Spatial Boundaries in a Housing Context

Managing social interaction within the semi-public space

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Abstract

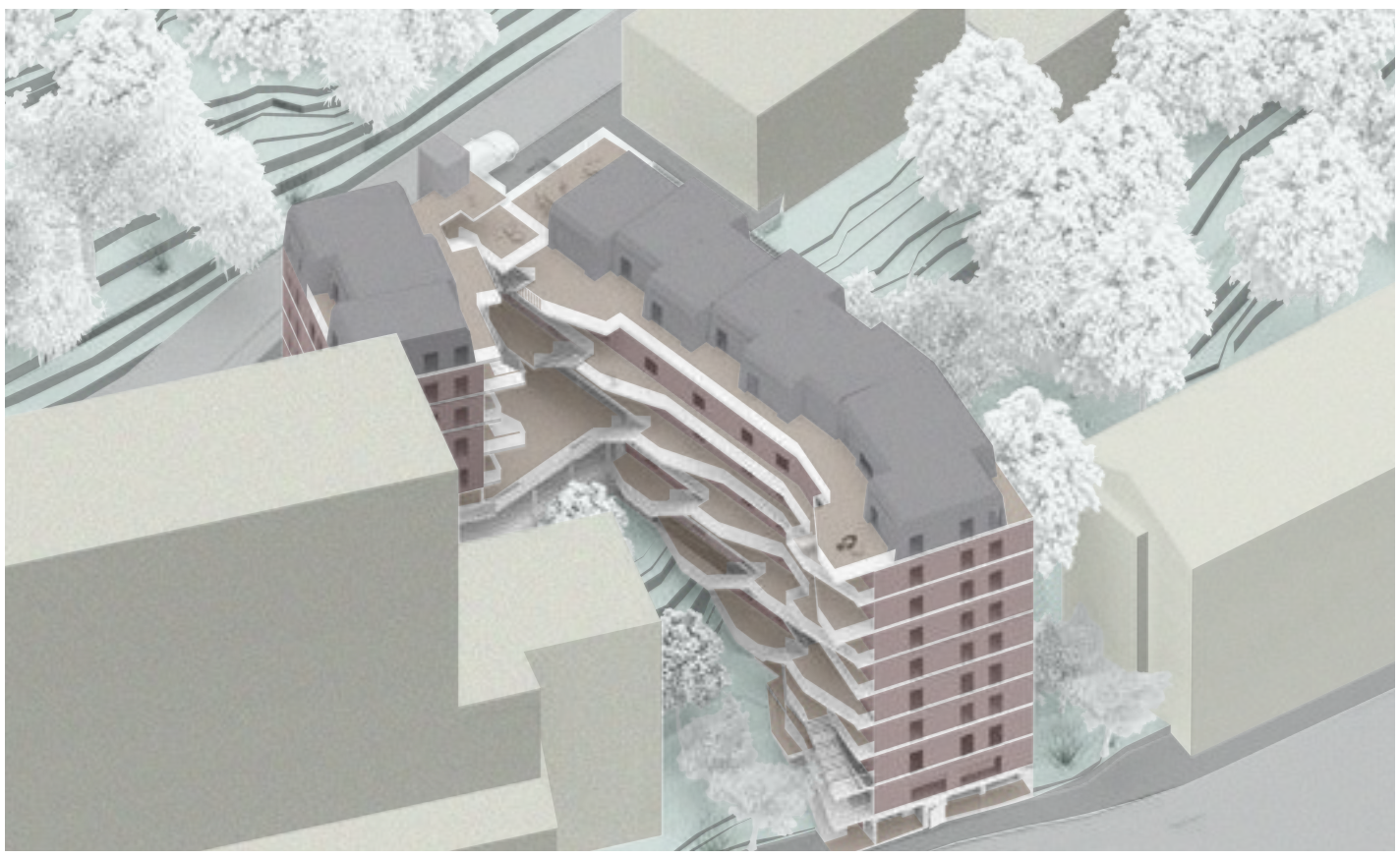
Favourable situations for social interactions are made by focusing on interactive activities. Cooking, repairing your car or doing the laundry can work as a catalyst for social interaction as they remove the initial barrier between tenants.

The objective is to design a student housing complex with starting point in the development of three shared spaces, entrance area, laundry room and a workshop area. The different situations are investigated and altered from a usability perspective to be more integrated and interconnected within the buildings social coherency.

The method centres around series of case studies that focuses of the tenant's transition from the private apartment to the public surroundings. The design of the shared functions is derived from the initial study and developed with two main goals; how involved in the social sphere does the tenant wants to be while perform a specific activity and how does the activity help to strengthen the local social community.

Options for the tenant to be in control of the level of exposure to the social community while being within the shared space can be achieved by scaling areas and by providing different circulation sequences. Social areas accessible by many people, but which are communicated to be directed to a subgroup of tenants can provide the comfortness that a smaller community provides while still being inclusive the the entire building.

The sense control that the individual experience is a strong foundation for a willingness to be a part of a shared social context. The findings where apparent when the macro circulation throughout the building met with the layout of the different shared spaces. In other words, the spatial configuration and design of the shared spaces must be interconnected with the various sequences that the individual tenant is provided with.



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1. Introduction

Purpose / exploration

Current situation

Student houses are interesting as the shared areas and functions have a more obvious part in the planning than in other residential projects. The potential for utilizing functions by several tenants is both more accepted and thus more interesting as a tool for increased efficiency. My own experience, by living in many different student apartments, together with projects that I have studied, shows that the shared functions are often not utilized to their full potential.

Student houses often use a linear and predictable way of differentiating between functions within the semi-public space. A corridor usually connects the different functions with each other, making the activity of the individual area completely separated from the others. The full spatial separation disables the possibility for ongoing activities to create social clusters where different functions interact with each other. Instead the integration between various activities, that enables the potential for spontaneous meetings, remains low.

An issue that many student housing projects share is the limited possibility for the individual tenant to choose when and how to interact with the other people living in the same building. As many tasks that are shared between tenants are used daily, it is not likely that the will to always interact with your neighbours in the same way is a constant.

The current situation can be summarized by two statements:

• Low or non-existent integration between different shared spaces

• Small possibilities for the individual tenant to choose to what degree he/she want to be a part of the social community while performing day-to-day tasks.

Claim

Activities as a catalyst for social interaction

Favourable situations for social interactions are made by focusing on interactive activities. Kitchens, workshops or laundry rooms can work as catalysts for social interaction as they remove the initial barrier between tenants and create an initial shared context.

Providing choices for the individual tenant in relation to the social community

How well shared functions work in a student apartment complex relates to how the tenants perceive and relates to them. By adding the element of choice regarding to what degree a tenant must be a part of the social community while performing different tasks will transform the mindset towards the shared areas in a positive direction. Instead of regarding the exposure to your neighbours while performing day-to-day tasks within the shared space as a necessary evil, it can be altered to a positive experience if the element of choice is present. Is an activity / function shared by just your closest neighbours, everyone on your floor plan or everyone living in the building?

Objective

Certain areas or functions within a residential program are of specific interest as they have potential for new ways of interacting with each other and therefore increase the potential for social interaction. The objective is to develop and design three shared areas within a student housing complex in central Gothenburg. The areas the following:

- Entrance / lobby / Shared kitchen / study area
- Laundry room / changing room / activity based social area
- Workshop / Social area

Main questions

•How can the shared areas within a housing context be developed and designed so that new interactive relationships between functions can be formed?

•How can the individual tenant be given the choice to what degree he / she want to be a part of the social community while performing activities within the shared space?

Method

Case study

The method centres around series of case studies that focuses of the tenant's transition from the private apartment to the public surroundings. The design of the shared functions is derived from the initial study and developed with two main goals; how involved in the social sphere does the tenant wants to be while perform a specific activity and how does the activity enchant the local social communities.

Development of three individual scenarios

Three scenarios, Entrance, laundry room and workshop are investigated and designed individually. As a conscious act, the relationship between the scenarios are not taken into account during the initial design phase. By only focusing on the internal combinations of functions within the scenarios, the building remains flexible and adaptable.

Adding complexity

By adding the new input data and requirements by specifying a site, the three scenarios are developed in relationship to both each other and to the chosen context. It is of importance to, in one way or another, relate the placement of the scenarios to the chosen site and buildings.

Delimitations

Investigation

The delimitations for the investigation is the number of projects studied and number of shared areas designed. The case study is focusing on gathering specific qualities to utilize in the continuous work, not a broad foundation to build the project on. The low number of scenarios that are developed strives to make it possible for in-depth analyses before initiating the final design.

Building proposal

The scale of the site and the overall size of the planned building is a result of the expanse of the studied scenarios. The number of tenants living in the complex should match the distribution of the functions at the entrance, the laundry room and the workshop.

References

Theoretical

The references are primarily used as guidance for how the case study should be conducted. Kollektivhuset och mellanzonen was used in the initial stage when the focus on shared areas, instead of the private apartments, was set. The book discusses Swedish Co-housing projects both in a comparative way, and with focus on spatial qualities. Architecture and the home, which is more focused on architectural qualities, was used when transforming the early thoughts of a broader comparative investigation to a more qualitative investigation.

Existing projects

Based on the intentions of the investigation, the references for the case study was chosen by their apparent ability to differentiate between spaces based on the experienced level of privacy. As a contrast from Kollektivhuset och mellanzonen, the intent was to study projects of different kinds, not just student housing projects.

2. Case study

Case study

Two main purposes for conducting the case study

At the initial stage of the project, a case study will be performed by visiting four projects. The projects are chosen based on their ability to differentiate between areas of various levels of privacy without adding definitive barriers such as gates or walls. By spatial configurations, the reference projects create spaces which varies in how private they are perceived and at the same time makes it possible for the tenants to move freely between them.

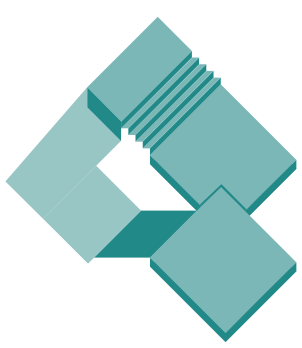
There are two main focuses for the study:

-What stages / zones does the tenant pass through while moving from the private apartment to the surrounding city.

-What specific design tools / solutions are used to differentiate spaces of various levels of privacy

Case study criterias

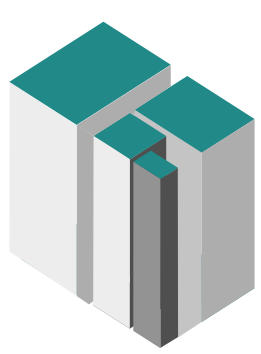
Three criteria's are formulated that intends to specify what spatial characteristics that determines how private or public an area is perceived.



Spatial boundriares

Steps, ramps, ceiling height

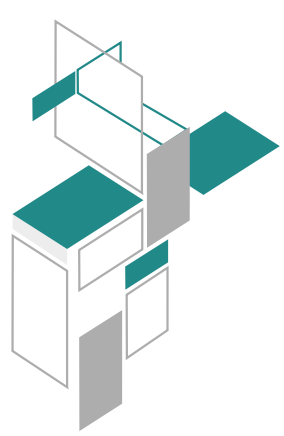
How an individual perceives the level of private / public when moving between two spaces is dependent on the characteristics of the transitions between said spaces. Spatial boundaries, which defines the transition zone, is affected by heigh differences (steps, ramps) together with ceiling height.



Scale

Building height, dimensions, contrasts

Scale relates to how we find unity and coherency in our surroundings. By identifying how different scales can meet, one can use it as a tool to highlight boundaries and differentiations in privacy.



Sightlines

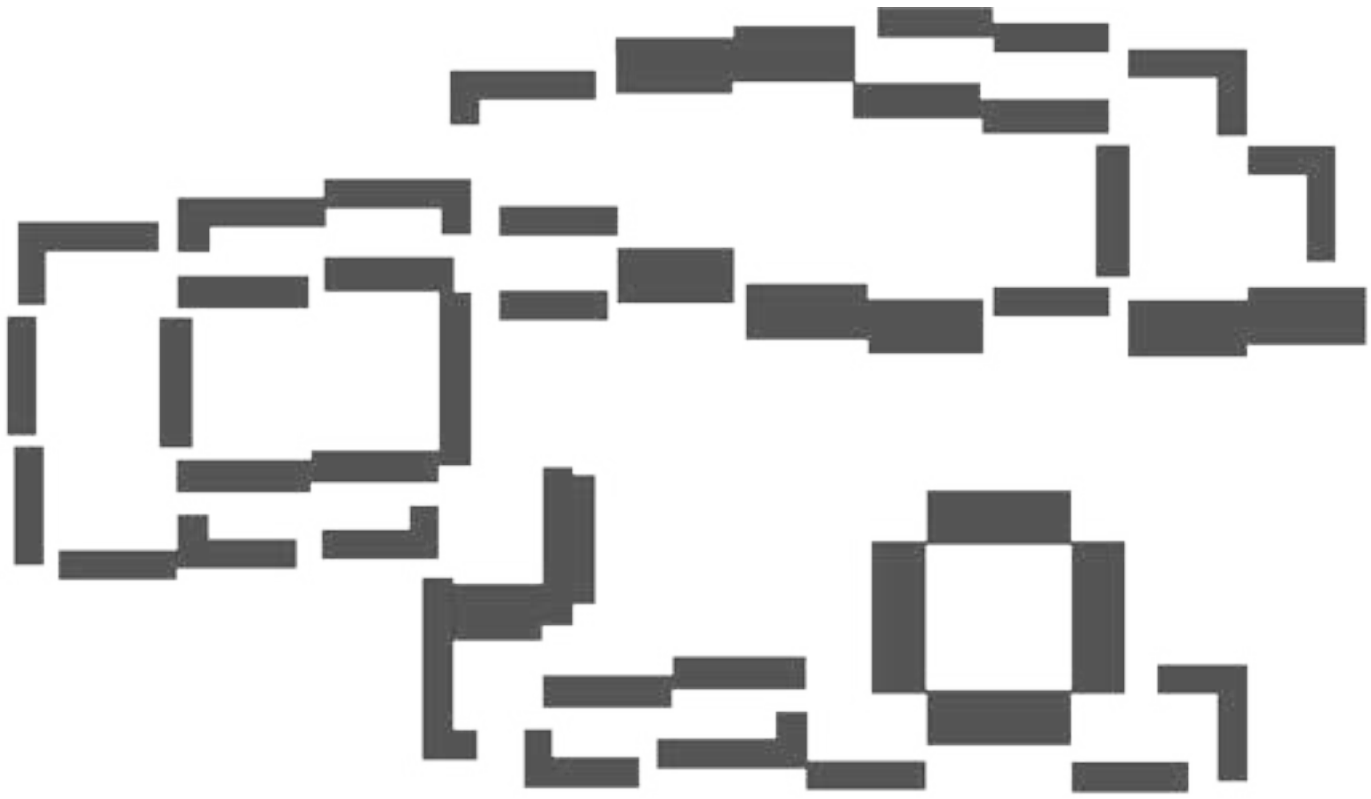
Turns, vegetation, lack of windows

Short sightlines or a general lack of visual connection to the point you try to reach will strengthen the distinction between two areas. A transition zone that is visually isolated could work as a complete seperator between two areas.

Student housing Olofshöjd - Göteborg

Description

Olofshöjd is a student housing complex in central Göteborg with both qualities and problem areas. The complex has a series of smaller courtyards with various shared usage spread out within the area. The layout creates areas of various levels of privacy with the circulation often integrated together with the system of courtyards. Within the complex you can find restaurants, gym, store, social areas, laundry etc.



1

Sheltered Entrances

Colonnades together with a roof overhang strengthen the private area around the entrances to the individual buildings by lowering the scale and create enclosure. The kitchen is often placed at street level while the apartments are elevated.

2

Closed courtyard

Visual coherency and a unifying identity is highlighted by a courtyard that works as a contrast to the more sheltered entrance. The courtyards attracts users from the entire area which could challenge the othersiwe more private experience.

3

Series of courtyards connected by ramps

Series of courtyards are seperated in height and connected by narrow passages. The passages gives each area some individual character even though people pass through them.

4

Stairs

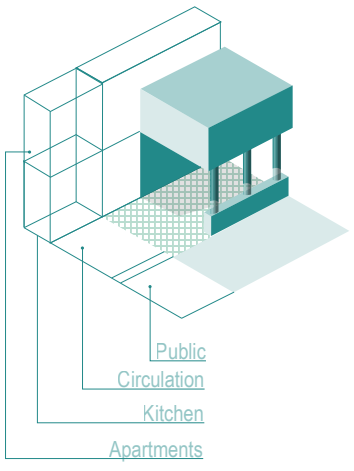
Stairs is a necessity beacause of the terrain at Olofshöjd, but they are also often used to make small distinctions between different spaces. The height differences also provides visual barriers that adds to the feeling of subtile boundaries around the area.

5

Main street, entrace to the complex

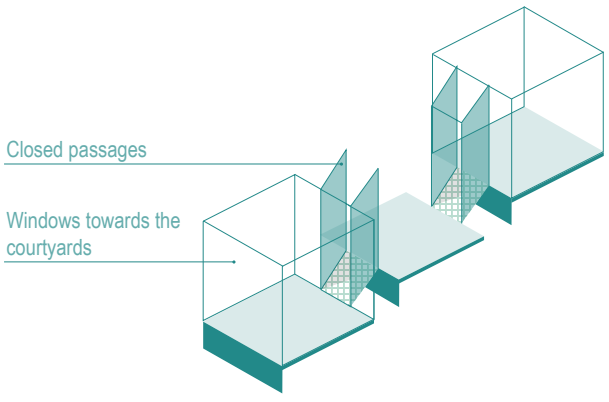
The scale varies greatly at some specific areas within Olofshöjd. The main street, wider and more exposed than any other street inside the complex, works as an entrance to the area. Narrow openings connects the main street to the more private courtyards.

Conclusions from Olofshöjd



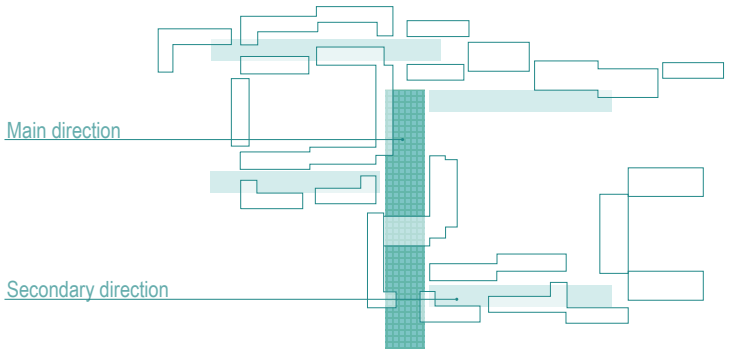
Sheltered Entrances

Colonnades together with a roof overhang strengthen the privacy of the entrance zone.



Connected courtyards

The circulation often occurs through courtyards which enables tenats to chose where to socialize.



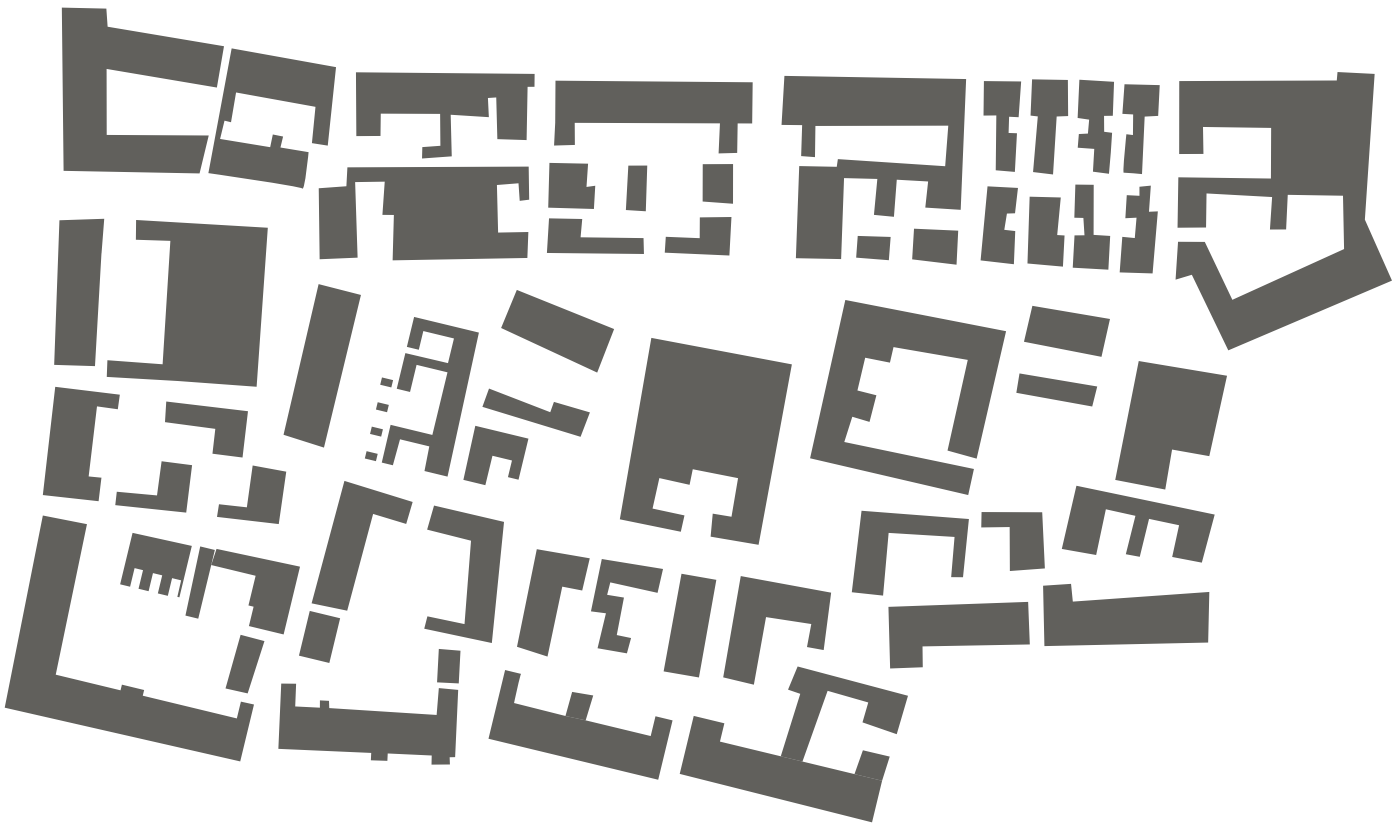
Main street

Secondary directions starts from the main street and gives the area an internal hierarchy.

Bo01 Västra hamnen

Description

Bo01 Malmö - This reference has some similarities with Olofshöjd as both areas have strong identities and deals with the regular city block in different ways. Interesting in this project is the need for characteristics that 'replaces' the definitive boundary between private and public that a regular city block provides. The buildings within the complex have different identities that are of interest as they help to provide distinctions between what's more intimate and what's less.



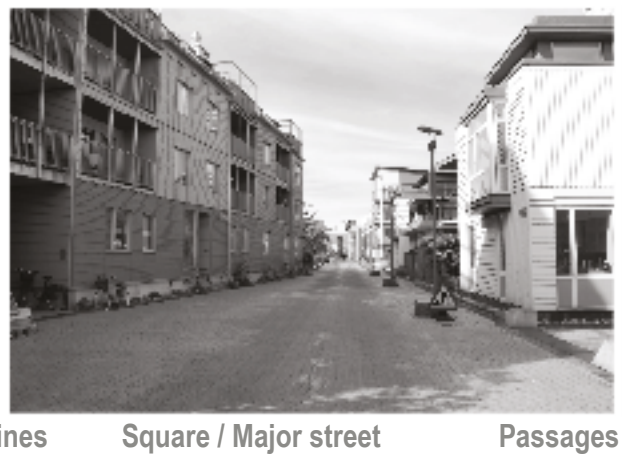
1 2 3 4

Sheltered entrace

Entrances often faces directily out towards the surrounding street. The use of different typologies and a variation in the streetscape strives towards creating a more private zone around the individual entrance.

small streets and short sightlines

Sightlines are more often then not broken by slight turns or short streets. By doing so, different local areas will keep their sense of independence by not beeing to exposed to the complex as a whole.



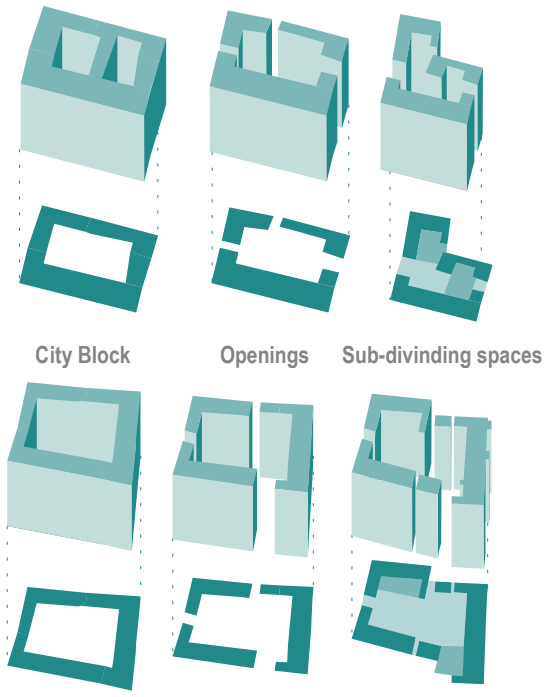
Square / Major street

Bo01 work with streets of various scales which creates variations in privacy together with local characteristics. The smaller streets and passages between buildings are collected and directed alongside one of the majors streets.

Passages to the surroundings

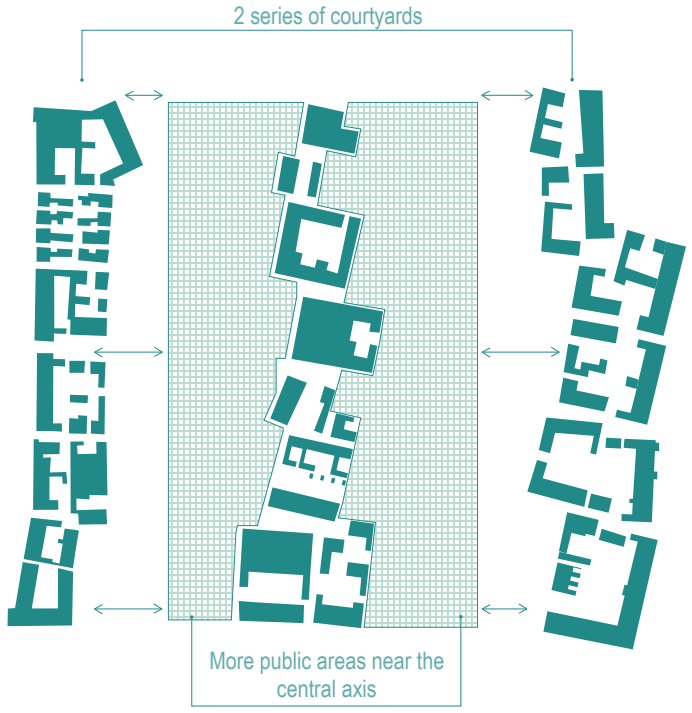
Passages that are narrow and highly enclosed works as shortcuts that provide the areas with complexit. Circulation paths from people who have limited knowledge of the area will be centered to the main streets even though some distances are shorter via shortcuts. Local knowledge about the complexity of an area helps to create a relationship with the tenants and the built environmement.

Conclusions from Västra hamnen



Geometrical sub-division

By manipulating the traditional block, sub-areas are framed that provides small distinction in how private an area is perceived.



Increasing scale of public areas

Bo01 is structured around open courtyards that are linked together in two series. The series frames bigger areas in the center which work as more public and social areas. The scale provides a differentiation in level of privacy.

Co-housing Sofielund - Malmö

Description

Recent shared housing project by Kanozi Arkitekter finished 2014 in central Malmö, close to Möllevångstorget. The program consists of apartments for around 200 tenants with kitchen and bathroom included. The complex includes a shared kitchen and dining space that are used 3 times per week as well as a workshop equipped with tools and material by the tenants. TV-room, music room, guest apartments, sauna, bike workshop, courtyard and roof terrace are also part of the shared program.

The project has been successful with the use of balconies as semi-public spaces, making them exposed to the courtyard. The use of multiple staircases together with the balconies attached to the exterior corridors create an intuitive way of moving around and accessing the various shared spaces.

Sheltered entrace

The entrances are generally exposed as people are passing close by.The external corridors together with the stairs help in providing passanges that seperates different zones alongside the corridor.

Stairs

Social spaces are arranged as balconies that adds on to the exterior corridor. A shared terrace is places on top of the smaller building volume places to the left of the courtyard. The multiple ways of circulating between elevations together with the socials spaces generates choices where to socialize and make spontaneous meeting between neighbours possible.

