

“Experience is the only teacher we can really trust.”

Leonardo da Vinci

The Artisan's Home

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Amsterdam
Master Architecture
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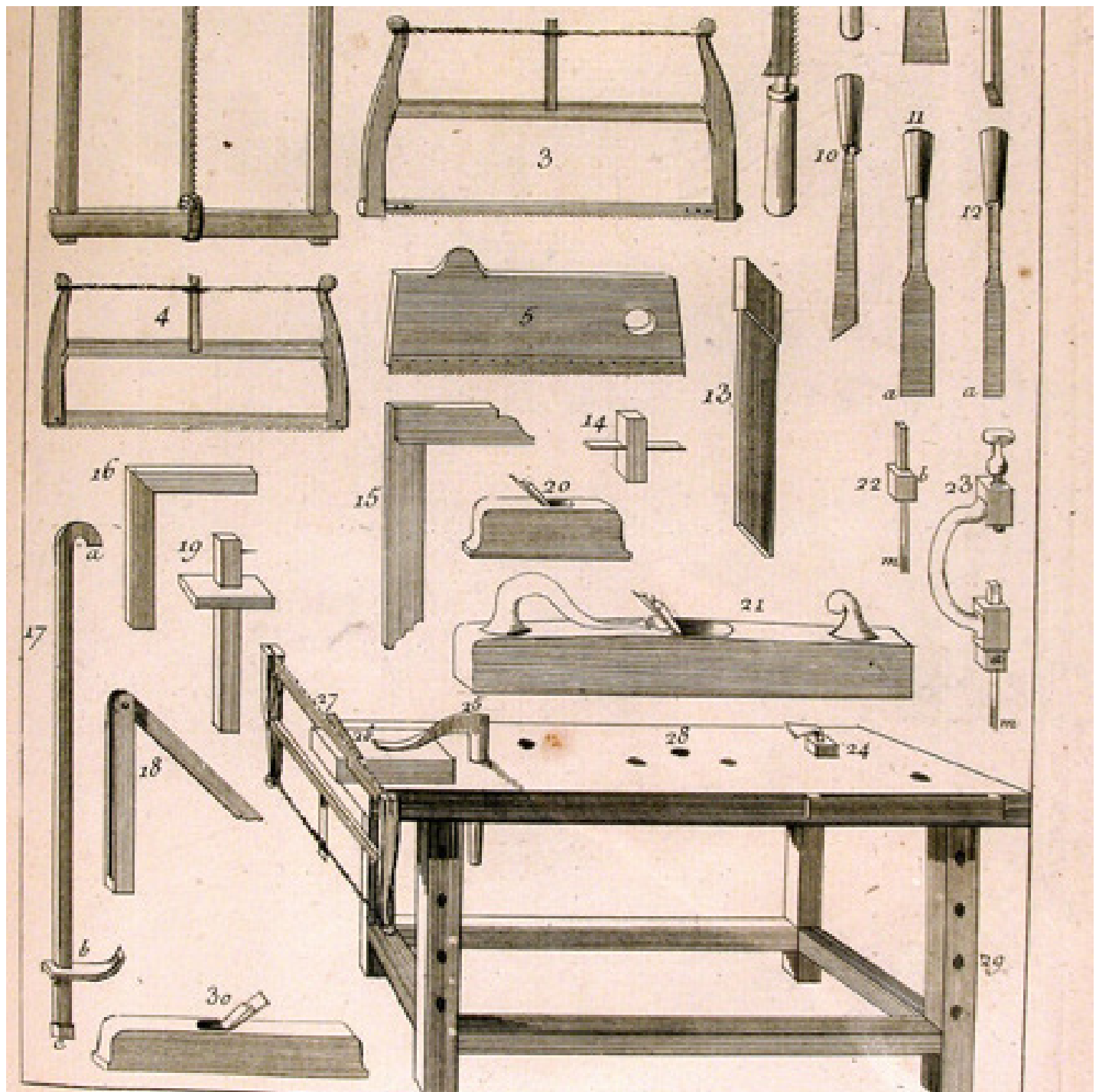
Structure

Craftmanship



Coming from a family of wood artisan, I recently became aware of how, in the time of a few generations, many family dynamics have undergone important changes. Being grateful for living in a time and space where I could choose my own profession, the place where I want to live and how independent I want to be, I feel nevertheless that some problematic social issues of modern societies could use some input from the past. In particular, my analysis is a reflection on the role of senior citizens within the family, the role of families within societies and the way skills and professions were handed over to the new generations. The goal of the project is to create a new housing typology where senior citizens do not feel a burden anymore, where people of different age could coexist and benefit from each other's presence in different ways.





The role of senior citizens



The target of the project are two main categories of people: senior citizens and starters, young people with or without families at the beginning of their adult/professional lives. If these two categories of people could live close to each other again, they could recreate relationship that have been lost: Senior citizens could help young families take care of their children when they are working. Senior citizens could teach young people a profession, handing over their knowledge and skills. In this way they would not feel a burden. The presence of young people would make elderly people feel much more safe, helpful and lively. Their health would improve because of their moods. For all of this to happen, these two categories of people should live together, in a place where they could both help each other in different ways. Therefore, my project consists of a housing building with special collective spaces and public facilities. A place where elderly are involved in young ones' lives again, a place where a more responsible society could be born. So, the first step is a program that would actually include a workshop space, where different craftsmanships could be taught.





In the past senior citizens were considered *senex sapiens*, wise old men - with their knowledge and experience they earned respect and consideration within society.



Now they live confined at the edge of society, and this is not only bad for them but for everyone else. Old citizens are in fact a resource: they have experience, money and network.



The project envisions a building where people of different age could come together and benefit from each other's presence in different ways, through several collective facilities.

Houthaven



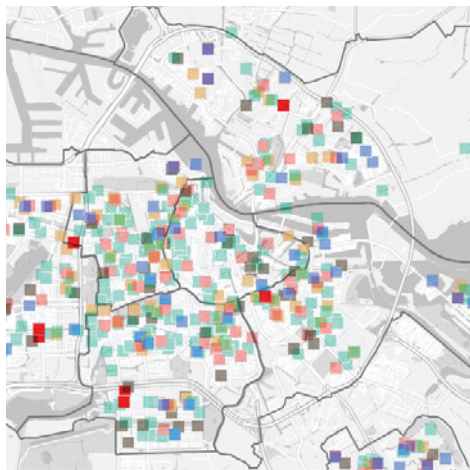
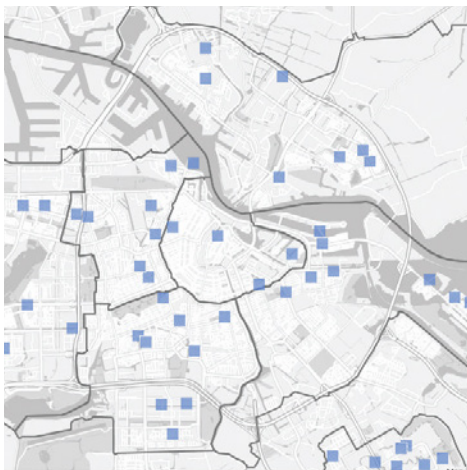
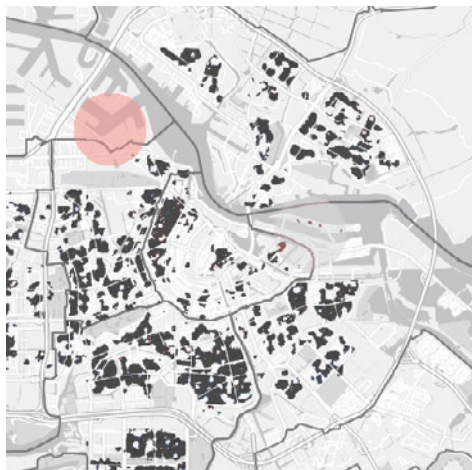
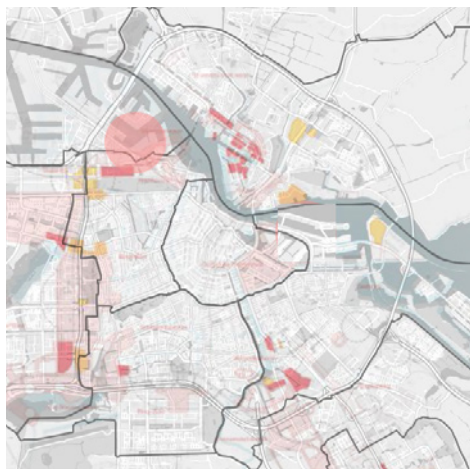
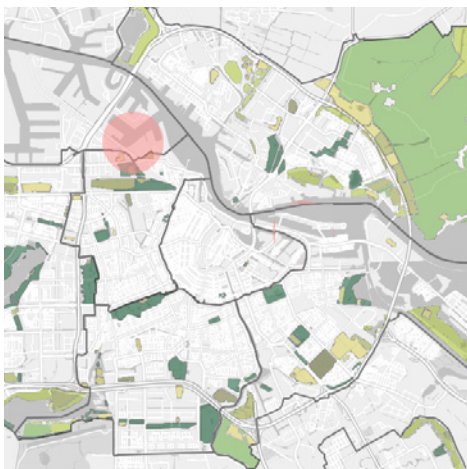
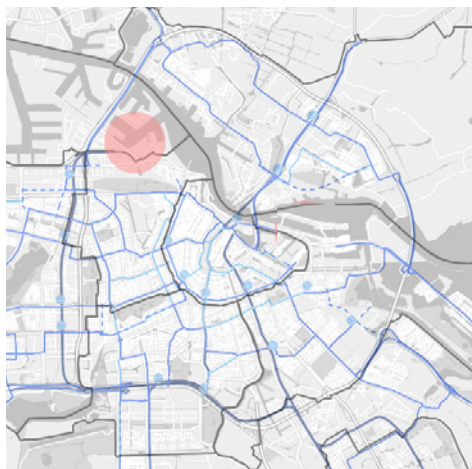
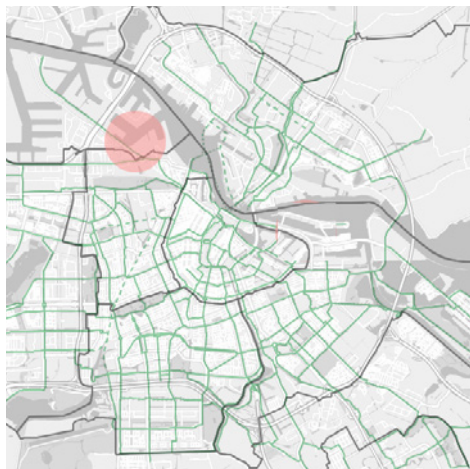
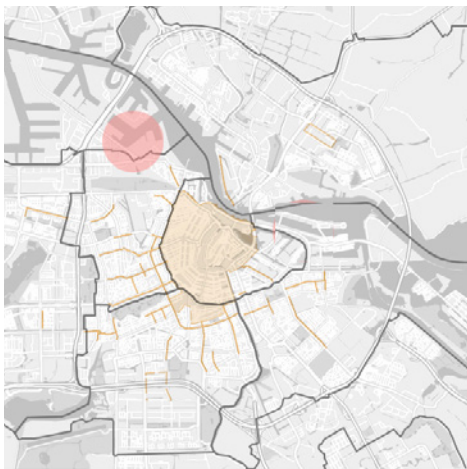
Many wood stocks and stores in Amsterdam are located in Houthaven. Houthaven is a neighborhood of the city on the IJ river in the Westelijke Havengebied (the western port).

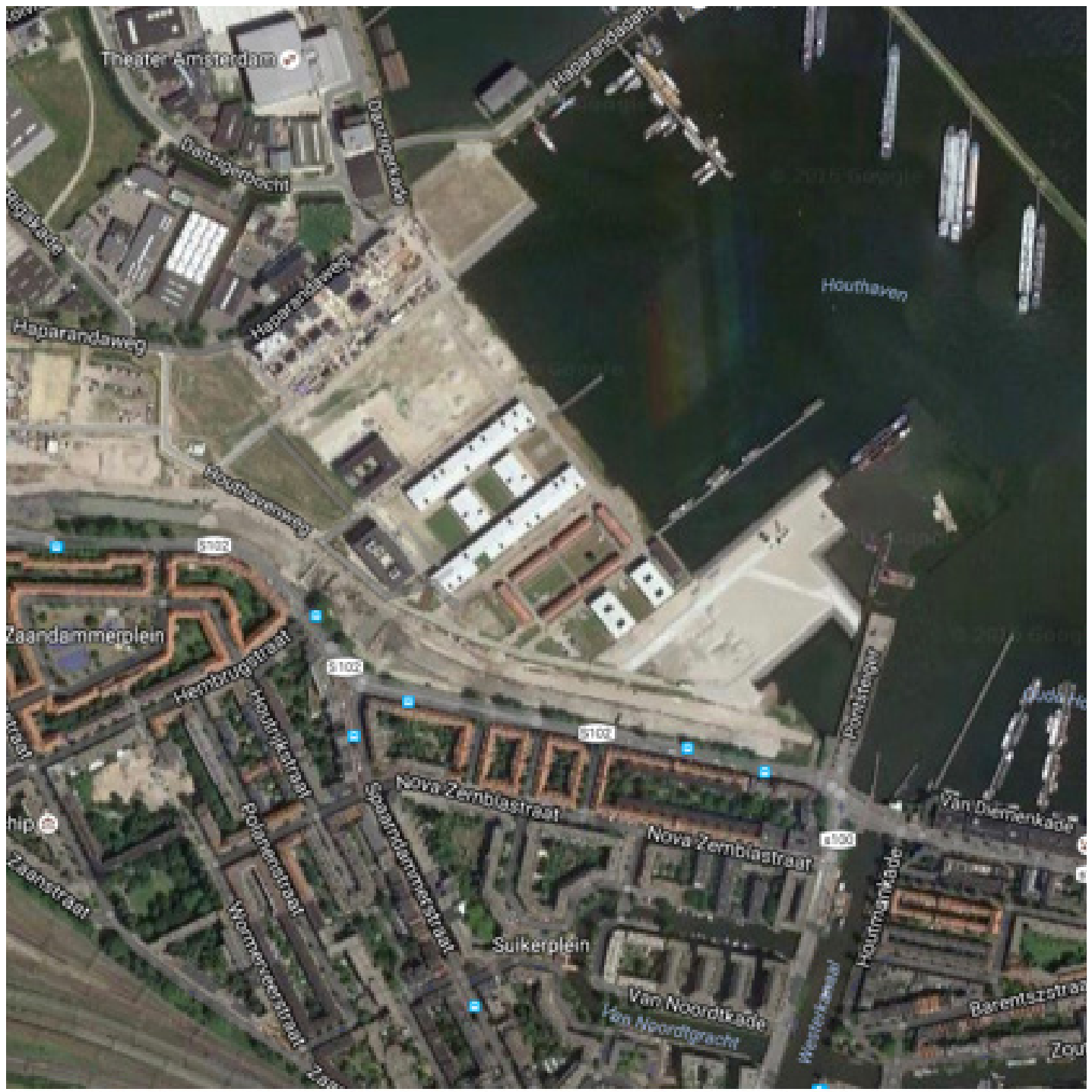
As it is clear from the name, literally meaning “Timber Port”, the area has quite a history related with wood. The area was in fact dug out in 1875, together with the North Sea Canal. It was meant to be the port area for the transport and storage of wood, and it was quite an important step as it was the first dug out harbor.

Later on, as the transport of wood was made more and more on roads, some parts of the port were filled with sand to be used with other purposes in 1945. Some activities related to wood stayed, also because the Minervahaven area close by continued to be used for timber transport and storage, but they were decreasing more and more over time.

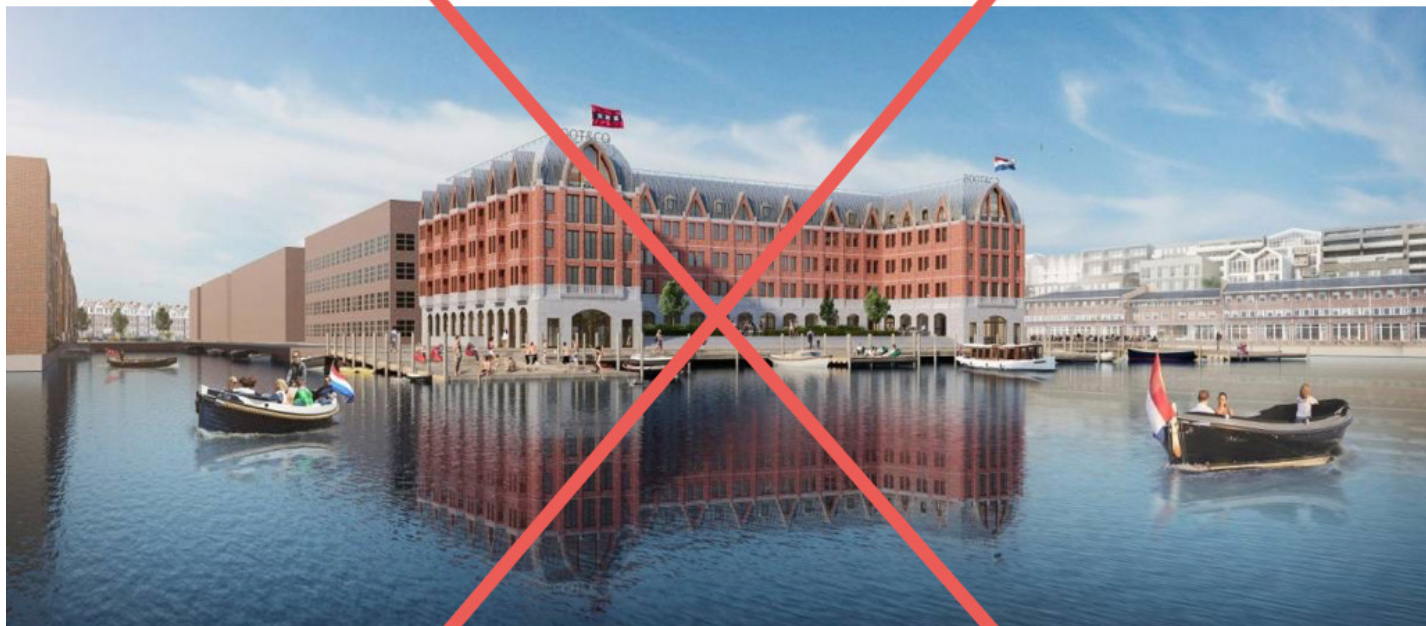
The area is currently undergoing a series of transformations with the creation of seven artificial islands. Most of the new buildings will be housing: both for private sector and social housing. Southaven will become a residential area on the water, quite protected from chaos and tourism of the city center, but close enough to be attractive and comfortable.



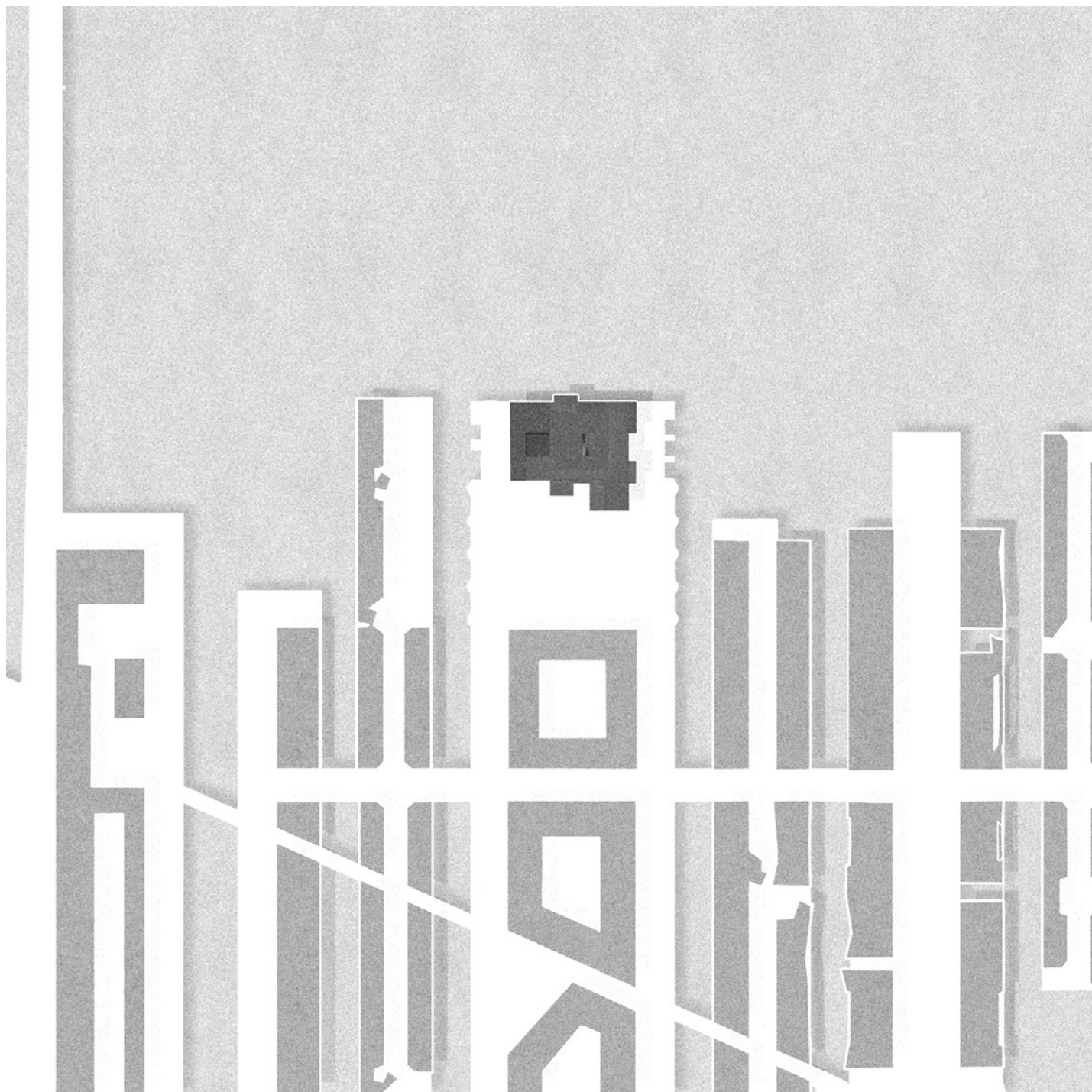


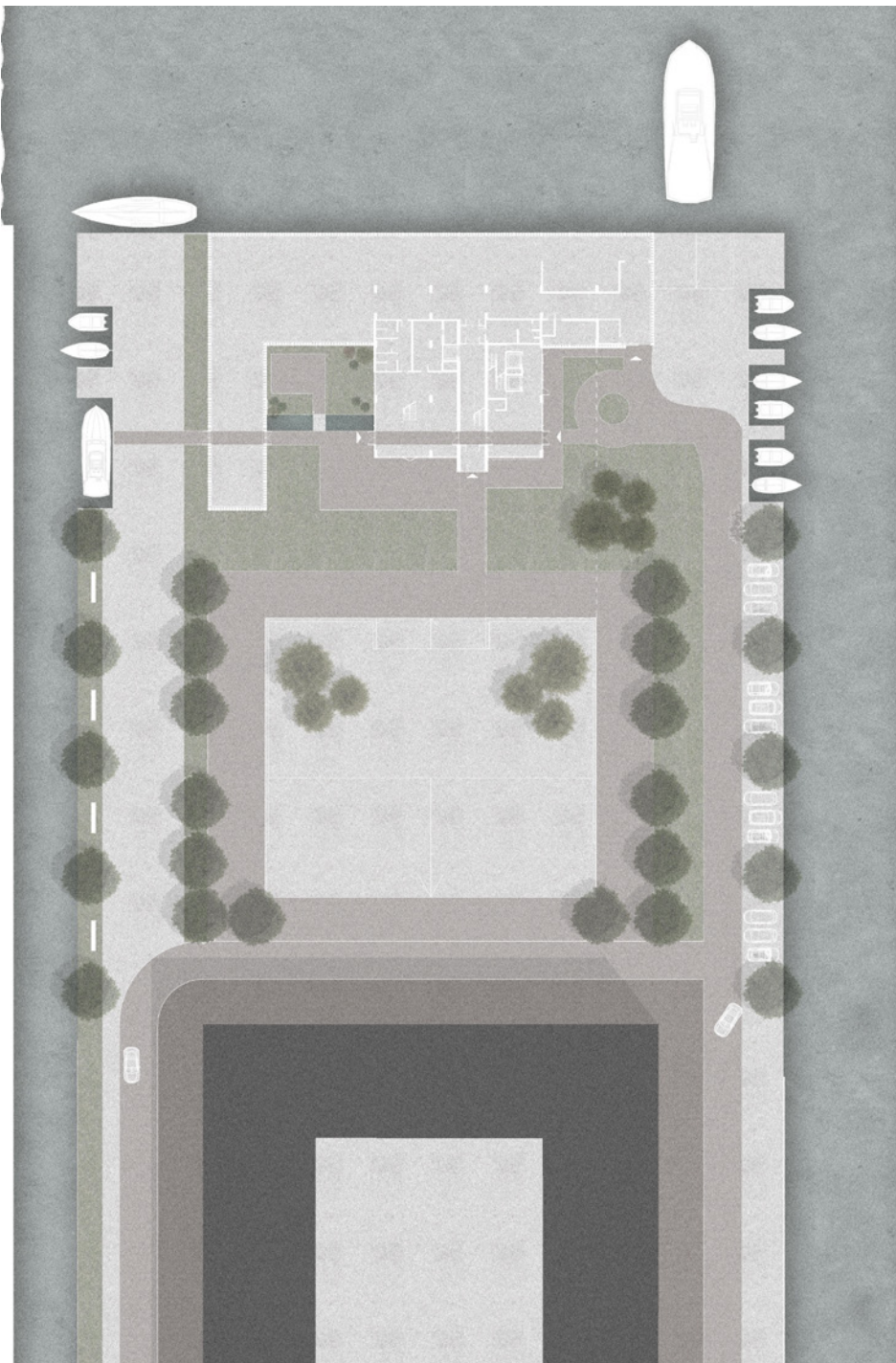






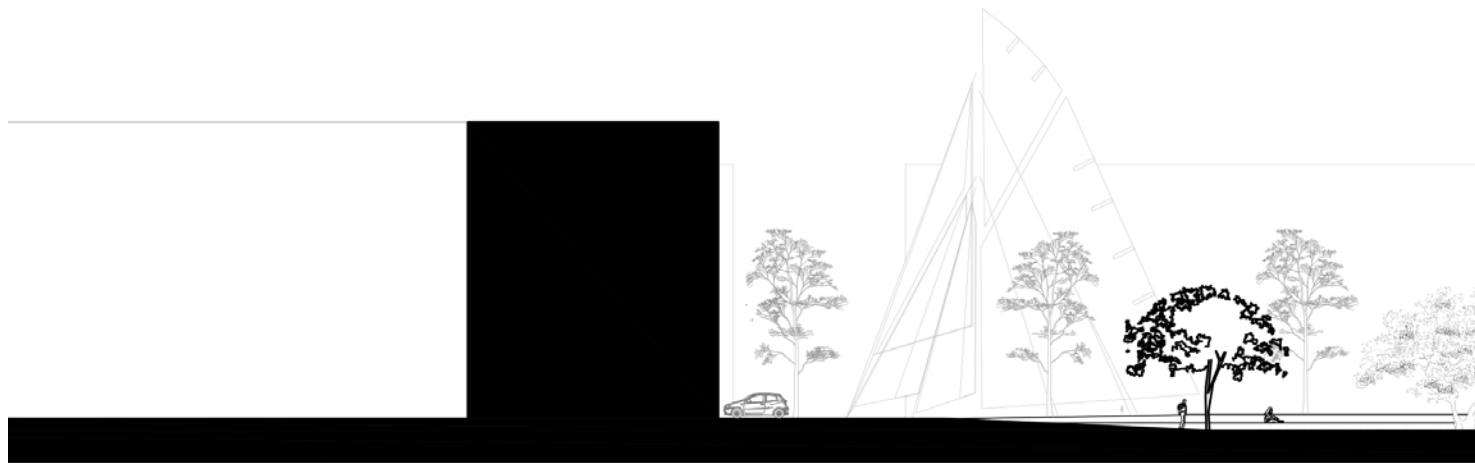


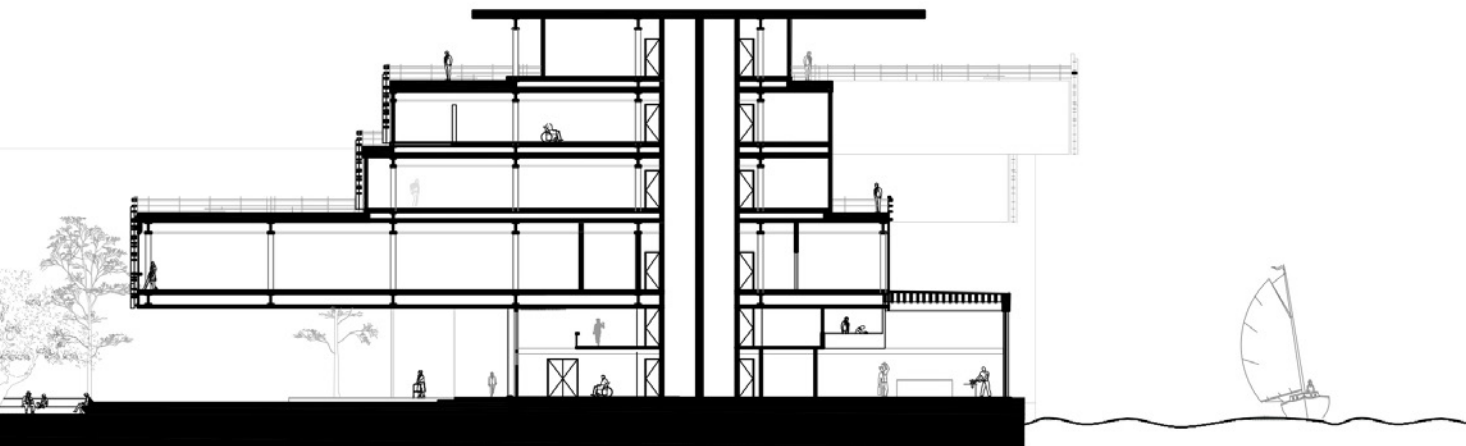




I decided to choose Houthaven as neighborhood of my project: it is a residential project, so it will fit with the new development, it has a strong public component, which will be beneficial for the whole residential area, and it has a link to the original identity of the neighborhood, because of the wood workshop.

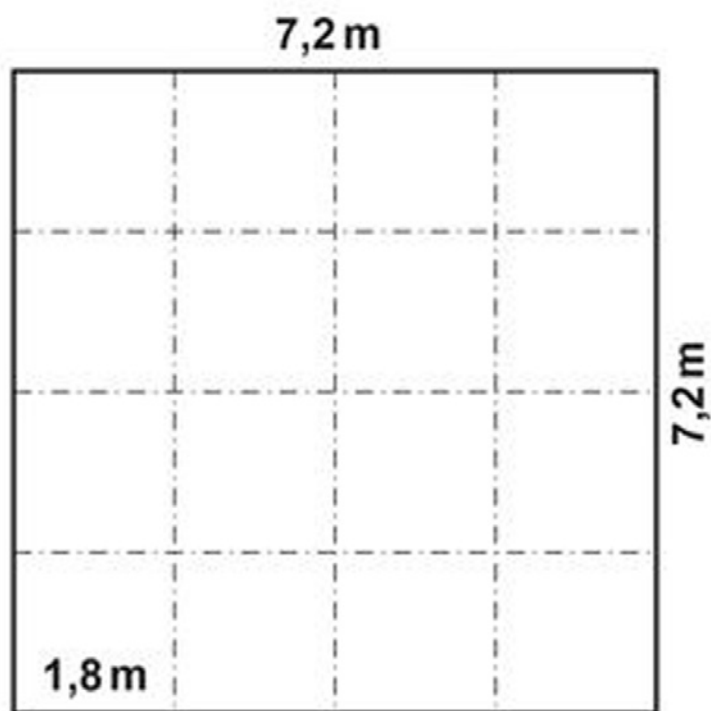
I choose to occupy the tip of the Revaleiland: the spot is great because it is on water, it is quite central in the new development, it has great light.





