

A new Dornerplatz Ein neuer Dornerplatz an elevated residential structure that includes refugees and locals

ausgeführt zum Zwecke der Erlangung
des akademischen Grades eines
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eine erhöhte Wohnanlage,
die Flüchtlinge sowie die
Lokalbevölkerung integriert

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Abstract DE

Ziel dieses Projektes ist es, ein flexibles Konzept zu erzeugen, welches den zukünftigen Generationen von Städten und deren Einwohnern zu Gute kommen soll. Das Wort „flexibel“ ist dabei im Sinn einer Anpassungsfähigkeit an unvermeidbare Entwicklungen zu verstehen: soziologische, ökonomische und ökologische Veränderungen, Völkerwanderungen und demografische Wandel im Allgemeinen.

Anfänglich war die einzige Bestrebung eine Flüchtlingsunterkunft zu planen – nicht zuletzt aufgrund der aktuellen tragischen Ereignisse, sondern auch, weil das Thema leider nie an Aktualität zu verlieren scheint.

Während der Rechercharbeiten bin ich allerdings zu dem Schluss gekommen, dass es im Großen und Ganzen nicht allzu wirksam wäre, ein weiteres Gebäude für nur eine bestimmte Gruppe von Menschen zu entwerfen. Der neue Gedanke wurde also, ein System zu konstruieren, welches sowohl die Lokalbevölkerung („Uns“) als auch Migranten („Die Anderen“) mit einbezieht, um die bereits sehr präsente Differenzierung

dieser beiden Gruppen zu reduzieren. Dies soll der Öffentlichkeit helfen, eine neue, offenere und einheitlichere Sicht der Dinge zu erlangen.

Die Struktur an sich sollte sich erweitern, verkleinern und verändern lassen – kurz: Sie muss fähig sein sich den gesellschaftlichen Anforderungen anzupassen.

Der dafür gewählte Ort befindet sich in Wien – genauer am Dornierplatz im 17. Gemeindebezirk. Dieser Platz ist deshalb sehr passend, da er schon länger bekannt für seine sozialen Projekte ist und bereits (nur teilweise realisierte) Umbauarbeiten hinter sich hat. Die Idee ist es, die Fläche weiterhin für die Öffentlichkeit zugänglich zu halten, indem die Bebauung darüber stattfindet: Während noch mehr Gemeinschaftsraum kreiert wird, involviert der Bau ebenso Studentenzimmer, Einzel- und Paarwohnungen, Familien- und Wohngemeinschaftseinheiten. Dabei spielt es keine Rolle, ob die Bewohner Österreicher, Europäer, usw., oder eben Flüchtlinge sind. Jede Einheit kann durch strukturelle Interventionen in eine andere Einheit umgeändert werden, sollte der demografische Wandel dies verlangen.

Abstract E

The intention of this project is to create a flexible concept for the future generations of cities and their inhabitants. The word “flexible” is used in a sense of adaptability to certain inevitable developments, such as sociological shifts, economic and ecological changes, migration of peoples and demographic changes in general.

In the mere beginning, the aim was to plan a refugee home. Not least due to recent developments and their ever increasing impact, but also because this topic is, unfortunately, always relevant.

During the research, however, I have come to the conclusion that, in the grand scheme of things, it would be ineffective to plan another building for just one certain group of people. The new goal is to construct a system that involves the local population (“Us”) as well as migrants (“Them”) to diminish the already existent differentiation

and to help create a unified public viewpoint. The structure itself needs to be expandable, shrinkable and changeable – in short: it must respond to the public’s needs.

The site in question for this practical concept is in Vienna, more precisely Dörnerplatz in the 17th district. This square was chosen since it already has a small history of social projects and (only partly implemented) constructional measures. The idea is to leave the court open to the public by building a structure above it – thus creating even more communal space, while also providing student housing, single or couple units, family units and flat sharing – regardless of whether the inhabitants are Austrian, European or non-European refugees.

Every unit can be interchanged through some structural intervention, if the demographic developments ask for it.

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one

Introduction

The motivation of planning a building for refugees stems from the following two convictions:

First of all, just like a lot of people I have witnessed the masses of Syrians who were stranded at train stations for days in 2015. The refugee crisis became an everyday topic. Many young people who had spare time started working voluntarily with organisations and helping to organise and distribute goods. Different groups within the social media have been created to inform the population about which goods they could donate at what places. Each day there would be posts about shortages of winter clothing, groceries and even water bottles. Mostly, people were extraordinarily struck by the images they saw when visiting the affected locations. Refugees were lying on the cold ground of the train station, without any future perspective, therefore desperate to finally end their exhausting journey. The most dreadful part was the knowledge that even if they arrived to Vienna, it would probably take plenty of time for them to have a 100 % certainty of what was going to happen with them.

The second motive is based on a more personal motivation: I was born in Sarajevo as a “Bosnian Muslim” shortly before the aggression on that very city and the country. For my father has taken up a position as a lecturer in Public Law abroad, my parents decided to go on a trip with many stops throughout Europe first, to arrive to Helsinki finally, where he received a research scholarship.. Supposedly, we were amongst the last people to have crossed the Bosnian border before it was bombarded. We have just arrived to Vienna when we got the devastating news.

By accident, my parents, my sister and me (although we were too young to understand any of it) became refugees.

For the longest time of my life I was not really aware of that fact, but as I was growing up and beginning to truly understand the horrendous events which happened and are still going on in other places, I began to ask questions: How did my parents manage to cope with the stress and two small children in a foreign country? How did they learn the language? Did they receive any kind of help from the authorities? Did they know their rights? How do you live with the uncertainty about friends and family back in the war-torn region? Where did we live? There are many more questions to be asked when it comes to such a severe topic.

Of course, I have never seen myself as a tragic figure, which people tend to do with refugees. My siblings and I are excellent examples of well functioning integration. Additionally, people are surprised when I tell them I am not Austrian. But at the same time, while doing the research, I recognised myself in more phenomena than I would have expected. I have never thought of myself as a “foreigner”, but then again, it is rarely yourself who decides about alterity. It is always the other persons’ decision. On these grounds – being an “alien” and because the differentiation between “Them” and “Us” is one of the roots of any conflict, this project is an attempt to reduce that point of view through a construction which houses everyone. After all, direct contact and becoming acquainted with unfamiliarities is the best way to diminish fear and hatred.

two

Situation

2.1 Research

DO WE REALLY NEED ANOTHER REFUGEE HOME?!

Yes. And no.

We live in a political time full of fear. The fear of terrorism, the fear of certain religious groups, the fear of others taking away what we see as ours. One would expect that in times of so many emotions, you would try to stay calm and think about everything rationally, but a lot of politicians take advantage of the populations' fears—especially when it comes to refugees. The word refugee has become a synonym for Muslims in the media. We refer to “Us” on the one side, and “Them” on the other. “We” are afraid of “Their” extremism and actions. It is “Us” versus “Them”.

Not only the United States of America should be examined more closely - of course, the debate about discrimination in the USA is subject to a lot of criticism at the moment. But we cannot assume that the Europeans are not to blame either. We just have to look at our own states and the last elections with their top-candidates: Theresa May in Great Britain, Marine LePen in France, Norbert Hofer in Austria. It is, of course, soothing that not all of them have won, but we must not forget that a big part of the population in the respective countries was seriously considering voting for them and what they stand for.

The way I see it, one of the many jobs of architecture is to take on all those fears and create structures that not only show but prove that these extreme assumptions about “Them” are mainly prejudices. It is possible for

all of us to live together, even though we have different cultural and religious backgrounds. Now one could argue that there is already enough space that is not being used and which could be reused temporarily. When you think about it this way, a new building, that does not only put refugees in a building with some social workers, but also with certain groups of the non-migrant population could bring that message across: Breaking down the barriers between “Us” and “Them” through a different, no longer segregating concept of refugee accommodation might ameliorate some aspects related to discrimination and racism in the context of a refugee crisis.

In fact, there is no doubt that we have a crisis concerning the growing number of people all around the world. Europe got a taste of a fast influx of people in 2015. In this year, especially, a large number of refugees arrived in Europe. Inhabitants of the major cities, e.g. Vienna, can surely remember people sleeping in train stations, organisations like the Caritas asking for groceries, clothing, etc. Many people helped as volunteers at that time.

Since then, the situation seems to have calmed down, but it is still a crisis. We still live in a place and time where human beings are in need of not only beds to sleep in and roofs above their heads but homes—a place to overcome the struggles connected to the journeys and traumatic experiences.

Only in Austria, the numbers of asylum applications have grown from 234.680 applicants

in 2005 to 1.322.830 applicants in 2015 (being the peak year so far). The top states of origin being Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq¹, it is clear that these people are not coming here by choice but by force. Not only do we have a responsibility as fellow human beings to help, but a legally binding obligation according to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In article 14 it says:

"Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution."²

So, one can very well argue that new structures are needed. Not just temporary structures that will decay once the stream of people stops. Not just reused old spaces, that nobody else is interested in on the borders of big cities. But new ones, new homes for people who are in need of a calm place, that makes them feel welcome at last.

There is a part of the population that screams that we treat foreigners better than the local population. It is to be pointed out that big cities like Vienna are the main destinations and therefore tend to be overcrowded. January 2017 was overloaded with 126 % of all asylum seekers³—while the rest of Austria could have done even more. At the same time, it is completely normal for a big city like Vienna to have a lot of people and movement. The housing market has always been tight, especially for students and people with smaller incomes. Housing is always needed in European cities like Vienna, Berlin, Munich, Innsbruck, etc., especially because of the Universities in these locations. Every year the cities have to cope with new students arriving, looking for apartments, while not all of those who finished their studies move away. Of course, the city can not build as many new apartments as are needed, therefore the prices go up, and space becomes scarce. So building new buildings will not only help refugees but also groups of the local population who can not continue their lifestyle due to annual price increases. From this particular point of view, it makes only little sense to build homes for

refugees only, because the locals would profit too. Everyone wins.

