

THE INCLUSIVE CITY an asylum seekers centre in Maastricht as a polycentric anticlave network of institutional housing



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INTRODUCTION

Because of the preoccupation with safety and control, Dutch society at the end of the twentieth century developed **fear for the unknown**, for the 'other'. Trying to

exclude possible risks, society interiorised and withdrew into a state of institutionalised living. As a result the stamina to confront the 'other' in the public domain weakened. The current situation can be evaluated by the historical precedents of institutionalised living. The **network of institutions in Dutch 17th century** that dealt with outsiders proved to be a humane and relatively peaceful way to bridge the gap between insiders and outsiders.

Asylum seekers, being the most controversial outsiders of

today, are dealt with however in an opposite way. Underneath the applied centralised housing system lies a **panoptic model** due to which asylum seekers are excluded and stigmatised. In order to strengthen the stamina to confrontation, the architectural design project, based on the polycentric model, tries to depolarise society by including outsiders into the cracks and gaps of the city.

The asylum seekers centre is a result of the way the Dutch deal with outsiders nowadays. Instead of the panoptic

model, today the polycentric network could again serve as a model in order to deal with the housing of asylum seekers. The architectural design project is an alternative proposal for an asylum seekers centre, as a '**polycentric, anticlave network of institutionalised housing**', and redefines the limiting perimeters of the Dutch culture.

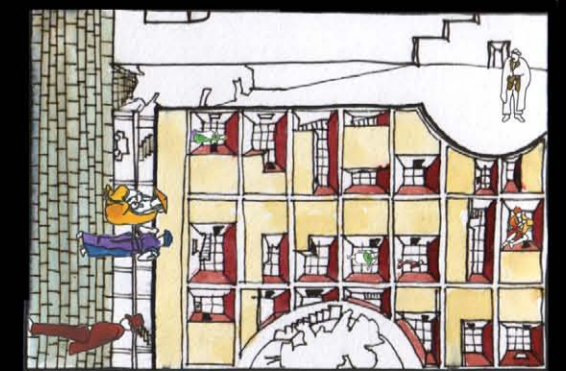
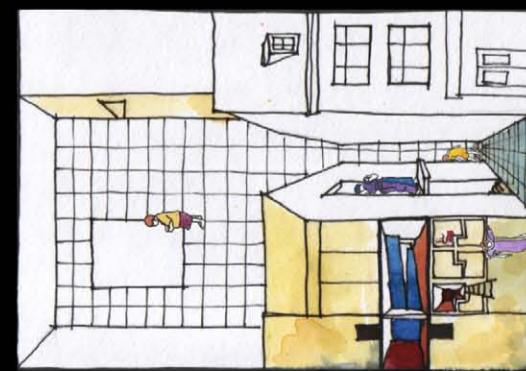
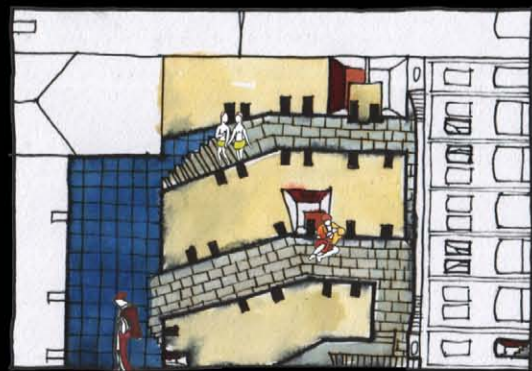
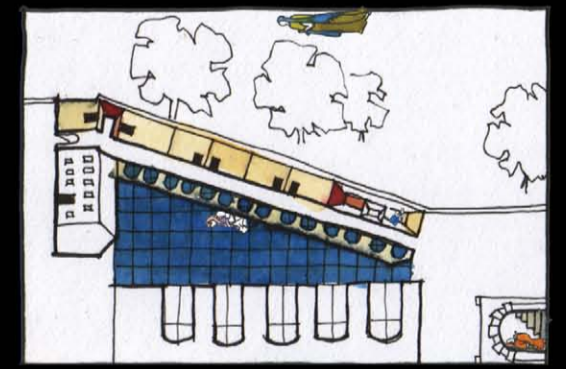
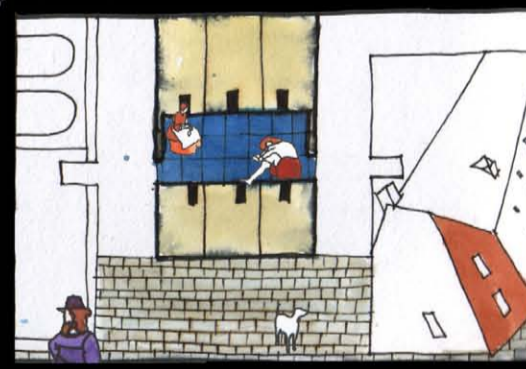
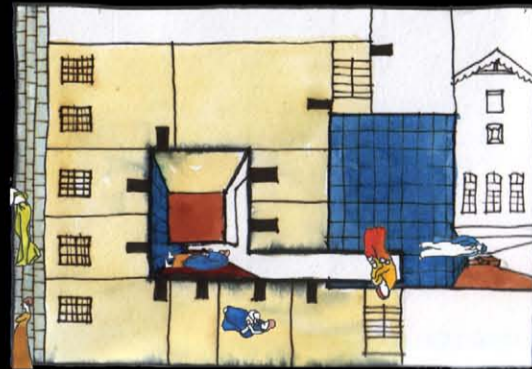
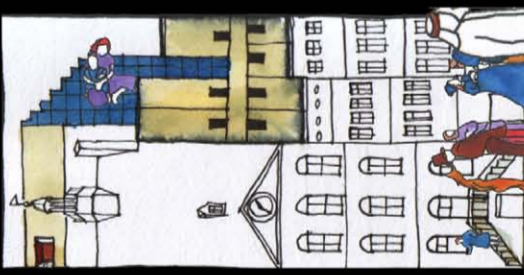
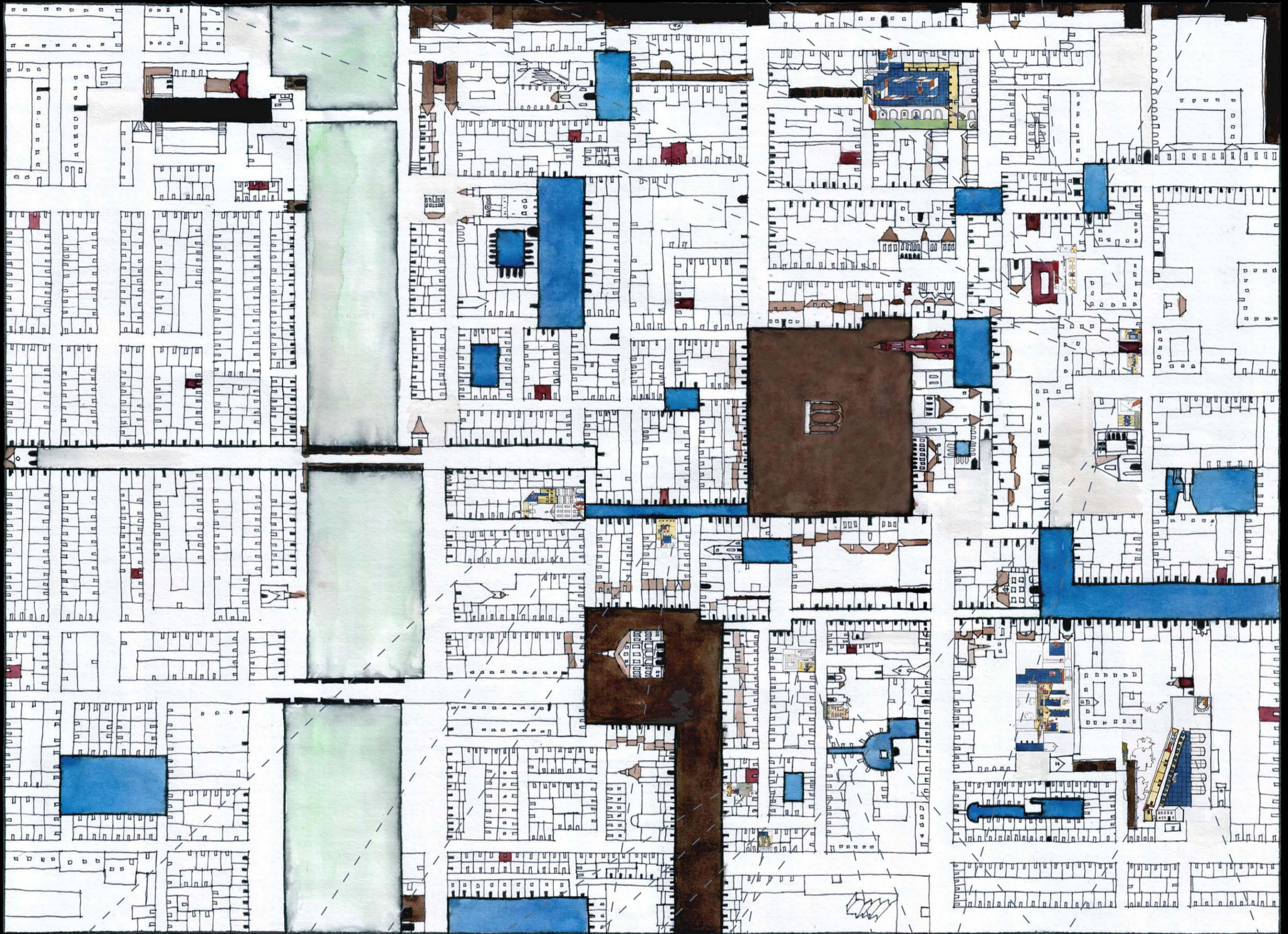
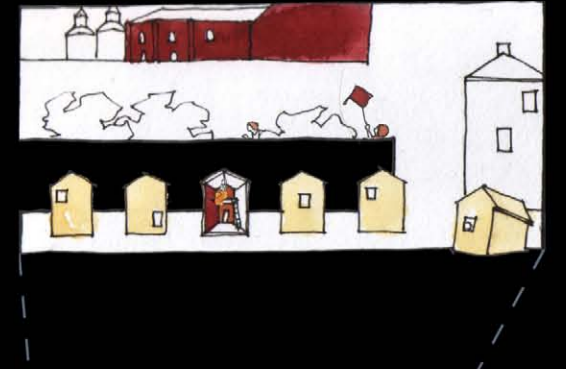
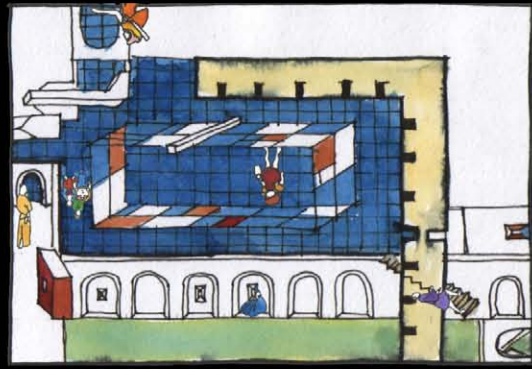
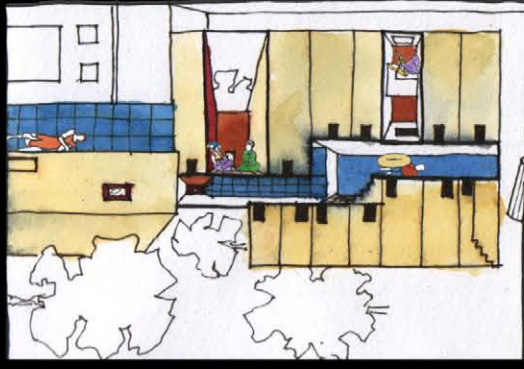
MAASTRICHT

