

drawing architecture

*The transformation of an industrial hall
into living and working spaces*

Urban Architecture Graduation Studio

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introduction

Drawing architecture is a graduation project which tries to explore the existing situation of a former factory site in Antwerp and proposes a new use of the structure. It focuses on the act of drawing - understanding the existing qualities and using them as driving forces for the new project.

About Blikfabriek

A very important clue in the design of the masterplan was to understand the urban scale relationships between Blikfabriek and the rest of the neighbourhood. The inhabitants are attached to the industrial heritage, but they still see it as an inaccessible island. Our goal was to break the barriers and to allow the inhabitants of Hoboken to explore the public realm of Blikfabriek.

During the past years, a community of artists has taken over some of the industrial halls. They have built temporary ateliers and they are organizing multiple events. Most of the artists are at the beginning of their journey and they need visibility to sell their artwork. Also, many of them work with leftover materials that they can find on the streets and they share common beliefs promoting sustainability.



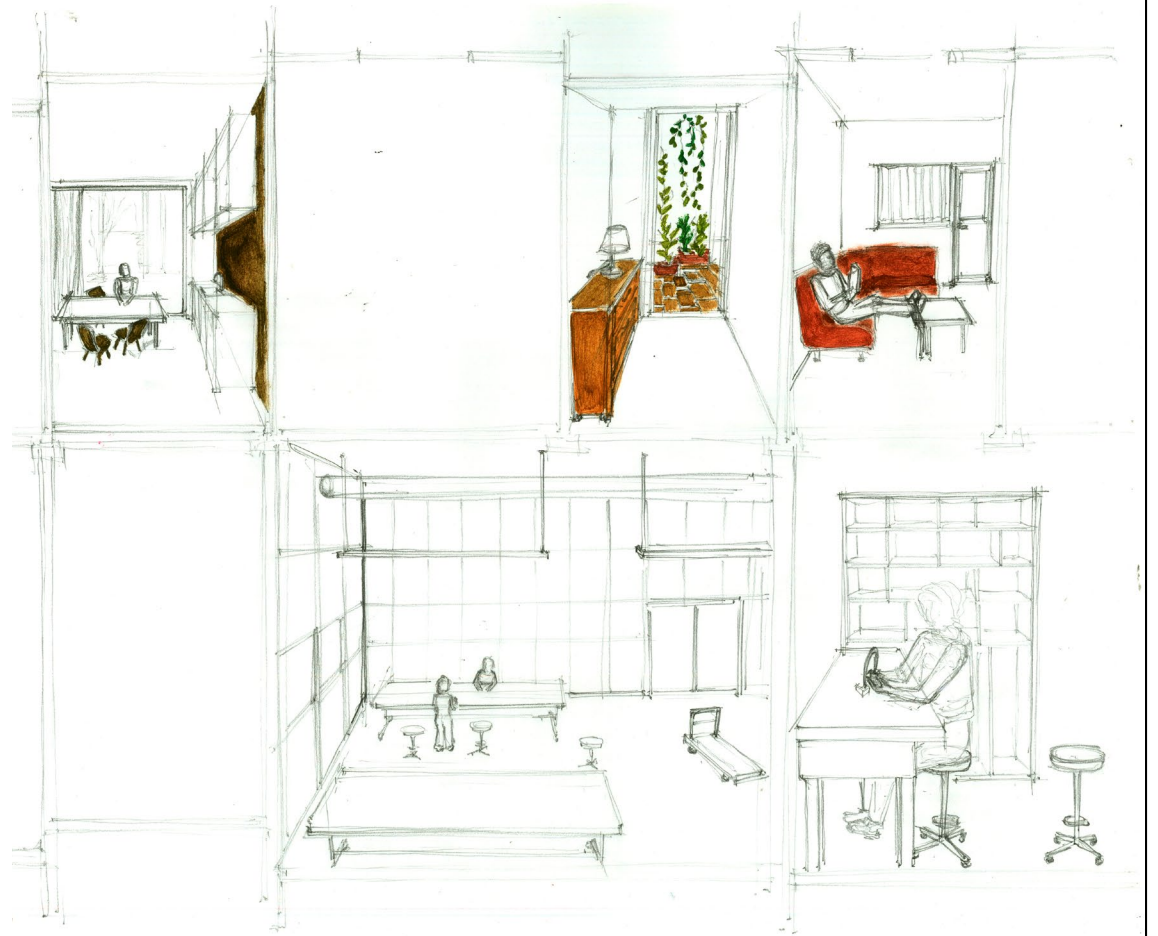
photograph taken from the inside of one of the abandoned factory halls

living & working

For the new design, I saw the potential in creating a mixed living and working condition within the existing structure. By incorporating housing units, the function relates to the neighboring houses which have been neglected during the industrial expansion.

My aim was to carefully identify the materials that can be reused and to superimpose the new function following the logic of the existing structure. In all of the spaces that I created there is an increased flexibility and an invitation for new uses. The living units have more comfort, light, and more generous spaces than in standard apartments, especially for the living rooms which are mostly double-height.

The working spaces are mainly ateliers which serve the already existing community of artists. There will also be shops, a gallery space and workshops where the artists and the rest of the residents can meet and interact. All of this is to increase the visibility of artists, but also a learning opportunity for the neighbors to attend workshops on various topics and to use the tools and the knowledge to repair their own possessions.



drawing of living spaces (top) and working spaces (bottom)



photograph of the ateliers that the artists have built themselves

understanding through drawing - reflection

Drawing architecture started with a desire to understand the physical environment of the project. The physical buildings, how they are made, how they are used and how they can be transformed. While the actual drawing has been incredibly useful and still the easiest medium to access, other mediums such as models and photographs have been used as well.

During the final presentation the explanation will not only be made through drawings, but also through a model that shows the physical representation of how the building changes through my design.

Drawing architecture should not be understood merely as a collection of beautiful drawings. It should be seen how I used drawing as a tool for analysis and design.

'We look at the world once, in childhood.

The rest is memory.'

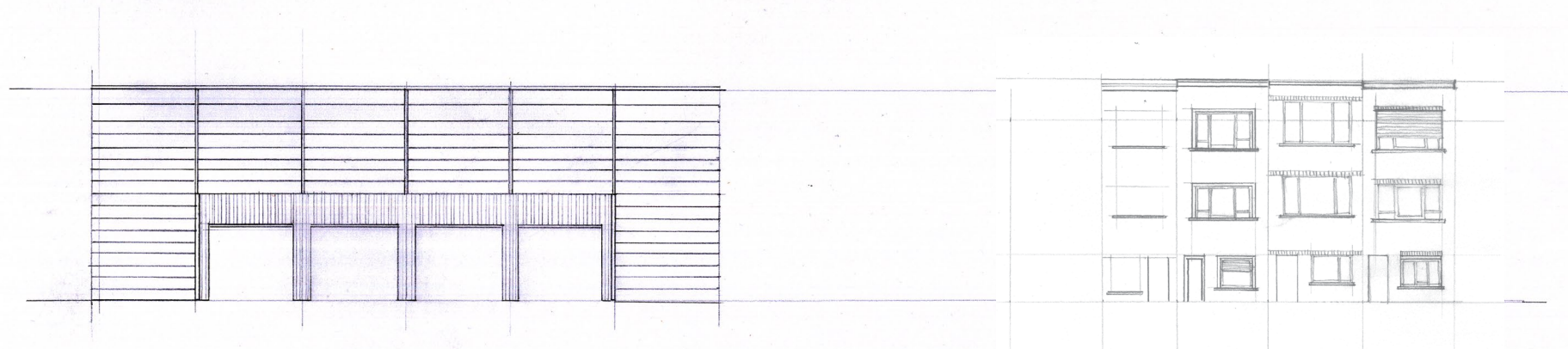
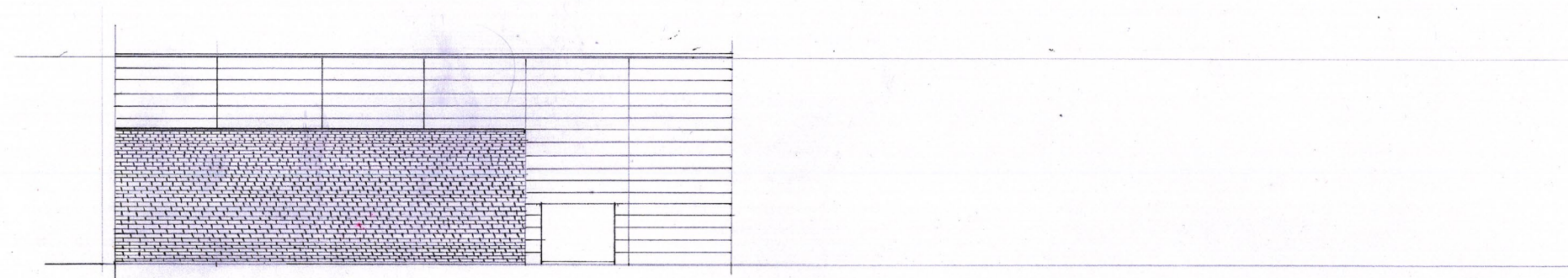
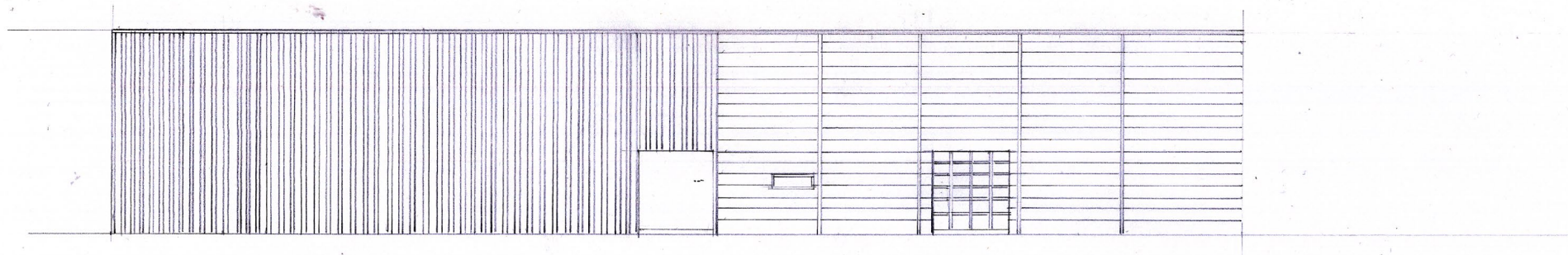
- Louise Gluck

