

Patterns, History, and Perceptions in the formation of a reactive city

P5 Presentation

Cross-Domain Graduation Studio, City of the Future

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Historical background

Kommunalka

Battle of Krtanisi

Fought between Persians (Qajar dynastry) and Georgians (under king Erakli II), over the Kartli-Kakheti region (Eastern Georgia) because of the alliance of Georgia with the Russian Empire. Eastern Georgia gets back to the Persians, who sacked and burnt to the ground the capital.

Democratic Republic of Georgia established

Created in the wake of the Russian Revolution of 1917 (collapse of the Russian Empire) and allowed territories formerly under Saint Petersburg's rule to assert independence. The DRG was a German* protectorate.

1918

Different families — purposefully selected from different social classes — were relocated and pushed to live a communal life into single apartments*. Kitchen and bathrooms were shared among families.

The primary scope was to control the households through a spy network, even though covered by the ideal of the abolition of class differences.

1921

Rose Revolution

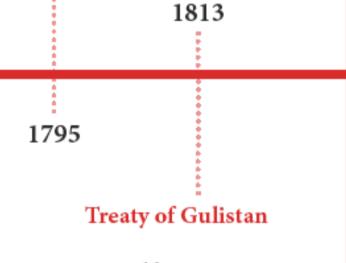
After twenty days of protests in November 2003, the Revolution triggered elections. The United National Movement is now the dominant ruling party. With Rose Revolution, Georgia pursued pro-Western foreign policy and declared European and Euro-Atlantic integration as its main priority.

2003

Georgian Dream

The National Movement, after economical and political scandals, loses elections against the Georgian Dream party, led by tycoon Bidzina Ivanishvili, and with clear pro-Russia views.

2012



Signed between Qajar Iran and the Russian Empire. Eastern Georgia officially ceded by the Persians to Russia.

Bolshevik Invasion

1921

Bolshevik forces invade Georgia and the country is soon annexed to the Soviet Union.

Georgian independence

Finalized on 25 December the same year.

1991

Russo-Georgian war

A war between Georgia, Russia and the Russian-backed self-proclaimed republics of South Ossetia and Abkhazia after a worsening of the Georgian relations with Russia.

2008

New Tiflis Project

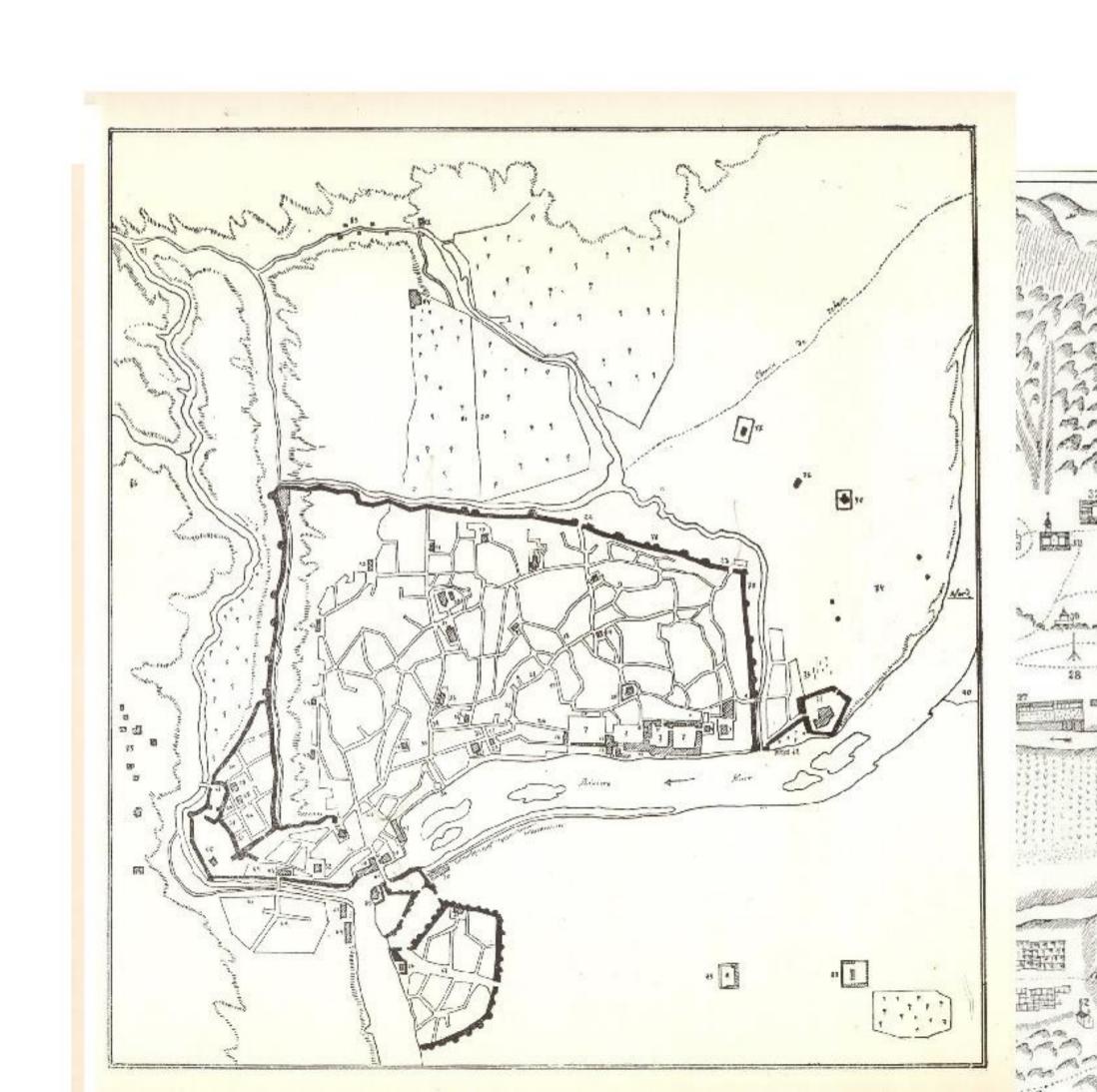
A large scale project of requalification of the Old Town of Tbilisi begins. The aim is to "preserve" and "restore" the cultural heritage of the city, to make it more desirable for tourism and economy.

2016

Important to mention is that German colonies were present on the Georgian territory since the 19th century, as well as german craftsmen and artisans. This may have influenced Tbilisi's growth, both in Ueban terms and in Architectural terms.

The Kommunalka creates a big change in the way of living. WIth the fall of the Soviet Union, inhabitants started to add, as prostheic volumes, kitchens and toilets to their homes through balconies and loggias to have private usage.

How did the city develop in the last centuries?



1782

Map of Tbilisi by Unknown

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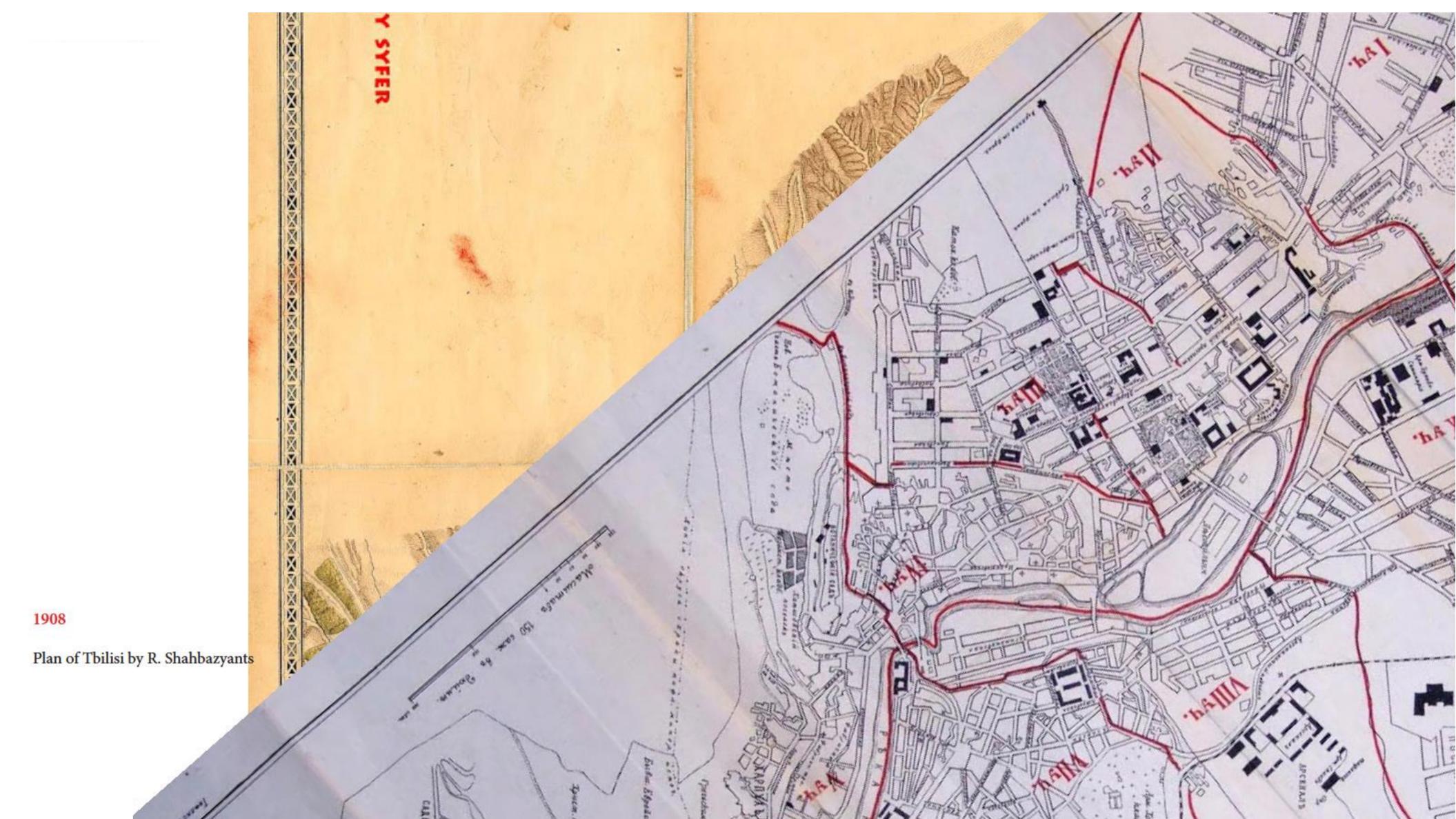
1809

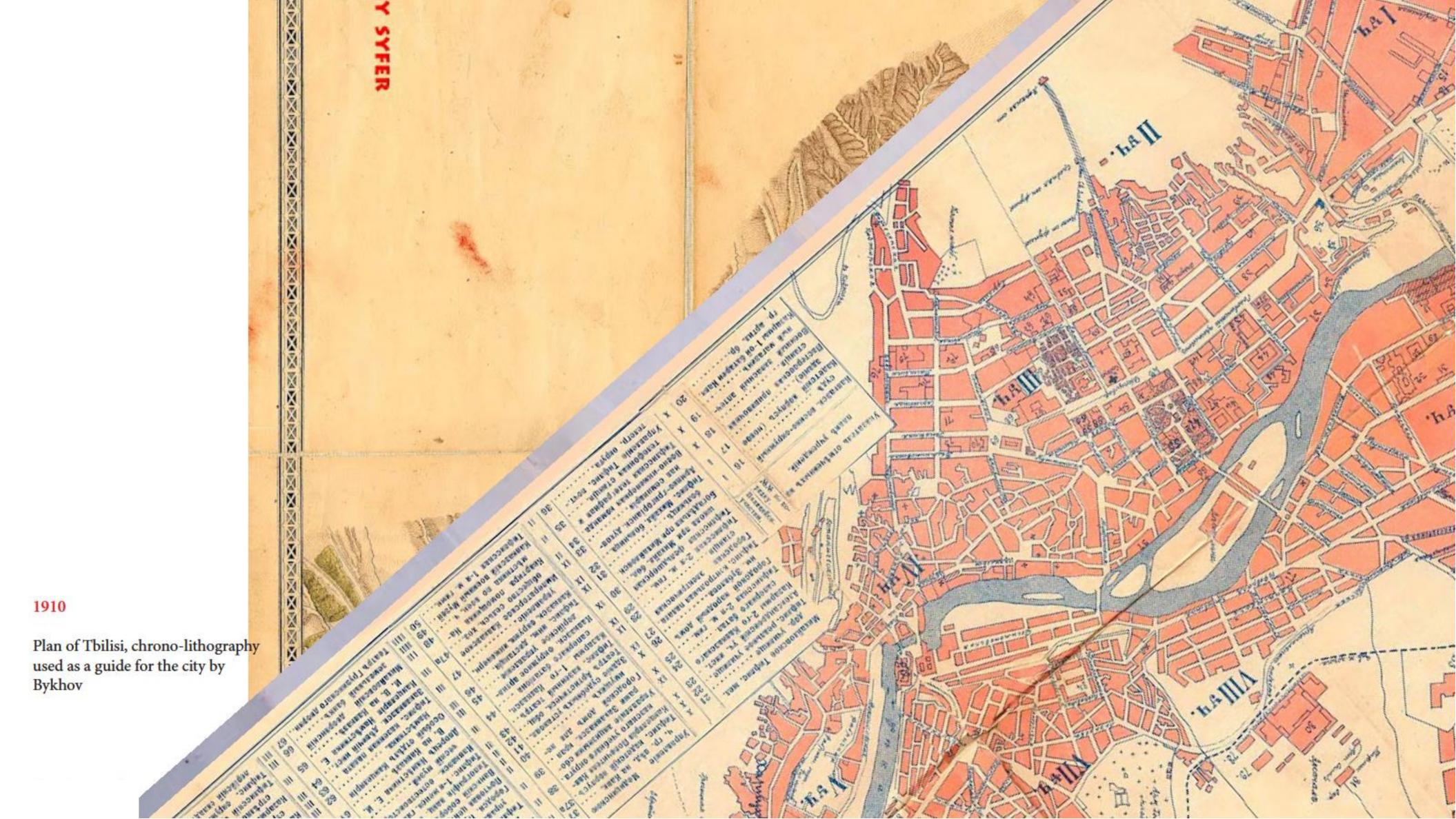
Urban Plan project from the book "Tbilisi Architecture" by T.R. Kvirkvelia

