

rhythms of everyday life.

How architecture can support healthy ageing

Daphne Bohemen, 09 / 06 / 2026

A stylized, light-colored map of a city grid, likely The Hague, with a yellow highlighted area. The map shows a complex network of streets and blocks. A specific area in the lower-left quadrant is highlighted in yellow. Three text labels are overlaid on the map: 'scheveningen' at the top, 'the hague central' in the middle, and 'houtwijk' at the bottom, all in a clean, sans-serif font. The highlighted area is located between 'the hague central' and 'houtwijk'.

scheveningen

the hague
central

houtwijk



problem statement houtwijk

ageing in a neighbourhood not designed for ageing

Housing typologies

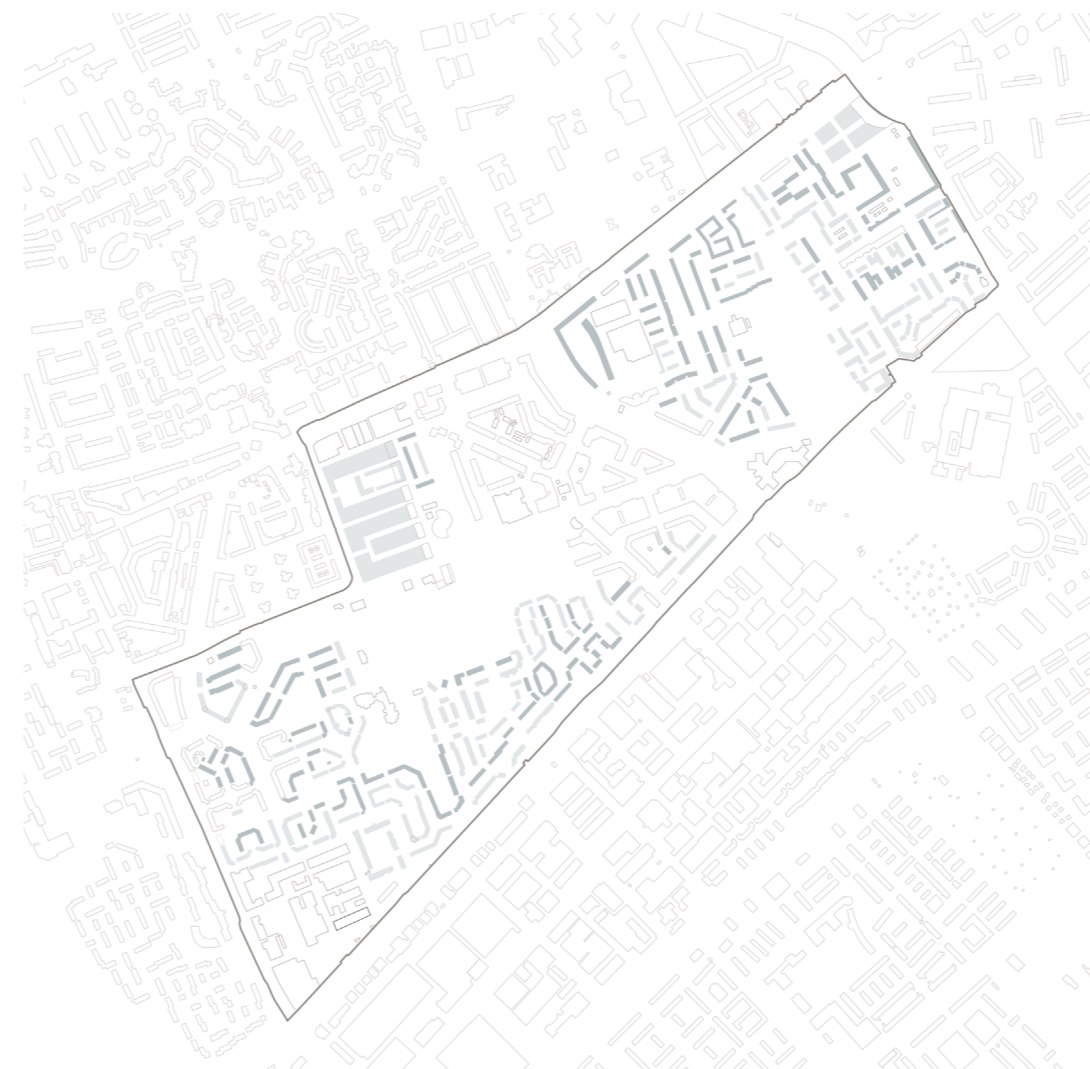


■ apartment
■ rowhouse

0 500 m

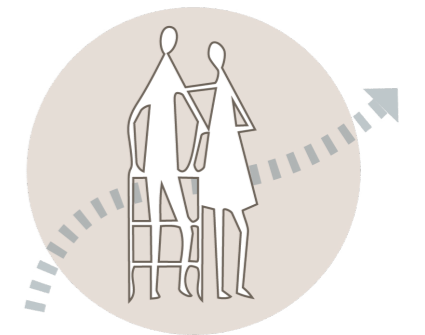
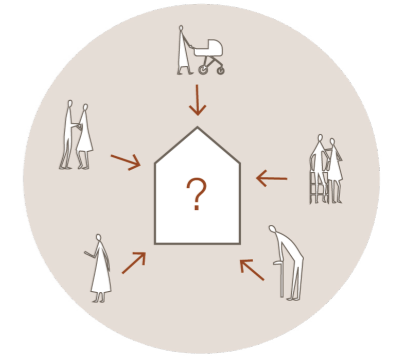


Residents rowhouses



■ families
■ 50+ aged residents

0 500 m



problem statement houtwijk

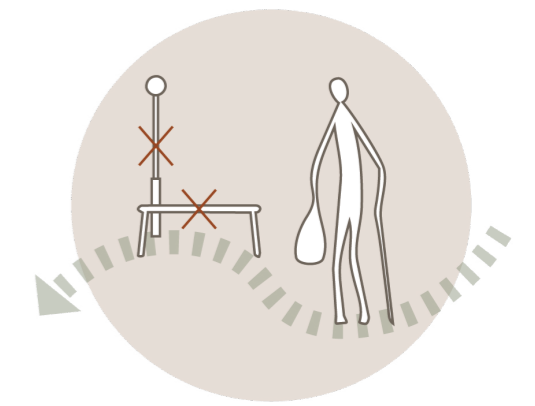
lack of accessible meeting places



day



night



How can housing typologies and spatial configurations be embedded within the existing fabric of Houtwijk to support healthy and independent ageing through **autonomy**, **everyday movement**, and **social encounter**?

design principles



Activation



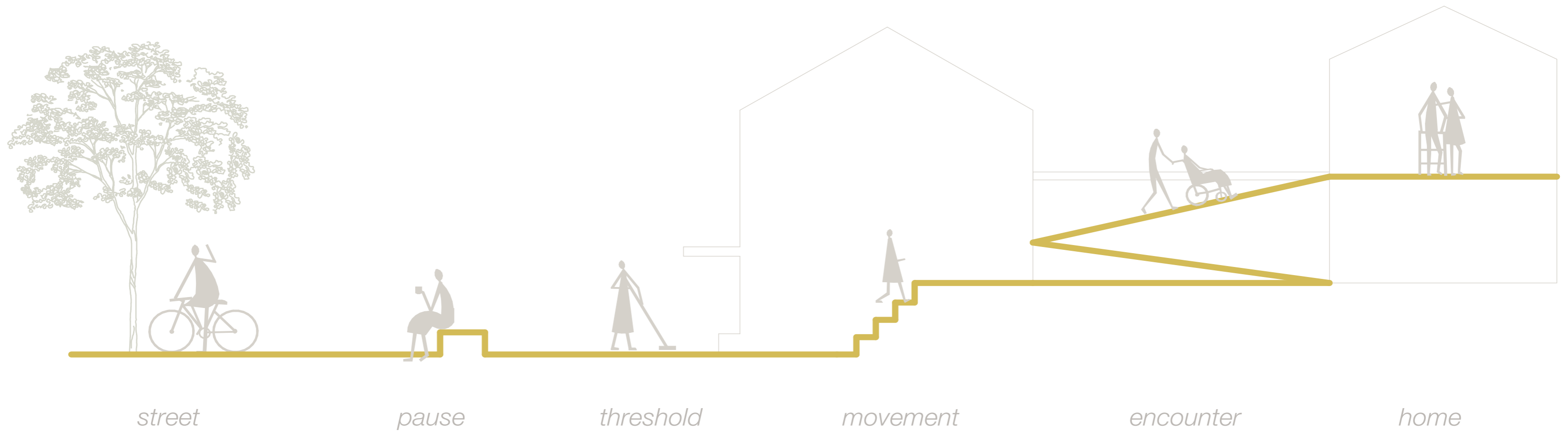
Social encounter



Autonomy

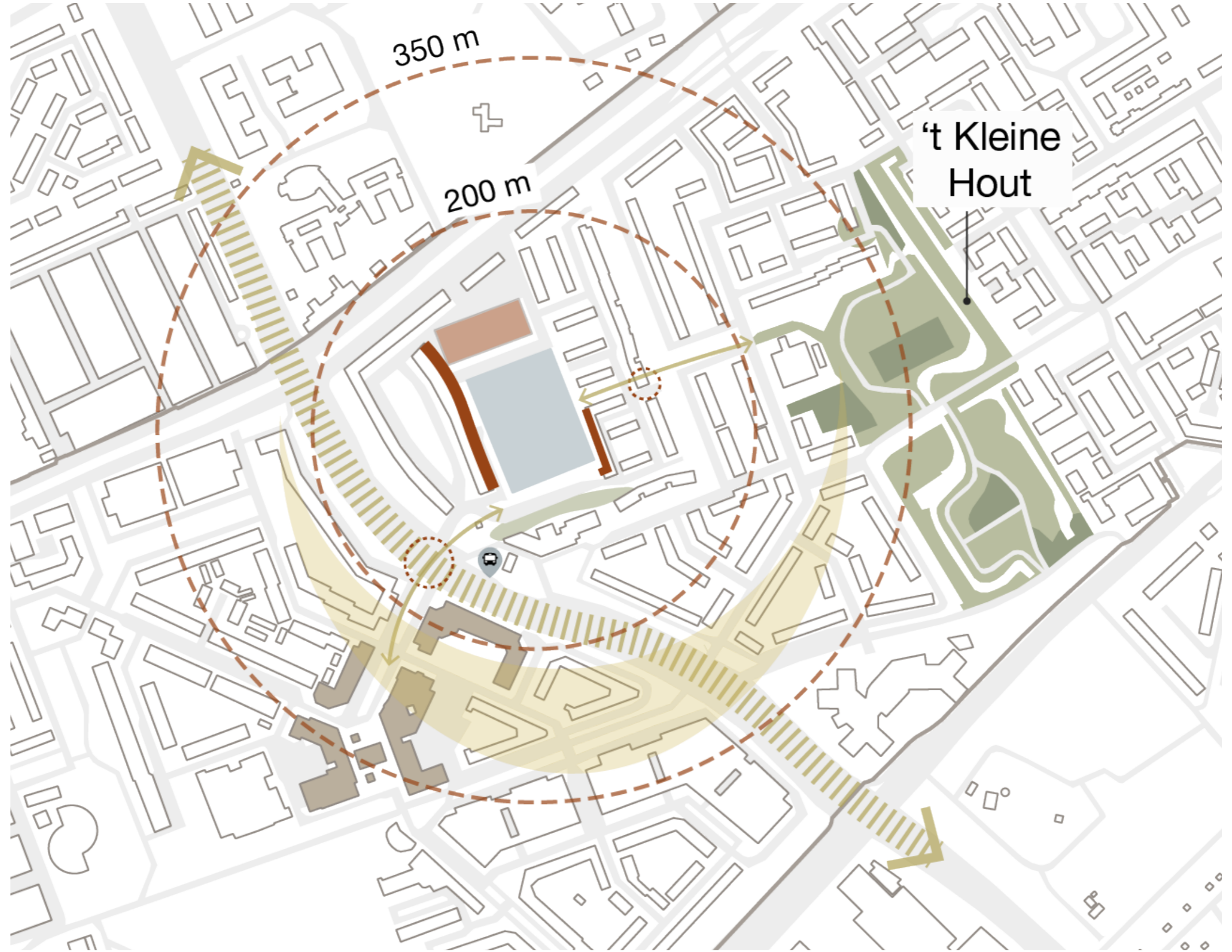
activation architecture

concept



houtwijk

site analysis



- hard edges
- busy road
- distance
- industry
- chosen site
- houtwijk centre
- sun
- attention point