The city of Maastricht is specifically suitable for the implementation of the polycentric scheme. It has a well

preserved fabric, but more importantly has the secrecy of the hidden, unexplored enclosed spaces that form a secondary collective network in the city. The collective space, typologically defined in Maastricht by the gatehouses, patios, courtyards and setbacks, form an extremely refined tissue to which the polycentric interventions can relate. The collective space as a mediator between the dwelling-unit and the public domain, plays a key role in generating space for **confrontation with 'the other'**.

perspective view / 13 interventions in the old city of maastricht

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13 BUILDINGS

The project tries to normalise the dwelling situation of asylum seekers as much as possible. It does so by dividing the common asylum seekers centre into many small parts that interweave in an existing urban fabric.

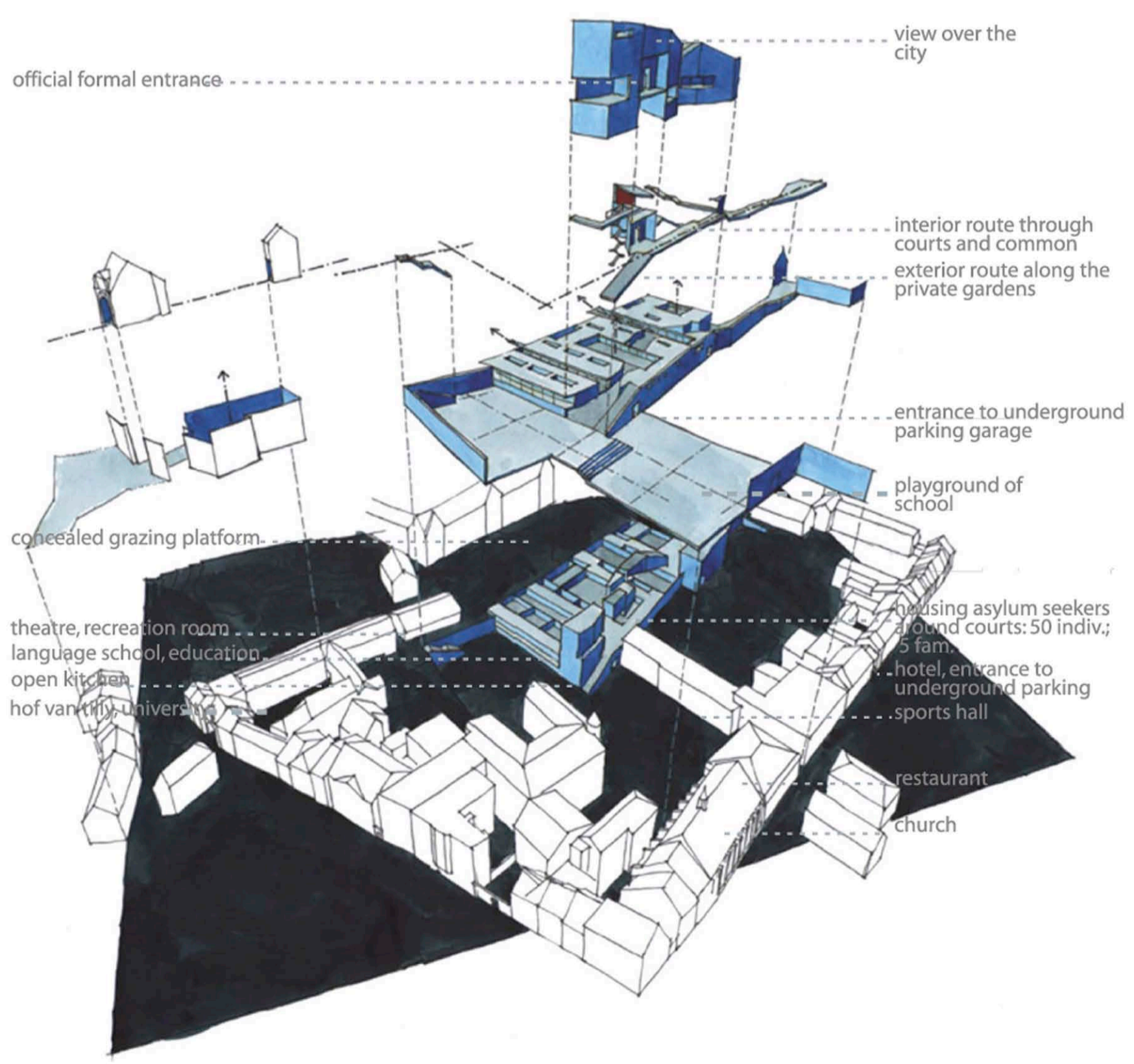
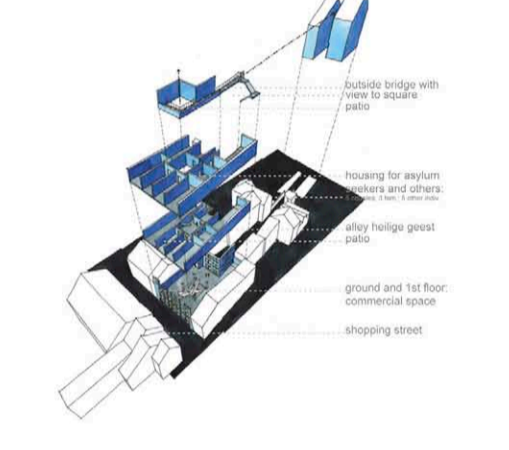
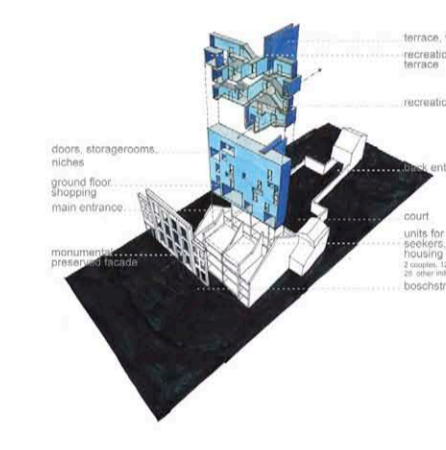
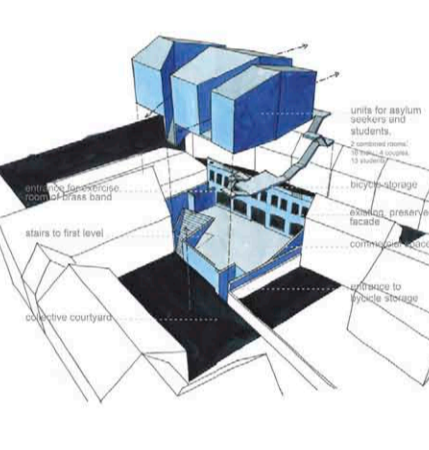
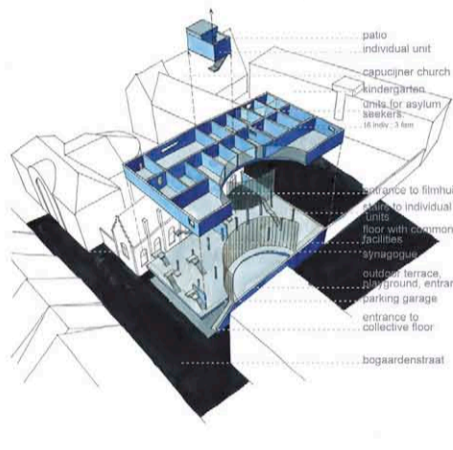
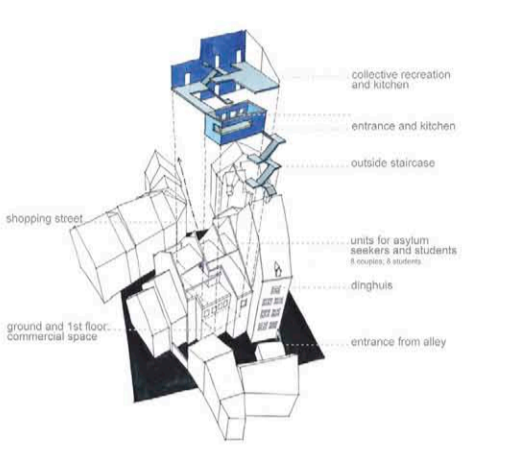
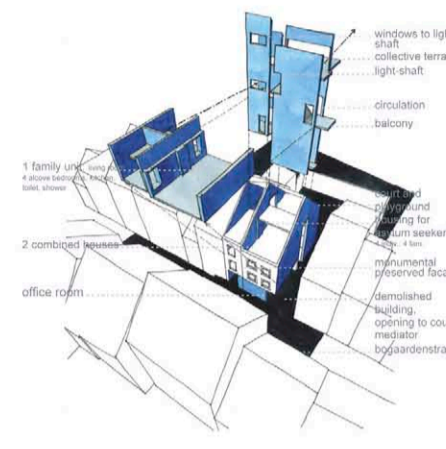
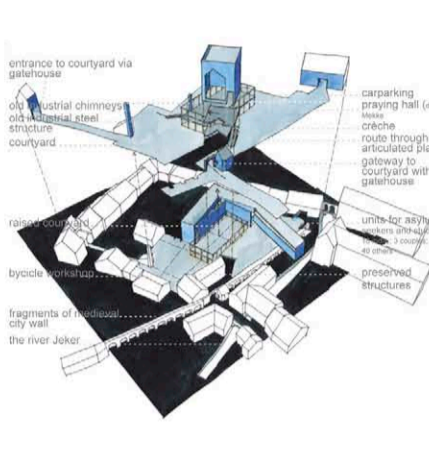
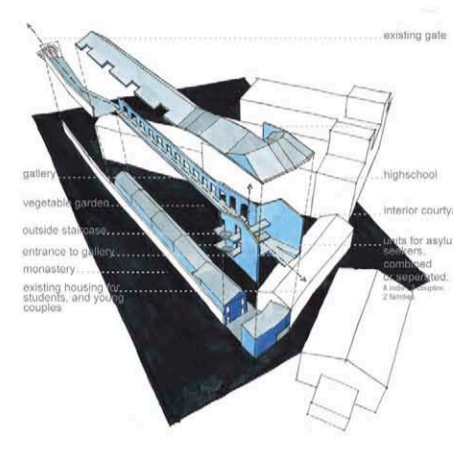
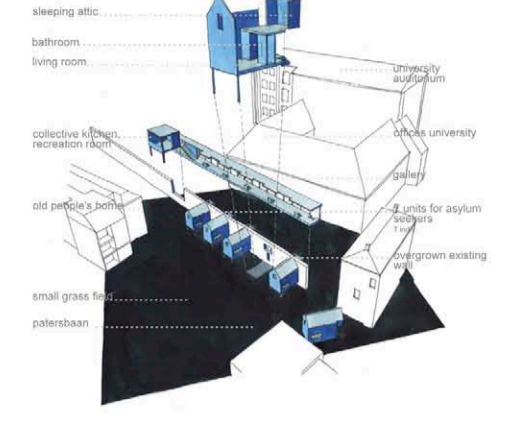
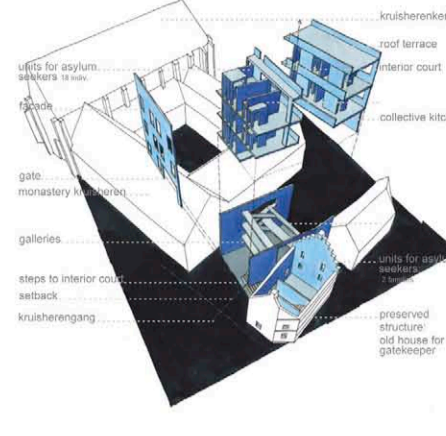
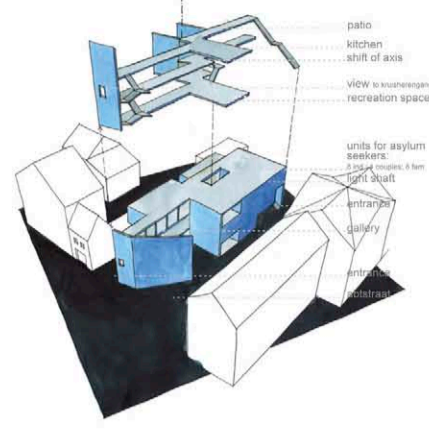
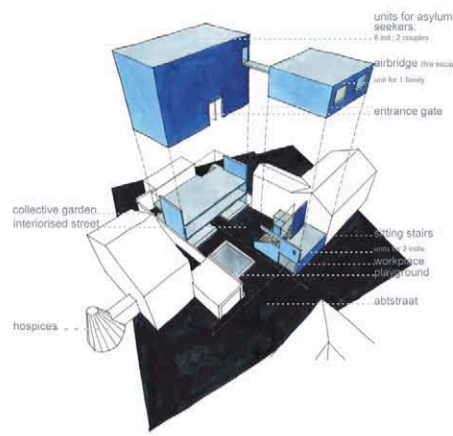
The program is divided over thirteen different sites in Maastricht. Thirteen design proposals for these sites show the typological and spatial programmatic possibilities of this scheme.

