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# 01

## Carving Time into the Perpetual Landscape [Museum, Research, Quarry]

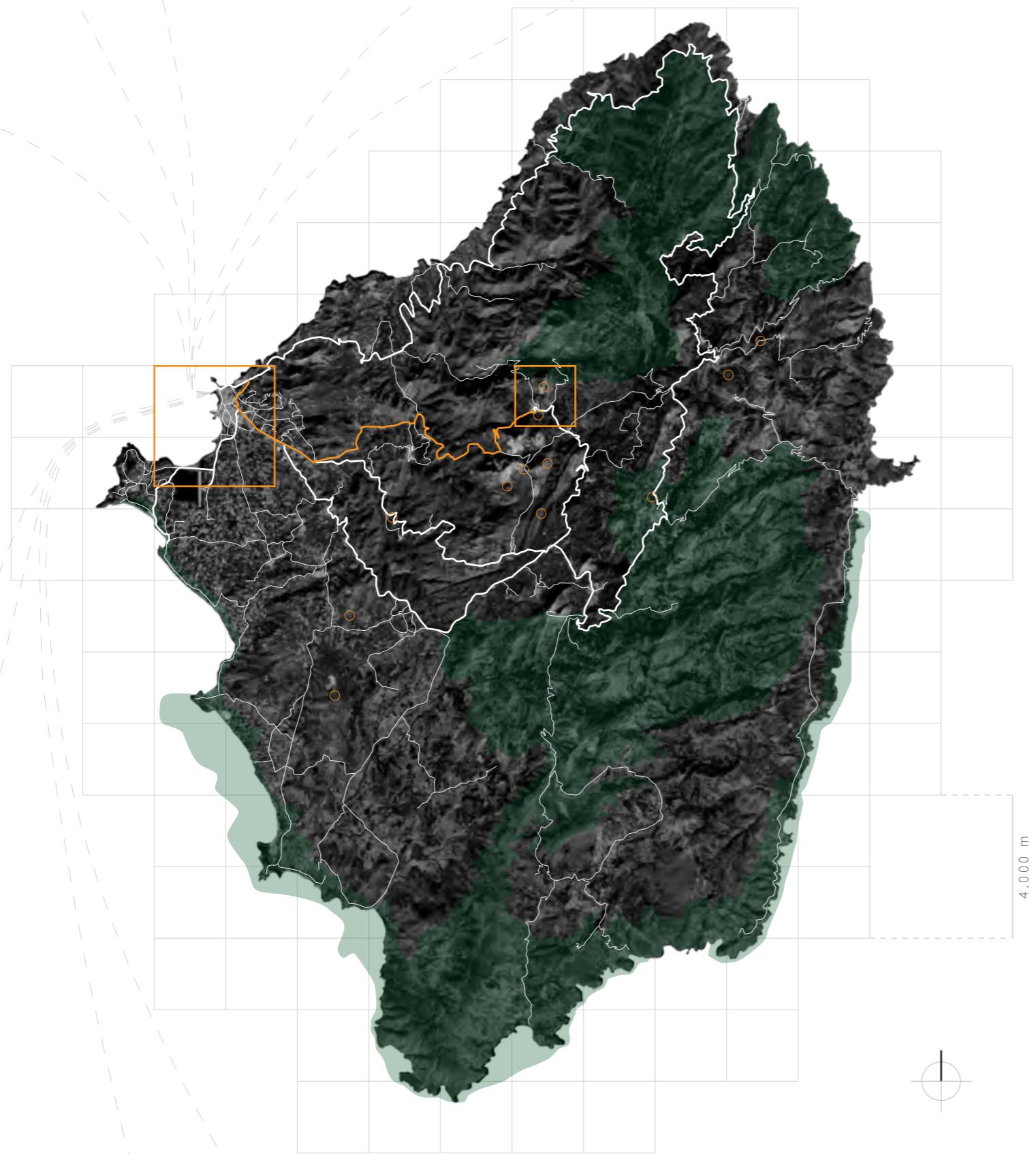
Diploma Thesis | Fall '24

Naxos, Greece

-Individual Project-

The thesis concerns the occupation of an inactive industrial landmark on the Greek island of Naxos. The aim is to **revive, highlight, and preserve the history and importance of the local marble**, as well as the art associated with extracting it through the modification and reuse of an open-type marble quarry in the heart of the island.

The program is based on two axes: a museum exhibition space for marble sculptures and a research center, both of which are organized in accordance with the imposing form of the site. These are also the key points on which the project focuses: **Museum, Research, Quarry**

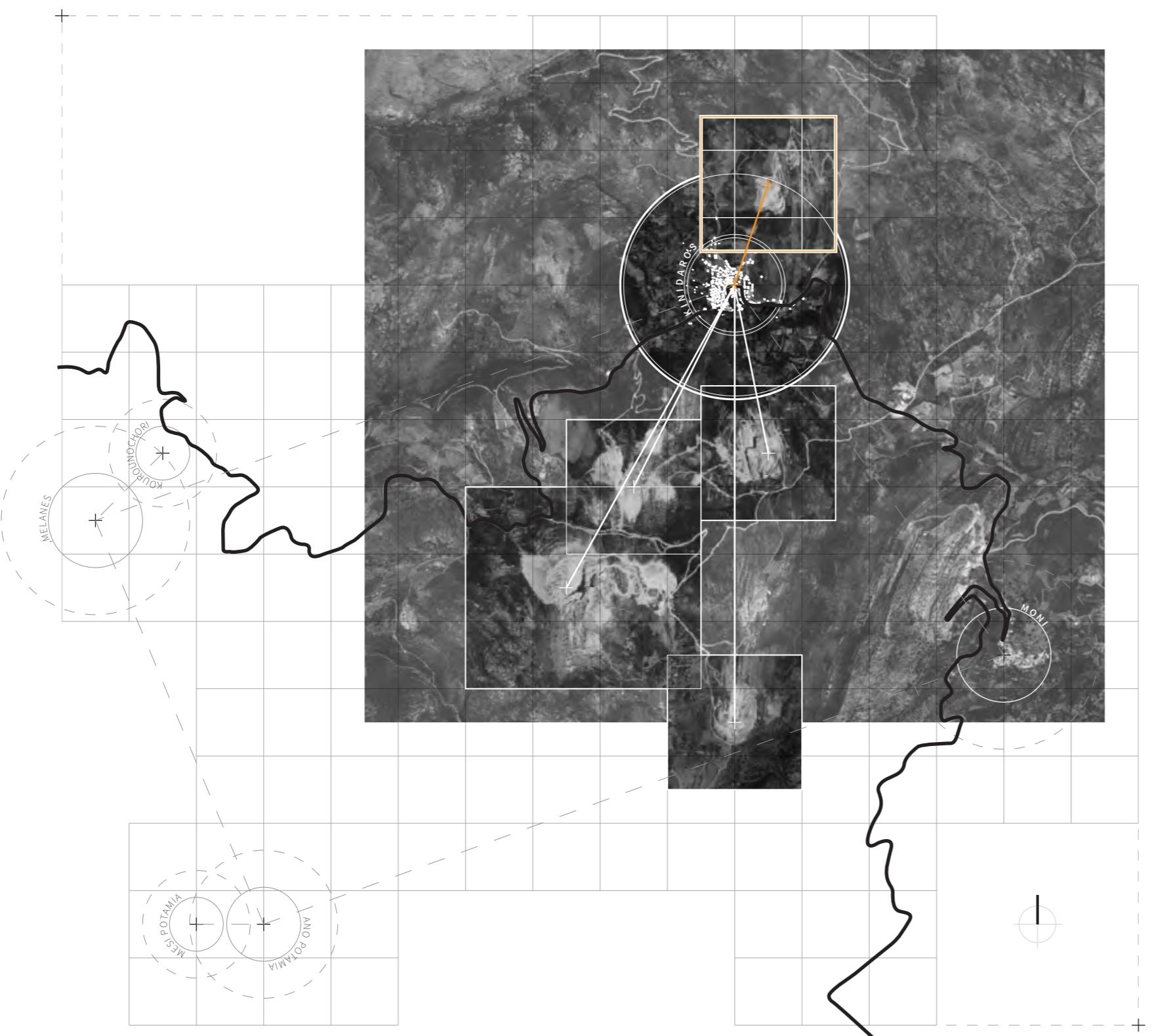


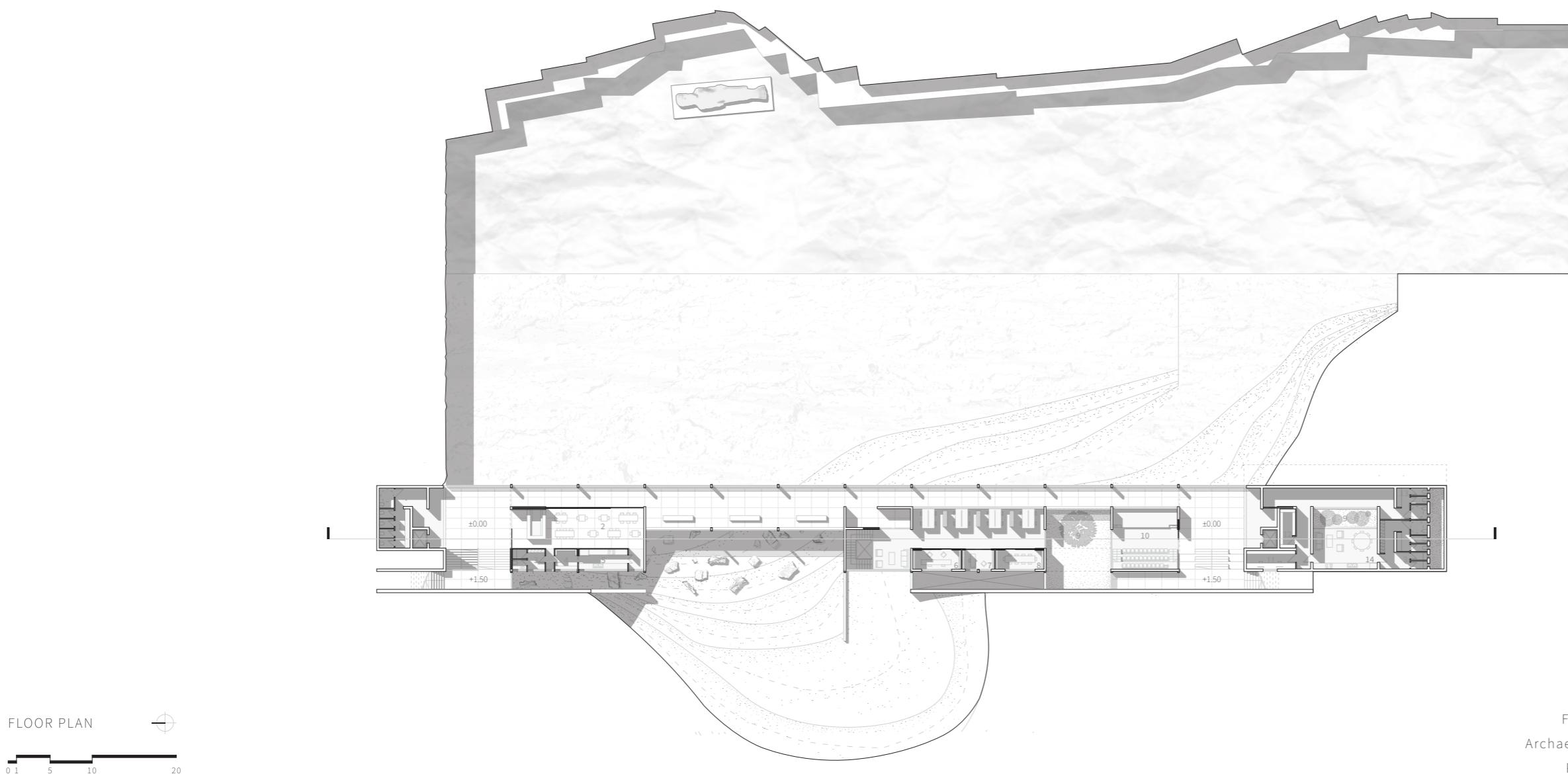
The protagonists of the intervention are Kouros and Kori, sculptures of the Archaic era that were cornerstones in the evolution of sculpting and Greek art in general, where concepts such as scale, proportion, and plasticity were re-evaluated through their carving.