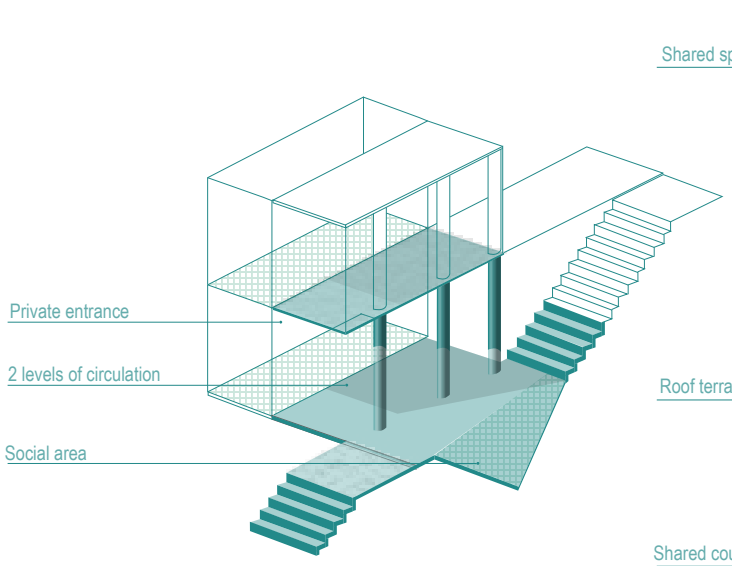
Courtyard

Many of the social spaces are exposed to everyone in the building (balconies and terrace). The courtyard gets a natural exposed position which can be usefull for familes with children.

Building volumes

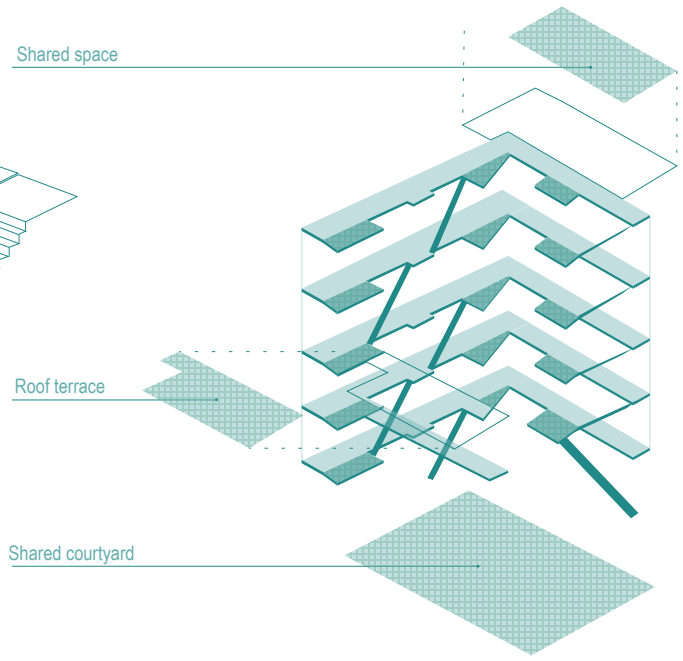
The positioning of the building volumes frames the othervise exposed courtyard.

Conclusions from Sofielund



Sheltered entrace

The exterior corridor frames the circulation on the elevation bellow by forming a celling. The social spaces are added on towards the courtyard.



Choice in circulation

The multiple ways of circulating between floors makes it possible to choose which social area to use as they are all integrated within the circulation. This enables spontaneous interactions between neighbours.

Brf Ohoj - Malmö

Description

The project is located at Västra hamnen, in central Malmö.
The tangible need for privacy and clear distinctions between public / and semi-public areas in such an urban area makes the project interesting. Effort has been directed towards the line between the semi-public area, intended primarily for the tenants, and the surrounding city.

The building mass, together with the building volume close by, frames a private backstreet where social areas and functions are located. The front side facing the street is left as an urban facade with entrances directly to the individual apartment. The design of the external corridors has been modified by integrating them with small terraces outside the individual apartment. The use of the negative space which the building volume forms is a theme throughout this project.

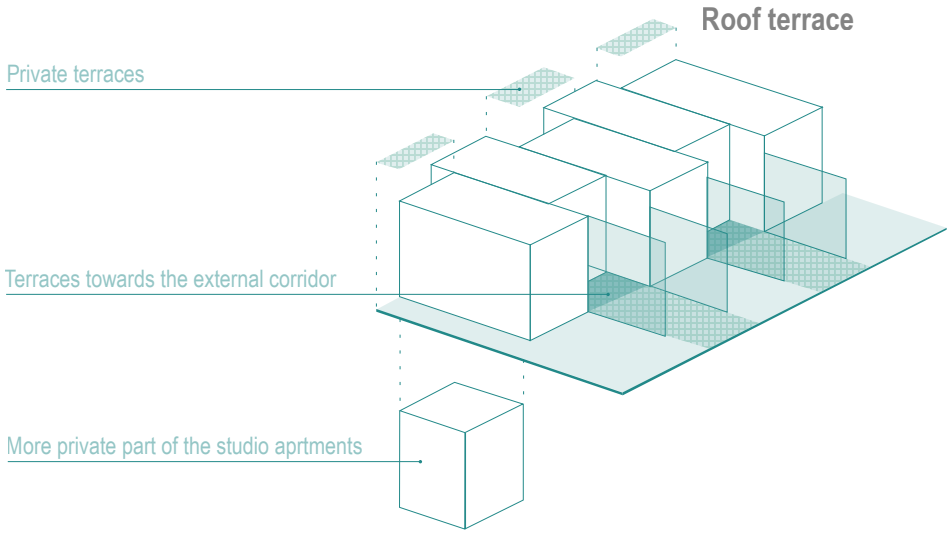
1 2 3

External corridors and terrances
The entrances are directed towards a terrance that directly connects to the external corridor. The entrance zone is therefore exposed to people circulating the building, though the building volume frames the space and makes it more intimate.

Street level entrance zone
The entrance on street level is surrounded by a private zone defined by vegetation and a wooden deck.

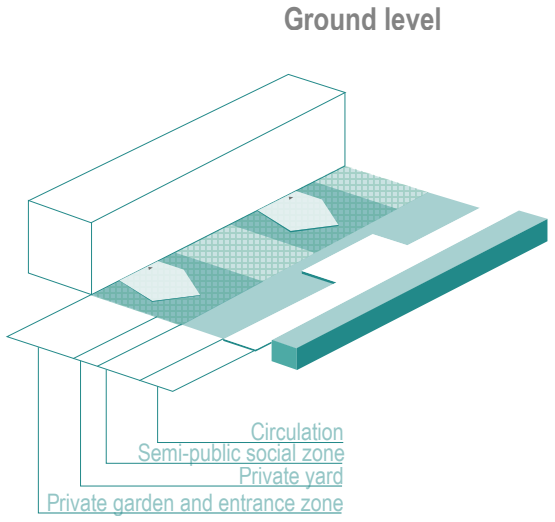
Passage to surrounding street
The back street is framed by the building volumes together with the overhang from the balconies. A slightly elevated tree deck connects that semi-public street to the surroundings.

Conclusions from Brf Ohoj



Private and shared terraces

The external corridords work both as entrances to the apartments aswell as providing exterior space for the tenants. On the other side of the building private terrace are attached.



Sheltered Entrances

The path from the surrounding street to the private entrace relies on zones that step by step increases the level of privacy.

3. Development of three focus areas

Inital design phase of three focus areas

The development of the design has the initial claim as a starting point, that social situations benefits from being located in close proximity to functional activities. The behaviour pattern is the same no matter the activity in question. The pragmatic approach is to utilize common day-to-day activities as the nave for the local social cluster.

01 Laundry area

02 Entrance area

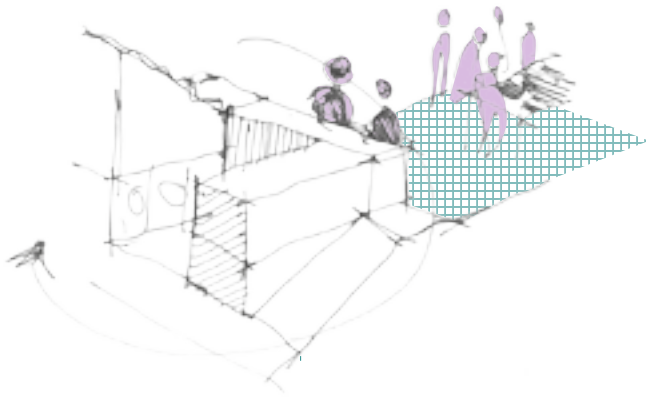
03 Workshop area

Laundry area

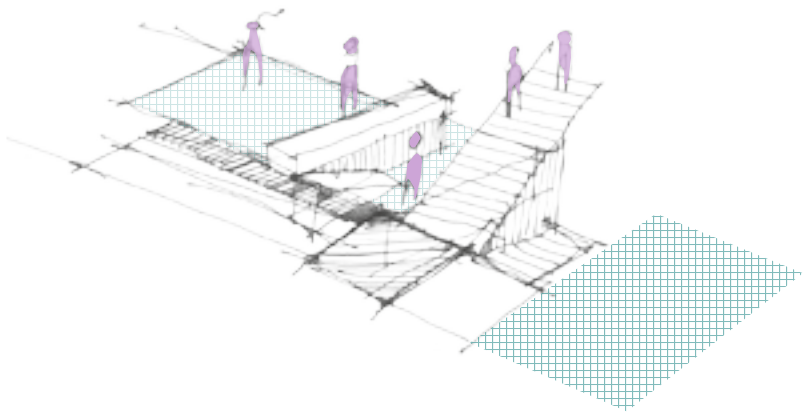
The laundry area has been explored as a social function in recent times. The activity is time consuming but mostly passive and its therefore possible to combine it with other functions. As the placements and layout of laundry rooms often are strictly functional, tenants usually don’t spend their time there. On the other hand, as the activity is a necessity for everyone, it is of importance that the laundry space is suitable for people who don’t have an interest to socialize with other tenants.

By contrasting the passiveness that the core activity provides, the intention is to give option to the tenant of choosing how he / she want to use their time If the tenants have no intention to socialize during, or in-between the laundry a small gym facility is placed on the other side of the elevated circulation, which separates the two activities completely.

The intent with the laundry area is to:



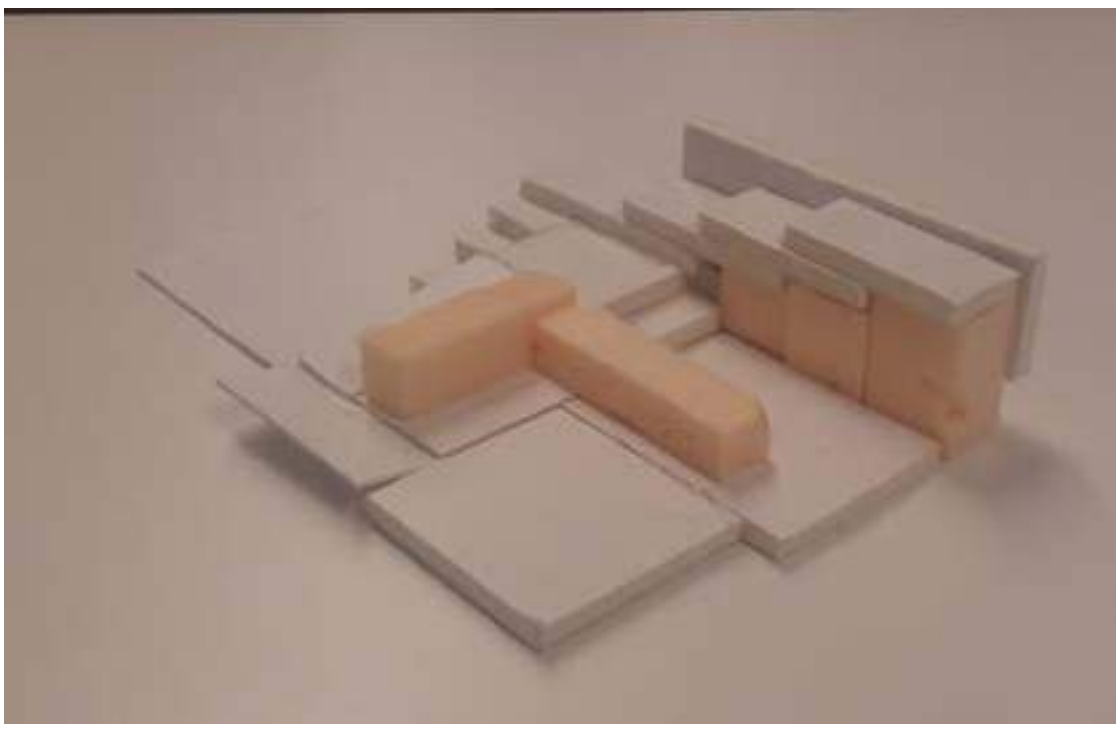
-Keep people within the area while they are doing their laundry by providing an activity in close proximity.

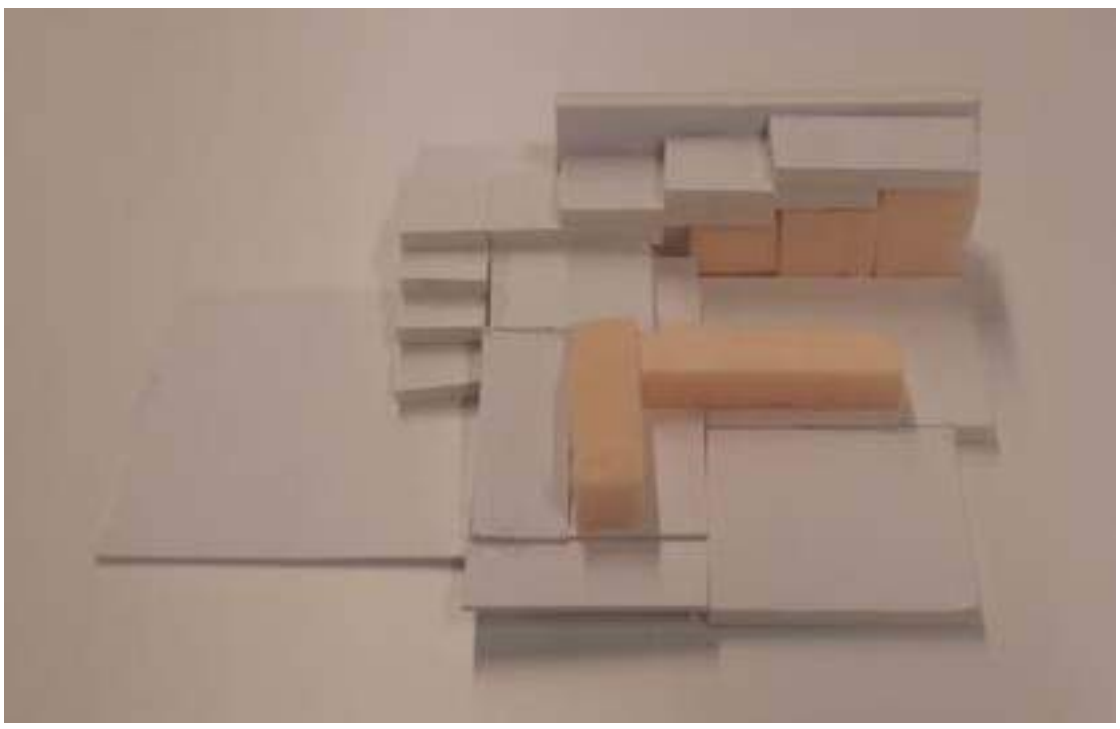


-Keeping another activity less integrated to providing options for people who do not wish to socialize while performing the main activity.

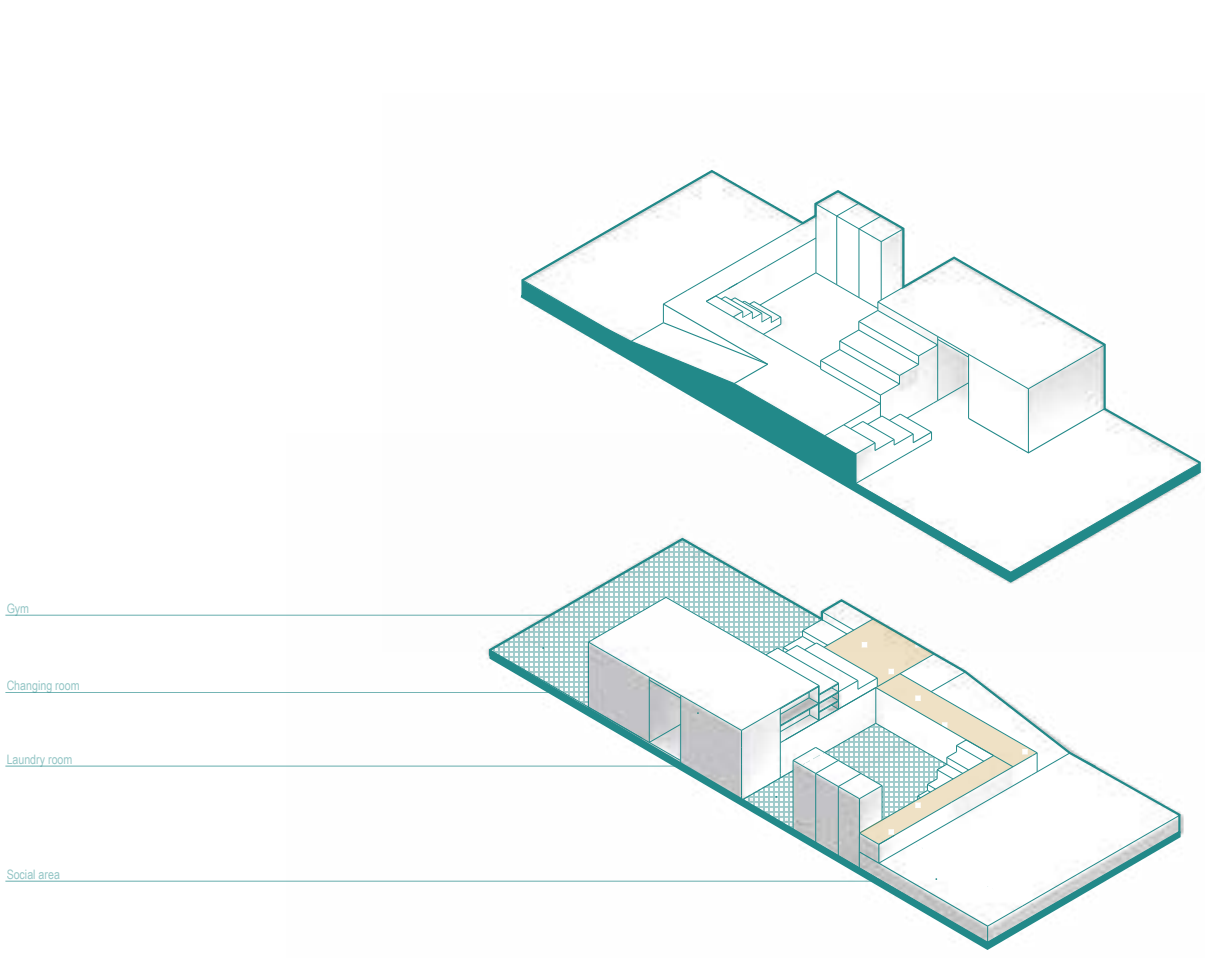
Model study laundry area

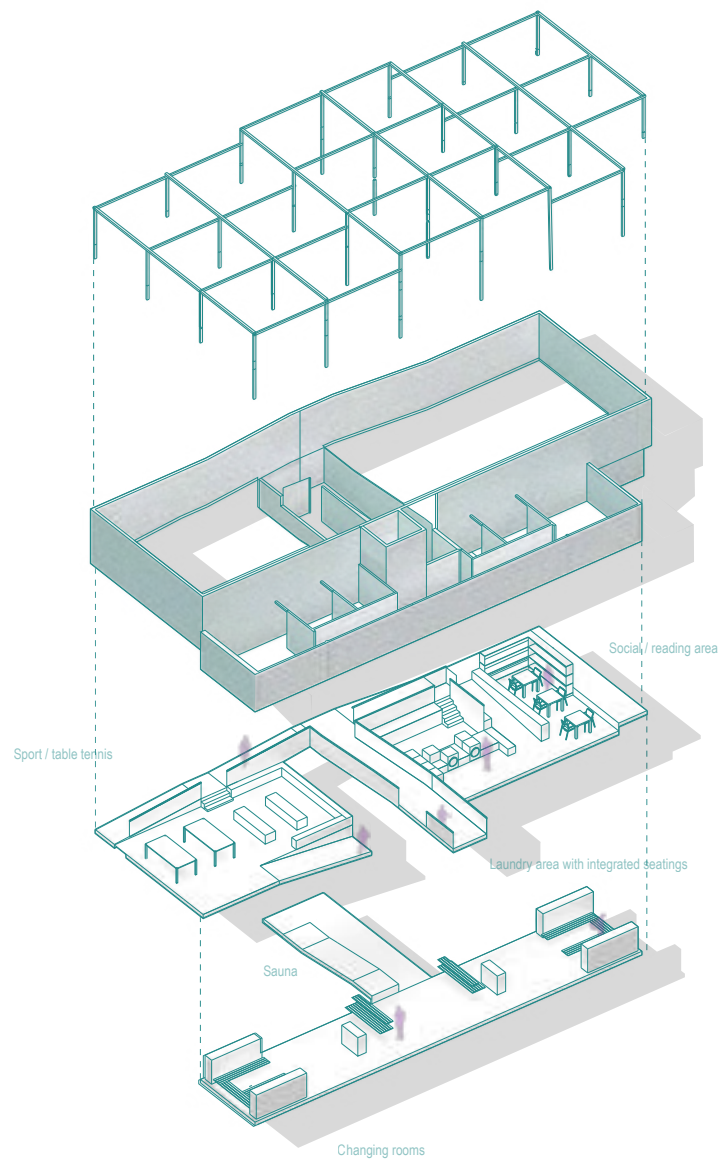
Model studies exploring the integration between a social area and the actual laundry room.

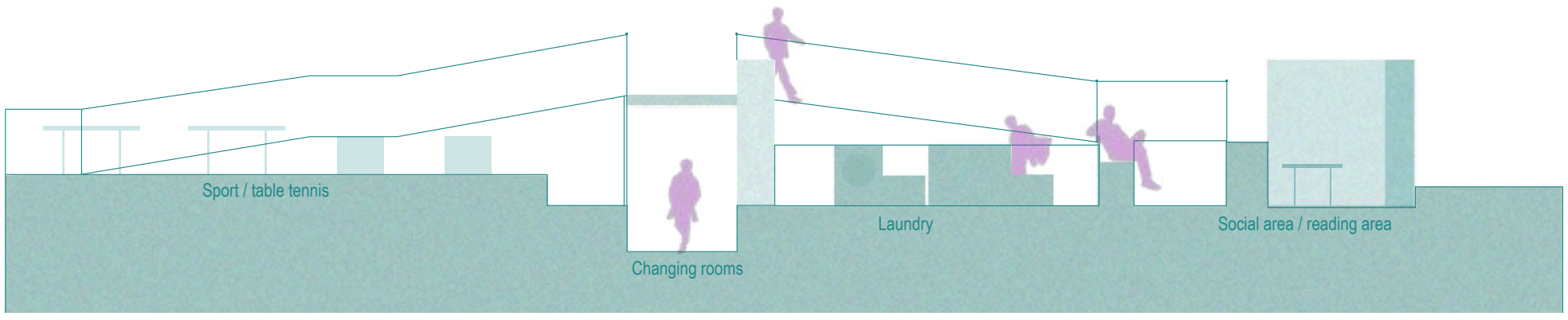




Intial design sketches of the laundry area







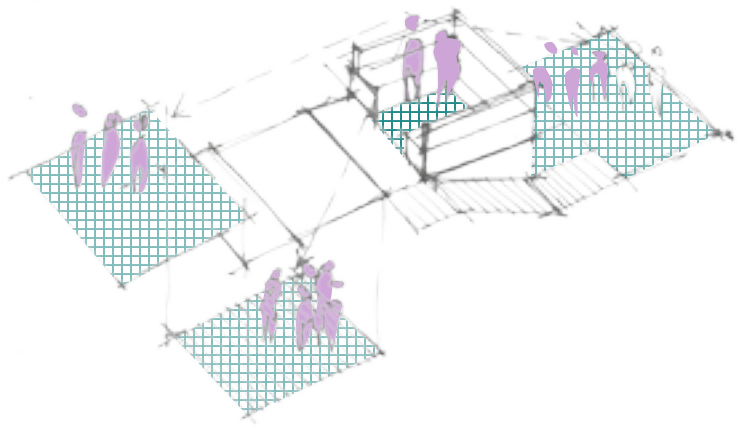
Results from the initial design studies:

-The laundry area is in these initial sketches concentrated to one character while the surrounding activities either interconnected or separated. The progression of the design will also provide the actual laundry space with different characteristics.

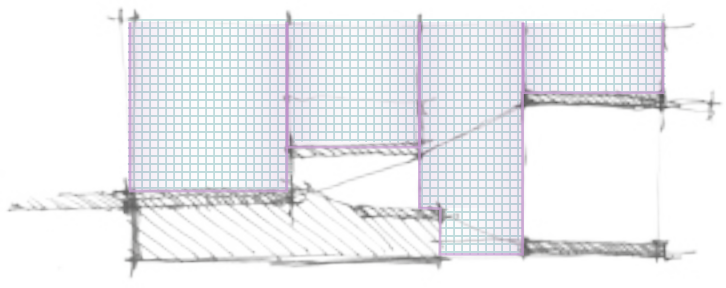
Entrance area

As everyone is passing through the entrance area it exposes other activities and can create spontaneous meetings. A shared kitchen that activates the area during the evening, and a study area that activates it during the day is arranged together with the entrance area. The idea is that the area works as a meeting place as well as an area where spontaneous meetings can happen.

The intent with the entrance area is to:



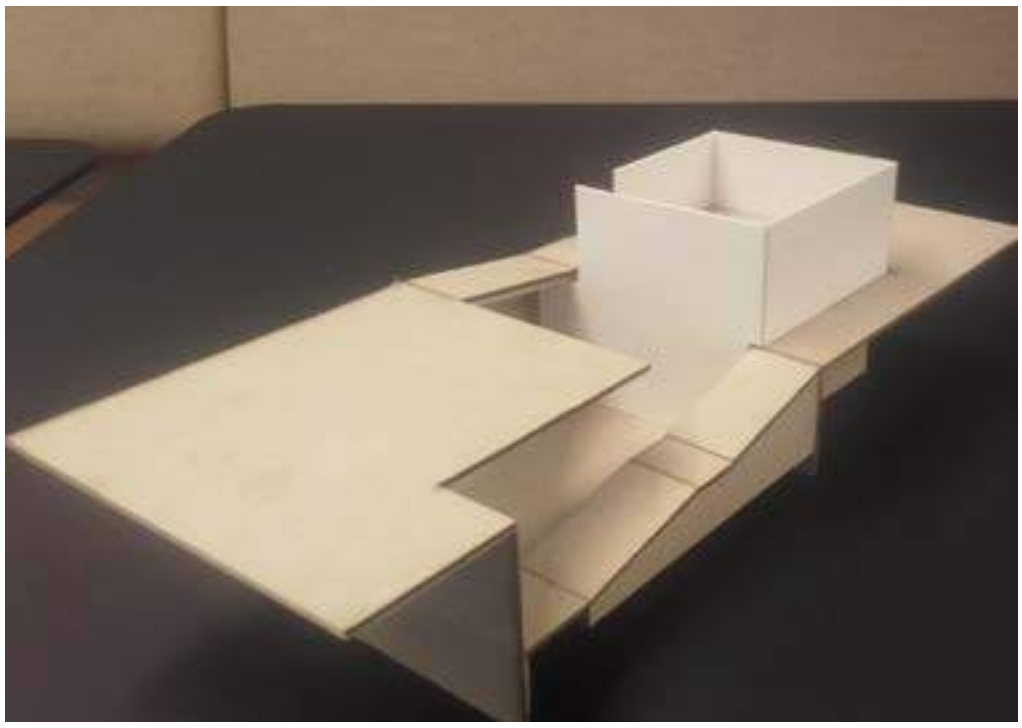
-Make spaces that are suitable both for planned meetings and spontaneous encounters.

