



Thresholds of Homecoming


An appropriable house for Romani Settlement Deponija

Methods of Analysis and Imagination
Belgrade

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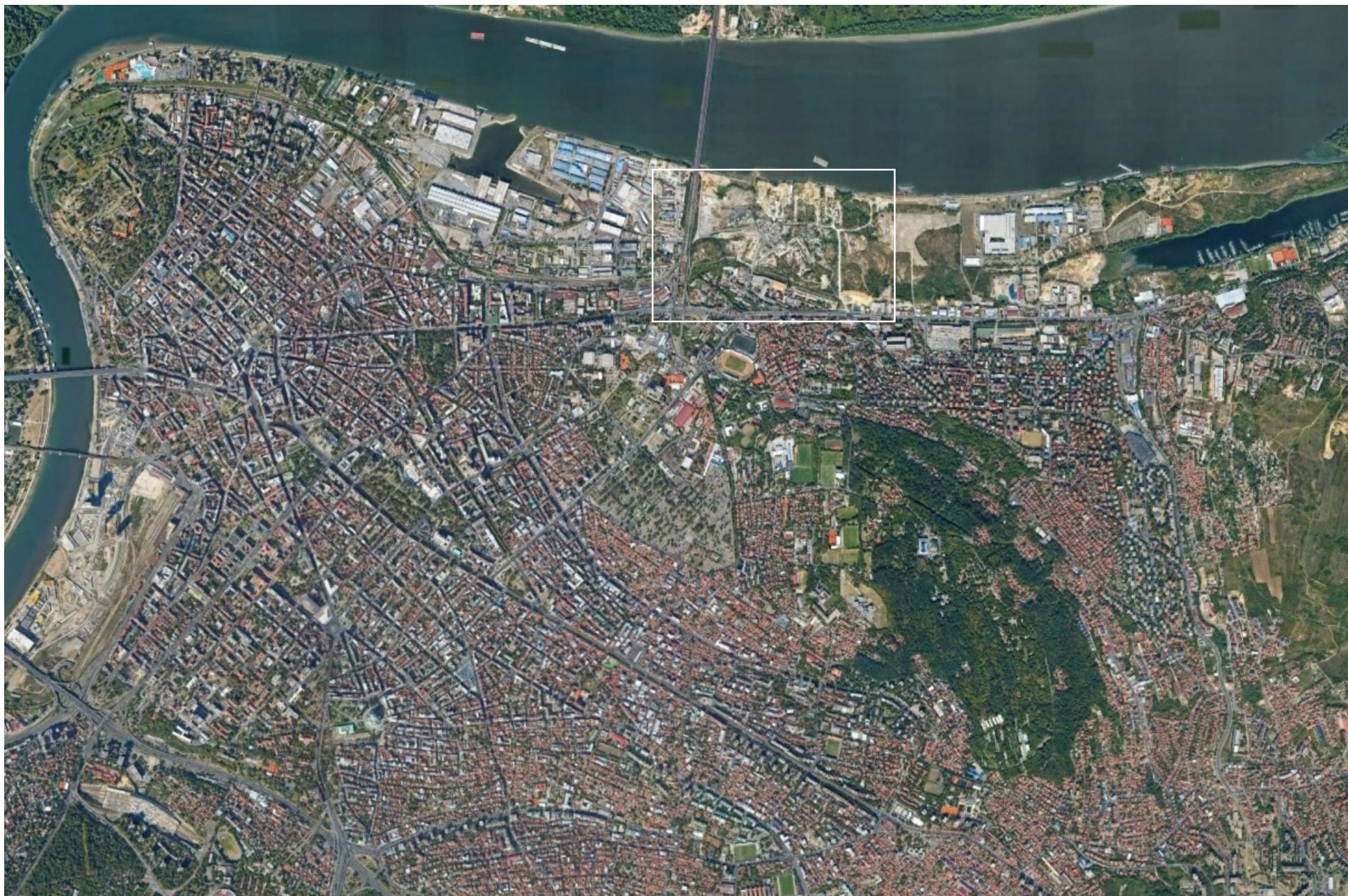
Overcoming thresholds

 6000 dinars
 ~50 euro
 Average monthly earnings, a bit
 more in summer, a bit less in winter

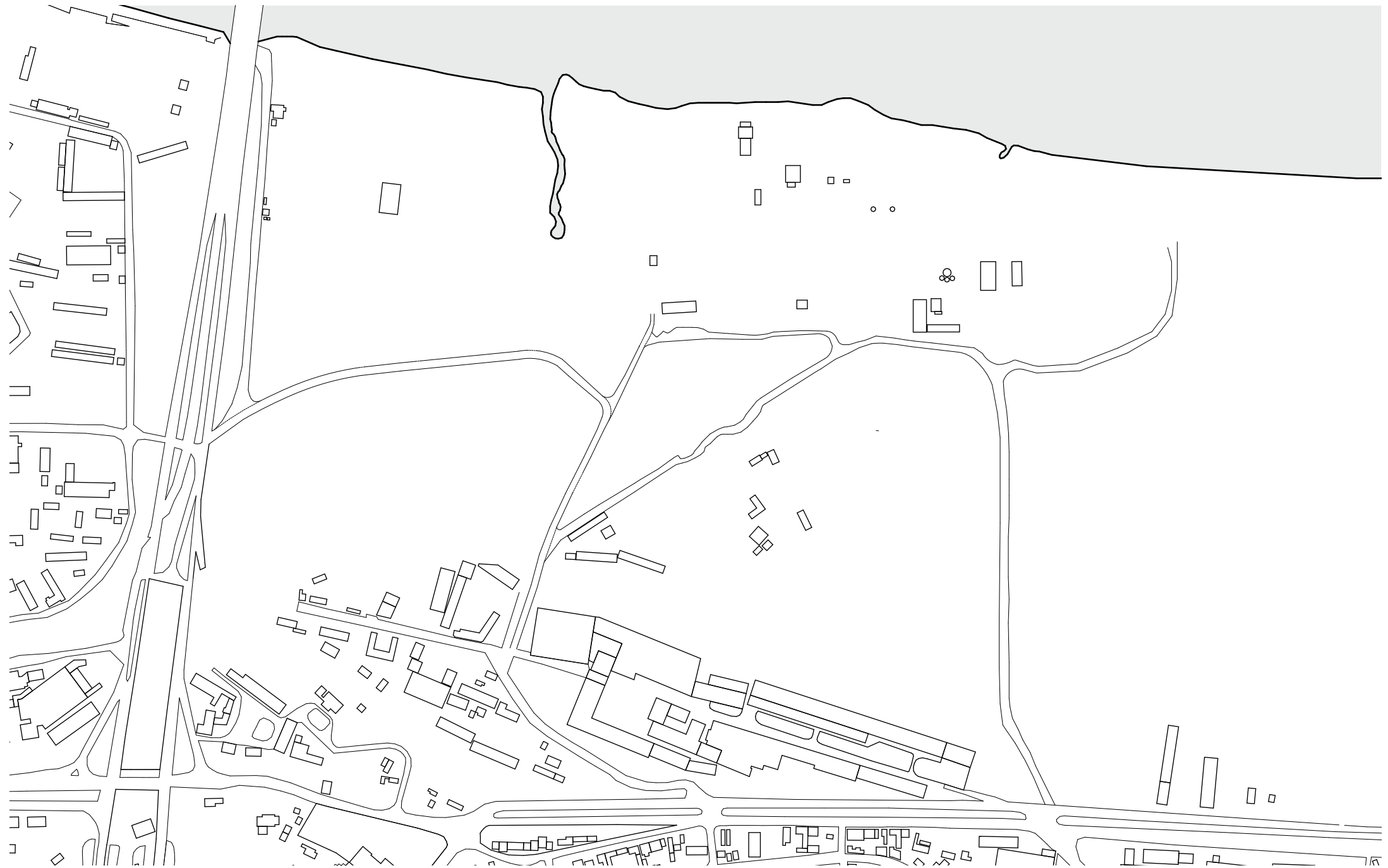
 Revenue per kilo:
 cardboard: 1.00 - 2 dinars
 paper: 2 - 2.5 dinars
 (aluminium: 30 - 40 dinars)
 plastics: 8 dinars
 bottles: 2 dinars
 * A paper kilo (2003)



Romani citizens often live on the margins of society, earning their income by collecting mainly paper and cardboard

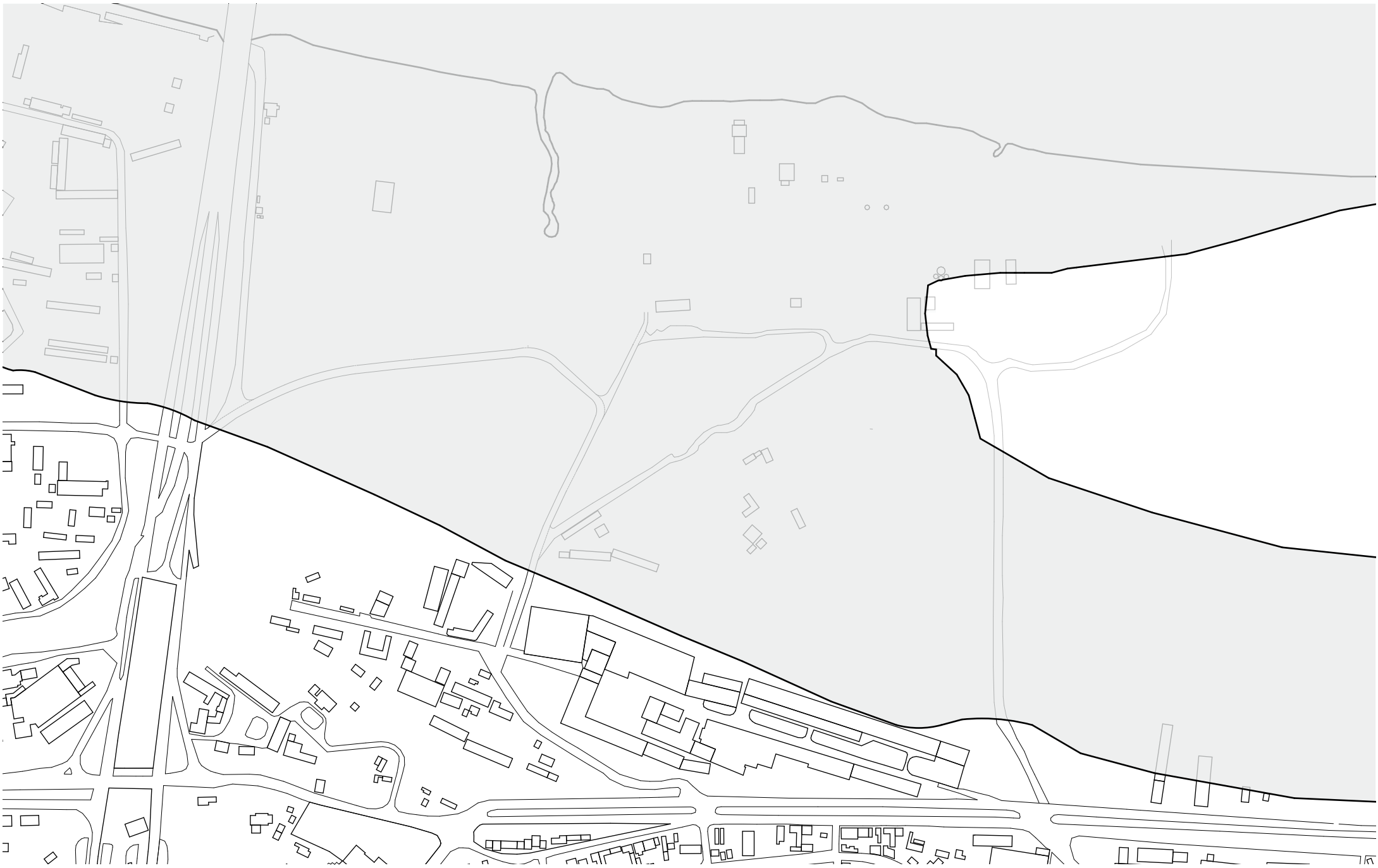


In Belgrade a group of Romani occupies a large area at the margins of the Danube river



On the map this area seems empty

1:5000 0 50 200m



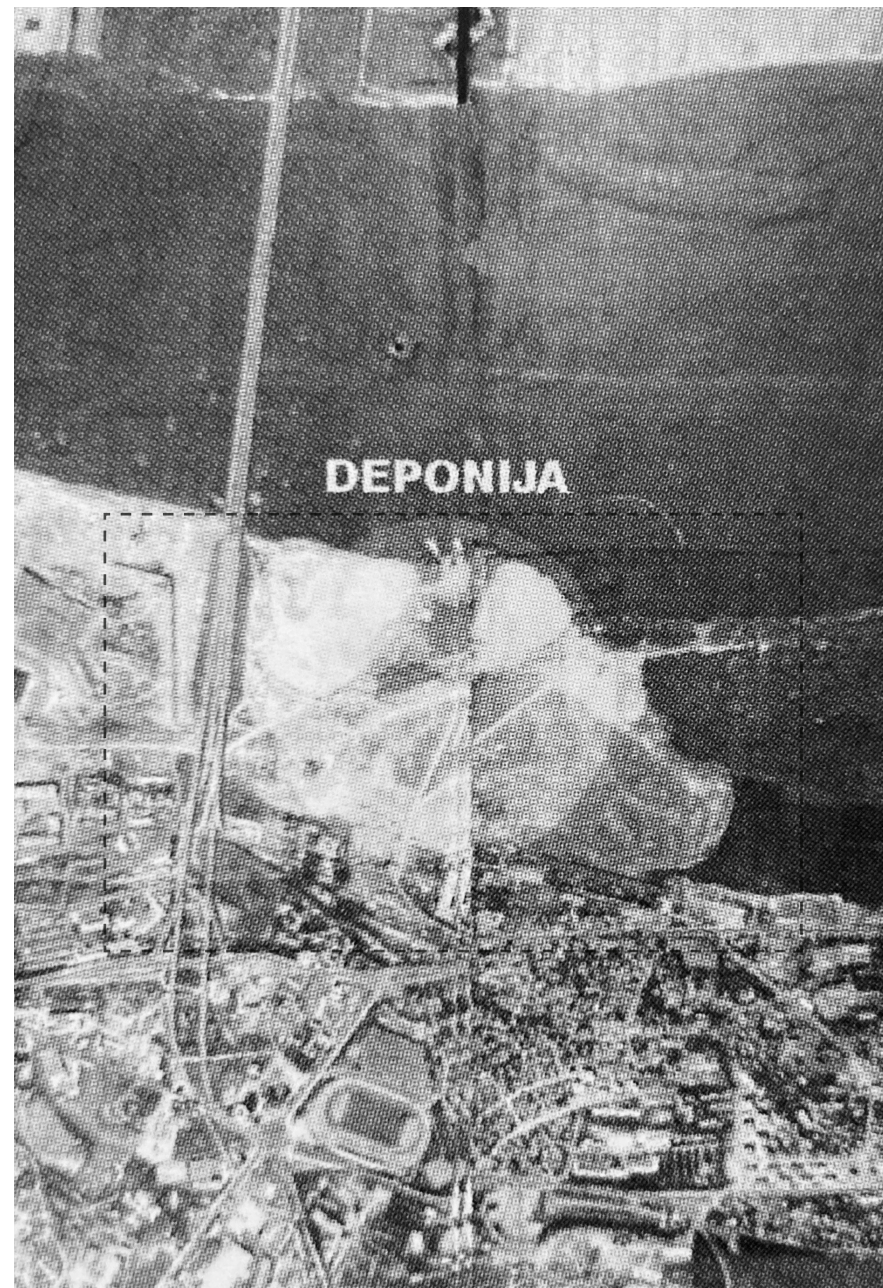
The area used to be part of the Danube river

1:5000 0 50 200m





A map of the real situation, the large Romani settlement 'Deponija' of more than a 100 families that grown from 1960 is visible



'Deponija settlement is situated on the already man-shaped terrain covered with sand, rubble, building material and city wastes.'
- *Deponija to the better future* by Macura and Vuksanovic



The polluted soil is an opportunity for Deponija's citizens since the area is unsuitable for large developments, however their current living circumstances are dangerous and unsustainable



Providing three families with dwelling on a central location which
can create a positive impact on the neighborhood



I. Giving purpose to the dilapidated plot
(view towards the north)

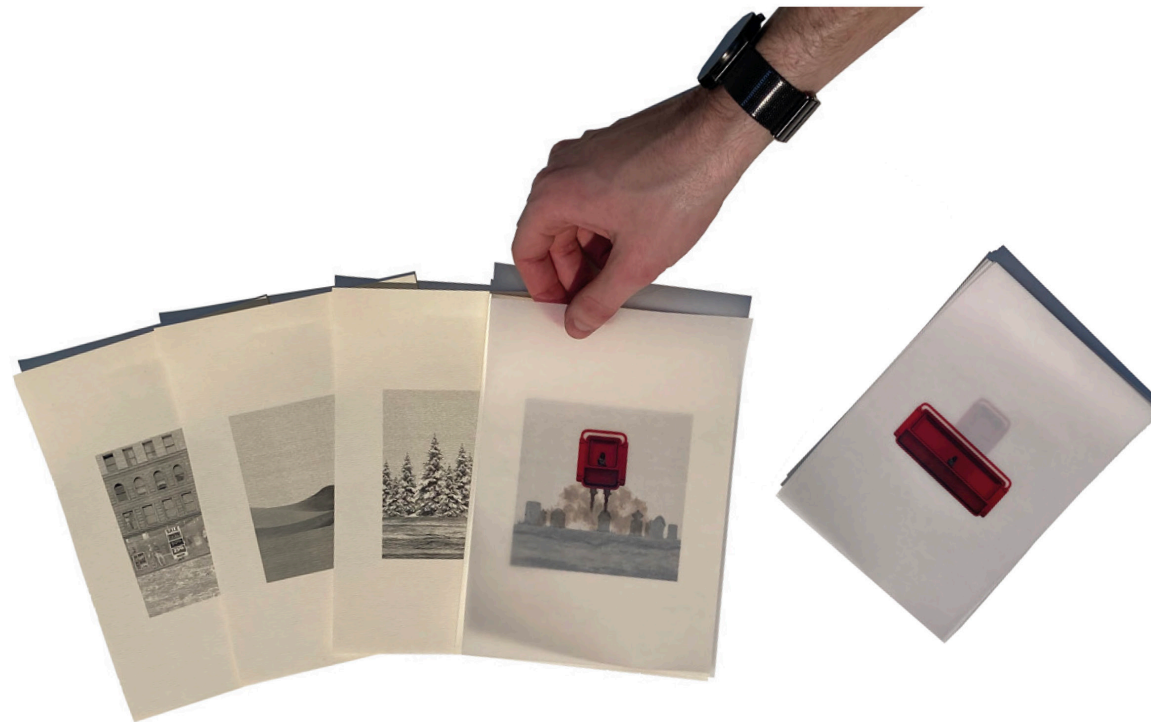


II. Enclose and protect the central square
(view towards the west)



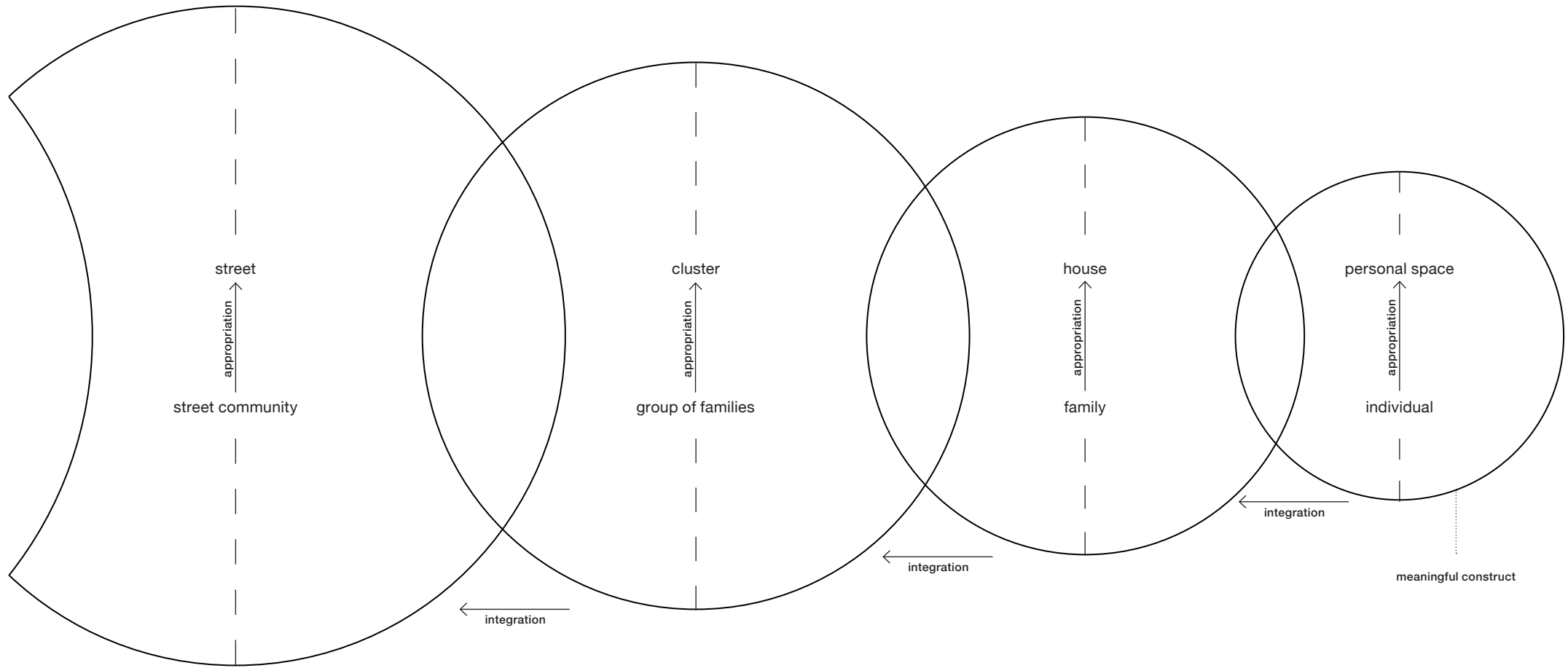
III. Protect the square from the road towards the concrete factory
(view towards the south)