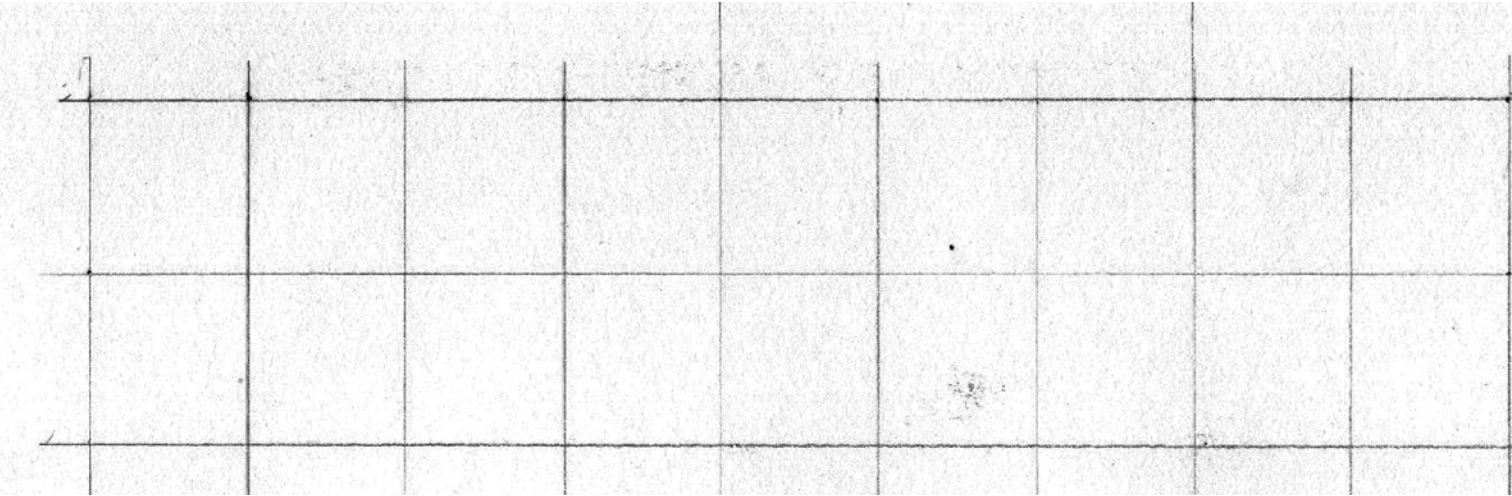






52 m²

Matrix



The design start from a constructive grid 7,2 x7,2 mt.
And everything in the design is related with this measurement

length of the whole building

57600 mm

28800mm

14400mm

7200mm

3600mm

1800mm

600mm

300mm

150mm

75mm

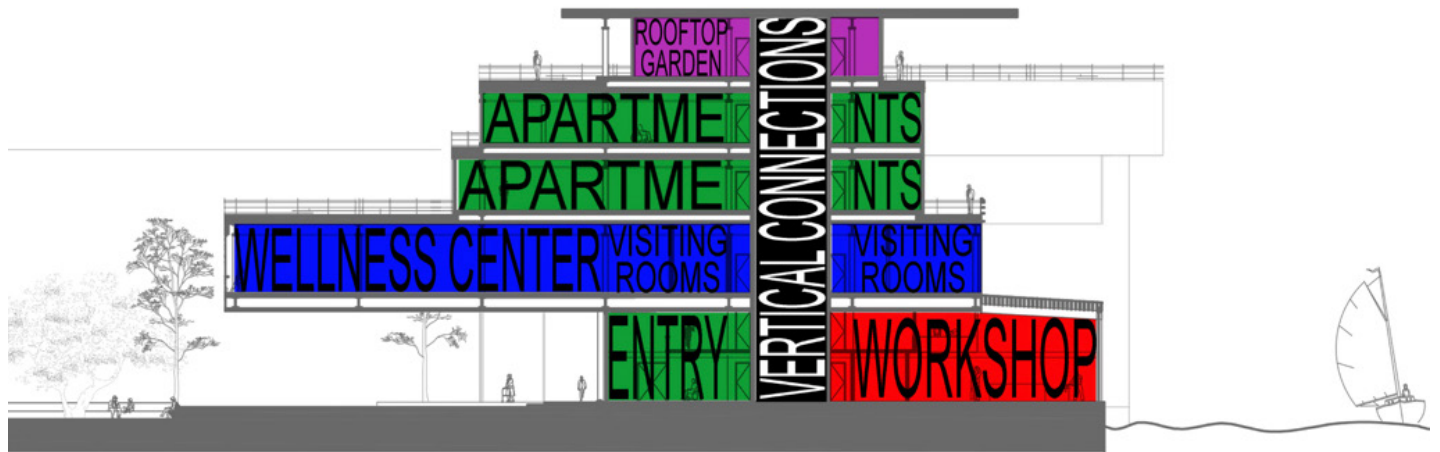
window frame size

Program



One of the main achievement of the building would be to create the right gradient of privacy, so that the apartments area would feel totally private, the healthcare would be a space where people still have their privacy but they could interact, if they want, the workshop would be a collective facility but still a safe learning environment and occasionally a public space for exhibitions and events, and the cafe would be the most public space, an extension of the public square.

To create this highly specific gradient of privacy, very important would be the relationships between the different spaces, the control on how people would go from one area to the other, and, obviously, the relations with the street, to control how people access the different facilities, what do they have to cross, what they would never meet if they are not residents etc.





workshop (800 m²)

- artisan workshop/exhibition space (180 m²)
- changing room, rest room (20 m²)
- delivery and storage (50 m²)



hortus (1400 m²)

- indoor space
- terrace



healthcare (600 m²)

- reception/waiting room (50m²)
- fitness/wellness (320 m²)
- 7 visiting rooms (20 m² each)
- deposit (30 m²)
- toilet (25 m²)



apartments (1400 m²)

- Small units (45 m² x 10)
- Medium units (60 m² x 9)
- Large units (72 m² x 7)

Overview of the different facilities included in the program.



café (350 m²)

- indoor space
- terrace

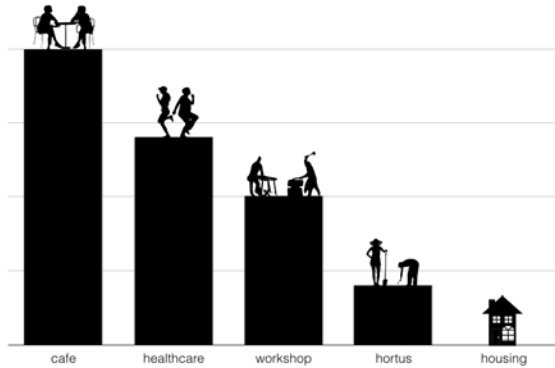


Diagram of the different degrees of privacy of each part of the program.

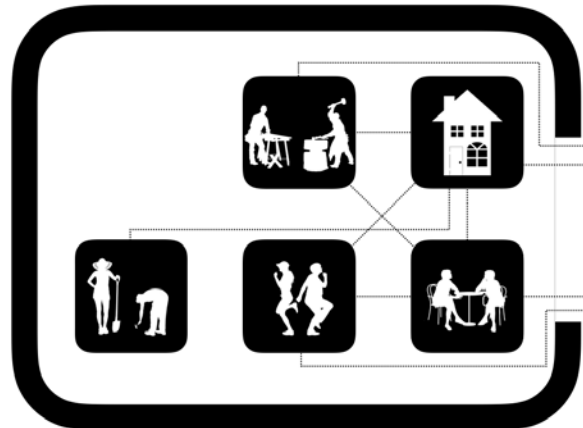
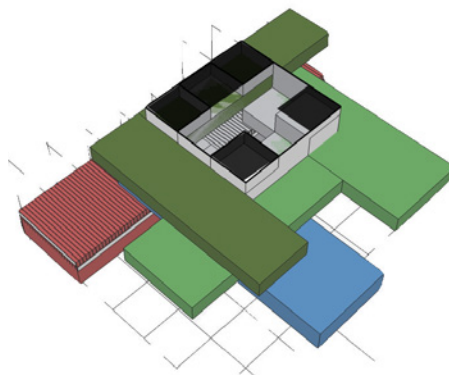
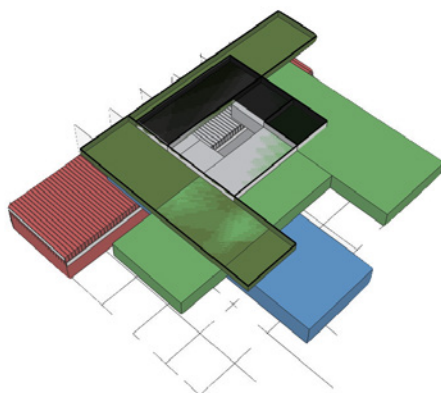
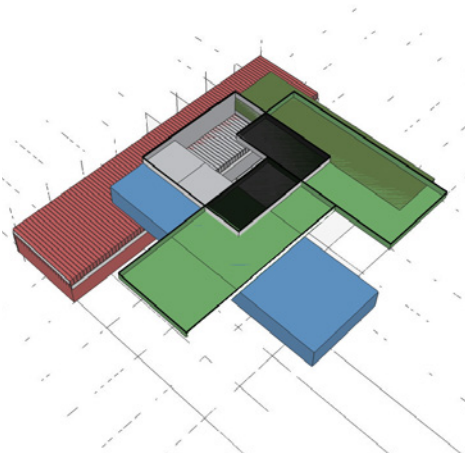
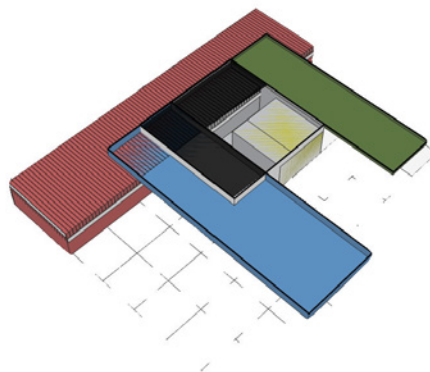
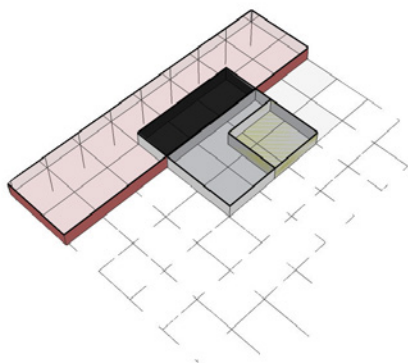
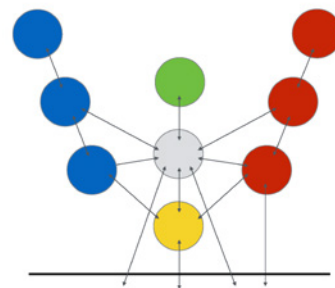
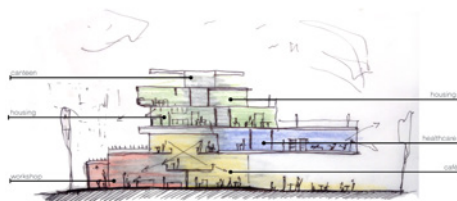
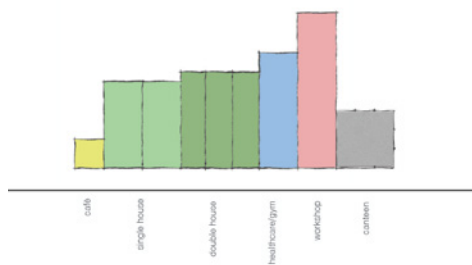
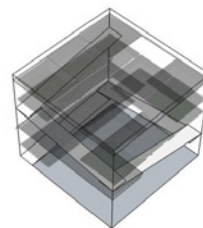
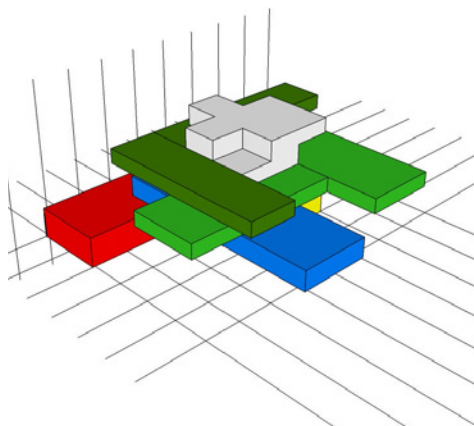
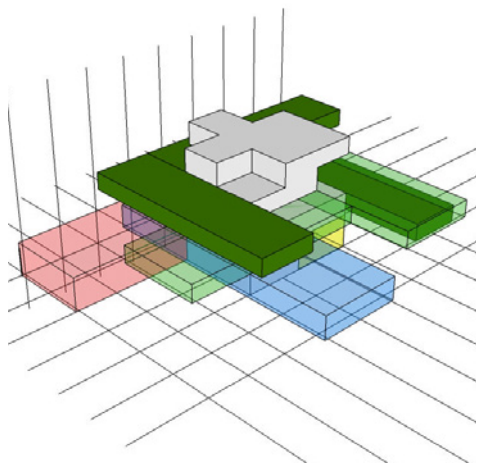
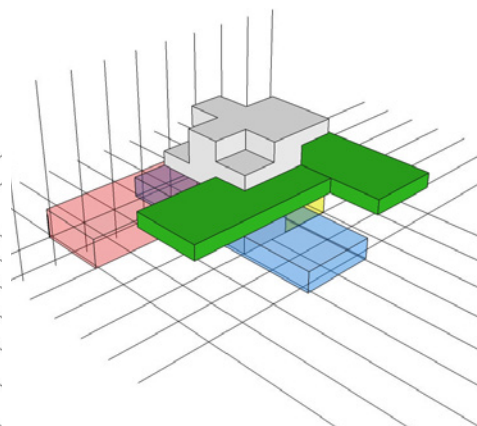
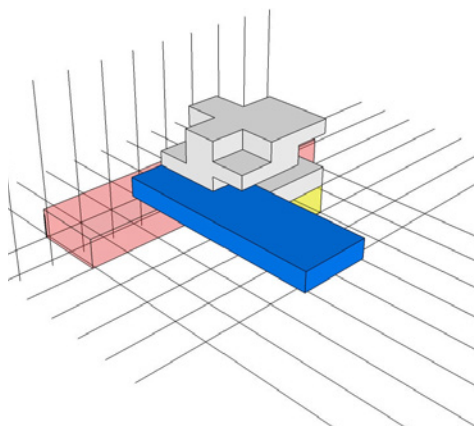
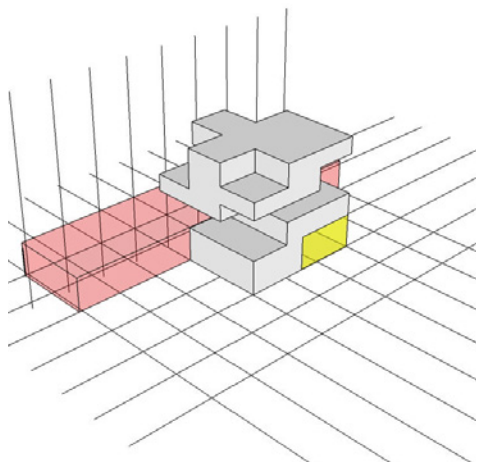
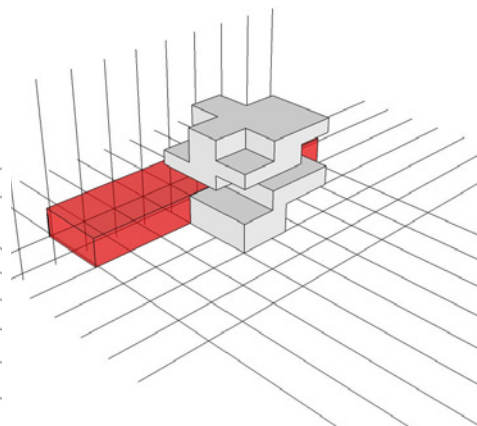
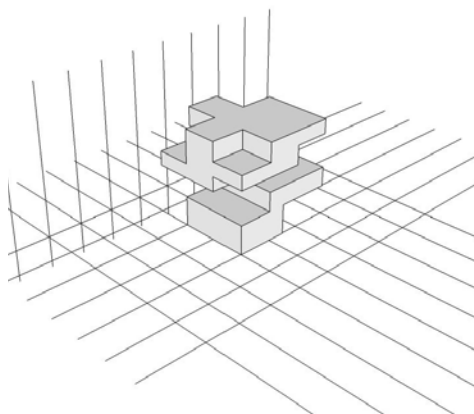
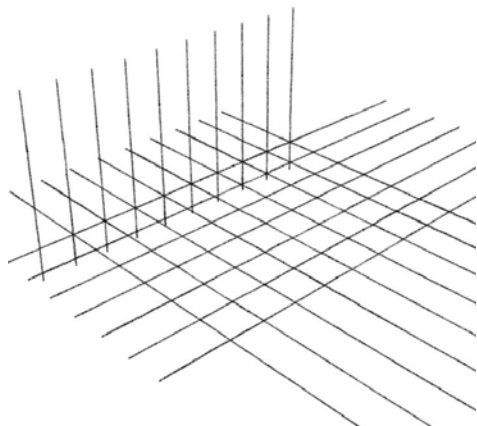
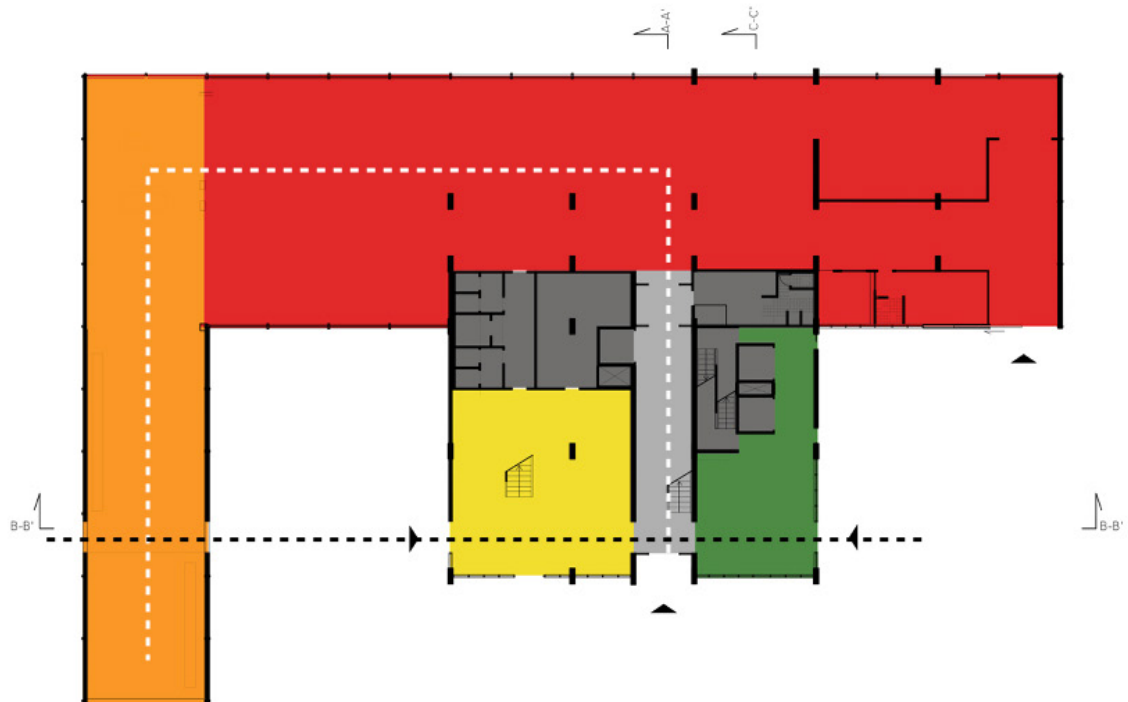


Diagram of the accesses, and of the connections between the functions.





program: ground floor



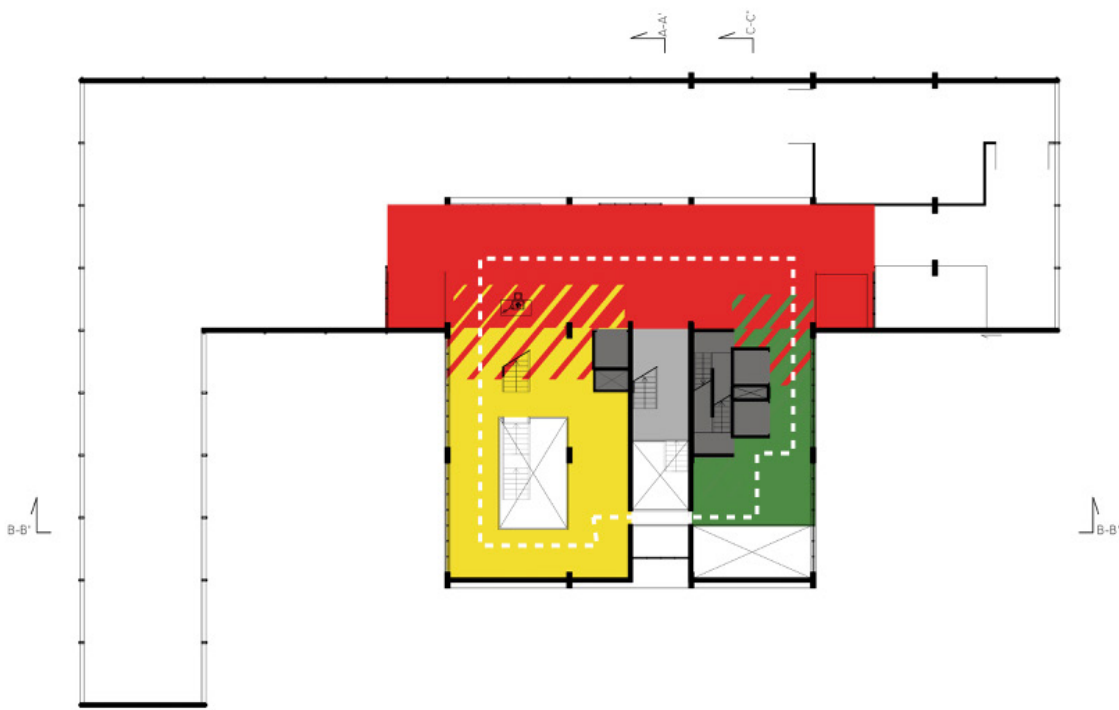
ground floor, 1300m²

lobby 84m²
 entrance 52 m²
 café 112m²
 kitchen 32m²
 workshop 540m²
 exposition 150m²
 storage+office 200m²
 services 130m²



© 2000-2001

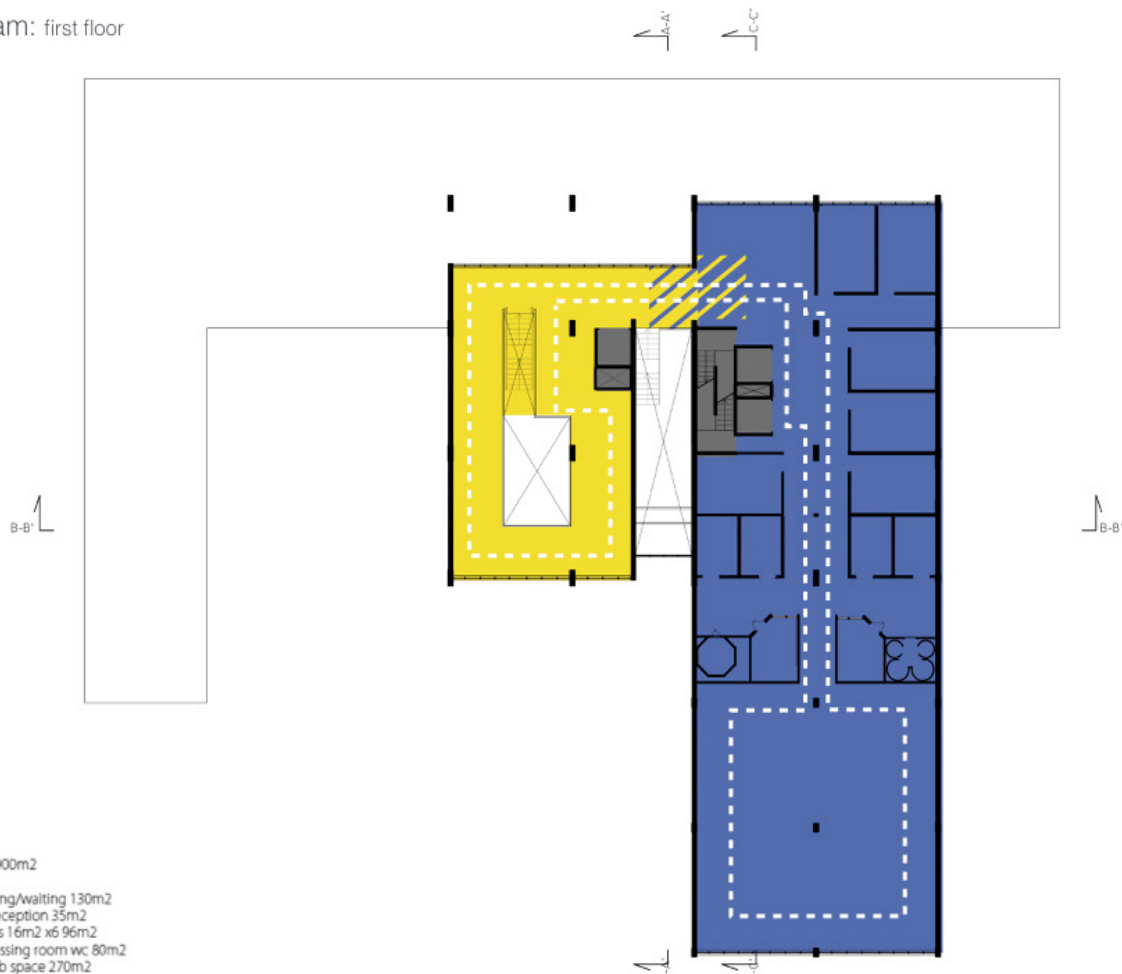
program: mezzanine



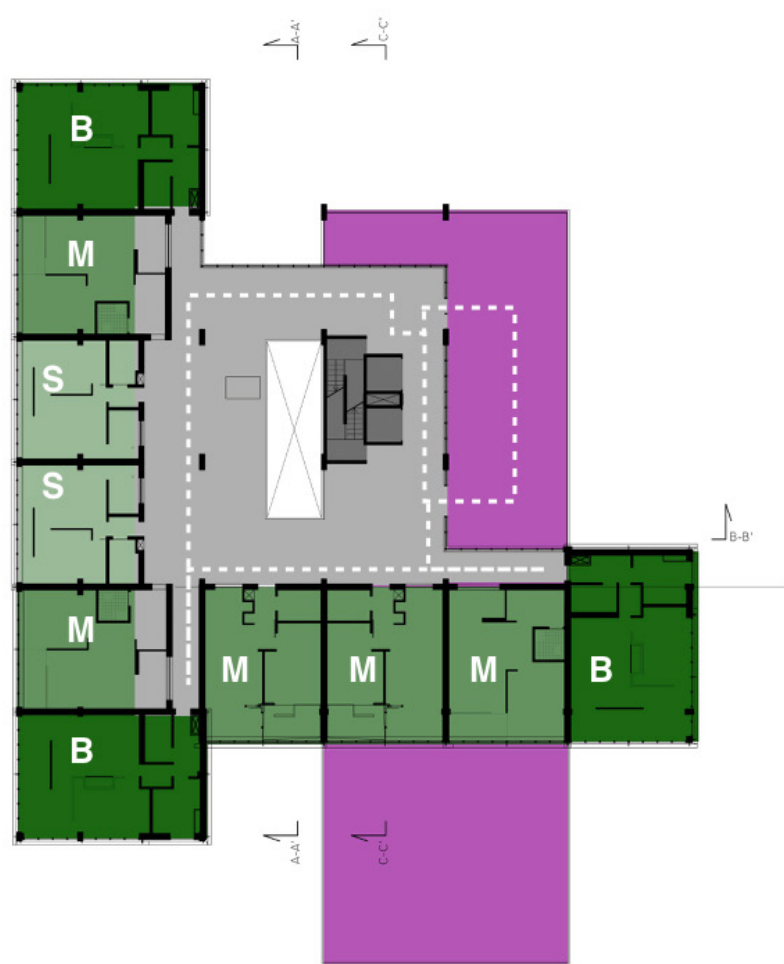
- mezzanine 322m2
- café/lounge 122m2
- working/shared place 134m2
- hallway 18m2