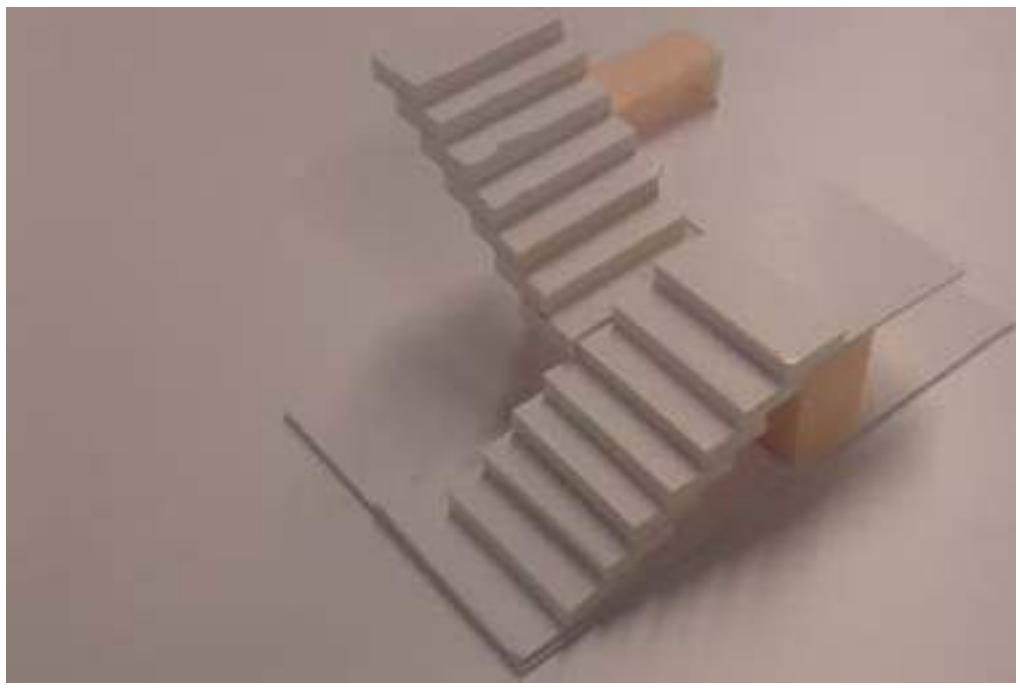


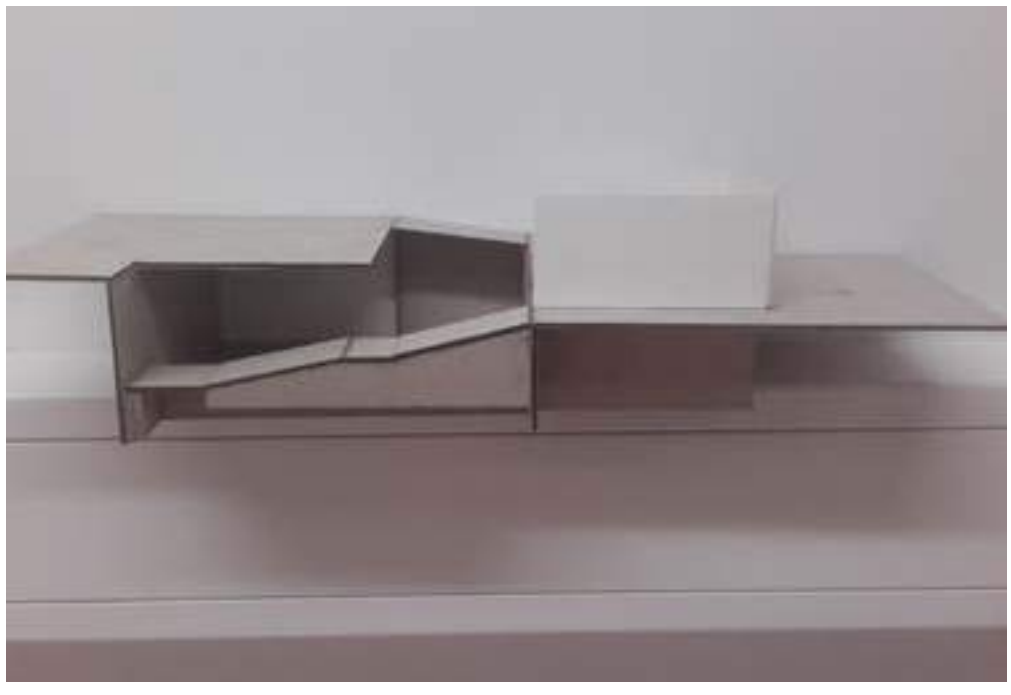
-Provide a coherent unity of activities that keeps the area active both during the day and evening but with kept integrity of each activity.

Model study entrance area

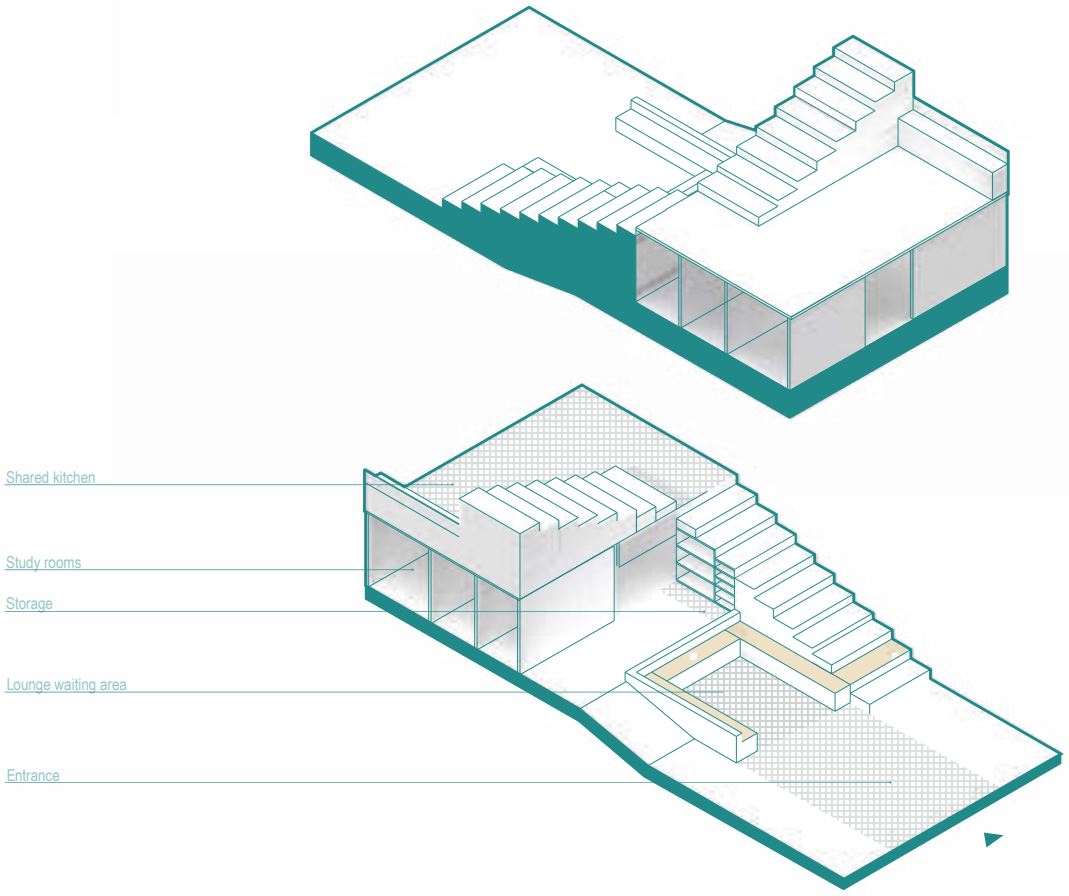
Model studies exploring possible height differences between different activities

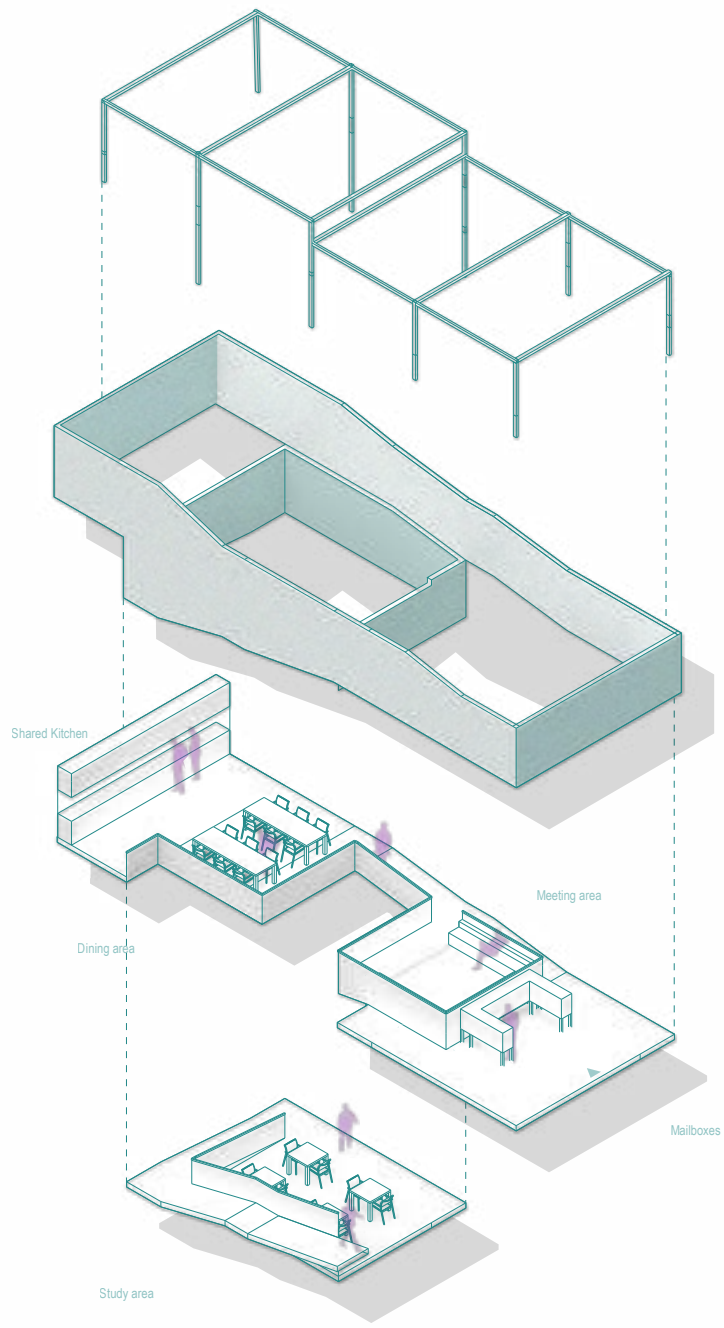


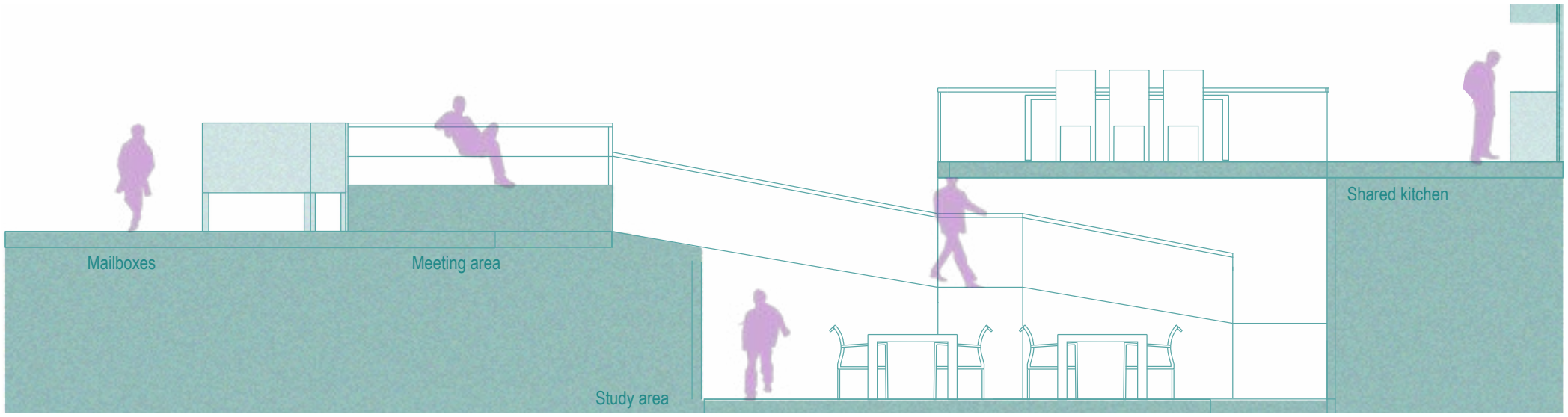




Intial design sketches of the entrance area







Results from the initial design studies:

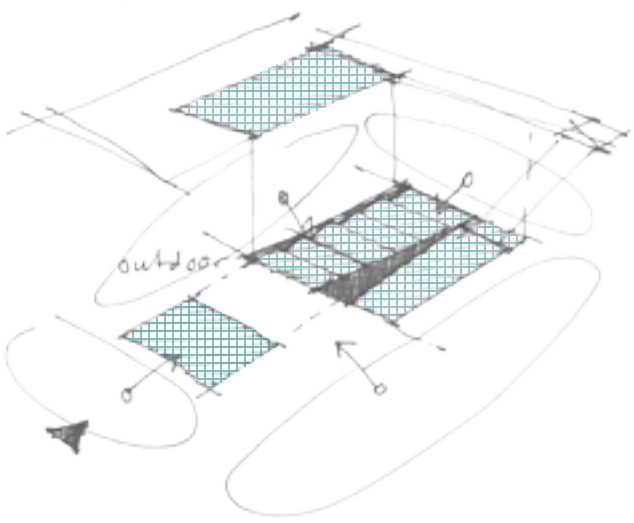
-A shared kitchen can activate the entrance area during the evening. The apartments will be equipped with individual kitchens, leaving the shared kitchen bookable for larger gatherings.

-A study area can activate the entrance area during the day. The area requires more solitude for the people studying but should at the same time be a part of the shared coherency.

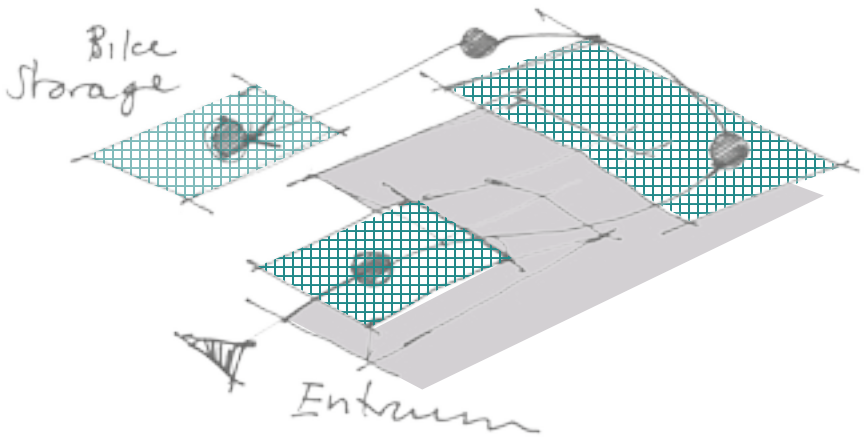
Workshop area

The workshop, where tenants can produce materials or repairing things, is arranged together with an outside area that can work as an outside workshop. A social area where people can rest or socialize in the process of working in the workshop is placed at the centre. The bike storage is integrated within the larger space. As biking is a day to day activity, people will pass through the workshop as well as the social area and thus be exposed to the occurring activities. As the tenants could be working with their own private material, it is vital to have the possibility to keep your closest surroundings personal.

The intent with the workshop is to:



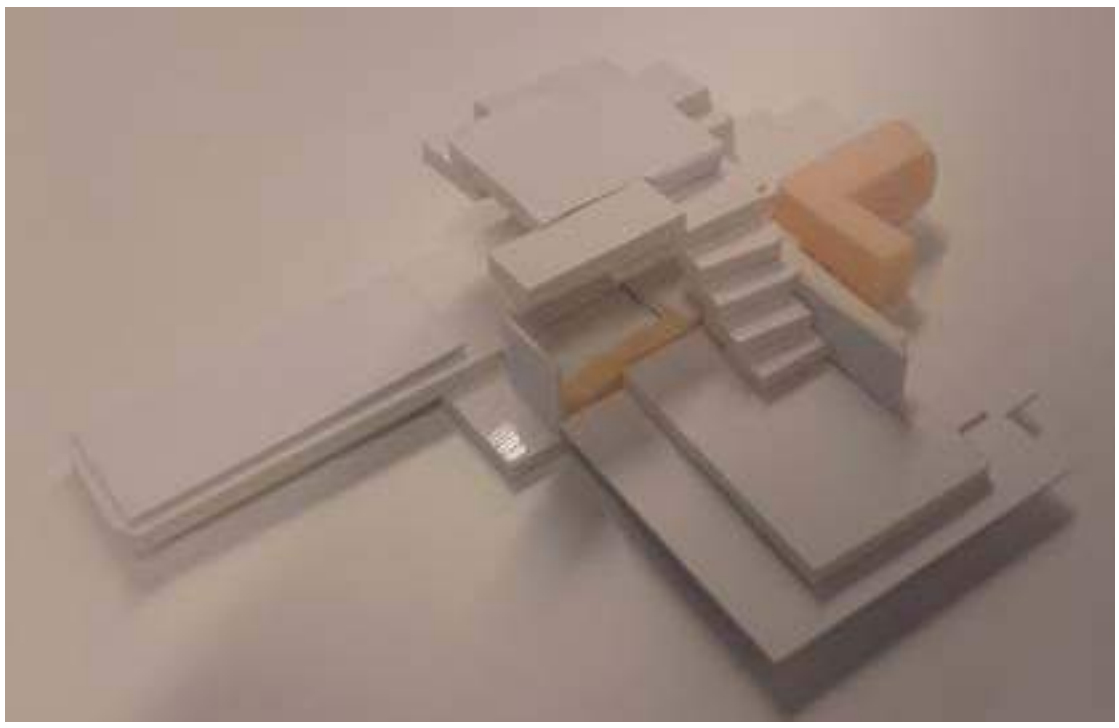
-Remove the initial social barrier between people by anchoring the social area with work stations.

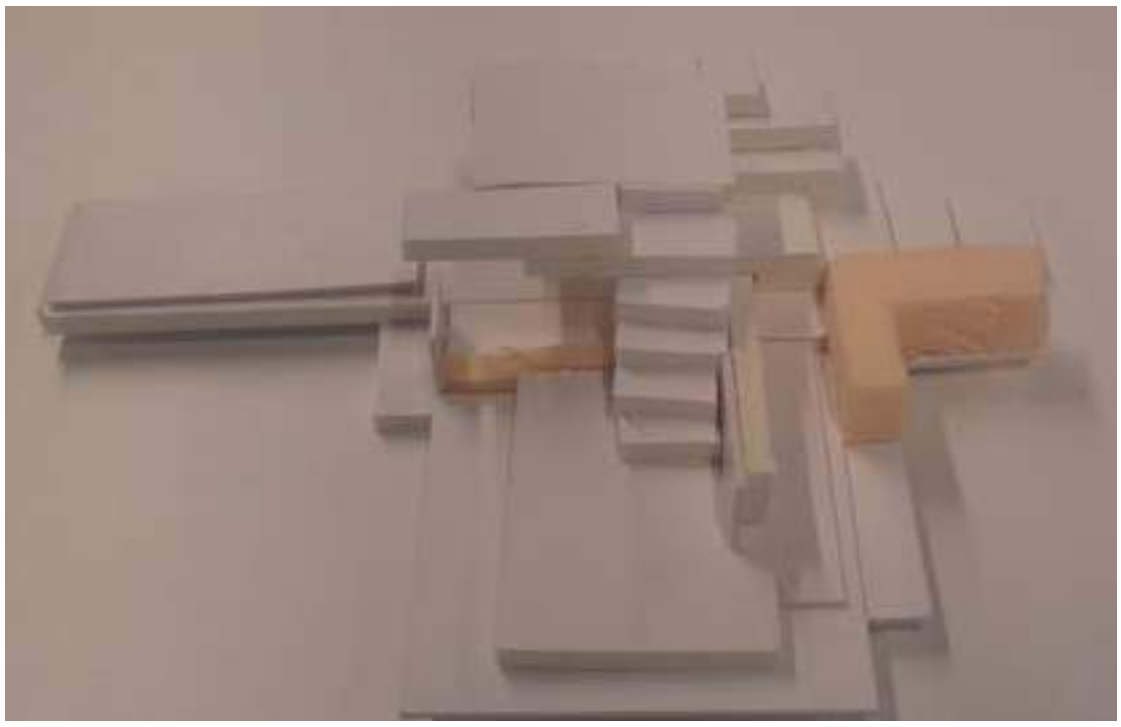


-Utilize the flow of people that are passing by from the bike storage towards the apartments to expose the workshop and the social area. This will enable spontaneous encounters.

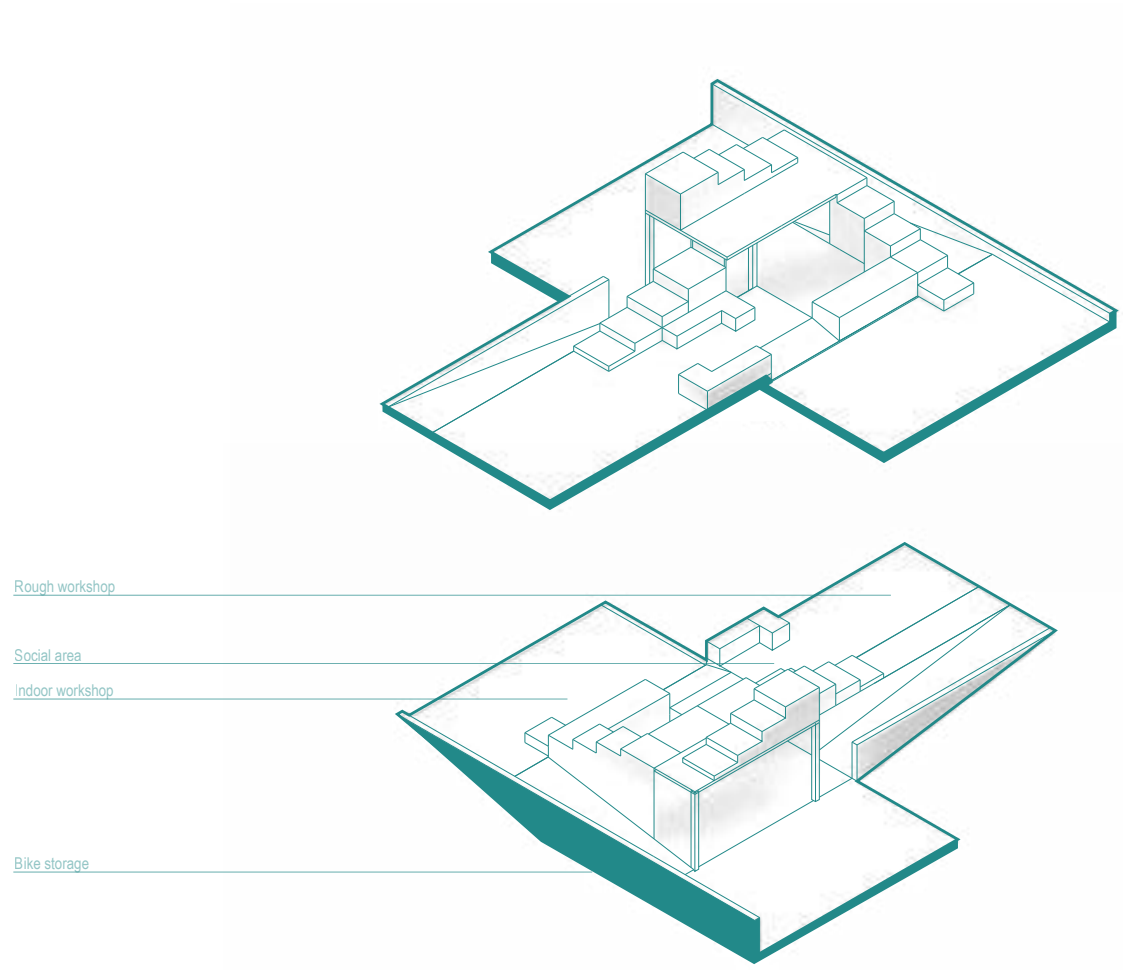
Model study workshop

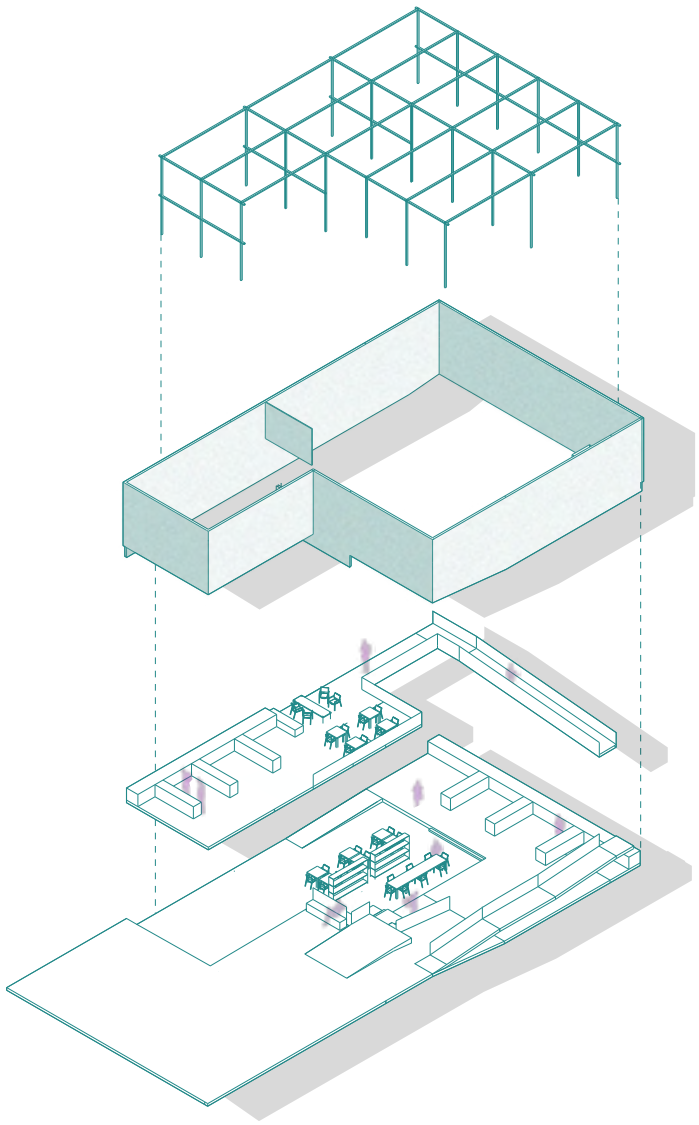
By enclosing certain areas with walls and decreasing ceiling height and making them easy to access, privacy could be obtained.

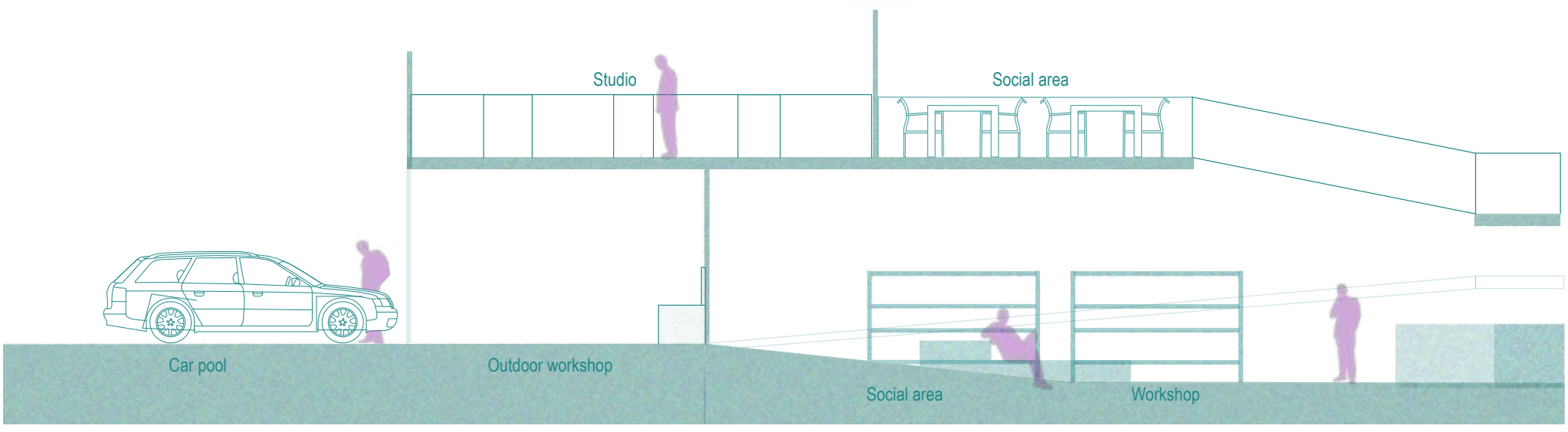




Intial design sketches of the workshop







Results from the initial design studies:

-Visual connection between the workstation and the social area is important as people can coordinate their breaks if they have visual overview over the area.