Creating potential

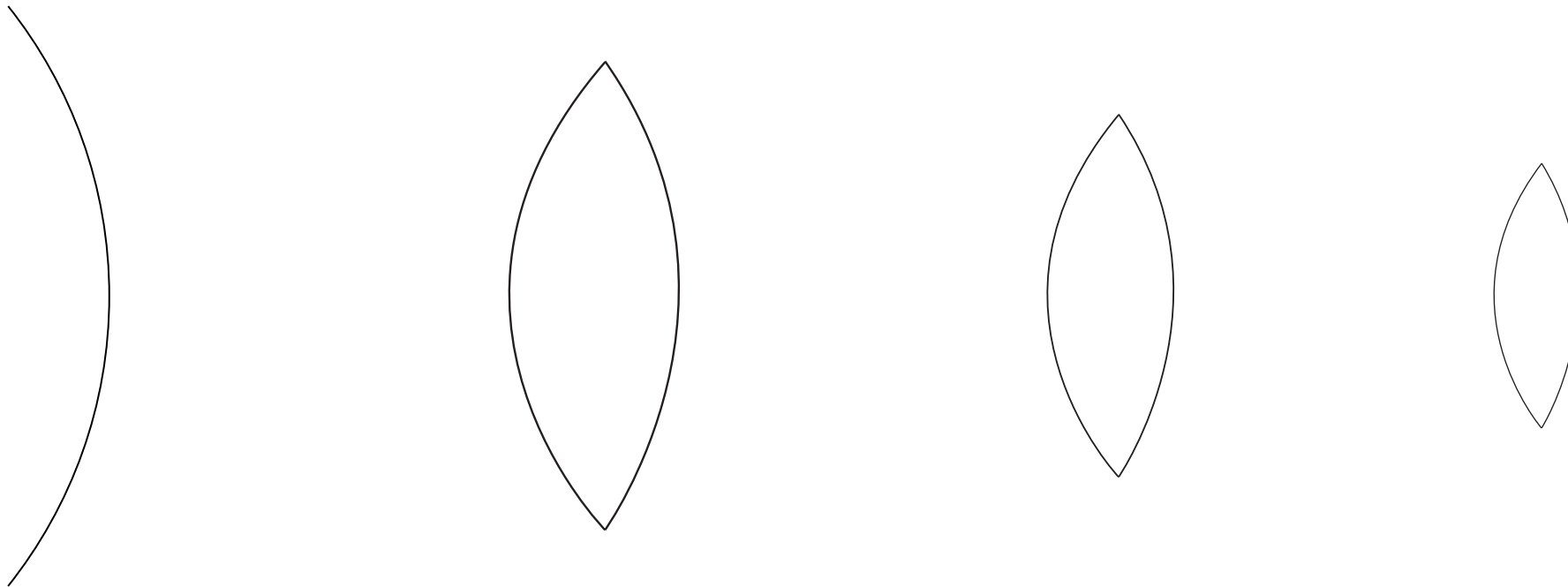


Collective research on 'The kiosk in Belgrade'
The kiosk is searching for potential in its context and in turn
transforms its surroundings

How to create potential for the feeling of homecoming to appear?



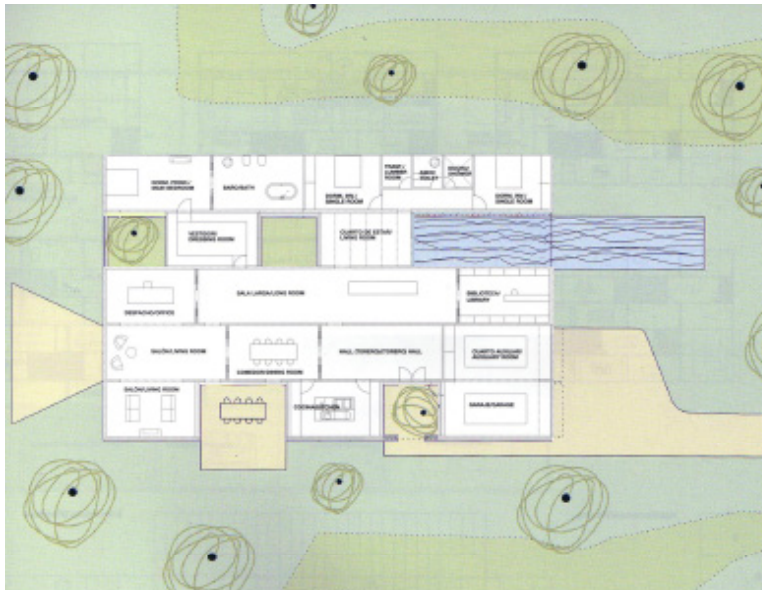
Homecoming takes place at the thresholds:
the transition from one space to another



The threshold is the place where we as architect can have the most influence



Movie 'Black Cat, White Cat' (1998) from Emir Kusturica
Blurry borders between public and private



‘As in the rules of a game, the good system is measured by both its economy and the openness it produces, by its degree of indeterminacy.’ - *Book ‘The Good Life’ - Inaki Ábalos*



PREVI incremental housing, Lima - James Stirling
A system gives guidelines for future development

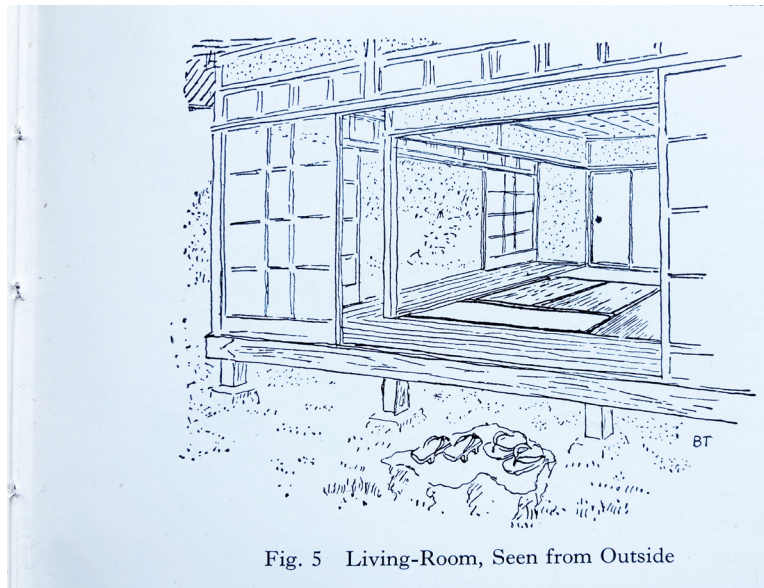


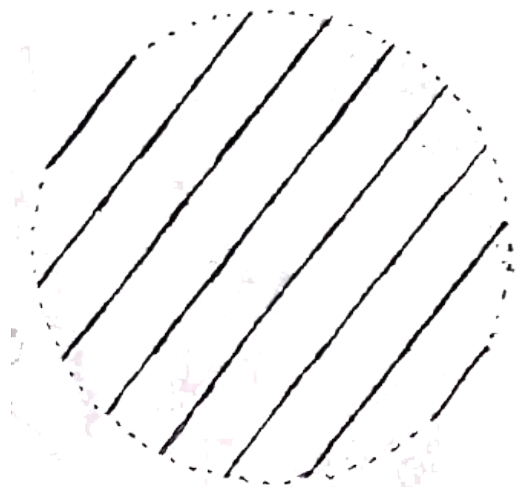
Fig. 5 Living-Room, Seen from Outside

'Simplicity almost to the point of poverty is the essential basis of Japanese aesthetics.'

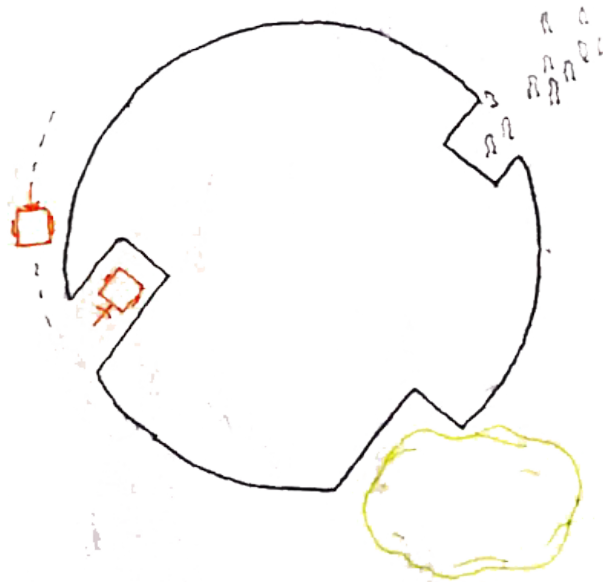
'The various elements of construction are so simply joined together that the mind is immediately convinced that it could not have been done otherwise.'

'The homogeneousness of the house does not turn into uniformity because the family and its individuality are of supreme importance. This explains why the harmony of the house groups is not only conserved in spite of different material and different shape, but this harmony even acquires a high aesthetic value.'

