



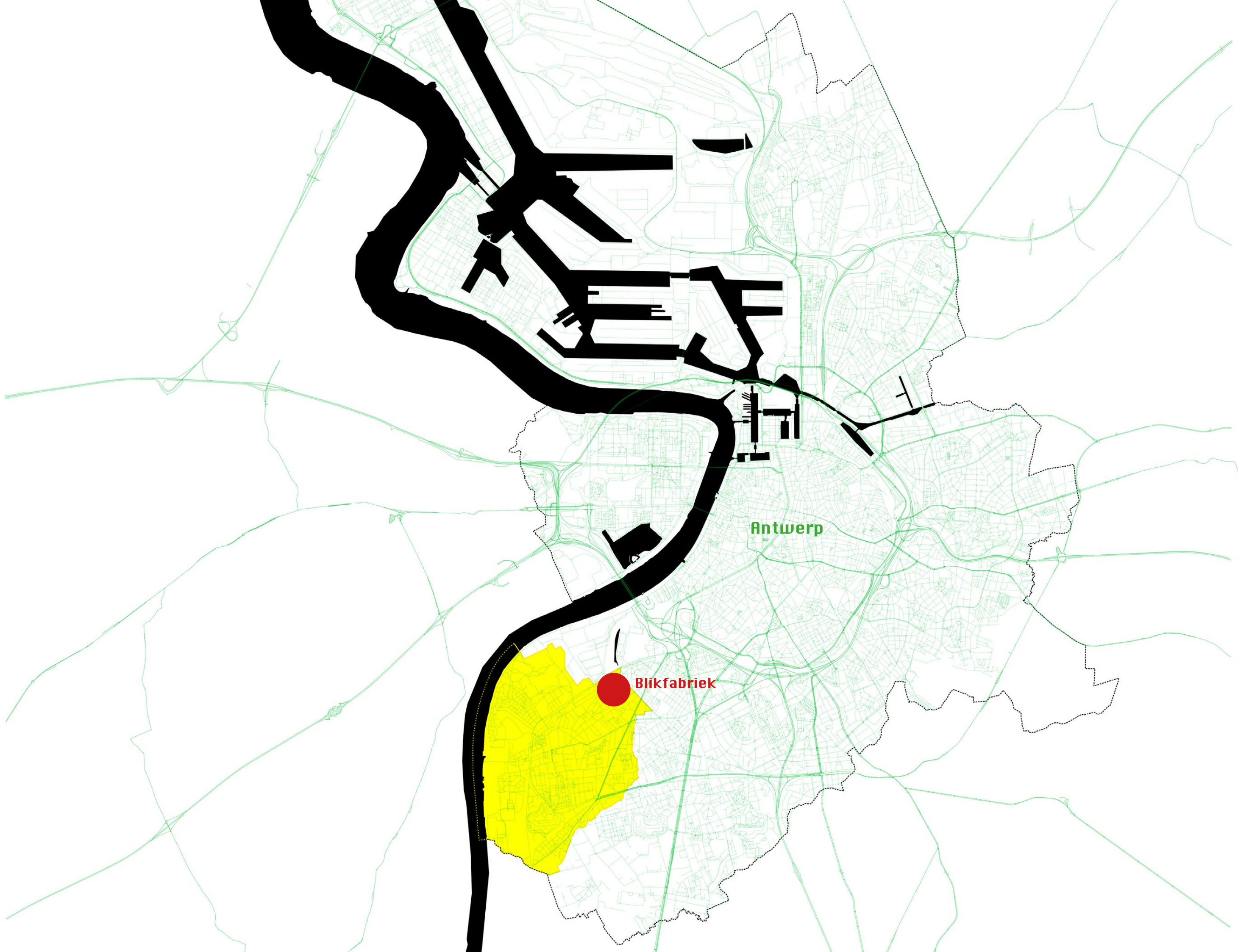
**A**ntwerps **very hungry caterpillar**  
story of a transformation





first excursion, sept. 24





Antwerp

Blikfabriek















1900s





1900s

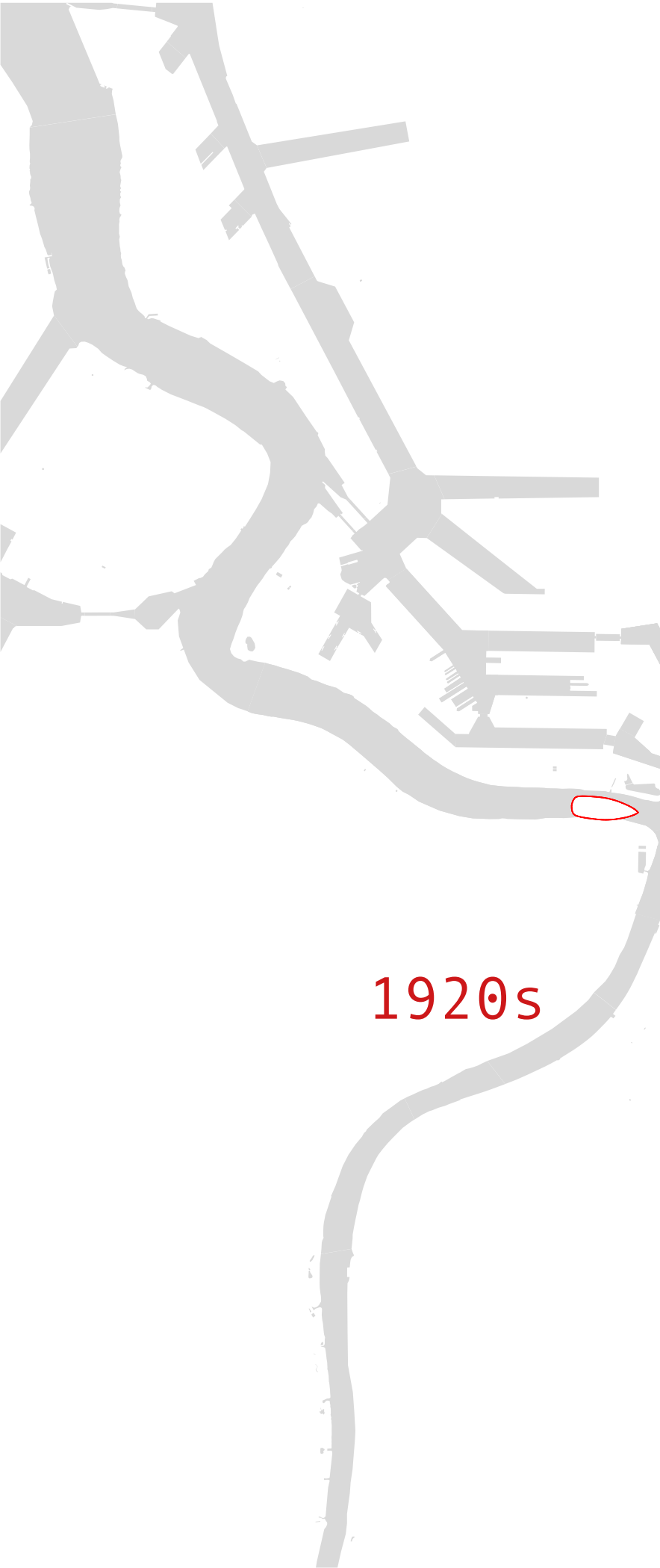




1920s



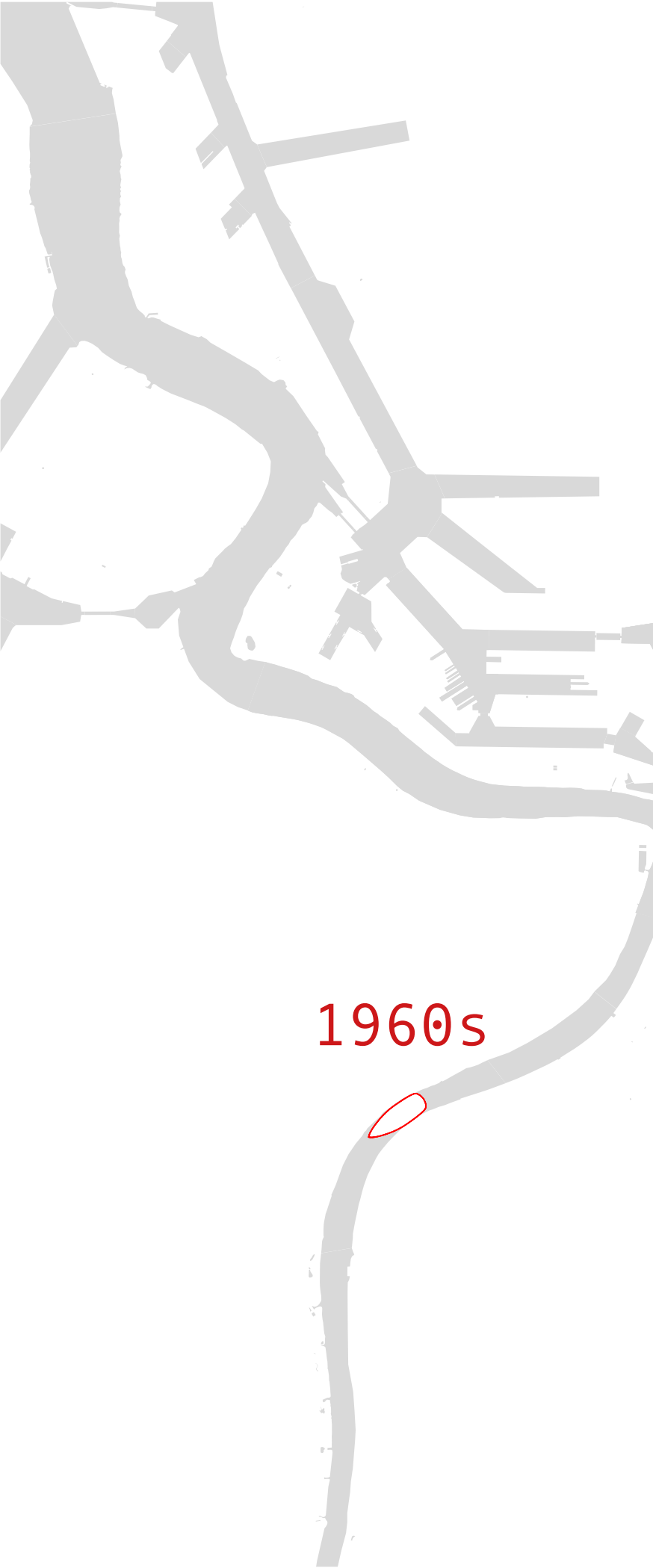




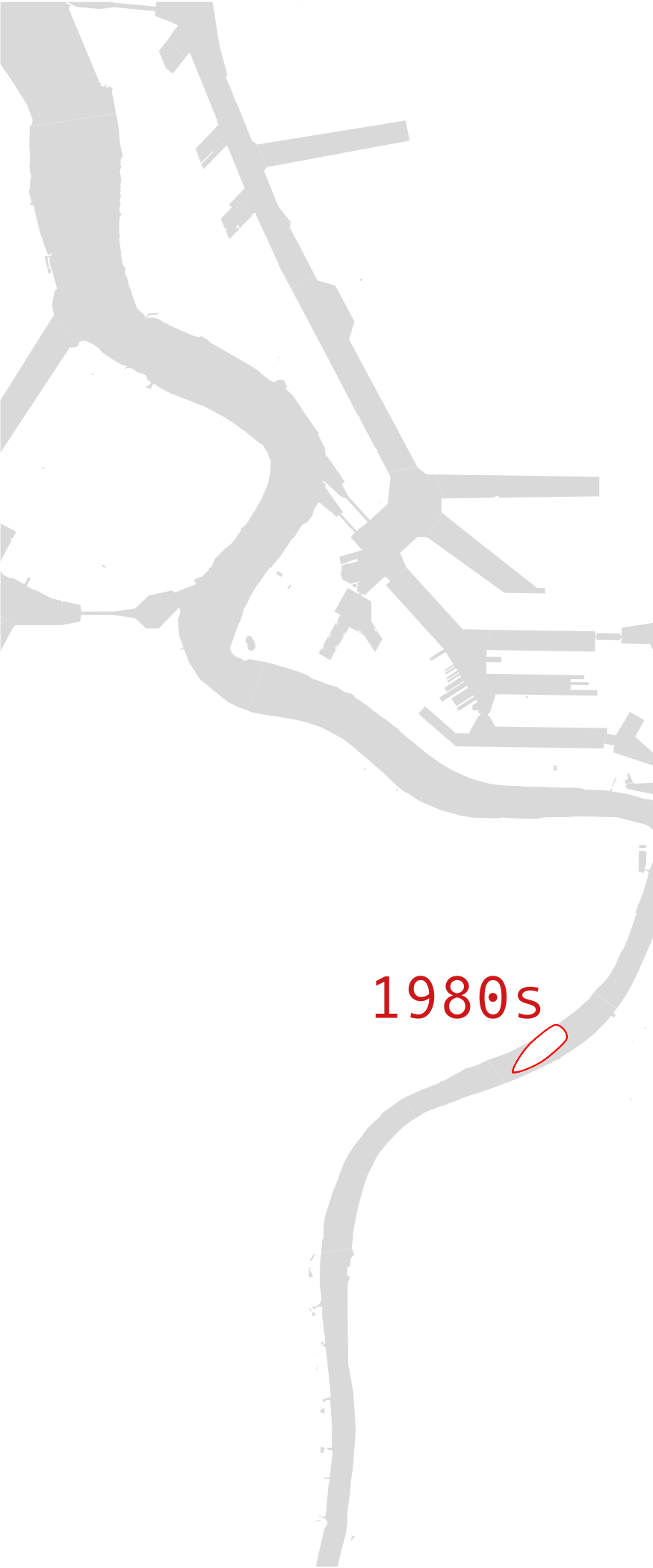
1920s







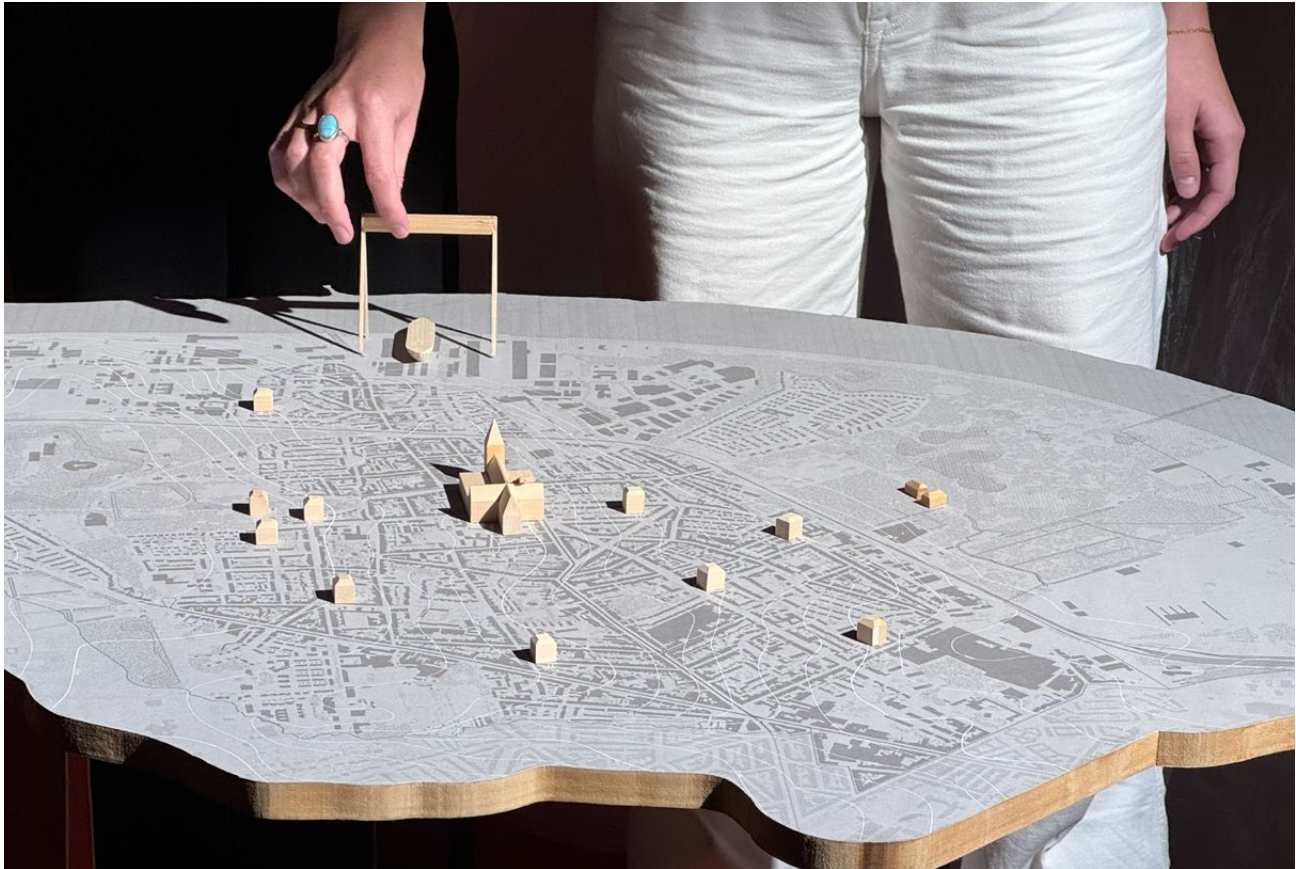












blikfabriek, sep. 24



**LOW TOWN DOWN TOWN**

**LOW TOWN LAGEWEG**



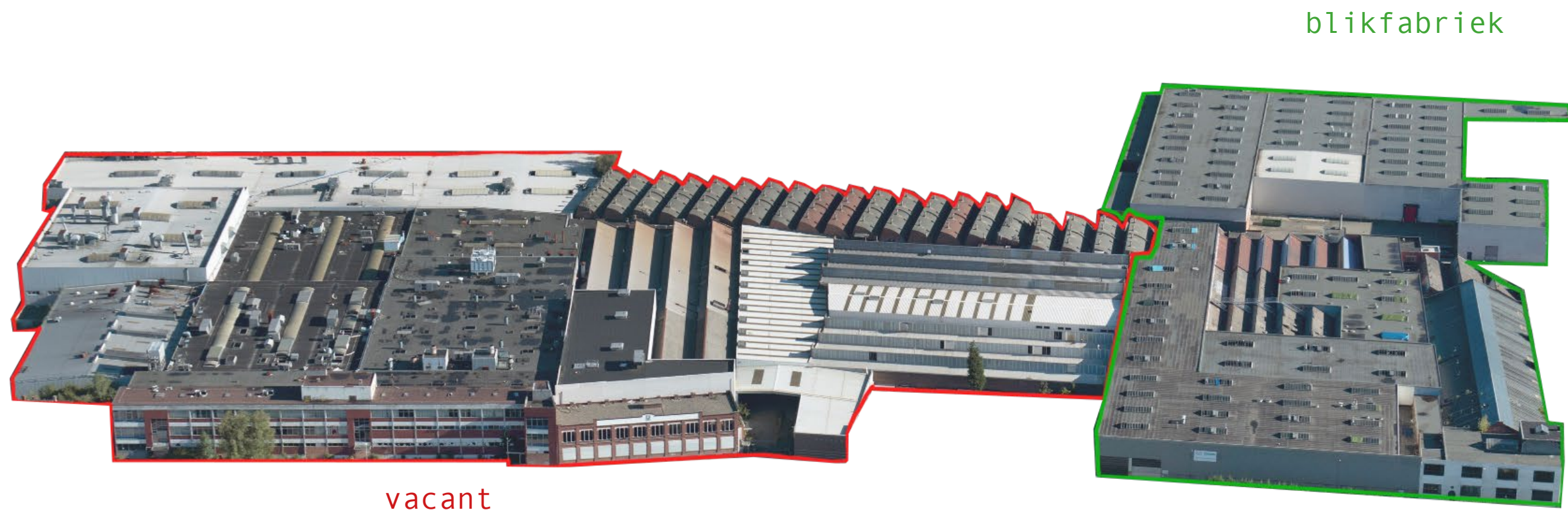
**DOWN  
TOWN LAGEWEG?**



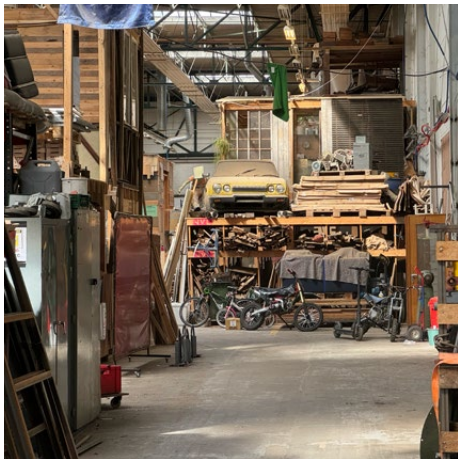
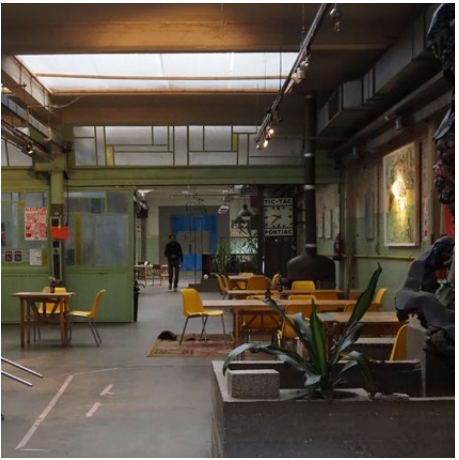
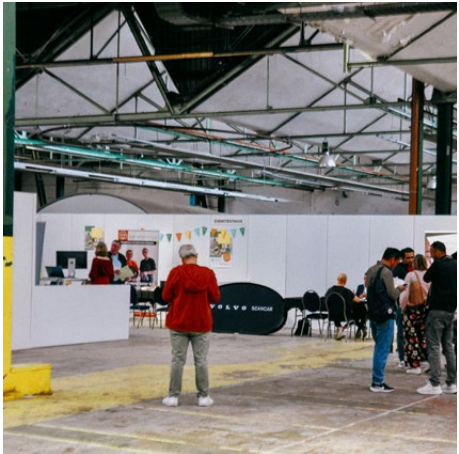




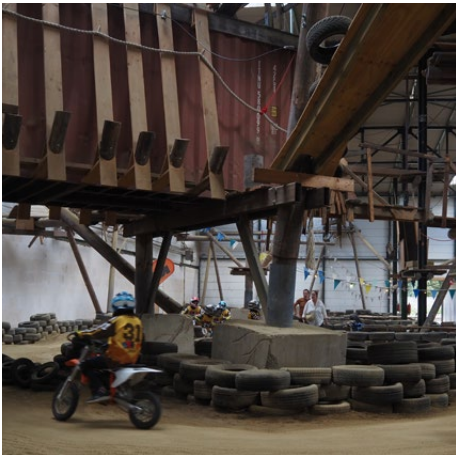




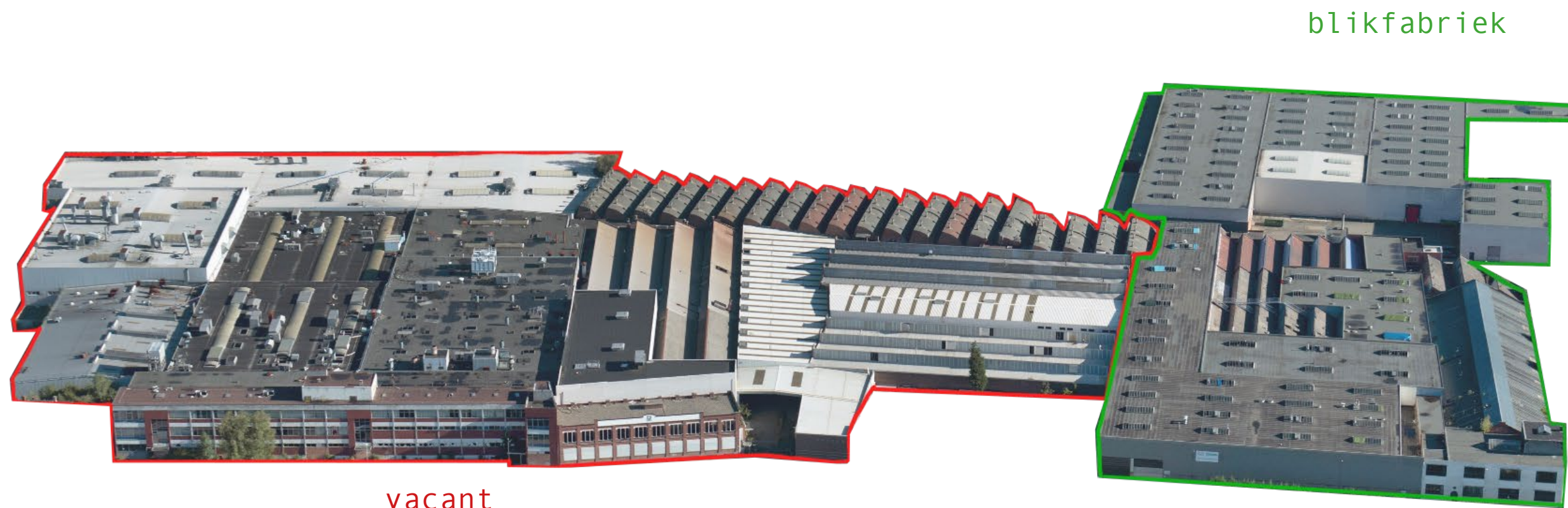




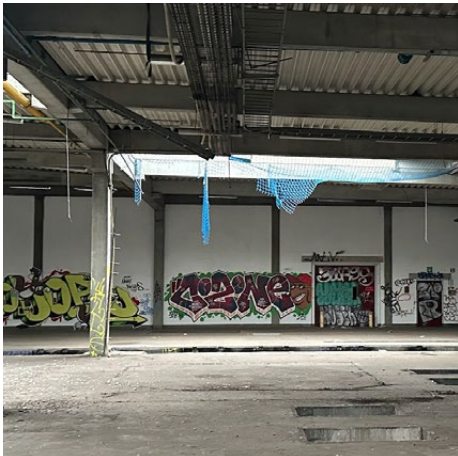
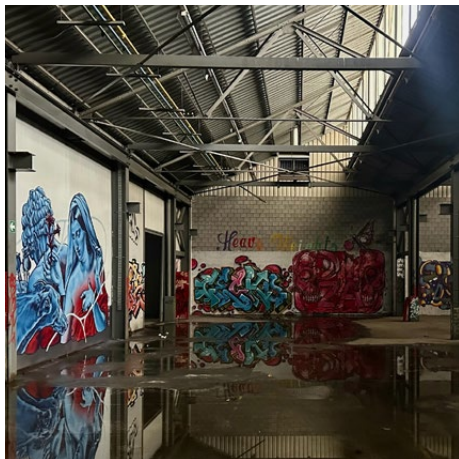
blikfabriek



