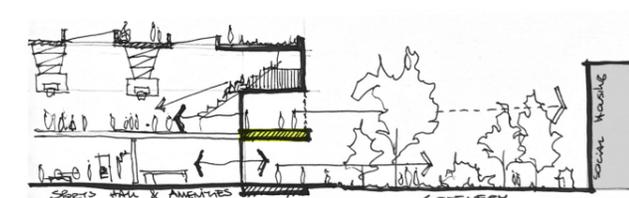
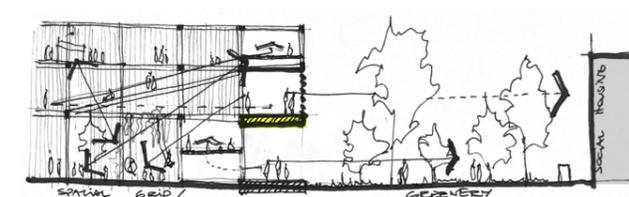
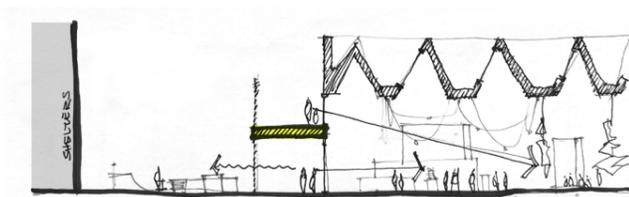
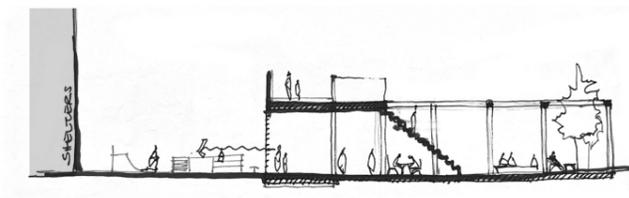
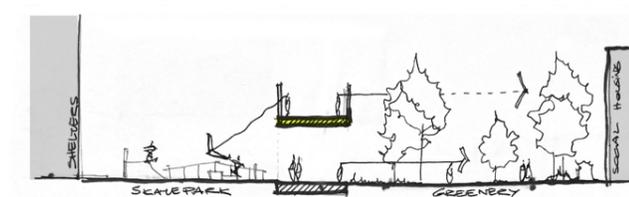
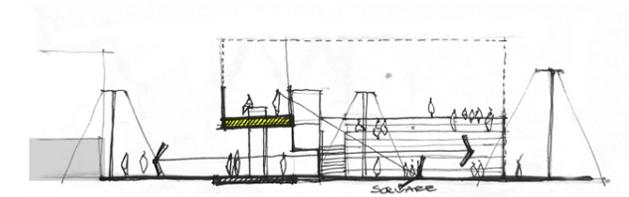
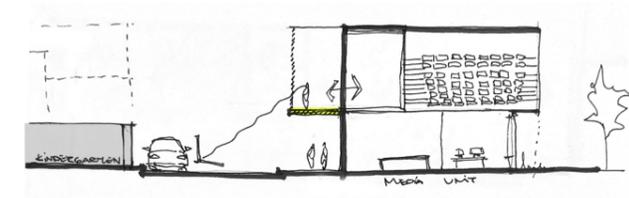


## the relation between graduation project topic, your master track and master programme

TU Delft during its two year long master programme offers a wide variety of studios that tackle different social, environmental, ethical or economic issues and grants the opportunity of delving into the field of ones interest to everyone. Similarly, during my experience at the faculty and throughout my choice of studios I managed to deepen my understanding of certain topics. This master programme has clarified that I am mostly interest in public architecture and the ways it can contribute to the individual's quality of life as well as the overall experience of the city and its neighbourhoods.

Having been interested in the public sphere of architecture I naturally chose the "Public Condenser" from the PBS as the graduation topic as it seemed to perfectly focus on my current set of interests. The studio once again offered me the possibility to question and rethink one of the most public typologies – a condenser.

