

Globally, almost 1 in 3 women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence at least once in their life.

[UN Women, n.d.]

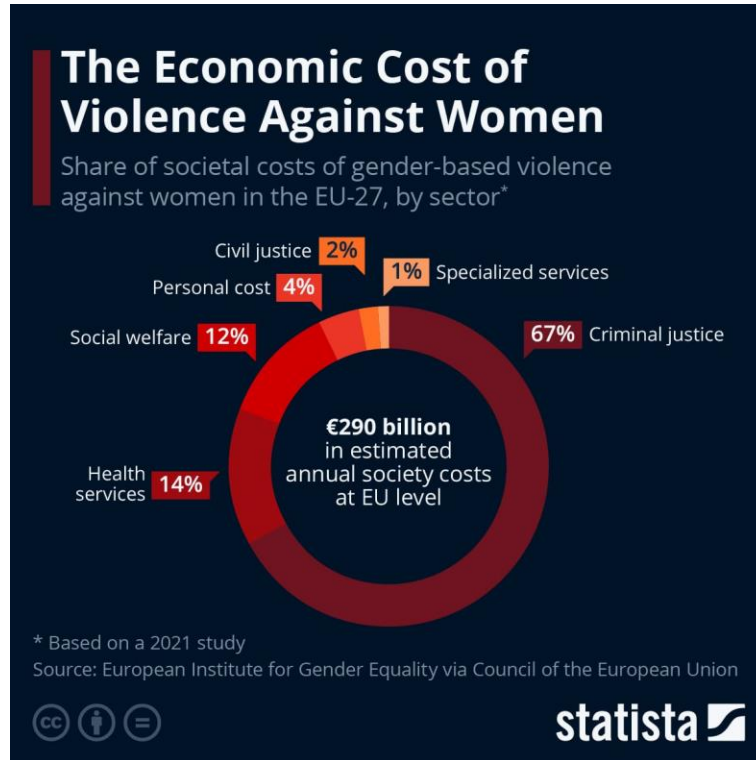
[Building Safety from Scratch]

*[Rethinking dwelling and women's everyday security in
Ahmedabad, India]*

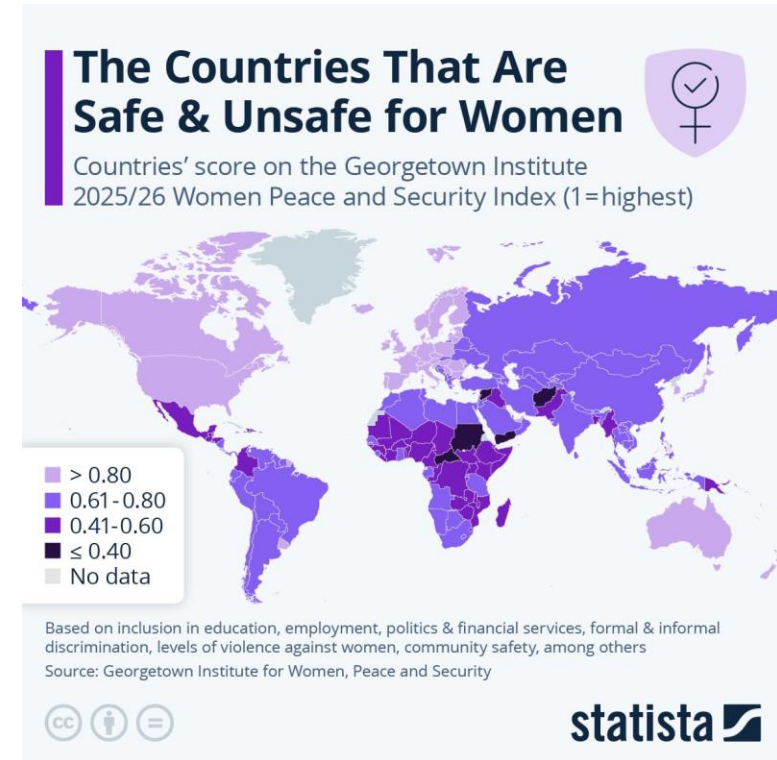
Content Overview

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INTRODUCTION



<https://www.statista.com/chart/31331/share-of-societal-costs-of-gbv-against-women-in-the-eu-27/>

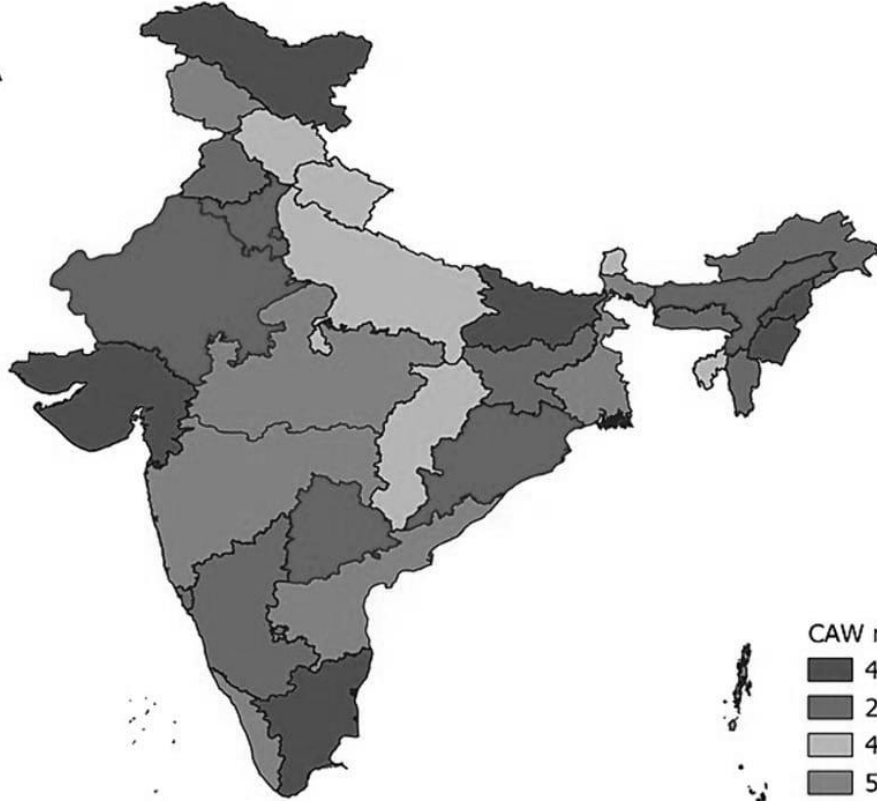


<https://www.statista.com/chart/31858/georgetown-institute-women-peace-and-security-index/>

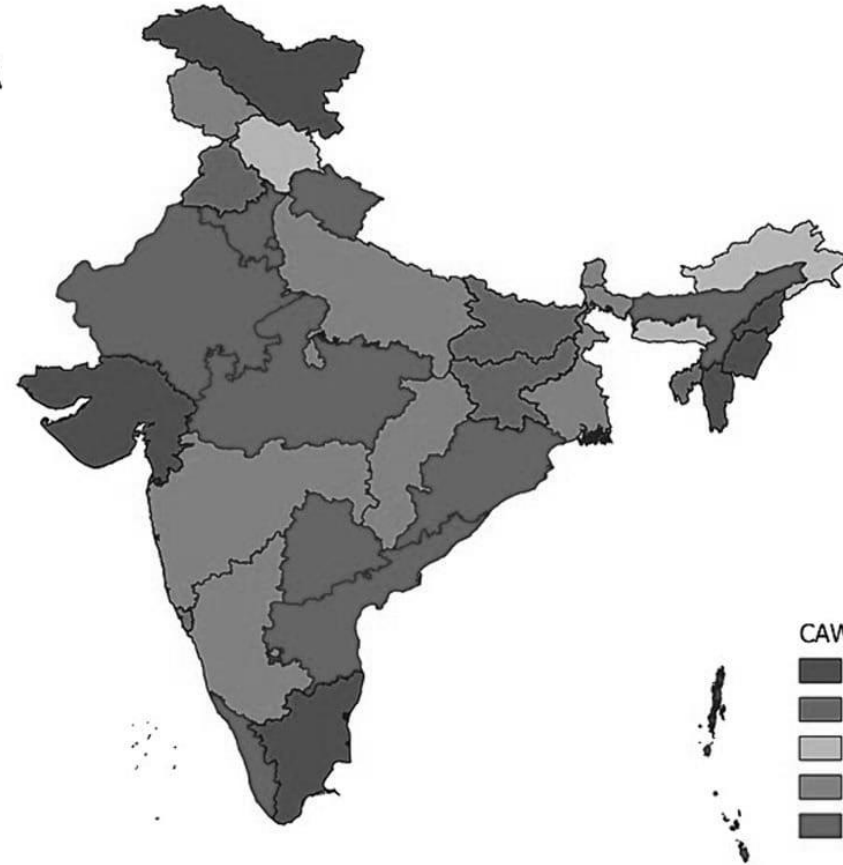
Violence against females remains a critical issue worldwide (UN Women, 2025), persisting despite economic development

India is an "economic powerhouse" with booming GDP (Thinkwithniche, 2025) yet remains statistically unsafe for women (Bansal & Bali, n.d.).

A



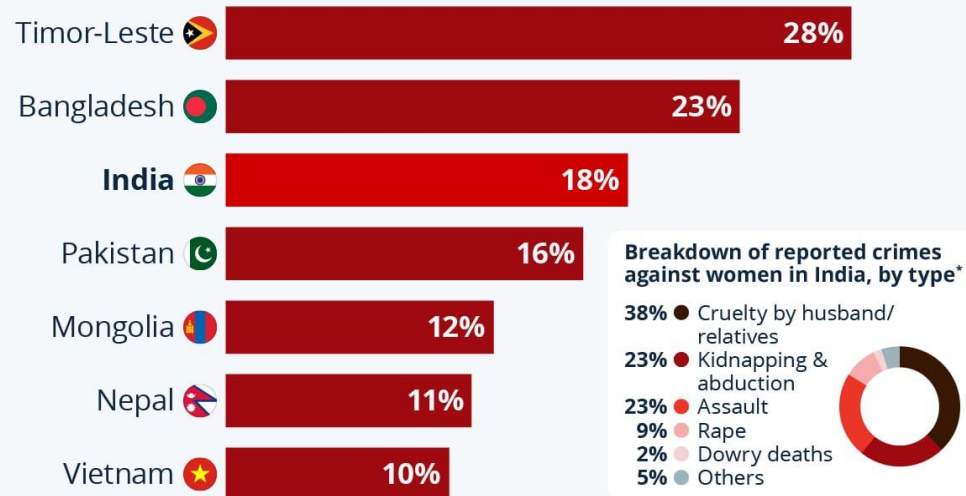
B



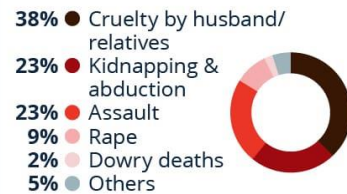
<https://doi.org/10.3389/fmed.2022.1046072>

Domestic Violence Against Women: India's Persistent Crisis

Asia-Pacific countries with the highest prevalence of domestic violence (physical/sexual) against women in 2024



Breakdown of reported crimes against women in India, by type*



* Reported crimes: data from 2022, based on more than 365,000 acts recorded in India that year
Sources: OECD, National Crime Records Bureau (India)



statista

<https://www.statista.com/chart/35517/statistics-about-domestic-violence-against-women-in-india/>

Paradox: there is rising female engagement in society (e.g. voting, employment), but safety indicators lag behind (DD News, 2024)

Ahmedabad is a rapidly developing city contributing
~ 1.9% of national GDP with an educated
population (Thinkwithniche, 2025).

Problem Statement

- Women face limited mobility due to poor lighting and unsafe street conditions, often forcing them to "adjust their behavior" rather than the city supporting them (DD News, 2024)
- Currently, most current solutions are reactive surveillance (CCTV) or policy-based, failing to address the fundamental spatial layout that creates insecurity (Bansal & Bali, n.d.)



<https://acidcow.com/pics/16451-ahmedabad-no-life-last-night-v-silent-india.html>



<https://acidcow.com/pics/16451-ahmedabad-no-life-last-night-v-silent-india.html>

Research Questions

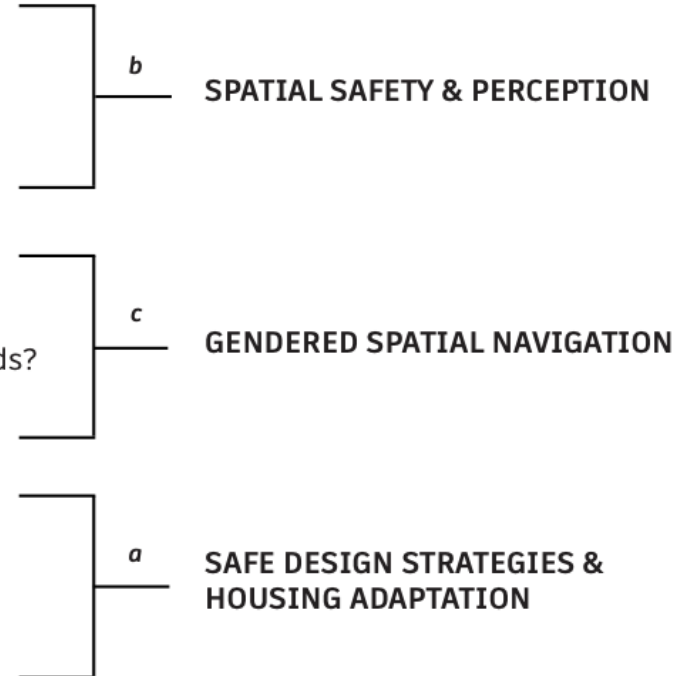
How can ^adwelling design and ^bneighborhood planning in Ahmedabad enhance women's everyday ^csafety and sense of security?



1. Which specific spatial qualities most influence women's sense of safety?

2. How do women navigate and modify unsafe housing environments, both in informal and formal neighborhoods?

3. What building design principles can decrease risk and increase visibility?



Methodology:

- Desk research
- Fieldwork
- Typological investigation
- Impressions and modelling

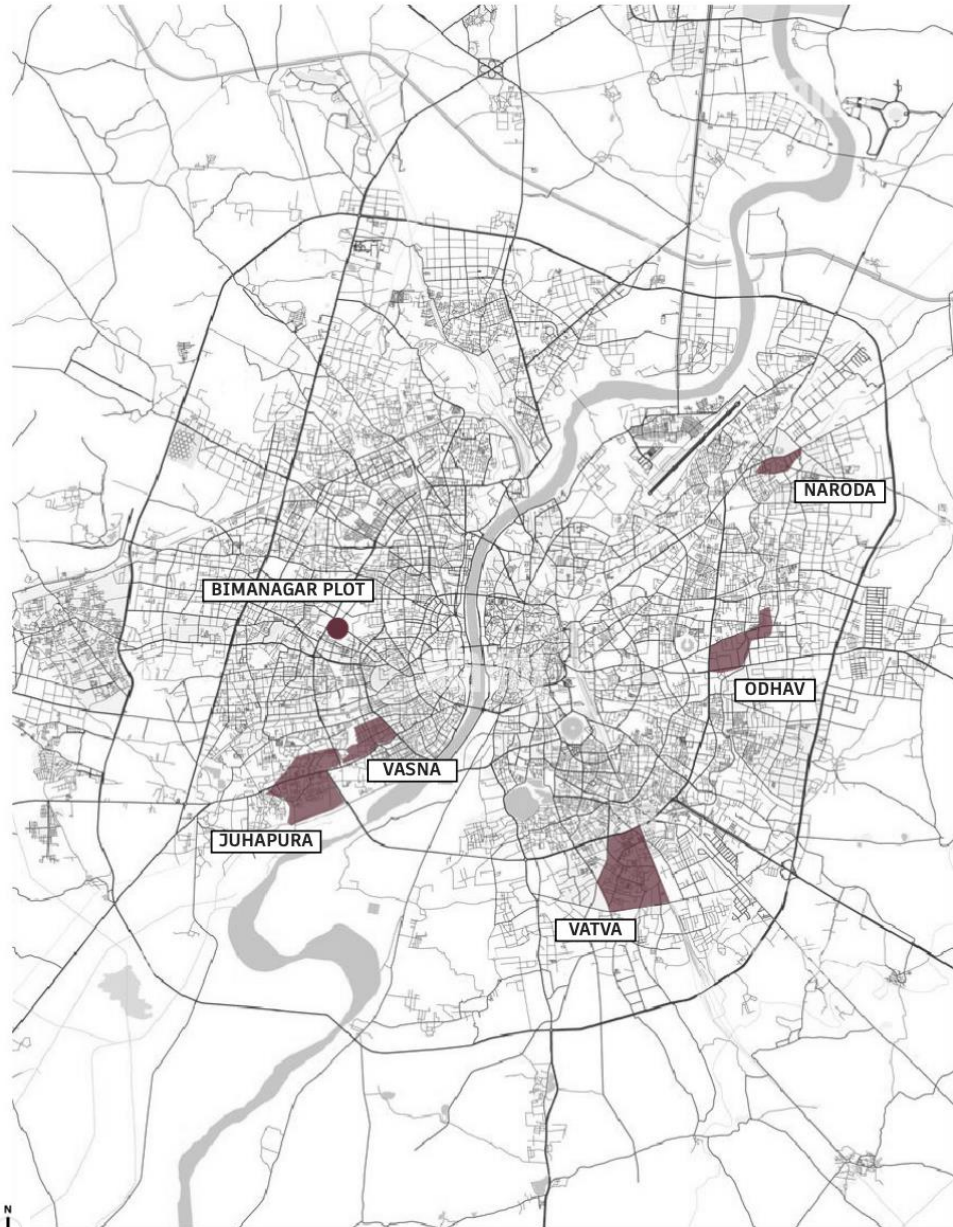
"The 'myth' of the safe city goes unchallenged... as if to say that Ahmedabad is safe so long as these areas remain safe for women or women of a certain socio-economic background remain safe—anything else is a low priority. Thus, a slice of the city (western Ahmedabad) comes to represent the whole of Ahmedabad city."

"The State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) report... said that 'Of all the cities in Gujarat, Ahmedabad is the least safe for women.' There has been an increase in crimes against women by all official data and statistics. And yet, the tag of 'safe' remains untouched."

Safety "differs by geography... women of Odhav, Naroda, Vatva... would tell a different story."