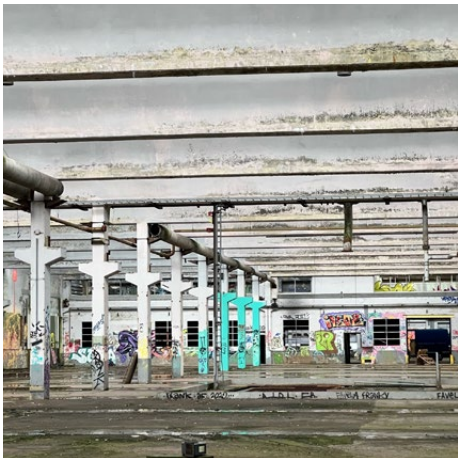








vacancy





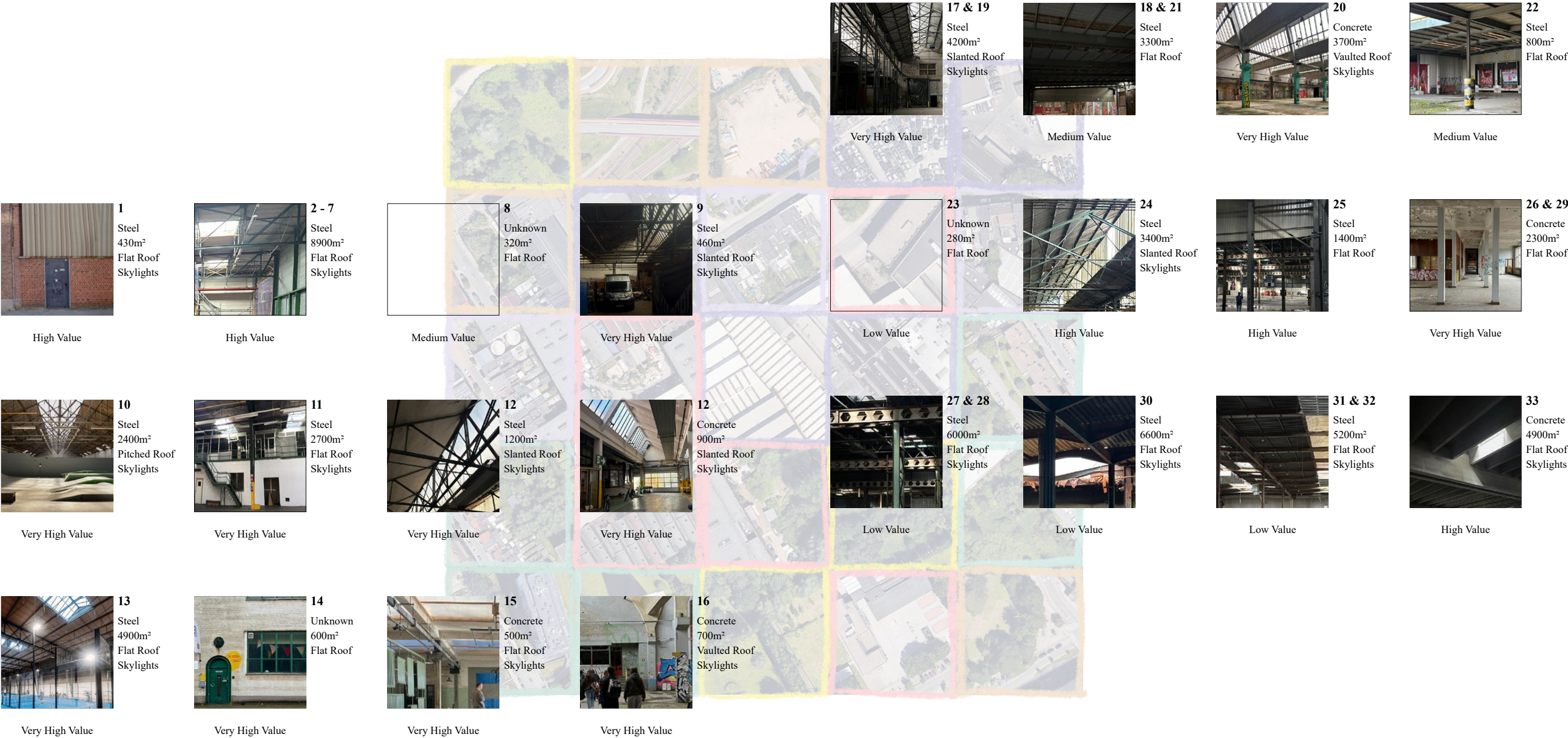
What to do with the obsolete?





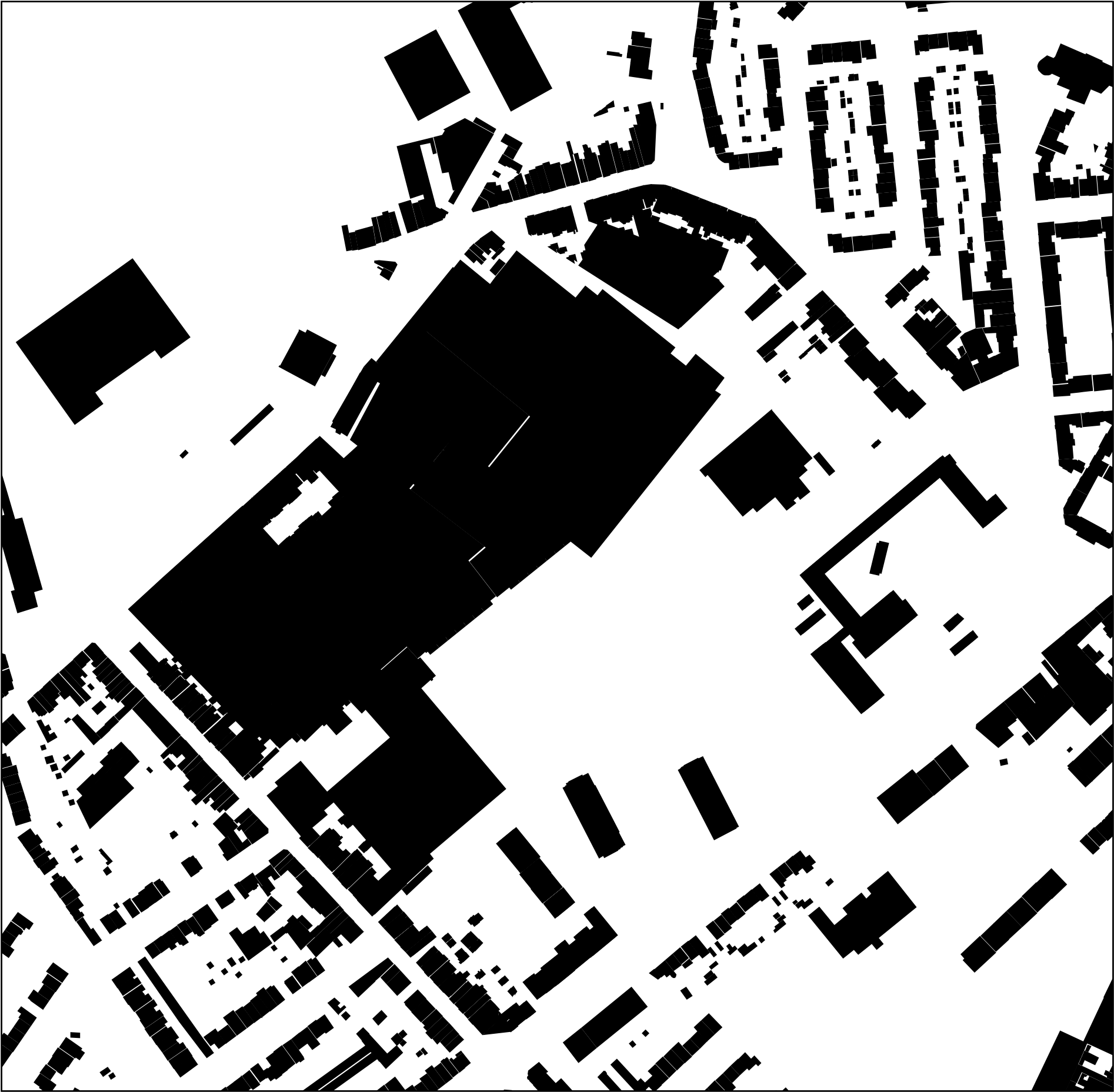
patches of Hoboken

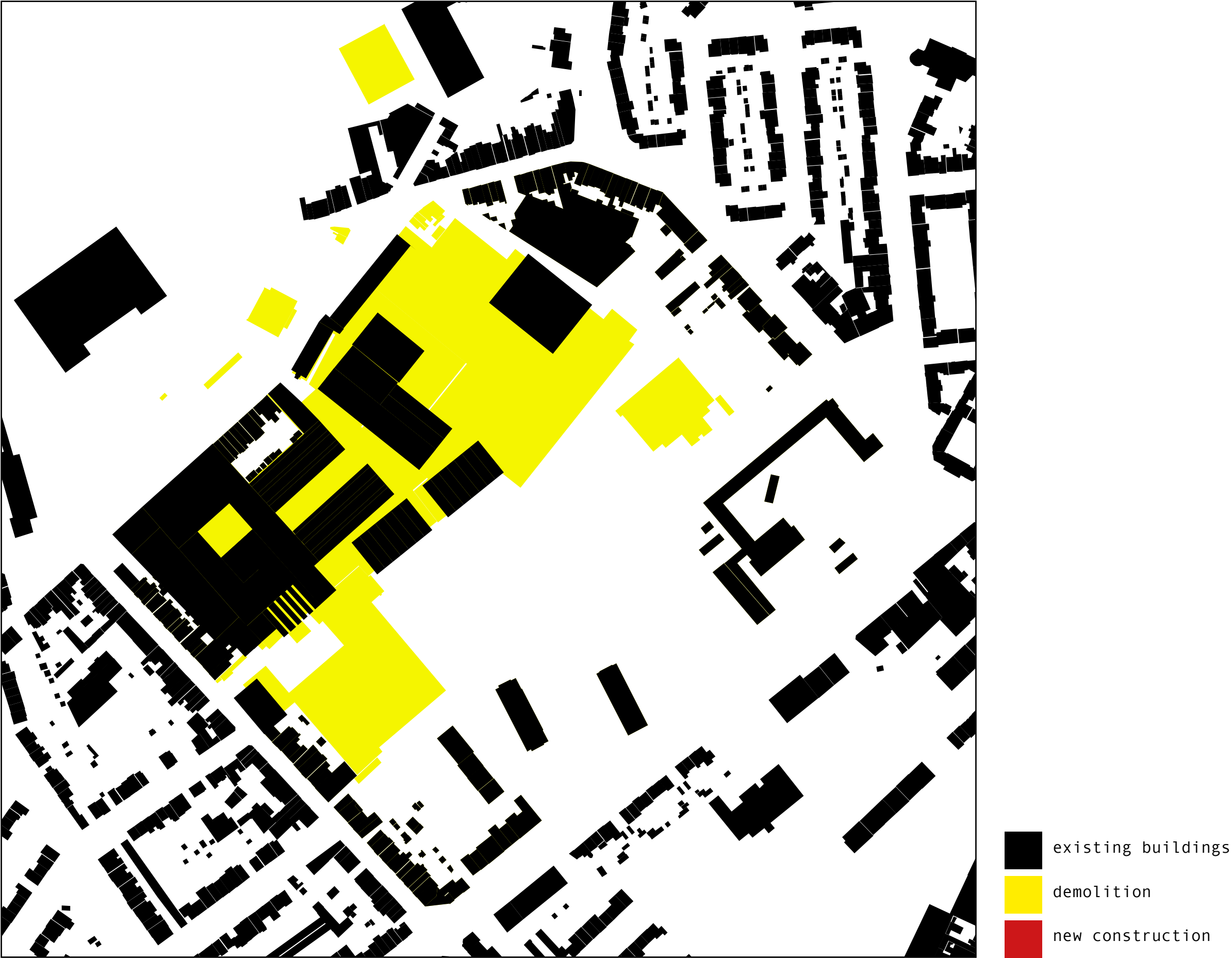




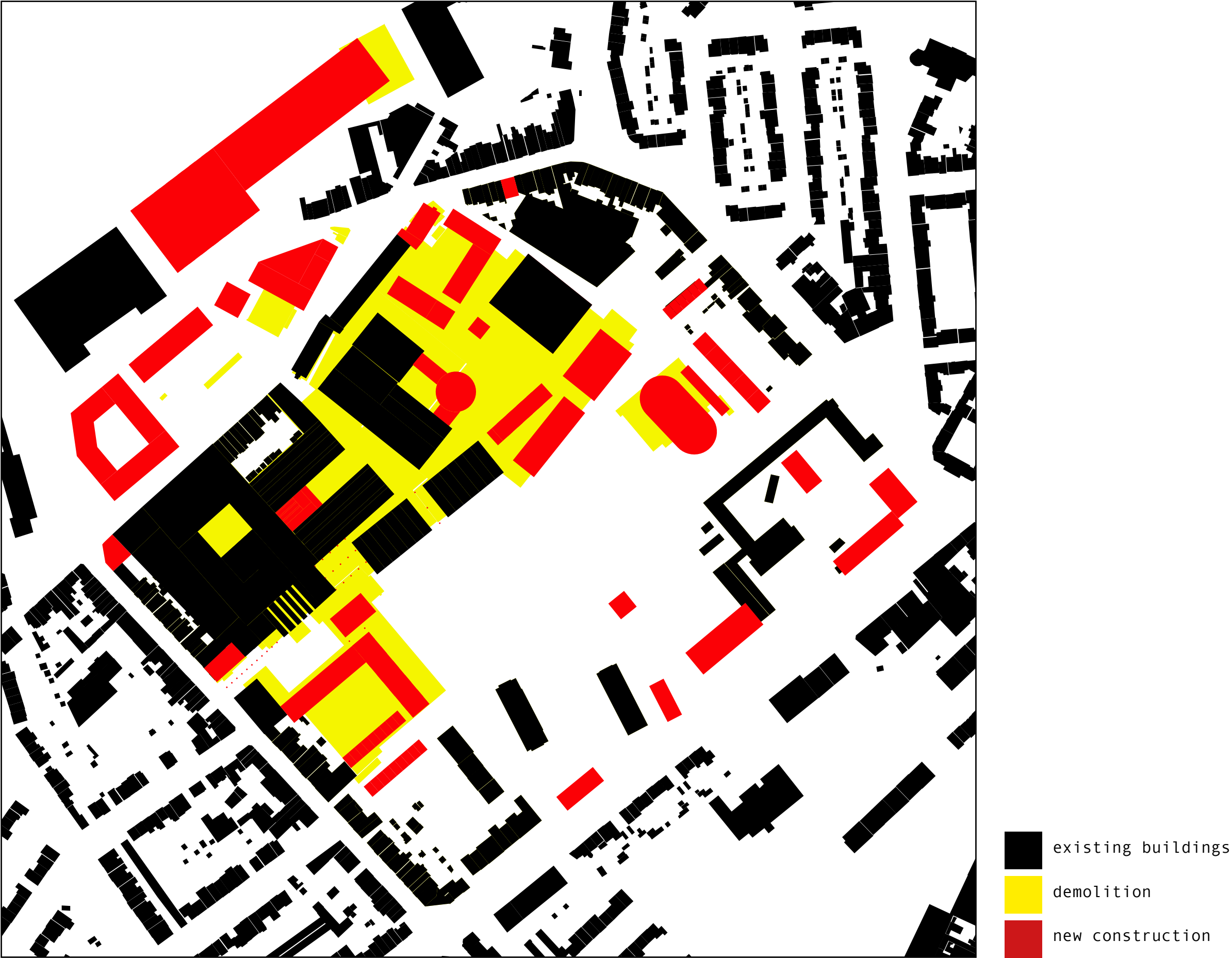
assessment of the structures



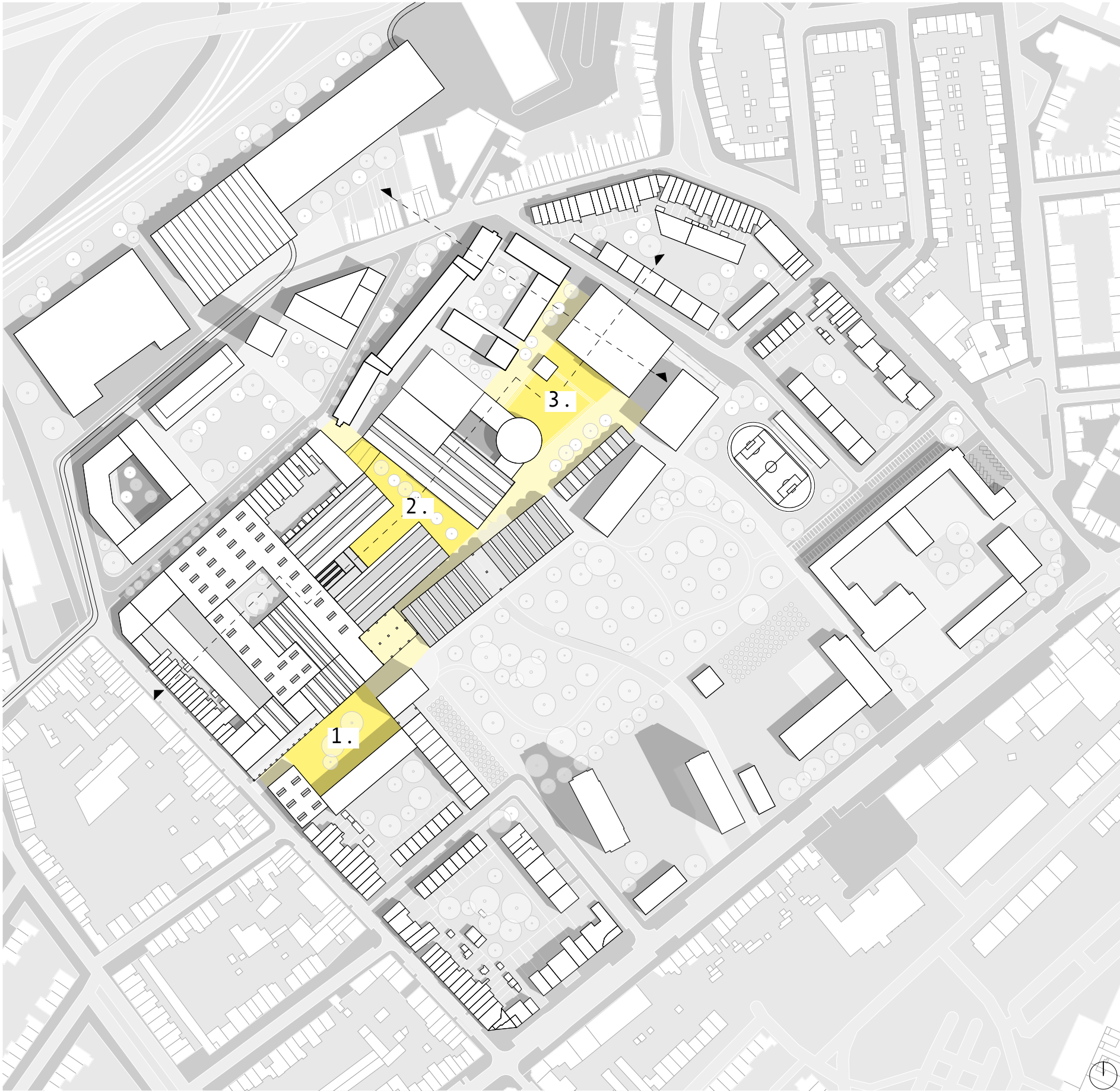














2. Cultural square



1. Educational square

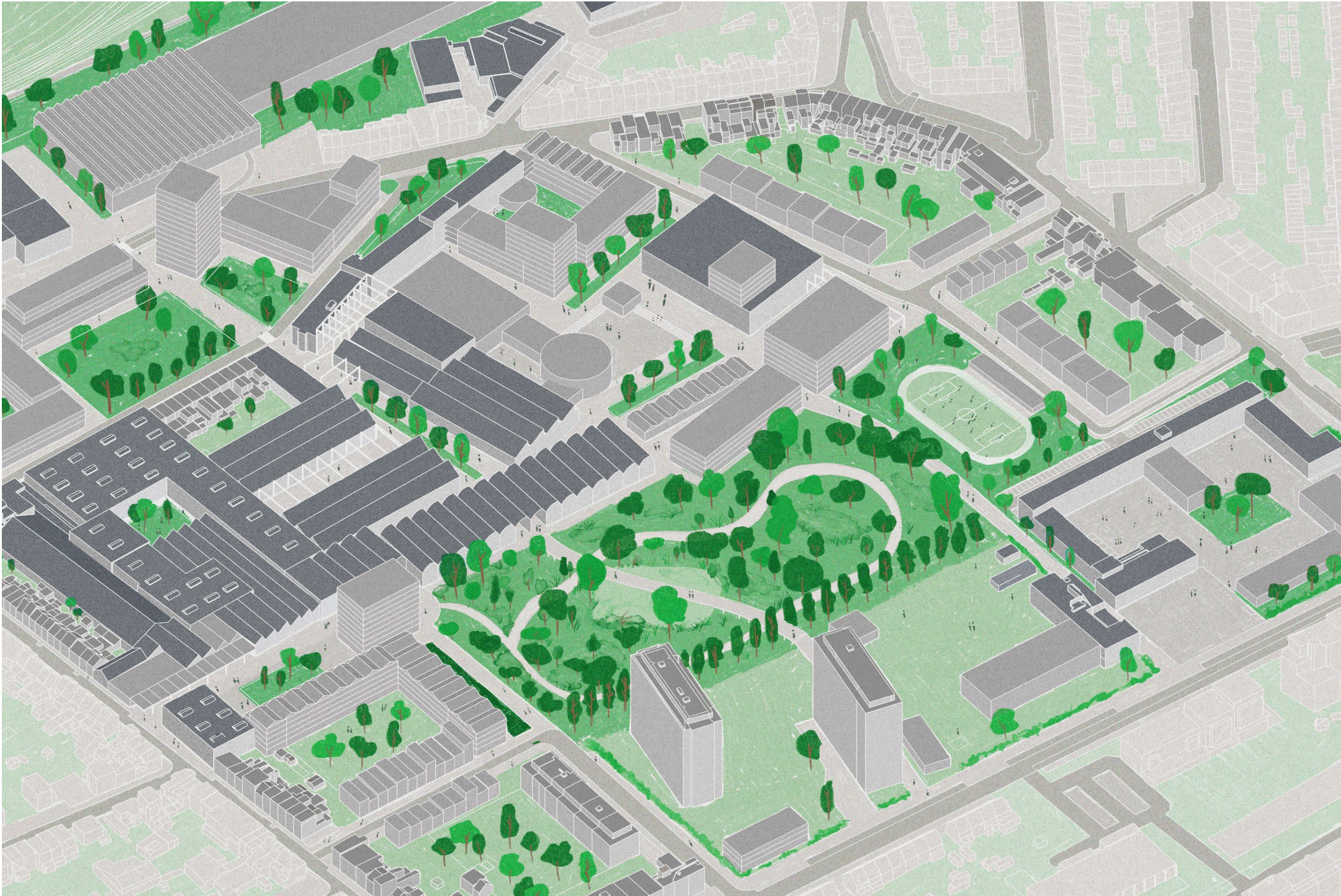


3. Productive square



section through the site



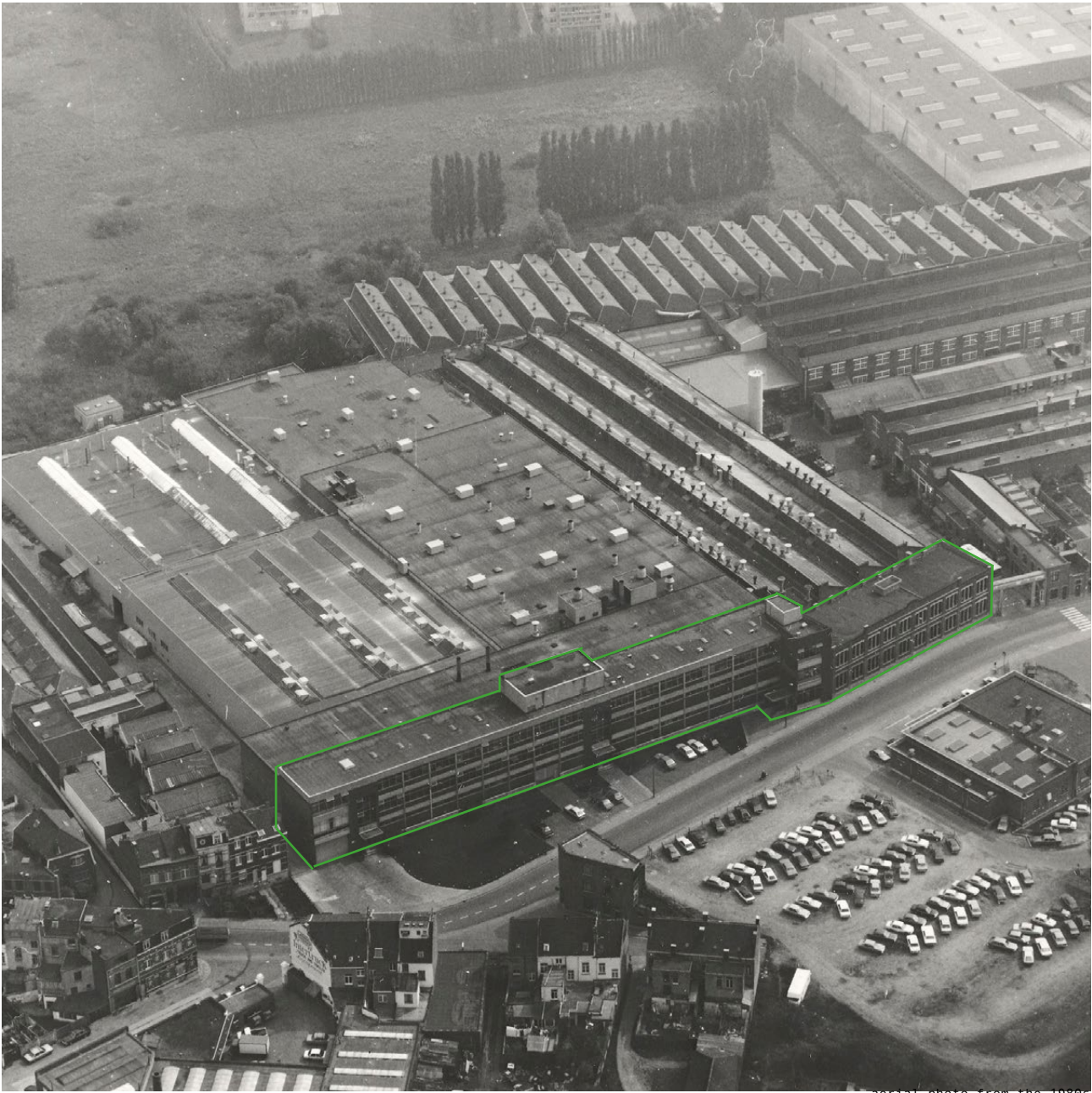






aerial photo from the 1980s  
@felixarchif





aerial photo from the 1980s  
@felixarchif  
aerial photo from the 1980s  
@felixarchif





photo Lageweg 2019  
@GVA

**„A gloomy view of useless decay.**  
It is such a blocked file that it seems  
to be the endless cancer of Hoboken“

(GVA, 2017)



