on bodies and norms
on being and becoming
on moving and growing and learning and not knowing
on interpreting surroundings and challenging the *status quo*
on how architecture can empower
and on how there's always more than one (body)

- a design proposal for the Zelfregiehuis in Rotterdam

p5
veerle alkemade
11.07.2019

fascination…



Women's March, Washington 2017 (Ruth Fremson/The New York Times)



Demonstration against Zwarte Piet, Dokkum, 2017 (ANP/Trouw)

…what can architecture do?

- how can I – as an architect – be sensitive to these topics of empowerment and inclusivity
- how can I take action in/with/through architecture?

…what does architecture do?

- architecture can be seen as mediator between bodies and surroundings

…what does architecture do?

- architecture can be seen as mediator between bodies and surroundings
  - but what are bodies?

…what does architecture do?

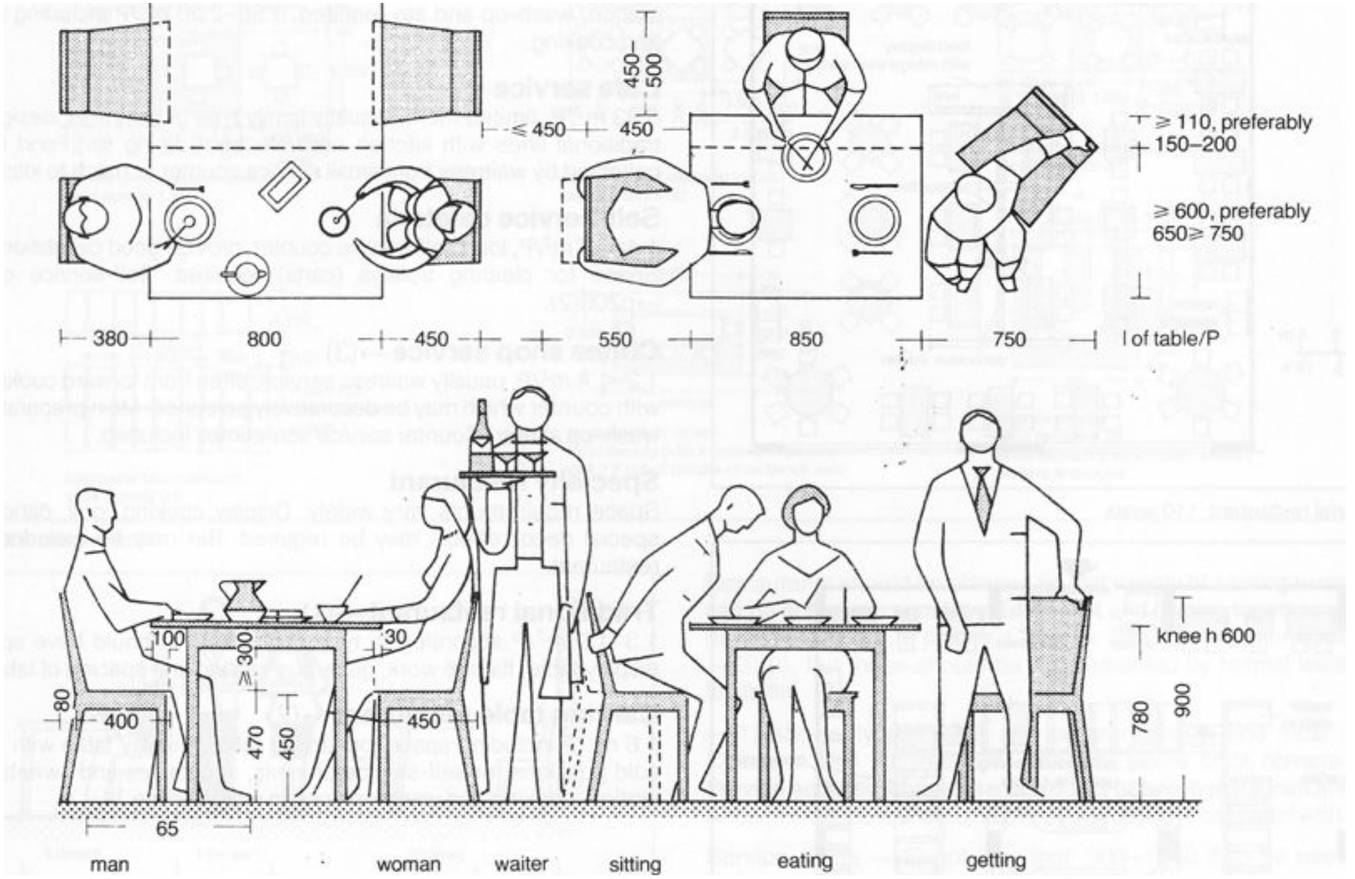
- architecture can be seen as mediator between bodies and surroundings
  - but what are bodies?
  - and how can architecture mediate?

…what does architecture do?

- (normative/standardised) architectural approaches:
  - define what bodies are and what they need
  - make designs based on these definitions

this is problematic...

- it can create **normative environments** and **behaviours**

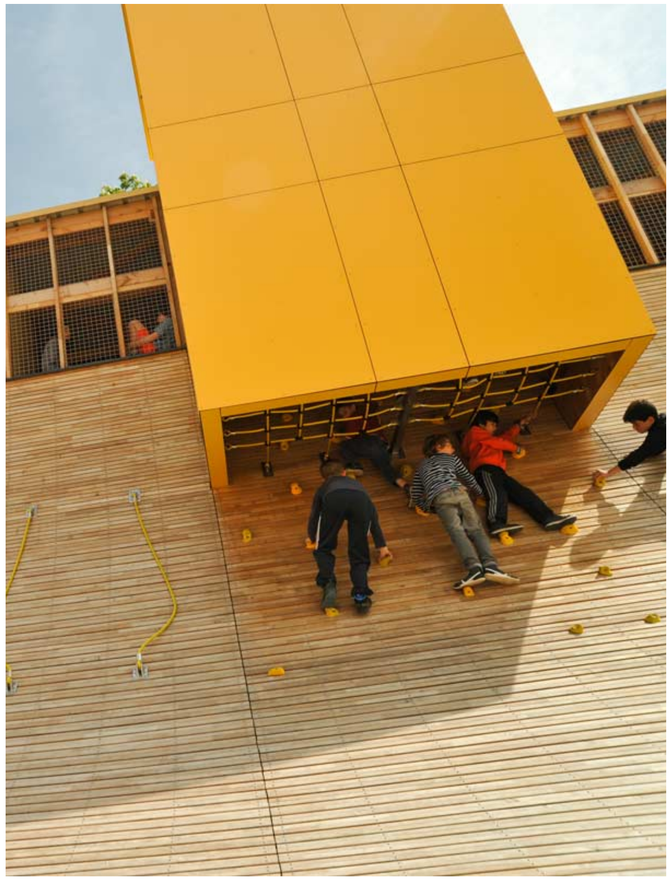


Neufert, E. (1980). *Architects' Data - Second (International) English Edition*. Oxford, UK: Blackwell Science, p.204

this is problematic…

- it leaves no space for **bodies** and for body-surroundings relations to **grow/change/become**





The Rampart Wave, Lyon, France (BASE Landscape Architecture)

this is problematic…

deze foto ???

- it leaves no space for **bodies** and for body-surroundings relations to **grow/change/become**



Yoro Park - Site of Reversible Destiny, Yoro, Japan (Shusaku Arakawa & Madeline Gins)

this is problematic...

- it ignores the **situatedness** of bodies and the **interdepency** between bodies and surroundings.



Circular No. 1, Windsor Park, UK (Pezo von Ellrichshausen)

Designing for People - Henri Dreyfuss

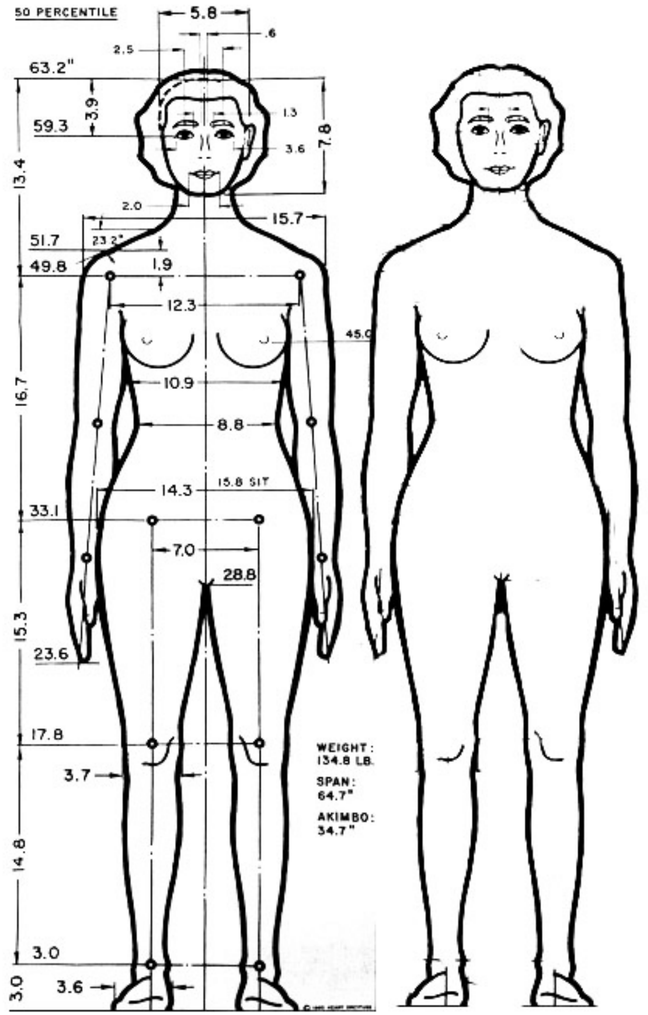
I formulated an ambition…

- try and reject all knowledge about **what bodies are**

- focus on **what bodies can do (somewhere, sometime)**

I formulated an ambition…

- bodies ≠ **entities**



Dreyfuss, H. (1955). Designing for People. New York: Simon & Schuster.

I formulated an ambition…

- bodies = **fields of potentials**



Roel and Alberto – P3 presentation

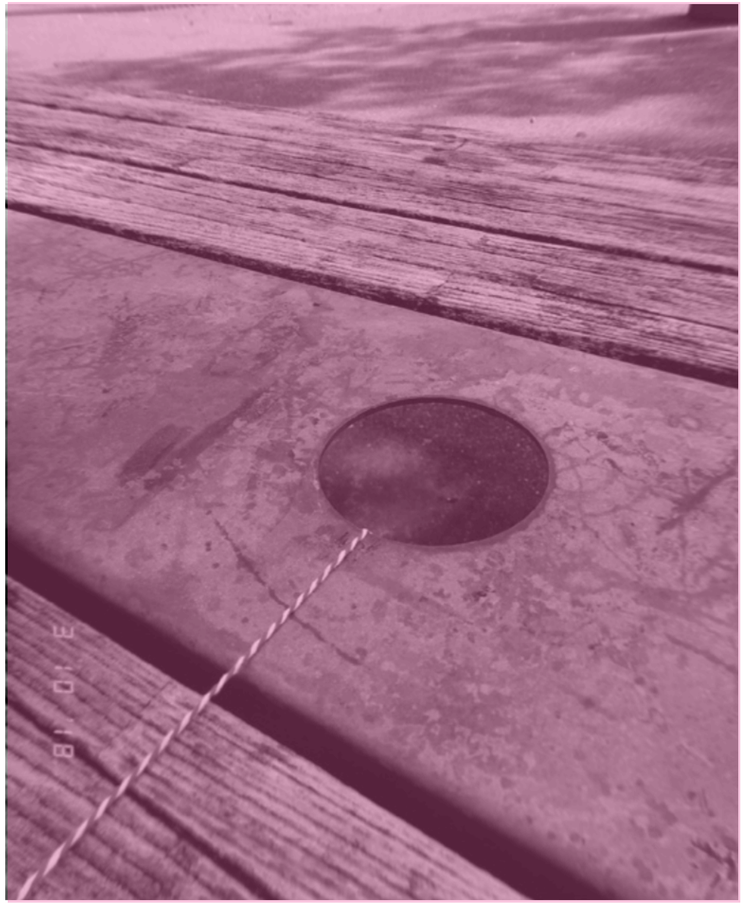
…okay. but now what?

explore other ways of designing…



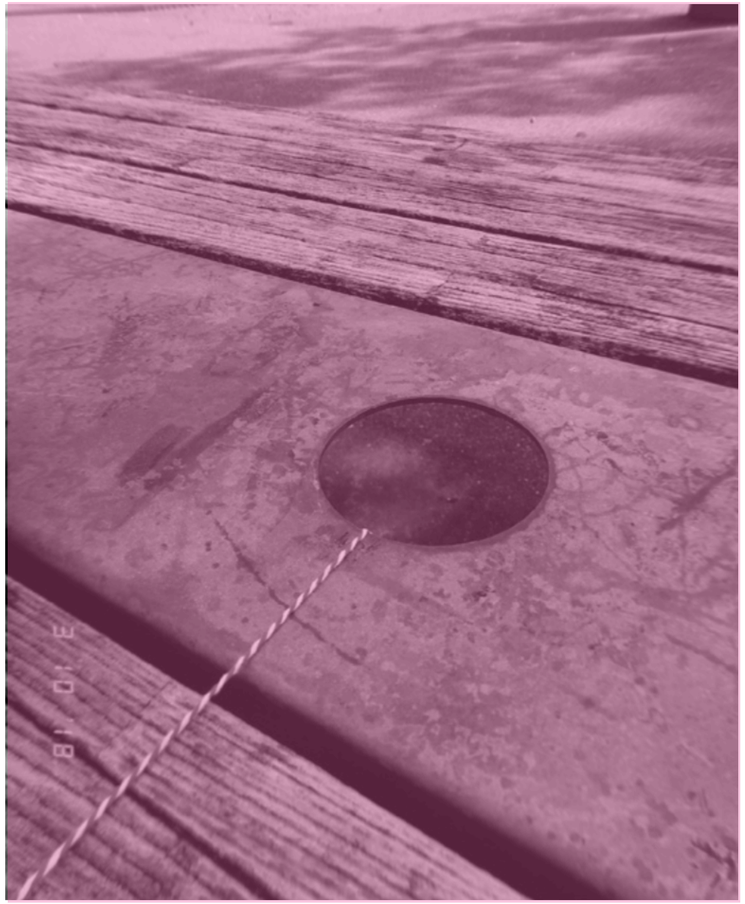
explore other ways of designing…





explore other ways of designing…







explore other ways of designing…



explore other ways of designing…





explore other ways of designing…





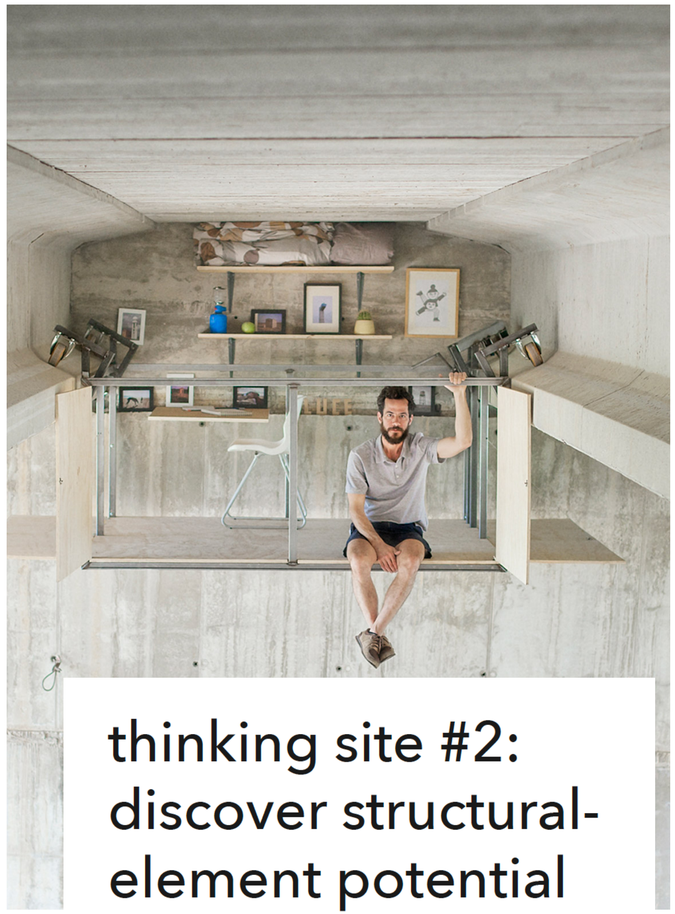


Secret Studio, Valencia, Spain (Fernando Abellanas)

explore other ways of designing…







gather *'thinking sites'* collection

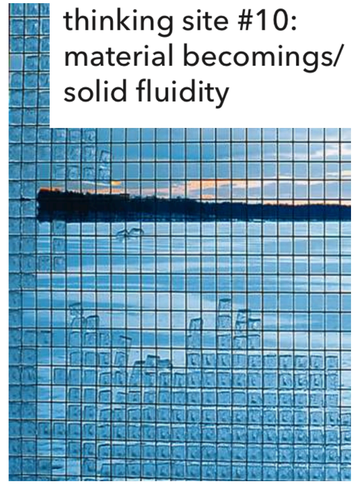


thinking site #4:
emerge from/
merge into



thinking site #8:
disturb normative
settings





thinking site #10:
material becomings/
solid fluidity



thinking site #9:
approach the limit/
enable constraints



thinking site #3:
make non-intrusive
connections



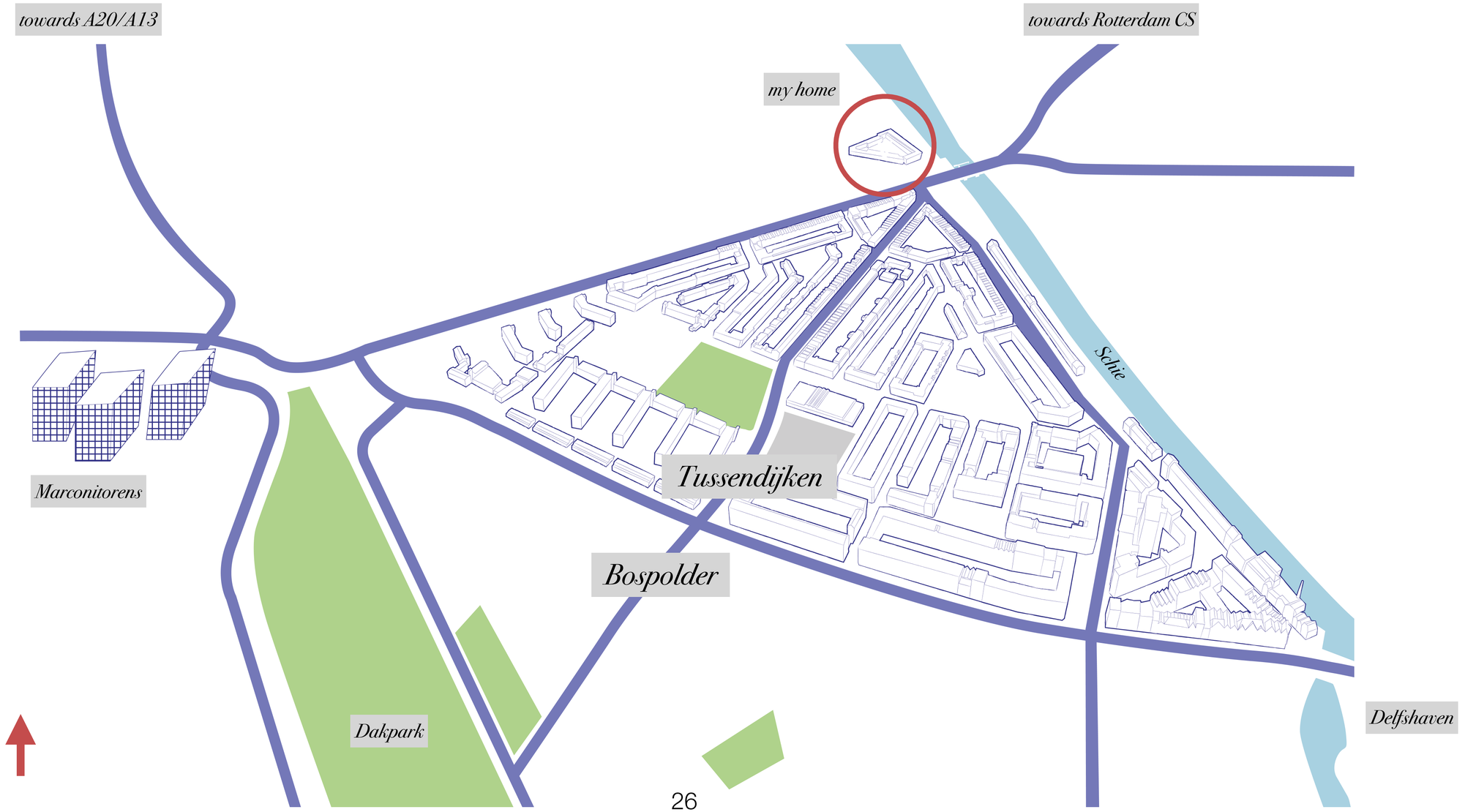
thinking site #2:
discover structural-
element potential

the site

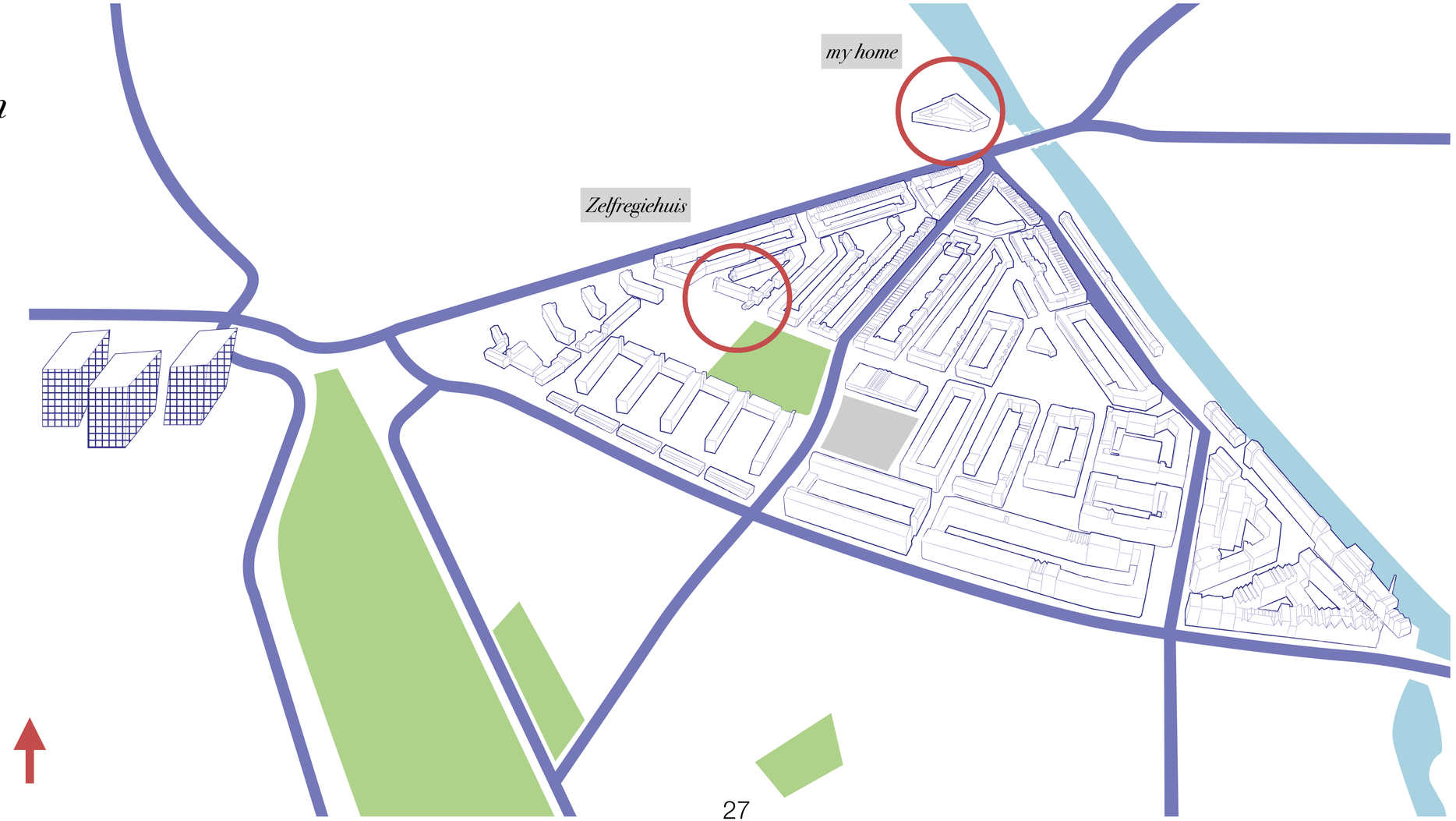
Rotterdam - Delfshaven



Bospolder-Tussendijken



Bospolder-
Tussendijken



Tussendijken	± 7.000 residents	64% social housing	74% low-income households
Bospolder	± 7.000 residents	66% social housing	69% low-income households
Rotterdam	±623.000 residents	46% social housing	51% low-income households

source: Gemeente Rotterdam (2016)
https://wijkprofiel.rotterdam.nl/nl/2016/rotterdam/delfshaven/tussendijken
https://wijkprofiel.rotterdam.nl/nl/2016/rotterdam/delfshaven/bospolder

Taandersstraat 121





Taandersstraat 121



Taandersstraat 121



the communal area
or 'living room'



the front garden



Park 1943



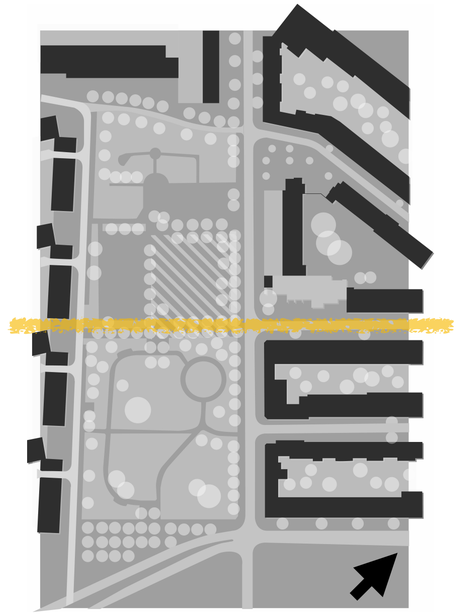
Park 1943



Park 1943







…how can architecture empower here?



the communal area



the front garden



Park 1943

design brief

- accommodate activities of the Zelfregiehuis
- design *Sites of Emergence*
  - sites that are not (pretending to be) static
  - that are open to growth/change/becoming

design brief

- So:
  - no focus on **an end result**
  - focus on **acts which affect surroundings** and which (through affecting) make more/different acts possible

some considerations…

- what you can do somewhere is influenced by…

some considerations…

- what you can do somewhere is influenced by…

(urban) regulations

some considerations…

- what you can do somewhere is influenced by…

(urban) regulations

what are you (legally) allowed to do somewhere?

some considerations…

- what you can do somewhere is influenced by…



what are you (legally) allowed to do somewhere?

some considerations…

- what you can do somewhere is influenced by…



what are you (legally) allowed to do somewhere?

which tools & techniques are at your disposal?

some considerations…

- what you can do somewhere is influenced by…

(urban) regulations

available tools & techniques

construction time & place

what are you (legally) allowed to do somewhere?

which tools & techniques are at your disposal?

some considerations…

- what you can do somewhere is influenced by…



what are you (legally) allowed to do somewhere?

which tools & techniques are at your disposal?

do you have the time and place to make a mess?

some considerations…

- what you can do somewhere is influenced by…



what are you (legally) allowed to do somewhere?

which tools & techniques are at your disposal?

do you have the time and place to make a mess?

(urban) regulations

(urban) regulations

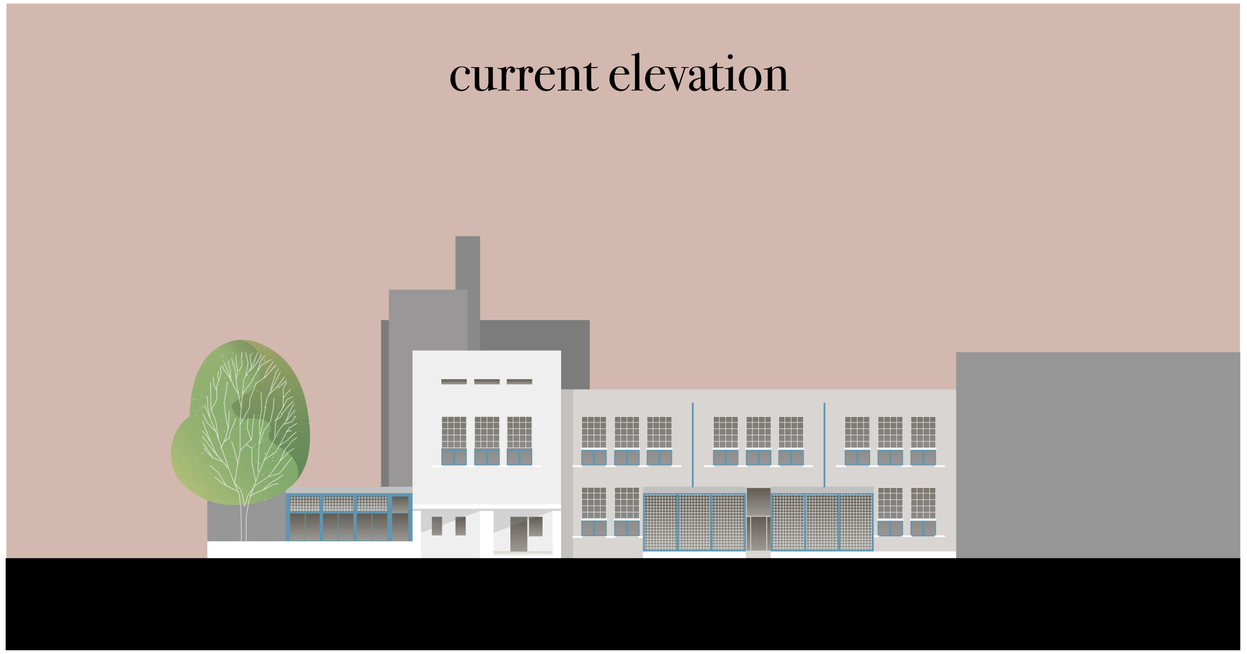
what are you (legally) allowed to do somewhere?

- action:
  - create new *base layers* in the park and in the Taandersstraat which allow for spontaneous use of the site

taandersstraat 121

(urban) regulations

- action:
  - create new **base layers** in the park and in the Taandersstraat which allow for spontaneous use of the site...

