

Chika Yanagihashi PORTFOLIO

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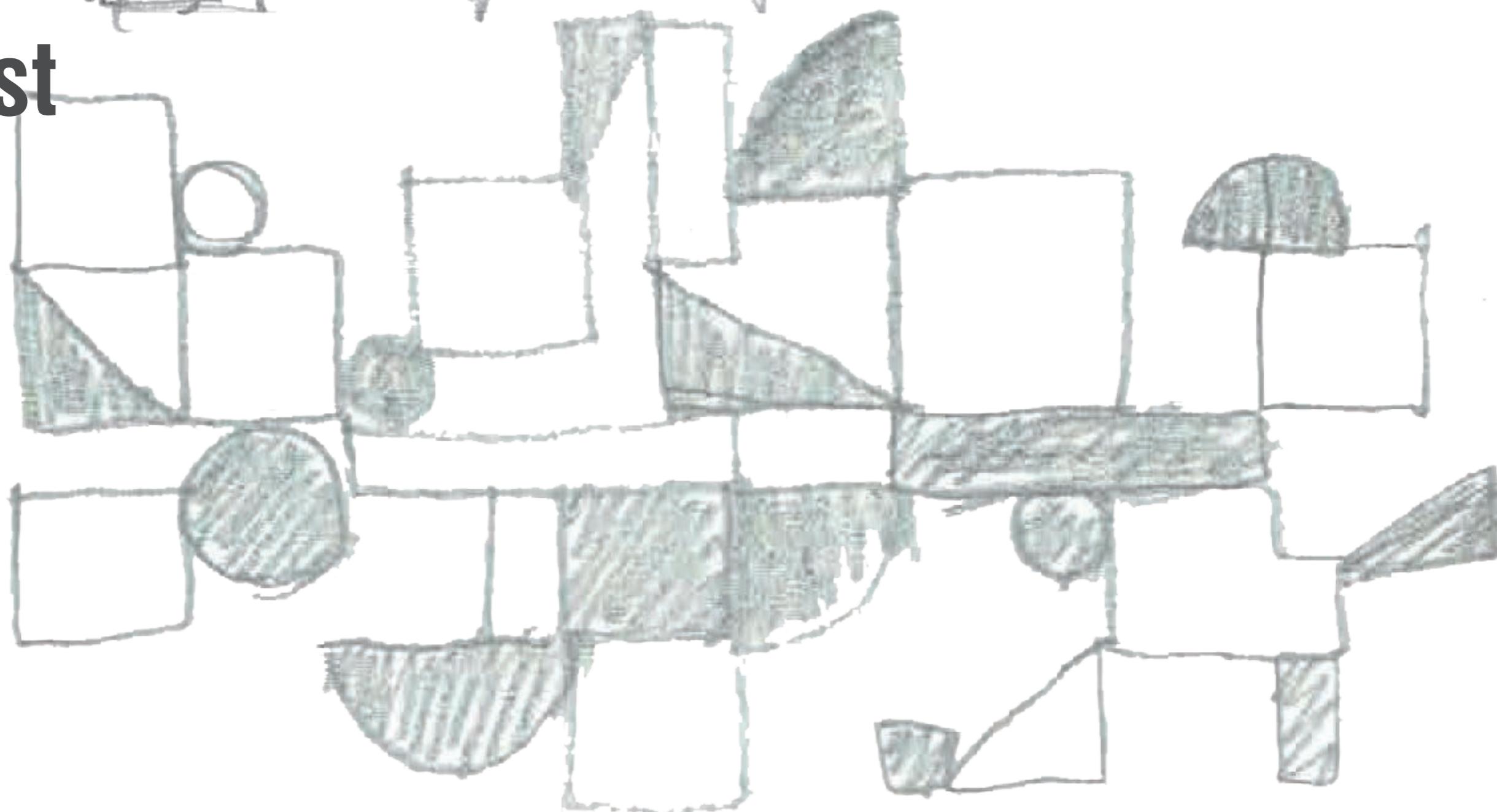
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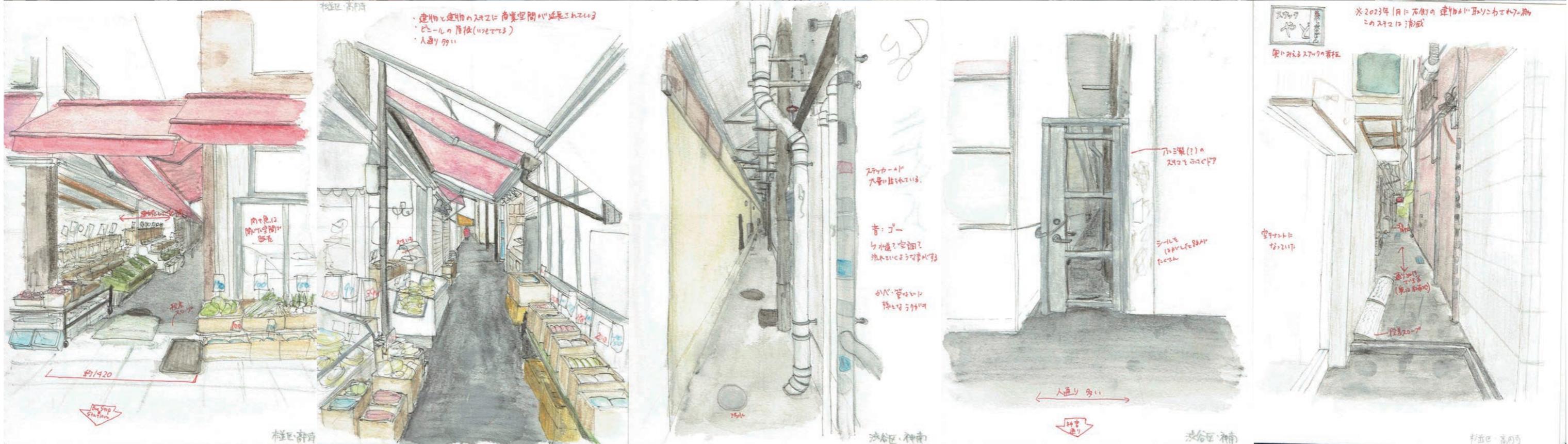
Profile



My Interest







My Interest = “In-Between Spaces” / *Sukima* spaces

In-Between Spaces / *Sukima* Spaces: Connecting the Scales of Architecture and the City

In the urban environment, there exist small spaces where human behavior and objects overflow beyond the physical boundaries of architecture.

These spaces—**"In-Between Spaces"** or what I refer to as ***Sukima* spaces**—form the central theme of my architectural research and design exploration.

Such spaces are often found between buildings or in narrow alleyways.

They may function as paths, as extensions of private activities, or simultaneously serve both roles. In these spaces, human behavior directly shapes and reflects the form of the environment.

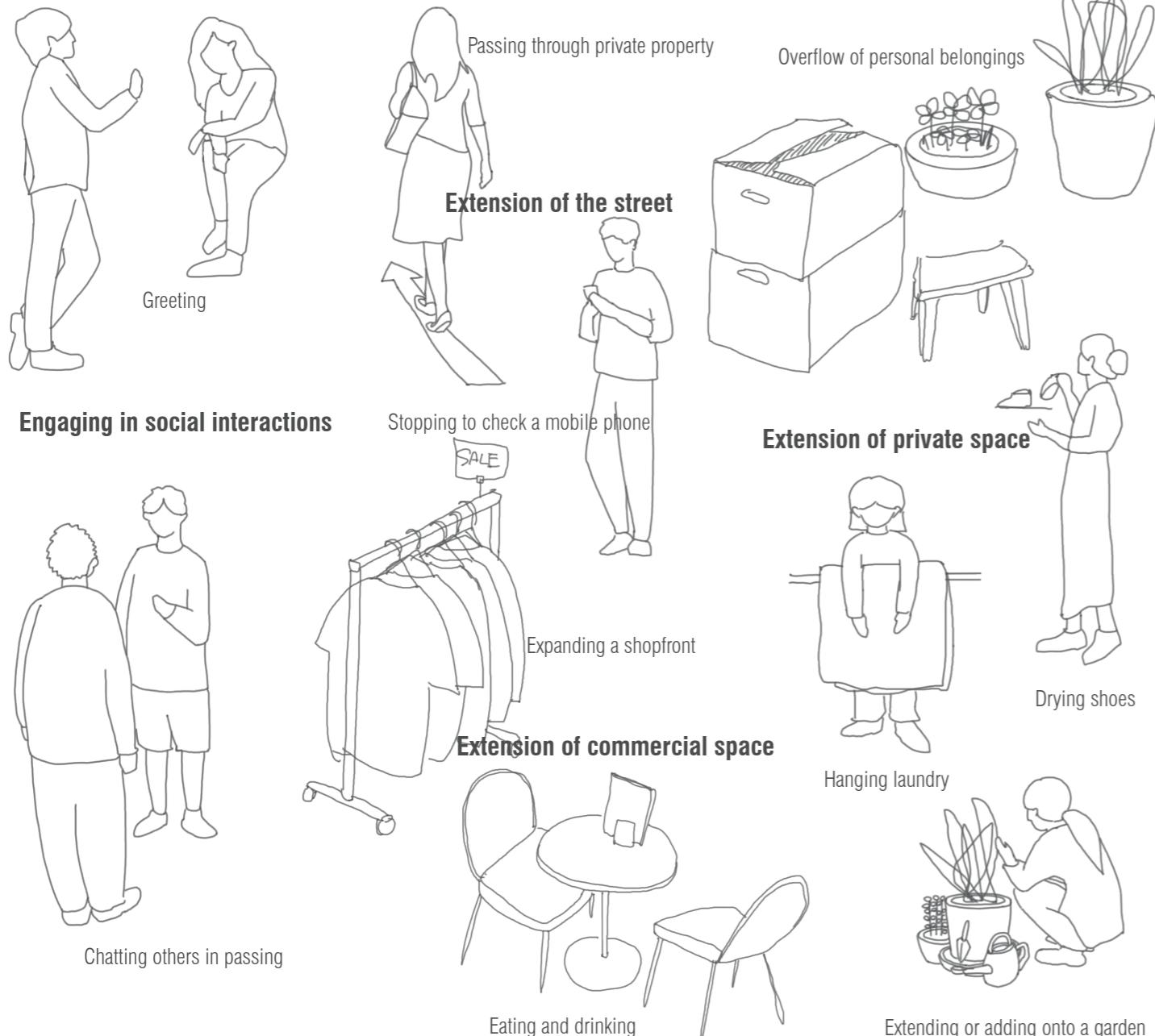
These urban In-Between Spaces / *Sukima* spaces foster a blending of public and private domains, offering places to stay, pass through, gather, or spend time alone. They serve as architectural and social intermediaries, enriching the city with spatial diversity. I believe these spaces are crucial in cities where people of various backgrounds live together.

Designing architecture that intentionally incorporates these In-Between Spaces / *Sukima* spaces can act as a **clue for weaving architectural and urban scales into a seamless continuum**. Such an approach enables the creation of a city filled with diverse and comfortable places for all kinds of people to inhabit.

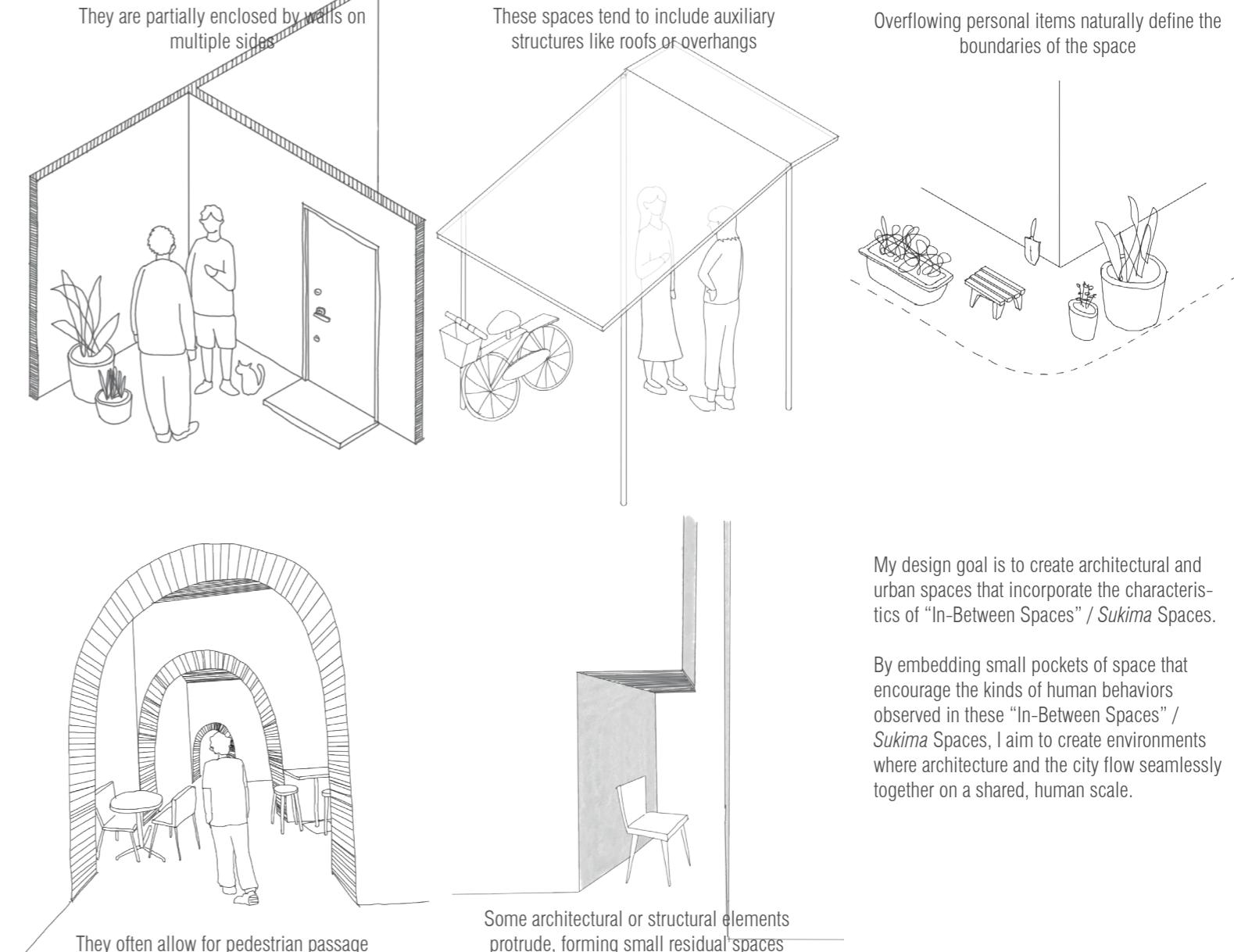


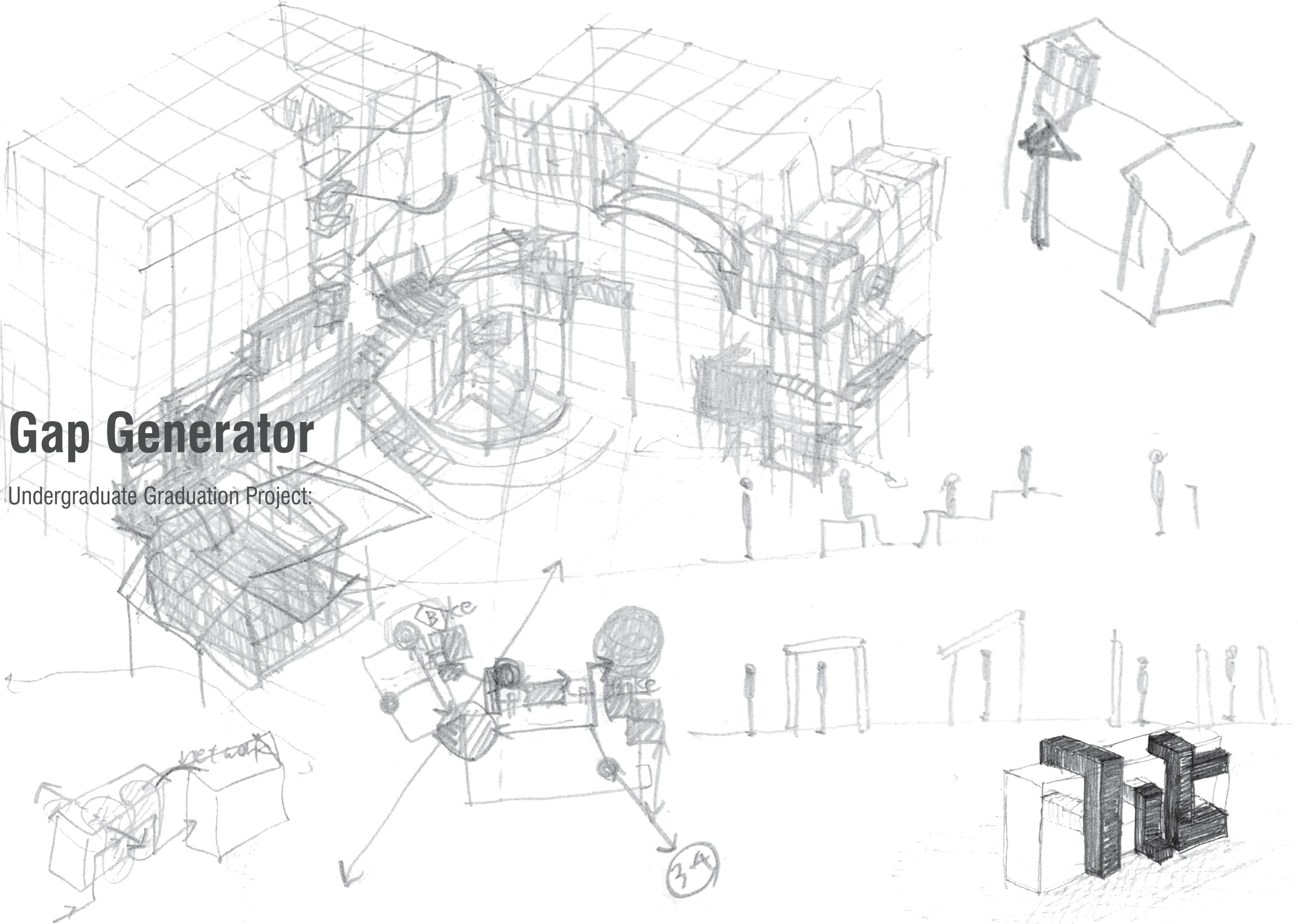
Behaviors Observed in “In-Between Spaces” / *Sukima Spaces*

These behaviors illustrate the diverse ways people use In-Between Spaces. They reveal how such spaces function as socially intermediate zones, blurring the lines between public and private, and accommodating both planned and spontaneous activities.



Spatial Characteristics of In-Between Spaces / *Sukima Spaces*





Gap Generator

Undergraduate Graduation Project:

Gap Generator

What is the "Gap Generator"?

In small spaces created by subtle shifts and gaps in the urban environments, we often observe behaviors that extend beyond the predefined boundaries of architecture.

I have studied and reflected on these types of spaces—what can be called “**In-Between Spaces**” or “**Gap Spaces**.” They can function as extensions of private areas, as continuations of public pathways, or as something in between.

The “**Gap Generator**” is an architectural intervention designed to transform the existing communal spaces of the Tokyo Metropolitan Koenji Apartment by attaching new, functional structures.

By incorporating the characteristics of urban In-Between Spaces into the communal areas, these spaces begin to reflect the diversity and continuity of a city, blurring the boundaries between public and private life.

The aim is to create shared spaces where both residents and visitors can interact, linger, or enjoy solitude—each person choosing a space that suits them best, just like in the city.

Behavior and Spatial Characteristics in the Common Areas of Public Housing

Through the writing of my graduation thesis, I investigated the behaviors of people and the overflow of objects in the common areas of public housing, as well as the spatial characteristics that result from these interactions. The subject of my research was the Toei Toyama Heights Apartments, a public housing complex located in the Toyama district of Shinjuku, Tokyo, consisting of a total of 33 buildings. The site includes various public facilities, stores, and parks, and I observed a variety of behaviors from both residents and visitors in the common areas. From my research and analysis, I identified several key features in the common areas where these behaviors occurred. These spaces are typically **small-scale** and **include accessory elements, such as roofs or steps**, that encourage people to stay. They also provide **multiple access points to common areas**. Also, I found that the common areas in buildings **with integrated facilities or shops** tend to see more human behavior.

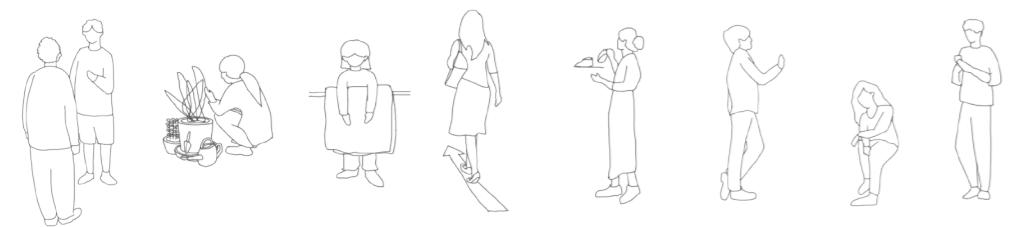
Based on my findings, I realized that the behaviors and spatial characteristics observed in the common areas of public housing are similar to those found in "**In-Between Spaces**" within urban environments.



Human Behaviors Observed in "In-Between Spaces"

The behaviors seen in "In-Between Spaces" within public housing communal areas and throughout the city vary widely. These behaviors can involve multiple people or just one individual. The duration of stay also differs, and the duration of their stay can vary—some may linger for long periods, while others may only stay briefly.

The behaviors observed in these spaces create environments where private and public realms blend, seamlessly connecting different parts of the urban space.



About Tokyo Metropolitan Koenji Apartment

The Tokyo Metropolitan Koenji Apartment is a public housing complex built in 1961, consisting of four buildings. Buildings 1 and 2 are entirely residential. Buildings 3 and 4 feature commercial or office units on the ground floor, with residential units above. As part of a redevelopment plan, residents have gradually vacated the premises. The replacement of Building 1 has been completed, and construction of the new Building 2 is currently underway. The residential units in Buildings 3 and 4 have already been vacated. Most of the ground-floor tenants have also moved out, although six commercial or office spaces are still in operation. The vacant units, both residential and commercial, show signs of long-term neglect, with graffiti and general disrepair clearly visible. During the site survey, the adjacent public park was active, frequented by many people including children. In contrast, there was minimal human activity within the Koenji Apartment complex itself.



North Elevation Perspective

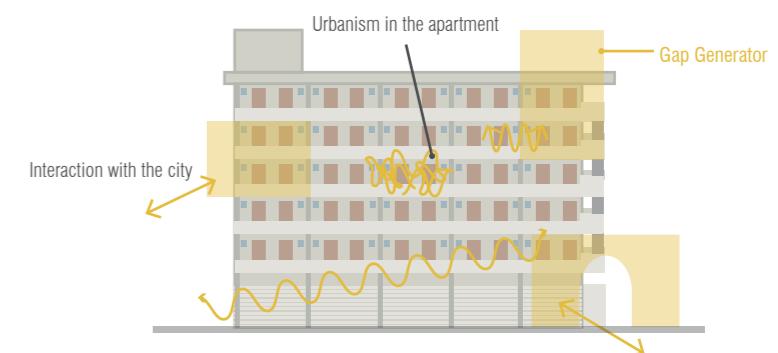
"In-Between Spaces" in Tokyo

In small spaces created by shifts or gaps within the city, human behaviors often extend beyond the predetermined boundaries of architecture. These "In-Between Spaces," or "Gap Spaces," can transform into extensions of private areas, pathways, or places for social interaction. In these spaces, human activities directly shape the form of the architectures. Gap spaces generate a variety of spatial experiences within the city, and they represent areas where the urban environment and daily life seamlessly connect.



What is the "Gap Generator"?

The "Gap Generator" is an extension plan for the common spaces of the Toei Koenji Apartments. It involves adding small spaces created by shifts and gaps to the existing public housing common areas. These spaces feature characteristics like steps where people can sit, eaves, and small surplus areas where things overflow—elements that define "In-Between Spaces," or "Gap Spaces." By adding these small residual spaces, parts of daily life spill over into the city, creating small spaces for communication and fostering connections with the outside environment. This could lead to the emergence of new forms of human behavior and the overflow of objects.



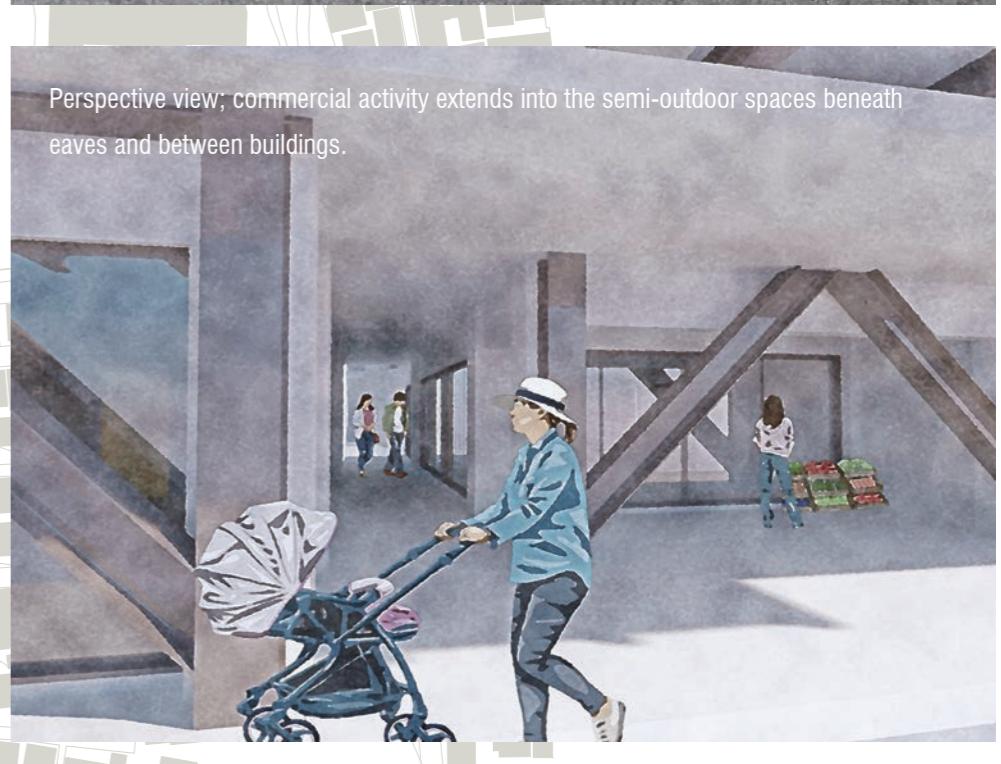
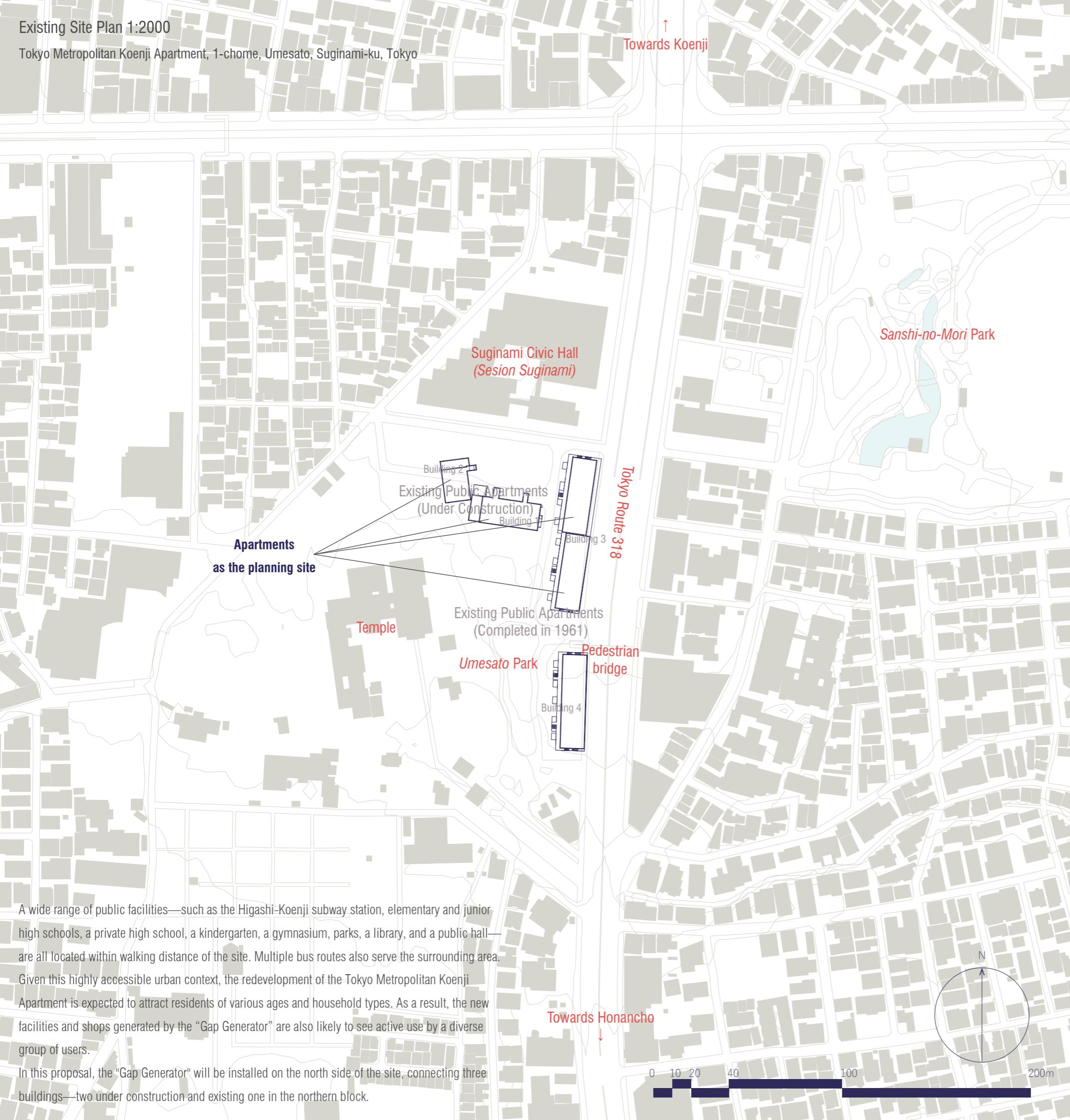
The "Gap Generator" has functions such as community centers, shops, extensions of streets, bicycle parking, and bus stops. It plays a key role in connecting isolated public housing, often referred to as "marginal housing," with the surrounding urban fabric, creating continuity and interaction with the city.