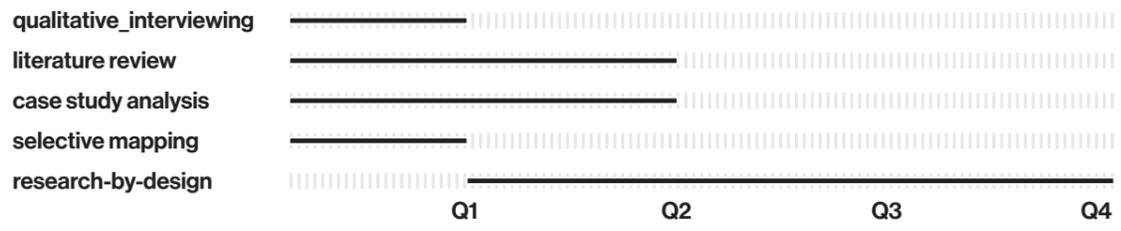
The project is set to look at an innovative way in which a public condenser, could operate in an underprivileged neighbourhood. It presents an alternative and prototype look at it, by creating an inverse of a condenser – rather than combining the multiplicity of functions under one roof, the project treats the whole site and the wider neighbourhood holistically, making the open public space be the initial hybridizing element, with the variety of program organized within it. Additionally, it researches the dichotomy of architecture both as a 'final destination' and as a 'passing-through' infrastructure, to create an array of spatial intensities.



img\_01 - sequencing aspiration sketches

## research influence on design and vice-versa

The research-by-design nature of the studio as a more hands on experience and direct application of the framework is a very rewarding process. The initial steps consisted of both the qualitative and quantitative methods, supplemented by a literature review to fully understand the potential of the site and the typology. In the development process, it has mostly been the conversations with people either living there or already working to improve the status quo, or the personal impressions that shifted my attention to the main issue of the district – its stagnation. Having found the true problem of the site, formulating the initial response was rather straightforward, yet only after that could I understand the specificity of the design answer. It has been a back-and-forth process of assessing the problem, formulating the answer and seeing that it reveals a new question or a problem. To second that with an example - the overarching theme of the project is the flow and connectivity, and as a result the project plays with the idea of connection via axiality. However, by doing so, it poses a threat of undermining the secondary, perpendicular connections to the said axis and therefore the connection between the opposite sides of the axis is at risk. To tackle that, the project started looking at what is happening at those intersections and how they can be used in the project's favour.