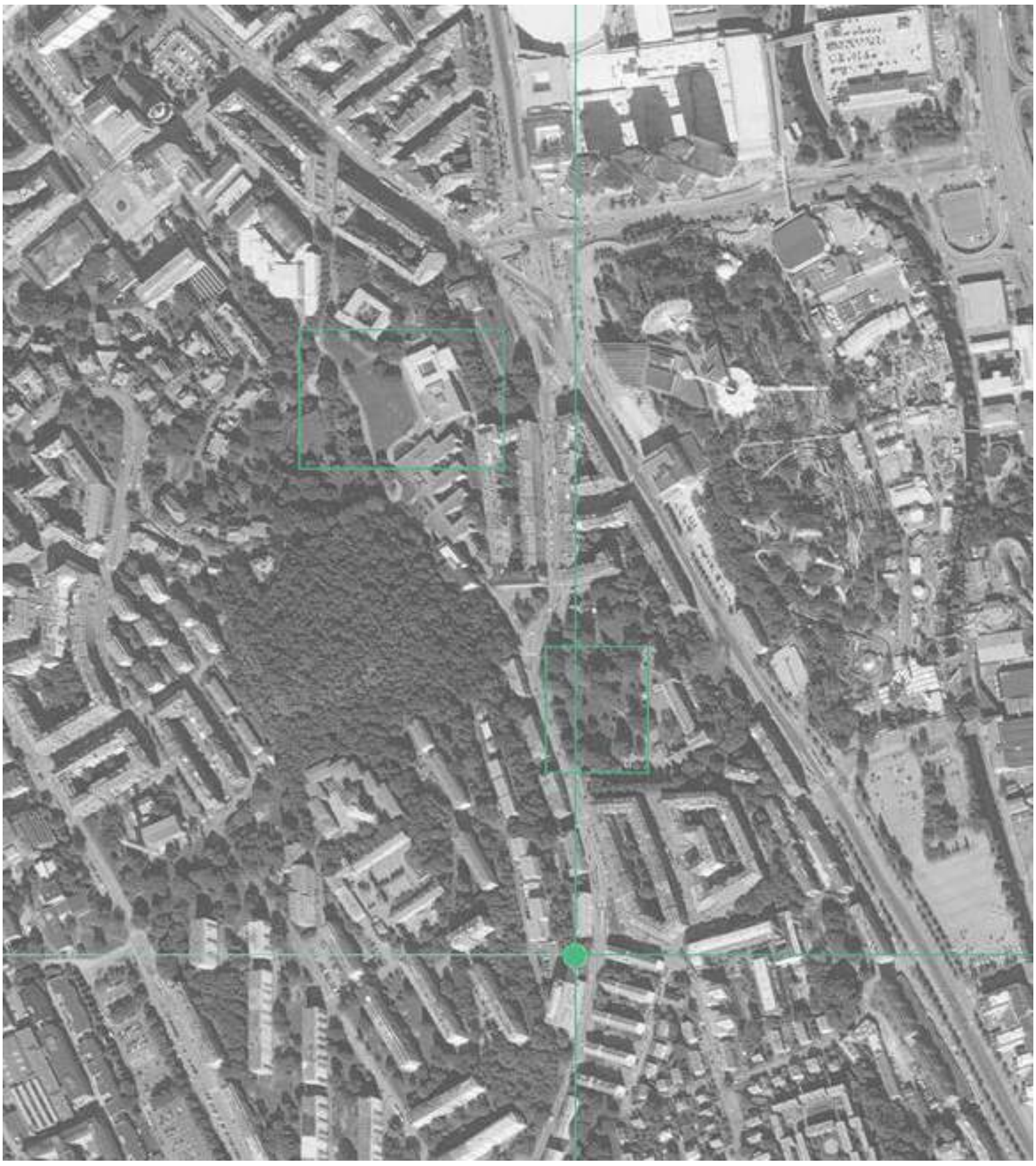
-The privacy and integrity of the individual tenant's work is important as people may be working with personal things. The central positioning of the social area, together with increased ceiling heigh, is a good way of providing a define moment where the tenants enter a more social zone. By entering the zone, the tenat communicates that other in the area could join in for a shared break from work.

-The more private areas should be easy to access from entrances, stairs etc. The reason being that the possibility to remain outside the social zone should be present.

Context 4.0

Site requirements and location

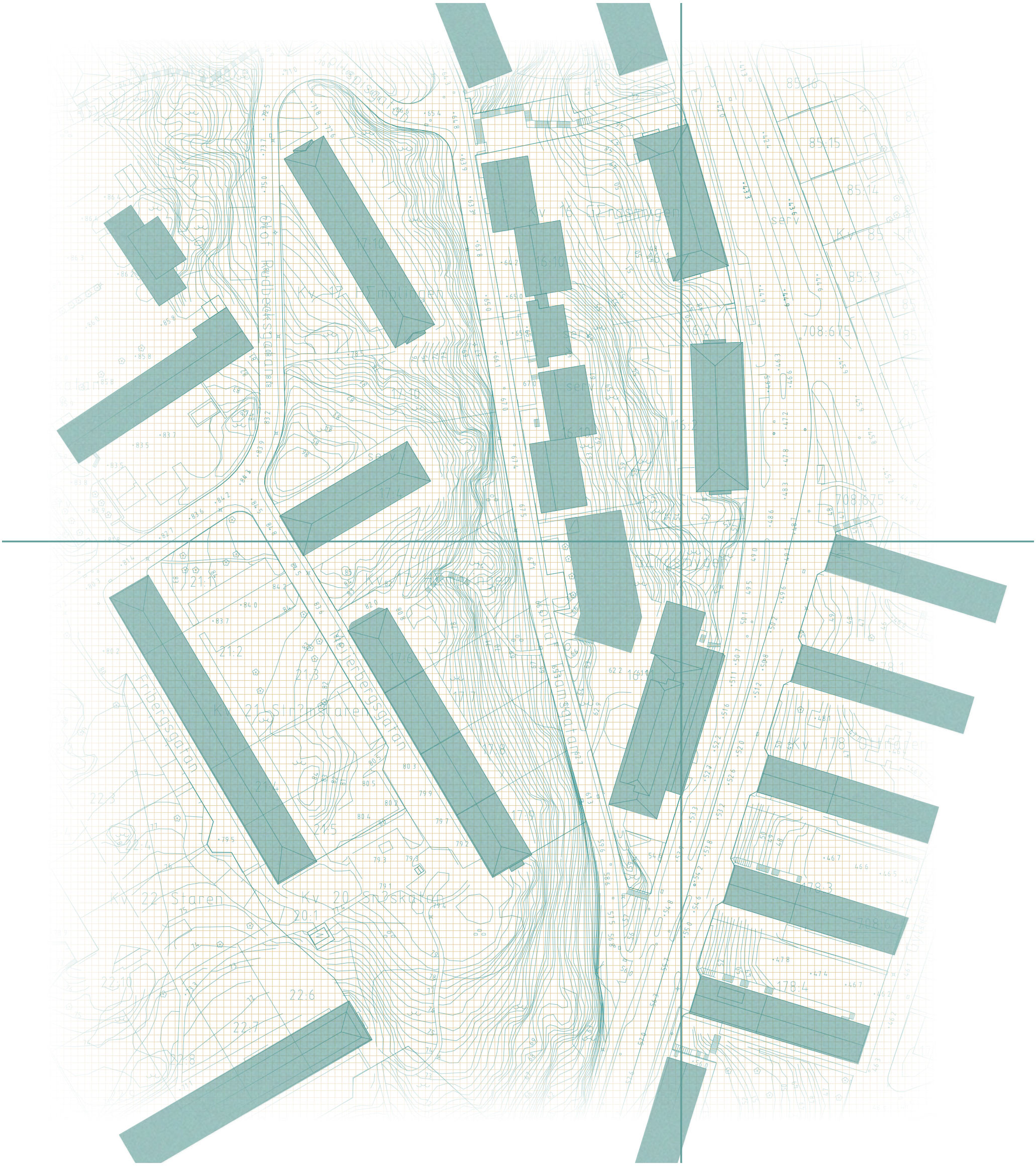
The main requirements for the site is that it is surrounded by buildings, streets, topography or other localities of different character. The reasoning behind the requirement is the strength of working with situations which are initially independent from each other. When the three scenarios initially studied are applied to a multifaceted site, they can help to tie the different elements of the site together.



The chosen site is located in close proximity to the expansion of the Gothenburg University campus of Humanisten. In the surrounding area there are currently ongoing student housing projects which is telling for the need to find central areas where densifying is possible.

An existing parking garage is located on the site towards the street to the west. The site is framed by Eklandagatan to the east and the smaller, more private Volrat Thamsgatan to the west. A new building on the site could fill the gap towards the public street as an addition to the urban environment, and at the same time have its a more private side meet the quieter backstreet.

Site map



The topography that connects the two streets is steep and therefore challenging. The existing parking garage is in good condition and worth consider preserving or incorporate into the project.

Site context


View from Eklandagatan


Existing path on site


View over the area behind the hotel

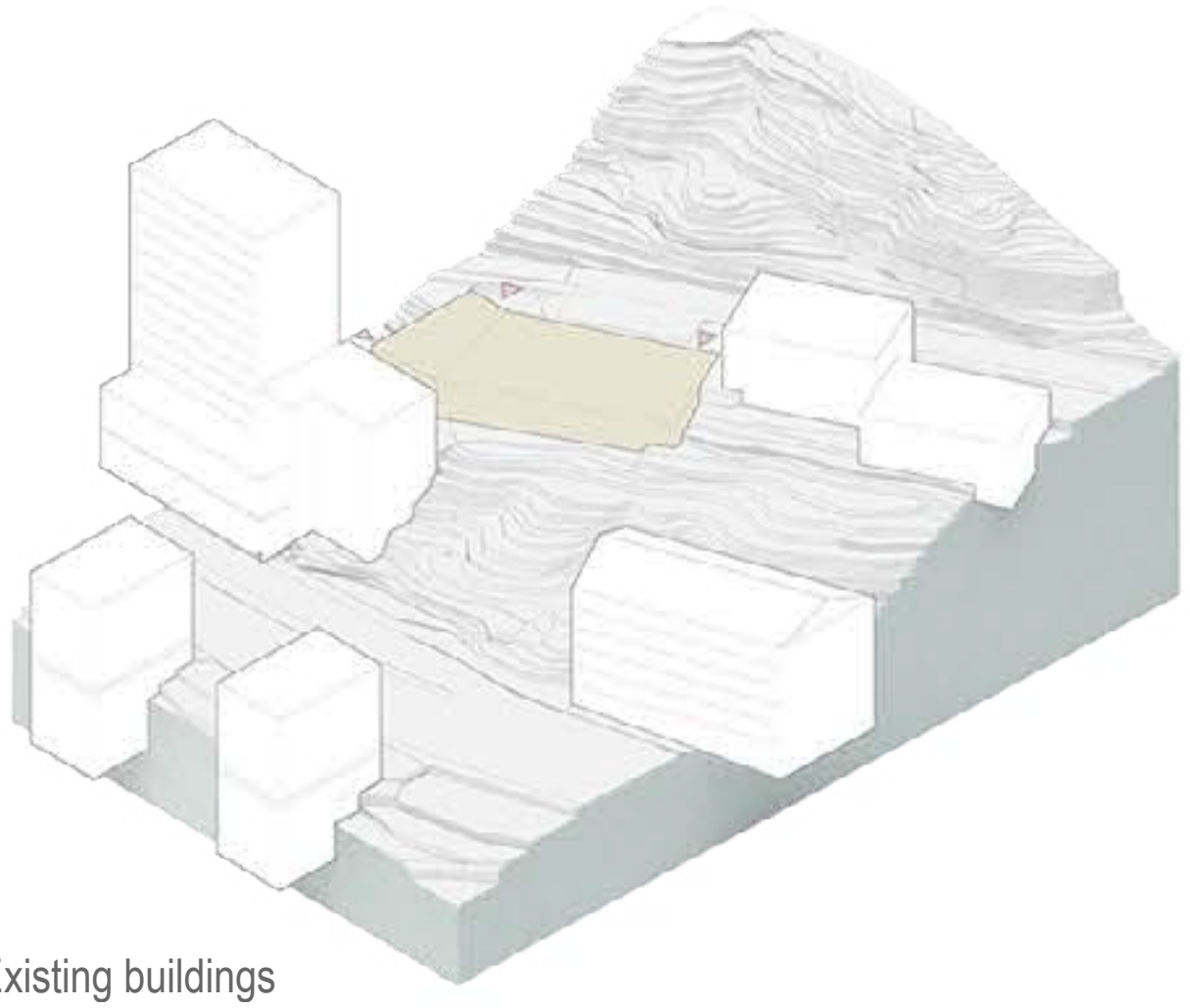

The entrance of Panorama Hotel towards Eklandagatan


View from Volrat Thamsgatan towards Panorama Hotel


Vegetation on site

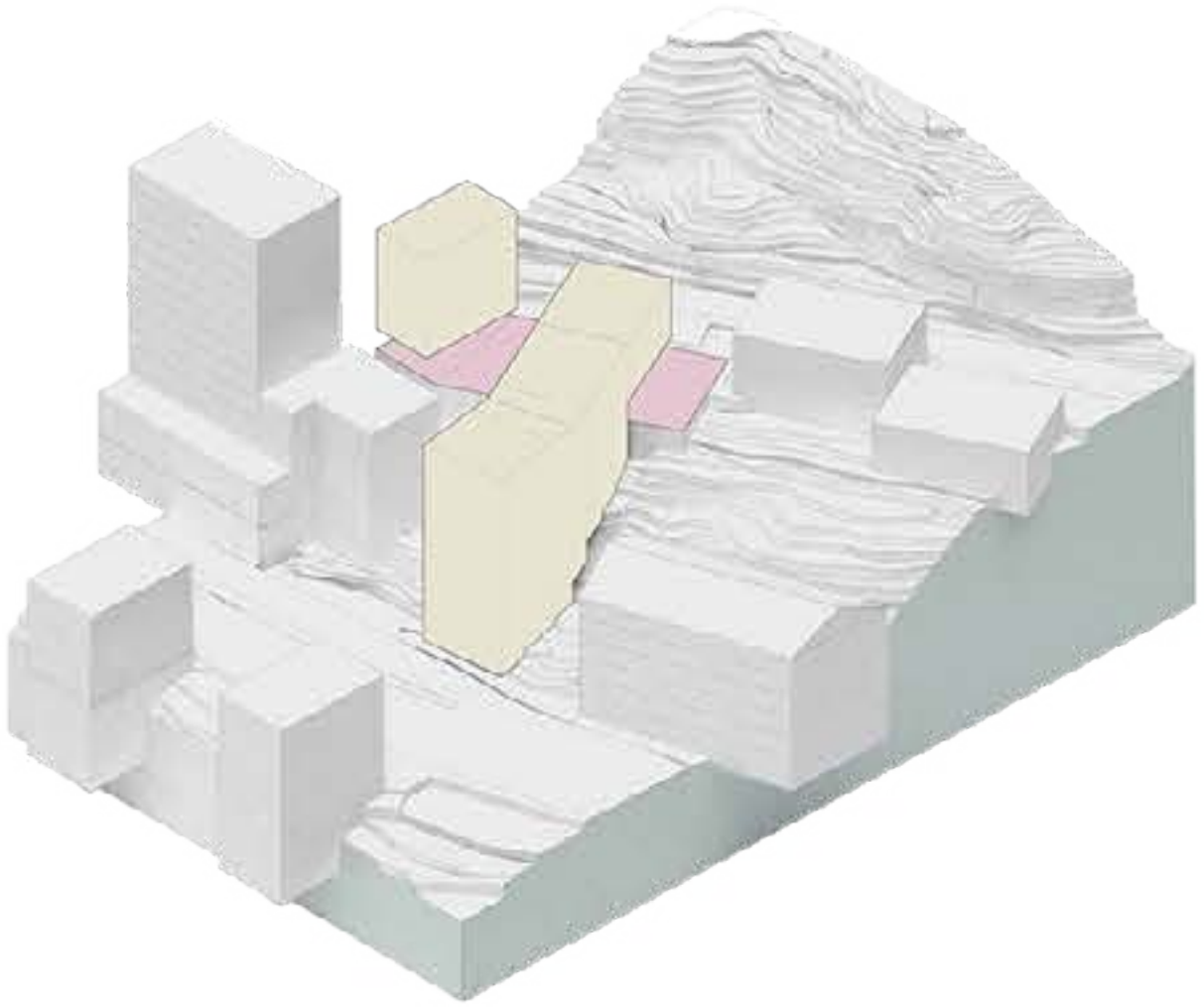
5. Design proposal - development on site

Building volumes on site



Existing buildings

The site is located between Panorama hotel and a 6-storey building both facing Eklandagatan. At the top of the site there is an existing parking garage with 3 floors and a student housing complex alongside Volrat thamsgatan.



Building volumes

Building height

The two building volumes are arranged according to the surrounding building height and the two streets passing by, Eklandagatan and Volrat thamsgatan.

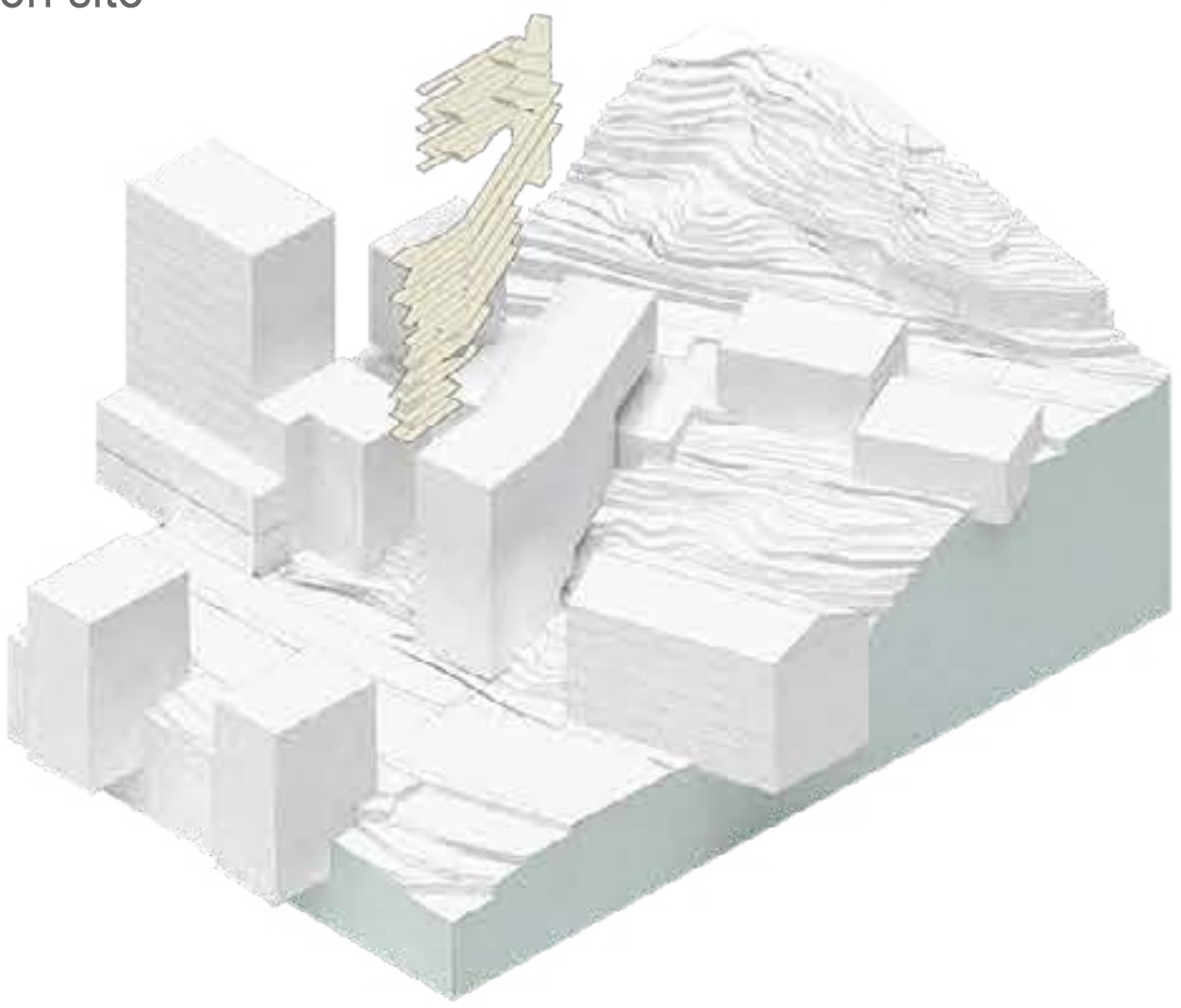
Free top garage floor

The upper floor slab of the parking garage is incorporated into the building complex but kept open by elevating the building volumes on pillars.

Courtyard

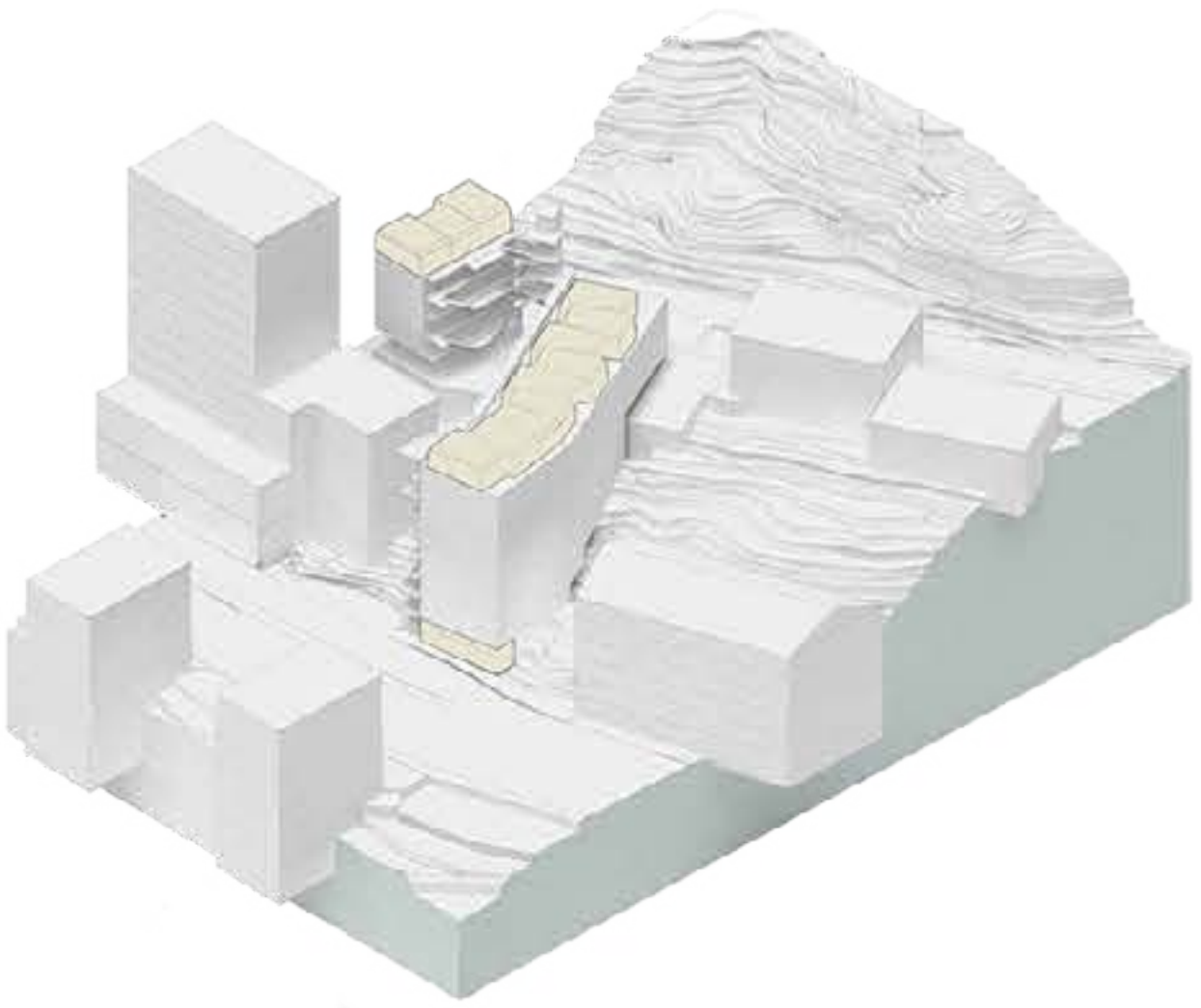
A courtyard is formed in between the building volumes as the top floor is located so height up that overview over the city is possible. Space is kept towards the existing student houses on the right where the entrance to the top parking deck is located.

Building volumes on site



Circulation arranged in between the building volumes

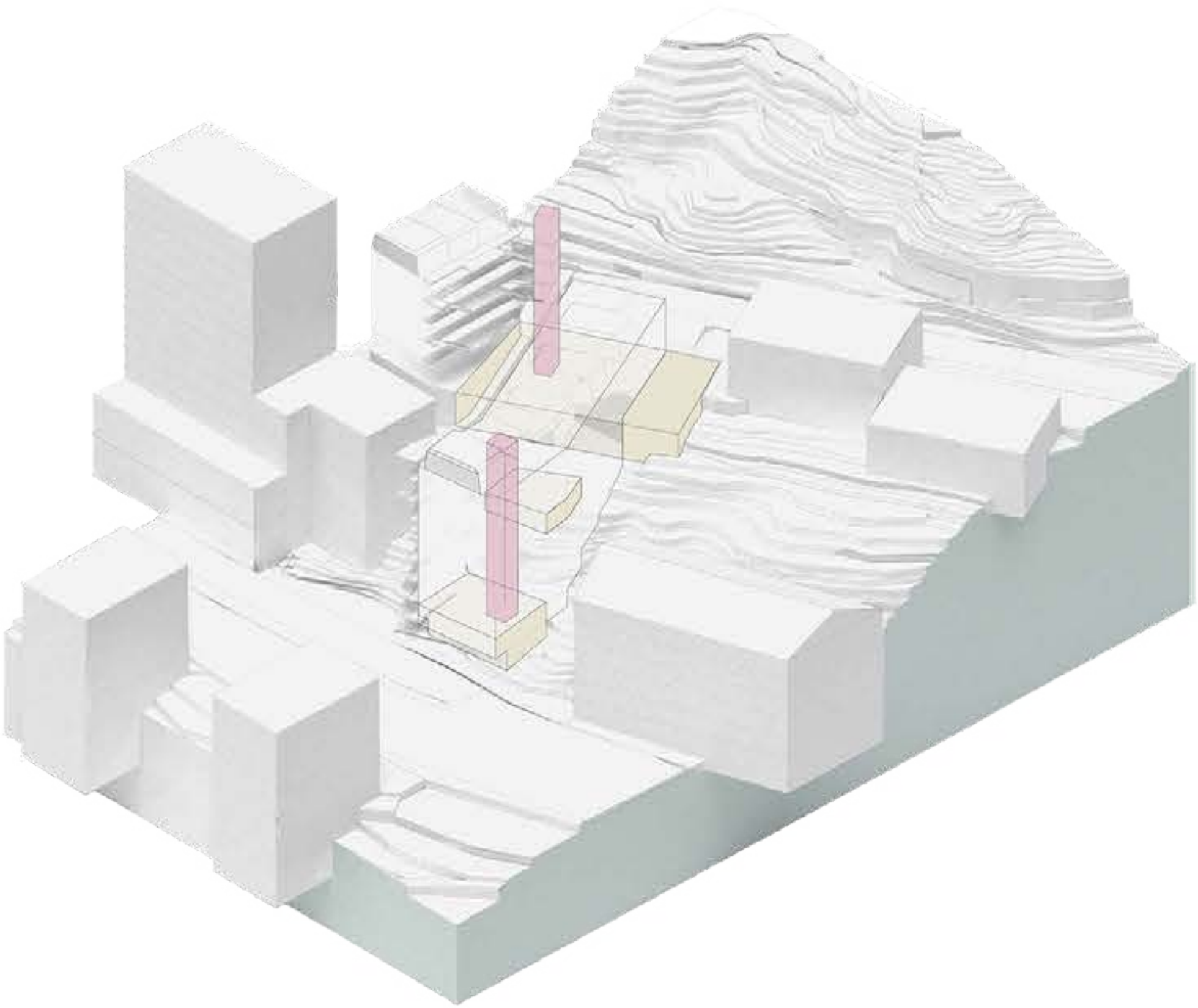
The entrance to the apartments is accessible by an external corridor directed towards the centre of the building volumes.



Top floor and entrance retracted from the facade line

As a response to the reference projects Brf Ohoj, every other apartment is retracted from the facade line on the top floor and a small terrace is formed in front of their front door. Every other apartment that is not retracted is provided with a private terrace on the backside of their apartment. The result is also that the siluette of the building volume is reduced.

Placement of the shared functions



Shared spaces arranged around elevators

In addition to the circulation in the facade, the vertical circulation is possible by the addition of two elevators. The shared functions are arranged around the elevators which will be utilized in their relationship to the circulation in the facade.

