



# time is the architect

*existing buildings as evolving landscapes*

Graduation presentation

17.06.2026 | 13.30h

Architecture faculty TU Delft Room U

Julianalaan 134, Delft



time is the architect  
*existing buildings as evolving landscapes*



*Floor van der Vliet*

A4 presentation

17.06.2026



De Slufter, Texel. A dynamic, tidal Dutch landscape. (Justin Sinner, n.d.)



*Tidal park Keilehaven, Rotterdam. A dynamic landscape in an urban setting.*



*Villa Savoye by Le Corbusier.*

esscenter D

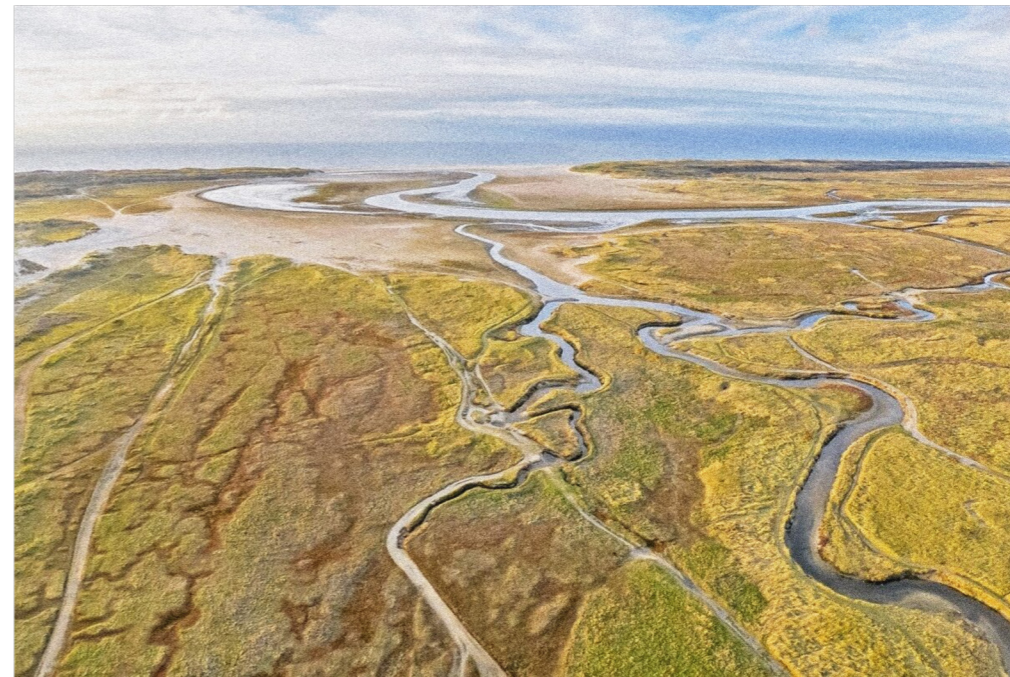
2018

esscenter D



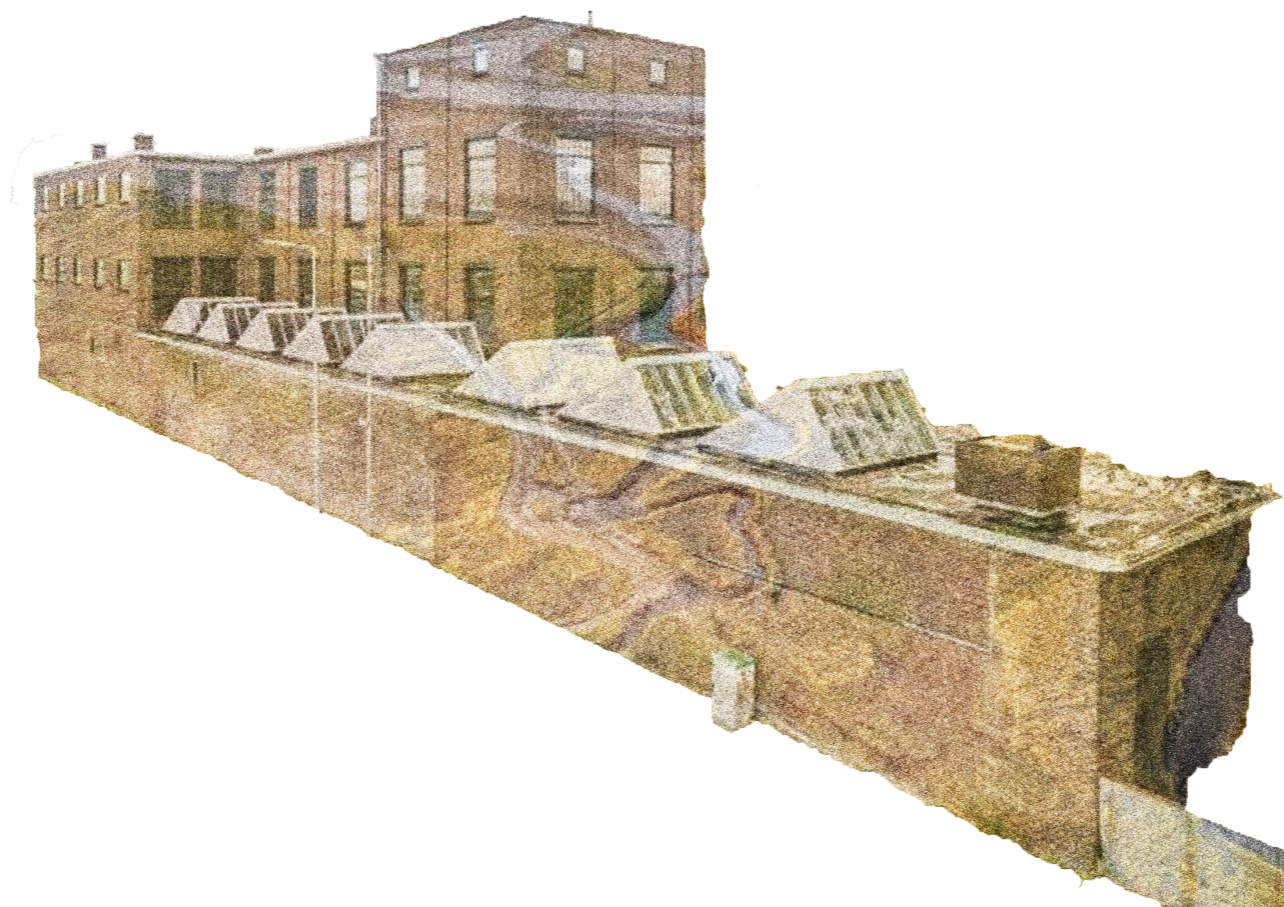


*existing buildings*



*dynamic landscapes*

*“how can existing buildings be approached as dynamic landscapes in order to embrace temporality?”*



*River Aire*



(Fabio Chironi, 2015)

*Marker Wadden*



(ANP, 2021)

*Park Frankendael*



(Sant en Co, 2016)

*Ecokathedraal*



(Louis le Roy, 2000)

## *Ecokathedraal*



(Louis le Roy, 2000)

An **ecokathedraal** is a structure that can develop itself through space and time



*An **ecokathedraal** is a structure that can develop itself through space and time*