FIRST OF ALL: HOW DOES INTEGRATION EVEN WORK?

This topic is dividable into two parts: there is a bureaucratic-political type and a social type for integration. Although they are certainly connected and overlap to some extent, I think that the separation is necessary to fully understand the complexity of the subject. Peculiarly since it is not a "static point" but a "dynamic trajectory".⁴

The ultimate goal is to socially integrate the arriving people. But to understand this process, it is essential to have an insight into the political instruments as well.

A) Political Integration

In Austria, the request for asylum is taken directly by a police officer or a police department. The asylum procedure is divided into **two parts**: First of all there is an **admission procedure** ("Zulassungsverfahren"). The authorities examine if the Austrian Republic is responsible for the procedure. This first step should not take longer than 20 days.⁵ Whilst waiting for the decision, the asylum seekers get registered and distributed in so-called distribution centres ("Verteilerzentren"), which are spread out all over Austria. Sometimes they even stay there for a longer period of time.⁶ If Austria is bound to take care, the asylum seeker is provided with shelter in one of the states, which is now responsible for the "Grundversorgung" (primary care including accommodation, food, health insurance, medical care and pocket money⁷). At the same time, the request is

4 Doug Saunders: Arriving on the edge: migrant districts and the architecture of incursion, in: Peter Cachola Schmal/ Oliver Elser/Anna Scheuermann (Eds.): Making Heimat. Germany, Arrival Country. Ostfildern 2016. p. 22.

5 Verein Menschenleben: Asyl in Österreich. URL: <<https://www.menschen-leben.at/asyl/asyl-in-osterreich/>> [8.11.2017]

6 Ruth Schöffl/Marie-Claire Sowinetz: Flucht und Asyl in Österreich—die häufigsten Fragen und Antworten. Online pdf at: URL: <<https://www.lsr-stmk.gv.at/de/documents/UNHCR-QA-2015-FINAL.pdf>> [8.11.17] p. 7.

7 W2eu.info: Rights and benefits during the asylum procedure in Austria. URL: <<http://www.w2eu.info/austria>>

1 Stadt Wien: Flüchtlinge, Asyl und Grundversorgung. Grafiken und Daten zu Wien, Österreich und der EU. Online pdf at: URL: <https://fluechtlinge.wien.gv.at/site/files/2017/03/FSW-Fakten-Fluechtlinge_2017-2.pdf> p. 5. [21.03.2017].

2 United Nations: <<http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>> [13.10.2017]

3 Stadt Wien 21.3.17, p.4.

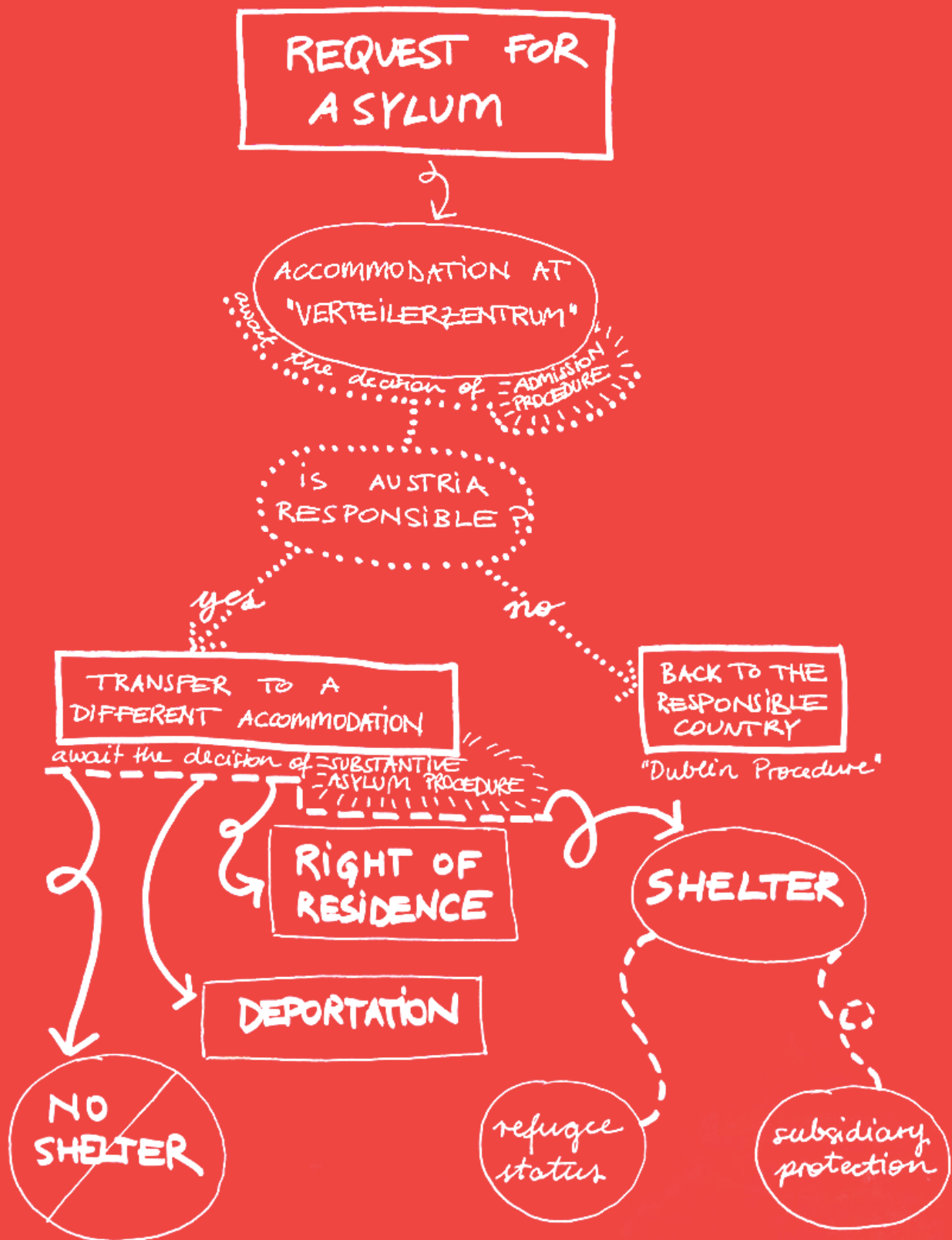


Fig. 2.01: Process of asylum seeking in Austria

transmitted to the Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum (Bundesamt für Fremdenwesen und Asyl), where the second part - the **substantive asylum procedure** ("inhaltliches Verfahren") - takes place. During this process, the most important part is to inspect the reasons for fleeing the home country. Once that is done, the migrants get one of the following statuses:⁸

NO SHELTER

If no evidence can be found for existing dangers or violations of the human rights in the home country, the application is denied.⁹

DEPORTATION

If the seeker does not object to the negative decision within two weeks, he or she will be deported. An objection is not a guarantee for not being deported and deportation can be forced if the seeker does not leave the country voluntarily.¹⁰

SHELTER

An asylum seeker gets the status of a refugee if the procedure shows that he or she is persecuted in their home country. With this status, the refugee can stay in Austria and has the same rights as an Austrian. According to the "Non-Refoulement"-policy, a seeker can be granted so-called subsidiary protection if there is an other kind of danger in the home country—an example being civil war.¹¹

RIGHT OF RESIDENCE

Sometimes, asylum seekers can stay in Austria, even if there is no danger in their home country. This is the case if they have been living in Austria for several years, are well integrated, have families here, etc.¹²

This whole process can require up to a year of waiting. 59 % of the people in Vienna who were transmitted to the substantive procedure have been waiting for over a year.¹³ The dilemma is that they have a very limited access to the real job

market until they get a status (shelter-status).¹⁴

If, however, the authorities determine that Austria is not responsible for the procedure, the principles of the "Dublin Regulation" become effective. This means that the asylum seeker came to Austria from another EU country, that—according to the regulation—is responsible for them. If they do not protest against the decision, the seekers are transferred back to the original country that is responsible for the asylum request. This regulation ensures that only one country is responsible for each individual.¹⁵

B) Social Integration

In opposition to the bureaucratic integration, the social integration is not exclusively bound to laws. Although they do have an impact on the social life, there are no clear rules on how to integrate someone. It is a rather individual process and depends on many factors: Am I alone in a foreign country or am I here with my family? How old am I? Do I already know the language or do I have to learn it? Have I gone through traumatizing events? Is the social life of my home country completely different or is the society I grew up in similar to the one in the new country?

As sociologist Friedrich Heckmann says:

*"(...) immigration is a laborious and complex learning process, which for adults entails a new and second socialization. As a rule, integration largely hinges on a person's age on arrival, their level of education and length of stay."*¹⁶

Fortunately, there are some guidelines and proposals that seem to have validity. Since migration has always been an item throughout history, we can certainly look at some examples and learn from them. The main goal for refugees is to have their own apartment, a job, a social life and to secure their future, possibly in the new country.

Before talking about the guidelines, we have to mention the term "Arrival City". This is a part of an already existing city where the population consists mainly of migrants. Sometimes it is a temporary home for them, and sometimes it is long-lasting.

en/articles/austria-living.en.html> [08.09.2017]

8 Schöffl/Sowinetz 8.11.17, p. 7.

9 ibid.

10 ibid.

11 ibid.

12 ibid.

13 Stadt Wien 21.03.2017, p. 3.

14 Schöffl/Sowinetz 8.11.17, p.6.

15 ibid. p.7.