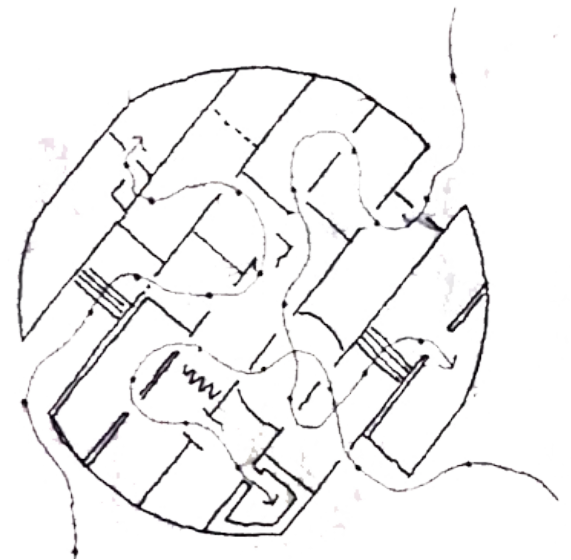
Integrating a system



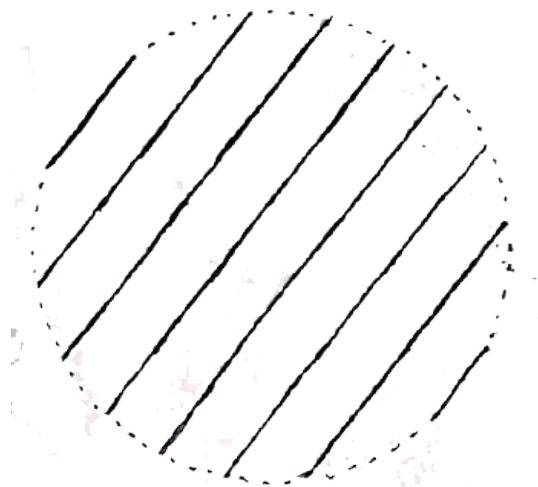
1. System



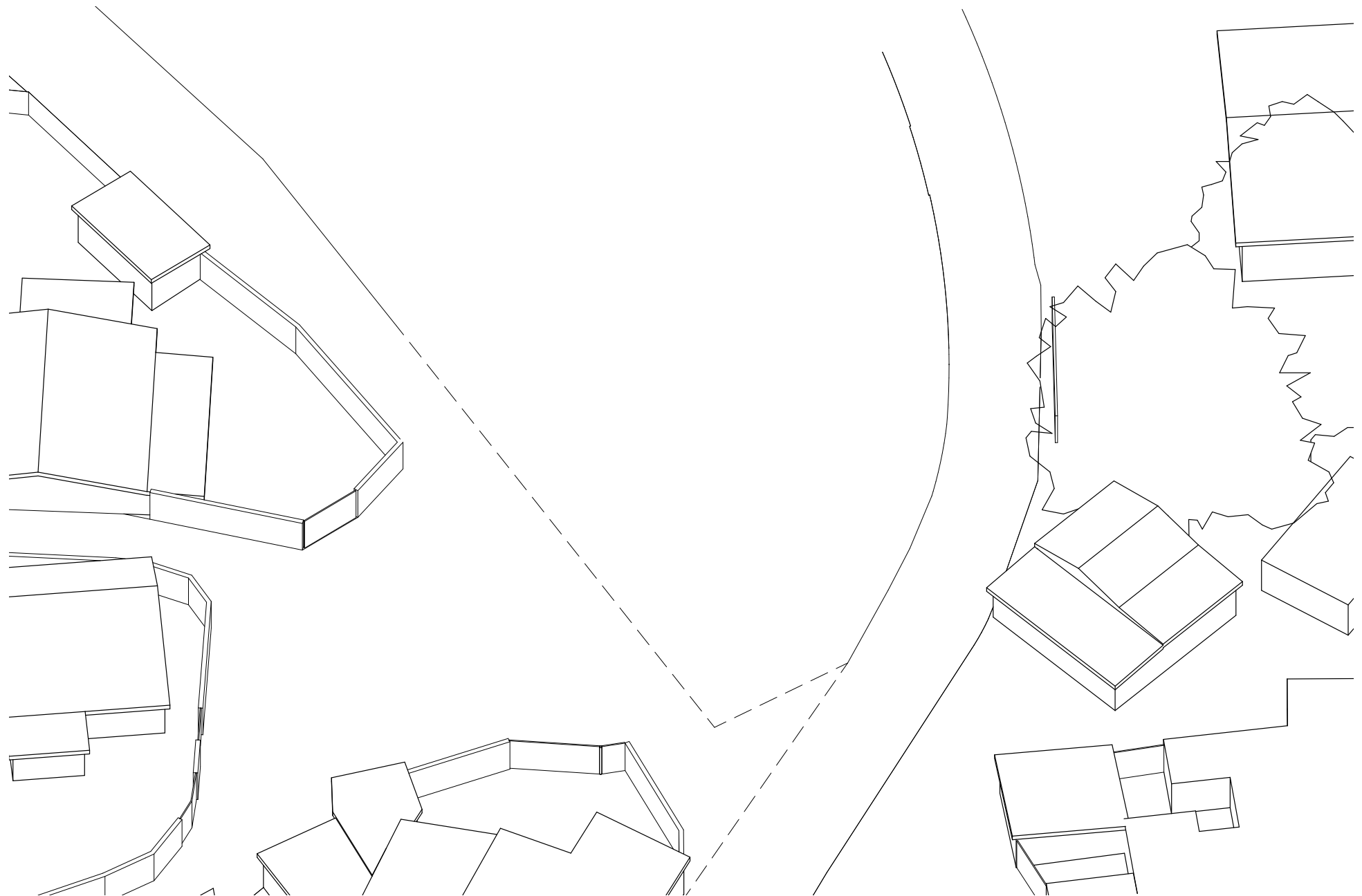
2. Site integration



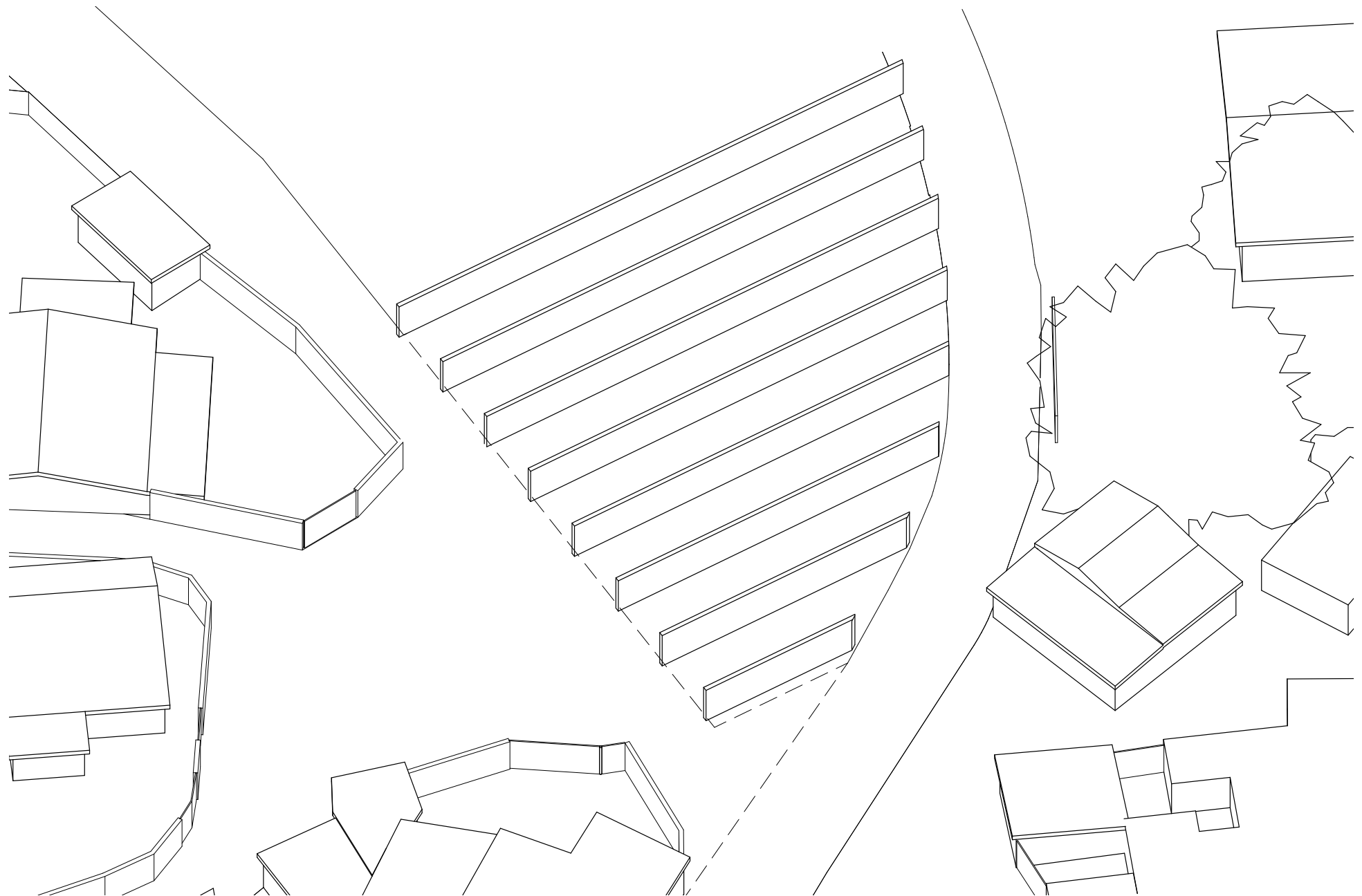
3. Thresholds



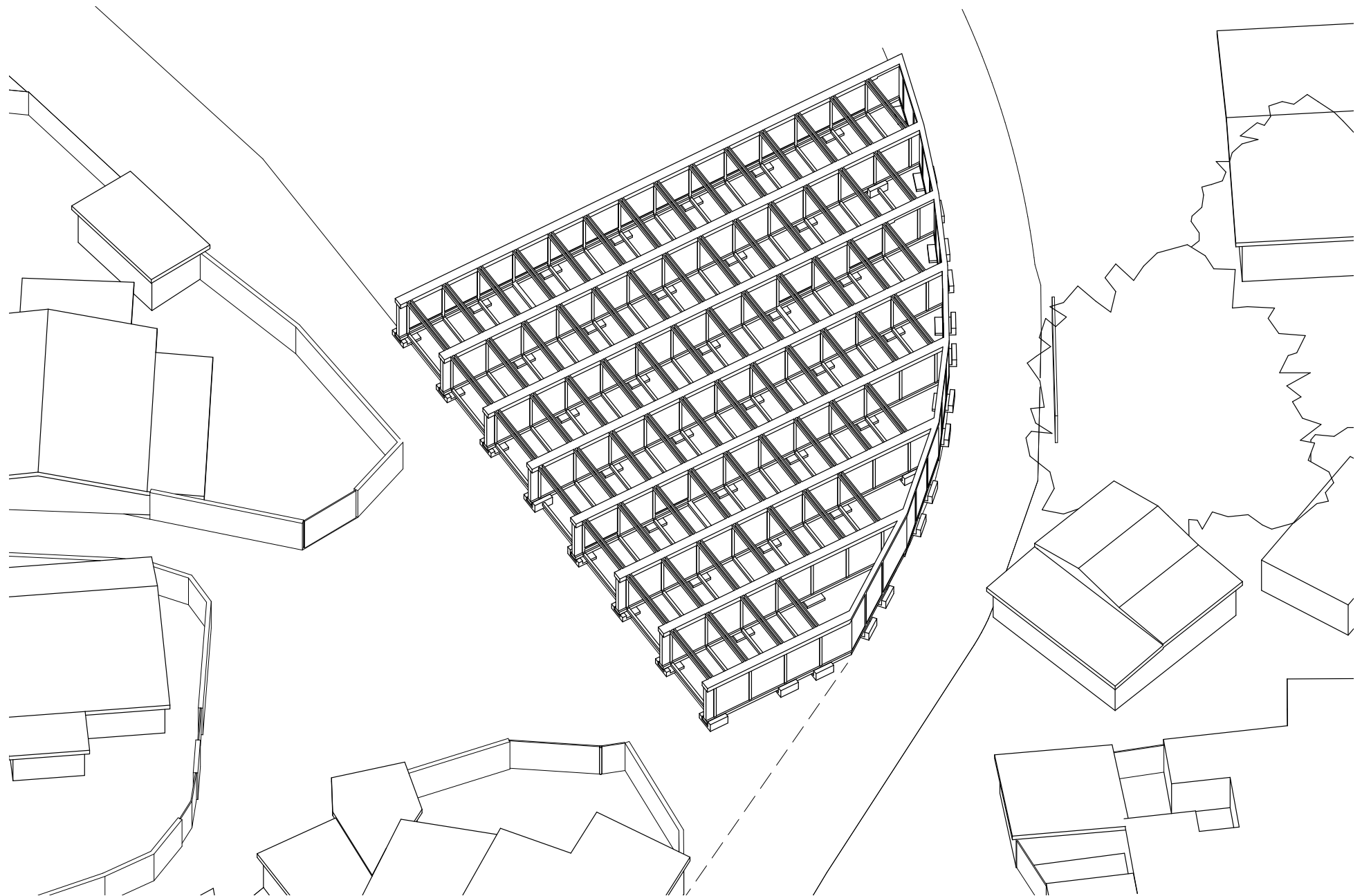
1. System



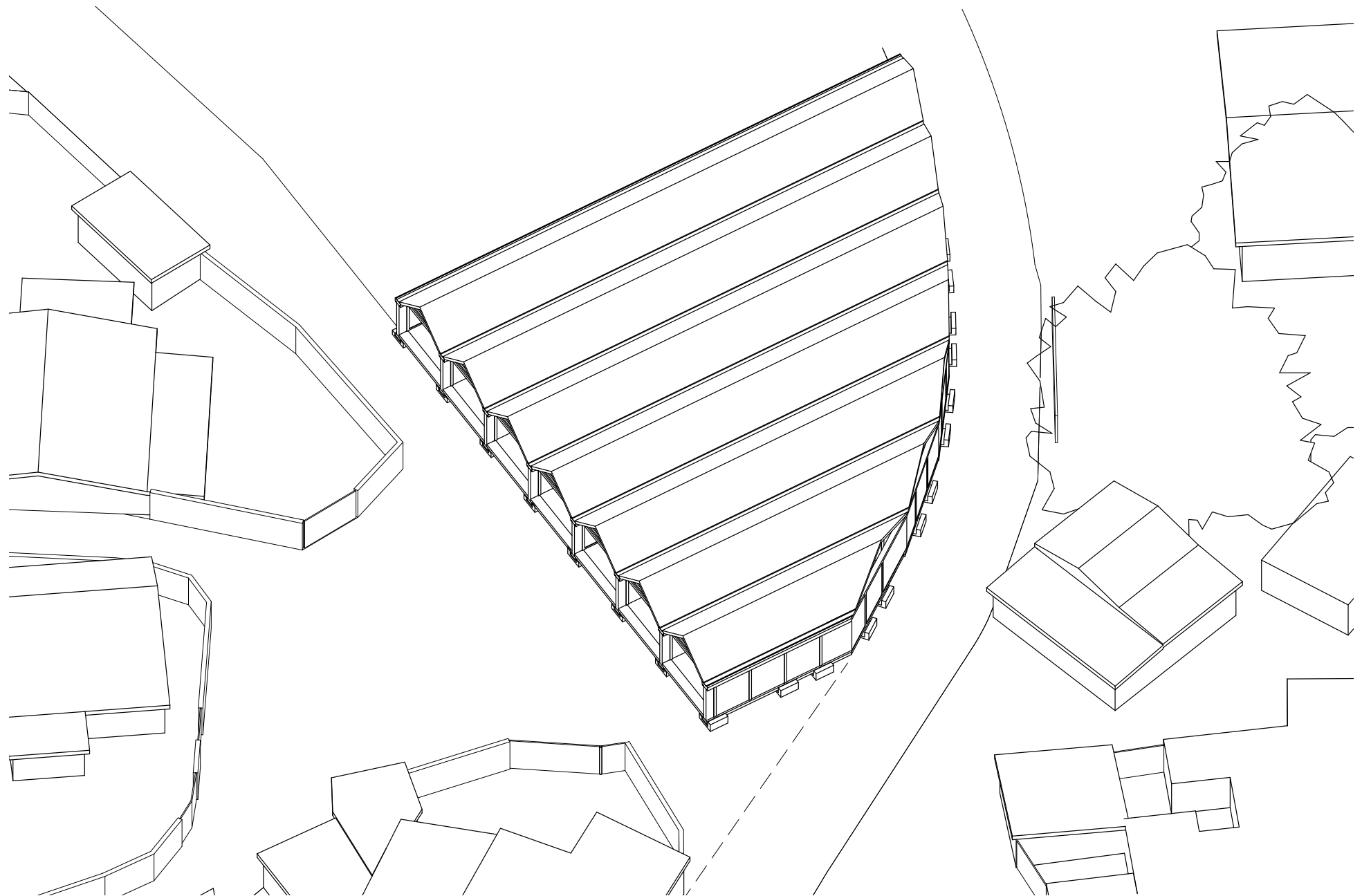
The plot



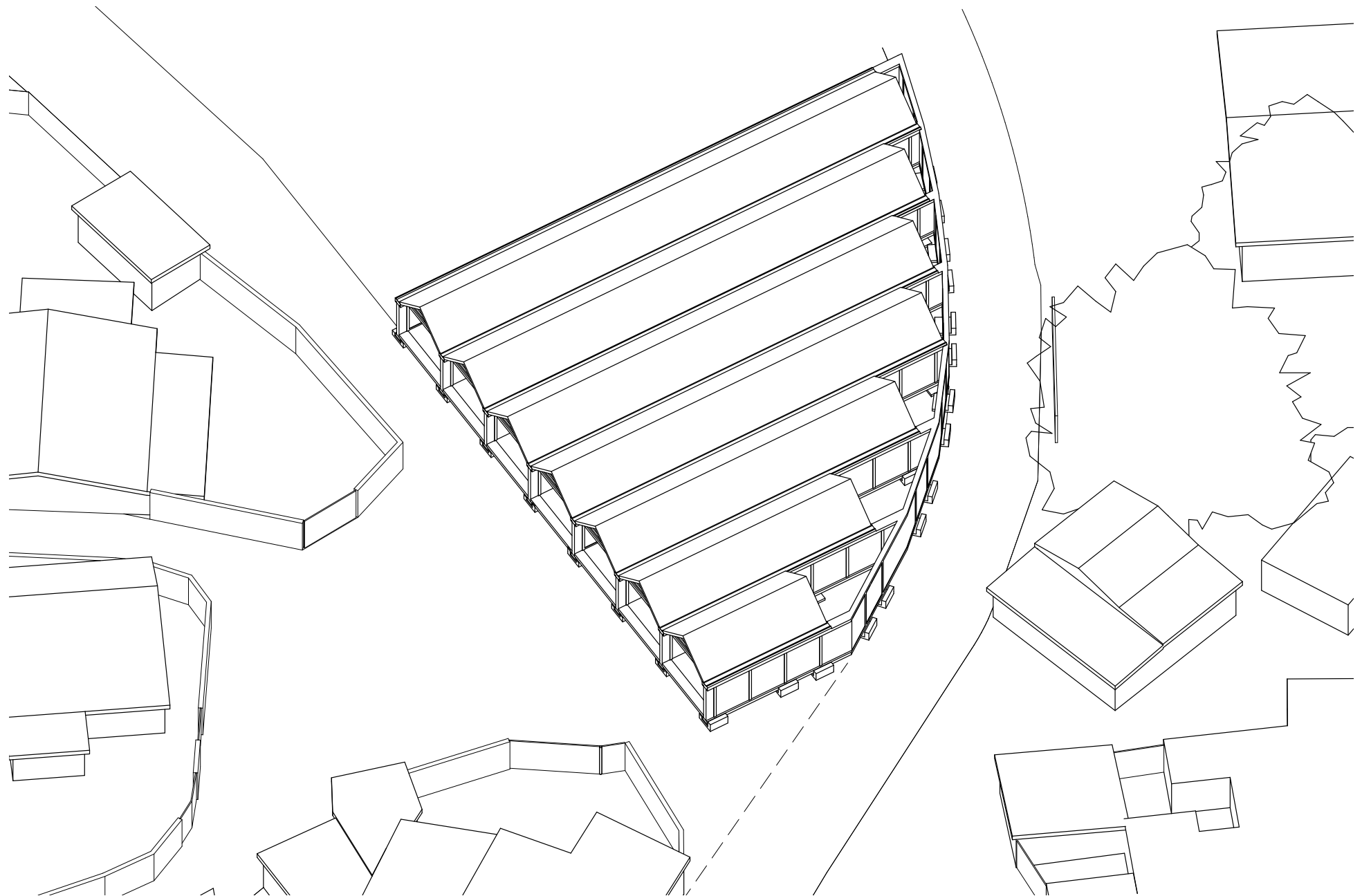
Density of walls (3,60 rhythm)