**irai** is a structure that can  
span space and time



raal is a structure that can  
n space and time



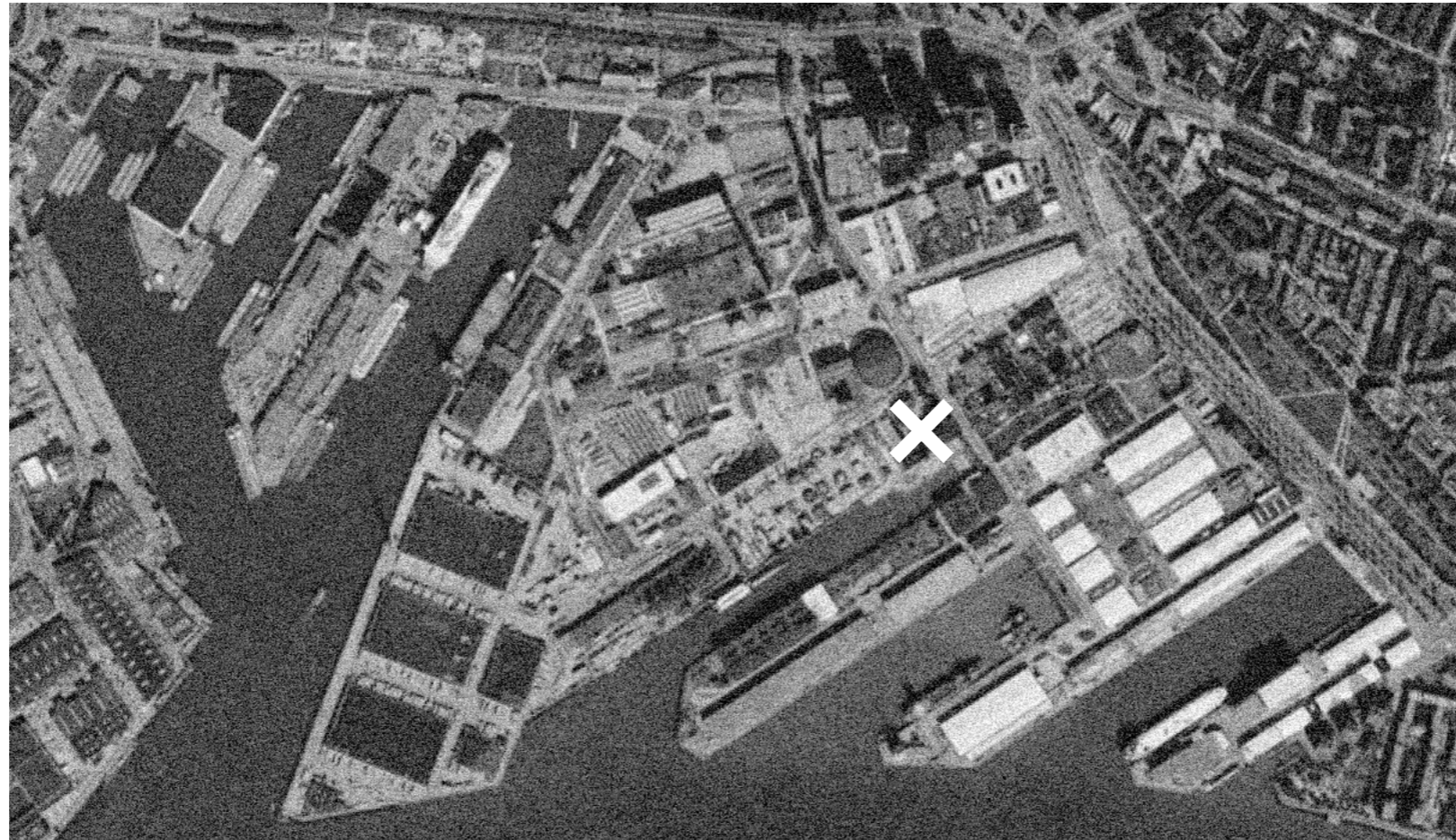
*unfolding  
the story of a  
building*

IV

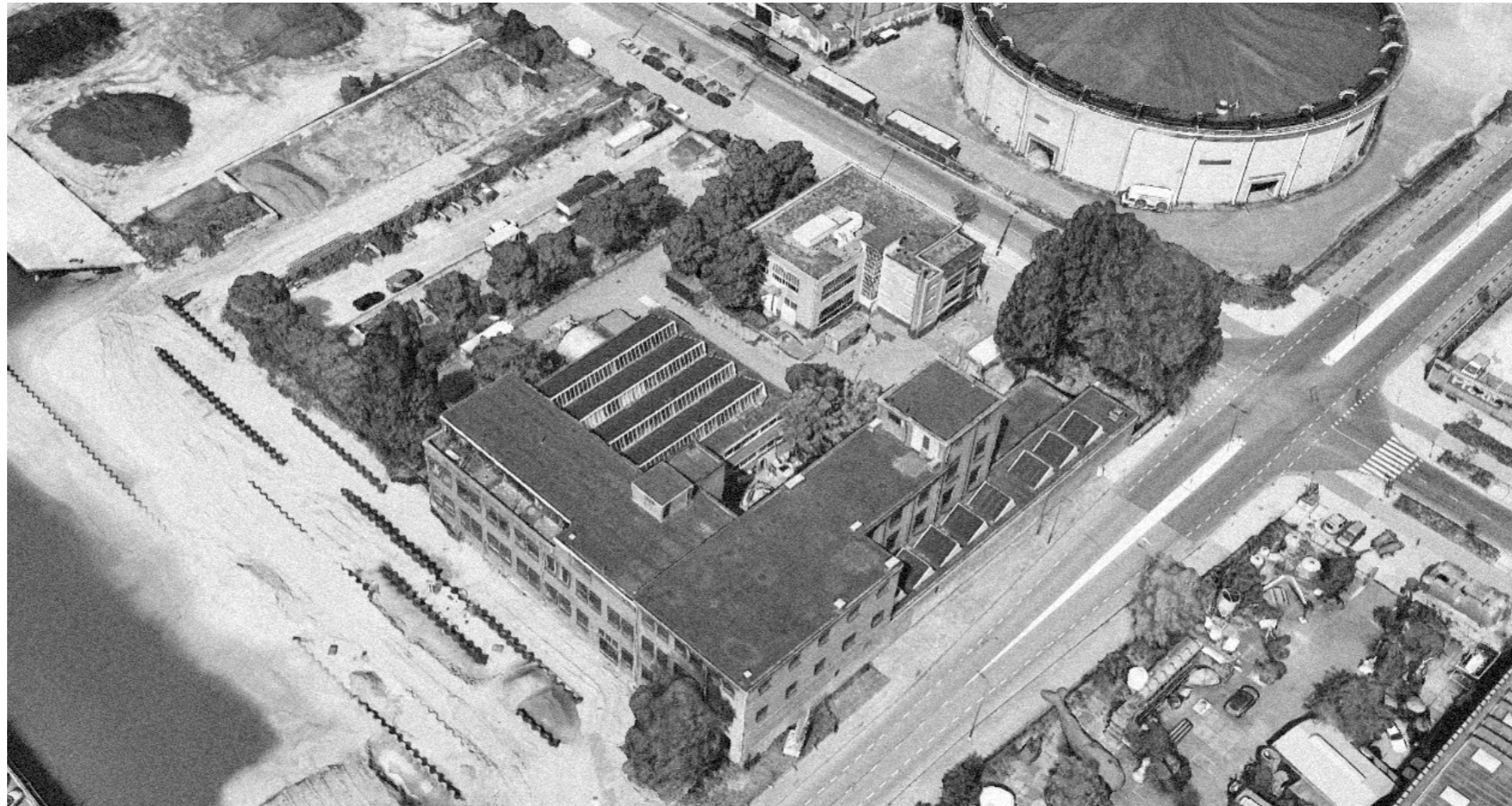
*the current situation*



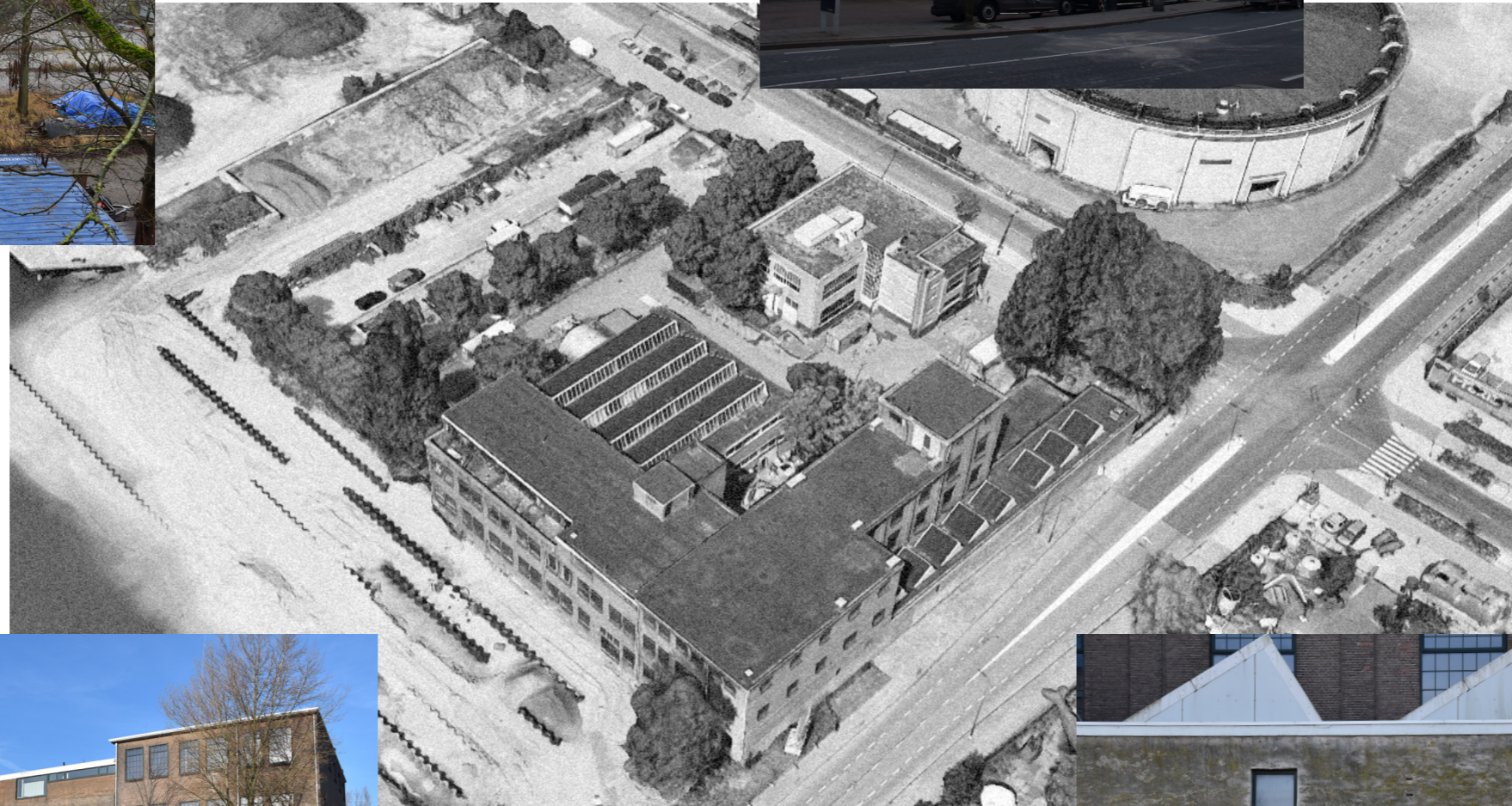
*Rotterdam*



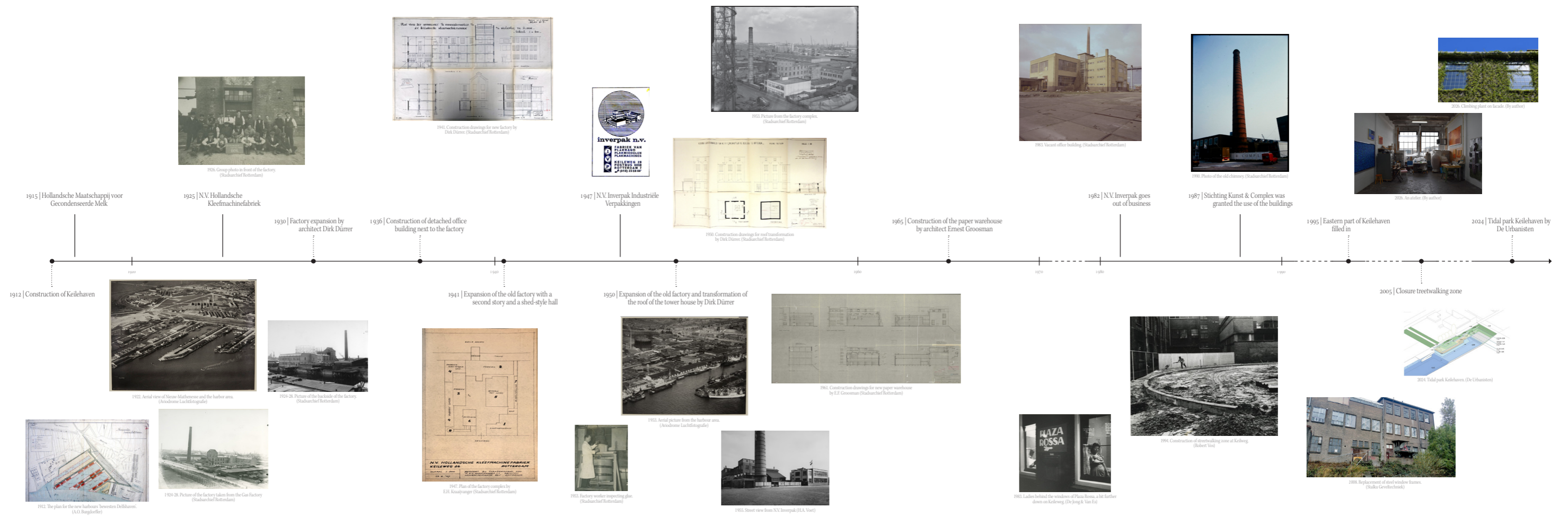
*Merwe-Vierhaven*



*Keileweg 26-28*



*Keileweg 26-28*

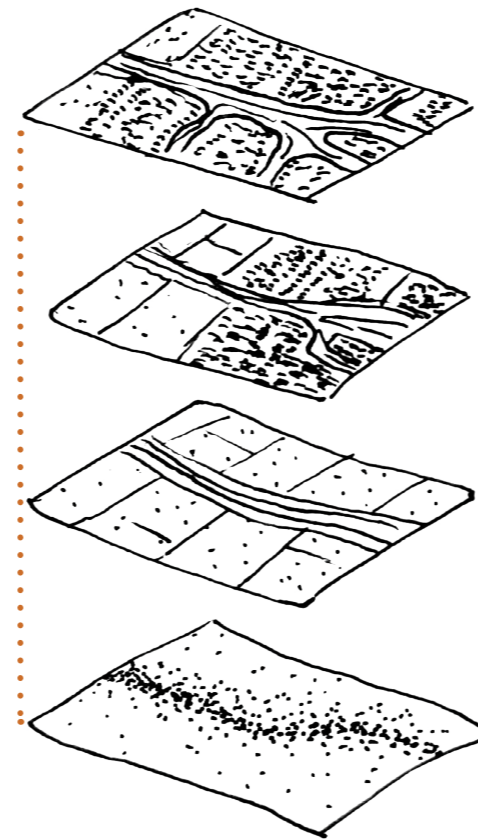


*the timeline up to now*

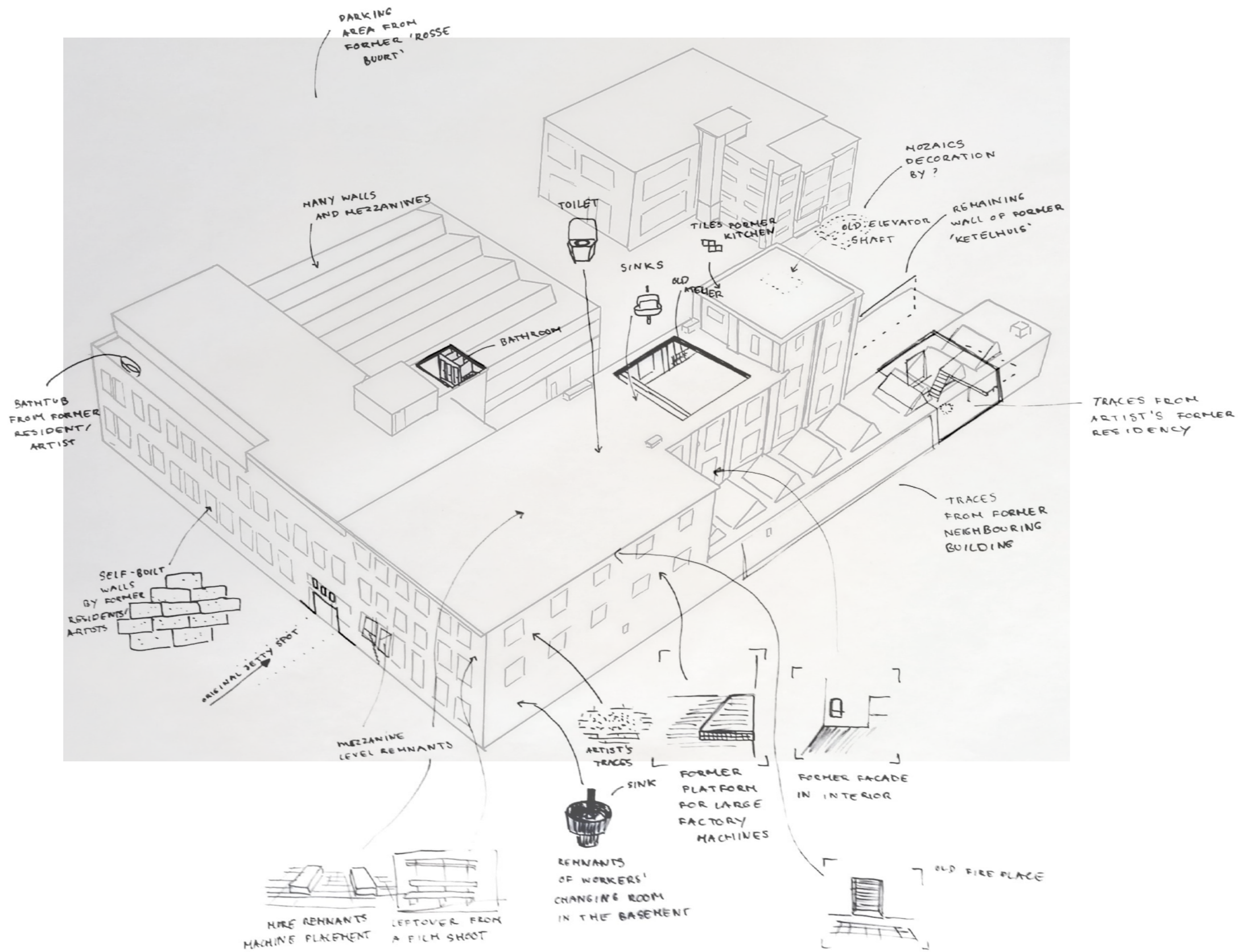




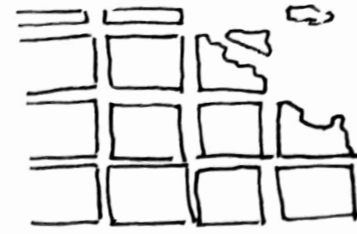
*atelier (1987-present)*



**Palimpsest** is an old piece of parchment with a visible layering of previous writings, which can be translated to the temporal layering of landscapes as well.



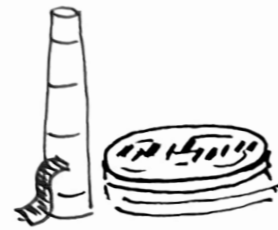
*palimpsest*



1. PRESERVE

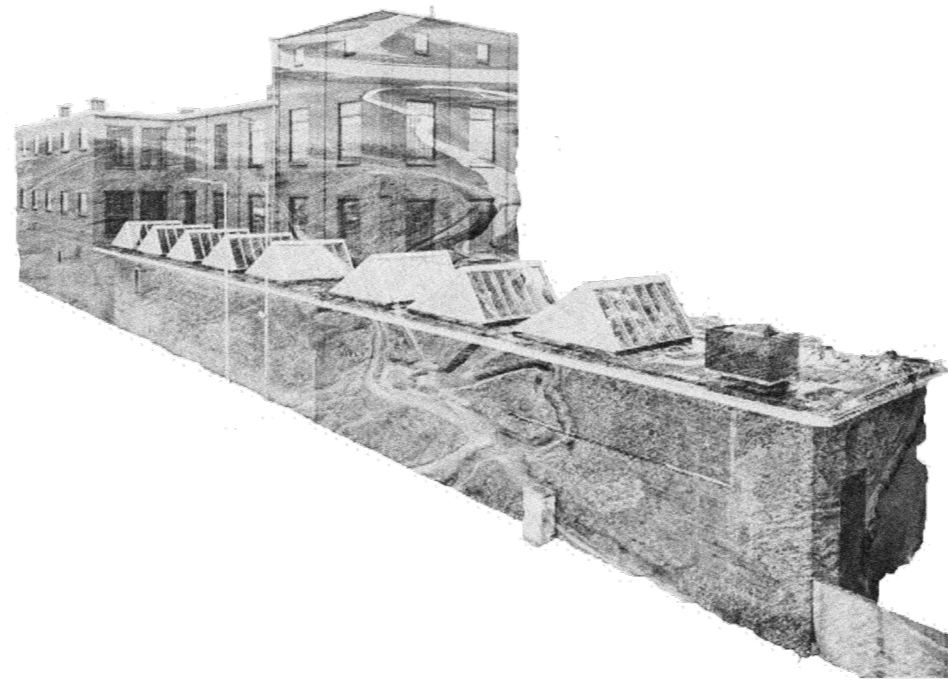


2. HIGHLIGHT



3. REACT

# MANIFESTO



## VALUE PALIMPSEST

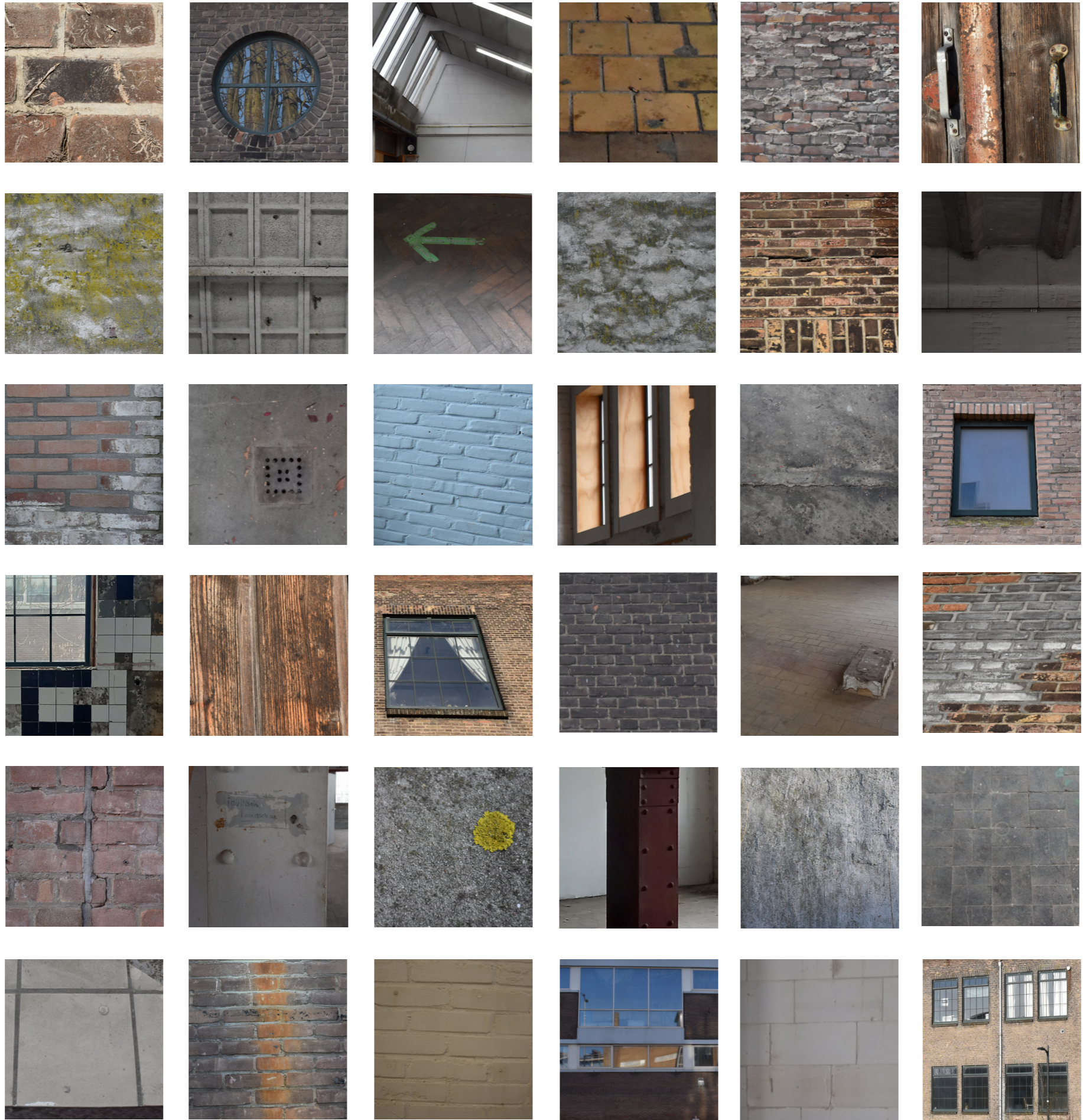
No tabula rasa. Work from existing structures. Use the existing material.

## EMBRACE DECAY

Growth arises from decay. Co-design with processes.

## SPACE FOR UNPREDICTABILITY

Design the beginning instead of the end. Create a framework for transience.





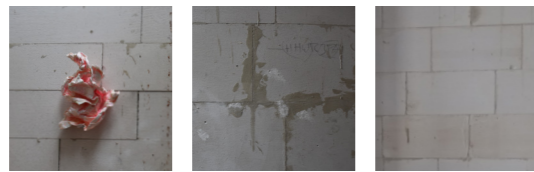
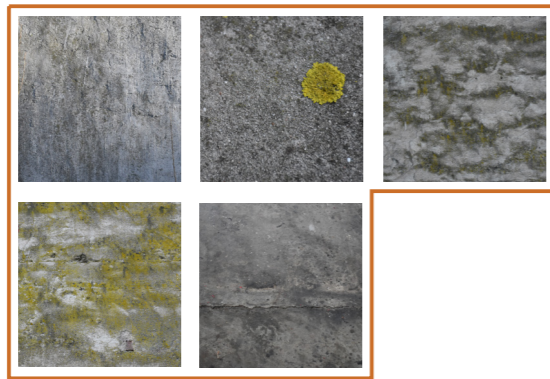
debris