urban plan

Programme as everyday activation



Mixed generation



Spaces for residents'



places to stay

- café
- library
- ateliers/workingspaces
- childcare

places for daily activity

- sport
- informal care
- bakery
- dentist
- hairdresser

 bakery / hairdresser / dentist

 primary school

urban strategy

principles



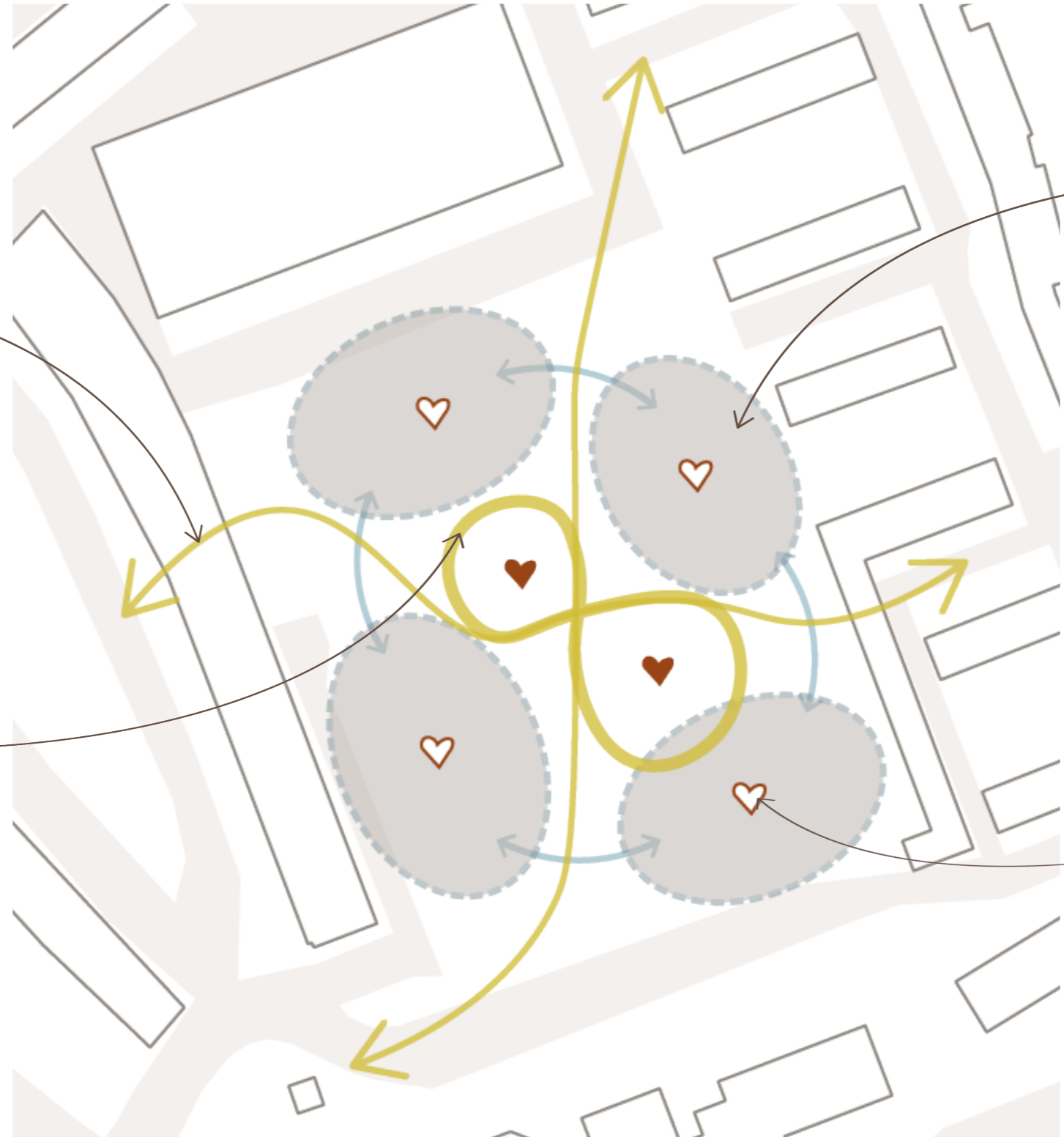
Short distance to
neighbourhood functions

Embedded in the
neighbourhood

Walking loop
as spatial nudge

30 dwellings per
cluster

Function for
neighbourhood



urban plan

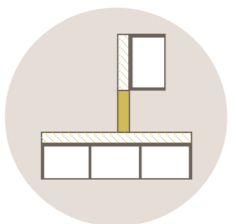
design



car-free environment

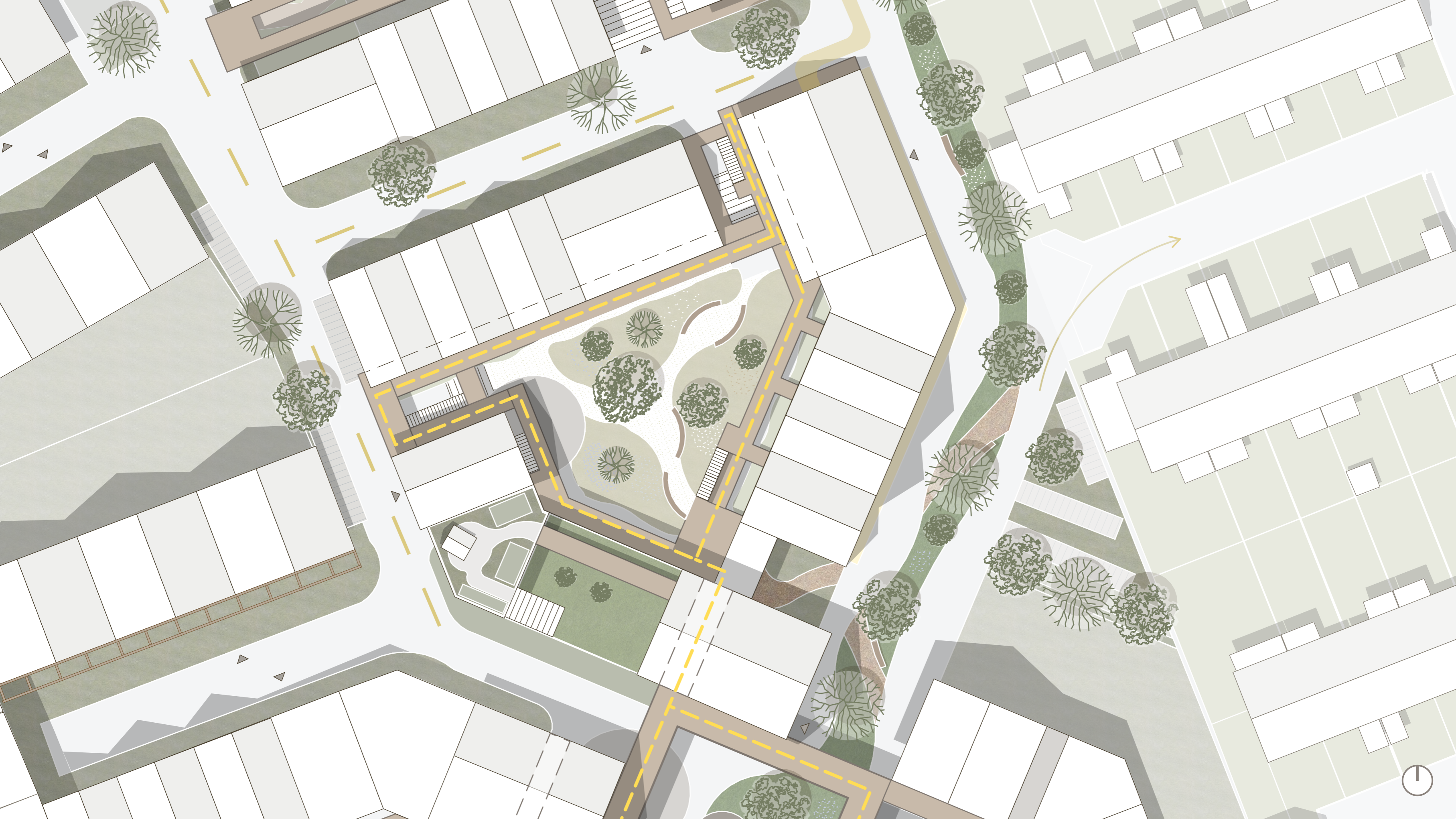


benches every ~125 m



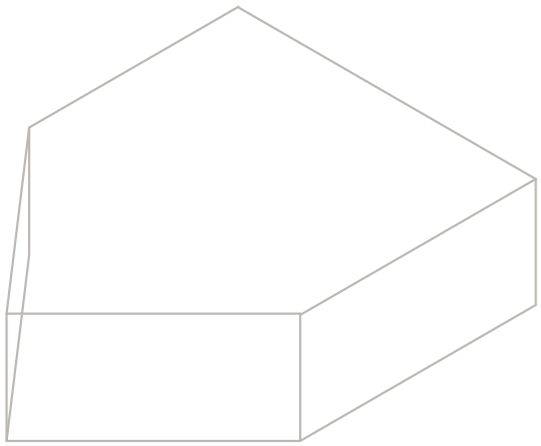
bridges connect building





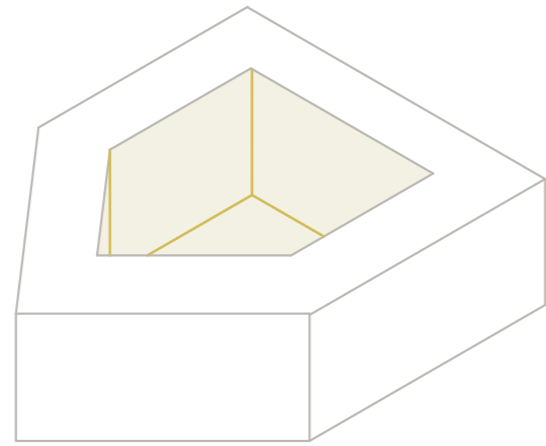
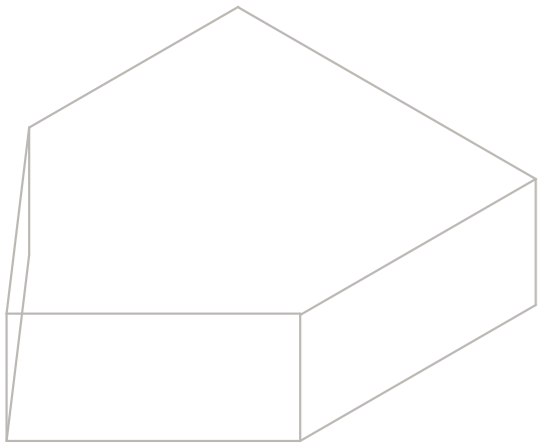
building volume

first mass



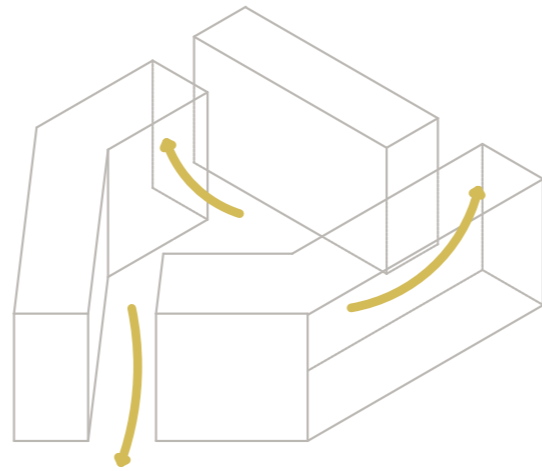
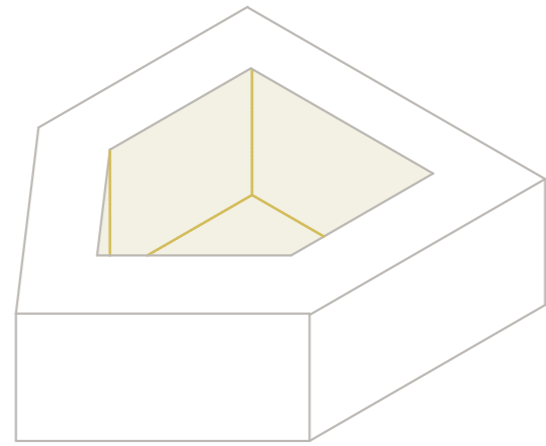
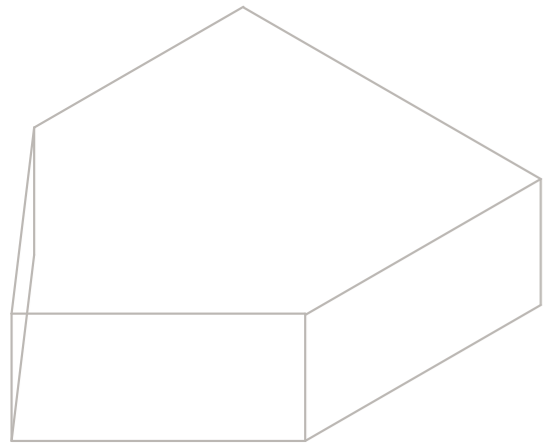
building volume

