

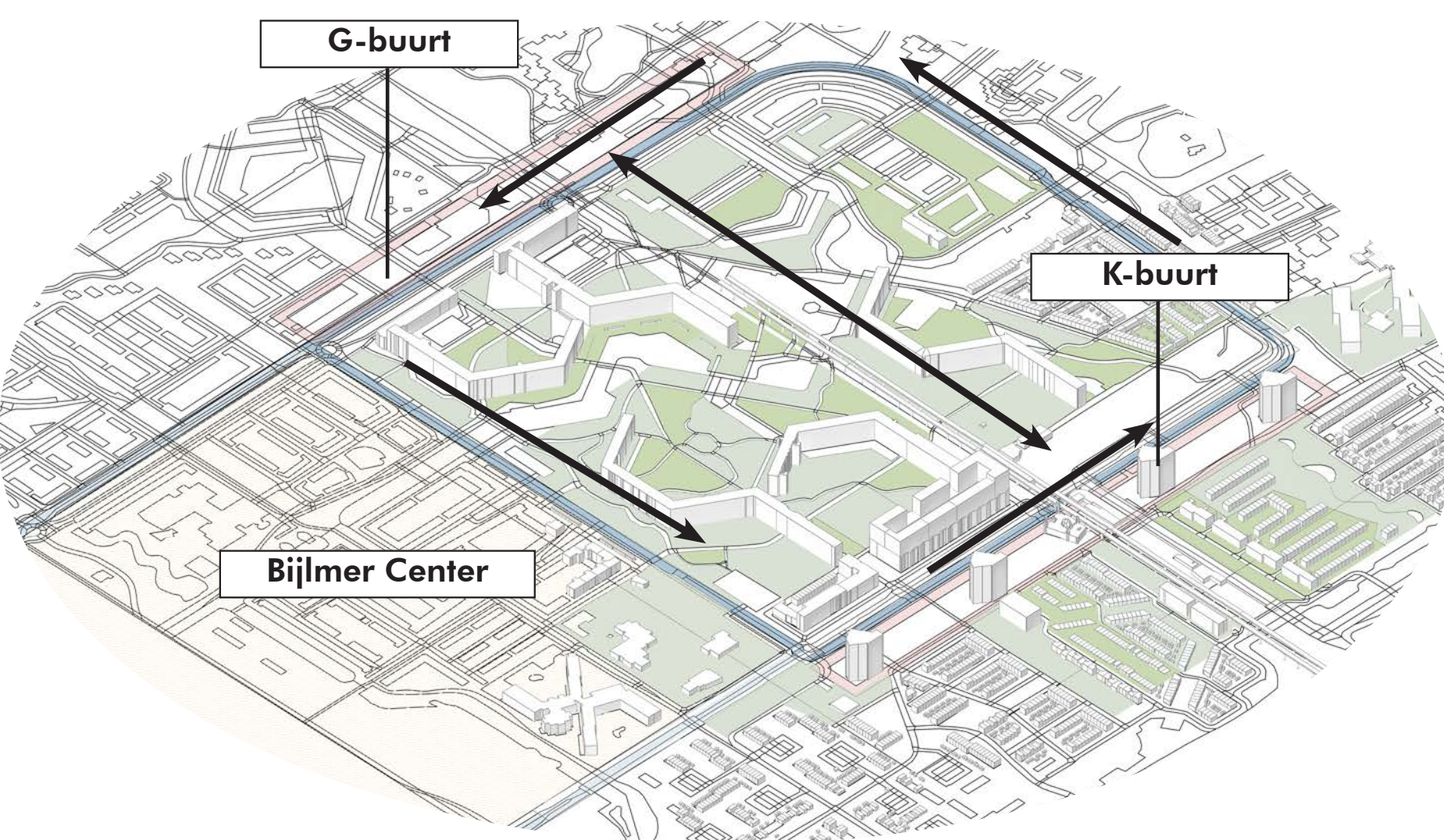
An Architecture of Connectivity

Cultural Unveiling of Kraainnest Bijlmermeer The Colors of Bijlmermeer

Inspired by CIAM, Bijlmermeer was designed as an urban plan to answer the post-war demand for dwellings in the housing market with its concrete honeycomb gallery flats and envisioned man-made nature growing within it, creating an image of grey and green utopia on the suburban side of Amsterdam. After being rejected by the dutch middle class families who preferred a smaller scale environment with facilities nearby, Bijlmermeer became a home for immigrants and refugees from different cultures but mainly Suriname who inspite living in a less priviliged condition and having their own social and financial struggles in the first few years have now found their way out of the concrete blocks and to the fringes in between them with their proud community. Yet, comparing to the scale of the buidlings, these colors are still not blended with its context.

Master Plan

Kraainnest is located in the immediate distance from Bijlmermeer also known as K-middle, following the same type of architecture with its famous large scale towers of around 20 levels and the intervals in between them that used to serve as parking buildings before their demolition. As a part of the loop of Bijlmermeer, it can serve as a cultural hub alongside with G-buurt, for a soon to be preserved Bijlmermeer, mainly due to its convenient connections by means of public transport such as the elevated to the Bijlmer and amsterdam center, the unique brutal structures within green in comparison to the rest of Amsterdam and more importantly the cultural identity it carries. Some of this plot attributes are:



1. Neighboring the renowned Bijlmermeer honeycomb structure.



3. Multicultural community with interest in co-creation of the neighborhood and professions such as fabrication, arts and crafts thriving for a better social economy, education and welfare of the young people of the community.



5. De Kameleon, a newly built Residential with a shopping mall on its plinth.



7. Neglected leftover spaces under neathe the metro rails.



2. Direct and rather easy connection to Amsterdamse Poort, a popular public space including shopping streets in the center of Bijlmer.



4. Temporary market next to the metro rails that includes a lot of local businesses, visible in the photo is Taibah mosque.



