

ÁLVARO ABBÁ

PORTFOLIO

Few projects and drawings from my four years at the Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura de Barcelona and École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne.



EDUCATION

- 2023 - present **Architecture | Master exchange year**
Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland
Swiss-European Mobility Program, Heyning-Roelli Foundation, Generalitat de Catalunya AGAUR scholarships
- Designed a housing tower part of Studio Delhay, studied the parking typology and its conversion into housing units for EAST Studio
- Construction of a pavilion designed by EAST in a local zoo, work finishing in june 2024
- Dived into the Asian traditional architecture and studied the ancestral Korean Hanok's kitchens
- Attended conferences from Anne Lacaton, Riken Yamamoto, Peris + Toral, Anna Chavepayre, Sophie Delhay
- 2020 - 2023 **Architecture | Bachelor**
Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura, Barcelona, Spain
- Third year : medium scale housing projects in sloped terrains, landscape integration. Urban understanding of cities fabrics. 2D and 3D software drawing skills. Optional class on Nordic Masters, understanding their aesthetics and processes
- First two years : public buildings and conceptual projects, understanding of authenticity and historical value, solving expansion problems, solid structural notions. Workshop on urbanism, plan analysis of village fabrics
- Attended conferences from Rafael Moneo, Smiljan Radic, Office KGDVS

SOFTWARES

Autocad, Revit, Rhino, Twinmotion, Photoshop, Indesign, Illustrator, Midjourney, Microsoft Office, 3D Printing

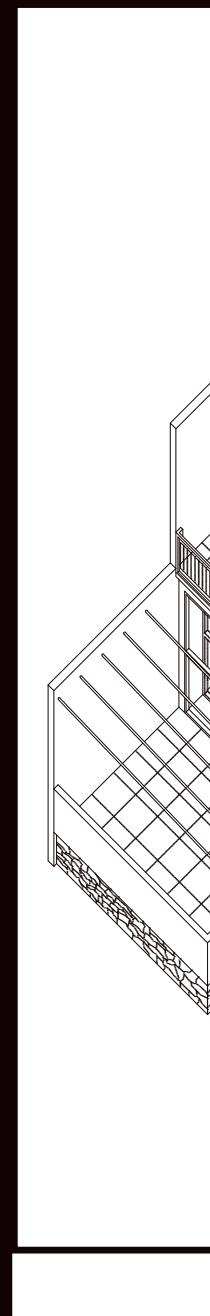
INTERNSHIPS AND WORKSHOPS

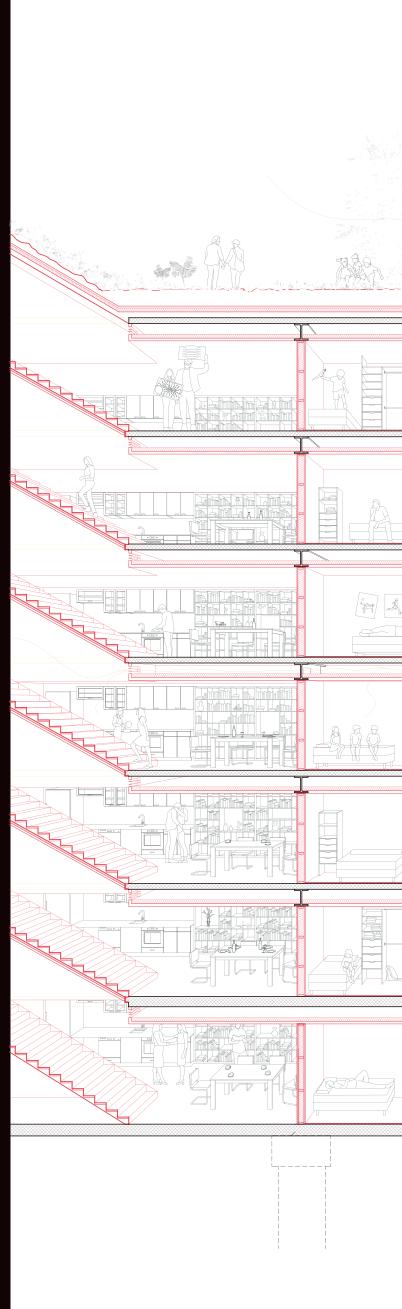
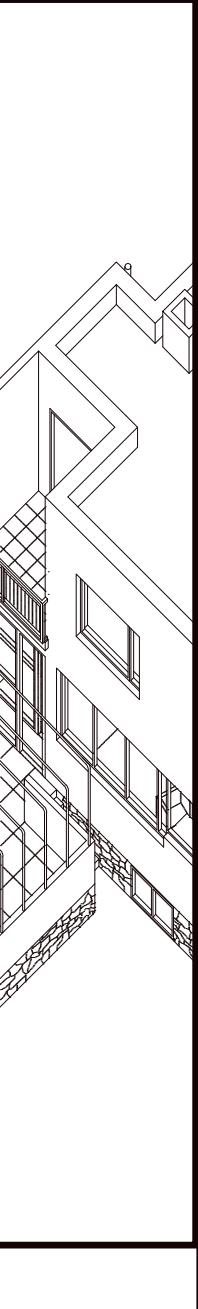
- 2021 **Internship 2 weeks | Architecture Studio**
CHEZE Architecte, Valence, France
- Analysed and measured on site calculations in a suburban house
- Developed a renovation project for a single family house that lead to a successfully completed construction
- 2022 **Workshop 1 week | Urbanism : Villages in the Czech Republic**
ETSAB Urbanistic Department, Barcelona, Spain
- Participated in the mapping and urban analysis of villages in Czech Republic by the creation of dwg files, underlining their growth through the centuries
- Established a plan of areas with building potential, part of a work presented in Prague's Faculty of Architecture
- 2024 **Pavilion construction | On site experience**
EAST Studio, Lausanne, Switzerland
- Participated in the successful construction and planning of a pavilion designed by EAST studio in Servion's Zoo

LANGUAGES

- C2 **Spanish | native**
- C2 **French | native**
- C1 **English | fluent**
- A2 **Italian**
- A2 **Catalan**

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First year water color drawing

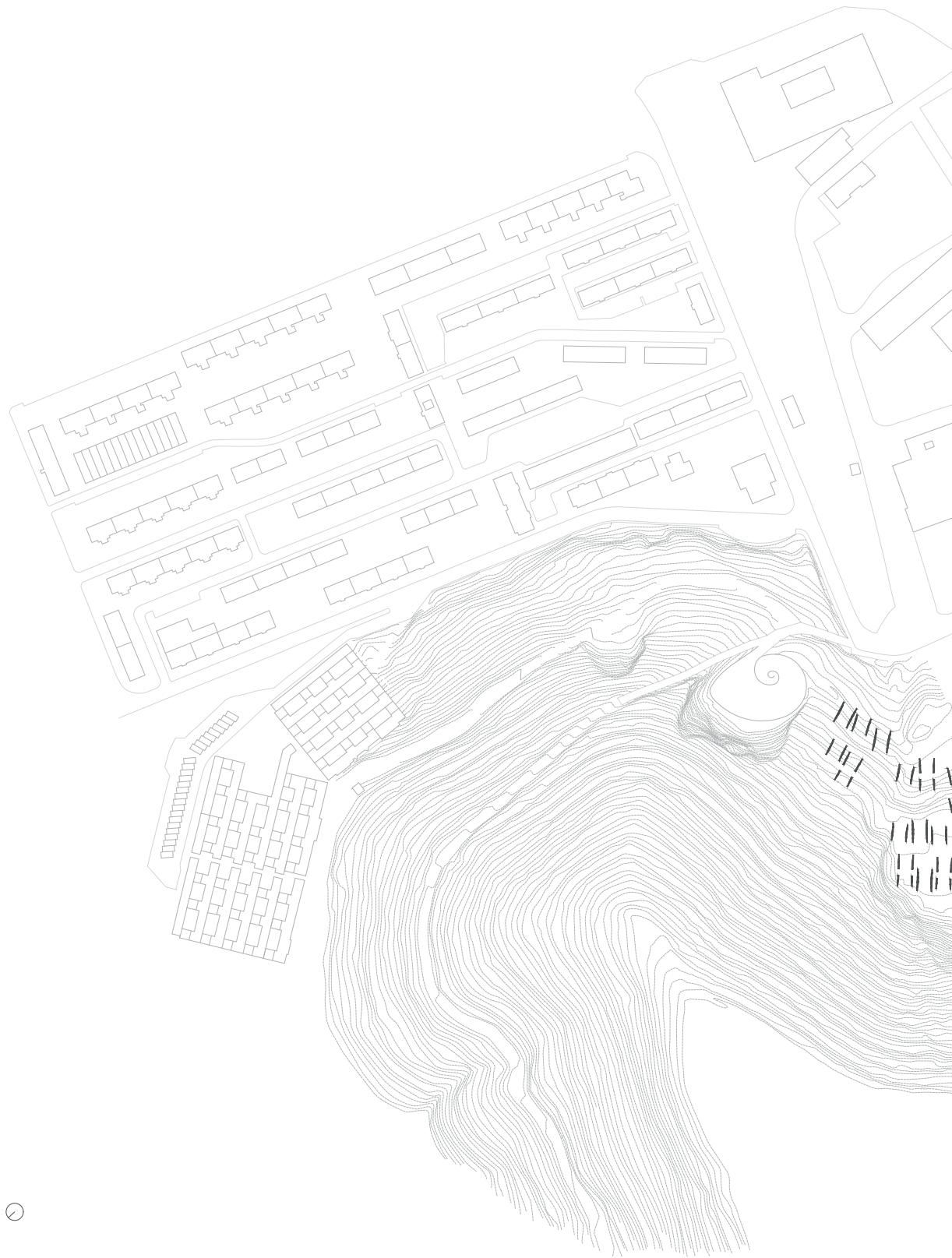
Study of Josep Maria Jujol's house in Sant Joan Despí, putting emphasis on the harmony of colors and shapes. Discovery of water color techniques through on site excursions.



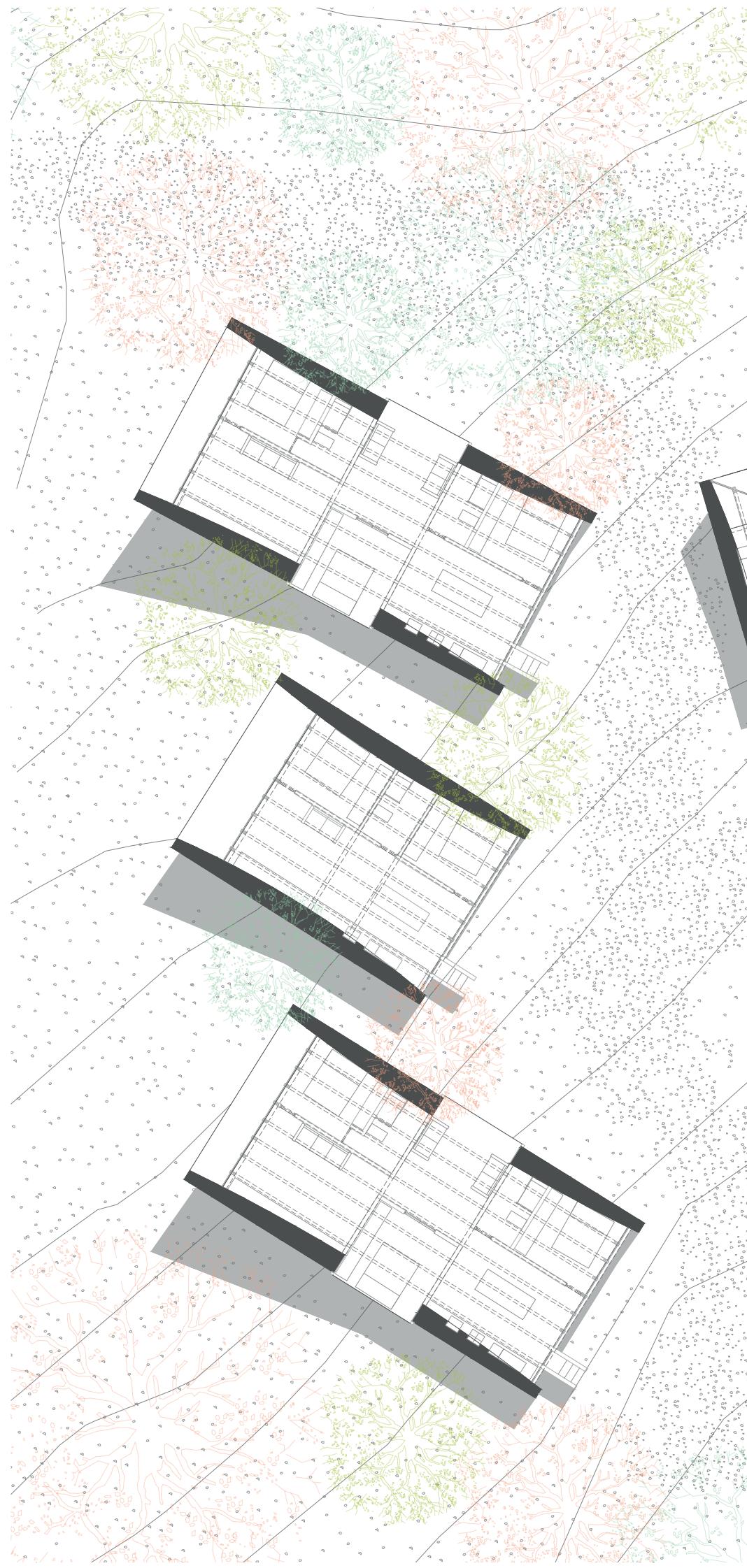
Housing project in Collserola's slopes, Barcelona