[*Ahmedabad Cross Section*, CEPT University Press, 2020]

TARGET GROUP

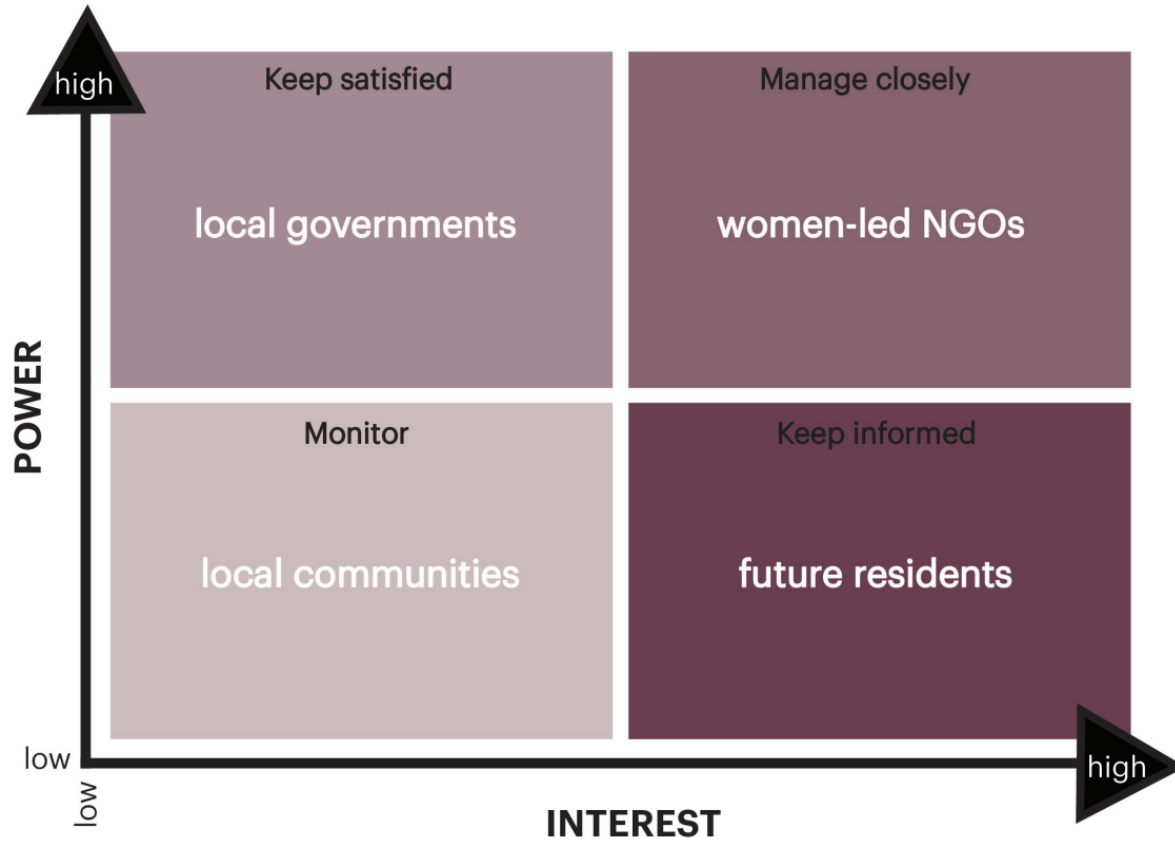


Single mothers
with one or
multiple children

Studying/
working women

Women -led
families

STAKEHOLDERS



Primary stakeholders

- Future residents
- Resident Welfare Association (RWA)

Project initiators and landowners

- Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority (AUDA) / Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC)
- Gujarat Housing Board (GHB)

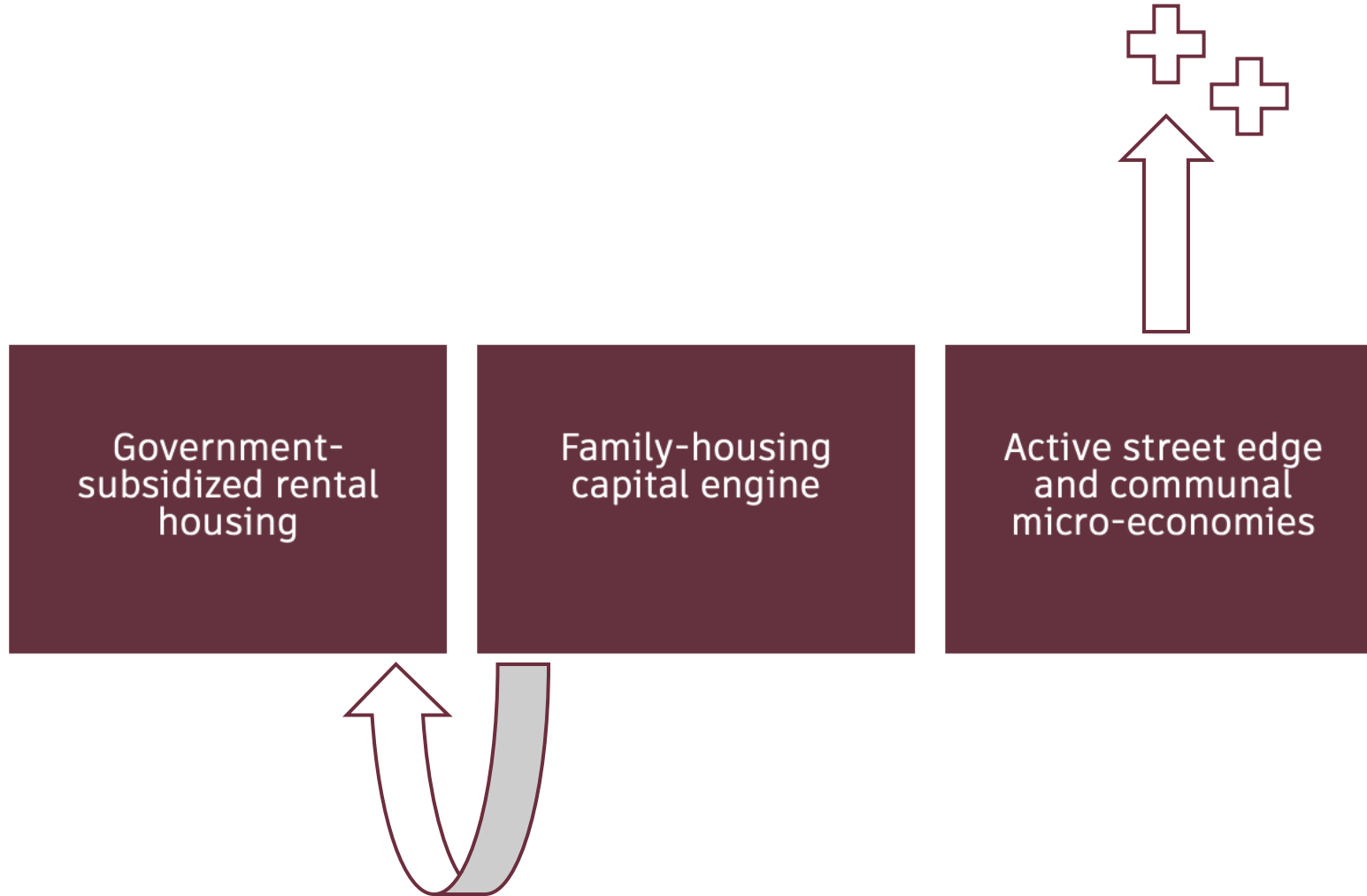
Financial & implementation partners

- Private real estate developers: construction and structural financing
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Donors

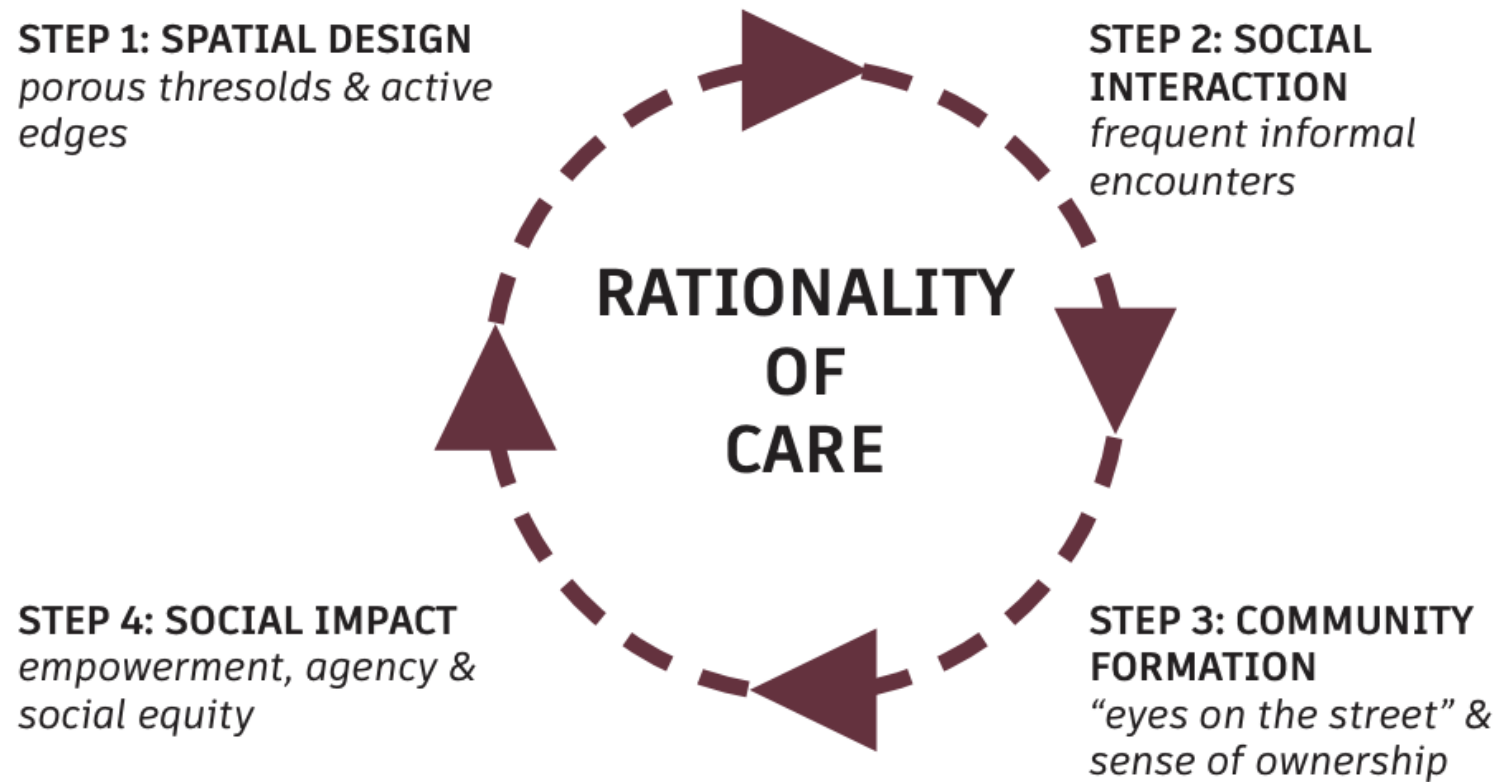
Advocacy partners (NGOs)

- SEWA (Self-Employed Women's Association)

Financial Strategy

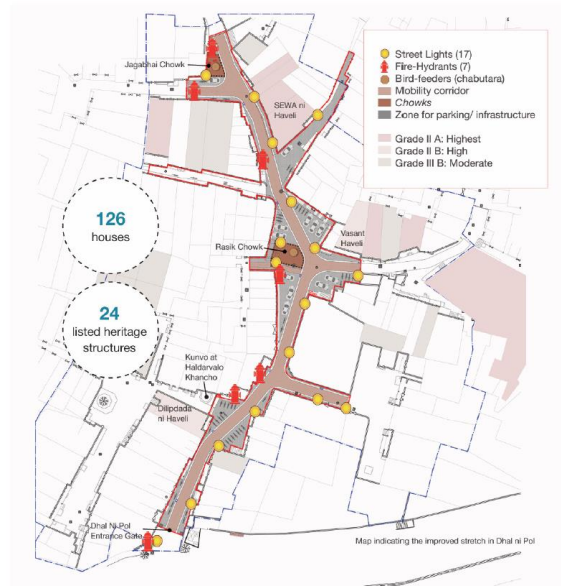


Theoretical Framework



CASE STUDIES

A. [Dhal ni Pol, Ahmedabad]
[Mahila Housing SEWA Trust (MHT), 2021]



B. [“Turning Spaces into Places” Initiative, Mumbai]
[Love Your Parks Mumbai (LYPMumbai), 2019]



C. [Malagueira Quarter Housing Project, Evora, Portugal]
[Álvaro Siza, 1974-1997]



D. [Dar Lamane Housing Project, Casablanca, Morocco]
[Abderrahim Charai and Aziz Lazrak, 1983]



FIELDWORK

LOCATION



23.026356 N°, 72.533610 E°

BIMANAGAR PLOT

government-owned
plot

28.650 m²







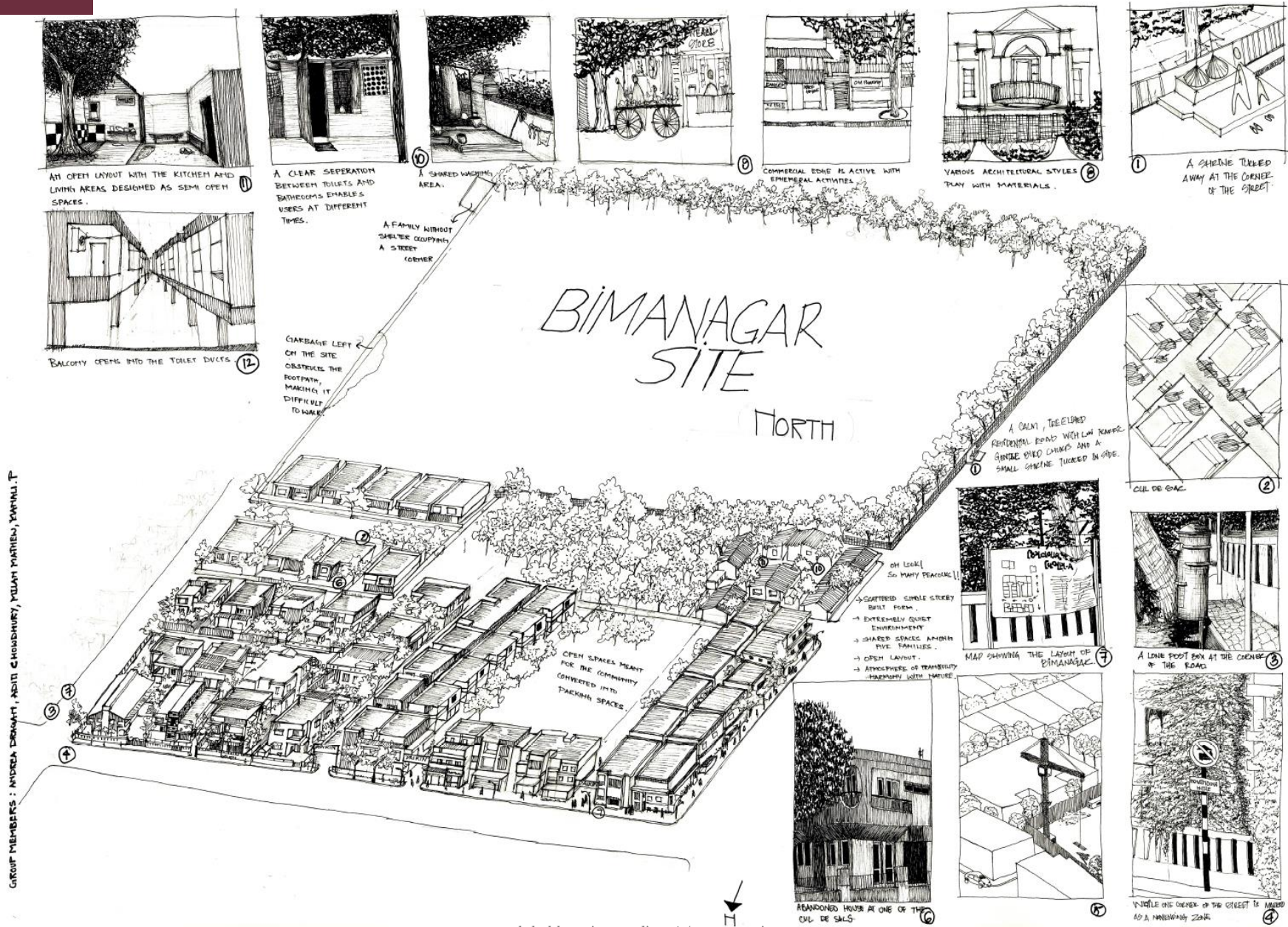






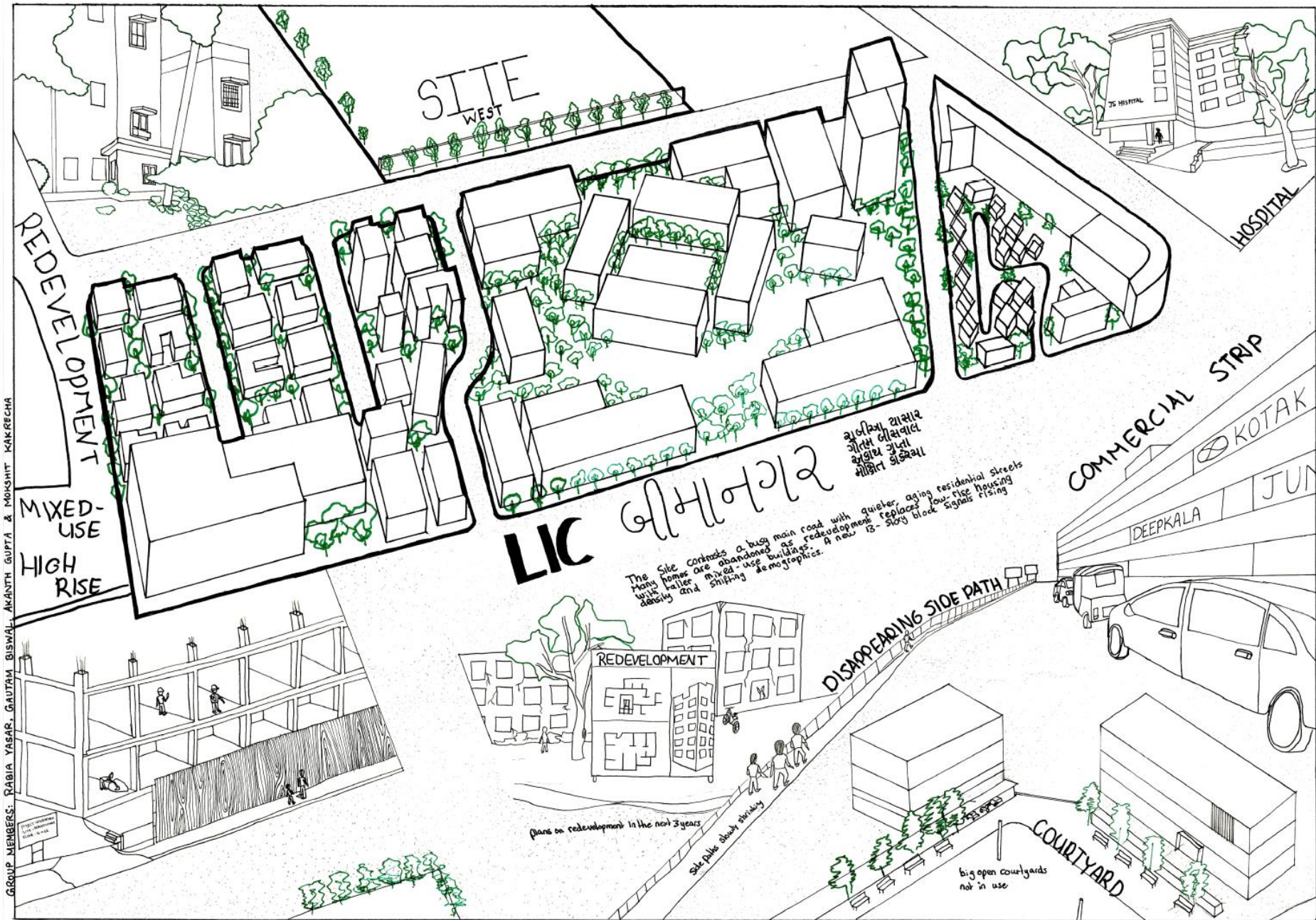


to the North:
residential
neighborhood with
amenities such as a
kindergarten, a cleaners'
shop, a pharmacy etc.