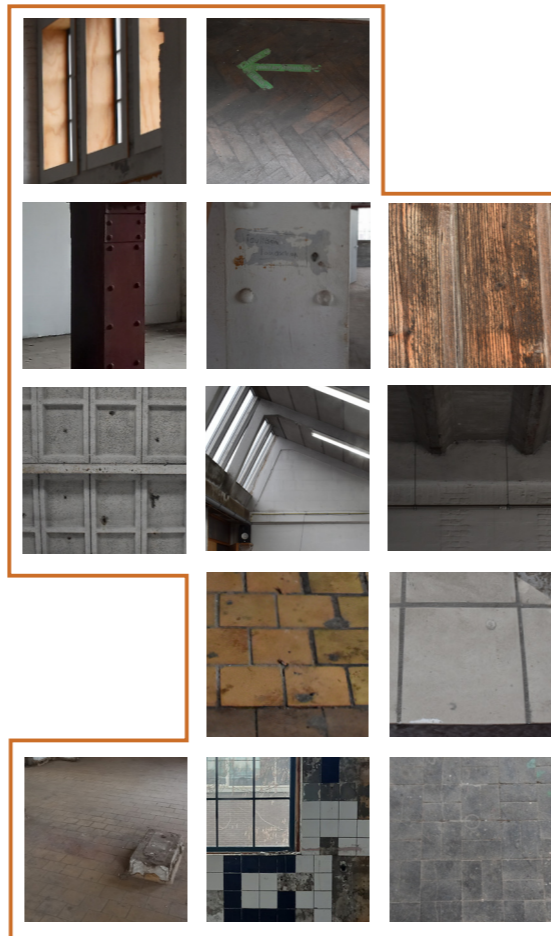
building product

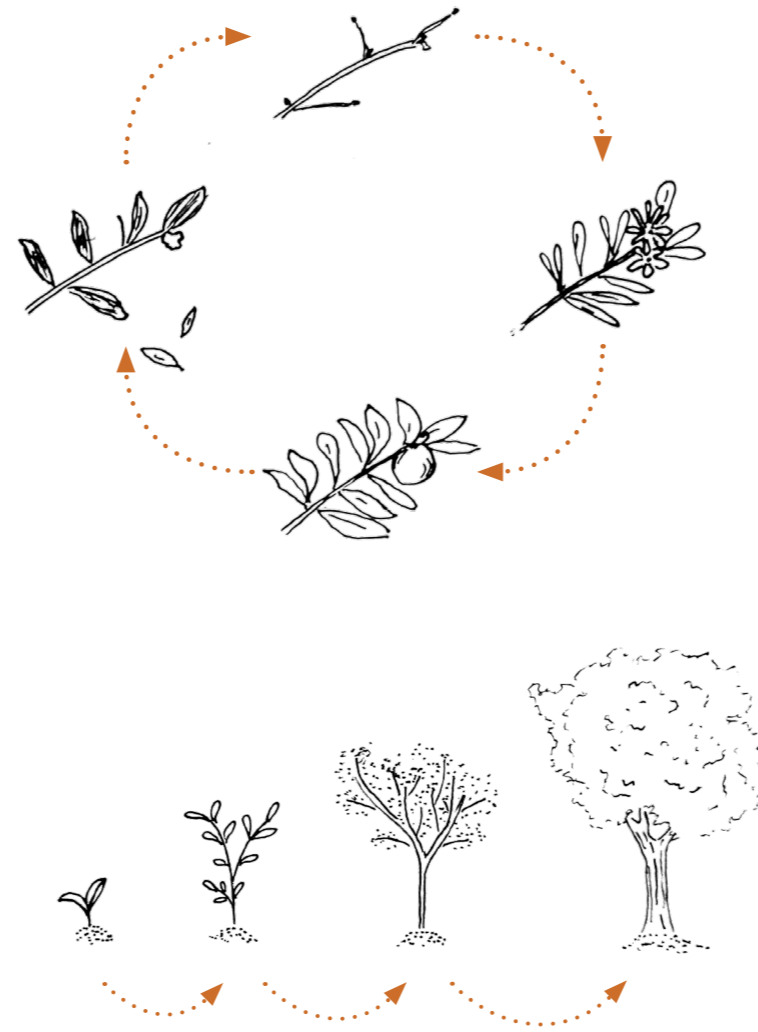


custom product

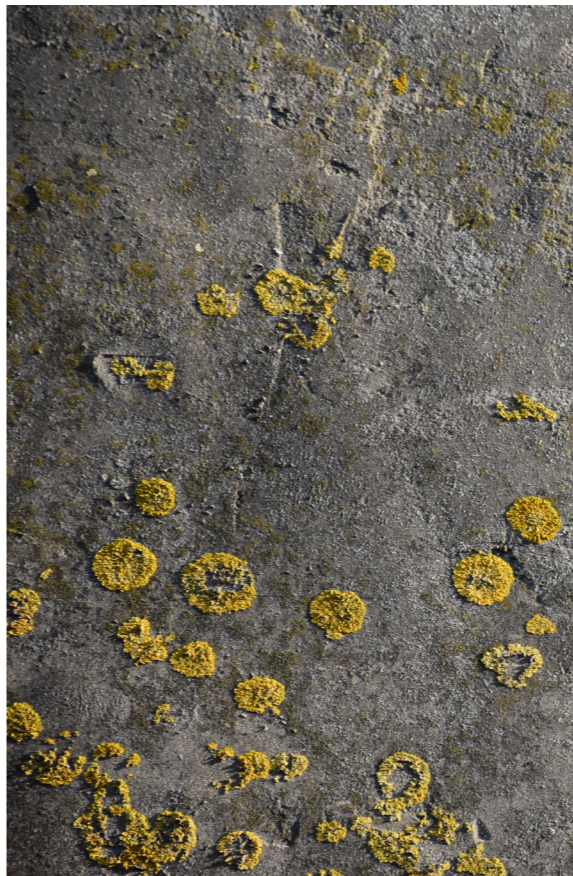


debris OR building product





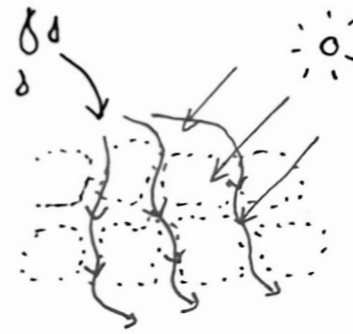
**Processes** are continuous series of happenings that can be linear and progressive/successive or cyclical and recurring, which makes them inherently connected to the passage of time and dynamics.



## *process*



1. TRUST THE PROCESS

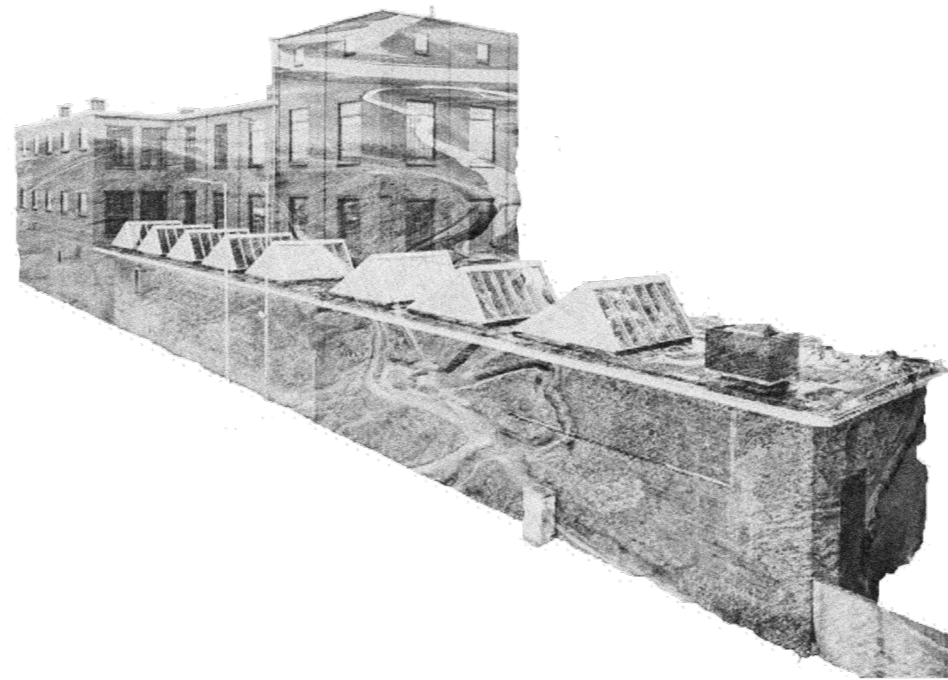


2. CREATE CONDITIONS



3. DRAMATIZE

# MANIFESTO



## VALUE PALIMPSEST

No tabula rasa. Work from existing structures. Use the existing material.

## EMBRACE DECAY

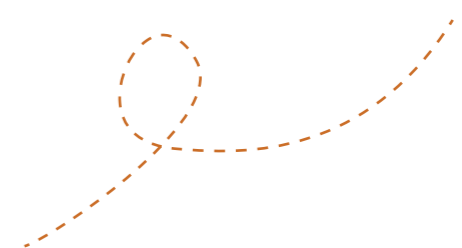
Growth arises from decay. Co-design with processes.

## SPACE FOR UNPREDICTABILITY

Design the beginning instead of the end. Create a framework for transience.

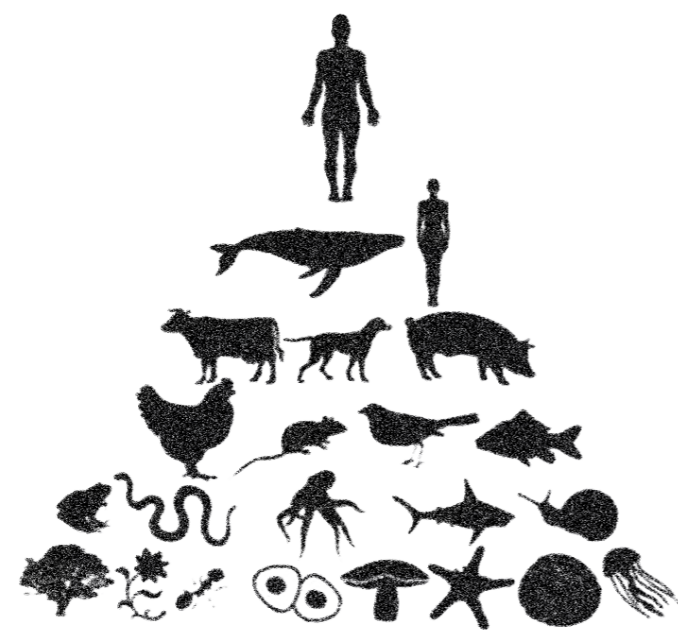


**Homo sapiens**  
 In my studio I feel at home  
 Surrounded by material  
 To create  
 Something new  
 Chaos is my playground  
 I need the space  
 To make, to build, to cook, to live  
 My desires form my surroundings  
 I thrive where I create  
 I create where I am



*the actors: humans/artists*





EGO



ECO

*ecocentric approach*

**Bryum argentum**

I am soft, I am tender  
You might know me  
But not my name  
I green the grey  
Covering the cities  
And close to humans  
I thrive in darkness and moisture  
The heat of the sun will never kill me completely  
But do not try to move me  
I always find my own spots



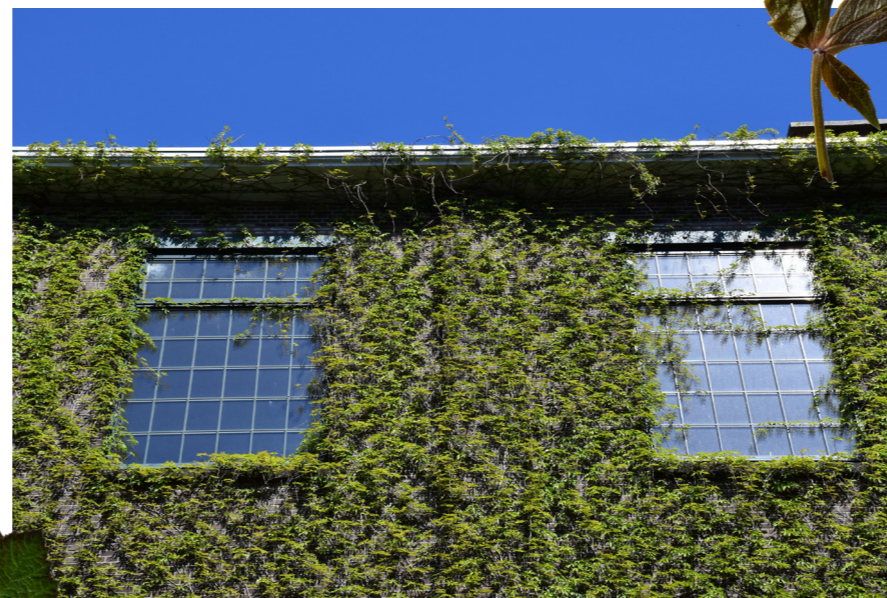
**Parthenocissus quinquefolia**

My fingers reach great heights  
My hands cover the surface  
To green the brown brick walls  
Green in spring, but in autumn I am red  
You better like that



**Seagull**

White and grey  
As the foam of the waves  
You will think of the sea  
When you hear me scream  
Close to people I make new nests  
Feeding from your scraps  
Hidden on your roofs  
I spread my wings to rob you fools



**Xanthoria parietina**

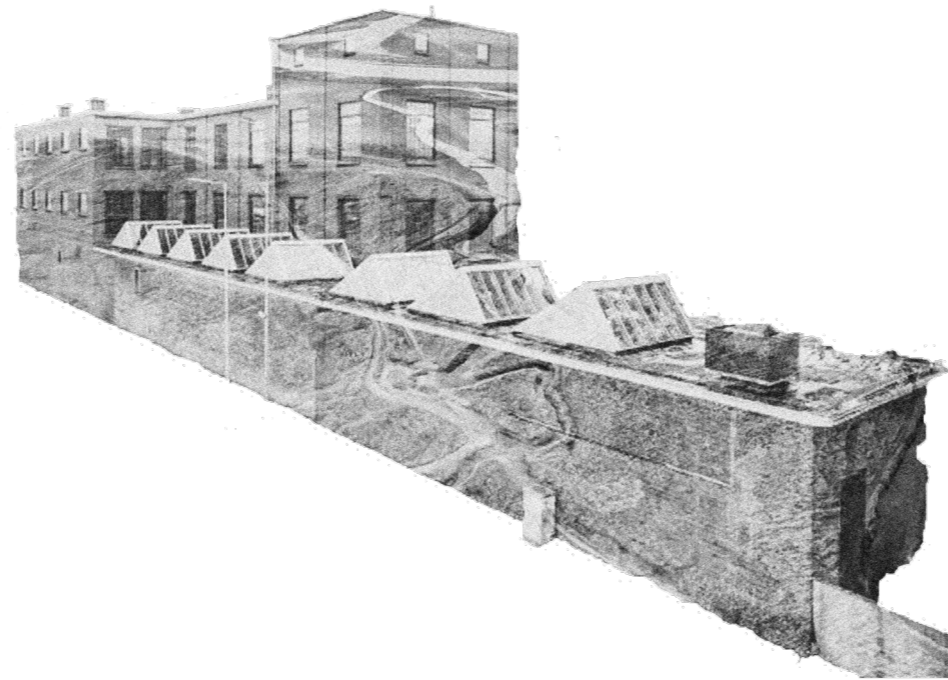
My brightness colours the darkness  
From trees to stones  
From forests to cities  
Your nitrogen is my friend  
My range is large  
My leaves are small  
Leave me where I am  
And I shall tell you all



*other actors*

*the intervention*

# MANIFESTO



## VALUE PALIMPSEST

No tabula rasa. Work from existing structures. Use the existing material.

## EMBRACE DECAY

Growth arises from decay. Co-design with processes.

## SPACE FOR UNPREDICTABILITY

Design the beginning instead of the end. Create a framework for transience.