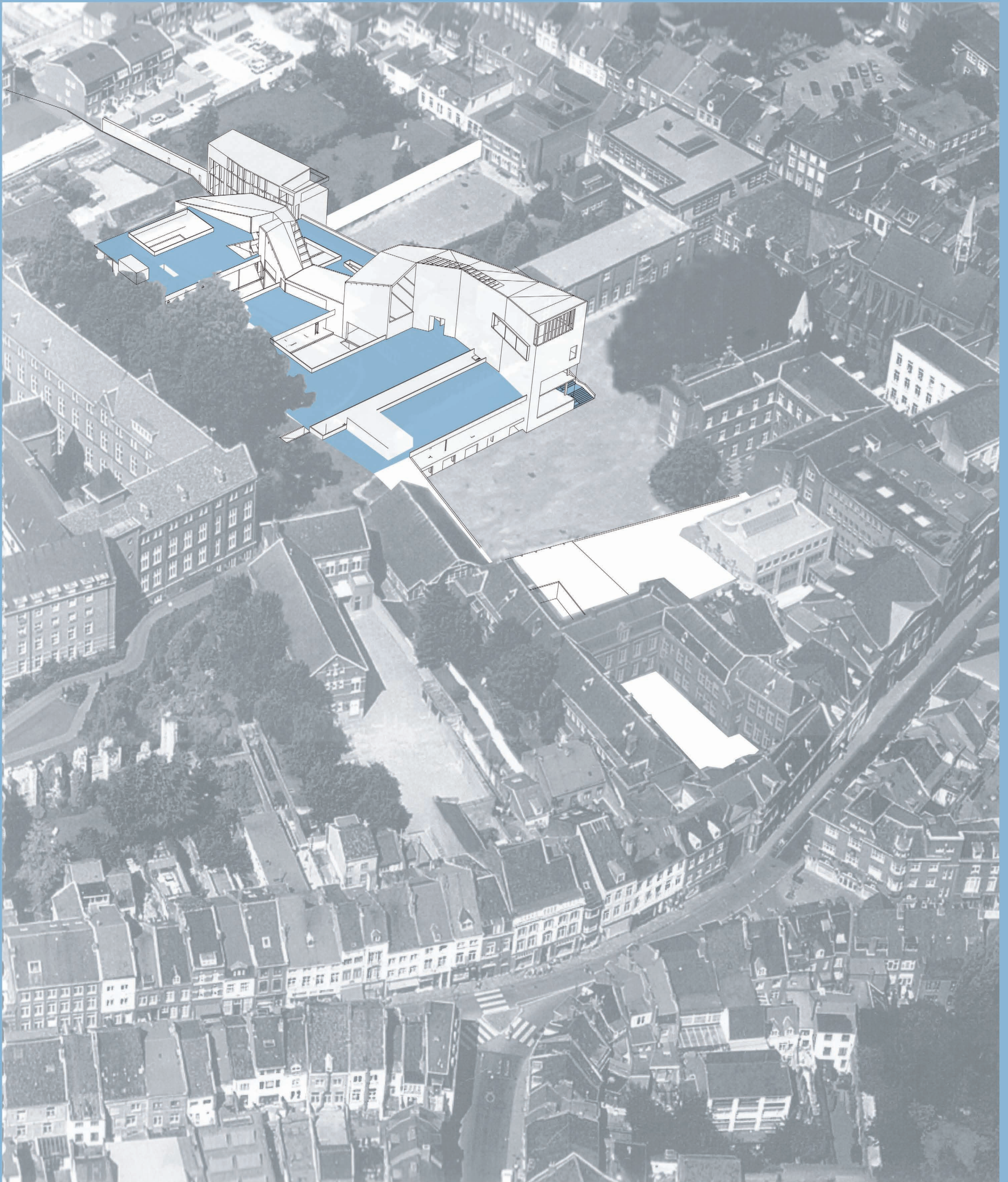
Several sites are chosen with different conditions of the

city in order to create the possibility of fitting in the asylum seeker centre in several different contexts. Most interesting for this study has been to choose sites which have a common identity, but have slightly different parameters, for example in its urban space form, density, openness, and character. The sites are selected by criteria

of having a desired variety of openness and inclusive quality, addressing to programmatic needs in the neighborhood, having a strategic position in triggering development, and mostly of being able to mediate in the cracks and gaps of the urban tissue. Furthermore a certain physical proximity of the sites enables the

organization of the asylum seekers centre to be located on one servicing centre that functions as a reference point for the other centers.





SITUATION HOF VAN TILLY

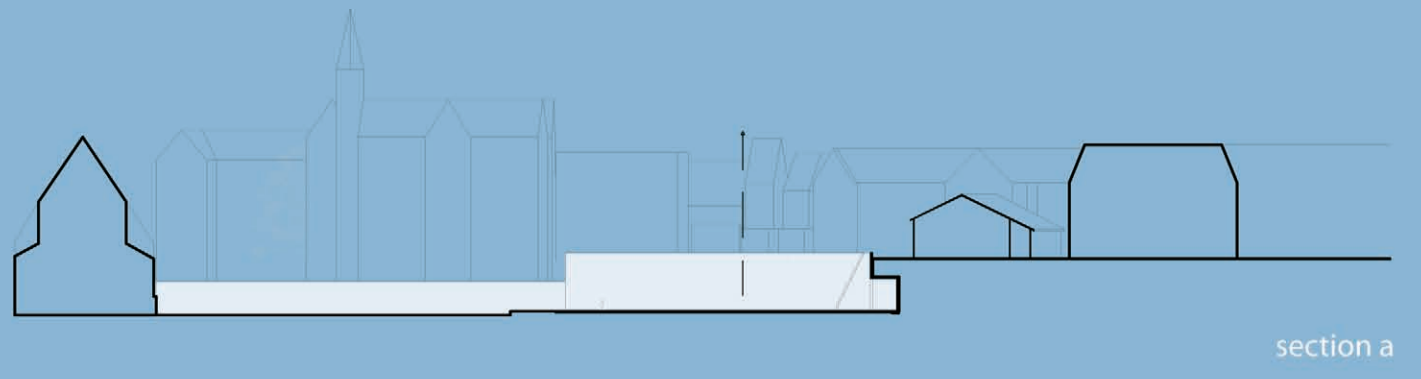
The design for the **main facility centre** for the asylum seekers centre in combination with the densest housing scheme of 100 inhabitants is developed to an architectural project. It is located in the interior of the building block near the 'Hof van Tilly'.

