

Being in Chaos

negotiating an urban culture of nature

Urban Architecture Graduation Studio

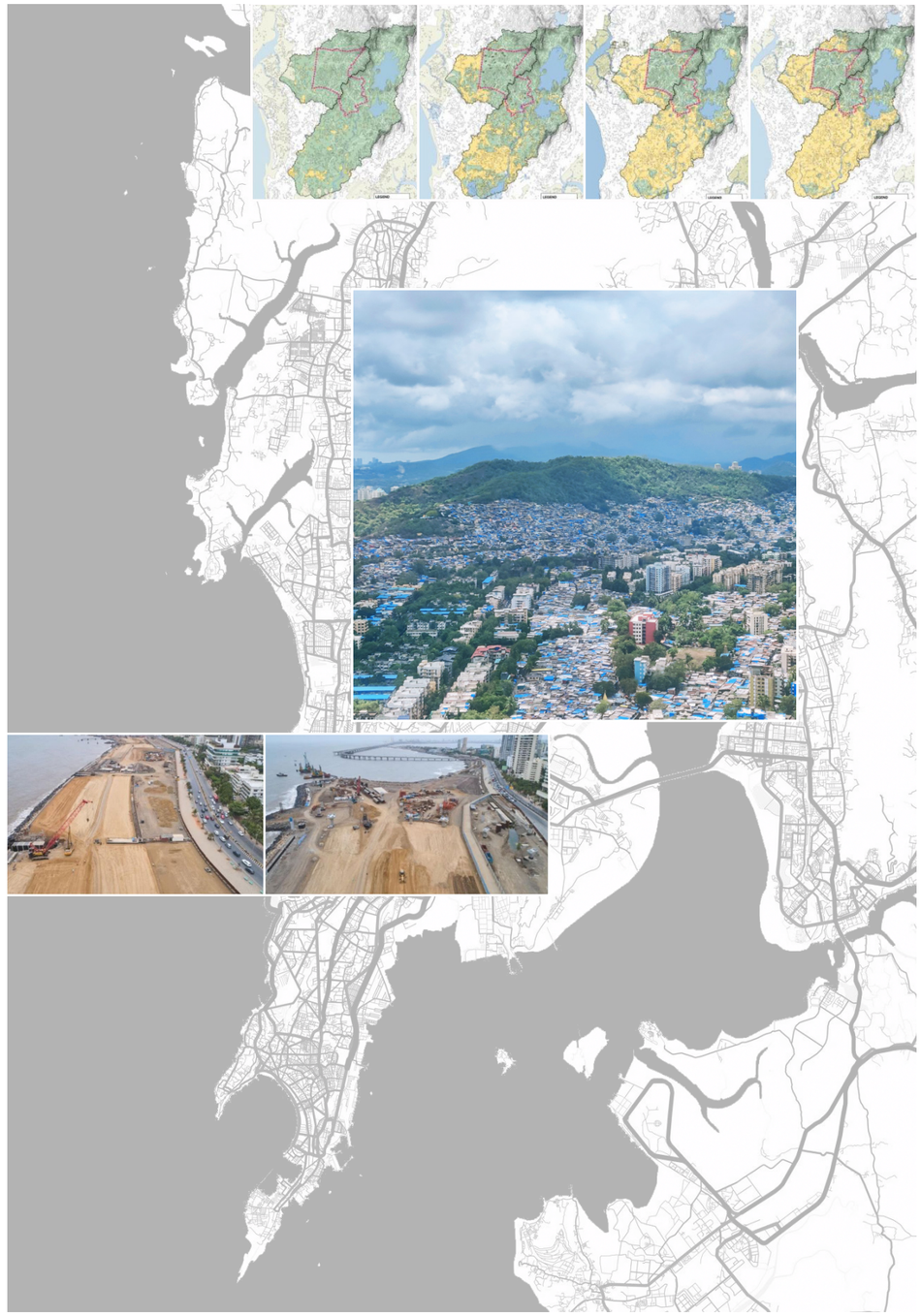
Last green in town

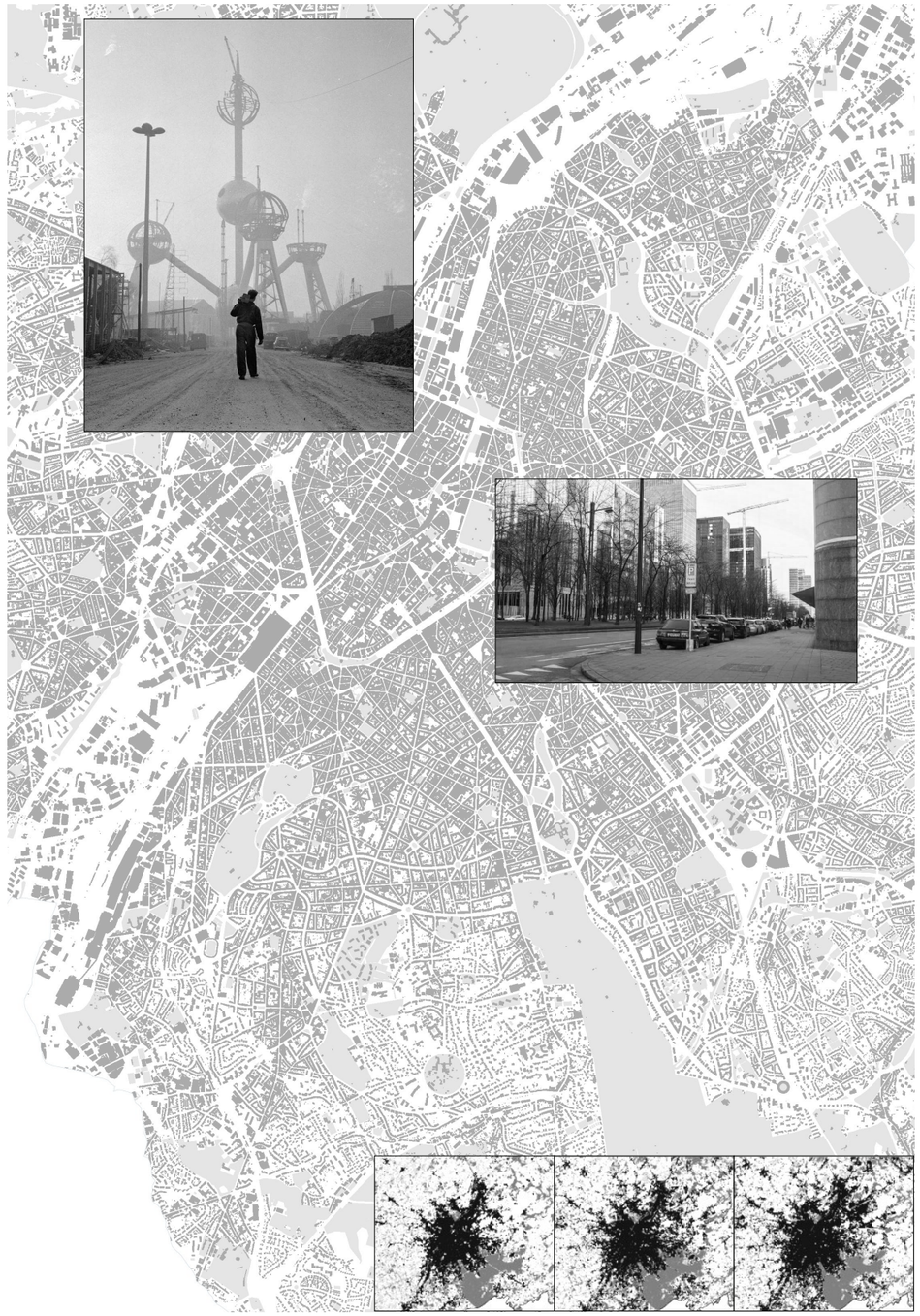
Prajwal Gaikwad





human|nature___parallels between 2 cities





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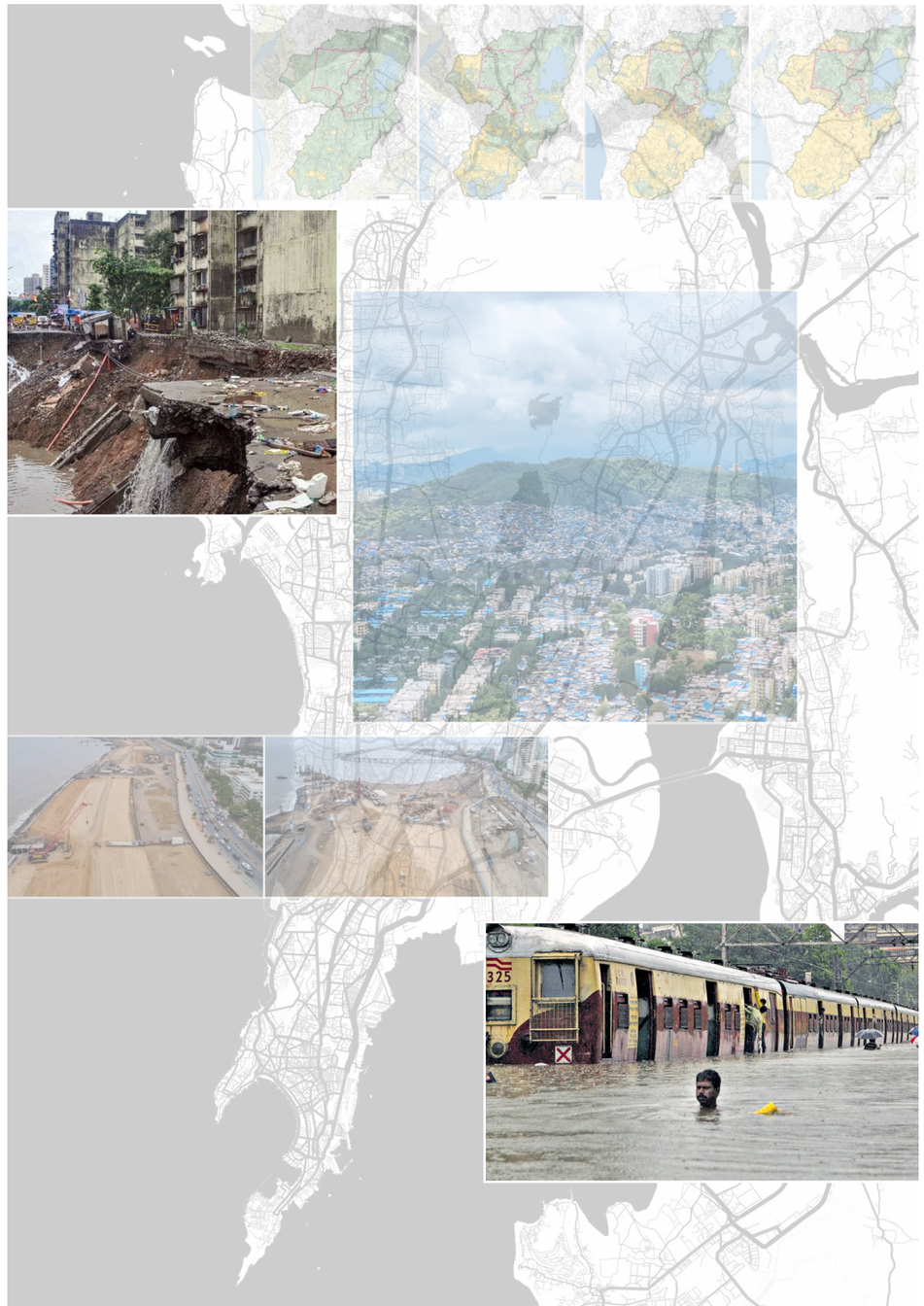



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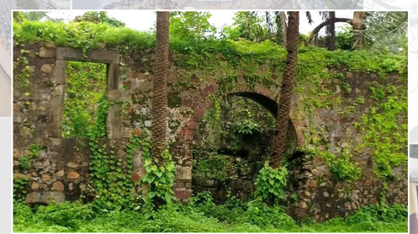
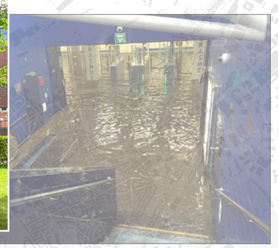


















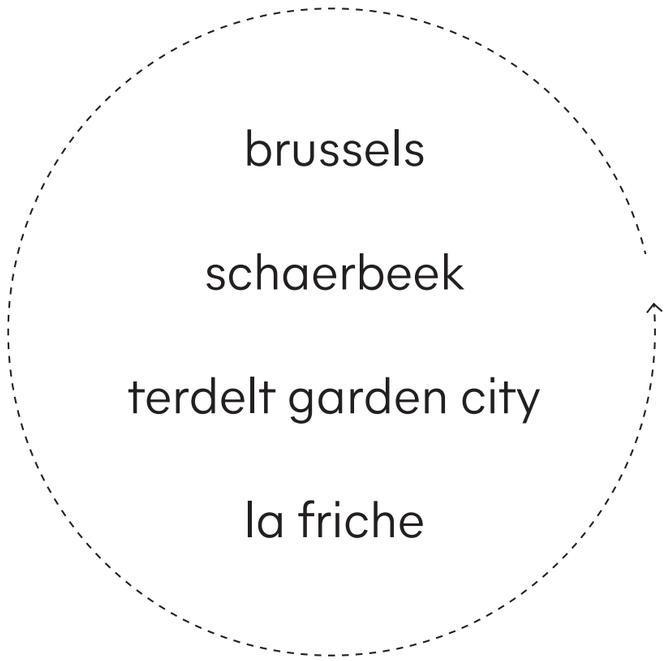
human|nature___parallels between 2 cities



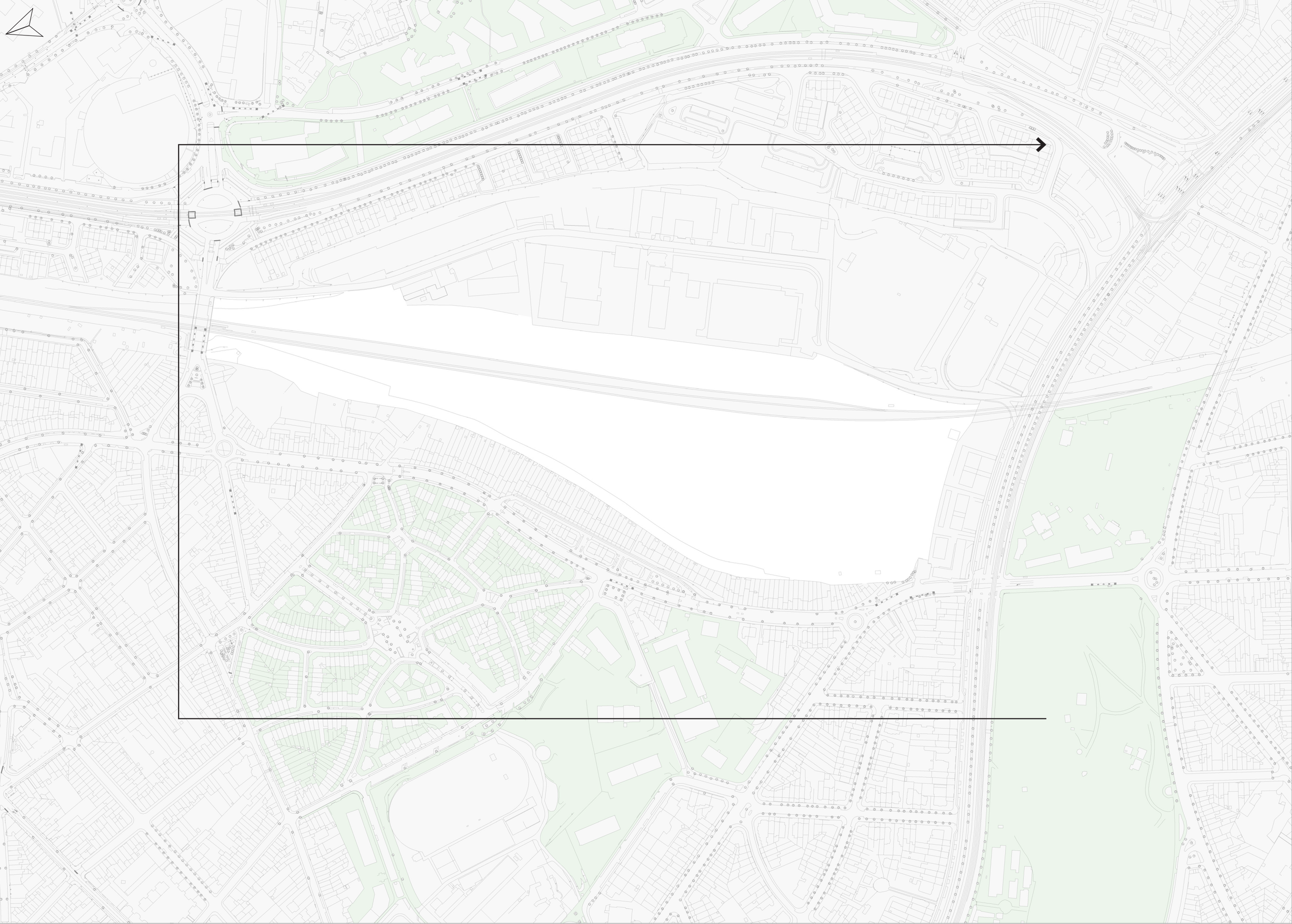
garden city terdelt

garden city tuinbow

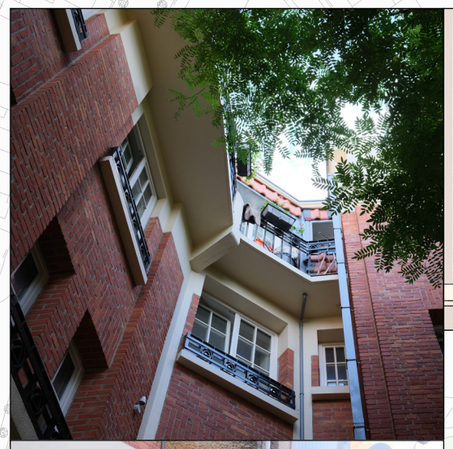
parc josaphat



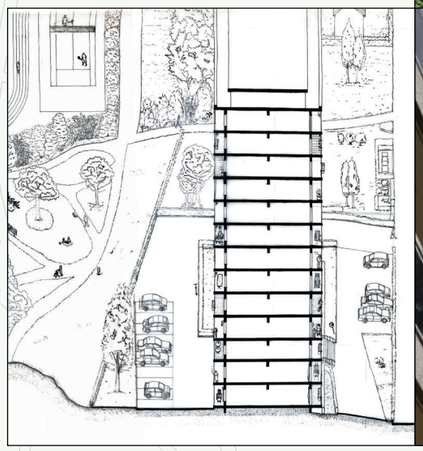
P1 group research
with
anniek, hania, longyi, salman

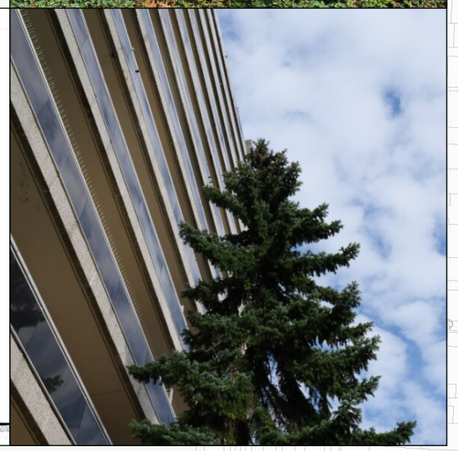






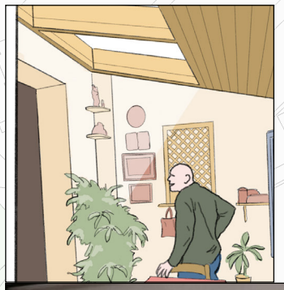


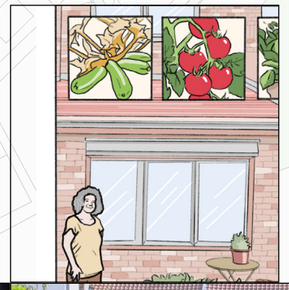




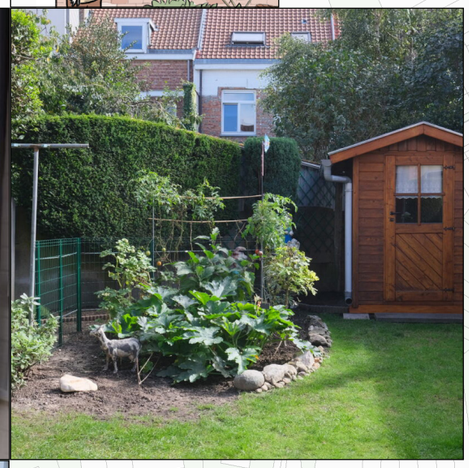


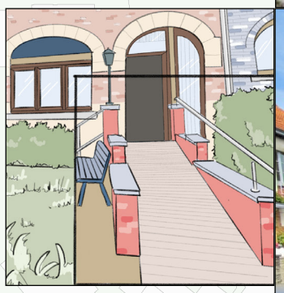












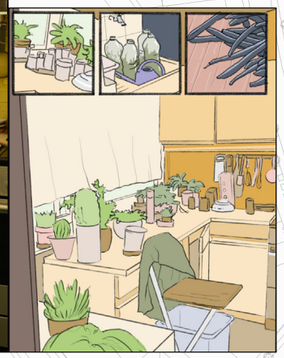






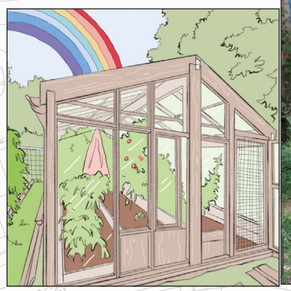








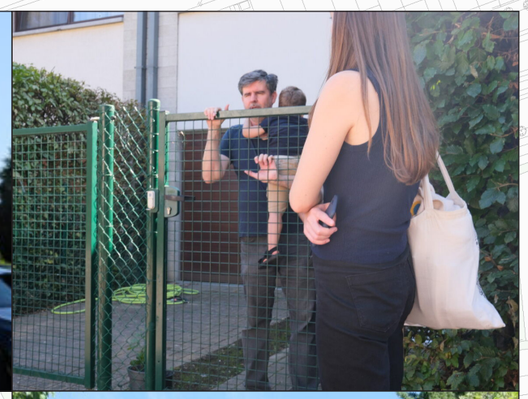




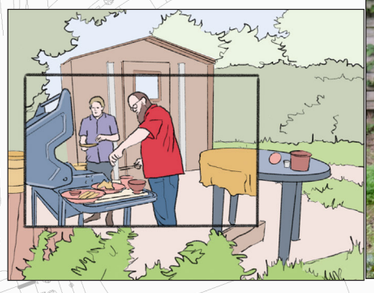














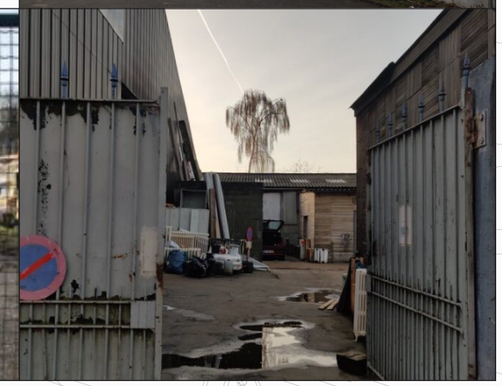



Contrairement aux apparences, cet espace est parfaitement entretenu !
Le Service « Propreté et Espaces verts » y laisse pousser la végétation pour permettre aux plantes de nos régions de s'y développer en un pré fleuri.
Cette zone est fauchée plusieurs fois par an avec pour résultat d'augmenter la biodiversité et améliorer un milieu privilégié où insectes et petits animaux trouvent le gîte et le couvert.
Deze ruimte wordt wel degelijk onderhouden !
De dienst «Groene Ruimtes en Netheid » laat hier echter inheemse grassoorten en planten groeien zodat er een bloemenweide kan ontstaan.
Deze zone wordt meermaals per jaar gemaaid om de natuurlijke biodiversiteit te stimuleren en een habitat te creëren voor insecten en kleine dieren.
SCHAERBEEK
1030
SCHAARBEEK


SAUVEZ-NOUS ! - RED ONS!
1030 J'aime !
NE NOUS DONNEZ PAS À MANGER
GEEF ONS GEEN ETEN
NOURRIR LES CANARDS PEUT CAUSER :
• une augmentation des bactéries dans l'eau
• des maladies
• la destruction de la végétation à cause de l'afflux de canards
• une augmentation des algues et la destruction de l'écosystème
EENDEN VOEDEREN VEROORZAAKT:
• een toename van bacteriën in het water
• ziekten
• beschadiging van de vegetatie door de toevloed van eenden
• een toename van algen en vernietiging van het ecosysteem
BON À SAVOIR
Les animaux trouvent à manger tout seul. Sans aucun problème.
La nourriture distribuée par les visiteurs du parc attire les rats.
WIST U DAT?
Wilde dieren zelf hun eten kunnen vinden, zonder enig probleem.
Het eten, gegeven door de bezoekers van het park, ook ratten aantrekt.
SCHAERBEEK
1030
SCHAARBEEK







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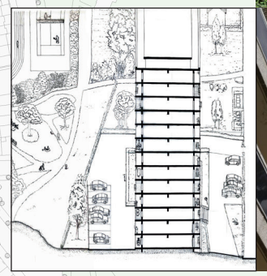
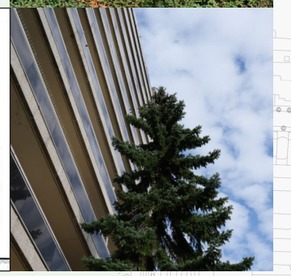
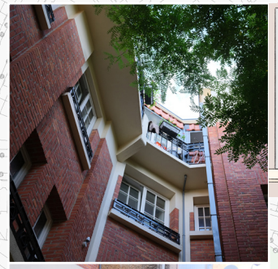
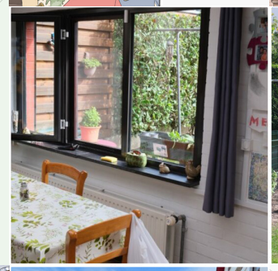
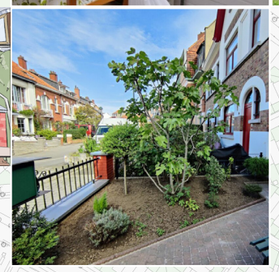














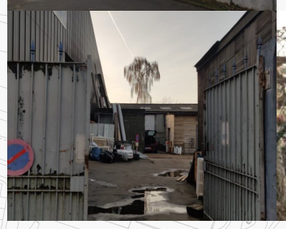




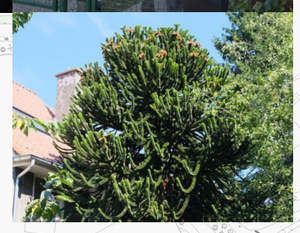



SAUVEZ-NOUS ! - RED ONS!
NE NOUS DONNEZ PAS À MANGER
GEEF ONS GEEN ETEN









"Only people living on the ground floor have direct access to the courtyard... I can only look over it."

"We grow some tomatoes, eggplants, spinach, and also all the herbs like thyme. I share this passion for gardening with my son."



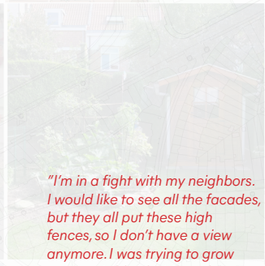
"My small balcony is a meeting space. We enjoy talking in the fresh air."



Having a view toward trees' canopy and birds is really calming.



Not having cars right next to residential buildings allows you to get away from the stress of the city.



"I'm in a fight with my neighbors. I would like to see all the facades, but they all put these high fences, so I don't have a view anymore. I was trying to grow my vegetables, but there is not enough sunlight!"



Thanks to the spatial organization in the form of a courtyard, the outdoor space next to the garden is very peaceful. Perfect for relaxing with a book

"We enjoy eating in the veranda, it's full of daylight."



"Please close the door! Some mice sometimes enter my house..."





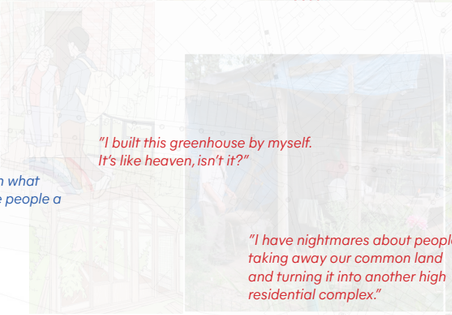
We used to have a big front garden, but because our son is disabled, we built a ramp."

"For me, nature is also the sound of rain falling on the roof. Then I can really relax."

"Now, Friche is quite exclusive, and it's not good. We are in the city, we need to make a space for people."



"When people entered the Friche, they created a meaning for this place. Friche was a place to gather. It was hard to close it again after covid..."



"La Friche... I have been told about the bees on many occasions... I don't really care about them...

"We need to teach children what insects are. We should give people a chance to visit the Friche."

"I built this greenhouse by myself. It's like heaven, isn't it?"

"I have nightmares about people taking away our common land and turning it into another high residential complex."

"If I don't fight for this wasteland, what will I leave to my children?"

"I come here almost every day. I love observing and documenting plants and animals."



"If you had a dog, people would say hello to you. Otherwise, you are a stranger."

My garden is a playground for my dog. We enjoy playing soccer together."

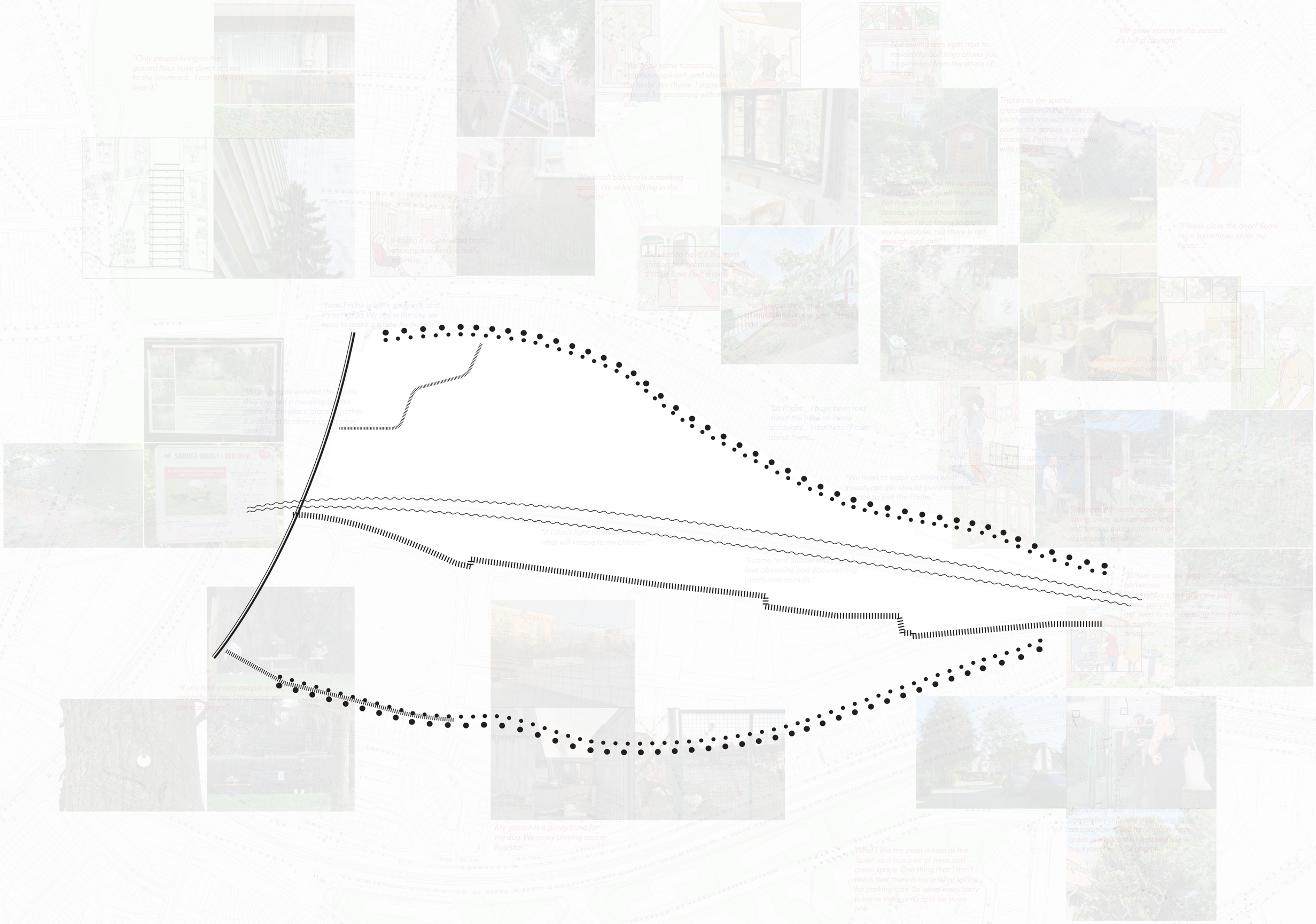


What I like the most is kind of the 'quiet', so it has a lot of trees and green space. One thing that I don't like is that there is not a lot of space for parking cars. So when everybody is home there is no spot for everyone

I was living in an apartment, so it is completely different than living in an apartment. You have much more green in the front as well and the backyard has a lot of green.