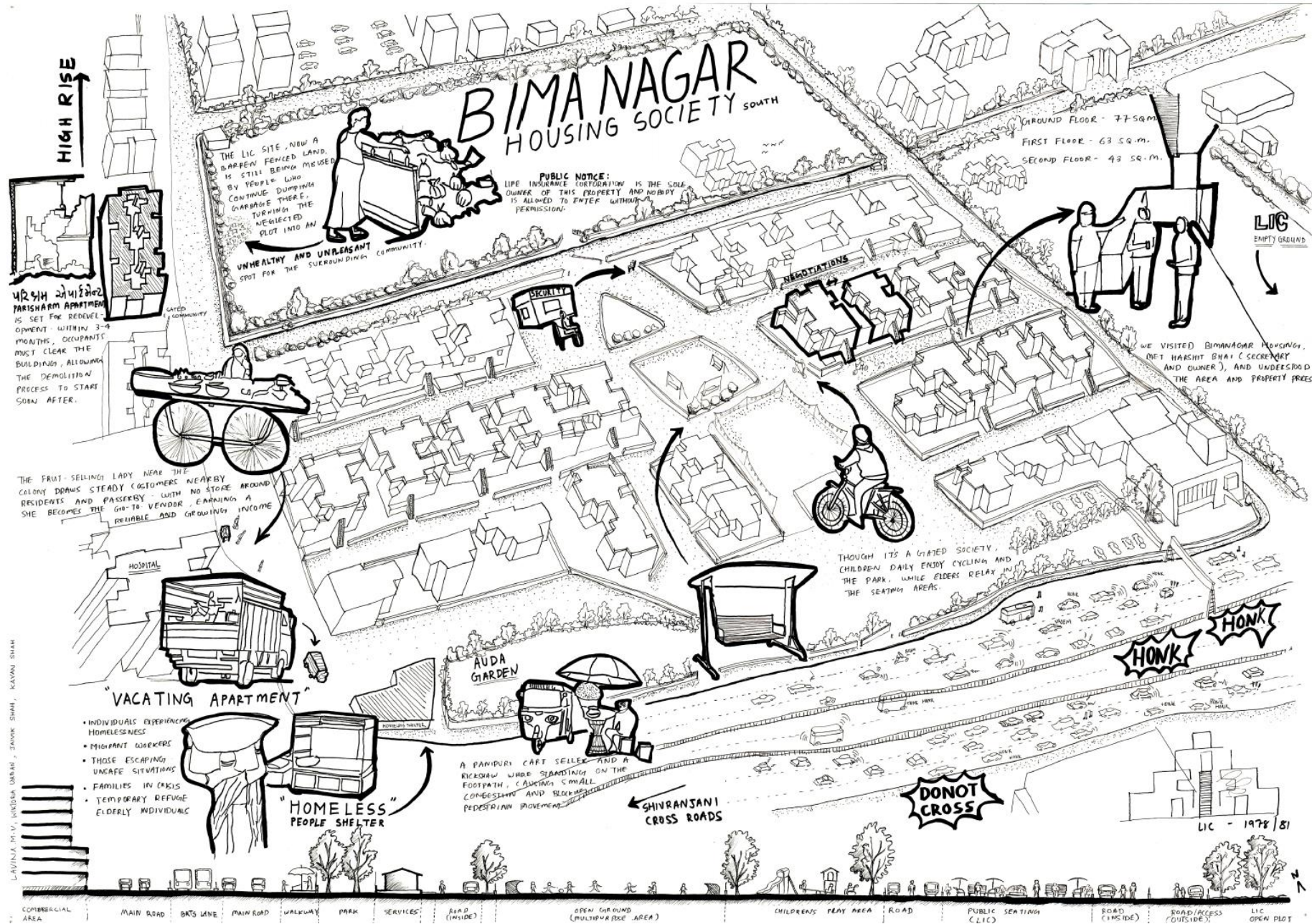
to the West:

predominantly
high-rise,
commercial areas,
a lot of spaces
undergoing
redevelopment



to the South:

LIC (Life Insurance Corporation):
government-owned gated community



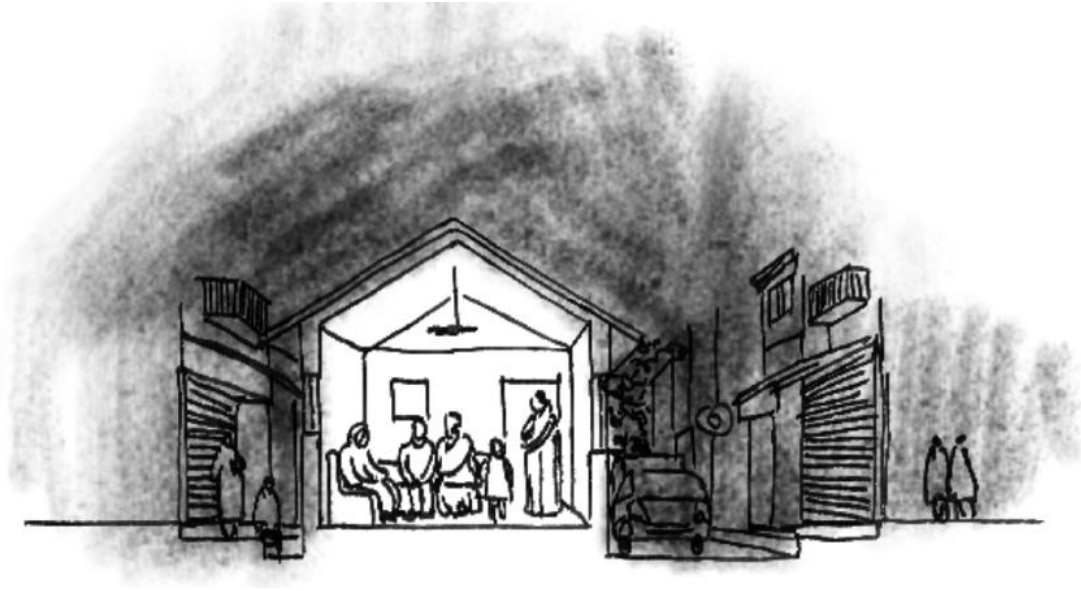
OBSERVATIONS

moving through space



transportation





rarely outside at nighttime



the *otla*

URBAN SCALE

URBAN STRATEGY



MASTERPLAN



1.93 FSI

45% GSI

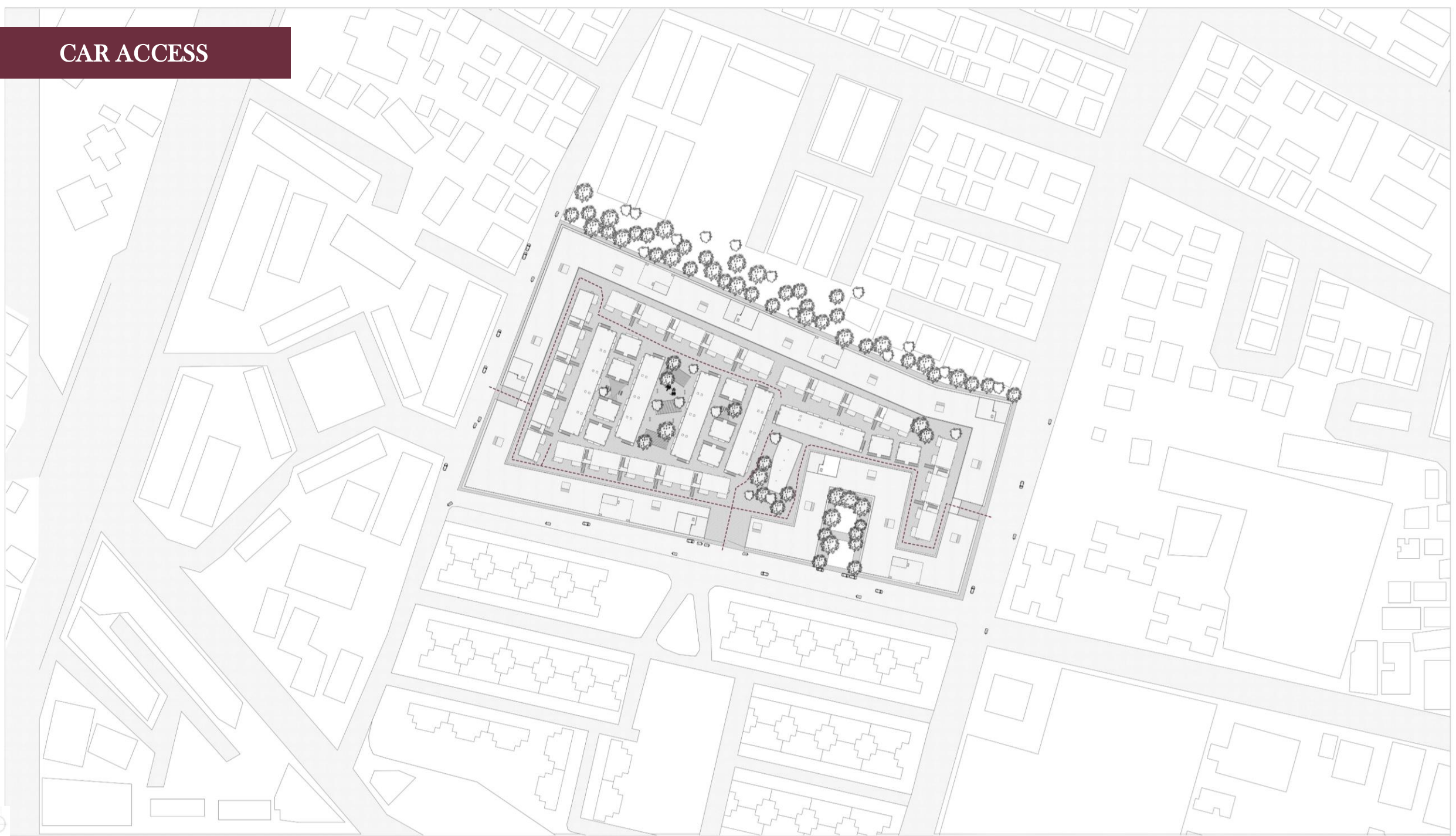
ACCESS ON THE PLOT



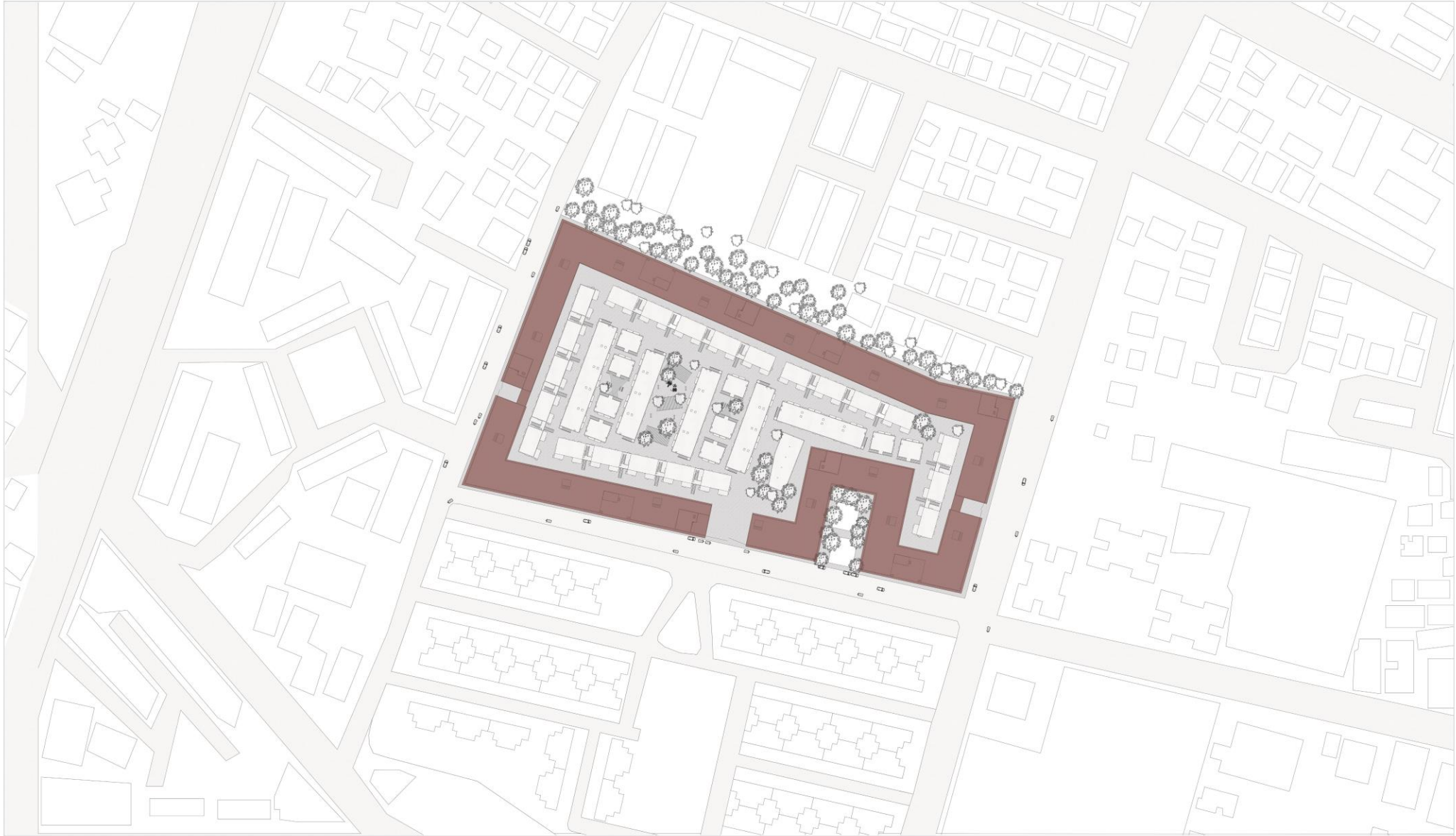




CAR ACCESS

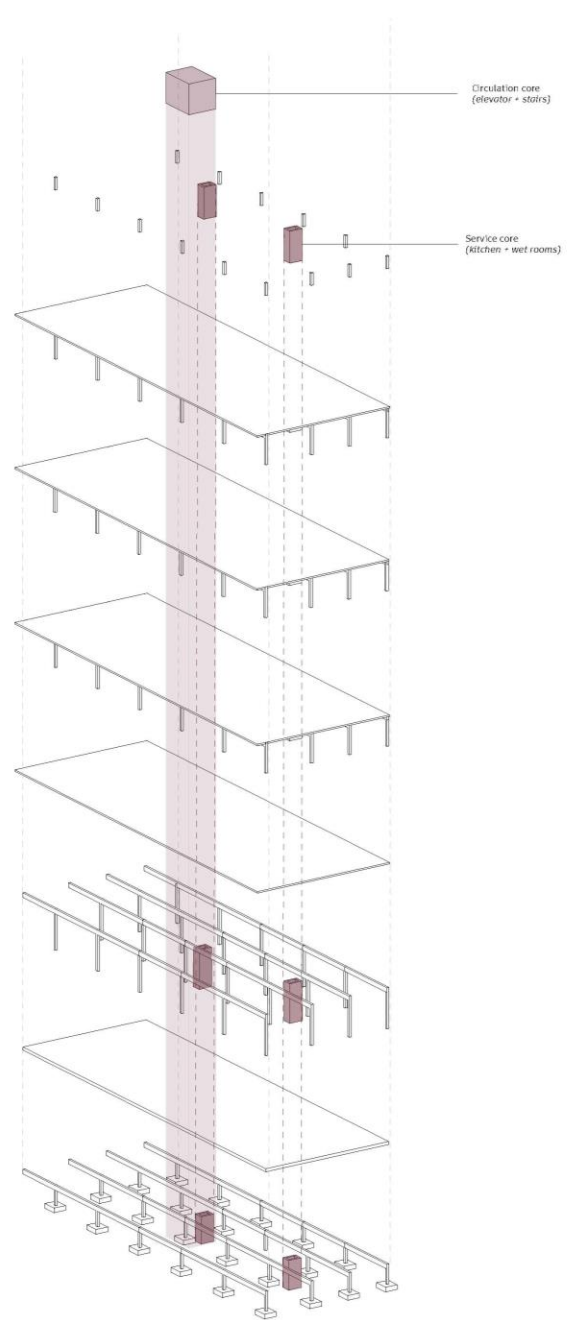


CLUSTER & DWELLING SCALES

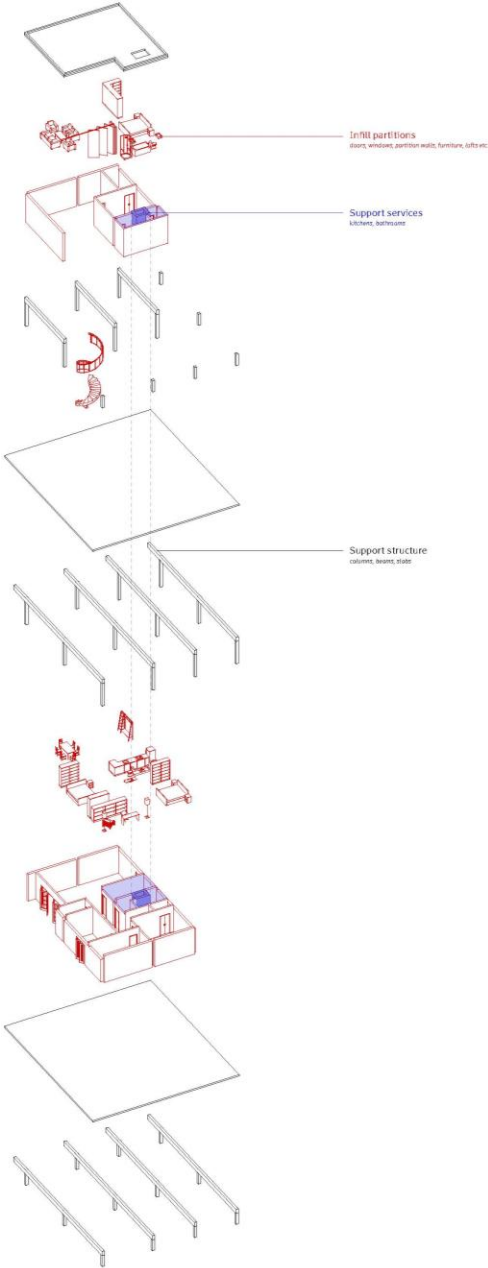




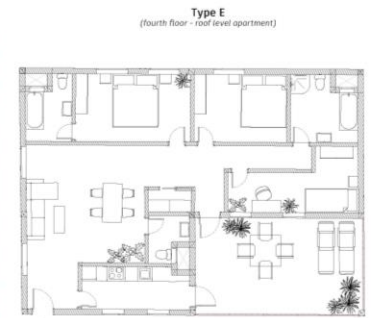
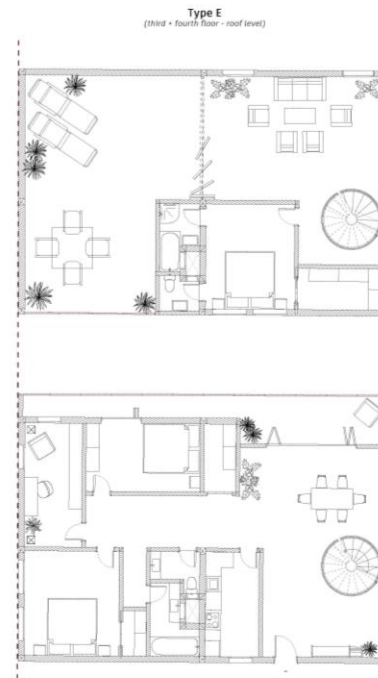
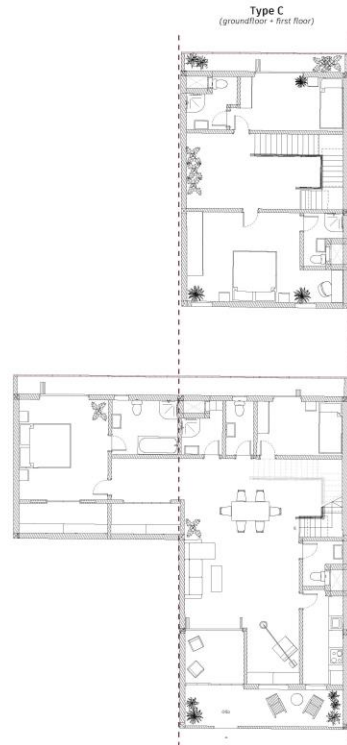
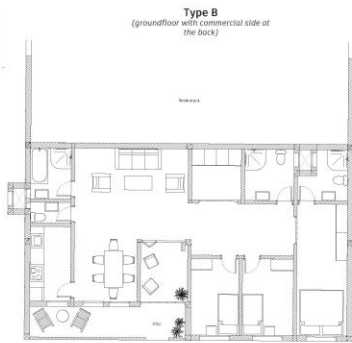
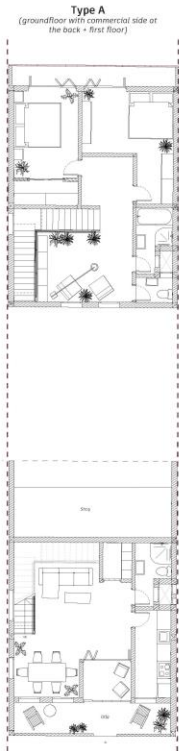
STRUCTURE