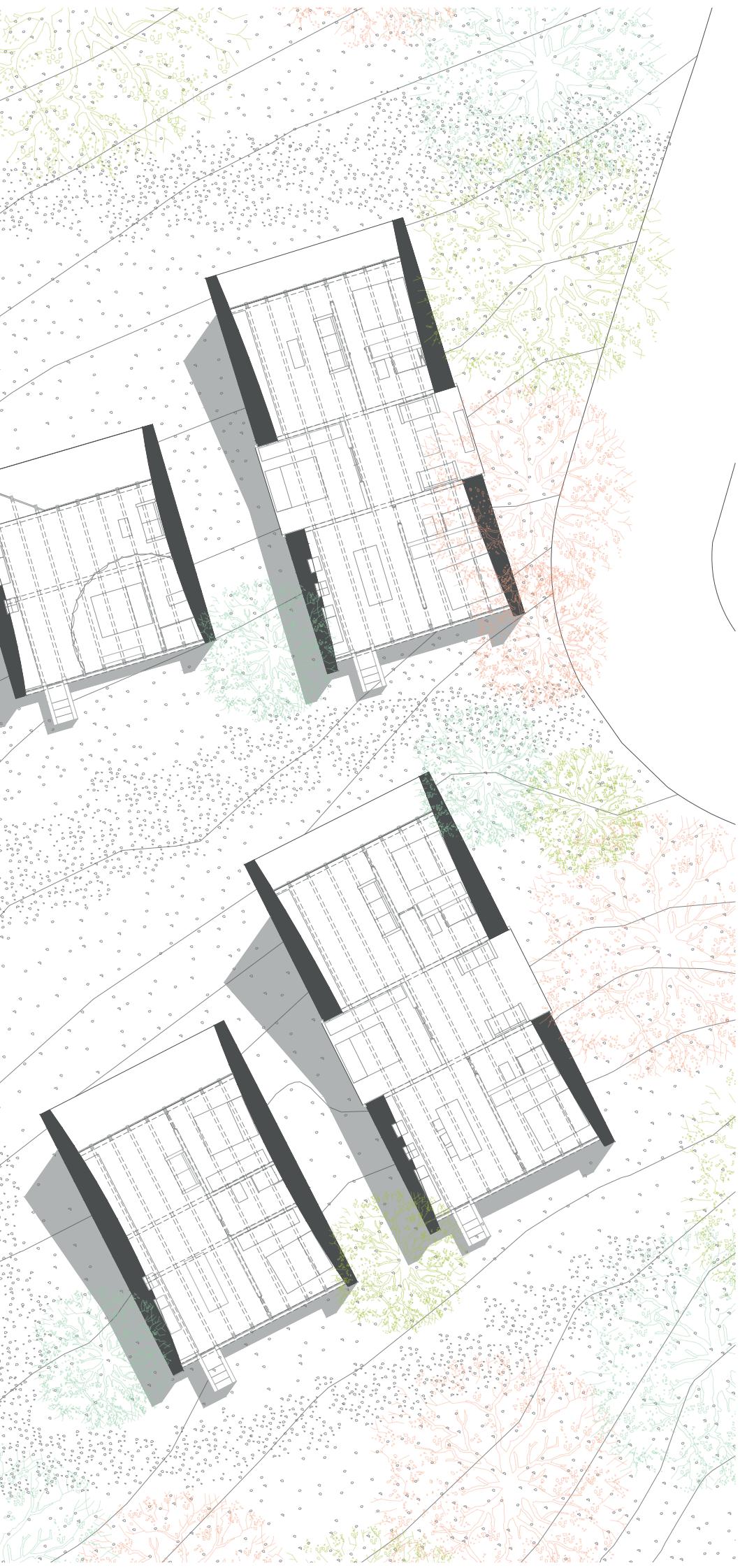
Creation of a housing complex for 100 people in a 15000 m² plot, solved with 3 typologies of U shaped units. The intention is to give the comfort and contact with nature provided by individual houses in an urban context. The particular U shape of the houses focuses the view from the inside towards the views of the city, orientated to avoid the surrounding obstructions. The placement of the units aims to create different scales inside the project, going from the individual house to a shared plazza to the overall neighborhood.