"Before covid, we organized some barbecues for neighbors. But after the pandemic people got used to not spending time collectively anymore."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"Having a view toward trees, canopy and birds is really calming."
"I'm in contact with my neighbors. I would like to see all the facades, but they all put these high fences, so I don't have a view anymore. I was trying to grow my vegetables, but there is not enough sunlight!"
"We used to have a big front garden, but because of space disabled, we built a ramp."
"For the picture is grid the second I'm finished with the spot. Then I can really relax."
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Bastardwerderik - Epilobium tetragonum



Chamomile - Matricaria chamomilla



Cherry plum - Prunus cerasifera



Cobra - Rubus ulmifolius



Common Ragwort - Jacobaea vulgaris



Common evening primrose - Oenothera bienr



Common trefoil - Lotus corniculatus



Creeping thistle - Crisium arvense



Dead Spear thistle - Cirsium vulgare



Dog rose - Rosa canina



Early Goldenrod - Solidago gigantea



Empire blue - Buddleja davidii



Flax beak - Linaria vulgaris



Lucerne - Medicago sativa



Manna ash - Fraxinus ornus

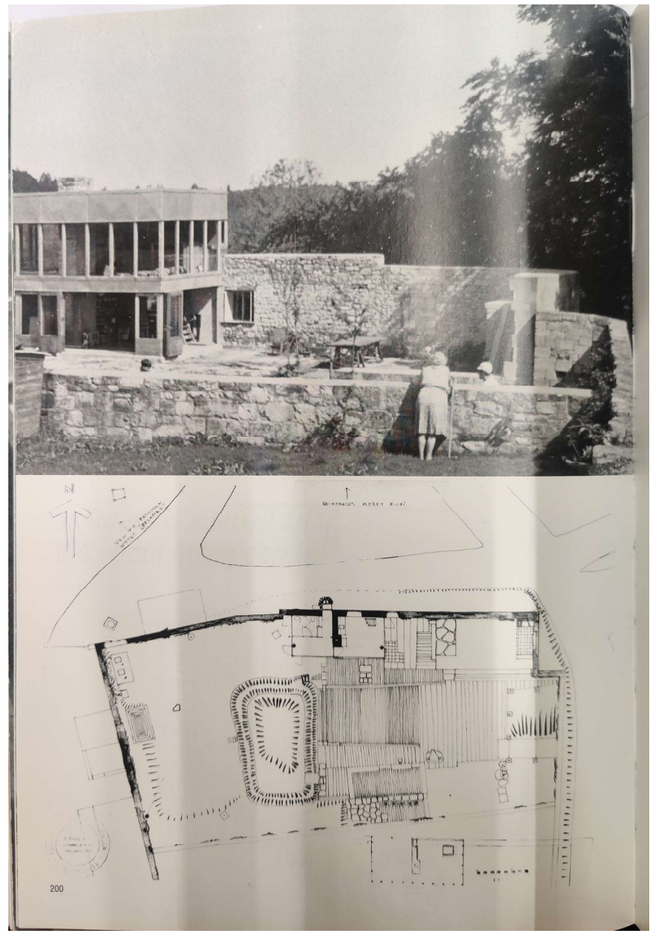


Mugwort - Artemisia vulgaris



as found is a small affair:
it's about being careful

Peter Smithson



as found, P2 group research
with
nino and tarini

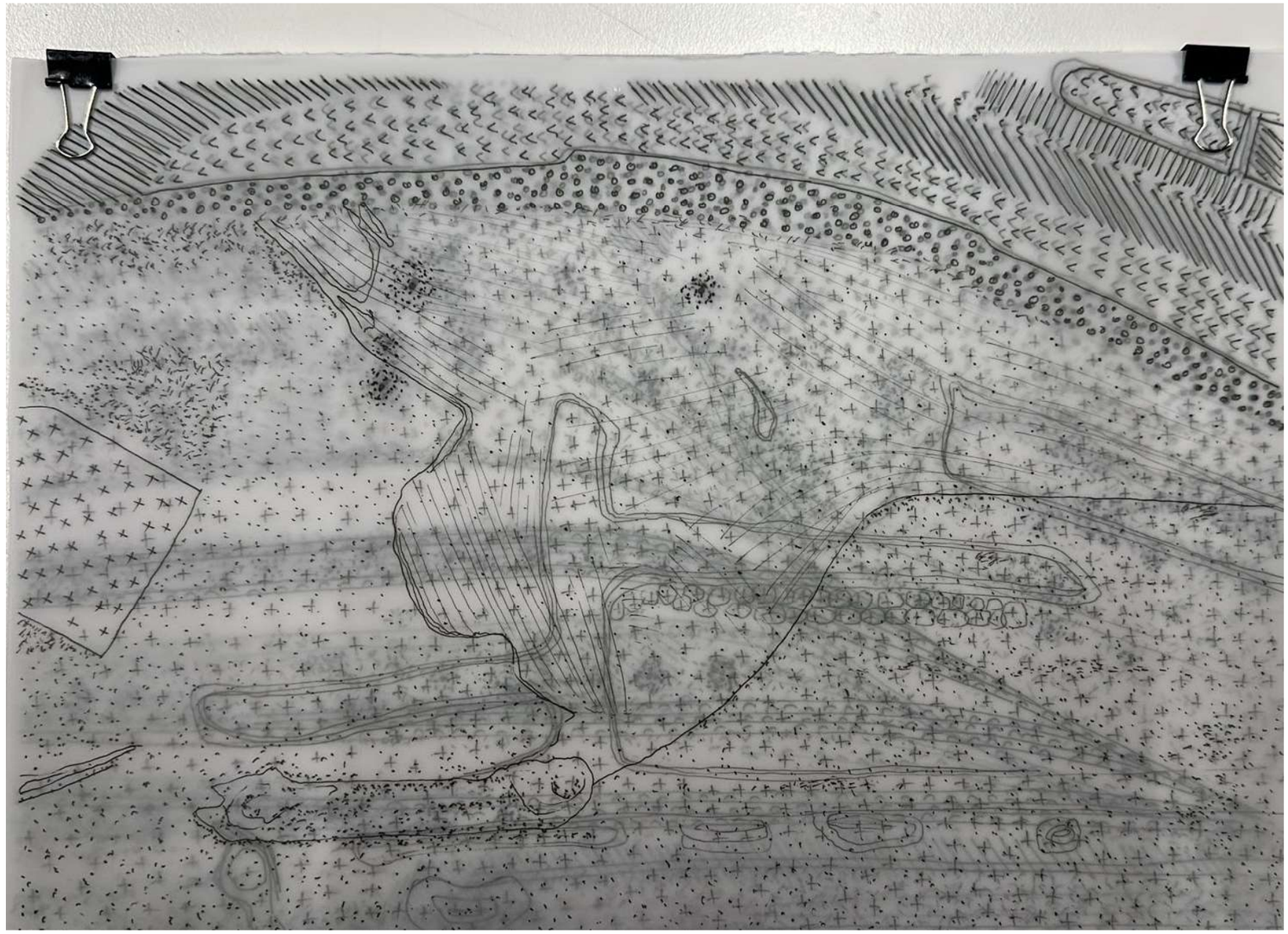
Fig.4 As found mapping, hand drawn
(by Nino Vogels, Prajwal Gaikwad & Tarini Vajpeyi)

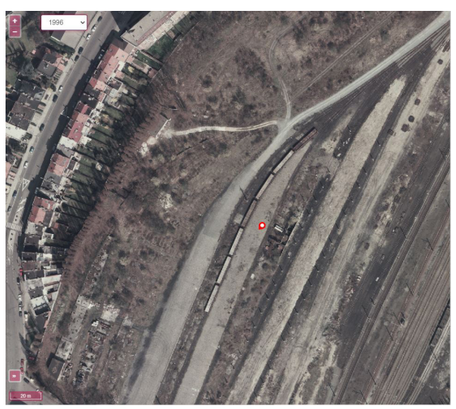
Underlayer
(Ground conditions)

- concrete/asphalt
- firm ground
- trackbed
- turf
- planted/managed ground
- Marshy soil
- marshy soil - triangle patch

Overlayer 1
(vegetation)

- Peripheral tree line
- friche trees
- shrubs/low bushes
- planted trees
- communal gardens
- private gardens











eco-triangle progression in time

Manifesto - As found

We started our master planning with a study of the "as found" friche. What exists already and how can we draw conclusions and make investigations from this data? What are the existing ground conditions? What kind of vegetation grows here and why? What are the ecological hotspots and why only those areas? What are the traces of human intervention? Finally, how do these factors lead to a holistic understanding of this palimpsest?

The friche is a palimpsest - layer upon layer, soil upon soil. The west side already reveals remnants of this layering where a triangulated zone becomes exclusively lush with trees, contrasting the other more grassy areas of the friche. It is most likely that this area was more polluted than others, which led to a different kind of intervention in this particular zone - possibly, the removal of more soil or the refilling of a deeper layer of topsoil. The area is now the most biodiverse on the friche. We wondered why it was so? Interestingly, the commons sit adjacent to this triangle. We speculate that the two work in symbiosis and conjunction and possibly fuel one another.

Making this study our point of departure, we now speculate on the future of this friche. What if, like this triangulated fragment, other plots within the friche had been exposed to a specific kind of removal and refilling of soil? What if the concrete that sits atop the eastern front would be peeled off? Would the friche grow back here? Perhaps, yes. Remnants of the wild friche already dot the industrial landscape.

We look at the hard edge of this industrial "port" as an opportunity waiting to be "rewilded". The hard surfaces will be punctured and the friche will slowly reveal itself, flowing towards the city, extending its fingers beyond the boundaries of the bordering trees and thus, the architecture will follow. Simulataneously, the city begins to infiltrate the friche with its "urban green".

1. The peeling off of concrete in parts where the friche has already begun to reveal itself. These punctures grow and form connections between the wild nature of the friche and the city.

2. As a rule, we retain the ground surfaces of the industries as outlines or borders within which we build. We do not exceed the limits of these boundaries in order to let the friche erupt from the remaining paving. We retain the Rova industrial buildings and move the remaining industries to other parts of Brussels. The primary access road is also retained.

3. For the masterplan vision, we imagine a new kind of living environment - where housing, industry and nature are intertwined. A kind of densification of functions that prevents isolated operations.

4. The zoning of programmes in this new neighbourhood masterplan is determined in a layered system with varying degrees of "living with nature", Typologies of mixed housing and retail towards the city in the east reinvigorate the surrounding urban fabric, low rise housings with mediator community functions are placed in the middle, and finally, scattered housing with commoning/ reseach activities are closest to the wild friche.

5. Each rewilded, peeled off zone cannot exist by itself for long. This we conclude through our study of the western part. Thus, the wild friche needs a mediator, just as the commons facilitate the triangle and mediate between the city and the wild friche. Therefore, the mediator function is born, where human interventions aid natural flows while keeping them in a healthy state and connected to the new urban environment. These functions support the wild friche and the wild friche feeds their commercial/productive/residential/ educational/ ecological functions.

6. Mediator functions can we defined as an intervention which negotiates between two or more types of ecosystems, two or more types of programs, two or more types of green. One can imagine architecture that may be functionally ambiguous or flexible, or some kind of infrastructure that aids the confluence of these ecosystems, or even landscapes. We hope to find our own proposals in these mediators.

7. The train tracks are green corridors where migratory birds perch on electrical poles. We imagine a wetland that runs along the tracks , forming a buffer and resting place for them and other non-human species.

8. On the two ends are the bridging functions - the train station and the wahis park, connecting the two ends of the friche to one another. Another kind of mediator function, negotiating between two kinds of zones.

9.The eventual aim is to allow nature to take precedence, and to let architecture follow. What kind of architecture will come about when nature takes the lead? How will boundaries be negotiated? How will it create its space in the as found?

Masterplanning vision

Housing with public front
Low rise housing with mediator
Friche housing/commoning
Educational/ research zone
Wetland
Bringing in the friche
Bringing in the urban greens



masterplan


Legend

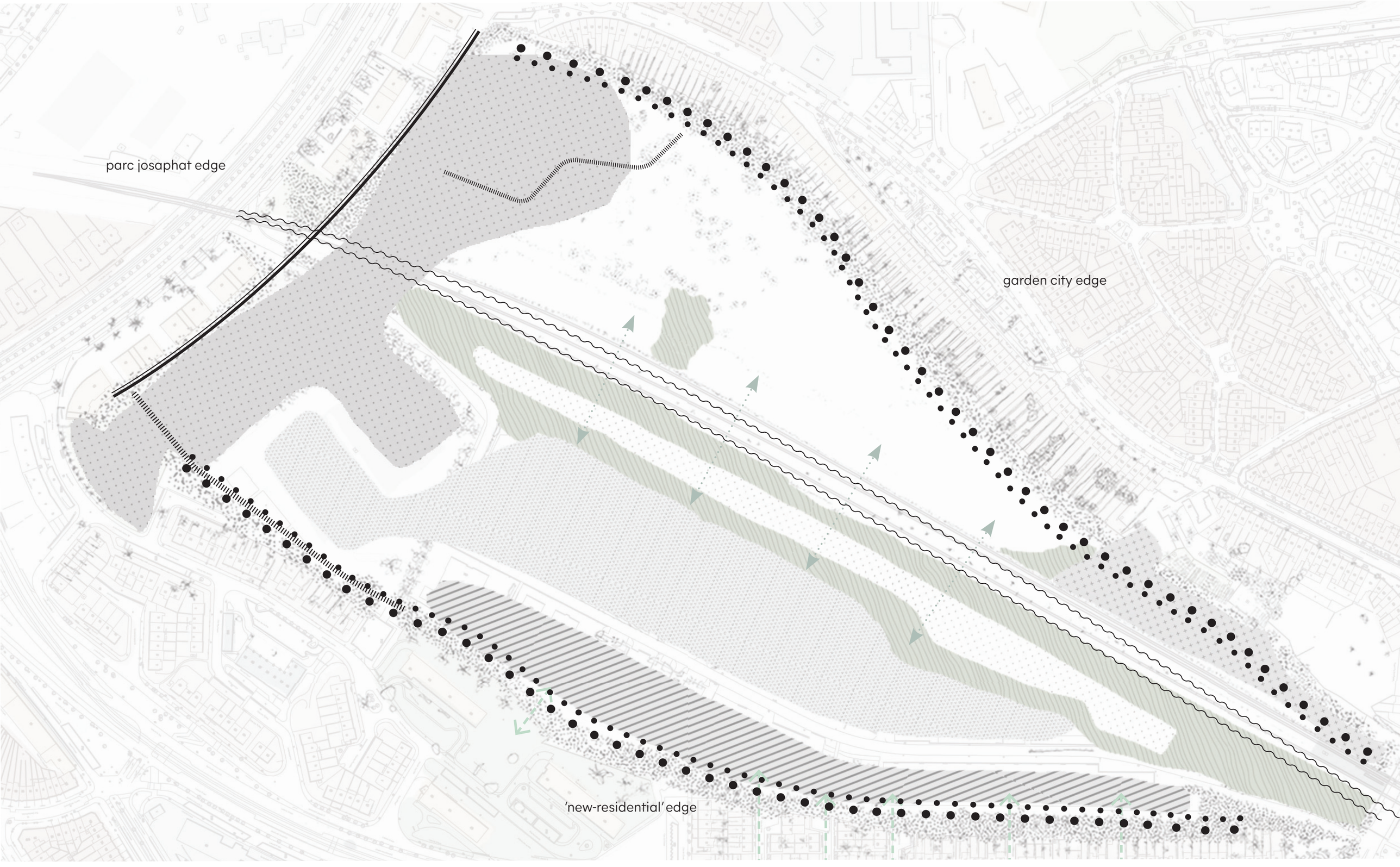


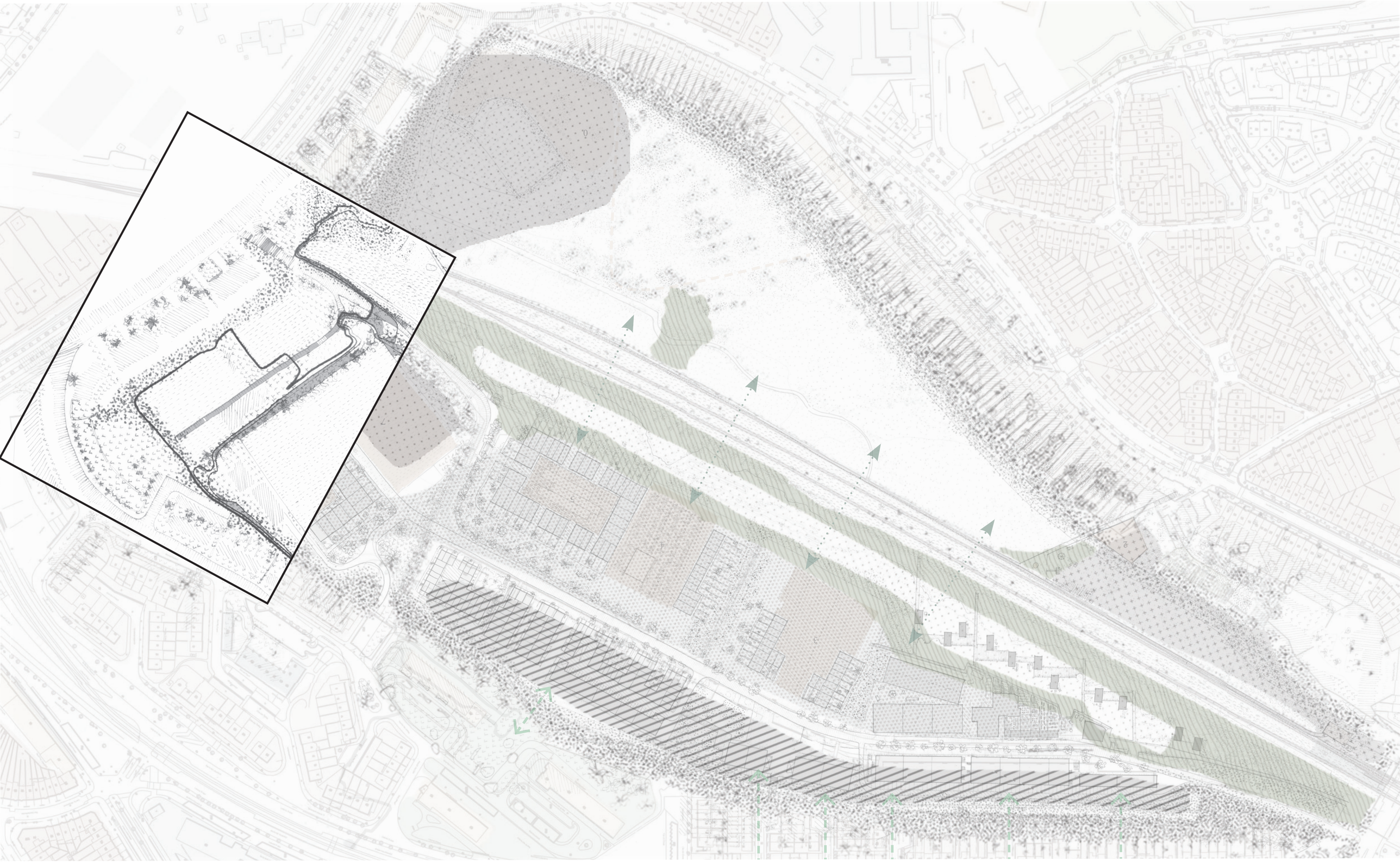
Mediators

0.Existing commons
1. Alternate entrance to the west side
2. Commoning facility
3. Bathhouse of enchantments
4. Repository of remembrance
5. Urban farming incubator
6. Sports/ public park
7. School
8.Knowledge production and dissemination



overlapping exisitng boundaries on masterplan

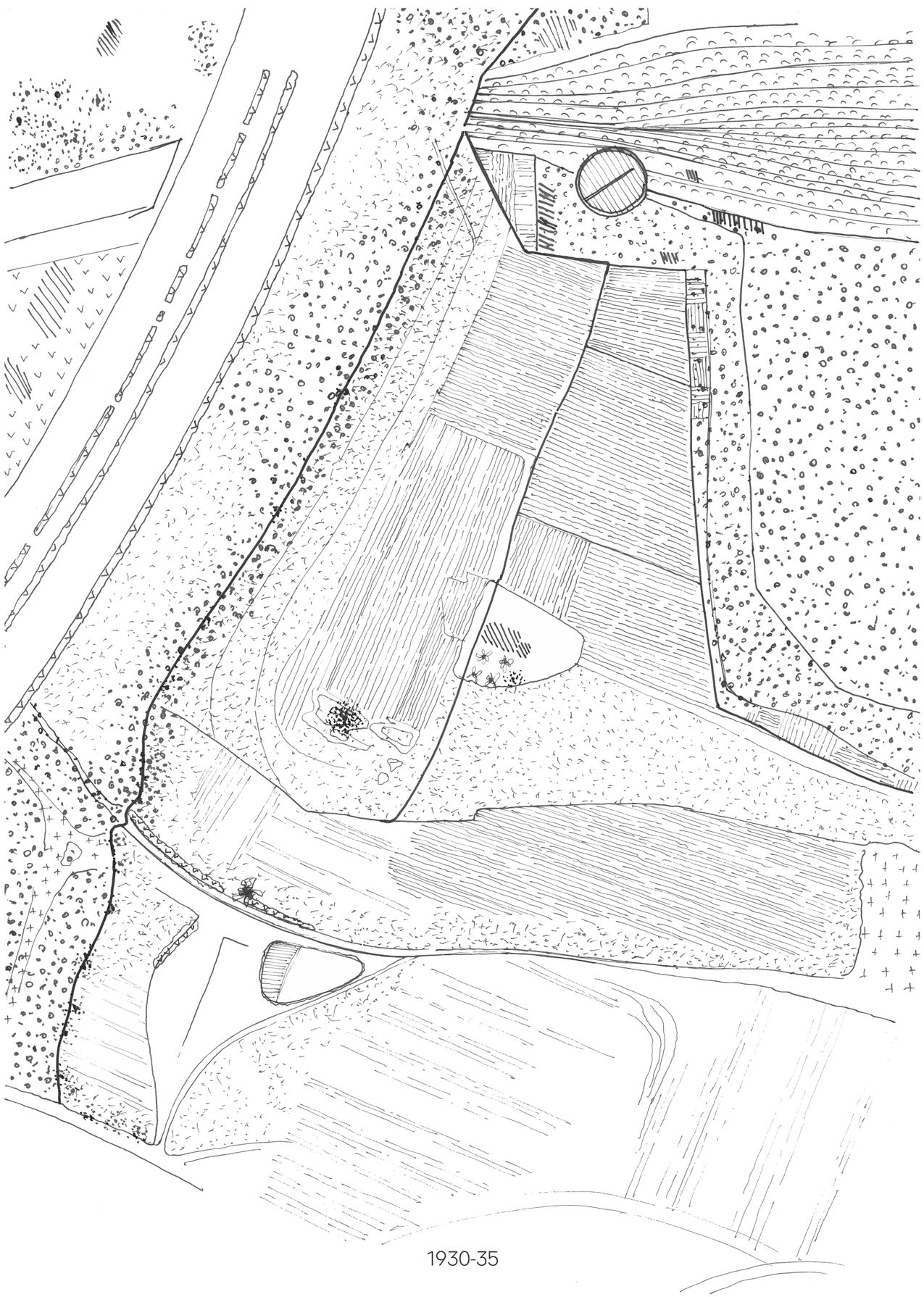

parc josaphat edge
garden city edge
'new-residential' edge



_research

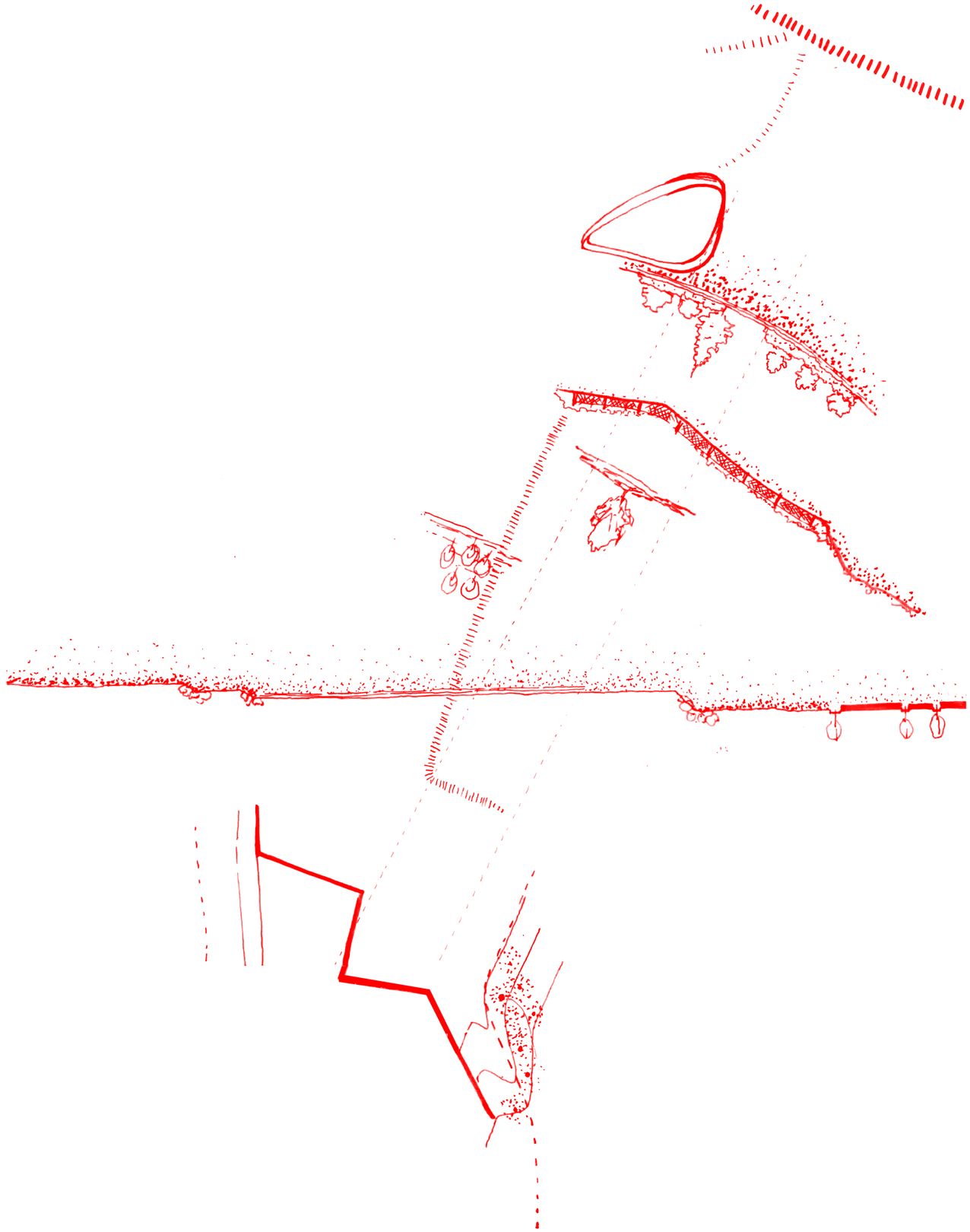
becoming of an urban

culture of nature



1930-35

past

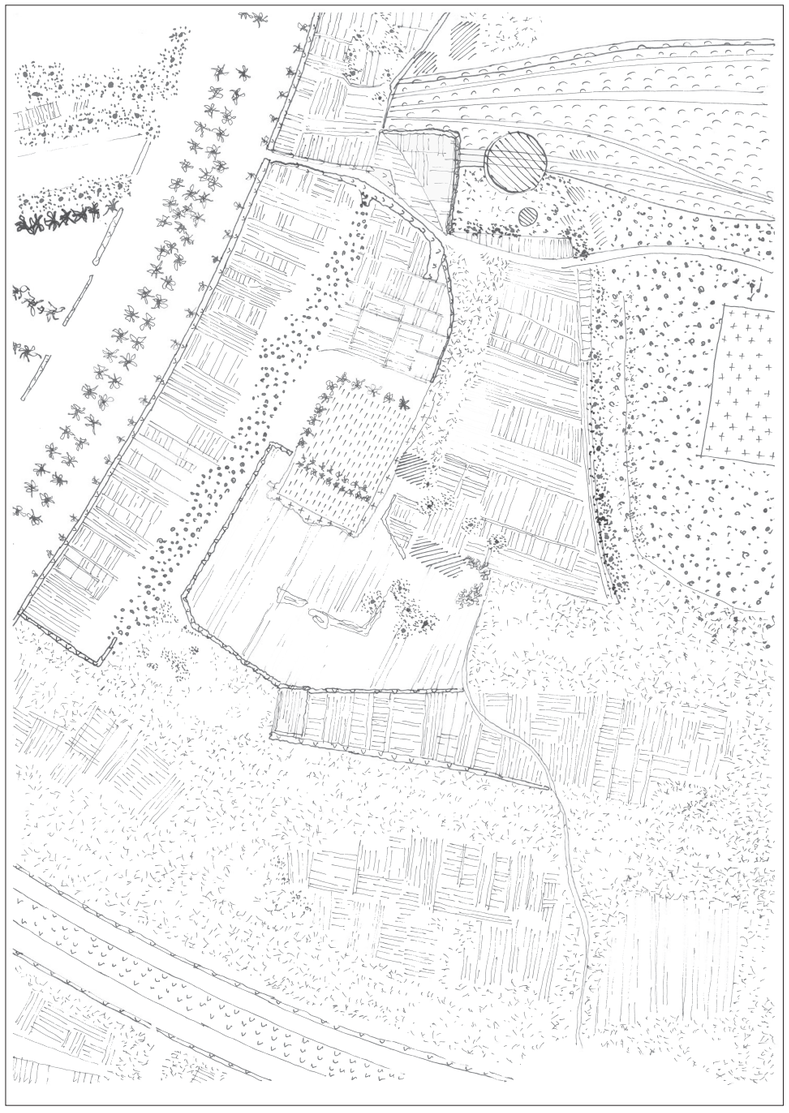




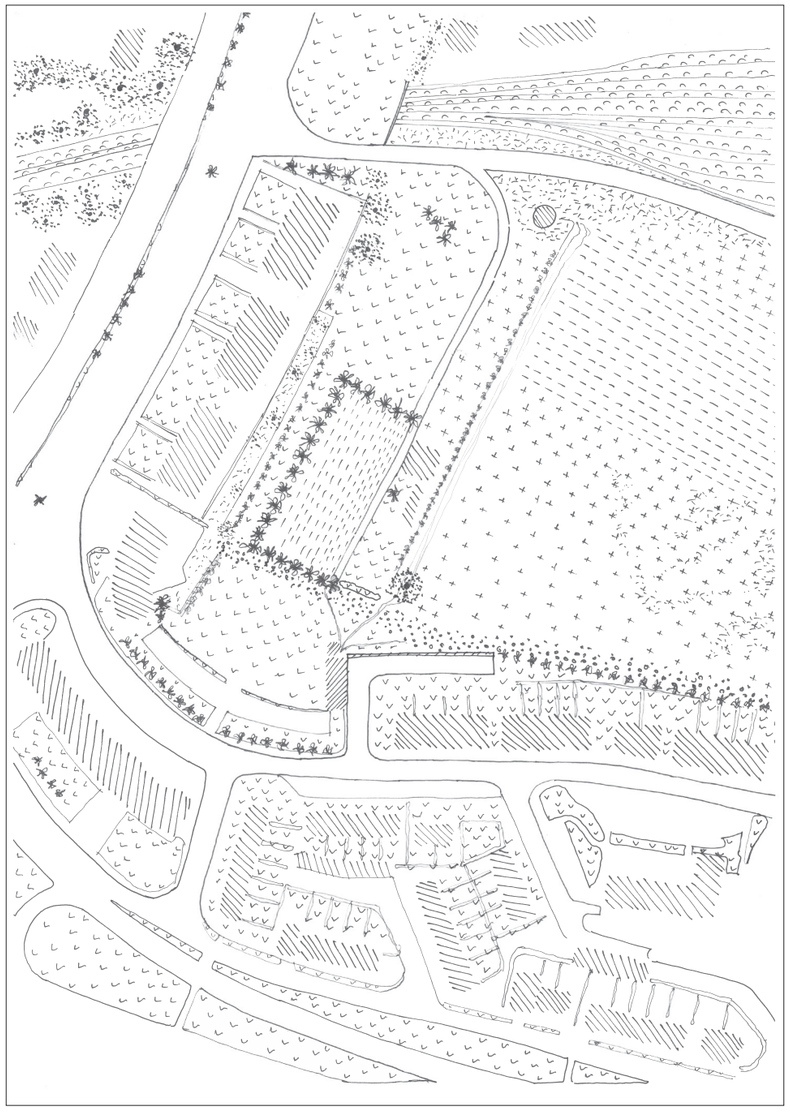
BRUX ELLES-Schaerbeek.— Dans la Vallée Josaphat.