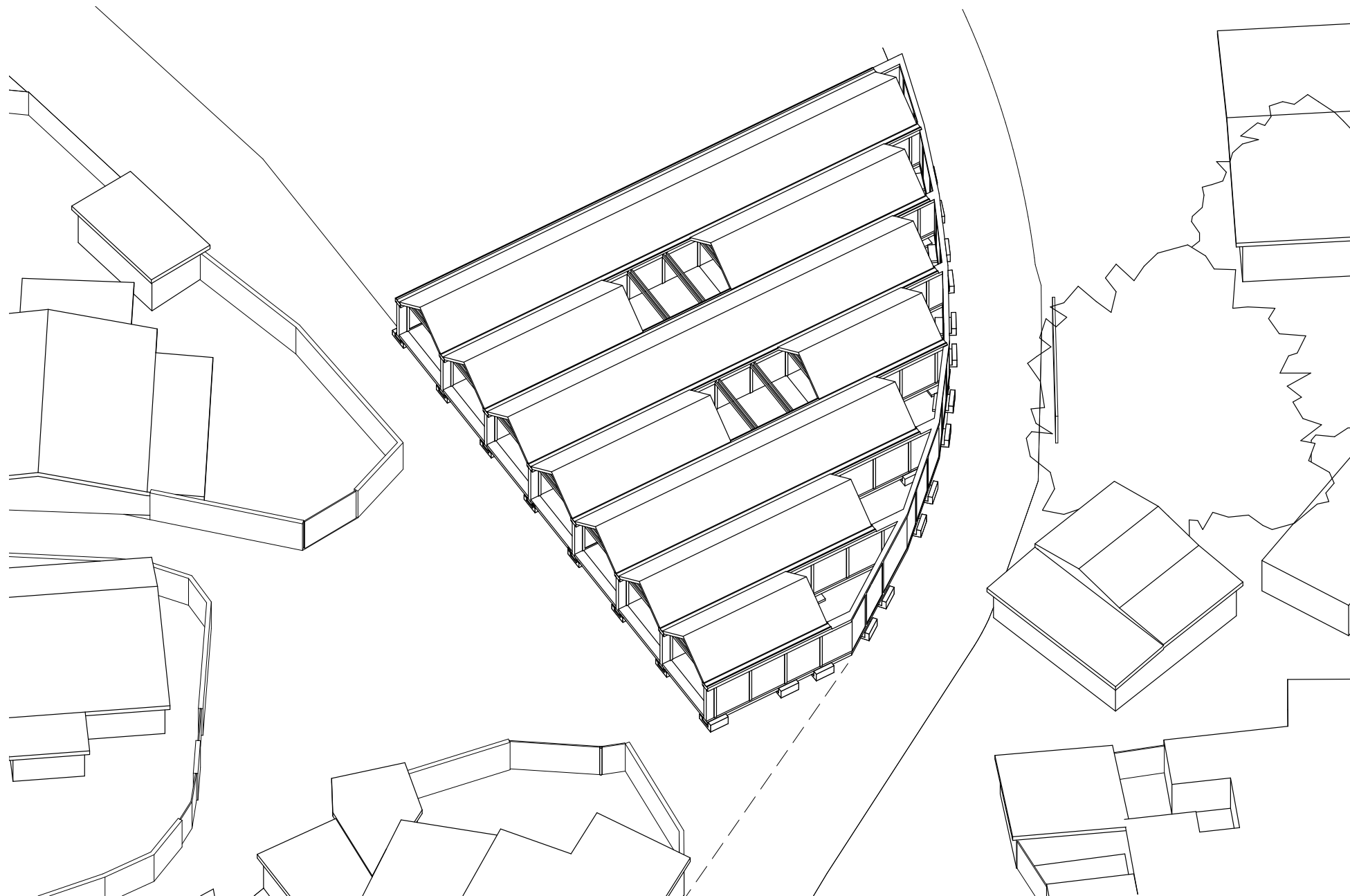
Walls carried by construction



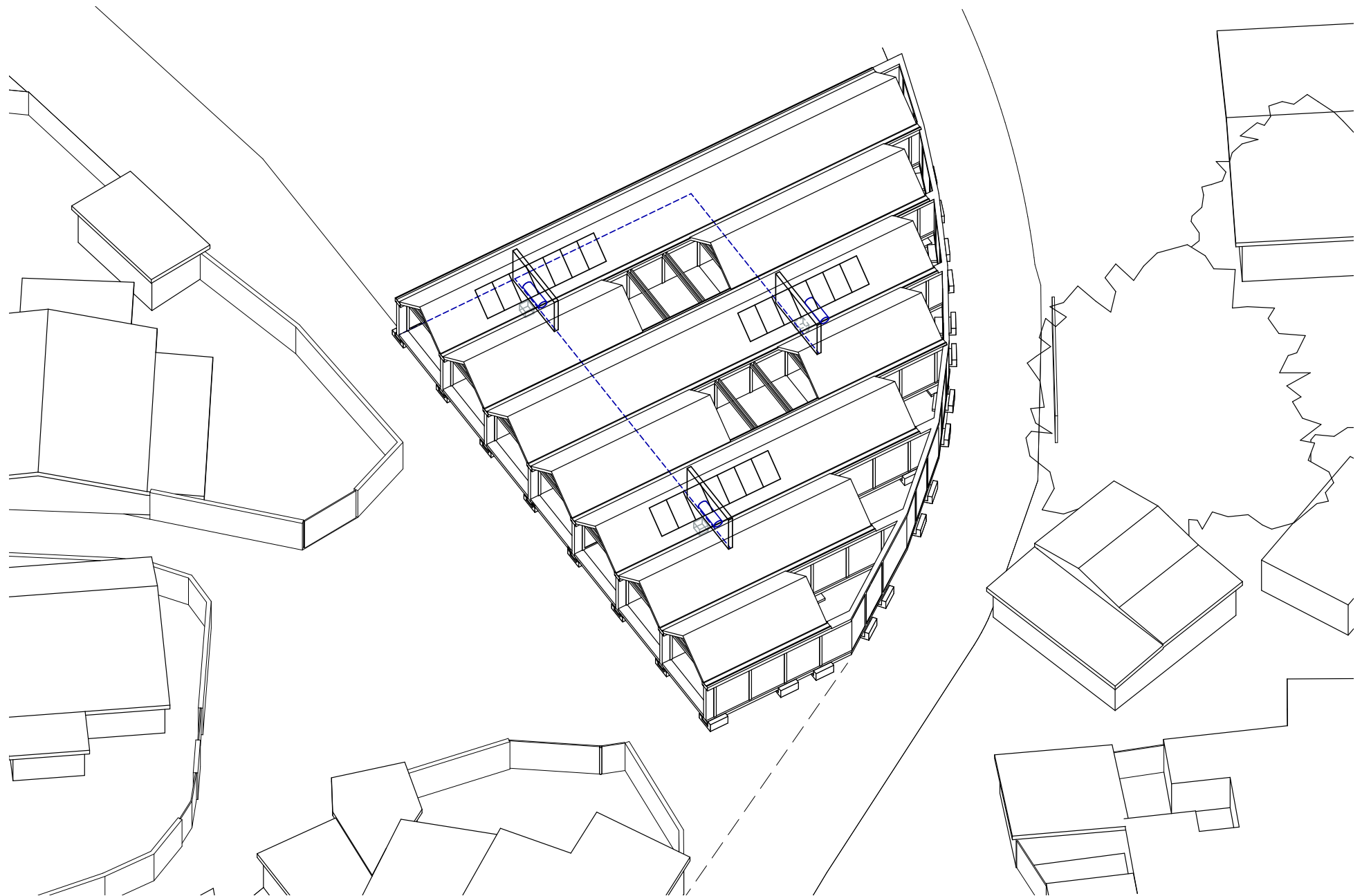
45 degrees roofs allow loft spaces



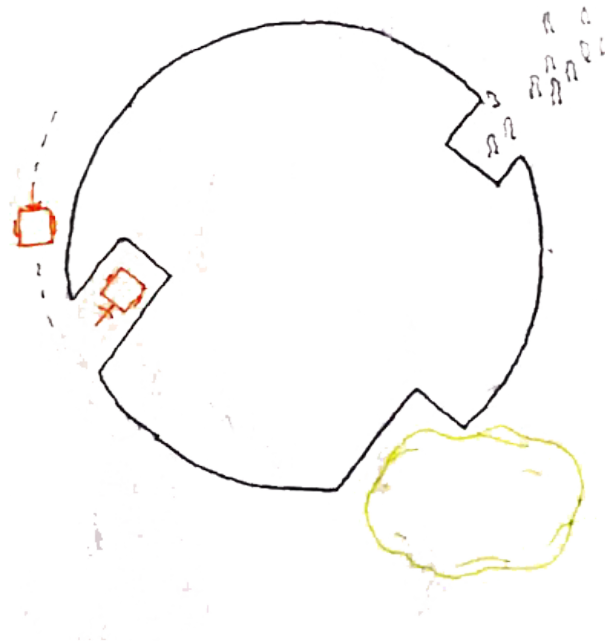
Courtyards as buffers towards the road



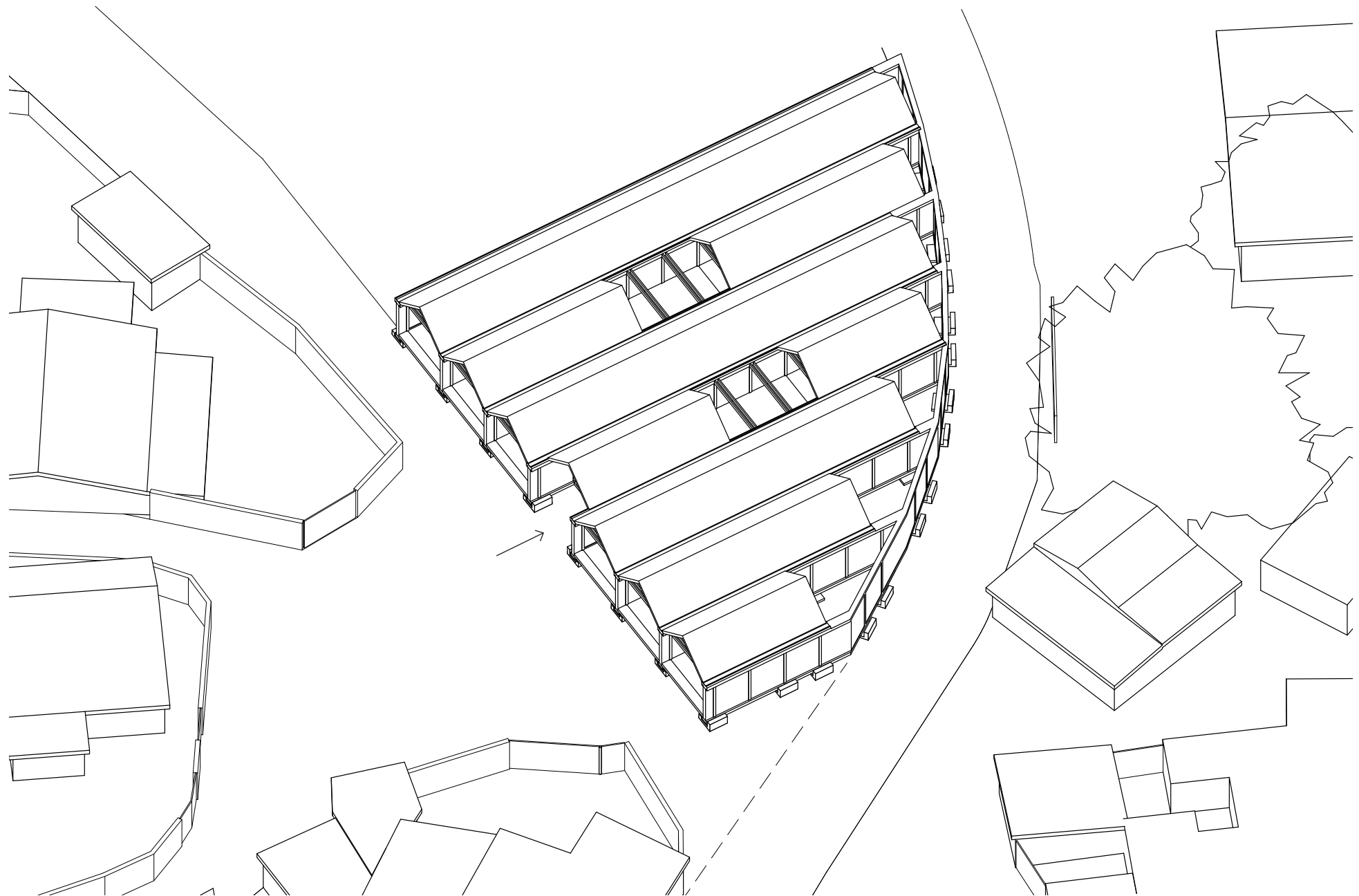
Courtyards providing daylight



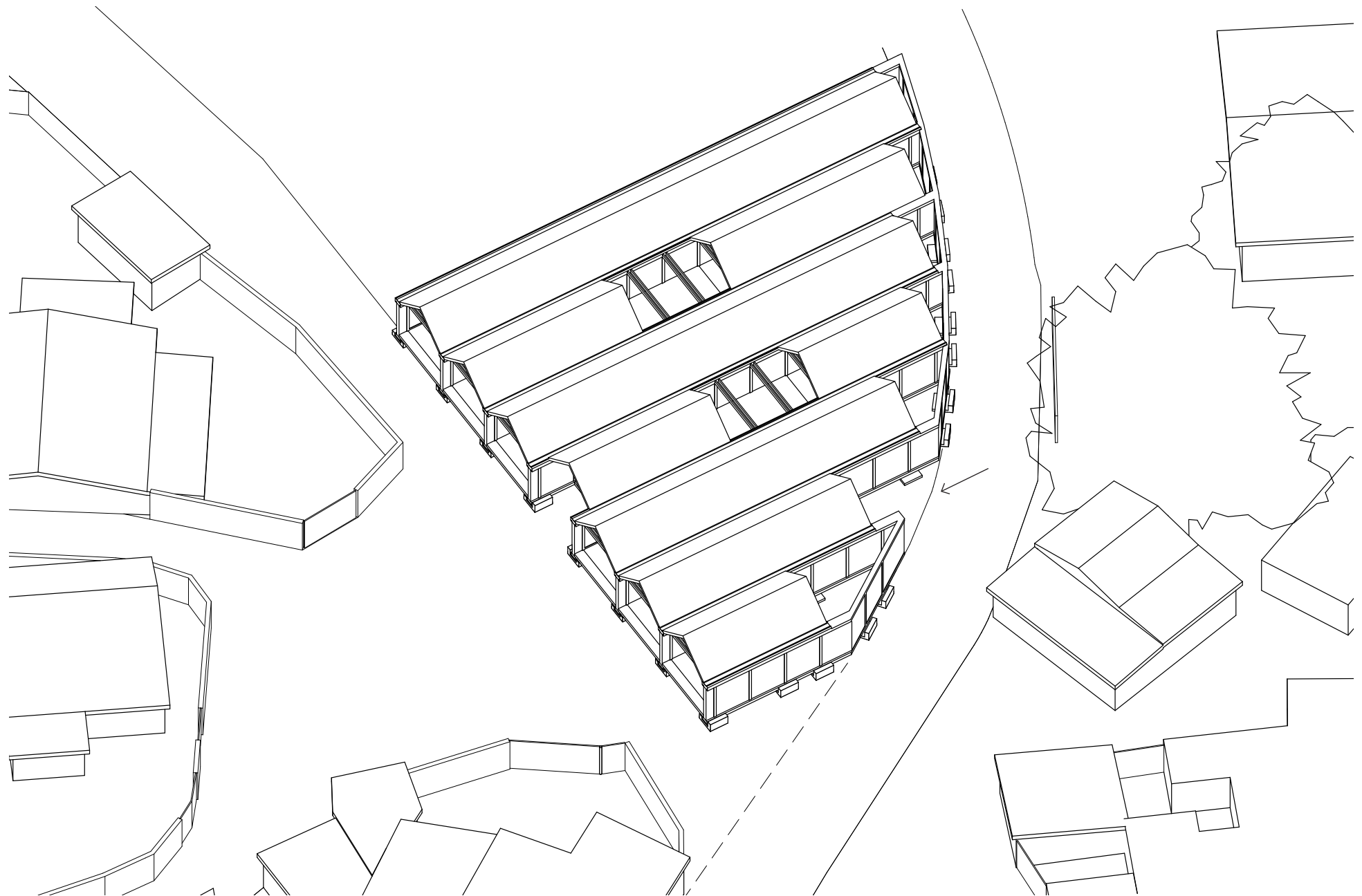
Sanitary facilities centered around stabilizing walls