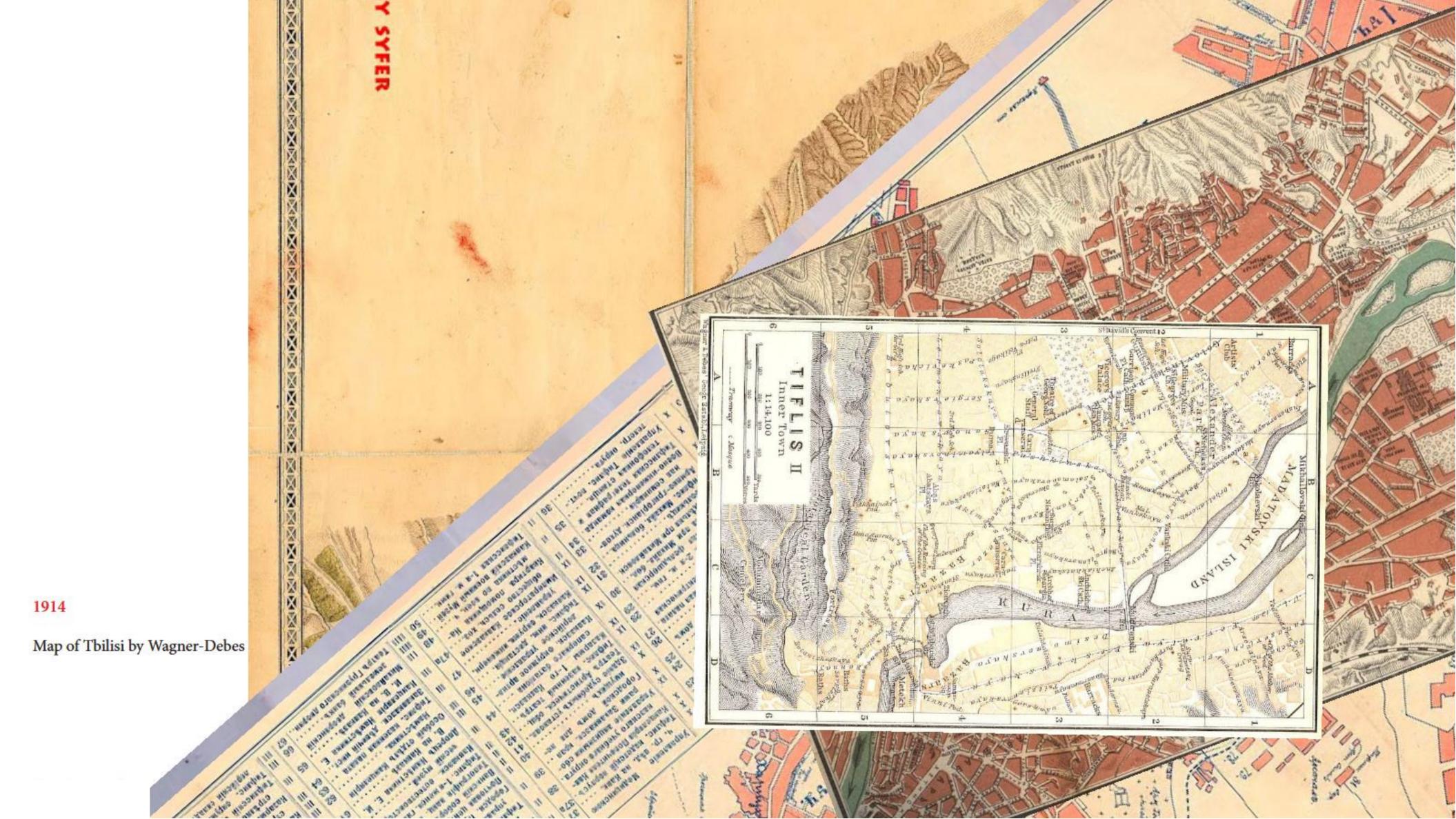


1887

Plan of Tbilisi and surroundings by A. Ilyin

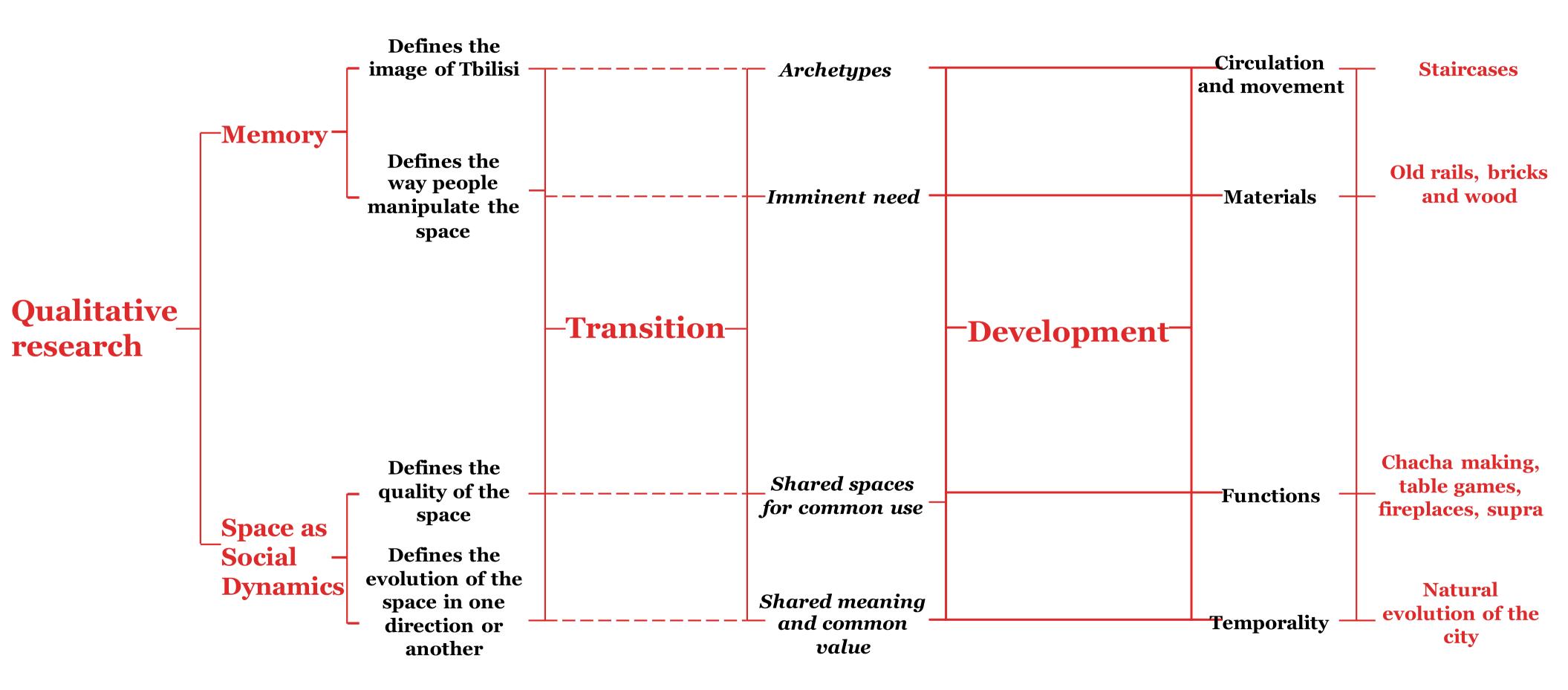






"Tbilisi is like a Janus: one face towards Asia, and the other towards Europe."

Zakavkazskiy Vestnik newspaper, 1847



Defines the image of Tbilisi

-Memory -

Space as

Dynamics

Social

Defines the way people manipulate the space

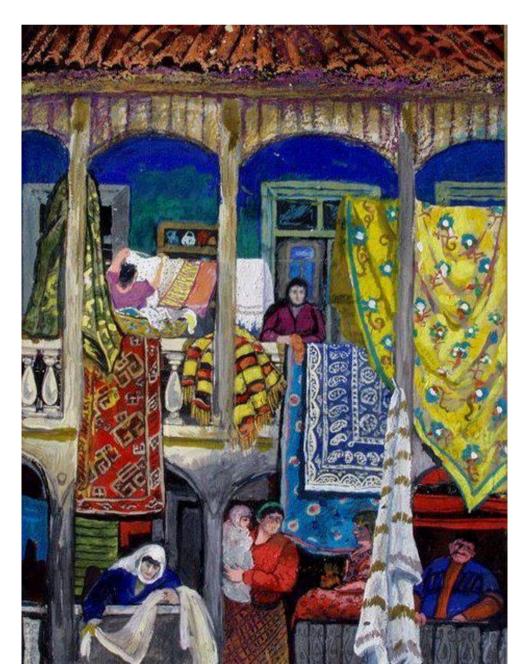
Qualitative research

Defines the quality of the space

Defines the evolution of the space in one direction or another

"My grandfather used to tell me that in Soviet times everybody was sharing in courtyard houses. All kinds of people lived in the yard, from scientists to professors to artisans and factory workers. Everyone was sharing the yard, and kids were all playing together. He told me that sharing was not only material, like when you need some sugar and go ask the neighbour, but it was also intellectual. The professors' kids were learning something from the workers' kids, and vice versa. It was a constant learning and sharing process, beyond needs."

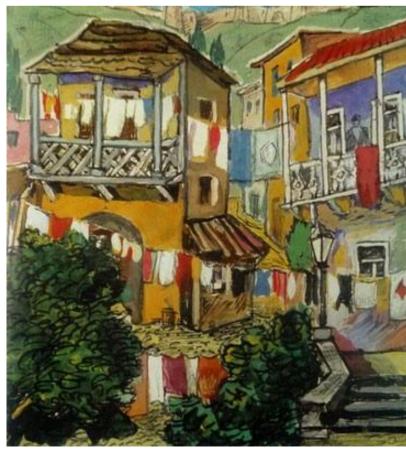
Elene, personal communication, 2022



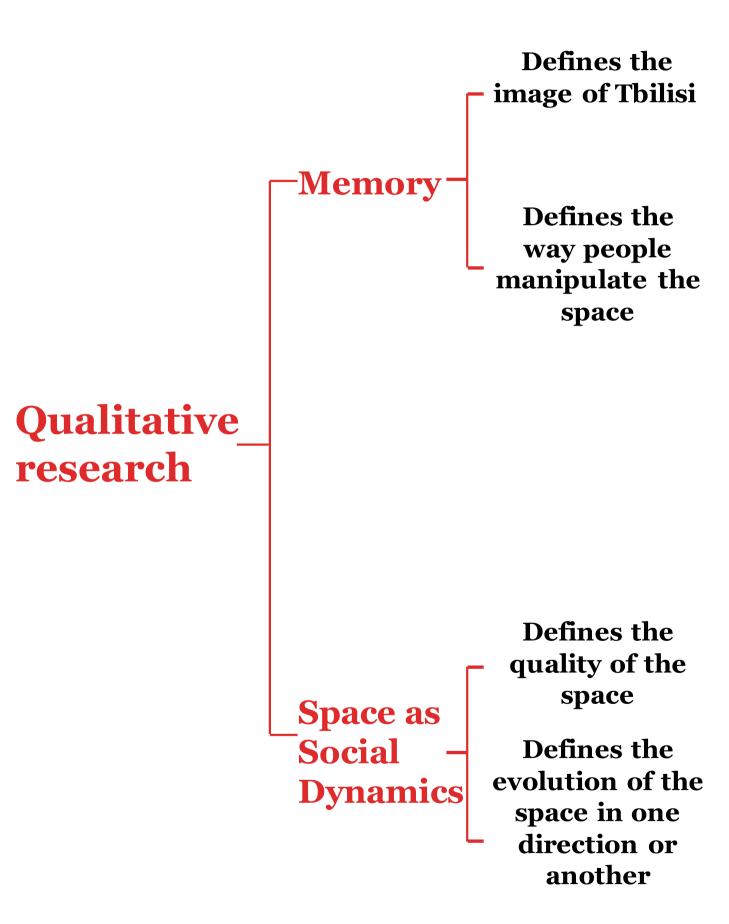


"I remember that we used to play a lot in the yard with other kids. On Chiakokonoba1, I even remember that we used to make big fires in the yard using all sorts of things, from tires to wood; the bigger, the better. I lost all my facial hair because the fire was too big, hair, eyebrows, eyelashes, everything. But it was fun. Nobody sets fires in the yards or the streets during Chiakokonoba anymore."