Concept Sketch

Existing Site Plan 1:2000

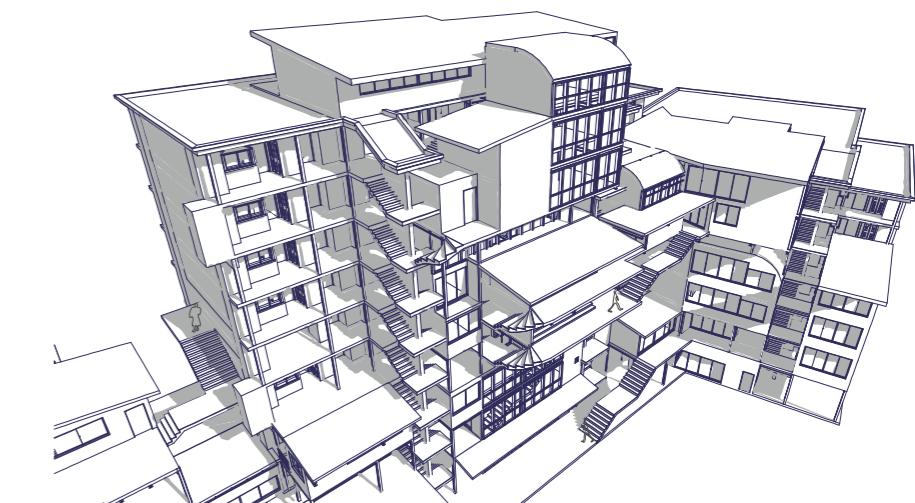
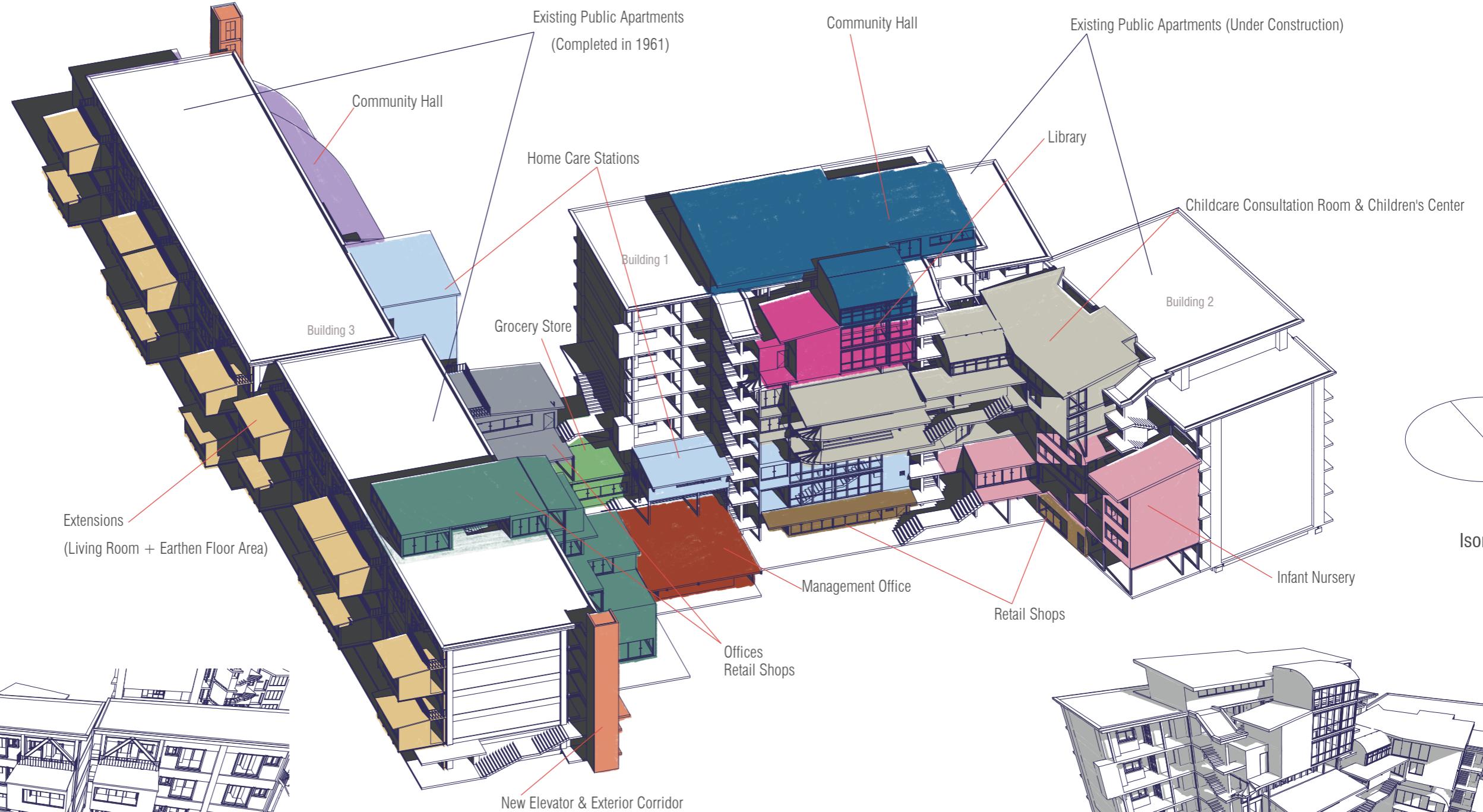
Tokyo Metropolitan Koenji Apartment, 1-chome, Umesato, Suginami-ku, Tokyo



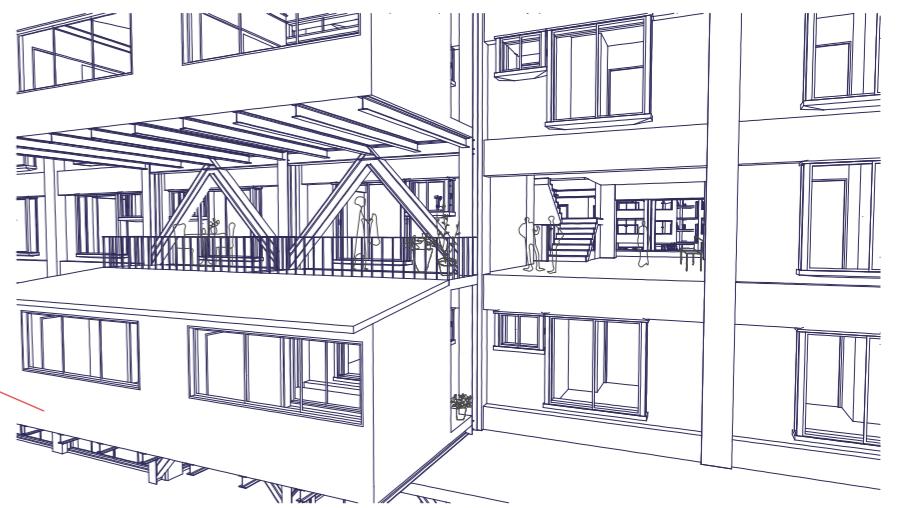
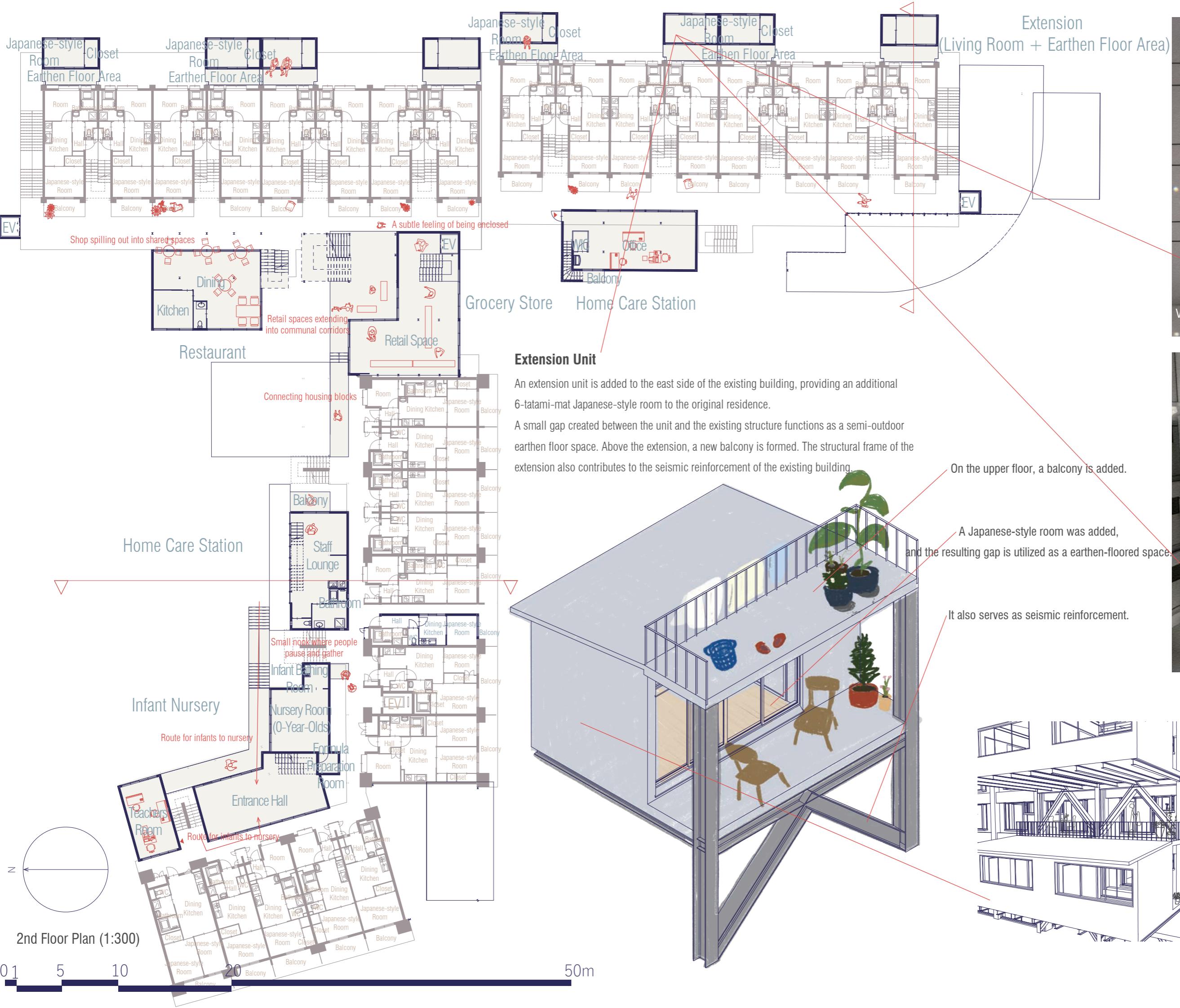
Program

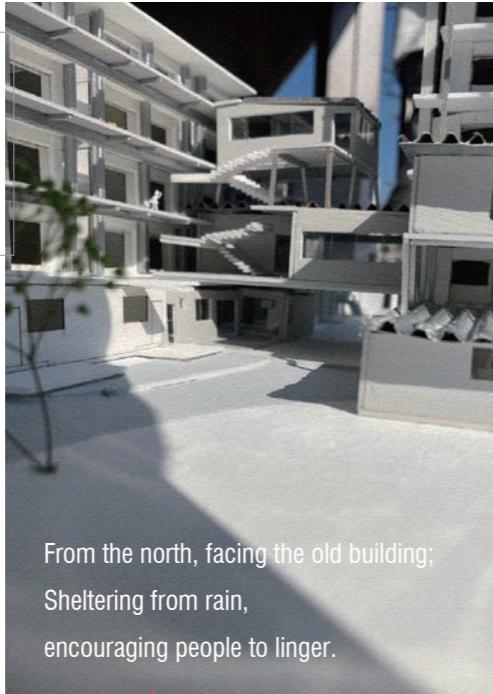
The Tokyo Metropolitan Koenji Apartment complex consists of four buildings—two constructed in 1961 and two currently under construction. Of these, three buildings on the north side will be outfitted with “Gap Generators,” which introduce various new functions into the existing shared corridors and stairwells.

The 1961 buildings will be upgraded through the addition of elevators and expanded residential units. The new buildings will incorporate public services as part of their design. Shared spaces not equipped with “Gap Generators” can be modified or expanded in the future as needed.





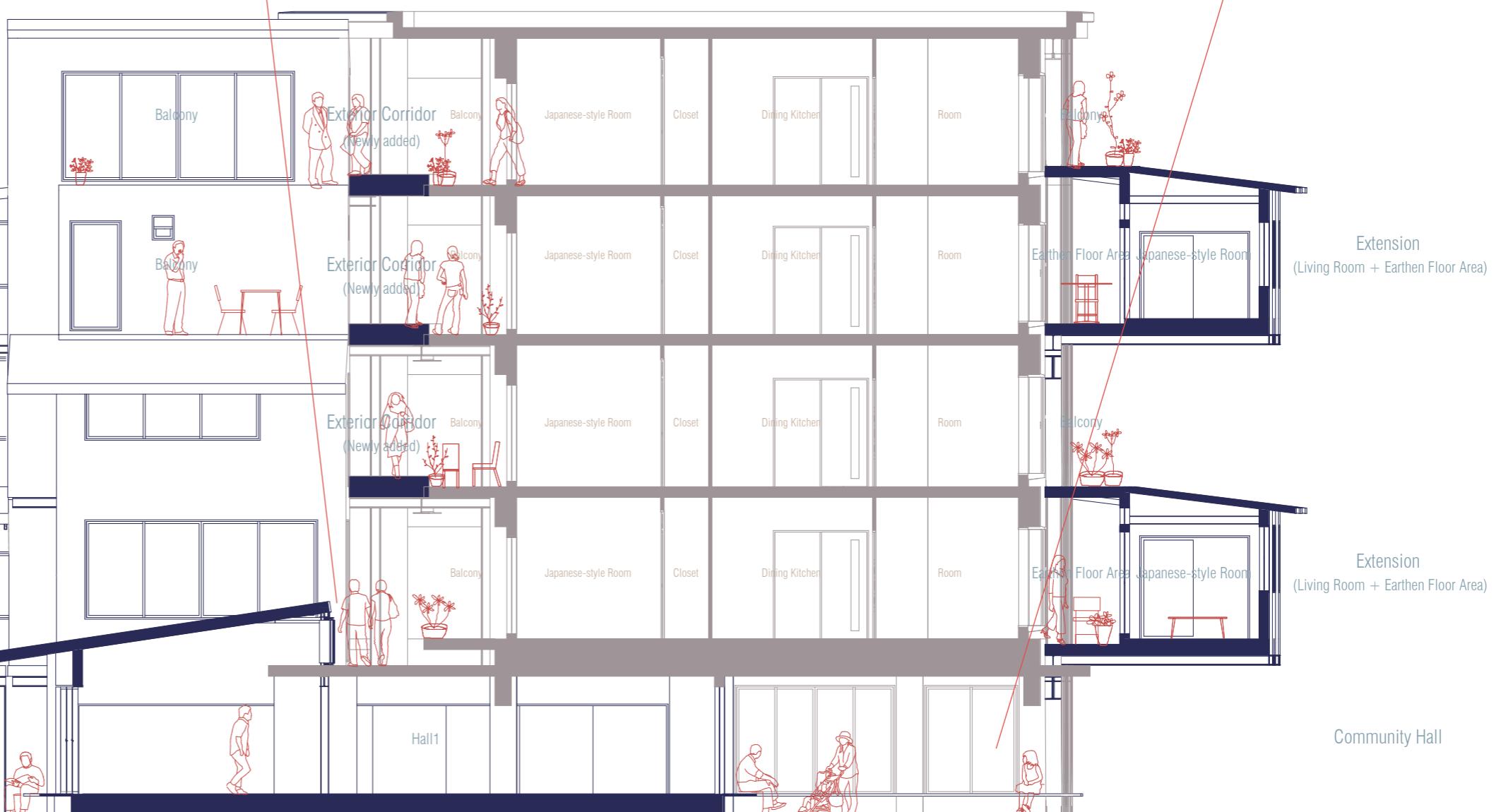
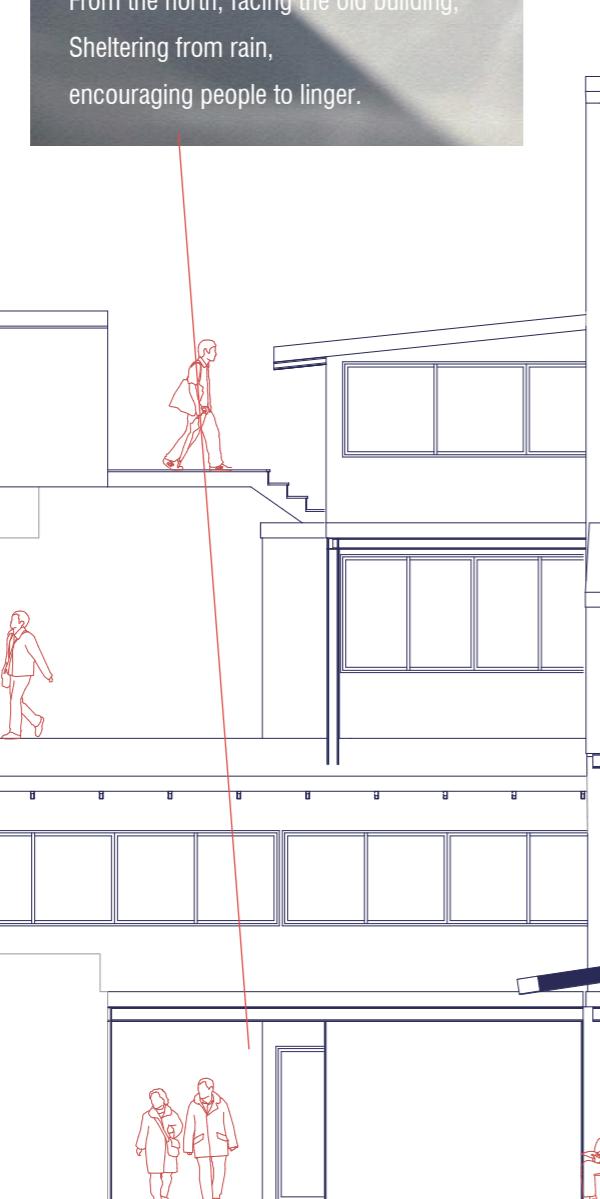




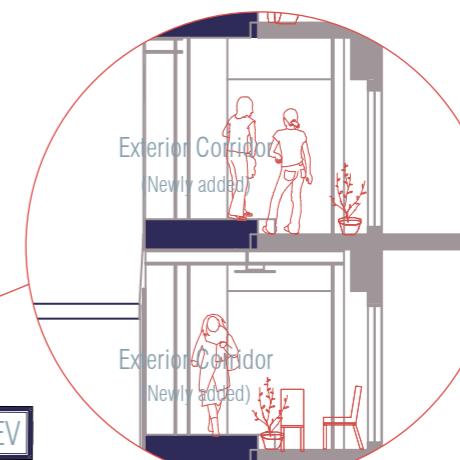
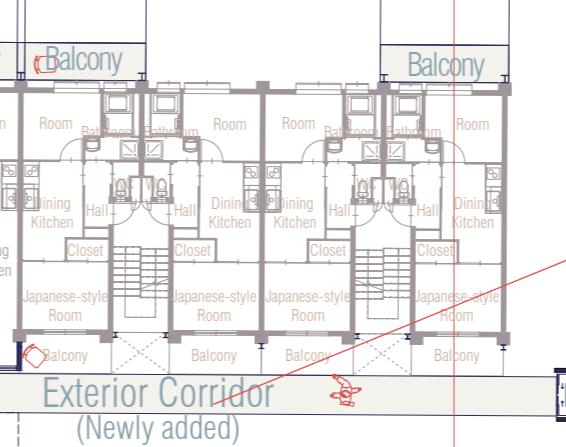
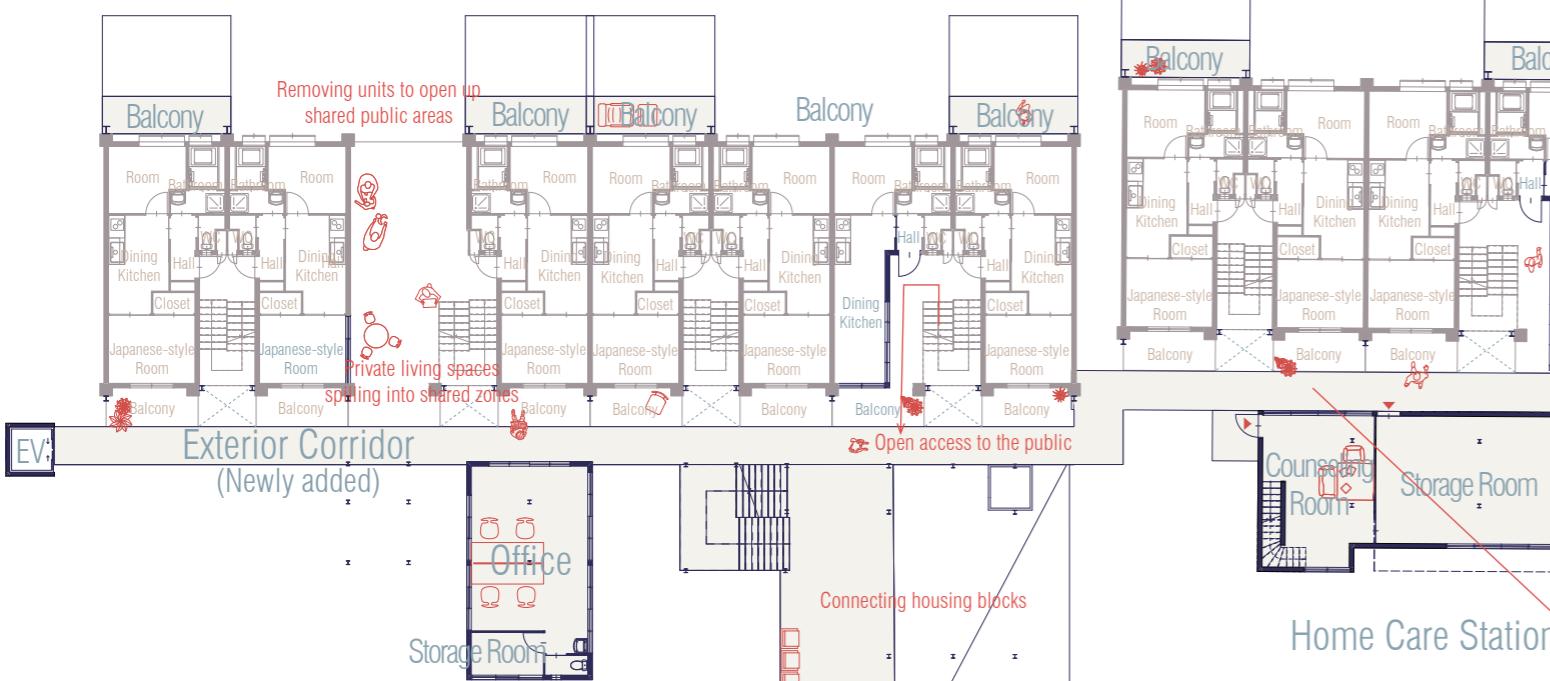
Under the eaves in front of the community room→

Children play under the eaves, people sit on the porch chatting, and as passersby move through, they get a glimpse inside the community room...

The porch serves as a seamless connection between the interior and exterior of the community room.



There is a 100mm level difference between the newly added communal corridor and the balconies of the existing units. This slight elevation shift subtly marks the boundary between public and private space—without the need for fences or gates. At the same time, it preserves a sense of openness and connection between the residential units and the shared space.



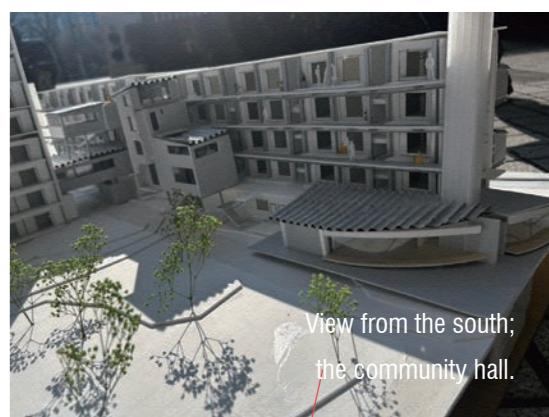
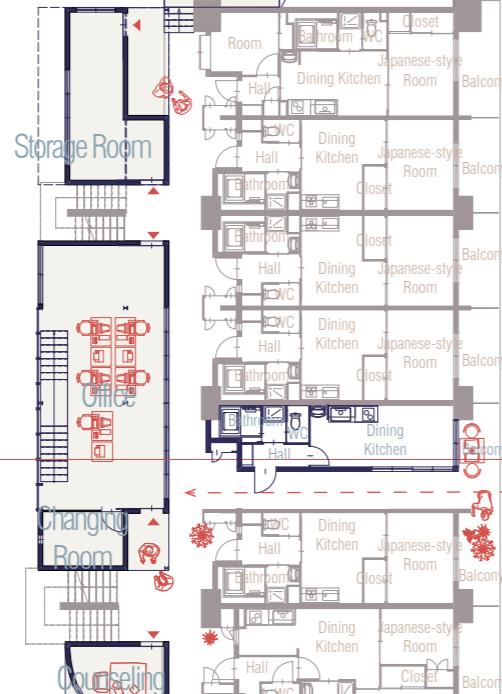
Cross Section A-A' (1:100)

Home Care Station

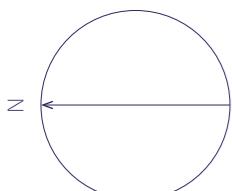
To allow light and air to enter from the south, the existing units are partially reduced and reconfigured in response to the extension of the communal corridor on the north side. This subtle expansion introduces a buffer zone—an in-between space—where circulation flows, daily routines, and casual interactions can gently extend beyond the private realm.



