

(Re)form the norm

*A norm-creative housing
proposal in Majorna*

(RE)FORM THE NORM

An investigation on how the design of a home
can make everyday life more gender equal

THANKS TO

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Everybody who has generously opened up and shared their
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**“architecture continues
after the moment of its
design
and construction”**

**“the house is a
spatial and temporal metaphor
for
conventional role playing”**
(Kanes Weisman, 1981)

Research question

How can residential architecture challenge gender norms and promote gender equality?

Claim

We believe that norms and ideals about gender and gender roles are formed and reinforced in our homes: the place where we have our first memories and re-create our identity throughout our lives. The structure and spatial configuration of apartments sets the scene for how they can be used and by who. The architectural form of housing tells the story about what kind of society is desirable. In order to challenge and question gender norms, it's time to rethink the concept of a home.

Aim

To create a wider awareness about gender equality and architecture, this thesis focuses on the “everyday life” and the issues in relation to the home. Our society is built up by divisions; work/leisure, public/private, male/female. We believe that everyday life is what happens somewhere in between and bridging these dichotomies. This thesis aim to challenge norms about traditional gender roles and explore if residential architecture can affect gender equality.

Problem statement

issues that are going to be addressed

Housing built in Sweden today doesn't enable for all types of households, there is a focus on the nuclear family norm with layouts that are static and unable to change over time.

Our homes are not free from norms but instead they are representing us and therefore fortify social ideals.

Residential architecture has not been developed accurate to our society, lifestyles and household types, rather it promotes an ideal way of life.

Apartment buildings are strictly divided with small shared spaces to build larger apartments and there are few variations in cohousing. Historically sharing domestic spaces and functions is known to have an important role for gender equality.

No clear thoughts or guidelines exists on what gender equality means in terms of the built environment.

The notion of an unpolitical architect/planner and a social neutral reality. We have a tendency to think that we are neutral in our design. Instead we are in many ways gender blind in that we design for "the white man in a car".

The dichotomy and division reproduction/production. The reproductive and productive spheres are separated in politics, economics and society - they support each other and need to be equally valued.

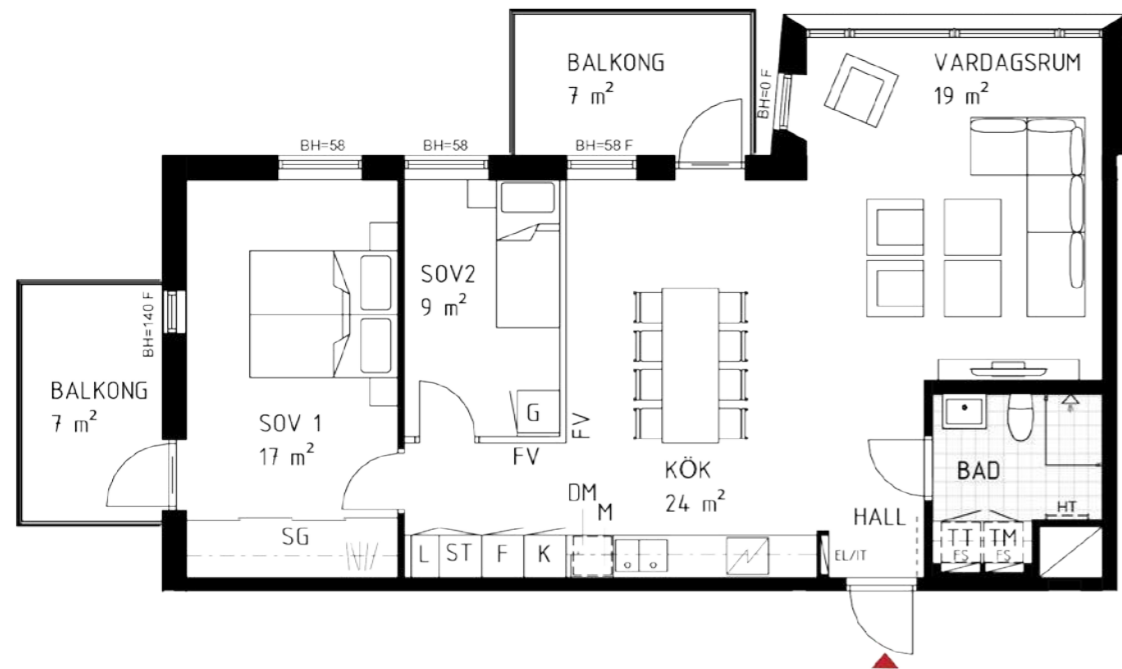
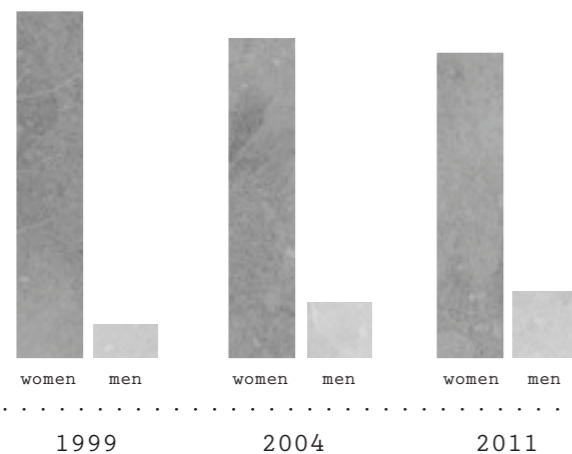


Figure 1: Floor plan from Brf Lindholmsvarvet, Göteborg, 2017. 3 rok, 80m² (PEAB, 2017). Not in scale.



Days for which parental allowance is paid when the child is 2 years old, for children born in 1999, 2004, 2011 (SCB statistikdatabasen, 2013)

82%

of the days for which parental allowance is paid (when the child is 2 years old) is used by the mother. Compared to the 18% that is used by the father. (SCB statistikdatabasen, 2013)

Abstract

gender equality and housing



If men can do it, women can do it.



If women can do it, men can do it.

Gender equality is created where everyday life happens. Our homes are built structures in terms of architectural form, but they are also built-up by social norms. They shape the way we live our lives and we affect our homes by how we live our lives.

Housing built in Sweden today doesn't enable for all types of households. There is a conscious or unconscious tendency to design for norms that reinforces traditional gender roles. Apartments built today are often designed and programmed for a certain lifestyle, with layouts that are static and unable to change over time. One example is apartments with one master bedroom and a second bedroom where only one room can fit a double bed. This disposition is clearly built with one target group in mind. Architects have a responsibility to design for a larger variety of housing.

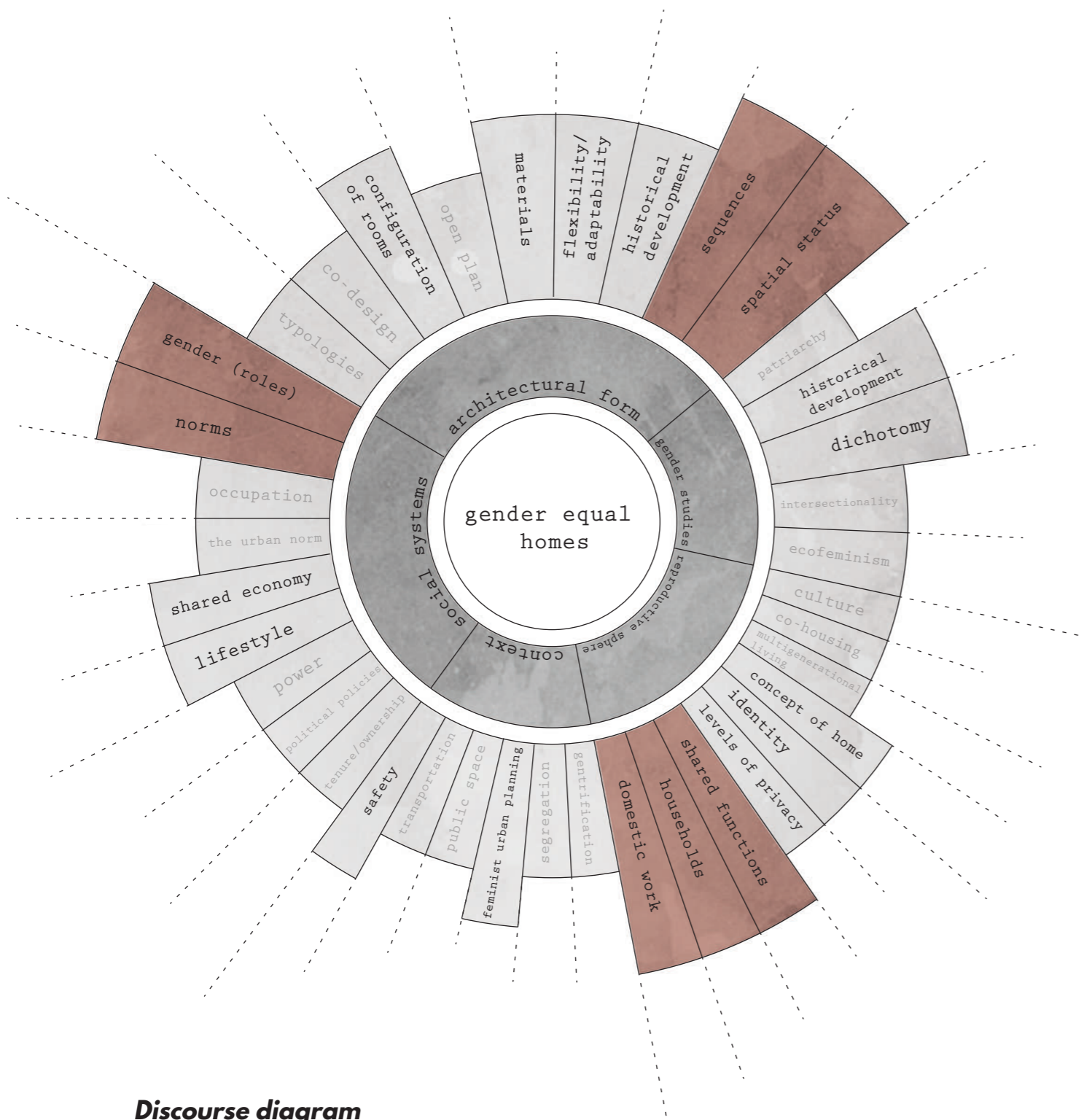
Sweden has come a long way in terms of gender equality, but the relation to the built environment and spatial configuration is still lacking. The discussion on gender equality and architecture is kept at a larger scale, often in an urban context or concerning educational environments for pre- and middle school. This thesis explores the issues on a smaller scale, focusing on the home: the apartment building and its immediate surroundings. The aim is to investigate if and how the home influences and reinforces gender equality.

Our society is built upon dichotomies: female/male, private/public, reproduction/production. To challenge these norms, understanding that we live and act on them every day is crucial. By blurring the borders of these structures more people are able to form their lives free from perceptions on gender roles.

From building a theoretical and historical background in connection with real life situations based on interviews and statistics, this thesis investigates, analyses and proposes a residential architecture designed with a gender perspective.

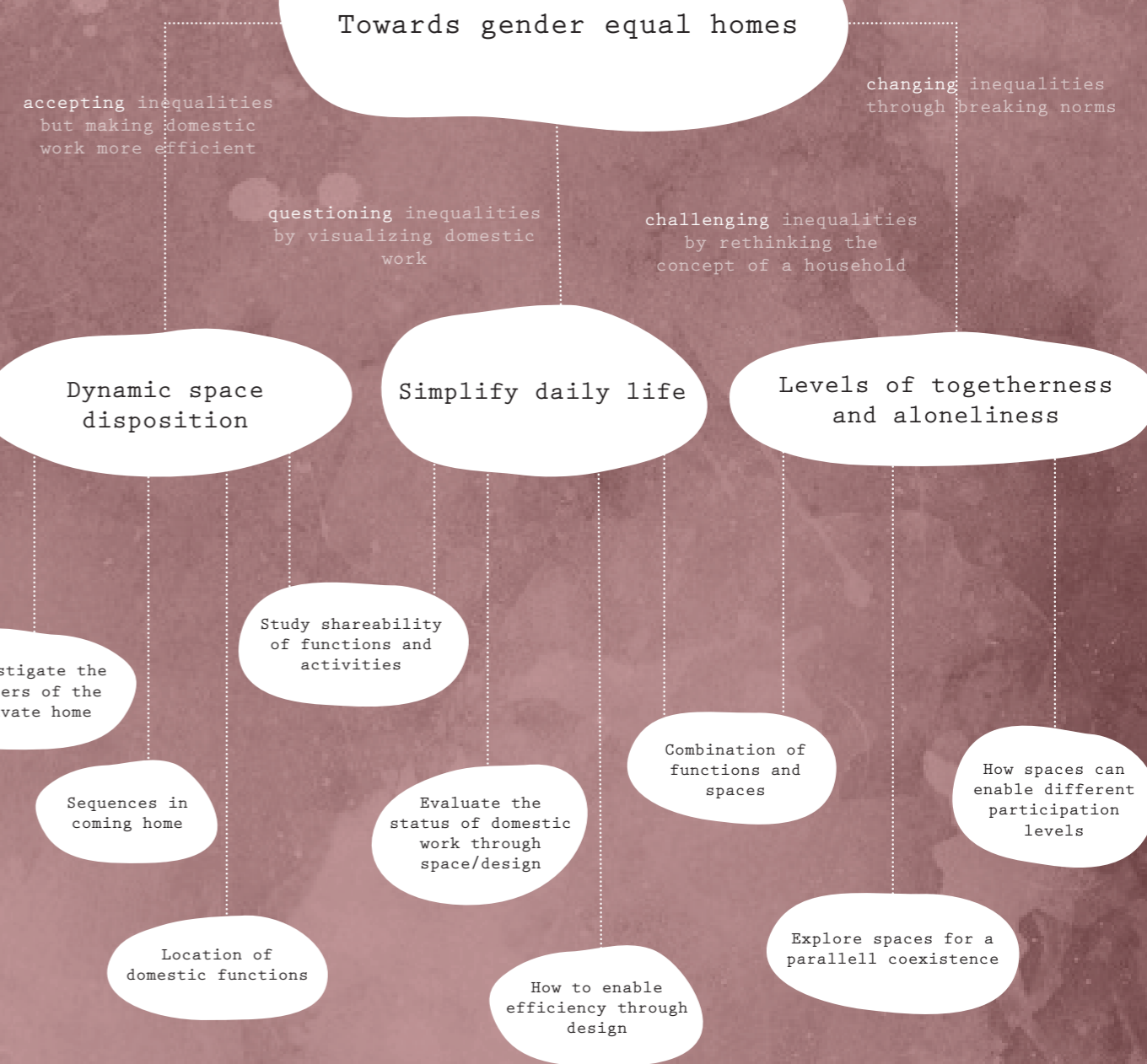
The result is a design proposal for a new apartment building with social functions in Majorna, Gothenburg, the focus is the borders of the private home, simplifying daily life and enabling different participation levels. An example is the extended hallway that simplifies daily life by supporting situations when leaving or coming home. There are functions such as storage, laundry and seating to allow for the first space in the apartment to have another type of atmosphere. Overall the key factor derived from our research is the importance of adding a gender equality perspective to residential architecture.

In order to challenge norms and ideals about gender roles, it's time to reform the concept of a home.



Discourse diagram

When designing a multi-family building with a gender equality perspective there are many subjects connected. Some are of societal matter, some of theoretical matter and others of organizational matter, for example. To show our awareness of the subject but limit our work the diagram shows our discourse limitation. Our main focus has been, as the figure explains, looking at gender and norms in relation to the household and how architecture can support and change this, by for example looking at spatial status.



Concept diagram

From extensive reading to build a theoretical and analytical background on gender equality issues, we have connected this to architectural concepts. The overarching aim is broken down to four strategies, three main concepts from which we have investigated a number of architectural elements.

About us

our background and connection to the subject

During our first year of the Master Programme we got to work together on larger projects twice. We realised we worked very well together, had mutual interests and way of working within school and the subject. Throughout our different projects we recognised that we both enjoy exploring the vast importance, wide variety and the future of housing.

We both have big interests in social sustainability and during a project on Zanzibar, Tanzania we focused on empowering women through housing design. It felt like doing a master thesis in the same category would be the last puzzle piece in both our degrees. A project where we could combine designing homes with a deep dive in a very important social question.

To both of us, gender equality in relation to architecture is both a personal matter as well as a professional one. To enter this

profession, which often claims to be equal due to the fact that there is as many women as men graduating while the power positions tells another story, is bittersweet.

We want to include the knowledge of gender in architecture into our qualifications while adding to the current discussion and challenge Chalmers architecture department on how to integrate these questions in the education. We believe that gender equality involves everyone in all aspects of life and that it is one of the bases for moving towards a sustainable future. It is time to take the subject from the planning level, where we feel that the focus has been, into a design issue.

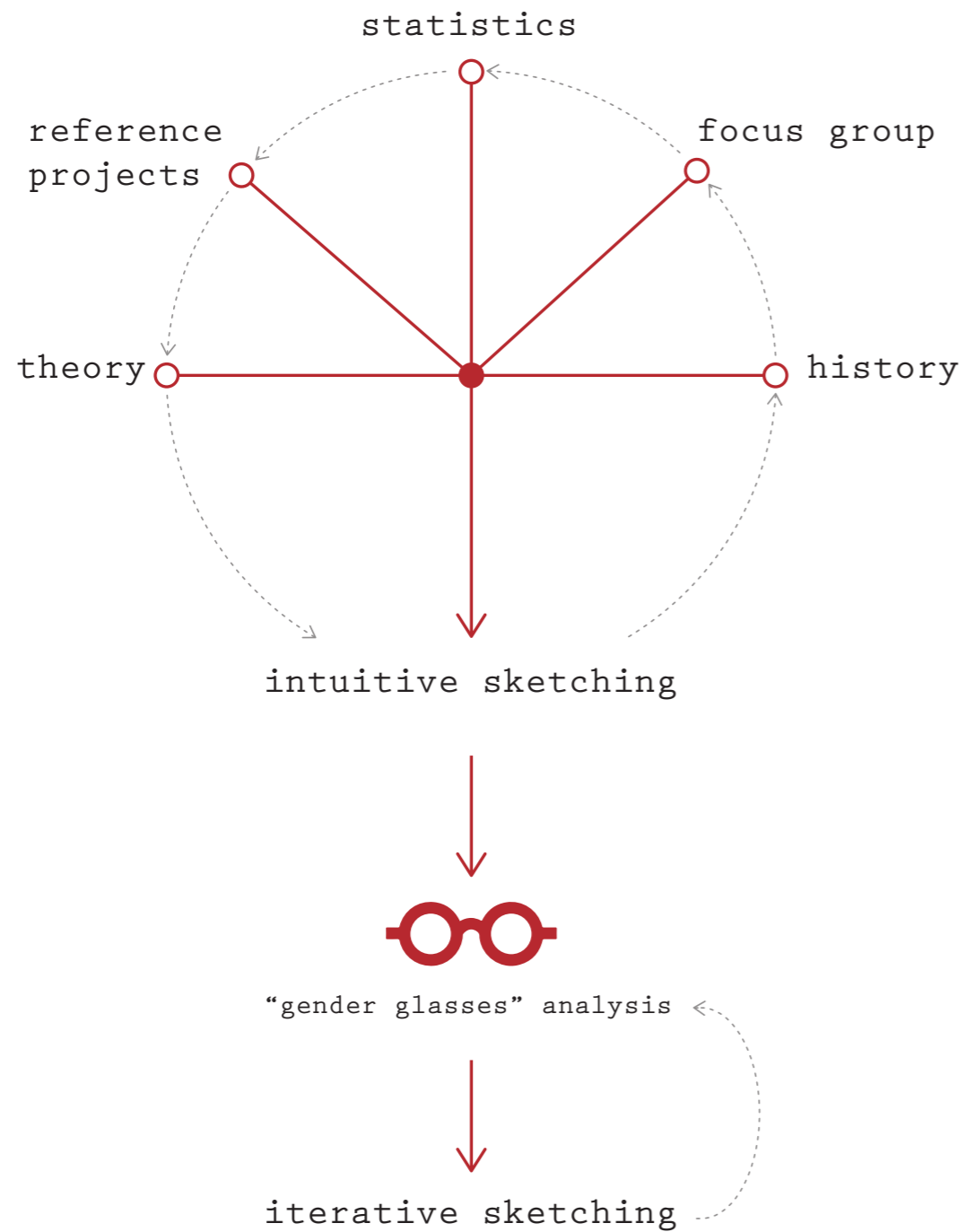
We acknowledge the fact that this is a project made by two women, however it is *not* a project about women.



The project on Zanzibar from Reality Studio is called "Modern traditions". The society is both very modern and traditional at the same time, for example almost everyone has a cellphone, but not running water.



One focus on the Zanzibar project was to create more semi-private/-public spaces for women within the building block. Therefore we worked with "elevated public squares," bridges, small courtyards & roof terraces.



Methods

analytical background to allow intuitive sketching

This thesis is built up by research for design and research by design. In order to work with iterative and intuitive sketching we created a foundation from theory, reference projects, statistics, history and from interviews with a focus group. By getting a notion on what gender equality is and shape our own conception of what it means and how it can be translated into architecture we have felt

free to make interpretations in sketching floor plans, sections and facades for example. When having sketches of different parts of the building we have gone back, put our “gender glasses” on and analyzed our design. This has created a freedom for us to design housing with what we think are good architectural qualities, such as light and axiality, except from having a gender equal approach.

How can residential architecture challenge gender norms and promote gender equality?

Can these abstract issues take physical form and how can it be visualized?

Can we design housing with architectural qualities for all (and not just for women) by adding the layer of gender?

How can we measure if the design is successful in fulfilling its purpose?

How can we generalize the matter of gender equality and feminism in order to create architecture?

What can architecture really change?



global scale
gender studies
reference projects
policies



Sweden
history
rules and regulations
statistics
gender studies
reference projects



Gothenburg
site
interviews
statistics
household types

Delimitations

framework for the project

The geographical context for this thesis is Gothenburg and the site for the design proposal is located on Amiralitetsgatan in Majorna, just outside central Gothenburg. The plot is a fill-in lot for which the planning office in Gothenburg has developed a local plan for an apartment building. This means that the thesis focuses on housing in larger cities, apartments in multi-family buildings and a building block typology.

The context relating to the subject varies in different parts of the thesis. Gender equality development and gender studies concerns a broader perspective with developed countries in the world. Historical studies on housing, statistics and rules and regulations (BBR, SIS) are limited to a Swedish context. Interviews with households and statistics concerning demographics are from a local perspective in Gothenburg municipality.

As we have stated previously this subject often tends to be discussed on a larger scale. To ensure that we pick up on that but still reach a well designed proposal the thesis is restrained to four scales; the fittings in the apartment (such as the kitchen), the apartment layout, the building (and its functions), and its closest surroundings.

The target groups have been developed from statistics on how households are composed in Majorna in Gothenburg today.

Whilst we are aware that gender equality is an intersectional issue, we have limited our focus to only research on gender roles in housing.

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Background

framework for the project

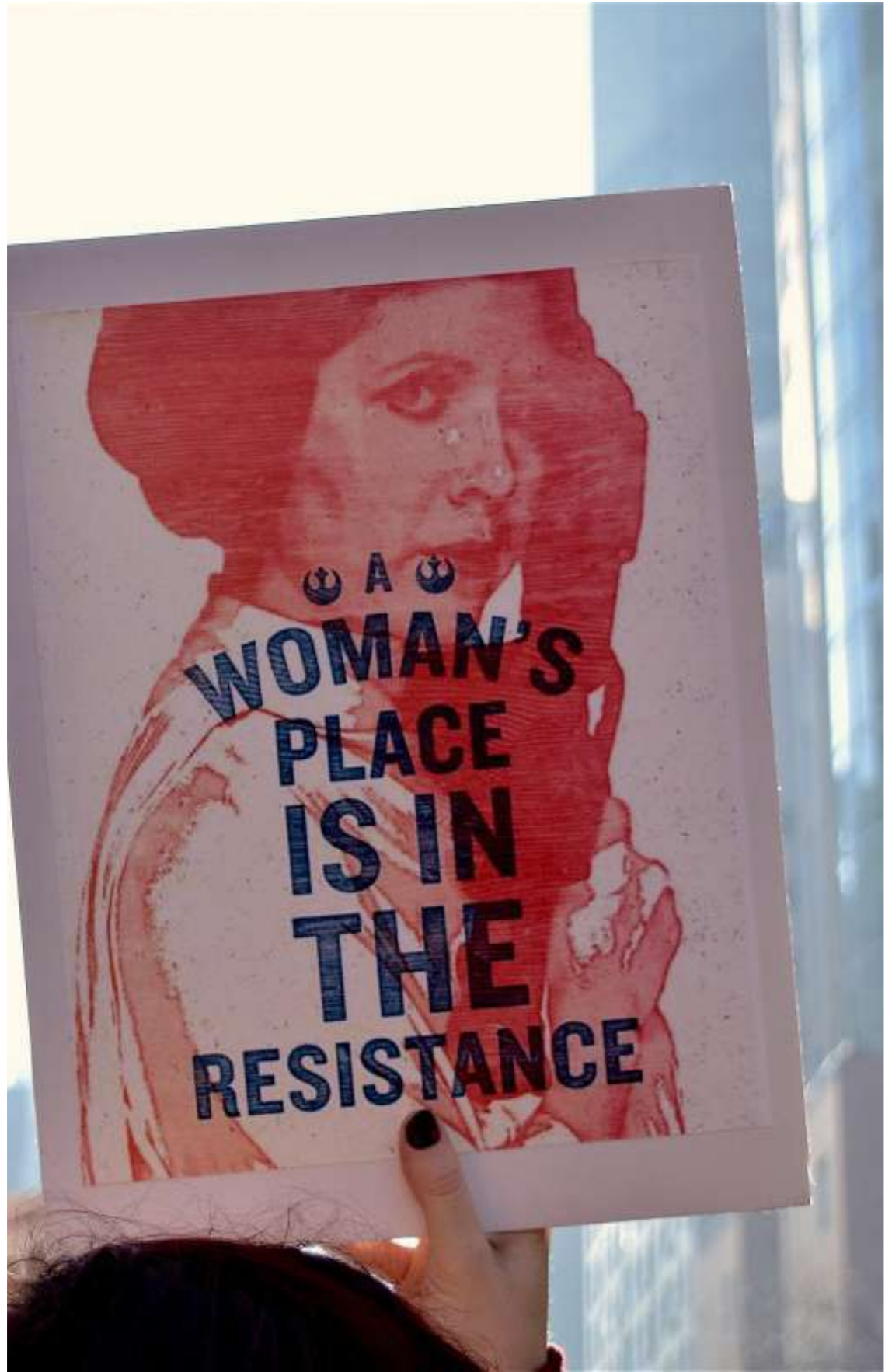


Figure 2: A woman's place is in the resistance (Raising a Ragamuffin, 2017) CC-BY.

Gender equality

what does it really mean?

The concept of gender equality simply means that women and men have the same rights, opportunities and responsibilities and are of equal value. The goal is that everyone should be able to live their lives without being limited by stereotypical ideals on what men and women should or shouldn't do. While equality, or class equality, means the equal value of all people where no person is worth more or less, gender equality is earmarked for subjects concerning women and men.

Working with gender equality can be done both qualitative and quantitative. The difference is that qualitative aspects concern norms and values, our perceptions of female and male and why things are the way they are, whilst quantitative concern for example gender quotas. (Boverket, 2011)

Only looking at the inequalities that exist today and see them as different needs, could be a risk of reinforcing these inequalities. By

replacing the terms *female* and *male* with words that connect to experience, such as *social reproduction* and *unpaid work* and *production* and *paid work*, a more equal discussion can be held. These terms relate to men's and women's traditional experiences but don't determine how they should live their lives in the future. (Larsson and Jalakas, 2014)

Acknowledging that the concept of gender is a construction opens up for change. To get a wider understanding of what it could mean, looking at how the physical environment affect the daily life of women and men of all ages, is one way. Today, women spend more time doing housework and men invest more time in paid work. (Boverket, 2011) This division and norm can hopefully transform if and when the society becomes less formed by traditional gender roles.

“Gender equality is created where ordinary decisions are made, resources are allocated and norms are established”

(Boverket, 2011)

Why gender equality matters

from the UN to Swedish housing policies



Figure 3: The Sustainable Development Goals, adopted on 25 September 2015 as a part of the 2030 Agenda. (Gershuni, 2016). CC-BY.

In September 2015, the UN set 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development. Completing these goals would end extreme poverty, inequality and climate change by 2030. Goal number 5 is “Gender Equality”. Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world (The United Nations [the UN], 2017).

In order to reach these goals both governments, companies and private people engage in different ways. Many countries has set up their own goals with specific targets in order to reach for example gender equality. The overarching goal for Sweden’s gender equality policy is that women and men should have the same power to form society and their own lives.

We can easily state that gender inequality is worse and more evident in other parts of the world than Sweden. However both Sweden and the UN has very similar sub-goals, for example “Equal distribution of unpaid housework and provision of care. Women and men must have the same responsibility for housework and have the opportunity to give and receive care on equal terms.” (Government Offices of Sweden, 2017)

The Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (Boverket) has published a number of reports that give examples and tools on how the built environment can help promote gender equality (The Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning, 2011)

Our perception is that the gender equality focus in Sweden today lay in increasing female participation in power positions. However it is important to see the connection between domestic work and career possibilities.

Slowly we are working our way through different scales in how to impact our society into becoming more gender equal. It is easy to be proud of how far Sweden have reached in this question, but nonetheless it’s very important to remember that we aren’t “finished”. We need to realize that the gender pay gap is actually increasing.

Still, in many cases, no matter how much we like to promote Sweden as a gender equal country, women are forced to choose between parenthood and working. “It’s time to challenge the national image of Sweden as an equal and open country that respects human rights.” (Feministiskt initiativ, 2015)

Not only women's rights!

why gender equality is not only a matter of empowering women

A common misconception when it comes to gender equality is that it is a matter of strengthening women's role. From day one of this project we have gotten reactions like "oh, so it's a project about women?" and "what is feminine architecture?". This is not a project about women and feminine architecture - it is a project exploring *gender equal* architecture.

Norms concerning gender can lock *both* women *and* men into limited roles. Men are often negatively affected by stereotypical ideals on masculinity and patriarchal

structures which are maintained by both men and women, thus limiting the possibilities of taking control of one's own life.

Gender equality often come to concern strengthening women and their role due to what inequalities exist. But there is no self-interest in working with women, that would only be a result of an analysis.



Figure 4: Tattooed man with a child. (Regan, 2006). CC-BY.

Equity

The situation in which everyone is treated fairly and equally.

Equality

The right of different groups of people to have a similar social position and receive the same treatment.

Gender equality

The state in which access to rights or opportunities is unaffected by gender.

Feminism

Feminism is a movement for social, cultural, political and economic equality of women and men. It is a movement against gender inequalities and it strives for equal rights for women.

Gender

Either the male or female division of a species, especially as differentiated by social and cultural roles and behavior.

Sex

The state of being either male or female.

Domestic Work

Work relating to the running of a home or to family relations, done primarily to maintain households. Domestic work includes the provision of food and other necessities, cleaning, caring for children and the sick and elderly, etcetera.

Intersectionality

The theory that the overlap of various social identities as race, gender, sexuality and class contributes to the specific type of systemic oppression and discrimination experienced by an individual

Queer theory

An approach to social and cultural studies which seeks to challenge or deconstruct traditional ideas of sexuality and gender, especially the perception of a rigid dichotomy of male and female traits and the acceptance of heterosexuality as normative.