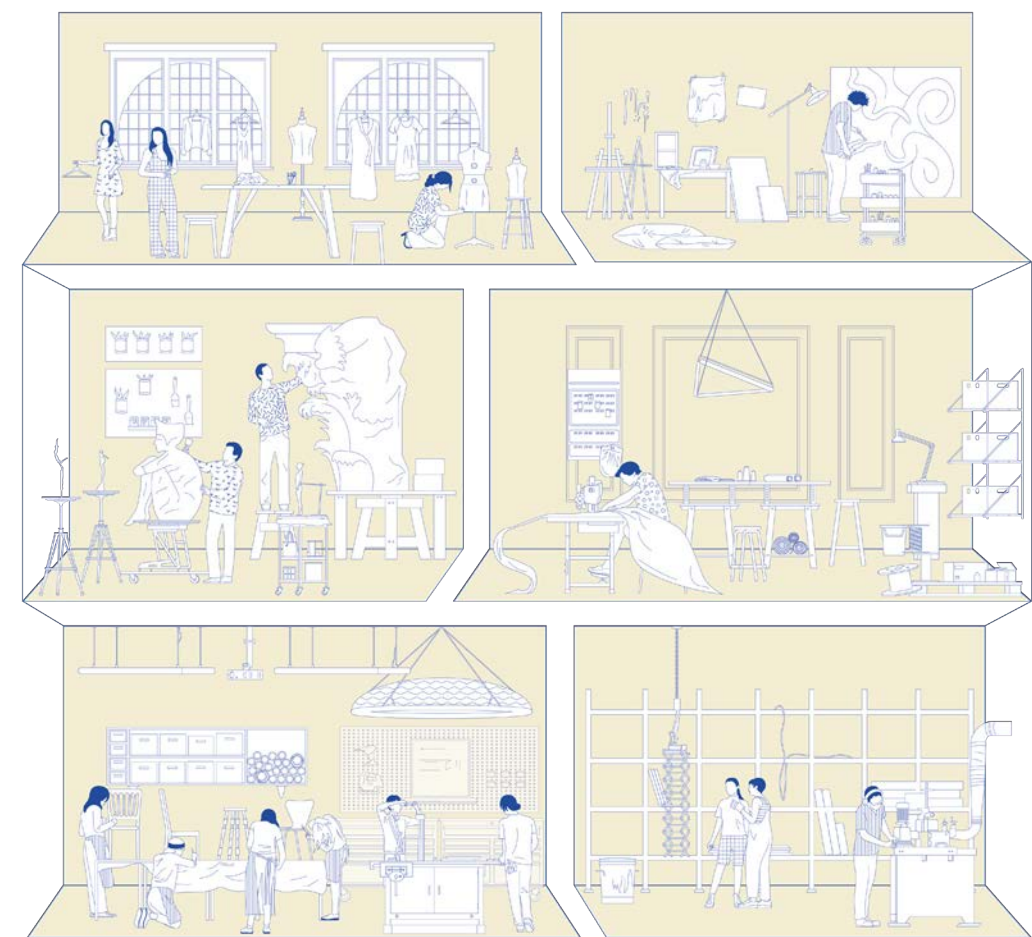
6. Empty plots creating long intervals in between the large structures that triggers the walkability and liveability of the neighborhood and introduces missed opportunities alongside Karspeldreef, the main road.



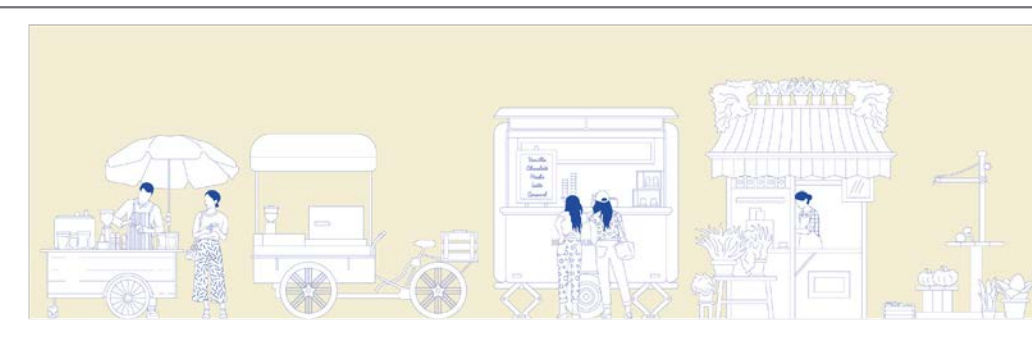
8. The existance of a mosque and a church on opposite side of the metro looking at the existing metro station entrance.

Users Demand

Apart from missing facilities and functions missing on the urban level such as art center, sports and educational facilities, the users main concerns are to keep the young community inside the neighborhood and create a beating heart for K-buurt to enhance the socio-economical situation of the residents. Both demands require a flow of people who do not live in K-middle to have a motivation to visit and explore this neighborhood. I believe that this could be done by making collaborative spaces where different talents and businesses blend as co-creation and community is one main shared value among the residents.



*A platform for the young community to collaborate and create to find their unexplored talents.