Home Care Station



Infant Nursery



3rd Floor Plan (1:300)

0 1 5 10

20



50m

0 1 5 10

20

50m

Nursery hall positioned at the junction of housing blocks

Expansion of passageways

Nursery Room (1-Year-Olds)

Teachers Room

Infant Bathing Room

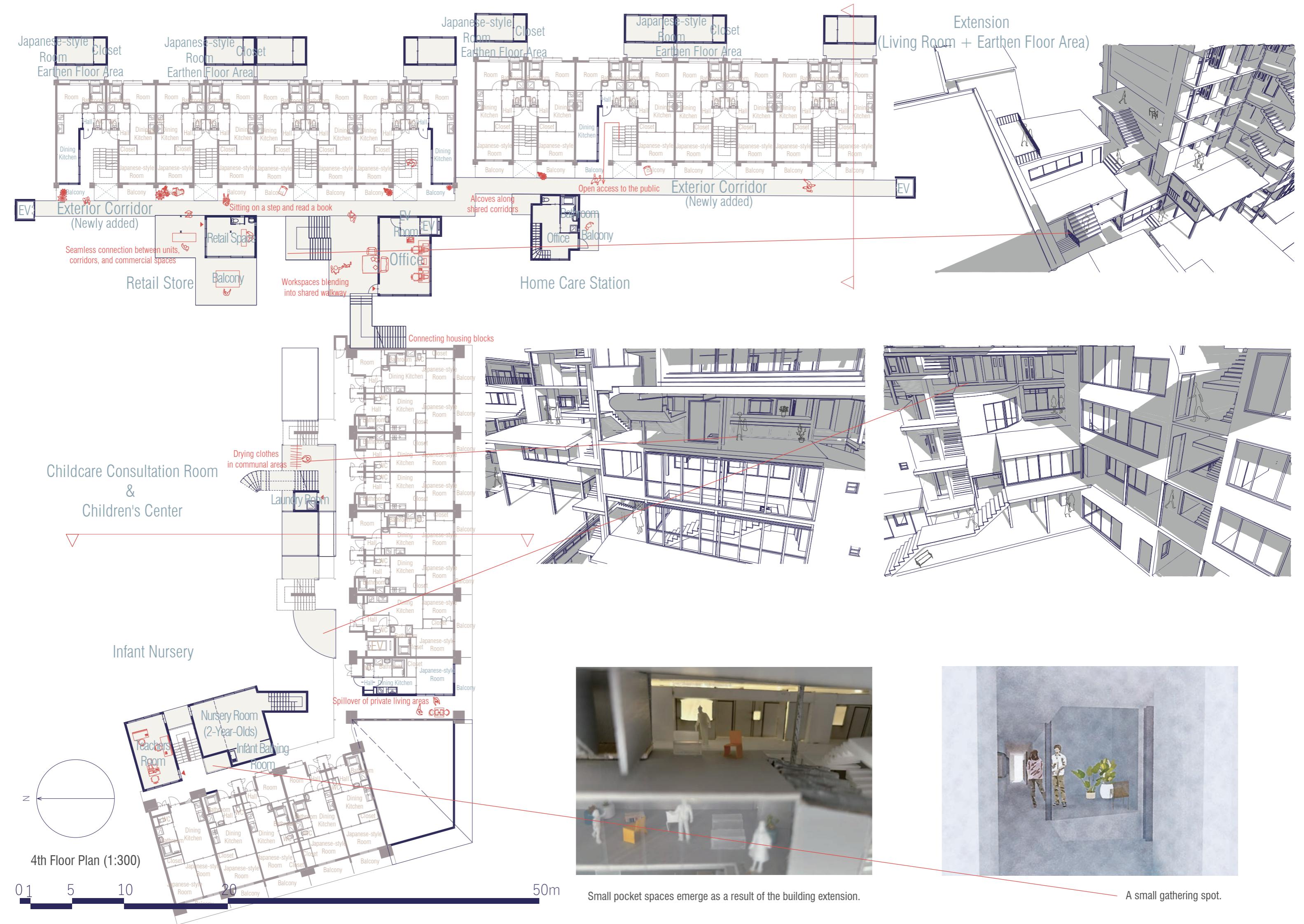
Bringing light and air into shared corridors

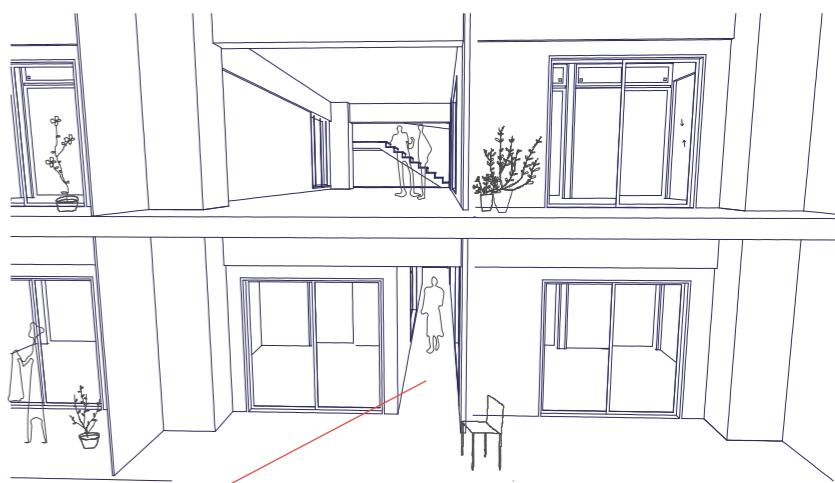
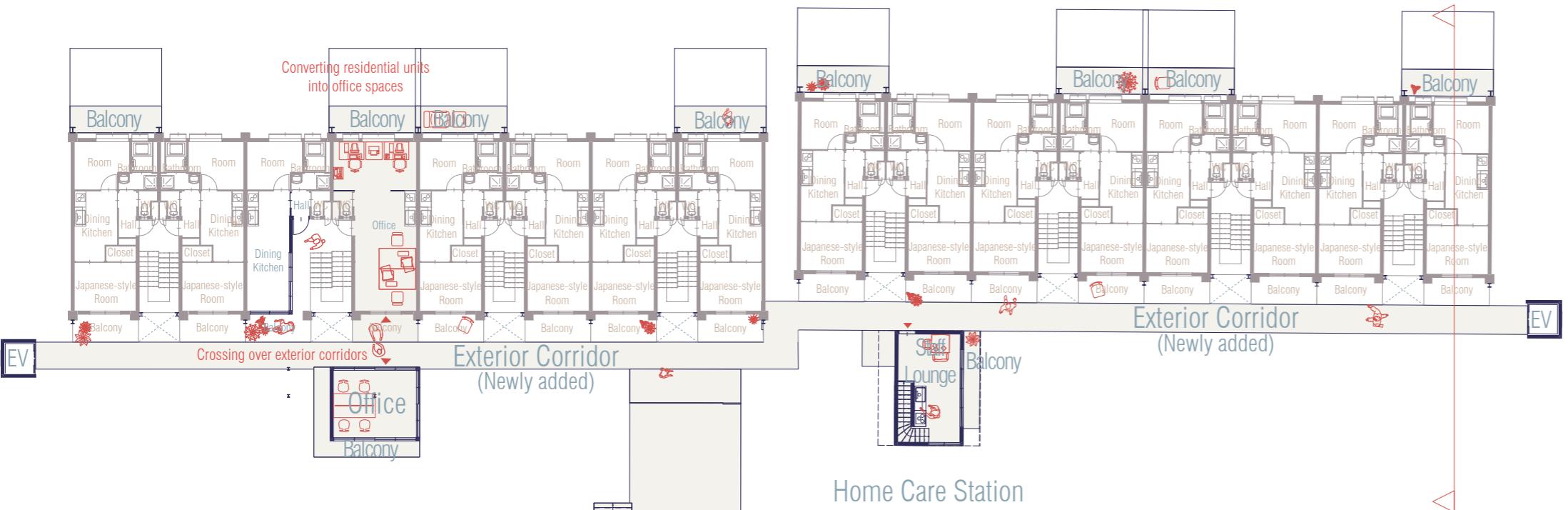
The new exterior corridor invites daily life to spill into outdoor space.

Under the eaves, casual everyday activities take place.

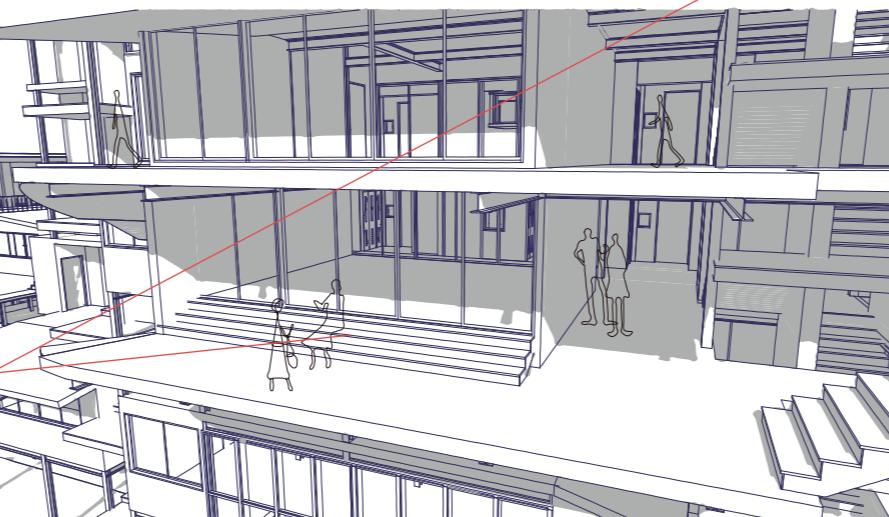
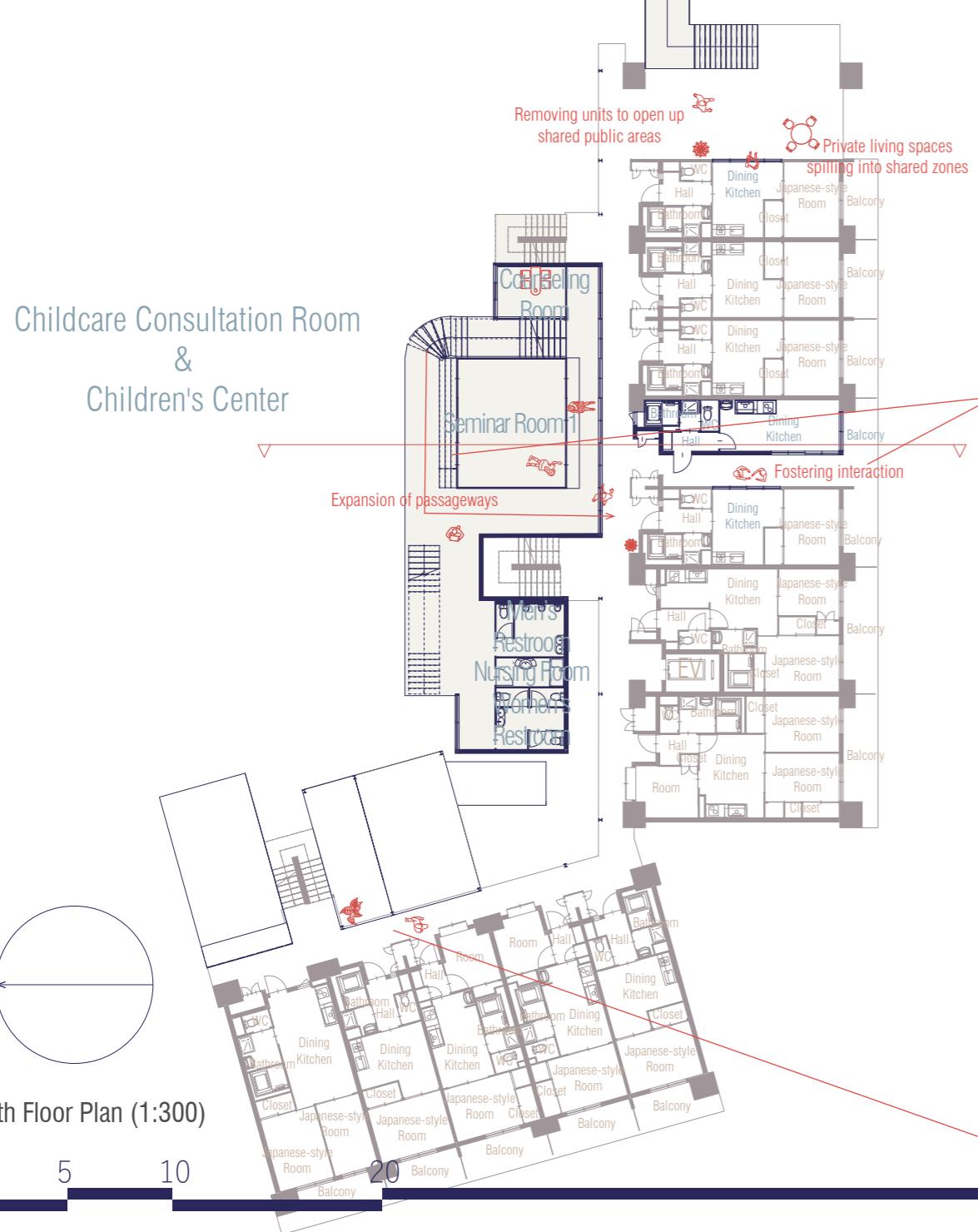
View from the south; the community hall.

Hall





Home Care Station

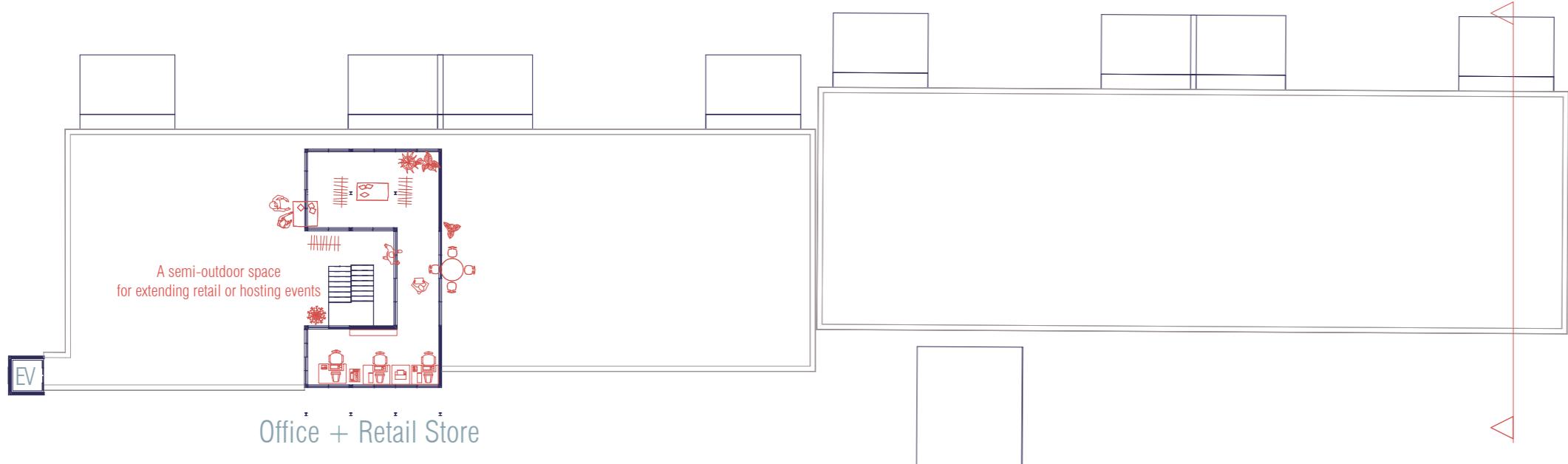


The expansion of shared corridors creates residual space that becomes informal gathering areas.

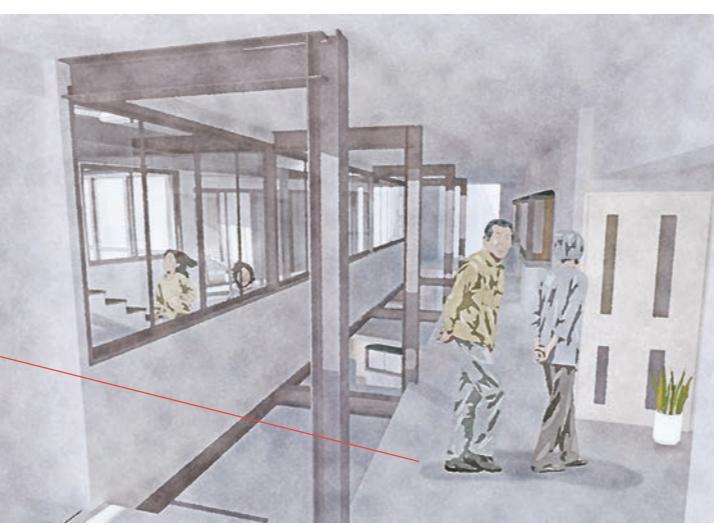
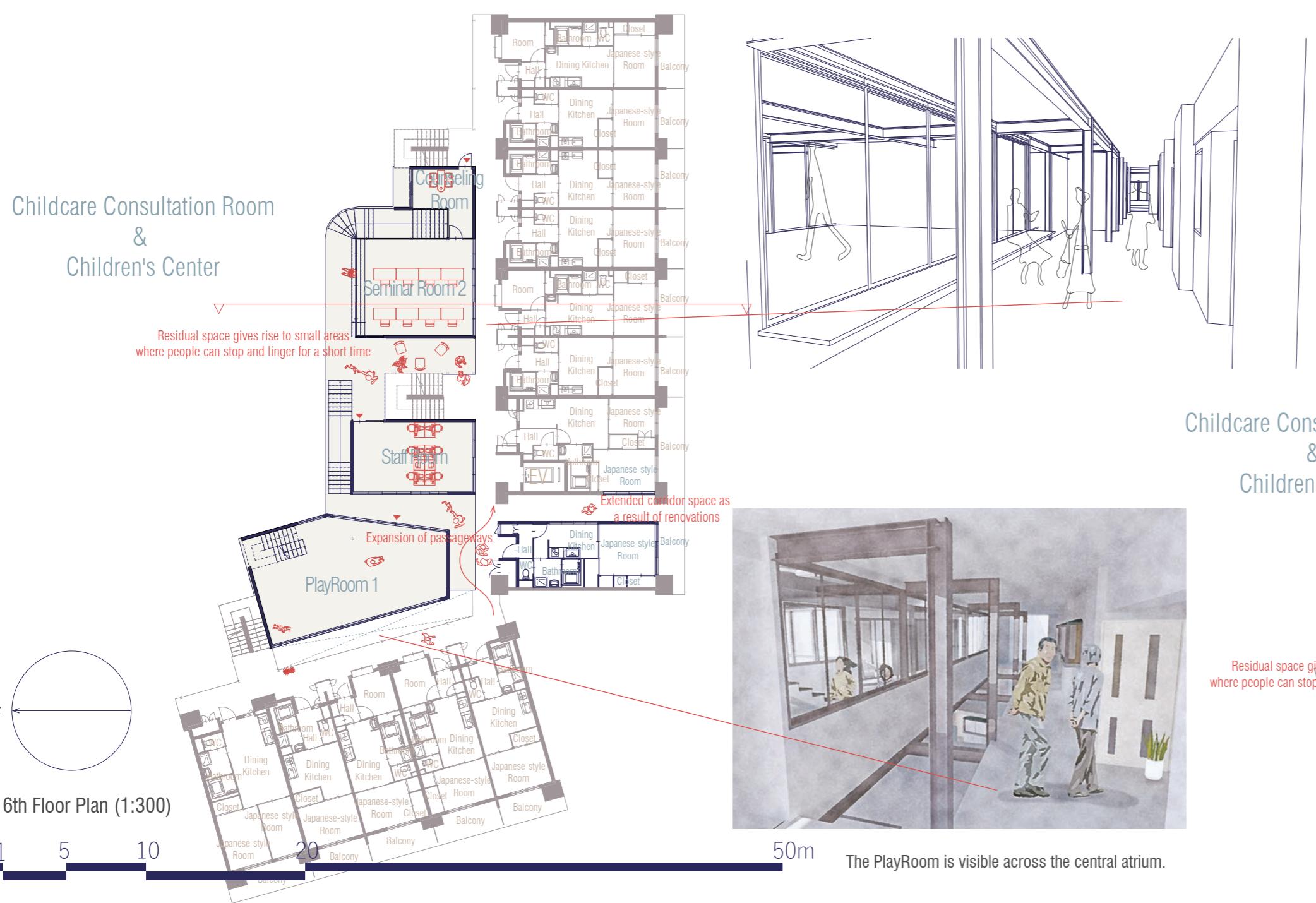


50m A 900mm-high raised slab becomes a space for overflow of personal belongings

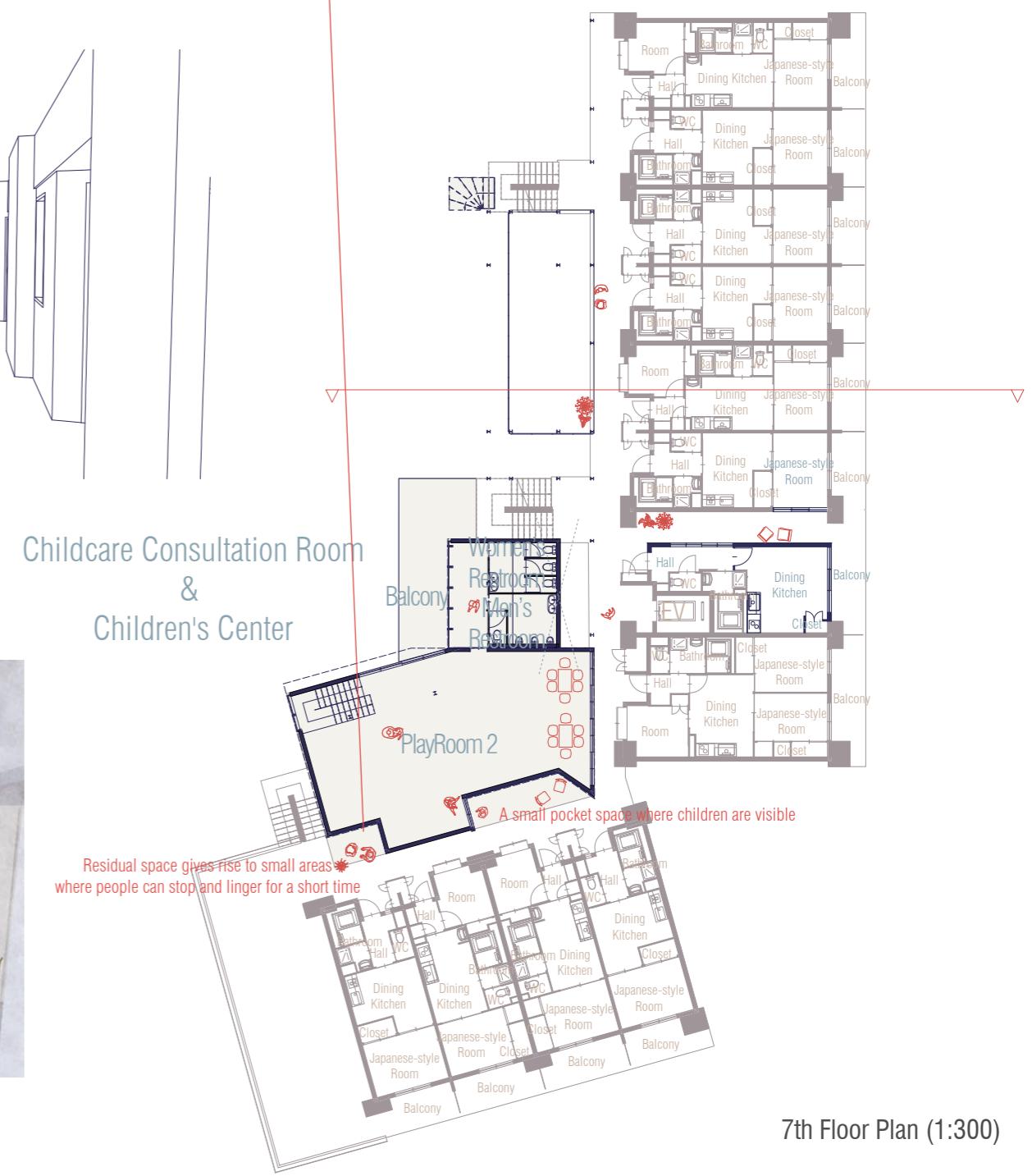
From the north: new apartment volume.

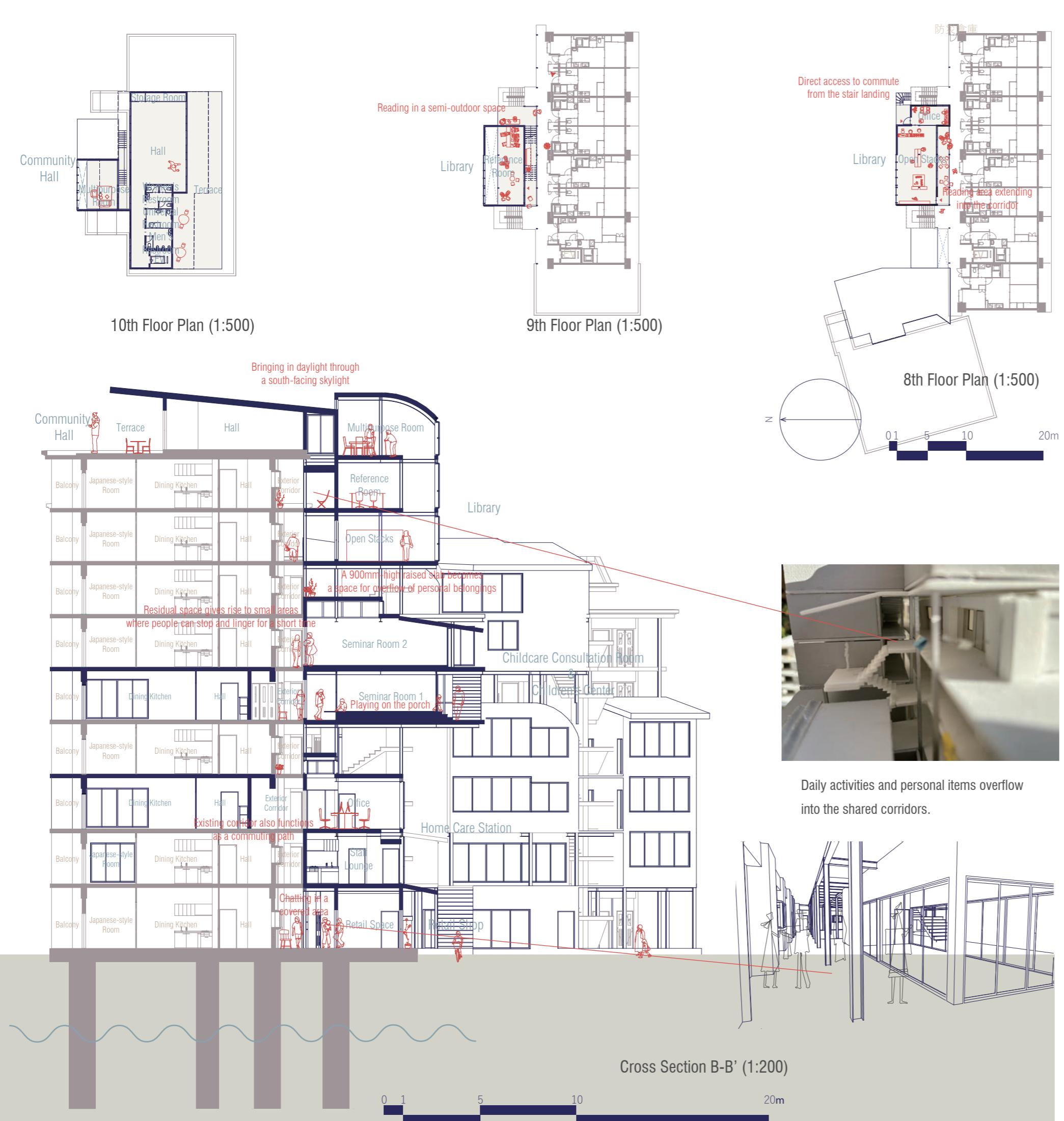


Placing chairs in the gaps creates spaces for staying and social interaction.



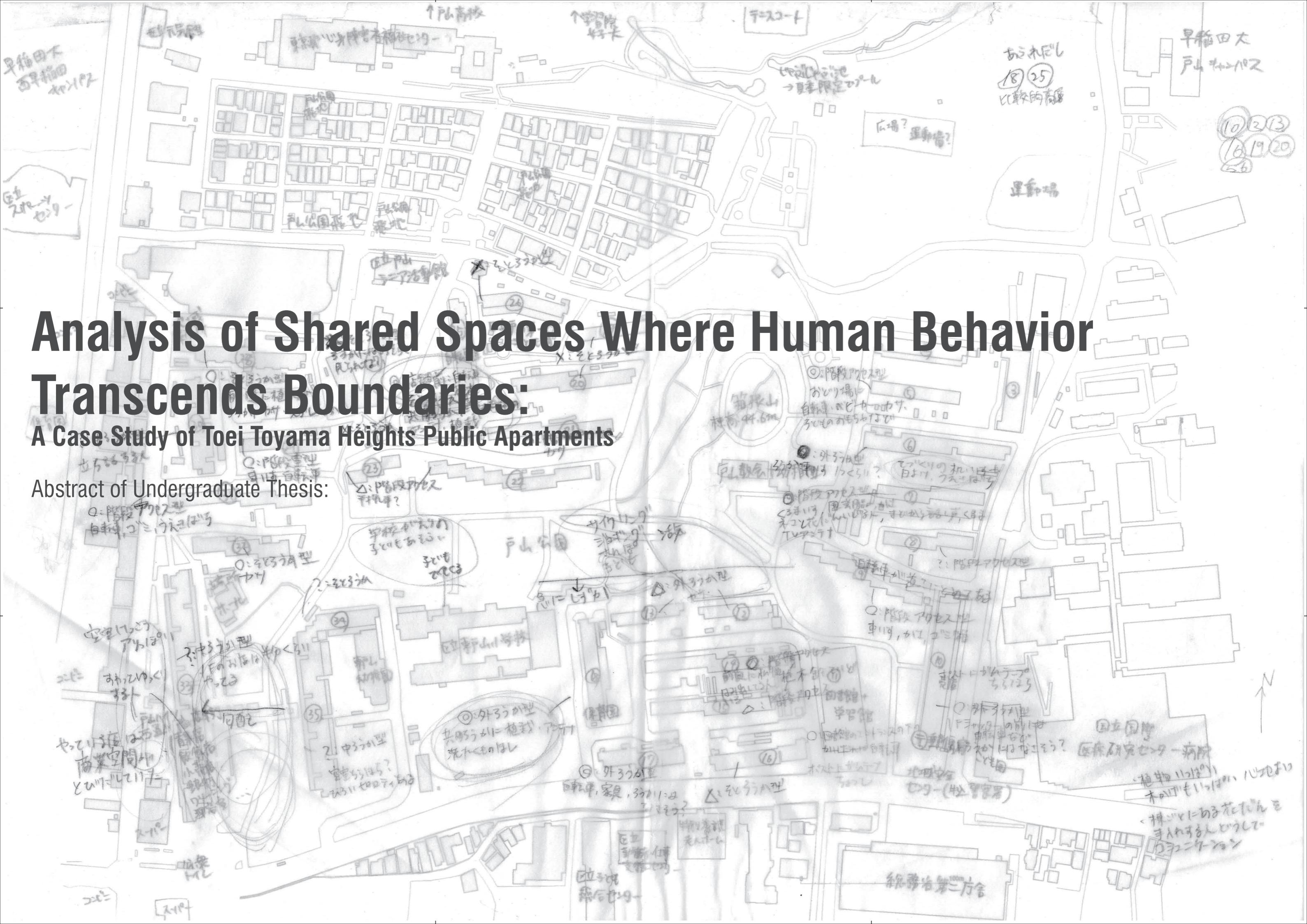
The PlayRoom is visible across the central atrium.