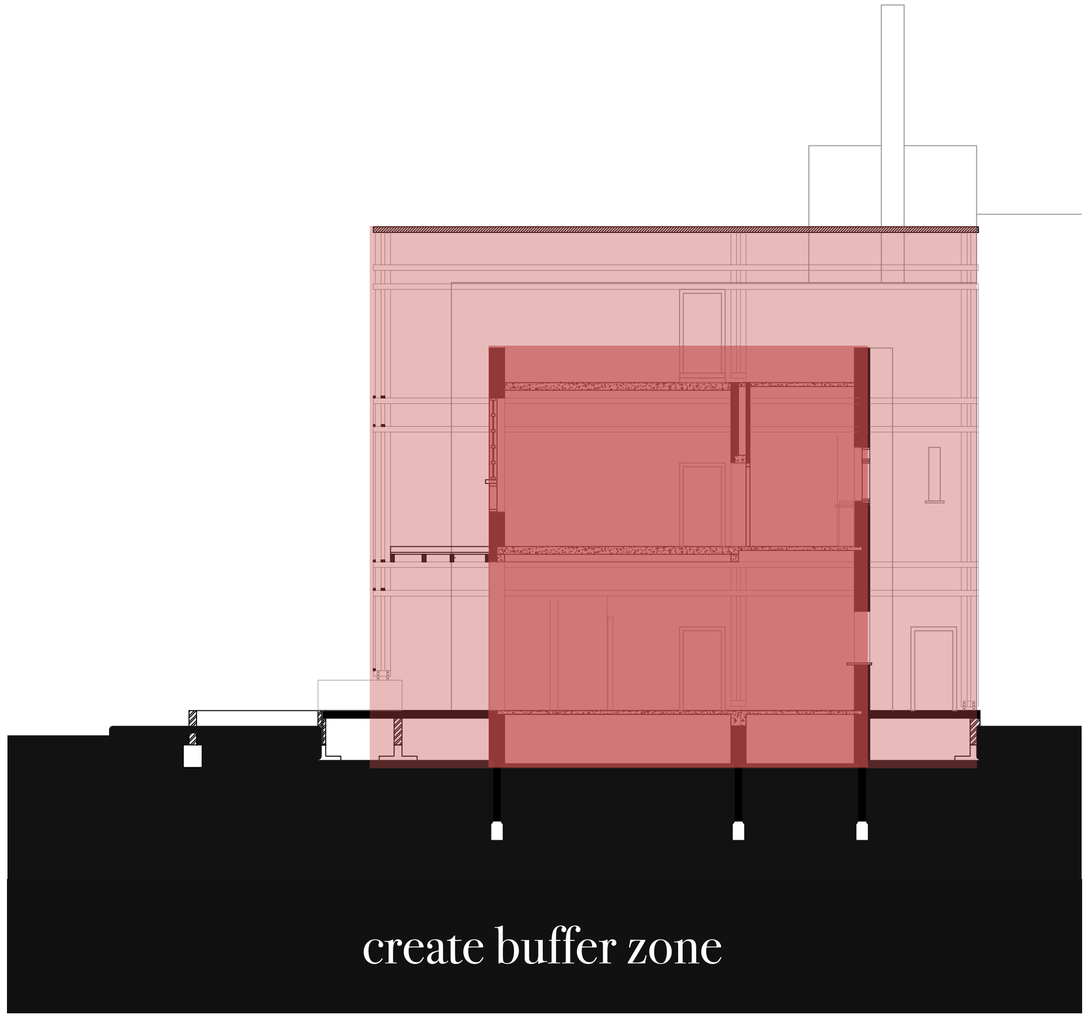


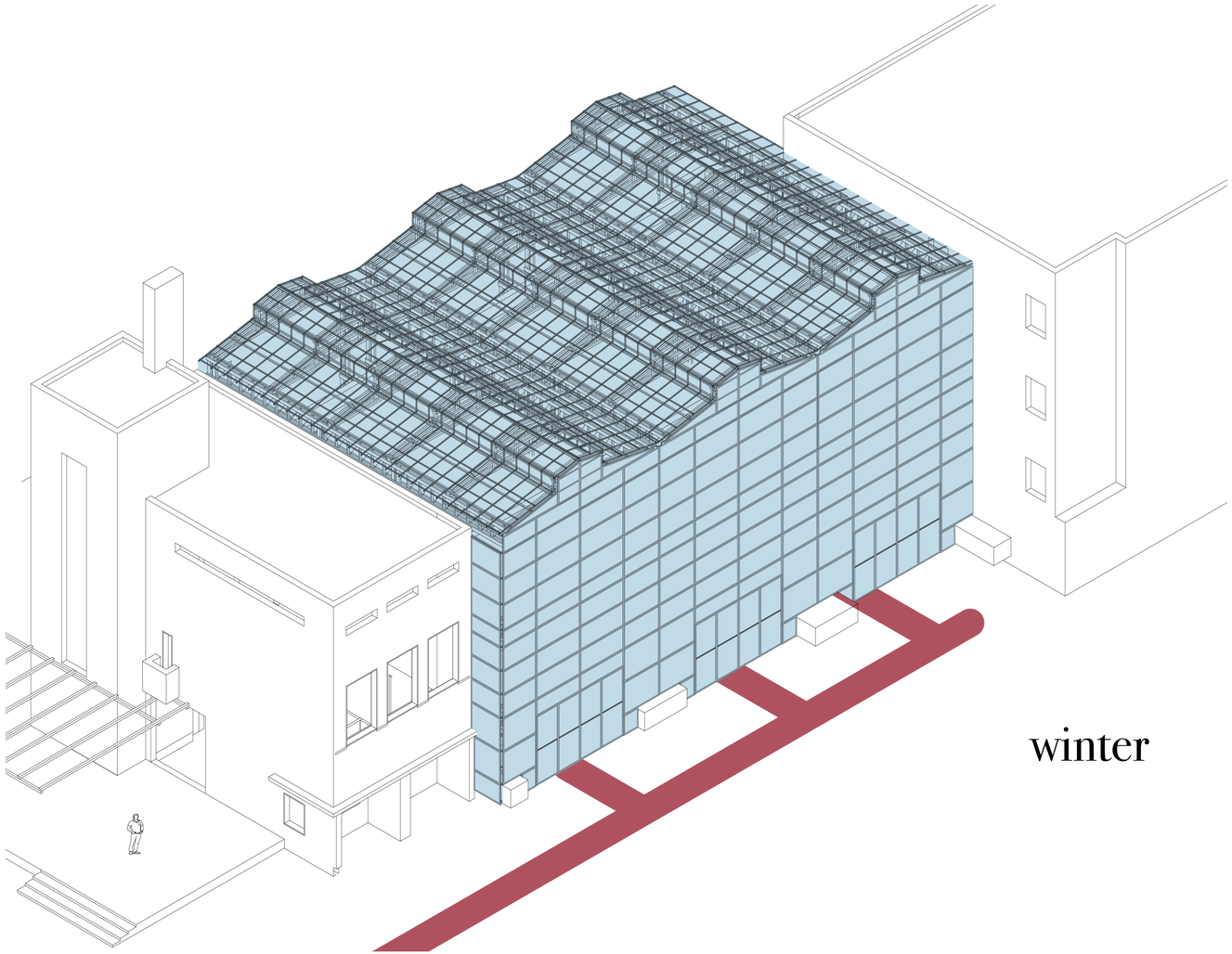
(urban) regulations

- create extra facade as a protective shell which takes the *'technical pressure'* off of the current structure