SUPPORT & INFILL

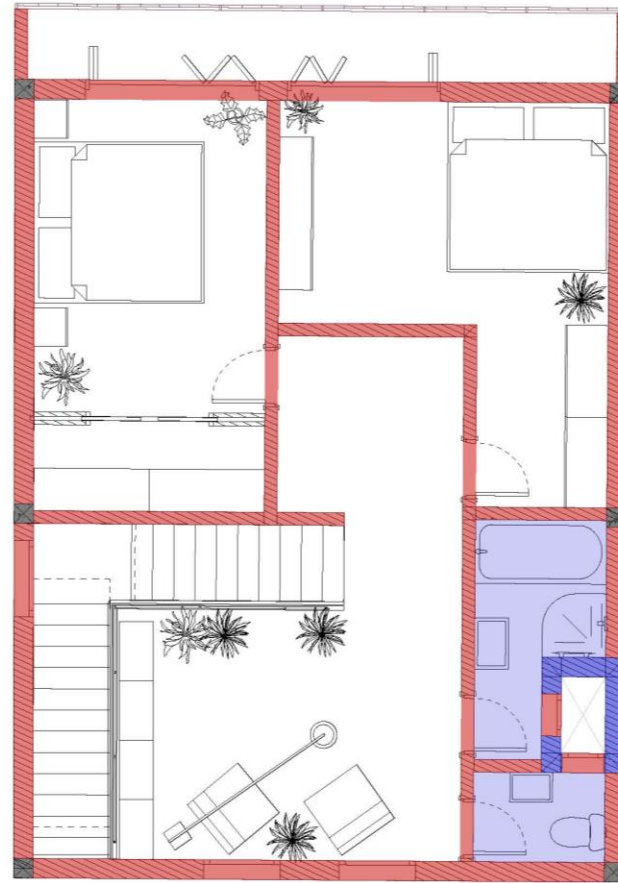
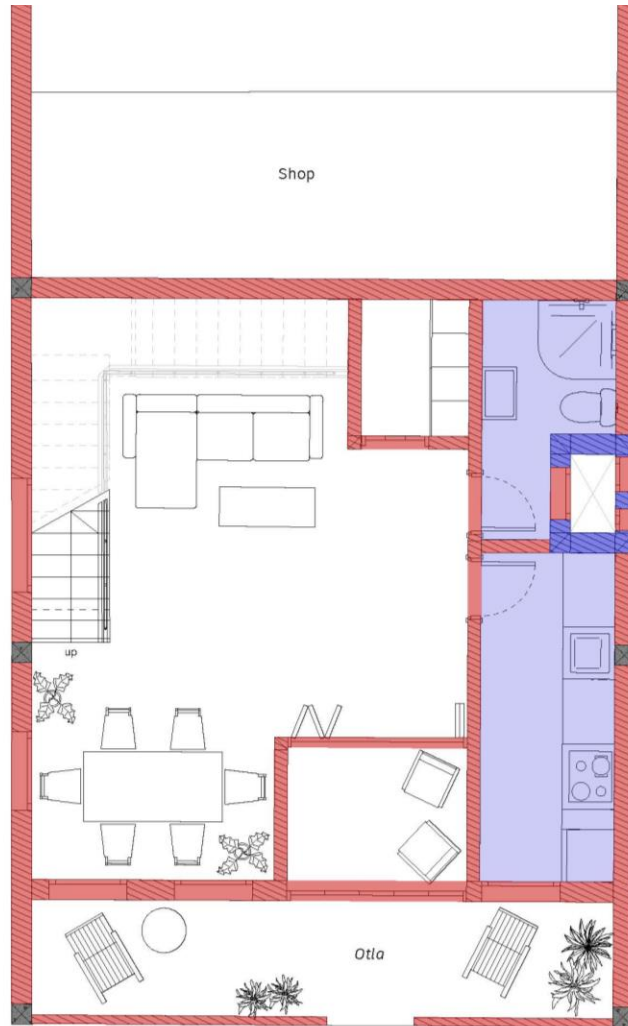


APARTMENTS



TYPE A

130 m²
groundfloor + first floor
(commercial strip to the back)



TYPE B

120 m²
groundfloor



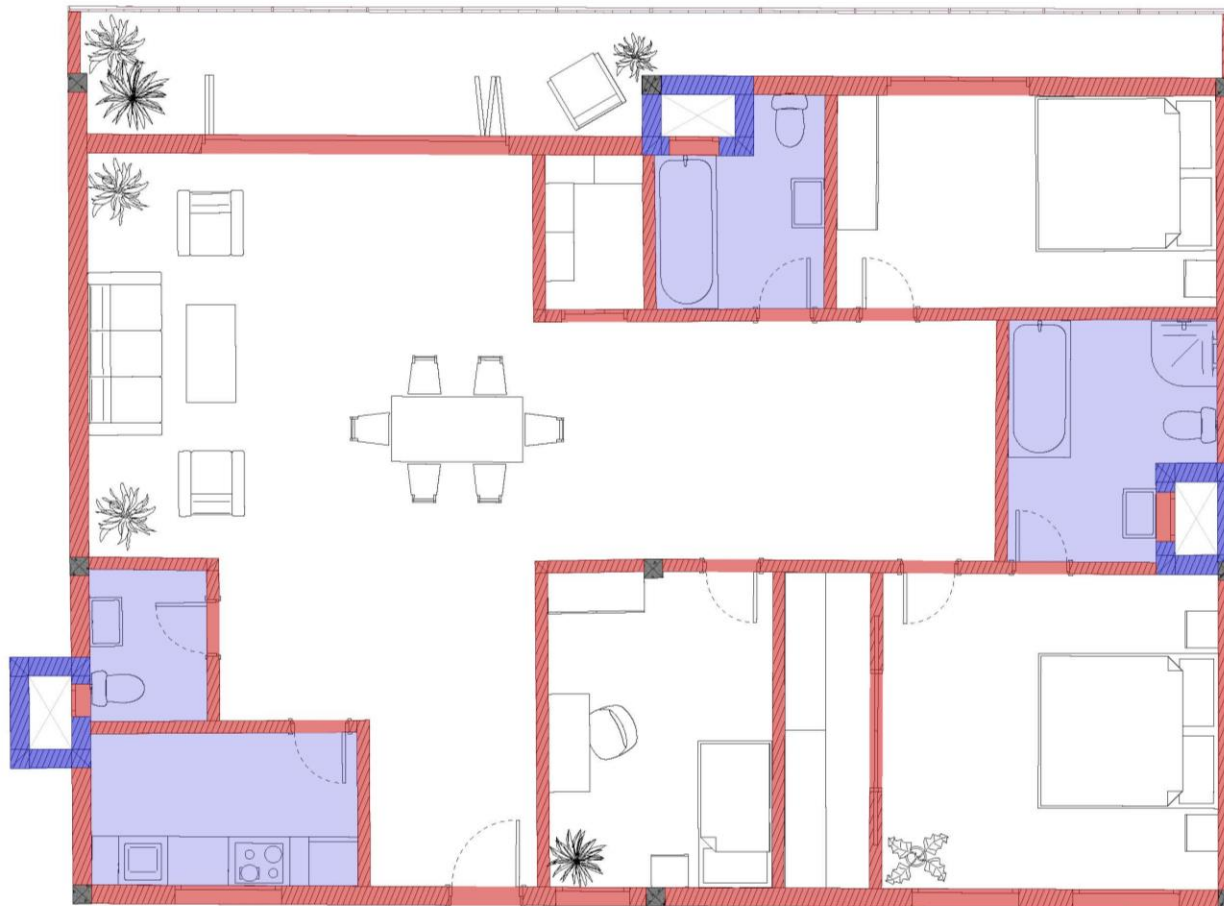
TYPE C

210 m²
groundfloor + first floor



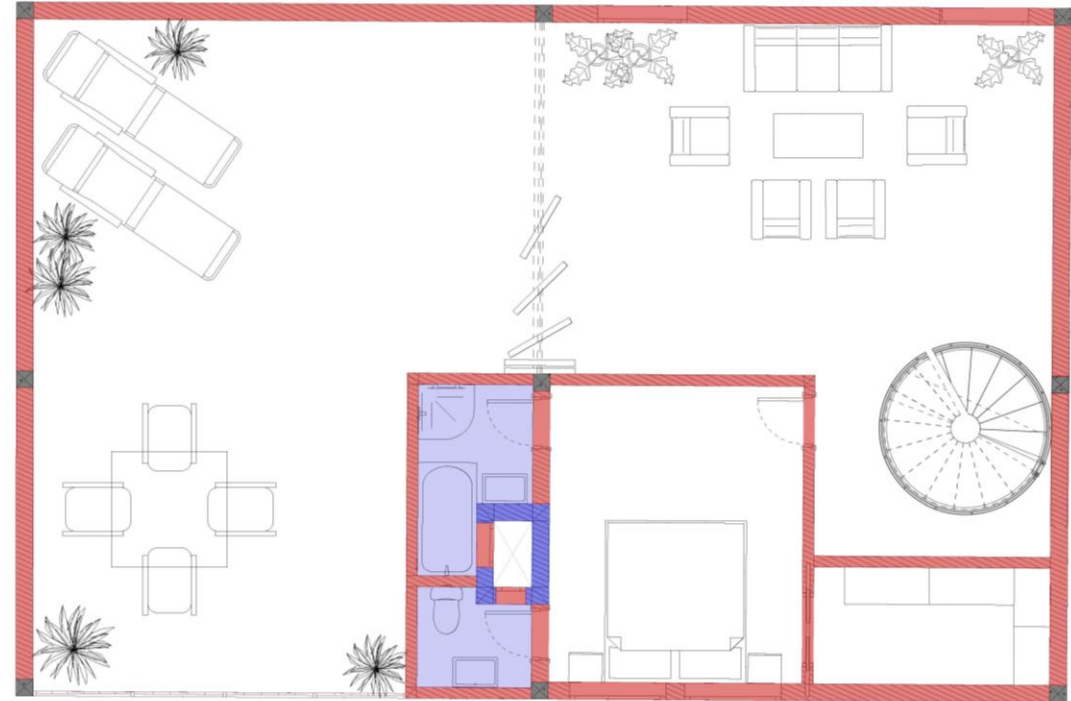
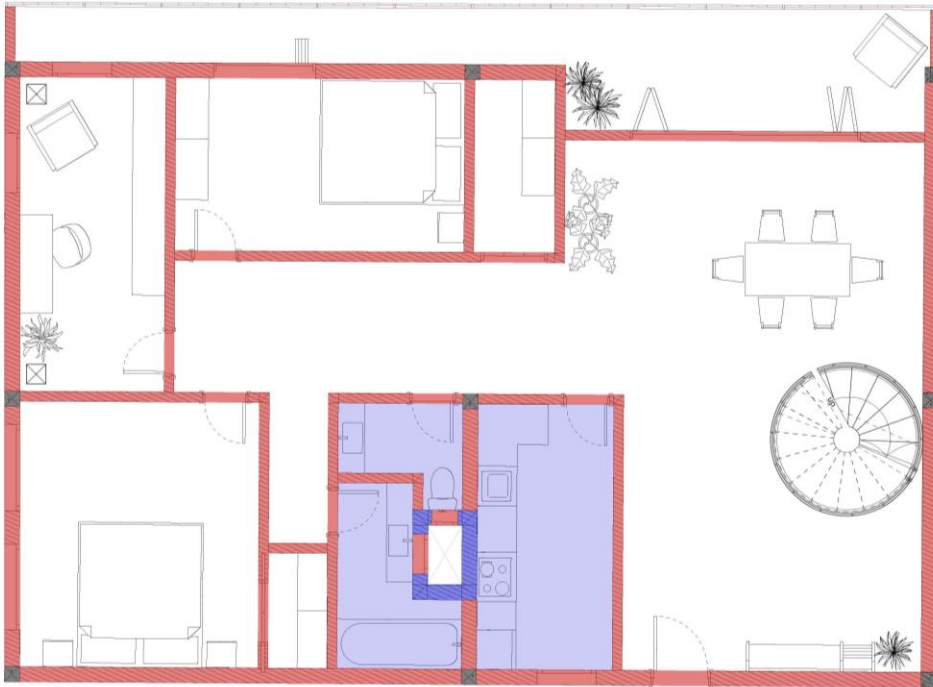
TYPE D

