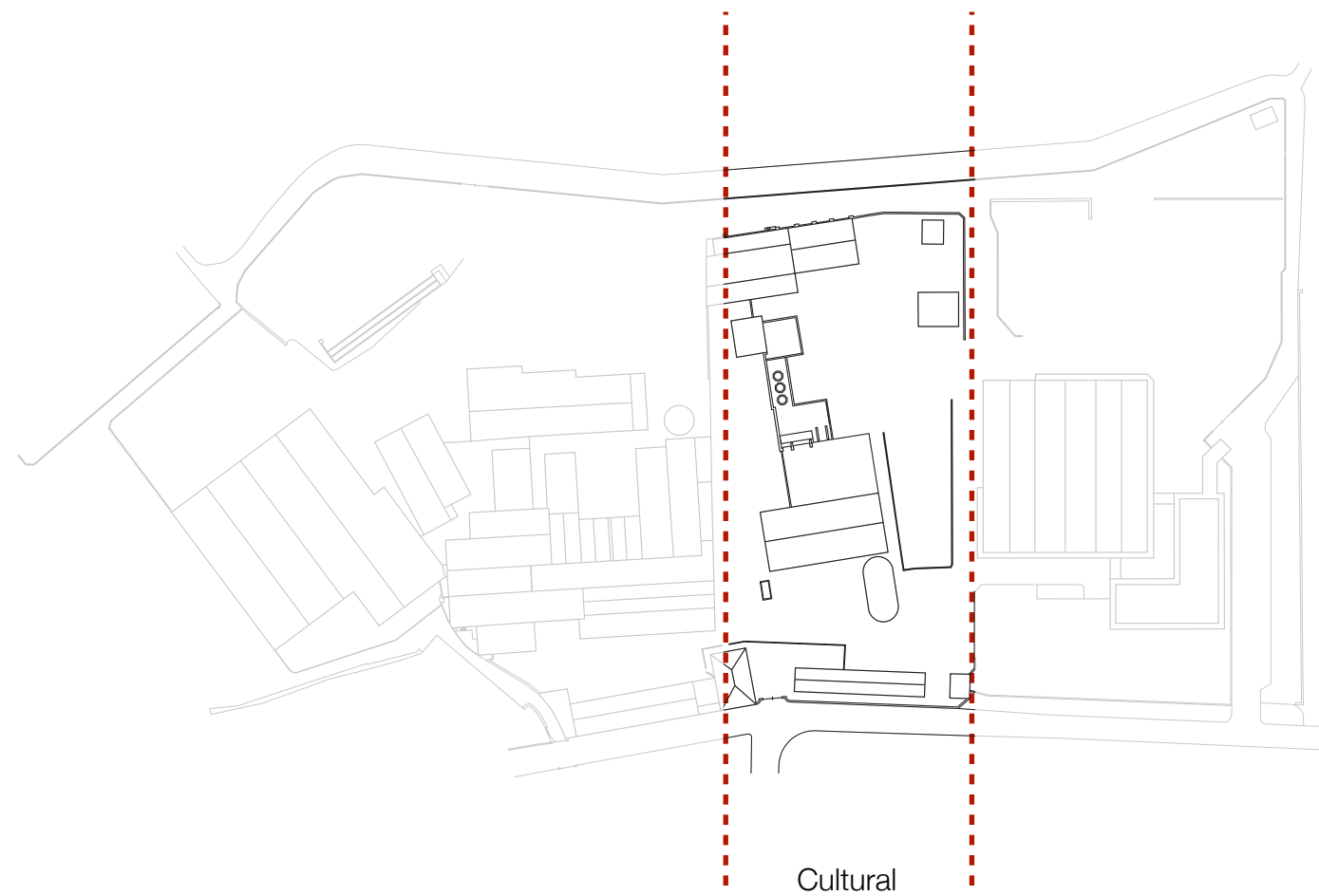


Urban approach

Logistics



Urban approach
A healing ecosystem



Strategic plan

Focus on the connecting social anchor

2 First execution phase

Material collection

Building workshop set up and safety measures

Planting workshop

Festa dell'Uva

Weaving connections with the town



Preparing together for the Festa dell'Uva

Project in time



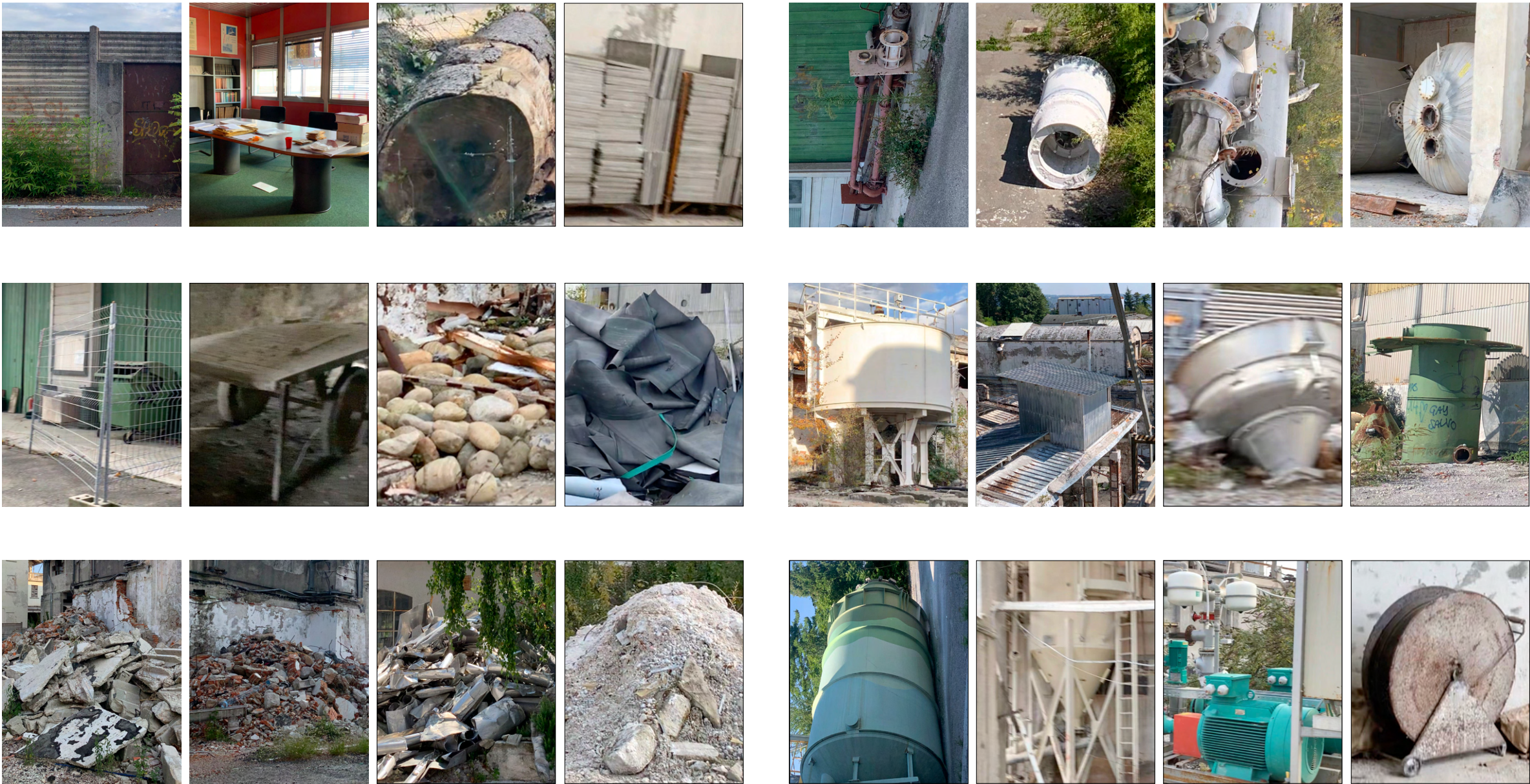
Preparing together for the Festa dell’Uva

Community involvement

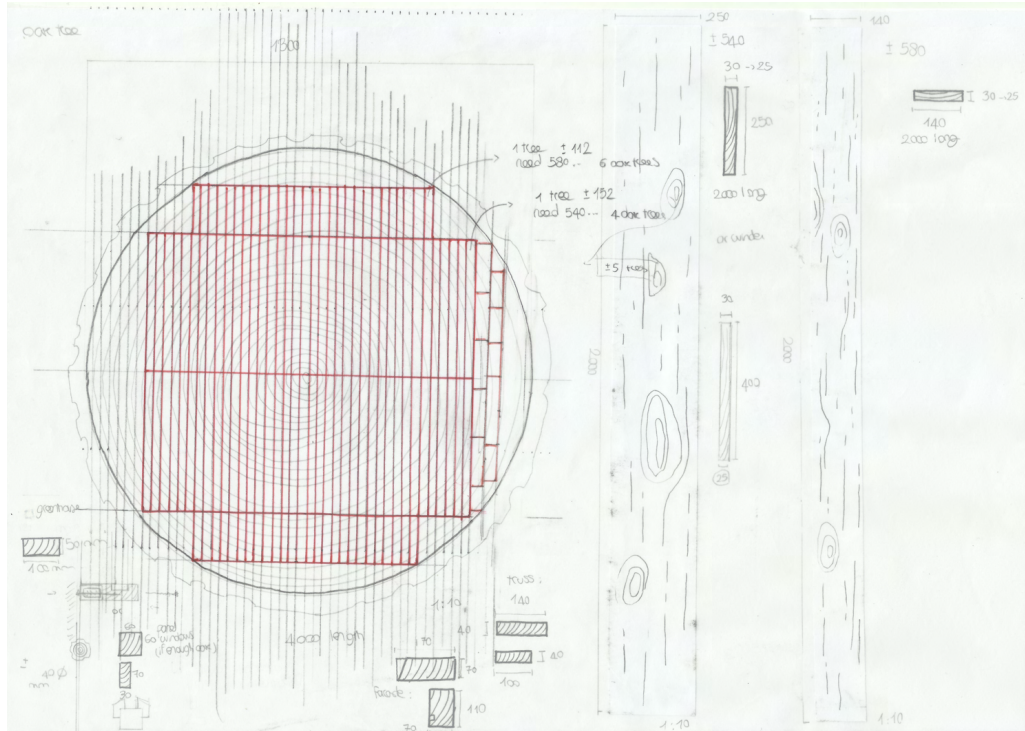


Preparing together for the Festa dell’Uva

Waste material collection



Preparing together for the Festa dell’Uva
Material catalogue

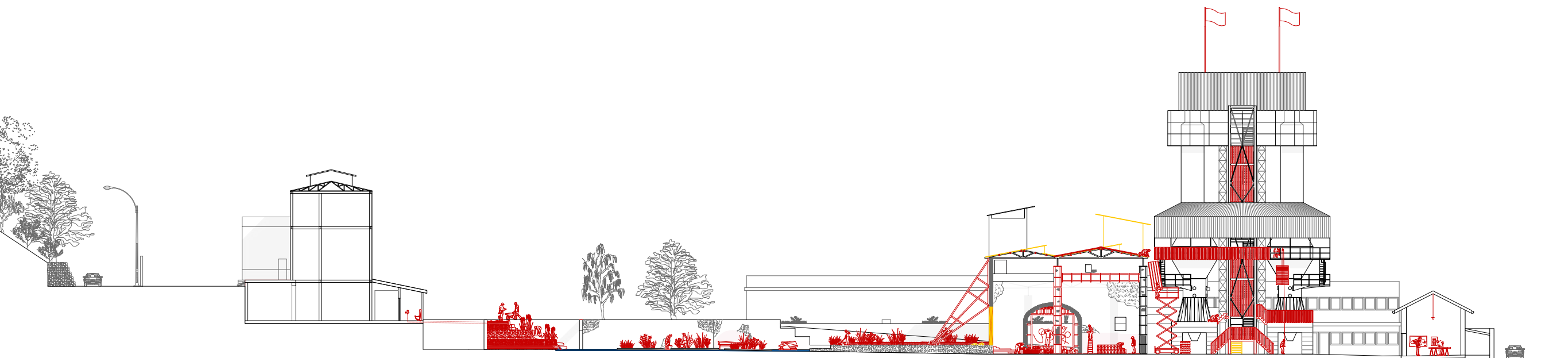


Preparing together for the Festa dell’Uva
Local wood sourced from San Quirico and dried on site



Preparing together for the Festa dell'Uva

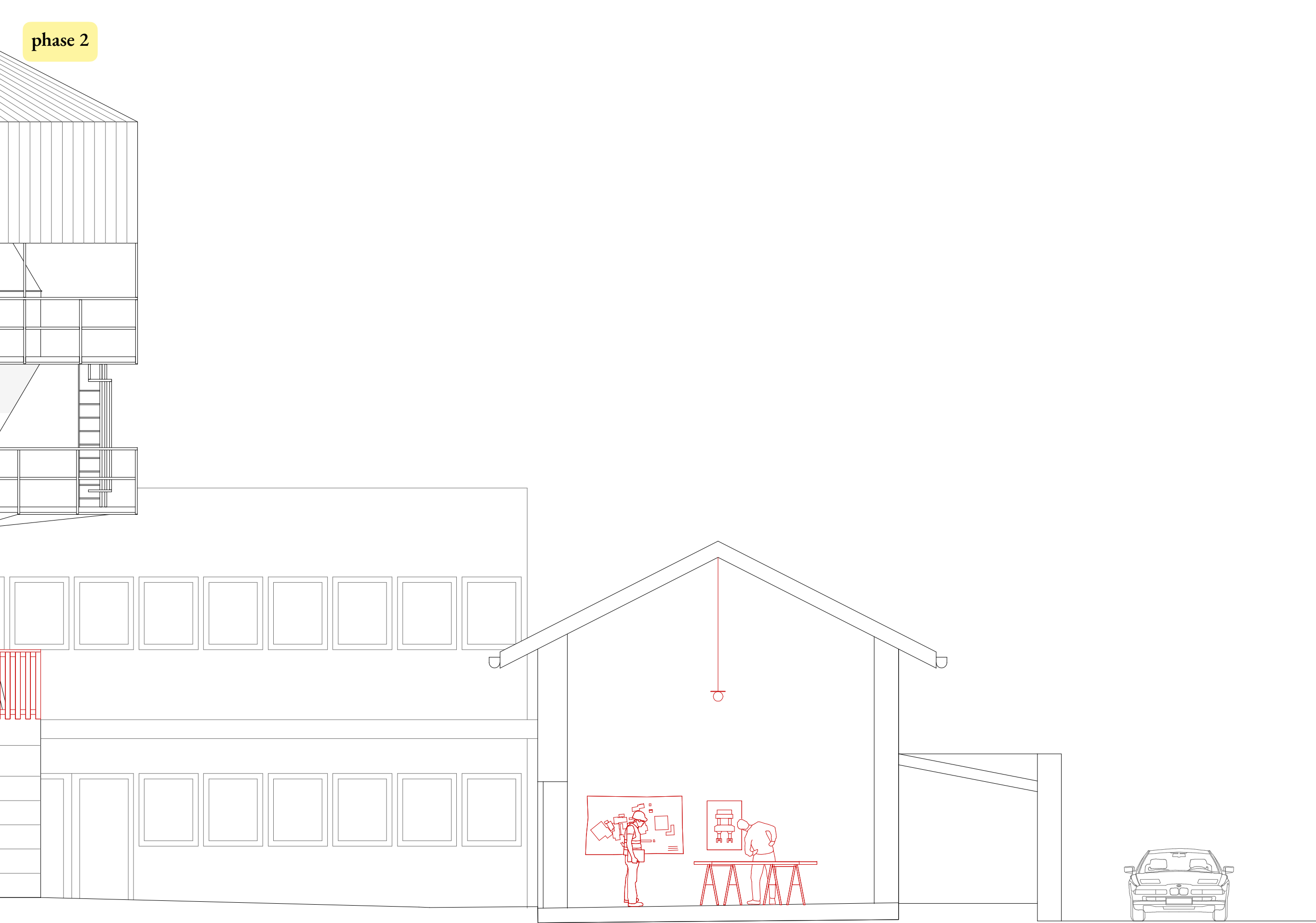
Workshop set up in large hall

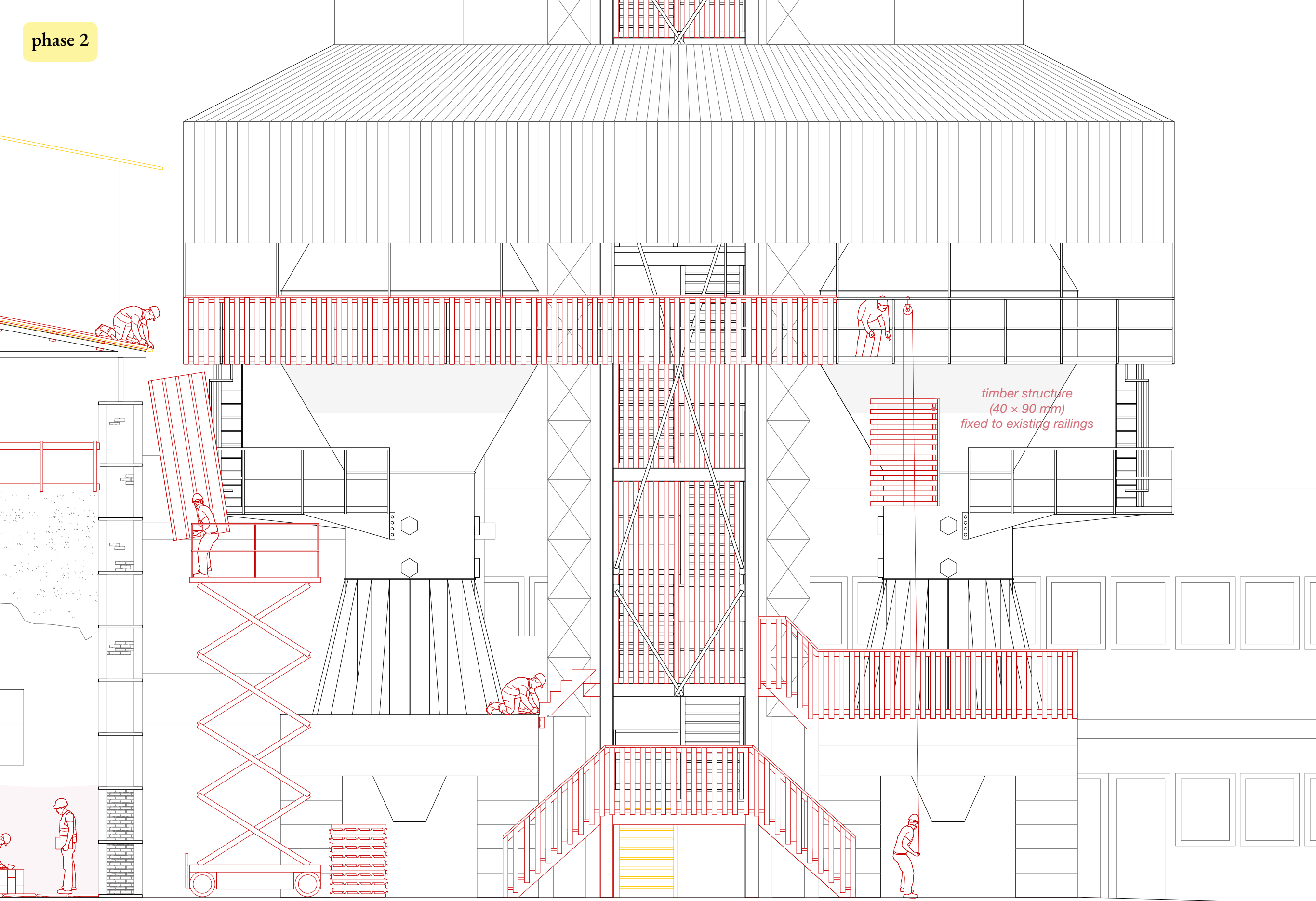


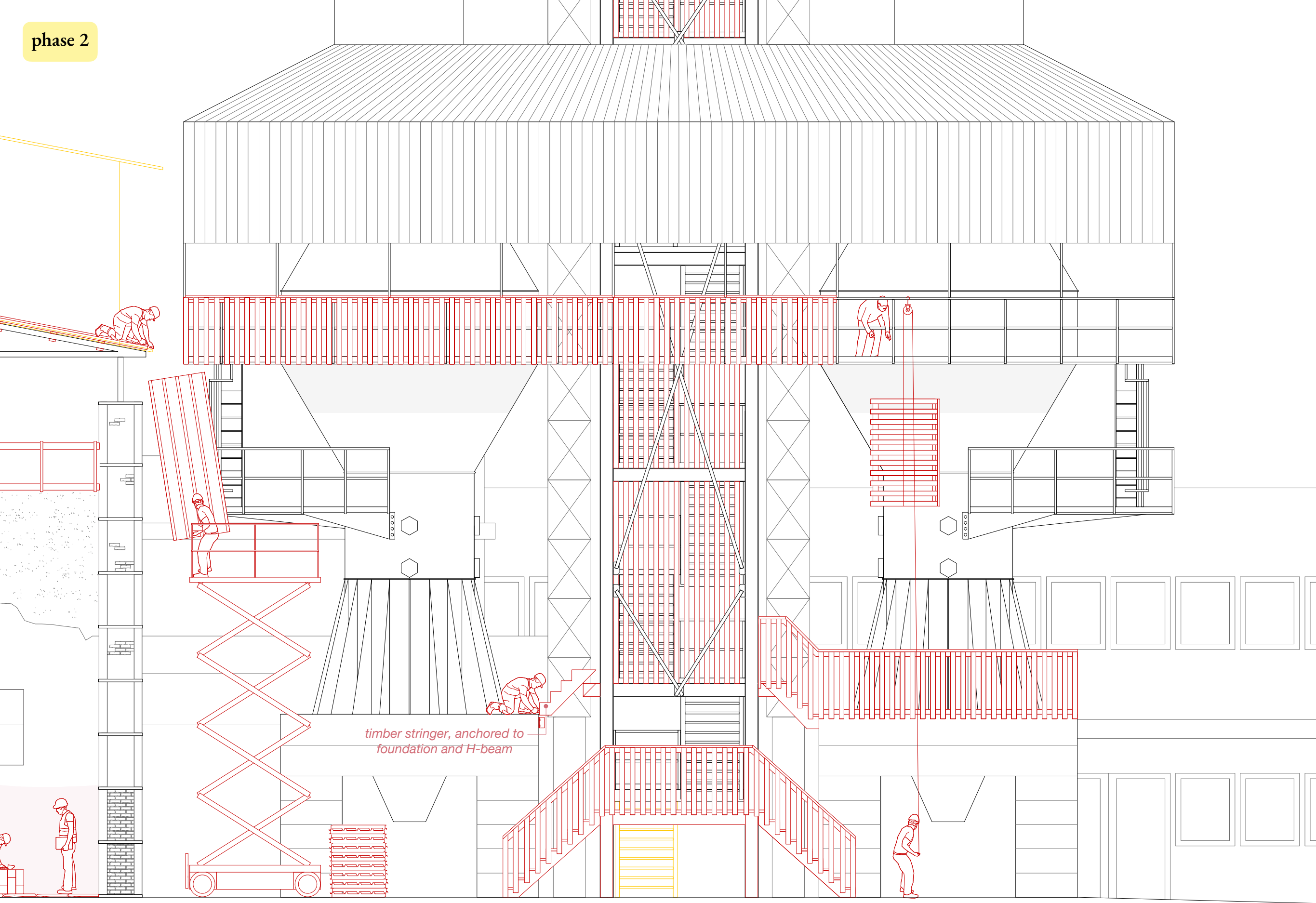
Preparing together for the Festa dell'Uva