The Cyclades island group, and Naxos in particular constituted important centers for the creation of such sculptures during antiquity, many of which are now exhibited globally. It is a part of Greek history and the country's cultural heritage which is constantly being enriched through new excavations and studies even in modern times.



As time progresses, societies become less concerned with the origin of raw materials and lose touch with an integral part of history. Landscapes become more distant, both spatially and aesthetically, leading to aggressive exploitation and irreversible damage, leaving behind unused and empty industrial "carcasses" of an oversized scale. In these open wounds, the industrial past shaped by human hands resonates. How can our actions contribute to nature and make use of these abandoned areas?

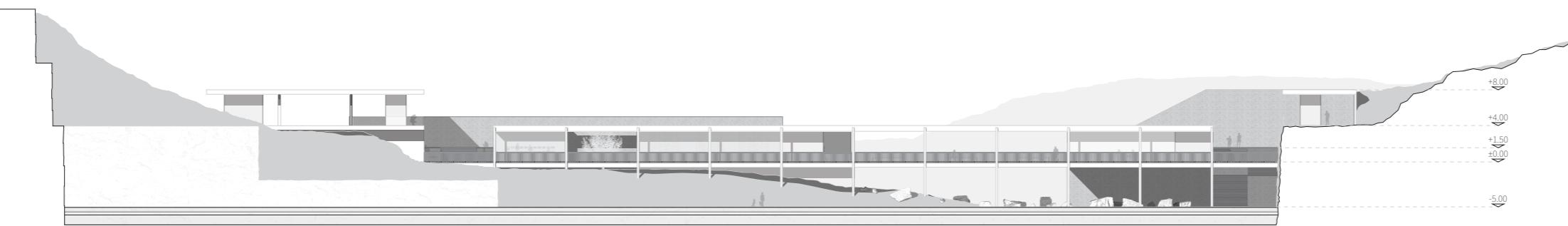




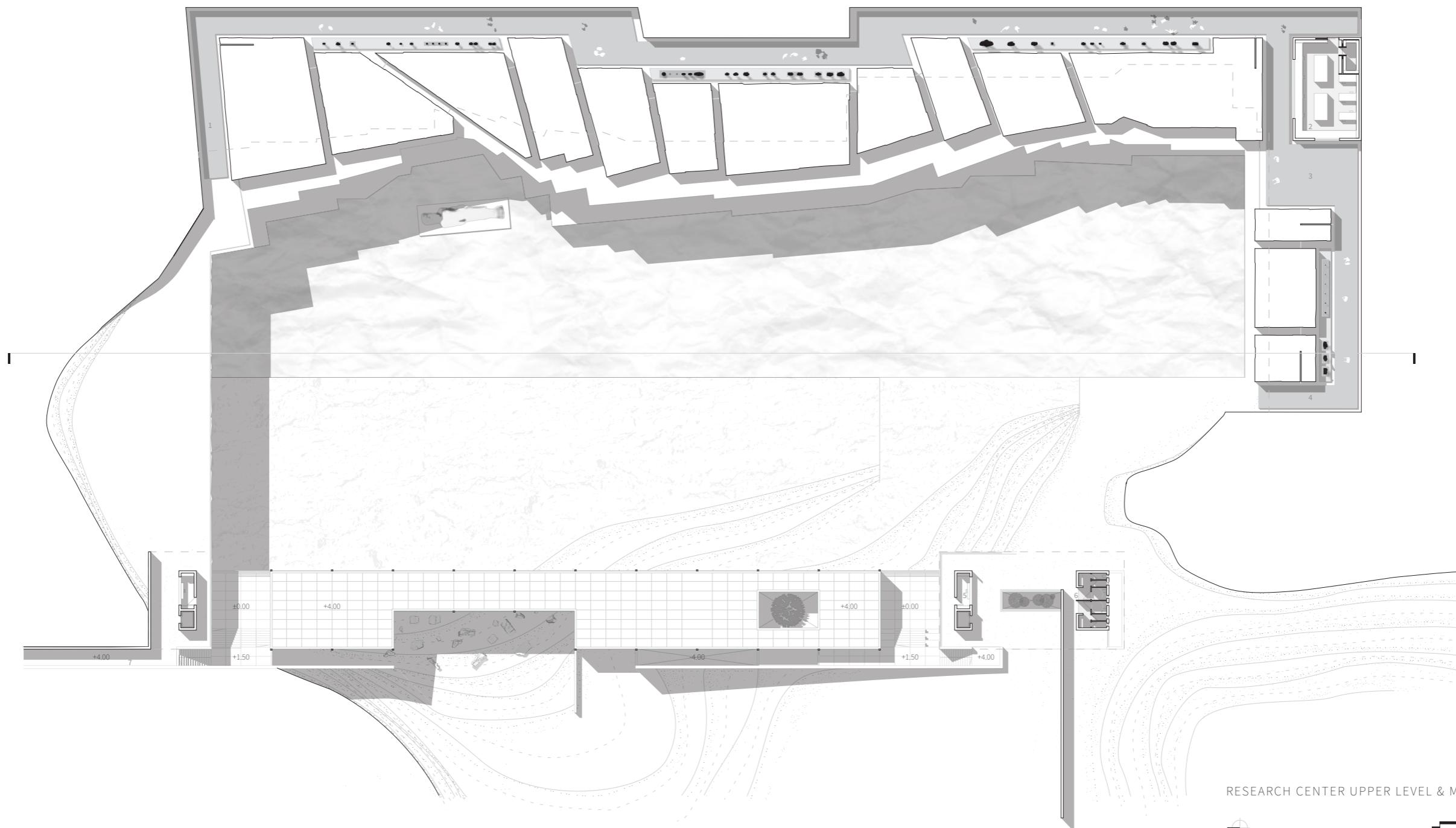


This project is seen as an opportunity to explore design within a unique context, fostering a dialogue between construction, nature, and “artificial” terrain. An elongated research center that spans the site’s length is placed facing the quarry, contrasting with its imposing height and unifying the entire building program.