The beautiful poem by Louise Gluck emphasizes how we don't usually take time to notice the world around us. We still use the same strong visual patterns that we formed as children, and we don't look beyond the surface. In my project through drawing, or any other way of representing physical reality, I wanted to take time to notice all the details that make up the building I'm working with.

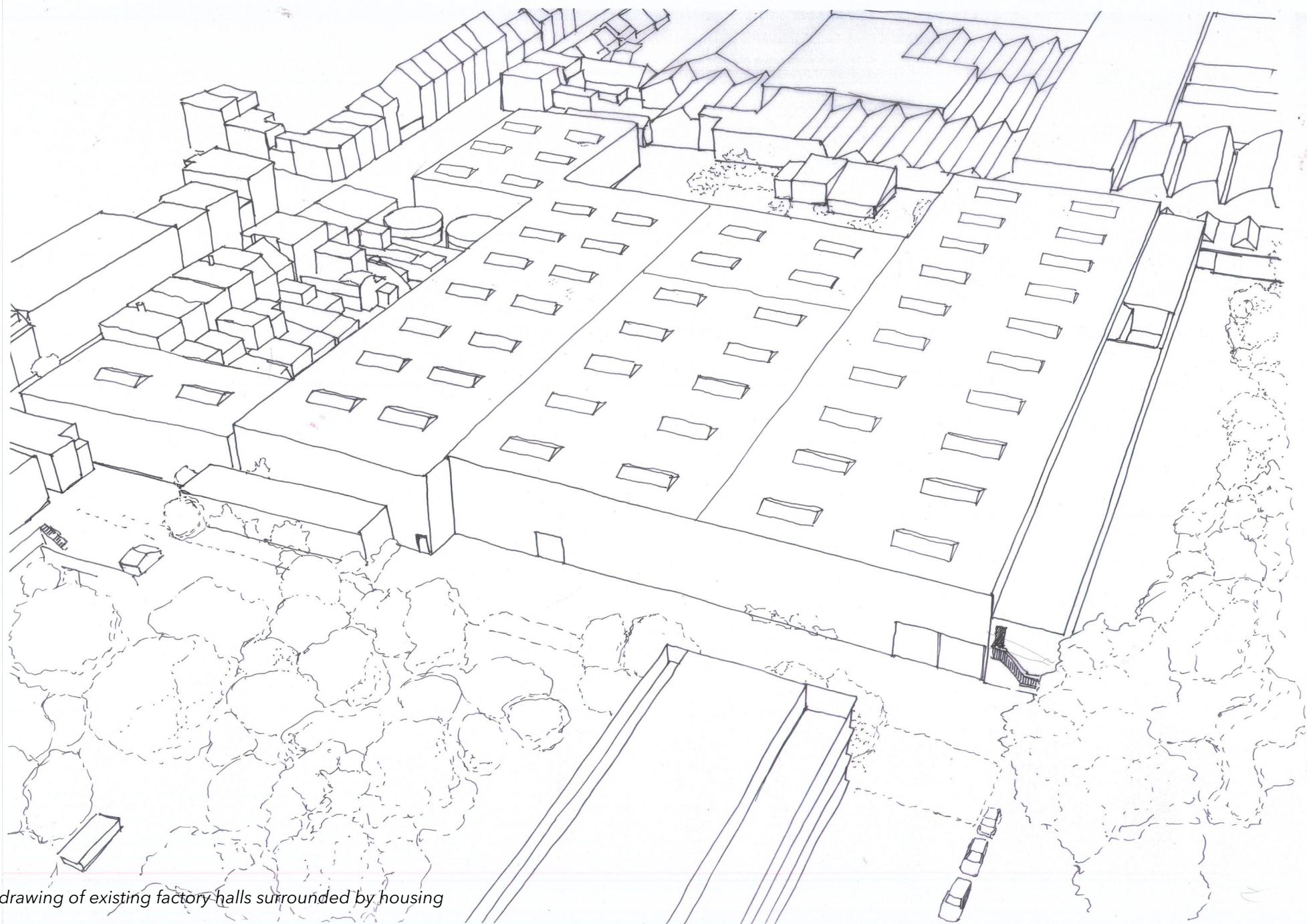
Although I started my research with the question 'How to draw Architecture', now I think there is not only one answer to it. The focus of research has changed over the past year from the techniques of drawing to technical drawings of existing details. Not only did the research influence my design, but also the different design phases influenced the types of drawings I needed to develop.

I also want to mention that a significant part of my research has been conducted in groups. I did not discover the place only through drawing. In the first quartile, while we were exploring the theme of 'making do', I understood very well how the buildings are used and what are the needs of the artists. We experimented through practice how much the lack of storage space can affect the creative process and how hand-made projects take so much time due to the lack of resources. The masterplan design has emphasized the problems on a neighborhood level and the need for housing in the area, but also the need to break barriers and to allow all the people to explore the Blikfabriek area.

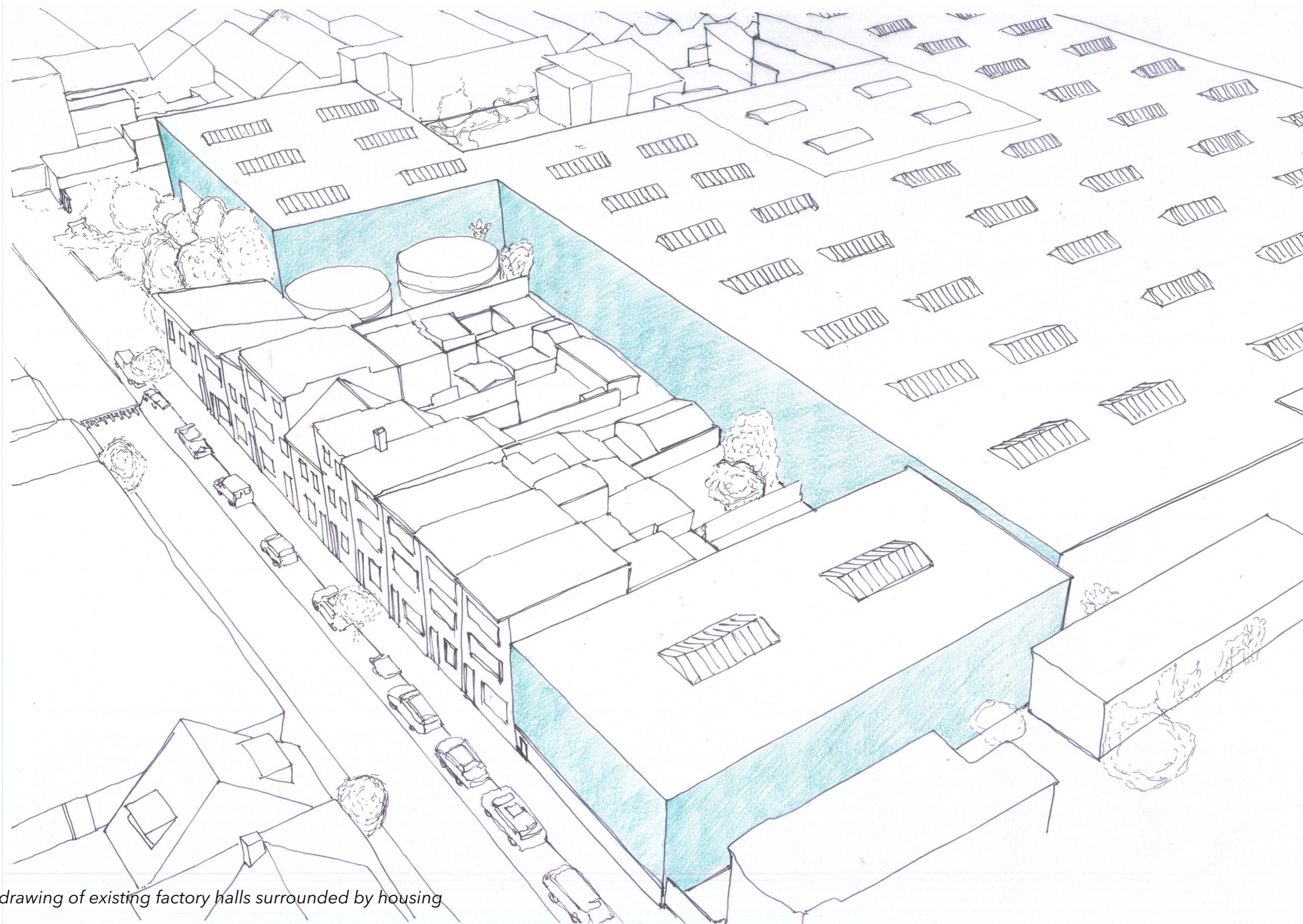
These findings have guided my design, especially the decision to combine living and working spaces, with a focus on ateliers for artists.