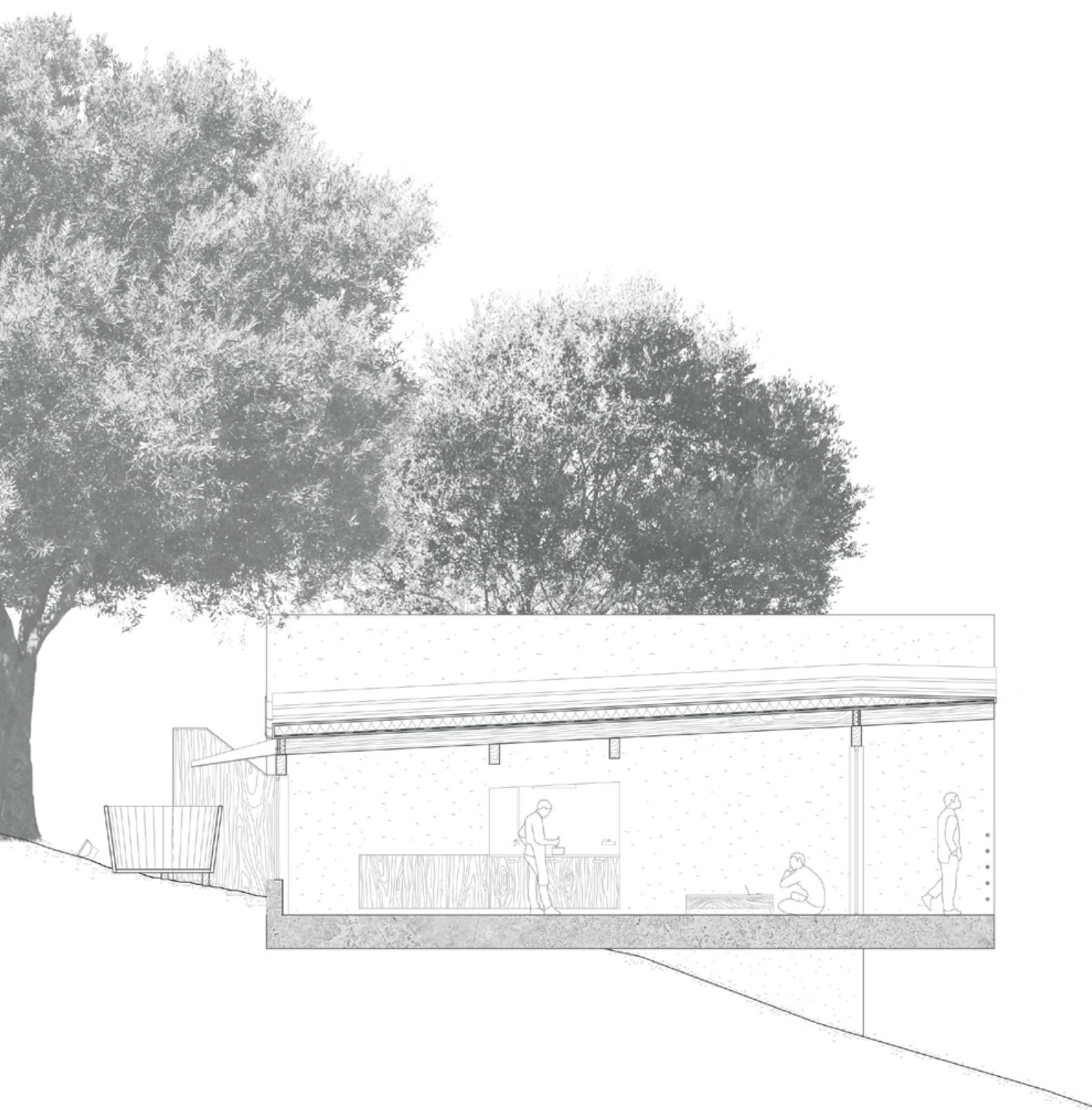


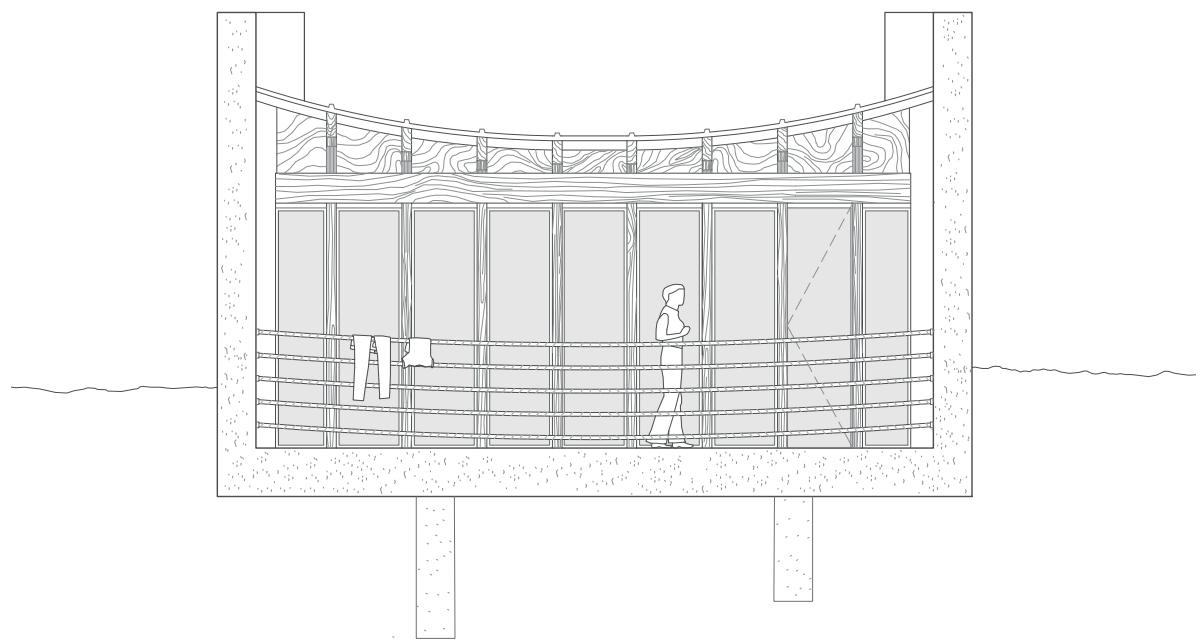








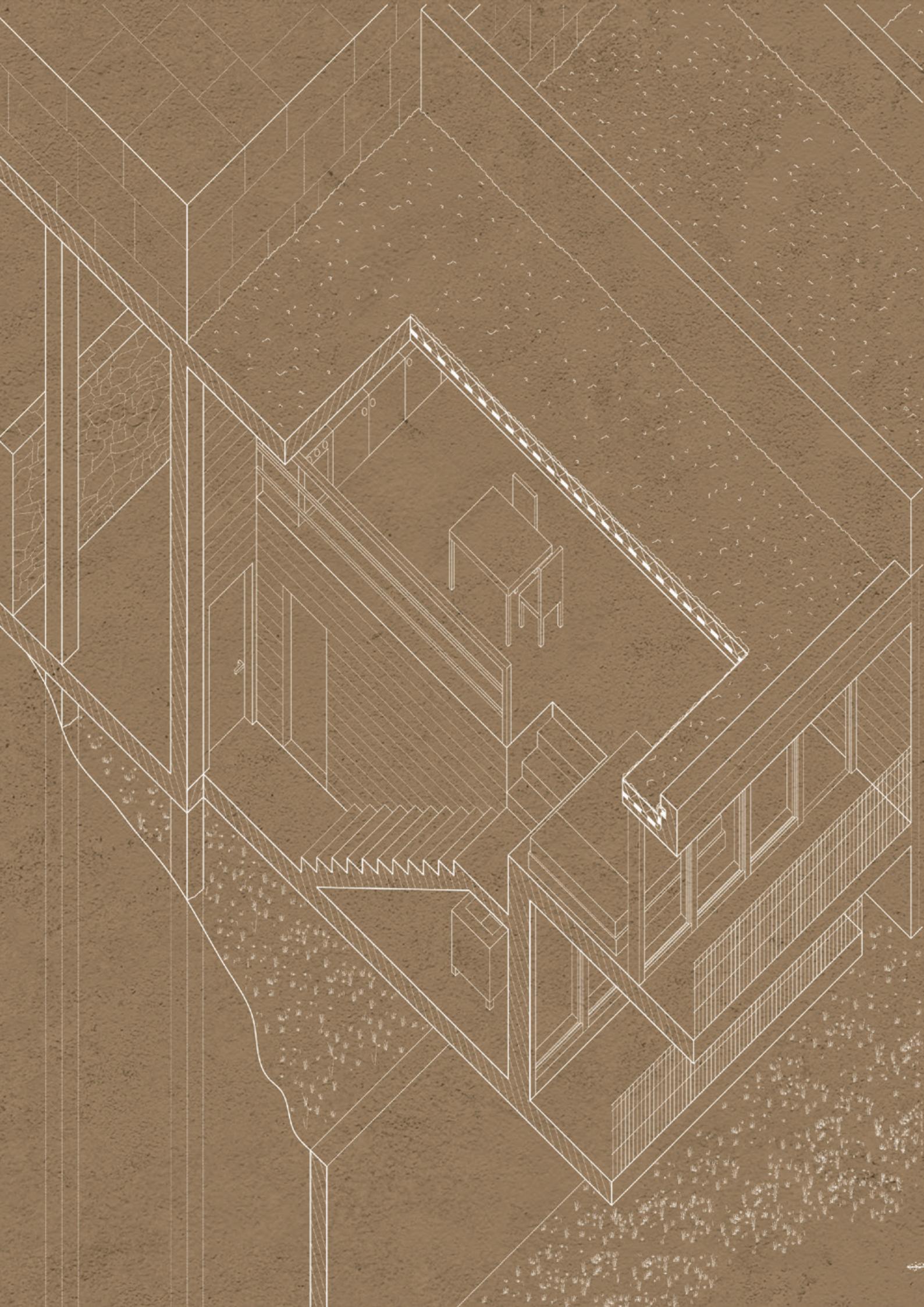


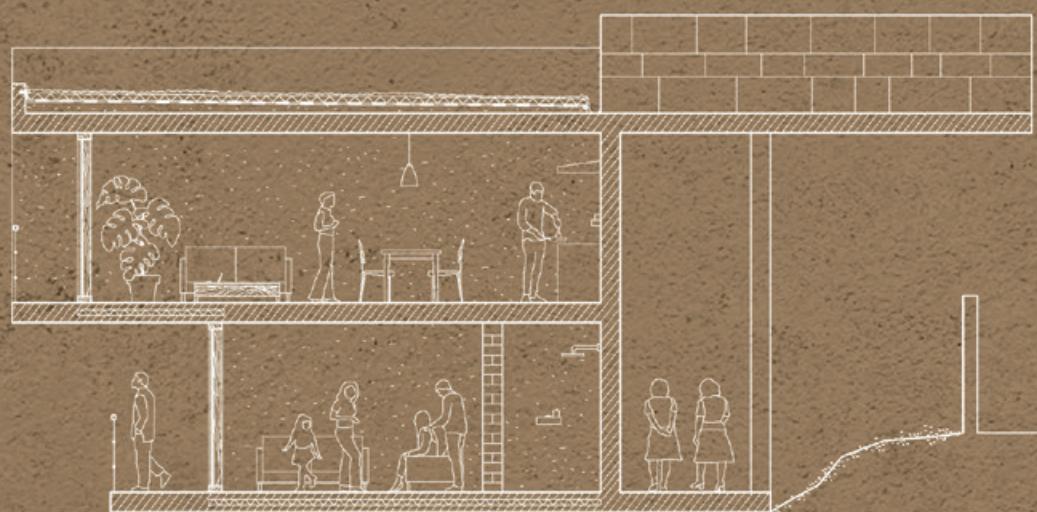


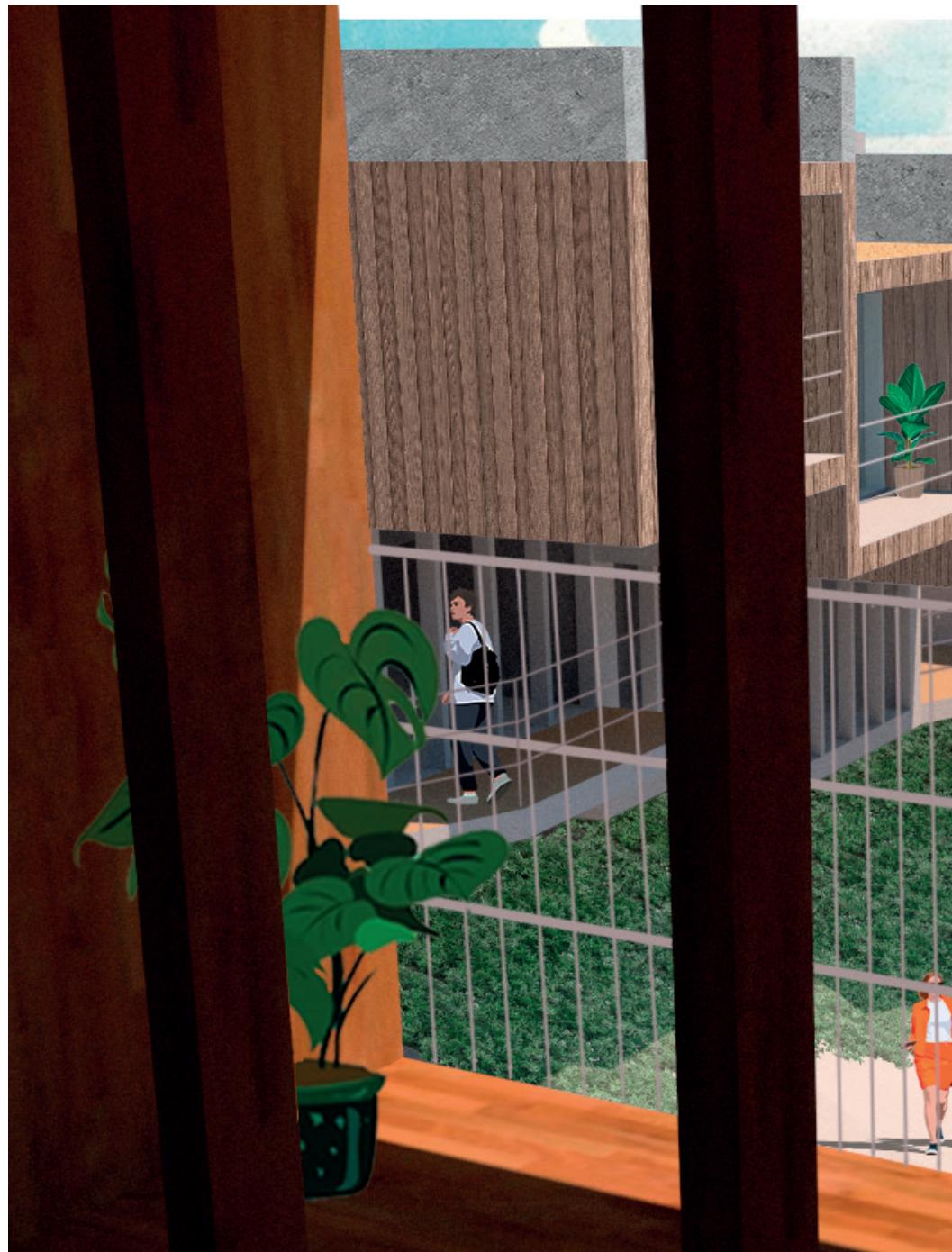
In balance houses in a suburban context

Housing units in a steep sloped terrain, the intention was to leave as many space as possible for preserving the nature already present, placing the houses in a balcony manner, looking towards the views of the city. The complex hangs from the slope thanks to a balance between the living spaces and rocks taken from the terrain acting as counterweight.





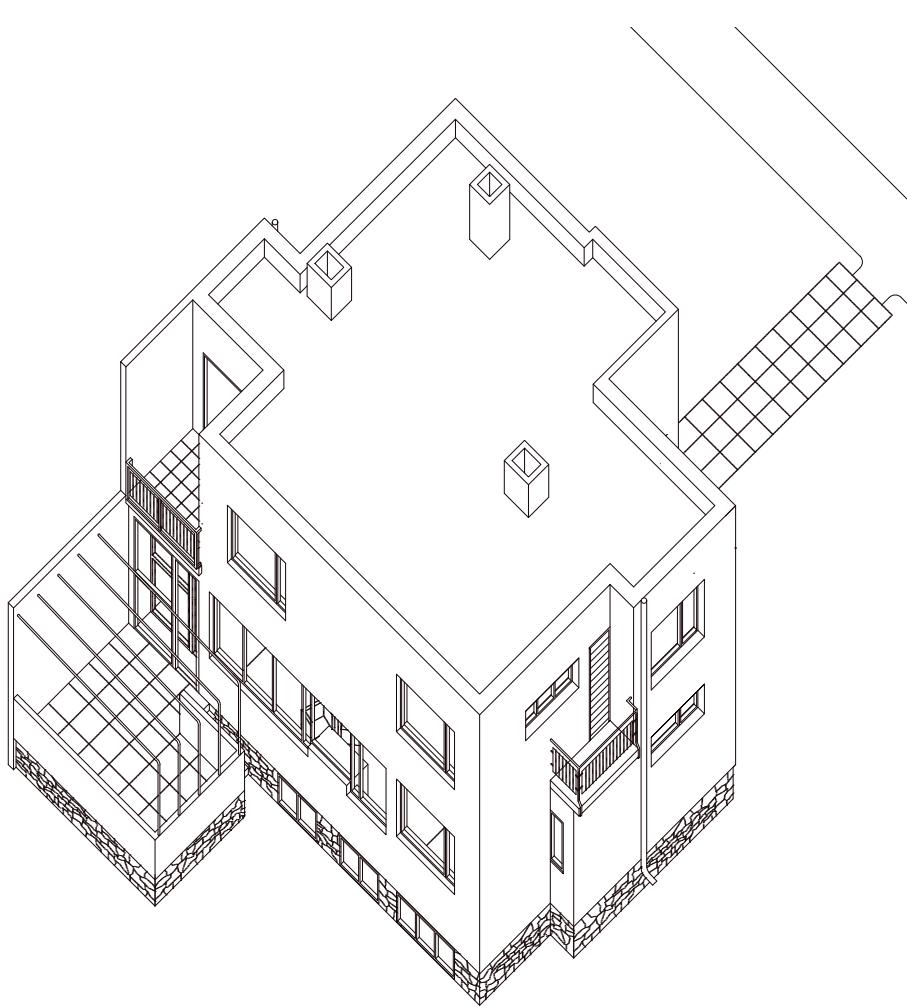
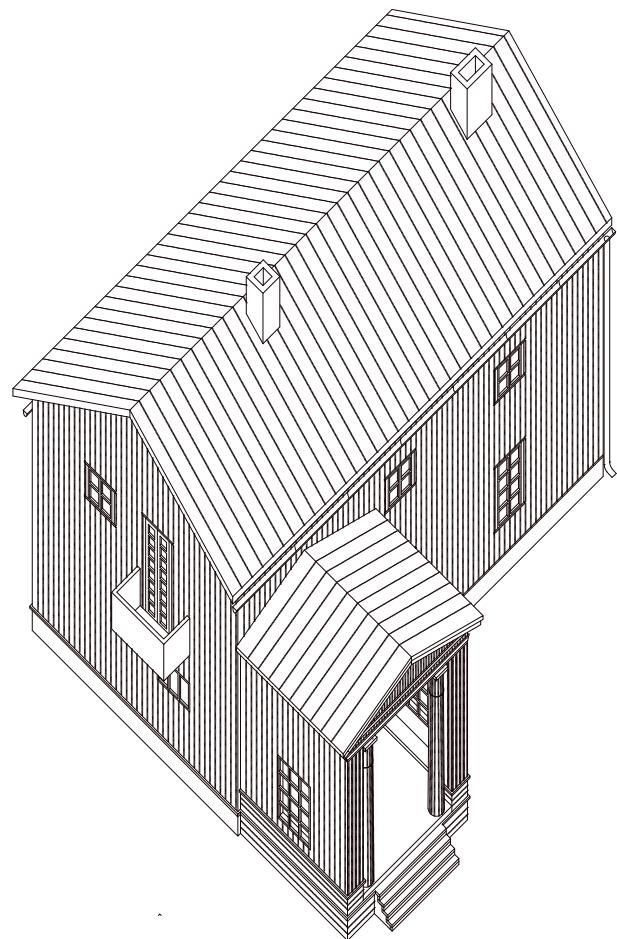