Nika, personal communication, 2022







Kommunalka

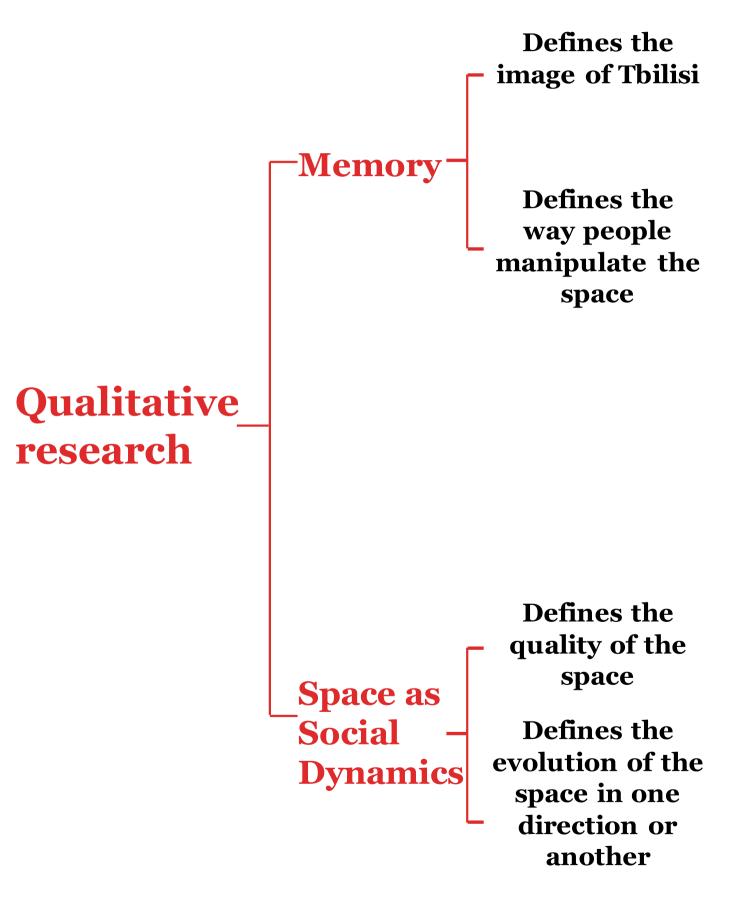
In 1921 the rapid demographic boom in the Soviet Union brought to the implementation of the Kommunalka housing policy, people from different classes were relocated into old bourgeois buildings, where the aperments were shared and each family lived in one room, sharing toilet and kitchen.

Life is scanned through **commonal** living

From courtyard houses of bourgeois and aristocratic families, to **shared apartments**

The new **life is planned** accordingly with the lives of all other inhabitants of the house

Loss of privacy and old habits

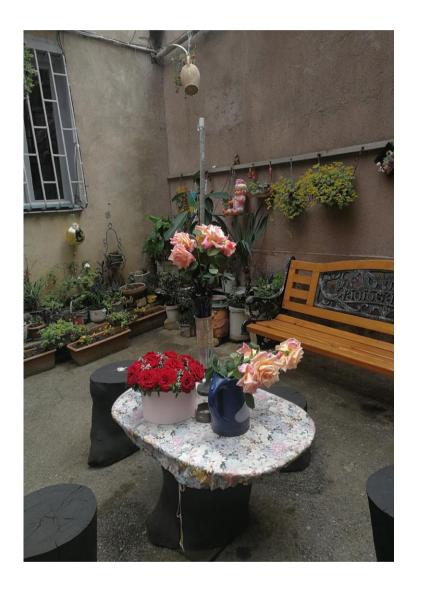


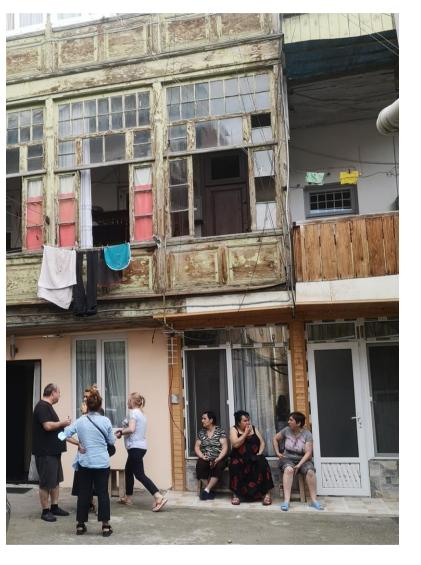


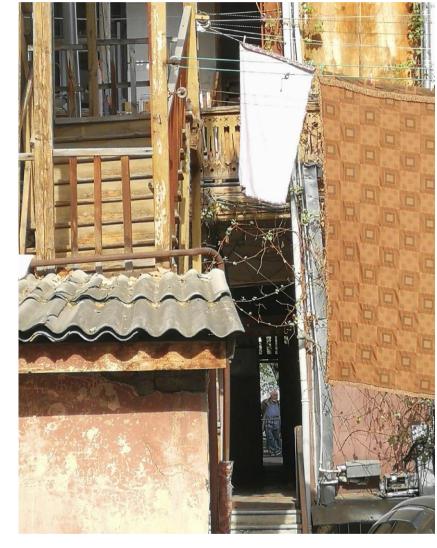




Defines the image of Tbilisi -Memory-**Defines the** way people manipulate the space **Qualitative** research **Defines the** quality of the space **Space as** Social **Defines the** evolution of the **Dynamics** space in one direction or another







Defines the
– image of Tbilisi

-Memory-

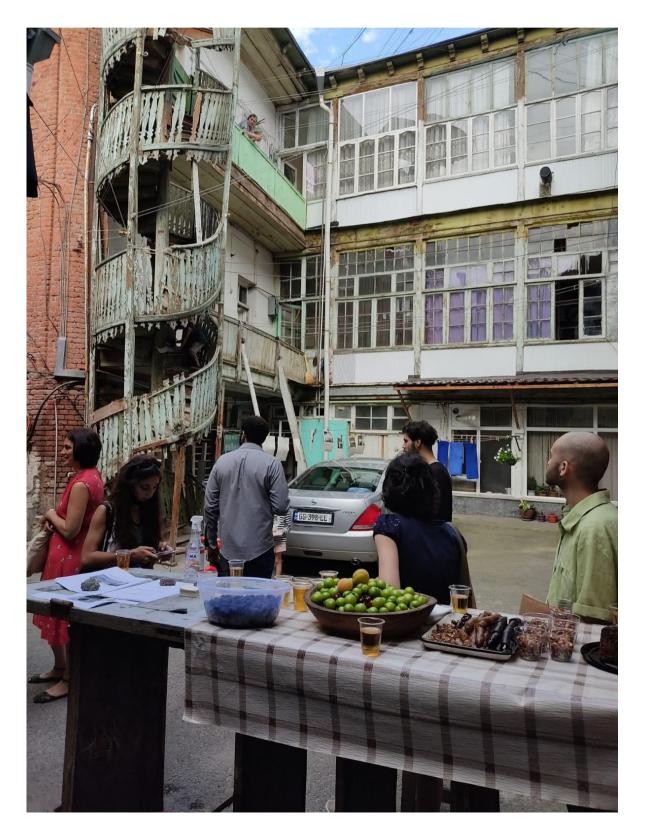
Defines the way people manipulate the space