Dichotomy

A division or contrast between two things that are or are represented as being opposed or entirely different.

Patriarchy

A society in which the oldest male is the leader of the family, or a society controlled by men in which they use their power to their own advantage.

Performativity

A concept focusing on what an expression does, rather than what it means. It's built upon the notion that the language affects feelings, identities and materialistic structures.

Glossary

expressions that require further explanation

In the Swedish language the expression "jämställdhet" expresses gender equality, whilst "jämlighet" refers to equality. This project focuses on "jämställdhet" - gender equality, why we don't study inequalities between, for example, different cultural and economical requisites.

Gender equality and feminism is often something discussed whether or not it is the same thing. Some claims that feminism only focuses on strengthening the role of women and thereby reach equality between gender whilst gender equality focuses on the rights of everyone. In this thesis we state that feminism and gender equality has the same meaning.

Our society is structured by a world of dichotomies: good or evil, crazy or sane, man or woman. Generally they are quite problematic as they picture the world as black or white, and never portray the grayscale. They are polarized labels that only tell part of the story. By blurring the bounds of these structures and start looking at the whole spectrum, we are able to move more freely between the definitions and thereby feel less restricted to fit into a normative role.

Sex tends to refer to biological differences (*between men and women*), while gender more often refers to cultural and social differences and sometimes encompasses a broader range of identities than the binary of male and female.

Performativity relates to the fact that gender is a social construction. How we describe ourselves and others and how repetitive the expressions are have an impact on the construction of gender. The saying "she is a woman, therefore she sits with her legs crossed" would instead shift to "she sits with her legs crossed, therefore she becomes a woman". Every time a person who identify or is accredited as a woman "sits with the legs crossed" the norm is reinforced that "women sits with the legs crossed", creating the impression that people that sit with legs crossed are understood as feminine or women. (Nationella sekretariatet för genusforskning, 2016)

With this in mind and in connection to residential architecture; could we shape rooms or performatively create them, by living in them? What does the word "living room" imply? Is it needed or could we as architects provide a space for living in...



Photos from the housing expo "Vallastaden" in Linköping 2017.

Norms

**girls are tidy and neat and only like pink and glitter,
boys are messy and active and only like blue.
or...?**

A norm is usually described as the "normal" or the acceptable behaviour in a social situation. It concerns appearance, clothing and manner. Fitting into the norm comes from the will to be accepted and to gain privileges, power and advantages in everyday situations. In the same way, not fitting into the norm creates disadvantages and possible discrimination.

Methods and theories that aim to shift the perspective from those deviating from the norm, to illuminate norms that is taken for granted, is often described as "norm critique". The point of departure when working from a norm critical perspective is that the current norms, and not the ones subject to discrimination, are the problem.

It's important to state that the goal is not to create societies without norms. Norms always change, but by actively working for change they can be shifted. The term norm critique was introduced in Sweden at the beginning of the 21st century but norm critical methods

have a longer history than this. The work of feminists, theoreticians and queer activists have had a substantial role. Today the methods are used both for research and for educational purposes in pre- and middle school as well as in organisations. (Swedish Secretariat for Gender Research, 2016)

The organisation SETTINGS (2017) have introduced the concept "norm creative" perspective. If the norm critical perspective aim to highlight norms and their consequences to pick apart structures that limit, the norm creative perspective is a way of picking up those pieces to build new, more inclusive structures.

SETTINGS work to challenge norms is focused on visualizing and changing norms that help certain groups or positions, while excluding others. Therefore, it's possible to choose what norms that are wanted or not - in a small community, organisation or in society.

Productive roles

Refer to the activities carried out by men and women in order to produce goods and services either for sale, exchange, or to meet the subsistence needs of the family.

Reproductive roles

Refer to the activities needed to ensure the reproduction of society's labour force. This includes child bearing, rearing, and care for family members such as children and elderly. These tasks are done mostly by women.

Community managing role

Activities undertaken primarily by women at the community level, as an extension of their reproductive role, to ensure the provision and maintenance of scarce resources of collective consumption such as water, health care and education. This is voluntary unpaid work undertaken in 'free' time.

Community politics role

Activities undertaken primarily by men at the community level, organizing at the formal political level, often within the framework of national politics. This work is usually undertaken by men and may be paid directly or result in increased power and status.

Triple role/multiple burden

These terms refer to the fact that women tend to work longer and more fragmented days than men as they are usually involved in three different gender roles — reproductive, productive and community work.

Gender roles

“Gender roles are learned behaviours in a given society/community, or other special group, that condition which activities, tasks and responsibilities are perceived as male and female”

(United Nations Development Programme, 2017)

Gender roles are not static and changes often occur when there are political or economical changes. They are affected by aspects such as class, ethnicity, age and geographical environments. The male gender roles often focuses on a particular productive role and are “played” sequentially. They are categorised as either productive or politics while the gender roles of women are reproductive, community managing roles or productive and played simultaneously. (United Nations Development Programme, 2017)

A study conducted by the World Health Organisation, WHO and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, published in October 2017, states that girls and boys are very early taught how to act to fit in. They are strained into gender roles already by the age of ten. The scientists have studied the children's attitudes towards friendship, relationships and how they are socialised into stereotypical gender roles. Boys are told to take initiative and be outgoing while girls

are taught that their bodies are their most important asset, either by showing it off or hiding it. Even though traditional gender roles in itself doesn't have to be negative, the limitations of them becomes a problem. (Olsson, 2017)

The discussion on how women and men are portrayed in media has been present for a long time, both in Sweden but also internationally. It concerns both the actual representation, how many women and men are occurring in media, but also the stereotypical portrayal of genders. Although women make up half of the population, only a quarter of the global news feed contains women.

The underrepresentation of women as subject of news is problematic as women's perspectives are at risk to be lacking or left in the dark. The patriarchy in society is also fortified through the stereotypical representation or lack of representation in media. (Statens medieråd, 2017)

Household

The persons in a household live together and may share economy to a greater or lesser extent; they may be related or unrelated persons or a combination of persons both related and unrelated.

Family

The family within the household is defined as those members of the household who are related through blood, adoption or marriage. The degree of relationship used in determining the limits of the family in this sense is dependent upon the users why it is hard to decide an exact definition.

Nuclear

A household consisting of a heteronormative couple and their biological children.

Joint

Household of various constellations, but generally consists of two households joint together that may vary in size from week to week due to shared custody.

“Stjärnfamilj”

A household that can consist of one or more adults and the relationships between adults and children and between siblings do not always depend on biology. A Swedish expression created by Ingrid Engarås as a reaction to the encouragement of the nuclear family type done by the former Minister for Social Security.

One-parent

Households in which one parent live with children permanently or by shared custody principles.

Multi-generational

Households that extends beyond the nuclear family, consisting of grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins, all living in the same household.

Collective

A group of people who live together. Collective households may be organised for a specific purpose (e.g. relating to business, parenting, or some other shared interest).

The concept of a home

when does a house become a home?

Although the concept of home is quite vague, it has an underlying emotional meaning. It has come to be a symbol for personal identity and the way it's portrayed from a political and commercial perspective emphasizes consumption and ownership but still relates to a cultural context with social ideals. The commercial narrative visible when you look in interior magazines or real estate marketing material, is based on telling us that we can purchase a sense of home, with the right furniture and appropriate atmosphere. (Hagbert, 2011)

In the Western society, the home has physical form, however it is likely that it often refers to its inhabitants shared origin, ideas, common history and even to similar thoughts and values. (Zabalbeascoa, 1996) Why is it so important to people to describe a physical space with an emotional title and when does a house become a home?

Our homes are expected to allow for both rest and activity, to be a safe space whilst offer spaces to gather in, show status and be up for display. (Willén, 2012) Could we be

supported by extending our private sphere, being able to divide spaces for rest and activity if we would like and at the same time being able to let more people into our family, household or home?

The concept of a home often has some correlation to family or household, usually by living under the same roof. What happens in case the shape of the household change? Who is still included in the home? Can the physical space adapt to the changes? From interviews we found how the single parent, once meeting a new partner, felt the urge to move in order to create a new identity together, a new mutual home.

The “home” is a concept that interlinks architecture with societal structures and thereby is an important element in challenging and changing structures. It's possible that the current definition of home should be questioned more as the housing market and political processes can't provide sustainable living. (Hagbert, 2011)

Housing today

...in connection to the problem statement

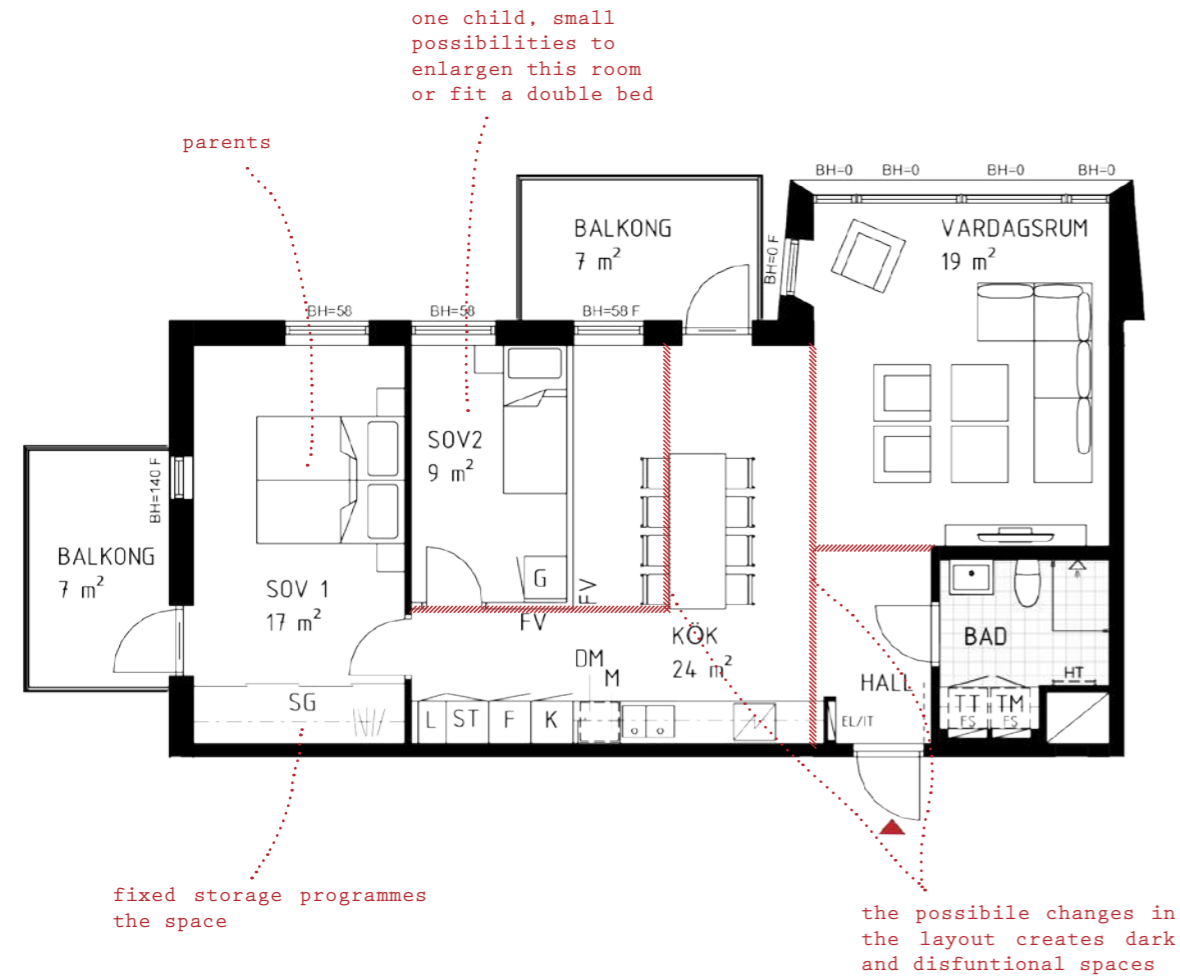


Figure 5: Spatial analysis on floor plan from Brf Lindholmsvarvet, Göteborg, 2017. 3 rok, 80m² (PEAB, 2017). Not in scale.



Figure 6: Interior visualisation from Brf Lindholmsvarvet, clearly selling a lifestyle. (PEAB, 2017).

There is a common misconception among architects and planners that if the planning or design is conducted gender neutral, it will suit both women and men. In many cases this is not true. Gender neutral often becomes “gender blindness”: the inability to acknowledge that women and men still lives under different conditions and therefore have different experiences and interests. There is often a reference to the gender neutral citizen, but the problem is that since we live in a society where the man is the norm, the norm for the average citizen is often a man as well. (Andersson, 2016)

At the architecture office White architects, a research group have studied how norm creative renderings and illustrations can act as a tool in creating a more equal city. Renderings are a common part of a project to communicate a project to developers and stakeholders. The problem is that they rarely are reflecting or challenging. Instead utopic images are produced to fortify stereotypes. Lisa Wistrand at White says that many renderings reinforce societal norms and contribute to exclusion. (Michaëlsson and Wistrand, 2017)

Emma Jonsteg, founder and CEO of Utopia architects and vice president for Architects Sweden declares in an interview with Radio

Sweden (2016) that newly built housing in Sweden today are too monotone and homogeneous. It also seems to be regardless where in Sweden it’s located. “It’s about what kind of society we want to have”, she states.

In the trade journal “Byggindeindustrin” (2014) she also discusses housing development. Our attitude and needs when it comes to dwelling has changed in terms of a serious housing crisis, lifestyle changes, more and more single households and a growing shared economy. Newly built housing doesn’t accommodate the increasing interest in co-housing or to live with friends.

Jonsteg puts forward three important factors in for housing development:

- The average city dweller doesn’t live in a nuclear family today and probably never will.
- Housing produced today doesn’t match the demands of the market.
- From a survey done by the Swedish Property Federation in Stockholm in February 2014, 47% of people in Stockholm aged 18-35 want to live with friends in the future. Today on the hand, only three percent of the same group actually live like this.

Inspiration

reference projects

Athena housing project

uplift domestic work and value daily life



Figure 7-9: In the Athena houses the laundry room is located on the second floor. Could this contribute to raising jobs traditionally performed by women? (Boverket, 2015)



Year: 1992
 Location: Örebro, Sweden
 Number of apartments:
 34 divided on two 5 storey
 buildings
 Typology: Towerblock
 (stjärnhus)
 Tenure: Rental

Figure 10: Layout from one of the Athena houses, second floor. (Vall, 2016)

The Athena housing project was built for the housing expo *Bo92* in Örebro by Athena Experiment AB. The theme of the expo was ecology and the integration of different social groups where the housing projects should not be developed with the “nuclear family” as the norm. In this project, all key positions were held by women; the owner, developer, property manager and consultants.

Women’s knowledge and experience in terms of simplifying and raising quality of everyday life, was the foundation for the design. From the apartment layouts to the shape of the building. The star shaped building allows for natural light to reach the staircases and for the apartments to have windows in three directions.

The apartments have key features such as a window above the kitchen counter, raised oven, fixed fittings and flexible work counters in terms of height. Details like wooden doors frames and marble window sills have been paid extra attention.

An aspect that the project have been known for is the location and space for the laundry room. It is lifted up from the traditional

location in the basement to the second floor. It has large windows with a view over the adjacent fields.

In the shared zones between the apartments there is space for strollers, shoes and mailboxes. The main entrance have a semi-private zone between the building and the street. The courtyard is designed with cultivation and social cohesion in mind. The residents also have a “hobby room”, a room for composting and a studio which could be used for painting or as an extra space for larger dinners or events. (Boverket, 2015)



Our analysis:

- *The value of chores is raised.*
- *Spatial status is uplifted for the daily chores traditionally done by women, through materials and location.*
- *It should be a nice thing to do, regardless who does the chores.*
- *The focus on a norm critical process and design created another kind of architecture: from the larger scale with the surroundings and building to the apartment layouts and fittings.*



Figure 11: In the Sofielund collective housing building, the apartments are reached from balcony corridors that form a meeting place for the residents. (Boverket, 2015)



Figure 12-14: Apartment layouts from the building. (Sofielunds kollektivhus, 2017)

Year: 2014
 Location: Malmö, Sweden
 Number of apartments:
 45: ranging from 1 room
 to 6 rooms
 Typology: Access balcony
 building
 Tenure: Co-operative
 rental (Boförening)

Sofielund collective housing

a community with social networks and shared domestic work

The collective housing unit is developed with a clear focus on sustainability, both ecological with passive house standards but foremost social sustainability. The residents share space, work and other property. 10% of the apartment space has been reduced to give space to the common areas.

The entrance floor holds the laundry room which is centrally located in a light space combined with a large kitchen and space for leisure. This means that the residents have the possibility to share the unpaid work in the household. Next to this area there are two workshops, one for more detailed work and the other focusing on more heavy work. The building also have shared cultivation areas, office and "kids room".

The apartments are connected with wide access balconies. The entrances the social parts of the apartment face these "balcony walkways". They are designed to allow for spontaneous meetings but also from a safety aspect; the ability to see who comes

and goes. By creating an indoor staircase, the residents have the possibility to choose level of interaction. The one walking in the staircase can see the common kitchen and dining space without being exposed. (Boverket, 2015)



Our analysis:

- Reduce stress by sharing chores.
- Loose the norms on who is doing what in the household.
- Combining common spaces in new ways (multifunctional rooms). For example being able to do laundry at the same time as the children are hanging out in the communal kitchen.
- Loosing of family structures and the nuclear family norm.
- Creating a choice in meeting your neighbours or "sneaking home": to see but not be seen.

Markeliushuset

first collective housing unit in Sweden



In the publication "Acceptera" from 1931, six well-known Swedish (male) architects put forward thoughts on architecture, housing and planning in connection to the new functionalistic ideals. They argued that the concept of family was changing. Women were to a larger extent working and leaving the home, the children should spend their days in school or kindergarten and new household machines and ready-made meals would make cooking faster and more efficient. These ideas were realised in the collective house on Kungsholmen, the first in Sweden.

cleaning central, a restaurant with intercom phones and dumbwaiters connected to most apartments along with two convenience stores. The purpose of the project was to offer assistance to full-time working couples with collective functions and domestic work such as laundry, child care and cooking. This was realised though hiring staff and during the early years, 20 people worked in the building to serve the 57 households.

The social ideas of the project have had an important role for child care politics and women's liberation. It was very controversial in 1930s Sweden. It was heavily debated and accused of dissolving the nuclear family. (Brf Fågelbärsträdet, 2017)

The term collective housing unit was developed in Sweden by Alva Myrdal (social reformer, author of the book "Kris i Befolkningsfrågan", later minister and UN peace negotiator) and Sven Markelius (architect of the project, co-author of "Acceptera" and professor). Their idea was to enable women to combine paid employment and housework, rather than to "collectivise the maid". (Vestbro, 1992)

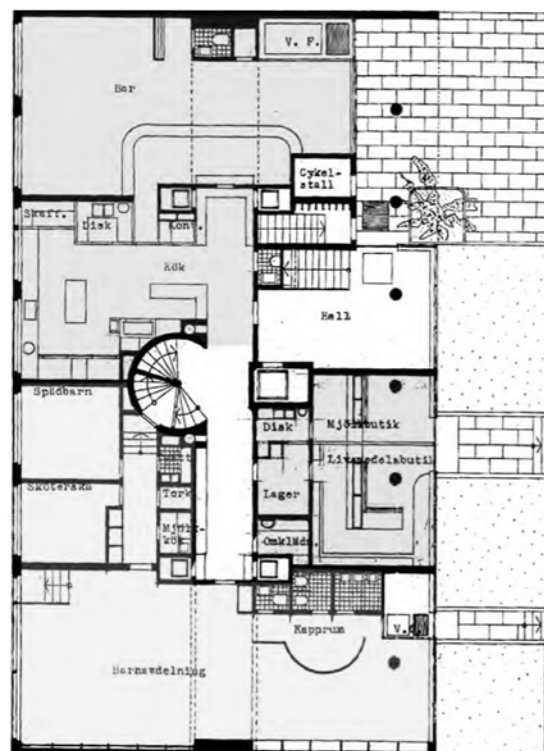
The housing project is internationally known for both its architectural expression as well as its social and cultural aspects. When it was completed there were several communal functions; laundromat, day-care centre,



Our analysis:

- *Changed the view of the nuclear family.*
- *"Supporting" women but therefore might fortify traditional gender roles.*
- *Today, it might be seen as a "gated community" where the services only apply to the residents.*
- *The apartment was no longer for activity but focused on rest.*
- *Women were no longer strained to the private sphere but instead activating themselves outside of it.*

Year: 1935
 Location: Stockholm, Sweden
 Number of apartments: 57 originally.
 Today there are 46 apartments (18-85 sqm)
 Typology: Collective housing,
 Perimeter block
 Tenure: Co-operative



Figures 15-19: Photos and floorplans of Markeliushuset. (Markeliushuset, 2017)



Figure 20: The kitchen of Praxagora by Elin Strand Ruin in collaboration with the women of Hallonbergen. (Fredrik Hjerling, 2016)

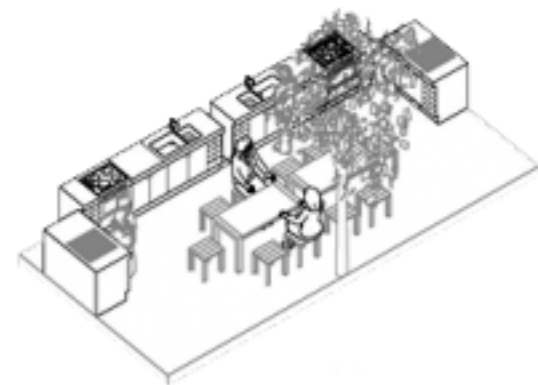


Figure 21: Extract from the poster for the event (Marabouparken, 2017)



Figure 22: Central Husby (DN, 2015)



Figure 23: Outdoor kitchen event (Marabouparken, 2017)

Praxagora, Husby

turning private and public inside out

In 2017, the city of Sundbyberg together with Marabouparken commissioned the architect and artist Elin Strand Ruin to develop an architectural intervention in Hallonbergen, a late modernistic housing area North West of Stockholm. The goal was to add female presence to public spaces based around the activity of cooking. In participation with local women, a public outdoor kitchen was created.

The name Praxagora comes from the play "The power of women" by Aristophanes. It tells the story of Praxagora and her sisters who persuades their husbands to let women take political power when the men are at war. This would come to change the city and the conditions for public life by turning the public and private inside out.

The permanent kitchen is a replica of a standard kitchen countertop cast in concrete where the ordinary, well-known private kitchen is relocated to the public sphere. Elin Strand Ruin states that:

"By creating an outdoor function supporting female (often well-functioning) networks in everyday life a subversive rereading of the private could be stimulated, addressing gender hierarchies and traditional family patterns. The act of cooking together in the "private" kitchen in public will add a layer of belonging – giving women, men, families, teens and others an extended and intimate quality in the common space." (Studio Elin Strand Ruin, 2016)

In a radio interview with SR about feminist urban planning, Elin also express her view on the concept of turning private and public inside out:

"As an architect I think that laundry rooms, kitchens, libraries and weaving workshops should be moved out of the private sphere where the women can rule and invite men and children. To have different types of public spaces where people can see each other." (Sveriges Radio, 2015)

The outdoor kitchen in Hallonbergen became a new addition in the cityscape. It worked as a social magnet where men, teens, elderly and families stopped by to talk, eat and help with the dishes. What could have resulted in a consolidation for women in relation to kitchen and domestic work, proved to be forceful enough to become a centre in creating another form of non-commercial public space. (Strand Ruin, 2017)



Examples of interventions in Feminist planning:

- Restaurant in combination with playground.
- Public kitchens with a possibility for cultivation.
- Laundry rooms with playroom near café.
- Park activities for children and elderly.
- Recycling in combination with second hand shop and/or workshop.
- Bike workshop with café.

House NA

a unity of separation and coherence



In a quiet neighbourhood in Tokyo, Sou Fujimoto Architects have designed a house that stands out both from the surroundings as well as the conventional concept of a home. The house is designed with the concept of living within a tree and is almost fully transparent both in its exterior and in its interior.

and listen provides a richness to a spatially dense living.

The house acts both as a single room and a collection of rooms. Thanks to the many different levels and loosely defined program the people are free to design their space and place as they want, the separation between spaces are blurred out. (ArchDaily, 2012)

The interior consists of 21 individual floor plates, all situated at various heights, in order to satisfy the clients' desire to "live as nomads within their own home".



Our analysis:

In our project we seek to implement the way this project treats how spaces relate to each other and how an undefined program offer another dimension in what spaces are created. We are inspired by the performative architecture where the inhabitants shape their space by living in them.

Sou Fujimoto is fascinated by the structure of the tree and says "these places are not hermetically isolated but are connected to one another in its unique relativity". He points out how the fact of being able to hear, talk



Year: 2012
Location: Tokyo, Japan
Typology: Private house
Tenure: Private ownership

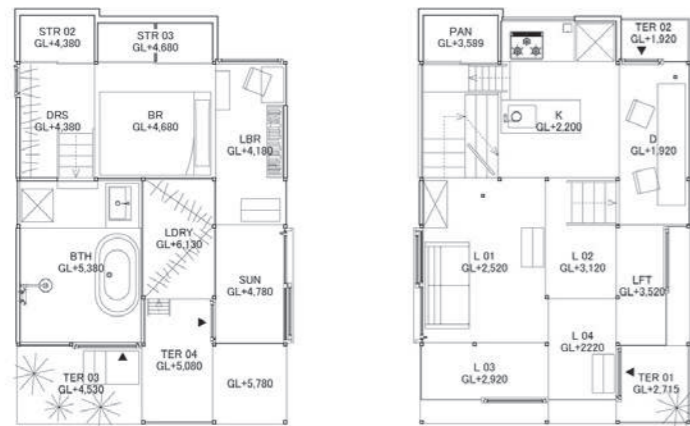
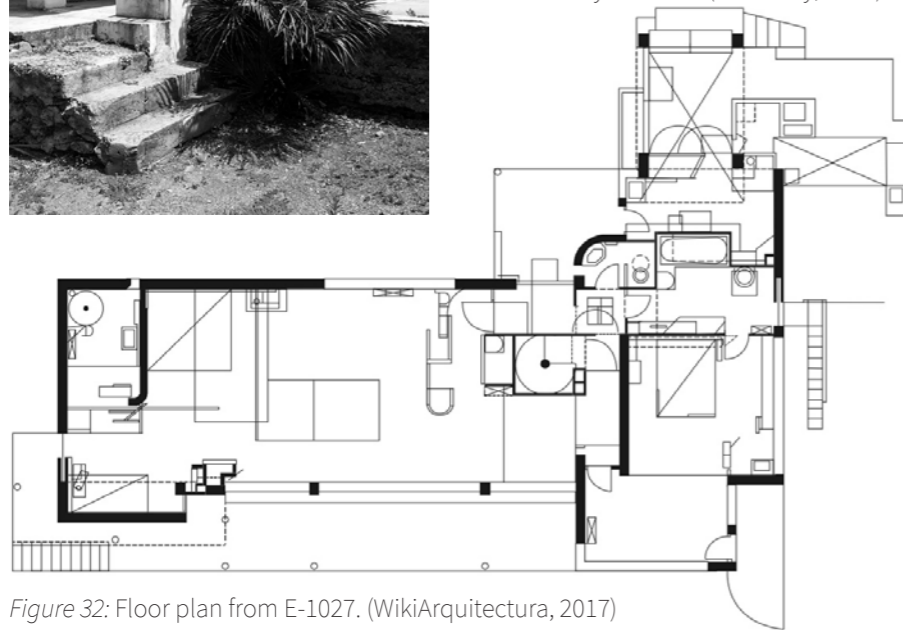


Figure 24-28: Photos, layouts and section of House NA. (ArchDaily, 2012)



Figure 29-31: Images from the Much-Anticipated Restoration of Eileen Gray's E-1027. (ArchDaily, 2015)



Year: 1929
 Location: Côte d'Azur, France
 Typology: Private summer house
 Tenure: Private ownership

Figure 32: Floor plan from E-1027. (WikiArquitectura, 2017)

E-1027

the dwelling as a living organism

E-1027 was the designer and architect Eileen Gray's first architectural work, she designed it for herself and it was finished 1929. It was a new addition to the modernist movement in architecture and added a number of qualities that other modernist building lacked. Gray criticised Le Corbusier's statement that "The house is a machine for living" and claimed "the dwelling as a living organism" serving "the atmosphere required by inner life". She provoked Le Corbusier that much (also due to the fact she was a woman able to design such a nice modernist building) he "vandalised" the house's white walls with colorful paintings when he stayed there as a guest. (The Guardian, 2015)

With her background in furniture design she paid close attention to the interaction between the human body and the design of the spaces. She puts much focus to details, with fixed furniture, texture of the walls and lighting, as she believes these components affect people and enhance the experience. The design focus is as Gray states "the refinements of intimate modern life". (The Guardian, 2015)

E-1027 is designed around the concept of the living room as the core. It offers all

inhabitants total independence, permit rest and intimacy. The living-room composes half of the "upper ground floor" and is the first space you enter, visible both from inside and outside. The largest piece of furniture in the room is a double bed.

The way she represent the building in drawings also pushes the norms. She include things above and underneath the ground floor and includes some wall elevations in the floor layout. She also includes the sun's movement around the house throughout the day as well as how the owner, guests and maid moves in the house through different lines and arrows. This graphically tells a story of togetherness and (a)loneliness, she transgress some norms while others are reinstated. (Bonnevier, K. 2007)



Our analysis:

From E-1027 and Eileen Gray's work we bring a couple of elements into our project: The norm-breaking way of graphically represent architecture in order to map situations of gender inequality, and how, by placing certain elements in a room, it can change the whole meaning of the space.

Influential people

examples of professionals working with gender (in)equality



Figure 33: Judith Butler. (Jreberlein, 2017)

Judith Butler

Judith Butler is an American philosopher and gender theorist who turned the academic world a bit upside down when she released her debut book *Gender trouble* in 1990. This is when she first introduced gender performativity, which is the theory that gender is something that is created and performed and not something we are born with. She is the founder of queer theory which originally focused on strengthening the rights for homosexuals but later became a movement that included the rights for asylum seekers and unjust laws. Since 1993 she is a professor at the University of California, Berkeley, where she teaches rhetoric, comparative literature and critical theory. (Markgren Wangler, 2011)



Figure 34: Katarina Bonnevier, architect (Örebro läns museum, 2014)

Katarina Bonnevier

Katarina Bonnevier is an architect, artist and researcher. She is a part of the collaboration *MYCKET*, where she together with designer Mariana Alves and architect Thérèse Kristiansson develop artistic research from intersectional perspectives such as anti-racist and queer-feminist theories. (MYCKET, 2017) Bonnevier received her PhD in 2007. Her dissertation is entitled *Behind Straight Curtains: Towards a Queer Feminist Theory of Architecture* analyses spaces created by women, for example Eileen Gray's E-1027. (Andersson, 2007)

The design collective *MYCKET* works with making norms within architecture visible and thereby achieve change. Bonnevier also produces a radio show on Swedish Radio called *Fasad*. (Otterstam, 2014) Bonnevier claims that working with architecture in a queer way is a way of looking at it, and try to see what usually isn't visible, to "put your queer glasses on". (Andersson, 2007)



Figure 35: Jane Rendell. (The Plan Journal, 2017)

Jane Rendell

Jane Rendell is an architectural historian/theoretic/designer, art critic and writer. In her work she explore interdisciplinary intersections between architecture, art, feminism and psychoanalysis. She is a teacher and researcher at The Bartlett School of Architecture in London. Her first book, *Strangely Familiar: Narratives of Architecture in the City*, was published 1995 and ever since she has published many texts on different topics, for example *Gender Space Architecture: an Interdisciplinary Introduction* 1999 (UCL, The Bartlett School of Architecture, 2017).