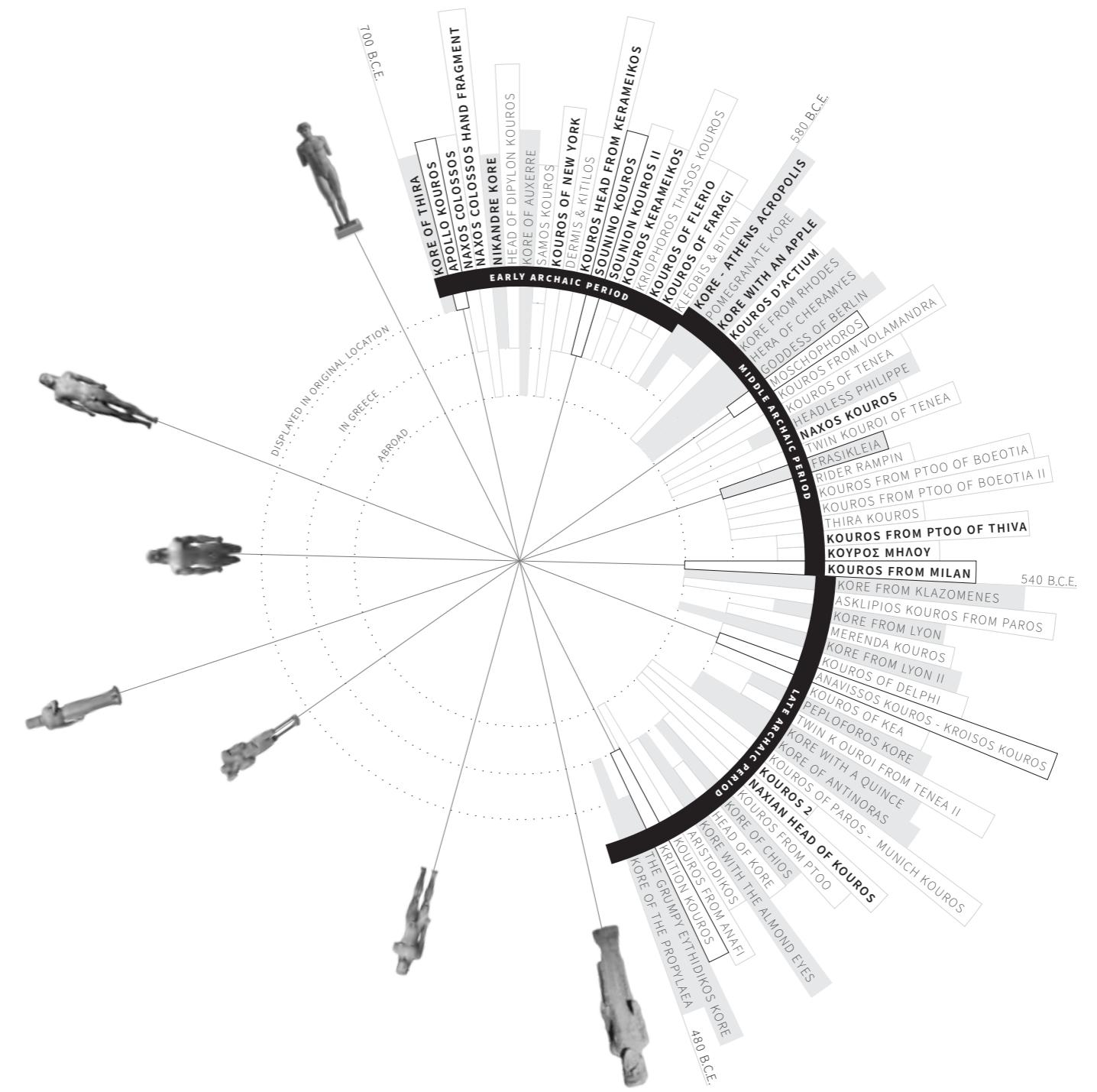
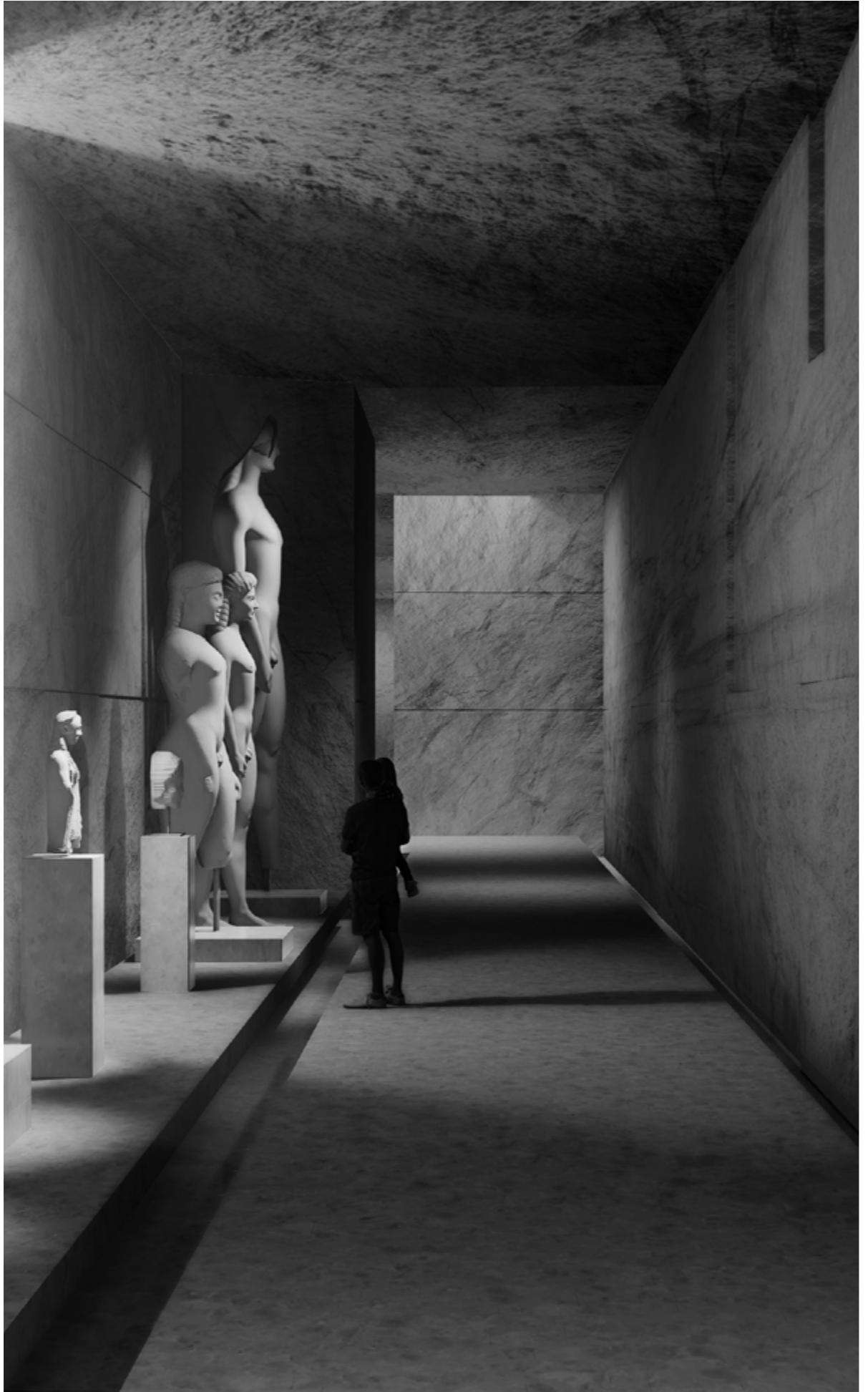
The simplicity and clarity of the metal structure’s form highlight the ephemerality of construction compared to the eternal landscape creating an atmosphere that encourages reflection. It is positioned as low as possible avoid overshadowing the quarry’s presence and to allow unobstructed views of the setting sun.



RESEARCH CENTER ELEVATION



0 1 5 10 20



By utilizing existing openings, a museum is created inside the quarry relying solely on subtraction, symbolizing the marble's extraction process. It is divided into three zones, representing the periods of the Archaic era.

To ensure accessibility without the use of machinery the exhibition spans a single marble step. Exhibits are ultimately placed within the topography, effectively returning them to their place of birth.



# 02



## Cavernous Dwellings [The Architecture of Subtraction]

Research Thesis | Fall '23

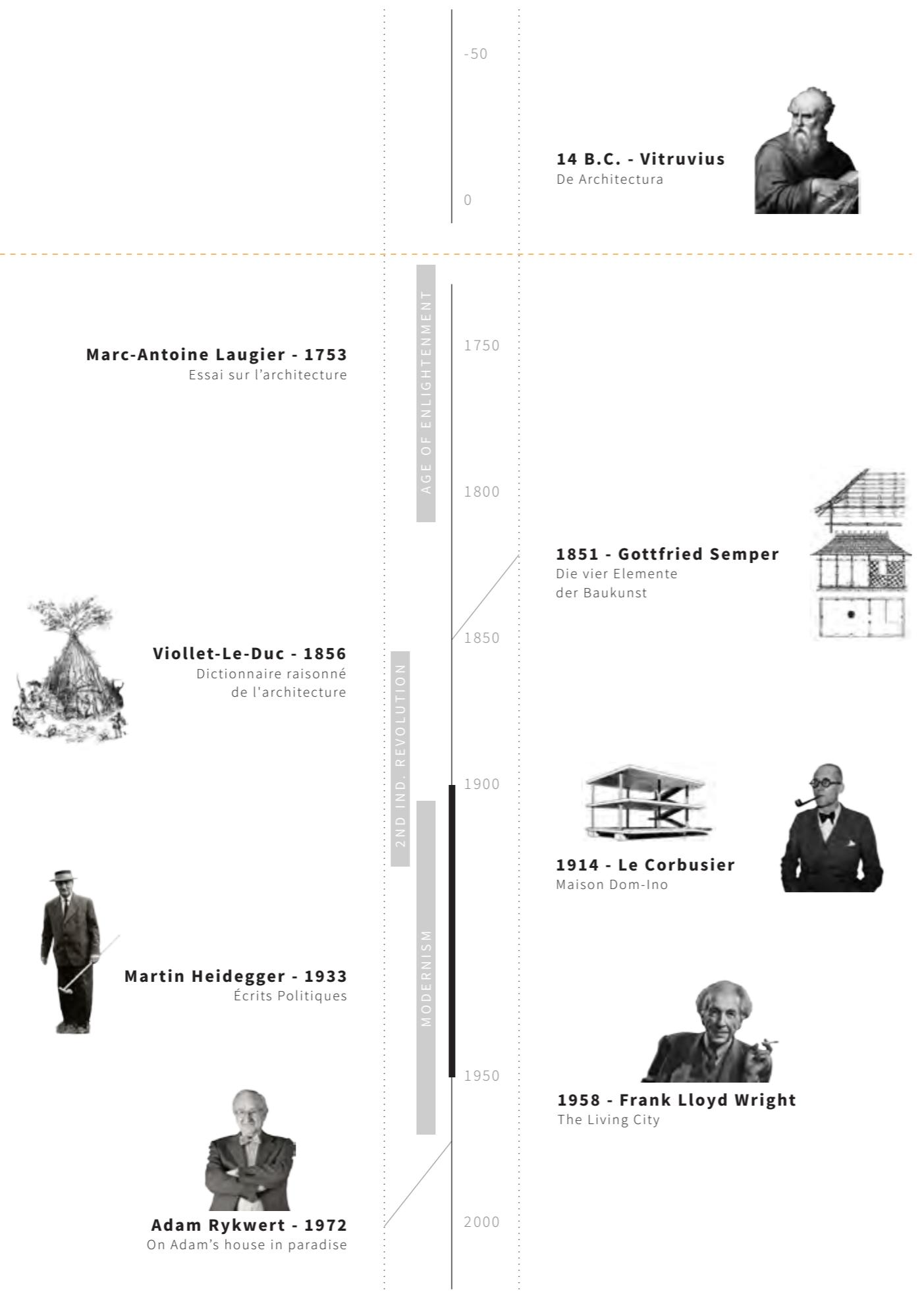
-Individual Project-

The research revolves around the notion of “**Υπόσκαφο**”, a Greek term most accurately translated as “Cavernous”, referring to all cave-like structures built in harmony with the topography. Unlike conventional solutions, this concept does not require the addition of mass. It can be primarily considered an architecture of subtraction, where habitable space can emerge, even exclusively, as the result of an excavation.

The intimate relationship with the ground is critical, relying primarily on natural formations and constituting a crucial **intersection point between architecture and the environment**. It is the fundamental design parameter, which is not merely a surface for construction but potentially the structure itself.