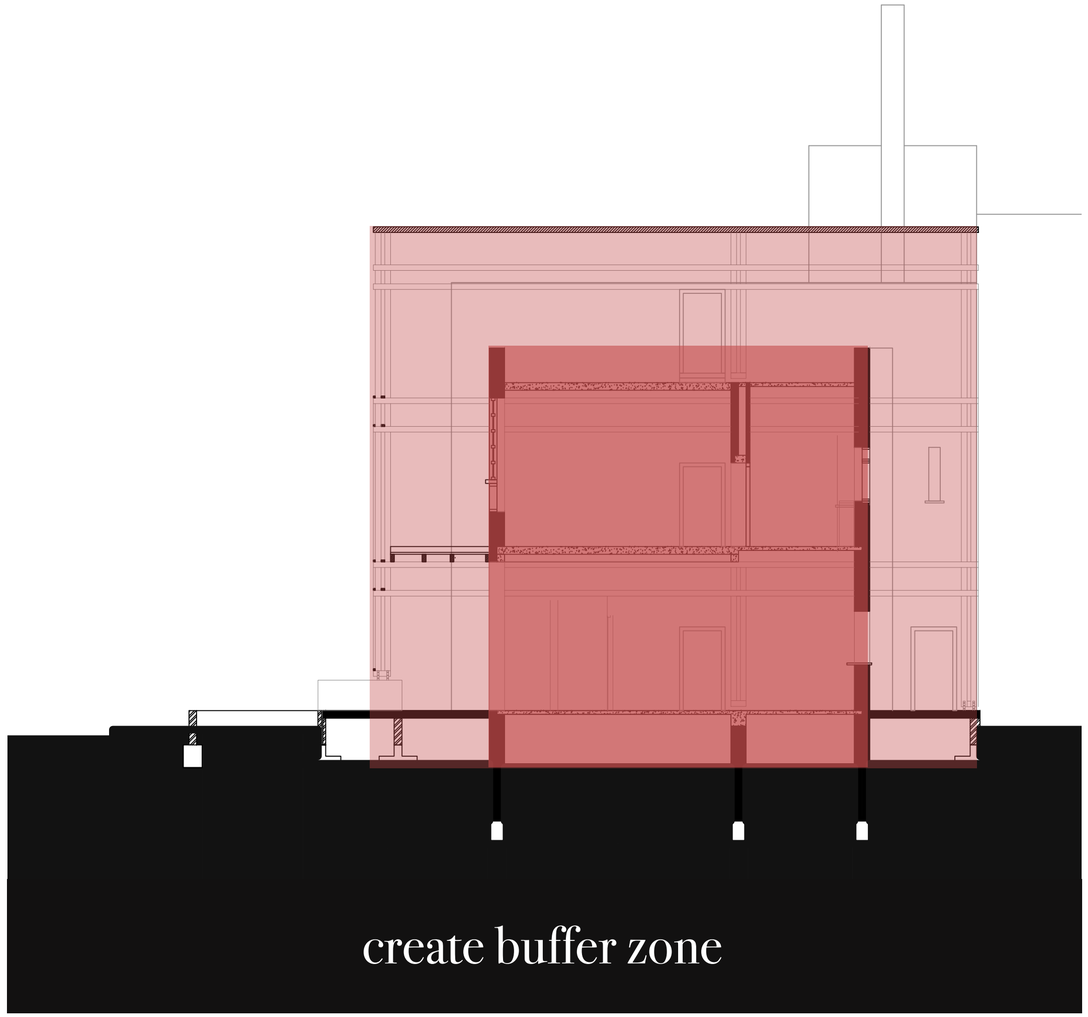


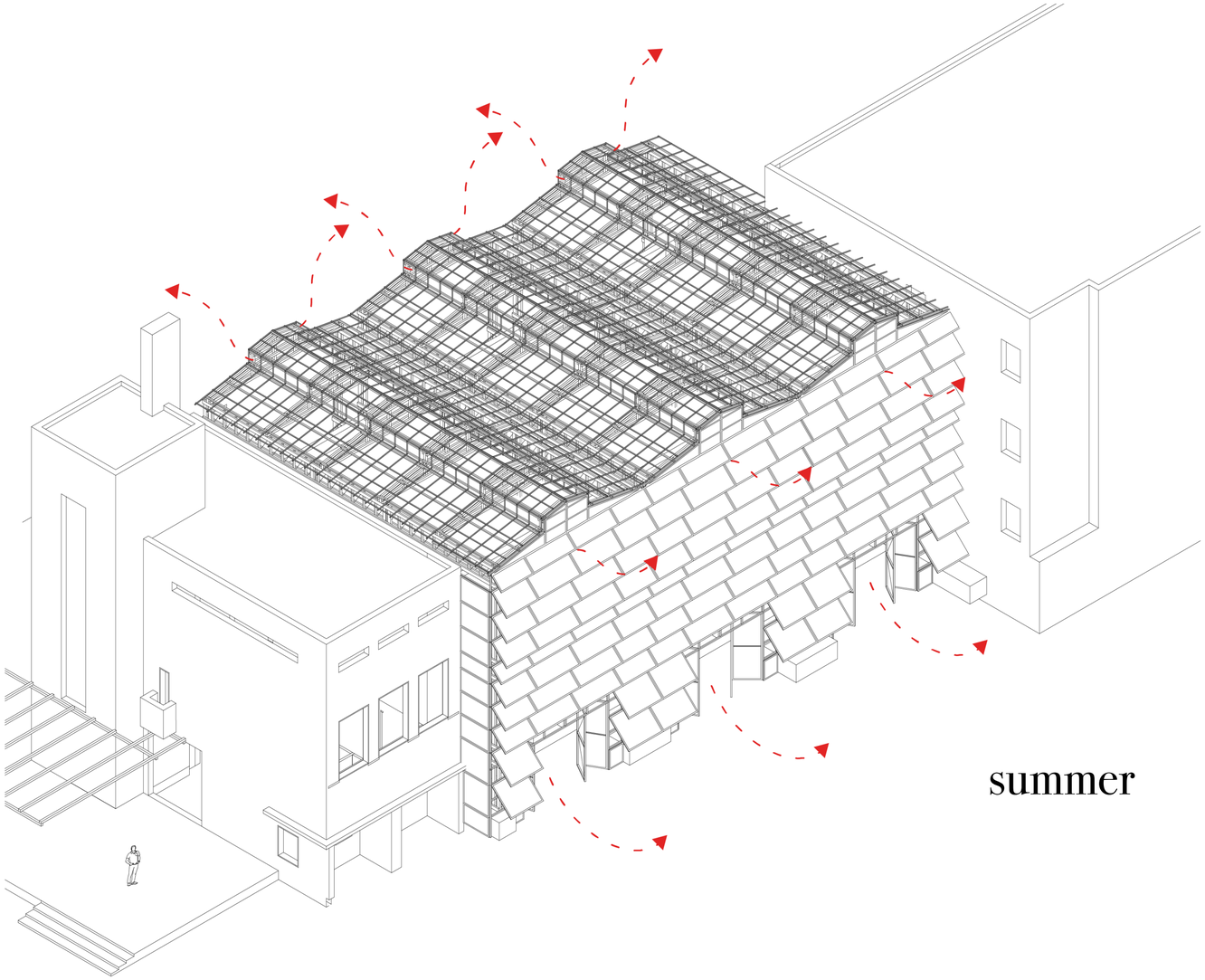
(urban) regulations

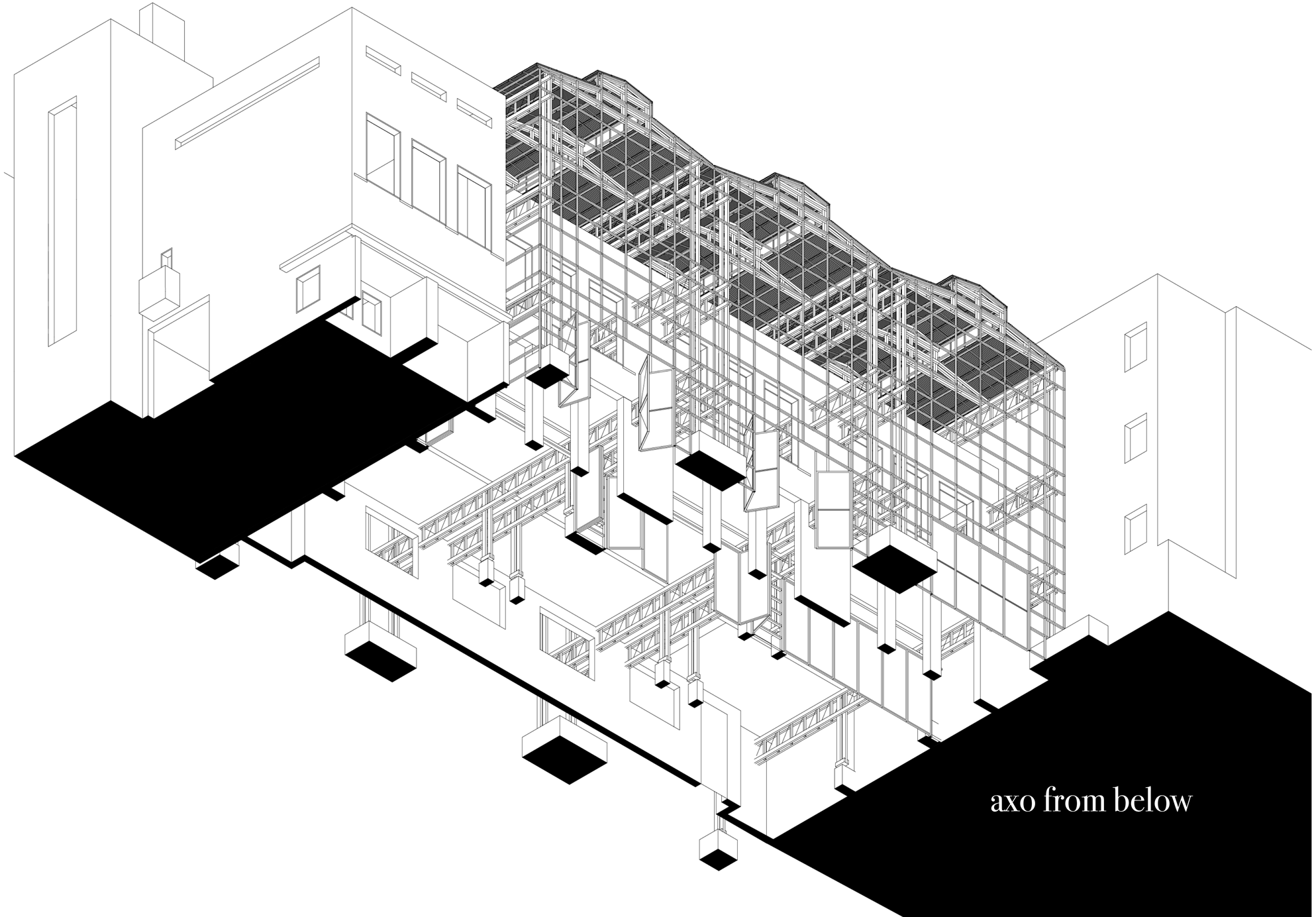




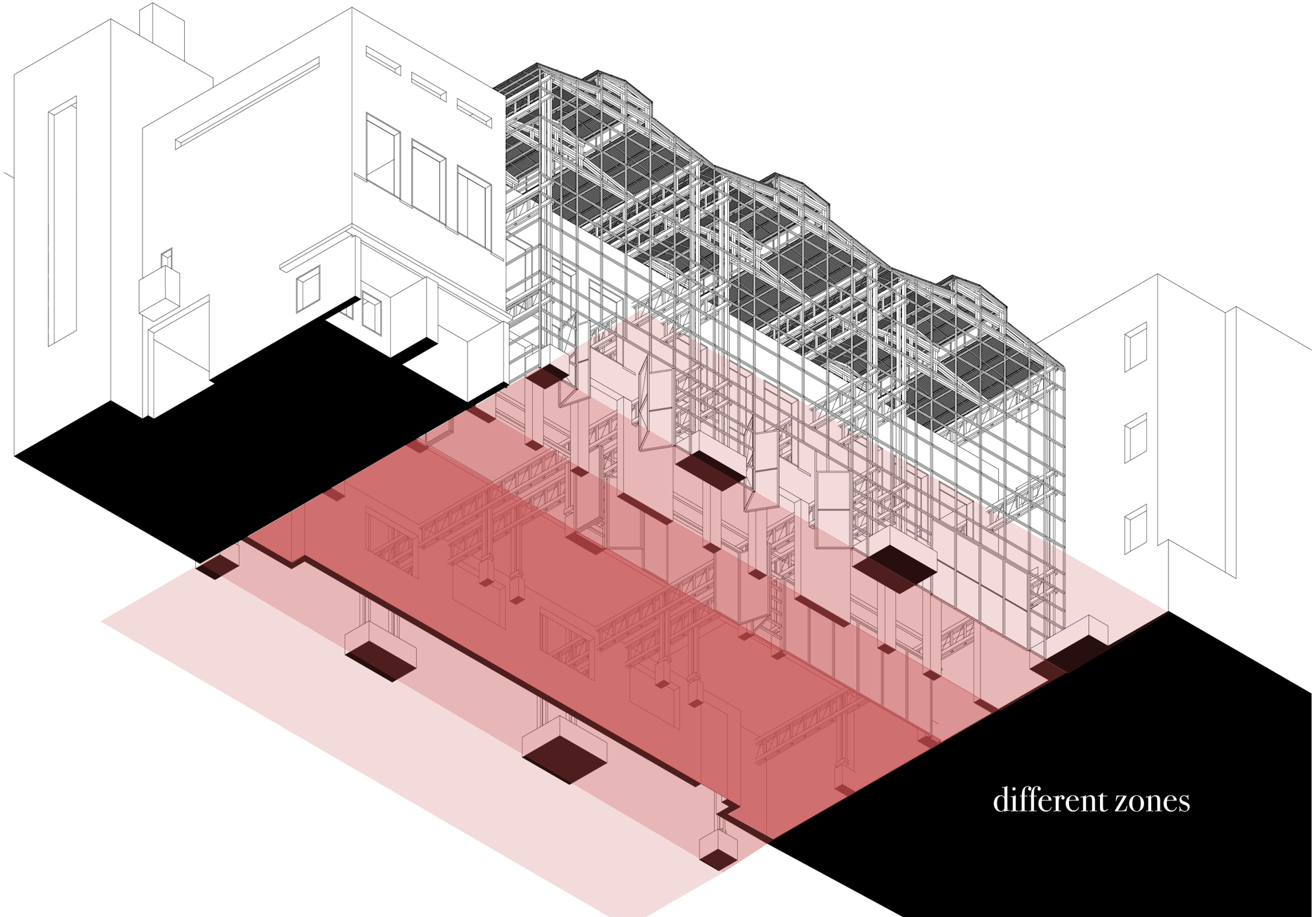
(urban) regulations

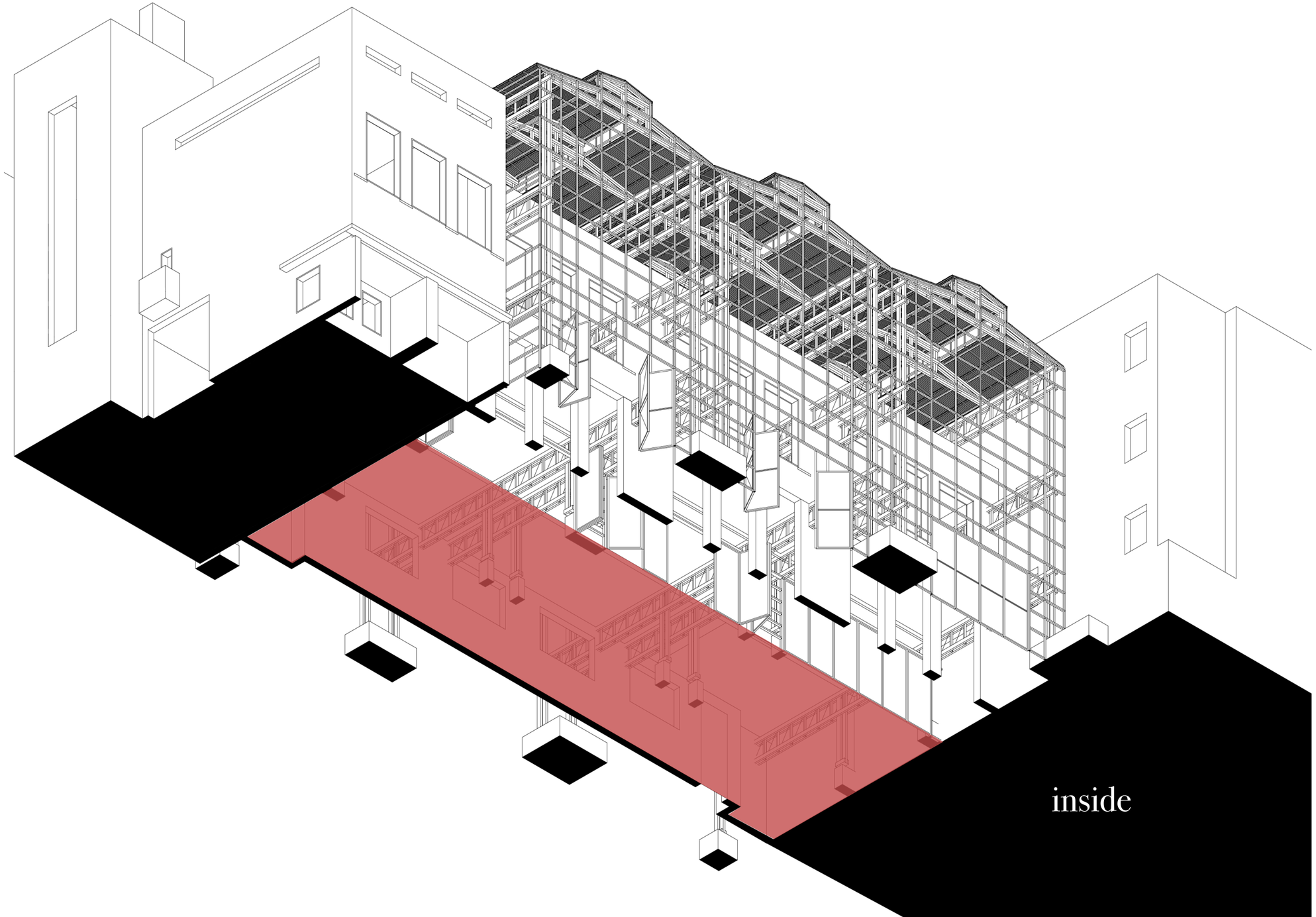


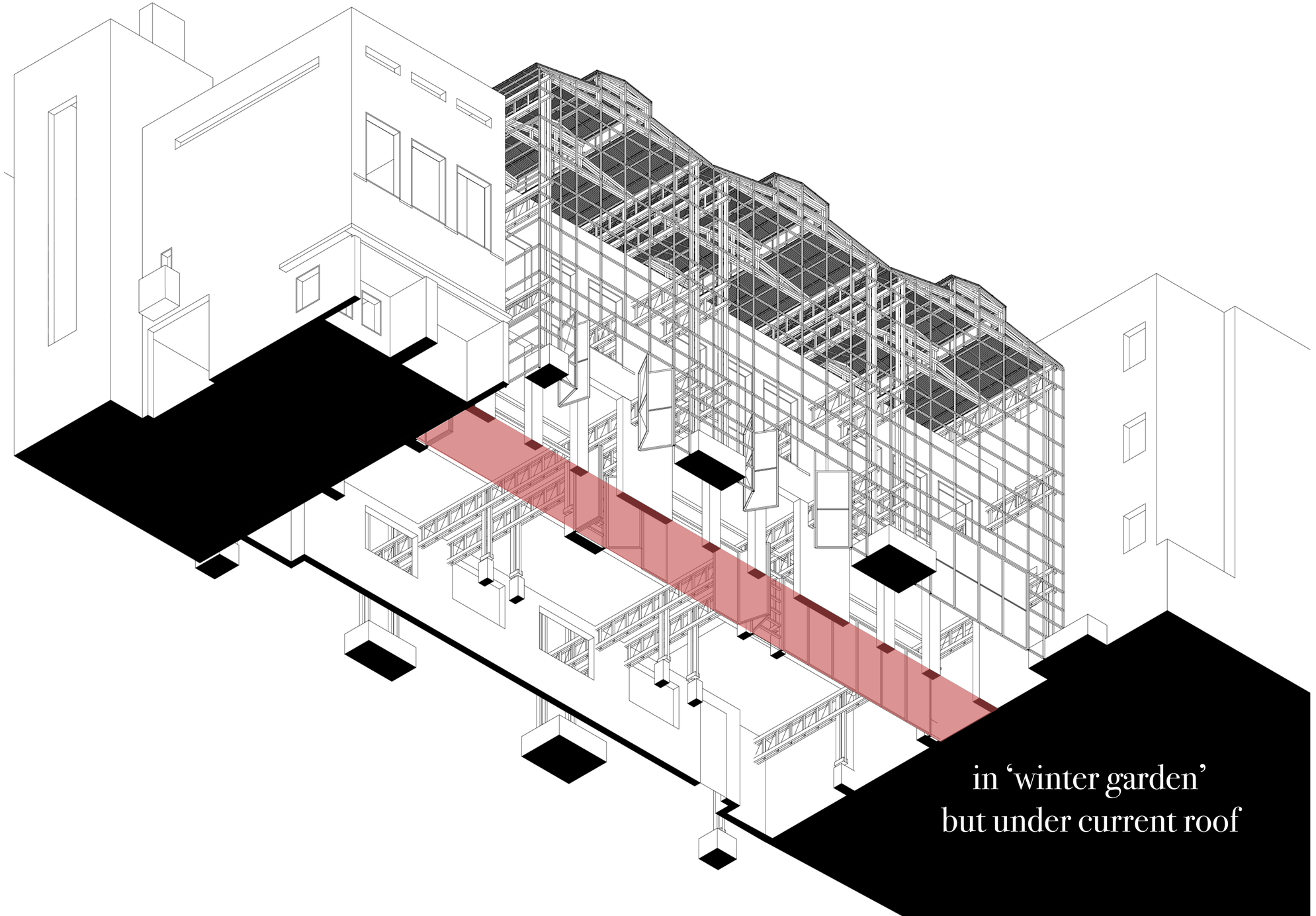


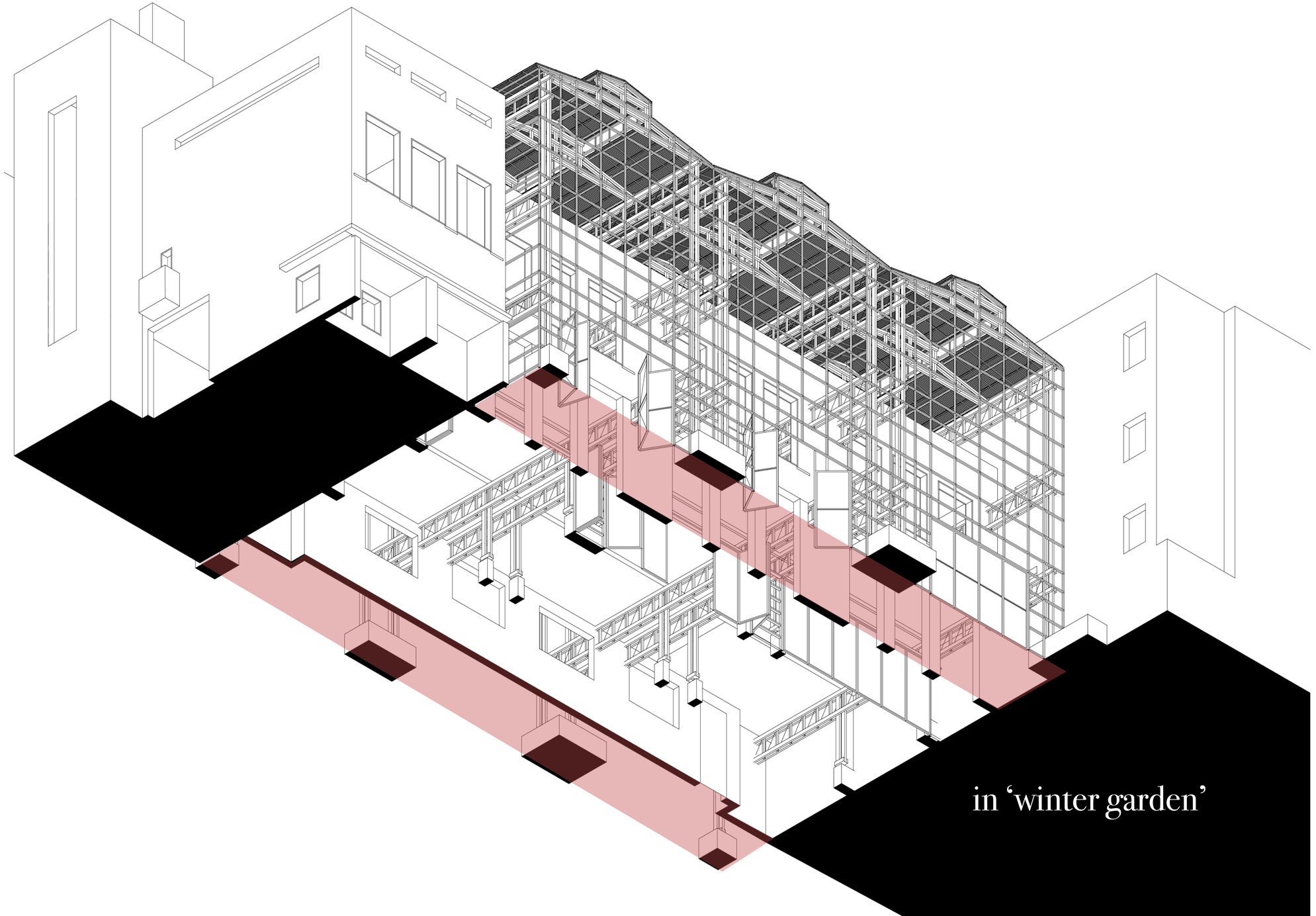


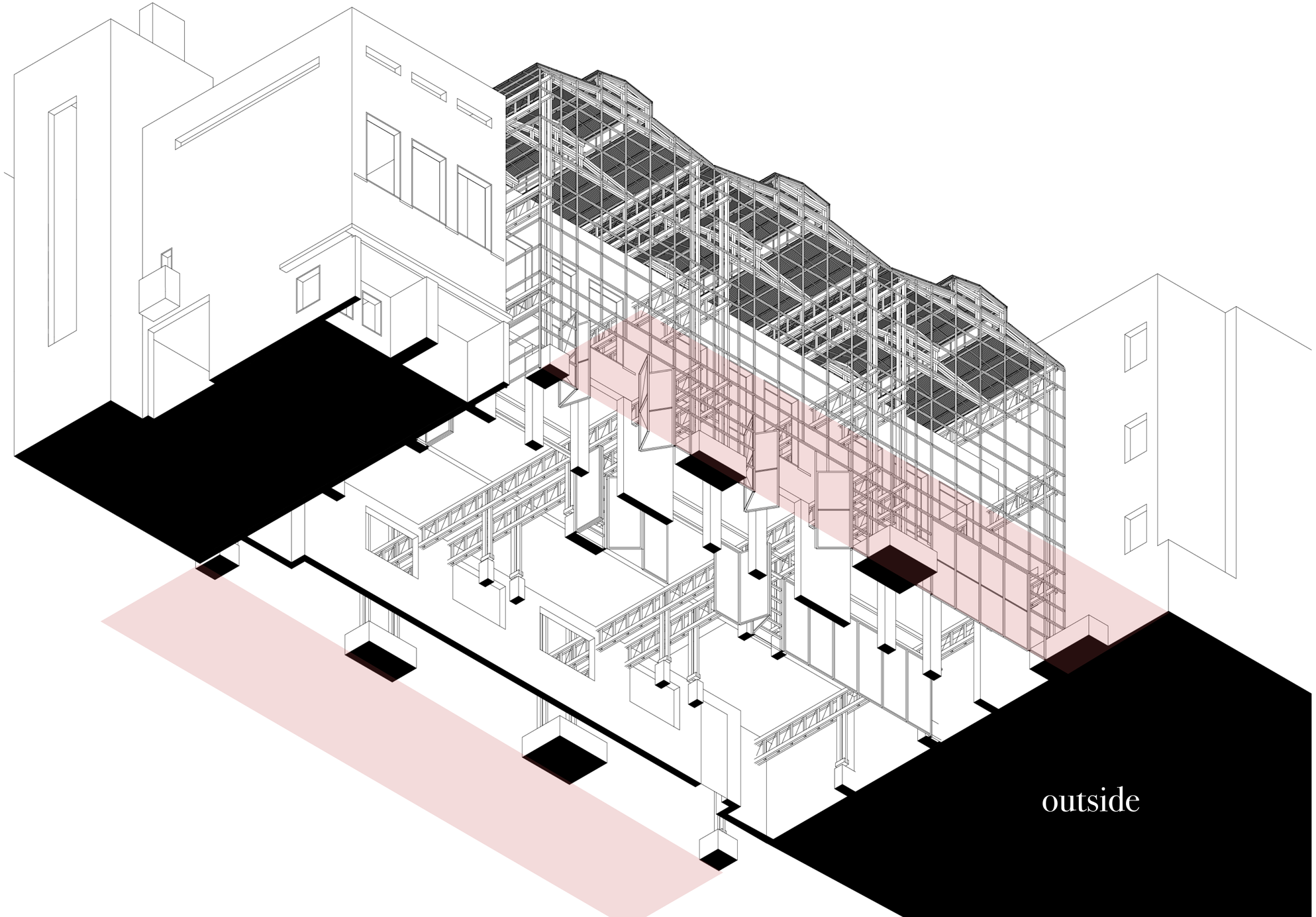
axo from below


different zones

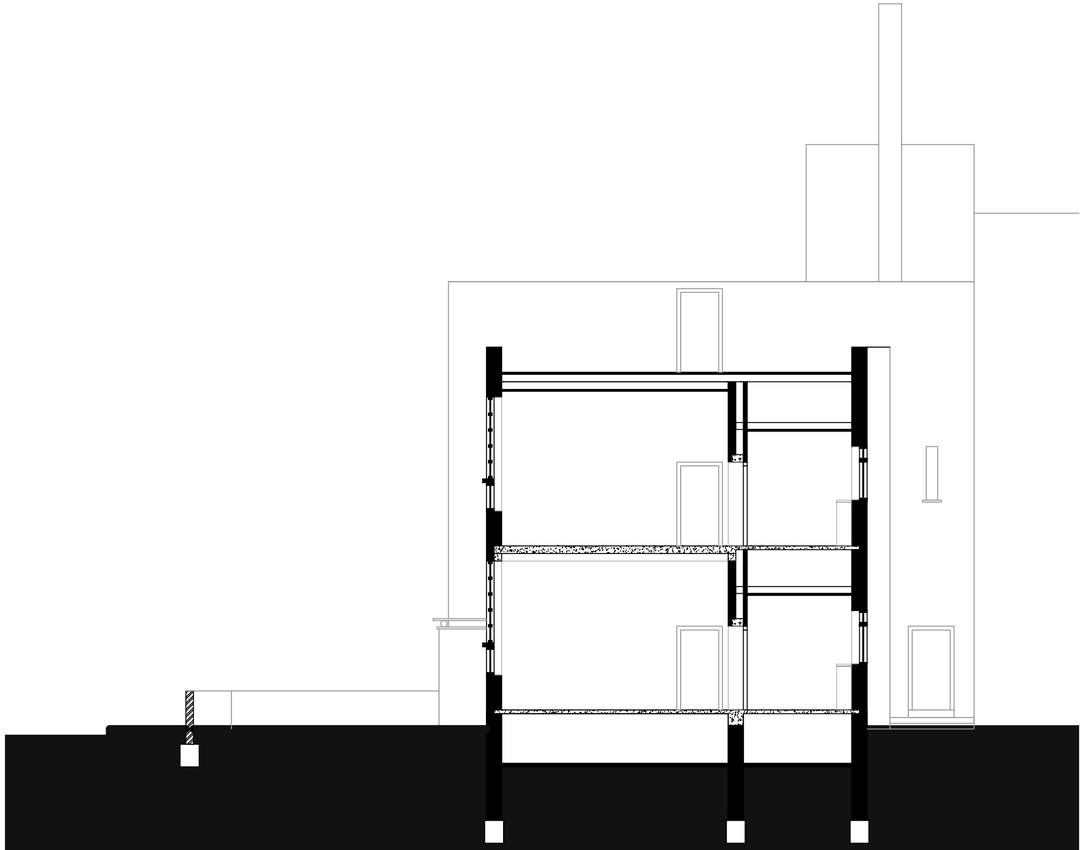

inside


in ‘winter garden’
but under current roof

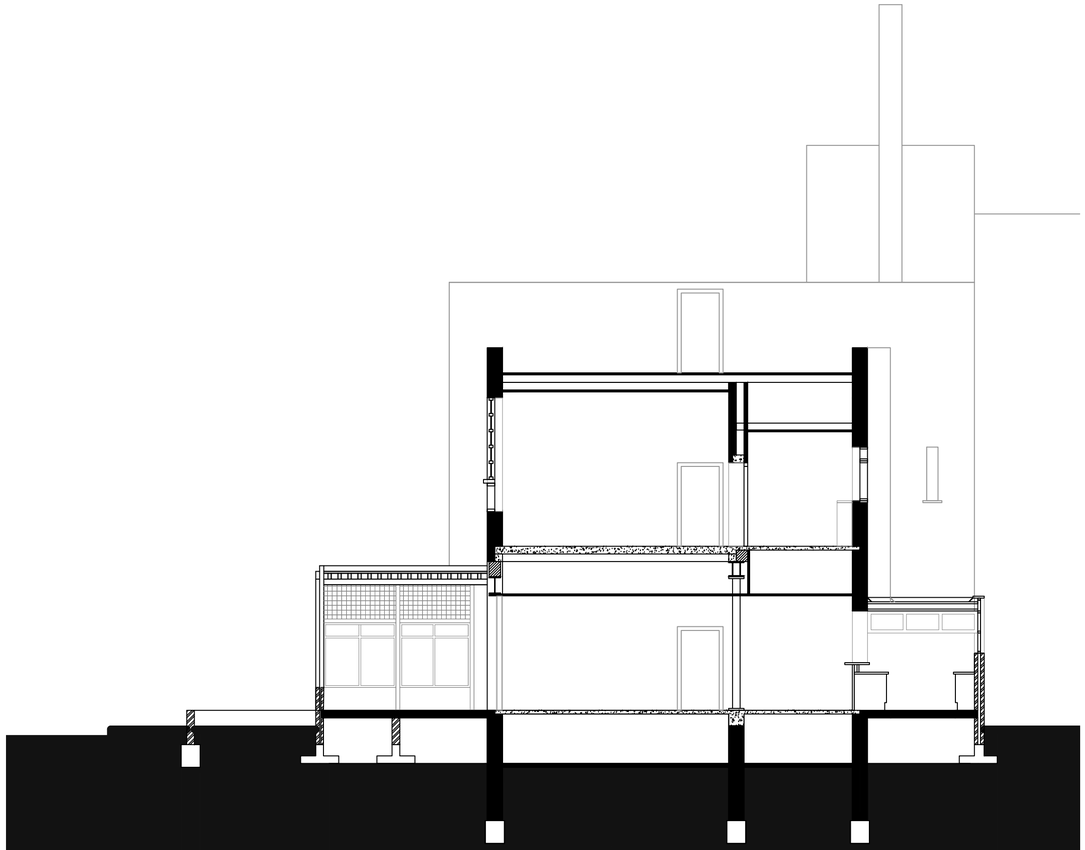

in ‘winter garden’


outside

(urban) regulations

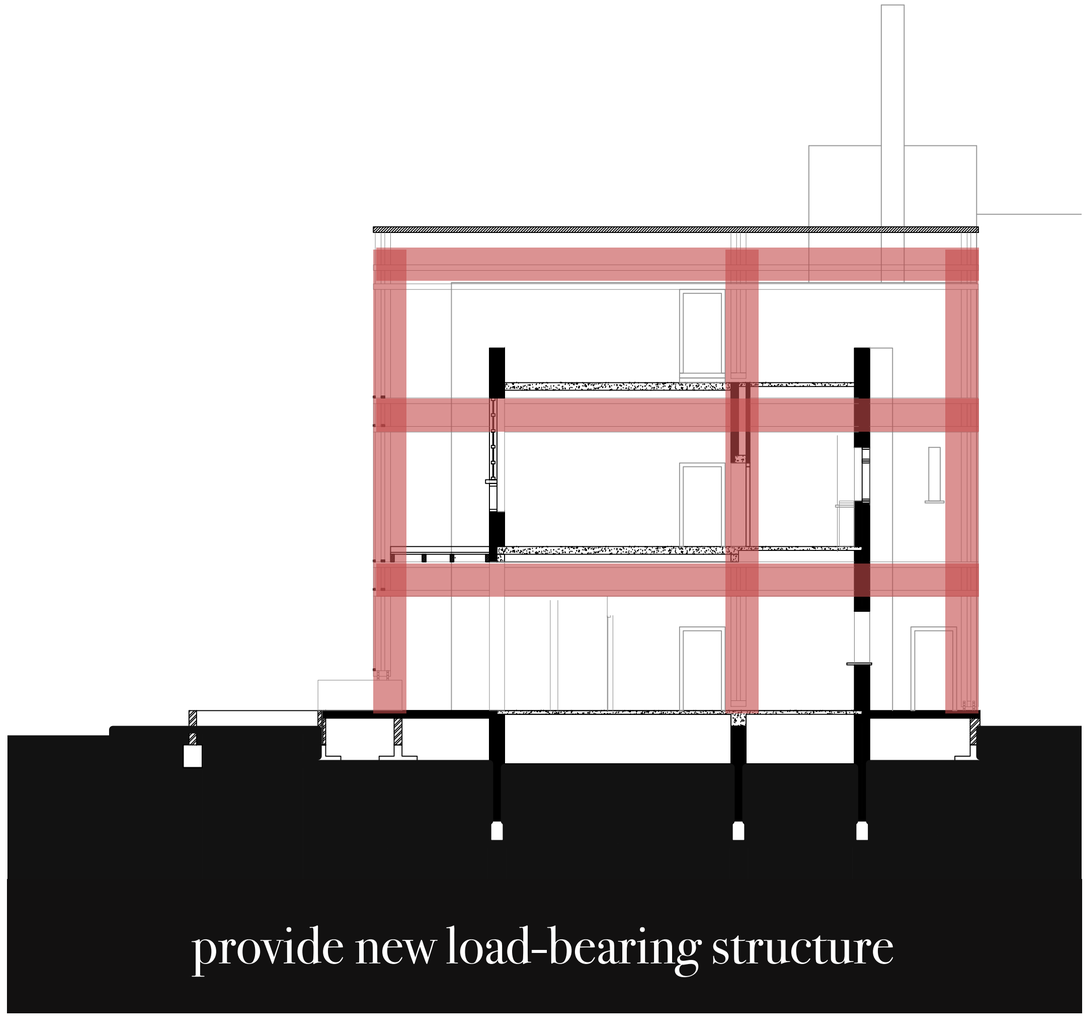


section original building

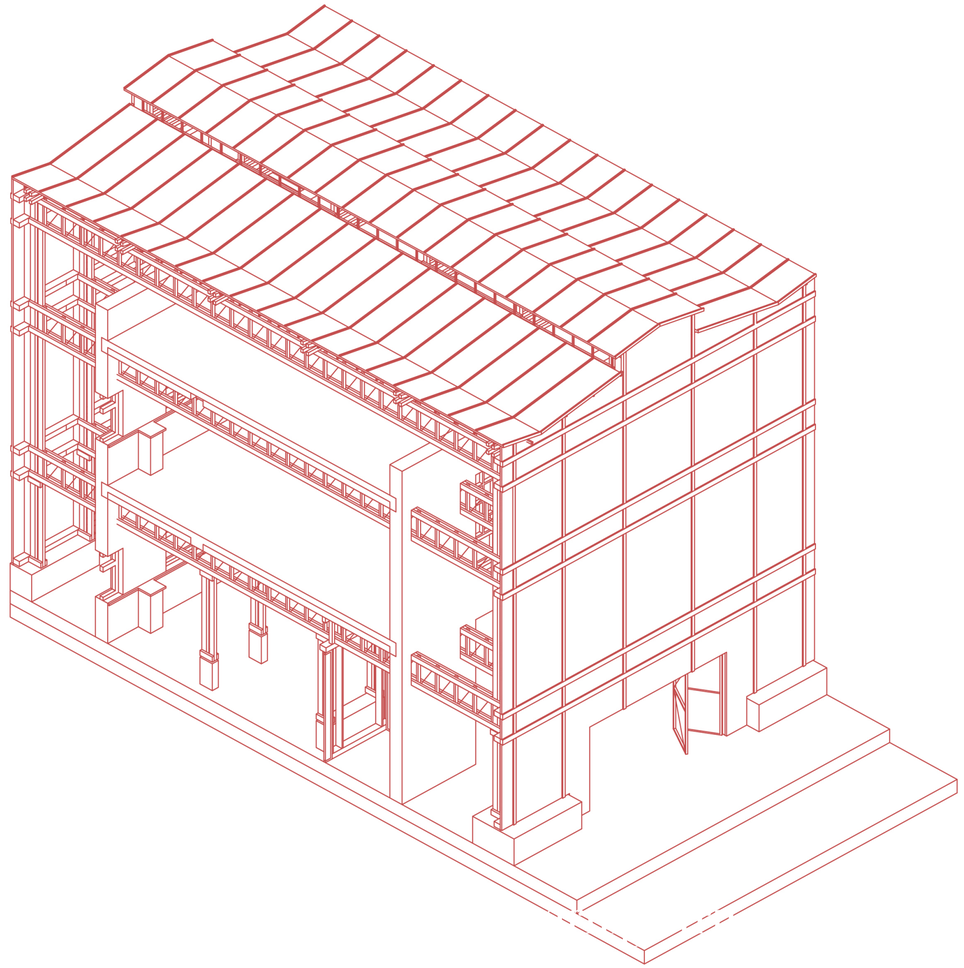


section after renovations 1980s

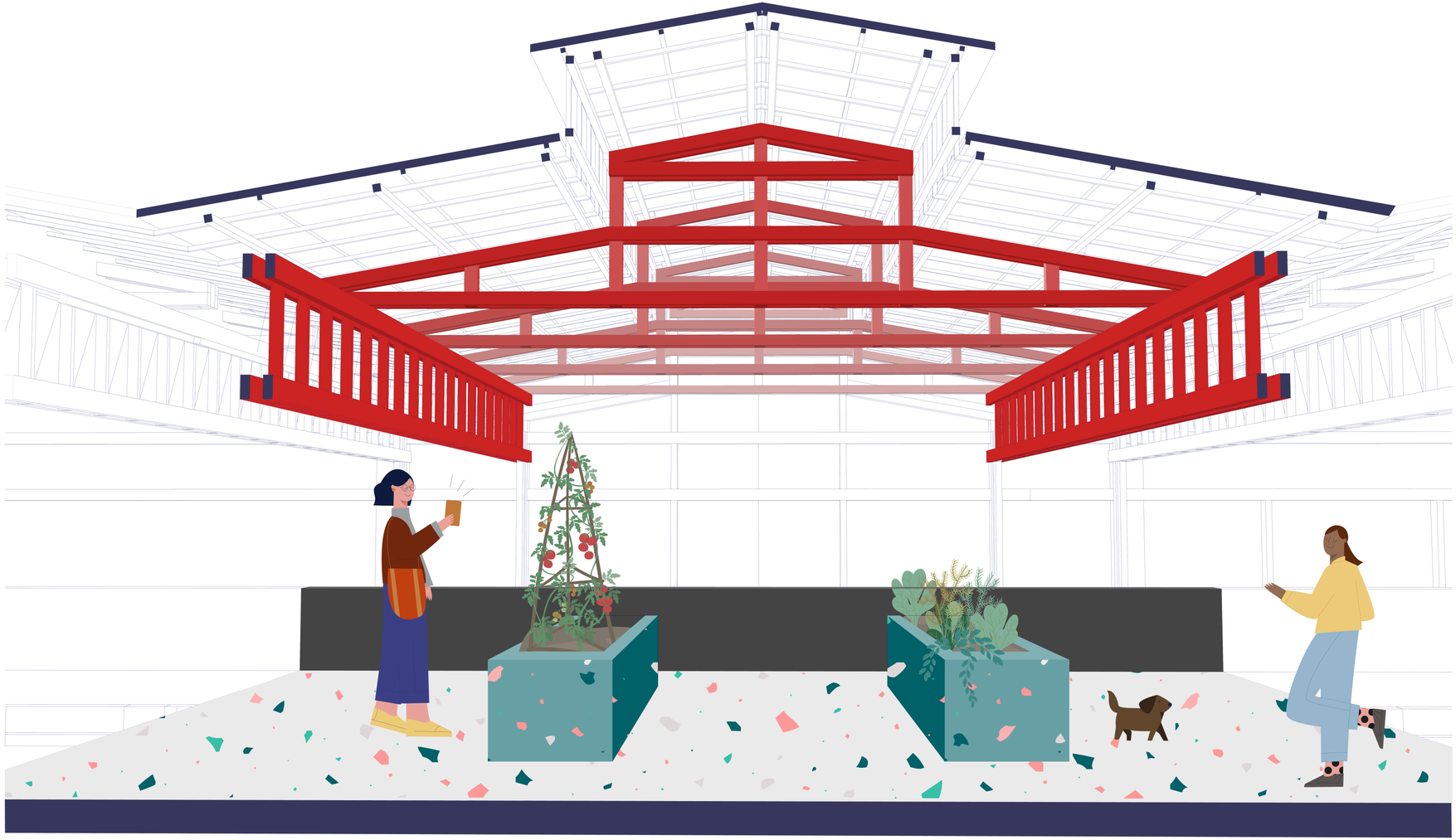
(urban) regulations



provide new load-bearing structure

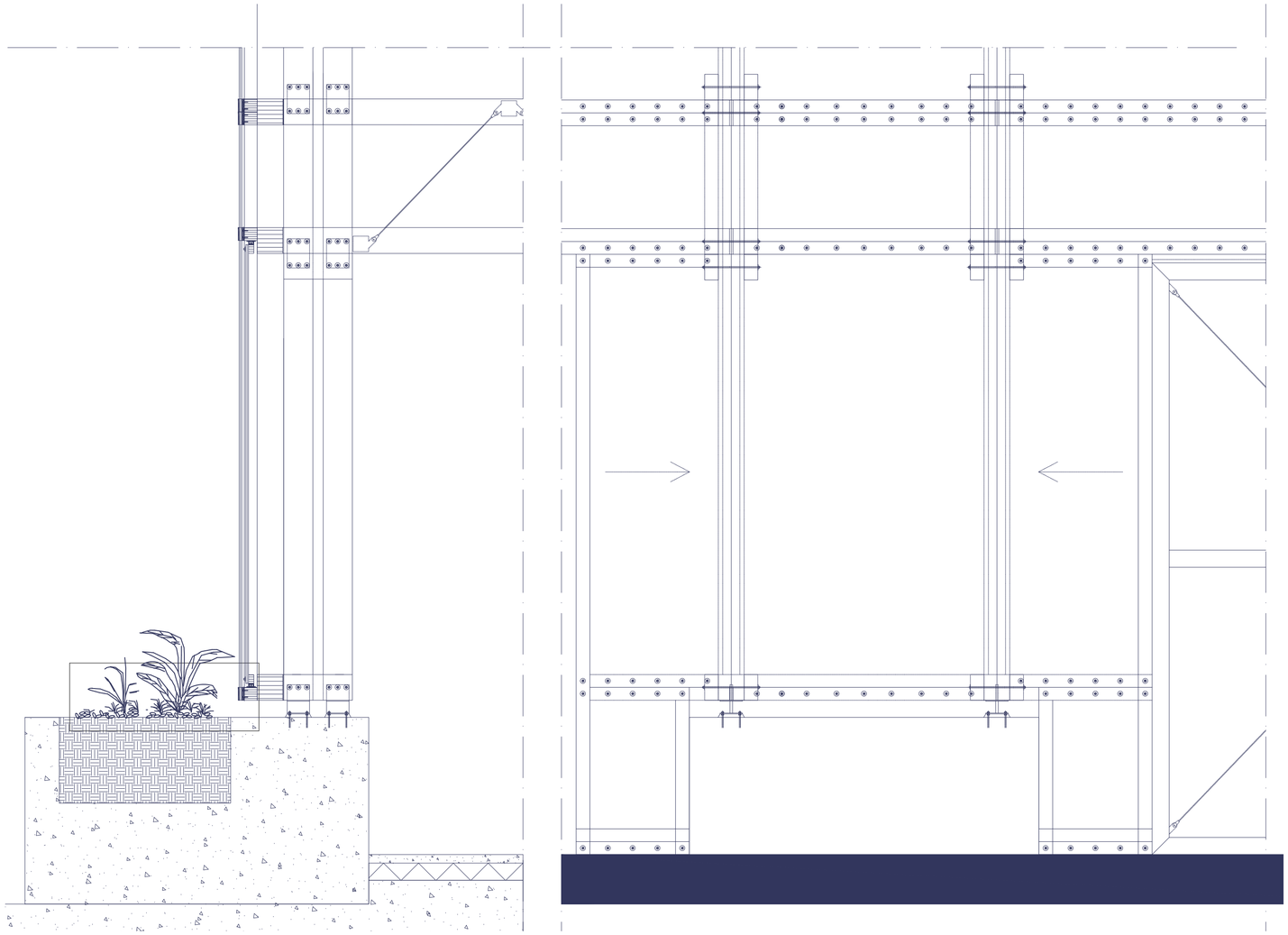


(urban) regulations



suggestion for
roof garden

- foundations as affordance for more than just supporting the columns



park 1943

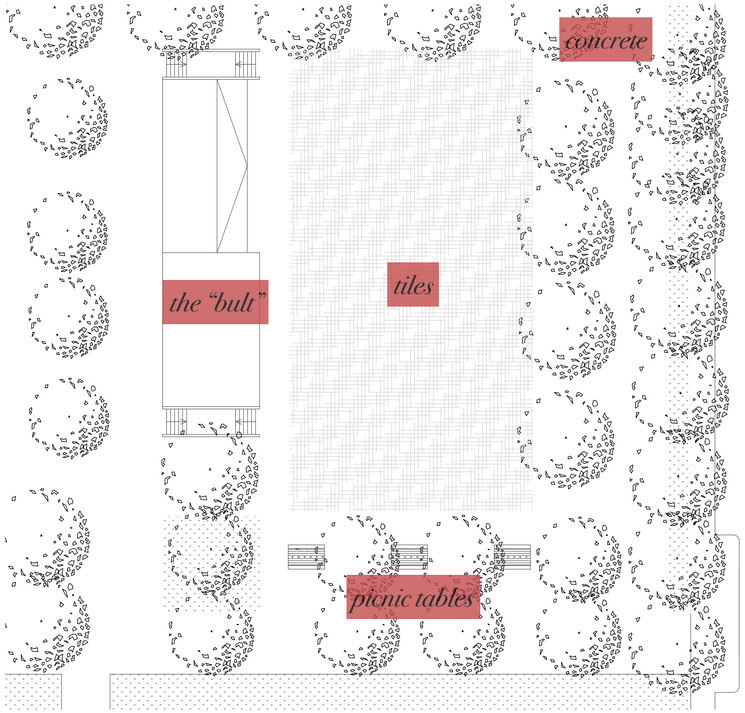
(urban) regulations

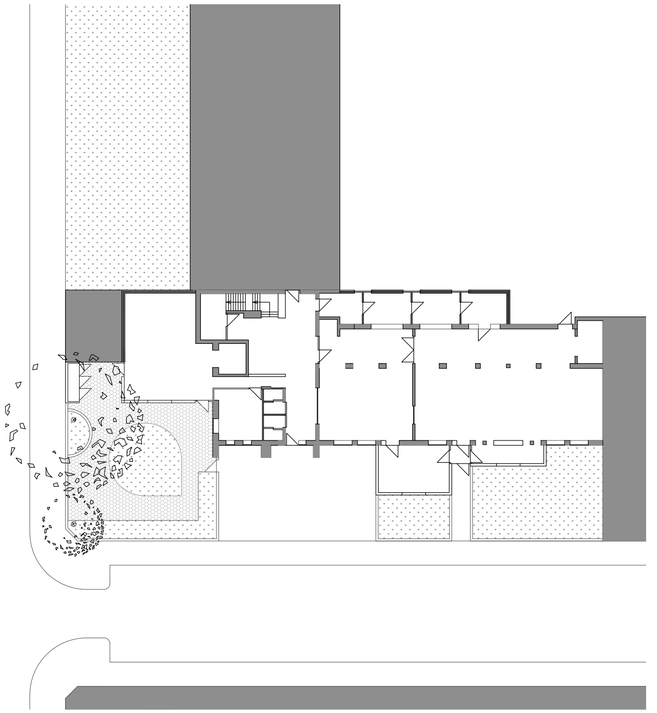
- action:
    - create new **base layers** in the park and in the Taandersstraat which allow for spontaneous use of the site...