fig\_01 - research timeframe

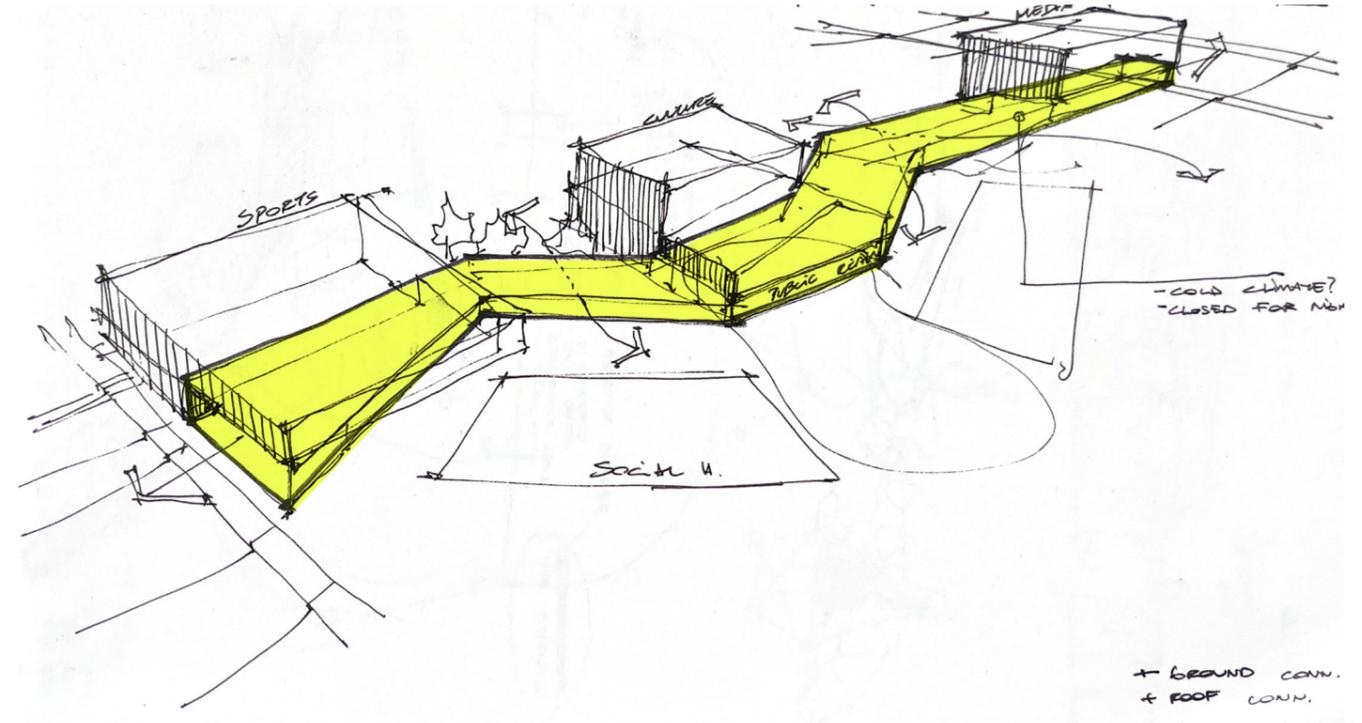


img\_02 - site/framework diagram part 01

## the value of the way of workin

Referring back to the previous chapter, because the studio's approach is a Research-by-Design, it has really fit into my preferred way of working, where I feel more comfortable during the hands-on process of testing and amending, rather than carrying out an overly-extensive theoretical research. By a relatively quick start on materializing the ideas, the project managed to keep me intrigued throughout the year.

By combining both methods (like making use of both digital and hand drawing) throughout the phases, it allowed me to produce a good set of varied outputs, that convey different information – ranging from atmospheric and spatial aspirations to a lot more tangible technical details. This has also been allowed for by the typical designing process and the graduation studio organization that has followed those principles. Weekly meeting with design, theory and building technology tutors helped with further development or validation of ideas and technical solutions.



