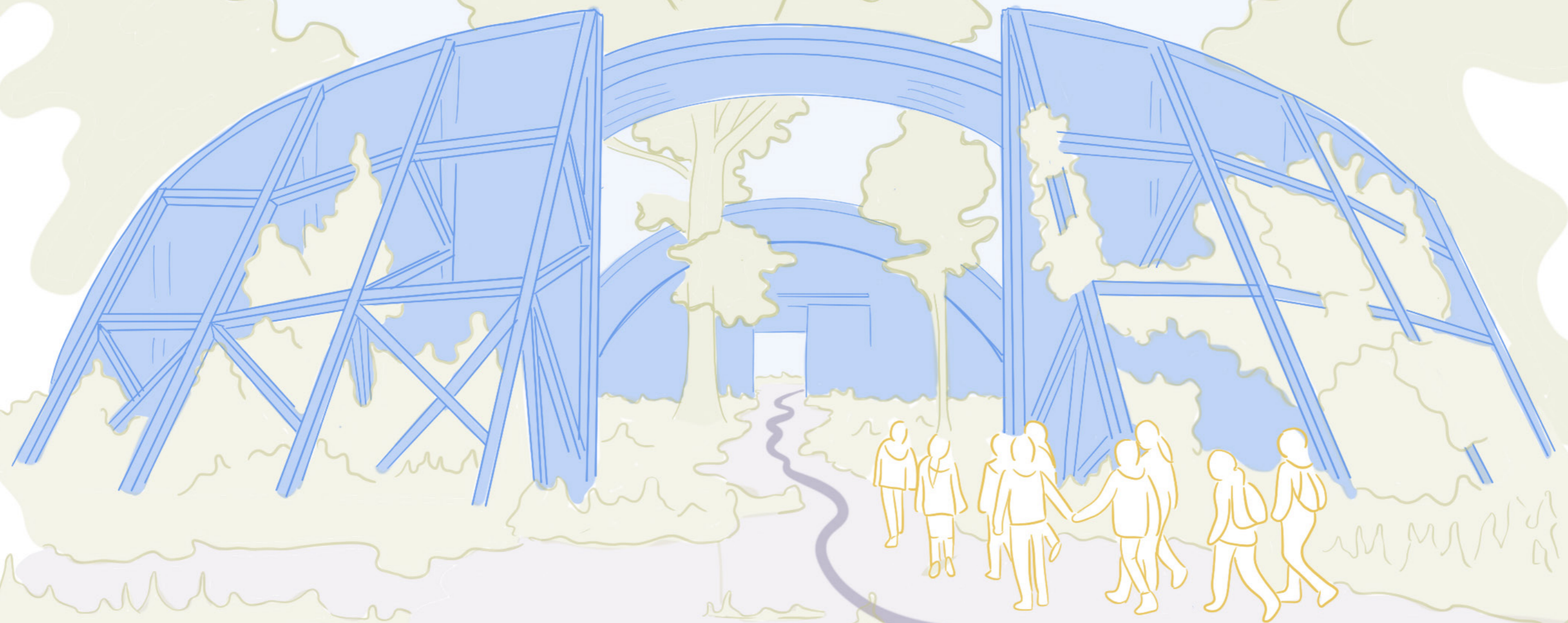


Heritage Reimagined as a Landscape



By Merle Baan - 5075181

Tutors: Lidy Meijers and Thijs Bennebroek

Studio: AR4AH120 Adaptive Reuse of Heritage Graduation Studio (2025/26 Q2)

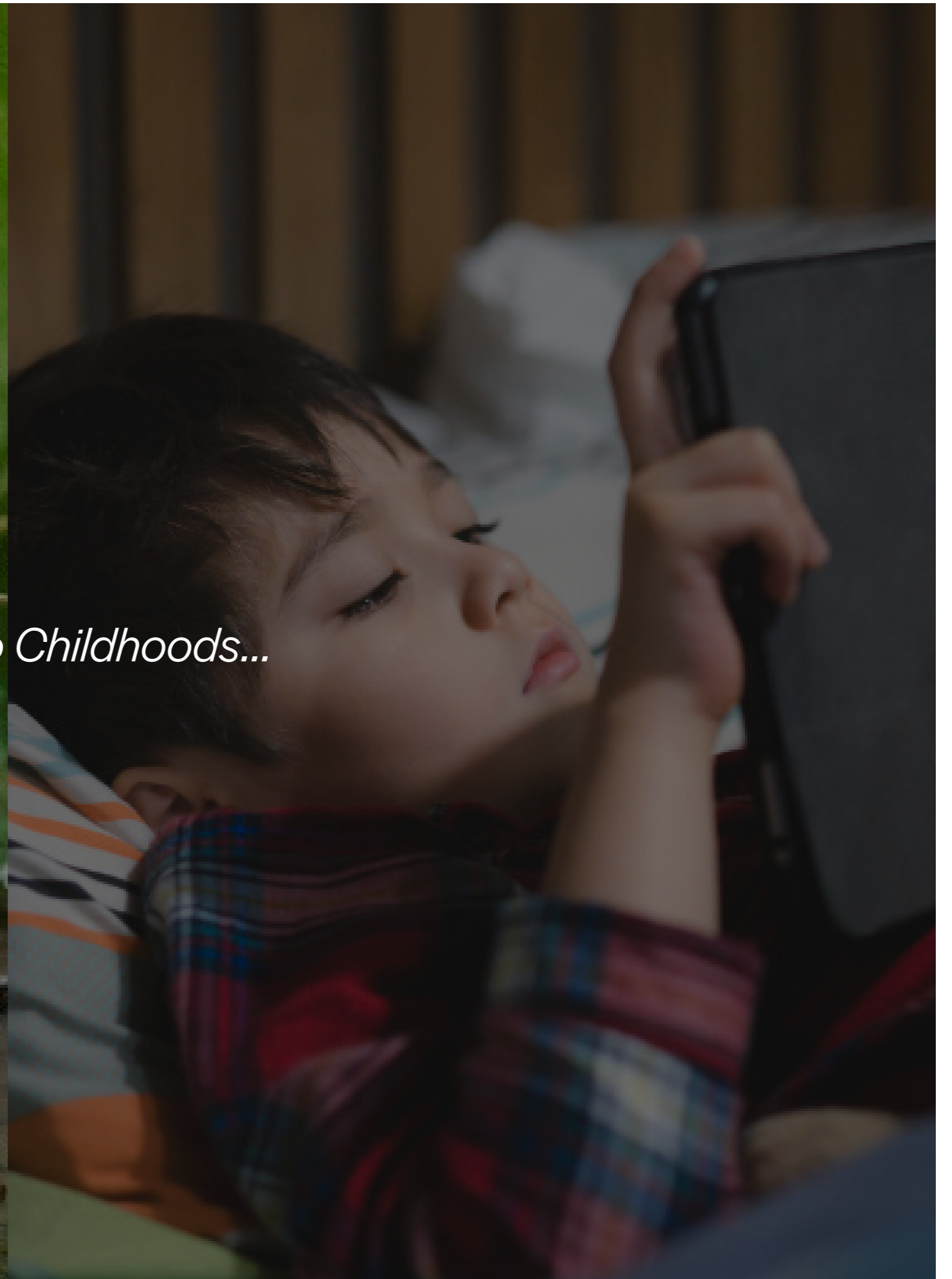
A4- Final presentation

18 June 2026



A Tale of Two Childhoods...

source: *illinoiseearlylearning*



source: *Brightcanary*

...people are becoming increasingly separated from nature.



...once culture and nature were collaborating



...nature is dominated by people



Source: CLO (2025)

Problem Statement

*The reciprocal relationship between **culture** (people) and **nature** (ecology and environmental processes) grows in disbalance.*

...culture-nature imbalance also shows within the field of heritage architecture



*How can architectural **heritage interact with natural processes** rather than resist them?*

Theory

...“Heritage Reimagined as a Landscape”







Source: NIMH



...nature school is proposed as new cultural actor



Nature School “de Shelter”



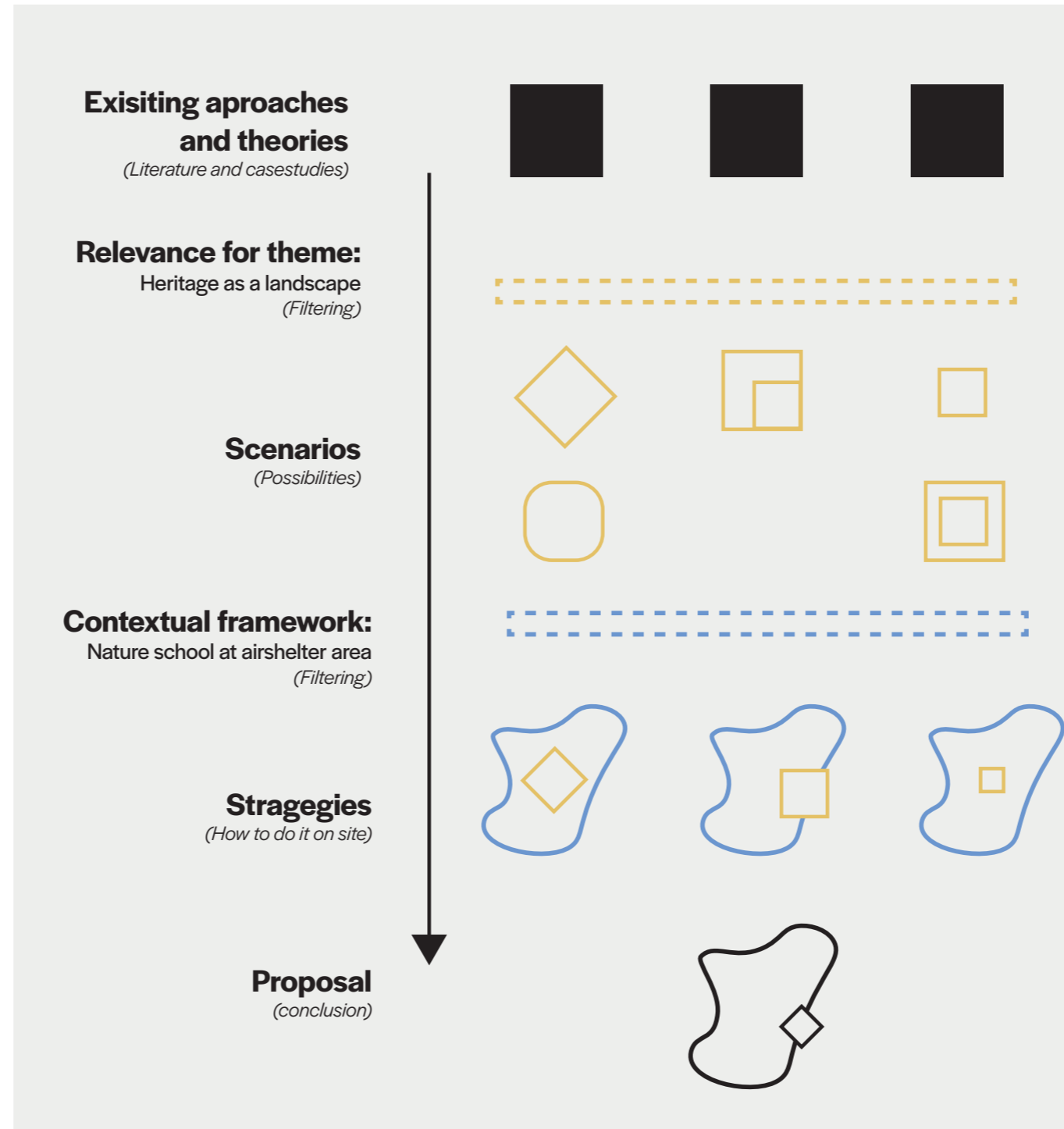
... a place for 'Outdoor Landscape Education'



Central Question

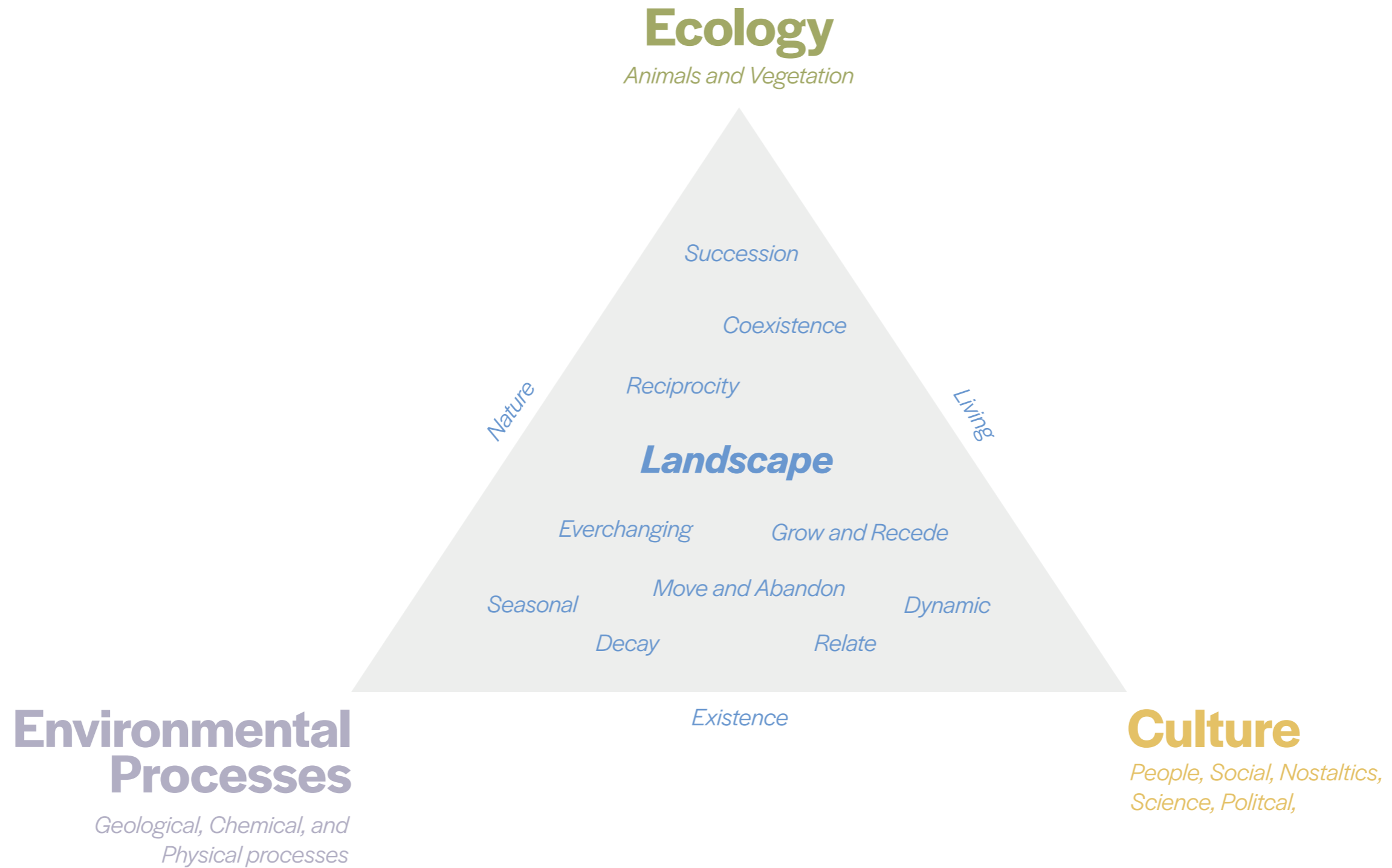
*How can **adaptive reuse of heritage, reimagined as a landscape**, transform the **Air Shelter Area** of Airbase Soesterberg into a **nature school** that restores a **reciprocal relationship between culture, ecology, and environmental value**?*

Method



Colour coding

...“Heritage Reimagined as a Landscape”





DESIGN APPROACH

From Value Assessment to Design Approach.

*How do **values** of nature and culture coexist in the Air Shelter Area?*

Coexistence of natural and cultural values

	'Life from'				'Life in'					'Life with'		'Life as'	
	Economic	Health	Scientific	Education	Age	Historic	Aesthetic	Commemorative	Nostalgic	Existence	Biocultural diversity	Spiritual	Symbolic
Surroundings <i>Utrecht, Soesterberg Airbase</i>	Animal and plants get basic needs from surroundings Public park and Tourism	Park with space for biking, walking, running, exercise and slow down	Biology and biodiversity studies	Learn about history in nature, culture and environment and biodiversity	- Relief of moraine and plain landscape - Layers of human interventions (landingstrip)	Napoleon Stratetical point much military activity Vliegerheide	Scenic nature relief and depth. Openness vs. enclosure - sight lines	Museum and memorial statue is commemorative	Limited acces Sound of overflying airplane Peak inside - Open Vliegerdagen	Utechts Landschap protects the green space in the provence	High biodiversity - ecology routes to Natura 2000		Using nature as camouflage technique
Site <i>Air shelter area</i>	Advertisement Utrechts landschap	Much vegetation results in clean air and relaxation	Numbers of animal species tracking trough	Learn about cold war history and biodiversity	Big mature trees Footprint 'German landingstrip' and other paths	NATO and WO2 activity	Contrasting nature and concrete scene		American military NATO activity Mysterious	Originally heather, the planted forest creates more habitat diversity and shelter	Along concrete strips more calcium rich species		Reciprocity of culture and nature
System <i>Air shelters</i>	Head quarters and storage Utrechts Landschap Rentable event or work space		NATO air shelter placement system Generation 3 shelter	Learn about cold war history and reciprocity with nature (nature camouflage plan)		NATO activity	Randomness in orientation			Random orientation create different habitat circumstances	Diversity in placement and orientation of aishelters		
Structure <i>Wondr building</i>	High carrying capacity				Water traces on the steel plates	Wondr structure from chicago	Rythmic arch structure		Construction process, quick assembling of the shelters	Environmental processes of steel weathering			
Space plan <i>Floorplan</i>	Open flexible space				Worn painted guidelines		Emptyness		Teamwork Organised Loud noises Air flow	Exhaust vault creates habitat for mosses			
Skin <i>Concrete</i>						Hardened shelter as reminder from conflict in Egypt	Shadow of trees on the concrete			Weathering of concrete and moss growth			
Service <i>Ventilation, mechanics, etc.</i>	Operational systems, like door mechanism and electricity				Weathering stains old electrical system for opening door		Scene of story of use		Ventilation noise Teamwork: Hoisting the airplane inside Opening process of the door	Empty ducts spaces for nests and animal species			
Stuff <i>(removed)</i>									Spitfire- airplane in middle Tools behind the Yellow painted line-marking				
Spirit of Place <i>Stories and atmosphere</i>	Tourism and investors attractor	Sense of identity and perspective development		Learn about the old stories and memories		Americans under dutch command	Contrast of former activity and current abandonment		Orderness Teamwork Respect Discipline	Cultural identity			