She was a part of the Feminist design collective *Matrix*, established 1978 in London, who were a number of architects trying to challenge the 'man-made environment', which they saw as a physical manifestation of patriarchy. They published the book *Making Space: Women and the Man-Made Environment* which highlights the many problems women encounter in the built environment. (Knoji, 2010)



Figure 36: Camilla Andersson. (Larsson, 2016)

Camilla Andersson

Camilla Andersson is a Swedish architect and researcher currently working at the Aalto University in Helsinki. In 2004, she conducted her master thesis in Architecture: "AbNormal" at KTH, the Royal institute of Technology, in Stockholm.

For her master thesis, she did a proposal on housing that challenge heteronormative standards. By visualising statistics in housing, the proposals discuss the heterosexual norm and the most common "deviations" from the heteronormative family. The project is an attempt to visualise a gender perspective through architectural form. The multi-family apartment building have five different types of apartments. They are designed based on, for example the difference in wages for women and men, to have an effect on the single man and woman's apartment layout. (ArkDes, 2007)

Shaping Swedish ideals

housing and gender from the beginning of 1900s until today

Historical mapping

housing development in relation to gender equality

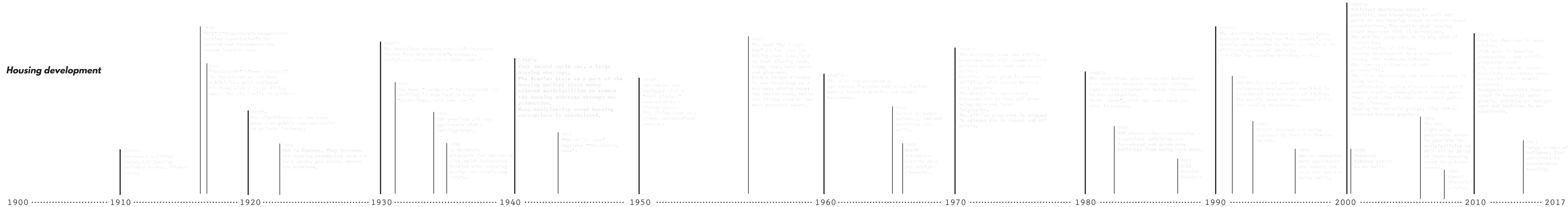
In order to get a deeper understanding on the development of the housing market in Sweden and its relation to large events in society we have mapped out a timeline. The timeline covers the 20th century until today, 2017. Our main sources in mapping has been the book "Svensk bostad 1850-2000", written by Ola Nylander (2013) and "På väg mot lika villkor? Svensk genushistoria under 150 år" written by Anna Furevik (2016).

We have made a deep dive into some specific periods that we find extra influential and times of change for both gender rights and the housing market. Looking at how the women's rights movement has impacted the housing development and how housing development has strengthened the women's role is inspiring.



Figure 37: Hemmens forskningsinstitut. A woman is working in the kitchen, while another woman is taking notes and clocks the time (Rålambsvägen 8 and 10 in Stockholm). (Widfeldt, 1950)

Housing development



Social development



Shaping Swedish housing



Figure 38: Kitchen as a social space. (HSB, 2017)



Figure 39: Kitchen studies in 1940s. (Hemmets Forskningsinstituts arkiv, 1940s)



Figure 40: Concrete house in Hammarkullen in Angered (Fakatativa, 2006) CC-BY



Figure 41: Marbodal Arkitekt plus lingrön - öppen planlösning (Marbodal, 2017)

Folkhemstiden

In 1928 Per Albin Hansson, social democrat and later prime minister of Sweden, described a vision for the Swedish society with the political term “Folkhemmet” in a parliamentary speech. The concept aimed to reduce the gaps between social classes by breaking down all social and economical bounds in society and is closely related to social-welfare. (Nationalencyklopedin, 2017) The folkhemmet era took place after the election 1932 with the new government and lasted to the mid 1960’s. (Nordiska muséet, 2017)

Throughout the years several reforms occurred in different sectors. A crucial shift developed housing policies, when Alva and Gunnar Myrdahl initiated larger efforts for families with children and female empowerment through housing. Because of this many residential buildings has a common laundry room, the apartments from this era is very functional with built-in storage and a general increased standard where the kitchen has become a social space. (Furevik, 2016)

Hemmets forskningsinstitut

Hemmets forskningsinstitut (HFI), directly translated The Research Institute for the Homes, was established 1944 by organisations for housewives and women. It was financed by the state and the goal was to rationalize domestic work through research and consumer information.

The research was very scientific and correct, it was executed by experts from different professions who visited people’s private home measured and paced time for domestic work. This empowered the housewife and her status increased. From this research Hemmets forskningsinstitut formulated a standard for good housing, with rules and norms, which has had large impact on what Swedish homes look today. (Nordiska Muséet, 2017)

Today Hemmets forskningsinstitut doesn’t exist anymore, it has been replaced with Konsumentverket, but they focus on consumer rights. (Konsumentverket, 2017)

Miljonprogrammet

From 1965 to 1974 more than a million dwellings were built in Sweden, the era is called “the million programme”. There wasn’t any actual “programme”, the name was given in retrospect when the critics needed a name for the phenomena. (Archileaks, 2017) The “programme” was initiated to solve the housing shortage and to increase the pace of housing production by building in more rational and industrial way. (Boverket, 2014) There is a common misconception that the million programme only consist of concrete high rise buildings, however the most common typology was low rise buildings. (Archileaks, 2017) Housing from this period is often well planned and purposive with light apartments and recreational spaces between the buildings. The million programme areas was influenced by the SCAFT ideas where cars and pedestrians are separated but with plenty of green space. The million programme is often blamed for having contributed to segregation and many of the areas are unpopular and have been “left” for those who can’t afford anything else. (Archileaks, 2017)

The open floor plan

The concept of the open floor plan became widely popular in the late 1990s when it was displayed in the housing expo’s H99, Bo01 and BoStad02. The open floor plan became a status symbol: except from the free disposition of spaces the apartment buildings often had great location by the water, large window openings and terraces. The expansion of Hammarby Sjöstad during the beginning of the millenium (2000) gave this type of apartment layout big attention, and promoted a way of life, a luxurious lifestyle. The borders of the kitchen and living room are completely blurred out, in order to offer a more “efficient” life at home where it’s easier to have a joint social life in the home: the person cooking can speak with the person watching TV. The kitchen and cooking is the central point of the dwelling and its status has increased.

Our homes could be said to have become a display of who we are and how we want to picture ourselves. (Willén, 2012)

Collective housing units

development of collective housing in Sweden

In a paper from the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) professor Dick Urban Vestbro (1992) discusses the development of collective housing in Sweden - from central kitchen to community co-operation. Vestbro defines collective housing as "housing for non-selected categories of people who eat or cook together in communal rooms connected to the private apartments through indoor communication". In this case, collectives living together in large apartments or housing areas that have communal services through an outdoor access are not included.

Vestbro notes that the first example of collective housing is developed in Copenhagen in 1903. The first examples were focusing on creating a rational way of living. In Sweden, the first one-kitchen housing unit is "Hemgården Centralkök", in Östermalm, Stockholm in 1905-1907. Rather than creating possibilities for women to work outside of the home, the housing offered staff to provide services such as cooking, laundry and cleaning in order to save costs by employing fewer servants and reducing the size of the apartments. There were no further social purposes and no rooms for gathering.

In the press, the ideas about providing child care and facilitate for the modern family and everyday life with equal roles for women and men, was accused of dissolving the family. The first collective housing in Sweden was mostly for privileged people, as they were based, not on cooperation, but on services and the employment of staff.

Before 1950, nine collective housing project were built in Sweden and it seemed as if it would become the dominating typologies in the future. But with the impact of the Cold War (1947-1991) and campaigns for the housewife ideal, this wasn't realised.

The idea of neighborhood units, also aimed at community cooperation. But combined with housewife ideals, it was seen as the opposite of collective housing. With the addition of functional models: traffic separation, shopping centres and underground stations, the neighbourhood unit planning, deviated from the concept even more.

In the 1980's, the new type of collective housing had a breakthrough, without staff and with collective work of the inhabitants. The Hässelby Family Hotel was an evidence of this. It had attractive communal spaces to complement the private apartments and the dining hall became the heart of the building. When the restaurant closed down in 1976, the inhabitants started to cook in the restaurant kitchen themselves and discovered a new quality.

When the social aims for collective housing became dominant at the end of the 1970's, they were no longer seen as special housing solutions for privileged groups. The most common form of collective housing is based on the inhabitants collective work and was developed by a group of new generation of feminists i Stockholm in 1977. They stated that housework had a value in itself rather than trying to reduce it. Carrying out everyday chores together created "togetherness".

Vestbro concludes the paper with a statement that: "So far collective housing has mainly attracted well educated people employed in the public sector and with independent, socially oriented jobs. They often reject consumerism and look for other qualities of life such as a clean environment, biological food, a warm and secure milieu for children, and good neighbourly contacts. Whether collective housing only suits the interests of this minority group is still an open question."



Today, many larger cities suffer from housing shortage. It's a trend to co-live and co-work in the same space.
Figure 42: In the '90s, We Had 'Friends.' Now They Call It Co-Living. (White, 2017)



Understanding reality

broaden the perspective of daily life

Focus/control group

understanding lifestyles

The aspect of working with focus groups comes from the intention to gain knowledge on what real life situations could look like. By choosing groups to study, for example through statistics or personal communication by interviews, opinions and thoughts on a certain subject can be gathered. In this thesis the aim is to paint a picture of the lives of the focus group when the mental and actual gender equality intercept.

There are two parts to the focus group study. In the research segment of the thesis, the groups are narrowed down to two groups; the nuclear family with young children and the single parent. The reasoning behind this selection has to do with the ability to focus and clearly see the differences and problems within the households. It's our notion that these are situations where equality (or inequality) and gender roles are more evident and put to the test.

During the interviews, focus have been to not conduct a strict survey, but instead an open discussion based on different themes such as domestic work, functions in the home and the distribution of responsibilities.

Examples of supporting questions during the conversations are:

- what is the division of chores
- what aspects are given most time;
- or unintentionally given more time
- how is daily life simplified
- how do you use your home
- is the home in some way simplifying everyday life
- how is it visible that the household is equal/ or not equal

The design part of the thesis steps away from the focus groups as the proposal doesn't address a certain group. It's not housing for women or the nuclear family. Instead, the proposal and concept derived from the research is tested by looking at certain life situations. The focus groups are included in the situations but with the additions of more groups, they become control groups for the project. The additional groups are for example divorced families with shared custody, collective households and generational living.



Figure 43: Walking Off. (Evans, 2017) CC-BY.

**“Sometimes there is a need to move;
no matter how much the home can change,
it’s in the walls”**

Interviews

Couple with young child

Both had a bigger social need when being on parental leave. The **common laundry room** on the courtyard is something she appreciate from **a social aspect**. He thinks it would be more convenient and **efficient** having their own in the apartment.

There are shared facilities (that they share with 600 households) such as a hobby room and a gathering hall, however they only use the overnight apartment. They miss an **indoor space** that offers a similar social function as the laundry room.

They renovated the kitchen after moving in because they wanted a space that more people could fit in, as they **cook together** as often as also together with friends.

The key to share the domestic work load in the home is to **lower the threshold** and discuss what **expectations** there are on how much time chores take to do.

“Many of our friends has **food delivered to their door**, but many forget which day it is delivered so the food is left by the door and get bad.”

Some **norm-creative solutions** they have in their home is that they have the diaper changing table next to the sink in the kitchen, as they find it more **convenient** with water and trash as well as being in the center of the apartment (makes it easier in asking for help/help the other one out). They think they might put in an extra bed next to theirs as their child gets older, since they have space enough.

Social anthropologist

A good city for women and children is generally a good city for everybody. Some **privileges disappear** for some groups, but that’s in general the already powerful groups of society.

Designing homes that allows for change, creates a **freedom for the household**.

By implementing principles from co-housing and an infrastructure that enables sharing could **support the reproductive part** of a household. That could be a car or bike pool, clothes/stuff swapping or a common kitchen.

Create an intimate scale that offers **different degrees of exposure** or vulnerability both within the home, the shared spaces and the outdoor spaces.

The social spaces indoor should be located towards the courtyard in order to **create independence** for the different persons in the households whilst having an indirect contact, which is a security aspect, for example to be able to watch your kids play on the yard while cooking dinner.

Single parent with teenagers

After the divorce, she and her two teenage daughters moved to a two storey row-house. The row-house structure felt **secure** as the responsibilities with having a private house felt too many and **too much to handle**.

All having a **private bedroom was the most important aspect** in their living arrangement. She had a larger bedroom with space for an armchair and to, for example, iron her clothes. This is something she valued higher than having two different social spaces - **being able to shut off** and be private and create your own identity.

There was a kitchen and a living room on the two different levels, that created a possibility for **different activities to occur parallell** and “co-exist”.

Would never live in an apartment building because you’re **always approachable** when you leave your apartment, and she would like to be able to **choose** when to be open for social interactions.

On meeting a new partner: Sometimes there is **a need to move** - no matter how much the home can change, it’s in the walls.

Our architectural interpretation

We picked up many interesting aspects which has more or less evident connections to space and the home. Being able to create or shape your own space, whether it’s having your own room possible

Single parent

To be a single parent puts big pressure on both economy, time and your energy.

There is no longer much **alone-time** and simple things such as taking a short evening walk or go to the grocery store to buy milk when the children are asleep is no longer possible.

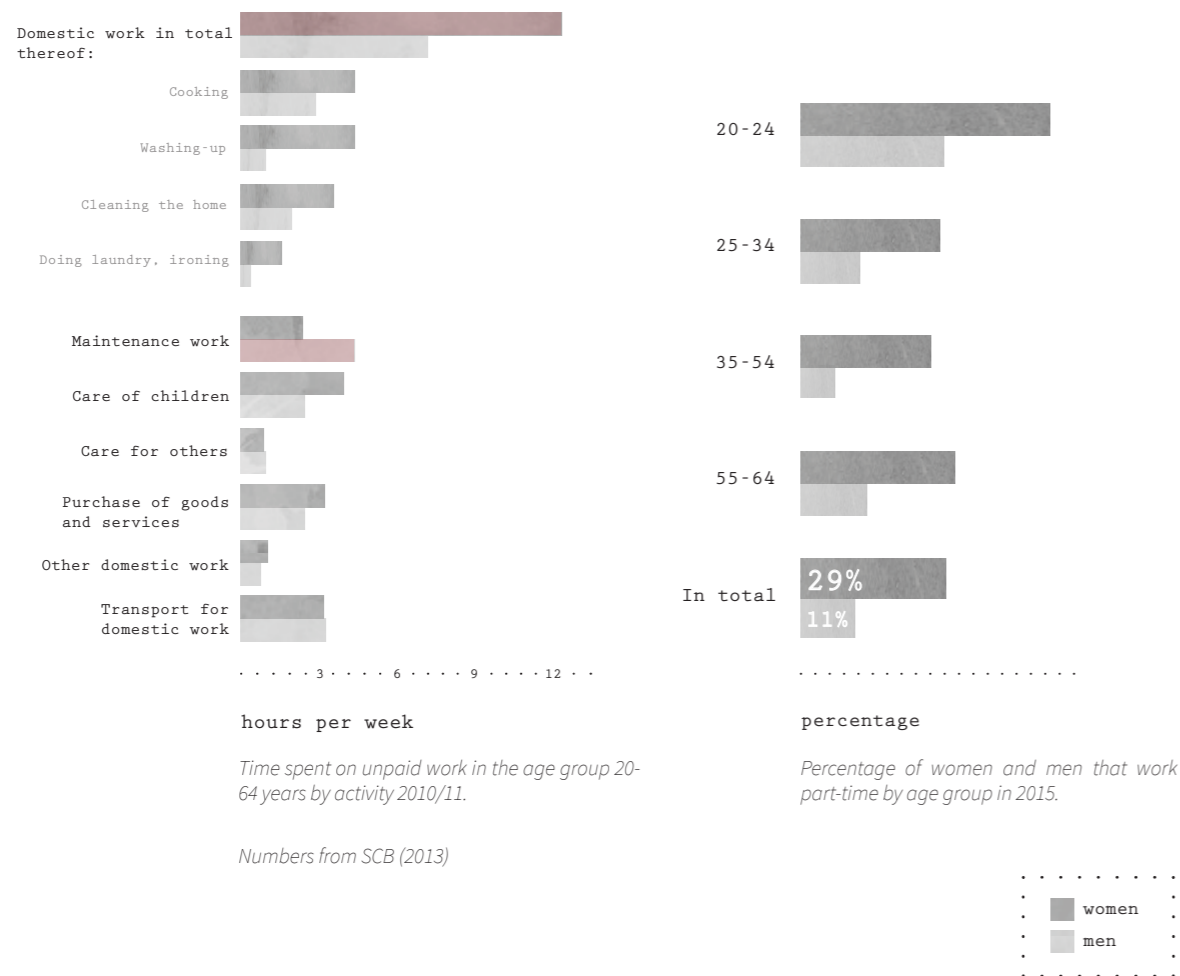
Things that was easy when there was two people **sharing the responsibility** suddenly becomes a big project - for example taking a sick child to the doctor but not wanting to bring the other one.

Another aspect is the **empty feeling** when the children are at the other parent. Both emotional and spacial with rooms being physically empty.

to shut off or being able to create a space within a room seems like an overall desire. In general being “on” and “off” “stage” in your own household or family is key, regardless what your situation is.

26 h vs 21 h

the difference in how many hours per week women and men spend on unpaid work.



Gender (in)equality numbers

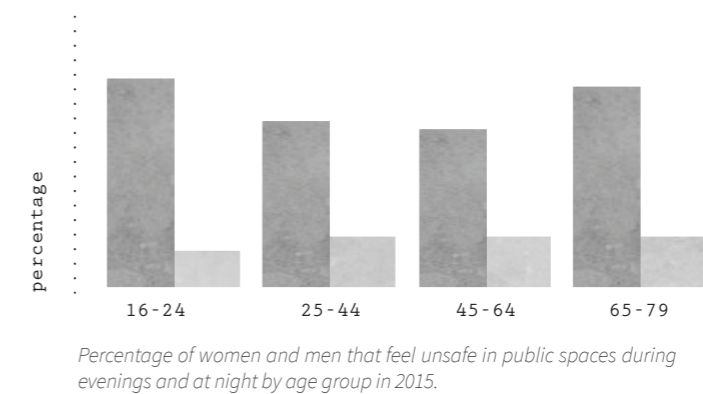
how far have Sweden reached in gender equality?

Sweden is considered to have come a long way when it comes to gender equality. According to the Gender Inequality Index Sweden was ranked top 4 in 2015. (United Nations Development Programme, 2016) This is truly something to be proud of, but when looking at statistics in our own country, it is clear that we still have a long way to go to reach equality between gender.

Statistics show how women act as “project managers” of the household, in many cases -

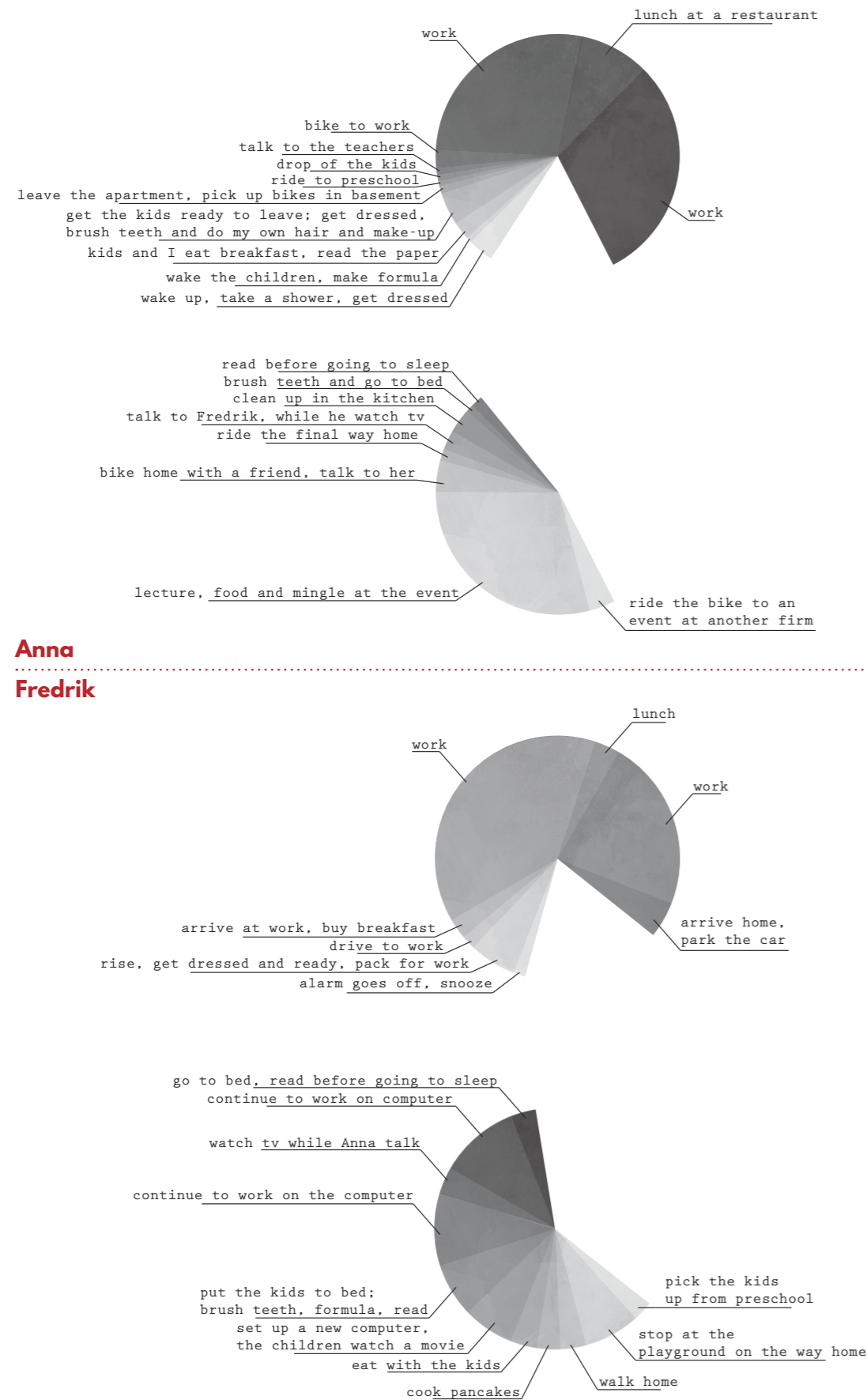
maybe not only doing the actual cooking, but planning for the weekly menu and buy the groceries. When looking at these statistics, it is not surprising that more women work part time in order to cope. (SCB, 2013)

If residential spaces allow for helping each other out, making domestic work more visible or creating a collective, architecture could have a role in moving the statistics forward.



Spatial time perspective

a design and analysis concept and tool



Anna
Fredrik

The concept of "time geographics" or spatial time perspective was developed by human geographer Torsten Hägerstrand in the beginning of the 1970s. It was later accentuated as a tool for spatial planning by human geographer Ann-Cathrine Åquist. The concept describes everyday life since all activities occurs in time and space specific contexts. These two factors limits our acting space where we create "projects" to reach a certain goal. The project could be cooking dinner, where the acivities to reach the goal is grocery shopping, grating carrots and set the table for example. The flow of activities create our daily life. By describing women's and men's spatial time disposition we could gain a wider understanding by the organisation and limitation in everyday life. By using this as an analyzation tool in spatial design we get a more critical view of how spaces affect access for different people.

The gender perspective should be included in projects from day one in order to not just act as a retrospective addition.

One way of reaching a better understanding is by gathering data from households, and thereby map out who perform what "duties" and if there's a common perception on the distribution of time, space and domestic work. It is important to remember that these statistics show the situation today, and analyse the reasons to recognise what changes need to be made in order to reach a more gender equal distribution. (Larsson, Jalakas, 2014)

We have used this concept to analyse our designs. By imagine how the household move in and around their home problematise the distribution of space and make everyday life "issues" visible. We have chosen to analyse our dwellings and shared spaces over shorter periods, such as a day, a week or a month as well as creating different households situations in the same space to understand how and if it is possible to carry out life in different ways here. The background to these situations come from both our interviews as a number of diaries carried out in other projects. (Samuelsson, 2012)

Diagram based on Jämställdhet nästa!
(Larsson, Jalakas, 2014)



Scanning Majorna

context and site

Context

location of the site and its relation to the city

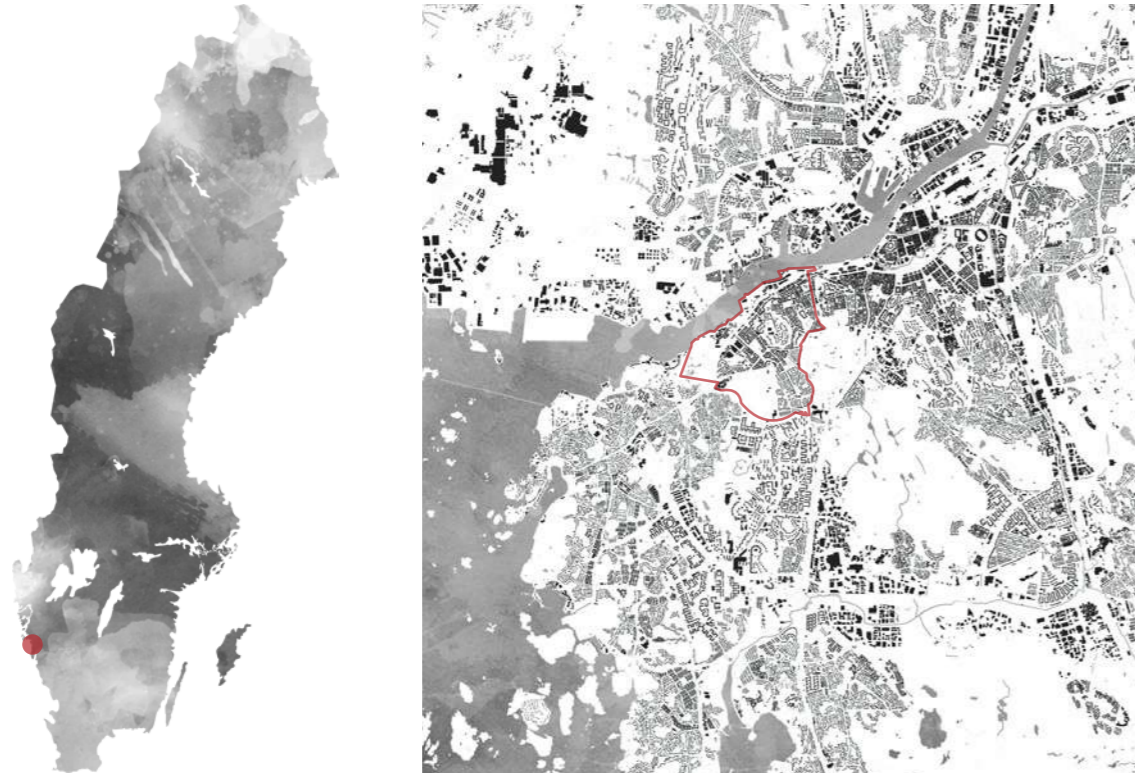
The plot is located in Majorna, a neighbourhood in the west part of Sweden's second largest city, Gothenburg. Gothenburg has a population of 533 000 inhabitants (City of Gothenburg, 2017) and is a harbour city on the west coast of Swedish.

The city was founded 1621 by Gustaf II Adolf and is approaching its 400 year anniversary. (Göteborg & Co, 2017) Due to the anniversary many new parts of the city are under development and more than 7000 new homes are being built for 2021. (BoStad2021, 2017) There are many innovative concepts for the new city development, for example a skyscraper aimed to be the highest building in Sweden is planned to be built as well as a new kind of public transport in the form of an aerial cableway. (City of Gothenburg, 2017)

The overall goal for the development is to create ecologically, economically and socially sustainable areas in the city. In order to reach this goal, new concepts like a demand for low rents, public participation in the design process and varied types of ownership and tenure is being implemented. (Sveriges Arkitekter, 2016) To say the least, Gothenburg is currently experiencing big transformations.

Our part of the city, Majorna is described as follows by Gothenburg's official visitor guide's website: "Majorna, previously a primarily working class neighbourhood, has turned into a cultural hot spot with restaurants, bars and shops aplenty. The neighbourhood derives much of its character from the typical Gothenburg style "governor houses" that line the streets". (Göteborg & Co, 2017)

Majorna is located west of the city center, on the way out to the sea. From the central station it is a 35 minute walk, a 15 minute bike ride or a 10 minute tram trip to our plot. The tram leaves every 5 minutes at rush hour, runs late on weekdays and all night during weekends, however with fewer departures. There is a short walk to the two different tram stops, and they also take you to the sea (Saltholmen station) in less than half an hour. If you prefer to walk or ride your bike to the sea it takes you approximately the double amount of time as it takes you in to town. (Google Maps, 2017)



Historical development

dockyards, “governor houses” and a strong local identity

Majorna is one of the oldest parts of Gothenburg. From the 15th century, the area has had a strong connection to the dockyards, sailors, boat builders and dockworkers. The strong local identity in Majorna has its foundation in the area's history where people worked where they lived and had short distance to relatives and friends. The relations between inhabitants were present in everyday life and today the district is still known for its local community.

In 1868, Majorna was incorporated with the city of Gothenburg and the area had 11 000 inhabitants. At that time the settlement consisted of farms and cottages along Allmänna vägen.

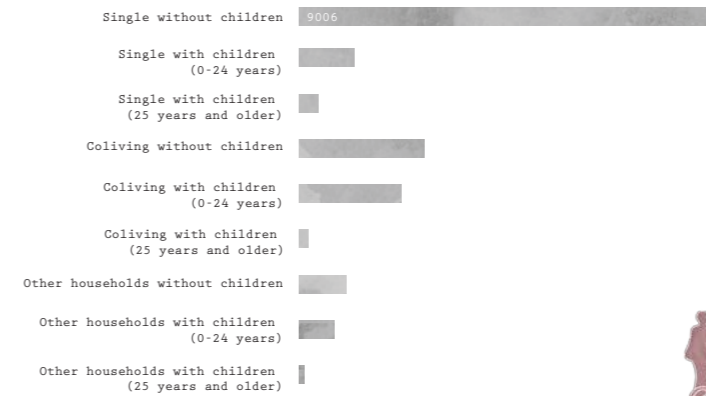
The city plan developed in 1878 was a grid of closed blocks of “landshövdingehus” with small courtyards. In 1920 the plan was extended to include the area south of Amiralitetsgatan with more irregular blocks and larger courtyards.