*Bazaar-like spaces for the locals who sell different specific products

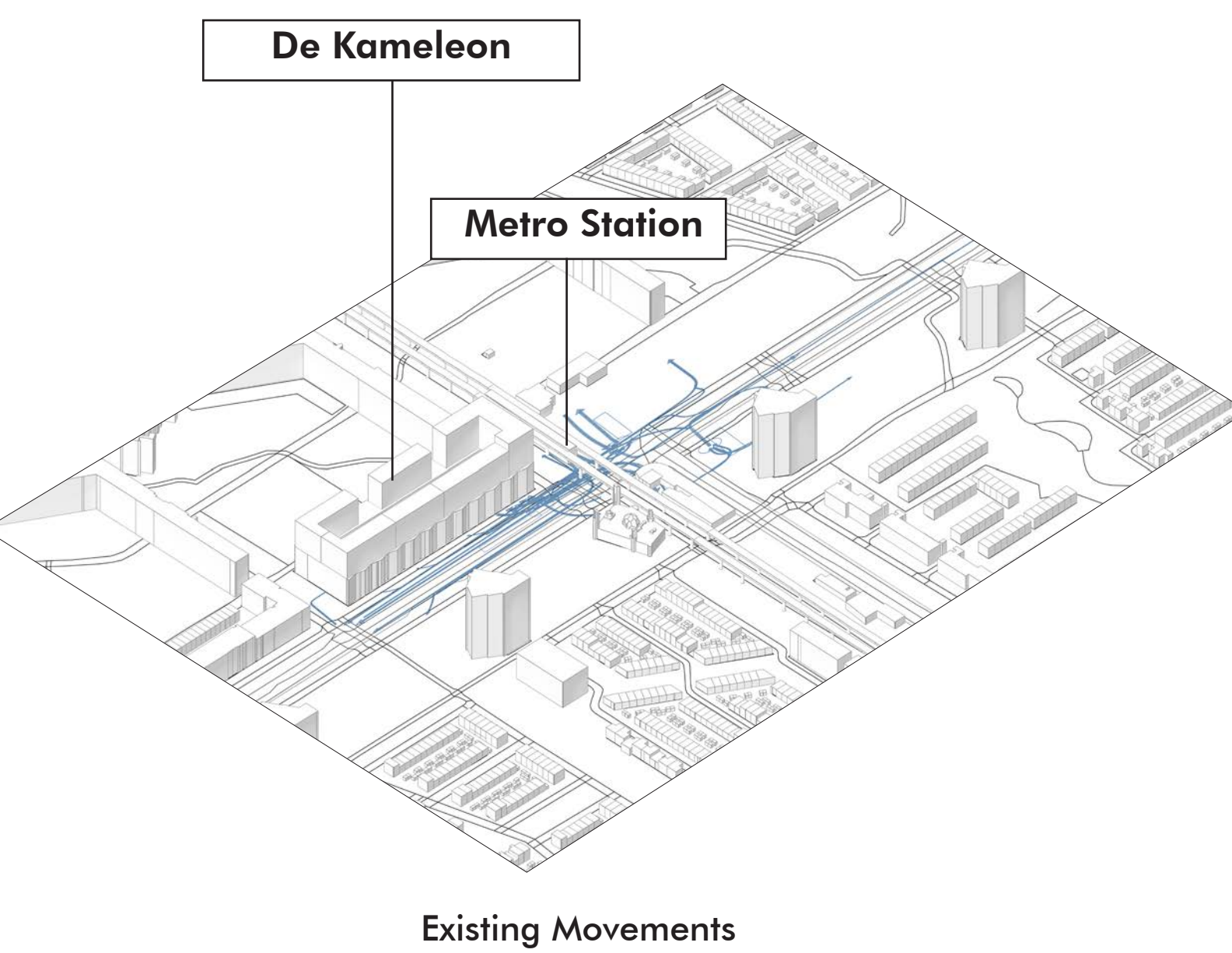


*A platform as a market where both young community and other locals display their products

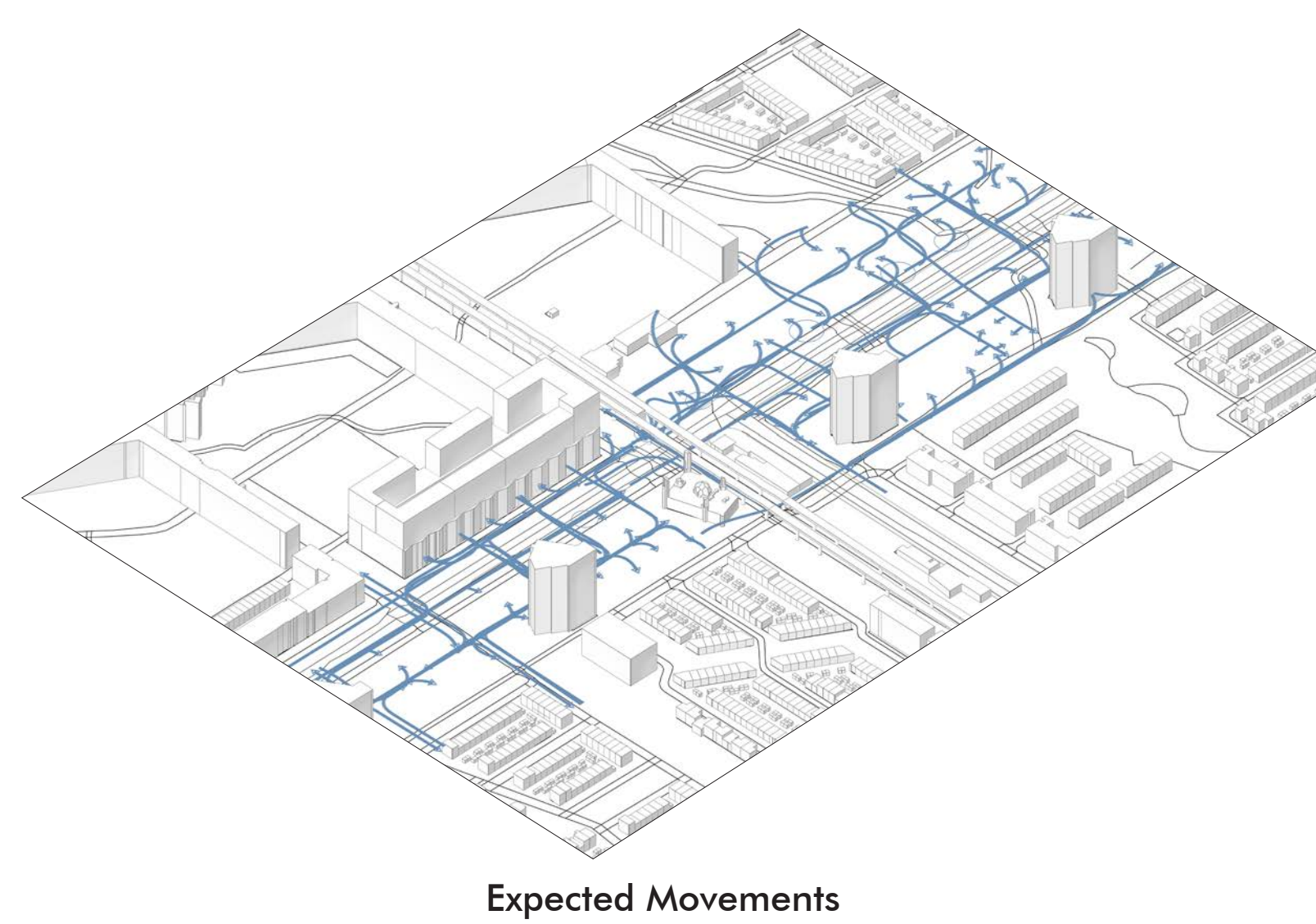
The grid of Movements • Revitalising the Urban Connectivity

The existing movements alongside the strip of K-middle tend to be prominent the current metro station Kraainnest and De Kameleon with a shopping mall plinth, creating meeting points only on their front facade next to the main road, Karspeldreef, leaving the rest of the neighborhood unexplored and tedious for walk due to lack of functionality on their plinth.