courtyard



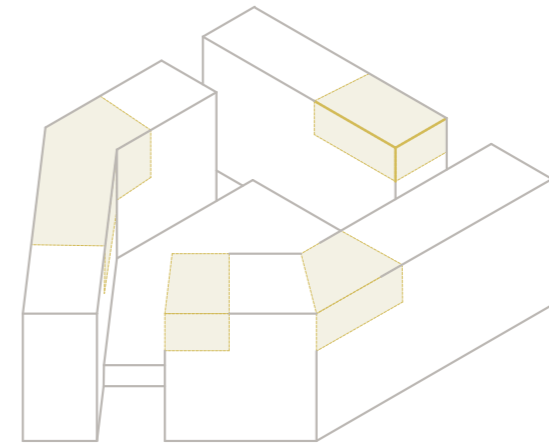
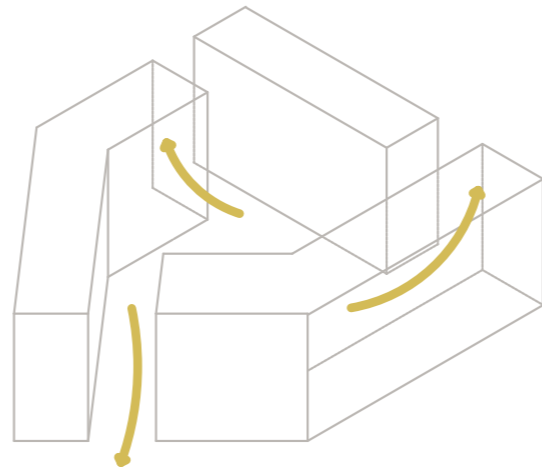
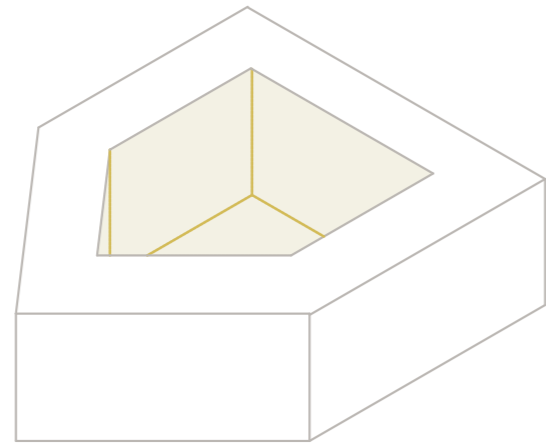
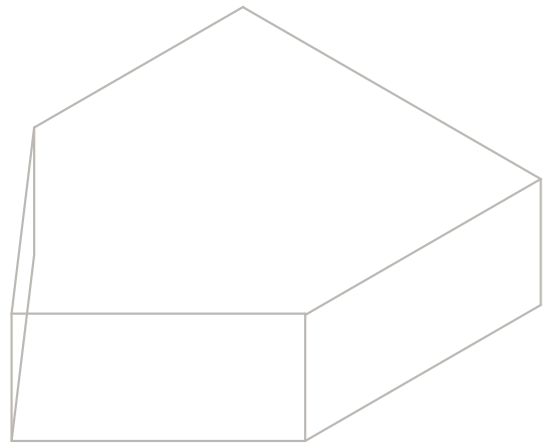
building volume

connecting neighborhood



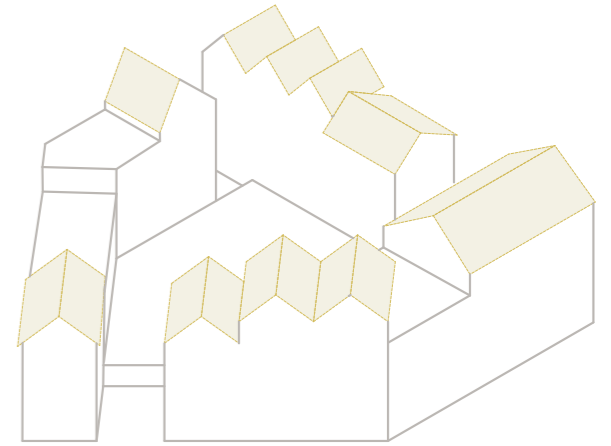
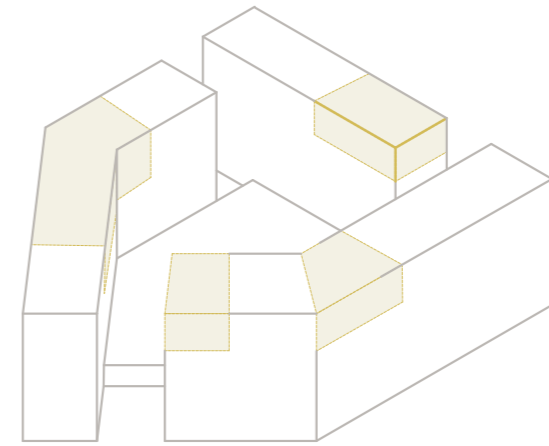
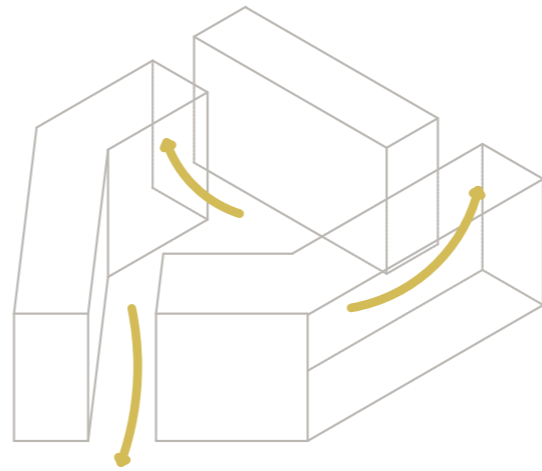
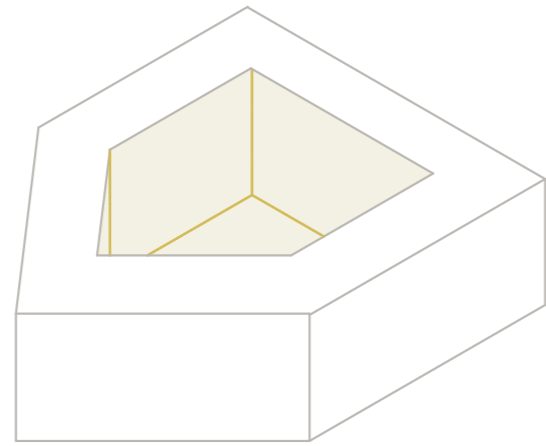
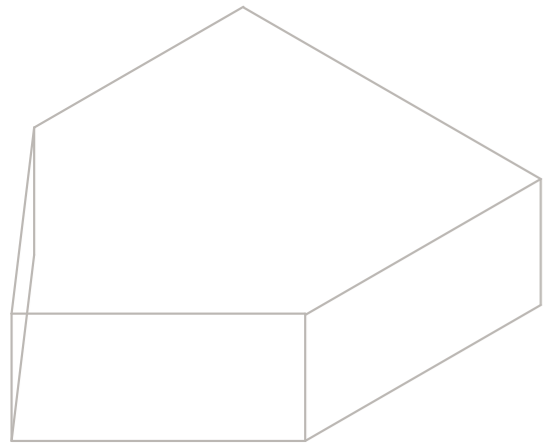
building volume

sunstudy



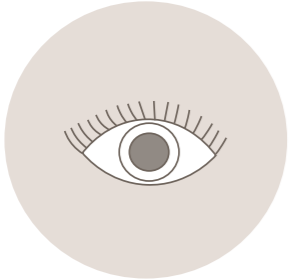
building volume

sloped roofs as transition



program

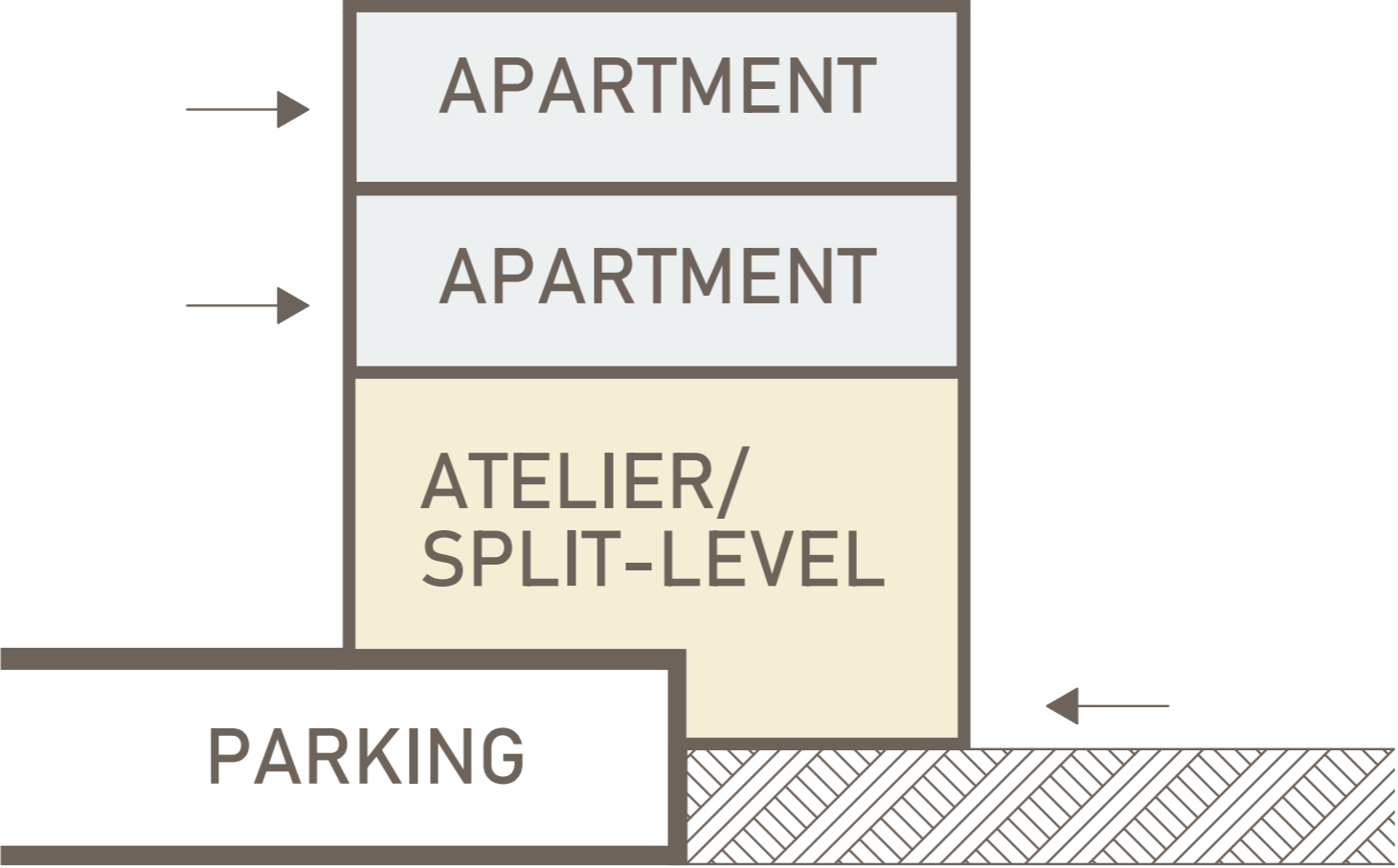
section



Visibility of everyday activity



Spaces for residents'