*attitude*



1. DESIGN AN END RESULT



2. CREATE A STARTING POINT



3. ACT AS A GARDENER

*attitude*



1. DESIGN AN END RESULT

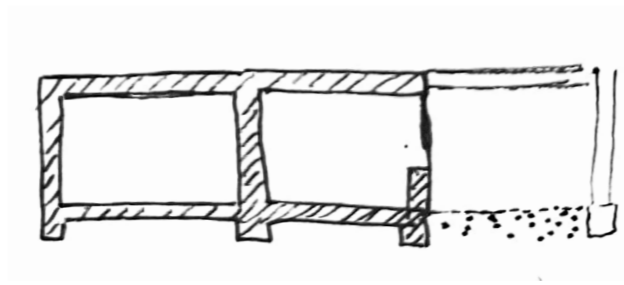


2. CREATE A STARTING POINT

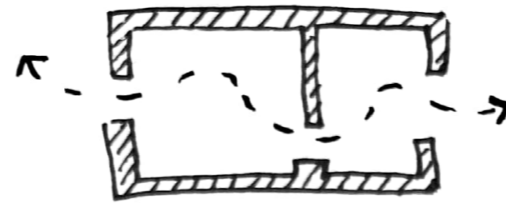


3. ACT AS A GARDENER

*creating conditions*



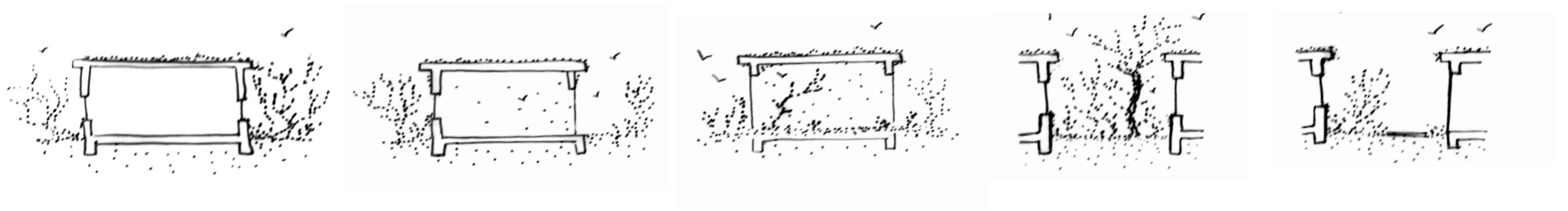
*defining accessibility*



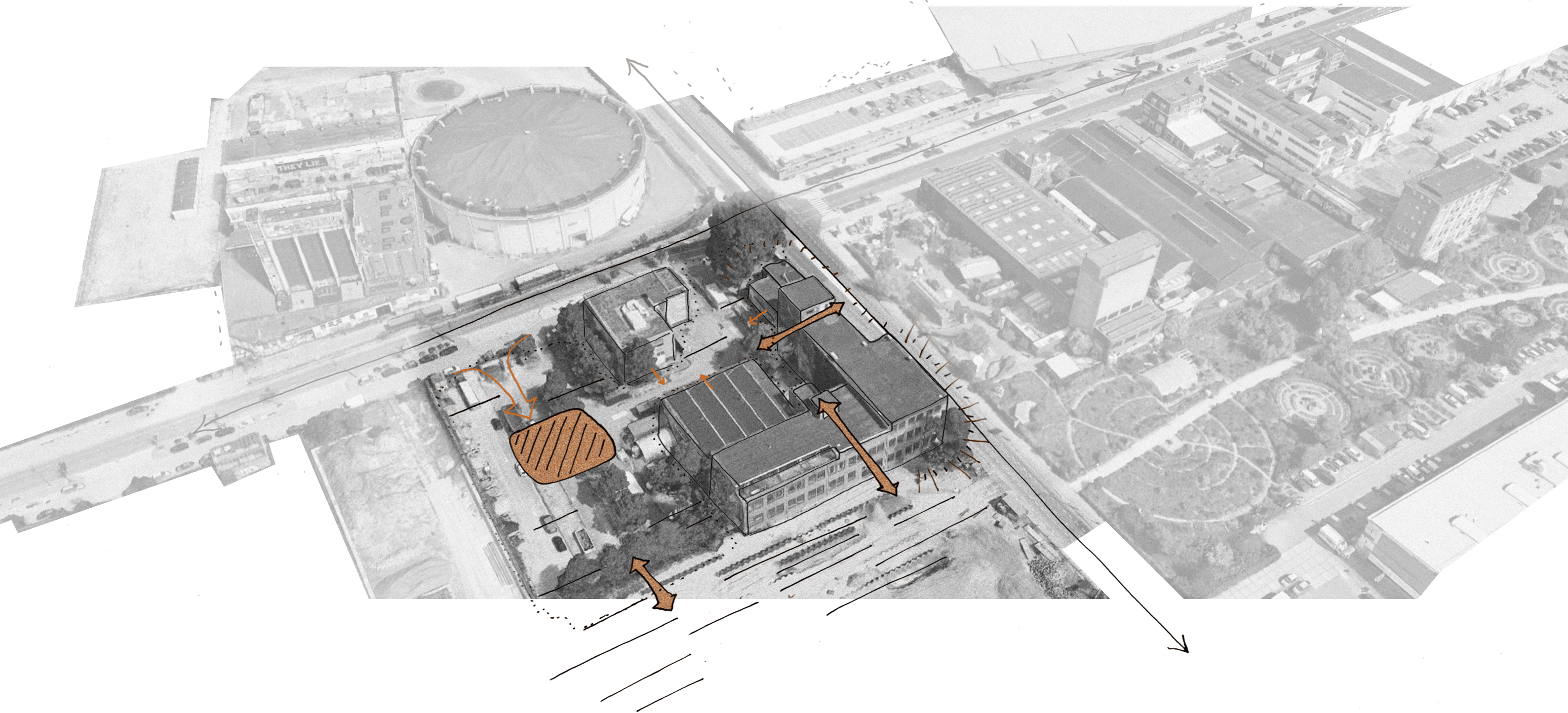
*ensuring safety*



*the architect: designing the framework*



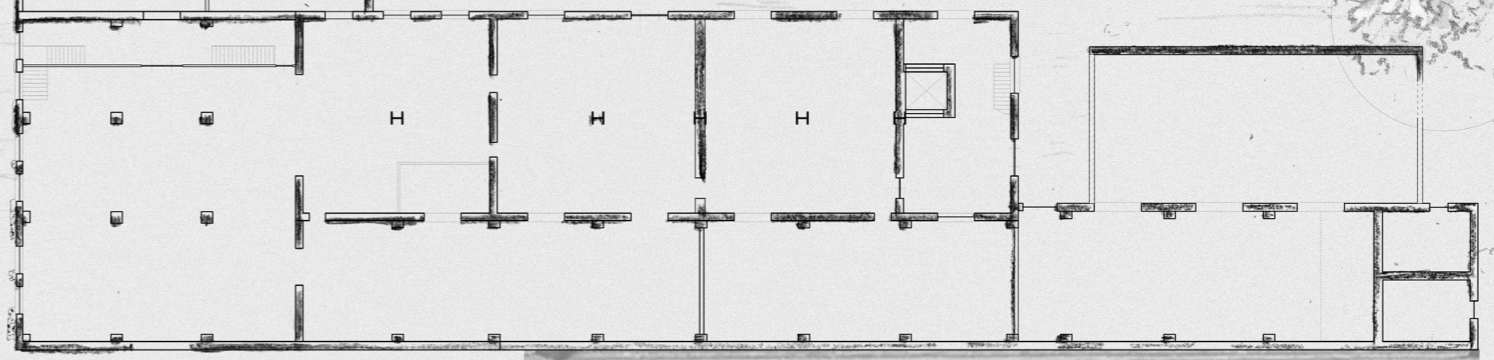
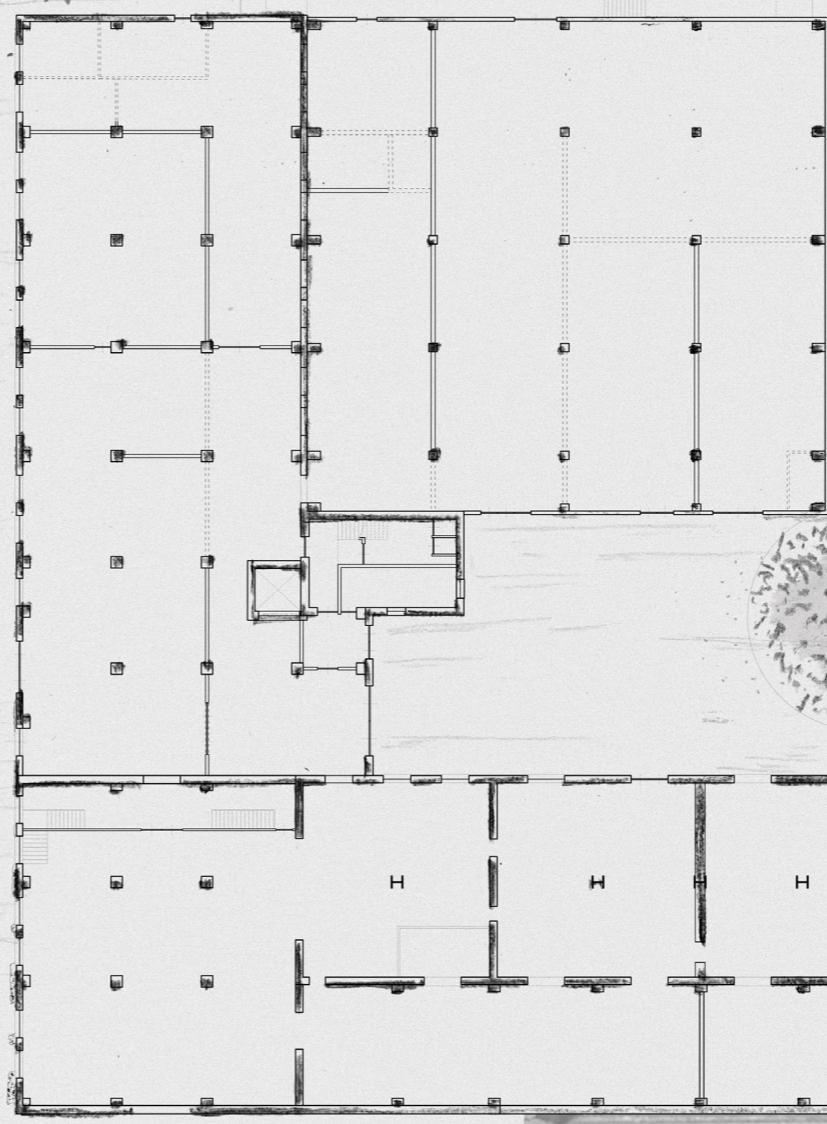
*biodiverse habitat: variation in porosity*



*strategy*



0 5M





0 5M

*public expression of temporality*

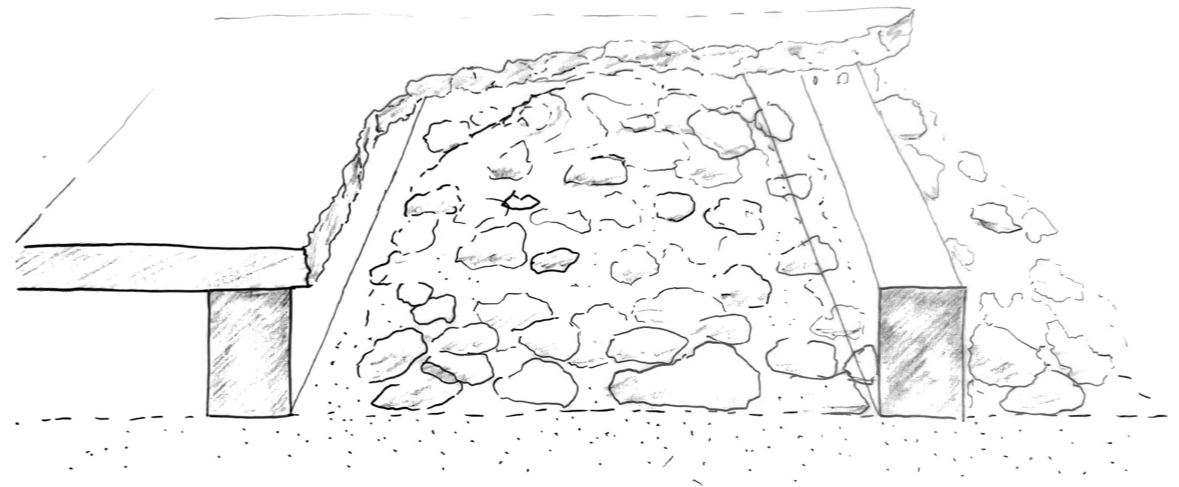
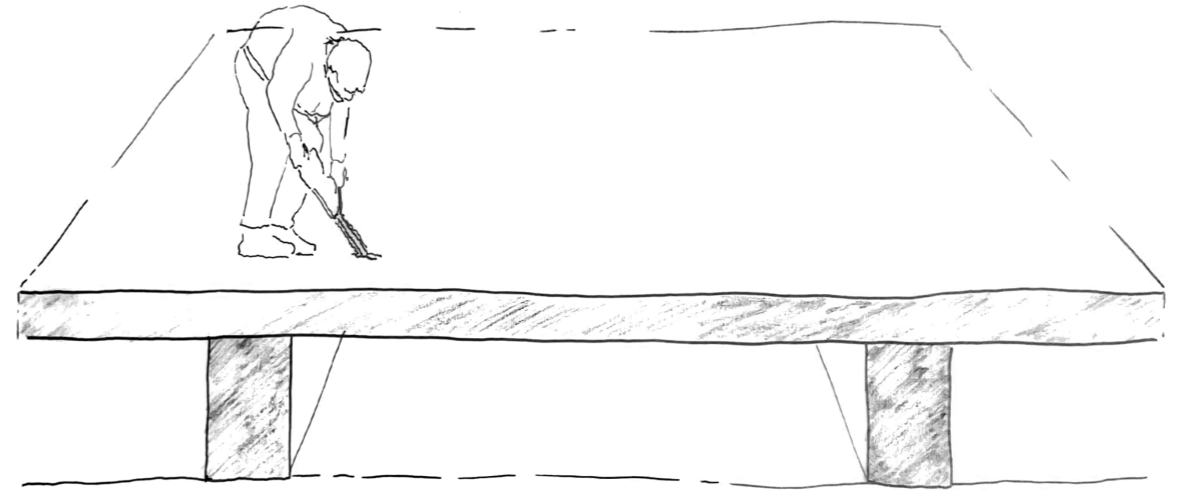