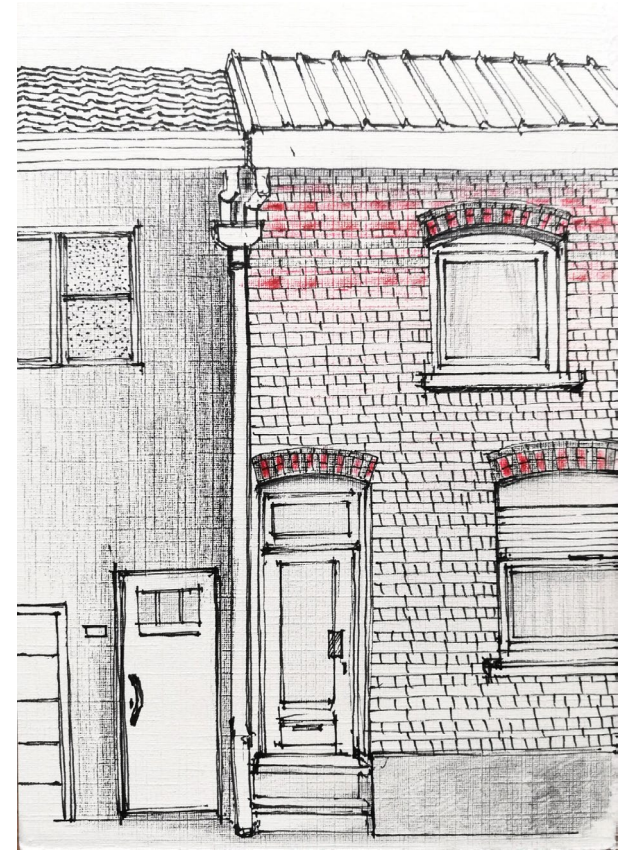
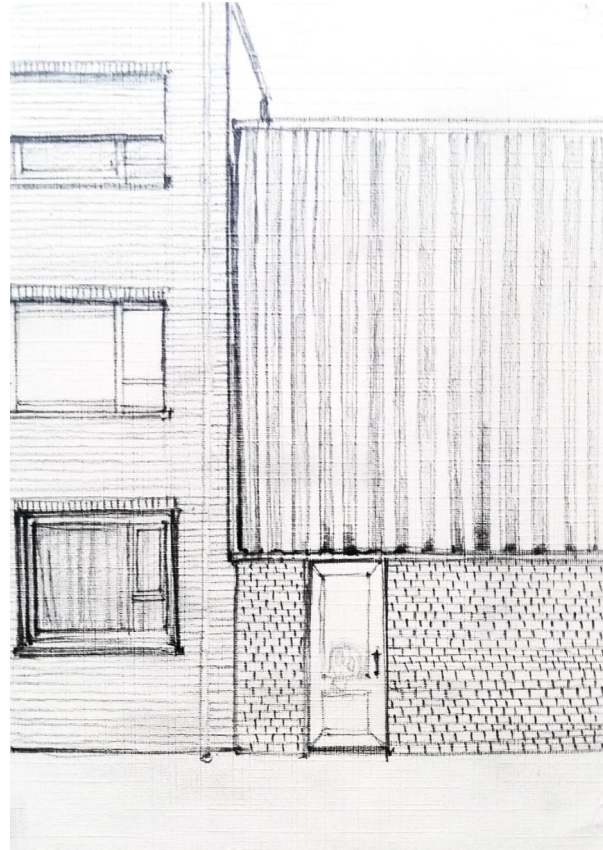
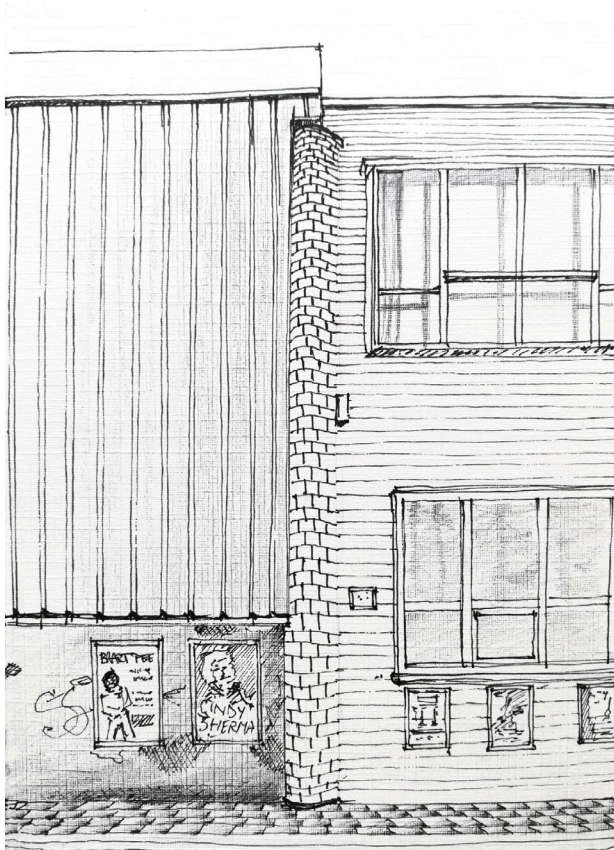
drawing of existing facades



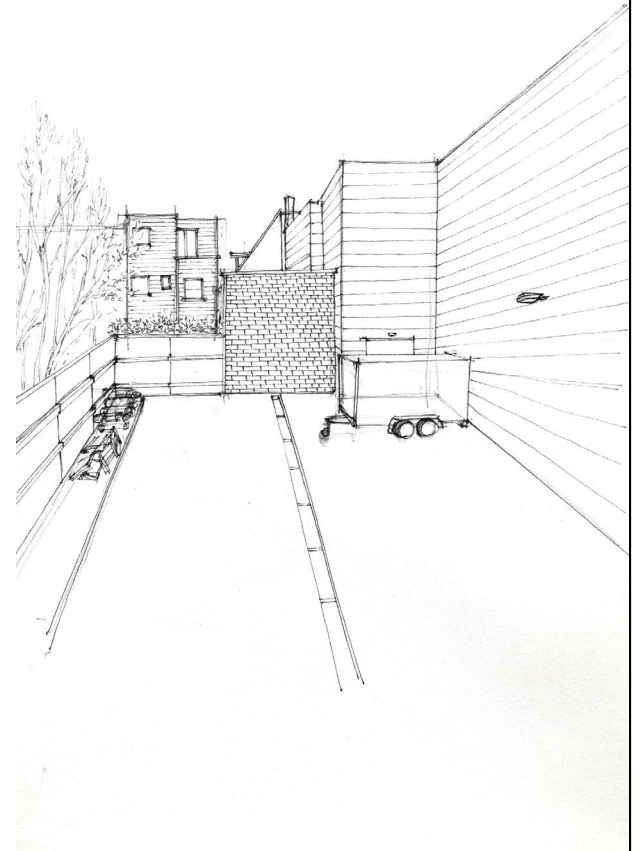
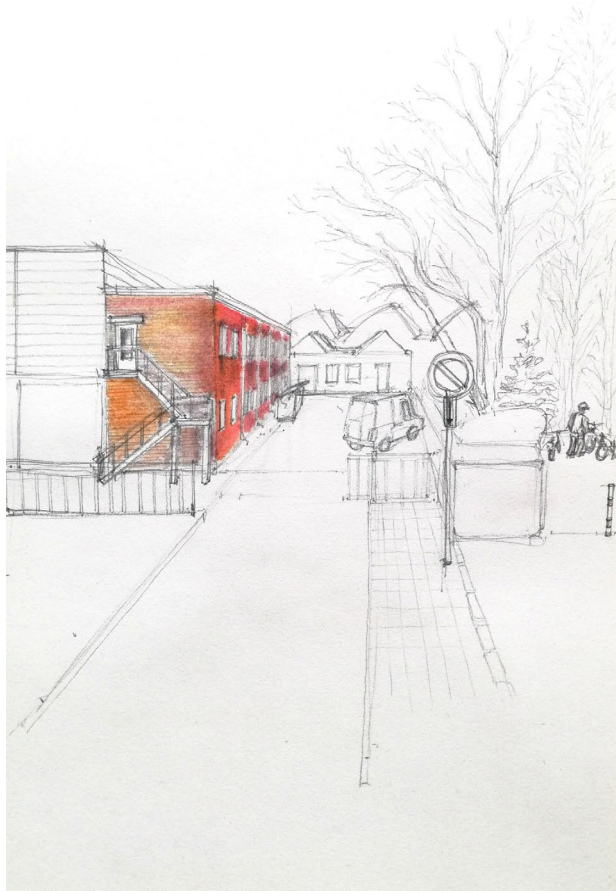
drawing of existing factory halls surrounded by housing