Analysis of Shared Spaces Where Human Behavior Transcends Boundaries: A Case Study of Toei Toyama Heights Public Apartments

Abstract of Undergraduate Thesis:



Analysis of Shared Spaces Where Human Behavior Transcends Boundaries

A Case Study of Toei Toyama Heights Apartments

Chika YANAGIHASHI

1. Introduction

In urban environments, there exist spaces where human behaviors transcend pre-defined boundaries, leading to the intersection of public and private domains. These spaces may serve as thoroughfares, extensions of private areas, or both. Such environments can be described as "spaces where human behavior transcends boundaries," in which architectural demarcations are crossed by human actions. These spaces foster interactions between public and private realms and offer both inhabitants and outsiders diverse ways of engaging with the city.

Such behavior-transcending spaces are also found within collective housing complexes, where a variety of residents coexist. This study focuses on the Tokyo Metropolitan Toyama Heights Apartment Complex, a public housing development comprising 33 buildings, numerous public facilities, shops, and parks within a single site. Due to the varying scales of buildings and their surrounding conditions, we hypothesize that Toyama Heights contains diverse types of behavior-transcending spaces, which may function similarly to urban spaces.

This research aims to analyze the spaces within Toyama Heights where such behaviors occur, with a focus on common areas of public housing. The objective is to understand how these spaces relate to their surroundings and to examine their spatial characteristics.

2. Human Behavior That Transcends Boundaries in Toyama Heights

2.1. Definition of Analytical Items

In this study, "behavior that transcends boundaries" is defined as actions by residents, affiliates, or external individuals occurring within shared spaces other than interior residences, facilities, shops, and parks—specifically, corridors, stair halls, entrances, and courtyards. The study focuses on spaces where such behaviors were observed, analyzing their characteristics, spatial configurations, and relationships with the surrounding environment.

2.2. Field Survey

Surveys were conducted on June 7 (sunny), August 12 (sunny), and October 8 (rainy), 2024, between 12:00 PM and 6:00 PM. Behaviors visible to the naked eye within the site were recorded on a map.

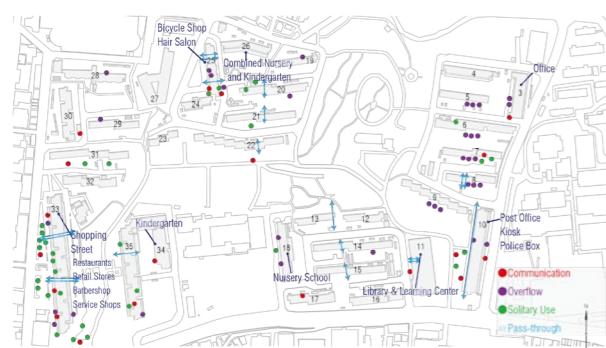


Figure 1. Distribution of "Boundary-Transcending Behaviors" and Associated Facilities

Table 1. Classification of "Boundary-Transcending Behaviors"

Pass-through	Individuals passing through the shared space
Communication	Multiple individuals engaging in communication within the shared space
Overflow	Objects placed beyond the boundaries of private domains
Solitary Use	Individuals working, sitting, resting, or strolling alone

2.3. Observed Spaces

A variety of behavior-transcending activities were observed within shared spaces. Figure 1 shows the distribution of these behaviors. Based on the findings, observed behaviors were categorized into four types: "pass-through," "communication," "overflow," and "solitary" (Table 1).

3. Analysis of Spaces Where Human Behavior Transcends Boundaries

The field survey revealed that such behaviors occurred throughout almost the entire site, with certain areas showing higher concentrations. This section explores the spatial characteristics of these areas and their relationship with the surrounding environment.

The occurrence of these behaviors appears to be influenced by the scale of the space. According to Figure 1, behavior overflow was not observed in large plaza-like areas. Moreover, none of the behaviors significantly obstructed the original function of the shared space. Therefore, it is considered that such behaviors can emerge in human-scale environments without requiring large spaces.

The presence of auxiliary elements such as roofs, eaves, railings, steps, and pilotis also seems to facilitate the occurrence of these behaviors (Figure 2). These features provide cues for people to stop and stay, encouraging behavior that transcends boundaries. Additionally, behaviors were observed in shaded areas created by trees, suggesting that planted elements also play a role in creating such conducive spaces.



Figure 2. Bicycle Parking Area Where People Were Seen Chatting: Building No. 10

Buildings where no such behaviors were observed typically lacked multiple access points to entrances or stair halls. In contrast, shared spaces with multiple points of access are visually open to passersby, making them more prone to "pass-through" and similar behaviors (Photo 1).



Photo 1. Stairwell: Building No. 22
(Photographed on October 8, 2024)

From these observations, it is evident that the emergence of boundary-transcending behaviors is closely related to three factors: the human-scale dimensions of space, the presence of architectural elements or vegetative auxiliary features, and the availability of multi-directional access.

Moreover, such behaviors were frequently observed near buildings with adjacent facilities or shops, where facility users also contributed to boundary-transcending behavior. This indicates that spaces attracting non-residents with specific purposes are more likely to become sites for such activities.

While the occurrences were unevenly distributed, the behaviors were observed across nearly the entire site. Most observed instances involved small groups of one to three individuals. This suggests that the shared spaces in Toyama Heights support small clusters of activity spread across a broad area. In addition to amenities designed for residents, many non-residents were seen passing through or lingering in the common spaces (Photo 2), indicating that both resident and non-resident behaviors coexisted. Consequently, the common areas of Toyama Heights can be understood as sites where small-scale, boundary-transcending behaviors collectively foster a subtle but significant connection with the urban context.



Photo 2. People Chatting in the Pilotis: Building No. 33
(Photographed on October 8, 2024)

4. Architectural Proposal for Shared Spaces in Public Housing

Based on the above findings, it is evident that spaces within Toyama Heights that foster boundary-transcending behaviors possess distinct spatial characteristics and function as mediators of diverse urban relationships.

Given that many public housing complexes in Tokyo are designed according to standardized regulations, it is possible to apply insights from Toyama Heights to introduce or enhance such behaviors in existing public housing. One effective approach is the spatial expansion or addition of features that encourage behavior-transcending activities. As an architectural intervention, this study proposes the "Gap Generator" (Figure 3), a device that modifies existing corridors in public housing to introduce the spatial conditions necessary for such behaviors. By employing the "Gap Generator," it is anticipated that currently static and disengaged shared spaces can be transformed into environments fostering interaction with the surrounding city. A detailed architectural proposal will be developed in the upcoming graduation project.

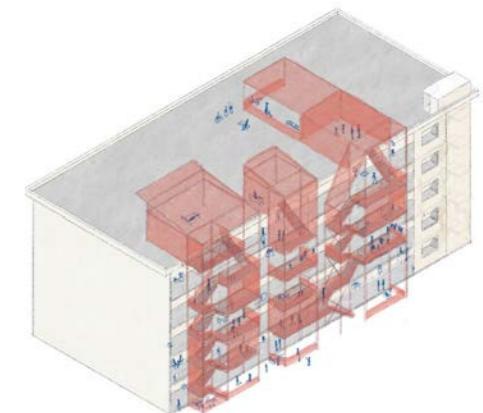


Figure 3. Conceptual Sketch of the "Gap Generator"

5. Conclusion

Through an investigation of Toyama Heights, this study clarified the spatial characteristics and external relationships of areas within public housing where human behaviors transcend architectural boundaries. Such spaces are characterized by a human-scale environment, the presence of auxiliary features encouraging people to linger, and multiple access points. Toyama Heights demonstrates how shared spaces—frequented by both residents and purpose-driven visitors—support small-scale, boundary-transcending activities throughout the site, contributing to the area's dynamic relationship with its surroundings.

Furthermore, the study proposes the "Gap Generator" as an architectural strategy to introduce such dynamics into other public housing contexts. By considering the spatial conditions that foster these behaviors, the intervention aims to transform otherwise static environments into active, city-connected spaces.

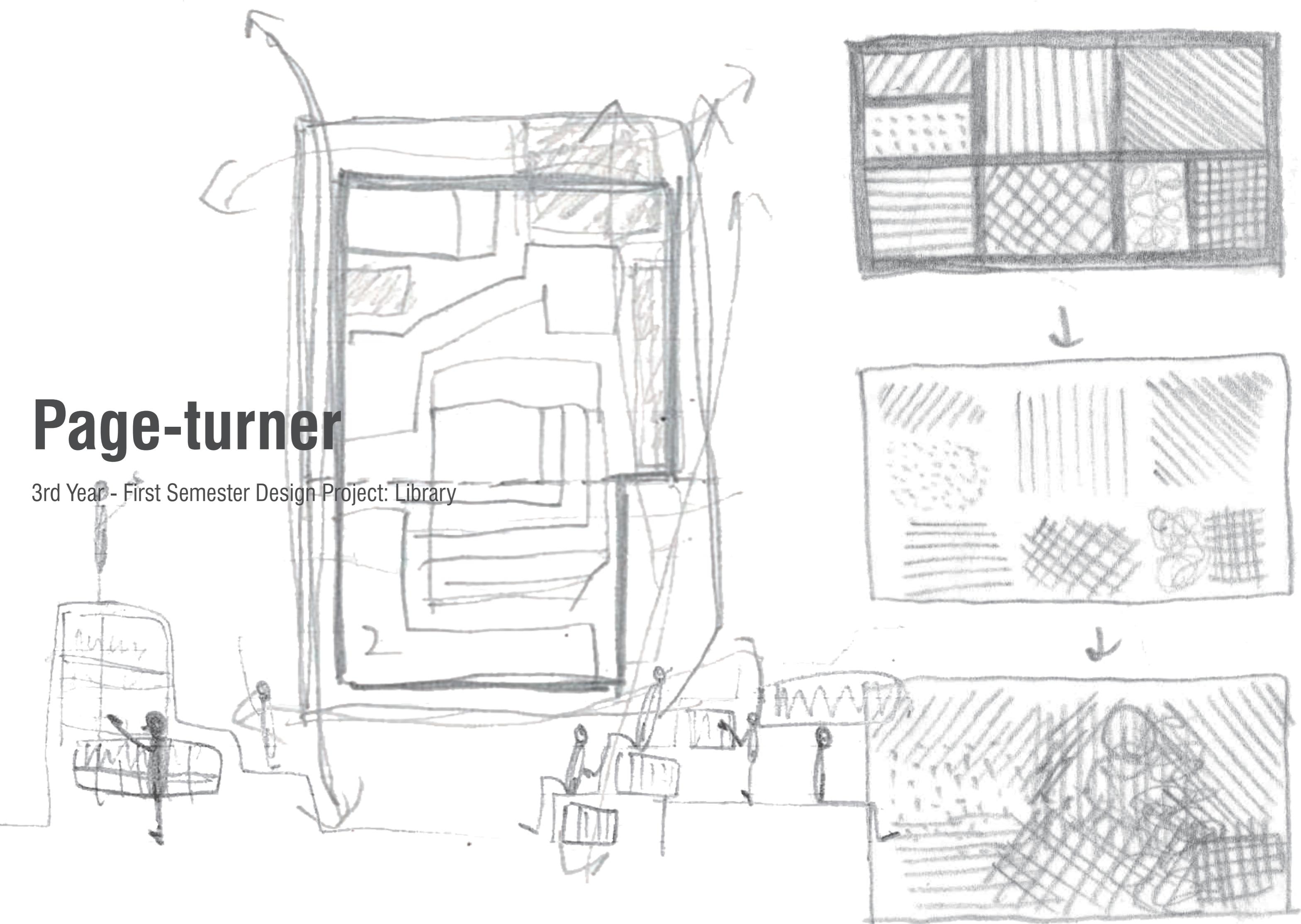
Ultimately, enabling shared spaces in public housing to engage with the urban fabric may contribute to alleviating isolation among residents.

References

- 1) Bureau of Housing Policy, Tokyo Metropolitan Government. "List of Tokyo Metropolitan Housing Complexes" [in Japanese]. https://www.jutakuseisaku.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/jutaku_keici/264-00toeidanchi.htm (Accessed October 19, 2024).

Page-turner

3rd Year - First Semester Design Project: Library



Page-Turner

Site: 67 Yarai-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo

Building Area: 2,090 m²

Library × Performing Arts

From ancient times, performing arts have taken place in all kinds of urban spaces—sometimes the city itself becomes the stage,

and other times the stage blends seamlessly into the fabric of the city.

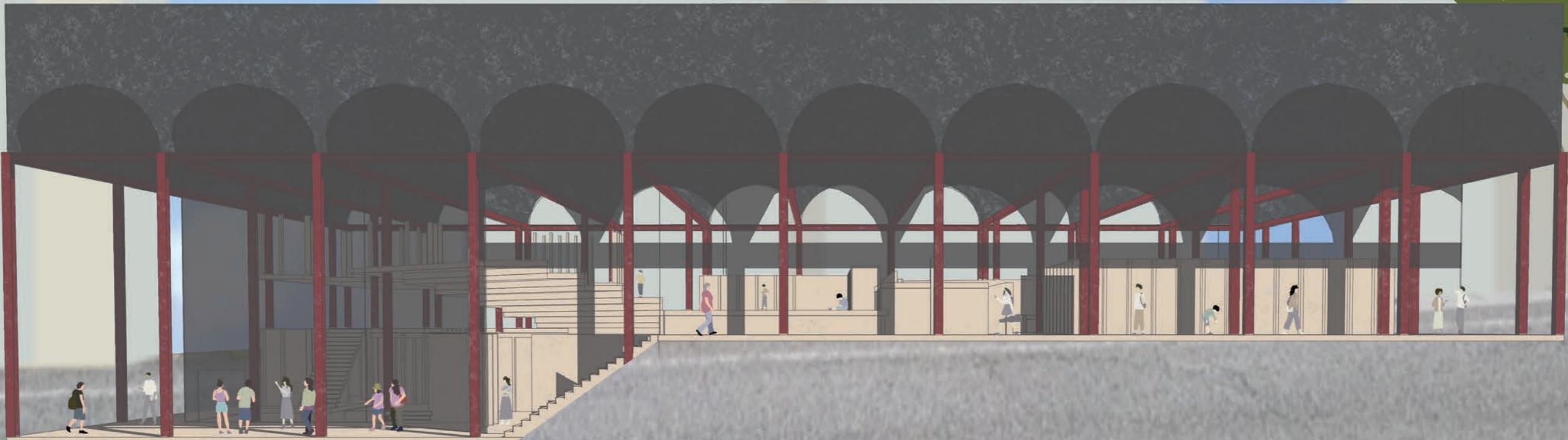
These performance spaces often spark a range of other activities, such as commerce, promotion, trends, archiving, and social interaction.

Here, the library and performing arts share a flexible, integrated space.

There are no fixed boundaries between the library, the stage, and the audience area; instead, the space shifts organically depending on the time and type of activity.

By allowing different uses to coexist and overlap, a rich variety of spatial experiences can emerge.

This library aims to become a natural extension of the city—fostering vibrant interactions while providing comfortable spaces where everyone can find their own rhythm and place.



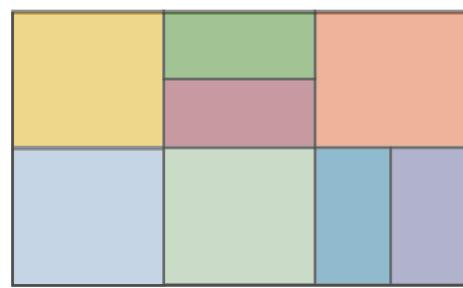
West Elevation Perspective

Floor Plan Diagram

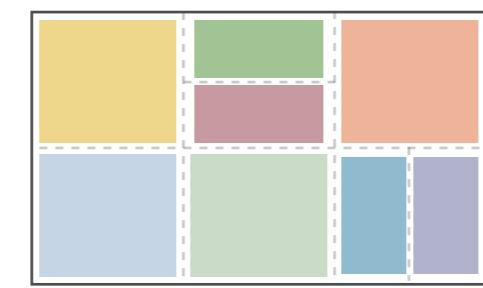
By creating an environment where entirely different activities take place side by side, the library becomes a space rich in diversity.

Behind a thin, temporary wall, an entirely different kind of space comes to life.

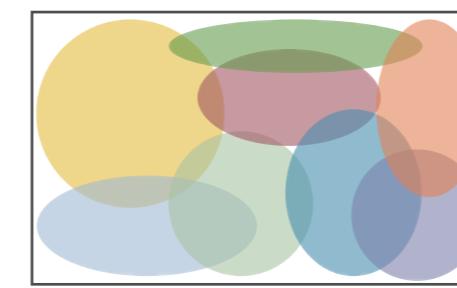
Hints of its presence—soft sounds, subtle movements—filter through.



A variety of activities take place.



Removable partitions.



Activities interact with one another, creating a range of overlapping activities and moments.



Select books while experiencing the atmosphere and energy of the live house.

Bookshelves where the other side is subtly visible.

When there is no performance, the space becomes a passage for users.

When there is a performance, the space is divided into the green room using walls and bookshelves.

Depending on the bookshelf arrangement, there are also more secluded areas.

During a performance, the area closes off and transforms into the backstage.

Gaps that appear throughout the space allow you to sense the presence on the other side.

A library space where people pass through or stay, much like an alley.

It can serve as a space for exhibitions, perhaps featuring books on theater.

A quiet space with minimal flow of people, perfect for focused reading.

Sit on the steps to enjoy a performance or read.

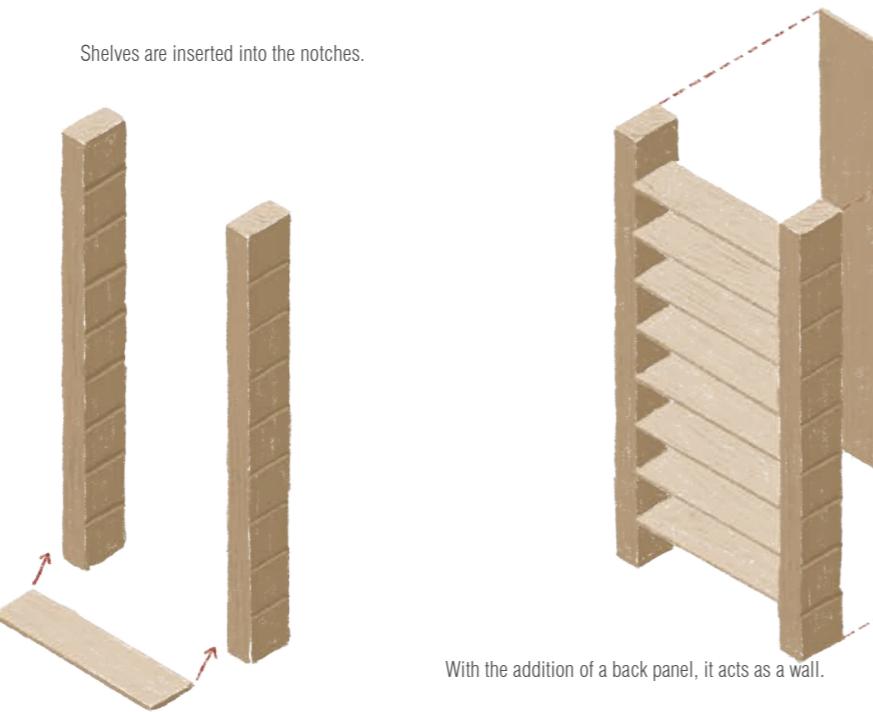
Modular Bookshelf System

Notches are made at 300mm intervals along the columns (105×270 , h=2700).

By inserting shelves into these notches, the structure becomes a bookshelf for storing books.

Additionally, by attaching boards to the columns, it can serve as a wall, effectively blocking the line of sight.

The shelf spacing and the option of a back panel can be customized to suit the function of the space and the size of the books, allowing for a wide range of activities.



Shelves are inserted into the notches.
It functions as a column when shelves are not installed.

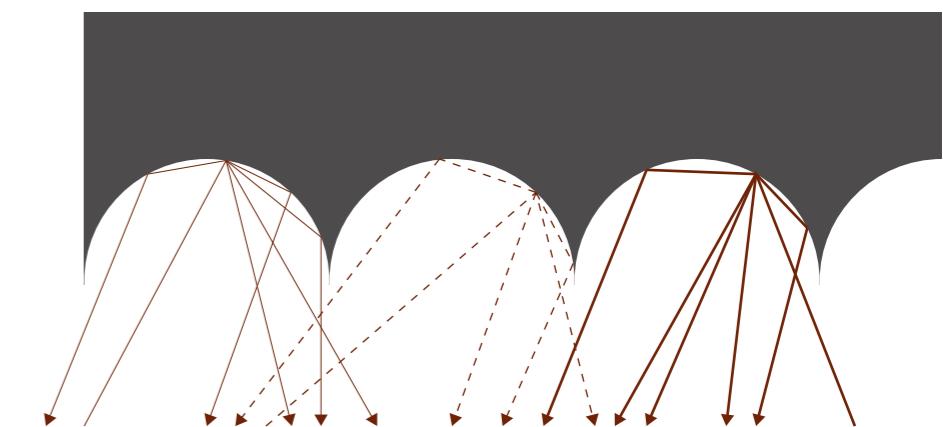
The spacing of the shelves can be adjusted according to the size of the books.

A bookshelf that lets you sense the presence on the other side.



Roof Design

A design that reflects and scatters sound and activity in multiple directions.



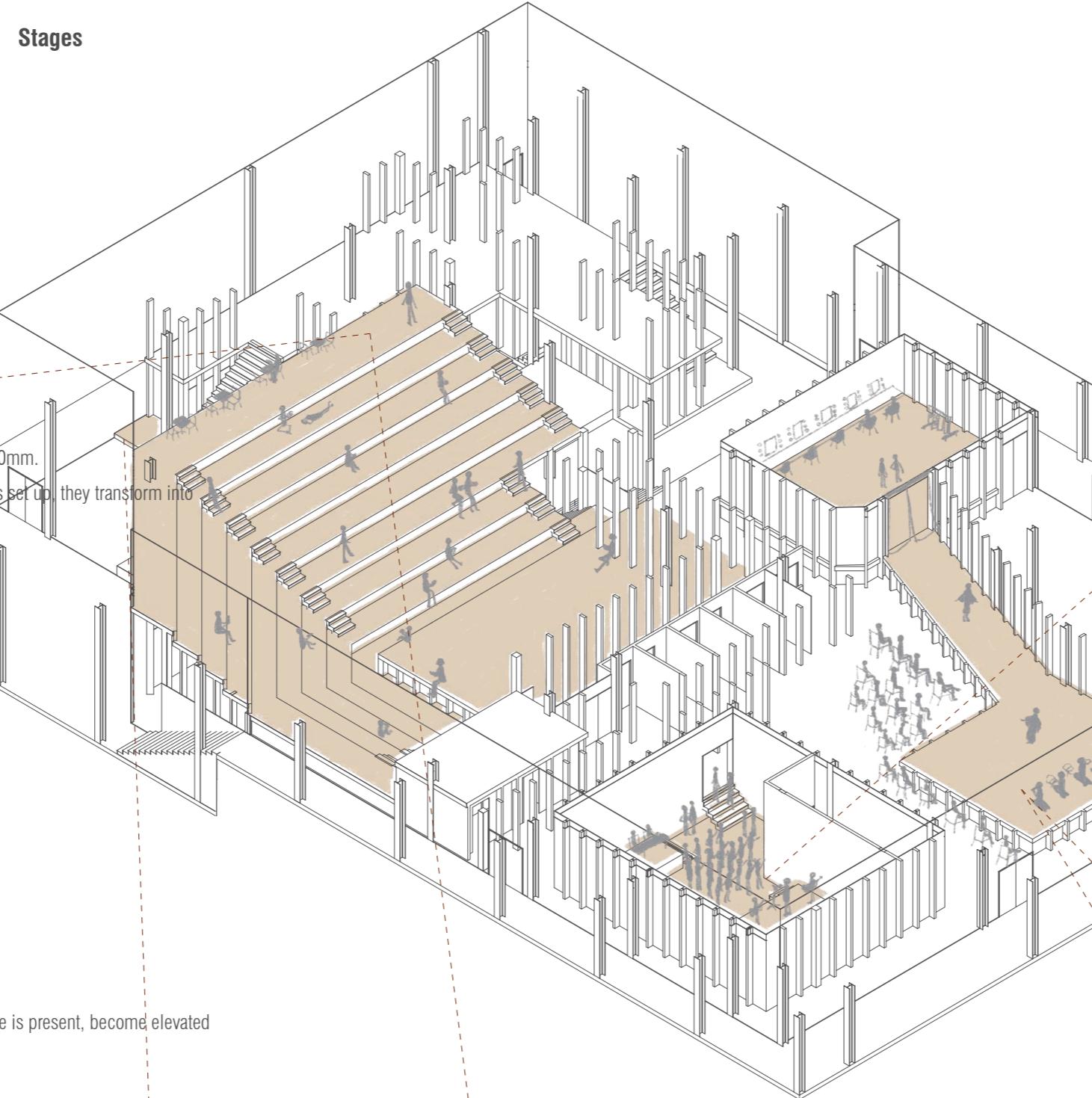
Exterior Perspective



Exterior Works;



Stages



Arena Type:

Features steps with a 450mm rise and platforms set at a height of 900mm.

The steps and platforms serve as reading spaces, and when a stage is set up, they transform into seating and the performance stage.



Live House Type:

A space that can be enclosed by walls on all four sides. It can be used for performances, storytelling, exhibitions, and other events.



Platform Type:

The steps with a 450mm rise act as reading spaces and, when a stage is present, become elevated platforms for performers.

Noh Stage Type:

A stage with a layout inspired by the Noh stage, featuring a 900mm elevated platform. It serves as a space for reading and temporary exhibitions, and when a stage is in place, it functions as both the performance stage and backstage area.



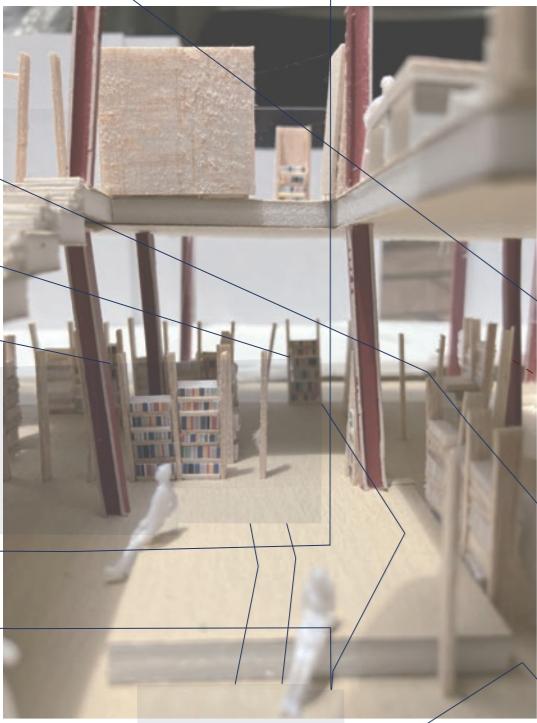
In the absence of a stage, the steps provide a space for sitting and reading.



It serves as both seating and reading areas.