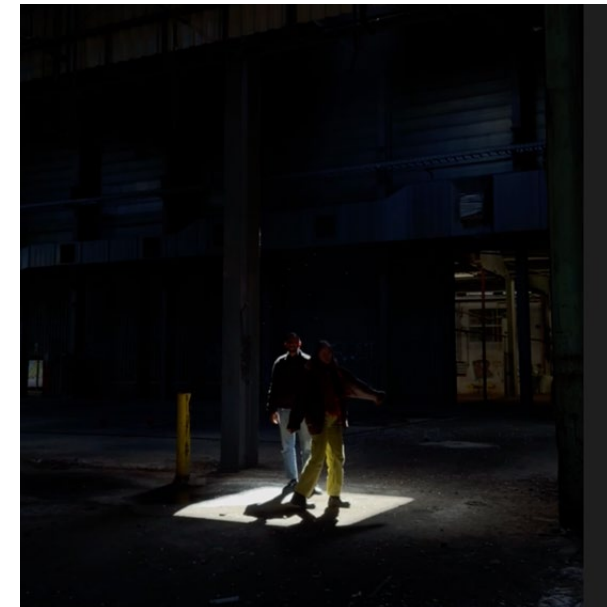
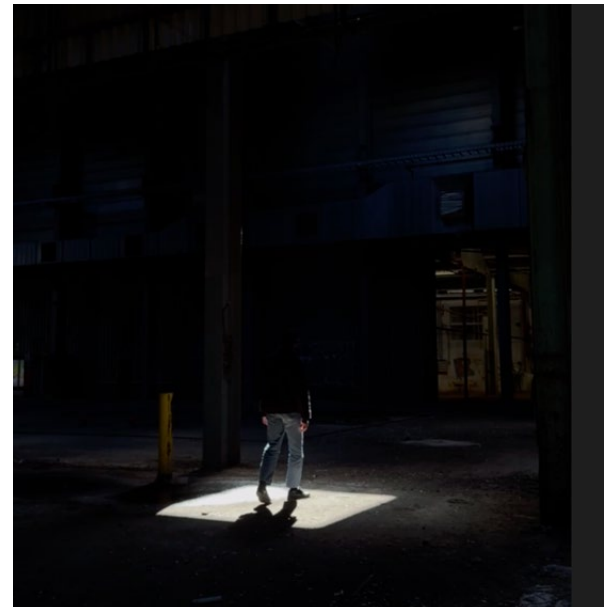


@felixarchif  
photo from construction in 1965



on how to work **with** a building





dance with it  
play with it  
talk to it



how to transform a  
building?

how to tell the story  
how to work **with** a building



## MANIFEST

Material diplomacy demands that the transformation of existing buildings is approached with sensitivity and consideration, and that the rights of the buildings are balanced with the rights of the re-user.

### 1. Listening before drawing

Design should not begin with the imposition of a concept, but with an act of attention. The existing building, its materials, its movements and its wear - all of these offer clues. Listening means observing closely.

### 2. Speak not for, but with

In architectural authorship, the designer is often the voice and the building the silent background. However, when giving agency to the materials and structures, the design becomes a diplomatic act.

### 3. Design as negotiation, not invention

Transformation is not an act of replacement, but of dialogue. Negotiation means taking the existing seriously, asking: 'What can remain?' and 'What needs to be adapted?' This principle shifts the role of the architect from that of creator to that of mediator, balancing the values of memory and function, continuity and change.

### 4. Slow down the eraser

Demolition is simple, final and often careless. It not only erases structures, but also relationships - between spaces and people, between memory and place. Material diplomacy demands slowness in the face of this erasure. Slowing down is a political and ecological act - one that resists the culture of the disposable.

### 5. Design for future dialogues

Every intervention will one day become the past for someone else's future. Material diplomacy takes into account not only what is inherited, but also what is passed on. Designing for future dialogues means avoiding the final gesture - leaving the door open for continuation, reinterpretation or dissent. The project becomes a platform, not a monument; a conversation, not a conclusion.