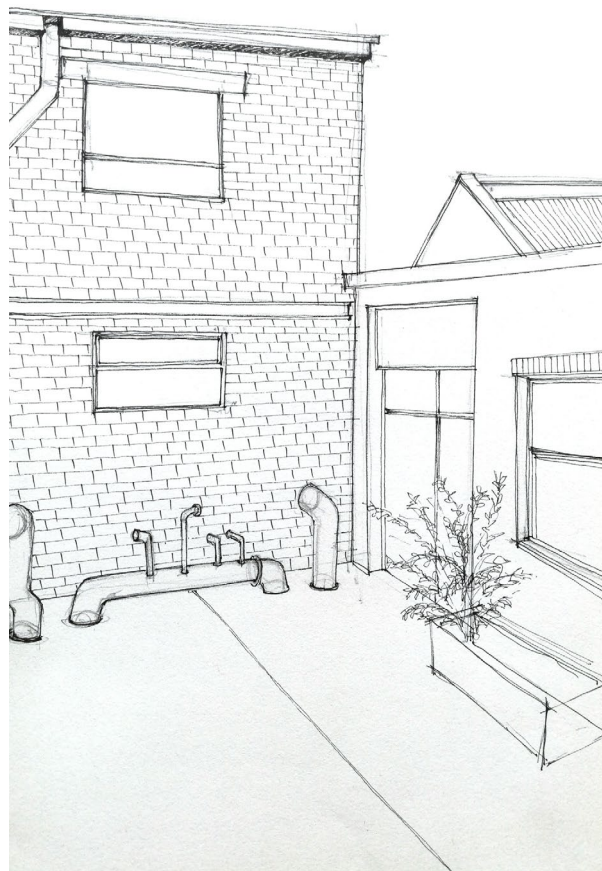
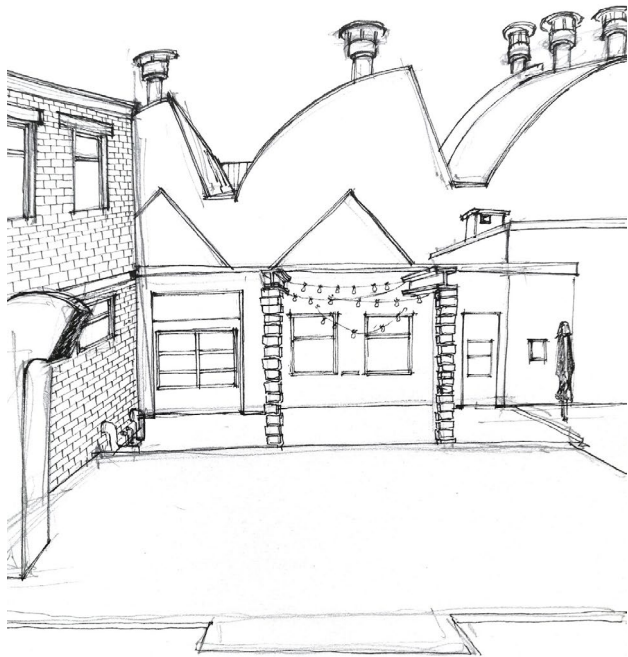
drawing of existing factory halls surrounded by housing