Entrance

The main entrance is directed towards the bigger of the two streets, Eklandagatan.

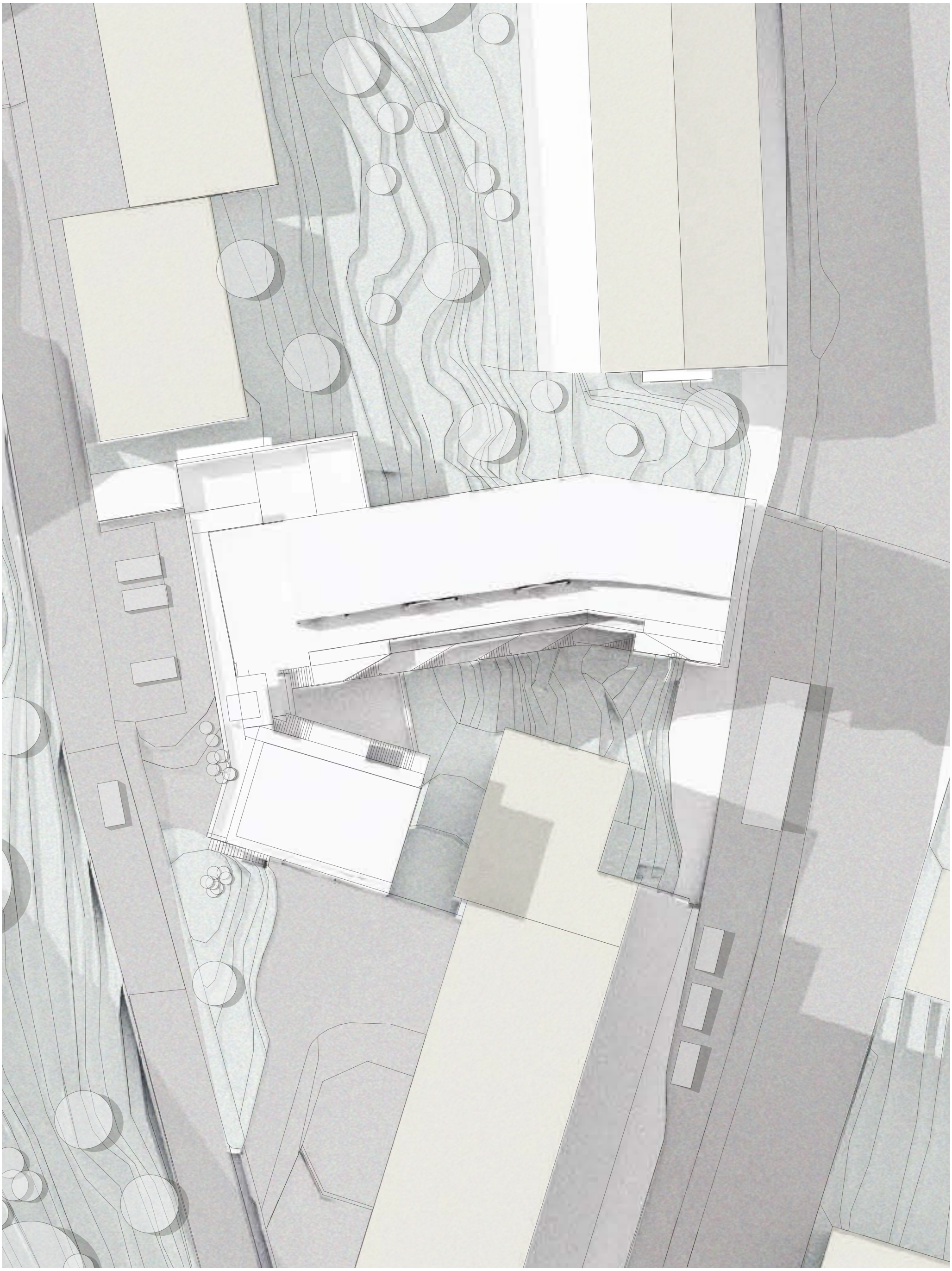
Laundry room

The laundry area is located as central as possible in the building with easy access both form the entrance area and the workshop. The placement makes it possible to utilize the changing room by tenants performing physically demanding activities in the workshop.

Workshop

The workshop is placed within the existing parking garage under the bigger of the two building volumes. Noise, wearing on walls and floor together with bike and car garage in close proximity is the deciding factor for the placement of the workshop.

Site plan

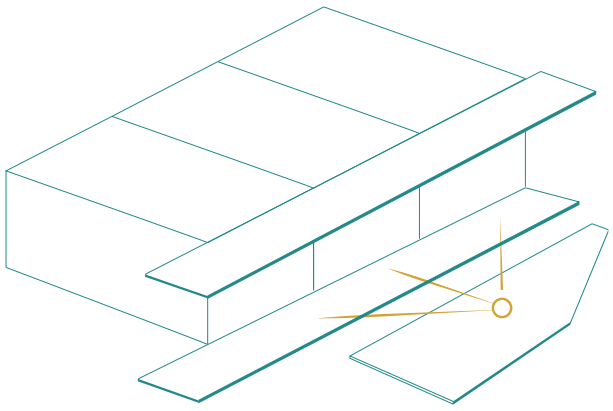


Centered external corridors

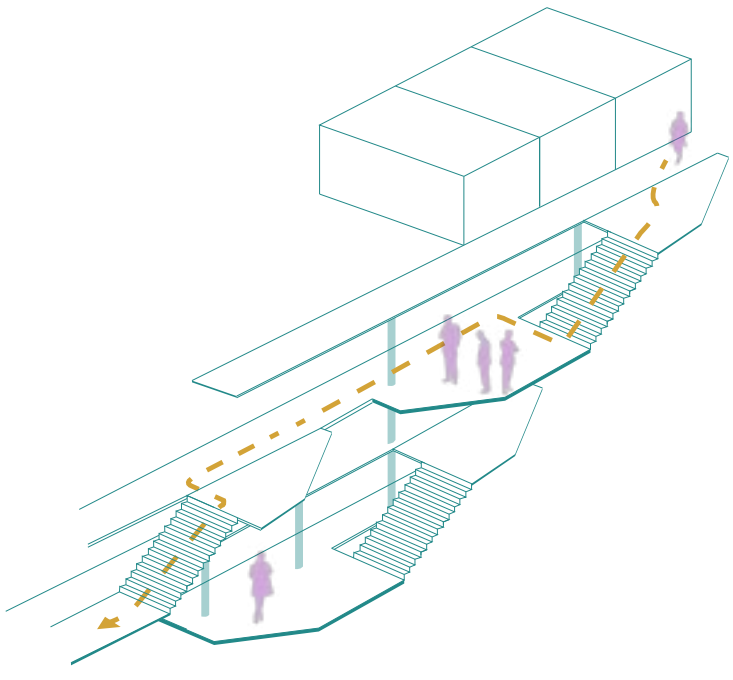
The external corridor and the balconies are directed towards the central courtyard.

6. Building organization

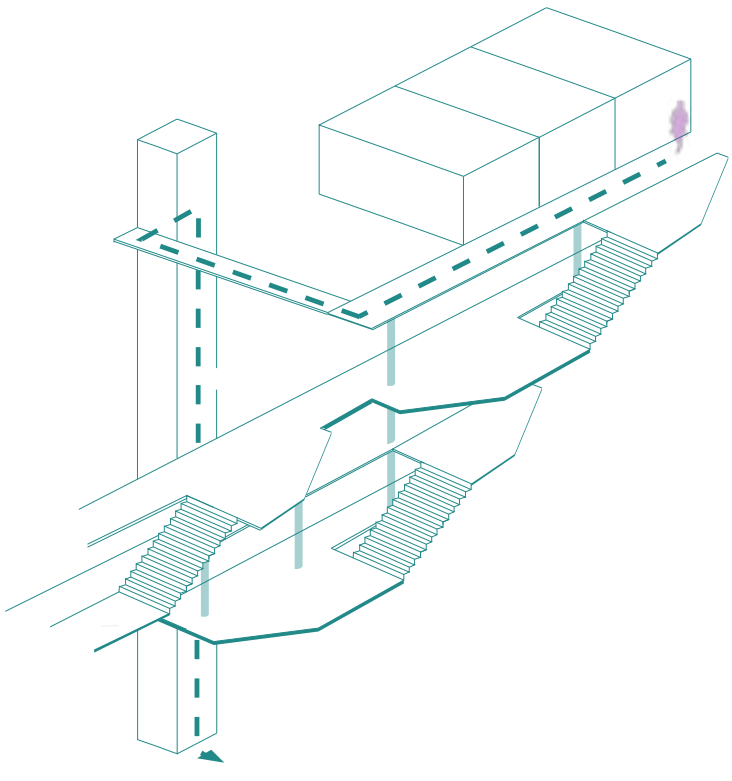
Building circulation



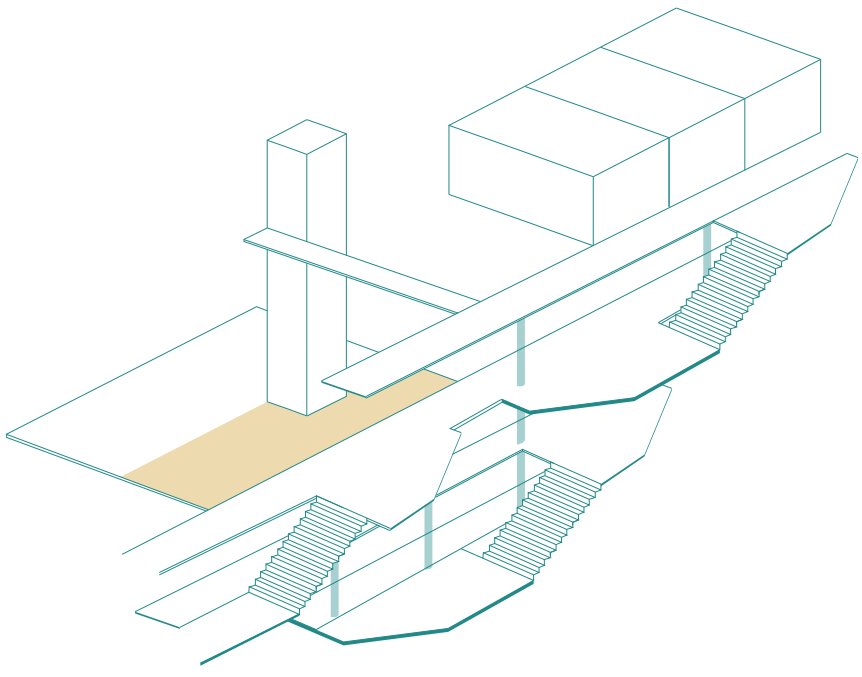
A balcony is shared between the closest neighbours on every floor plan. The balcony is exposed towards the social center between the building volumes in contrast to the more private external corridor.



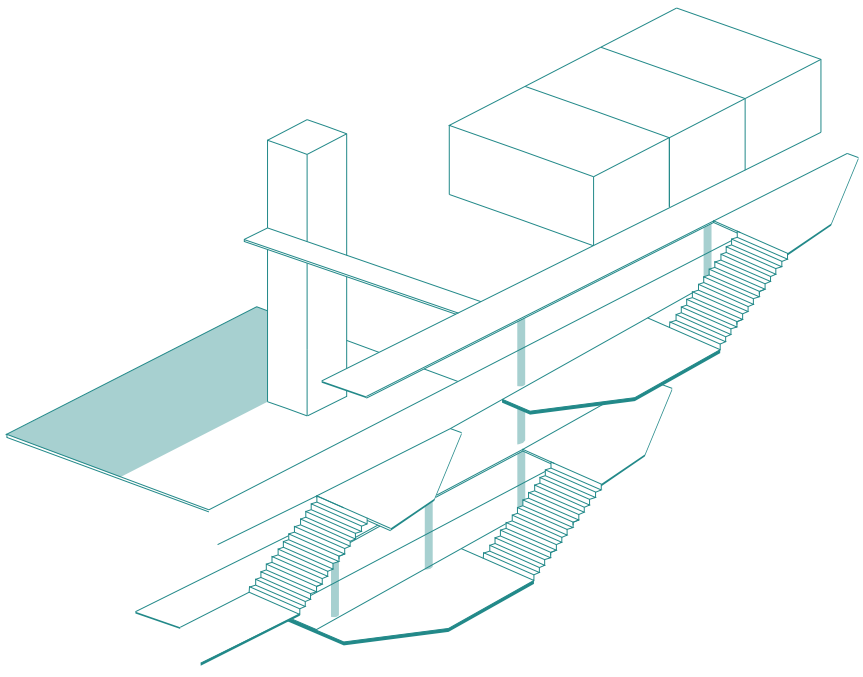
When circulating via the external corridors and balconies, you are moving past your neighbours ‘local communities’. By using the external circulation the tenant is apart of the social community as a whole, shared by the entire building complex.



If the tenants chooses to use the elevator instead, which is accessable from every floor plan, the circulation throughout the building is much more private and less exposed to the social community.

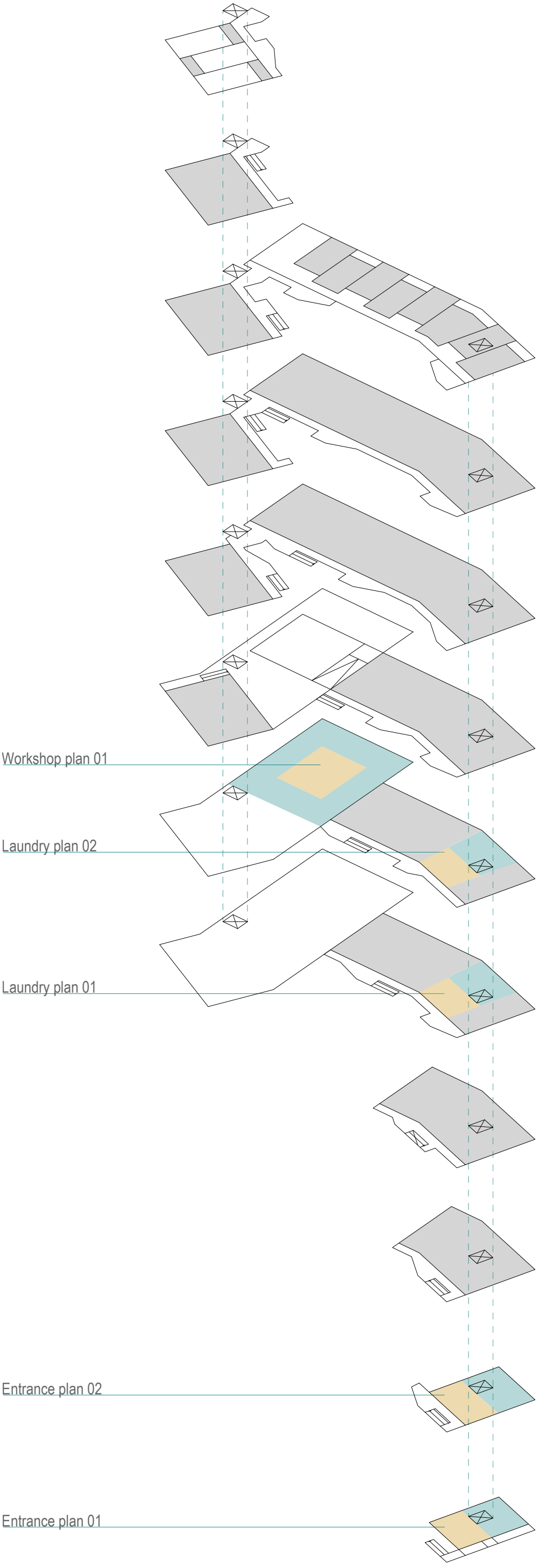


The shared functions in the building, which are all connected to both the external and the internal circulation, are oriented according to the different characters of the circulation sequences. The option to perform an activity in a social manner together with others is made possible in the area facing the external corridor.



The option to perform the activity in a more private fashion is possible towards the backside of the building, facing the other side of the elevator.

Circulation in relation the the shared spaces



Connected building volumes

The external corridor expands together with the increasing size of the floor plans the further up you go in the building. One floor above the top floor plan of the garage, the corridor connects the two building volumes together.

Orientation of the shared space

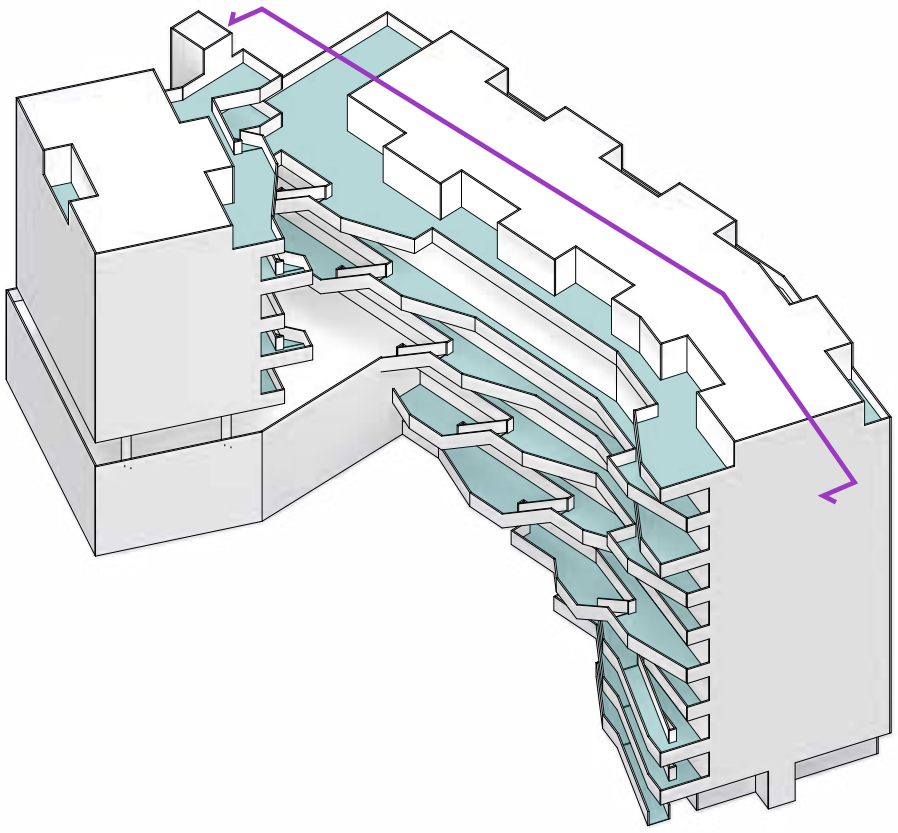
The color code marks the internal zoning of the three shared areas. The yellow color marks the zone where a specific task or activity can be performed in a social and inclusive manner. These zones are directed towards the external corridors. the green color marks the area where a specific task or activity can be performed in a private manner.

As the placement of the entrance area and the laundry area provides them with a clear front towards the external corridor, they are both separated into two zones. The workshop that is accessible from a multitude of entrances has the social area located in the center.

Activity performed in a social manner

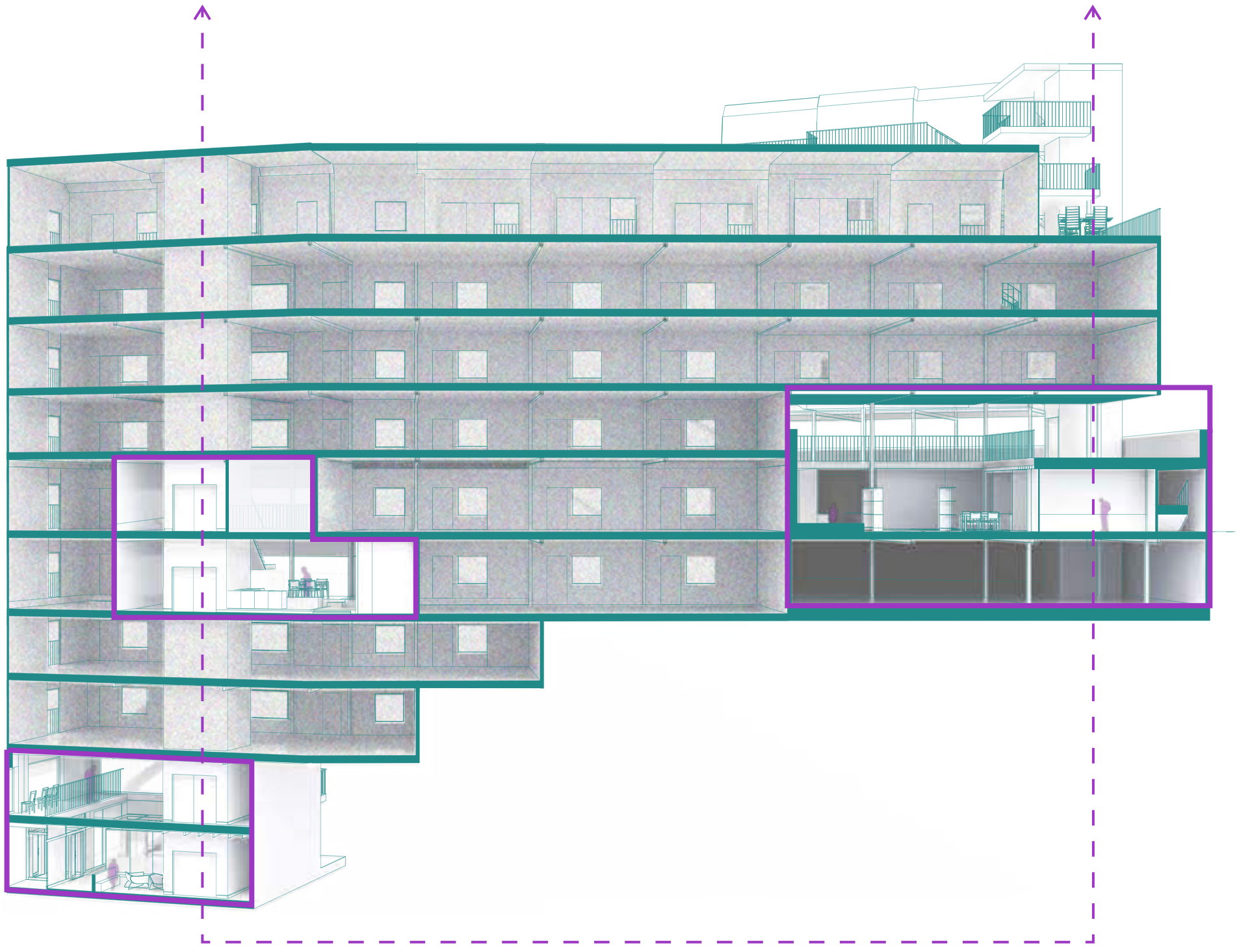
Activity performed in an private manner

Schematic section cut

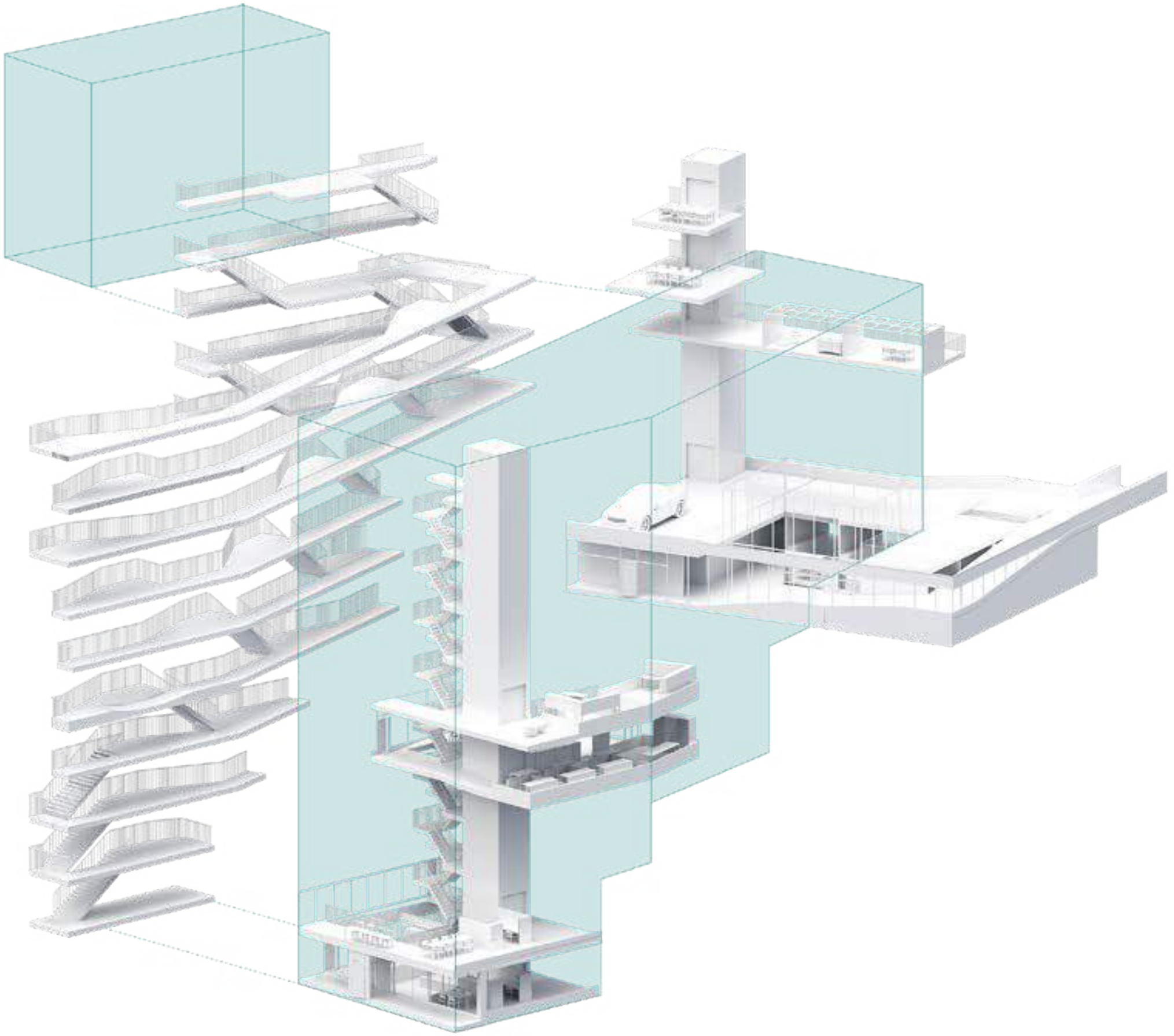


The two circulation sequences

The external sequence where the tenants are exposed towards the social community (right) and the internal sequence where the private part of the shared spaces also are accessible in a more private fashion (under).



Vertical circulation diagram



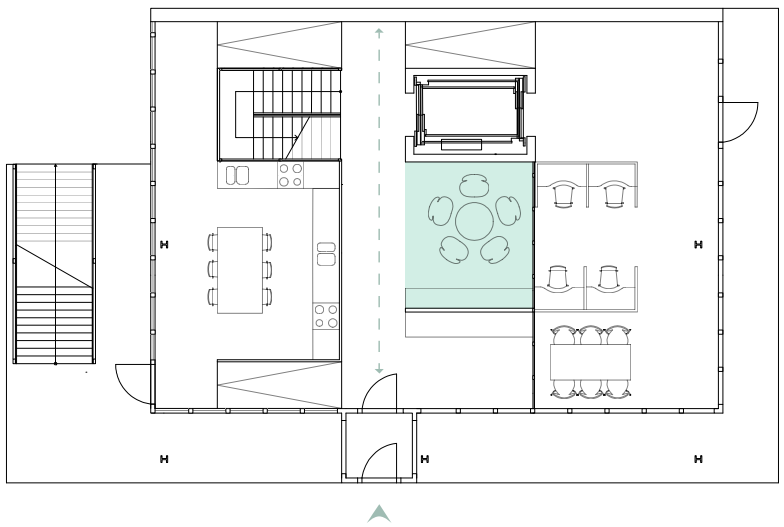
All the shared areas are located around the two vertical circulation axes. Openings in the floor slabs are centered around areas where the specific activity intends to be performed together with others. The elevators are at times accessible from both sides, making it possible to circulate directly from the tenants own floor plan to the individual shared areas.