The intervention strengthens the historical atmosphere of **forgotten and unexplored places**, and exploits the site instead of parking and overgrown temporary buildings, for the use of the city as a whole. The undulating volume with collective and public functions is shaped by its interaction with the environment. It overlooks the fabric

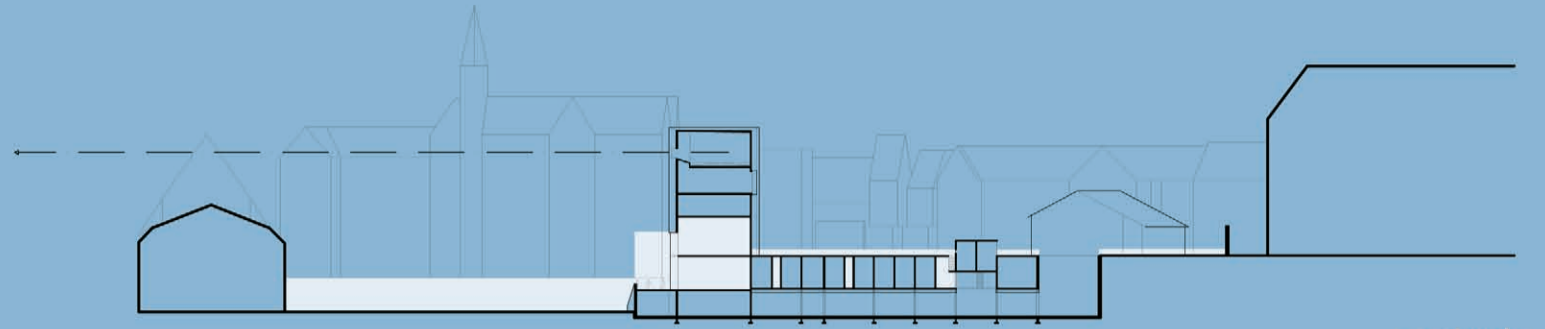
of Maastricht and makes a **long-distance relation** to the other 'civic' buildings such as the city hall and the churches, which are penetrating the skyline of Maastricht, without being obtrusive. The break in the tapering roof enables a long horizontal view from one side of the building via a frame towards the towers of the St. Servaas Church.

The enclosure formed by the building block creates a quasi-isolation of the housing scheme from the city. The interior of the building block is reached only through three entrances. All entrances form a natural barrier between the bustling city and the quiet interior. **No fences are needed** to keep out unwanted. Any top-down imposed control of the domain of the asylum seekers

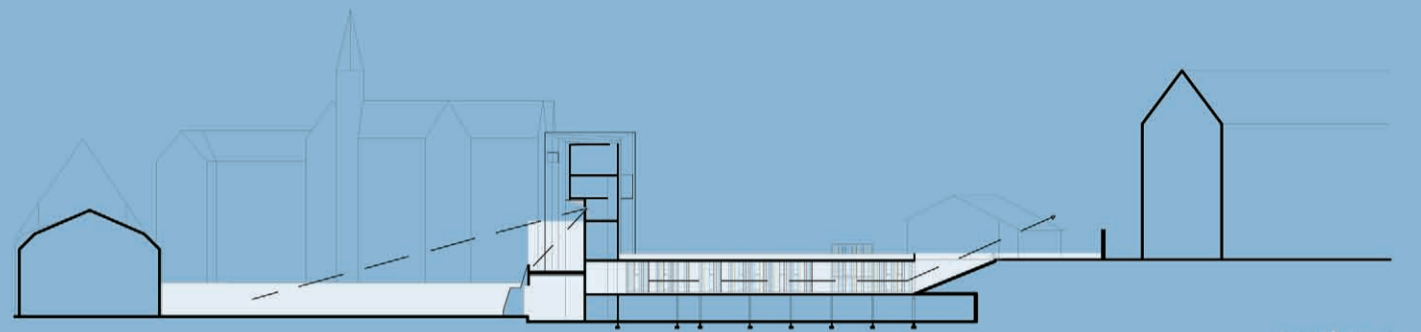
centre is made unnecessary by its **natural interior situation**. Other functions in the building block such as the university, a parking garage, an highschool, a planned restaurant and hotel are oriented both to the street and the interior, by which a mixed use of the interior outside space is ensured.



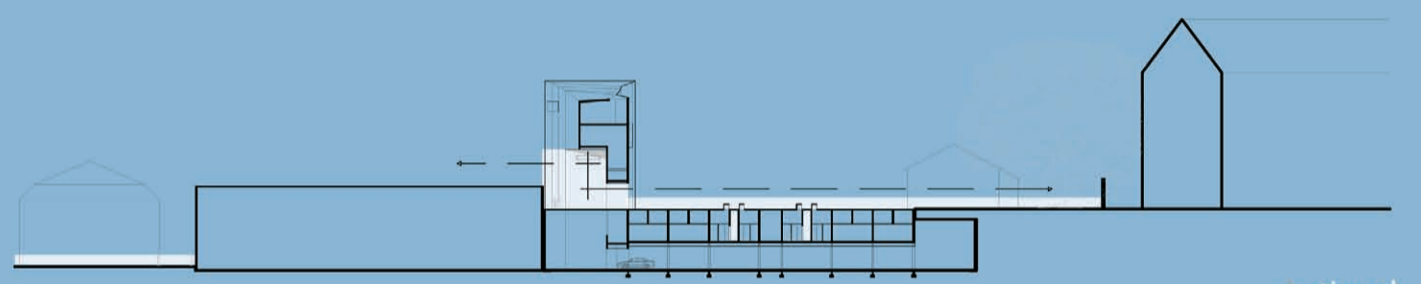
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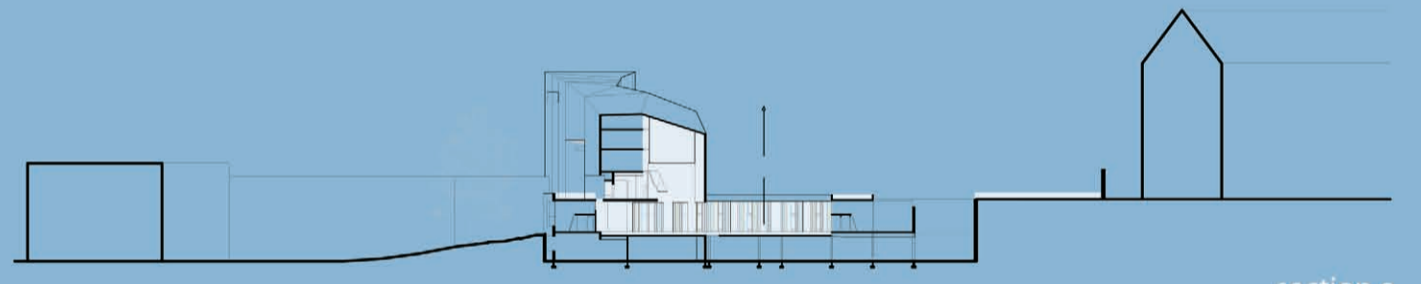
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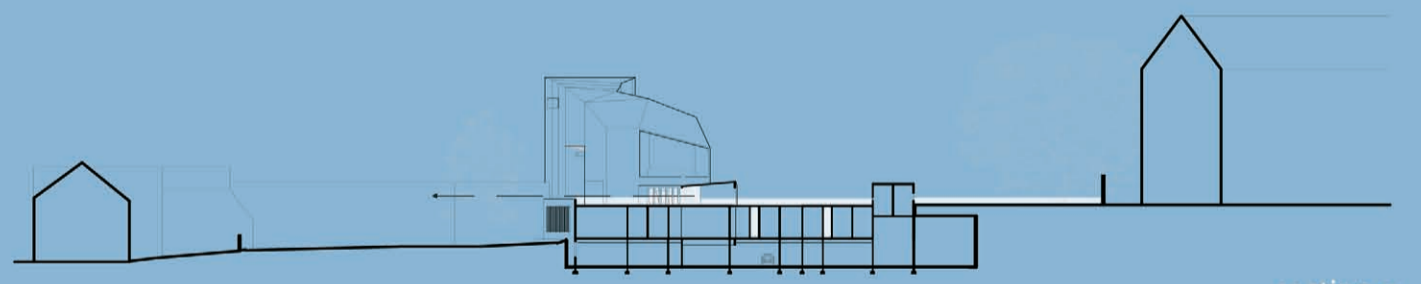
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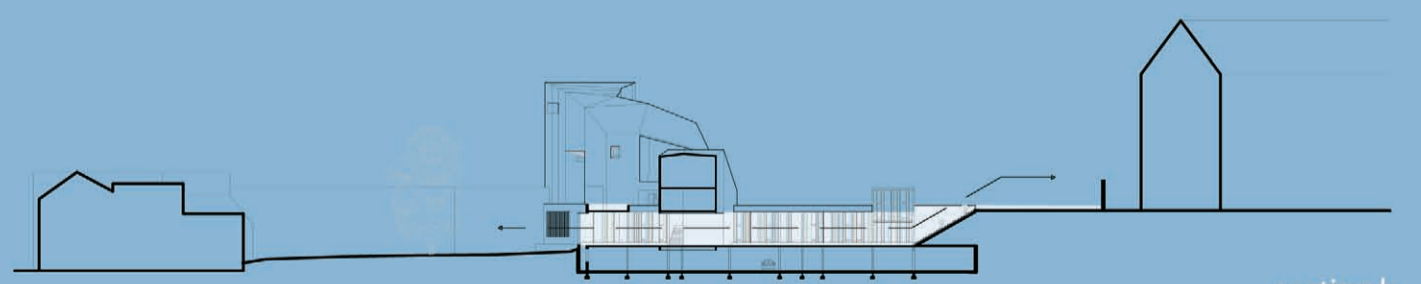
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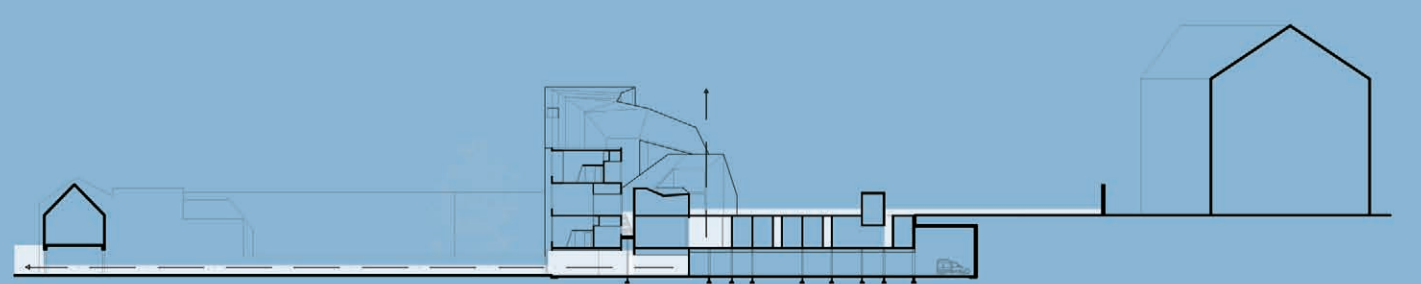
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section h