*opening up to the elements*



*roughness*



*increasing texture and porosity*



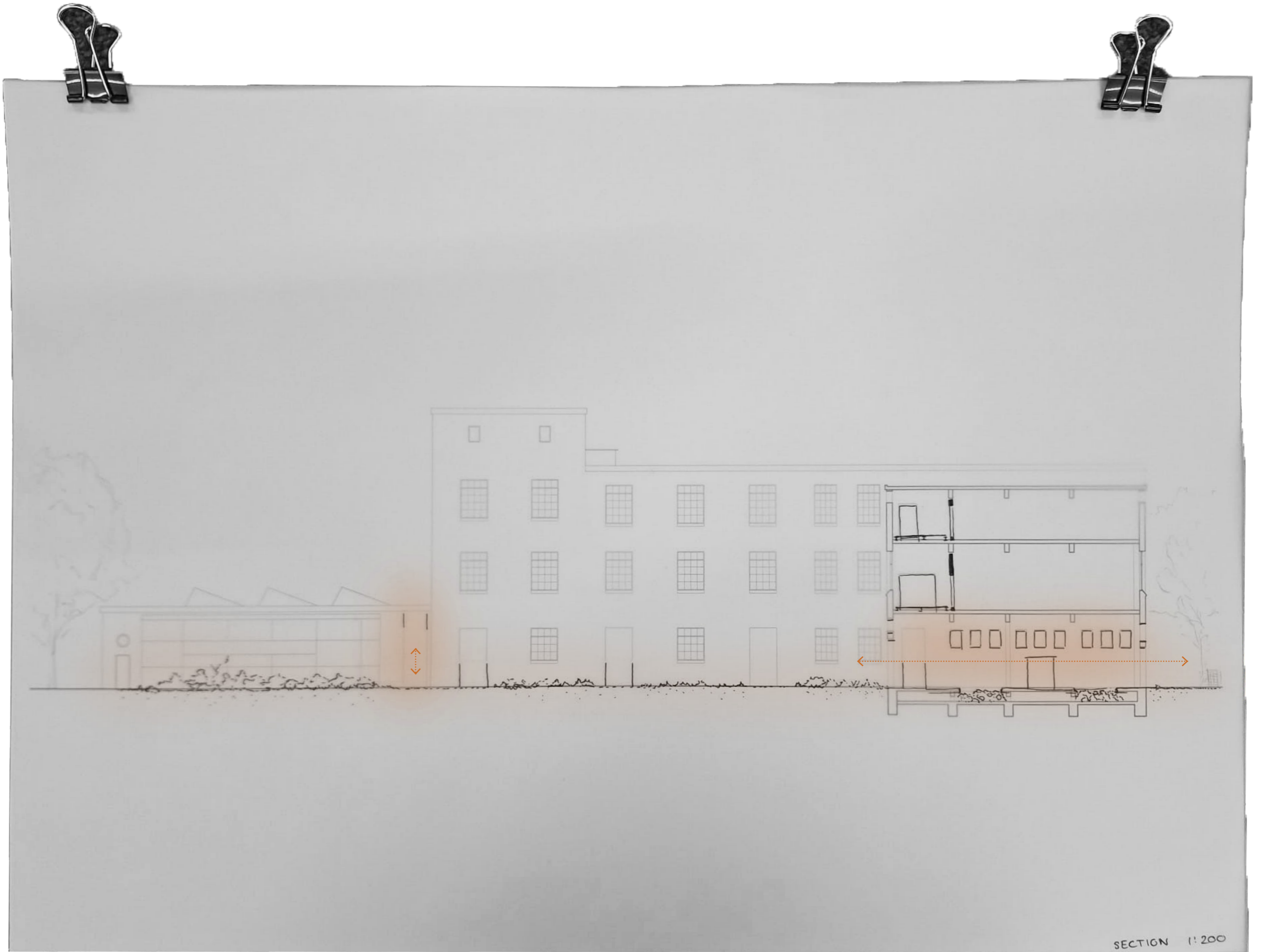
0 5M

*access to the courtyard*

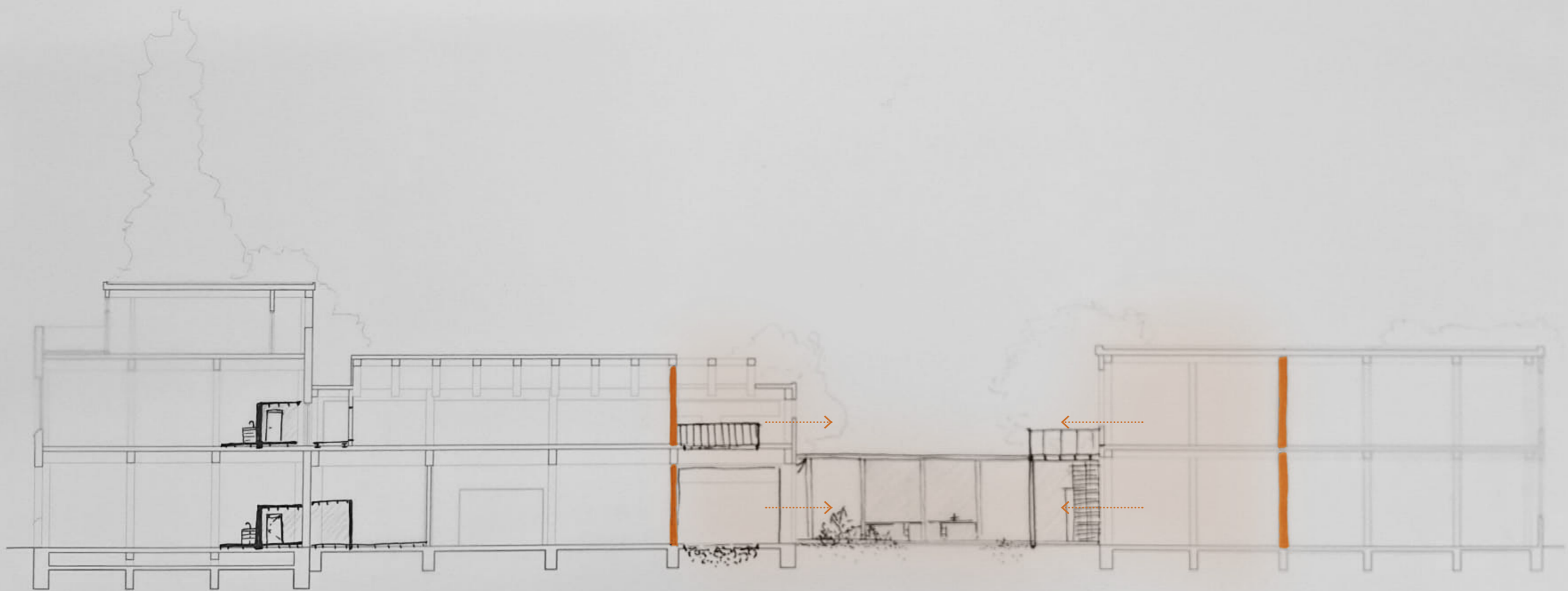




*creating openings and passages*



SECTION 1:200

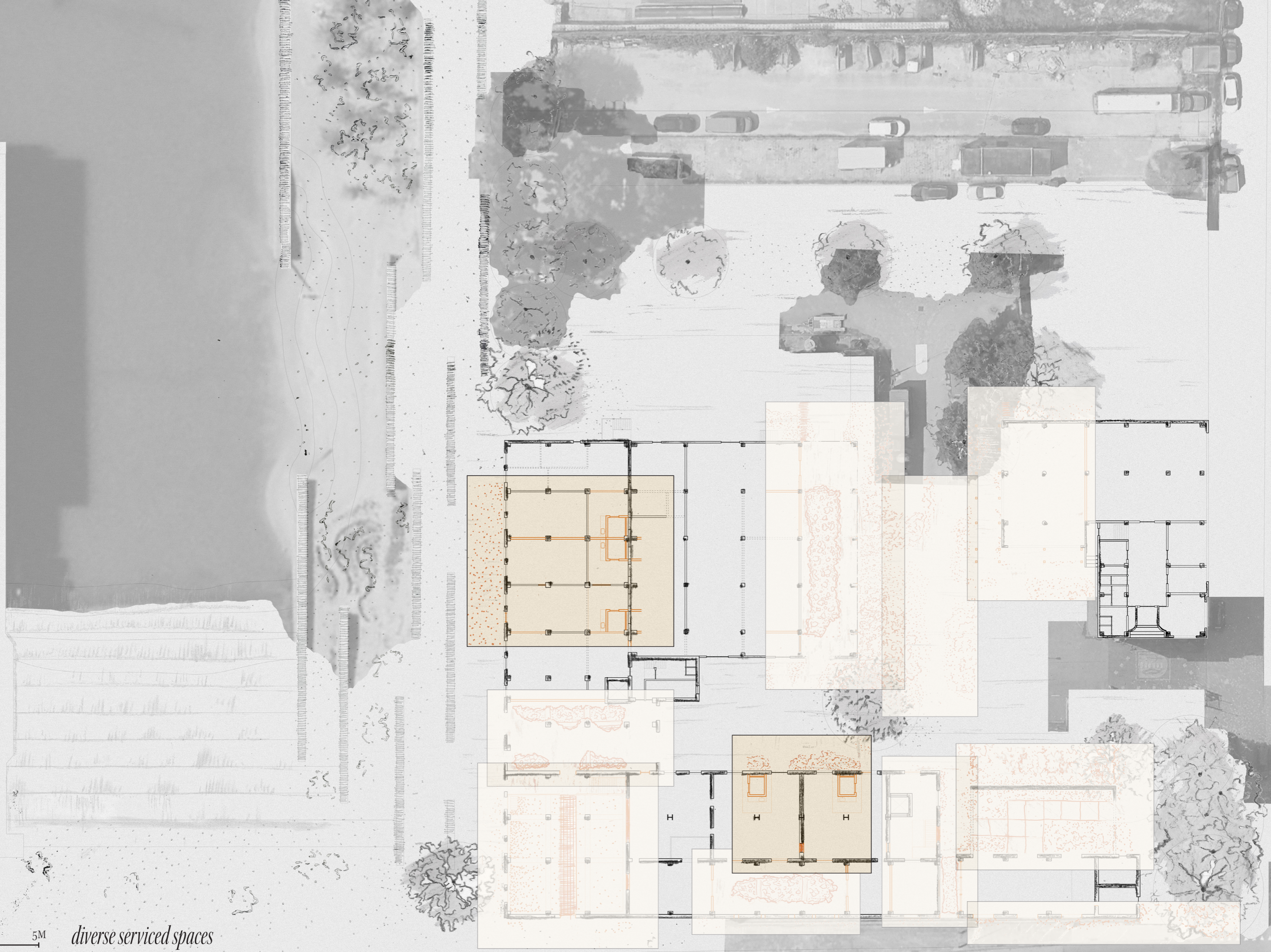


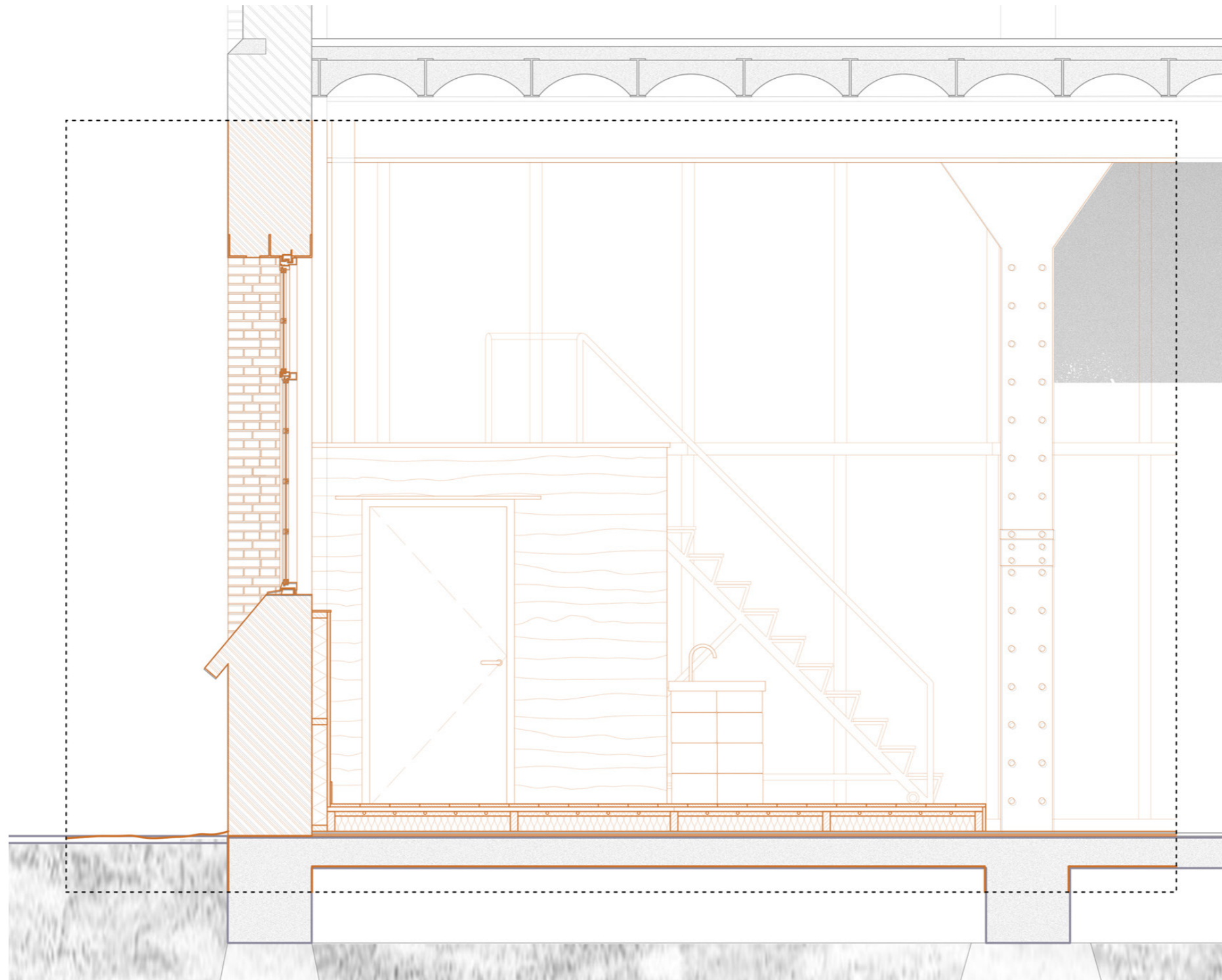
SECTION 1: 200



0 5M

*diverse serviced spaces*

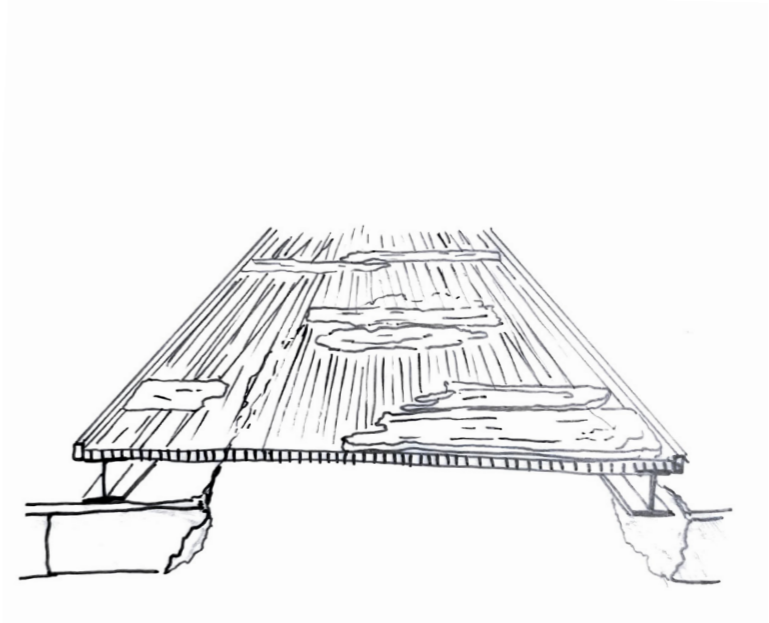
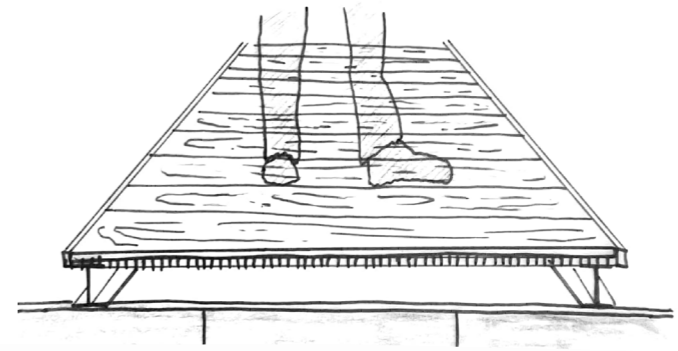




*service core*



1st FLOOR PLAN 1:200

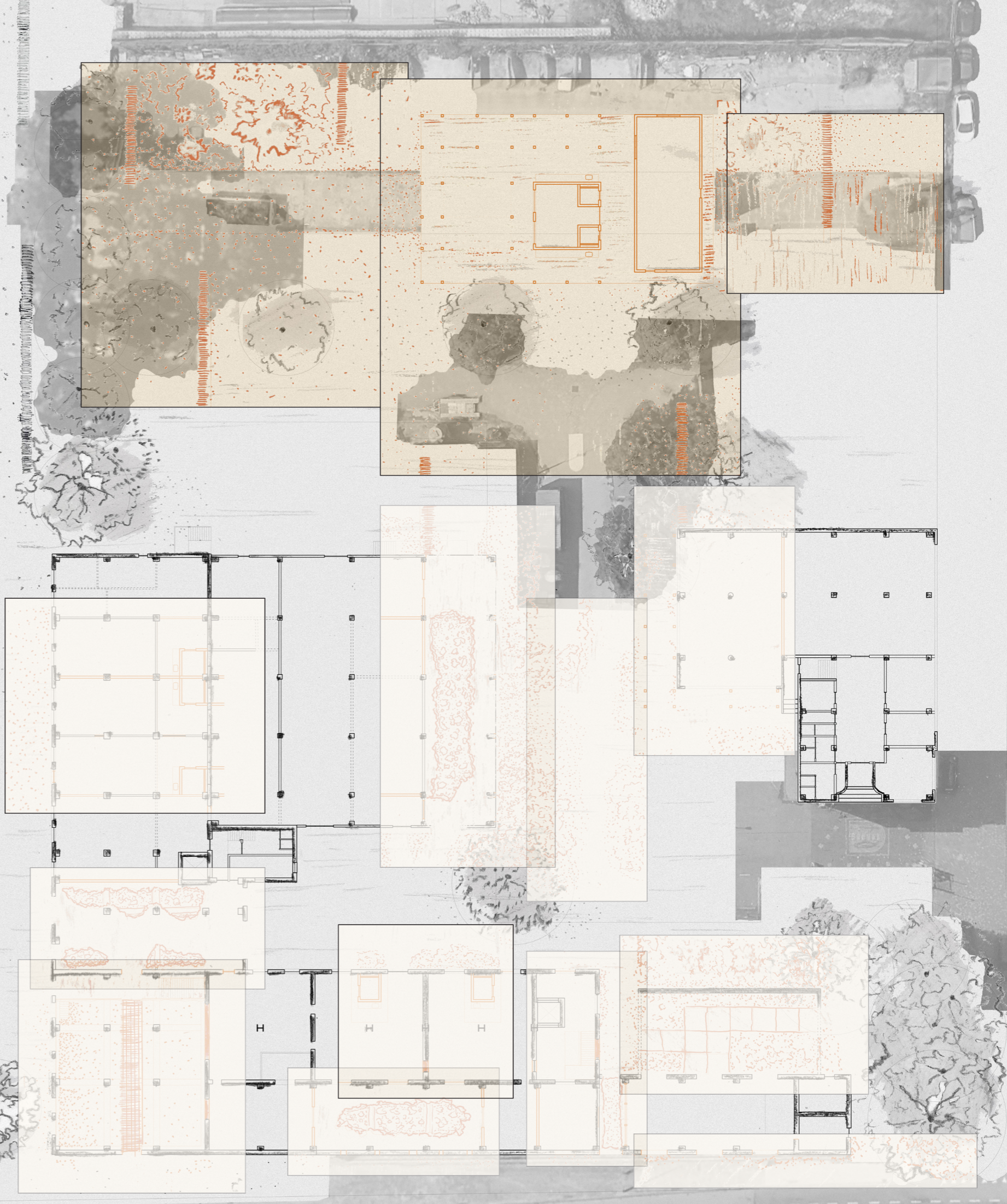


*hallways and spatial organisation*

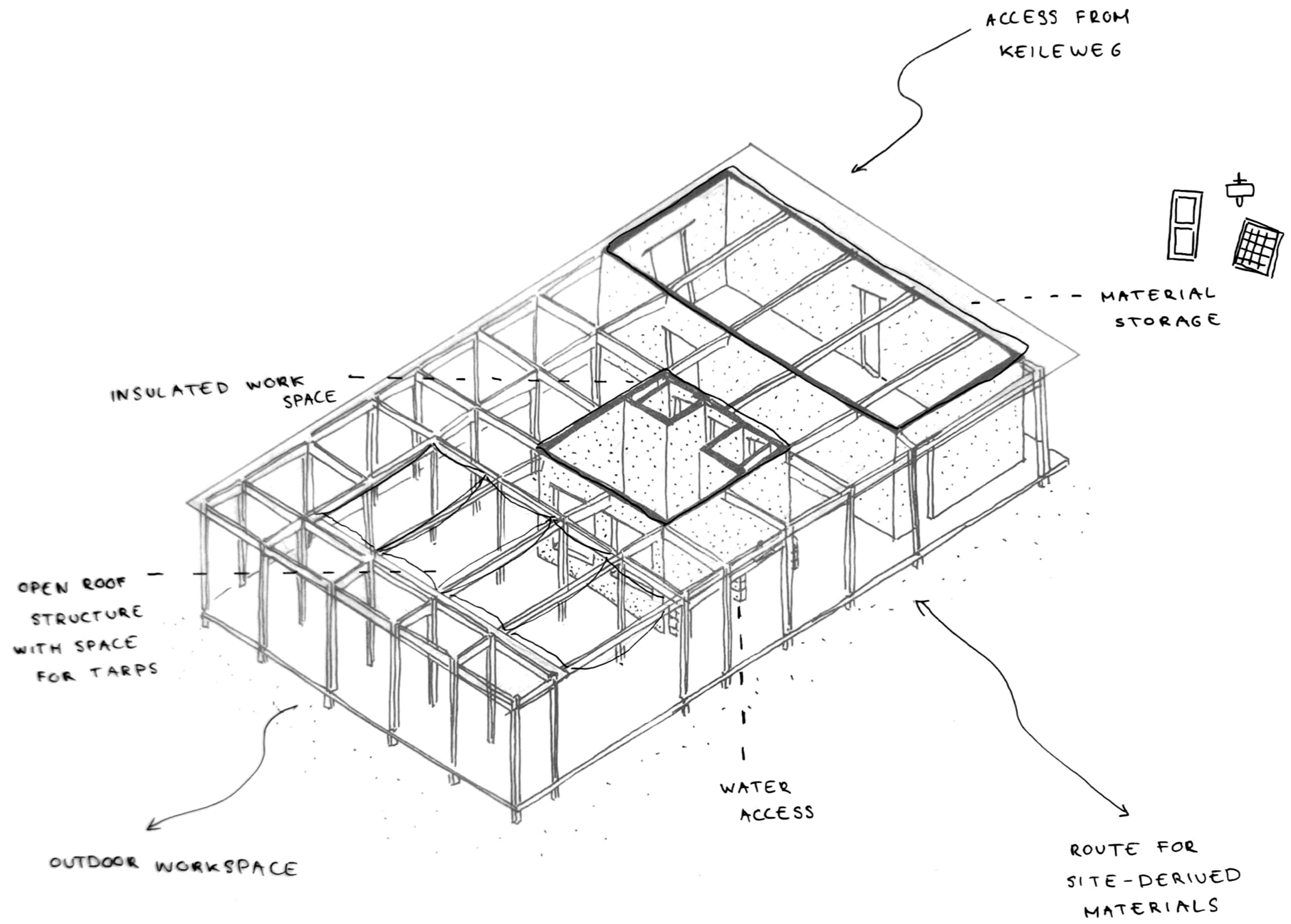


0 5M

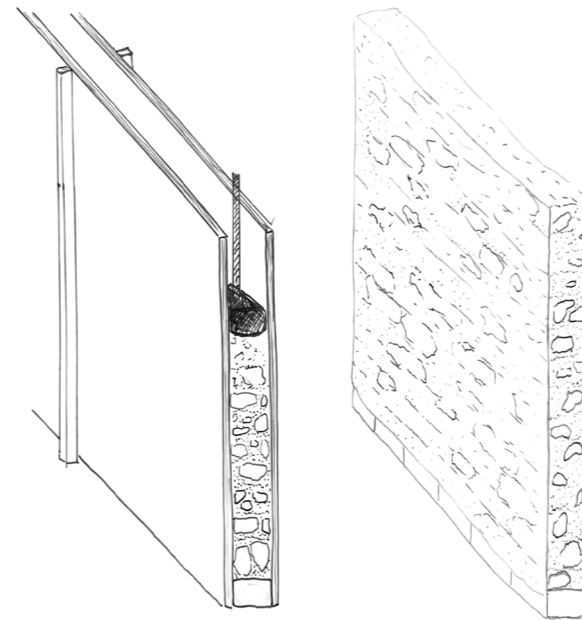
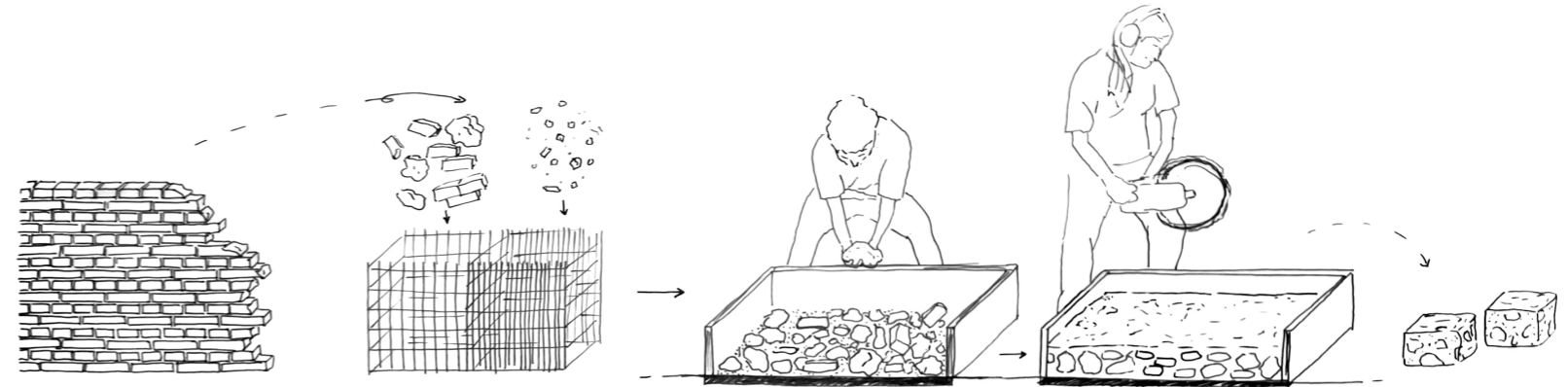
*material station*