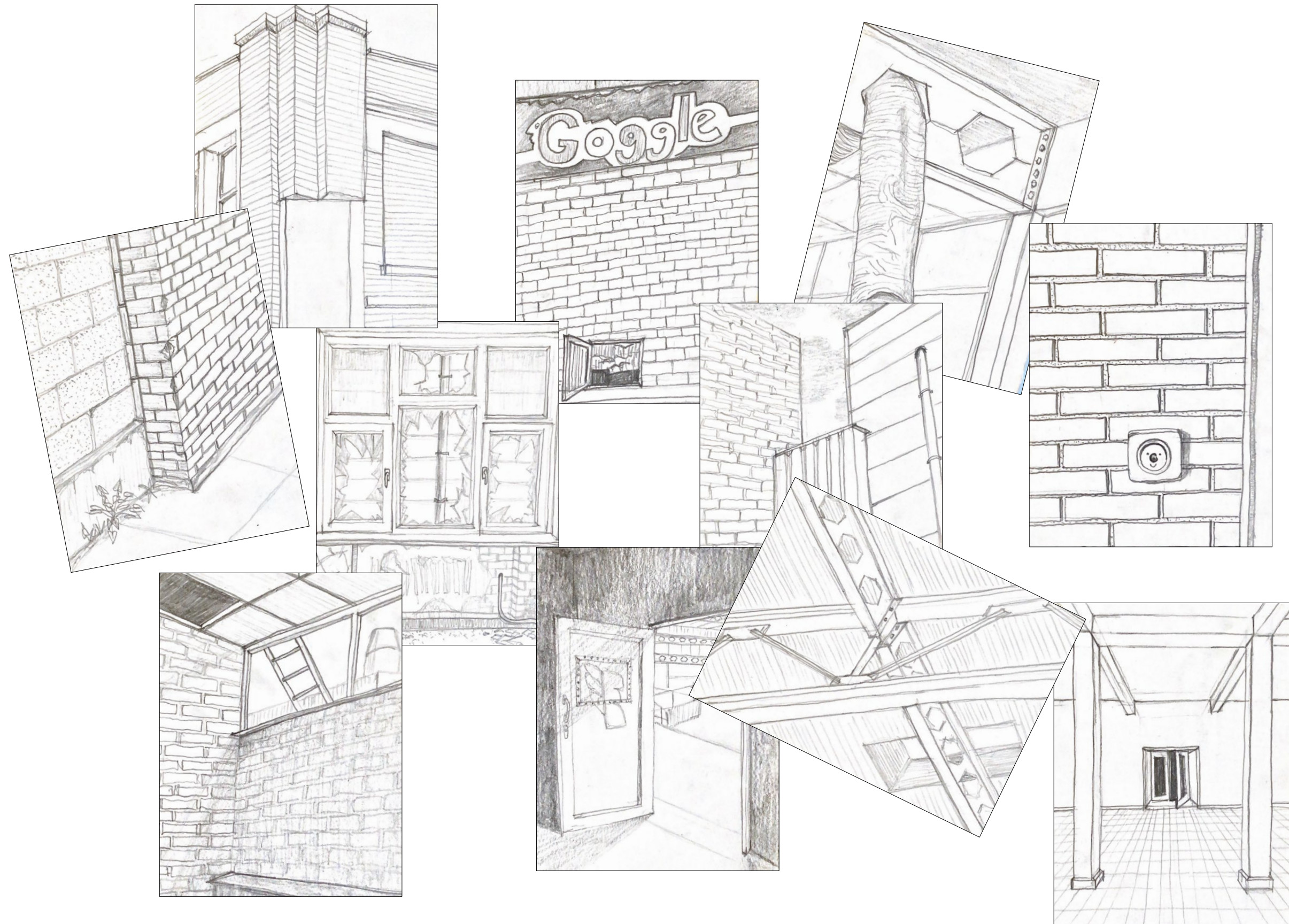




@felixarchif

from Hoboken into the  
world





from Lageweg into the  
world





**transformation** of the building



1924



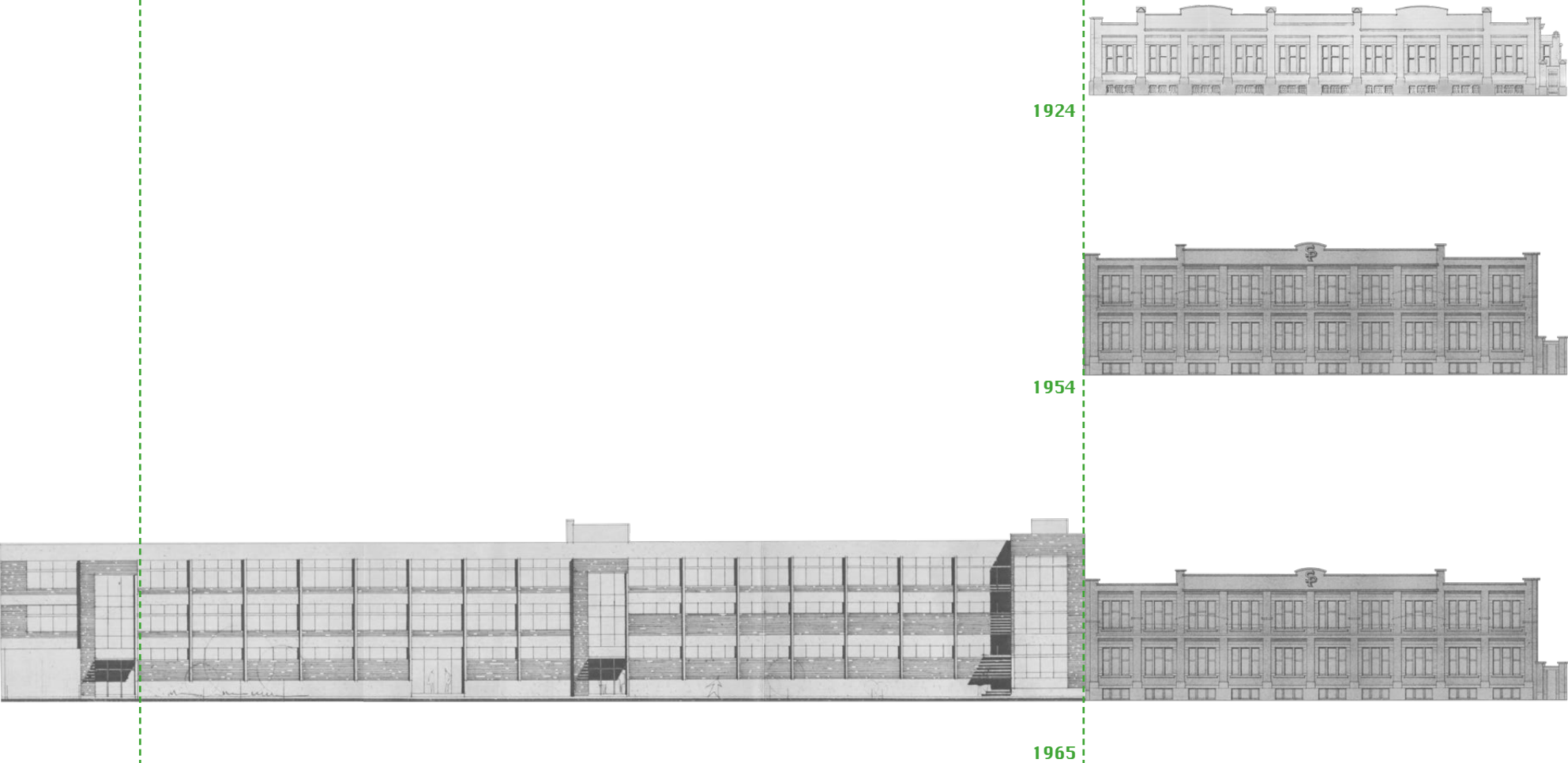
1924

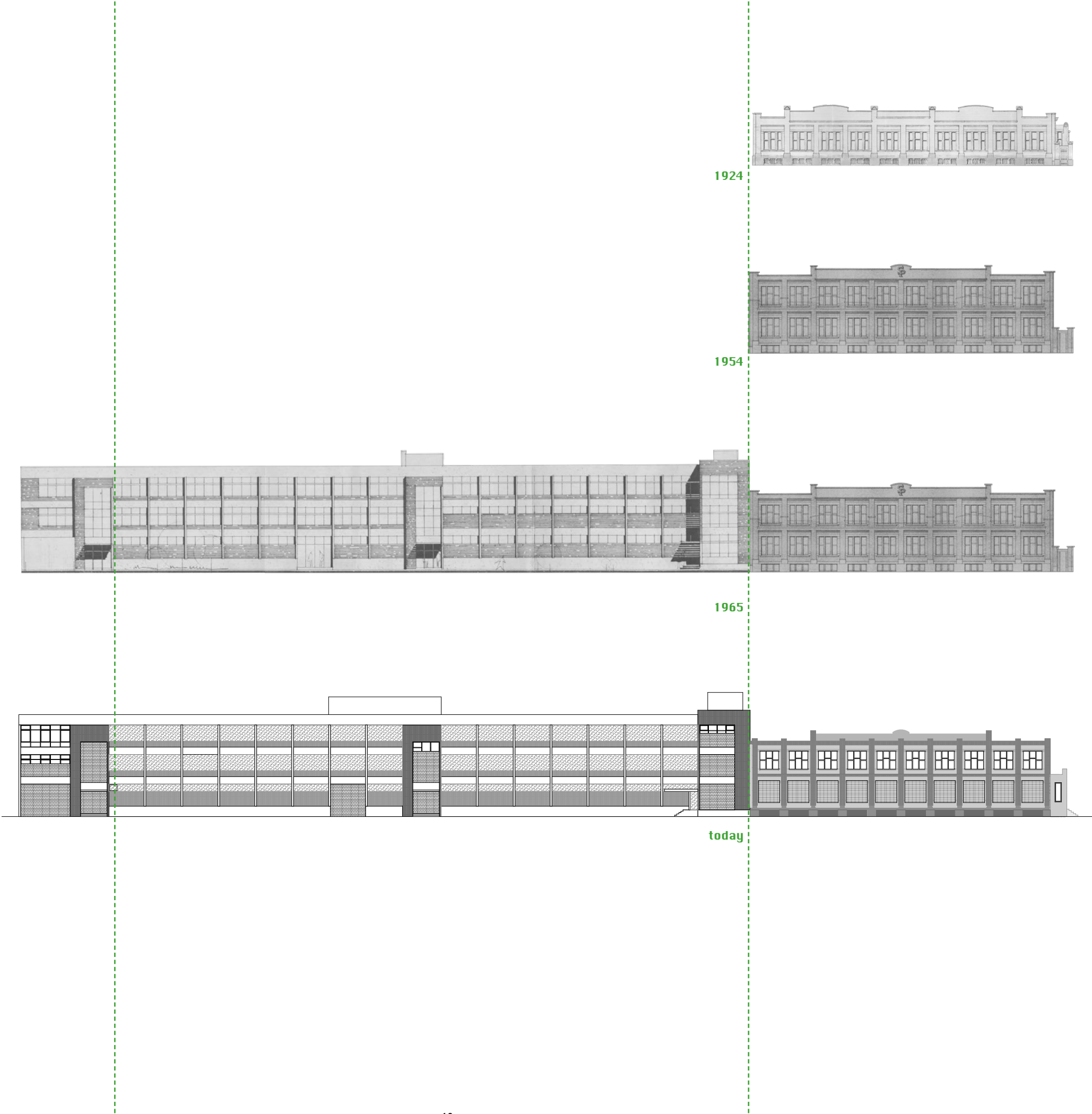


1954

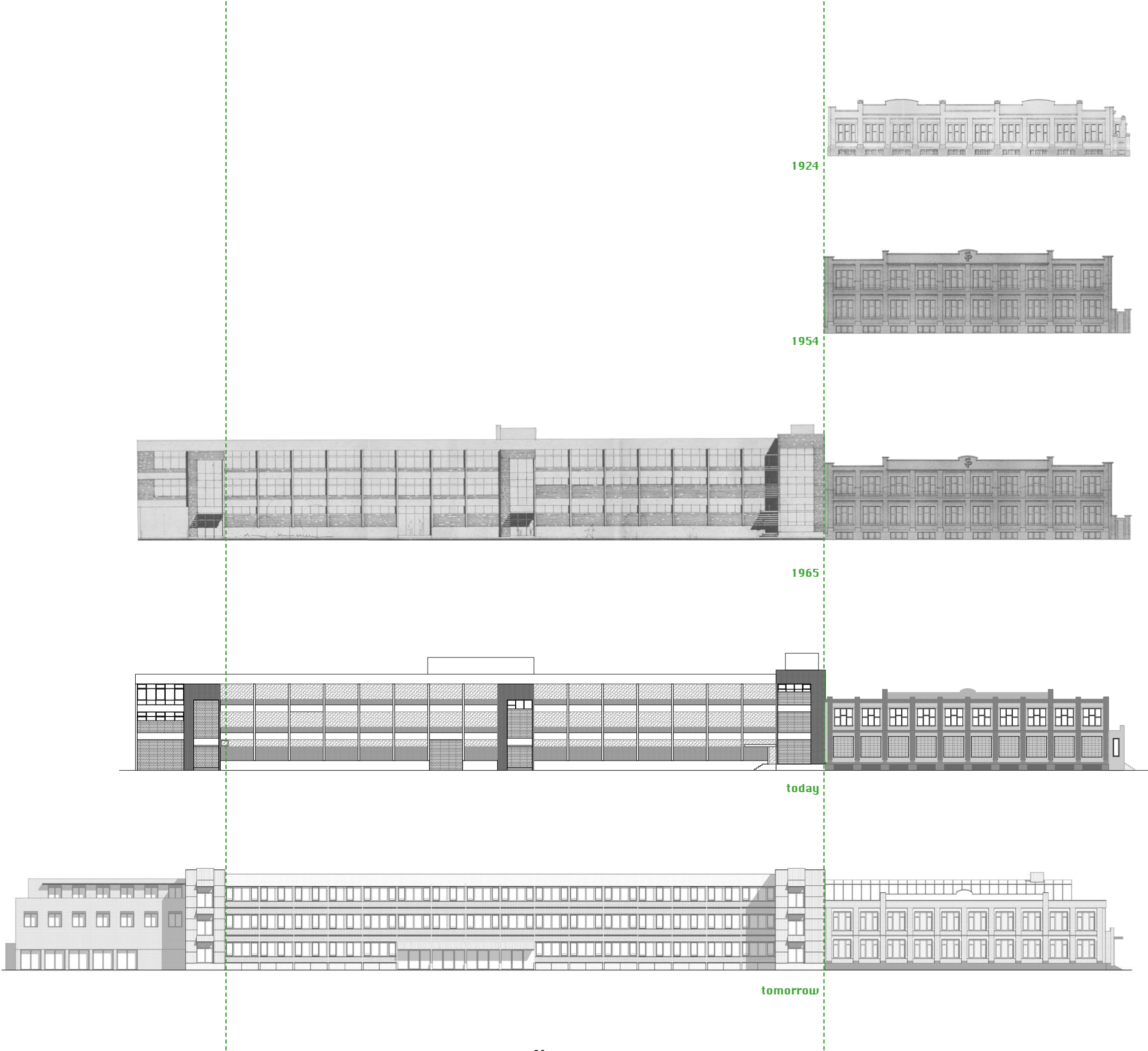






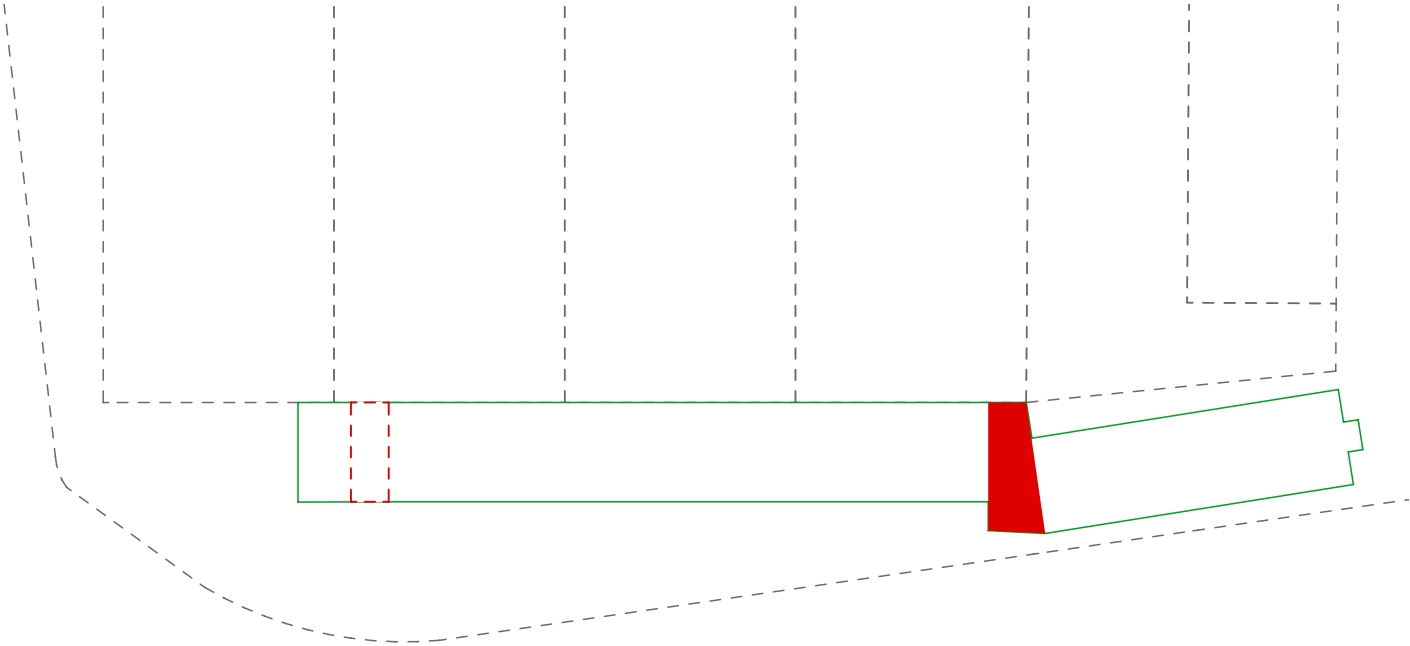




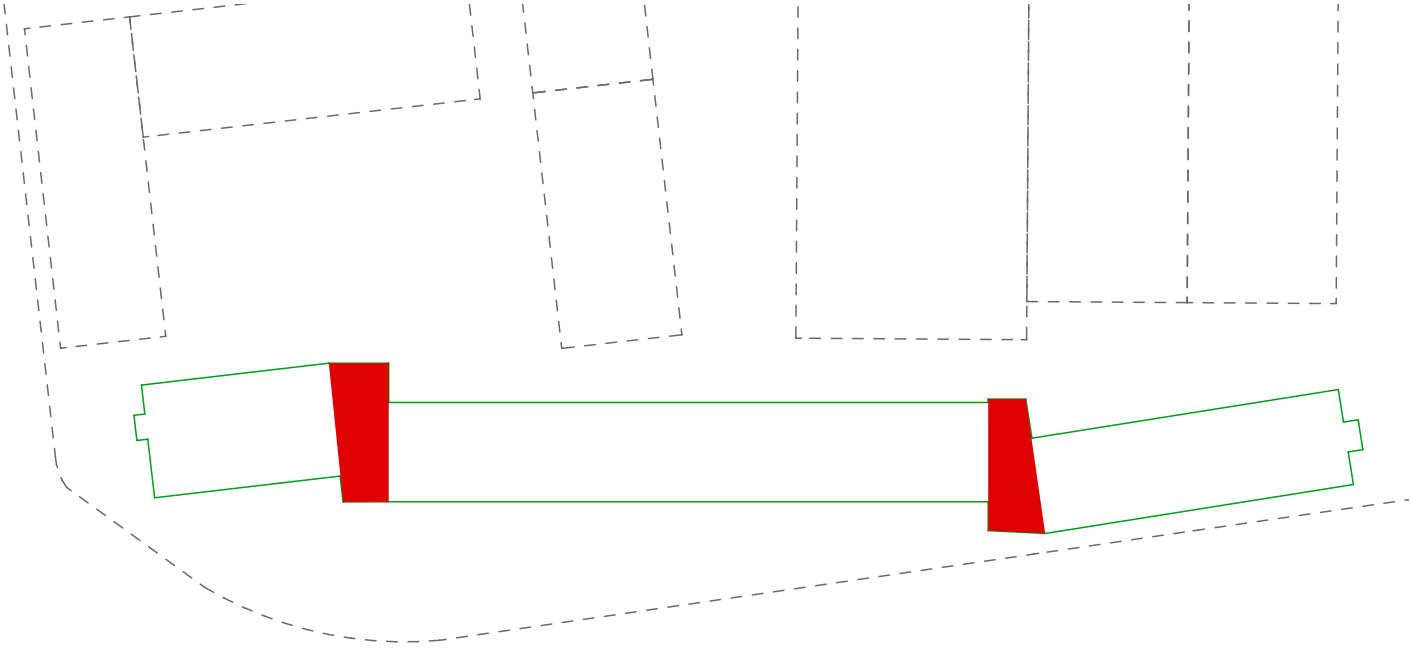


on how to move



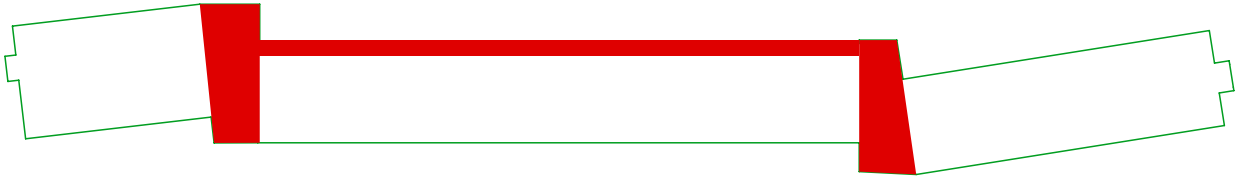


the joint



a new joint



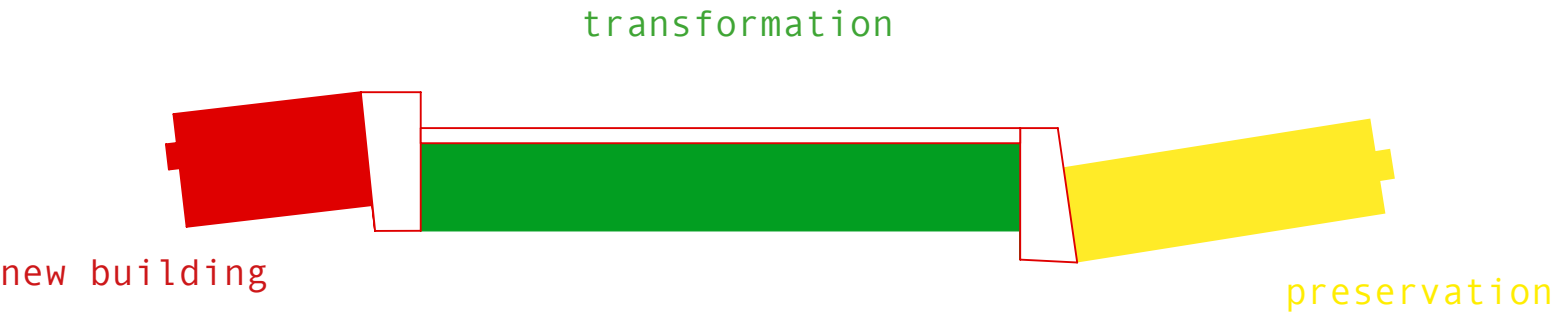


the connecting spine

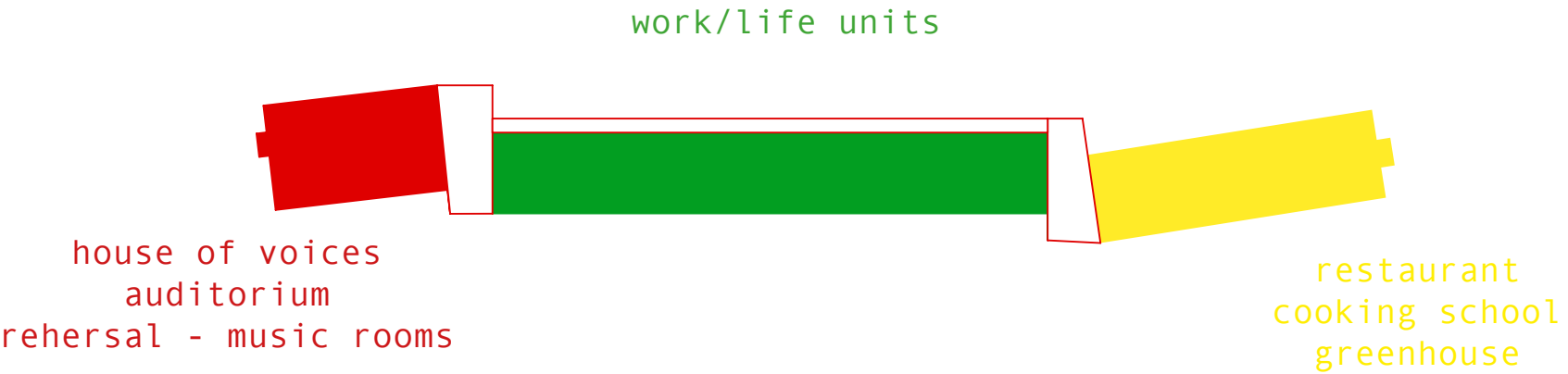