During the 1930 and 40s residential development in a functional style was built and during the 1950s the development moved up the heights. (Stadshem Fastighetsmäklerei, 2017)



Majorna today

a city within the city



4,3 km²



31 255 inhabitants

"Other households" are those that cannot be classified as single or coliving, for example households with generation living or households with a people without a relation to the rest of the household.

Household demographics in Majorna. (SCB, 2016)

Majorna is described in a report from the municipality as an old district but with its own identity, almost like a "city within the city". It is located approximately three kilometers from the city center. The district is usually portrayed as an example of "mixed-use development" due to the fact that it has housing, services and public functions mixed in a fine scale.

The levels of income is below the Gothenburg average but education levels are higher. The average person in Majorna walk, bike and use public transport and drive less car than the Gothenburg average.

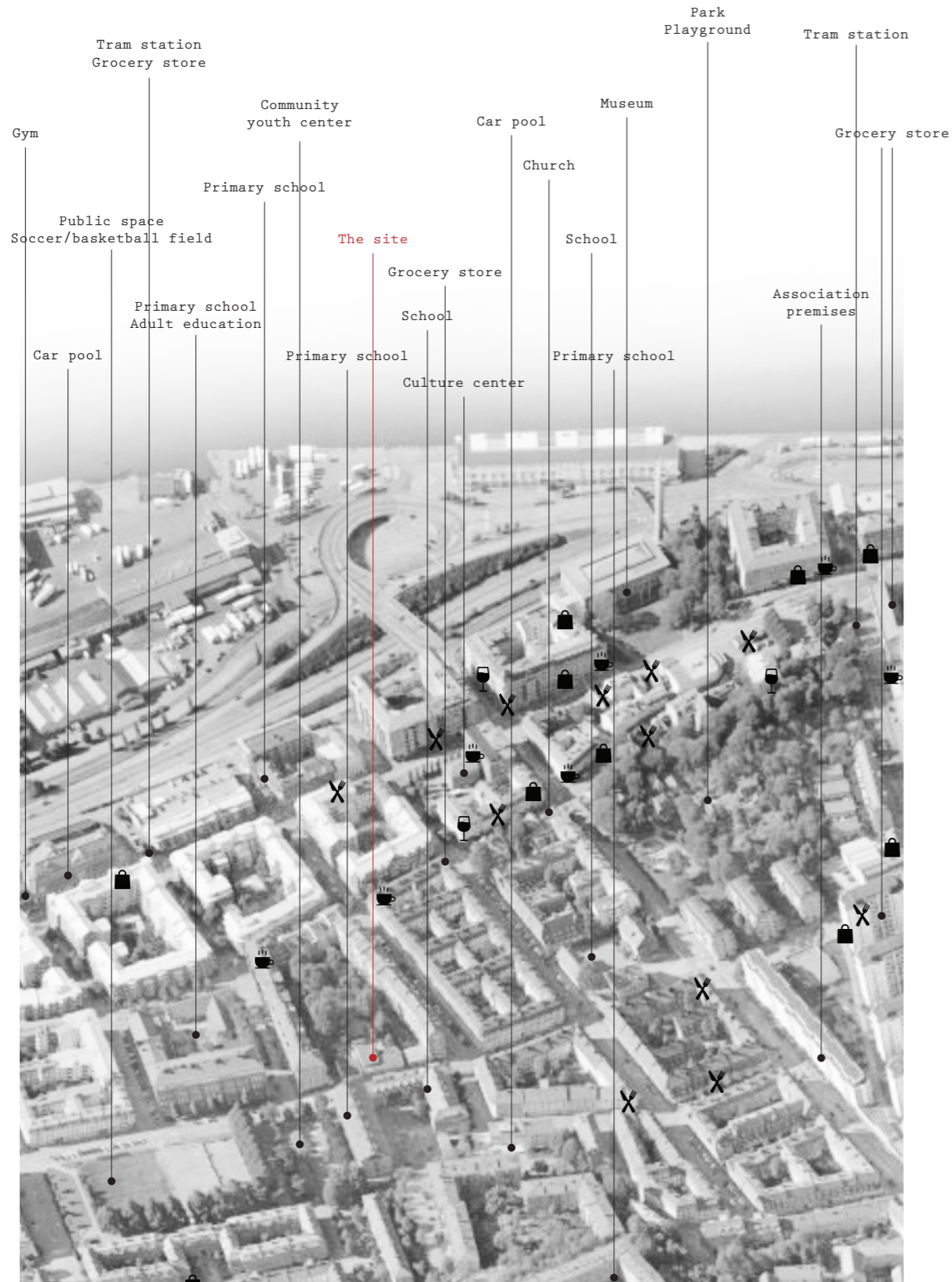
Majorna has a thriving cultural life and works as a complement to the more established institutions in Gothenburg.

Most of the housing consists of small apartments in building blocks. There are very few apartments that have four rooms

or more. There are a lot more young people living in Majorna than in Gothenburg as a whole. It's partly explained by the fact that there are apartments in Majorna more suitable concerning cost and size.

Majorna is a part of the Majorna-Linné district administration which has 8 elementary schools and 54 preschools. The quantity of children, youths and elderly has decreased for some years and children more often live with one parent than the average in Gothenburg.

Characteristic for Majorna is the socio-economic differences with people from different resource strength live side by side. The district holds many associations, cooperatives and an active citizenship but also has problems with drugs, seclusion and unemployment. ((9) Majorna, beskrivning av stadsdelen, 2008)



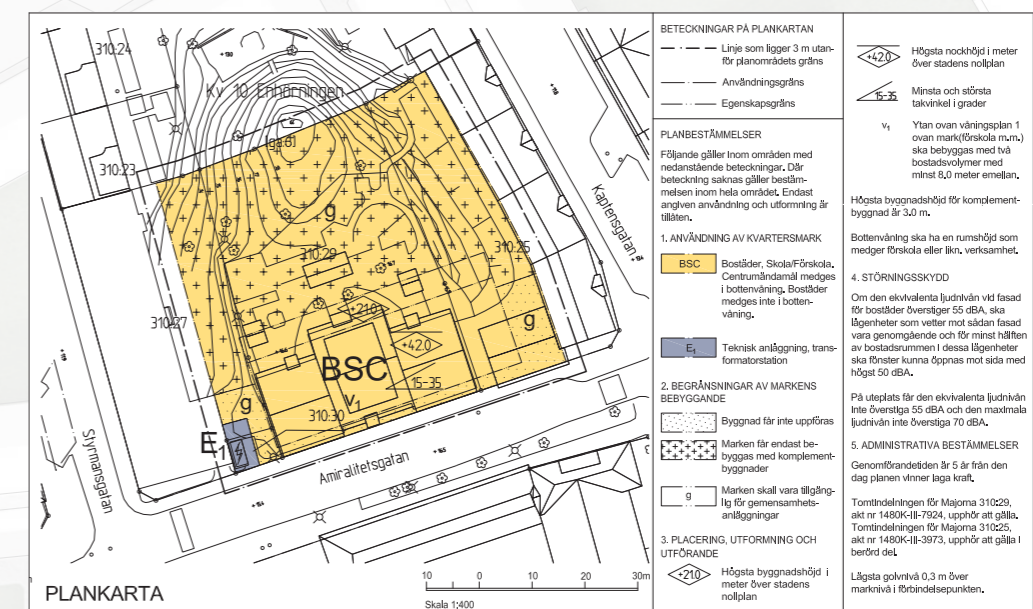
Future plans

Kvarteret Enhörningen

The local plan our plot in “kvarteret Enhörningen” by Amiralitetsgatan is proposed to include a new residential building with 60 apartments with the existing preschool relocated on the ground floor. The total area is 4000 sqm and admits for public functions on the ground floor.

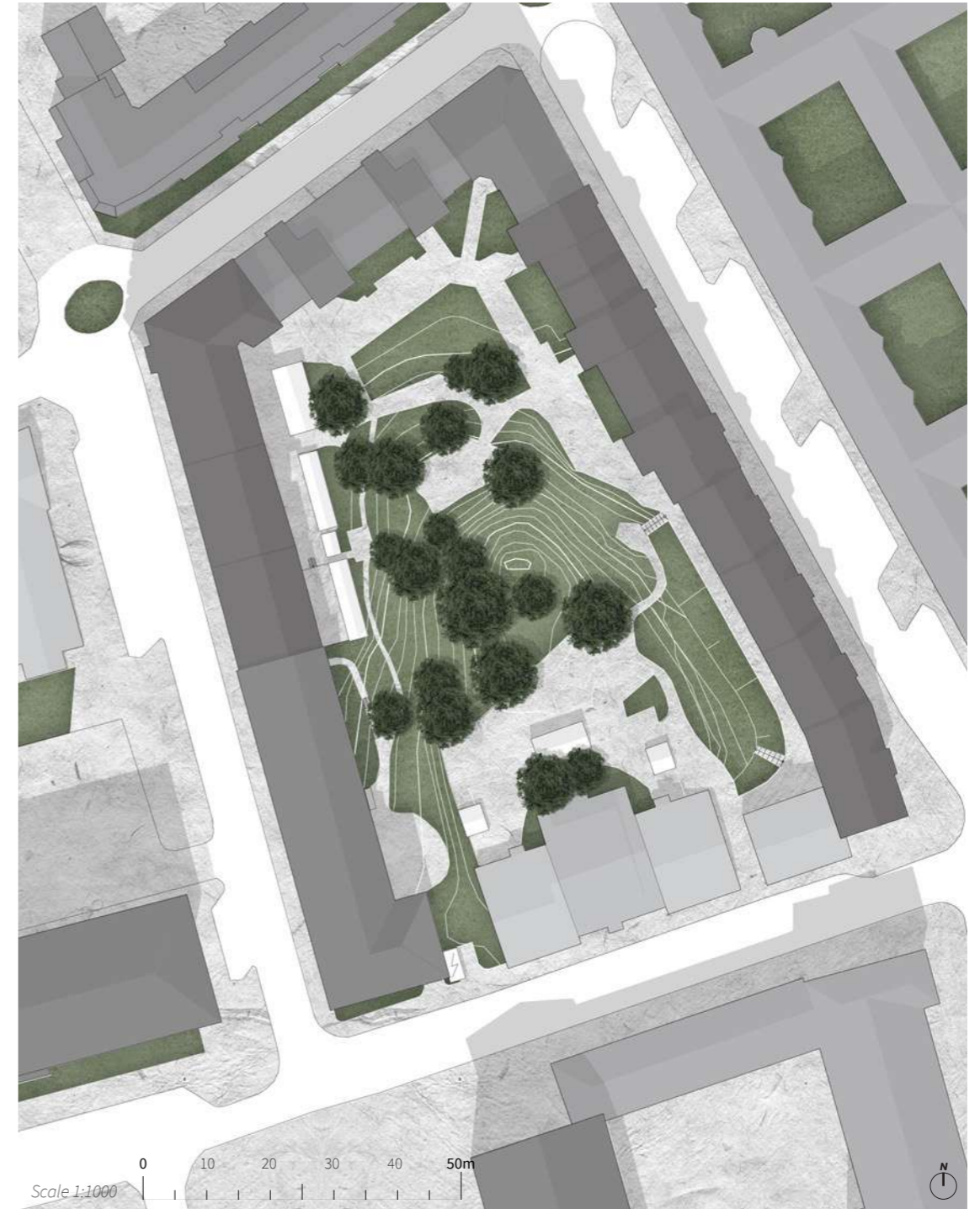
The existing preschool on the site is going to be torn down and replaced with a higher building, suggested to be 8 storeys. The current yard is supposed to be extended and new seating and playground added to accommodate the current and new inhabitants. (Gothenburg planning office, 2016)

In our proposal we relate quite freely to the local plan. For example we make a deviation from the plan when it comes to building height and shape. Instead of working with two taller bodies with a gap in between to let sunlight into the courtyard, we have designed one lower building to get a similar effect since we consider this to fit in to the context better. The number of apartments is lower than proposed due to the lower building and more variation in apartment sizes.



Local development plan, not in scale

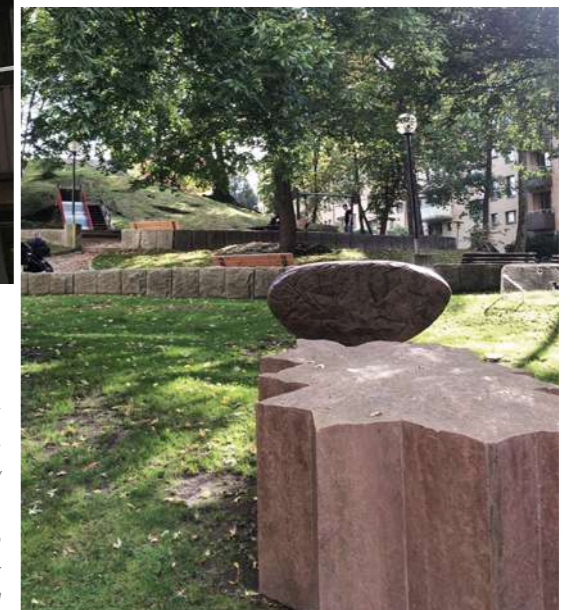
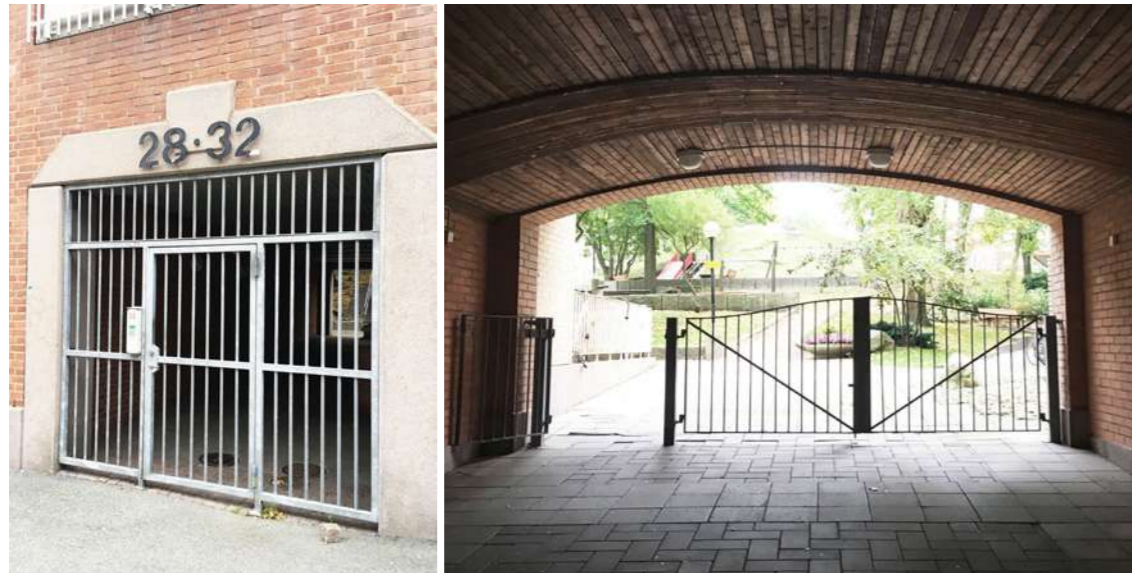




Surroundings

The block consist to the most part of brick buildings from the second part of the 20th century. They vary in height from one floor up to six floors. The highest buildings are located in the north west and south east corners of the block. Most of the apartments have balconies, often facing the courtyard.





Character

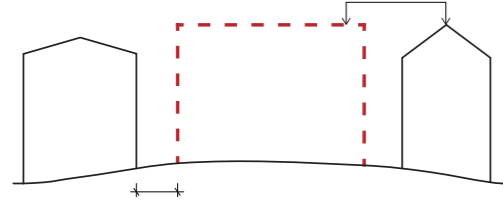
The buildings are all brick, with balconies and roofs in metal. If the building is covered in yellow brick - the details are usually red and vice versa. The many entrances to the yard vary in how welcoming they feel. Some feel very closed off with fences while others are very open with high detailing. The shared set-back balconies connected to the stairwells is a repeated design element.



Courtyard

Inside the block that the site is a part of there is a big, green, shared courtyard. A small hill in the middle of the space naturally create zones. The yard consists of a playground and many different types of seating arrangements and has both green and asphalted surfaces. There are paths and spaces with varied character created both by the neighbours themselves and the property owner.

Site concepts

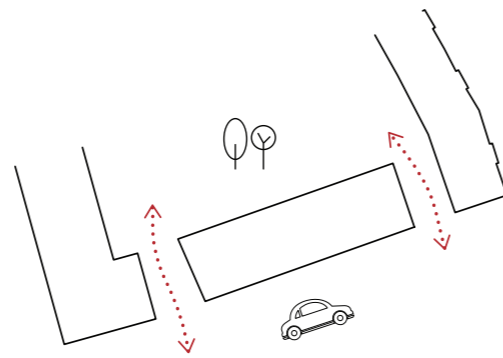


Relate to surroundings

The new housing adapts to the surrounding buildings in terms of height and distance.

One reason is to not decrease sunlight on the courtyard too much in comparison to the existing structure, but foremost to stay consistent to the typology in the neighbourhood.

The building have a distance on both sides since there are windows on the adjacent facades.

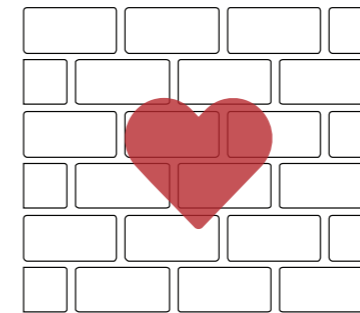


Entrances to the courtyard

By having open space on both gables, new entrances are created towards the courtyard.

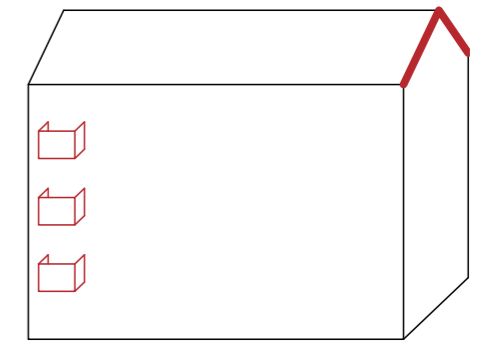
One is located in the south and have a connection to the school yard and field on the other side of the road. The possibility to open up the courtyard and have a main entrance facilitates for schools and pre-schools to utilize the area.

The northern side of the site could be seen as a "private" entrance for residents, either with a gate or a more narrow path to create privacy.



Materiality

By using brick as the main material on the site, a connection and unity is created within the block. It's a material often seen around Majorna and could be used in many different shapes and colors. Bringing copper in as a contrasting material in the fascade gives a variation and once again connects to the surroundings.



Existing design elements

The pitched roof is a common feature in the area and housing projects in Sweden from the 20th century as a whole.

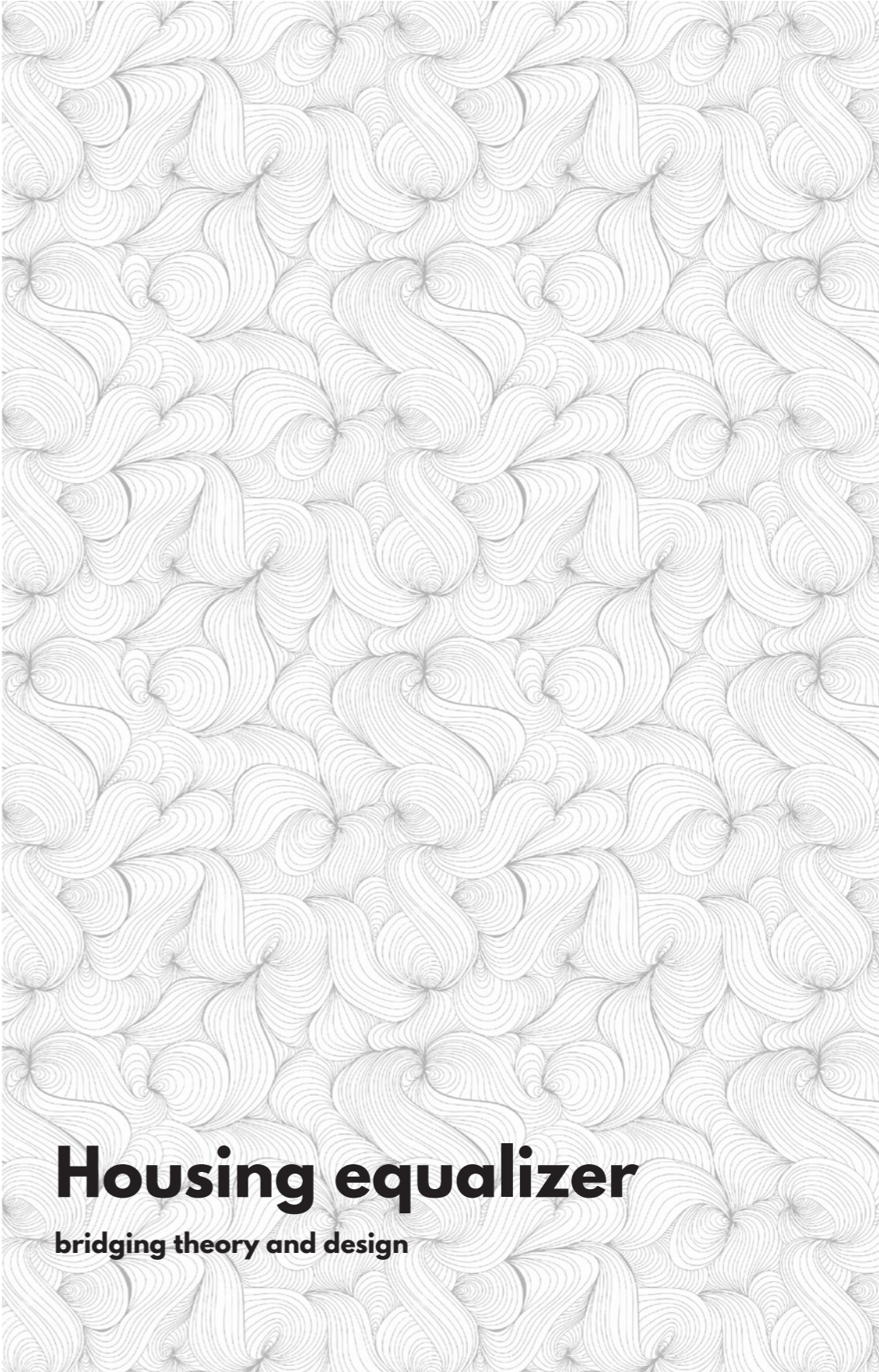
Introducing a new roof structure would stand out but by using a common typology in residential architecture but twisting it, the new development could link the block together. Something that is lacking today on the site .



The different site design concepts aims to create a local identity and a humble approach to the surrounding area.

By using materials, design elements and a height that already exists the local identity is strengthened. By adding a variation and playfulness in material more people could relate to the block and create their own sense of belonging.

Working with the gables in relation to opening up to the neighbourhood whilst still offer a safe surrounding to the courtyard and common ground floor requires balanced and thought through design, as they are both important aspects for gender equality. The concepts aims to offer democratic and gender equal spaces - to let the neighbourhood in on a appropriate level.



Housing equalizer

bridging theory and design

AIM

Towards gender equal homes

STRATEGIES

accepting inequalities but making domestic work more efficient

changing inequalities through breaking norms

questioning inequalities by visualizing domestic work

challenging inequalities by rethinking the concept of a household

CONCEPTS

Dynamic space disposition

Simplify daily life

Levels of togetherness and loneliness

ARCHITECTURAL INVESTIGATIONS

Investigate the borders of the private home

Study shareability of functions and activities

Combination of functions and spaces

Sequences in coming home

Evaluate the status of domestic work through space/design

How spaces can enable different participation levels

Location of domestic functions

How to enable efficiency through design

Explore spaces for a parallel coexistence

Bridging the gap

Feminist housing, norm-creative spaces or cohousing?

Can we enable gender equality in a society where traditional norms and ideals dominate housing development?

We believe that in order to make a change, we have to start somewhere. Or rather everywhere, with all segments of society.

The concept of collective housing units has developed in Sweden during the last century and transformed from a service for the privileged with the employment of staff, to "supporting" women to be able to cope with both a paid job as well as the role of a housewife with collective child care. During the late 1970's and 80's, collective housing gained the social focus that it's mostly known for today.

This project supports the vision of living together but realises that it's not the most common household today. By creating shared functions with the concept of shared economy, a new type of co-housing is provided for.

For the proposal for a new multi-family apartment building in Majorna, Gothenburg, we have researched, analyzed and applied concepts of housing through a gender perspective in the design. Although the floor plans doesn't necessarily seem to have an effect on gender equality at first sight, looking at them with a gender perspective, new situations and norm creative solutions are detected.

In Feminist urban planning, the purpose is to, not just be a descriptive process, but to actually achieve change and concretised projects. The expression feminism is a political term, aiming to deconstruct the concept of gender to reach political and societal shifts.

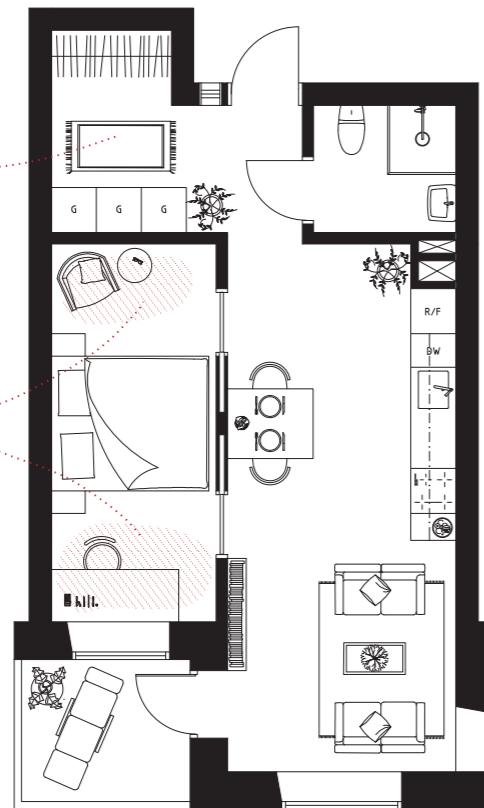
A new housing development that is self critical and with a social purpose is needed in order to supply the demands of the market. This project aims to bridge the gap between residential architecture, research and the concept of gender equality.

How can residential architecture challenge gender norms and promote gender equality?

Dynamic space disposition

"room" close to entrance with space for storage, work space or a single bed

room with space for a double bed, a home office and space to be alone without closing the door



the layout is designed to have the ability to function as large open spaces or to close off certain parts of the apartment; not described as a certain amount of rooms but livable spaces instead

location of kitchen with equally sized spaces in connection creates the option to choose disposition of supporting rooms

all rooms are big enough to fit a double bed



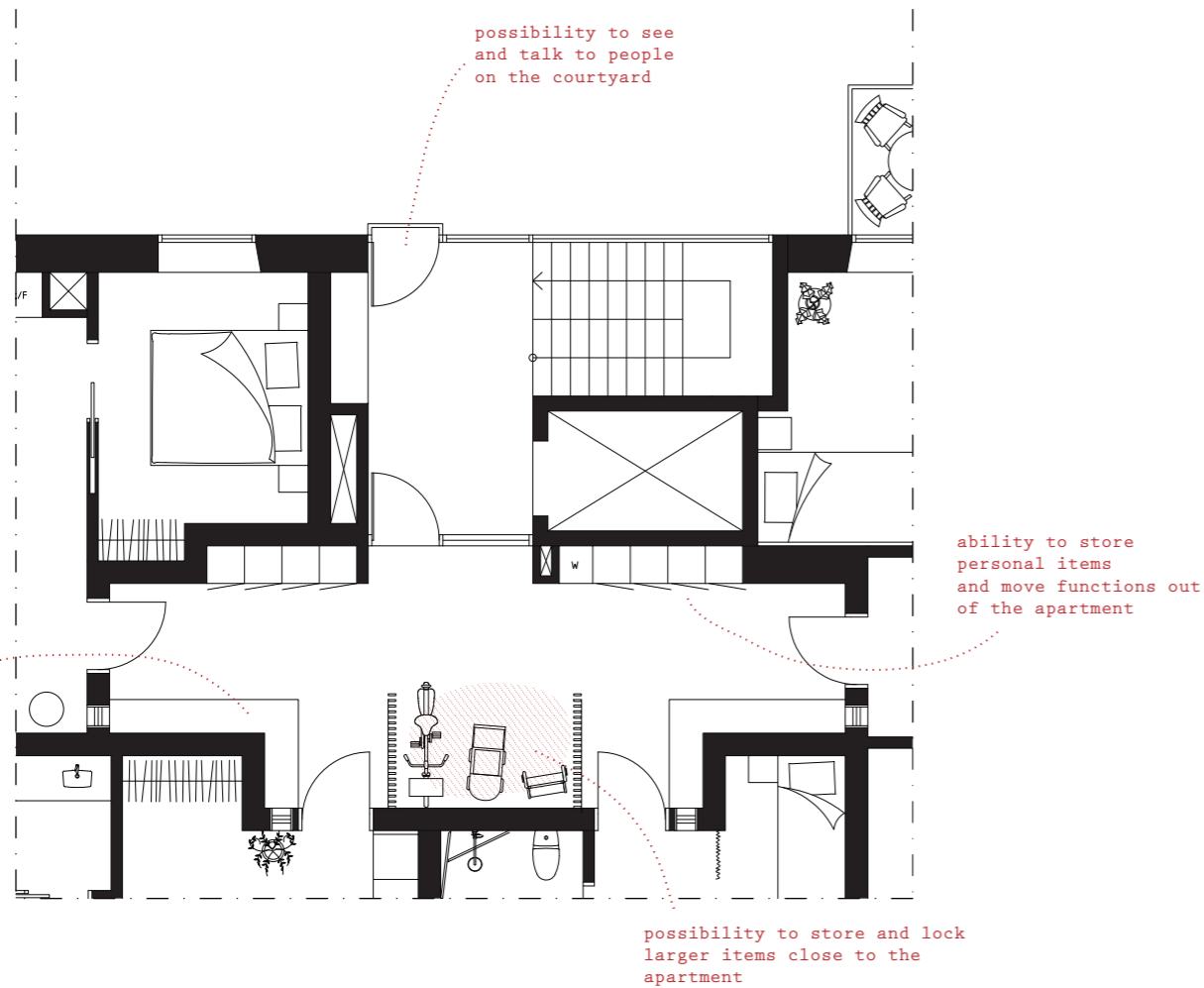
By not designing apartment layouts in a way that only allows one type of set-up (furniture or household) gives the residents possibility to adapt their own space according to their current situation. By offering a more agile design, problems such as being forced to move due to changed family conditions decrease.

- Architectural elements:
- Sequences
 - Queer spaces / Norm creative rooms
 - Placement and arrangement of spaces
 - Light conditions in spaces (dark bathroom and hallway and natural light in other spaces)
 - Re-evaluating rooms (hallway can be used for storage or as a social room)
 - Room sizes

Where the shared spaces in the building are very programmed in their functions, the apartments are unprogrammed. There are no built-in wardrobes and the rooms are not labeled as "bedroom" or "living room". The only functions that are provided are the installations: the kitchen and the bathroom. Through the disposition of the kitchen and spaces in connection, the residents are free to choose and rearrange the social and private rooms around it.



Overcrowding is often an issue for single parents (especially women) and the ability to rearrange the use of spaces in the home therefore support the reproductive sphere. The way the home is arranged also supports and simplifies everyday life for the reproductive sphere.