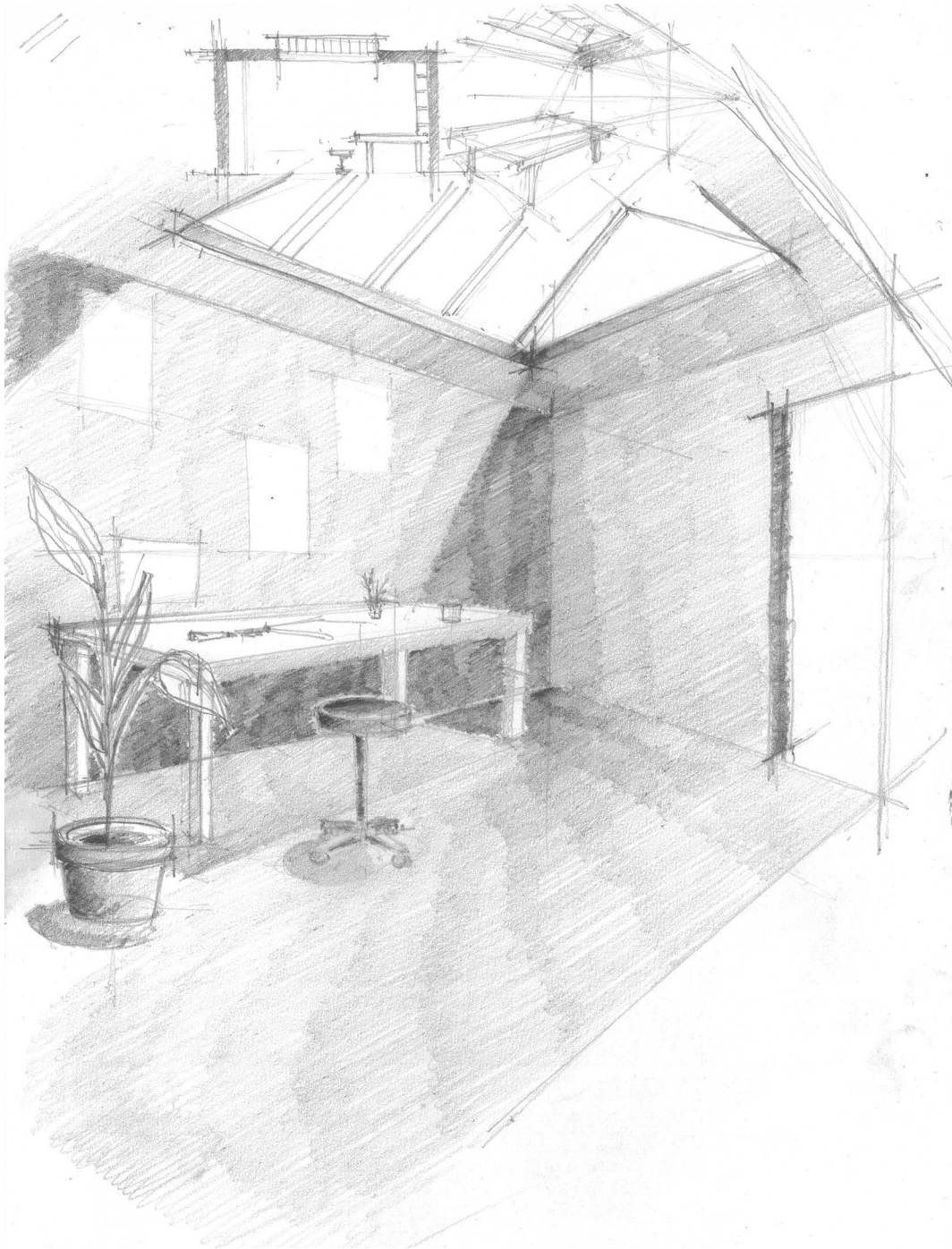


drawings of houses attached to factory halls

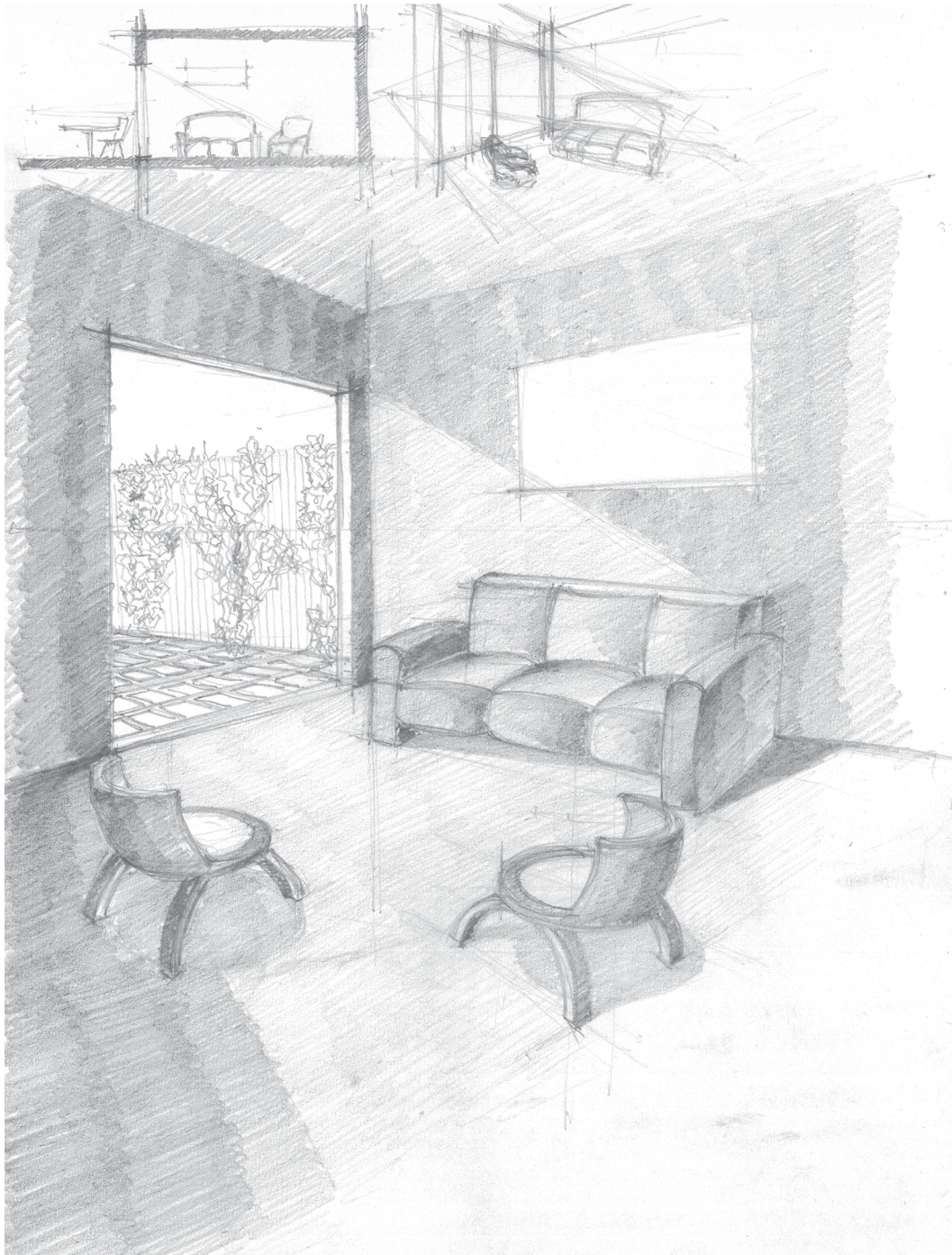


serial vision: a walk from the adjacent houses towards the industrial halls



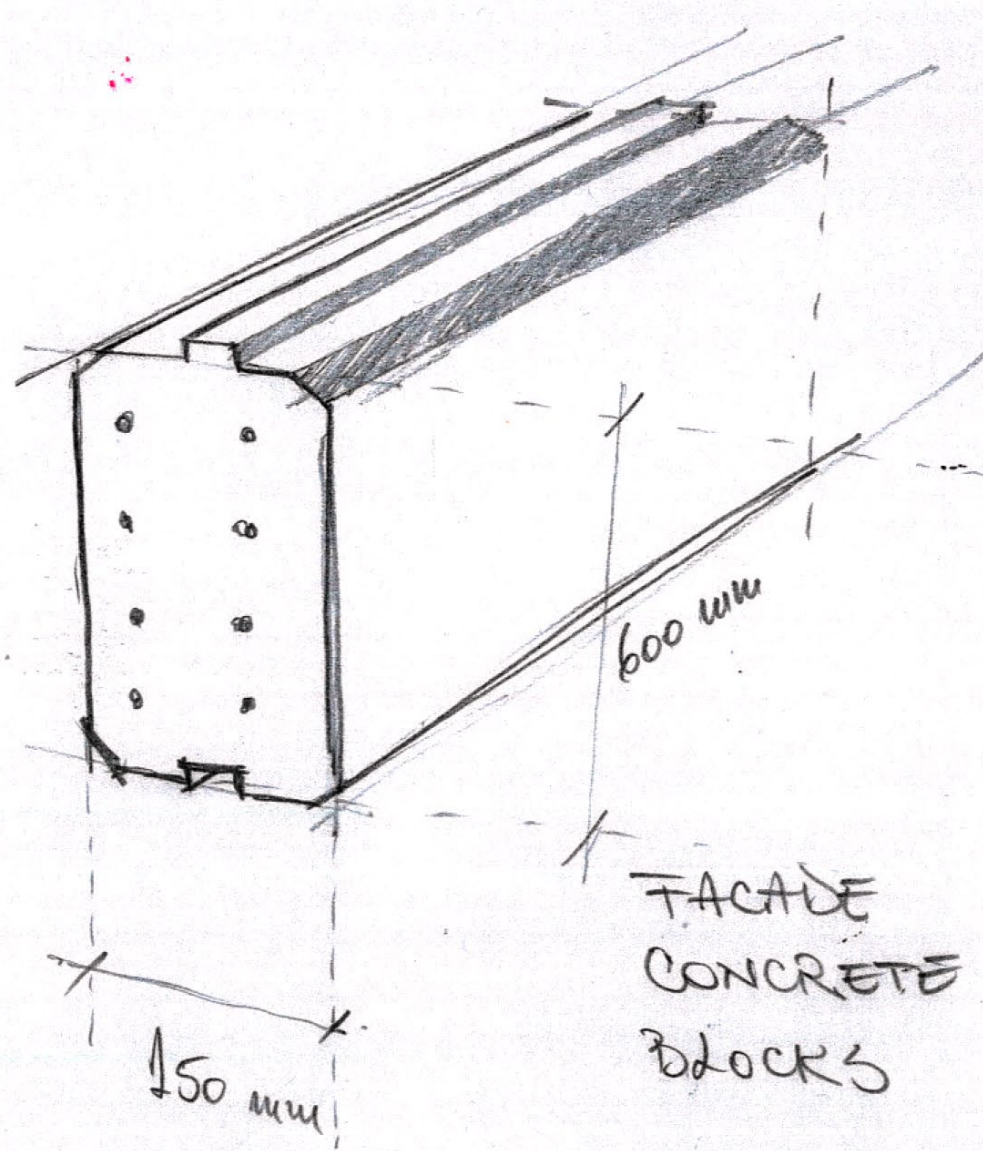
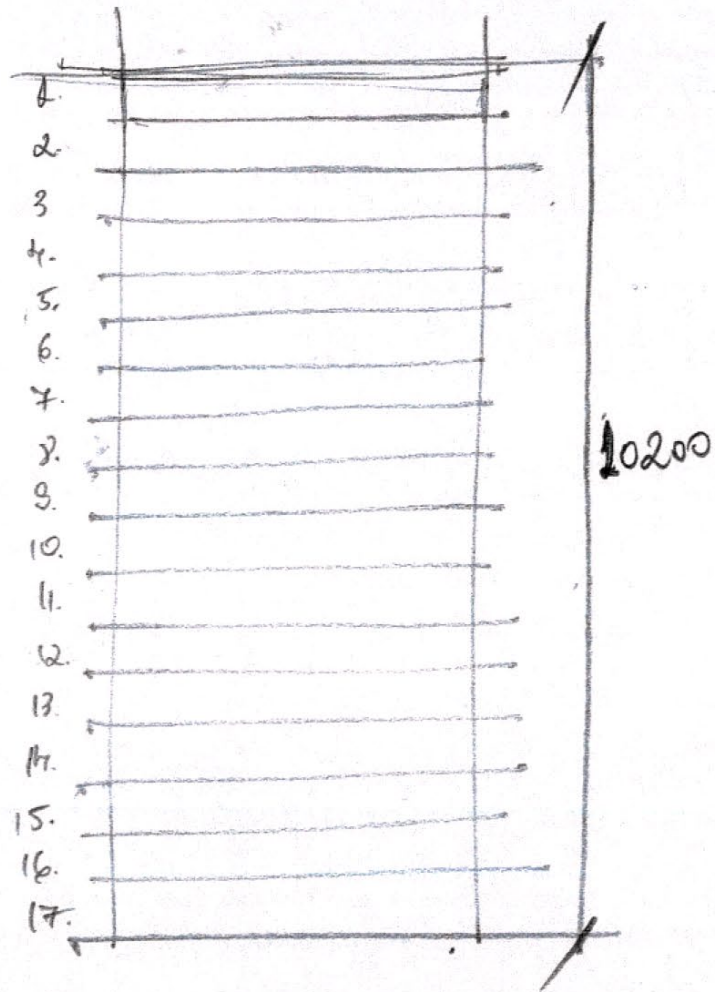


envisioned ateliers with existing skylights



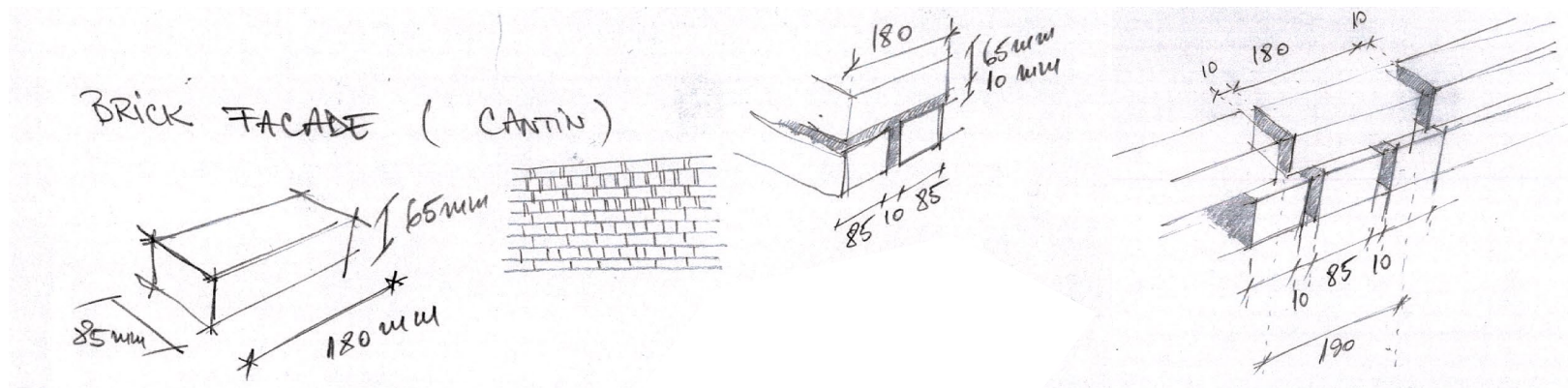
envisioned living spaces with courtyards / terraces