the movement



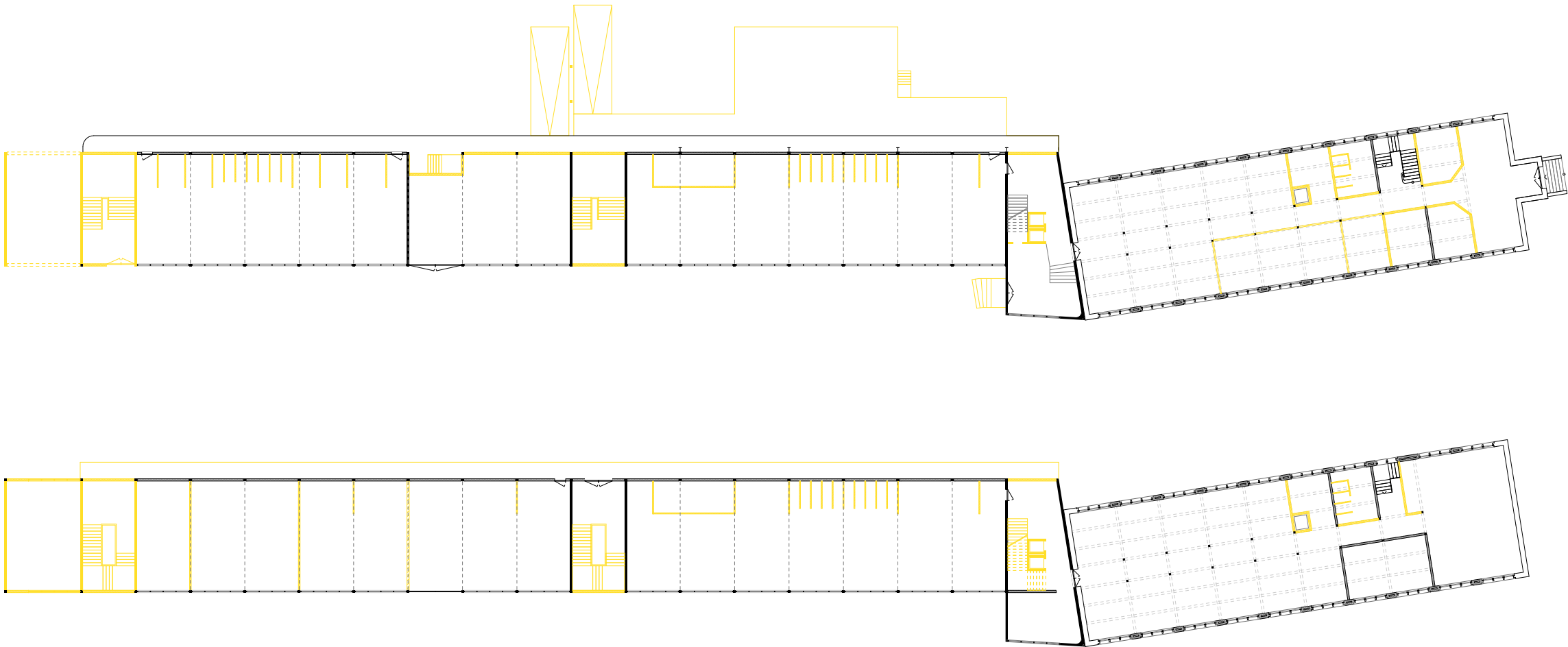


themes

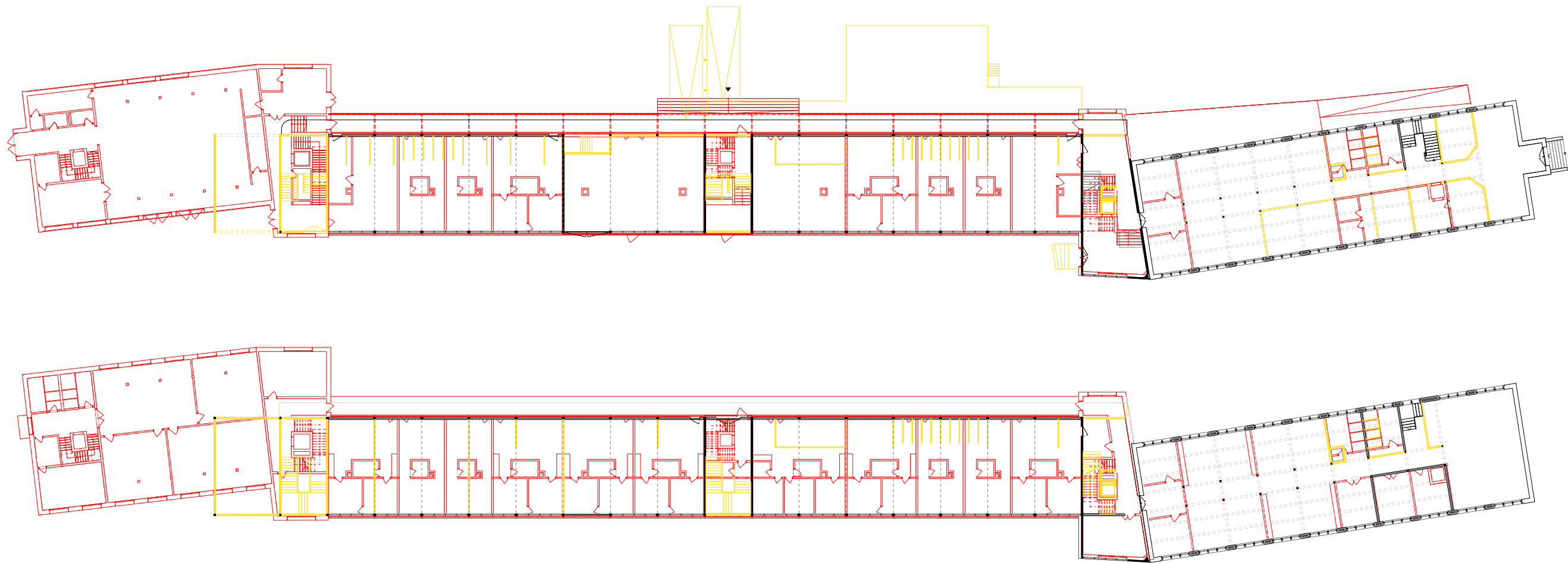


the new life



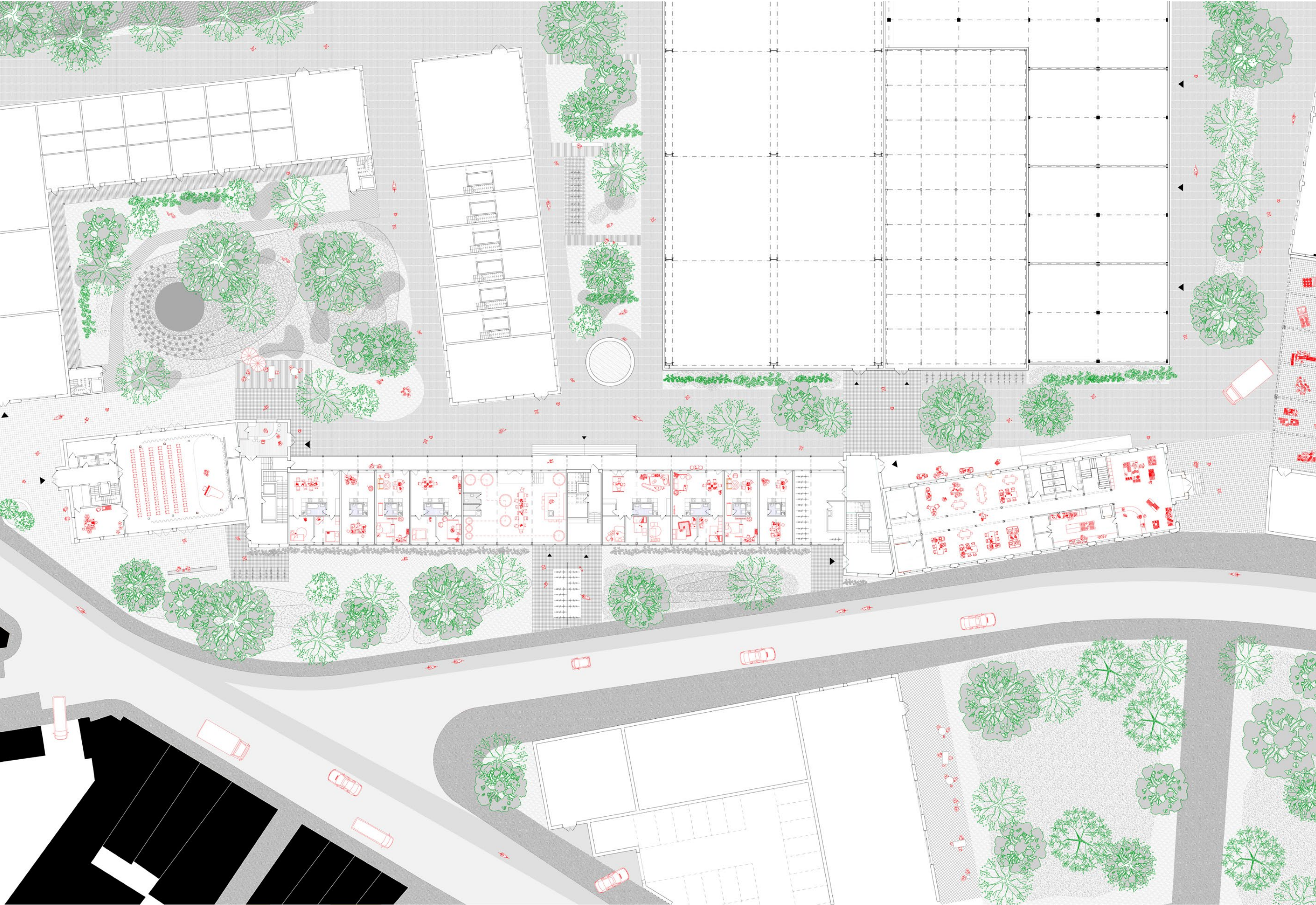


the exisiting building

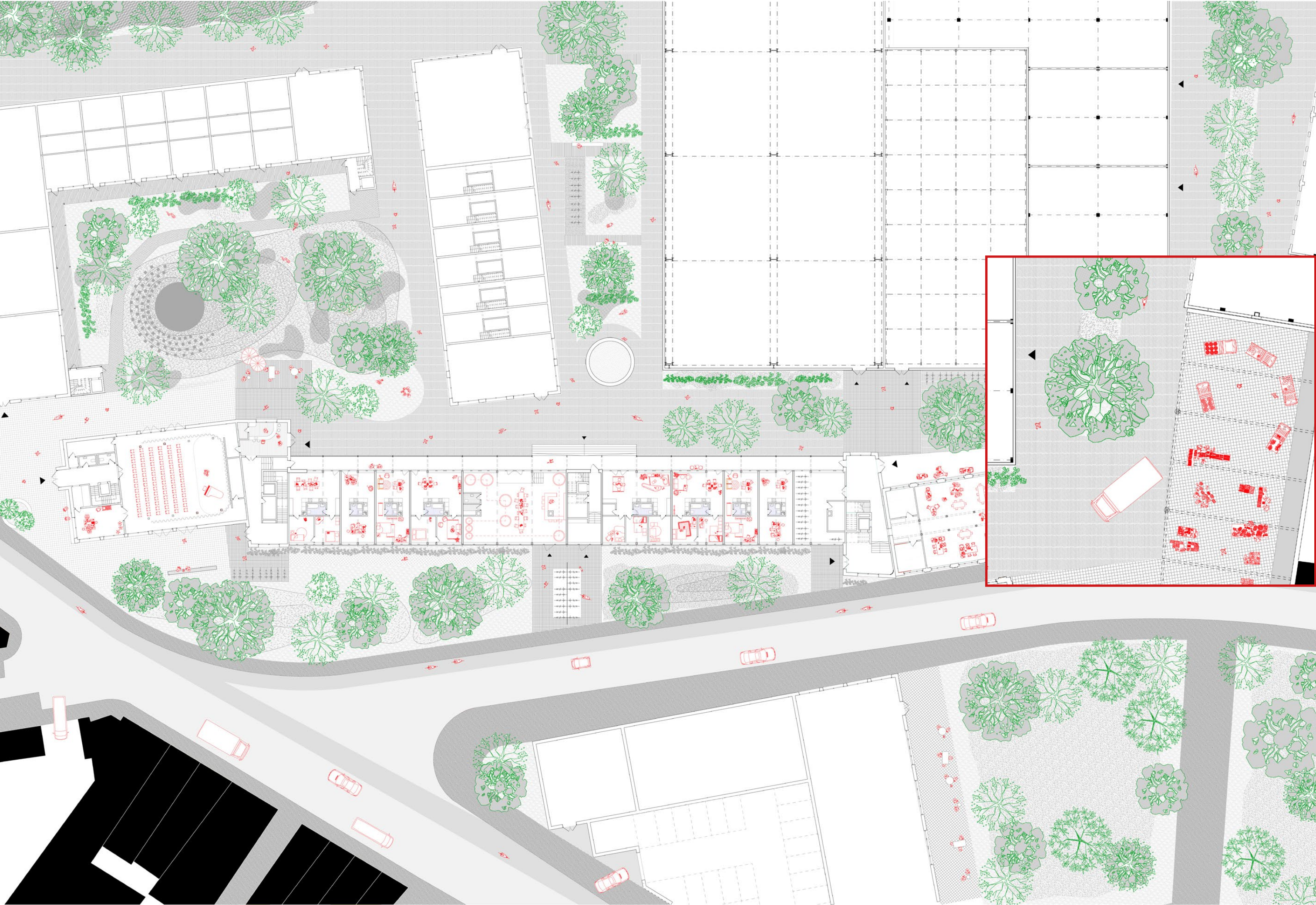


new additions

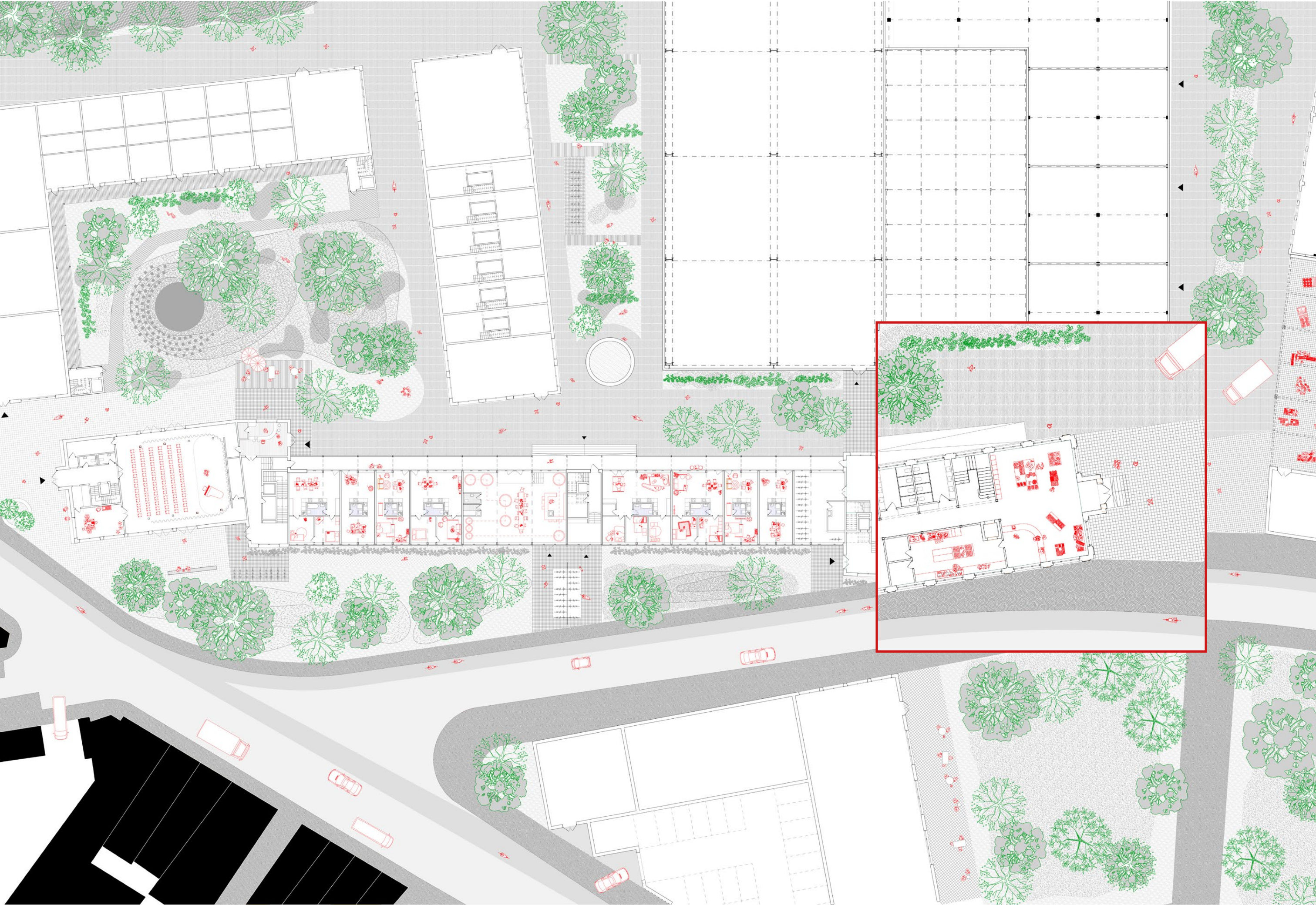




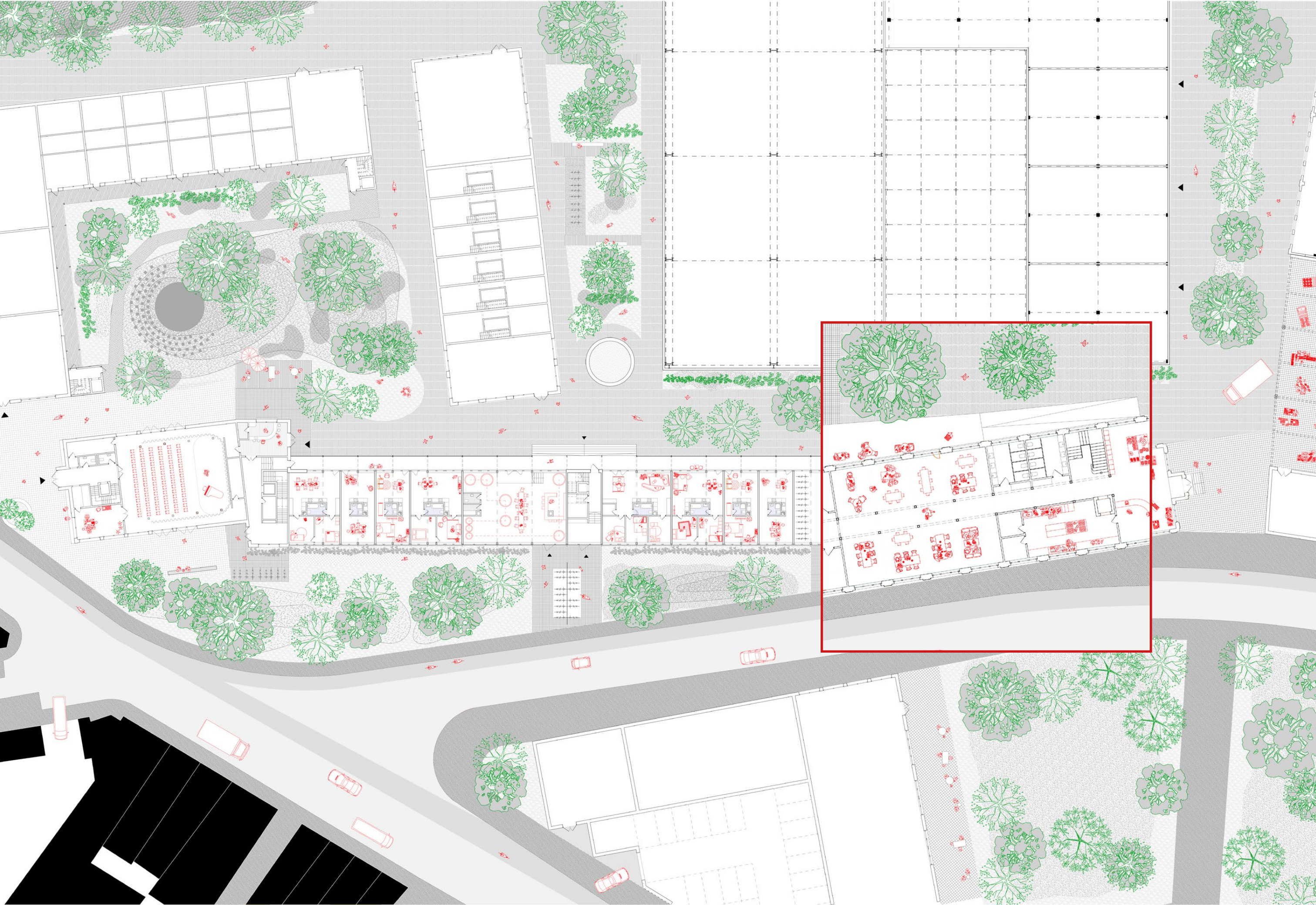




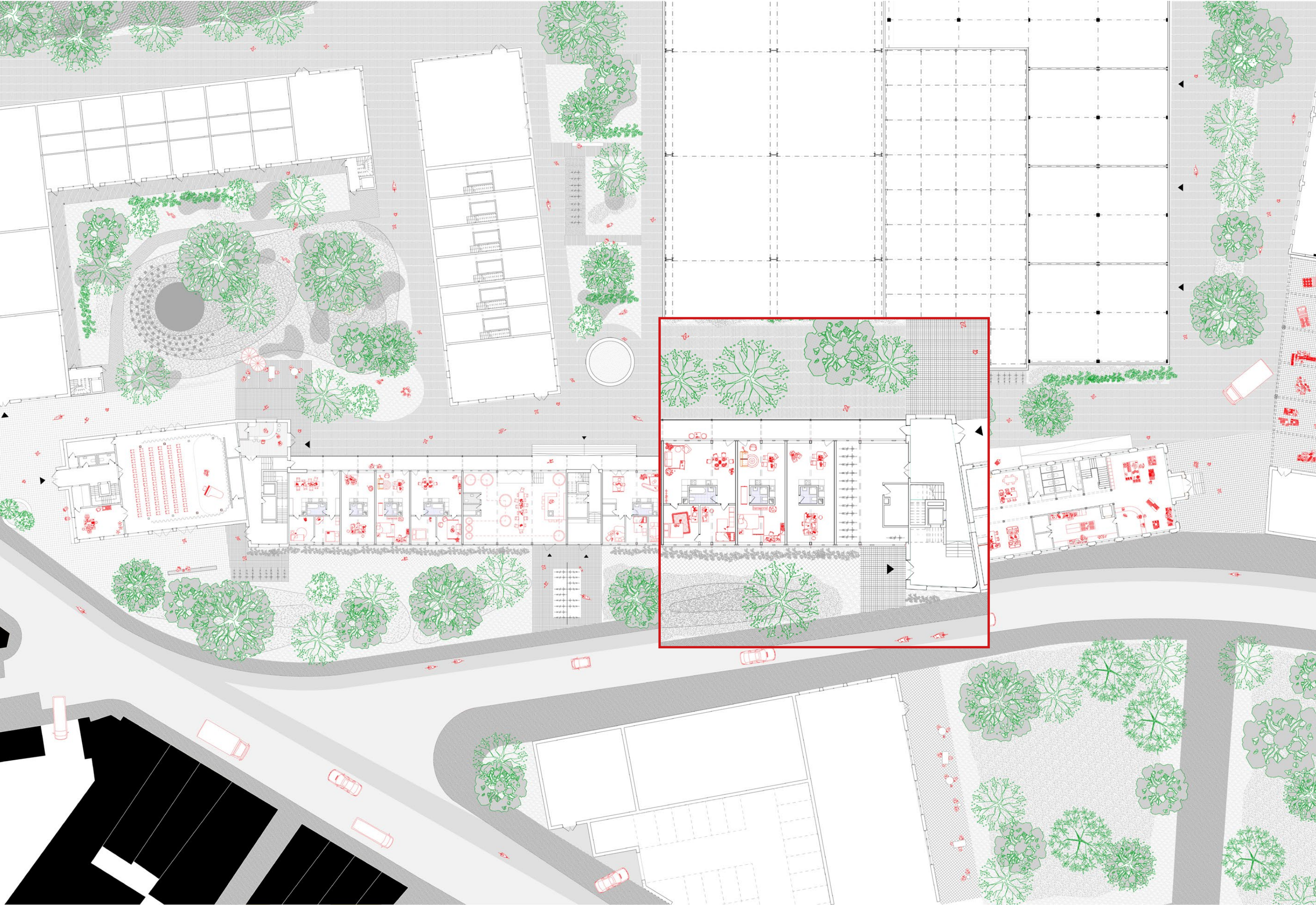








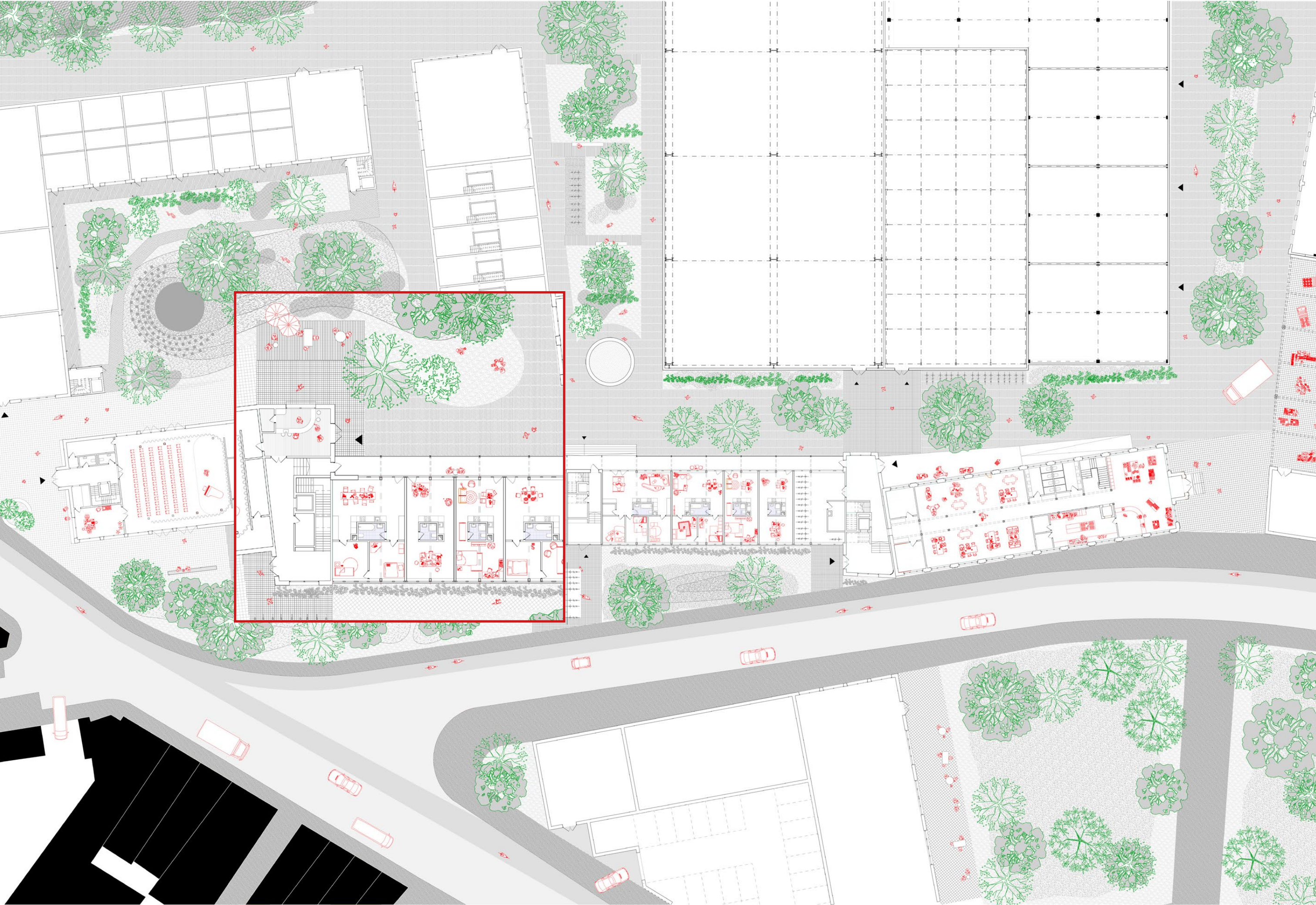




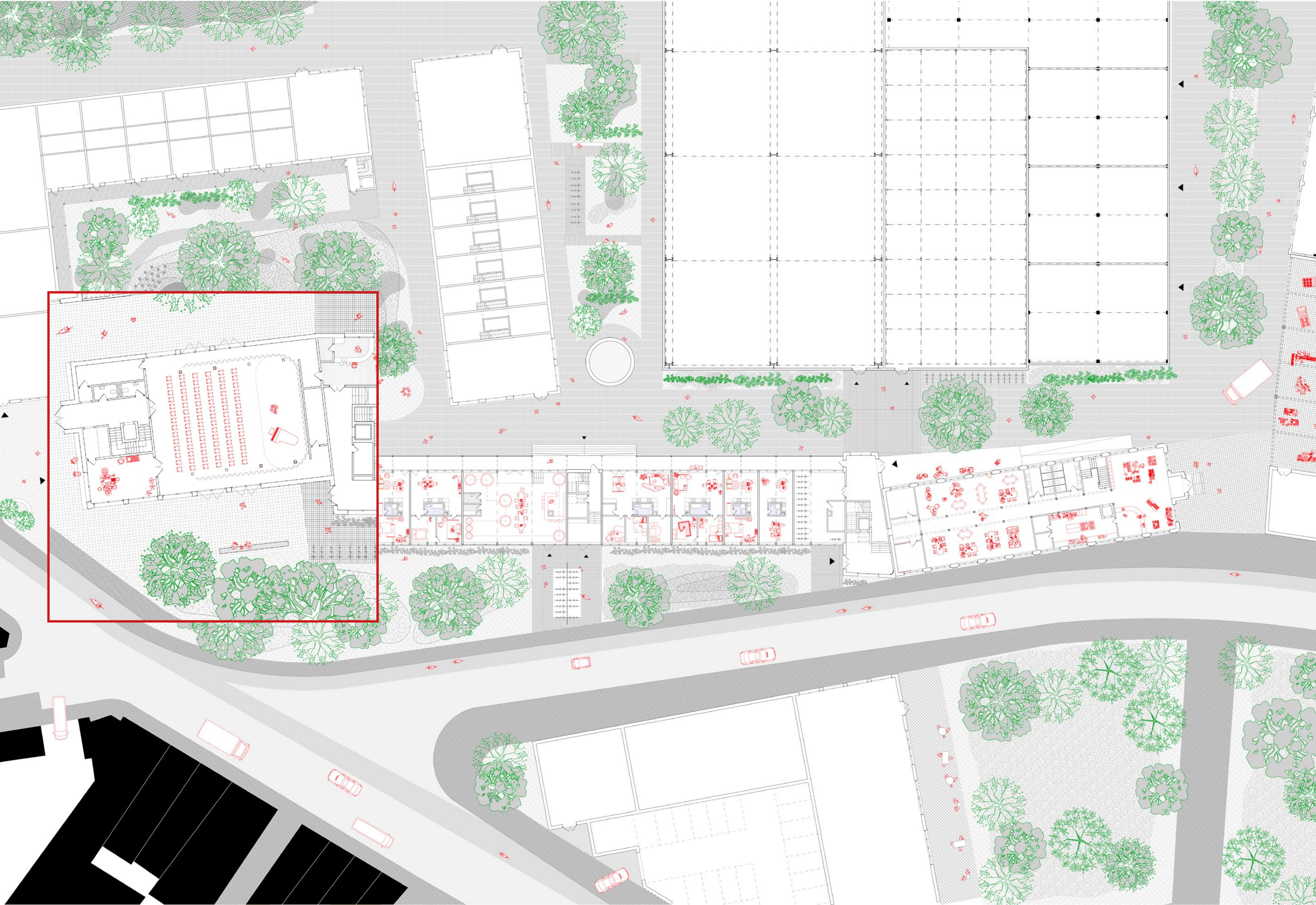


















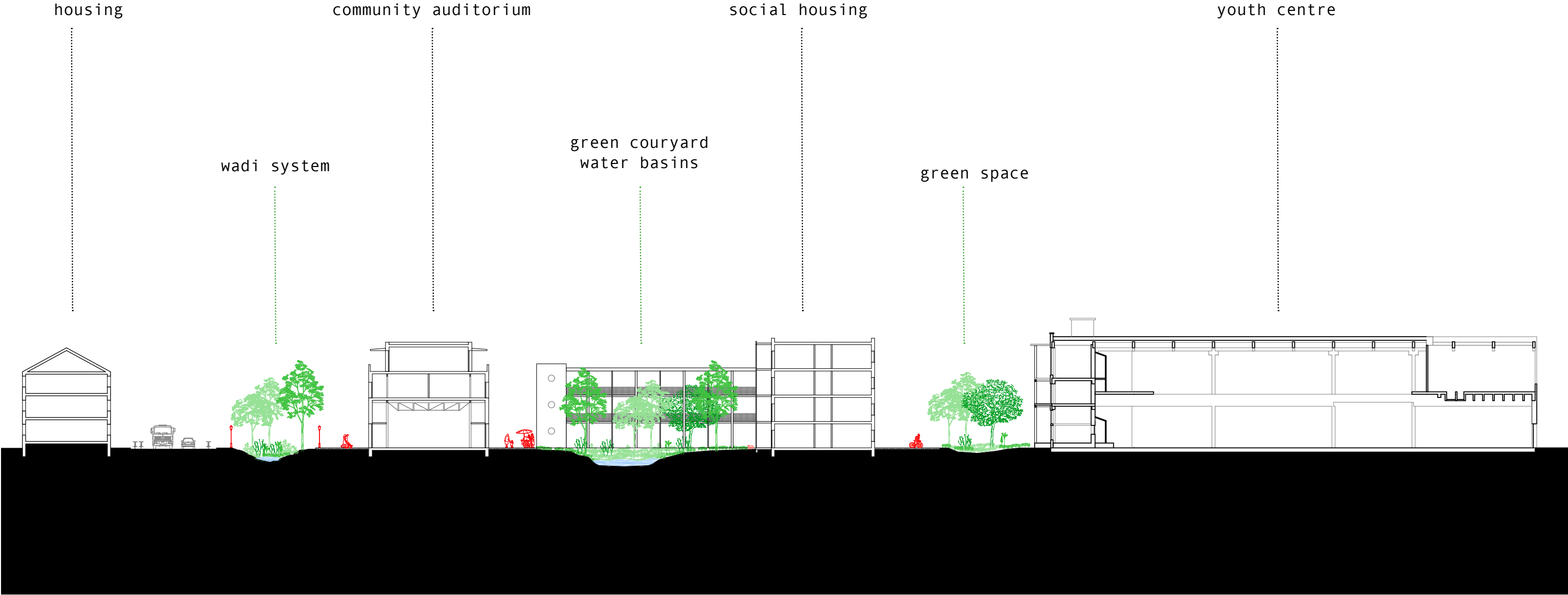


Lageweg 1930



Lageweg 2012

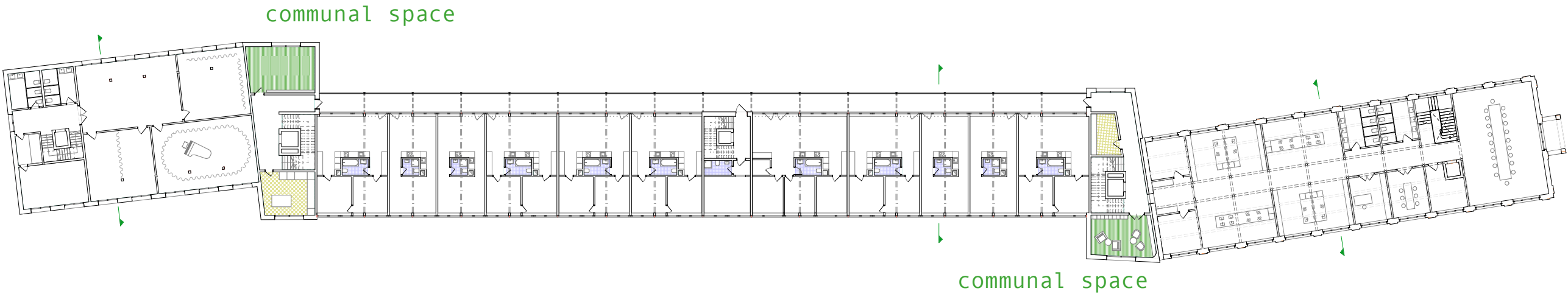