- High Value
- Average Value
- Low Value

...historical, nostalgic and educational value



...symbolic value in camouflage methods



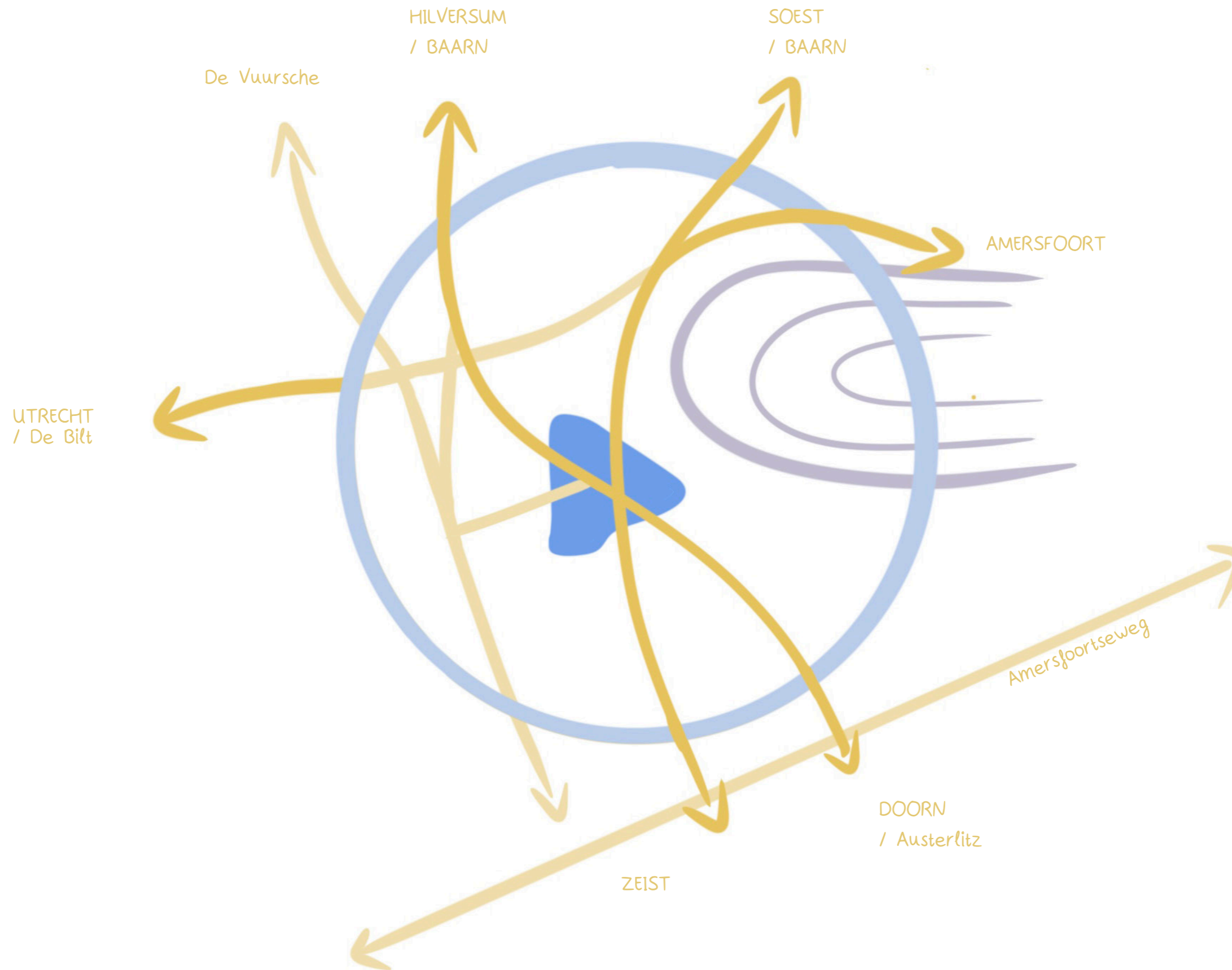
...existence and biodiversity value



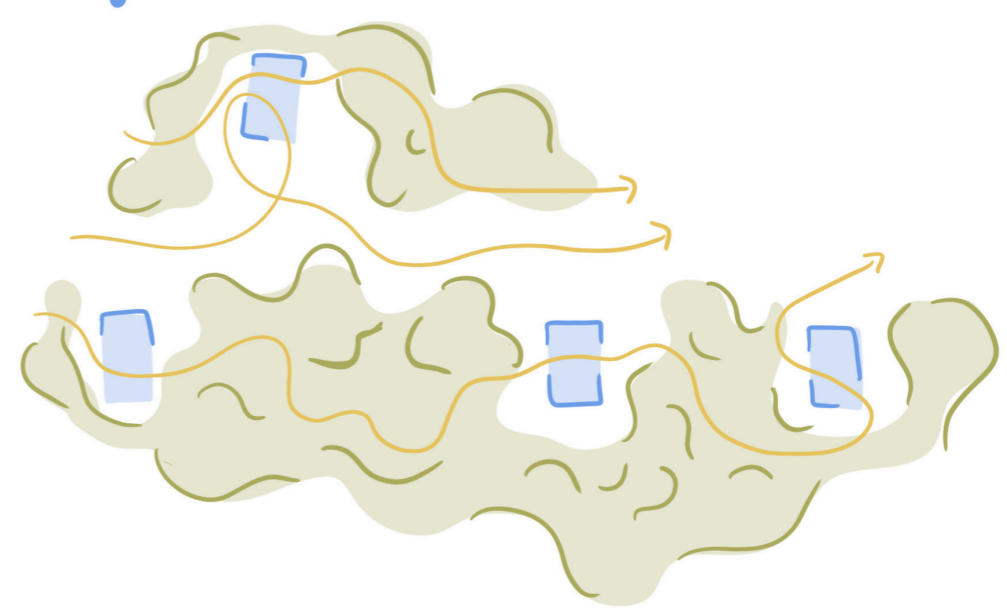
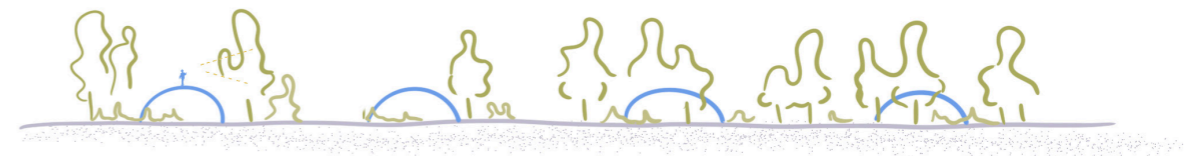
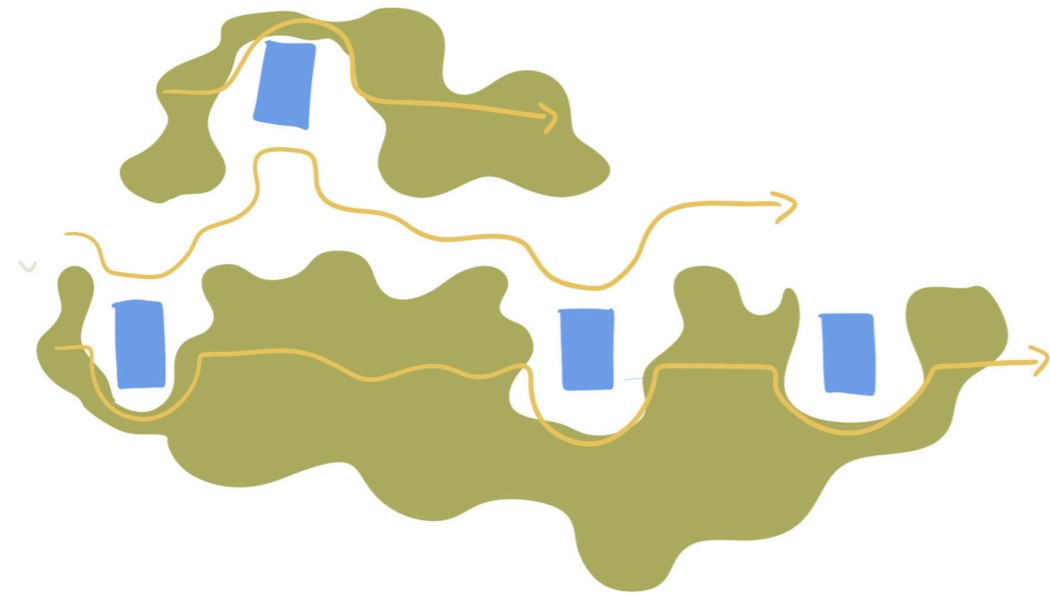
*How can (landscape) architectural **design approaches**, existing within the field of adaptive reuse, support the balance of natural and cultural values at the Air Shelter Area?*

Approach of Landscape Architecture

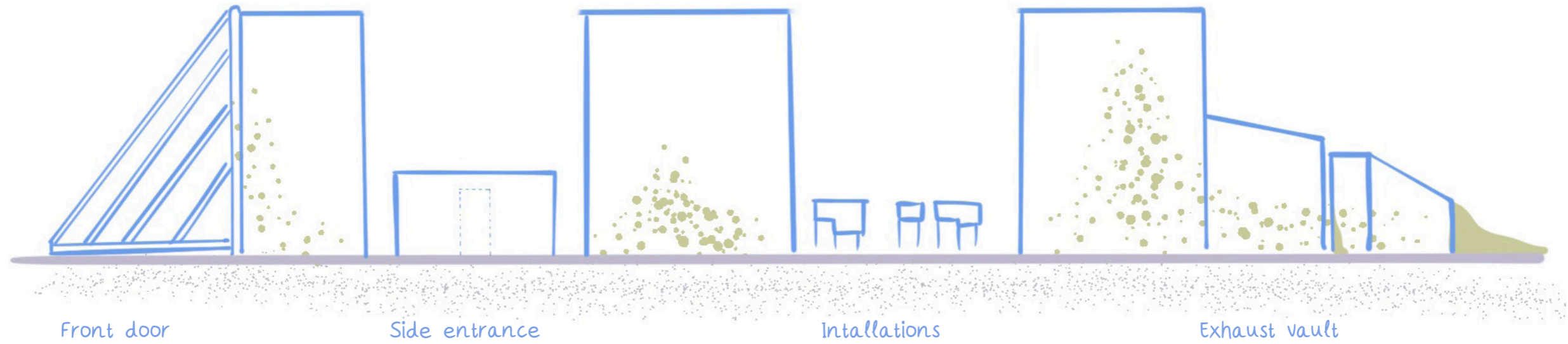
...articulation of time layers



...adding ecological value by opening up



...fragmentation of the air shelter



Arches fragmented from context

...adding cultural value through wonder



Source: RAAF



Source: B+B and H+N+S

Design Approach in Heritage Architecture

...a continued story to be continued story

Reuse by creating an analogue



...removing and adding through its identity, type, catalogue and pallette



Mistakes create wonder and enhances awareness



















DESIGN PROPOSAL

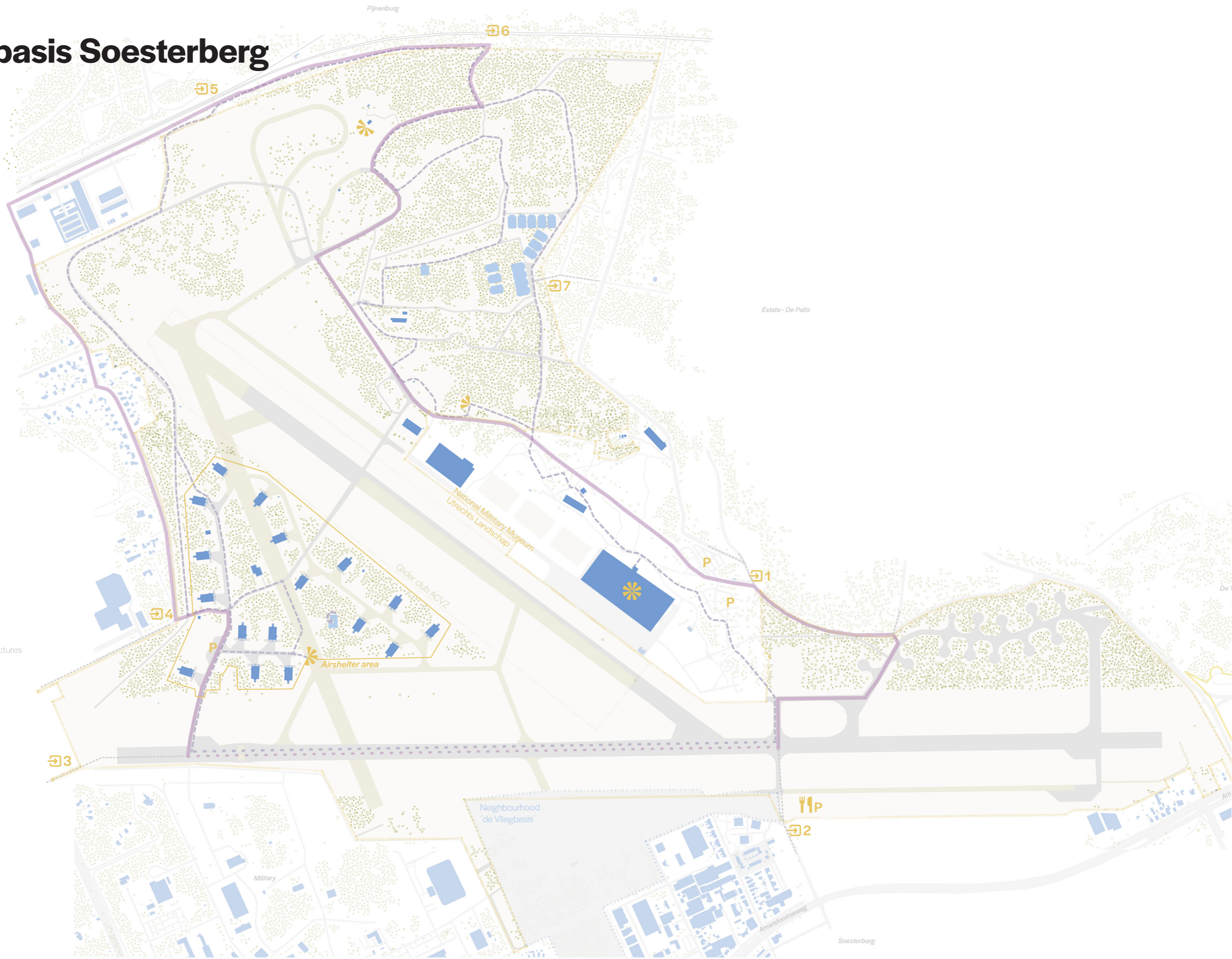
Nature School 'De Shelter'

Park Vliegbasis Soesterberg

Park plan - Scale 1:10.000 ▲

LEGEND















-  Green footprint of removed structures
-  Hard surface
-  Building
-  Airshelter (functioning)
-  Airshelter (as landscape)
-  Underground structure (bunker)
-  Viewpoint
-  Visitors entry
-  Walk trail
-  Walk trail (closed feb-nov)
-  Bike trail
-  Bike trail (closed feb-nov)
-  Entrypoint ecology network
-  Ecology passway

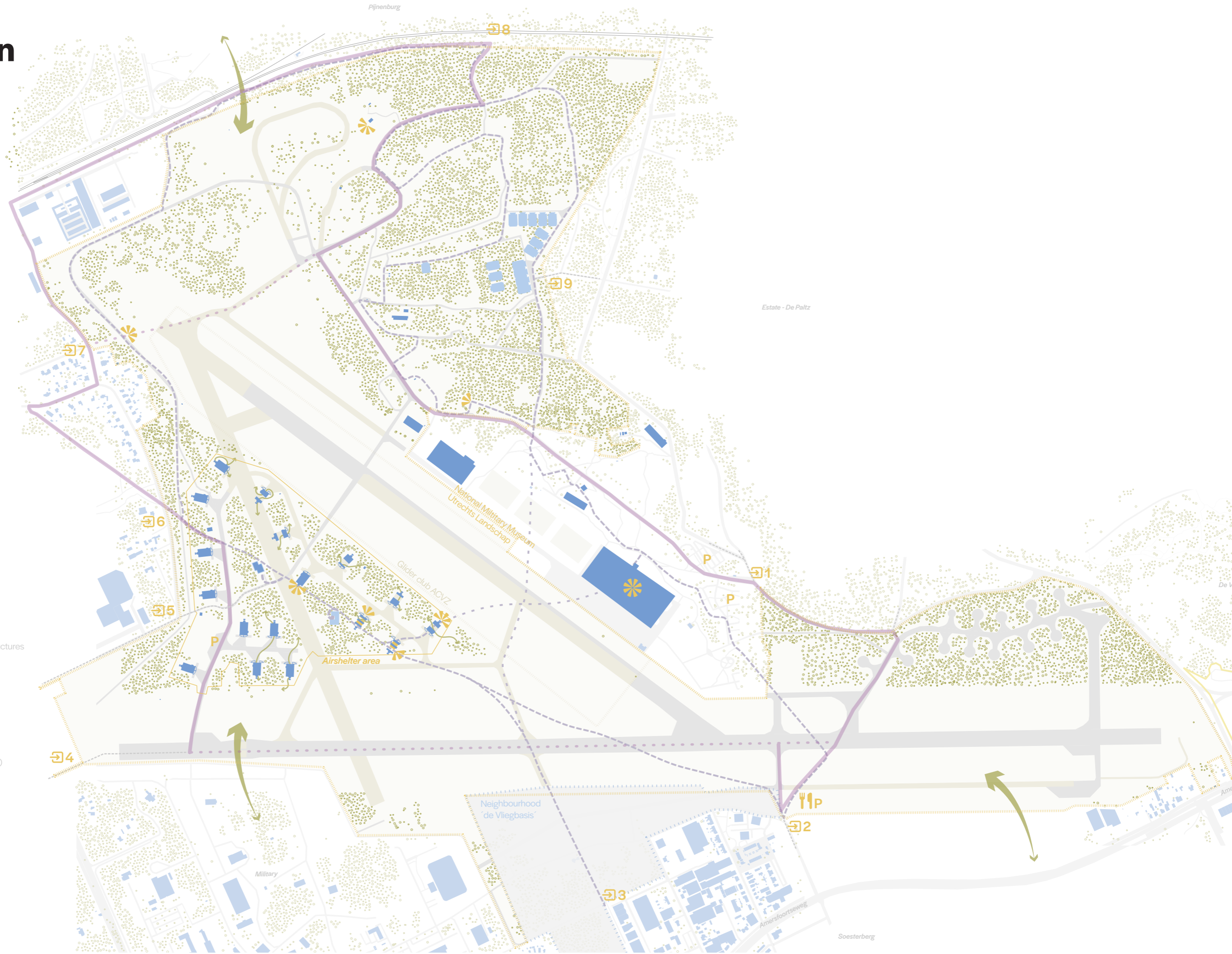


Masterplan

Park plan - Scale 1:10.000 ▲

LEGEND















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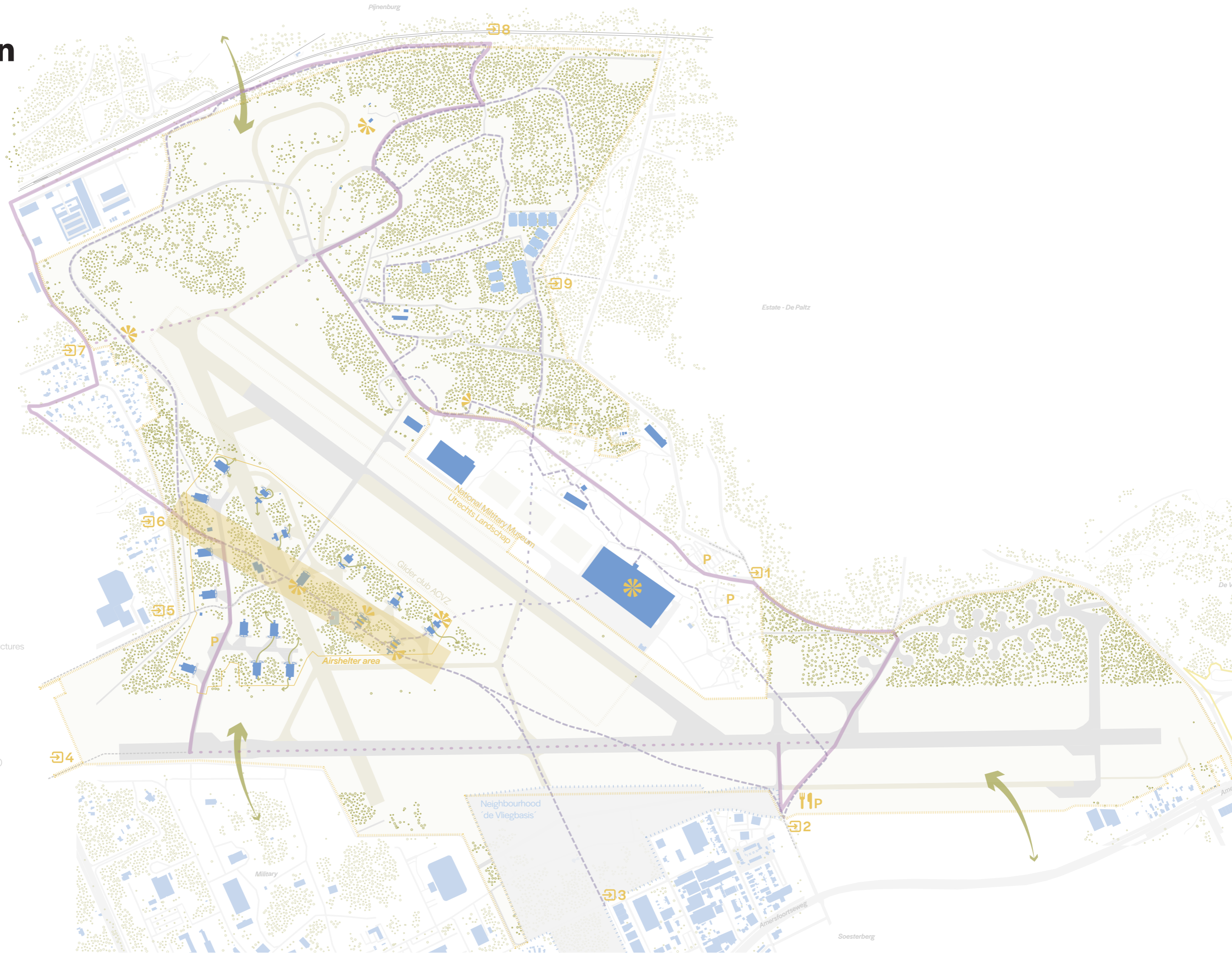


Masterplan

Park plan - Scale 1:10.000 ▲

LEGEND















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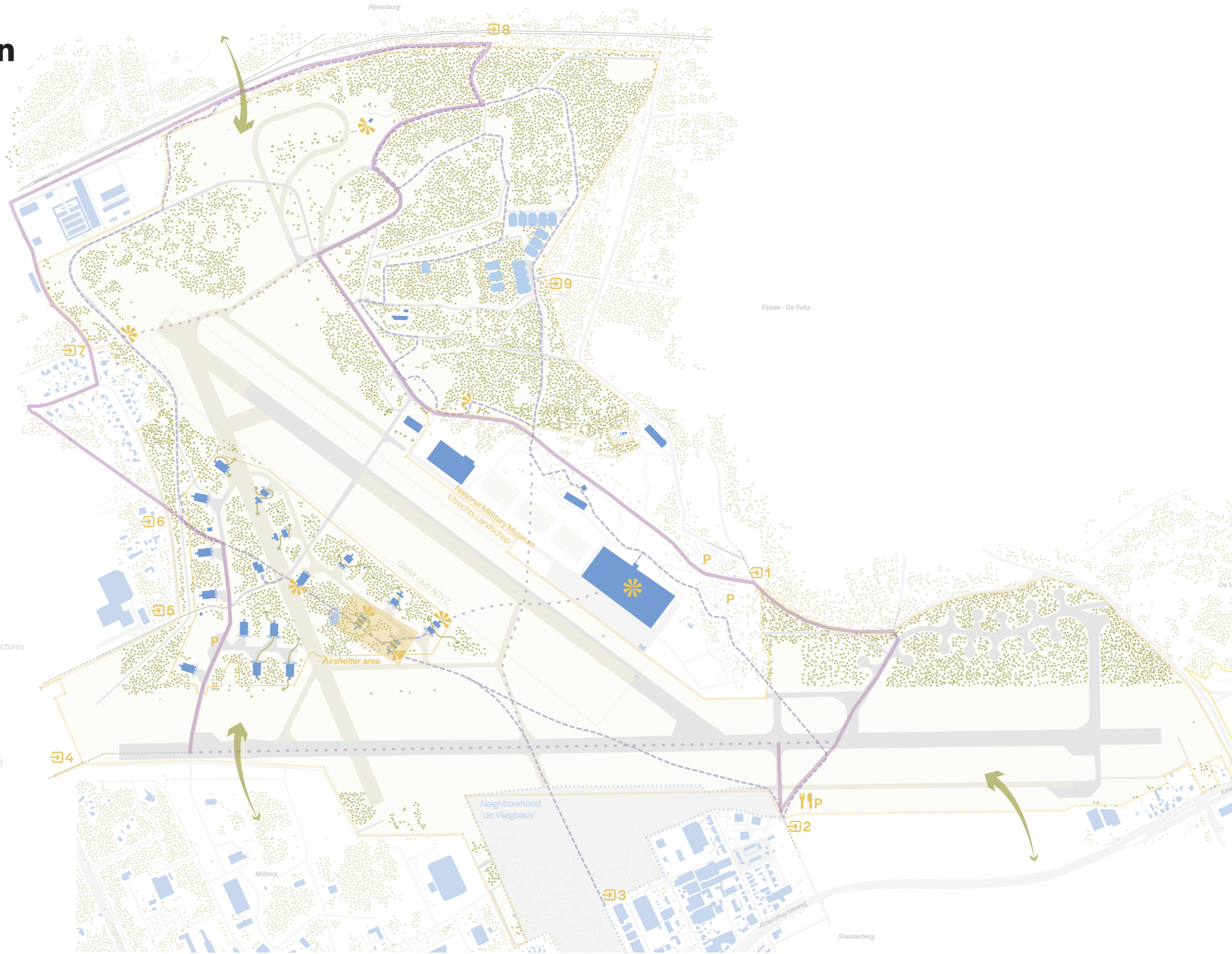


