

THE PUBLIC INTERIOR:
A Social condenser in Hong Kong

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Place - The Art of Resistance

Clip sources: RTHK news, i-cable news, Stand news, apple daily news, BBC news, Scmp news, Iaac studio, Vision times, Recording Times, Hong Kong Free Press

<https://youtu.be/TqverVlxpUY>

Prologue

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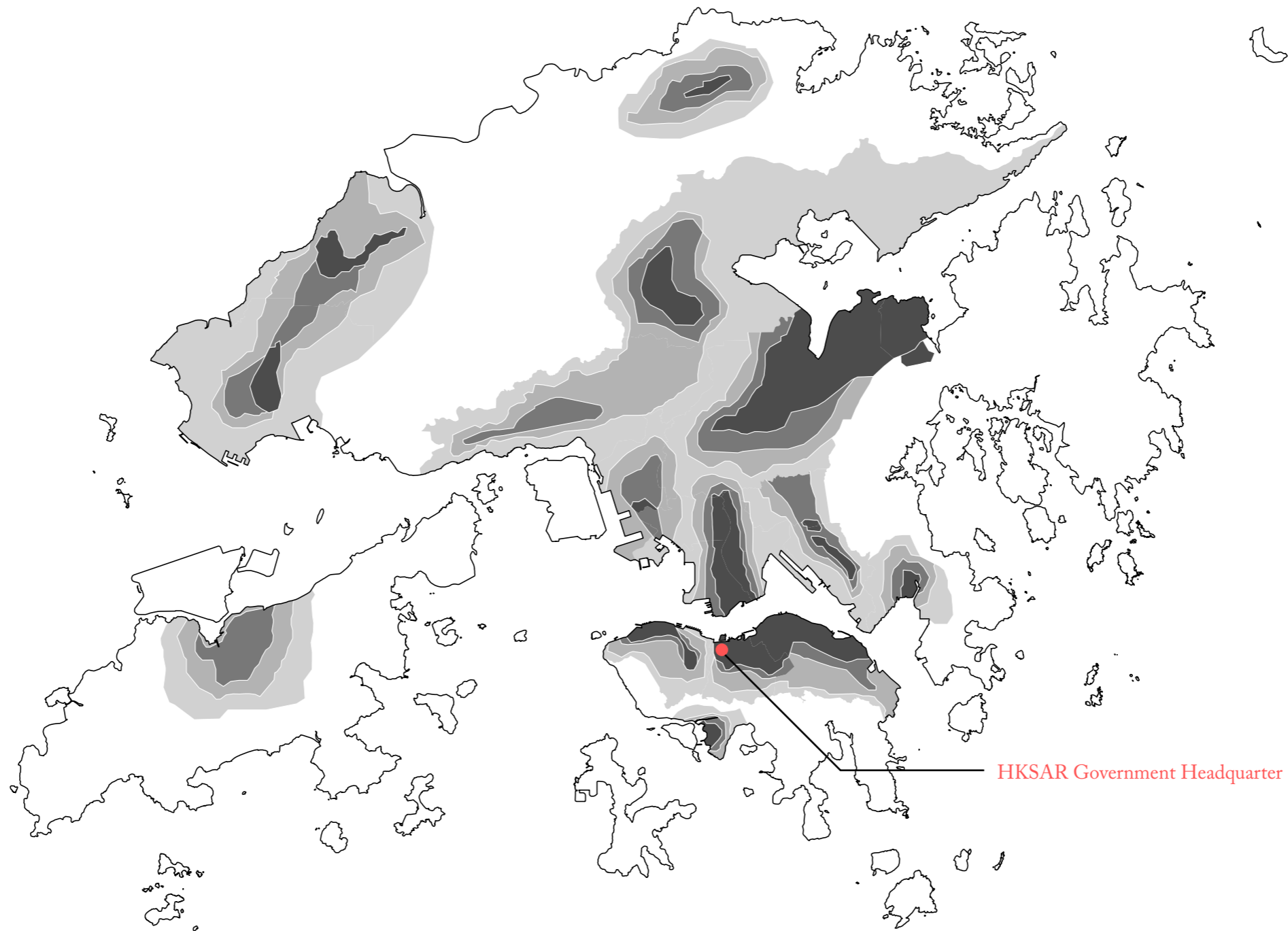
01. Research



Pieter Bruegel the Elder, *Children's Games*, 1560.




New Town Plaza, Shatin, Hong Kong. 2019.



Map of Tear Gas Deployed in Hong Kong (June 6 - Nov 15, 2019)
Statistic Source: Tally of Figures released by Hong Kong Police Force Briefings

FINANCIAL TIMES myFT

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**HONG KONG'S
WATER
REVOLUTION**

Video description Transcript

World

Why Hong Kong's 'water revolution' is spiralling out of control

The FT's Asia editor Jamil Anderlini reports from anti-government protests where demonstrators have started to throw Molotov cocktails and fire BB guns in response to the police's use of water cannon, tear gas and rubber bullets

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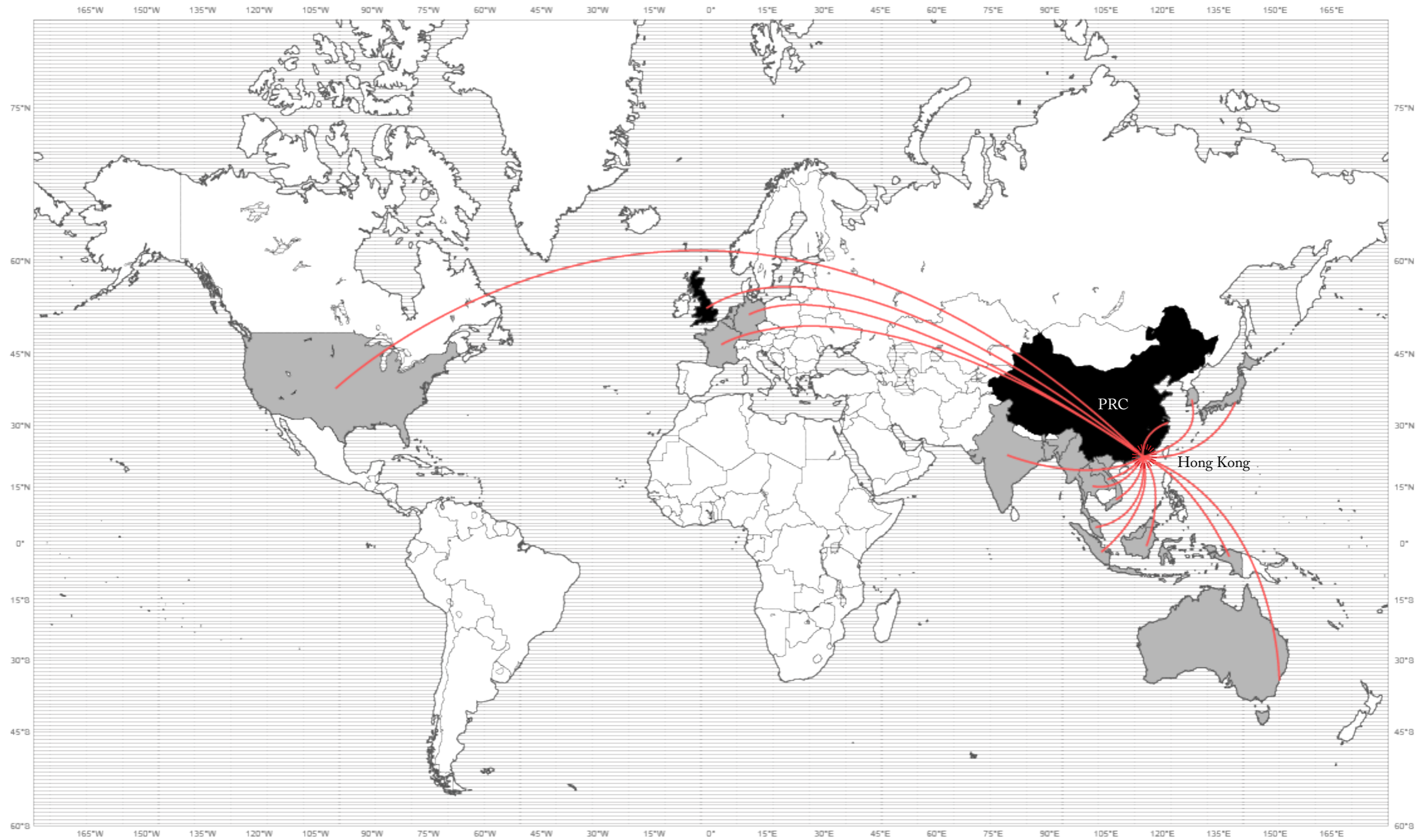
September 1 2019 Filmed and produced by Tom Griggs. Additional footage by Reuters

On 2nd September, 2019, journalists Financial Times describes Hong Kong's recent pro-democracy demonstrations as "water revolution".



Screenshots from Film *PLACE* from P1







Photograph of Cheung Chau Anchorage of Hong Kong, early 1900s. from *Hong Kong as it Was*

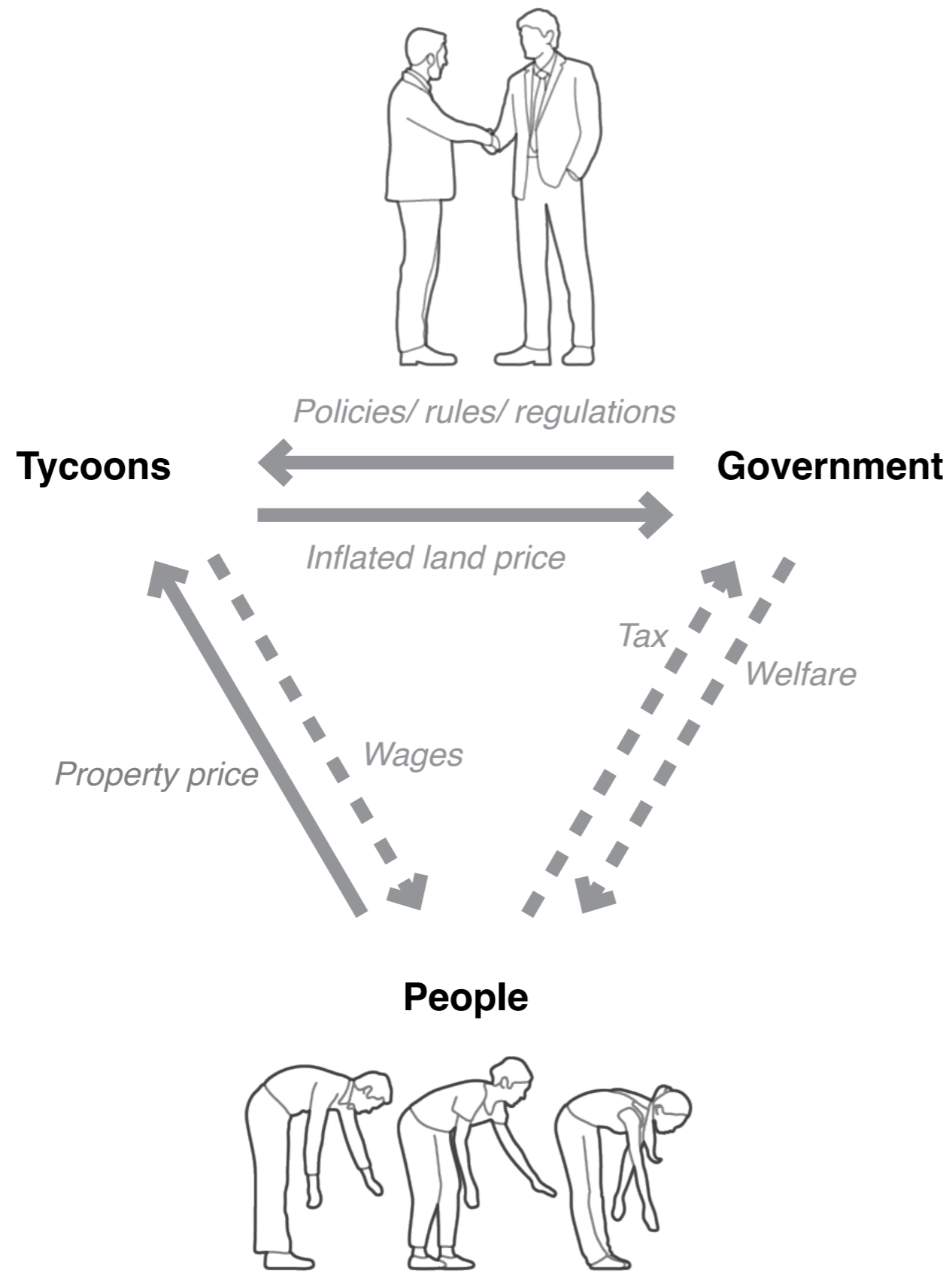
Pre-Colonial: Hong Kong as rural communities



Victoria Harbour, 2019.

Today: Rise of Hong Kong as a Financial Centre





ALMOST NO TAX STRUCTURE

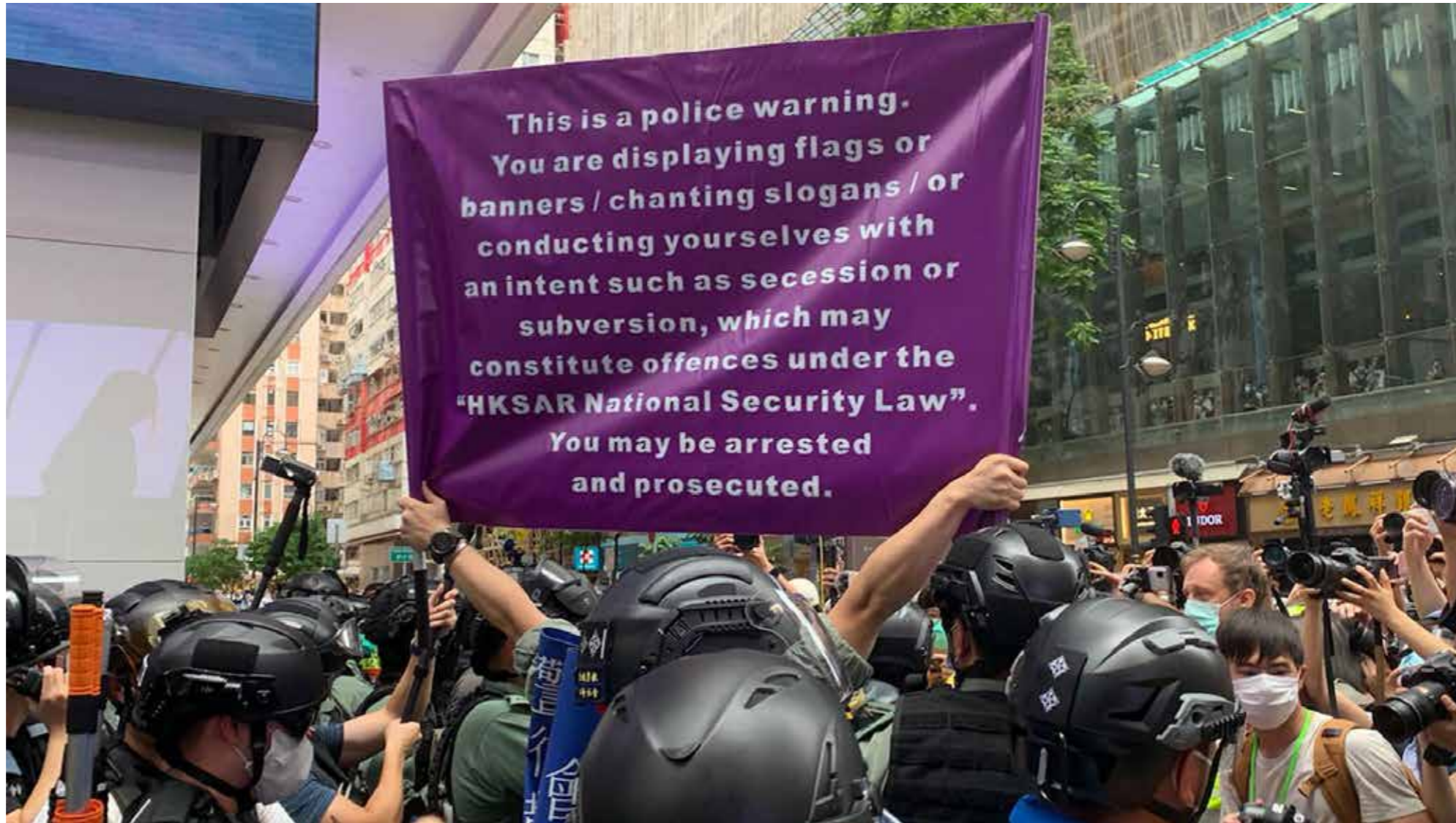
Only income tax (progressive) exists, people with low income pay almost no taxes.
 Government income comes from selling land to tycoons.

VERY LOW WAGES; POOR WELFARE

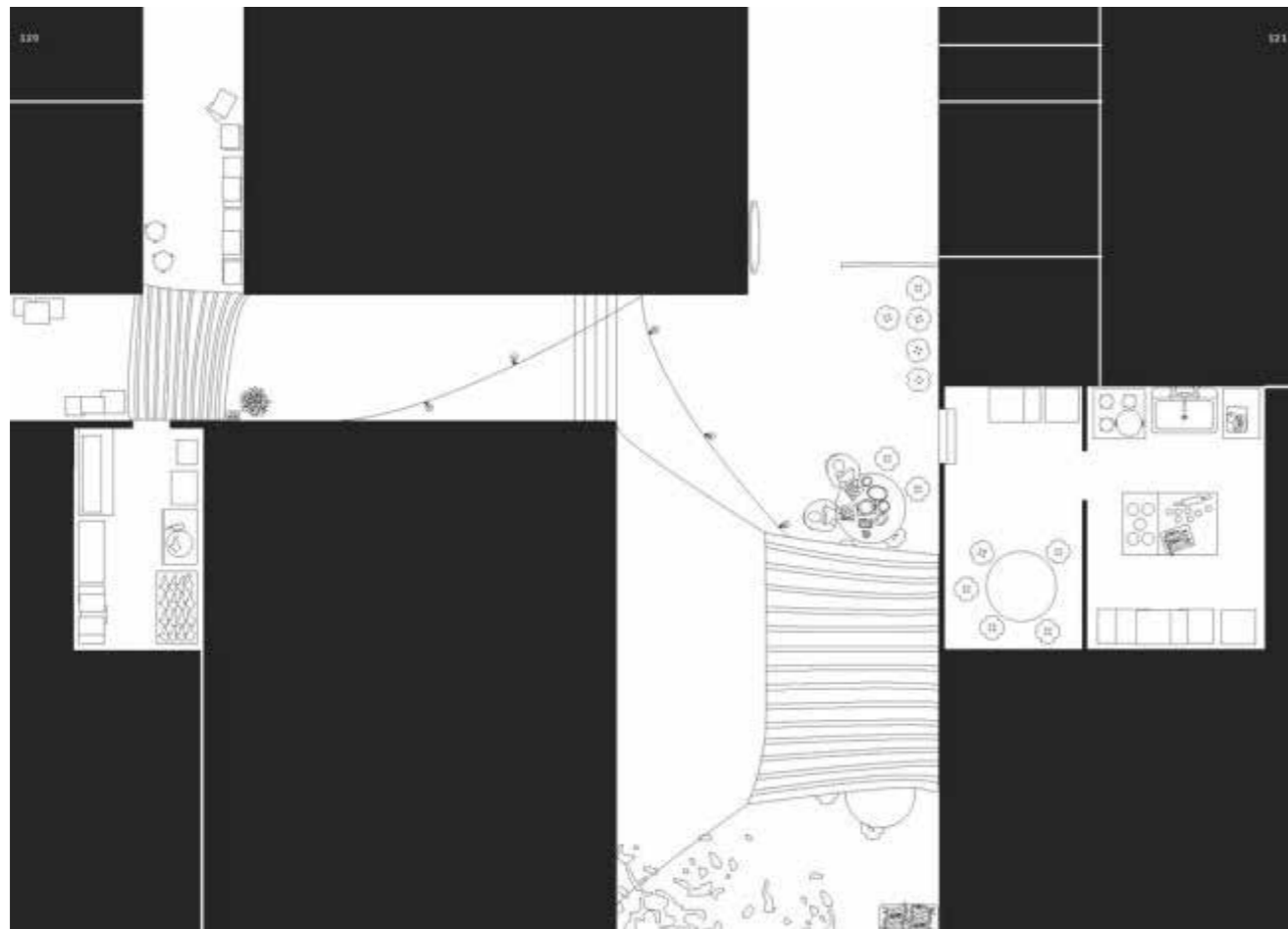
Tycoons control the government,
 policy/rules set by the government benefit them.

VERY EXPENSIVE HOUSING

Tycoons pass the inflated cost of the land to the people.



Under the contexts of top-down political and urban conditions, how can architecture, enable a democratic space that favours political discussions and effective communication between different parties?



Géraldine Borio and Caroline Wüthrich. *Hong Kong In-Between*. 2015.



Lennon Tunnel, near Tai Po Market Station. 7 July, 2019.



Perspective Drawing

Re-appropriation of urban places could be a subtle way to extend the protests, to resist top-down power.

J. Beuys - Organisation für direkte Demokratie durch
Volksabstimmung.

Daner Galleriet - Studiestræde 18
København

6/11- 10/11
Dl. 1900-2000



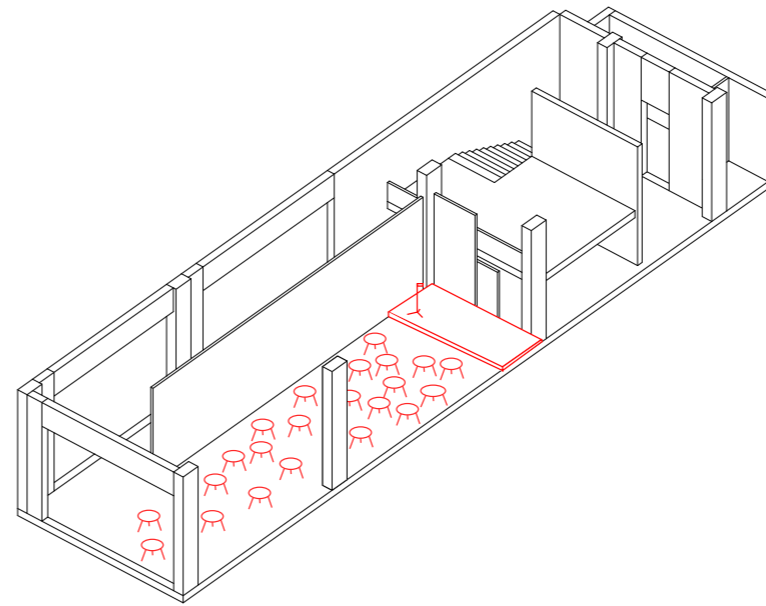
“Every human being is an artist, a freedom being called to participate in transforming and reshaping the conditions, thinking and structures that inform our lives.”

-Joseph Beuys, German Performance Artists

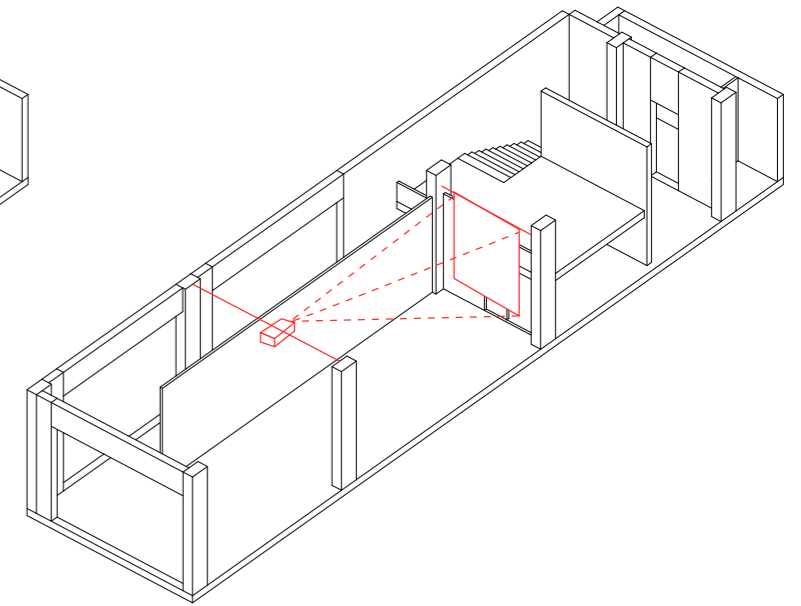
Art as a medium and facilitator for political engagement



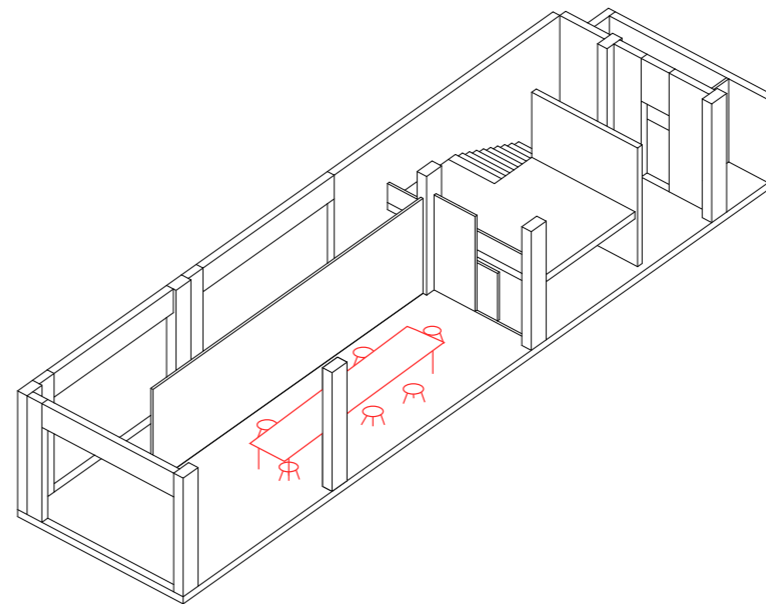
Shopfront and interior view of the gallery