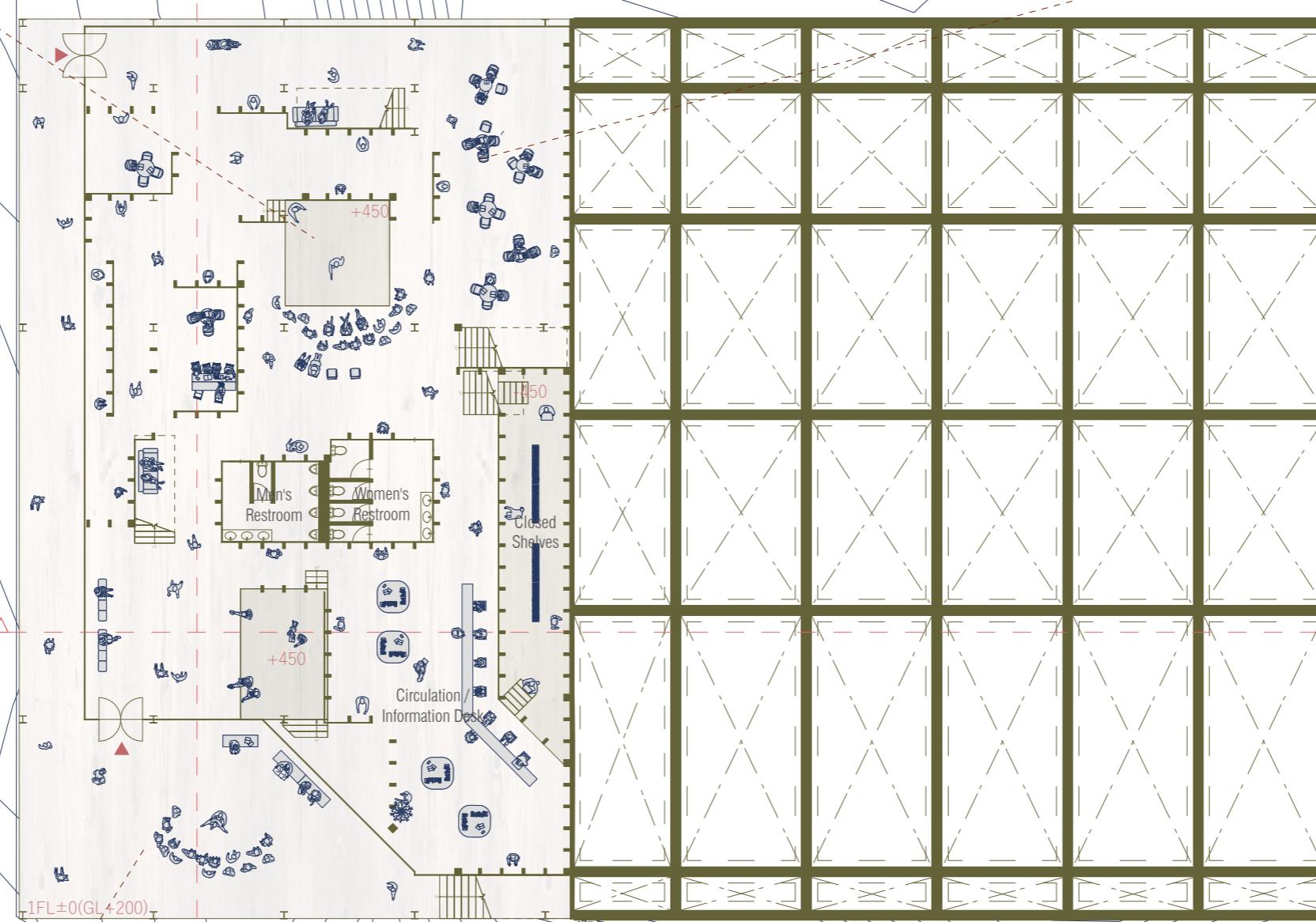
When there is no stage, the space is used for exhibitions or reading.



1st Floor: Have a seat on the stage to read books.

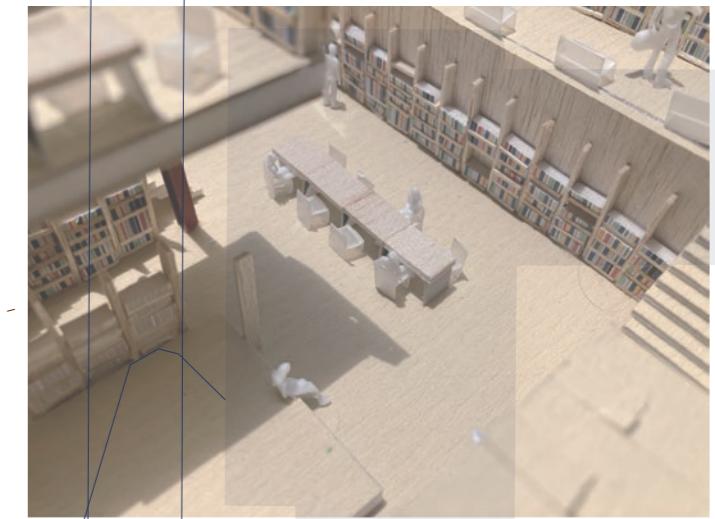


1st Floor Entrance: The entrance with a roof can also serve as a space for performances.

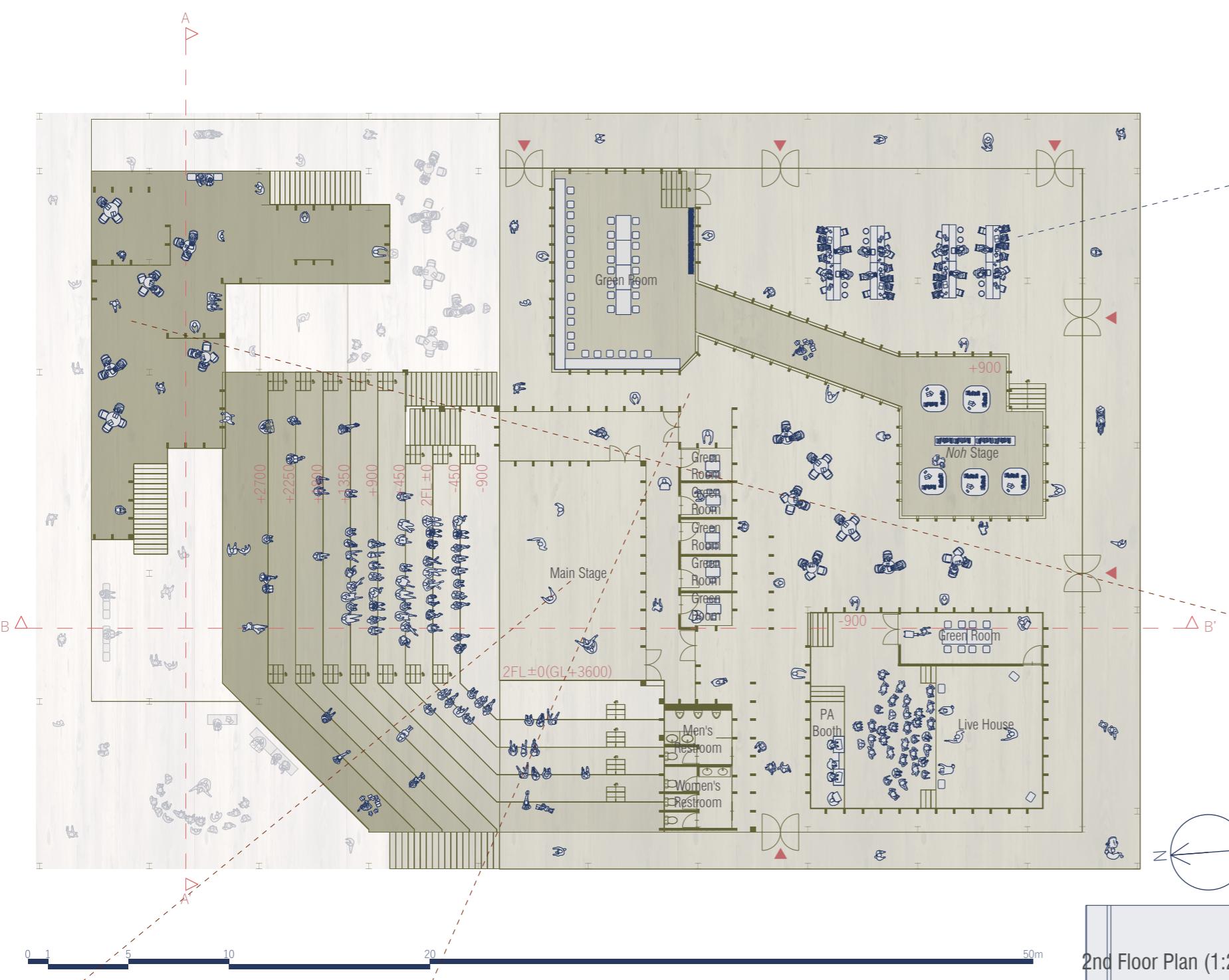


0 1 5 10 20

50m Site Plan & Ground Floor Plan (1:250)



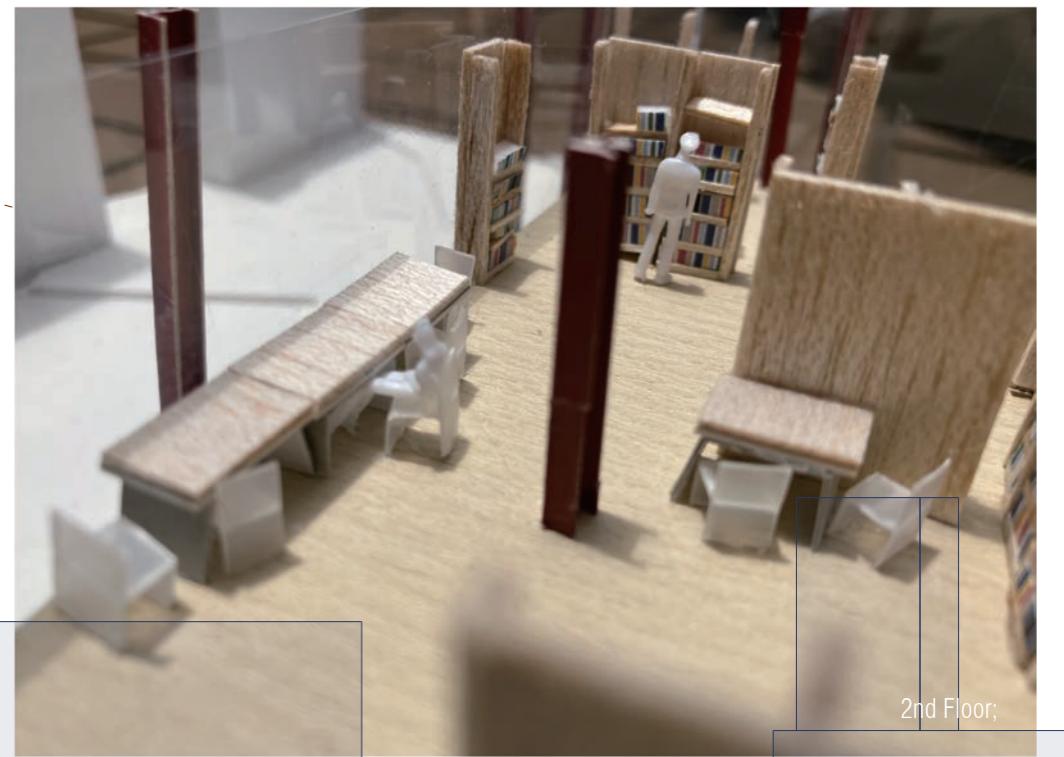
1st Floor (from 2nd Floor);



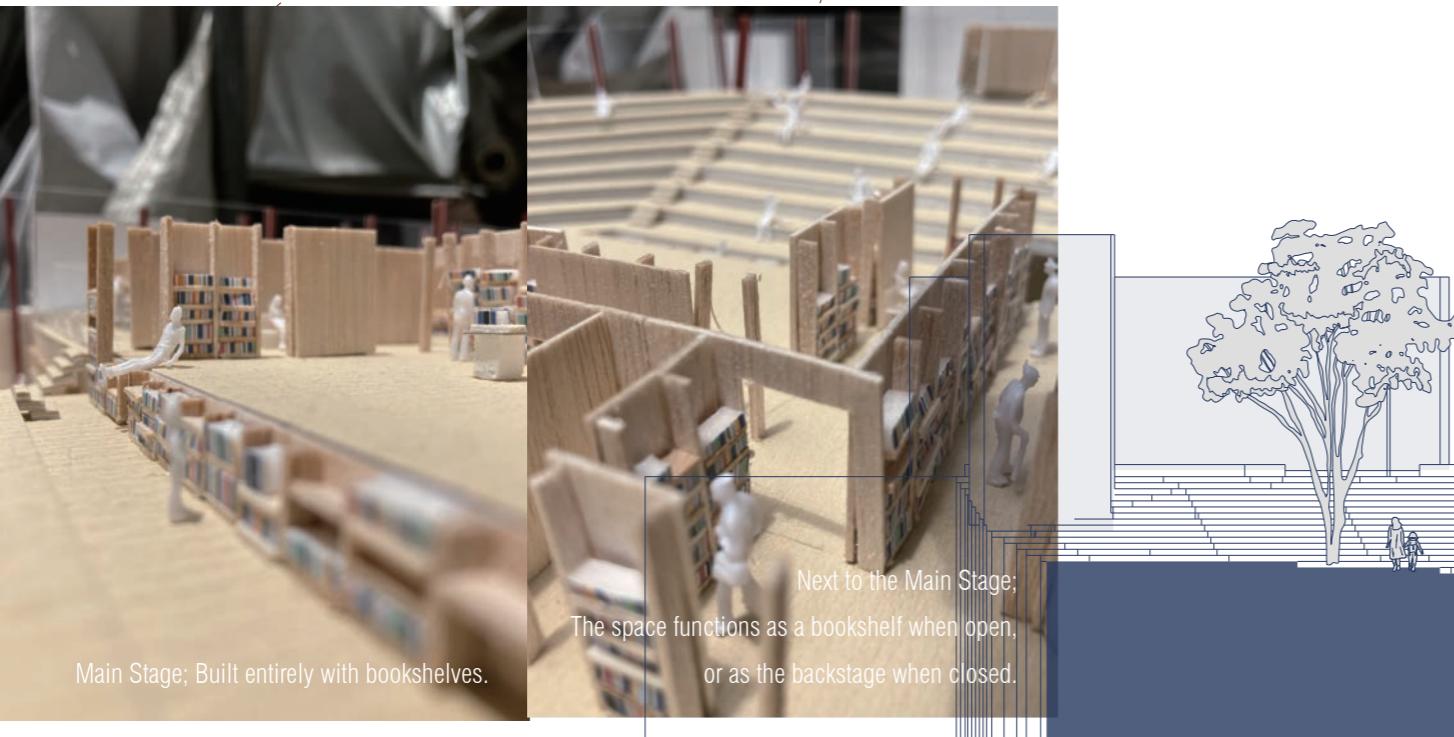
2nd Floor Plan (1:250)



Directly behind the stage is a space for reading and studying, where the sense of activity from the stage is felt while the area is subtly divided.

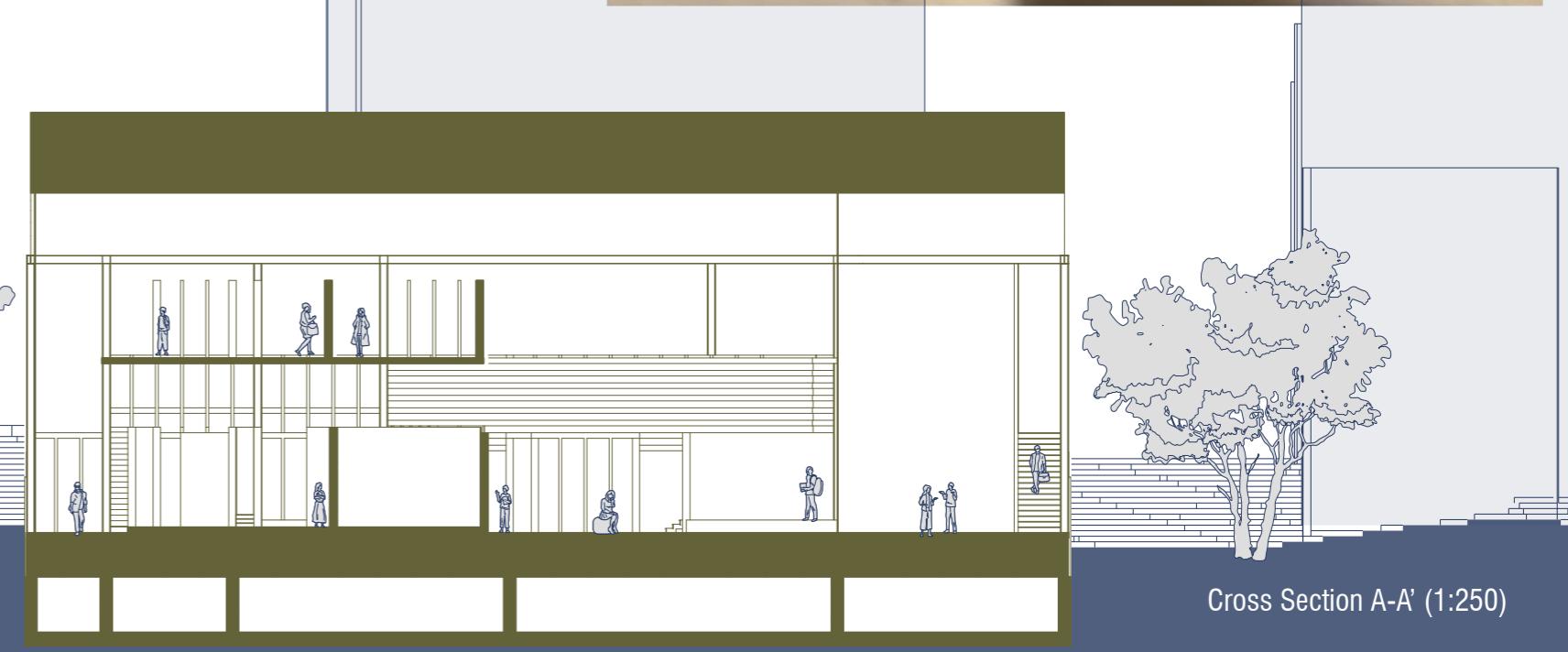


2nd Floor:

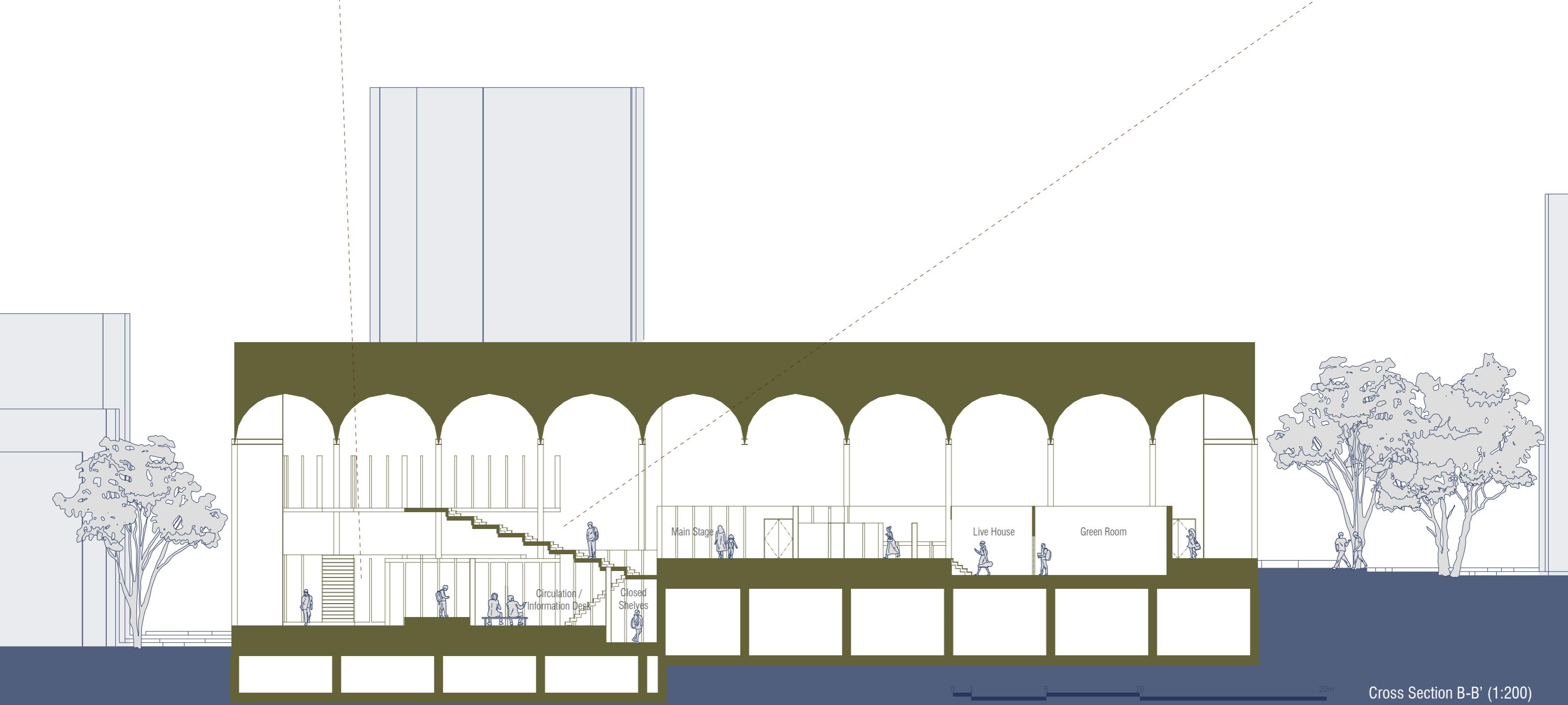


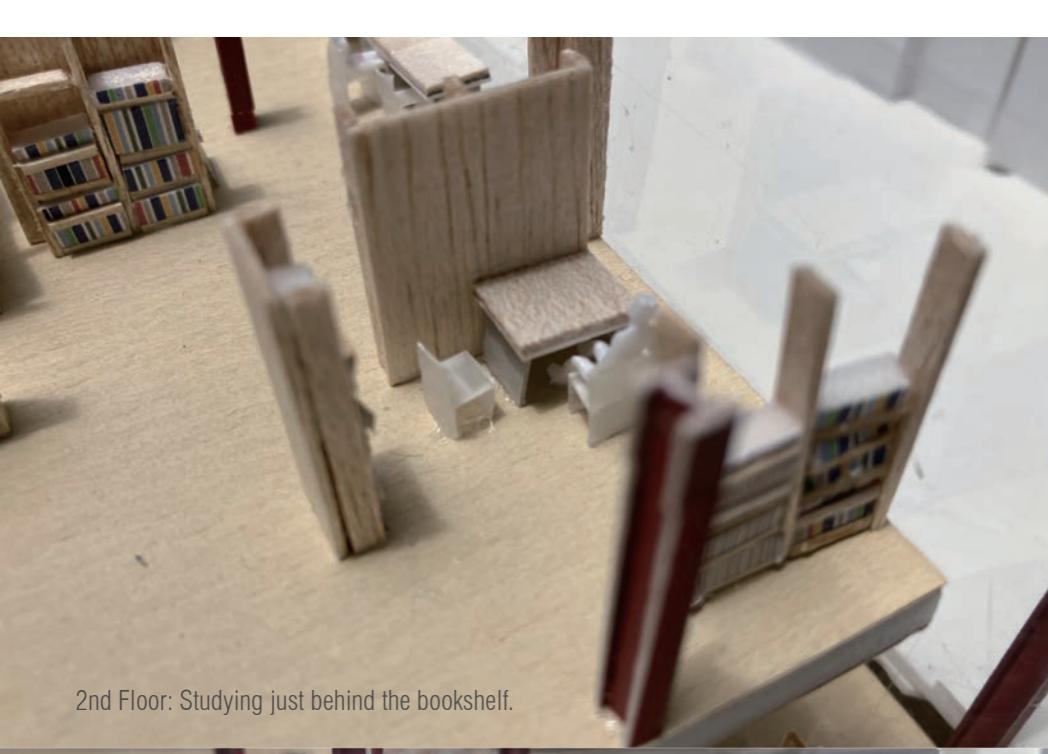
Main Stage; Built entirely with bookshelves.

Next to the Main Stage;
The space functions as a bookshelf when open,
or as the backstage when closed.



Cross Section A-A' (1:250)





2nd Floor: Studying just behind the bookshelf.



Next to the Live House; A temporary wall that also functions as a bookshelf.



From Beside the Noh Stage on the 2nd Floor;



2nd Floor Restroom;



Behind the Noh Stage;



1st Floor; Bookshelves that loosely divide the space.



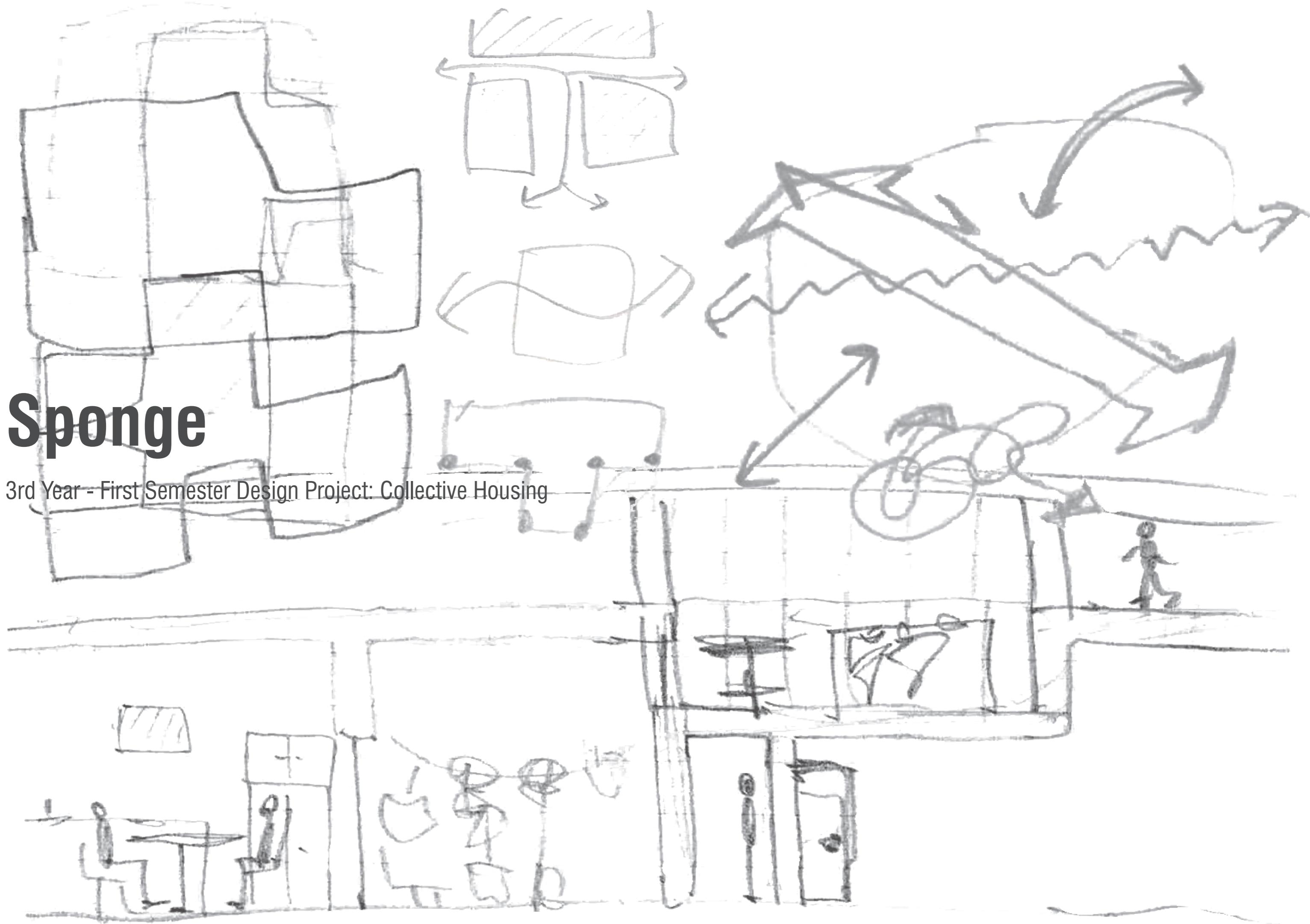
Main Stage: A reading area where you can sit on the steps.



Behind the Noh Stage; A reading area located just behind the stage.

Sponge

3rd Year - First Semester Design Project: Collective Housing



Sponge

Project Details

Location: 6-35-3 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo (current site of Co-op Olympia)

Site Area: 4,109 m²

Building Scale: 5 stories above ground

Structure: Reinforced Concrete (RC) construction

Facilities: 96 residential units, 8 commercial units, 60 parking spaces, 2 elevators



Exterior Perspective

The site, located near Harajuku Station and Meiji Shrine, is designated for a residential complex.

This building is designed with a "Sponge" structure to reflect the diversity of the Omotesando area, as though the street itself has been transformed into a building.

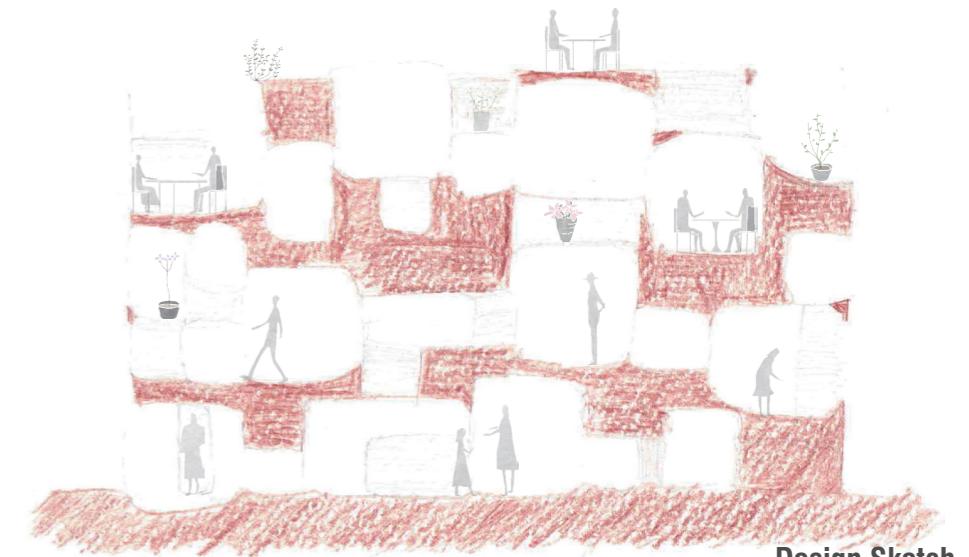
A "Sponge" is known for its porous and absorbent nature. The small gaps throughout the design are intended to create a living space that reflects the 'chaos' of Jingumae.