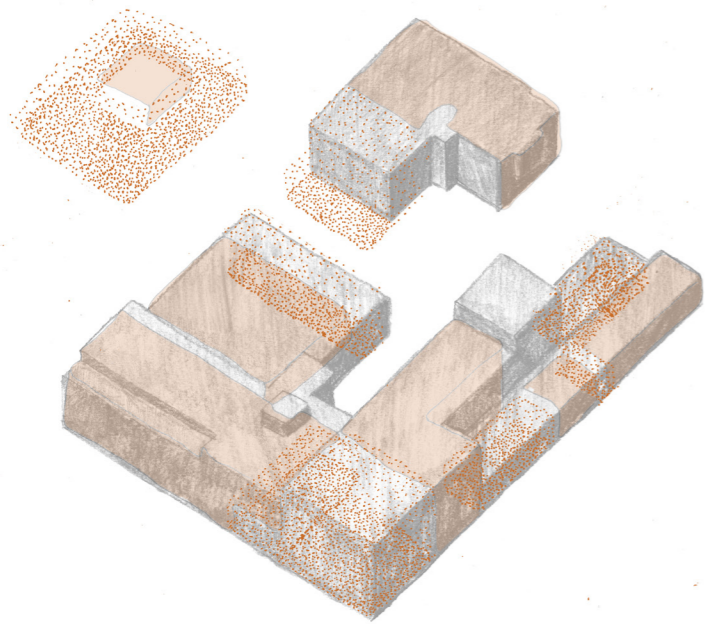




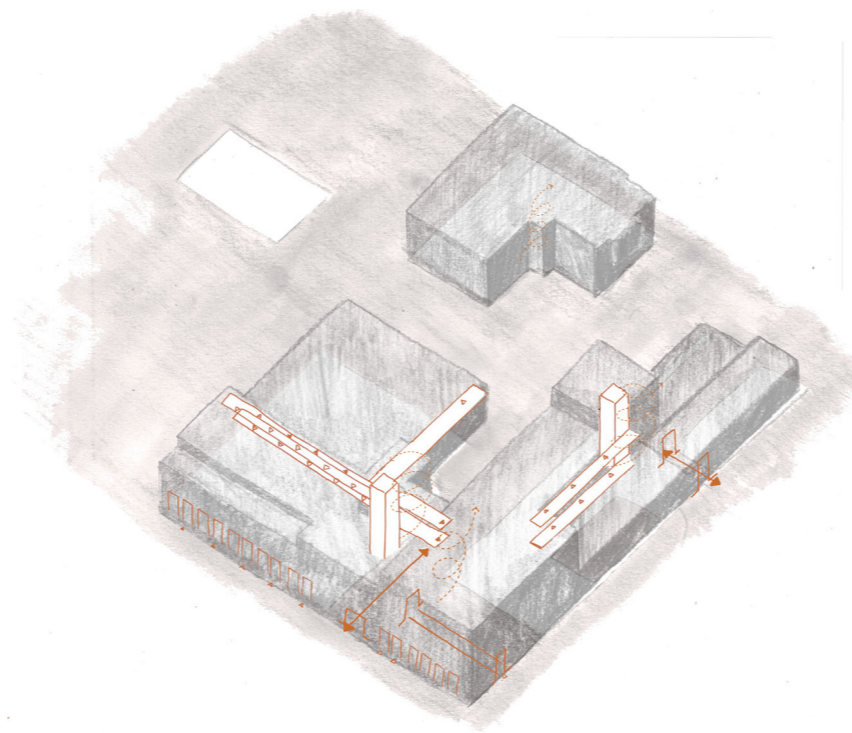
*material storage & working station*



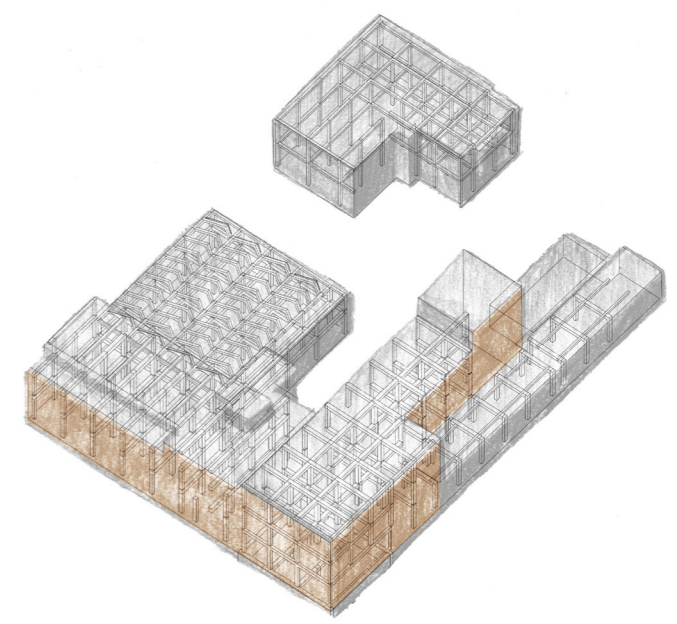
*from debris to building elements*



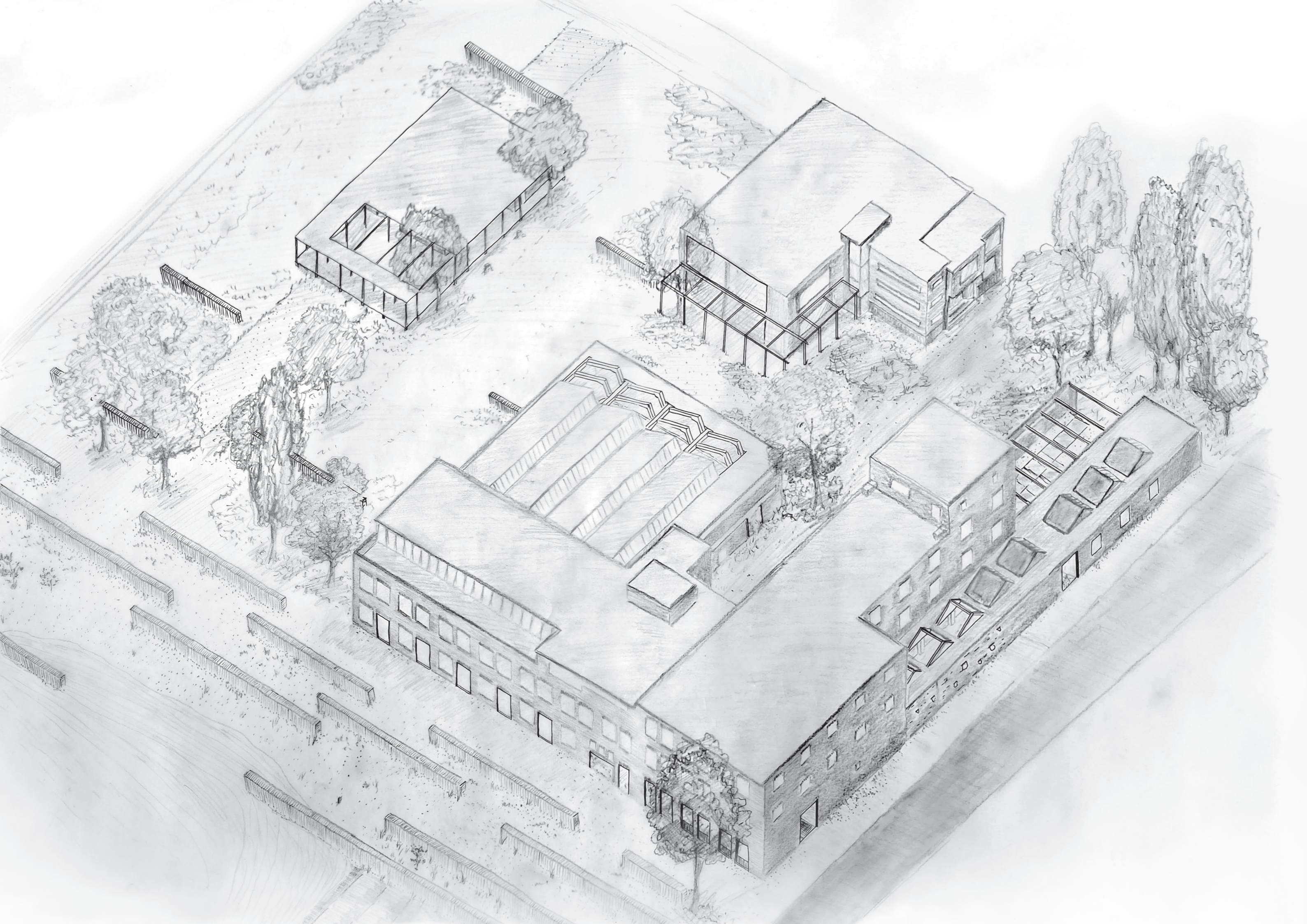
*various conditions*



*defined accessibility*



*ensured safety*

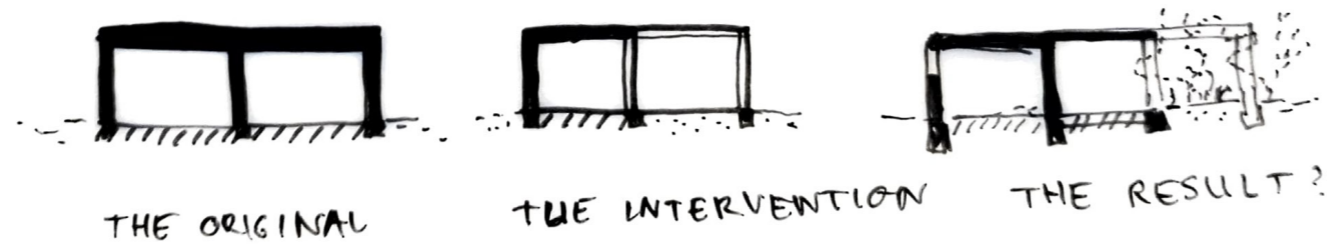


*time?*



0 5M





FILM

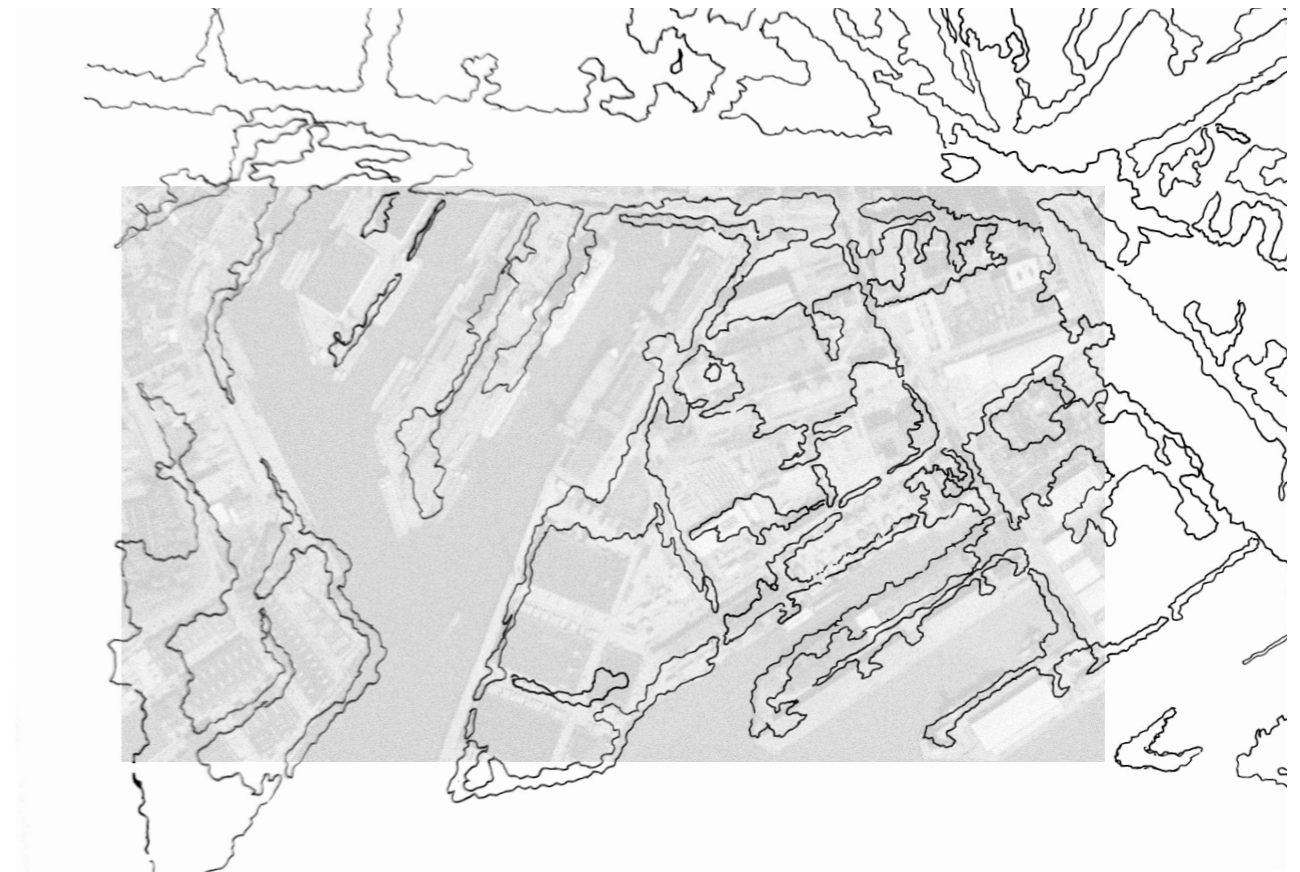
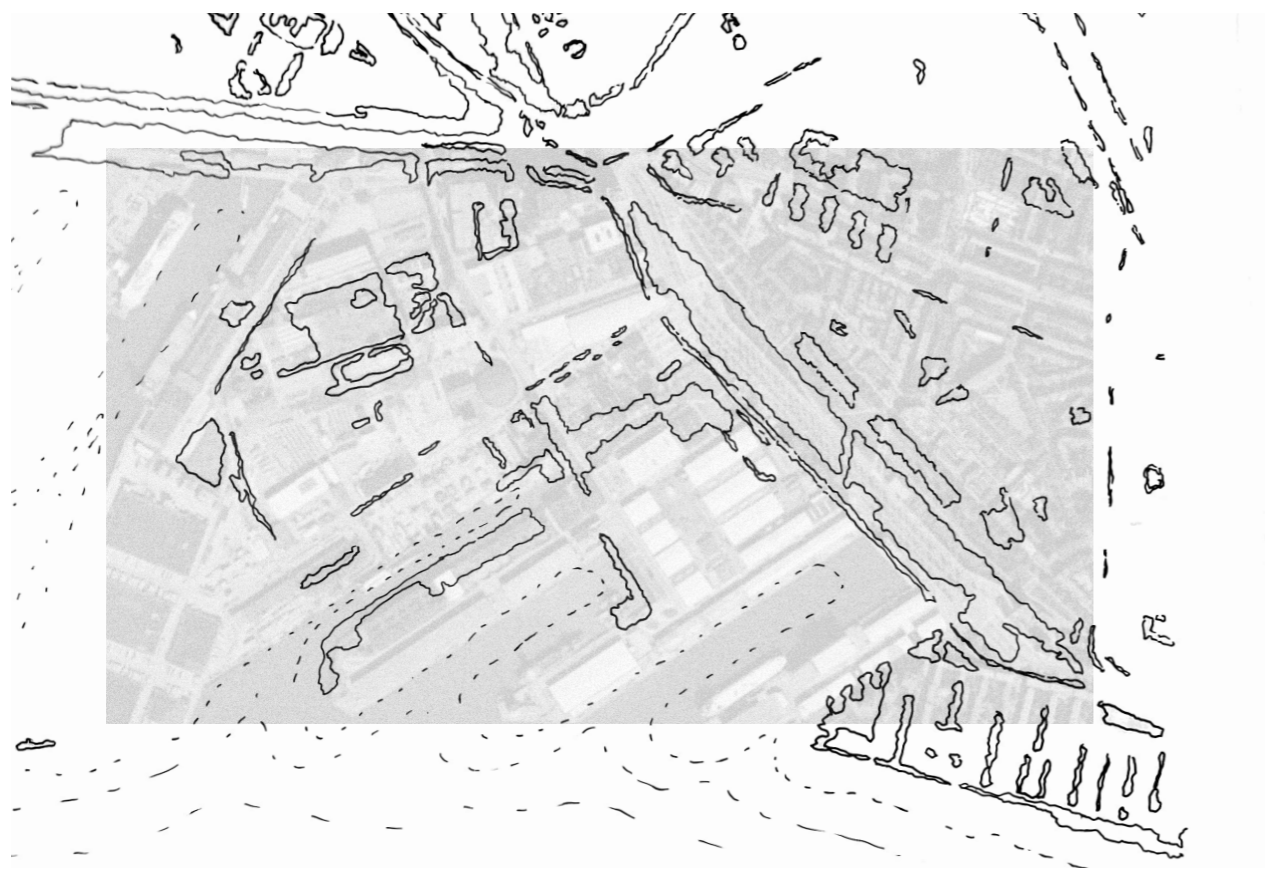
FILM



A photograph of a window box overflowing with lush green plants. The plants have various leaf shapes, some with prominent veins. A single purple flower is visible on the right side. The window box is set against a white wall with a window frame. The text "thank you :)" is written in a white, cursive font across the center of the image.