(urban) regulations

- current layout of the Park





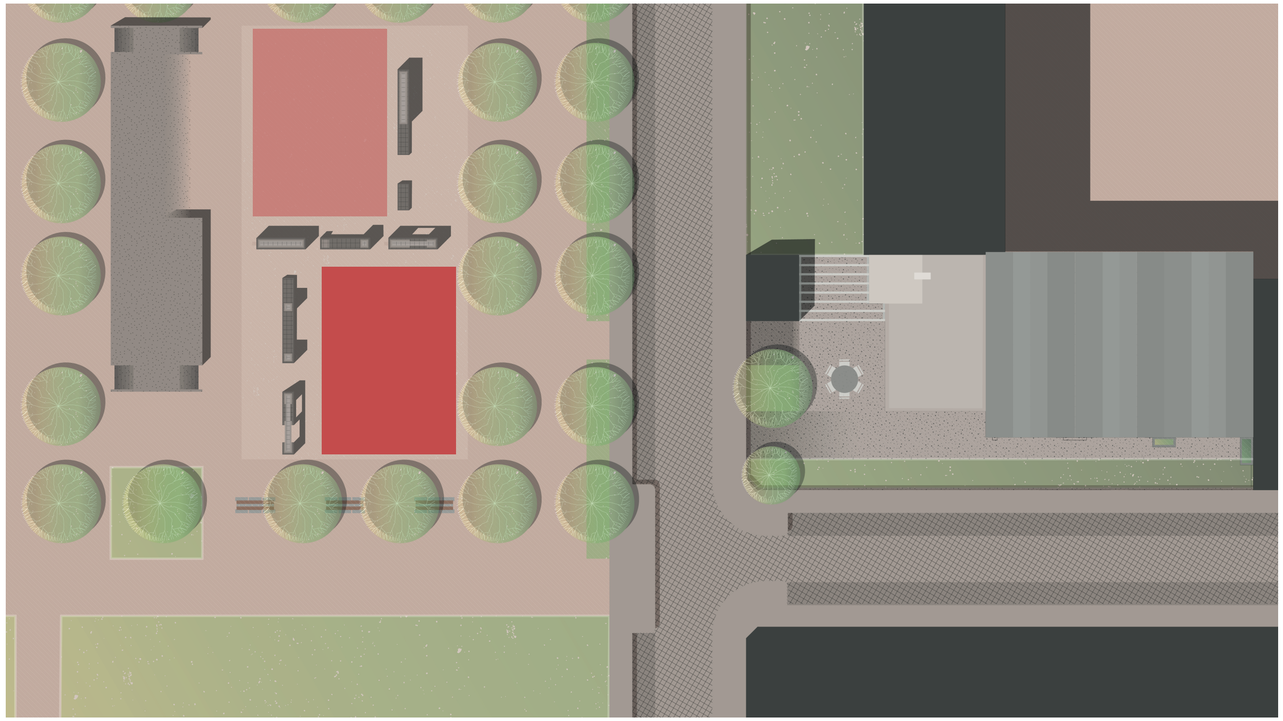
(urban) regulations

- currently:
  - play elements & tiles
- intervention:
  - *'landscape of affordances'*



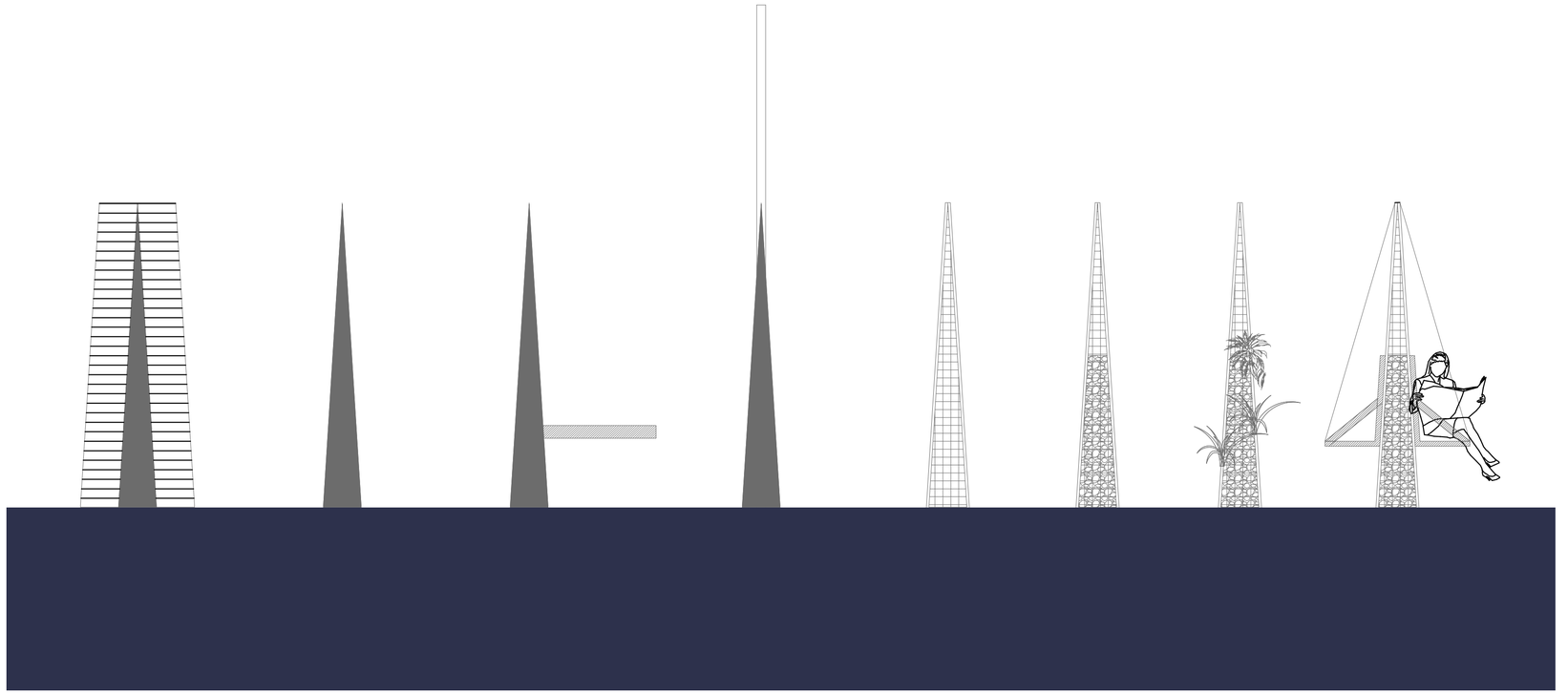
(urban) regulations

- structures could be used to give slight definition to the site without defining it completely



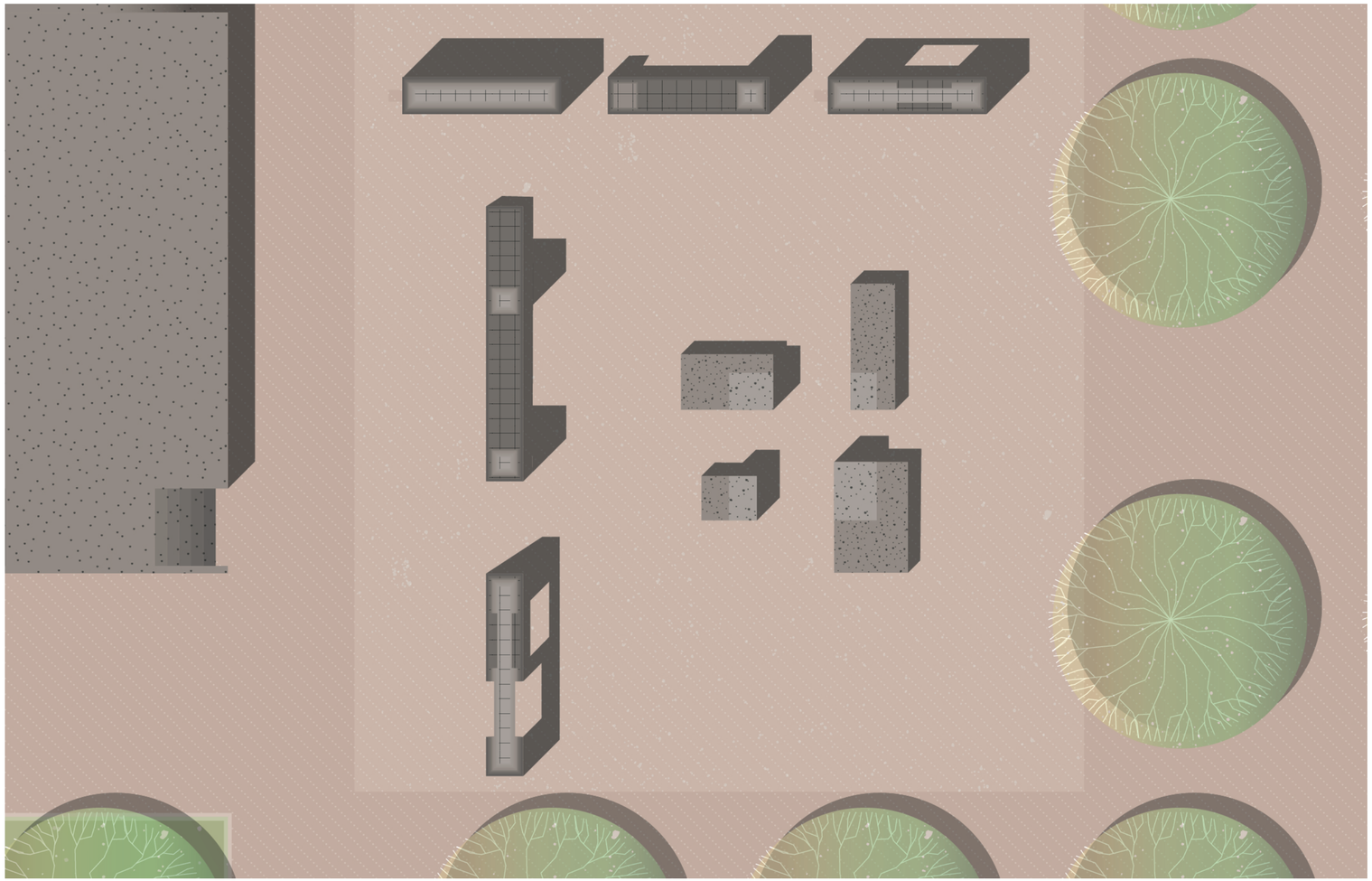
(urban) regulations

- Secure safety with frame structures
  (that can also be used as the foundation for other, temporary structures)



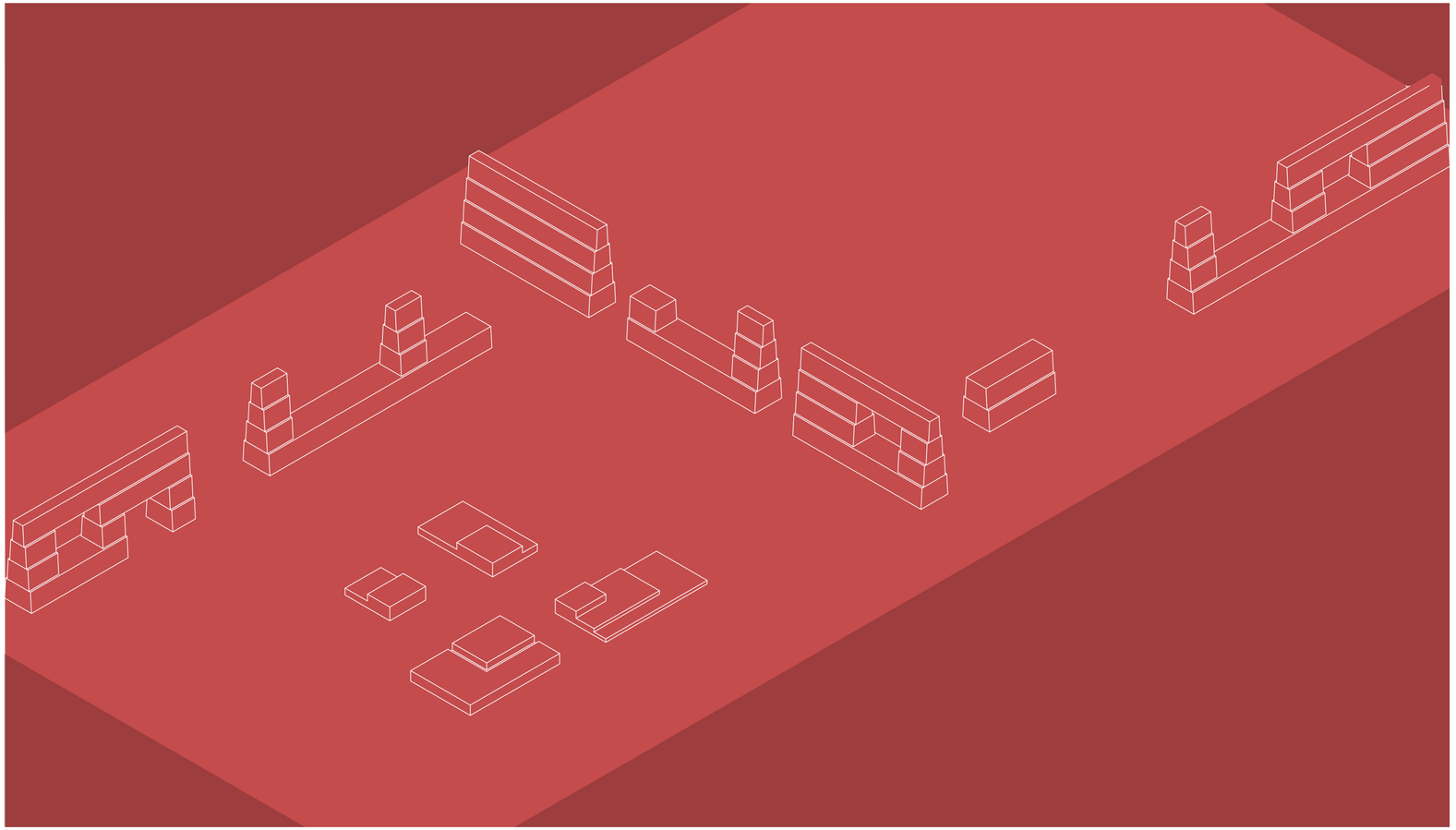
(urban) regulations

- add extra '*affordances*'
  - elements with no given purpose but which facilitate actions



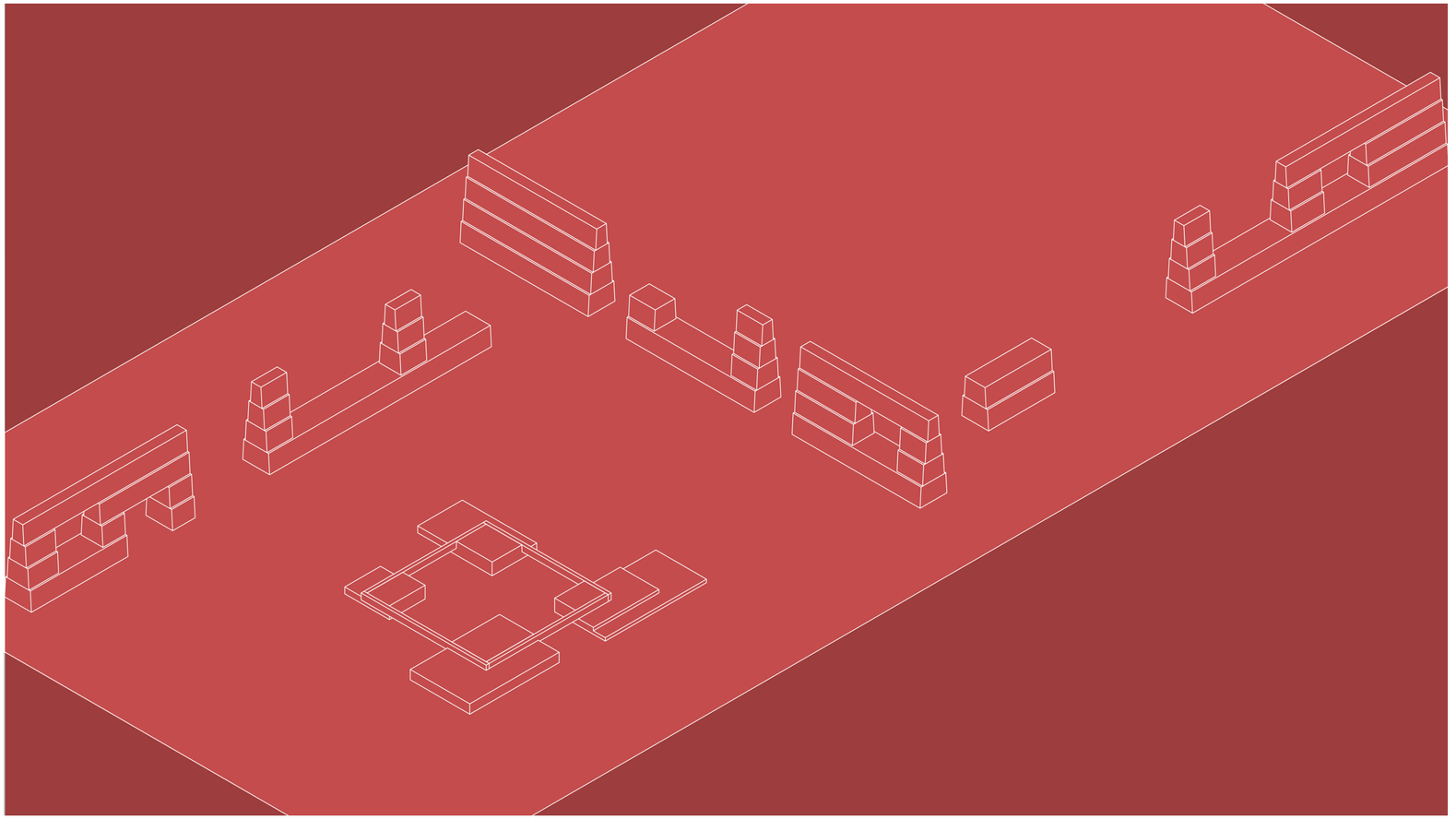
(urban) regulations

- base layer with four concrete volumes



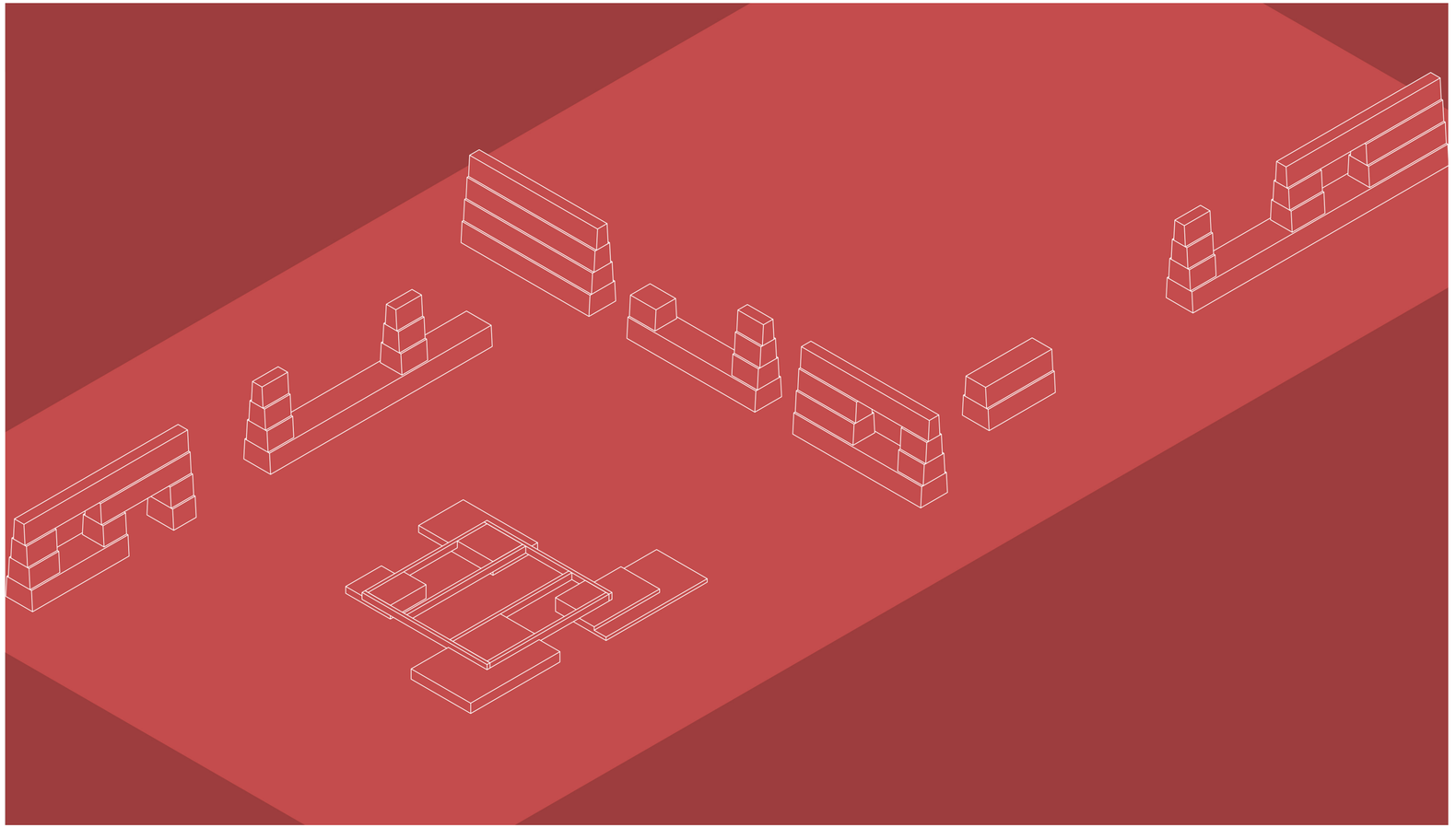
(urban) regulations

- top of volumes form a square (4x4m)