A-A' C-C'

program: first floor



program: second floor



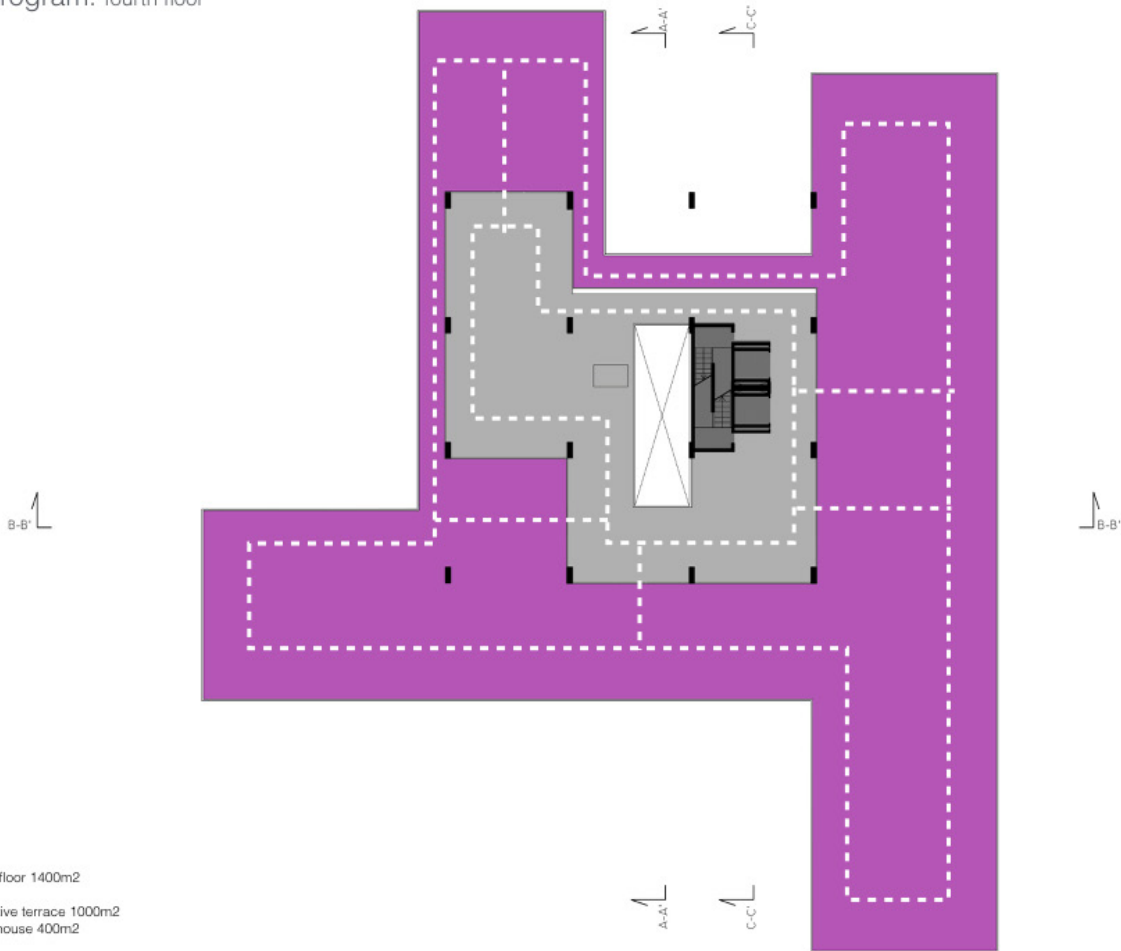
second floor 1200m2

public terrace 175m2
private terrace 150m2
hallway 300m2
apartment S 45m2 x4 180m2
apartment M 60m2 x3 180m2
apartment B 72m2 x3216m2

program: third floor

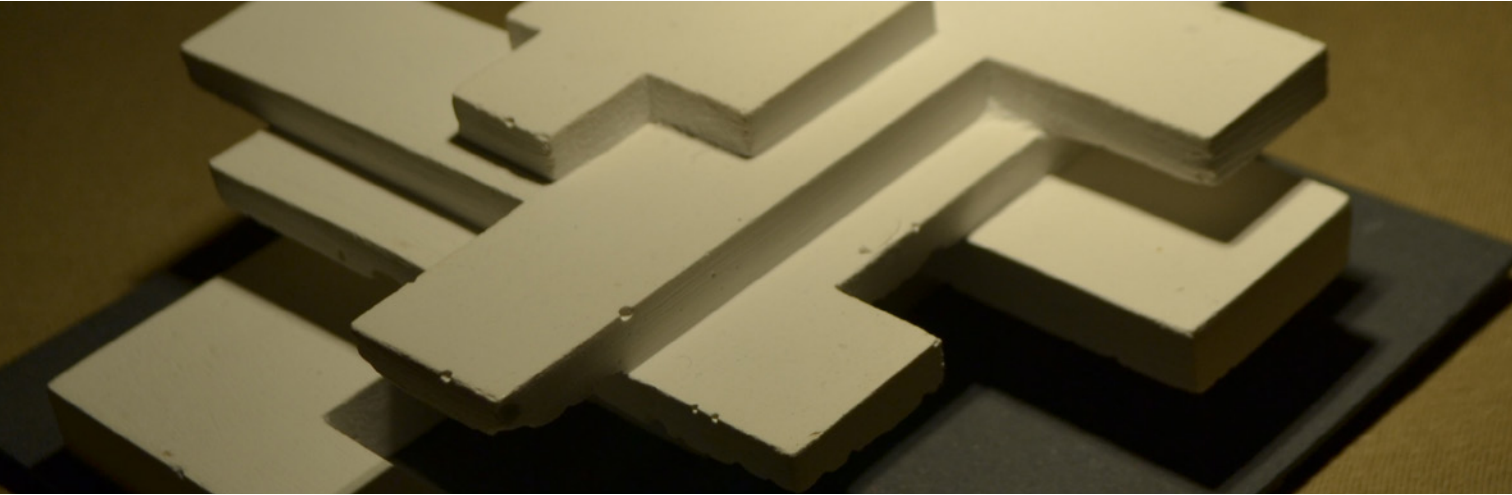


program: fourth floor



fourth floor 1400m2
collective terrace 1000m2
greenhouse 400m2

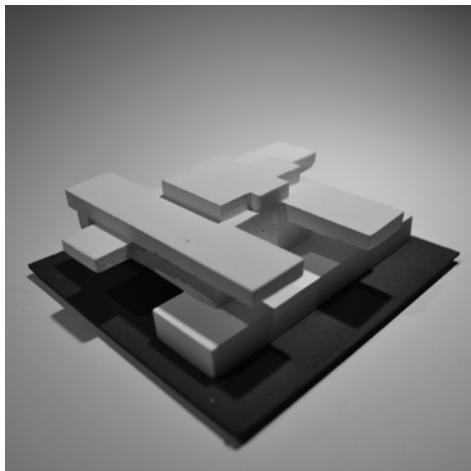
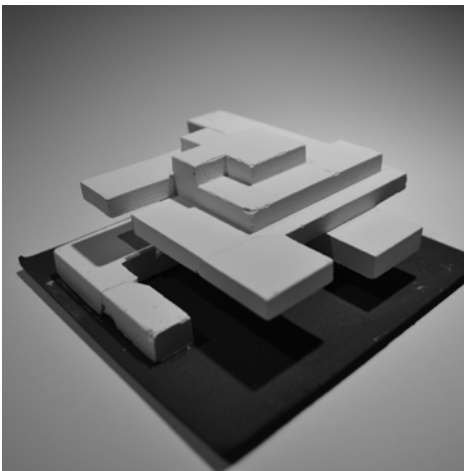
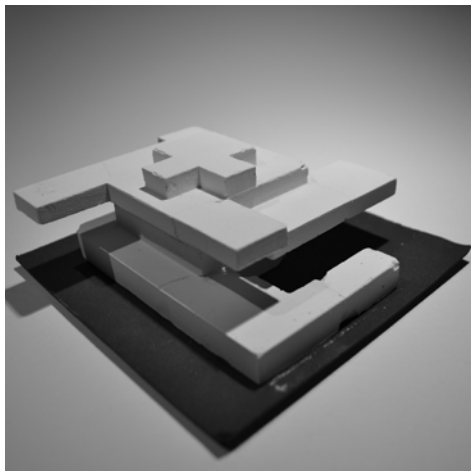
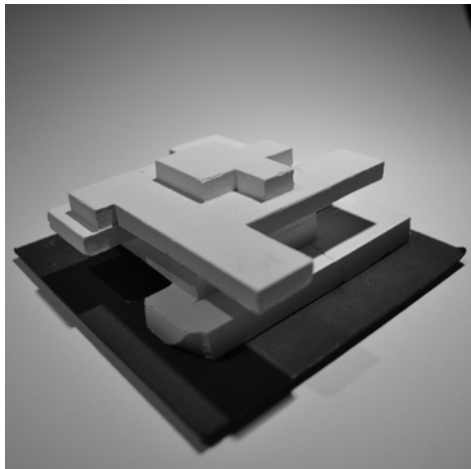
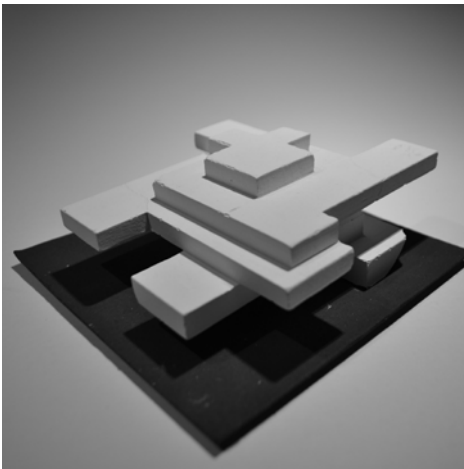
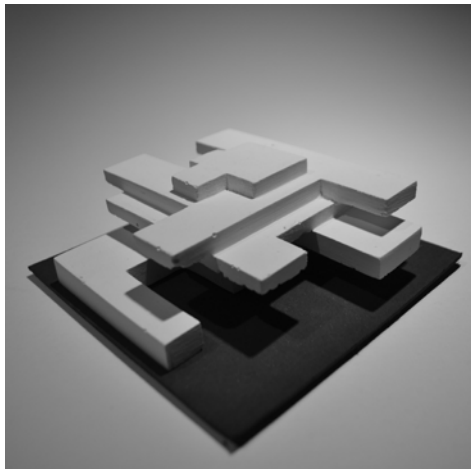
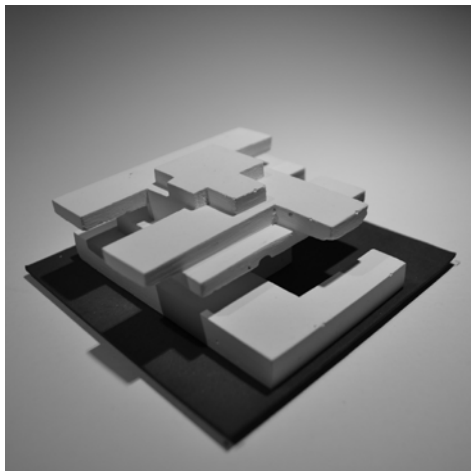
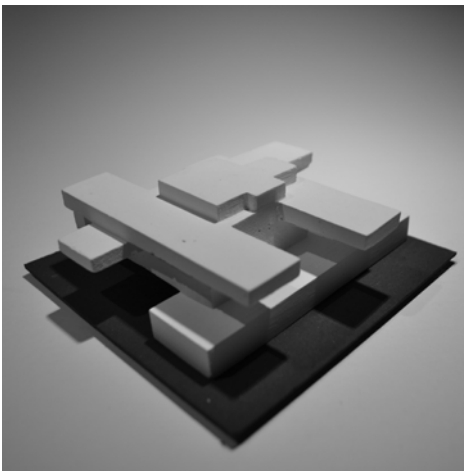
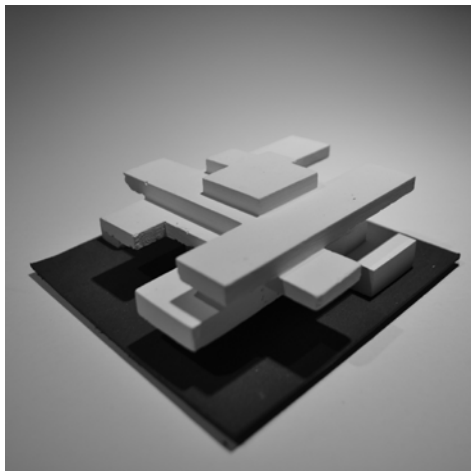
Design study

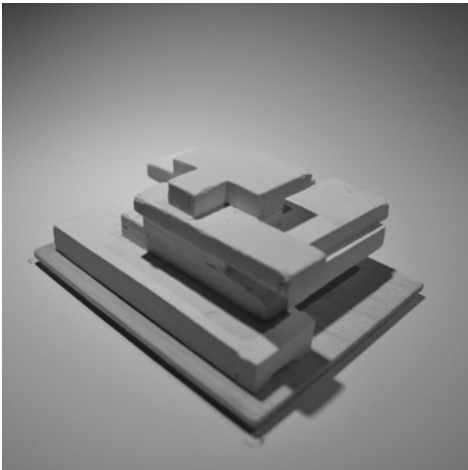
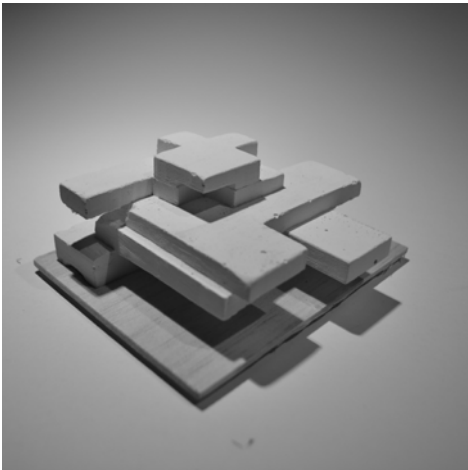
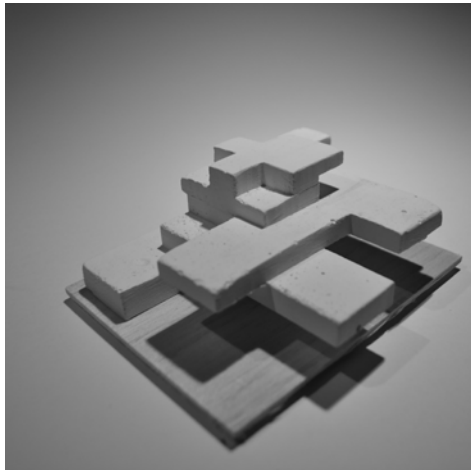
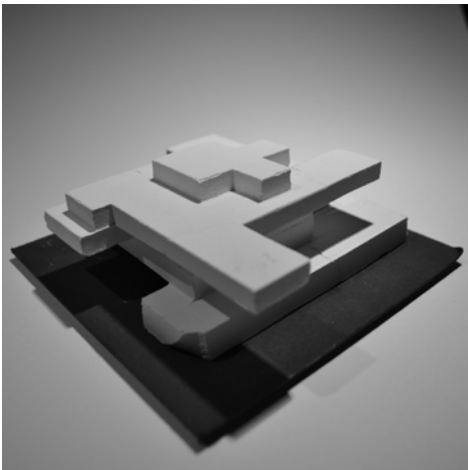
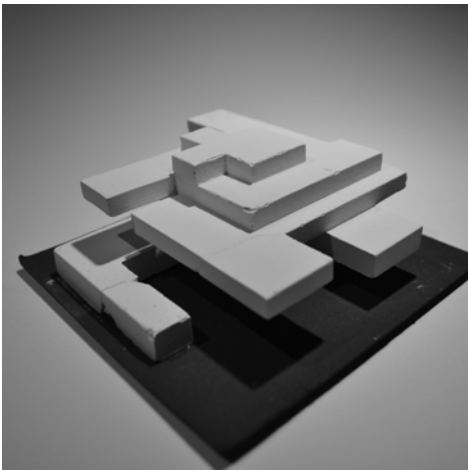
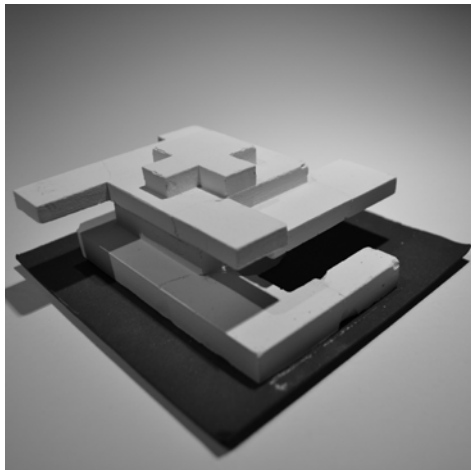
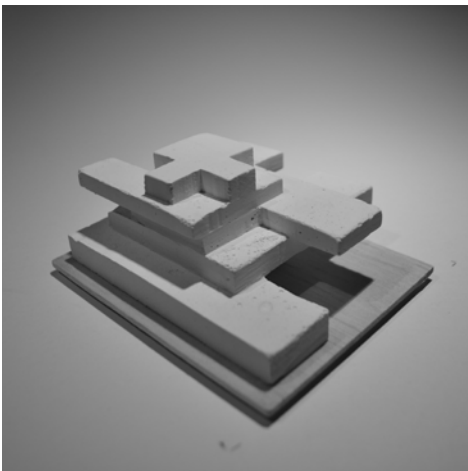
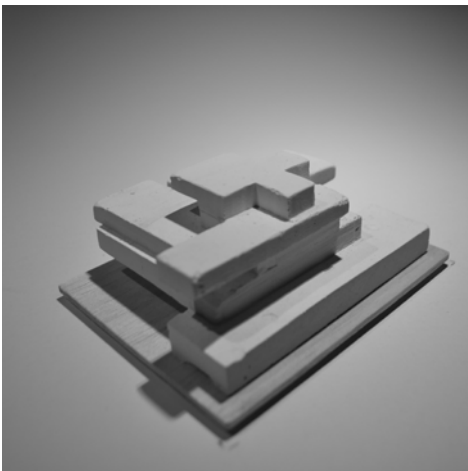
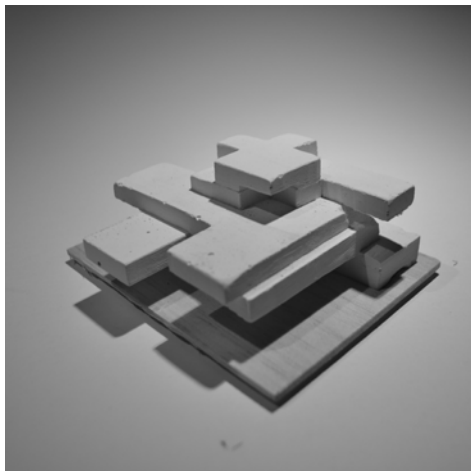


Since the program's volumes were defined, was the time to put them together.

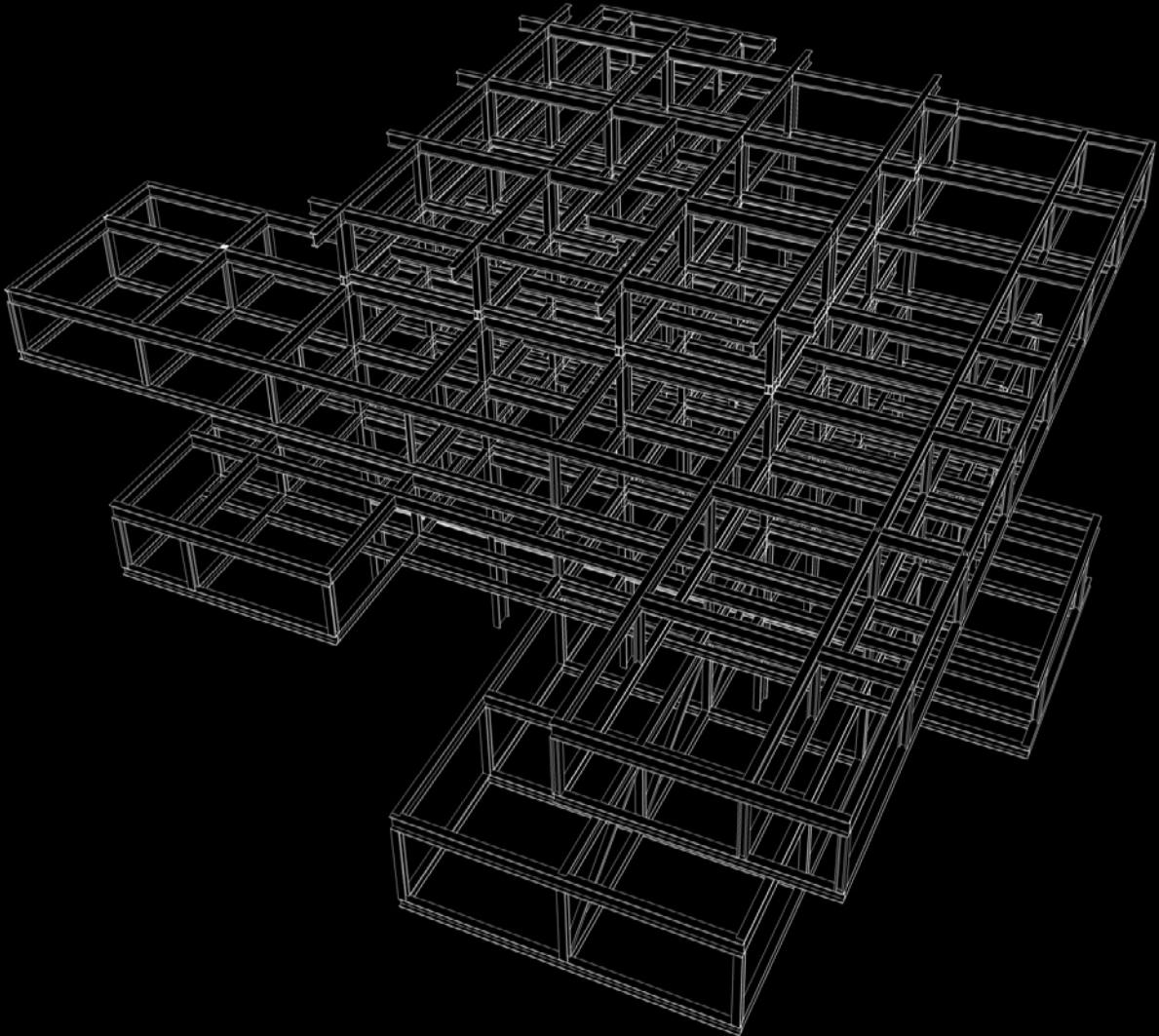
I choose to combine them respecting the place's nature:
orientation - light/shadow esposition - visual connection - view -
reserved against interaction places.

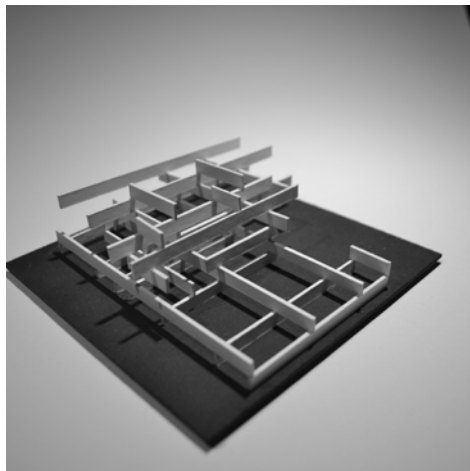
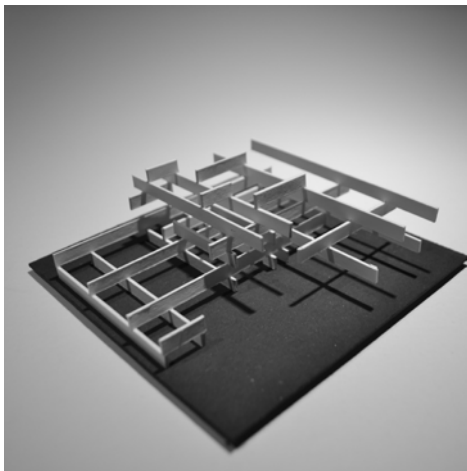
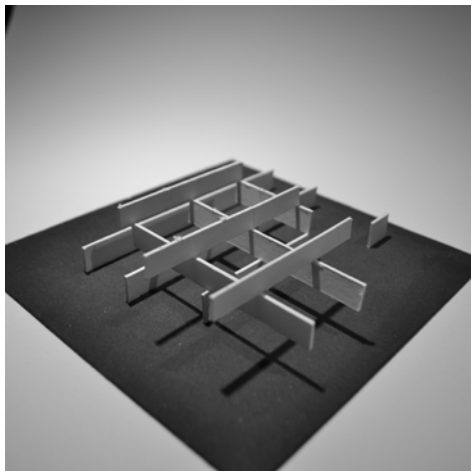
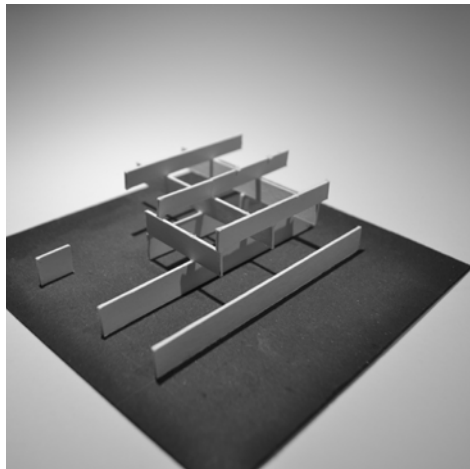
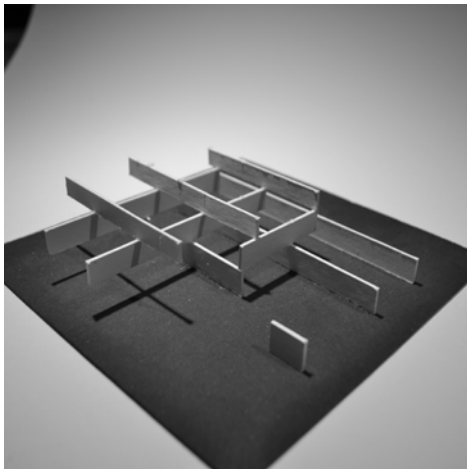
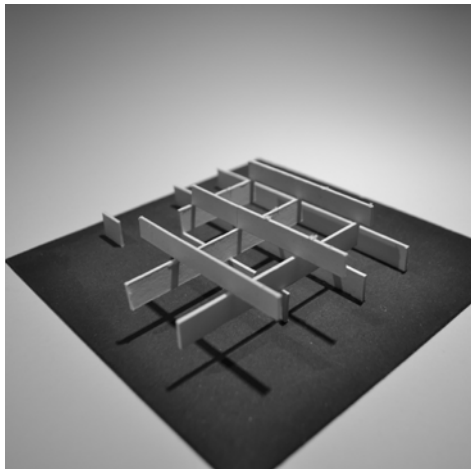
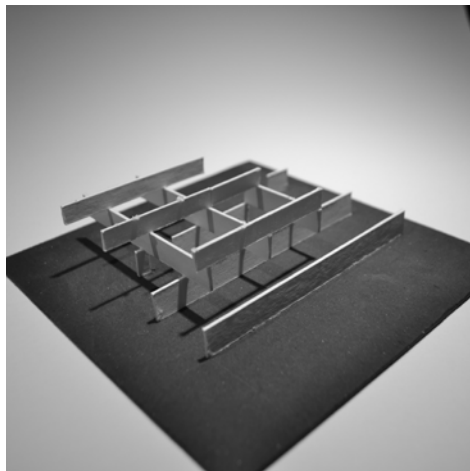
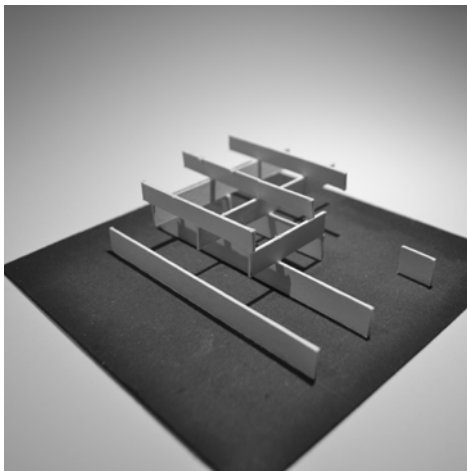
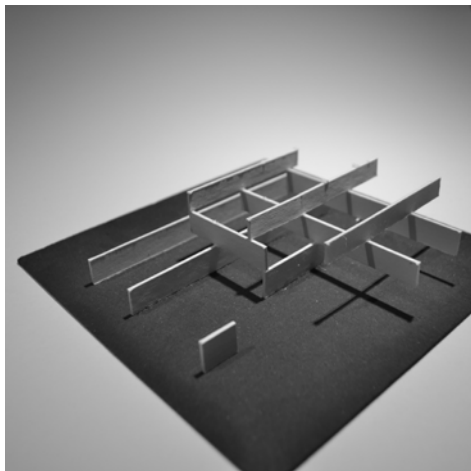
Always overlooking the whole in a almost sculptural way.

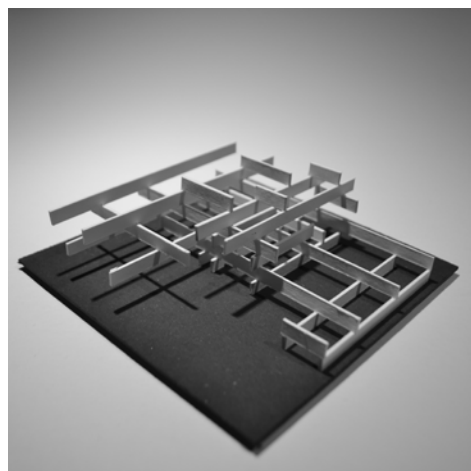
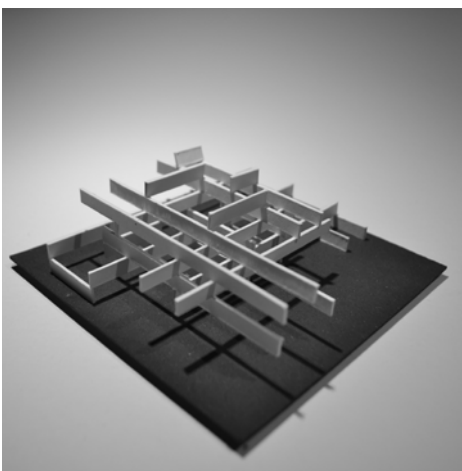
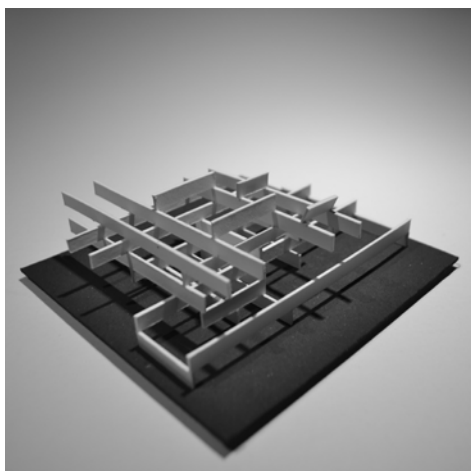
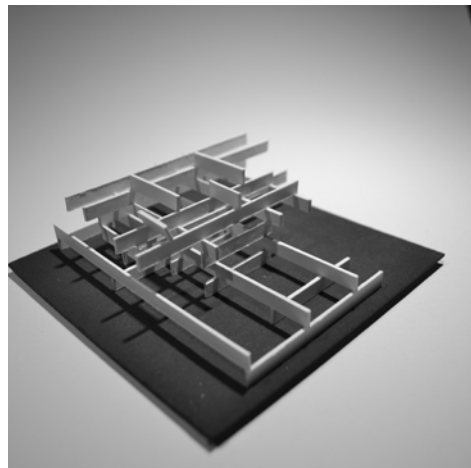
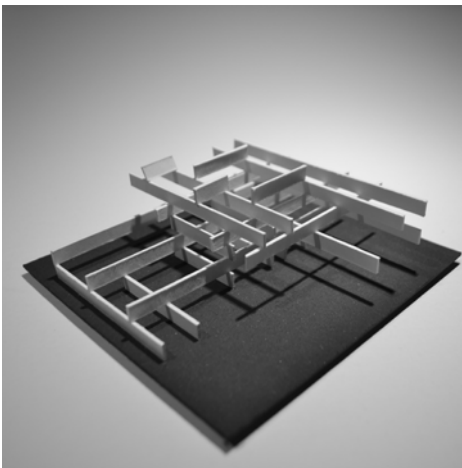
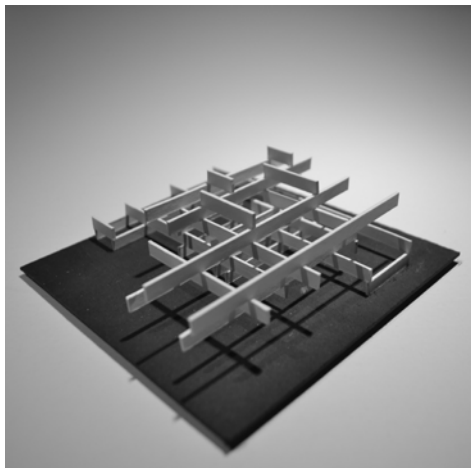
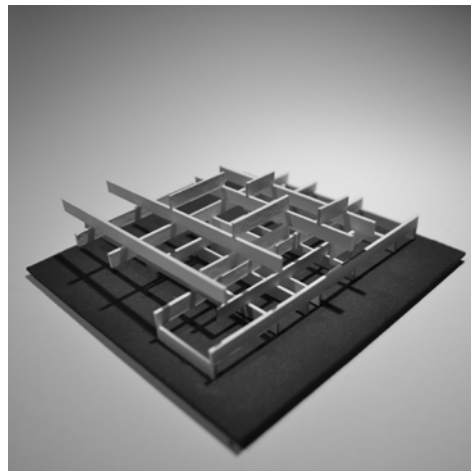
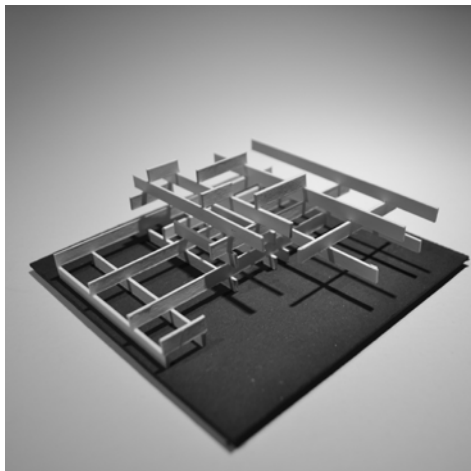