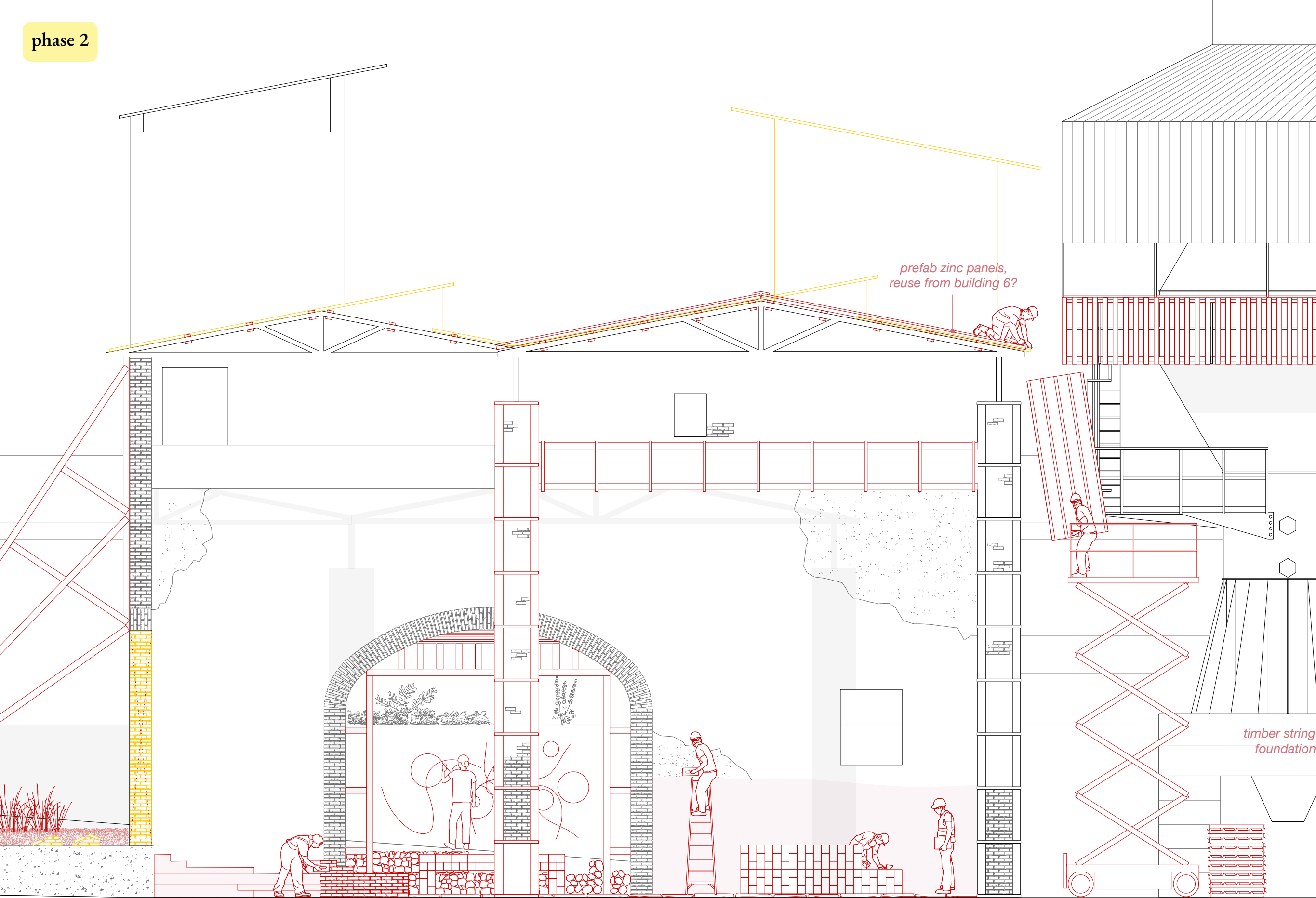
A parallel world to the town center and the Rocca castle

phase 2



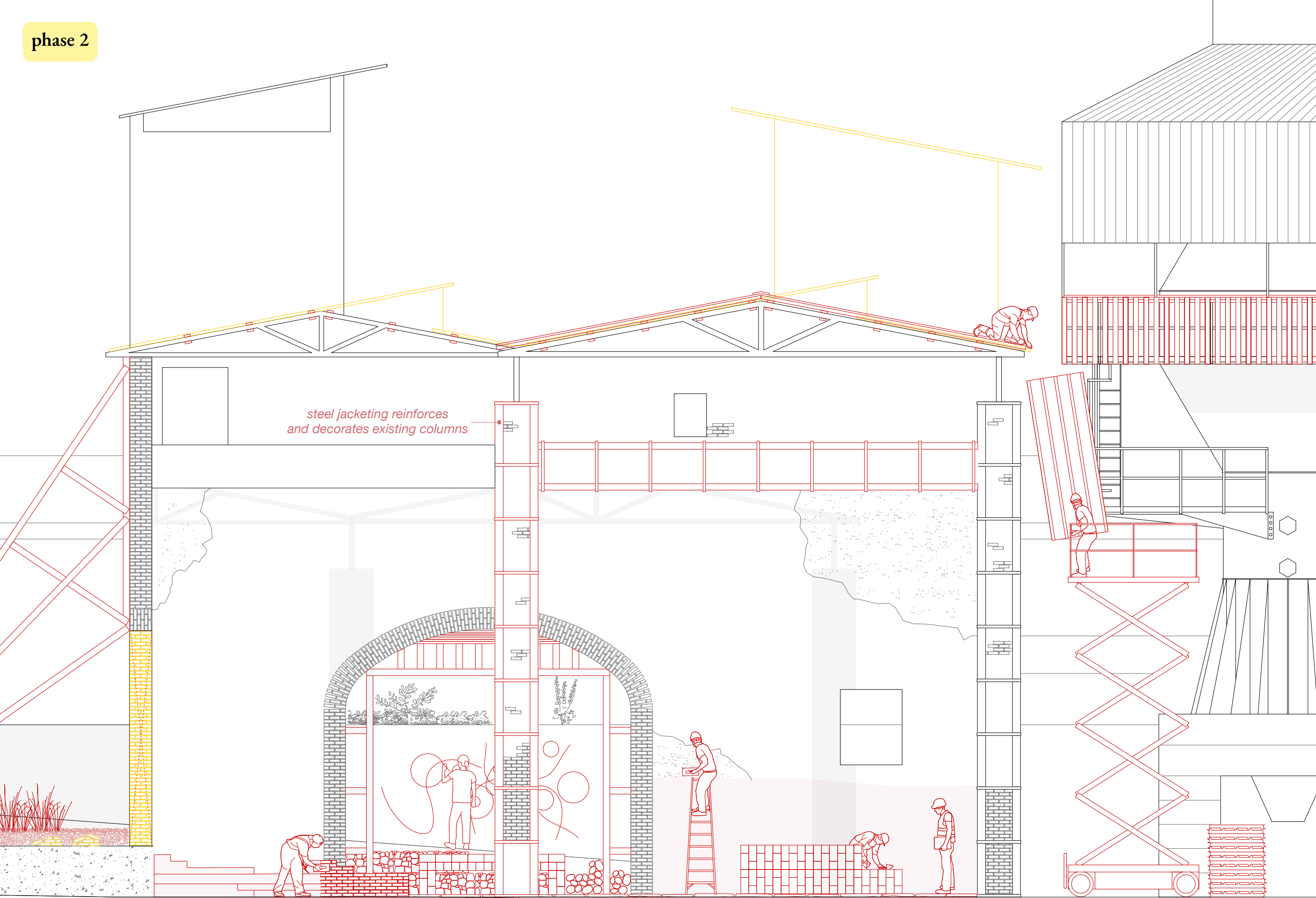


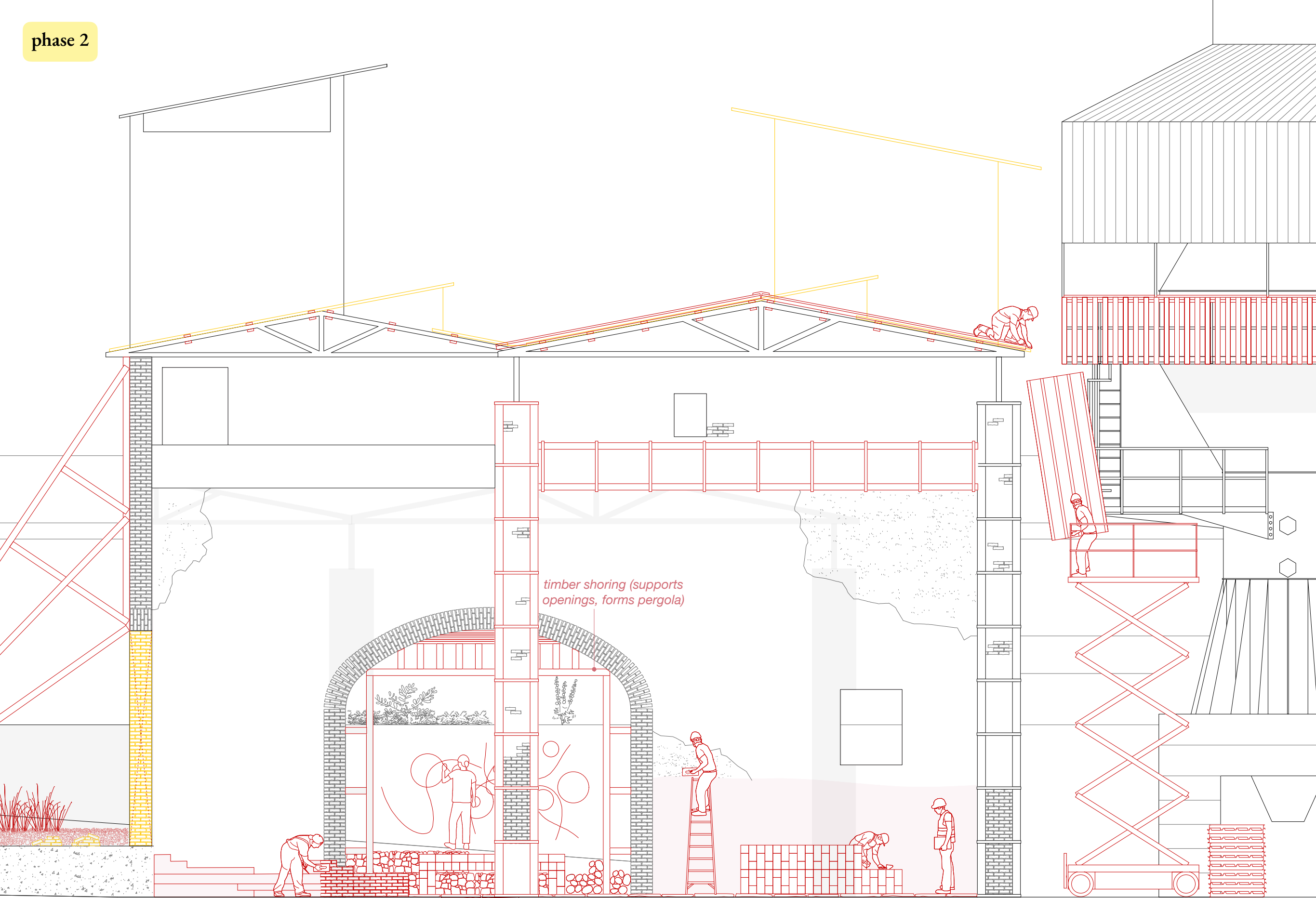


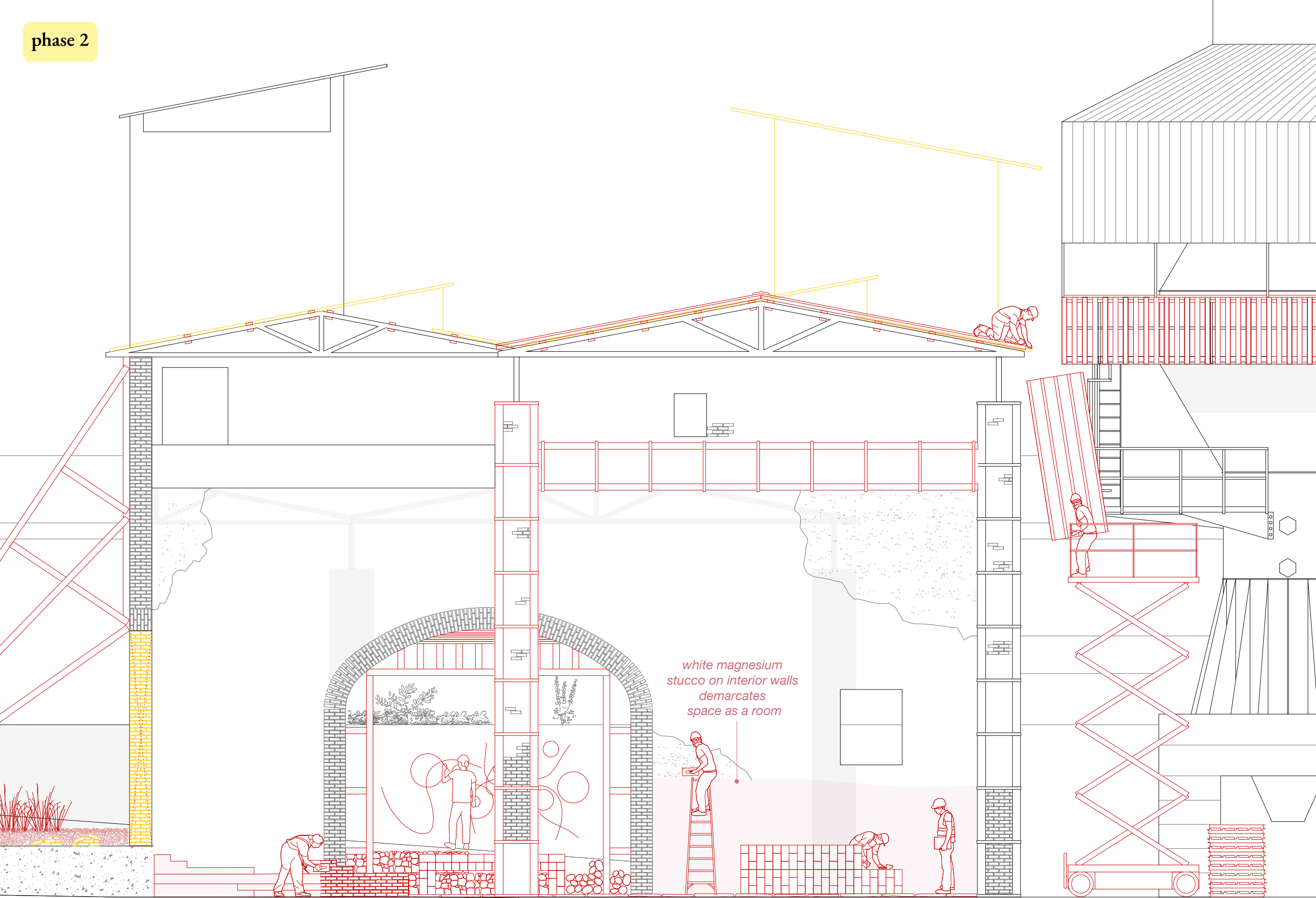


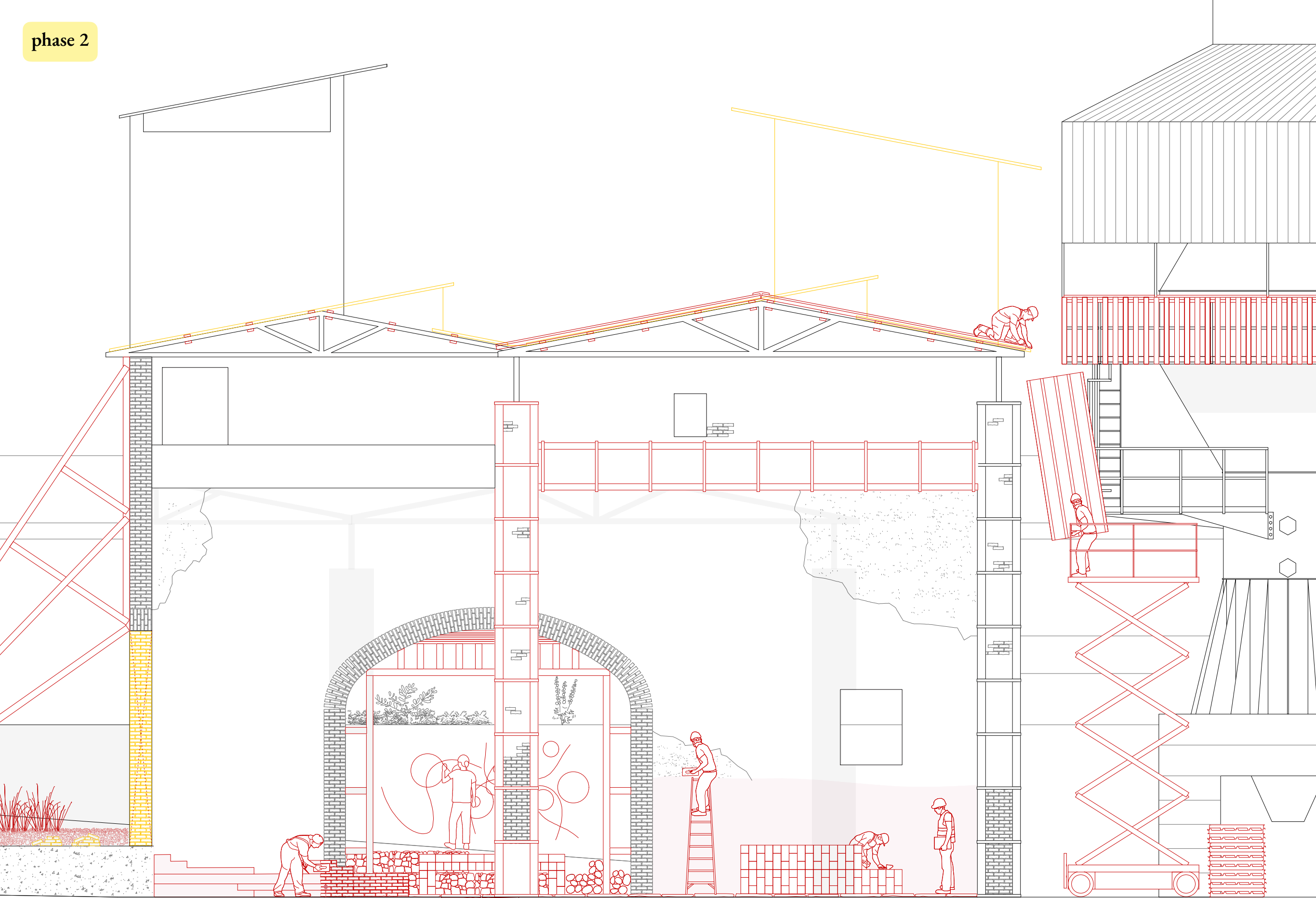
prefab zinc panels,
reuse from building 6?