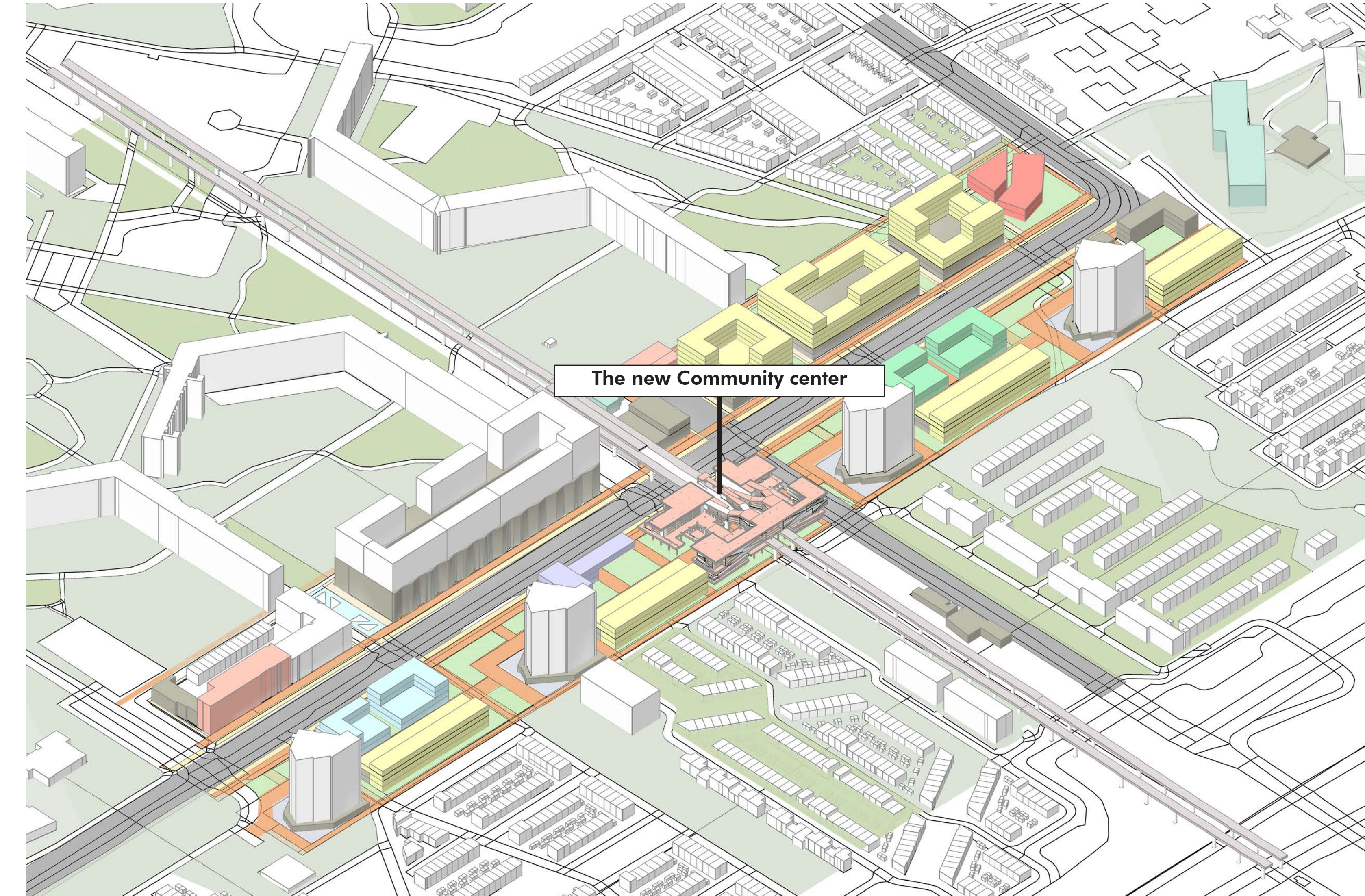
My ambition is to create a grid of movements by not only dividing the strip into three types of pedestrian in parallel to Karspeldreef but also perpendicular to them and in parallel with the metro rails axis and according to the transitional paths in between the existing buildings. The grid would eventually results in smaller portion envelopes and loops that would solve the existing issue of dead ends around the center of this neighborhood.