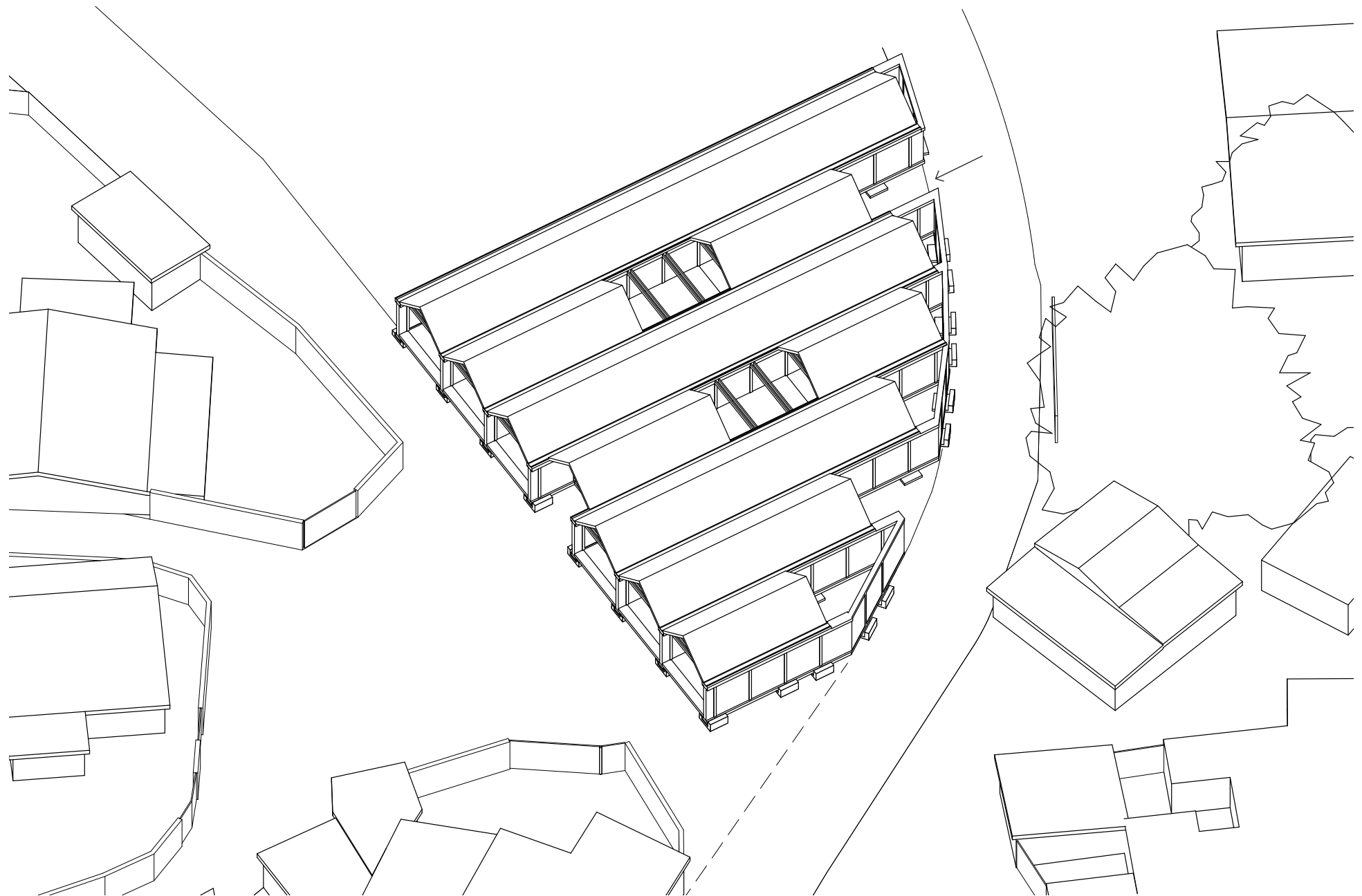
2. Site integration



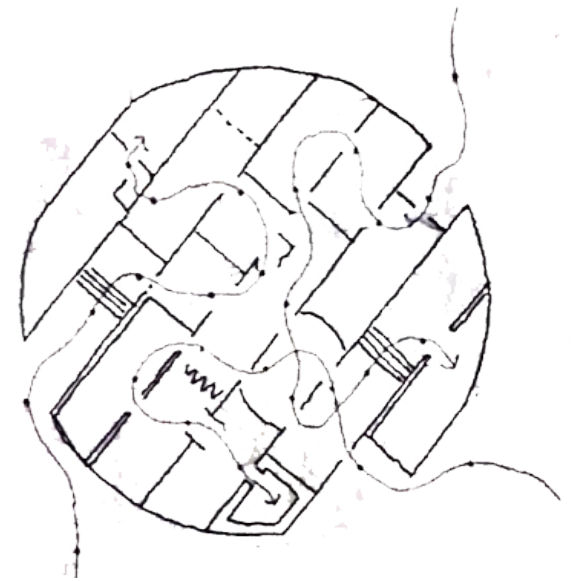
Formal entrance along the square



Entrance with privacy



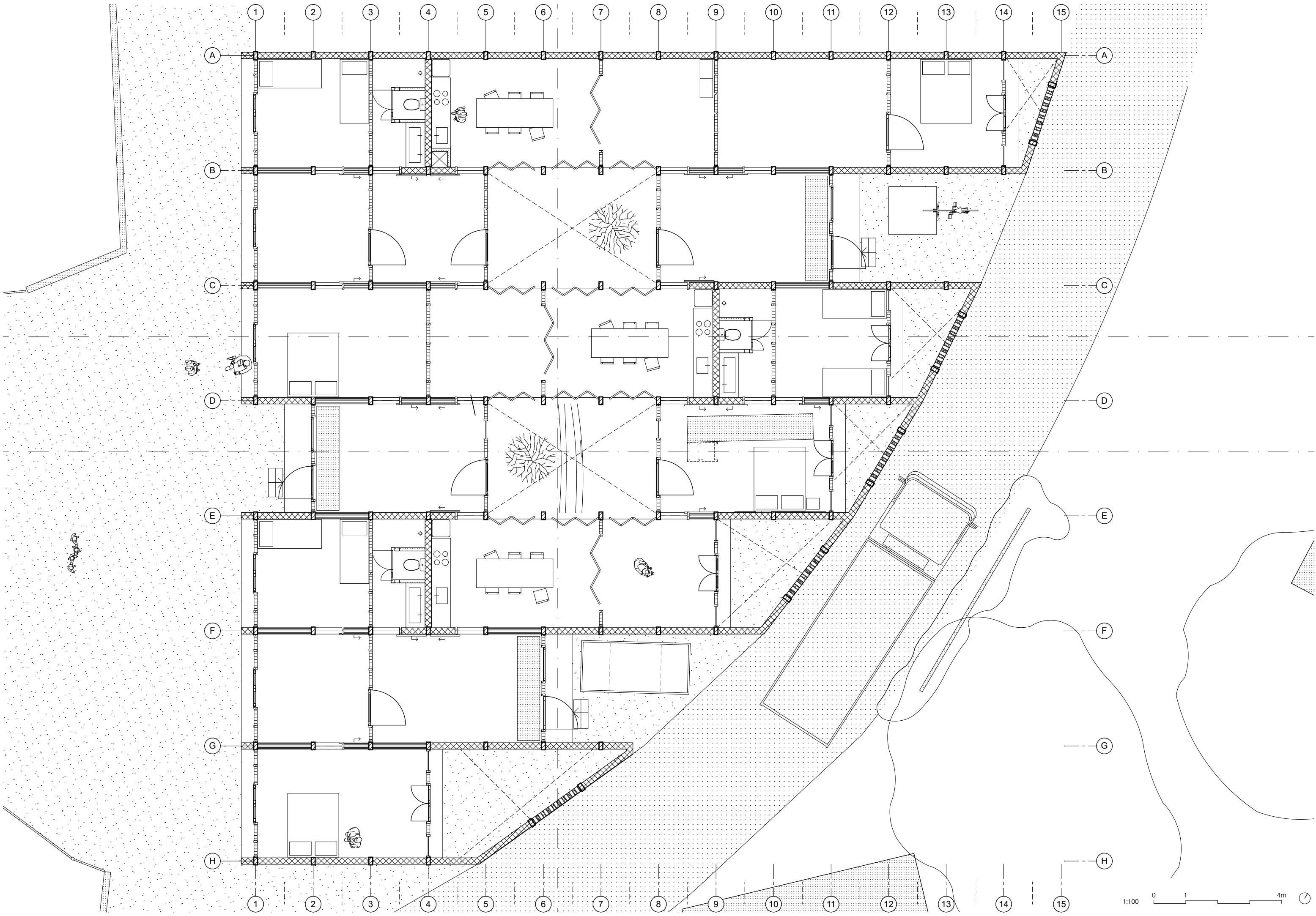
Work entrance near the concrete plant

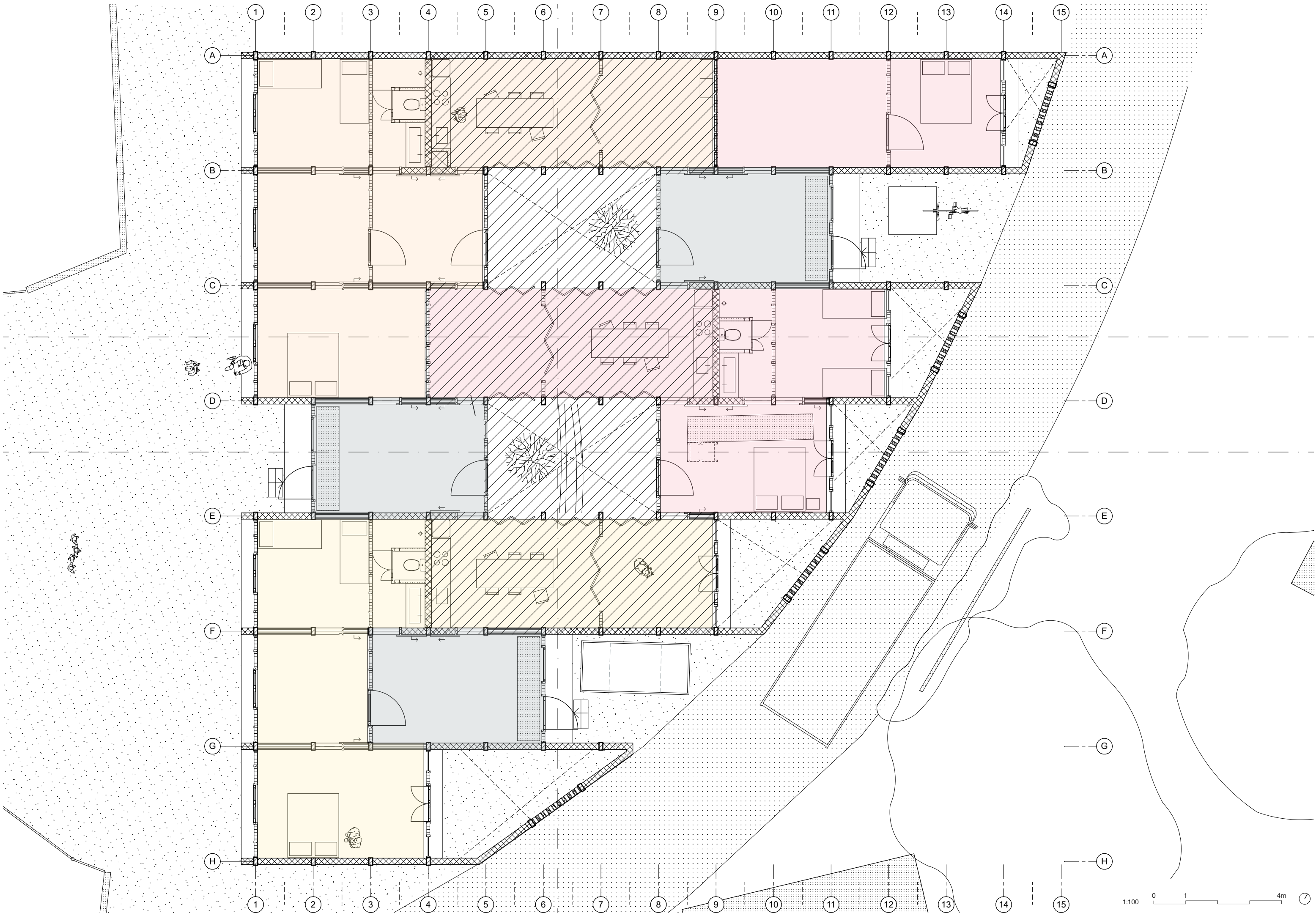


3. Thresholds

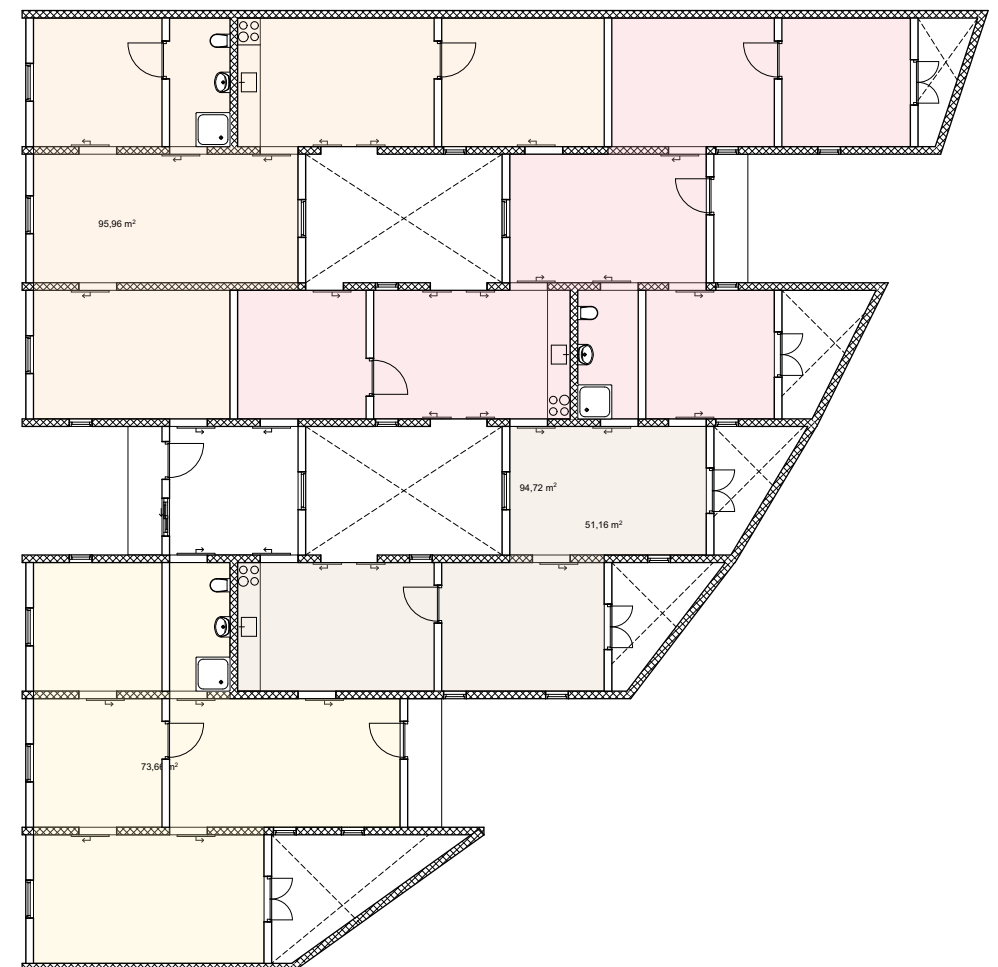
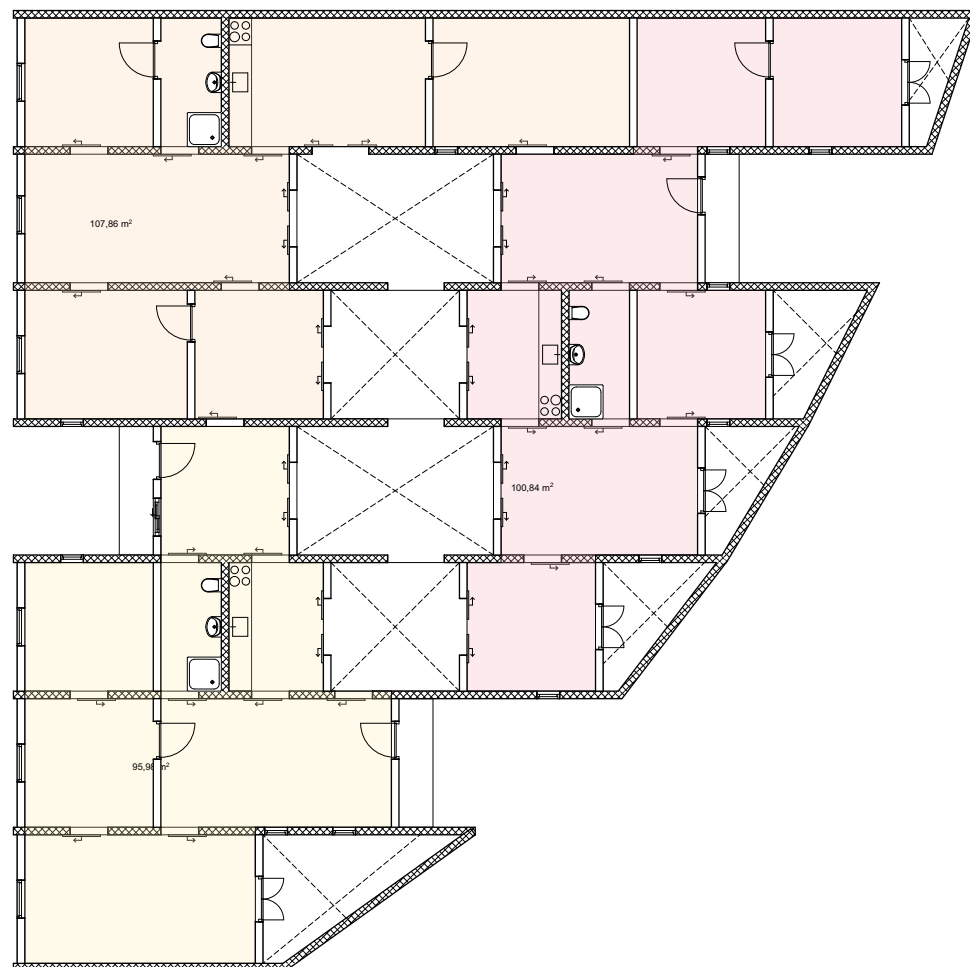
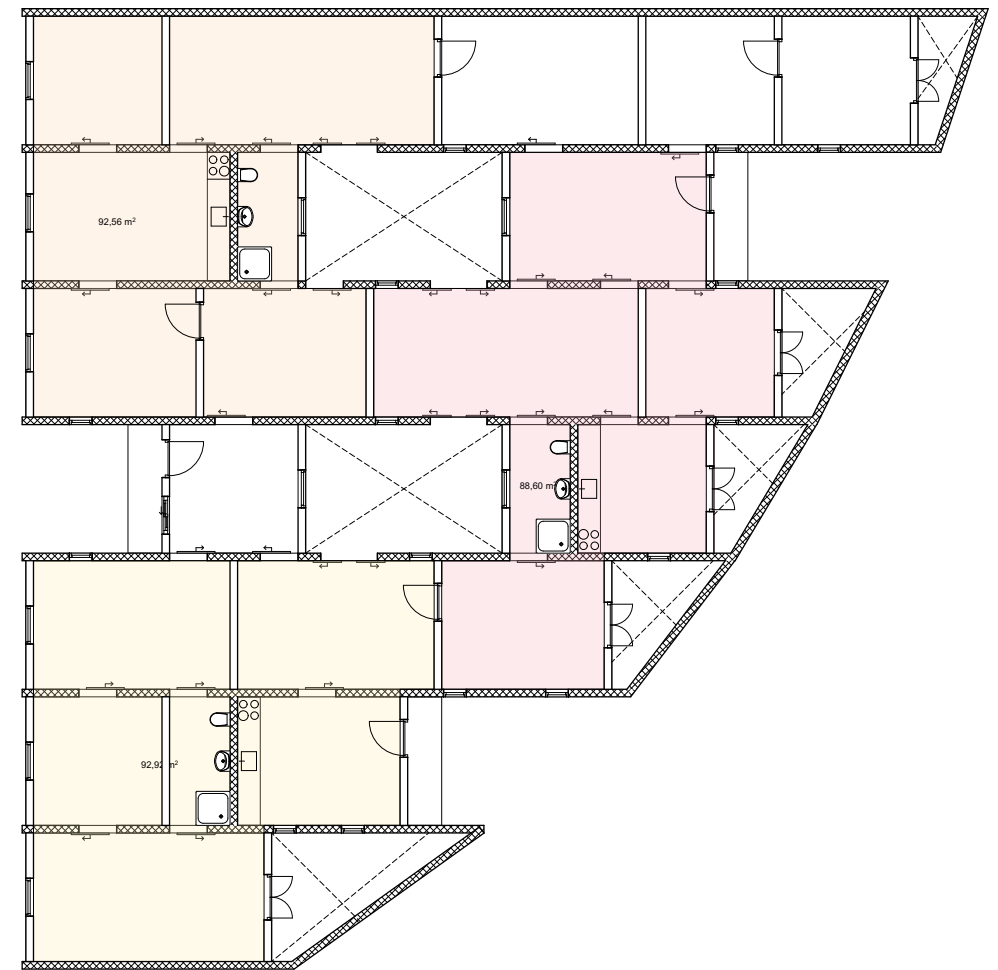
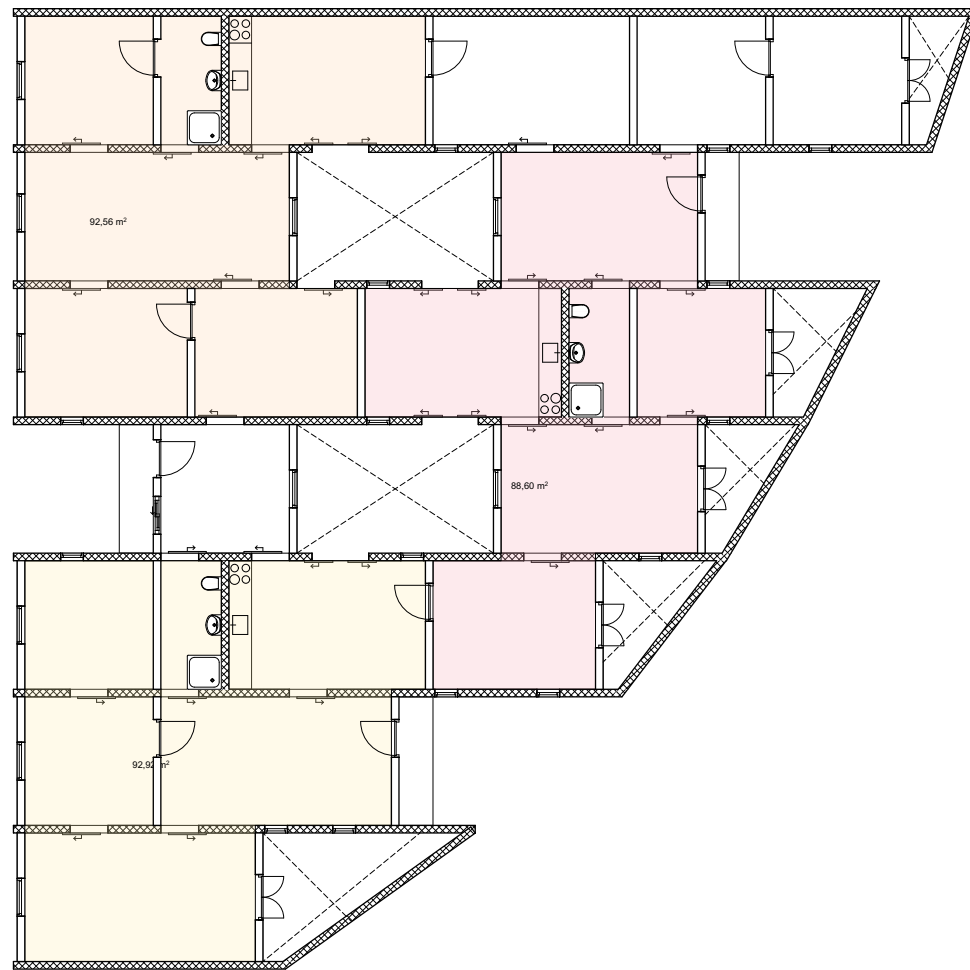


The house consists of a sequence of spaces that needs to be passed through



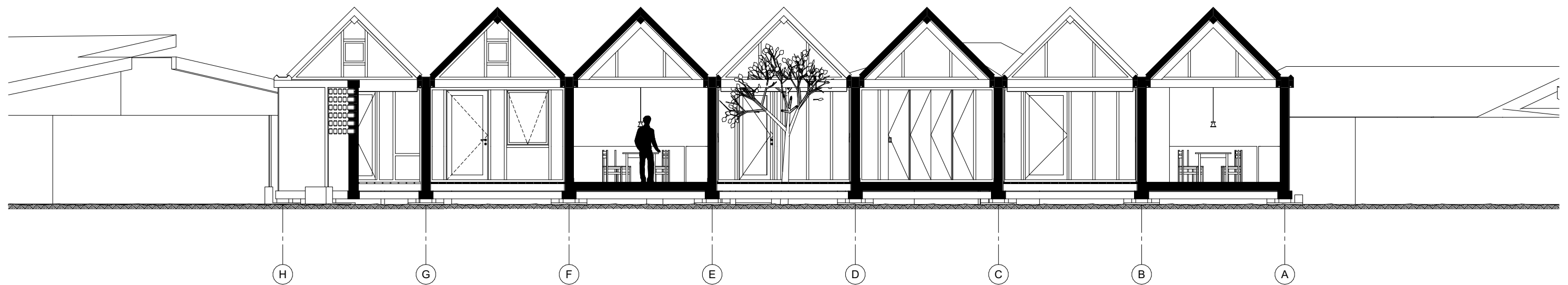
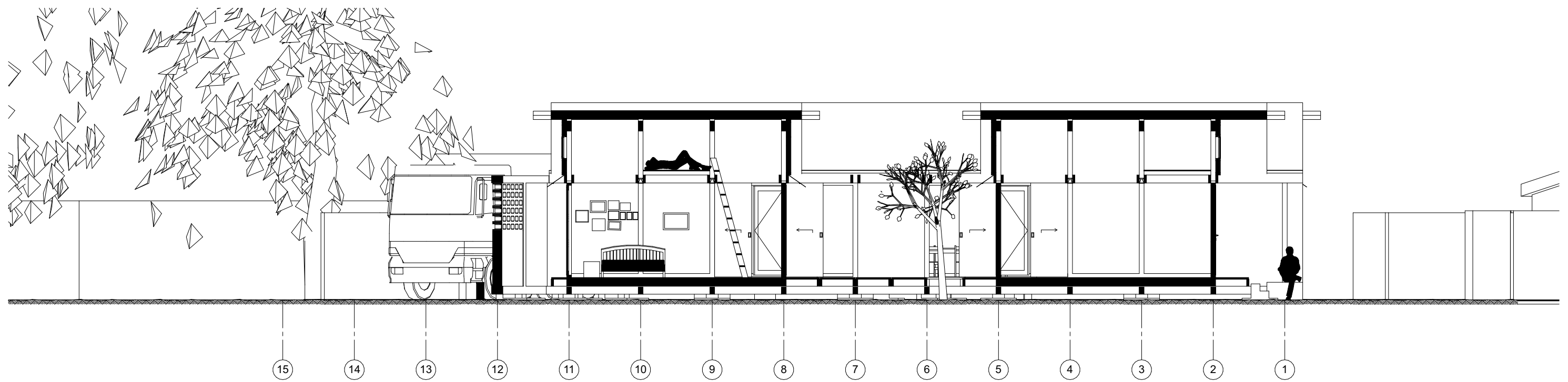