Qualitative_research

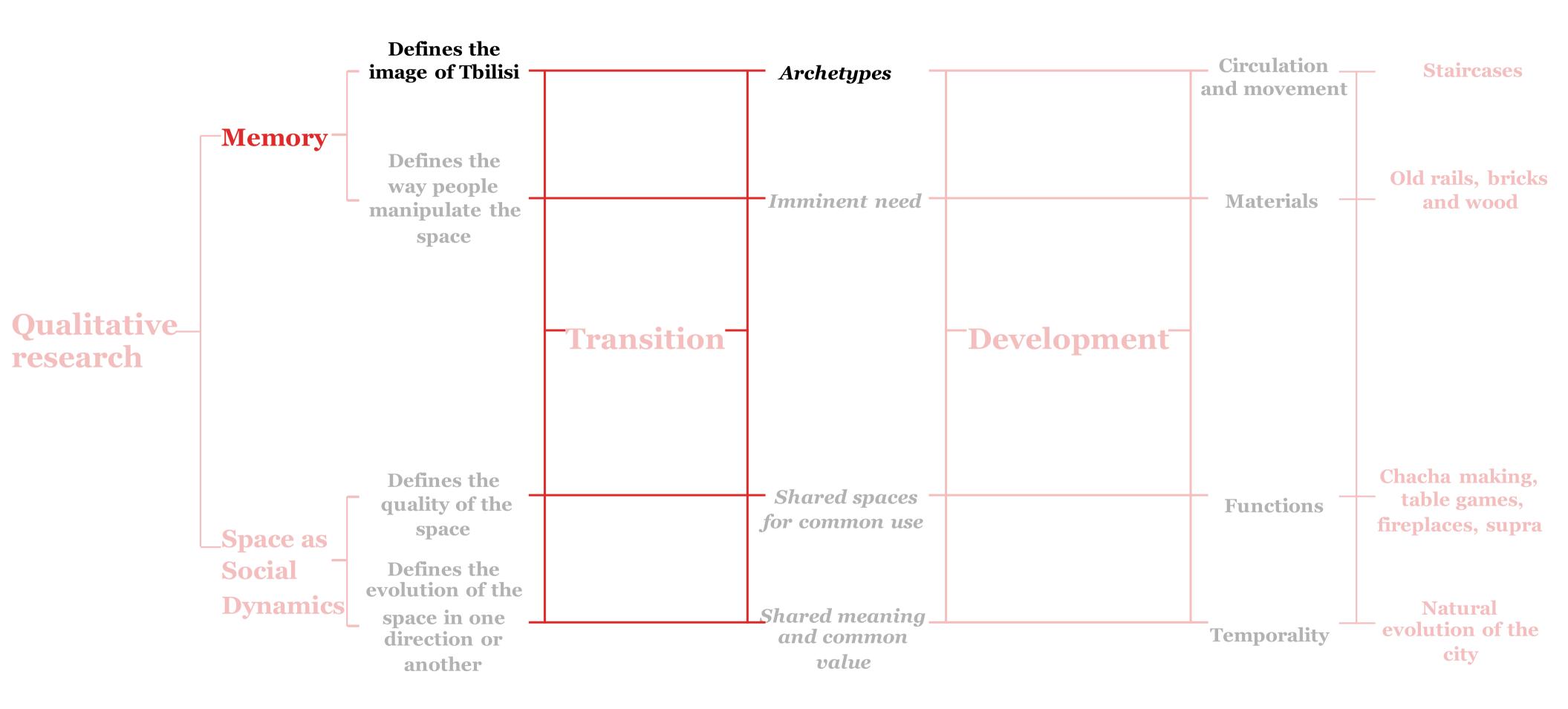
Space as
Social Dynamics

Defines the quality of the space

Defines the evolution of the space in one direction or another





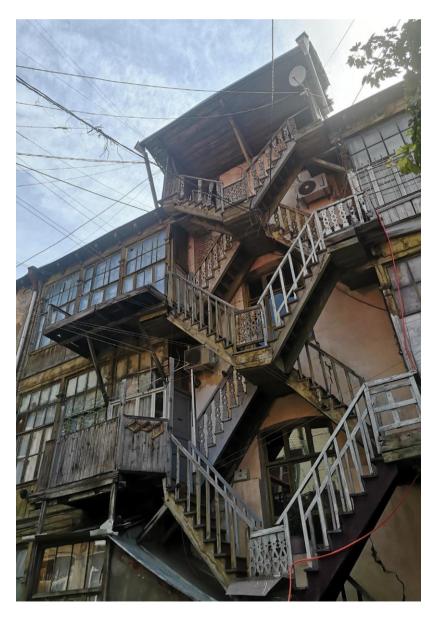


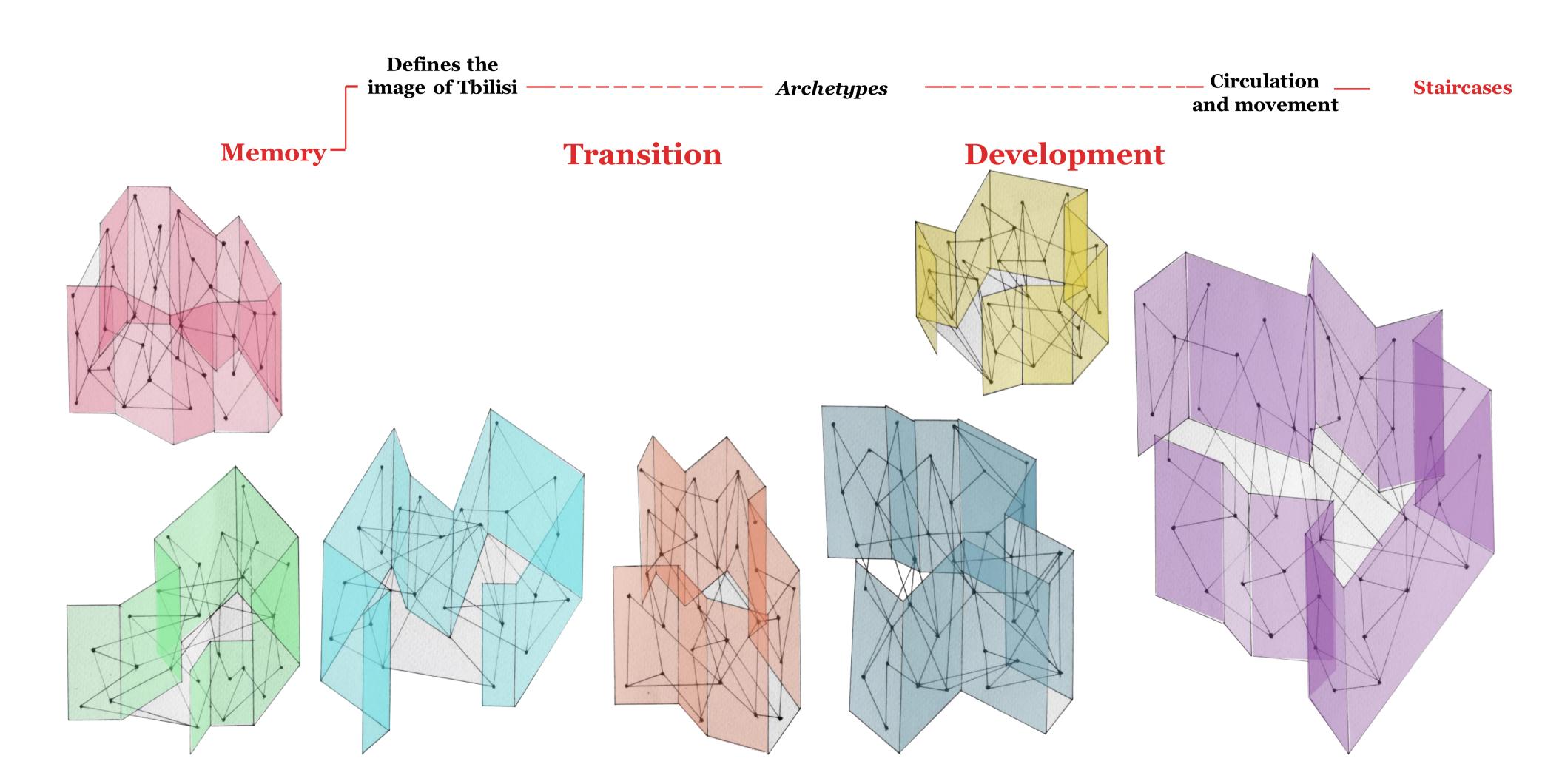




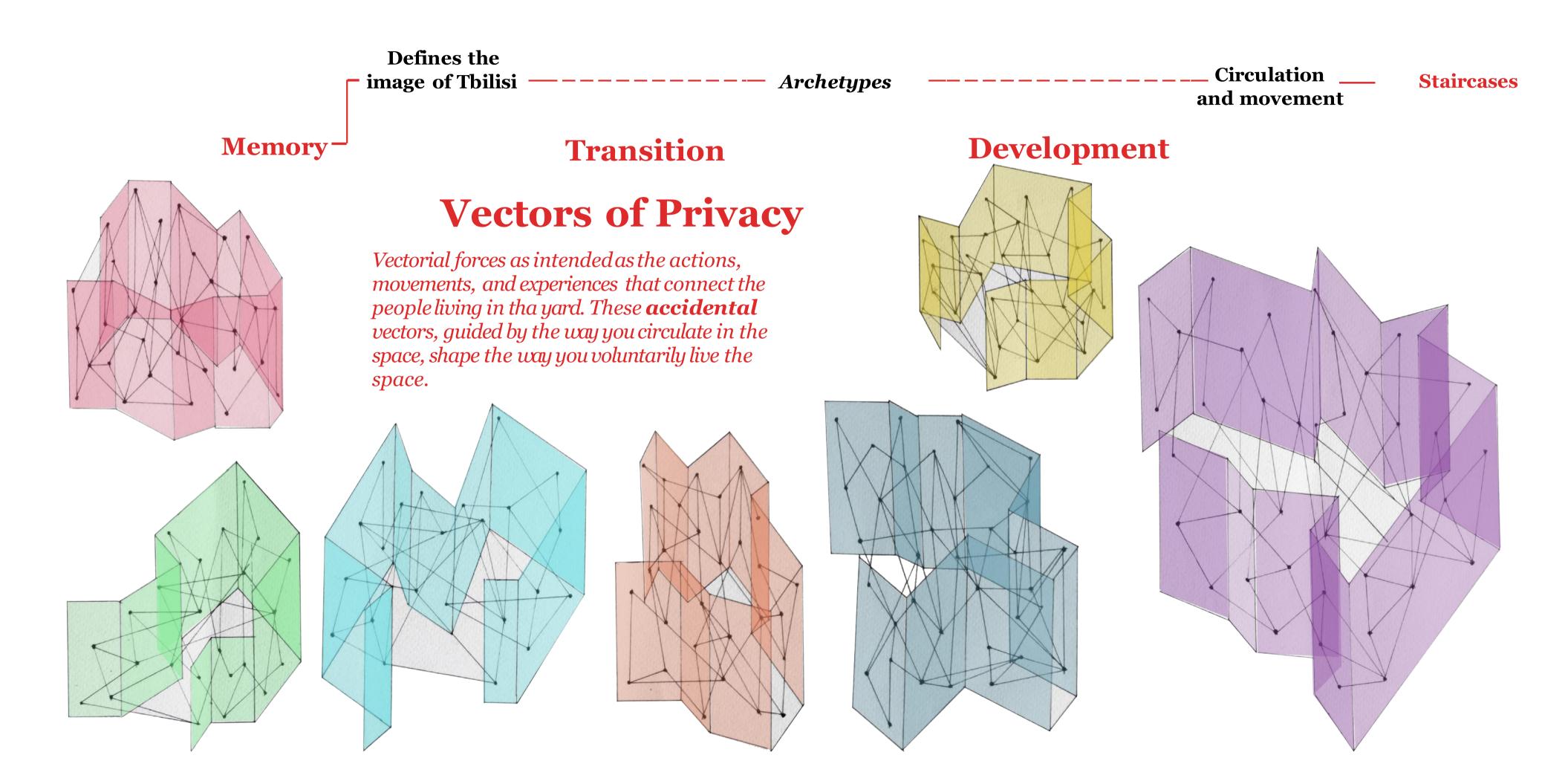












Memory ¬

Defines the way people manipulate the space

—Imminent need —————— Materials

Old rails, bricks and wood

Development

Transition









Memory ¬

Defines the way people manipulate the space

—Imminent need

Materials

and wood

Development

Transition

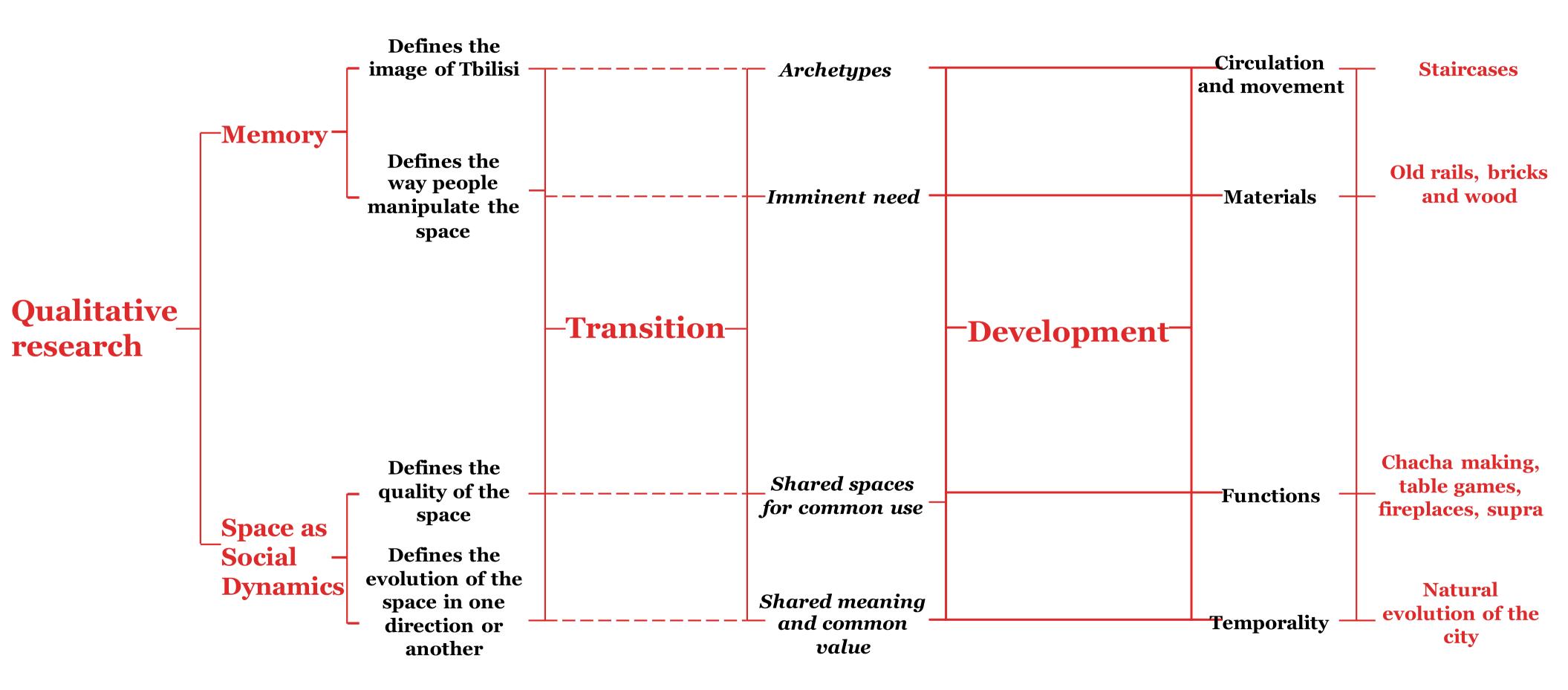


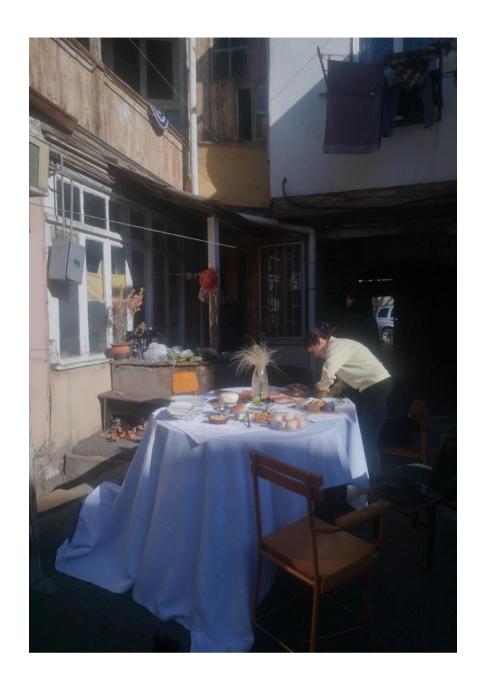


















Space as
Social
Dynamics

Defines the quality of the space

Shared spaces for common use Transition

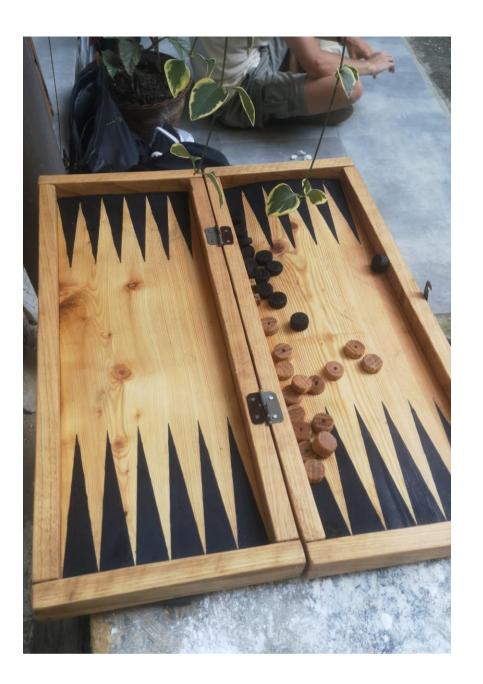
Functions

Chacha making, table games, fireplaces, supra

Development



Dynamics





However, the future of the city is at risk.



"Georgia's capital Tbilisi is undergoing rapid and major transformation to renovate the old, historic city, add new tourist routes and create more recreation zones for locals to enjoy.

Today the Government of Georgia presented the New Tiflis project that aimed to boost the economy, develop tourism and contribute to the well-being of Tbilisi's residents.

Sell out the city to private investors.

"Georgia's capital Tbilisi is undergoing rapid and major transformation to renovate the old, historic city, add new tourist routes and create more recreation zones for locals to enjoy.

Destroy cultural heritage and displace resident in the suburbs.

Today the Government of Georgia presented the New Tiflis project that aimed to boost the economy, develop tourism and contribute to the well-being of Thilisi's residents.