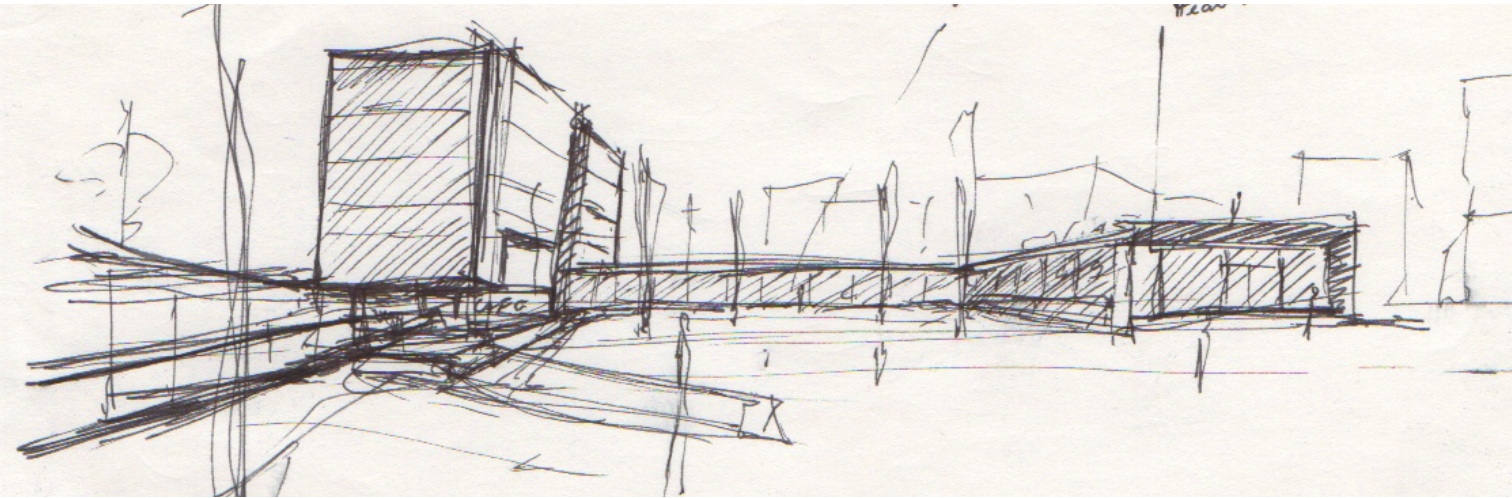
Structure study



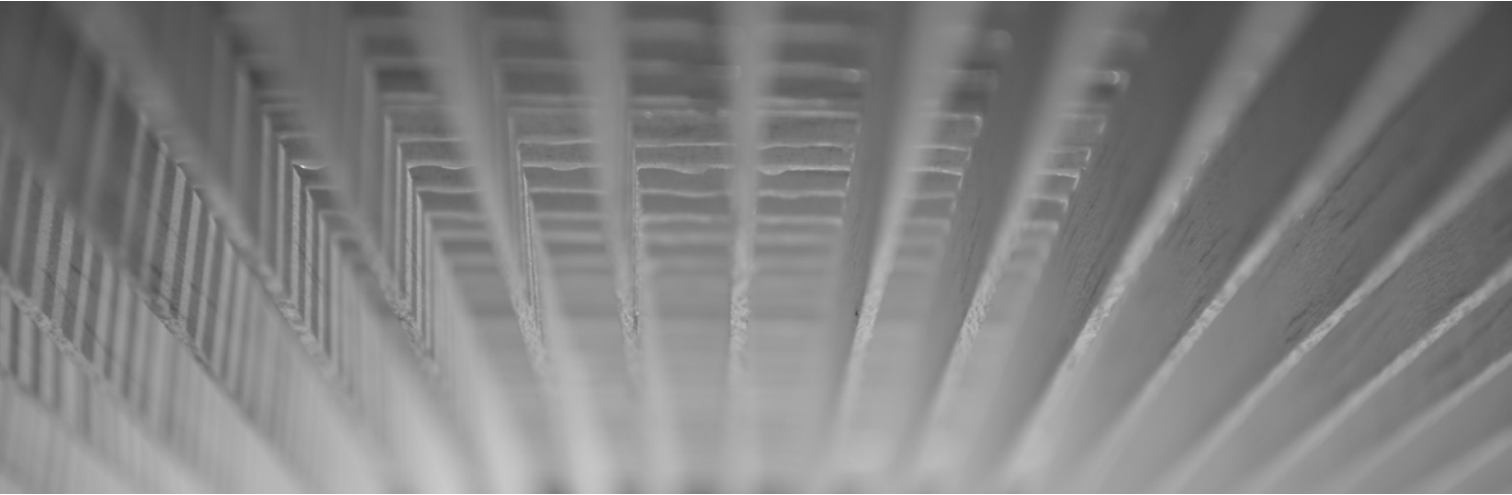




Design

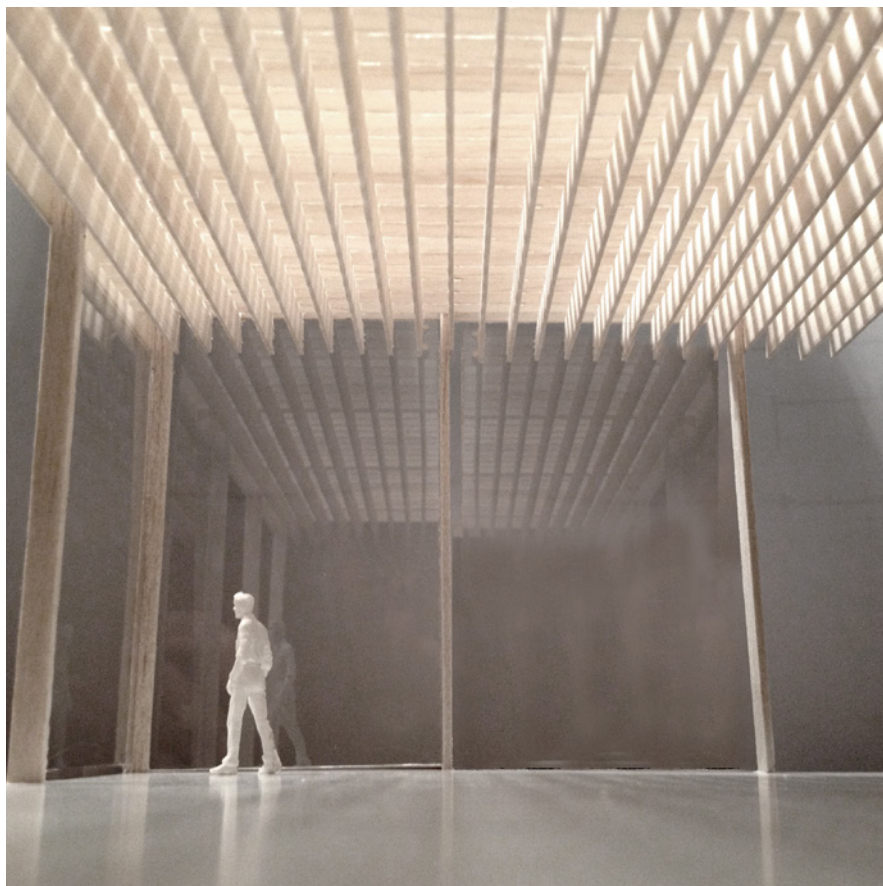


Workshop

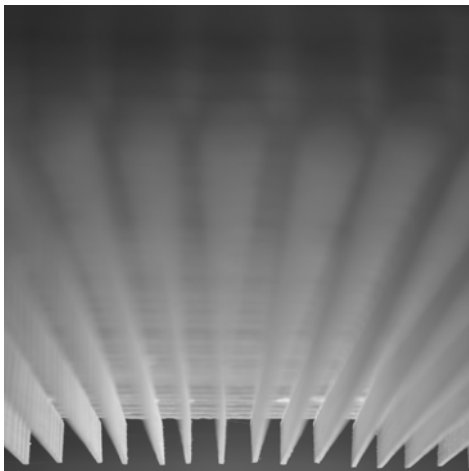
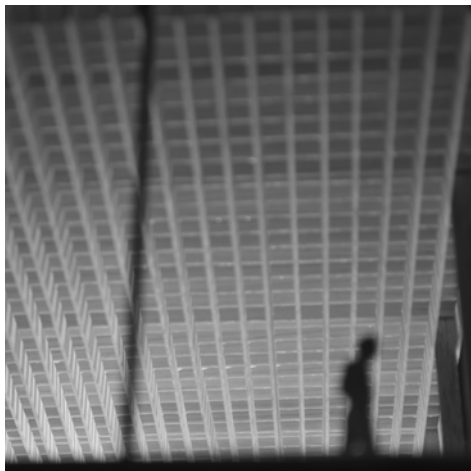
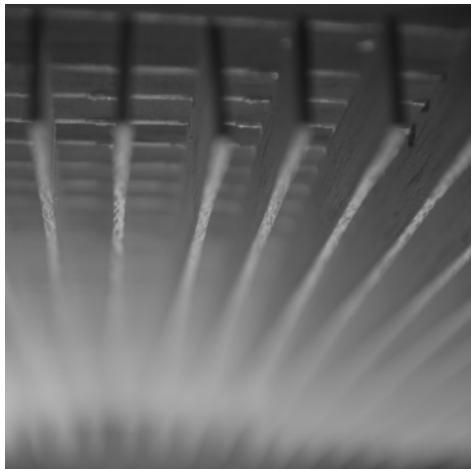
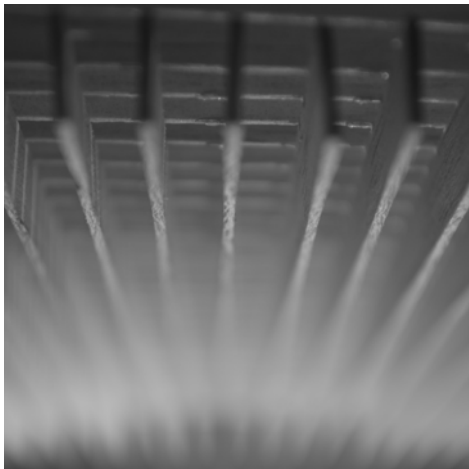
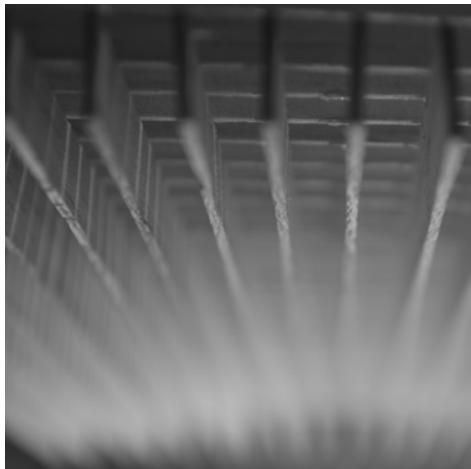
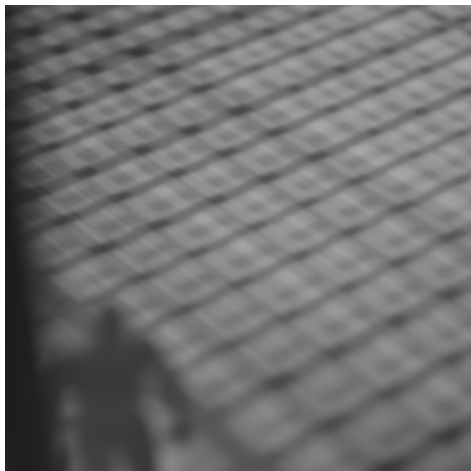
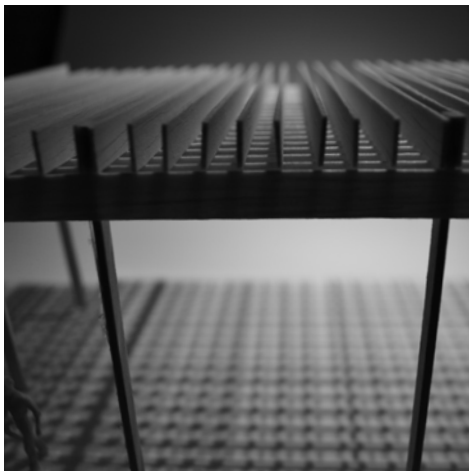
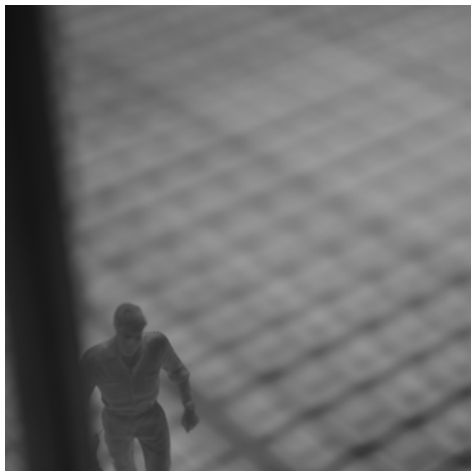


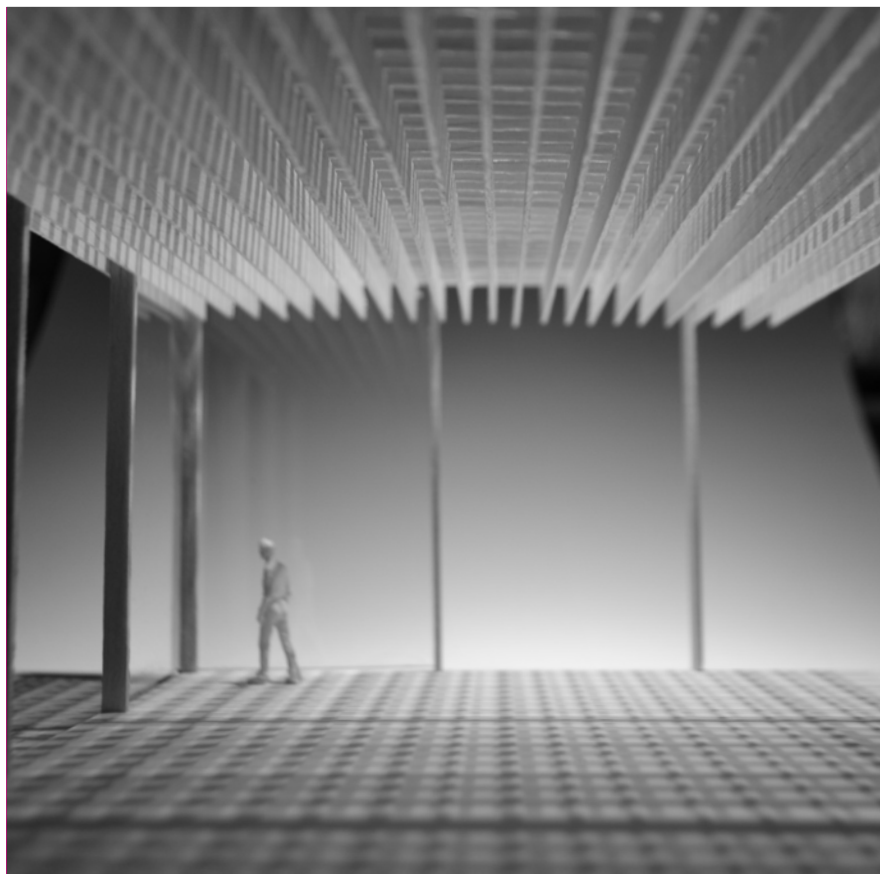
The workshop would be the central function of the building, a specific place where craftsmanship could be handed over to the next generation. Elderly people would feel useful and active again, regaining their natural role of 'masters', while young people at the begin of their professional life, could learn new skills.

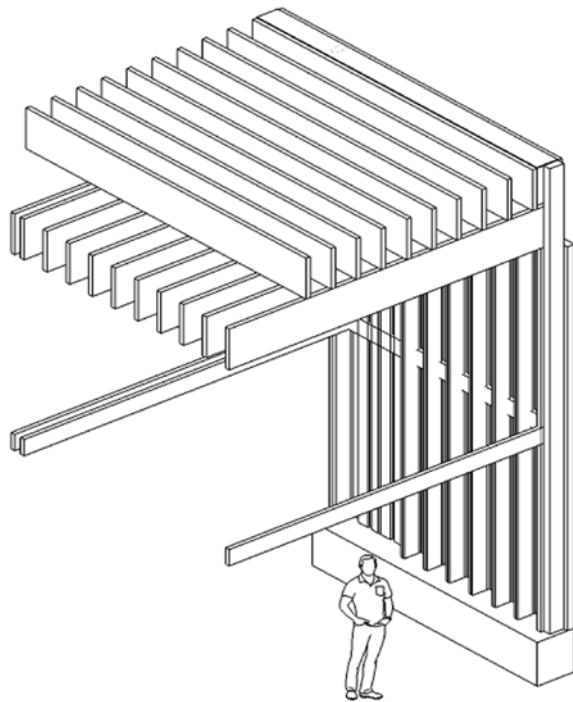
The construction of the workshop space differs from the rest of the building, making it a recognizable space even from outside. The open structure creates a connection with the square, while the roof provides the space with a diffuse light, perfect for working.

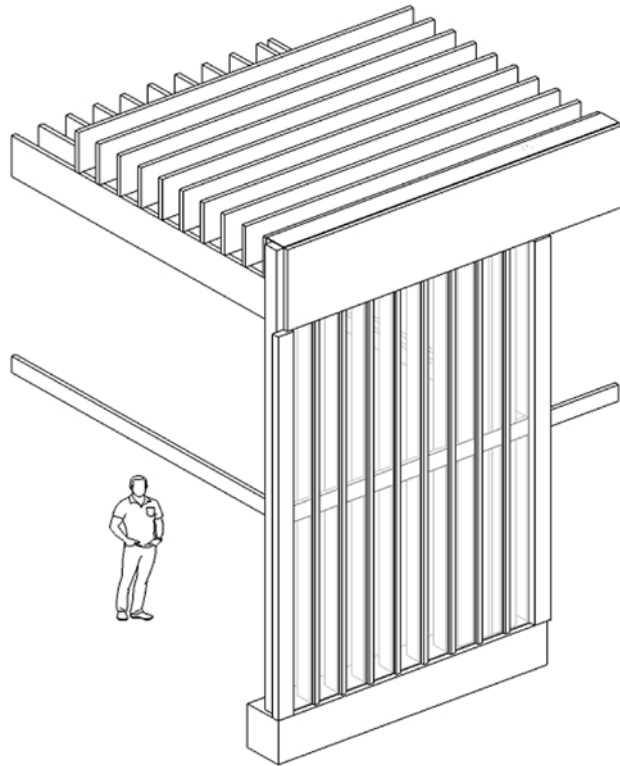












Axonometric diagrams of the workshop construction











Several collective - lounge areas are located in the building, always around one of the voids. These areas are part of the specific program they relate to (lounge of the café, waiting area for the healthcare/wellness center, communal residential spaces), but at the same time they generate a new, vertical collective space for the whole building, to promote interaction between different age groups and between different users.











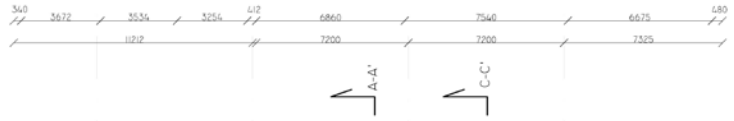


The collective spaces on the two residential floors are only for the residents. Opening on the void, they generate a connection with the rest of the building as well as a shared communal living space for the different apartments. All the apartments have a designed opening, an indoor window that connects the kitchen with the collective space. The kitchen becomes then a buffer between the private space of the apartment and the collective space outside the apartment. The design of the collective areas allow the residents to colonize the space and use it in different ways, without providing a specific program.



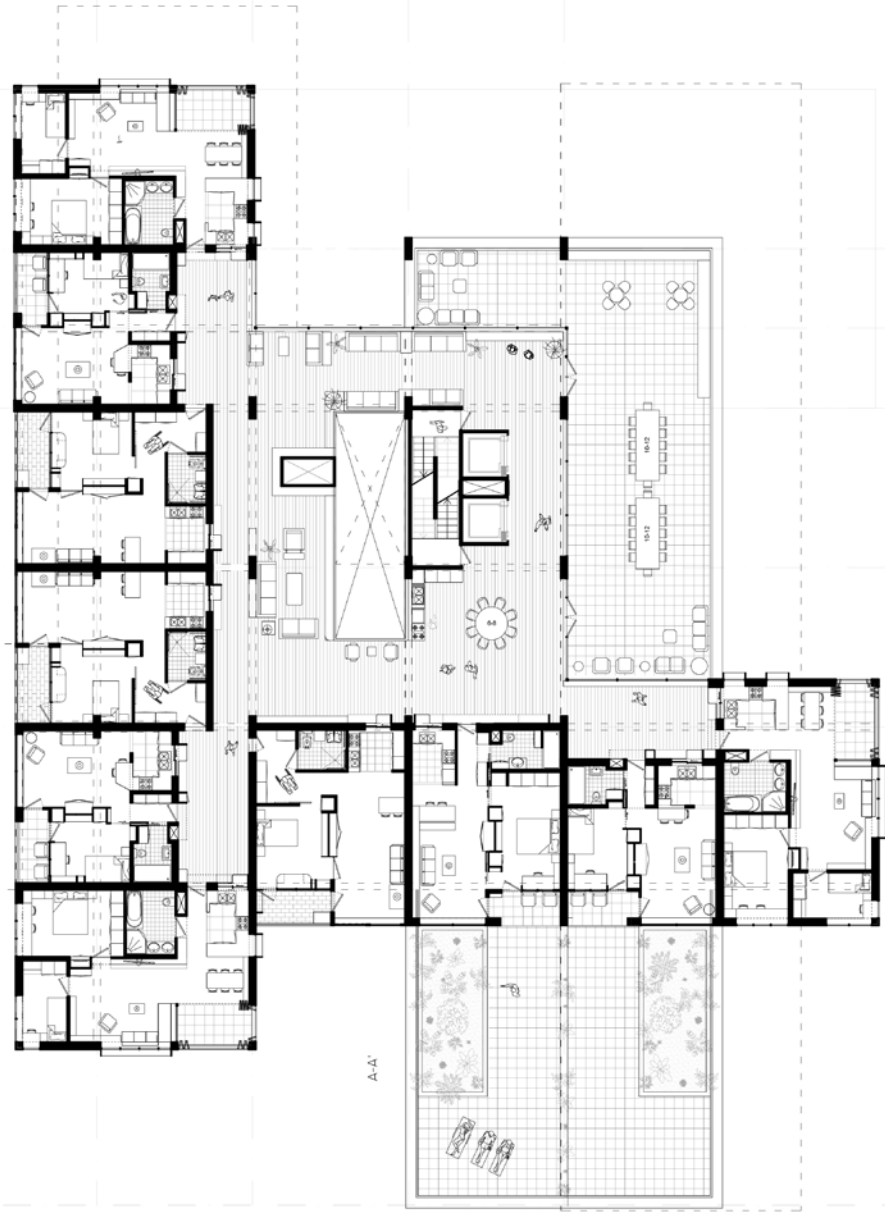


B-B'



A-A'

C-C'



A-A'

A-A'

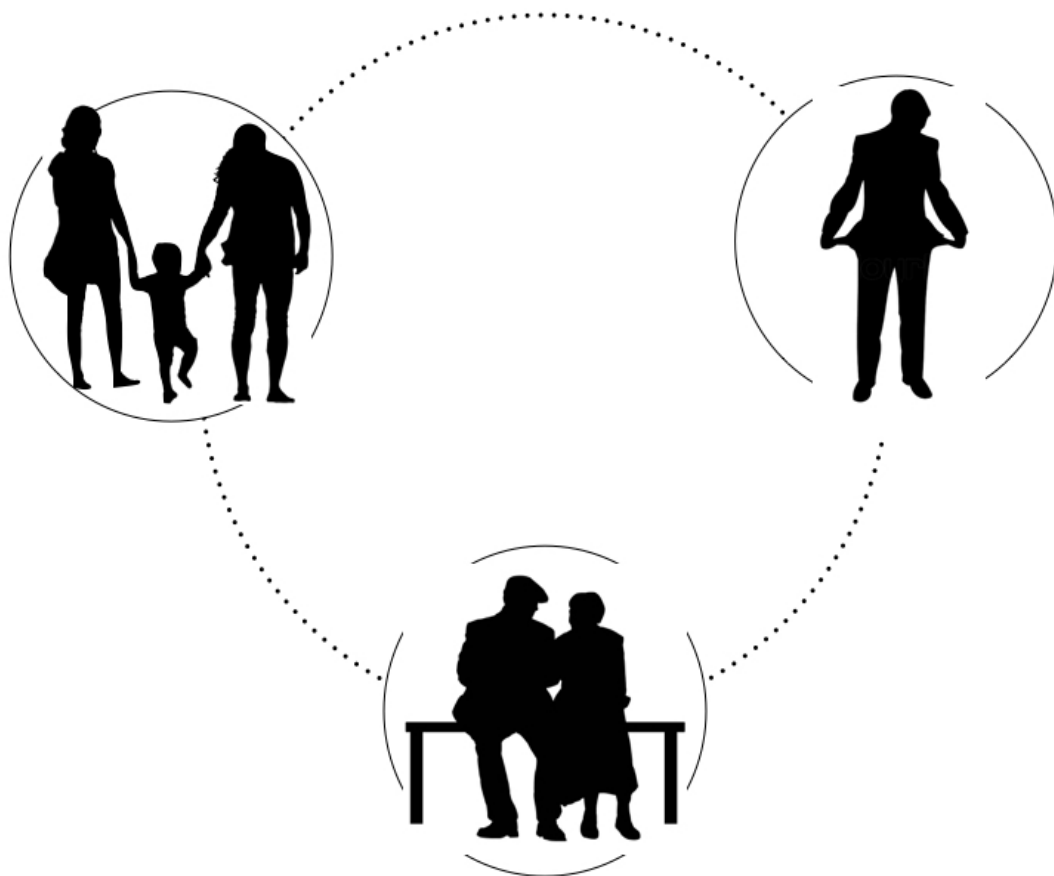
C-C'



B-B'

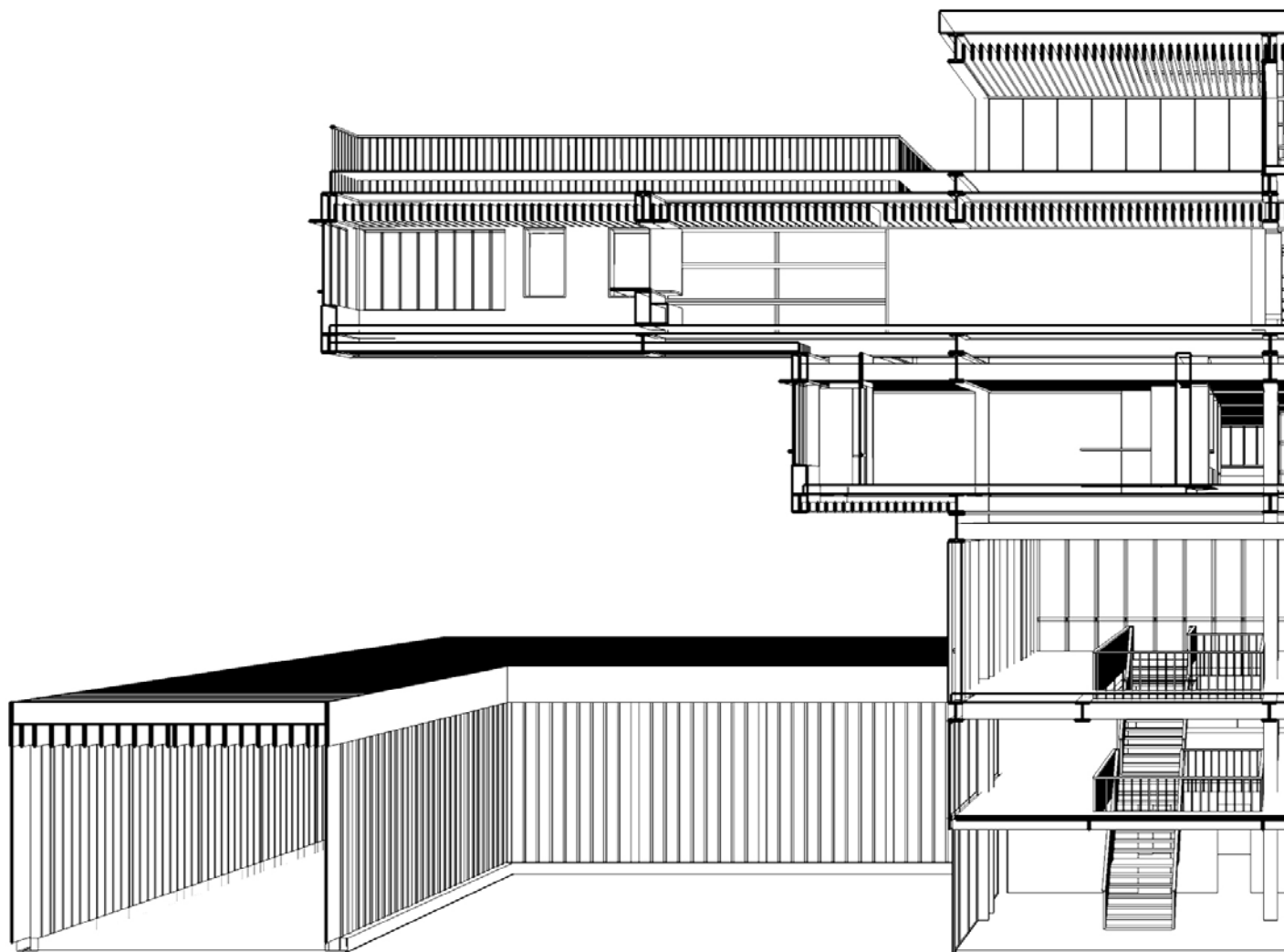


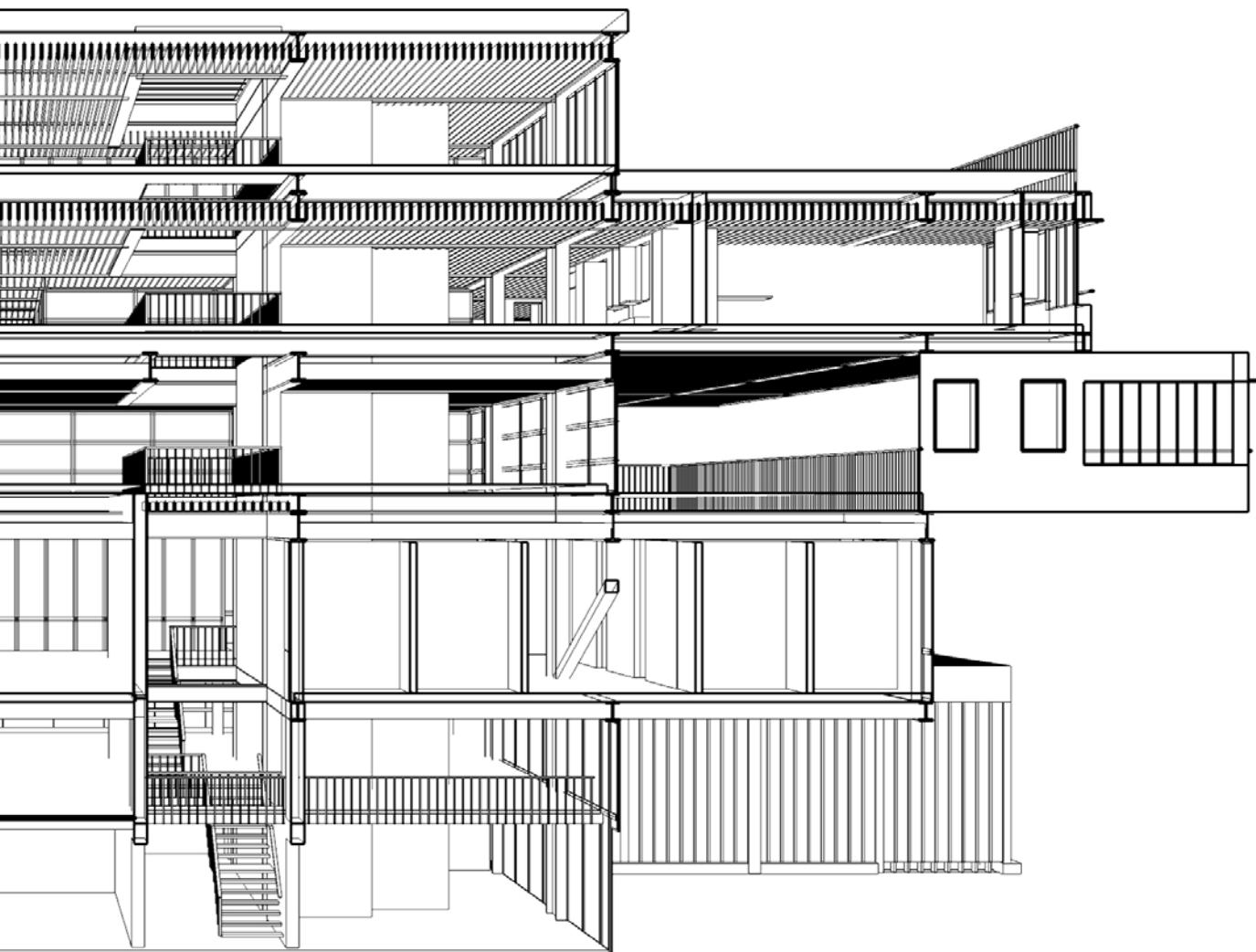






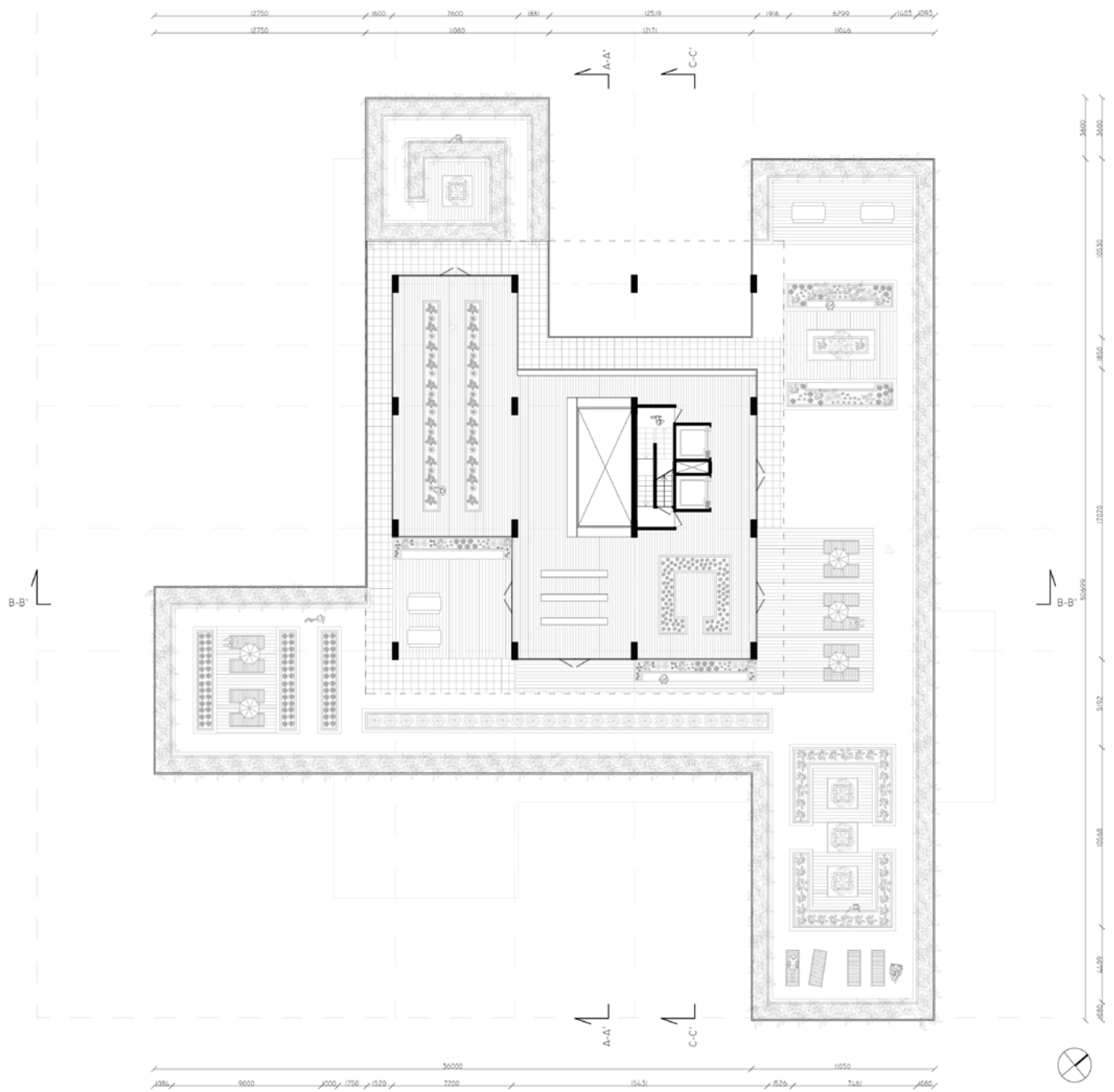






The voids of the building, generated by the stacking volumes, provide vertical connections between the different floors and between the different functions in the program. These connections will generate a sense of community and allow the continuous copresence of the different users of the building.