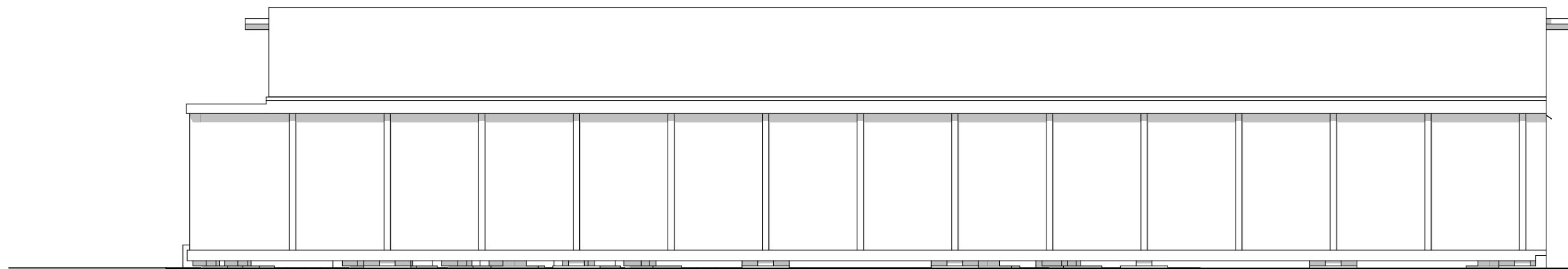
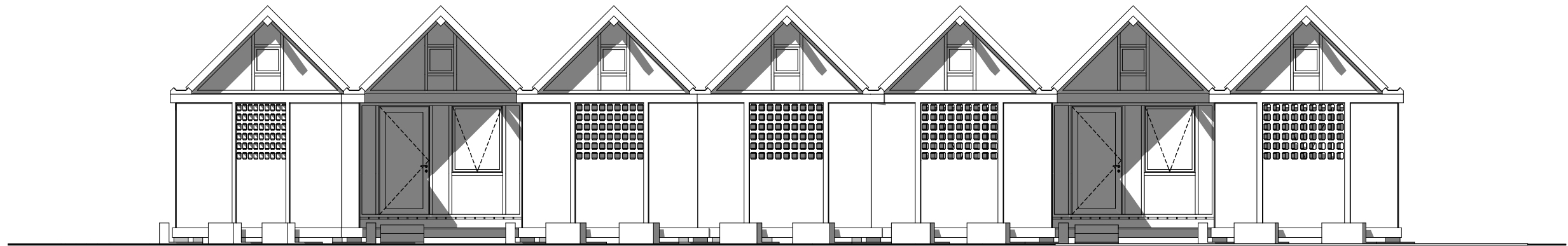
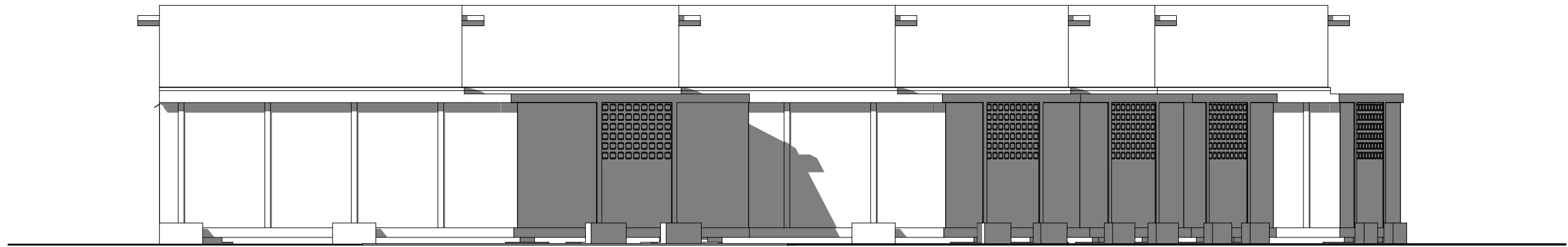
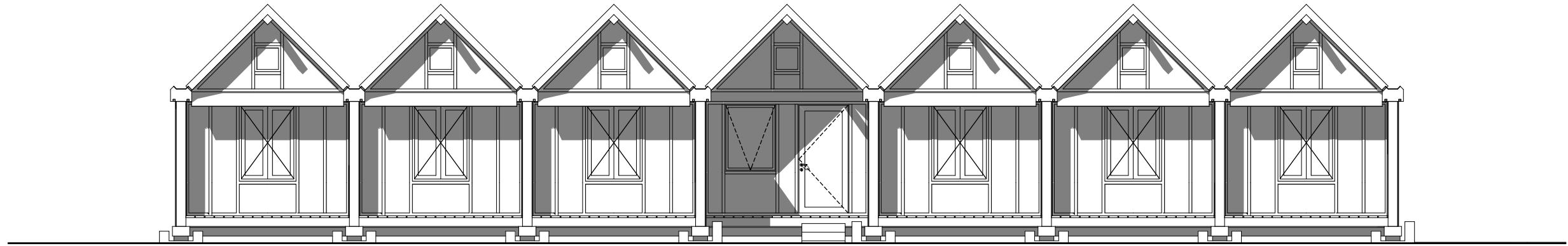
A possible division of the houses and the possibility to connect spaces



The process of finding the layout shows how there are numerous possibilities to divide spaces

1:200 0 2 8m



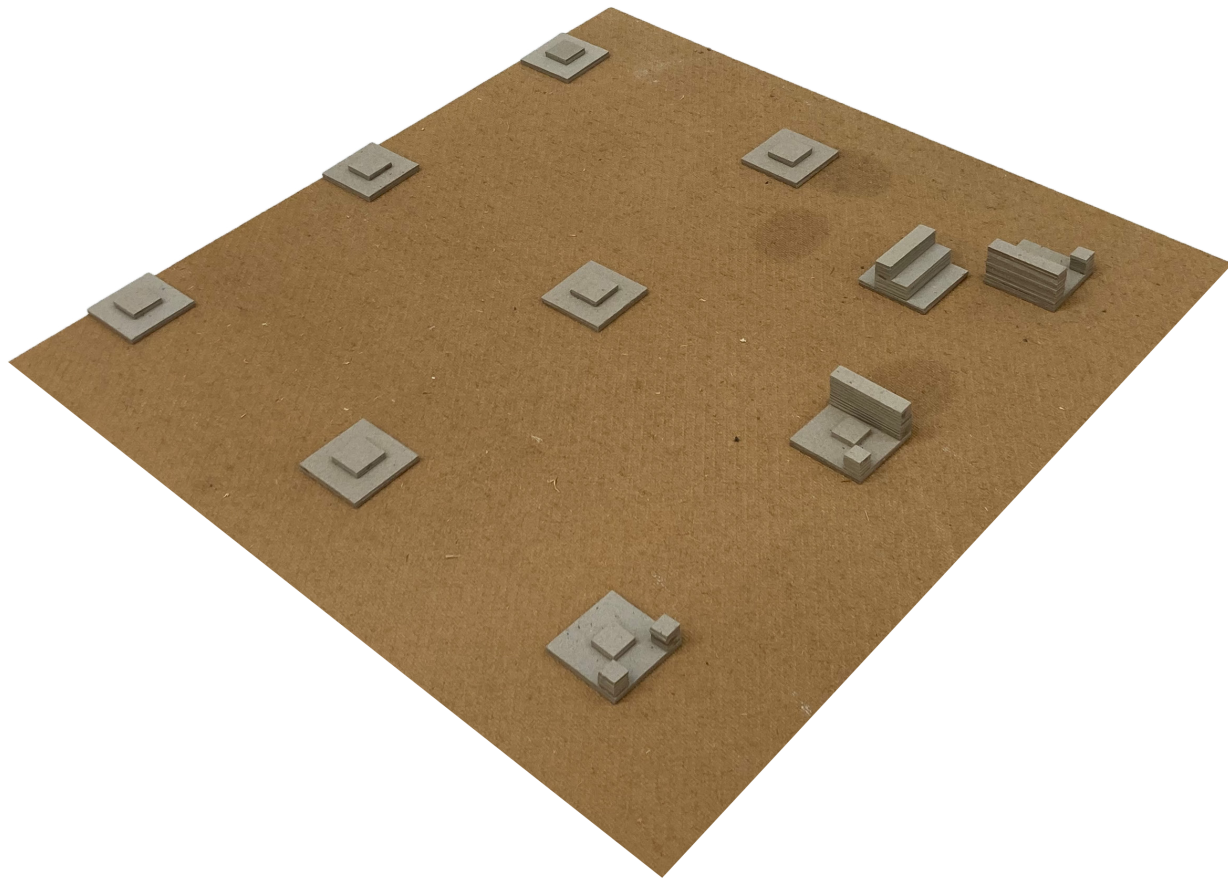




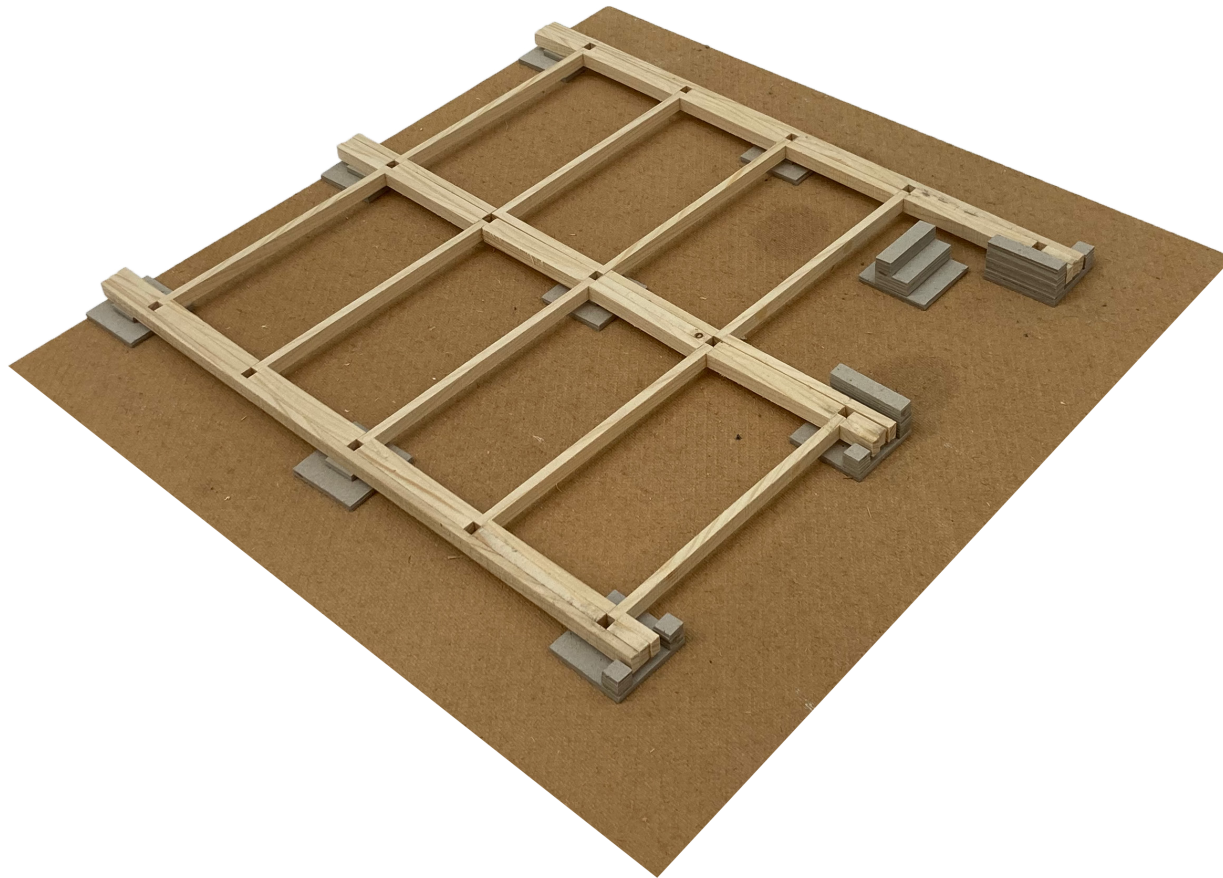
Building a prototype



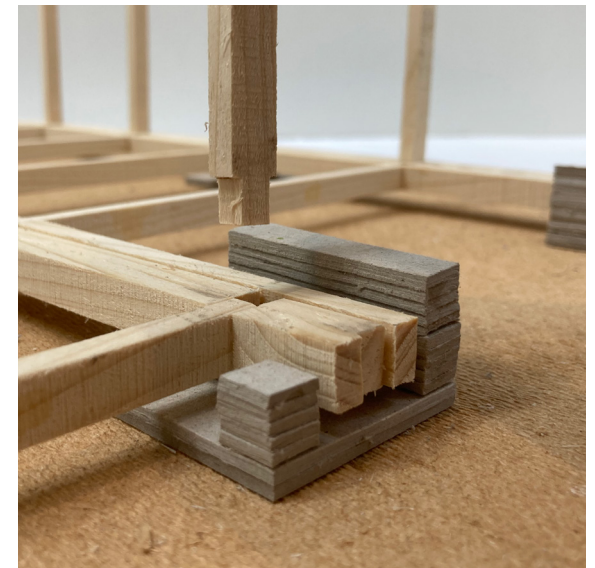
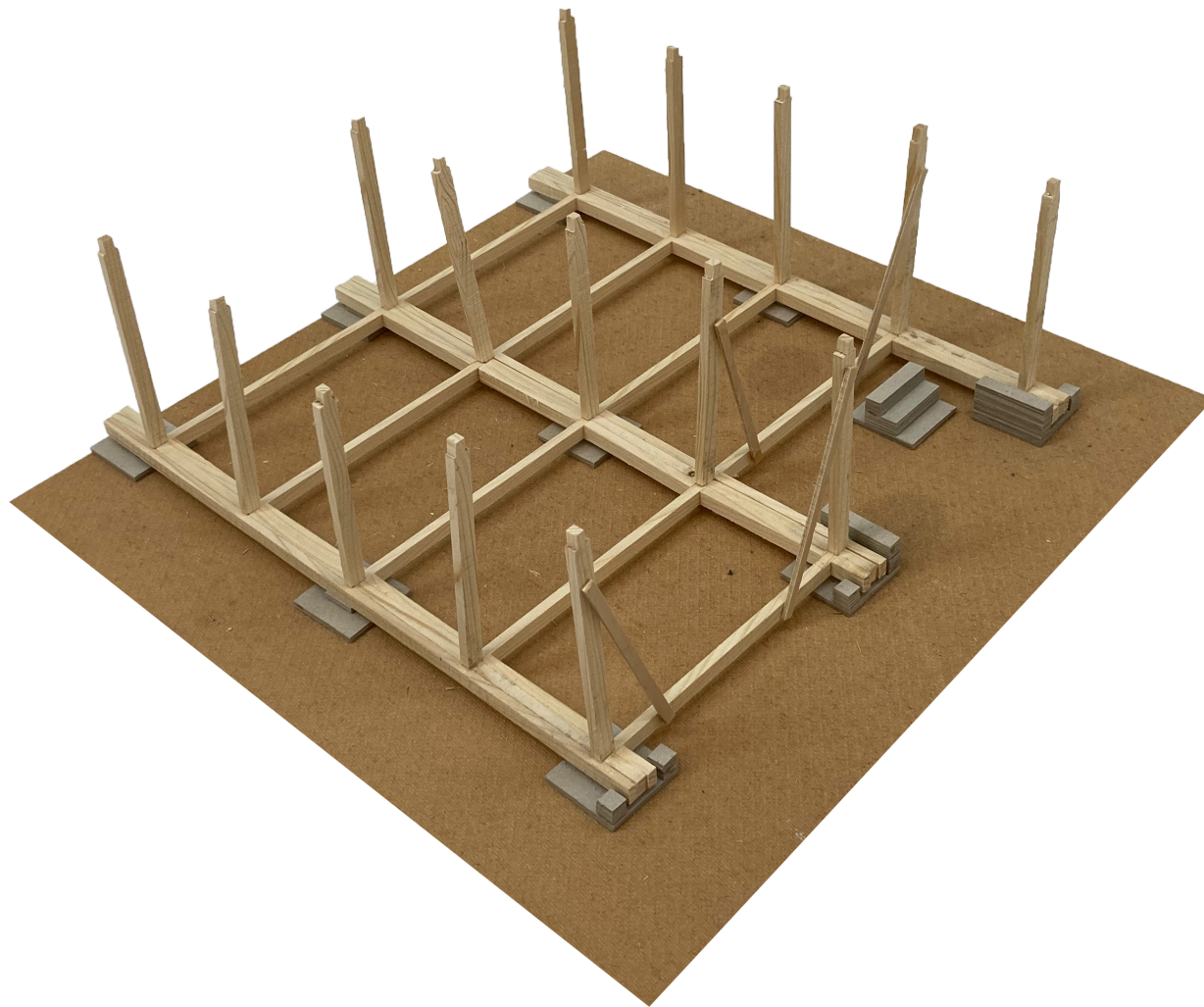
1. Empty plot



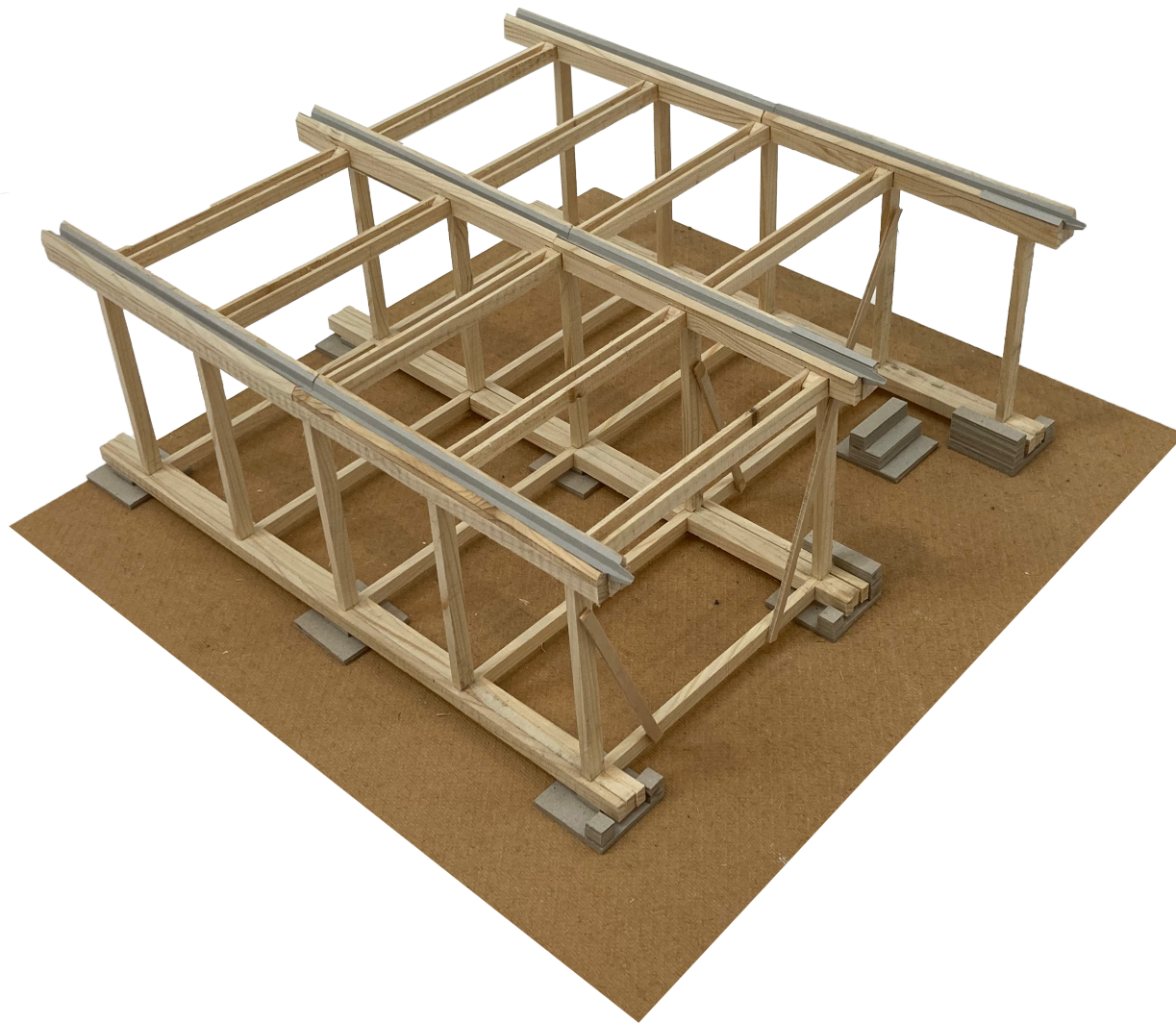
2. Concrete footings prevent digging in the polluted soil