existing: as found

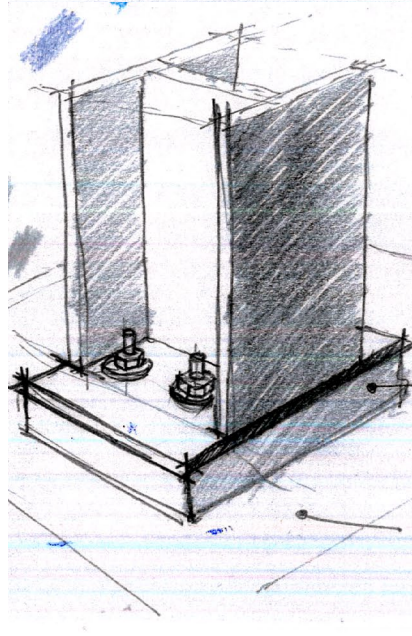
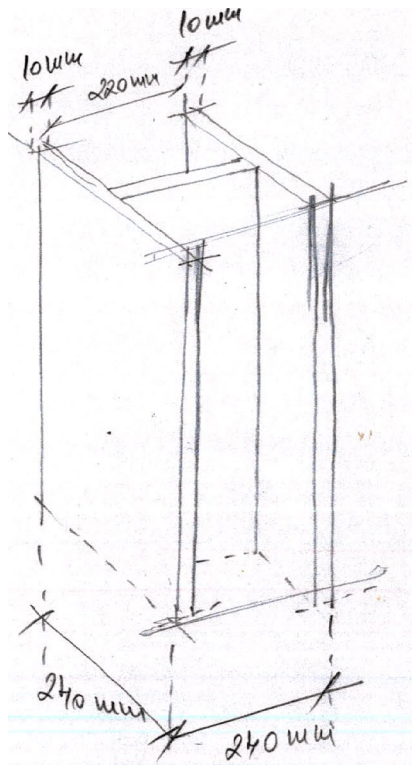




details of facade concrete blocks



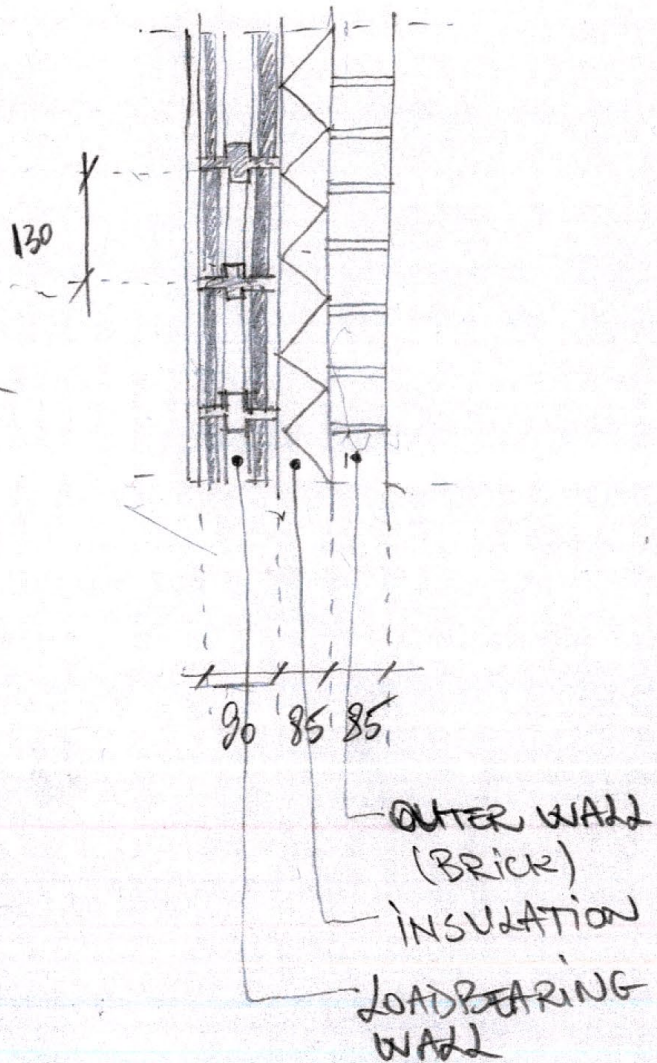
details of brick facade



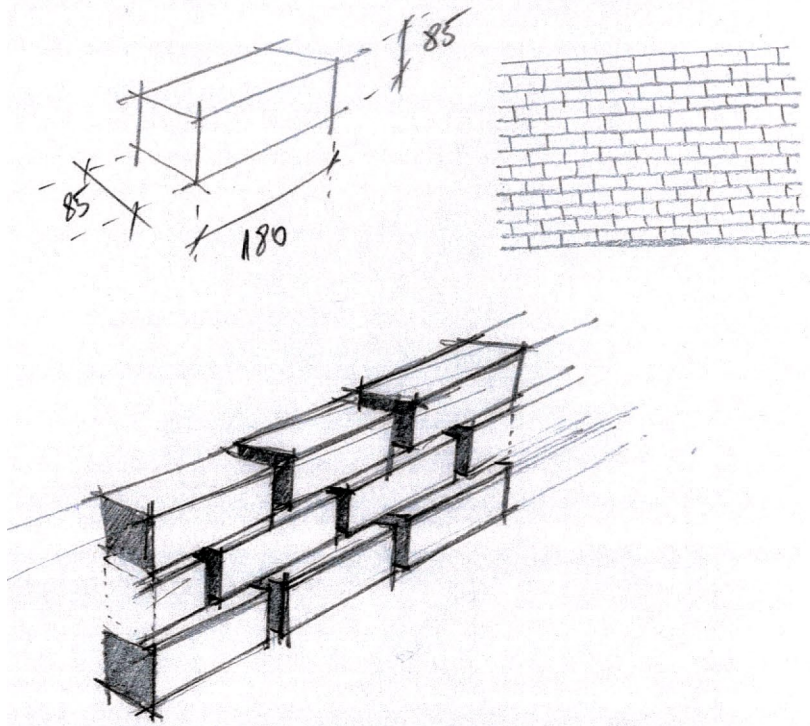
details of steel column



WALL BRICK BUILDING (PARK SIDE)