Masterplan

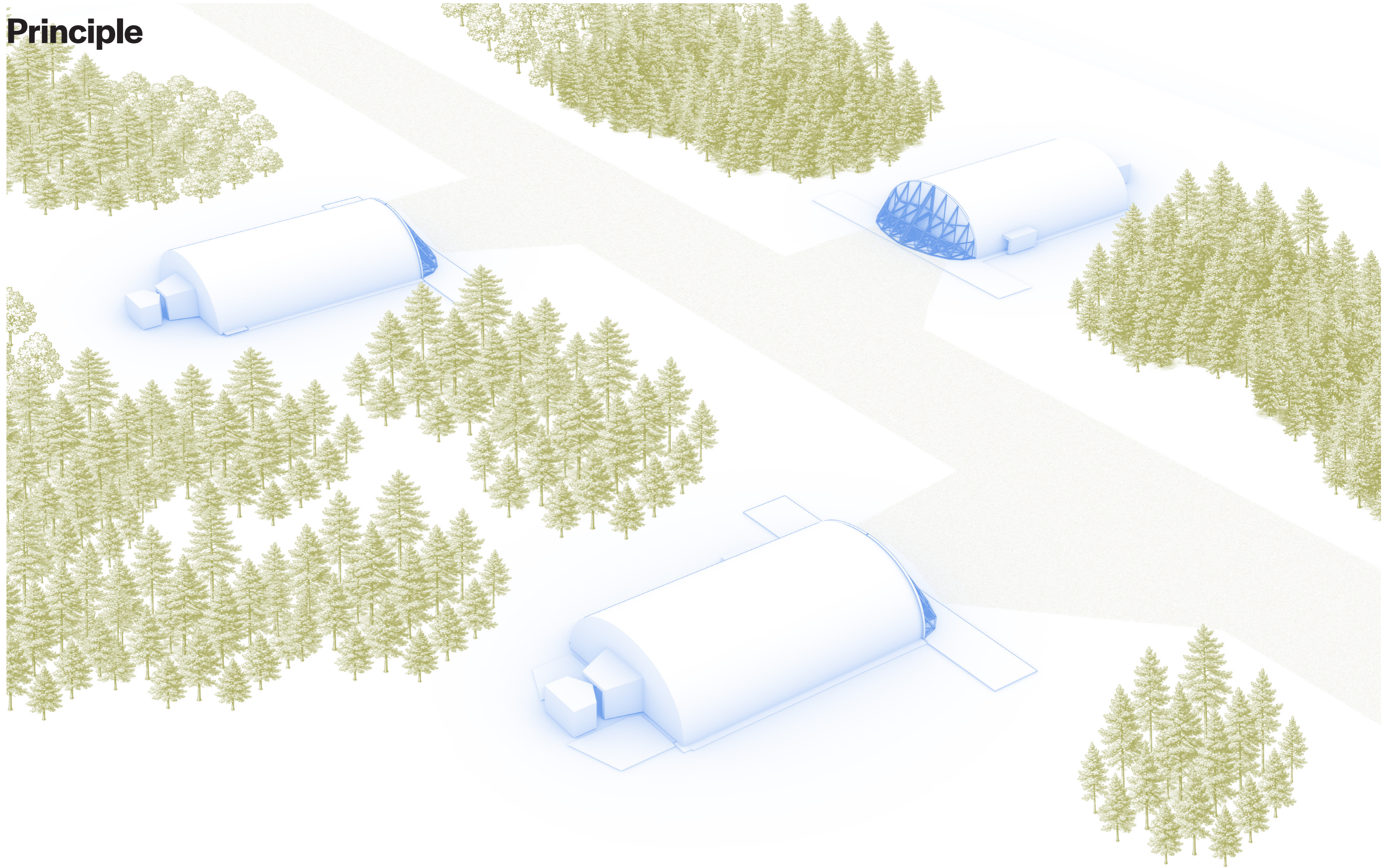
Park plan - Scale 1:10.000 ▲

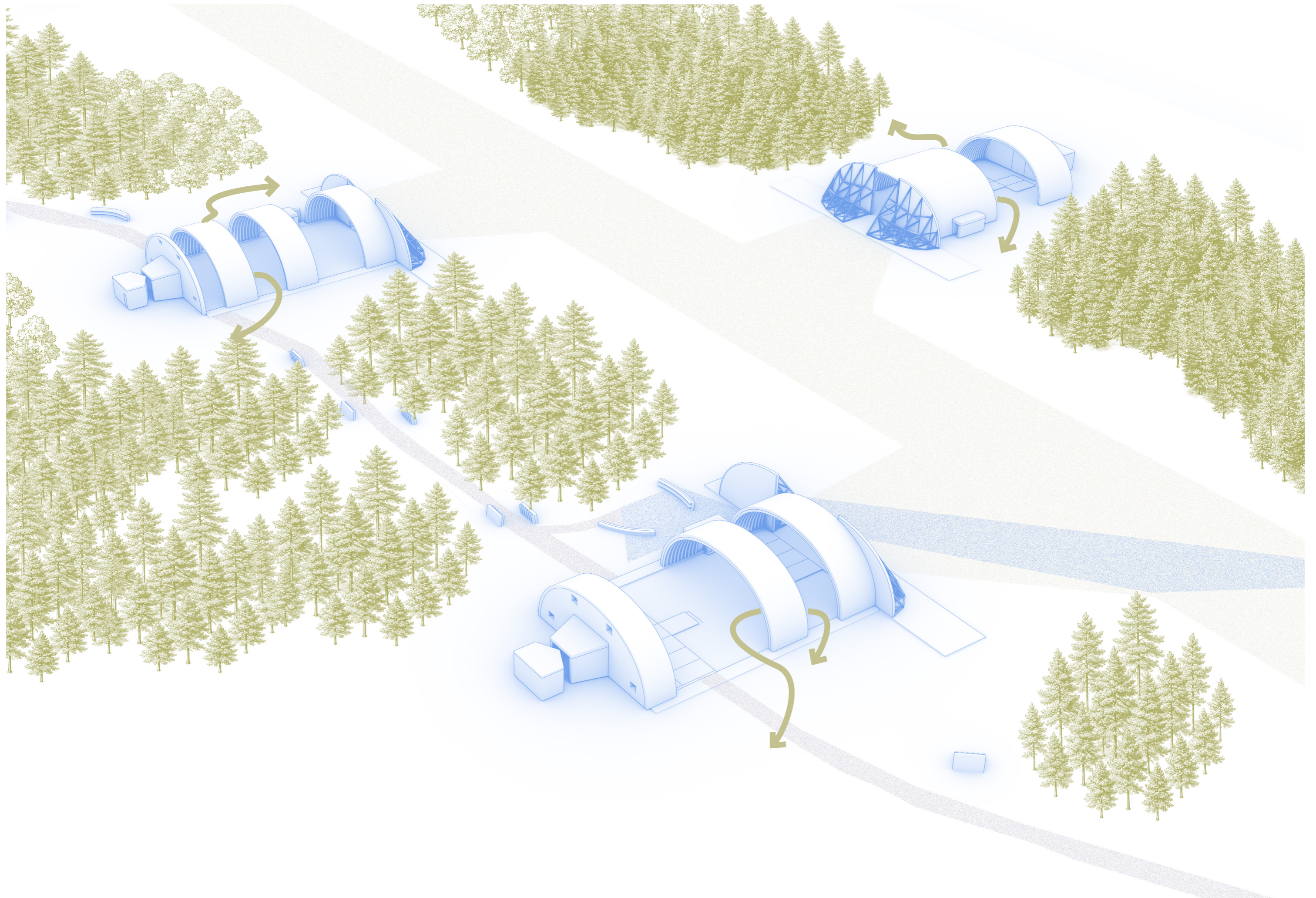
LEGEND

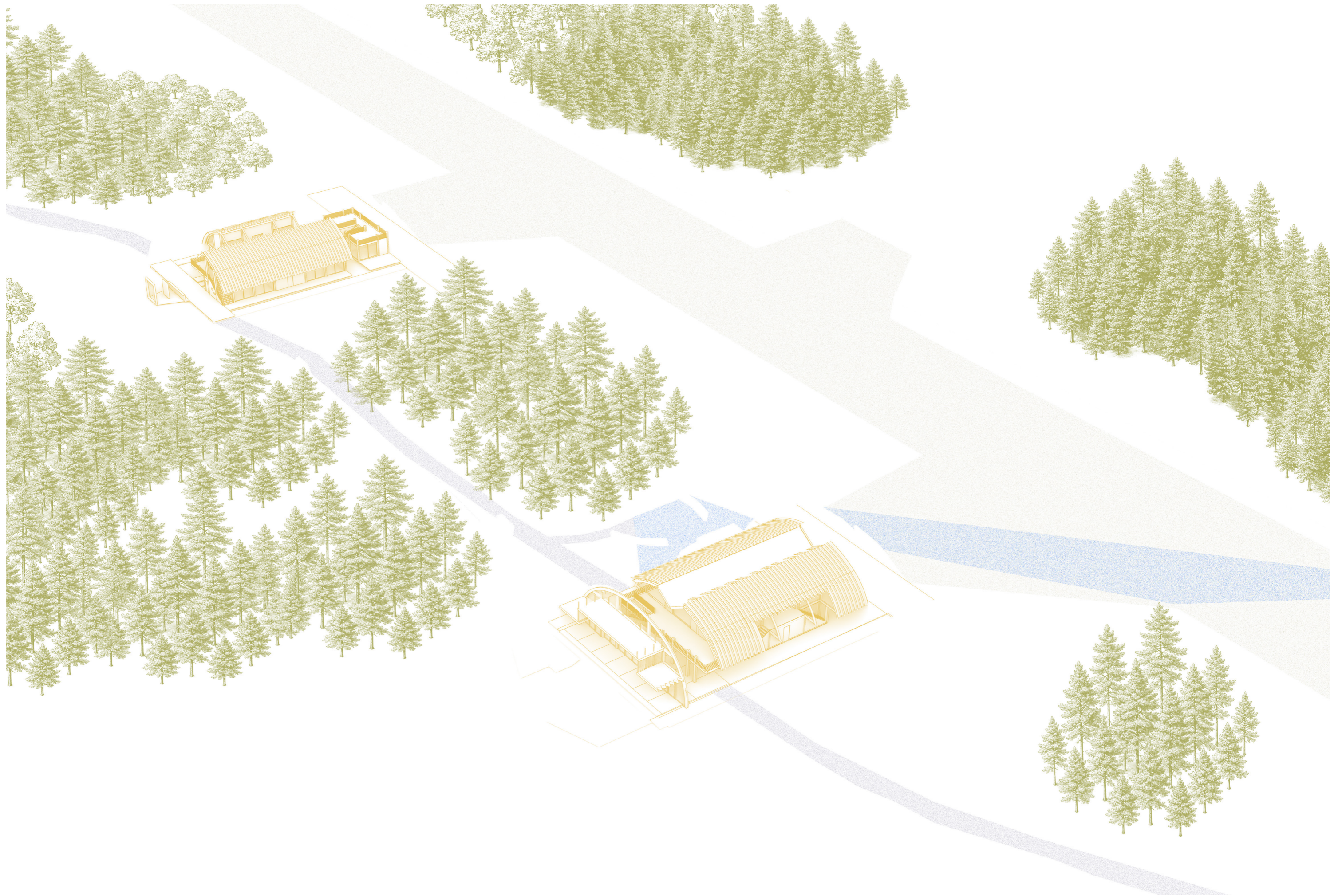
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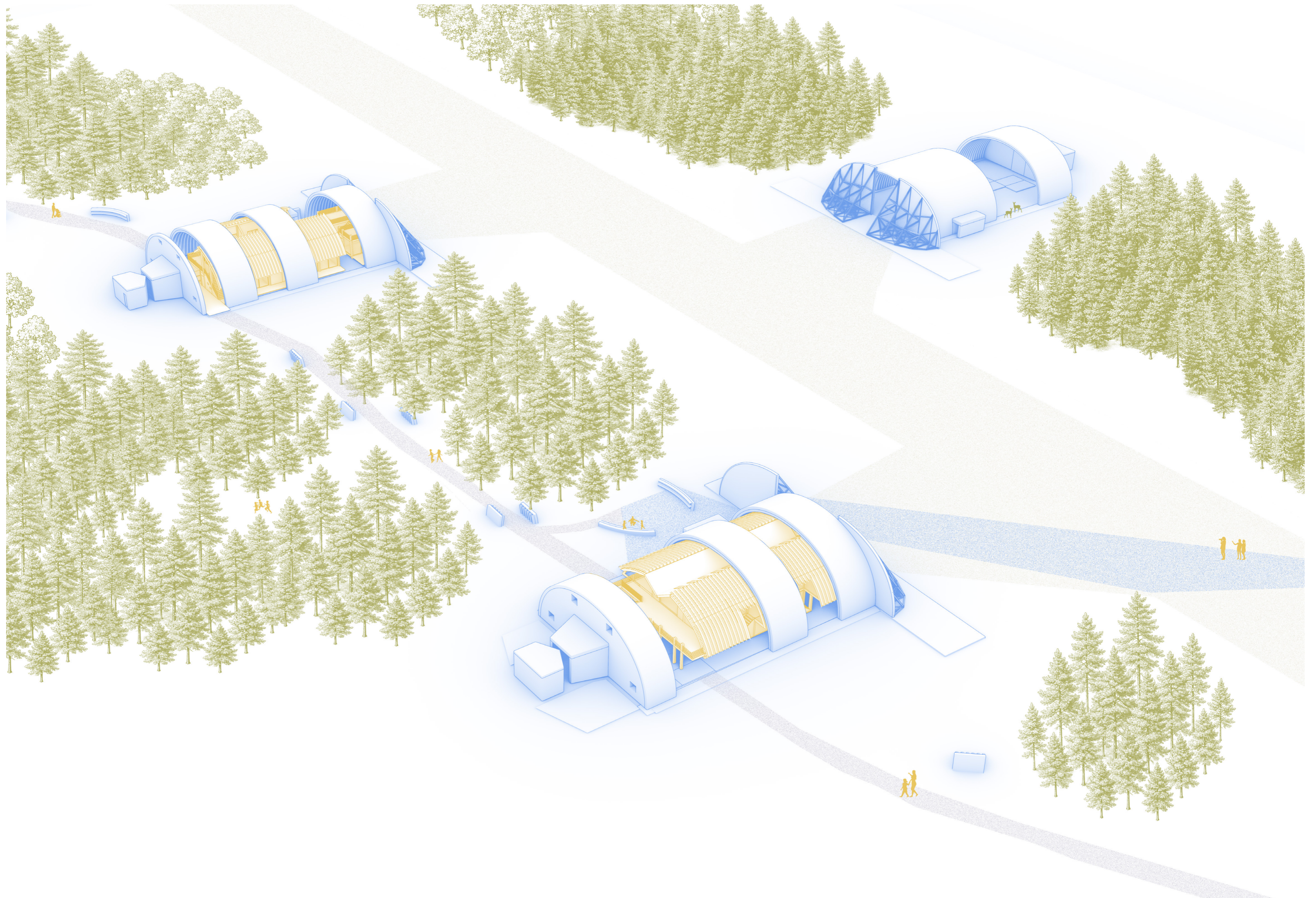


Principle





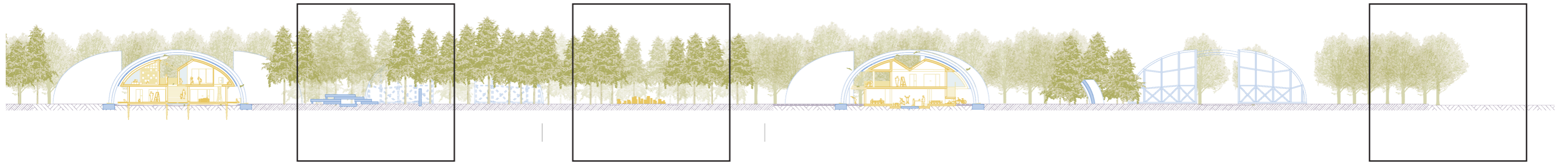




Site



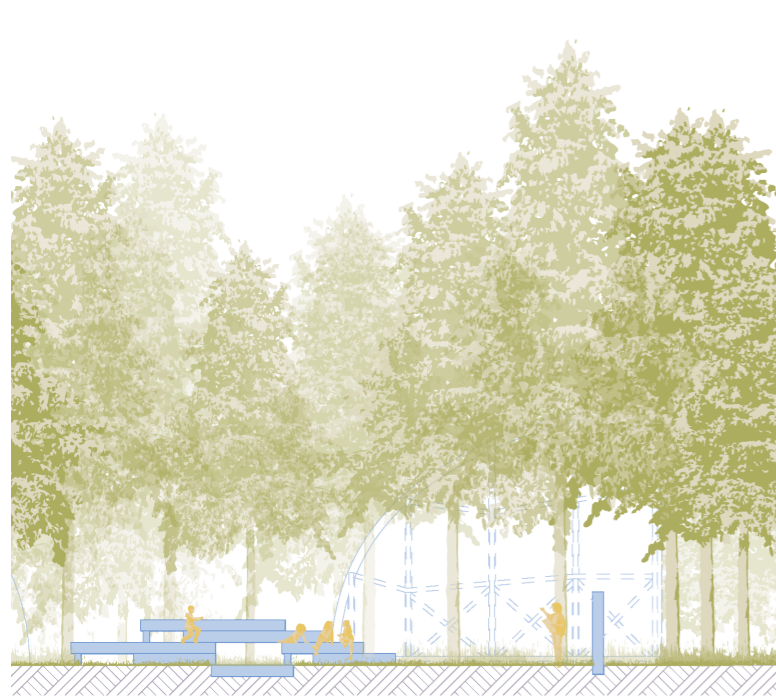
Playground Principles

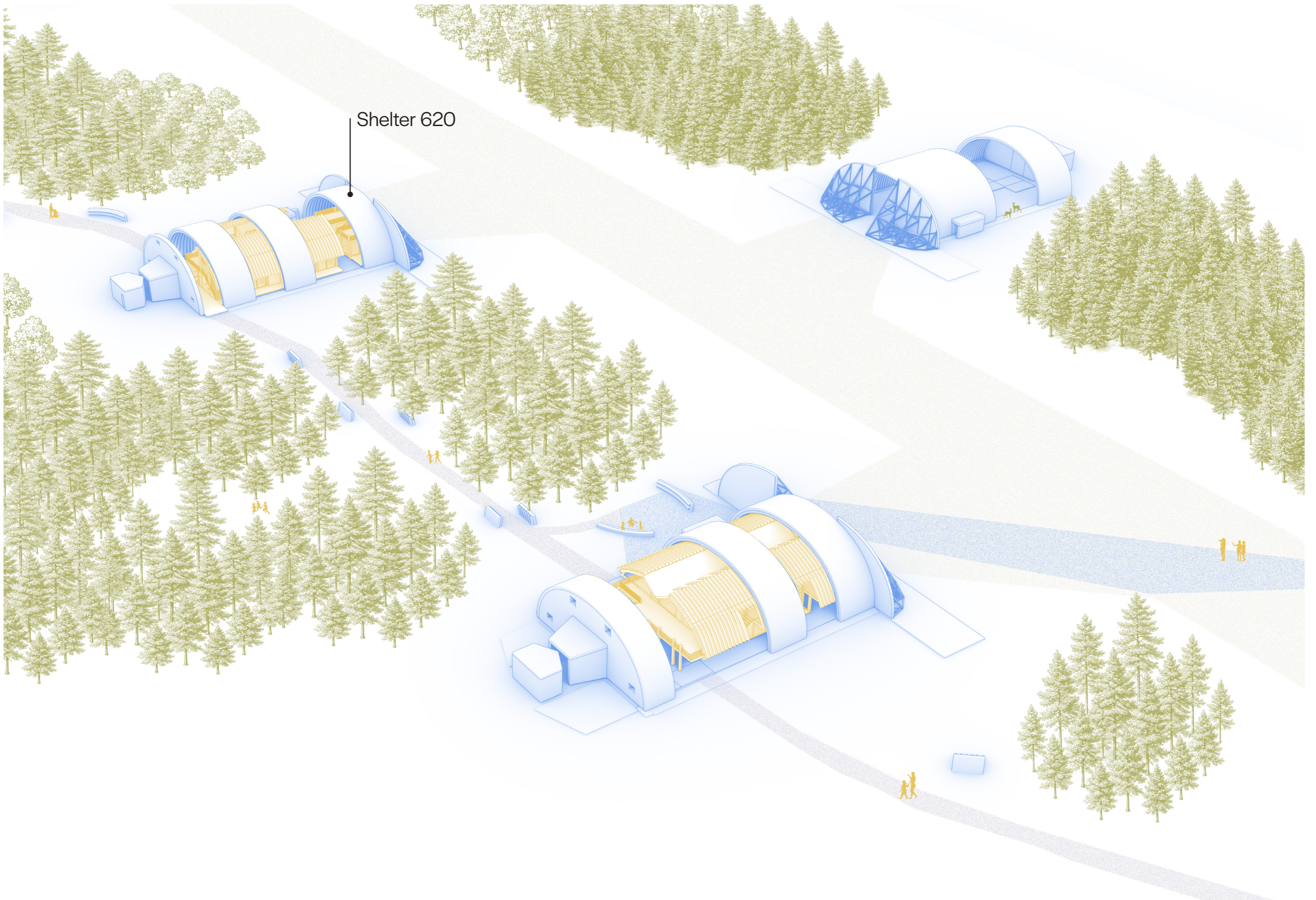


Repurpose Concrete

Natural Play Elements

Natural Paths





Shelter 620

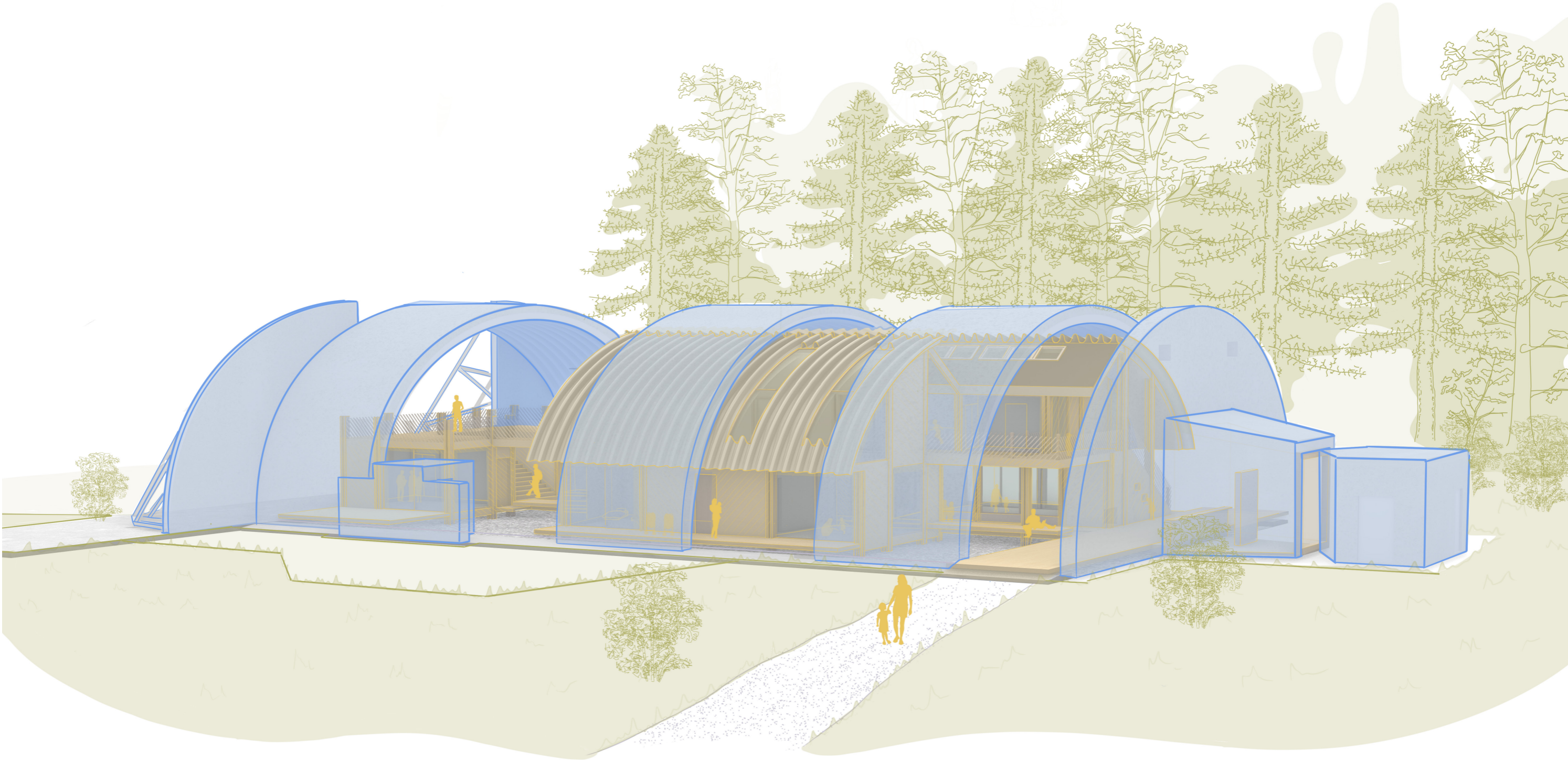
How do **spatial characteristics** and **program approaches** encourage children's learning and engagement with the landscape of the Air Shelter Area?