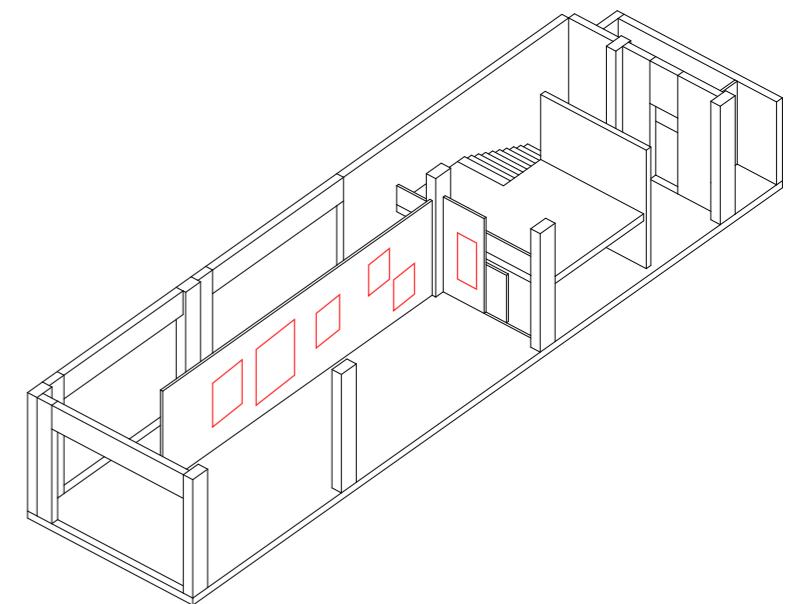
Music Performance



Film Screening



Workshop



Exhibition

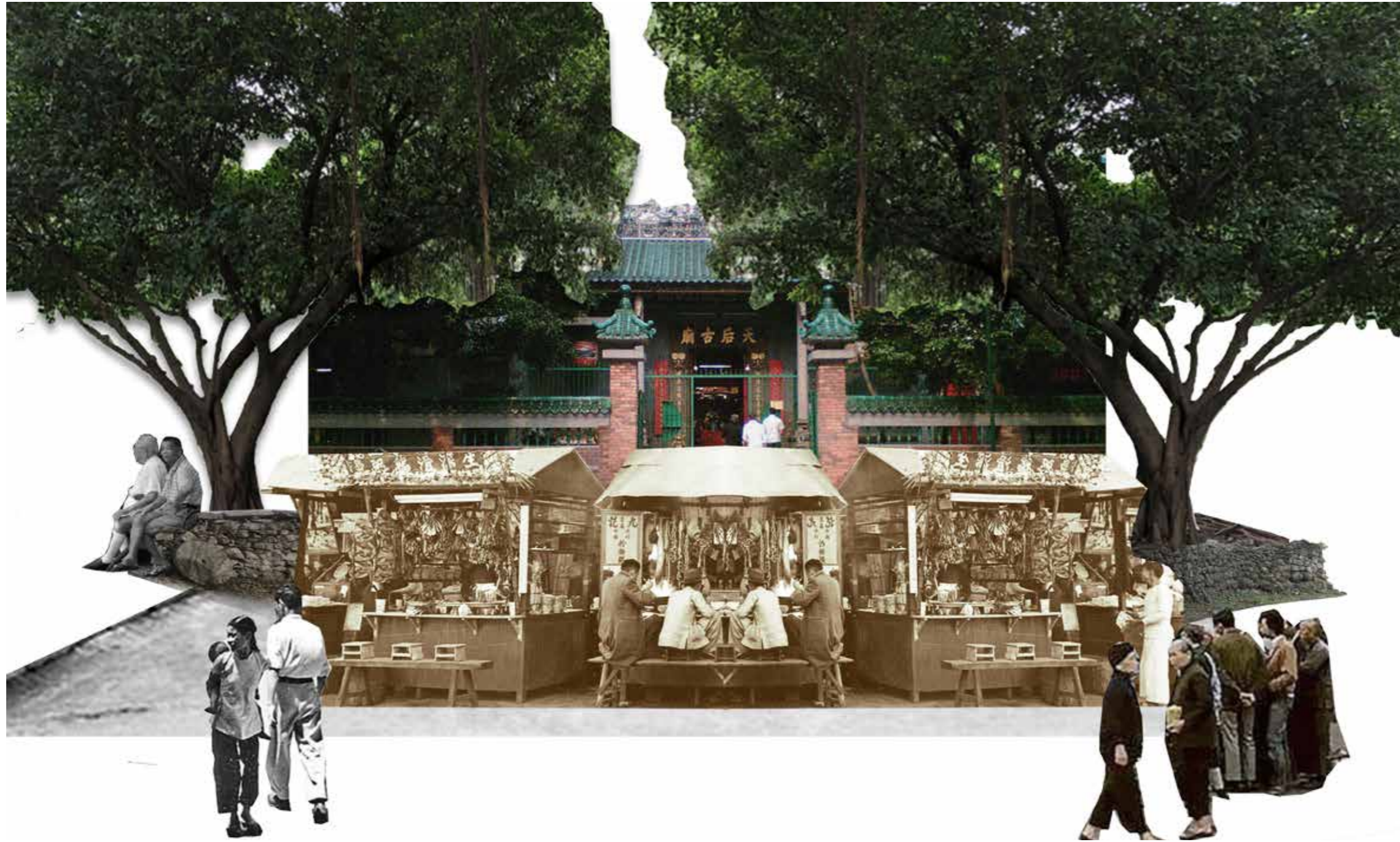
02. Site

A place signified by a bottom-up community

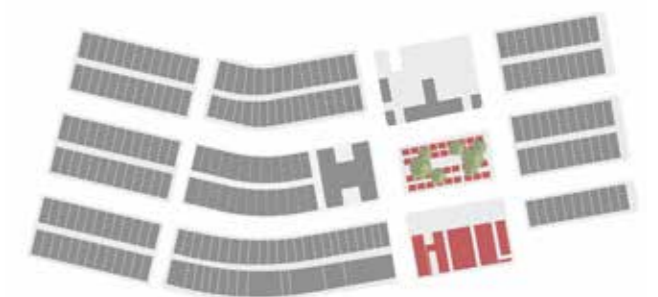


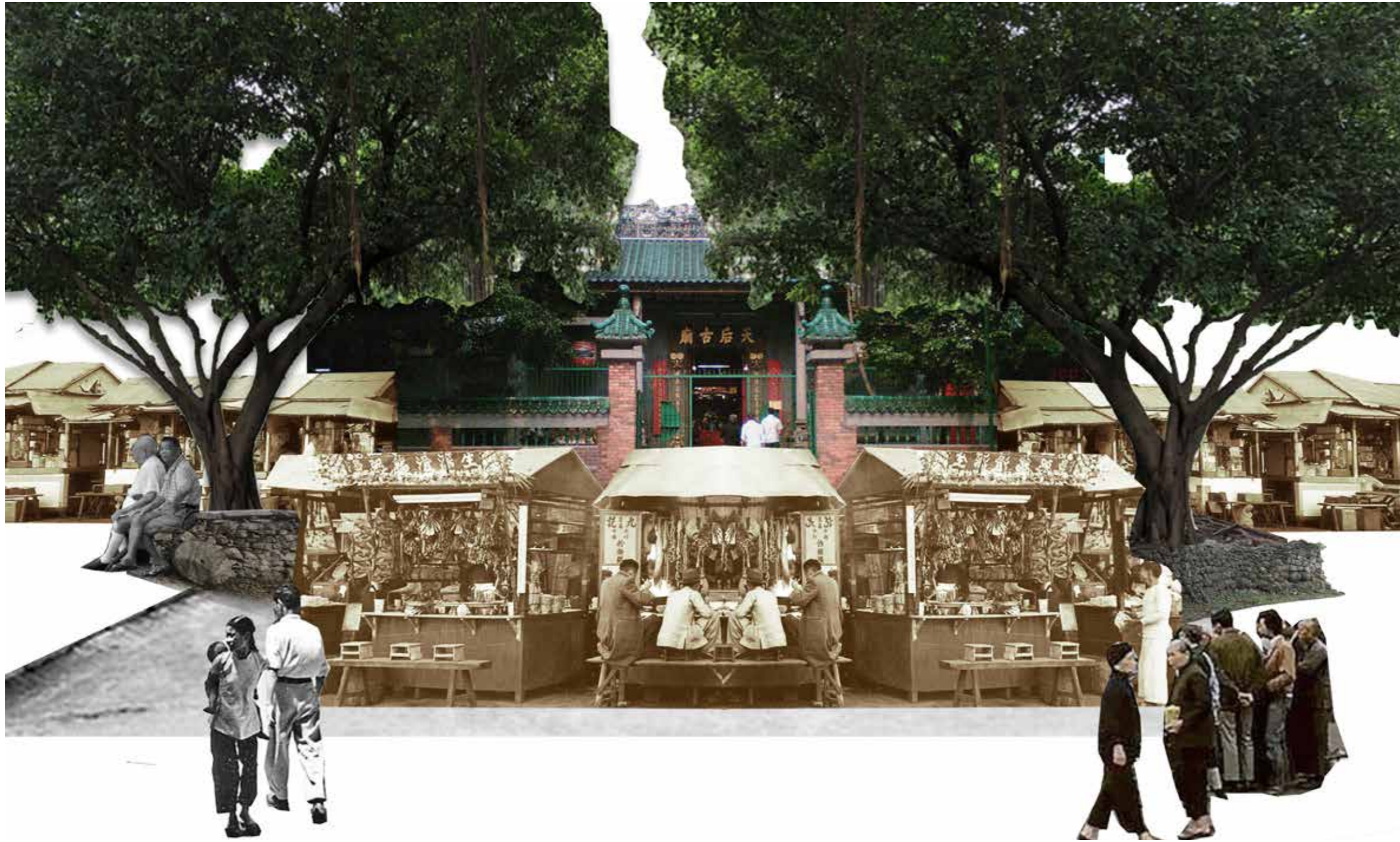
The Story of Bottom-up Occupation
The Construction of Temple and Planting of Trees in front of the temple





Reclamation Starts
The temple square becomes a market place



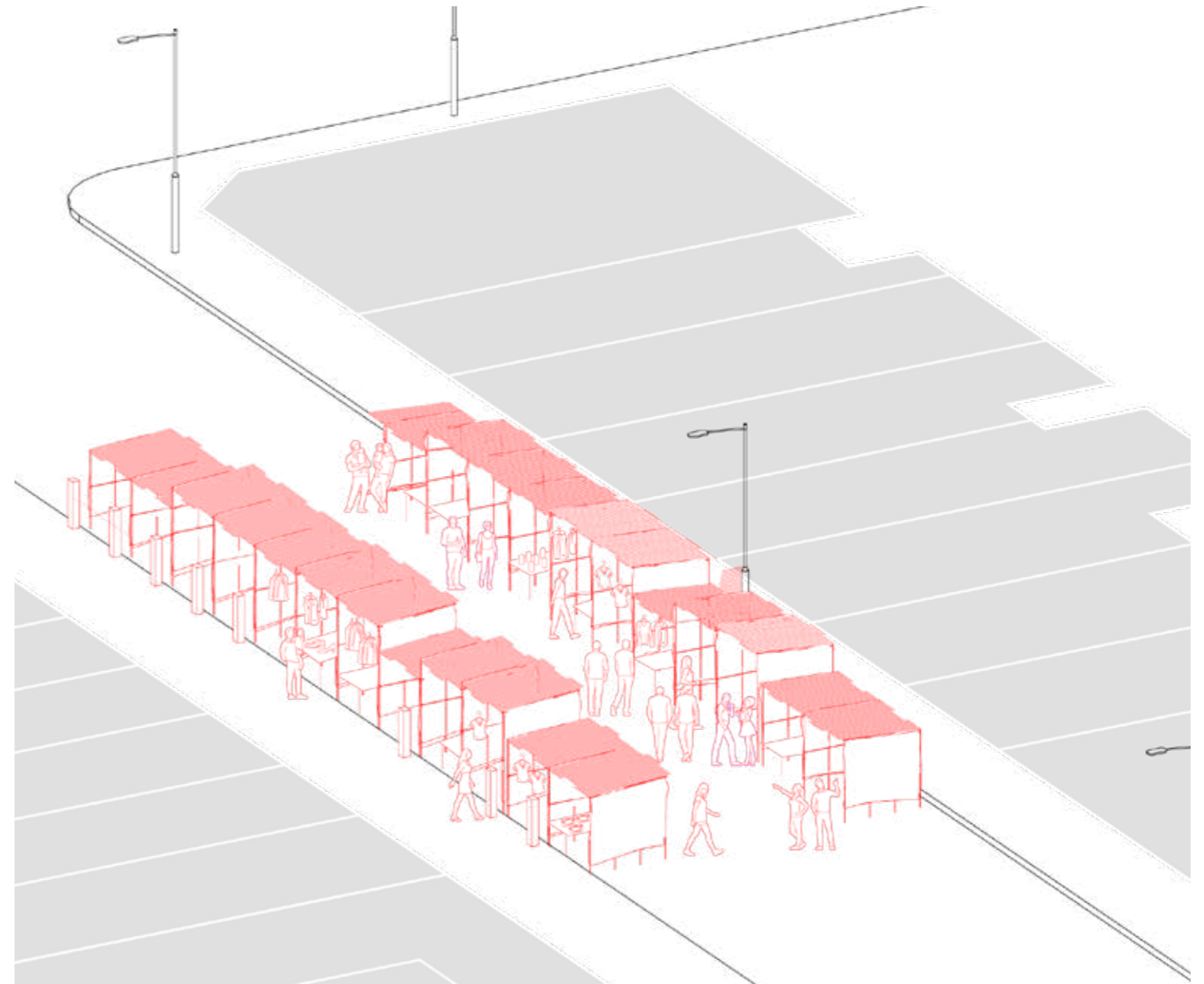


The market square extends on both sides,
into street market





Night street market, 1972.

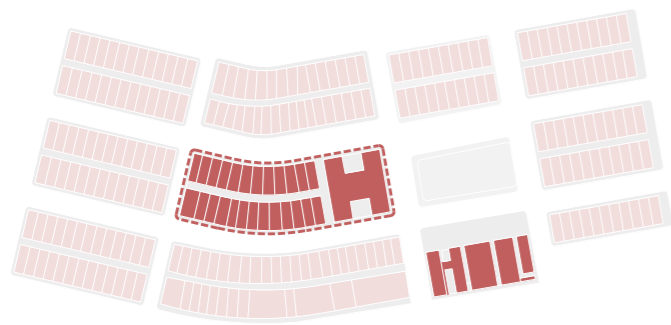


Axonometric of Street Market

The extension of the Market Stalls into the streets around the Temple

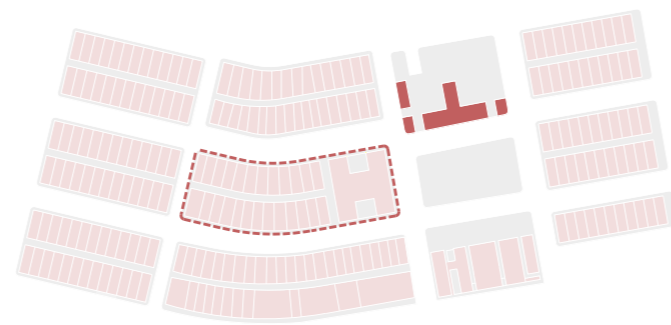


Special ambience created by the strings of lamp from each vendor



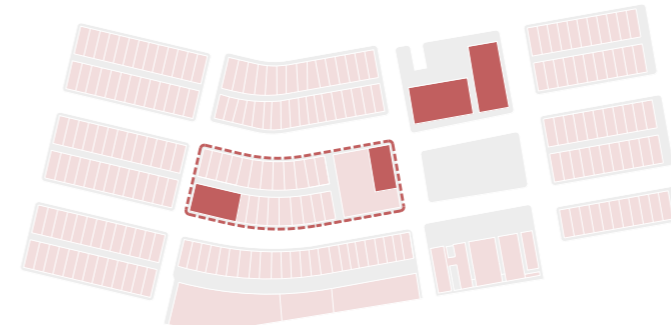
1860s - 1870s

Site composition:
A market, next to Temple
2 row of tenement buildings



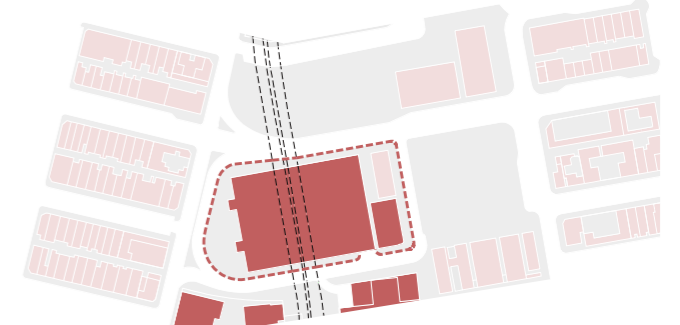
1880s

Site composition:
A market,
2 row of tenement buildings,
supervised by police station



1950s

Site composition:
2 row of tenement buildings,
cinema, public latrine,
To be Replaced as garage building



1970s - now

Site composition:
A mixed-use garage building,
with flyover through it



Tin Hau Temple, Yau Ma Tei, c. 1925.



Public Life at busy Canton Road, 1956.

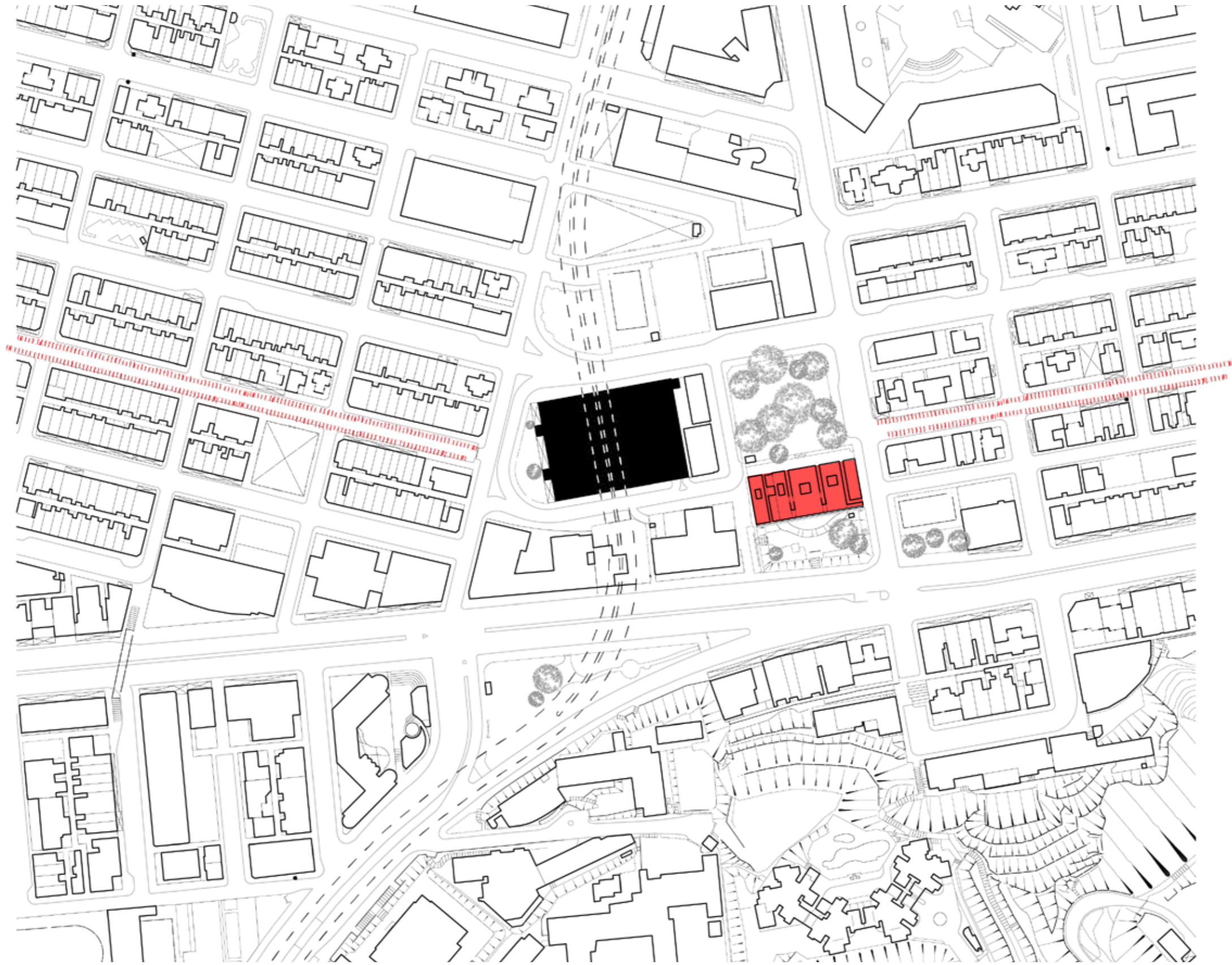


Kwong Chee Cinema (1919 - 1968)



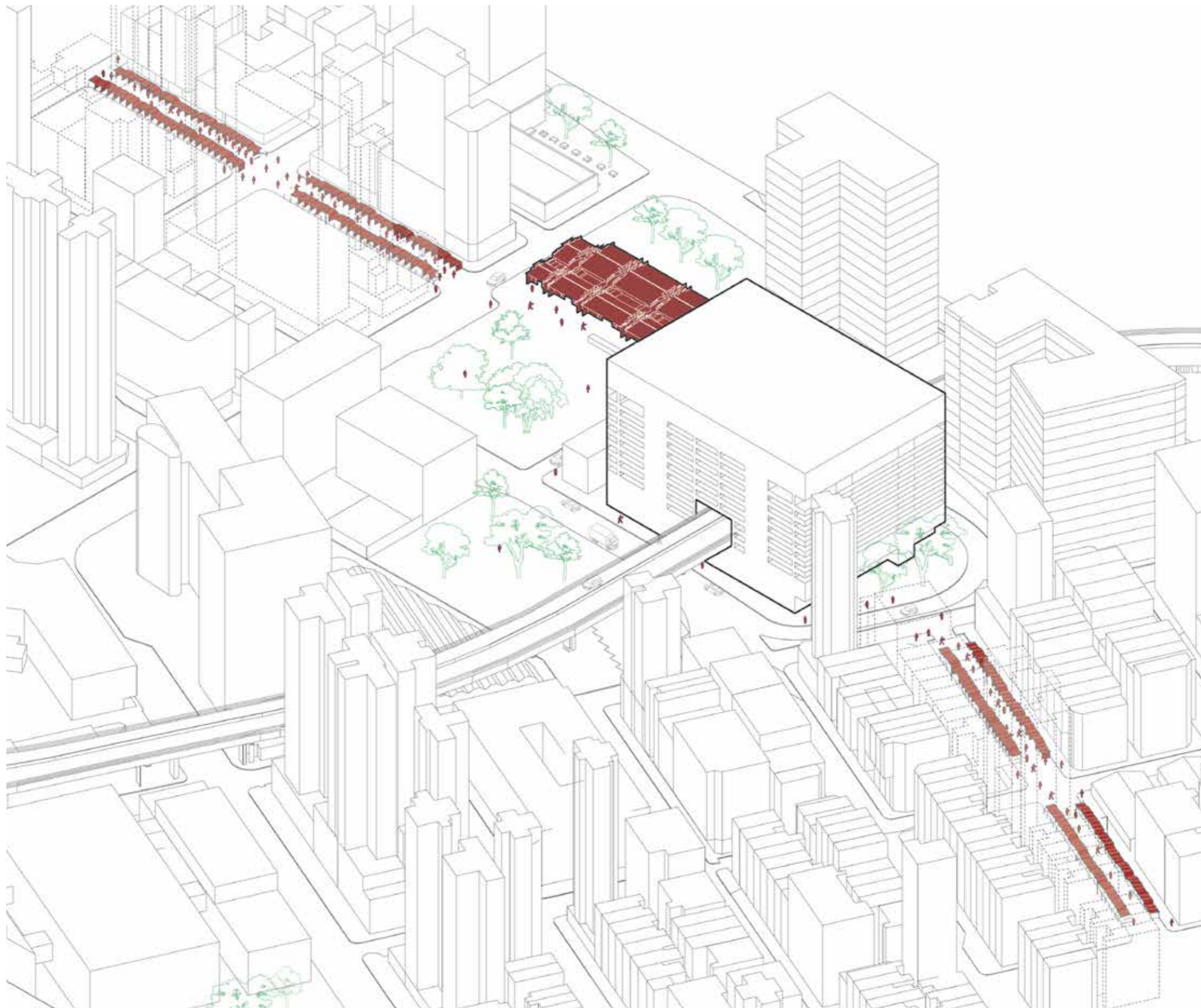
Carpark (1919 - 1968)

A Brief History of Power Confrontation

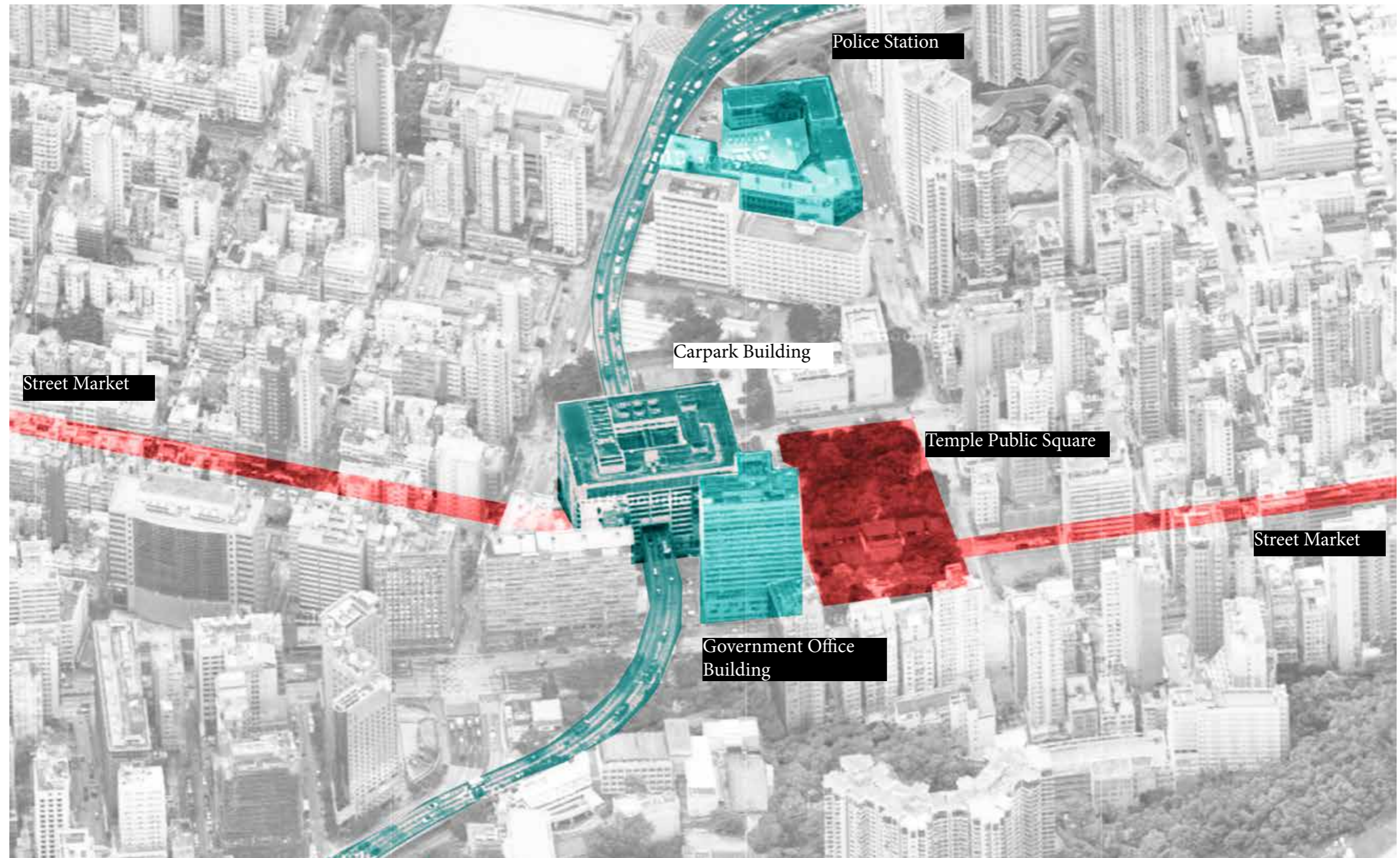


site plan

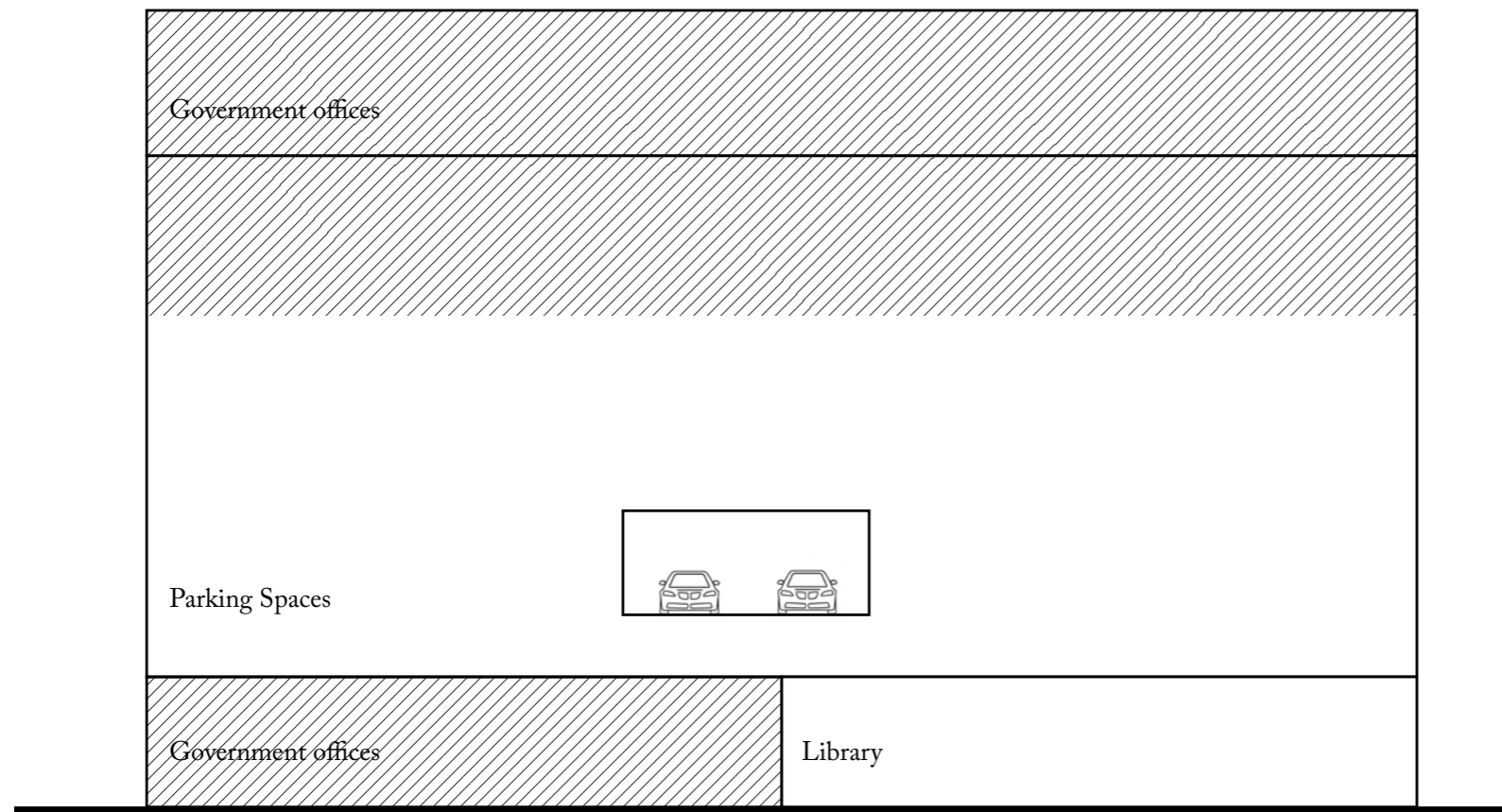




Urban Problem:
From a vibrant public square into a dis-activated zone



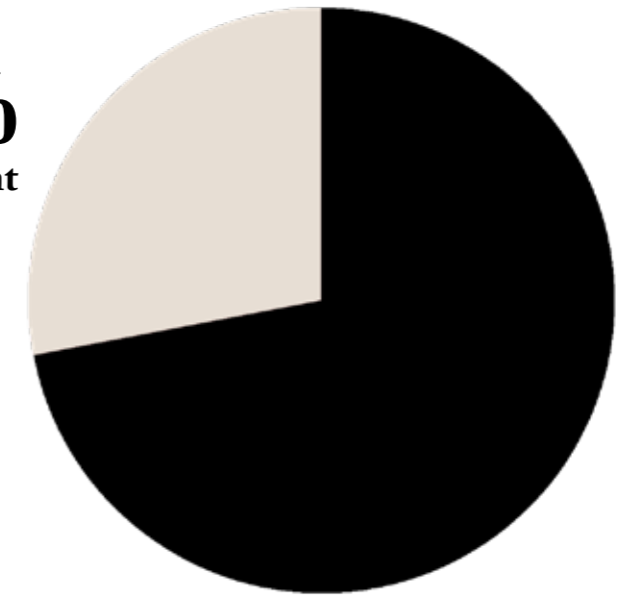
The infrastructure as a political tool to weaken the bottom-up community