16 Friedrich Heckmann: Interview by Kai Vöckler, in: Cachola Schmal/Elser/Scheuermann (Eds.) 2016, p. 60.

Here, they can have contact to fellow countrymen, who help them get jobs, cheap housing etc.¹⁷ They are “migrant-created urban quarters”.¹⁸

While many people might think that migrants being among themselves is a very problematic thing, it has many advantages for new immigrants in the beginning. It takes away some of the many sources of stress related to immigration: being able to communicate in an already known language, knowing the cultural ways, knowing how to behave. It just helps them to adapt in the new country and it only becomes a problem if this situation is not temporary and there is a lack of contact to the local culture and society, which leads to isolation.¹⁹ But in reality, this is not likely to happen with the “new migrants” who come from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. There are no established communities on an urban level. There were 88.340 requests for asylum in Austria from 2015 to January of 2017.²⁰ Those asylum seekers have been spread across the country and have not had a chance to establish “Arrival Cities” after such a short period of time.

This does not mean that they have no contact to fellow countrymen and -women, just less. And—similar to the situation in Germany—this could help according to Jürgen Friedrichs:

“In this case, they will have little contact with their compatriots, but inevitably more interaction with Germans - which should facilitate integration. These kinds of interactions would improve German attitudes towards the minority.”²¹

The understanding of the Arrival City structures is very important for planning architecture for immigrants. Although not everything can be taken into consideration (since single buildings are not comparable to urban planning on every level) we can certainly learn what is important for the living situation when arriving in an alien country. To sum up, it is important for the migrants to be

(physically) close to fellow countrymen and -women but, at the same time, have enough contact to the local population, because this is truly the only way of adjusting to the new society. On the other hand, the wishes of the local population must not be ignored for the sake of the new inhabitants. They should rather be integrated in the projects, which with their appeal hopefully awake the willingness of the locals to spend their time physically close to the immigrants’ housing spaces.

PROBLEMS WITH INTEGRATION AND HOW TO AVOID THEM

When we look at some examples (like in the case of Slotervaart in Amsterdam²² and the Tower Hamlets in London to some extent²³), we notice an interesting phenomenon: The people who have come to the new city, suddenly become more conservative than they had been in their home countries. They are not complete members of the new society, but also not complete members of the one they left. They try to hold on to traditions from their “old” identity to be able to preserve some of their heritage. The reasons in both cases can be tracked back to the fact that they did not leave those “Arrival Cities”, an outcome that is not ideal for their integration. Usually, migrants—if they decide to stay in the new countries and are well integrated—want to own property. This is one of the signs of successful integration.

A similar phenomenon can be observed in Kreuzberg in Berlin with people of Turkish origin. There, one quarter of the women who marry, do not get to see their husband until the wedding day—17% of the women even say they were involved in forced marriages. The occurrence of this practice is declining in Turkey, but has undergone a revival in Kreuzberg. The reasons for this are different than the ones in Amsterdam.²⁴

Those reasons will be examined with the examples of Amsterdam and Berlin.

As we learned earlier, a main factor for failure of integration is **ISOLATION**. One of the many examples of a failed Arrival City concerning integration and isolation is **Slotervaart in**

17 Saunders: Arrival City. The Final Migration and Our Next World. Toronto 2011.

18 Saunders in: Cachola Schmal/Elser/Scheuermann (Eds.) 2016, p. 22.

19 Heckmann in: Cachola Schmal/Elser/Scheuermann (Eds.) 2016, p. 62.

20 Stadt Wien 21.03.2017, p. 3.

21 Jürgen Friedrichs: *The arrival city and the integration of migrants*, in: Cachola Schmal/Elser/Scheuermann (Eds.) 2016, p. 82.

22 Saunders 2011, p. 474-475.

23 *ibid.*, p. 57.

24 *ibid.*, p. 397-398.

Amsterdam:

Slotervaart is a suburban quarter of the city Amsterdam. While planning this city in the sixties, the goal was to plan a it with functional division. There were different parts that were for working, living and recreation, respectivley. The city underwent a strict zoning procedure. With all the good intention that was behind the project, it certainly did not go as intended, when Moroccan people began to immigrate.²⁵

*"The quarter has become a dumping ground for migrants, who were completely cut off from the social life."*²⁶

All of this led to a new religious extremism that did not exist in Morocco in this form, and to the migrants' refusal to learn the Dutch language. Not only did the local population move away but the qualified teaching staff did not want to work there either. The inhabitants were caught in a form of existence, that did not qualify them as Dutch, nor as Moroccan.²⁷

Many cities like Slotervaart were neglected by the local government which has shown to lead to failure in the immigration process. Every Arrival City has the potential to either succeed or fail.²⁸

The Dutch district of Slotervaart made an effort to resolve its problems by rethinking the whole architectural and political system. This brought about a lot of changes. An immigrant became borough mayor and from this point on, security on the streets was increased. There were patrols that made sure teenagers would attend schools. At the same time, these made an effort to become better. The patrols combated the gangs and even raids were held in mosques that were preaching hate. The quarter was not administered from "outside" anymore, but by itself. Dutch politicians collaborated with politicians who were former Moroccan villagers.²⁹

But those changes were not only of political nature.

*"The pretty, neat ground plan was past, just like the quiet, wound footpaths. The same went for the green spaces between the buildings. Instead of them there were now noisy market places with a lot of businesses"*³⁰

The strict zoning plan was abolished and made room for mixed use spaces, where people could live, work and spend their free time in a densely populated urban environment. At the same time, flats were planned (apart from the social housing) that were affordable for young Dutch couples and the children and grandchildren of some immigrants. The hope was, to achieve a mixture of cultures by drawing people like artists and young people from the city centre to Slotervaart.³¹

So far, the crime rate has declined, but there are still problems with gangs, poverty and Islamic fundamentalism. Only time will tell if the reorganization was successful or not.³²

An example for **BUREAUCRATIC FAILURE** can be observed at the example of **Kreuzberg in Berlin**.

In contrast to Slotervaart, Kreuzberg seems to be geographically ideal:

*"They are in the city centre, connected to the extended German environment and the economy and have great social service to their disposal."*³³

Still, it did not work out well in terms of integration. It all began in the sixties, when Germany invited Turkish people to come and work as migrant workers ("Gastarbeiter"). There never was any intention to make the Turks settle down in Germany—neither on the part of the Germans nor of the Turks. But the employers had to tutor the new workforce and teach them the most basic language skills, which took quite some time and energy. They also noticed that the workers were less productive when they were away from their families. At the same time Turkish men realized that going back was becoming increasingly difficult, if not impossible. Later, the Turks brought their

25 *ibid.*, p. 472.

26 *ibid.*

27 *ibid.*, p. 473-474.

28 Saunders in: Cachola Schmal/Elser/Scheuermann (Eds.) 2016, p. 22.

29 Saunders 2011, p. 476-477.

30 *ibid.*, p. 477.

31 *ibid.*, p. 478-489.

32 *ibid.*, p.481

33 *ibid.*, p. 397

families to Germany—with no prospect of getting the German citizenship any time soon.³⁴

This whole process led to the formation of a rural parallel society, that did not speak German, turned to religion and did not feel like a part of the one or the other society. They were not granted citizenship by the German government, but could not return to Turkey either, due to several social and financial reasons.³⁵

This development of a group, which did not belong to the society of their home country anymore, nor of the new country, led to another phenomenon: It was said that “the Turks in Germany are 20 years behind the people from Istanbul”³⁶ This is a reaction to the feeling of not being accepted in the new country, and trying to hold on to the identity of the own origin with traditions that do not even exist, as we have already learned earlier.³⁷

Not having citizenship is the main problem, not only because of the psychological impact of not feeling welcome and part of the society. But also because immigrants do not have the same rights as Germans. They can not open businesses, and have no access to municipal and state services.³⁸

Only in the year 2000 has Germany facilitated naturalization of Turks living in Germany. But the reality was different: Turks could only become German citizens under certain conditions. One example is the condition of having a legal job.³⁹

“In 1961 that would have been reasonable policy, but after building up a grey market for 40 years, these clauses forced them to either give up their economic basis of existence or to deny the German citizenship.”⁴⁰

The problem has—similar to Slotervaart—not been solved yet. Like Jürgen Friedrichs says:

“Since the political situation in their country of origin is unlikely to improve in the foreseeable future, a large number of these people will remain in Germany. (...) And since integration is not a unilateral process, the German population will need to come to terms with immigration.”⁴¹

These two examples show perfectly that the two aspects mentioned above (political and social integration) go hand in hand.

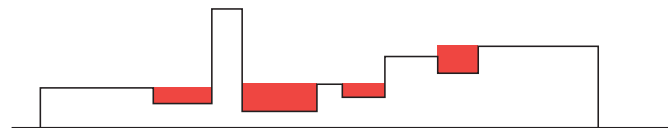
WHAT DO WE HAVE TO CONSIDER WHILE PLANNING FOR MIGRANTS?

As written by the authors of “Handbuch und Planungshilfe Flüchtlingsbauten”⁴² there are seven typologies and strategies of building these structures:

A) building in between spaces



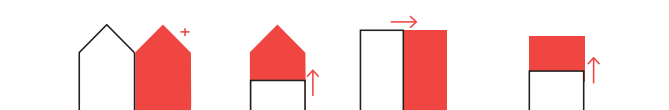
B) building onto existing structures



C) building above existing structures



D) densifying



34 *ibid.*, p. 403-405.

35 *ibid.*, p. 398

36 *ibid.*, p. 399 (quote by Mehmet Okyayuz Zitat).

37 *ibid.*

38 *ibid.*, p. 407.