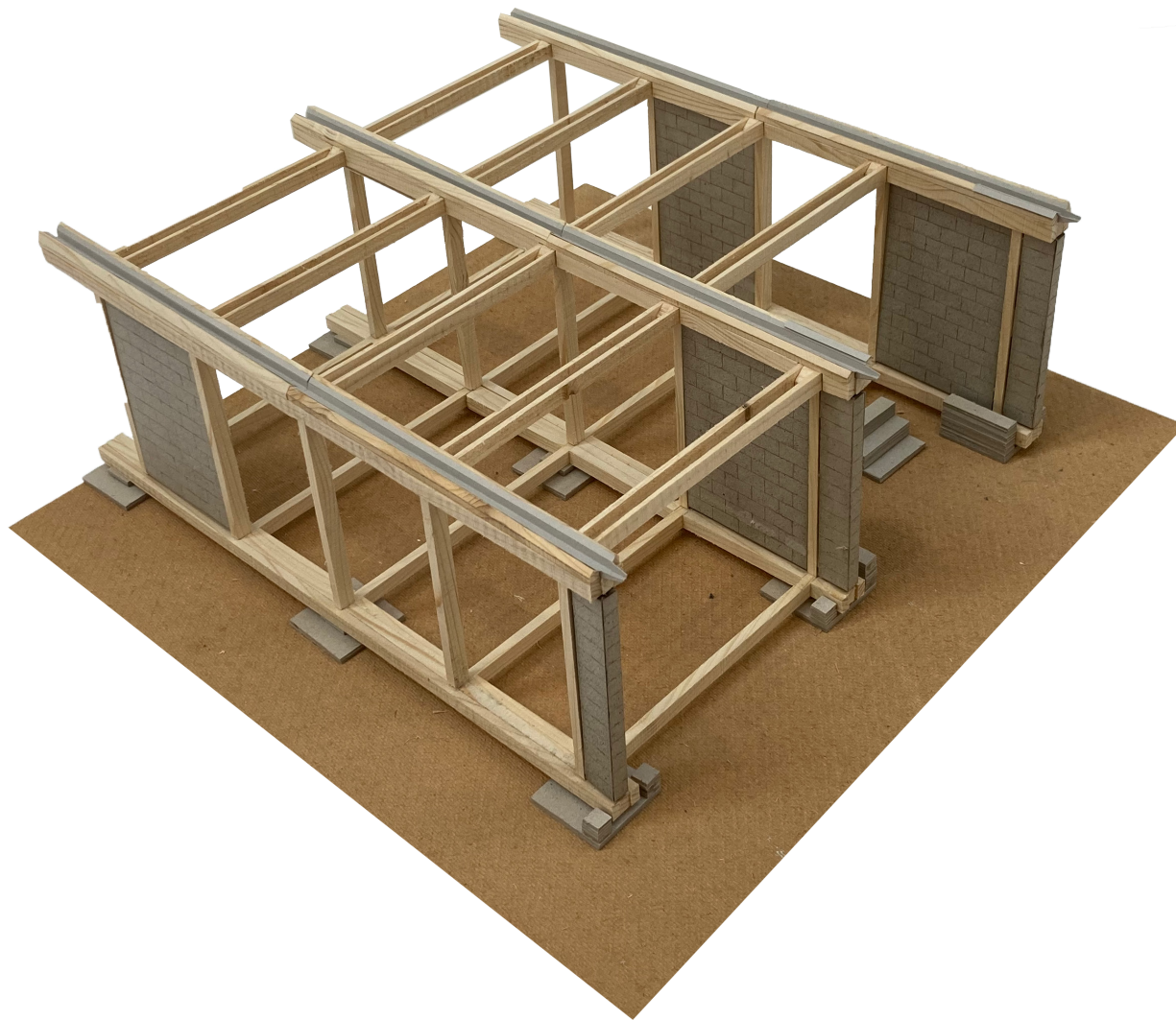
3. A lifted framework allows ventilation underneath the building to prevent possible accumulating landfill gasses



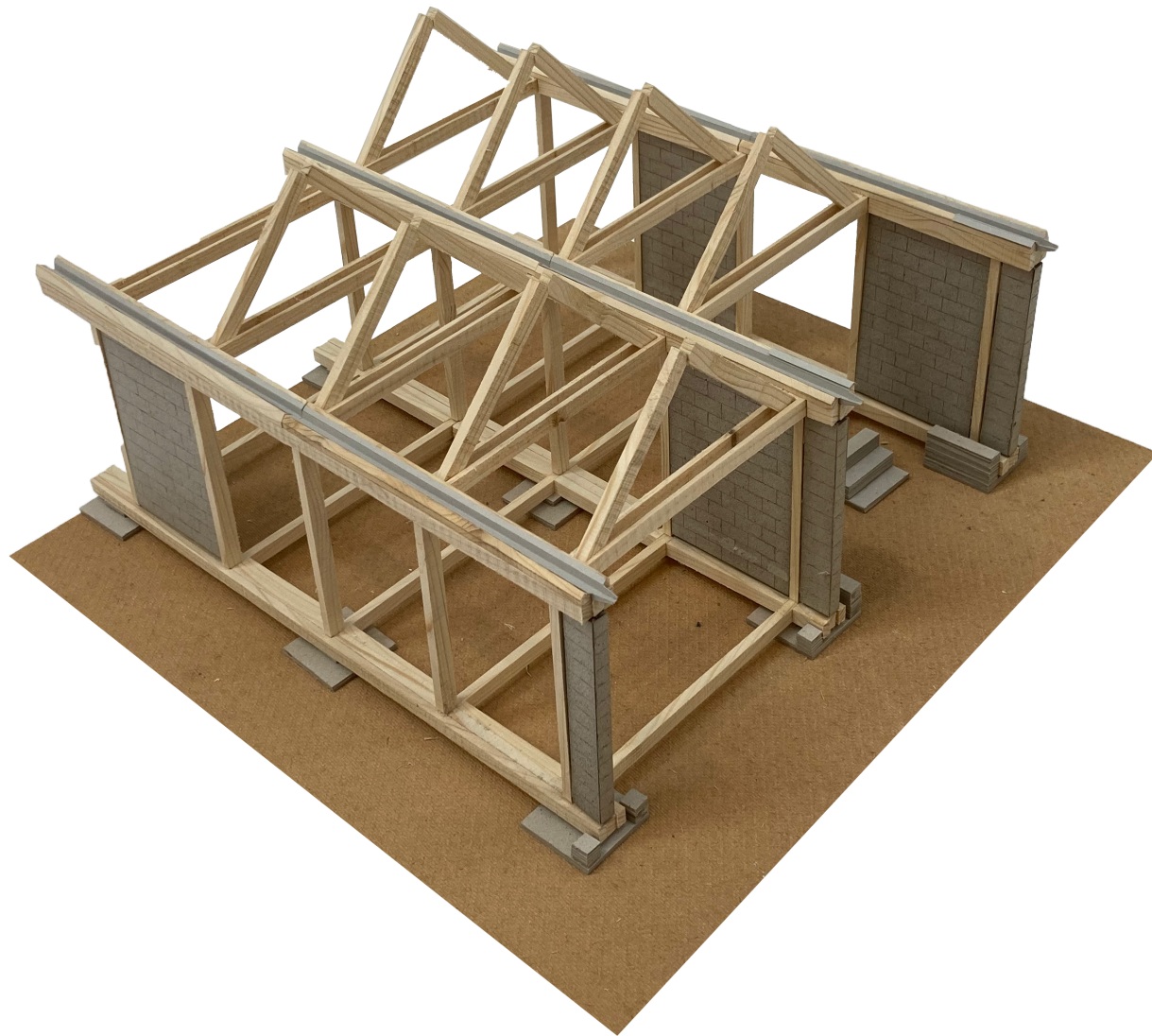
4. Columns can be attached in only one way



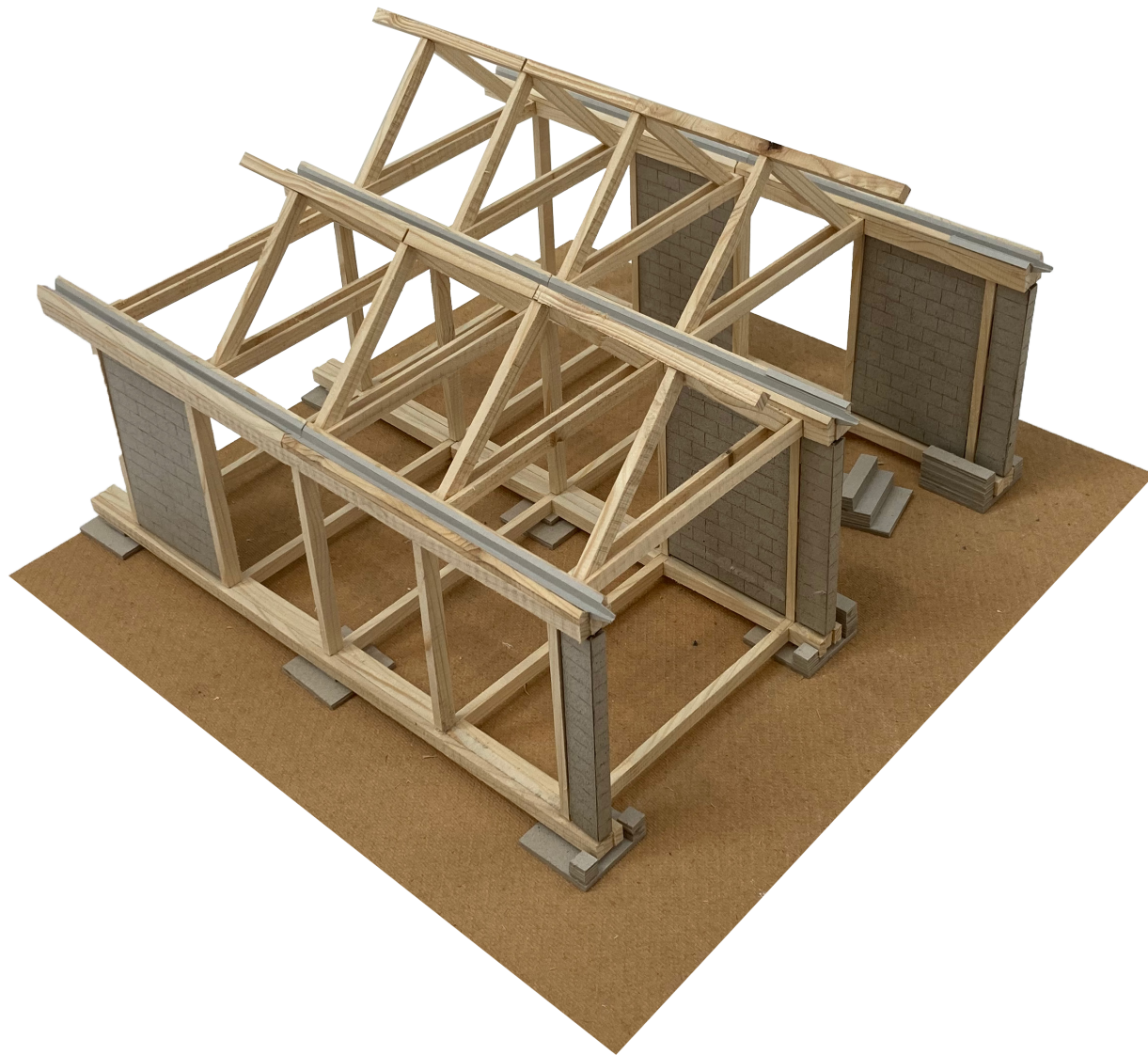
5. A wooden framework with gutter beams is attached



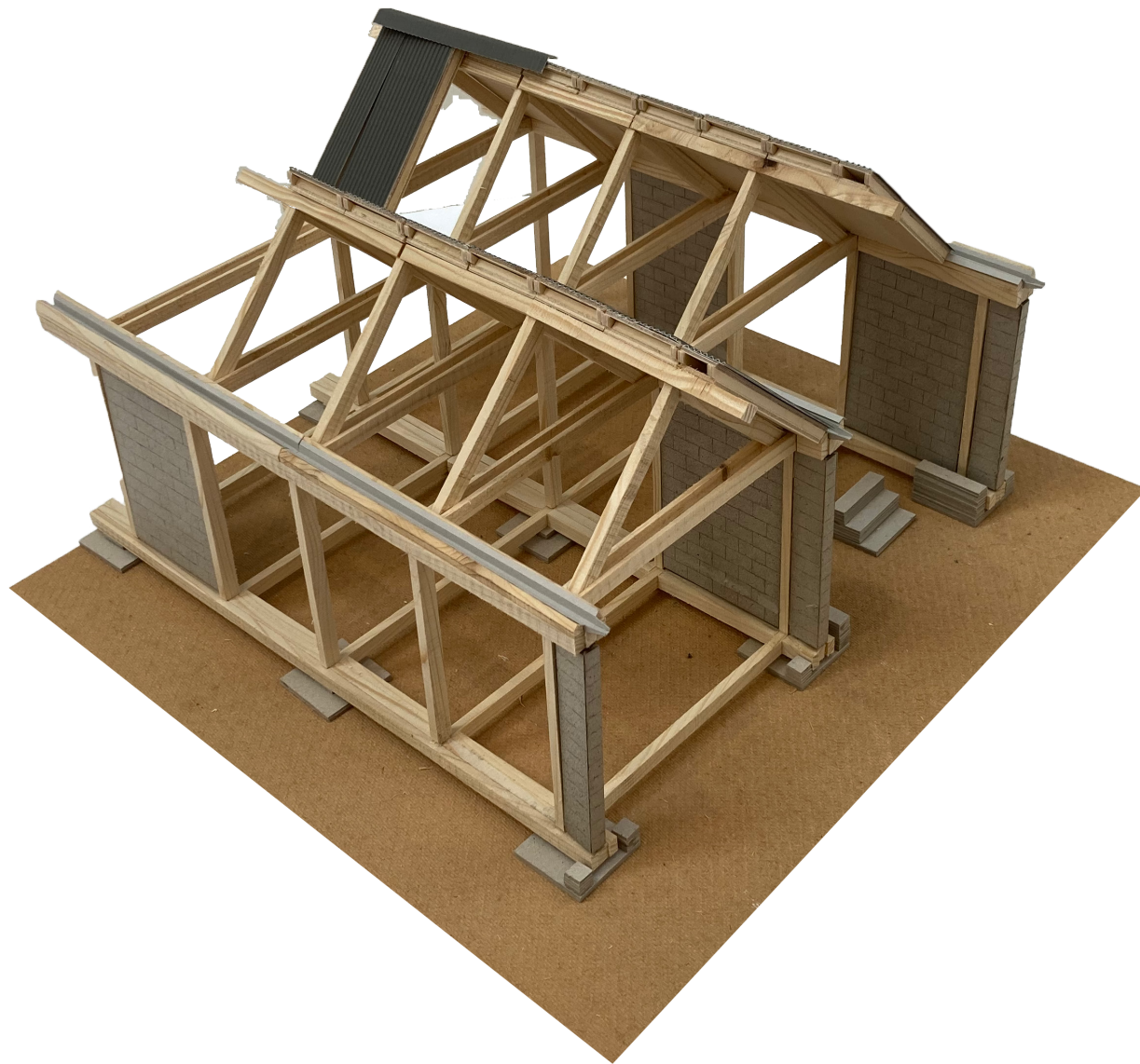
6. Concrete blocks provide stability and offer resistance towards influences of the surroundings



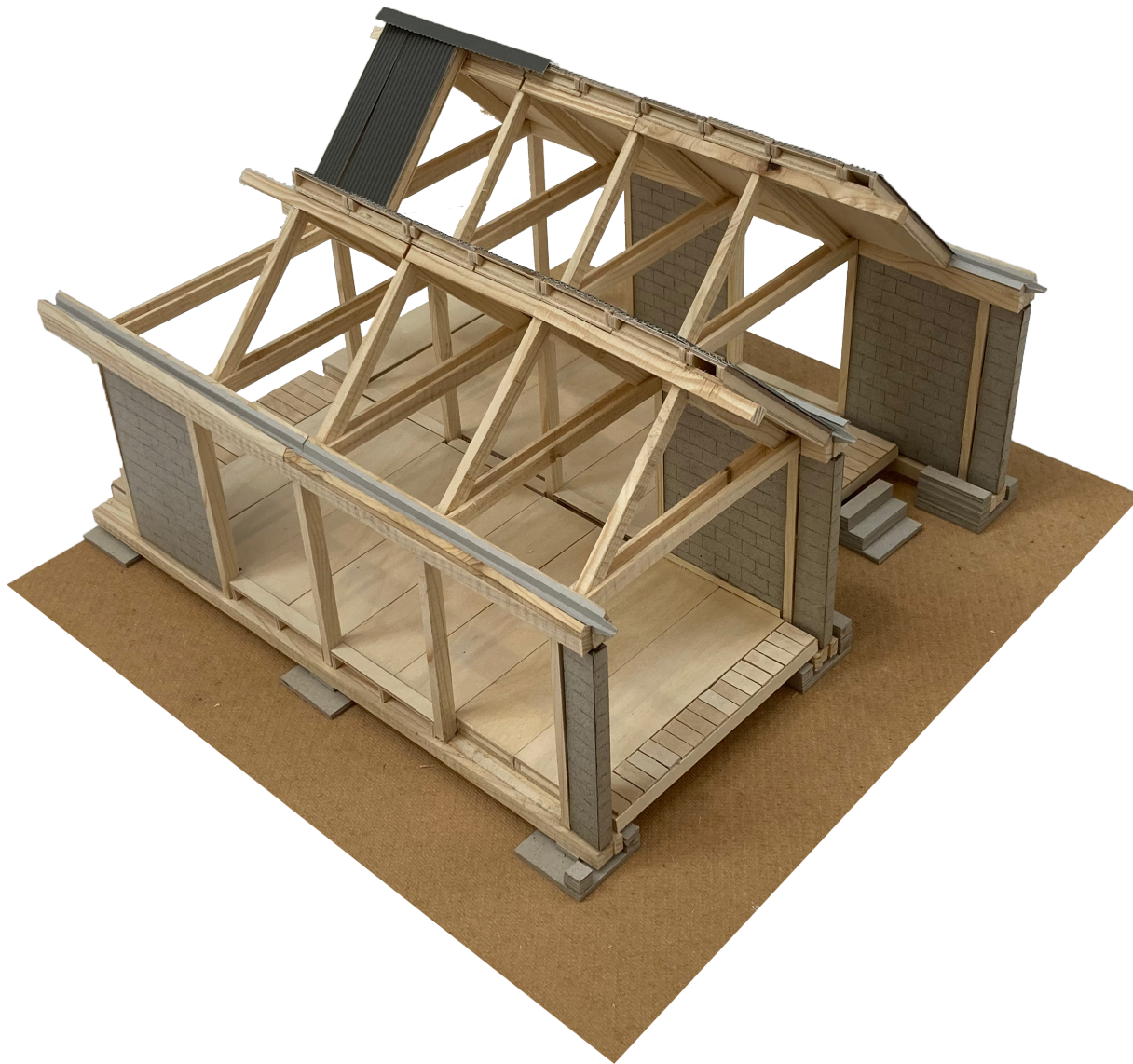
7. Trusses are attached in between the double beams