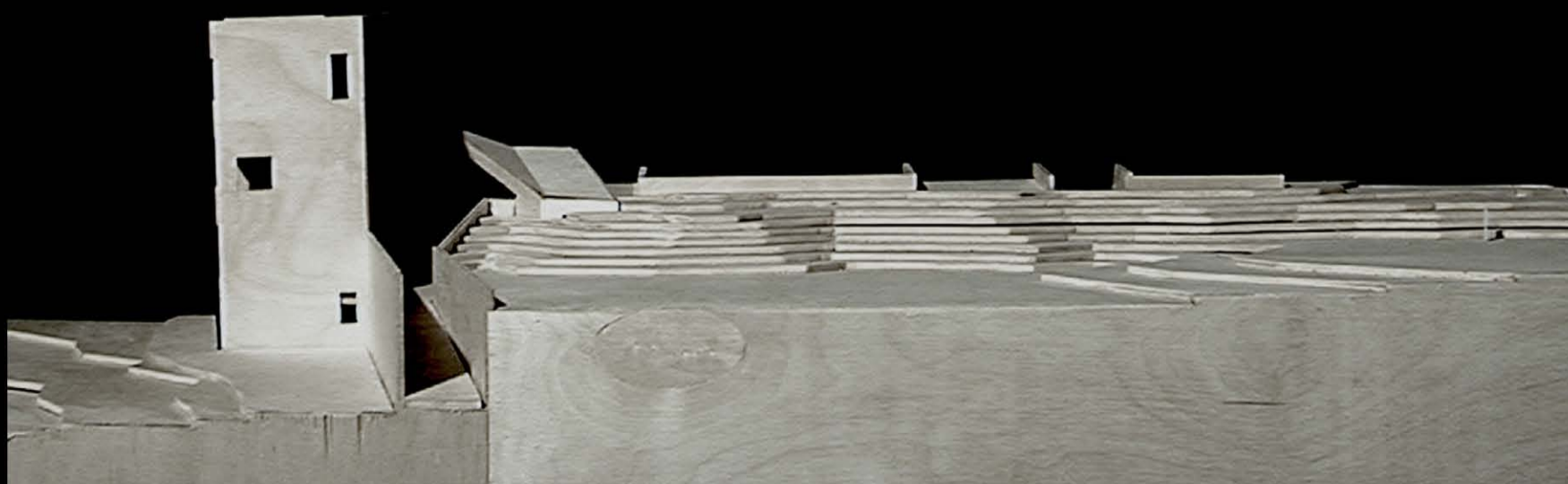
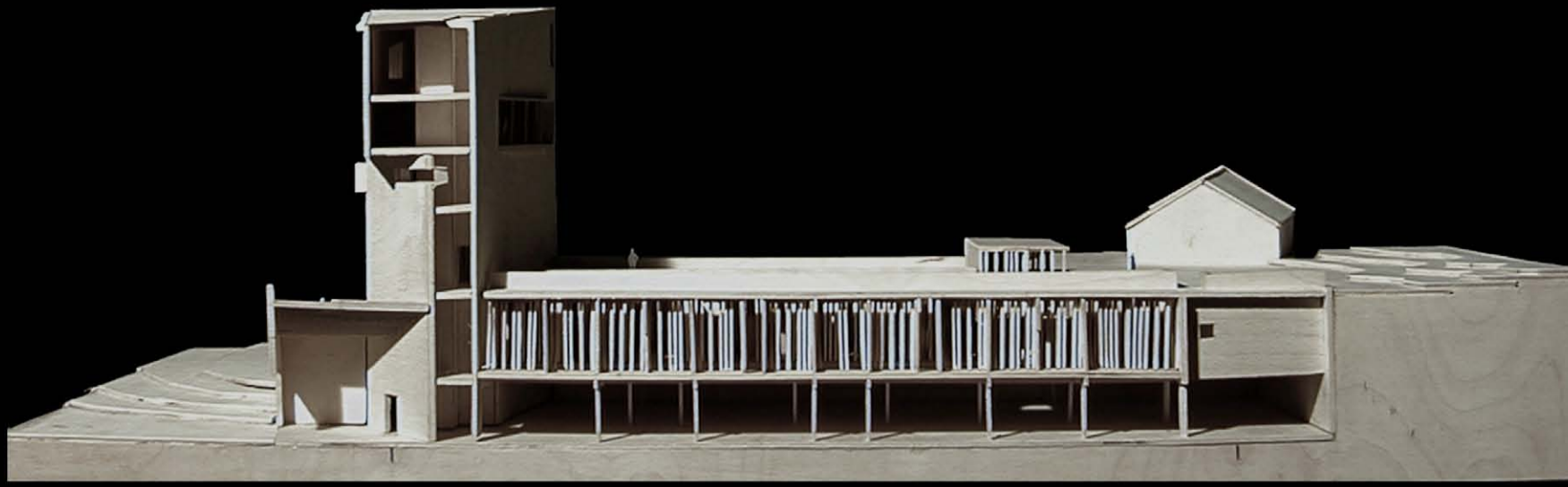


section i

LANDSCAPE AND ROUTE

A **public shortcut route** leads via a 'hofje' at one side of the building block to the other side up and down the hill, along the asylum seekers centre. The high undulating

white volume filters its public character towards the collective character of the housing scheme. A second route that **subtly interweaves** the courtyards, the accessible roof and the collective facilities of the asylum seekers centre links to the public shortcut route.