Omotesando is a place where different spaces of varying nature and scale coexist in a chaotic harmony—between a busy street and a residential area, the Meiji Shrine, bustling shopping districts, zelkova tree-lined streets, and potted plants. It is a place where people's spatial relationships with the different spaces vary.

Within this environment, people interact with the spaces in different ways—staying, passing through, or gathering.

The inherent "chaos" of Omotesando is absorbed by a collection of small, varied spaces.

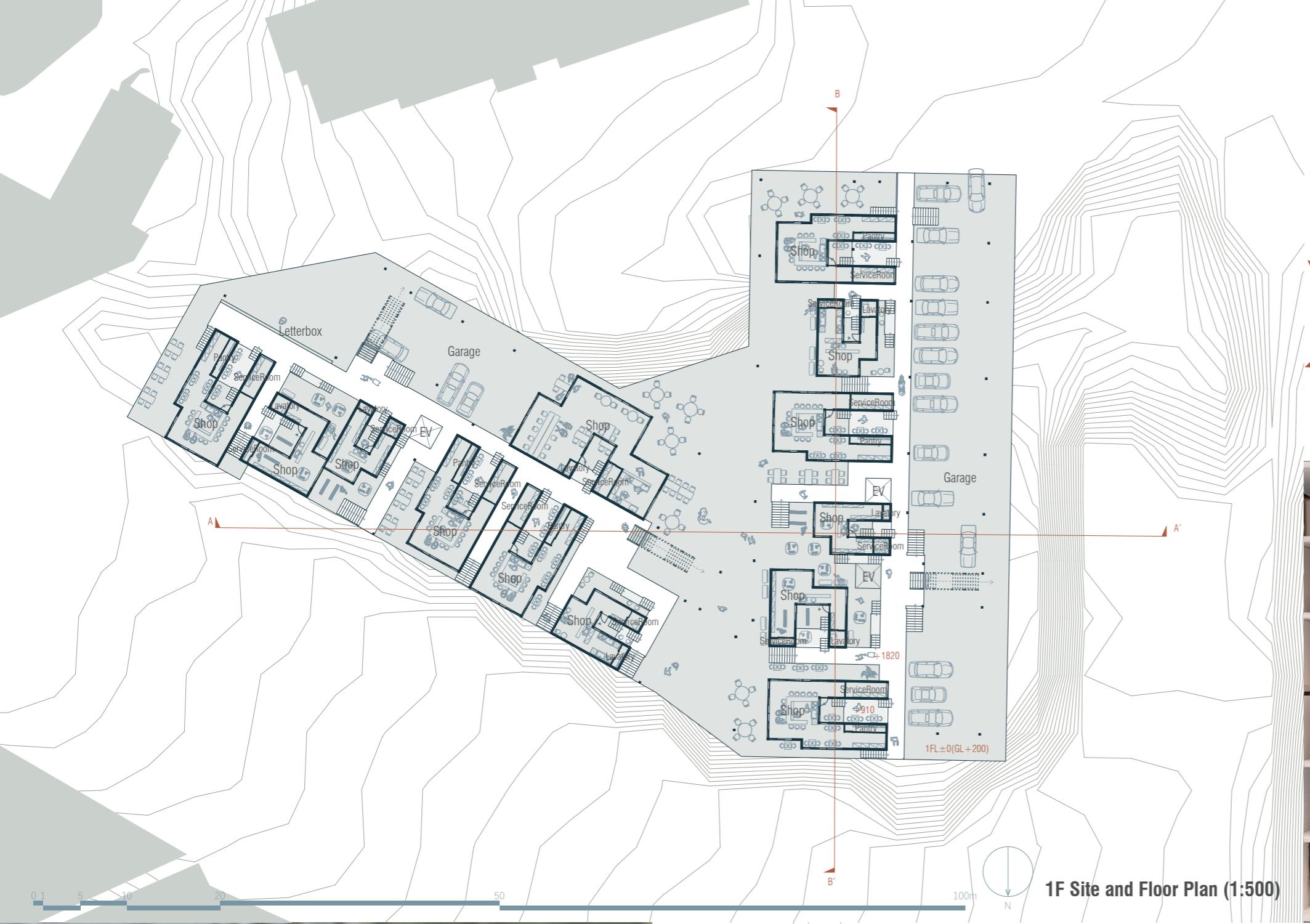
Just as water is absorbed by the holes in a sponge, the behaviors of people and their surroundings pass through or remain within the structure.



Design Sketch



North Exterior: A Residence that Embraces a Variety of User Behaviors

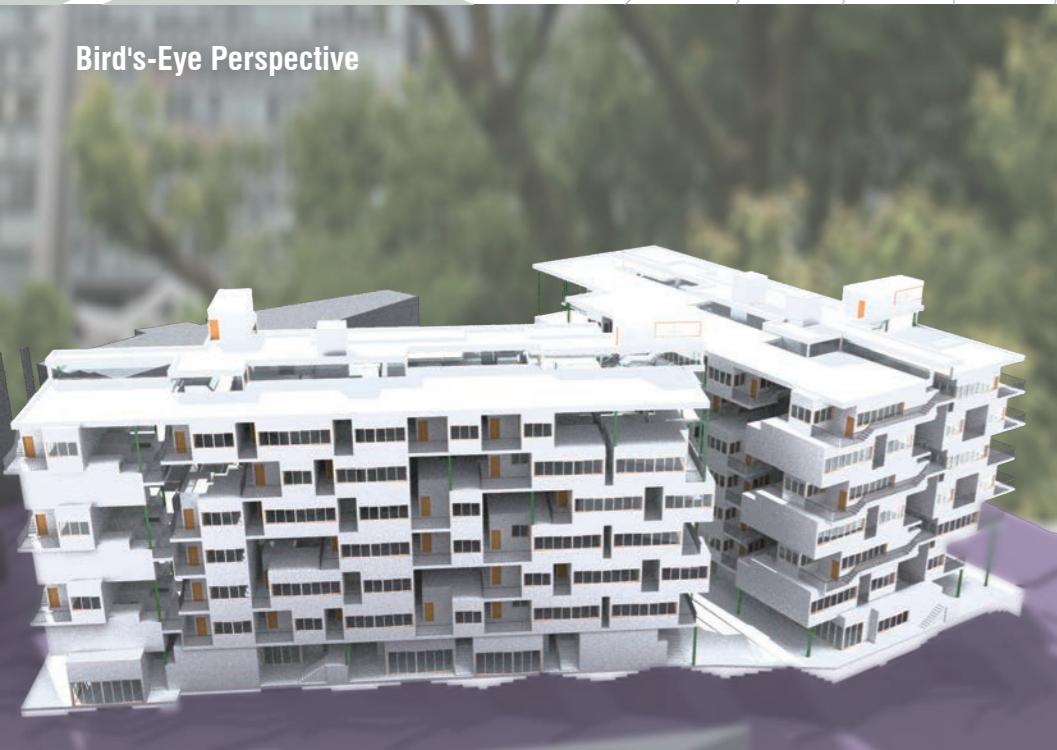
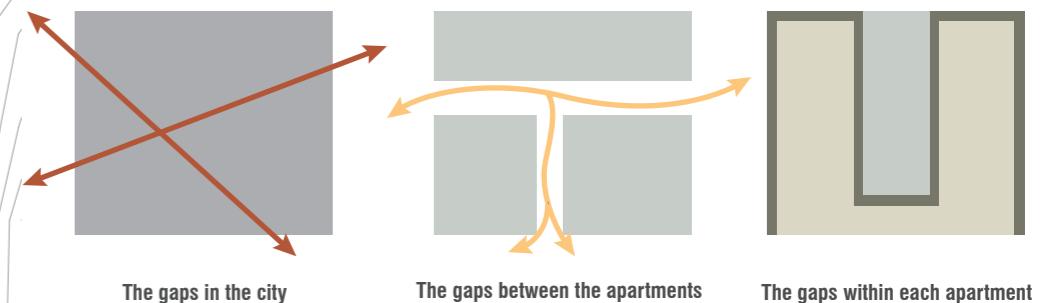


Gaps that Absorb Behavior

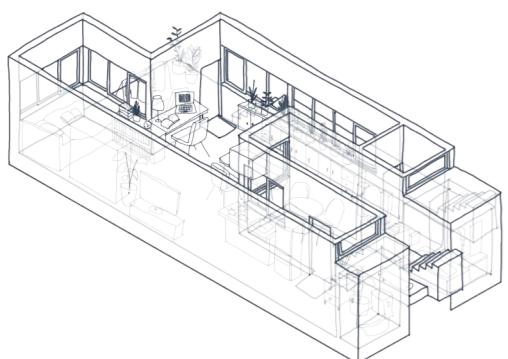
The design of this residential complex creates three layers of "gaps" within both the internal spaces and the surrounding area: **the gaps in the city**, **the gaps between the apartments**, and **the gaps within each apartment**.

In these gap spaces, various behaviors take place on different scales—people passing through, lingering, or placing objects.

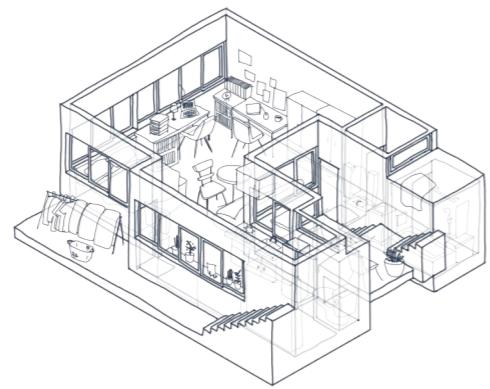
Through these gaps, the residential complex becomes a vibrant space, overflowing with small, interconnected areas, much like the city itself.



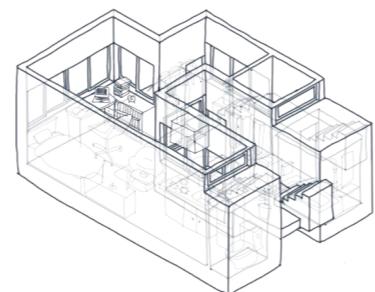
Detail of the Residential Units



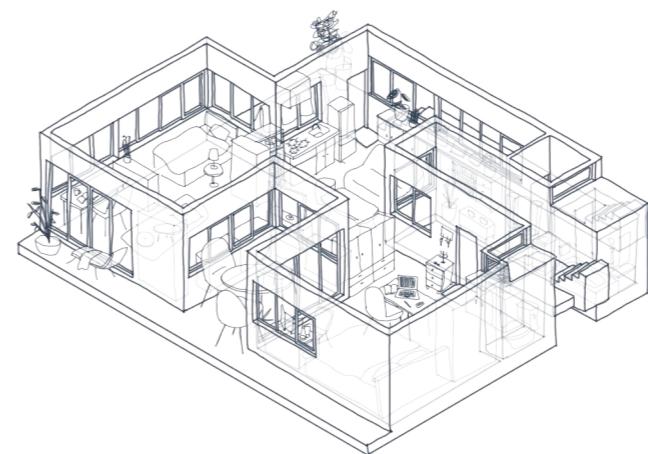
Unit 1 – Isometric View



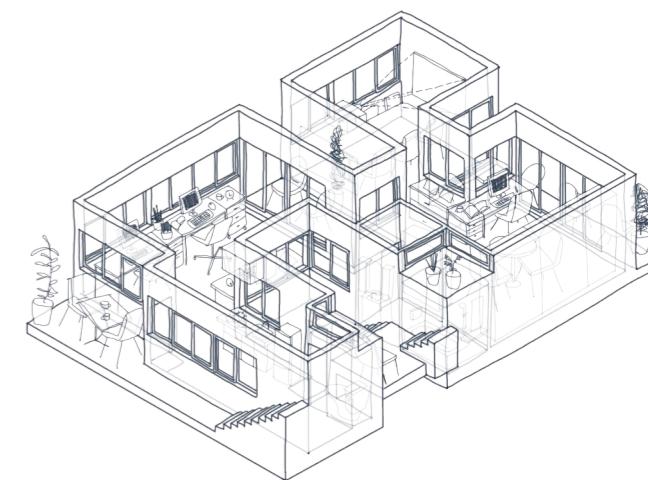
Unit 2 – Isometric View



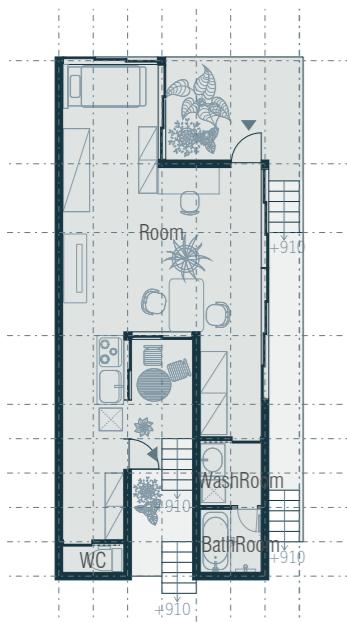
Unit 3 – Isometric View



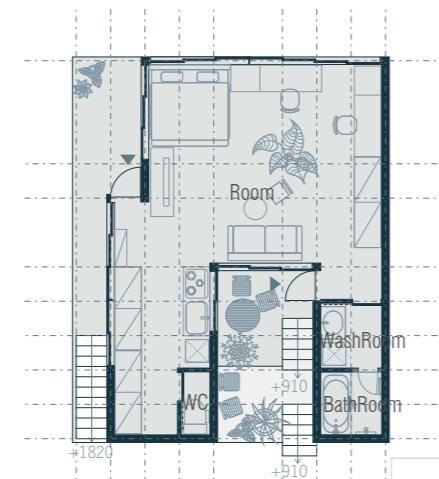
Unit 4 – Isometric View



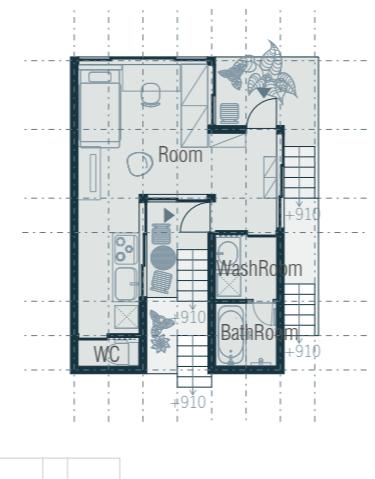
Unit 5 – Isometric View



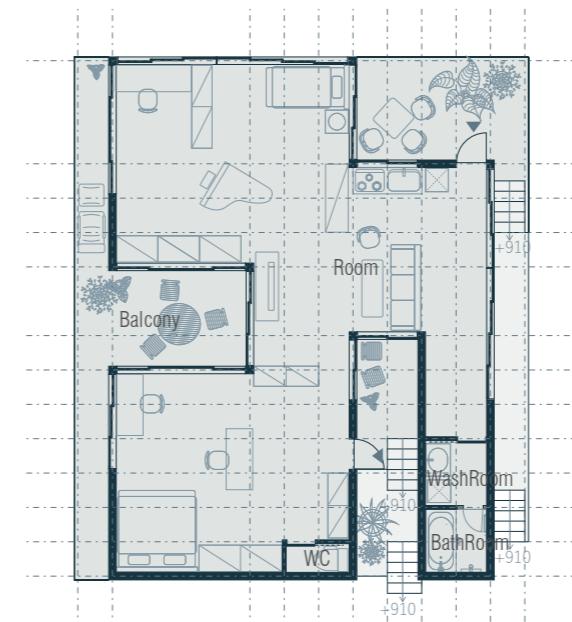
Unit 1 – Floor Plan (1:200)



Unit 2 – Floor Plan (1:200)



Unit 3 – Floor Plan (1:200)



Unit 4 – Floor Plan (1:200)



Unit 5 – Floor Plan (1:200)

Five Types of Units

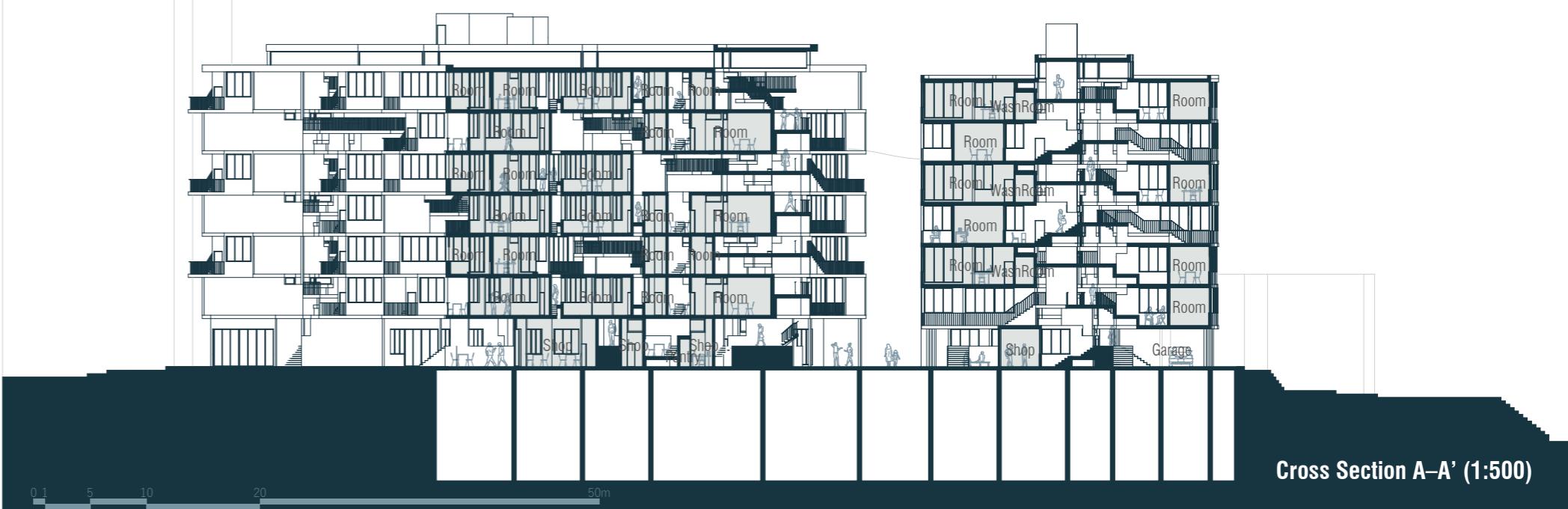
This residential complex consists of five different unit types. When these units are combined both horizontally and vertically, they create a variety of external spaces and openings.

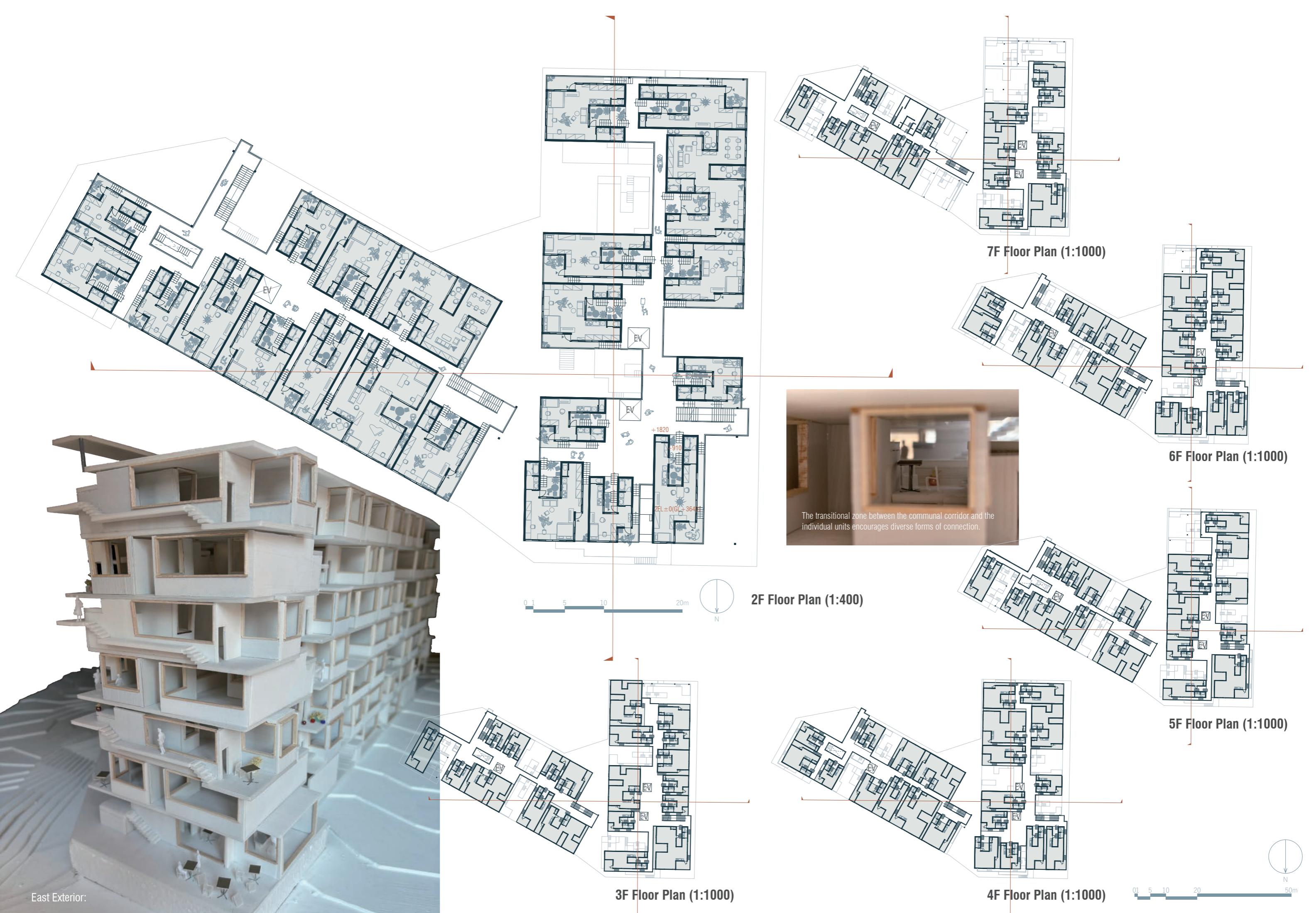
Each unit is a studio, with the layout of the room naturally dividing the interior space. The size and shape of each unit vary, catering to different ways of living.

Every unit has two entrances. Access to these entrances from the shared corridor involves passing through stairways and small spaces with height differences of +910mm and +1820mm. These spaces serve as **In-Between Spaces**, bridging the private interior and the public exterior.

These areas are used in various ways: for example, as a balcony-like space for drying clothes, or as a dining area for meals. They also serve as informal spaces for socializing, whether for a quick chat, sitting on the steps, or sharing a meal with friends.

By incorporating units with spaces that are "loosely private and loosely public," the design allows residents to maintain a comfortable sense of distance while still offering opportunities to stay, pass through, or gather together.







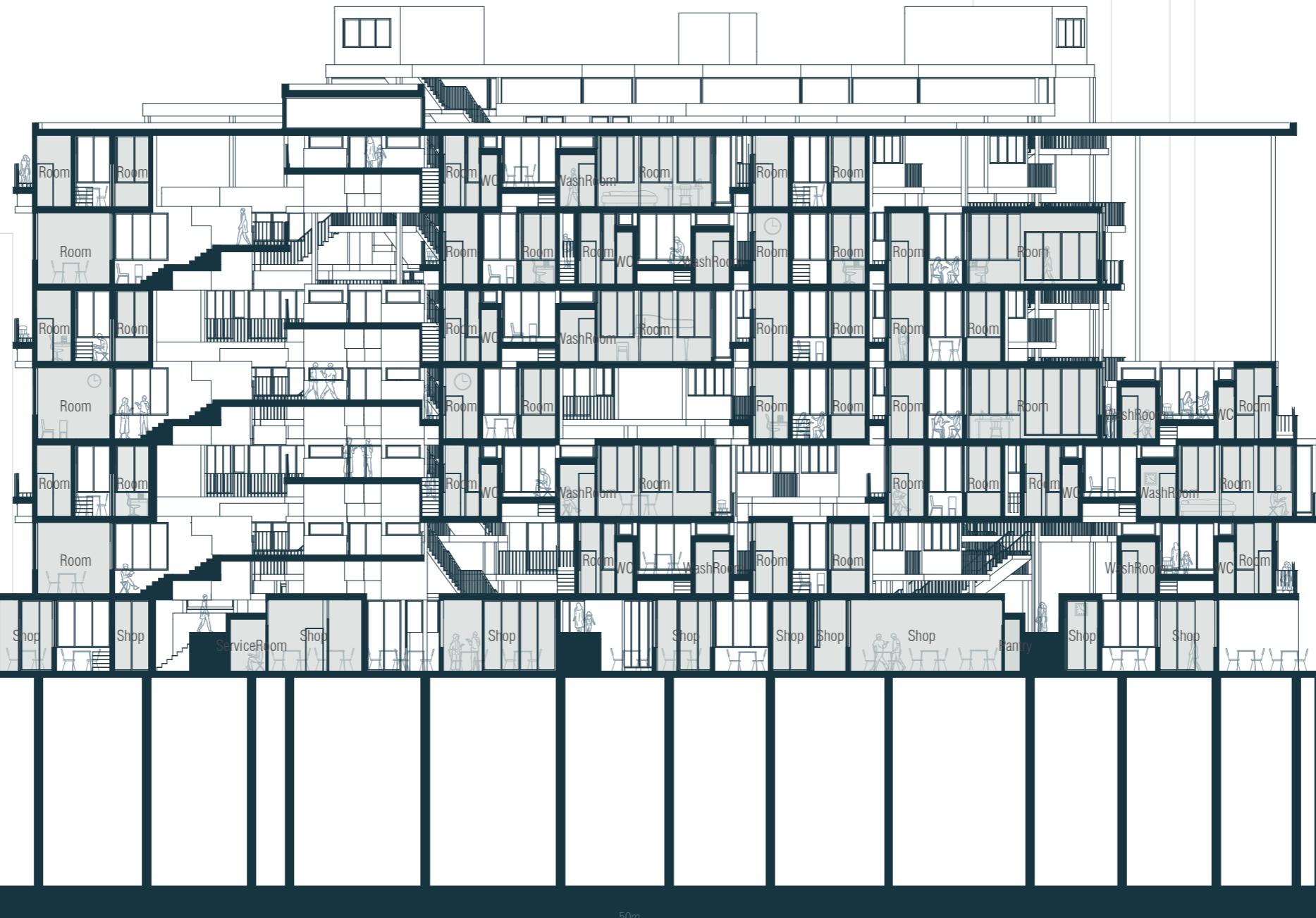
Interior Perspective: View Toward the Shared Corridor



Ground Floor Plaza: Commercial Spaces Extend Beneath the Eaves



North Exterior: The Terrace in Front of the Entrance is Accessible from the Shared Corridor, Creating a Semi-Public Space



Cross Section B-B' (1:250)



East Exterior:



East Exterior: There is a 1820mm offset between the slabs of the residential units and the shared corridor, subtly separating the public and private areas



From the Exterior of the Residential Unit: Casual Conversations Occur in the Space 910mm Below the Shared Corridor

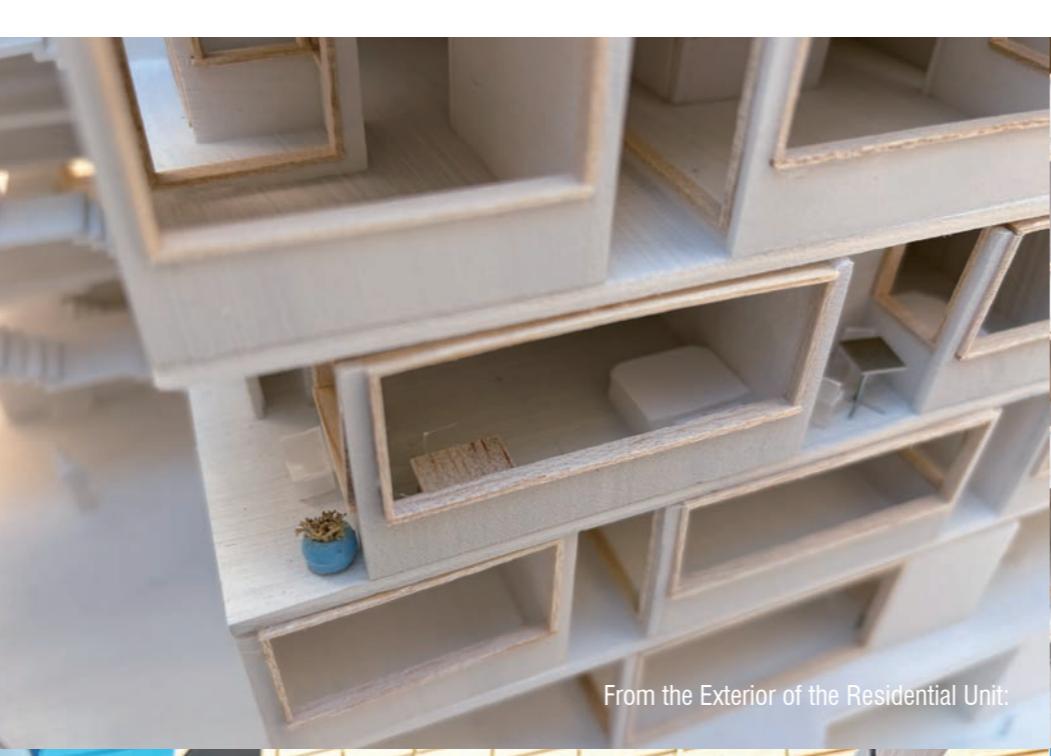


From the Interior of the Residential Unit toward the Shared Corridor: The Residential Units are Connected to the Shared Corridor by Two Steps, Creating a 910mm Difference in Elevation

Ground Floor Commercial Area: Commercial Spaces and Pedestrian Paths Intersect



North Exterior:



From the Exterior of the Residential Unit:



East Exterior: A Life Encompassed in Various Ways within Small Spaces



From the Exterior of the Residential Unit: A Table is Placed on the Terrace, Extending the Living Space



South Exterior:



From the Exterior of the Residential Unit: People and Objects Enter Spaces of Various Levels and Sizes



From the Exterior of the Residential Unit: The Narrow Passageway Enhances the Privacy of the Terrace.