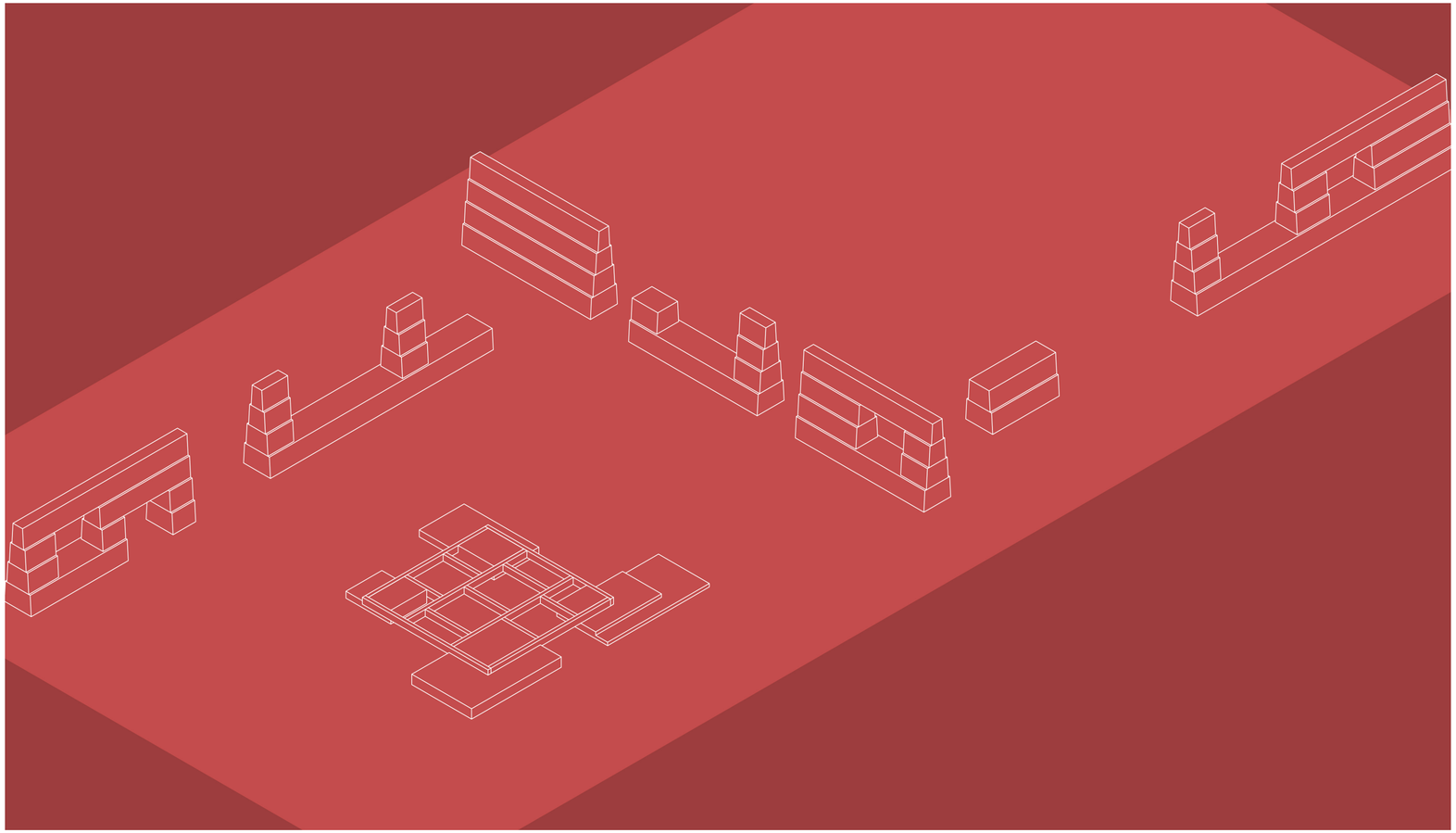
(urban) regulations

- shape can be filled in with beams



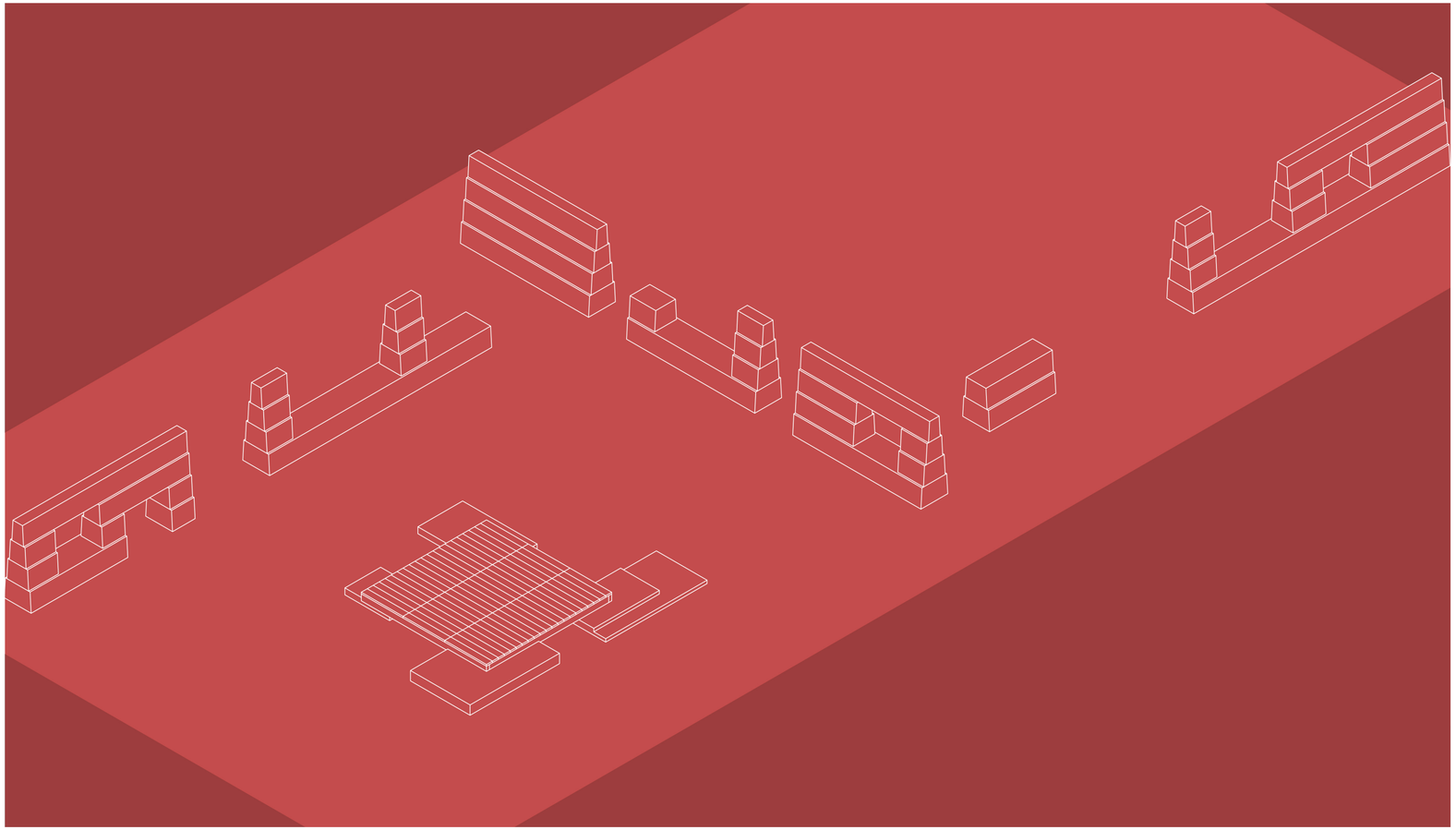
(urban) regulations

- shape can be filled in with beams



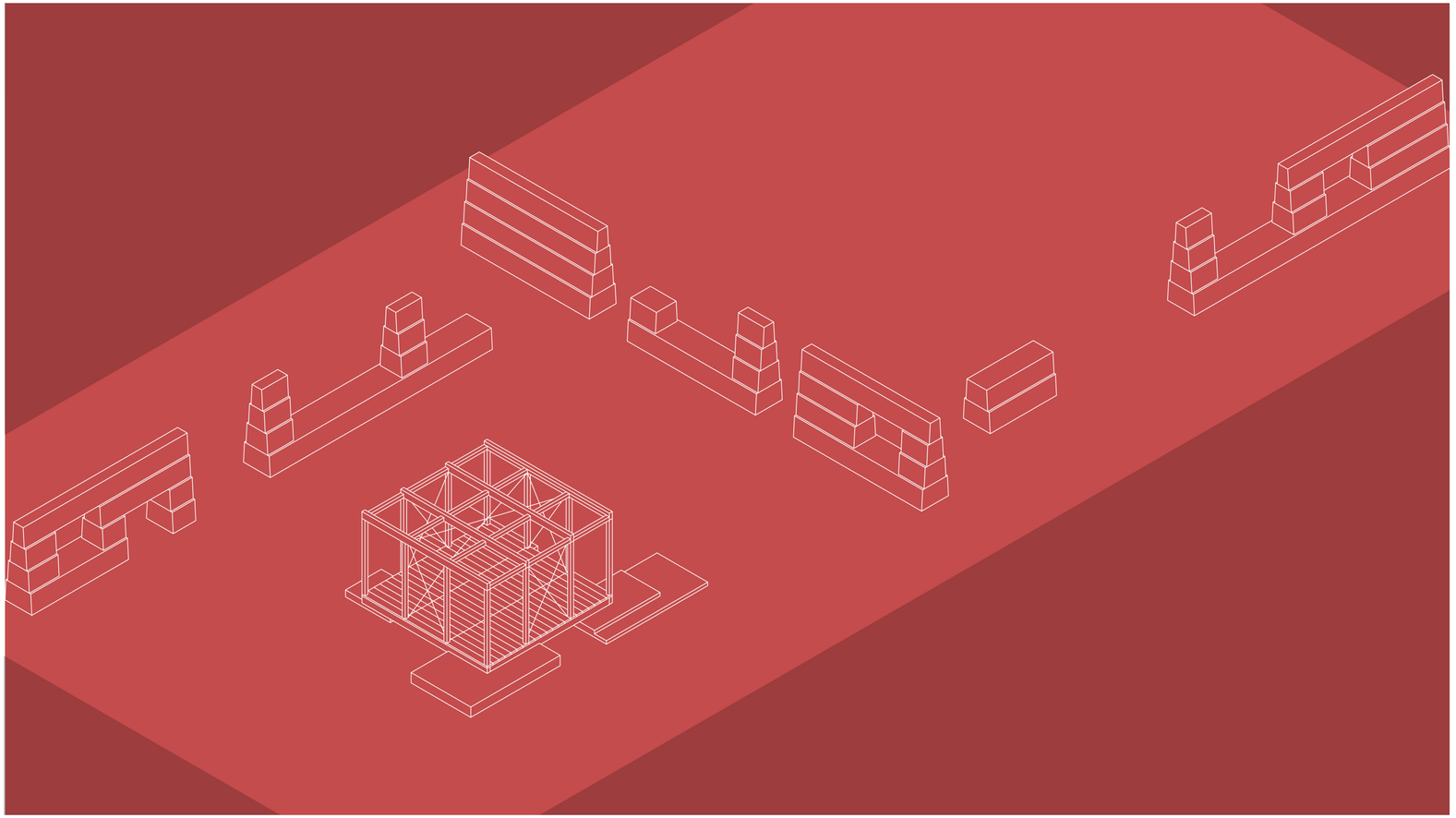
(urban) regulations

- add floor

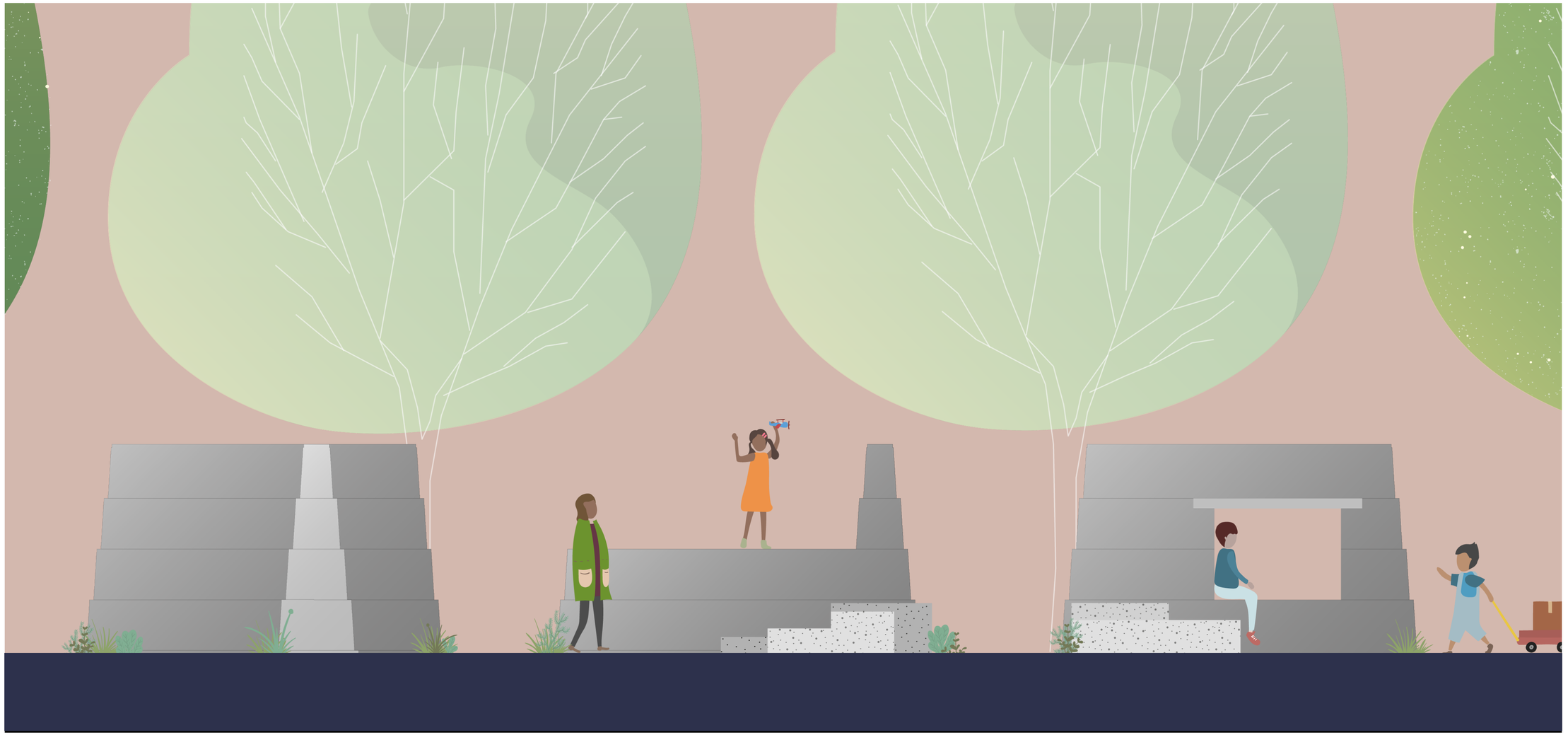


(urban) regulations

- build temporary pavilion



(urban) regulations



tools and techniques

tools and techniques

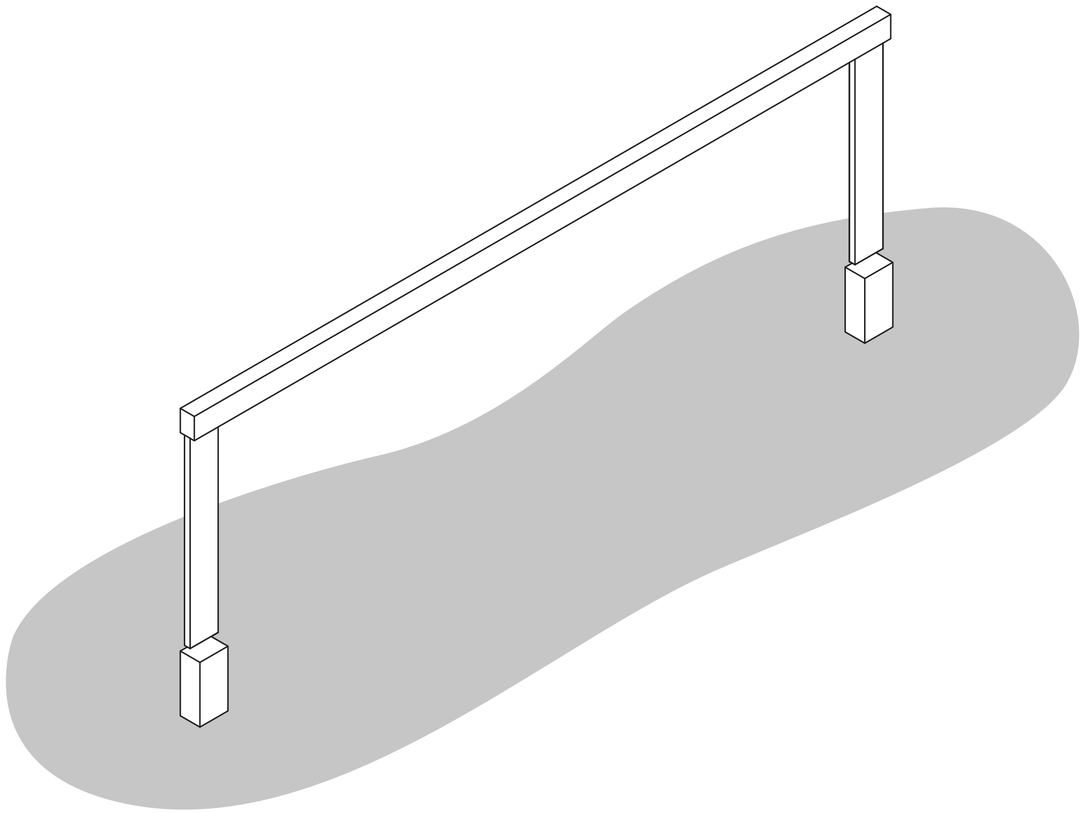
which tools & techniques are at your disposal?

- actions:
  - use techniques so that fewer techniques are need for use/adaptation
  - create moments where people can learn new skills through the interventions
  - show potential of non-normative tools/ materials

taandersstraat 121

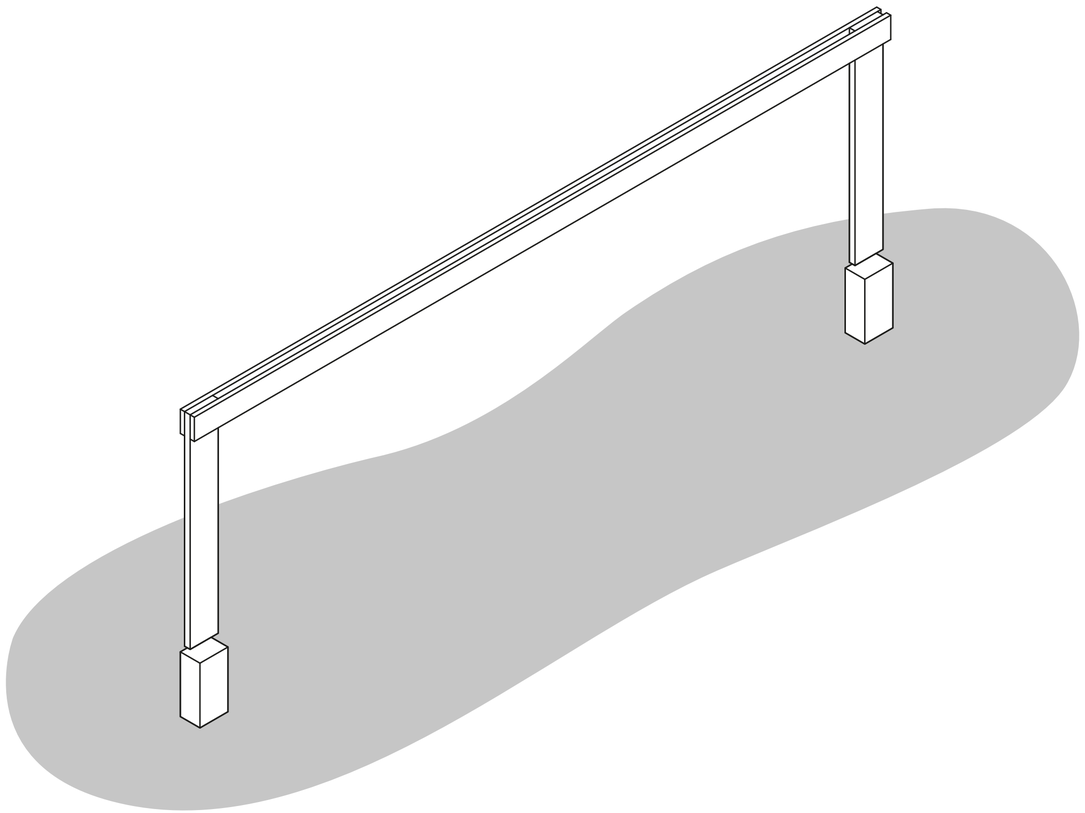
tools and techniques

- basic new support structure



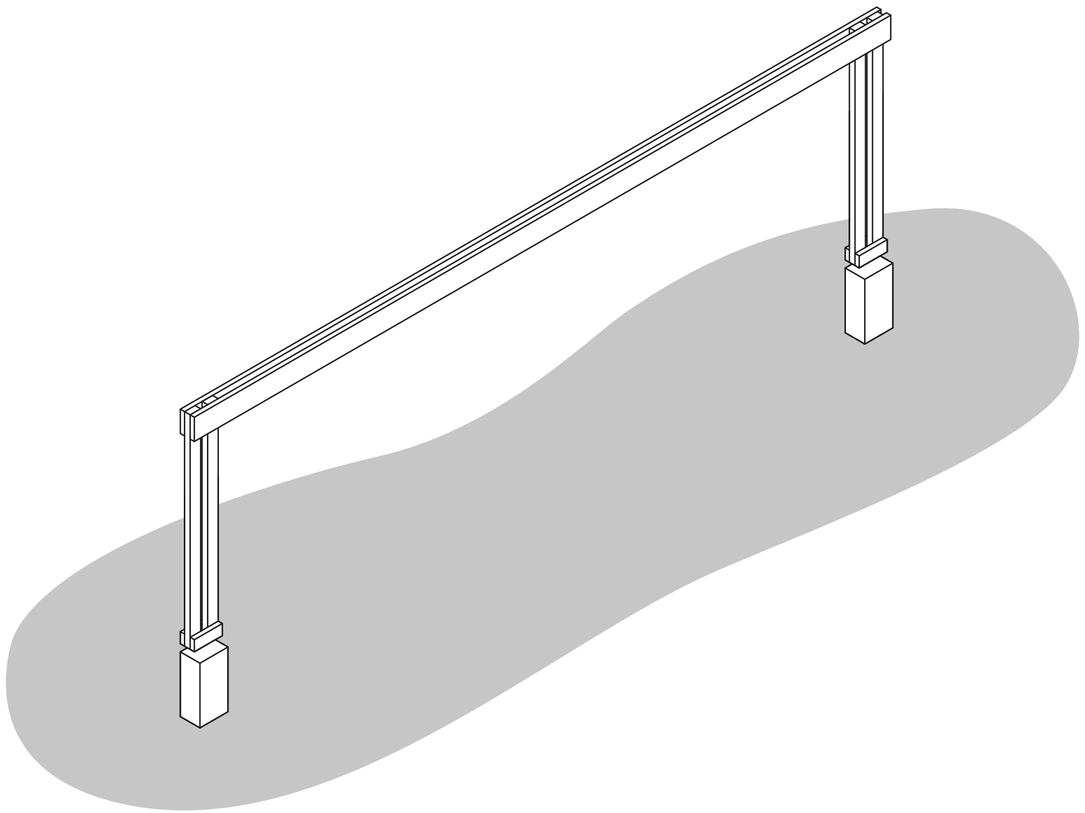
tools and techniques

- ‘split open’ the supporting beam into two



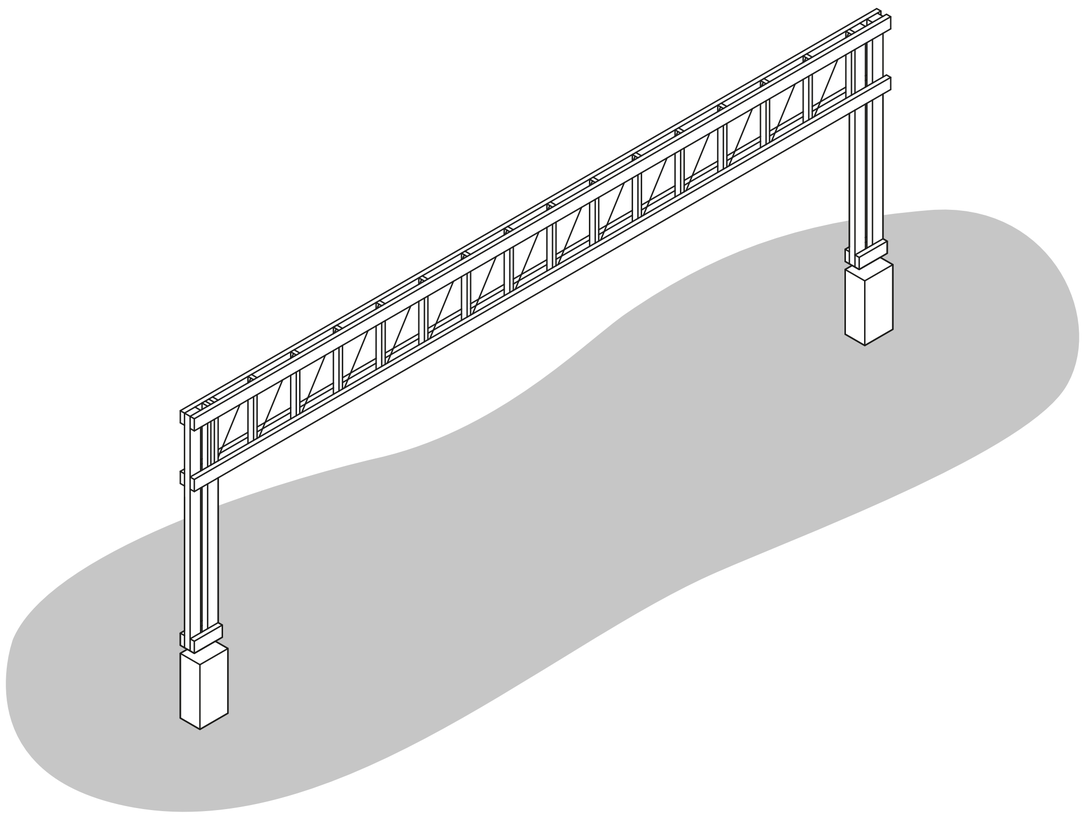
tools and techniques

- ‘split open’ the supporting columns into two



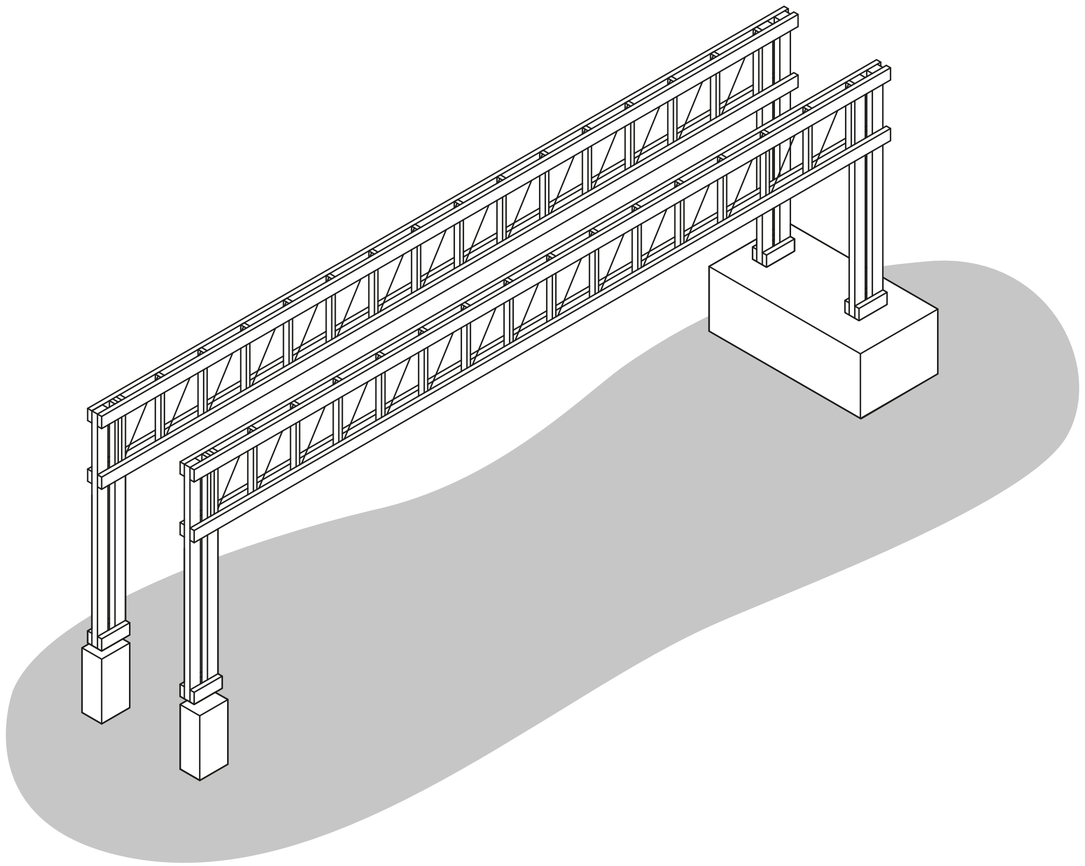
tools and techniques

- ‘split open’ the beam vertically



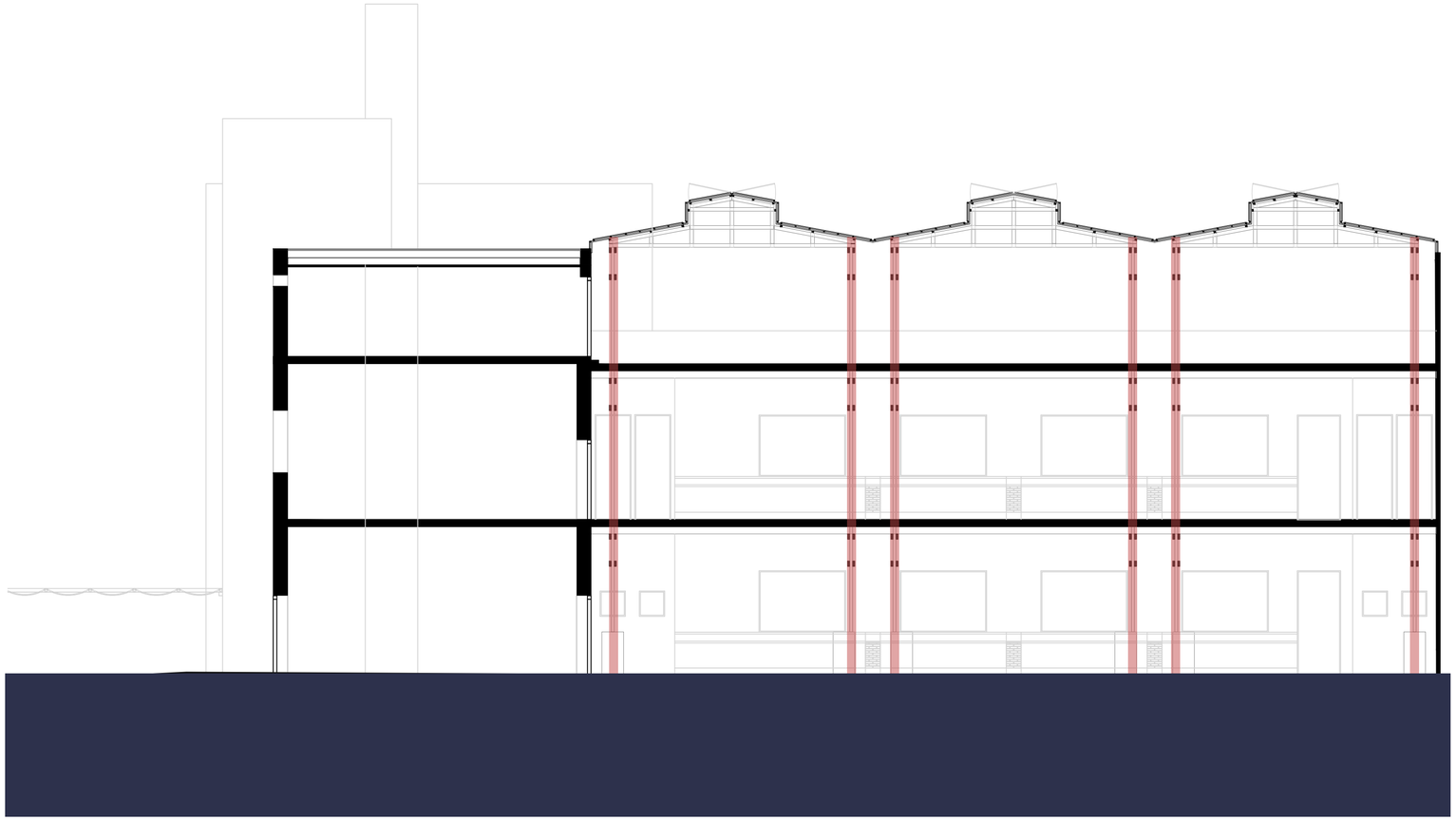
tools and techniques

- ‘split open’ the structure horizontally



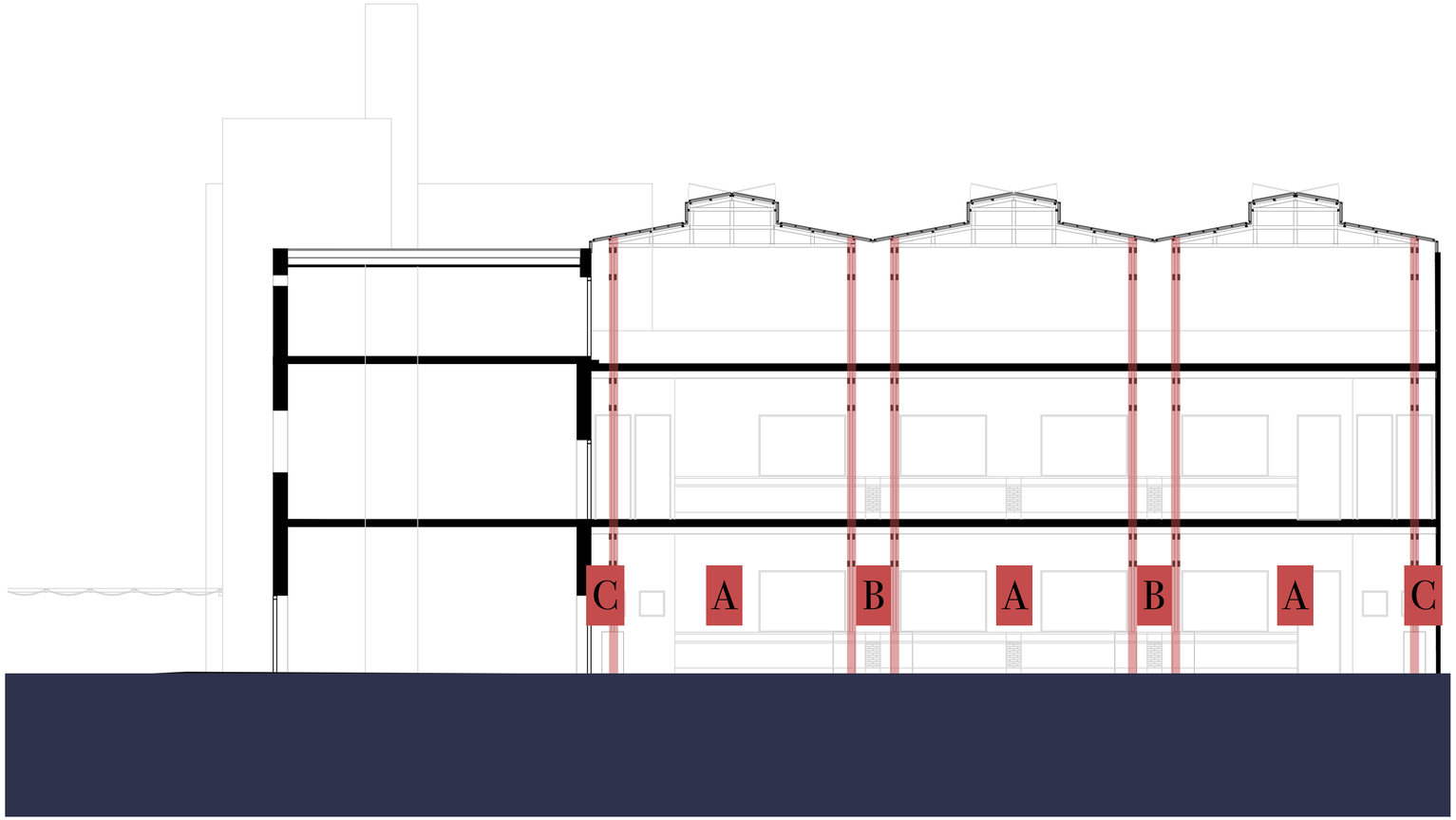
tools and techniques

- different zones within the building



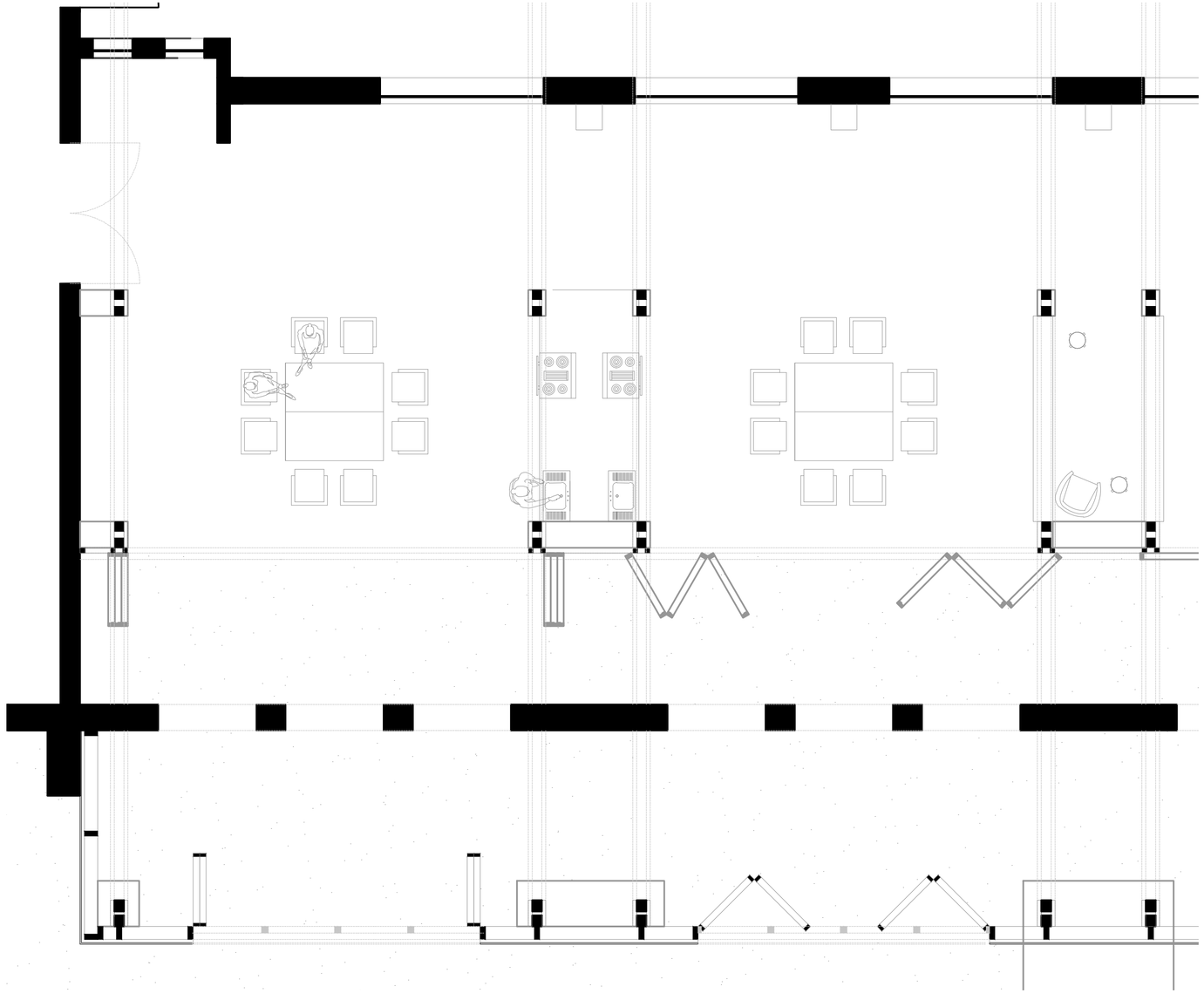
tools and techniques

- different zones within the building

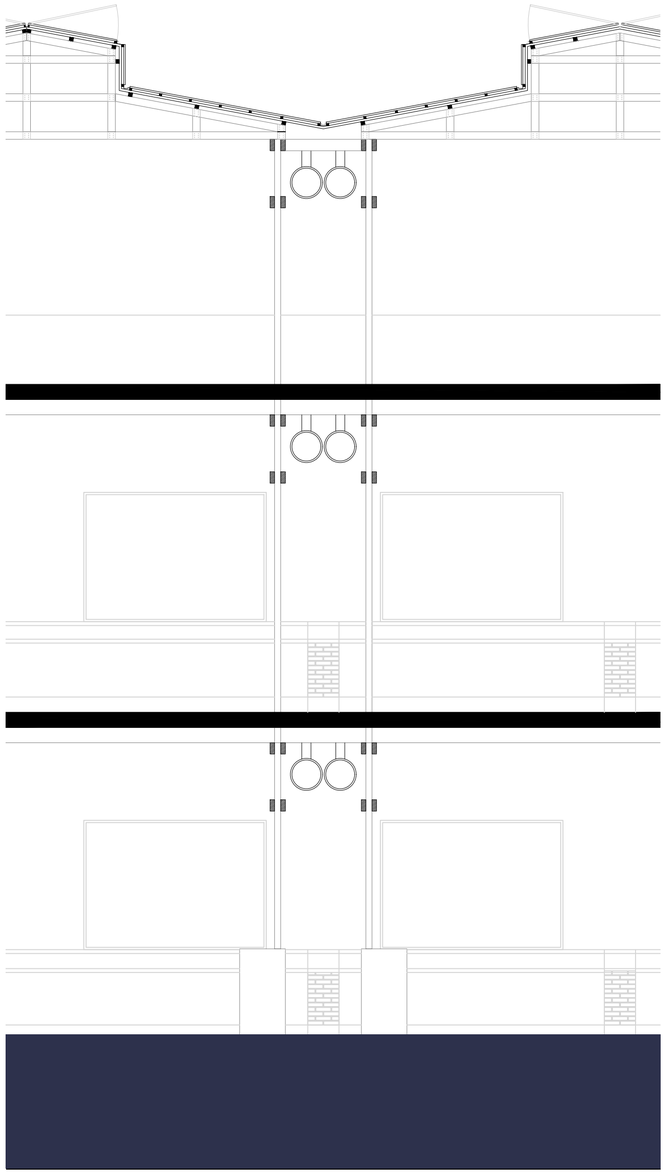


tools and techniques

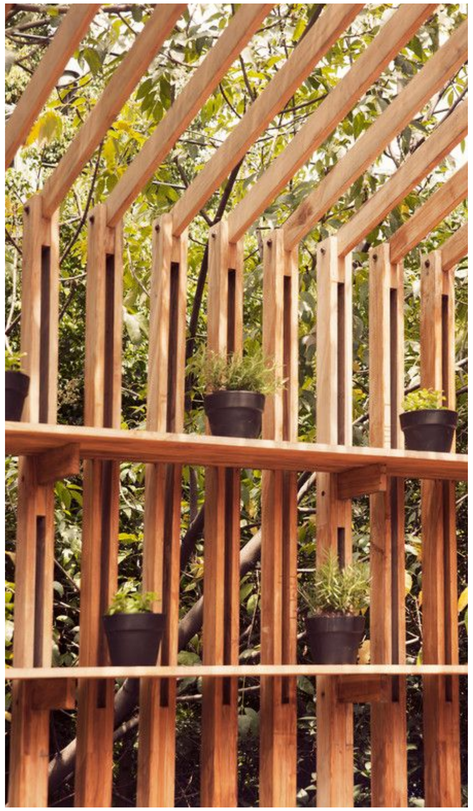
- possible infills for the zones:
  - kitchen area
  - shelves