Learning with Nature

Exploration of Spaces

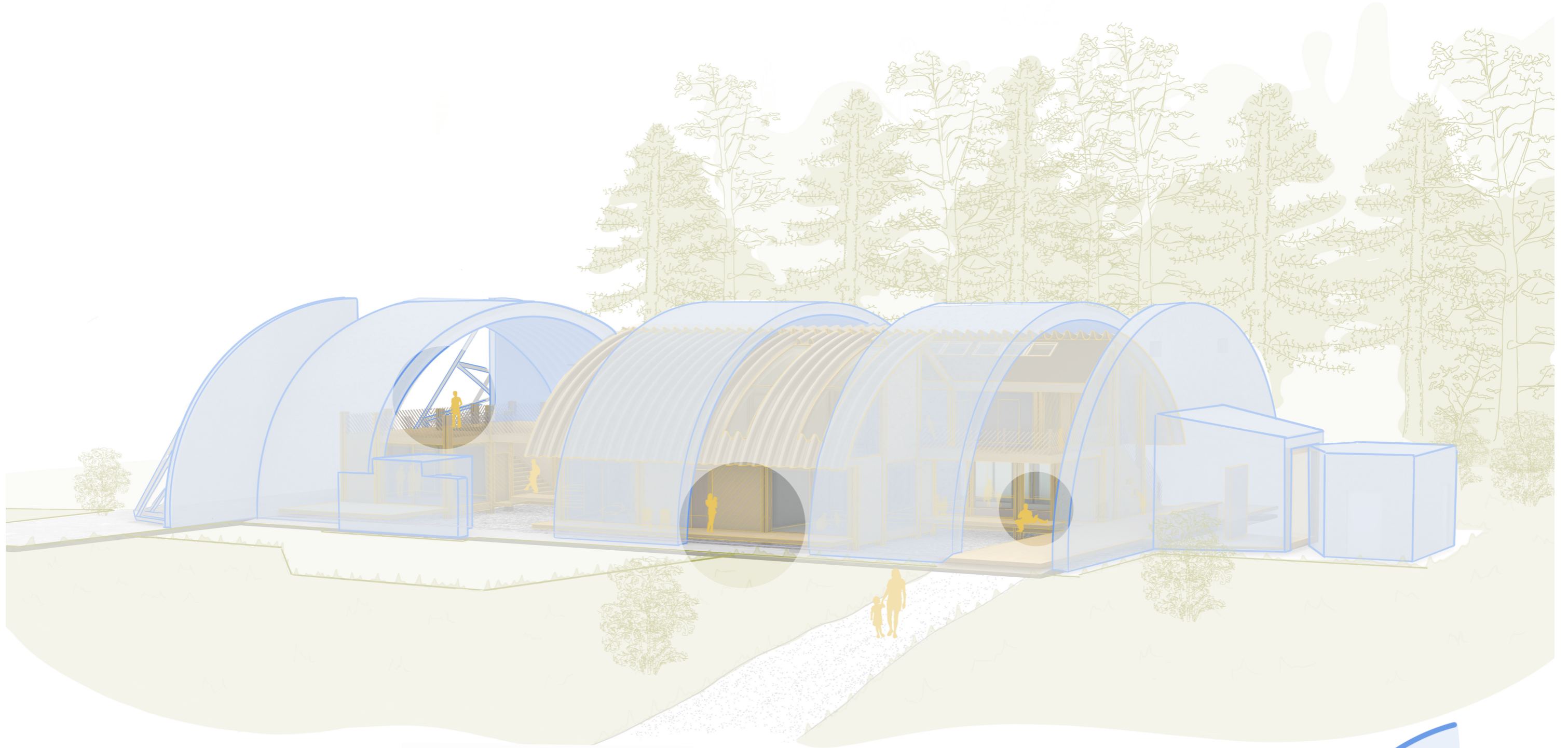
Connectivity of Community



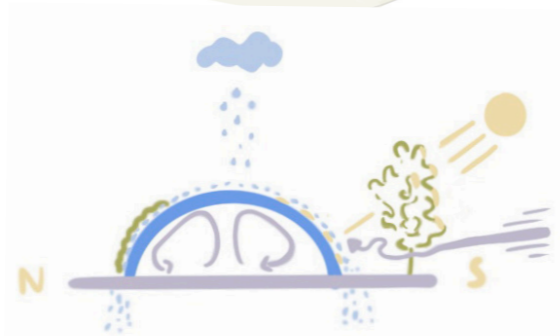
Learning with Nature

Exploration of Spaces

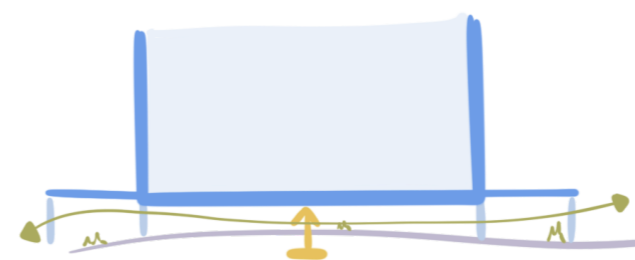
Connectivity of Community



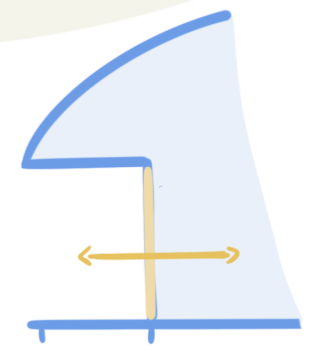
View points



Environmental processes inside the shell



Elevated structures

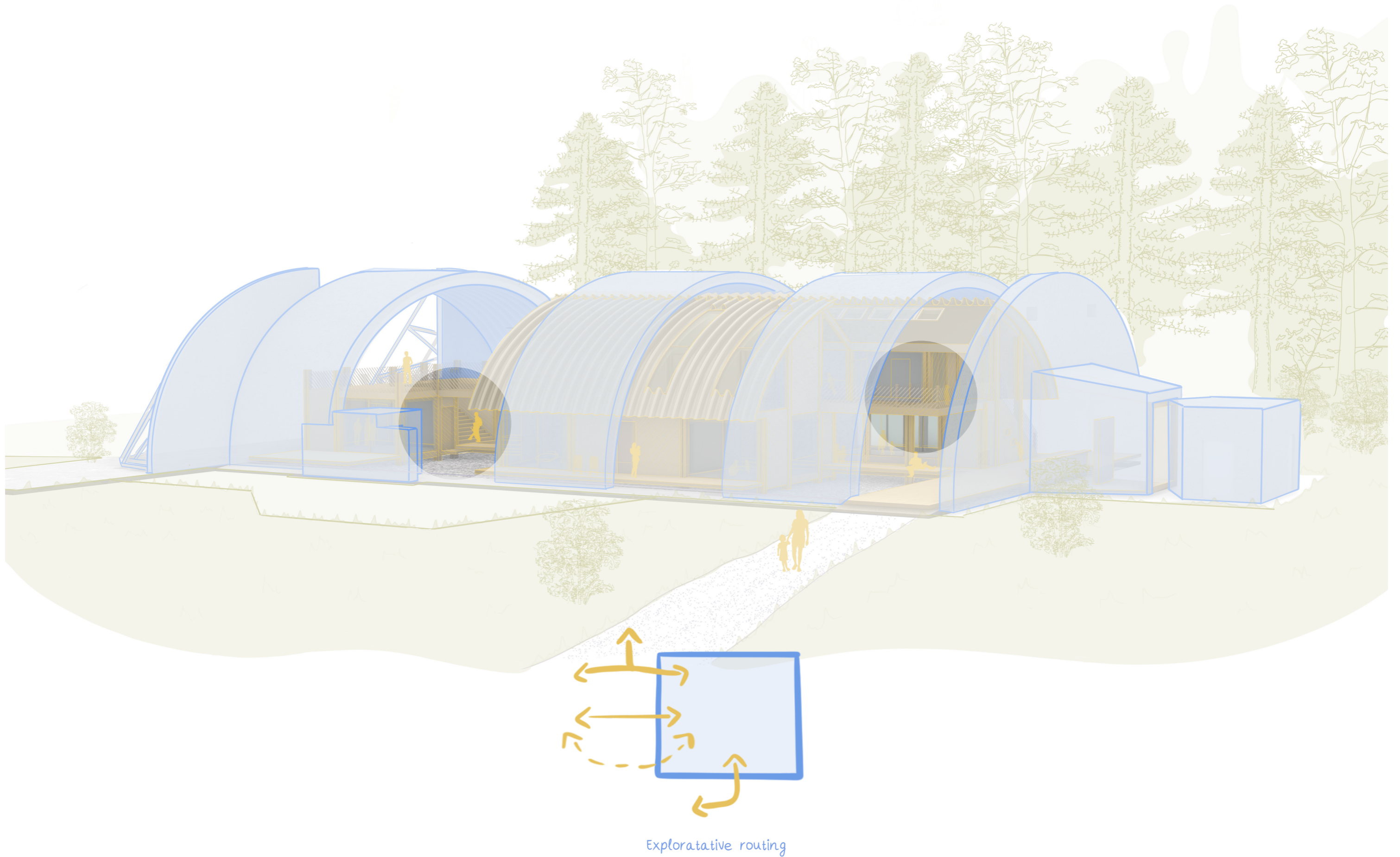


Patio as classroom extension

Learning with Nature

Exploration of Spaces

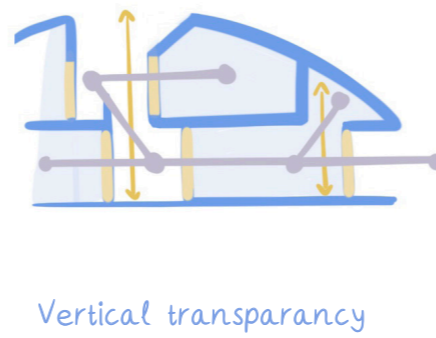
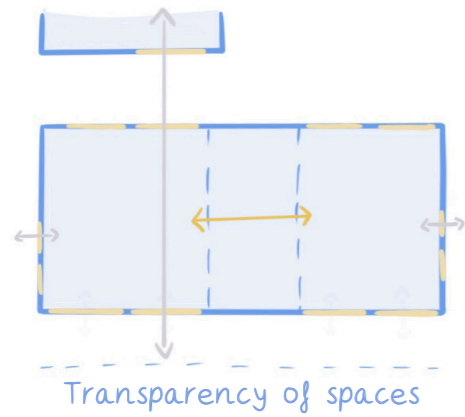
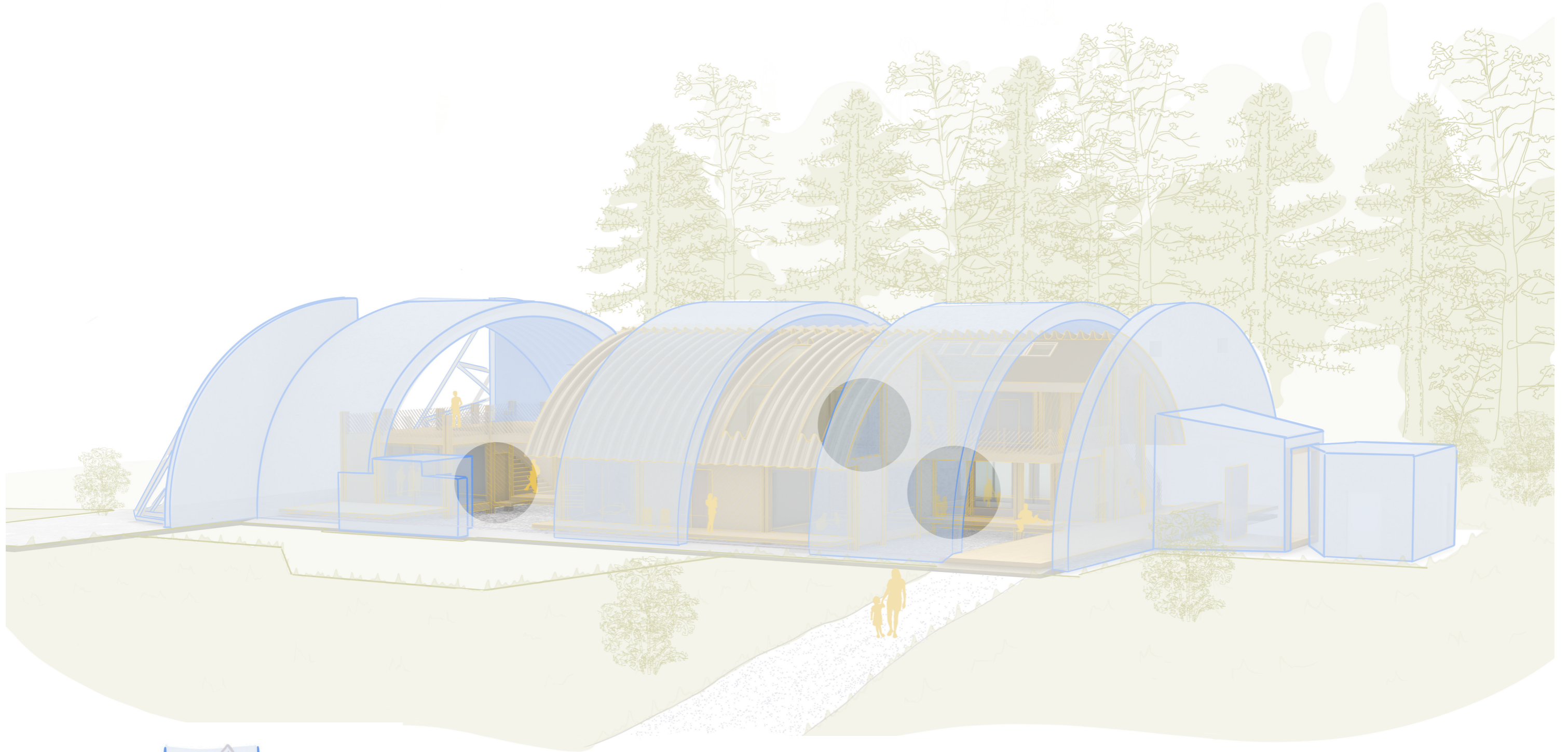
Connectivity of Community