PARKING STATISTICS

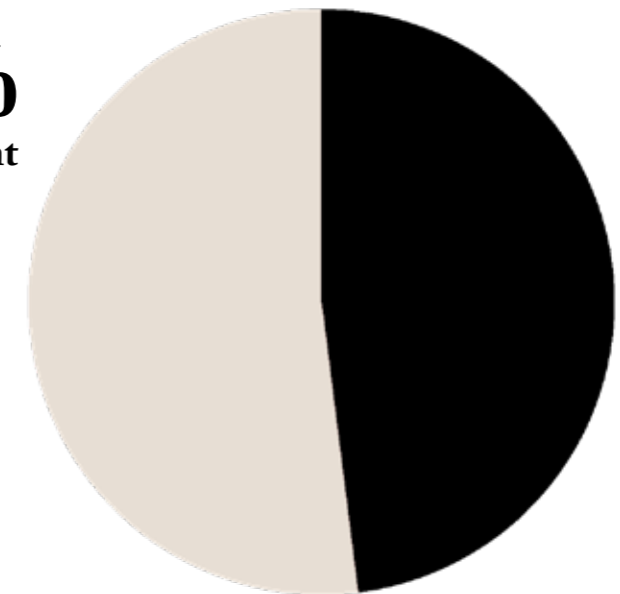
Statistics from Government Multi-storey Car Park Statistics (May 2017)

28%
Vacant



Daytime (0700 - 1900)

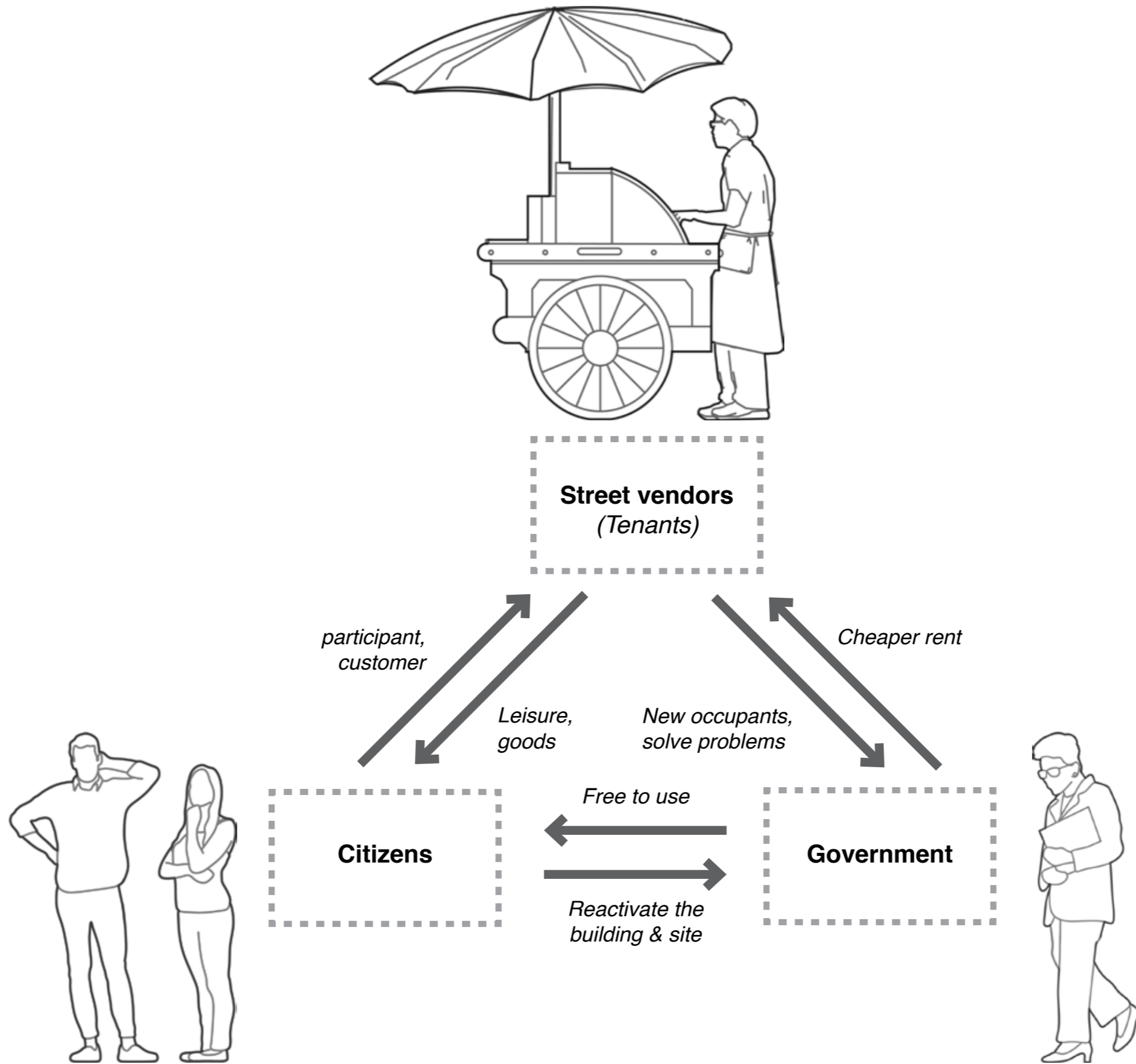
52%
Vacant



Night time (1900 - 0700)

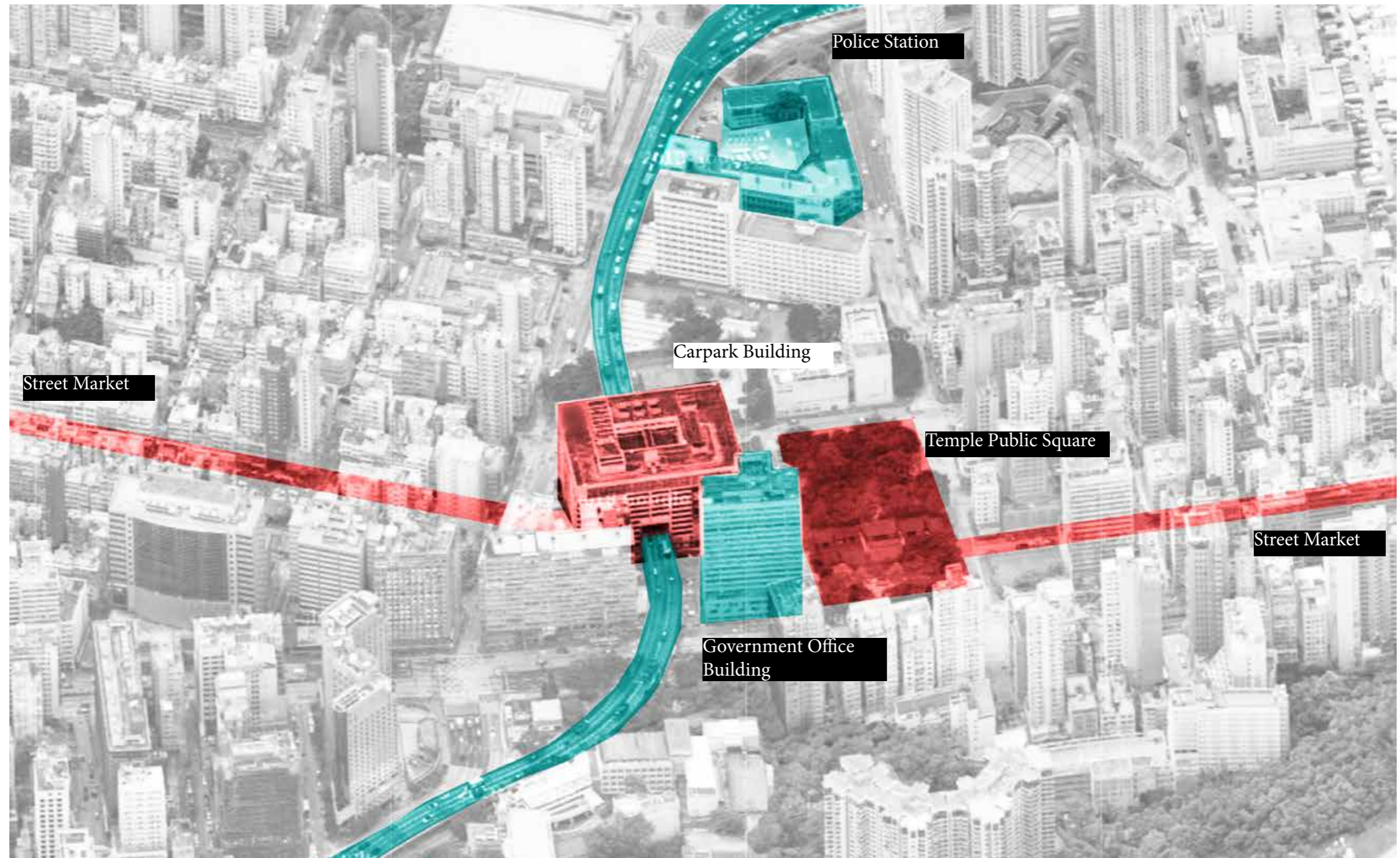
An opportunity: An underutilized building





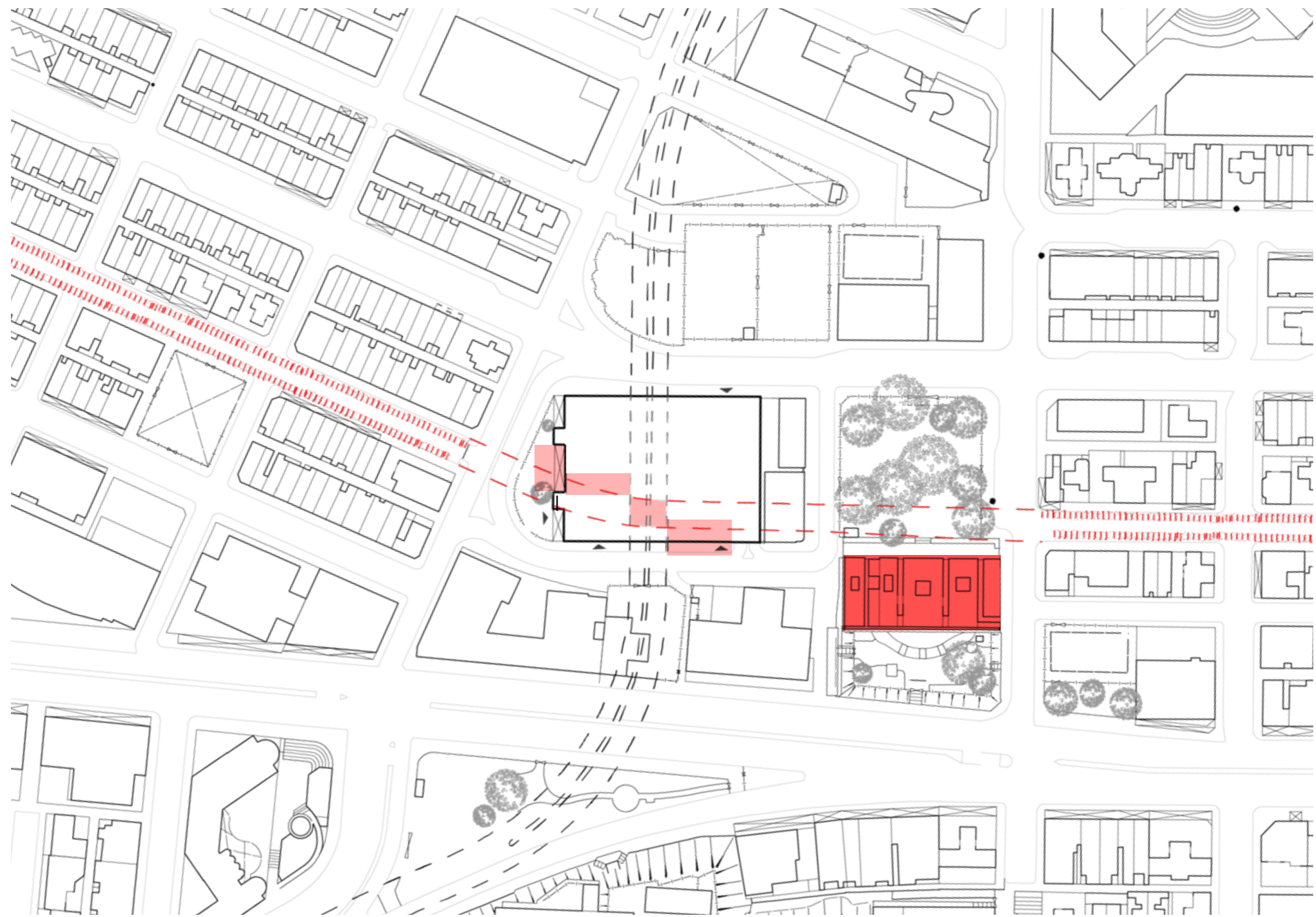
Public Transcript | Immediate solution for an underused building

An architectural framework that facilitates actions of re-appropriation and the establishment of a community

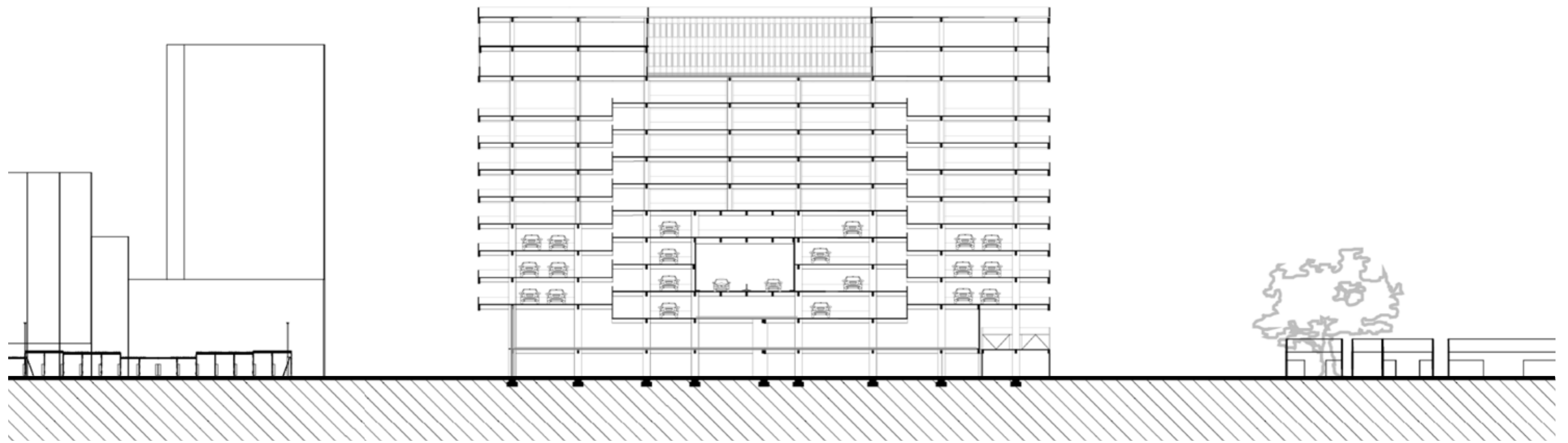


A hidden agenda: To celebrate and strengthen the bottom up power in this area

03. Urban Strategy

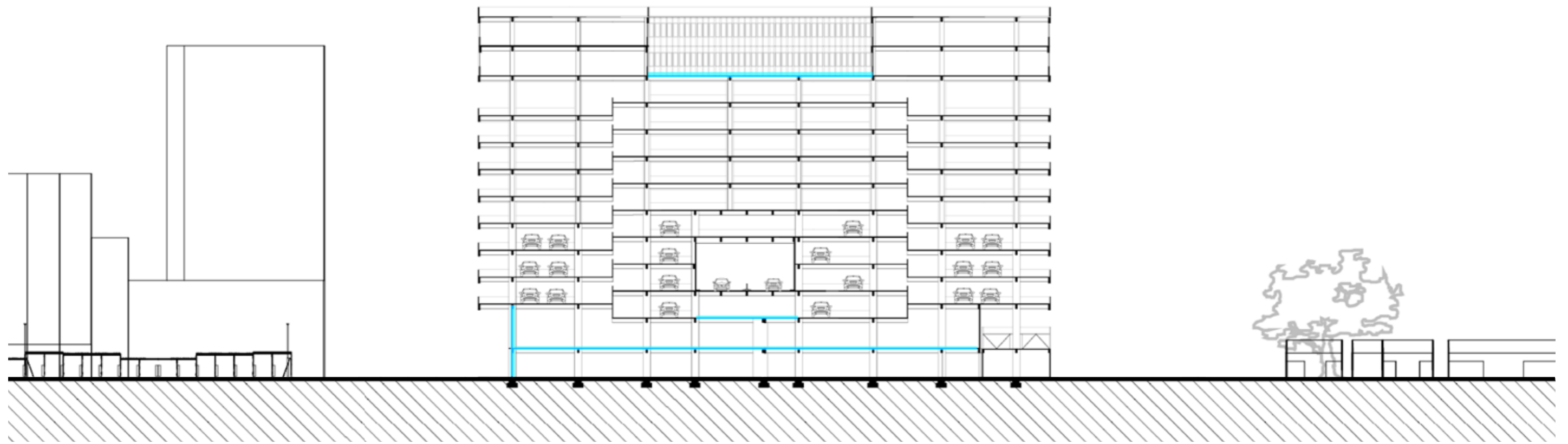


site plan 1:1000 / An extended path towards the building



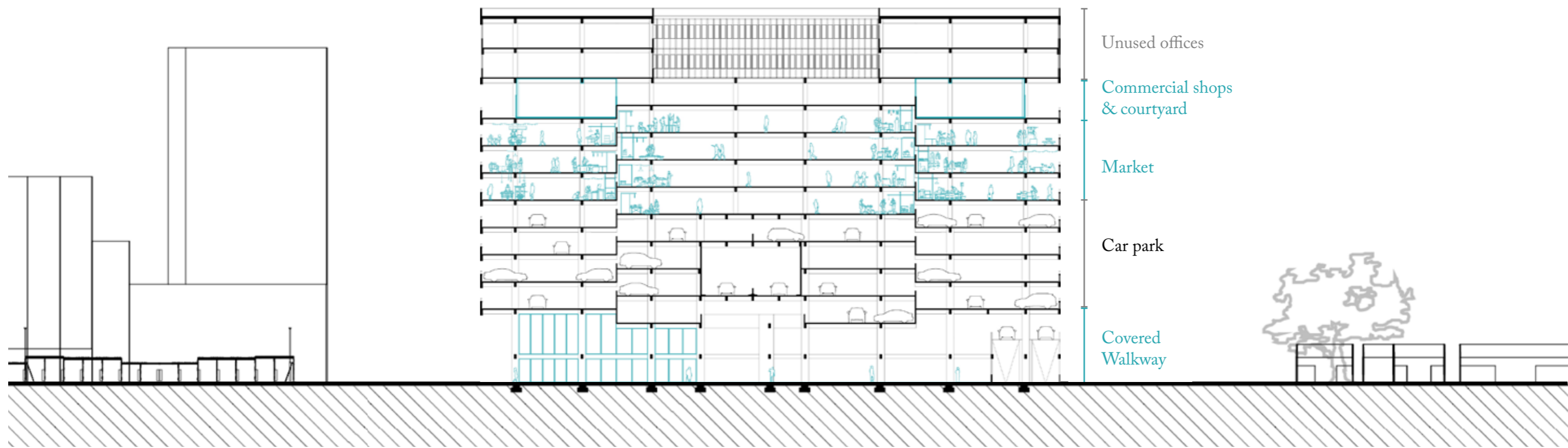
Existing Situation

Urban Section 1:500



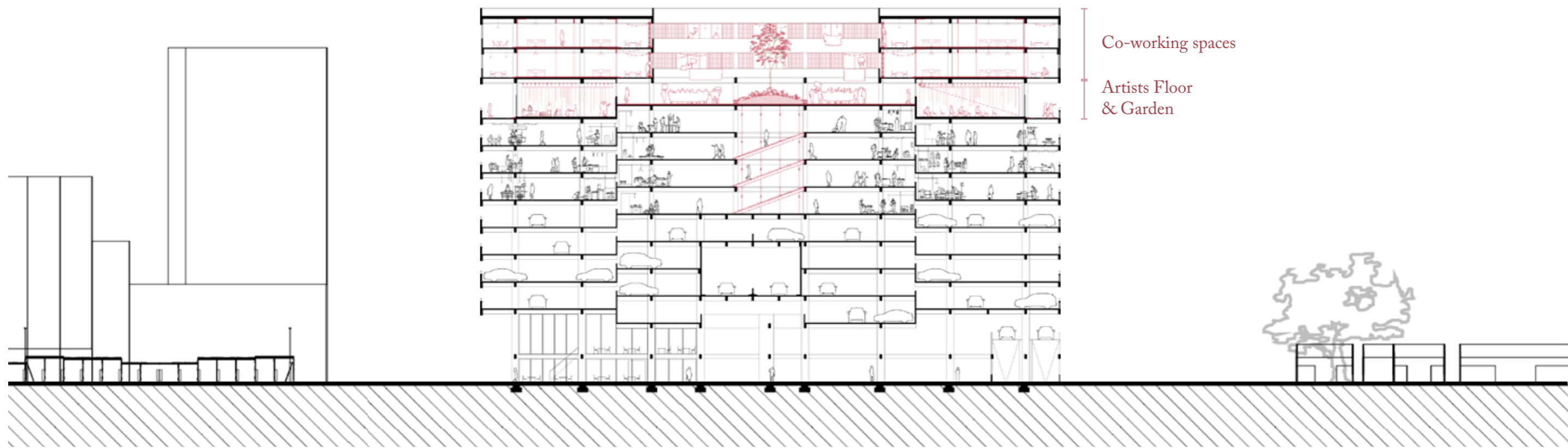
Demolished by Authority

Urban Section 1:500



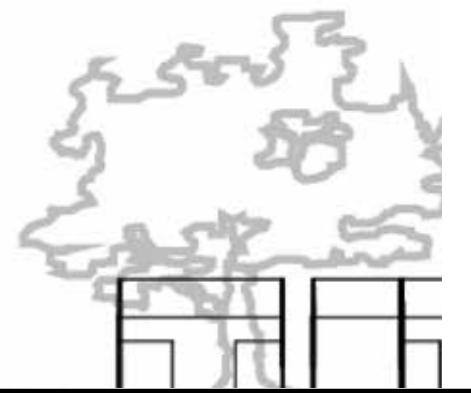
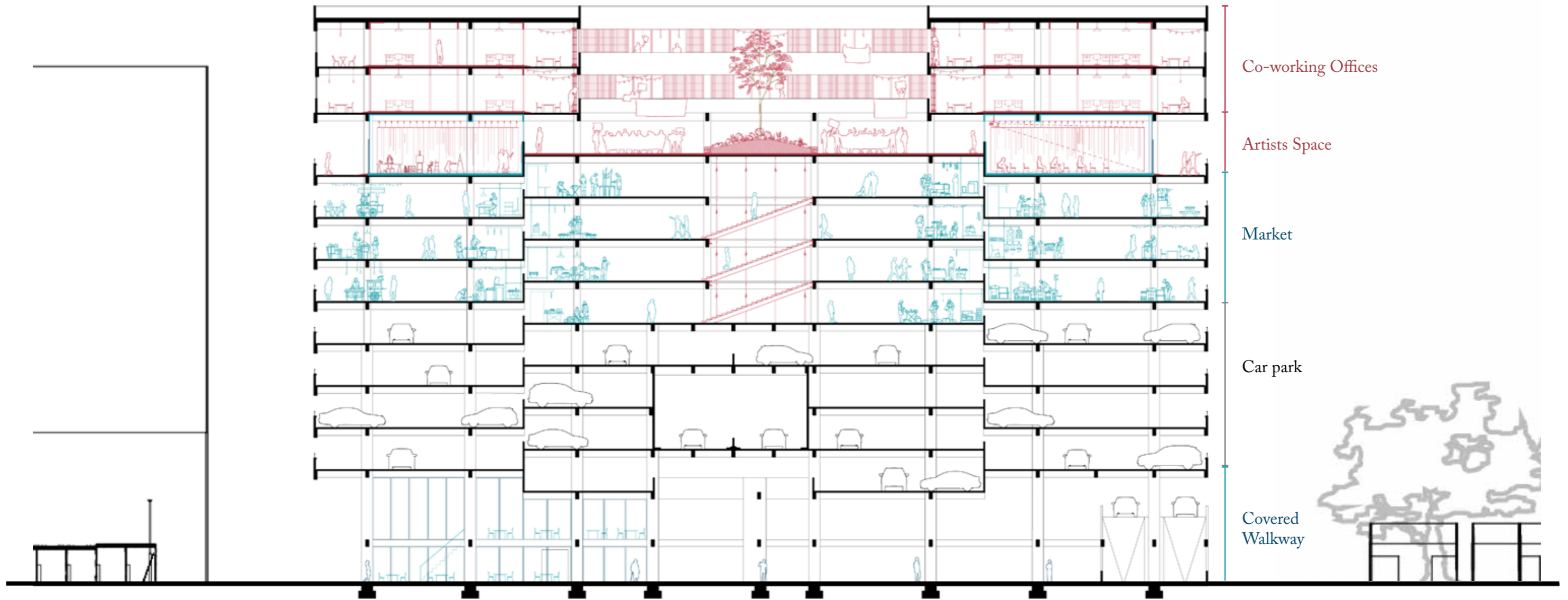
Proposed scheme to Authority

Urban Section 1:500

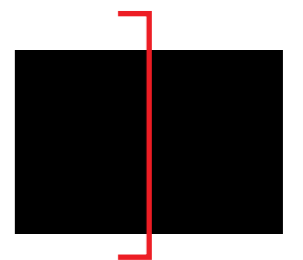
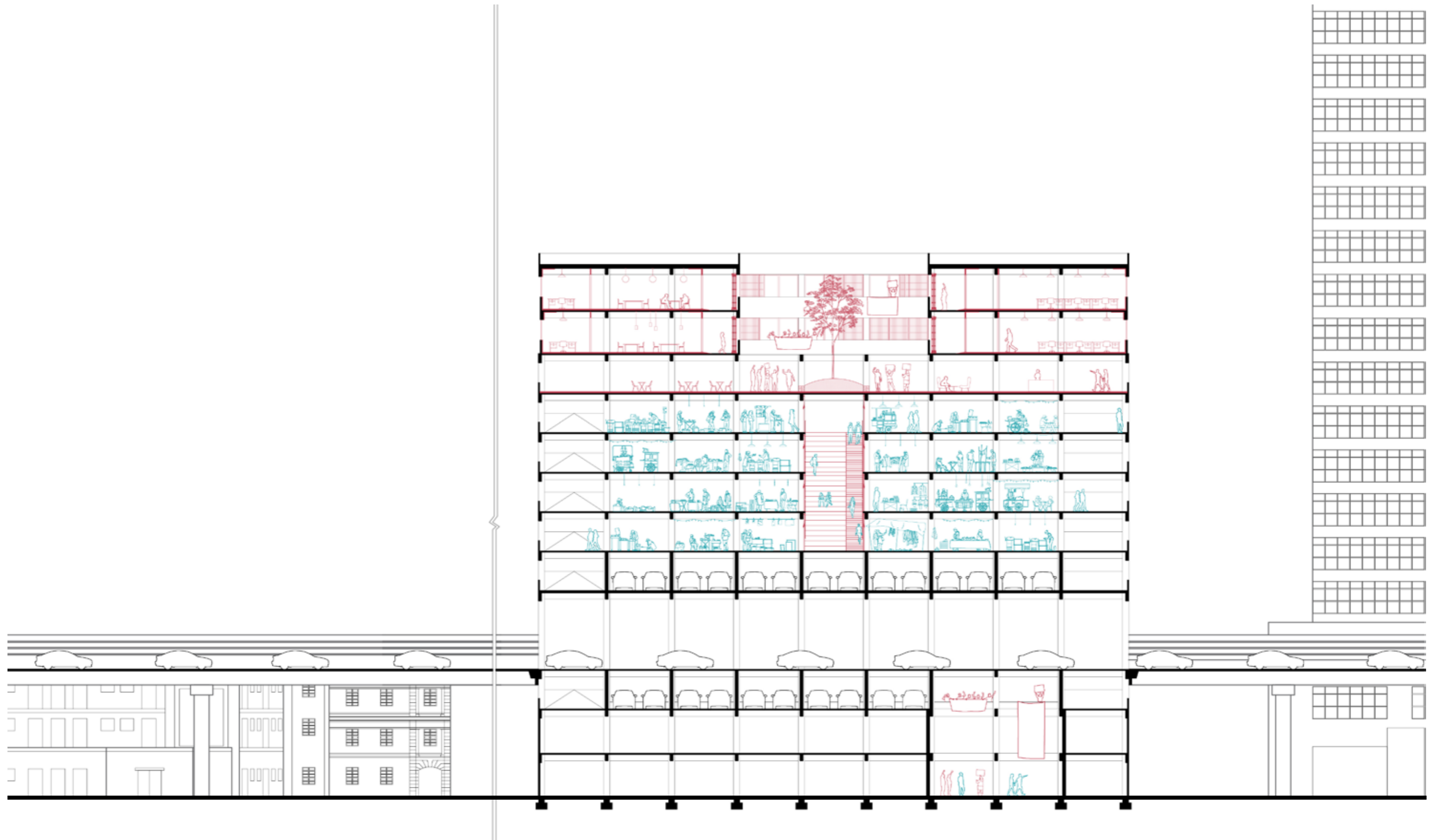