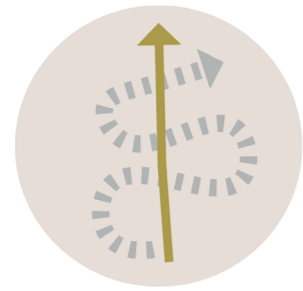


floorplan

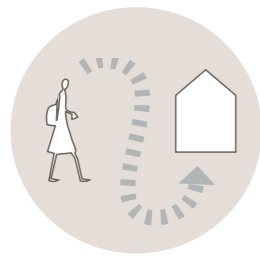
courtyard level



movement diagram



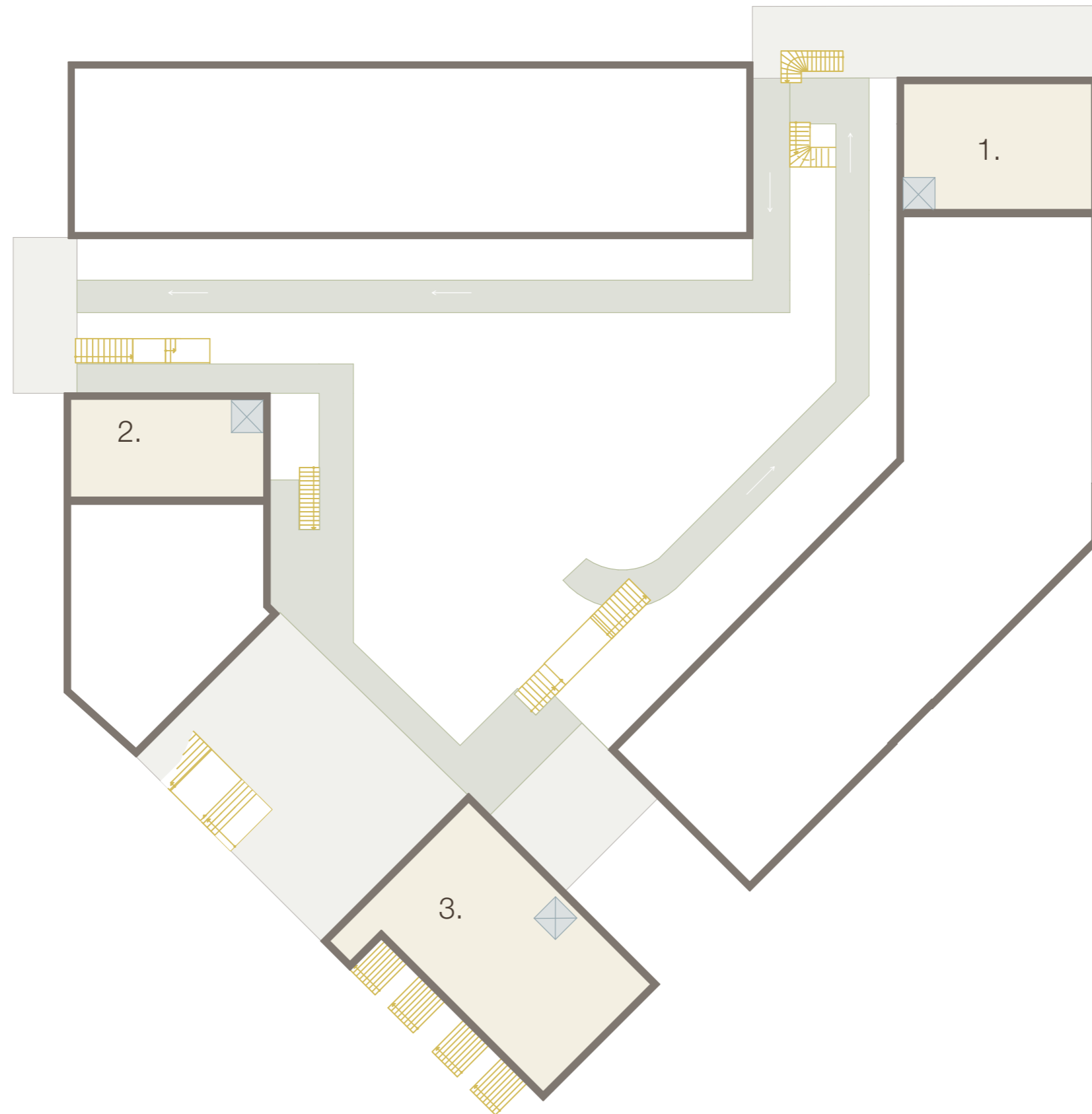
Multiple routes



Shared circulation routes



Collective spaces

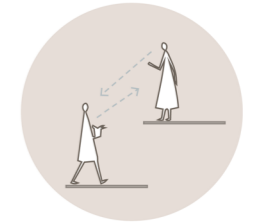


- ramp
- stairs
- elevator
- informal meeting
- communal rooms

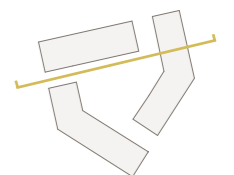
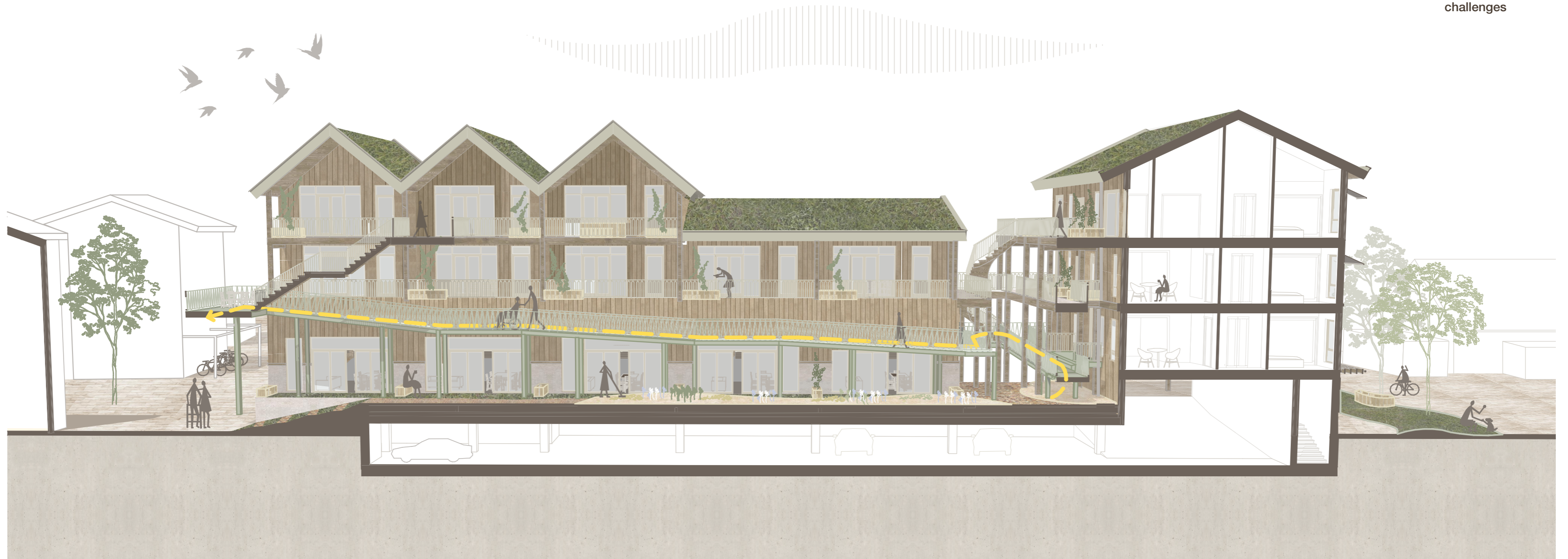
- 1. mailbox & guest room
- 2. kitchen & living room
- 3. library, care & sport