39 *ibid.*, p. 409-410.

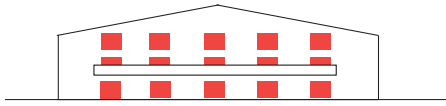
40 *ibid.*, p. 410.

41 Friedrichs in: Cachola Schmal/Elser/Scheuermann

(Eds.) 2016, p. 76.

42 Lore Mühlbauer (Ed.) / Yasser Shretah (Ed.): Handbuch und Planungshilfe Flüchtlingsbauten. Architektur der Zuflucht: Von der Notunterkunft zum kostengünstigen Wohnungsbau. Berlin 2017. p. 80-83 (modified graphics).

E) reusing existing structures



F) temporary use of existing structures



G) building new structures



For this piece of work, an effort has been made to take almost all those types and combine them in the best way possible. The best elements of each one are used to create a mixed space for everyone, not only the refugees but the locals as well.

There are a lot of factors that come together in the choice about where to build a project. Of course, the majority would like to live as close to the city centre as possible, while still having the opportunity to retreat to a calm place. When working with traumatized people and refugees, a few more factors come into play: It is shown that contact to other migrants in the environment is as important as contact to the local population. It promotes integration and assimilation into a new society and takes away a part of the stress of being in a foreign country. In the case of the “new migrants”, who come from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, there are very small established communities in Europe. This leads to more contact to the local population than in other communities where the association is sometimes exclusive to the fellow countrymen and -women.

Also, there has to be physical access to city resources as well as public transport that leads into the city life. It is crucial to recognize, that the “Us” and “Them” way of living only exists in our minds. It is a fact that the eastern building-culture differs from the western one in certain ways, but it is very important to learn from one another. We have to understand that these people do not cross all those borders on a voluntary basis, but because of life-threatening forces. Therefore, they might not all be open to new ways of living. What is more, it can be assumed that human beings tend to be rather conservative when it comes to living in homes. And if we look into that matter, “Our” way

of living does not differ that much from “Theirs”

Of course there must be a reason why the way of living as we know it now—and some things you can find in a variety of different cultures - has established which are—so I believe—the same reasons why we would not like to give them up. For example: The most private rooms are almost always sleeping rooms. And while privacy does not mean “me by myself” in every culture, it does imply enjoying privacy from “non-family-members” most of the time.

One of the difficulties that has to be addressed in context with accommodation for migrants is the fact that people who immigrate tend to have more children. Usually the housing market has only a few opportunities for families with four children which leads to overcrowding. In the beginning of the migration-process the circumstances are not very comfortable.⁴³ This does not only concern the refugees themselves. Usually, landlords have an objection to accommodate more than a certain number of people in the apartments they rent out. If this is taken into account, it becomes obvious that large families might be presented with a limited choice of housing options. Other people who are potential opponents are neighbours. Of course, more people create more noise, especially when rooms are shared and privacy—in the sense of being alone —is a rare good.

“Very few Western European cities are building apartments for families with four children, so you have to put four children in one bedroom.”⁴⁴

We know that new projects are planned and built for the arriving masses of people. If the planners kept this fact in mind and adjusted to it, it would probably take a lot of tension out of the situation of living together.

This means that all in all, there are different obstacles to overcome when it comes to facilitating accommodation for migrants: factors like family size, available space, noise, etc. There are, however, ways of reorganizing given space and reconsidering known structures. Of course, bringing about change is not always easy, especially concerning contact with “new” members of a society or neighborhood.

⁴³ Doug Saunders: Interview, in: Cachola Schmal/Elser/Scheuermann (Eds.) 2016, p. 44.

⁴⁴ *ibid.*

Unfortunately, a lot of people still think in boxes of “Us” and “Them”. It does sound a lot like a cliché, but we have more similarities than differences, if you just look at it: We all need a home. It is not “Us” vs. “Them”. After all, it is just “Us”.

HOHENWEILER—AN EXAMPLE OF EXISTING ACCOMMODATIONS

First of all, this building has been repurposed and was not newly built. It contains an office, where social workers and other people of authority are present at all times. Although they usually are “closed” during conferences and shift changeovers, the teenagers can generally knock on the door throughout the day.

Each floor has a little common area in the hall with a sofa or a foosball table (Fig. 2.12). Most of the apartments are shared, usually two people per room (Fig. 2.08), but there are rooms with four people (Fig. 2.05) and single rooms as well (Fig. 2.04). It can also be noted that there is an exercise room, which the boys can use whenever they feel like it (Fig. 2.09).

The kitchen (Fig. 2.11) is located on the ground-floor and is right next to a common room with a TV in it (Fig. 2.10). Usually, the boys eat in this room and do their homework there.

Most of them attend school and even work on their careers: During the visit one of the boys left to a photo shoot, because he wants to become a model. Certainly, all of them attend language schools and even after such a short period of time as one year, there were close to no communication-issues in the German language.

As a consequence of the urgent need for space at the time, situations like in Fig. 2.06 - Fig. 2.07 were brought about. A bathroom was repurposed into a sleeping room. In no way is this a bad thing for the young man who occupies the room. On the contrary, it is “cool”—in fact it seemed like this apartment was the “hippest” in the whole building because of its unusual utilisation. This shows that a willingness for experimental living is present.

Apart from not living with their families, these boys have very similar every day activities to those of Austrians: on the day I went to visit, we played soccer, talked, joked around, some went swimming, some were preparing to go out in the evening. Of course, there are some problematic things

as well. Certain tensions between the different groups have been noticeable. I could not talk to the boys from the second floor at the same time as the boys from the third floor—they really did not like each other. But it did not seem to escalate. They tolerate and try to avoid each other whenever possible.

Nearly none of the boys have got a status yet, which can be seen as a source of stress, of course.

Those who go to school are thinking about not attending it anymore because they feel unchallenged. They have learned incredibly fast, but it seems as if they are just tired of hearing the same things over and over again. They do not have access to professional psychological support either. They can and do talk to each other, but from what I have witnessed, they do not like to talk to strangers about what they have experienced. During the conversations I had with them, only hints about traumatizing situations were made and some of them even have the tendency to drink alcohol to forget.

But at first glance, they seem very well integrated. They are keen on learning German as fast and as well as possible and have achieved this to a remarkable degree. All of them are looking forward to get a status to being able to begin a career in Austria. But for now, most of them will just have to continue waiting.