Reappropriated by citizens/tenants

Urban Section 1:500



Spaces Overview | A building that reconnects the bottom-up community
1:300



04. Public Transcript

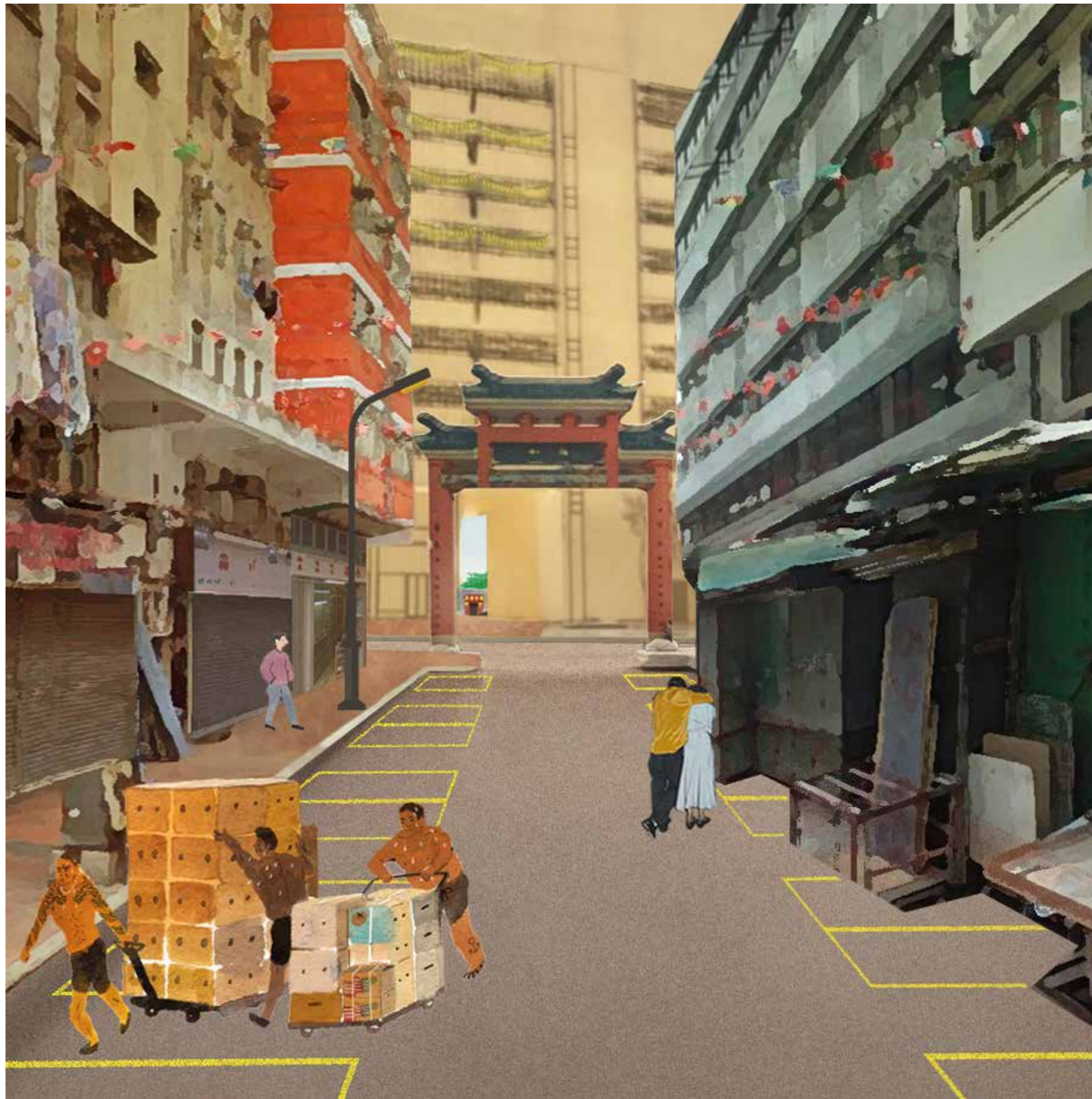
An architectural framework



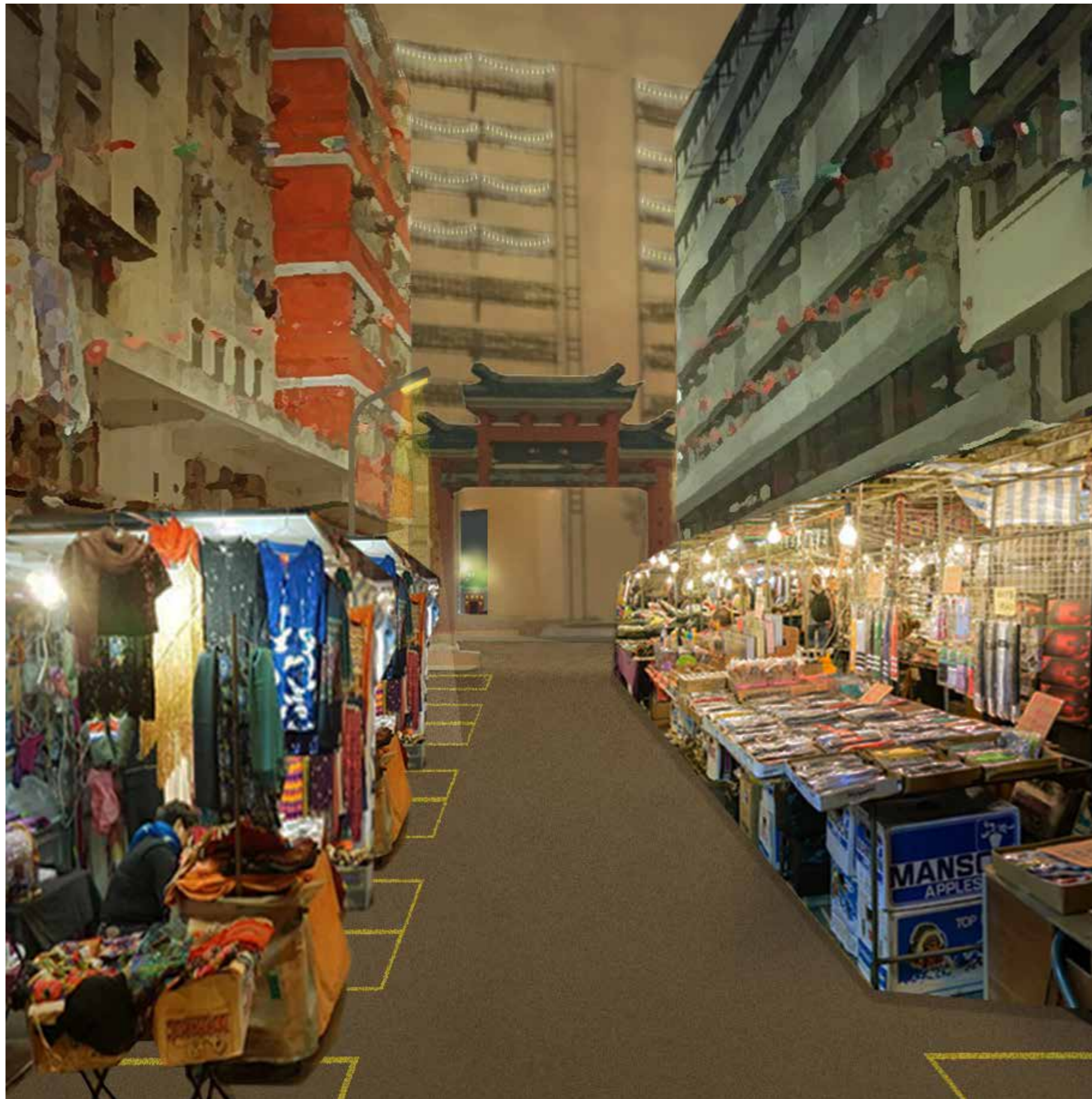
Ground Floor Plan 1:500

Introduction of New Entrance and Diagonal Connections
between bottom-up spaces

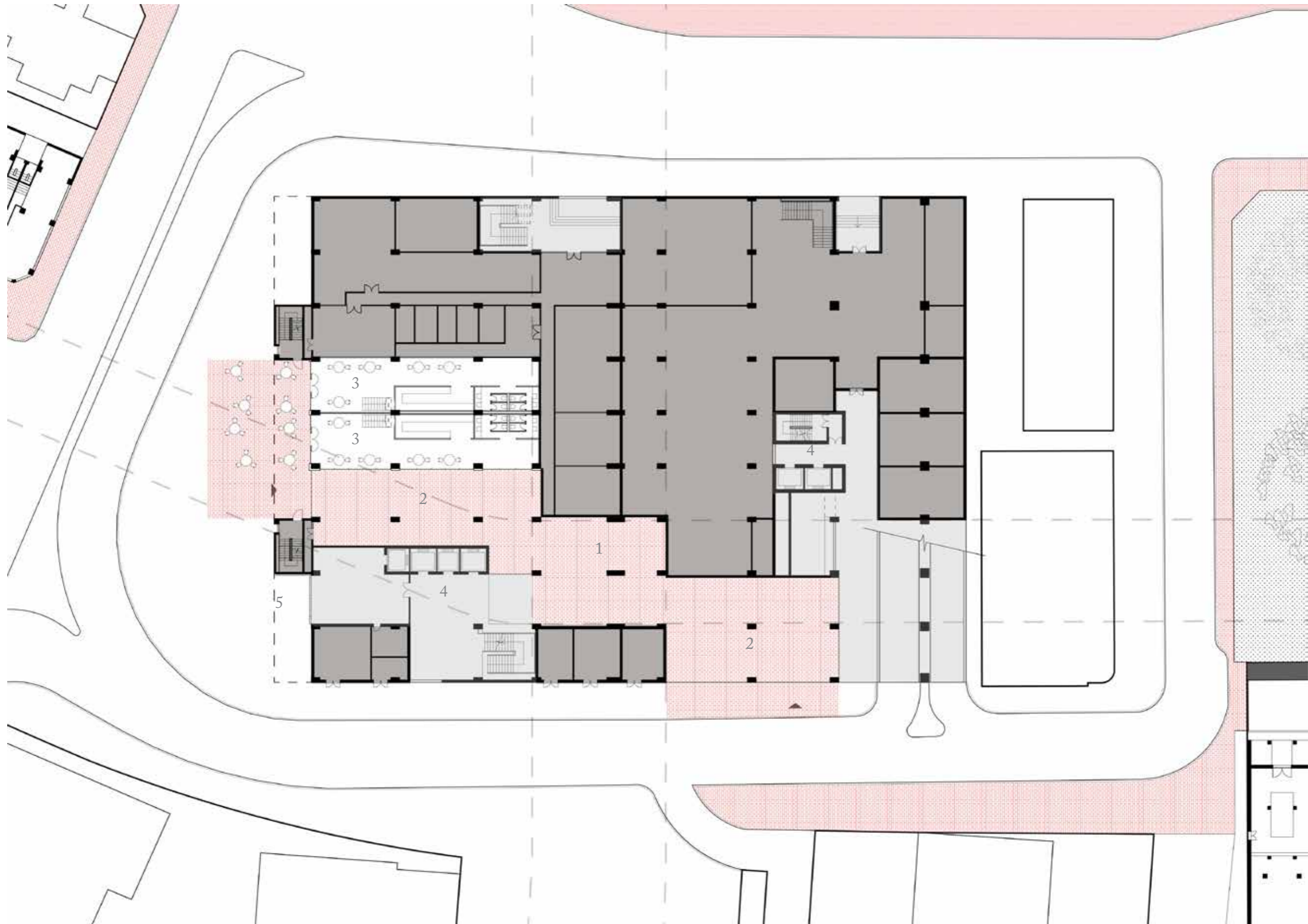




A Visual Connection with the Temple



...and a continuous ambience of lighting



- 1. Lobby
- 2. Entrance Hallway
- 3. Shops
- 4. Existing Lift Lobby
- 5. Logistics Entrance

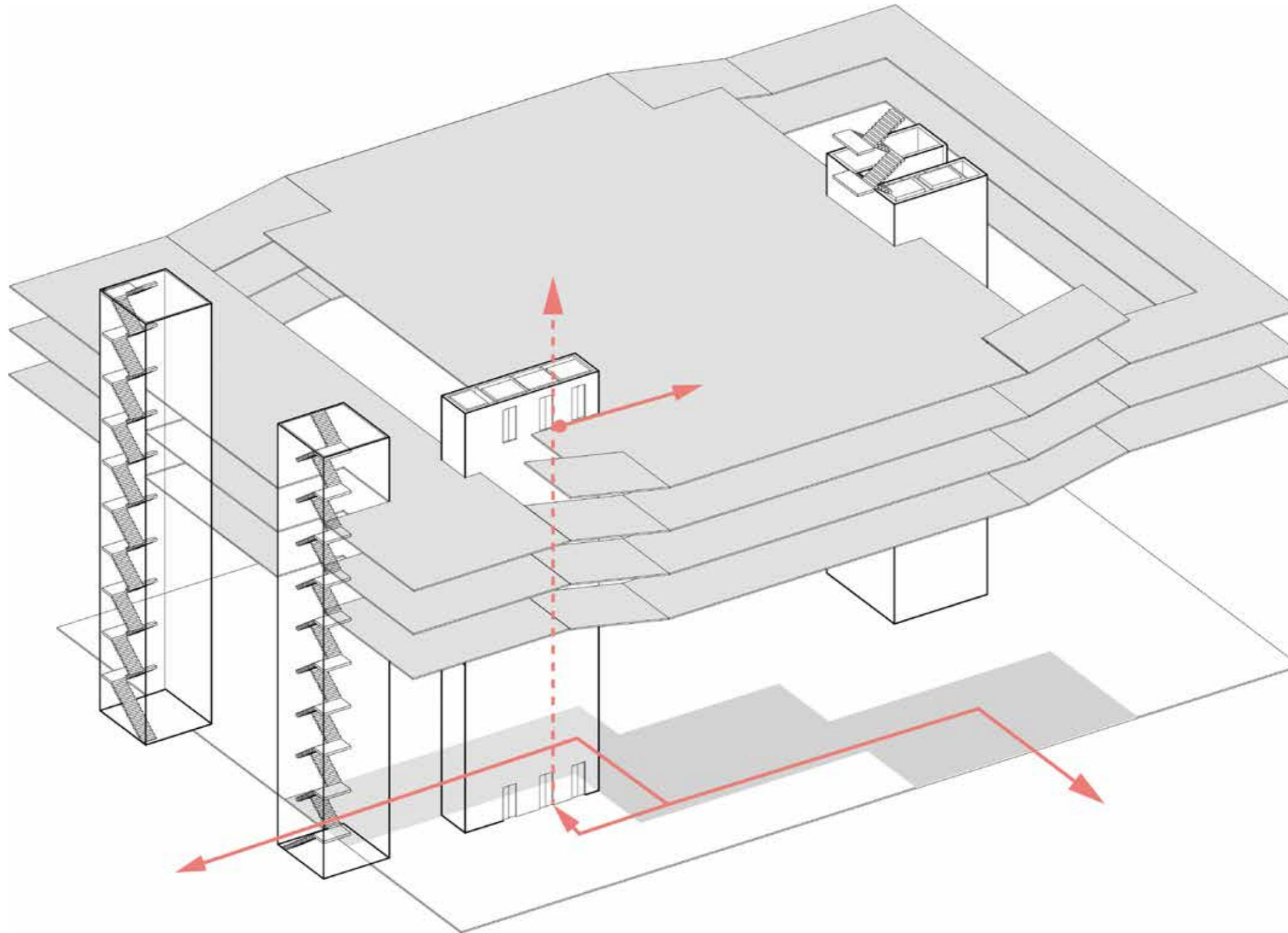


Temple being a backdrop of daily lives in this space

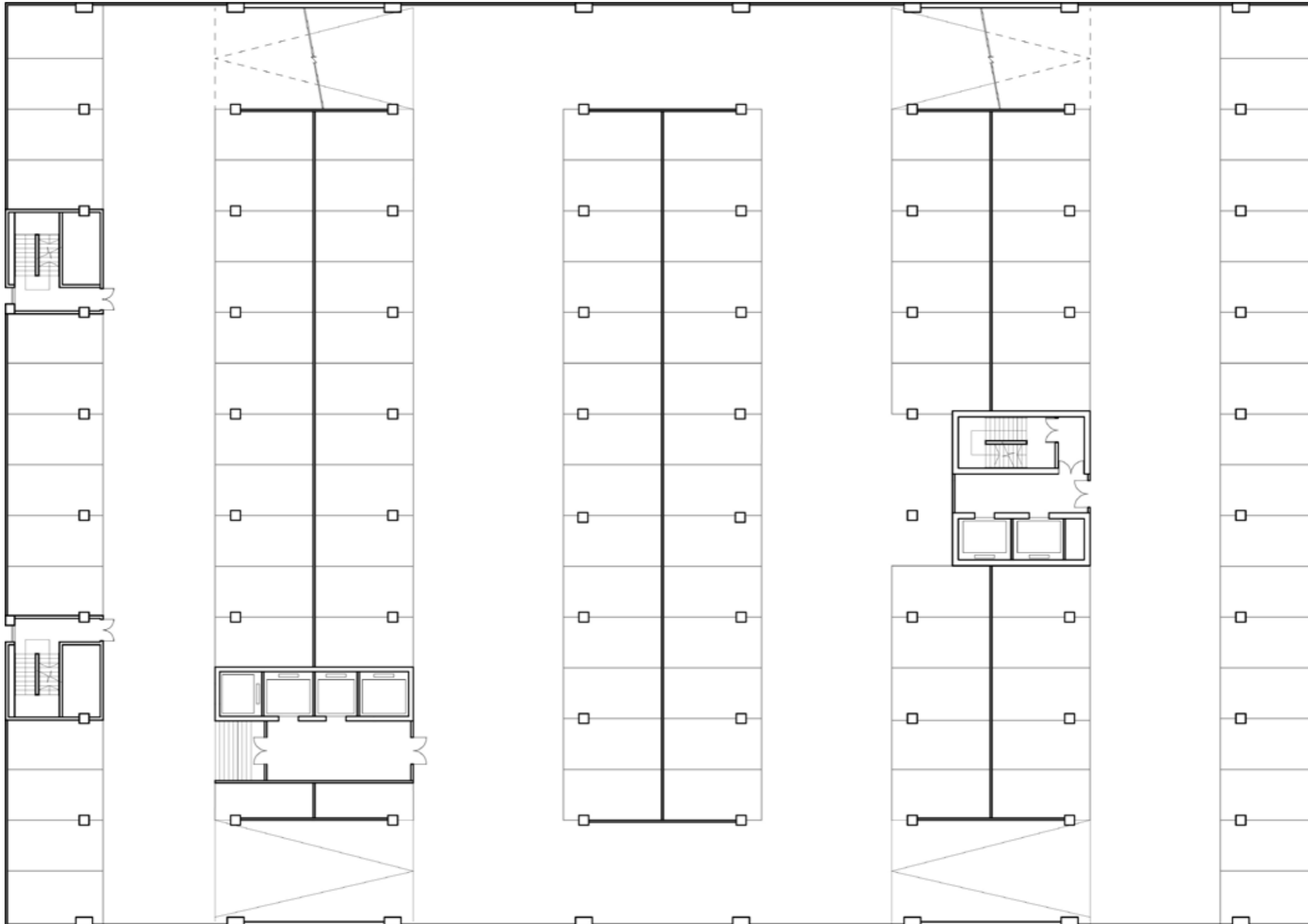


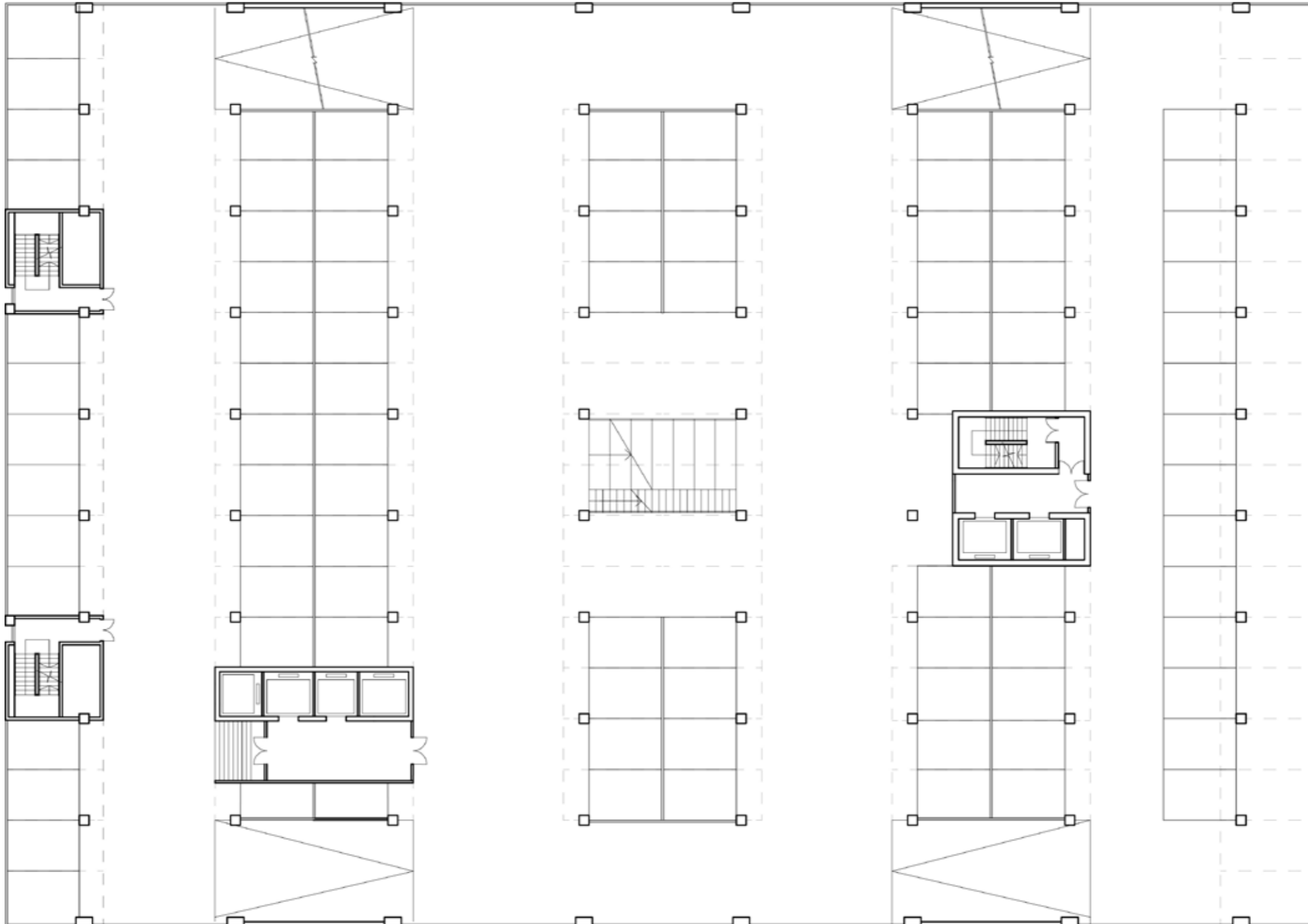
The Entrance Hall at Night Time





To access market floors by Lift and Ramps





Re-appropriated for Street vendor's occupation



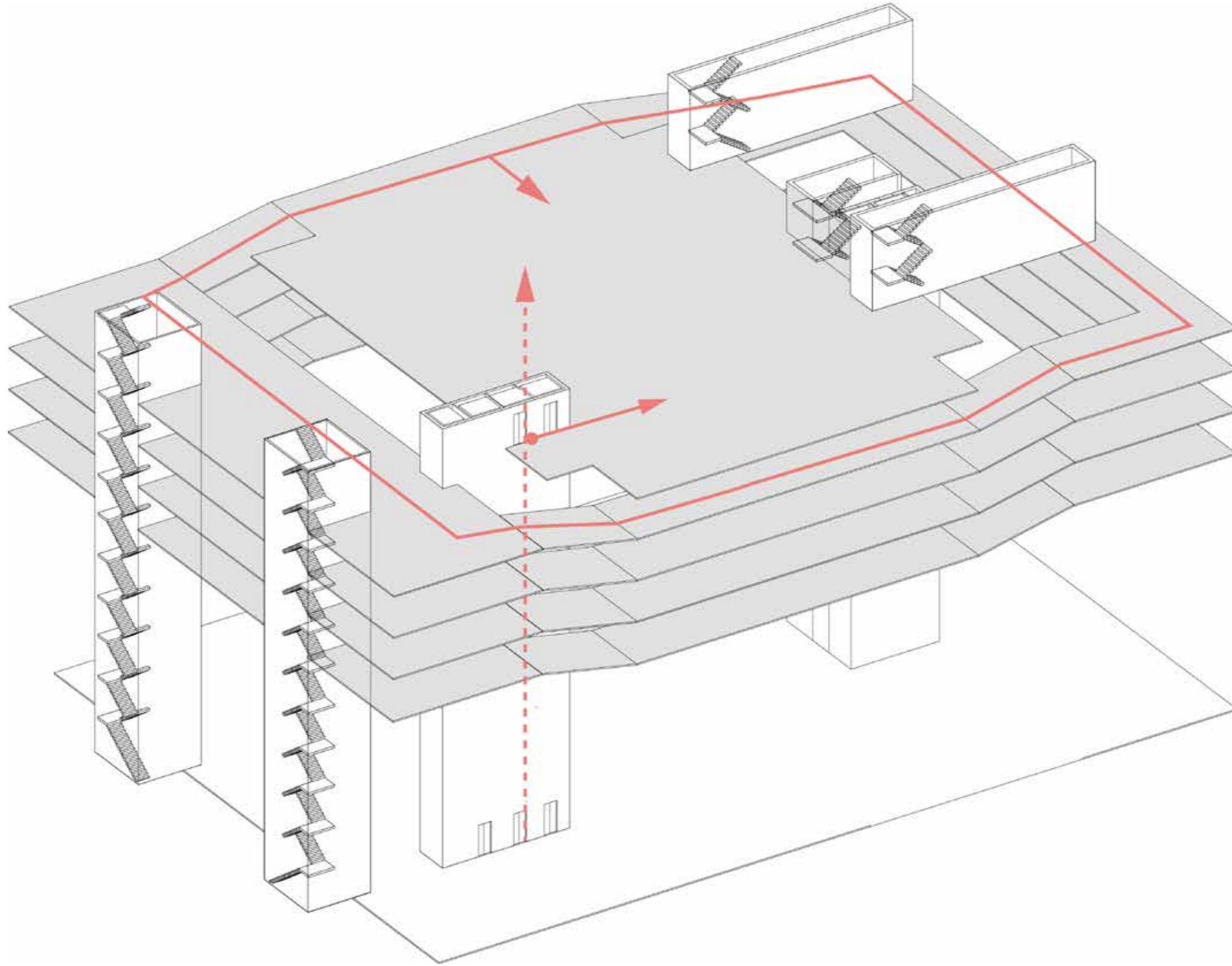
How a gridded carpark could be reappropriated...