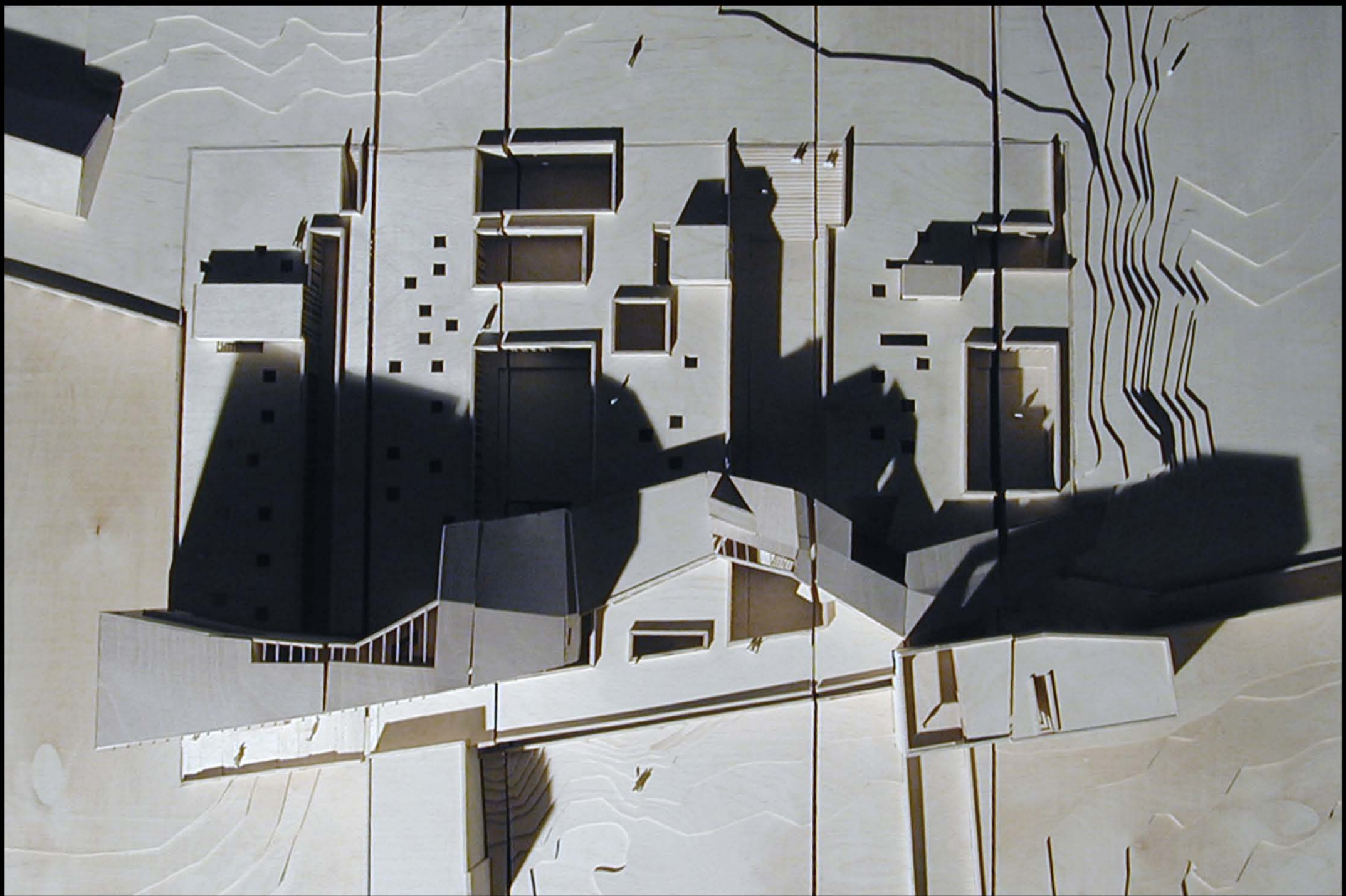
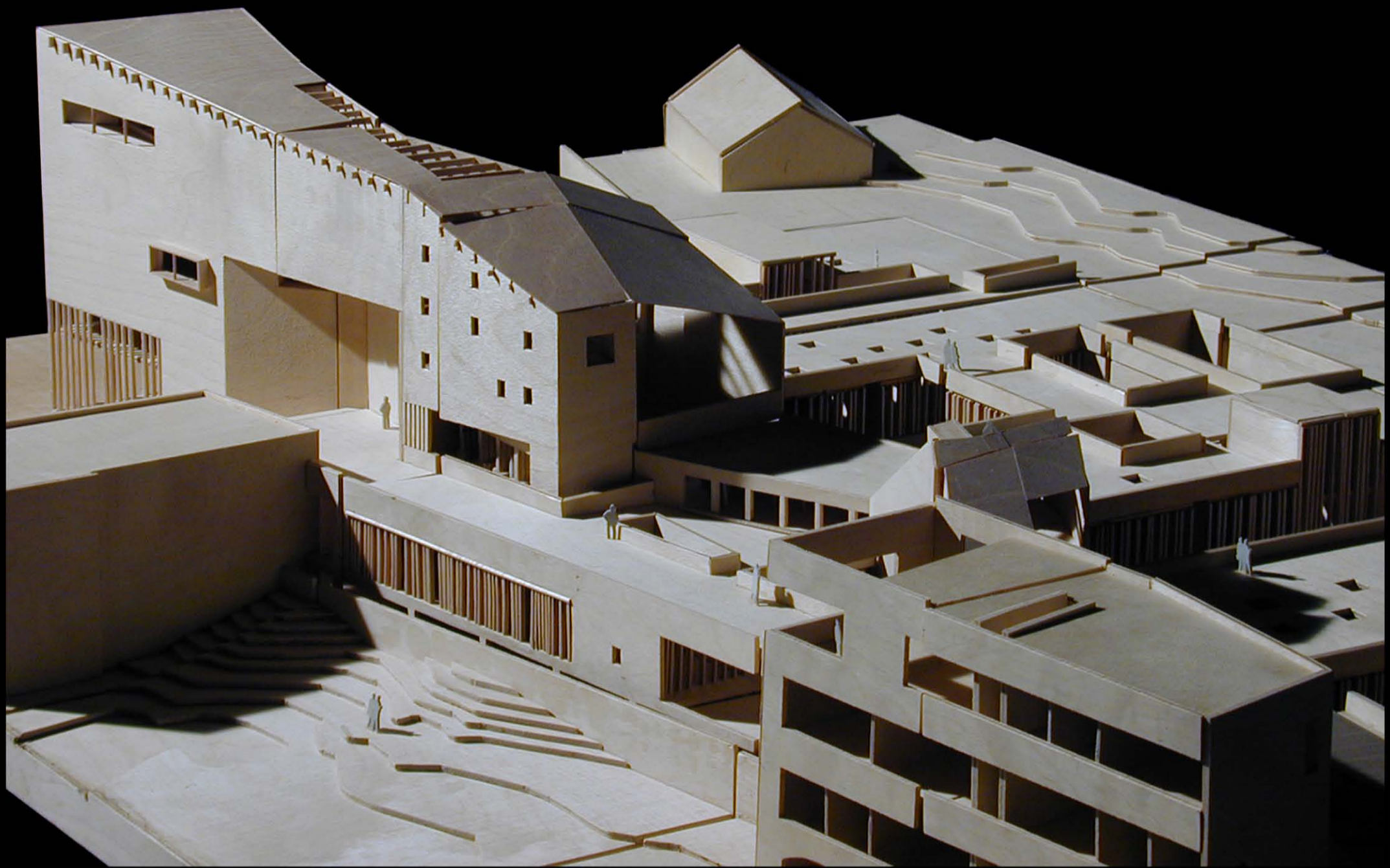


PLACES OF RETREAT

The minimally dimensioned housing units could on occasions come in conflict with its inhabitants needs for either social interaction or retreat. Patios serve as meeting places, and on occasions for festivities, but are normally

places of controlled superficial interaction. Corners and niches and benches on strategic spots, which nowadays mostly are condemned for their lack of control, are the actual places where sincere and thorough encounters takes place. Those places are marked in the scheme where a long view, a view on a busy path, isolated places, or

places that are formed by the exceptions which are created by the interaction of higher 'collective' volume with the housing slab. These places are given specific attention to because they are an essential factor in the social environment.





COMPOSITION

The 100 dwelling units are arranged around 4 patios, in a slab of 50 x 80 meters. This slab is pushed on two sides in the existing hill, and on the opposite sites looking out

on the surrounding. The framed sky by the patio, and the long horizontal views address both a sense of **enclosure and of freedom.**

PERMANENCE

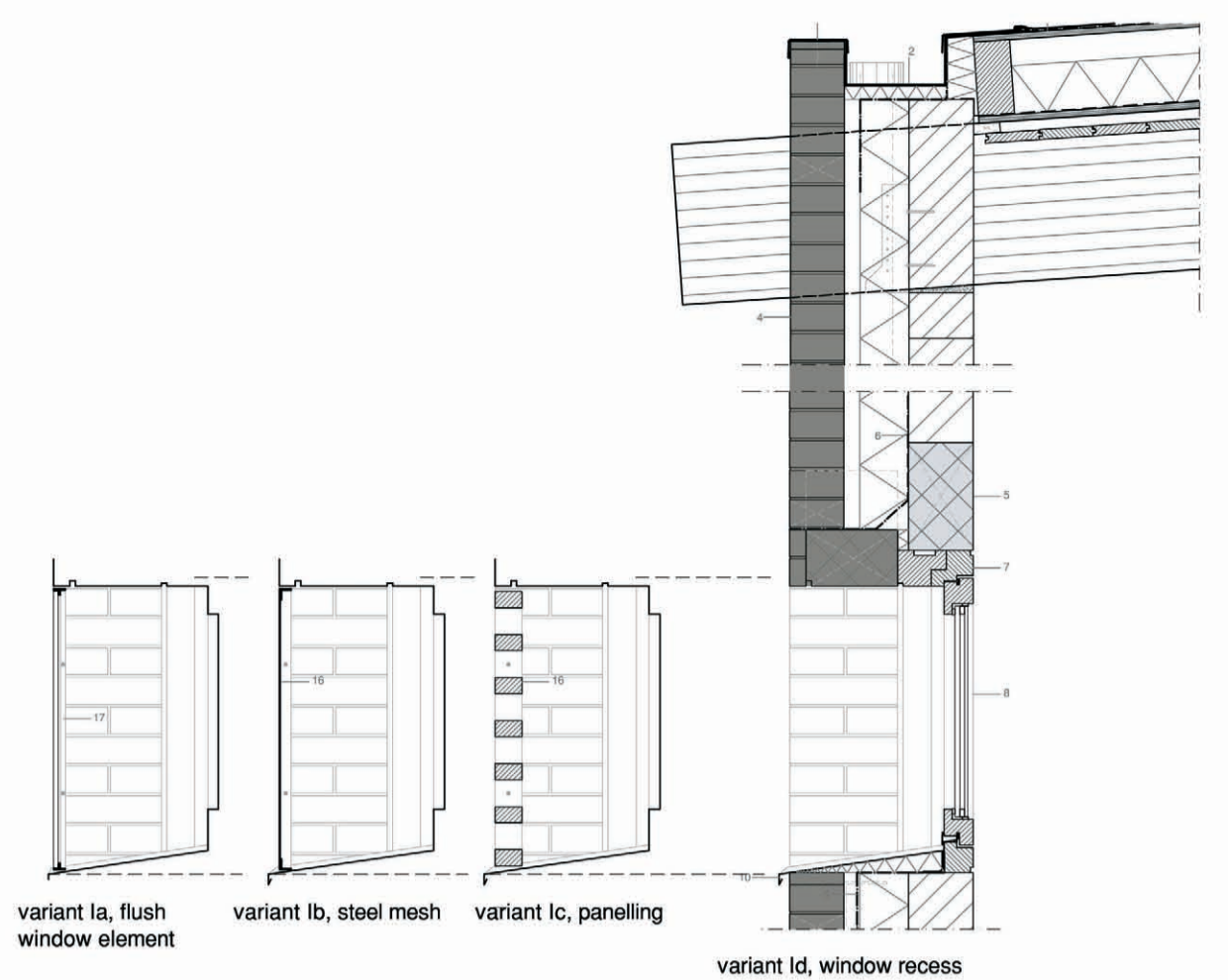
The housing for asylum seekers has to find a solution for two (initially) contrasting demands: a **permanent solution** for the housing of asylum seekers and dealing

with the **continuously and fast changing grouping** of inhabitants. The need for flexibility is resolved by proposing a permanent structure in which the flexible elements are minimized. Keeping economics and budgets into account, the housing scheme addresses to

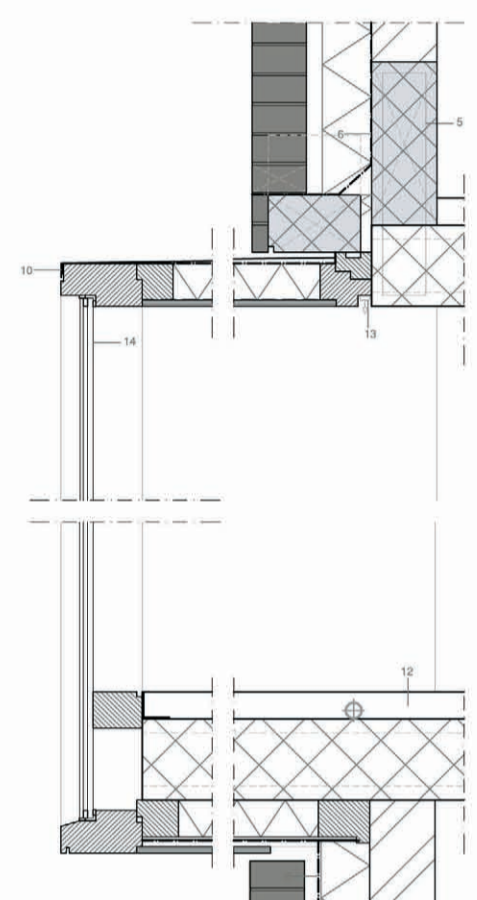
standards that seem reasonably tolerable. The dwelling units deal with themes related to **'ordinary dwelling'** such as domesticity, cosiness, durability, subtlety, approachability, and proximity.