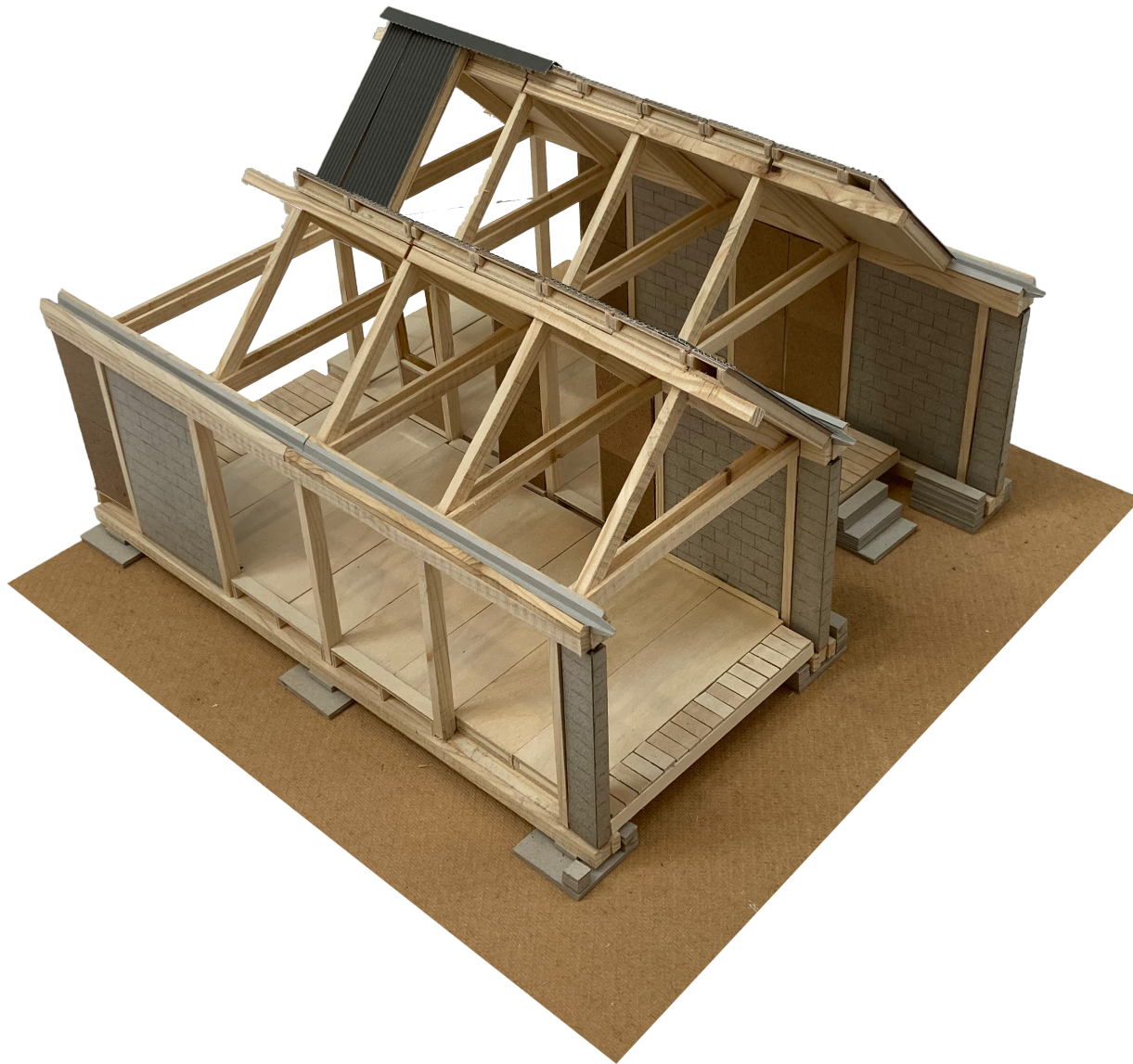
8. Ridge beams are attached on the trusses



9. Roof plates span from the gutter beam to the ridge beam



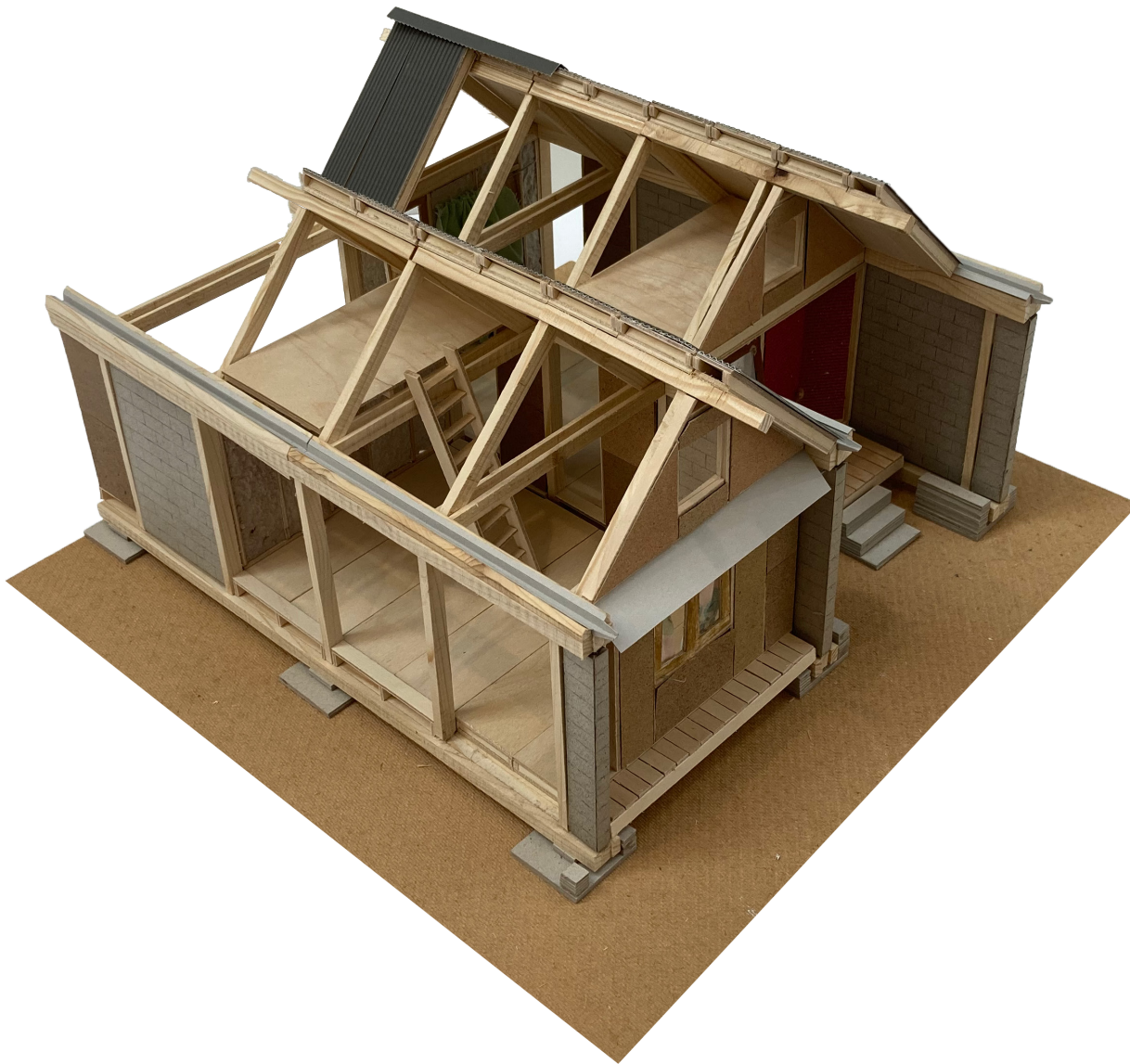
10. Insulated floorplates and non-insulated floorplates for outside are laid



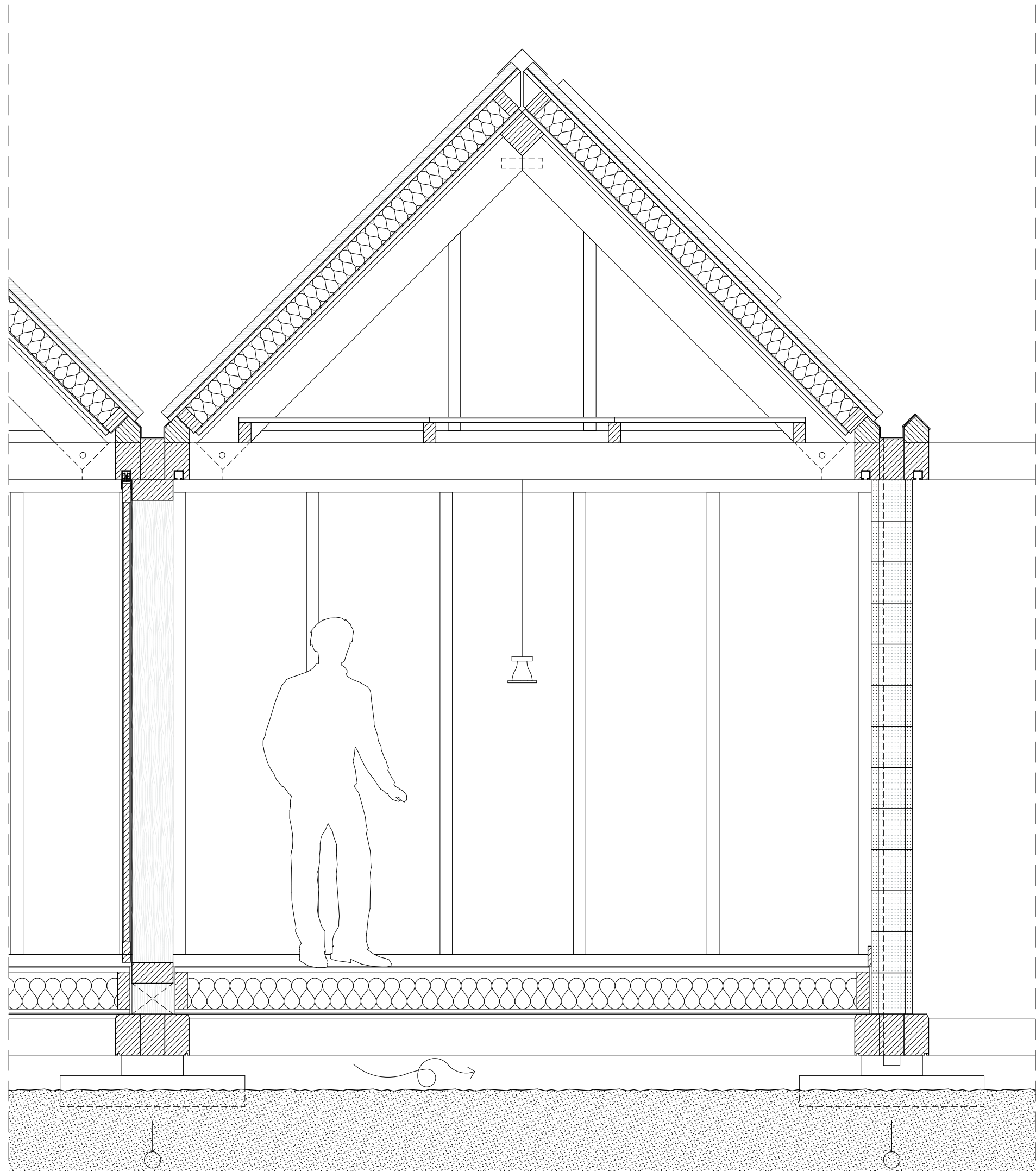
11. Openings between the columns can be filled in in several ways: left open, closed off, filled by a window, a door or both

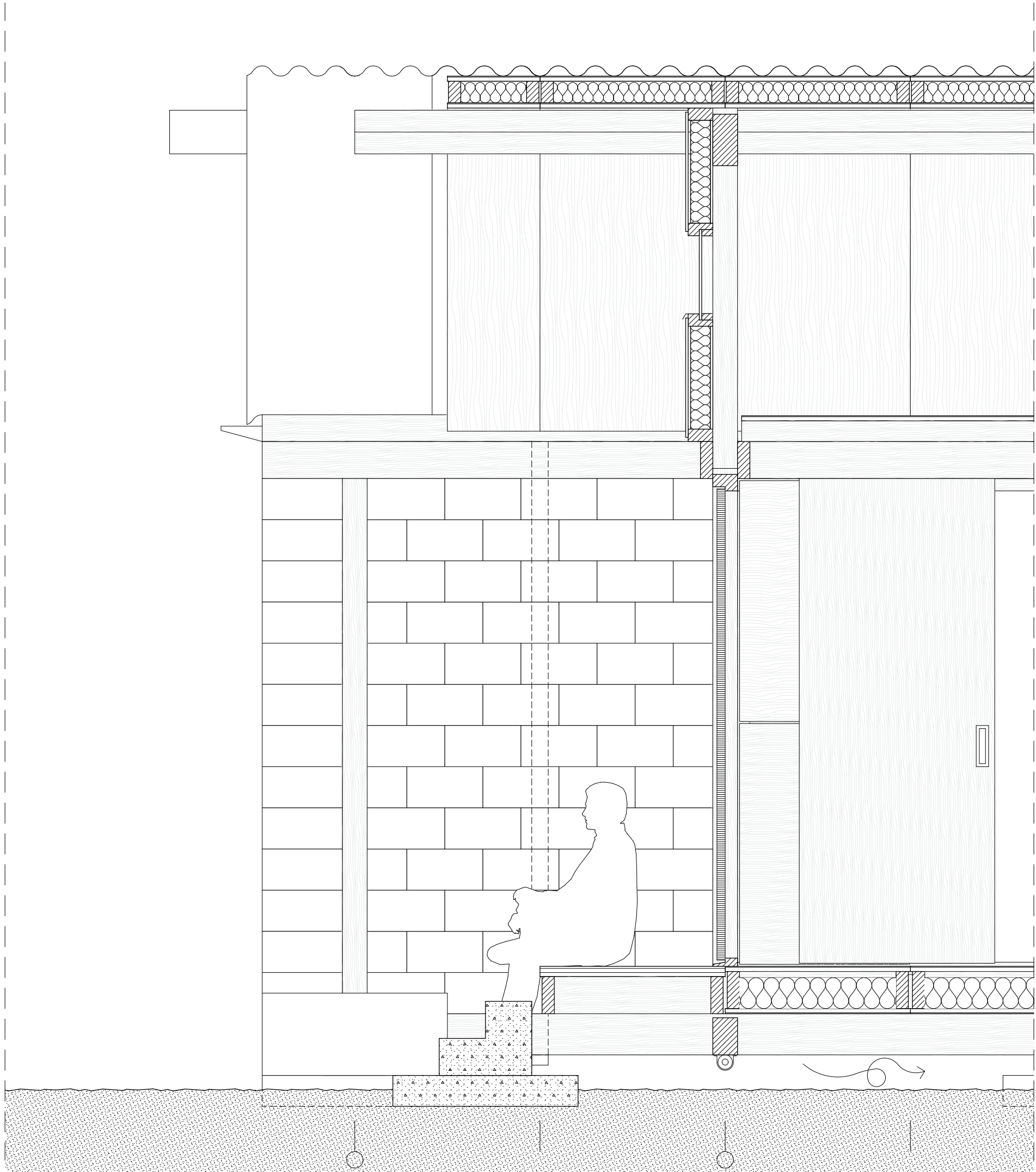


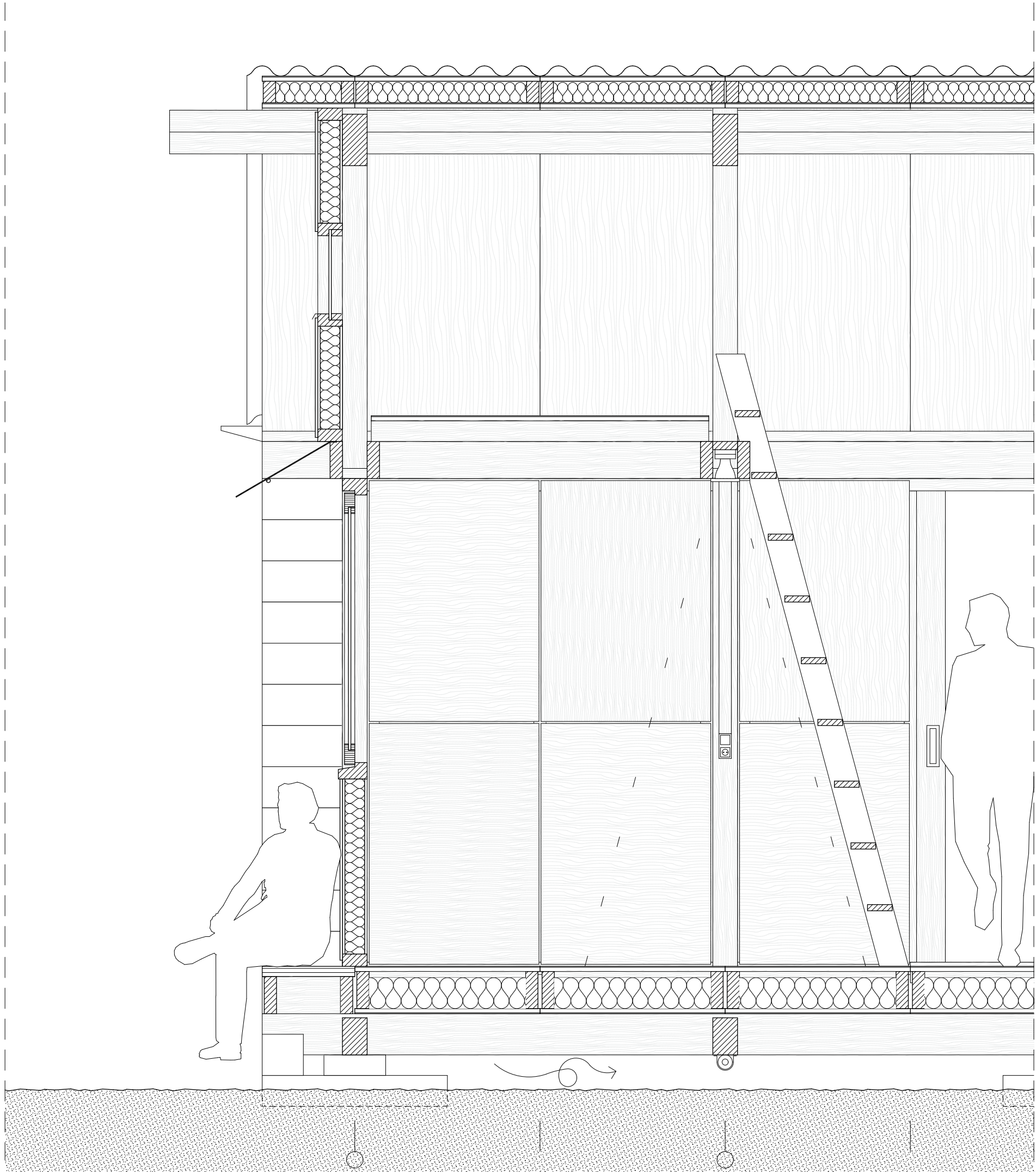
12. Walls can be attached underneath every truss (every 1,80 meter)



13. Lofts can easily be added because of the small span









Making a wall



1. Collecting the materials and pre-making the doors



2. Clamp the wall frame between the structure



3. Divide the frame based on measurements of doors and window



4. Mounting the (second-hand found) window



5. Insulate panels with old cardboard



6. Cladding the outside of the wall with wooden panels





8. Cover interior wall with (self-made) wallpaper and place curtains



9. Ready for further furnishing of the room



The small door



One of the facades after it was finished...



...and some time later





Thank you