Learning with Nature

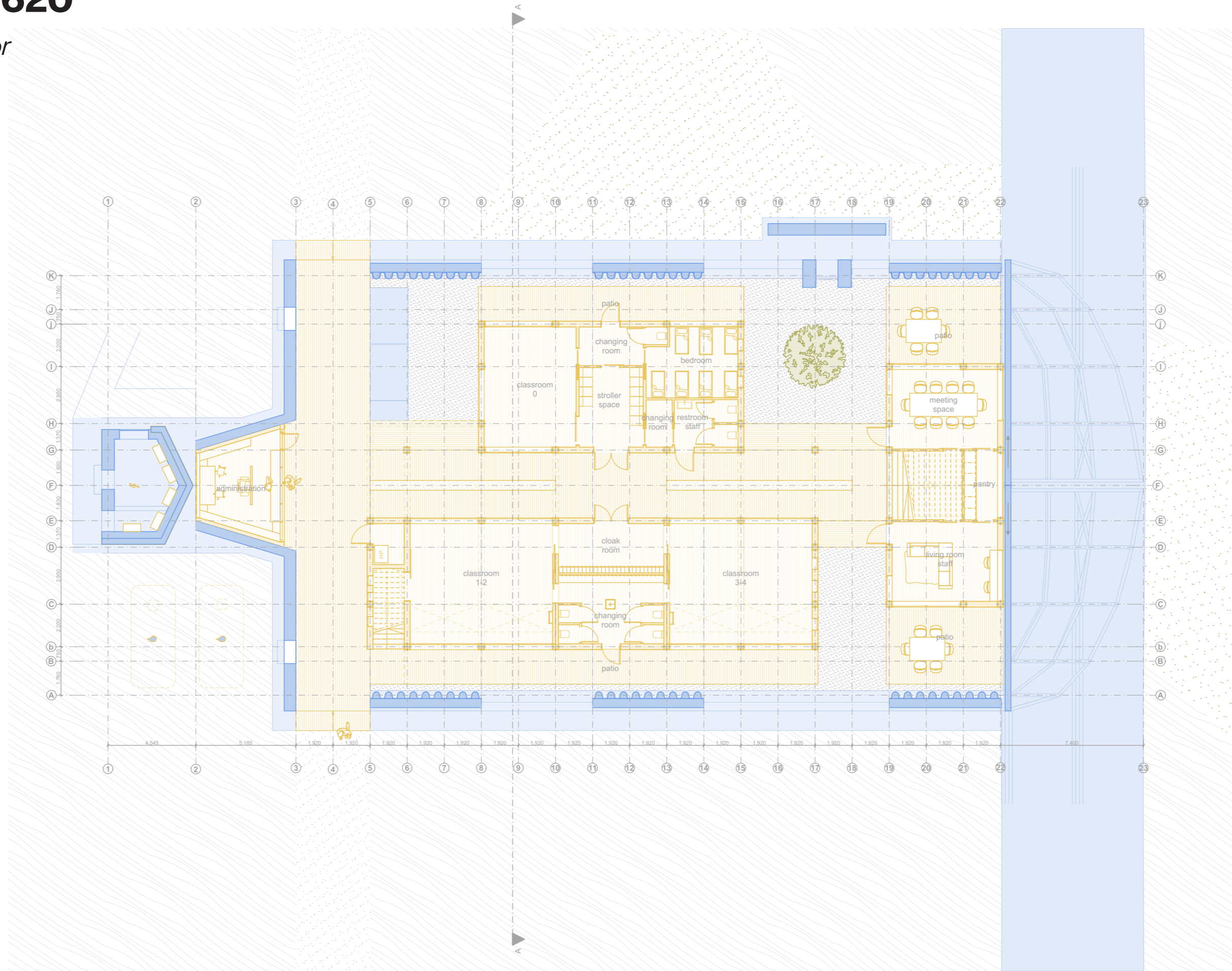
Exploration of Spaces

Connectivity of Community



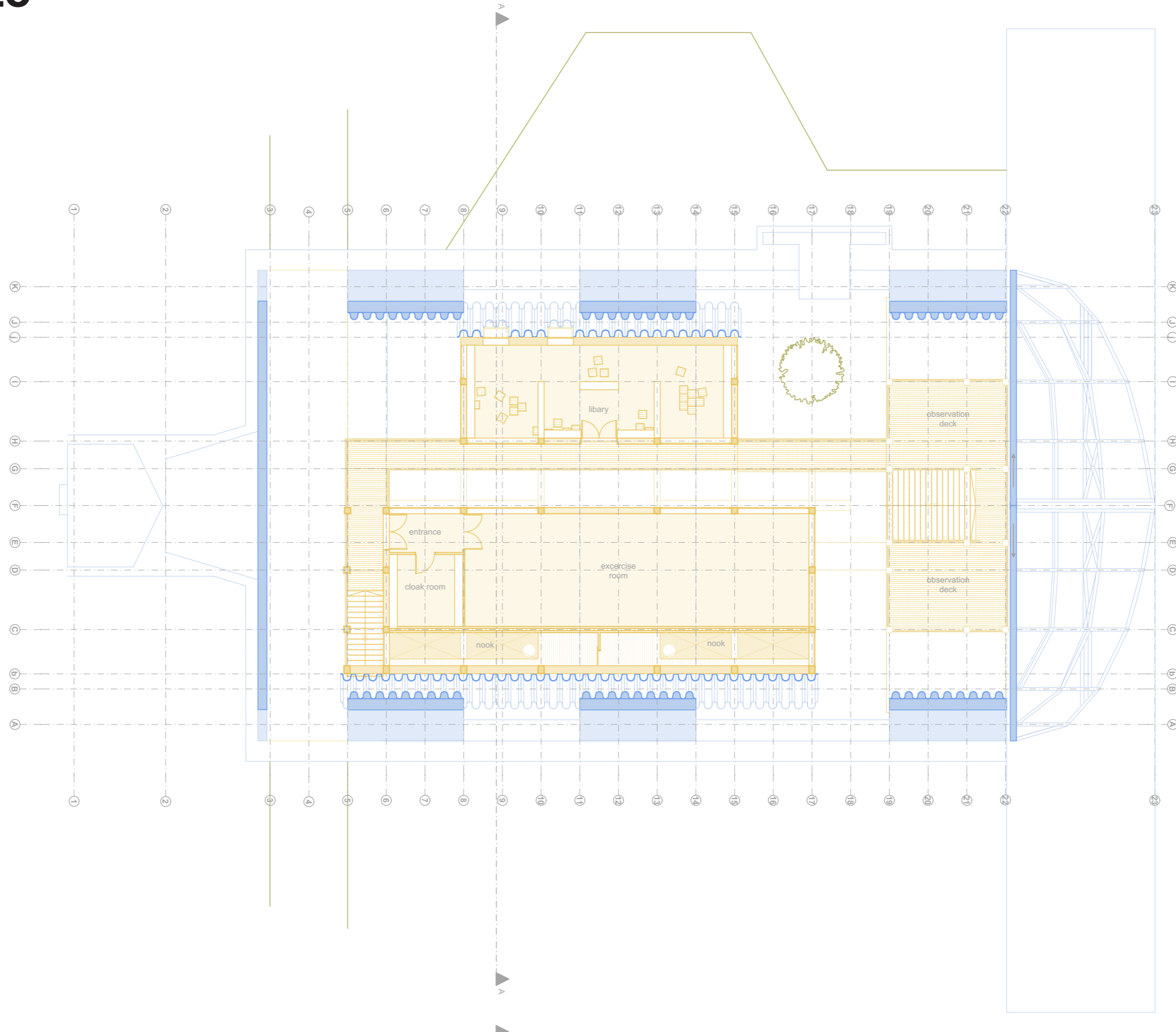
Shelter 620

Ground floor



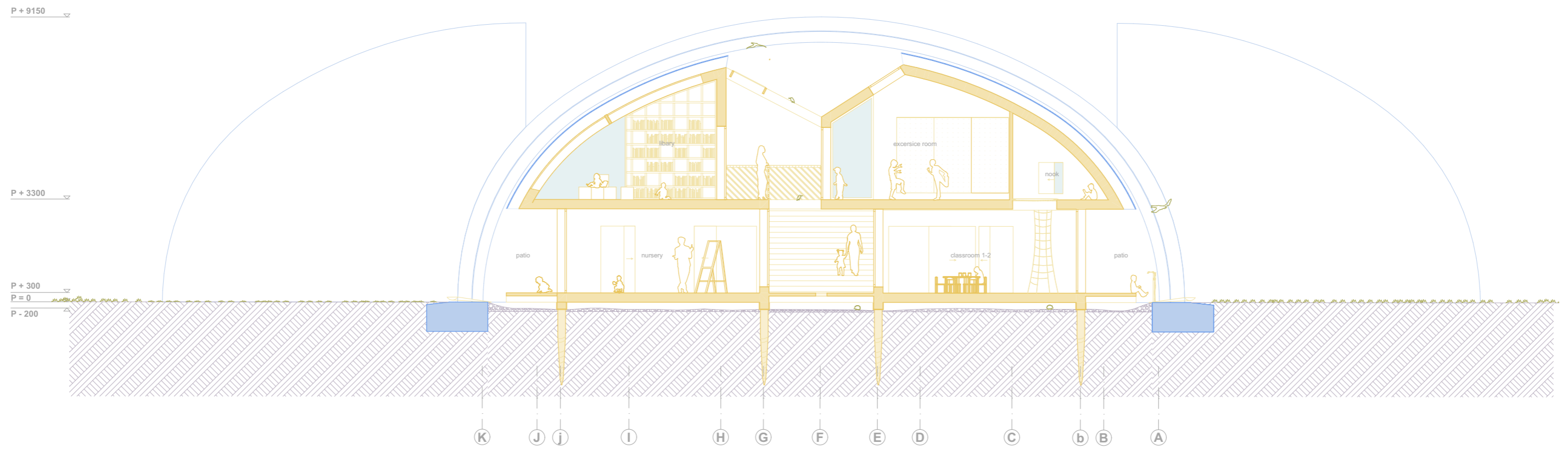
Shelter 620

First floor



Shelter 620

Section







Learning with Nature

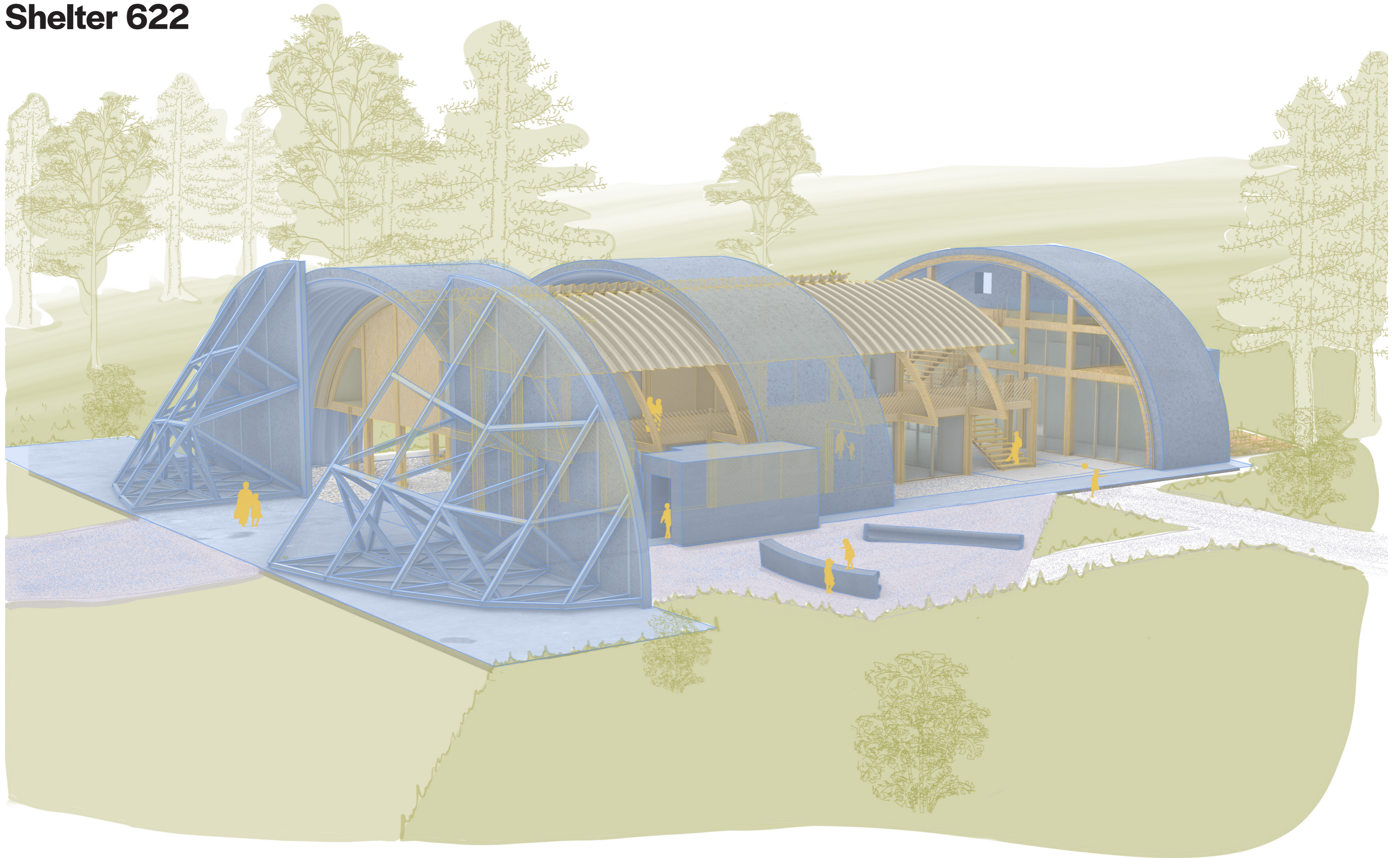
Exploration of Spaces

Connectivity of Community



Shelter 622

Shelter 622

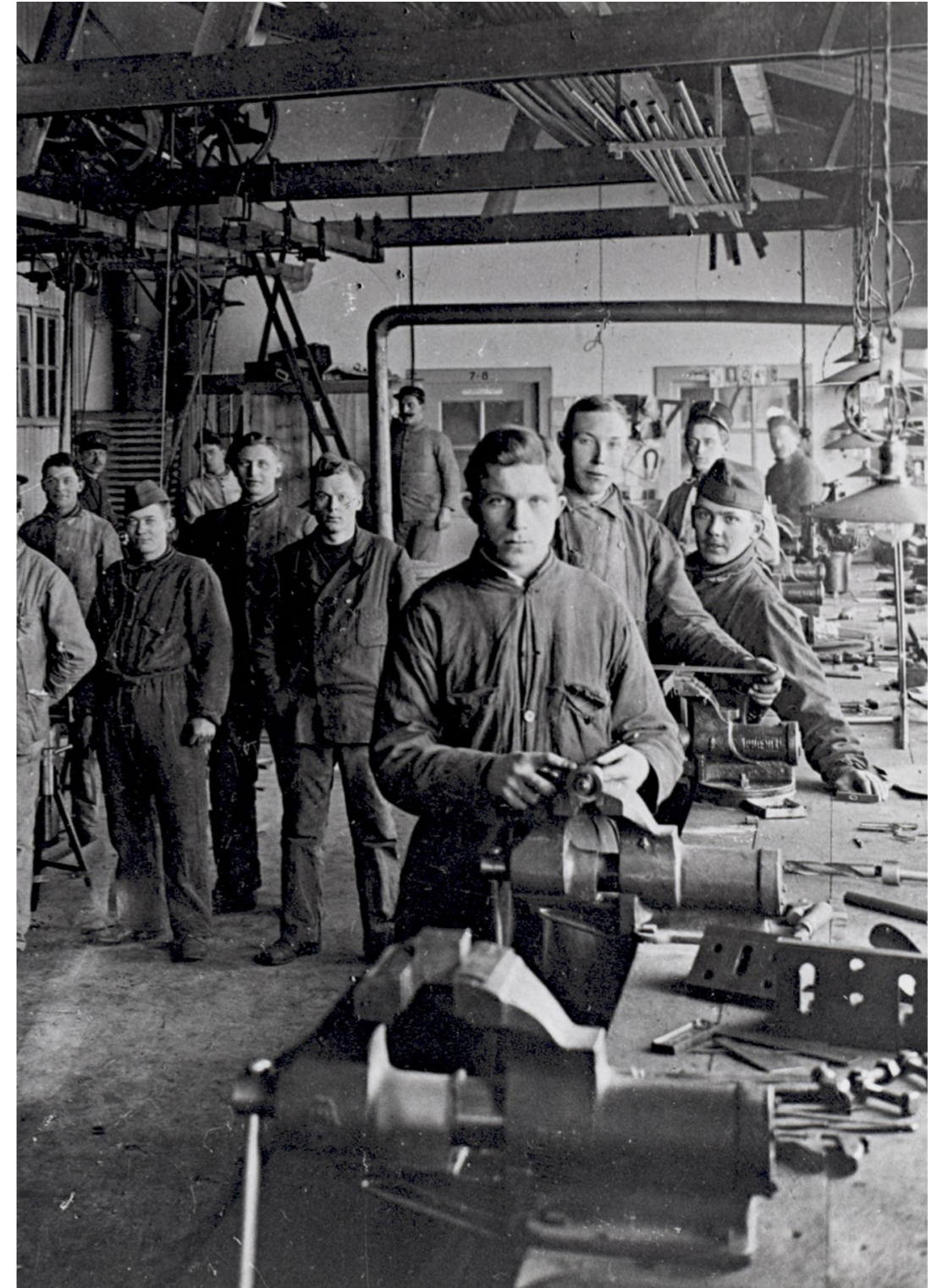


1955



Companionship

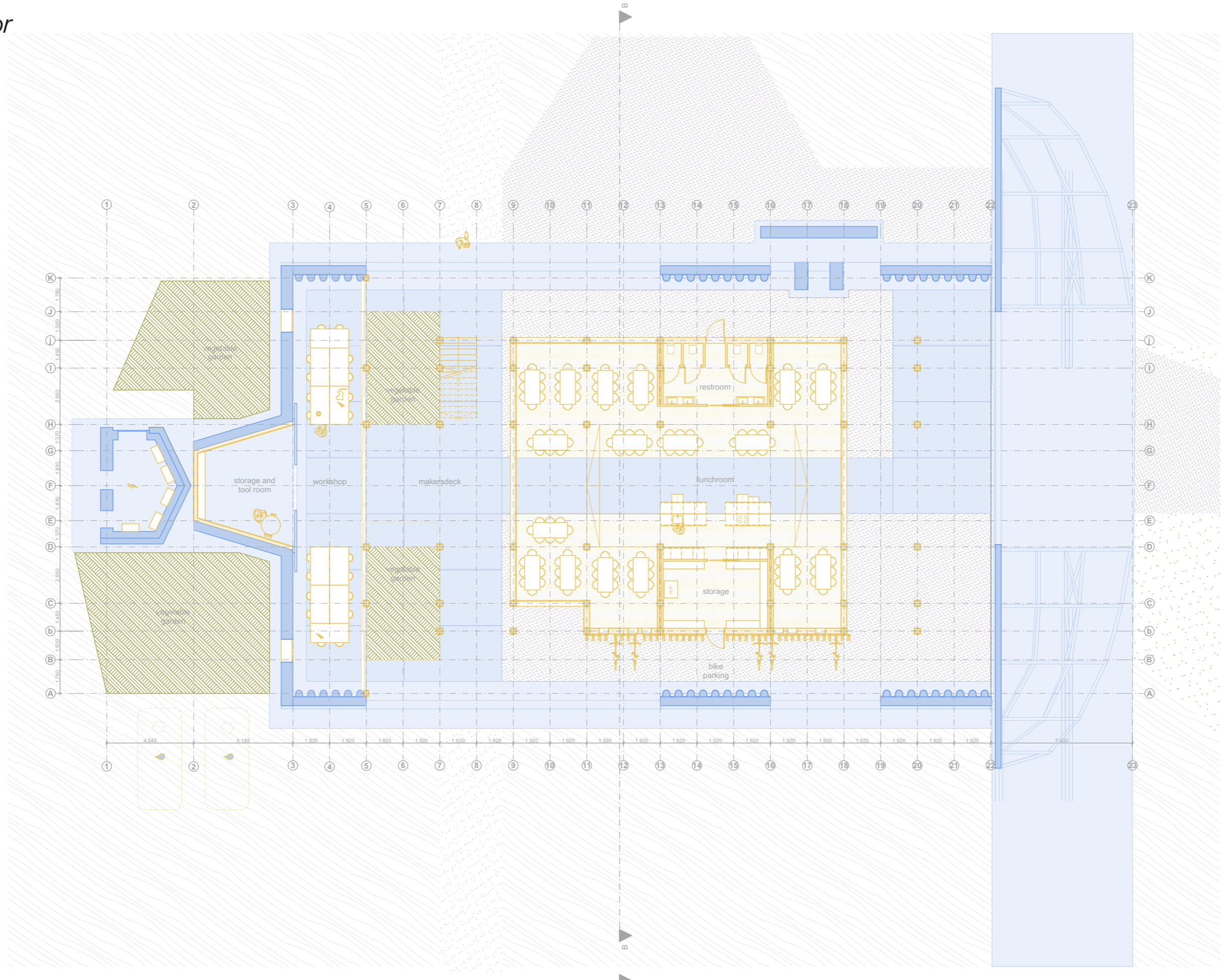
1914-1918



Teamwork and Skills

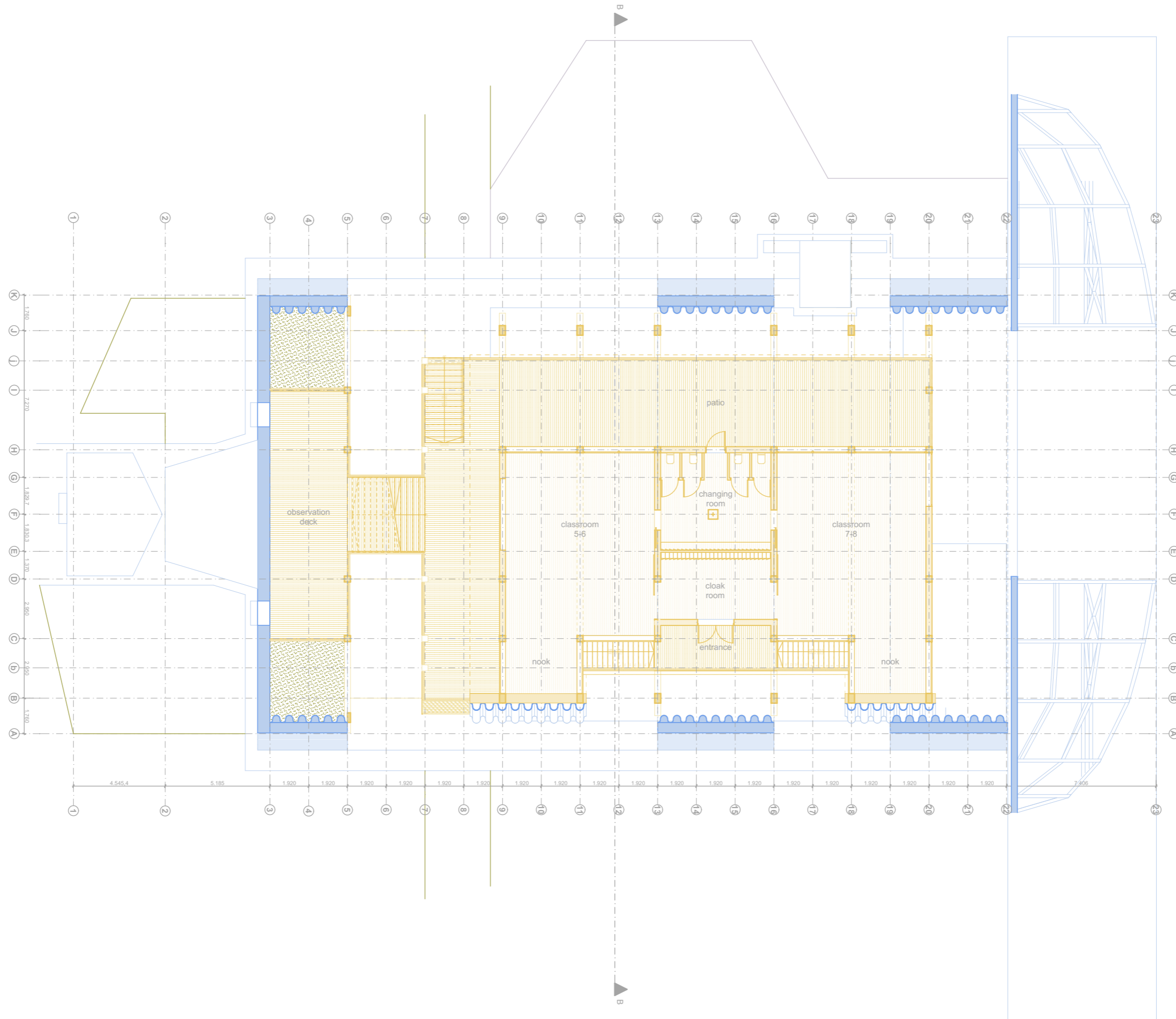
Shelter 622

Ground floor



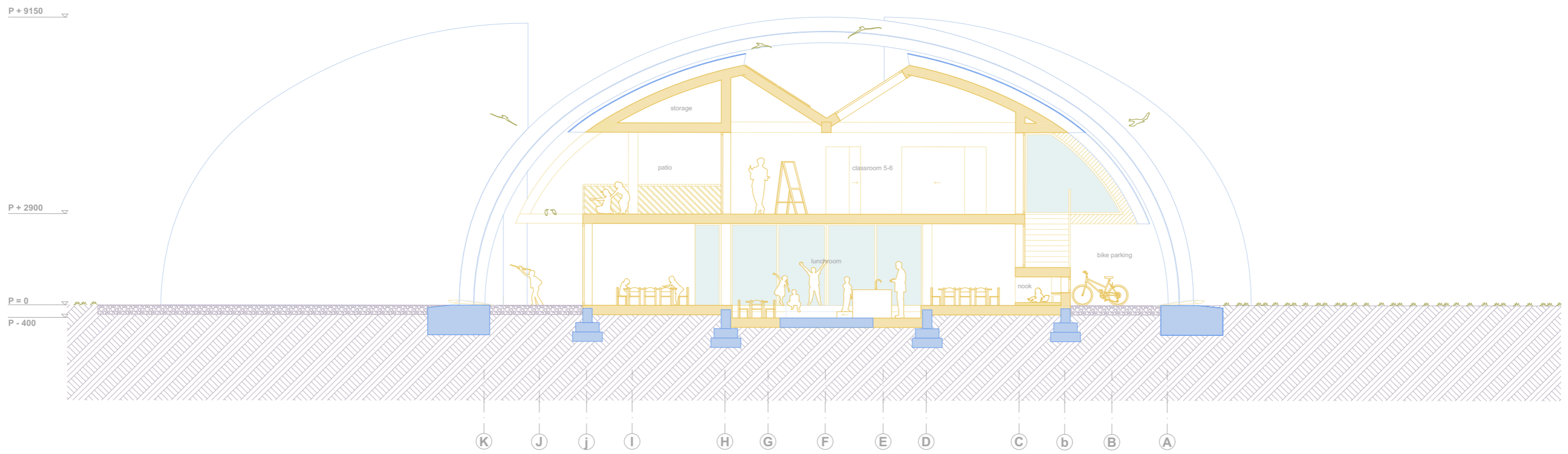
Shelter 622

First floor



Shelter 622


Section





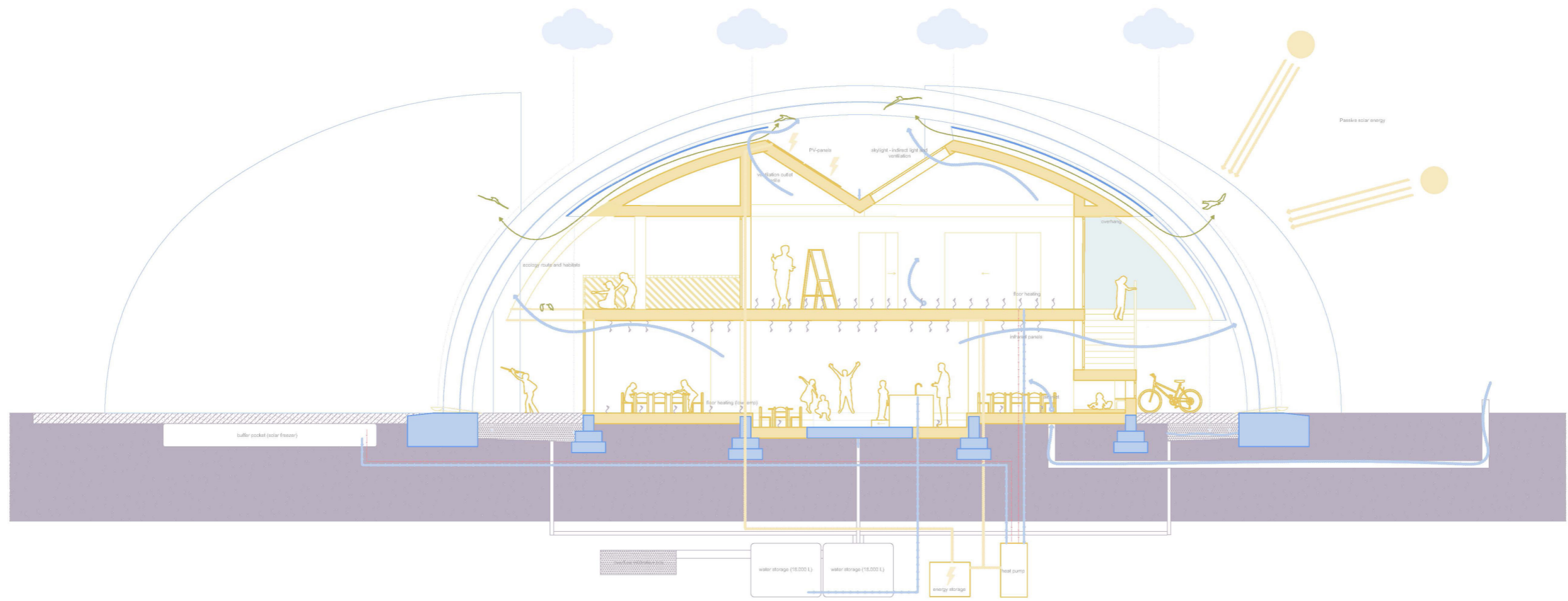
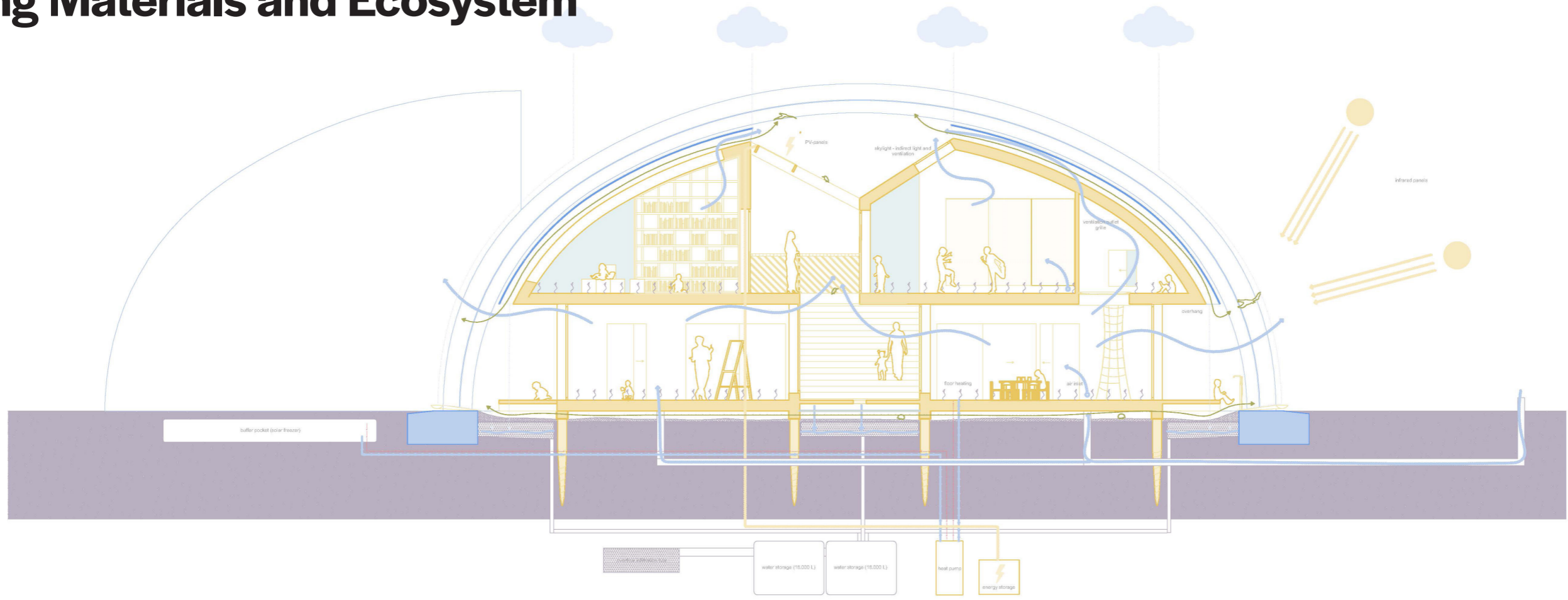
BUILDING METHOD



The image displays a variety of natural building materials arranged on a light-colored surface. In the upper left, there are two long, rectangular wooden planks with a rough, weathered texture. To their right is another similar plank. Further right, a