timber string
foundation

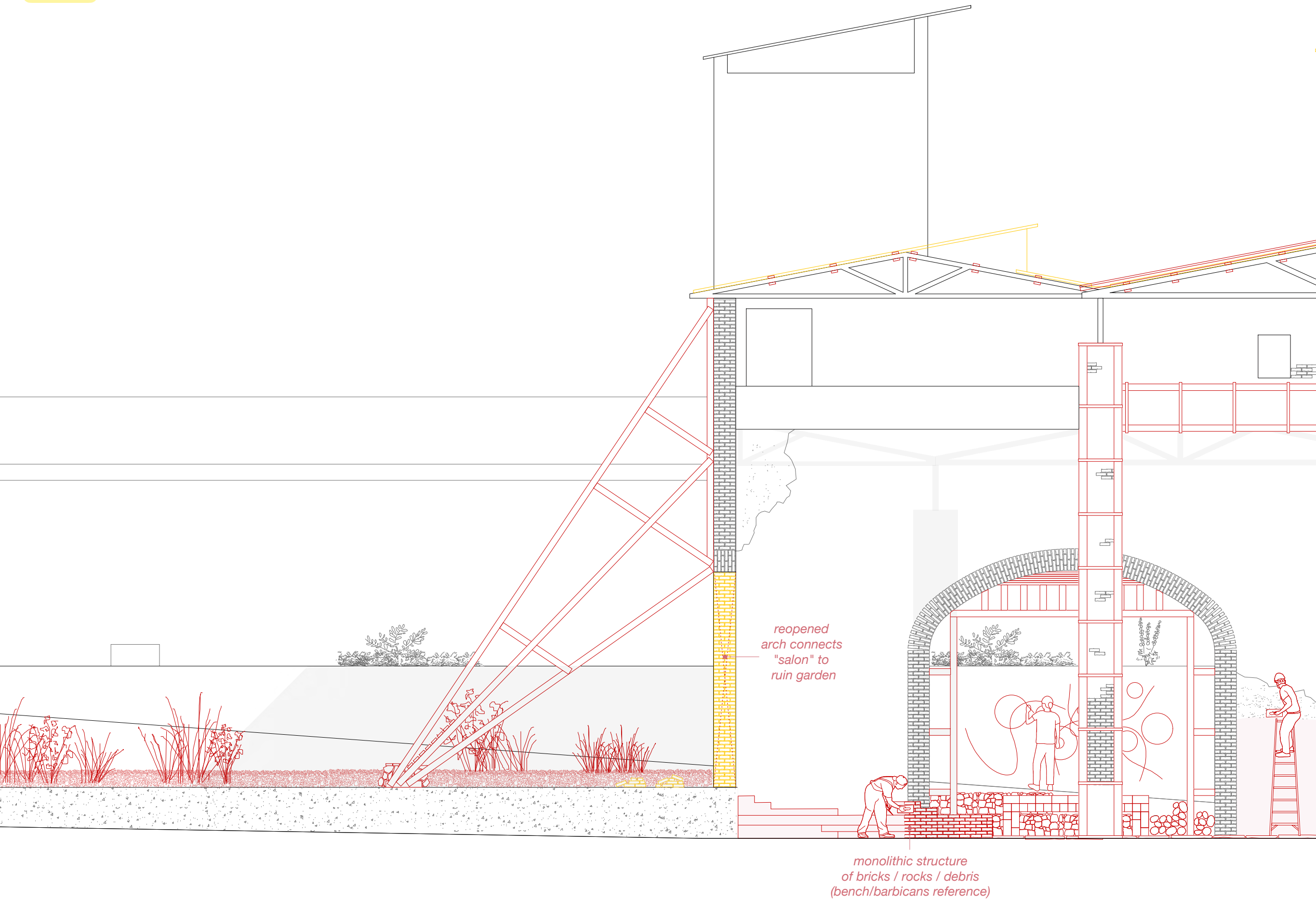


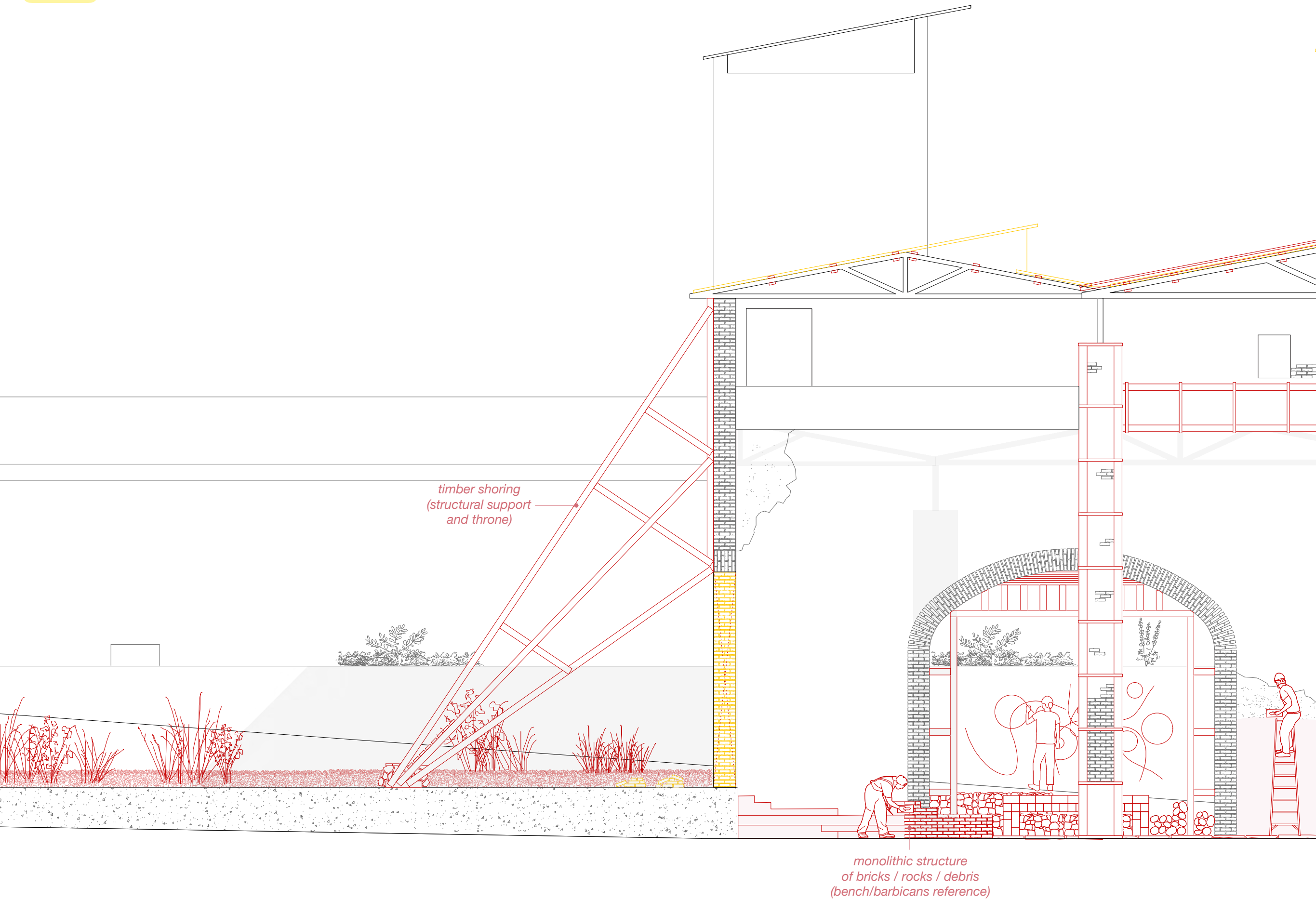


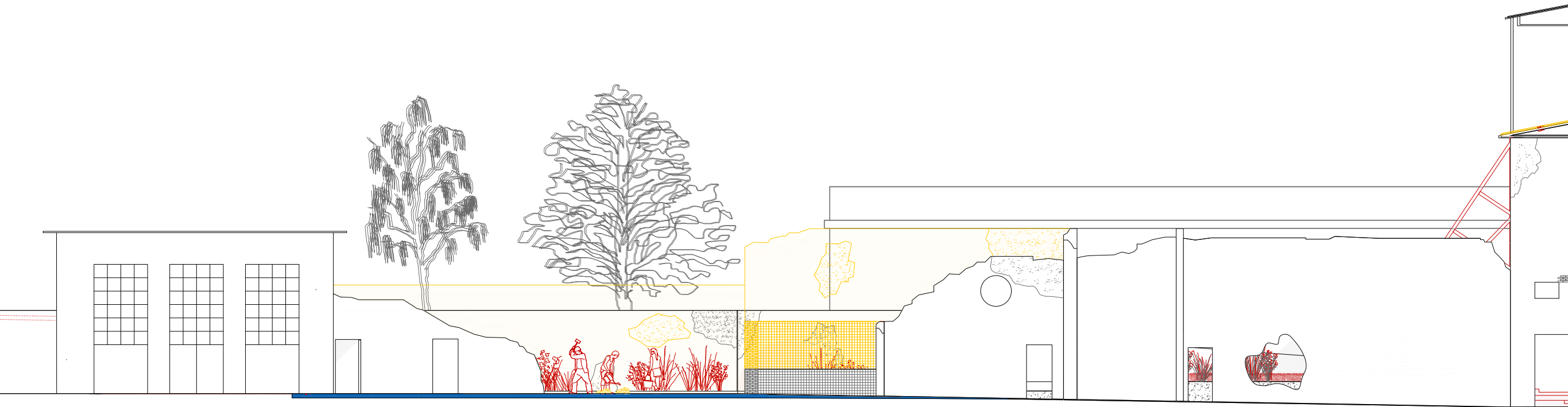


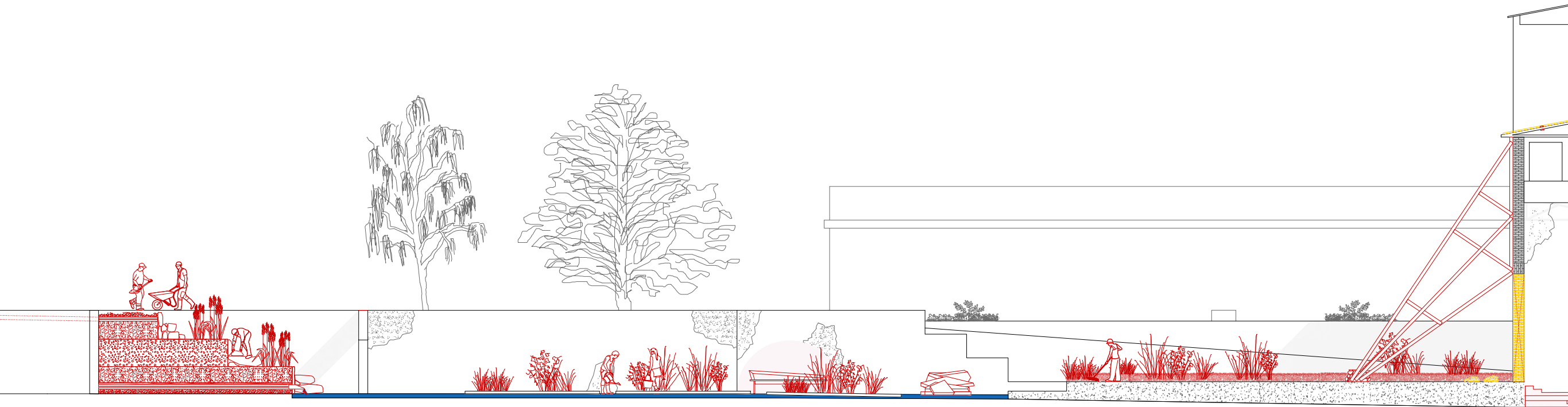


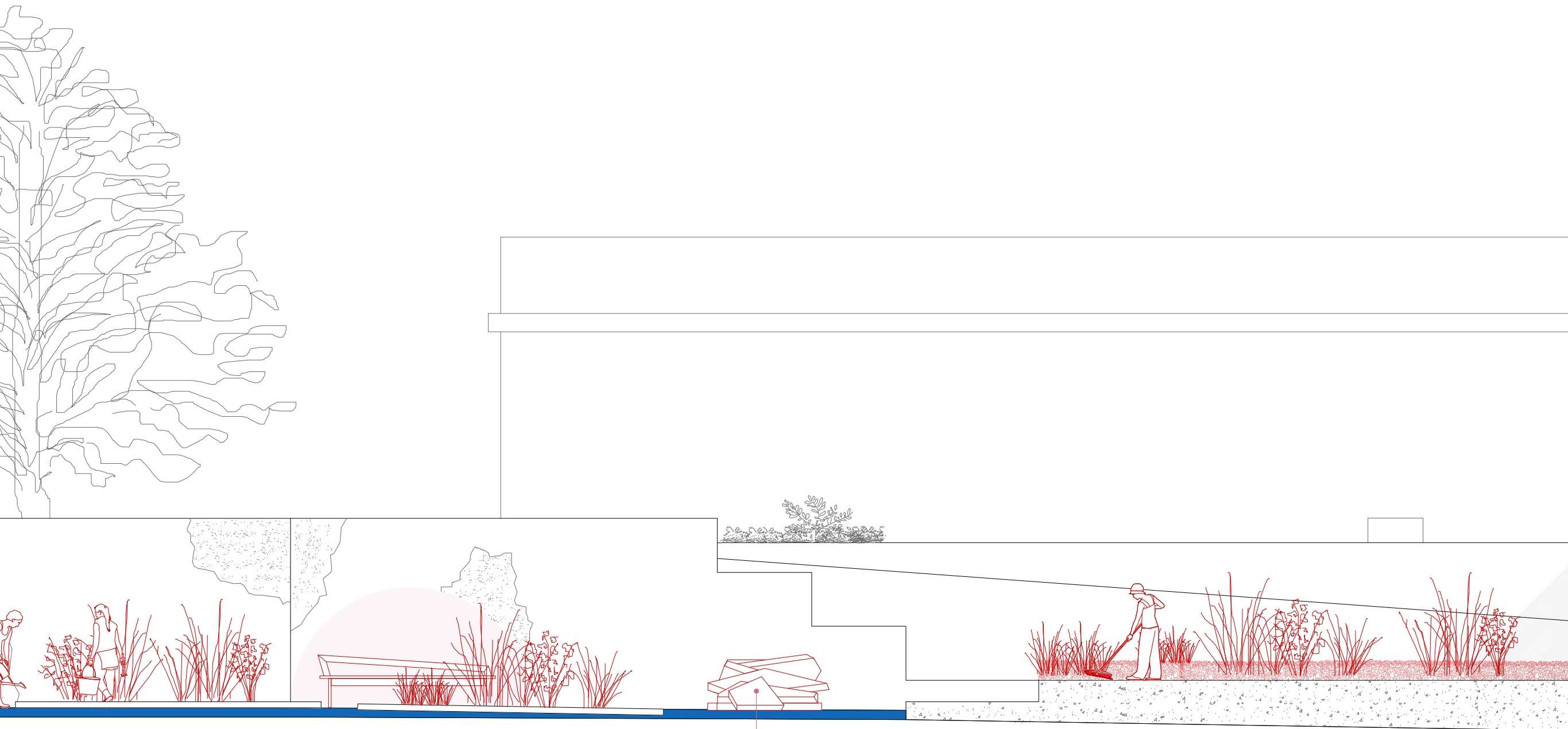
monolithic structure
of bricks / rocks / debris
(bench/barbicans reference)



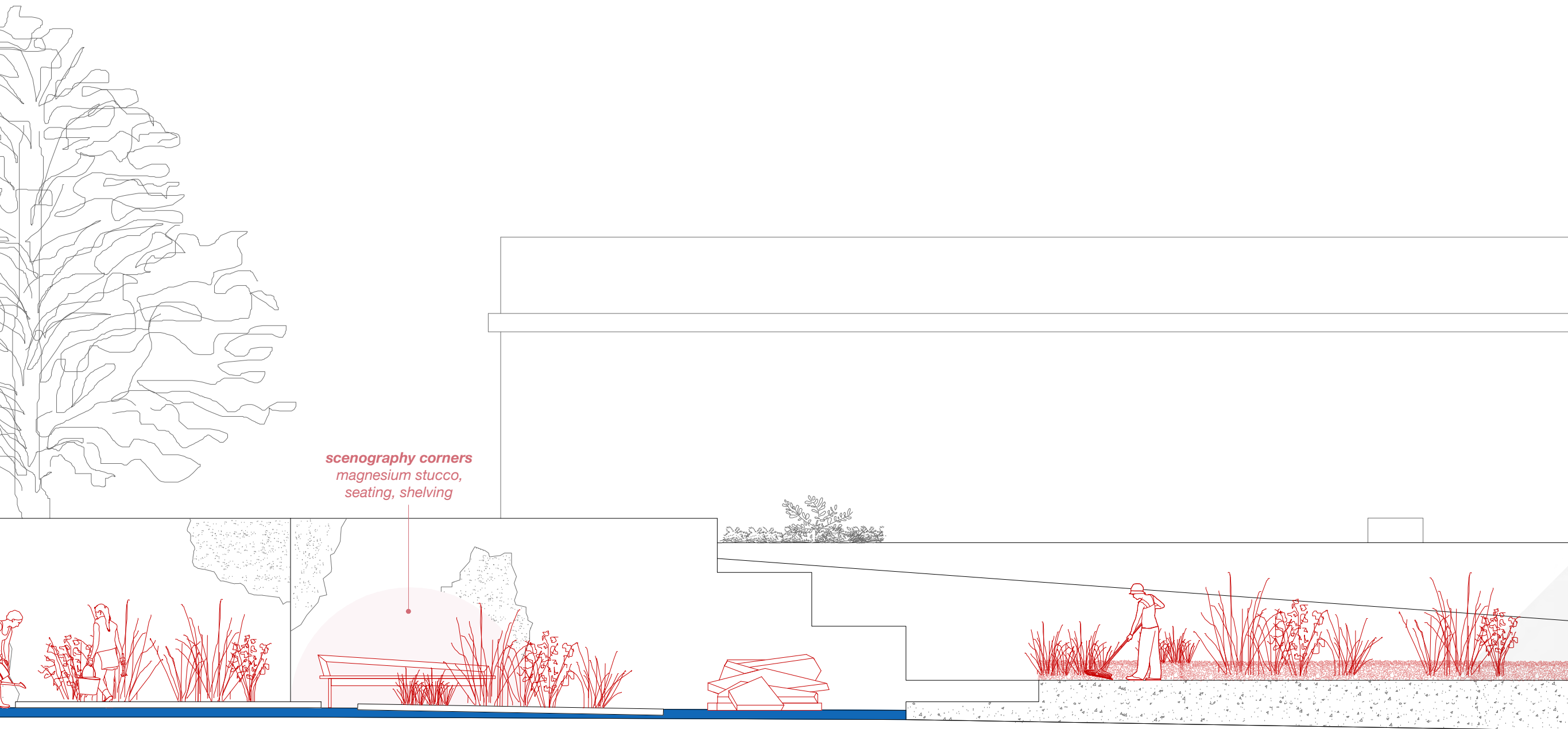




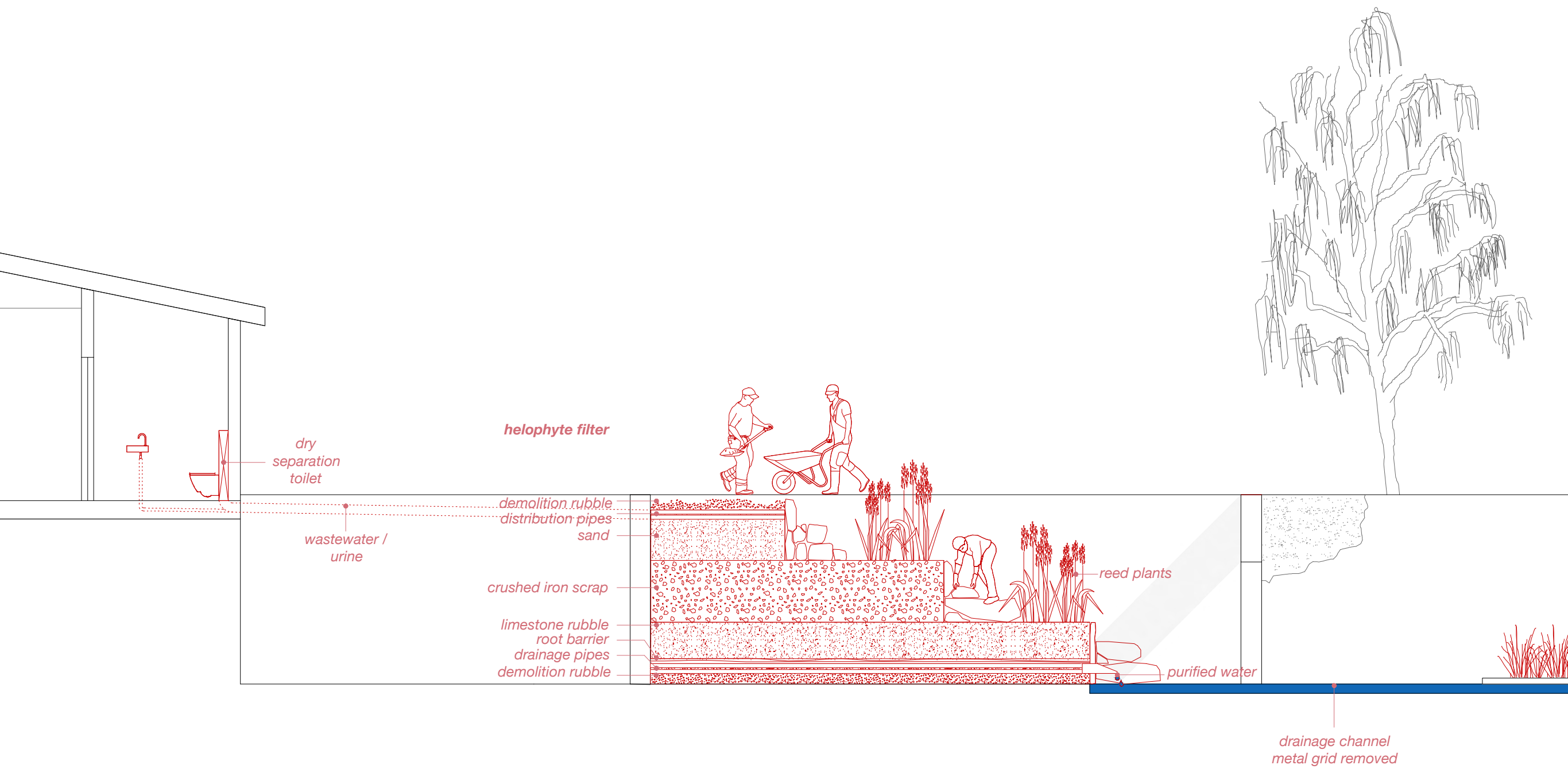




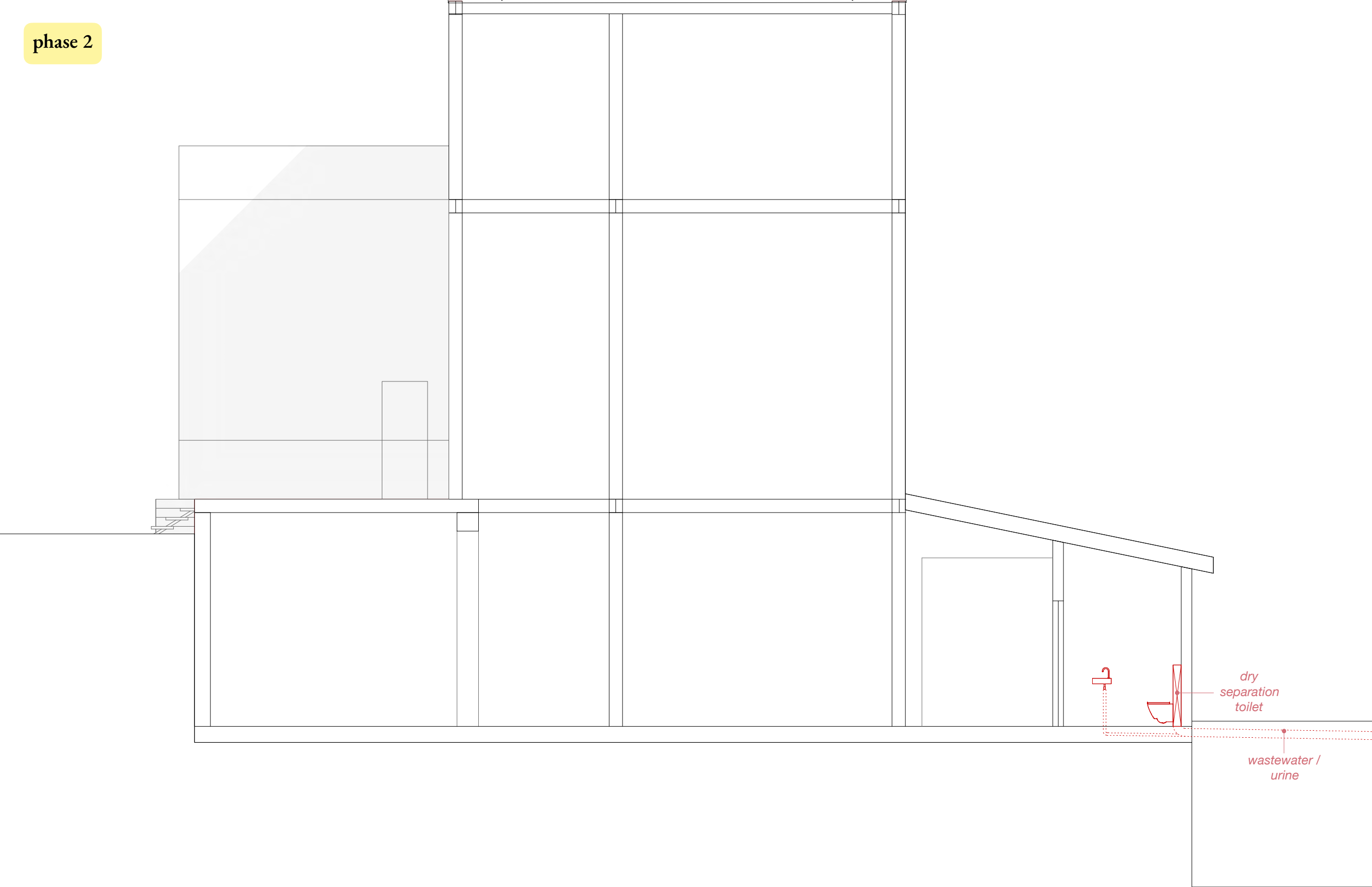
sculptural concrete debris piles
as romantic follies

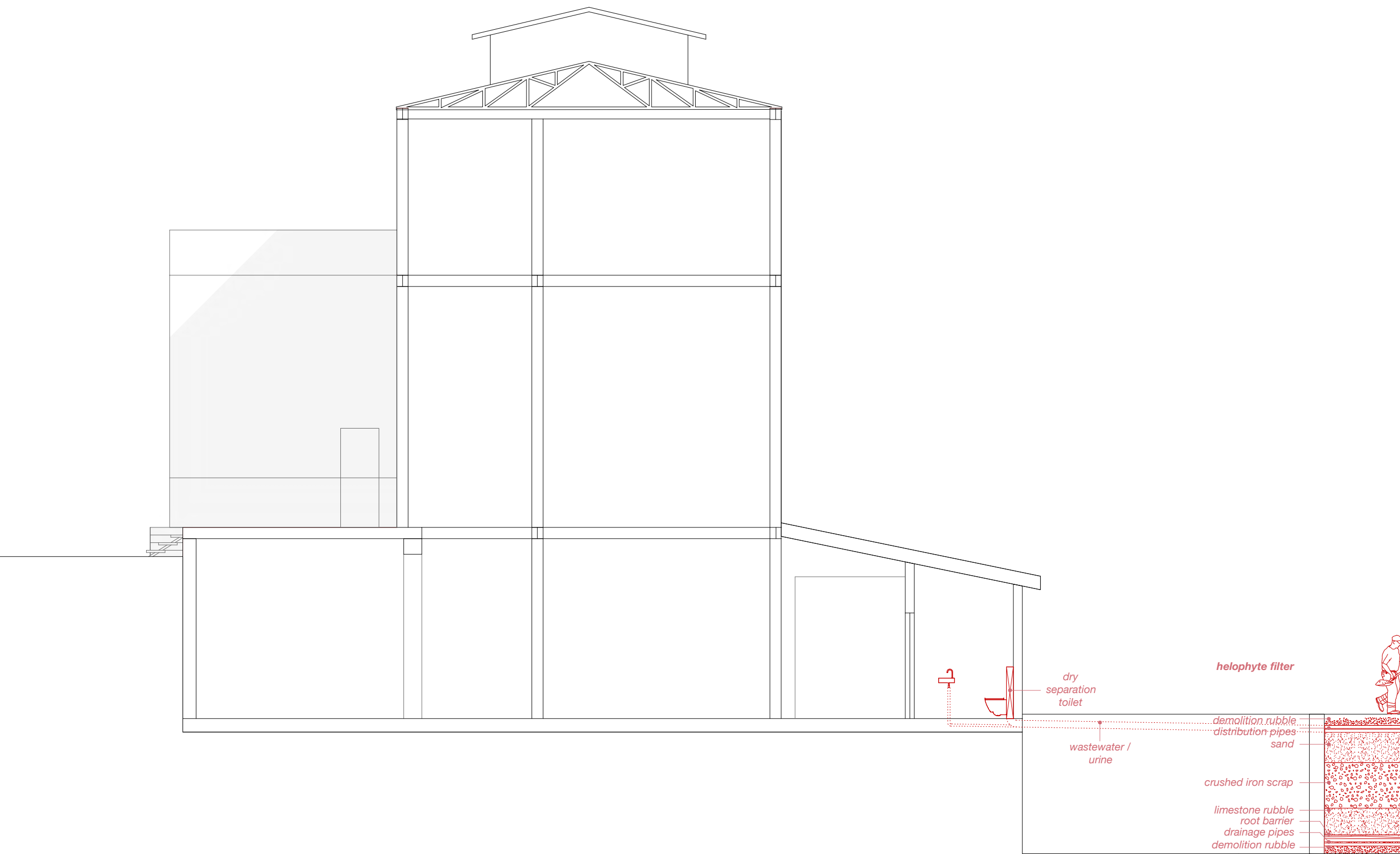


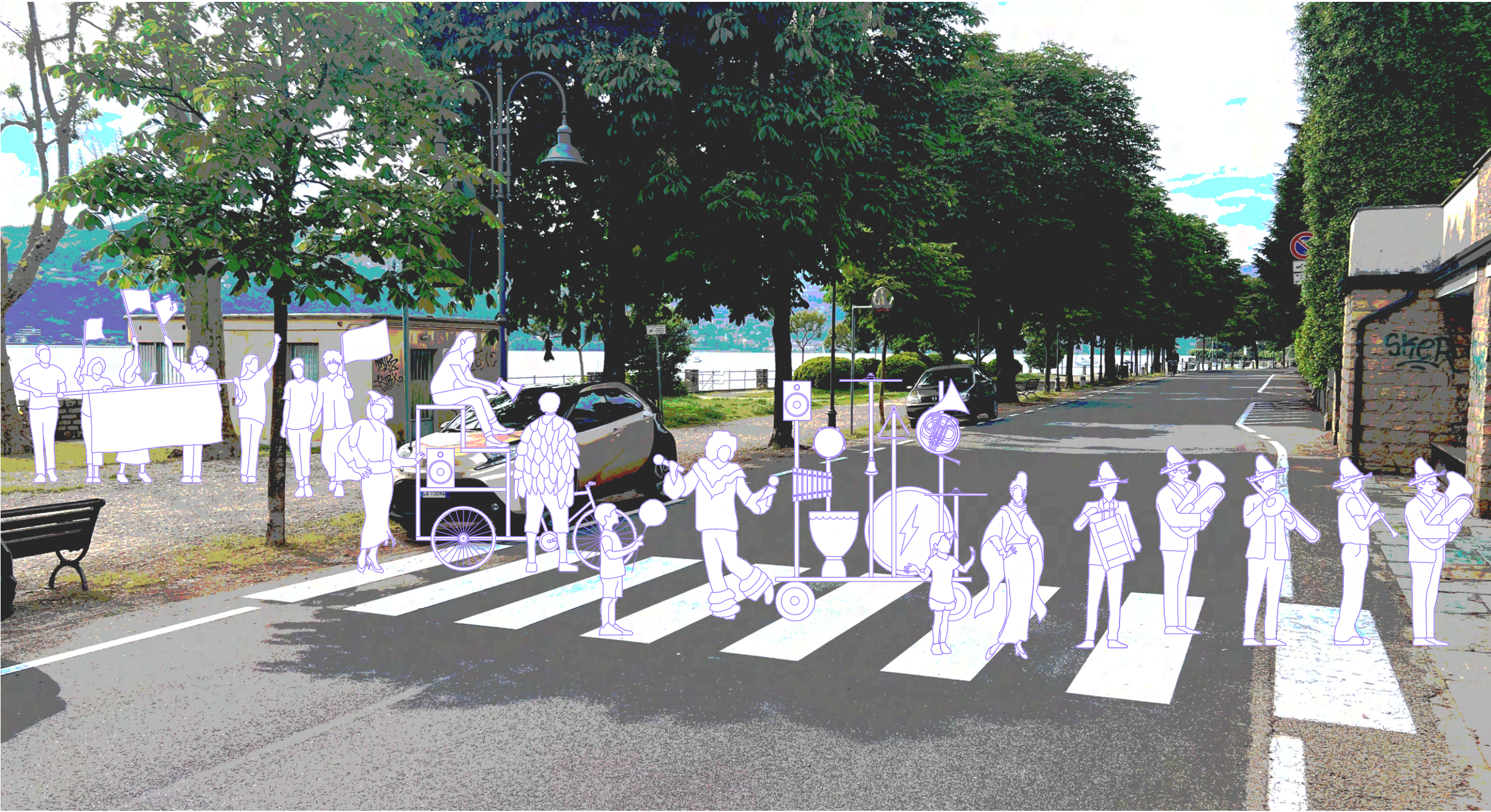
scenography corners
magnesium stucco,
seating, shelving