- 1 roof construction
 - leaden sheet 300x400mm "fosagnes system"
 - bituminous roof sealing layer
 - 12 m three layer laminated boarding, 67x139mm wooden rafters, thermal insulation 90mm, vapour barrier, 12 m three layer laminated boarding
 - 20x40mm wooden rafters
 - 18mm tongued-and-grooved boarding
 - 80x300-600 laminated beams
- 2 aluminium gutter with hidden drainage pipe in cavity
- 3 folded leaden plate on aluminium fixation profile
- 4 wall construction
 - masonry (hand formed) white natural chalked
 - 30 mm cavity
 - 90 mm thermal insulation
 - 120 mm anthracite lime sandstone fairfaced, 900x200mm
 - 300x600mm laid in roman pattern
- 5 prestressed concrete double lintel with limed masonry on outside, 25mm insulation thermal separation
- 6 PE-foi
- 7 mahogany casement element unfinished
- 8 adhesive fixed double glazing: 6mm toughened glass + 10mm cavity + 8mm lam. safety glass
- 9 sealing strip
- 10 aluminium drip
- 11 wall construction niche
 - 3mm aluminium sheets adhesive fixed
 - 20x50mm plastic rafters
 - 20mm cavity
 - windproof building paper
 - 60mm mineral-wool thermal insulation
 - vapour barrier
 - 36mm timber board couch element
- 12 floor construction
 - 50mm screed around underfloor heating, concrete waxed finishing
 - 200mm prestressed core slab, spray-paint finishing
- 13 profile for fixation curtains
- 14 adhesive fixed double glazing: 6mm toughened glass + 10mm cavity + 8mm lam. safety glass
- 15 50x50mm wooden panelling flush with facade, white painted
- 16 perforated sheet metal, steel mesh in various patterns fixed in frame flush with facade, white coated
- 17 one layer glazing with clamp fixing, flush with facade
- 18 90x90x6mm steel T-sections

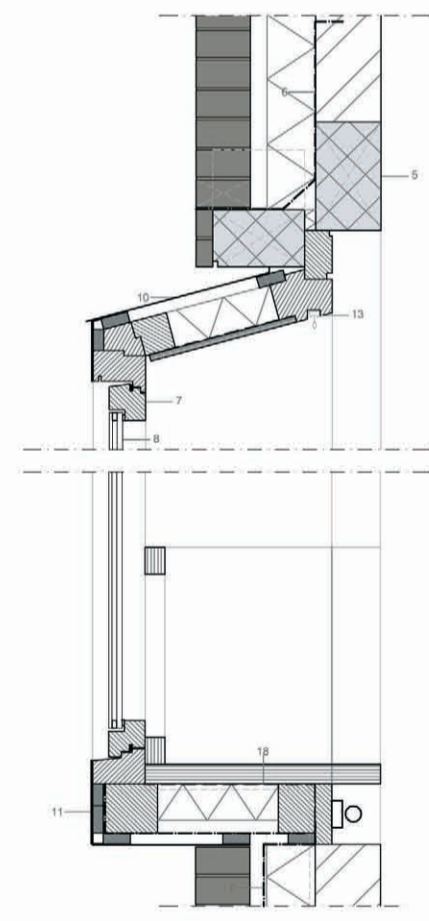
facility centre window elements scale 1:100



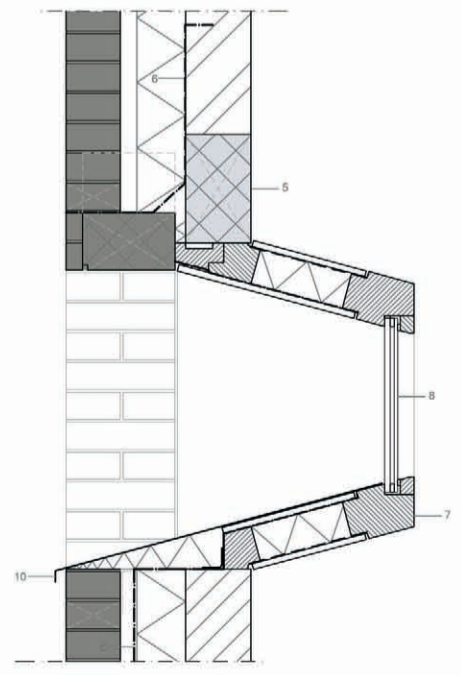
variant 1a, flush window element variant 1b, steel mesh variant 1c, panelling variant 1d, window recess