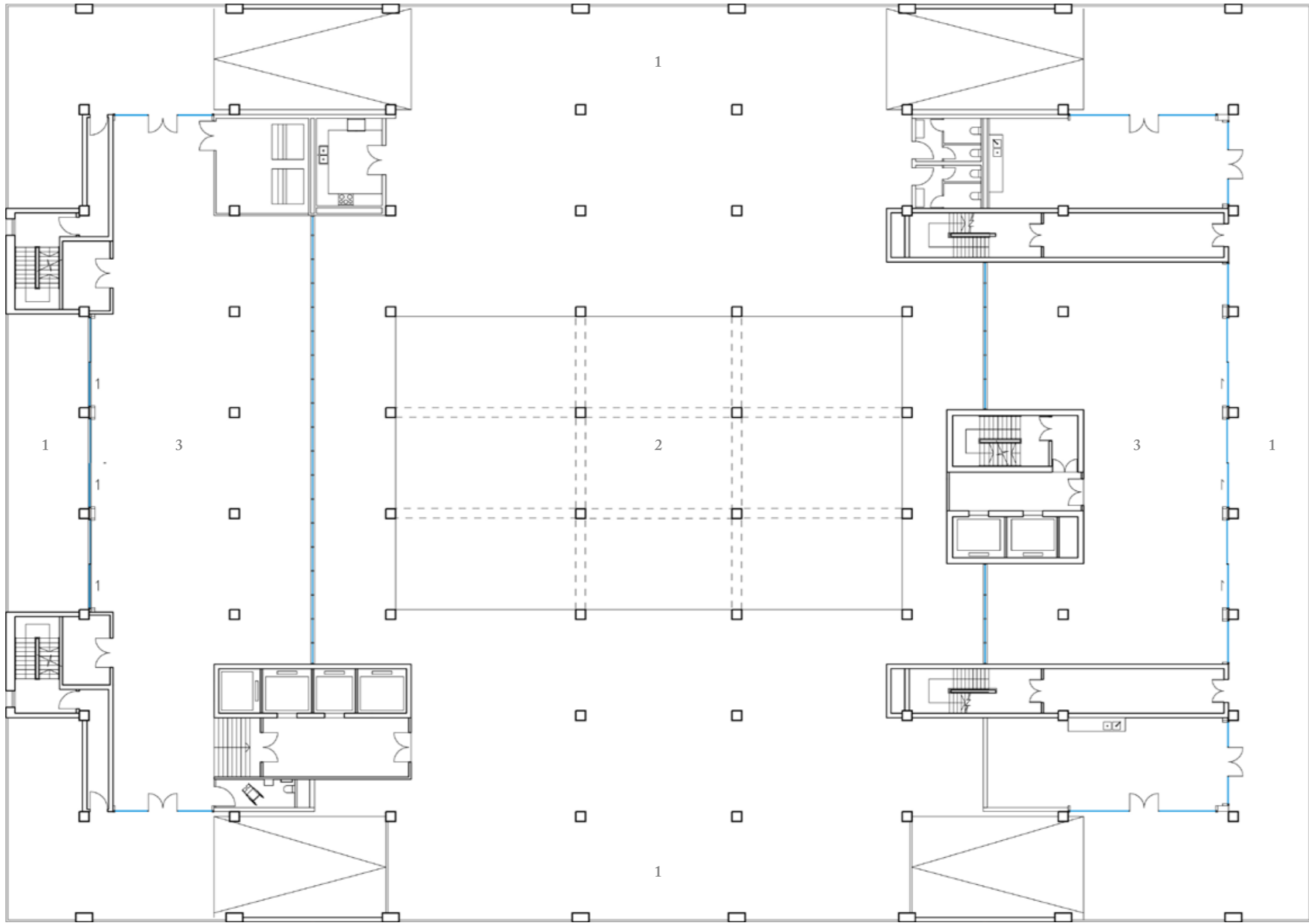
By redrawing the grid

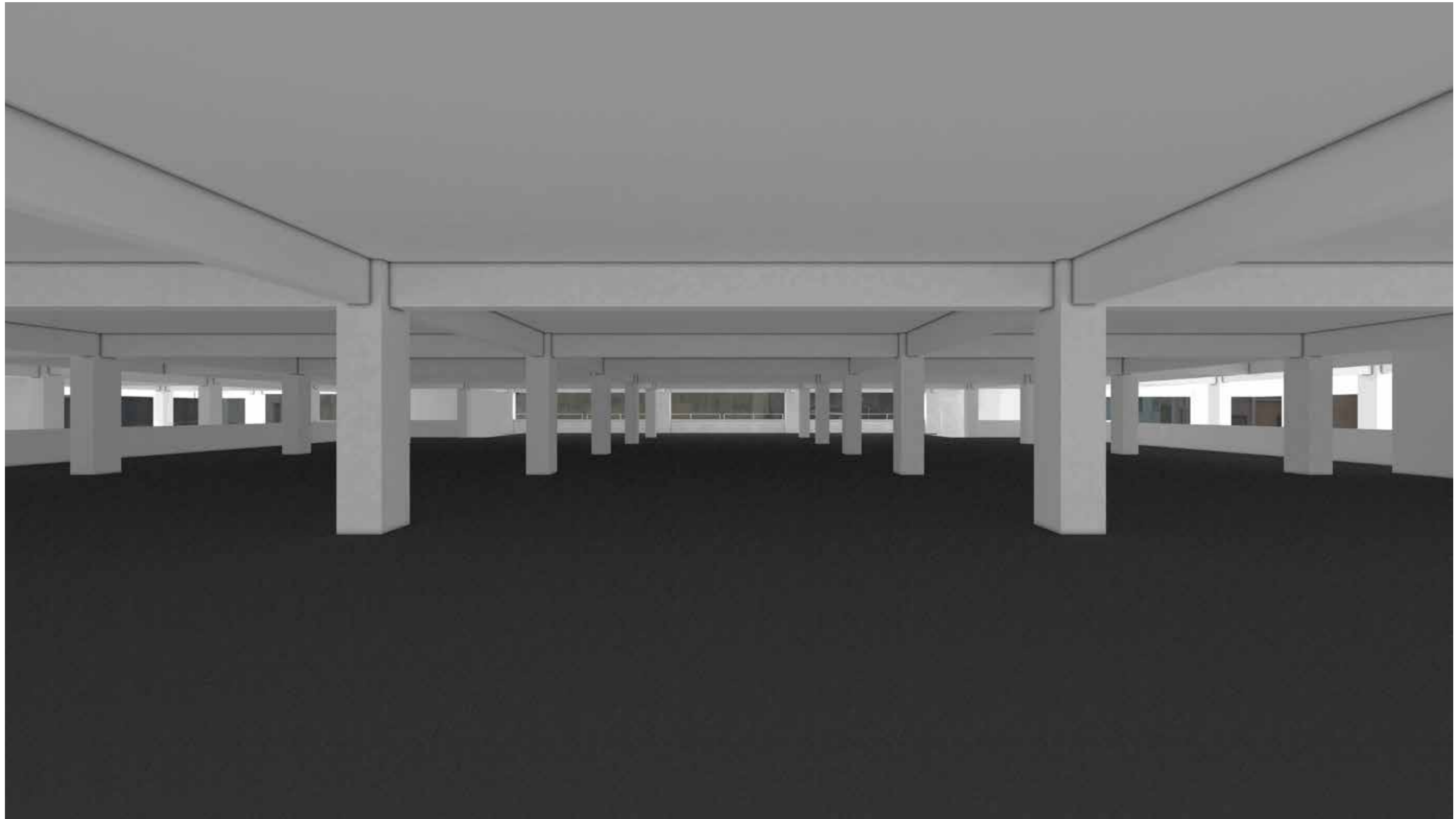


To a street market place



Access Top Floor by Ramps and Lifts





By removing a Barrier... (the roof)



To create a ground



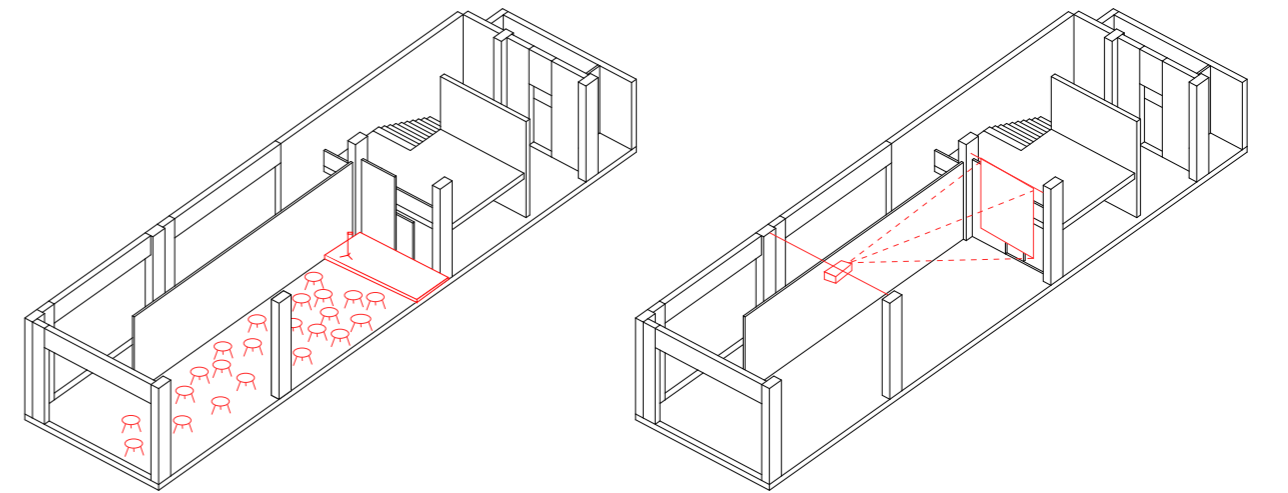
An insulated room with glaze wall for commercial uses

05. Hidden Transcript

Reappropriation as an act of resistance

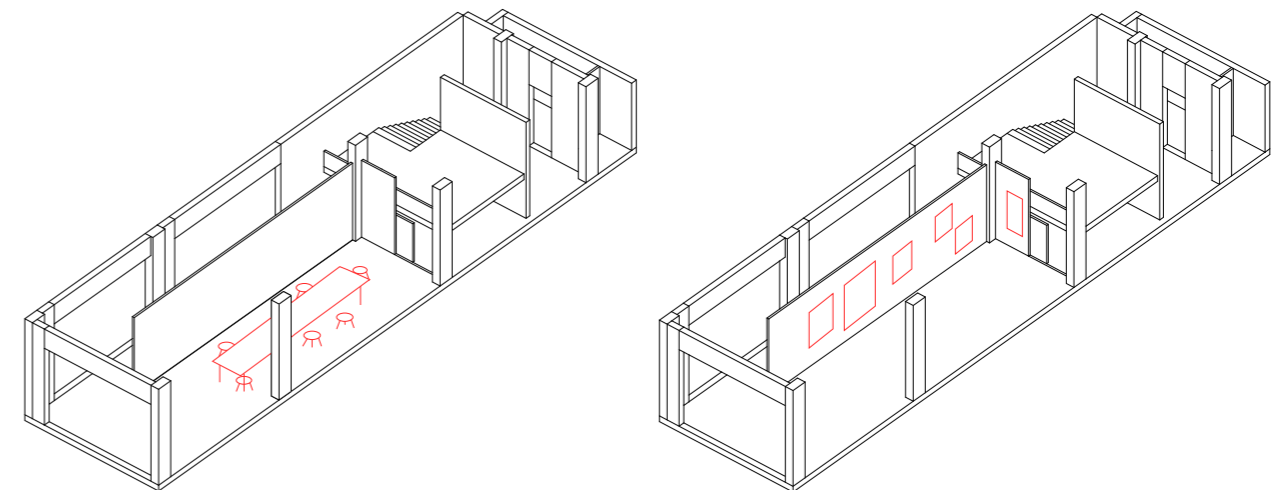


Interior view of the former gallery



Music Performance

Film Screening



Workshop

Exhibition

A space with the notion of misuse

**“We believe that citizens are not only consumers of art activity, but also creators of various arts. So we believe accessibility and dialogue are key to make ‘community art’...
It is very important for us (the art institution) to be on the street level.”**

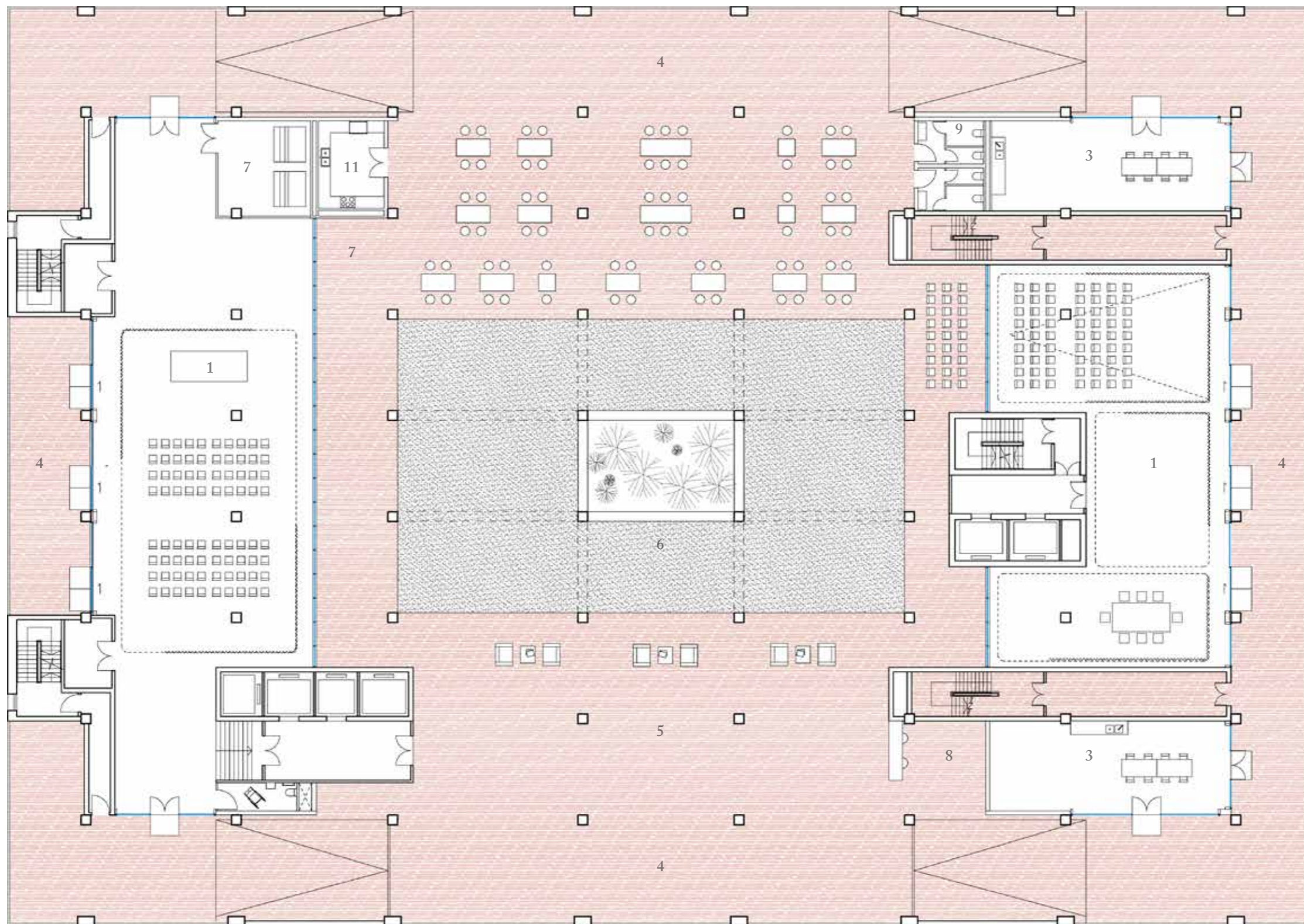
- Founder of Green Wave Art, Sammu Chan (Quote from Interview)



A new place for Green Wave Art Institution



A public meeting between the artists, street vendors and artists



- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1. Gallery/Studio | 5. Foyer |
| 2. Community Cafe | 6. Patio |
| 3. Multi-purpose room | 7. Storage |
| 4. Veranda | 8. Reception |
| | 9. Bathroom |
| | 10. Kitchen |

Artist Floor Plan (8/F) 1:200





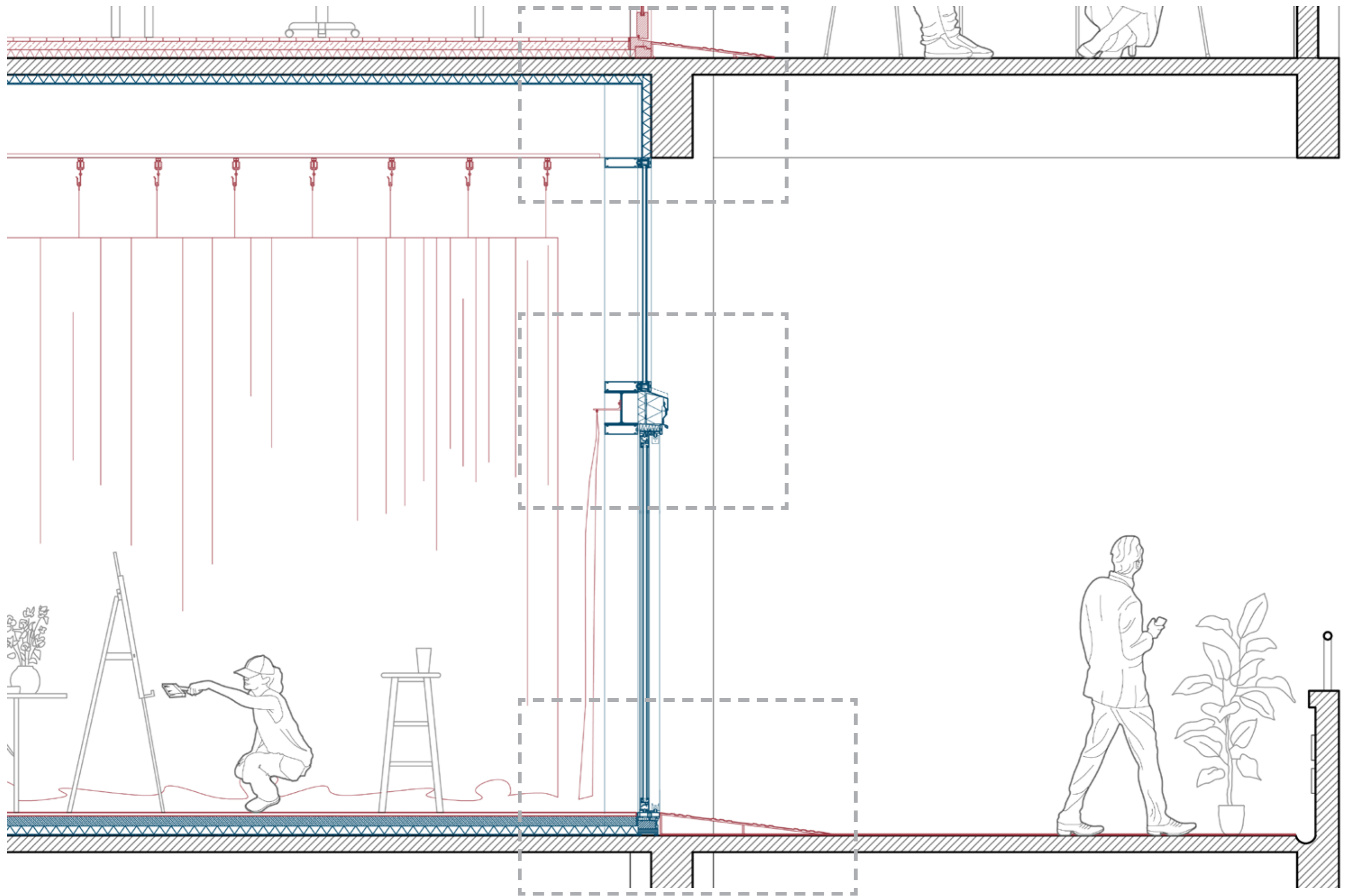


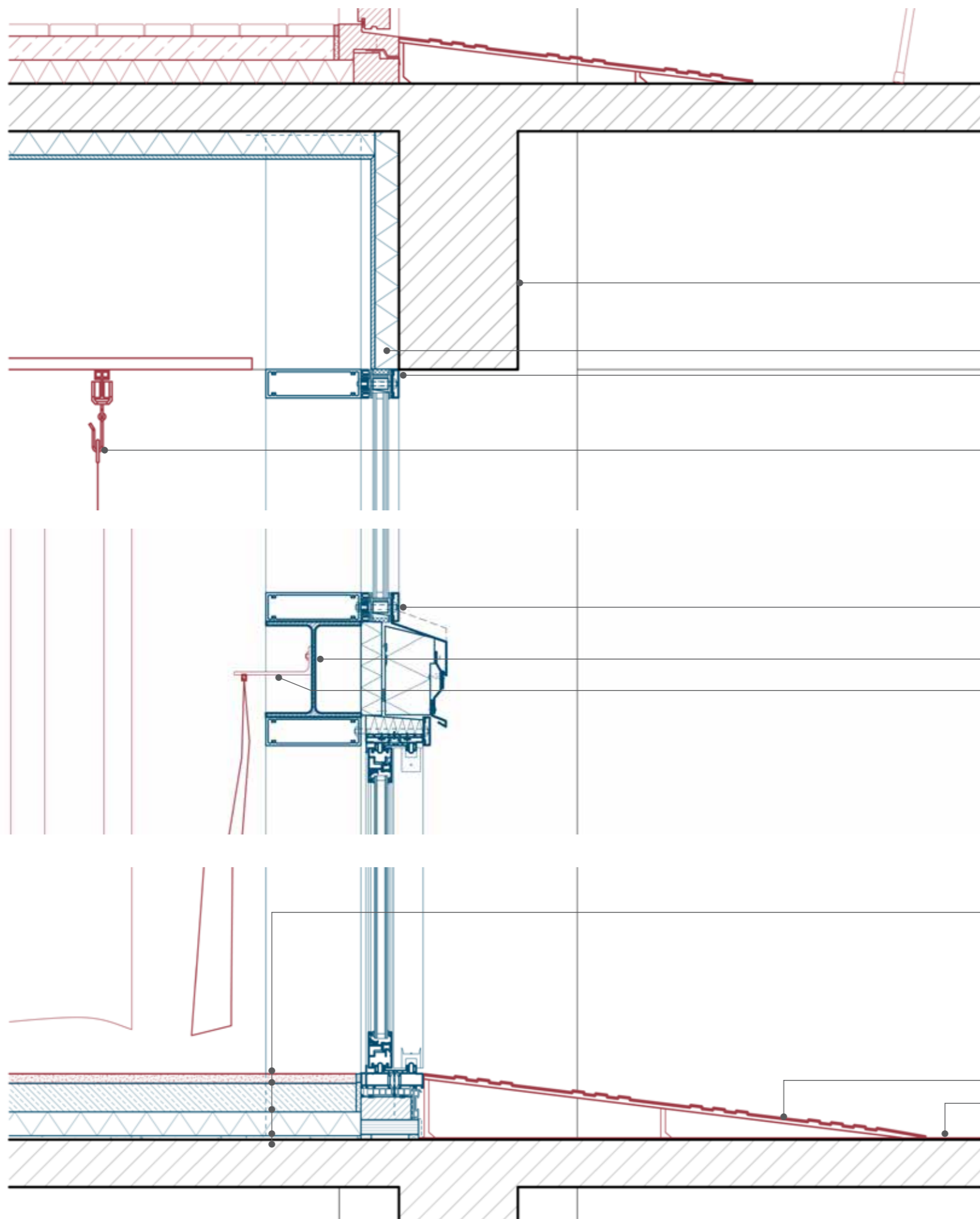


Collage: Veranda along the street view and interior rooms



Photo of a balcony of the vernacular tenement houses





EXISTING STRUCTURE

- Reinforced Concrete Beam 500*250mm

FACADE

- Foam Glass Insulation Board 50mm
- Double glazing bolted to aluminium
Curtain Wall Post (200 mm in depth)
- Curtain Rail Re-appropriated by Artists

FACADE

- Double glazing bolted to aluminium
Curtain Wall Post (200 mm in depth)
- Steel I-section Beam (200 mm in depth)
- Curtain Rail Re-appropriated by Artists

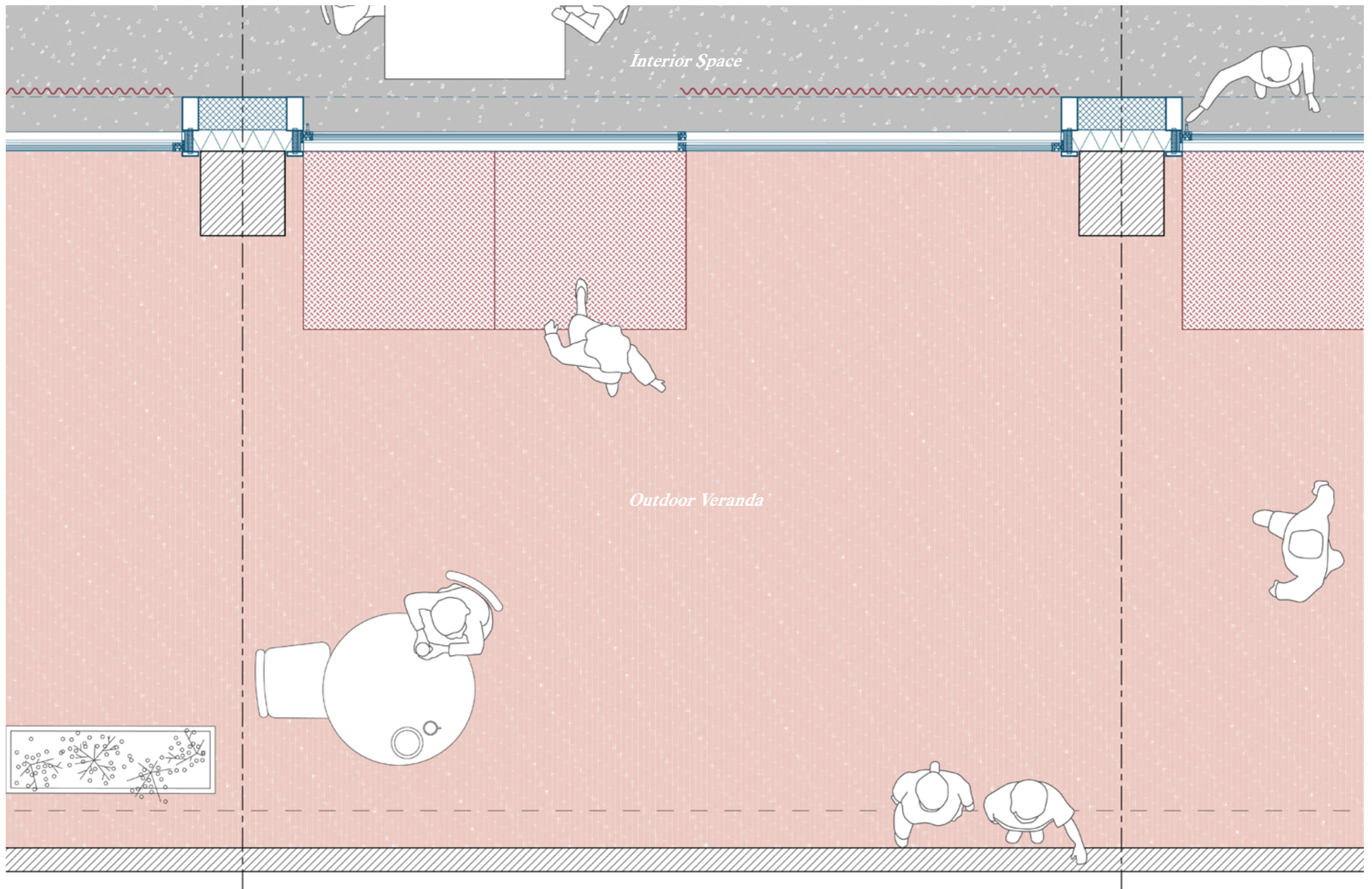
NEW FLOOR CONSTRUCTION

Interior

- Polished Concrete Floor t=20 mm
- Screeding t= 60 mm
- Phonic and Thermal Insulation t= 50mm
- Levelling concrete t= 10mm
- Existing Concrete Slab t=100 mm