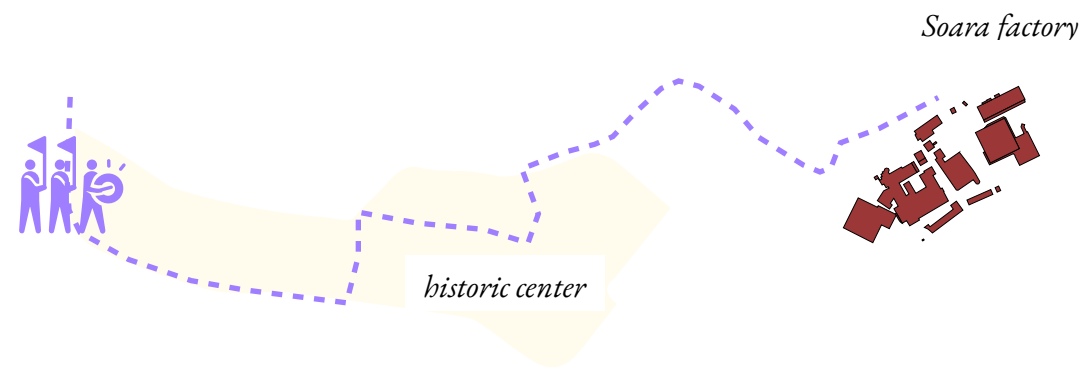
phase 2



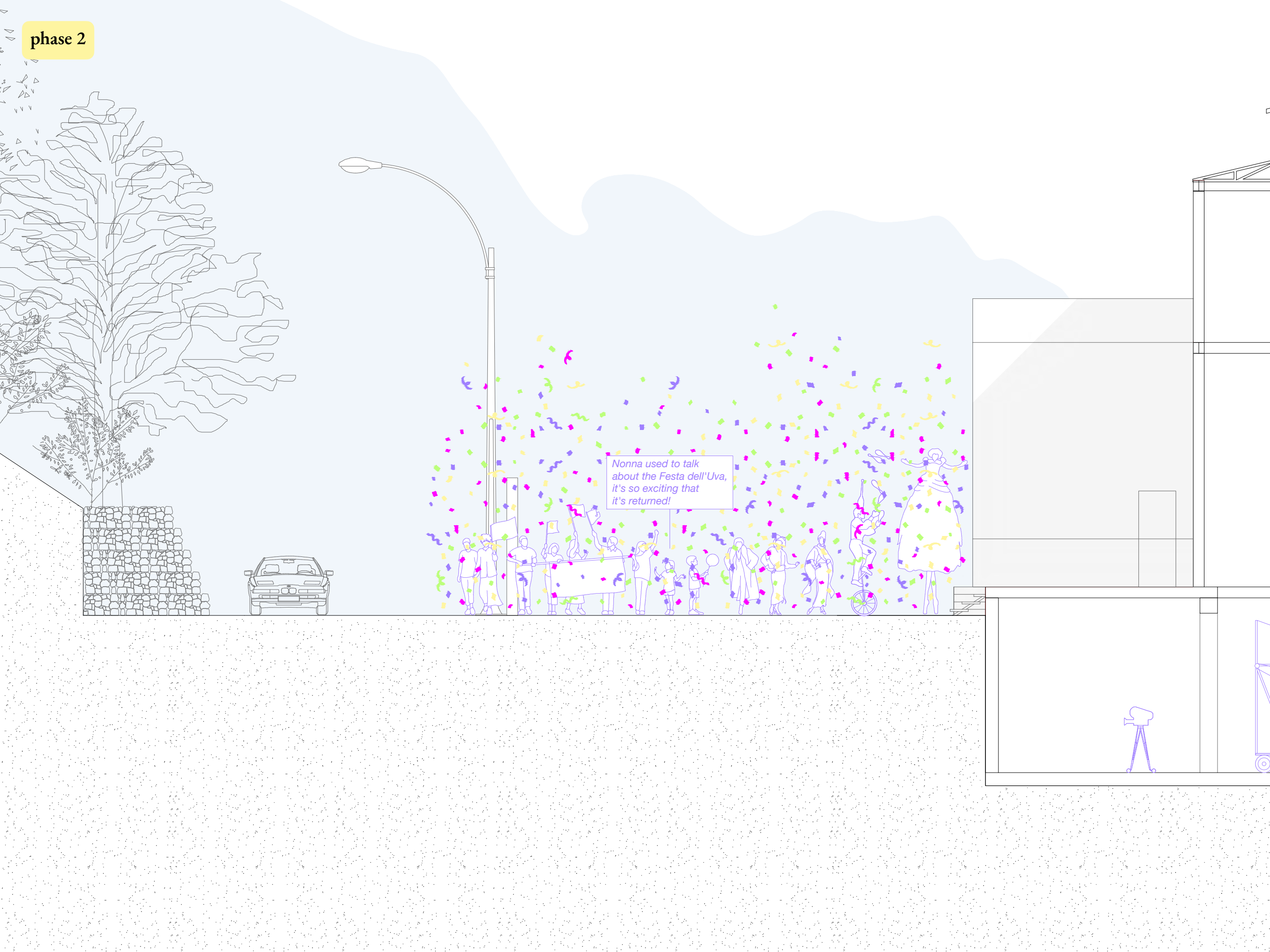


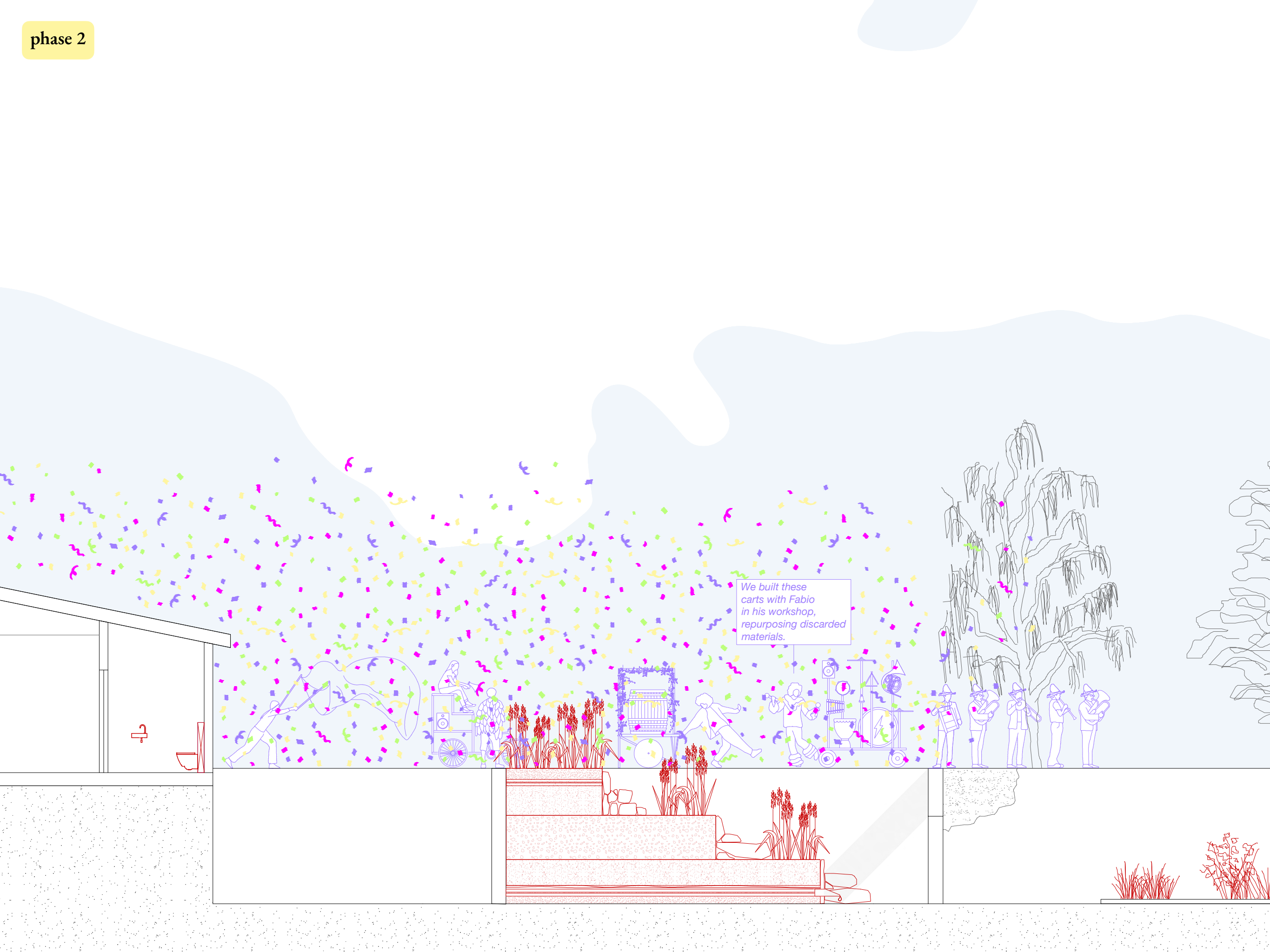


During the Festa dell’Uva
Parade starts at former rowing club building



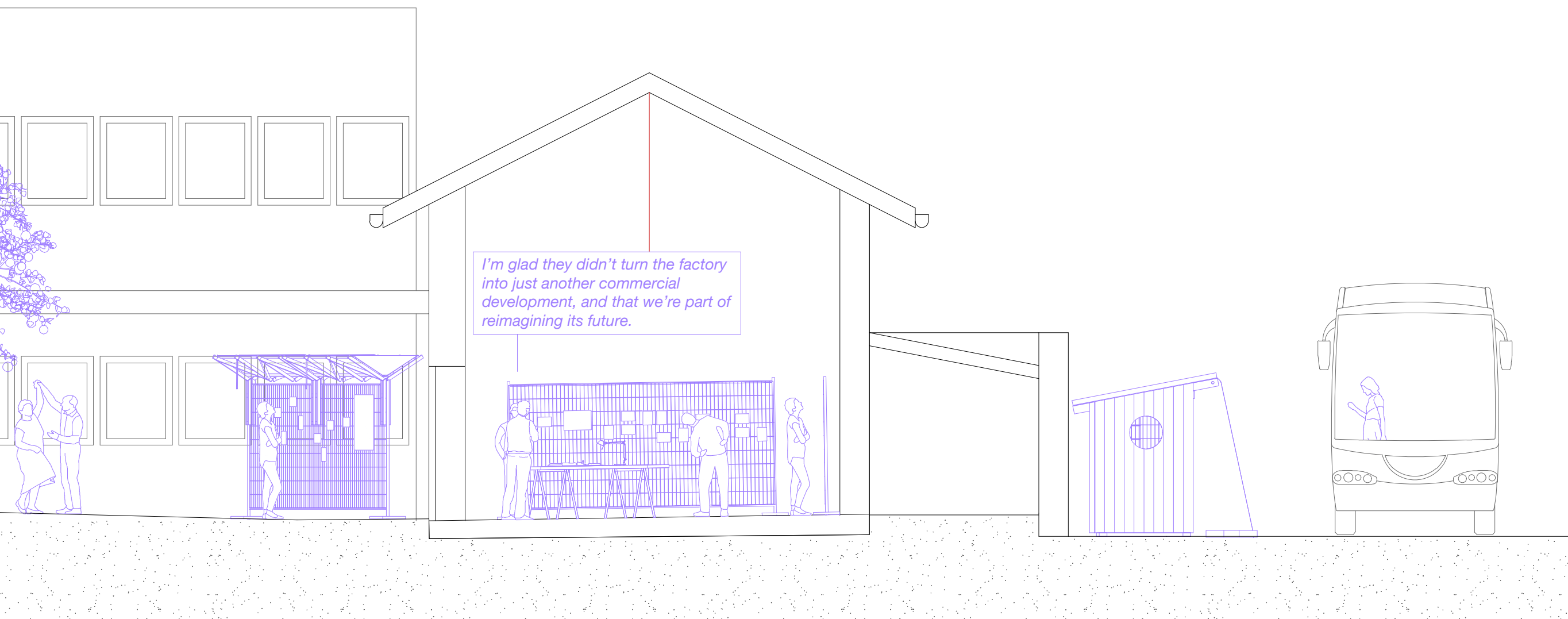
During the Festa dell’Uva
Celebrating and weaving connections through the town



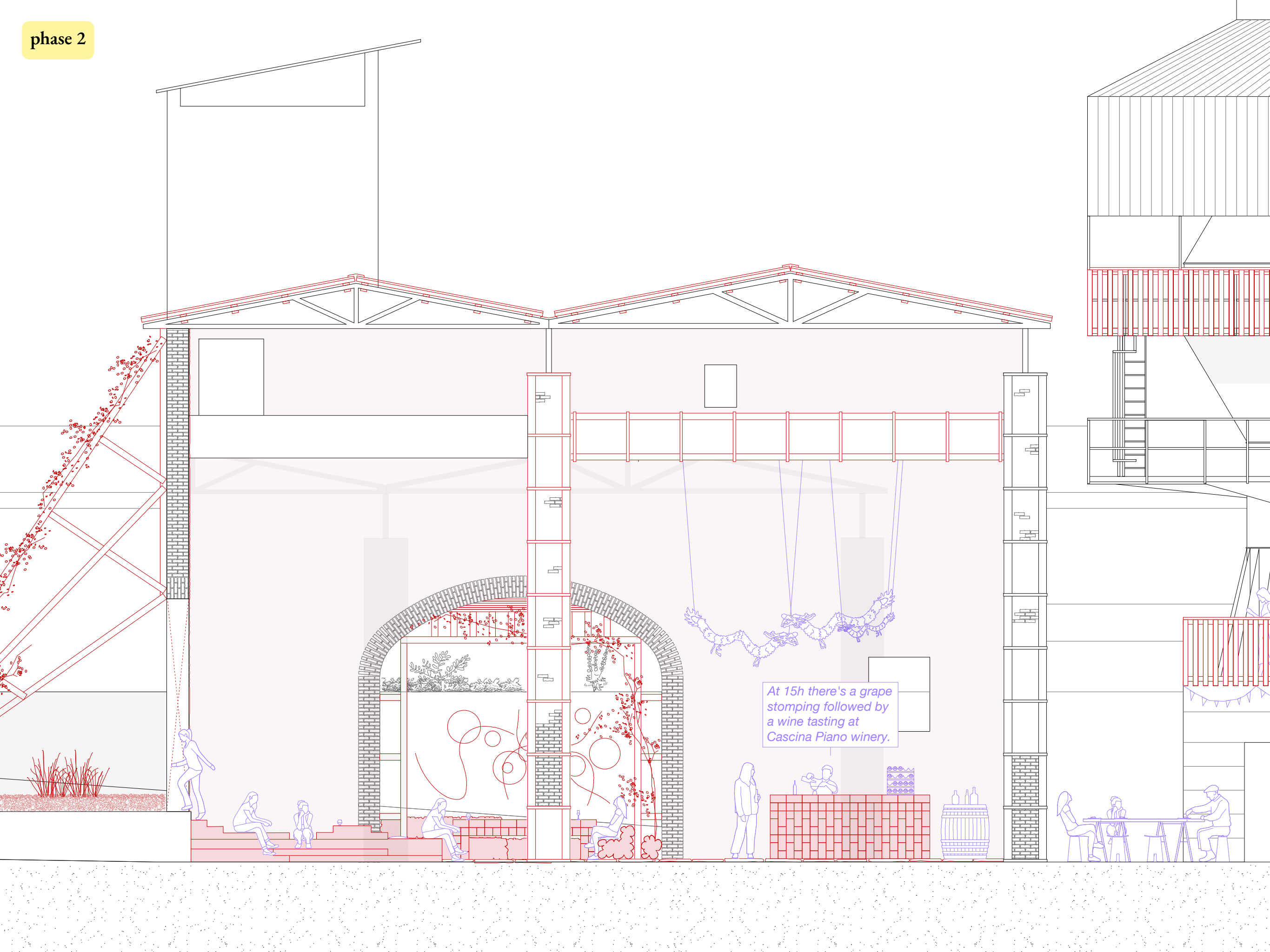


We built these
carts with Fabio
in his workshop,
repurposing discarded
materials.