Simplify daily life

By giving the reproductive sphere a higher spatial status and ease the combination of activities, the members of a household are more free to position themselves and makes it easier to share responsibilities.

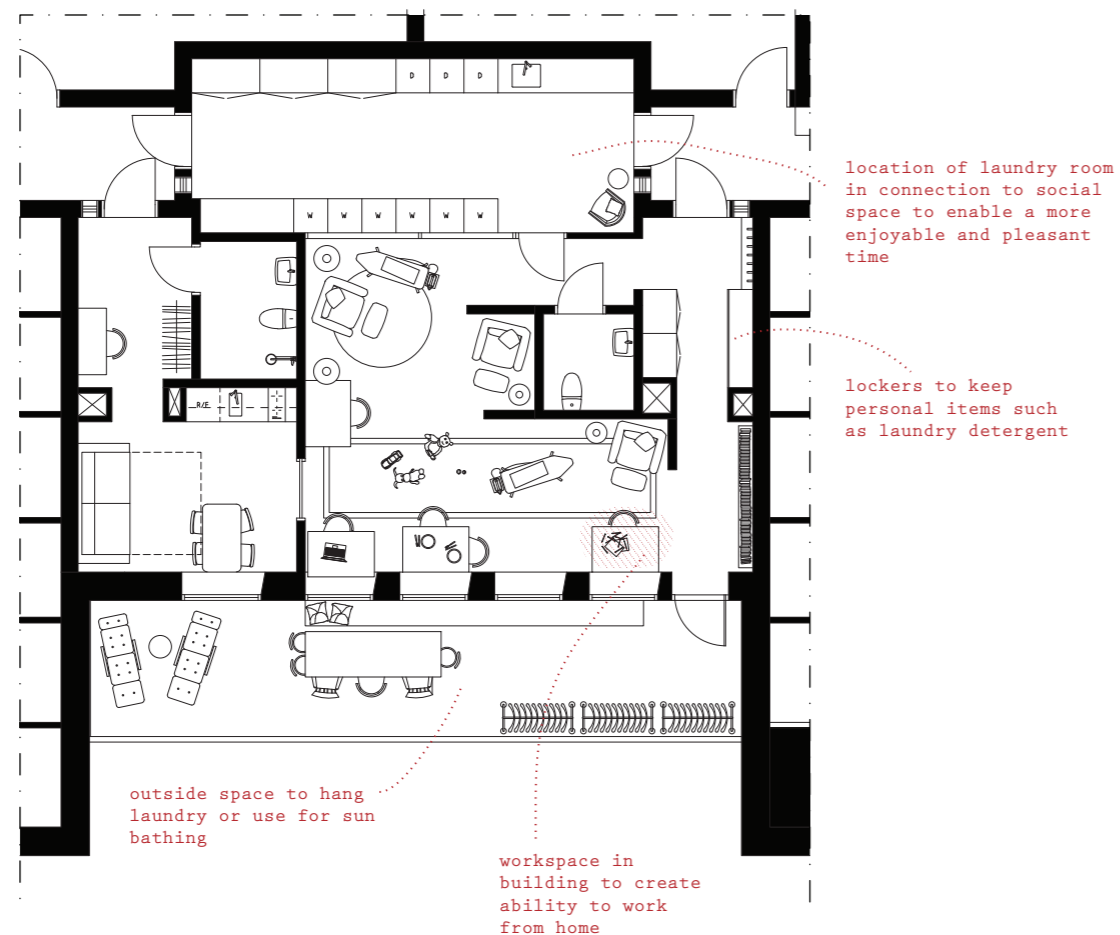
Lowering the threshold to engage in domestic work, moving functions outside of the apartment and creating support systems through common spaces are examples of ways to simplify everyday life.

Architectural elements:
Making domestic work visible
Increase the spatial status of reproductive work
Multi-functional rooms
Mix reproductive and productive qualities
Social spaces towards the courtyard
Efficient rooms and functions
Lower the threshold to engage in domestic work
Ability to have storage close to usage

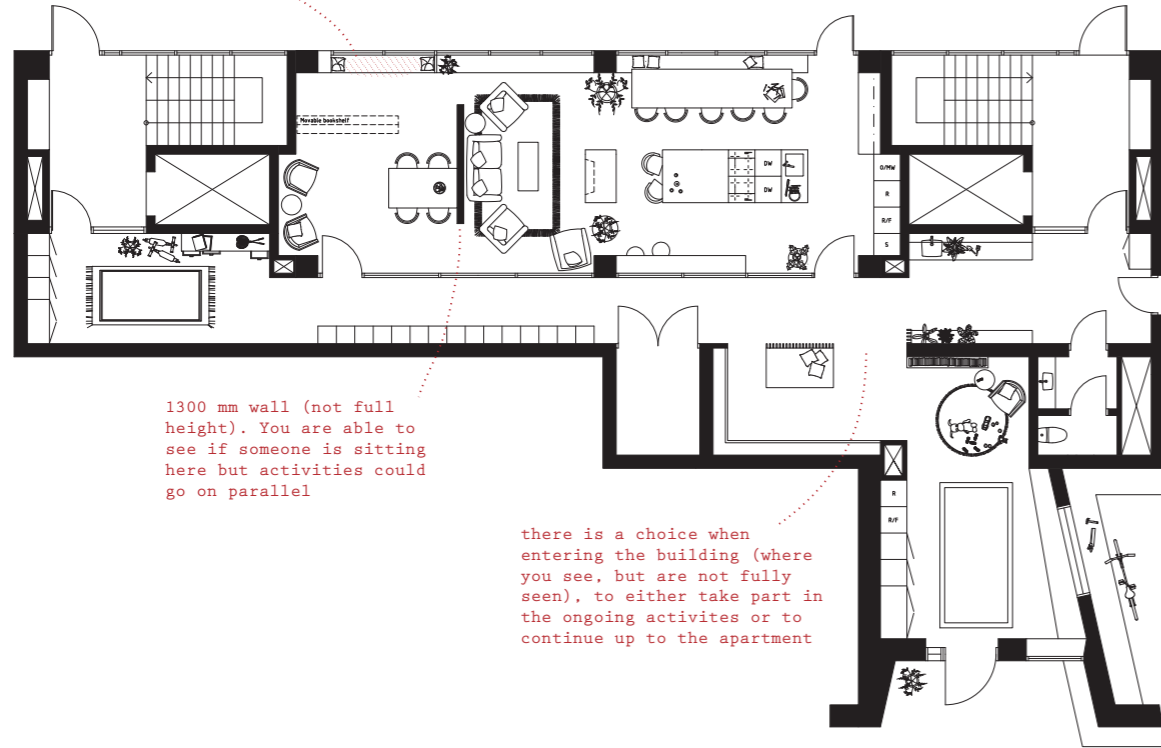
Sharing can make daily life easier and less time consuming. It has social importance and works as a support system. By linking everyday tasks, such as doing laundry with a social space, the spaces support and simplifies domestic work. Functions and spaces that support shared economy, (clothes, tools, appliances etc.) can profit single parents that often have a strained economy.



Norms and social structures on who has the responsibility for the household and its maintenance, the family and home, need to be questioned and challenged. The reproductive sphere should be valued in the same way and in connection to the productive sphere, while broken from the dichotomy.



possible to sit in the window, leaning towards a wall, that also separates the space a little from the other



1300 mm wall (not full height). You are able to see if someone is sitting here but activities could go on parallel

there is a choice when entering the building (where you see, but are not fully seen), to either take part in the ongoing activities or to continue up to the apartment

Levels of togetherness and loneliness

Being able to choose whether or not and on what level to participate in on-going activities in the home gives everybody in the household a freedom to retract. This allows roles of both rooms and persons to be varied.

Architectural elements:
Split and merge rooms
Axiality
"Nooks" - small, unprogrammed spaces
"To see but not be seen"
Coexistence
Location of functions and connection to other spaces

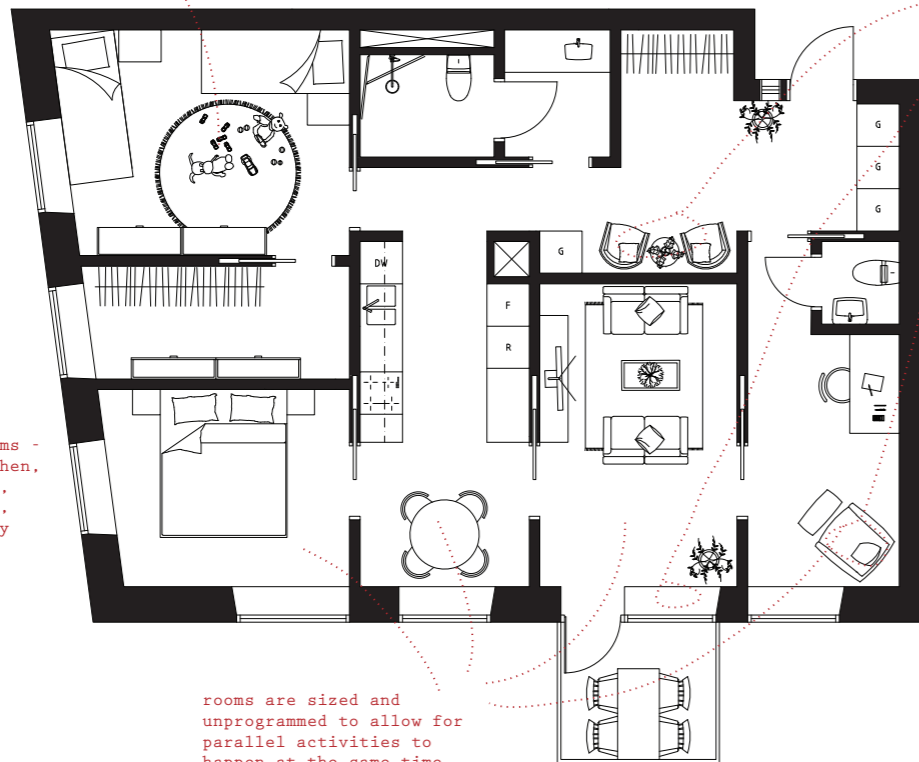
Today, in many newly built apartments, the social rooms are often reduced to one large, open space (sometimes in combination with the kitchen) and focused around the TV and dining table. This project aim to create spaces for different types of socializing, drawing from concepts in feminist planning such as "to see but not be seen" and "smaller spaces in a part of a more intimate scale".



Creating an intimate scale, many spatial possibilities and "room in rooms", focus on socializing rather than activities and "limelight" are all concepts used in feminist urban planning. Aspects that possibly could be translated and investigated in housing.

possibility to use bedroom for many purposes and create a very private space

possibilities to create space within a space



multifunctional rooms - do homework in kitchen, watch tv in bedroom, play in living room, socialize in hallway

rooms are sized and unprogrammed to allow for parallel activities to happen at the same time, while still being connected



To come home

design proposal



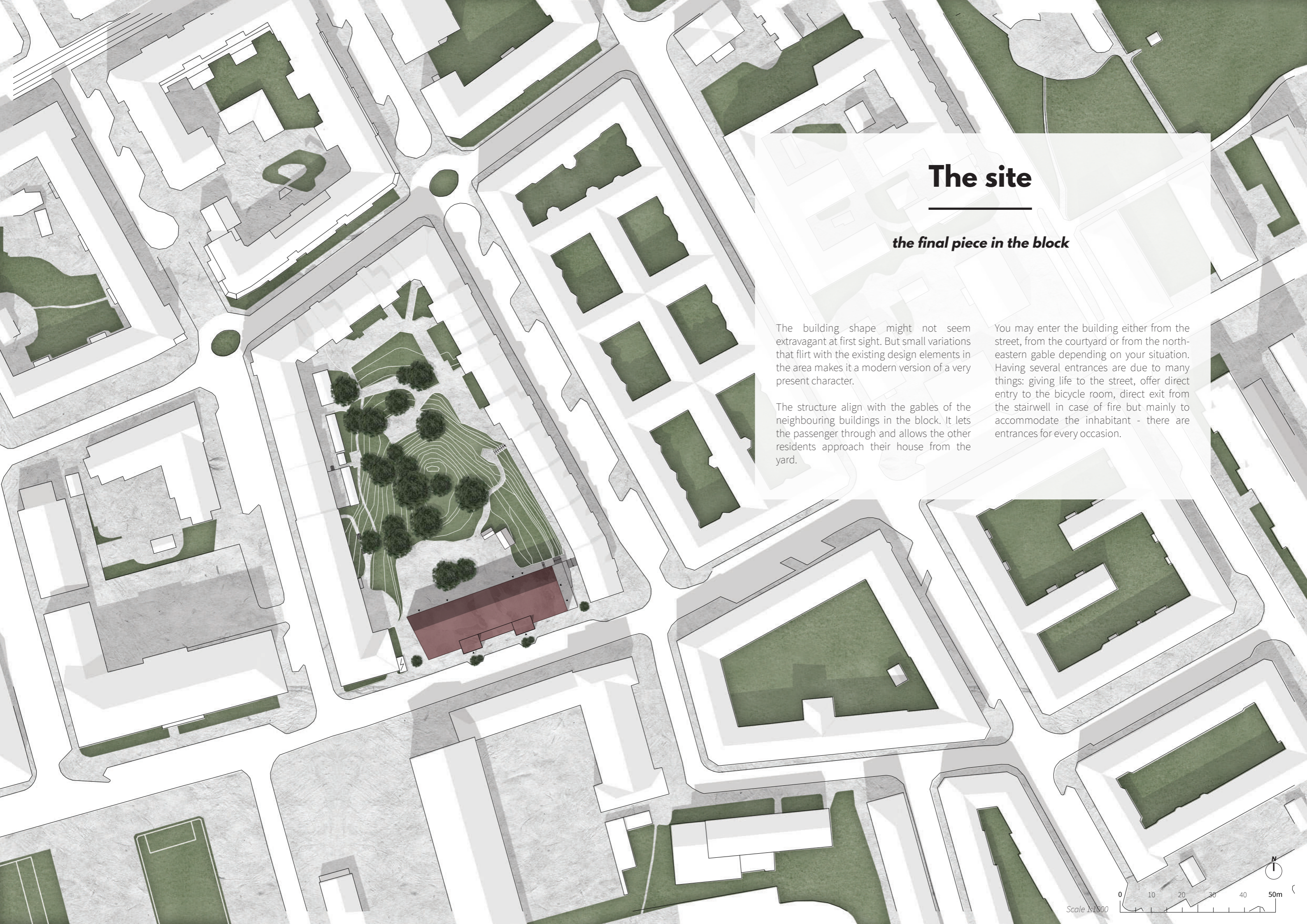
The feeling of home

Coming home late, in November rain is never a pleasant experience. Everybody you meet have quick footsteps and necks down towards the ground. Typical for Gothenburg. Arriving home often makes me warmer inside however. The uplift entrance feels welcoming but is also practical in the way that it's visible if there is someone else by the entrance.

If it's late at night it can feel a bit at ease if

someone is by the entrance, even though that someone is just innocently waiting for the rain to stop. If that's the case the other entrance for the bikes is an option.

It takes a while to create a sense of belonging and a sense of home but thanks to the welcoming first entrance hall the idea of where home is has extended out from the front door to the apartment.



The site

the final piece in the block

The building shape might not seem extravagant at first sight. But small variations that flirt with the existing design elements in the area makes it a modern version of a very present character.

The structure align with the gables of the neighbouring buildings in the block. It lets the passenger through and allows the other residents approach their house from the yard.

You may enter the building either from the street, from the courtyard or from the north-eastern gable depending on your situation. Having several entrances are due to many things: giving life to the street, offer direct entry to the bicycle room, direct exit from the stairwell in case of fire but mainly to accommodate the inhabitant - there are entrances for every occasion.

First impression

facade material

The concept for the facades is to use materials found in the context around the site, in this instance, there are a lot of brick (red and yellow) and metal (on roofs and balconies).

The same goes for the structure of the house where the common typology in the area, "lamellhus", have been applied. The pitched roof is not centred but instead pushed back and shifted towards the courtyard to give the

impression from the street that the building is not that tall. It's also a way to relate to the context but make it stand out as a new addition.

The materials used are copper metal plates for balconies and the protruding parts towards the street and dark red brick facade mounted on the CLT-structure.

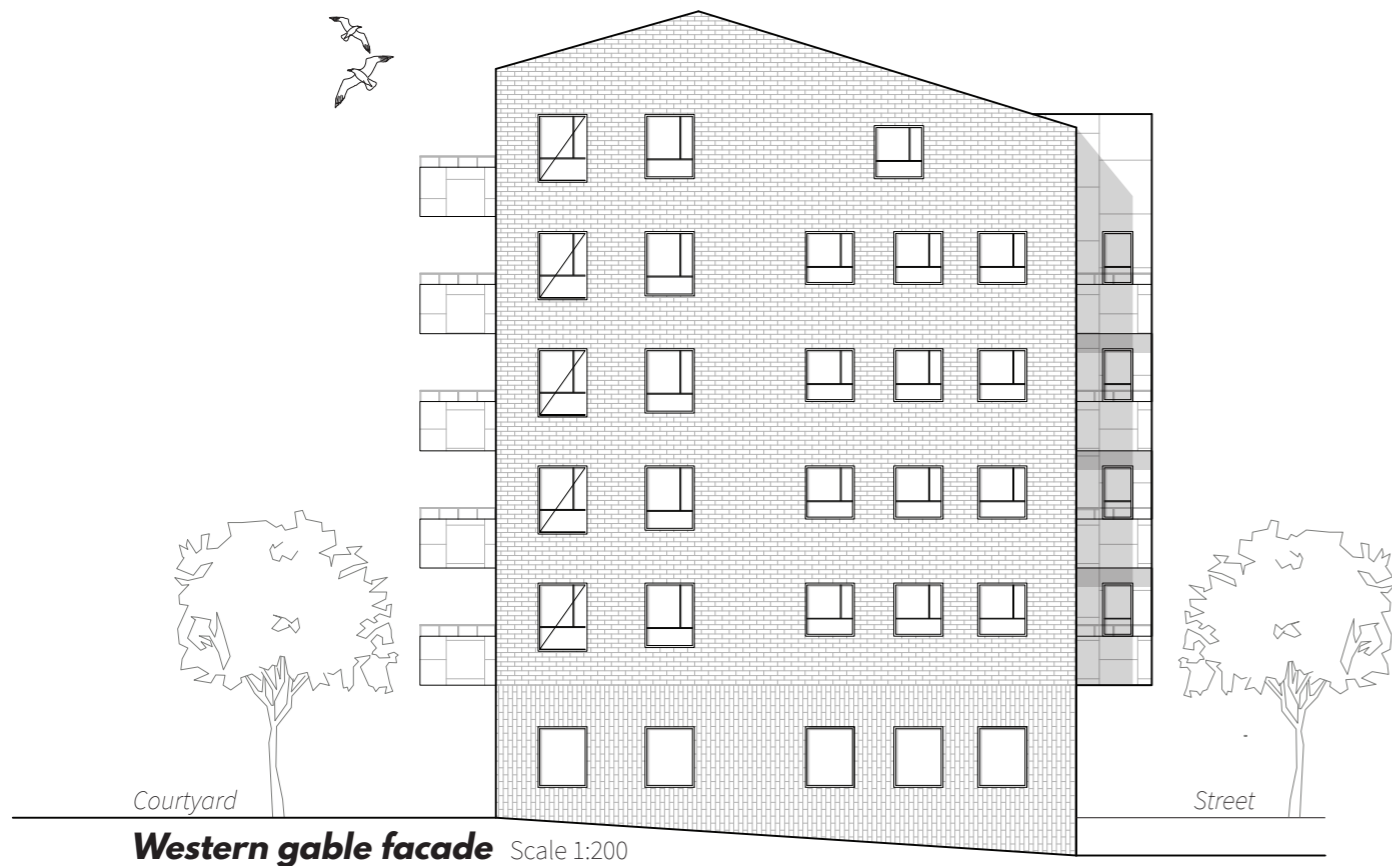


Figure 44: Handmade brick (Petersen Tegl A/S, 2017)

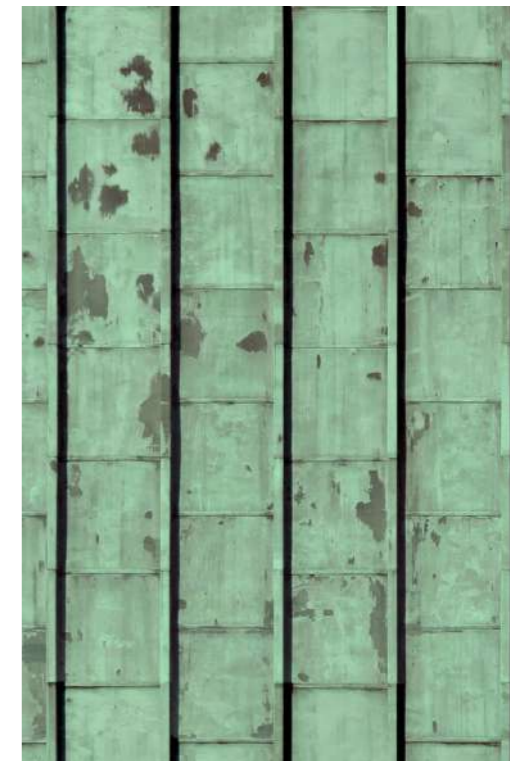
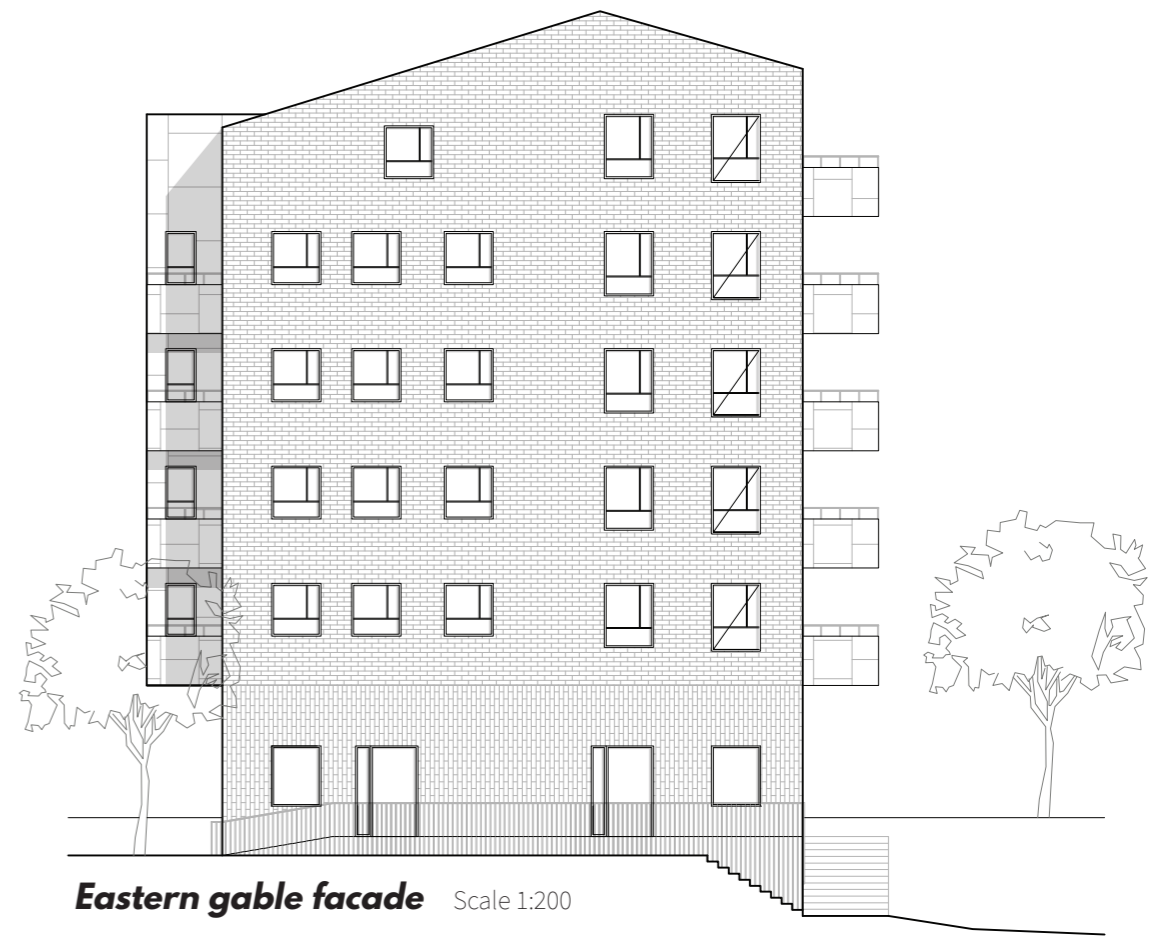


Figure 45: Bronze Copper Metal (Textures, 2017)



Section A-A Scale 1:200



Eastern gable facade Scale 1:200



Courtyard facade Scale 1:200

The entrances and the stairwell are glazed up. This prevents these entrances from feeling like "back doors" and give light to the stairwell, this to enhance taking the stairs instead of the elevator.

The copper sheets are "sprinkled out" in the facade, a nice element that can be found in the rest of the block. It creates a variation whilst linking the facades of the building, creating a totality.

The brick on the ground level is rotated vertically to break down the scale.

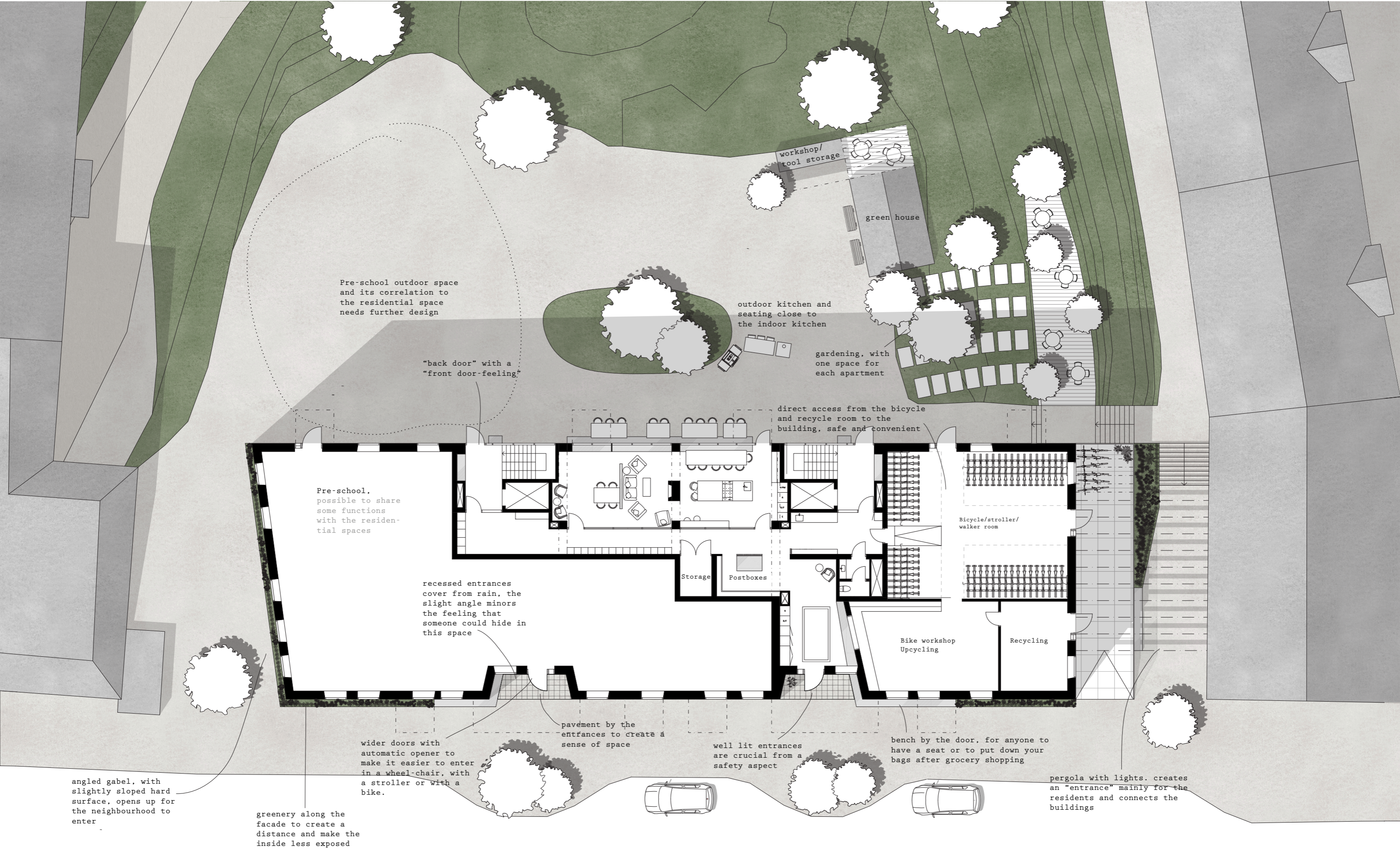


Street facade Scale 1:200

The entrances facing the street are pushed in and located under the parts protruding out of the facade. This accentuates their location and keep them from the weather conditions.

The roof terrace is almost not visible since the facade extends up to create a wholeness.

On the ground floors all around the house, the bricks are vertical instead of horizontal as on the rest of the building. This breaks down the building scale a bit.



Ground floor

You come home already when approaching the building. The entrances are well lit and a bit set back from the street. There is different pavement closest to the building to enhance the feeling of being at home.

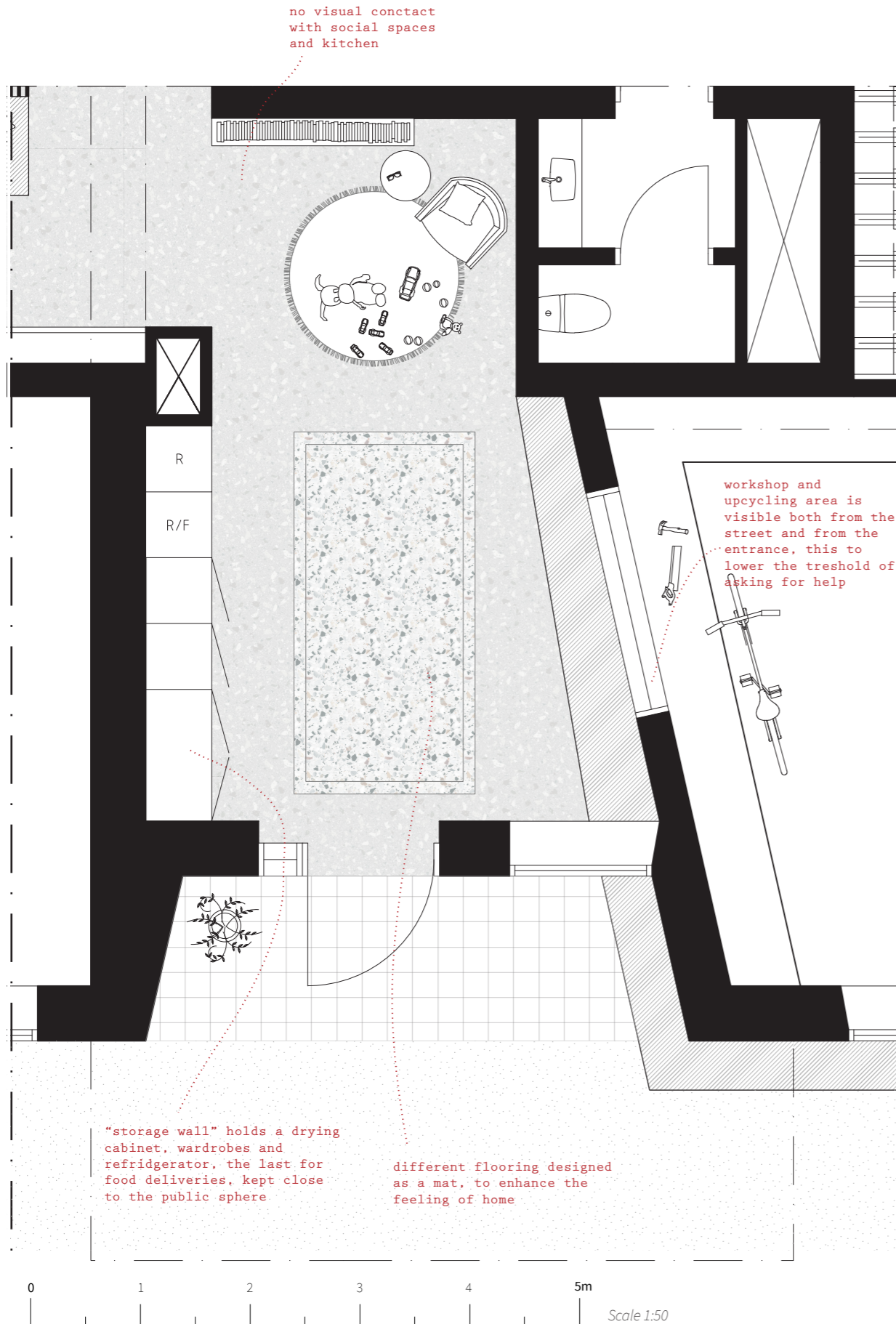
How the different entrances to the building and the courtyard is arranged and designed offers levels of privacy and extends the feeling of home.