- zone at the top creates spaces for installations



tools and techniques



materialisation in wood creating potential infills

tools and techniques



park 1943

tools and techniques

- actions:
  - use techniques/materials so that fewer techniques are need for use/adaptation
  - create moments where people can learn new skills through the interventions
  - show potential of non-normative tools/materials



tools and techniques

- work with what we've got



tools and techniques

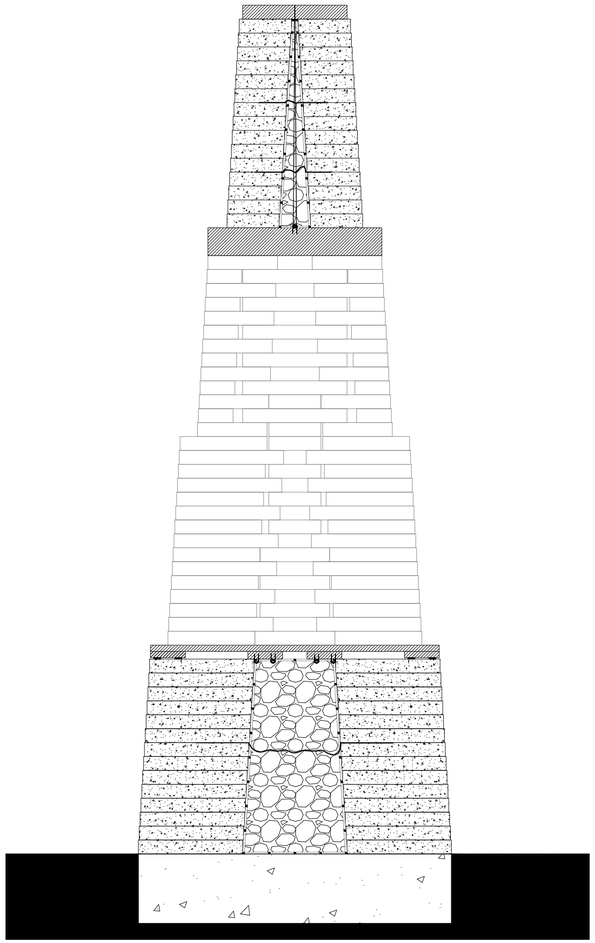
- piling as a non-normative way of using pavement tiles
- no mortar required (so possible to dismantle)

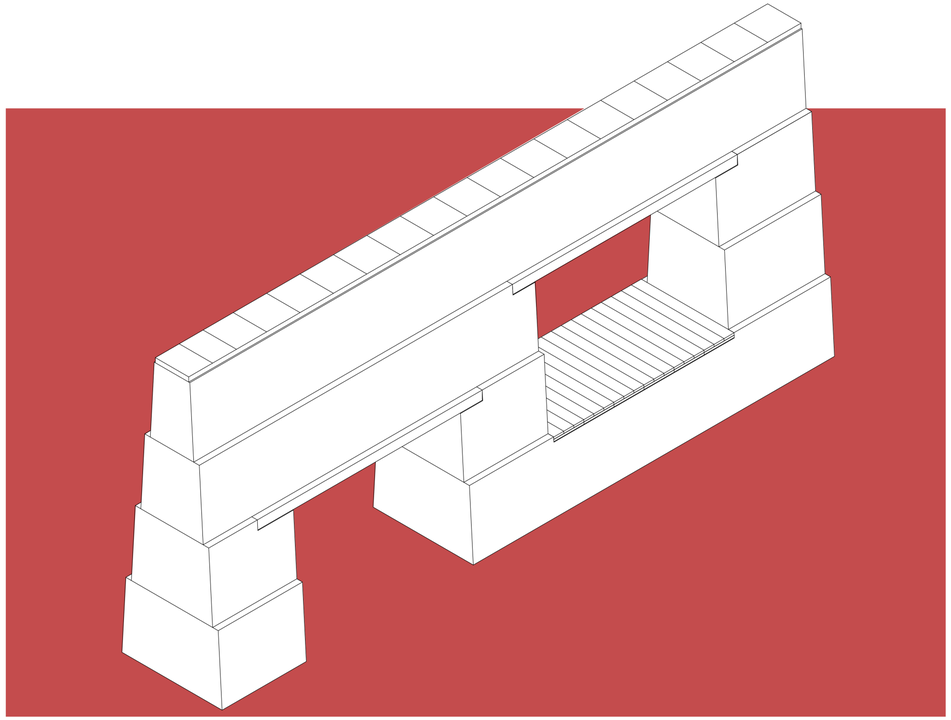




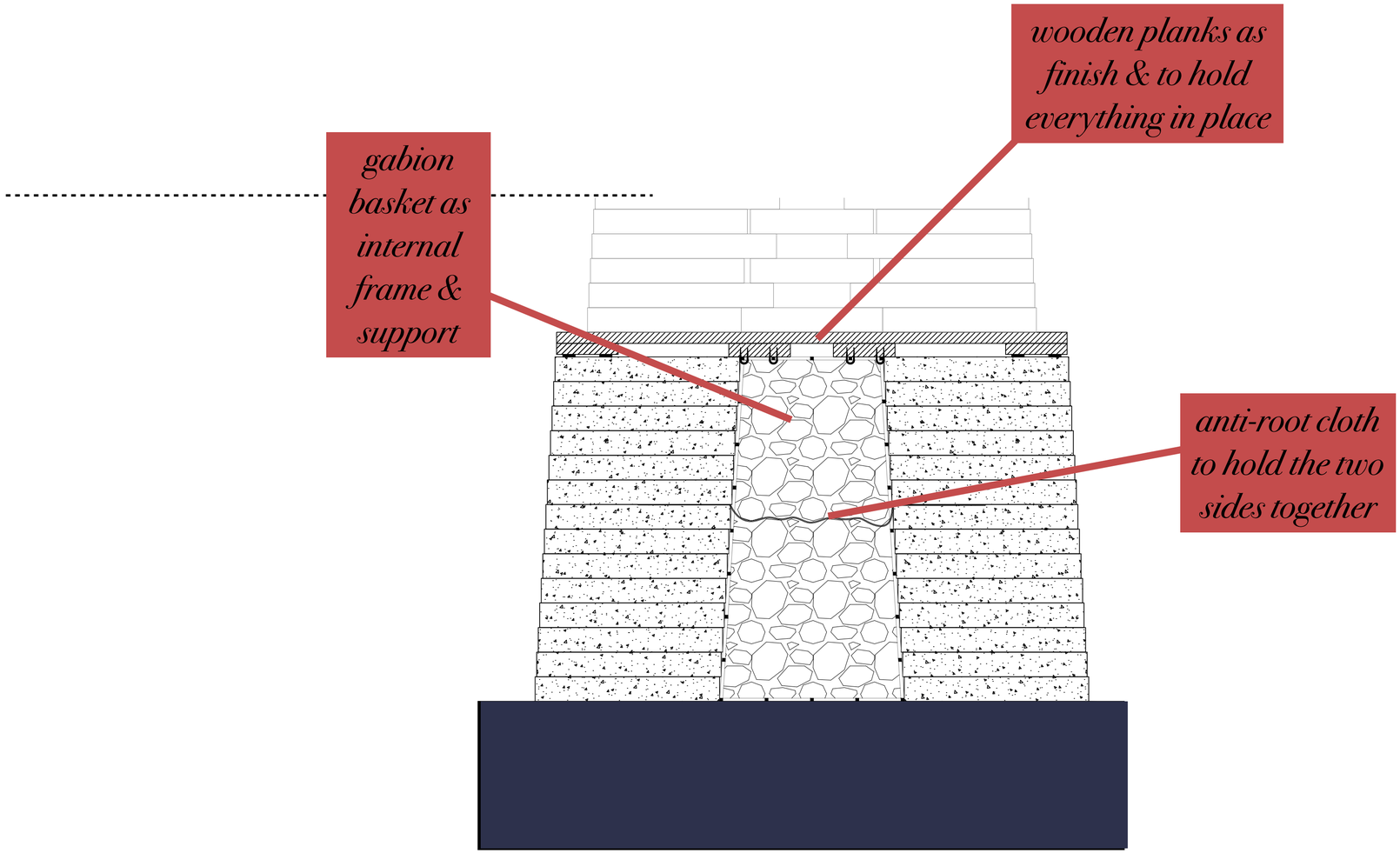


tools and techniques

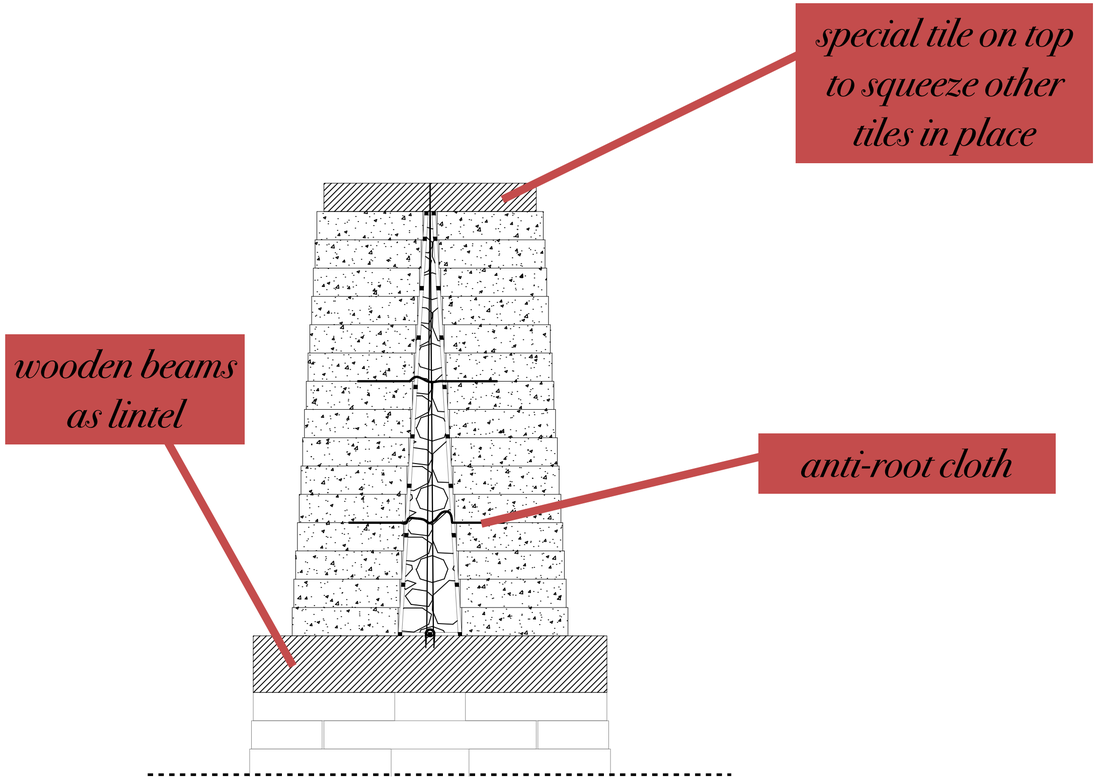




tools and techniques



tools and techniques



tools and techniques



tools and techniques



tools and techniques



tools and techniques



tools and techniques

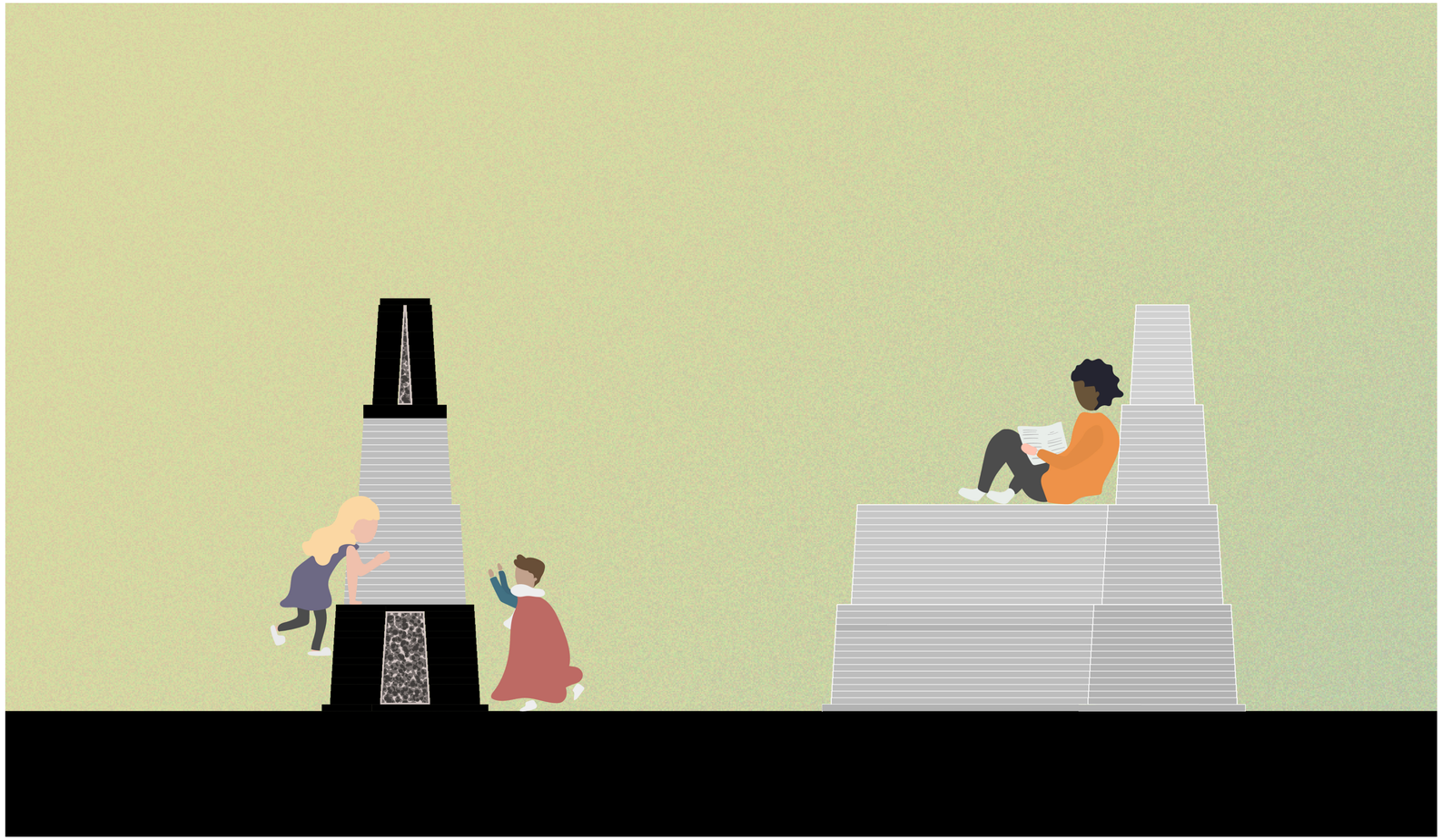


tools and techniques



tools and techniques

- with this technique, affecting the surroundings of the park can be something that is done together



construction space and time

construction space and time

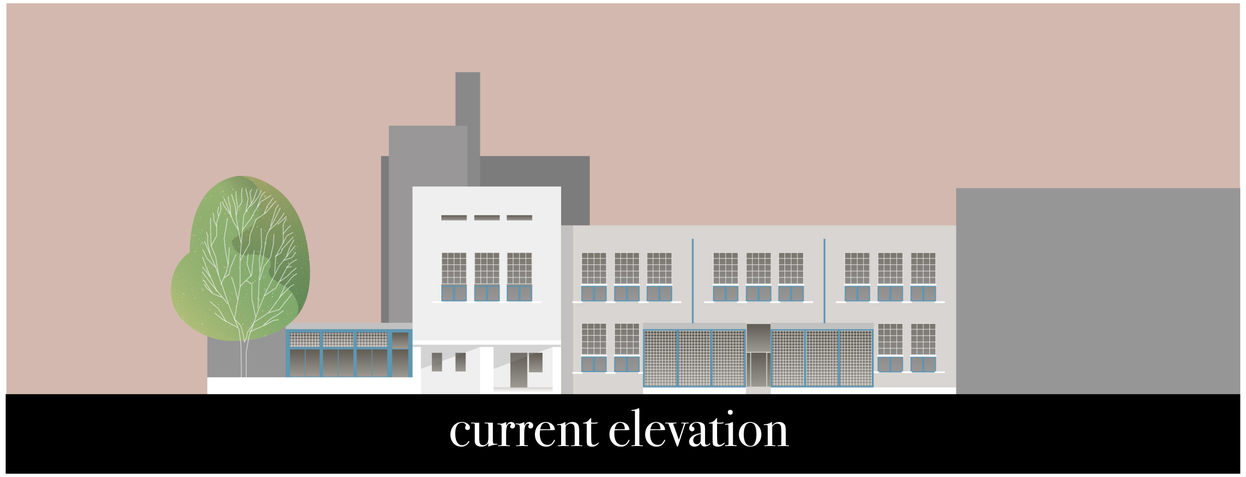
do you have the time and place to make a mess?

- actions:
  - divide process into open and closed activities
  - leave traces of the past as a reminder that architecture (& the world...) is not finished and is open to change
  - changes can be small or big

taandersstraat 121

construction space and time

- actions:
  - divide process into open and closed activities
  - leave traces of the past as a reminder that architecture (& the world…) is not finished and is open to change



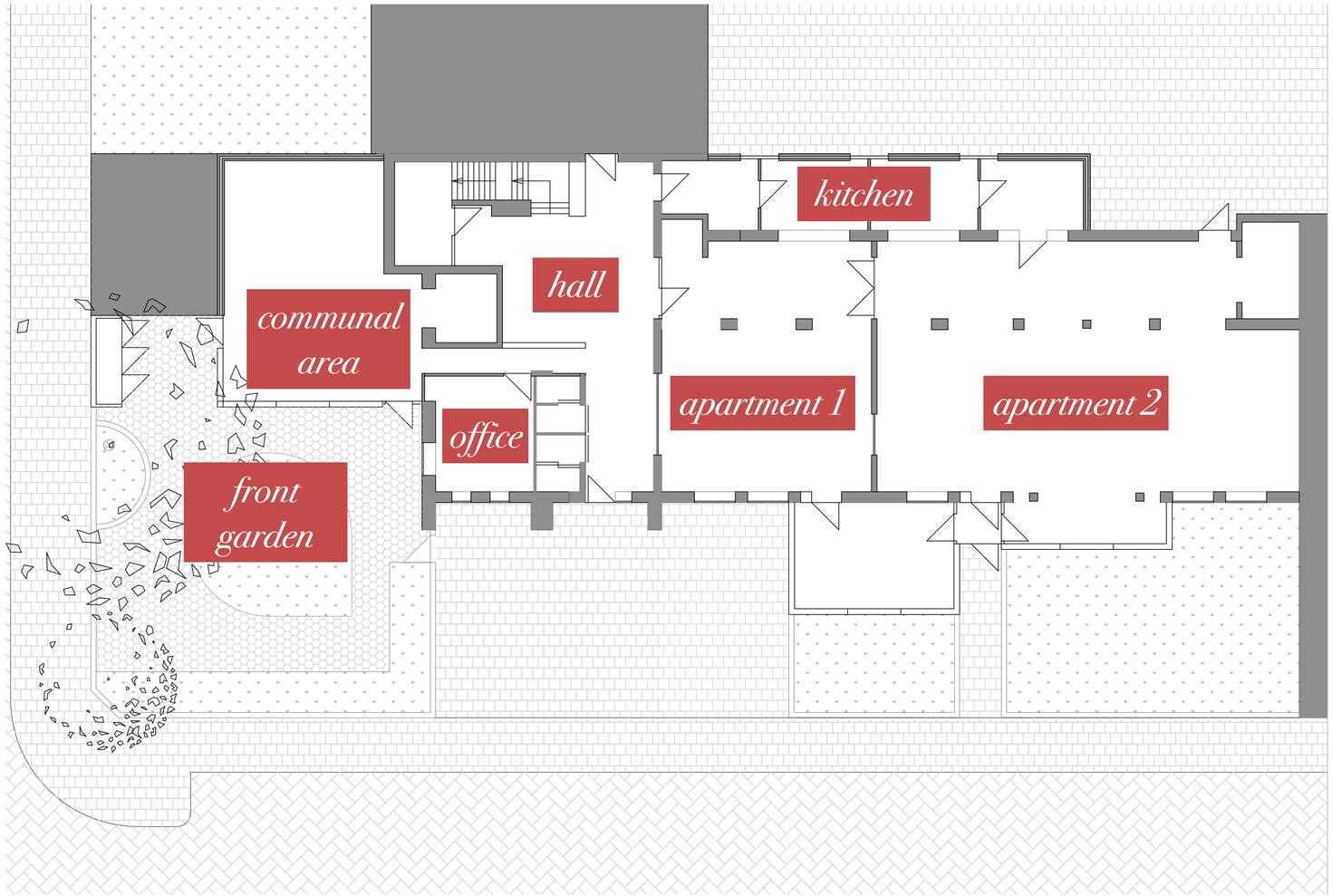
current elevation



new elevation

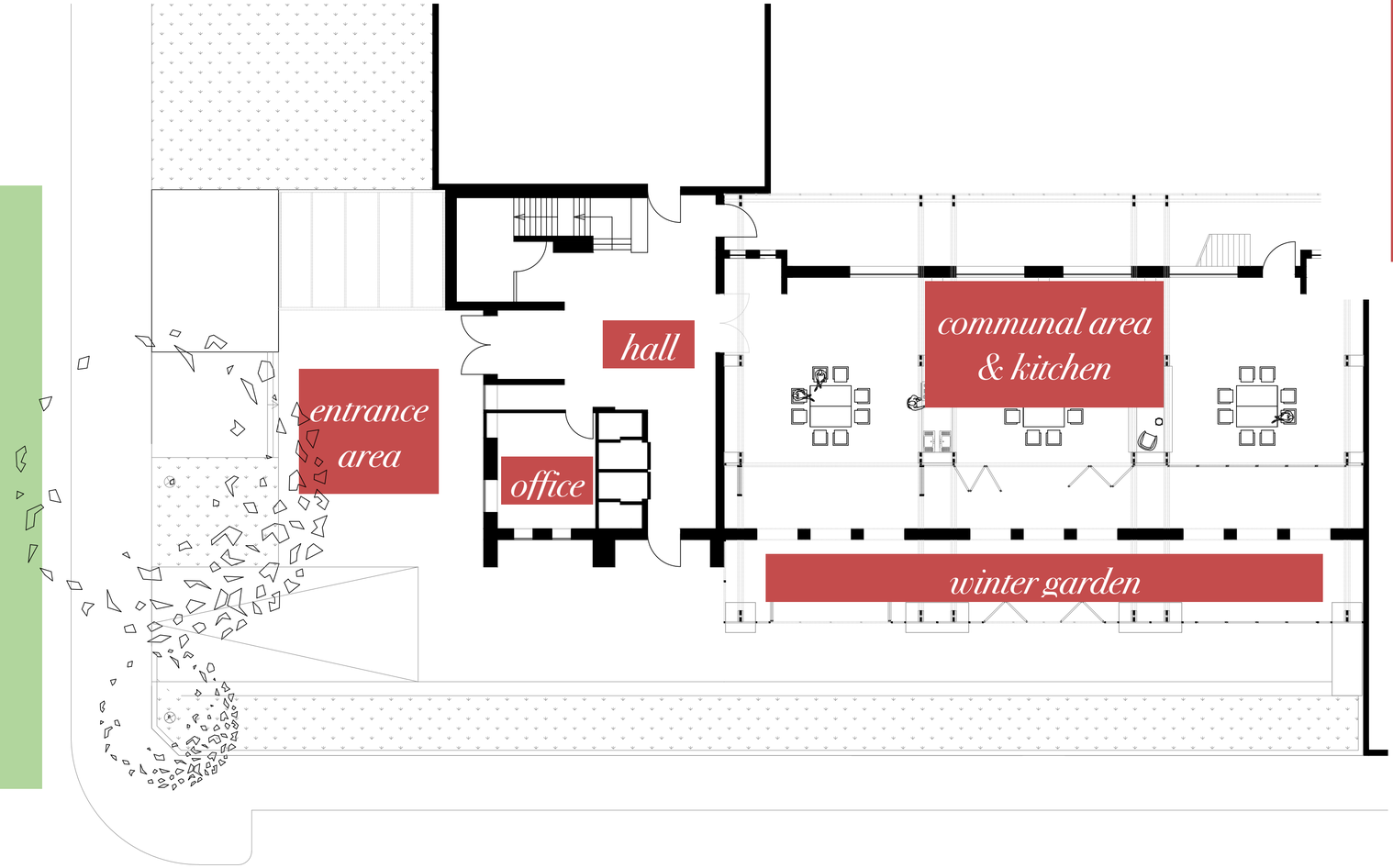
construction space and time

- current plan



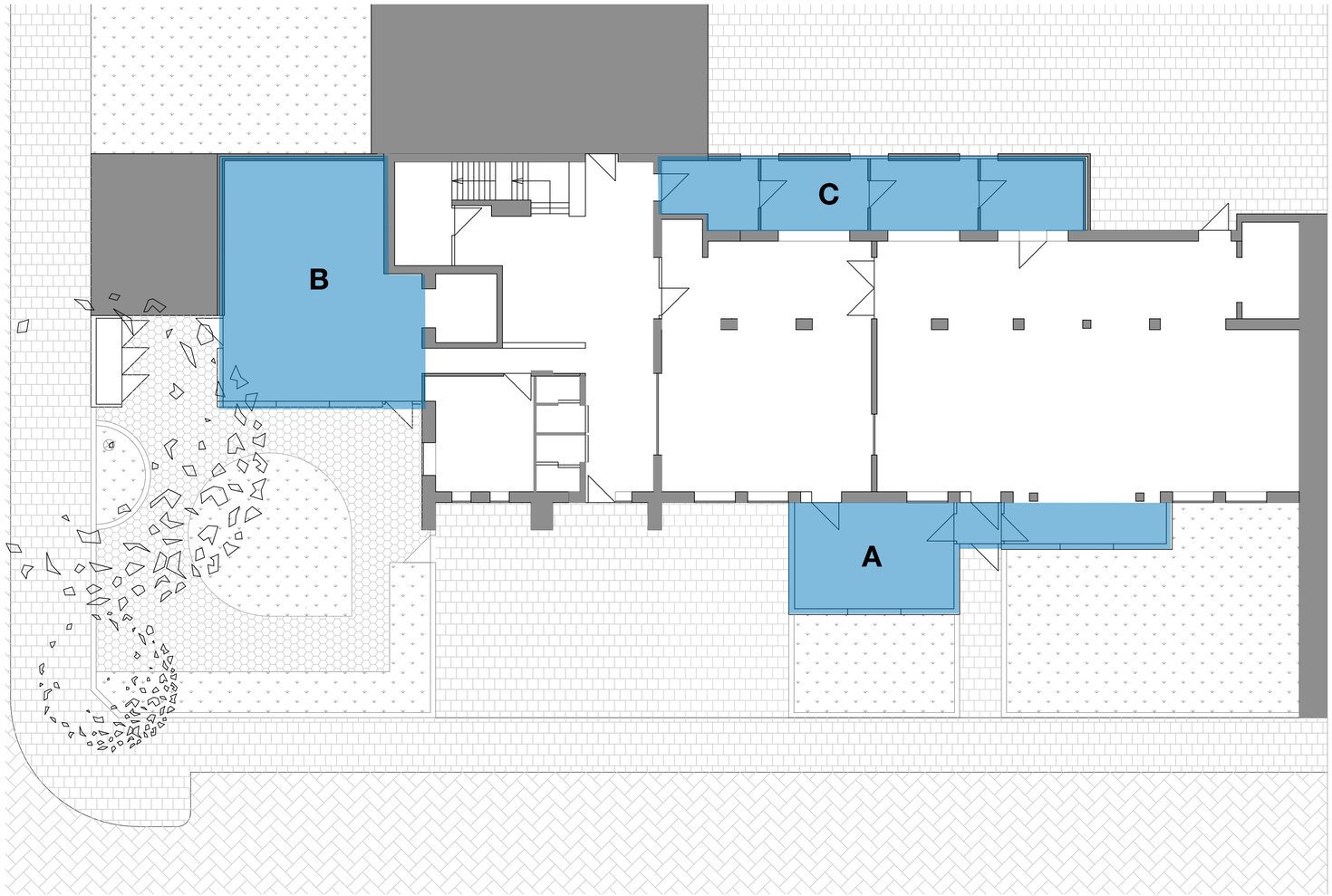
construction space and time

- future plan

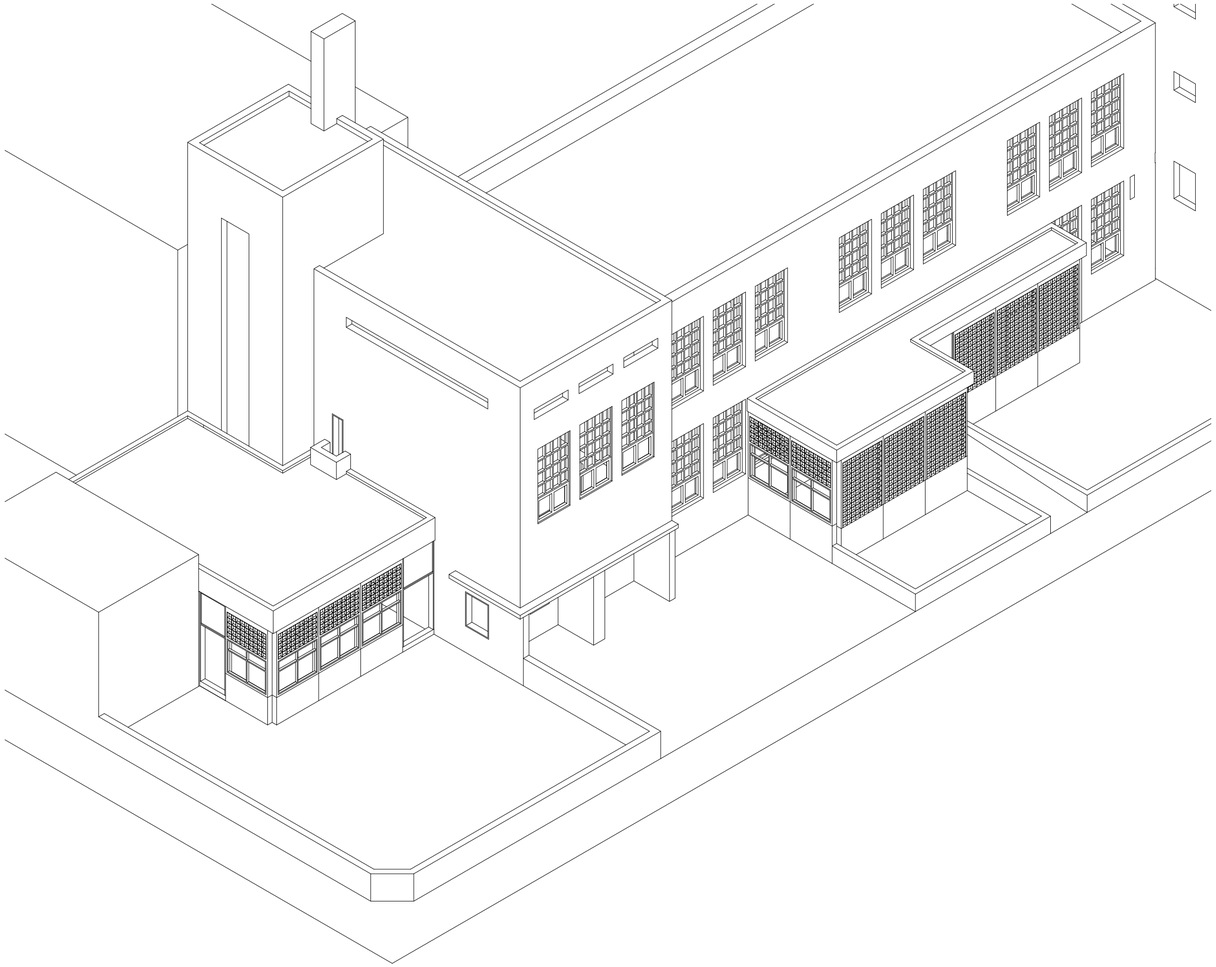


construction space and time

- three extensions from 1980s
  - made with limited means, very poor quality
  - will be demolished to allow for the new structure and to create these zones (from inside to outside)