7. Indepth design of focus areas

Zoning diagram entrance area

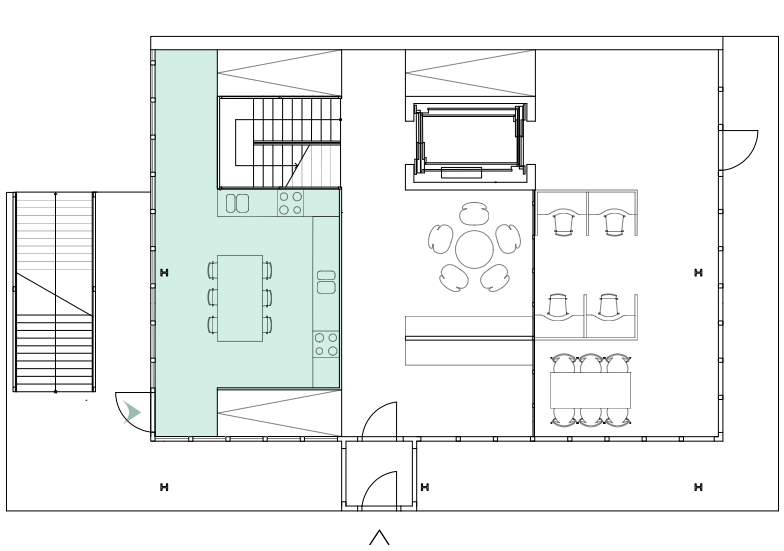
Initial entrance zone

The main entry point has a central placement on the facade facing Eklandagatan. The area is arranged around an orthogonal circulation path which provide easy access to the stairs and elevator. As a response to one of the earlier statements, that the entrance should be suitable for spontaneous encounters, the kitchen, the study area and a small lobby intends to be strongly integrated with the main circulation pattern. People who enters the building via the main entrance can easily acknowledge which tenants are currently using the kitchen or studying.



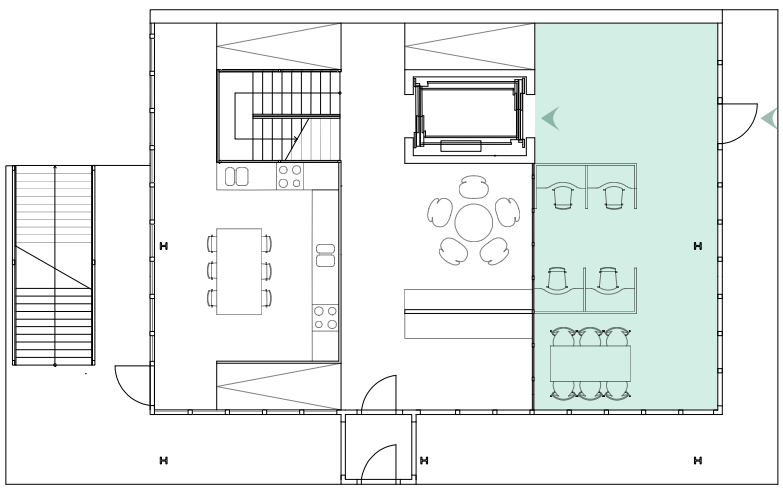
Shared kitchen

The shared kitchen is arranged between the main entrance and the beginning of the external system of stairs. Everyone who enters either of the circulation paths will be notified who are using the kitchen. It is possible to eat at the second floor if smaller gatherings want to be by themselves after preparing the food at the first floor.



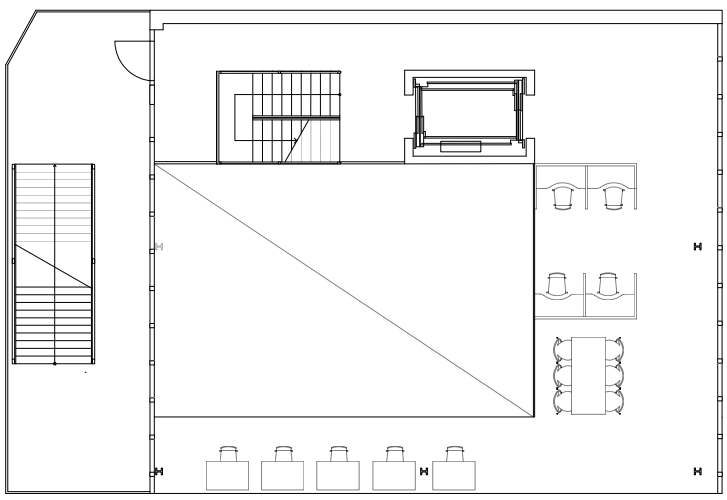
Study area

The study area has one individual entrance from the elevator and one directed towards the outside. The area is primarily directed to the tenants who are moving within the buildings private circulation sequence and wish to take a lesser part in the social community.

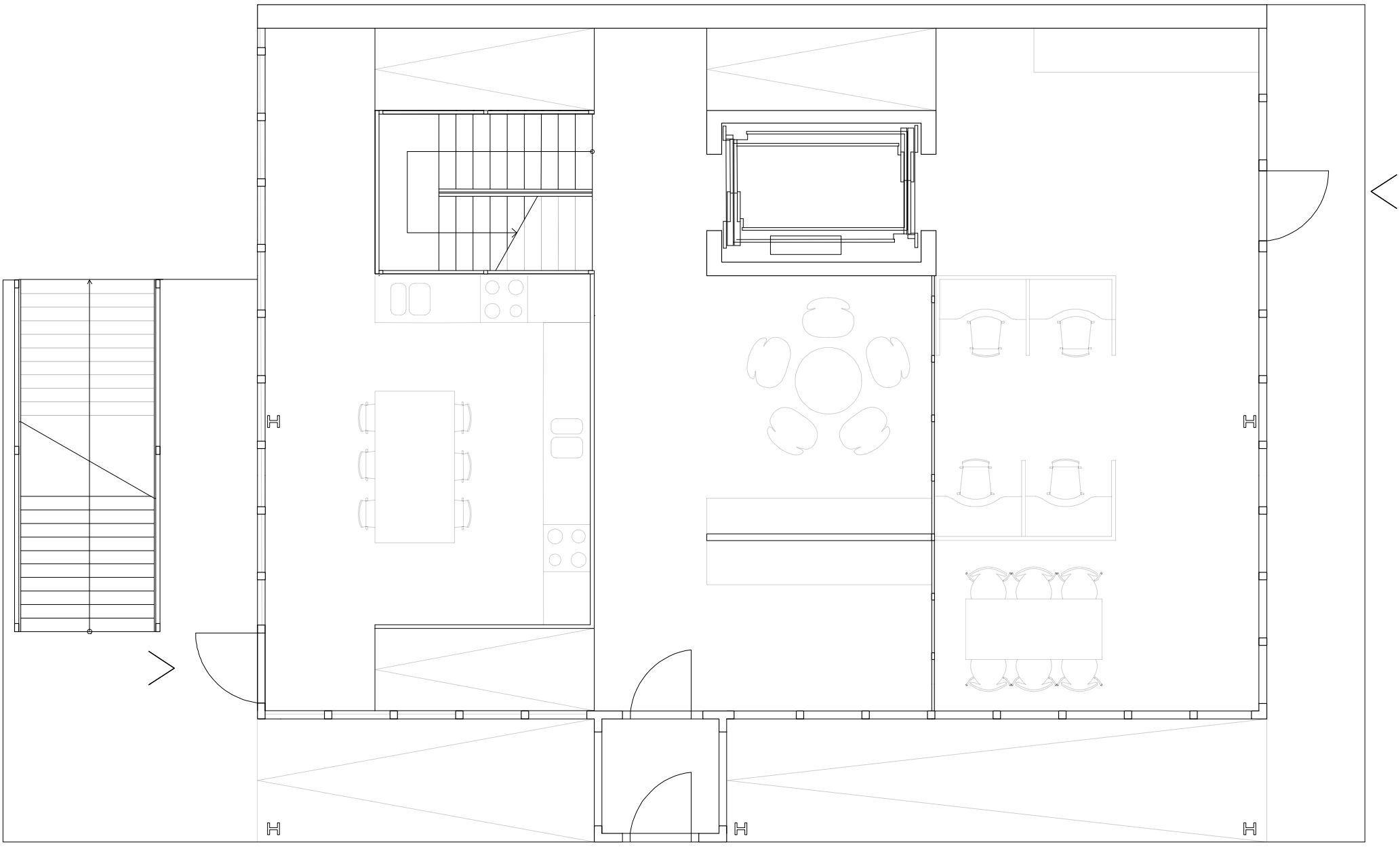


Second floor plan

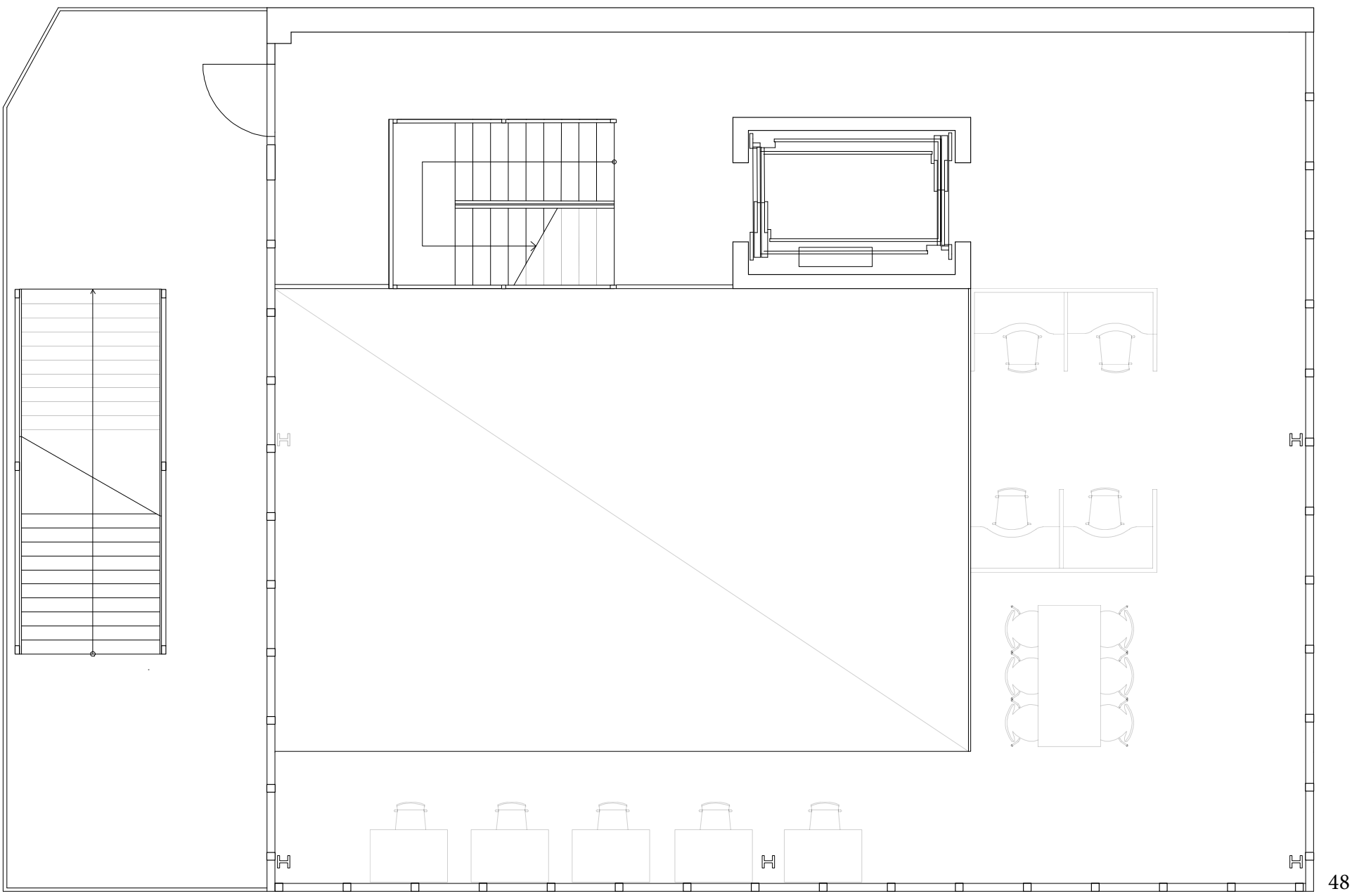
Double ceiling height is framing the meeting area together with the kitchen. If you wish to use the kitchen but sit in smaller constellations it is possible on the second floor.



Plans entrance area 1:200



Floor plan 1



Floor plan 2

Axonometric view entrance area

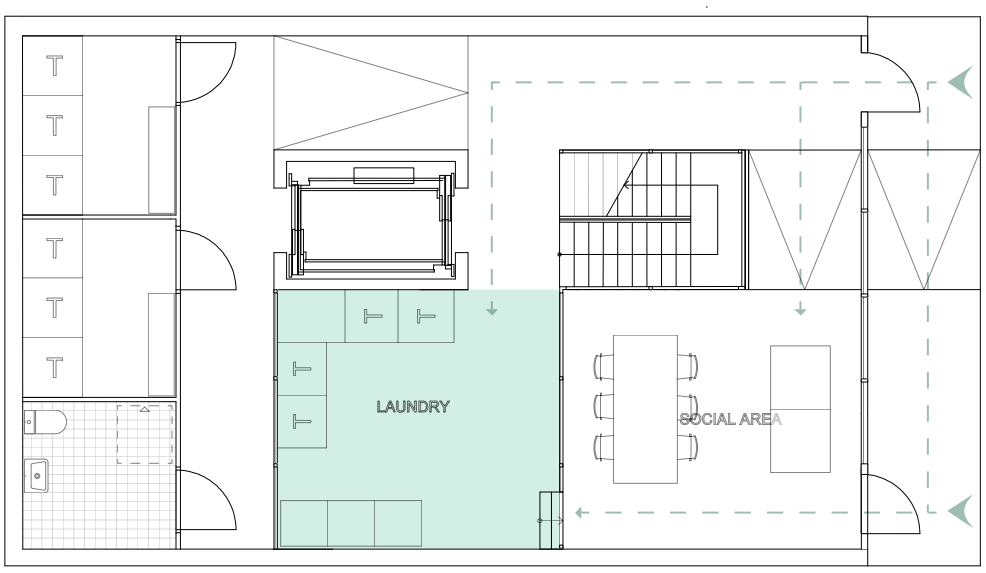
Floor 01

Floor 02

Zoning diagram Laundry area

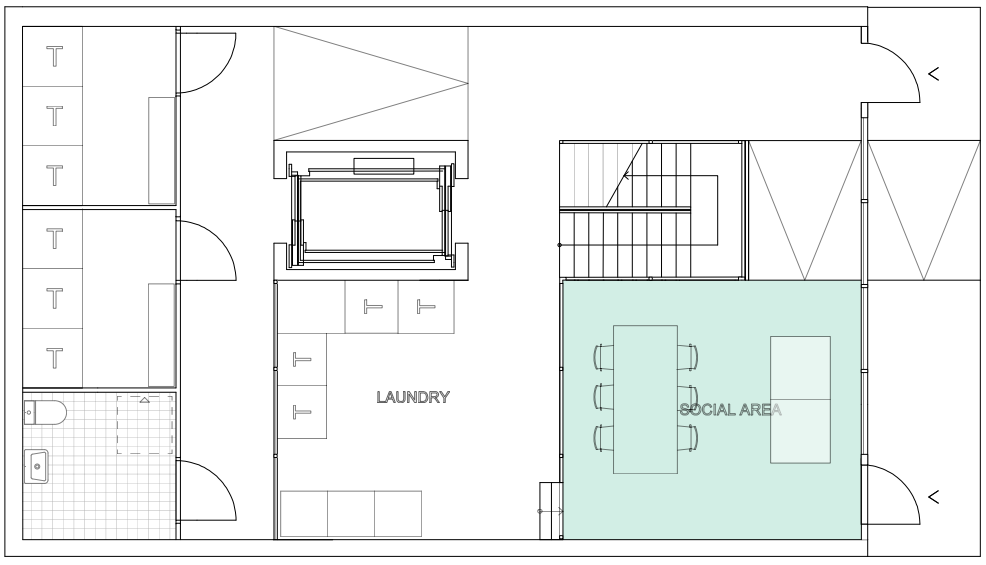
Shared laundry area

A series of washing machines surrounded by transparent walls are located in an open space in the center of the laundry area. People who are passing by via the external corridor can see who are using this facility.



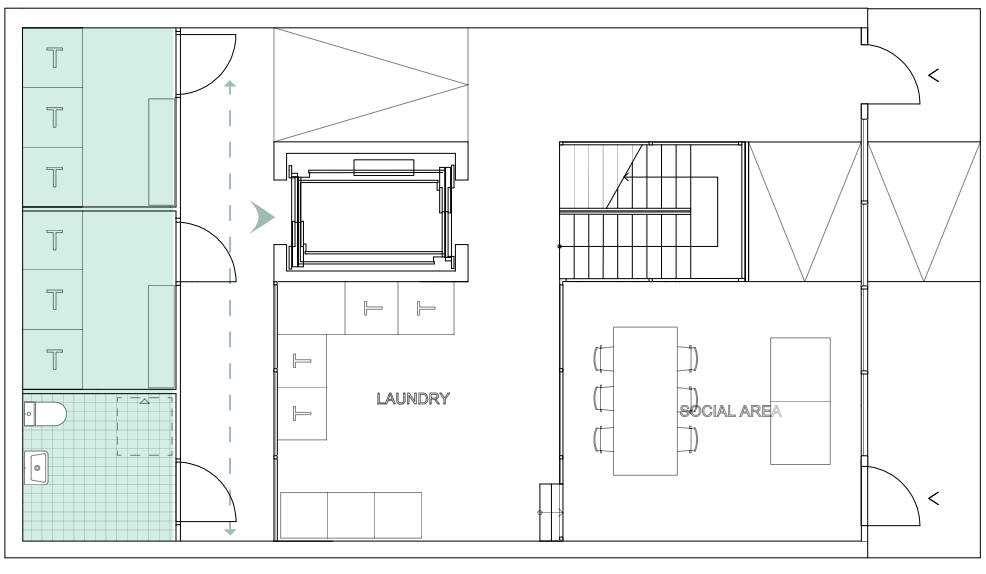
Integrated social area

To reconnect to the earlier stated intention regarding the laundry area, to encourage people to spend time within the area while they are doing their laundry, a social area is placed between the external corridor and the washing machines. The two spaces are framed as a coherent unit by an increased ceiling height and transparent walls.



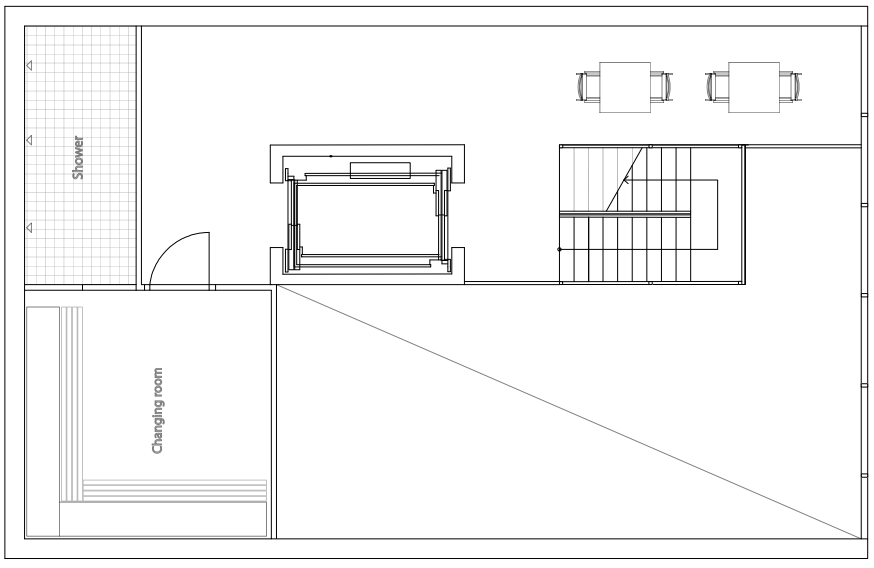
Individual laundry area

Towards the backside of the building, a more traditional layouted laundry area is located, accessible by the double entranced elevator. The area is connected to the buildings overall private circulation sequence. This area is suitable for people who want to utilize the washing machines but who have no intentions to be a part of the social community.

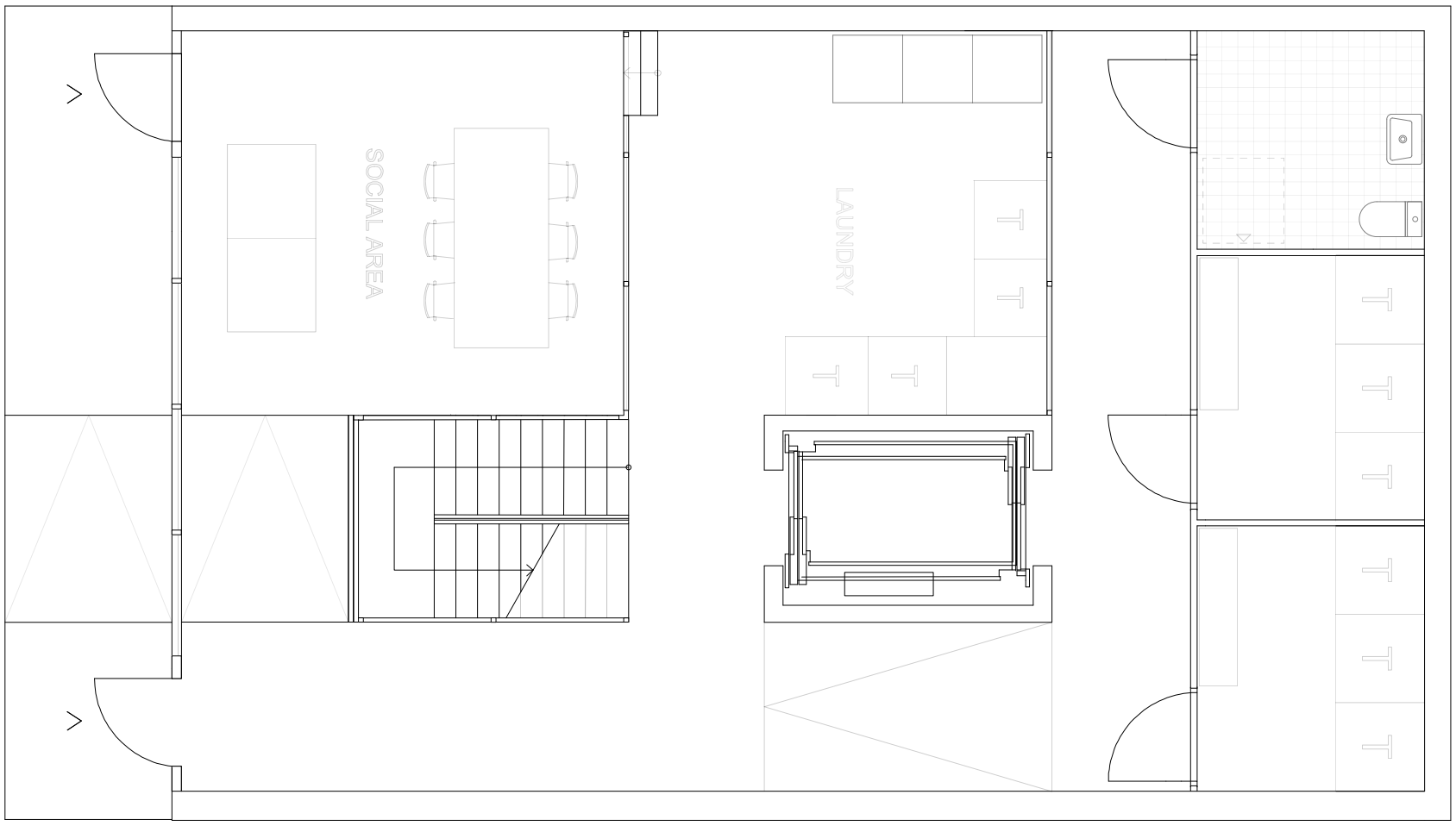


Changing rooms on second floor plan

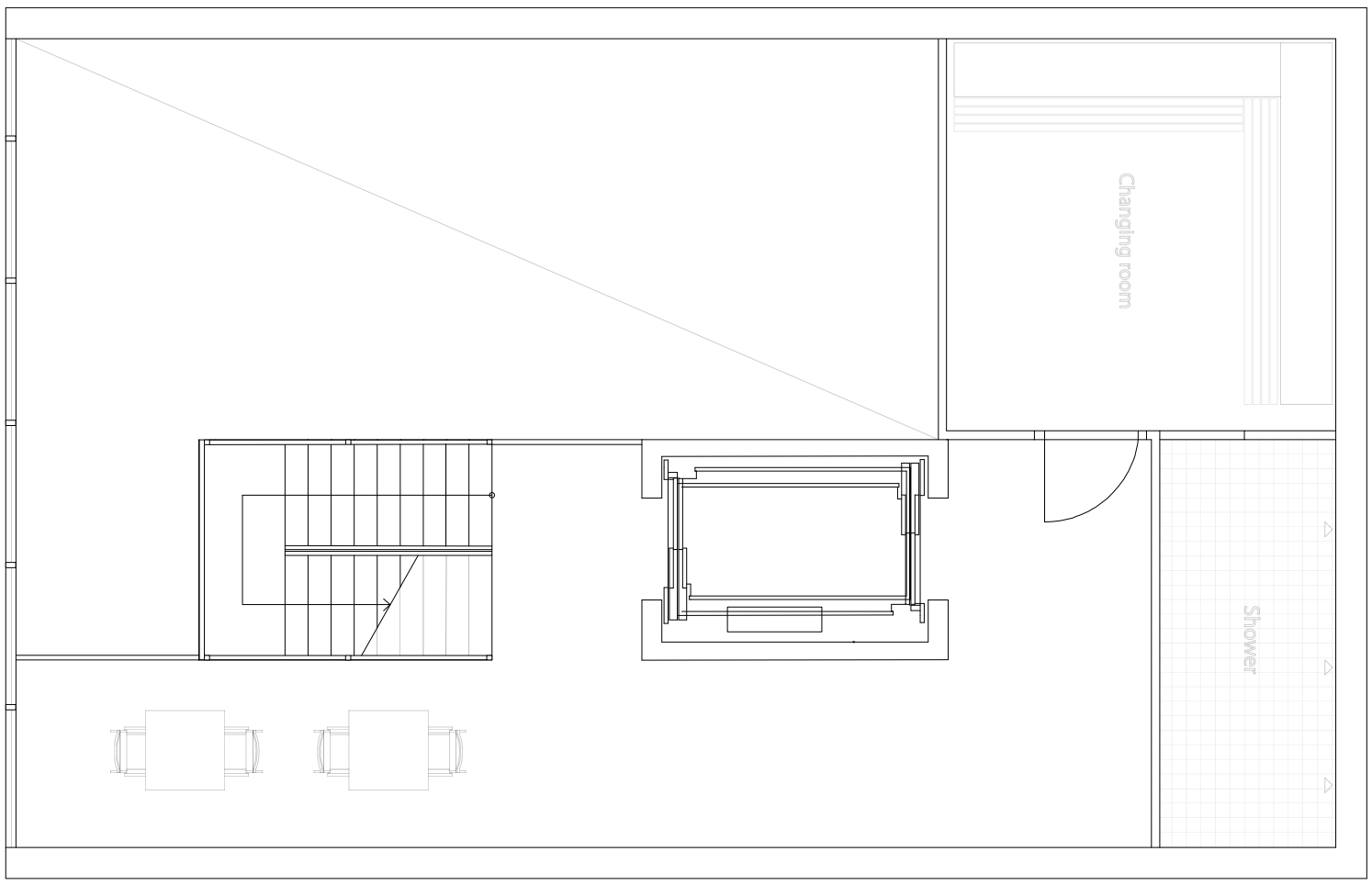
People who do not wish to socialize could use the workshop and changing room, both in close prixomity, while doing their laundry. A small seating area is located on the second floor, also to accomodate people who wish to read or perhaps study without taking part of the social context.