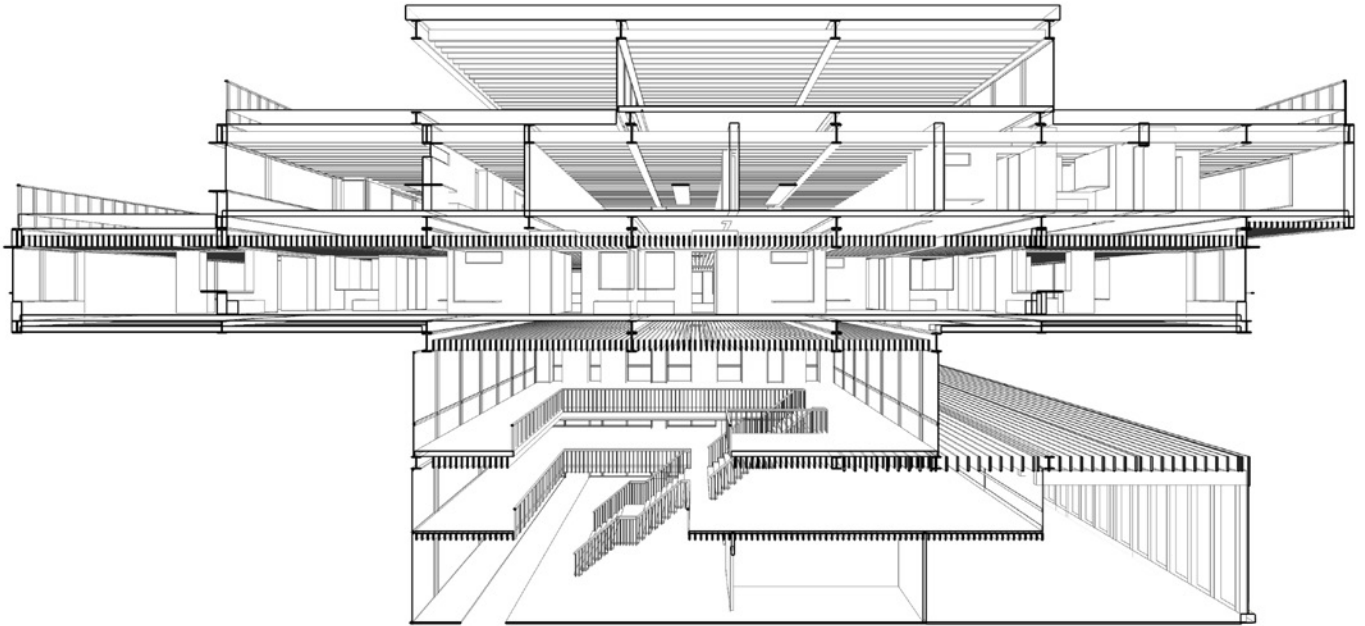


Fourth floor +18600

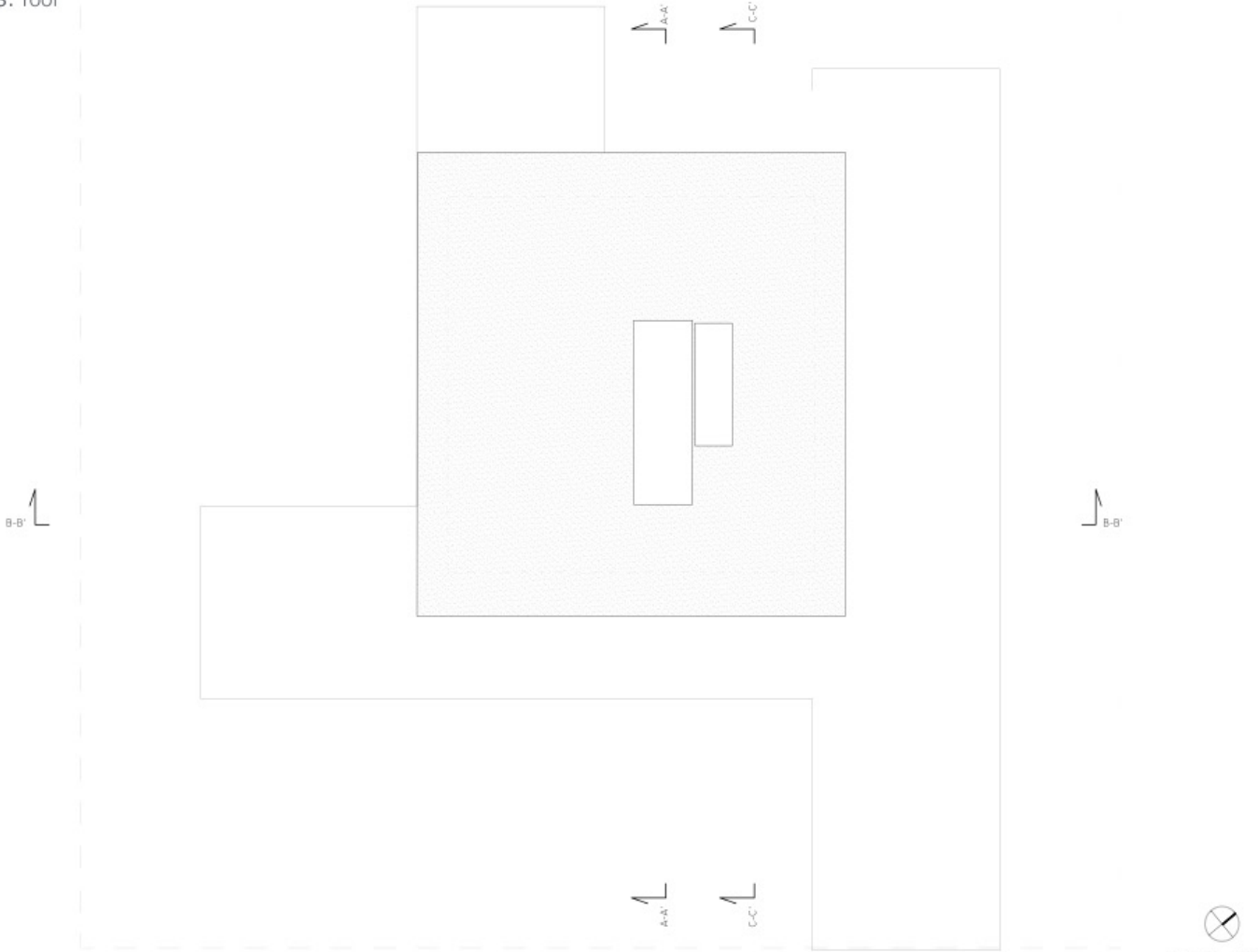


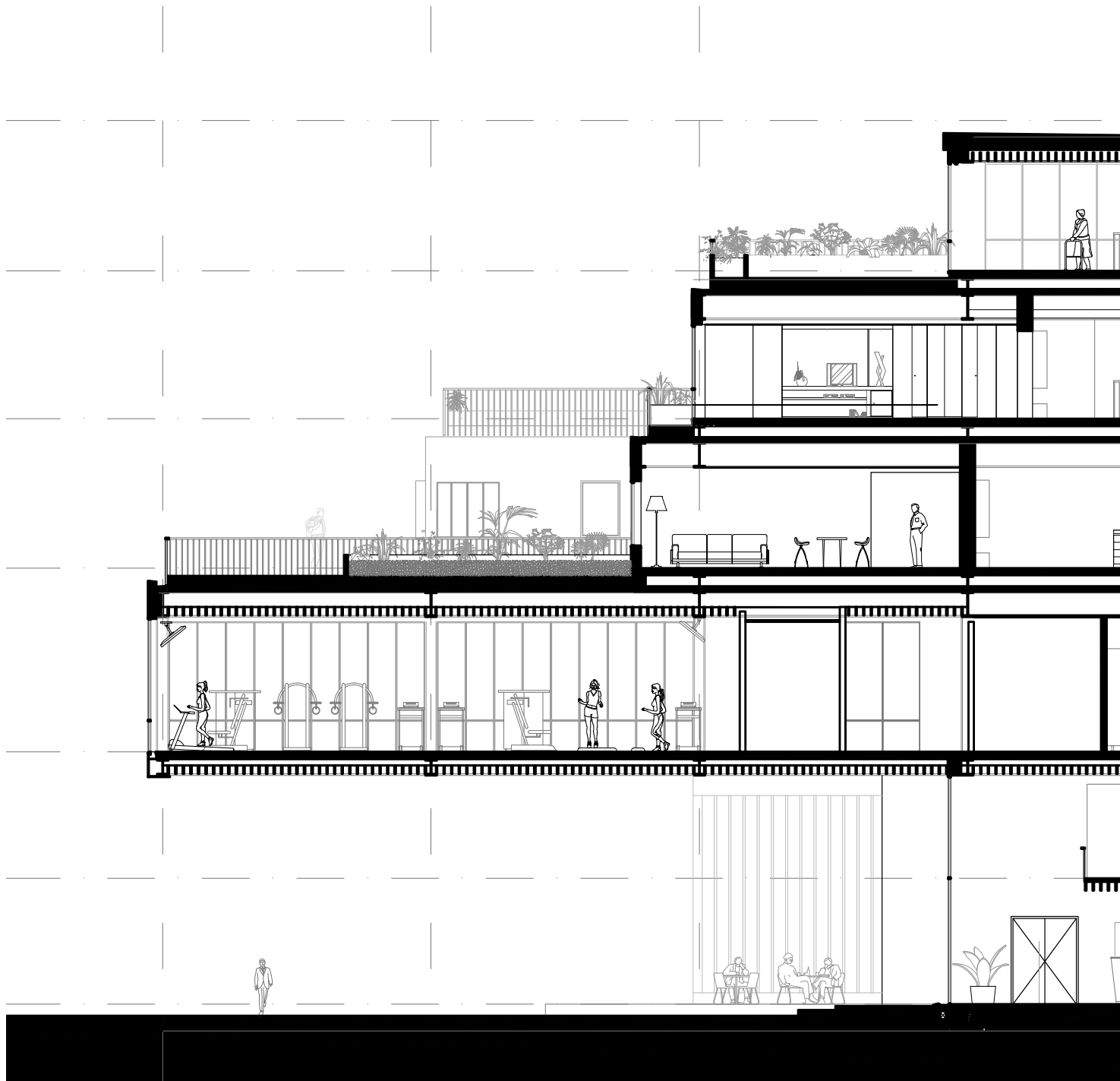


The voids of the building, generated by the stacking volumes, provide vertical connections between the different floors and between the different functions in the program. These connections will generate a sense of community and allow the continuous copresence of the different users of the building.

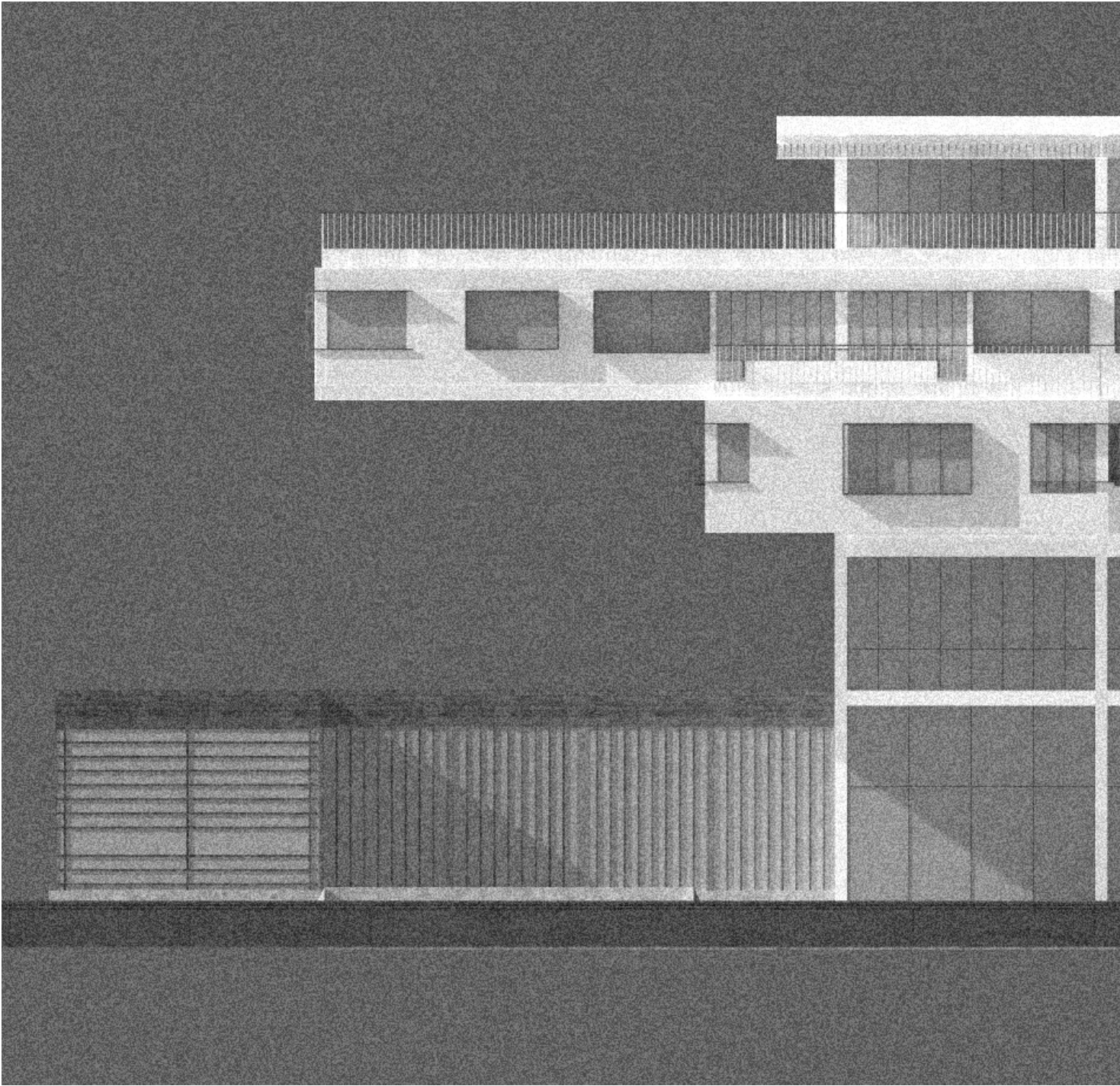


plans: roof



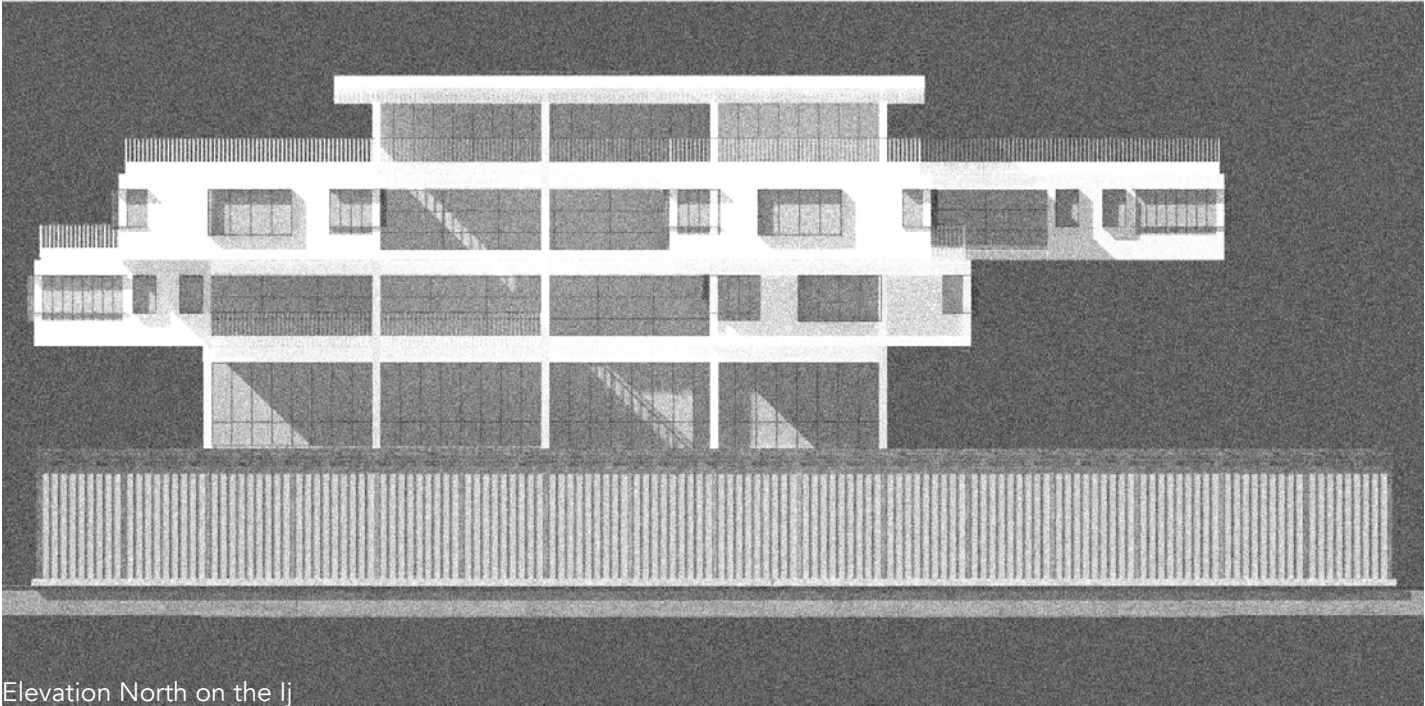








Elevation South on the square

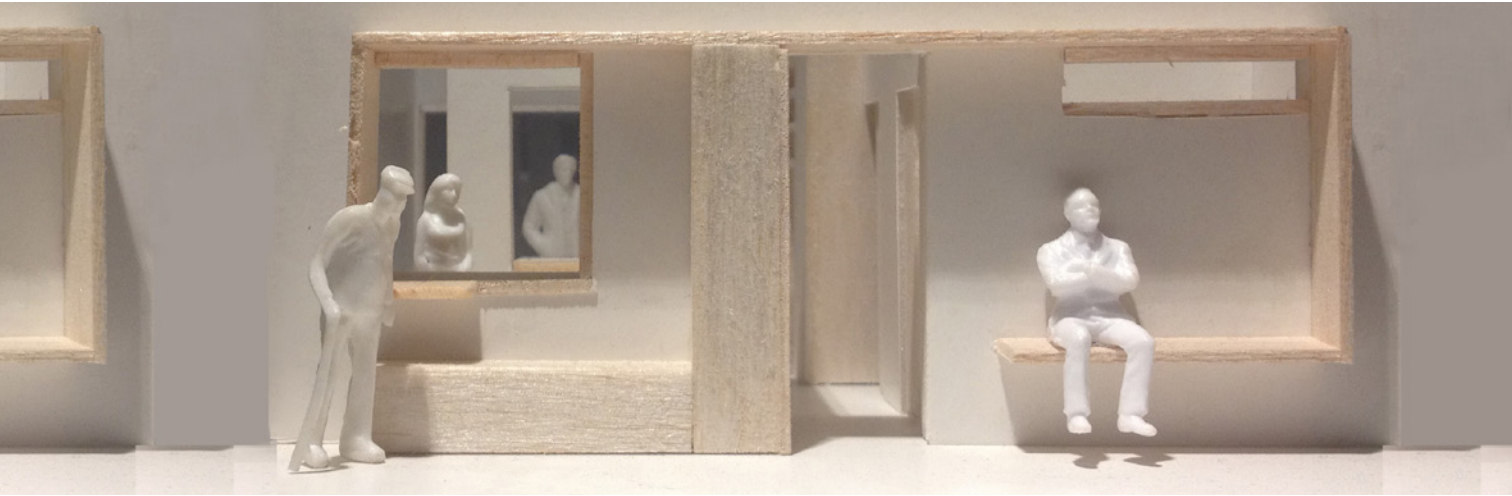


Elevation North on the Ij



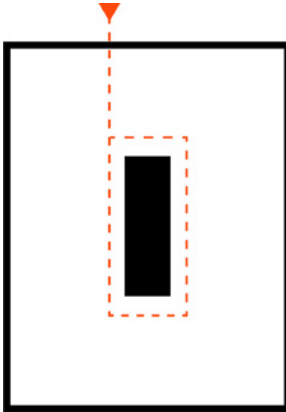
Elevation West

Dwellings

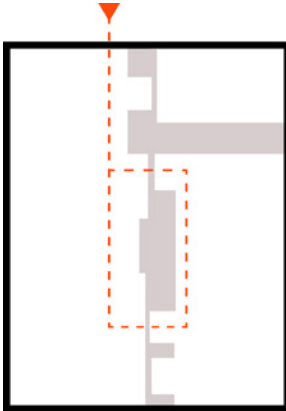


There are four different apartment typologies, but all of them are based on the following principles: the circulation is organized around a central element, and this element in plan and section expand from one side to the other of the apartment, while assolving most of the living functions and connecting them all; the kitche, always close to the entrance and facing the inside of the building, opens up on the collective space through a designd window that becomes an element of the communal area; the loggia, always on the opposit side of the entrance, is a private outdoor space facing the water or the square.

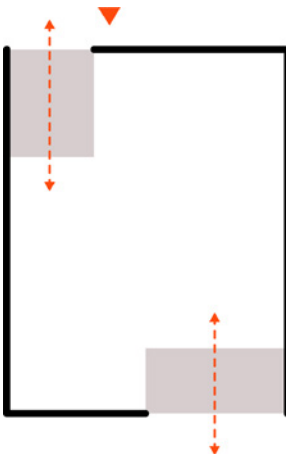




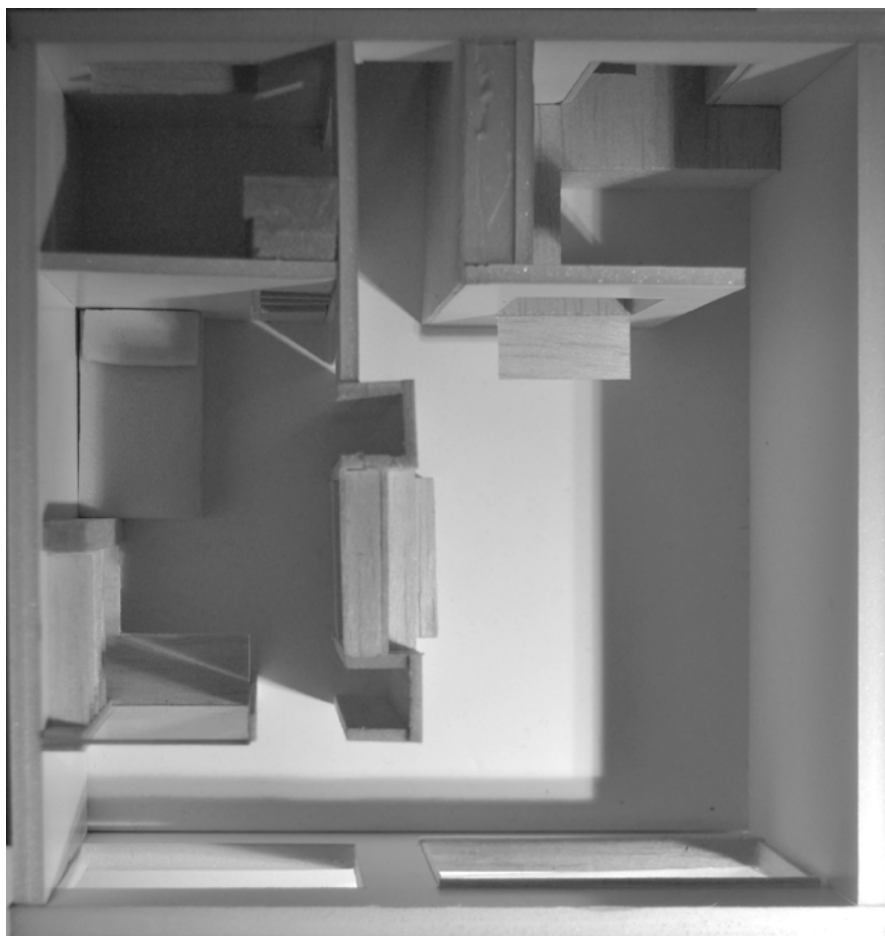
The circulation is organized as a circular routing around a central element



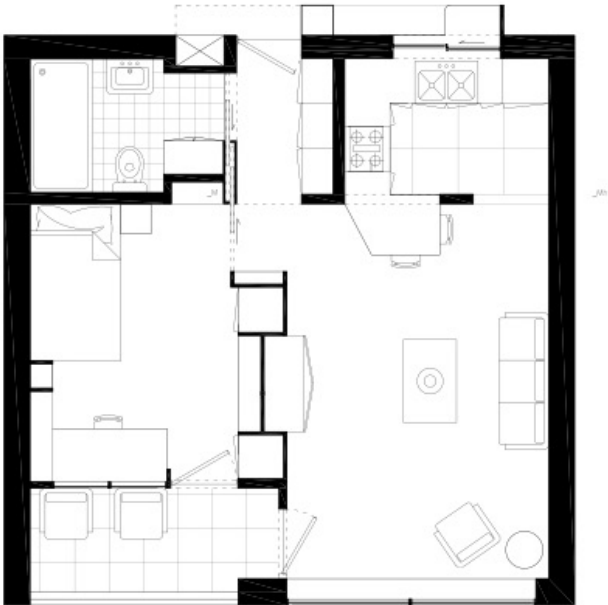
The central elements expands and becomes more complex to connect the different functions