section

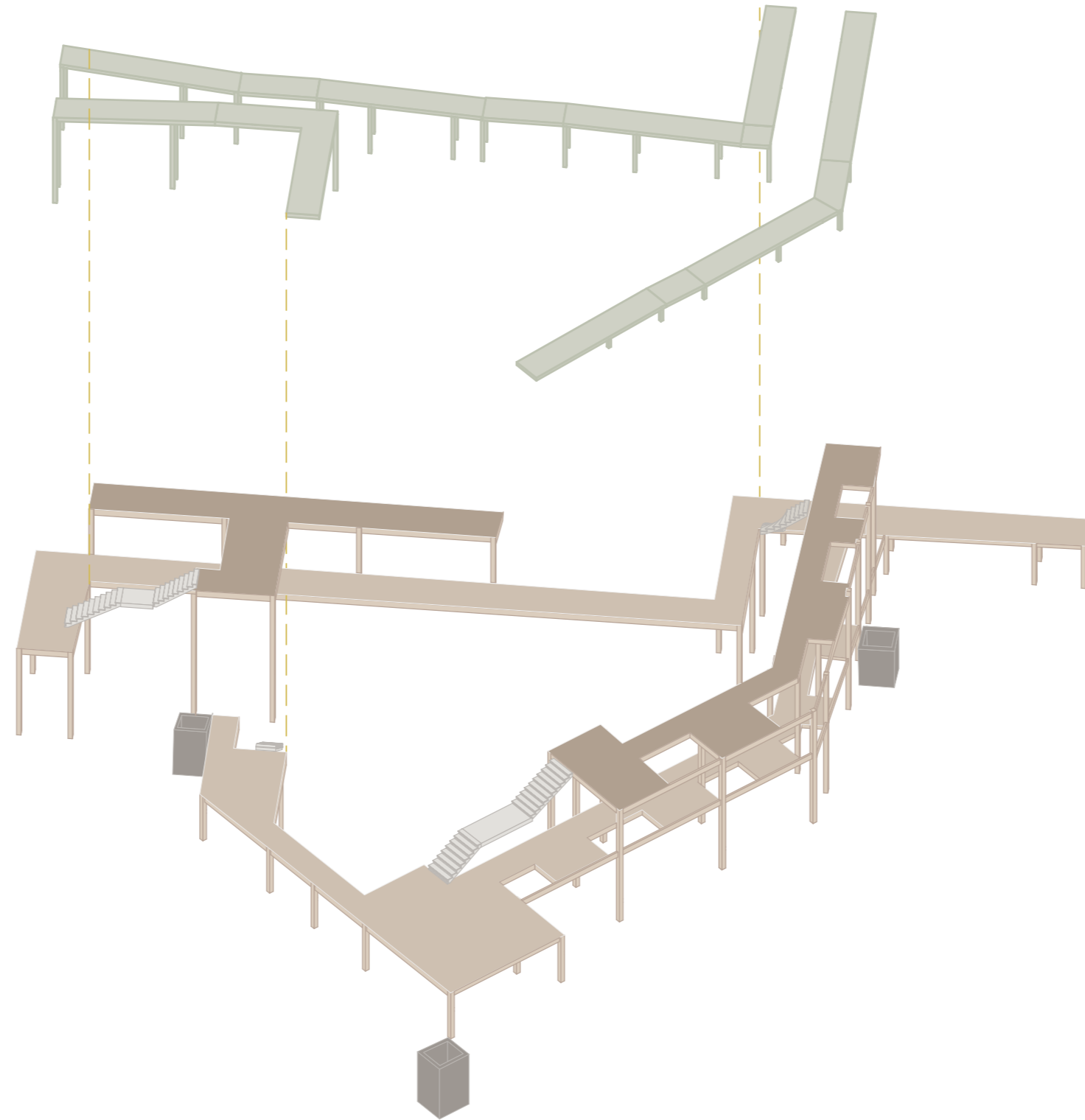
building



Level changes, small physical challenges



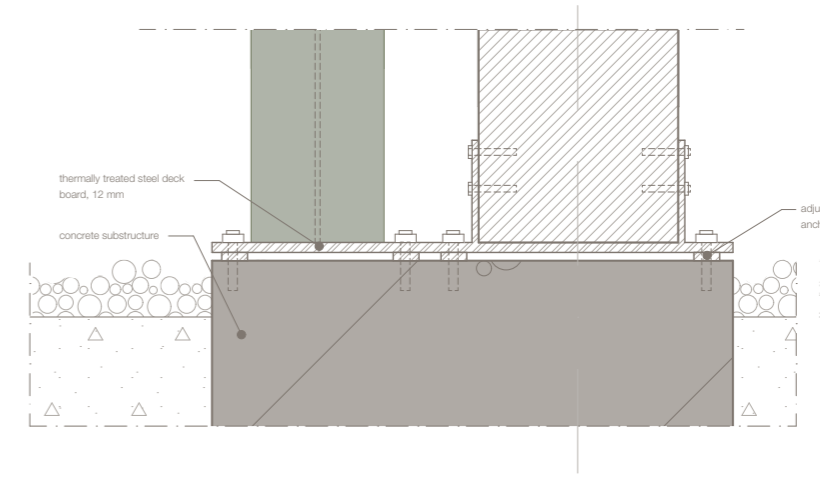
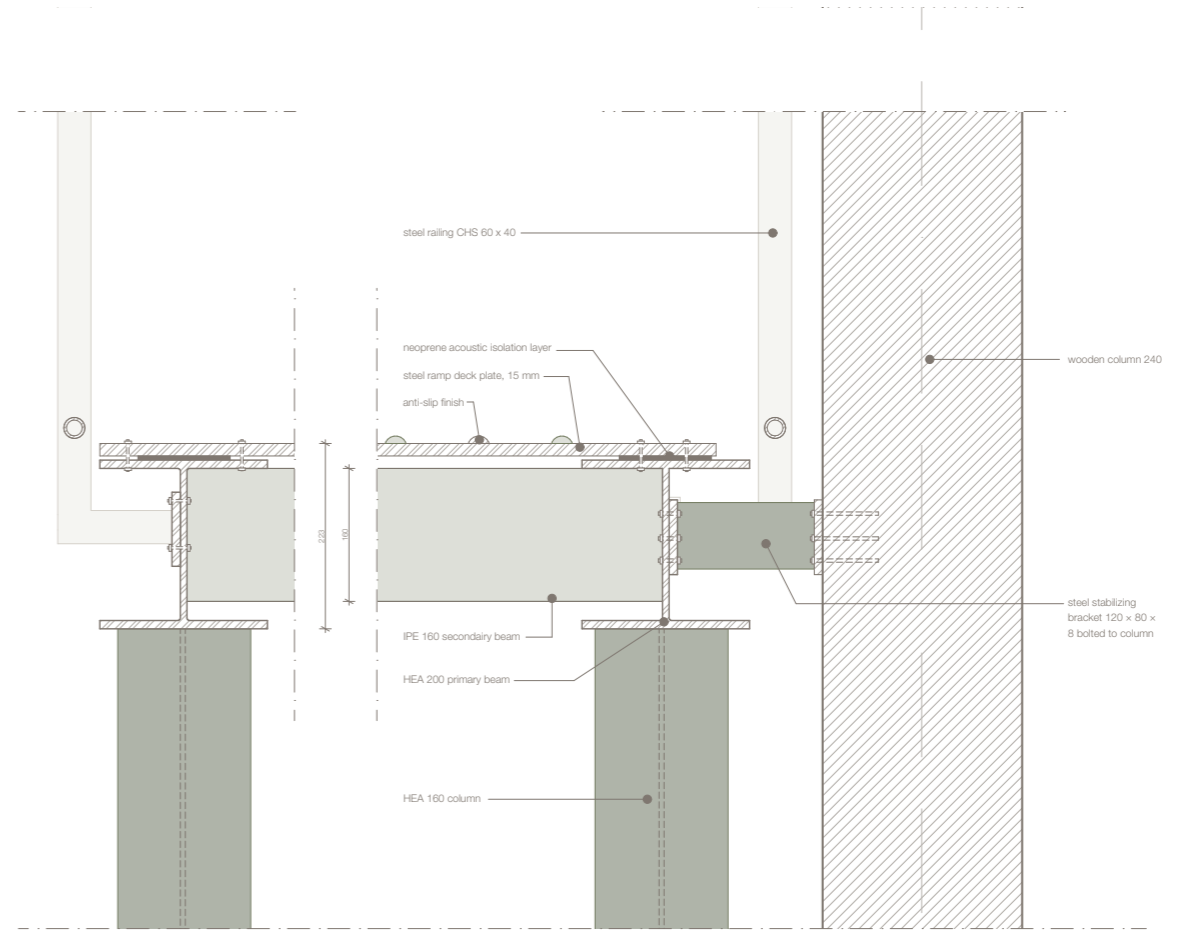
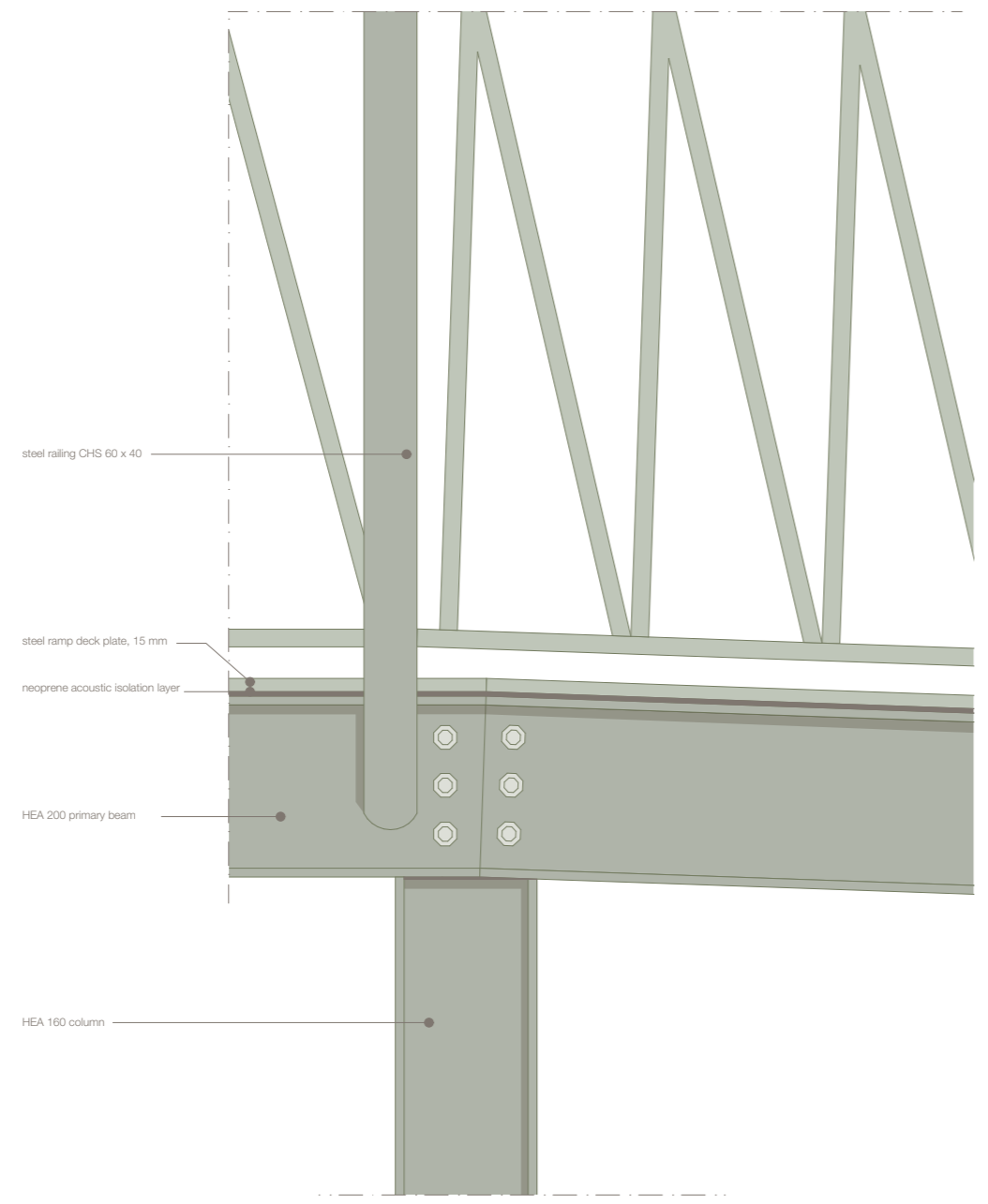
axo



visible and inviting
staircase / ramp

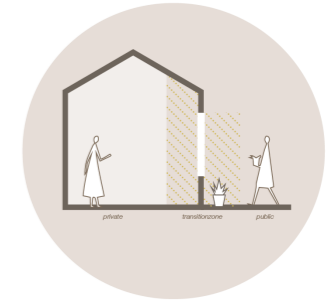
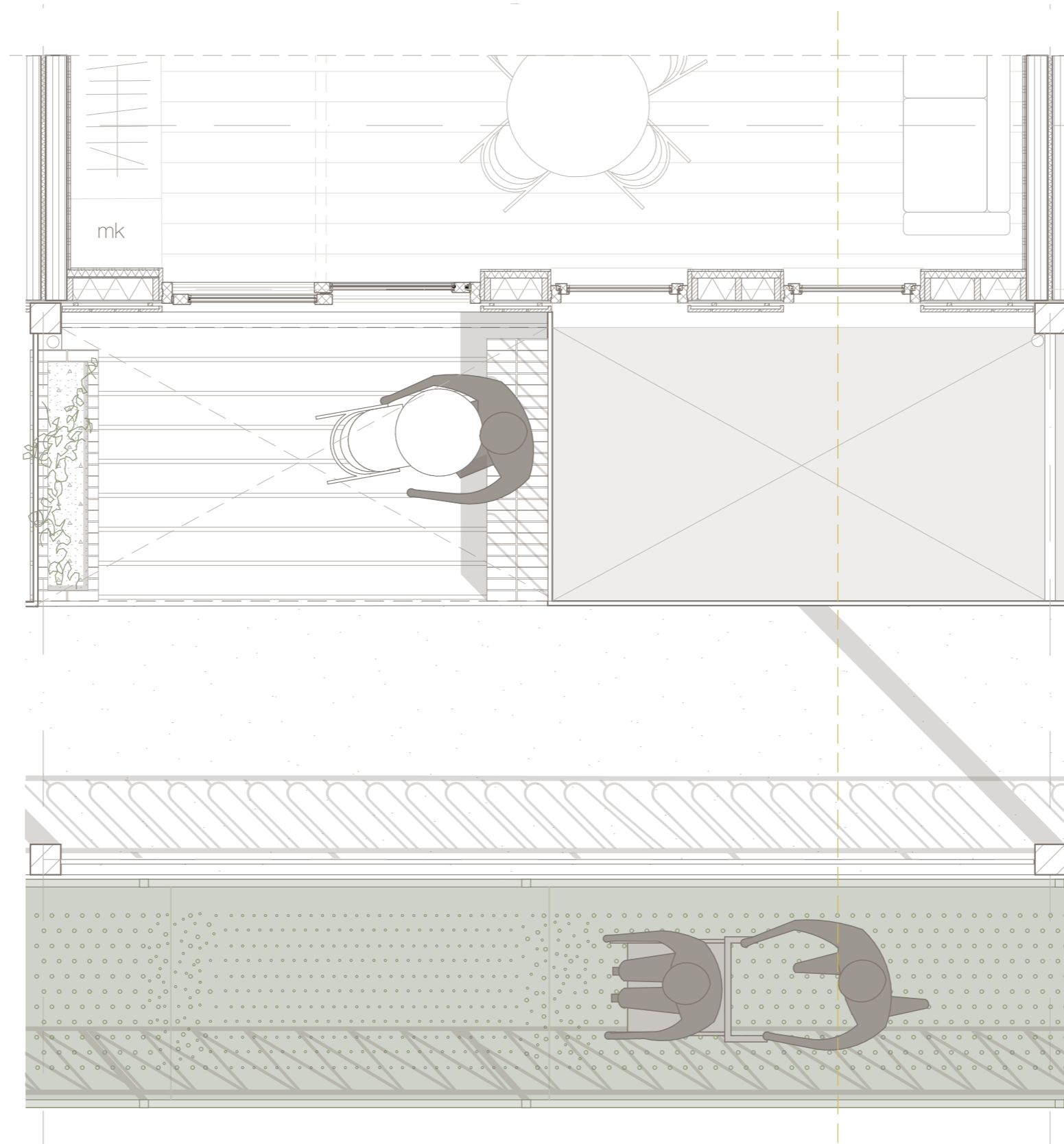
detail