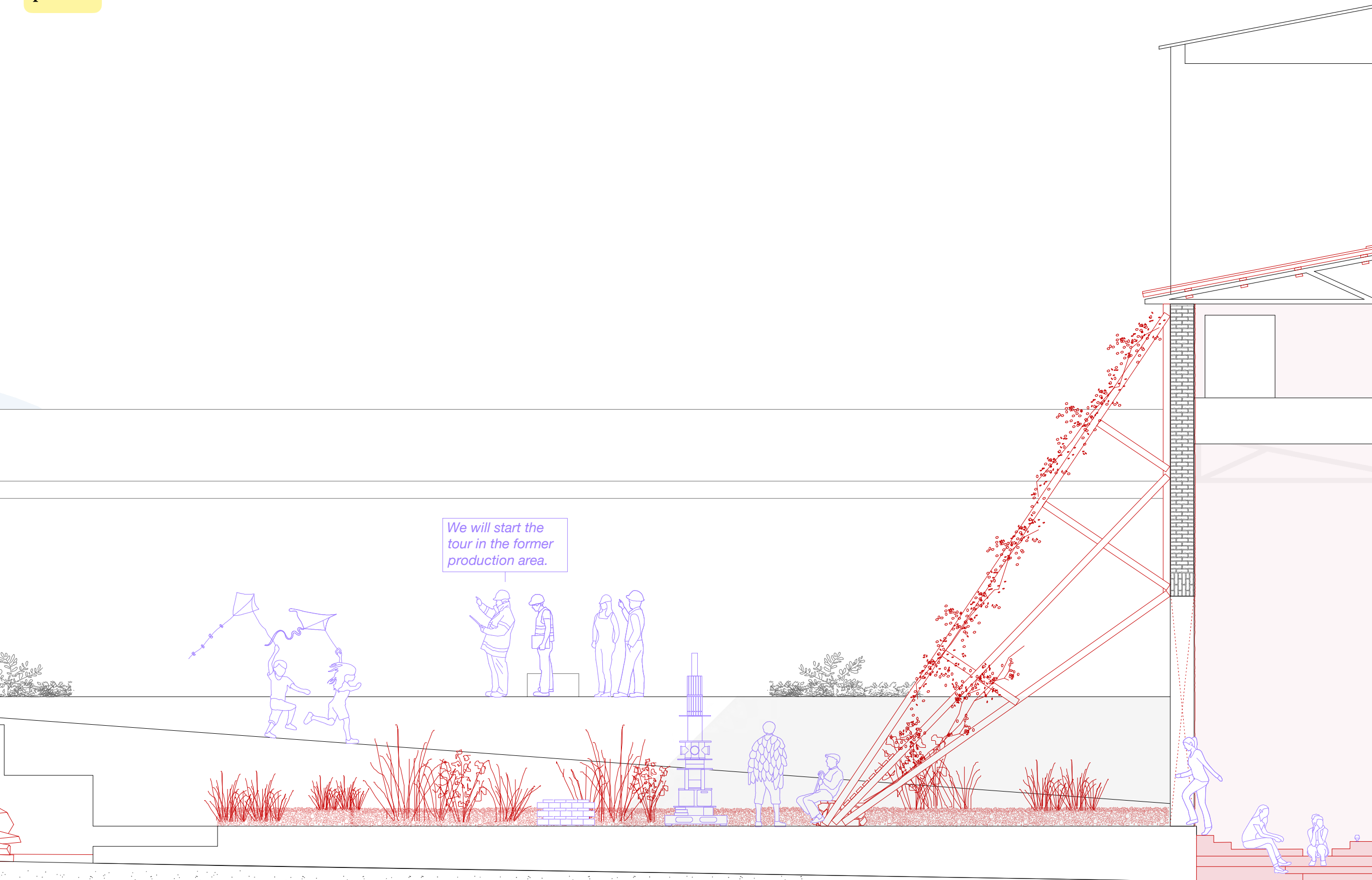


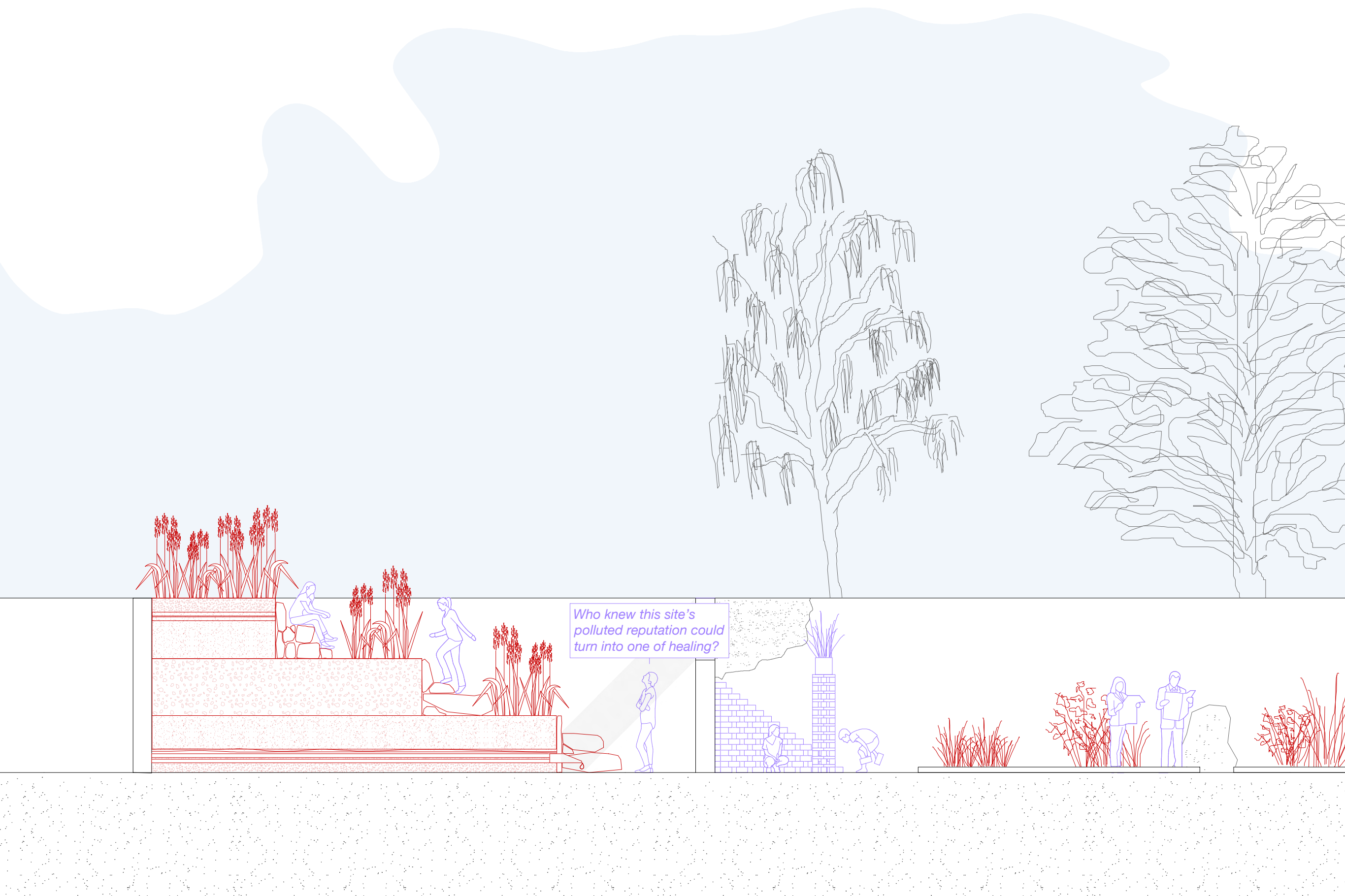




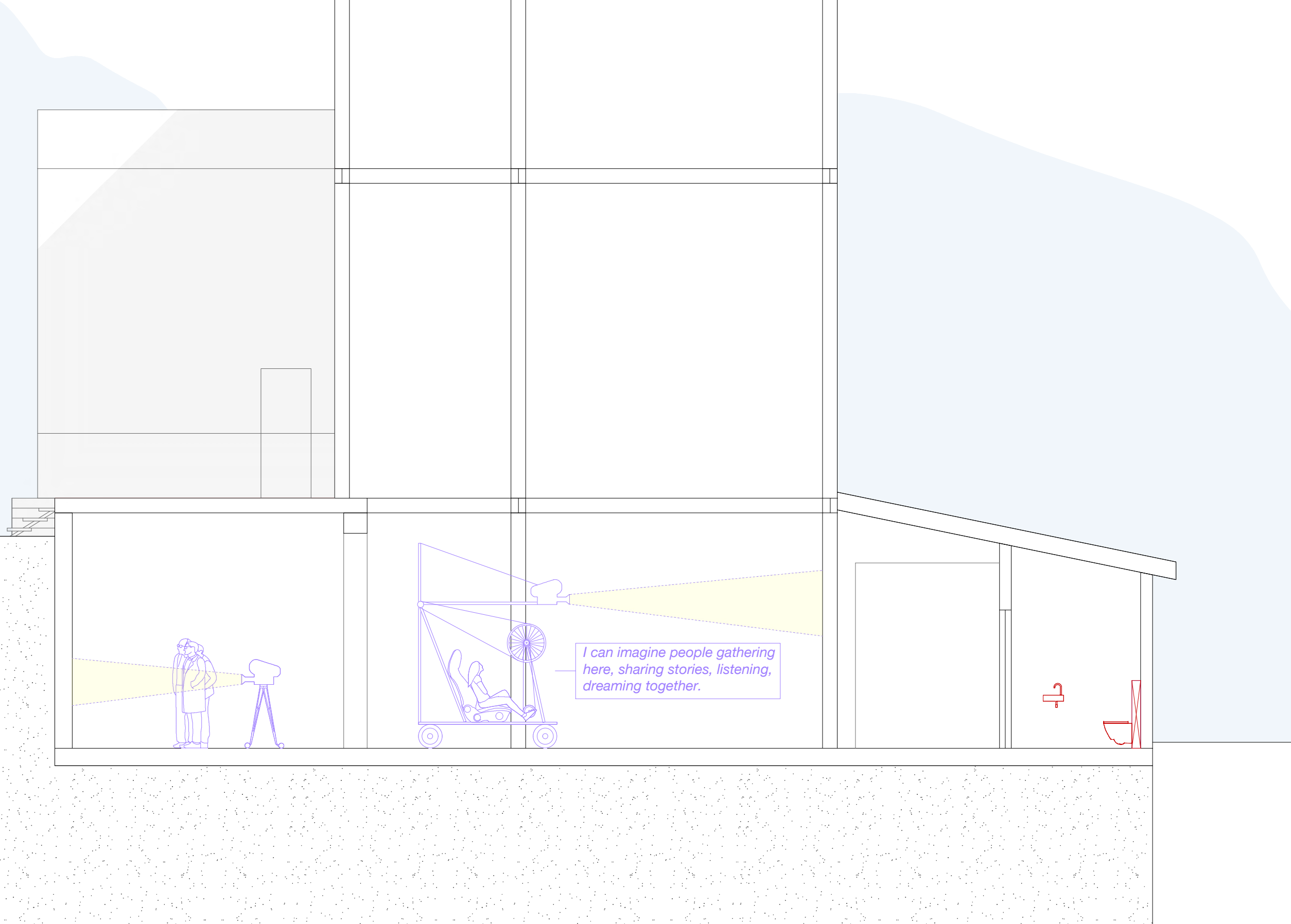


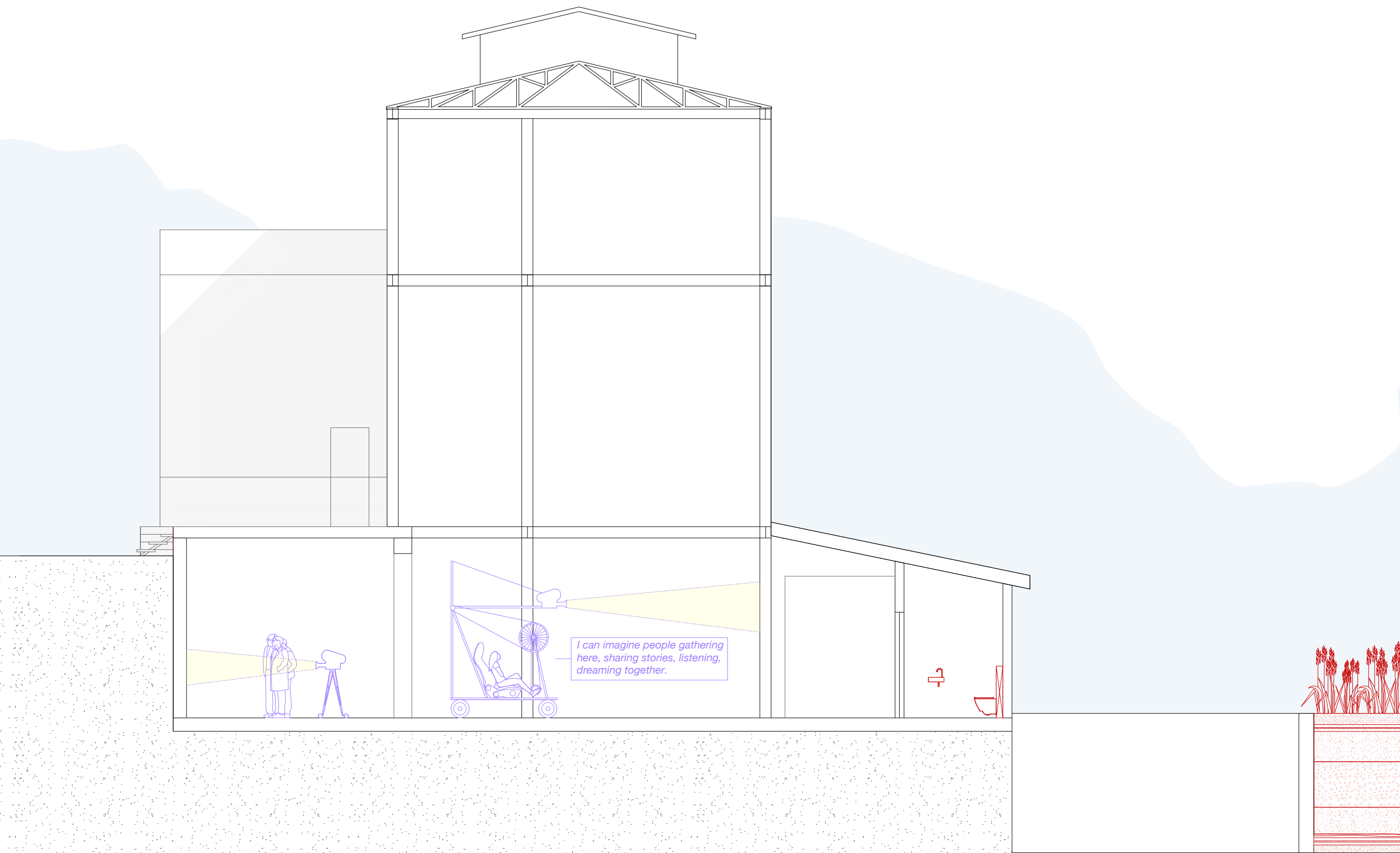
At 15h there's a grape stomping followed by a wine tasting at Cascina Piano winery.



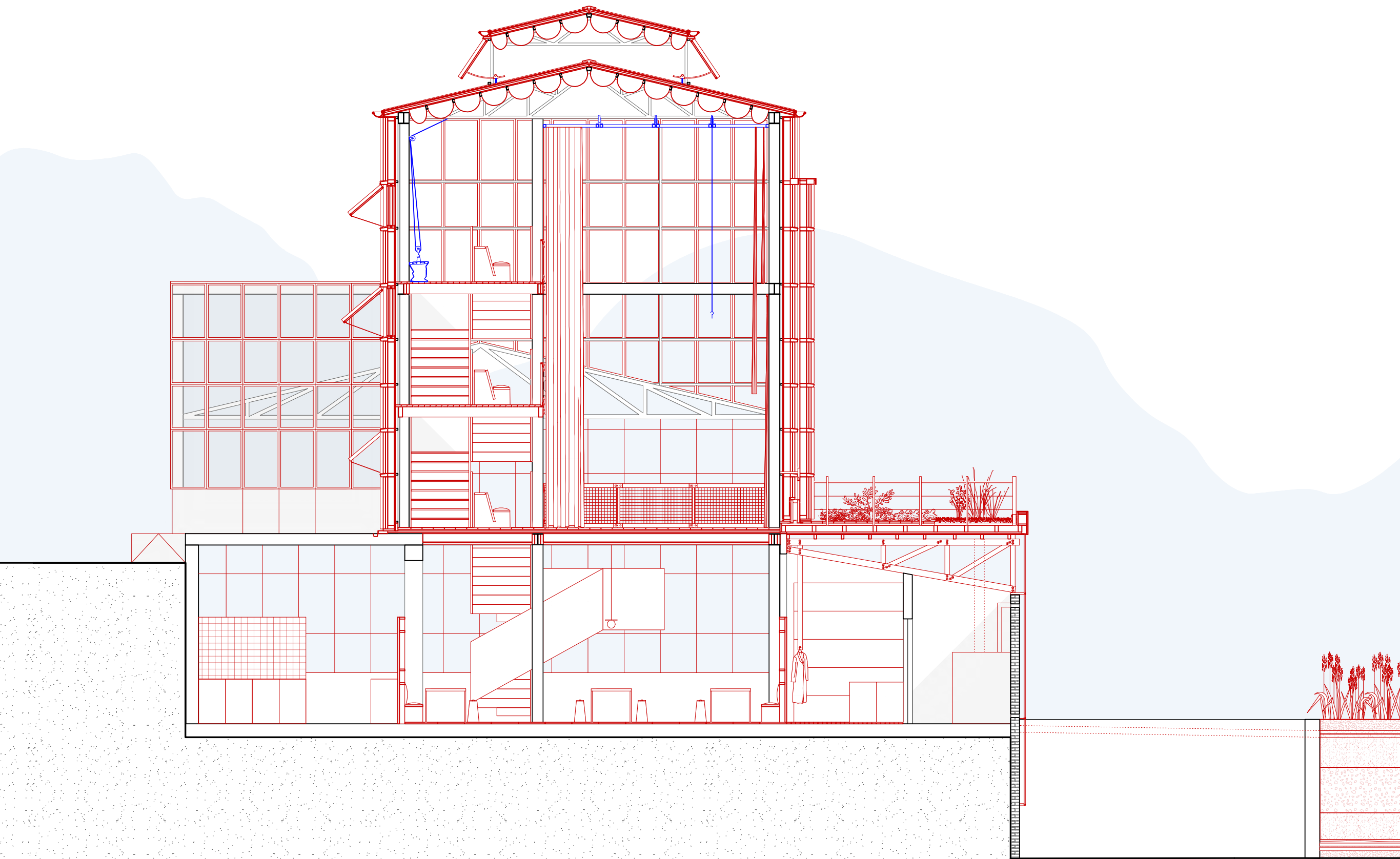


phase 2





I can imagine people gathering here, sharing stories, listening, dreaming together.