140 m²
second floor



TYPE E

210 m²
third + fourth floor



TYPE F

140 m²
fourth floor

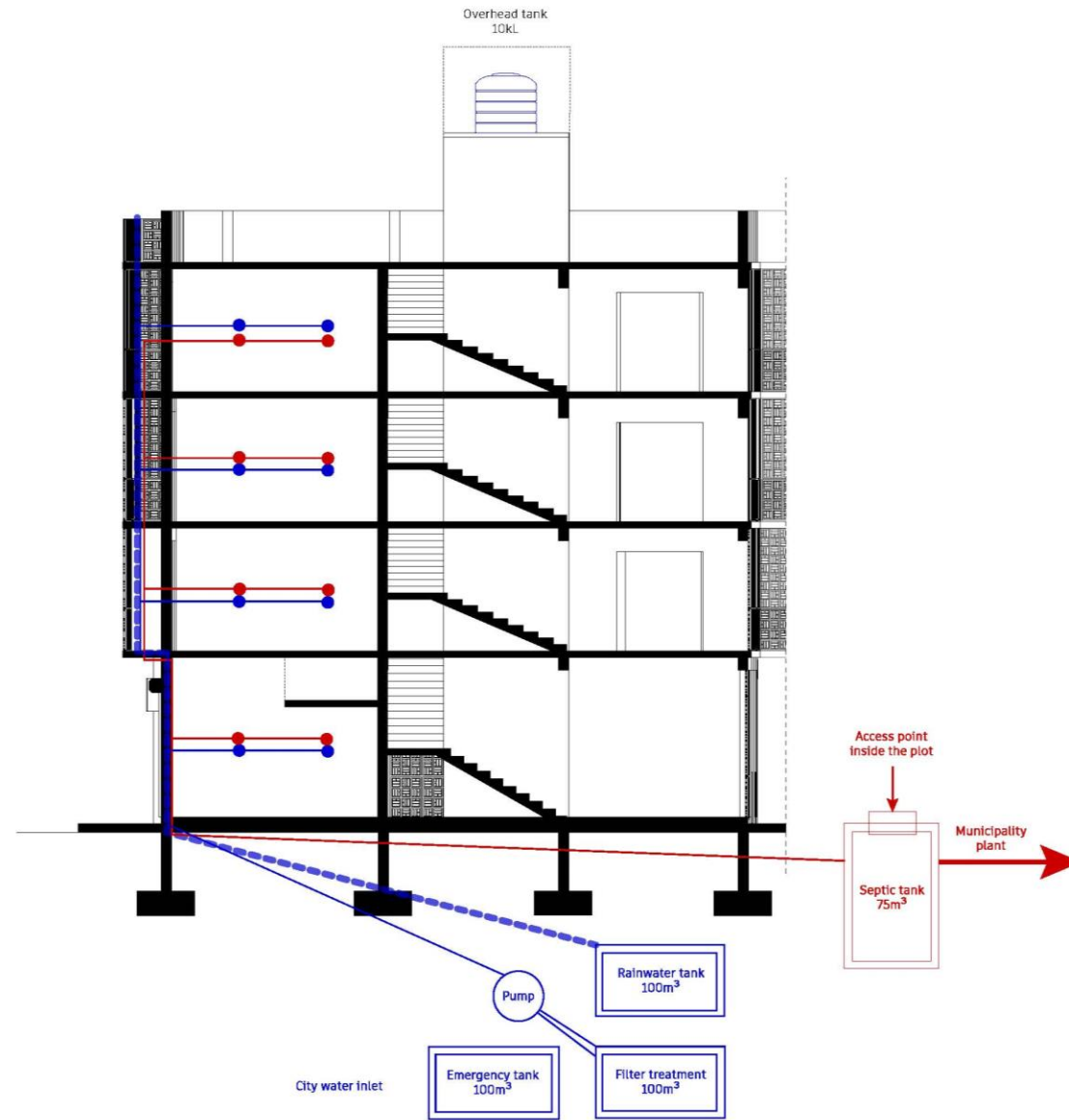


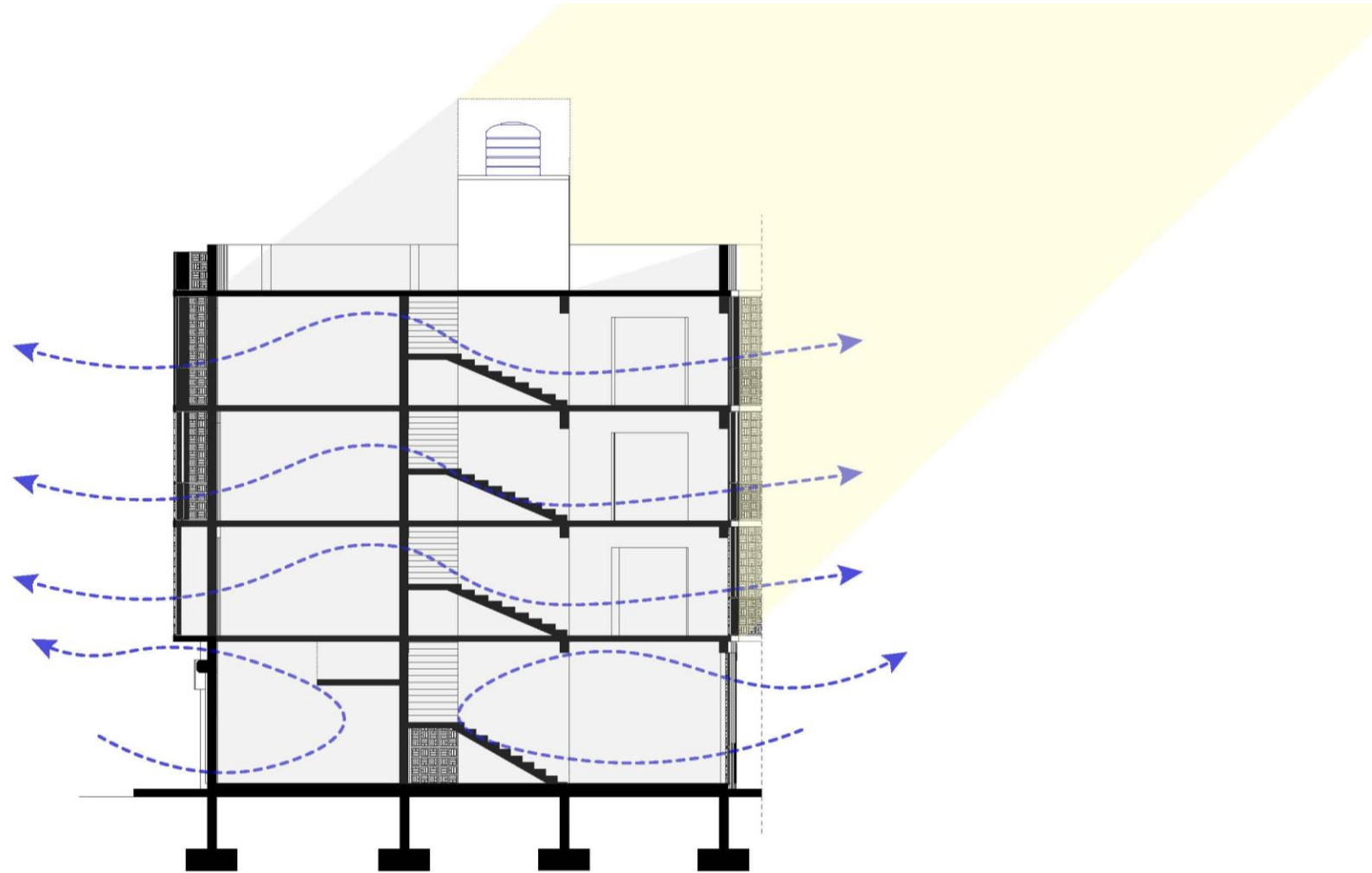




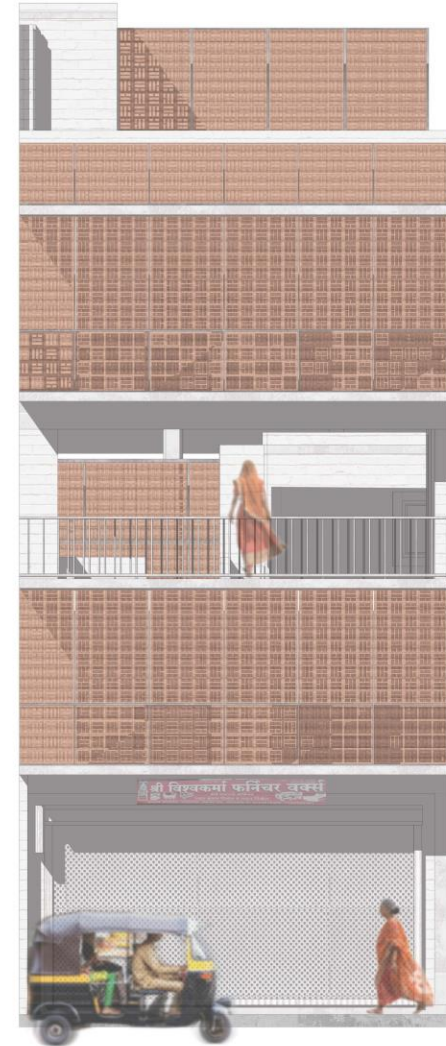
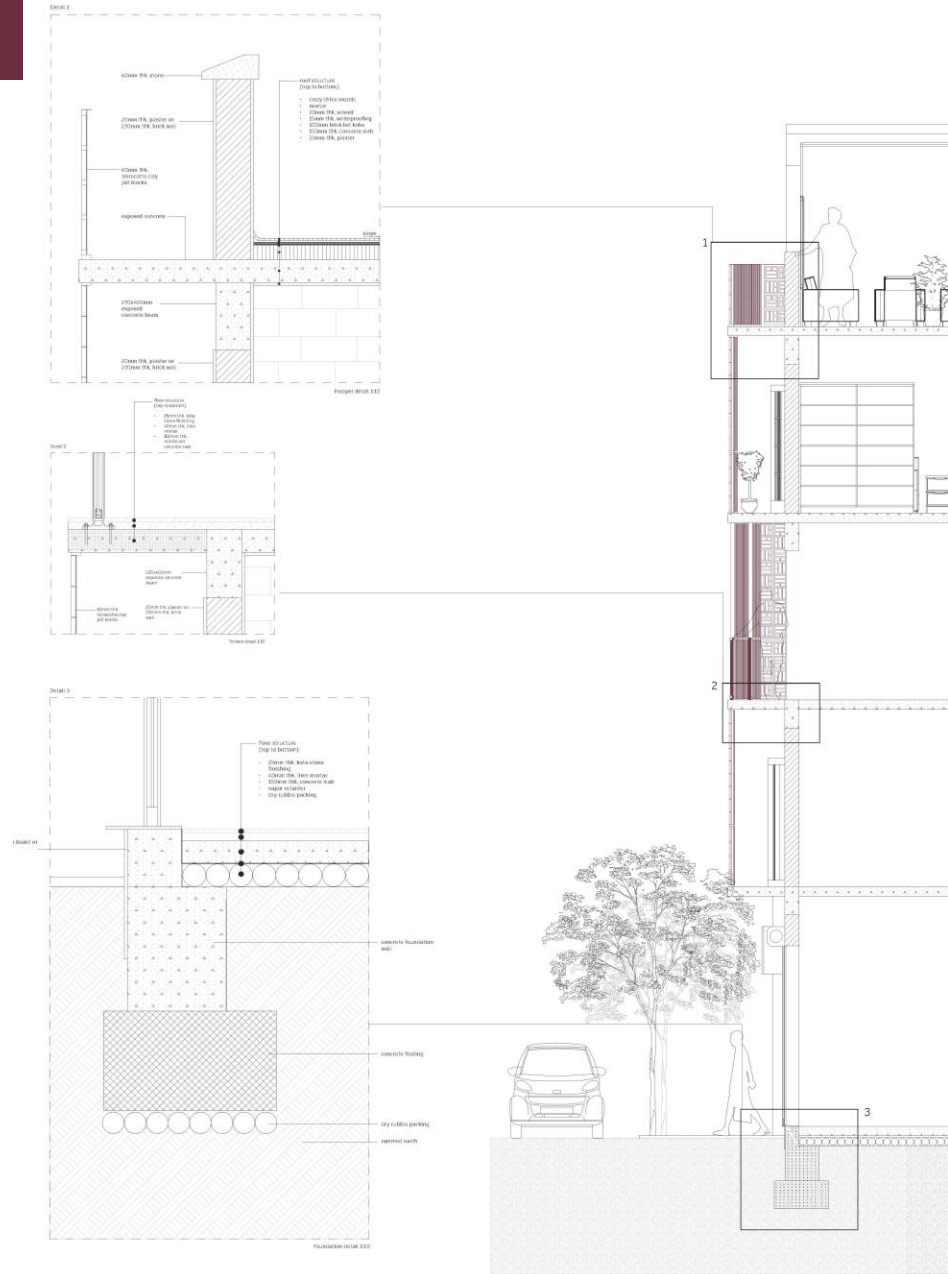