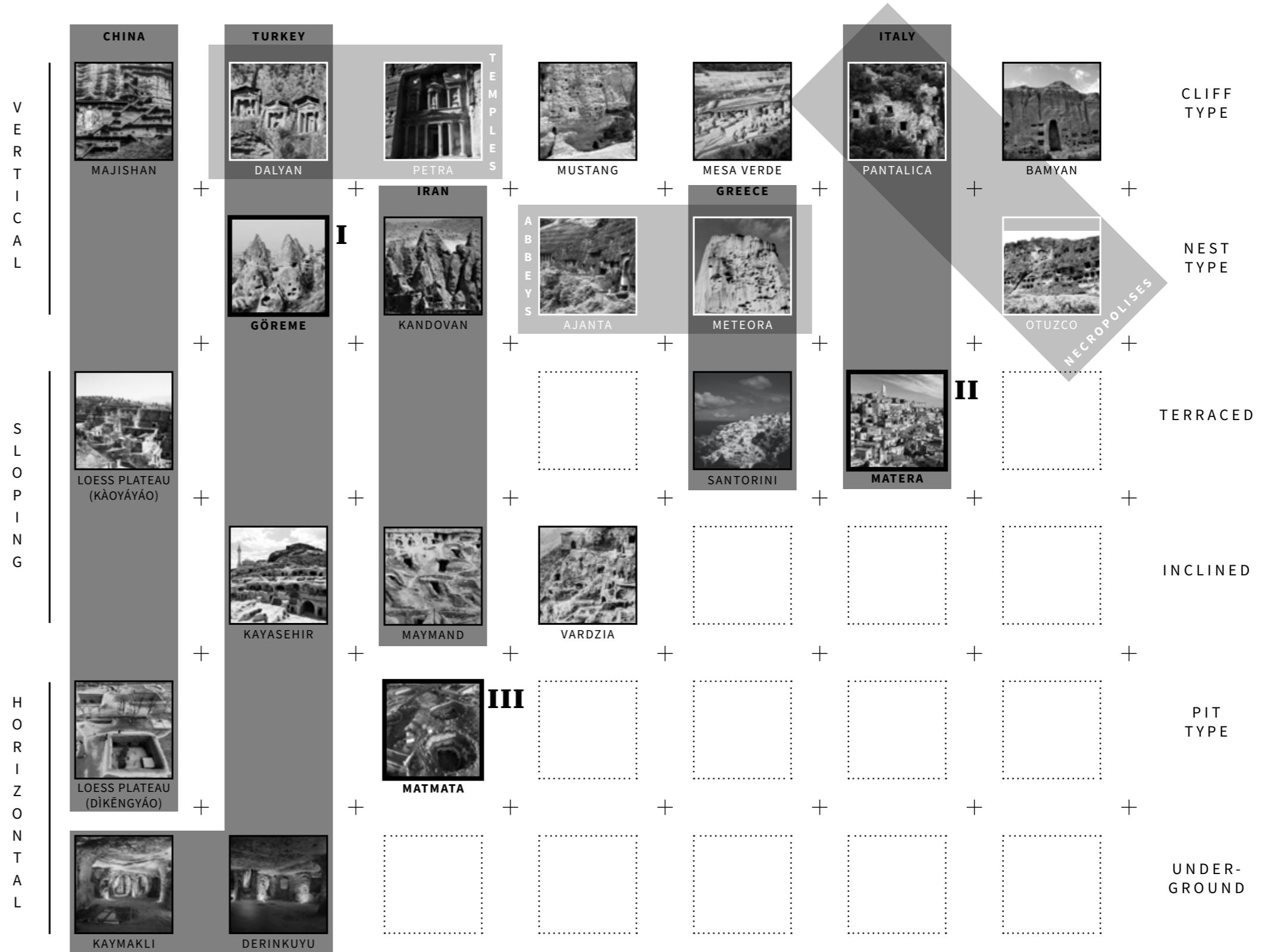
The project begins by addressing the issue of dwelling across three sections, aiming to explore theoretical questions posed by the concept of living in relation to the ground. The first section addresses the idea of appropriation, focusing on the fundamental distinction between a house and a home. The second explores the archetypal form of the cave, from which one could argue that subterranean structures originate. Finally, the third section investigates the archetypal form of the hut.

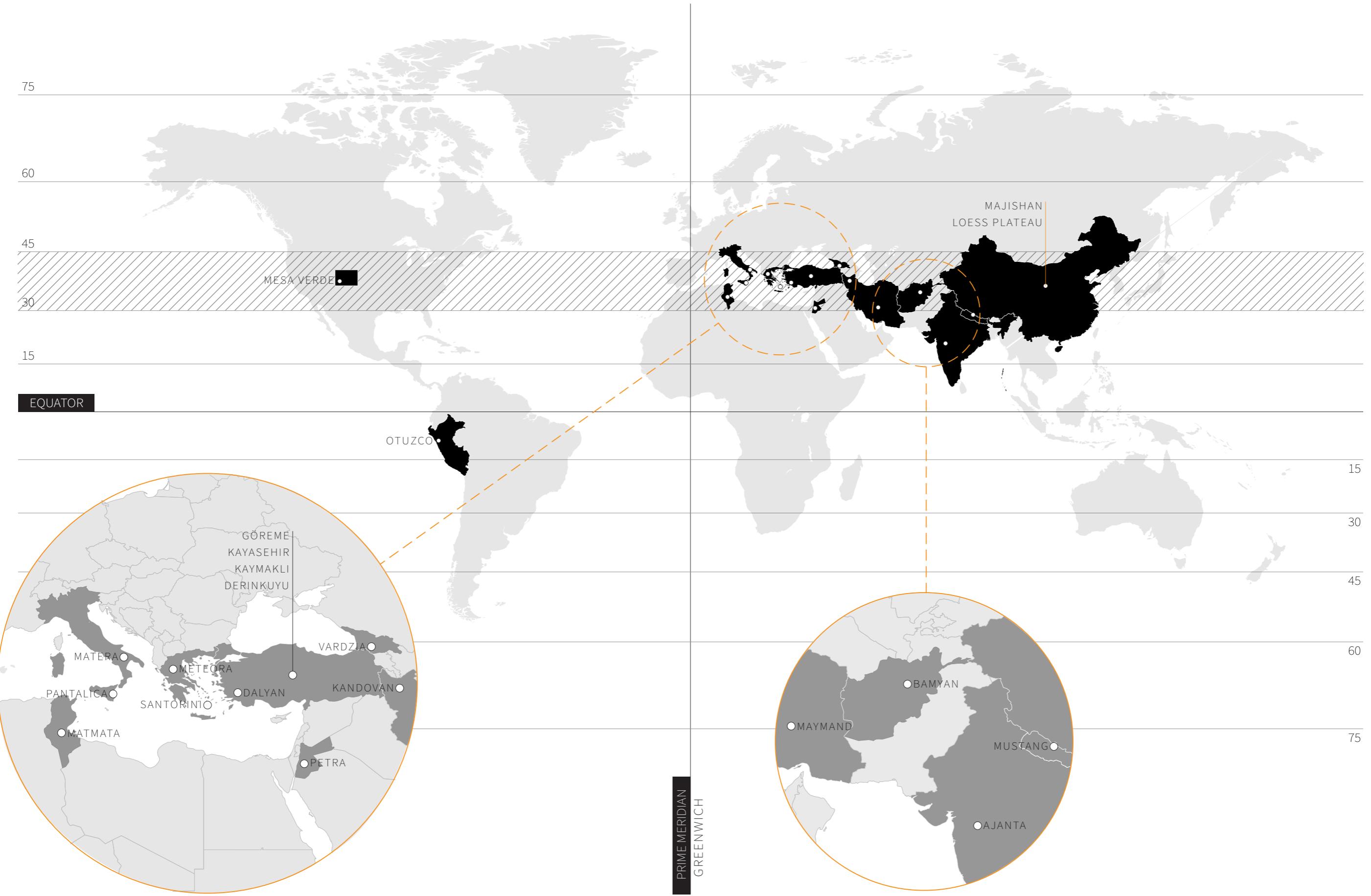
Historically, architects and philosophers have sought to identify structures that capture the essence of a building, seeking models that condense the significant and eternal with the various interpretations such as Vitruvius' empiricism and Laugier's rationalism. In the case of dwelling, their focus has often centered on the concept of the primitive hut—the humblest form of shelter—that encapsulates the archetypal idea of habitation around three main directions: experience, logic, and nature.



At this stage, research moves away from individual and independent constructions of a primitive period and focuses on listing and categorizing all relevant organized settlements. These cases are arranged based on their relationship with the relief as vertical, sloping or horizontal. By analyzing one characteristic example per category, namely Göreme, Matera and Matmata, with addition of supplementary examples, a second reading of subcategories is created that aids to further approach what constitutes a cavernous civilization.

It appears that there is a concentration of cases at similar latitudes, probably due favorable climatic conditions. Furthermore, the majority of these were found east of the prime meridian, possibly because of the existence of older civilizations in Europe and Asia, as well as the particularity of the terrain's morphology, with steeper elevational variations and specific geological conditions.







# 03

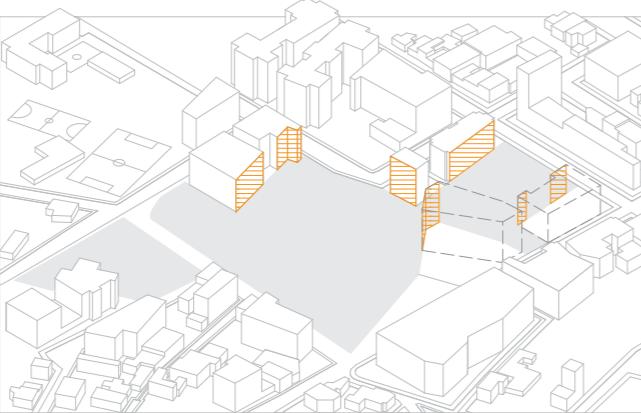
## A Community Within [Housing Intertwined with Urban Vitality]

Social Housing | Fall '22  
Akadimia Platonos, Greece

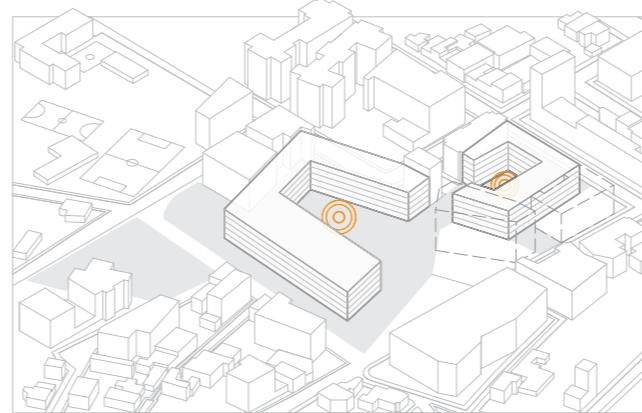
-Group Project-

Social housing plays a vital role in fostering inclusivity and addressing urban challenges by providing affordable living spaces and community engagement. This project aims to redefine the urban landscape by not only addressing the housing needs of diverse groups but also **enhancing the quality of urban life** by fostering a vibrant and interconnected community in the heart of Athens.

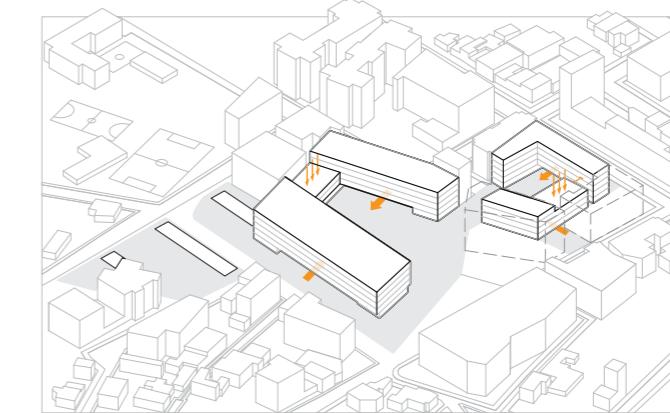
The housing complex is comprised of two buildings that adhere to the bare elevations of the adjacent volumes and utilize the openings between them. Their irregular shape allows for the creation of two introverted atriums which, along with the green roofs, contribute to the **increased use of greenery**, a much-needed addition in the neighborhood.