bundle of reeds or thin wooden poles is tied together with a light-colored band. In the center and right, there are two large, flat, rectangular stones with a rough, textured surface. At the bottom of the image, there is a row of several smaller, irregularly shaped stones of varying sizes and textures. The overall scene suggests a focus on natural, sustainable building materials.

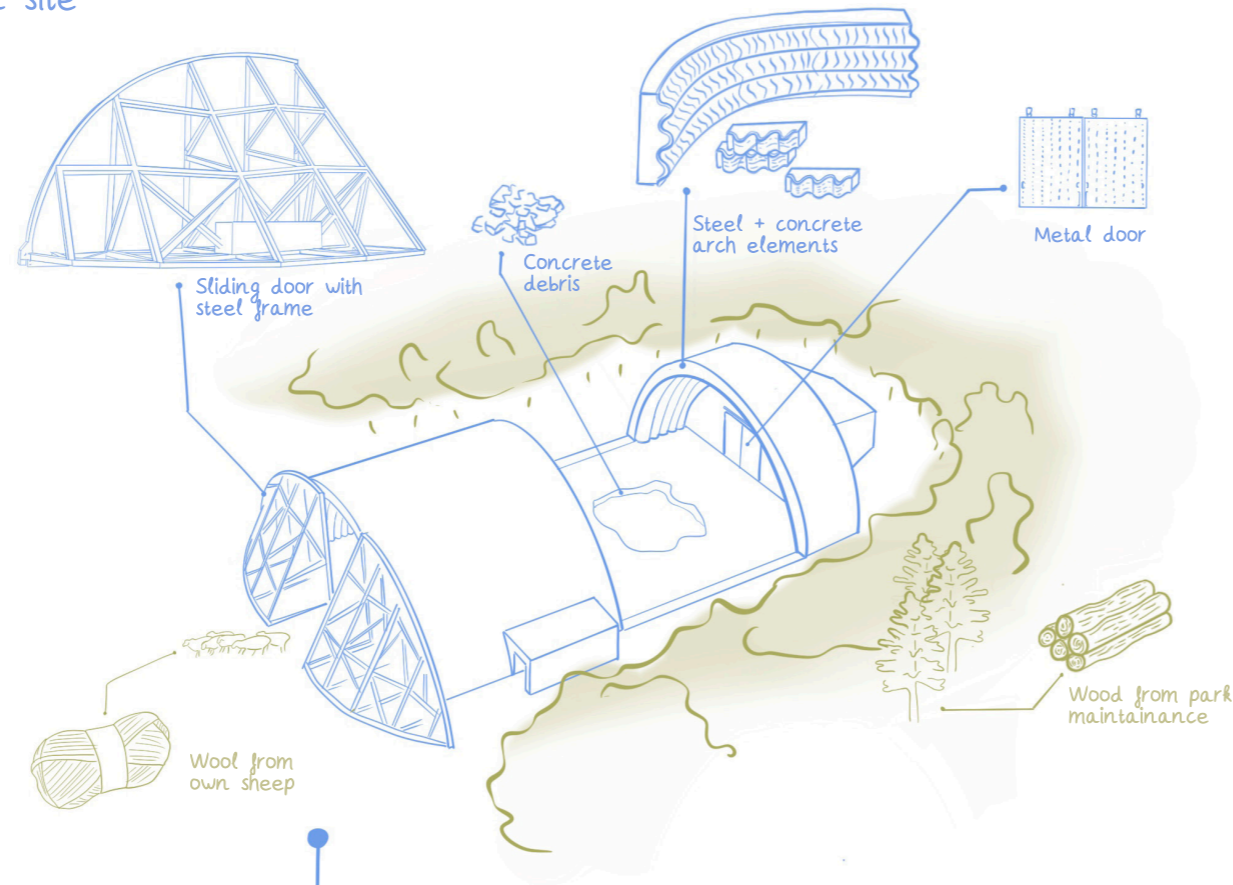
How can the **building method** of newly built architecture convey the concept of architecture as a landscape in the Air Shelter Area?

Moving Materials and Ecosystem

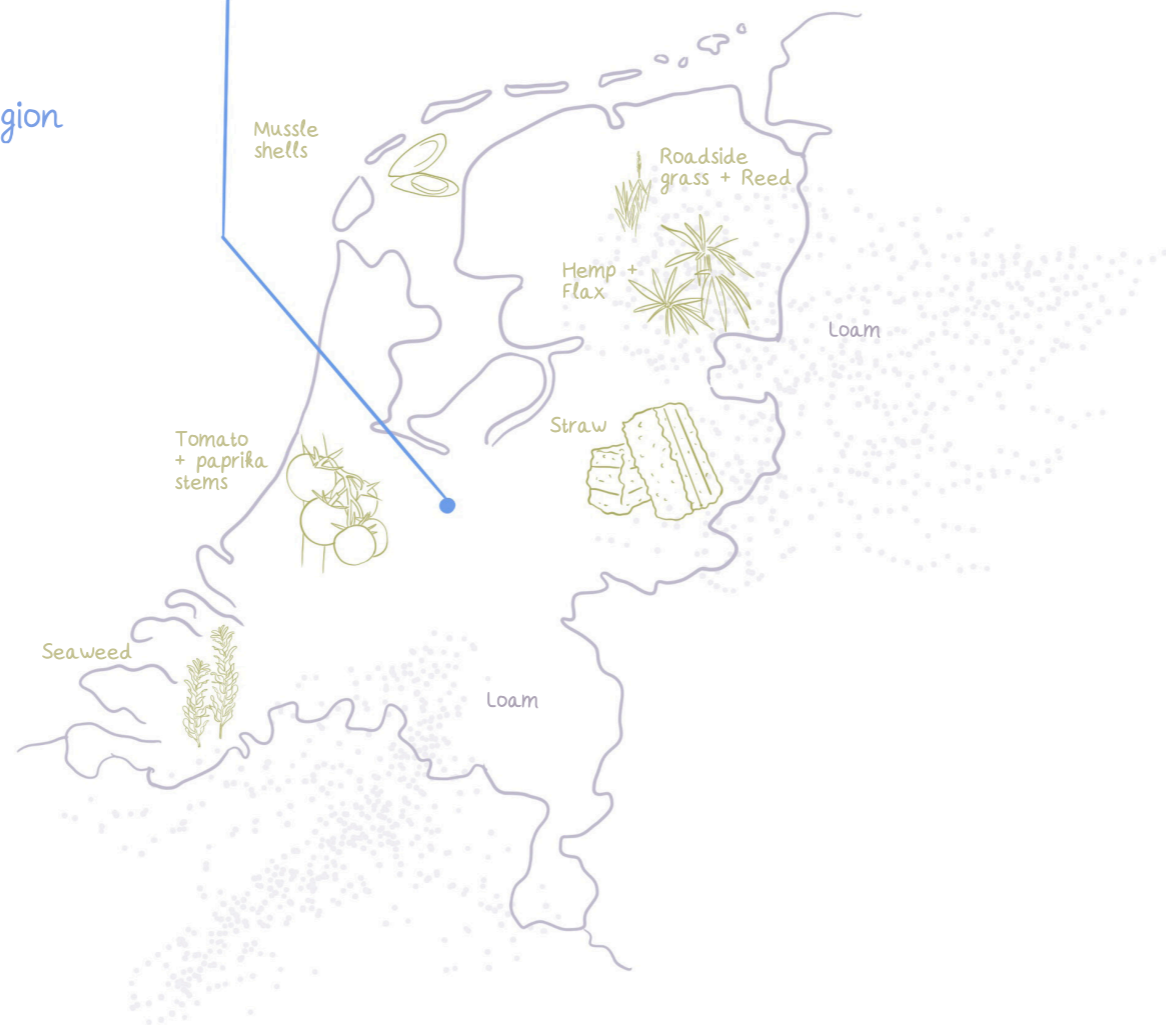


Bioregional Materials

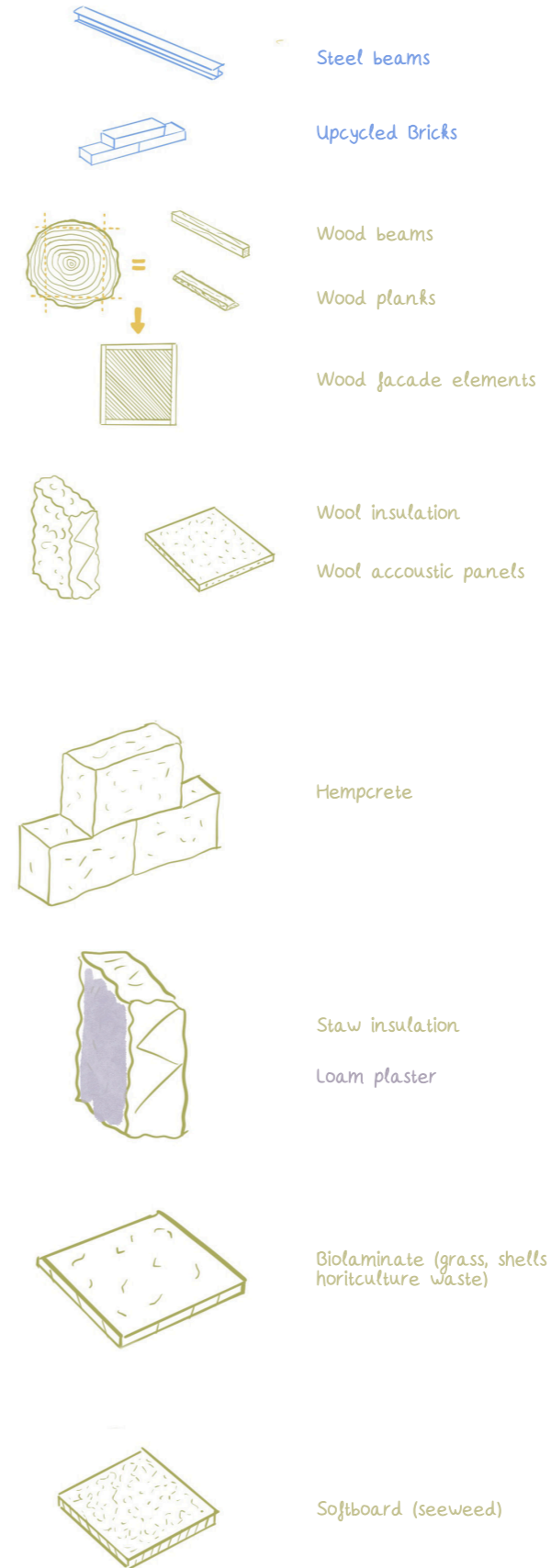
Resources on site



Resources in bioregion

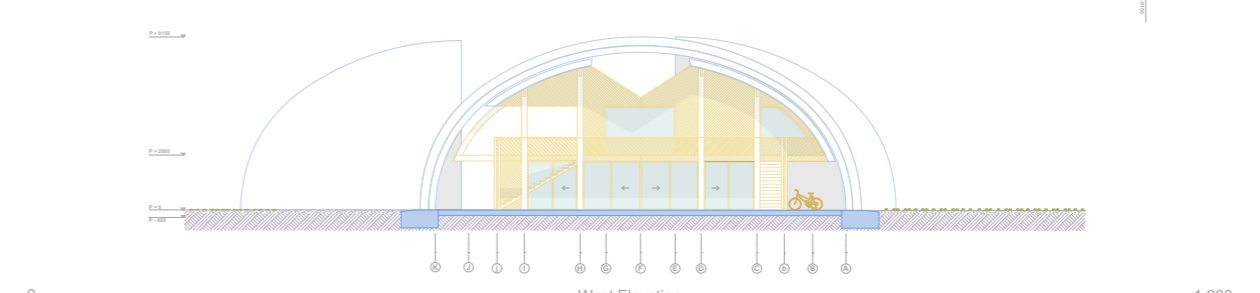
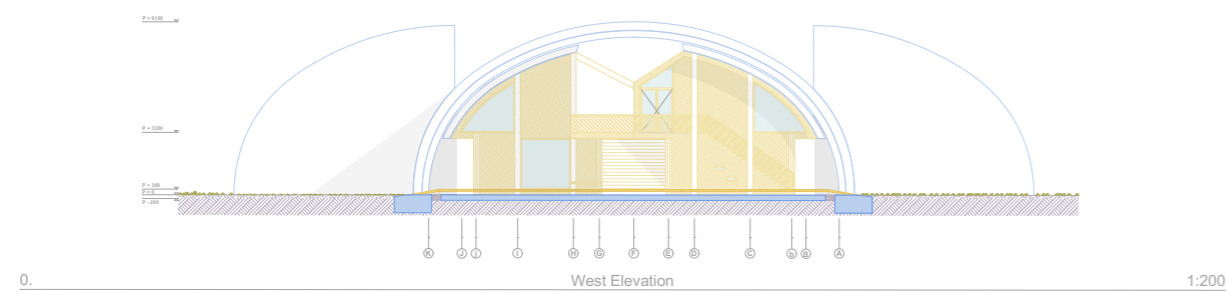
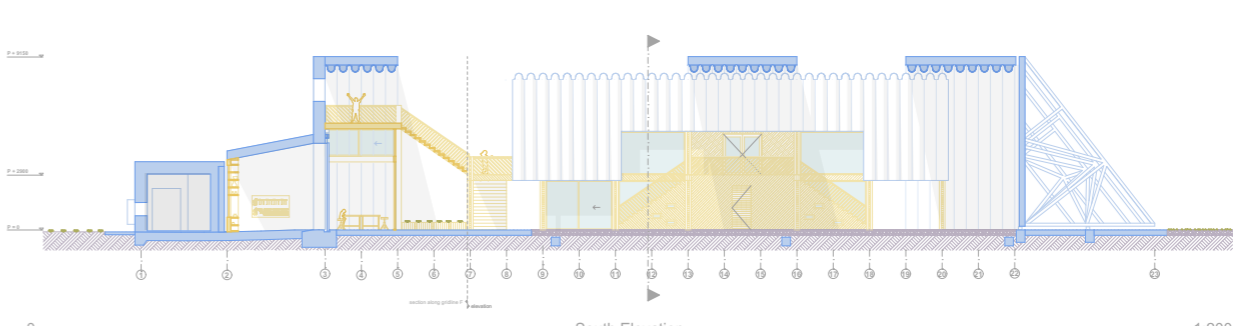
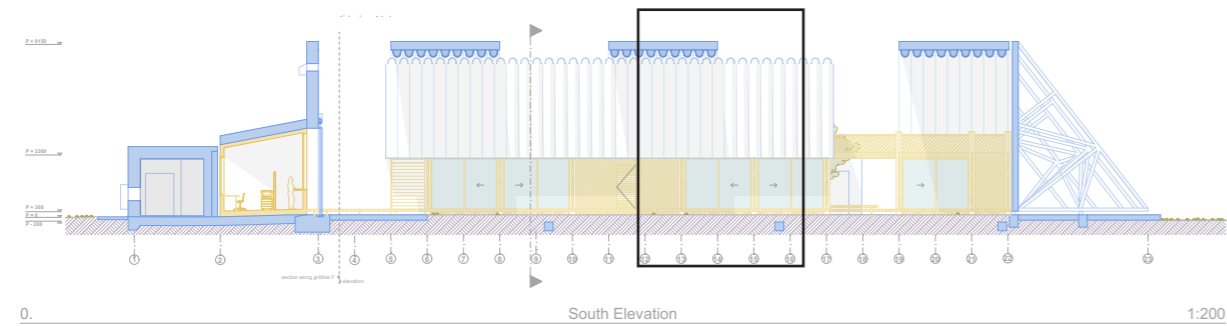
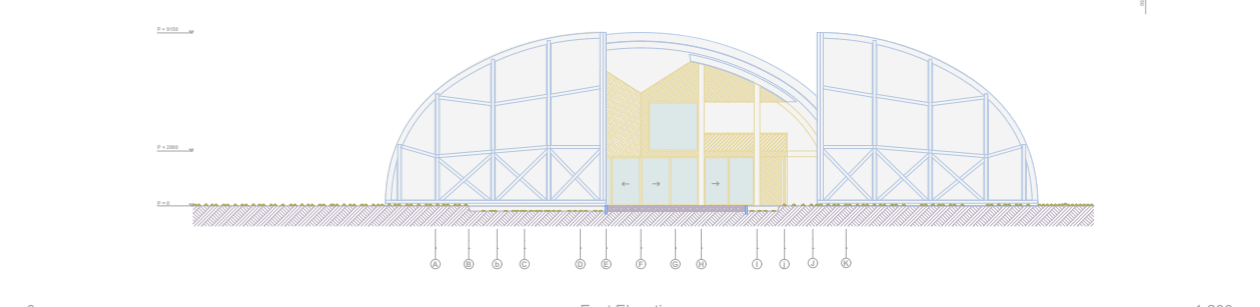
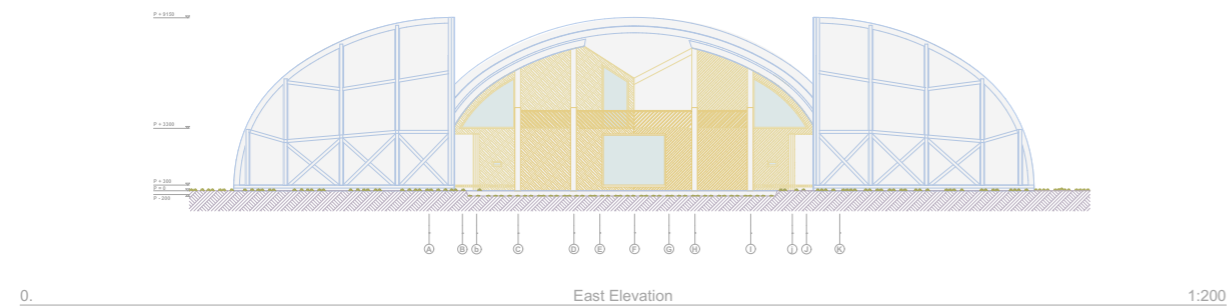
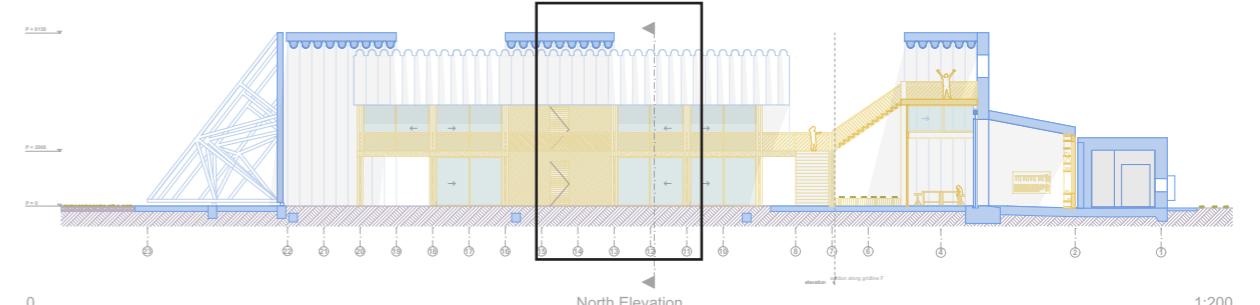
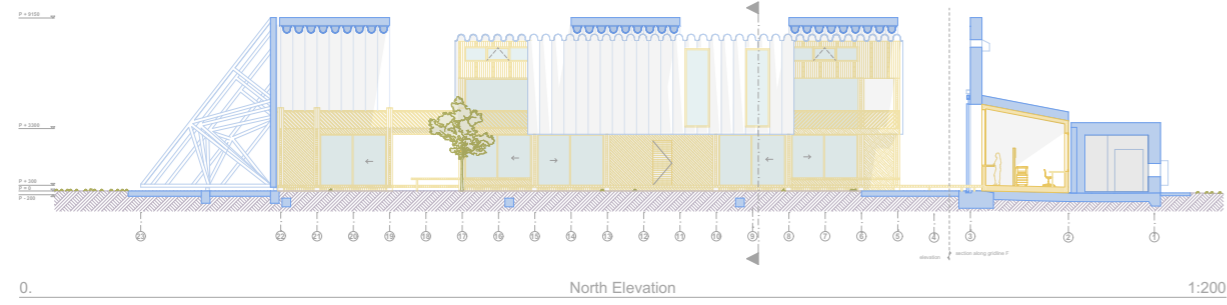