ramp



access gallery

ramp

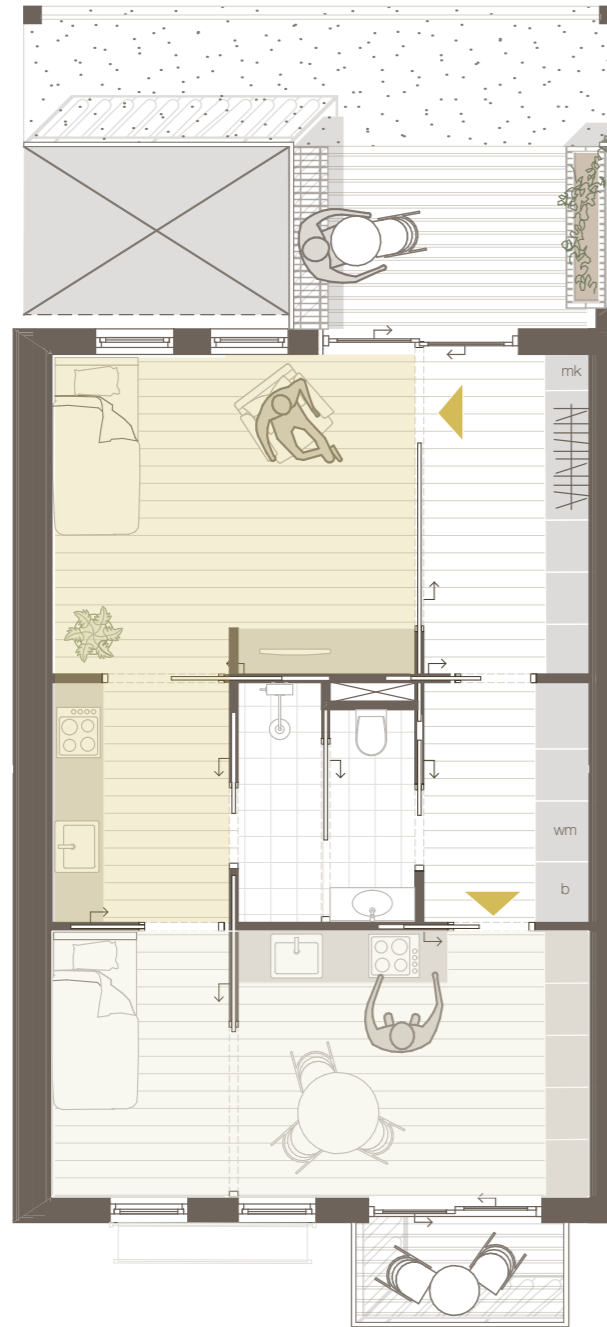


Small threshold zones

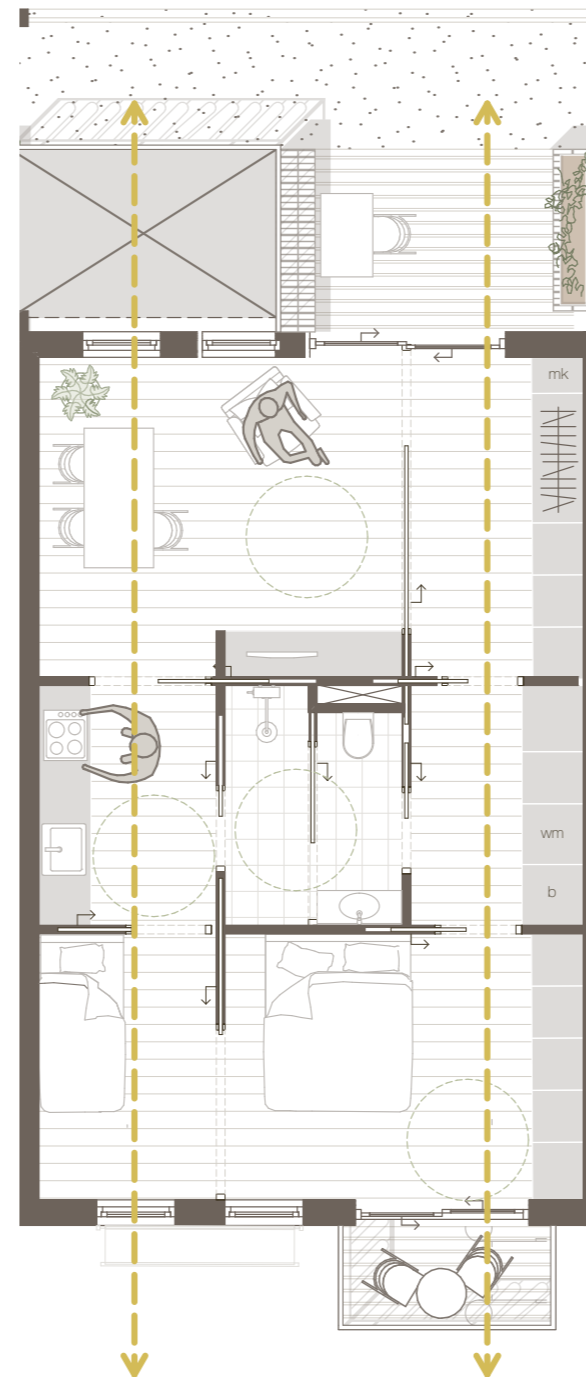
dwelling

analysis

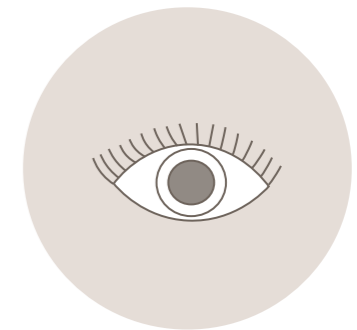
Informal care and changing households



Accessible movement & visual connection



Independent but connected living

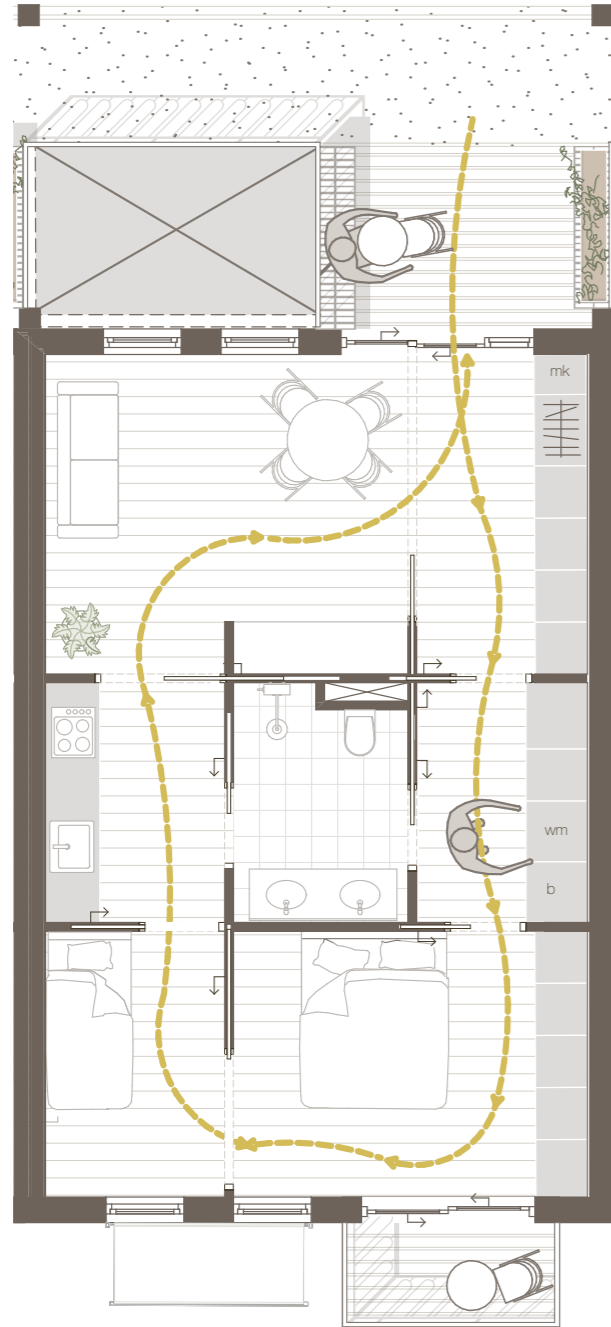


Visibility of everyday activity

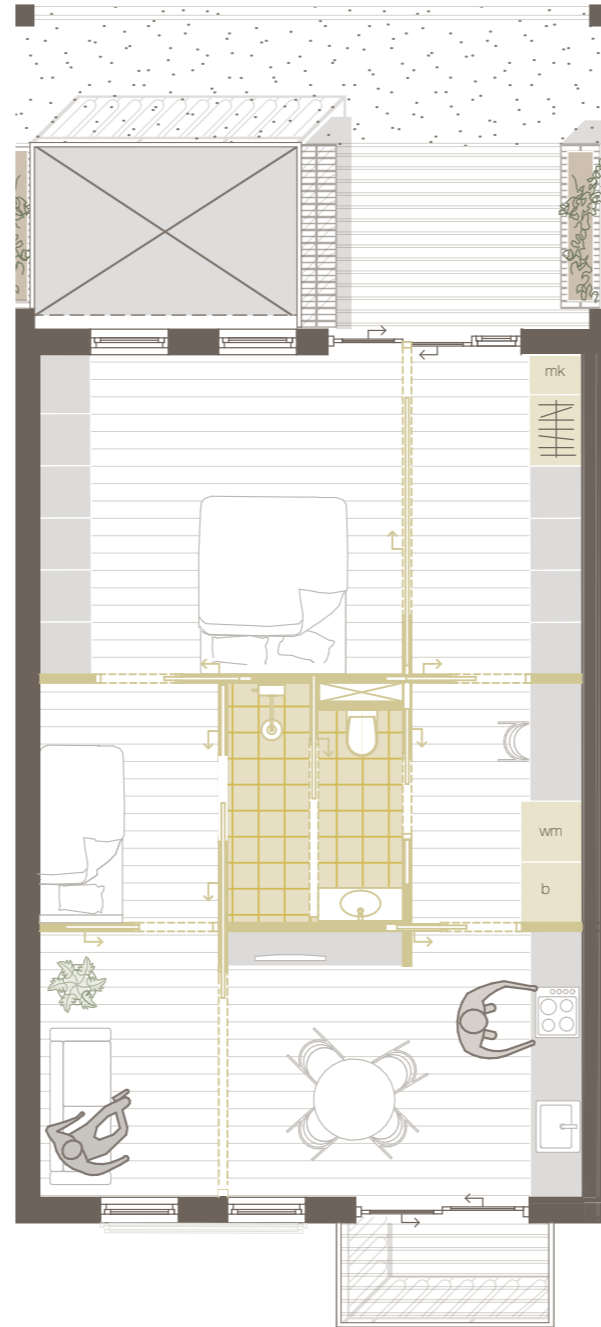
dwelling

analysis

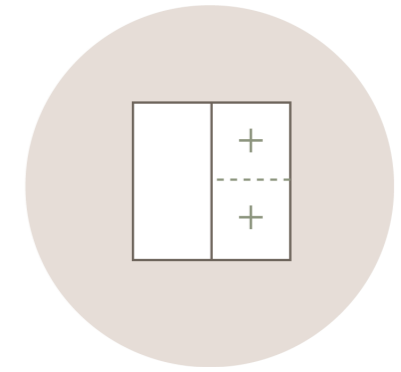
Movement embedded in everyday routines



Flexible housing typology