East Exterior:

Collections

2nd Year - Second Semester Design Project: Art Museum

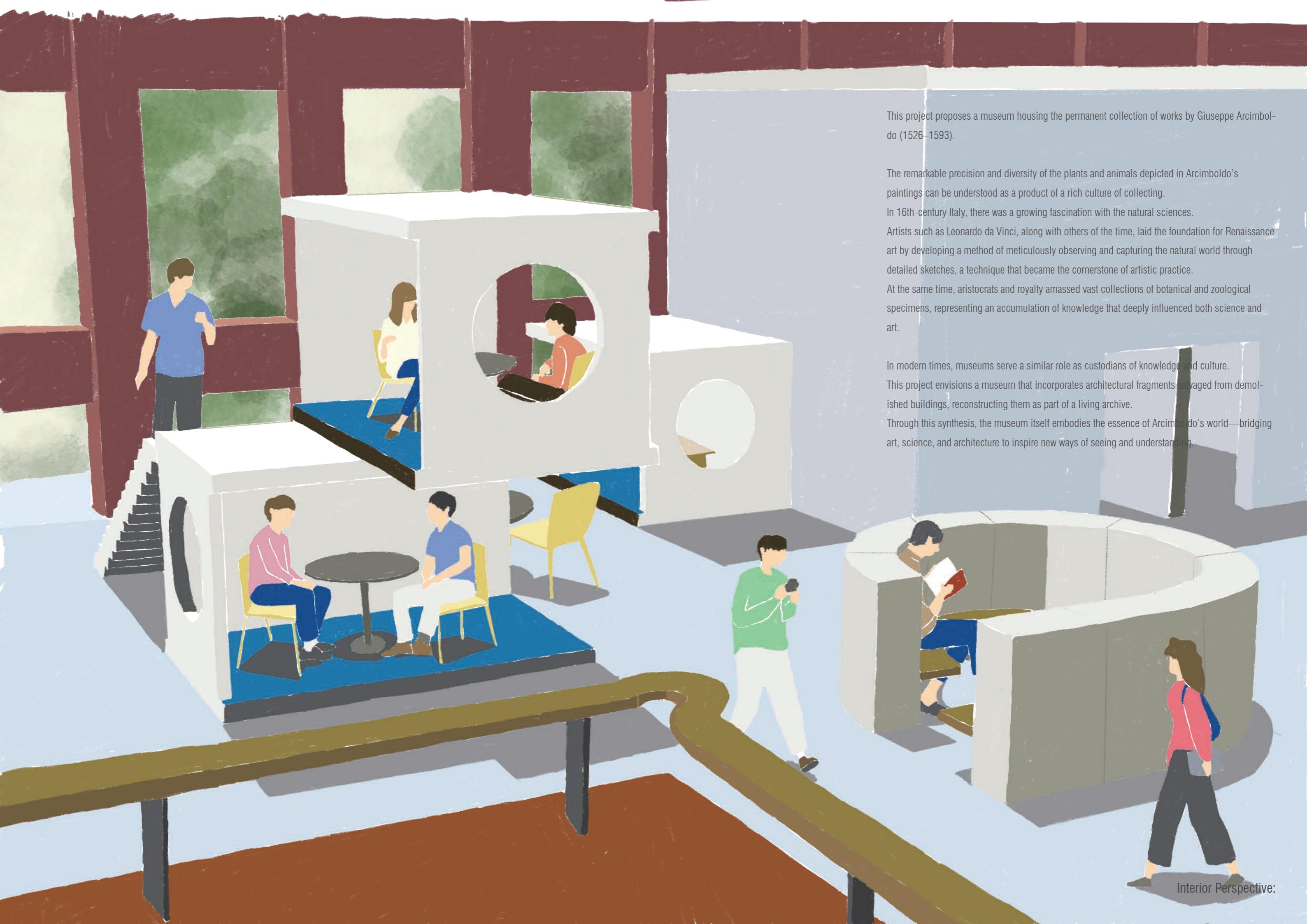
Tateishi “Nonbe Yokochō” Survey

3rd Year - First Semester Group Project: Fieldwork



Model Photo

Collections



This project proposes a museum housing the permanent collection of works by Giuseppe Arcimboldo (1526–1593).

The remarkable precision and diversity of the plants and animals depicted in Arcimboldo's paintings can be understood as a product of a rich culture of collecting.

In 16th-century Italy, there was a growing fascination with the natural sciences.

Artists such as Leonardo da Vinci, along with others of the time, laid the foundation for Renaissance art by developing a method of meticulously observing and capturing the natural world through detailed sketches, a technique that became the cornerstone of artistic practice.

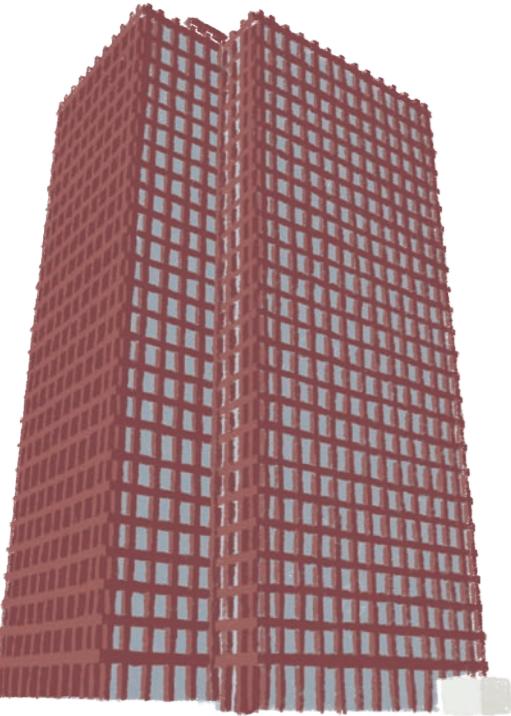
At the same time, aristocrats and royalty amassed vast collections of botanical and zoological specimens, representing an accumulation of knowledge that deeply influenced both science and art.

In modern times, museums serve a similar role as custodians of knowledge and culture.

This project envisions a museum that incorporates architectural fragments salvaged from demolished buildings, reconstructing them as part of a living archive.

Through this synthesis, the museum itself embodies the essence of Arcimboldo's world—bridging art, science, and architecture to inspire new ways of seeing and understanding.

Interior Perspective:



Collection1;

Tokio Marine Nichido Building

1974, designed by Kunio Maekawa
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo

Demolished in 2022 to make way for redevelopment.
A new building is scheduled for completion in 2028.



Collection2;

Setagaya Ward Office

1960, designed by Kunio Maekawa

Demolished in 2021 for reconstruction.

A new facility is scheduled for completion in 2027.

Some parts of the original structure are planned to be preserved and integrated into the new design.



Collection3;

Nakagin Capsule Tower Building

1972, designed by Kisho Kurokawa
Chuo-ku, Tokyo

Demolished in 2022.
During demolition, individual capsules were extracted.
Plans are underway to reuse them in museums, commercial spaces, as accommodations, or as galleries.



Collection5;

Hara Museum of Contemporary Art

1938, designed by Jin Watanabe
Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo

Demolished in 2021.
After its closure in January 2021, the permanent collection was relocated in April to its former annex in Shibukawa, Gunma Prefecture. The facility reopened under the name Hara Museum ARC.



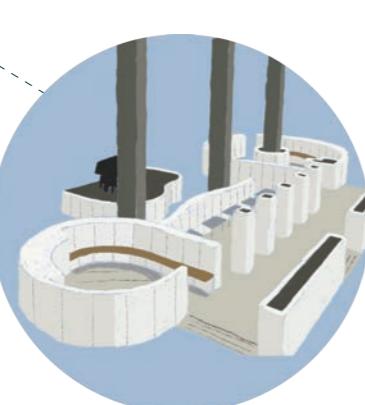
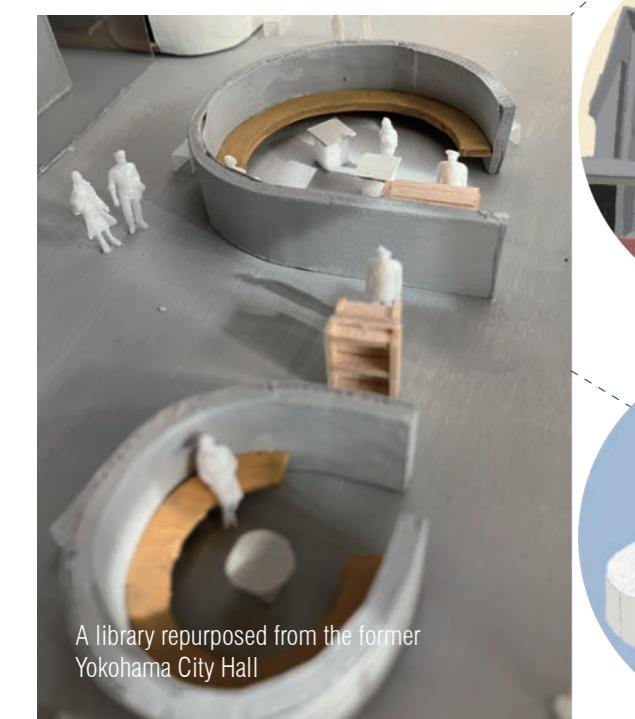
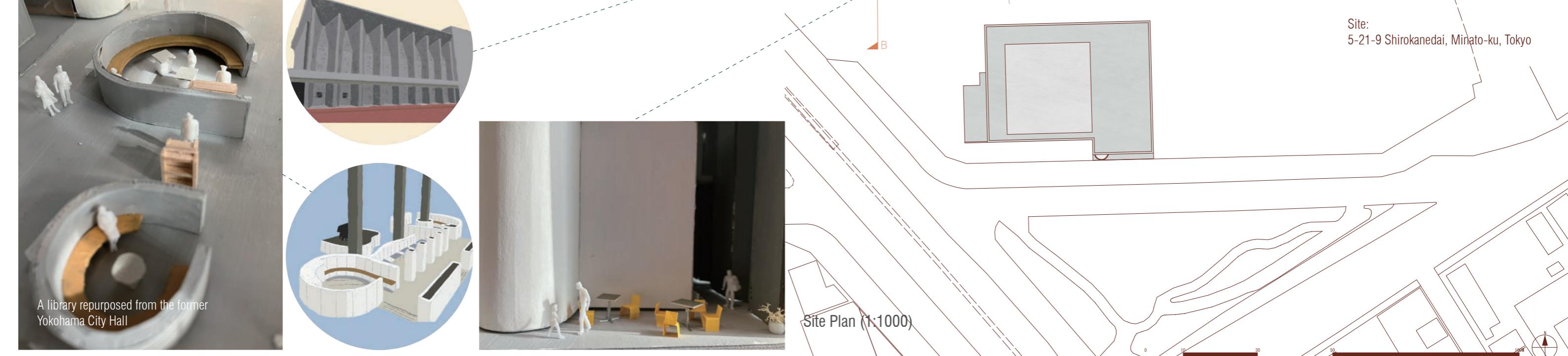
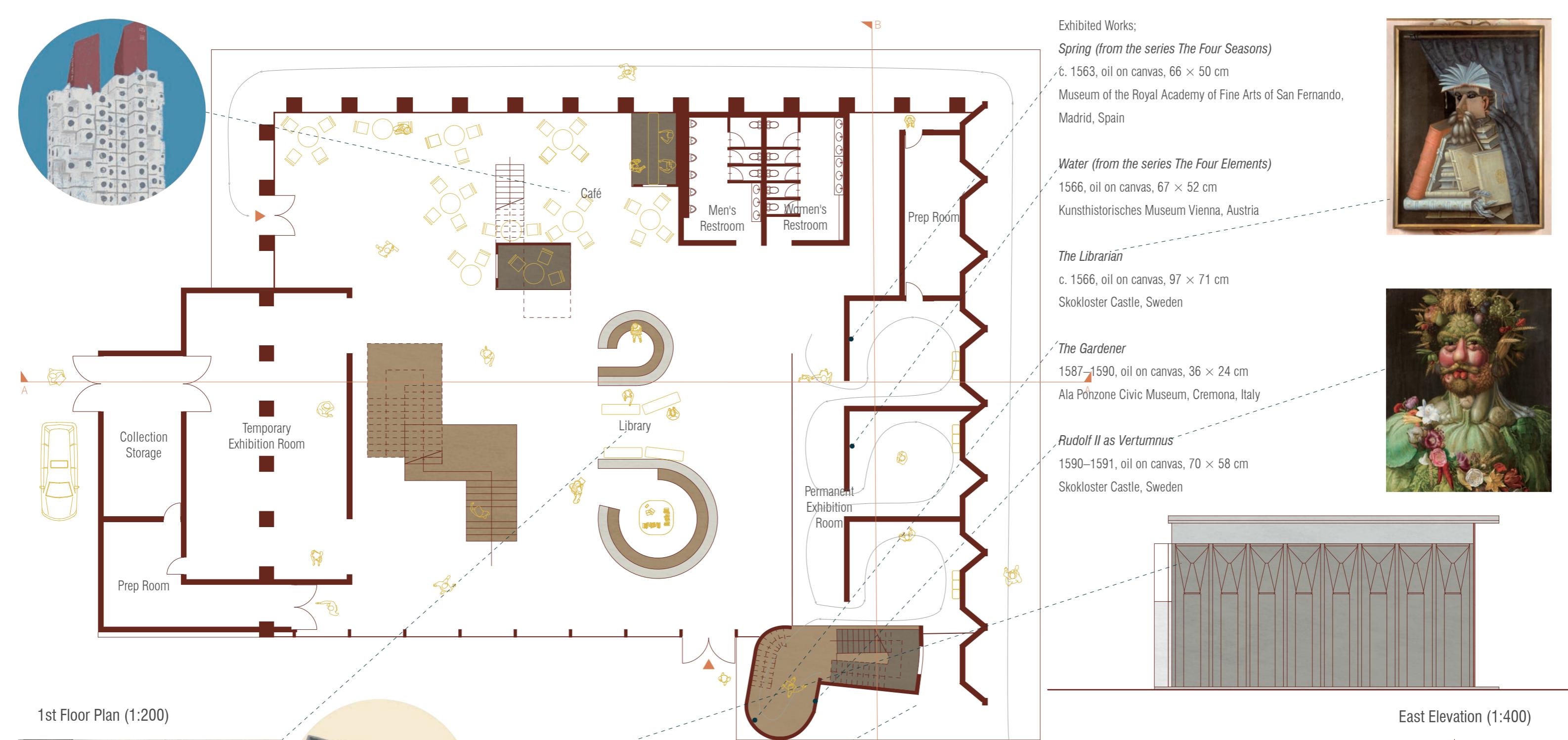
Collection4;

Former Yokohama City Hall

1959, designed by Togo Murano
Yokohama, Kanagawa Prefecture

Closed in 2020.
The Yokohama Former City Hall Redevelopment Project is scheduled for completion in 2025, with administrative functions relocated to a new building.
The main building is set to be preserved and repurposed by Hoshino Resorts as a "legacy hotel."





Site Plan (1:1000)

Exhibited Works;
Spring (from the series The Four Seasons)
c. 1563, oil on canvas, 66 × 50 cm
Museum of the Royal Academy of Fine Arts of San Fernando,
Madrid, Spain



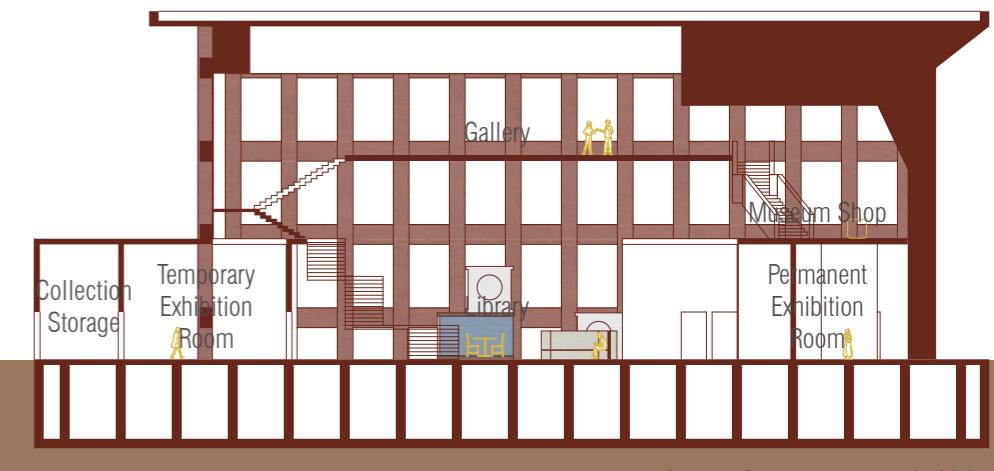
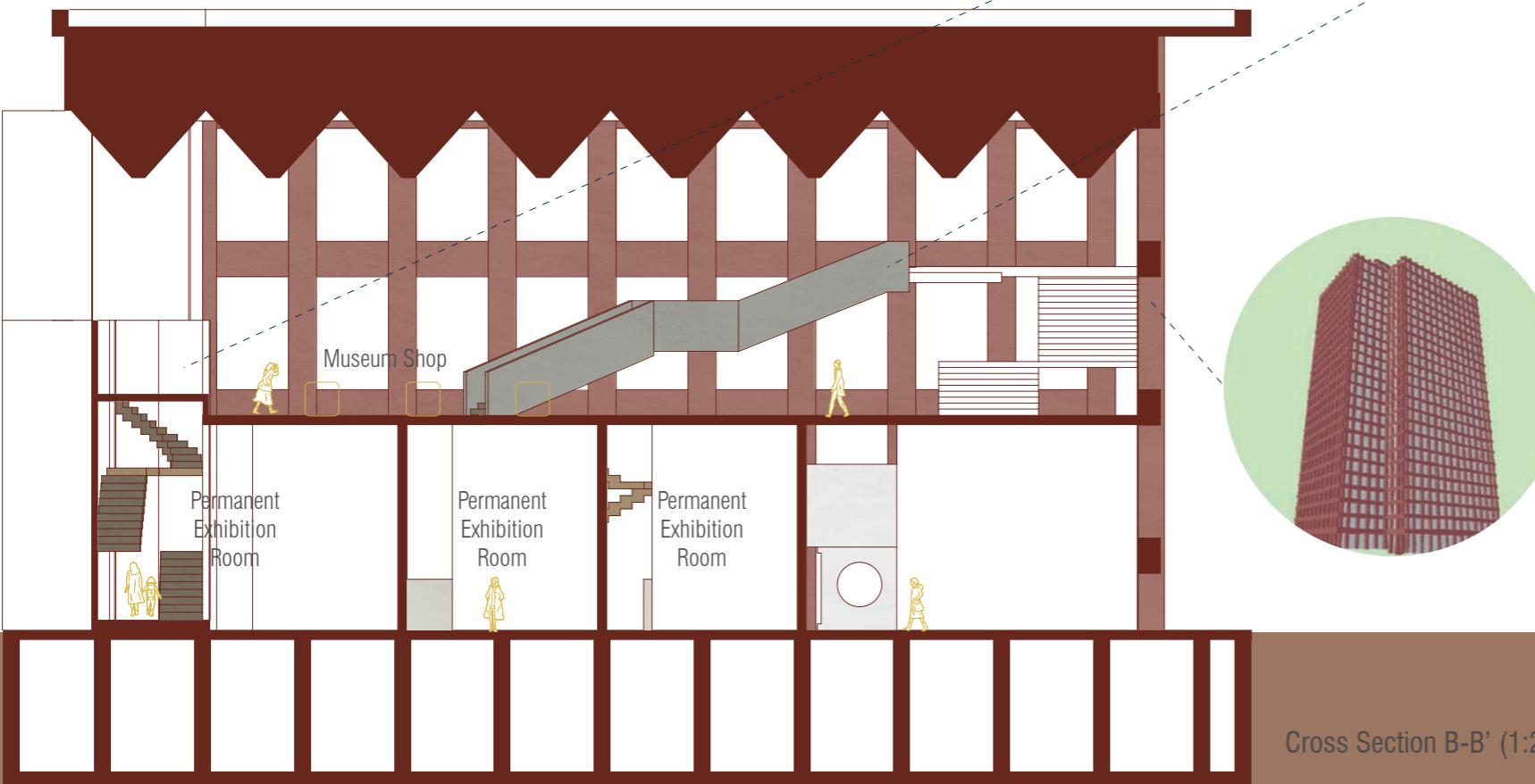
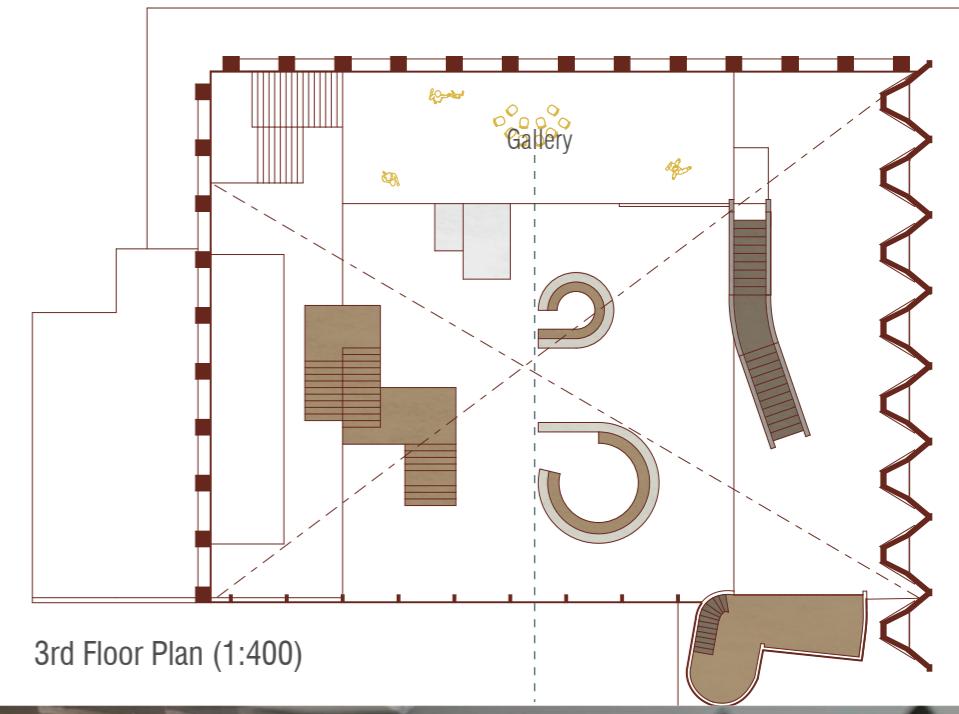
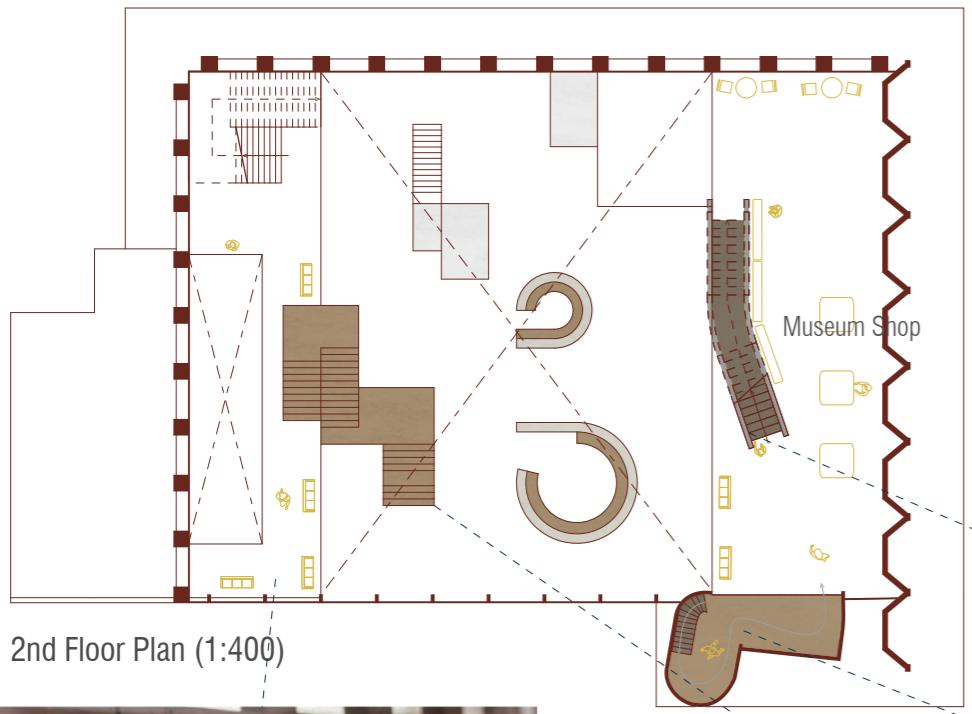
Water (from the series The Four Elements)
1566, oil on canvas, 67 × 52 cm
Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna, Austria

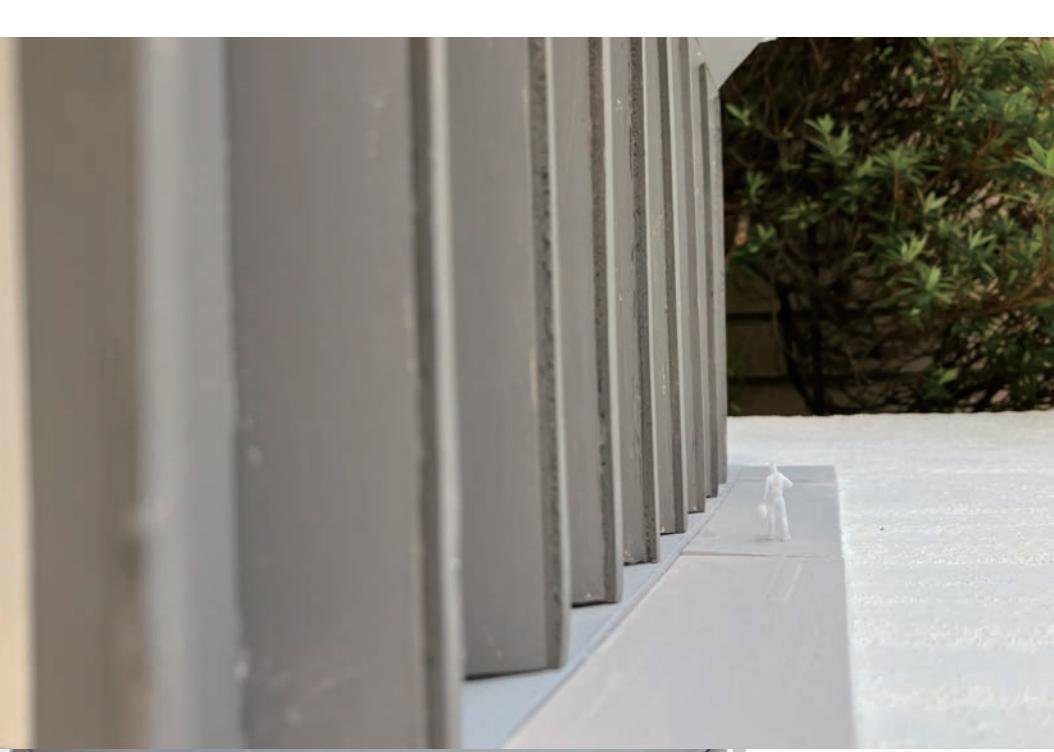


The Librarian
c. 1566, oil on canvas, 97 × 71 cm
Skokloster Castle, Sweden

The Gardener
1587–1590, oil on canvas, 36 × 24 cm
Ala Ponzone Civic Museum, Cremona, Italy

Rudolf II as Vertumnus
1590–1591, oil on canvas, 70 × 58 cm
Skokloster Castle, Sweden







Tateishi “*Nonbe Yokocho*” Survey

Kano Matsumoto

Chika Yanagihashi

Midori Yamamoto

Ron Yoshida



About “Nonbe Yokochō” and the Survey

We conducted a measured survey of “Nonbe Yokochō,” a small alley of bars and eateries in Tateishi, Katsushika City. Formed around 1954, this area has long been a gathering place for small drinking establishments. However, with the redevelopment of the Keisei-Tateishi Station area scheduled for completion in 2031, Nonbe Yokochō is set to be demolished.

The aim of this survey was to document the architecture before its disappearance and to analyze its spatial dimensions. Unlike modern buildings, the structures here are designed with minimal clearances, closely accommodating human movement. This unique spatial configuration intrigued us, and we sought to explore its impact on the experience of space.