1953



1971



2023

past to present



1953



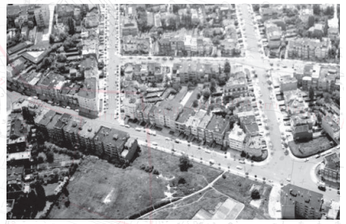
1971



2023

past to present









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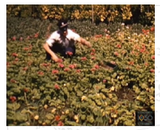
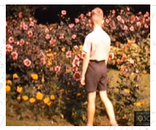










1971











2023

past to present

"If our analytical starting point for marginal spaces is reframed in relation to a closer engagement with spontaneous traces of nature, and their social and cultural significance, this can serve as a basis from which to develop a wider terrain of critical reflection over the concept of landscape itself."

Mathew Gandy, Unintentional Landscapes

"People protect what they understand. That's the way to make a change."

Sefano Katz, NewYork Times

_design

manifesto for what was, is found and to be....

Manifesto - As found

We started our master planning with a study of the "as found" friche. What exists already and how can we draw conclusions and make investigations from this data? What are the existing ground conditions? What kind of vegetation grows here and why? What are the ecological hotspots and why only those areas? What are the traces of human intervention? Finally, how do these factors lead to a holistic understanding of this palimpsest?

The friche is a palimpsest - layer upon layer, soil upon soil. The west side already reveals remnants of this layering where a triangulated zone becomes exclusively lush with trees, contrasting the other more grassy areas of the friche. It is most likely that this area was more polluted than others, which led to a different kind of intervention in this particular zone - possibly, the removal of more soil or the refilling of a deeper layer of topsoil. The area is now the most biodiverse on the friche. We wondered why it was so? Interestingly, the commons sit adjacent to this triangle. We speculate that the two work in symbiosis and conjunction and possibly fuel one another.

Making this study our point of departure, we now speculate on the future of this friche. What if, like this triangulated fragment, other plots within the friche had been exposed to a specific kind of removal and refilling of soil? What if the concrete that sits atop the eastern front would be peeled off? Would the friche grow back here? Perhaps, yes. Remnants of the wild friche already dot the industrial landscape.

We look at the hard edge of this industrial "port" as an opportunity waiting to be "rewilded". The hard surfaces will be punctured and the friche will slowly reveal itself, flowing towards the city, extending its fingers beyond the boundaries of the bordering tracks and thus, the architecture will follow. Simulataneously, the city begins to infiltrate the friche with its "urban green".

1. The peeling off of concrete in parts where the friche has already begun to reveal itself. These punctures grow and form connections between the wild nature of the friche and the city.

2. As a rule, we retain the ground surfaces of the industries as outlines or borders within which we build. We do not exceed the limits of these boundaries in order to let the friche erupt from the remaining paving. We retain the Rova industrial buildings and move the remaining industries to other parts of Brussels. The primary access road is also retained.

3. For the masterplan vision, we imagine a new kind of living environment - where housing, industry and nature are intertwined. A kind of densification of functions that prevents isolated operations.

4. The zoning of programmes in this new neighbourhood masterplan is determined in a layered system with varying degrees of "living with nature", Typologies of mixed housing and retail towards the city in the east reinvigorate the surrounding urban fabric, low rise housings with mediator community functions are placed in the middle, and finally, scattered housing with commoning/ reseach activities are closest to the wild friche.

5. Each rewilded, peeled off zone cannot exist by itself for long. This we conclude through our study of the western part. Thus, the wild friche needs a mediator, just as the commons facilitate the triangle and mediate between the city and the wild friche. Therefore, the mediator function is born, where human interventions aid natural flows while keeping them in a healthy state and connected to the new urban environment. These functions support the wild friche and the wild friche feeds their commercial/productive/residential/ educational/ ecological functions.

6. Mediator functions are [illegible] as an intervention which negotiates between two or more types of ecosystems, two or more types of programs, two or more types of green. One can imagine architecture that may be functionally ambiguous or flexible, or some kind of infrastructure that aids the confluence of these ecosystems, or even landscapes. We hope to find our own proposals in these mediators.

7. [illegible] where migratory birds perch on electrical poles. We imagine a wetland that runs along the tracks , forming a buffer and resting place for them and other non-human species.

8. On the two ends are the bridging functions - the train station and the wahis park, connecting the two ends of the friche to one another. [illegible] negotiating between two kinds of zones.

9. The eventual aim is to allow nature to take precedence, and to let architecture follow. What kind of architecture will come about when nature takes the lead? How will boundaries be negotiated? How will it create its space in the as found?

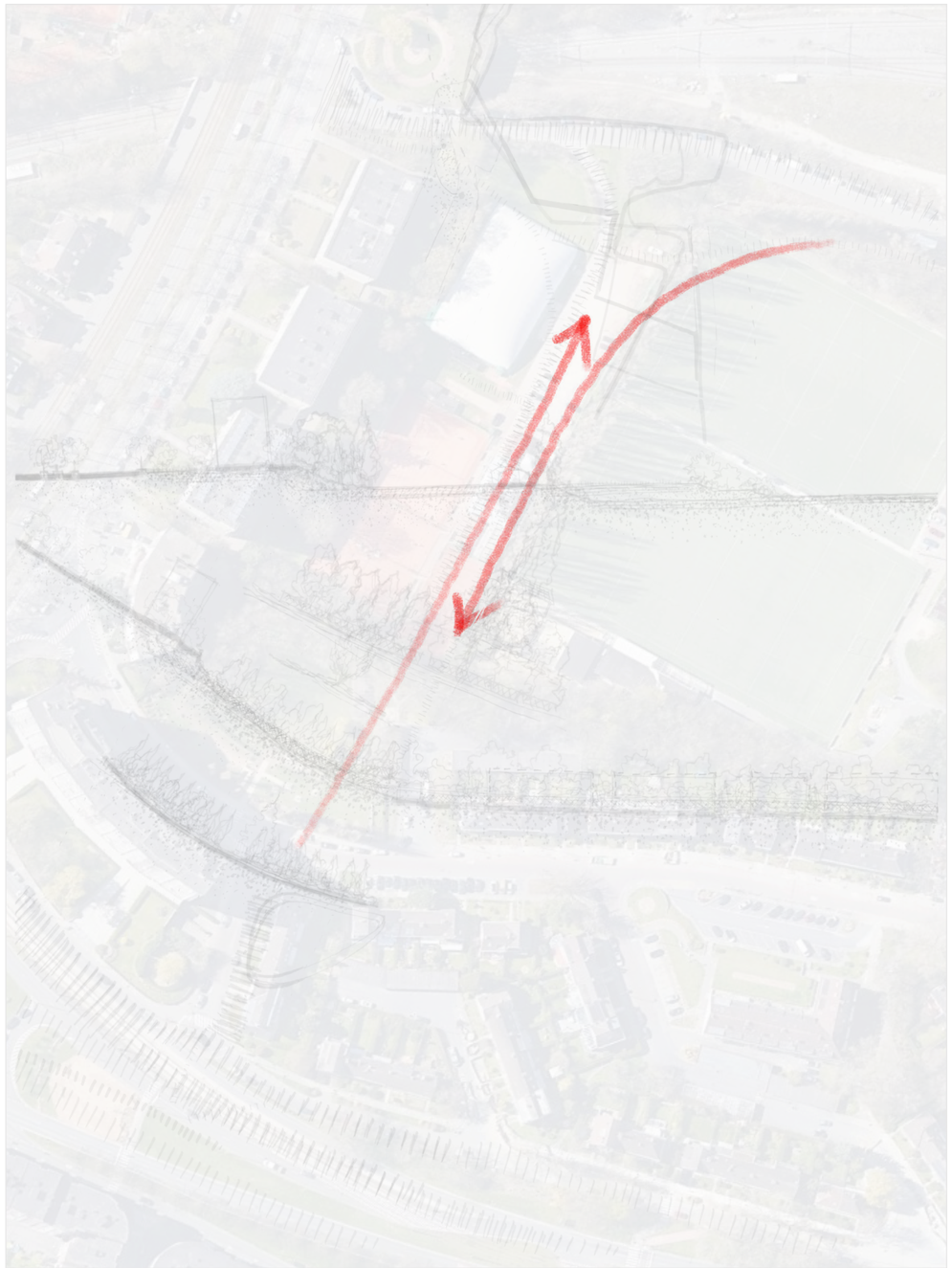
1. To sensitively negotiate between the past and the present assemblages on site and design for a symbiotic evolution in future