Nordic masters study

This optional class aimed to teach more in depth the style of the nordic architects like Asplund, Lewerentz, Aalto and many more. My work consisted in analyzing and redrawing two of Alvar Aalto's less known works : Villa Väinölä and Villa Tammekann. Diving in depth inside these designs you discover the richness of the details, the understanding of the surroundings as well as the evolution of styles in Aalto's works.



Tower for 100 people

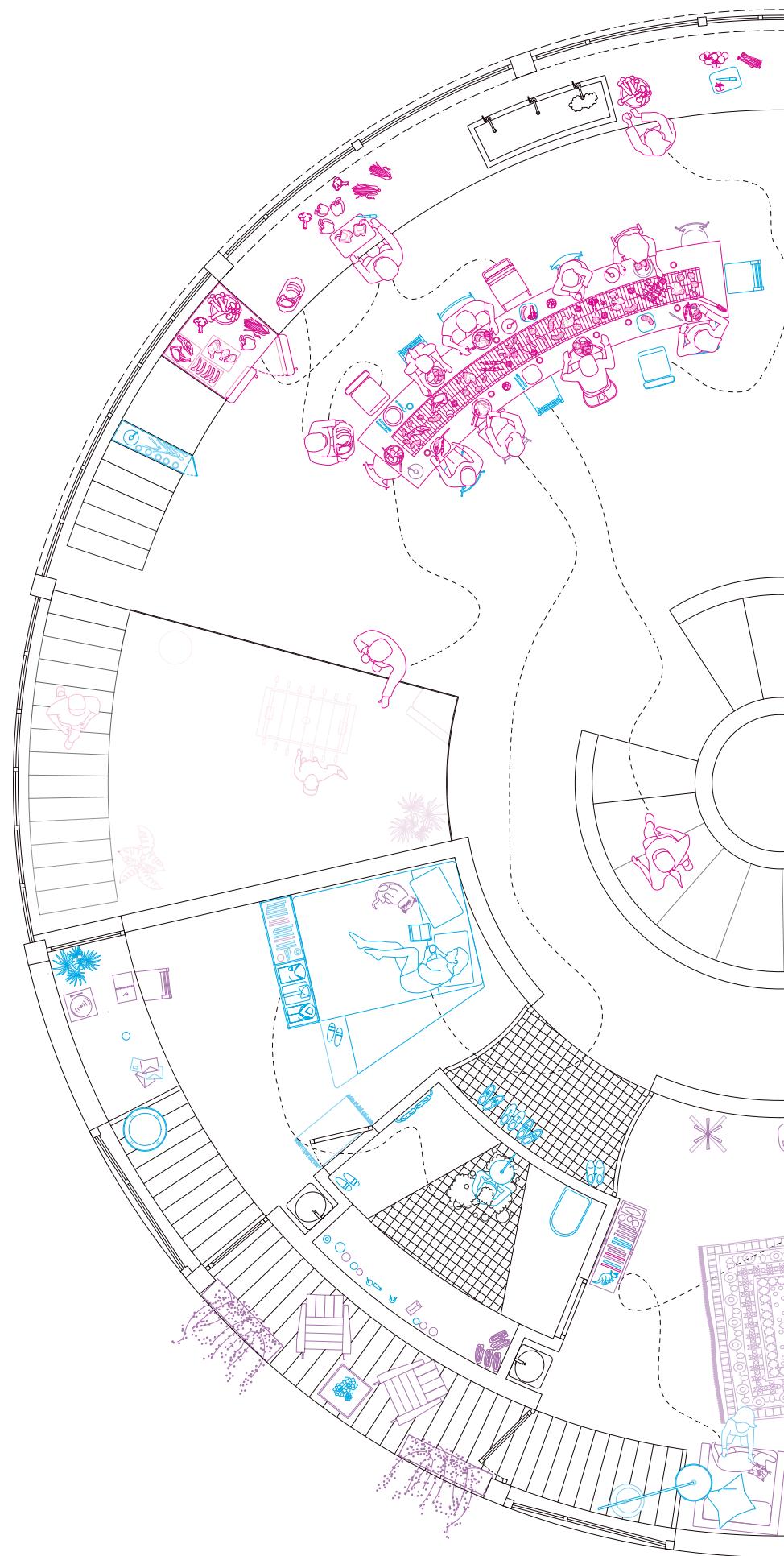
The tower typology in housing represents a real challenge when we talk about the division between the inhabitants. The verticality naturally separates and the horizontal slabs cut the visual connections between the different levels.

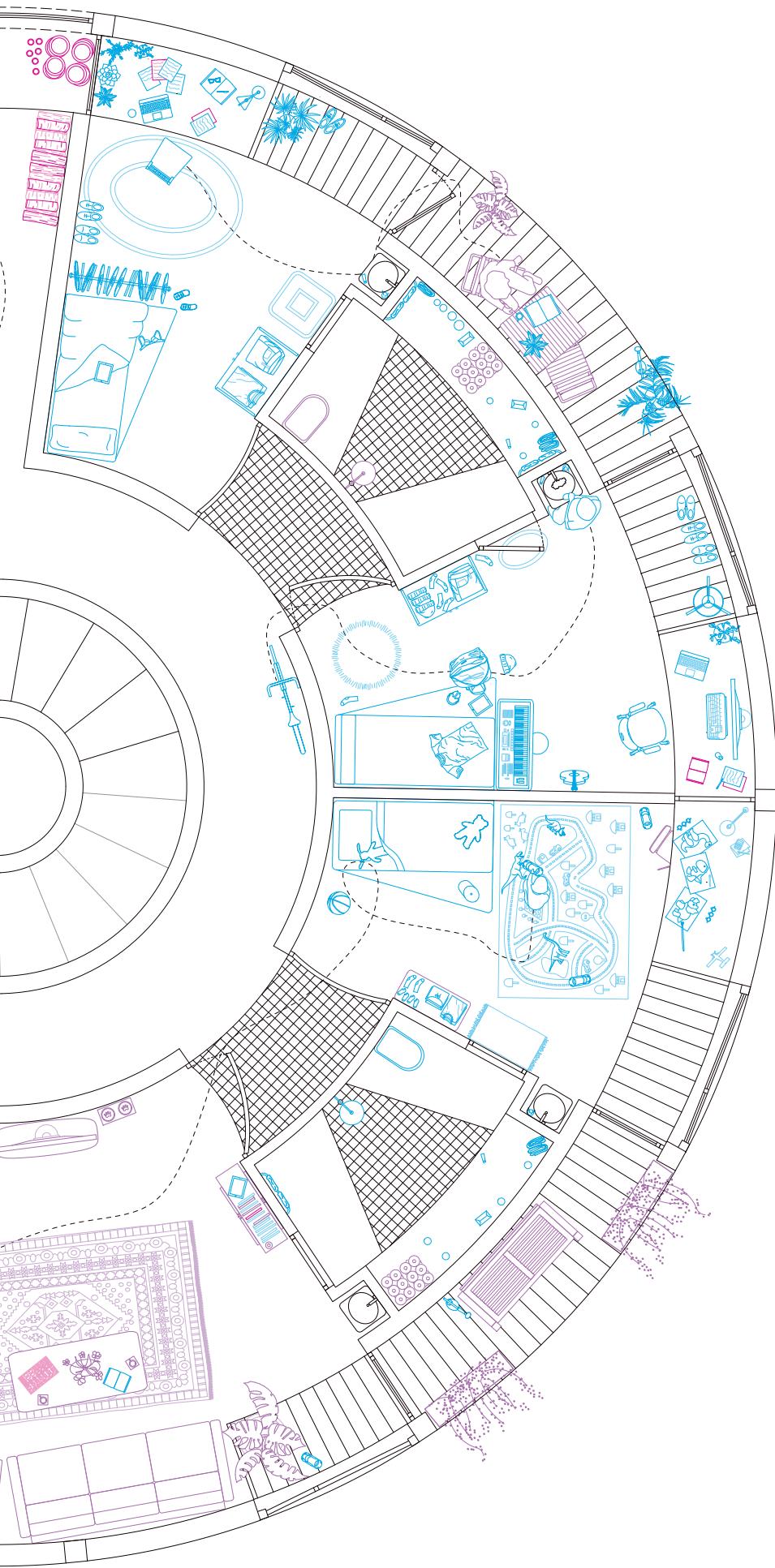
The project acts against the stratification of the type by creating a continuous and shared peripheral space, containing an alternation of kitchens and living spaces, connected by a unique staircase that does one lap around the tower.