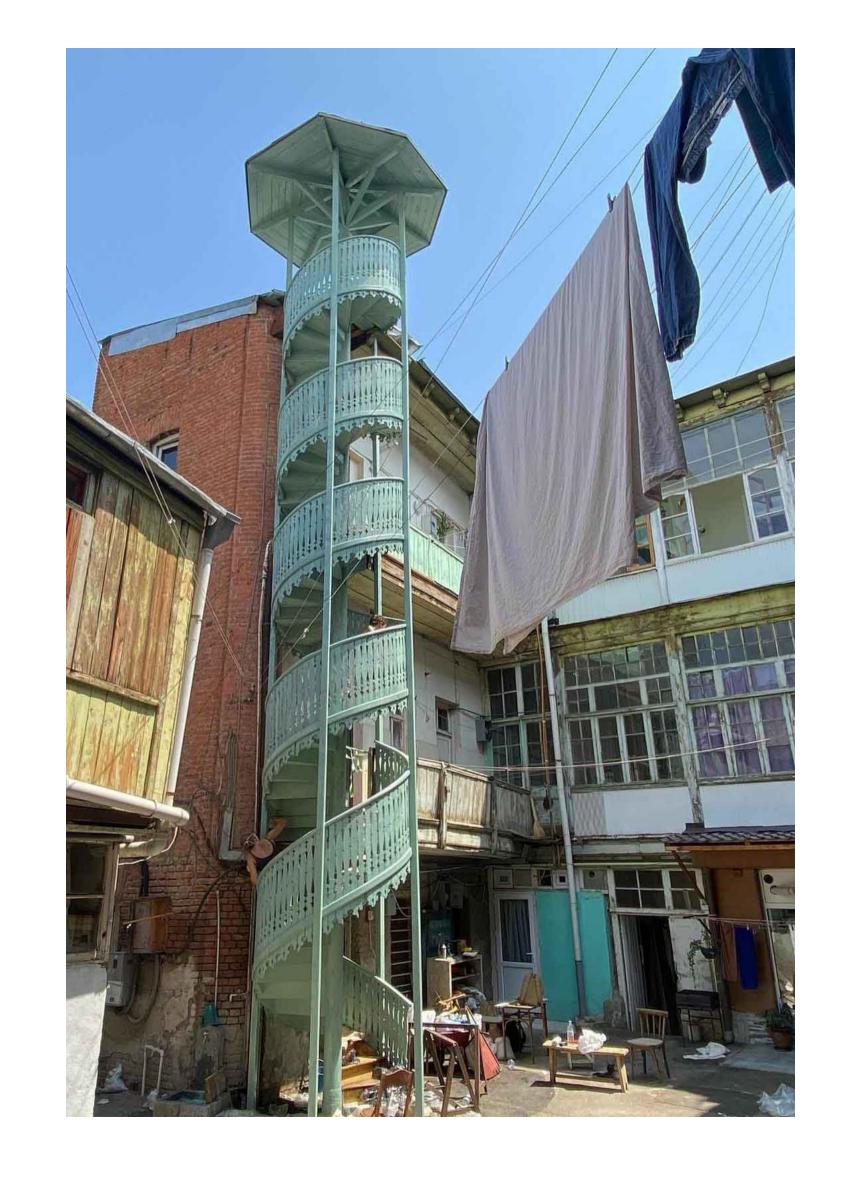


1. Solution finding: setting a precedent for Cultural Heritage Preservation in Tbilisi Kibe Projekt









What is Kibe Projekt?



Zaza. Zaza is a policeman. He lives on the first floor, right under Lasha's apartment. One day we got invited to his place for dinner. He lives in a tiny studio; there's a piano, a desk, a bed, a fridge, a little table, a sofa, and chairs in the same room. A book called "Le basi della grammatica italiana. [Basics of Italian Grammar]" with a bright yellow cover is on the desk. A poster with a genealogic tree of a Georgian public figure is hung on the wall. He and Gio, his friend, cooked for us. We ate the most delicious village chicken of our lives. We drank amber house wine that Zaza kept bringing from the balcony. We said toasts, as Georgians do, at all glasses of wine he was pouring for his guests and then drank it to the sip; a special one to Lali, his mother, who has passed a few months ago. She loved Italian Opera. We listened to music and watched Mina singing "Amor Mio!" on the big screen of his television. We entered the house at 8pm, and we left almost six hours later.

Zaza



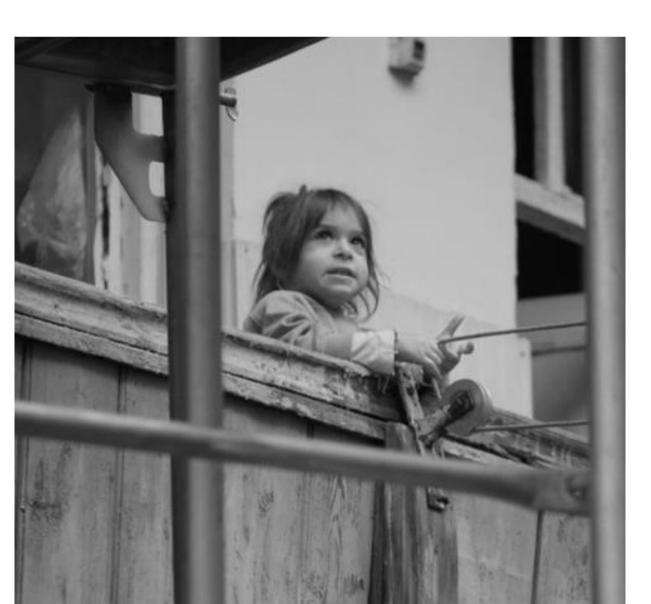
Gabriel and Barbara. Gabriel is 9, while his sister Barbara is 7. They live on the ground floor in the courtyard house with their mother and grandmother. At the beginning of our friendship Gabro gifted me with a man he had drawn with a 3D pen, one arm came off as soon as I touched him, but he was very proud of his little self-portrait. A few days after, I met Barbara with her grandmother close to the metro station on the city's main avenue. I smiled at her and kept walking. A few seconds later, I heard a knock on my arm; Barbara was standing in front of me with an apple bigger than her face, her arm straight toward me. She was just back from the bazaar.

Whenever they come back from school, they enter the yard screaming their interpretation of my name, "Duren!" we play for a bit. They share their chocolates and sometimes ask me for help with the English homework. It always ends up that I do the task for them.

Gabro and Barbare





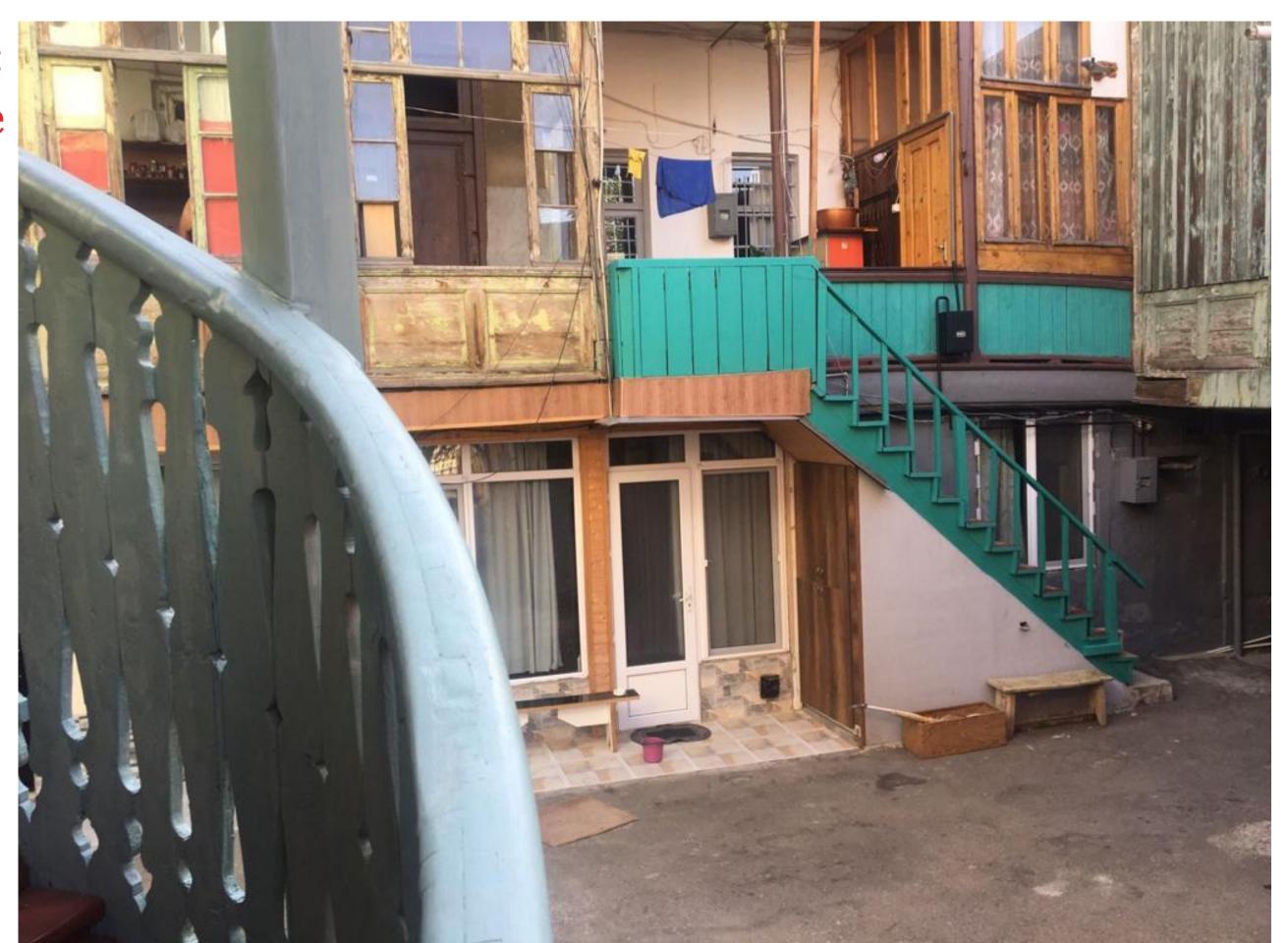


Dodo and Kato



Dodo and Kato. On the first floor, Dodo lives with her daughter's family. I can hear walnuts getting smashed in the wooden pestle with a porous black river stone every weekend. Her face focused on keeping the pounder in balance on the railing of the wooden balcony. I can see the little ponytail of Kato, her 3 years old granddaughter, standing straight on her head while she runs back and forth on the balcony. The first time I met her, she had cut her hair in something very similar to a '90s postpunk bangs. When the laundry is not hung, Kato plays with the wheel of the curricula system that keeps the laundry ropes rolling from one balcony to the other. I can hear the whistle of the wheel spinning on the rod, and I know Kato is there playing. I can only see a ponytail and a little hand.