3 Second execution phase

Site purchase

Collective design discussions and workshops

Design development and construction drawings

Acquire building permits

Material sourcing and experimentation

Construction

First residents moving in and gradual opening of community facilities



Setting the architectural tone

Project in space



Location



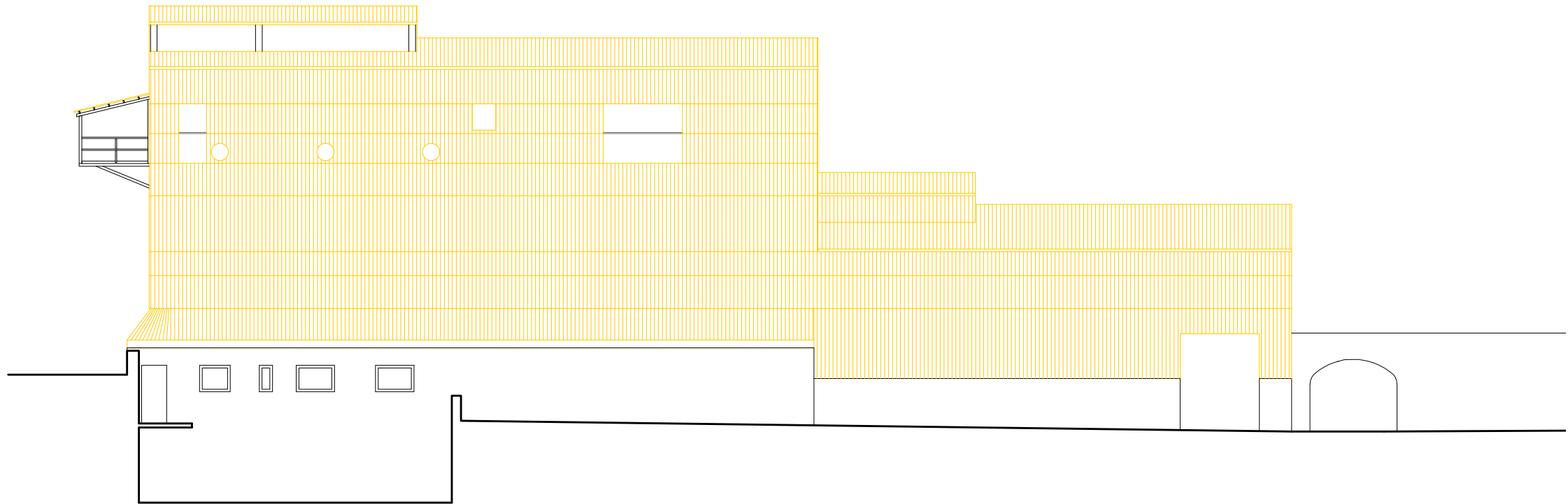
Current condition

Exterior



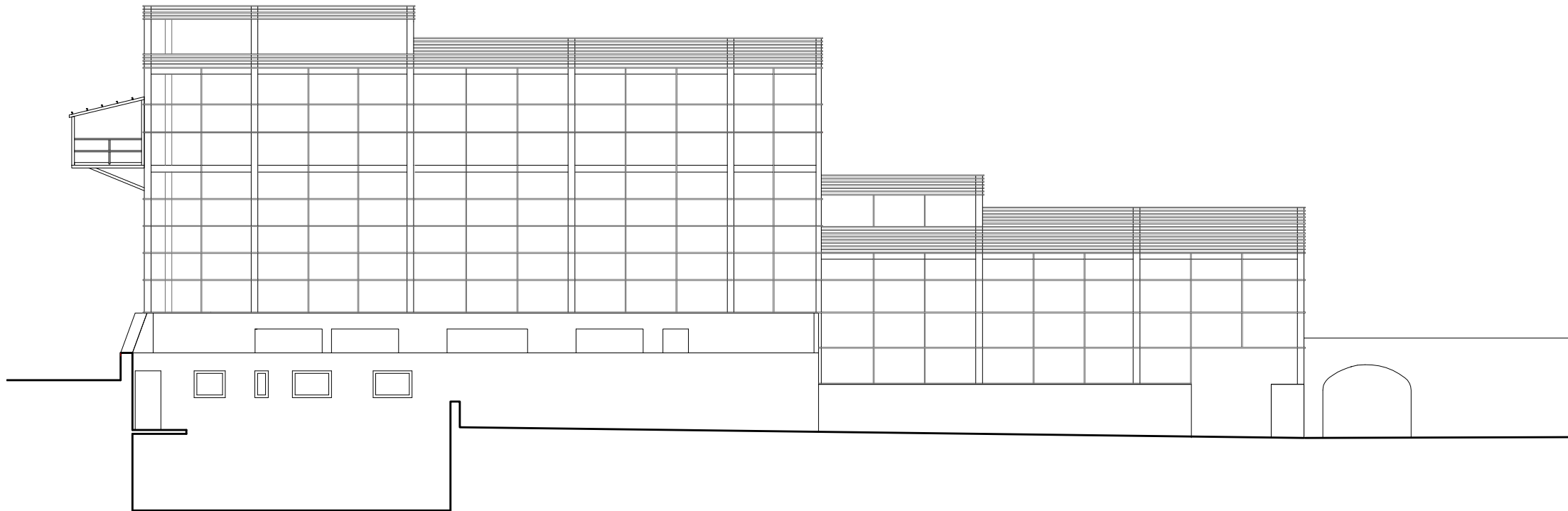
Current condition

Interior spaces



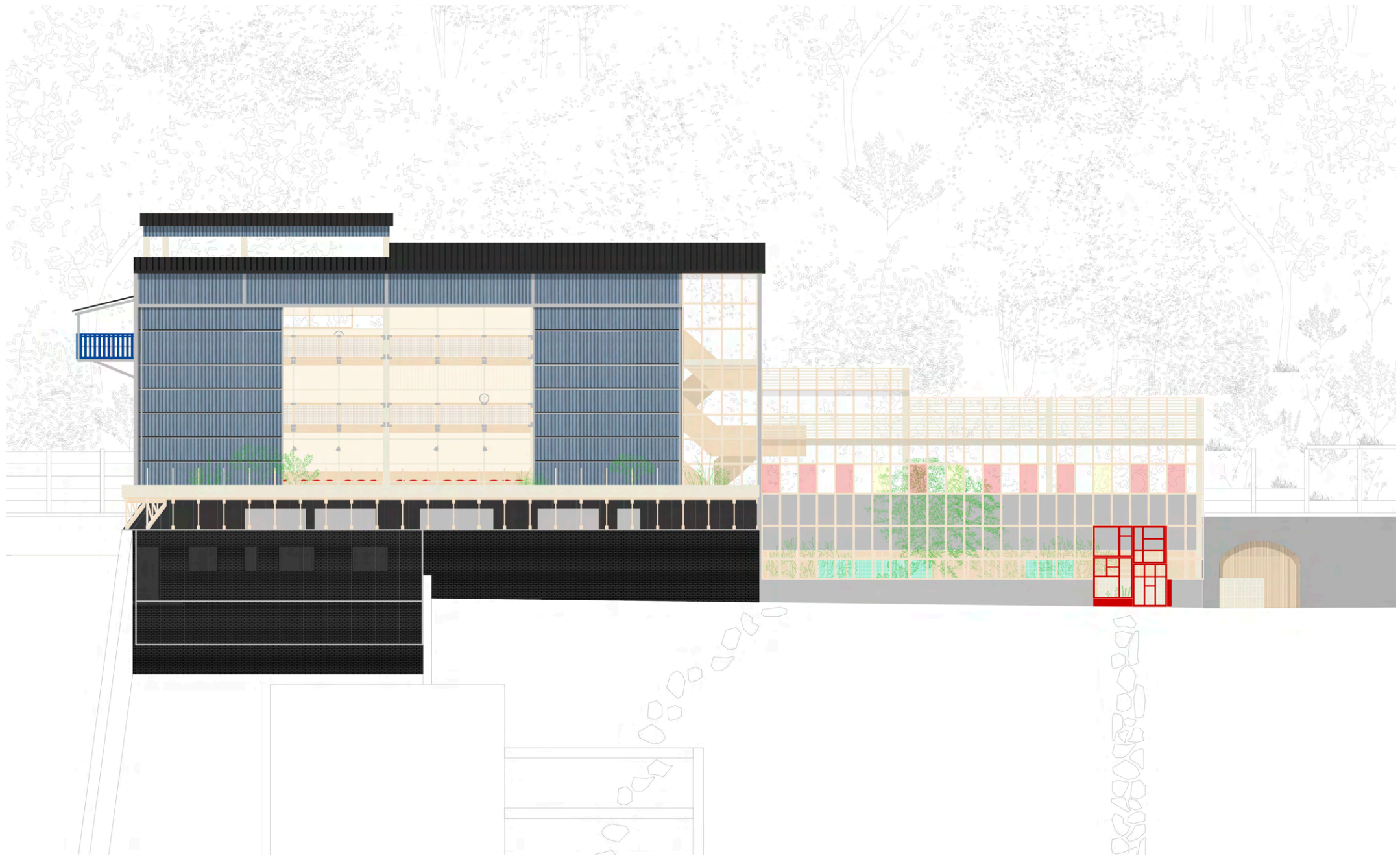
Outer shell operation

Professional asbestos façade and roof removal

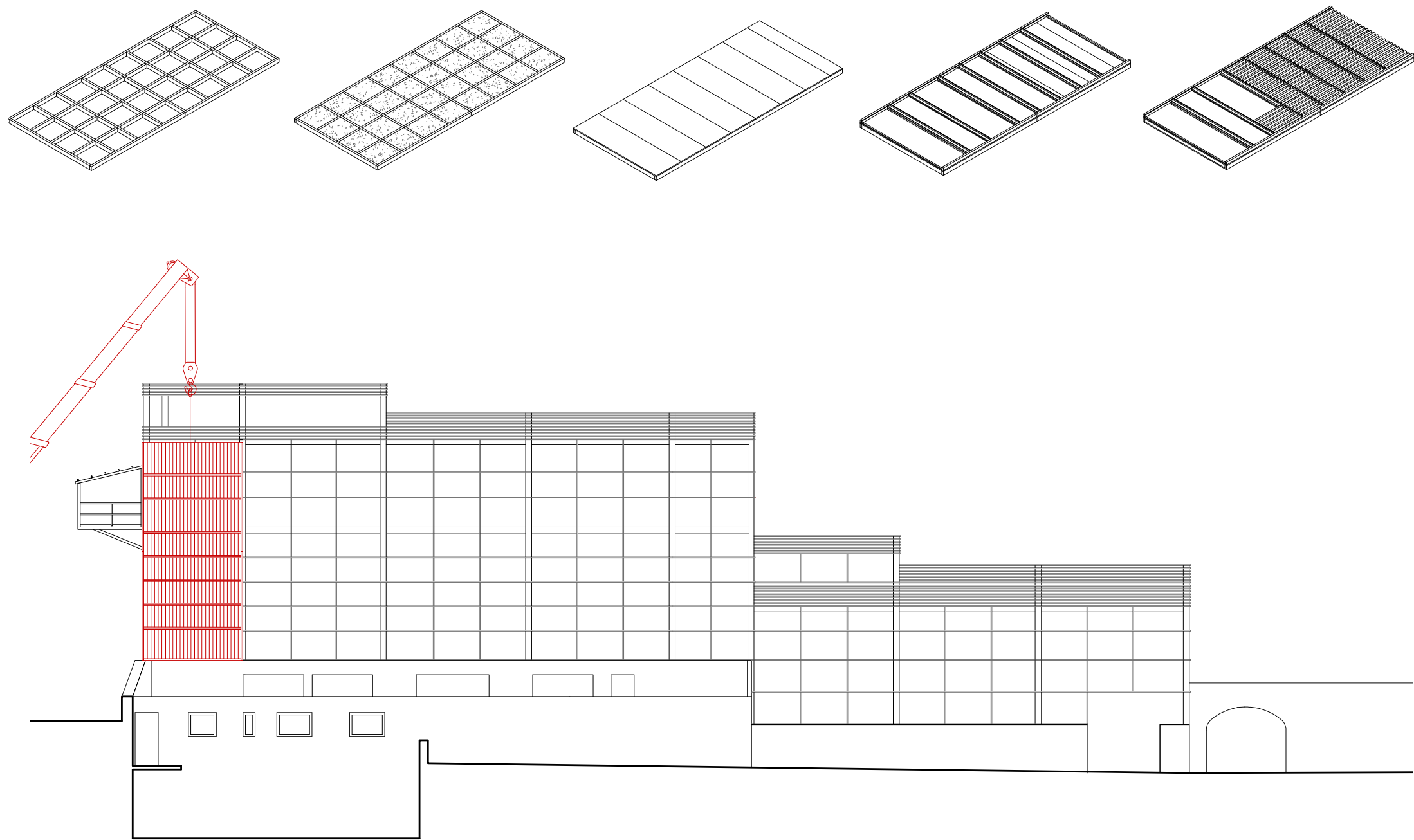


Outer shell operation

Remaining foundation and steel structure

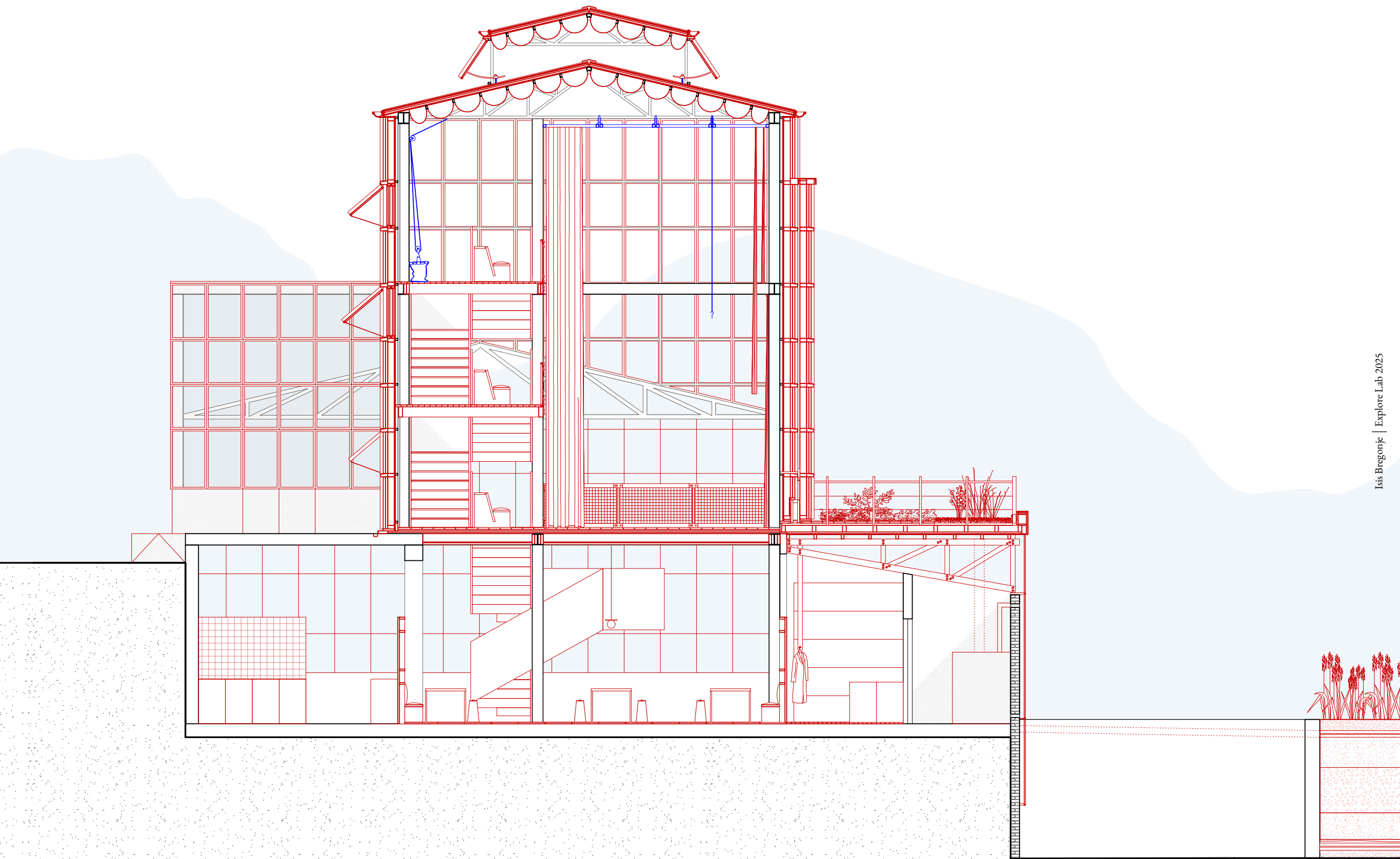


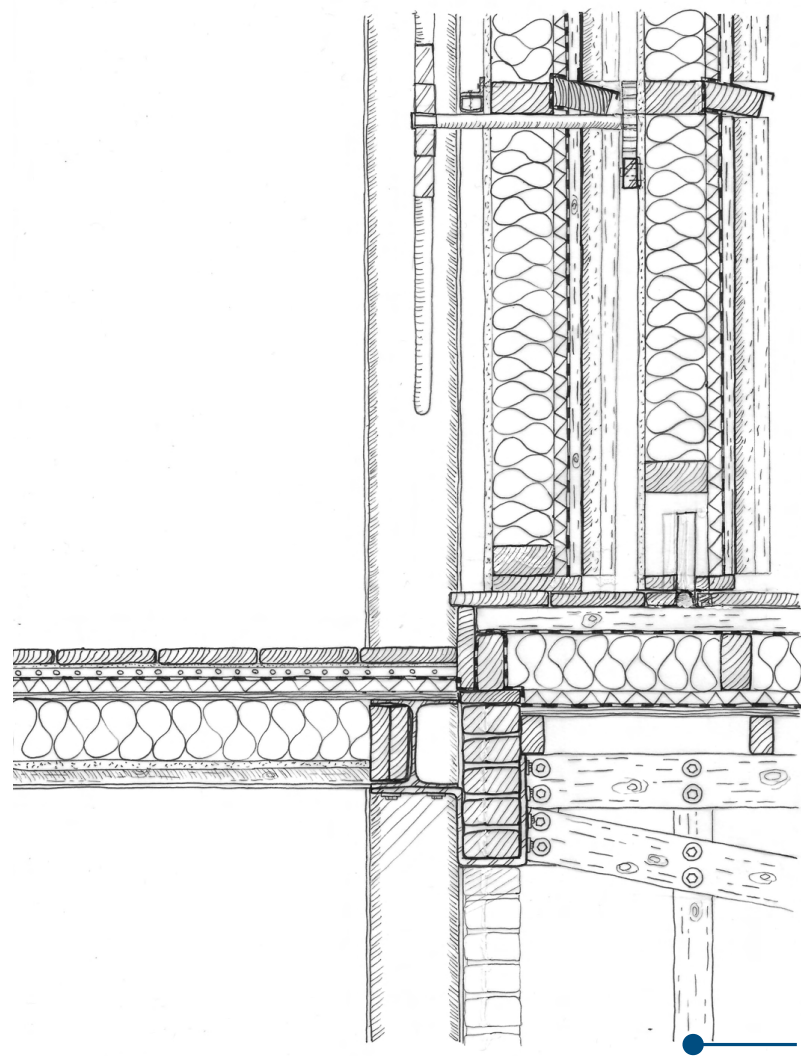
Outer shell operation
Industrial façade and greenhouse