Plans laundry area 1:200



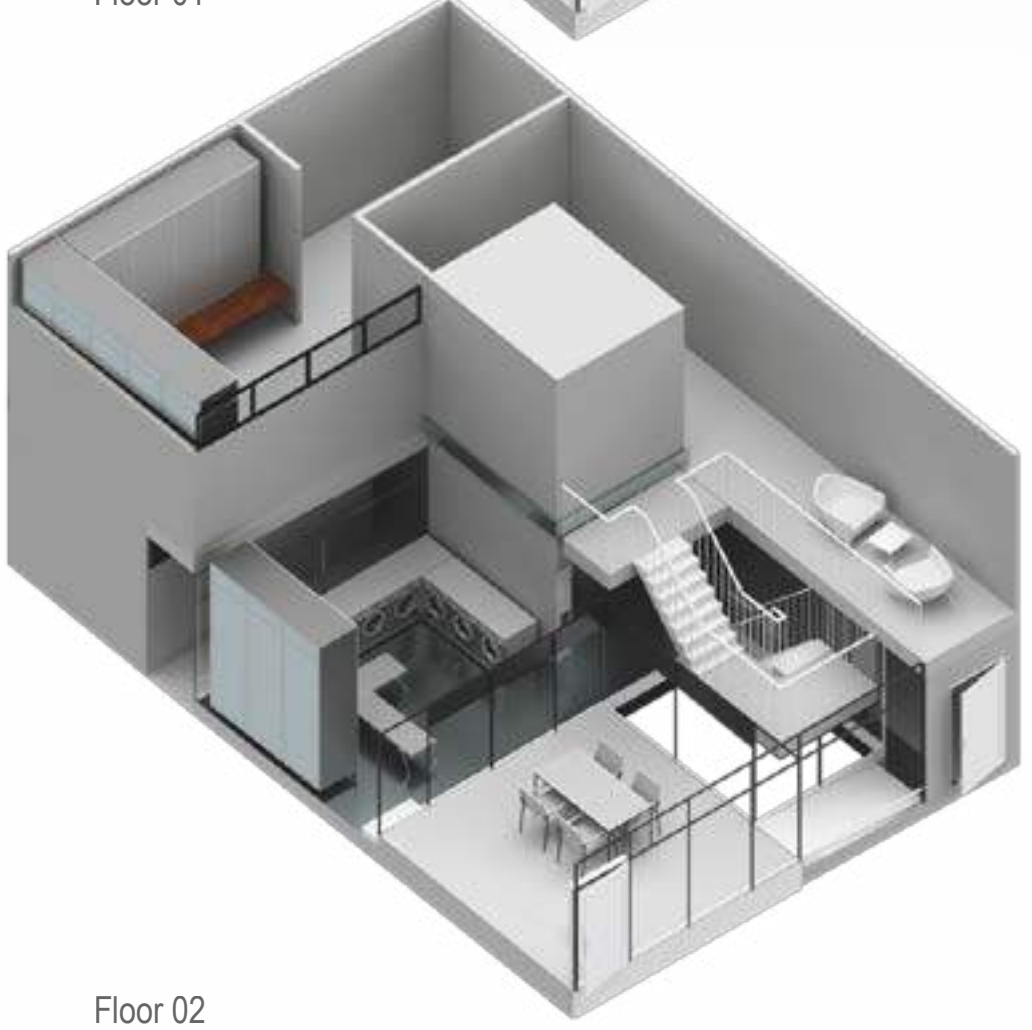
Floor plan 1



Floor plan 2

Axonometric view laundry area

Floor 01

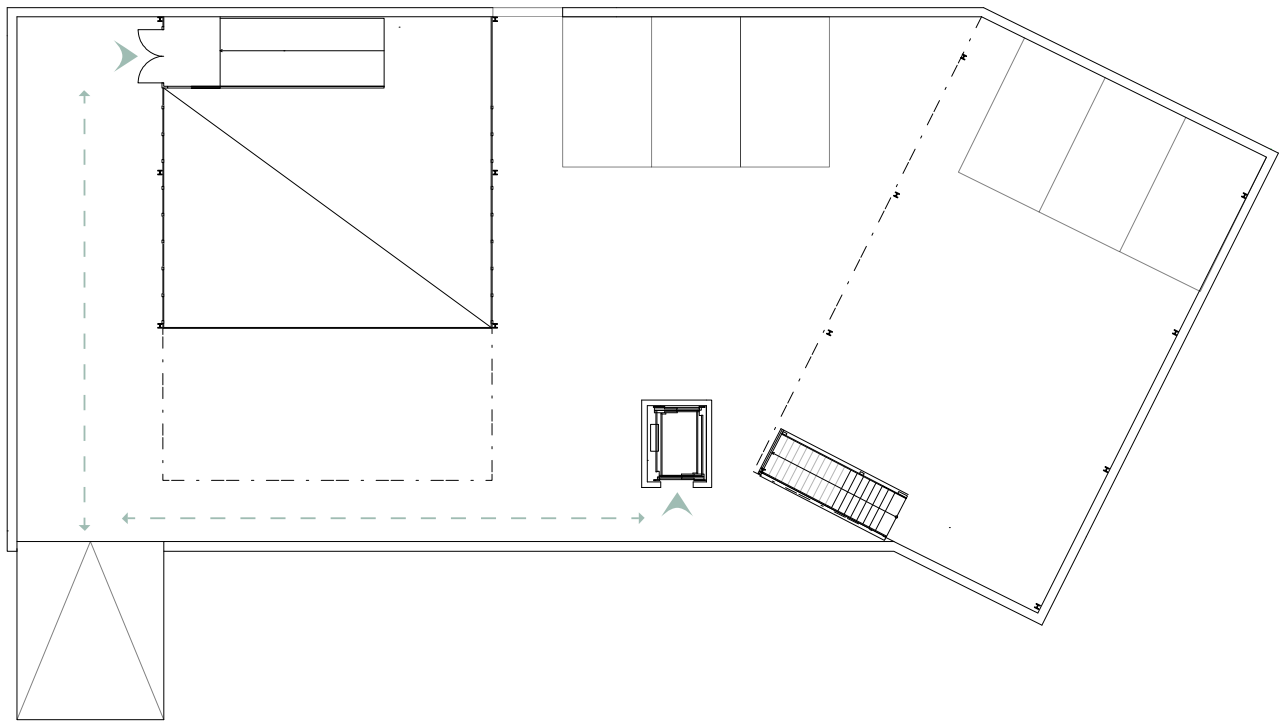


Floor 02

Zoning diagram workshop area

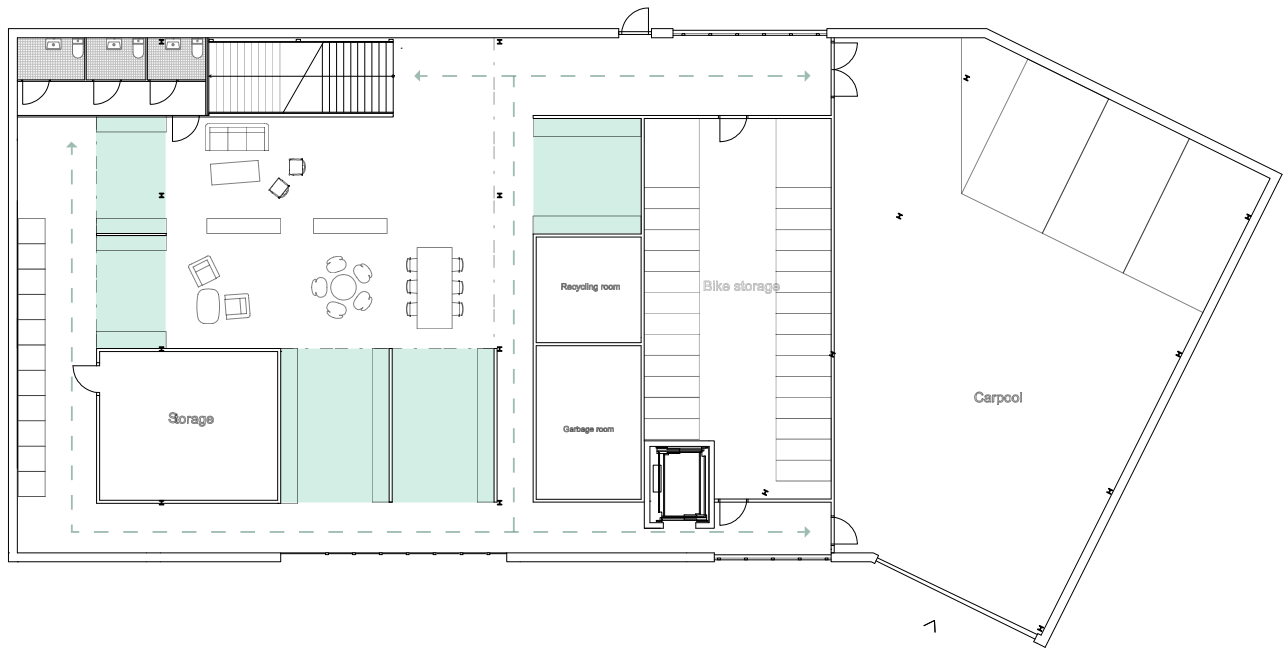
Entrance via the top garage floor

The workshop area is accessible from Volrat Thamsgatan via the top floor of the garage. After entering from the existing ramp, it is possible to either utilize the external elevator or the staircase. Further circulation toward both building volumes is also possible from the area.



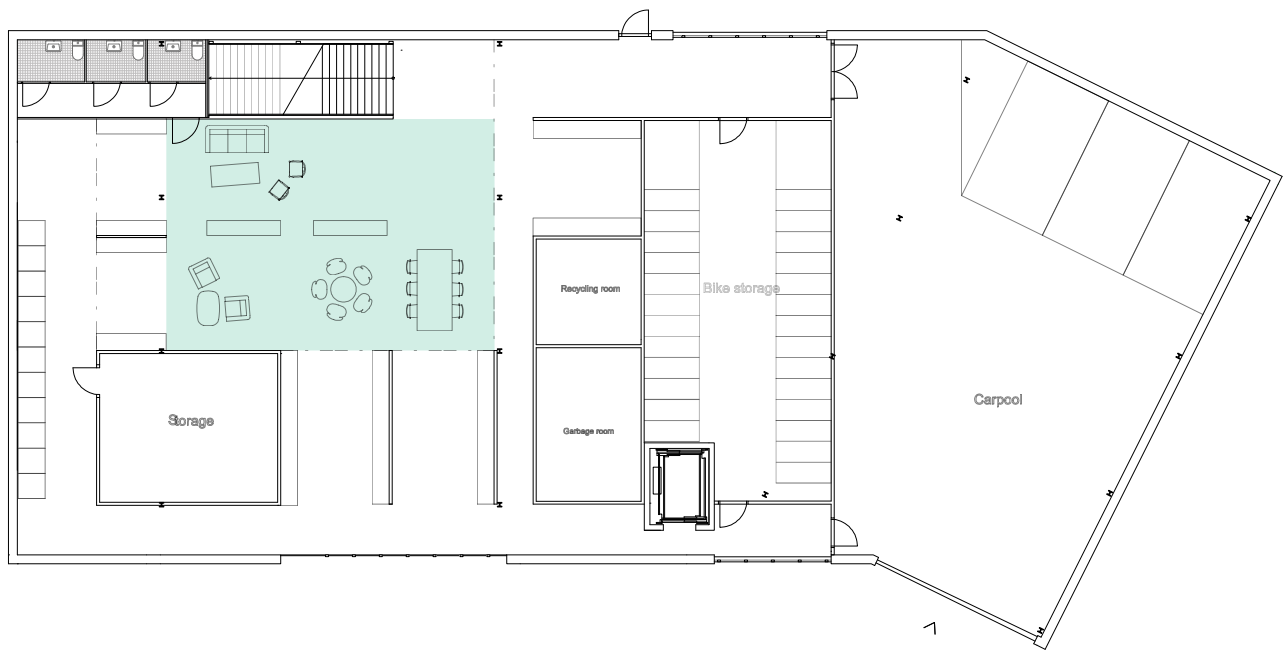
Work stations

Work stations, where tenants can fix or produce their own work, are arranged together with the periphery circulation pattern. As you move alongside the facade to find a suitable place to work, you are not exposed to other people in the area. If you want to work in private for any reason, it is possible.

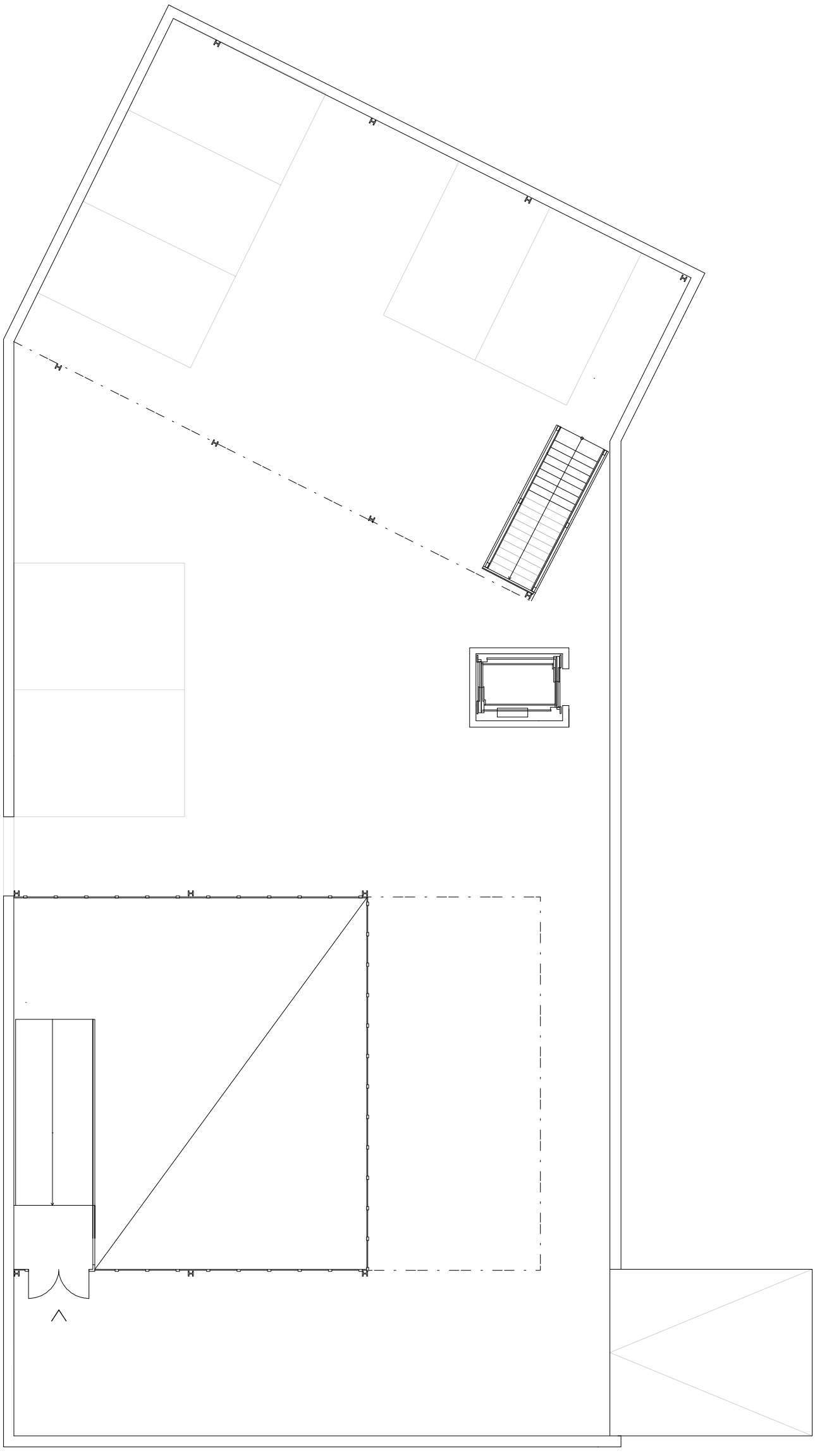


Centered social area

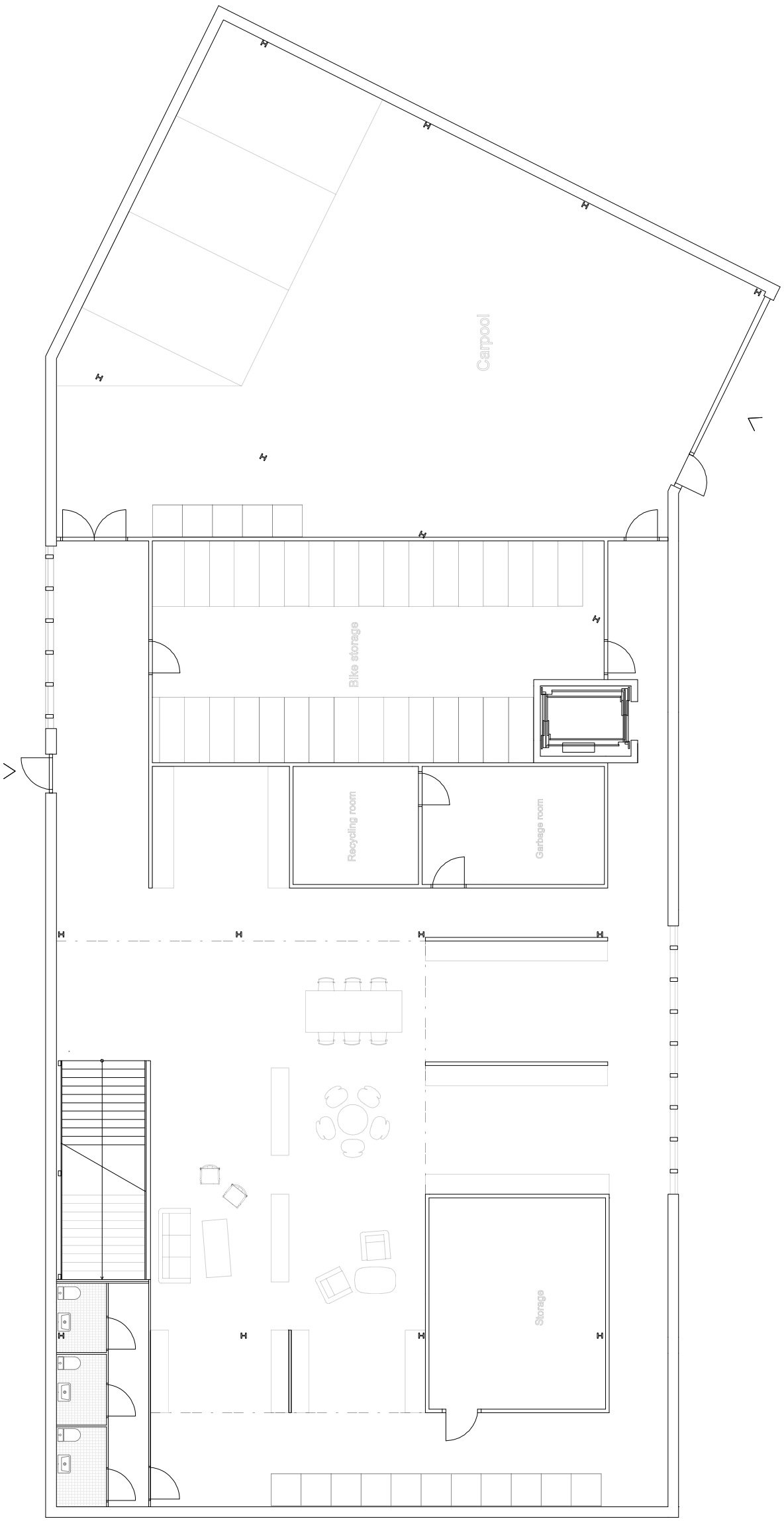
A social space in located in the center of the area. When people want to take a break form their own work, they can spend time socializing here. Other people working will see that you have entered and can then choose to join you. The layout intends, like the other shared spaces, to accommodate both people who wish to take part in the social community, and those who just want to use the facility in private.