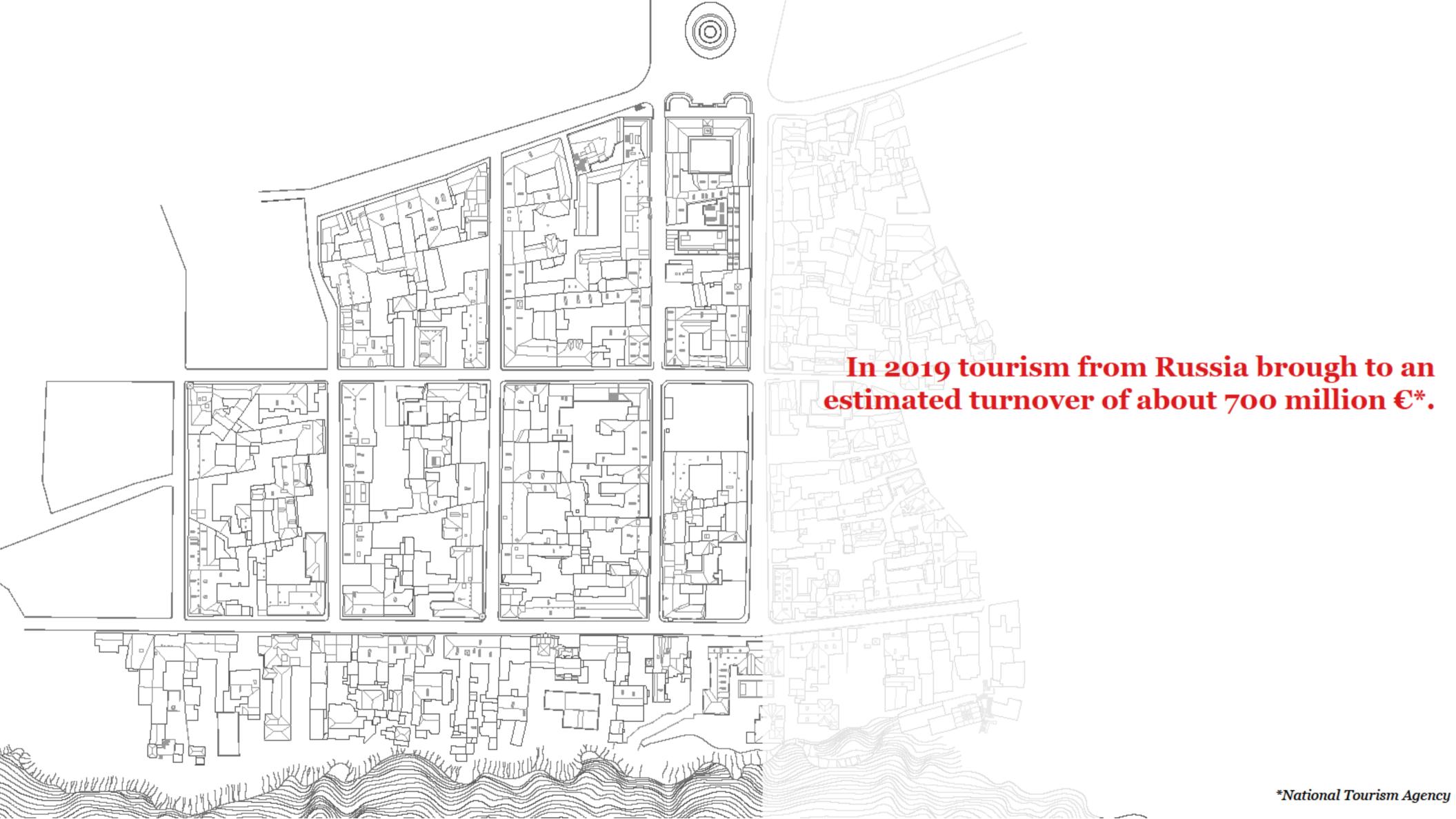
Result: people take care of the space



2. Solution finding: is setting a precedent for Cultural Heritage Preservation in Tbilisi enough?

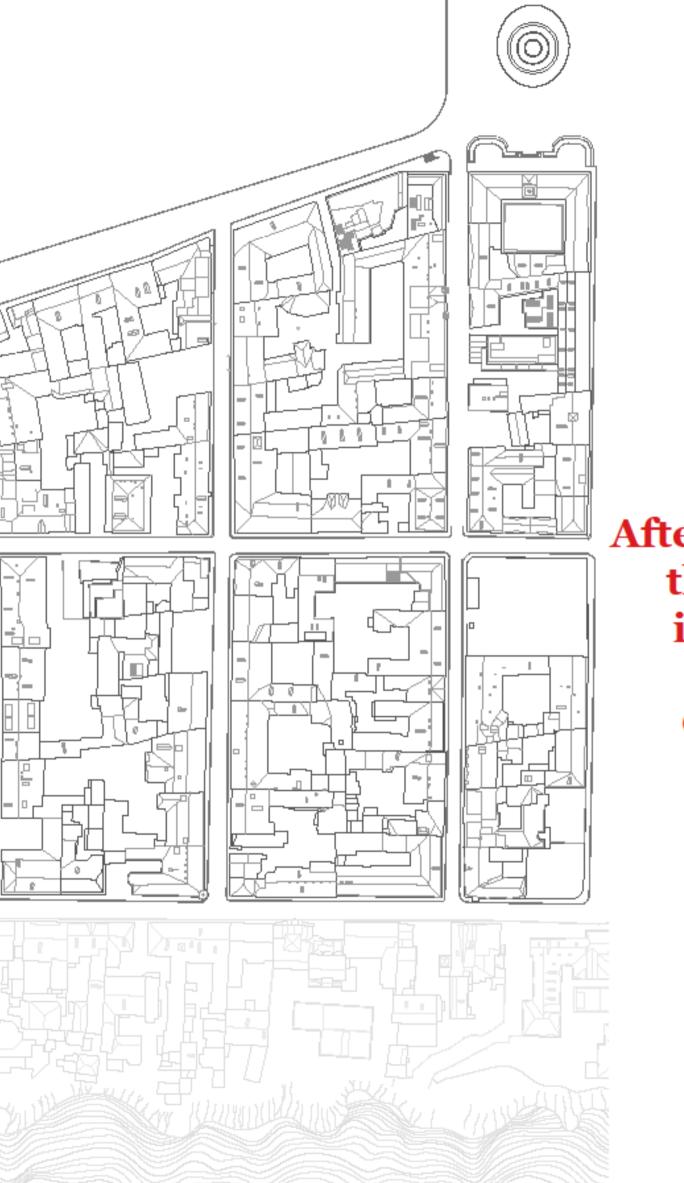








The demand for rental apartments and real estate has increased by 30% in the last year*.

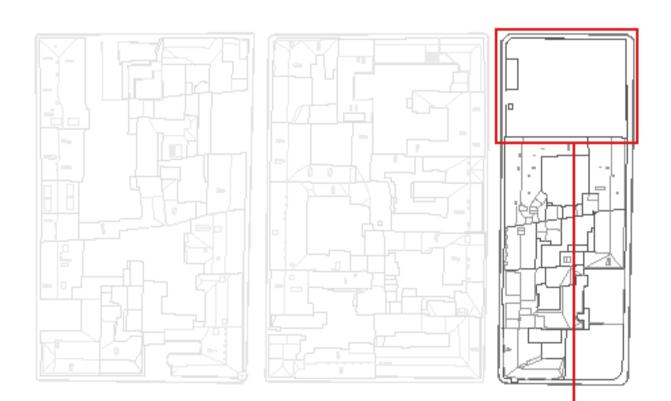


After the invasion of Ukraine by Russia in 2022, the number of Russians moving in Tbilisi has increased exponentially, resulting in an even faster gentrification of the city. Official sources, talk about 300.000 Russian citizens moving to Georgia. Unofficial sources, over 500.000



The booming of the real estate market brought to a "fruitful" opportunity, and the government will probably intensify the "requalification" projects.

How to respond?



Method

- Shared

Infrastructure

Courtyard as a space of aggregation that needs revitalization to get back to Social its collective sense. Sustainability **Collectiveness** - Collective Memory - Collective Space

Superimposition of different historic layers. New intervention needs to be thought as an additional contribution to the Palimpsest.

Palimpsest Character

- Historical Layers
- Material Layers
- Self-made Additions

Collective memory as a way to define an intervention that can enhance the collective space and the shared infrastrucre, going beyond the needs and nostalgia; to define an additional system that resumes these aspects.

Public and semi-public value

Importance of the public and semi-public value of the courtyard house as a social and architectural phenomenon.



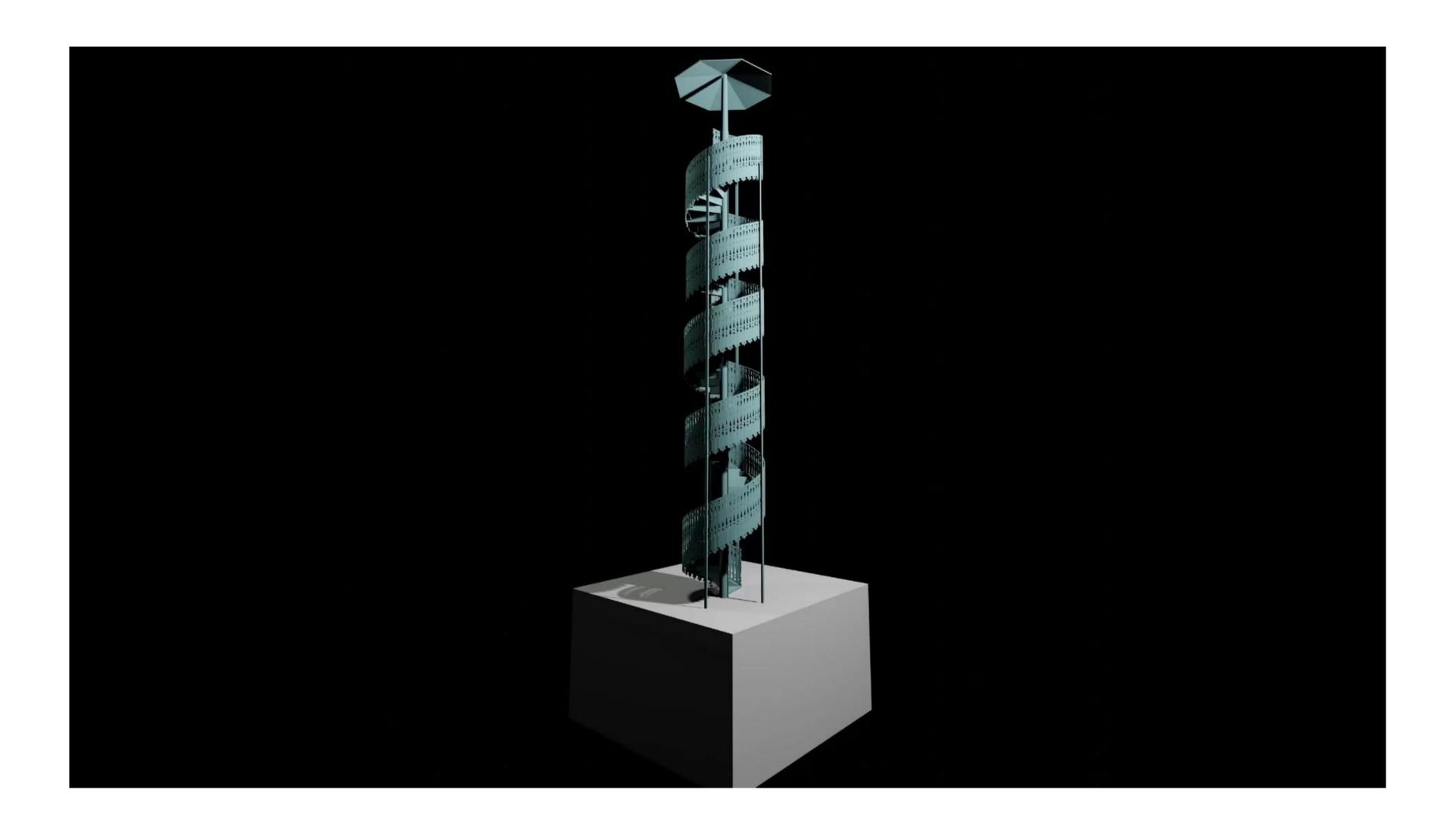


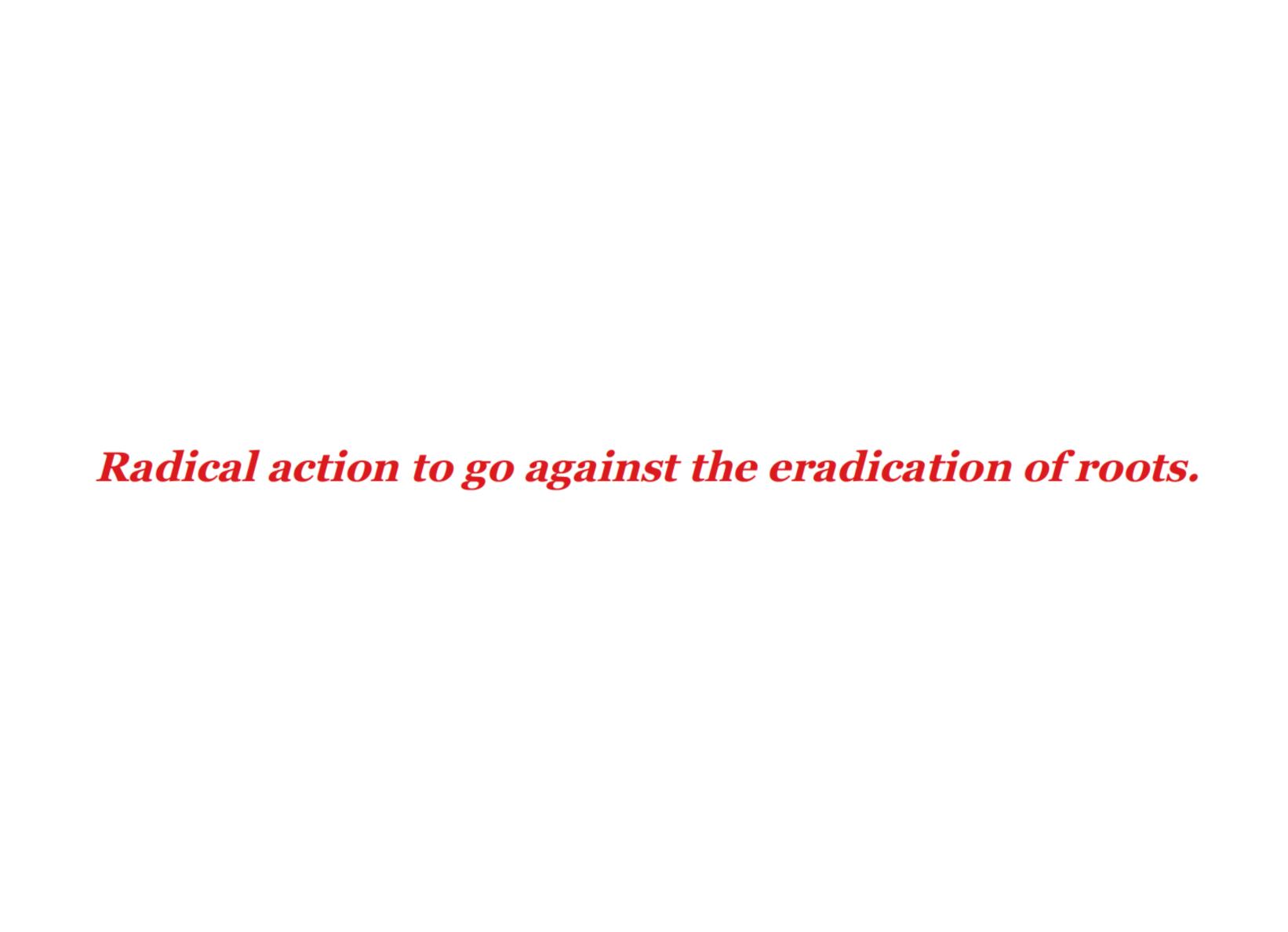






...by saving the intangible cultural heritage through the tangible one.