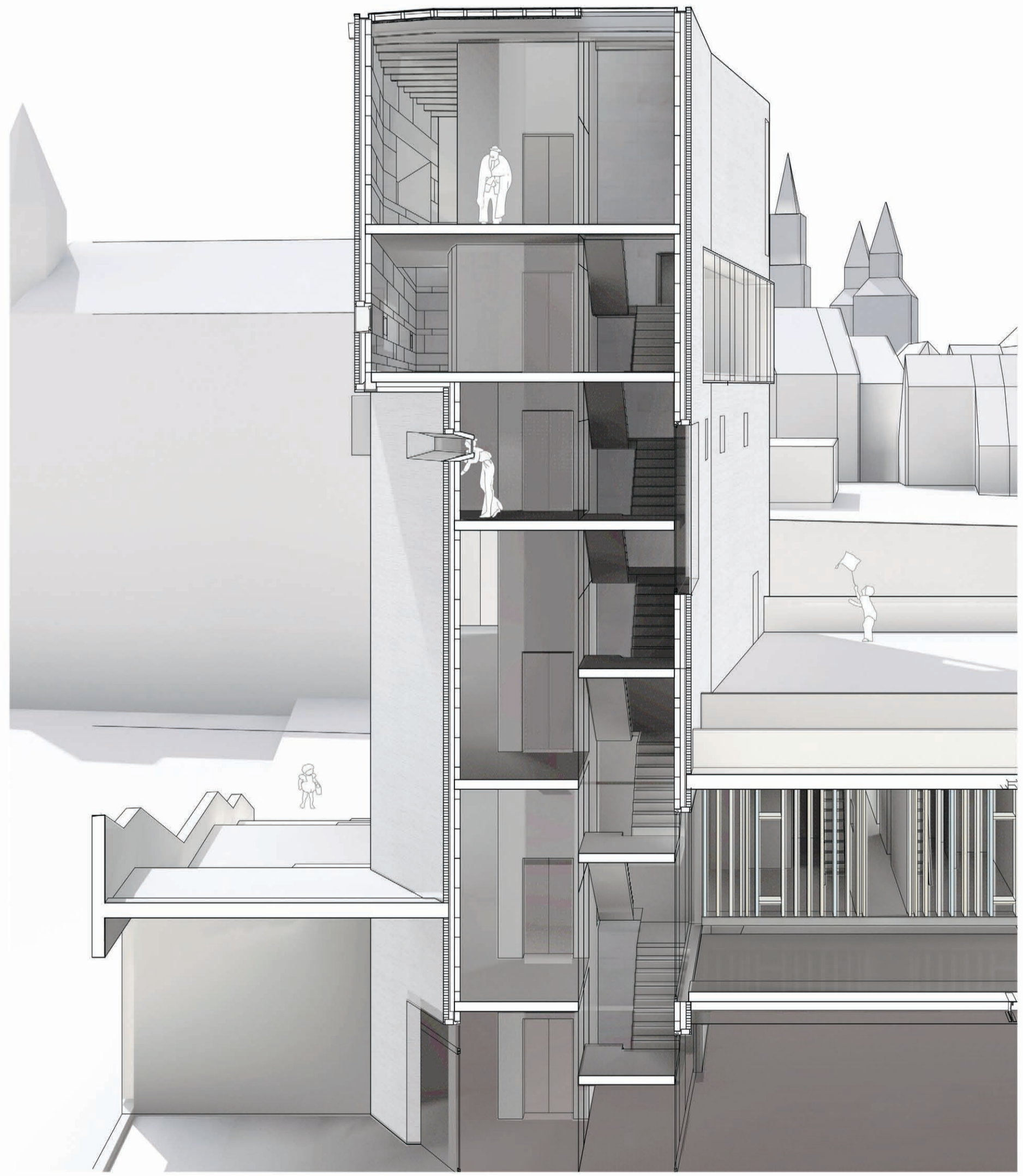
variant 1la, overhang

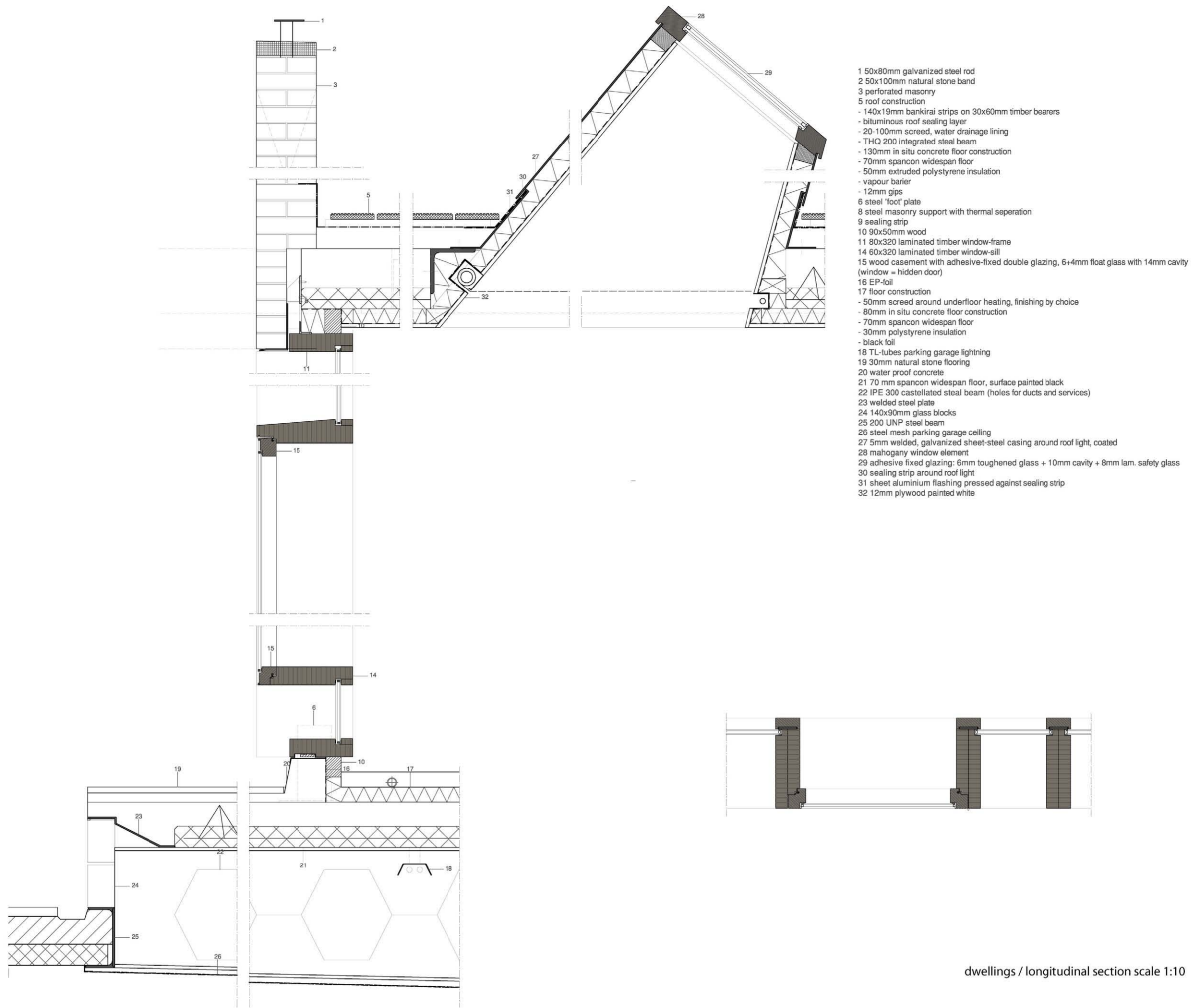


variant 1lb, niche with couch



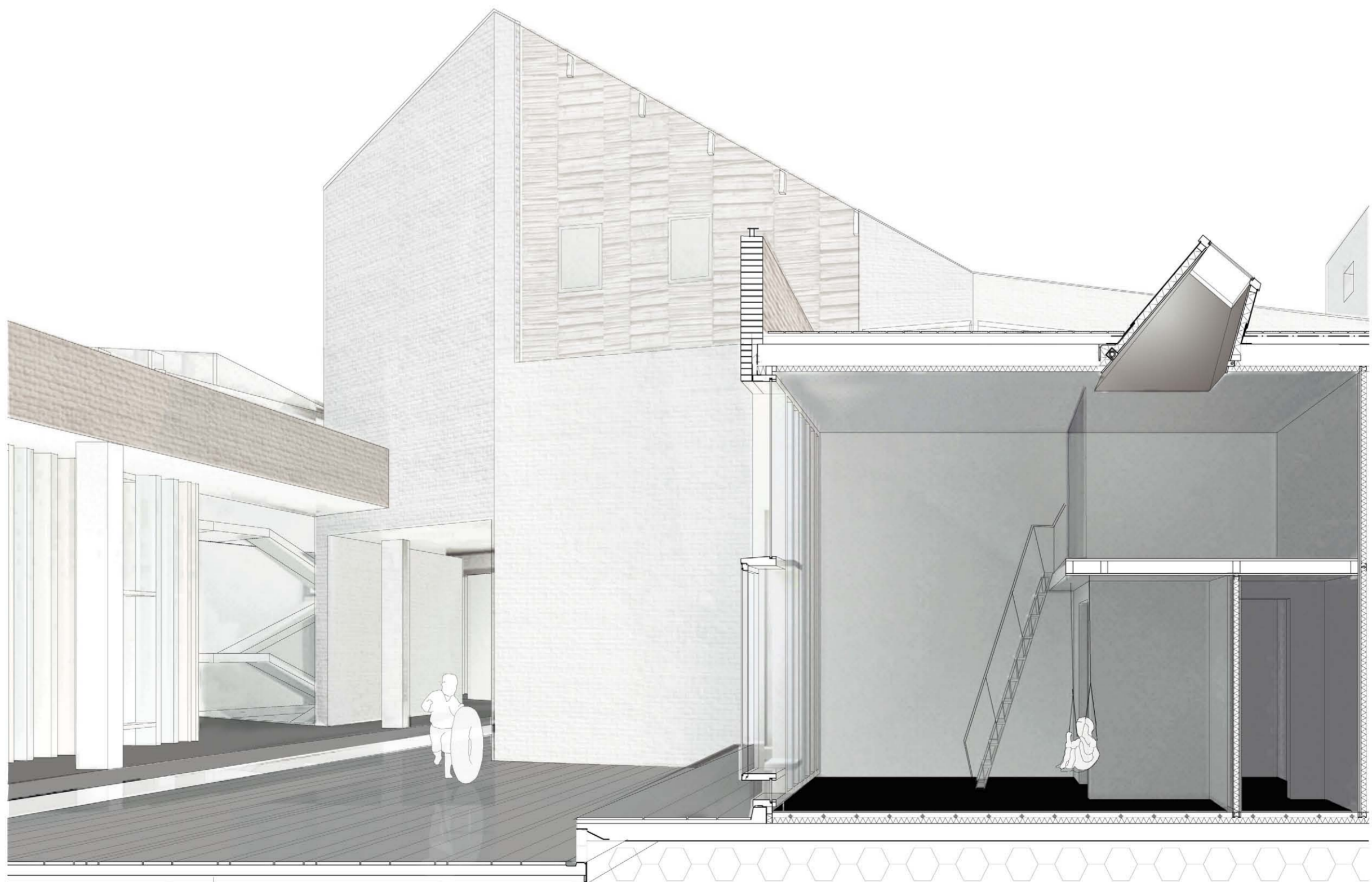
variant 1ll, telescope





- 1 50x80mm galvanized steel rod
- 2 50x100mm natural stone band
- 3 perforated masonry
- 5 roof construction
 - 140x19mm bankirai strips on 30x60mm timber bearers
 - bituminous roof sealing layer
 - 20-100mm screed, water drainage lining
 - THQ 200 integrated steel beam
 - 130mm in situ concrete floor construction
 - 70mm spancon widespan floor
 - 50mm extruded polystyrene insulation
 - vapour barrier
 - 12mm gips
- 6 steel 'roof' plate
- 8 steel masonry support with thermal separation
- 9 sealing strip
- 10 90x50mm wood
- 11 80x320 laminated timber window-frame
- 14 60x320 laminated timber window-sill
- 15 wood casement with adhesive-fixed double glazing, 6+4mm float glass with 14mm cavity (window = hidden door)
- 16 EP-fall
- 17 floor construction
 - 50mm screed around underfloor heating, finishing by choice
 - 80mm in situ concrete floor construction
 - 70mm spancon widespan floor
 - 30mm polystyrene insulation
 - black fall
- 18 TL-tubes parking garage lighting
- 19 30mm natural stone flooring
- 20 water proof concrete
- 21 70 mm spancon widespan floor, surface painted black
- 22 IPE 300 castellated steel beam (holes for ducts and services)
- 23 welded steel plate
- 24 140x90mm glass blocks
- 25 200 UNP steel beam
- 26 steel mesh parking garage ceiling
- 27 5mm welded, galvanized sheet-steel casing around roof light, coated
- 28 mahogany window element
- 29 adhesive fixed glazing: 6mm toughened glass + 10mm cavity + 8mm lam. safety glass
- 30 sealing strip around roof light
- 31 sheet aluminium flashing pressed against sealing strip
- 32 12mm plywood painted white

dwelling / longitudinal section scale 1:10



DWELLING UNIT

In the minimal available space for each individual unit, two aspects are most important. The first is the possibility for the inhabitant to create his own environment. The temporal stay of the inhabitant doesn't allow any significant interaction with the main organization of the plan, but a range of variable furniture arrangement has to be made possible. This way the individual with his own interests and needs can adjust the unit to his **personal**

preferences. Along with this the second aspect addresses to the need for at least one private domain and one formal domain. The first could be interpreted as a sleeping room, the latter as a living room in which people could be invited. The studio-type with a first level, addresses to both aspects, and is a very compact arrangement as well. The double level makes it possible for both living room and sleeping room to have daylight and an outside view.

MATERIALIZATION

The asylum seekers centre appears in the city as an **institution**, but at the same time is a **social housing project**, as any other. In this ambiguous context meaning and connotation are crucial. A combination of **proud, generic** materials and **cheap, raw unfinished** materials play with the prejudice and moral conscience of society. The facade of the high undulating volume is made of brick plastered with white chalk, a material that is

originally used in the region for the plastering of houses. Furthermore does the white brick accentuate the plasticity of the building, and put forward a proud character of the institute. The facades of the housing are constructed out of repetitively placed wooden beams, which create a visual barrier to the private units, but at the same time keep a visual contact from within to the outside.

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