img\_03 - exploratory massing sketches



img\_04 - atmospheric render

## academic and societal value, scope and implication of your graduation project, including ethical aspects

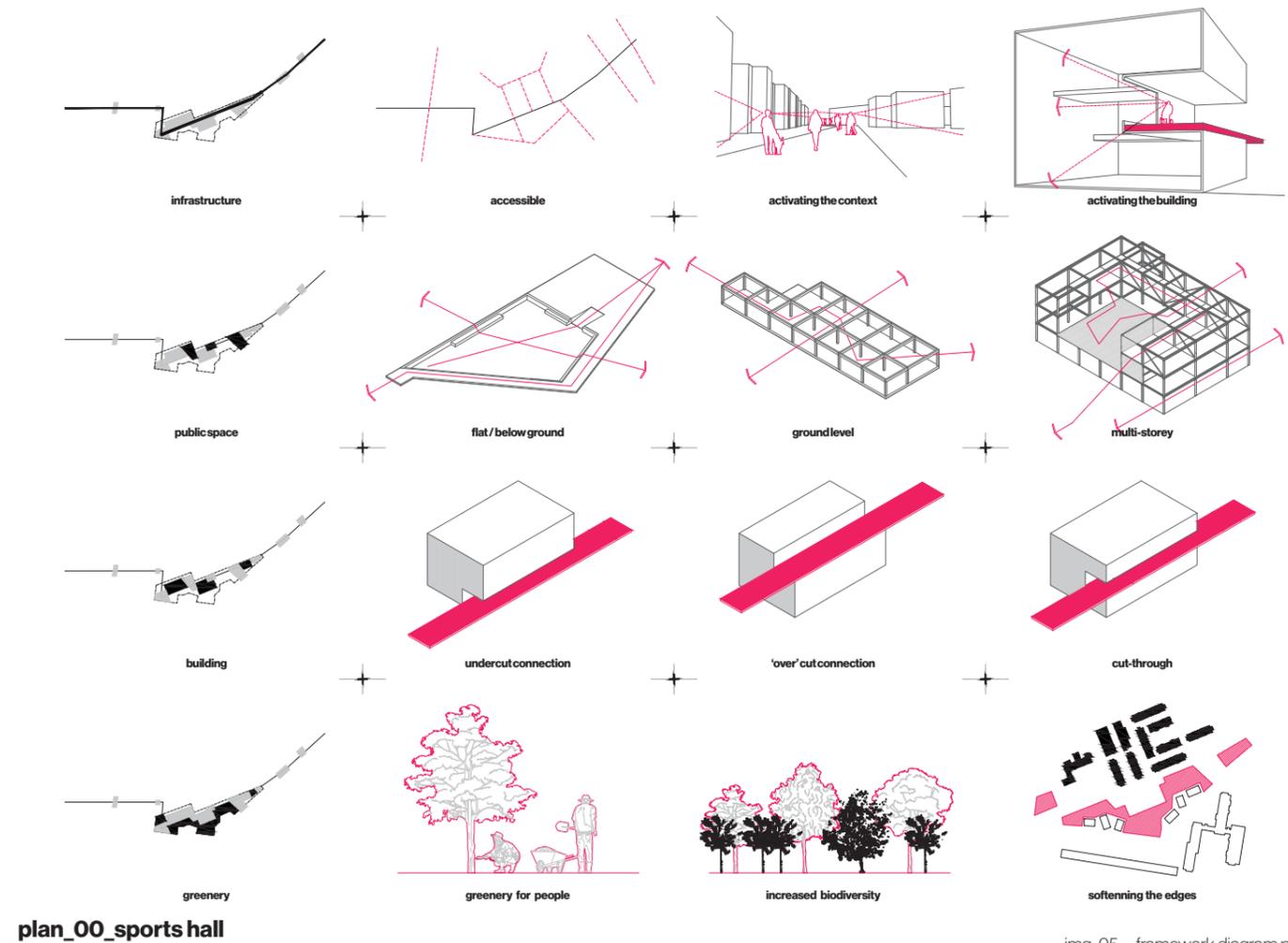
As a body of academic work this study aims to contribute to strategies for creating environments where diverse social groups feel welcome and engaged. It is especially valuable as cities worldwide undergo rapid urban renewal and seek methods for enhancing community cohesion in areas impacted by socioeconomic disparities. Furthermore, it examines the campus and axial typology in the context of public realm and the ways in which spatial sequencing can impact behaviour and experience, simultaneously informing design decisions that contribute to the resilience and urban health. It addresses not only the physical layout and aesthetics but also the experiential quality of spaces, helping to inform a future of public architecture that prioritizes inclusivity, well-being, and connectivity across urban landscapes.

Additionally, the academic nature of the project allows for a better in depth understanding of the issue and the questioning of the more typical design practice, however, as a result, the actual product can quite easily extend over the realistic budget and legislative constraints, in order to follow the framework or the statement that it is presenting.