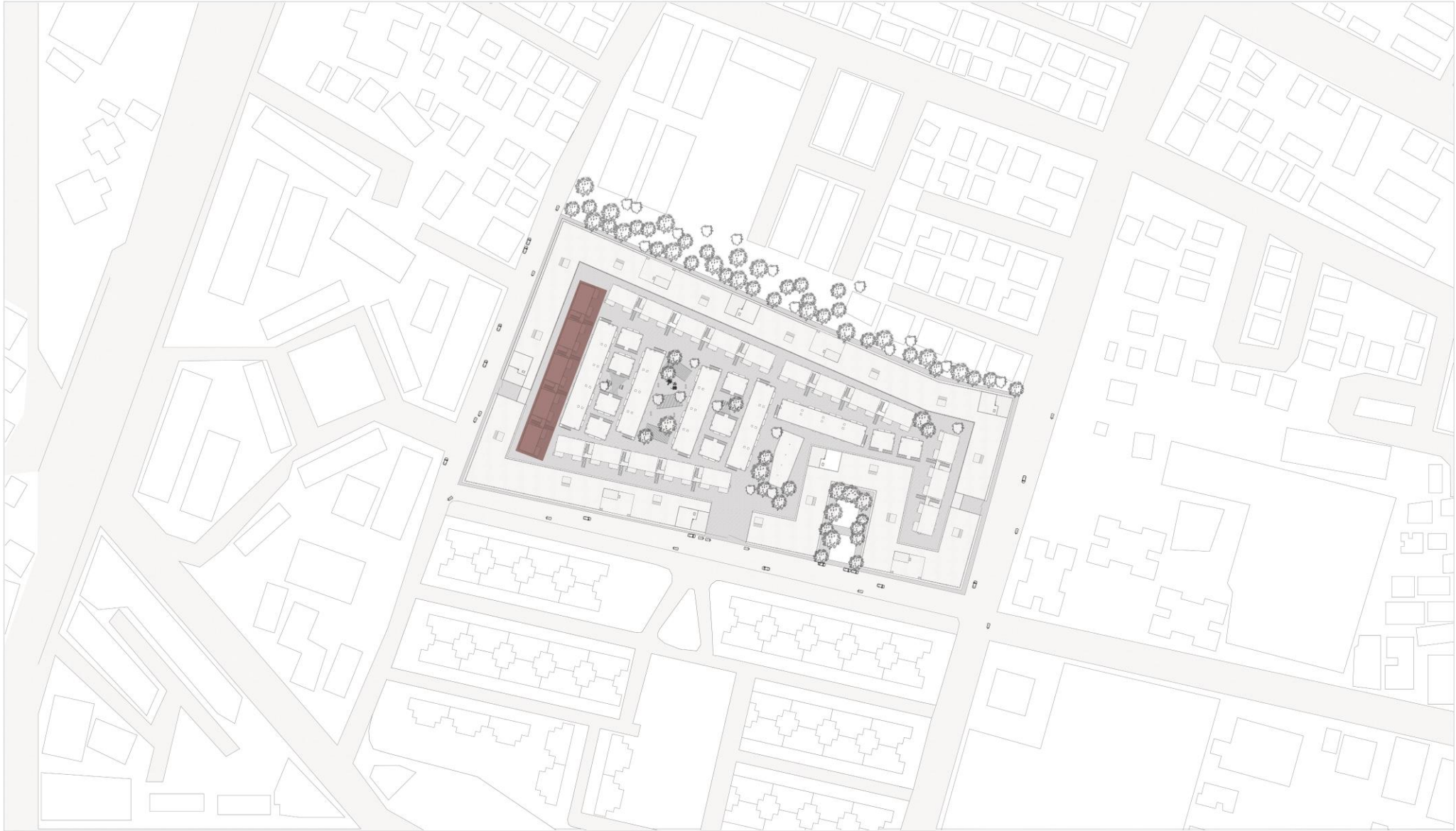
WATER MANAGEMENT





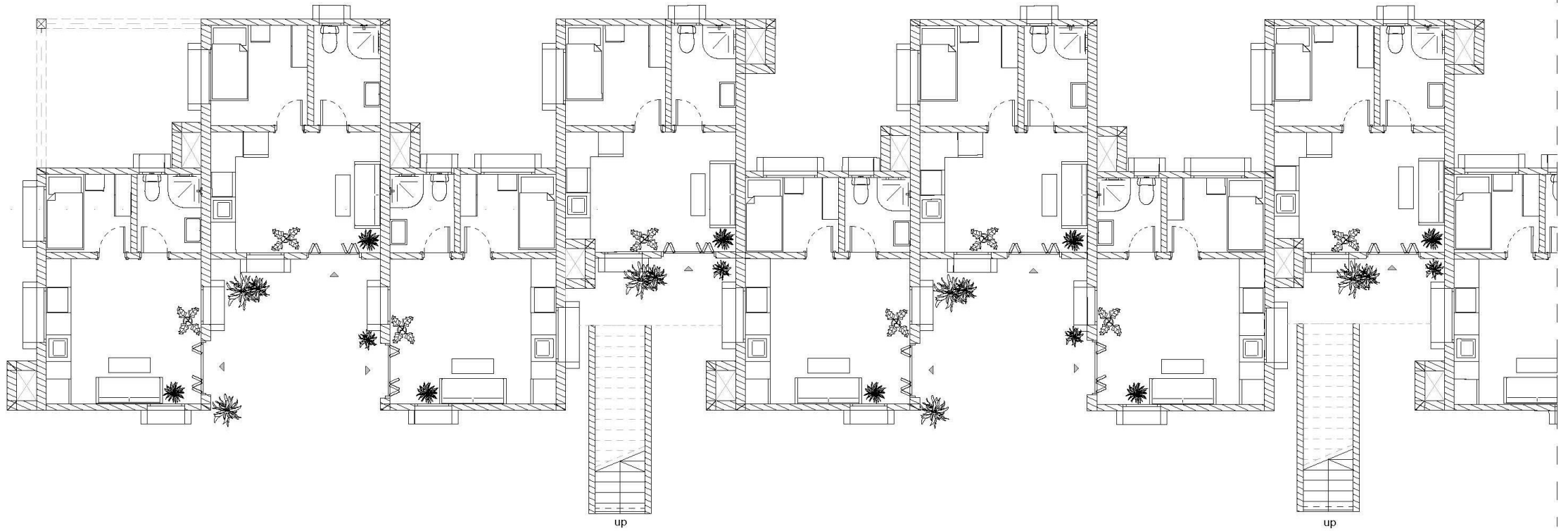
FAÇADE STRUCTURE







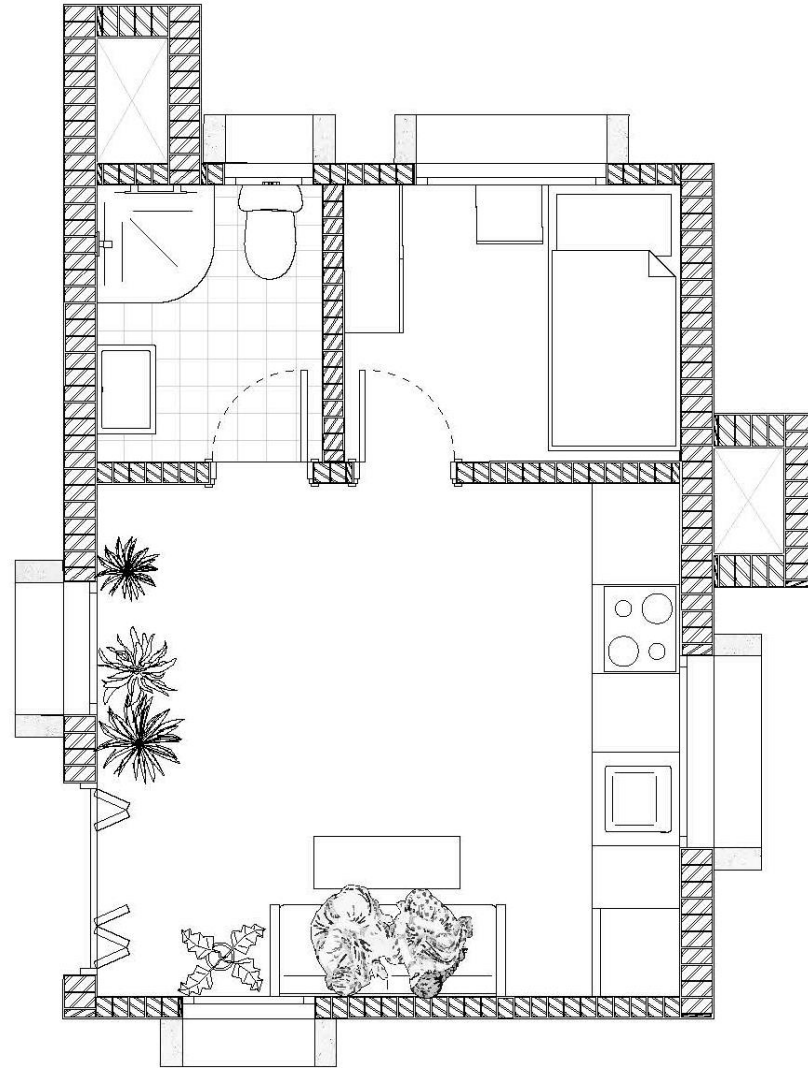
GROUND FLOOR



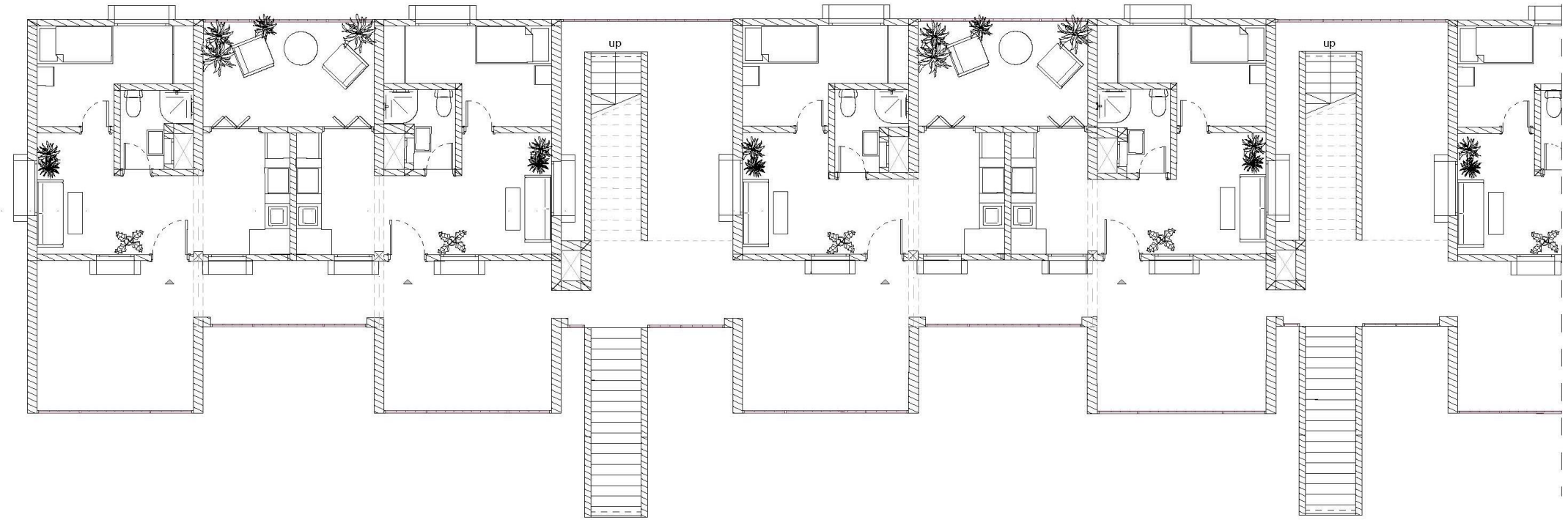


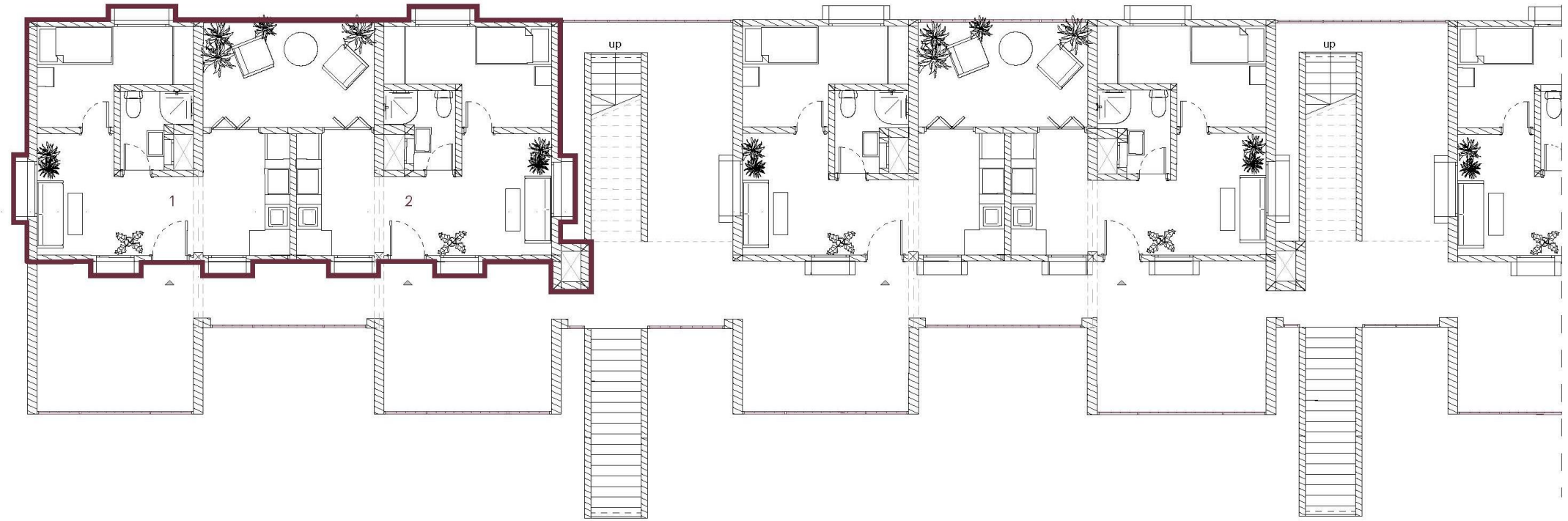
TYPICAL UNIT

20 m²



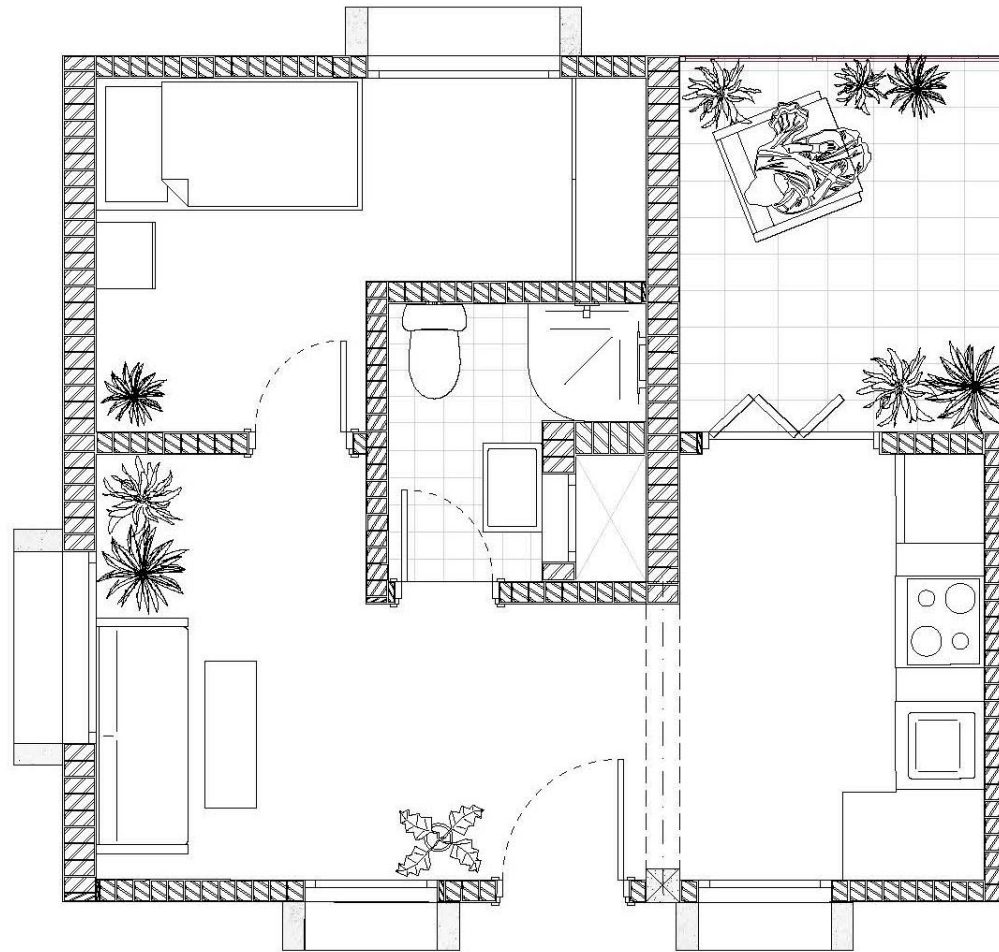
FIRST FLOOR



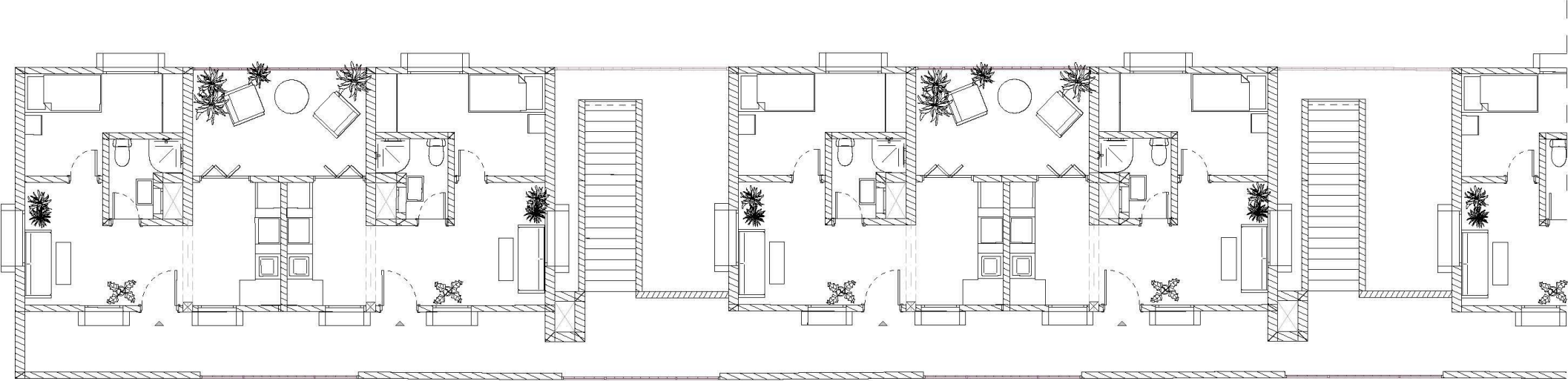


TYPICAL UNIT

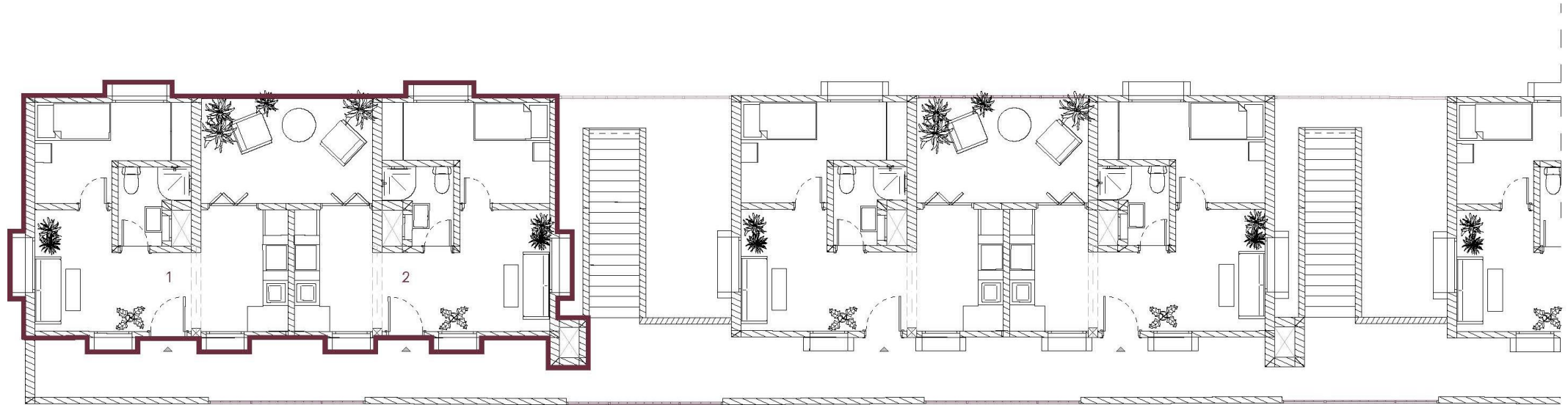