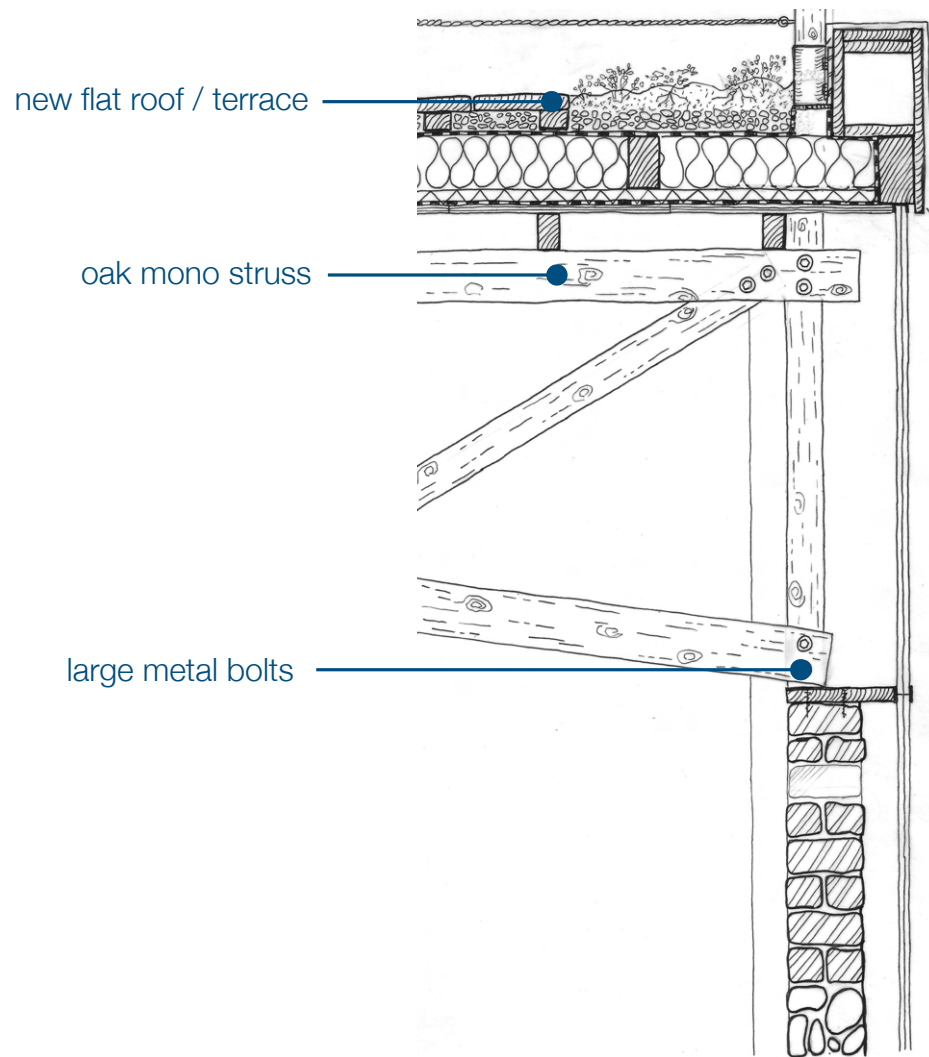
Outer shell operation

Façade panels are prefabricated and secured to existing steel girts



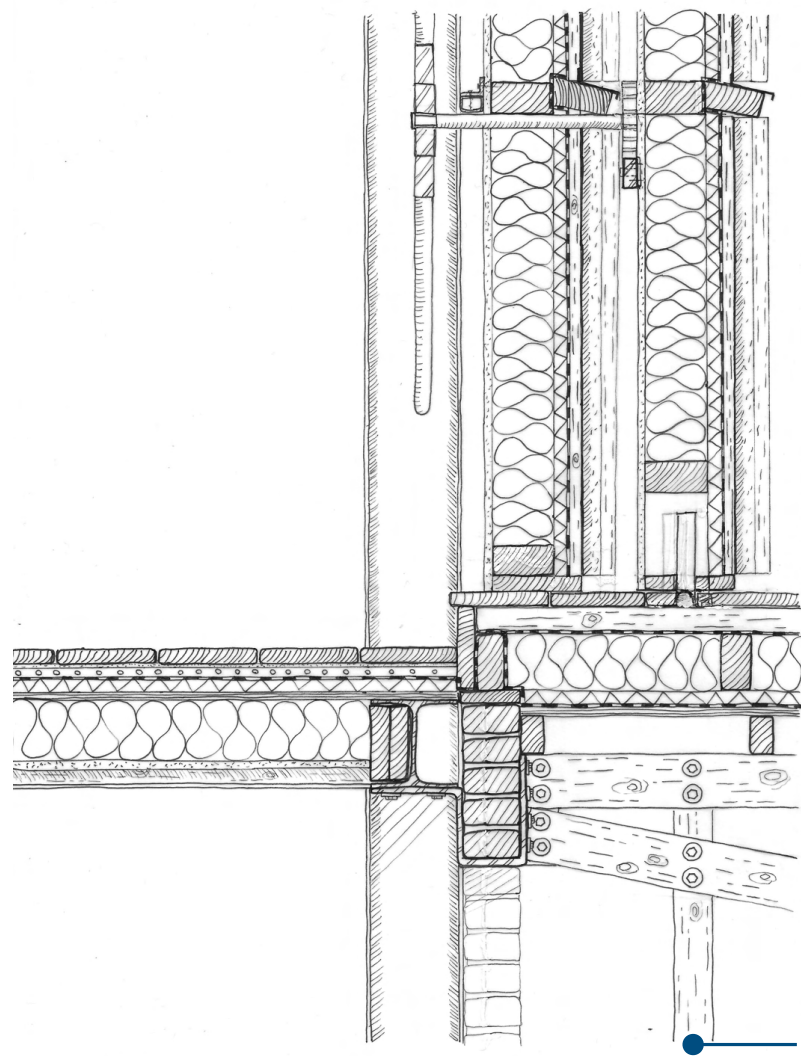


floating shelf
or coat rack

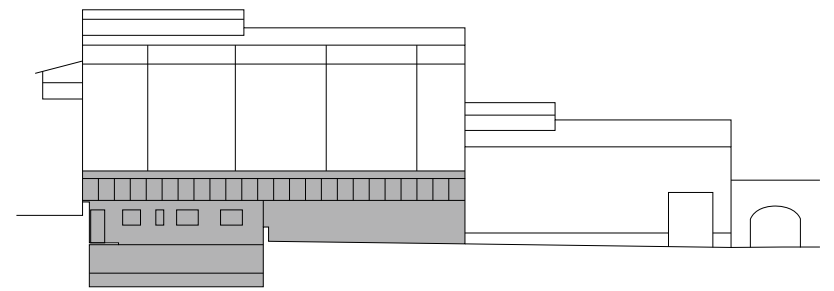


Outer shell operation

The deteriorated slanted roof is replaced with oak mono trusses



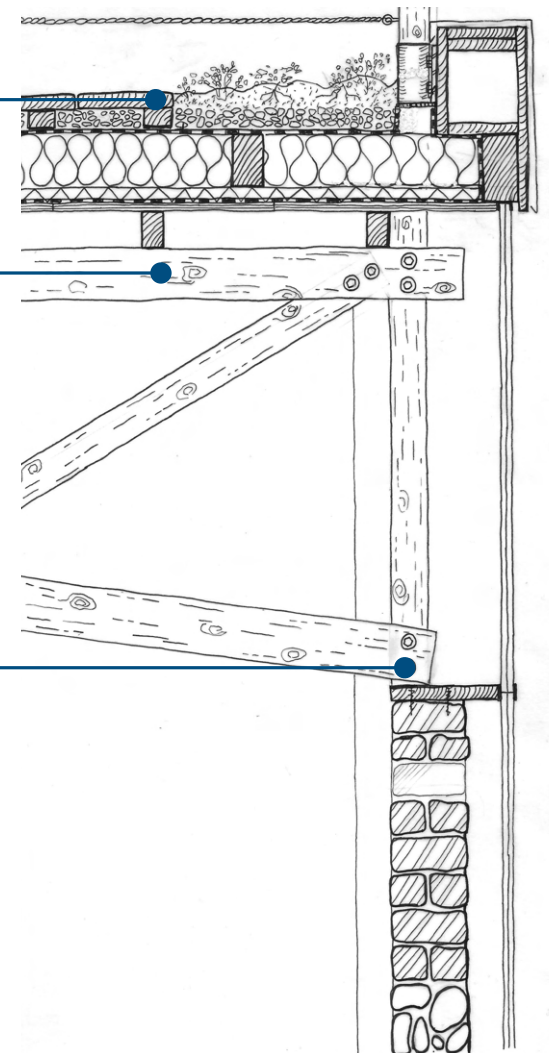
floating shelf
or coat rack



new flat roof / terrace

oak mono struss

large metal bolts



Outer shell operation

The deteriorated slanted roof is replaced with oak mono trusses



Defining the character

Elegance and luxury translated through simple means



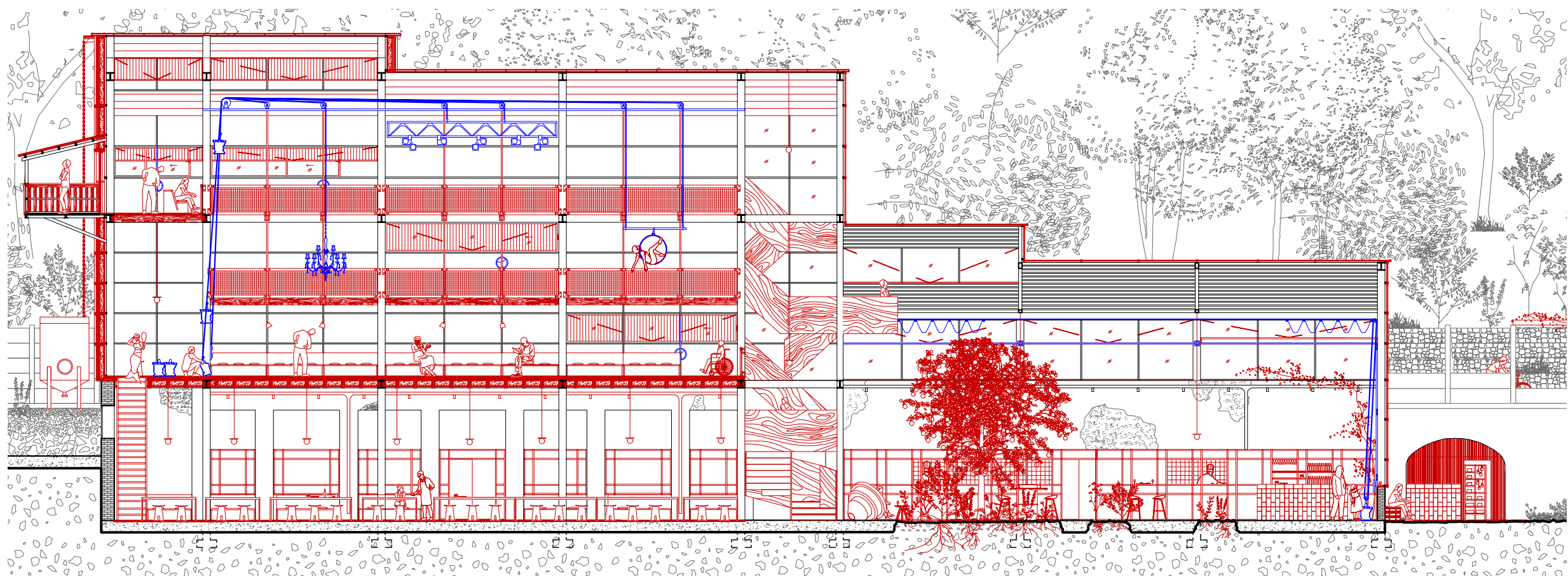
Defining the character

Local craftsmanship



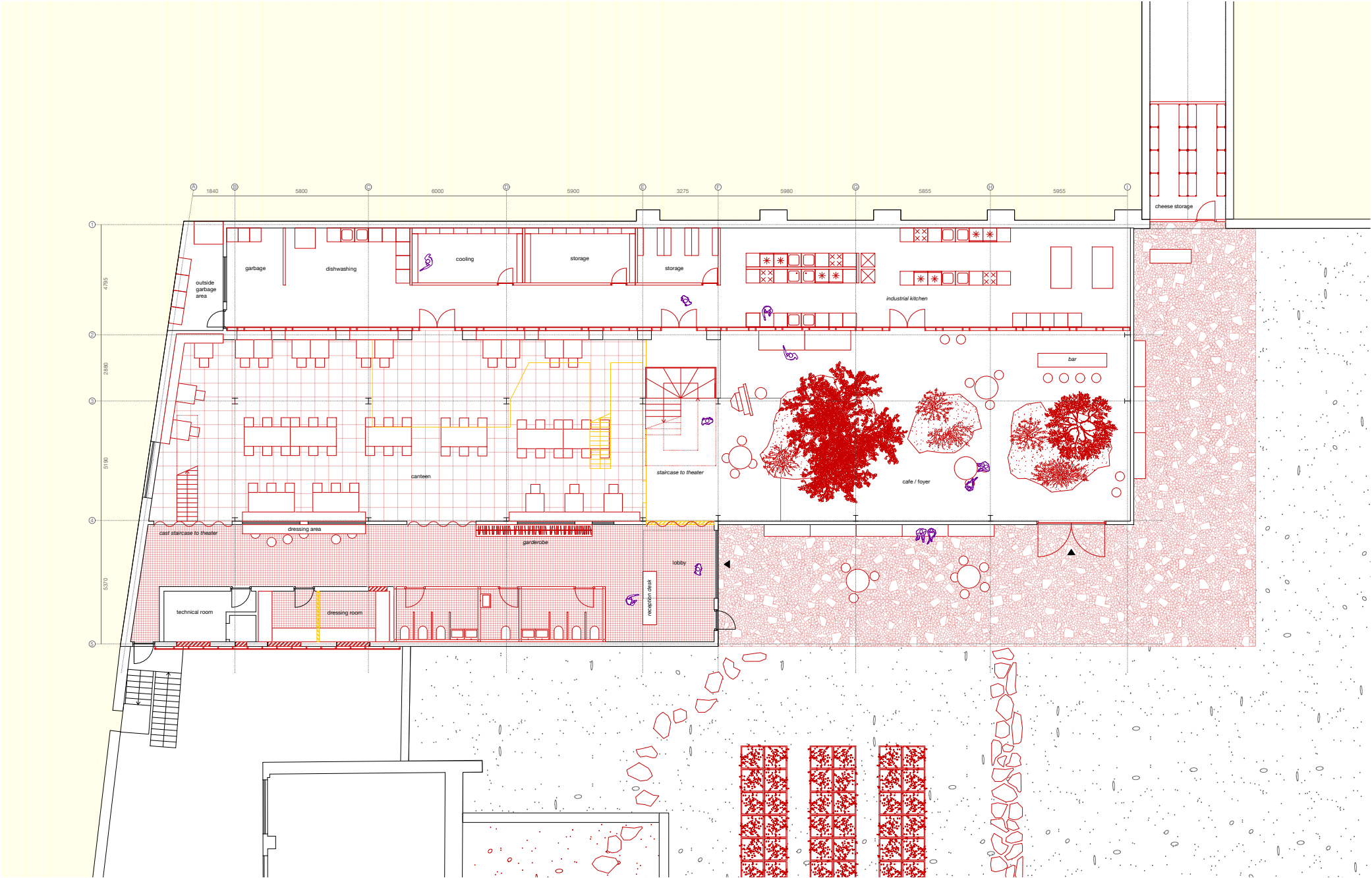
Defining the character

Cultural references



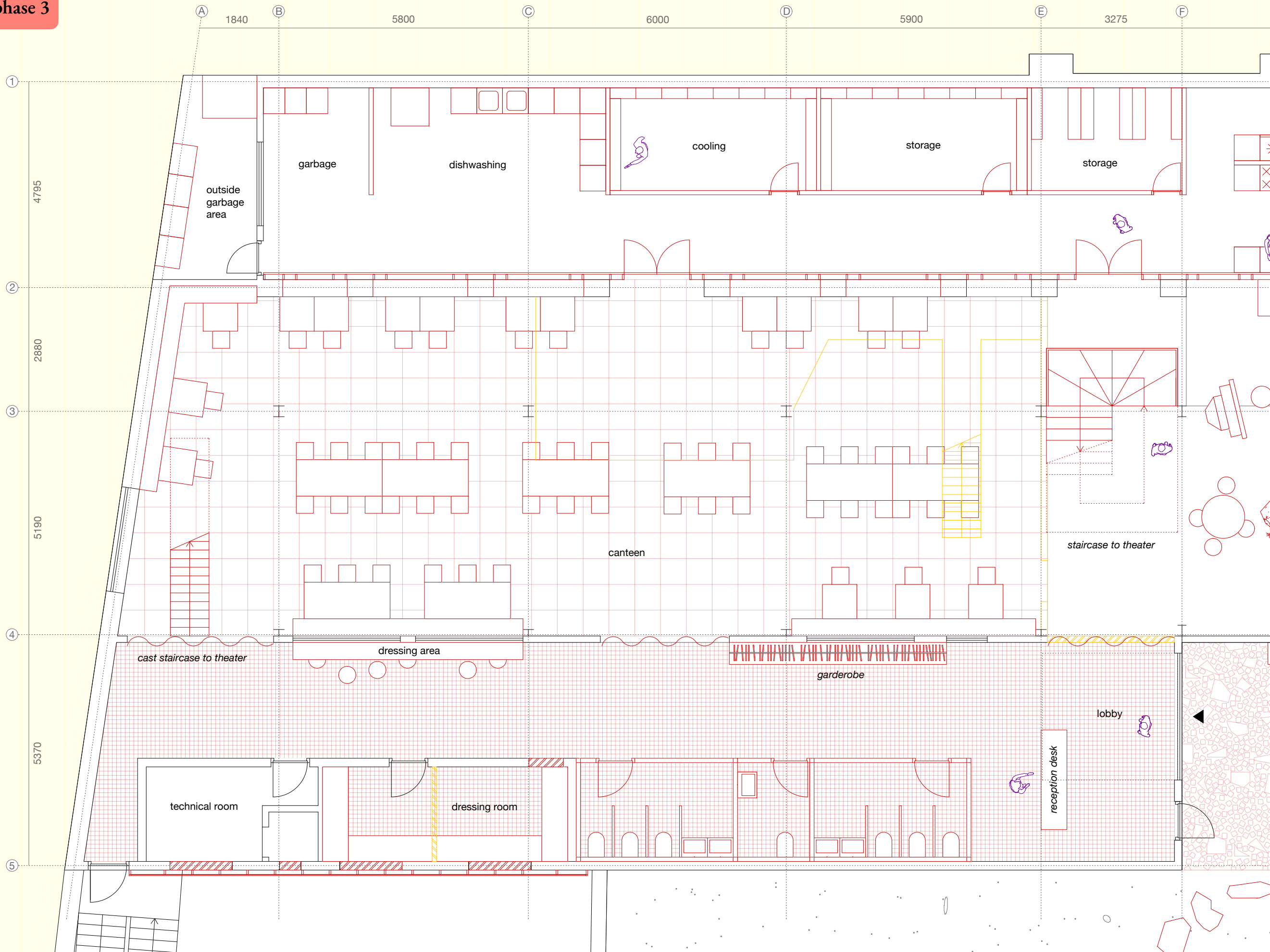
Spatial organization

Theater stage on first floor with three lateral galleries



Spatial organization

Entry sequence: lobby, staircase to theater / foyer / canteen



cheese storage

storage

industrial kitchen

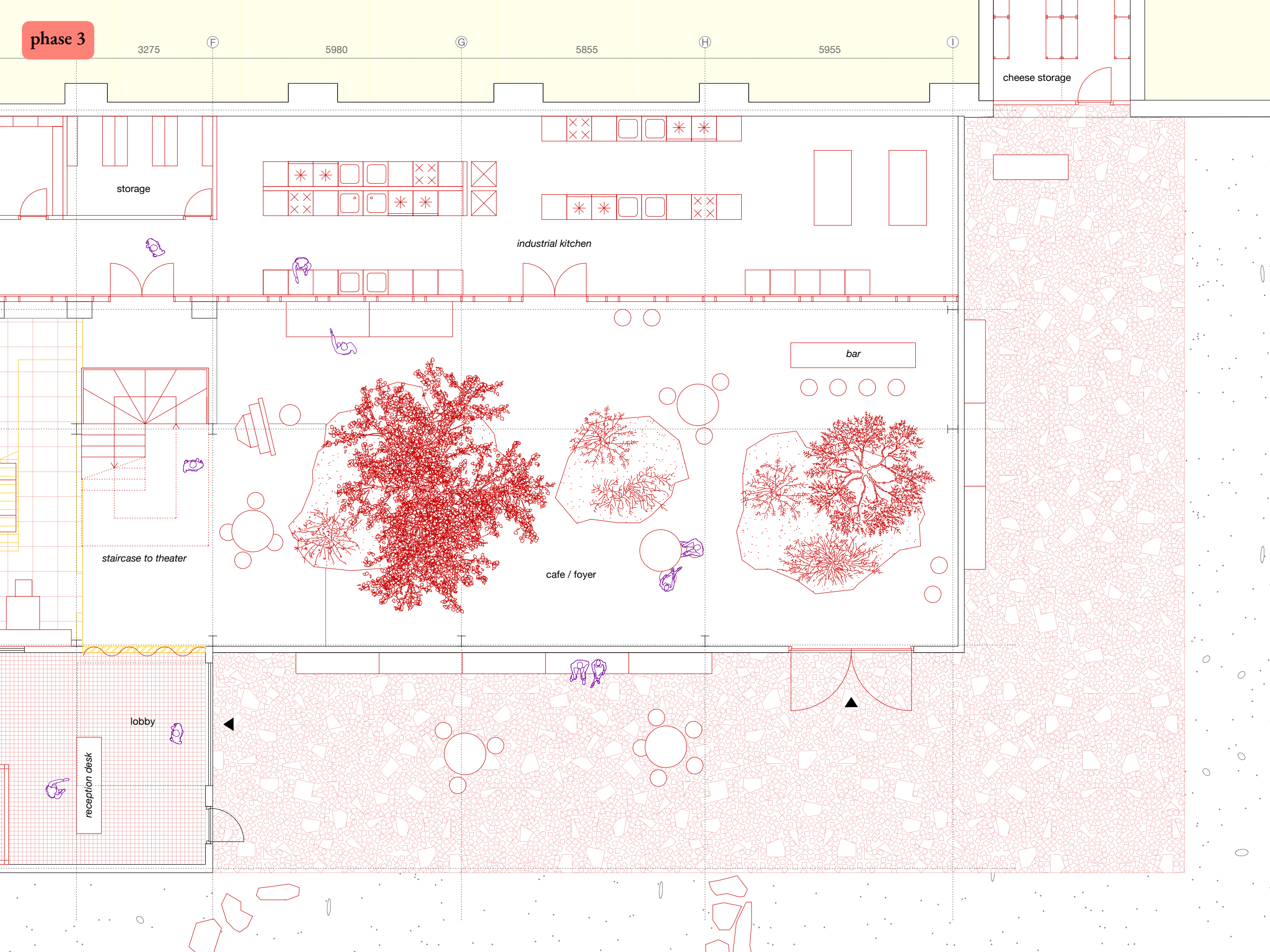
bar

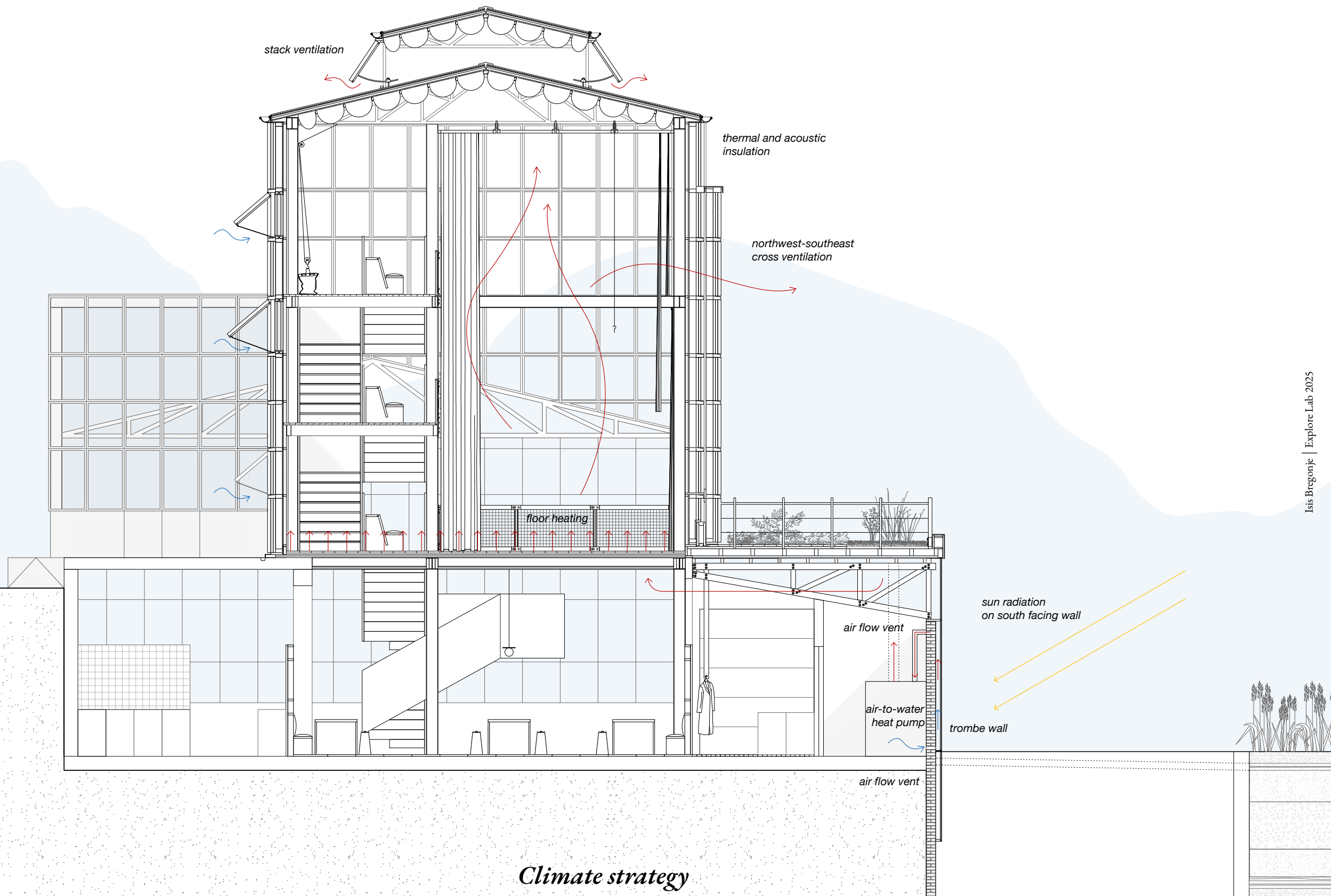
staircase to theater

cafe / foyer

lobby

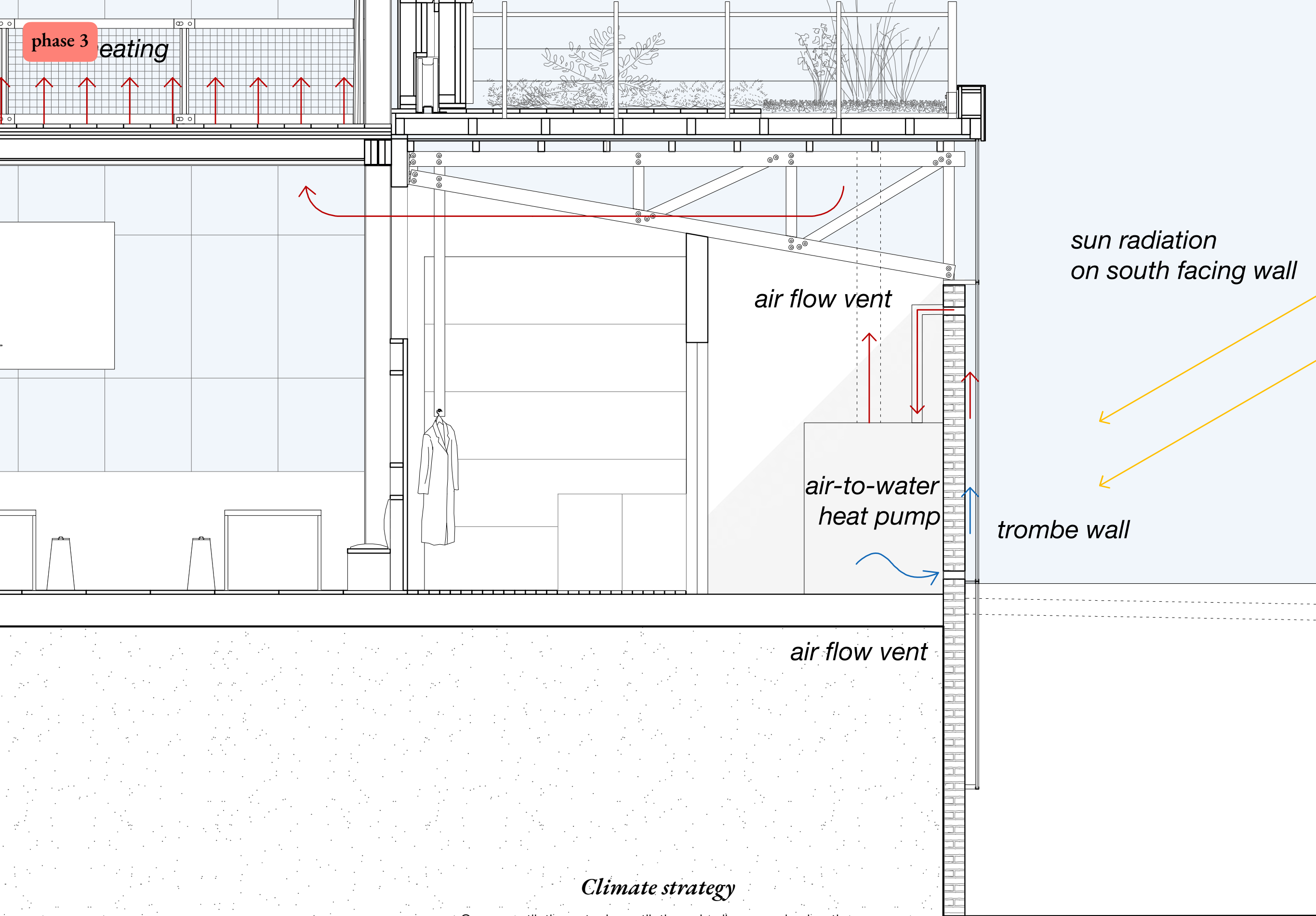
reception desk





Climate strategy

Cross ventilation, stack ventilation, shading, passive heating



Climate strategy

Cross ventilation, stack ventilation, shading, passive heating

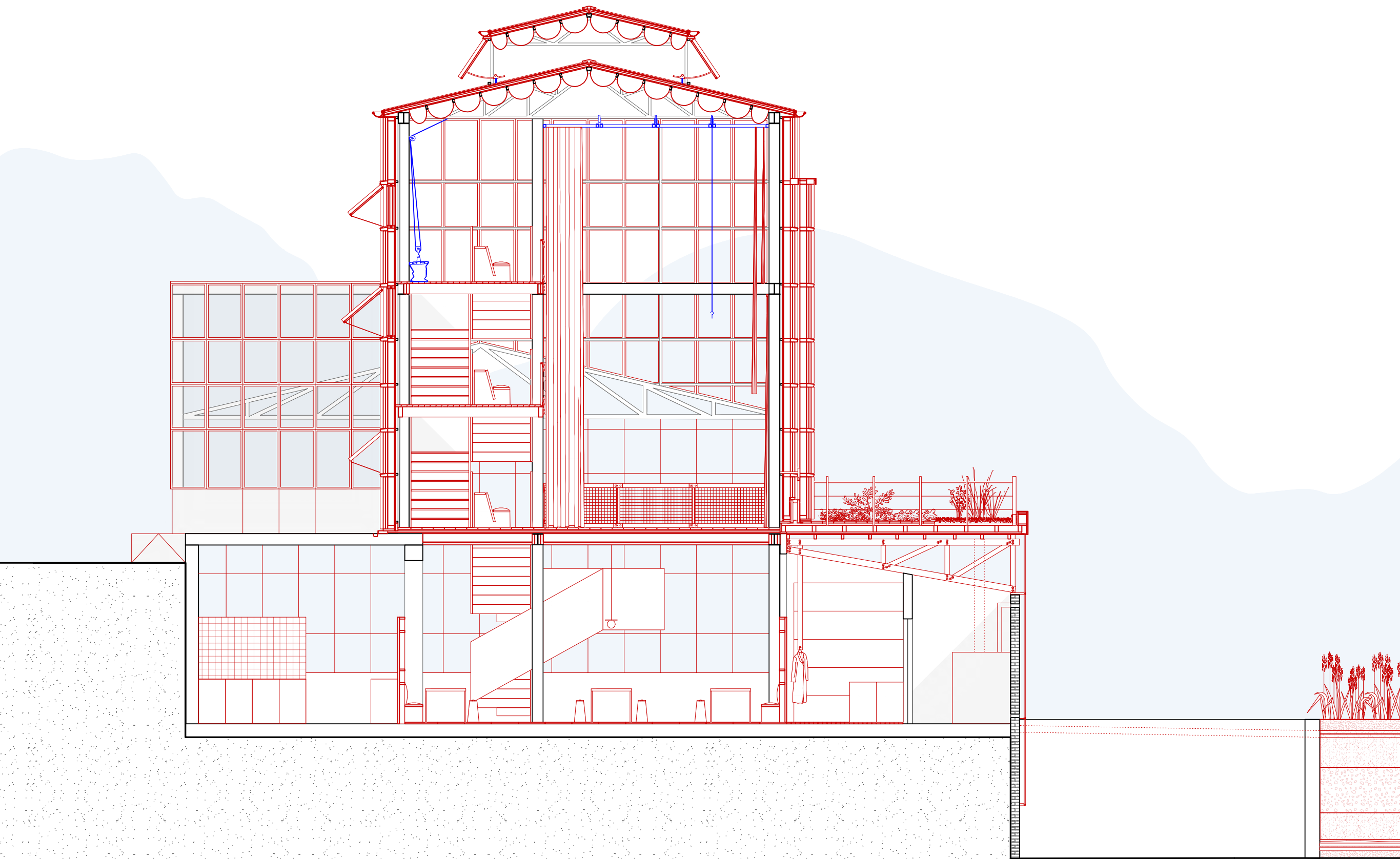


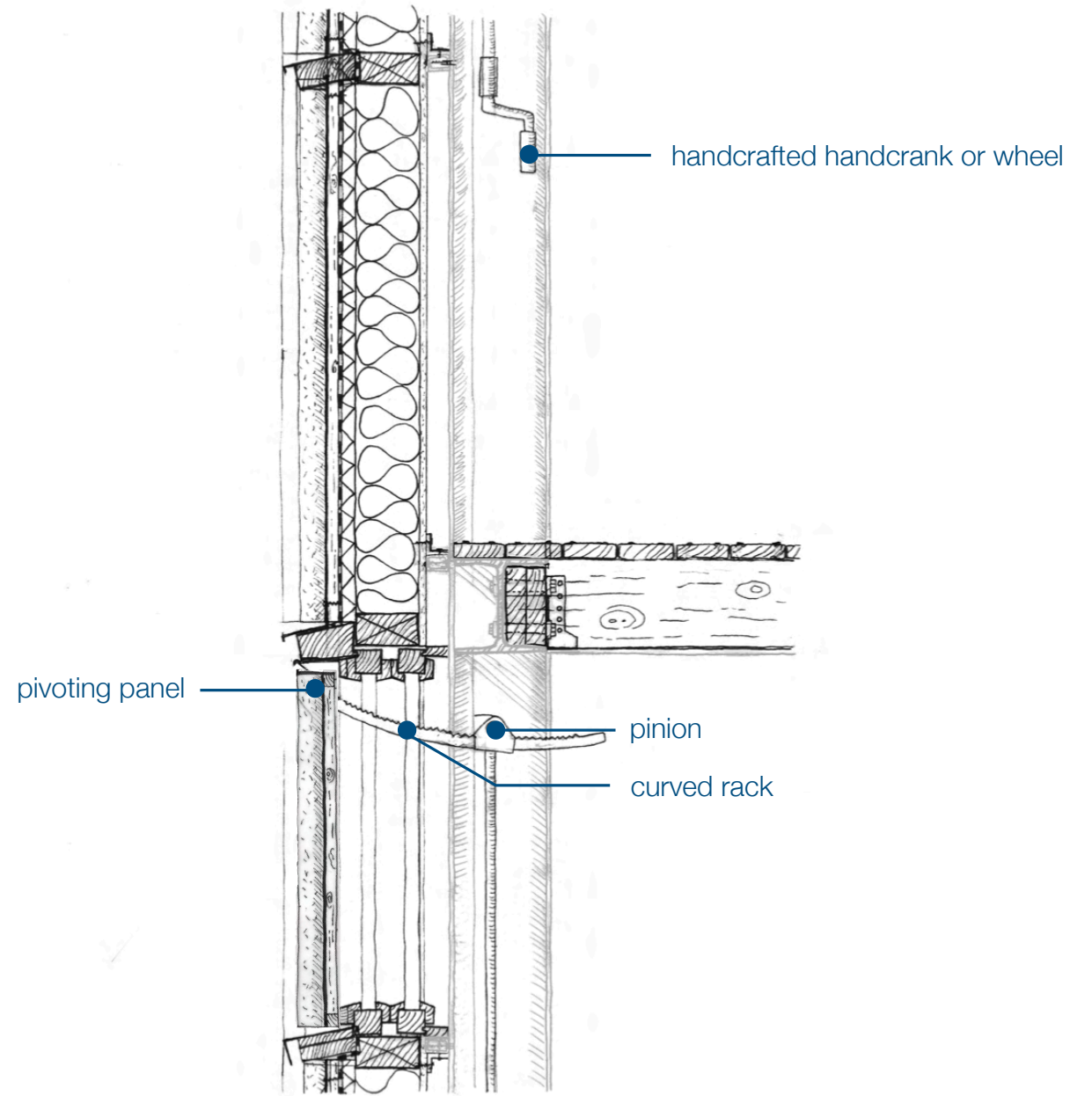
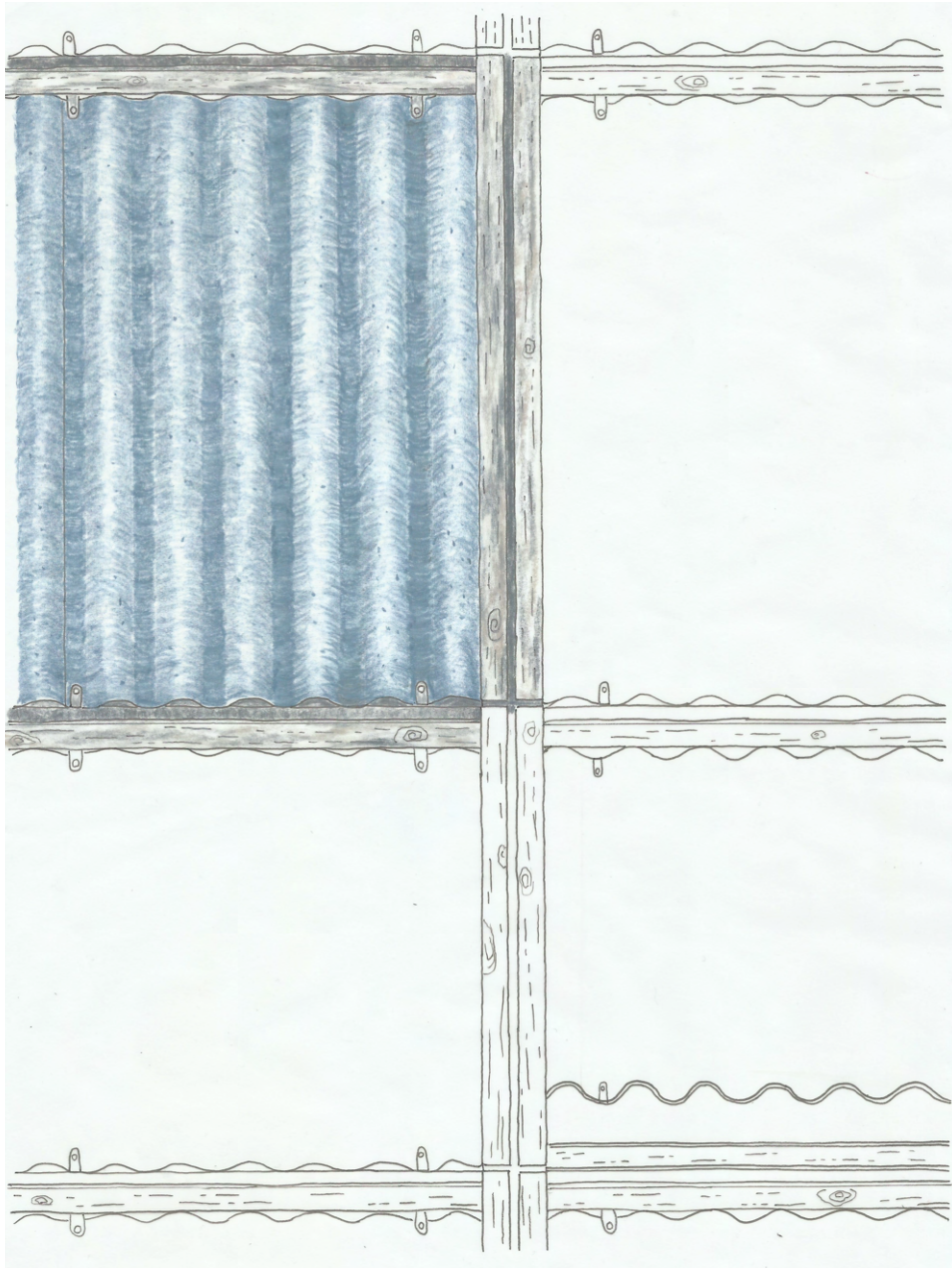