## the value of the transferability of the project results

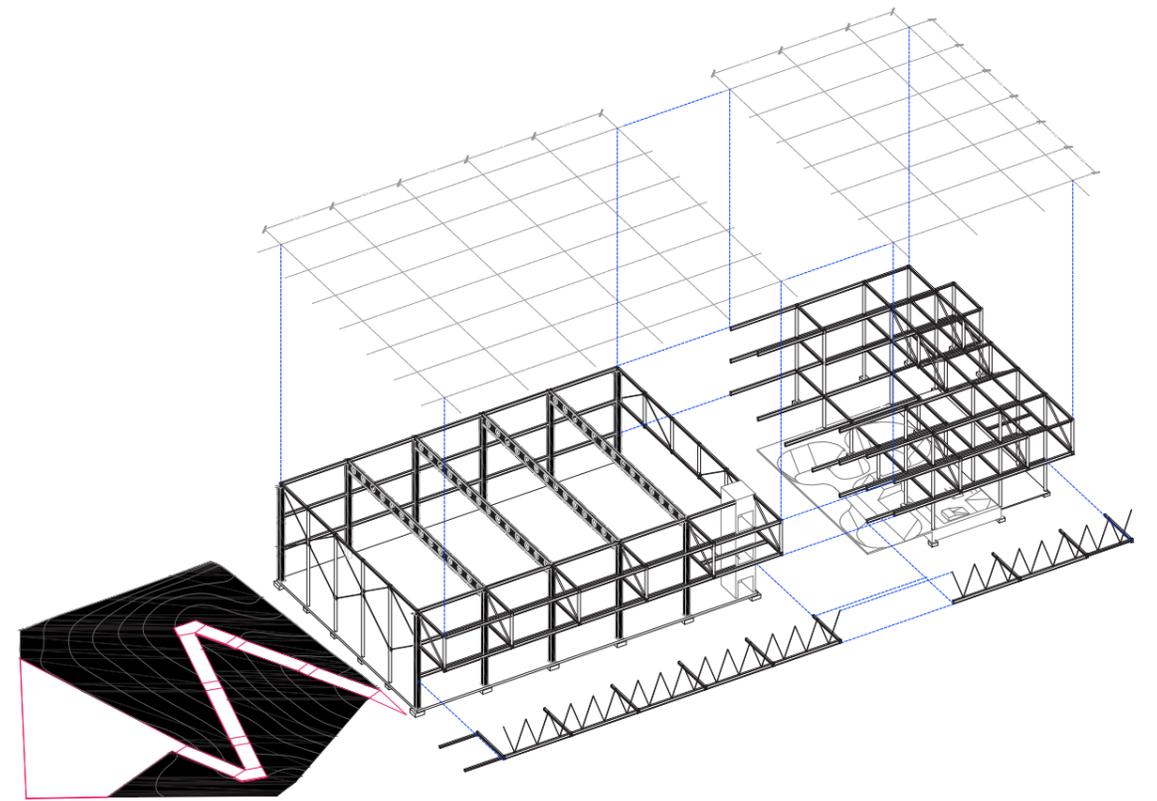
The project is set to look at an innovative way in which a public condenser, could operate in an underprivileged neighbourhood. The value of this project lies primarily in its approach to designing public space as a fluid social interface that encourages movement, interaction, and inclusion. While the spatial and social conditions of Sundholm are specific, the approach of using the flow, urban porosity and layered programming as tools for social integration is broadly applicable to other urban contexts.

The four key properties defining the project - the infrastructure, public space, building and greenery - can be adapted to other underutilized areas and neighbourhoods. The emphasis on low-threshold access, adaptable program spaces, and climate-sensitive design increases this transferability, particularly in European cities undergoing regeneration. Furthermore, the project's research-by-design approach, combining site-specific yet conceptual strategies, offers a prototype reference model for future civic projects. While architectural form will always require contextual adaptation, the underlying framework of spatial openness, programmatic diversity, and social ambition makes this project a valuable reference for similar challenges elsewhere.