2. To be empathatic to the human cultures, the non human cultures and the intermingling of the two

3. To peel of the concrete allowing the soil to breathe and the friche to reemerge

4. To design for entropy to emerge with time, dissolving borders and inviting new rhythms over time

5. To design for decay

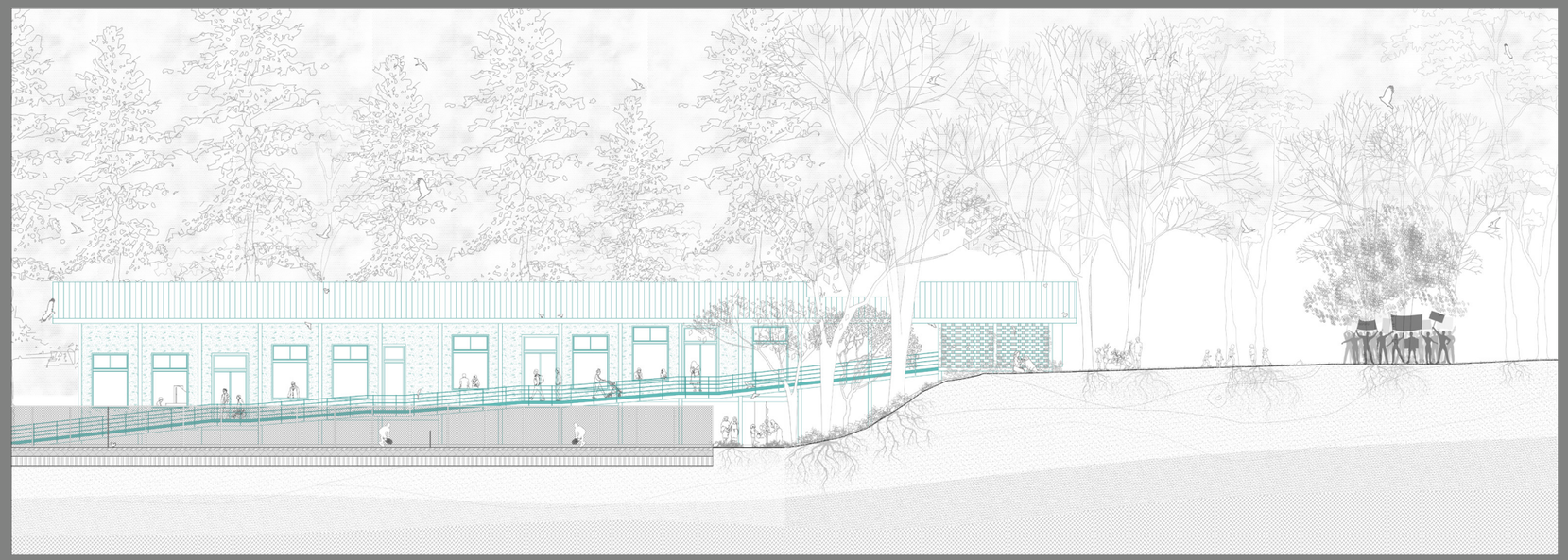


flow

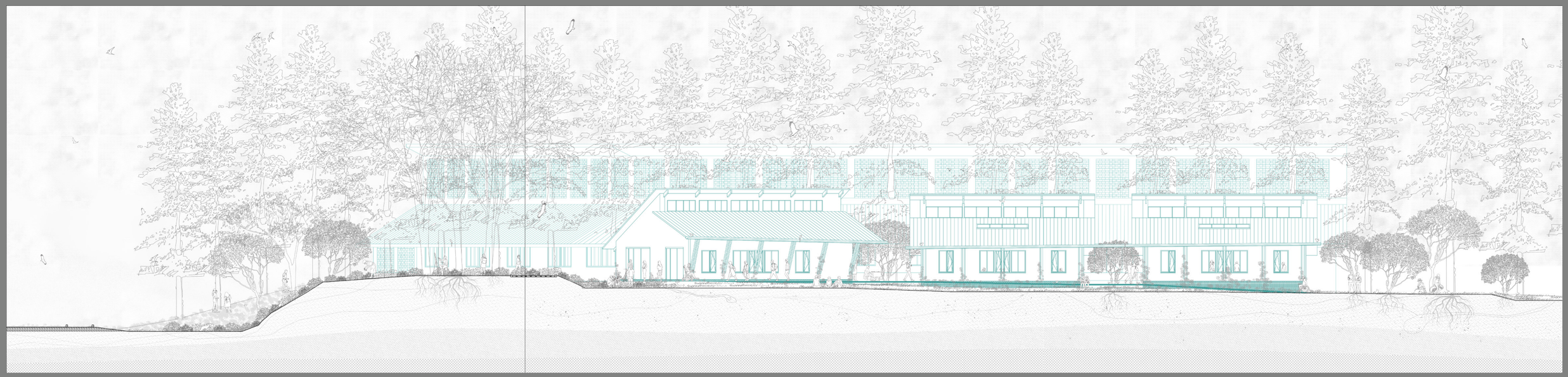


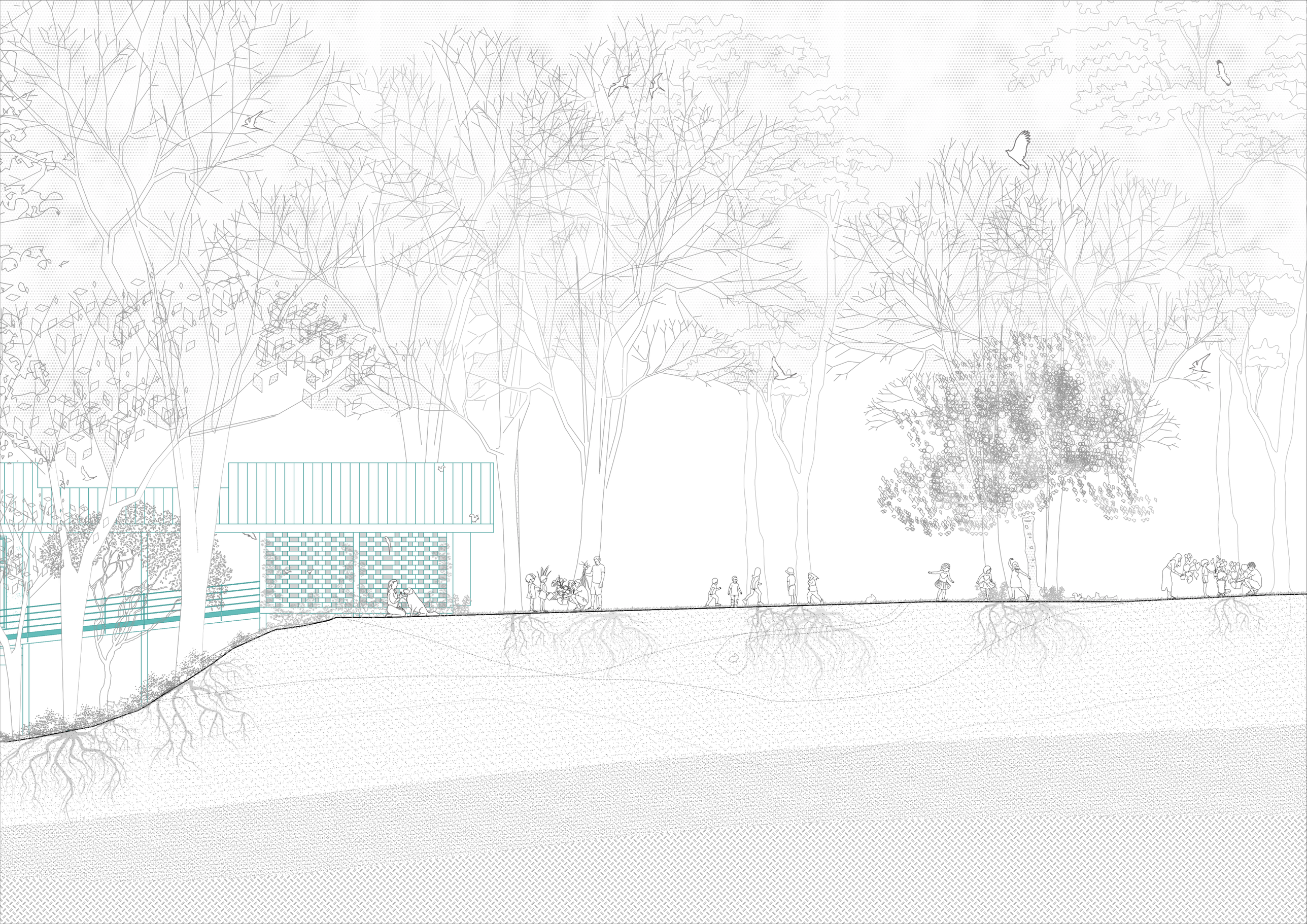
site plan

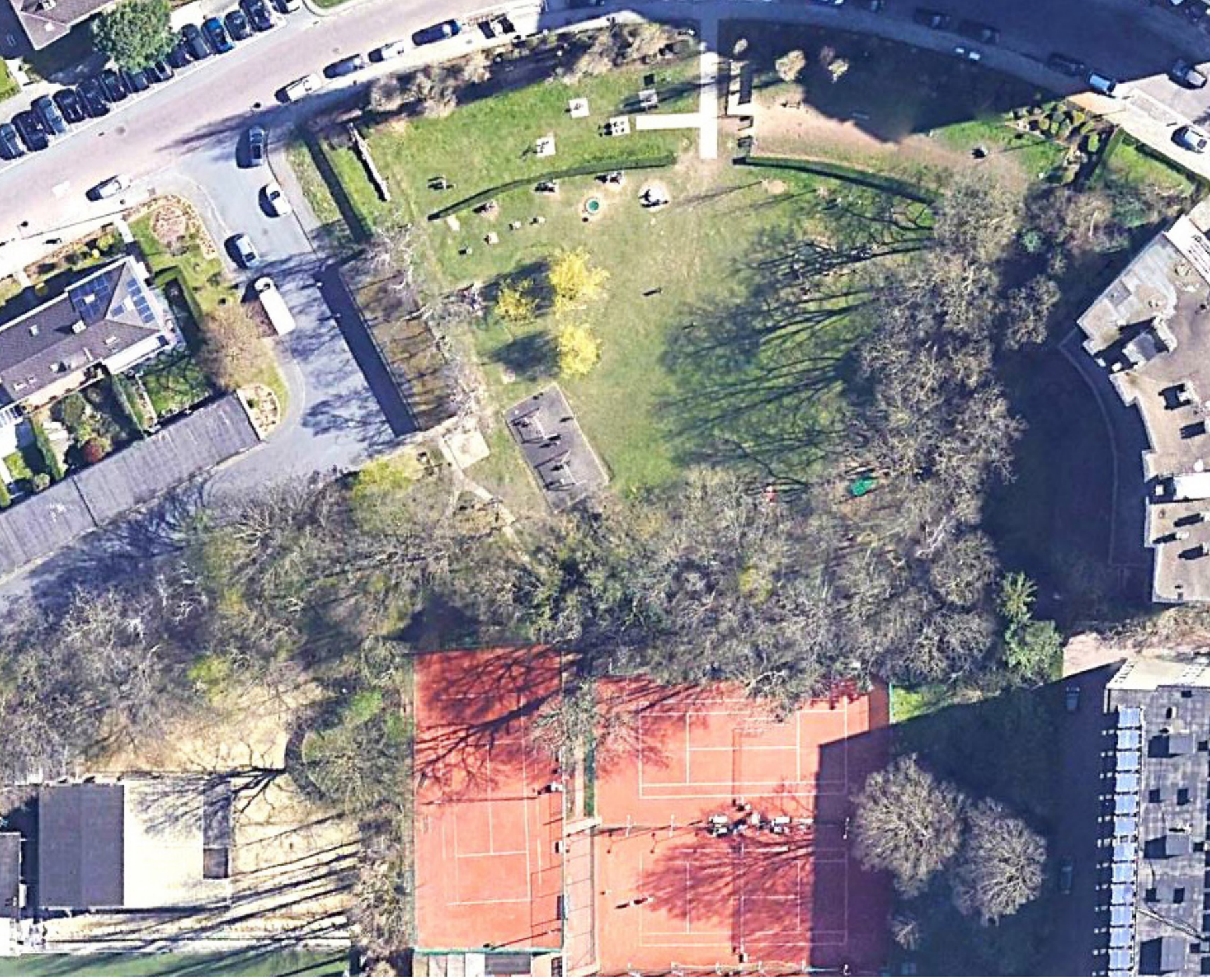






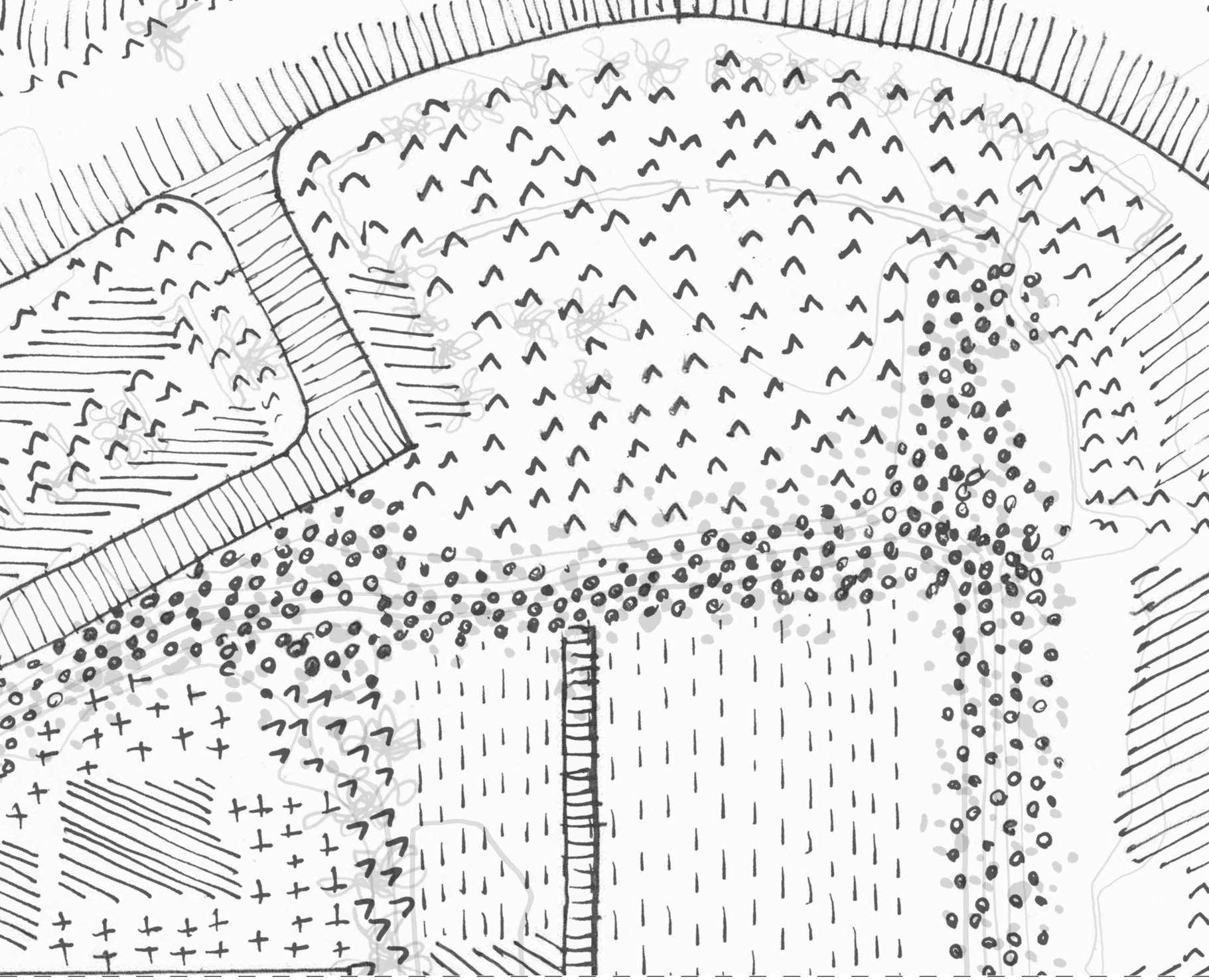










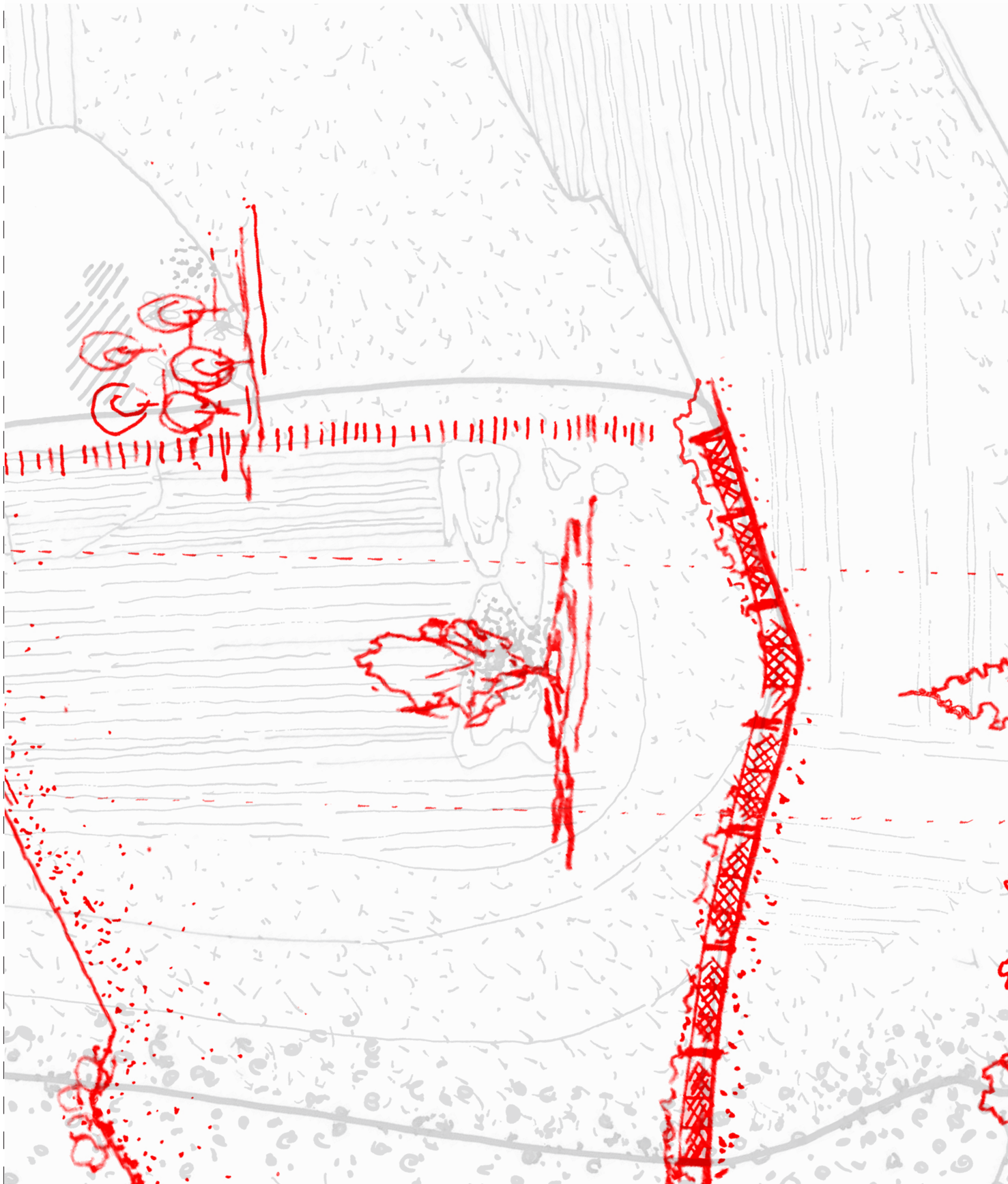




1930-35



1930-35





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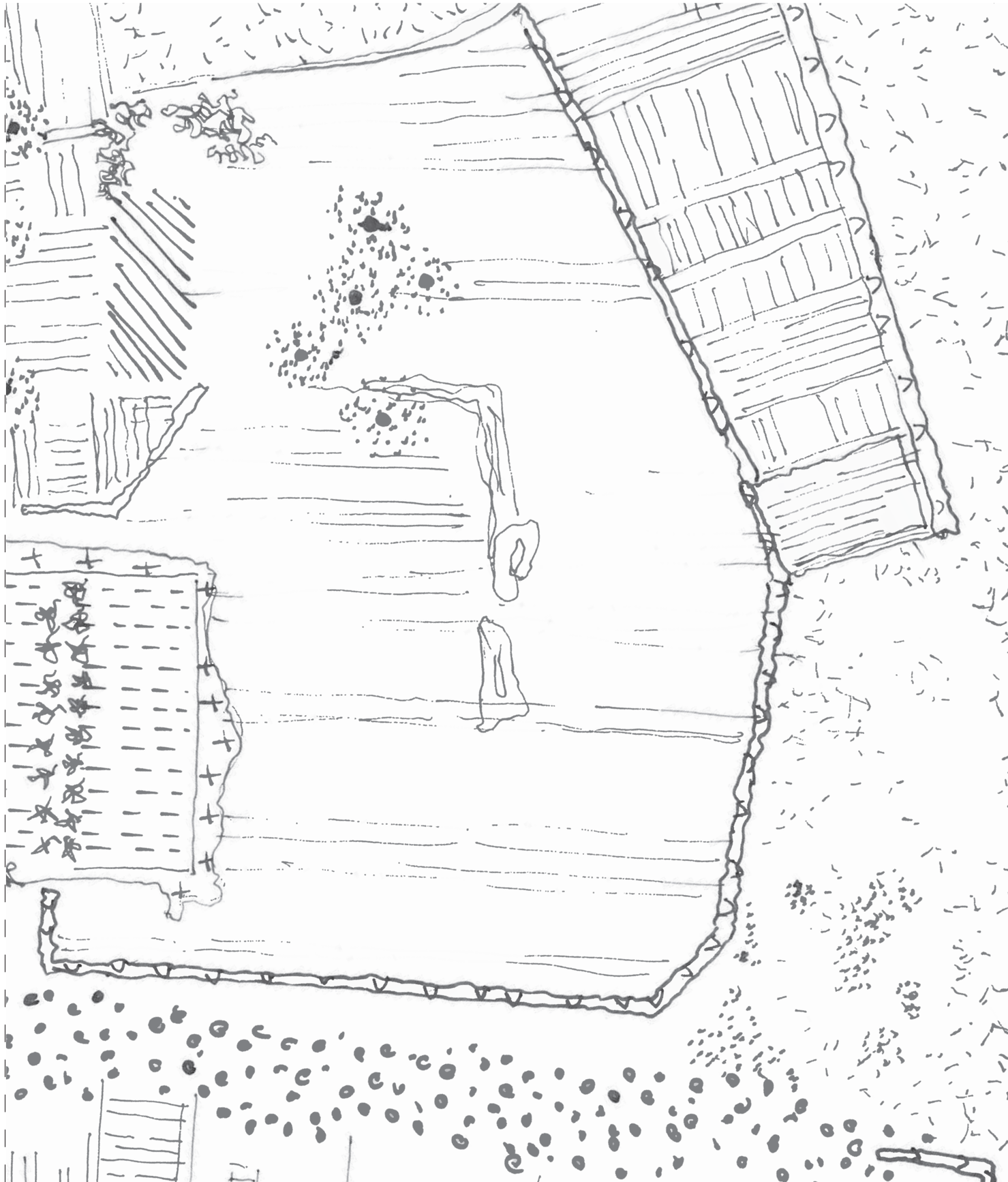
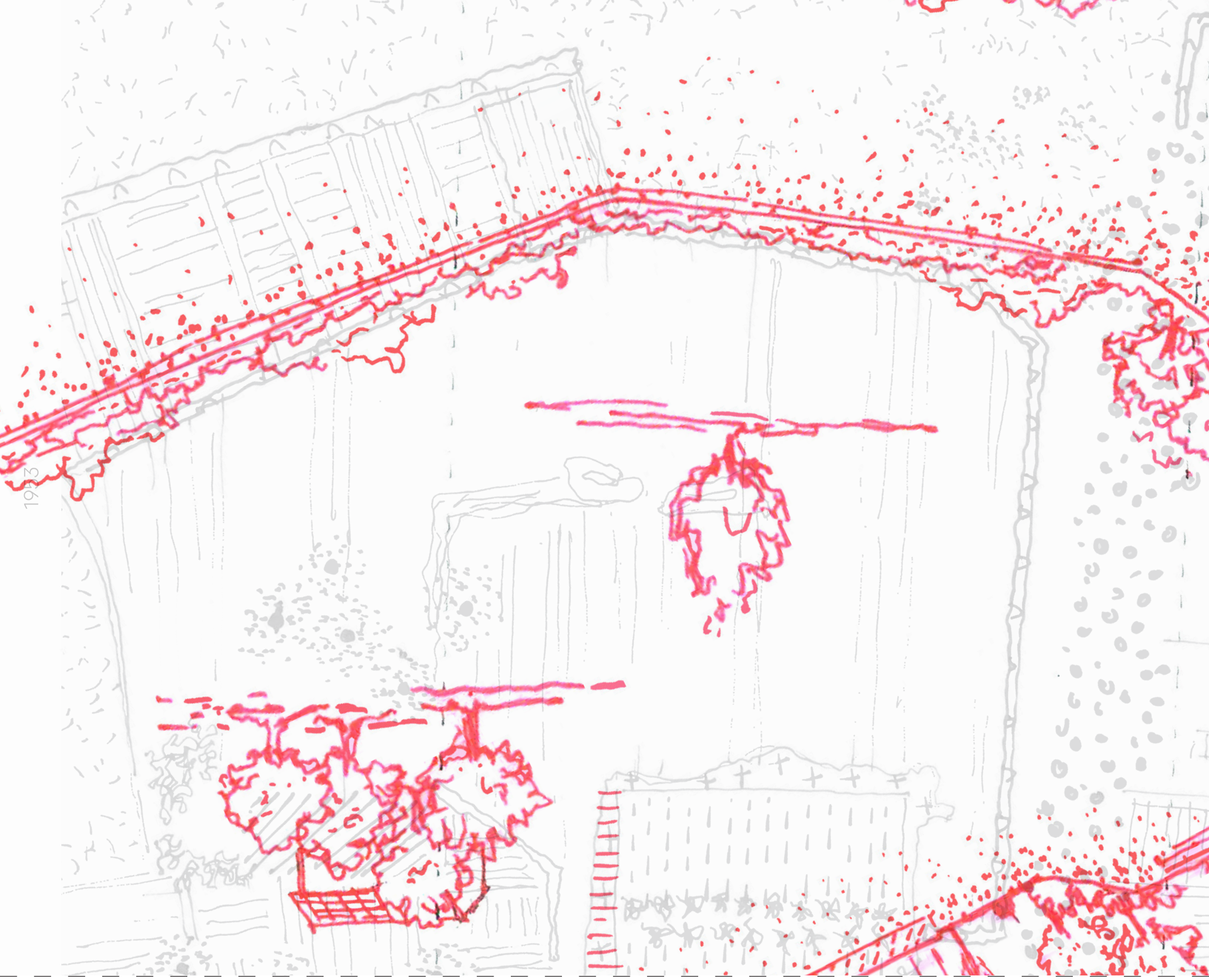
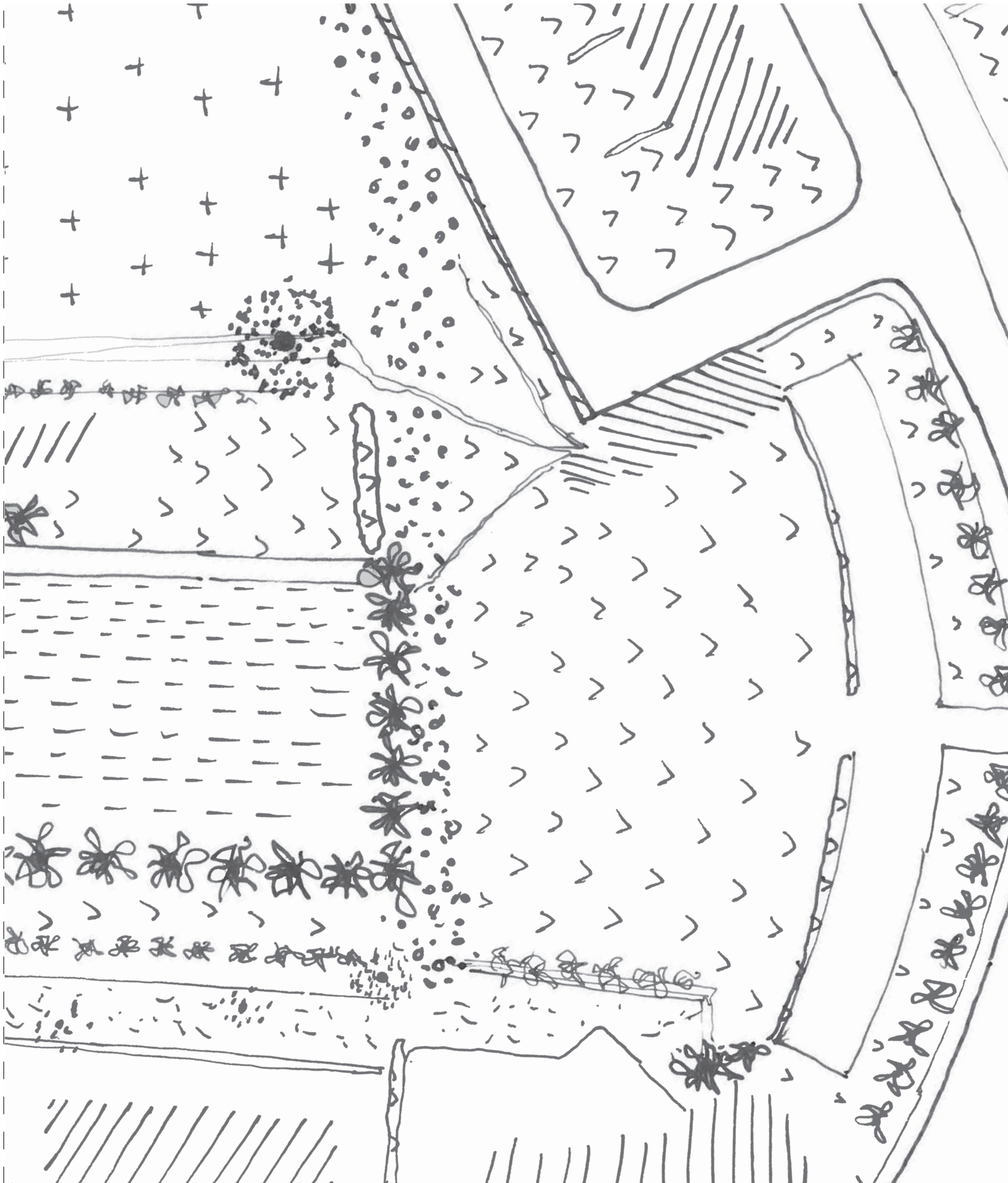
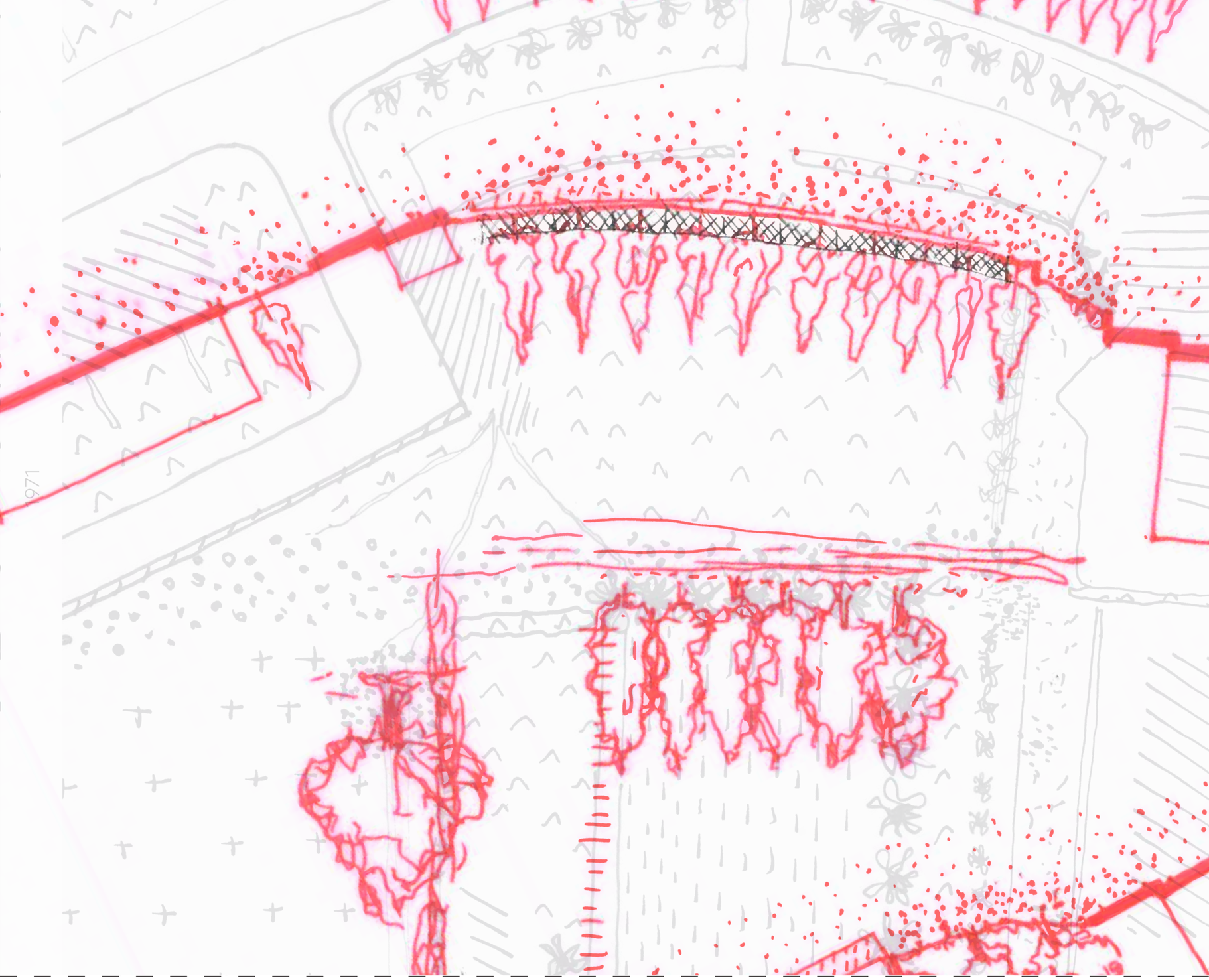



1913



1971

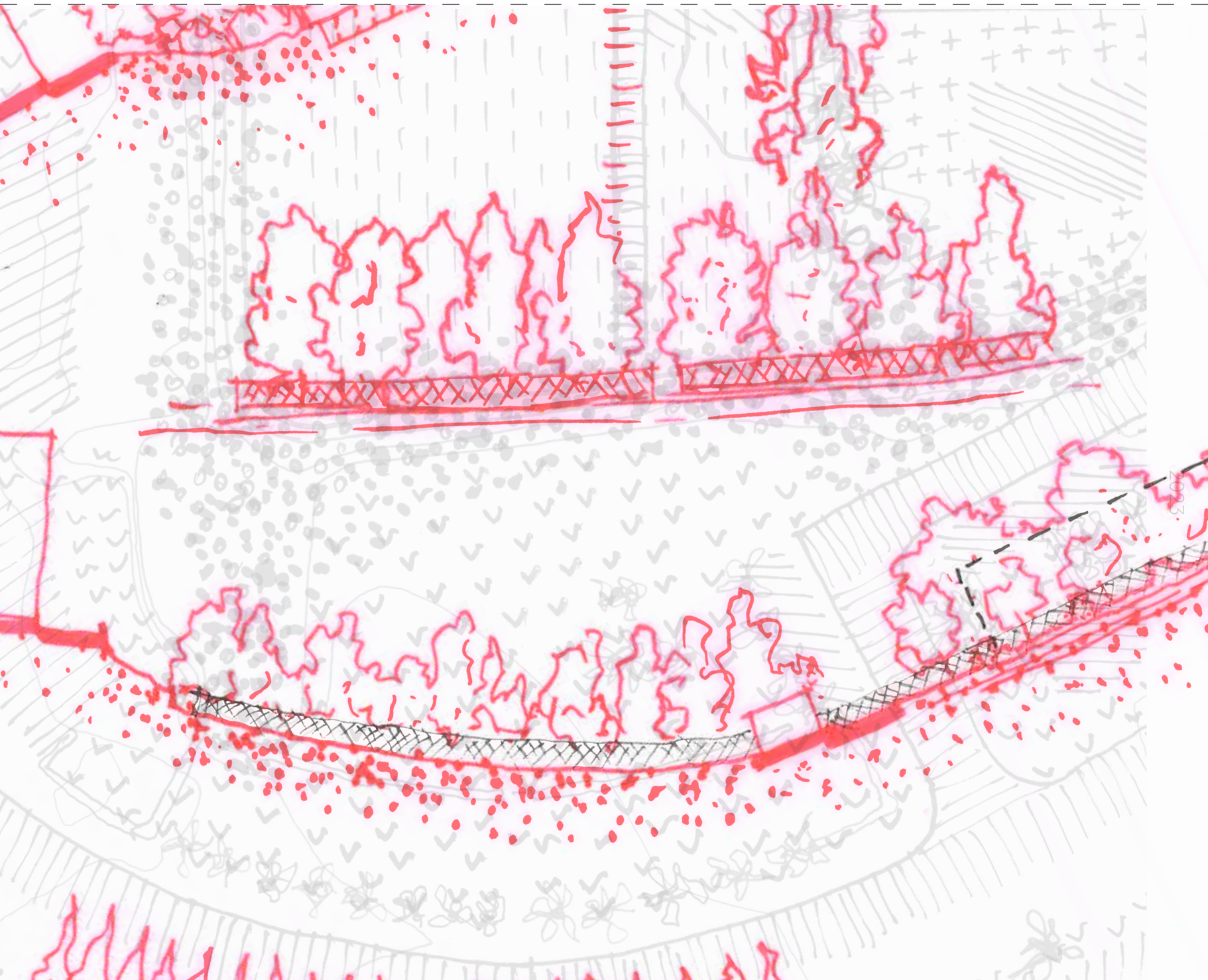






2023





community





border/entry



childrens playground





protest space

gathering



public

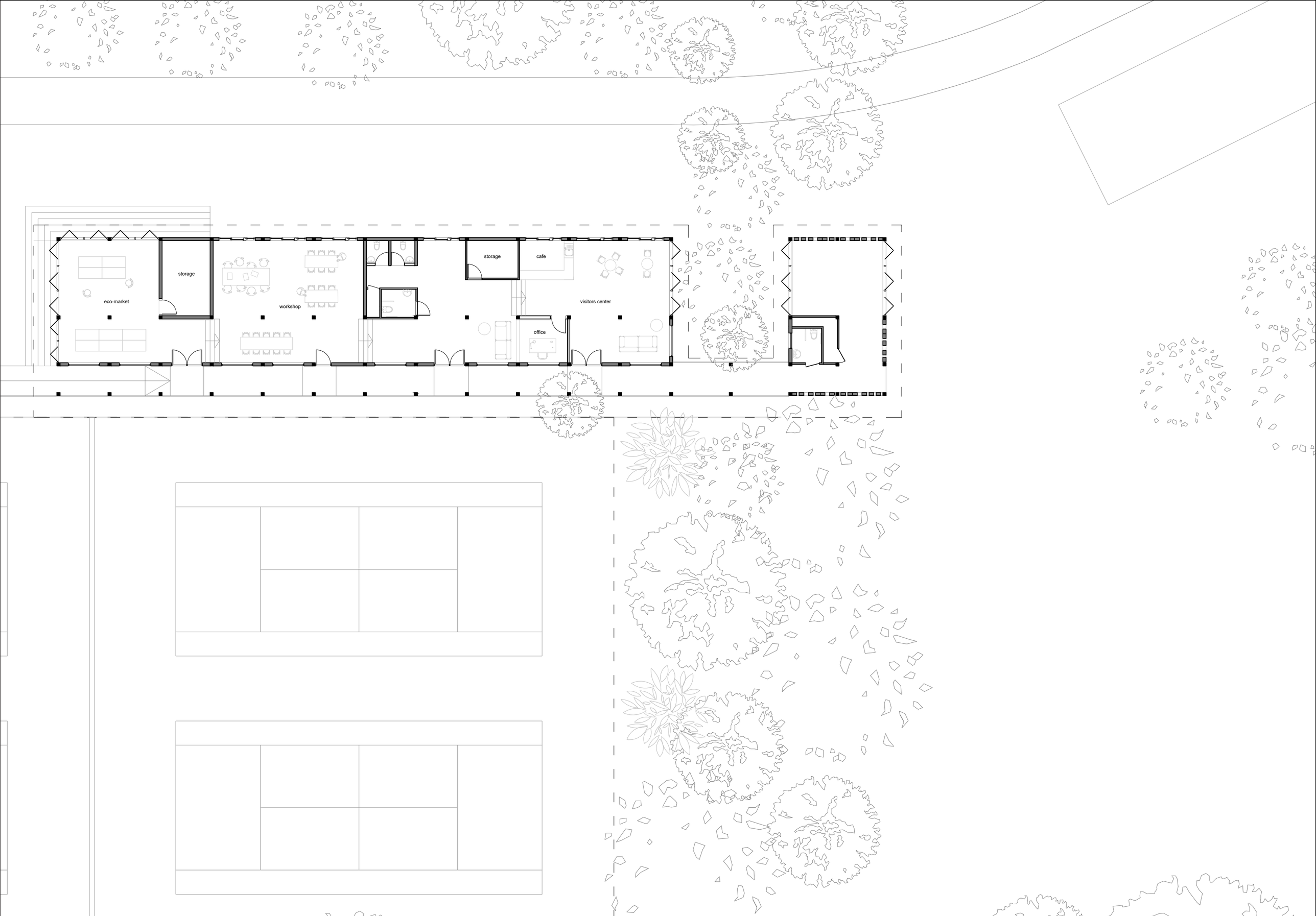


dog park



city edge

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cafe
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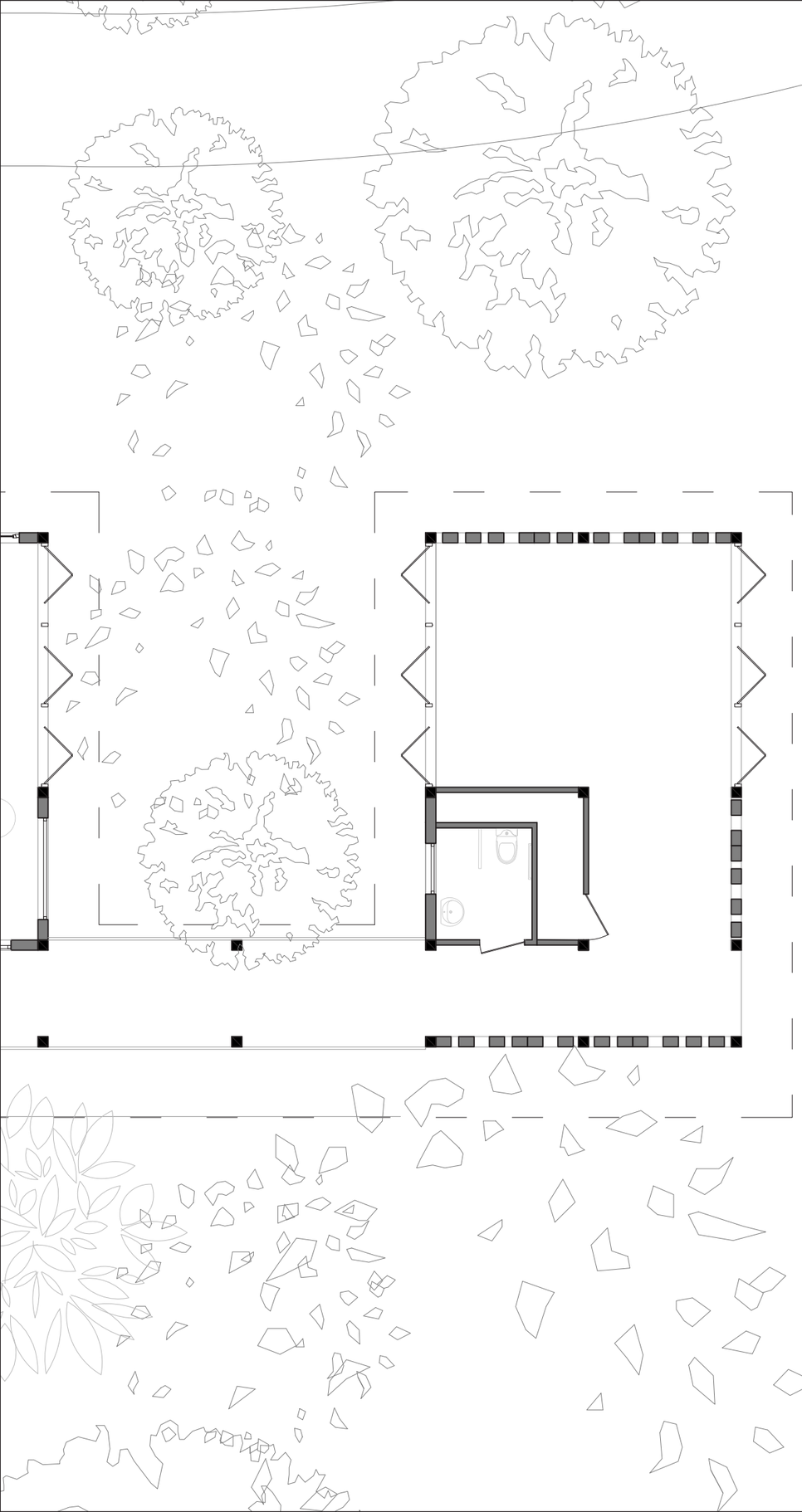
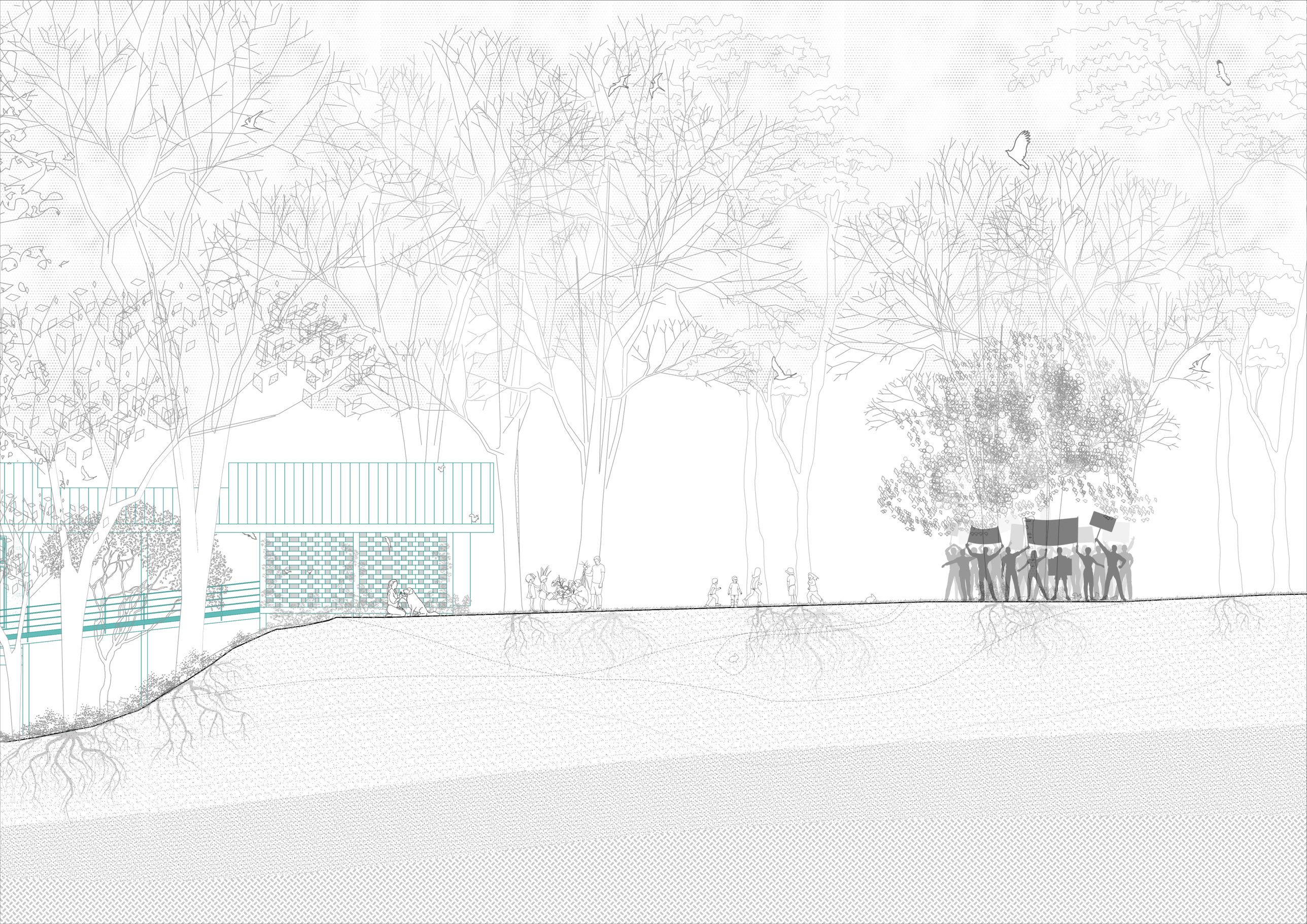
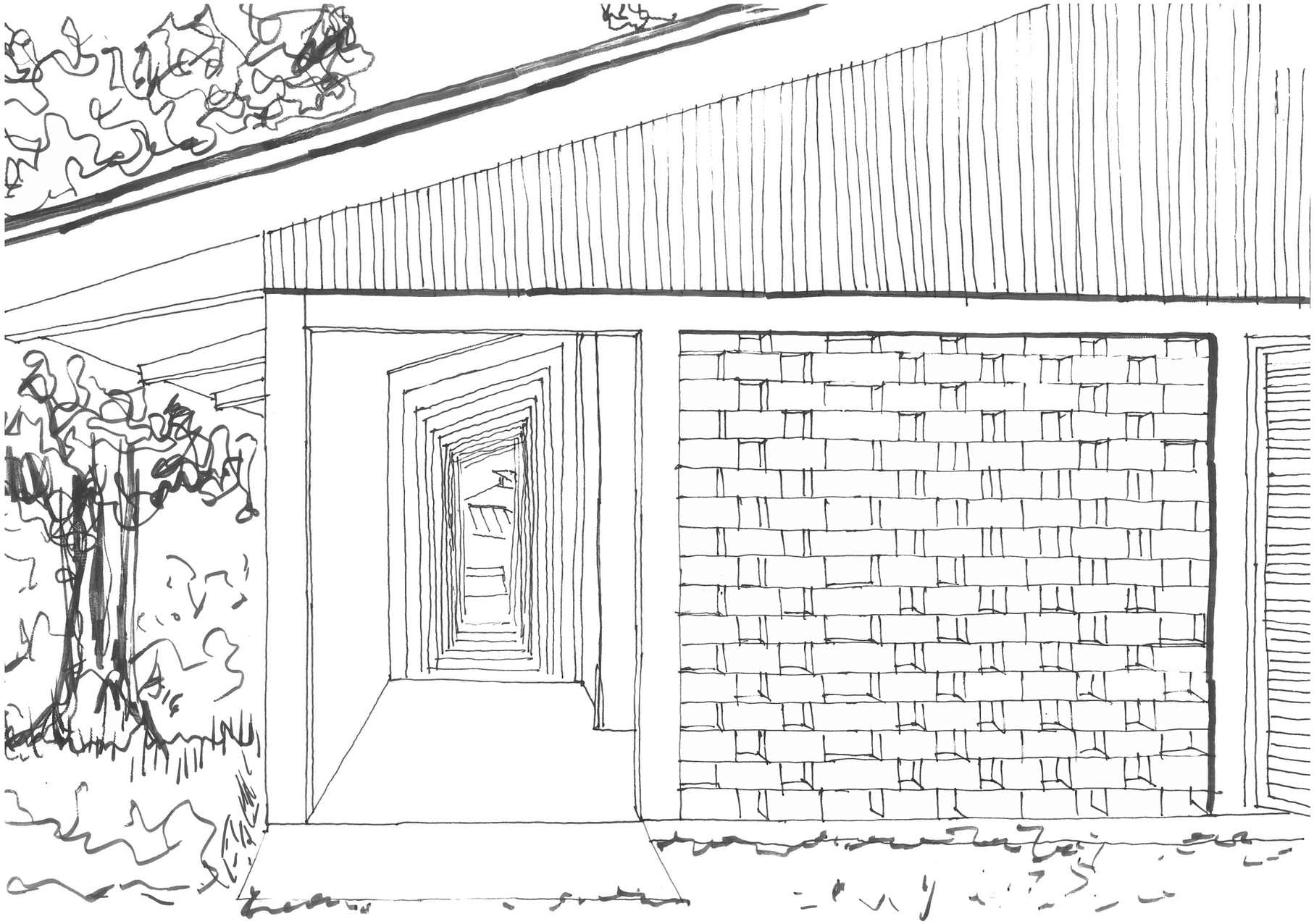