*thank you :)*





*expanding a network*

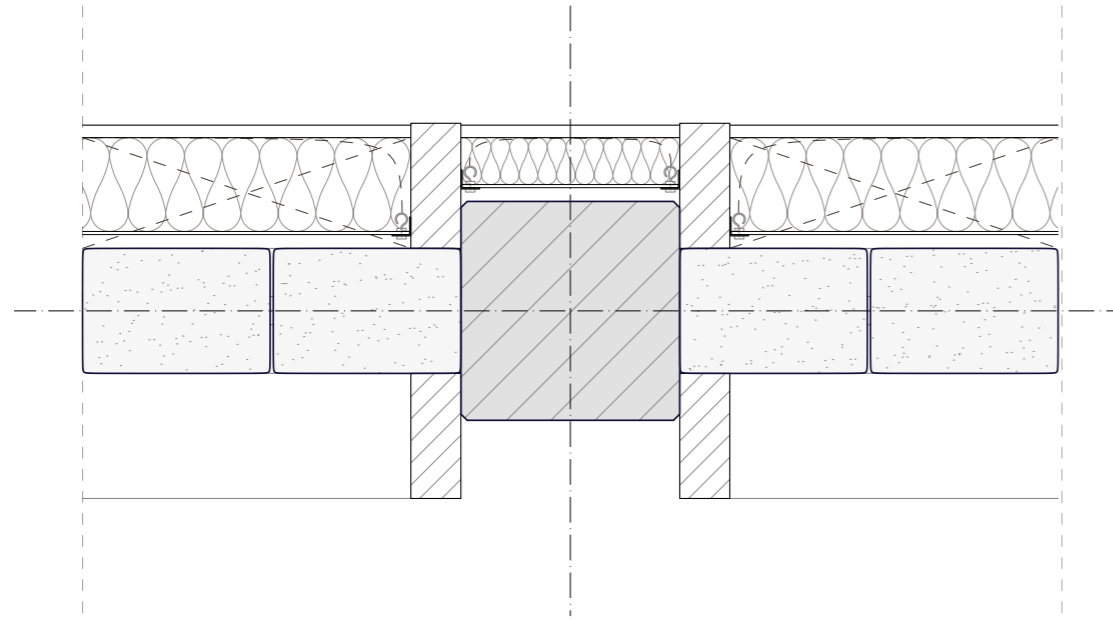


Figure 4.27 | Detail A. New wall, existing concrete column, timber framework, rammed demolition waste blocks, metal mesh, reed insulation, loam finish

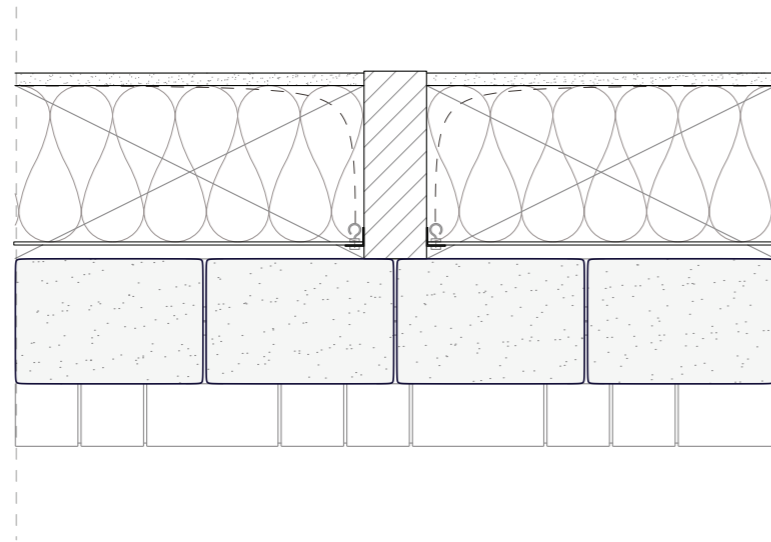


Figure 4.28 | Detail B. New wall, rammed demolition waste wall, with brick top layer, timber framework, rammed demolition waste blocks, metal mesh, reed insulation, loam finish

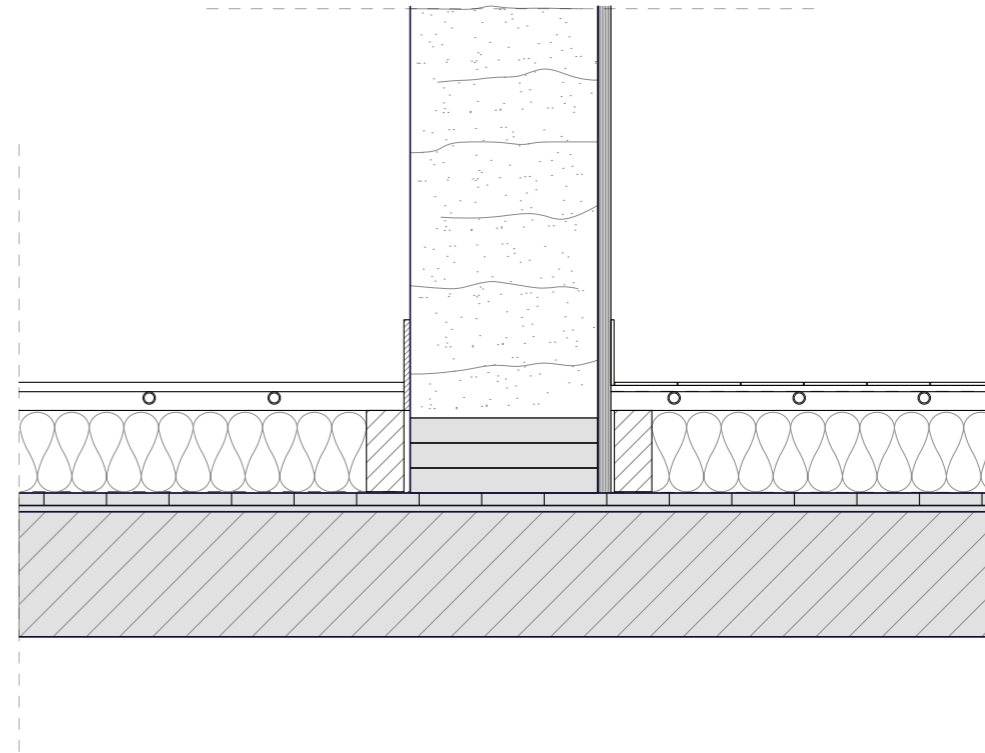
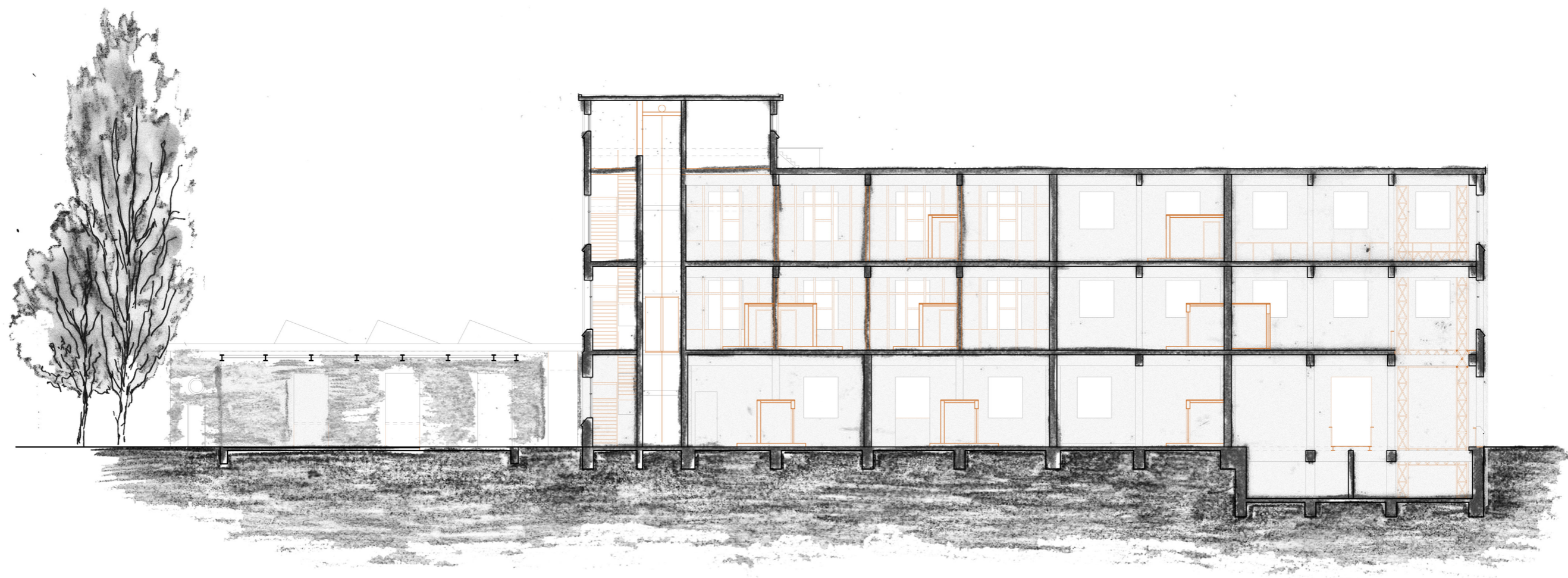


Figure 4.29 | Detail C. Service core wall-floor, existing concrete floor slab with tiles, timber floor structure, insulation layer, dry underfloor heating system, wooden floorboard, rammed demolition waste wall, concrete plywood



*section*

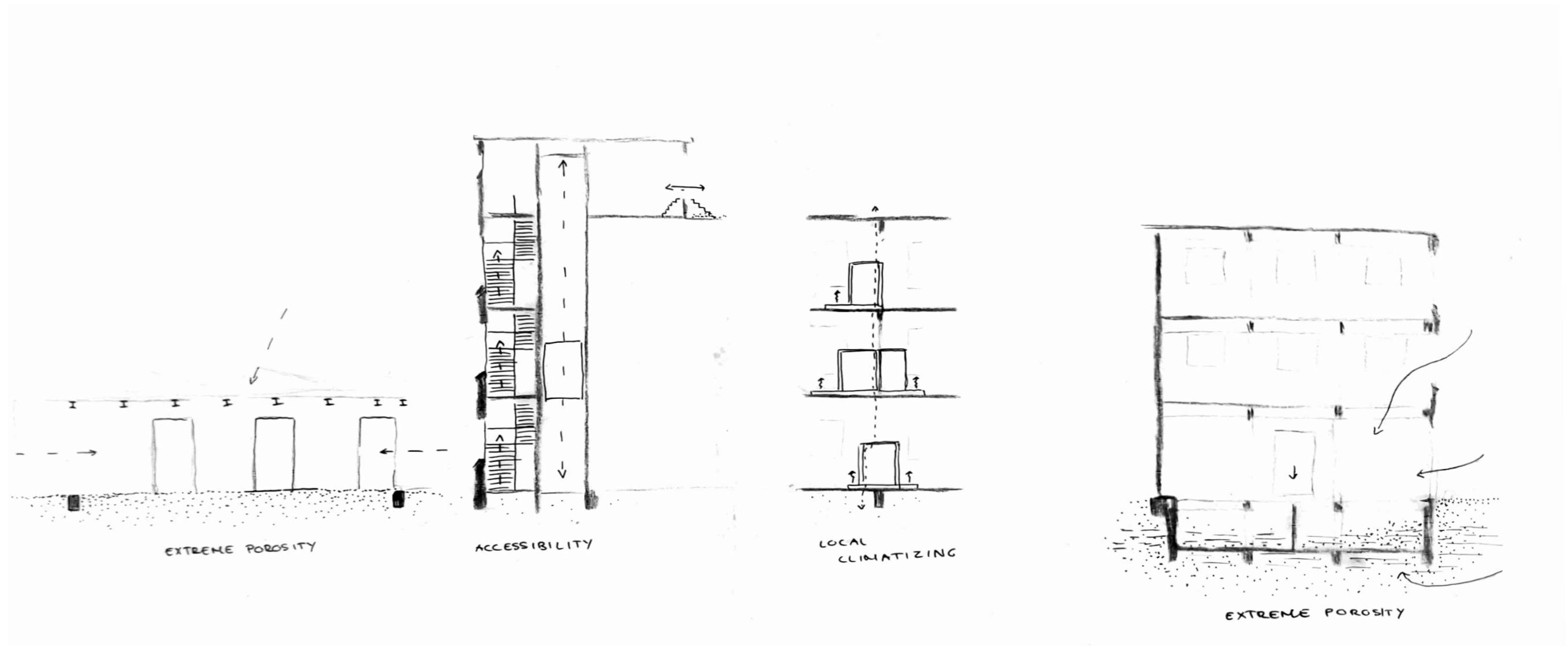


Figure 4.14 | Conditions. Enabling different processes.

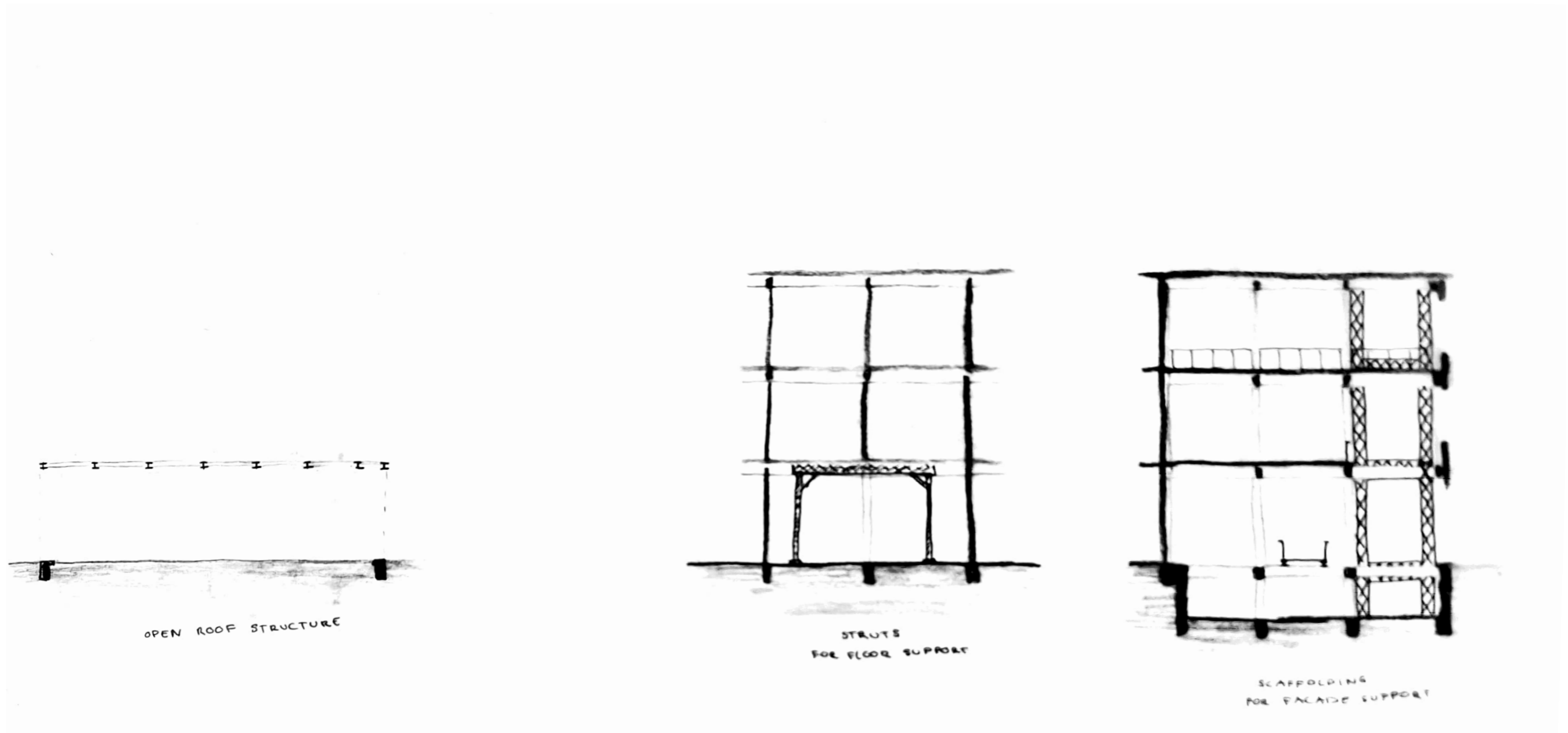
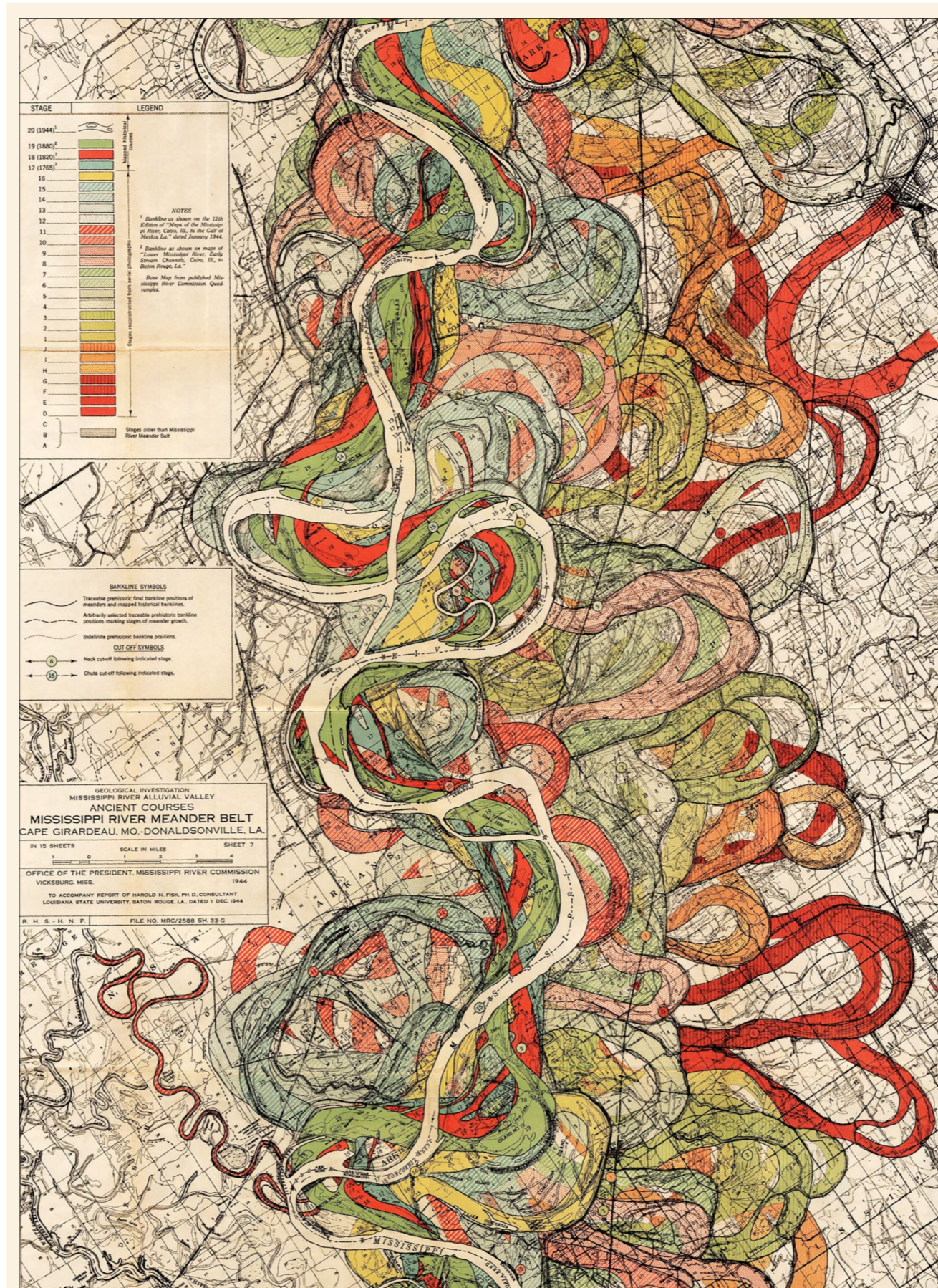
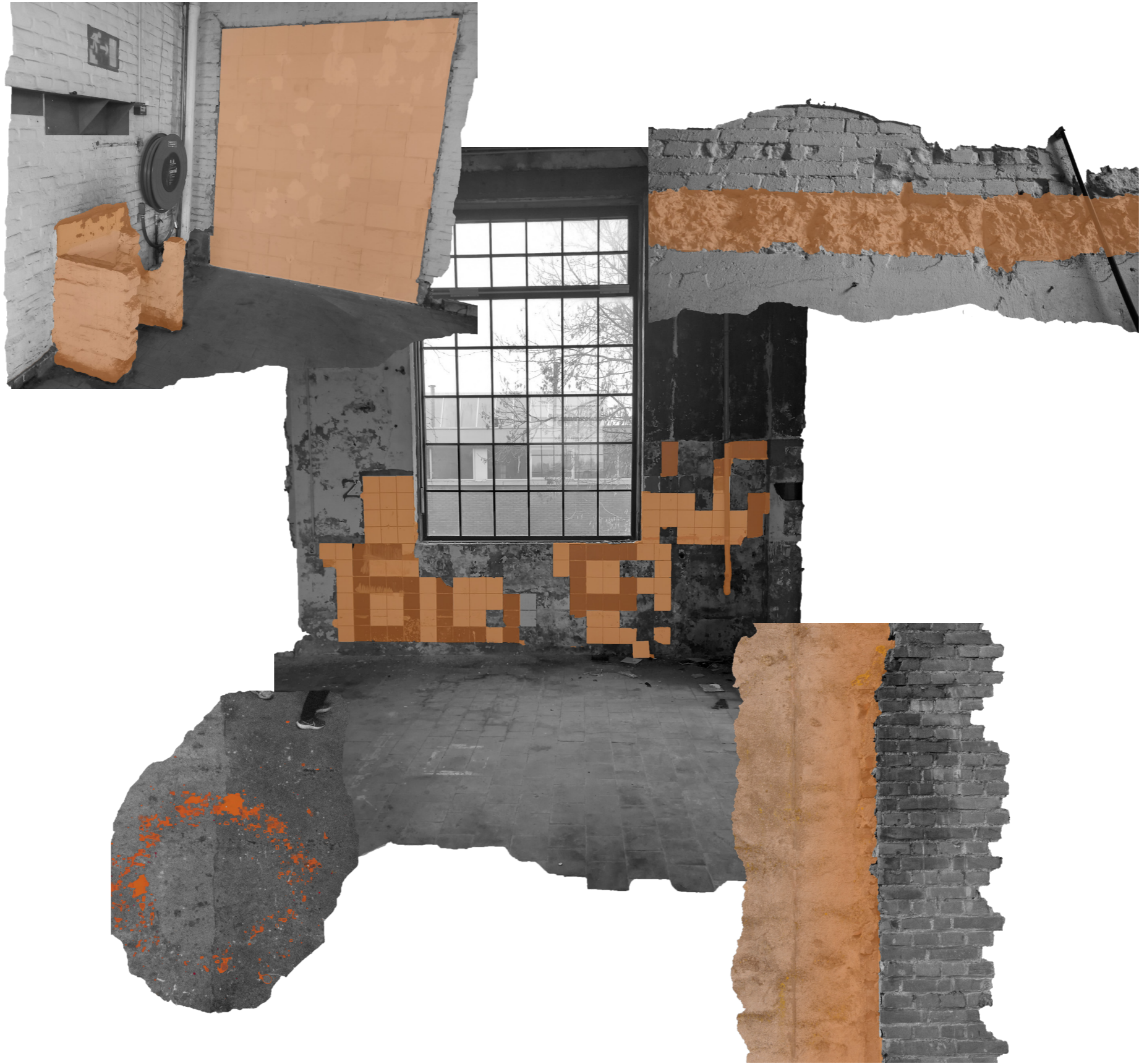