Shared functions create possibility to share domestic work. It also contributes to the forming of social networks. This has been shown in cohousing projects that it benefits the feminist movement. When doing chores in a shared space, centrally

located on the ground floor, norms can be challenged and the threshold to engage lower. Locating reproductive functions in light spaces with high quality materials the spatial and mental value of domestic work is uplifted.





The first hallway

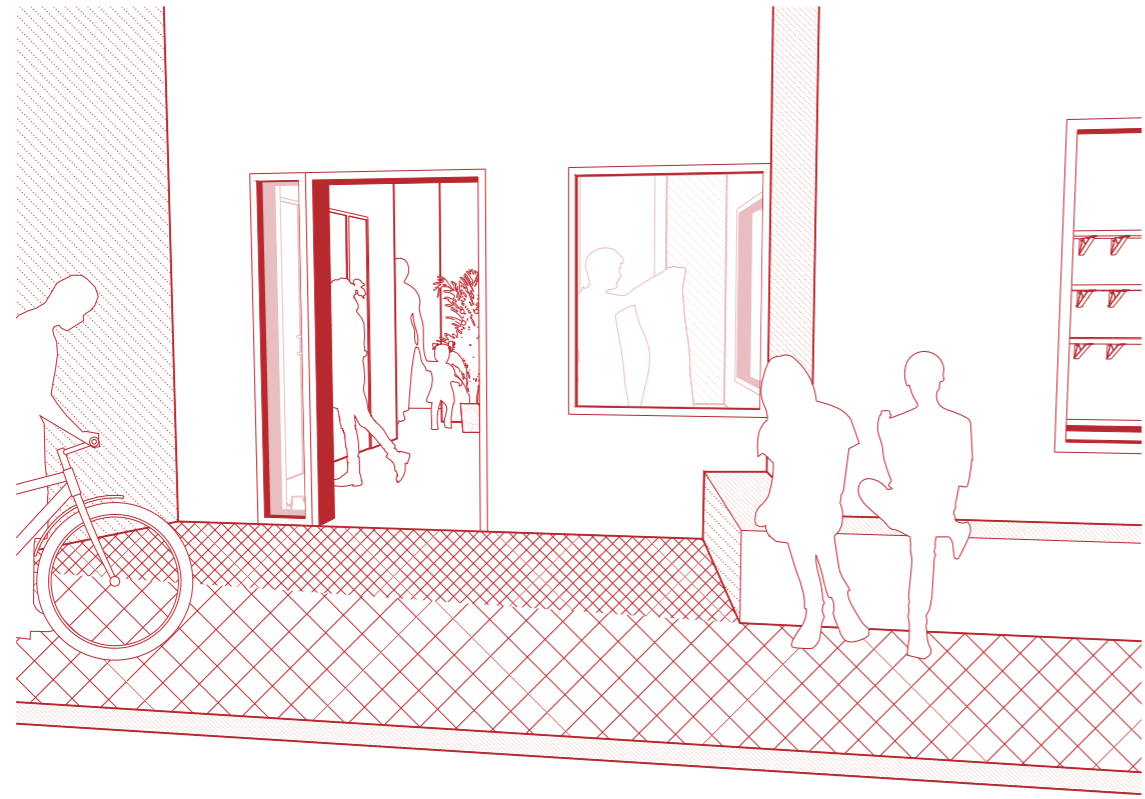
welcoming and functional

This entrance is the main entrance to the building. Thereby this hallway is the first room you meet. It gives a first expression of the home and could contribute by setting the tone for the feeling of home. In private houses there are often two entrances. The "dirty" entrance is often covered with durable flooring, has a sink, a drying cabinet and a laundry machine. This entrance is in many homes the most frequently used.

Therefore, elements from the back entrance is integrated in the main entrance towards the street - there's a terrazzo flooring, a drying cabinet and in close connection there is a sink. In this entrance, the status of the "back door" is uplifted with good lighting, a long bench that ends in a small space and a part of the flooring in different pattern to simulate a fabric mat, to enhance the feeling of coming home.

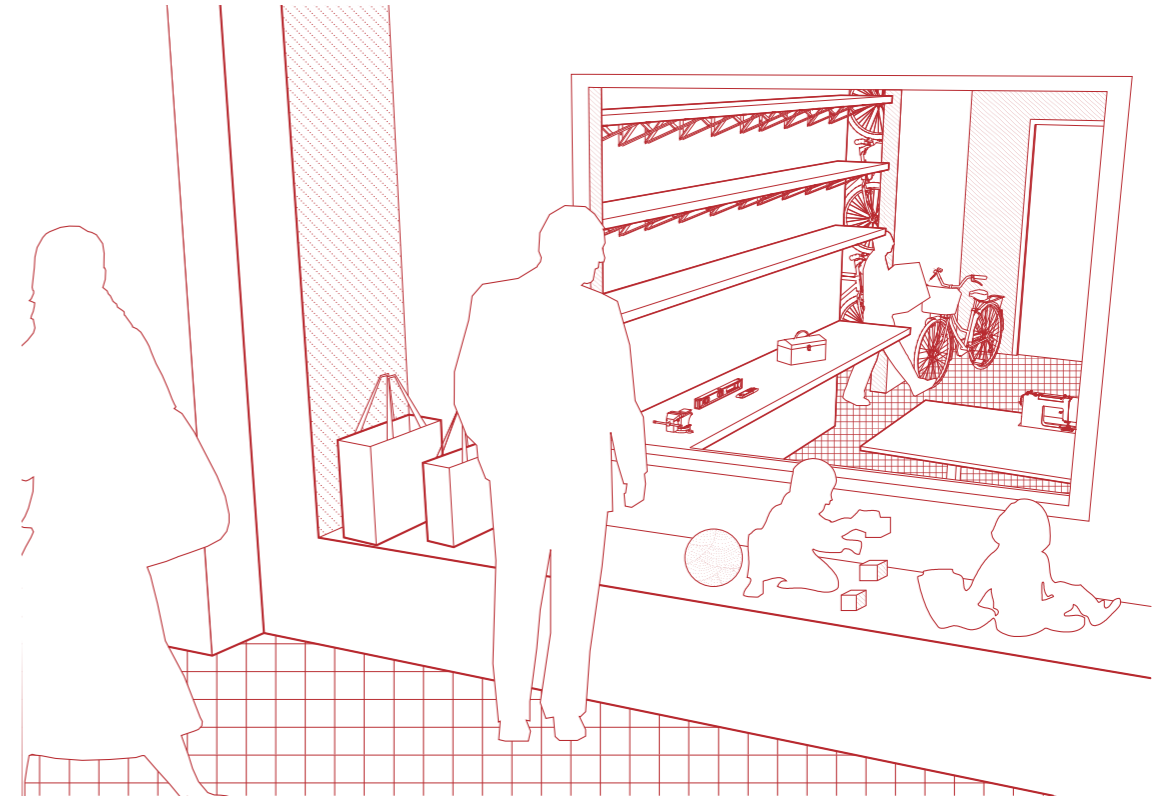
The space have storage, a drying cabinet, a refrigerator and a freezer. Today many households buy their food online, not only is it convenient for people but it is also good in an environmental point of view. Many people have a hard time being at home when the food is delivered and since this residential building has so many shared spaces it might feel intriguing if the delivery person would enter through the private sphere. Therefore there is a refrigerator and freezer by the entrance door, convenient both when delivering and picking up.

The most important aspect in arriving to the building through this space is the feeling of coming home!



The first front door

You “come home” already when you approach the entrance on ground floor. It is well lit, has seating possibilities and you are able to get a glimpse on what is going on inside. Welcome home!



Asking for a favour

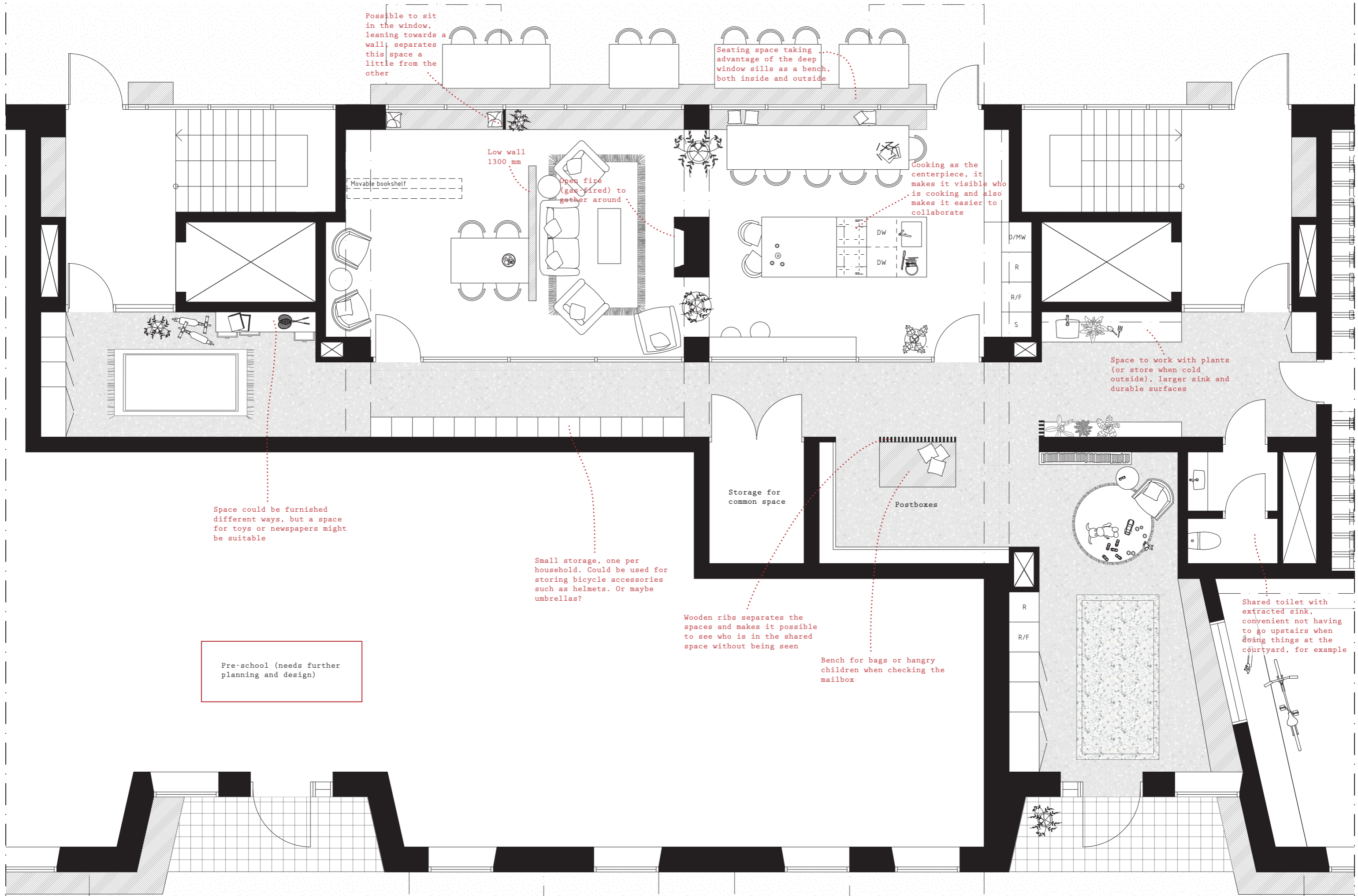
When coming inside the workshop space is visible, which is very convenient since your neighbour seems to be fixing the tire for the bike. A perfect moment to sneak in and ask on how to do it, or even fix your own flat tire.



Sharing everyday life

The dinner is ready any minute. Today carrot soup with freshly baked bread. This week many of the household are away due to holidays so we won't be many for dinner. It's nice how it seems effortless to help one another out with cooking during these gathered dinners, but sometimes just enjoy coming to a set table.

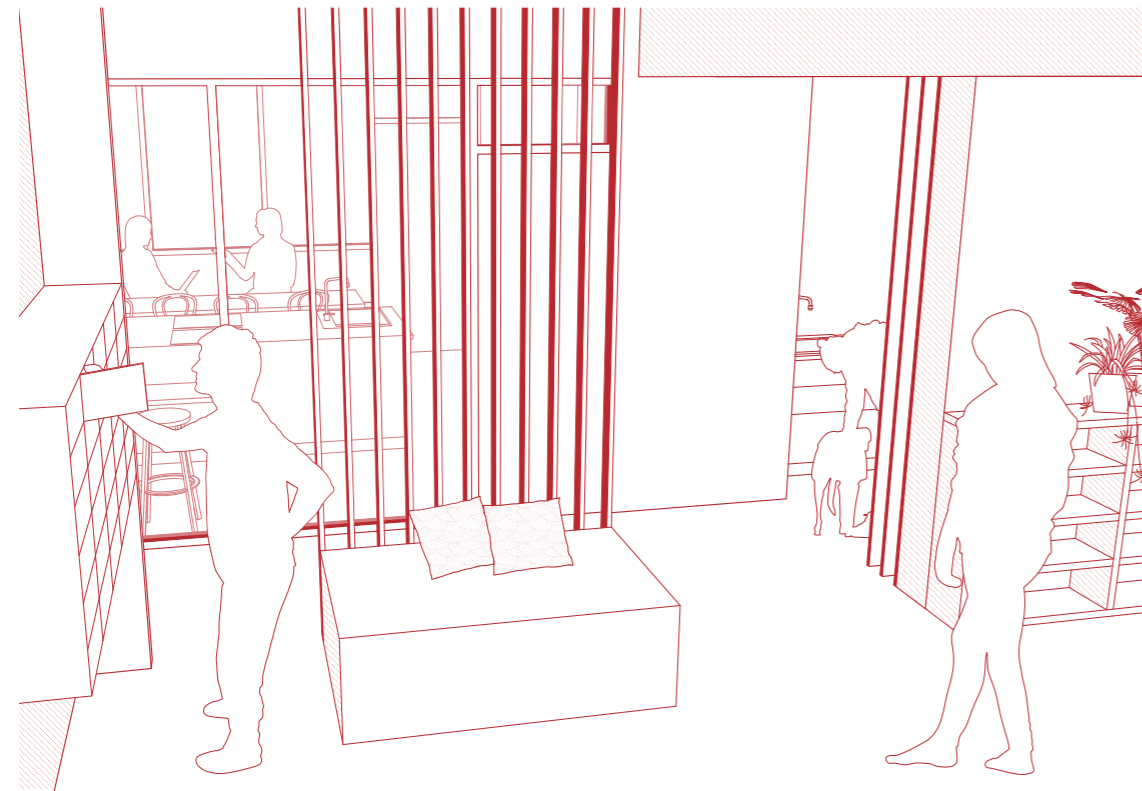
These nights really saves my weekdays sometimes, as the schedule tends to get clogged with activities from time to time. Participating at the suppers make me try new food, have a small chat with my neighbours, but sometimes I actually choose not to participate, then it's easy to just sneak upstairs without being seen.



Ground floor
Scale 1:75

Sharing is caring

a sense of belonging



Going upstairs

There are times when you don't want to participate in common activities on the ground floor, but you still want to see what is going on. Therefore the entrance is designed in a way that you can see but not be fully seen.

Creating a sense of belonging and a possibility to be a part of a small community within the building is important for gender equality. The concept of a shared economy could in many ways take weight off ones shoulders: time wise, money wise and socially. It has been shown that women take advantage from the co-housing concept, but from looking at statistics and through interviews it is problematised how men are lonely and have little social interaction, especially in the home. By lowering the threshold to participate and offer a variation of meeting spaces, it makes it easier to participate in gatherings.

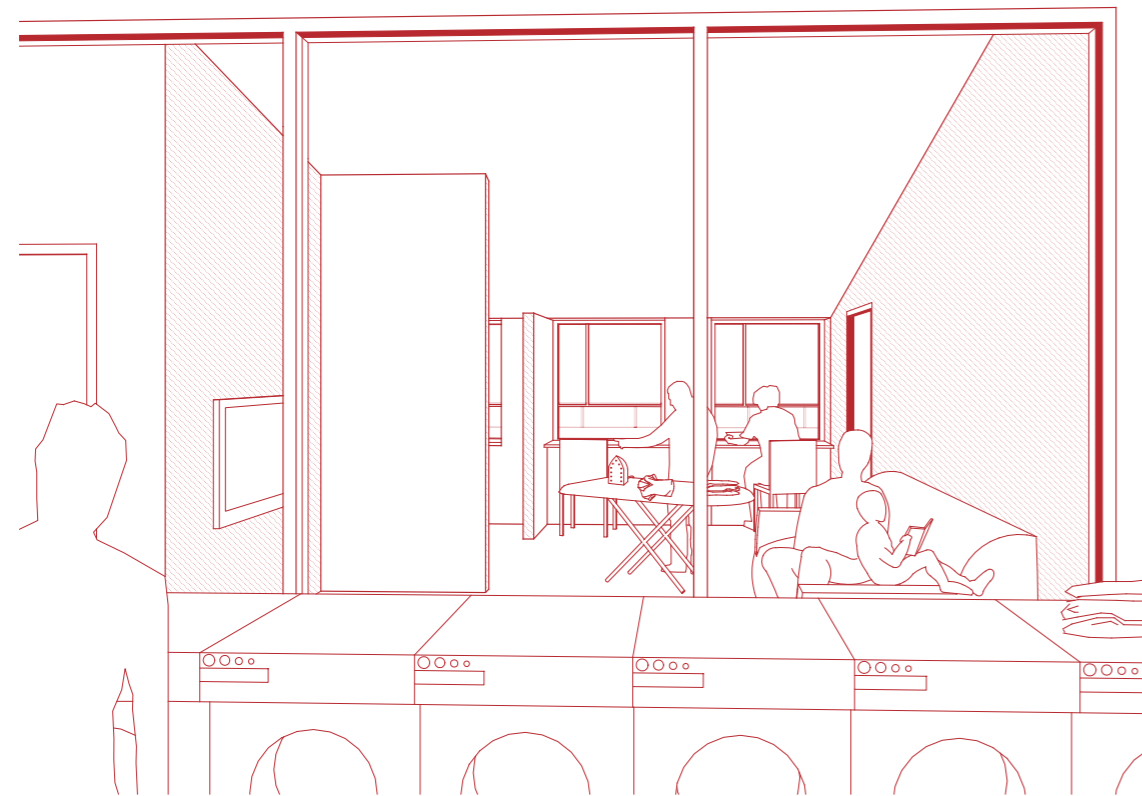
The design of the ground floor is focused on these aspects. The large shared space focuses on cooking with possibilities to cluster in connection to a kitchen island. It could be doing homework by the counter or choosing to have breakfast in front of the open fire while reading the newspaper that the building have a subscription on.

There is a diversity in what size the spaces on the ground floor have, even within the larger space, smaller spaces exist or can be created by the "user". This is, once again to offer more people a place to feel comfortable at. From feminist spatial planning it is shown that it's very important to create this variation and ability to impact and create your own space, which makes more people use the space.

Mentioned before, the food delivery doesn't come further than to the very first hallway. The mail carrier has to come a bit further in to the house but stops behind the wooden ribs where the mail boxes are located. From the kitchen space you can see the person distributing post but you get the feeling that the mailman don't see you. That gives a feeling of control over the situation and contributes to feeling safe, important factors in your home sphere.

Highlighting doing laundry

a penthouse laundry room



Enjoy doing laundry

You never have to feel stressed that you're missing parts of your favorite TV-show due to laundry anymore. Thanks to the TV in the room connected to the laundry room upstairs there is no need to run up and down to put in a new set of dirty laundry or hang the clean. You might even iron all your socks thanks to this.

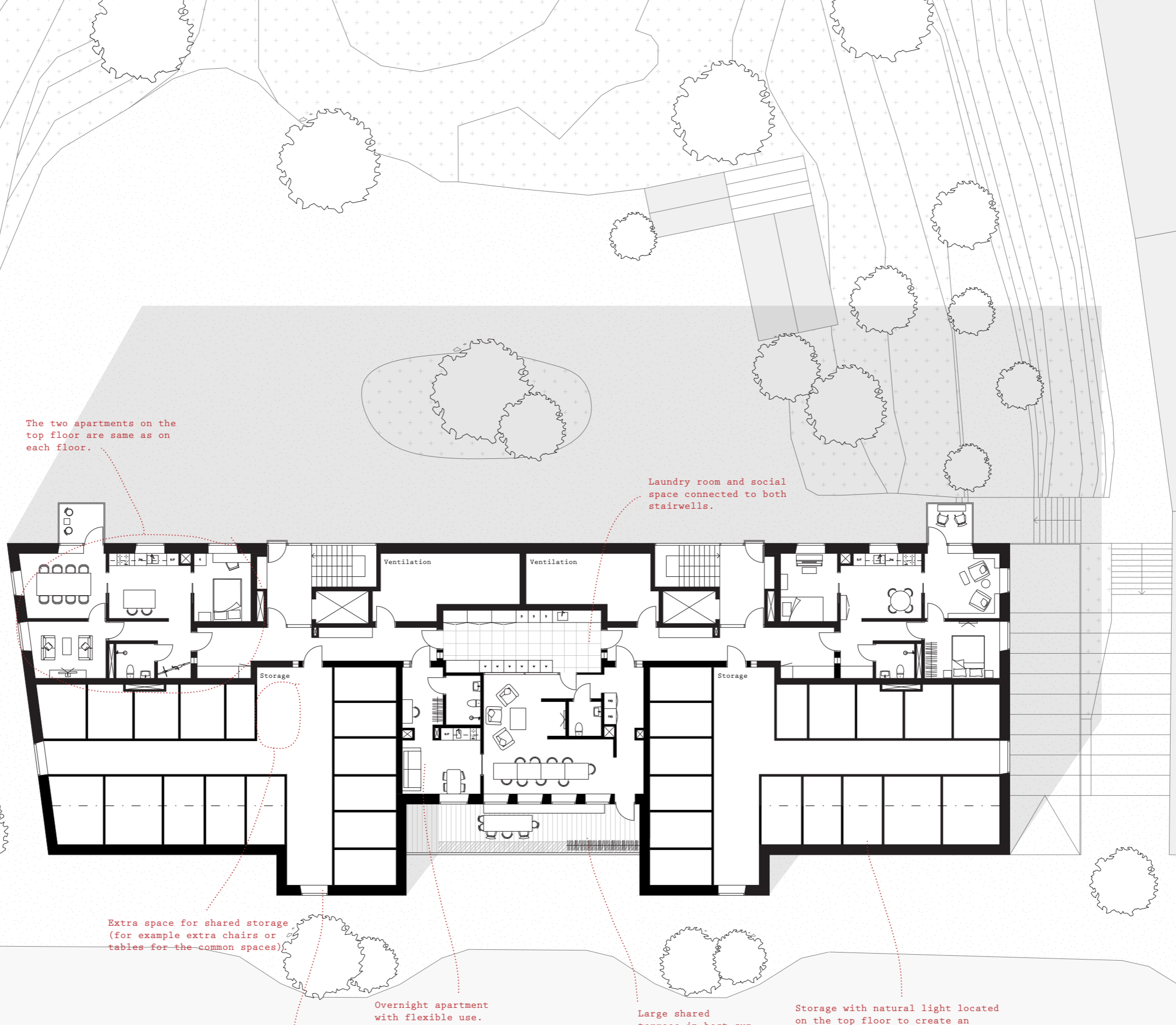
Placing a common laundry room on the top floor is a statement. It is a space that is usually located in the basement, not seldom without windows. Why? It might have an historical connection to the fact that women used to do the laundry. But in today's society everyone needs to do laundry. It is a statement to not offer laundry machines in each apartment.

Many of our interviewees raised the laundry room as the space for social interaction with neighbours and that they liked the format of the casual conversations that occurred in that space. However they missed the possibility to lengthen that casual talk without having to invite your neighbour home. Putting this function in a nice location uplifts domestic work and promotes executing this chore.

The design of the space for doing laundry isn't in itself unique. However, the location of it as well as its connection to other spaces.

Next to the laundry room another shared space is located. This space could be used at any time by anyone but is thought to support the reproductive activity of washing. Washing is usually an activity that is time consuming and inefficient when having to run up and down the stairs every now and then.

The connected space could be a space to stay whilst doing laundry, and bring your sleeping baby or grandchild that needs help with their homework. The space is slightly divided into smaller spaces by walls that creates niches of various sizes. This in order to feel like you don't necessarily have to socialize with other persons in the room.



The two apartments on the top floor are same as on each floor.

Laundry room and social space connected to both stairwells.

Extra space for shared storage (for example extra chairs or tables for the common spaces)

Overnight apartment with flexible use.

Light storage space to allow for other usage and a safer feeling.

Large shared terrace in best sun location, South.

Storage with natural light located on the top floor to create an independence to go here, since people move up here it feels safer.

Top floor Scale 1:200

On the top floor of the building there are two apartments, storage, an overnight apartment, ventilation rooms, the laundry room connected to a social space and a terrace in the best location. The apartments on this floor are not of "penthouse character", in order to not give these dwellings another status. The storage spaces are

located on this floor in order to feel more safe. Going down to a dark cellar empty from people might feel intimidating and limit the independence of inhabitants. The storage have windows to allow other usage of this space (maybe a space for rehearsing with the band?) as well as making it feel safer.



Making sure people are equally valued and not add a dimension of status within the building are important in order to prevent a hierarchy within the house. Everybody are equal in the usage of space. The inhabitants shouldn't feel limited to use different spaces

in relation to time why making a light storage space located on the top floor empower them to feel at ease with going here. To feel confident and independent is important in order to feel the possibility to shape your own life situations free from norms.

More than just a domestic chore

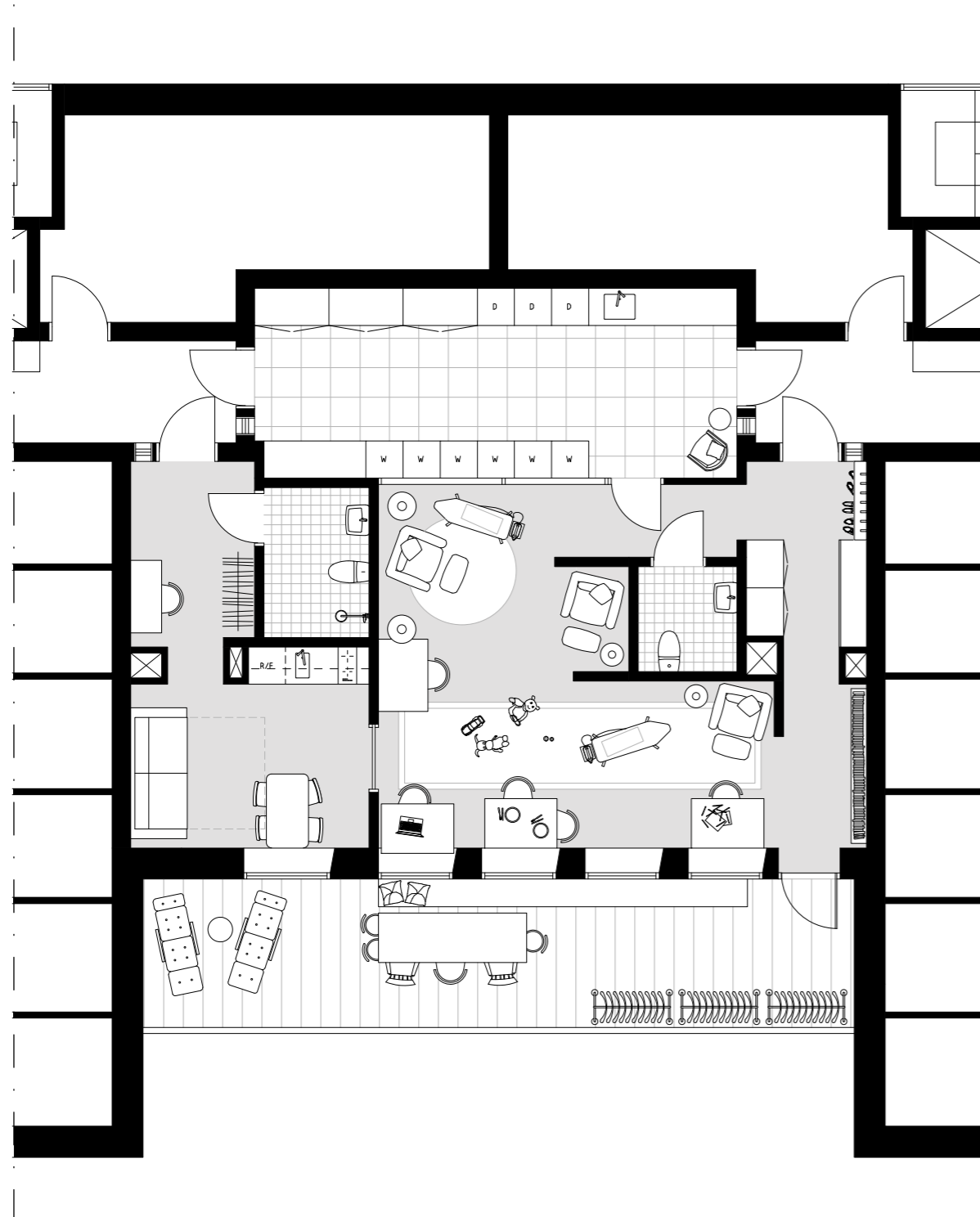
the laundry room

Connected to the laundry room and the shared space is a terrace and an overnight apartment. The terrace can be used for drying clothes during warmer seasons, for sunbathing or for hosting a dinner. The private balconies are rather small compensated with the large terrace.