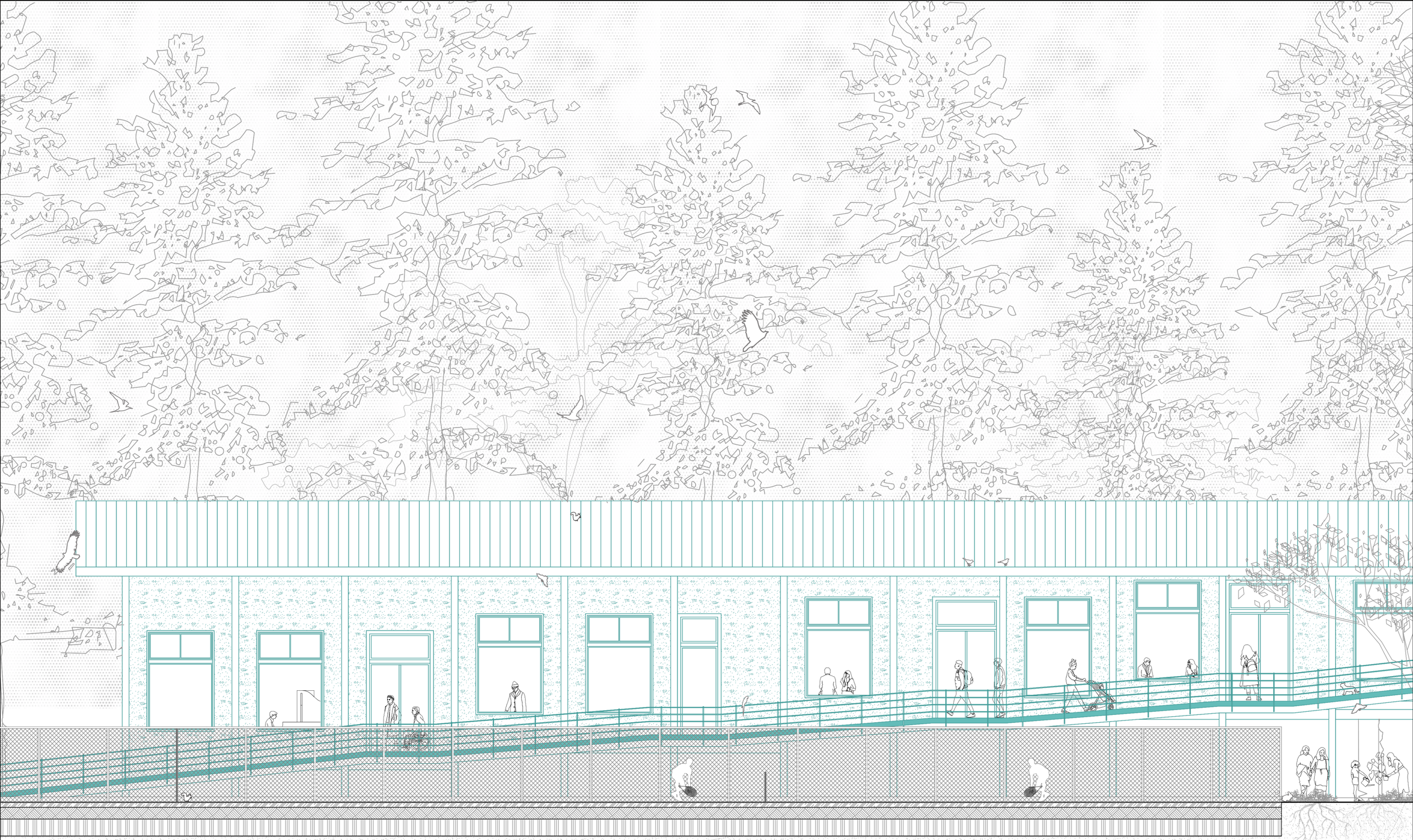












eco-market

storage

workshop

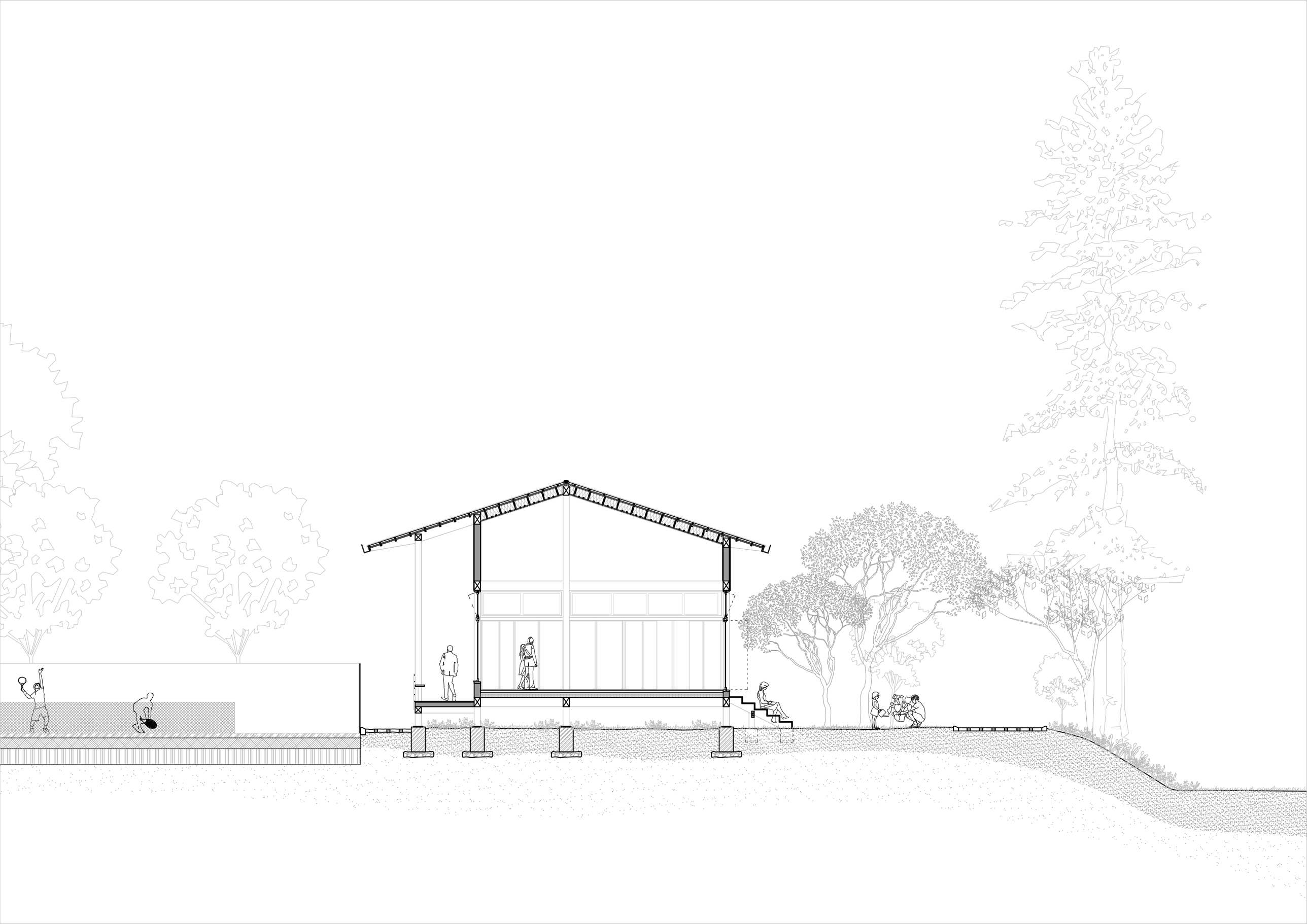
storage

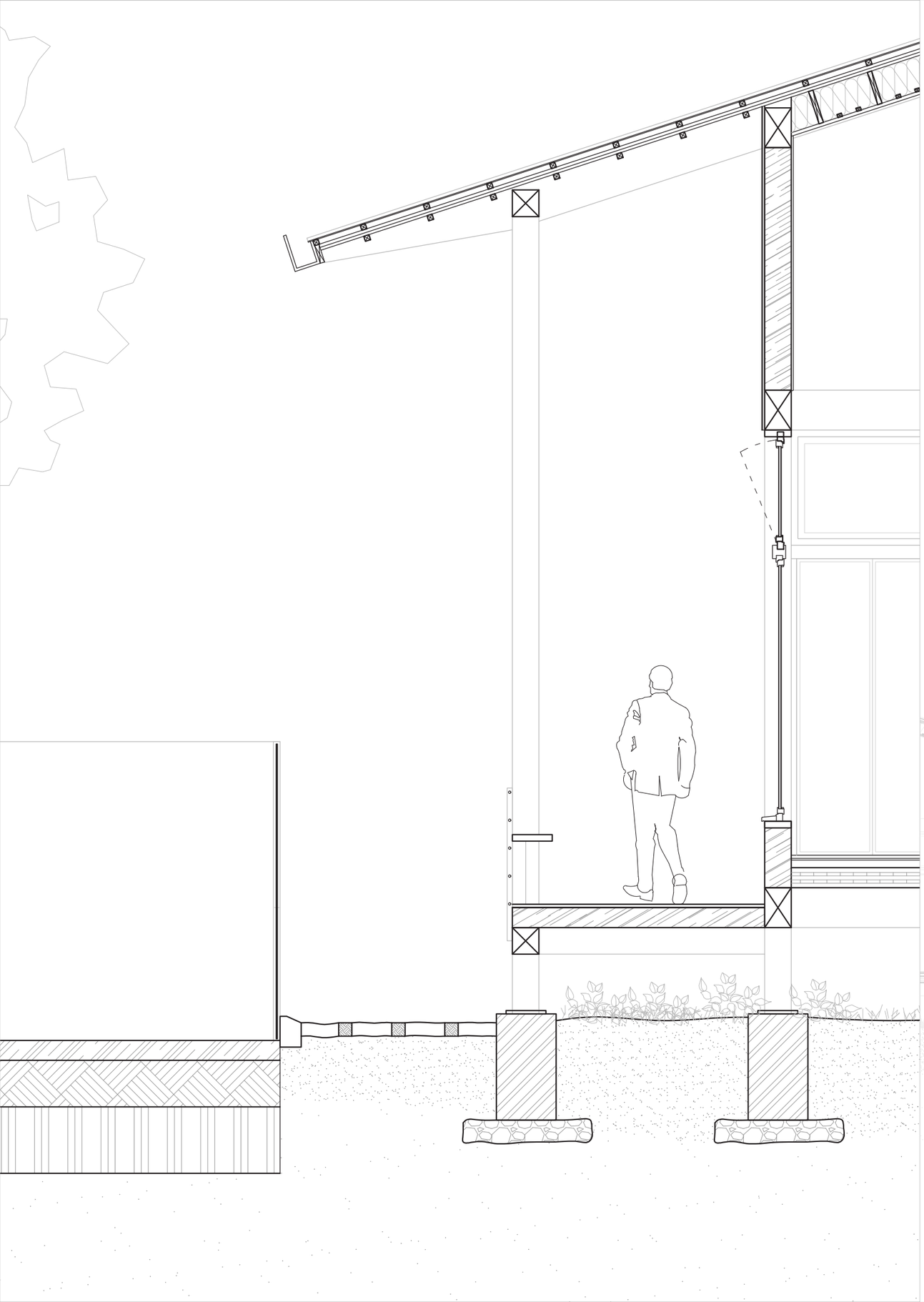
cafe

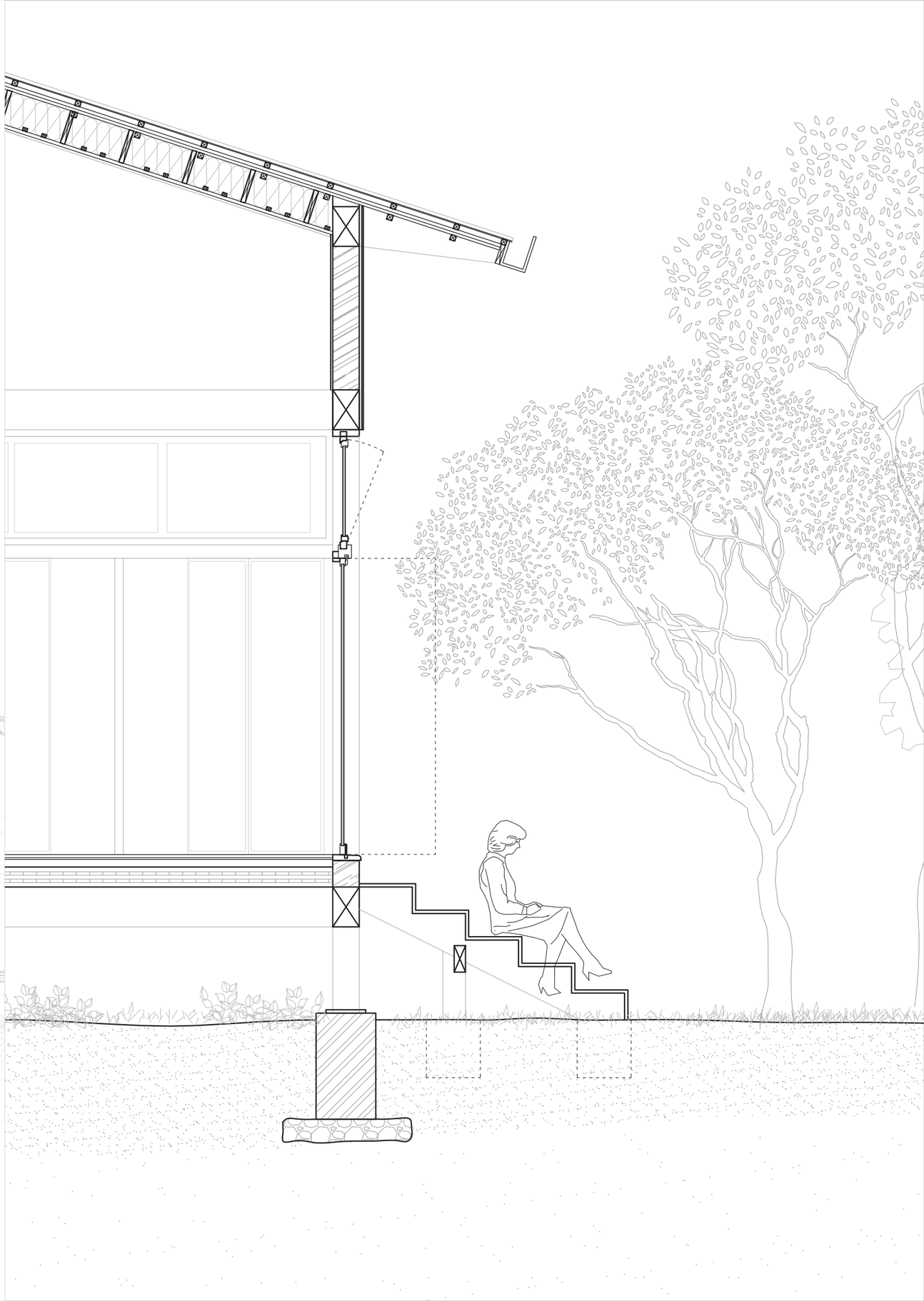
visitors center

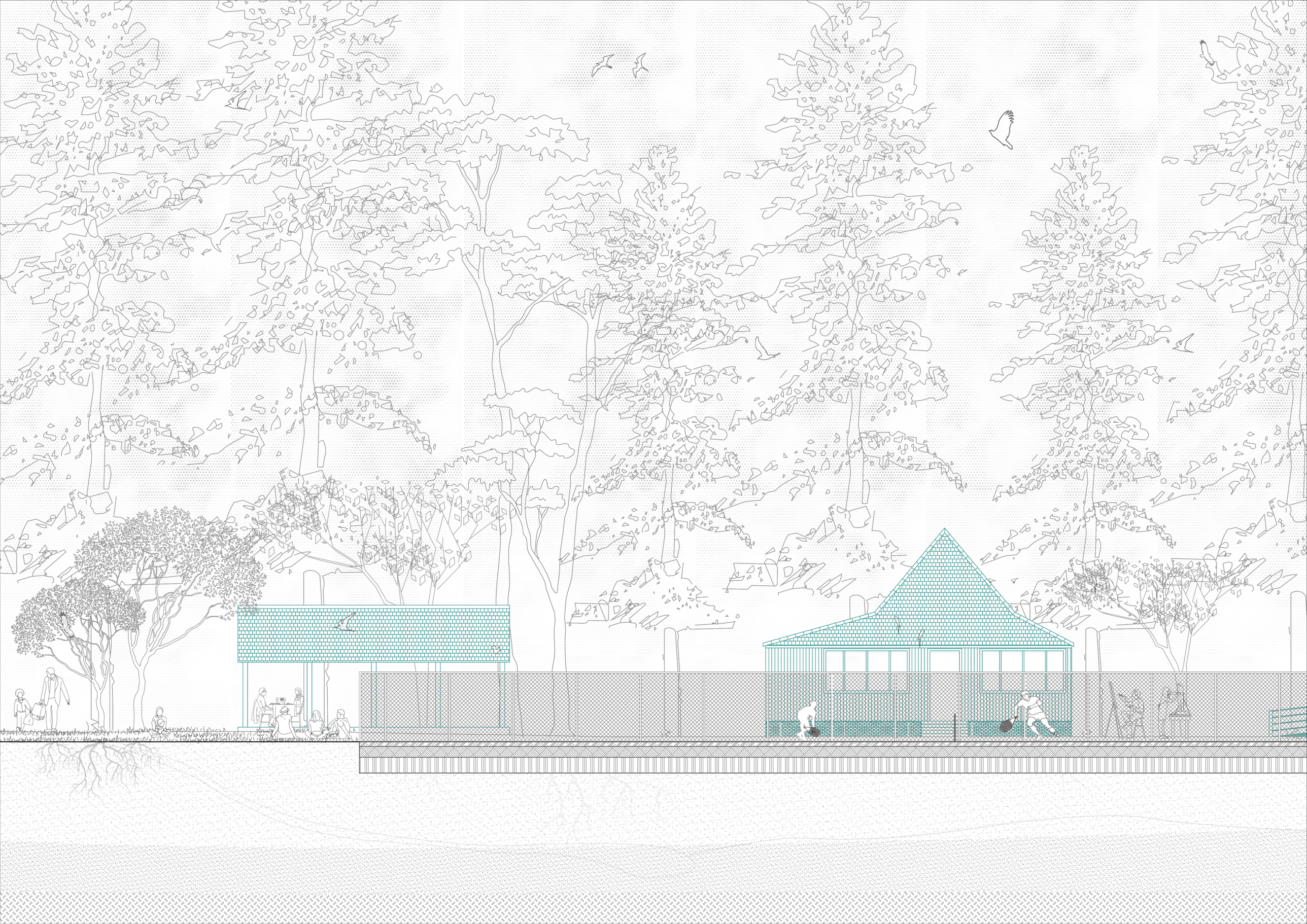
office

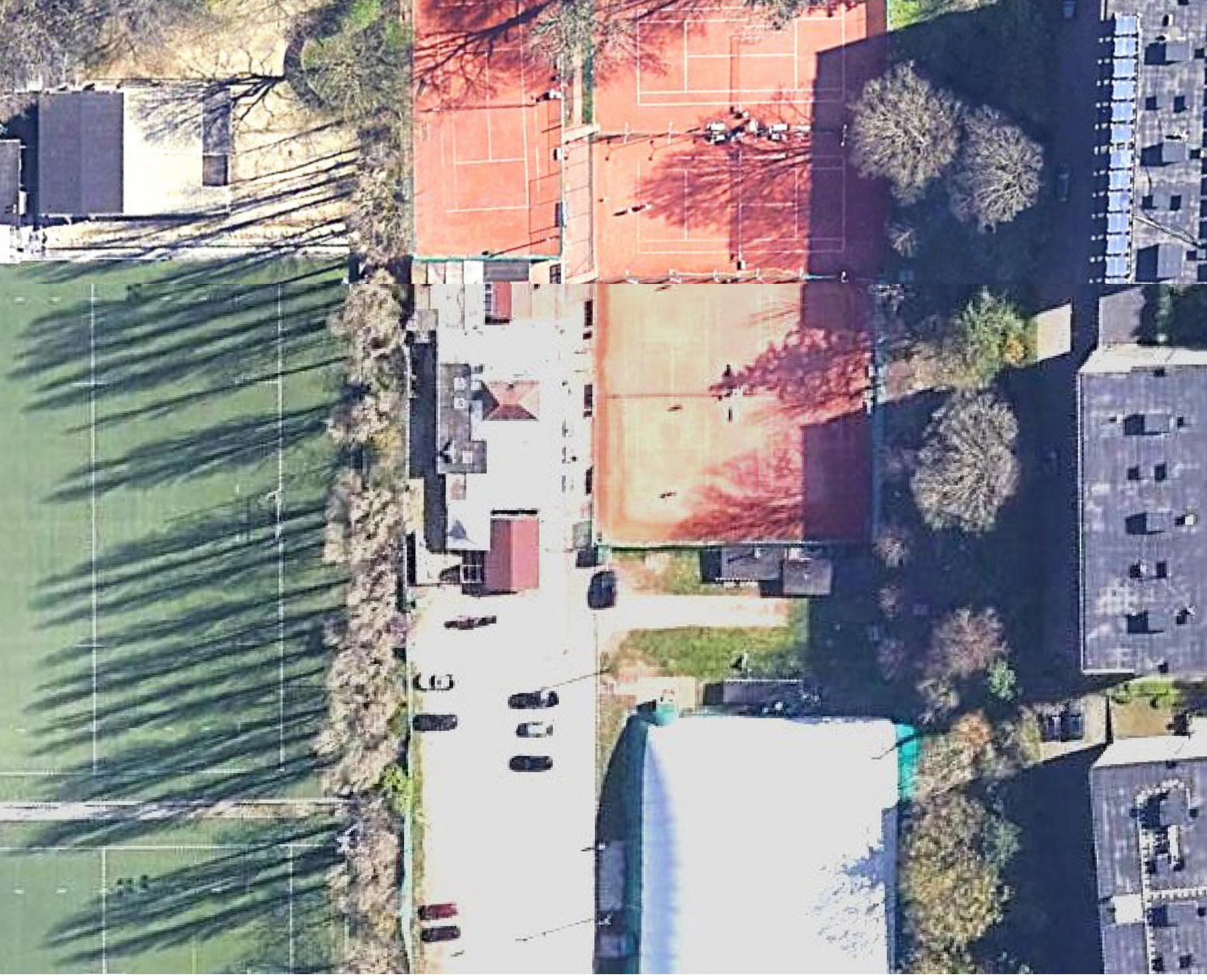


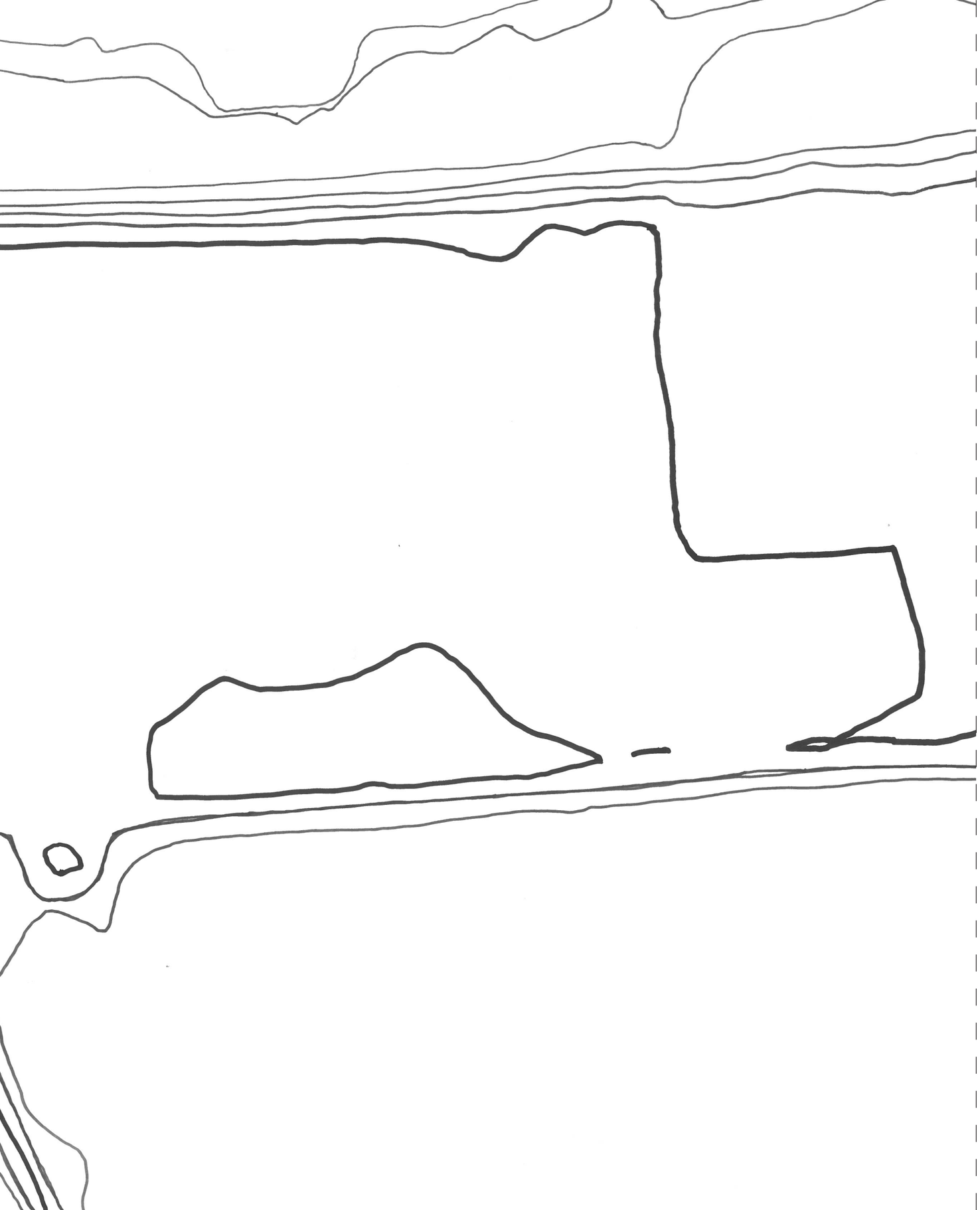


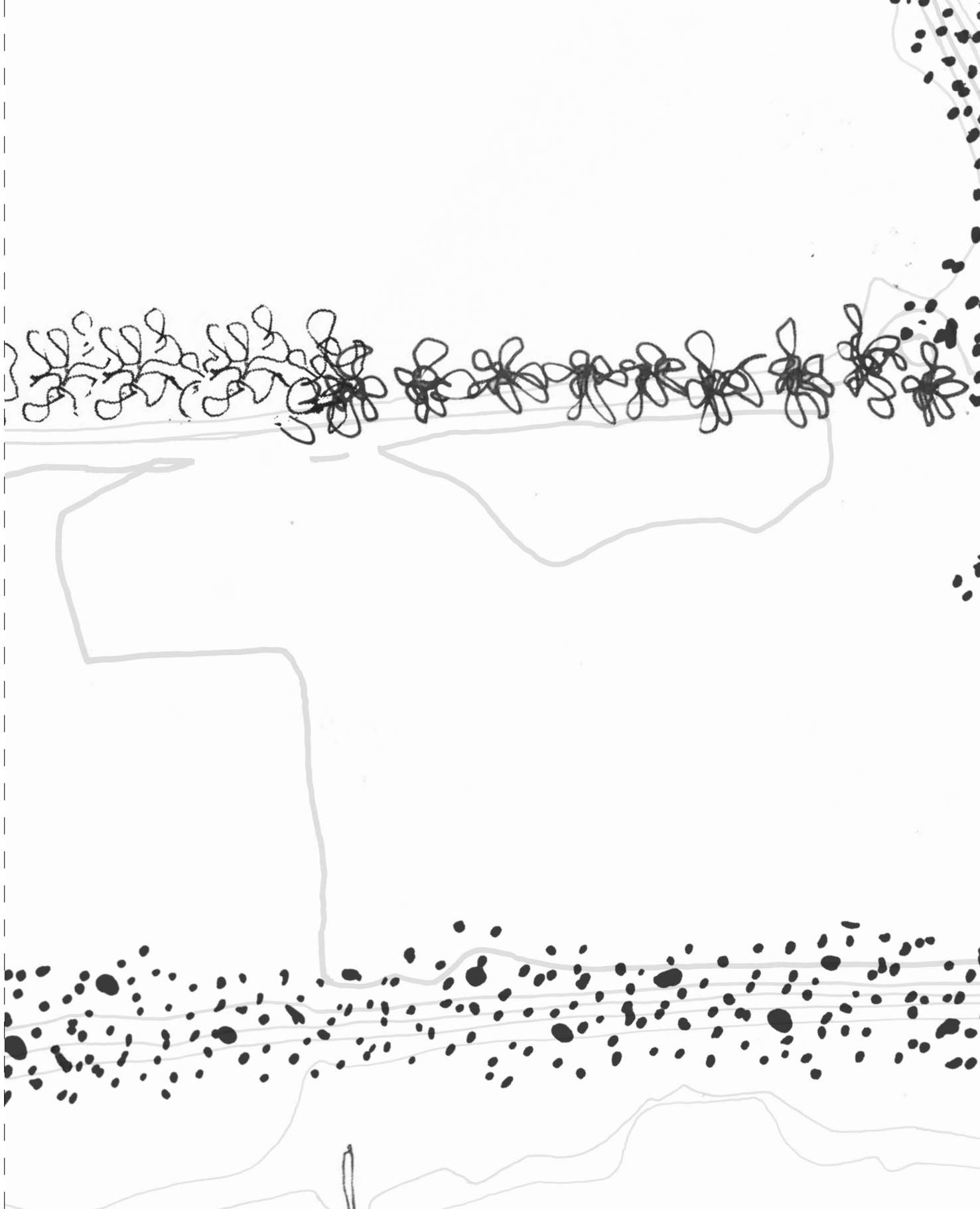


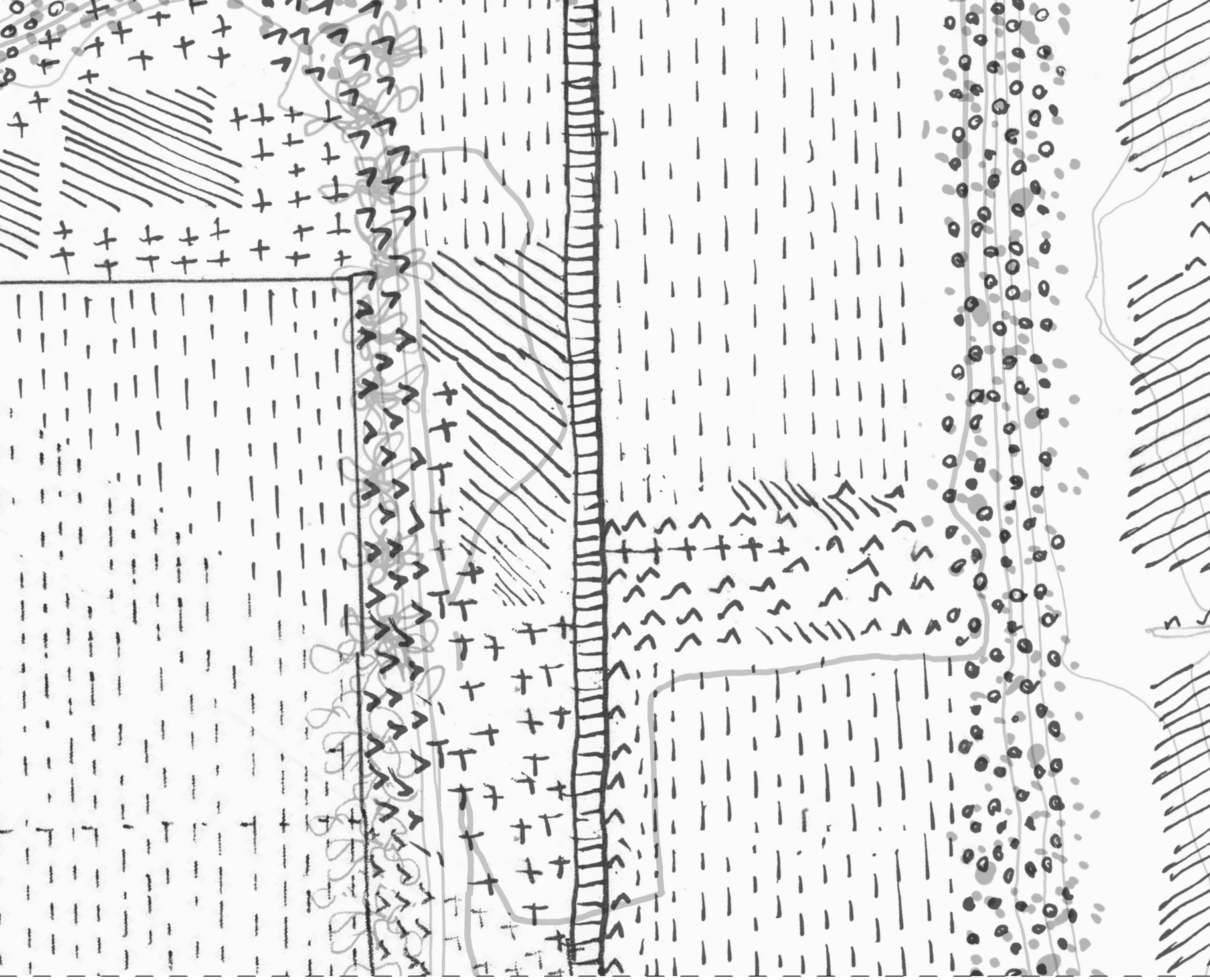






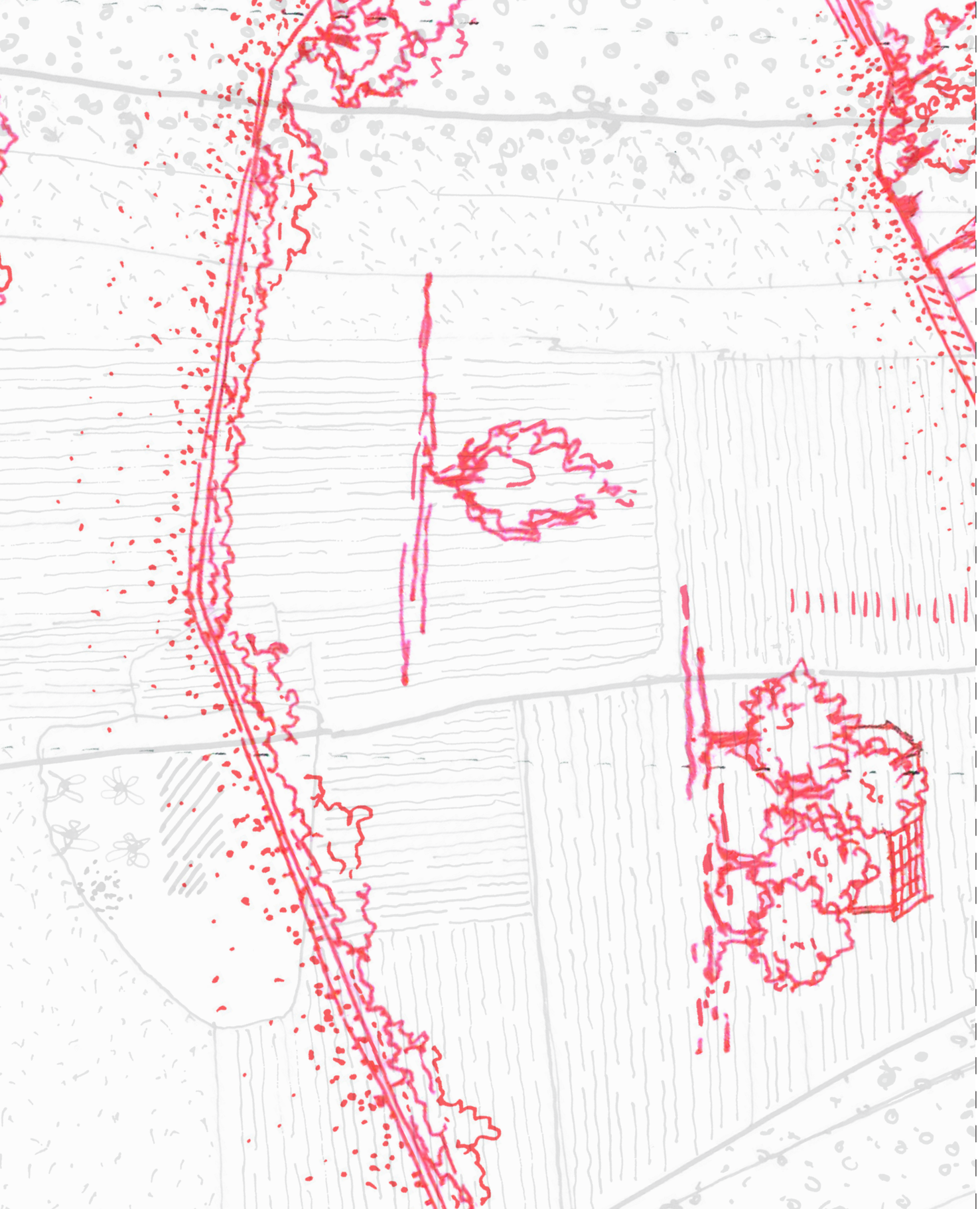








BRUX ELLES-Schaerbeek.— Dans la Vallée Josaphat.