## The three-step hybridization of the project

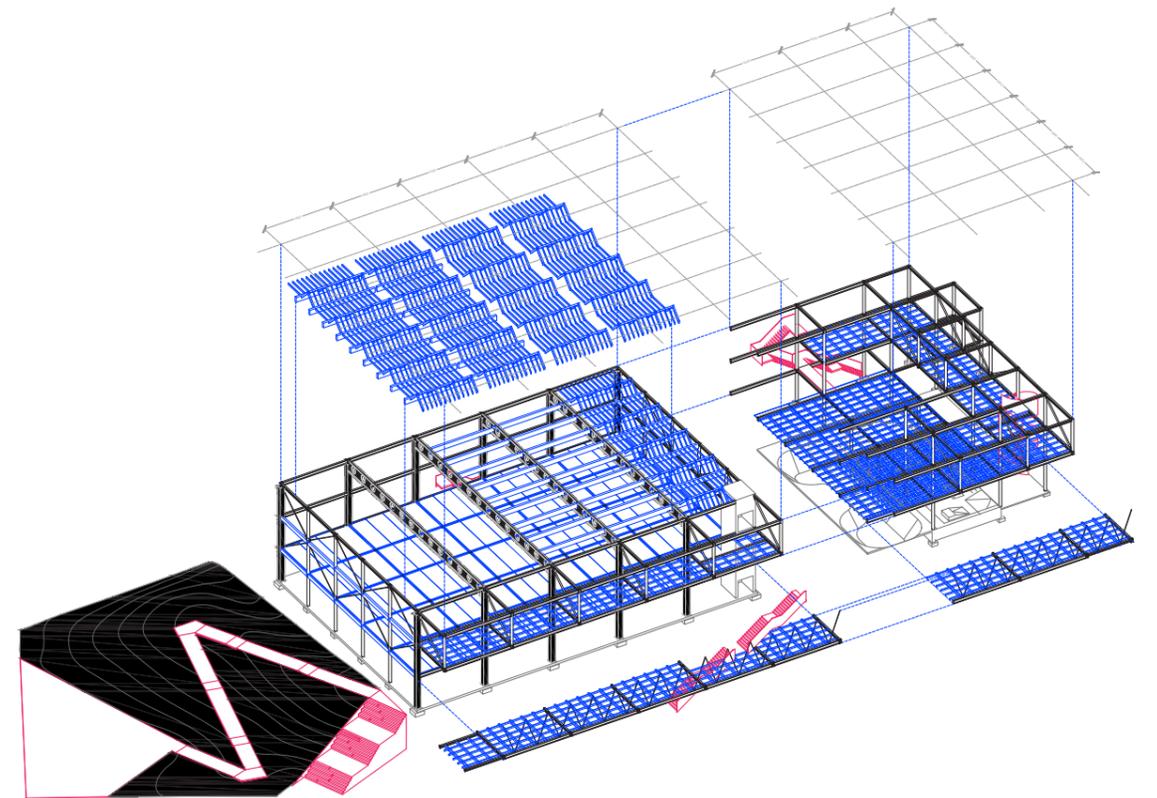
Over the course of the year the project has evolved into the direction I could not have predicted in the very beginning. By implementing the amendments due to the research-by-design, the project has ended up being very unique due to its main characteristic being inverted. By working first in the bigger, almost urban scale, the rough scope and the reach of the project has been drafted. It has resulted in an extensive and holistic proposal that stretches outwards of the predefined site itself, in order to activate the neighbourhood on different levels. By working within a defined framework and a set of properties, an equal if not bigger attention has been paid to the "external condensers" in different forms of an accessible public space. Therefore the hybridization of activities is not only limited to the inside of the building, but rather is displayed as a gradient of activation, ranging from the infrastructure – a path connecting places, external public spaces - as "slowing-down" activators, encouraging for uncoerced interactions, up to the three built interventions that offer specific program interactions.



## Sustainable design practices depending on the context

One of the principles of the studio, now even more adequate than ever – sustainability, has been present at each design stage of the project. A set of lectures and talks have been carried out in order to understand the limitations, implications and possibilities of using certain solutions over others. By going in depth on technical solutions and materiality, needed for the final delivery, I managed to reflect on sustainable design practices, that are not as straightforward and simple as they might have initially seemed. The climate within which the building is situated plays a crucial role.

Therefore the project uses a hybrid of technical and bio-based materials as both structural and decorative elements, depending on the weather exposure. Where possible, timber has been used, both structurally and as a finish, yet the majority of the project, including a spatial plaza is prone to constant Danish rain, hence the choice of durable metals. Though much more carbon intensive, they should come from recycled or reused sources when possible, and will keep their qualities over the years with minimal maintenance. Additionally following the following the dry-connection approach, they shall be easy to disassemble if needed. Wood, however, has been used as a carbon sequestering counterweight, for secondary or weather-protected structural elements, as well as for the majority of internal finishes. Once again, a hybridized approach proved to be optimal.



steel ■  
timber ■

img\_06 - hybridized structural approach axo