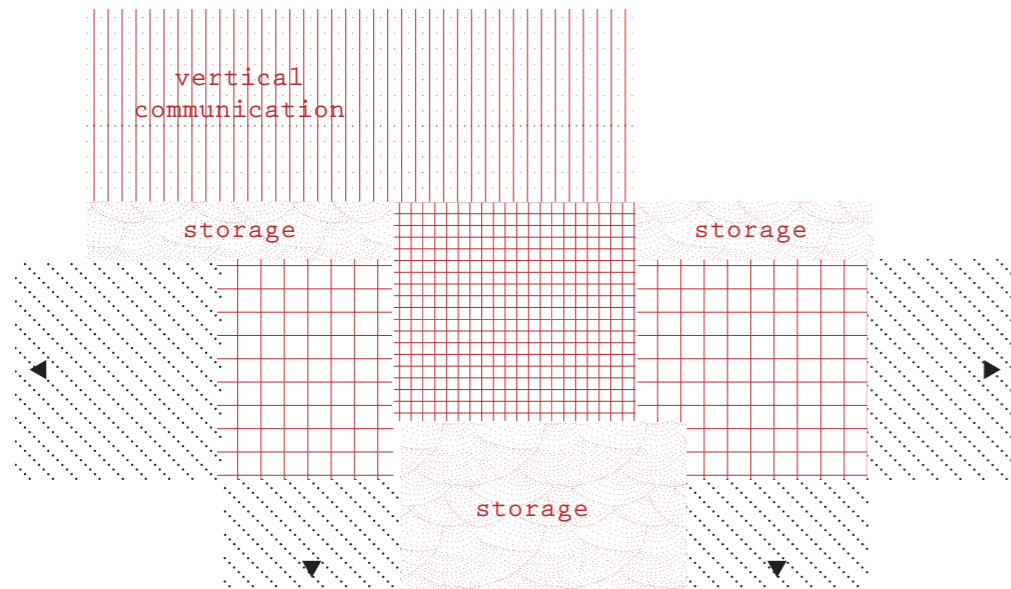
The overnight apartment can open up towards the shared space when it's not rented out. The concept of this space is that it could be rented for a bit longer time (like a month) to work as a support system for households that separates and needs an "emergency stay".

The laundry room can be reached from both stairwells and overlooks the social space which can be reached directly from the eastern stairwell to go to the terrace.

Inside the shared space there is a toilet to simplify your laundry time by not having to rush down to use the bathroom. There is also two types of storage in the room: every household gets a small locker to keep detergent or fabric softener. The other storage is larger and has all kinds of cleaning products, tools and machines to borrow in case you don't have your own, as a part of the shared economy concept.



Scale 1:100
0 1 2 3 4 5m



Your "closest neighbourhood", referred to as the extended hallway, is shared with four, then two and lastly only your own household. This creates a more intimate shared space where the neighbours feel connected and look after each other.

Shared coexistence

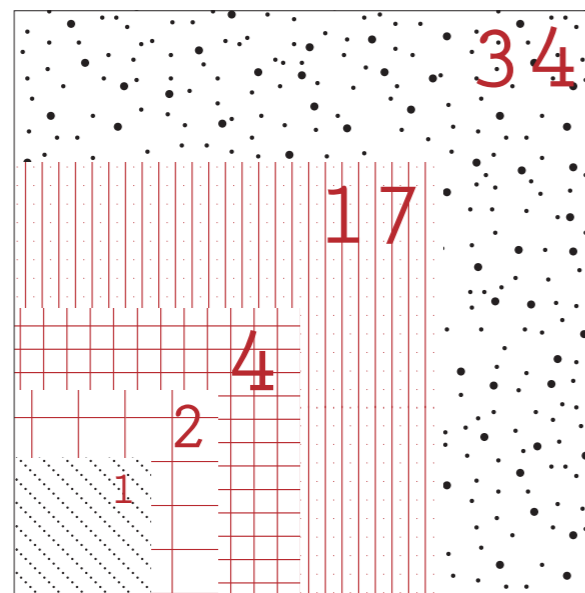
the ability to choose when and how to participate

Sharing functions and spaces is something that all residents can benefit from. It gives a possibility to expand the home when needed. By creating different types of shared spaces by function, size, how many the space is shared with and what other spaces they relate to, more people can make use of the rooms.

everyday tasks, such as the laundry room in connection to a social space, the spaces support and simplifies domestic work. Functions and spaces that support shared economy (such as clothes, tools, appliances etc.) can profit single parents that often have a strained economy.

Sharing can make daily life easier and less time consuming. It has social importance and works as a support system. By linking

The apartment is still private, but several spaces of varying degree of privacy exist within the building, from the front door to the building to the front door of your apartment.



The scale of sharing within the building. Shared spaces on ground and top floor are shared with all 34 households, the vertical communication is shared with 17, each floor with four, the extended hallway with two and lastly you share space with only your own household.



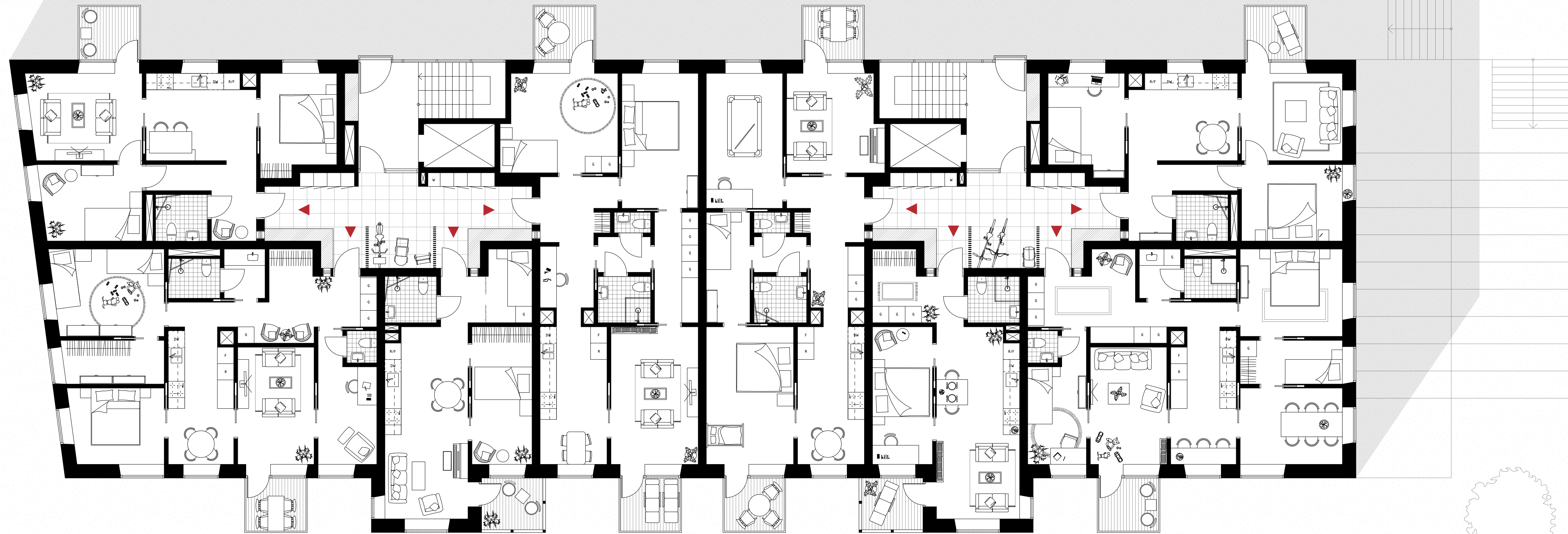
Extending the private sphere

When arriving or leaving home, the extension of the hallway is a functional space where the apartment flows out into the stairwell. Someone is coming, someone is leaving and some seem to have moved all their toys out here.

It's almost like it's an extension of the apartment, someone have even gone as far

as to start to decorate the space with plants, lights and carpets. Almost everyone is now leaving their shoes and coats out here.

Looking through the small window next to the door; there seems to be quite a lot of activity going on in there. Better wait a while to go inside...

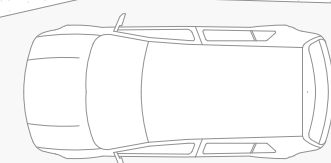
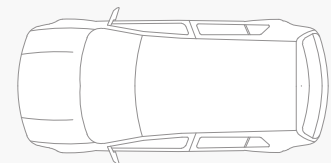


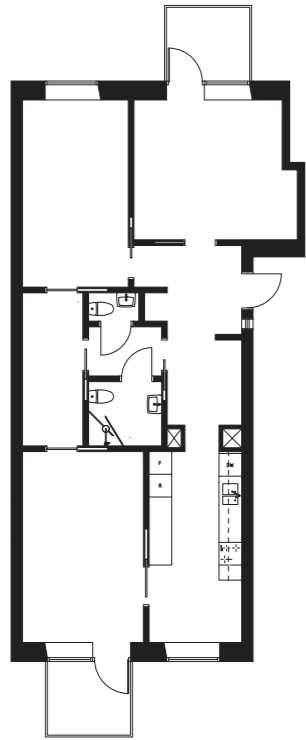
Average floor plan Scale 1:100

The average floor plan have two vertical communications with four apartments per stairwell. The apartments are varying in sizes, from sqm to sqm. Providing different sizes of apartment, creates a possibility for the building to hold a number of households of different kind.



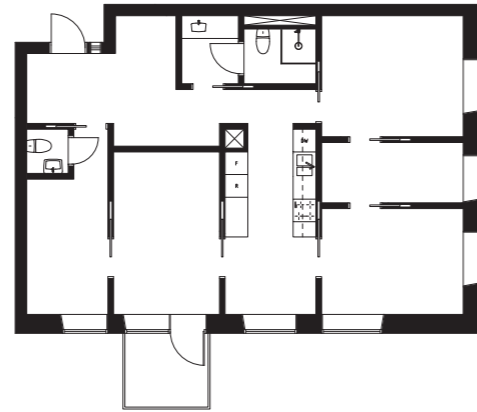
The shared space by the elevator and staircase is facing the courtyard to let the residents have visual and possibly verbal contact and to see what is going on, for example children playing.





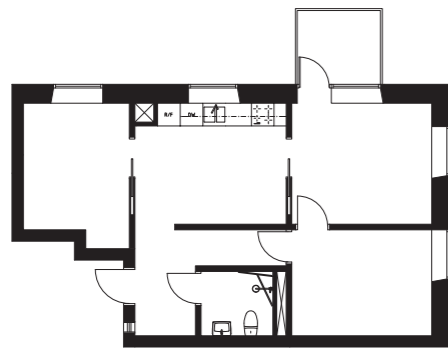
A - 88/85 sqm

Maximum 7 people.



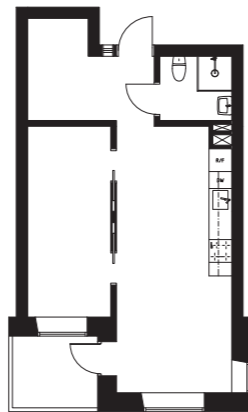
B - 88 sqm

Maximum 6 people.



C - 59/60 sqm

Maximum 5 people.



D - 50 sqm

Maximum 3 people.

Representation without labels

type of apartments



All apartments have natural light from two directions. The walls by the windows are slanting on one side, letting more light into the room.

The apartments are not represented by how many rooms they have since the concept is the residents ability to create rooms based on their needs. There aren't, as commonly presented, labels on the rooms (living room, bedroom etc.). The apartments are unprogrammed when it comes to functions, there is no need for the architect to state which room is which.

Although there is a built-in structure with preconditions, not using stereotypical labels is another way of challenging norms.

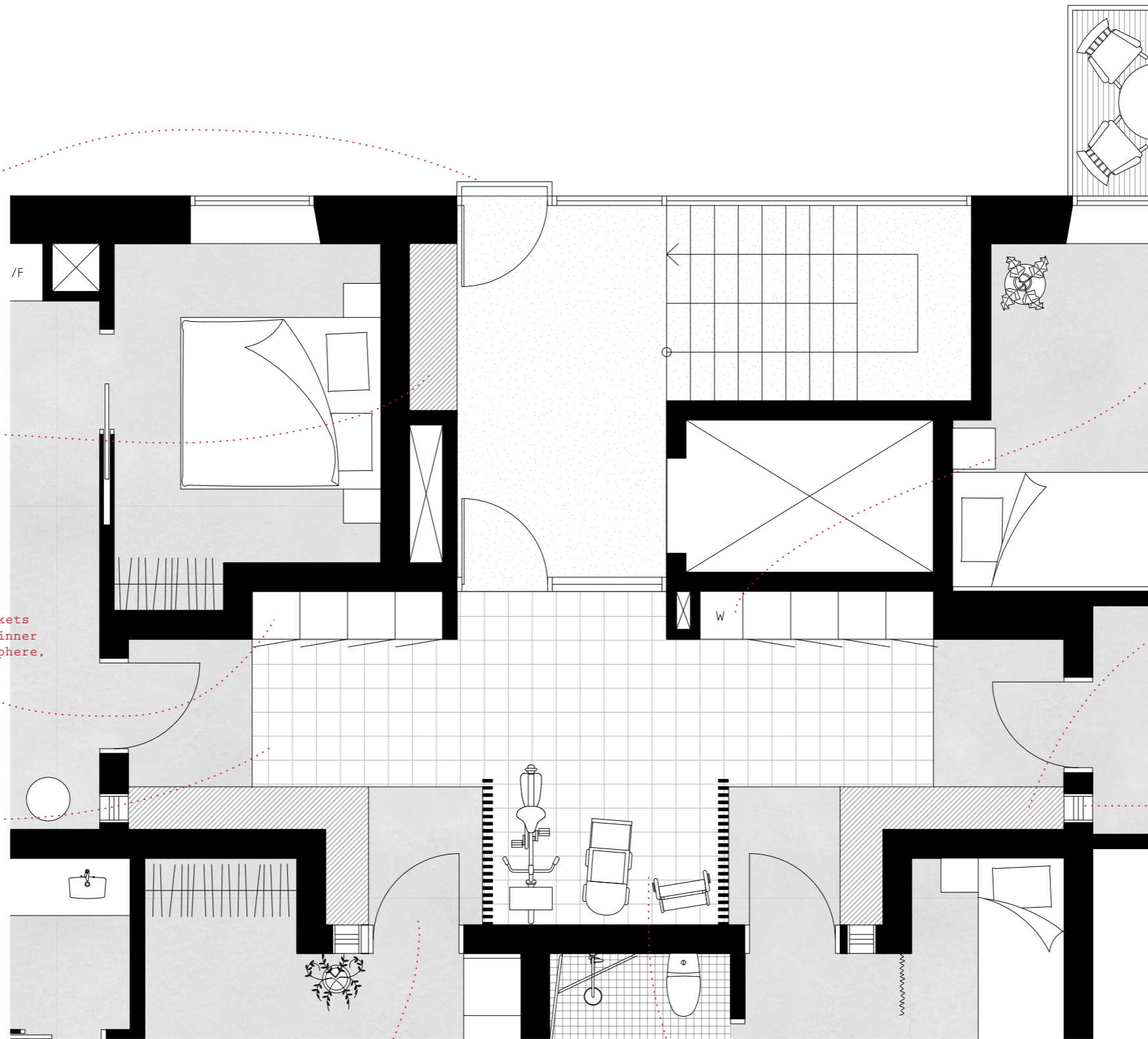
Another thing not included in the layouts is built-in storage. By not putting, for example wardrobes in certain rooms, there is nothing stating what kind of space the room could be used as. Together with general sizes and sliding doors it adds to the adaptability and flexibility of the apartments.

french balcony towards the yard to be able to communicate with someone downstairs from the stairwell.

built in bench, could be used for guests that are on time but the dweller is running late

each household has two wardrobes each. Coats and jackets could stay here to allow the inner hallway to have another atmosphere, free from stress.

flooring change to enhance the variation of spaces



"emergency washing machine" for those times when a child has had a "wet accident", or there are no clean tshirts left. smaller machine that is unable to book.

bench for taking shoes on or off, or for taking a breath before leaving for work

narrow window from hallway to the apartments. "neighbourhood watch", visible if someone is home, and to see when someone rings the doorbell

the flooring from the apartment stretches out and extends the hallway

possibility to store and lock larger items close to the apartment

144

145

The extended hallway Scale 1:50

Qualities lacking in apartment buildings, that are appreciated in detached houses, are often the two entrances where one can be used for dirty or messy functions. In the proposal, the space just outside the apartment is used for just that. In this instance the

residents have the choice to use their private hallway inside the apartment for more storage, as a standard-looking entrance, or to create another type of atmosphere when entering the apartment.



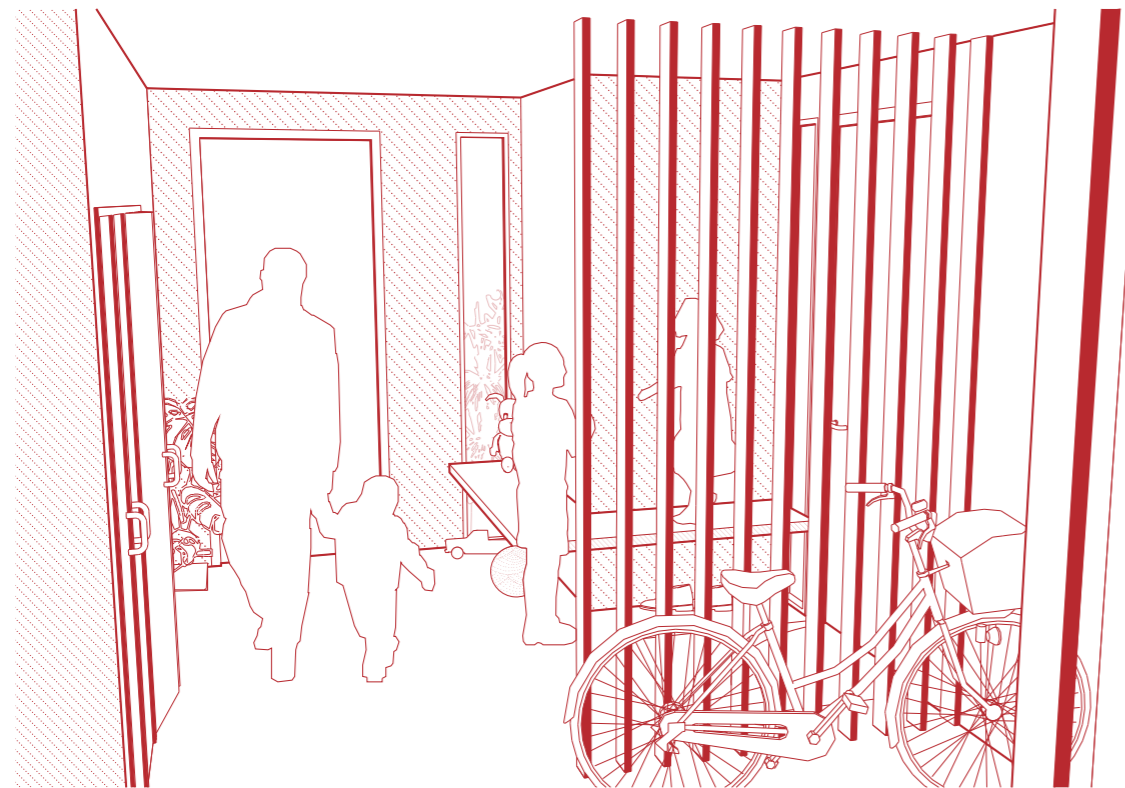
All and all, the aim of using the stairwell to something more than just communication, is to create a sense of community between the four apartments, extra space for children playing but

most and foremost, to add more storage for the apartments and the ability to move dirty and messy storage to a space where it can stay that way.



To come home

the extended hallway



When arriving home to your apartment, soaking wet from the Gothenburg rain, it's nice to have a seat and take off the drenched clothes and shoes before reaching the apartment. Put them in the dryer cabinet and come home in a calmer way.

Each floor; four households, share the extended hallway. There's a small "lobby space" next to the elevator and staircase with a bench and a balcony facing the courtyard. After the glass door there is a space that can possibly be used as a small social space, when

you want to socialise with your neighbours but not invite them to your private home. The wardrobes can hold jackets, skateboards and backpacks in and a bench to wait for your parents to be done already, sit and chat with your neighbour or just put down your bags when once again not finding your keys in your bag. This makes the last and very most private hallway once you've entered your apartment, a calmer space, which gives you a peaceful sequence in coming home.



Reforming norms

“Sitting by the desk, doing homework, while still having an overview over everyone.”

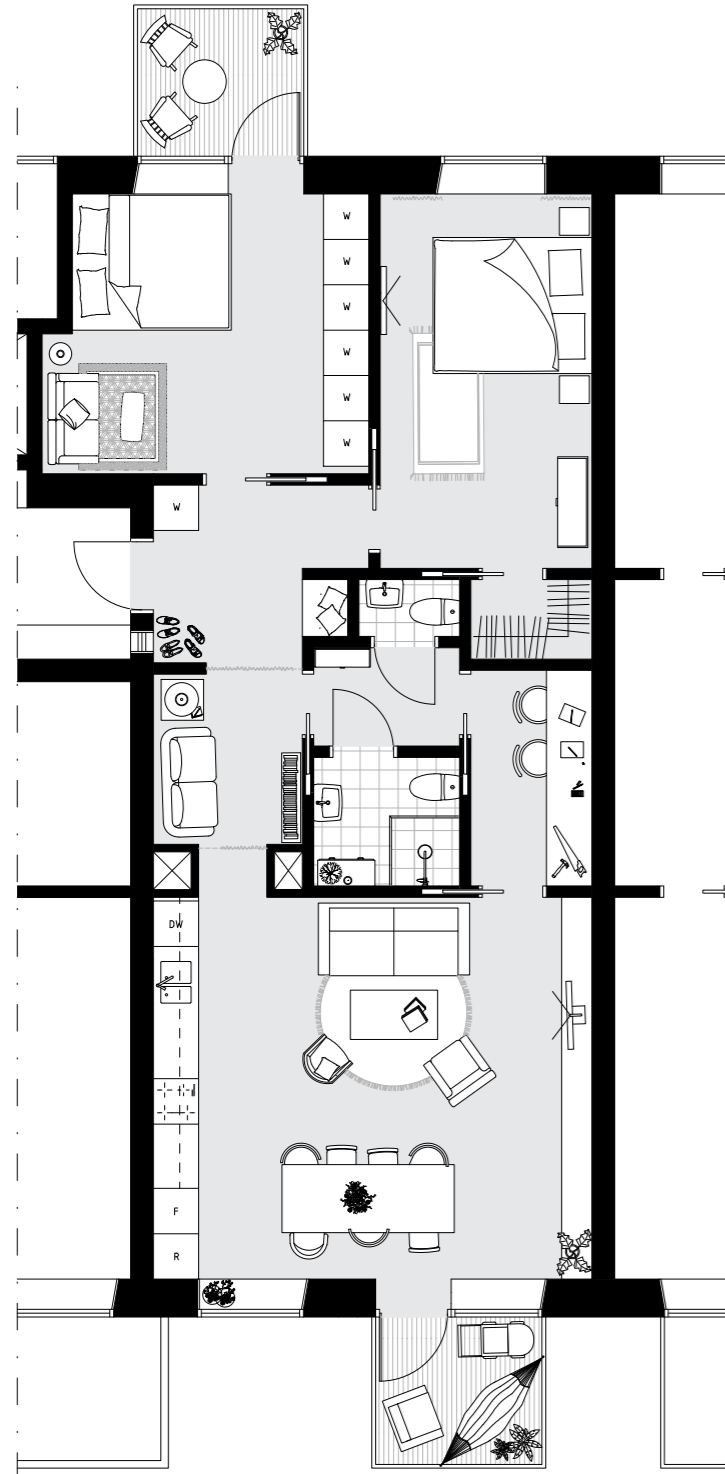
I have created my own space within the ambience of the apartment. I can speak to the others if I want to, but I can also show them that I'm busy and need to not be disturbed. Closing the door behind, when the noise level becomes too high is very enjoyable, sometimes. But for the most time I appreciate the feeling of being apart of what is going on around me.

The truth is that we are a large household, some would argue too large for this apartment. But having connecting rooms that can be separated or open, depending on the situation (and time of day) enables us to have our own space.

The ability to choose loneliness but still have a connection to the others adds to the feeling of home.

Apartment type A

Scale 1:100



The combination of several smaller spaces in connection with larger rooms allows for many households variations. In this case, people can live parallel and choose when to share spaces thanks to their large bedrooms. Being able to shut off and create your own identity in a home offers spaces with lower intensity but much personal touch. The ability to have friends over without having to check in with others in the household creates independence. And the opposite: not having to be disturbed when there are much activities going on in the apartment.

The smaller spaces in this home is efficiently used. The passage on the right-hand side has been divided into two rooms. The larger of the two spaces can be used as a "handy room" for all kinds of creative or practical projects. It also functions as a passage in case someone is hanging out in the other, smaller sofa area. The ability to have items permanently places at one space causes less stress to clean up and eliminates such chore. Again, being able to act parallel without disturbing one another is important to enable new norms. Something the dual bathrooms also allow for.

The passage between the bathroom as well as inside the larger bathroom has space for smaller storage. Either for towels and soap to ease off the maintenance of the bathrooms or for underwear and dirty laundry since it is actually here you undress.

This apartment has been altered to fit the residents better. The kitchen and living room is now one large space by a wall being taken down. It makes cooking a social activity or makes it possible to cook and watch the news at the same time.

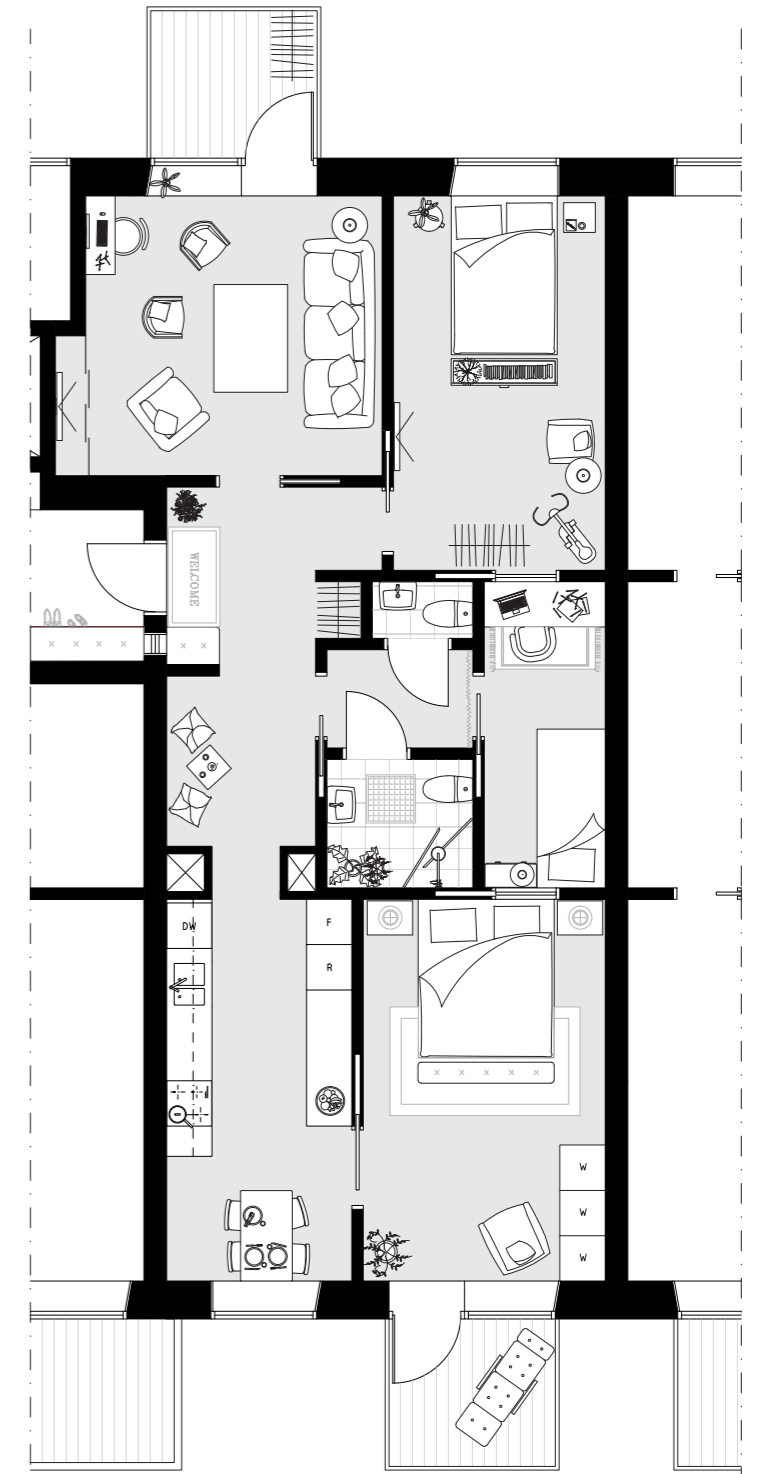
This apartment has various ways of zoning the spaces depending on how the rooms are placed. Depending on the view of privacy the social rooms could be arranged either vertically or horizontally. In this example there is a vertical division of social and private spaces.

The small room could belong to the child in a shared custody situation where it is important to feel like you have your own space even though it's not your permanent home.

From the entrance you see both social spaces, which gives you a overview when coming home as well as being seen when arriving home and can thereby get a helping hand with whatever you are carrying.

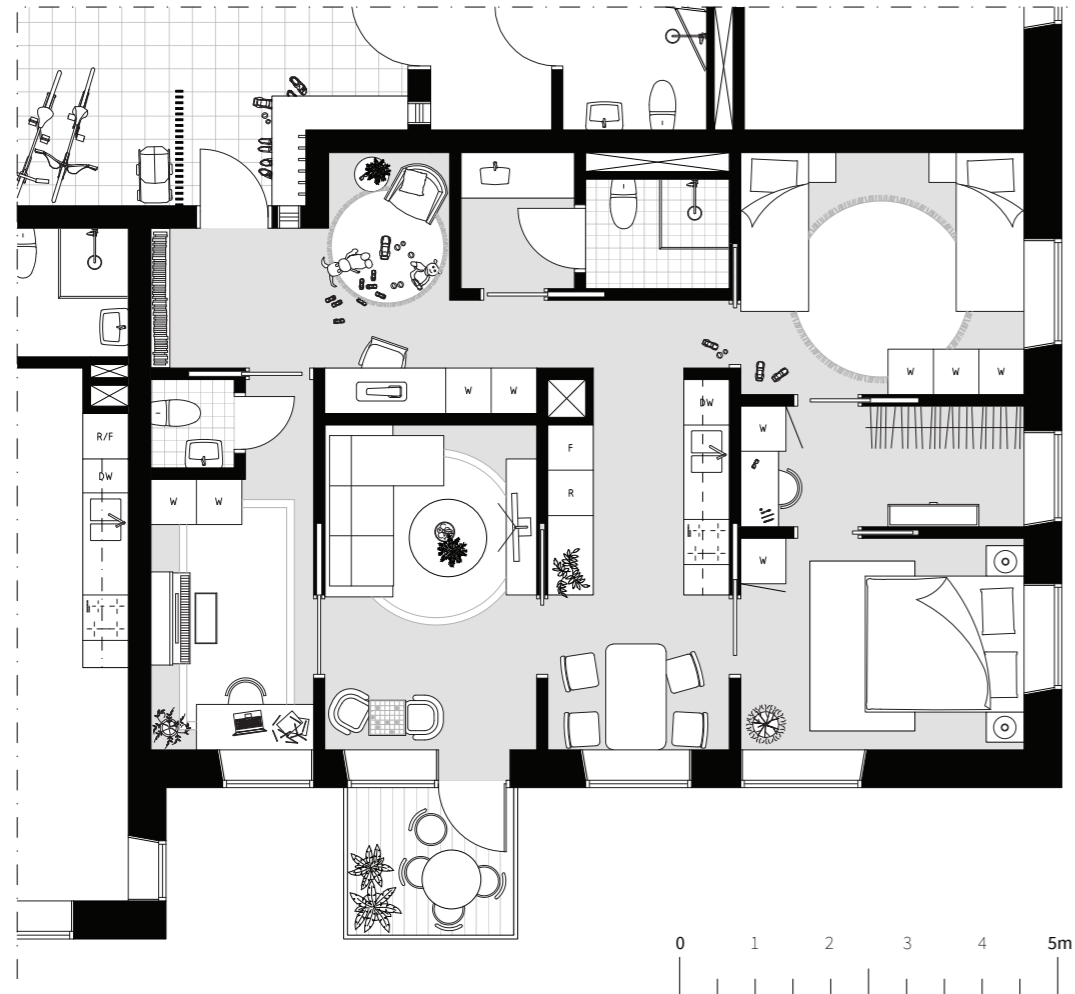
The main social space is in this case located towards the courtyard. That can make one feel that it is possible to let the children play outside while staying upstairs but still have an overview in case something would happen.