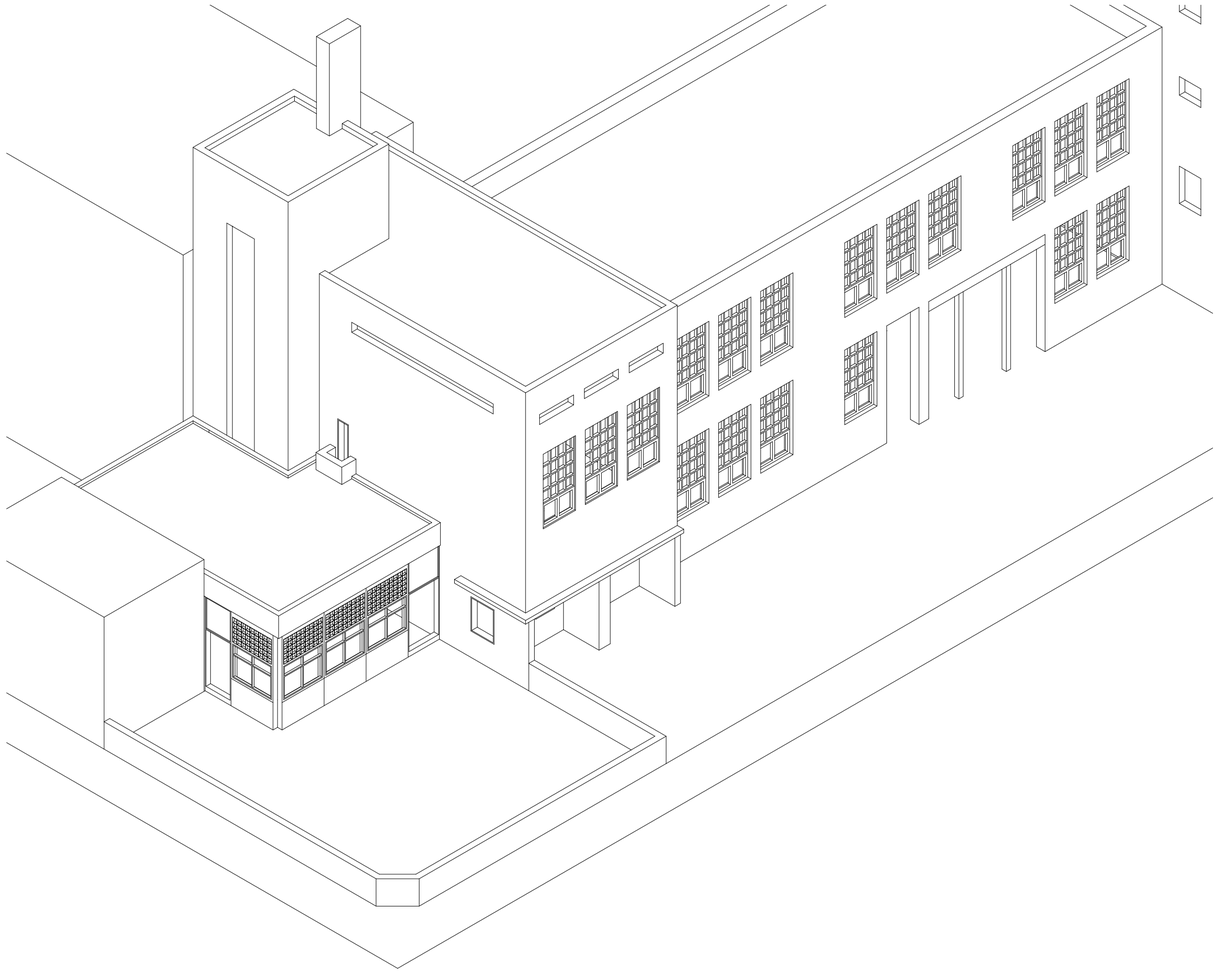
construction space and time



current elevation

construction space and time

demolish extensions
A + C



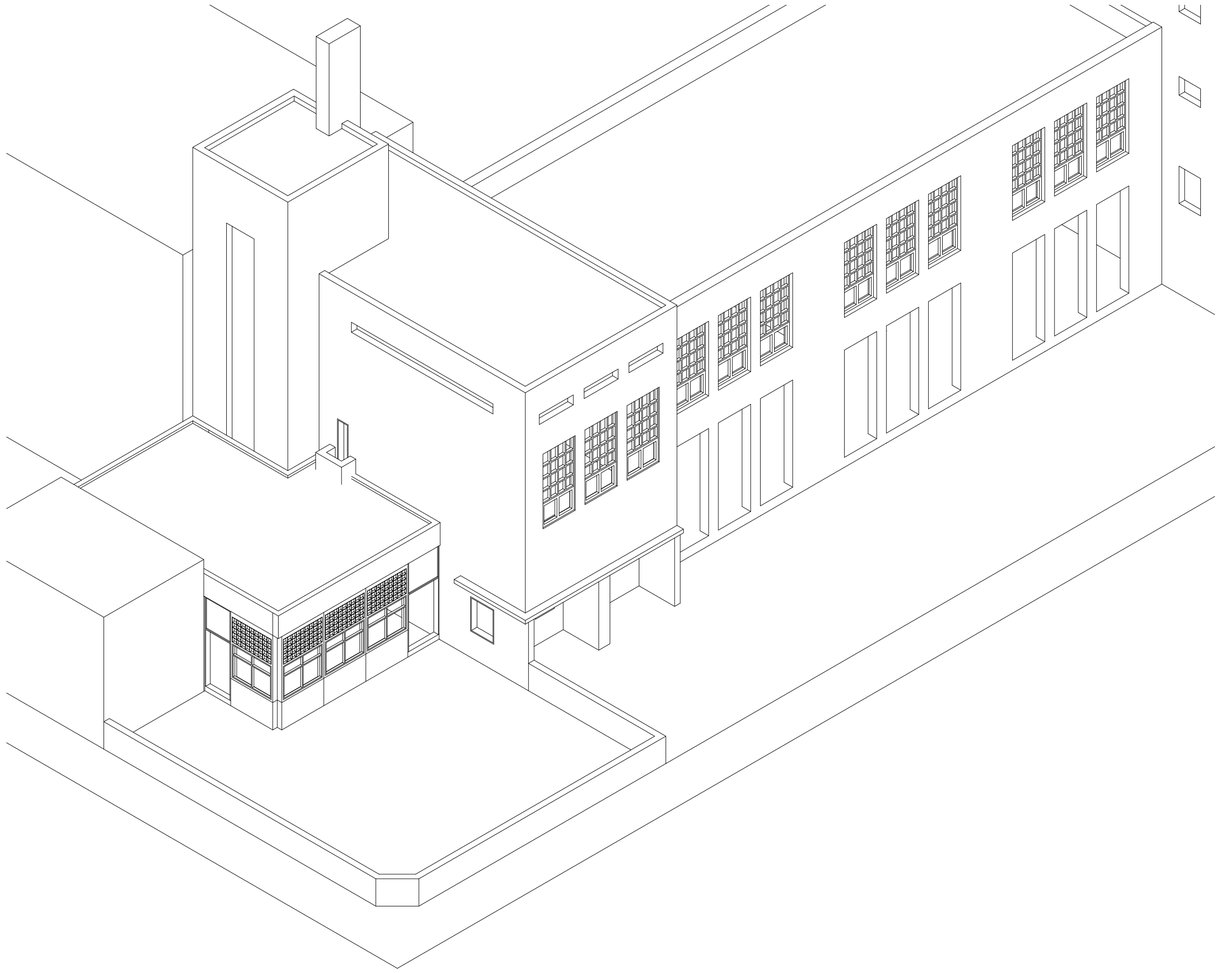
closed off

partly open

open

construction space and time

break open parts of facade



closed off

partly open

open

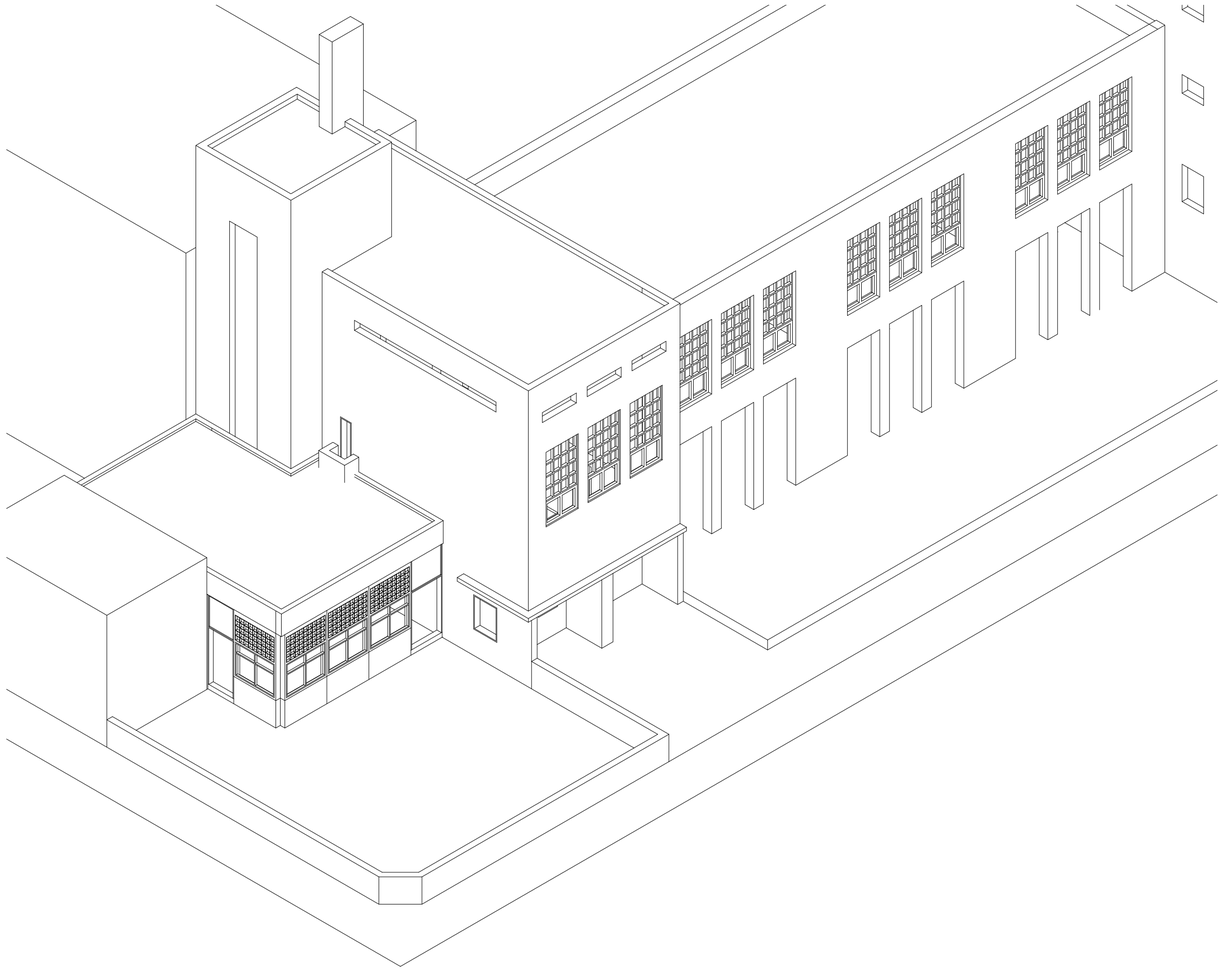
construction space and time

lay new foundations

closed off

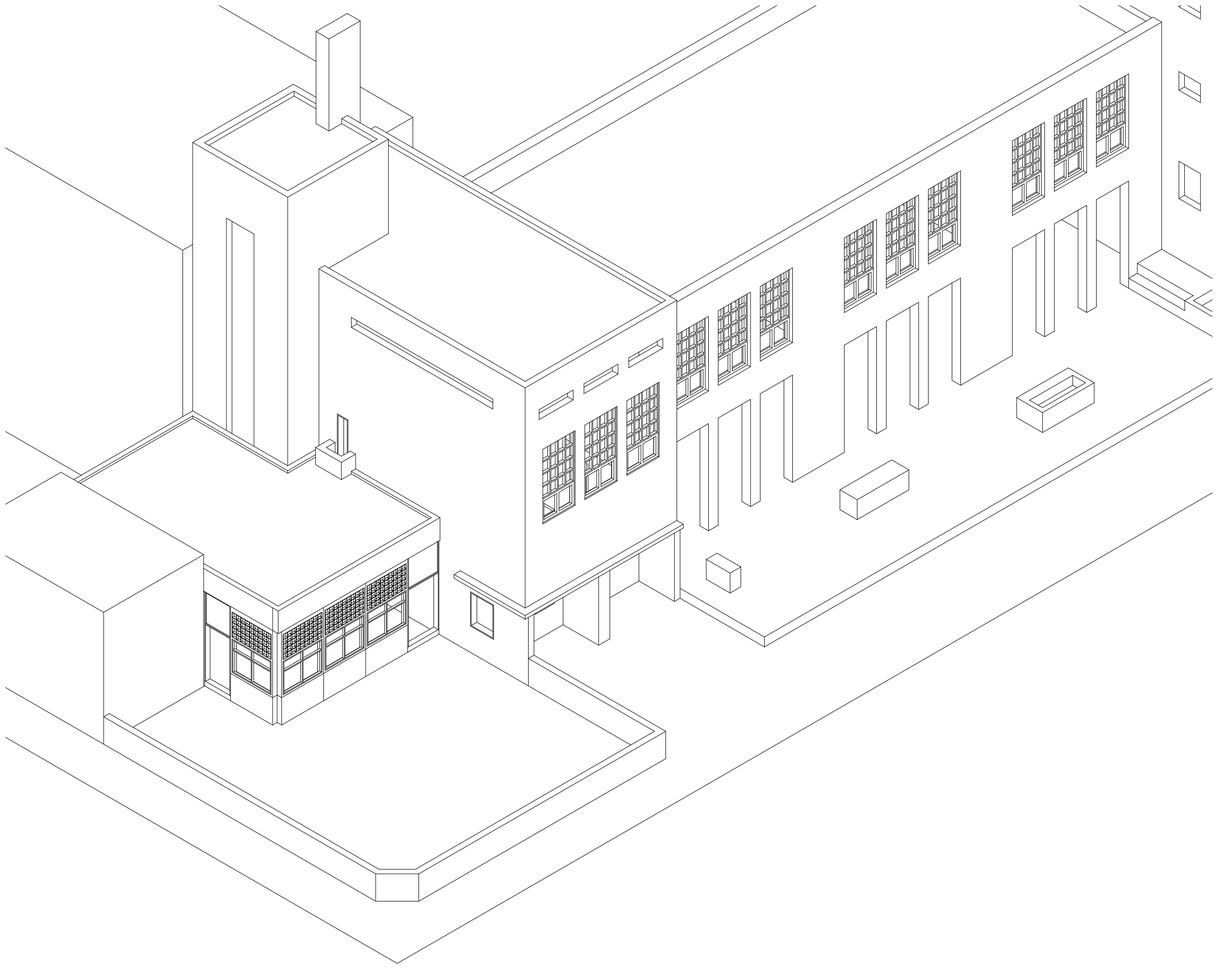
partly open

open



construction space and time

lay new foundations



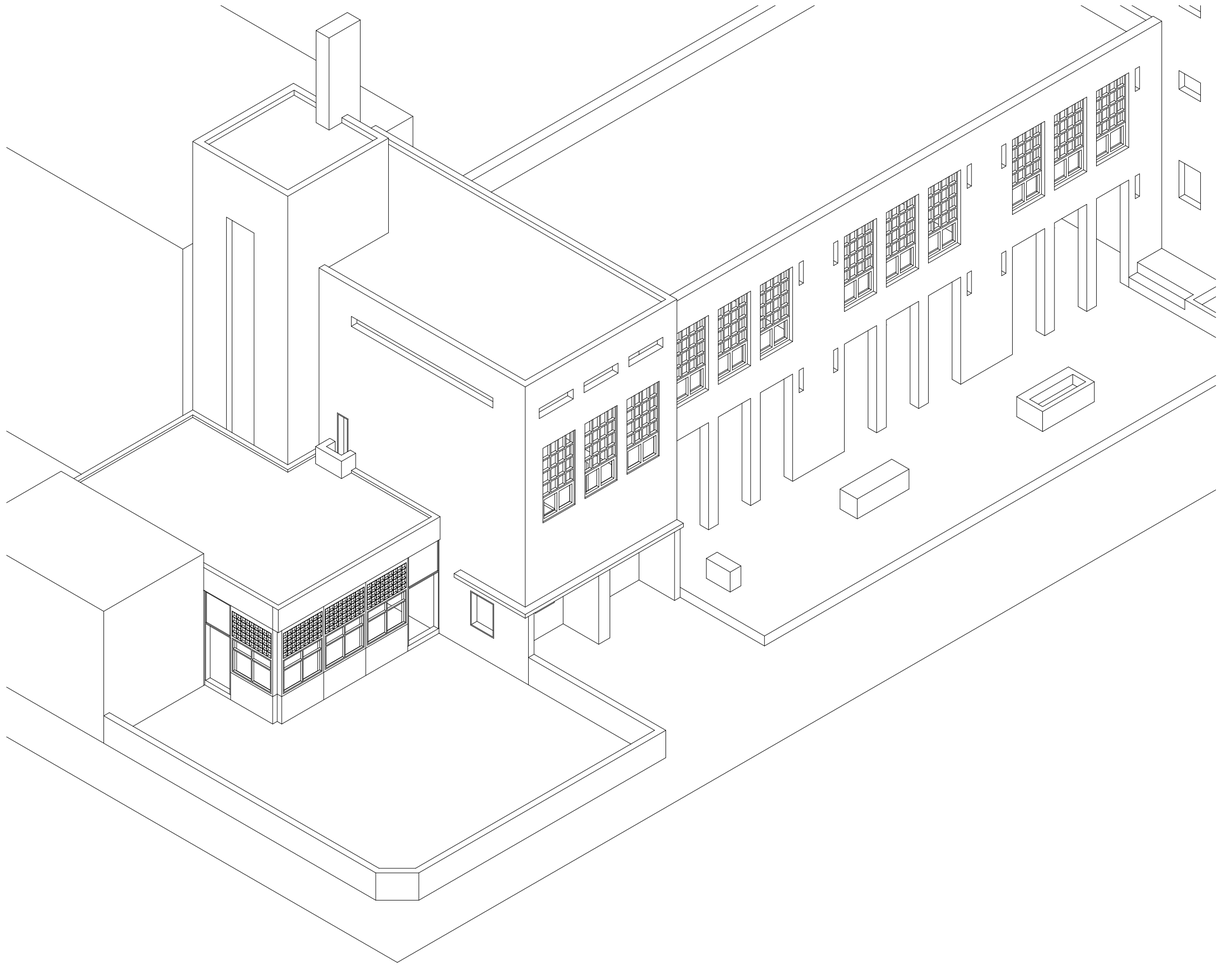
closed off

partly open

open

construction space and time

remove indoor walls
+ make holes through
facade



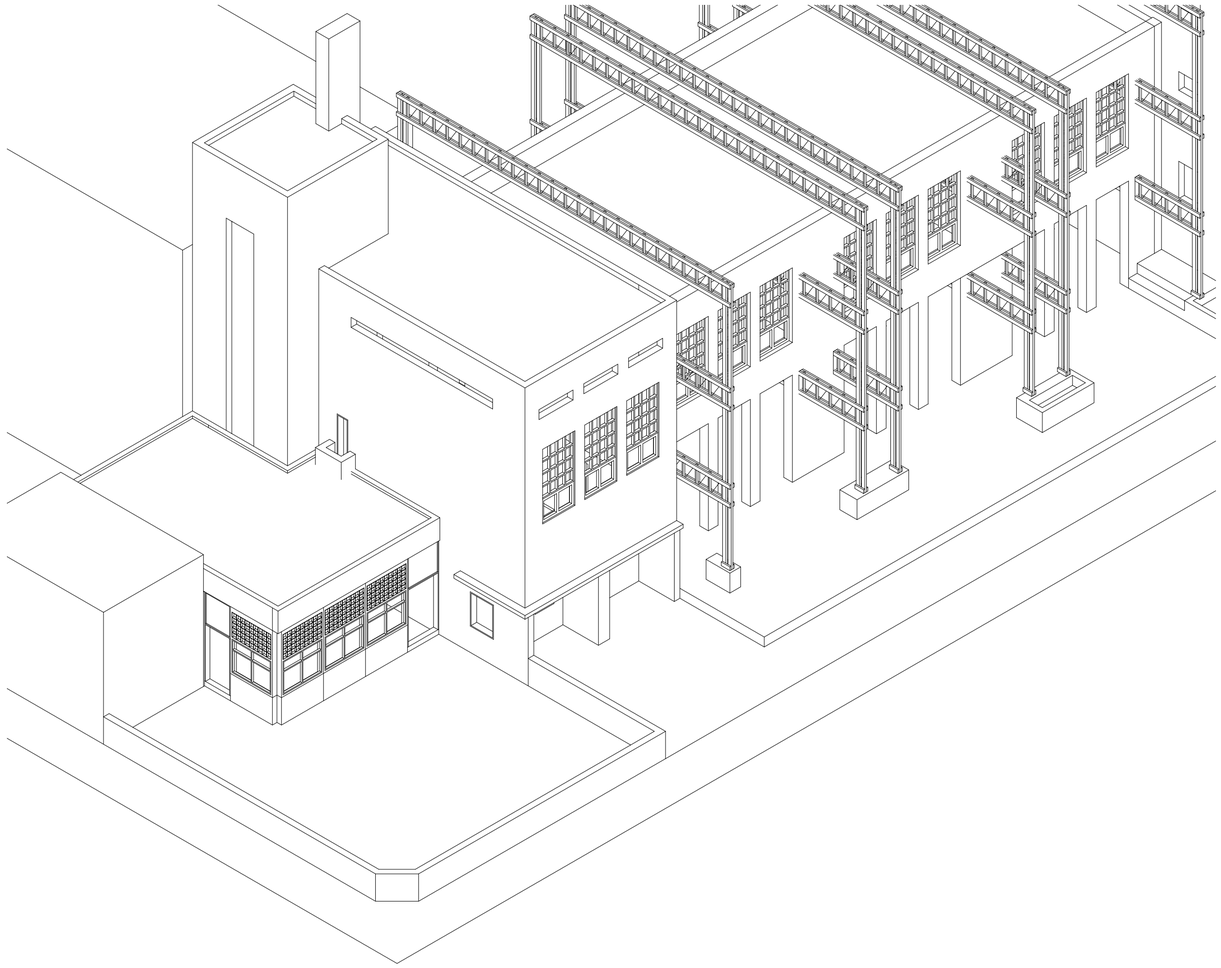
closed off

partly
open

open

construction space and time

build the new load-bearing structure



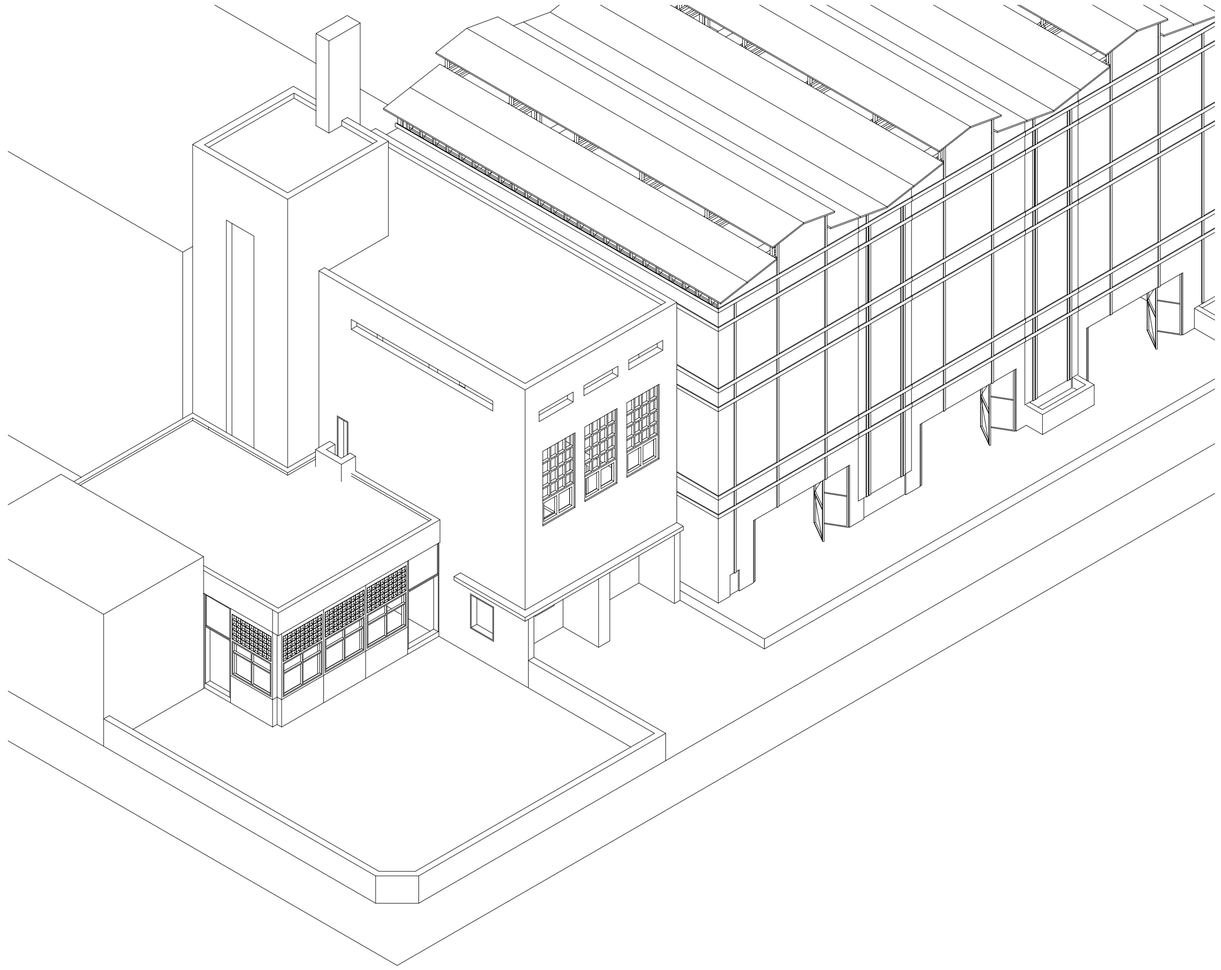
closed off

partly open

open

construction space and time

build new facade



closed off

partly open

open

construction space and time

move communal area
+ inhabit new spaces

closed off

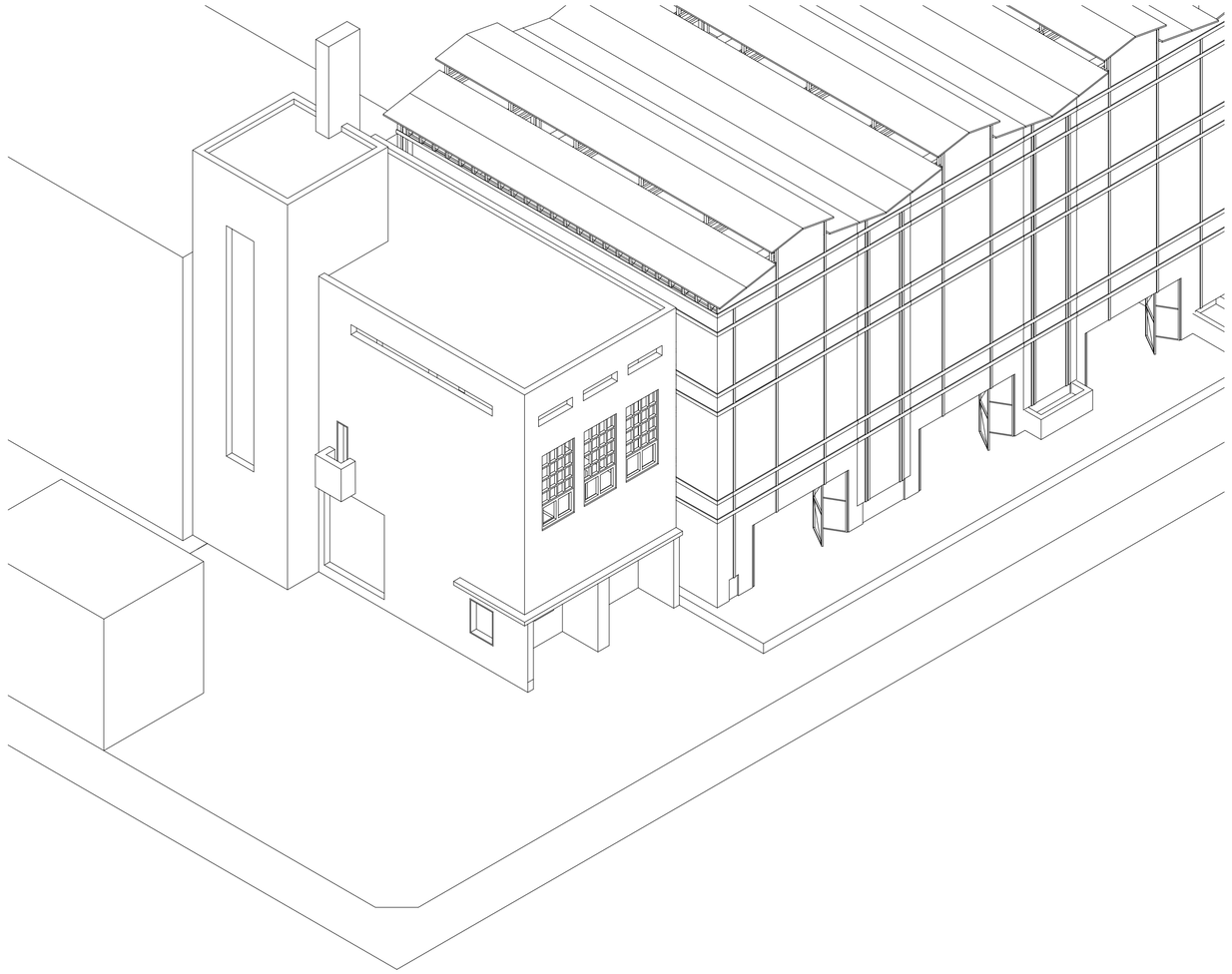
partly open

open



construction space and time

demolish
extension B



closed off

partly
open

open

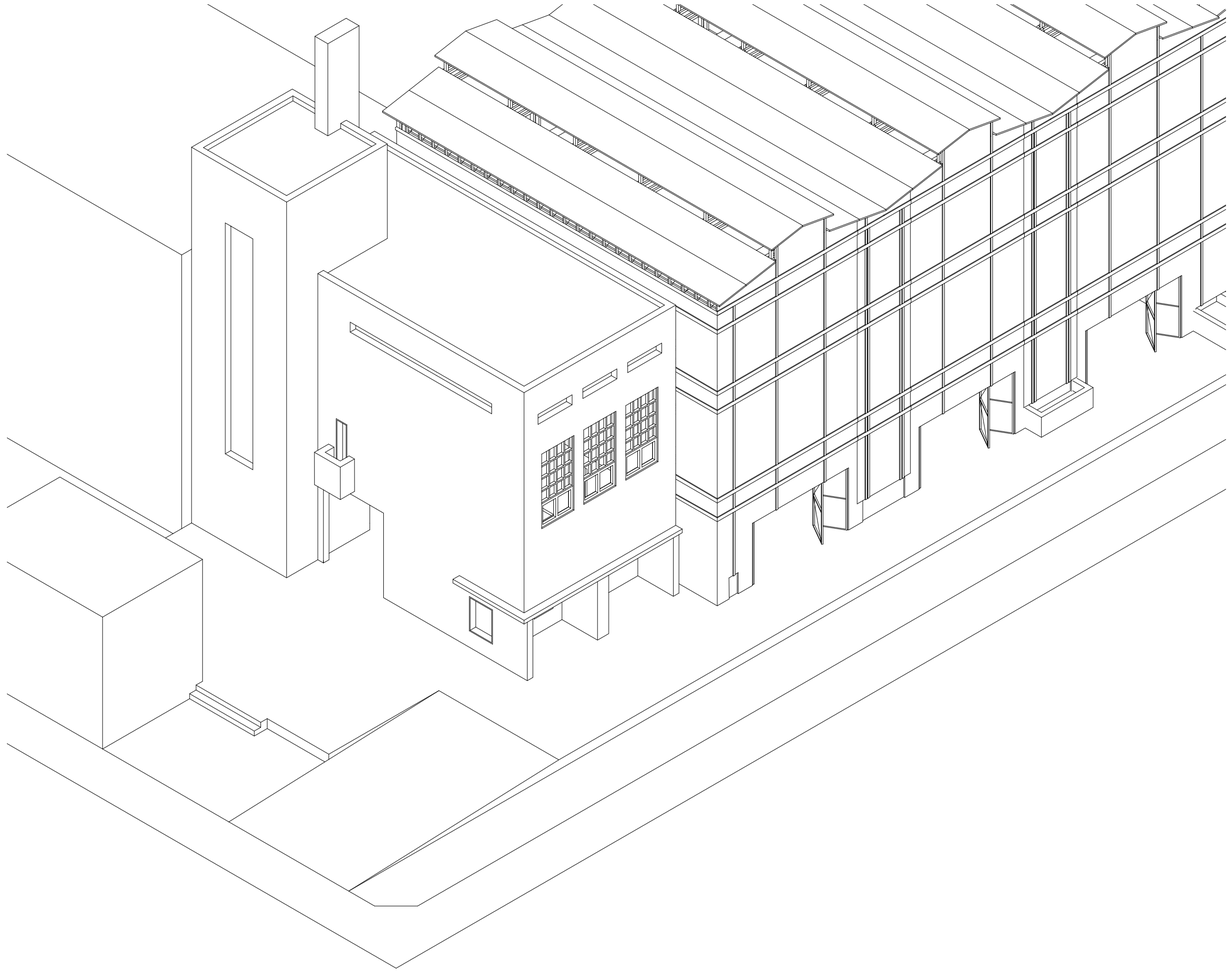
construction space and time

lay new foundations

closed off

partly open

open



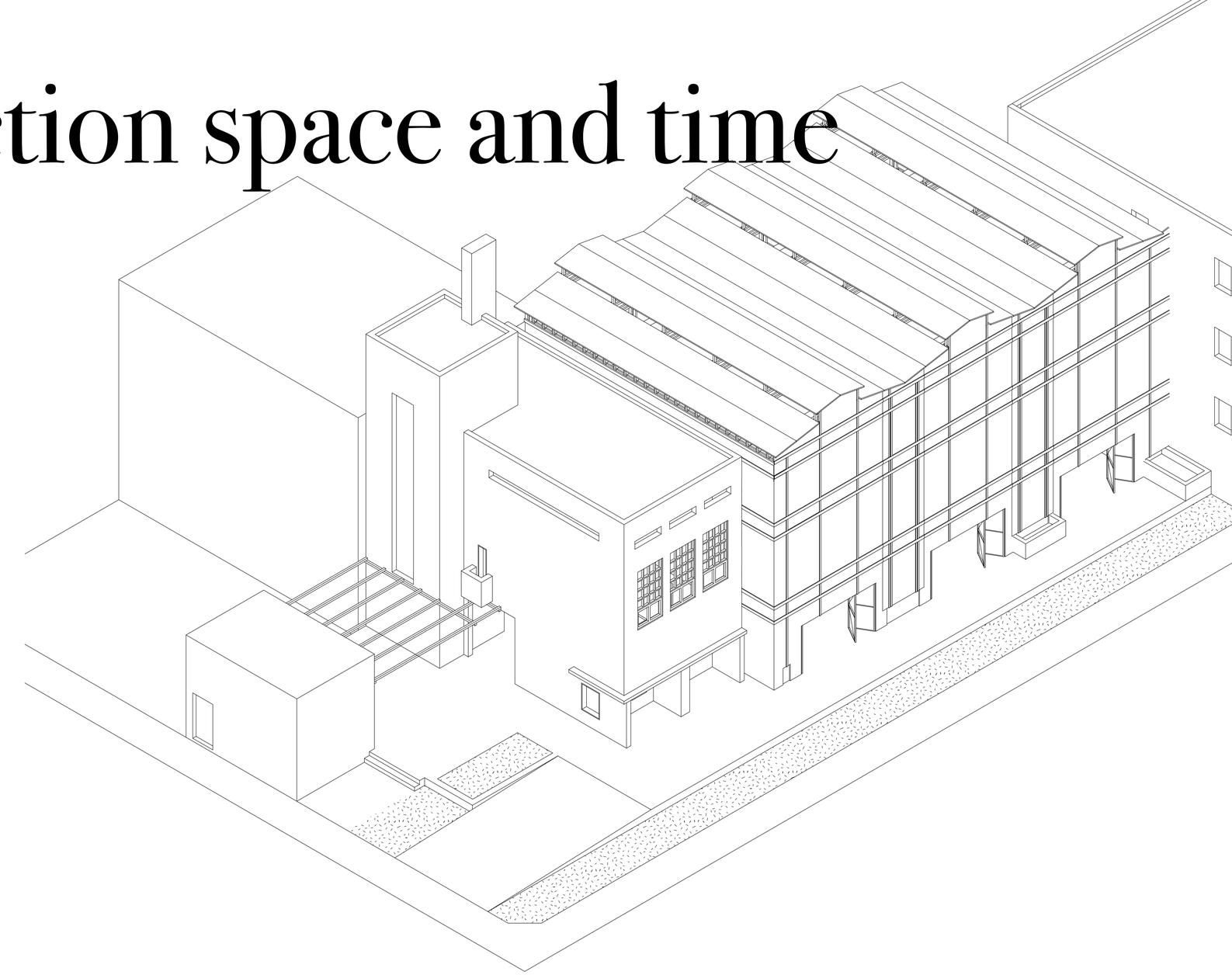
closed off

partly open

open

construction space and time

build new entrance area



closed off

partly open

open

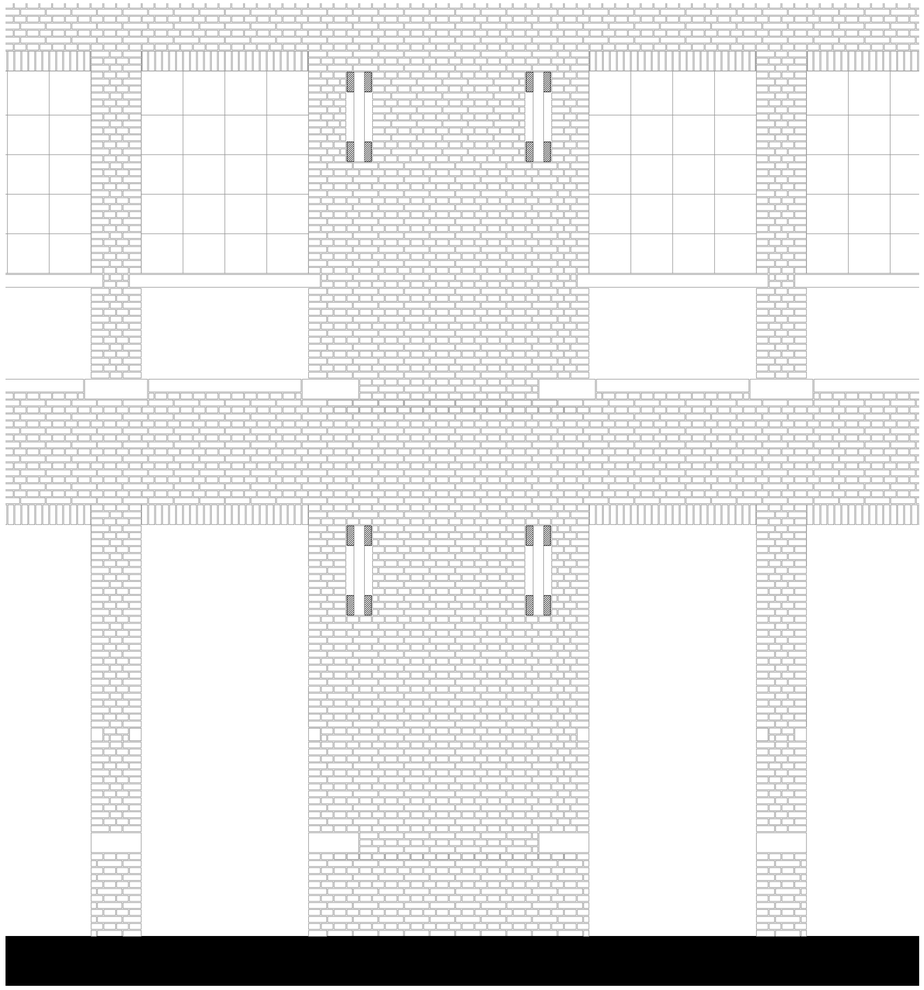