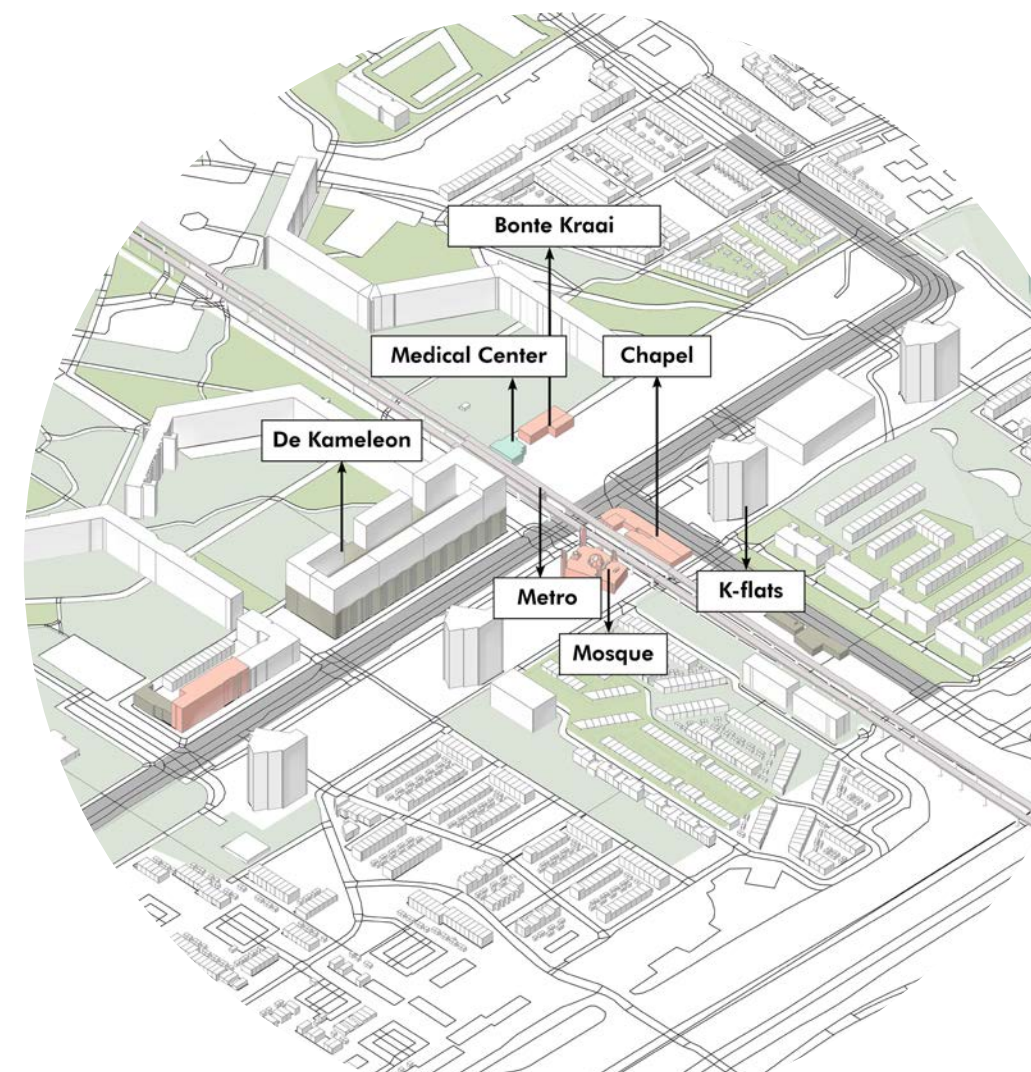
Existing Movements



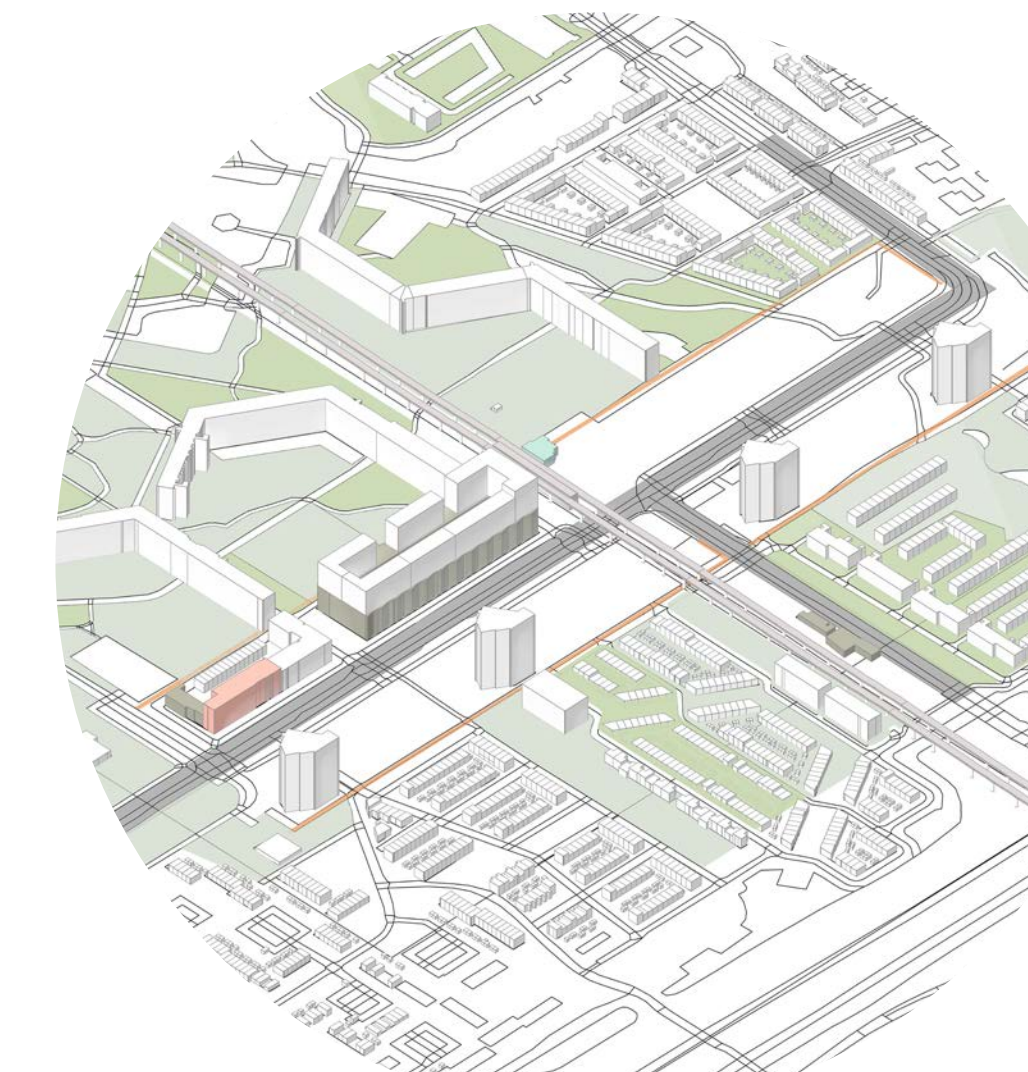
Expected Movements



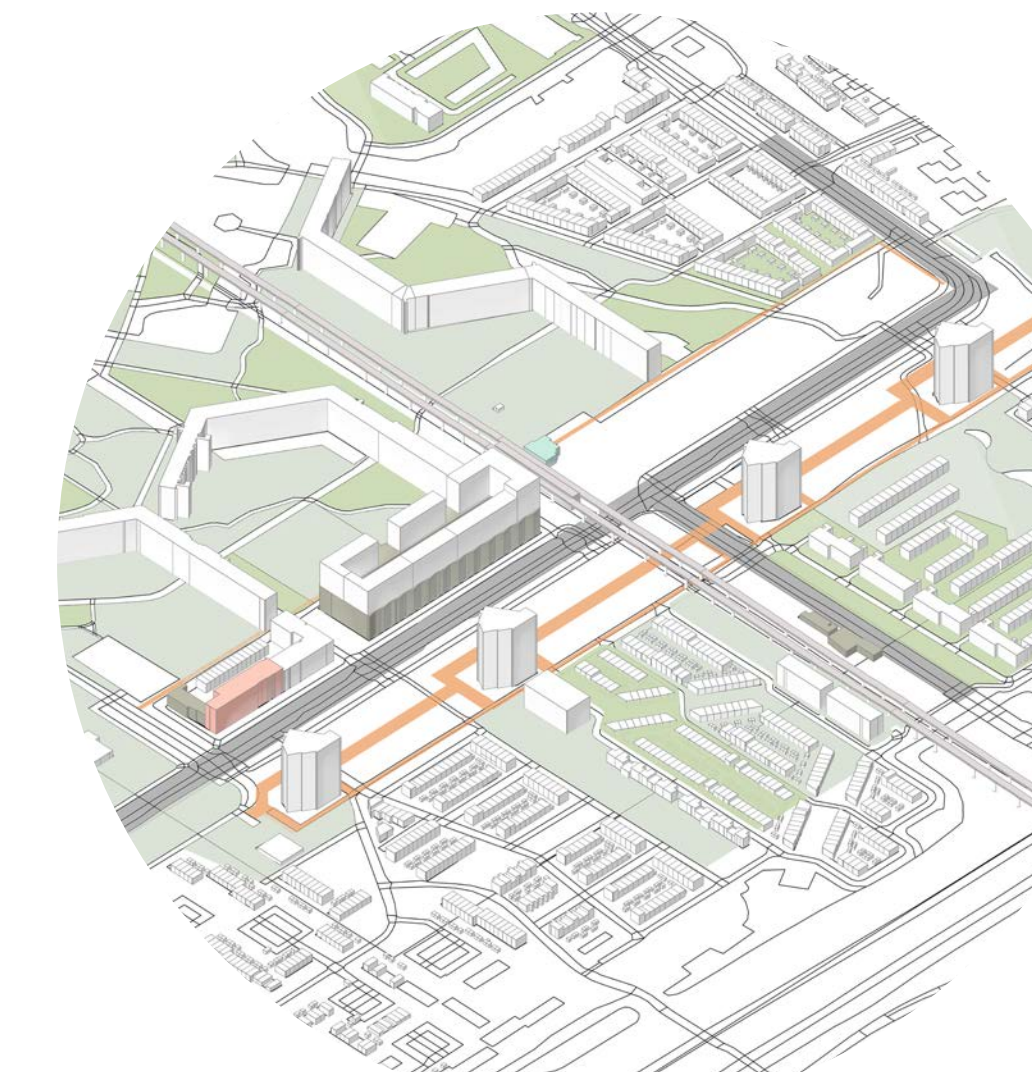
Residential Community Center Daycare Recreational Commercial Landmark Art Center Educational