Building materials

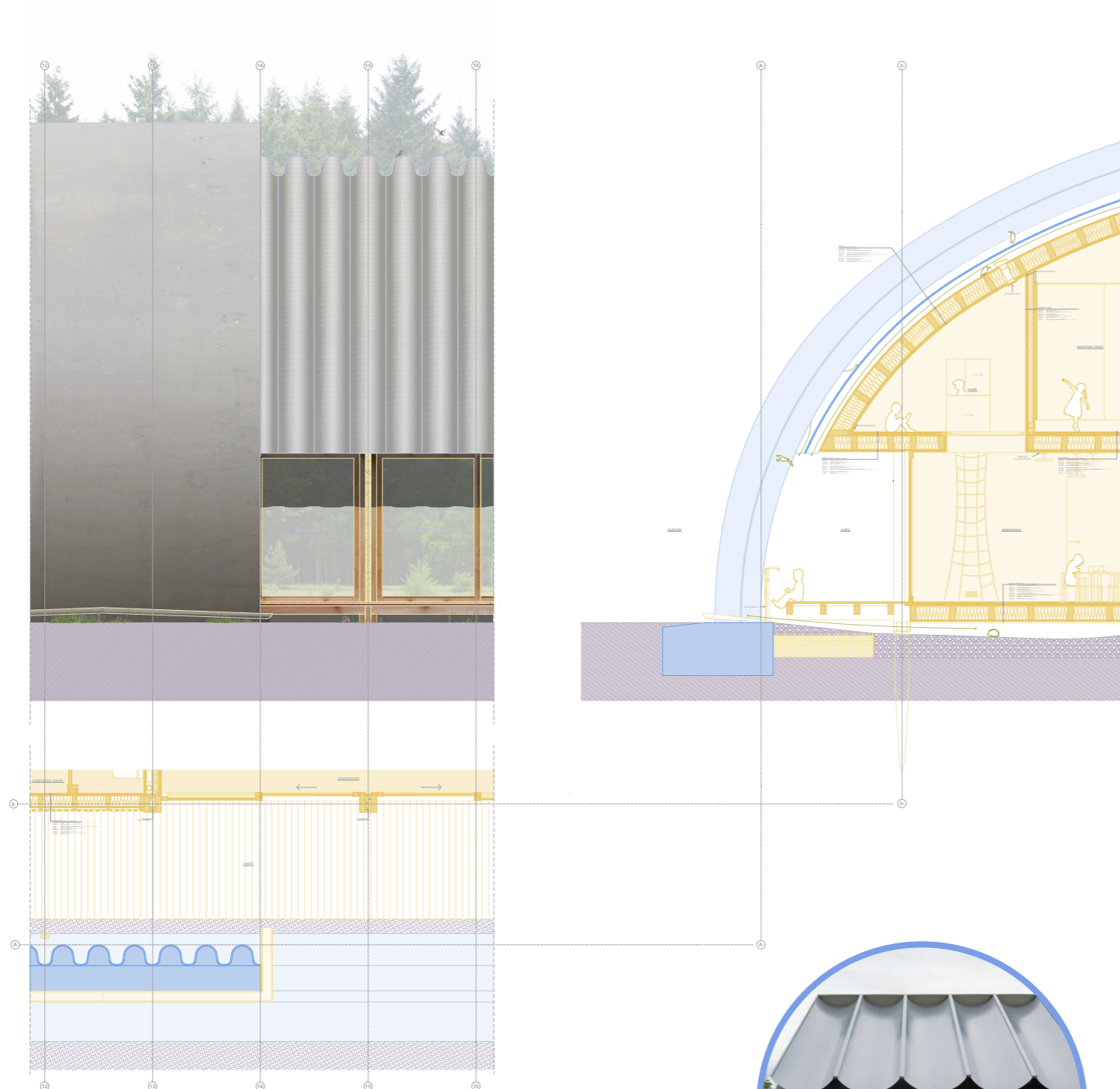


Shelter 620

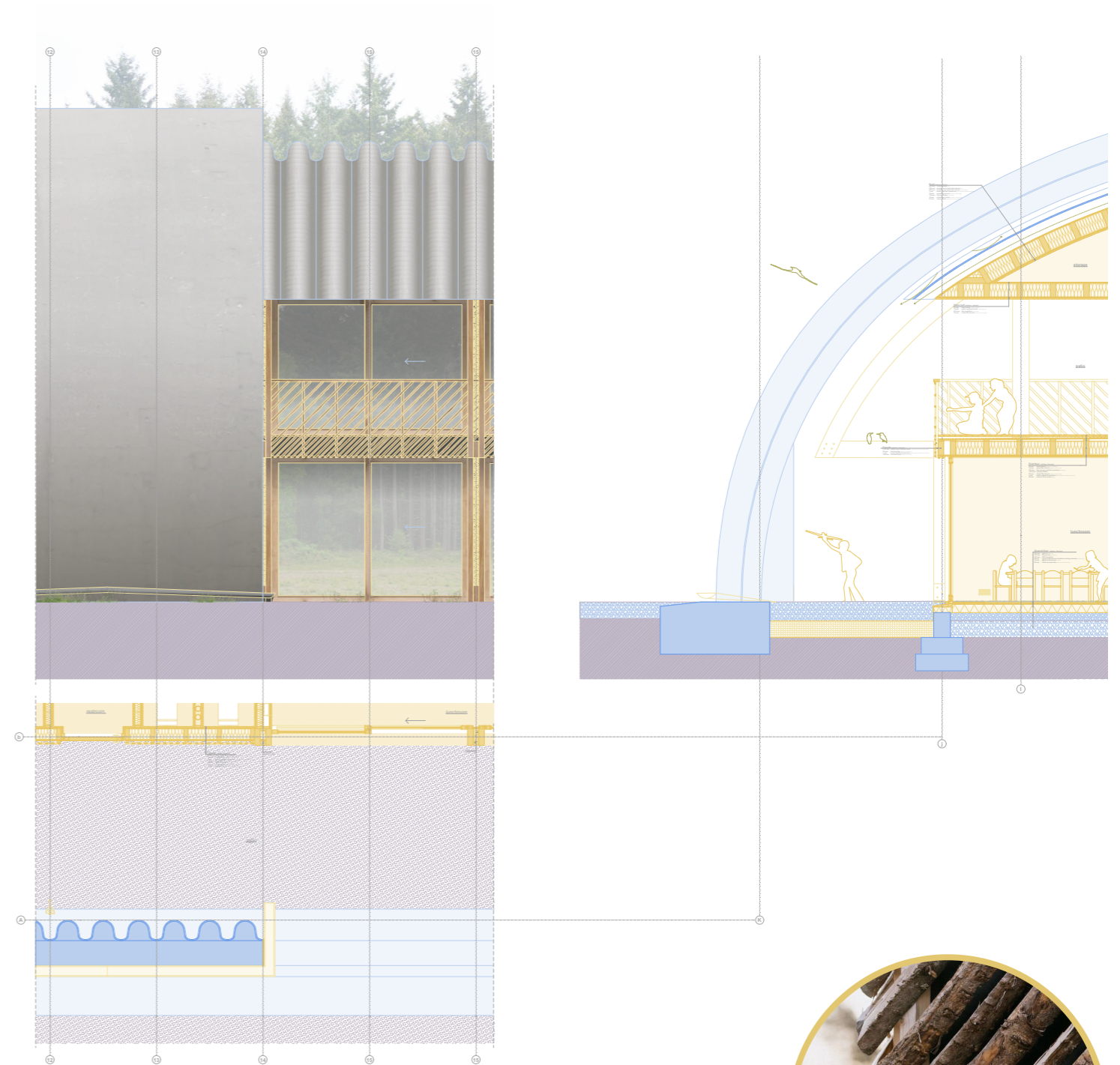
Shelter 622

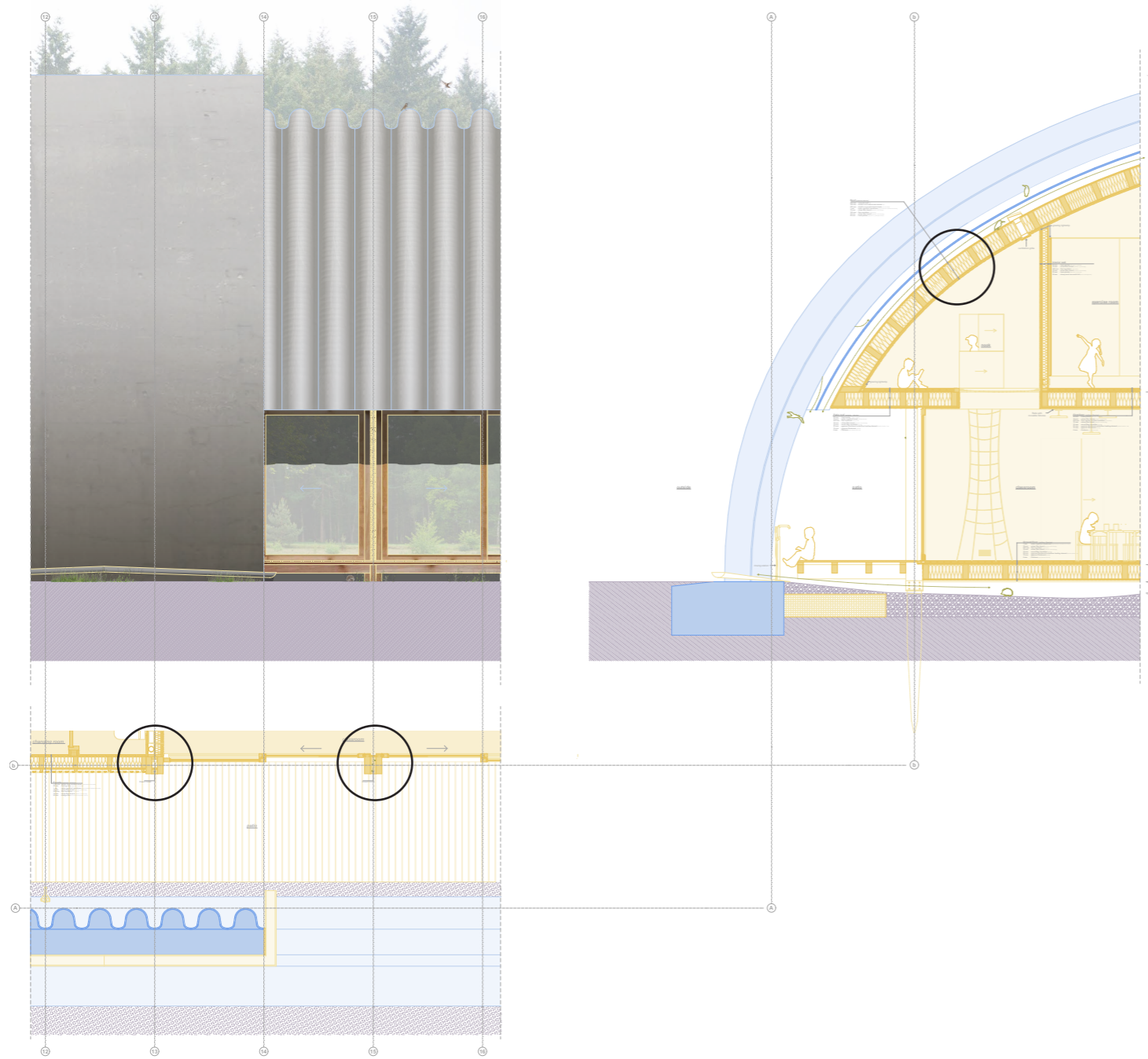


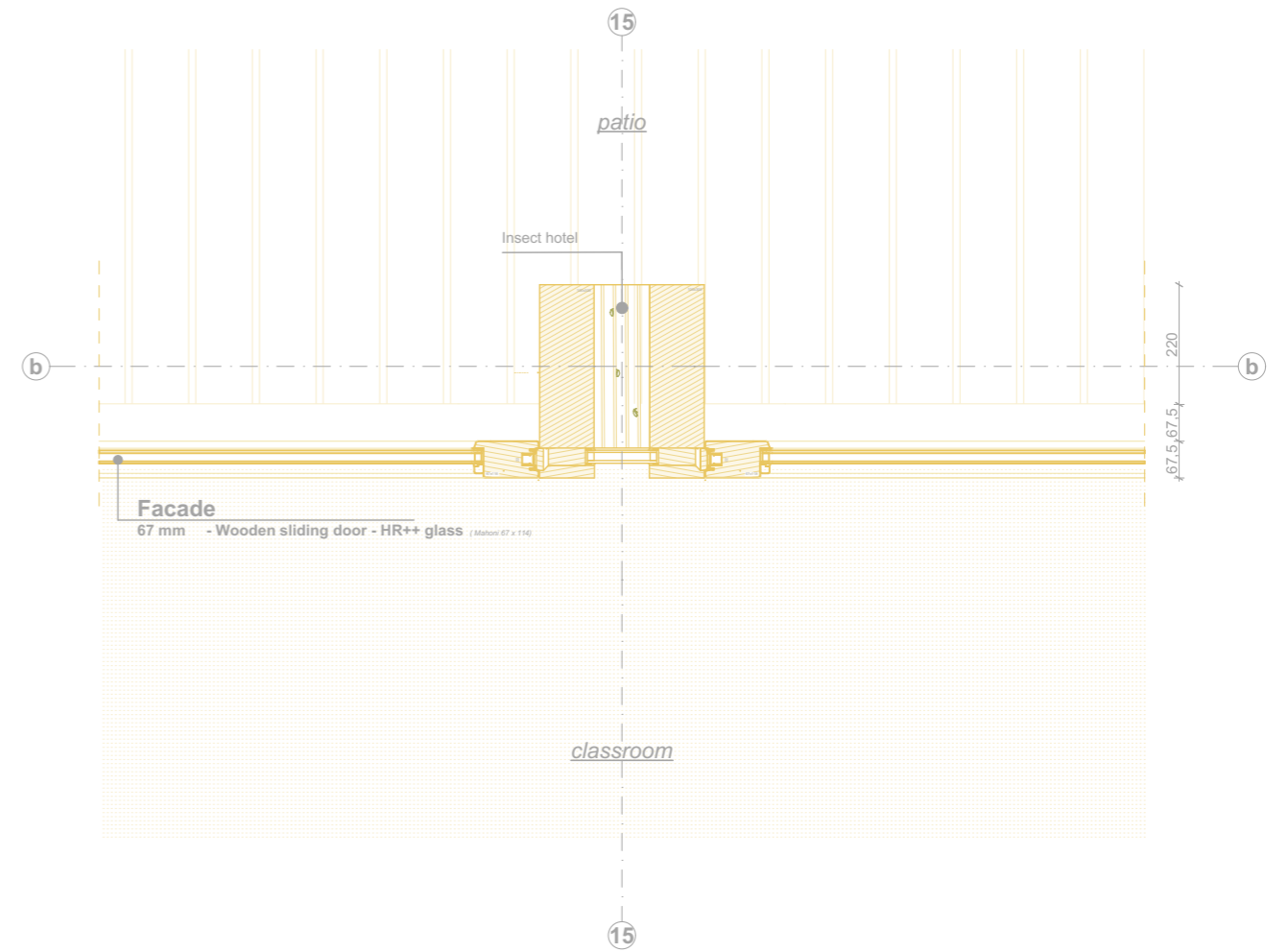
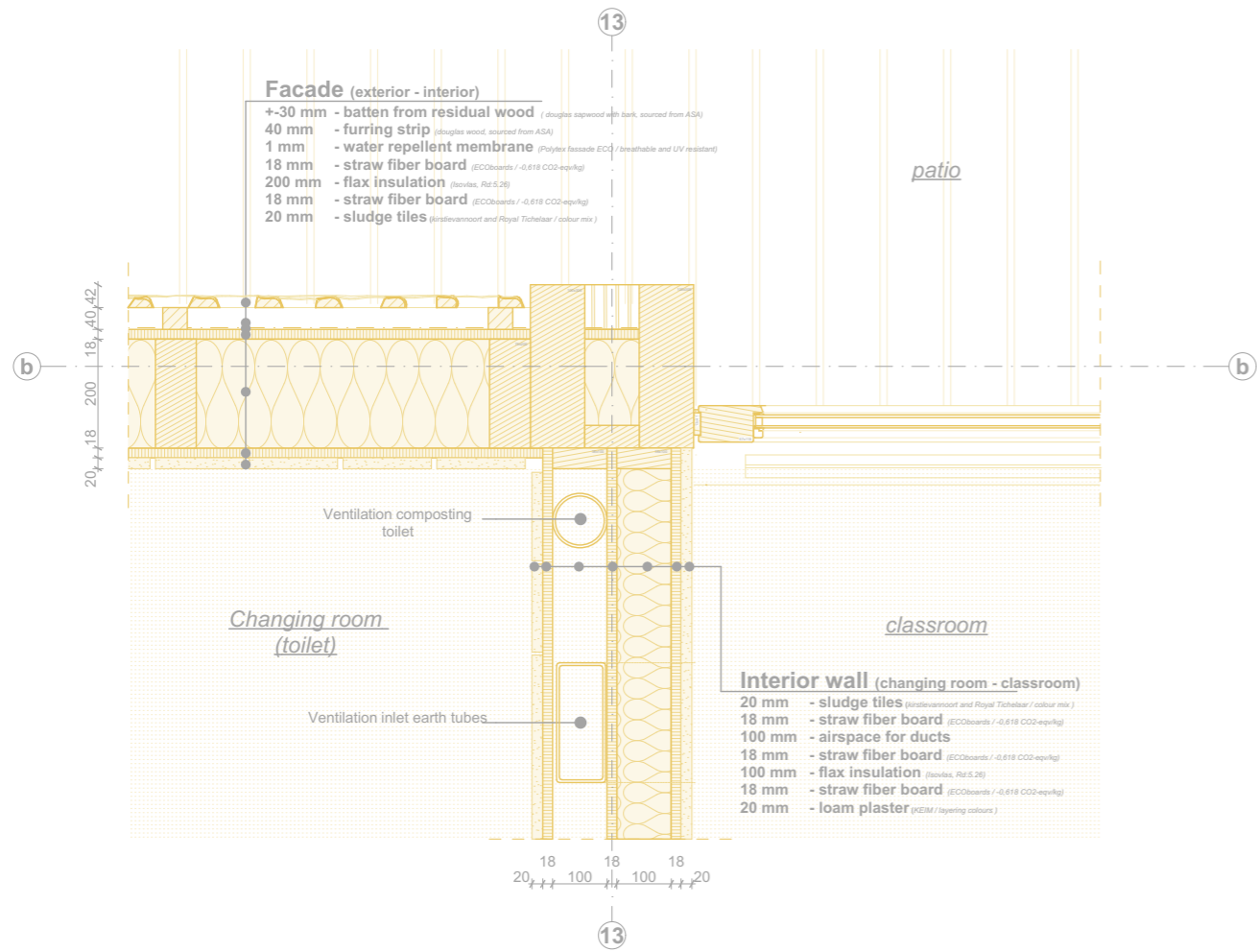
Shelter 620