closed off

partly open

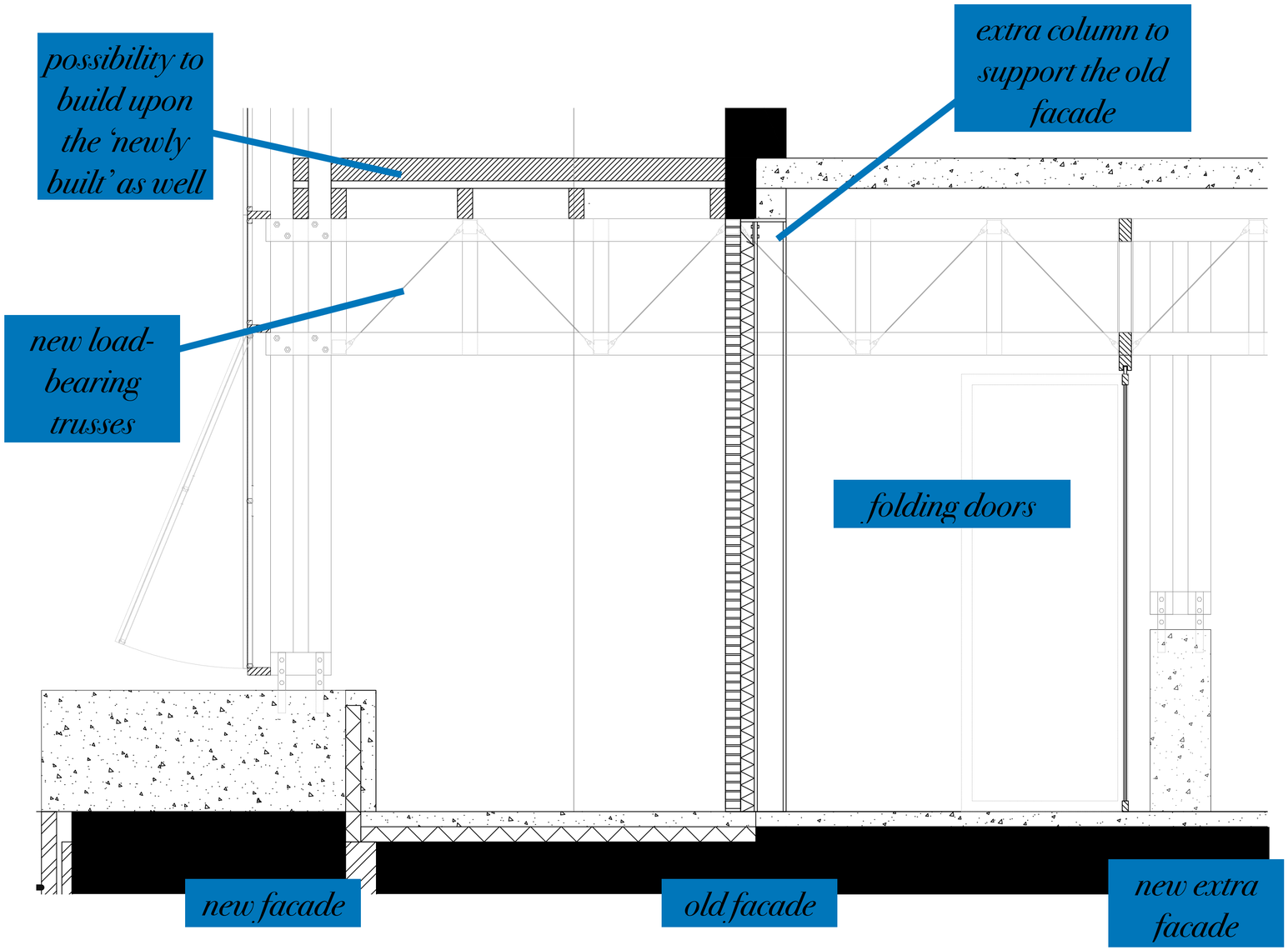
open

construction space and time

- take out the old windows (groud floor) but leave the walls around them
- break open part of old facade for the new load-bearing structure (to build upon the built)



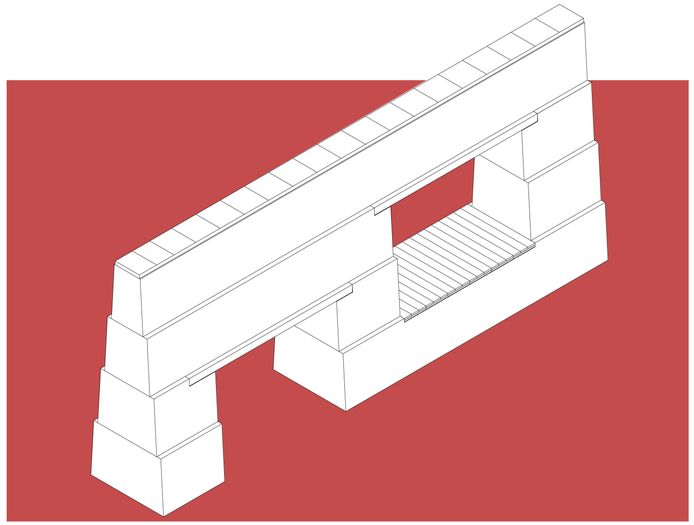
construction space and time



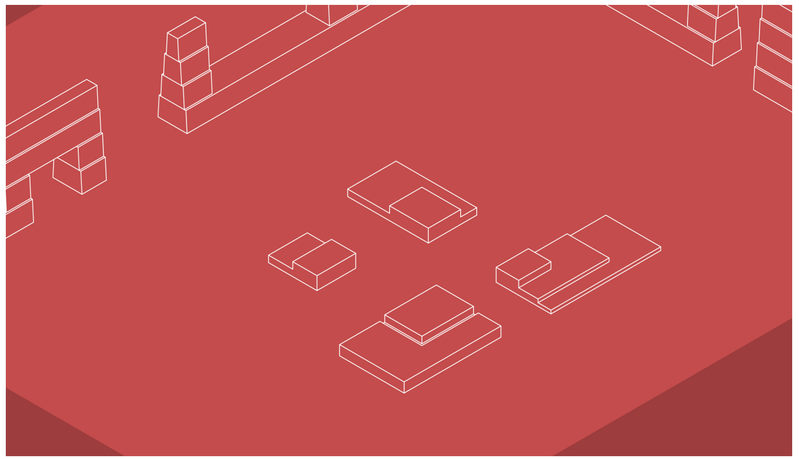
facade section (ver.)

park 1943

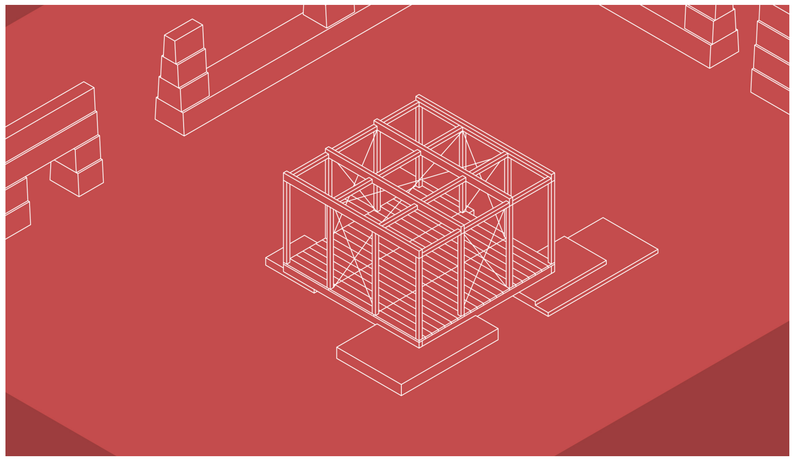
construction space and time



the pavement tile wall



the concrete blocks



the temporary pavilion

construction time and place

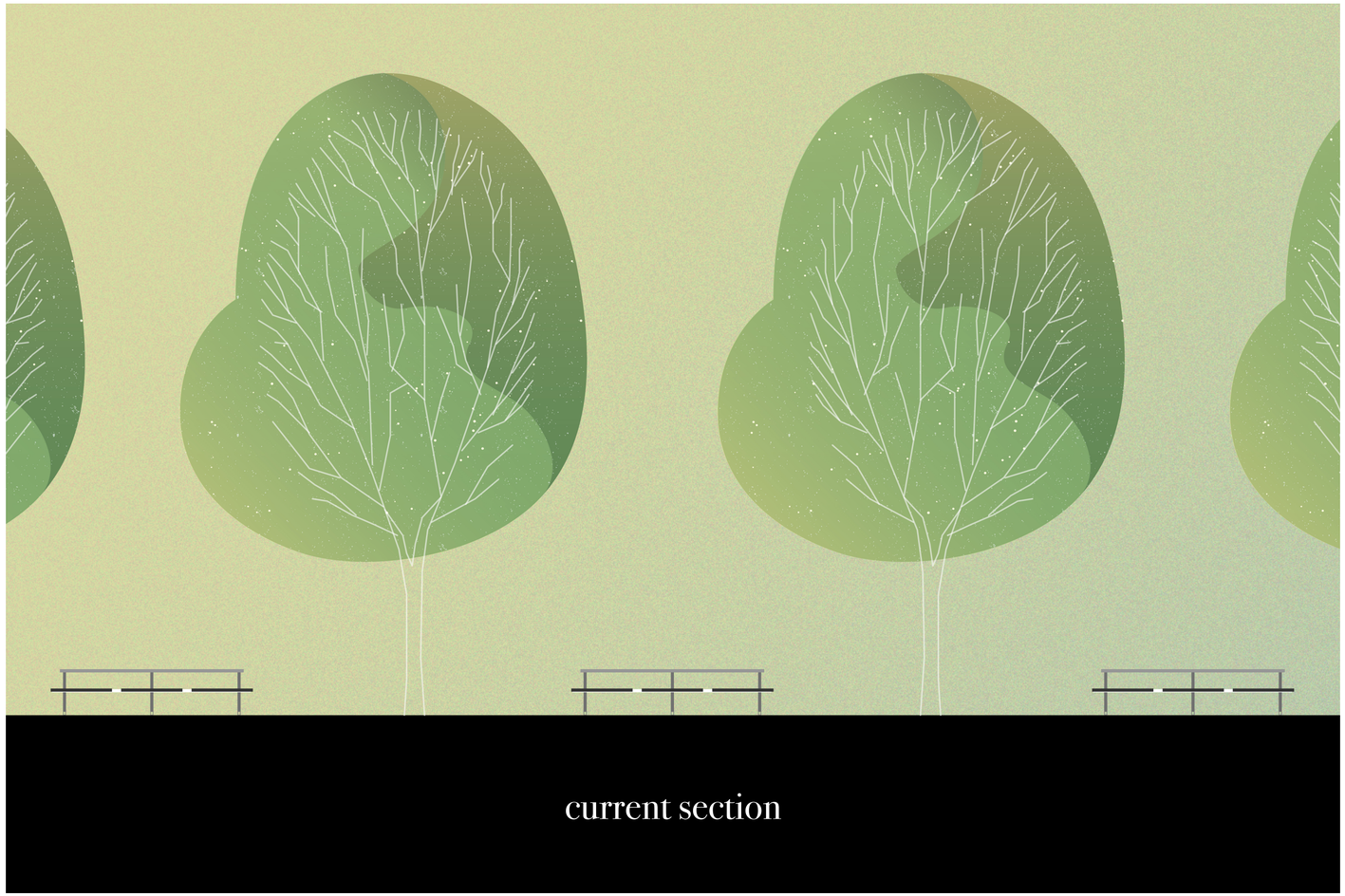
- we could start next week...



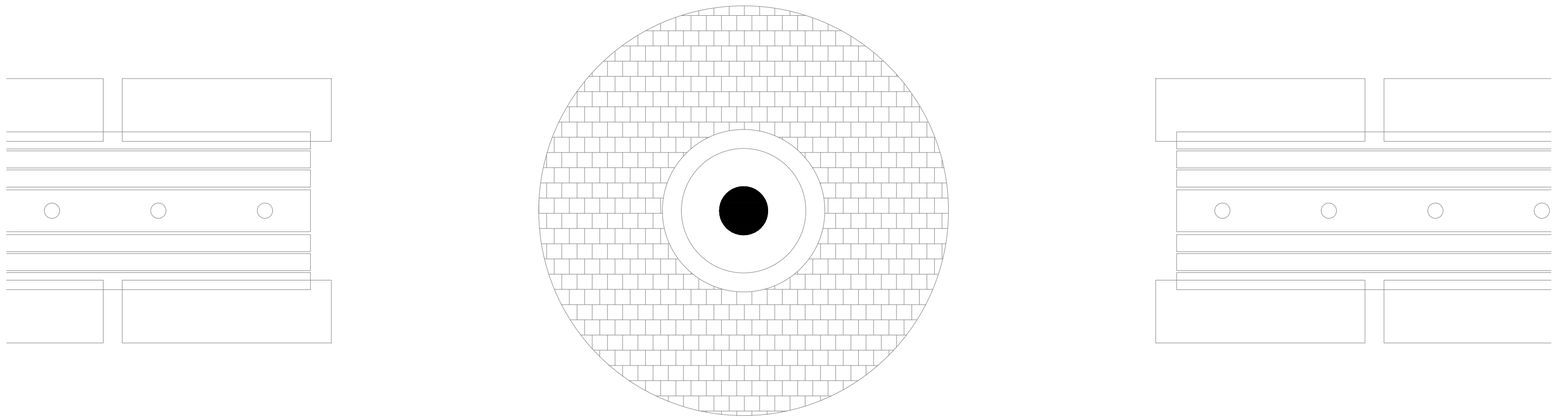


de *Buitenkeuken* (the outdoor kitchen)

construction time and place



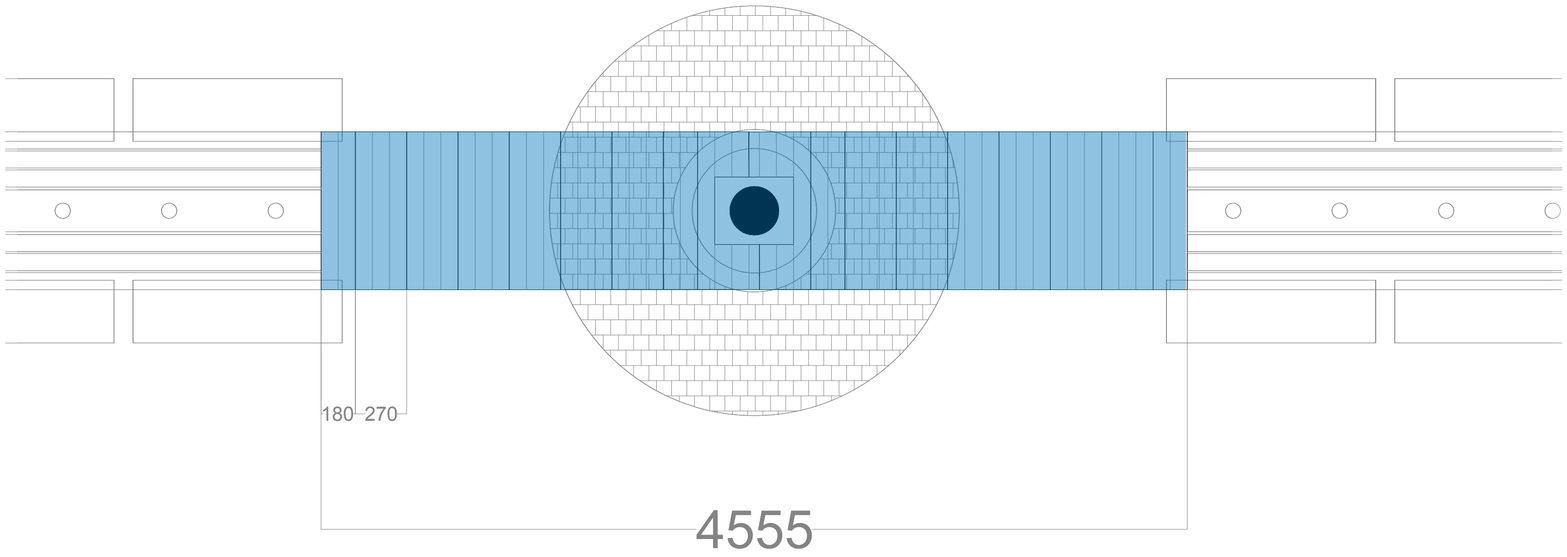
construction time and place



top view

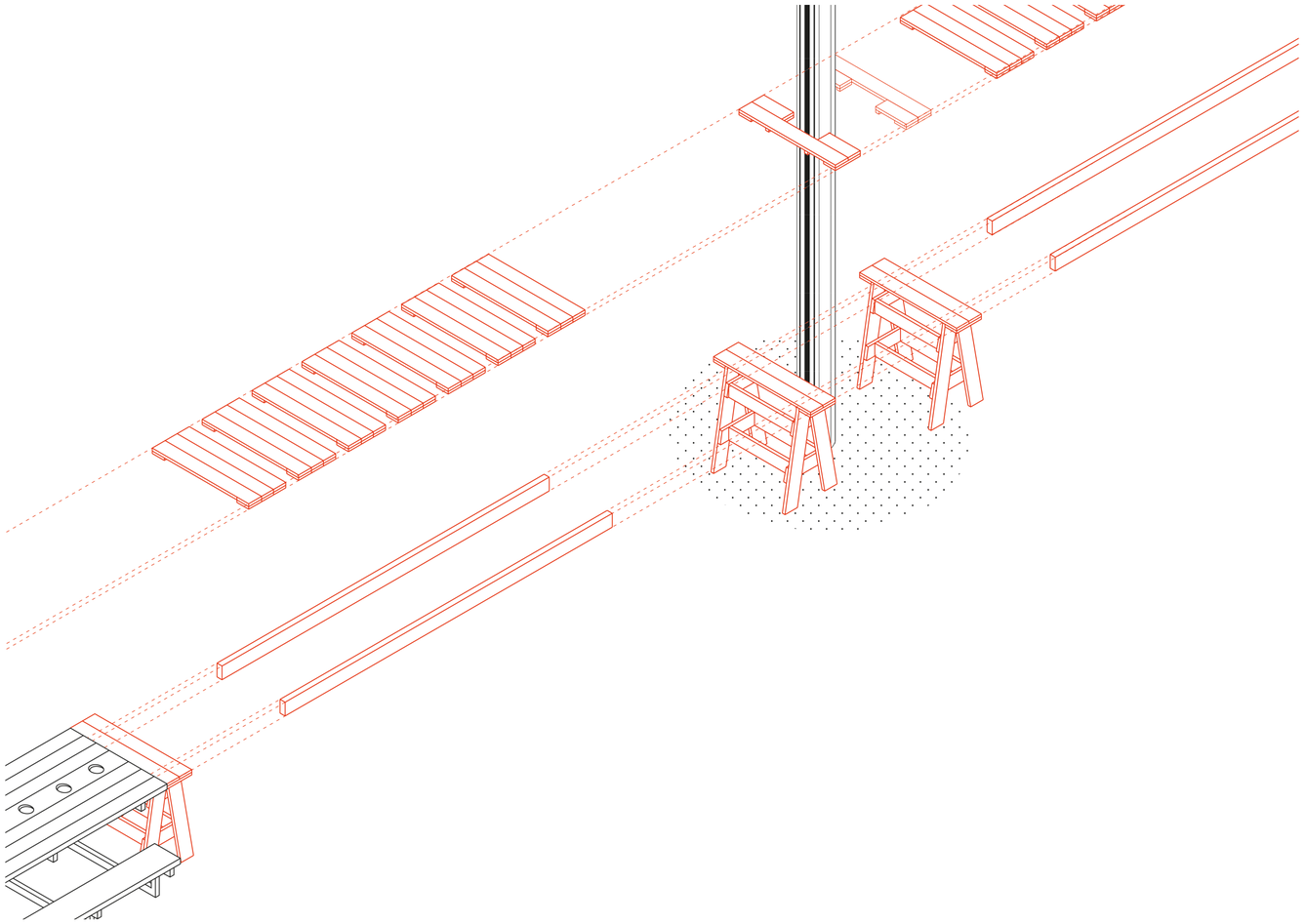
construction time and place

- Challenging these norms with an intervention:
- Statement: *“we want to form relations with these surroundings different than the relations that are currently facilitated*



top view

construction time and place



axonometric view of table

construction time and place



axonometric view of table

construction time and place

- Moment to start discussions about:
  - the (relations) with surroundings
  - discuss the existing regulations
  - take stock of available tools/ techniques/materials
  - dream together about future interventions





thank you!