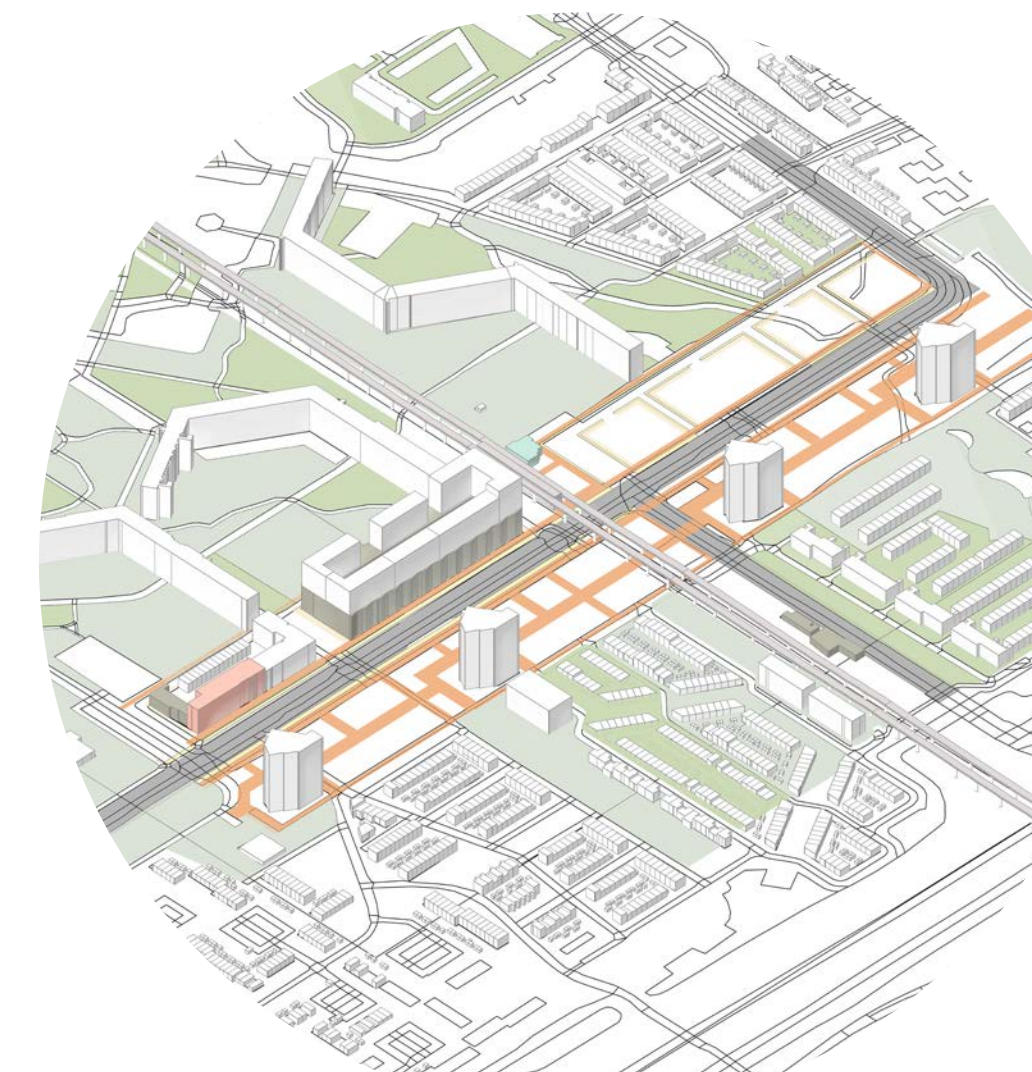
1. The existing programs



2. Removing the mosque, the chapel and the Bonte Kraai to replace them with a community center for all cultures later on and adding the residential pedestrian



3. Adding the Shopping street



4. Adding pedestrians along side the edges of the main street and creating loops

The grid of Programs • The Pedestrian Paradise

In the grid, three types of pedestrian were added alongside Karspeldreef: 1. Two residential street on either sides of the strip with a quieter atmosphere. 2. The divided empty plots now consist of a no-car shopping street to create an atmosphere similar to the center of Amsterdam with housings on top of commercial. passing below the metro rails and moving around new towers plinth which created a square. 3. On the main street an array of functions, that seem to be missing, were added on its both sides to respond to the urgency of the users needs.

Heart for K-middle • A New Proposal For A United Community Center

As the shopping pedestrian would be obstructed by the chapel and the mosque, I suggest to combine these two community buildings into one united community center at the intersection of the metro with the pedestrian paradise. This place would prioritize its function based on shared values of not only both communities but also the rest of the neighborhood.

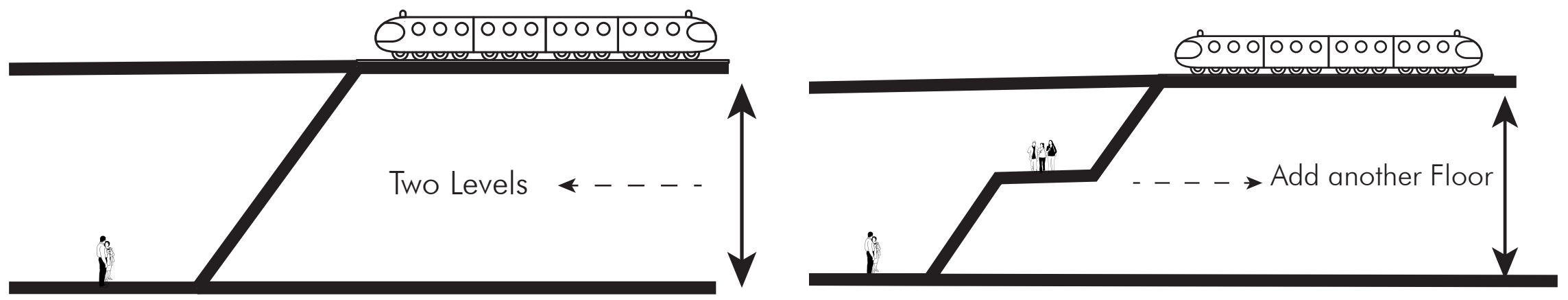


The open Plinth

At the street level, it is recommended to use open plinths where people can walk through without feeling or seeing obstructions. This way there will be strong connection between the mainstreet and the shopping pedestrian in an efficient and transparent way.

Urban Void

At the street level, it can be seen that the elevated metro is around ten meters high in total, which makes it a good potential for creating public functions and place making by adding another floor . In case of the proposed community building this space will spread out to the sides across the shopping pedestrian and the main street creating pilotis as an open plinth to create a welcoming atmosphere rather than limited.