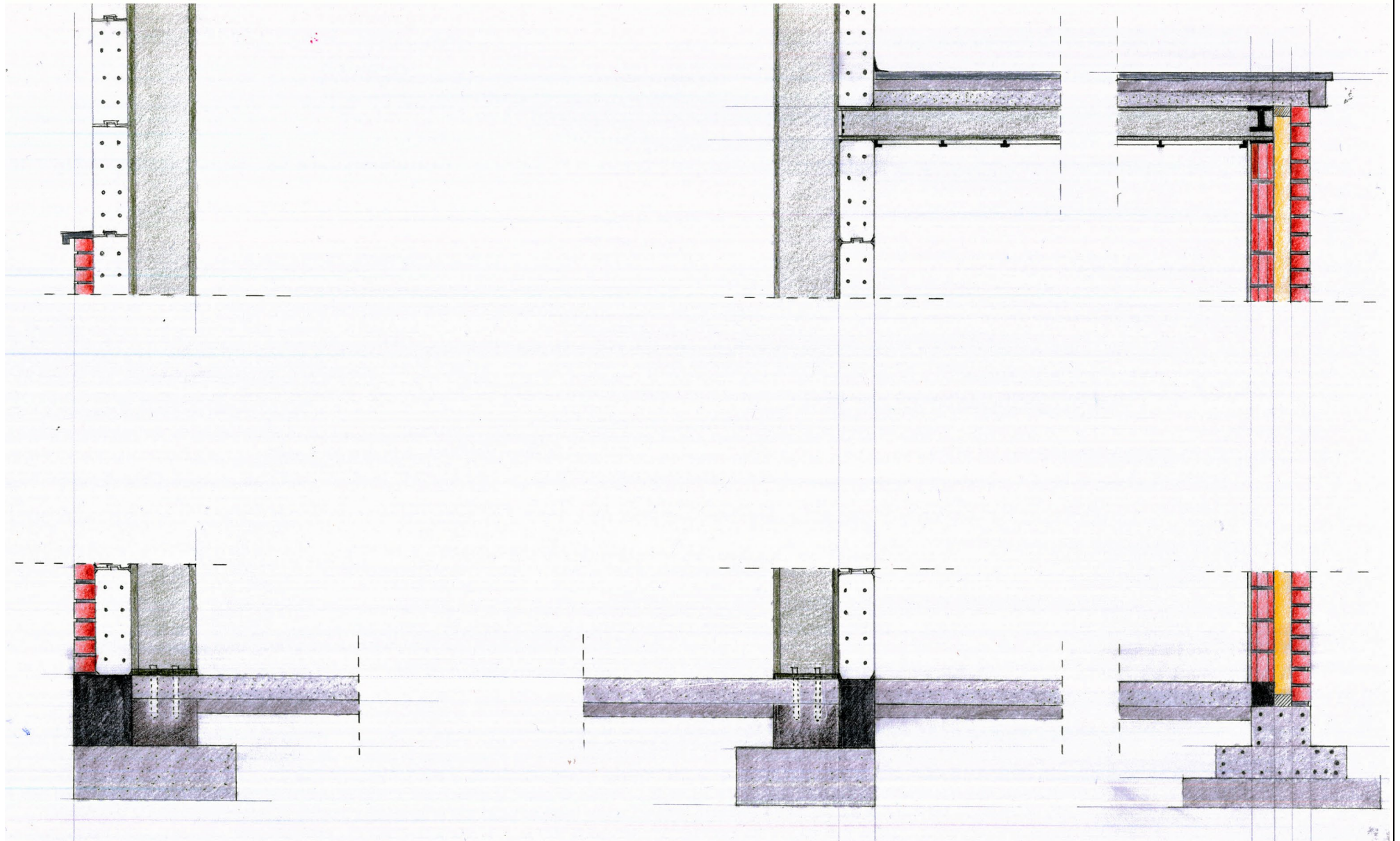


details of wall composition

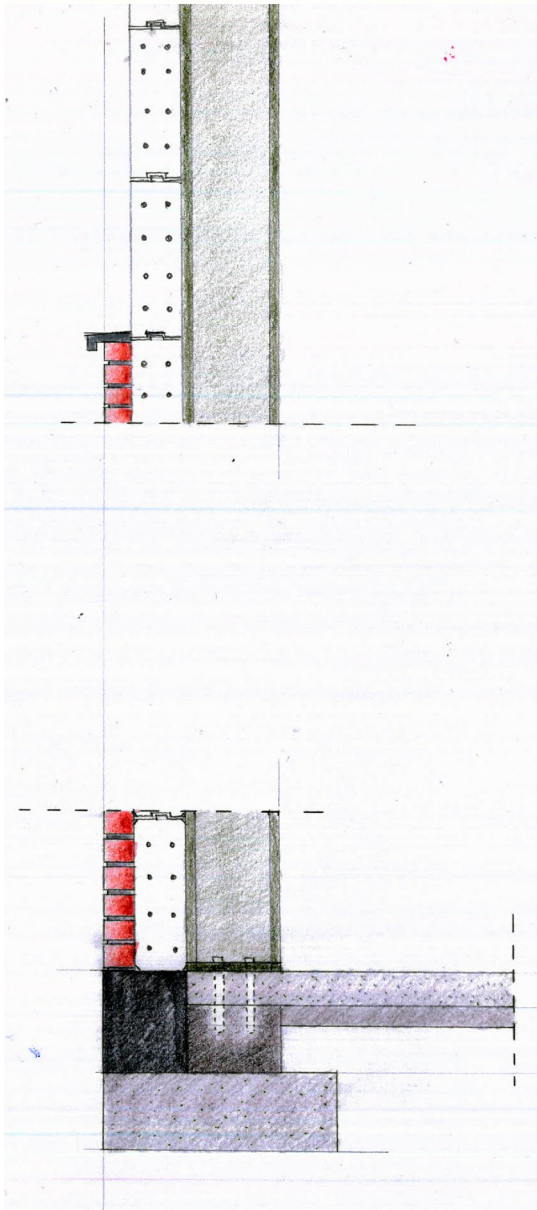


details of brick facade

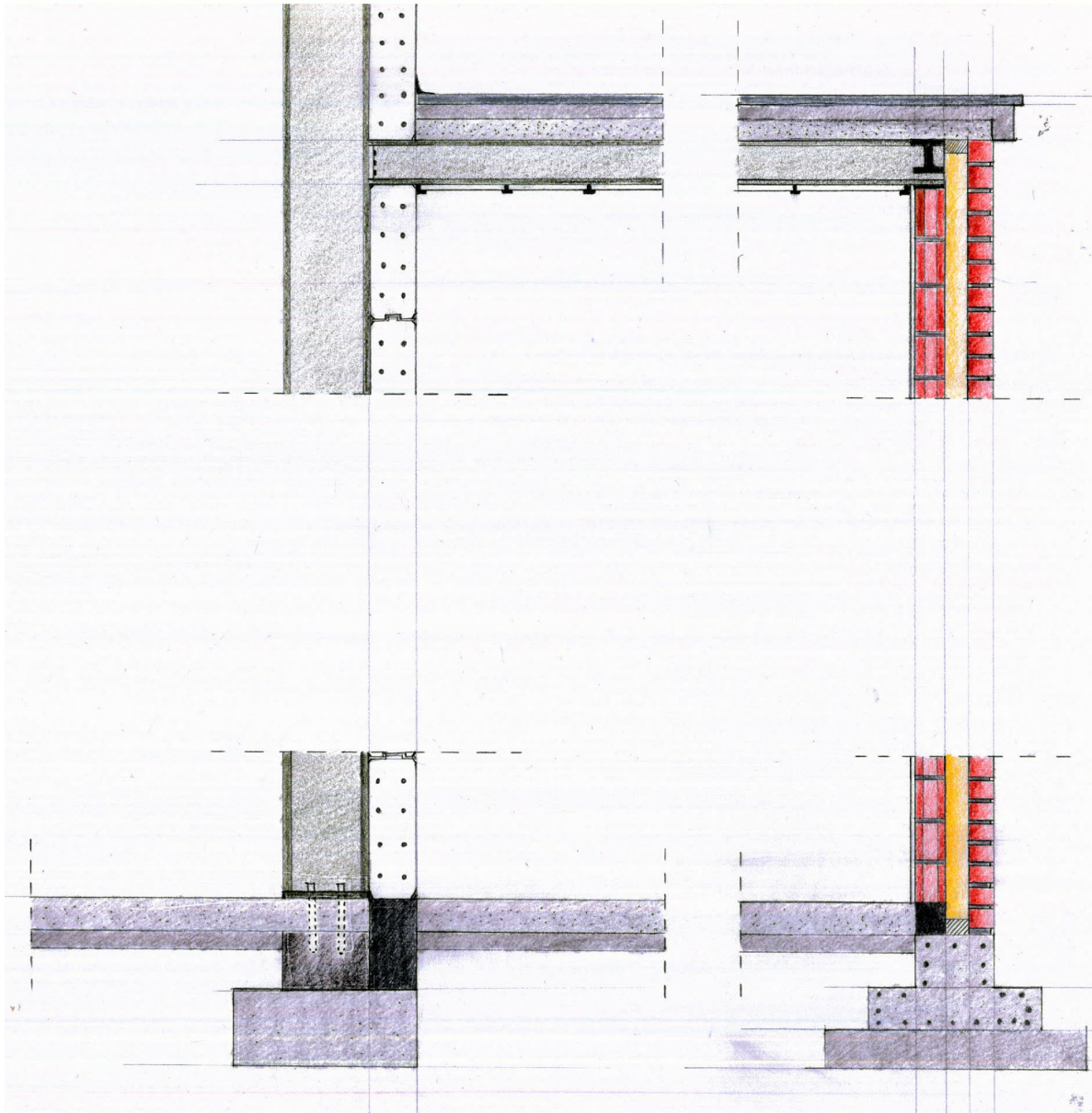




section through industrial hall and attached brick building



brick wall attached to the facade made out of concrete blocks

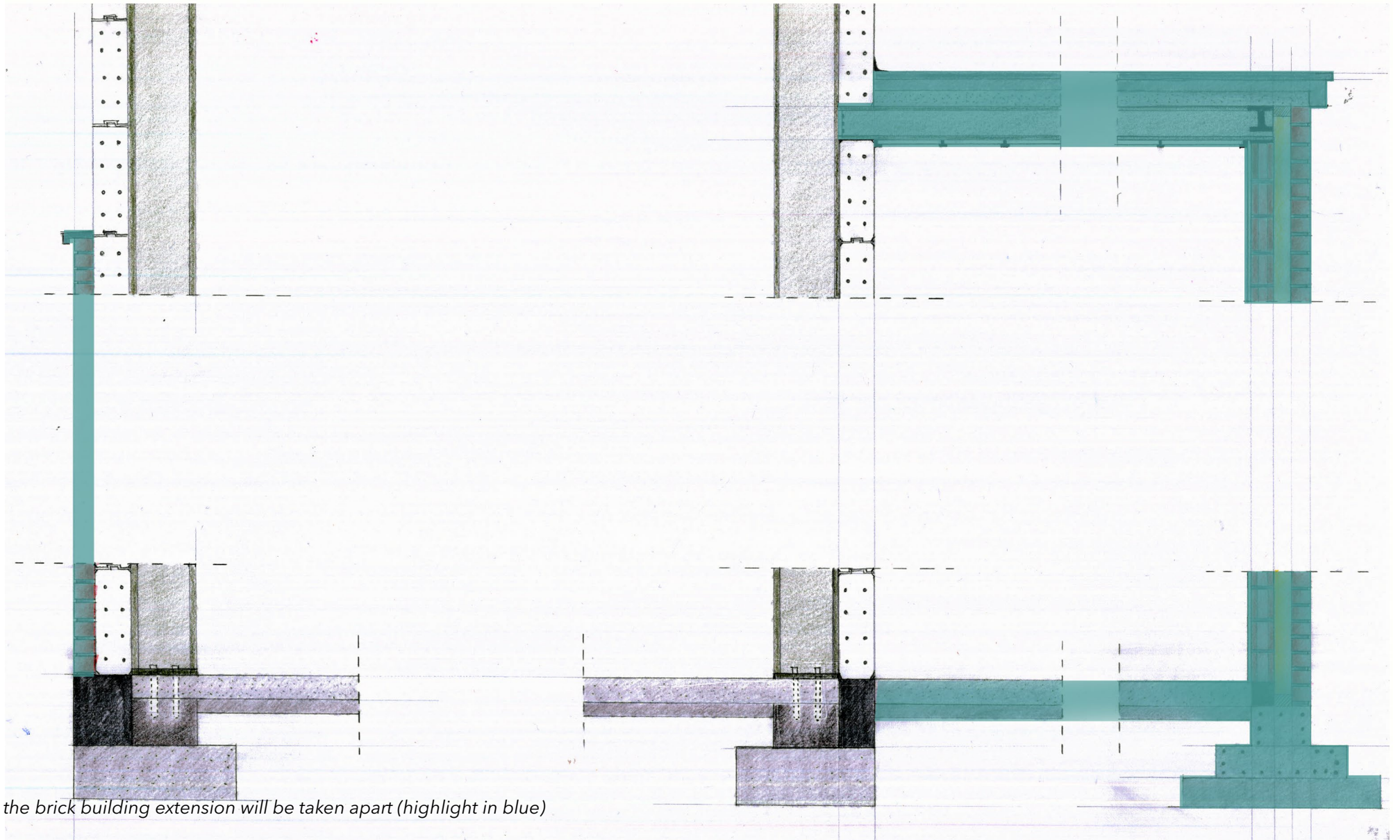


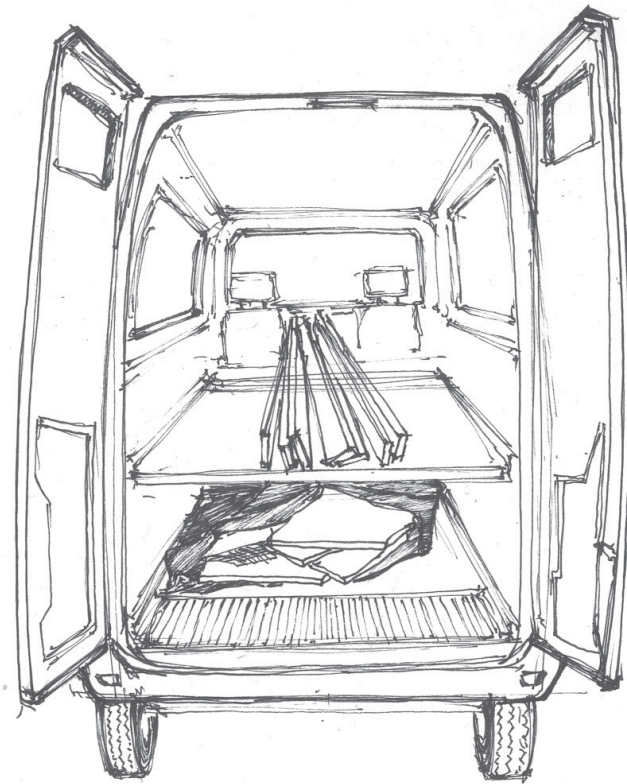
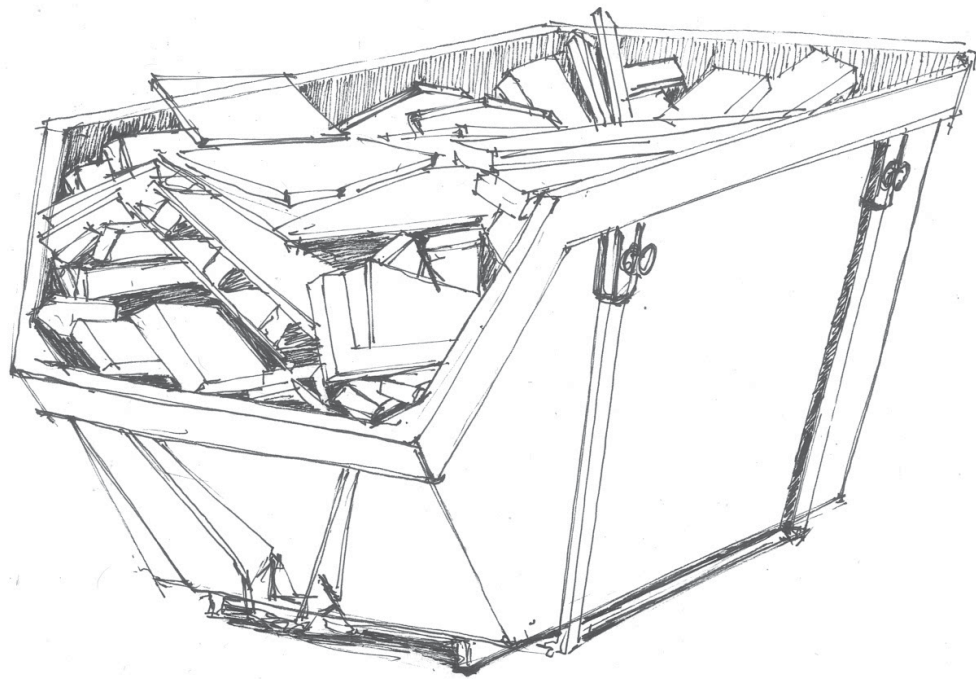
the brick building extension uses the steel structure of the industrial hall



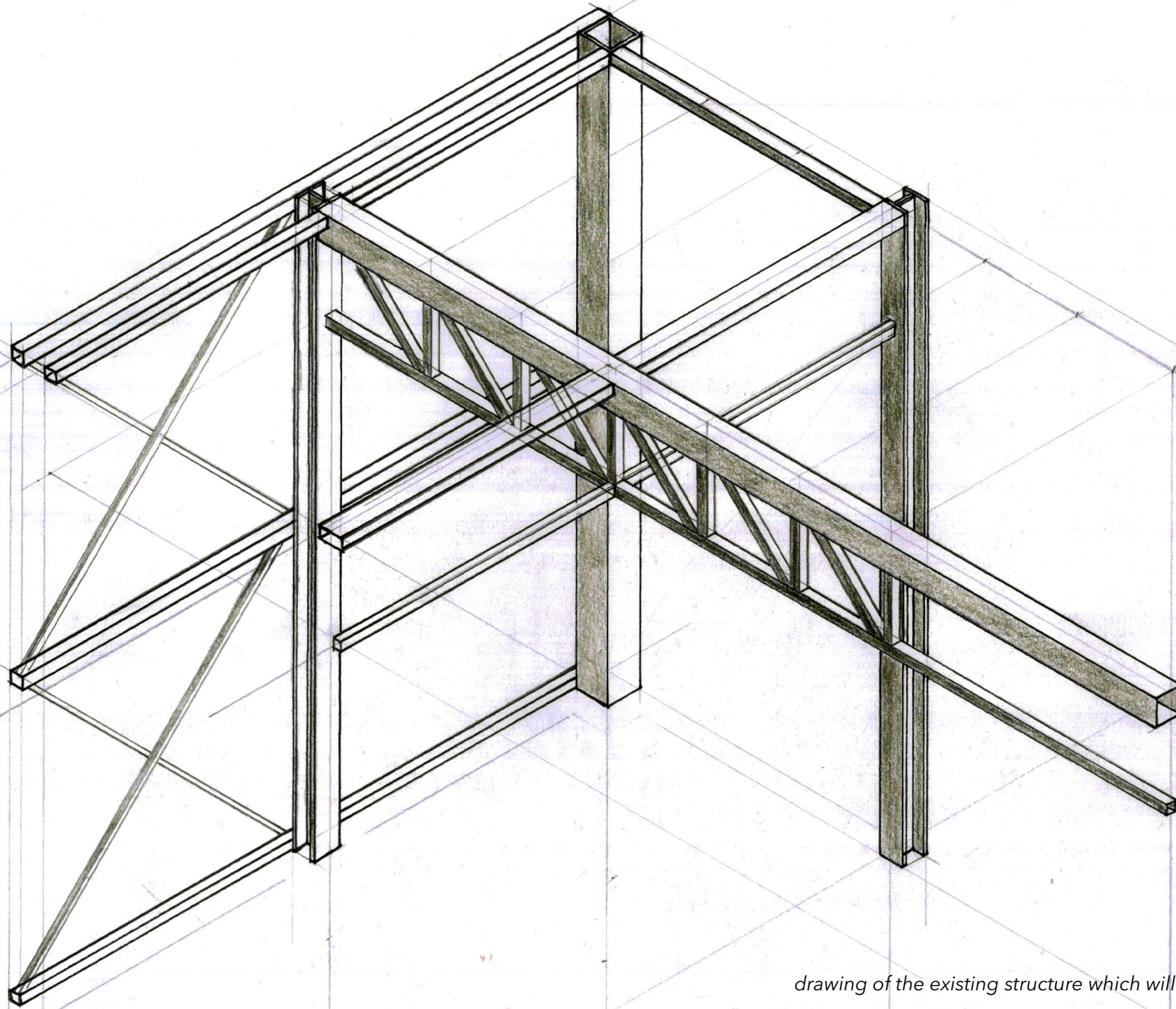
the brick building extension is directly attached and does not have a loadbearing wall on the side of the factory hall

dismantle - material catalogue





the materials will be separated and identified for reuse



drawing of the existing structure which will remain in place



photographs of fragment model (1:33)



photographs of fragment model (1:33) - testing reused materials for facade



photographs of fragment model (1:33) - living room and bedroom



photographs of fragment model (1:33) - ateliers and living spaces within the same structure