25 m²



SECOND FLOOR

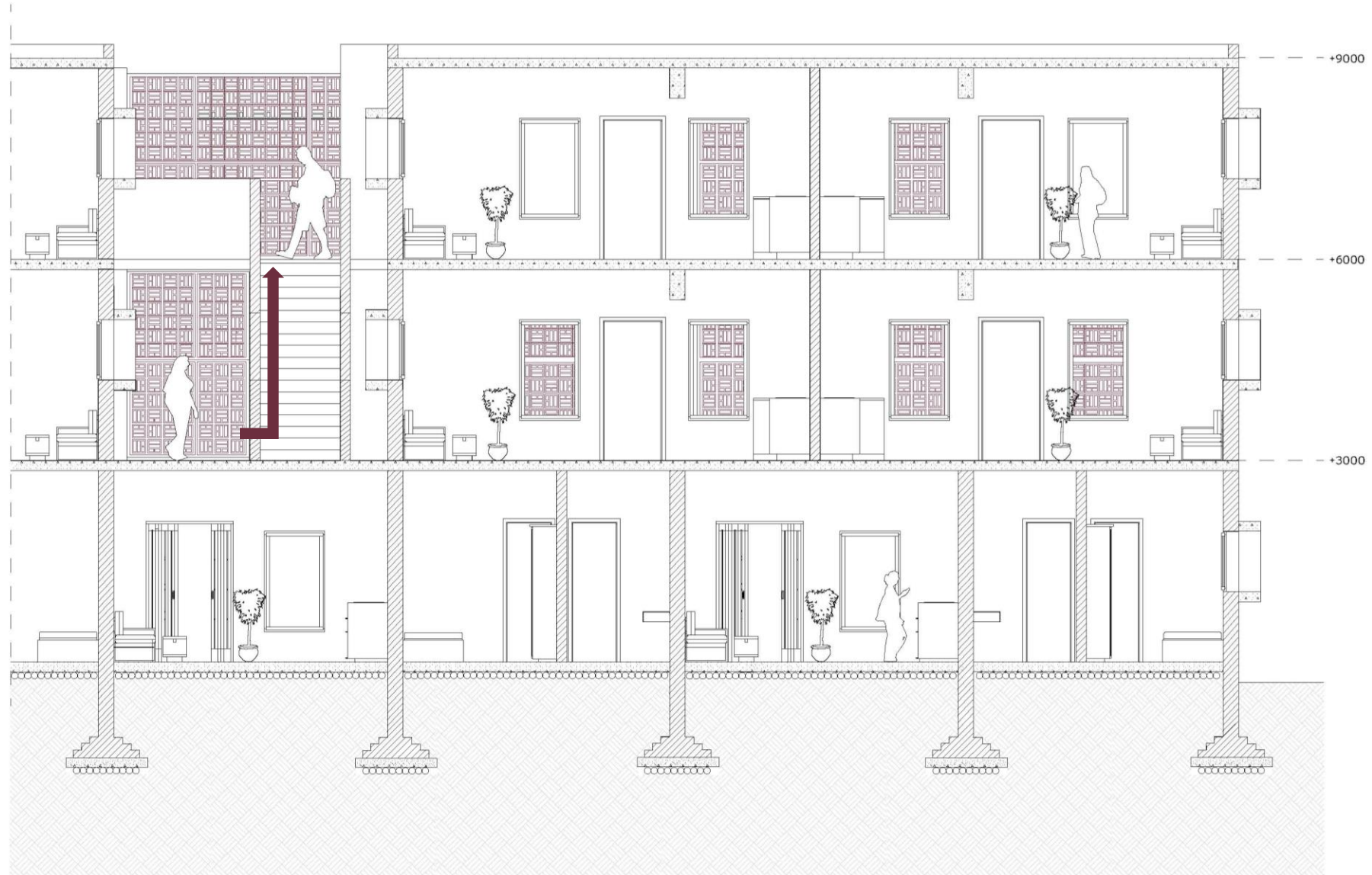


CLUSTER





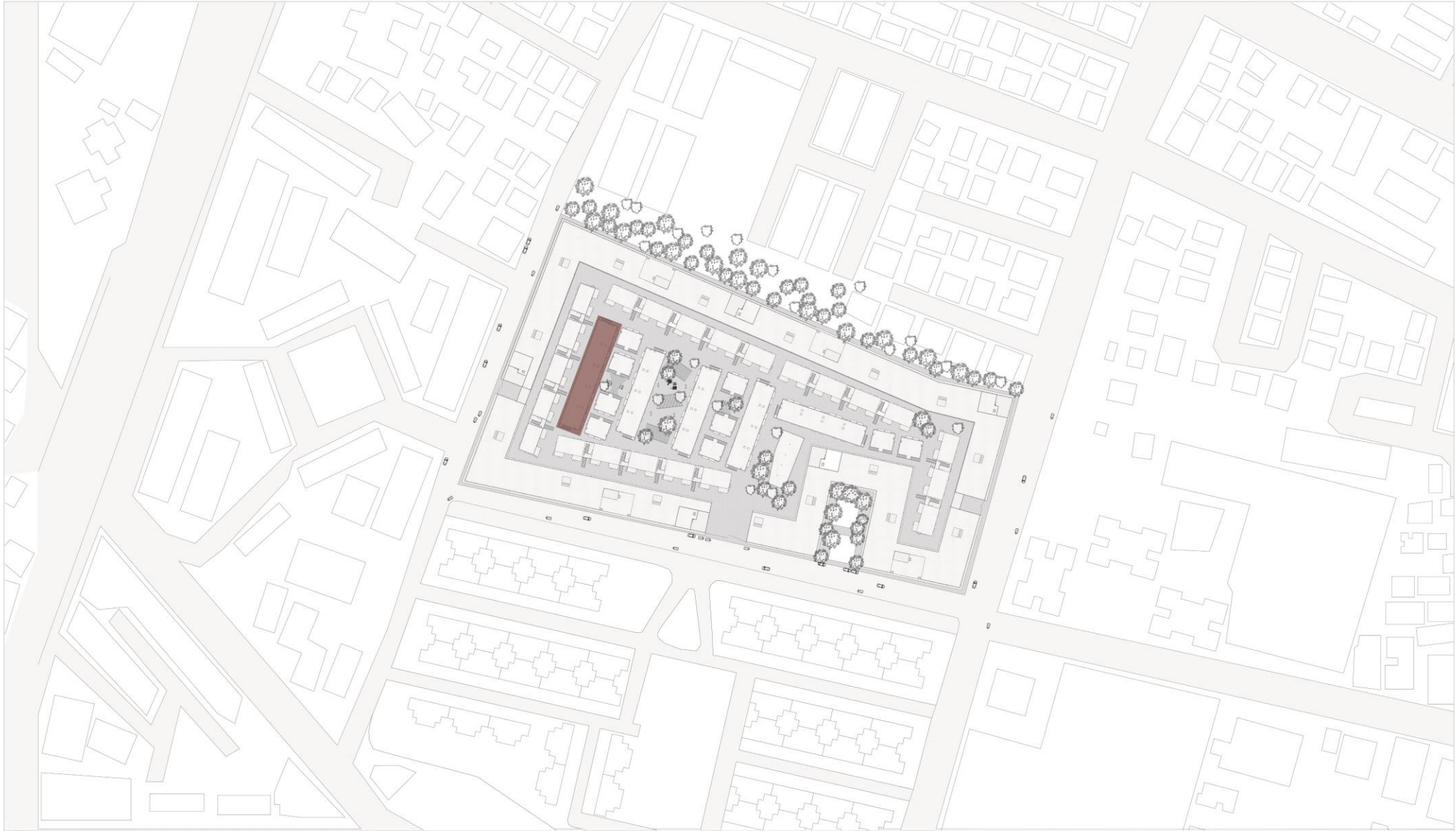
CIRCULATION





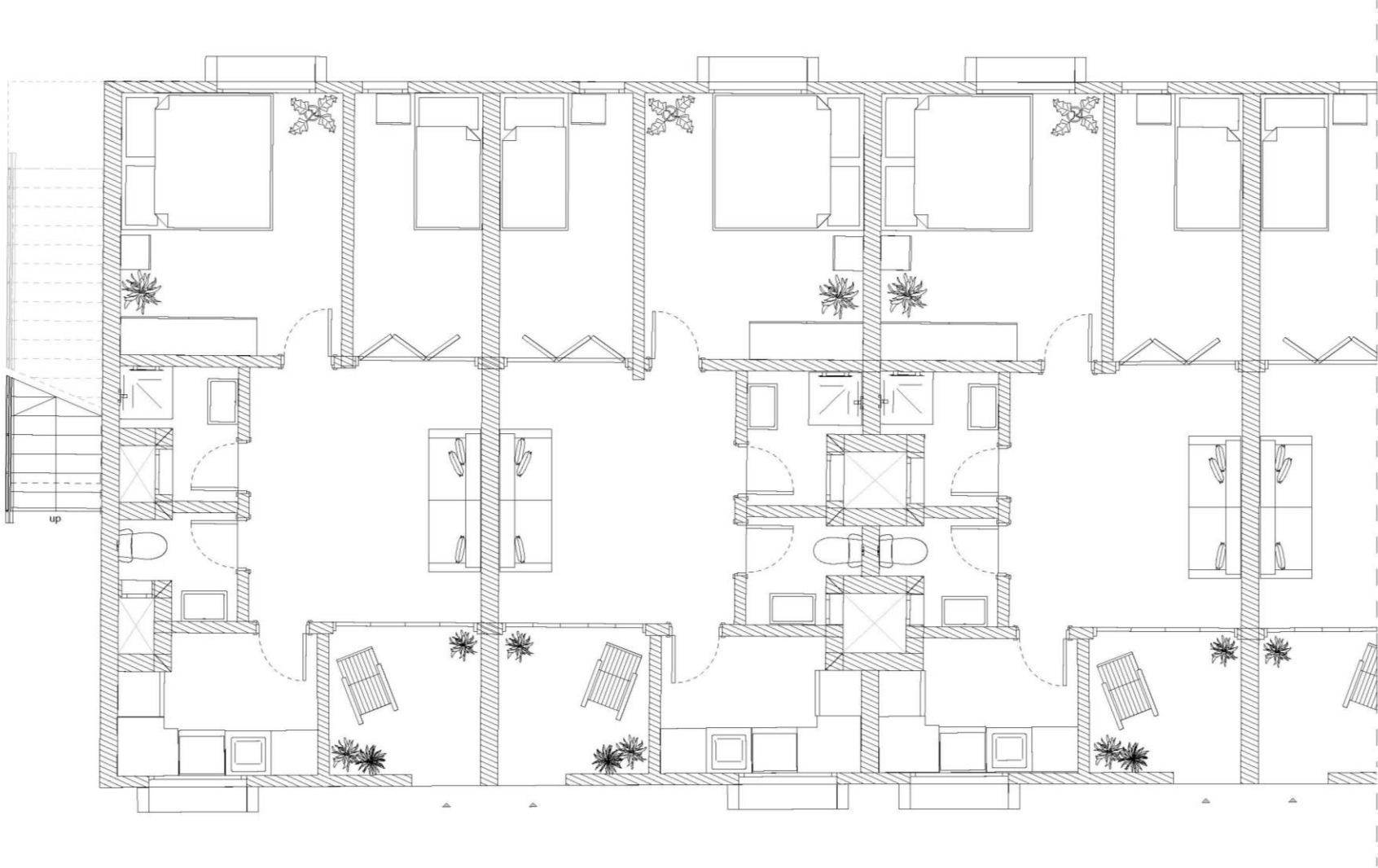
SINGLE-MOTHERS
UNITS

122 units





GROUND FLOOR

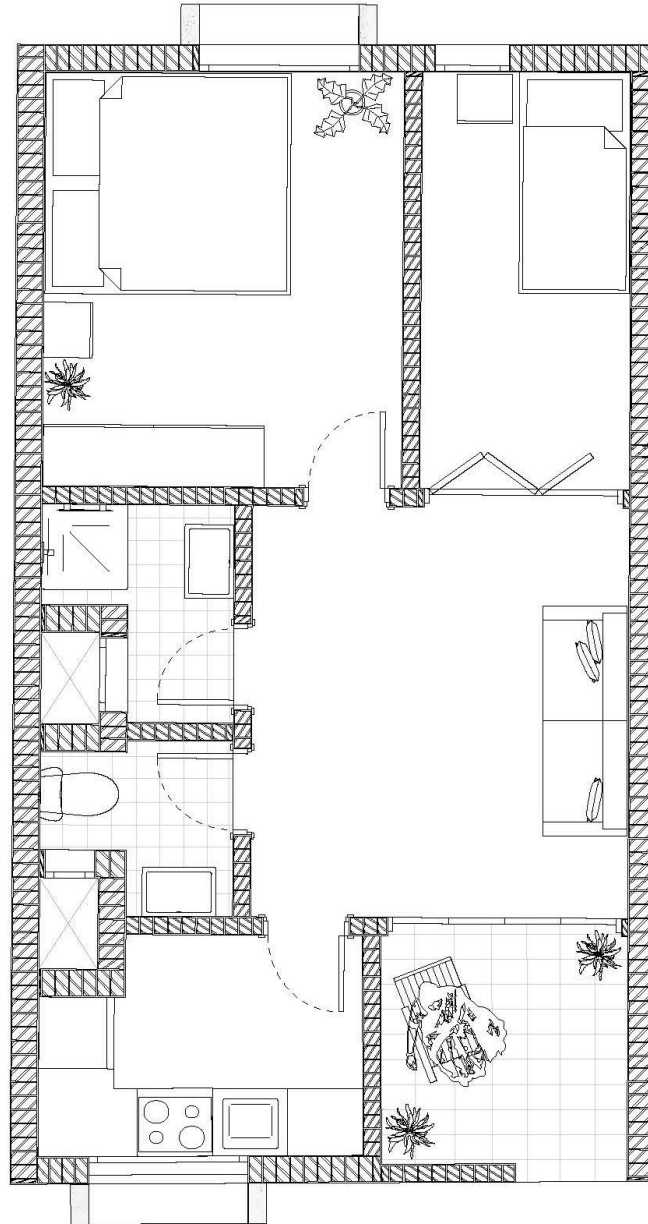


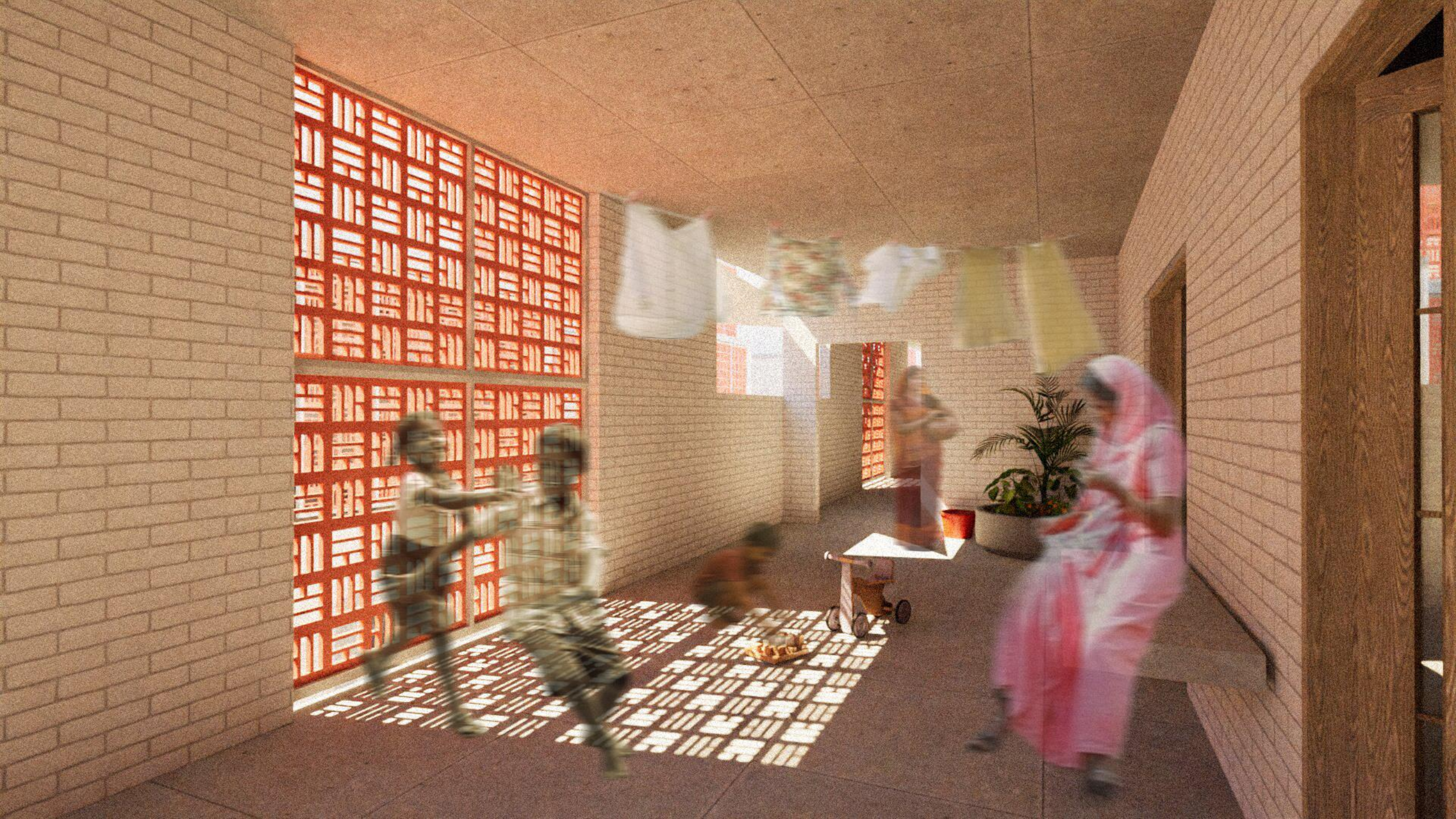


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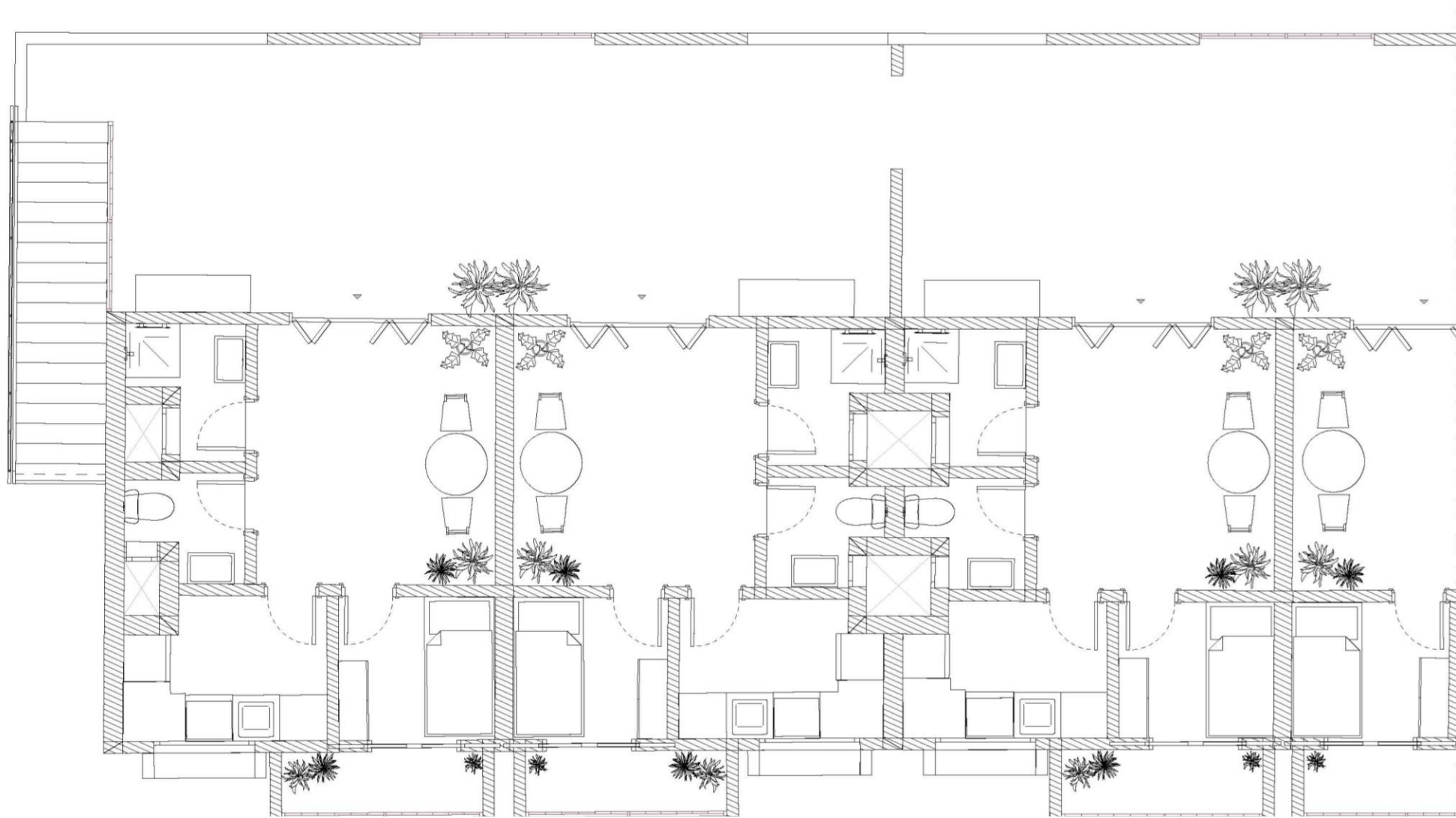