The extended hallway can simplify daily life while the entrance to the apartment is used as a social room.



Apartment type B

Scale 1:100

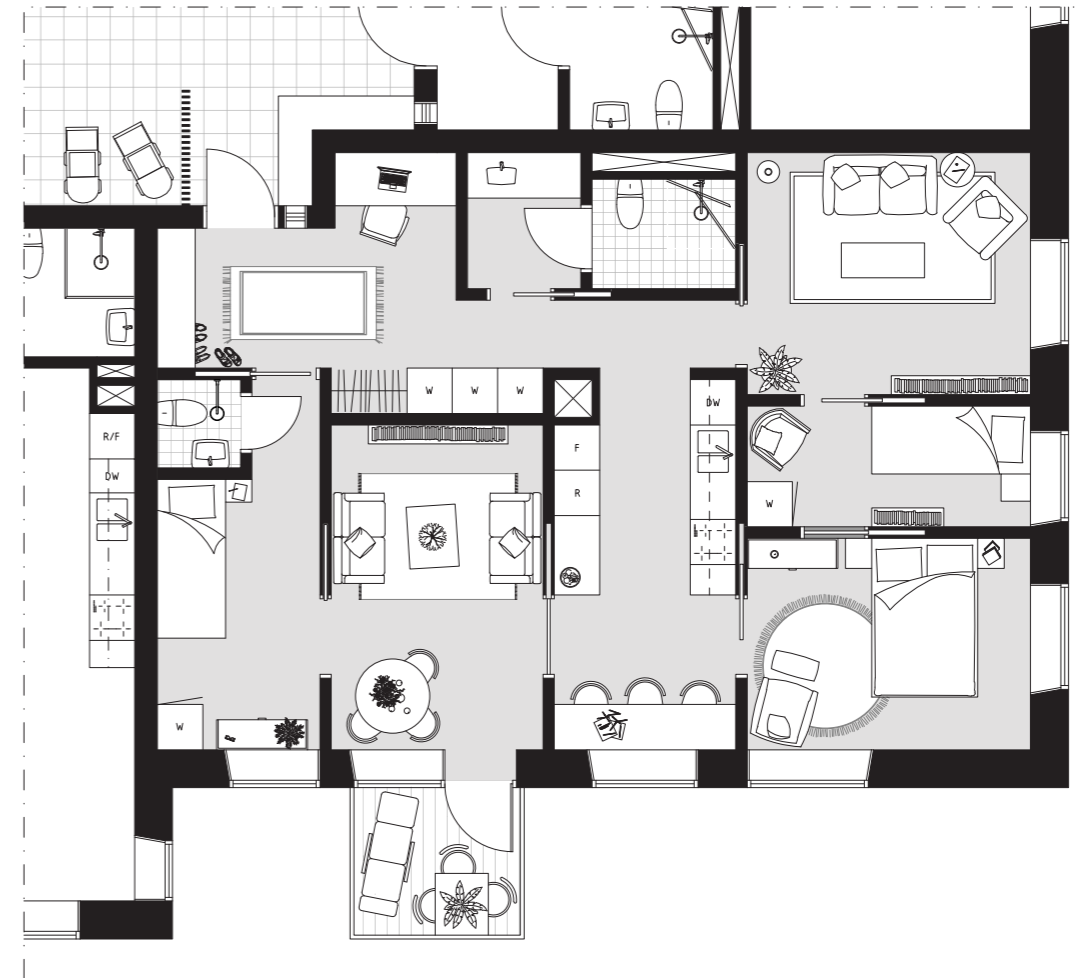


The small room in between the bedrooms offers this household a lot. Not only does it have room for clothes, but a desk can also fit. It separates the children's room from the parents and offers privacy. In case a child wakes up during night time the passage could be used to access the rooms, without coming directly into the room. **The sliding doors could be fully open to fully closed and offers a sequence of movement within the home.** The circulation in this apartment allows taking different paths in order to reach different rooms. Also, it offers a great space for playing tag.

The centrally located room offers the residents to chose how to position their social spaces and visualises who is cooking.

Depending on what households live in the apartment, the smaller spaces could also be arranged differently and many different interest could get a more permanent space. Being able to have your sewing machine, all of your watercolors or computer eliminates the stress of always having to clean up and find a space to store your utilities.

When living in this apartment as one family, or alone you might always keep doors fully open to create one large space that floats into one another. But if the situation looks differently or in case someone is having a need for being alone, or having friends over, it's easy to create many smaller rooms by just simply closing the doors. **This makes the home very agile in a fast manner.**



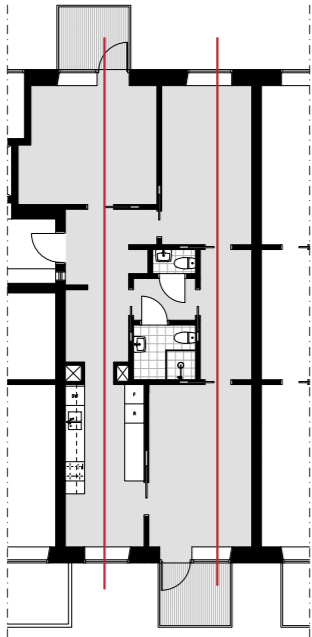
Another way of using the apartment could be to rent out the room, or rooms, closest to the entrance. The smaller room has direct access to a small toilet with a "Stockholm shower" and anyone staying in this room can move quite independently without having to interact with the other persons living here.

By being able to have double living rooms one could even offer the larger room next to the kitchen to be included in the rental area. **The door towards the kitchen could always be closed to even more reinforce the sense of having double dwellings within one apartment.**

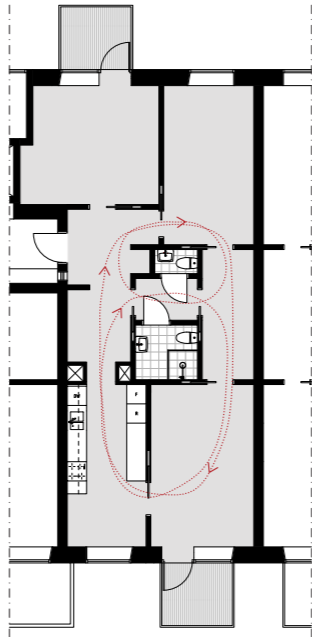
The small "passage" has in this situation an entrance only from one direction and

function as a bedroom. Either it works well for the shared custody arrangements that are common today or it could function as a guest room, or even overnight room in case the inhabitant here needs support from healthcare for example. Since the room is quite small and not anything you passage it might release the empty feeling when your child is at the other parent.

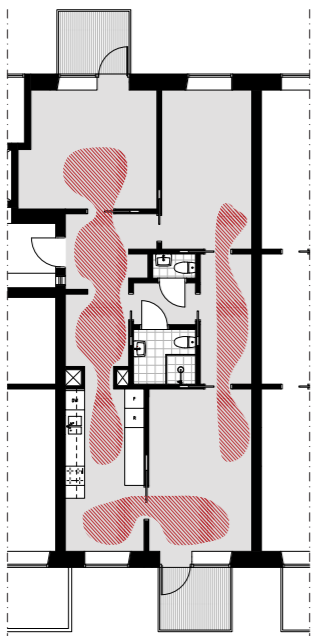
The larger bathroom with the sink outside the room creates an efficiency around the bathroom routine. At the same timesomeone is taking a shower, another can brush their teeth. Or whilst someone is drying their hair, another can use the toilet. This could be especially useful in the morning routine if you live more than one person in this apartment.



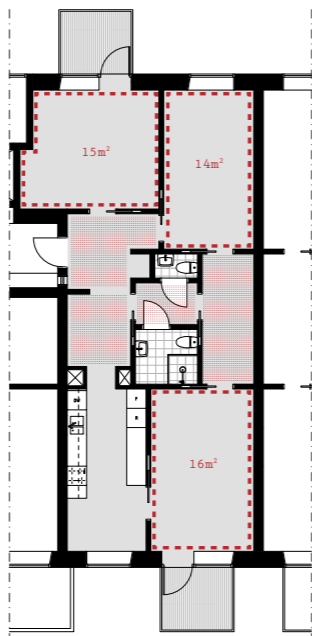
Sightlines



Circulation



Fluid space - nooks



Room sizes

Architectural qualities

One important aspect of the project is to create apartments with high architectural quality. Everyone profits from good architecture and gender equal homes shouldn't be an opposite to this, rather they come hand in hand.

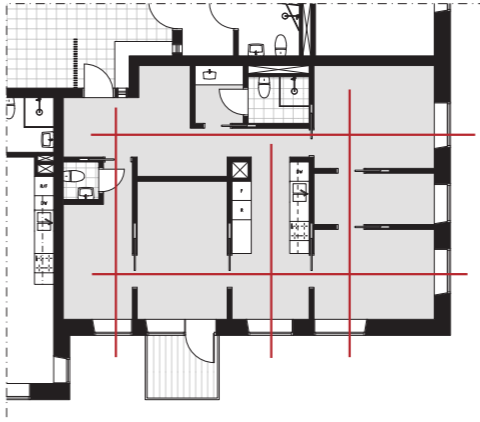
Four aspects that we have integrated in the design proposal:

Sightlines: being able to see through the apartment and outside is a basic architectural quality.

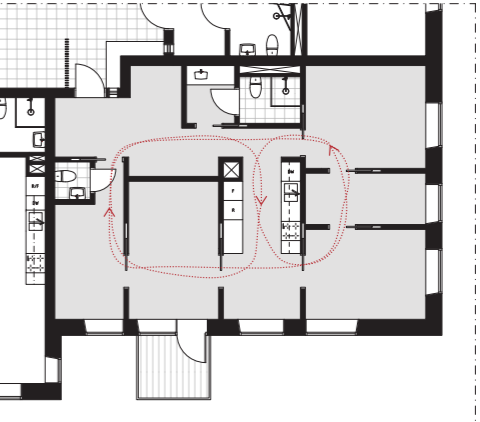
Circulation: possibility to move around the apartment gives a more spacious feeling and loosens up the programming of spaces.

Fluid space/nooks: shorter walls that create nooks connects rooms indirect and passive participation is possible.

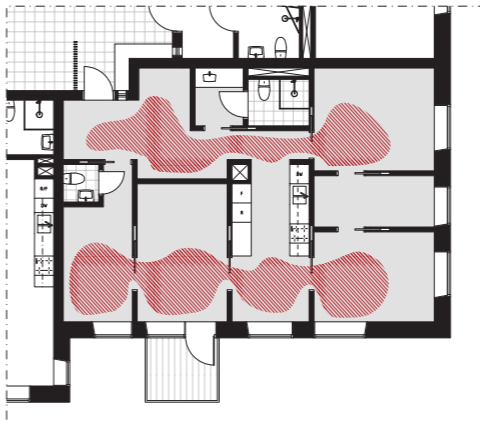
Room sizes: rooms that are of a "general" size doesn't programme spaces: a room could be either a bedroom or a living room. Smaller spaces without specific function can have various function: storage, workspace etc.



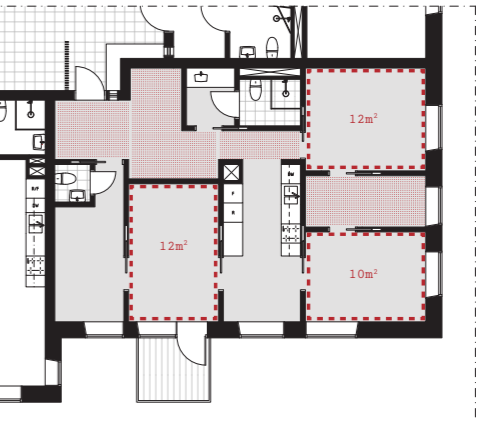
Sightlines



Circulation

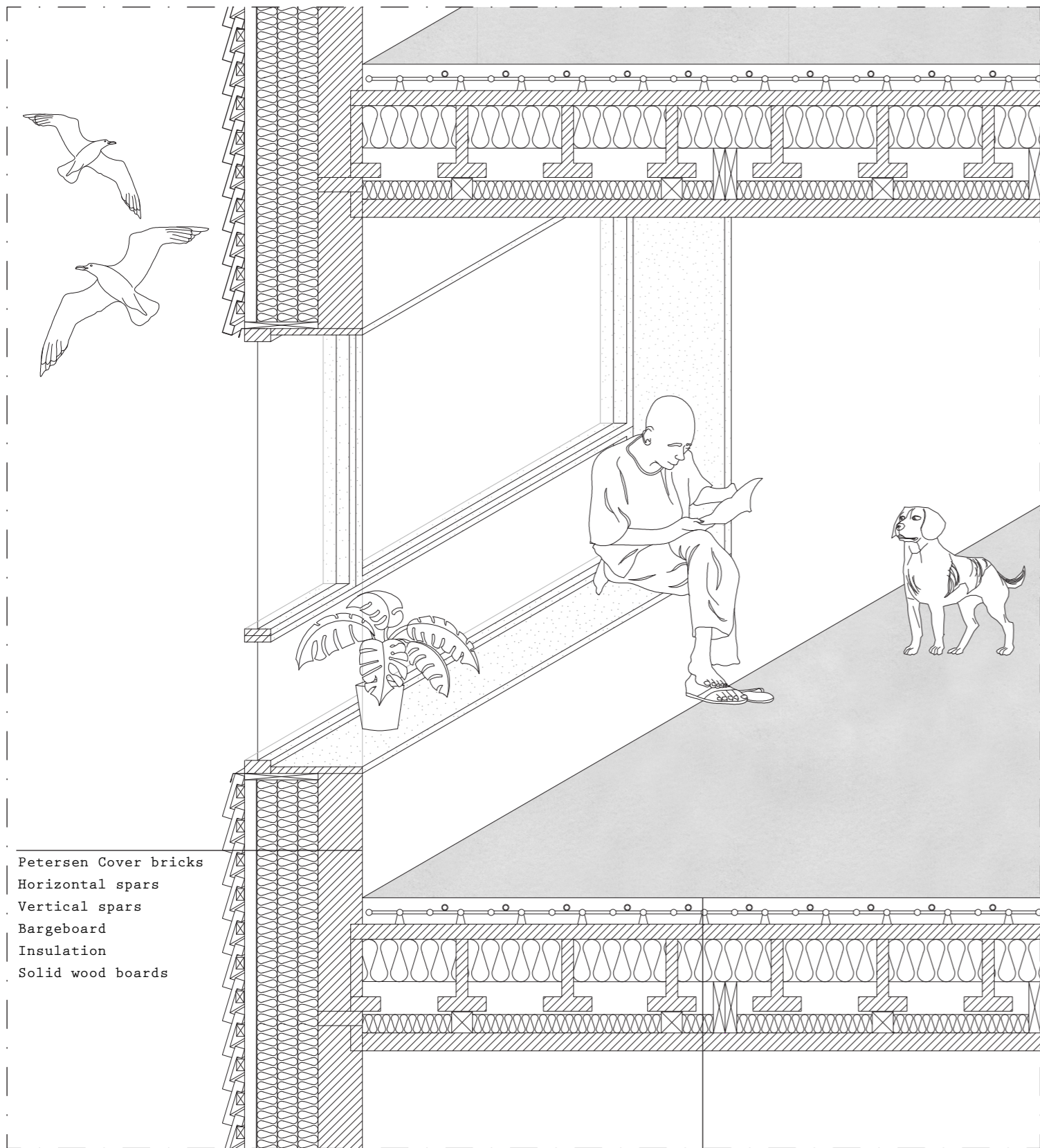


Fluid space - nooks



Room sizes

Floor plans not in scale.



Petersen Cover bricks
 Horizontal spars
 Vertical spars
 Bargeboard
 Insulation
 Solid wood boards

Reinforced concrete with floor heating
 Solid wood boards
 Insulation
 Coffering slab
 Beam
 Block
 Insulation
 Solid wood boards

Scale 1:20
 0 100 200 300 400 500 mm

Creating space

a small design element could have big impact

All windows are pushed out in line with the facade and the thick load-bearing wooden wall offers a generous width inside. Window sills are either 500 or 800 millimeter from the floor. The different heights offer different usage: the lower one creates a space to sit and children are able to look out the window while the higher one offers a well-sized window sill to use for decorative objects.

All windows are slightly angled on one of the sides, this lets more light inside, give a nice play of light and can to some extent offer the feeling of seeing out but not be seen from neighbouring buildings or the street.

Windows have wooden frames and are split in three: one smaller window for ventilation, one larger openable and one horizontal set window. This combination makes window-cleaning easier and creates the ability to let fresh air in, while feeling "covered" inside. The fixed window offers you to open windows fully without having to move objects like flowers or pillows away as well as adding a safety aspect by not fearing to fall out.

The building has a wooden construction with a special brick facade from Petersen cover. The neighbourhood is dominated by brick buildings, the new building is a modern version of an existing character.

The interior is dominated by wood. It creates an awareness and understanding of the building, contributes with a certain atmosphere and offers the dweller possibilities to easily decorate the home with paintings or by painting.

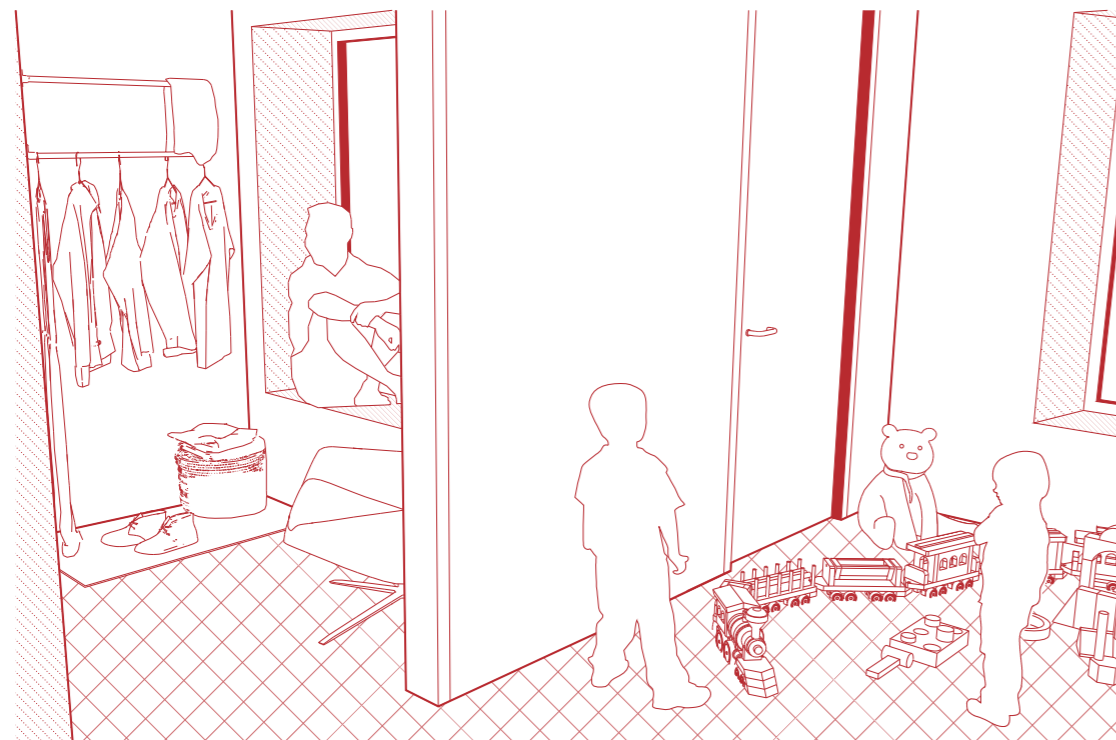
The floor structure is covered with concrete with integrated floor heating, to eliminate the need for radiators as well as lowering the costs for the household, since it's waterborne.

Being able to sit in the window niche offers the dweller to create a mini space for oneself. The small gesture of pulling back a part of a room can have big impact. Just like the way of designing a residential building from a gender equality perspective.

Being backstage

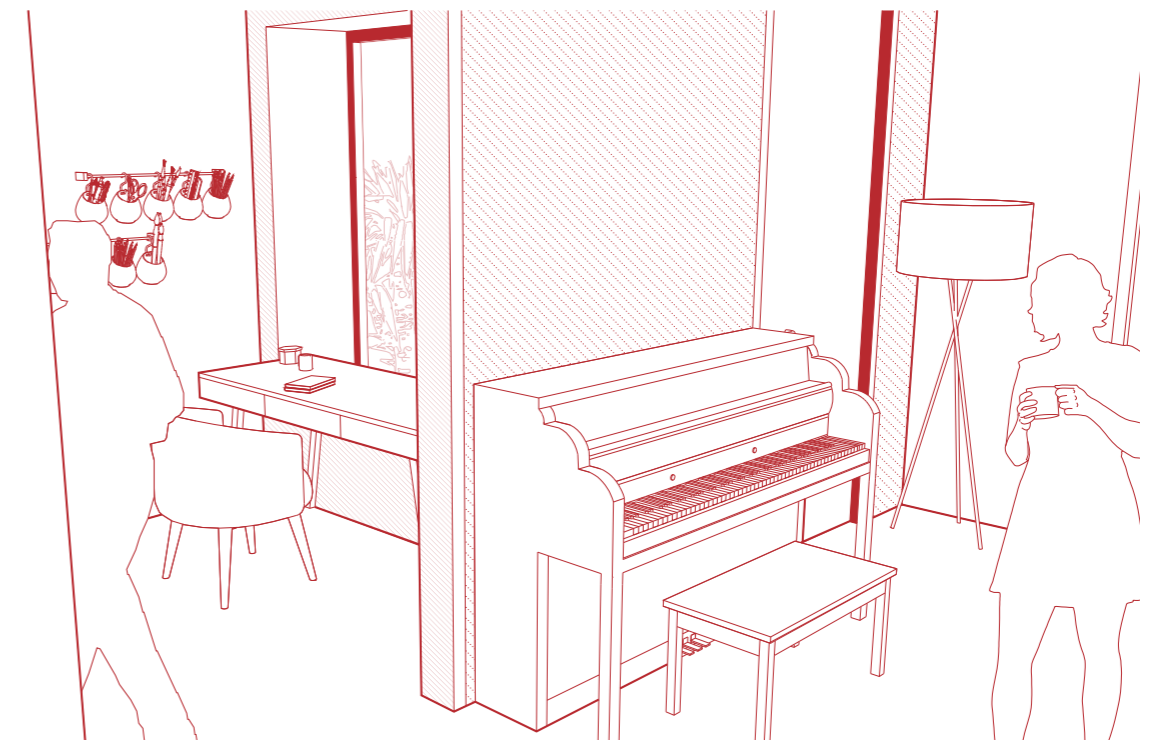
The concept of nooks is a repeated element both in the apartment layouts and in building as a whole. It offers you to inactively participate in on-going activities by sound and how

the spaces relate to one another. It creates "off-stage", "backstage" and "on stage" possibilities within the home.



Passive participation

One of the children is having a playdate with a friend. The living room is a complete chaos. It feels important to let the kids play freely and without limitations, while from a safety aspect it's important that a grown-up is participating. By having a seat in the window niche in the nook next to the larger room, you passively participate whilst having a moment for yourself.



Furnished nook

Welcome to the creative home! Each squaremeter is filled to the brim with inspirational objects and tools for creating all kinds of things. Sometimes it's nice to be able to gather around a creative activity, but there are times where you need to be able to focus and loose yourself in your painting. The space by the window in the nook lets you turn the back to the rest of the life at home.



Housing (in)equality?

conclusion and reflection on gender equal housing possibilities

How can residential architecture challenge gender norms and promote gender equality?

Can these abstract issues take physical form and how can it be visualized?

Can we design housing with architectural qualities for all (and not just for women) by adding the layer of gender?

How can we measure if the design is successful in fulfilling its purpose?

How can we generalise the matter of gender equality and feminism in order to create architecture?

What can architecture really change?

Is the question answered?

So, can residential architecture challenge gender norms and promote gender equality? Yes and no, maybe. Taking an abstract subject, with very scarce literature and research (mostly concerning urban planning) and trying to, not only translate it into architecture, but also receiving a change through architecture, has been somewhat a struggle. What this thesis has proven, with a first attempt, is that gender equality

relates to the built environment at large. We cannot wait for society to change but we have to design for a future situation, even though it's not really clear what we are aiming for. From the start of the project, we have had a notion that architecture can have an impact on social issues. We still believe housing development with a gender equality perspective, will benefit everyone.

Conclusions

Swapping terminology

Starting off in September we talked about *female* and *male*, and the different activities in relation to these two genders. As time went by, and we read more on the subject, we realized that in order to reach a more gender equal society and design homes accordingly we need to change our way of talking, thinking and writing about it. We started using the concepts of reproduction and production and norms rather than female and male and gender equality. By making a shift in terminology we felt more free from perceptions, and the problem statement and aim shifted slightly as well. The method of creating gender equal homes shifted to design dwellings more free from norms on how to live and shape your life. This shift has been necessary and helped us forward, however, it might not be that visible how the housing project is gender equal, since we believe it has to do more with giving the dweller possibility to reform norms.

Breaking down a big question - concretising an abstract question without any previous research

Gender equality and its connection to the private home in the matter of physical environment is nearly an unexplored question. Finding theory on the connection between the two subjects has been difficult. Since very few seems to have theories on what affects this connection we have had to concretise it ourselves. It has been somewhat vague and the focus have shifted back and forth, sometimes adding to our project but probably and definitely also limited our work forward. We have tried to think outside the box of how life situations can be formed and how form can impact life situations, but coming from similar backgrounds and having little support and questioning from external material or people we might have missed important aspects. In trying to widen the perspective we have discussed the question with friends and family, professionals and during interviews. It has been very valuable to get other perspectives, however we have found that it mostly contributes with own private experiences and not always that much in connection to architecture.

As stated in feminist spatial planning, though, one of the most important thing is to do *something*. We see this work as a starting point, an attempt to raise this question within

architecture. We could definitely have done a more provocative project to have larger effect and maybe even upset people. The work done by Camilla Andersson (AbNormal) is a successful way of provoking and unveil opposites. However, we wanted to show that designing apartments and a residential building from a gender perspective is possible and doesn't have to be only imaginary. Bridging a realistic project with a more provocative project could have been more interesting.

Next step of the project

To us, there are two ways of moving forward. One continuation would be to continue with the "project" and the other to move on with the "proposal".

The thesis have two quite distinct parts to it where the first one is the research; understanding, investigating and analysing gender equality and how it can be understood as a part of the built environment. Therefore, a next step would be to go back and look at other aspects of it, gather more information and possibly take the concept further or deeper into research to find where the issues really lie.

Moving forward with the proposal, which has its limitations at this point regarding the breaking of norms and looking at gender roles, would be to dig deeper into details. Aspects such as atmosphere, materials, construction and flows are something that could benefit from being investigated further. Also, the courtyard and its relation to the building in regards to safety, is definitely a matter, proven from feminist urban planning, affecting gender equality and norms.

To look at what would happen if the shared functions would be opened up to not just benefit the residents is another interesting aspect to study. What would happen if, let's say, the workshop is open for the public as the upcycling station could grow into a second hand shop as well. Or if the common space on the ground floor also functioned as a "coffice" during daytime where people could rent a workspace. How can it be prevented to become a "gated community" while still keeping the feeling of safety and community?

Reflection

Layering

In order to achieve result with the thesis we had to set up a number of delimitations. However, excluding some aspects is problematic. Gender equality is an intersectional issue. Factors as, income, race and sexual orientation are crucial when analysing and moving forward but we had to not included those factors.

These aspects are important components in relation to both form of tenure and the risk of gentrification. By creating housing free from norms we have tried to create spaces for many people, but there is definitely a risk that we have designed for a norm created by ourselves and our perception. The project might have looked differently by adding these layers, which in itself has been an important finding: that housing should be designed with different layers - from good spatial qualities and light to equality.

Reality

Building and running this kind of housing would be a very different story than the one presented in this project. While this thesis states a lot of things that enable new situations, a real life situation would take a lot more into account.

The first question would be what kind of tenure the building would have. Do you own your apartment, or is it rental apartments, and what about the shared spaces then? Who is responsible for the maintenance of the kitchen or workshop for example? In some collective housing units the residents sign up in the contract that they will be part of cooking teams as a part of living in the building. The other solutions, shown in the early examples in Sweden, is to employ staff for maintenance of the common areas.

Location of the proposal is also crucial for how it would work in reality. The chosen location of the project in Majorna, has an underlying aspect that the district's residents are often open to news, trends, ideals and ways of living and residing.

Challenging norms

How long has the proposal pushed the breaking of norms really? Is this another case of just fortifying norms and ideals on traditional gender roles that exist today - like the housing development we criticised at the beginning of the project...

When building a project on concepts of adaptability and flexibility, there is always the possibility that the aim is lost. There are definitely possibilities (or risks) for people to live in an unequal way in the building. For the current state of the project, the choice has been to not force a certain way of life upon people. There is only so much that architecture can do. At the end of the day it comes down to the residents living in the building and apartments.

The courtyard and importance of feeling safe

Much work has been done when it comes to gender equality in relation to safety and outdoor environment. We have to some extent felt like it's a pity that it comes to those categories when designing from a gender equality perspective, why we chose not to investigate that further. However, coming down to those parts of the project, which we see as important factors in residential design, we felt that we should have included and investigated that more throughout or project. The courtyard could have played a more important role if thought of in the design from the start and the degree of exposure in relation to safety in for example the shared space on the ground floor should have been investigated and designed further.

Professional life & a state of mind

The project had its starting point from a personal matter and interest and the thesis has absolutely come to have a large impact on our personal lives. We have realised that the way we express ourselves with words and attributes reinforces norms and often gender roles. By changing the way we talk to others and reflect upon things has been a major shift. The discussion and reflection regarding our own experiences and way of life has been ongoing from day one. Gender equality, both in private and professional life still feels as important, if not even more important. We are lucky to say that we still, after 17 weeks feel as passionate for the subject. We hope to learn more and will try to implement this point of view in our future professional life as architects.



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