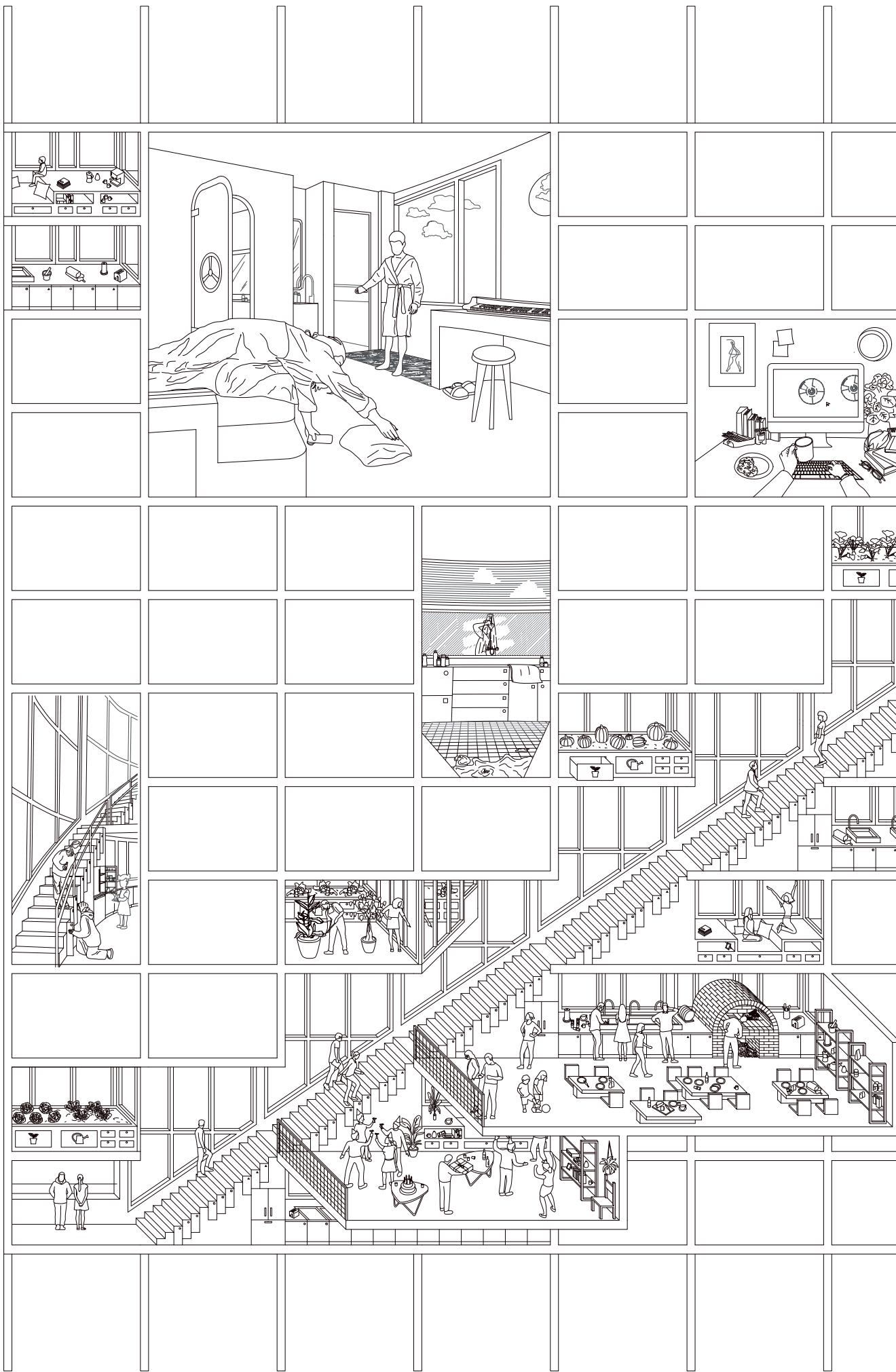
The common spaces consist of kitchens, living rooms as well as greenhouses, with vegetation adapting to the changing climate of the tower due to the stratification created by the verticality.

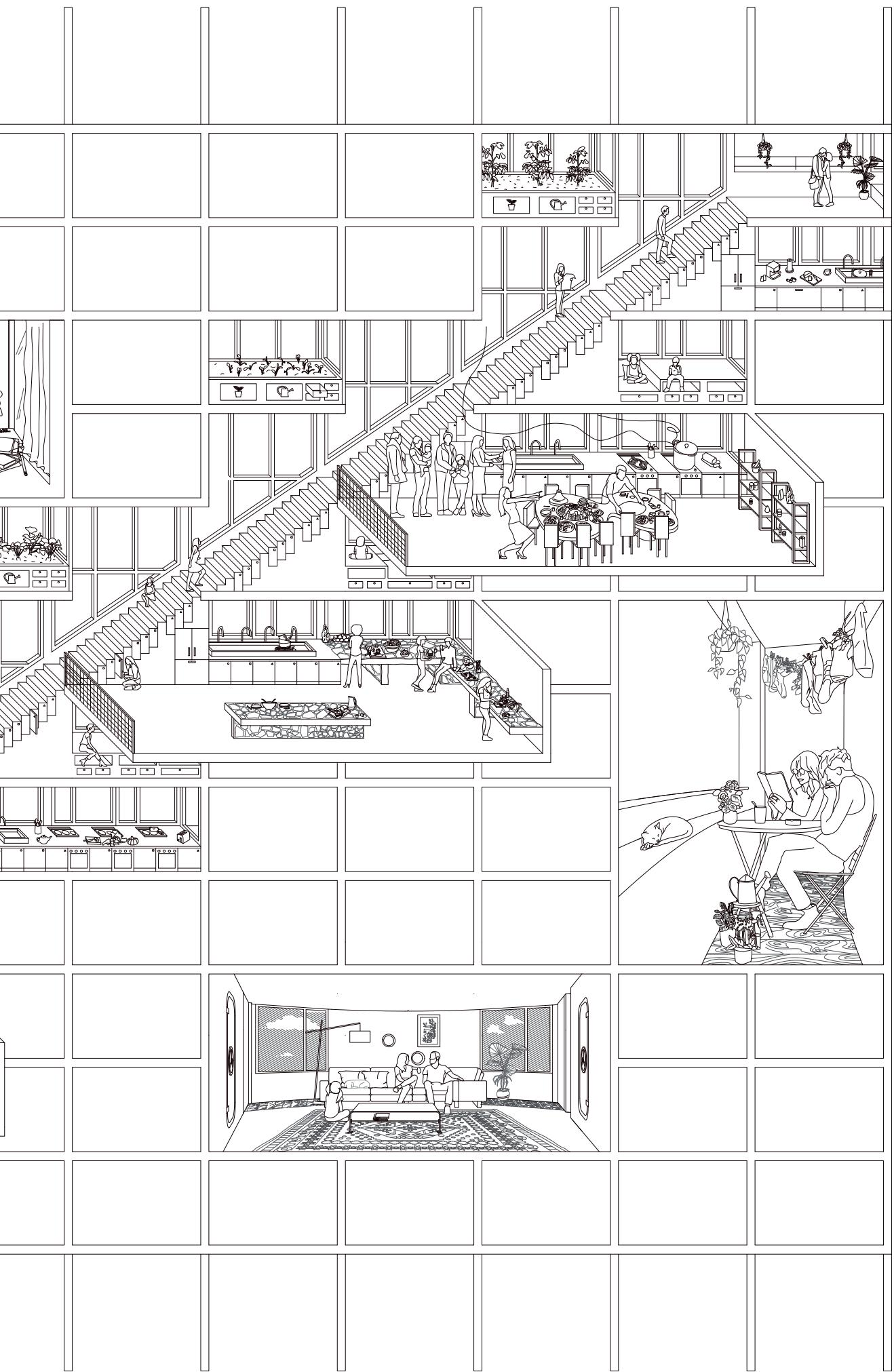
Intimate spaces consist of equal 15 m² units, that share lobby, bathroom and a loggia between two units. The repetition of the pieces gives flexibility to the plan, the walls separating the rooms can be removed to create apartments made of up to 6 units.