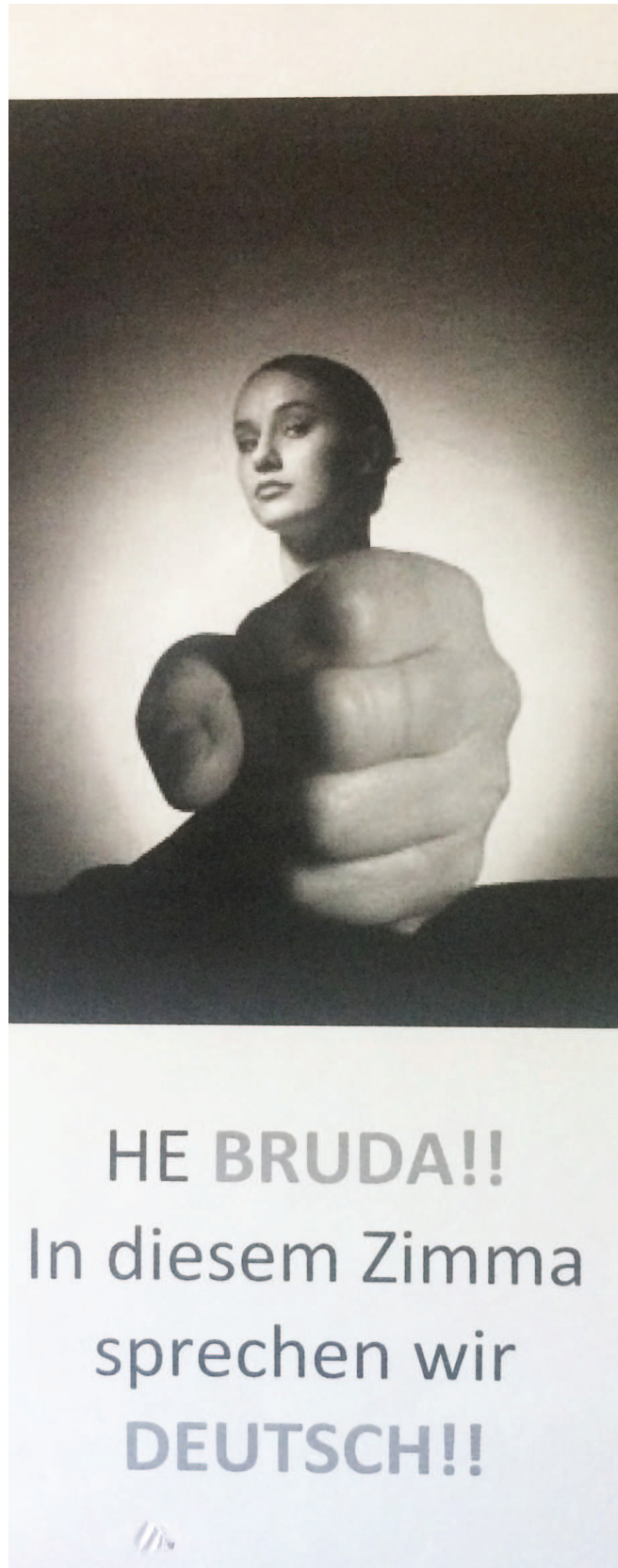


Fig. 2.02: Poster on a boy's door



Fig. 2.03: A typical bathroom shared by one apartment unit



Fig. 2.04: A single apartment



Fig. 2.05: A room shared by four people



Fig. 2.06: Former bathroom converted into bedroom #1



Fig. 2.07: Former bathroom converted into bedroom #2



Fig. 2.08: A two-people apartment



Fig. 2.09: Exercising room



Fig. 2.10: Common room with TV



Fig. 2.11: One kitchen for everyone



Fig. 2.12: Hall that can be used as the meeting area

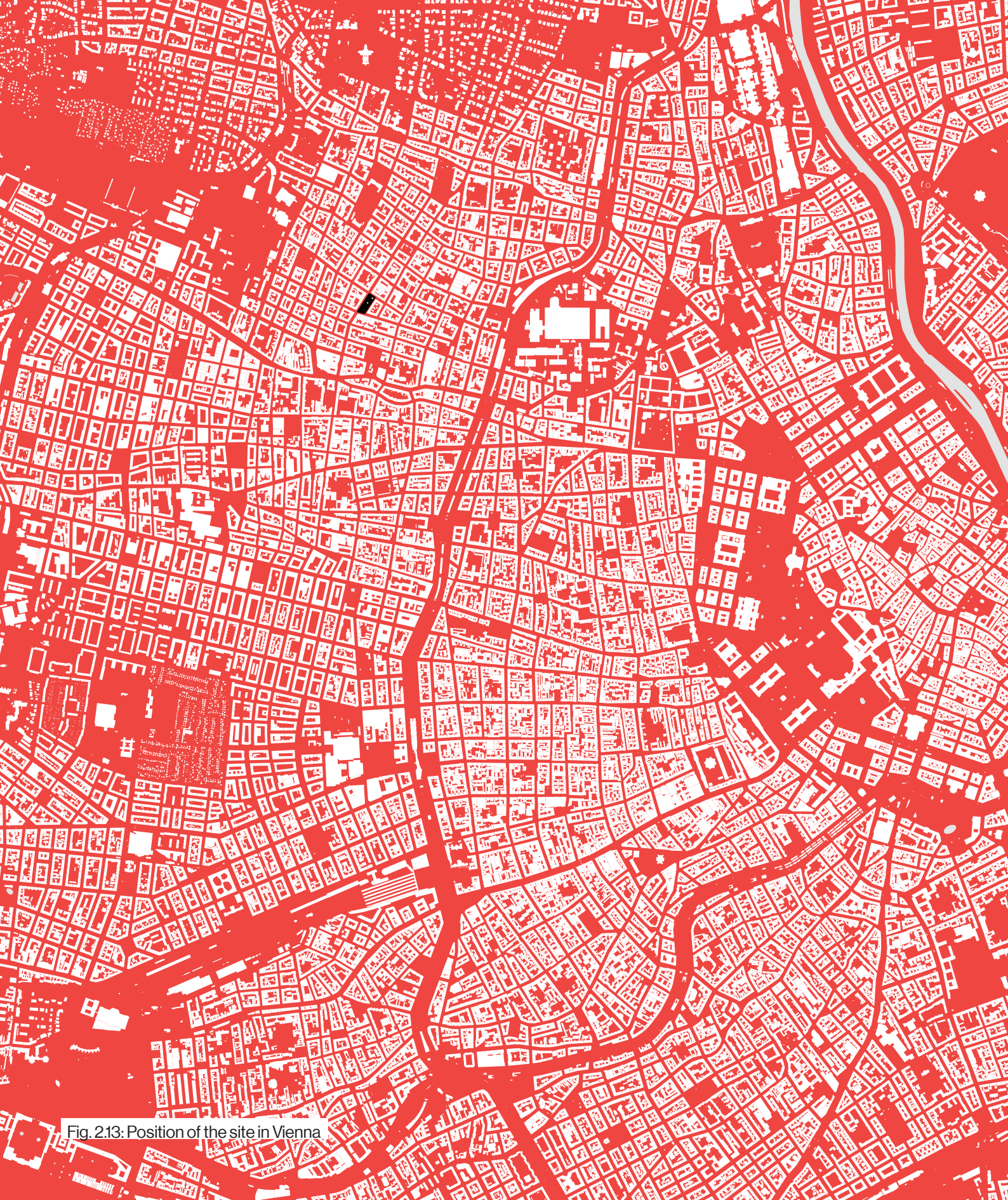


Fig. 2.13: Position of the site in Vienna





Fig. 2.14: Infrastructure

2.2 The Site

WHAT QUALITIES ARE MUST-HAVES FOR THE SITE?

The goal was to find a space in the city of Vienna that meets as many requirements as possible that were mentioned in chapter 2.1:

1. Location. A place that is either in the city centre or close to it has two main benefits for migrants: One is, that they are involved in the everyday lives of the Austrian population, which can help to get used to the behaviour of everyday life in the new country faster than at city limits. This being the case, they are still able to share experiences with fellow countrymen and -women. Both things are crucial for a good integration-process (see chapter 2.1 “Social Integration”).

2. Public Transport. People need variety in their lives, and the feeling of being able to “get out” of their own neighbourhood from time to time is very important, especially for migrants that have not yet gotten a status, therefore are not able to work. It is very comforting to know that those opportunities are provided. It is also very important for the facilities to be accessible and close to the homes.

3. Education. Additionally, different schools are necessary. Ideally, the home is situated close to those facilities, so that the children do not have to take on long daily journeys. As important as compulsory schools are, of course, day-care centres for young children and toddlers. The contact to locals is important even for small children at an early age. This is usually where they learn the language and learn the cultural ways the best.

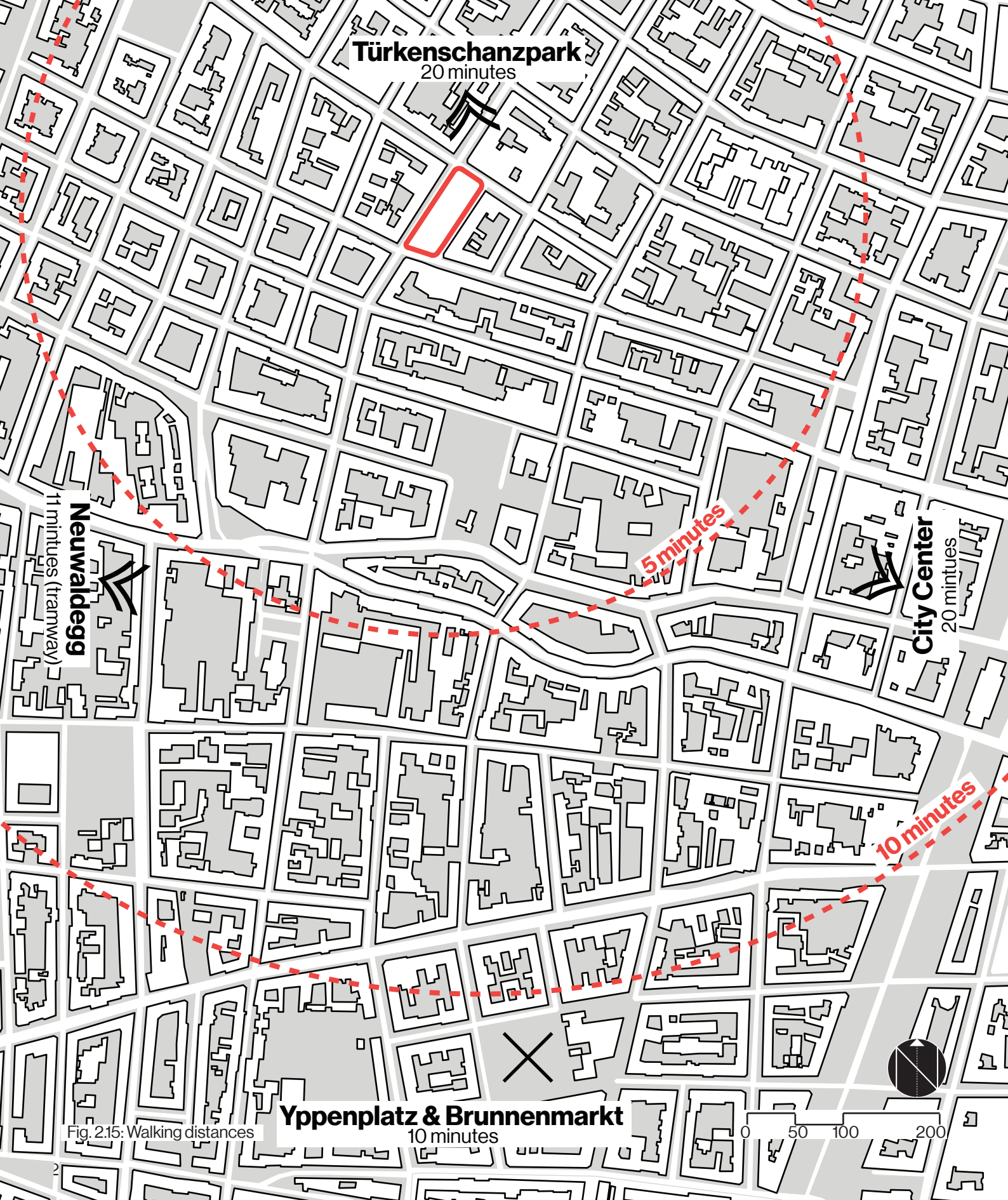
4. Community. Being in the neighbourhood of a district office or other official institutions has an advantage for the asylum seekers as well as the city. These establishments can be a place

of articulating fears and/or make proposals for the local population. At the same time, the “new” residents can be informed about community-gatherings and encouraged to participate as much as it is (politically) possible. The Austrian community has the chance of becoming acquainted with the “new” residents, which usually takes away fears and preconceptions. Simultaneously, the migrants have the feeling of being welcomed into a well-functioning community that they can be part of.