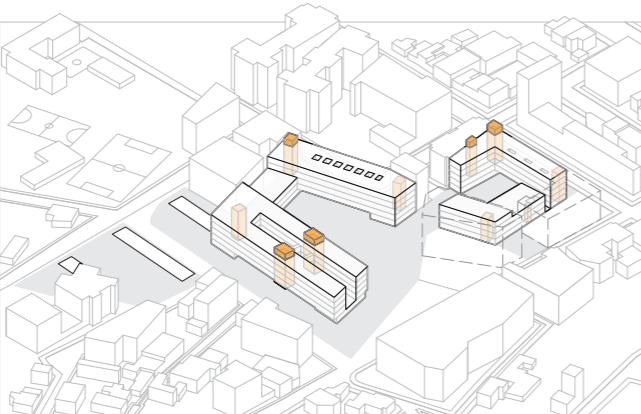
1 The neighboring buildings turn their backs on the site presenting their multi-story and bare elevations



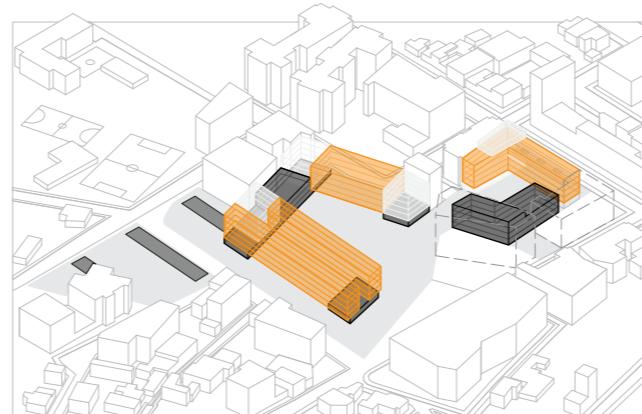
2 The proposed volumes adhere to the bare walls at many distinct points creating two different-sized introverted atriums



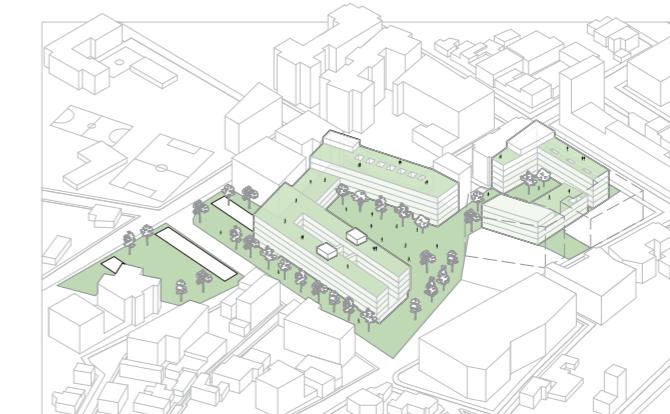
3 The ground floor opens up to promote movement in the public areas, and certain levels are lowered to create public terraces



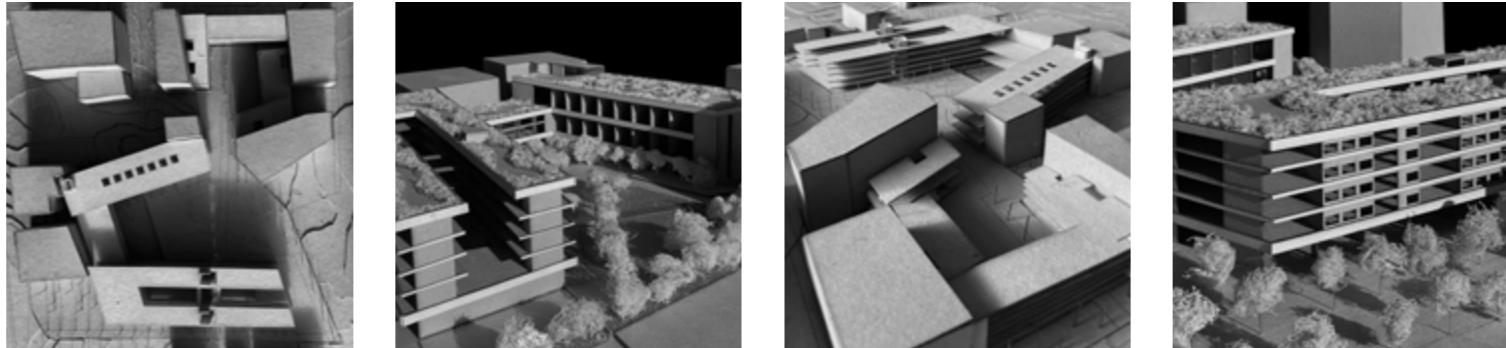
4 To ensure easy access to the residential areas, numerous elevators and staircases are placed throughout the buildings



5 The public areas (black) occupy the ground floor and the apartments (orange) are distributed on the higher levels

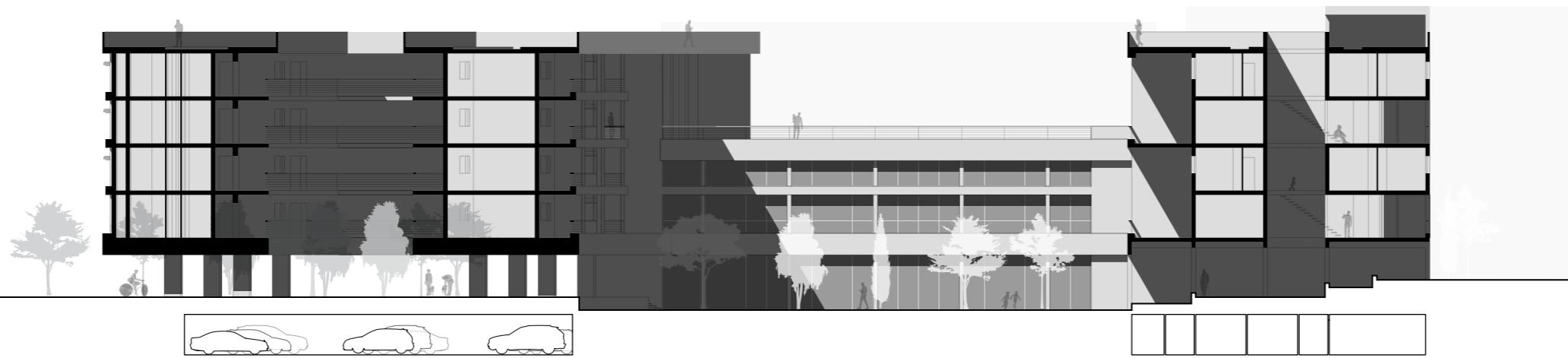


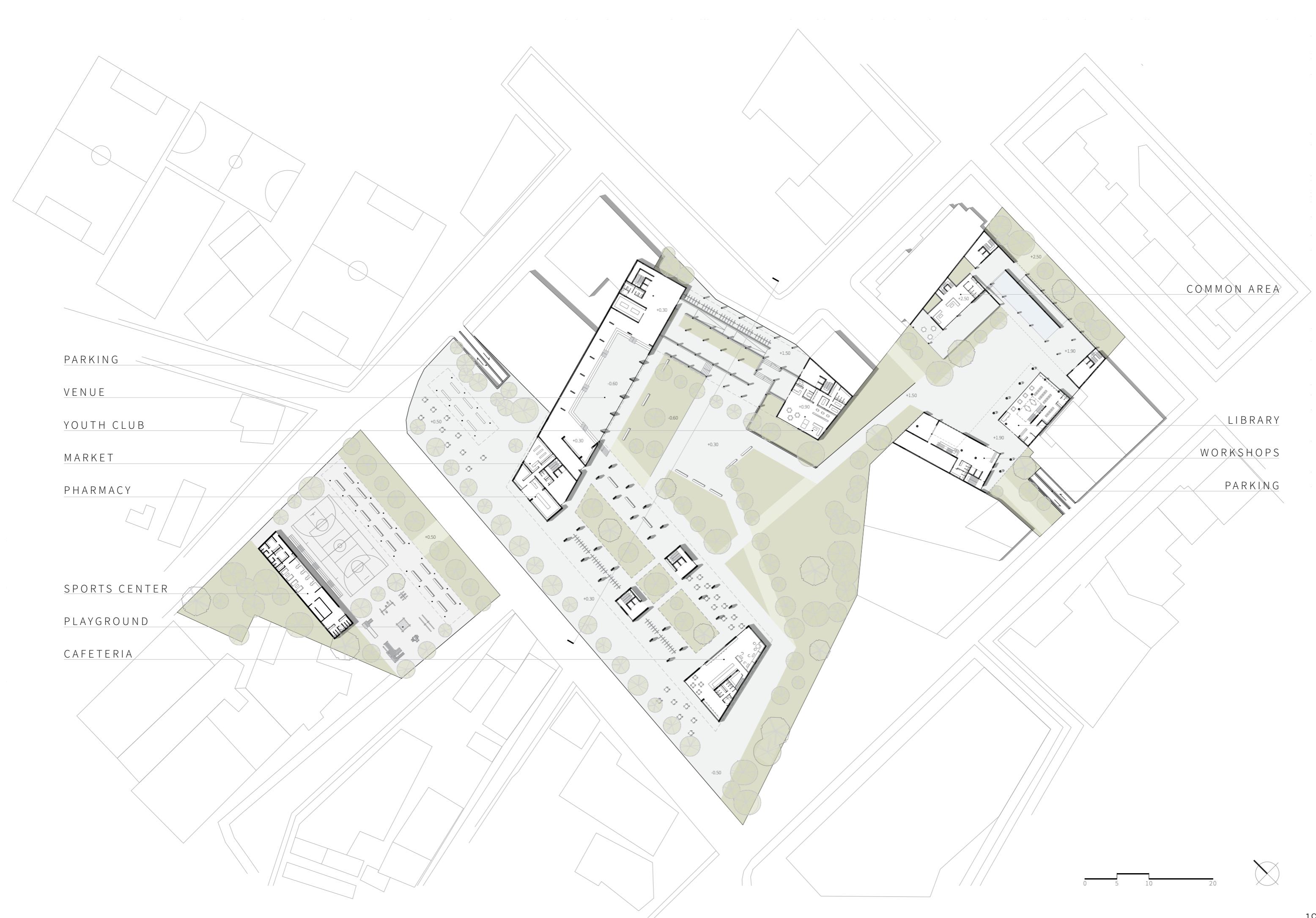
6 Finally, greenery is broadly used. Trees provide cooling and shade to the big atriums and give privacy to the residences

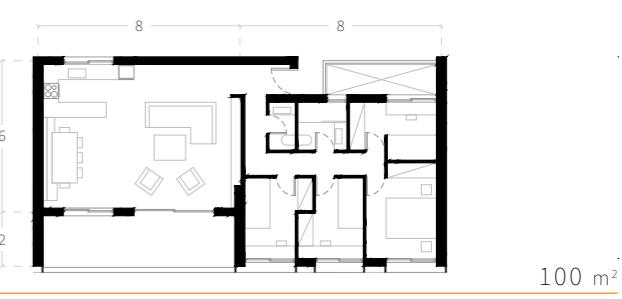
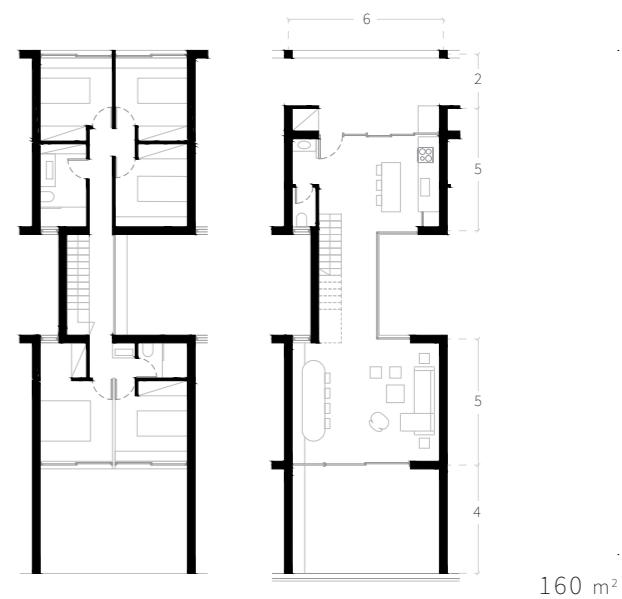
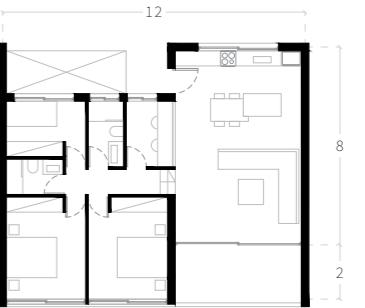


Five distinct apartment types are incorporated to accommodate various living situations, emphasizing diverse co-living arrangements with versatile spaces for social interaction. Residences are placed in the upper levels, with the ground floor serving as an opportunity to address the broader needs of the neighborhood.

Small shops and publicly accessible indoor and outdoor spaces for education, entertainment, and athletics are integrated, creating a more inviting environment. Underground parking spaces free up more room for walking and cycling, blurring the site's boundaries and making it approachable from multiple directions.







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# 04

## Urban Terraces

[A Continuum in the Urban Fabric]

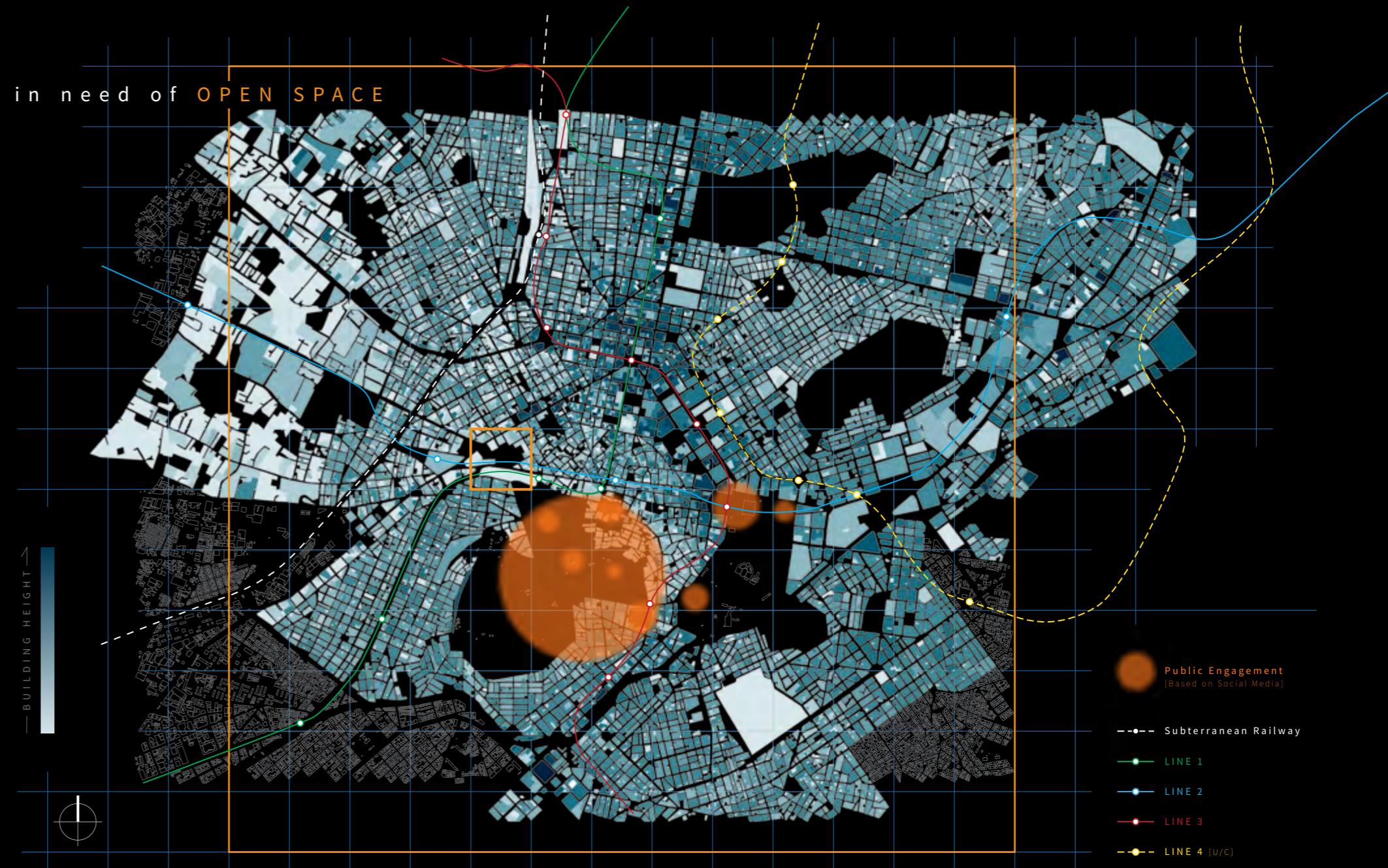
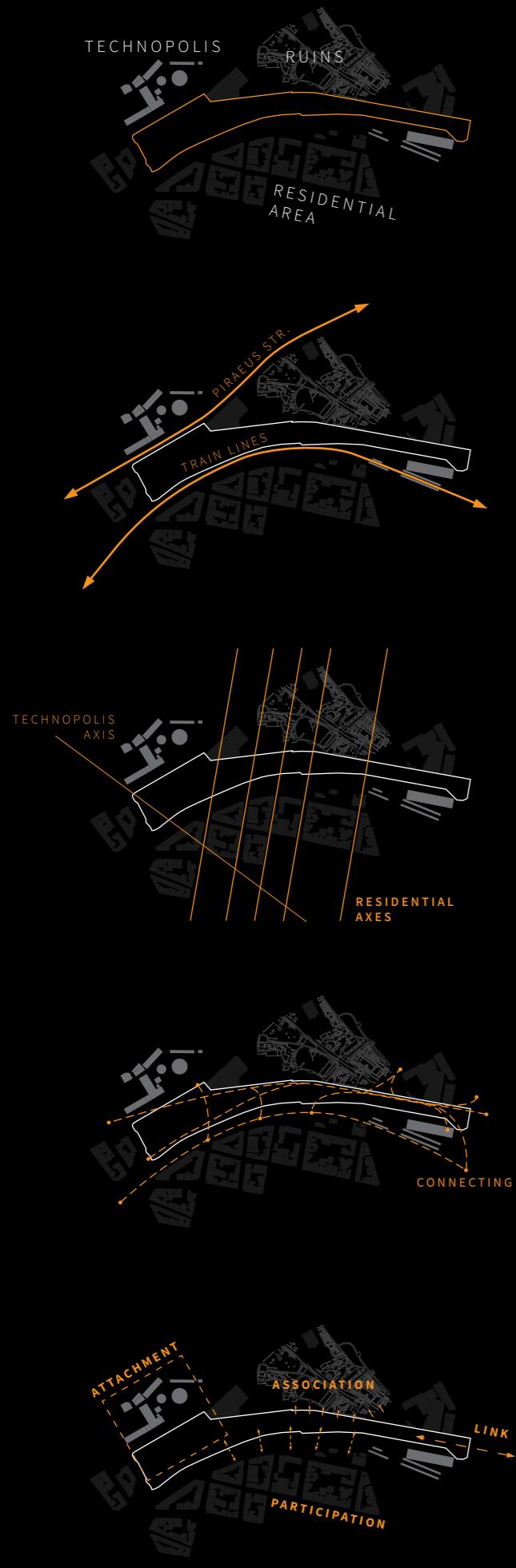
Urban Design | Spring '22

Kerameikos, Greece

-Group Project-

Kerameikos is one of Athens' oldest districts that brims with history, culture, and art, adjacent to points of interest such as Technopolis, Thiseio, and the eponymous archaeological site. Located at the western end of the Athenian historical triangle, an existing park is bordered by the busy Piraeus Street to the northwest and the urban train line to the south.

This proposal is a **redesign that integrates the nearby attractions** through distinct zones of varying width and height, while simultaneously **enhancing the connection with the adjacent residential area.** By revitalizing this underutilized space, the aim is to foster a stronger sense of community and belonging, encouraging residents to engage with the site, making it a more intimate part of their everyday lives.



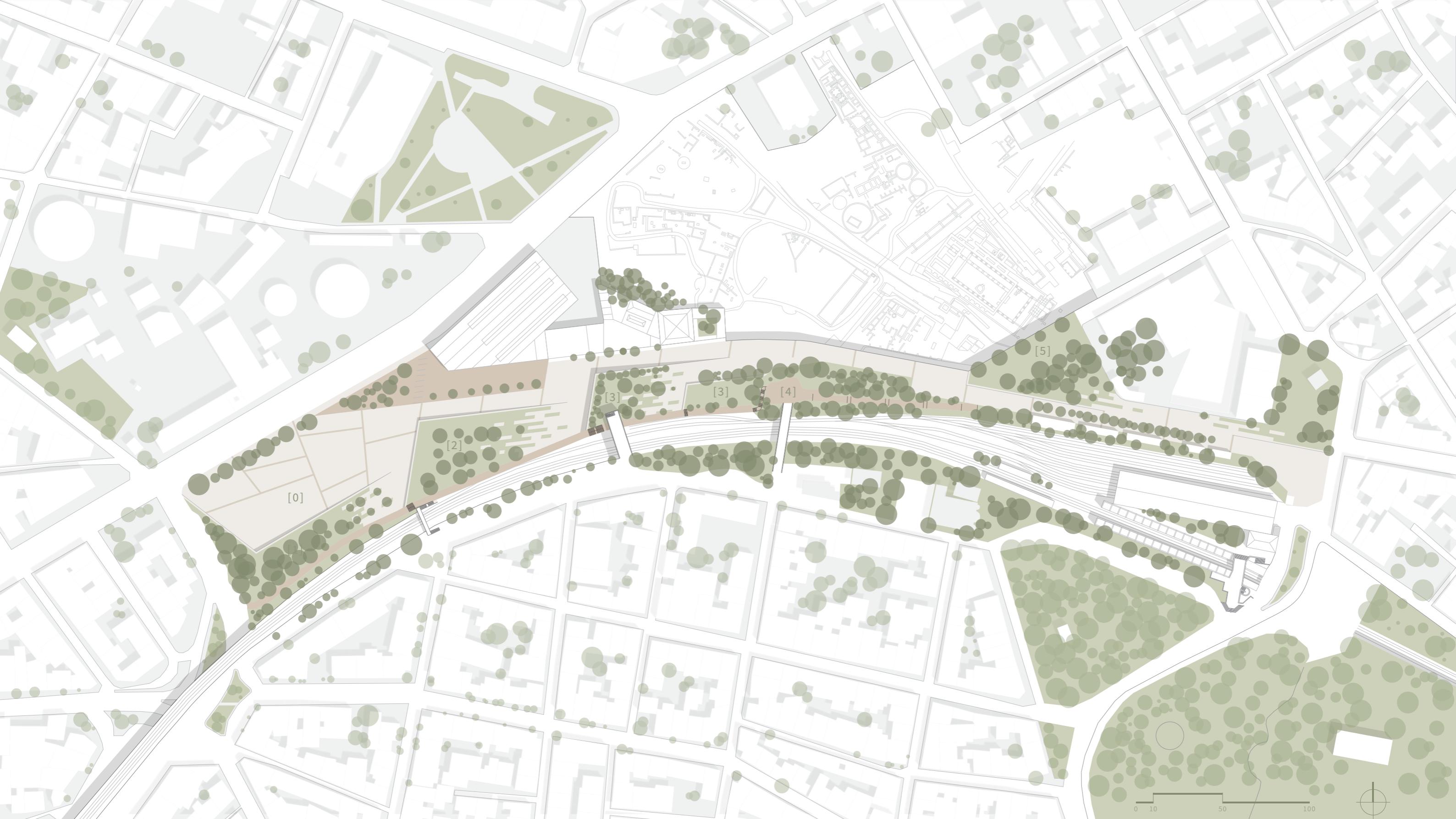


A series of “terraces” are designed, influenced by the parallel continuity of the residential area. An inverted image of the city is projected inside

the park, enhancing a connection that was previously disrupted by the curved axis of the urban train line, which has shaped the entire neighborhood.

The main path’s minimum width is 10 meters and varies as the terraces are set back, mainly influenced by the ruins, the exhibition space and Technopolis

whose emblematic appearance radiates into the site. Their heights vary according to the natural incline and allow for unobstructed views.



**[0]**

An open space that acts as the main plaza for large gatherings where most of the other zones refer to.

**[1]**

Extensive use of trees forms hubs for smaller groups. At the same time acts as a noise filter from the busy road.

**[2]**

The largest terrace, close to a refreshment kiosk and public restrooms that are placed below the 3<sup>rd</sup> level

**[3]**

Interconnected zones in distance with the crowded plaza, ensuring less noise and distractions.

**[4]**

The site's highest point, accessible in three ways, including a ramp for people with mobility limitations.

**[5]**

A seating area near the archaeological site, with convenient access to nearby kiosks and public restrooms.



# 05

## Art Agora

[A constellation of creativity]

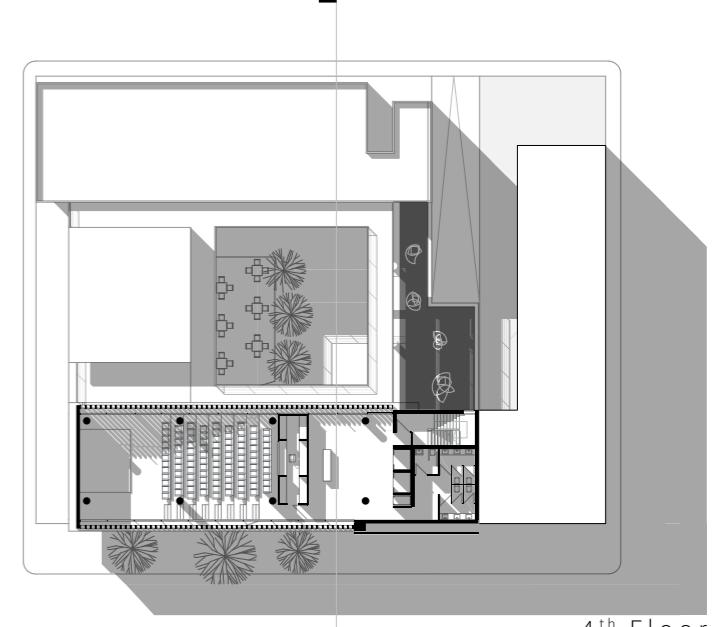
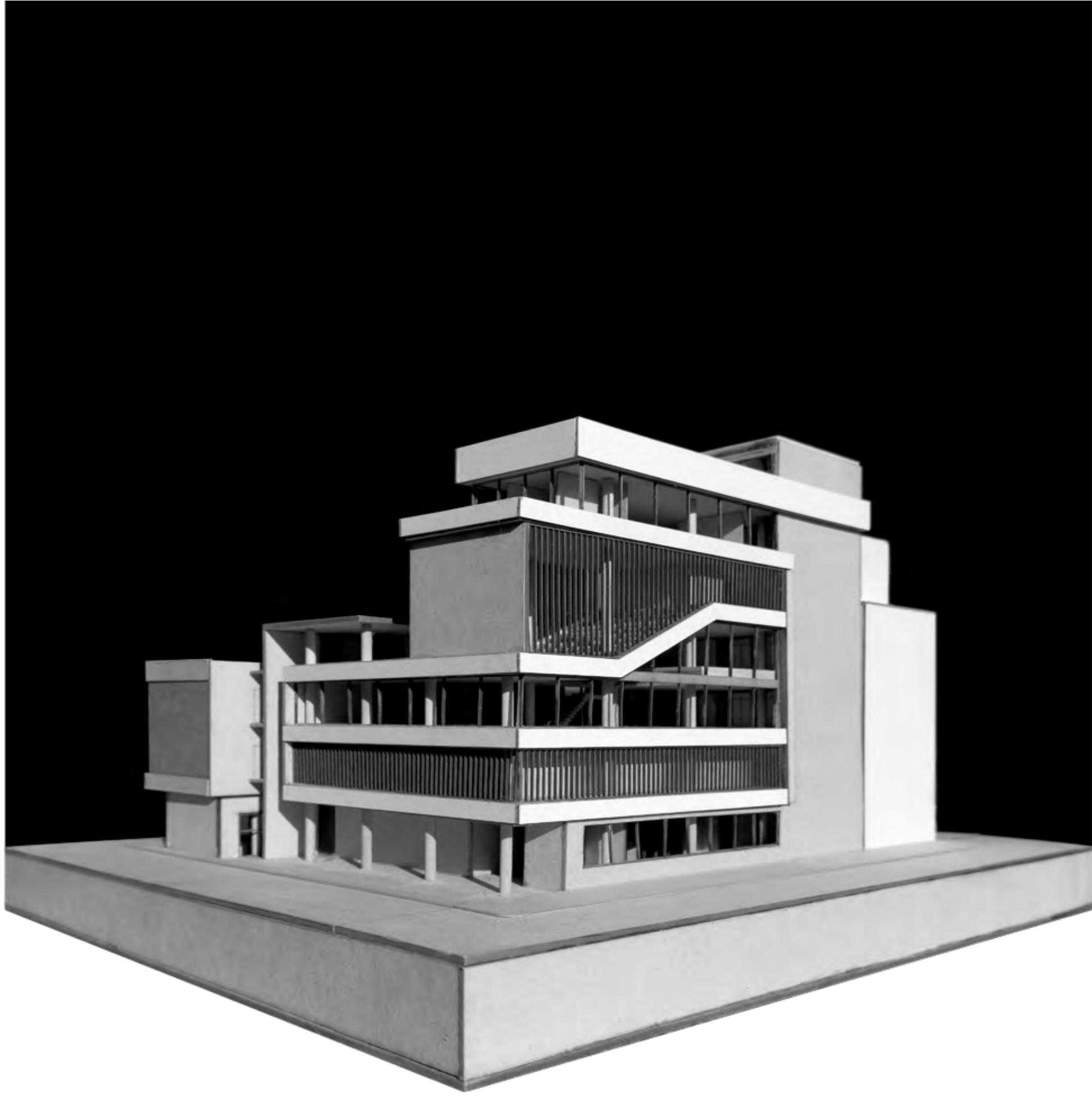
Studio Project | Spring '22

Exarcheia, Greece

-Group Project-

Located in a neighborhood rich in cultural and artistic diversity, a building complex dedicated to art emerges. However, this project is **more than just an Art Hub**, as it encompasses a wide range of activities. The implementation of these within a compact 35x35 meter plot proved to be the main challenge and significantly influenced the design approach.

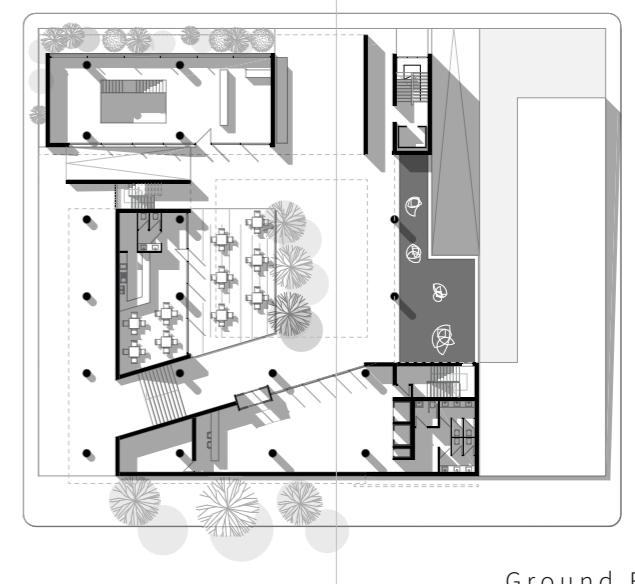
Major attention was given to the circulation of visitors, artists, and personnel to ensure the efficient connection between different sectors. The introverted U-shape provides a continuity with the adjacent volume, effectively completing the entire block, leaving open space in the middle where **a steel walkway wraps around the interior of the building**.