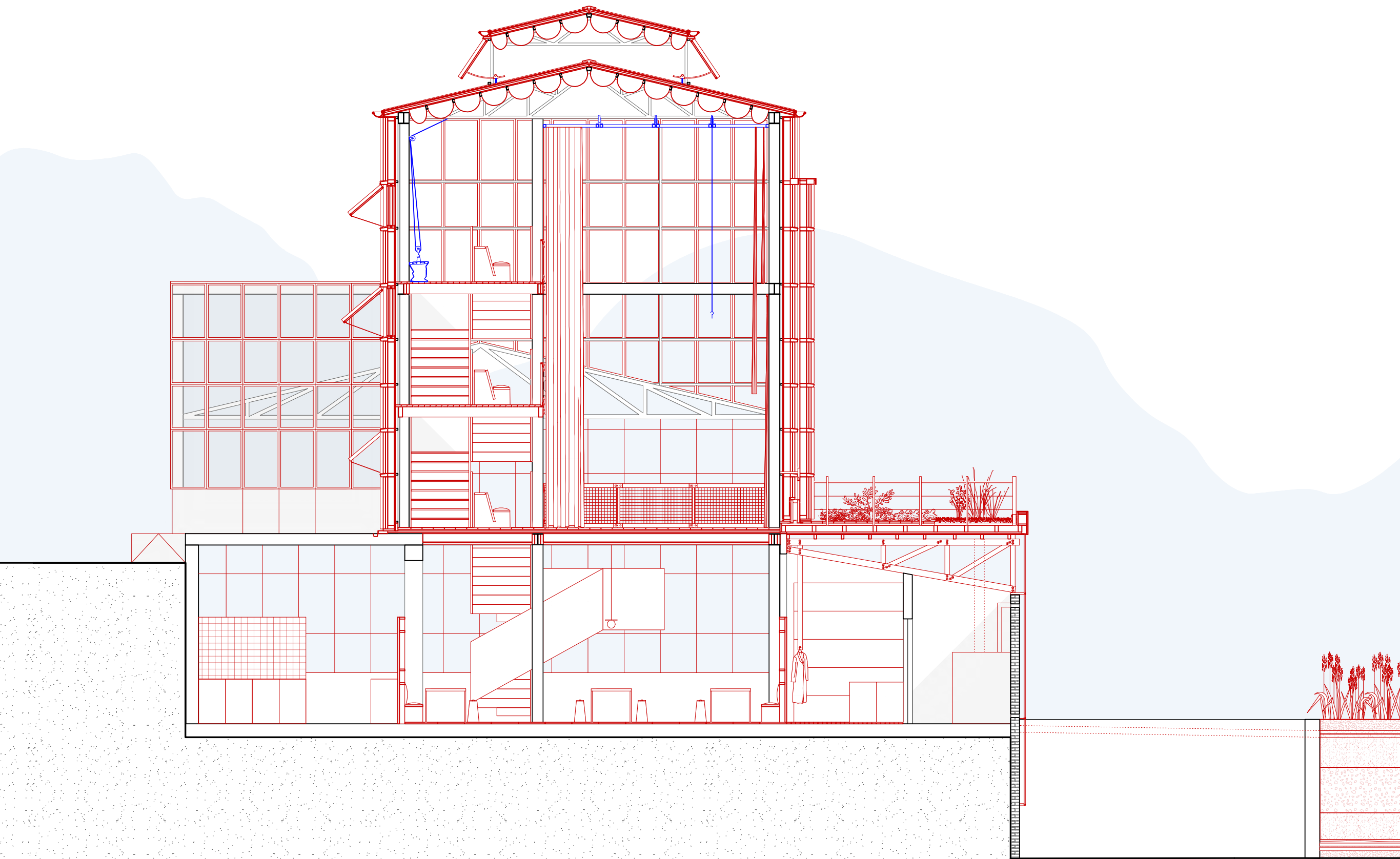


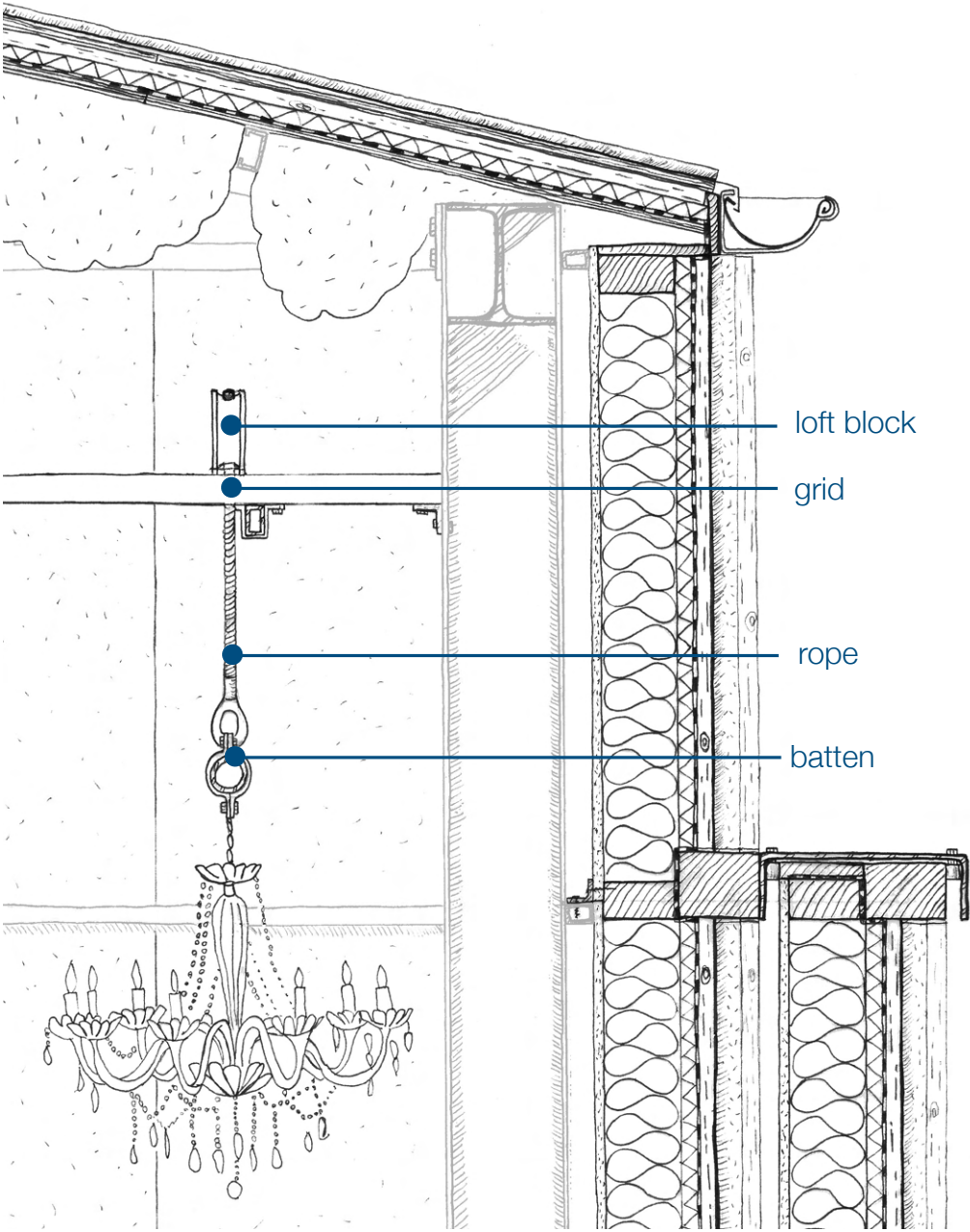




A dynamic organism

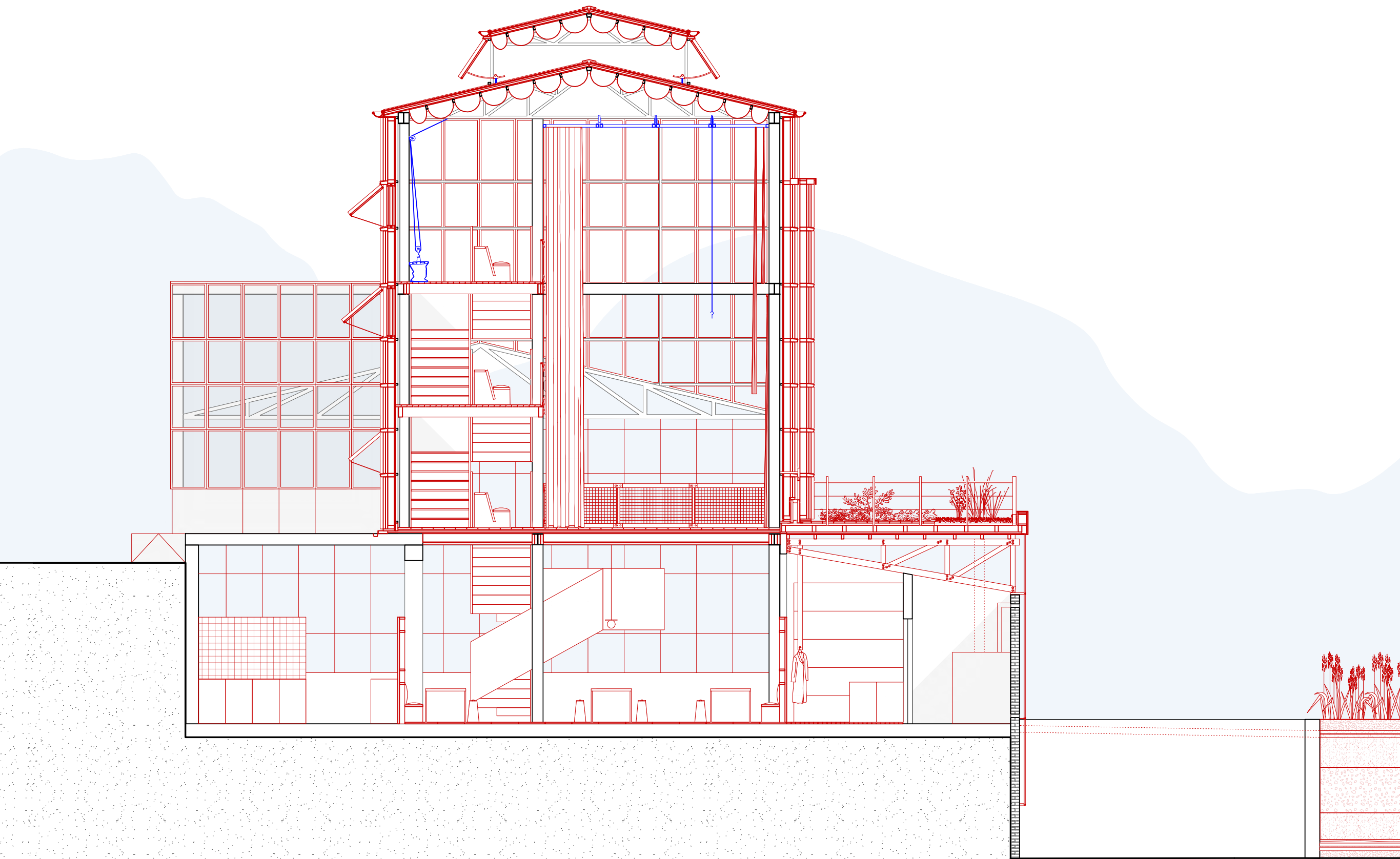
Pivoting panels

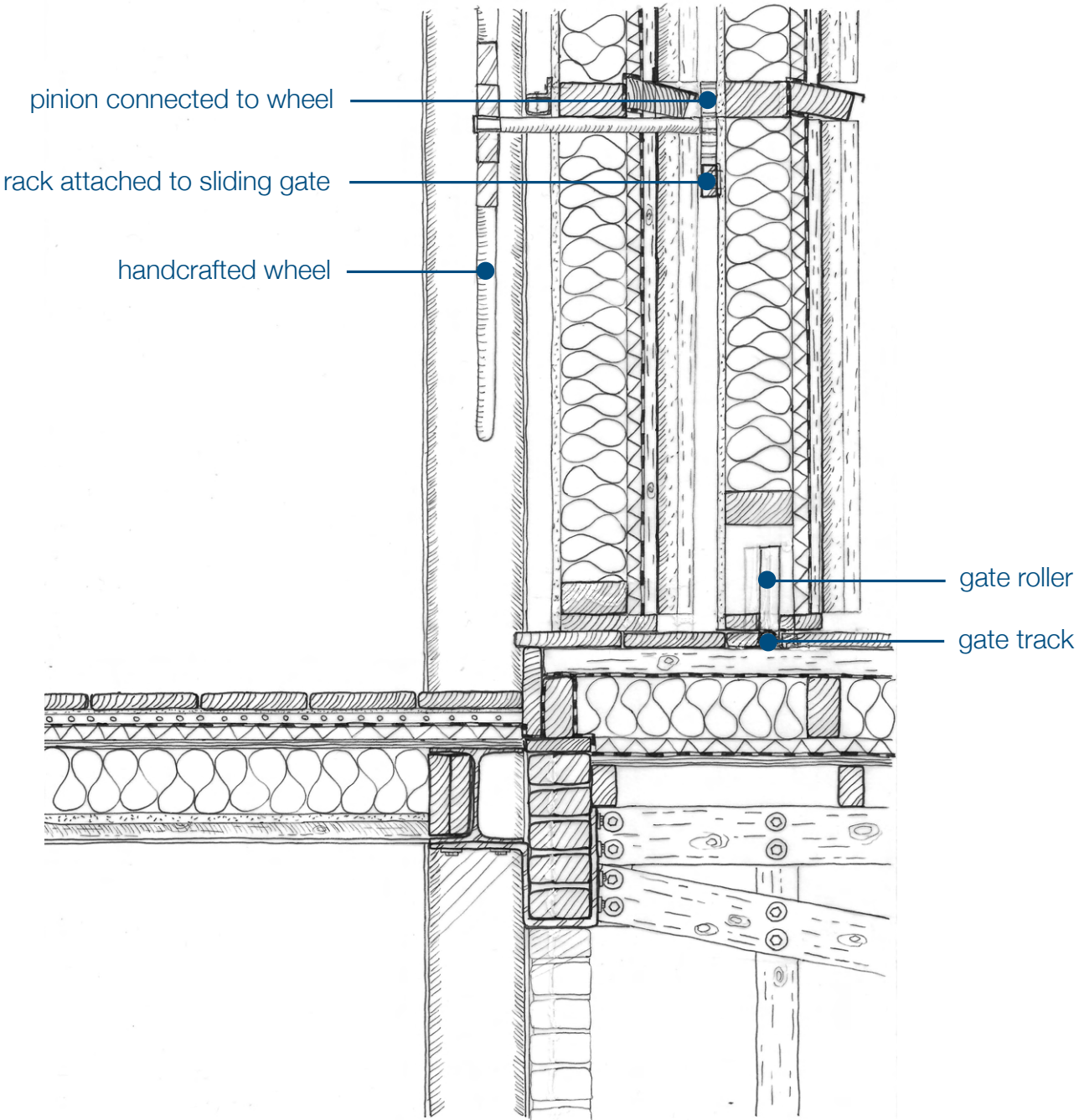
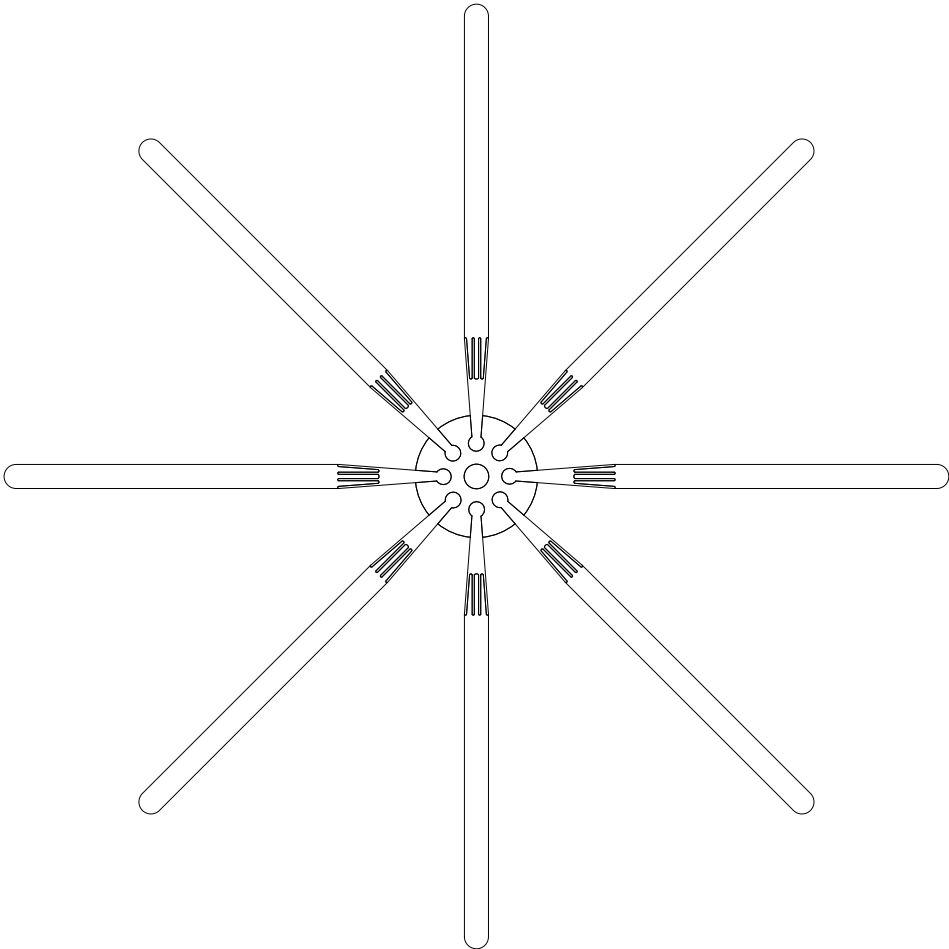




A dynamic organism

Fly system





A dynamic organism

Industrial gates with handcrafted wheels









SOARA
HILL

A FOOD FOREST

CLOSE
AT NIGHT
LOCAL
AFFORDABLE
CANTREEN

NEW
FACADE

GRADUALLY IN
REINFORCED
WALL

TROMBE
WALL

PLACE
FOR
STORYTELLING

MONOLITHIC
STRUCTURE

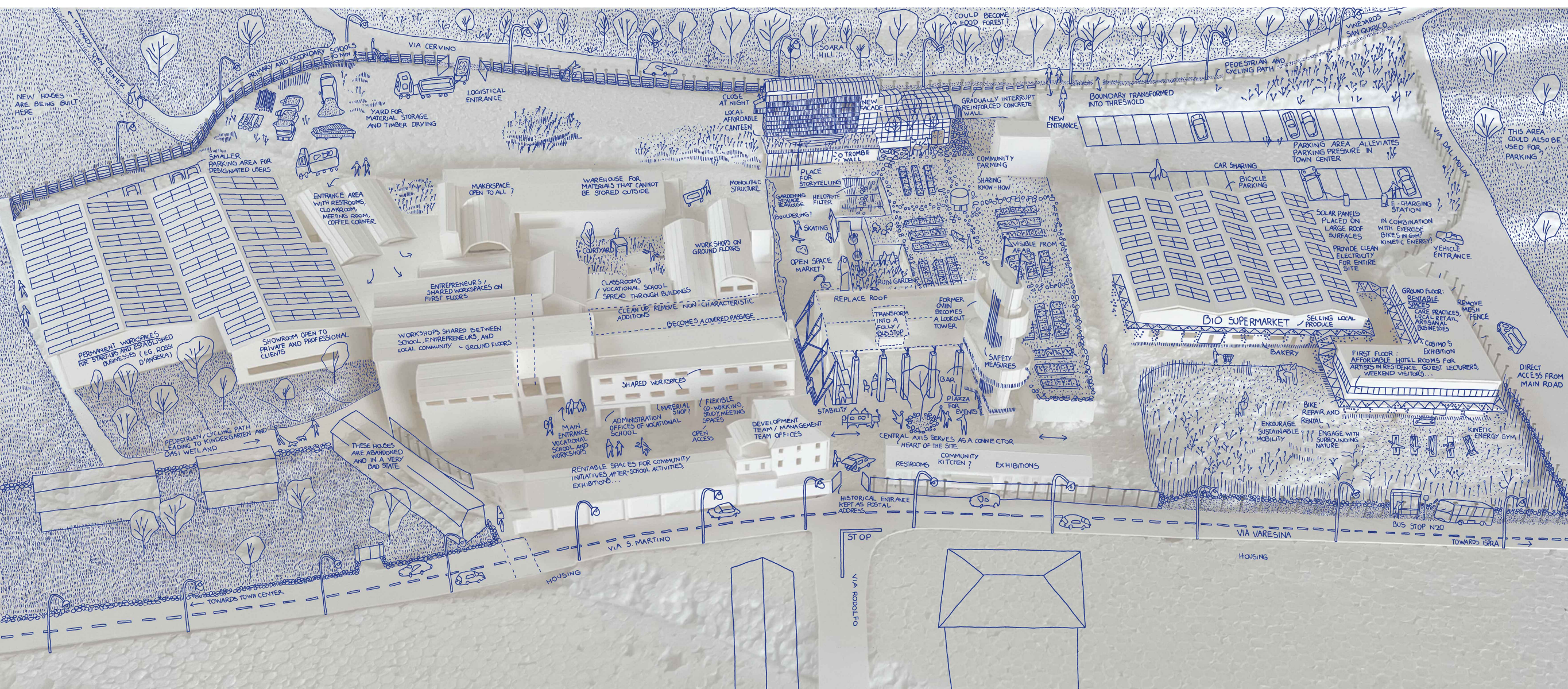
COMMUNITY
FARMING
/
SHARING
KNOW-HOW

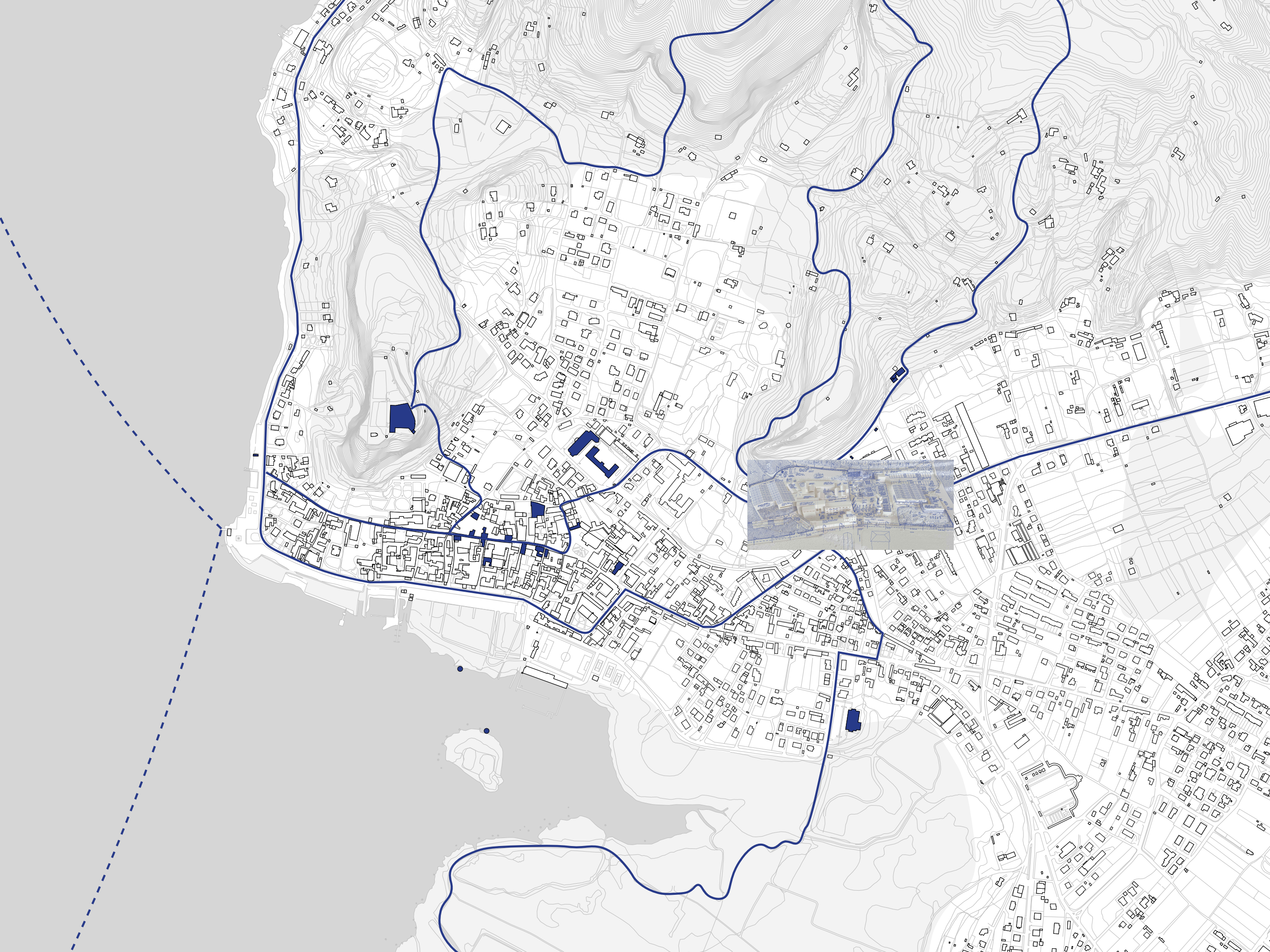
GARDENING
STORAGE
TEAHOUSE

HELOPHYTE
FILTER

BOULDERING?

SKATING







Thank you!