Activating The Plinth

The spaces below the metro level and underneath the pilotis , introduce a significant opportunity for various types of markets, including food markets, book markets, and arts and crafts. These spaces would allow both local and non-local users to showcase their products. The change in levels in the landscape would puts more emphasis on the transparency and perspective of the market and entice people in.



Going Beyond The Metro Level

The extended metro platform would create a new exit for new arrivals leading them through corridors that go beyond the metro platform and spread throughout the whole project and towards the exhibition galleries and to be combined with other functions such as cafes and communal areas at the metro level

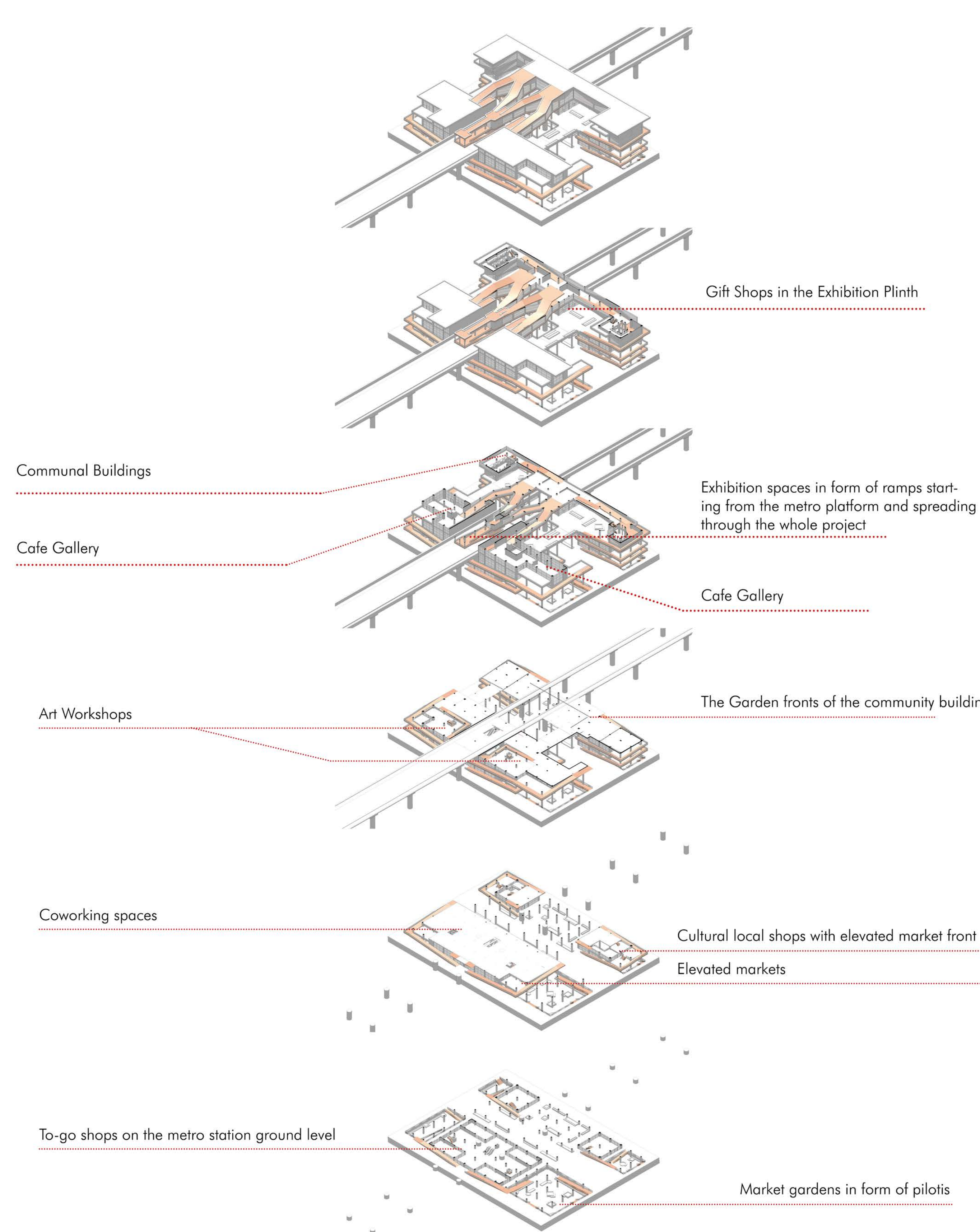


The Moving Plinth to Enhance The Social Economy

Arriving at the community center from any of its entrances, pathways lead individuals through different programs, creating endless journeys into these communal spaces that are functioning as mainly collaborative environments for the sake of the enhancement of users welfare. It was designed to use walls to a small extent and instead create an open plan where the barrier between programs are permeable. The community building , consists of coworking spaces, workshops and resting areas as well as the previously highlighted intertwined exhibition spaces..

The Connectivity

Rather than conventional vertical connections ,the journeys towards these programs are indicated to be effortless and eventful through folded surfaces and gradual rampsstarting from the shopping pedestrian and the main street. Along the way on these long gradual ramps open air markets, exhibition platforms and retails added at different split levels. This journey continues inside and outside the structure to connect all the programs to one another.



The Interior Boulevard Journey

As the exterior of the building tries to compete with the scale of the context , the seemingly unified folded surface inside embraces its dimensions by holding the programs all together in a gradual sense until it reaches out to the landscape and blends in with it and becomes a part of its fabric. This would give endless possibilities for the users journey and make a democratic environment.



Taking The Plinth Up

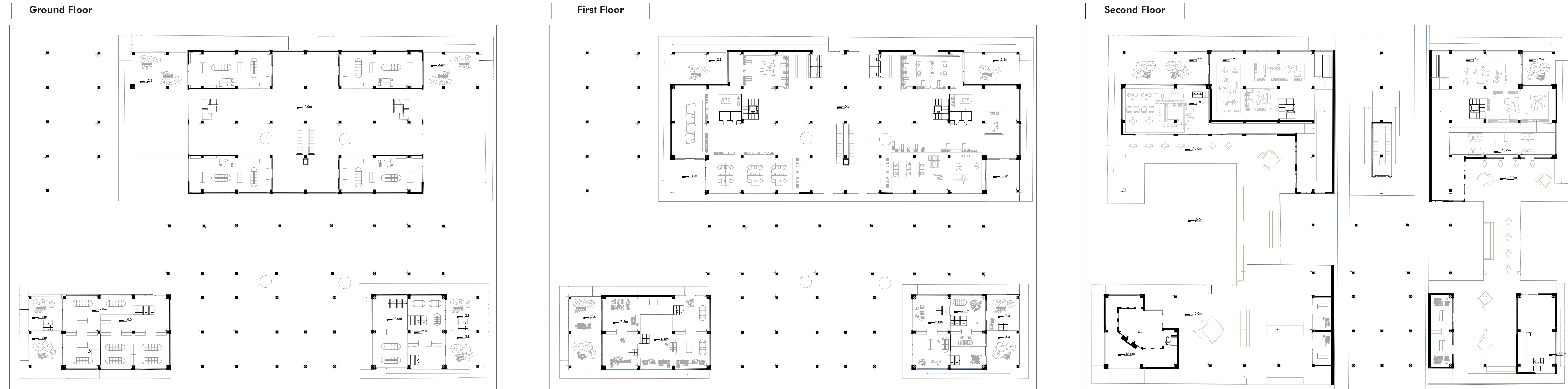
In order to make this context humane, a plinth can play a more significant role than just being limited on the ground, Having the flow of programs at different levels would make a journey of movements, this time in a more vertical sense. An eventful flow around and about large scale structures would divert attentions from their inhumane skin and encourage people to connect at higher levels