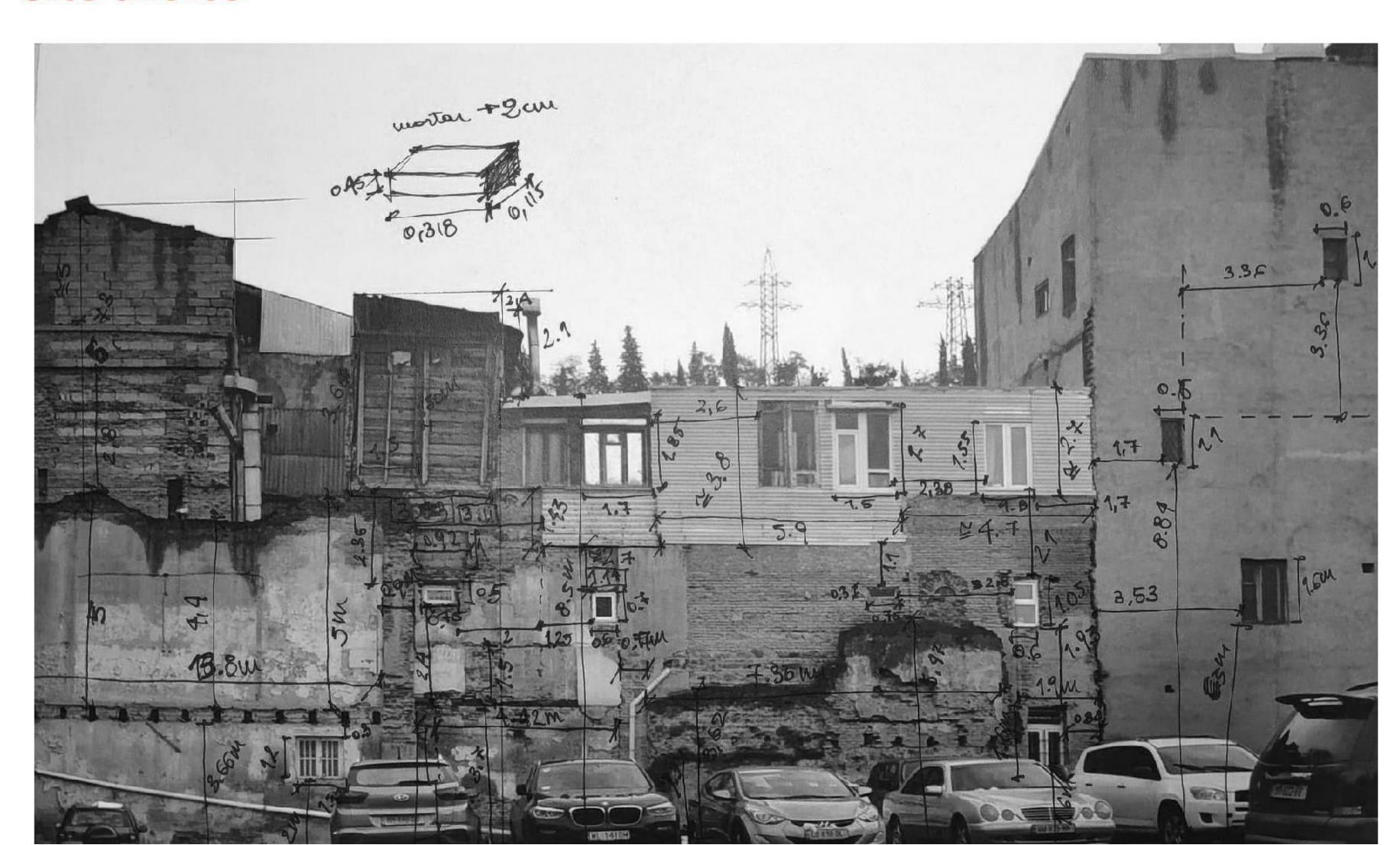




Site choice



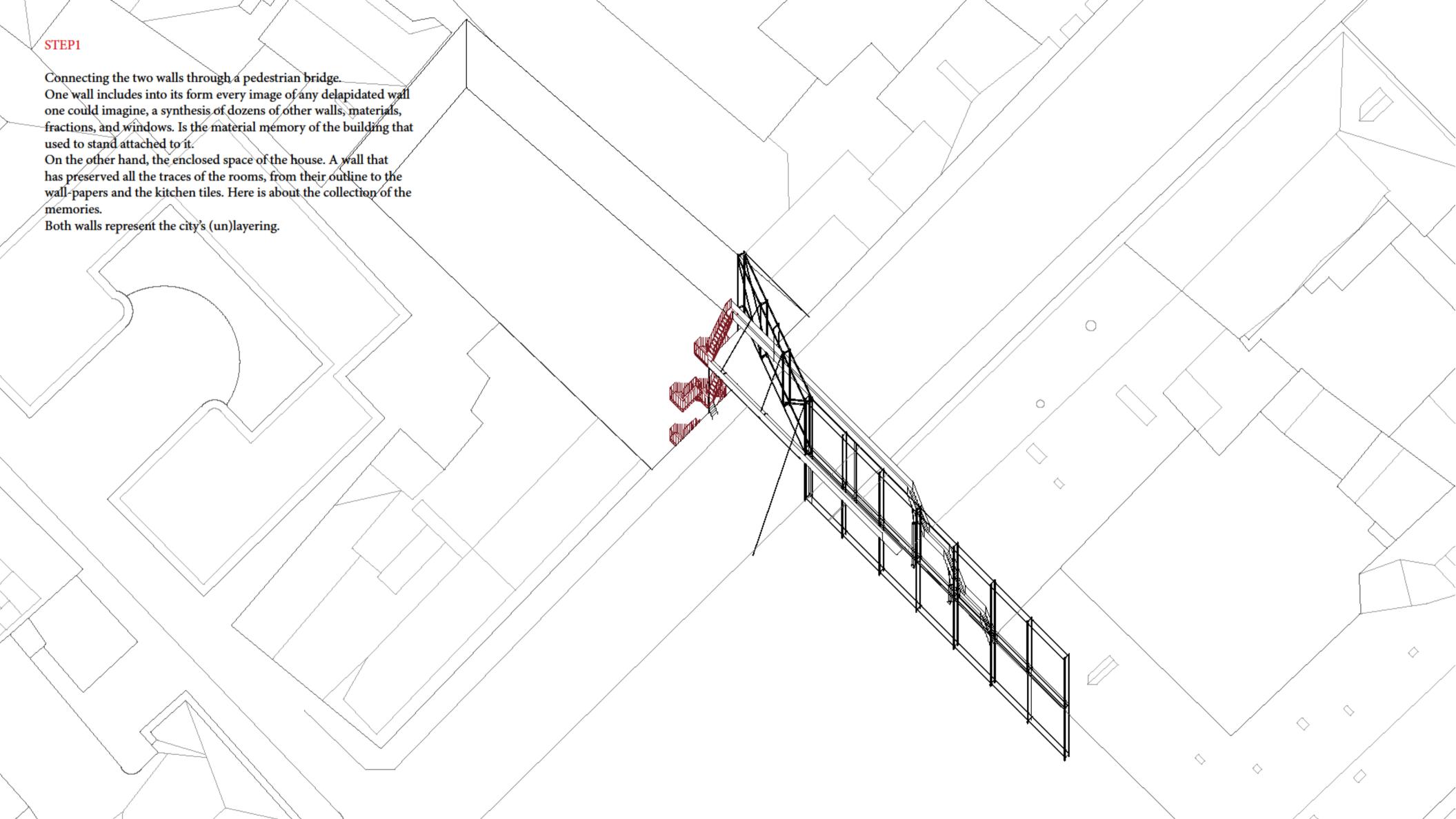
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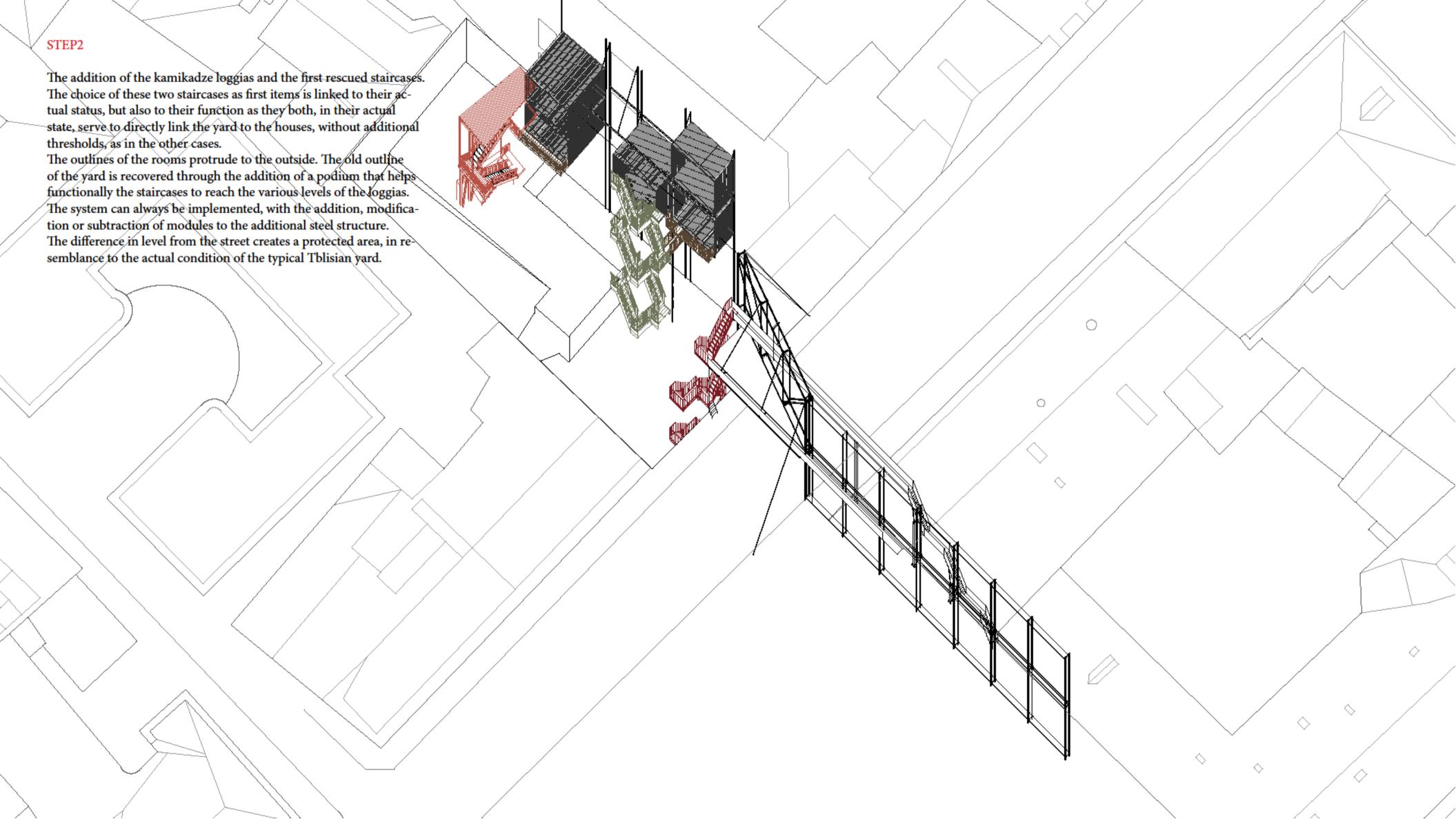


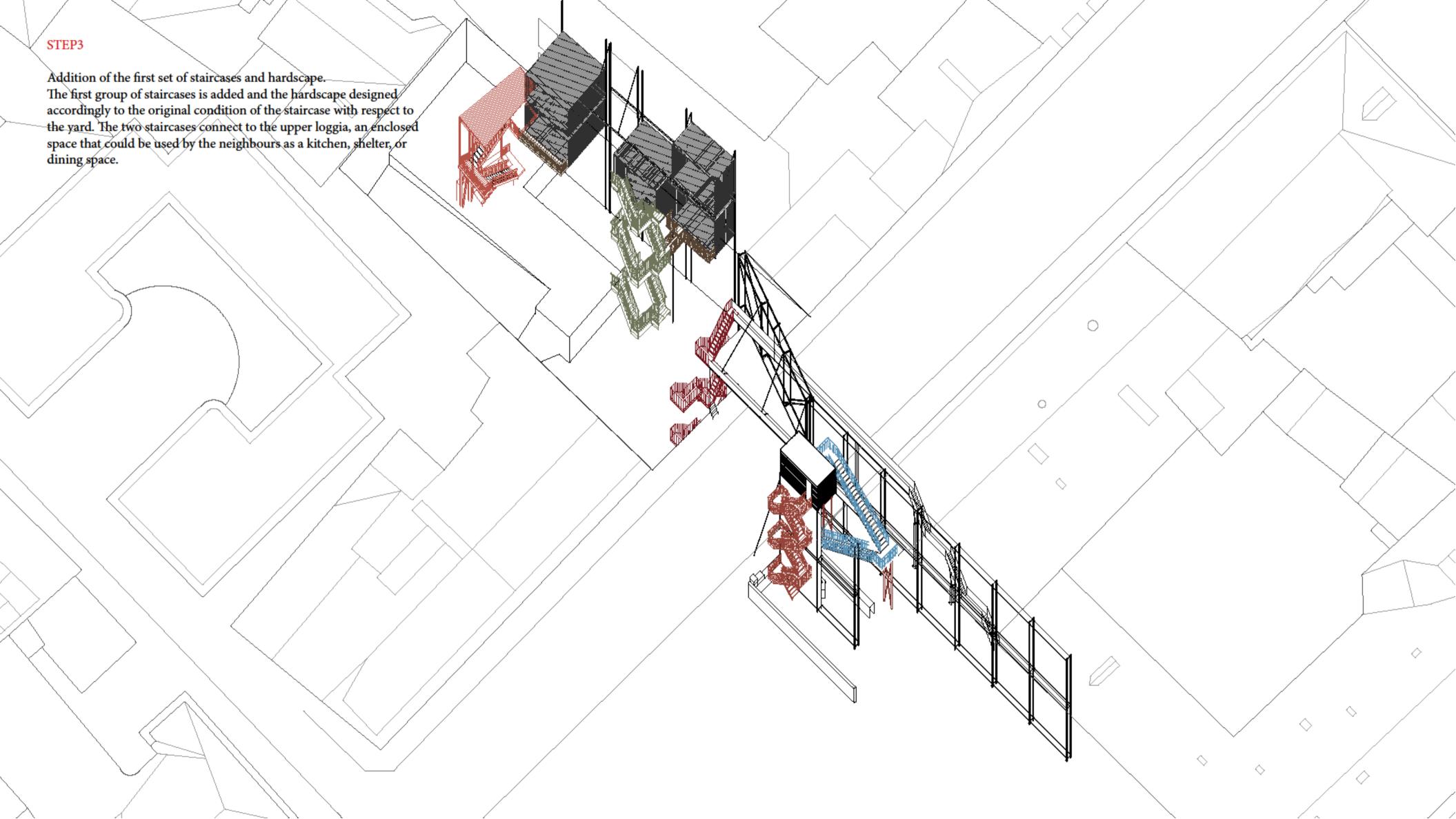
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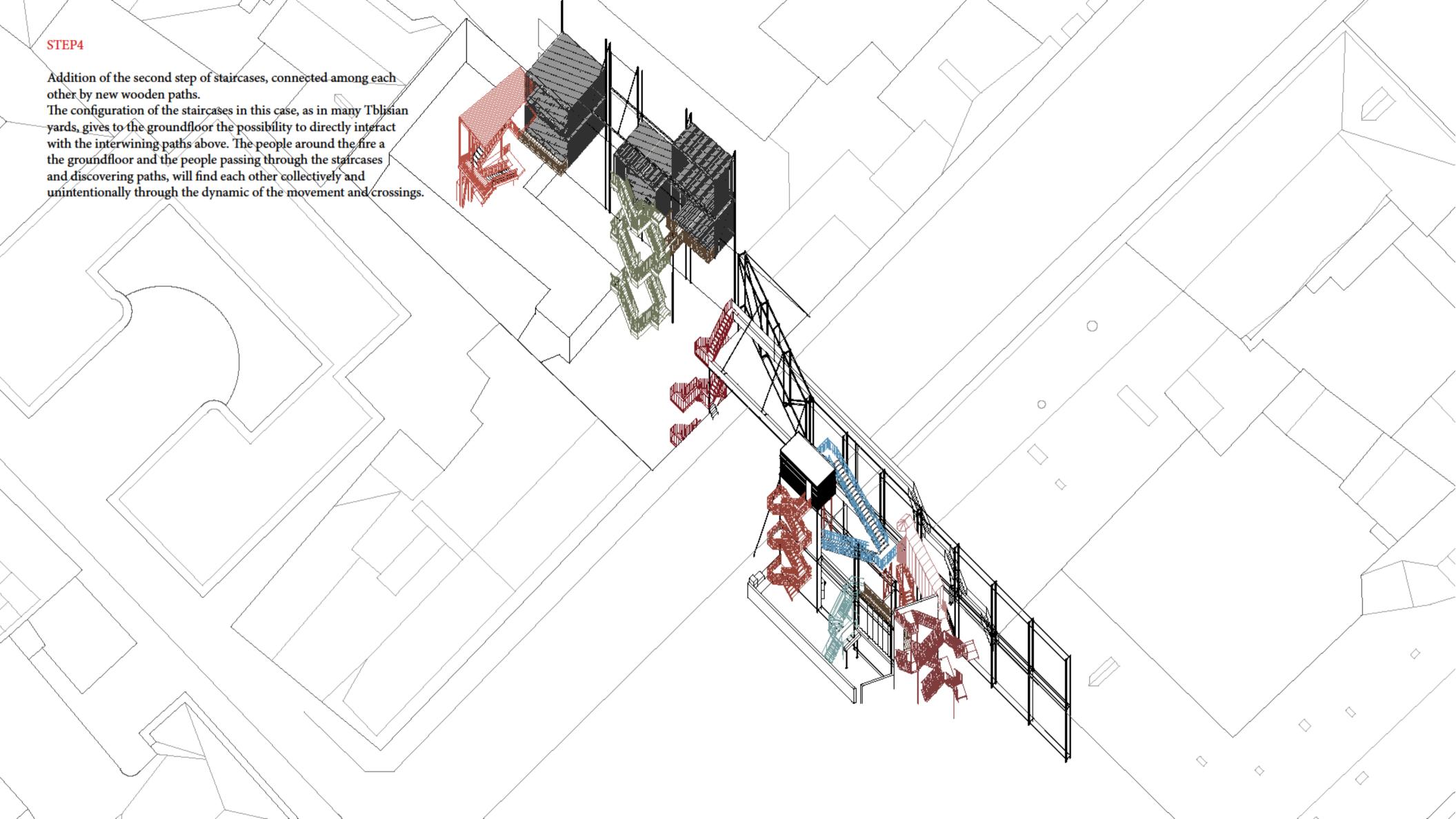