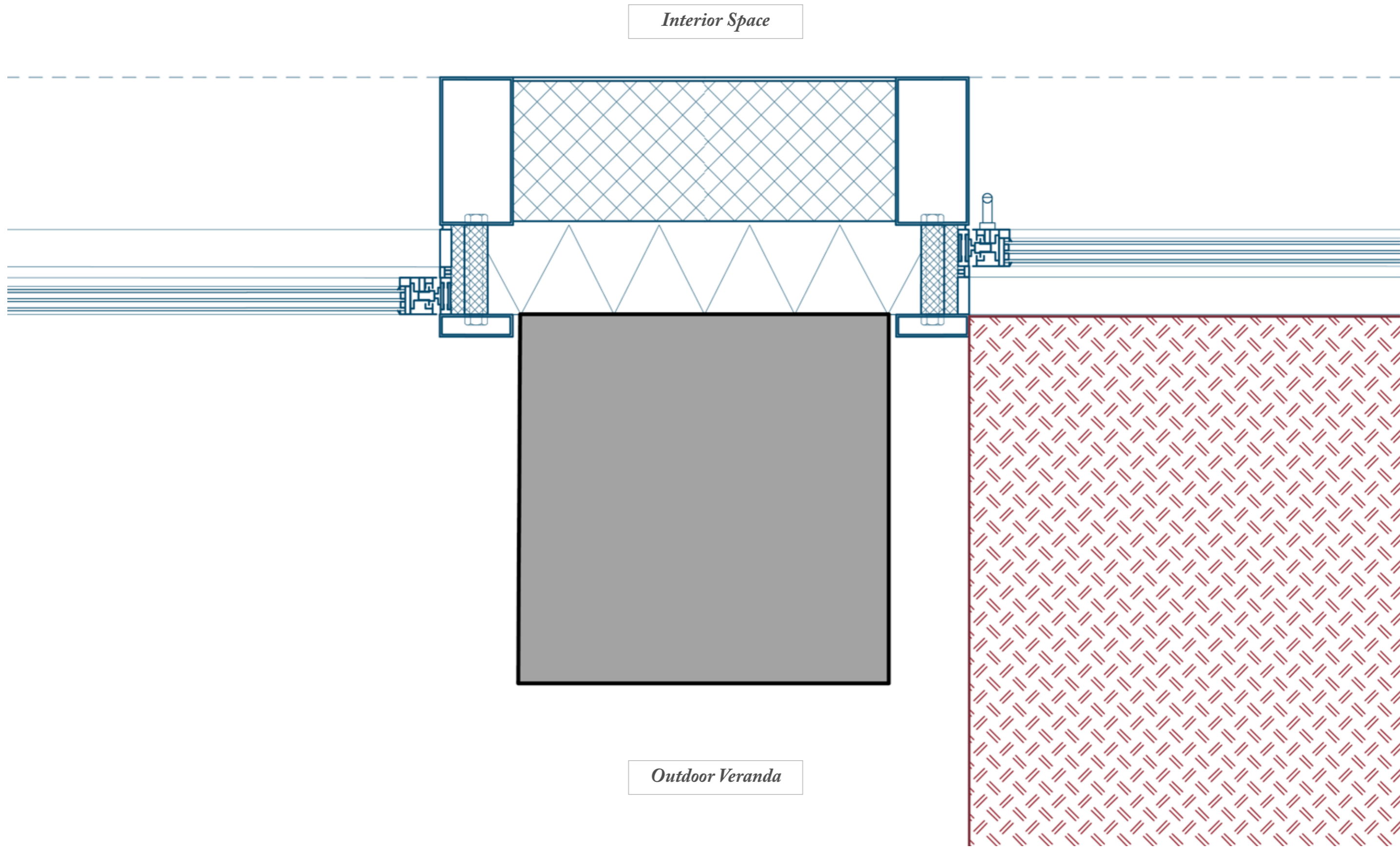
Exterior

- Container ramp to flush the threshold by Artists
- Red Paint by Artists on existing Concrete Slab
t=100mm

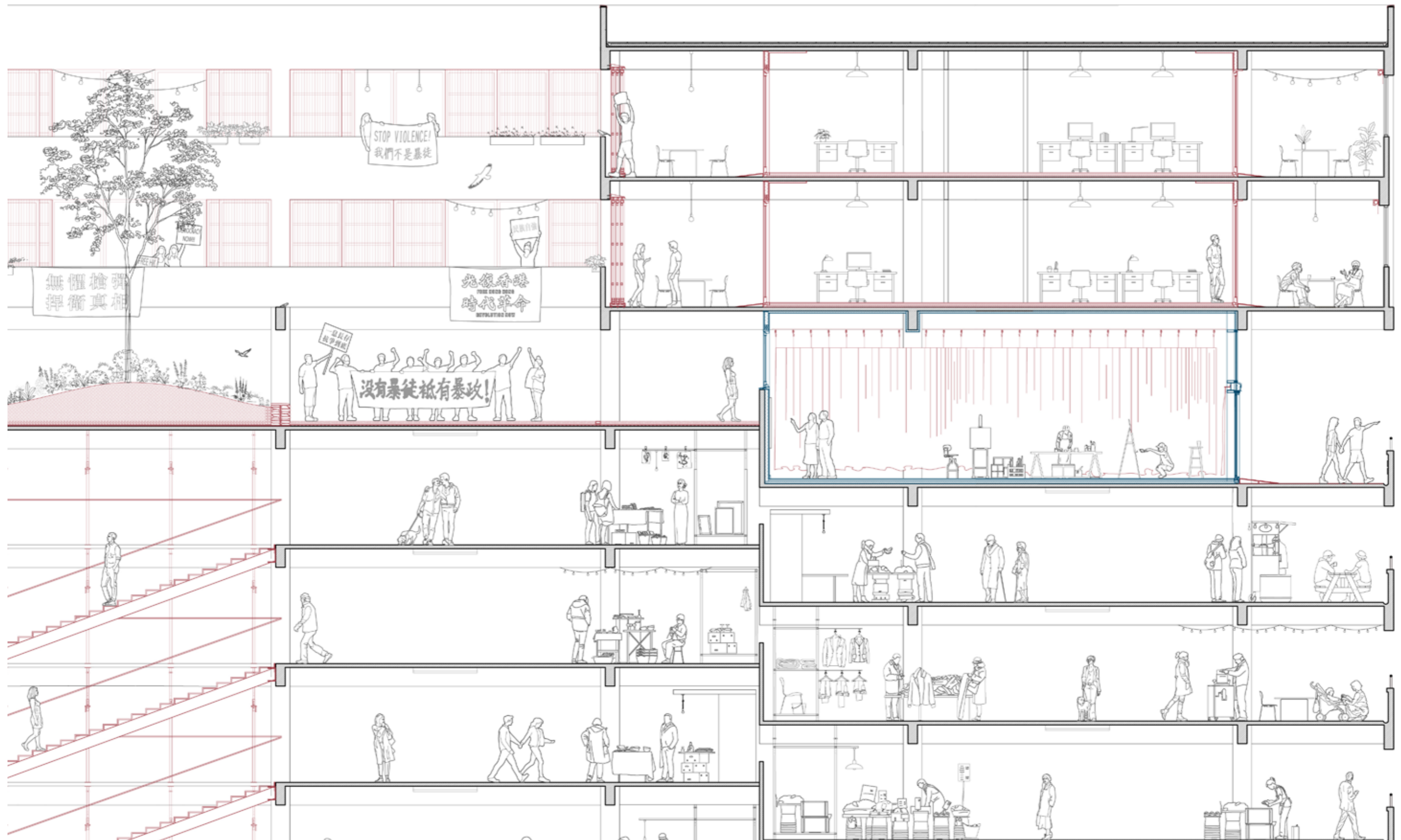


Interior Space

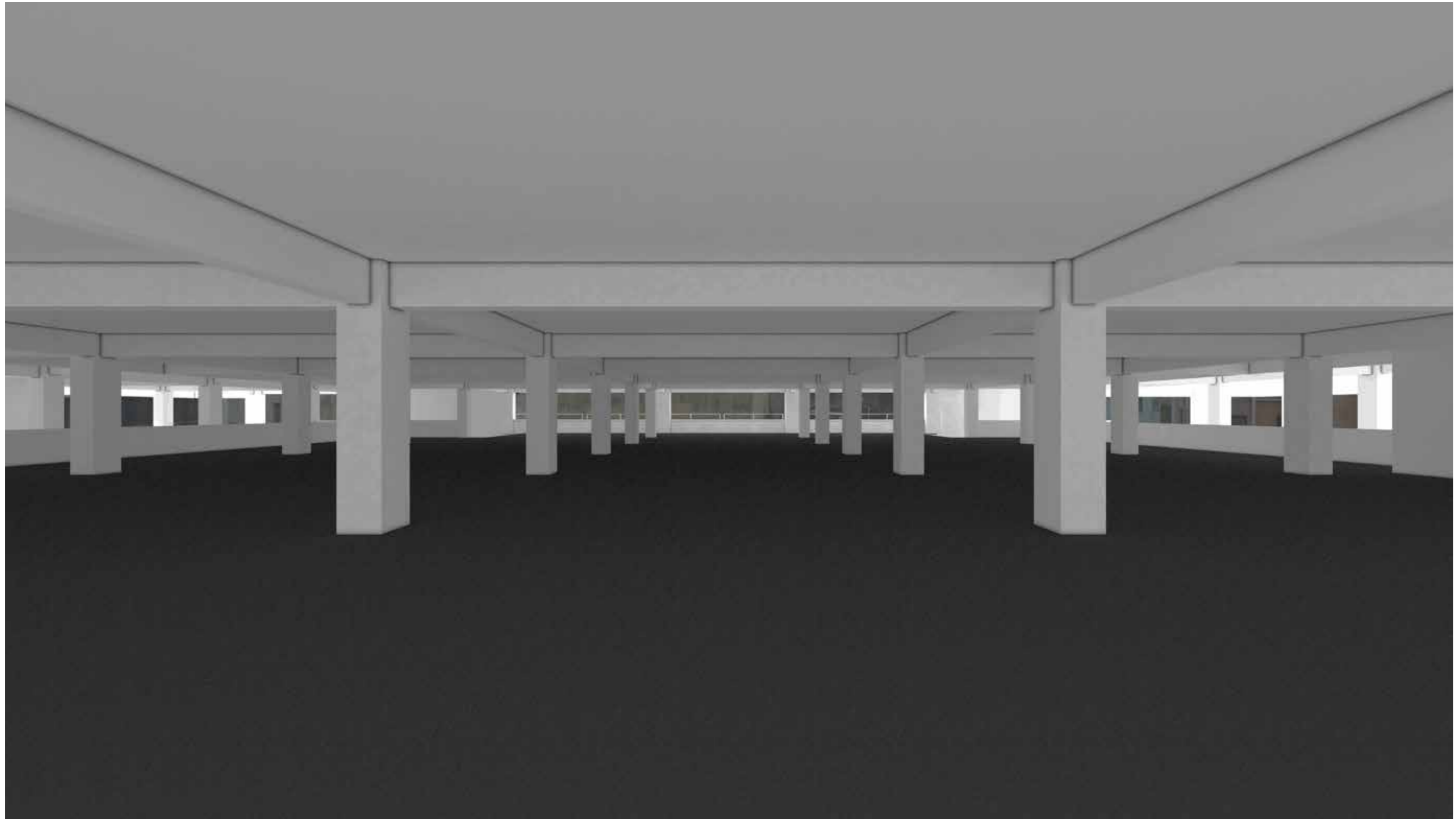
Outdoor Veranda



Exterior Facade and Column Detail
Details 1:5



Section 1:100
The Introverted Courtyard

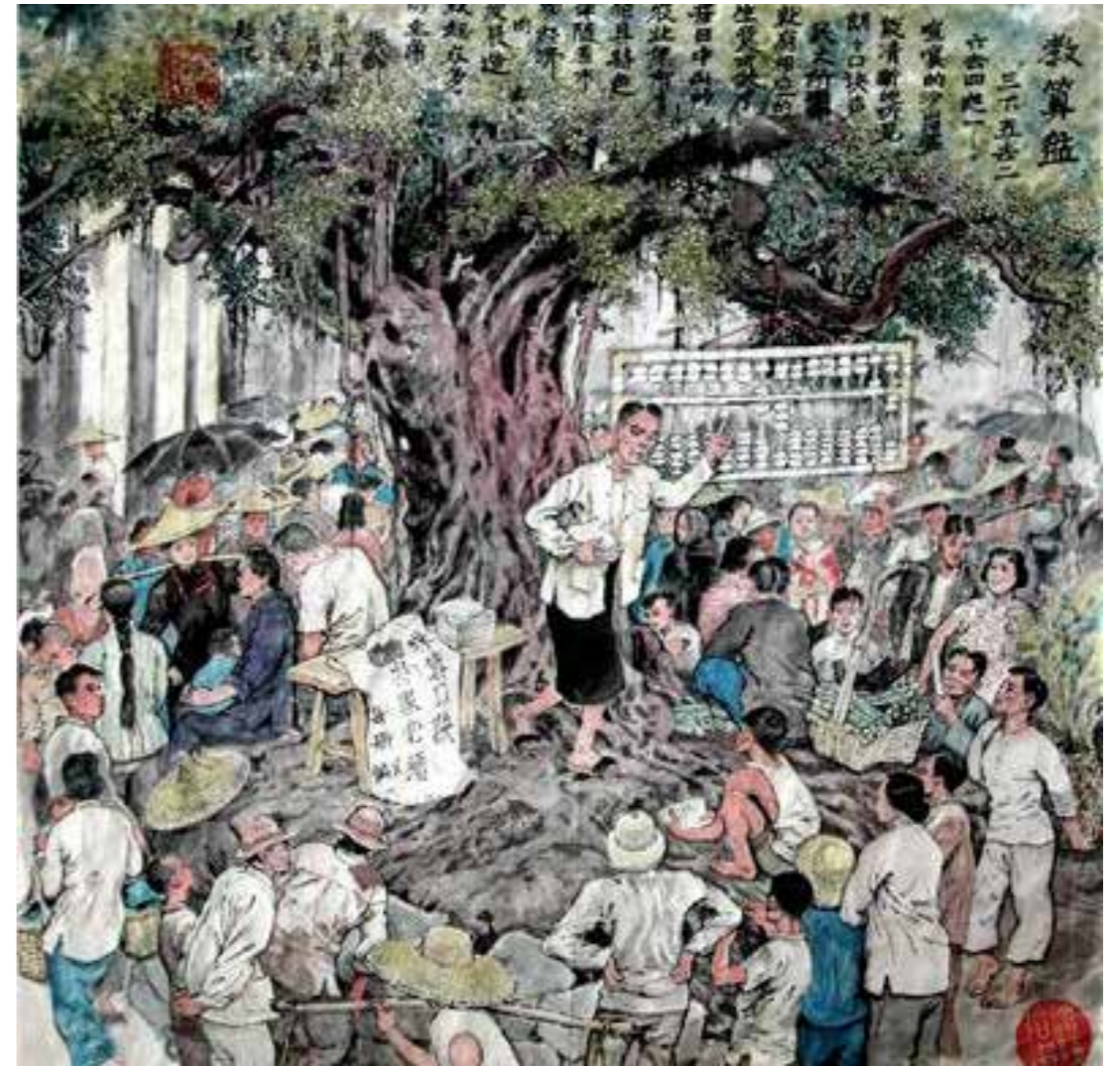




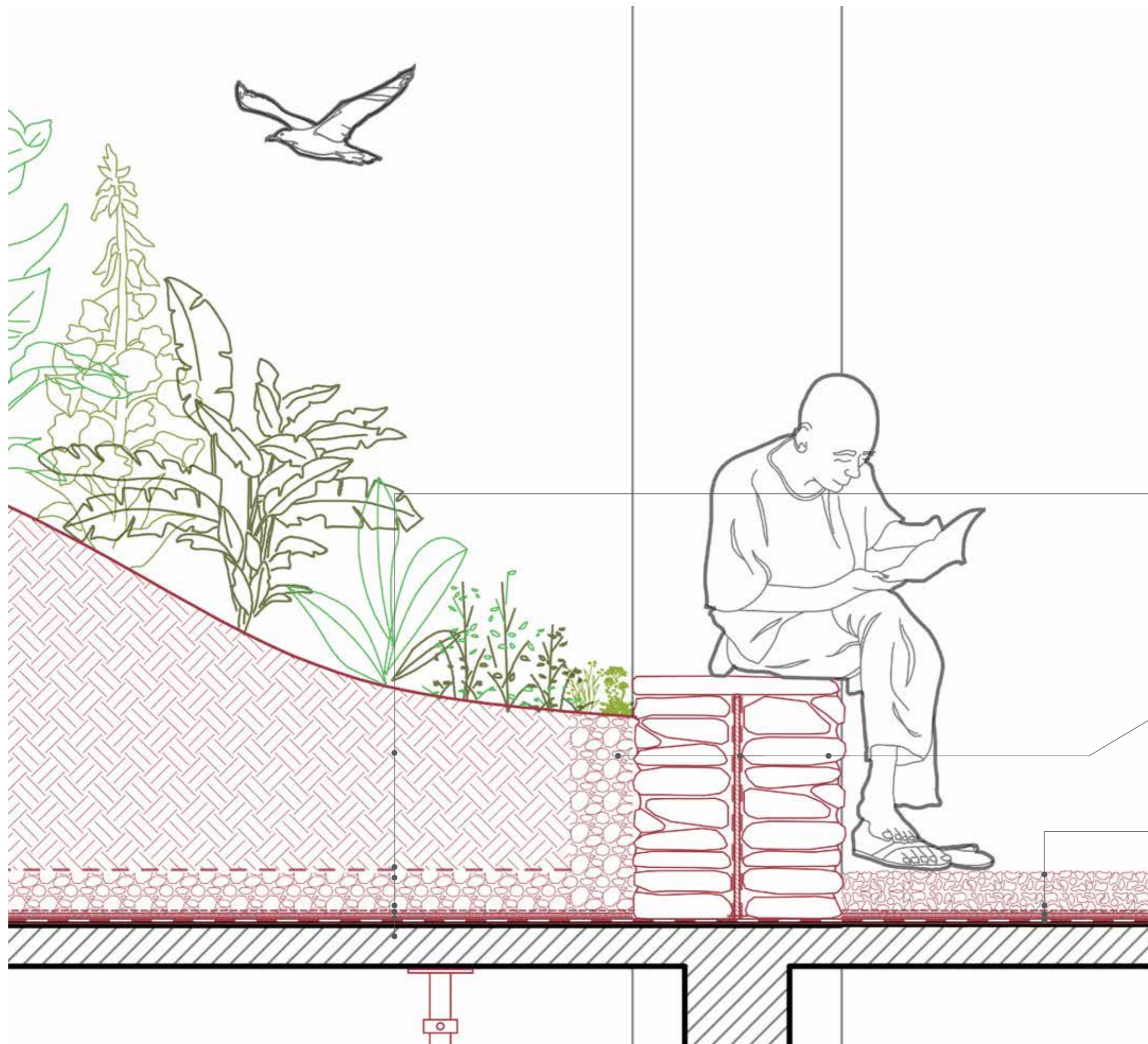




Screenshots from the Film from P1.



Drawing by Deng Zhen-ling



PATIO

Planter

1. Intensive Substrate (height varies from 400-900mm)
2. Filtering Layer
3. Crushed concrete as Drainage Layer (100 mm)
4. Geotextyle protection layer
5. PE separating and protective layer
6. Bitumen vapour barrier that also forms root Barrier
7. Existing Concrete Slab 100mm

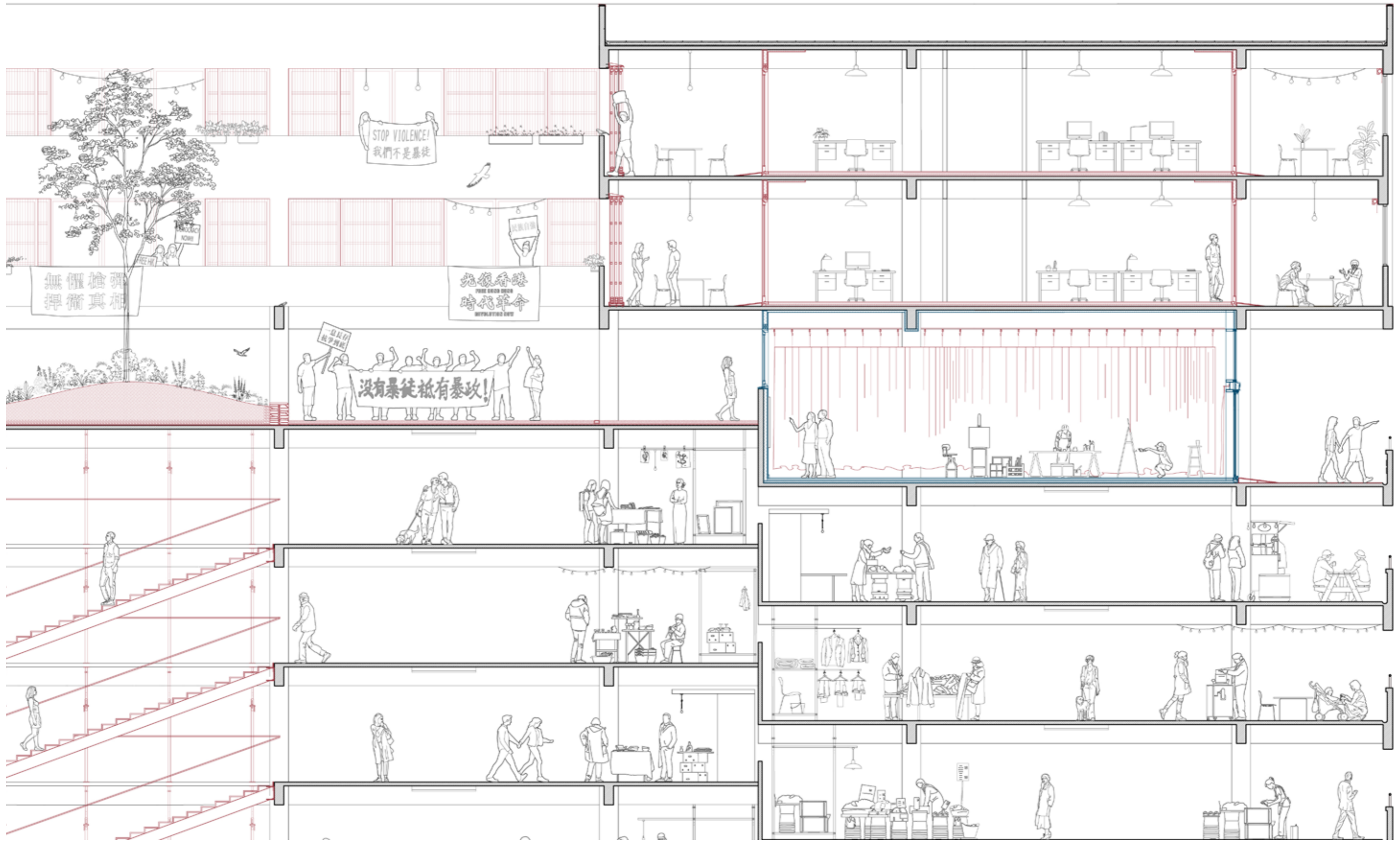
Planter Retaining Wall/ Seating

8. Crushed concrete lumps that restricts root growth
9. Protection board
10. Crushed concrete from demolished slab mortared in place as Seating