Metro Level Entrances

Arriving at the metro level open space platforms there will be the entrances to the newly proposed unified communal building on two opposite sides of the metro, each would open up to a platform for two western and eastern culture that are interconnected closely by means the metro level exhibition corridor. These platforms will be central spaces where communities gather, share and practice their culture in a more public manner.





The Space Divisions Through Ramps

Not only do the ramps connect spaces but also they divide them in a readable and transparent manner, opening up for the the light and the landscape to get in without any obstructions.

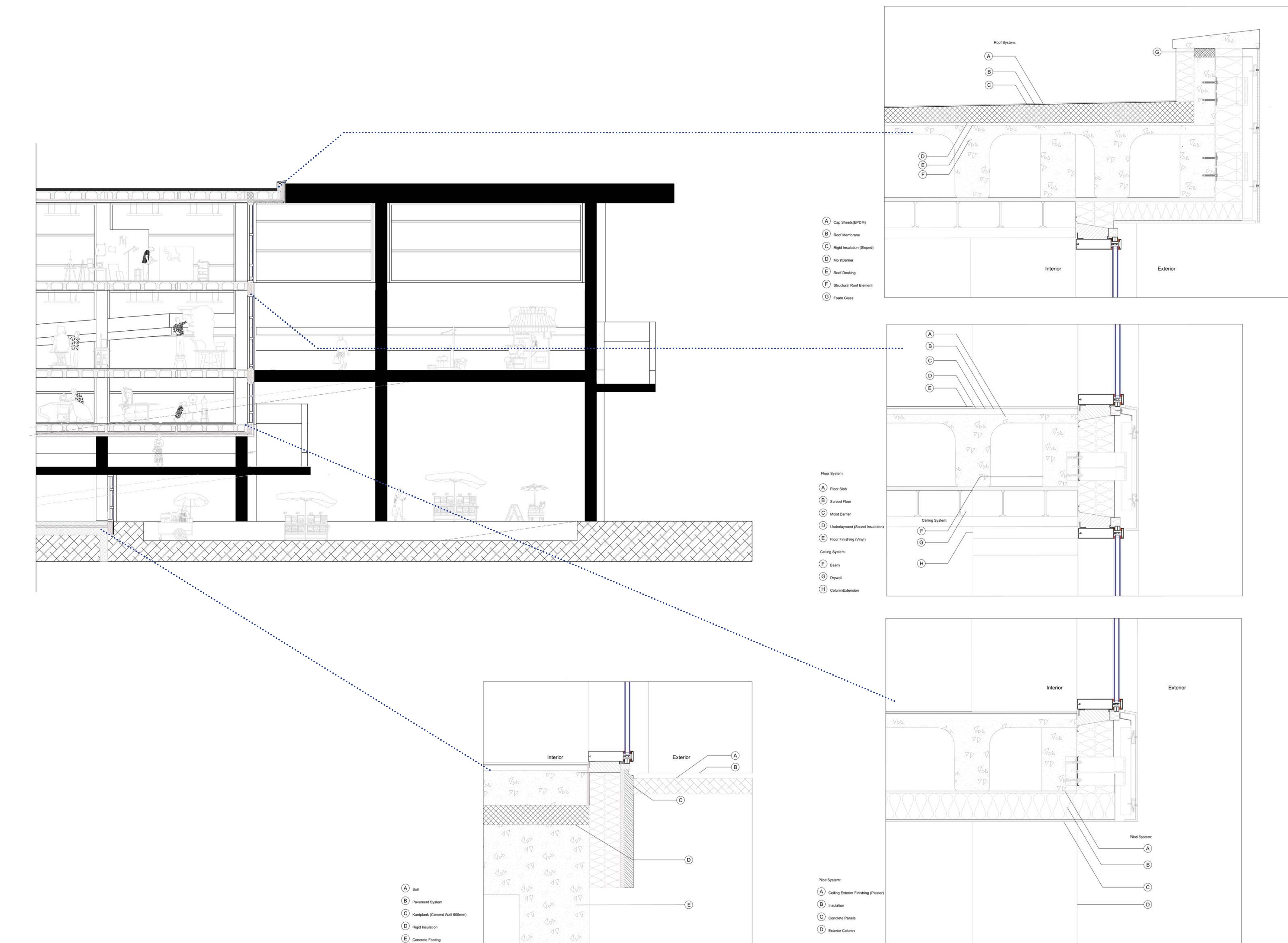
The humble structure

The primary structure adheres to its context using concrete as its main structural material but does not intend to be closed off and rather wishes to be readable as it carries the motions sourcing from its urban level, the community identity, interests and professions. To emphasize on this, the primary structure has remained visible on the humble facade through replication of the columns and

the folded or unfolded slabs using the concrete claddings and a transparent glass system that works as its skin with the horizontal mullions to draw attention to the connectivity across each floor. The thin vertical supports that are barely visible in distance are added to support the heavy wait of the horizontal glass panels.

Synergy of Movement and Divine Illumination in Façade Design

The utilization of concrete façade panels is kept to a minimum, occasionally interacting with the motion of people along ramps. In the context of community buildings and shared architectural themes related to divine illumination, the focus shifts to employing façade movements strategically. This involves employing openness and closure on the façade within galleries, guiding individuals towards communal platforms. The intent is to allow light to enter exclusively from the corners with divine lights, casting illumination onto central atriums adorned with mezzanines.



Details:

Coming in different shapes, these thin precast concrete façade elements are mounted on the primary structure to hide the insulated and protected elements resulted from the extensive use of large glass system on the primary structure. They are fastened by means of a bracket that holds on to a frame and eventually that will be attached to these so called formparts.

Conclusion:

This open architectural design has effectively integrated neighboring CIAM-inspired structures on a large scale. However, it sets itself apart by prioritizing user inclusivity, emotional considerations, and demands. Achieved through the use of fluid and transparent elements, the design introduces a typology applicable to the left over spaces created due to the large scale of the buildings resulting from Bijlmer's original plan