Also, it should be noted that immigration is a very long bureaucratic process. Being close to the responsible offices can raise a feeling of everything going faster and easier.

5. Recreation. The asylum-seeking process involves a lot of waiting. During this time, it is very important to have the possibility to relieve stress. This could be achieved by physical, mental or cultural activity. This kind of infrastructure involves: sport clubs and spaces (such as basketball cages, soccer fields, ...), different classes (dancing, yoga, etc.), parks, theatres, musical schools, cinemas, ... Not only do such activities serve as stress relievers for the asylum seekers, but as instruments of integration. Similar to the district offices, these facilities also offer opportunities for the migrants to meet locals, as well as take away the fears and preconceptions from the locals.

6. Markets. For people who do not have a big budget, markets are very important, so they do not have to use supermarkets only. The supermarket prices are made for people who are actually allowed to work and can afford the products. Markets are often not only cheaper but very often multicultural and you can find a variety of spices and foods. To Austrians, these may seem exotic, but to the arriving population it can give a sense of home. Moreover, interaction with others is usually more frequent at a market than at a supermarket, which may help to build and maintain social relations.



Türkenschanzpark

20 minutes

5 minutes

10 minutes

Neuwaldegg

11 minutes (tramway)

City Center

20 minutes

Yppenplatz & Brunnenmarkt

10 minutes

Fig. 2.15: Walking distances

0 50 100 200

7. A space for “Us” and “Them”. One of the most important things in this project is the spatial inclusion of the local population. The feeling of being overrun should be avoided at all cost – they must not have the impression that “Our” urban spaces are taken away and used for “Them”. More so, the existing structure needs to be upgraded. As a result of improving the space and making it more attractive for the local population, the site becomes a spot of encounter. In addition to that, housing spaces for both “Them” and “Us” should be constructed, creating an “Us” that includes everyone and eliminates the “Us vs. Them”-way of thinking.

DORNERPLATZ - WHY HERE?

Fig. 2.14 - Fig. 2.015 show that all of the points mentioned above are met in the chosen site for the project. The “Dornerplatz” in the 17th district “Hernals” has all of the qualities and seems ideal.

It is situated only 20-25 minutes walking distance from the first district, which forms the city centre. The tramway station with tramway number 43, that leads into the city centre in one direction and into the greenery of “Neuwaldegg” in the other direction, is less than five minutes away. Tramway number 9, that moves towards the train station “Westbahnhof” in the seventh district should be mentioned, since the last station enters into one of the main shopping avenues “Mariahilfer Straße” (Fig. 2.14).

The “Gürtel” with its bars, clubs and pubs and its subway station “Alser Straße” are less than ten minutes away (Fig. 2.15). There are different kinds of schools and nursery schools in immediate proximity to the site, as well as several medical practices. Even the main hospital “Allgemeines Krankenhaus” is just one subway station away and also reachable on foot. The district office is situated just a few walking minutes away, with a little mall and musical school in the same building. Several parks, like the big “Türkenschanzpark” North-Western from the site, a dancing school, a public pool, the popular “Yppenplatz”, a big and popular market (Brunnenmarkt), and several shopping possibilities are within walking distance.

Also noteworthy is the fact that the space has already been used for certain projects by the locals in the past: Open-air movie nights, art installations, language cafés, urban gardening projects, lectures, etc. Furthermore, all of these events would benefit from the different cultural backgrounds, as well as the people themselves. It can be very helpful to have the possibility of showing the current environment what the own cultural backgrounds are like, which could work just fine during language-café or themed movie nights for example.

DORNERPLATZ - A CLOSER LOOK

The chosen site has already undergone some changes in the past 16 years. Although already talked about in 1991,¹ **2001** was the year when first measures were undertaken by the municipal department 18 to remodel the space. It was divided into three sections: North, middle and South.²

NORTH: a planned but never realized building construction³

MIDDLE: multifunctional space for events and markets⁴

SOUTH: concrete sheets were constructed, including a 20 meters long bench made of natural stone, an art installation (sound ellipse)⁵

The first people's garage of the city was built here, after previous plans had failed.⁶ In **2005**, the department hired an architect to design the Northern part, because the population had brought up some criticism of the new space: missing greenery, no shadow, no infrastructure for events, no opportunity for children to play and no water. Under consideration of these wishes, the following alterations had been done:⁷

NORTH: a terraced structure to cope with the

1 Kontrollamt der Stadt Wien: MA 28, Prüfung der Umgestaltung in Wien 17, Dornerplatz. Online pdf at: URL: <<http://www.stadtrechnungshof.wien.at/berichte/2007/lang/4-19-KA-V-28-3-7.pdf>> [18.9.17], p.4.

2 *ibid.*

3 *ibid.*, p. 6.

4 *ibid.*, p. 4.

5 *ibid.*

6 *ibid.*, p.5.

7 *ibid.*, p.6.