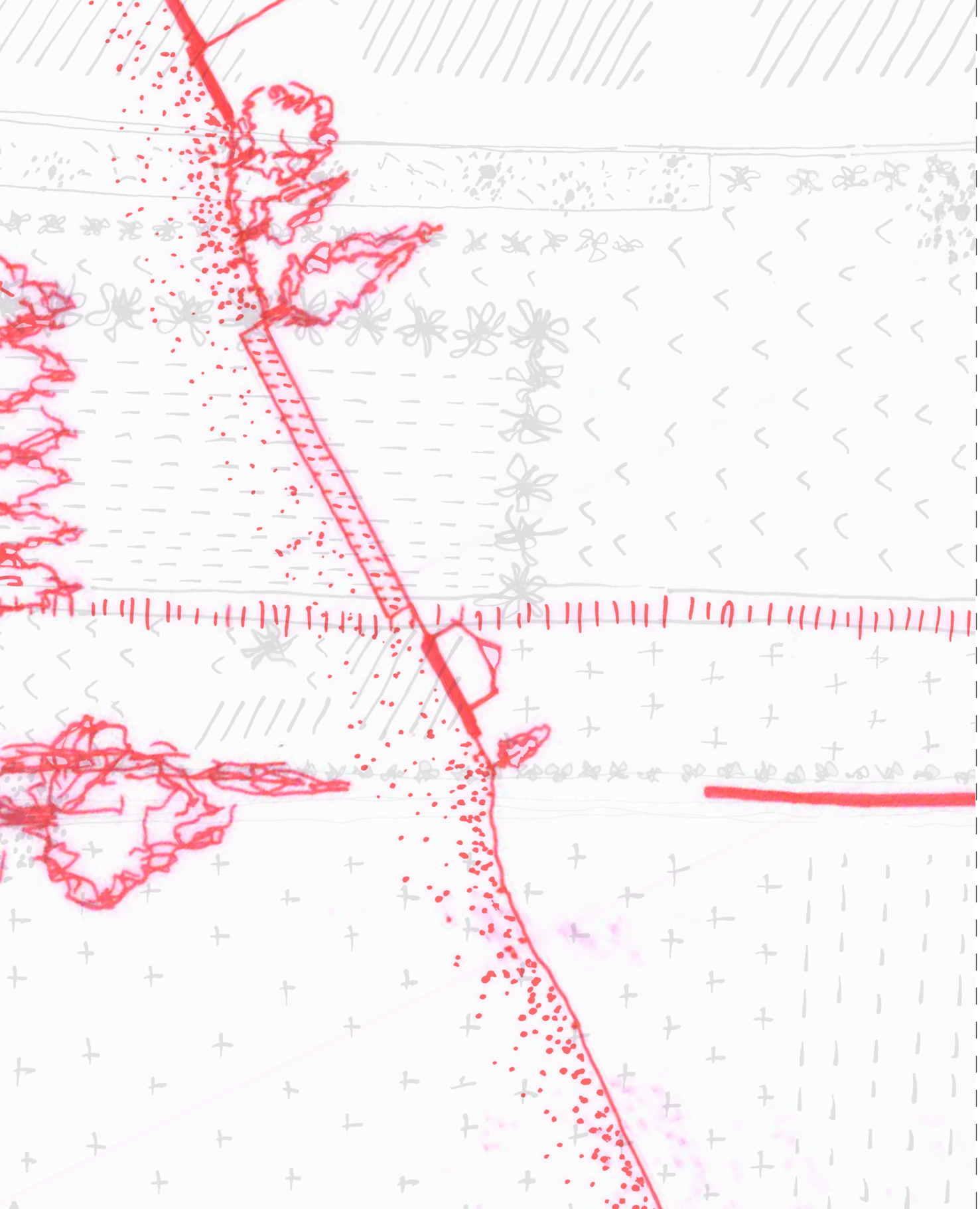


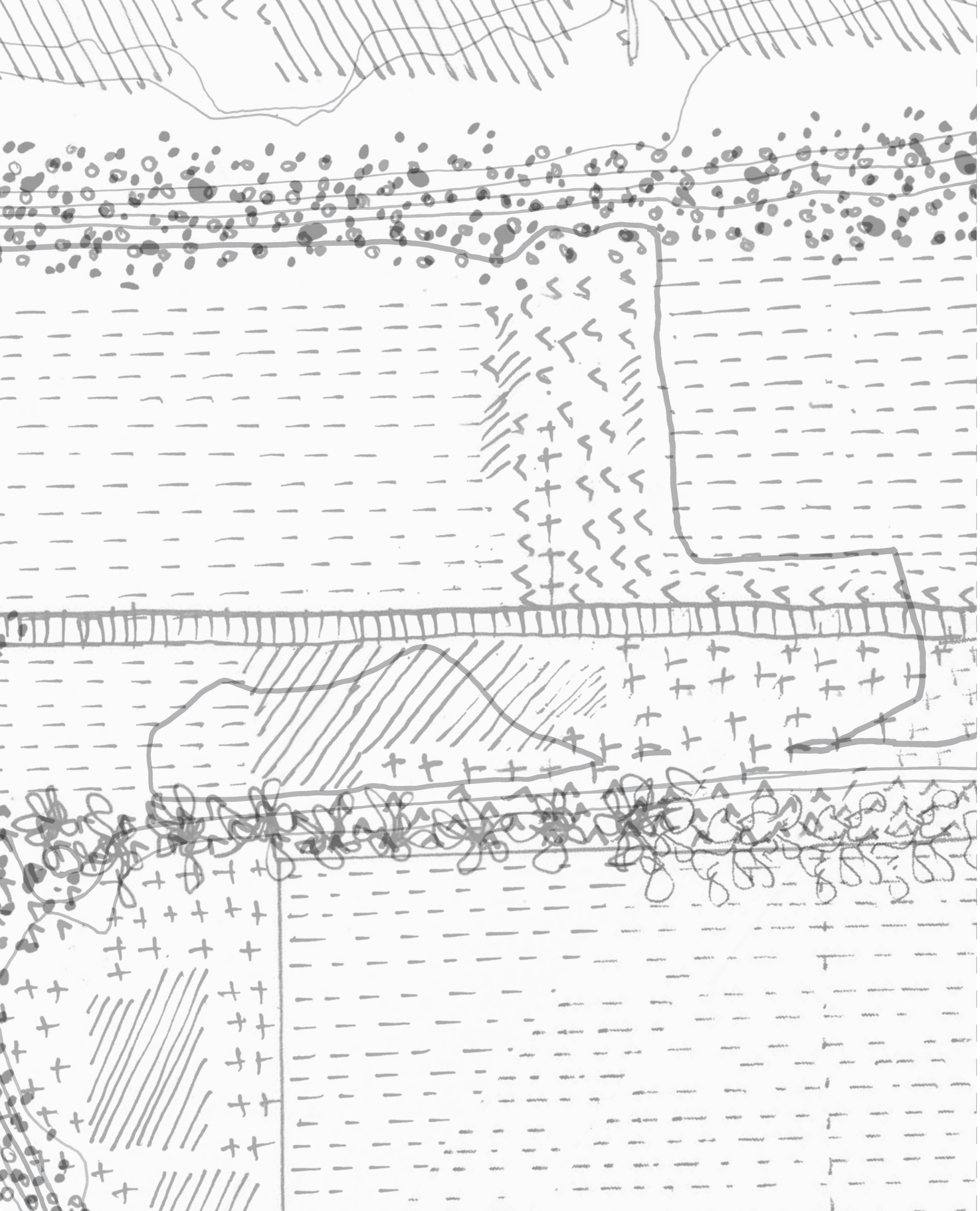


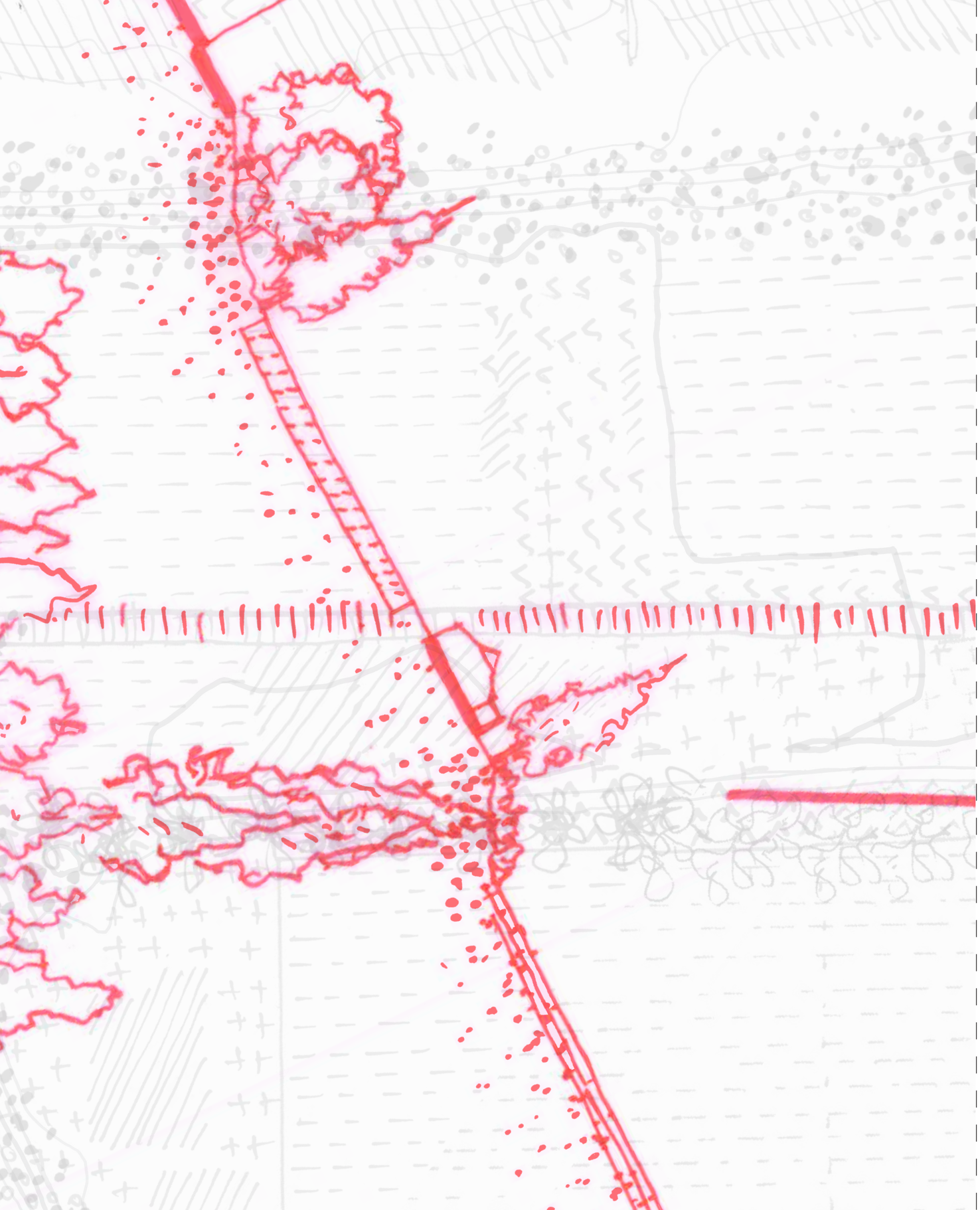














private



leisure &
sports



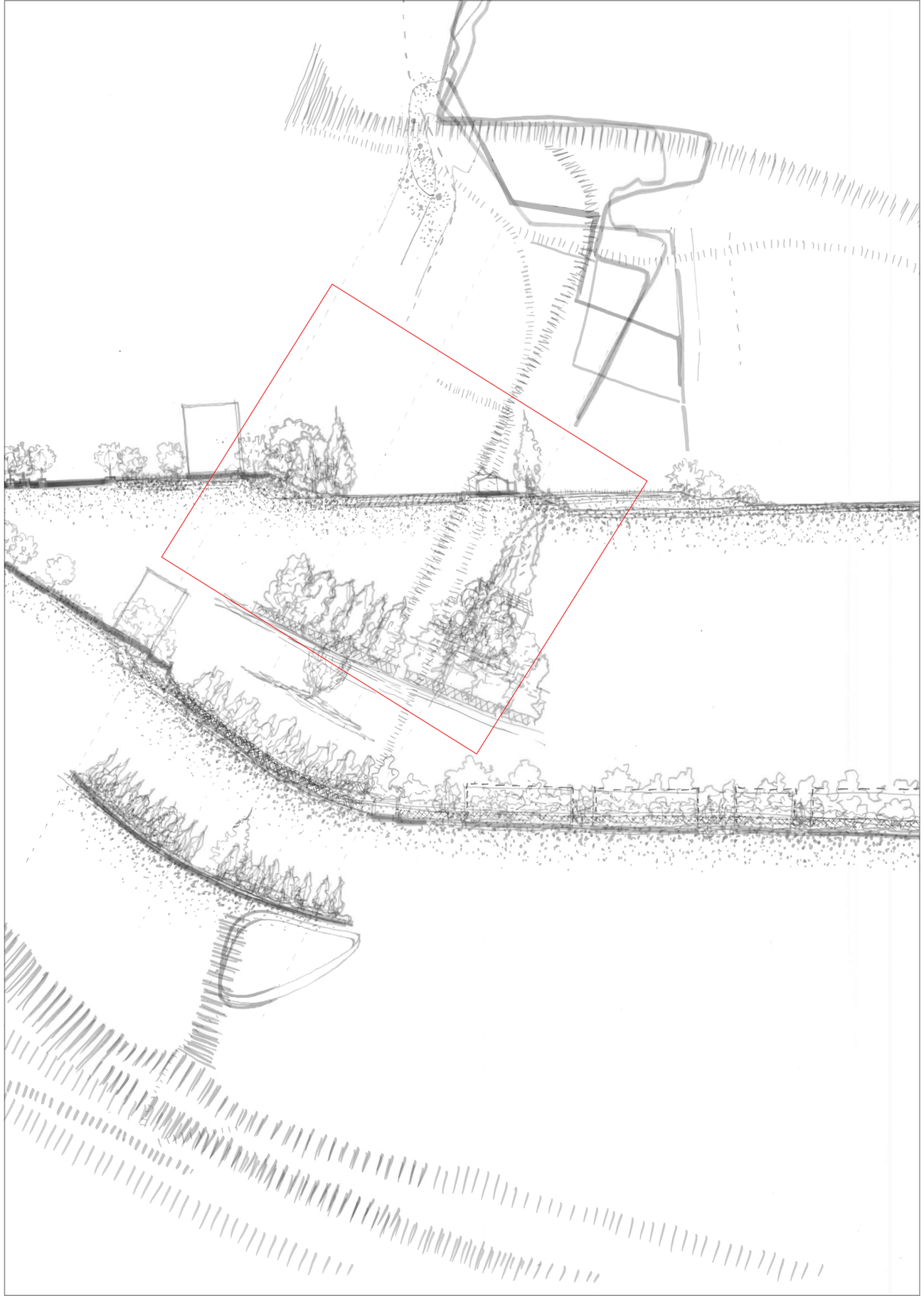
sharing



‘hive’
farm to you



public





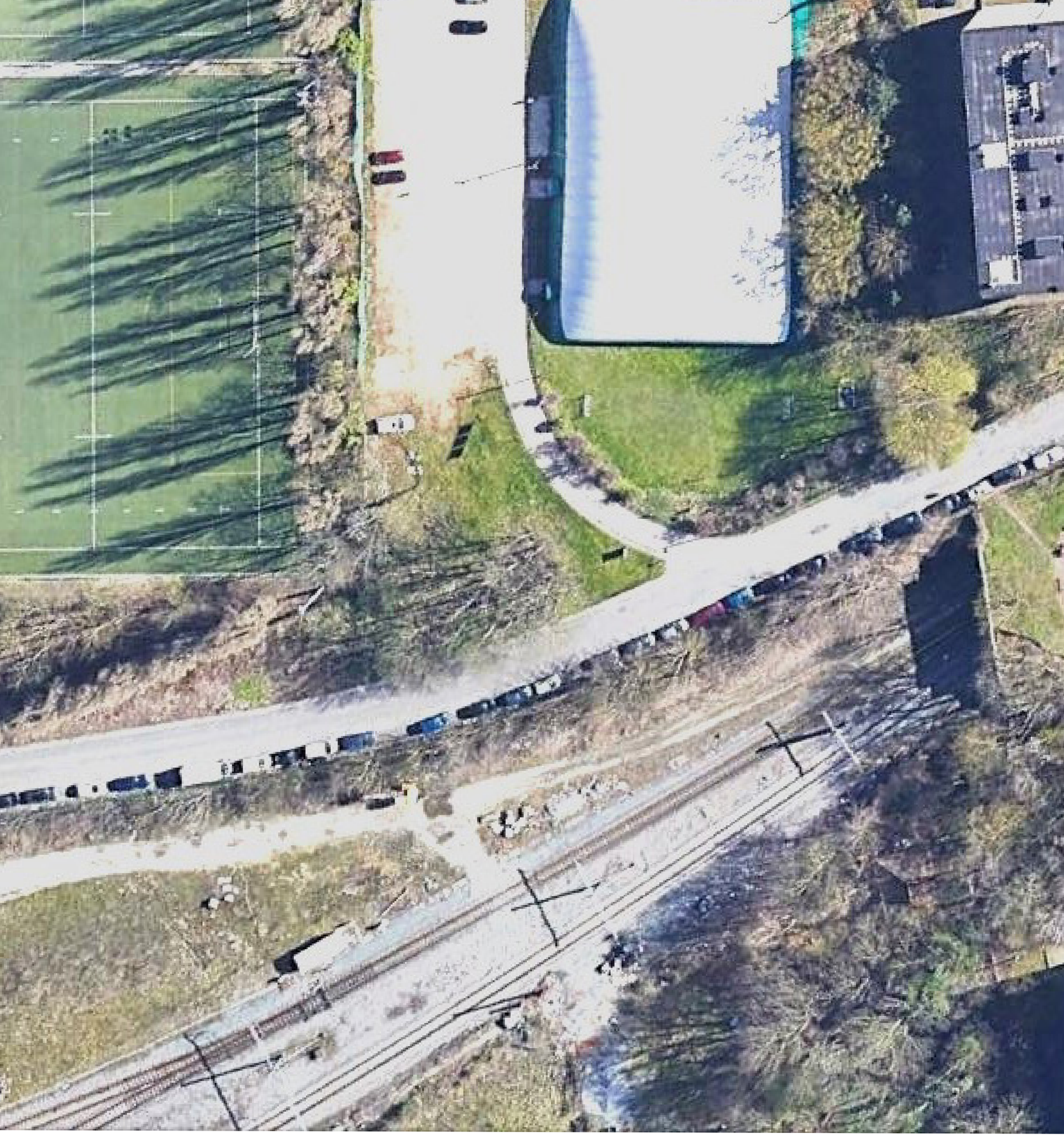




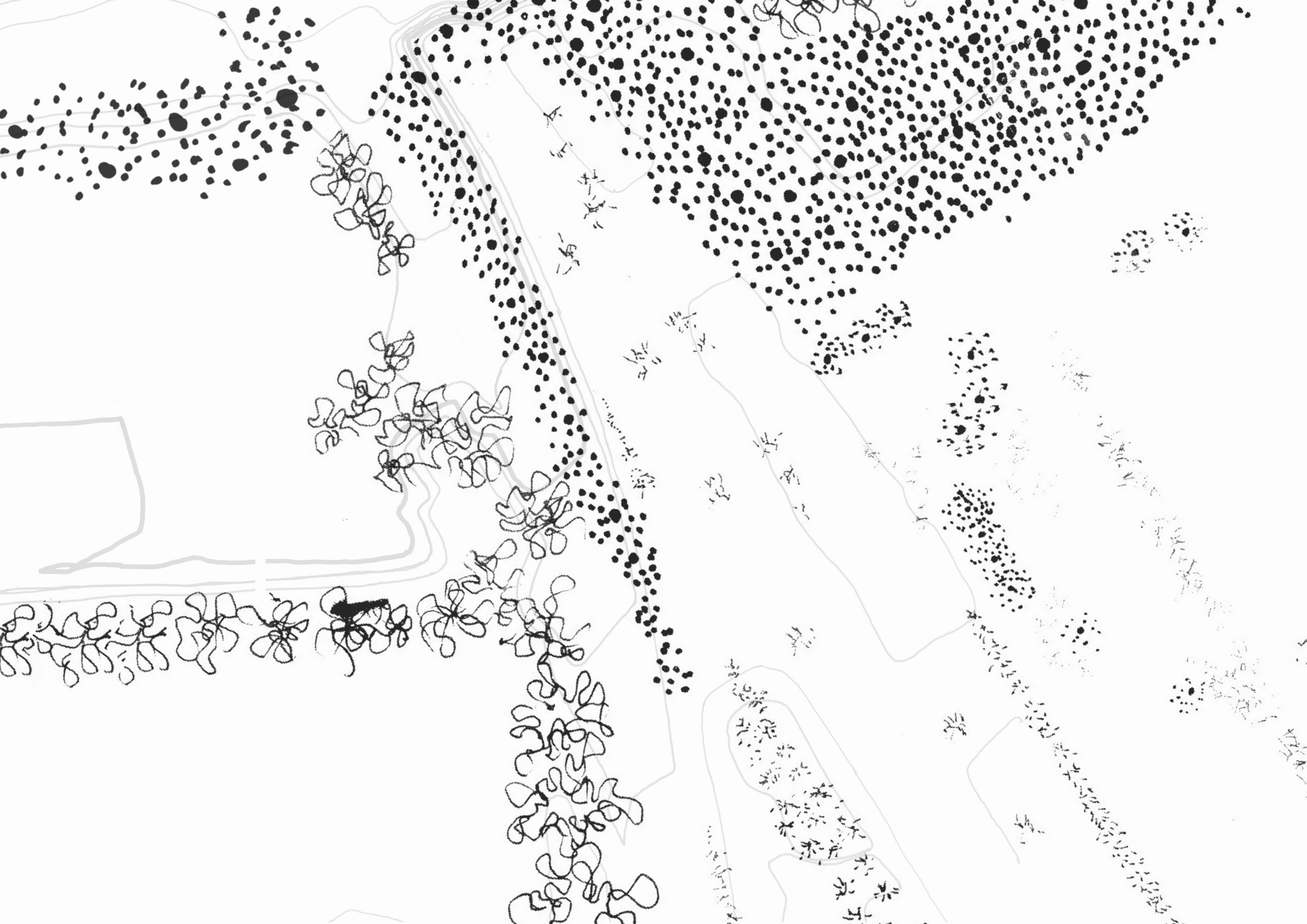



CHIPS
MENU

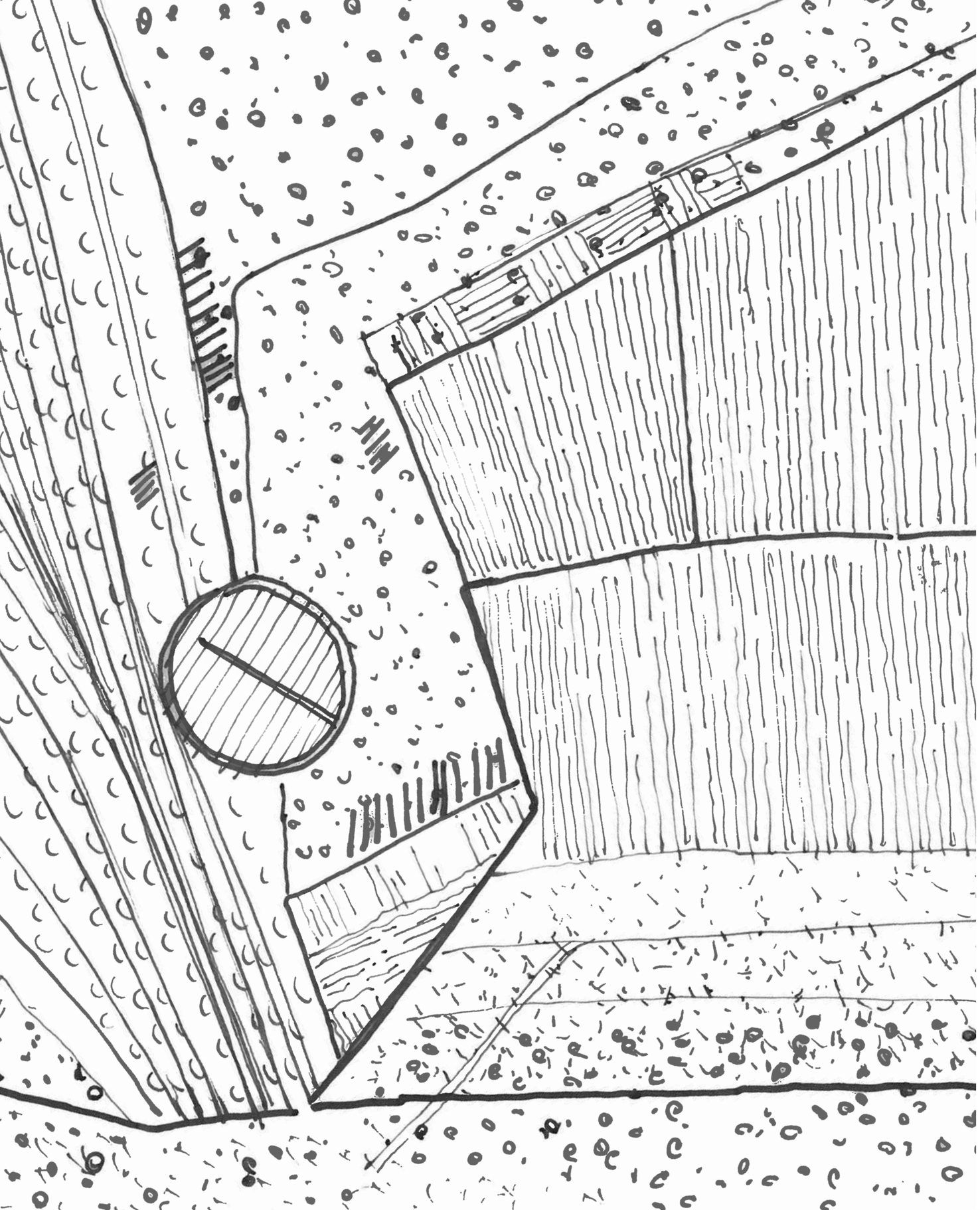












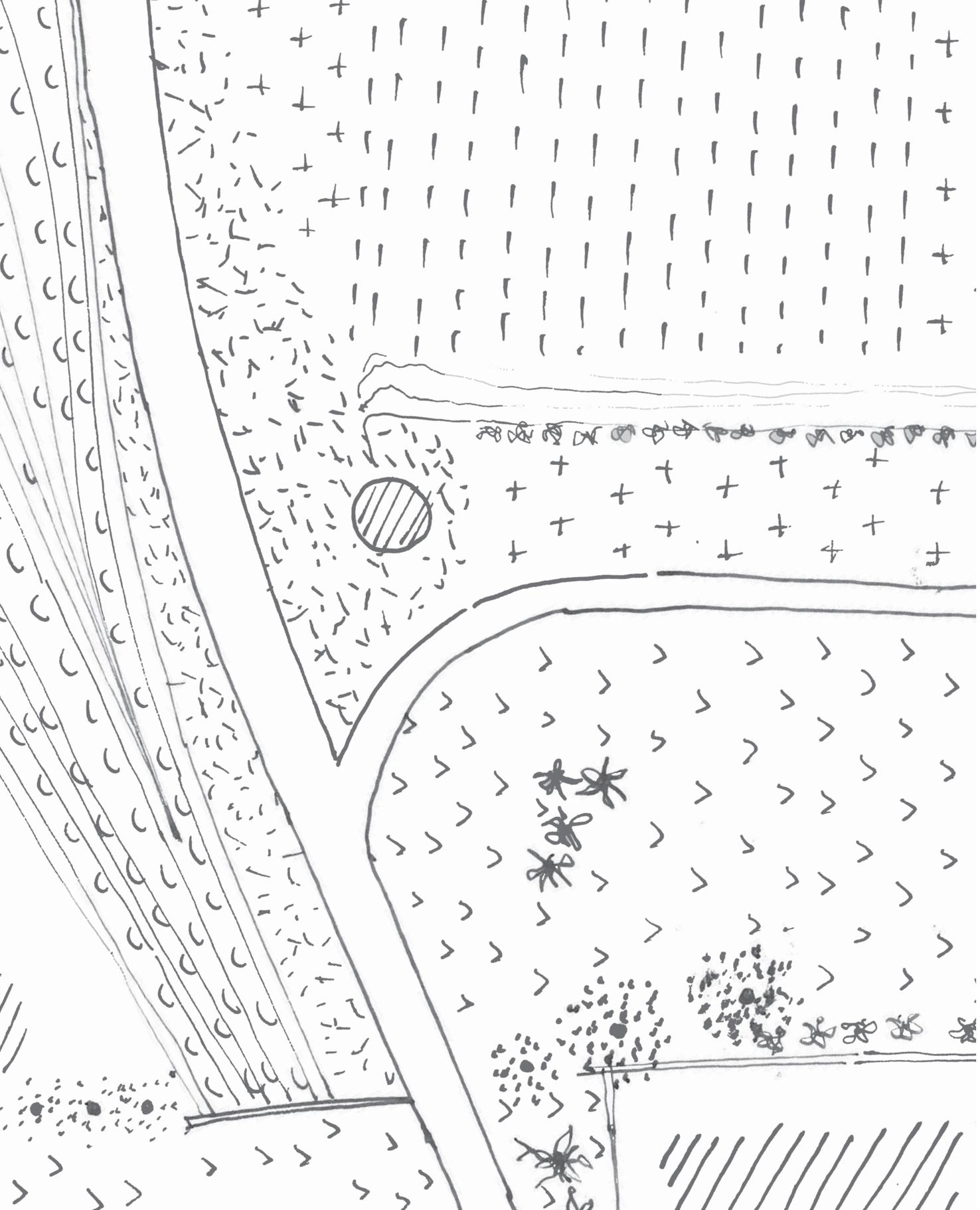

Schaerbeek Le « Foyer Schaerbeekois » - Président-Fondateur Louis Bertrand.