The kitchen and the loggia connect with the collective area and with the outside



plans: apartment S

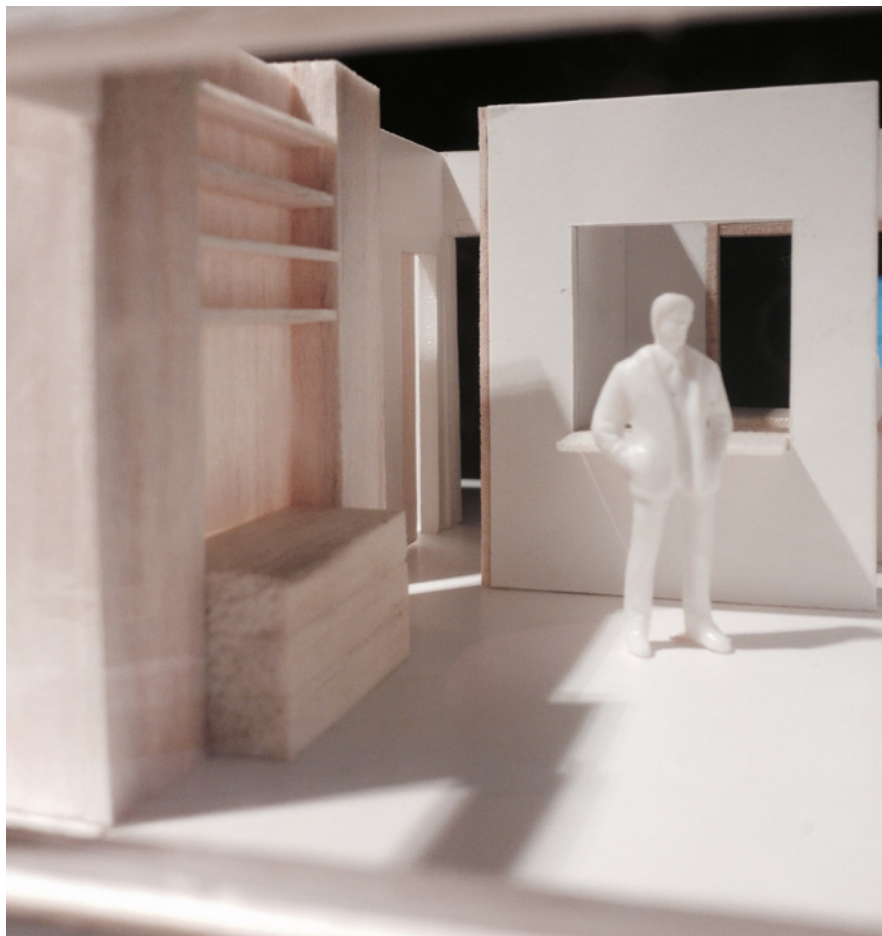


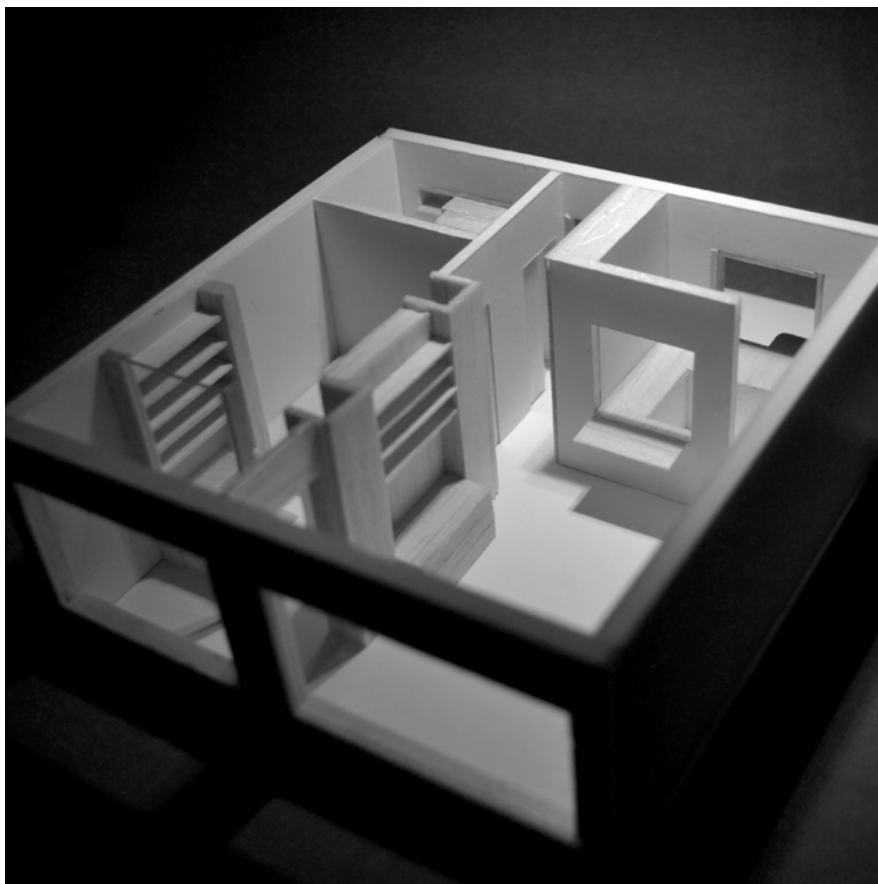
S_kind 45m2

entrance 4m2

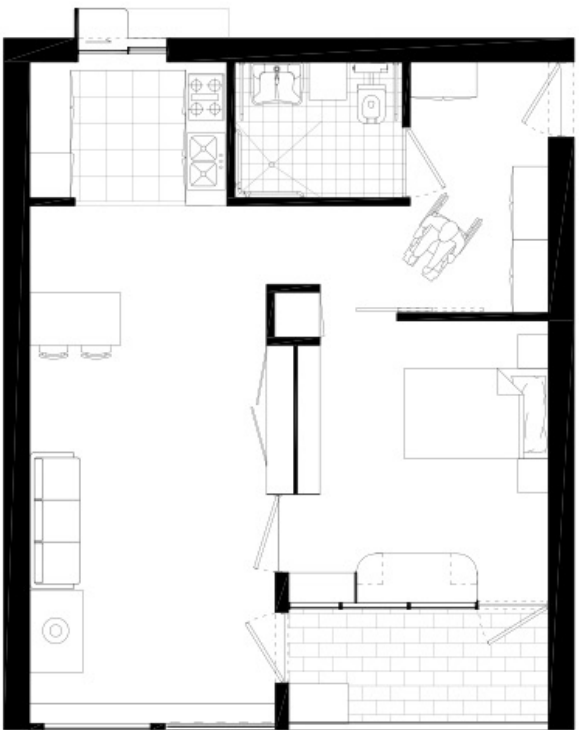
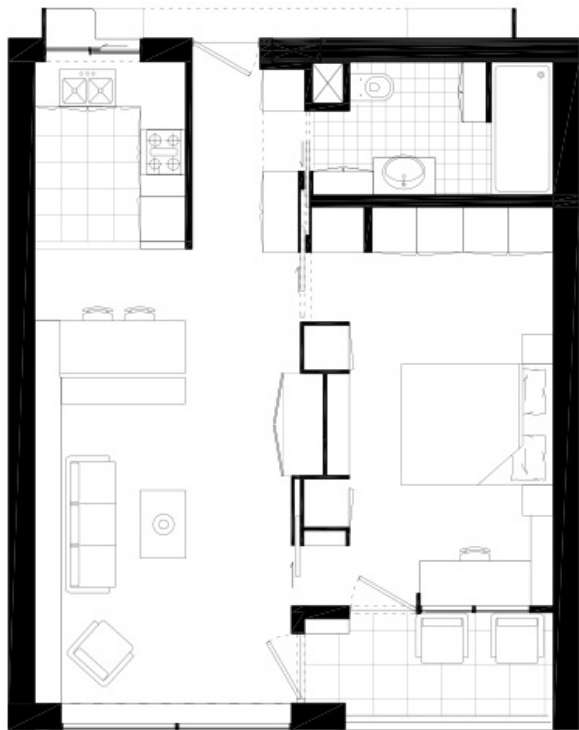
toilet 3,9m2







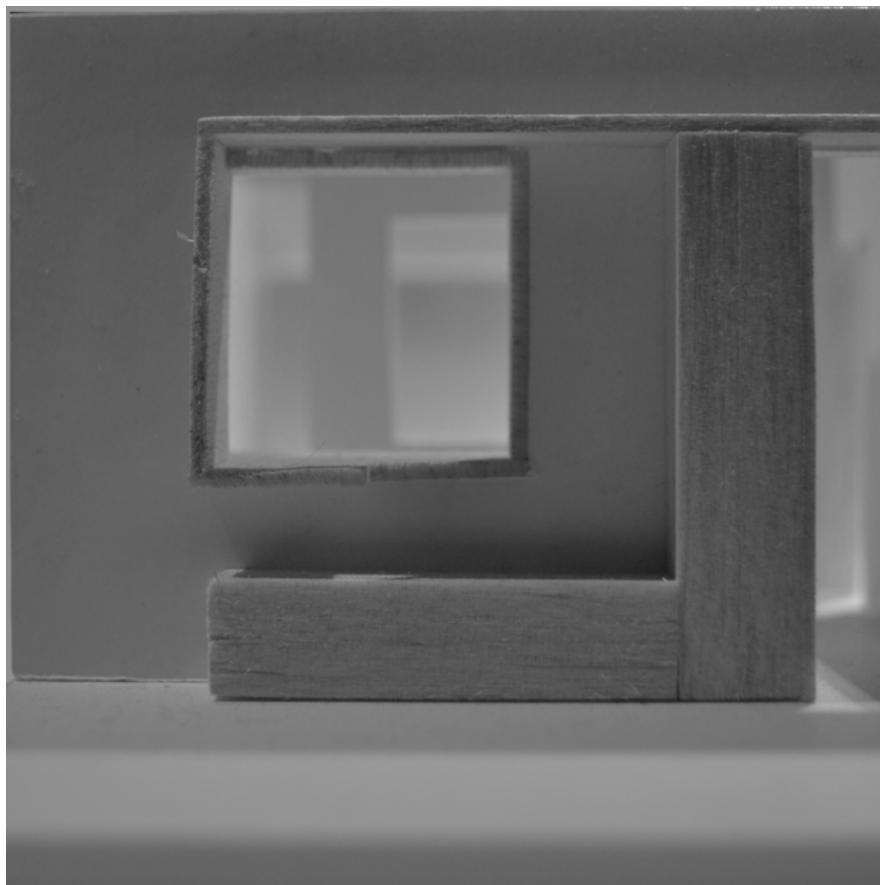
plans: apartment M/Mh



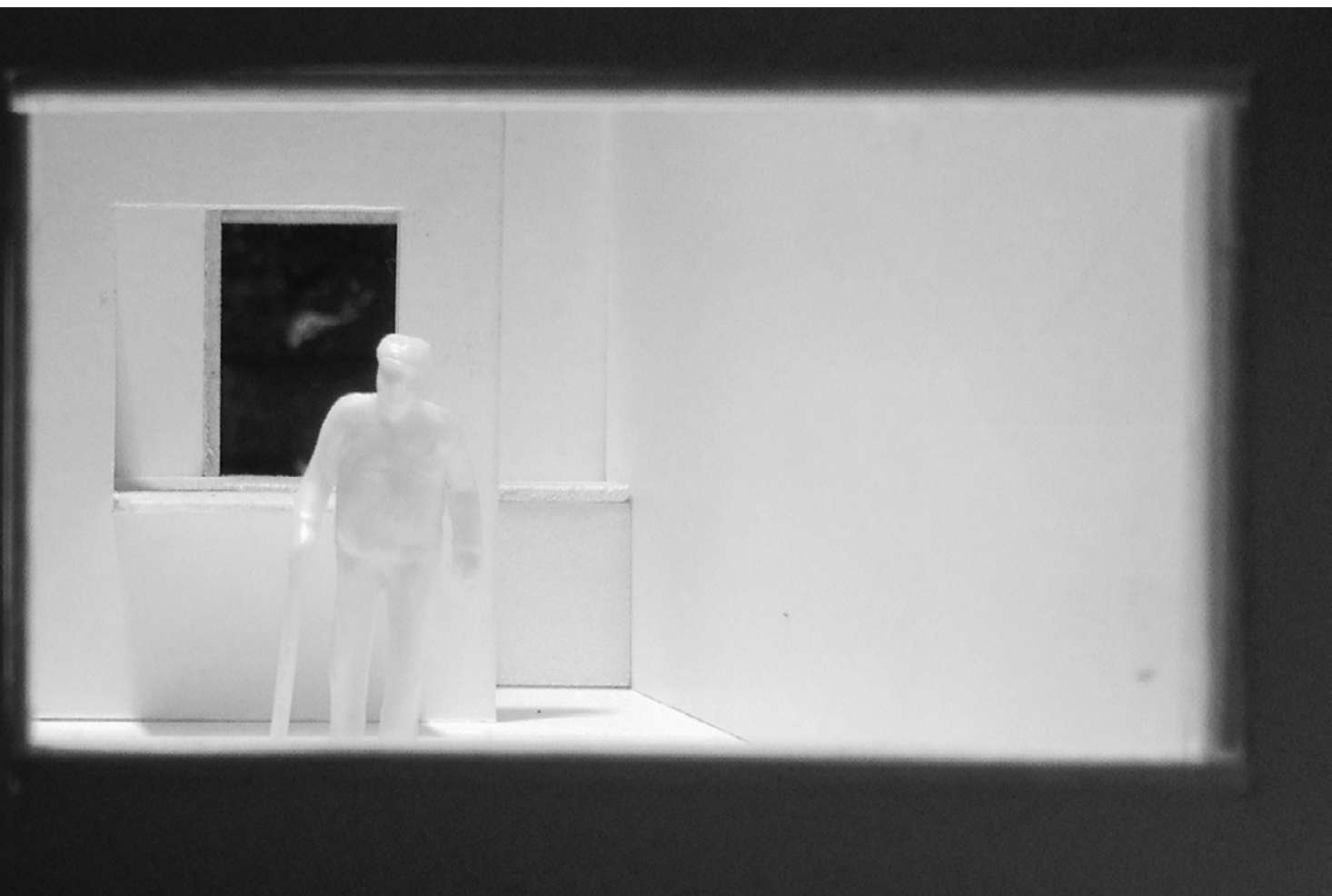
M_kind 60m2

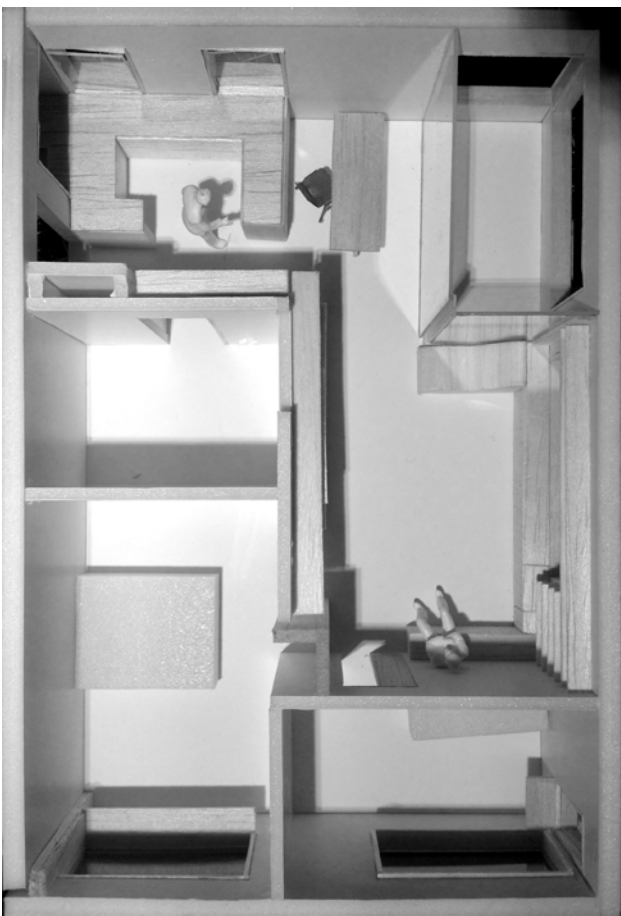
entrance 2,6m2

toilet 4,7m2

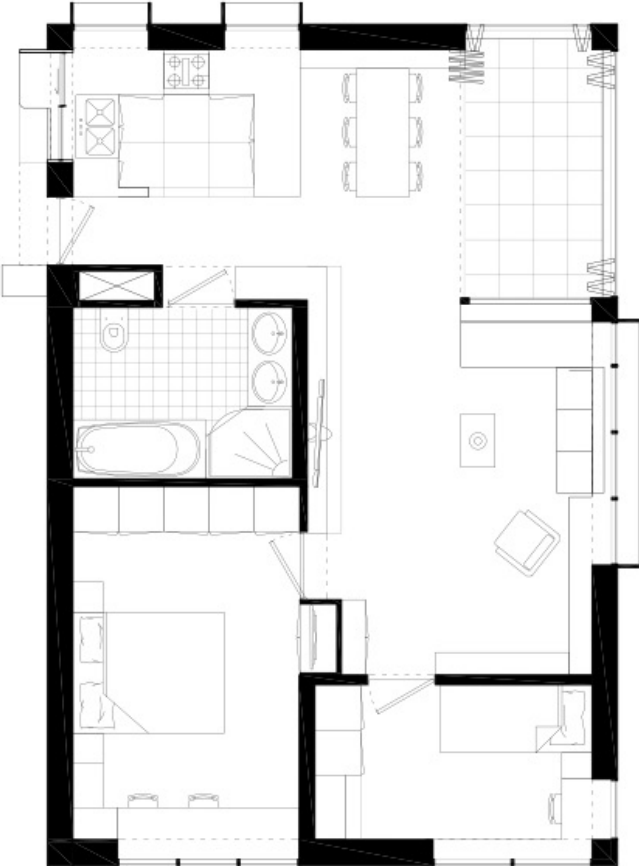




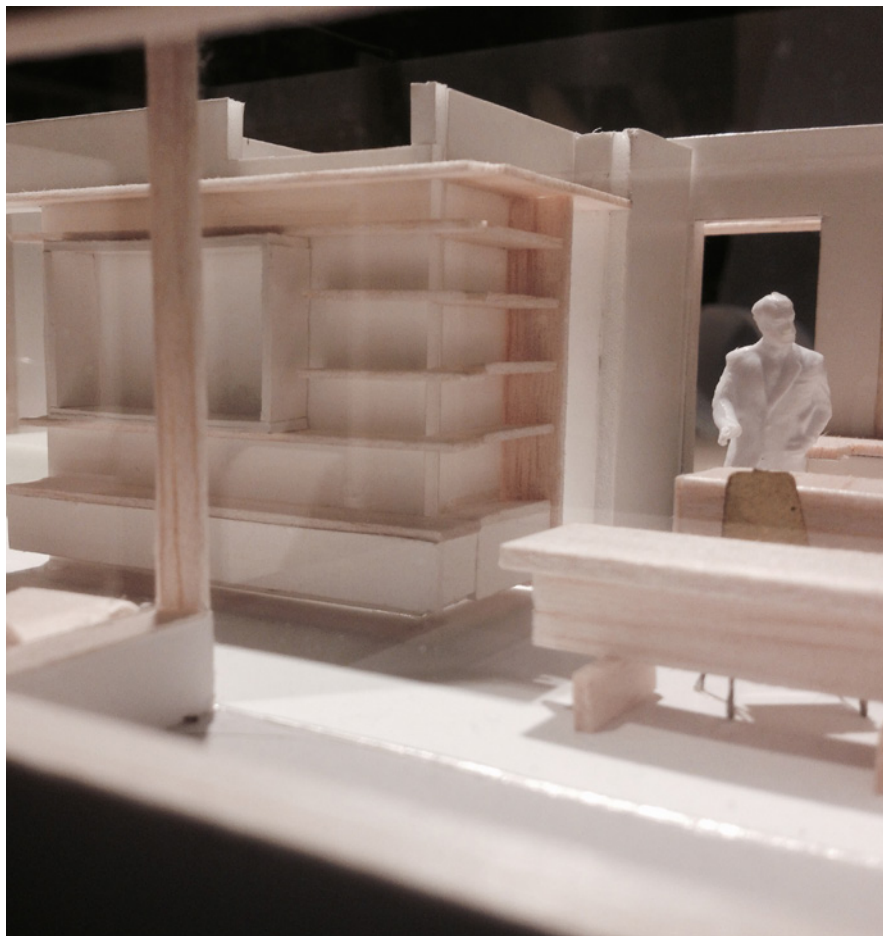




plans: apartment B

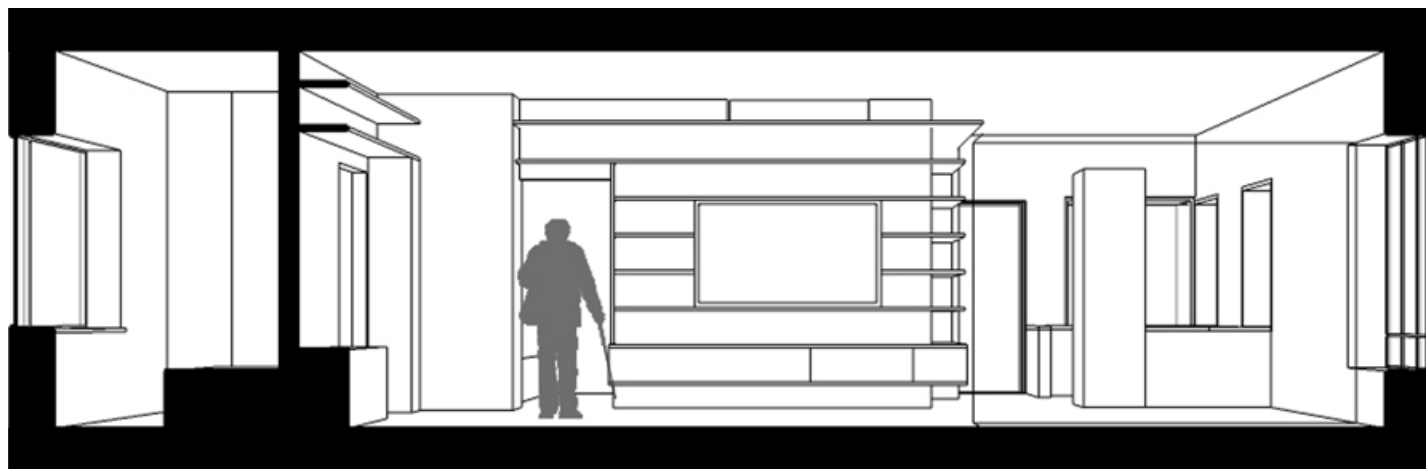


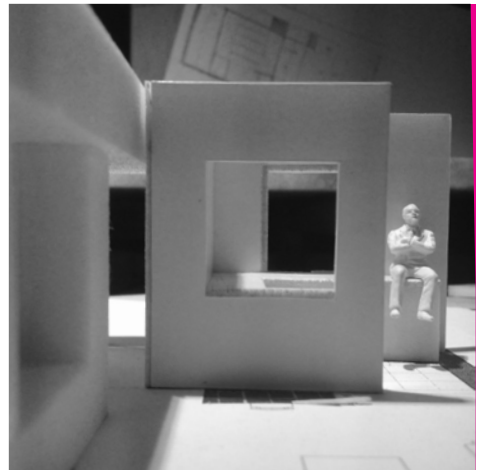
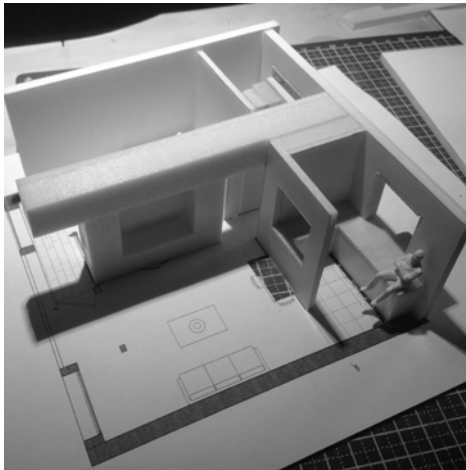
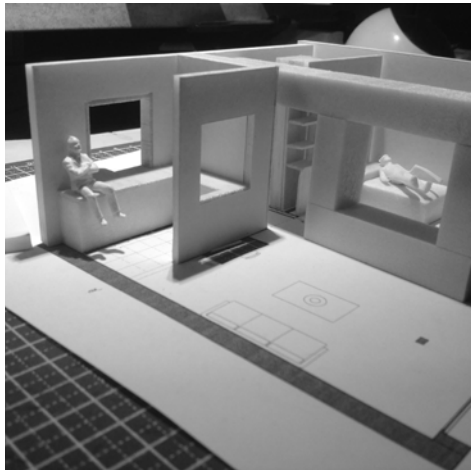
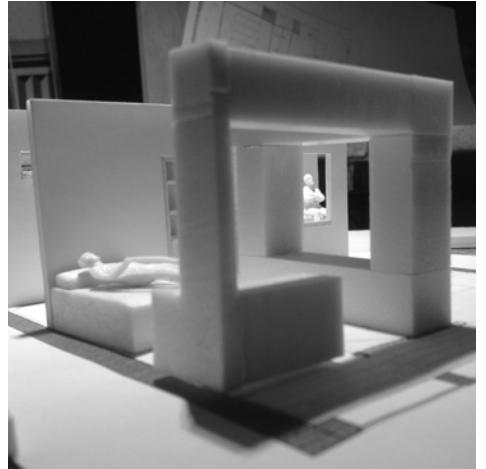
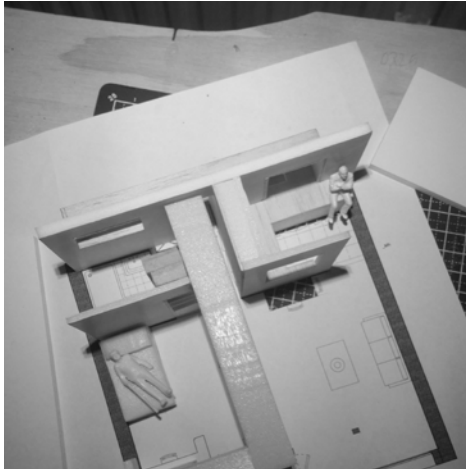
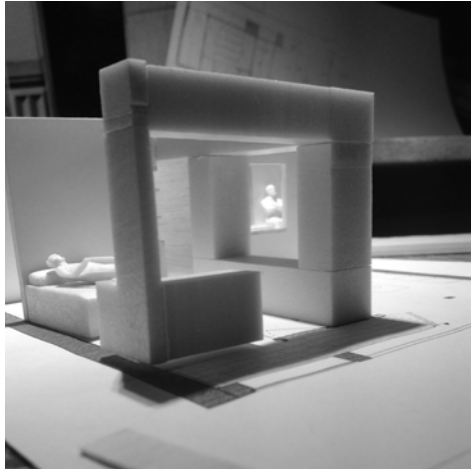
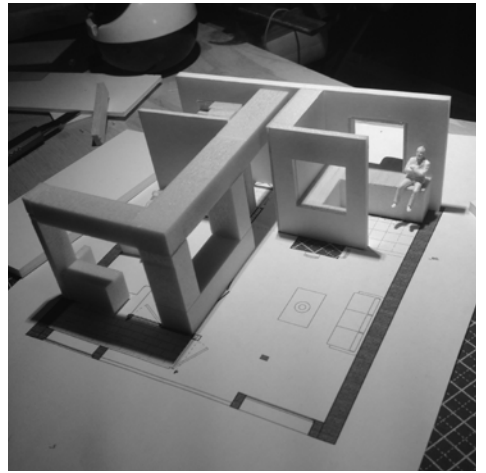
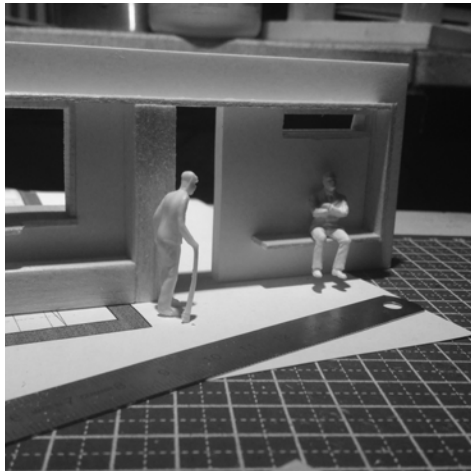
B_kind 72m2
entrance 5,4m2
toilet 4,7m2
kitchen 6m2

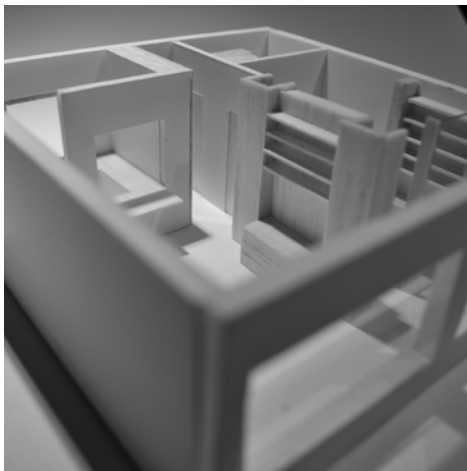
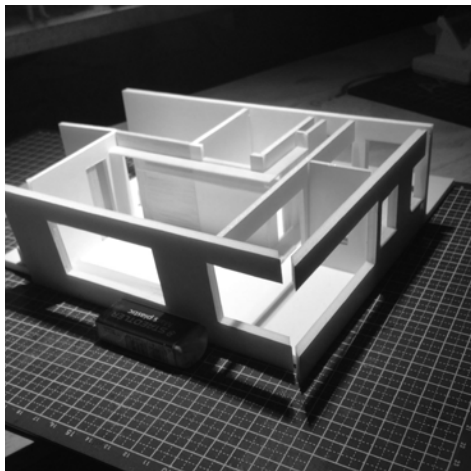
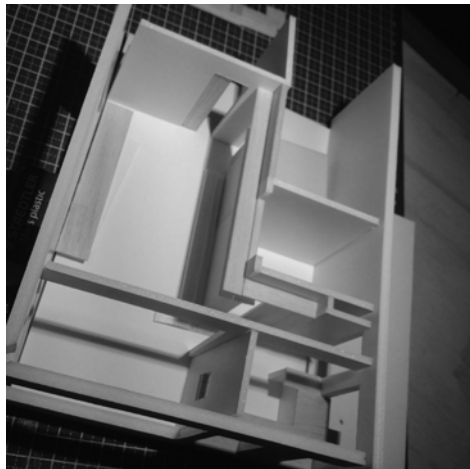
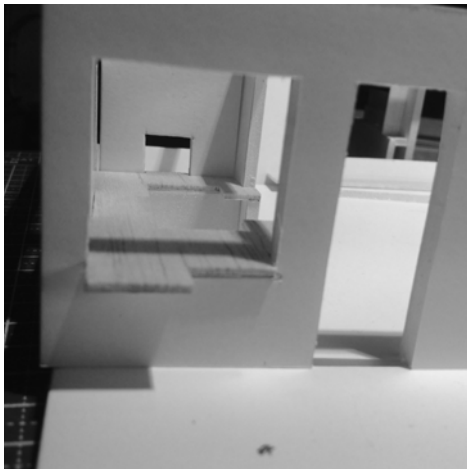
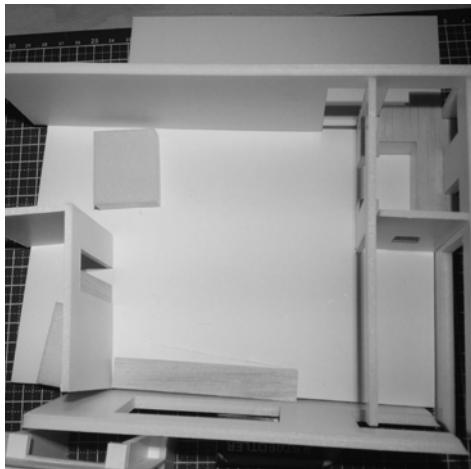
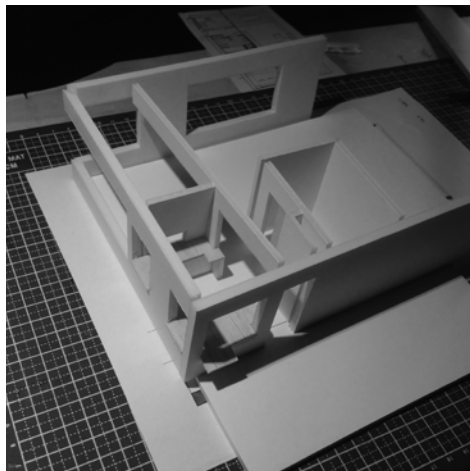
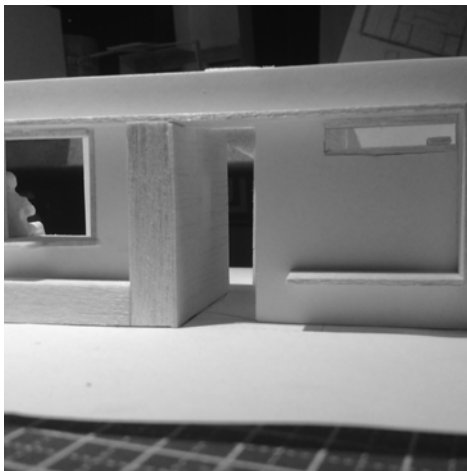