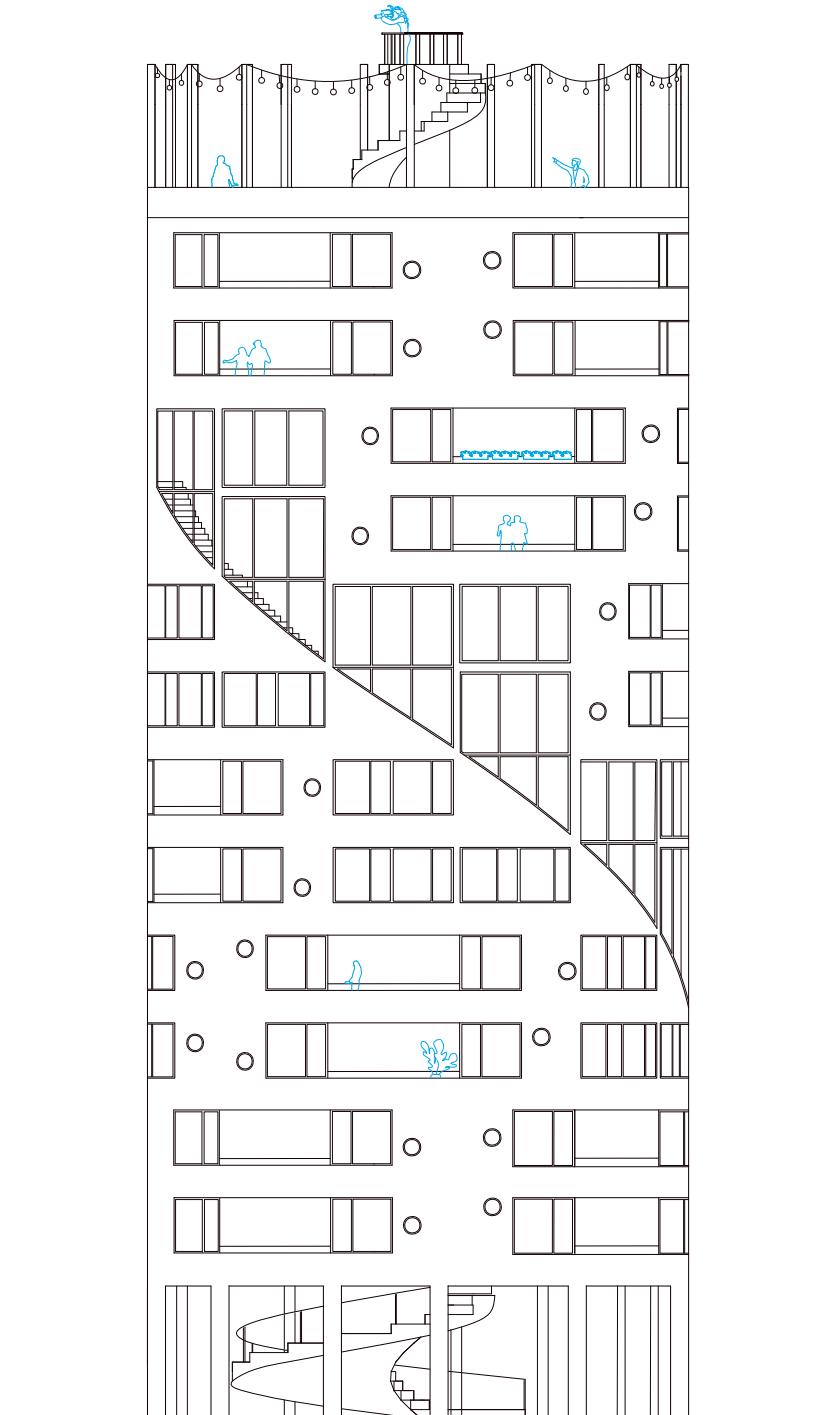




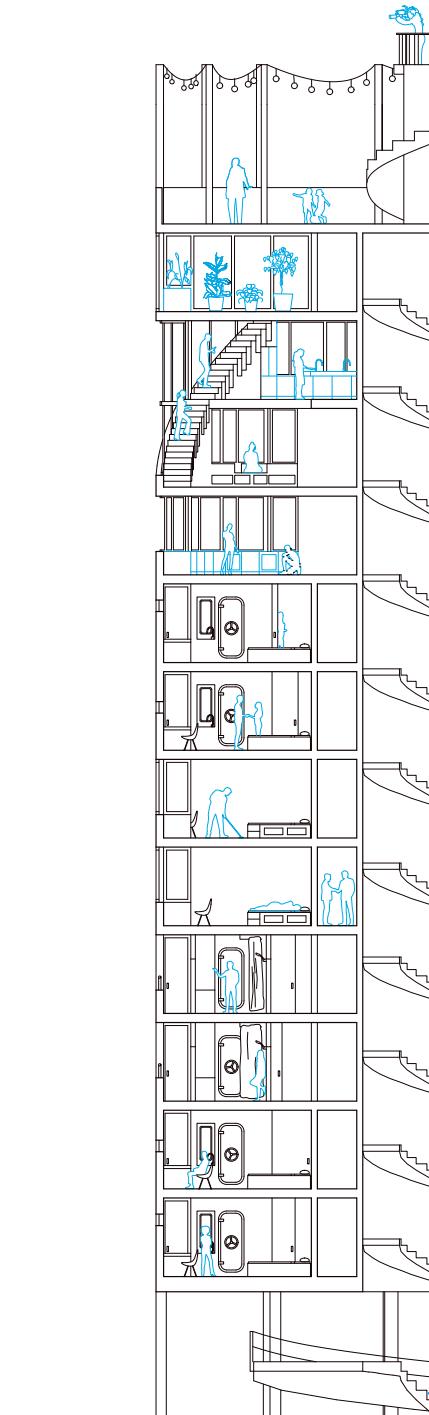




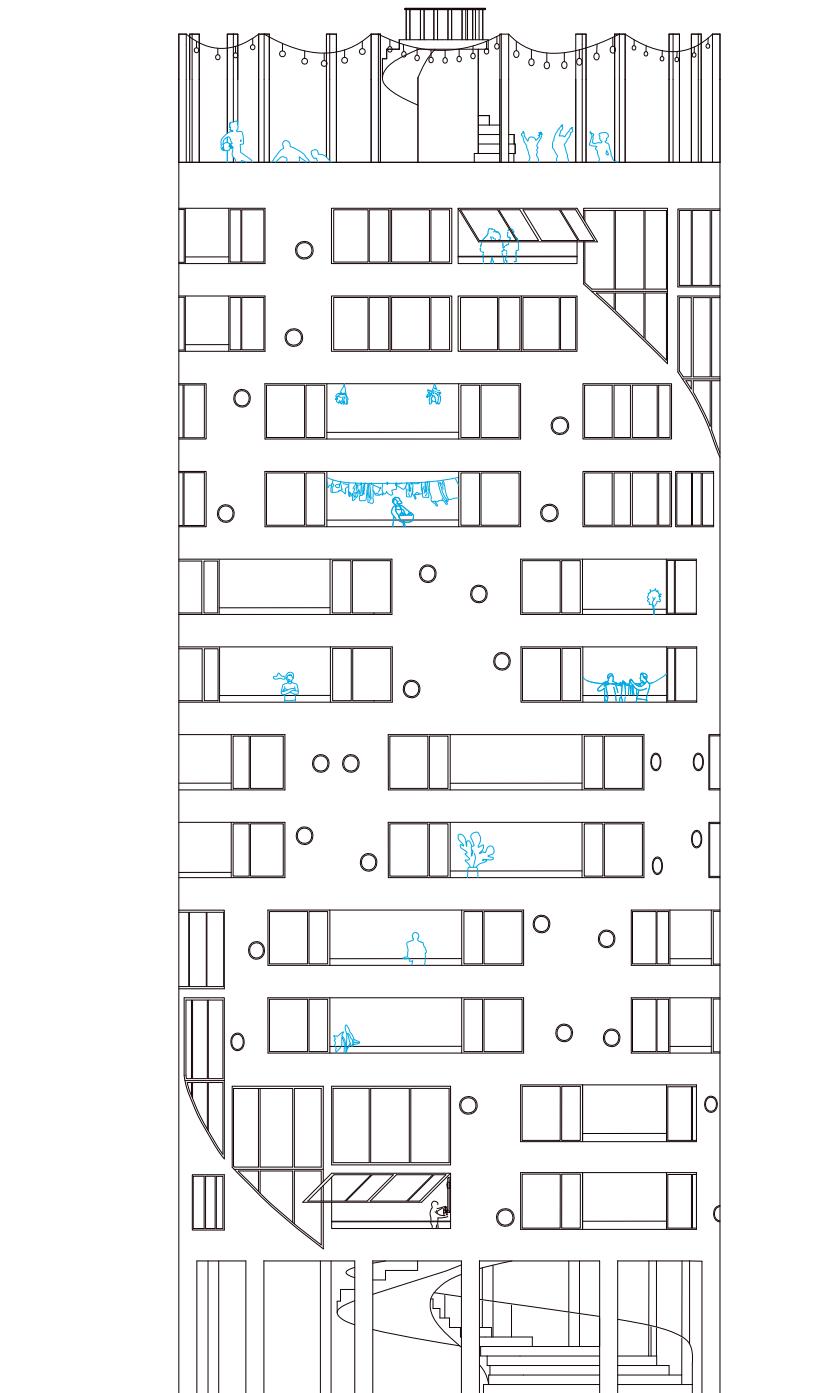
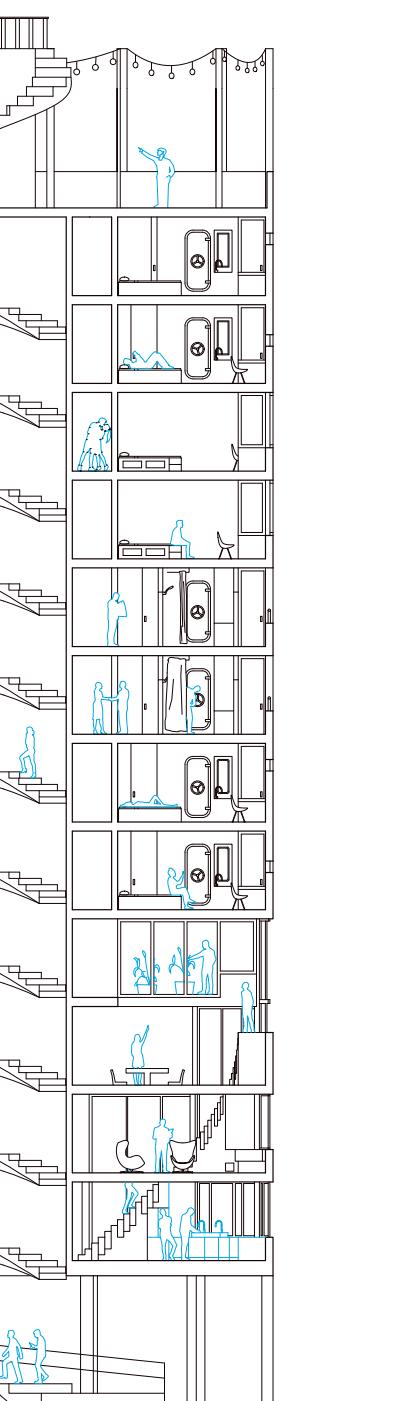




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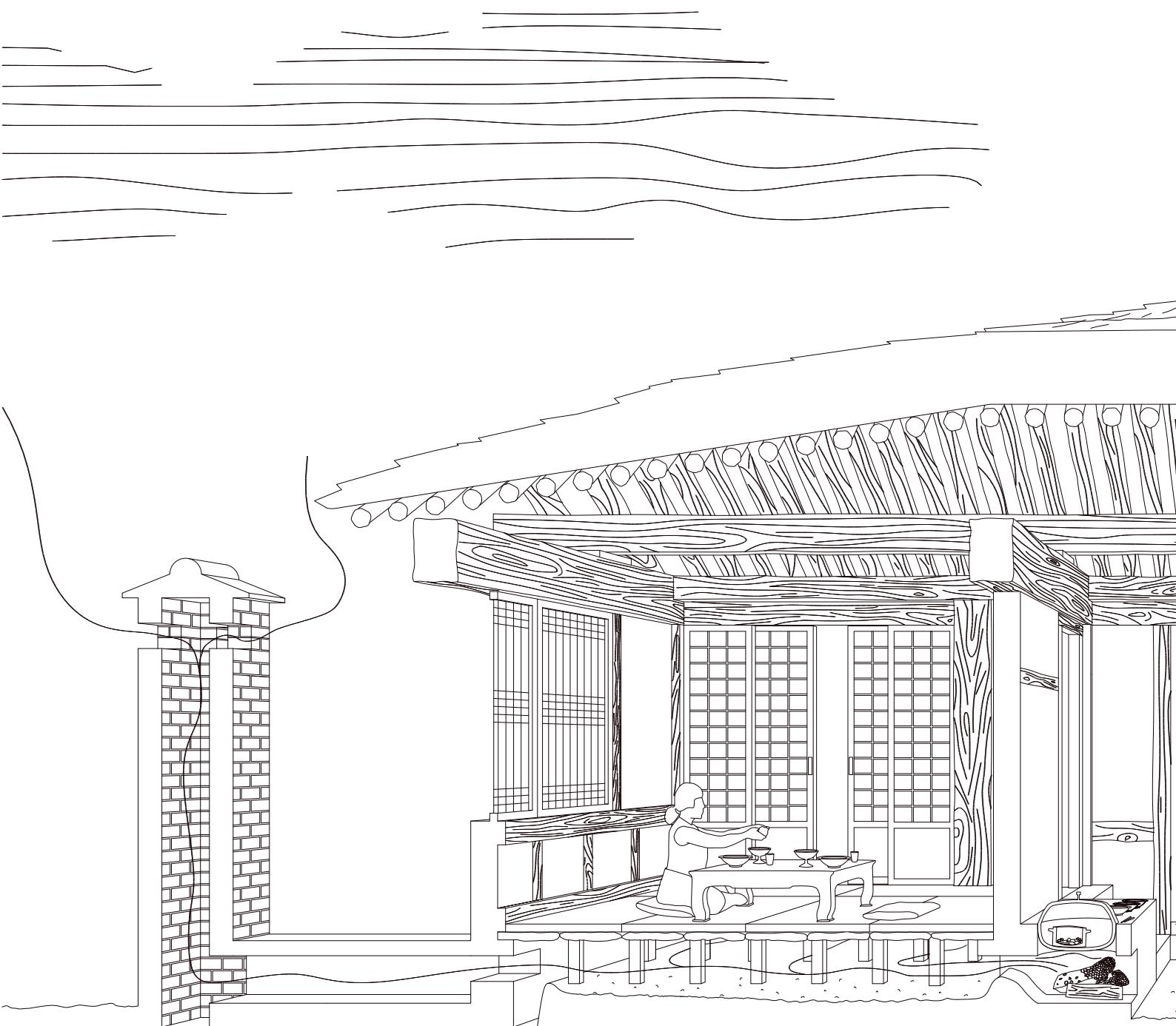


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Façade

Kitchen study

this drawing is the result of a research on traditional korean kitchens, that use the heat of the stoves as a floor heating system for living spaces.



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Domestic City - The House as a City