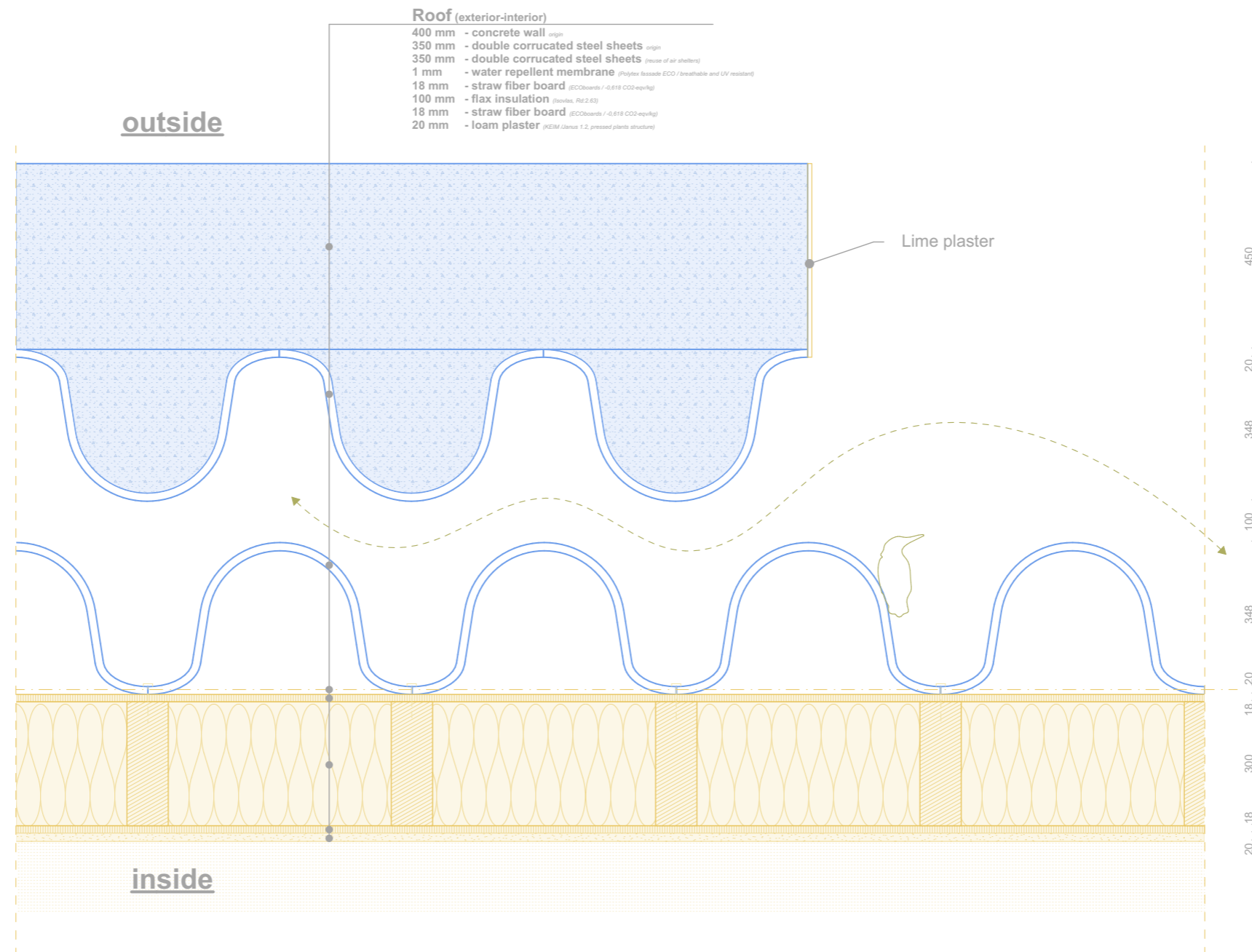


Shelter 622





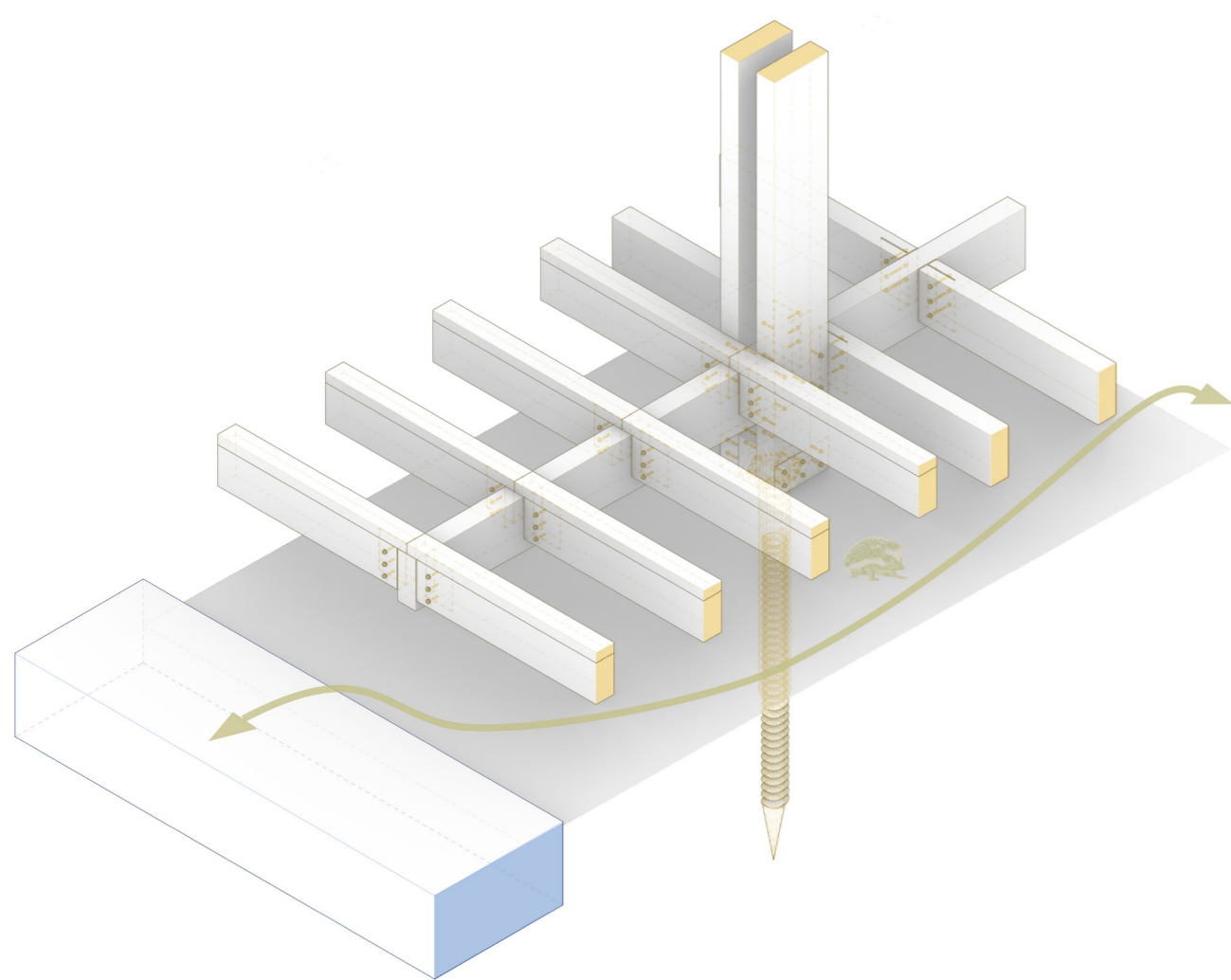




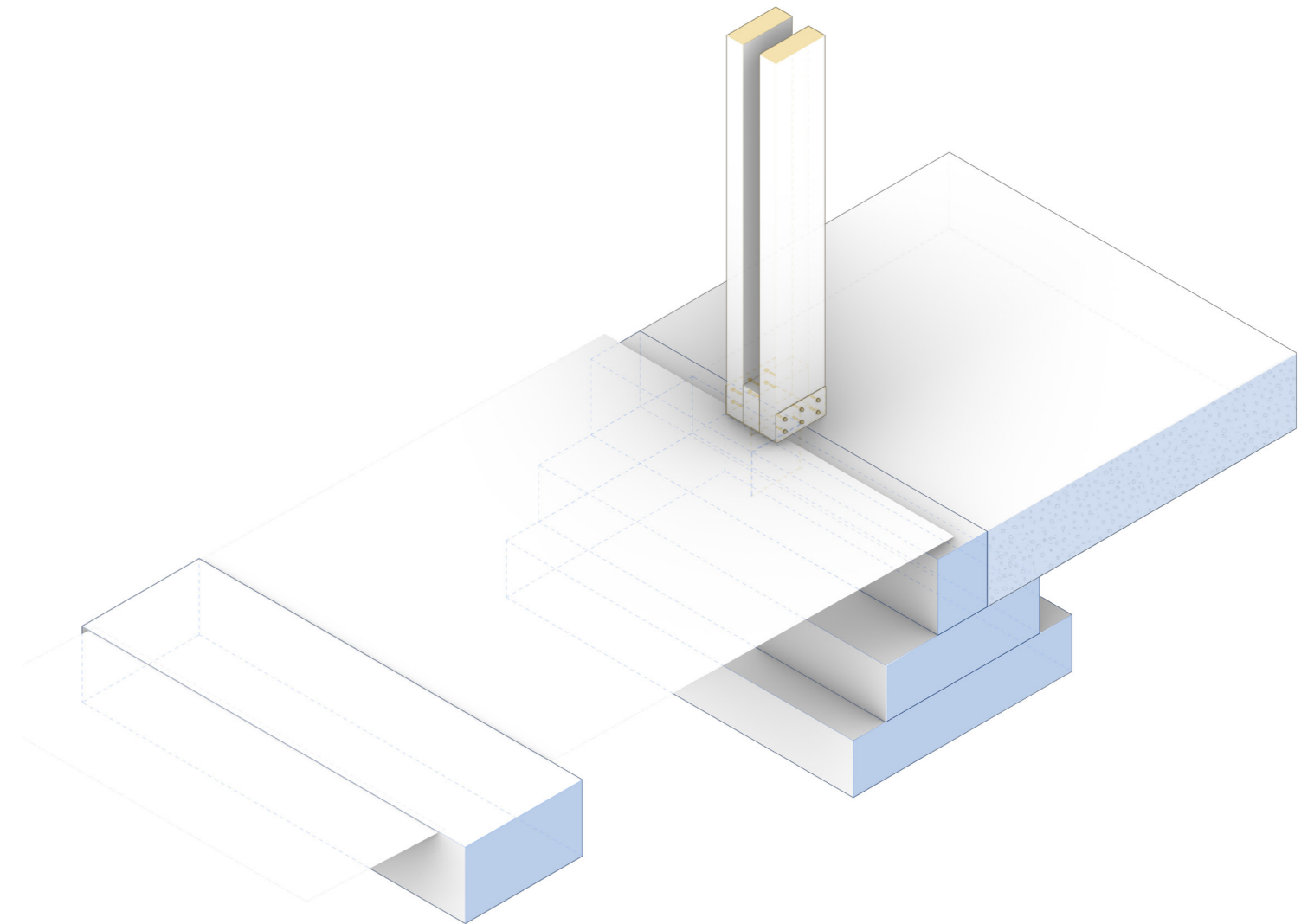


Sharing Ground

Shelter 620 - natural value



Shelter 622 - cultural value



Design for Change - Program

Cultural Change

Changing Needs / New Cultural Function

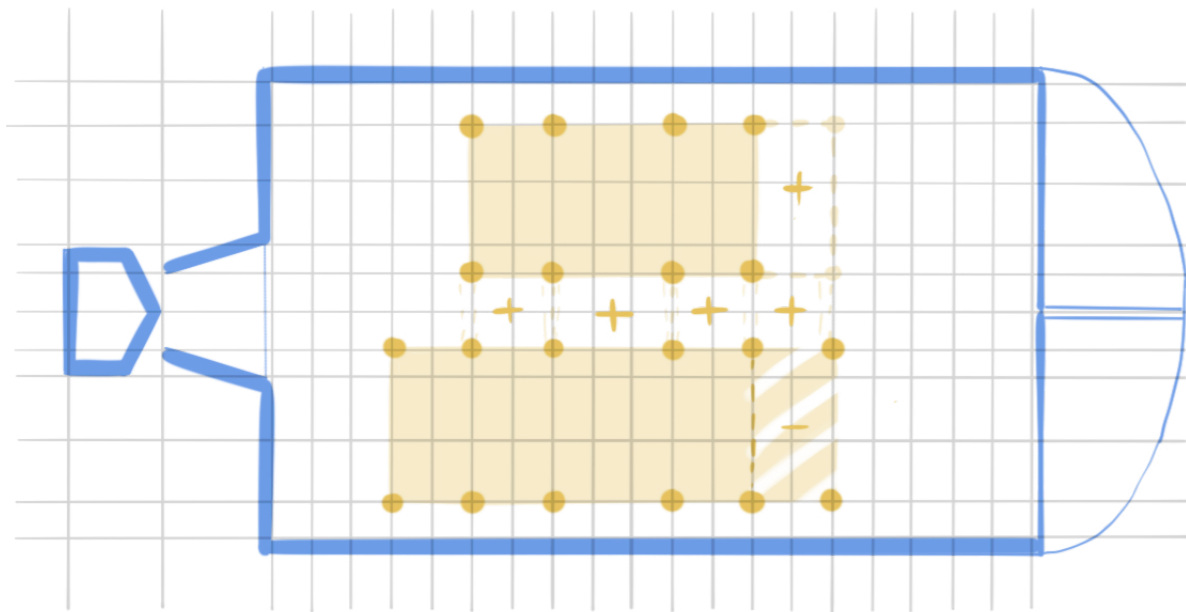


Natural Change

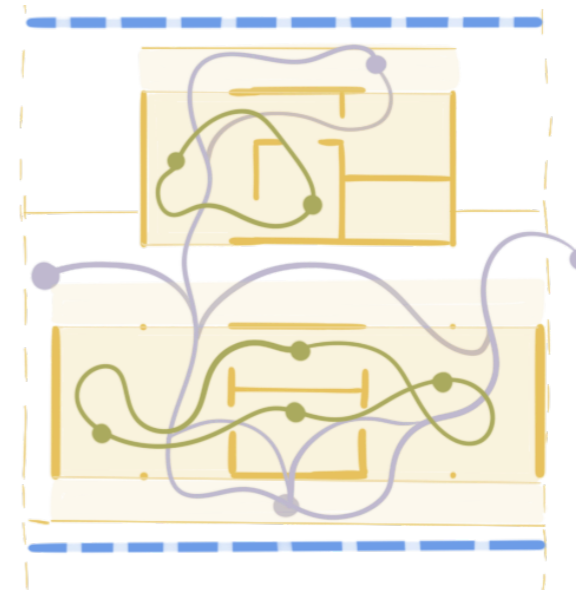
Transforming Nature/Seasonal



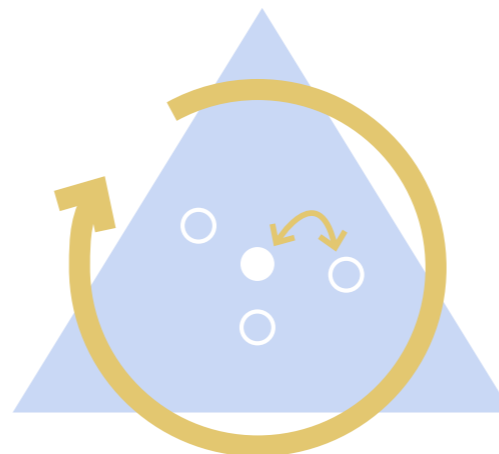
Abandon, Grow and Recede



Flexible Walls




Rebalance



Design for Change - Materials and Maintainance

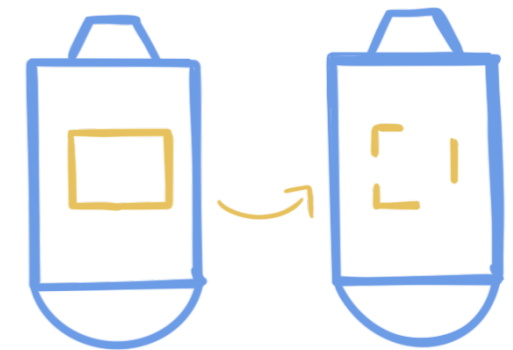
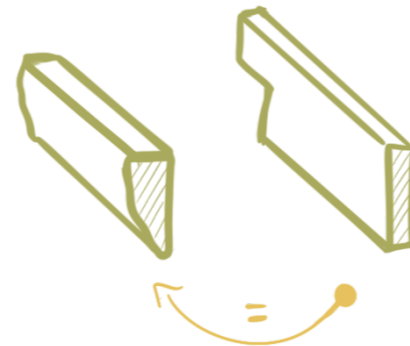
 *Protect - linseed oil or paint*



 *Substitute - mozaik of the bioregion*



 *Harvest - migrating structure*



 *Rewild - controlled decay*



 *Ruinification - nature taking over*



A photograph of a forest landscape. The foreground is a grassy field with some bare patches. The middle ground is filled with a dense forest. On the left side, there are deciduous trees with bright green foliage. On the right side, there is a stand of tall, thin coniferous trees with dark green needles. The background shows more trees under a pale, overcast sky.

REFLECTION

Proces, Implications, Contribution





Reciprocal Relationship Between Culture and Nature

Implication - Another contextual framework

Value Matrix for Landscapes

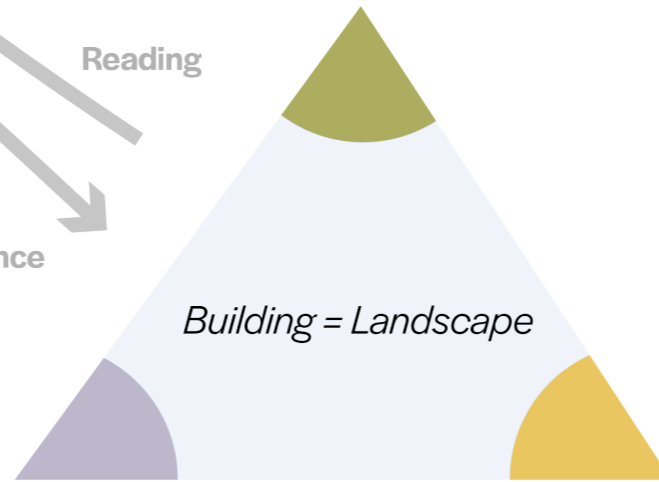
	1.05.0101*			1.05.011*				1.05.012*			1.05.013*		
	Economic	Health	Scientific	Education	Age	Historic	Aesthetic	Commemorative	Nostalgic	Existence	Bio-cultural diversity	Spiritual	Symbolic
Surroundings													
Site													
System					High Value								
Structure													
Space plan													
Risk								High Value					
Service													High Value
Stuff						High Value							
Spirit of Place				High Value									High Value

■ High Value
■ Average Value
■ Low Value

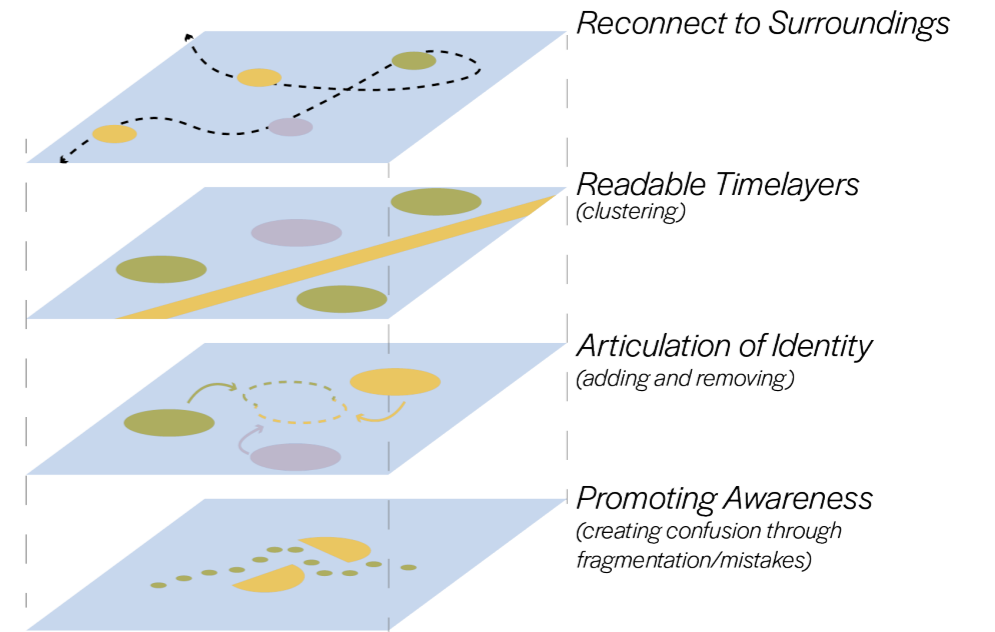
Building Method

-  **Moving Materials**
(Interaction with sun, wind and rain)
-  **Ecolope**
(Building envelope with cavities for ecology)
-  **Ecosystem**
(Self-sustaining)
-  **Bioregional Materials**
(Materials from the Landscape itself)
-  **Design for Change**
(Flexible Building Components)

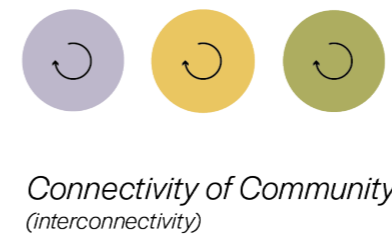
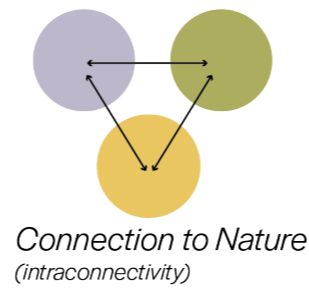
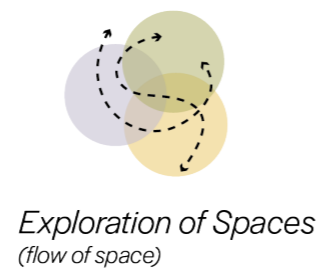
Reading
Rebalance



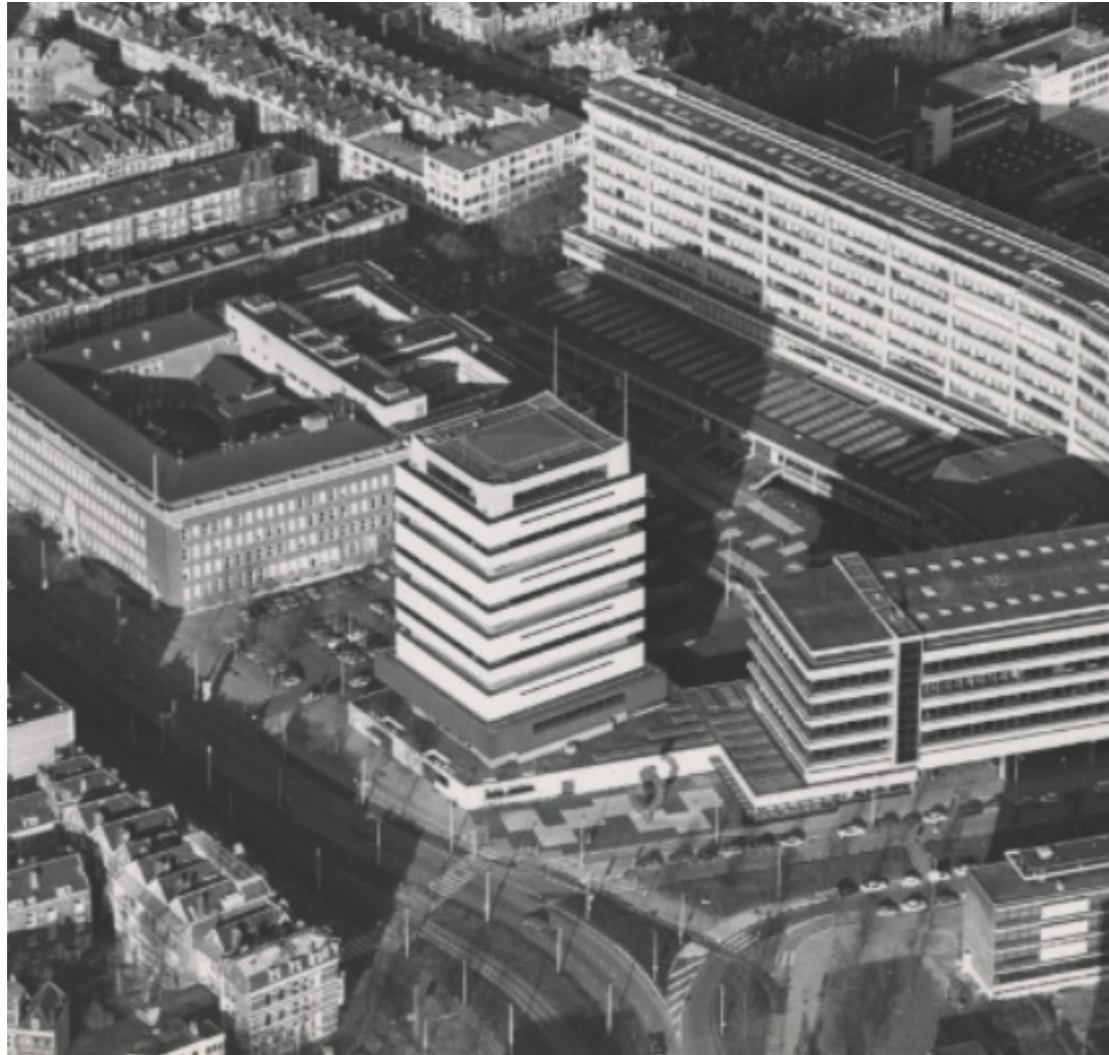
Design approach



Spatial Characteristics



+ Program Requirements (project specific)



Contribution - A landscape-perspective in heritage architecture

Heritage that does not resist change, but gains meaning through negotiating a balance of culture and nature.