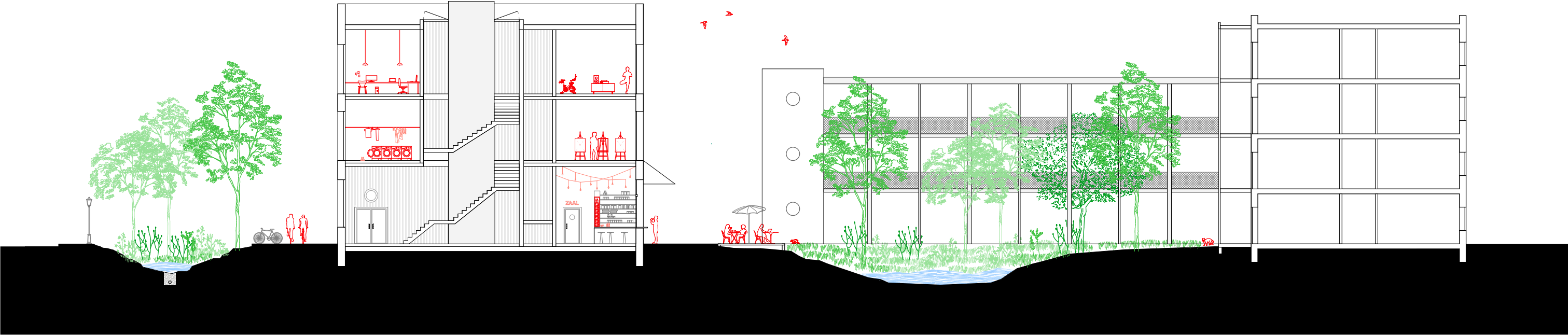






first floor

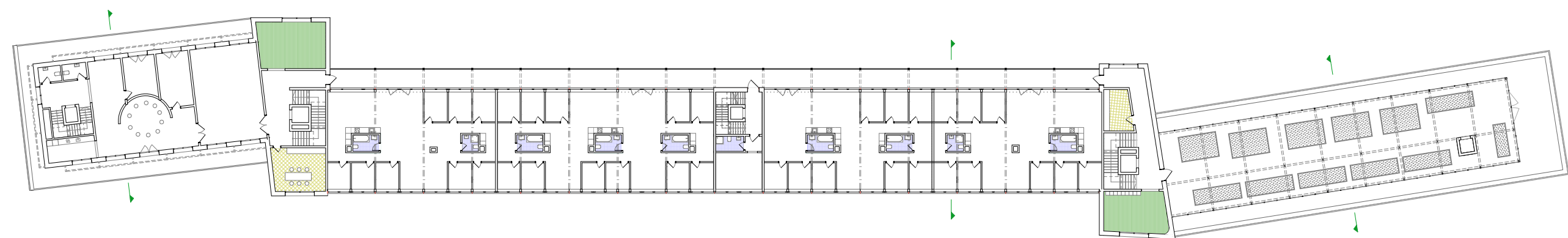




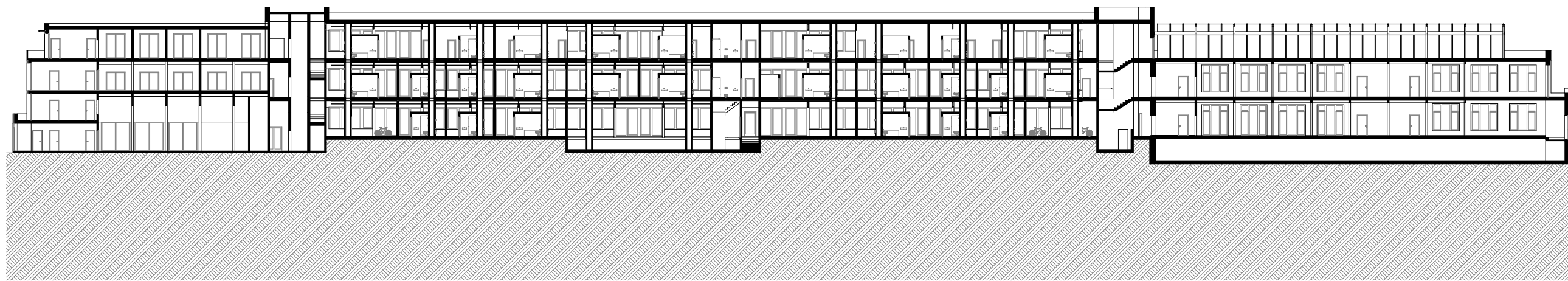




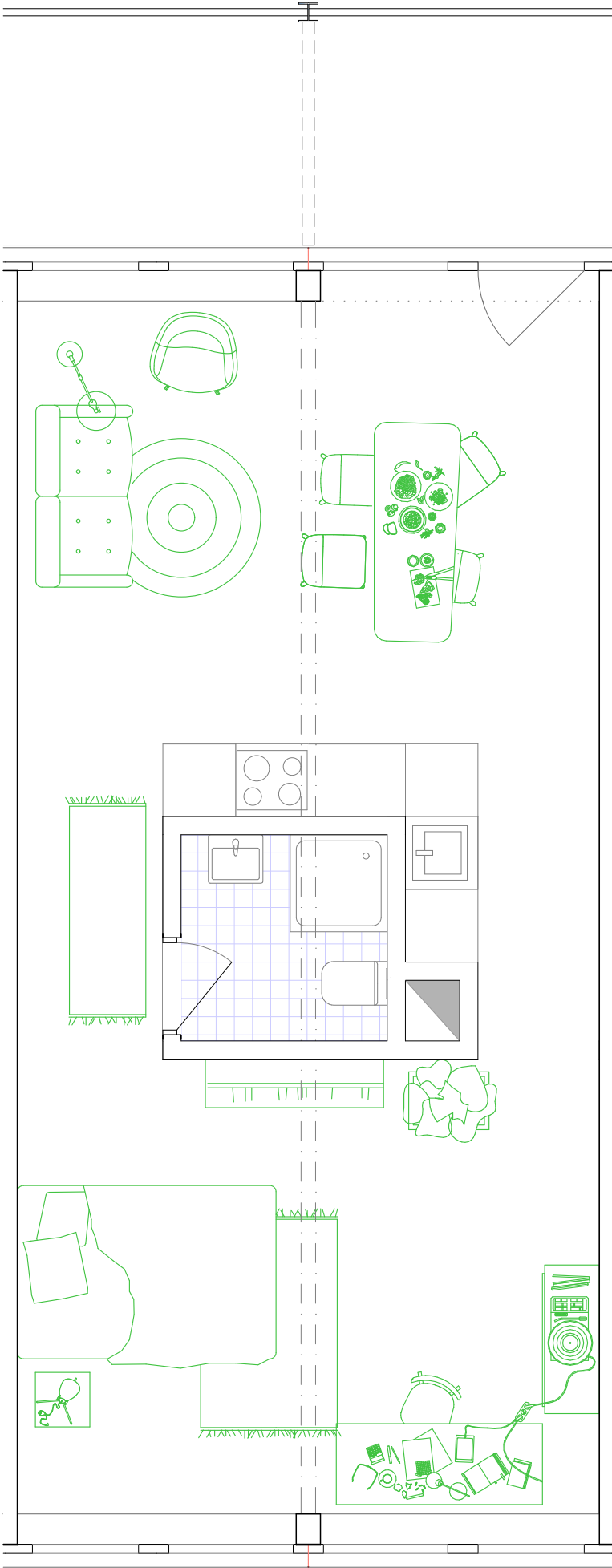




second floor

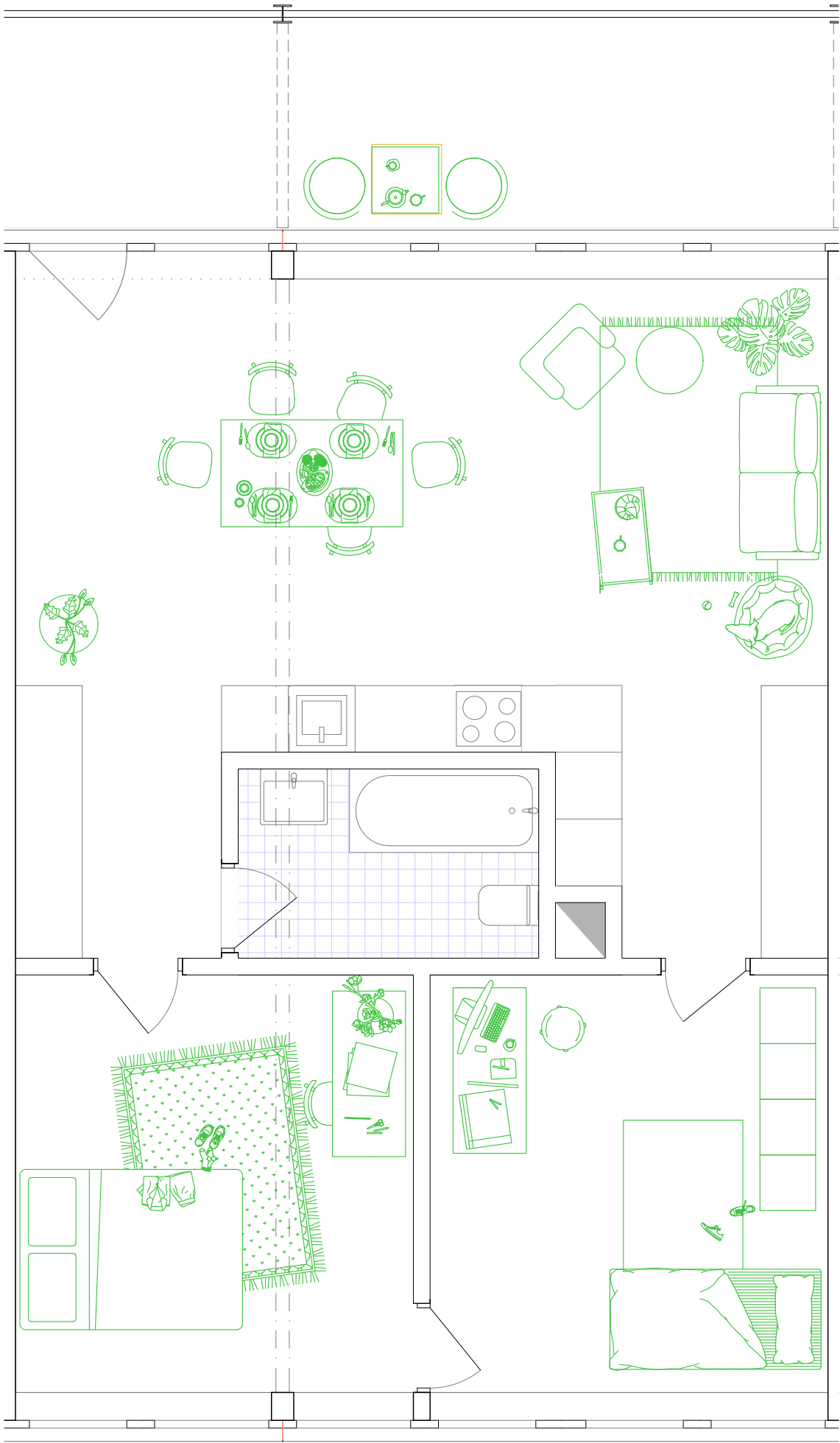






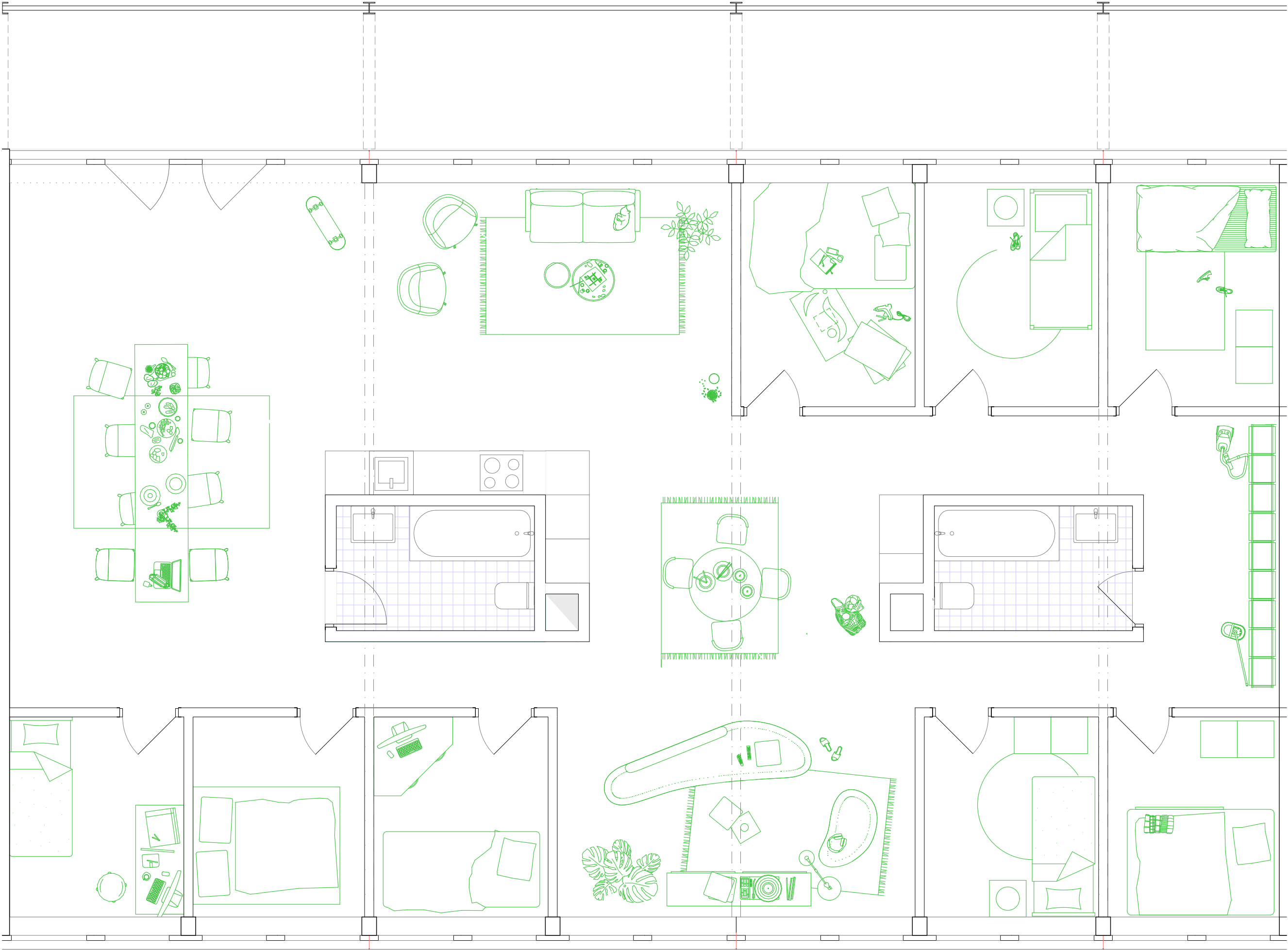
**S**  
46m<sup>2</sup> studio





**M**  
72m<sup>2</sup> two bedroom apartment



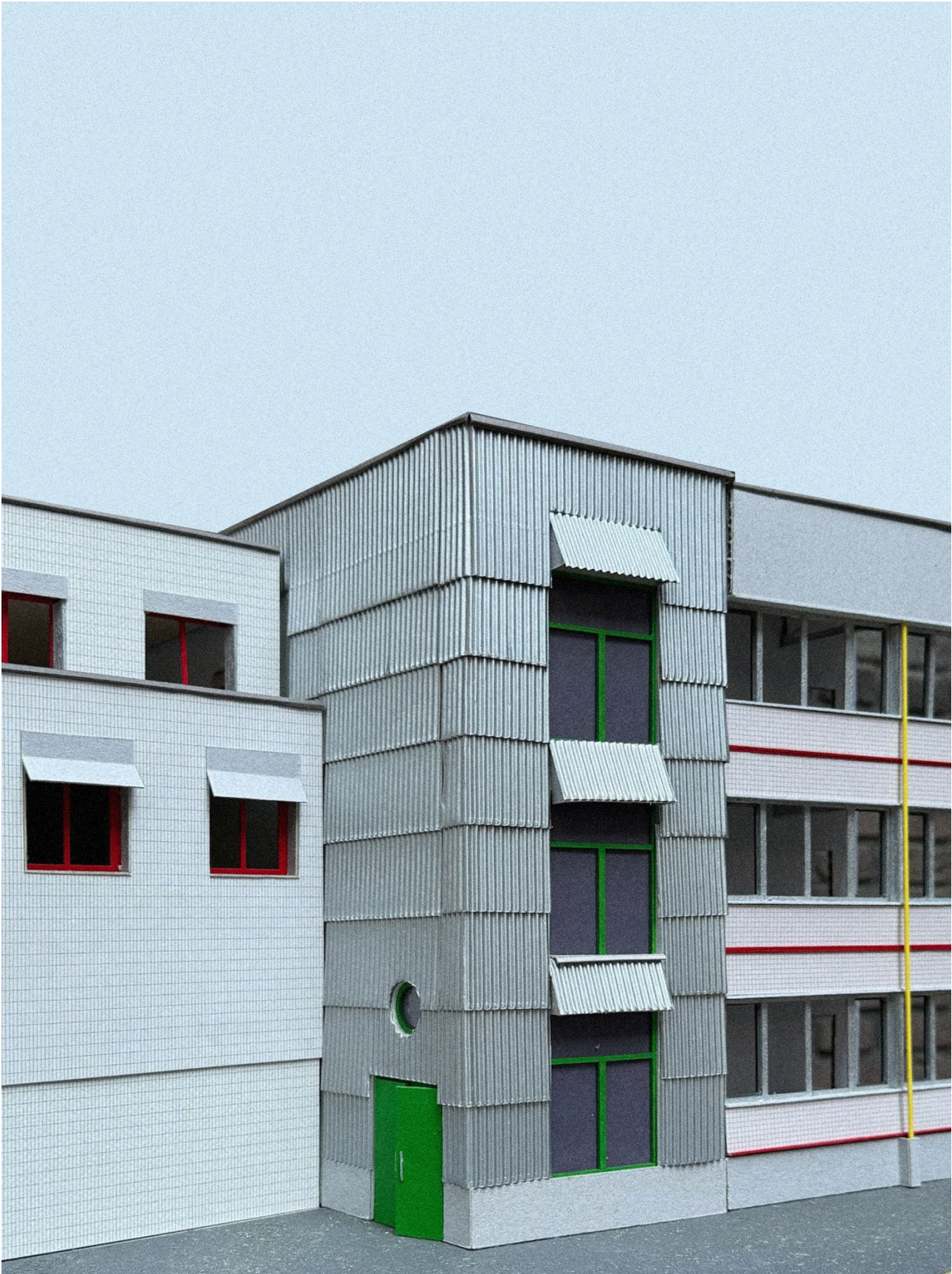


**XXL**  
165m<sup>2</sup>  
co-living





















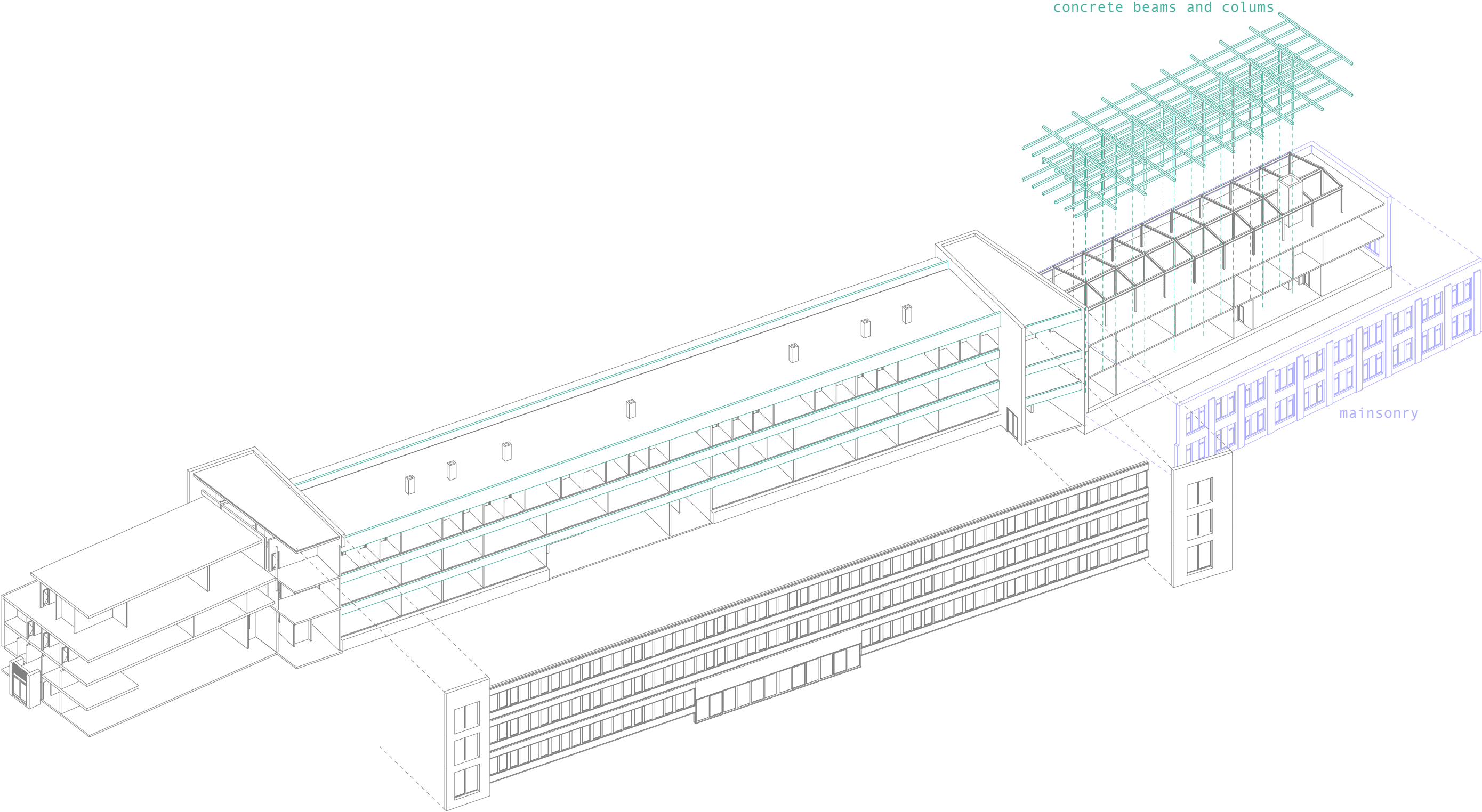






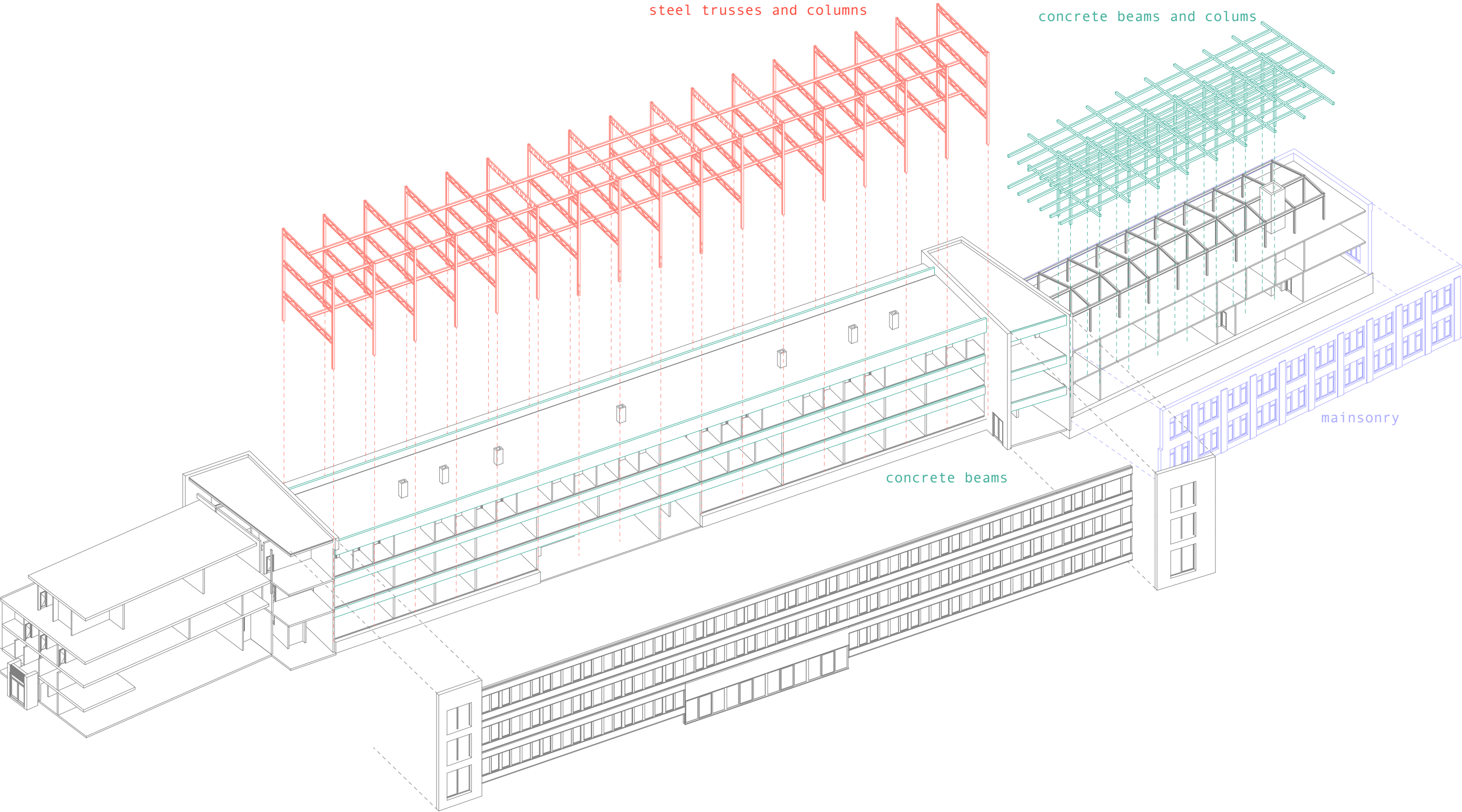