45 m²

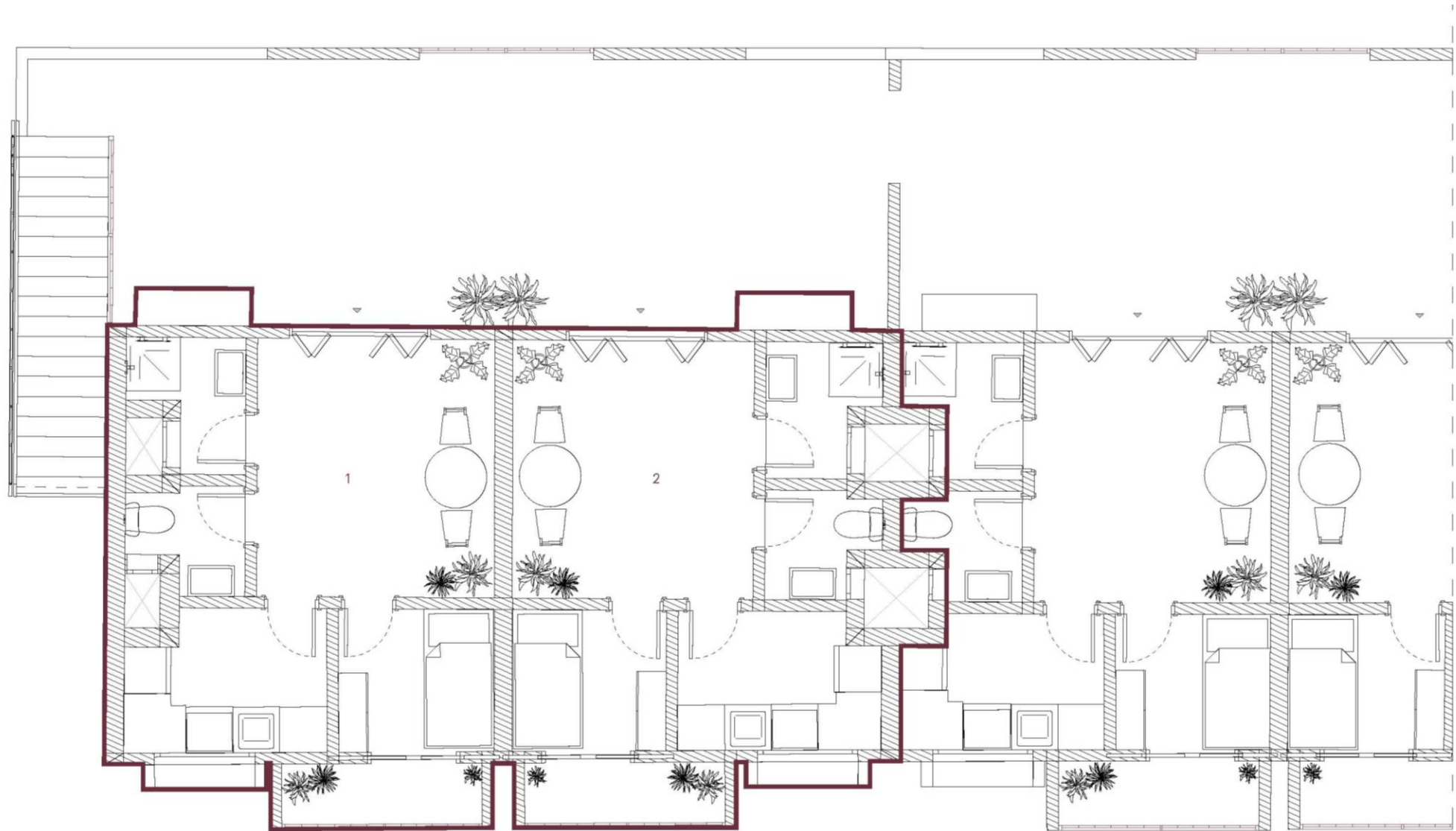




FIRST FLOOR



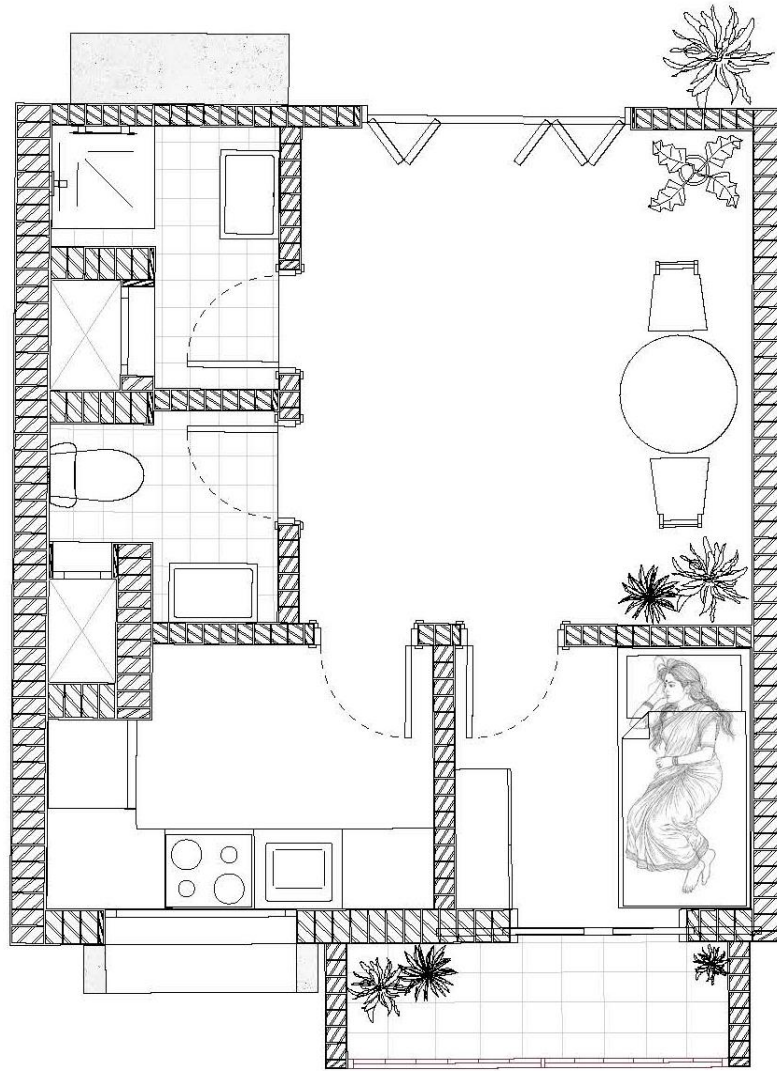
CLUSTER

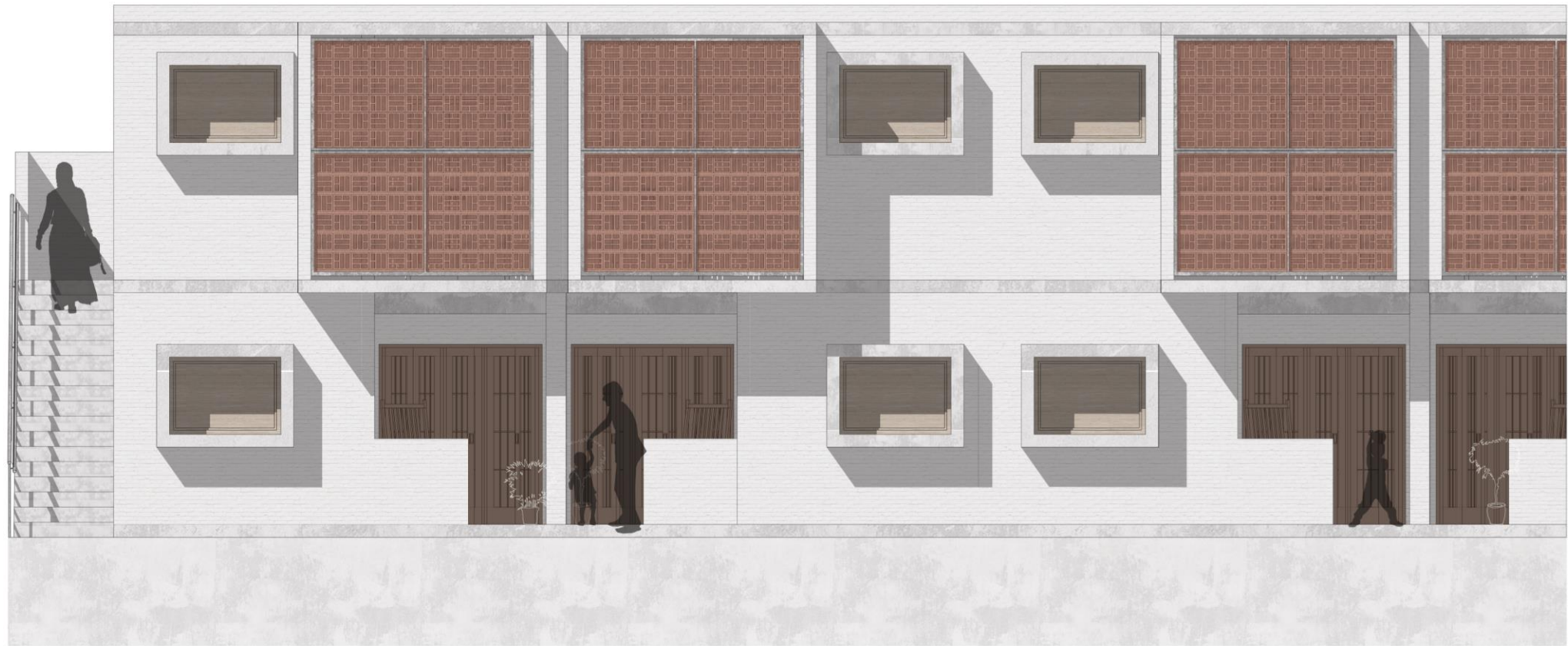


TYPICAL UNIT

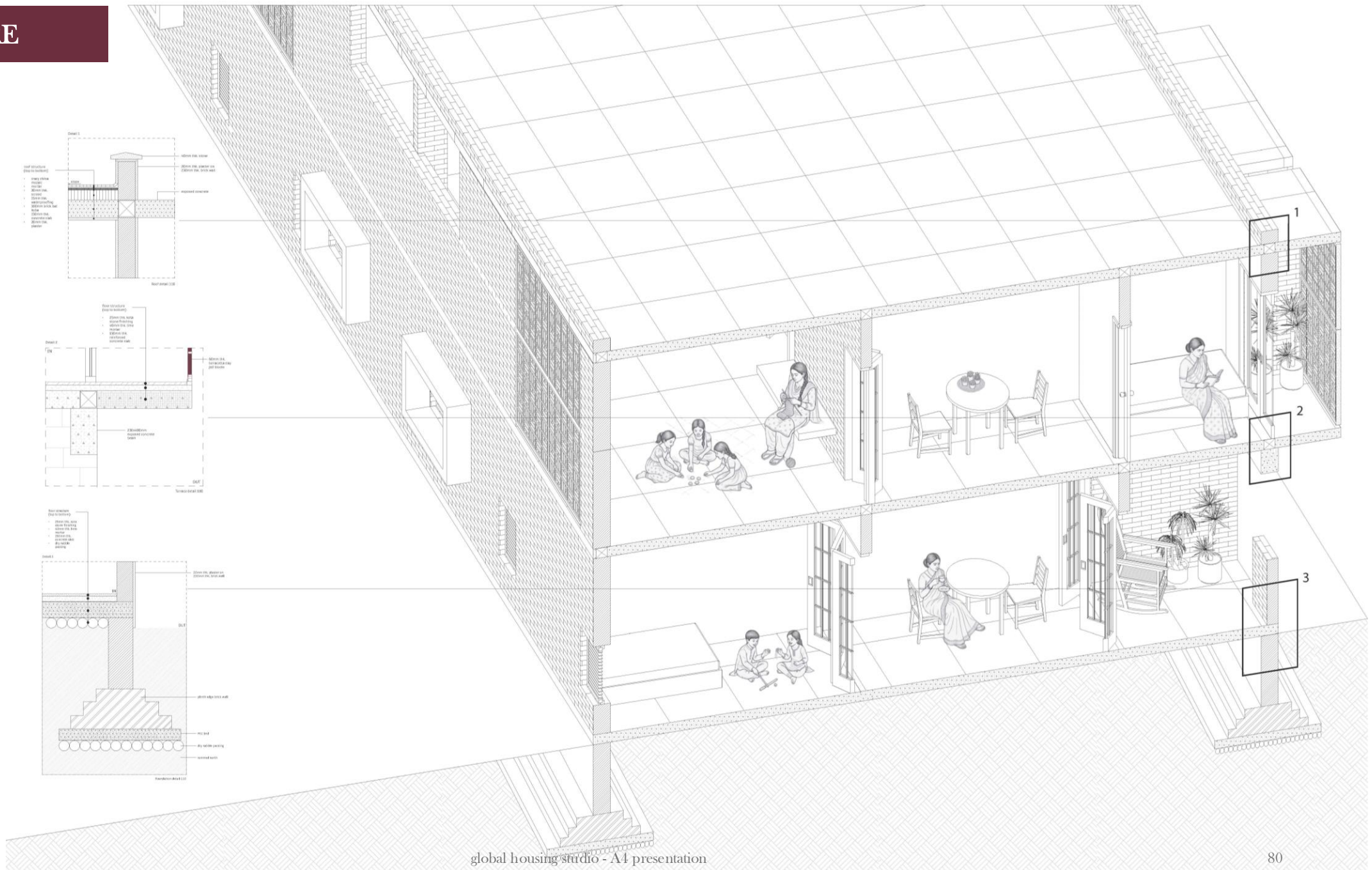


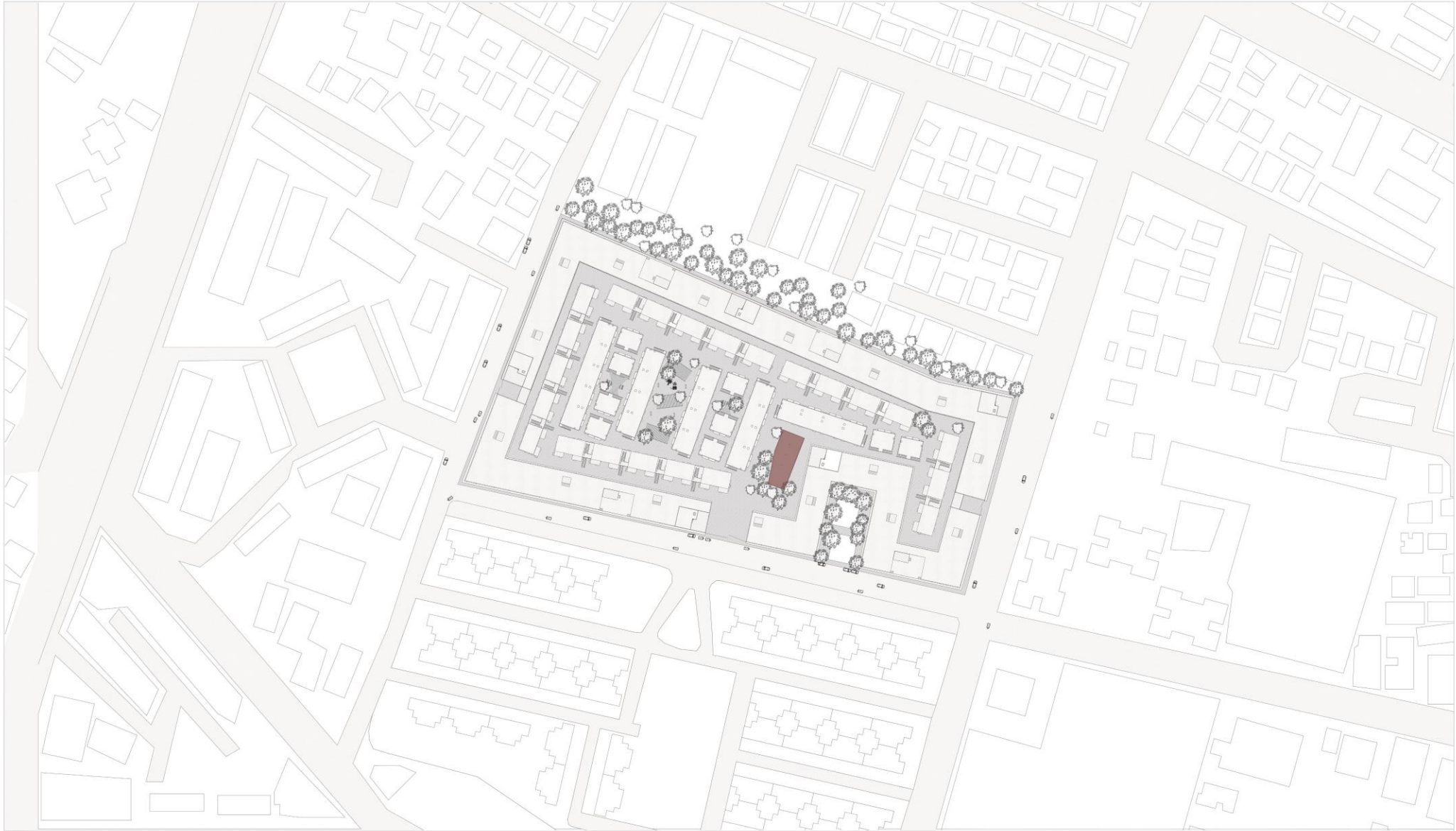
30 m²



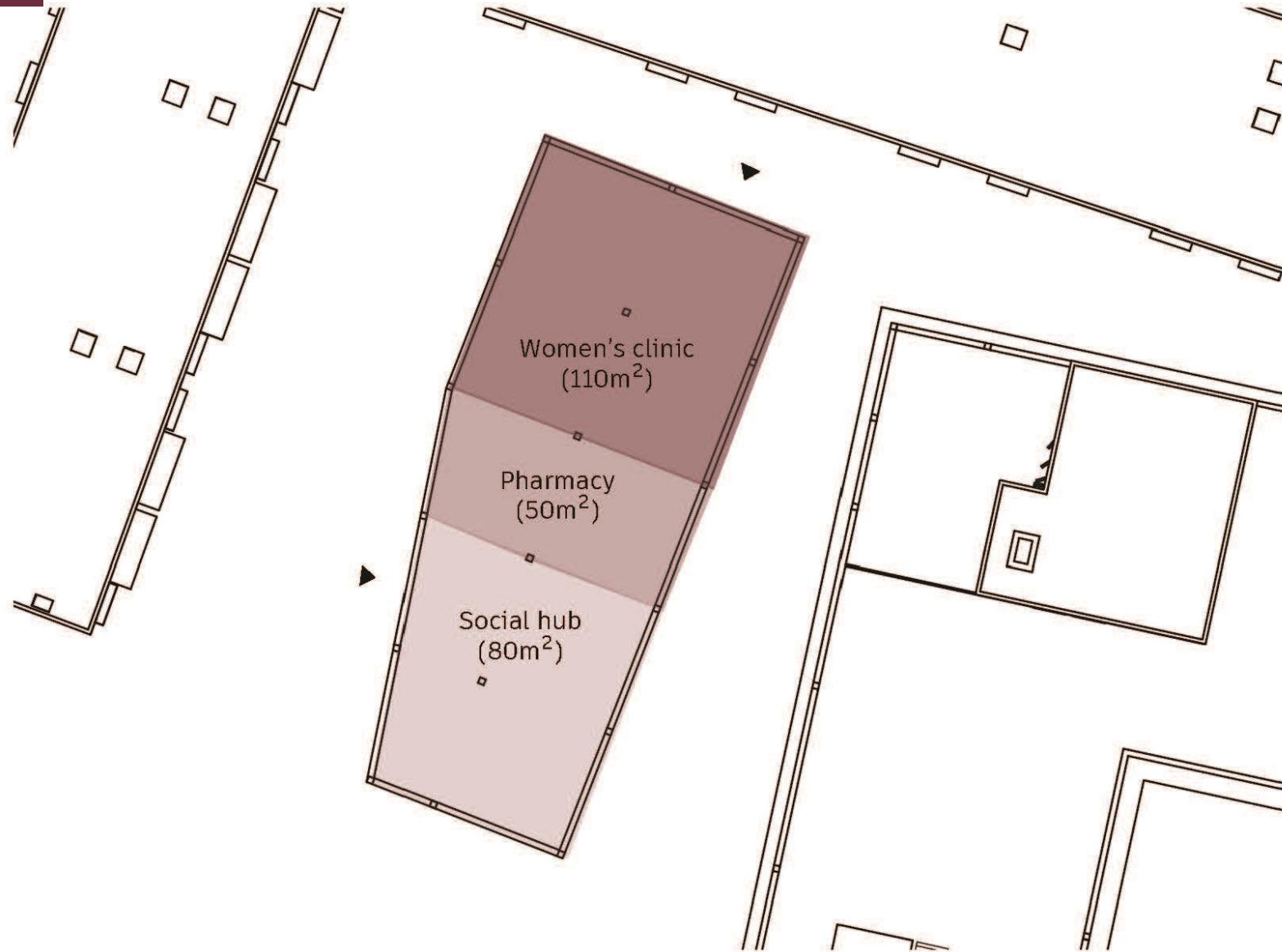


STRUCTURE

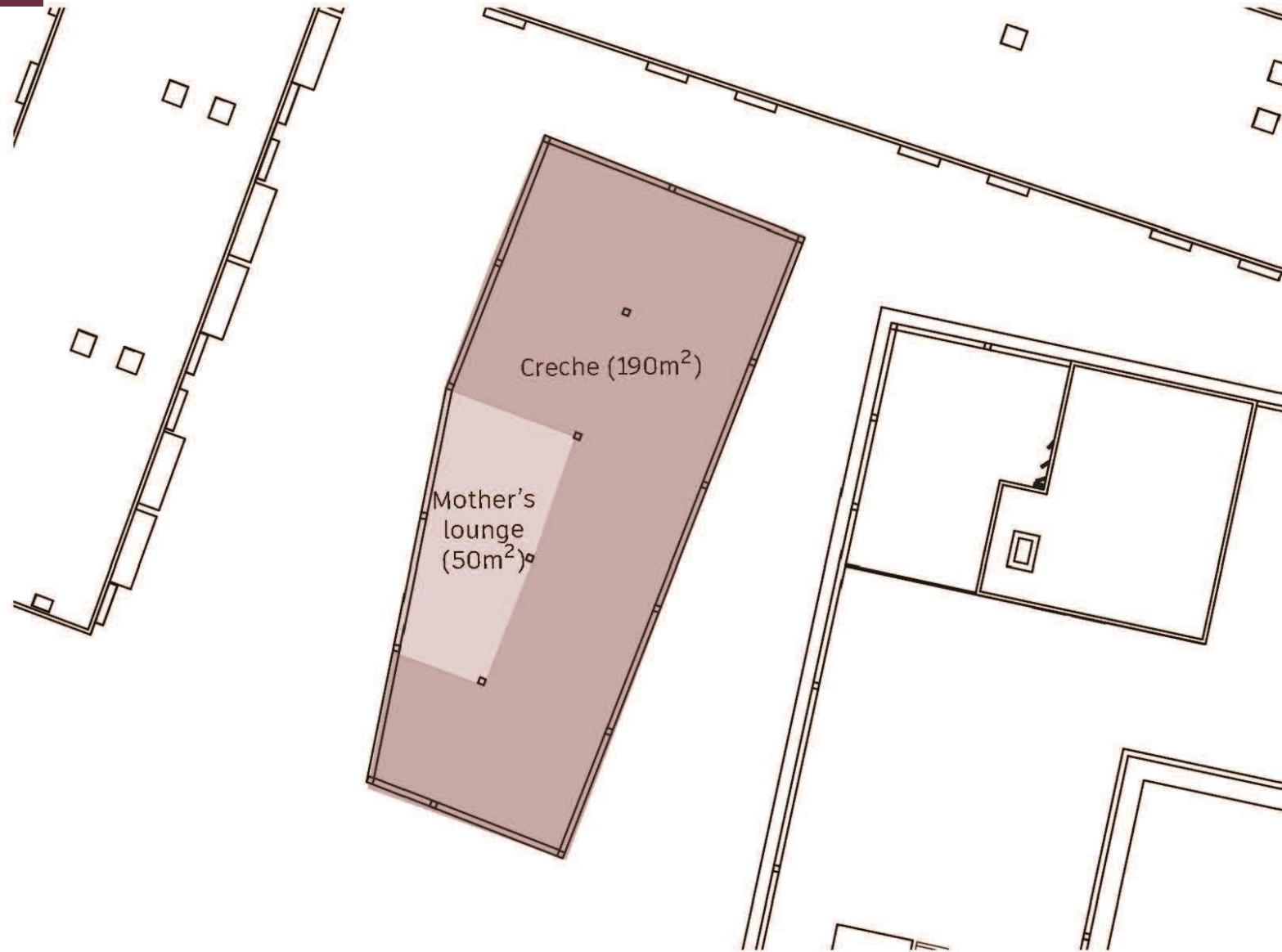




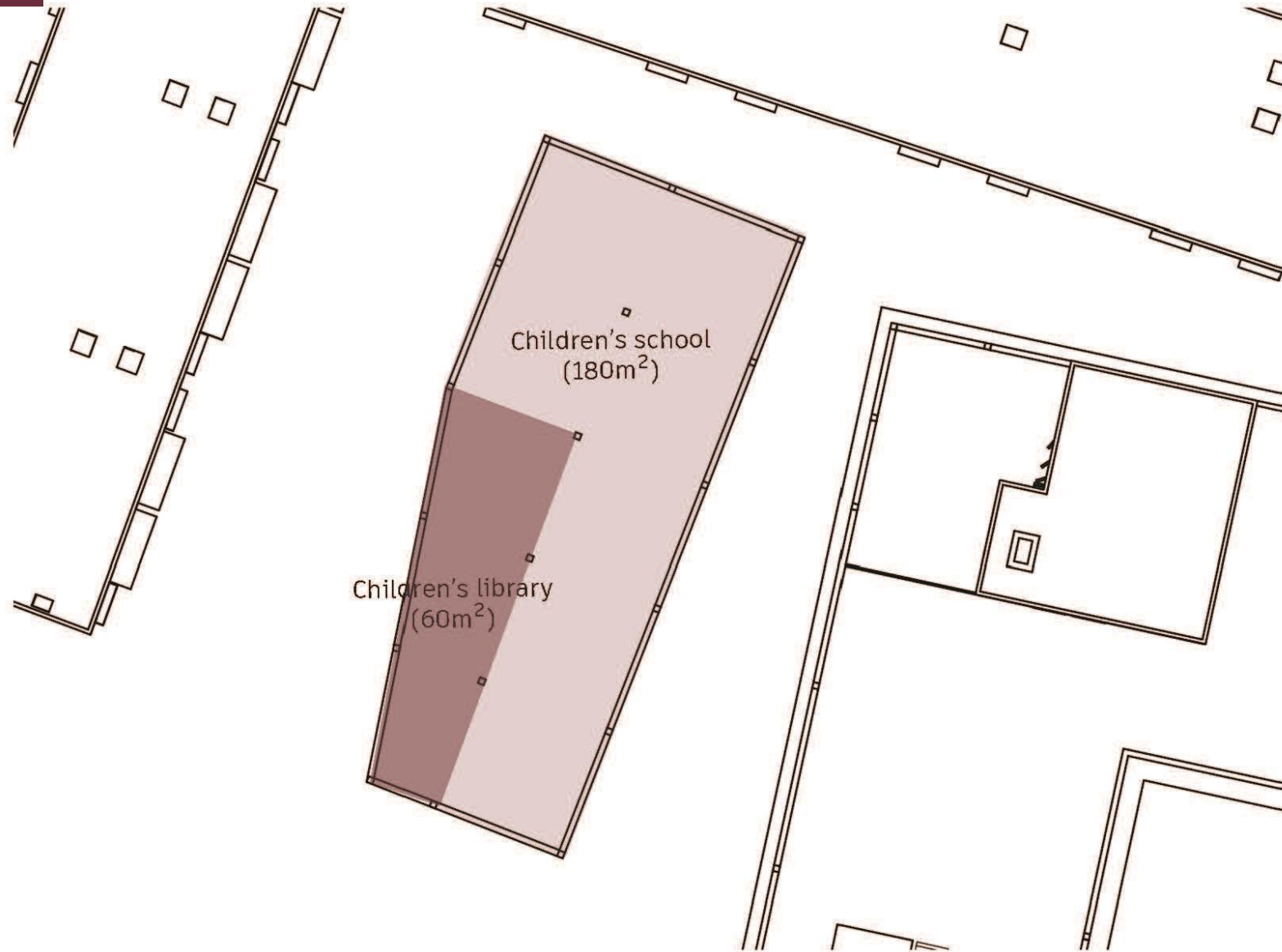
GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR

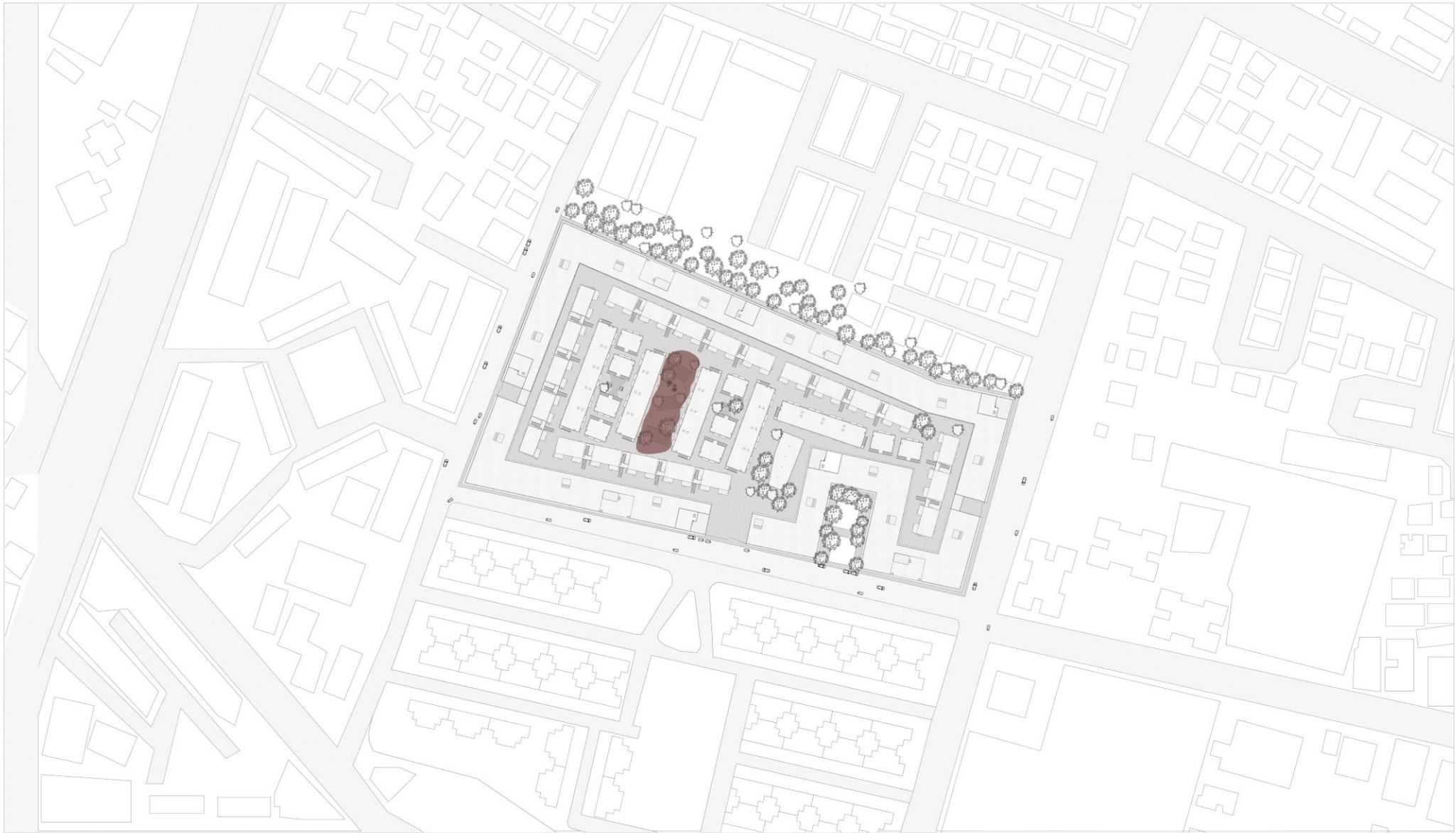


SECOND FLOOR



THIRD FLOOR









Project Takeaways

- encourages natural surveillance
- ensures shared domesticity
- creates a sense of community for future residents
- actively dismantles spatial barriers
- transforms the built environment from a source of anxiety into an infrastructure of care



THANK YOU!

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