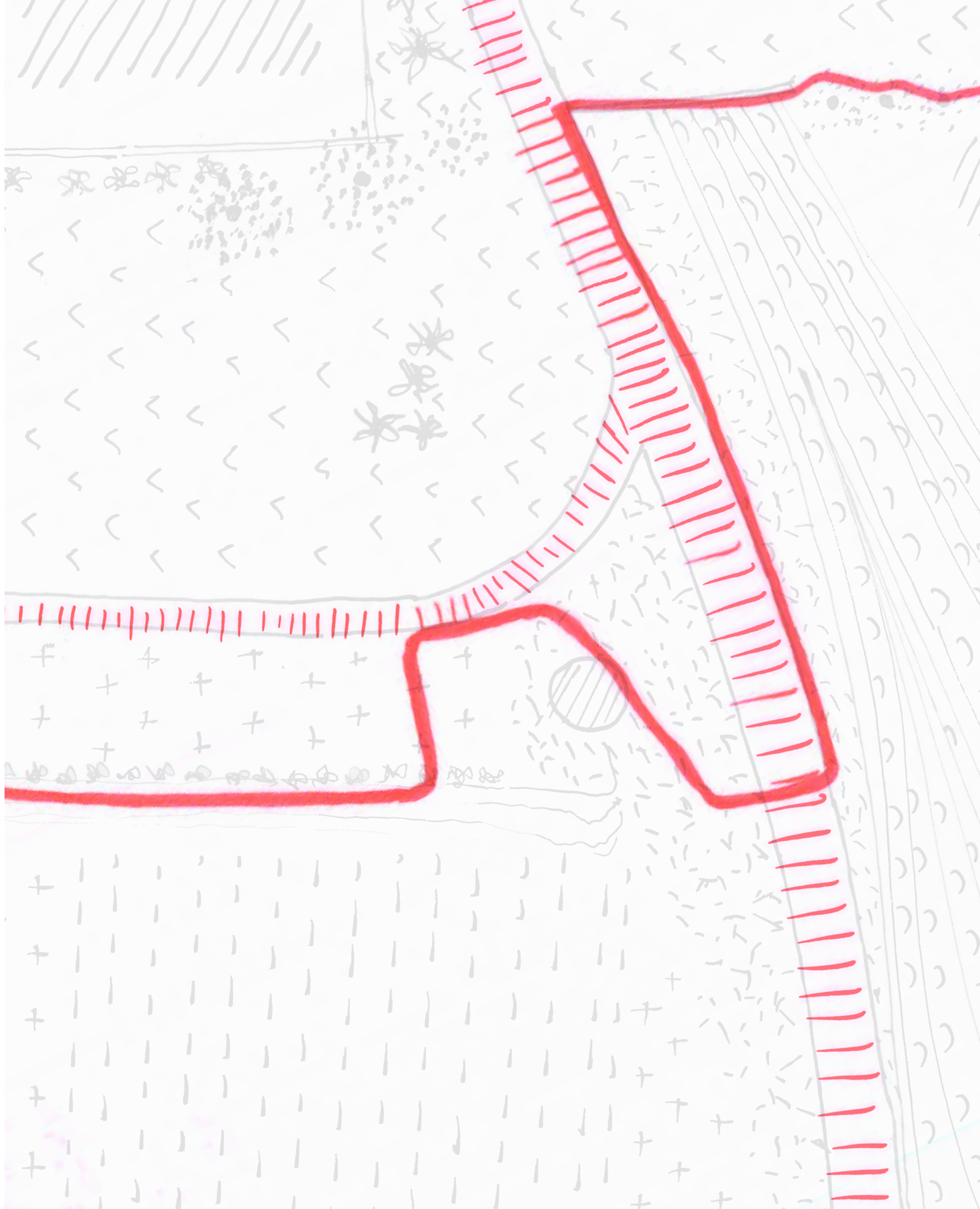




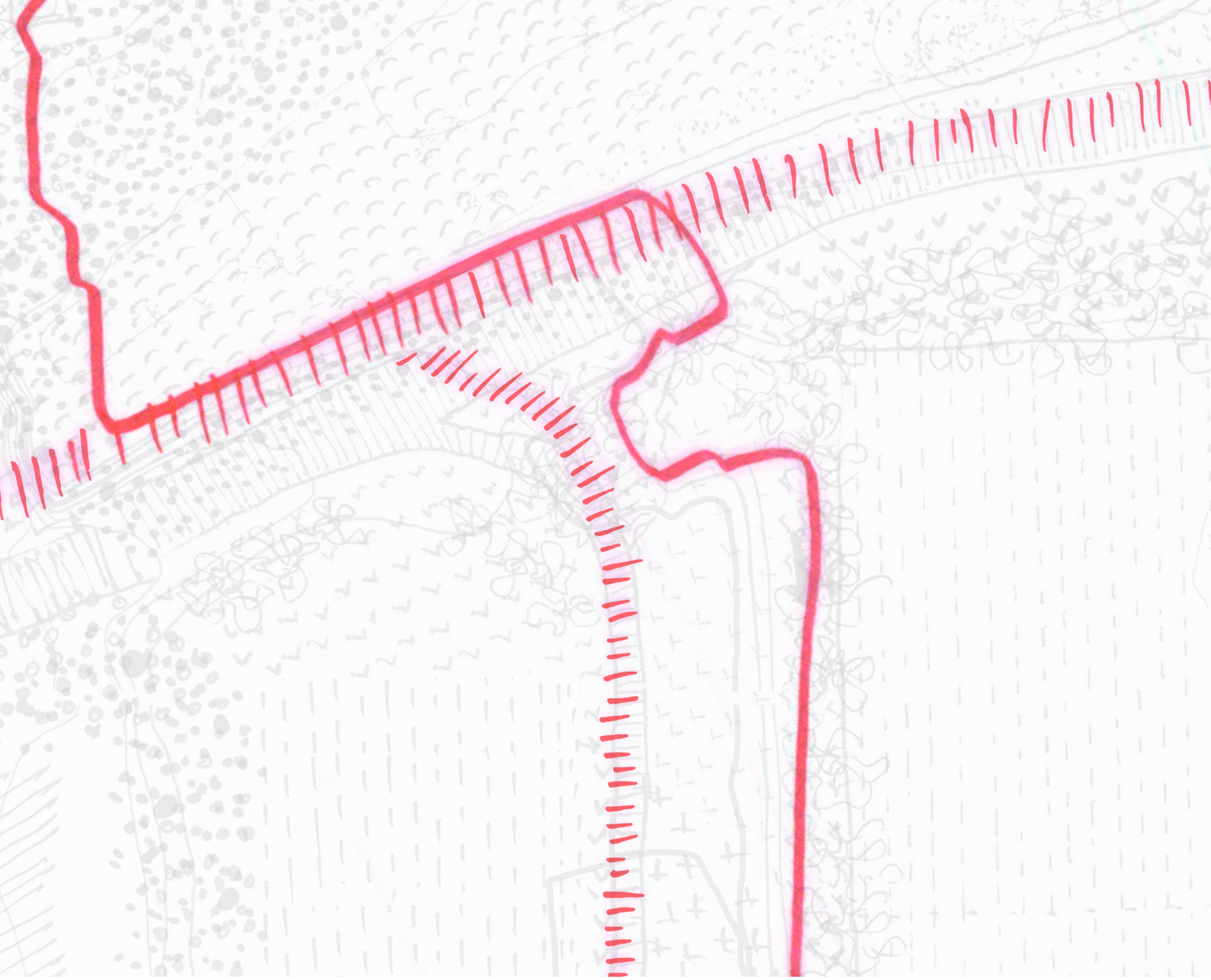












bordered



desolate



restricted



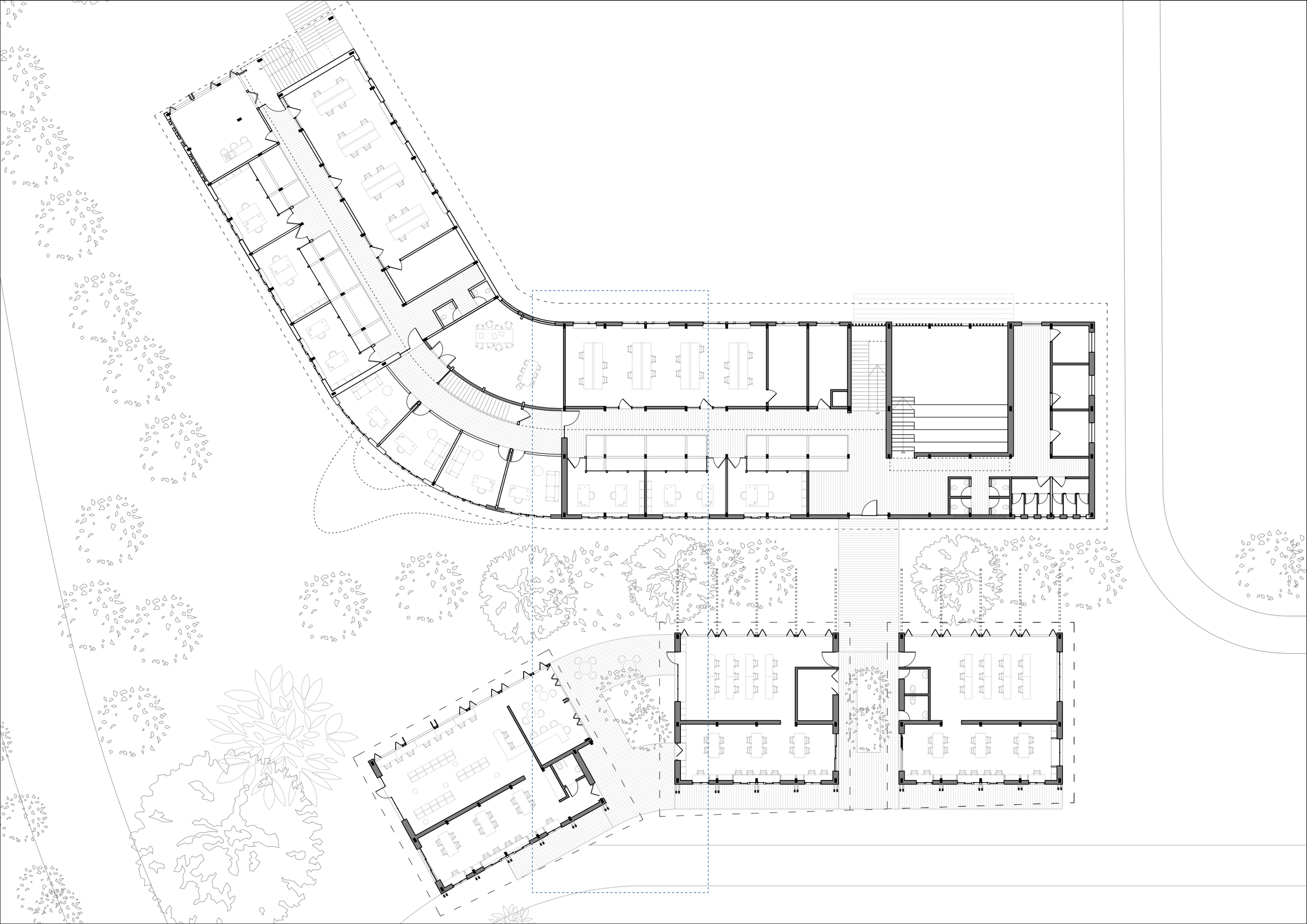
private



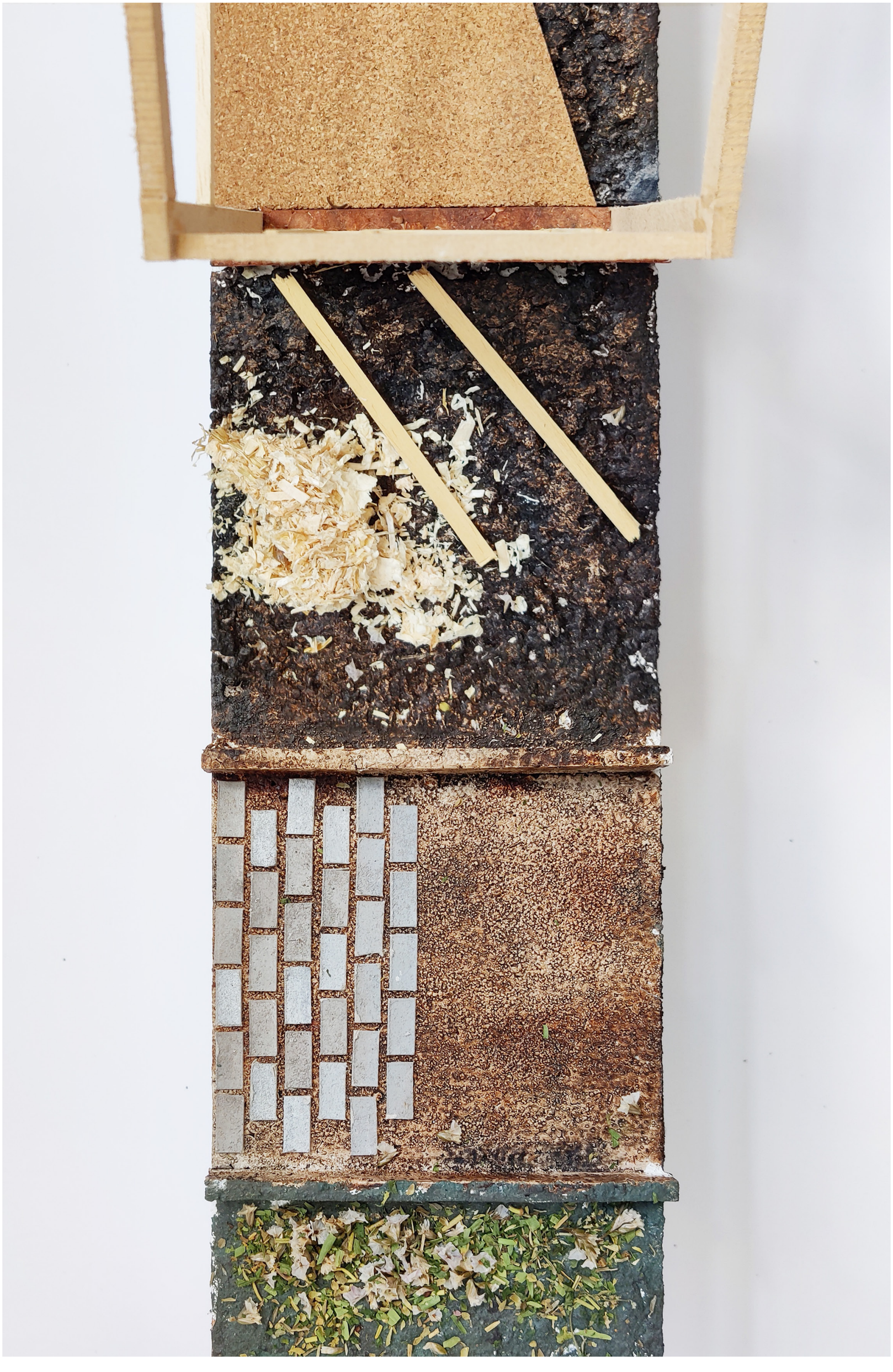
unknown





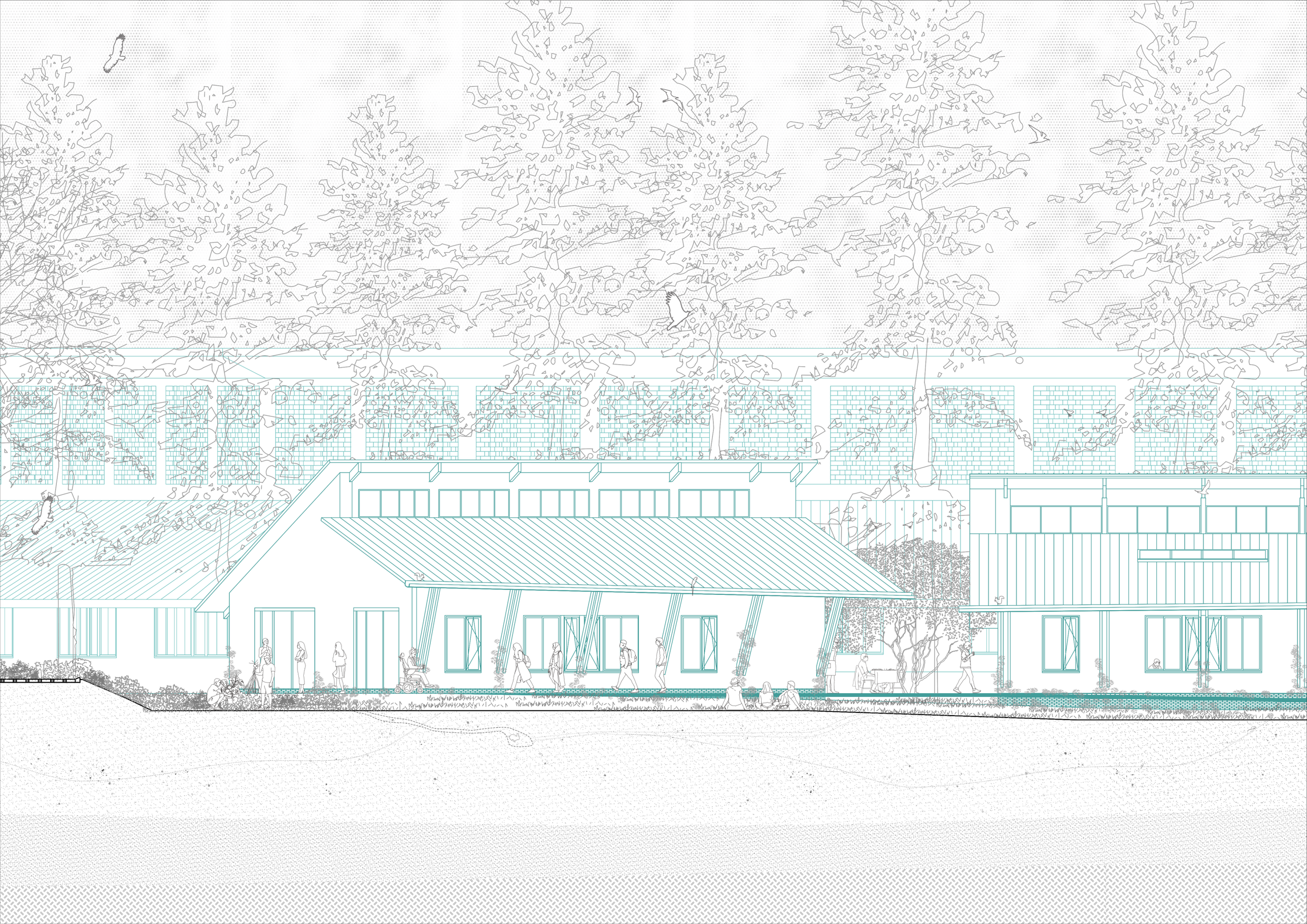

UP
DN
UP

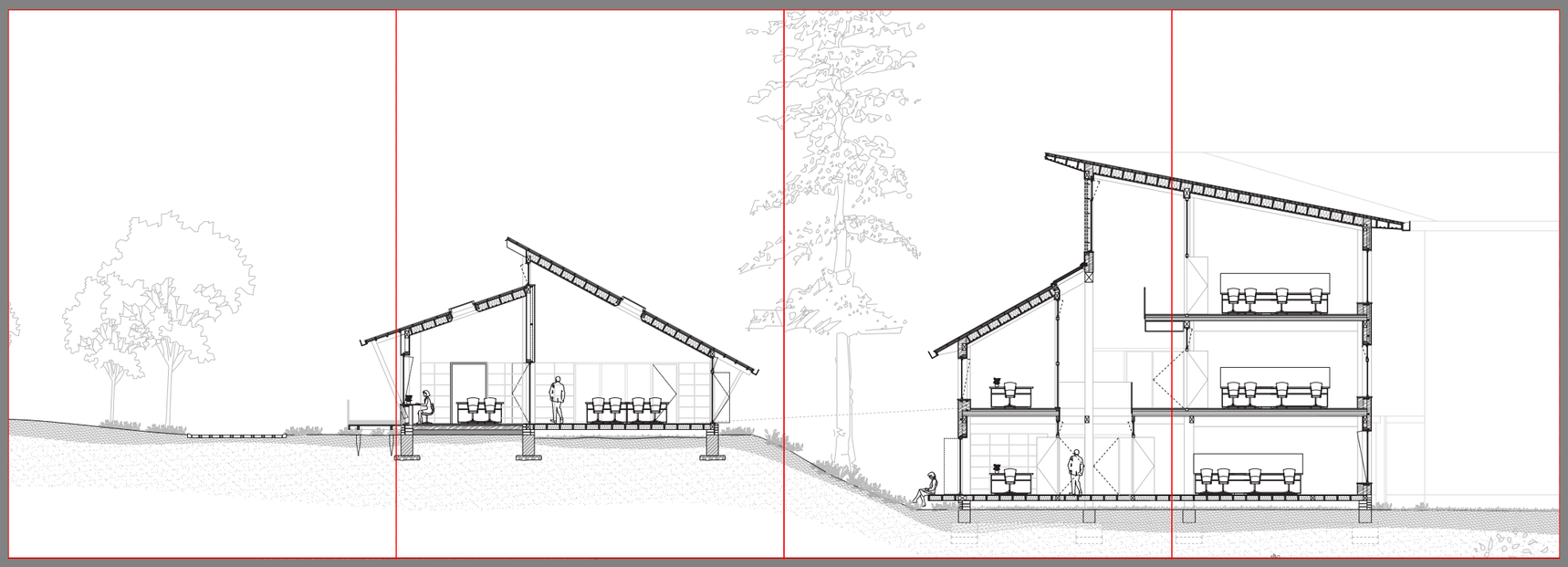
Existing site conditions

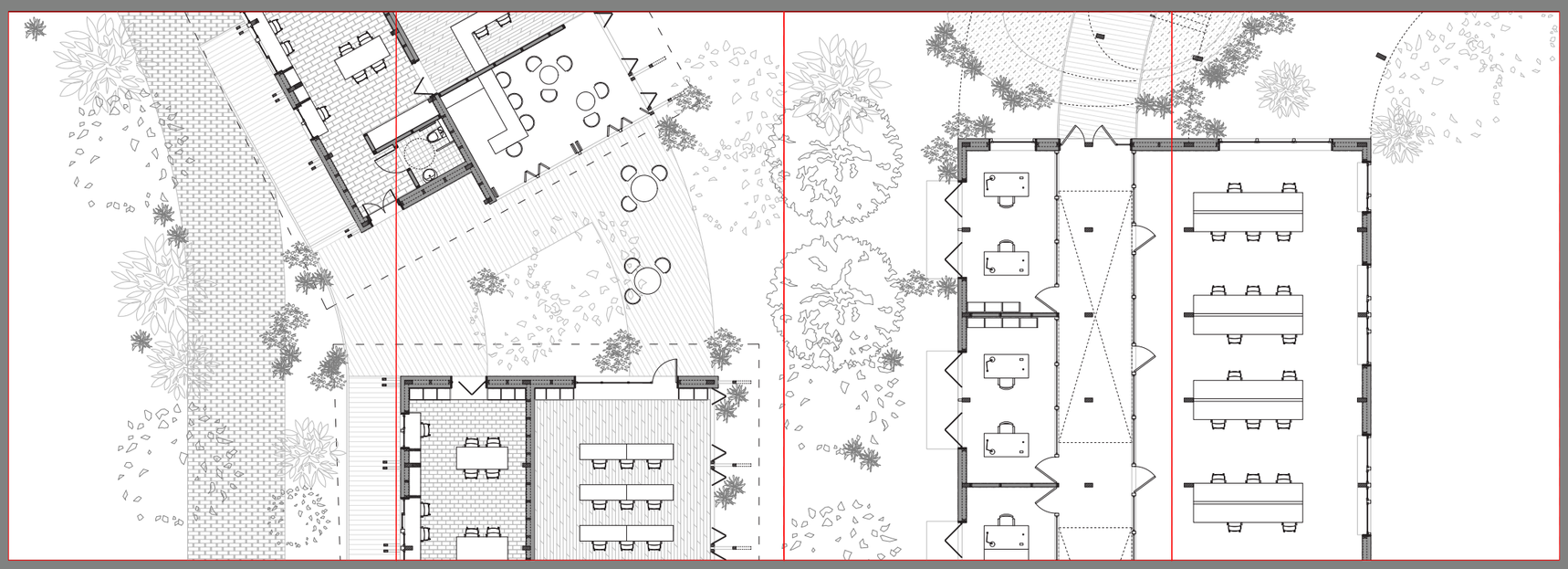


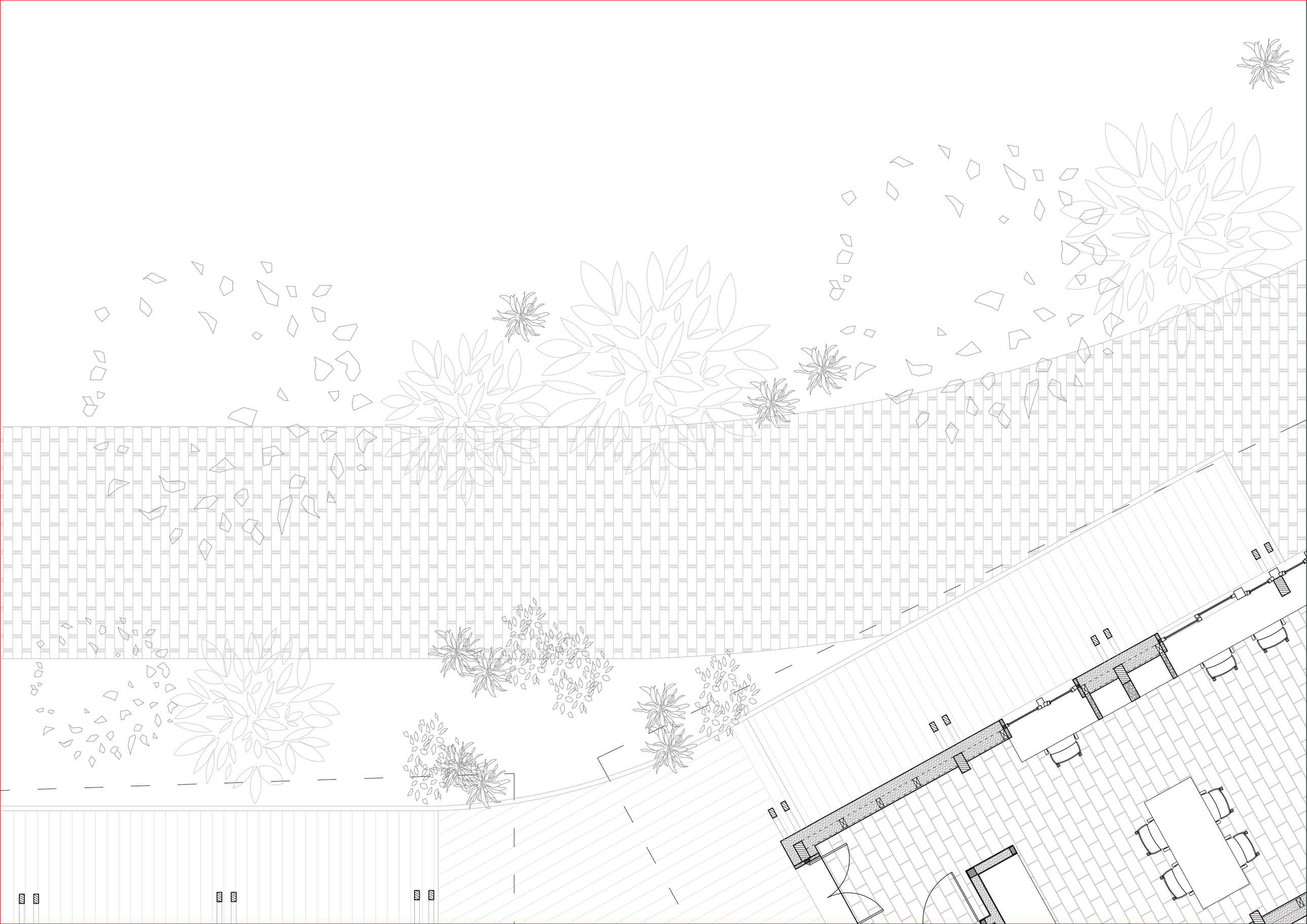




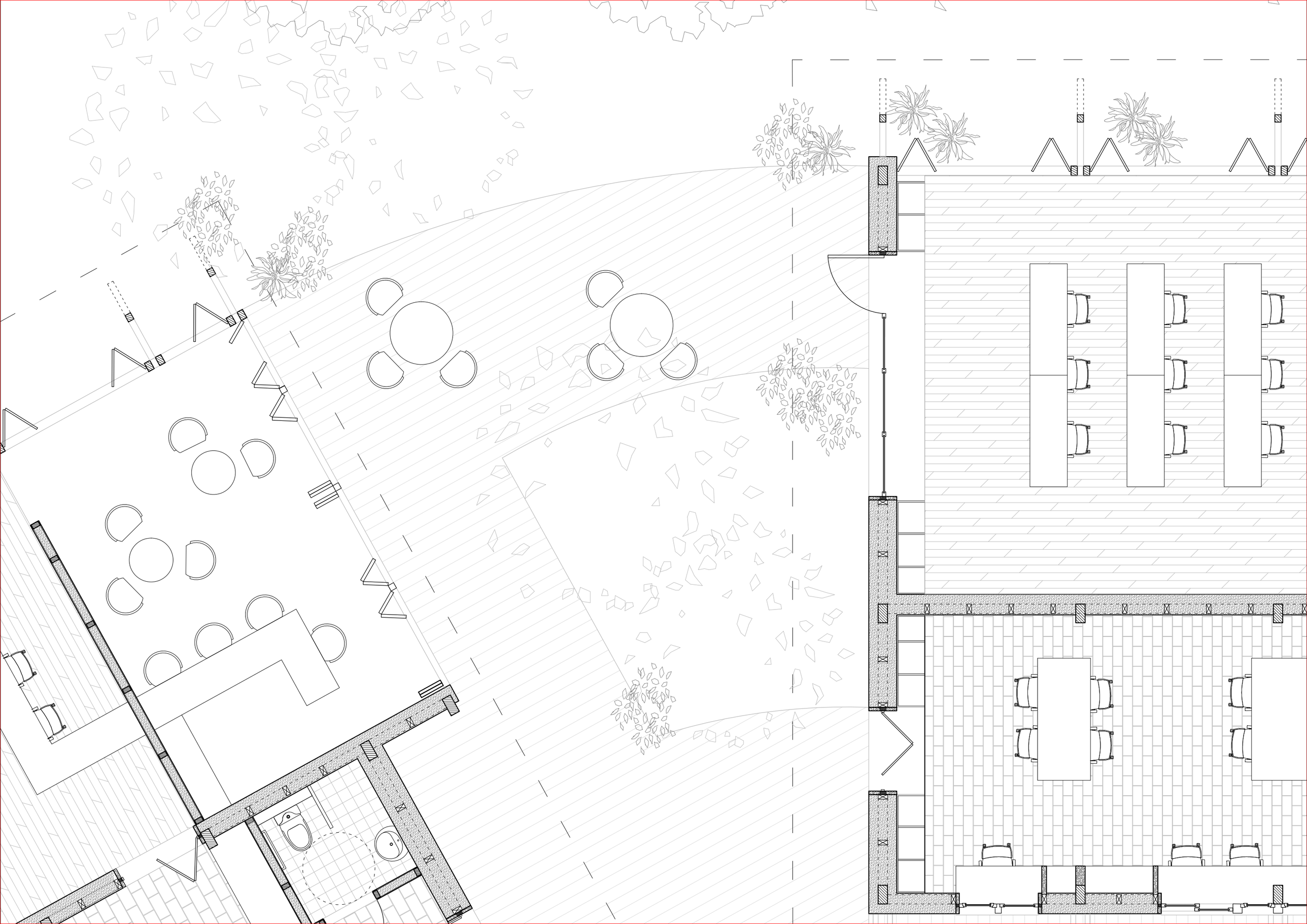




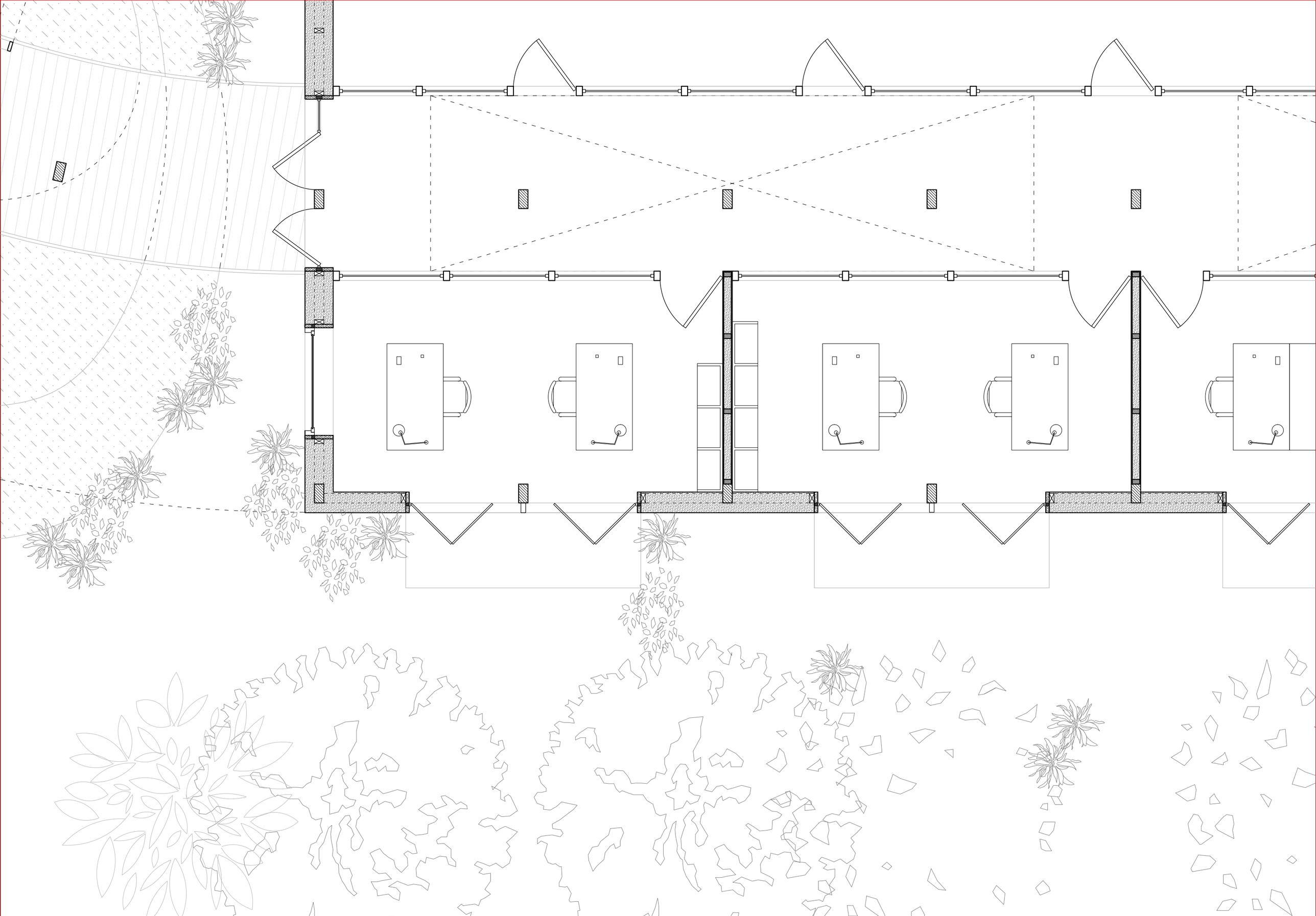


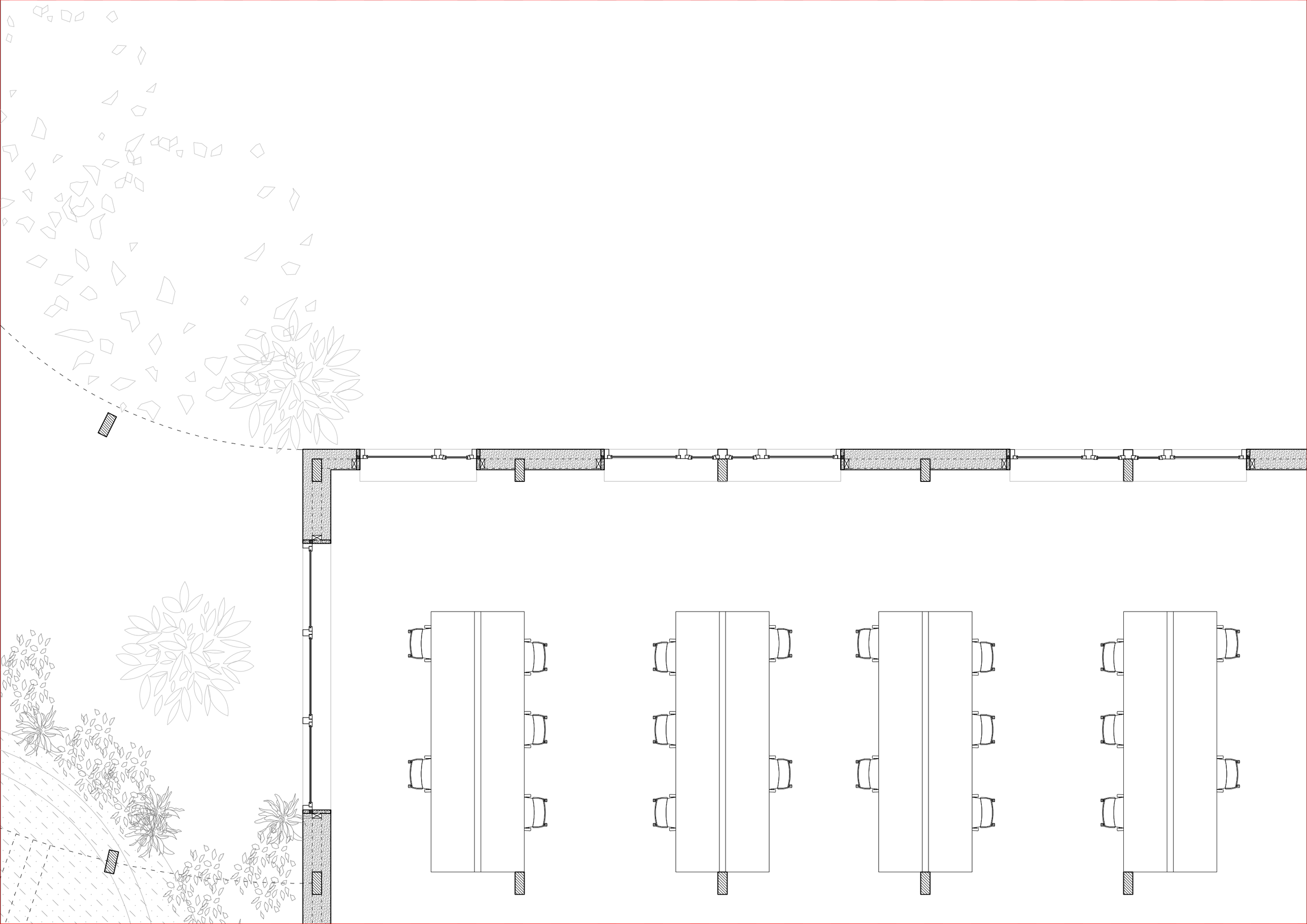


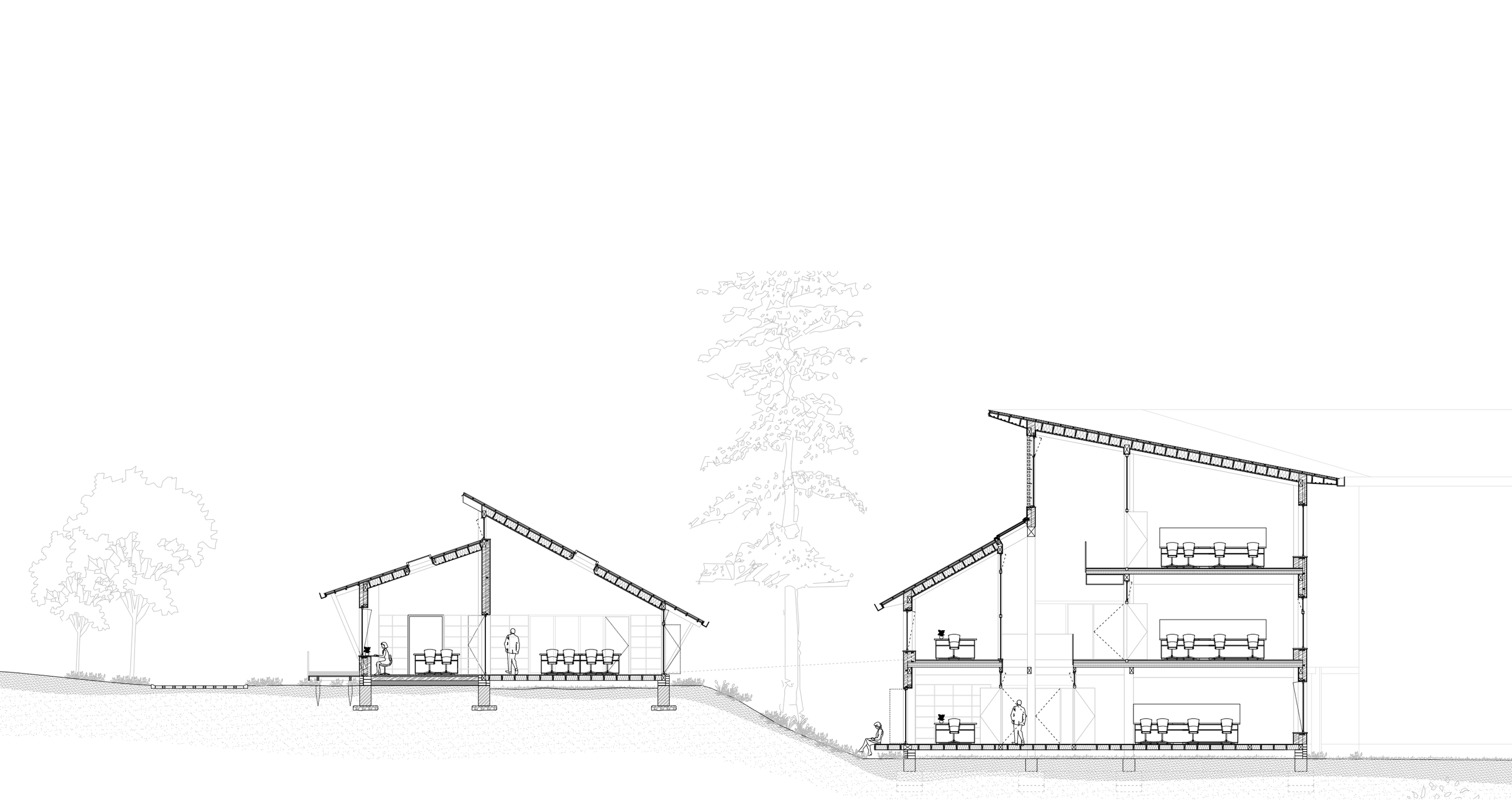












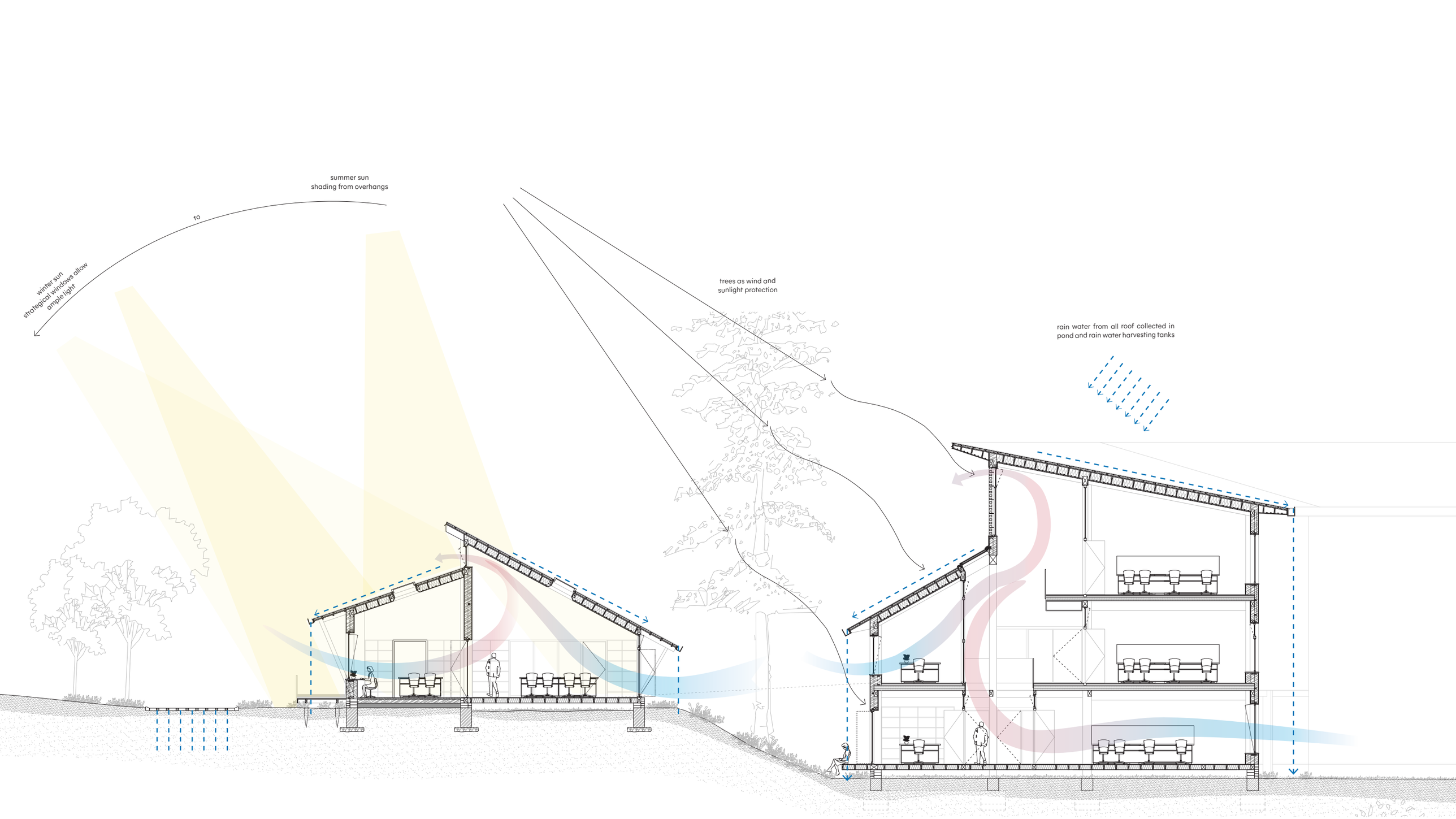
summer sun
shading from overhangs

to

winter sun
strategical windows allow
ample light

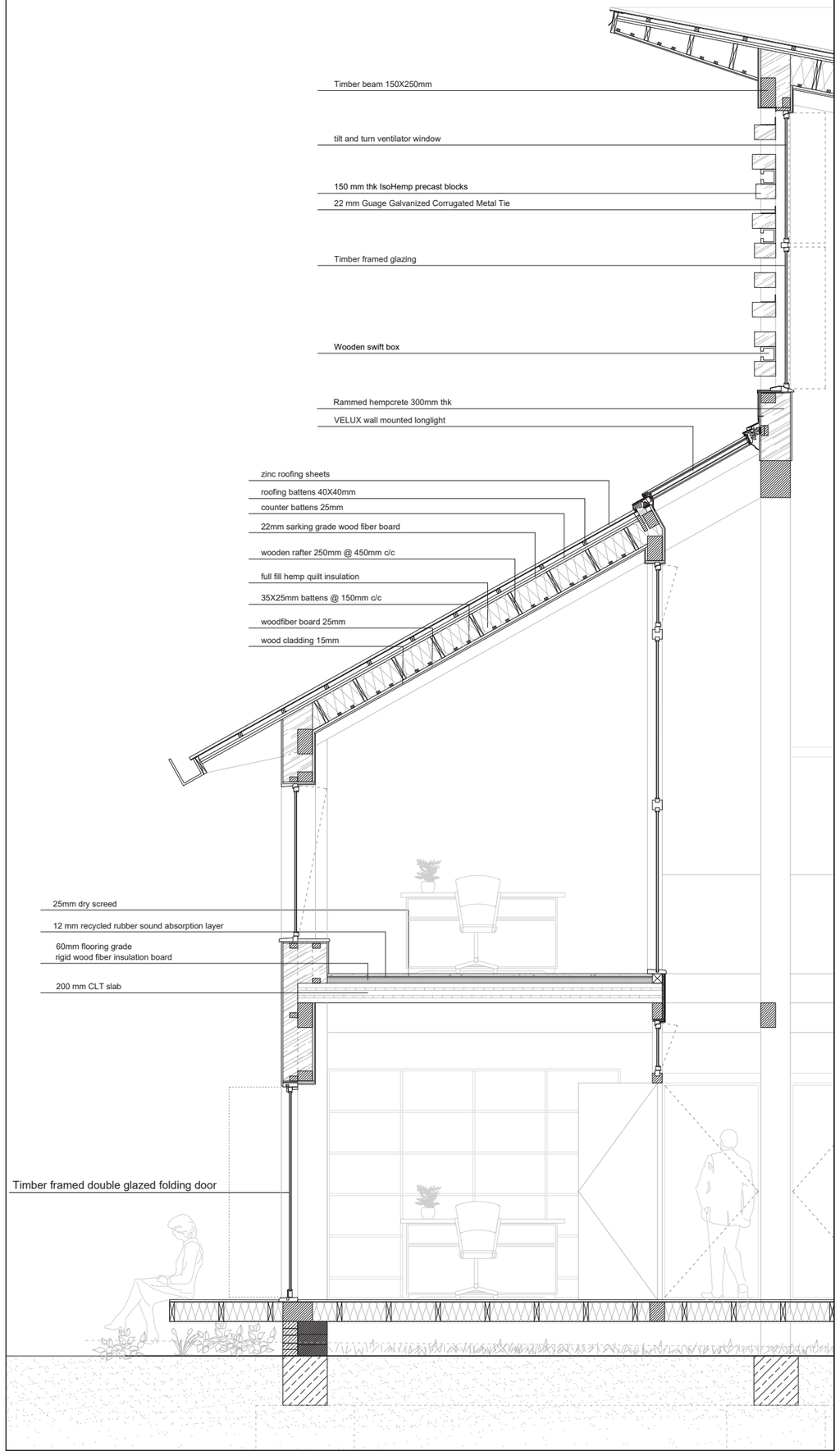
trees as wind and
sunlight protection

rain water from all roof collected in
pond and rain water harvesting tanks

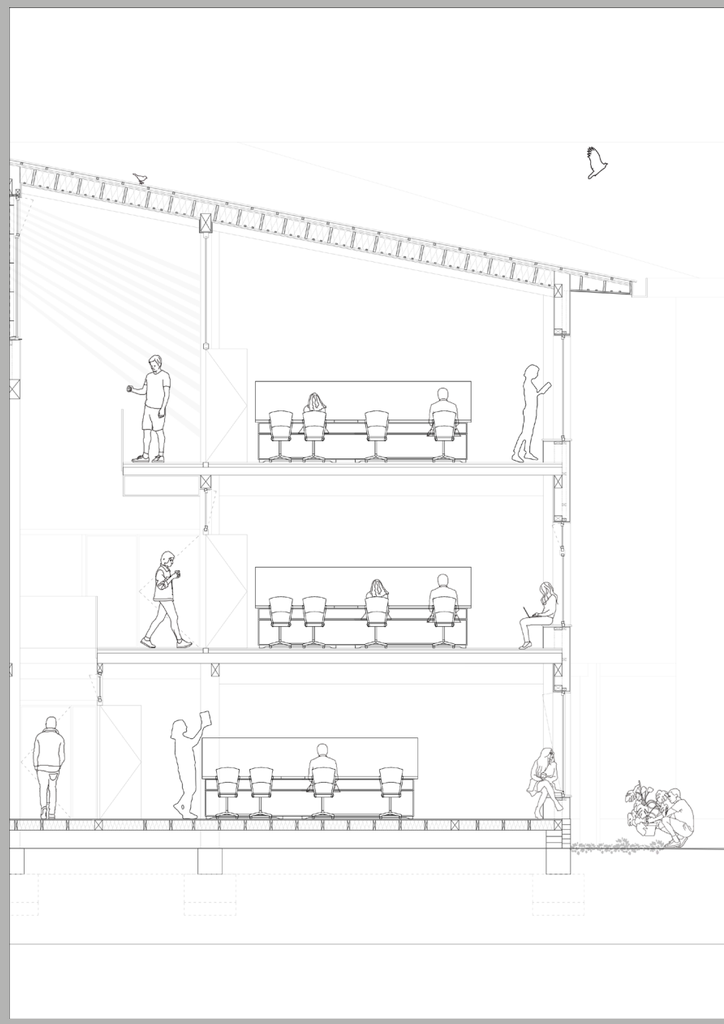