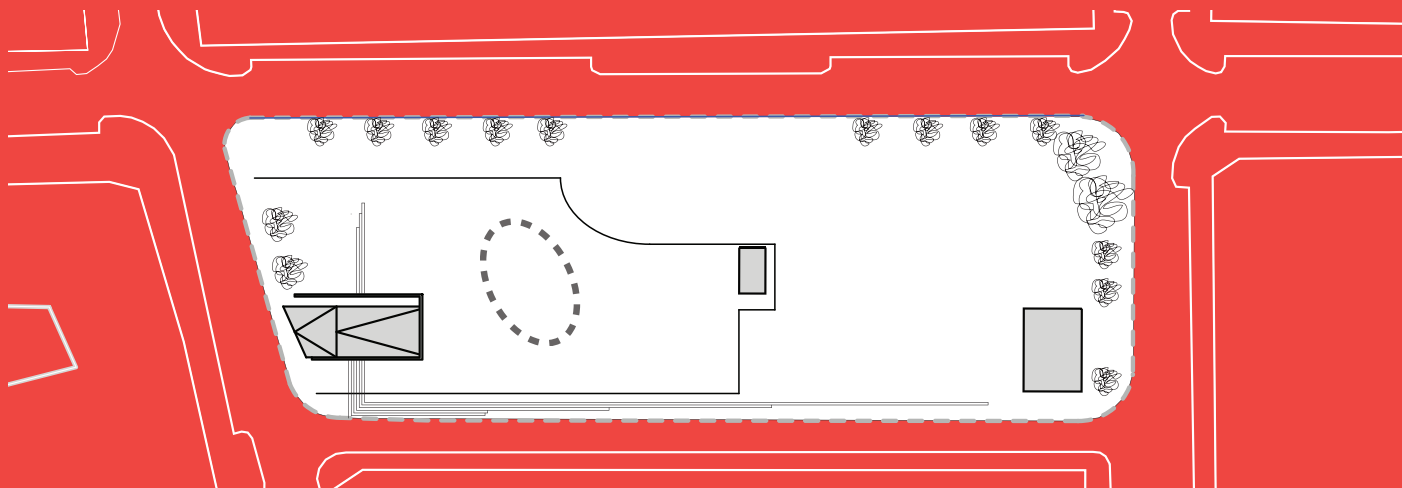


Fig. 2.16: 2003

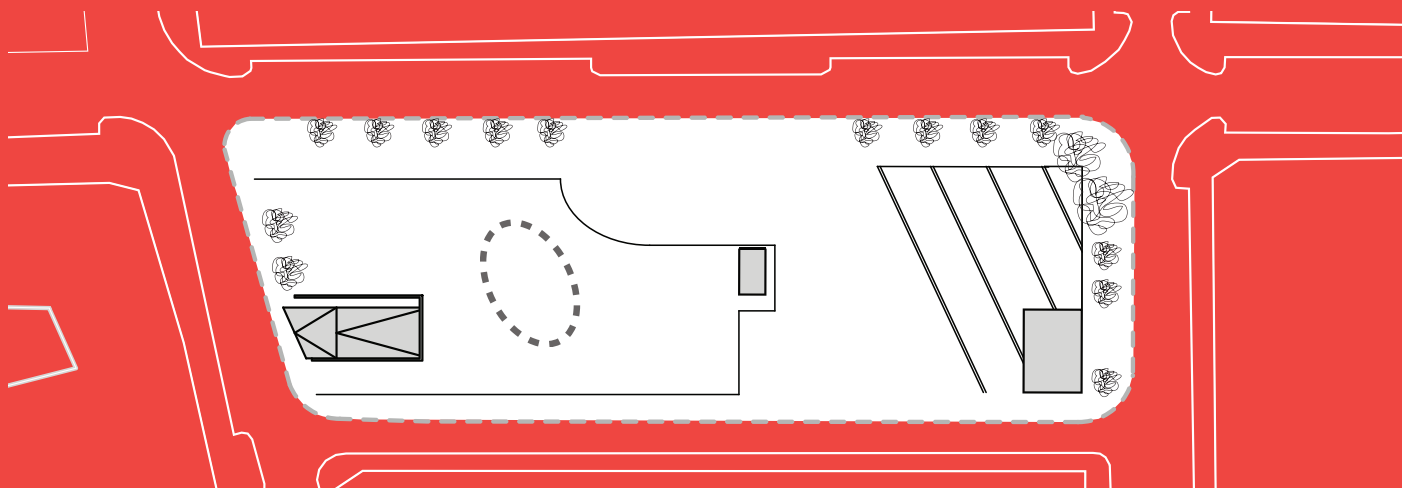


Fig. 2.17: 2005

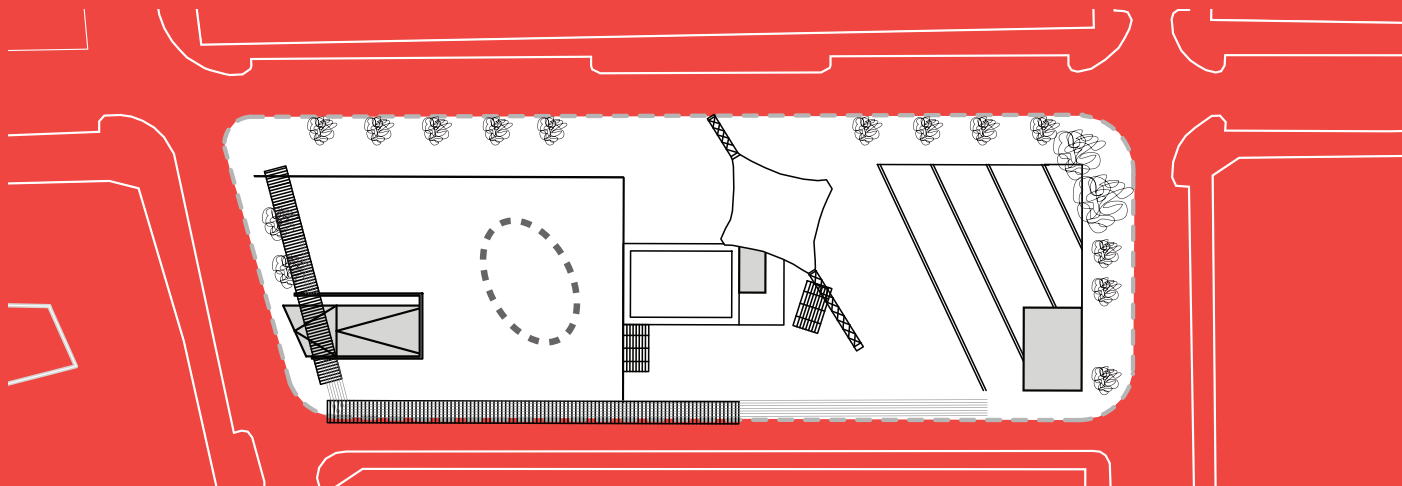


Fig. 2.18: 2006

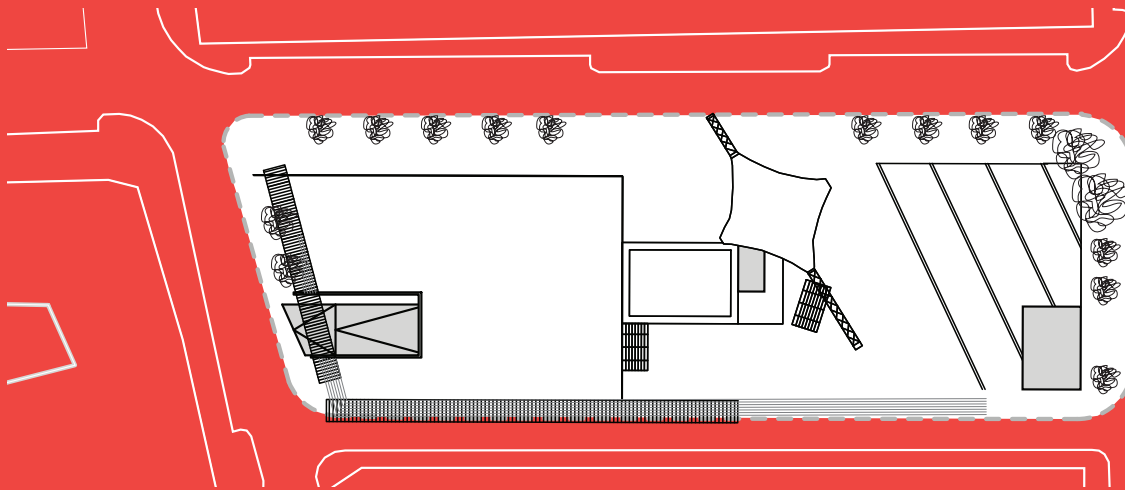


Fig. 2.20: 2011

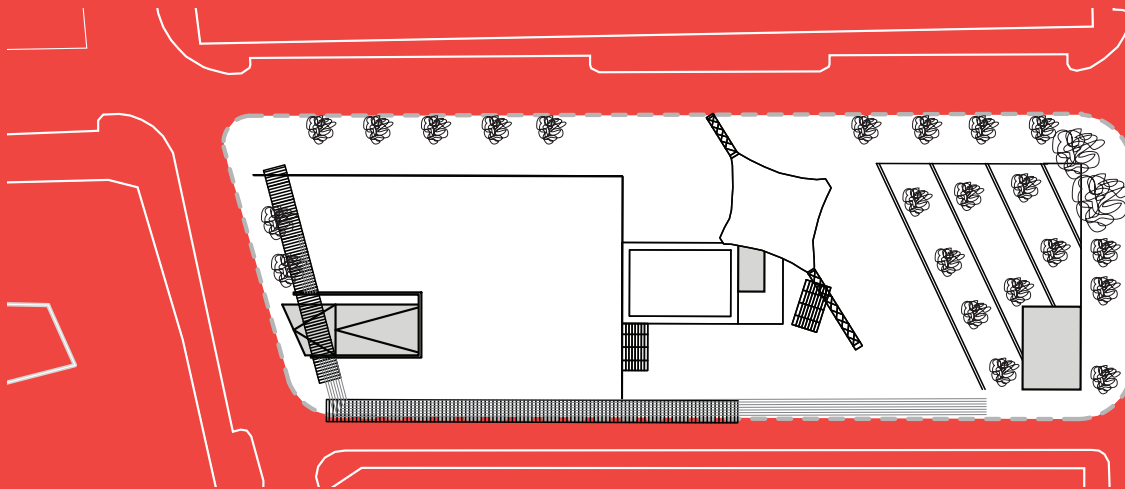


Fig. 2.19: Since 2014

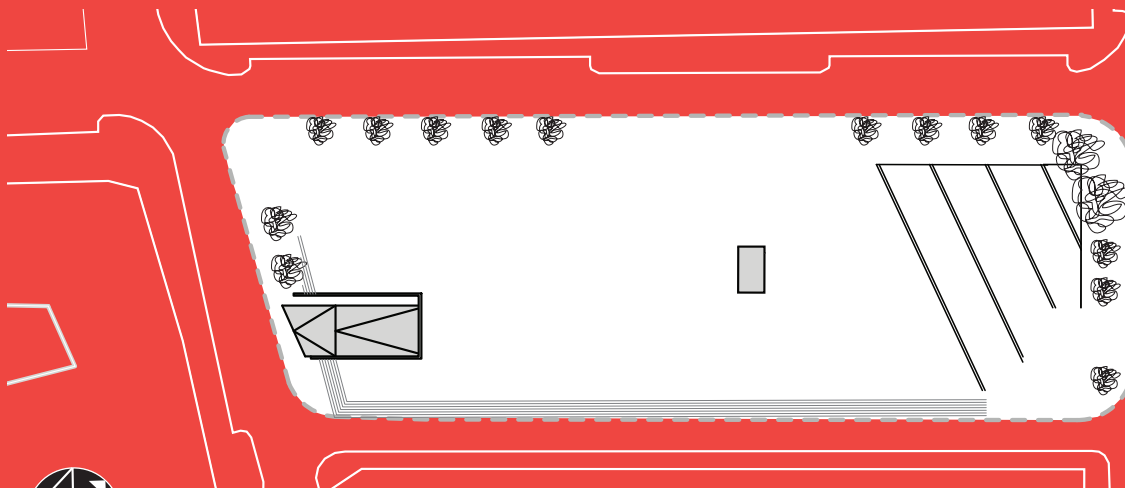


Fig. 2.21: How it will be used



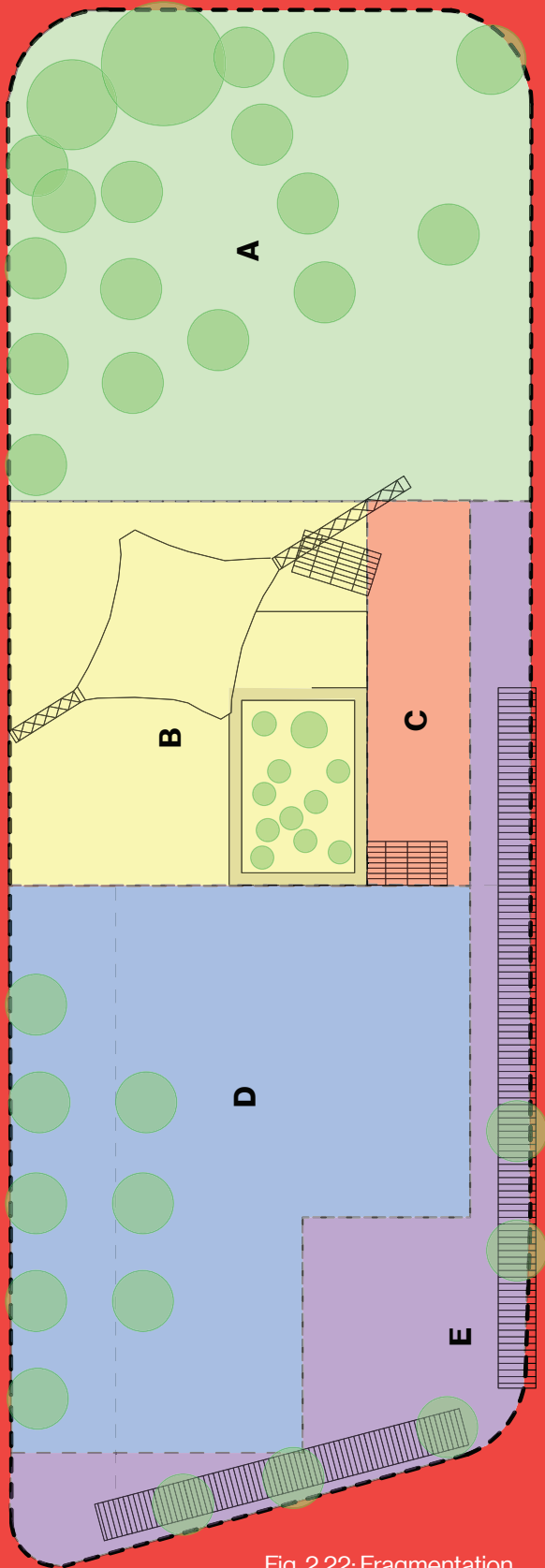


Fig. 2.22: Fragmentation

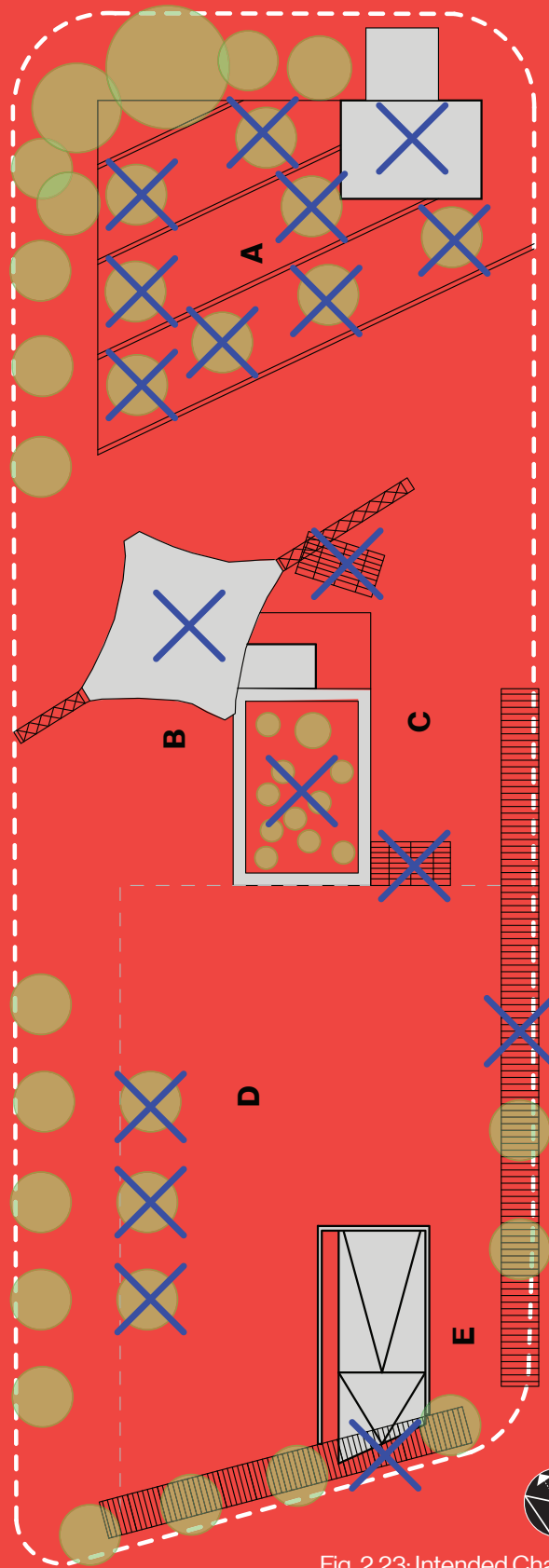


Fig. 2.23: Intended Changes

difference in altitude was constructed.⁸

Changes in the MIDDLE part had not been planned but took place anyway: a steel construction with canvas for shadow, a wooden tribune, a playground, a drinking fountain, a plant bed next to the entrance of the parking garage, and the removal of the natural-stone bench were realised.⁹

Only one year later, the north-part and the western part underwent some changes concerning the greening (the openings for the trees were reduced from 3 m x 3 m to 1.50 m x 1.50 m).¹⁰ In addition, the handrail in the South was installed for safety reasons concerning the children's games.¹¹ Discussions about relocating the art installation were held. It was removed due to noise complaints in the beginning and, later on because of lack of usage.¹²

Based on the imagery of google earth, we can see that the installation is not installed anymore at the Dornerplatz in **2011** and in **2014** a second row of trees was planted in the South-Western part. The trees on the terraced structure as well as the steel structures for greenery in the South were probably added between 2004 and 2006.

Today, people still seem to criticize that the square is not used to its full potential, although the desire for such a space is present:

"In my work routine, I often meet residents from Hernals, who wish for an enlivened space like the Yppenplatz."¹³

But, as mentioned by the "der standard"-blogger Amila Sirbegovic, the Dornerplatz has different qualities from those of the Yppenplatz. It would be a pity if they were destroyed by the pressure to consume:

It is a space that stimulates the creativity of people who want to help shape the city. It provides a spot for people who are marginalized from other, more representative urban spaces, just because they do not have to spend money to have the

entitlement to stay there.

"It allows an encounter for various generations."¹⁴

Particularly because of those aspects, the population of Hernals, and maybe even the rest of the city, deserve a more desirable area. One that welcomes everyone, but does not only draw the attention of outsiders when an event takes place.

As described above, the site has been rebuilt several times due to mistakes that had been made before, as well as given requirements by the municipal department 28 in collaboration with the magistral department 19, representatives of the district administration and interested citizens: lack of greenery and shade, no play options, no water and no infrastructure for events.¹⁵

All of those desires were fulfilled during the reconstruction in 2005.

However, there are some elements that take up an unnecessarily big amount of space and only have a few – if not no – benefits to them. For a more detailed explanation of the qualities of each structure, we will divide the square into six parts (Fig. 2.22 - Fig. 2.23).

PART A

This part contains a public toilet, four different levels, each one offering trees and benches. The desired greenery and seating opportunities had been provided. One aspect that can be subject to criticism is that the space seems a little bit overcrowded and dull with the repetitive pattern of trees and benches (Fig. 2.24 - Fig. 2.25).

PART B