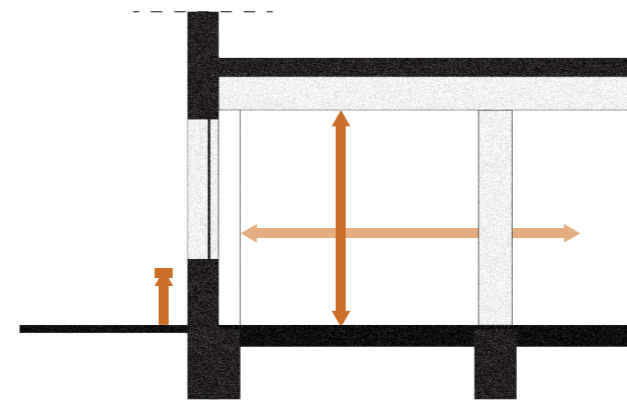
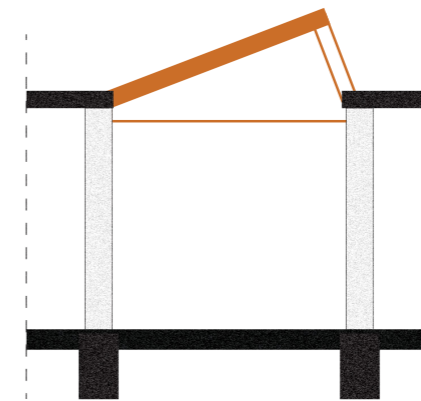
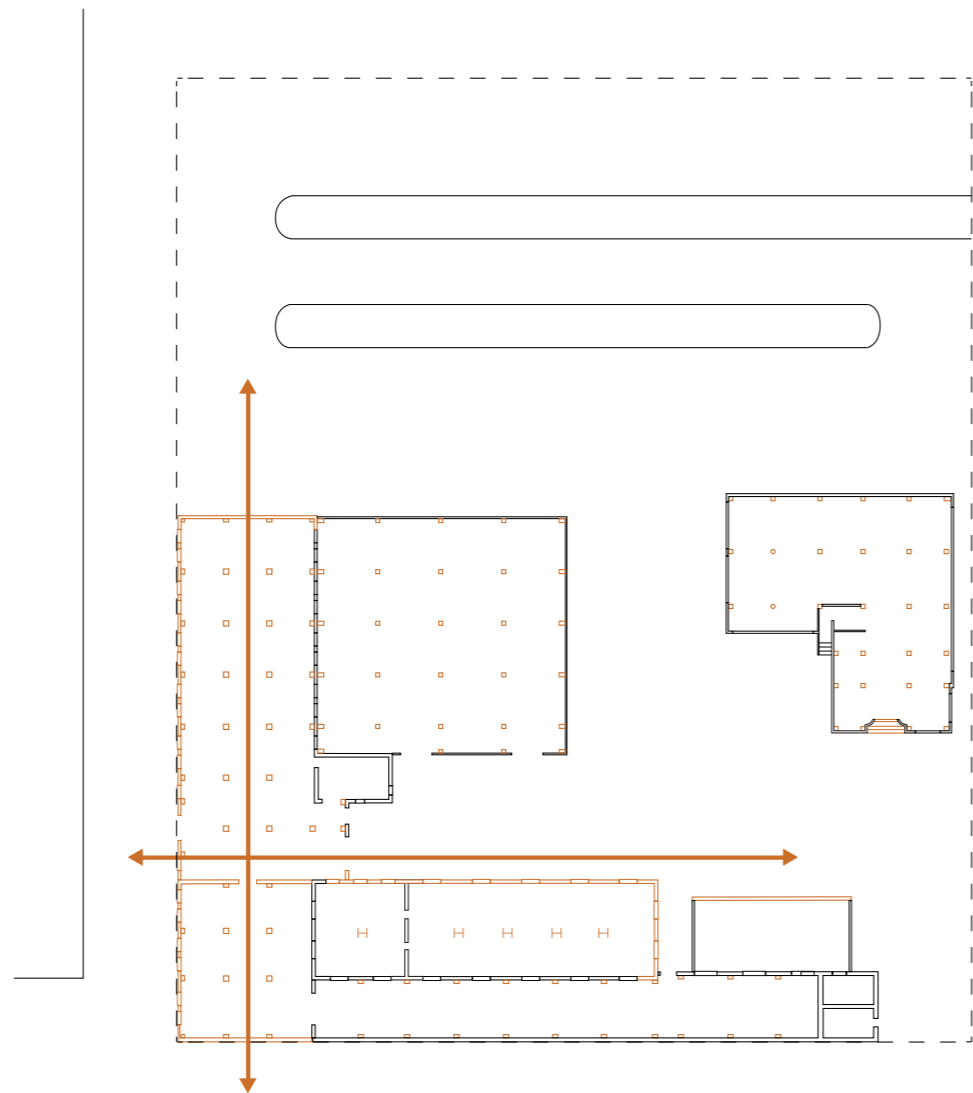
Figure 4.8 | Safety. Three load-bearing systems.



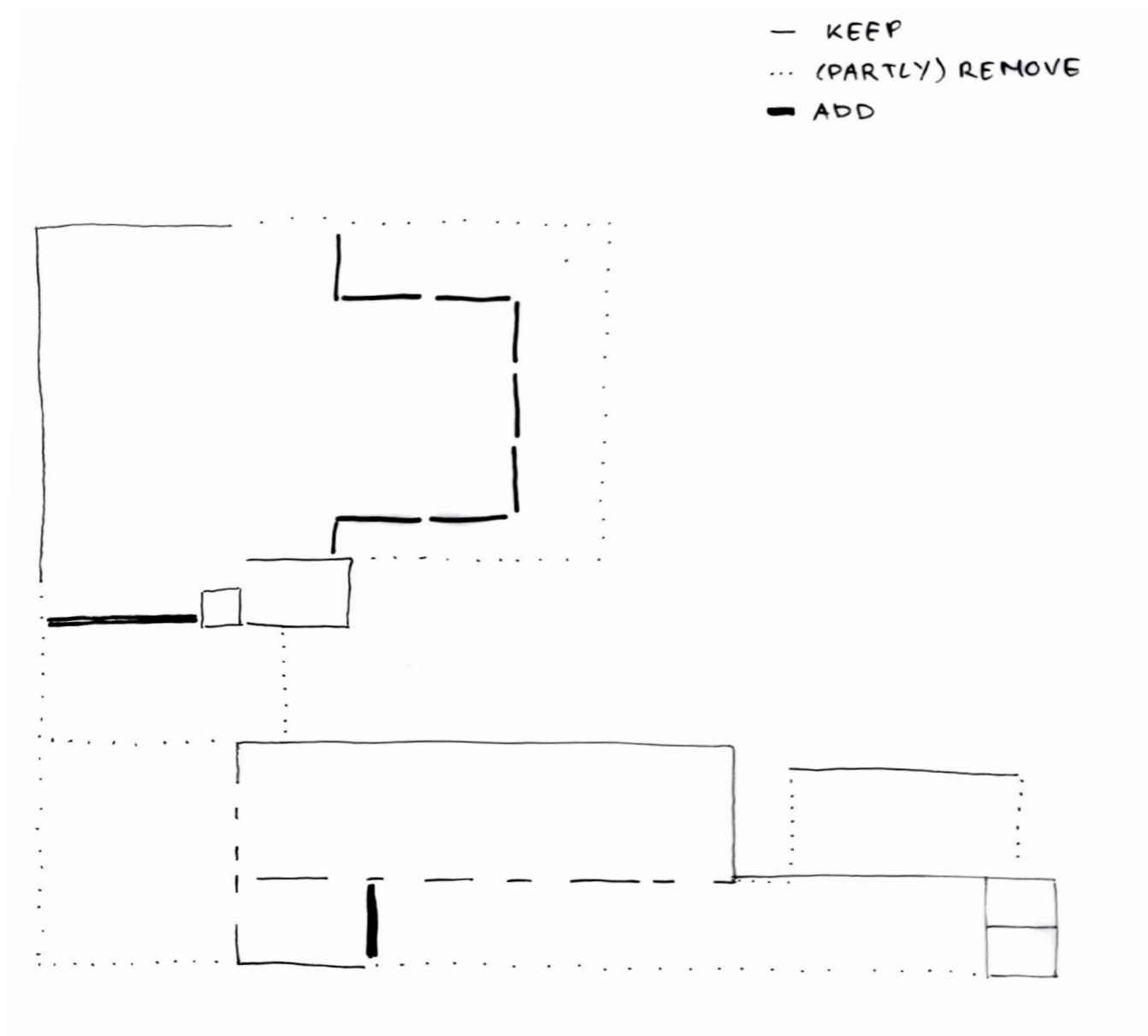
Mississippi River. The changes of the meandering are shown by the mapping of the historical floodplains. (Harold Fisk, 1944)



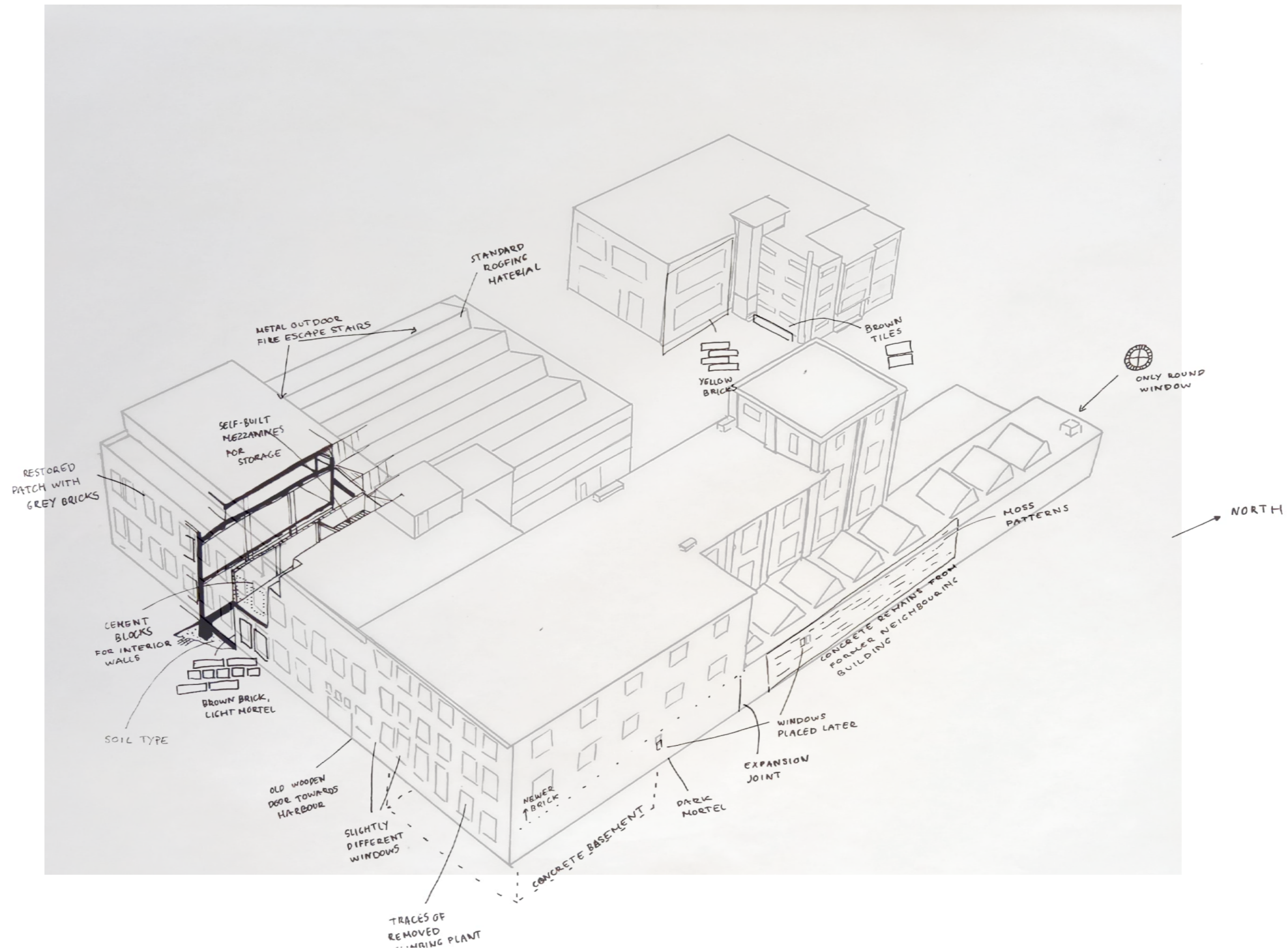
*traces*



*palimpsest: structure*



*different ways of working*



*process*

## cohabitation

All types of users/actors are welcome. Treat the other with care and respect. The time that living spaces can be used is indefinite. The condition of the space determines the use. While the interior of the space can be altered, this should not significantly hinder the neighbouring spaces.

## safety

The building is meant to evolve. To ensure safety, once an interior space is exposed to the elements, regular check-ups should be done. Once the structure of the ceiling/roof starts to deteriorate, a mesh or net should be suspended, and struts should be placed to ensure the safety of life above and below the structure. Once an area of the building is no longer safe to enter for humans, this should be accepted. Other actors get to inhabit the space.

## building and unbuilding

The framework of the development is set. The demolished materials can be sorted, stored and worked with on-site. Walls can be built with rammed demolition waste wall blocks. The permanent structures are made from metal, while the transient structures must be constructed from biodegradable materials, such as timber and straw. The additional structures are not supposed to completely cover the existing surfaces but must be added for specific conditions.

## gardening with the building

Rather than imposing a design, users should react to the present happenings in and around the building and work from there. The palimpsest and the processes should lead the development.

*a foundation*