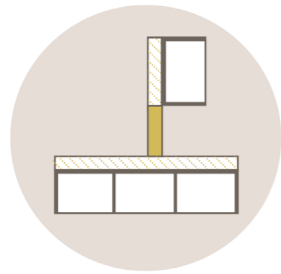
public
semi-private
private



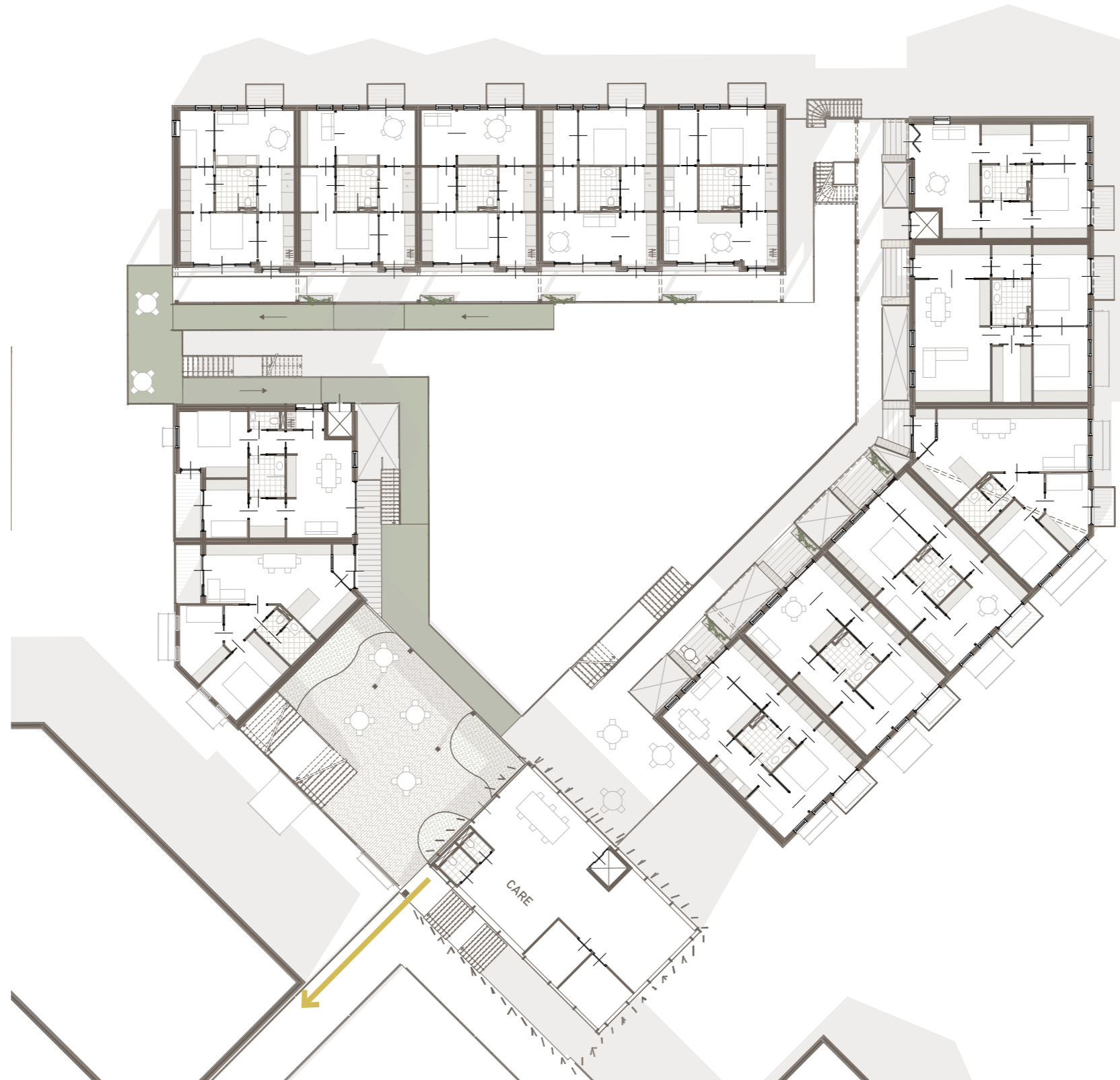
Flexible rooms (self organising)

floorplan

second floor

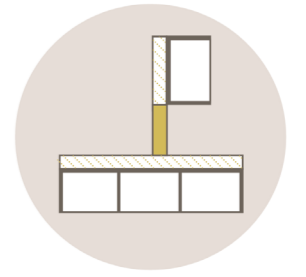


bridges connect building

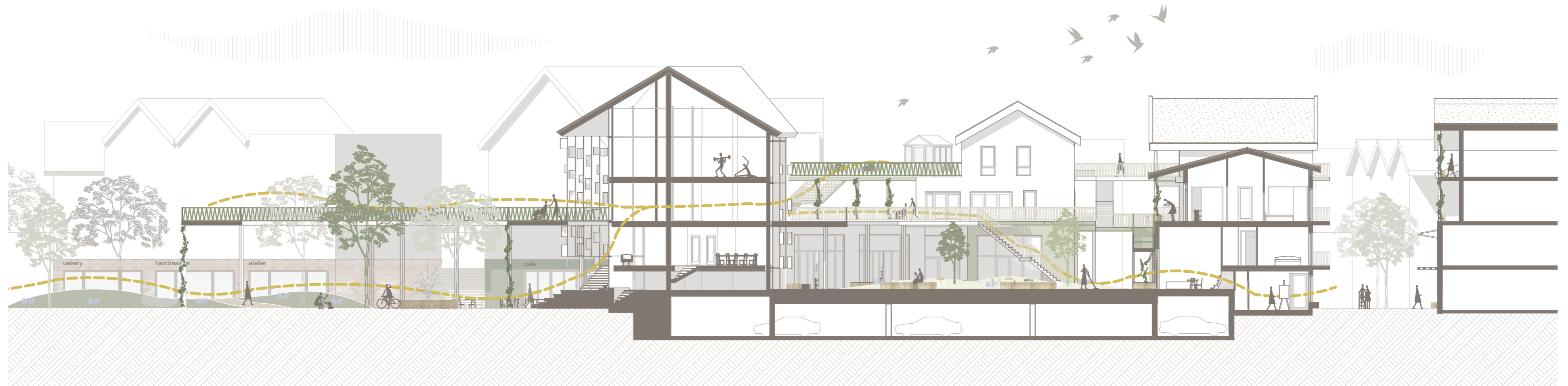


urban plan

section

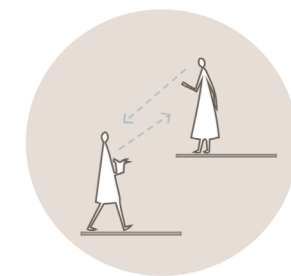


bridges connect building





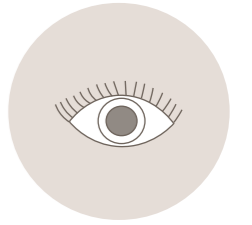
visible and inviting staircase



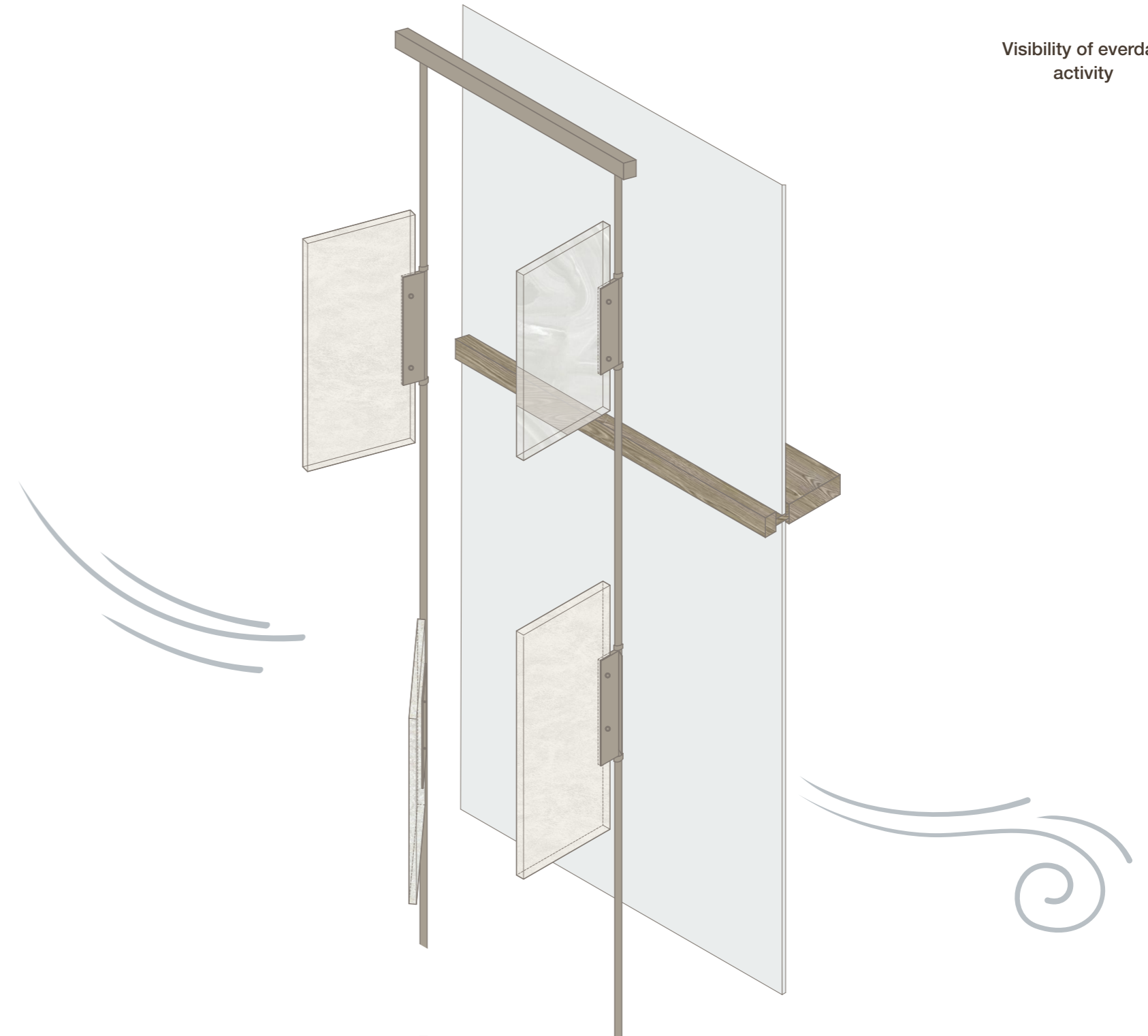
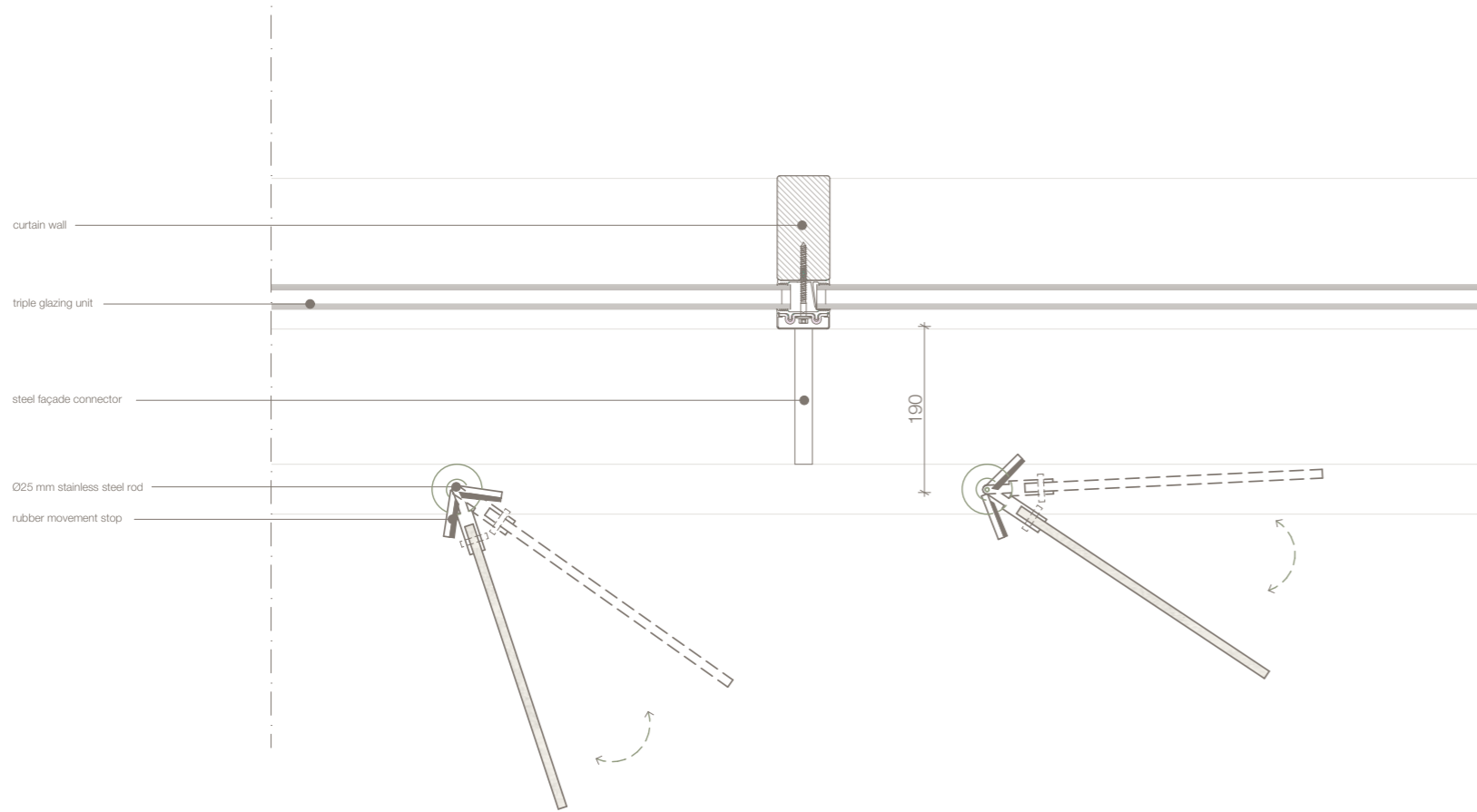
vertical connections