Floor

11. Crushed concrete from demolished slab t=90mm
12. Filter cloth
13. Protective layer
14. Vapour barrier

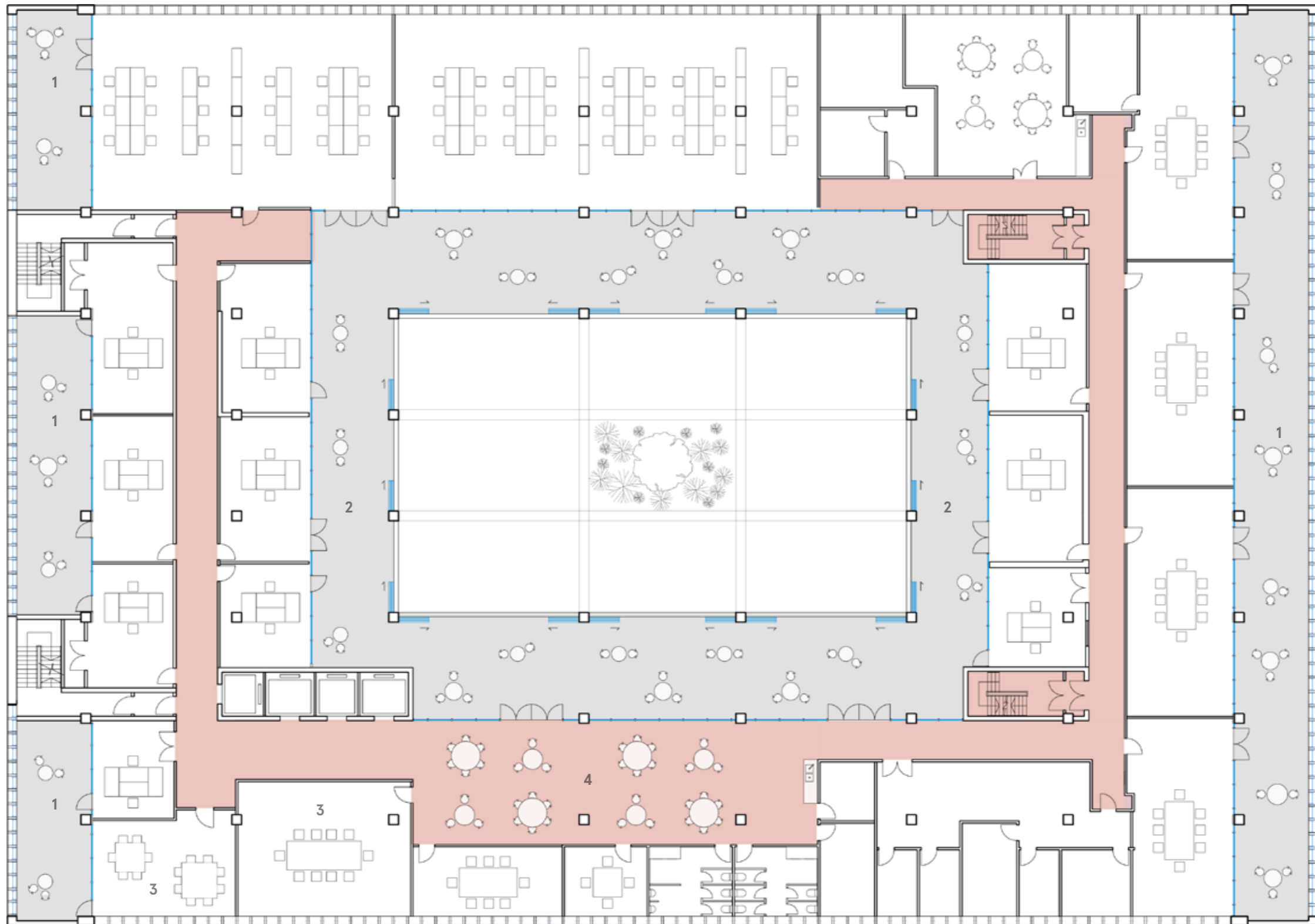


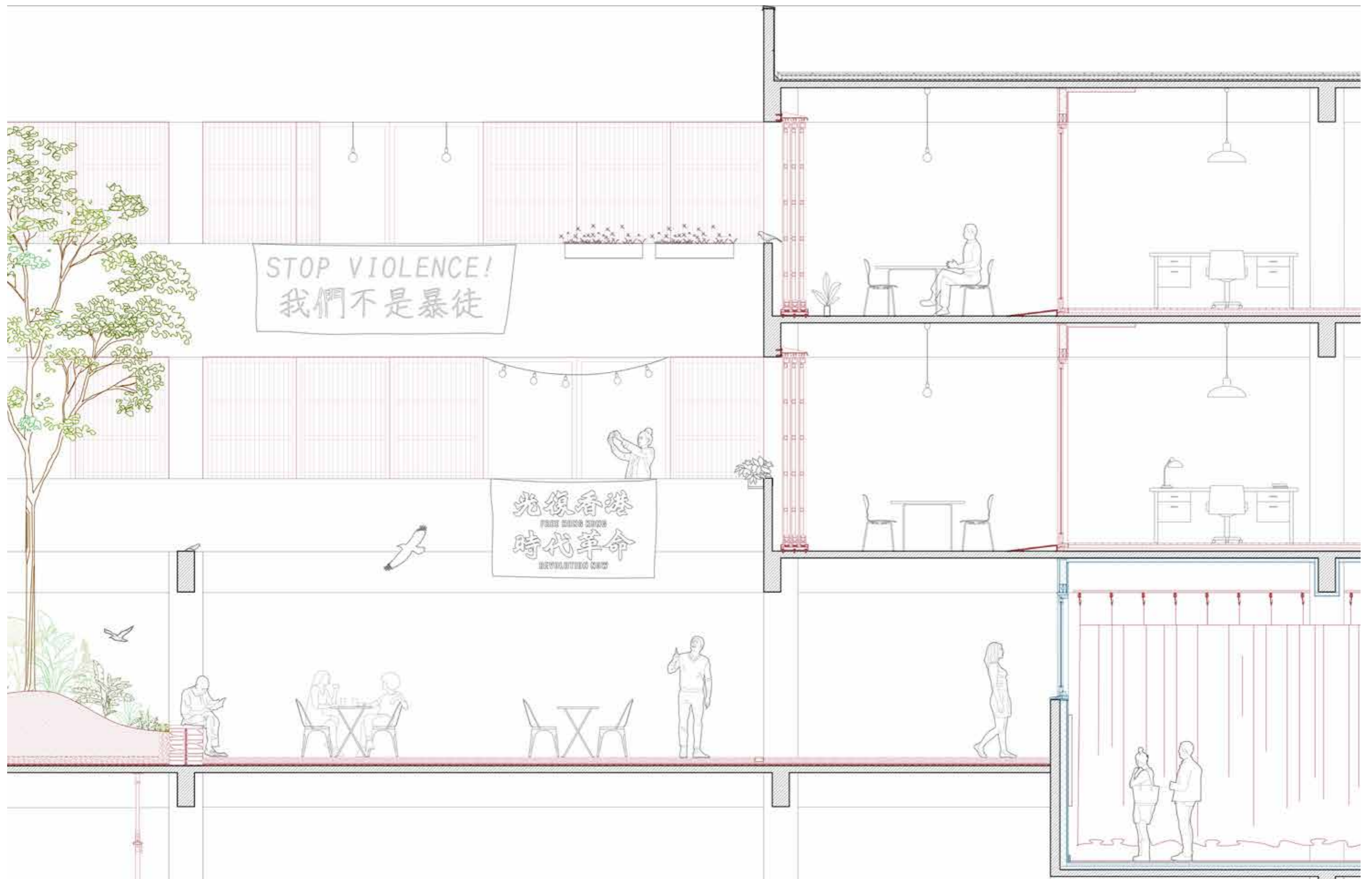


To bring the buffer zone idea above
Section 1:100

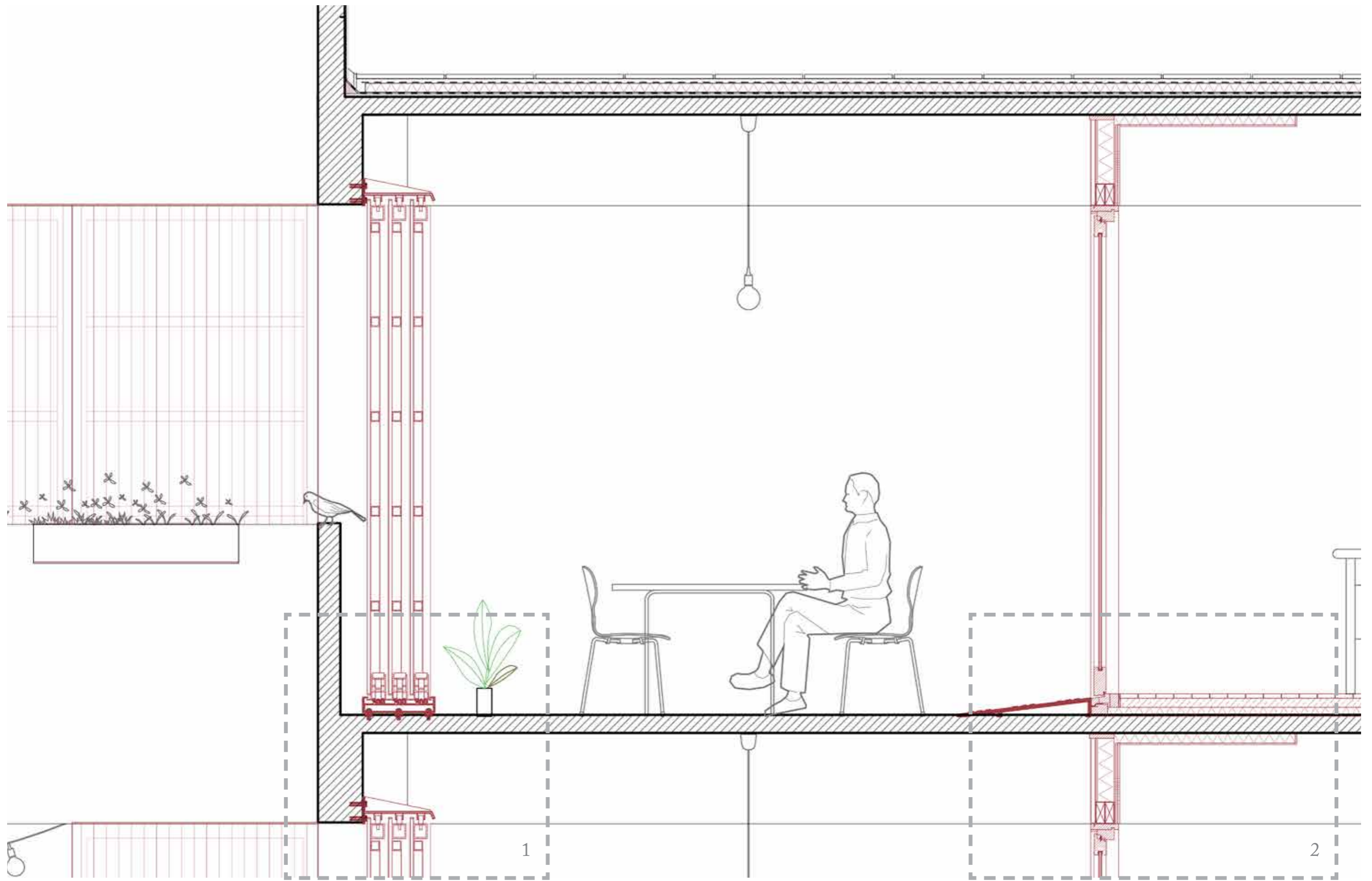


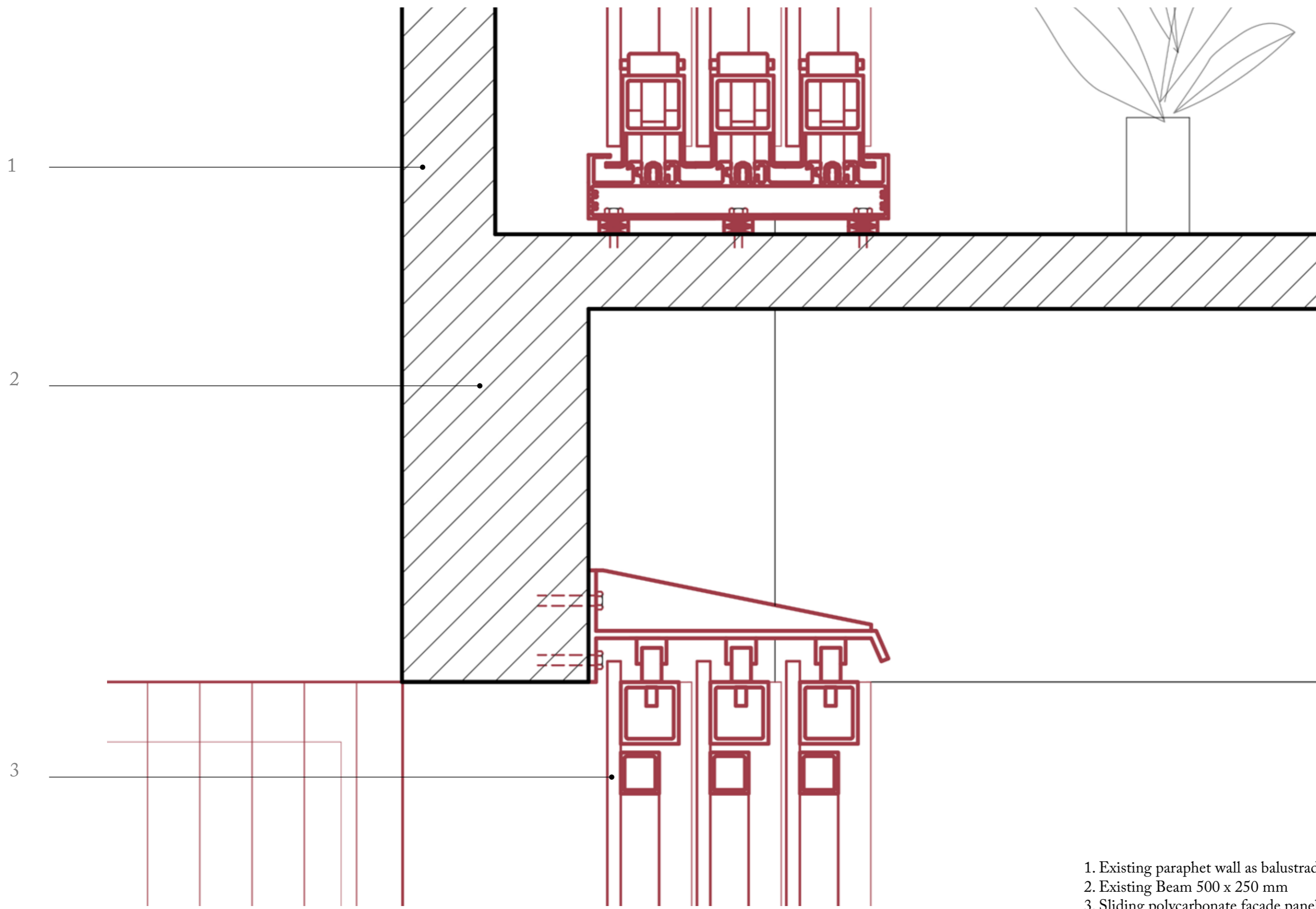






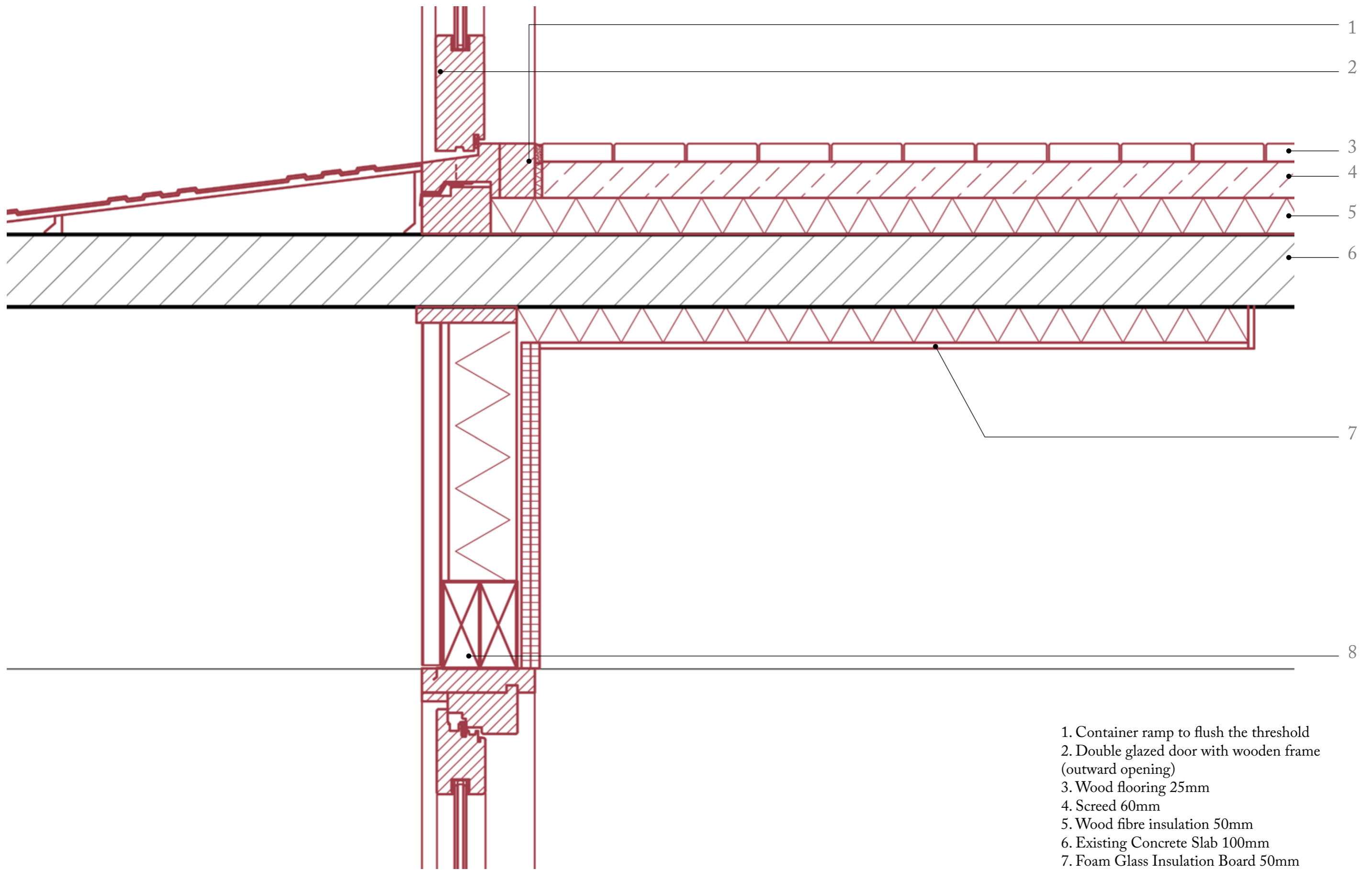
Interactive Courtyard
Details 1:50





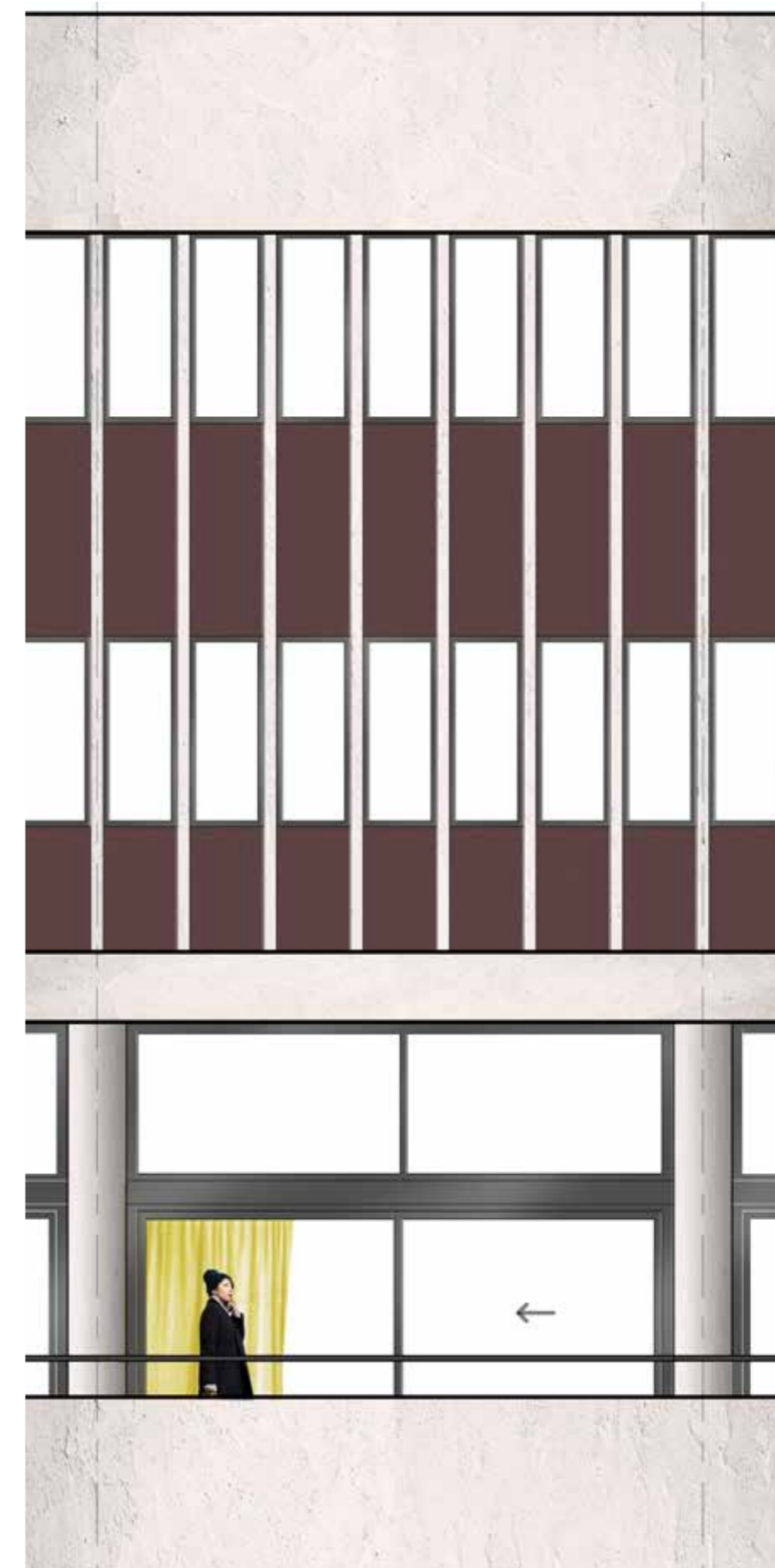
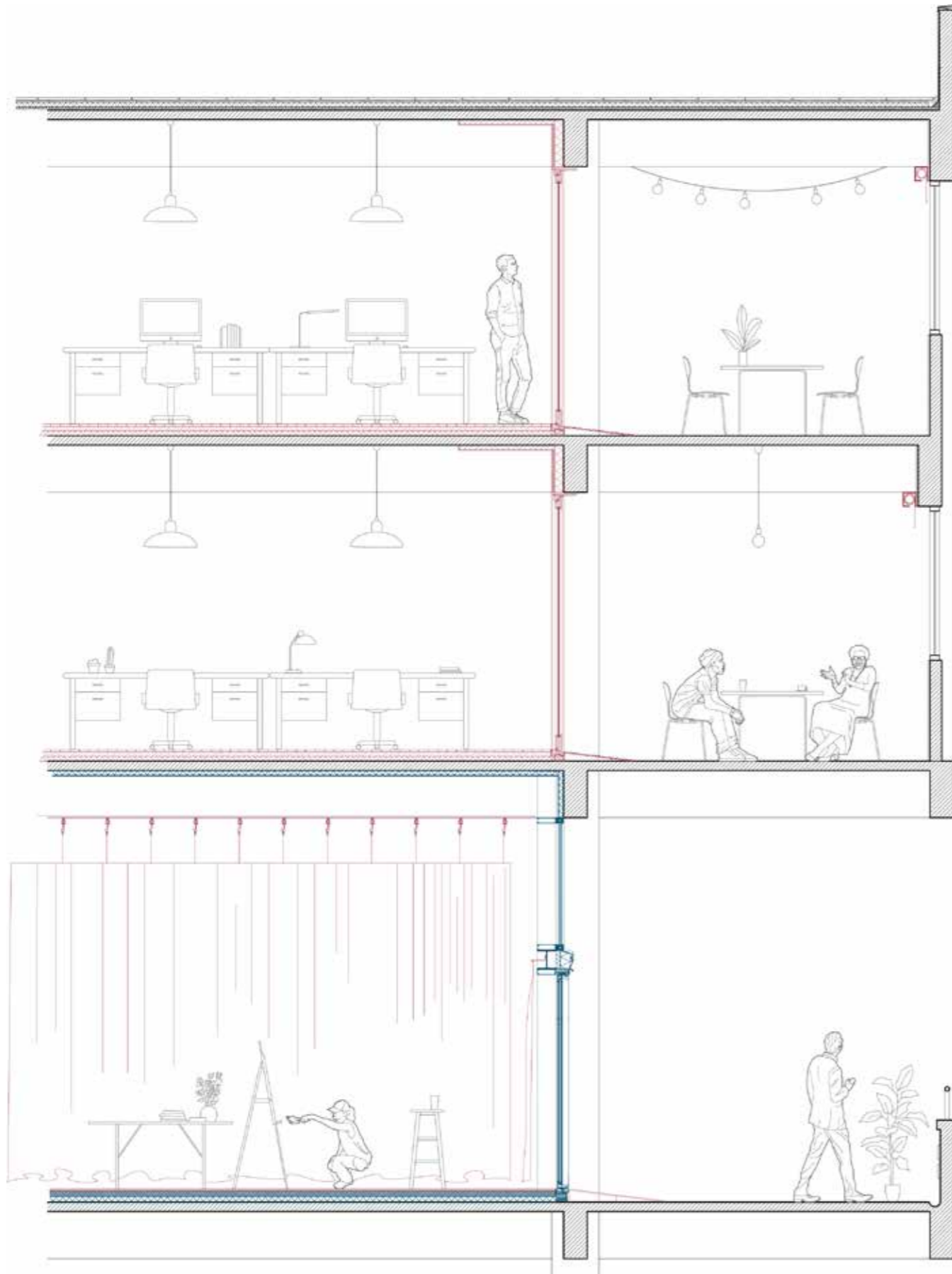
- 1. Existing parapet wall as balustrade
- 2. Existing Beam 500 x 250 mm
- 3. Sliding polycarbonate facade panels on Steel tubular profiles

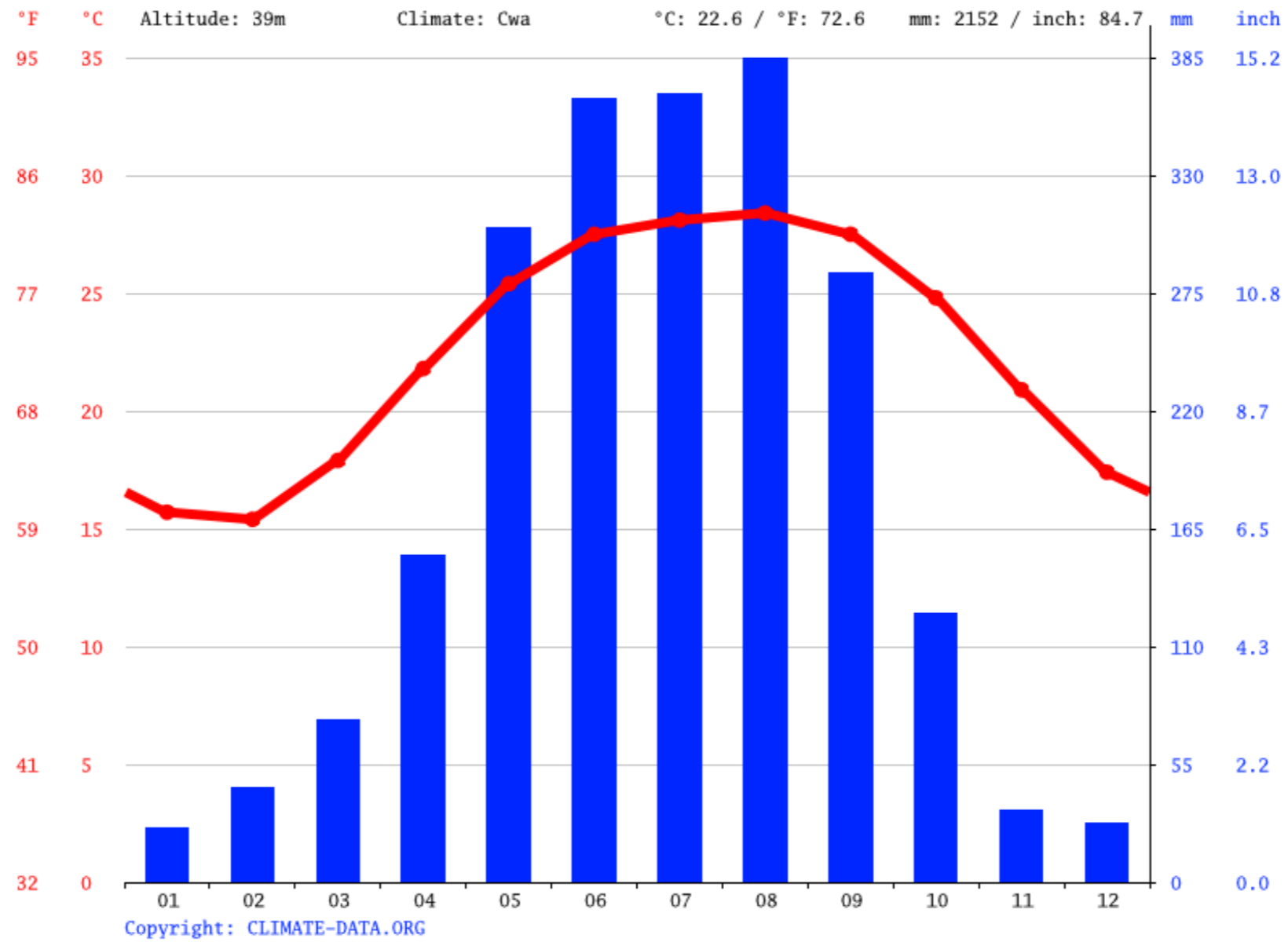
Detail 1 | Offices | Facade Detail of Sliding Polycarbonate Panels
 Facade Details 1:5



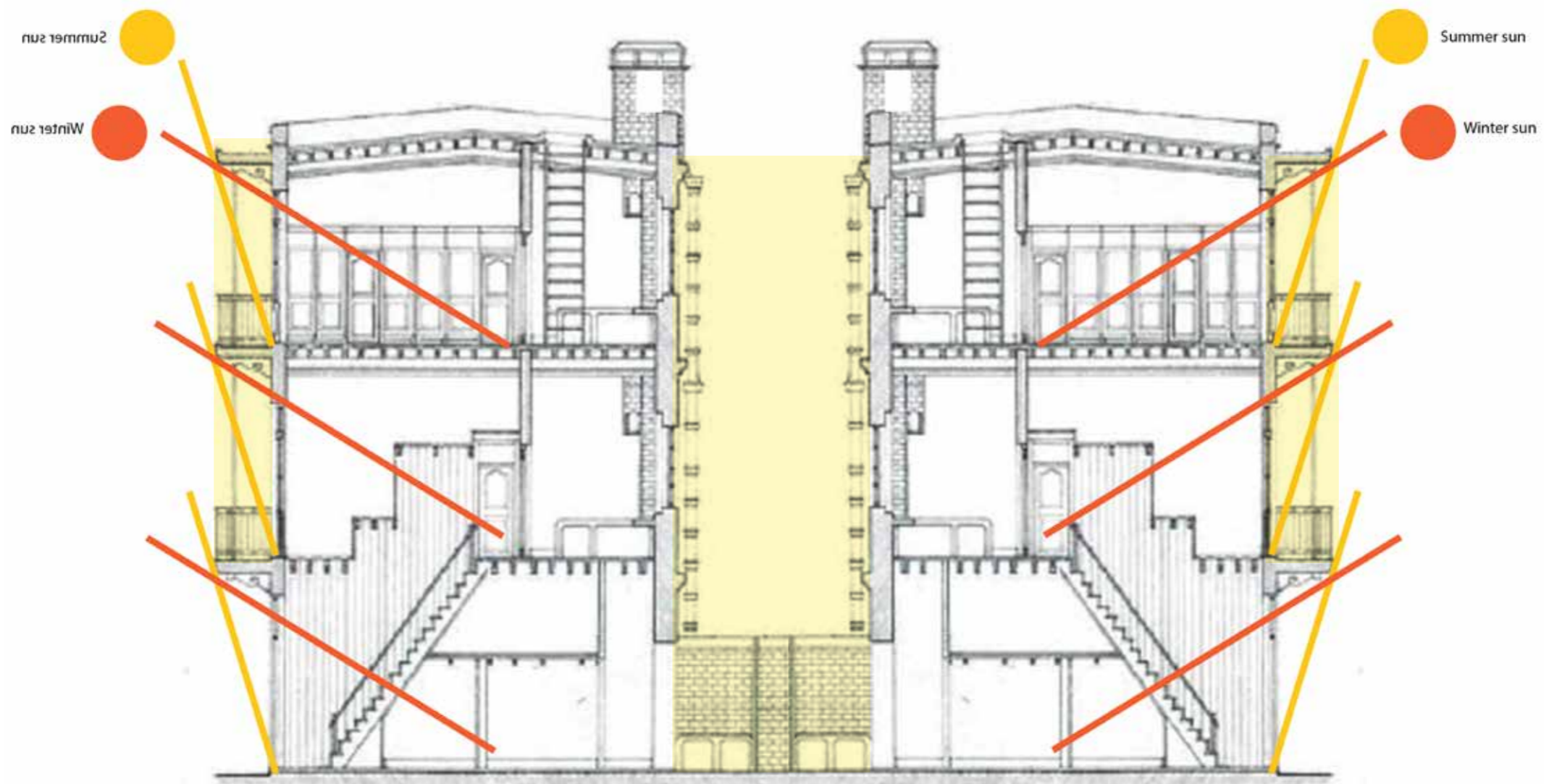
1. Container ramp to flush the threshold
2. Double glazed door with wooden frame (outward opening)
3. Wood flooring 25mm
4. Screed 60mm
5. Wood fibre insulation 50mm
6. Existing Concrete Slab 100mm
7. Foam Glass Insulation Board 50mm covering 1 meter in the horizontal direction (To eliminate the thermal bridge caused by existing construction)
8. Sandwich Panel Header

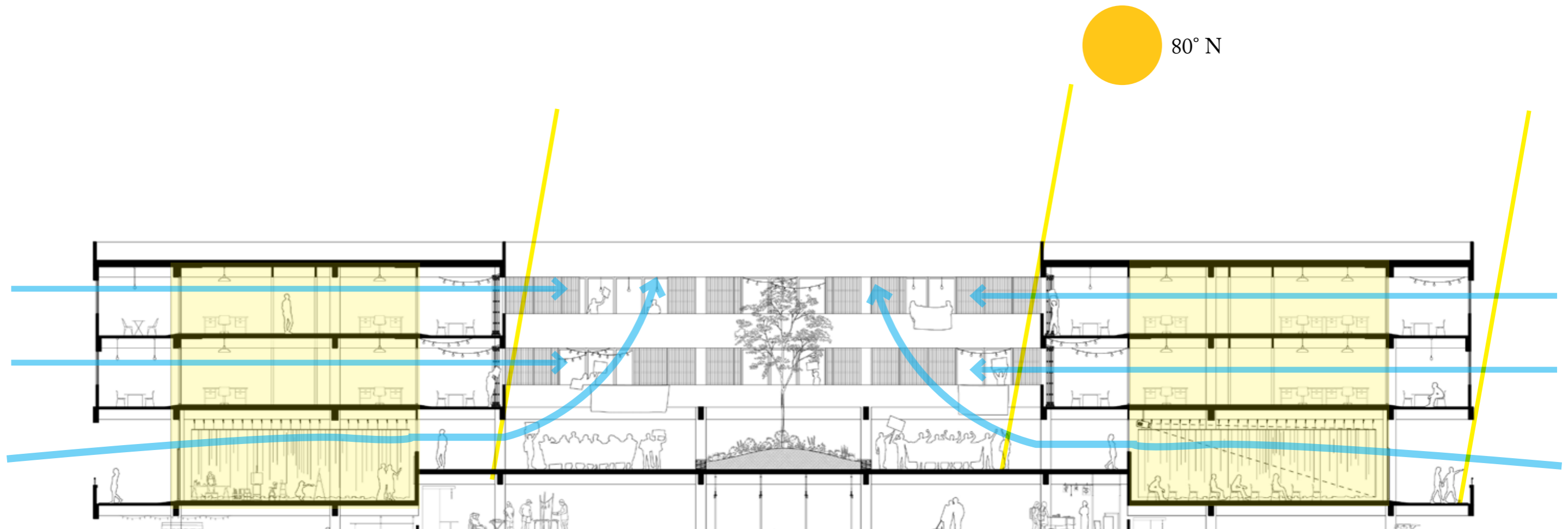
Detail 2 | Offices | Threshold between buffer zone and indoor spaces
Facade Details 1:5



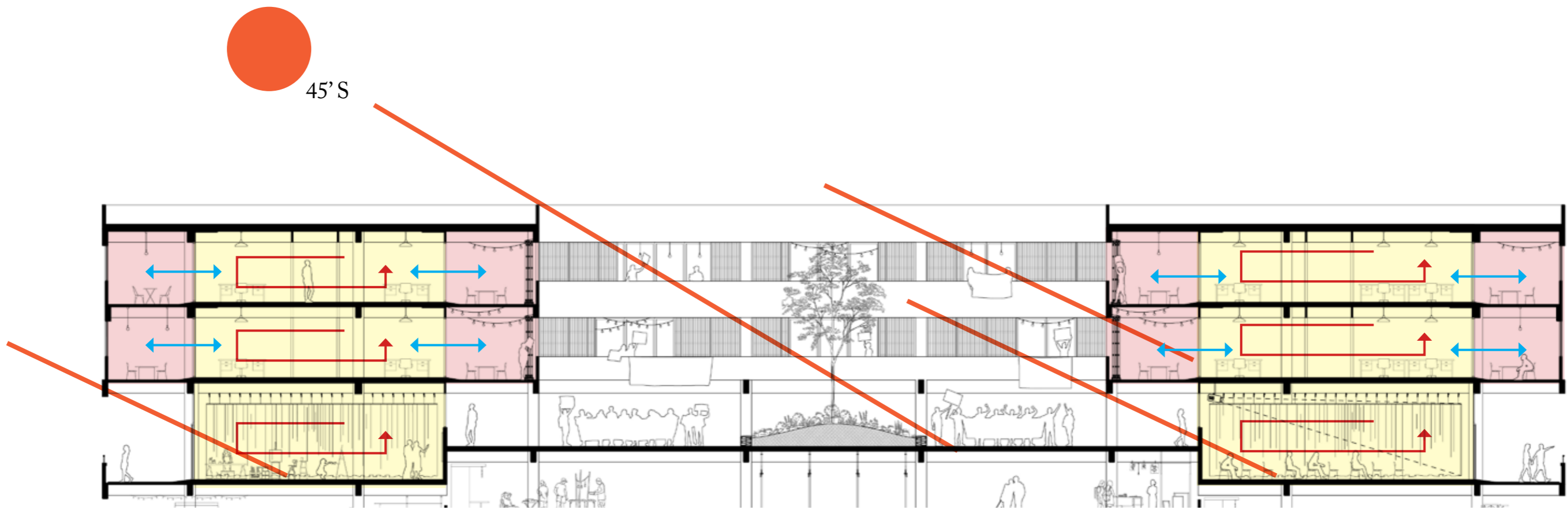


Sub-tropical Climate
 Temperature ranges from 28°C - 15 °C.