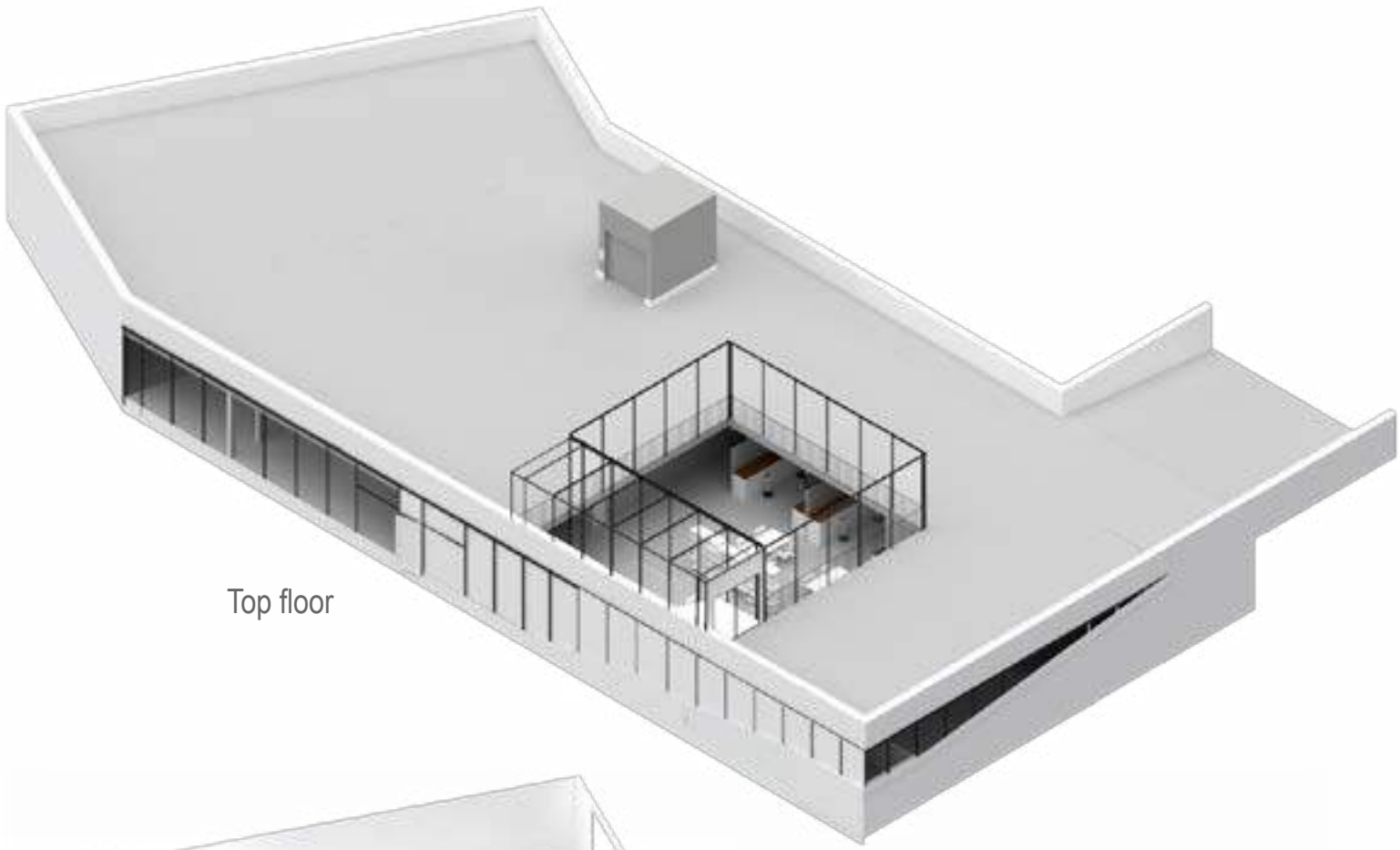
Top floor plan workshop 1:200



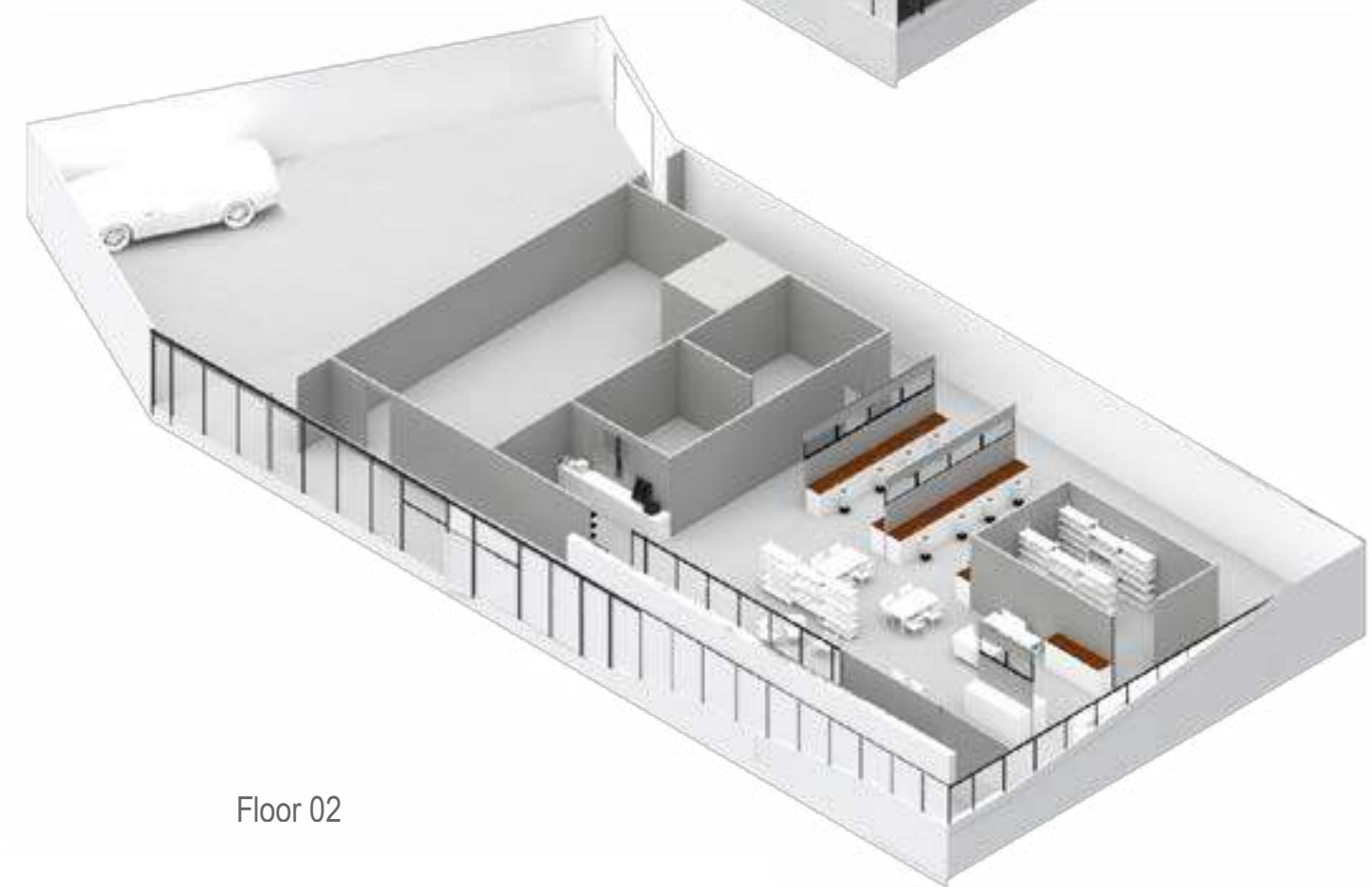
Plan workshop 1:200



Axonometric view workshop



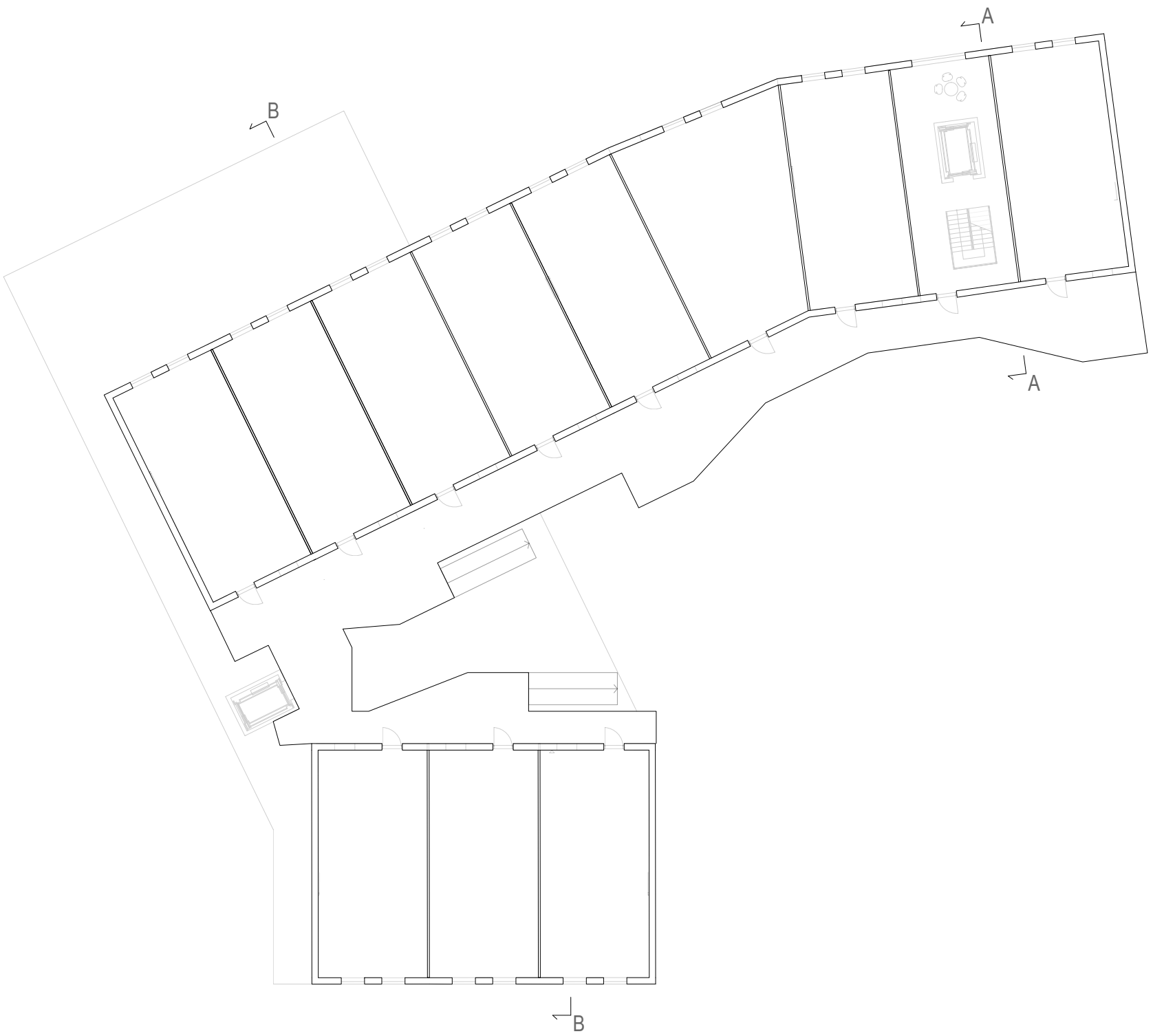
Top floor



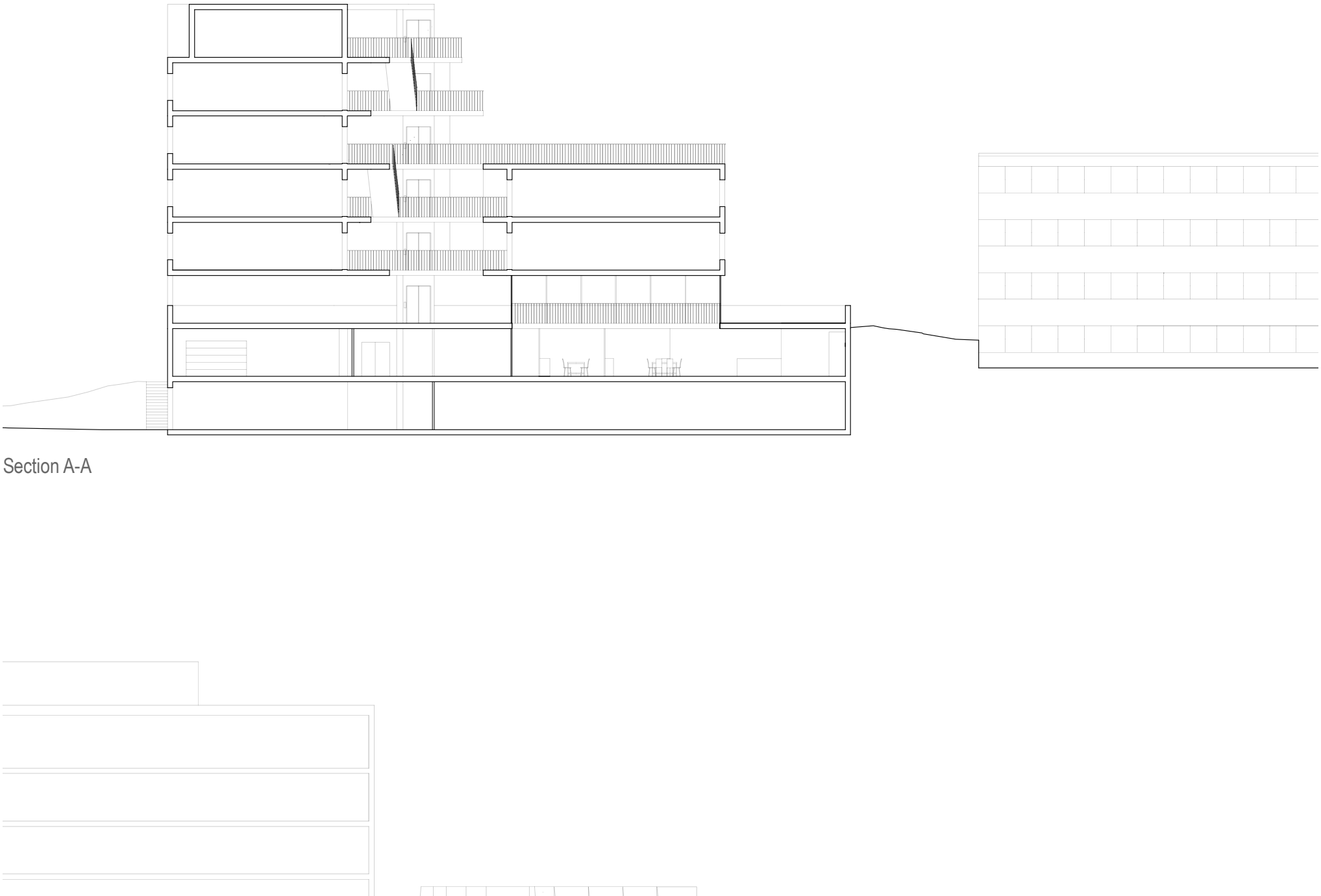
Floor 02

8. Drawings

Floor plan 1:400



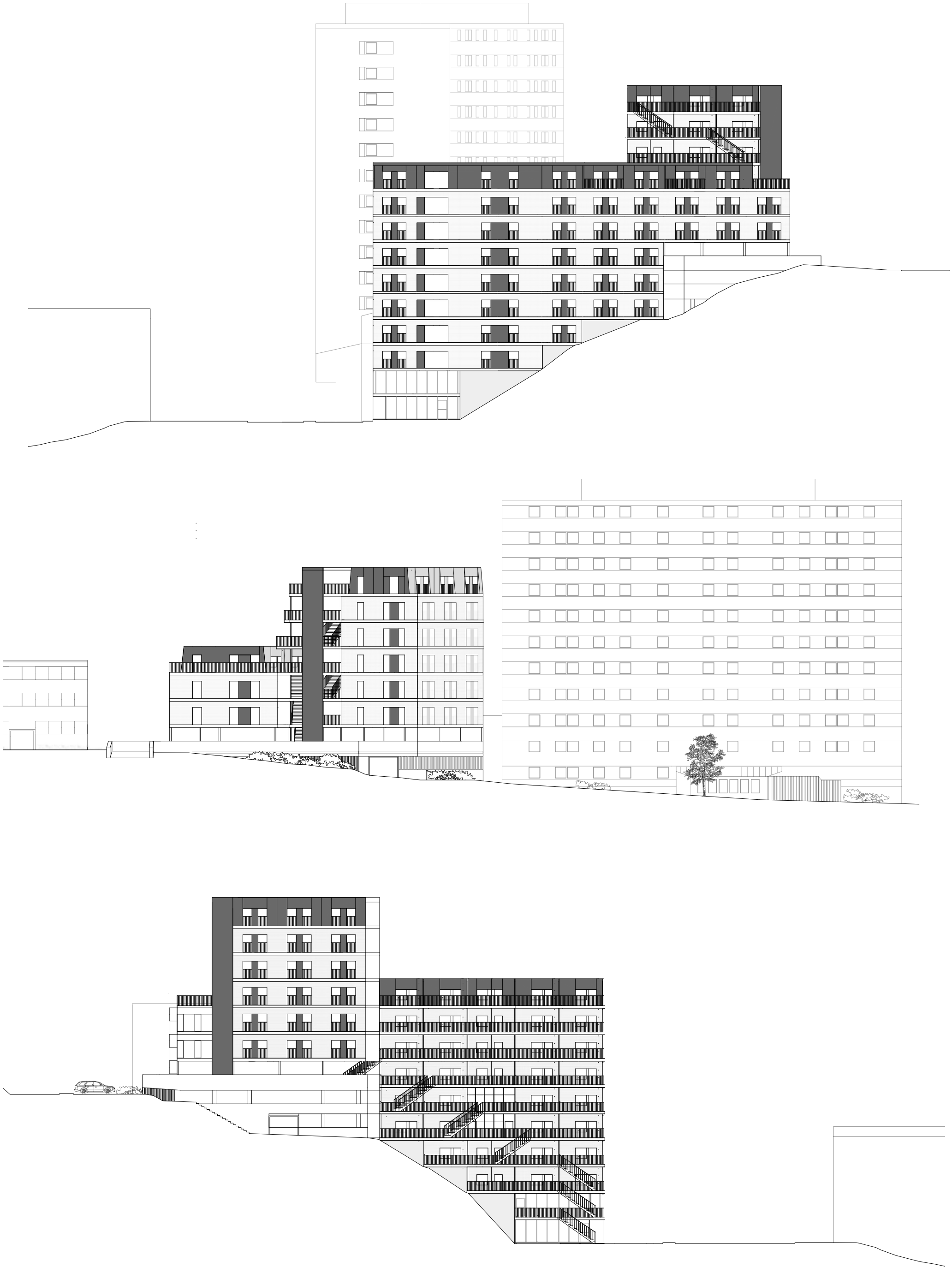
Section cuts 1:400



Section A-A

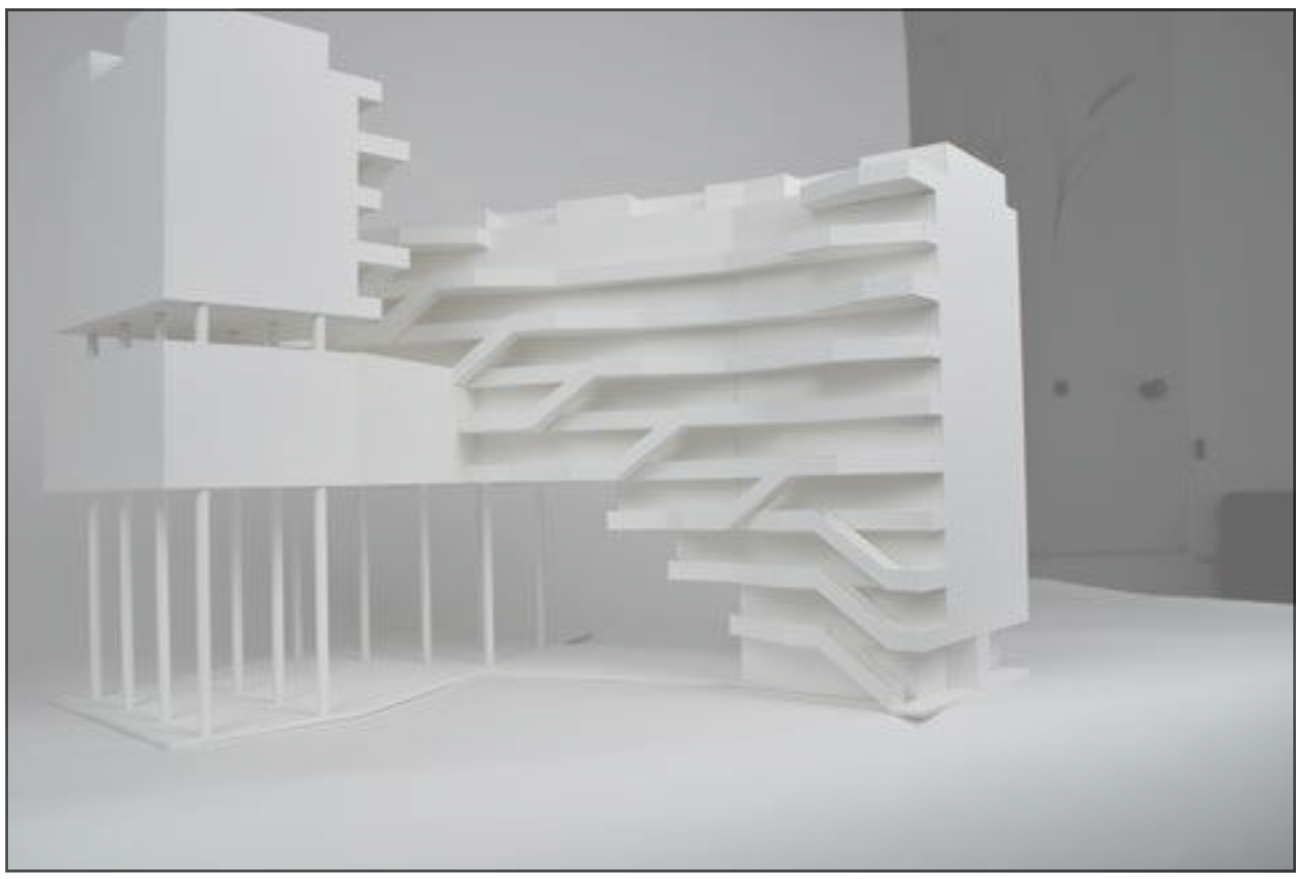
Section B-B

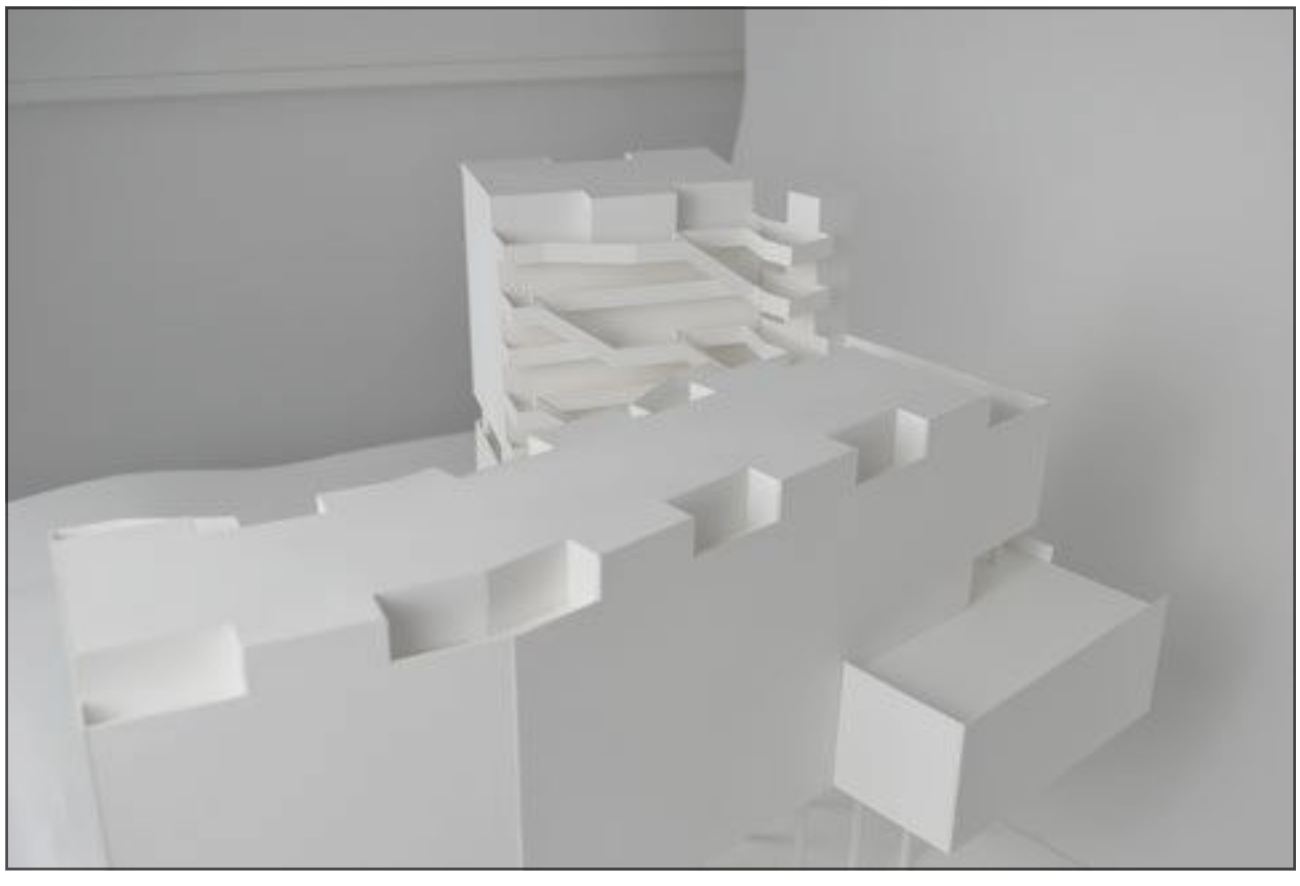
Facade drawings 1:500

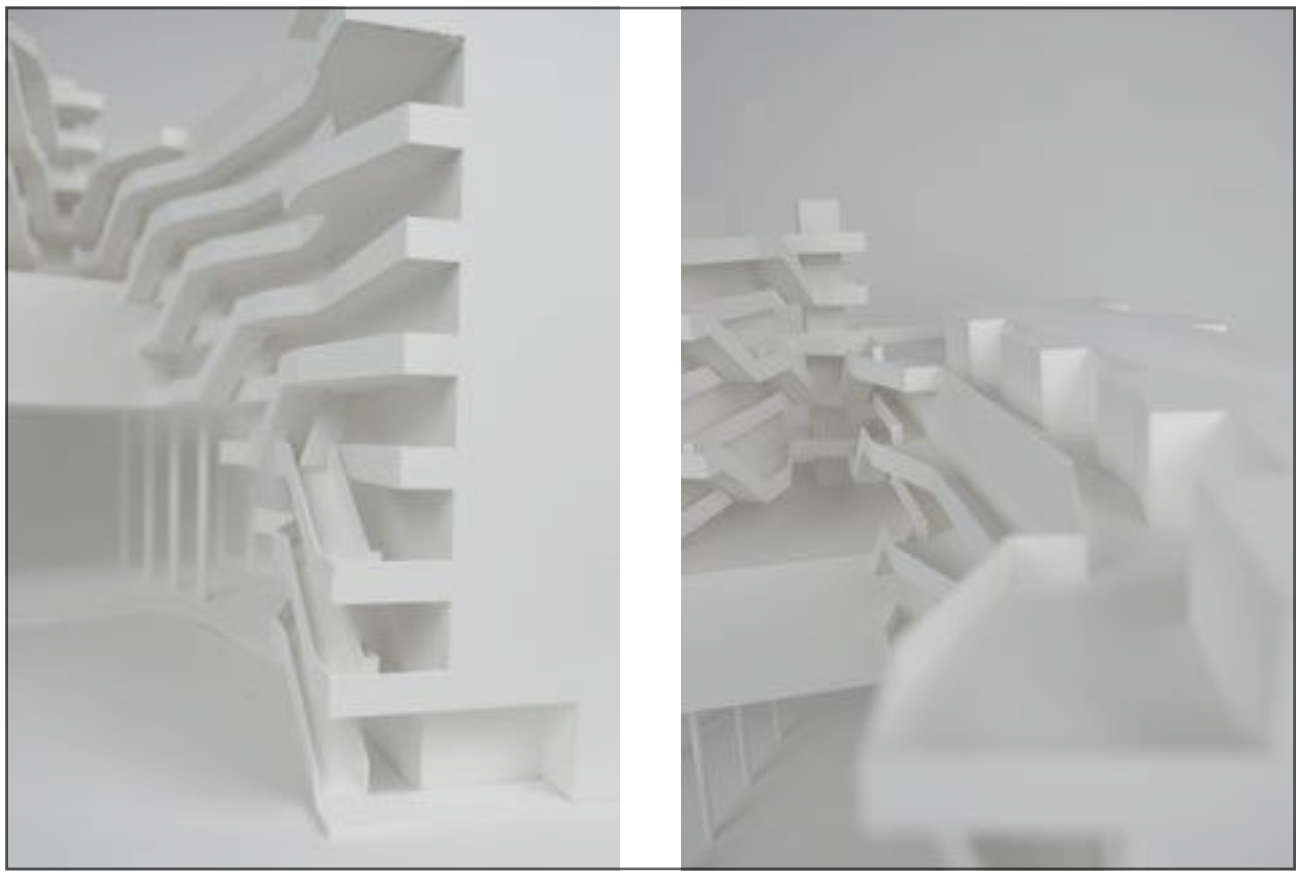


Building overview

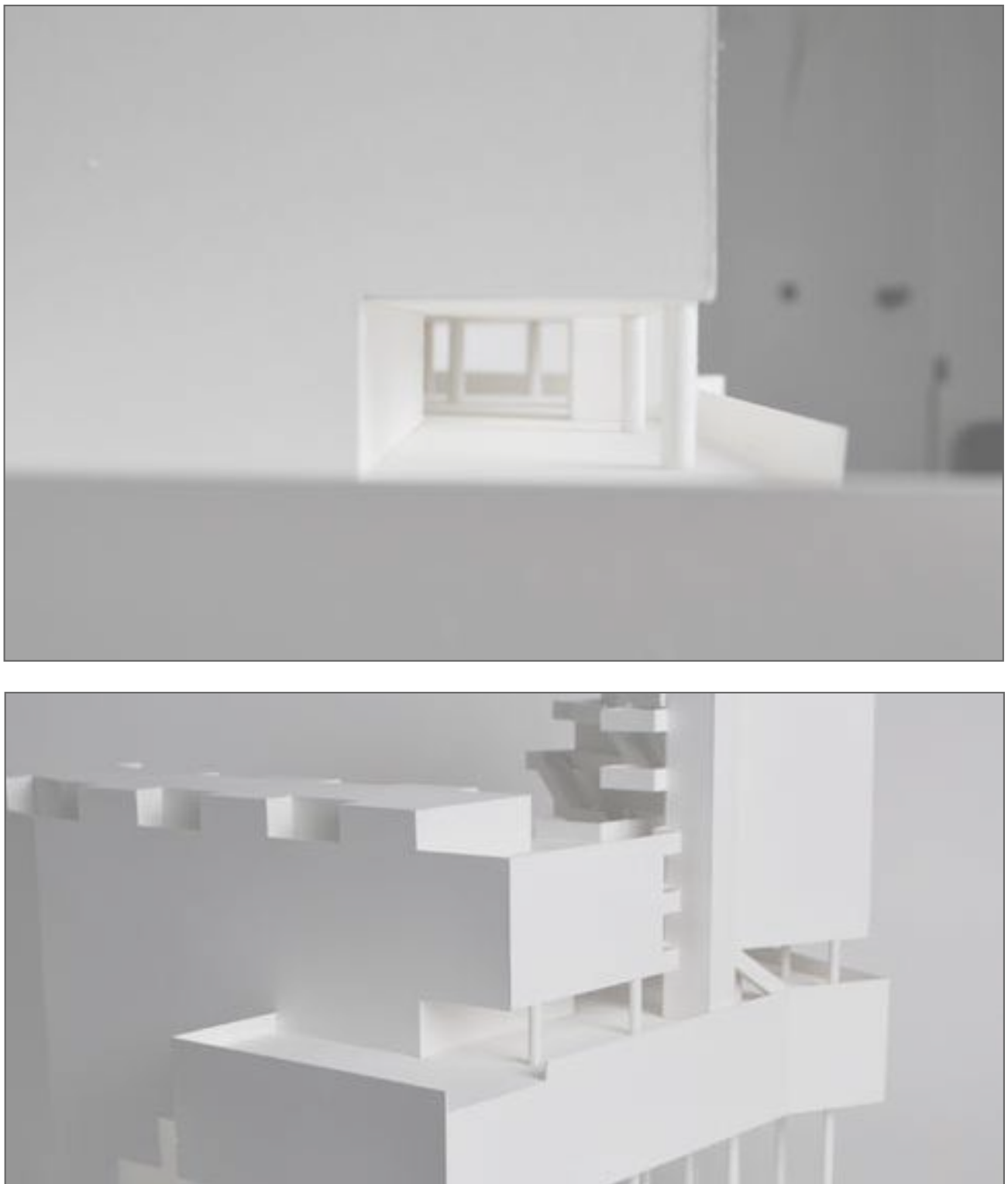
Physical model

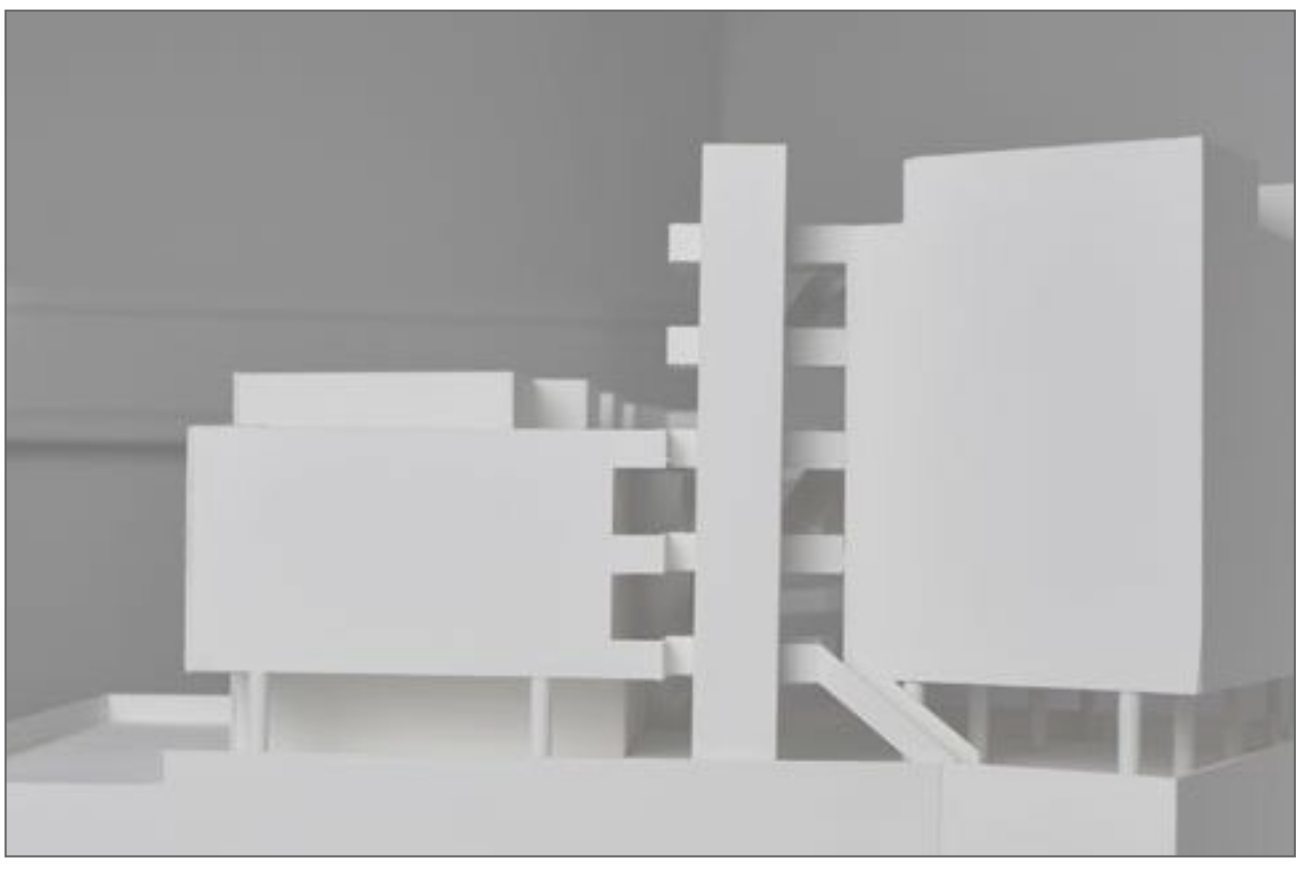






Physical model





9. Conclusions

Results / findings - reconnecting to the thesis question

How can the individual tenant be given the choice to what degree he / she want to be a part of the social community while performing activities within the shared space?

Options for the tenant to be in control of the level of exposure to the social community while being within the shared space can be achieved by scaling areas, by providing different spatial characteristics and by providing different circulation sequences.

Areas of different scale
Social areas accessible by many people, which are communicated to be directed to a subgroup of tenants can provide the combination between participation in the social context and the familiarly of a local context. The balconies that latches on to the external corridors are mainly directed towards the neighbors in close proximity, but as other people are passing by it is possible that spontaneous meetings appear.

Spatial characteristics
By directing an open space towards the facade, where the circulation also takes place, the character will be inviting and social . Small variations in elevations will provide subtile barriers that highlights shifts in character.

Circulation sequences
People who pass by the shared activities via the circulation path can spontaneously take part in the social community that is centered around a day-to-day activity. As the shared spaces must be accessible by tenants who has no intent to socialize, a more private circulation path does resolve the issue.

• *How can the chosen focus areas be developed and designed so that new interactive relationships between functions can be formed?*

By addressing the core activities that an existing room program is constituted from, the possibilities to revalue and combine them becomes easier. As an example, the workshop is made up of a series of events that can require different levels of participation with others. The actual work process, where people might want to be in a private setting, is confined to a smaller space. The inevitable need to rest when working with physical labor is placed in a more open setting where you are exposed visually to all the others in the area. People can therefore to a certain degree, by where they position them self in the space, communicate to others if they are interested in socializing or not.

Reflections and addition to a wider discourse

Reflections

The case study provided viable additions when the building phase was initiated. As they constituted of concrete examples, the meeting between the specific requirement by the design of the shared areas as well as the site, gave interesting results.

Addition to a wider discourse

The projects addition to a wider discourse lies within how it progressed, from the in-depth studies of scenarios to the application on site. The architectural references from the case study and how they were merged with the studies of specific scenarios is a good way of developing a project on many scales at the same time. By formulating intents of specific situations from a usability perspective, the design of the architectural spaces that partially were derived from the reference projects got input from several directions. This way of working pushed the final design of the building past traps of uninteresting conventions.

Fin.

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