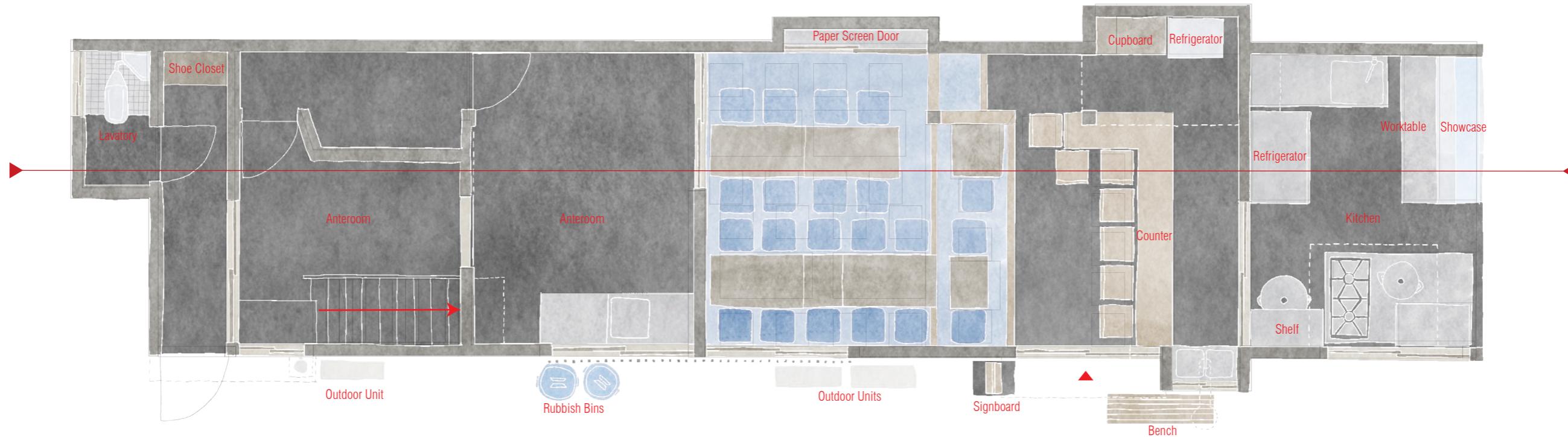
The survey was conducted from May to June 2023. As we progressed, we found that many of the tenants were now vacant. In addition to documenting the exterior of the alley, we took detailed measurements of four remaining businesses: *Torifusa*, *Bar New-Hime*, *Shirakawa*, and *Edo-Yasu*. Based on our findings, we created architectural drawings and models to preserve the memory of this distinctive space. ([Yanagihashi](#))

Site Map 1/200

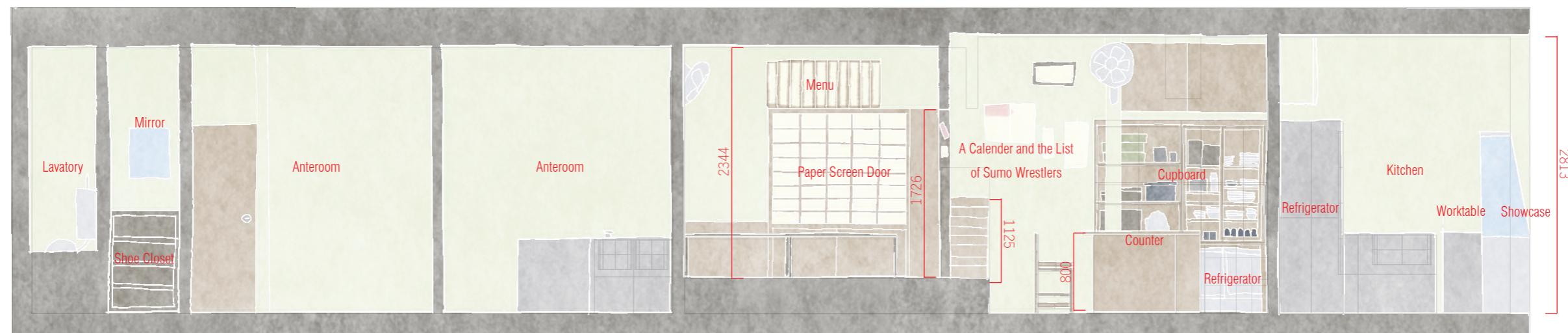


Torifusa

The shop primarily operates as a specialty poultry butcher and an *izakaya* (Japanese dining bar). The butcher shop opens in the morning, and from 4 PM until the meat sells out, it transitions into an *izakaya*. We measured both the dining area and the kitchen/butcher shop space. Unlike most establishments in *Nonbe Yokocho*, which are packed closely together in a row of small eateries and bars under an arcade, this one stands alone. The kitchen and butcher shop face the shopping street, with a continuous *doma* (earthen floor) extending from the butcher shop to the entrance of the dining area. The dining space is raised approximately 360mm above the *doma*, creating a distinct level difference. During our survey, we noticed that *Torifusa*'s layout closely resembled that of a traditional *machiya* townhouse. Like a *machiya*, it features a commercial "mise" space with an earthen floor facing the street, while a more private *tatami* room is located further inside. When we shared this observation with the owner, they explained that the business originally operated solely as a butcher shop. At that time, the current dining area was actually the family's living quarters, separated from the mise space by a door. (*Yanagihashi*)



Floor Plan 1/25

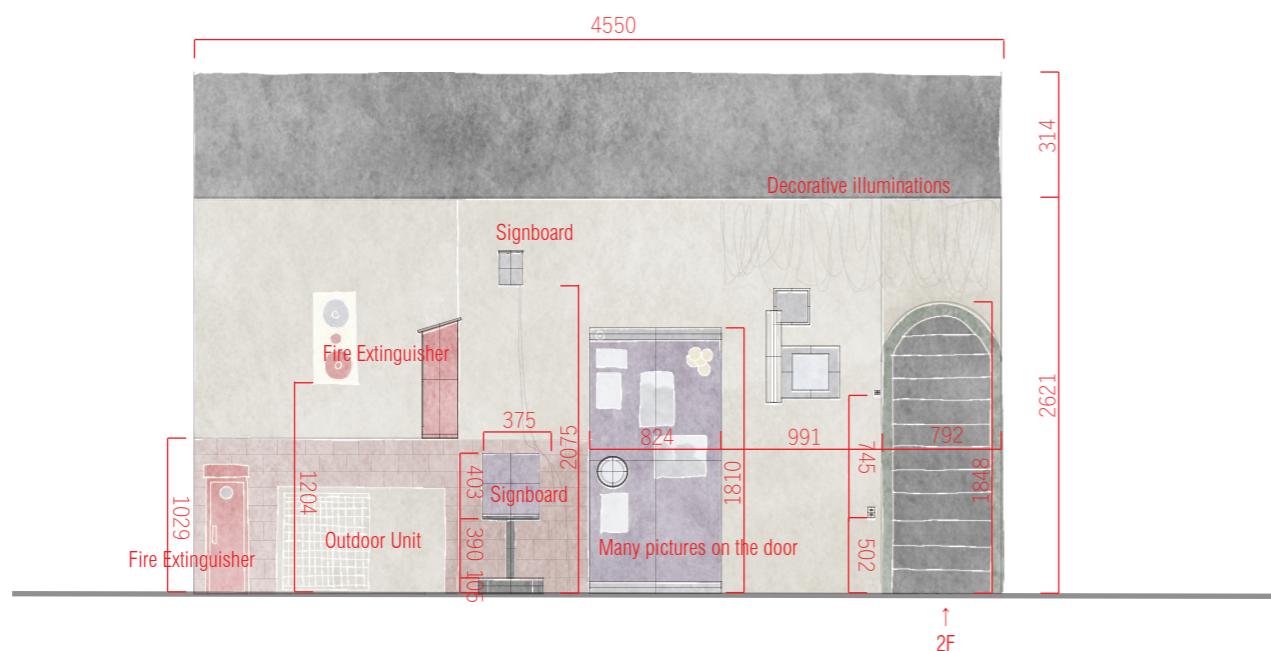


Cross Section 1/25

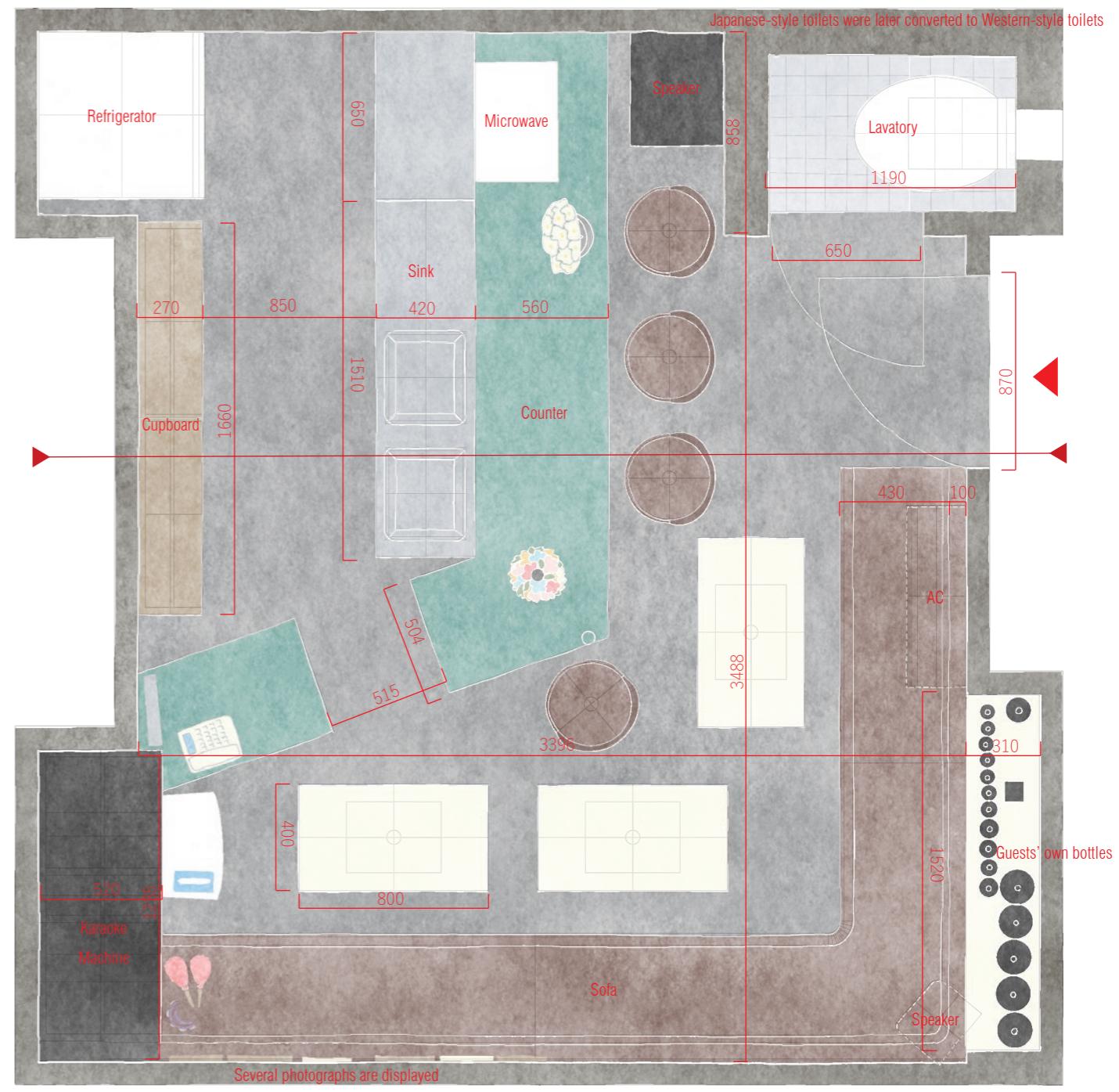
Bar New-Hime



Elevation 1/50



Cross Section 1/25



Compared to the other shops in *Nonbe Yokocho*, this one has a slightly more spacious interior, though the circulation space remains minimal. The space feels narrow when people need to pass by, and the kitchen is designed so that only one person can fit at a time. While many of the other shops only have counter seating, *Bar New-Hime* offers both counter and table seating, creating a more social environment where larger groups can chat, relax, and easily strike up a conversation with others. Additionally, as seen in the model, the interior color scheme is quite distinctive. A variety of colors, such as purple, green, and yellow, are used, giving the space a unique atmosphere that can only be found in a place like *Nonbe Yokocho*, which has long been cherished by the local community. (Matsumoto)

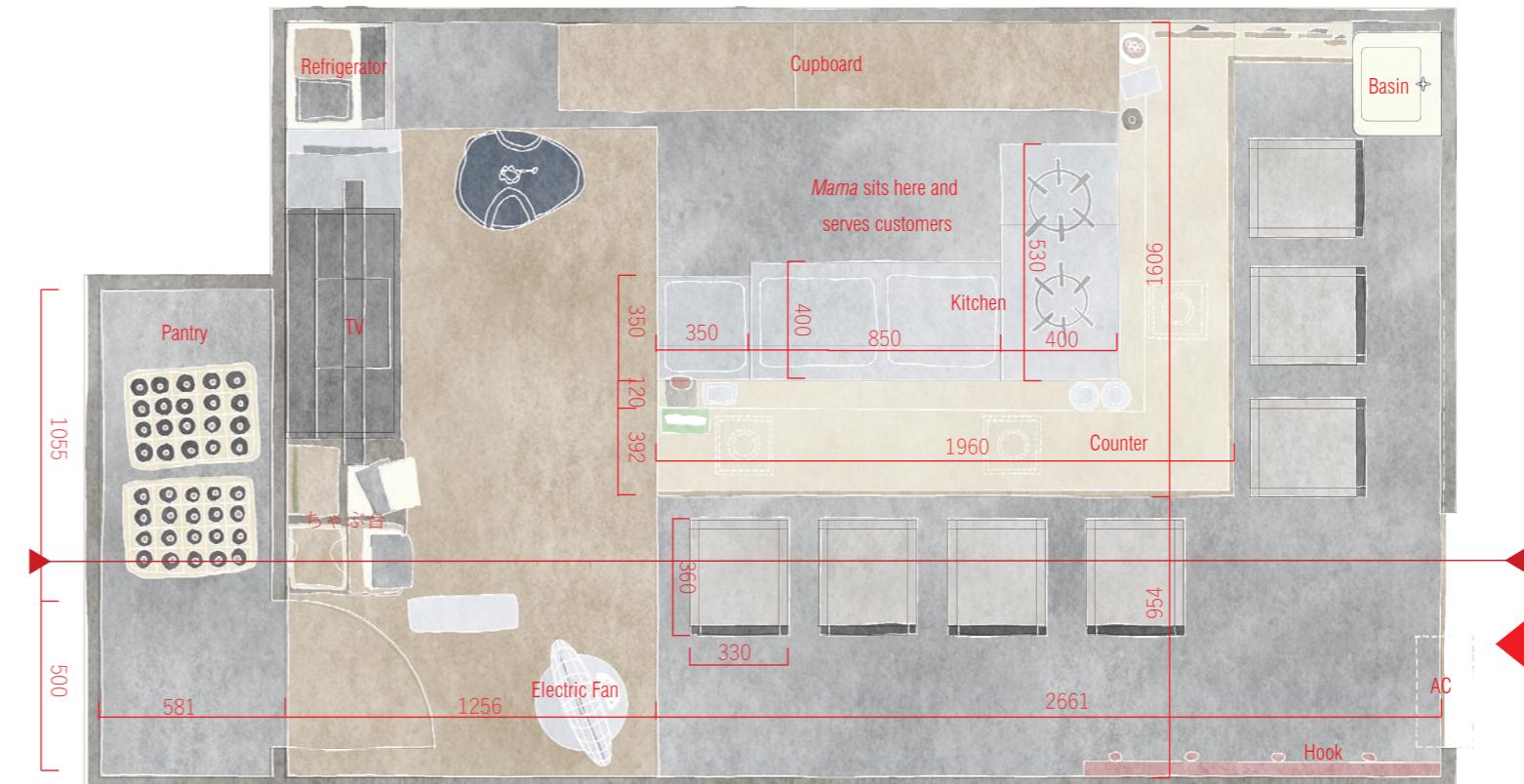
Japanese-style toilets were later converted to Western-style toilets

Shirakawa

This tiny karaoke snack bar is run by an 80-year-old "Mama" (the owner) all on her own. Measuring just 2,560mm in width, 3,917mm in depth, and 2,246mm in height, it is a prime example of a space designed with the bare minimum dimensions for human movement. The passage behind the chairs is only about 600mm wide, forcing customers to press their backs against the wall to squeeze through. With seven tightly packed seats, there is almost no space between customers. However, it is precisely this cramped layout that brings people closer—both to each other and to *Mama*—creating a lively and engaging atmosphere where conversations flow effortlessly throughout the space. Additionally, the seats are set at 520mm high, slightly taller than usual, aligning customers' eye level with *Mama* as she stands behind the counter. This subtle design choice further enhances the sense of intimacy, making interactions feel even more personal and filling the bar with warmth and energy. (Yoshida)



Model photo: *Mama*(the owner) and customer are close to each other

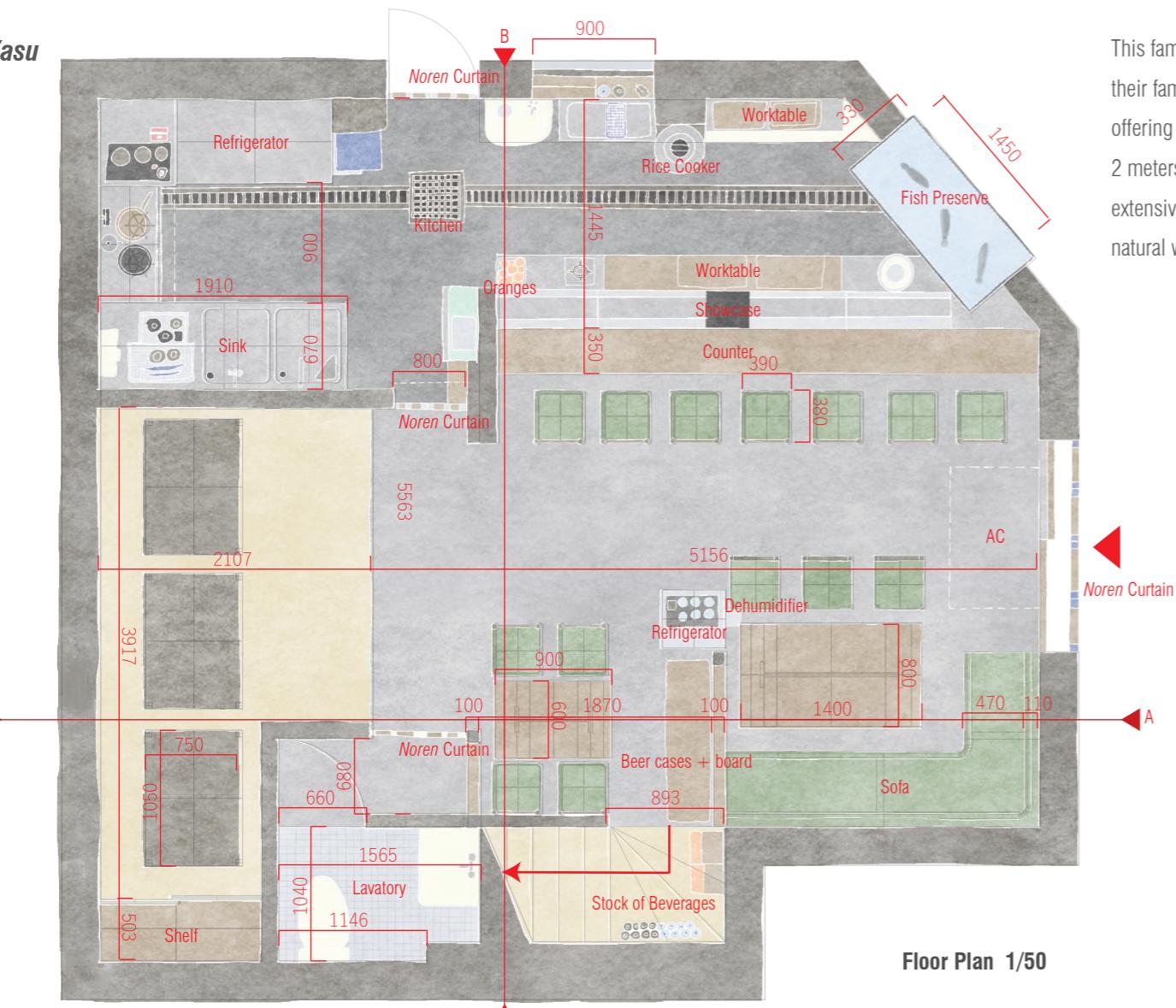


Floor Plan 1/25



Model photo: looking into the shop from the entrance.

Edo-Yasu



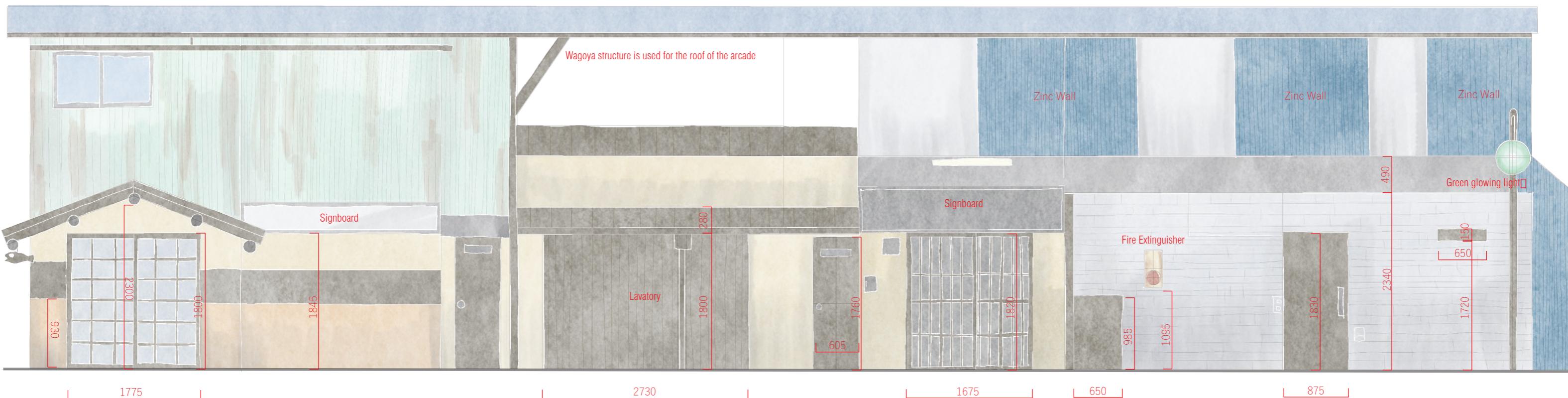
This family-run sushi restaurant is housed in a four-story building, with the first floor serving as the restaurant and the upper floors used as a waiting area for the owner and their family. The fourth floor appears to have been added as an extension later. Compared to other establishments in Nonbe Yokocho, this restaurant is relatively spacious, offering counter seating, sofa seating, and traditional tatami seating, providing plenty of comfortable spots for guests to relax. A large fish tank, approximately 1 meter tall and 2 meters wide, is positioned in a way that makes it visible from both inside and outside the restaurant, allowing diners to watch live fish swimming. The interior features extensive wood finishes, creating a warm and distinctly Japanese atmosphere. The vibrant green cushions on the sofas and chairs add a striking contrast, enhancing the natural wood tones and bringing a lively touch to the space. (Yamamoto)



Exterior Elevations



Elevation A 1/50



Elevation B 1/50



Model photo: Edo-Yasu



Model photo: Interior of Bar New-Hime



Model photo: street with Shirakawa



Model photo: street with Bar New-Hime



Model photo: street with Shirakawa

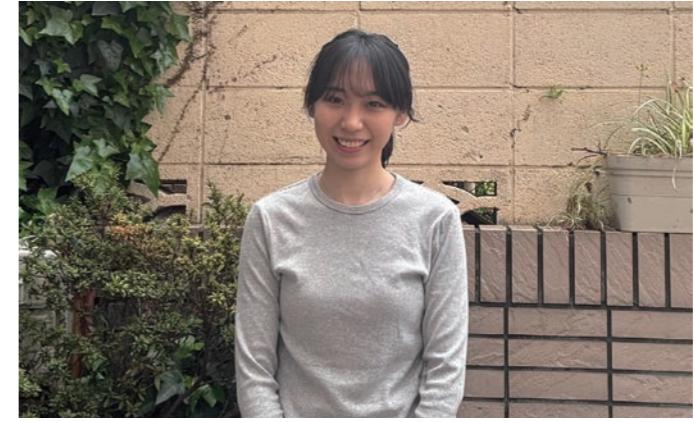
Conclusion

Our survey revealed that *Nonbe Yokochō* is designed with significantly smaller spatial dimensions compared to modern architecture. The spaces are compact, often allowing just enough room for movement. Additionally, each establishment is notably small in scale.

These tight spatial proportions not only bring people physically closer together but also seem to foster a sense of social intimacy among visitors. During our survey, we found ourselves naturally engaging in conversations with both shop owners and customers, despite meeting them for the first time. This suggests that the unique sense of connection and warmth in *Nonbe Yokochō* may, in large part, be shaped by its architectural dimensions. ([Yanagihashi](#))



Profile



柳橋 知花 / Chika Yanagihashi

1-4-4, Ogikubo, Suginami-ku, Tokyo, Japan

+81 80 7951 0840

chika@yanagihashi.net

Nationality: Japan

26.11.2002

My interest in the Interbuilding spaces, which sparked during my first year, led me to explore and research "In-Between Spaces" / Sukima Spaces by walking through the city.

My design goal is to create architectural and urban spaces that incorporate the characteristics of "In-Between Spaces" / Sukima Spaces. I believe that Such an approach enables the creation of a city filled with diverse and comfortable places for all kinds of people to inhabit.

Throughout my studies, I focused on gaining hands-on architectural experience.

EDUCATION

Major in Architecture, Graduate School of Engineering and Design, Hosei University,
Tokyo, Japan

04/2025-Present

Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering and Design, Hosei University, Tokyo, Japan

- B.A. in Architecture
- Completed all the required credits for Japanese architect qualification courses

04/2021-03/2025

Hosei University High School, Tokyo, Japan

- General

04/2018-03/2021

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Graduation Project; Gap Generator

- Exhibited Graduation Project at the "Hosei University Department of Architecture Student Exhibition 2025"

01/2025-03/2025

Graduation Thesis; Analysis of Shared Spaces Where Human Behavior Transcends Boundaries - A Case Study of Toei Toyama Heights Apartments

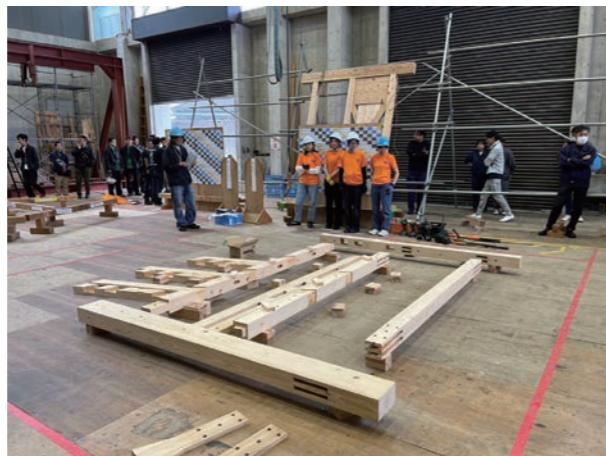
- Received the Architecture Research Award (internal award) for my graduation thesis

10/2024

Participated in the "Kabe (Wall) -1 Grand Prix" Project as a Member of the University's Structural Engineering Laboratory (Yujiro Miyata Laboratory)

- Contributed as an assembly team member in a competition focused on timber shear walls
- Involved in preparatory meetings and structural experiments prior to the competition
- Deepened my understanding of architectural structures through practical, hands-on experience that complemented academic learning

10/2023



Photographs of the competition

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant for Undergraduate Classes

- Taking charge of the assistant in undergraduate classes, "Design Studio 1" and "Graphic Science"
- Advising undergraduates on design and drafting in "Design Studio 1"
- Supporting undergraduates on how to use the software in "Graphic Science"

04/2025-Present

WORK EXPERIENCE

GREEN SPOT, Tokyo, Japan

Part-Time Waiter

- Serving guests from various countries in English

10/2023-Present

Musashino-mori Coffee, Tokyo, Japan

Part-Time Waiter

- Mentored a new crew and executed hands-on training
- Assigned servers to each task that can lead to more effective operation

12/2022-03/2024

Ideal co.,ltd, Tokyo, Japan

Part-Time Site Worker in Interior Construction Company

- Worked on construction sites and offices, carrying out interior work and furniture installations and assembly
- Handled a variety of tools

04/2021-08/2022



Pictures from Instagram
of the company
[@ideal.co.ltd](#)

SKILLS & ACHIEVEMENT

Inquisitive Mind

- Visited and explored cities in Europe and Asia
- Photo-documented and studied numerous interbuilding spaces and In-Between Spaces

Leadership

- Belonged to Naomi Ando Laboratory at Hosei University as a head of the undergraduate seminar

Proficiency in English

- CEFR Level B2 (IELTS Overall Band Score 5.5)

Software Skills

- Can Use Software below:



