

# THRESHOLDS OF TOGETHERNESS:

*Solidaric Scenarios for Paris Boulevards*

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*Solidaric Scenarios for Paris Boulevards*

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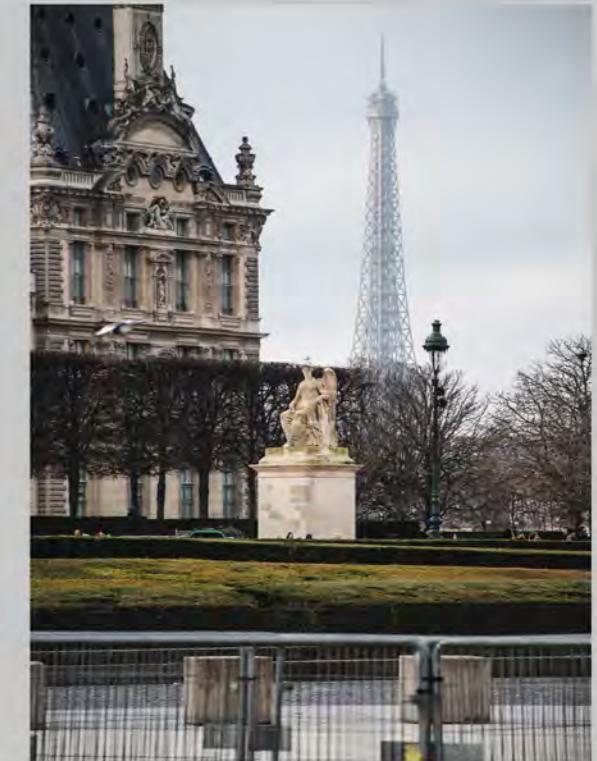
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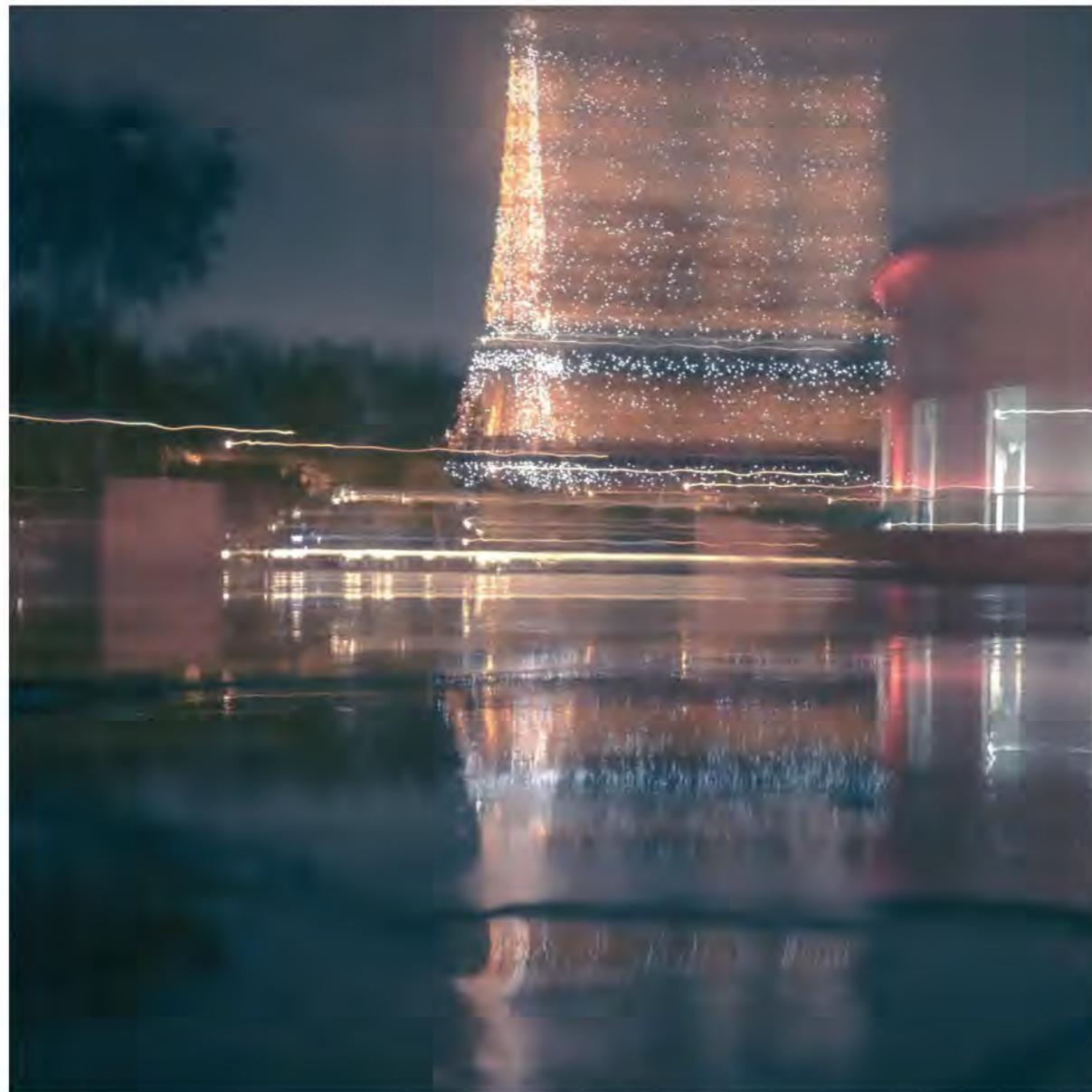
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# PARIS - AN IMAGE OF A CITY



2024  
*Eifel Tower, Paris*

Paris, known as the City of Light, has a distinctive image worldwide, closely linked to its history of fashion houses, culture, and tourism. The city's architecture and uniformity of the Haussmann rules contribute to that reading of the city and its recognition as a symbol of wealth and power. And with a GDP of 900 billion €, 30 luxury fashion houses, and over 10 Michelin-starred restaurants, it attracts nearly 35 million tourists annually.<sup>1,2</sup>

However, alongside the successfully created image, the living conditions in the city differ, making it extremely difficult to find affordable decent housing. With the wealthy population on one side, the city on the other side experiences a rising number of unhoused individuals living in precarious circumstances. With an estimated amount of homeless people of 35.000 and about 3.500 people sleeping in the streets, the numbers continue to rise constantly. Paris has 250,000 vacant apartments, so the space would exist to address the housing question.<sup>3</sup>

This juxtaposition of luxury boutiques steps away from makeshift encampments raises urgent social questions about urban priorities, policy failures and the social costs of global city branding. Since the 80's and in reoccurring trends, the "Paris Syndrome" has been known. It describes tourists that experience a discrepancy of the ideal vision of the city and the lived reality. Seeing the city for what it is, with dirt and trash, can still have a beauty, however tourists may be disappointed by their own expectations.

This thesis explores the role of the architect in this tension field between the city's international image and its internal realities. Focusing on the conditions of the homeless people, the thesis does not try to offer an easy solution. Through studies of the existing facilities and networks, it proposes an additional urban infrastructure, taking up space on the boulevards to enable a daily life that puts the human in the centre.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.insee.fr/en/statistiques/8347585>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.sphericalinsights.com/reports/france-luxury-goods-market?utm\\_.com](https://www.sphericalinsights.com/reports/france-luxury-goods-market?utm_.com)

<sup>3</sup> Nuit de la Solidarité 2024

## Distribution of Income



## Percentage of Vacant Apartments





# "THE INVISIBLES" OF PARIS

In the French language, there is a clear distinction between the term homeless which translates into "sans domicile fixe", and "roofless", which translates into "sans-abri". The use of the term homeless implies not having an address whereas the term roofless means, sleeping in the streets. In addition various home-making practices have been encountered by sociologist, so that the term by itself doesn't show the complexity of the group of people that are addressed. This thesis uses the term roofless for a person sleeping in an area that is not foreseen for housing and homeless to include all people in precarious situations without a permanent address.<sup>4</sup>

"The experience of homeless individuals cannot be described or understood as an absence of reaction to what are commonly referred to as life's accidents. Despite finding themselves in invisible conditions and a situation of survival, subjected to the violence and tension of public spaces and collective accommodation, individuals deploy skills and tactics to stay and hold on."<sup>5</sup>

Living on the street therefore requires constant adaptation in regards to security and survival. By establishing a shelter, the public space becomes privatised. The clear distinction of public and private no longer exists. When living in the streets, the public space becomes the private habitat which creates a very vulnerable situation. Therefore, for the people in the streets, it is often not a question of living, but surviving. With the topic of homelessness, there are connected subjects which follow: the squats, the migrants, prostitution, and drug abuse.

However, there are a plethora of reasons to lose one's home. The first time sociology analyzed the subject in France was in 1987 with a thesis from Alexandre Vexlard. Afterwards, there were several publications and research studies. Between the years 1990 and 2000, the relevance of the subject increased as the number of homeless people rose.<sup>6</sup>

The public and politics often overlook the question of homelessness, and try to hide it, which leads to the term "the invisible". Living in the tension field of the public space and the existing collective housing offers, there is a dependency on the system to function and survive. The individuals have developed strategies and tactics to be able to rest in public spaces in the city. Primarily, this is a sociological question; however, it becomes a deeply urbanistic question regarding the public space. For whom is public space build for, and how is the distribution of urban space prioritized?

To address the rising number of homeless people, Paris hosts the "Nuit de la Solidarité." This yearly event uses interviews, mapping, and observation to understand better the conditions of the people sleeping rough.

Official data from the 7th edition of the event revealed that around 3,500 people are sleeping rough in Paris. The distribution and tendencies of sex and age groups show, that there are more than two third males and that the number of young people has risen drastically in the last year by almost 20%. The majority of the interviewed persons have been in the streets for more than one year.

66% said they had nowhere to store their belongings, which is essential because of robberies among peers and the possibility of maintaining a routine. 54% said they could not access a social worker to help with administrative or other tasks. 50% could not wash their clothes or access the internet. These numbers — and the total number of homeless individuals — continue to rise, with women facing even greater barriers due to gender-based violence, health vulnerabilities, societal stigma, and systemic exclusion.<sup>7</sup>

Johannes Lenhard's 2022 research on homeless people at the "Gare du Nord", one of the main train stations in Paris, highlights how complex street survival economies are. "(..) Inhabiting the air vents – and also inhabiting them in groups, like the Polish

men – brought about positive results, but it was also a source of conflicts. It raised the question of who the street and the hot air vents belong to. How was (social) order supposed to be established in a climate where many necessary things – including money and often sleeping space and warmth – were scarce? It was normal to eventually be moved on, mostly on the grounds of 'security'.<sup>8</sup>

In the past, people often used metro hot air vents for warmth, creating makeshift homes. In response, the French train company SNCF has fenced off many of these vents, claiming to "protect people from burning themselves."<sup>9</sup> This creates an urban landscape, preventing people from temporarily transforming non-places into homes.<sup>10</sup> According to Johannes Lenhard's research, 10% of homeless people fit into the category of roofless people. Using this calculation, the estimated number of homeless people in Paris is 35.000.

In addition, during the Olympic games, Paris displaced over 12.000 homeless people to other towns, showing a rise of 38% to the year before. Displacement of homeless populations during large-scale events is not unique to Paris; it reflects a global trend where cities prioritize aesthetics, security, and visitor experience, often at the expense of social equity. These events highlight the tensions between urban development and social responsibility, as well as the ethical dilemmas facing architects, planners, and policymakers. For the homeless community in Paris, the Olympics has led to both physical displacement and reduced access to resources, amplifying the marginalization they already face. As a result, examining the intersection of homelessness, urban planning, and temporary event-driven architecture becomes crucial in understanding how cities can better address these issues. This treatment led to demonstrations in the city and was discussed in the media worldwide. "CVS is also deploying this technology in Los Angeles, which will host the Summer Olympics in 2028. "If you want to understand what will happen in Los Angeles in four years," says Boykoff, "People in LA would do well to look at the machinations happening right here in Paris."<sup>11</sup> Seeing

Paris's function as a role model for the Olympic Games in Los Angeles, where around 30.000 people are sleeping rough, sets an example that must be questioned.

Another concerning example that leads to the restriction of public spaces is that urban spaces are centered around consumption. There is no acknowledgement of the people without means. Sitting in a café requires consuming; otherwise, one will be kicked out. With the increasing acquisition of public ground, for example, in New York, called POPS. These spaces are required to maintain a particular public use. However, the law system is very complex, though it might be impossible to have larger gatherings without prior notice or commercial activity. So what does that mean for the city of today? Where could this development lead? Cities need money to finance themselves, and then private individuals or companies offer large amounts of it. It is delusional to think that they only want the best for the public and want to contribute to a better world. They are interested in accumulating more money and gaining people's trust to consume their products or buy their services. Seeing that development, it is important to see the architect's role in society. The profession has a decreasing influence on the city's landscape and the real outcome of the project. If the investor does not like the design, another architect will be chosen. If the stone is too expensive, concrete will be used instead, regardless of aesthetics and sustainability. It is the architect's role to convince the people with money and power to spend it in a way that enriches the project and society. However, what does that even mean? The architecture school is all about sustainability and creating spatial experiences, whereas the reality is often different.



<sup>4</sup> Les Sciences Sociales et le sans-abrisme, p. 16

<sup>5</sup> Les Sciences Sociales et le sans-abrisme, translated after p. 28

<sup>6</sup> Les Sciences Sociales et le sans-abrisme, p. 28

<sup>8</sup> Lenhard, p. 260

<sup>9</sup> Lenhard, p. 263

<sup>10</sup> Lenhard, p. 266

<sup>11</sup> Maket



"C'EST LA STATION DU CRACK": LE MÉTRO STALINGRAD, À PARIS, EST ENVAHI PAR LES DEALERS ET LES TOXICOMANES

LP avec Romain Poisot

## Homeless Migrants Occupy Paris Theater as Winter Shelter, Threatening Them to Go Bankrupt

**PARIS 2024 : 400 SANS-ABRIS EXPULSÉS DES QUAI DE SEINE, LE NETTOYAGE SOCIAL S'ACCÉLÈRE AVANT LES JEUX**

## Olympics 2024: Fury as homelessness 'swept under the rug' and rough sleepers removed from Paris

'We are France – we are supposed to be the country for human rights! Yet there is no support, no real plan'

A grand Olympic plan for the Seine. But first, the tent camps.

With the Summer Games coming to Paris, migrants there face a new choice: Get on the bus or wait for the next police sweep.

## France moves homeless people out of Paris as city prepares for next summer's Olympics

By Dalal Mawad and Claudia Colliva, CNN  
🕒 9 minute read · Updated 3:51 AM EDT, Fri September 29, 2023

## NUIT DE LA SOLIDARITÉ: 4292 HOMELESS COUNTED IN GREATER PARIS, A STABLE FIGURE

The representation of homelessness has been dominated by the mass medias.

Bass vows not to bus homeless people out for 2028 Olympics. But what will L.A. do?

## Sans-abris, migrants... avant les JO de Paris, un "nettoyage social" qui s'accélère ?

ENQUÊTE ■ SPORTS

HOMELESSNESS

## When Los Angeles hosts 2028 Olympics, visitors may be greeted by tens of thousands of homeless people

Los Angeles is spending billions of dollars, but so far it's making only a small reduction in street homelessness.

PRÉCARITÉ

2024 : les sans-abri moins visibles dans les, après des évacuations de campements

## Paris anklagas för att göra sig av med hemlösa inför OS

## Jeux de Paris 2024 : un collectif dénonce l'expulsion de plus de 12.000 sans-abris en Île-de-France

SEINE-SAINT-DENIS DISPATCH

*The Olympics Is Transforming Their Neighborhood. And Kicking Them Out.*

The Games brought billions to redevelop this Paris suburb. What will the thousands of homeless people who live there do?

## Paris under fire over plan to move homeless people out of the city for the Olympics

Move is intended to free up hotel rooms for visitors – but mayors across France say they don't have capacity for more homeless people

AUSWEISUNGEN AUS DER STADT

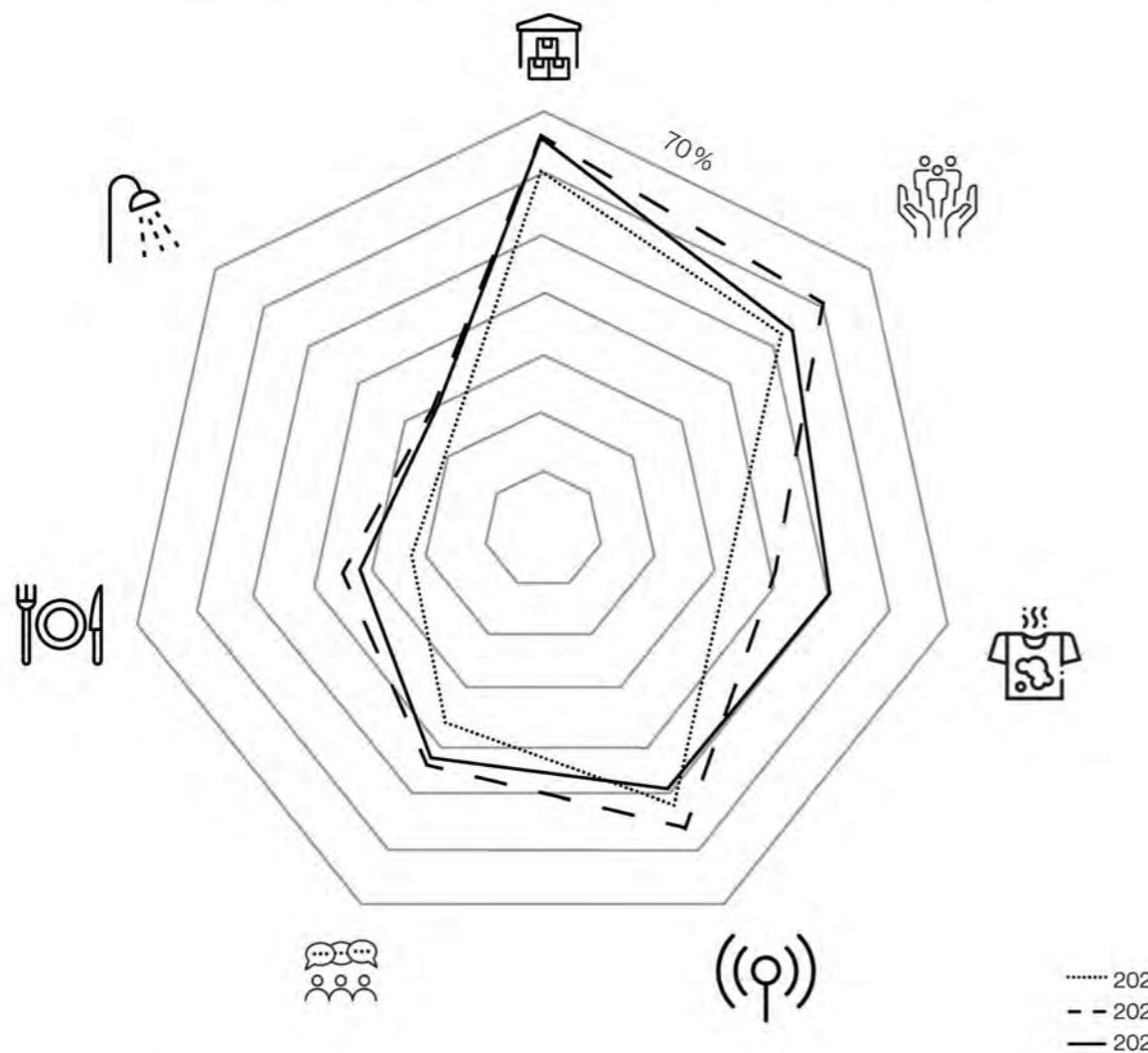
## Acht Tage vor Olympia-Start räumt Paris Obdachlosen-Camps

Vorbereitung auf Olympische Spiele

Tausende Obdachlose offenbar aus Paris in die Provinz verfrachtet

**"When I have the need, I have no access to this facilities."**

(Men and Women at NdIS number of responses: 743/1018, 2024)



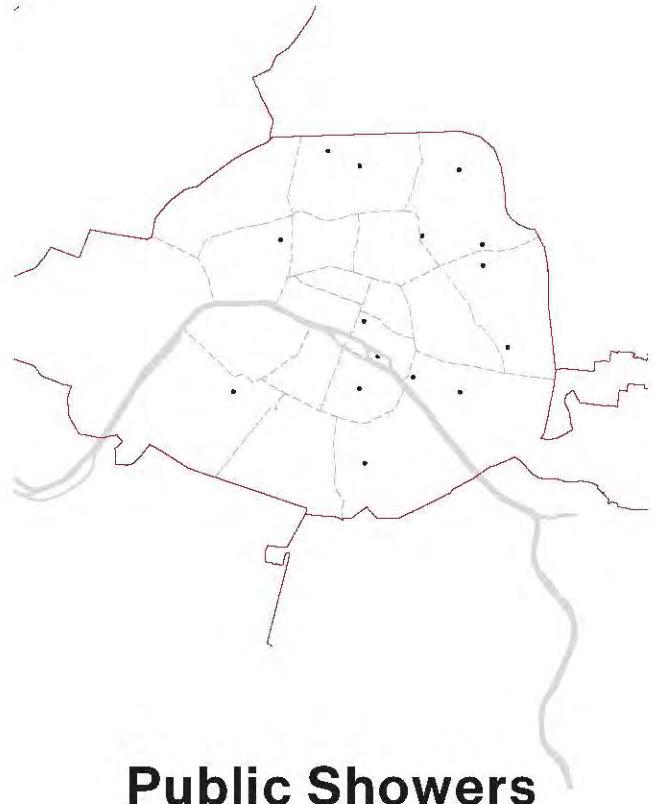
after Nuit de la Solidarité 2024, Ville de Paris

#### Mapping the Network and Existing Infrastructure

To address the issue of infrastructural access for unhoused individuals in Paris, a mapping process was used to analyze the population distribution and the existing facilities network. The research reveals a disparity in accessibility: while amenities like public toilets are relatively available, other services like secure bag storage remain significantly underprovided. This indicates an uneven performance of the current infrastructure. At the same time, some are more effective due to quantity, placement, or operational logic.

Upon closer examination of the existing support facilities, it becomes evident that many spaces serve multiple functions and are often operated by volunteers. This points towards a flexible model where infrastructure modules may vary in size and complexity. Some functions may work without supervision, while others allow the interventions to become community centres with multiple functions combined.





## Public Showers

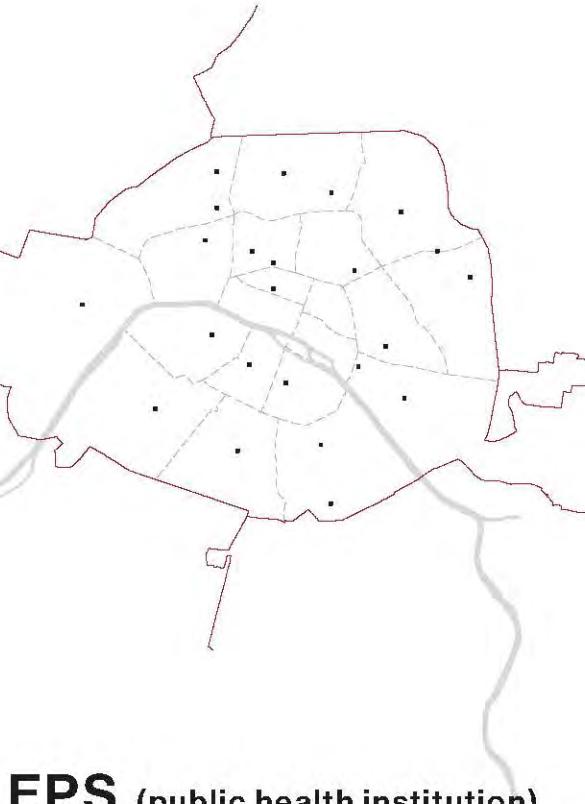
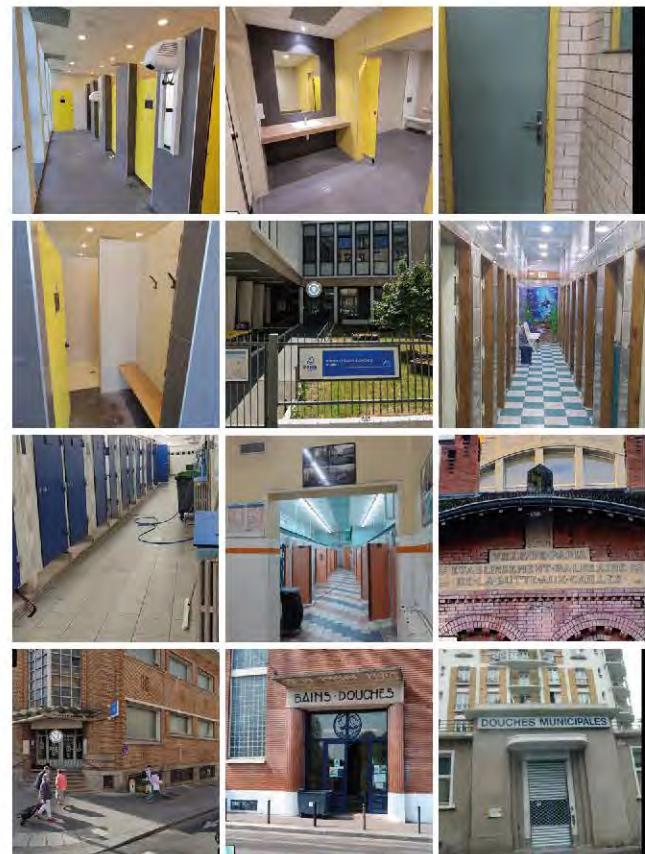
- private shower cabins
- ca.30 min time slot per person



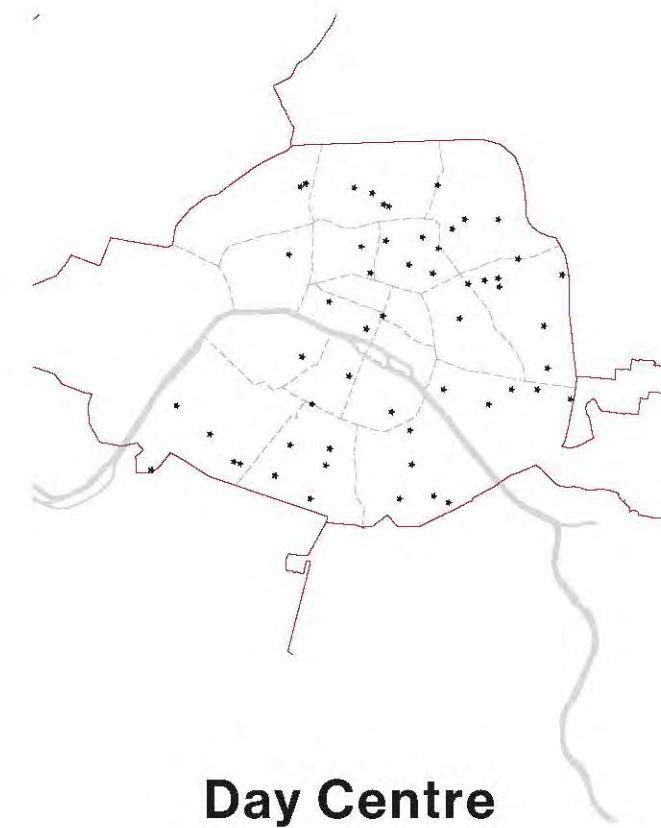
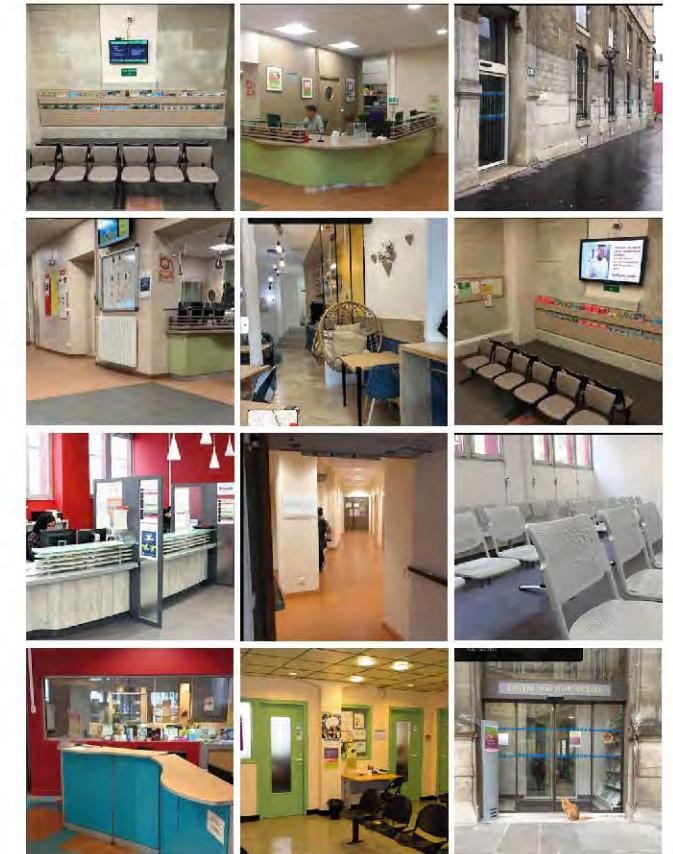
- only closed bags
- no perishable goods
- The presence of two or three volunteers is required during opening hours (La Pause)

## Bag Storage

Images: google maps



## EPS (public health institution)



## Day Centre

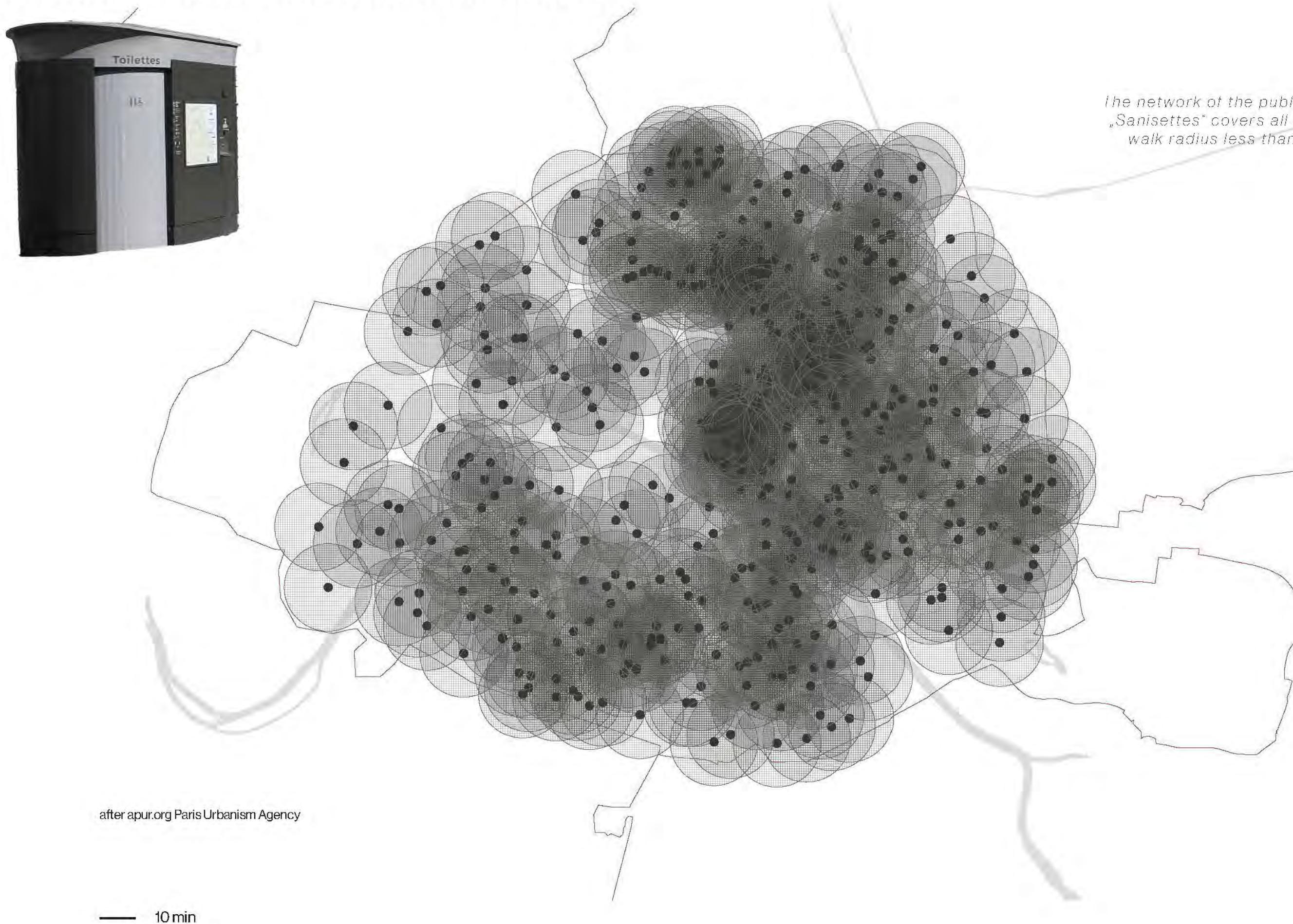


-Onze Mille Potes (<https://onzemillepotes.com>)  
62 casiers, 6 machines à laver et 6 sèche-linge

-La Maison Verte (<https://www.lamaisonverte.asso.fr>)  
day centre , post adress, storage, french course  
for women, support at school, events

-La Pause (<https://www.lapausedu6.org/page/2644295-page-d'accueil>)  
vestiare, acces to internet

## Distribution of Public Toilets with 10 min walk radius

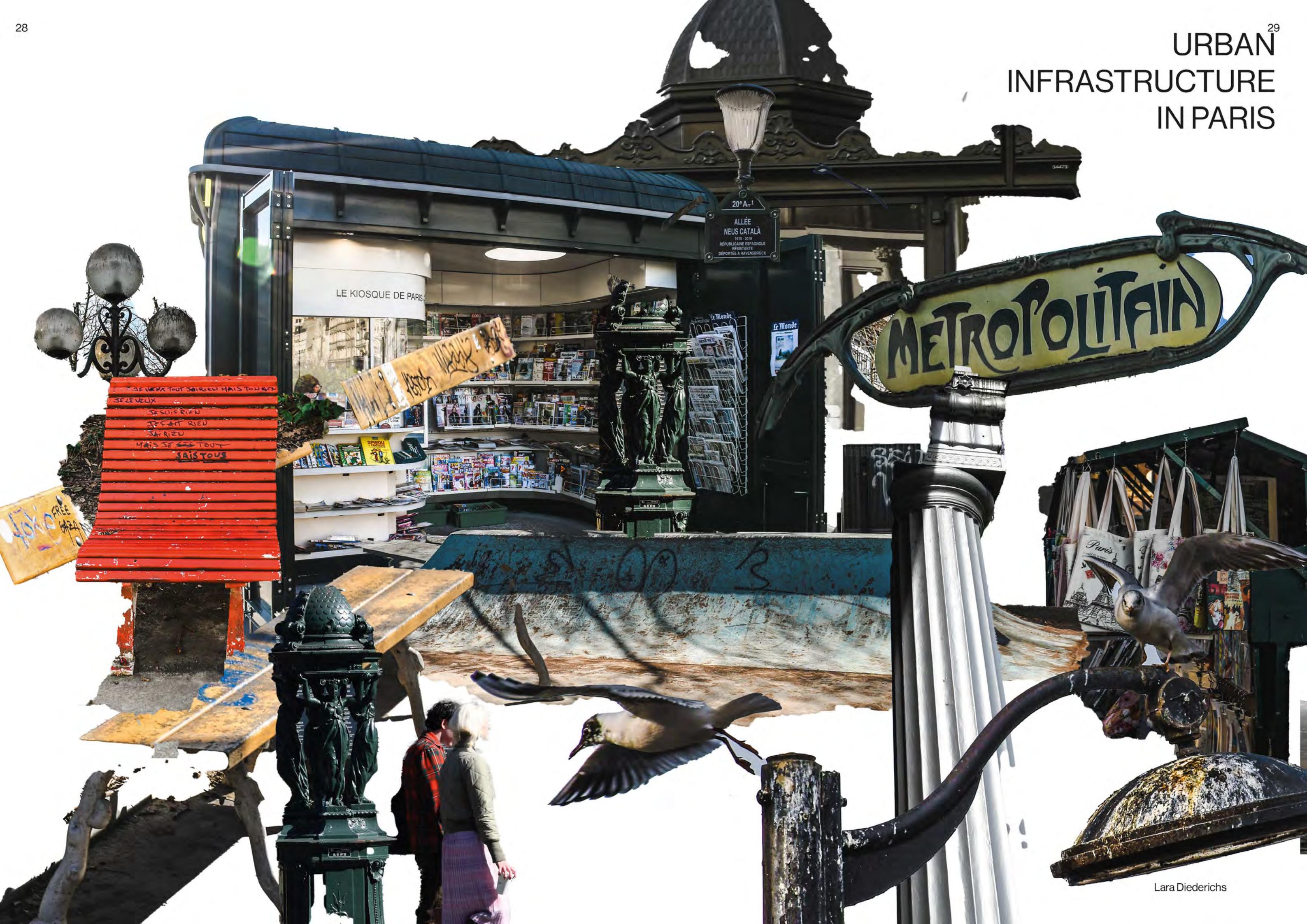


## Distribution of Public Bag Storage with 20 min walk radius

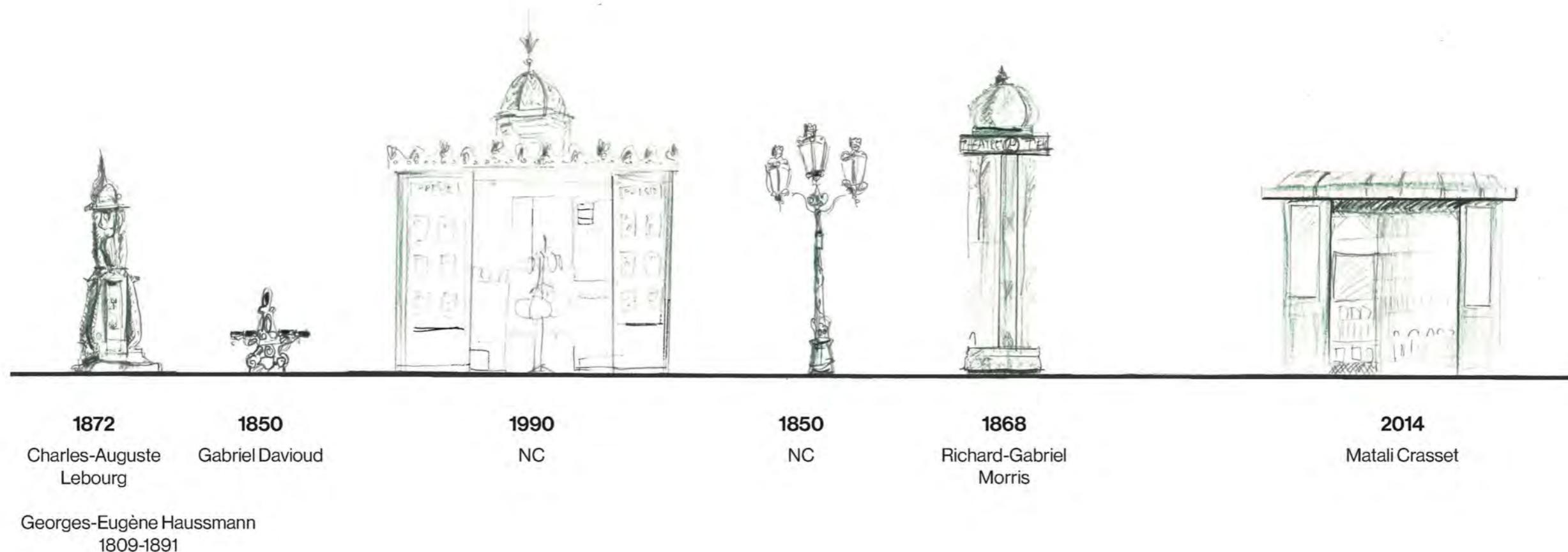


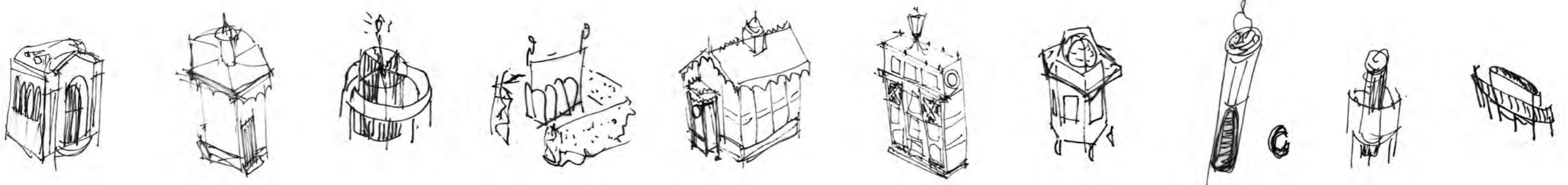
## Distribution of Public Showers with 20 min walk radius





# URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE IN PARIS





Sketches after archival photography<sup>12</sup>



2025  
Place de Vosges, Paris

Engaging with the streets of Paris requires a critical understanding of the city's urban and architectural history, in order to make informed design decisions—whether in continuity with, or in deliberate contrast to, its established spatial logic.

The architecture of Paris today is significantly linked to the reading of the work of the French architects like Durand, Boullé or Ledoux. However, the most polarising and influential among them has been Haussmann. After the French Revolution, Haussmann restructured the city in large gestures by demolishing medieval quarters and creating a new type of street, the large boulevards. "The invention of the boulevard can be seen as the urban form that blurred the distinction between the city and the territory around it, conflating it into one system. As enormous structures, these boulevards were isolated from the city fabric, confronted with a seemingly endless amount of residential space organized by new axes of mobility."<sup>13</sup> Pier Vittorio Aureli uses the term of an absolute architecture in his 2011 published work, *The Possibility of an Absolute Architecture*, which tries to reestablish the city's sense as the site of political confrontation and recomposition of parts.

Alongside the rules for the facades, Haussmann found new ways to prove wealth and representation in the city by using uniformity and empty spaces rather than a single monument. For example, the Place de Vosges is an inverted monument with uniform facades framing an empty square. In Paris's dense medieval city context, these empty lots became an exception and through the price. Seeing this development, Boullé's architecture as isolated monuments can be seen as a "positive" response to these squares.<sup>14</sup>

Whoever has been to Paris, knows that there is something very distinct about the city's infrastructure. The urban furniture take a great deal through the cohesive use of the same elements; the visual language becomes recognizable. The existing street furniture comprises a fountain, a bench, a lamp, a Morris column, the metro entrances, street barriers and a kiosk. The most popular ones relate to the creating in the time of Haussmann. During that time a variety of public infrastructure appeared to keep the streets clean like urinals, toilets but also with the increased literacy and press freedom of the newspaper in the 1800s, there were licensed kiosks popping up with a distinct hexagonal shape. What is clearly shown in the archival photography, is how these buildings offer a variety of configurations and a high level of ornamentation, treating them not as something profane, but as a part of the urban fabric.

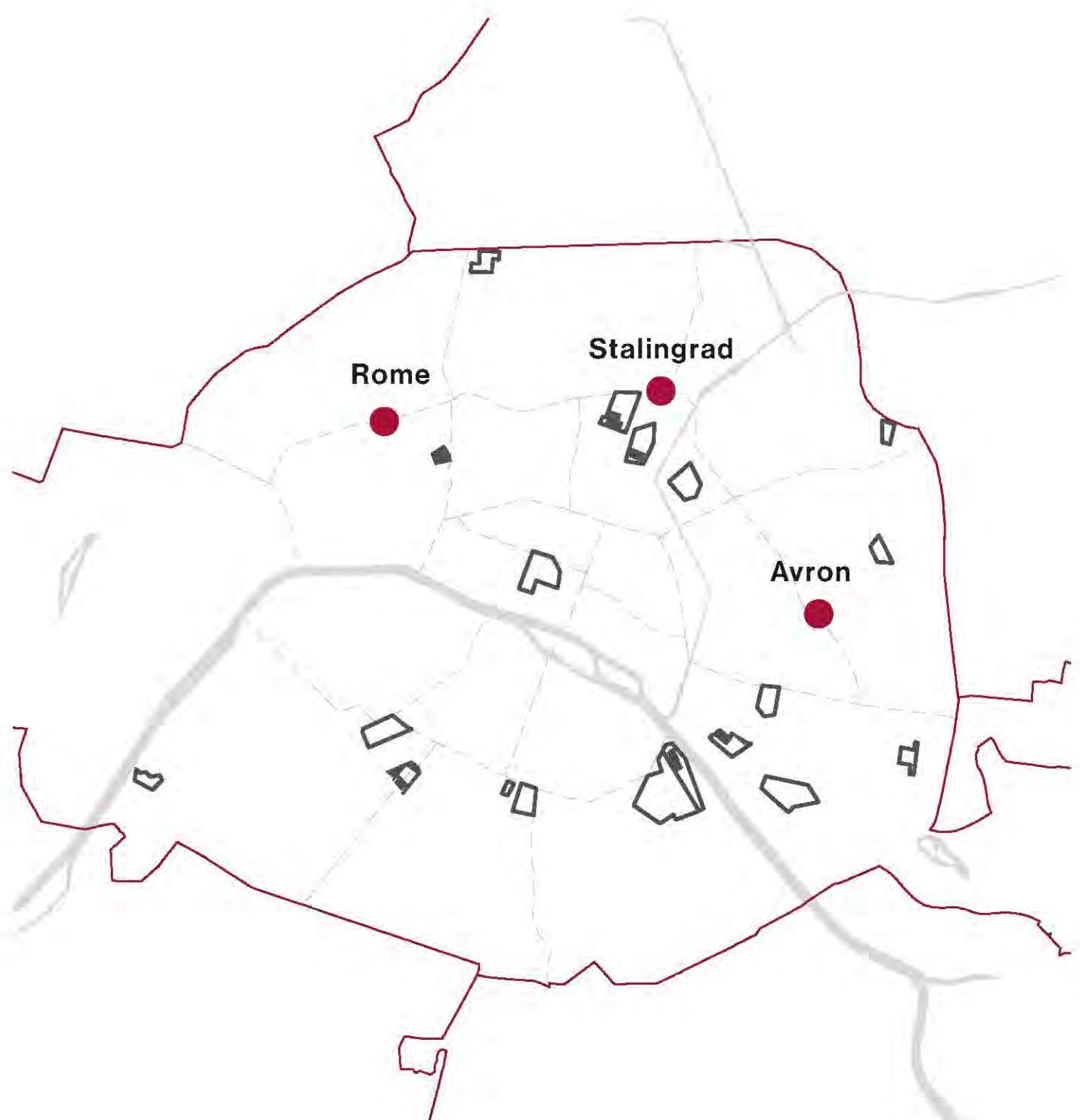
The kiosk, that many people refer to as "Haussmann kiosk" nowadays is from the 80s and an interpretation of the historic ones. In 2010's the kiosks have been largely replaced by an updated version. Due to the declining sales of printed media, the new version also allows for the resell of tourist souvenirs and beverages, making them even more an expression of the consumption culture.

<sup>12</sup> <https://archives.paris.fr/l/photos/mosaïque/?&debut=160>

<sup>13</sup> Aureli, p.159

<sup>14</sup> Aureli, p.172

# FRAMEWORK OF THE PROJECT



*“As enormous structures, these boulevards were isolated from the city fabric, confronted with seemingly endless amount of residential space organized by new axes of mobility.” (Aureli p. 159)*



## Theoretical Framework: Central Place Theory

Walter Christaller's Central Place Theory (1933) provides a valuable framework for understanding the potential distribution of a new network. The theory suggests a hierarchy of centres: smaller, frequently accessed facilities should be evenly distributed, while larger, multifunctional hubs may be positioned more sparsely, reflecting patterns of willingness to travel. This approach supports a dual-scale infrastructure—one addressing daily needs and another providing more comprehensive services on a less frequent basis.

## Design Reference: Parc de la Villette

The design strategy draws significant inspiration from Bernard Tschumi's Parc de la Villette. The project's red follies—distinct yet related structures—serve as an orientation system and establish a visual logic through shared formal and chromatic language. They resemble each other as much as they resemble themselves, creating a logic that makes them a family rather than twins. These elements are not identical but share enough features to be perceived as part of a coherent family. This inspiration is intended to engage and inspire the audience, as the proposed modules seek to establish a sense of ensemble—visually legible but not monotonous—embedded within the urban fabric without appearing alien.

## Visibility, Urban Margins, and Architectural Resistance

The contemporary city often marginalizes vulnerable populations, rendering them invisible by relegating them to peripheral zones. In contrast, Pier Vittorio Aureli's "absolute architecture" concept argues for spatial and formal resistance to this erasure. In this context, architecture should assert presence rather than disappear into the background. The proposed intervention fully embraces this position, challenging the dominant narrative of invisibility and demanding

recognition for populations frequently overlooked. This stress on architectural resistance is intended to engage the audience to challenge the status quo.

Paris's wide boulevards represent a legacy of economic ambition and modernization. Initially designed for circulation and mobility, they have also produced spatial discontinuities, isolating them from the city fabric, which can contribute to social isolation and the marginalization of specific populations. Recent urban strategies are repurposing these spaces through markets, outdoor gyms, and temporary interventions. While these efforts re-activate the boulevards, their quality as social spaces remains compromised by the proximity of the car traffic.

## Spatial Strategy and Urban Integration

The proposed architectural intervention adopts a language of simple geometric forms designed to be immediately legible without signage. The selected colour palette references Haussmannian green infrastructure, enabling the structures to align subtly with the city's visual identity. The term 'formal restraint' refers to the deliberate simplicity and lack of ornate design elements in this proposal, which aims to integrate the intervention into the Parisian streetscape.

A key objective of the project is to formulate a network of public infrastructure that responds to essential human needs with dignity and care. This raises a broader question: How can such a network integrate into the visual and functional logic of the city while remaining legible, accessible, and respectful of its users' lived experiences? Rather than hiding away, the proposed structures seek to make visible the social realities often excluded from urban narratives.

## Spread across the city

Accessible 24/7

**XS**

*Bag Storage  
Library  
Free Wifi Point*



**S**

*Shower*



## Site Specific

Accessible when the caretaker works

**M**

*Toilet  
Internet Workspace  
Caretaker  
Exhibition Space*



**L**

*Shower  
Toilet  
Kitchen  
Bag Storage  
Internet Workspace  
Caretaker  
Urban Farming*



**XL**

*Shower  
Toilet  
Kitchen  
Bag Storage  
Laundry Machine  
Internet Workspace  
Caretaker*



# THRESHOLDS OF TOGETHERNESS

## XS - On the go

The smallest module, a bag storage and a book exchange is designed for adaptability. This extra small compact unit can be deployed in diverse urban contexts, providing a versatile solution. Constructed from timber, the design language references traditional Parisian kiosks with its hexagonal shape, evoking a sense of familiarity through historical typology.

## S - The Shower Tower: Dignity Through Ritual

The Shower Tower is a unique structure that takes inspiration from the Morris column, a familiar urban element in Paris. It is designed to deliver both function and spatial experience. The tower's interior is animated by light and shadow through controlled apertures, fostering a sense of calm and dignity for users. The mosaic surface inside alludes to the art deco bathhouses once integral to the city's public hygiene infrastructure. The tower also includes provisions for temporarily storing personal clothing, enhancing usability.

## M - Avron: Youth-Centered Programming

The site at Metro Avron, located near the Nation hub, is adjacent to a public skate park, a known attractor of younger demographics. This unit is programmed as a youth centre, targeting young adults in precarious living conditions. It offers workshop spaces, exhibition opportunities, and areas for social interaction. The ground floor is designed as a public interface, while the upper floor serves as a sheltered retreat, described as a "warm cocoon" providing respite from the city's intensity. The building's material and spatial palette create a sense of belonging and safety.

## L - Stalingrad: Historic Significance and Spatial Response

The Stalingrad district is defined by its proximity to two major train stations—Gare du Nord and Gare de l'Est—and the elevated Metro Line 2. Historically, this area housed the Rotonde de la Villette, designed by Ledoux, and remains a key junction between northern neighbourhoods and the city centre. In this context, the kitchen-oriented unit engages with the existing street food culture, such as the corn vendors commonly seen in the area. The architectural response includes a greenhouse on the southern facade to capture passive solar energy and enhance thermal comfort, while a northern facade opens outward, symbolizing transparency and openness.

## XL- Rome: Layers of Privacy

The unit contains a bathroom with shower, bag storage accessible by the facade, a living room, a workspace and kitchen and a laundry. The house is conceived not only as a service point but also as a catalyst for social interaction. The architecture allows for spontaneous engagement through rotating facade elements, which can be reconfigured to create visual and spatial disruptions, encouraging informal conversations between users and passersby.

This unit is anchored by a heat-storage base strategically placed over metro air vents, which uses waste heat as a form of passive energy. The site-specific context at Metro Rome, situated in a well-resourced area of Paris, is marked by a notable absence of homelessness-oriented infrastructure despite visible signs of homelessness in the vicinity. This condition highlights the necessity of equitable distribution across socio-economic zones.

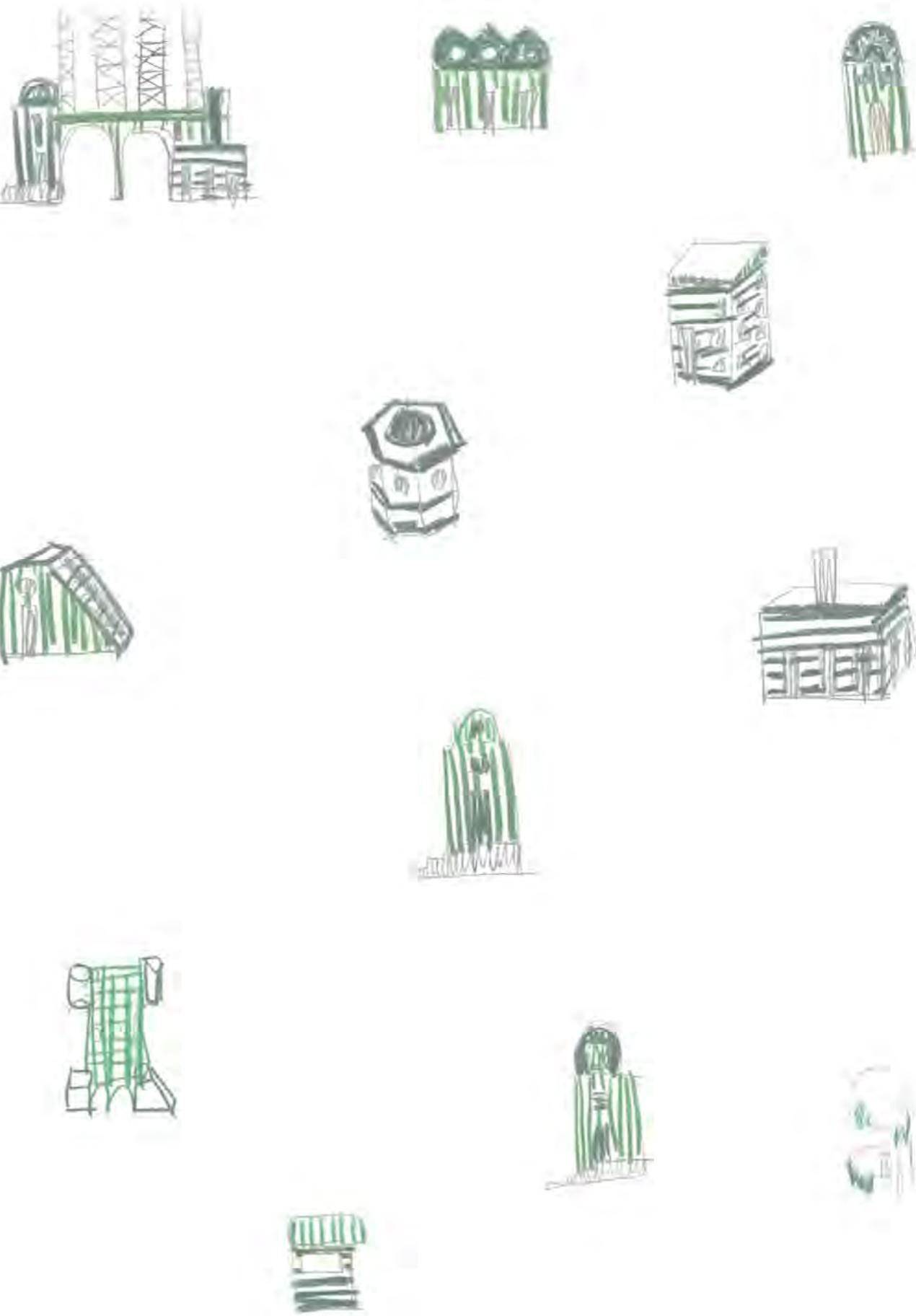
## Material Strategy and Urban Atmosphere

All units adopt a daylight-driven design strategy and employ a tactile material palette, deliberately contrasting the sterile anonymity of many existing public structures. The architectural language is welcoming and human-scaled, aligning form and function with a broader ethos of care. The smaller units are intended to be used 24/7, meaning the shower has a self-cleaning program similar to the existing toilet, and the bag storage will be checked by the city staff. The larger units operate with a caretaker. The financing is intended to be public or fundraising, and the interventions are run like the already existing private daycare centres.

## Architectural Resistance and the Politics of Visibility

This intervention transcends the role of infrastructural support by positioning architecture as a political act. Their presence directly opposes the urban tendency to marginalize the vulnerable through spatial exclusion.

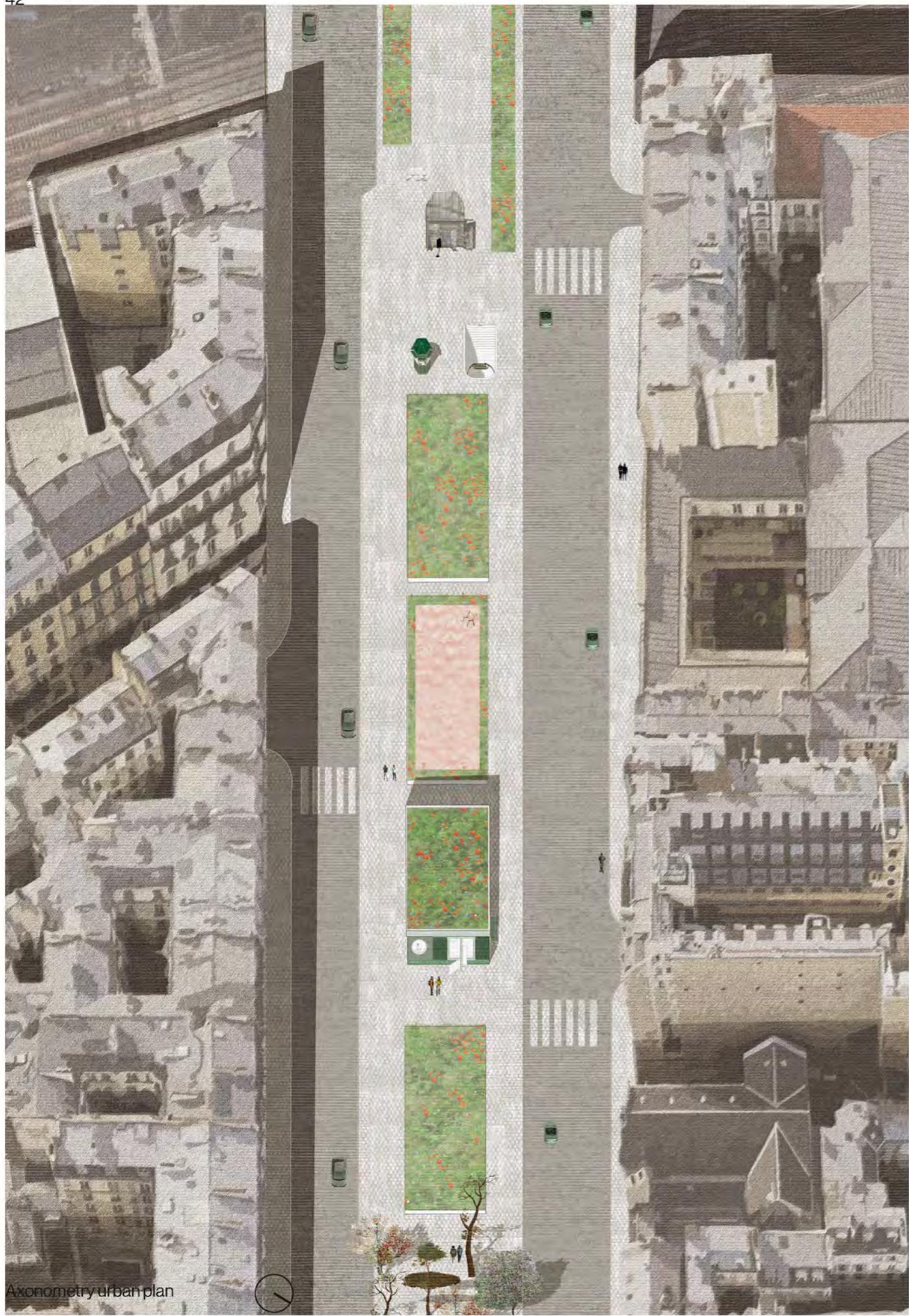
Historically constructed as instruments of urban control and separation, the Parisian boulevards become sites of care and resistance. Through a distributed but coherent network, each unit stands as an individual gesture of dignity. Collectively, they form an infrastructure of resilience, advocating for a more inclusive, compassionate, and visible city.



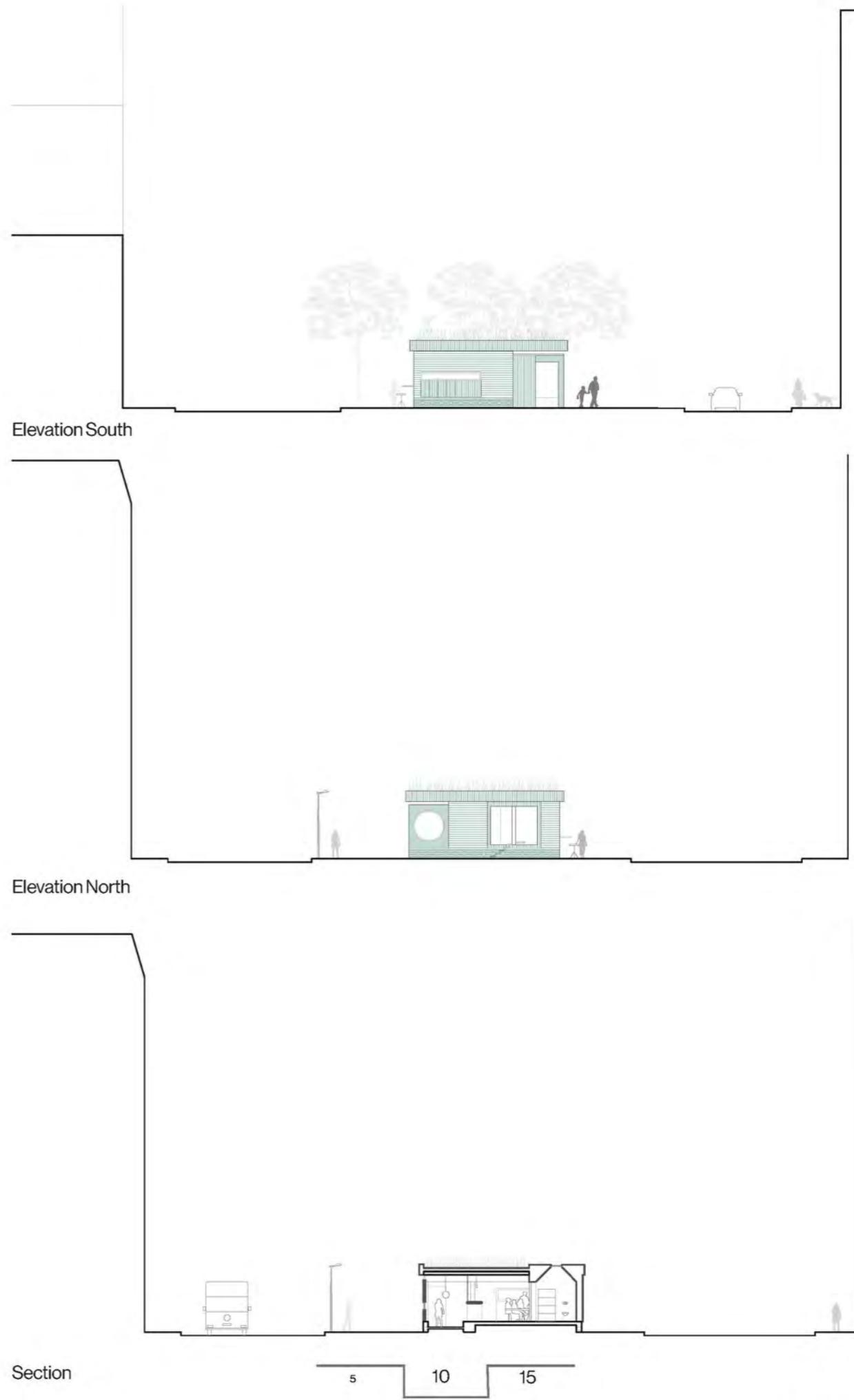


## Rome

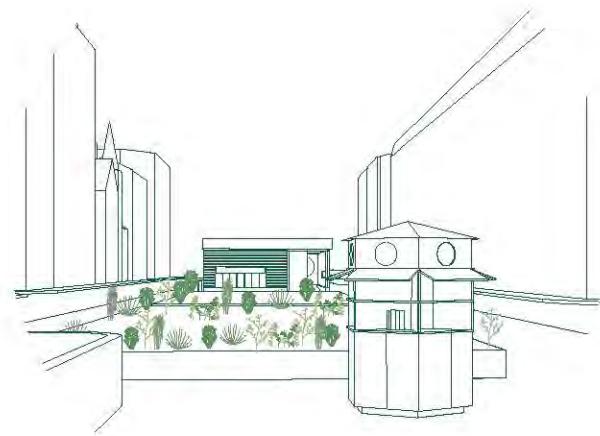
The metro "Rome" is located in an affluent district of Paris. The line runs as a subway along the route. The network of infrastructure provision for homeless people is much smaller here. However, there were clear signs of homelessness on site.



Axonometry urban plan

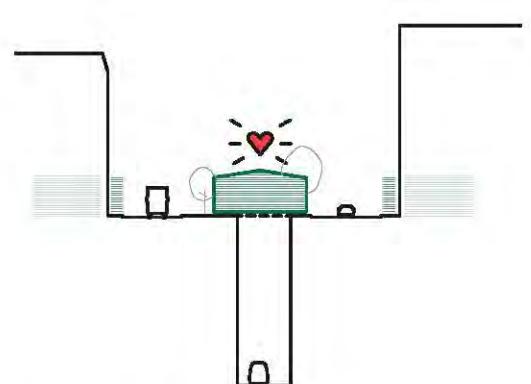
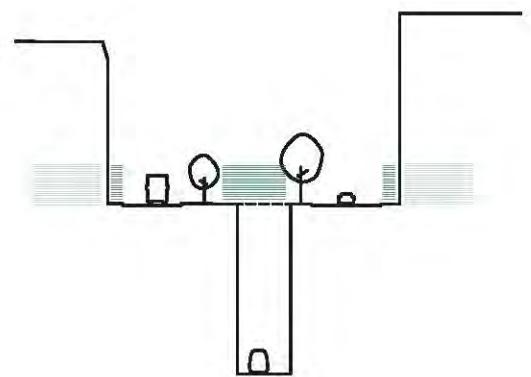
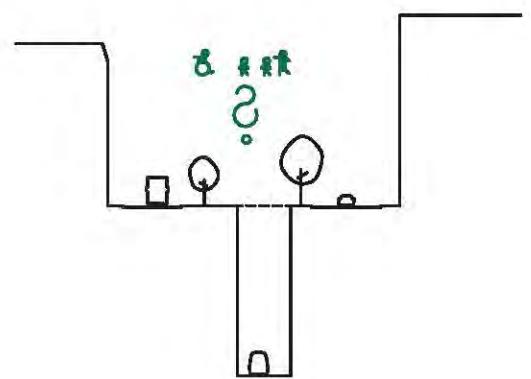
Diploma **Thresholds of Togetherness** - Solidaric Scenarios for Paris Boulevards

Lara Diederichs

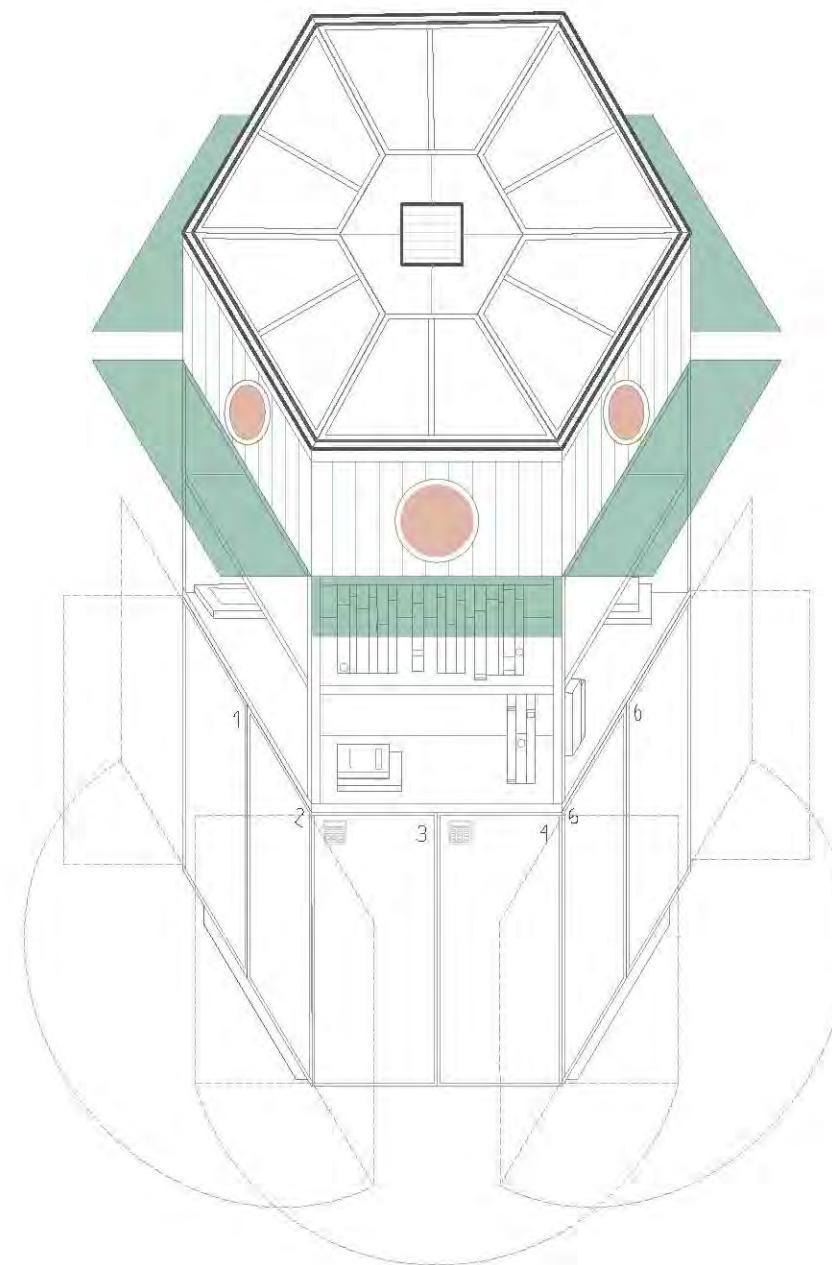
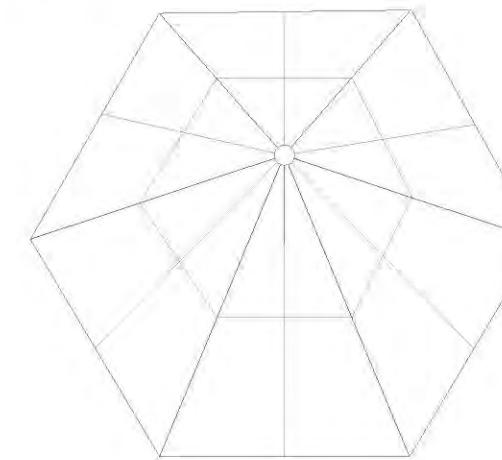


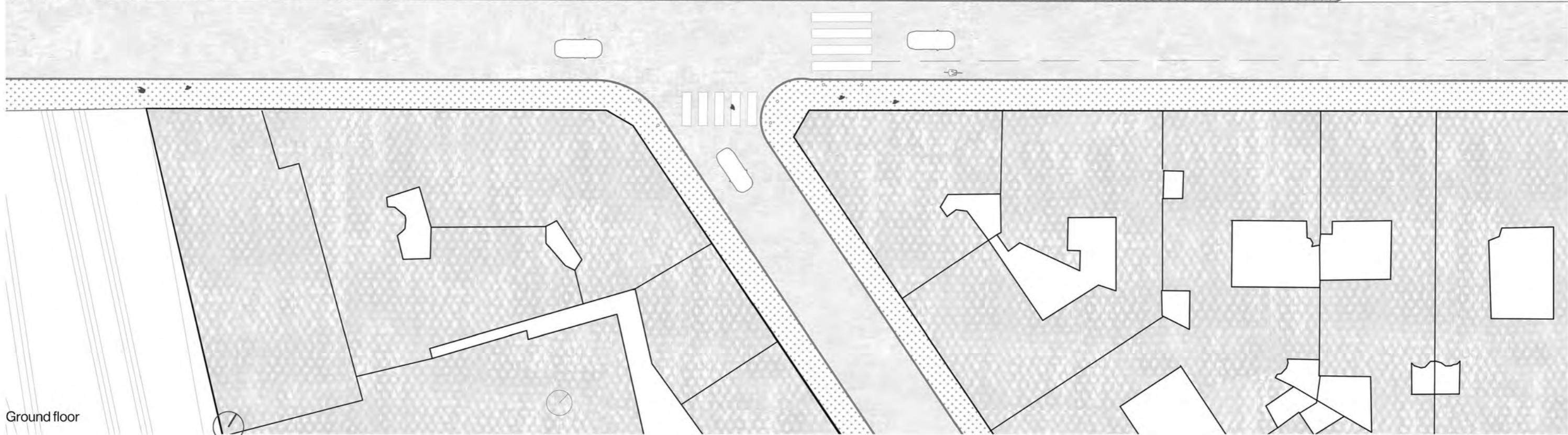
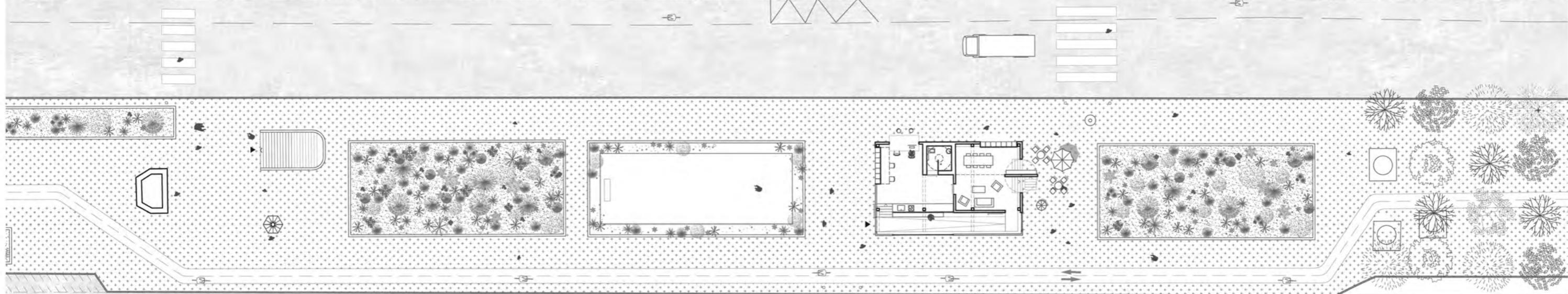
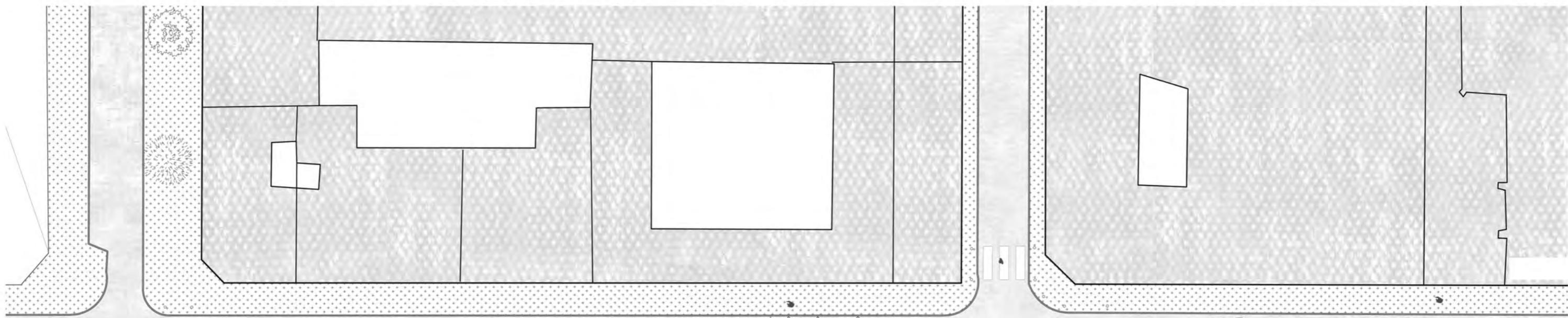
*For whom do the boulevards serve nowadays?*

These small bag storage units are designed to be placed near metro entrances throughout the city, providing a secure and temporary storage option for travellers, tourists, and individuals without stable housing to store their belongings. Digital surveillance ensures cleanliness and prevents misuse. A built-in book exchange nook adds a welcoming touch, making the units feel more approachable and benefitting the whole neighborhood.



## XS - Bag Storage







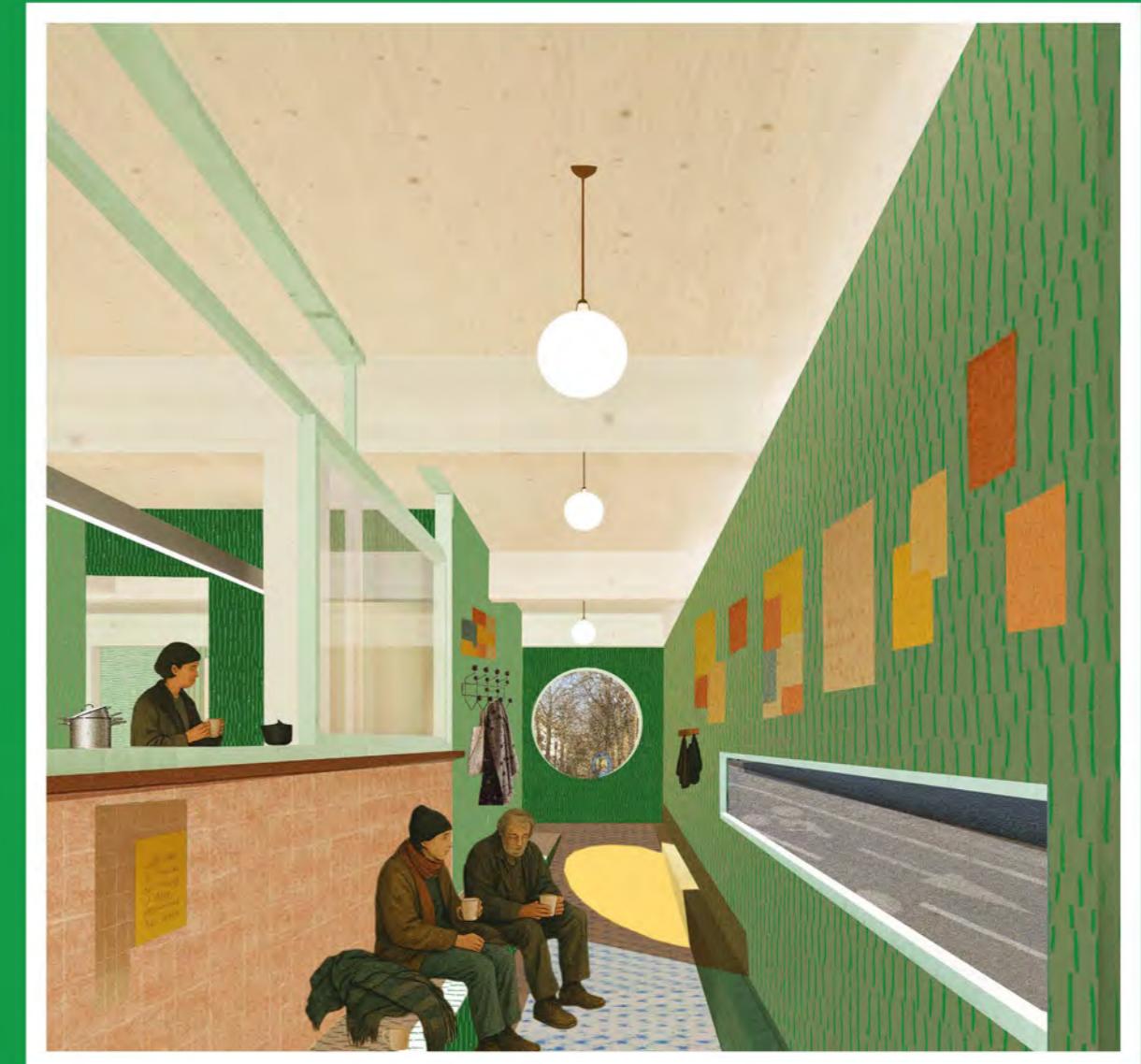
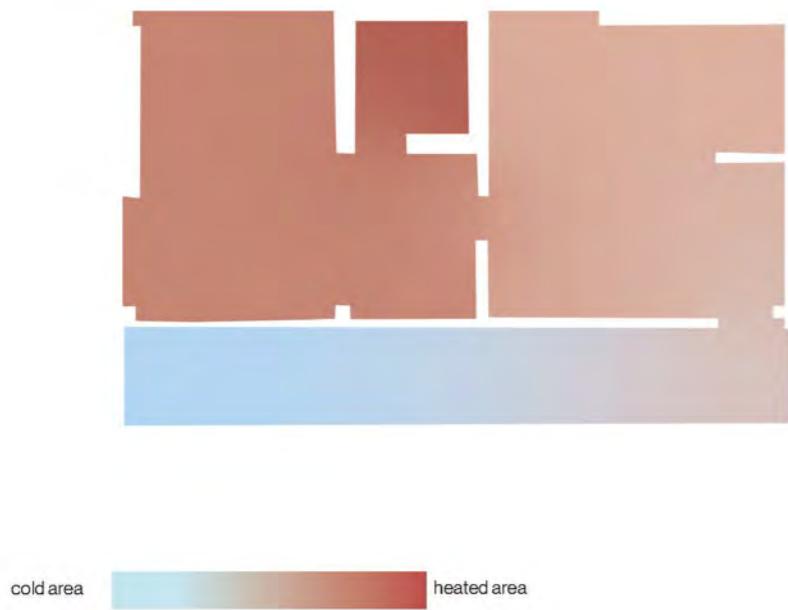
Elevation West



Elevation East

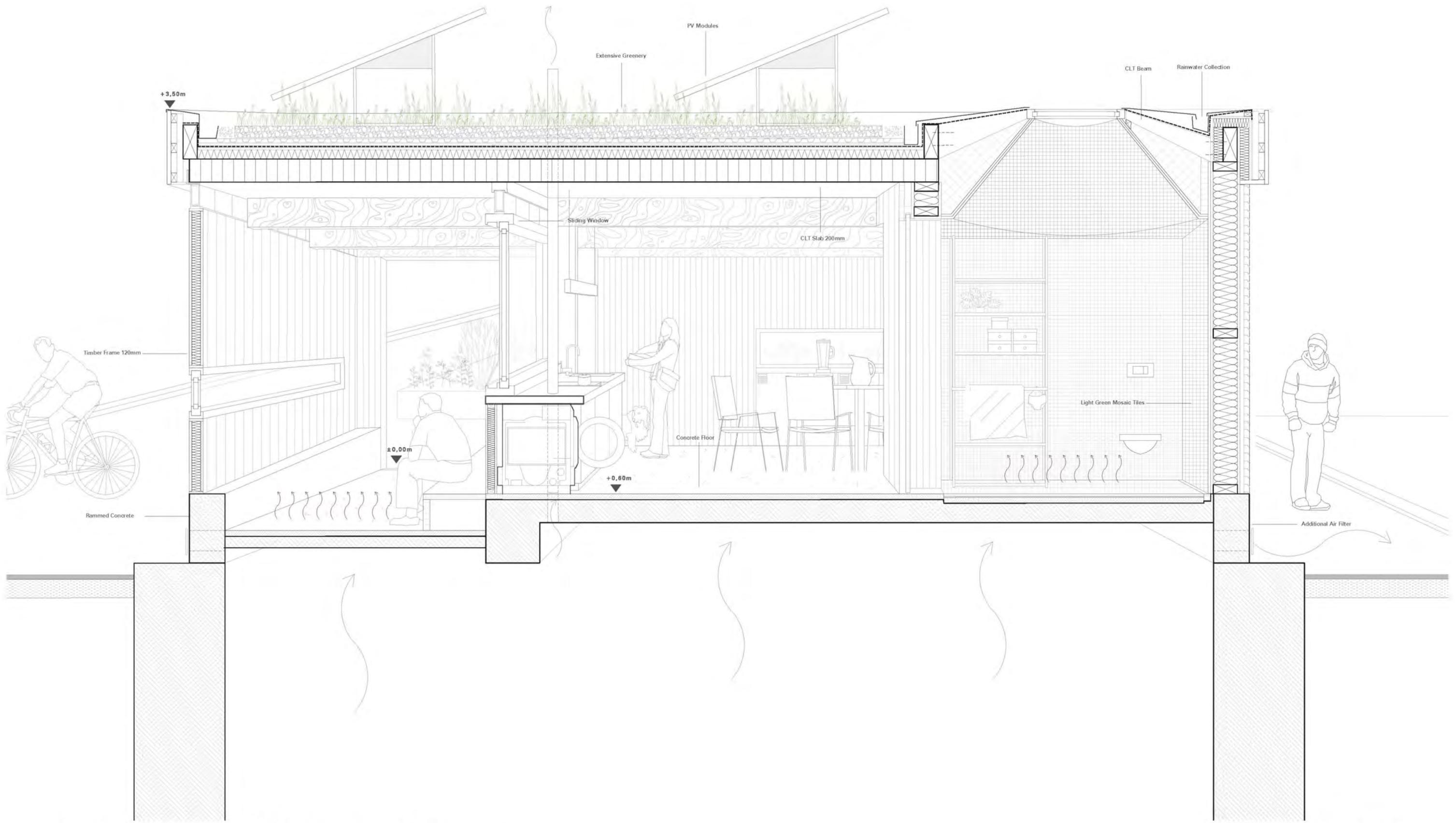
5      10      15

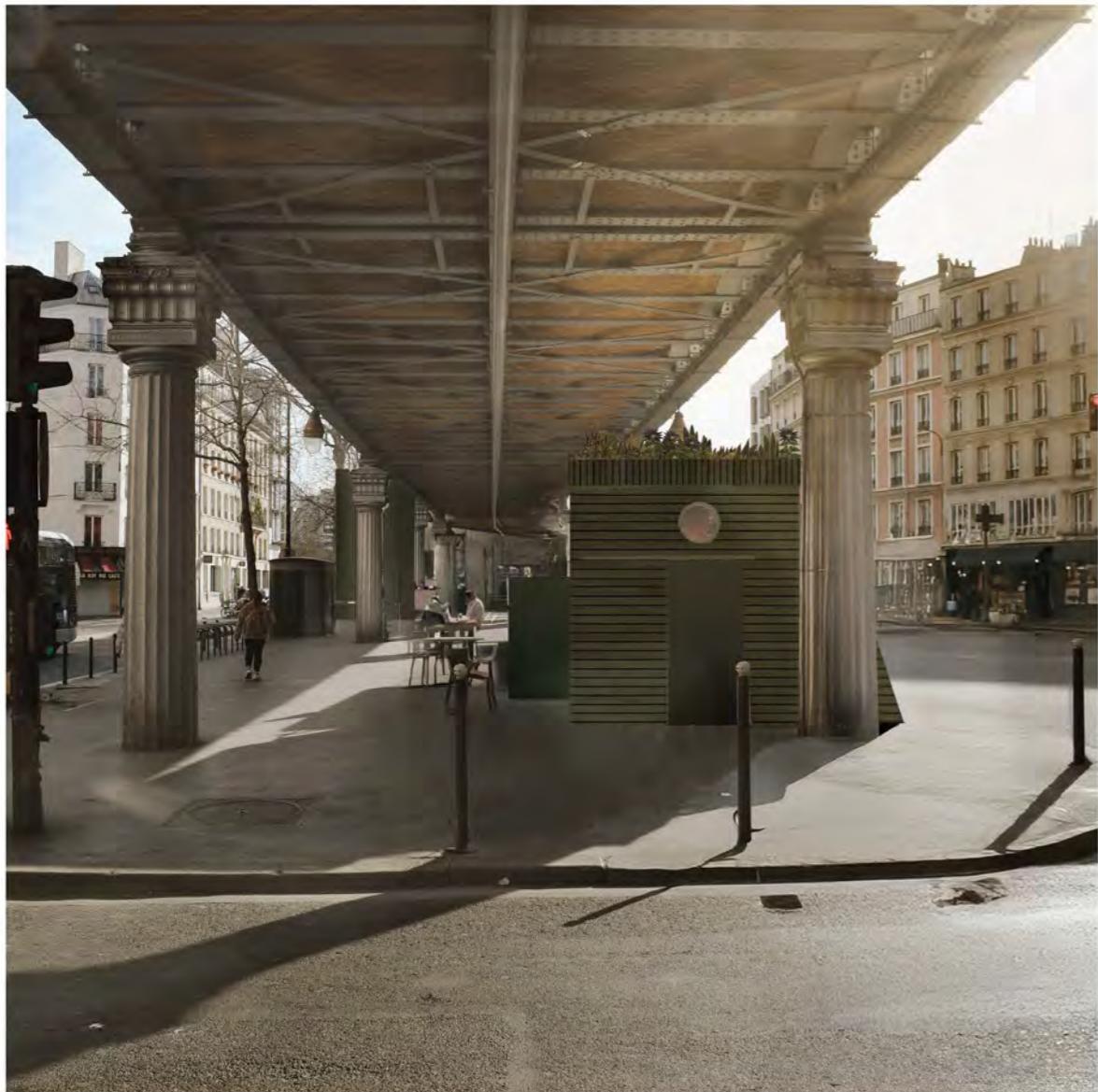
## Privacy and Climate



*“layering privacy, enabling social connections, and offering a place of belonging”*





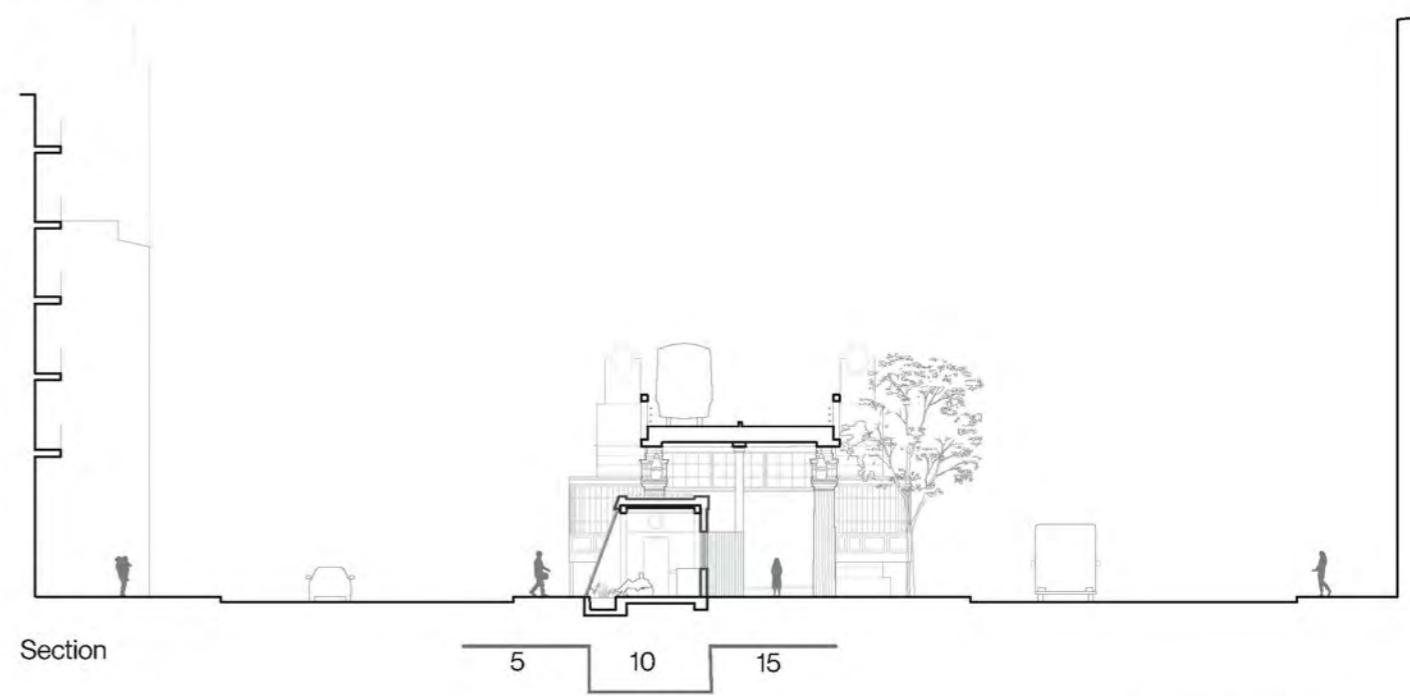
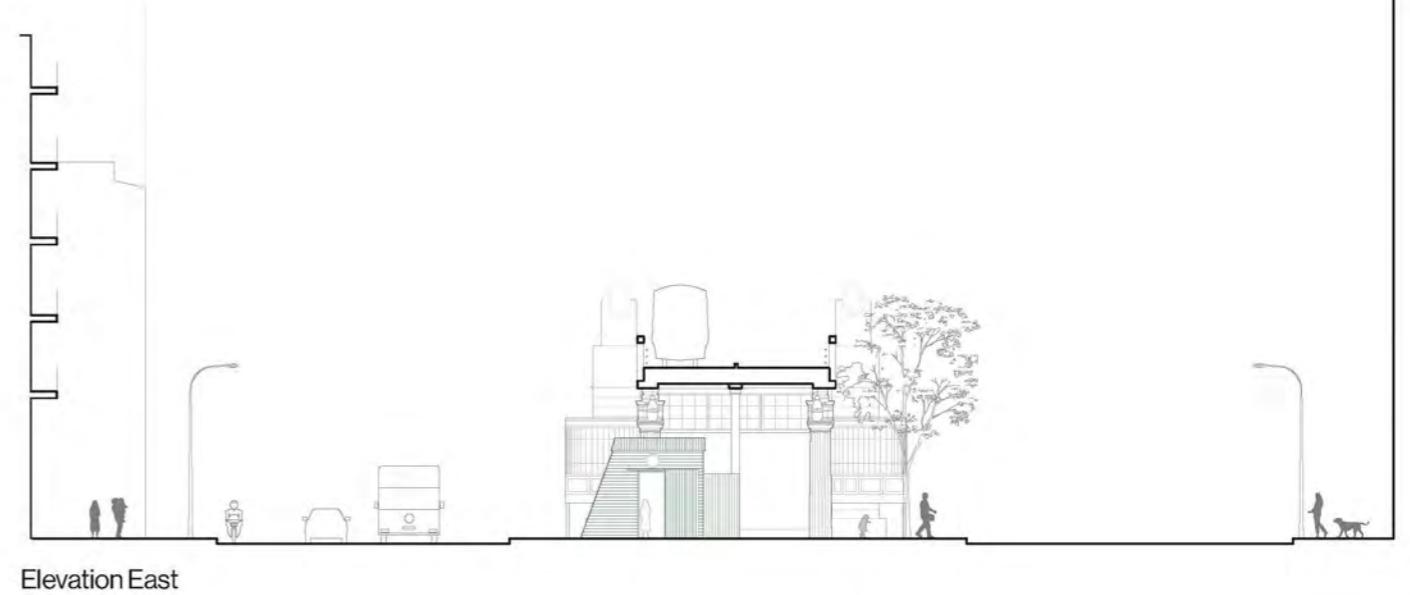


## Stalingrad

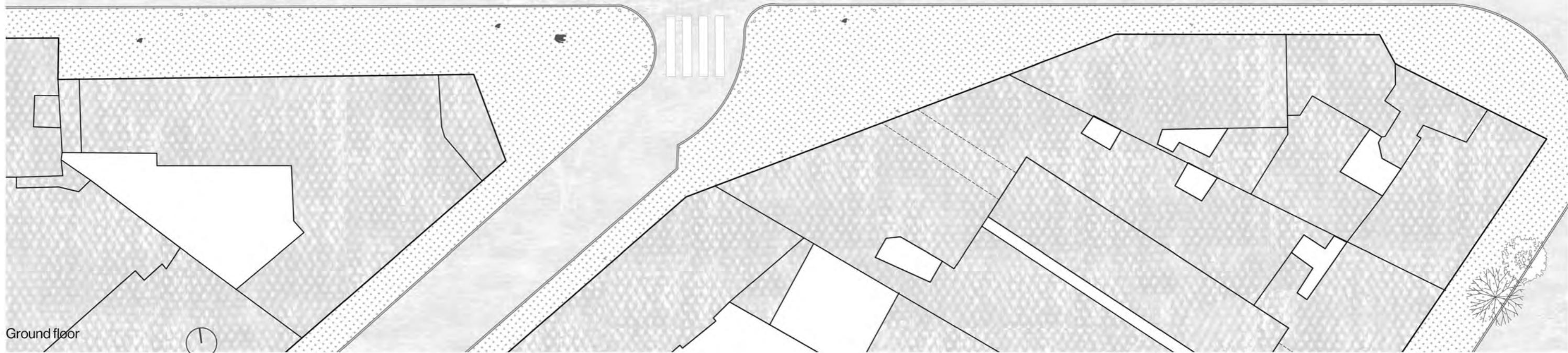
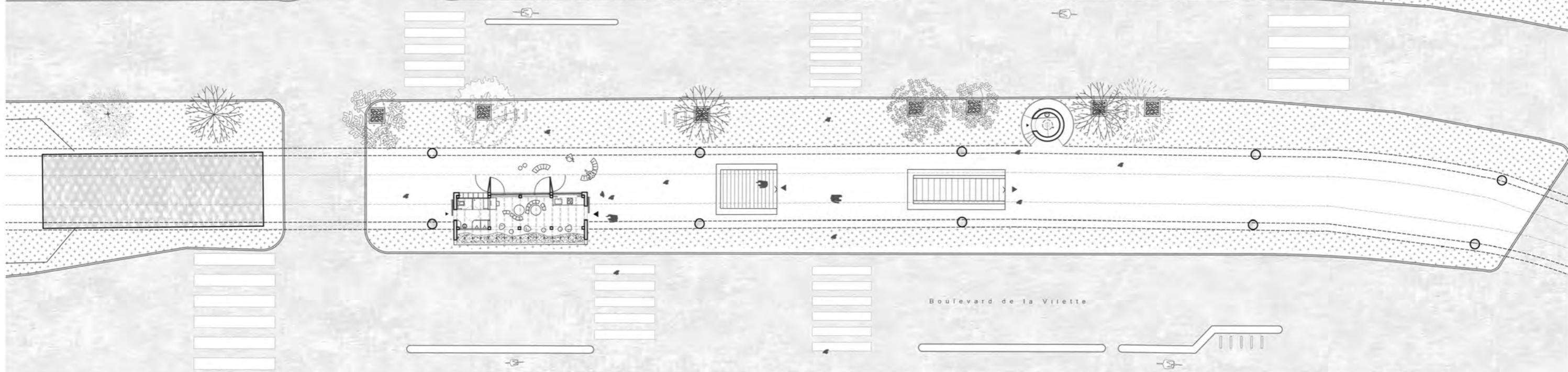
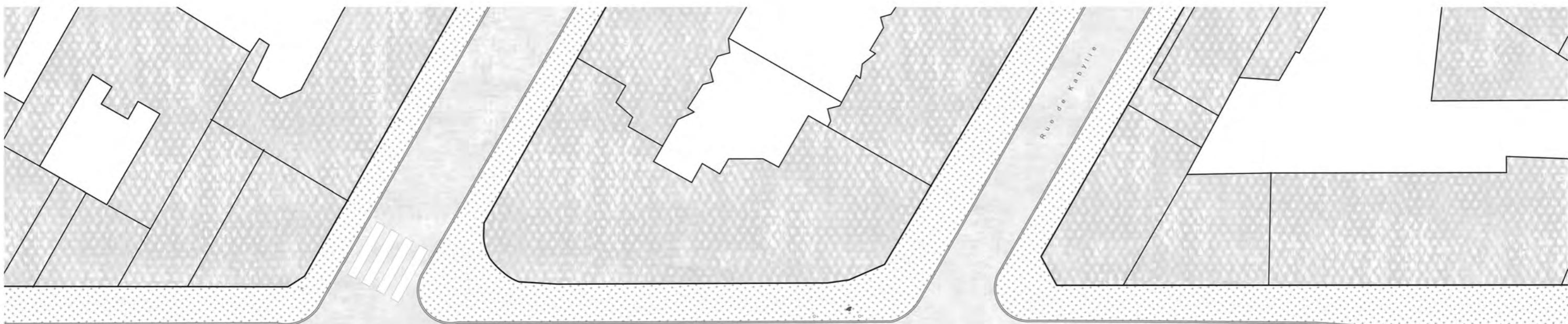
The Stalingrad district is characterized by the above-ground metro line 2, where historically the city walls and a customs house designed by Ledoux, known as the Rotonde de la Villette, were located adjacent to the Bassin de la Villette. Its proximity to the Gare du Nord and Gare de l'Est stations makes Stalingrad a strategic hub connecting the northern districts to the main stations.



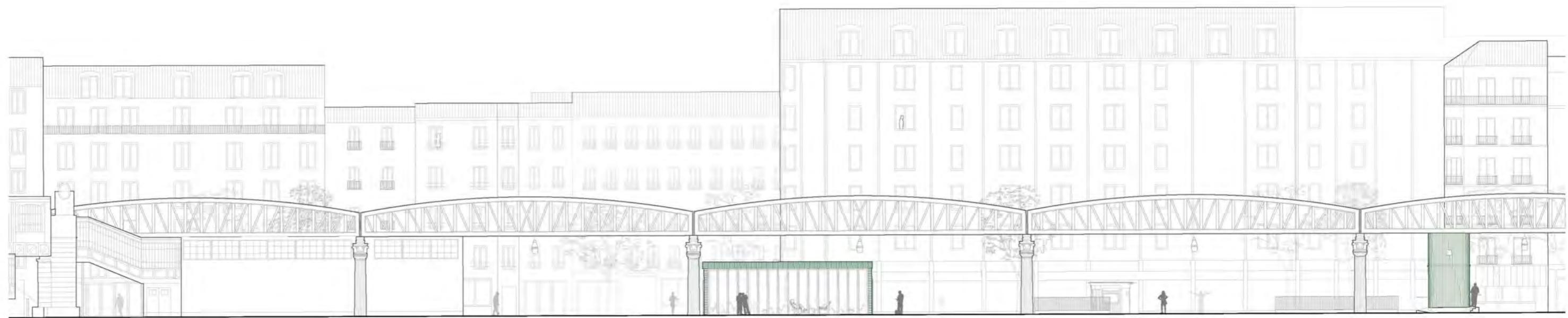
Diploma **Thresholds of Togetherness** - Solidaric Scenarios for Paris Boulevards



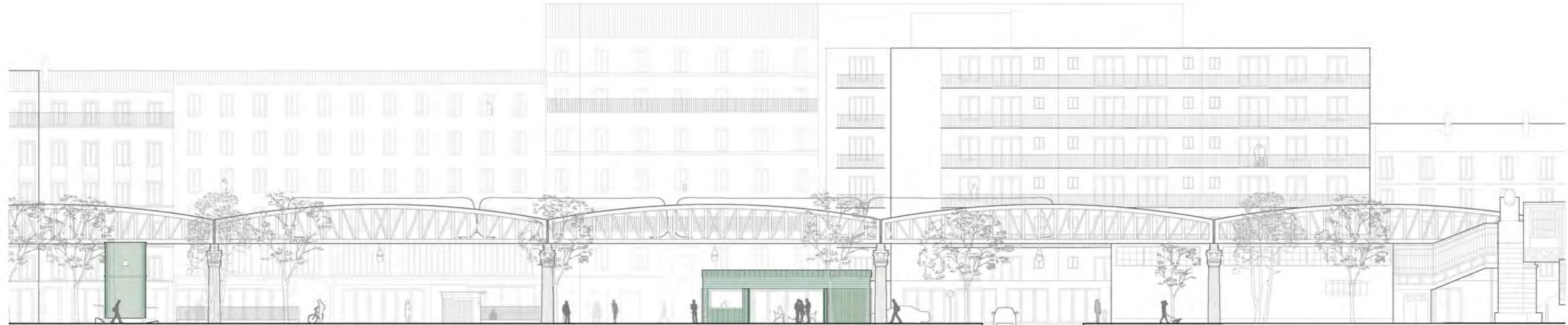
Lara Diederichs



Ground floor

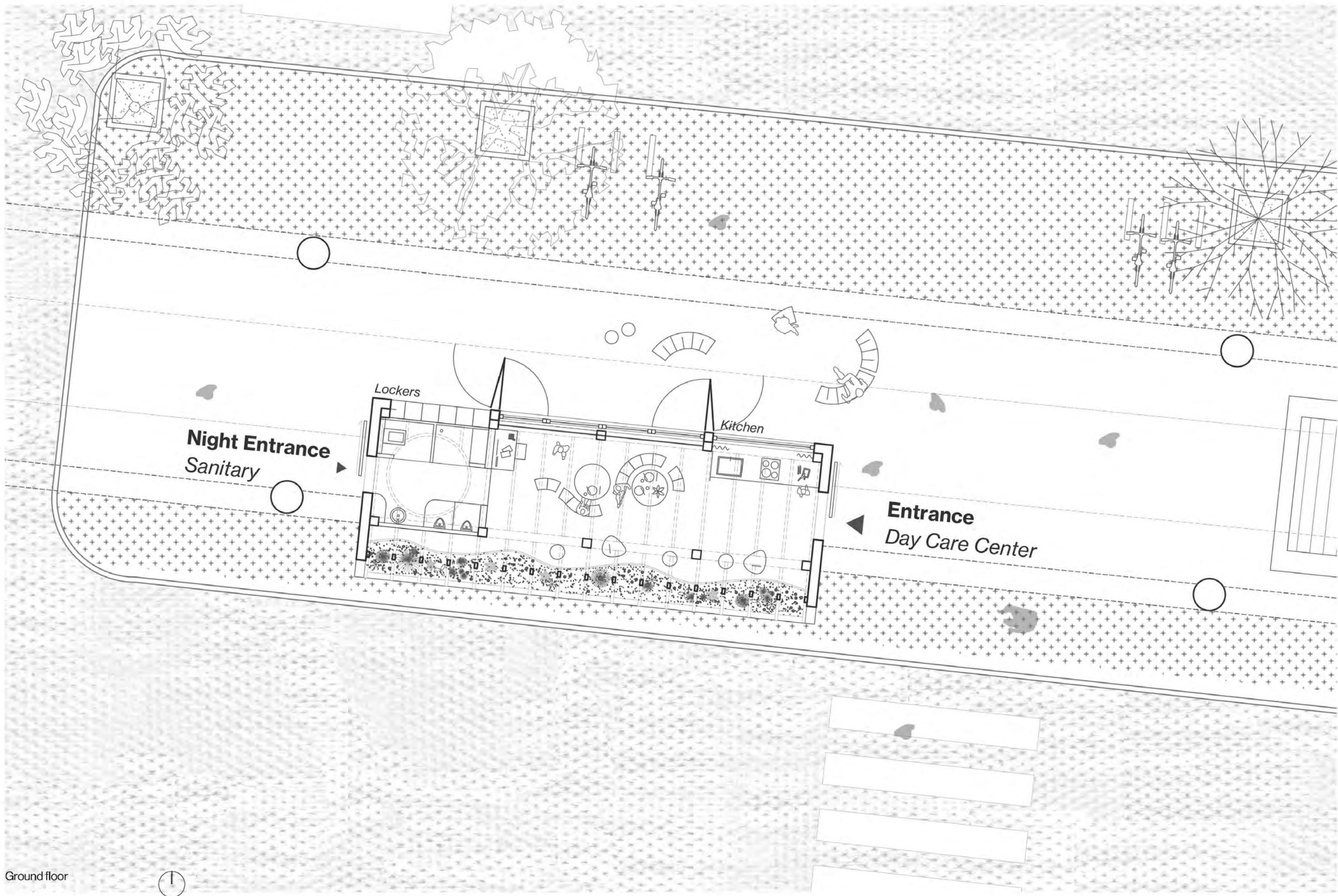


Elevation South

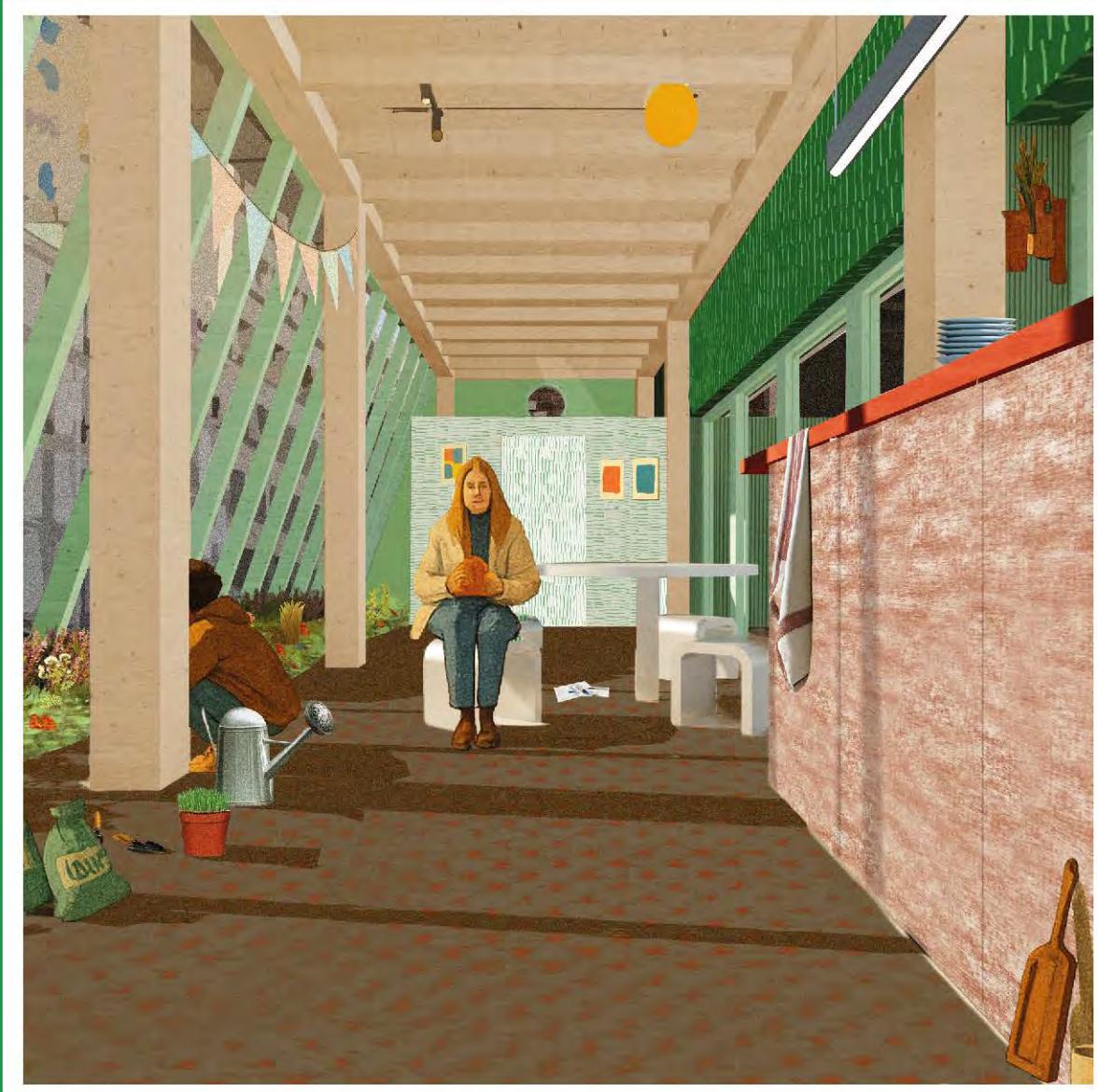


Elevation North

5      10      15



## Privacy



*With doors closed*



public area      private area

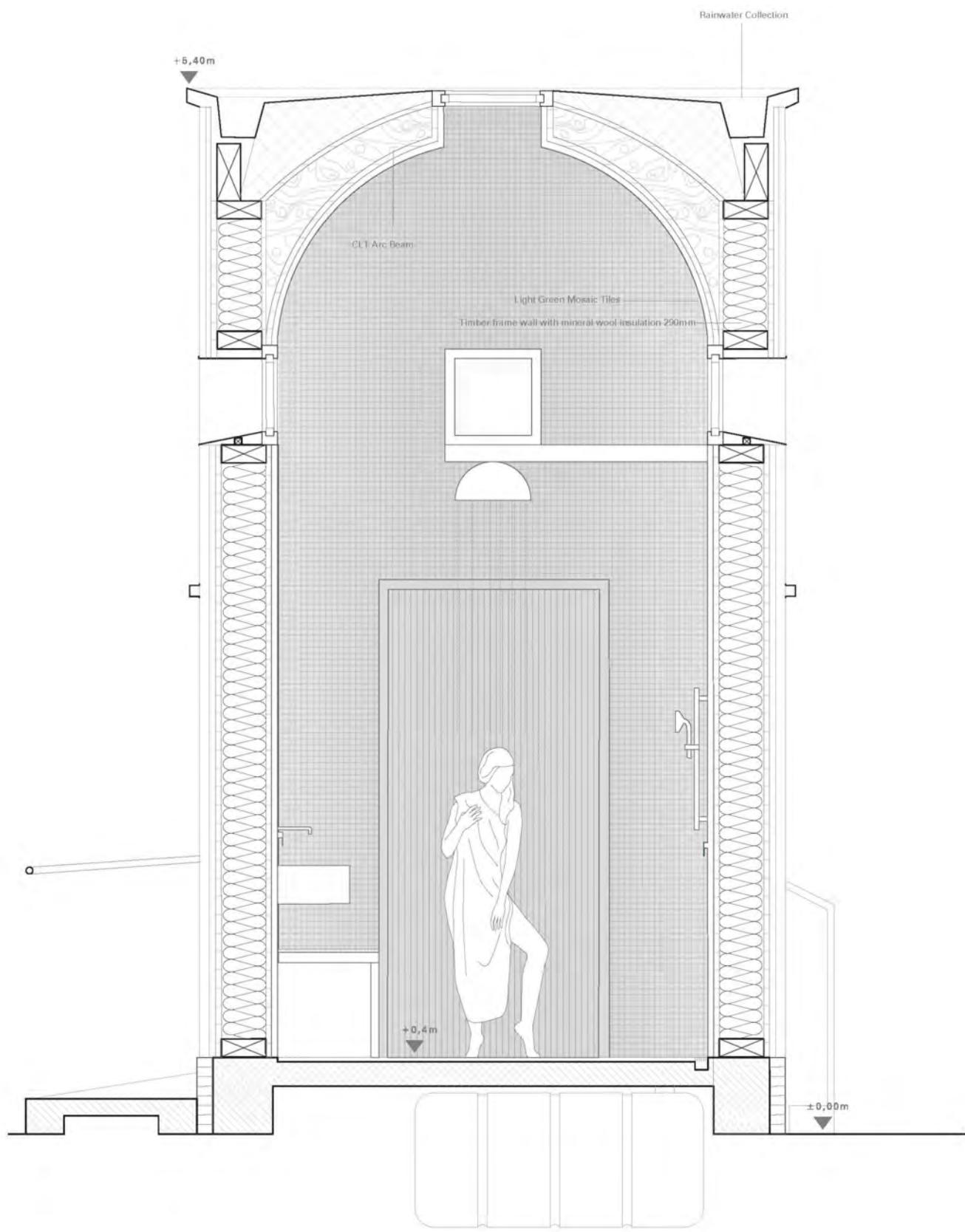
*With doors opened*



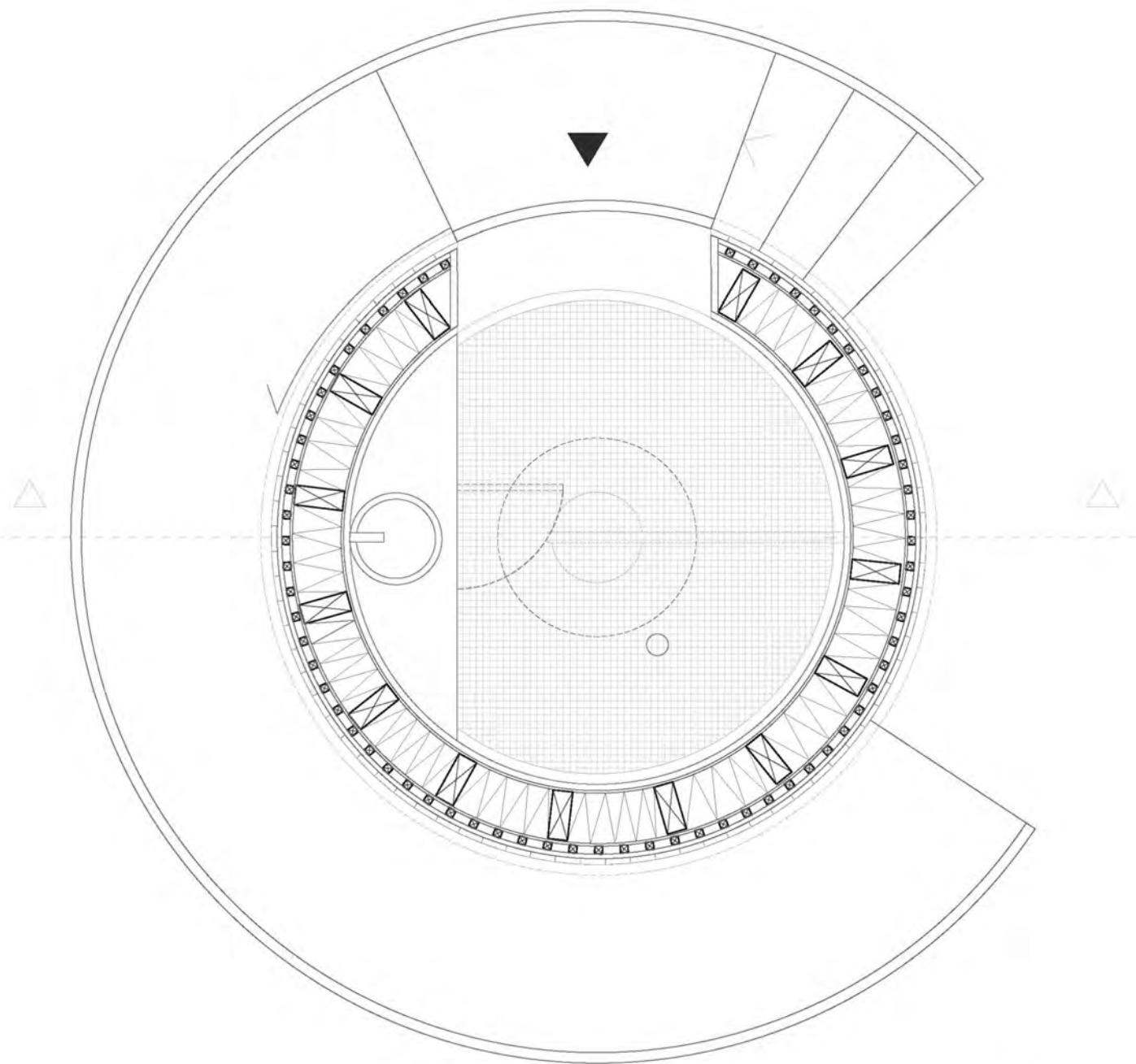
public area      private area

***“opening the doors, building a platform for resilience and renewal”***

## S - Shower



Section and Floorplan Shower Original Scale 1:20





Elevation Shower Original Scale 1:20

The shower modules are designed to complement the existing network of public toilets and can serve a wide range of users. Each unit includes a small area for changing and storing clothes to keep them dry during use. The interior is finished with green mosaic tiles, chosen for their ease of cleaning and durability, ensuring the space remains hygienic and efficient to maintain.

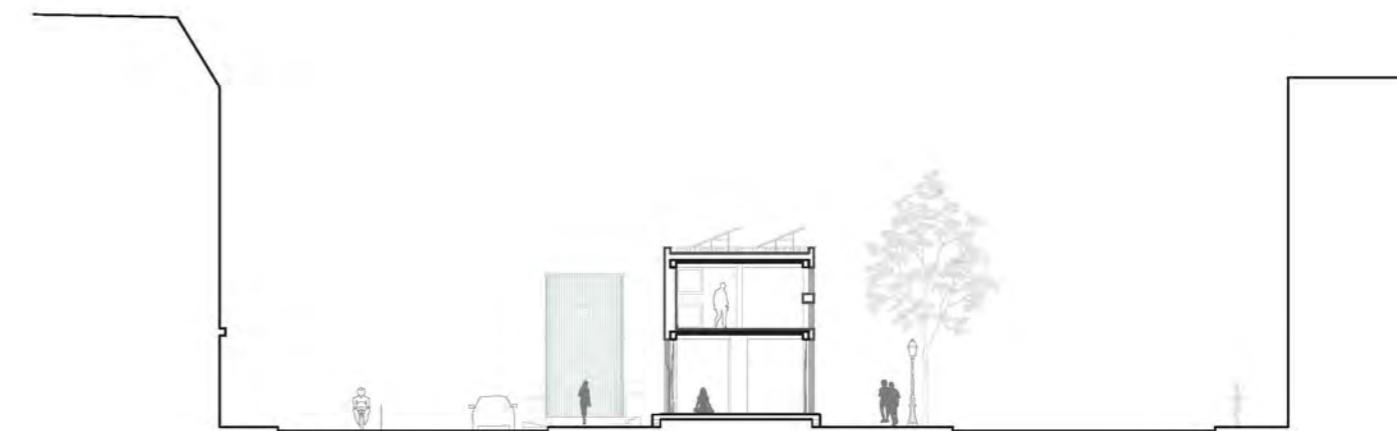
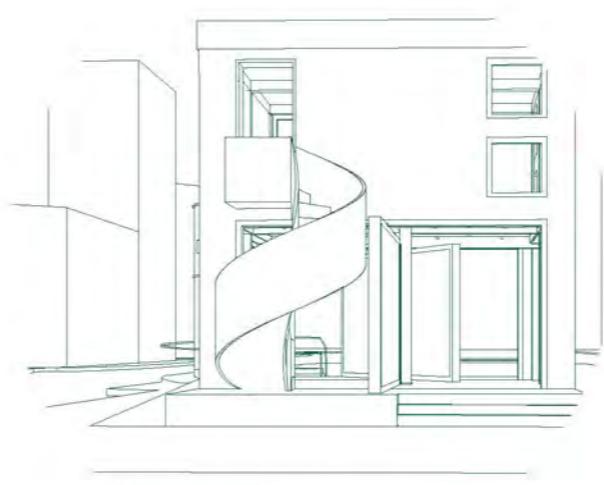


## Avron

The location of the Avron metro is characterized by its proximity to the Nation hub, but still ensures the clarity of the other locations. There is also a skate spot here, which attracts a younger audience. The location is therefore intended as a youth center for young adults in precarious situations, offering various opportunities for interaction and networking.



Axonometry urban plan

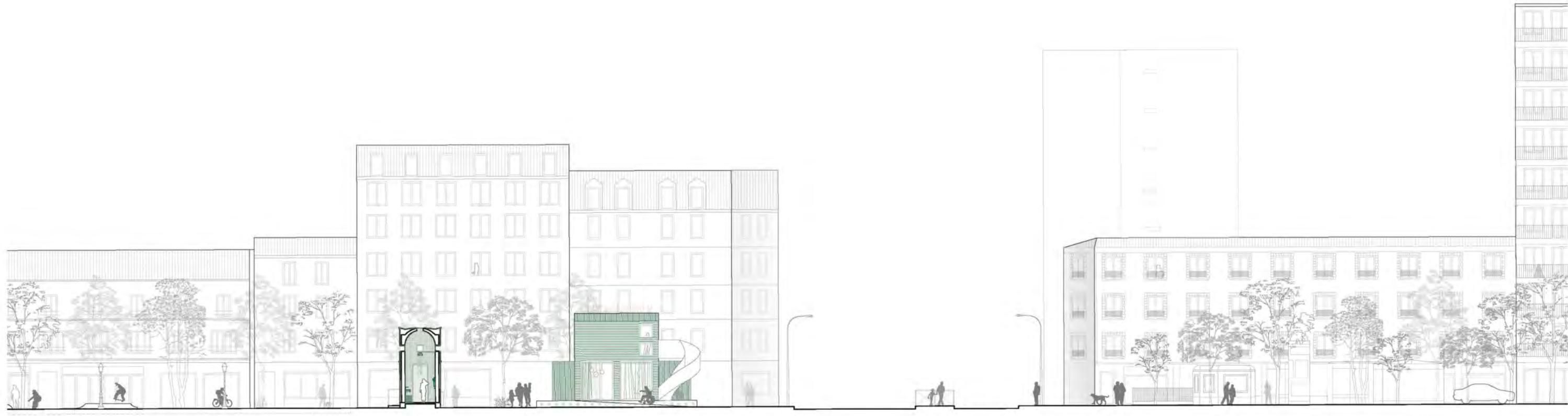


Section East-West



5 10 15

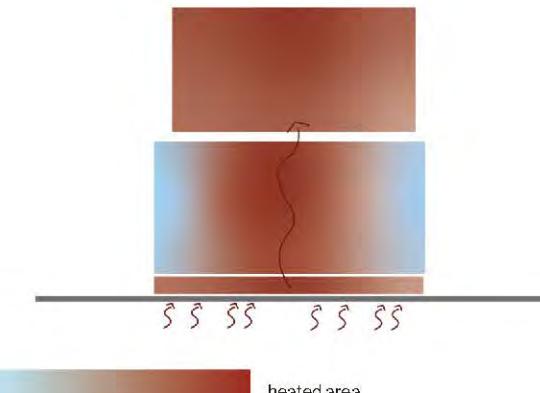
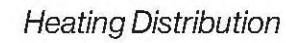




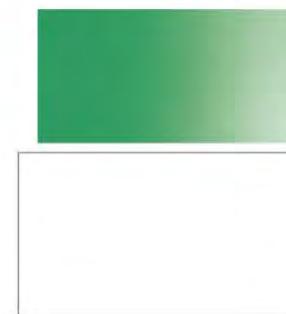
# Privacy and Climate



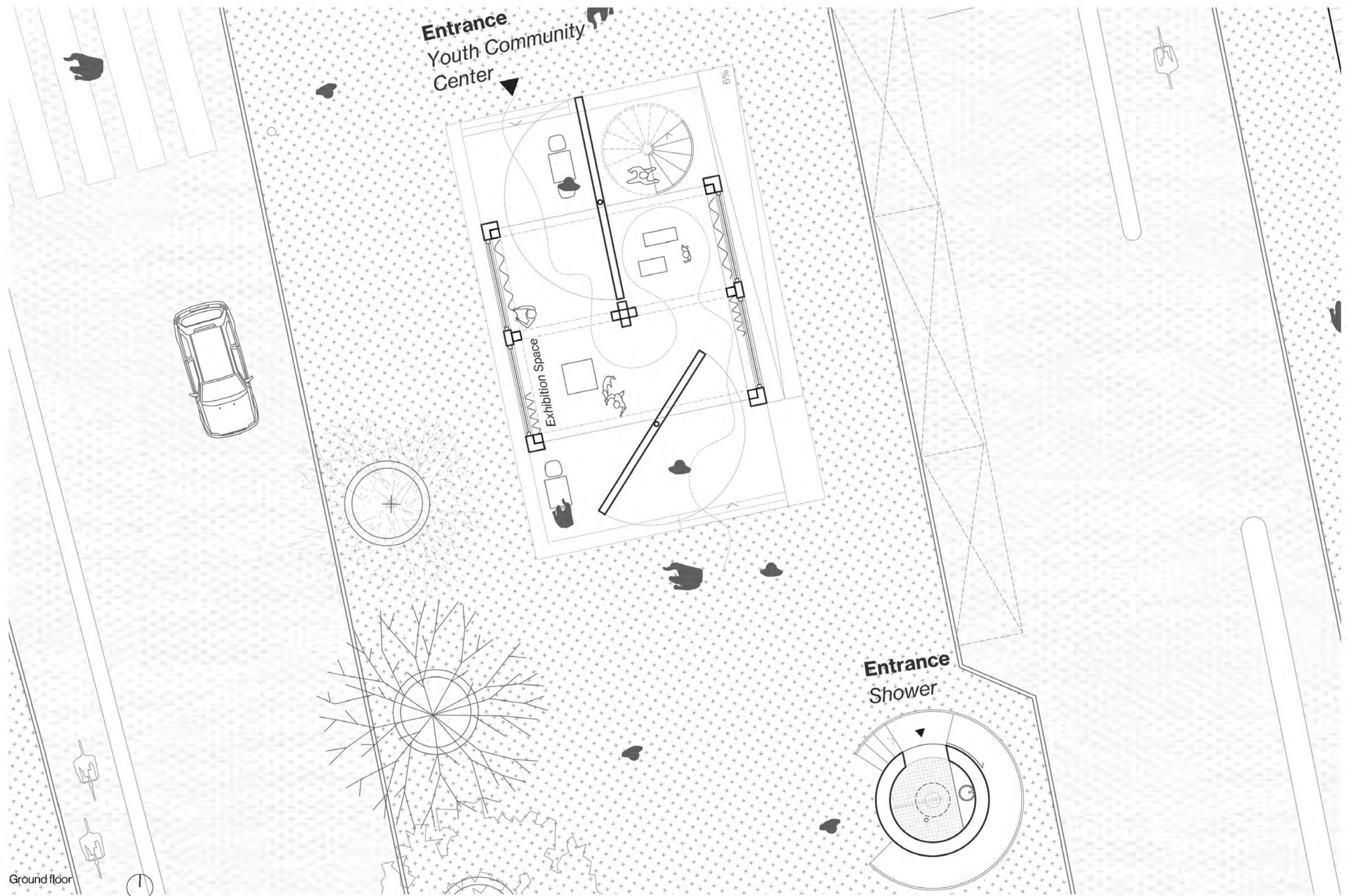
***“lowering thresholds for interaction, enabling dialogue, and creating a platform”***



Privacy



public area  private area



# RESUME



2025  
Rue de Rivoli, Paris

***“lowering thresholds for interaction, enabling togetherness, and responding to urgent social needs”***

## Architecture Beyond Solutions: Reframing the Role of the Architect

This project does not claim to offer a definitive solution to the issue of homelessness, nor does it attempt to “fix” a perceived problem through design alone. Instead, it draws attention to the failures of current governmental measures, which neglect to guarantee that individuals can live with dignity and respect.

Architecture has always been deeply rooted in a broader social responsibility. By shaping public and private spaces, architects influence how people inhabit, navigate, and relate to their environments. These decisions begin as drawings, models, and strategies but ultimately materialize into lived spatial realities. Once built, these spaces carry ethical implications, demanding reflection not only on form and function but also on justice and inclusion.

In recent decades, the architect’s societal role has been increasingly marginalized. Decisions that once relied on architectural discourse and human-centred design are now often directed by economic interests, digital tools, and automated processes. The growing influence of artificial intelligence in design workflows, combined with the consolidation of power among developers and policymakers, has reduced the architect’s possibilities in shaping urban futures.

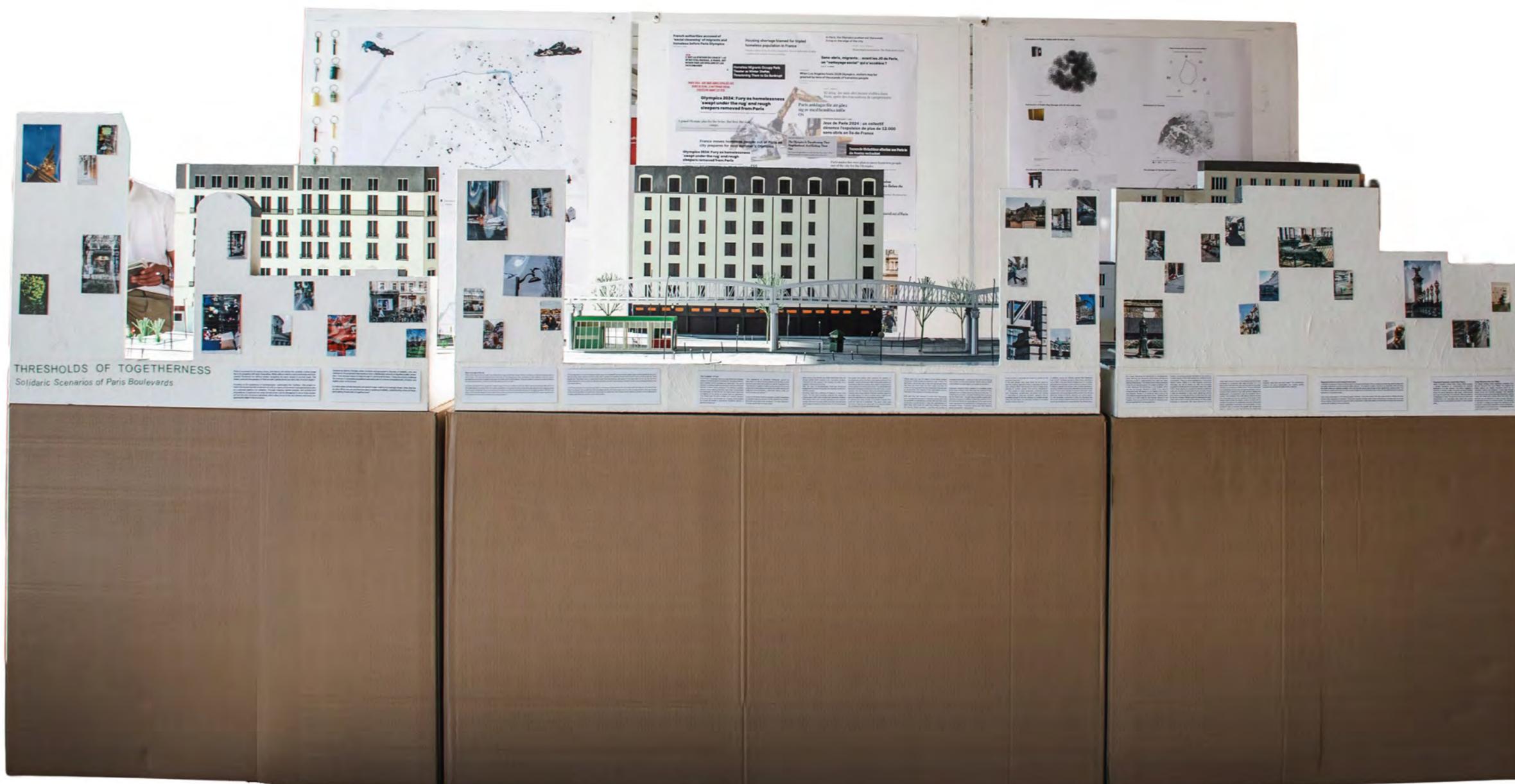
A renewed focus on collective well-being is not just a requirement but a call to action to reclaim relevance and reassert architectural agency. This entails designing not only for society but with it—lowering thresholds for interaction, enabling togetherness, and responding to urgent social needs. It’s a collective effort that everyone must engage in, without detachment or abstraction, to truly make a difference.

The project aims to foster critical dialogue around the conditions of homelessness—an issue that extends beyond the borders of Paris and resonates across global urban contexts. Rather than bypassing this challenge, the design confronts it directly, advocating for an architectural practice grounded in empathy, visibility, and shared responsibility.



MODEL





# MODEL



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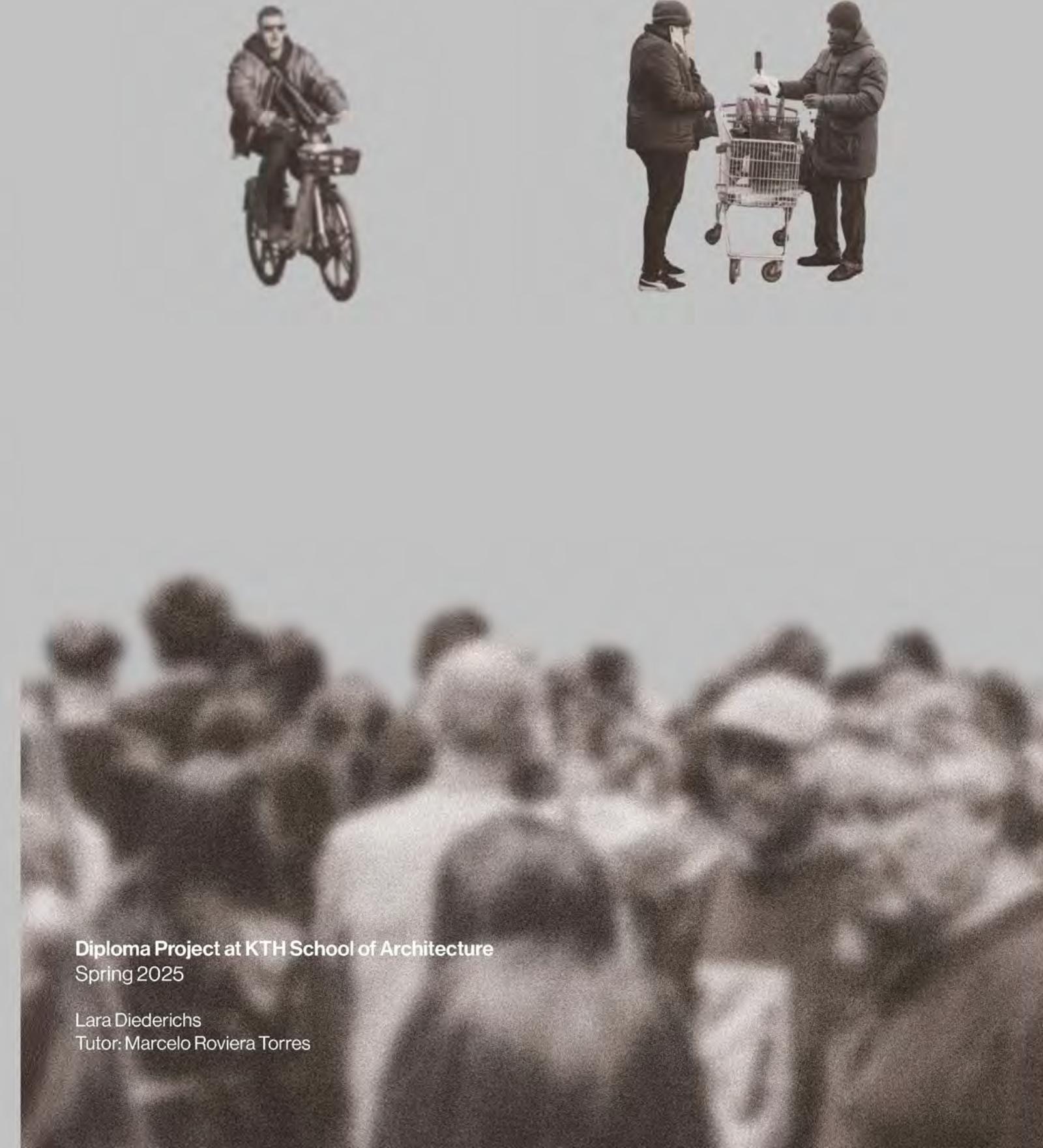
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Diploma Project at KTH School of Architecture  
 Spring 2025

Lara Diederichs  
 Tutor: Marcelo Roviera Torres



Paris is renowned for its beauty, luxury, and history, but behind the carefully curated image lies a city grappling with stark inequalities. While millions visit its iconic boulevards and monuments, thousands live without shelter, navigating the same streets in survival mode. This thesis confronts the paradox of Paris as both a global showcase and a site of social neglect.

Focusing on the experience of homelessness—particularly the “roofless”—this project reclaims the Haussmannian boulevard not only as a space of movement and spectacle but also as a potential platform for solidarity. Through mapping, spatial analysis, and architectural propositions, it explores how urban infrastructure can be reimagined to serve those excluded from the city’s dominant narratives, which often focus on the city’s beauty and luxury, neglecting the plight of the homeless.

Inspired by historic Parisian urban furniture and grounded in theories of visibility, care, and resistance, the proposed interventions form a distributed network of dignified public amenities—from shower towers to bag storage to communal kitchens. These structures challenge the erasure of vulnerable populations and advocate for a more compassionate, inclusive, and legible urban environment.

In a time when private interests and global image-making increasingly shape cities, this thesis asks: What role can architecture play in resisting invisibility, redistributing urban privilege, and building thresholds of togetherness?