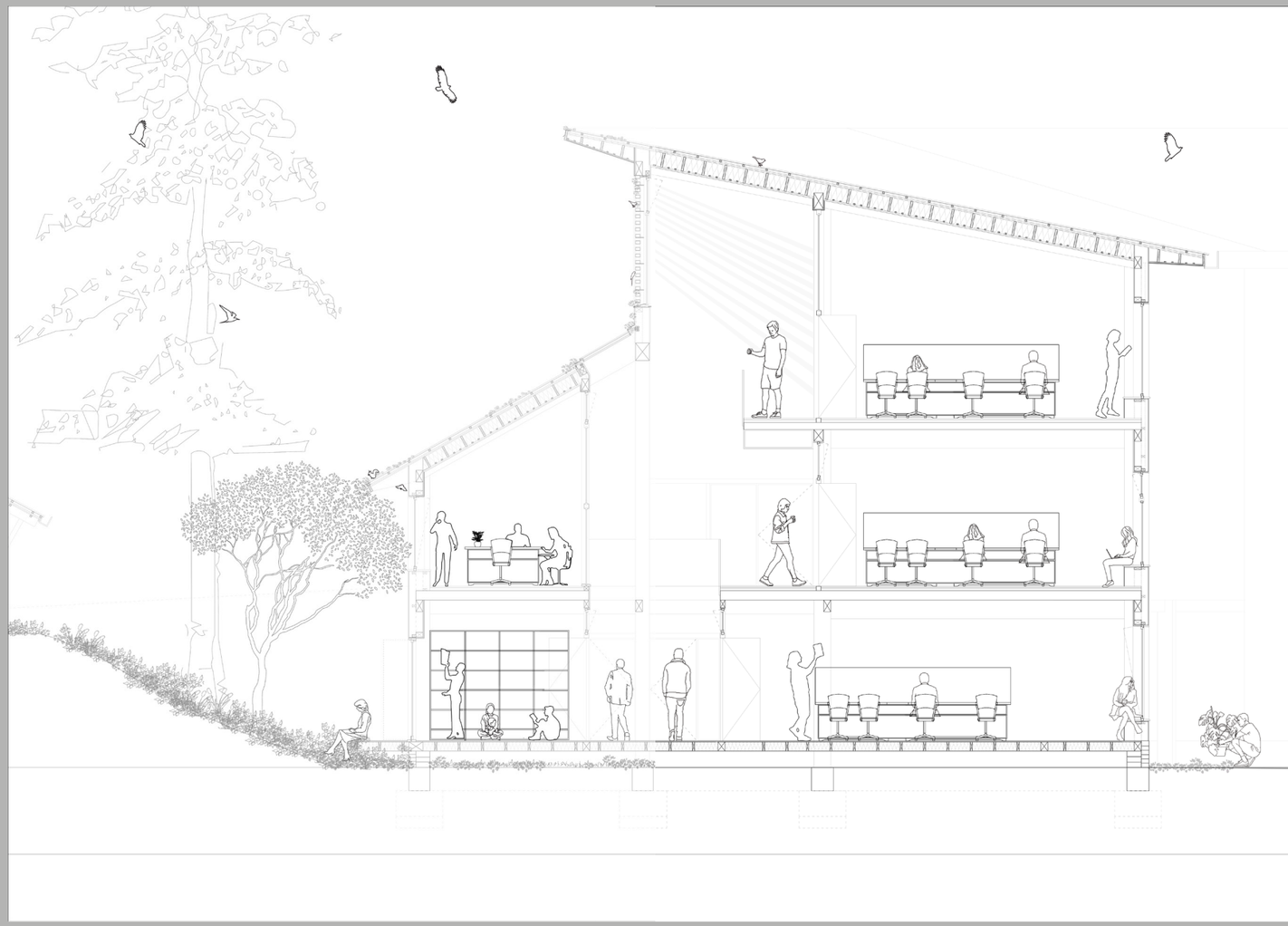
SOUTH

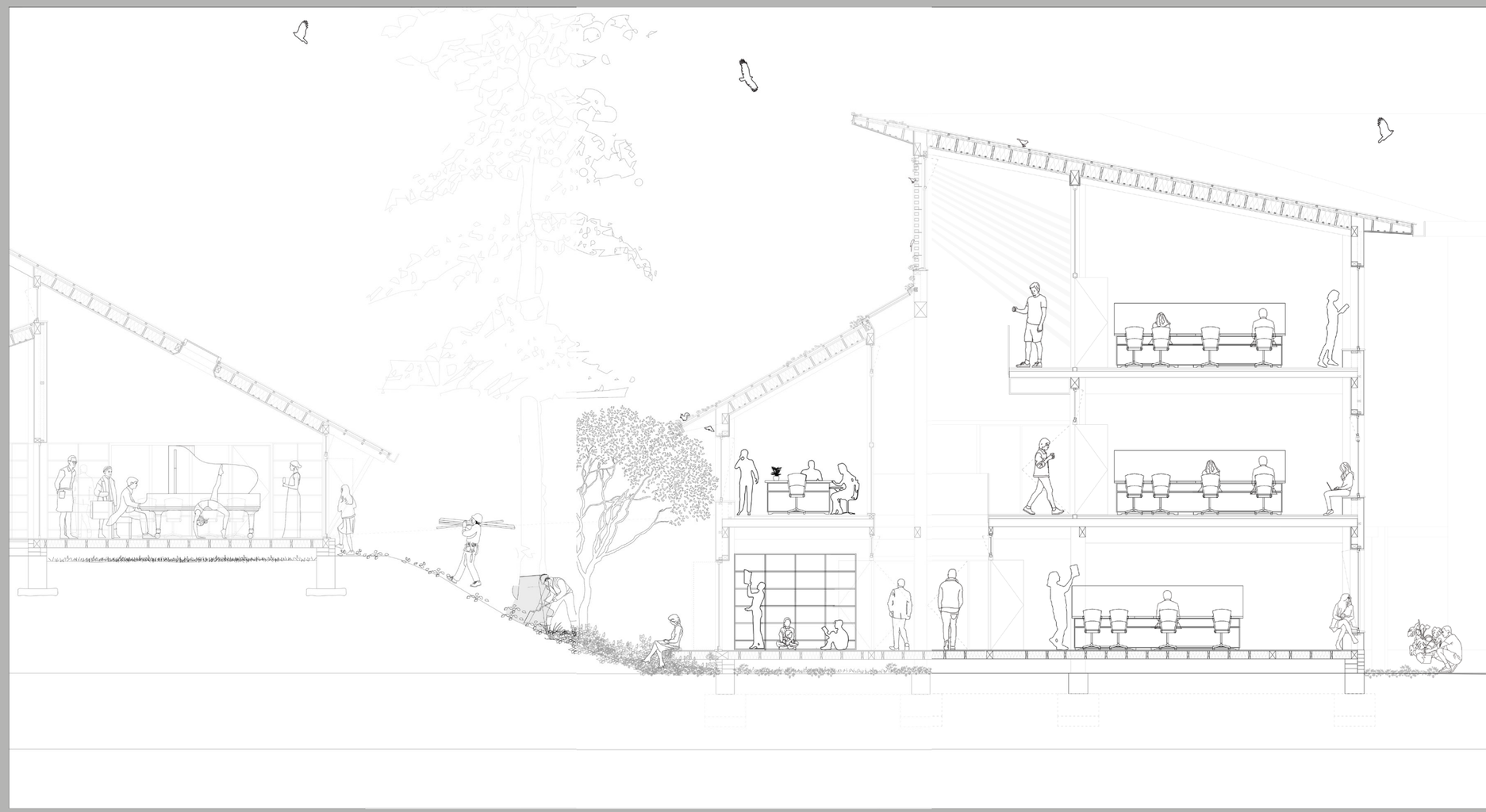
NORTH


Timber beam 150X250mm
tilt and turn ventilator window
150 mm thk IsoHemp precast blocks
22 mm Guage Galvanized Corrugated Metal Tie
Timber framed glazing
Wooden swift box
Rammed hempcrete 300mm thk
VELUX wall mounted longlight
zinc roofing sheets
roofing battens 40X40mm
counter battens 25mm
22mm sarking grade wood fiber board
wooden rafter 250mm @ 450mm c/c
full fill hemp quilt insulation
35X25mm battens @ 150mm c/c
woodfiber board 25mm
wood cladding 15mm
25mm dry screed
12 mm recycled rubber sound absorption layer
60mm flooring grade
rigid wood fiber insulation board
200 mm CLT slab
Timber framed double glazed folding door

















"....the moment of architecture is that moment when architecture is LIFE and DEATH at the same time, when the experience of space becomes its own concept."

Bernard Tschumi, Architecture and Transgression