4<sup>th</sup> Floor



1<sup>st</sup> Floor



Ground Floor

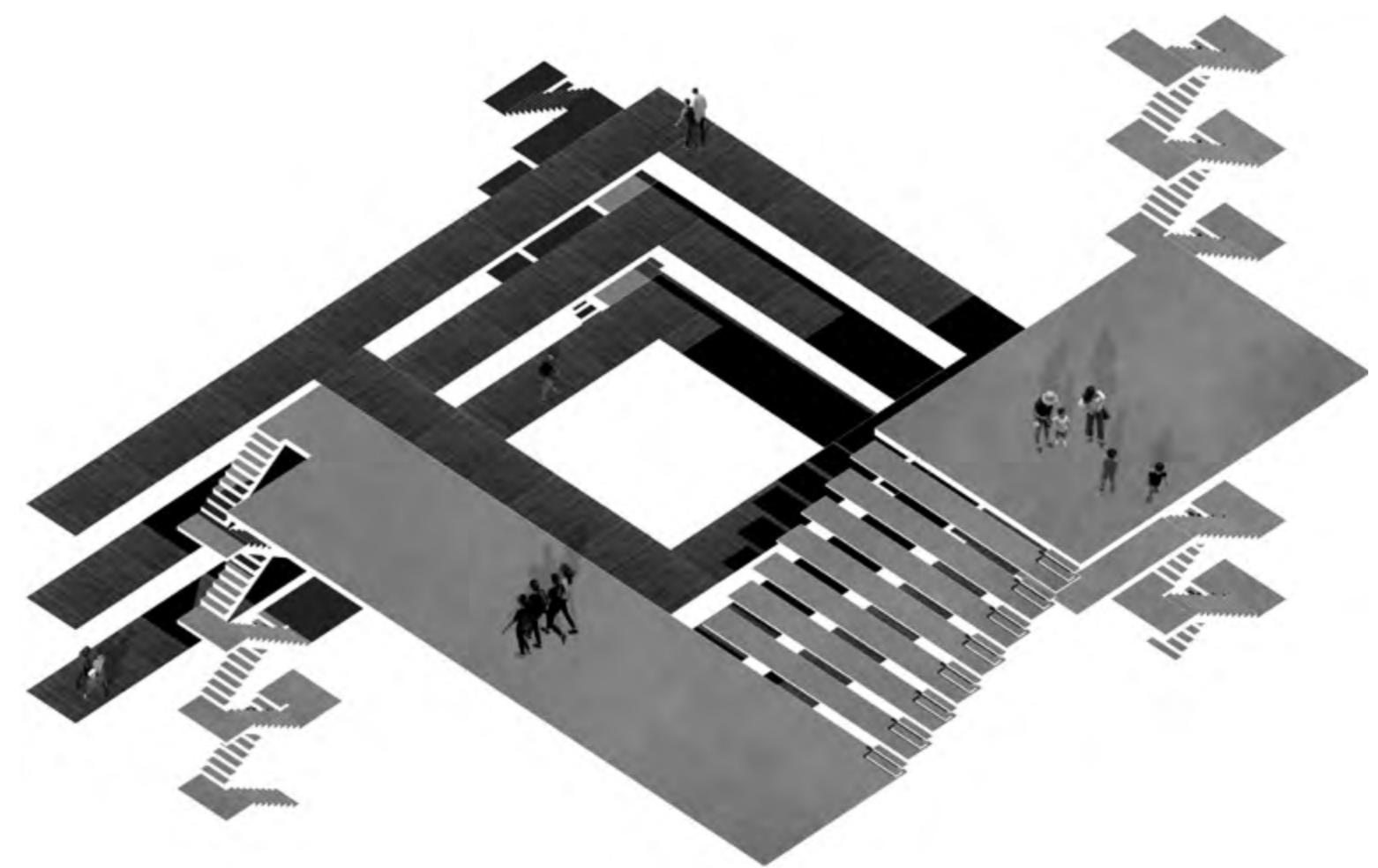


The perforated walkway serves two main purposes. Firstly, it provides an additional connection point between the collective activities and, secondly, acts as a visual filter

between the atrium and the adjacent building without obstructing light from it. The public activities are located in the multi-story side of the building that overlooks a high-traffic avenue.

On the other side, 14 studio apartments are designed for artists that work on the premises of the Hub for extended periods. They are placed in the south-eastern and quieter sector

of the plot that is discretely detached from the rest of the construction for additional privacy, facing towards the neighboring apartments. This part has its own separate entrance.



# 06

## Women's House

[Promoting Gender Equality in Africa]

Architecture Competition | Spring '21

Ziguinchor, Senegal

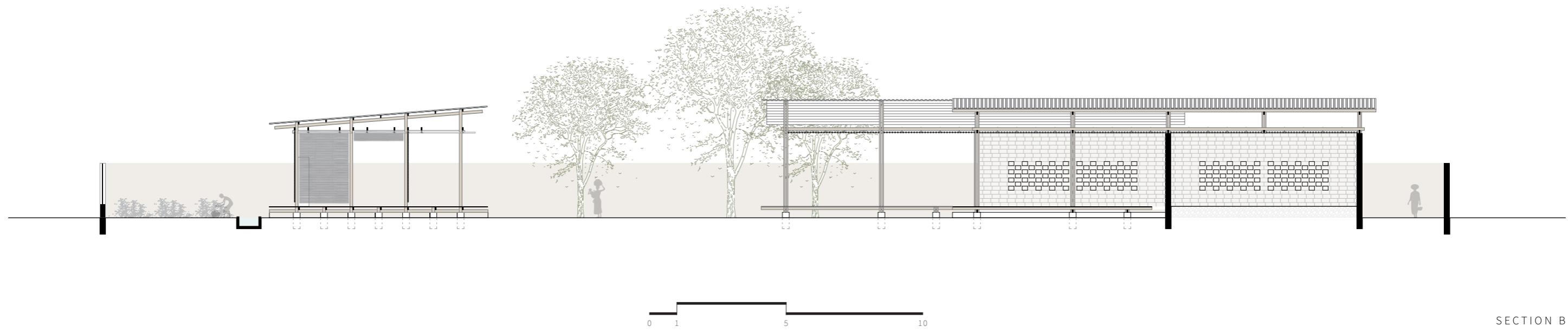
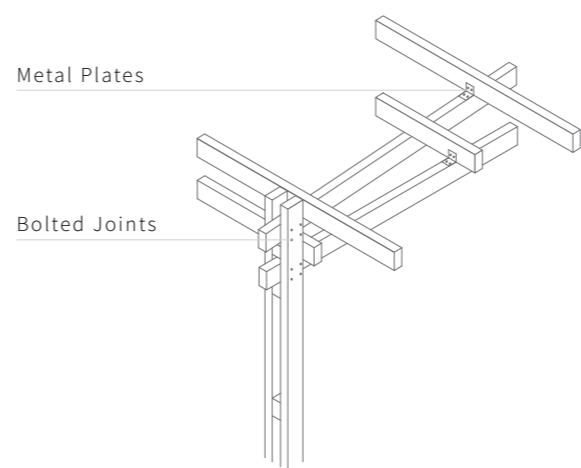
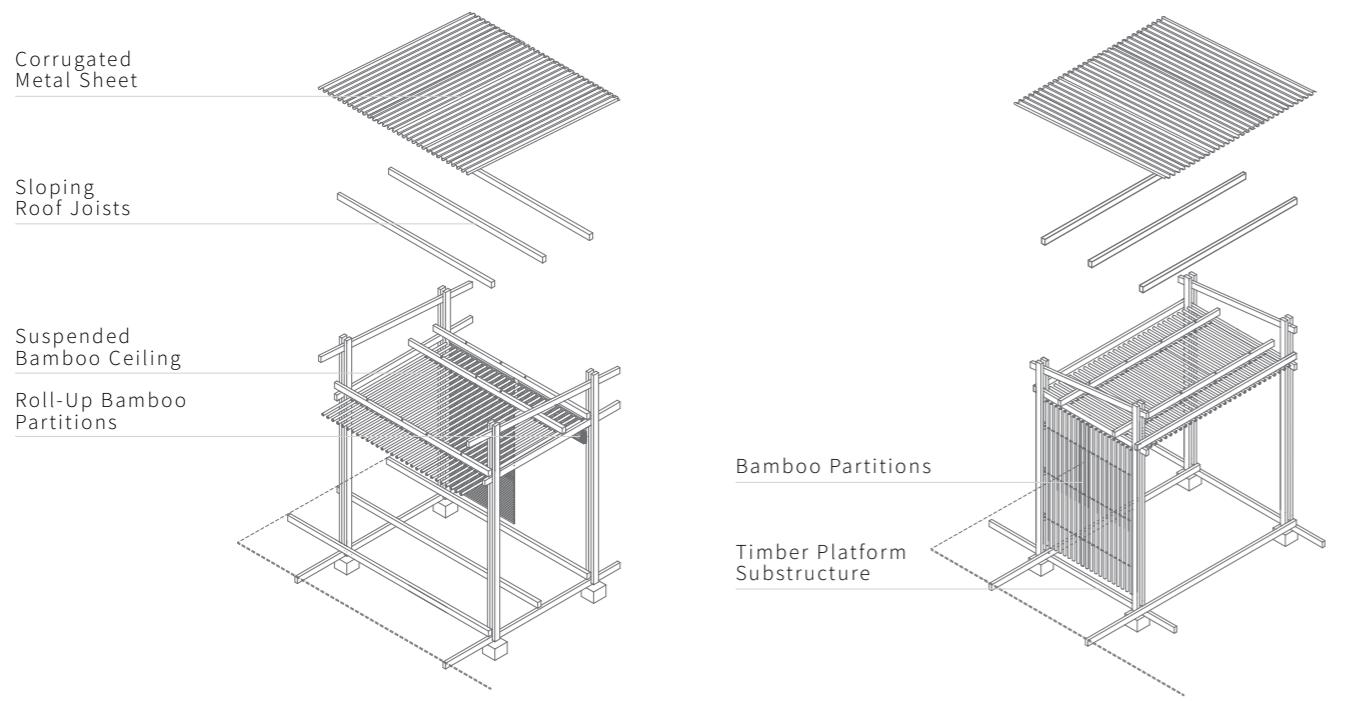
-Group Project-

Overcoming gender discrimination has been a constant struggle for women, who face the harsh realities of inequality. The main goal was to **create a secure and supportive environment for women** fostering community engagement through open dialogue, education, and collective activities tailored to their needs through the use of adaptable spaces.

The design process was heavily **inspired by Senegal's vernacular architecture**, incorporating effective techniques to overcome the demanding weather conditions of a tropical sub-Saharan climate. By utilizing locally sourced materials and implementing sustainable construction methods, the project ensures both environmental compatibility and ease of construction, creating a practical and enduring solution to meet the needs of the community.







The separation of the main activities into autonomous buildings is commonly used in traditional African architecture, as it allows for better natural ventilation. These structures are placed on timber platforms that are elevated from the ground to improve air circulation and prevent potential flooding. The main walls are constructed from clay bricks and selected facades are perforated to allow sunlight to infiltrate the interior and maximize airflow.

Expanding on passive cooling strategies, the combination of a corrugated metal sheet roof covering and a bamboo ceiling underneath, protects from harmful solar radiation, while also allowing warm air that has accumulated between the structure to escape. Simultaneously, sloping roof panels collect rainwater to be used for irrigation or sanitation.