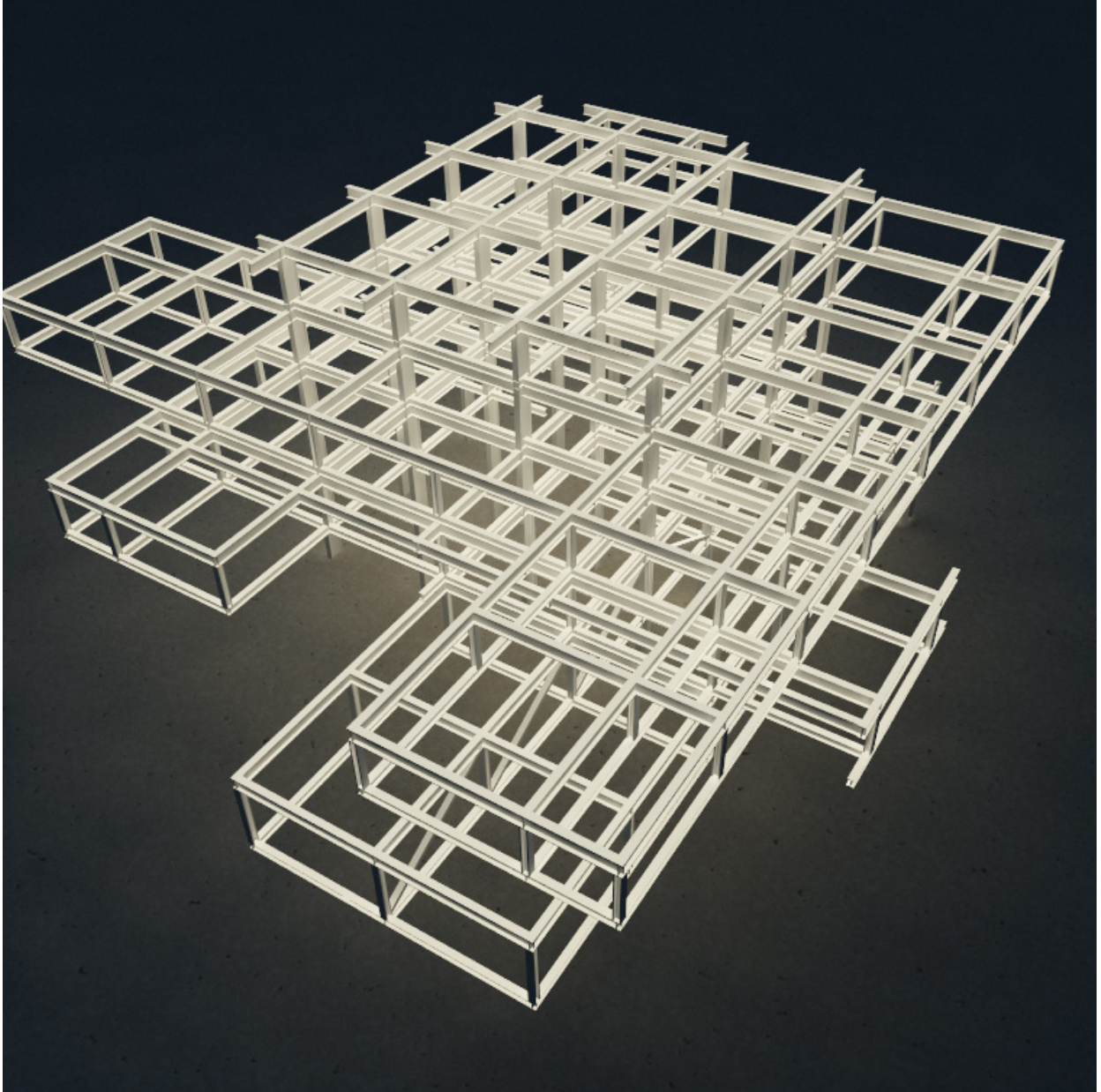




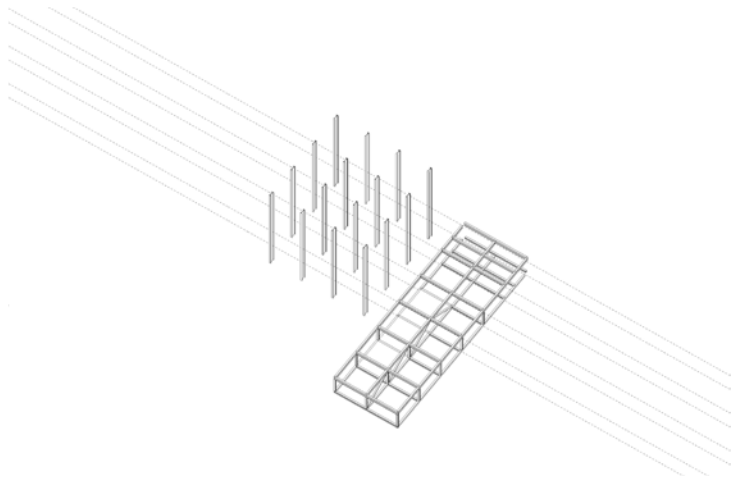
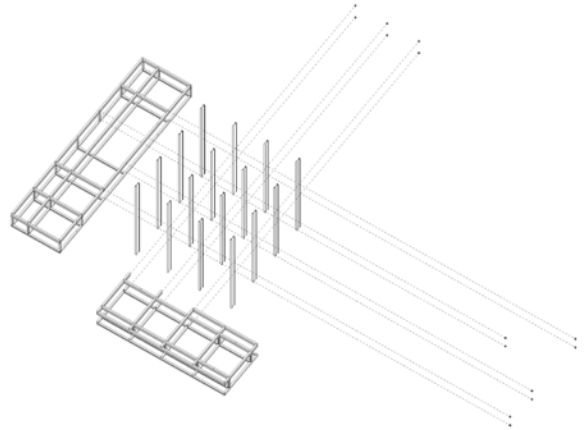
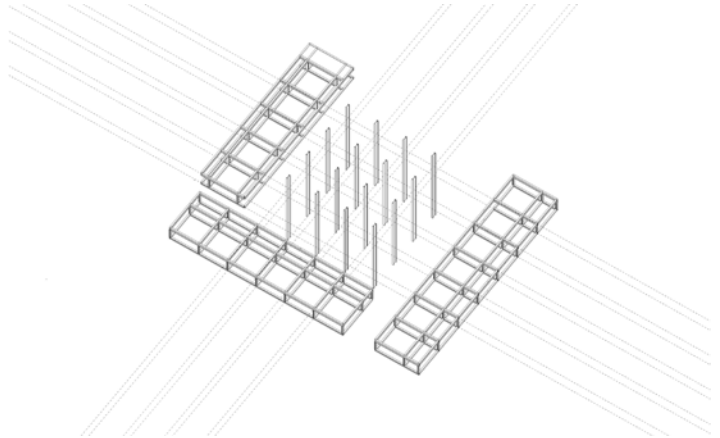


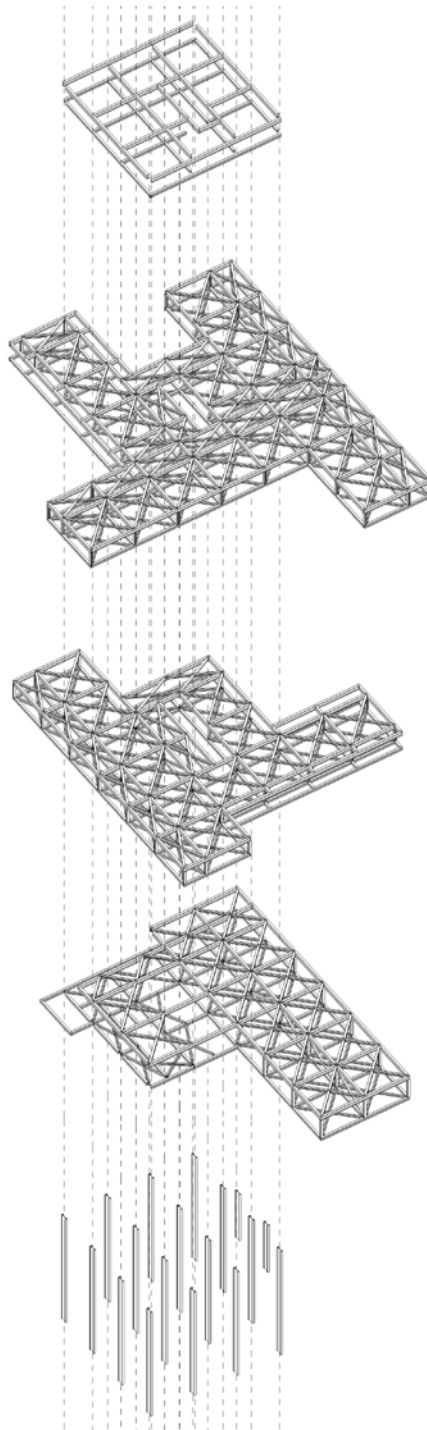


Structure

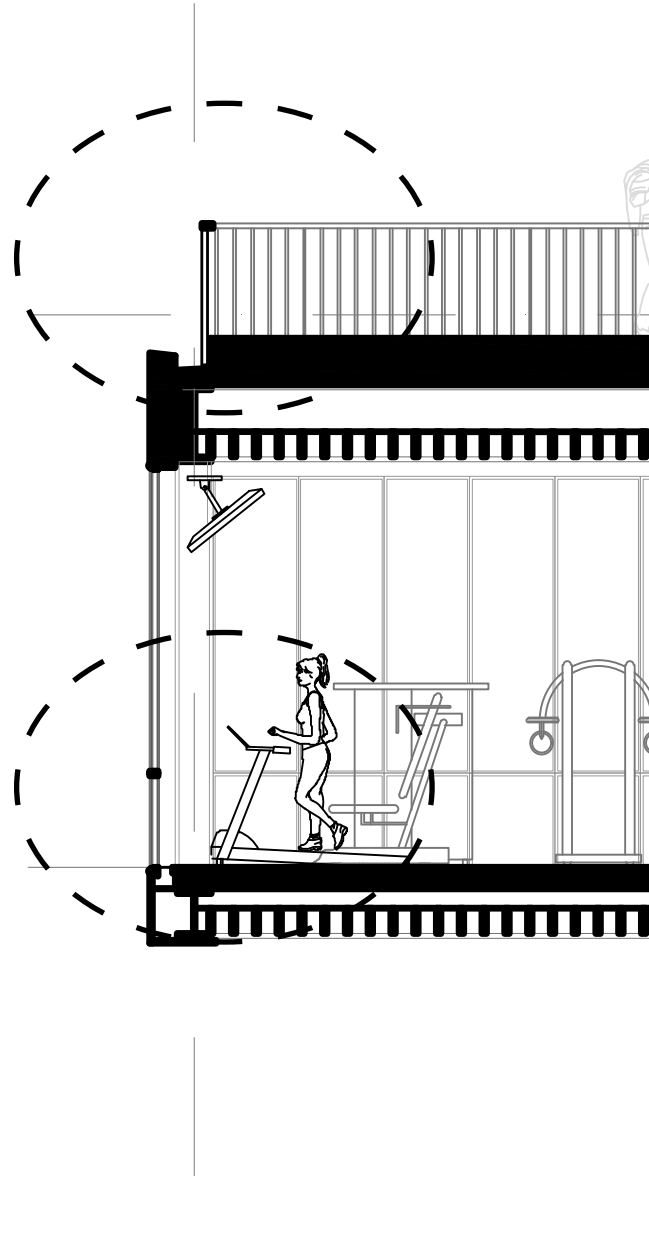
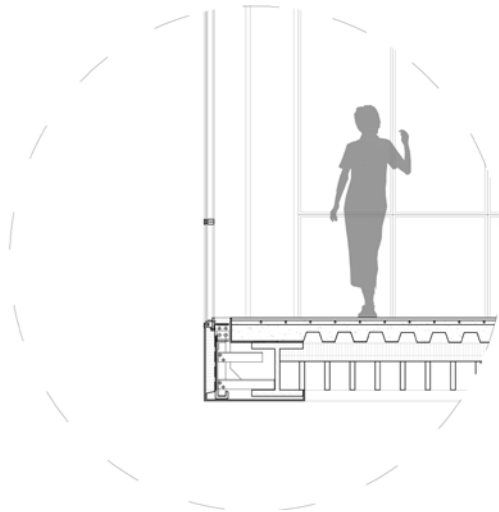
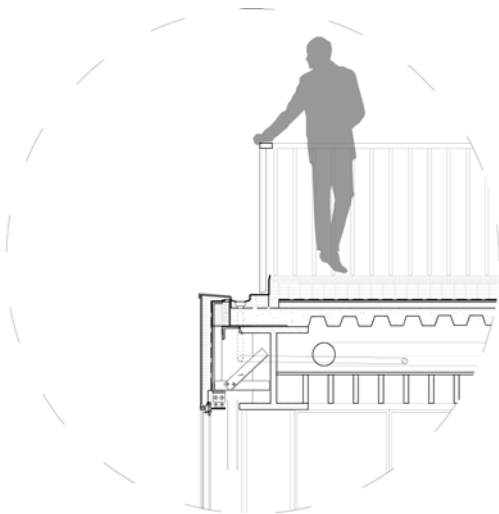


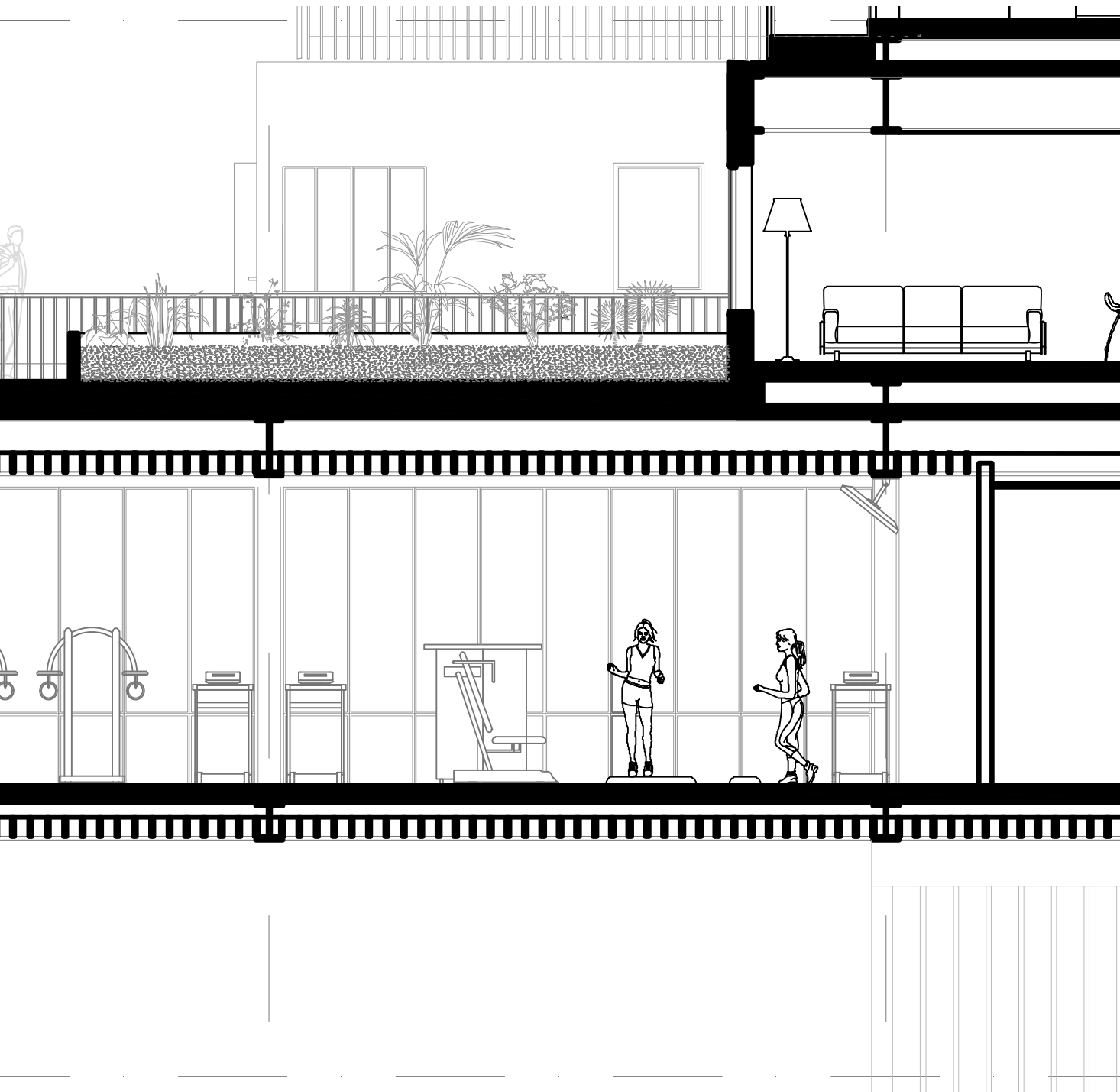
Decomposition of the structure of the several volumes of the building

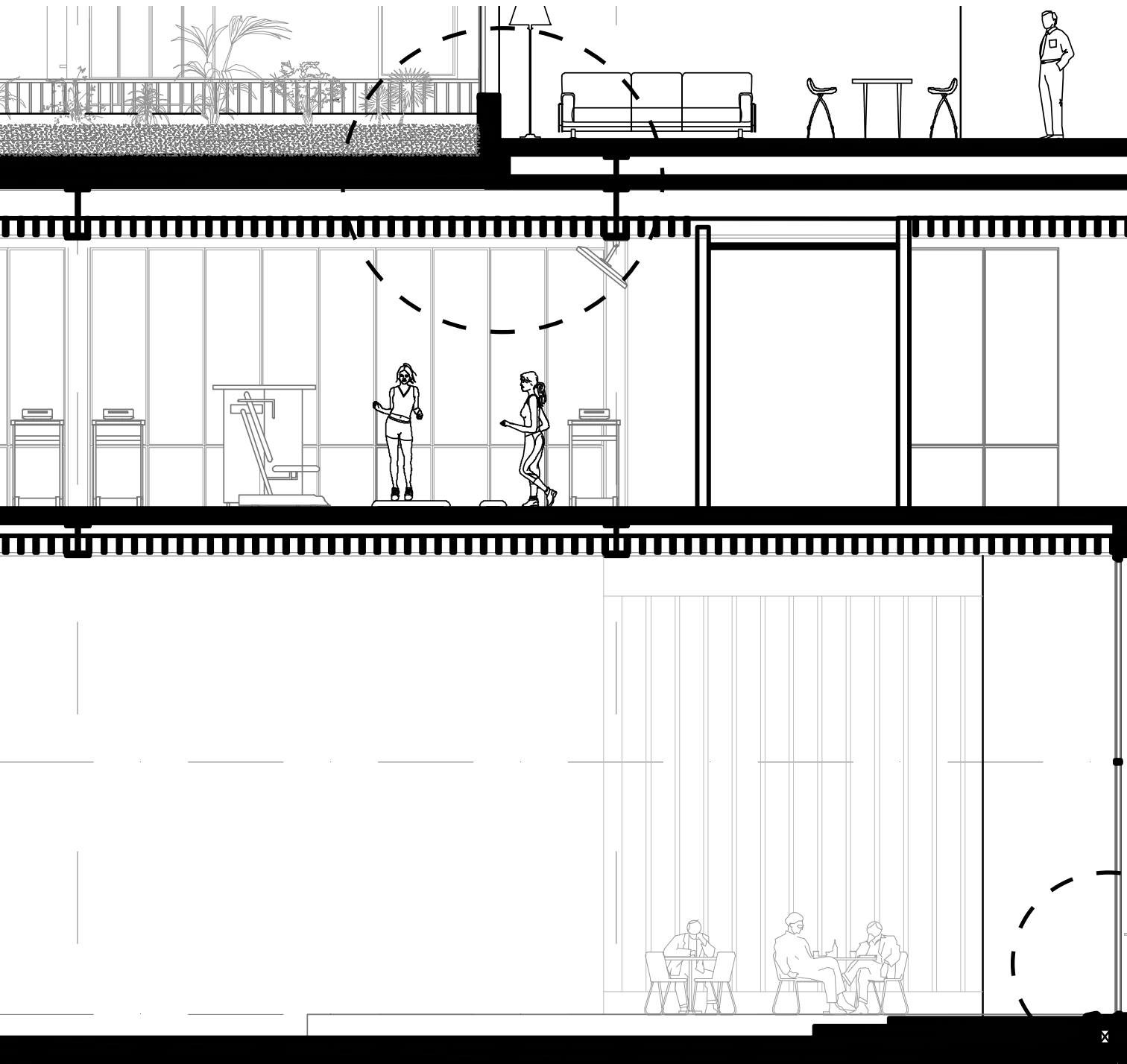


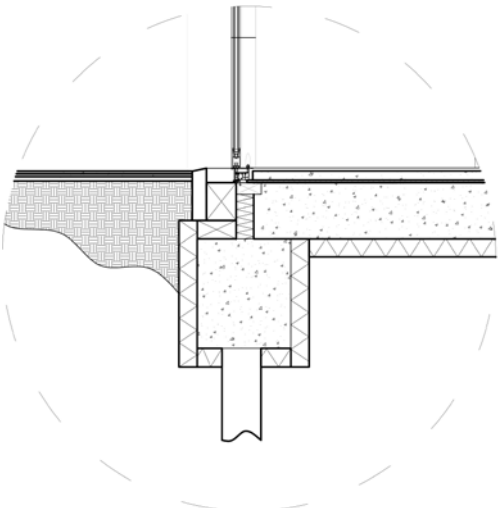
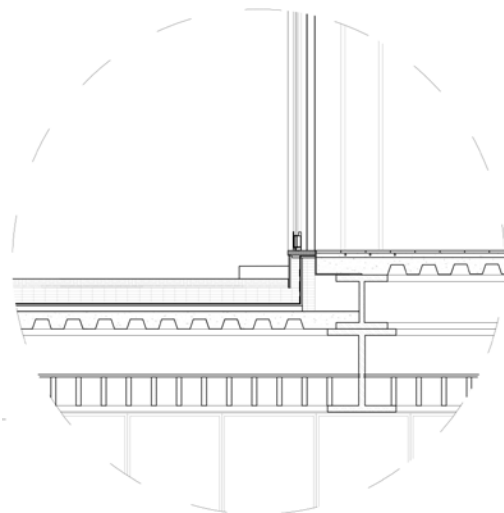
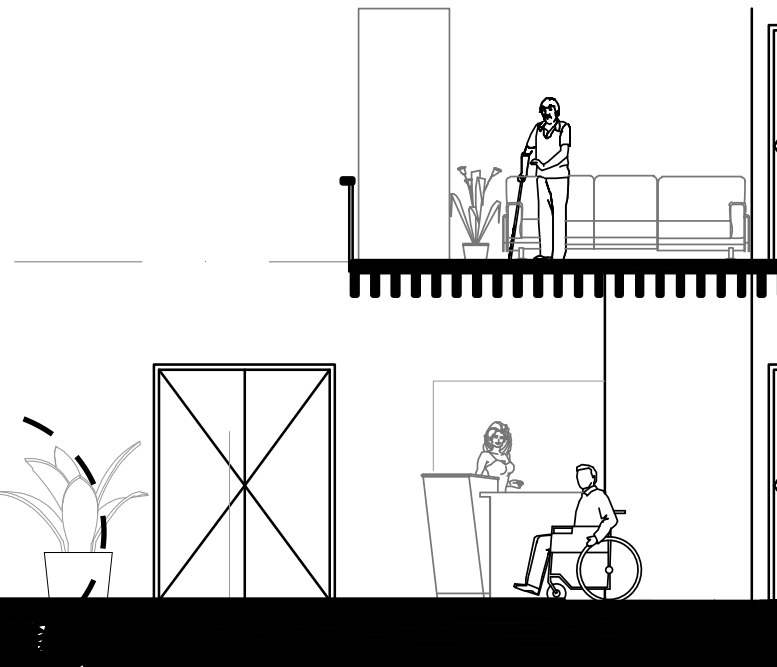
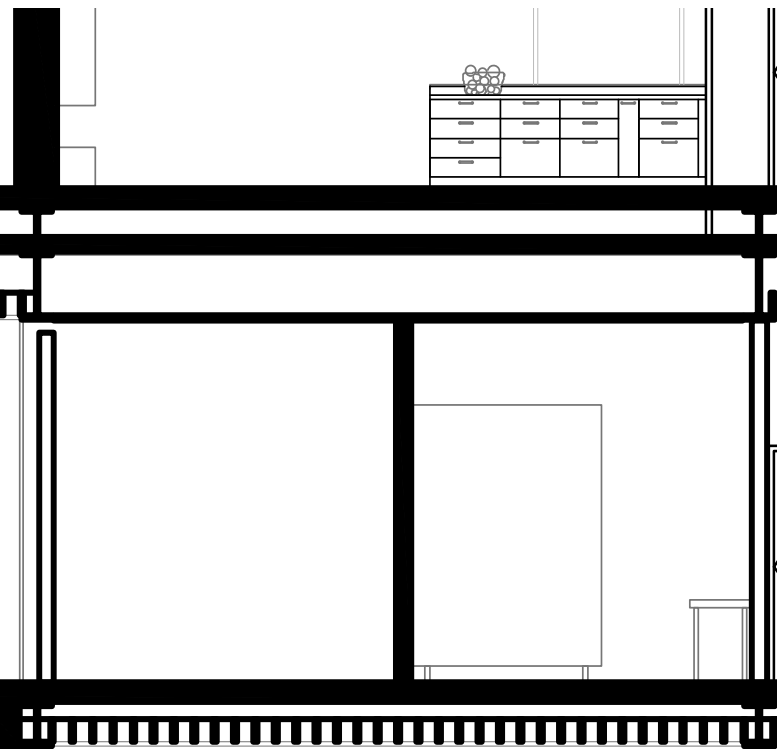