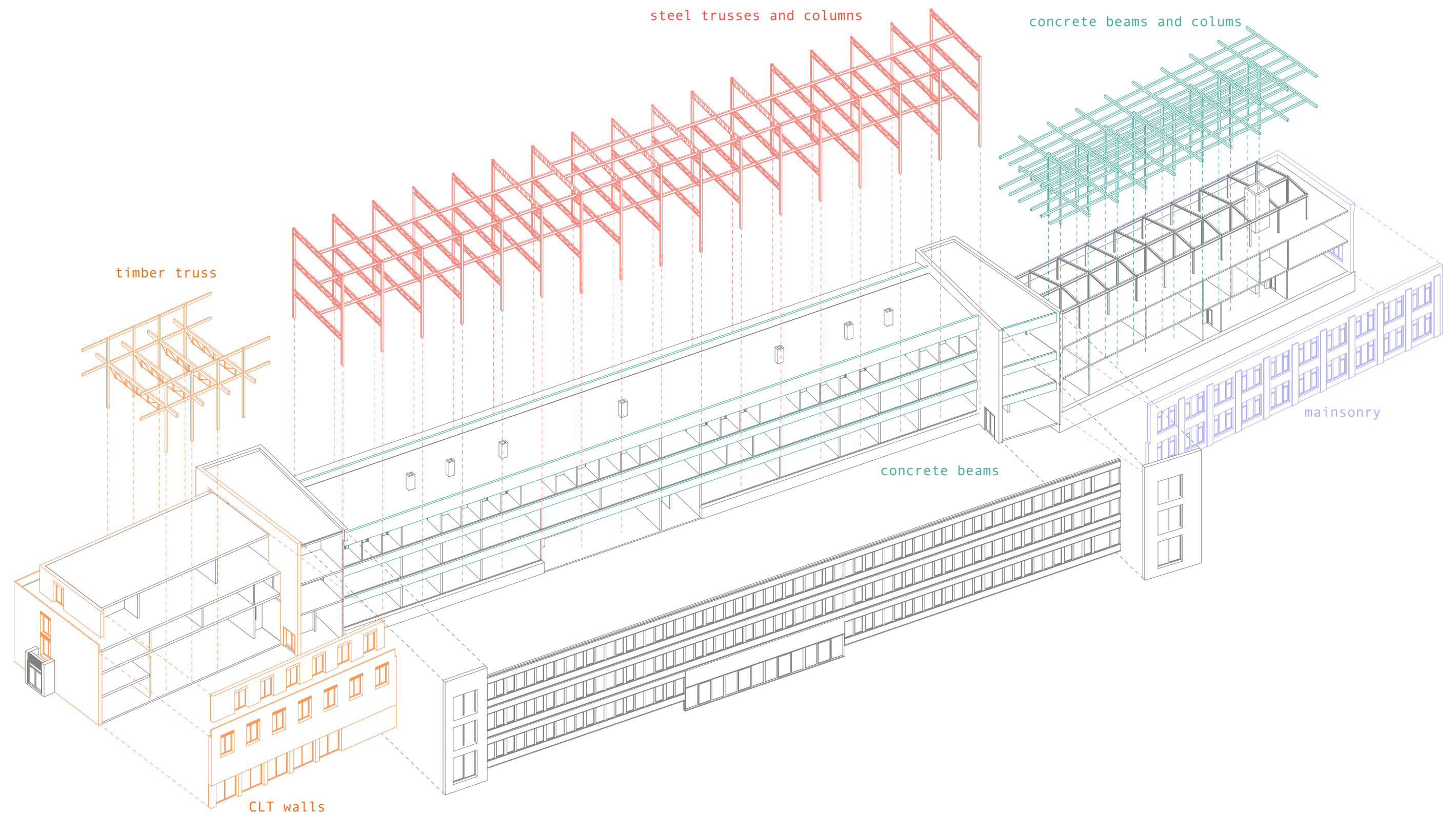
structure of the buildings





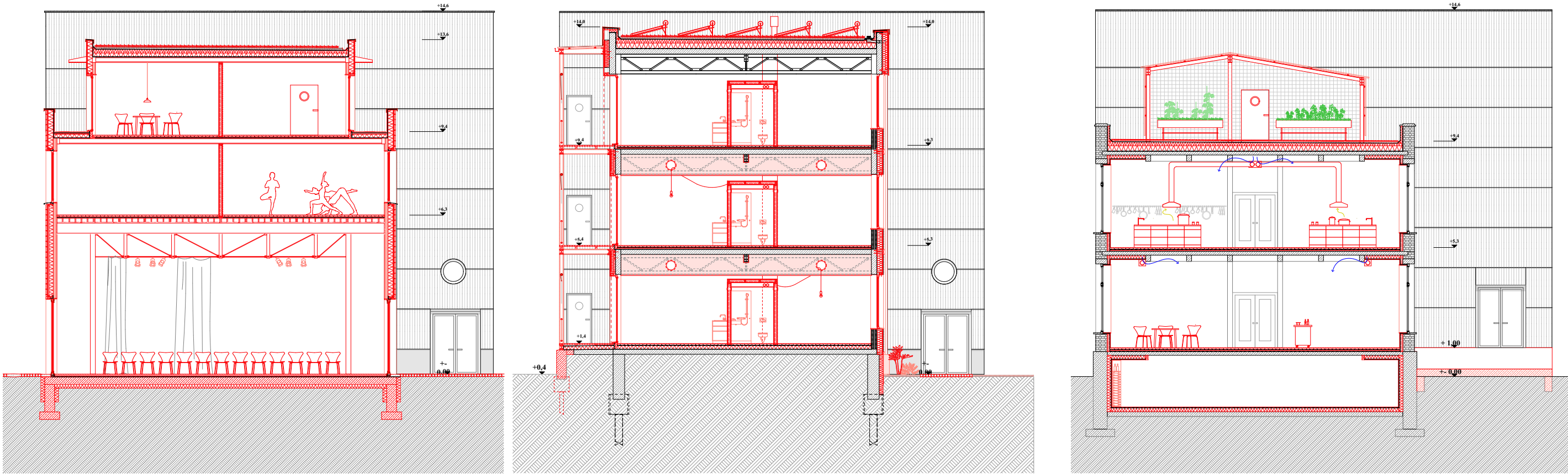
structure of the buildings





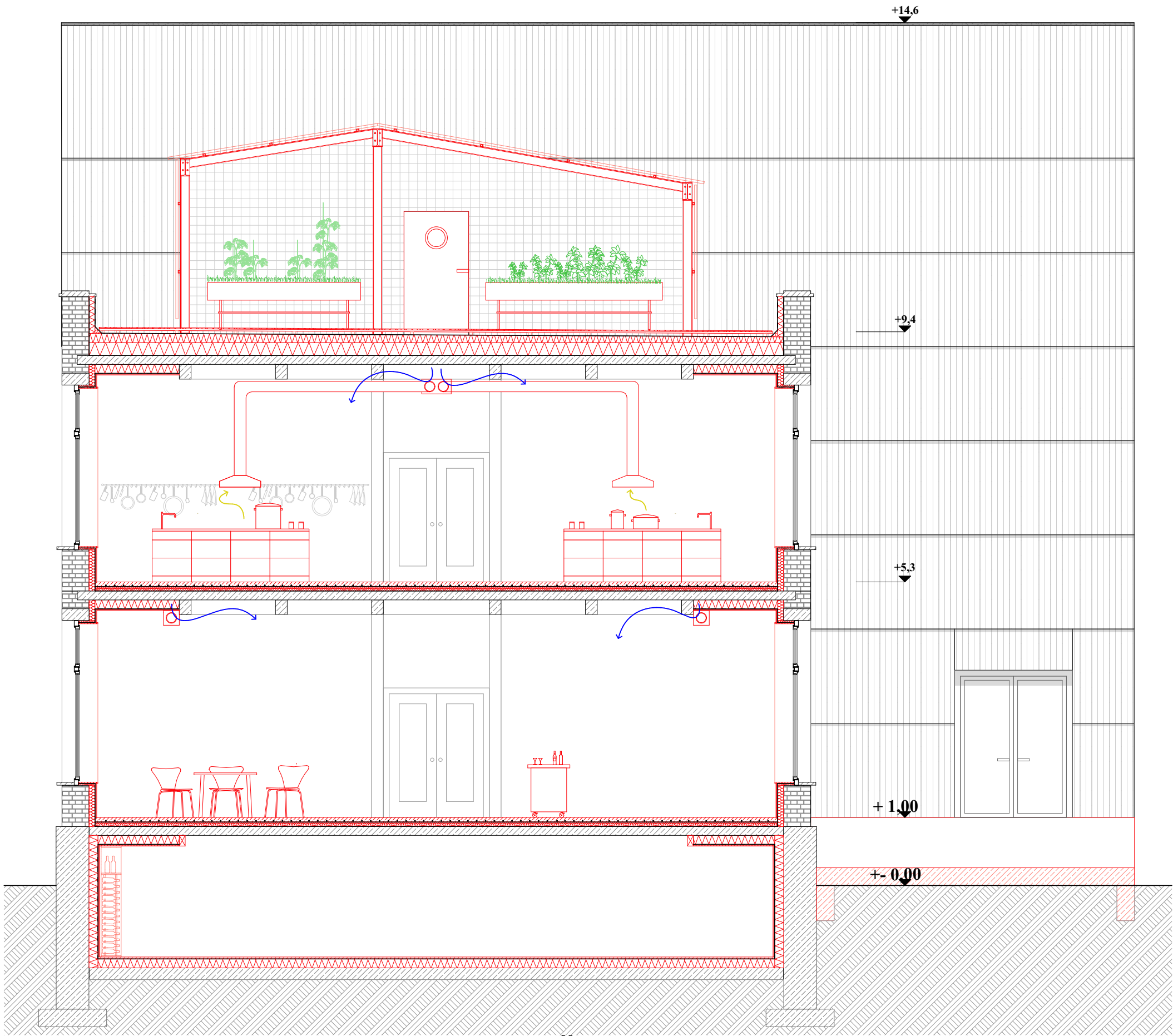
structure of the buildings



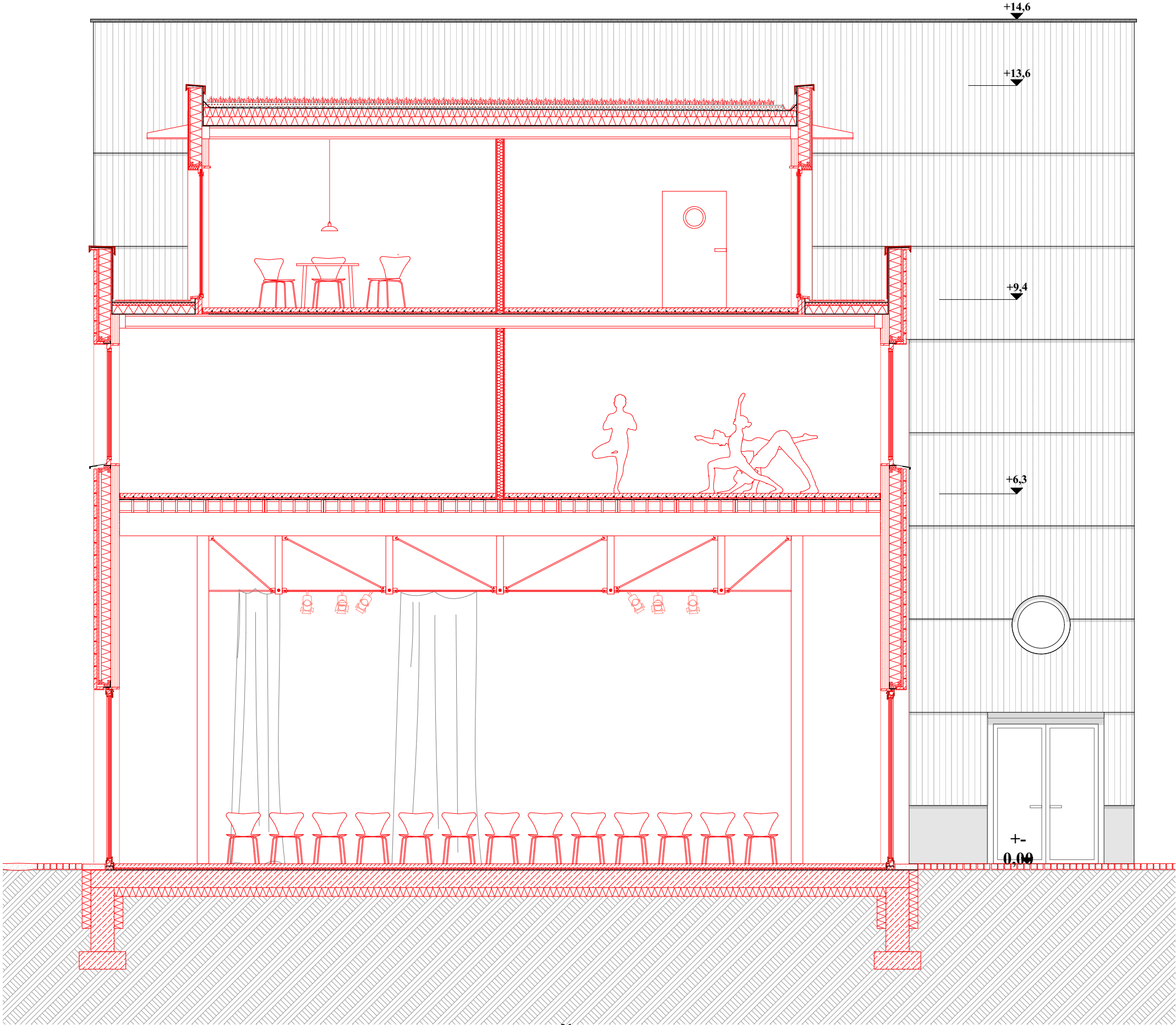


cutting through all the buildings

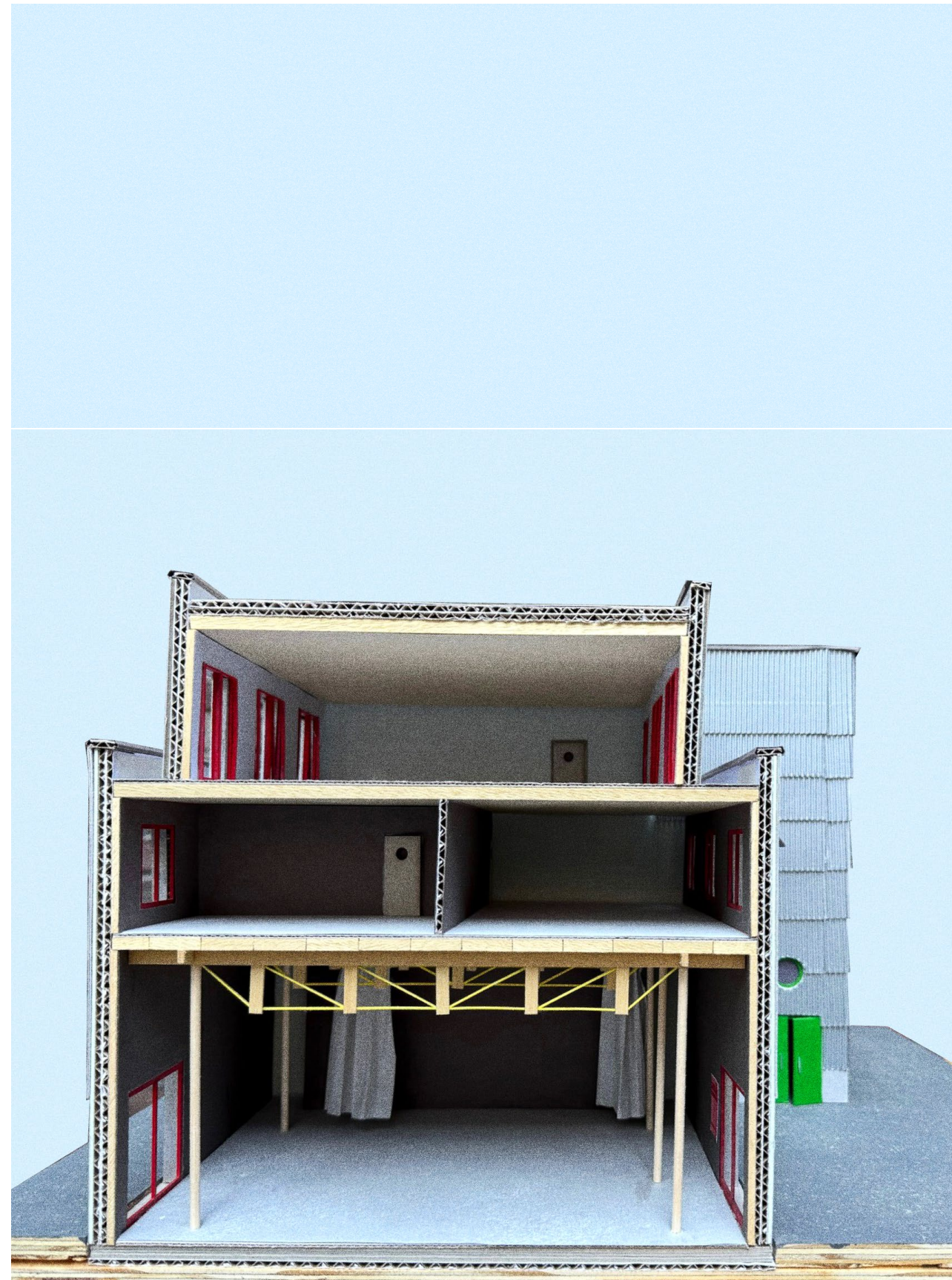




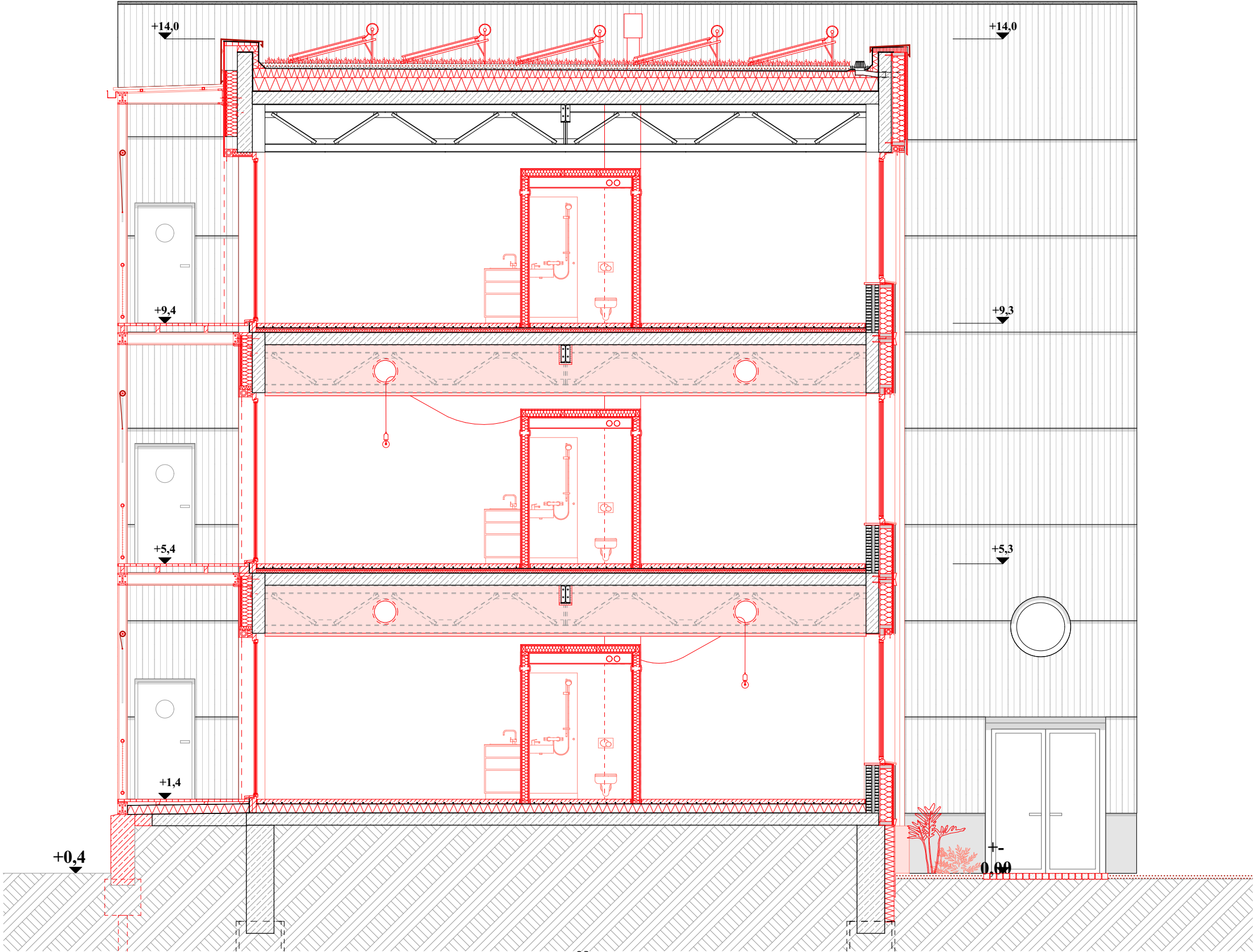




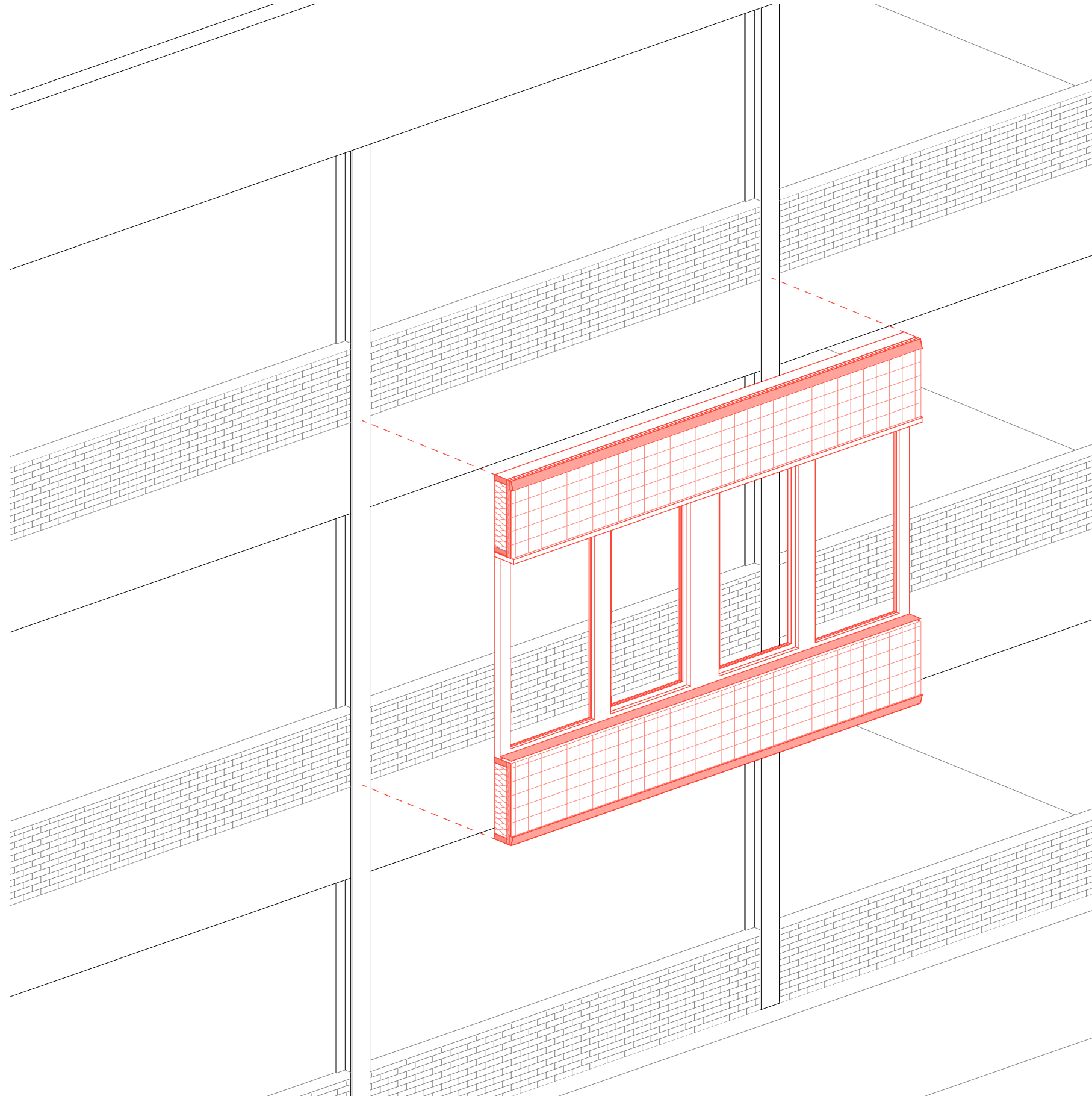






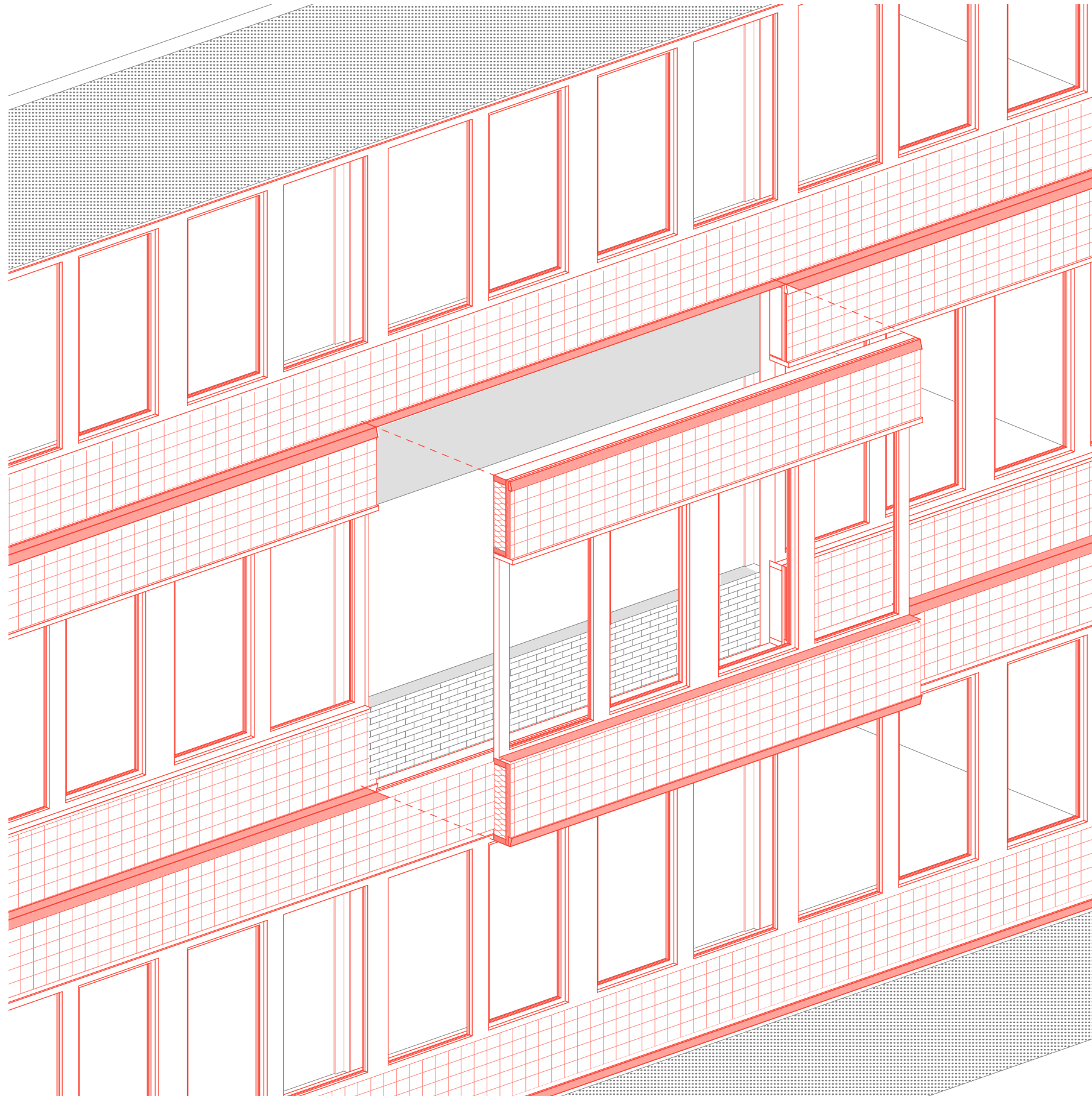






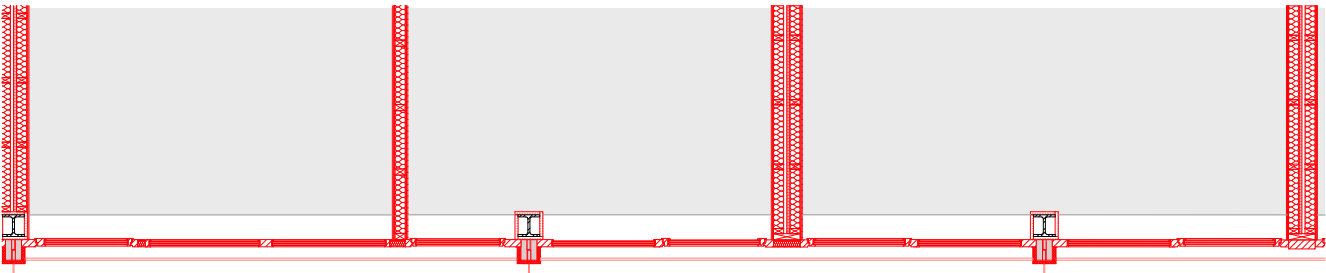
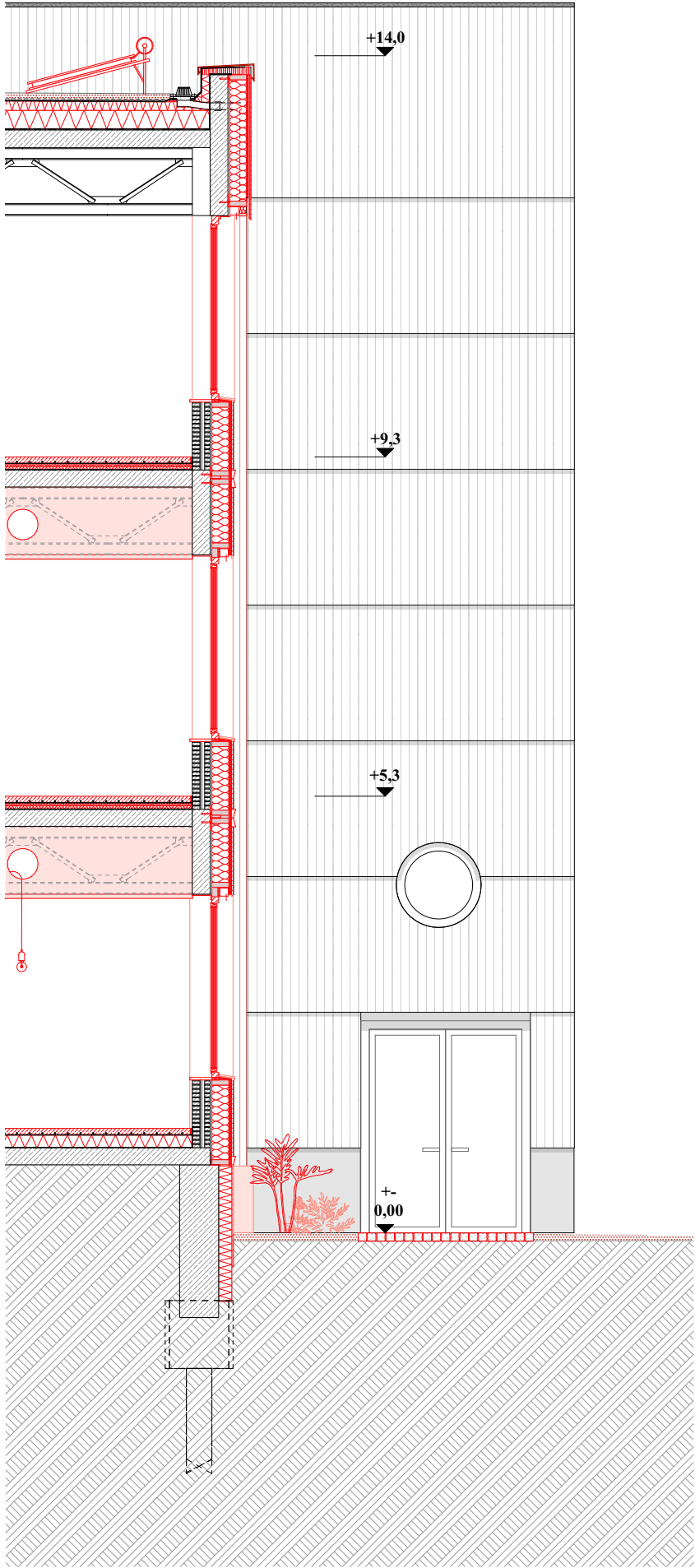
scheme of the prefabricated facade element