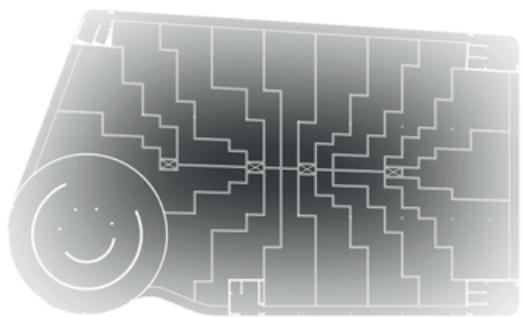
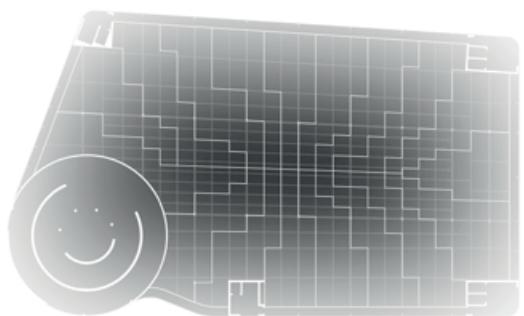
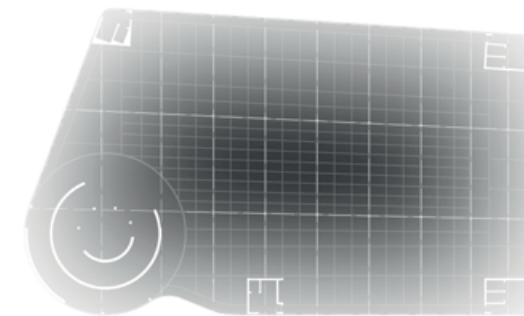
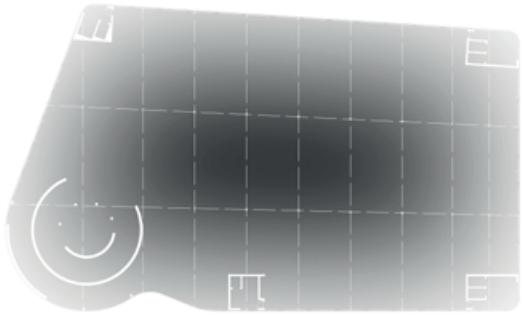
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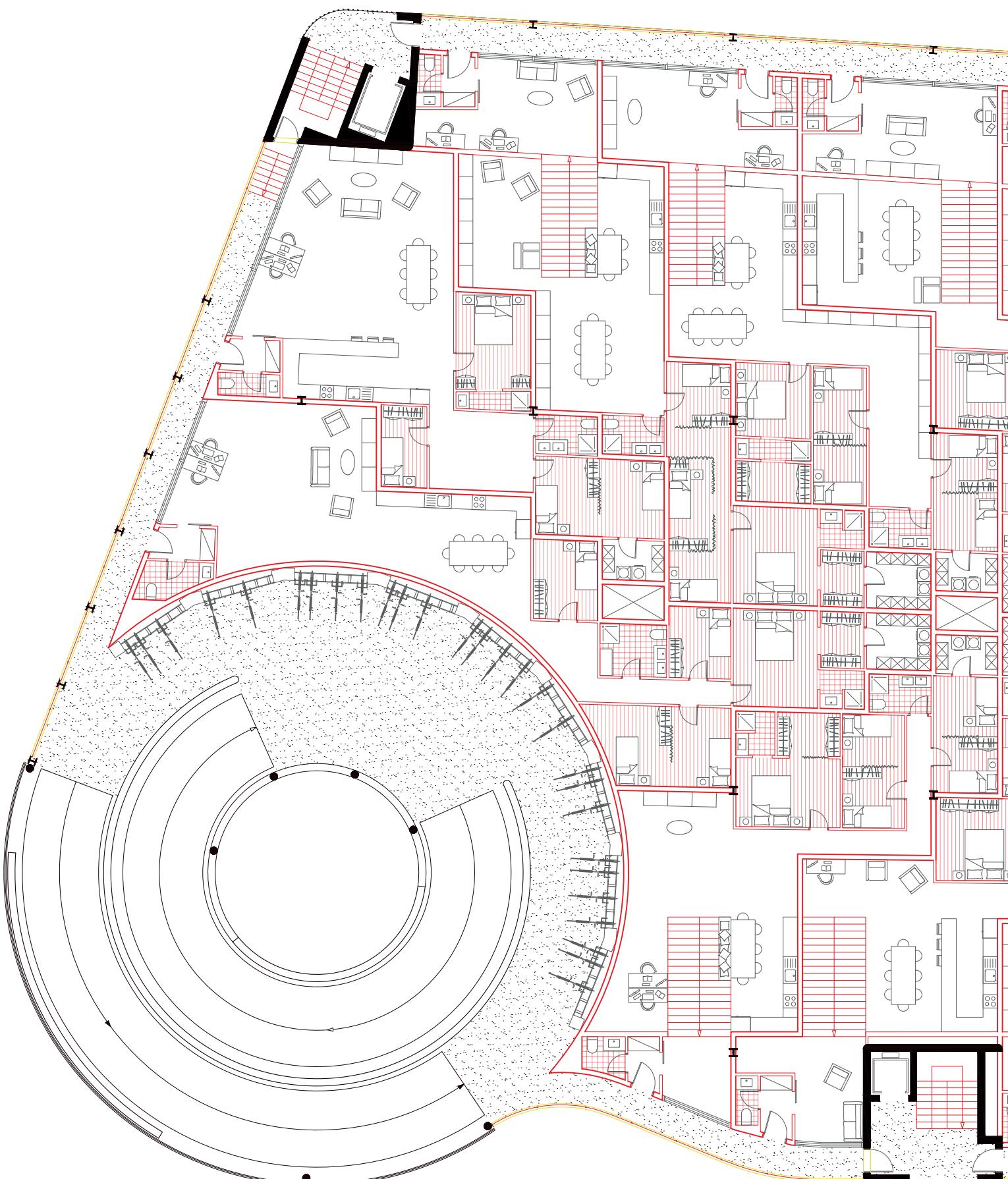
Alvaro
- Architecture EPFL - Autumn 2023

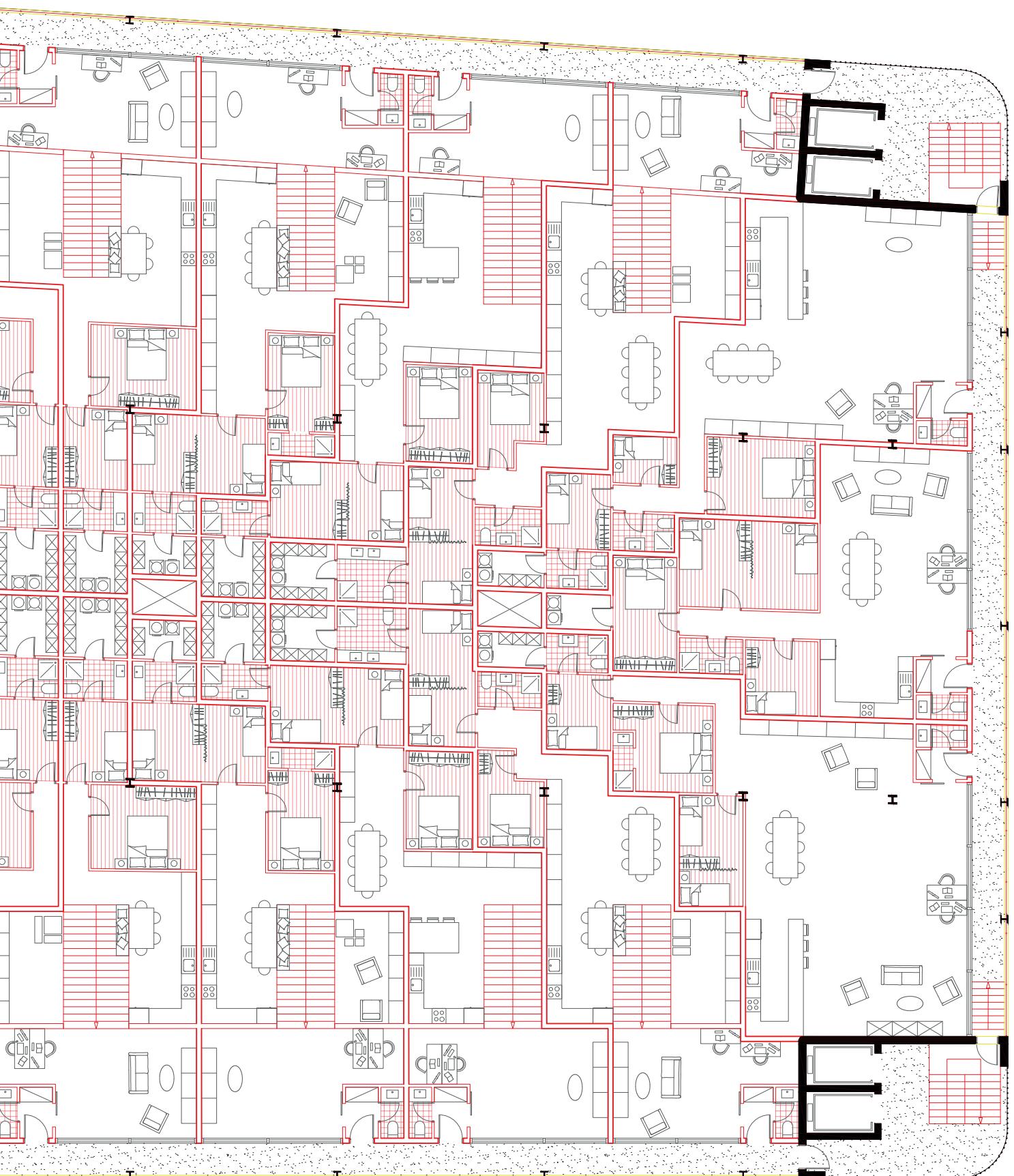
Embracing the obscurity

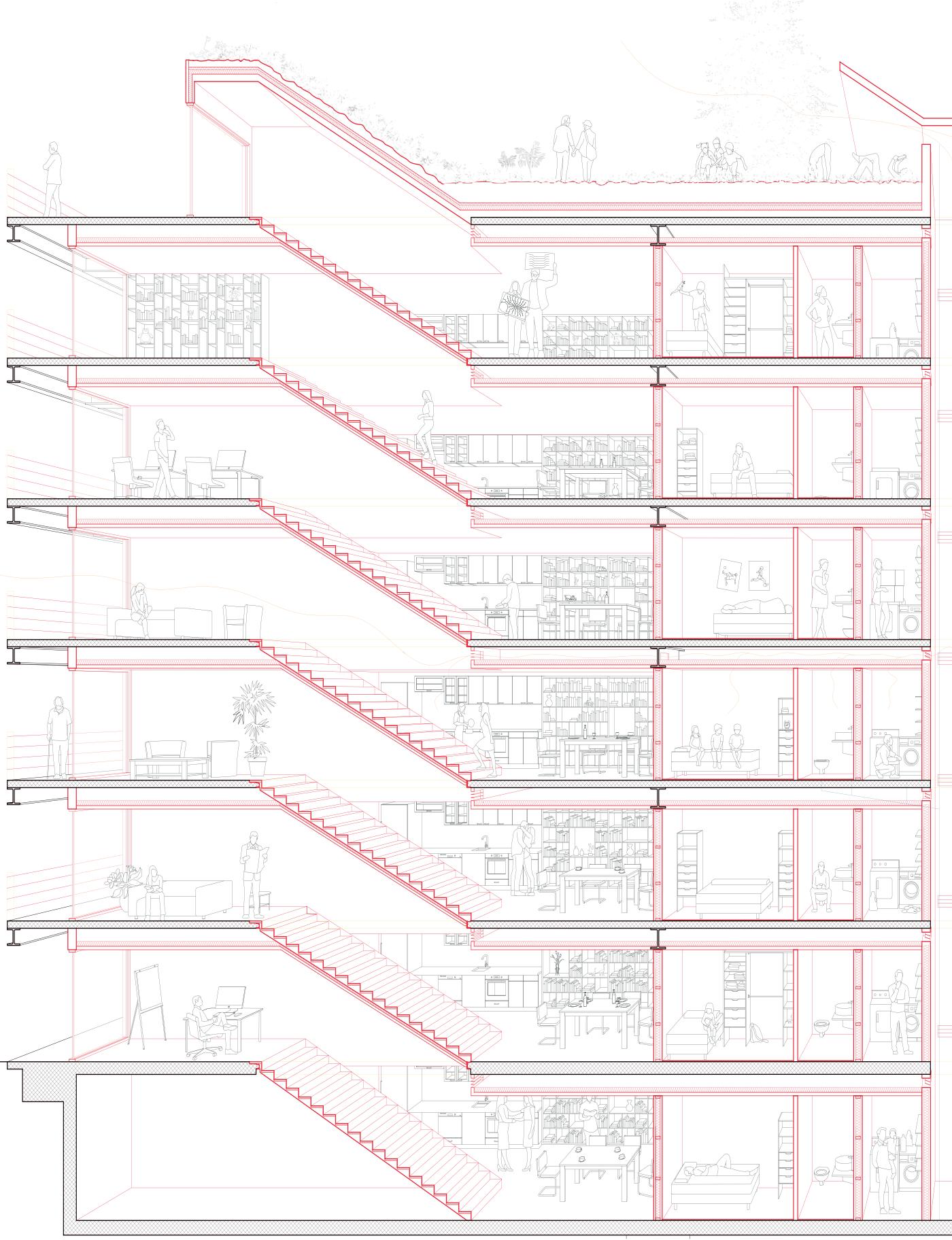
This is an exploration into the world of obsolescence. The parking typology is defined by characteristics that discourage repurposing into housing, such as low ceilings, ramps and deep floor plans. This project aims to introduce a new way of living by taking advantage of the essence of the parking, not looking away from what appears to be its disadvantages, embracing the obscurity. From the existing structural layout we define a grid that subdivides the plan, adding walls leading to the darkest point of the parking, the center. The goal is to draw the users into the depths of the space, seeking refuge much like early humans did in caves. We imagine an architecture where light is no longer the protagonist, and where we learn to live with what is given to us by shifting our mindset.