Exploded axonometric diagram

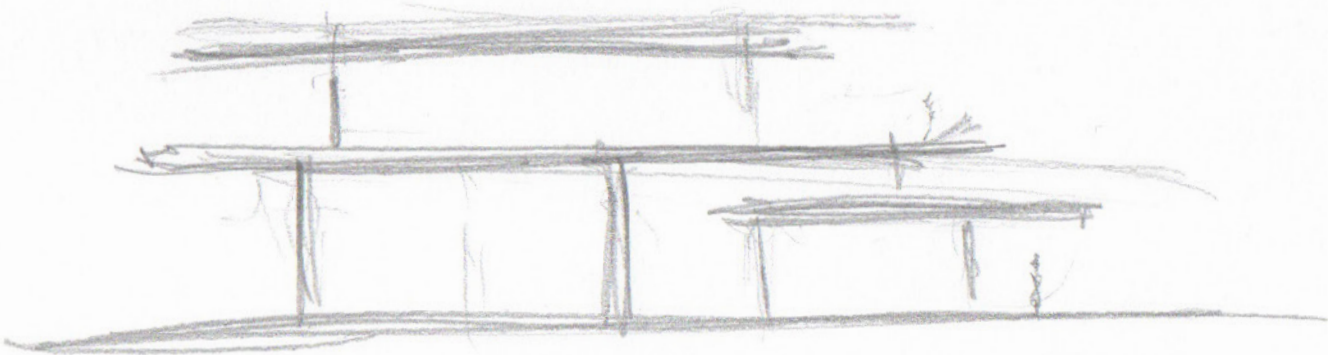


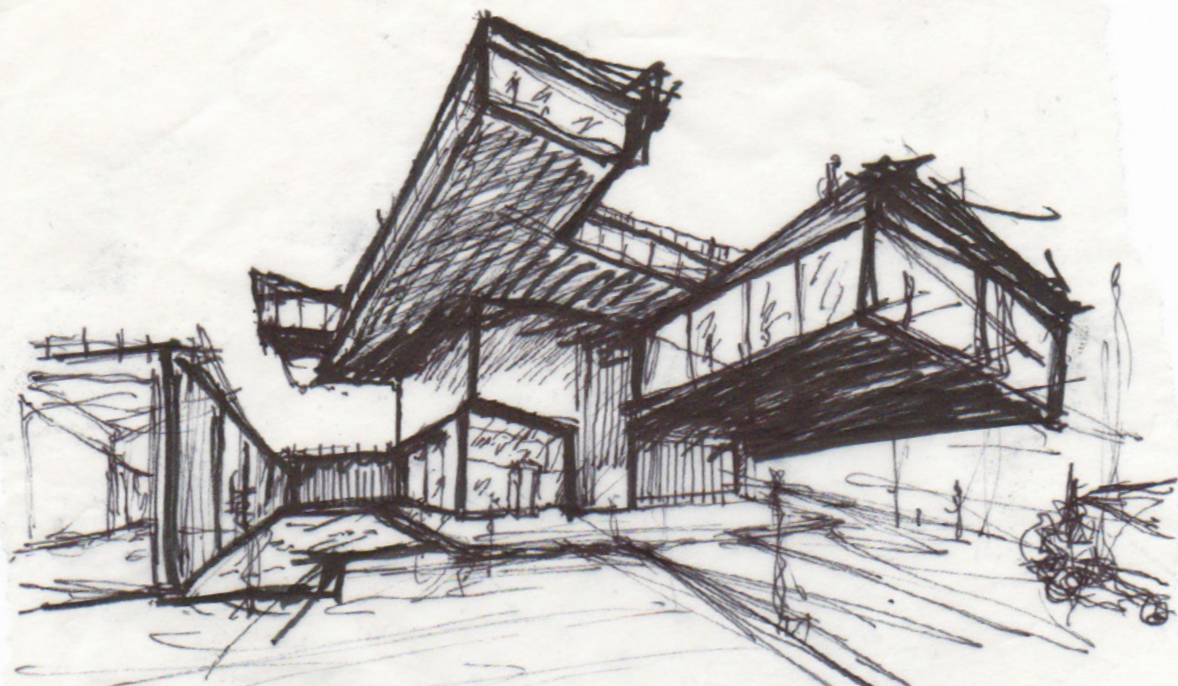


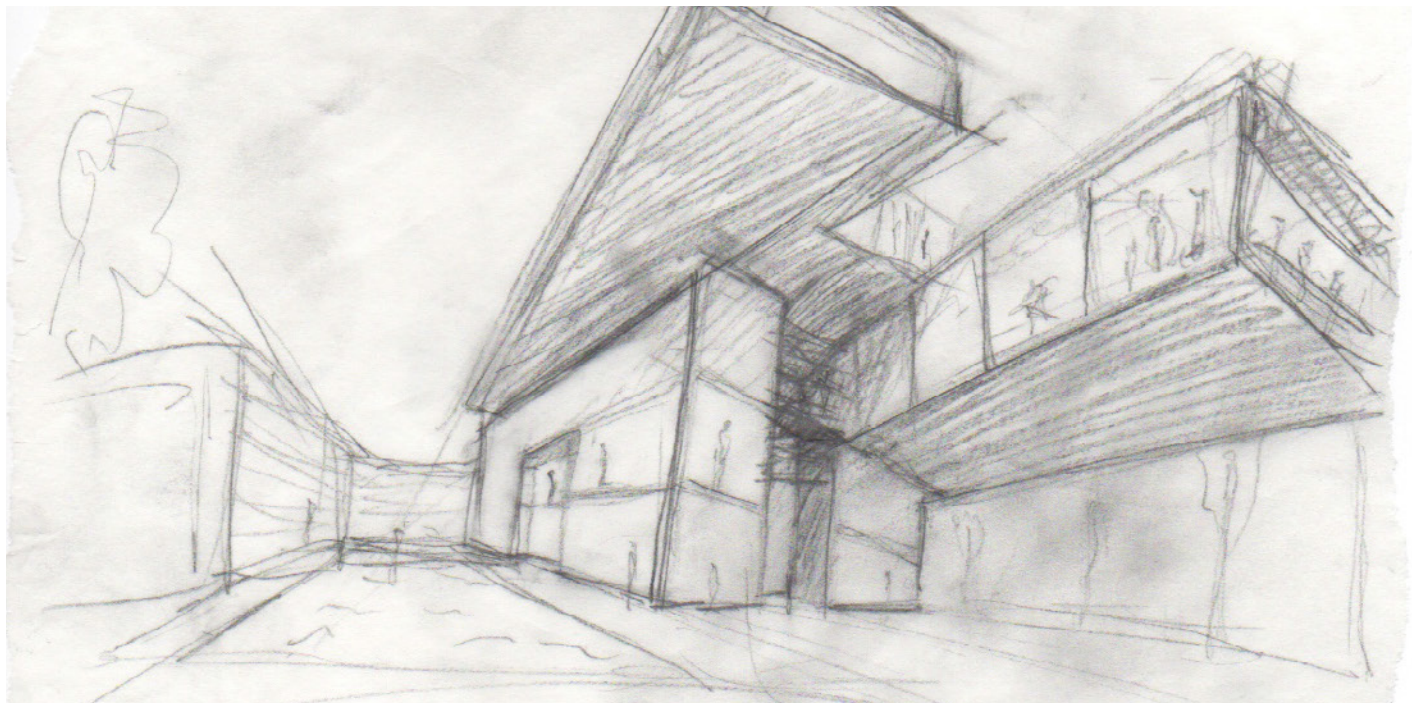


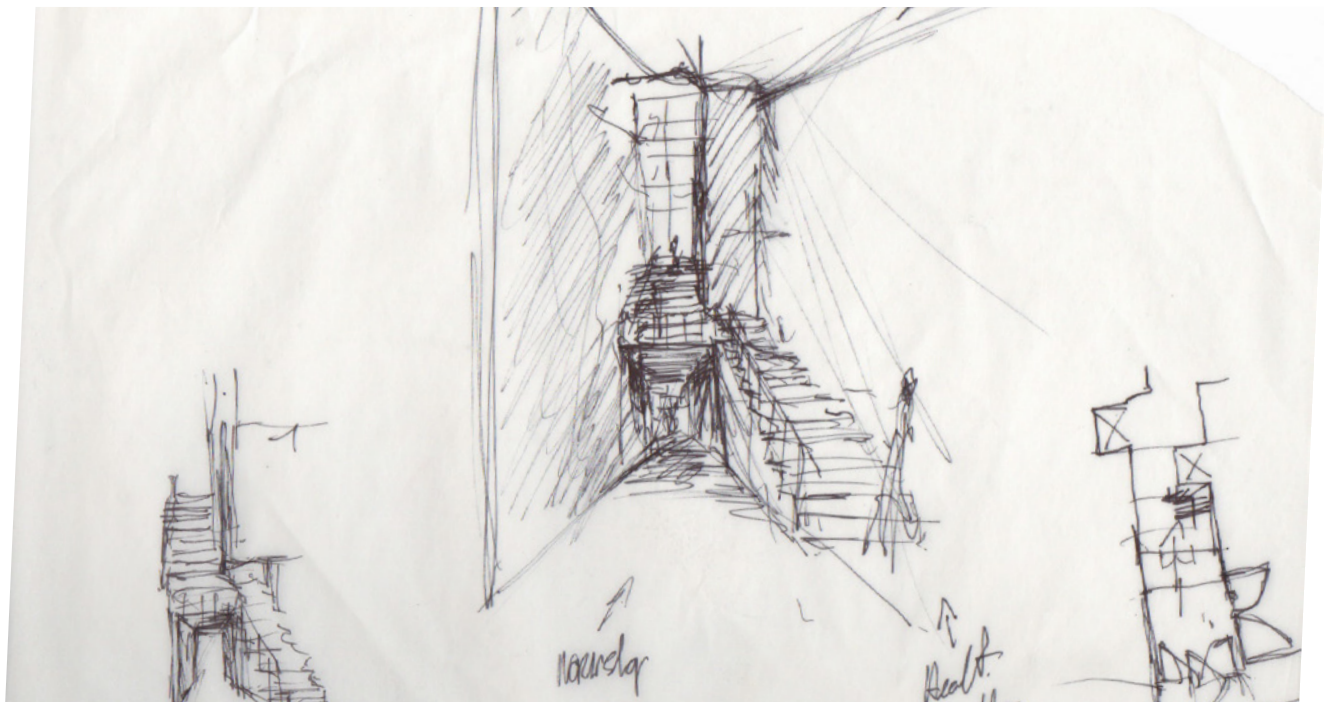


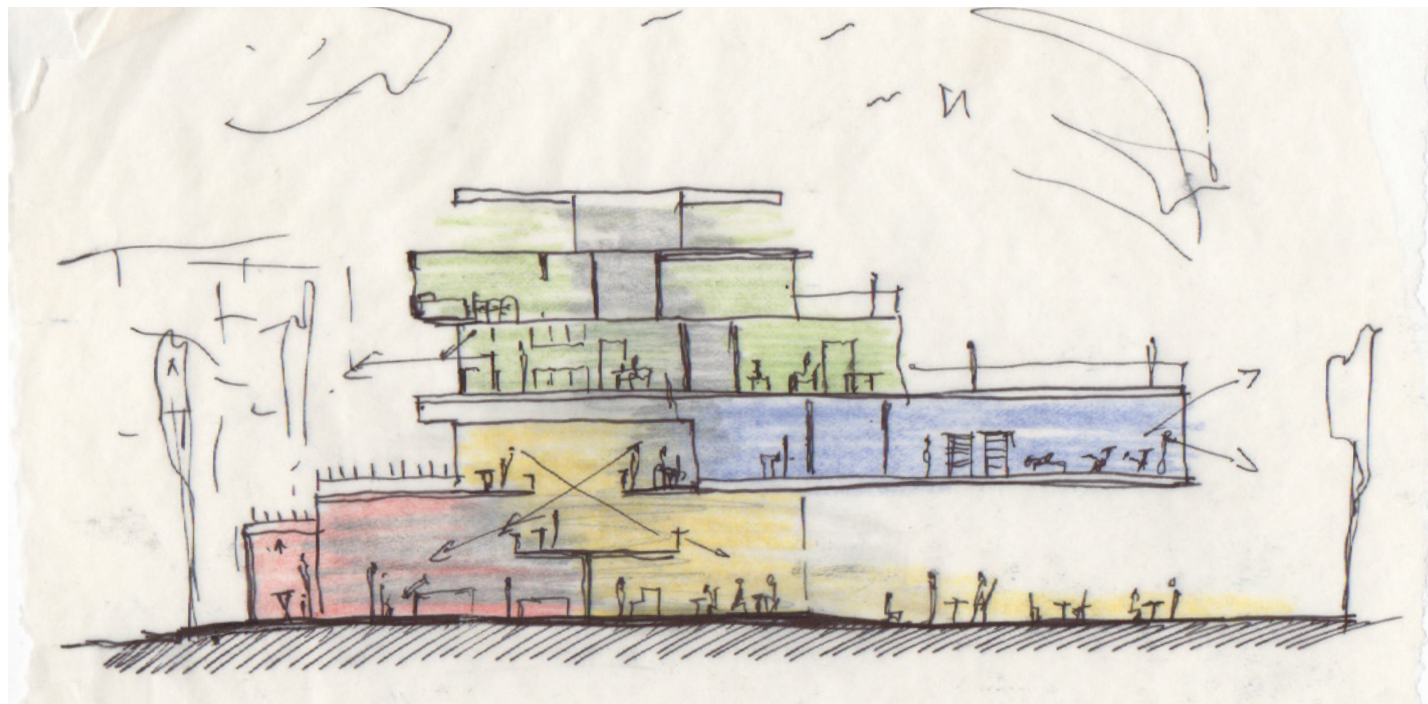
Sketches

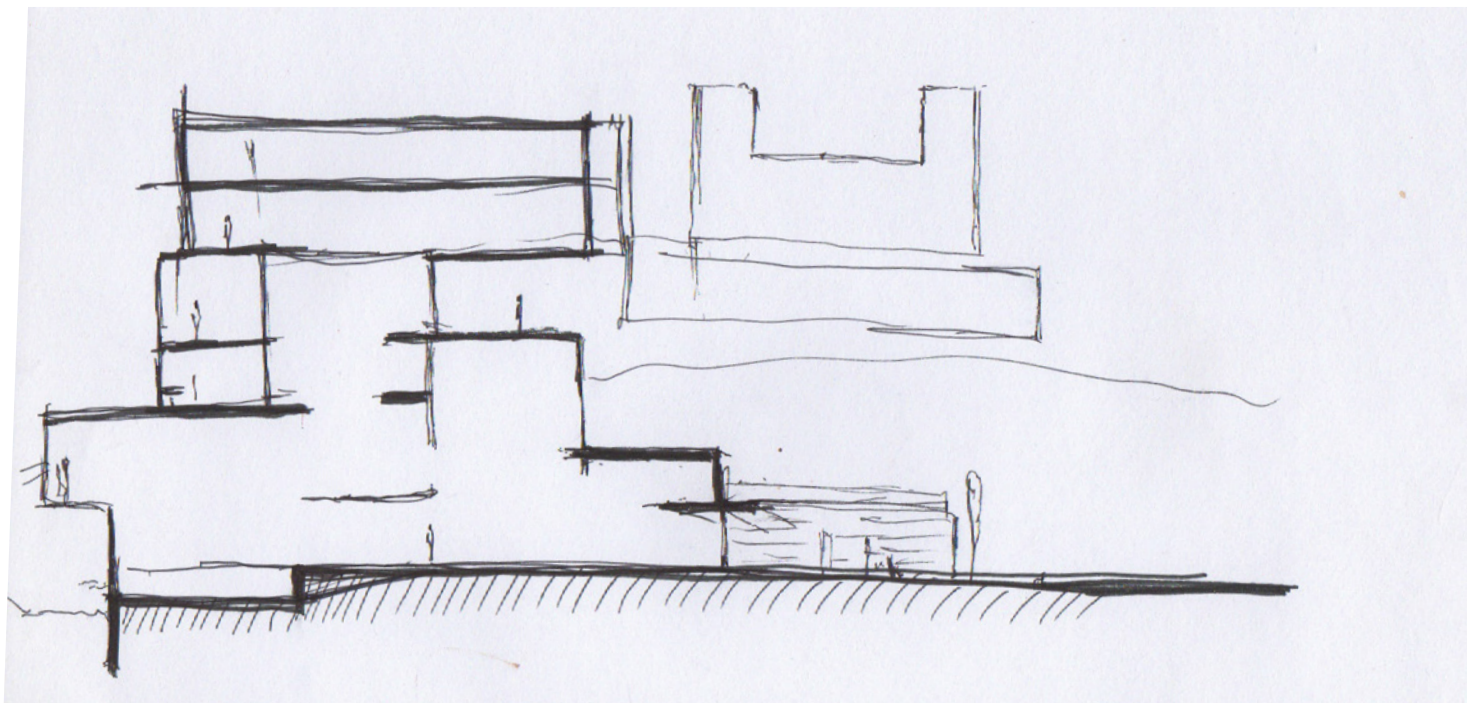


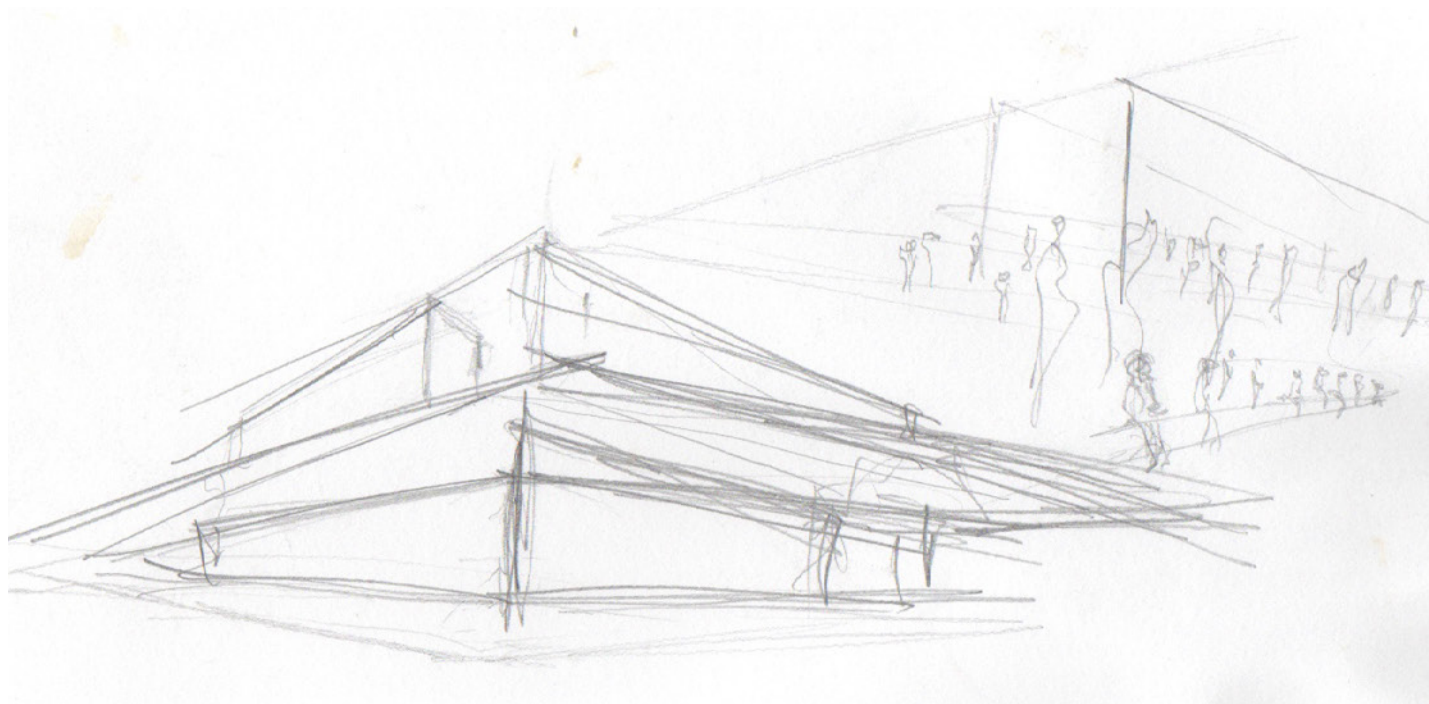


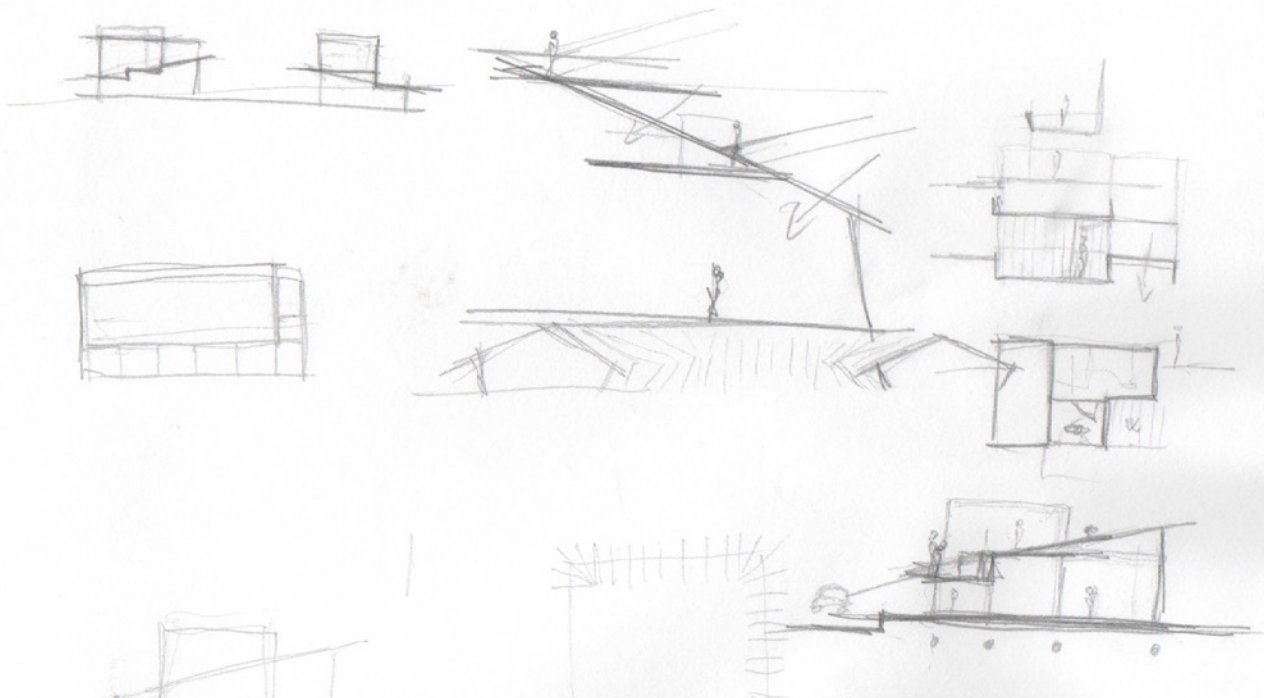


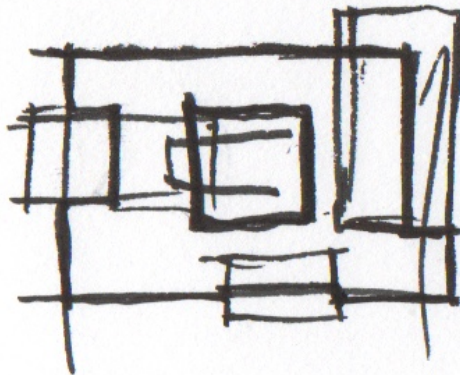
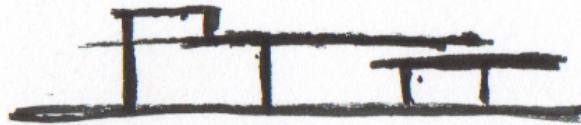


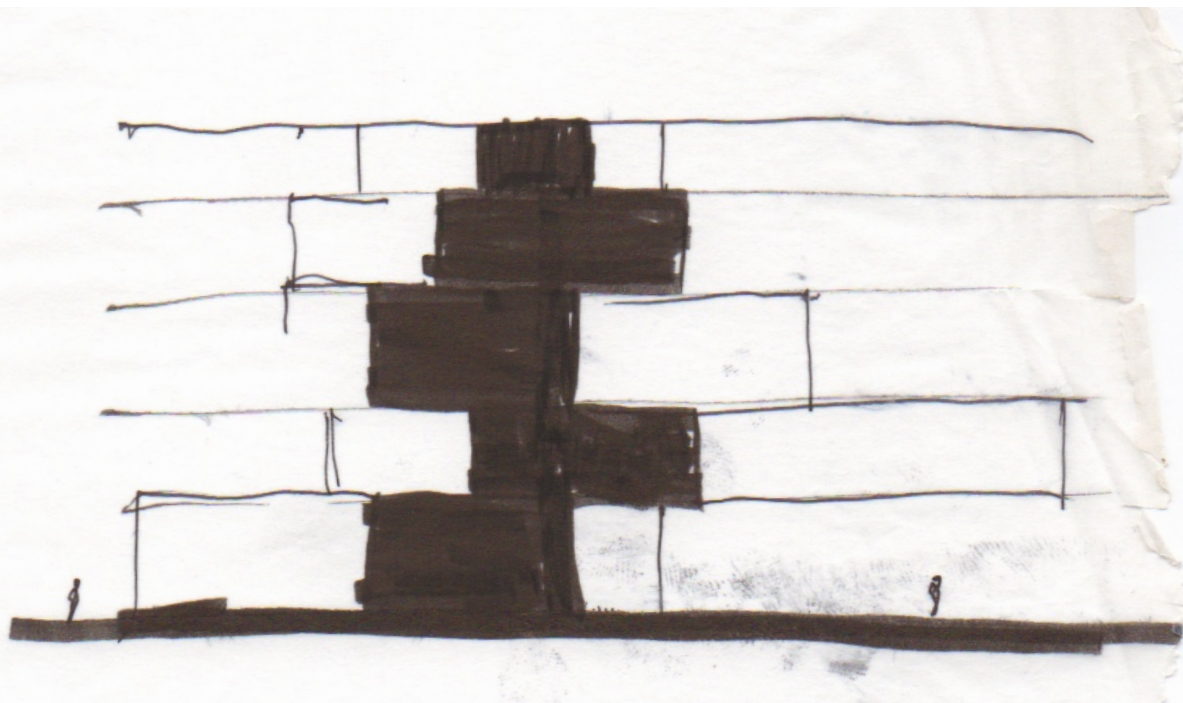


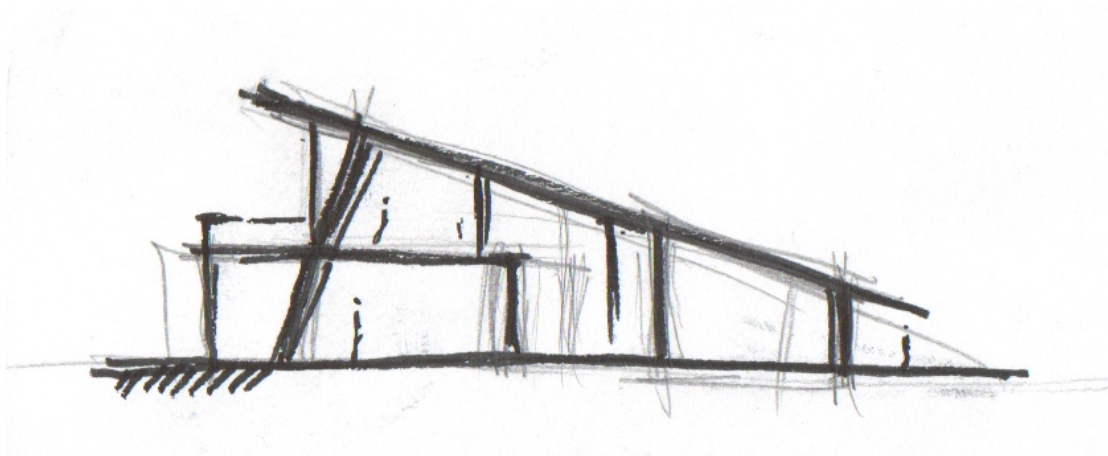


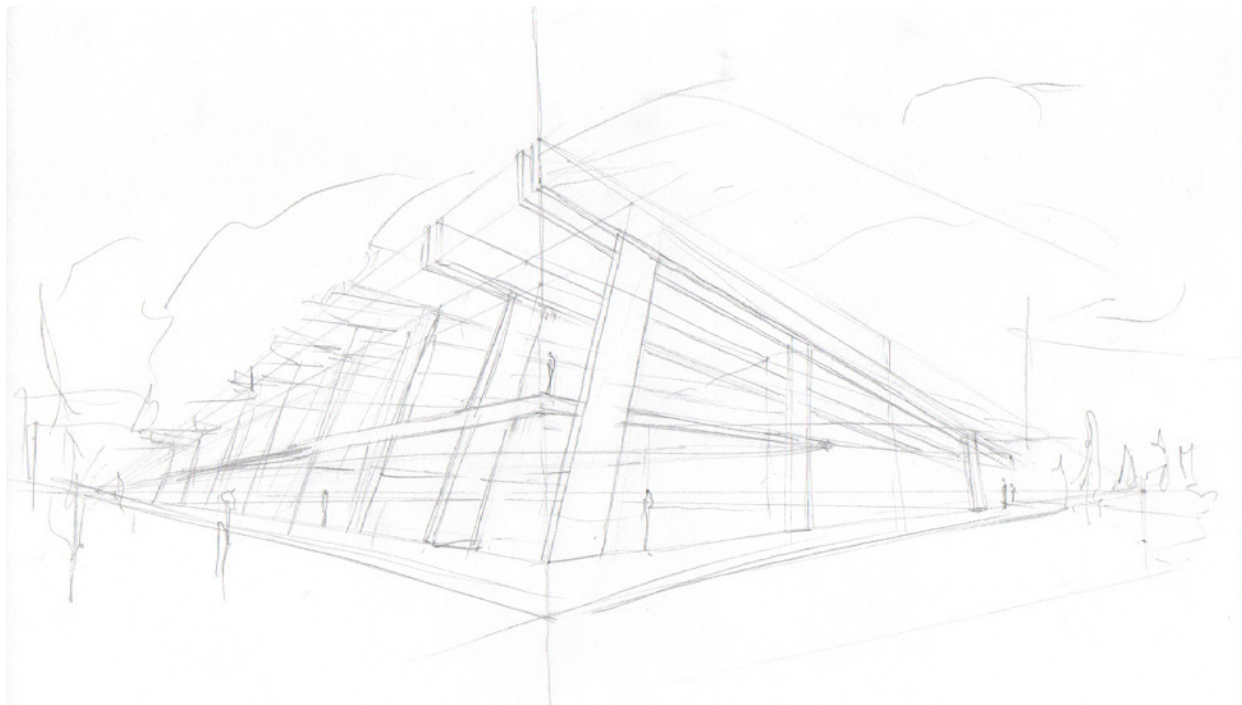


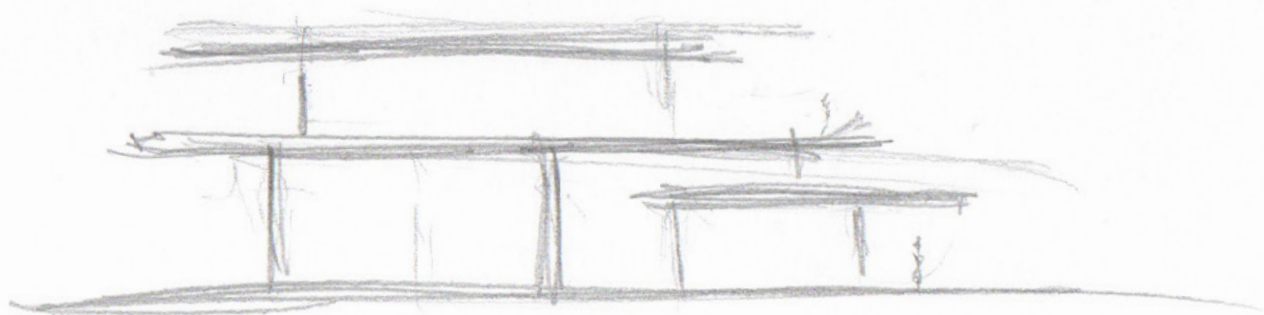


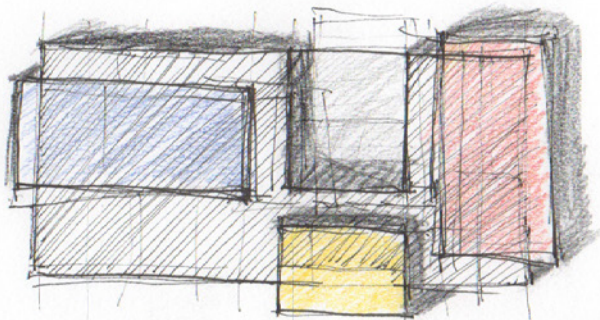
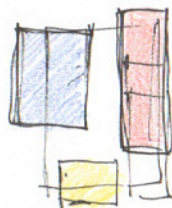
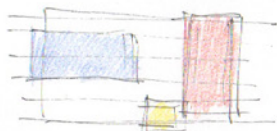


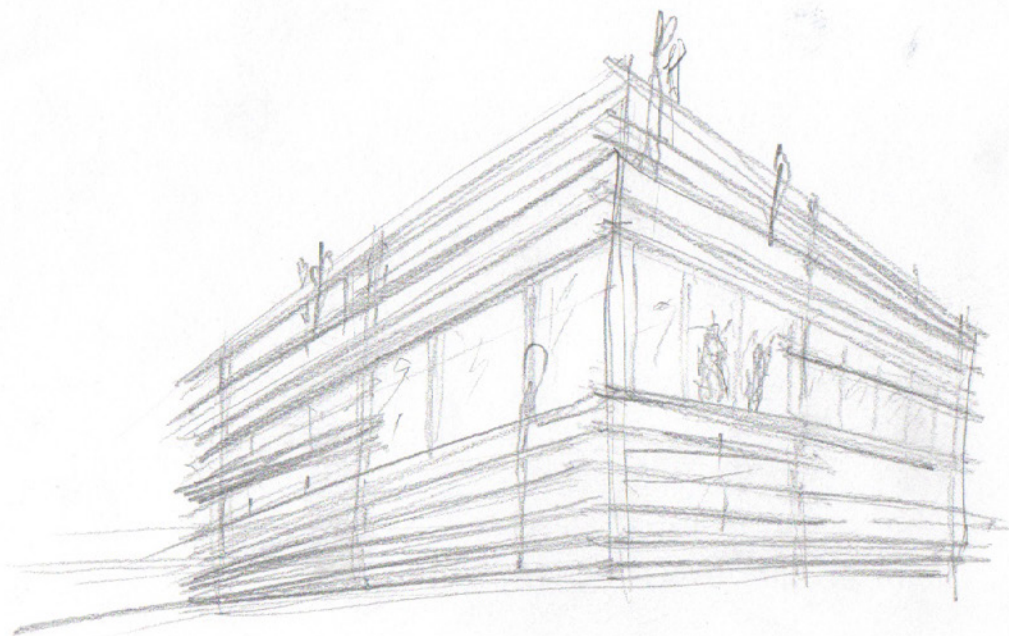


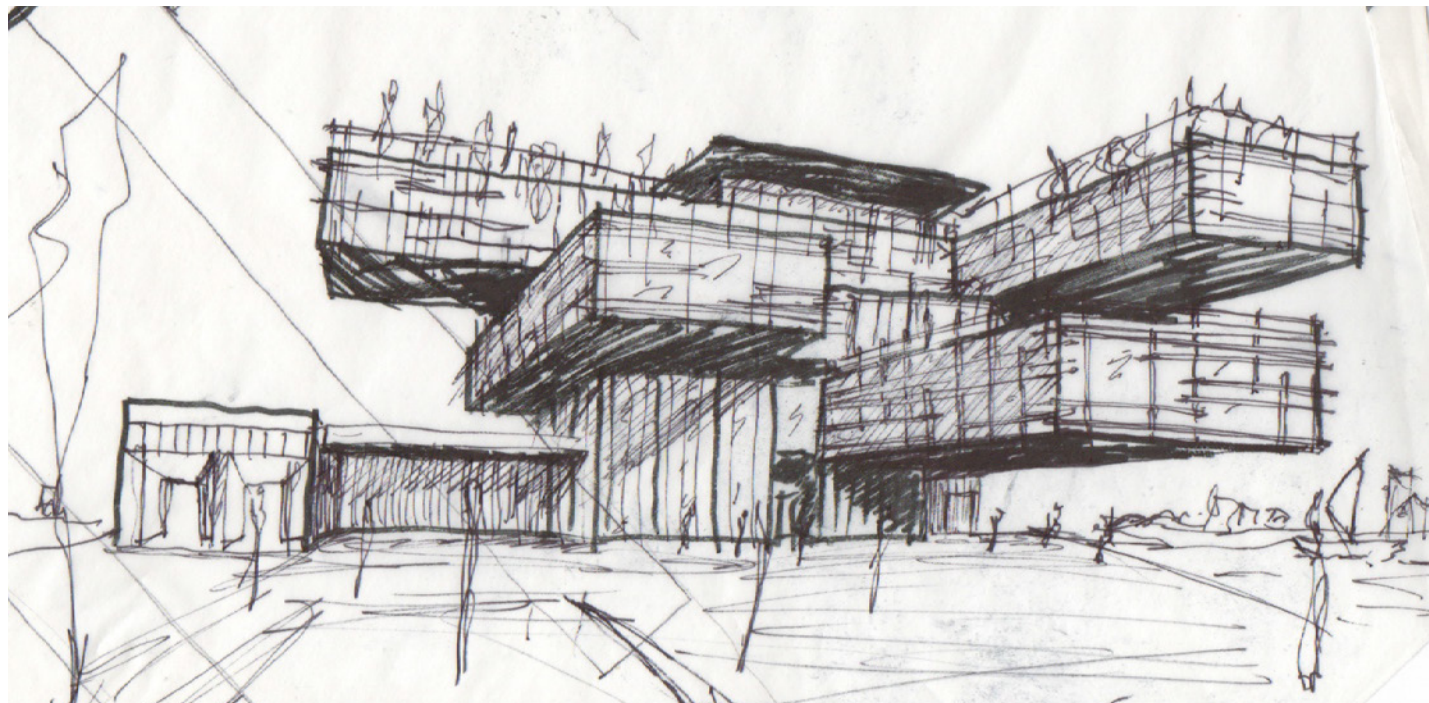












“The greatest education in the world is watching the
masters at work.”

Micheal Jackson