kinetic facade

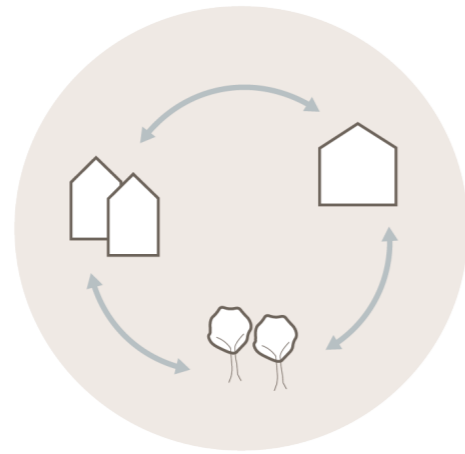
Moving facade



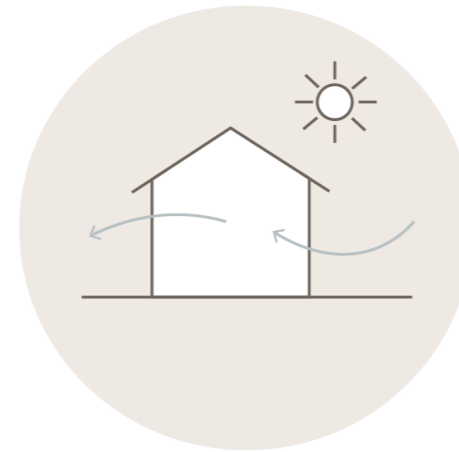
Visibility of everyday activity



sustainability goals



01
Circular and biobased
construction



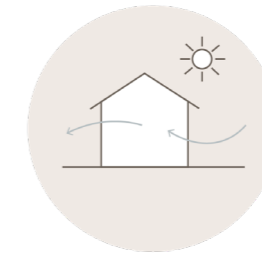
02
Passive and climate-
responsive living



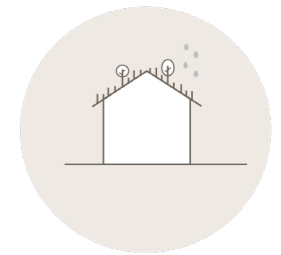
03
Climate adaptation and
biodiversity

climate section

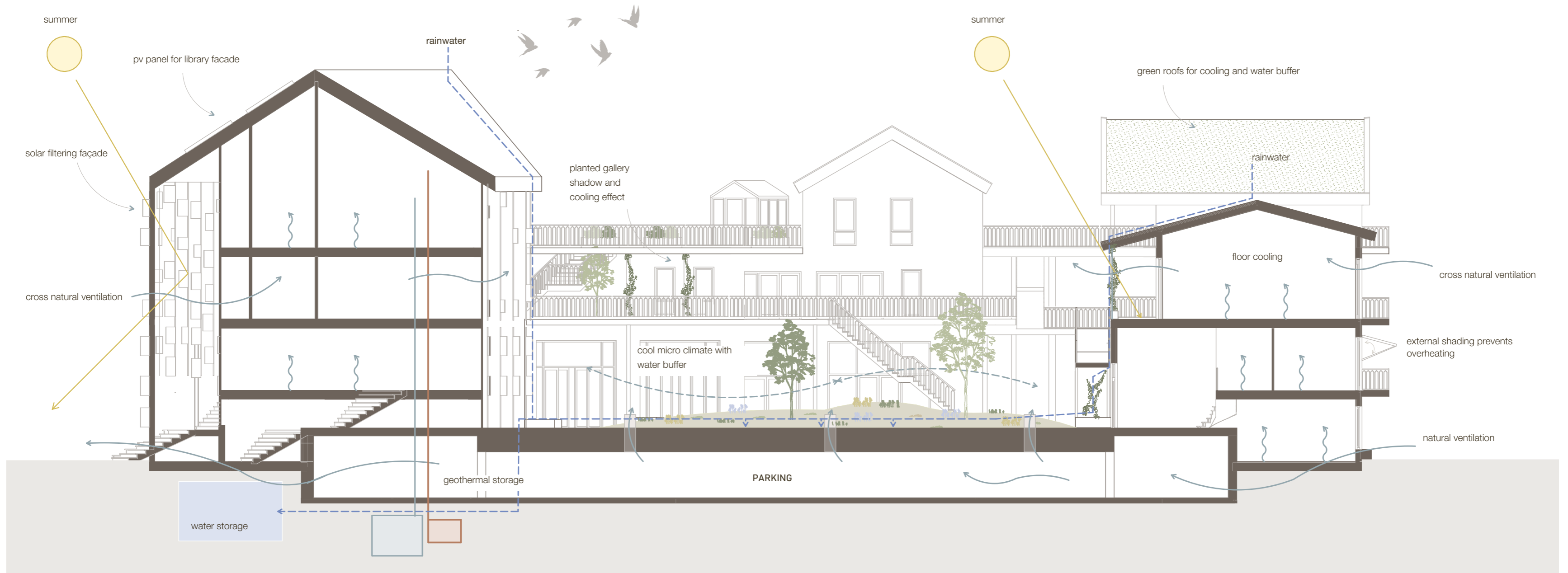
summer



02
Passive and climate-responsive living

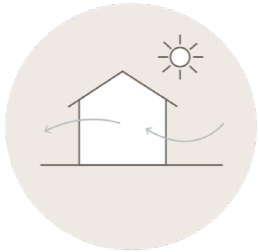


03
Climate adaptation and biodiversity

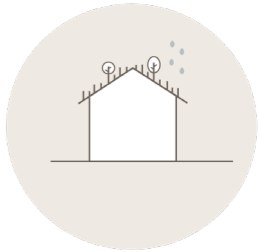


climate section

winter



02
Passive and climate-responsive living

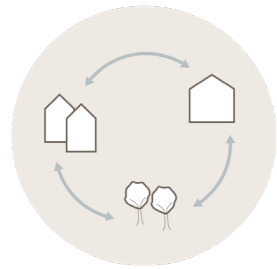


03
Climate adaptation and biodiversity

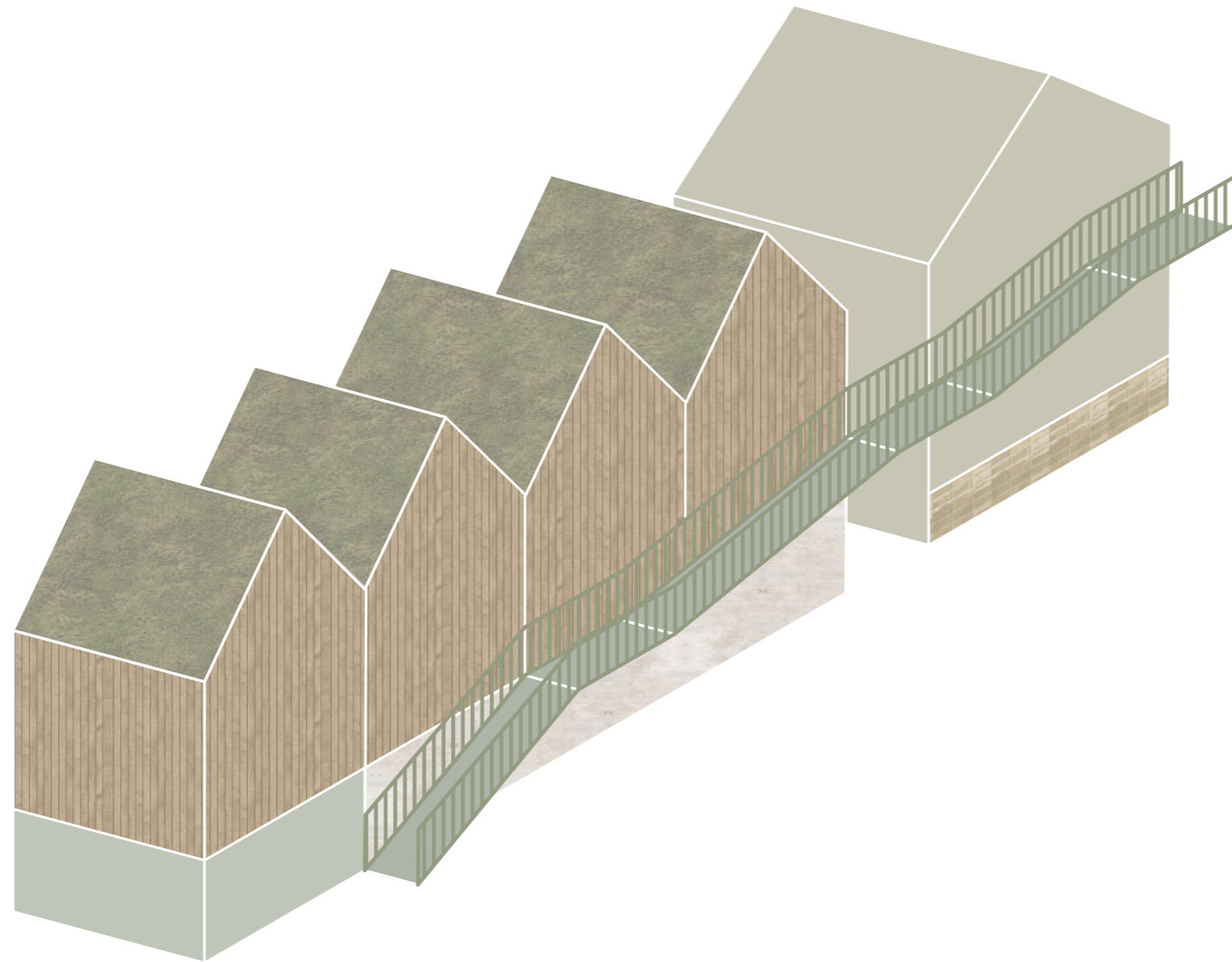


materials

facade

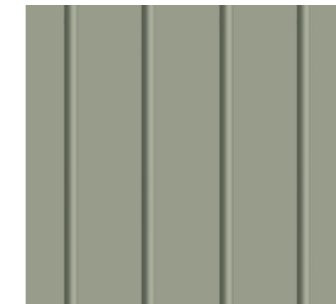


01
Circular and biobased
construction



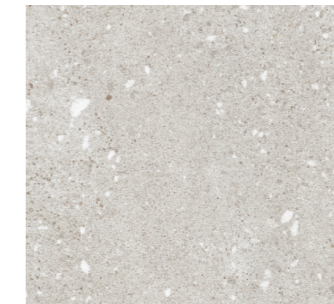
facade

collective functions



*Recycled corrugated
sheet, green coated (matt)*

atelier



*Fibre cement, beige /
light grey*

residential



*wooden accoya slats
natural*

elements

ramp



*recycled steel green
coated*

seating edges



*Glazed tiles, yellow /
green*

panels



recycles pet-panels

south facade

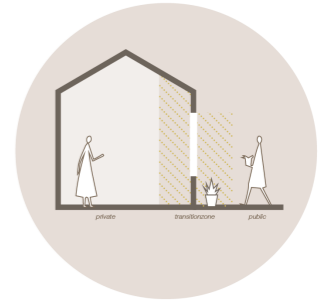




**What if downsizing your house
means upsizing your life?**

building

section



Small threshold zones