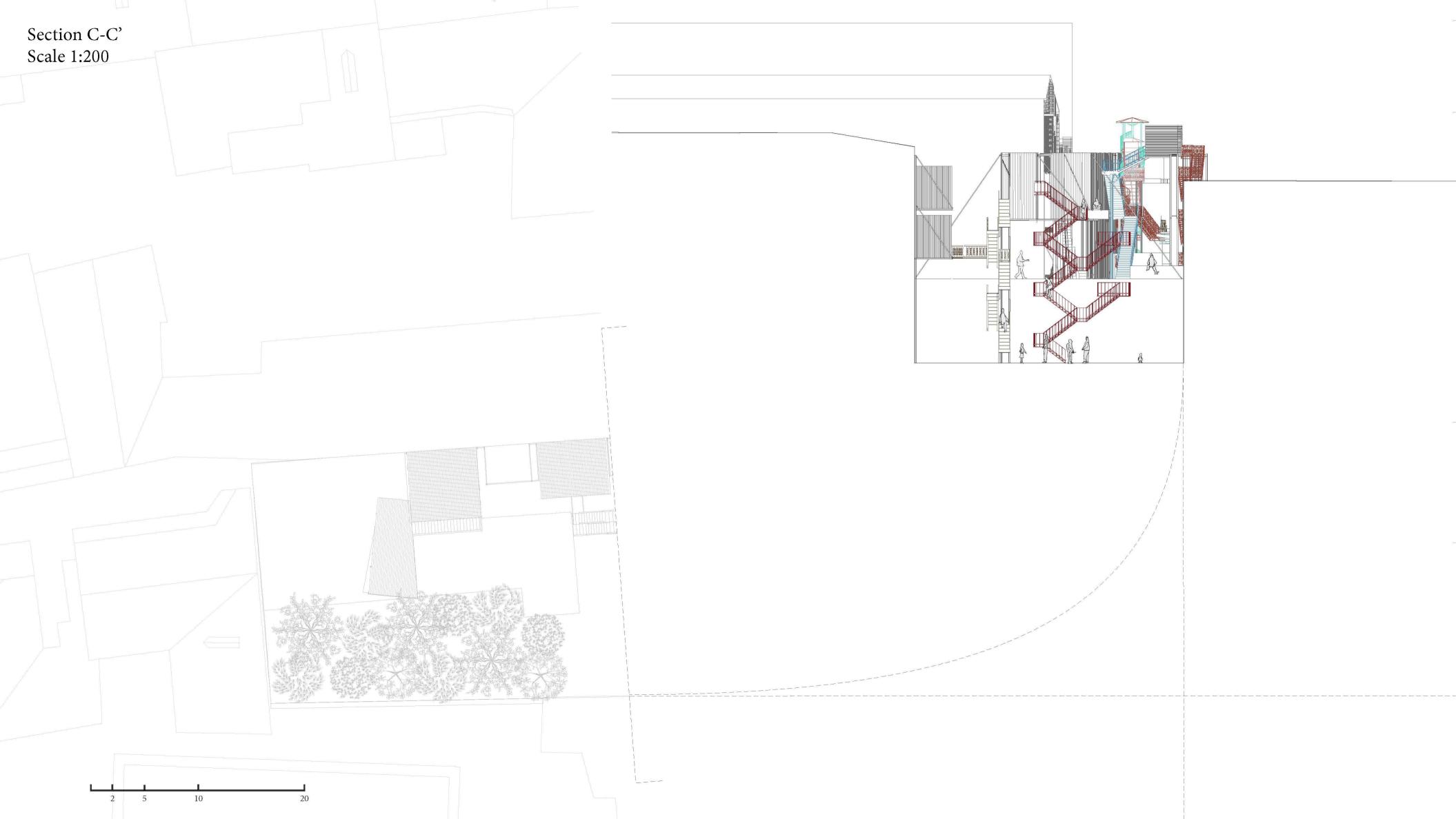




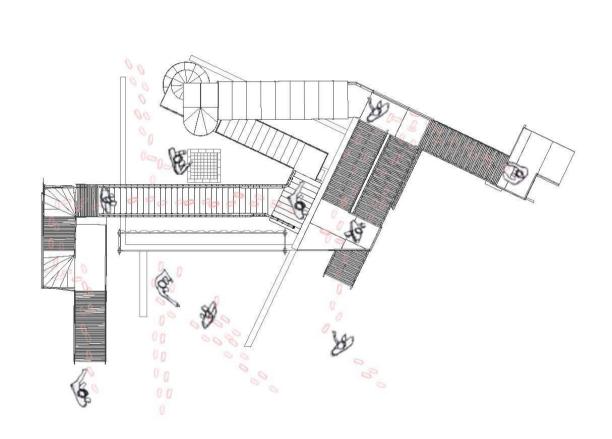


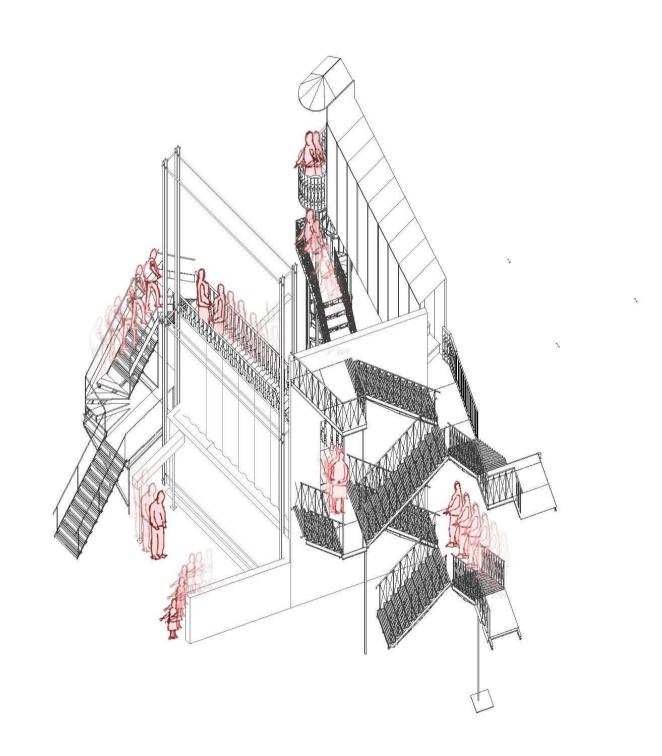




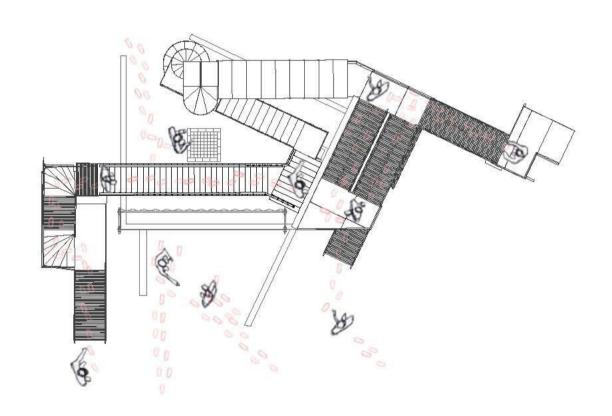


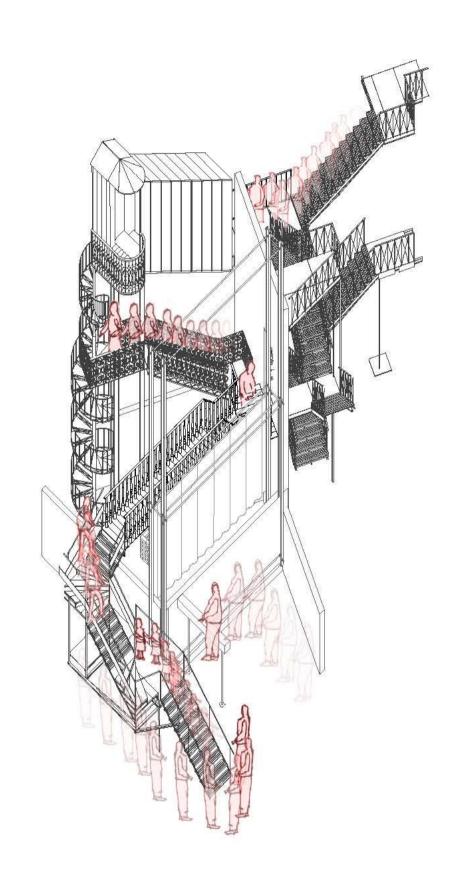
Yard B Circulation





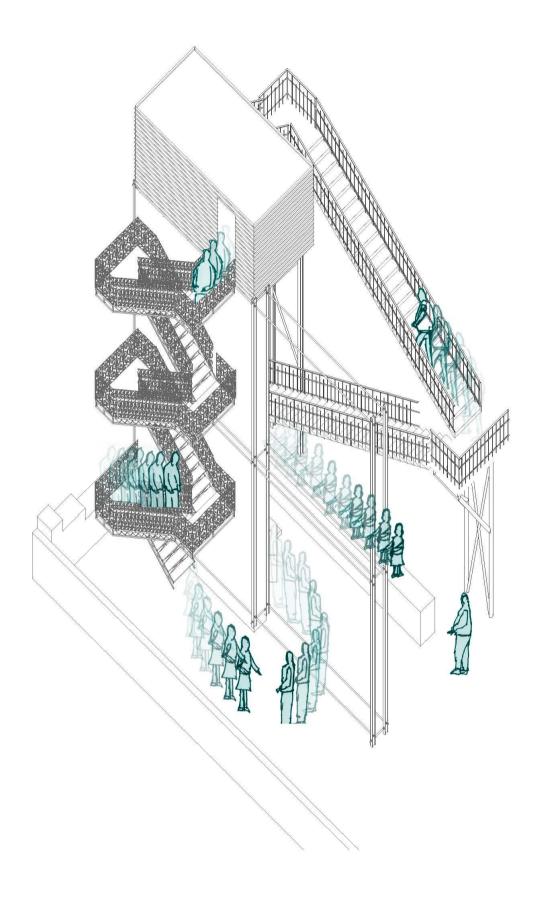
Yard B Circulation





Yard C Circulation





Yard C Circulation