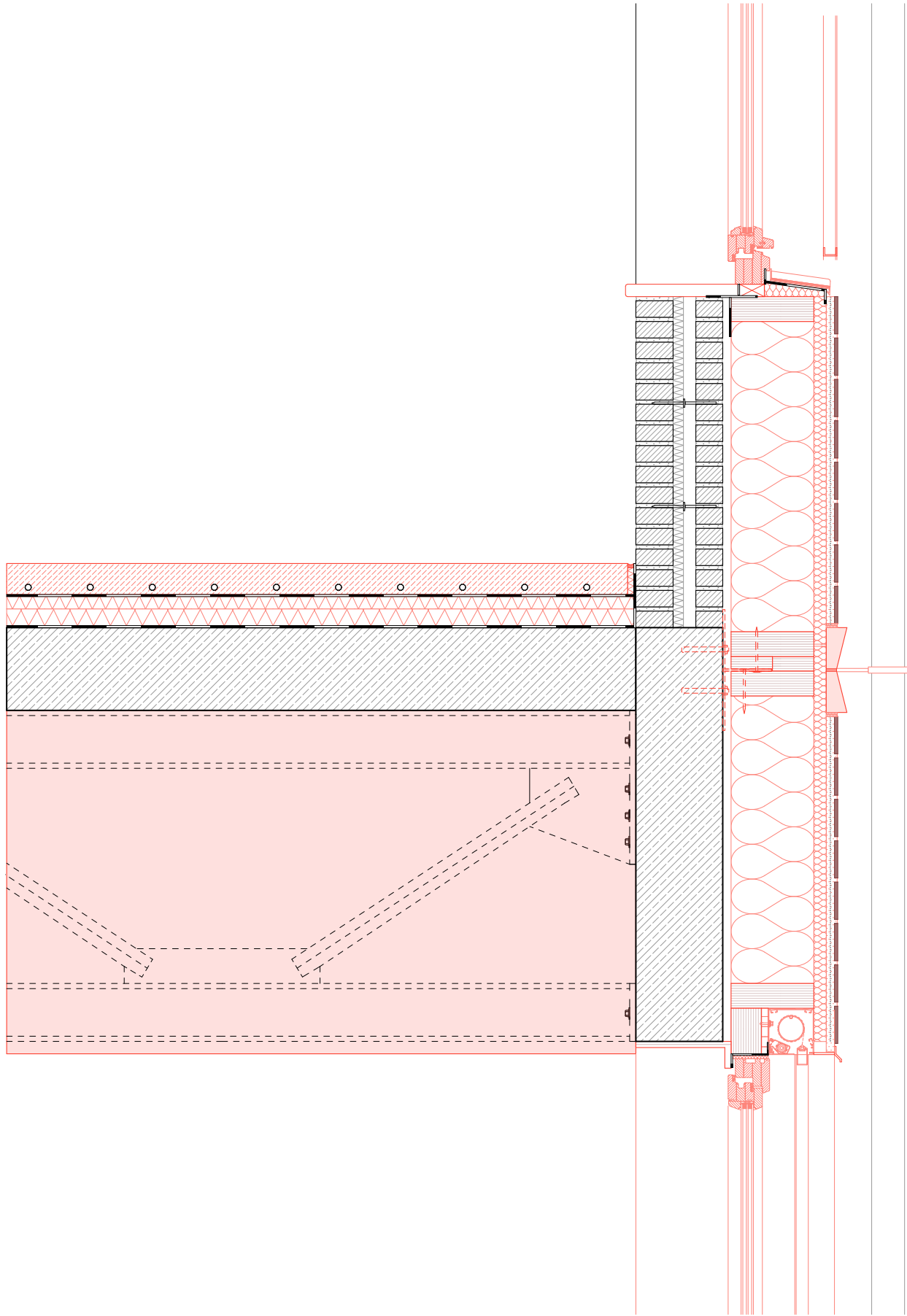


make transformation efficient!









existing wall from inside to outside

- 90mm brick
- 25mm Heraklith
- 35mm Cavity
- 65mm red brick

Construction of prefabricated exterior wall from inside to outside

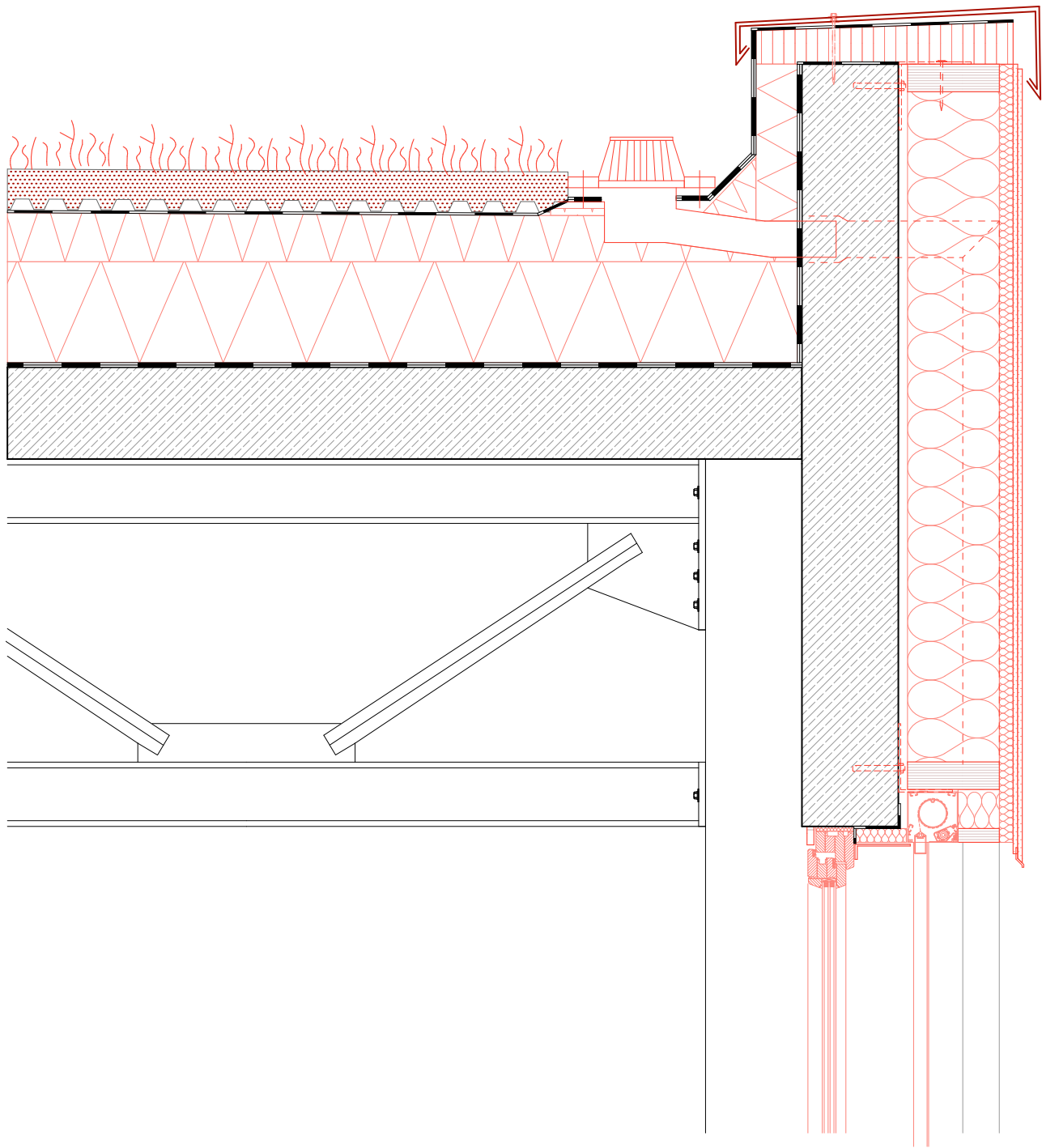
- 20mm expansion gap
- 200 mm timber frame, with insulation
- 40 mm soft wood fibre board
- 20 mm reinforcing mortar with mesh
- 5 mm adhesive mortar
- 10 mm ceramic tile

- 50mm ornamental concrete element
- 5mm expansion gap

floor construction

- 75 mm anhydrite heating screed, sanded, matte finish
- separation layer
- 30 mm impact soundproofing
- 40 mm thermal insulation
- separation and protection layer
- 200 mm existing reinforced concrete slab
- 800mm existing steel truss covered in 30mm fireprotection boards

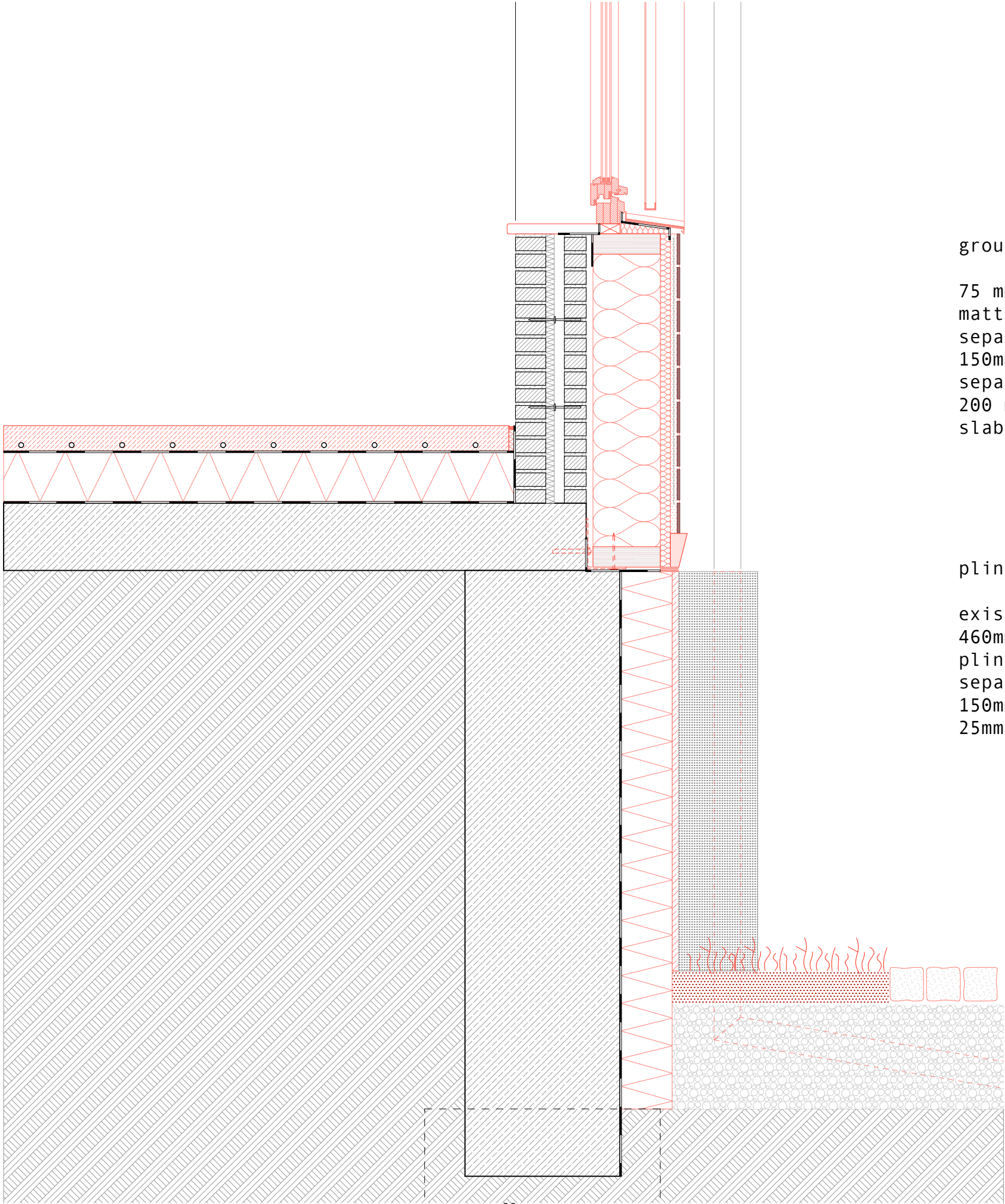




roof construction

- photovoltaic module
- extensive greenroof
- 120mm substrate
- drainage mat
- EPDM membrane two-ply
- min. 200 max. 300 mm PIR insulation to falls
- vapour barrier
- 200 mm existing reinforced concrete slab
- 800mm existing steel truss coated with fireprotection paint





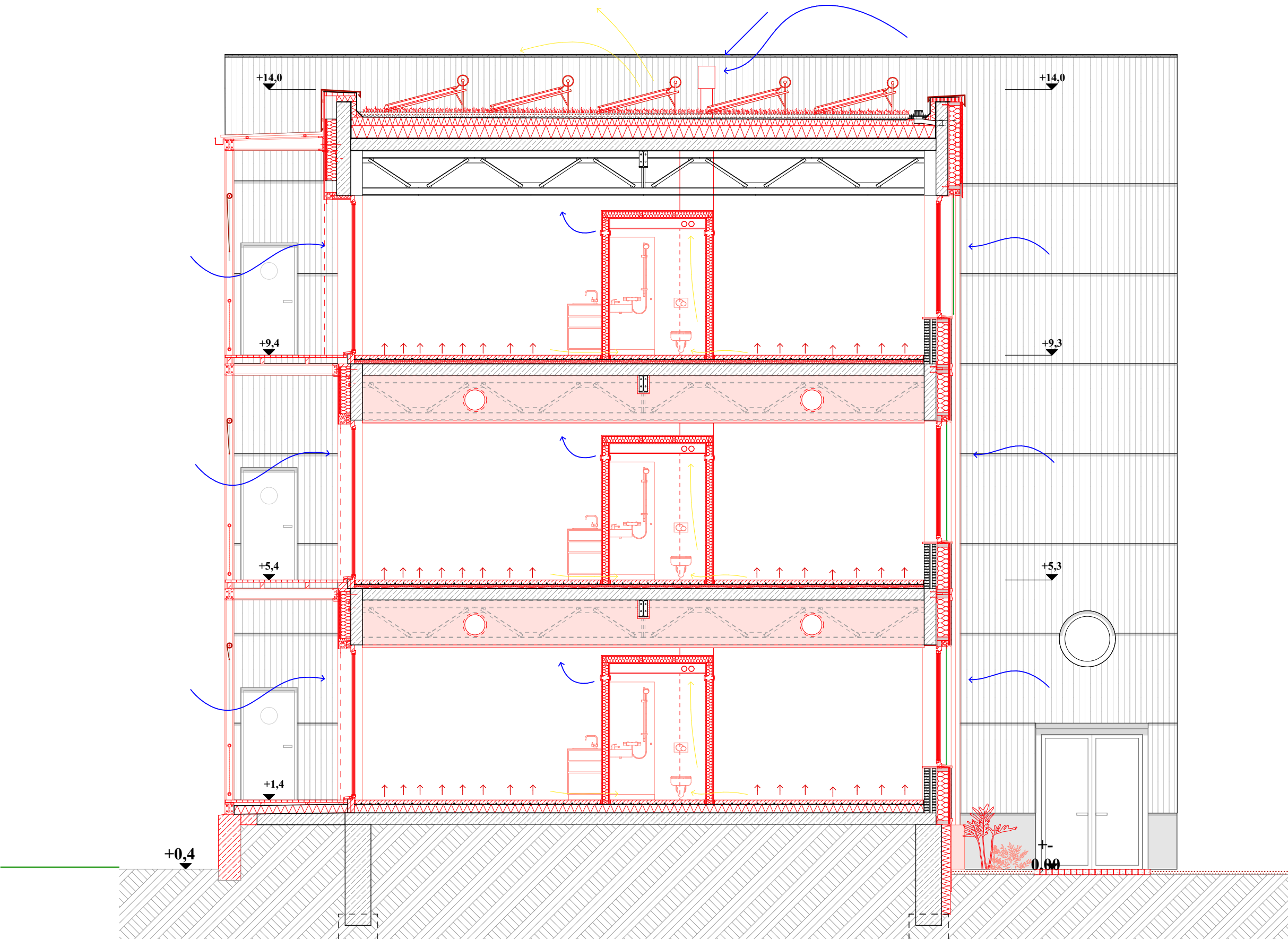
groundfloor construction

- 75 mm anhydrite heating screed, sanded, matte finish
- separation layer
- 150mm insulation fill
- separation and protection layer
- 200 mm existing reinforced concrete slab

plinth construction

- exisiting point foundation
- 460mm exisiting reinforced concrete plinth
- separation and protection layer
- 150mm xps plinth insulation
- 25mm prefabricated concrete element

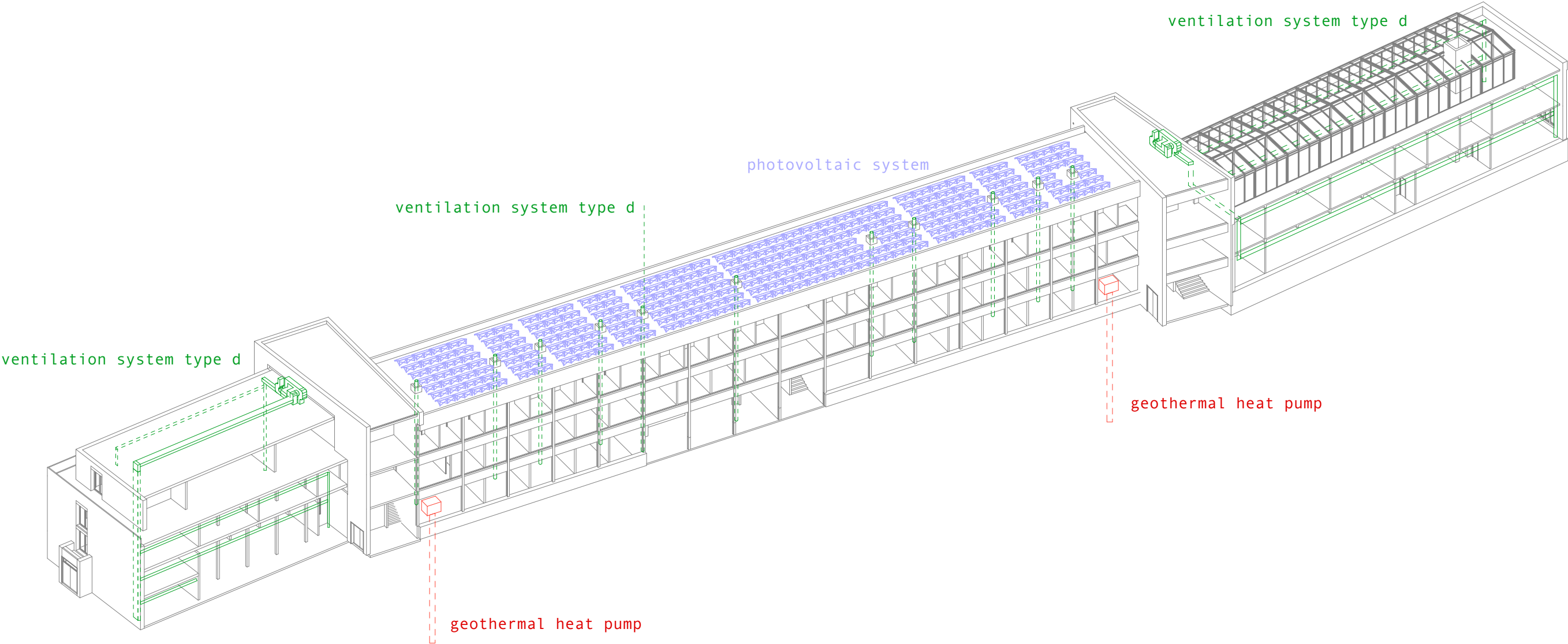






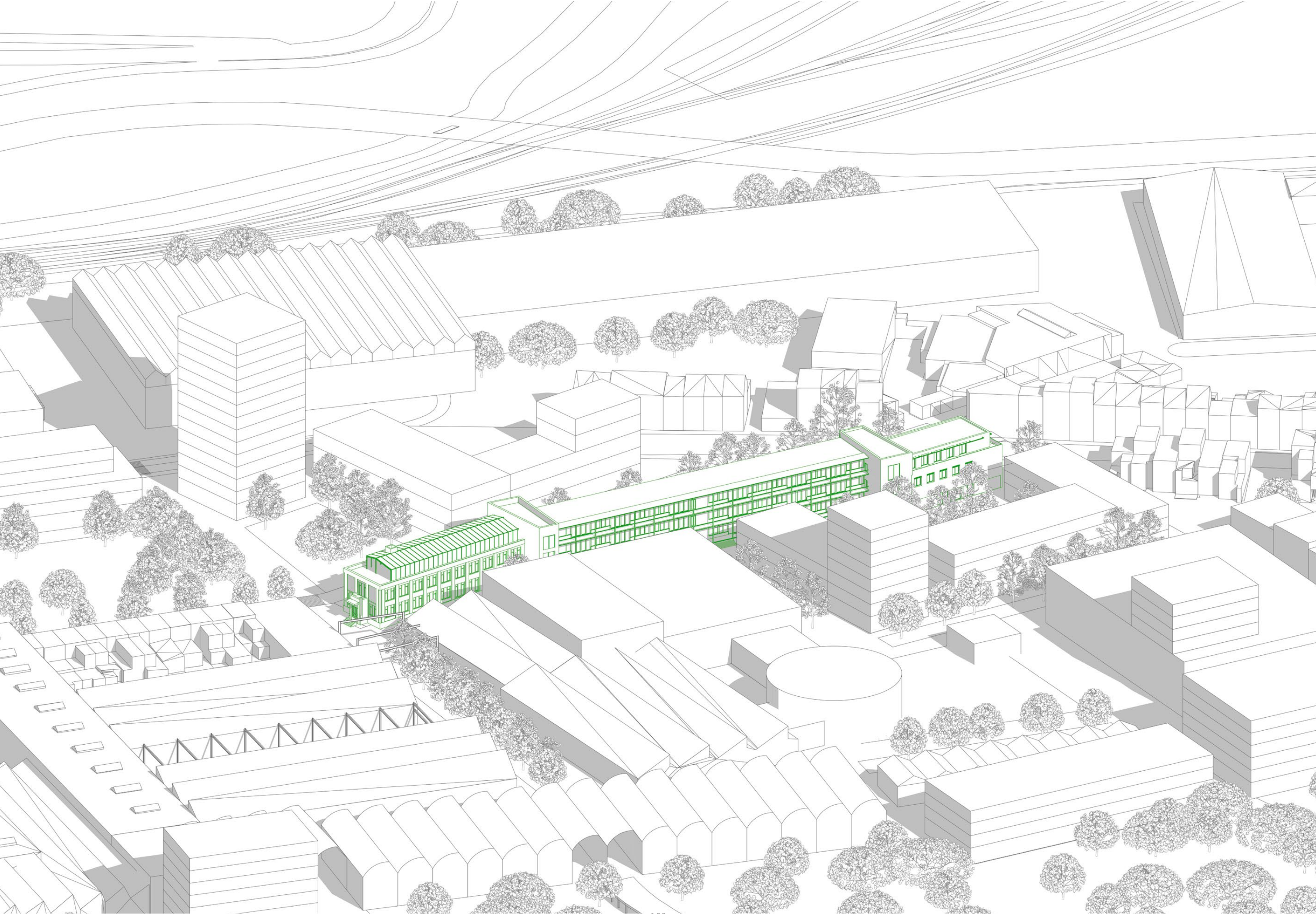




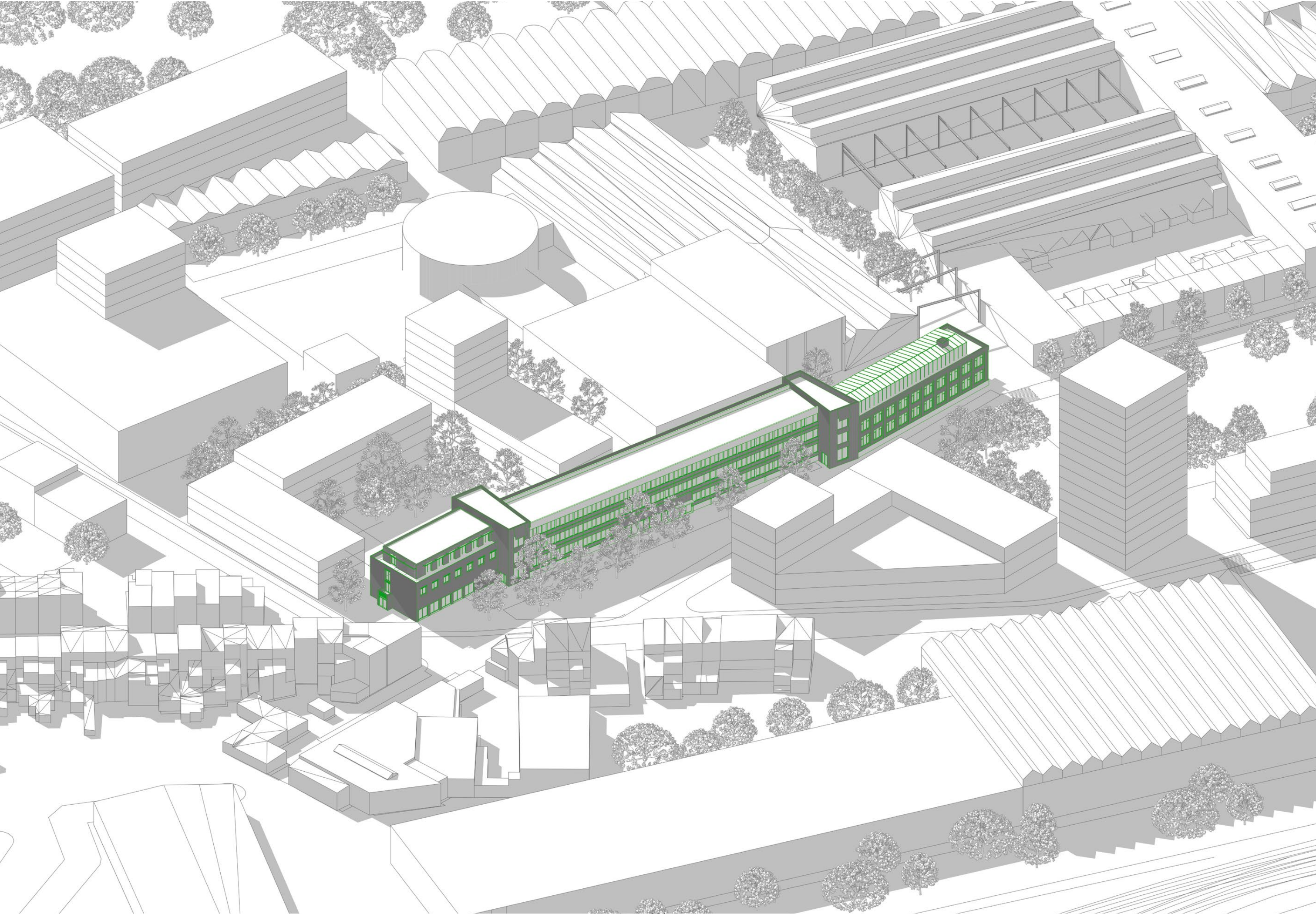


technical installations















p5



thank you for taking part in my journey!