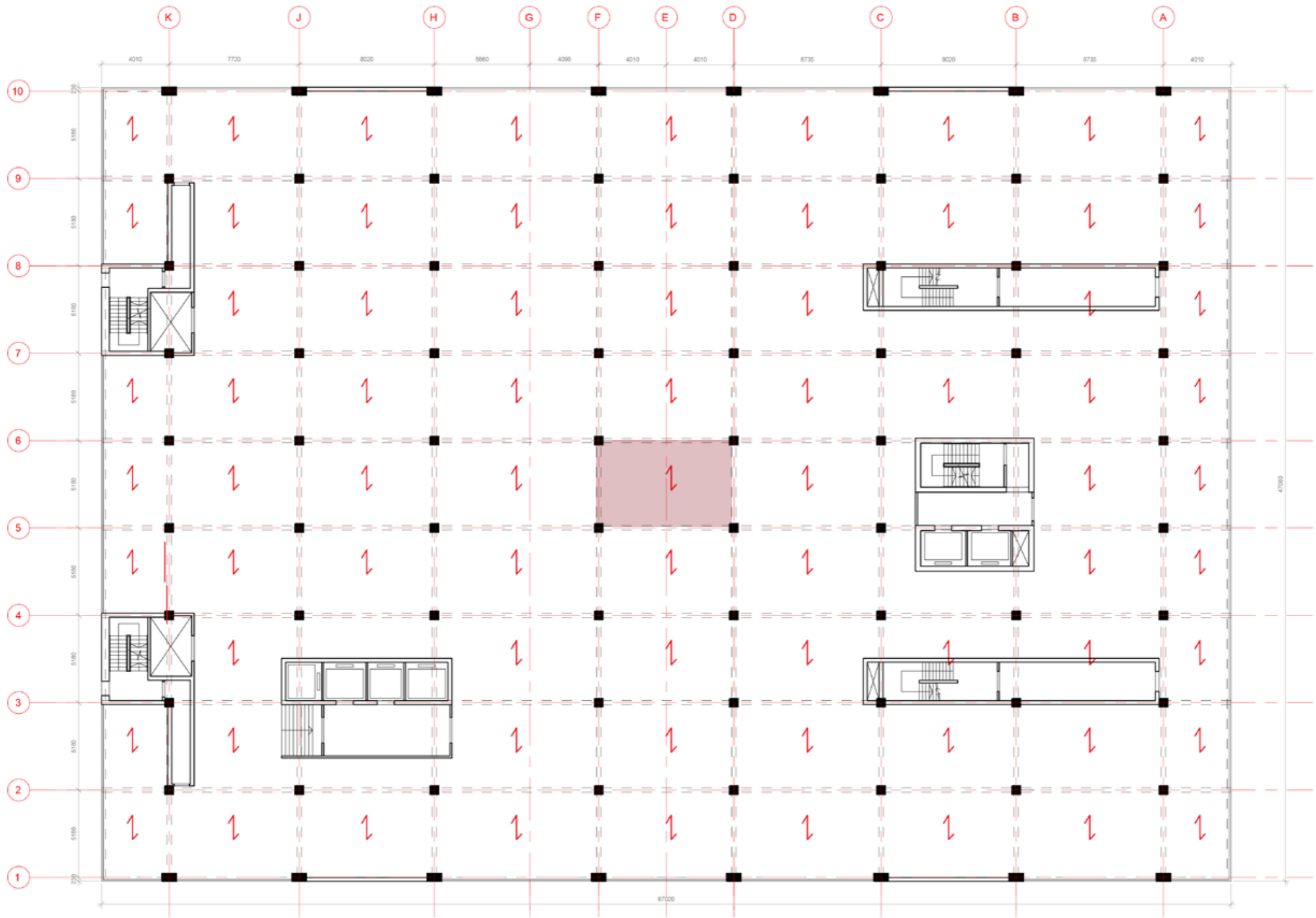


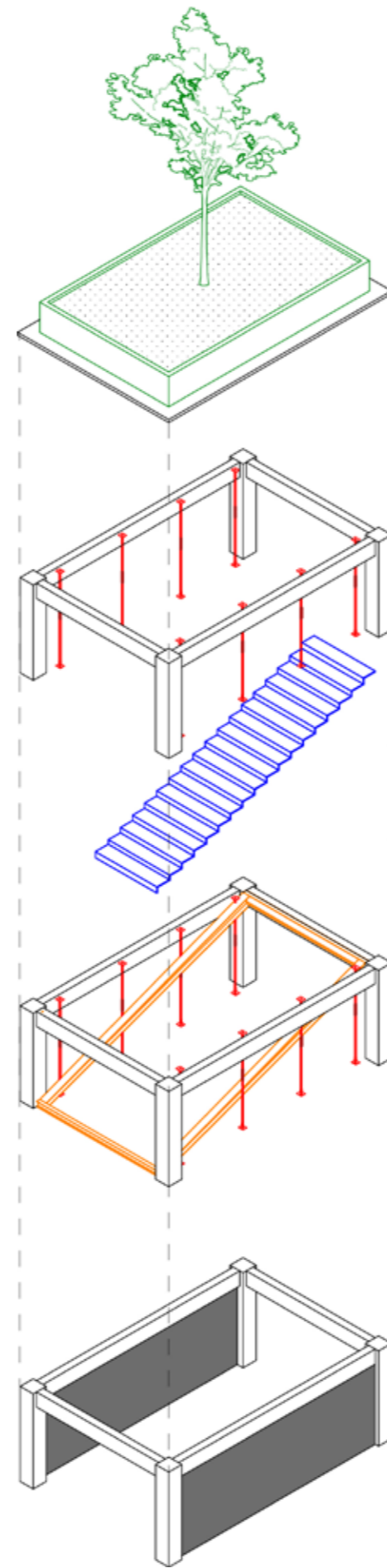
1. Natural cross ventilation across all spaces direct/ through buffer zones.
2. Overhangs at both sides prevents the insulated rooms from overheating
3. Deciduous Trees provide shades of excess sunlight
+ provides cooling effect in the courtyard



1. Deciduous Tree Loses Leaves at Winter,
Allow Solar Penetration into the Intermediate Spaces
2. The “greenhouse” polycarbonate facade will preheat the air in the intermediate zone
3. Natural ventilation from preheated buffer zone lowers offices’ energy consumption for heating







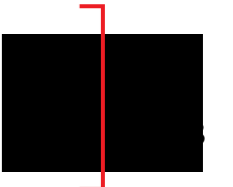
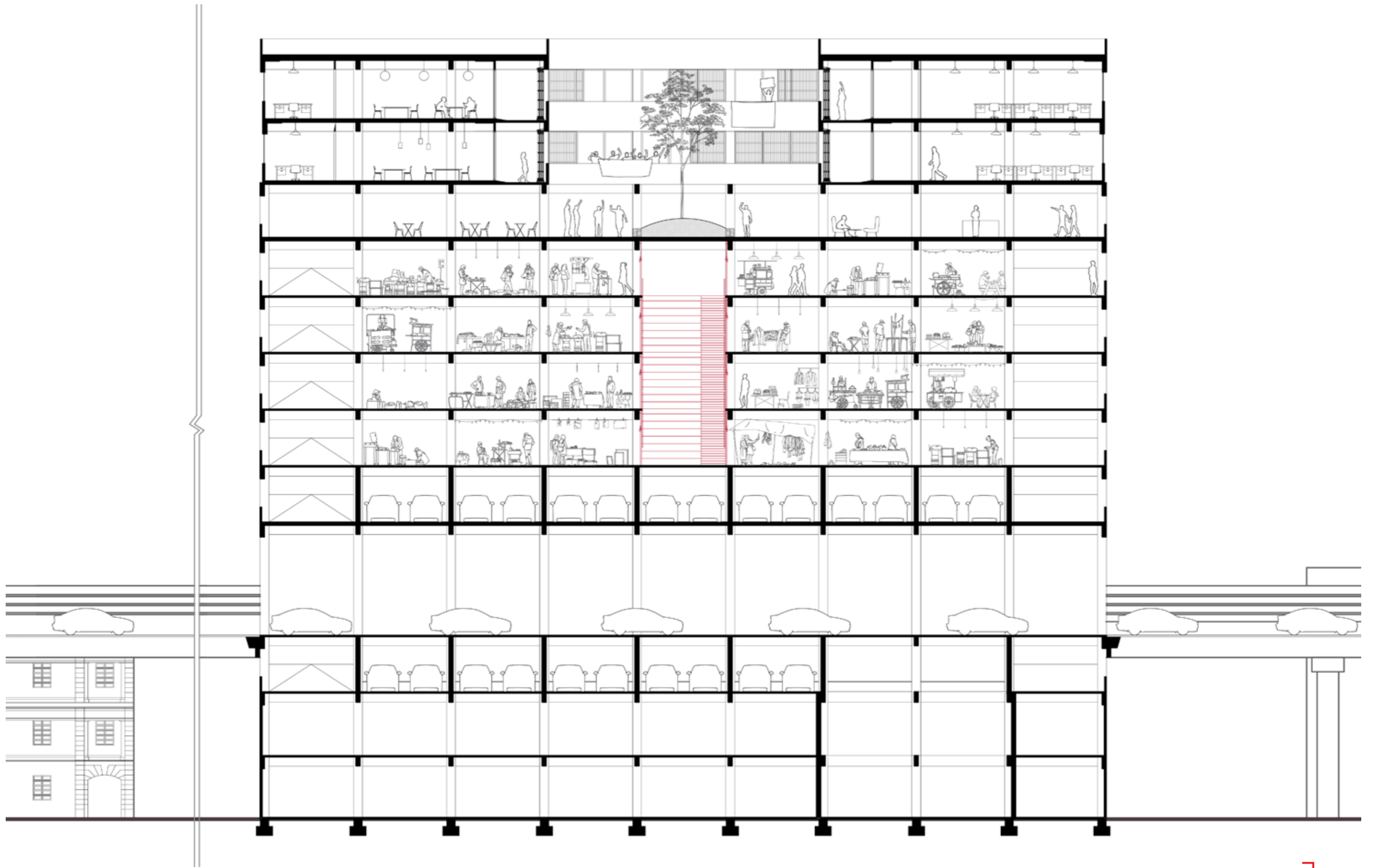
Planter

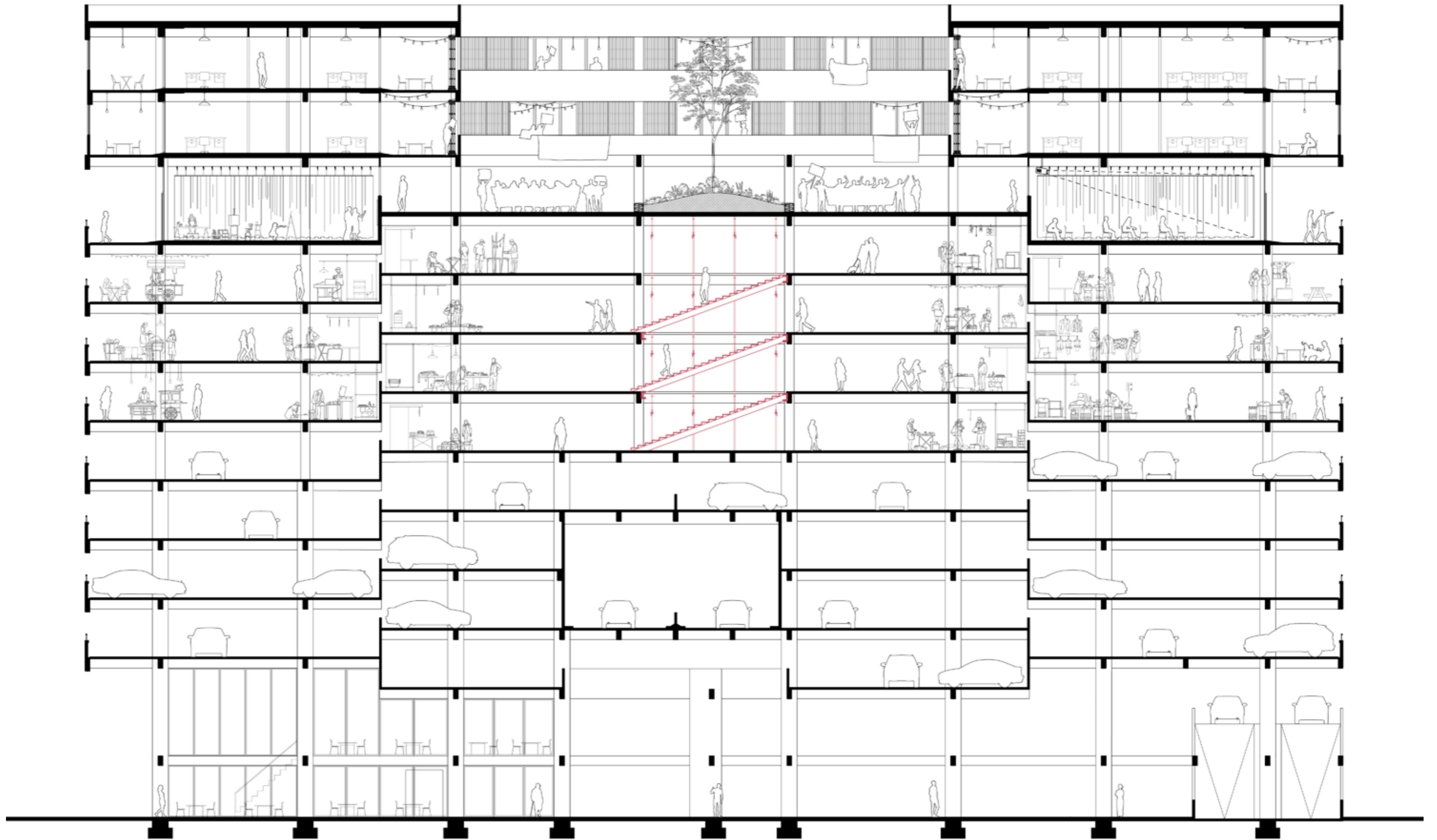
Acrow Steel Props supporting the overloaded Slab

Steel beam “diagonally bracing” frame for stairs

Retaining walls at car park levels

Structural principle for Load transfer and Reinforcing





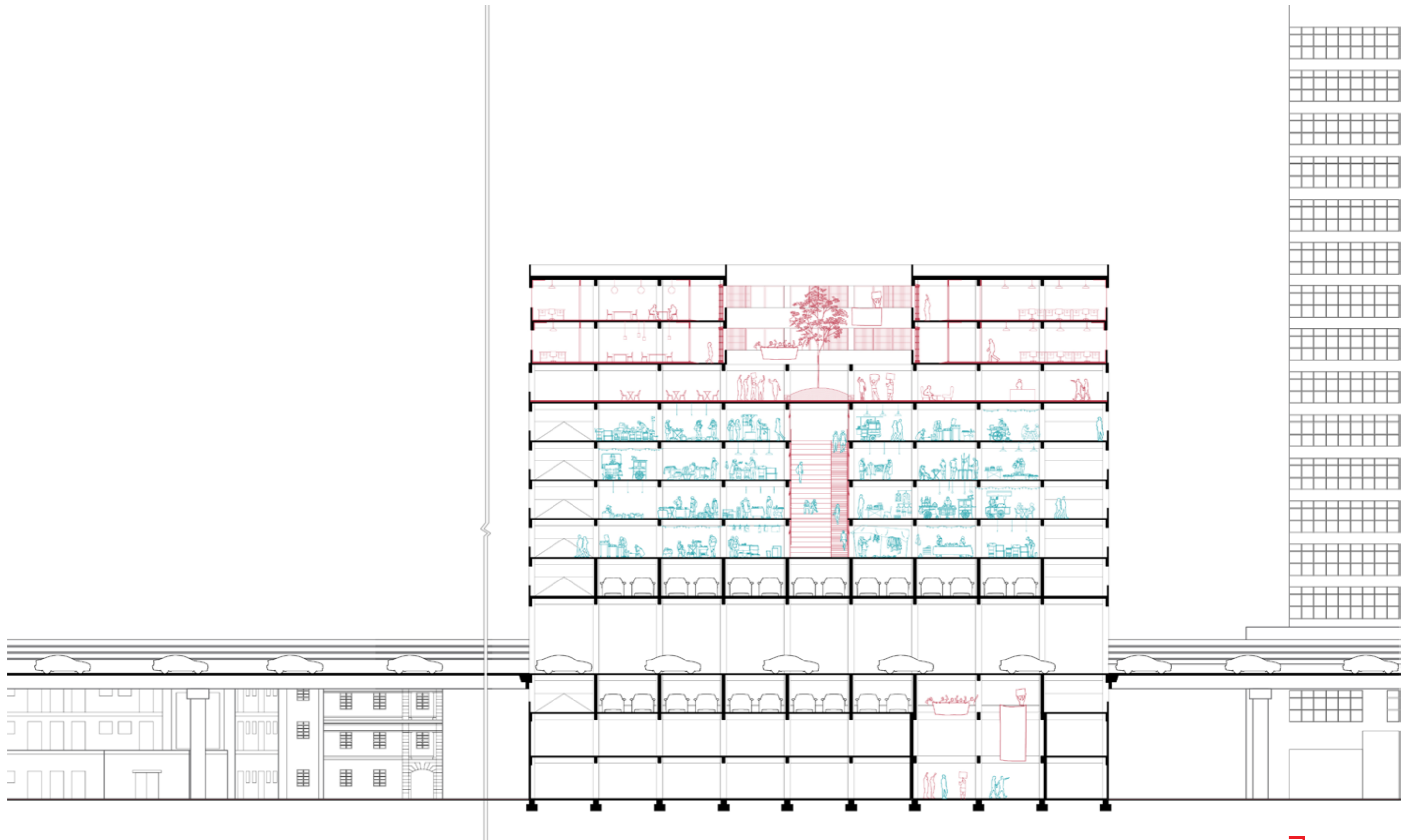
Anchoring the bottom-up community against the authority



06. Breaking the silence

Be water, my friend

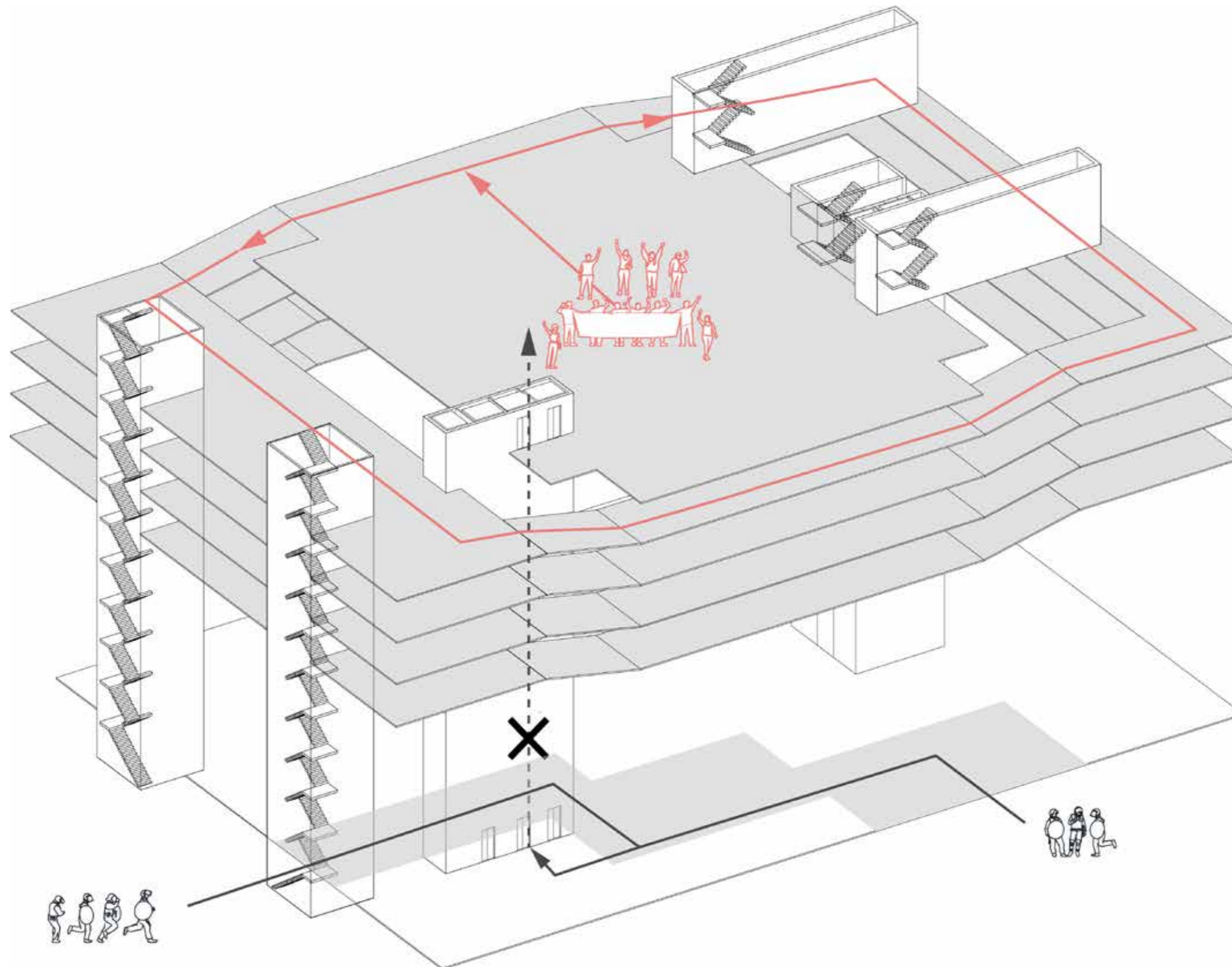


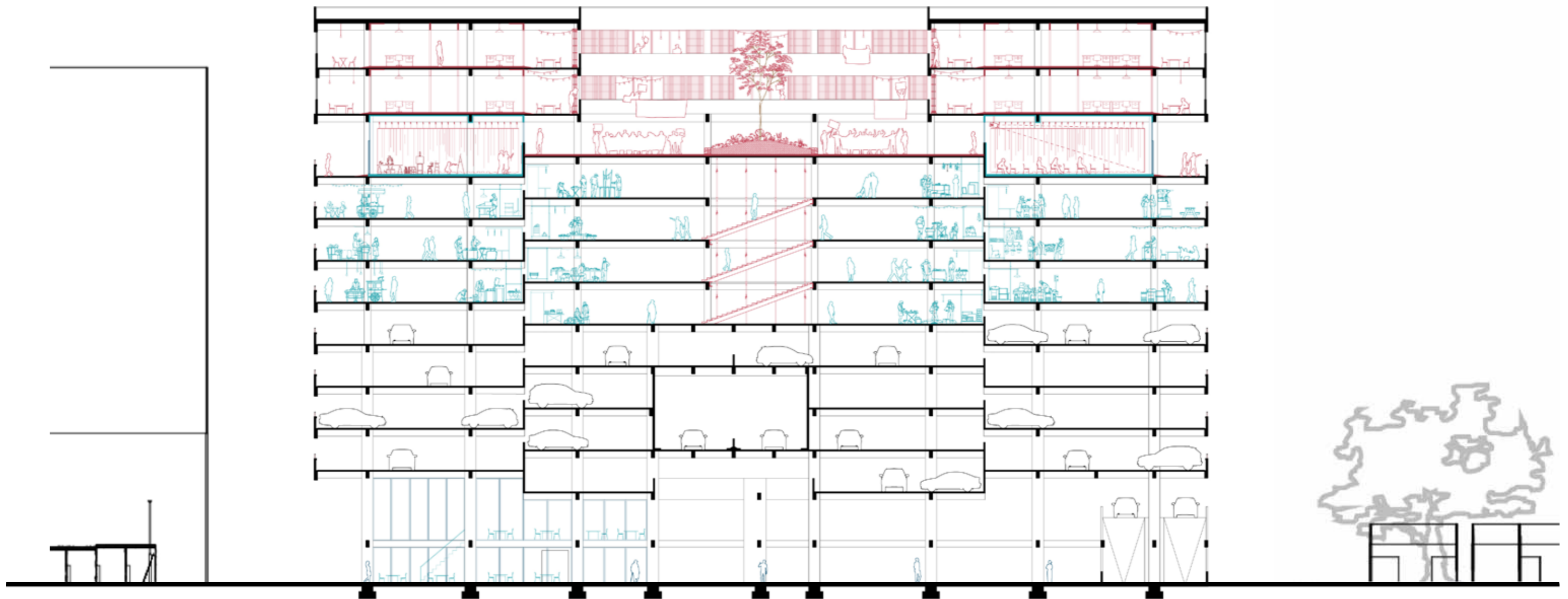




Protest happens in the introverted courtyard,
a secret gathering spot







Conclusion



Reflection



**“Sometimes the reply is to build a lot.
Sometimes it’s to build a little.
Sometimes it’s to build nothing; to do nothing.”**

- Jean-Philippe Vassal, 2015.



Thank you