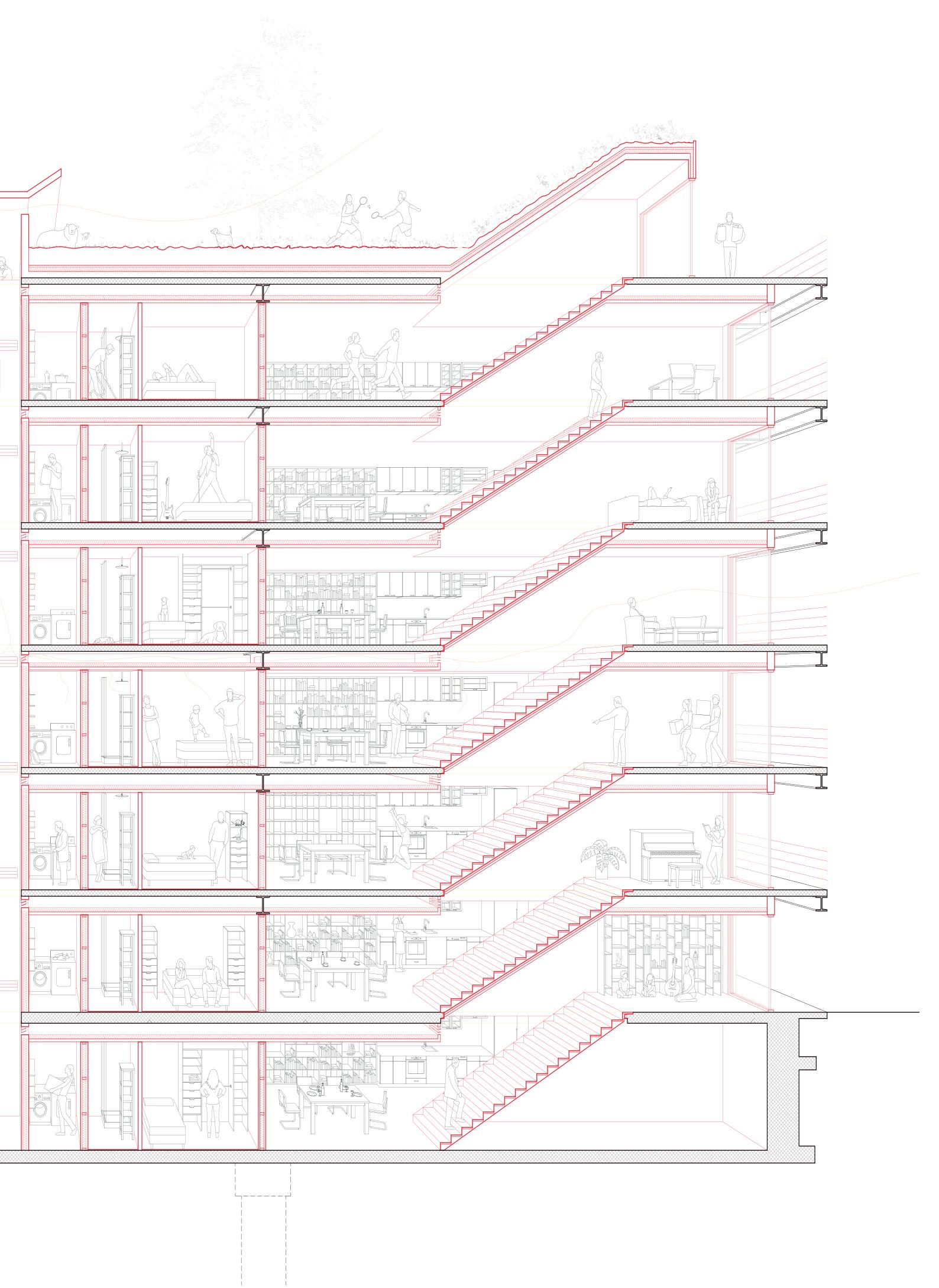


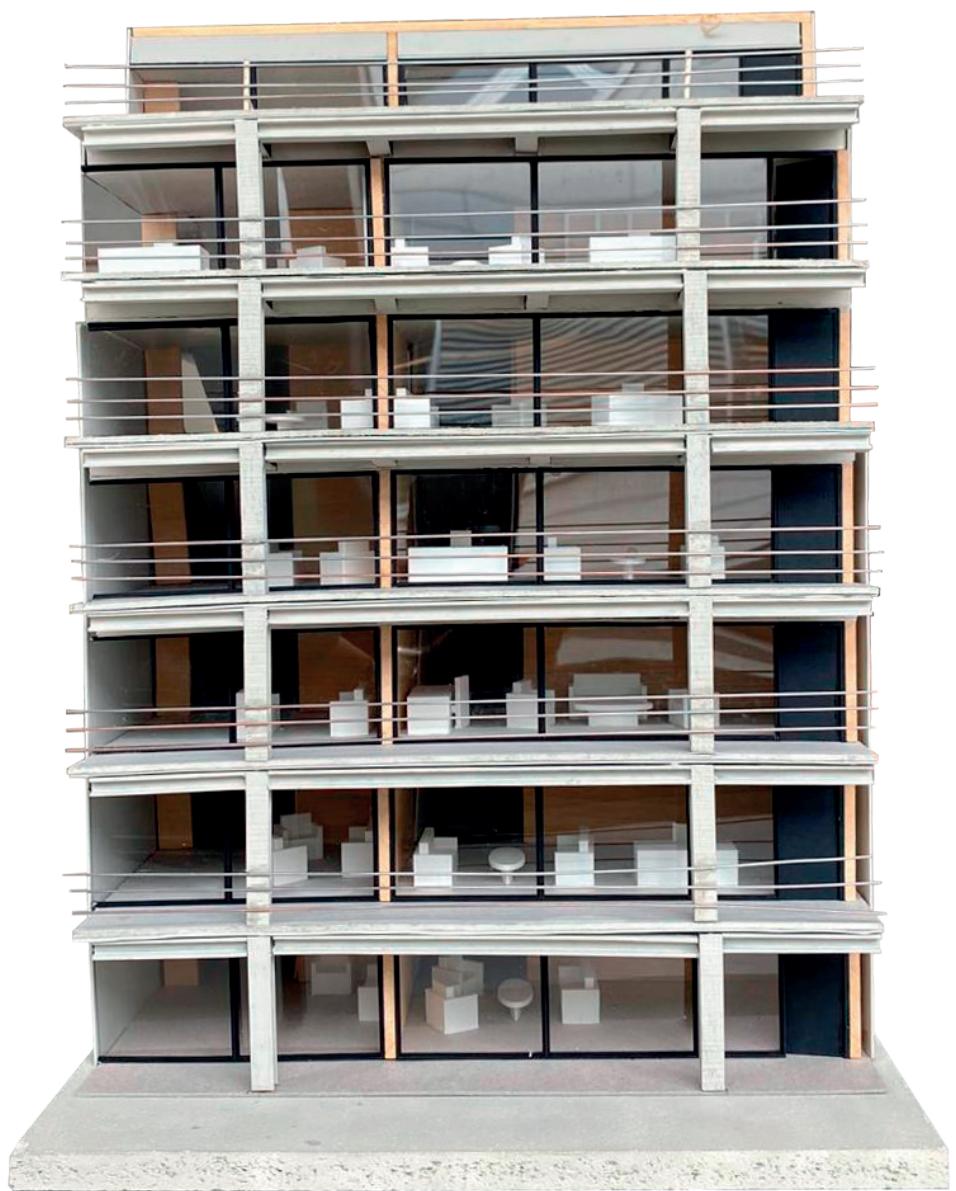








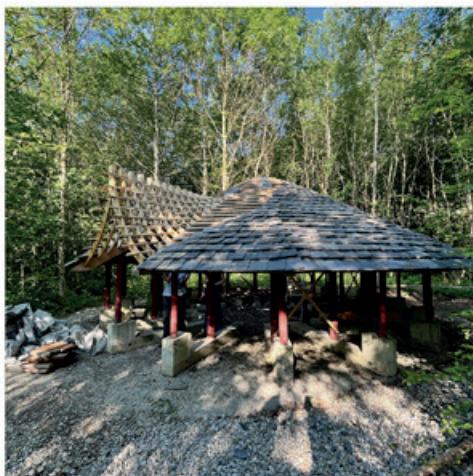
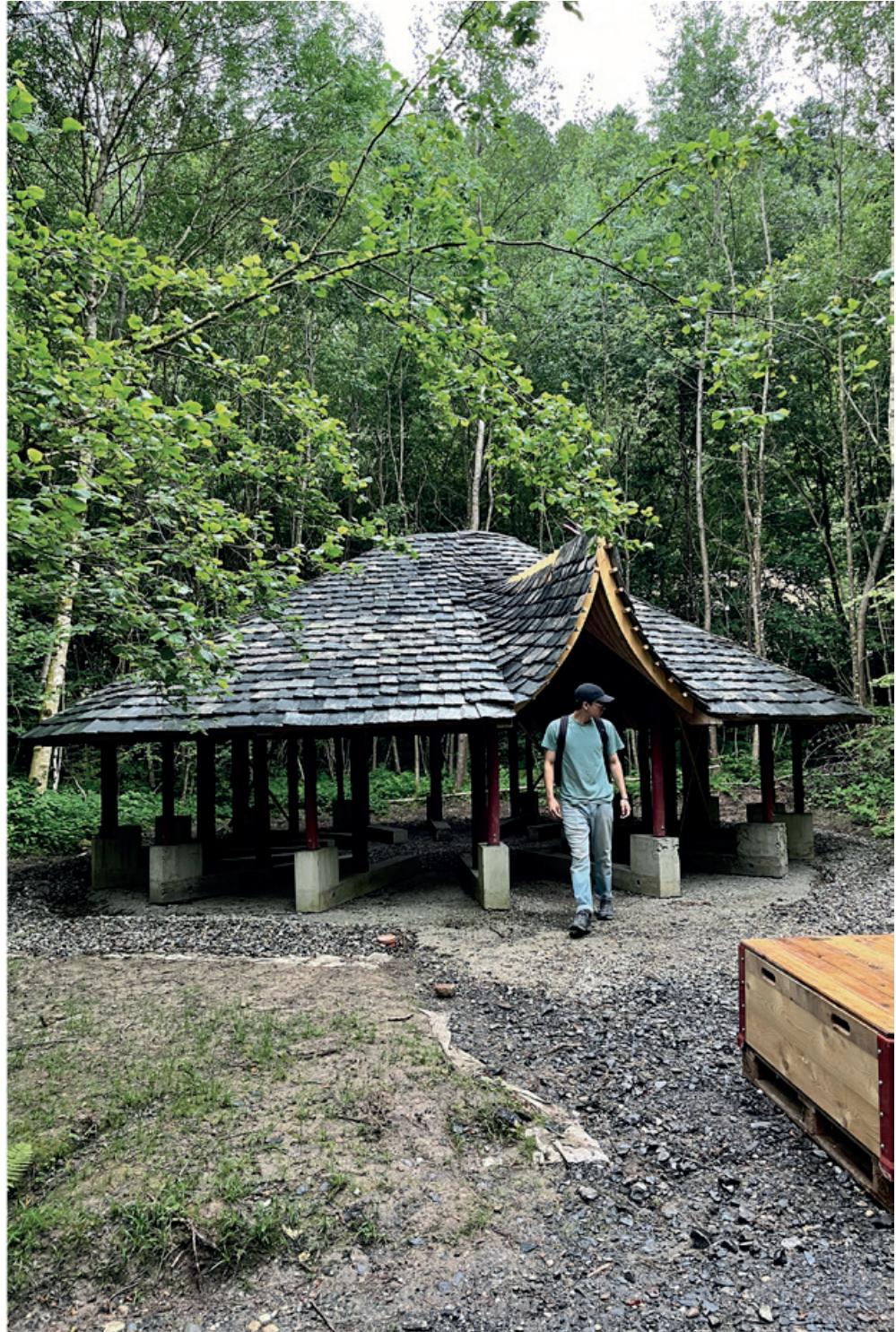






Pavilion construction

This is a class project that consisted in constructing and designing a pavilion for Servion's Zoo in Switzerland with my studio, EAST. In order to prepare for the next expansion of the zoo we built a wooden structure topped by a recycled tiles roof. The main challenge was the entrance where the design required a complex shape that posed numerous difficulties during the construction.



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