In the middle of the space there is a sun sail (Fig. 2.26). Its construction seems huge and the spot beneath it is not very cosy or welcoming. Especially because it is right next to the staircase-entrance of the parking garage below (Fig. 2.27). The only purpose of this construction is to provide shade, and even in this function it seems to fail. The scene shown in Fig. 2.28 was taken in June at noon – one of the hottest times in Vienna. The only seating area beneath it is the specially designed wooden platform, which is nearly completely exposed to the sun, despite the smaller shading-structure

8 *ibid.*, p. 7.

9 *ibid.*, p. 7-8.

10 *ibid.*, p. 9.

11 *ibid.*, p. 10.

12 *ibid.*, p. 11.

13 Amila Sirbegovic: Dornerplatz – offen für Vielfalt. URL: <<http://derstandard.at/2000008164329/Dornerplatz-offen-fuer-Vielfalt>> Own translation. [19.09.2017]

14 *ibid.*

15 Kontrollamt der Stadt Wien 18.9.17, p.4.

right next to it. The only option to get some shade in this area would be to stand right next to the parking garage entrance, which makes this massive construction unjustifiable and obsolete.

An other thing worth mentioning in this context is the plant stock. It embeds the parking garage entrance on the Southern side. Although it does offer a seating area on the sides, it is not a high-quality arrangement concerning the ambient. The railing makes the greenery unaccessible for anyone and frankly, the greening in the stock itself leaves much to be desired (Fig. 2.29).

PART C

This part contains wooden benches, a station for city bikes and a playground, which seems a little unusual. It consists of a trampoline, two climbing parts sticking out of the ground, wooden platforms on spiral springs and a seesaw for toddlers (Fig. 2.30).

Also, there is a metal construction right next to the plant stock on the lower end of the playground, for the purpose of shadow (Fig. 2.31), and again it does not seem to fulfil its purpose.

PART D

This represents the big, empty space which serves for multiple uses, depending on the current

utilisation (Fig. 2.32). It is highlighted by the different material used on the ground, which differentiates it from the sidewalk. This is also emphasized by the two rows of trees in the western part of the area. The inner row consists of smaller trees, at ground level, while the trees facing the road are higher and enclosed (Fig. 2.33).

PART E

In the Southern part of the square there are several railing constructions. One of them are the railings that divide the square from the road. Its purpose is to prevent balls to fall onto the street. While it does make sense, it closes the space off in an unwelcoming way and does not have an appealing look (Fig. 2.34). Above all that is a metal construction that frames the corner of the area. Apart from some greenery growing up this construction, probably for the purpose of shading (Fig. 2.35). Additionally, there is the railing that frames the construction of the parking garage entrance for vehicles (Fig. 2.36). This measure is necessary, but again, its appearance can be criticised. In combination with the empty space and the metal the square appears quite unwelcoming and cold.



Fig. 2.24: Part A—looking up



Fig. 2.26: Part A—looking down



Fig. 2.25: Part B—sun sail



Fig. 2.28: Part B—entrance staircase beneath the sun sail



Fig. 2.27: Part B—wooden seating area and shade



Fig. 2.29: Part B—plant stock



Fig. 2.30: Part C—the playground with benches



Fig. 2.32: Part C—structure for shade above the trampoline



Fig. 2.31: Part D—big empty space for different utilisation



Fig. 2.34: Part D—two rows of trees



Fig. 2.33: Part E—railing in the South



Fig. 2.35: Part E—rail construction for greenery and shading



Fig. 2.36: Part E—parking garage entrance

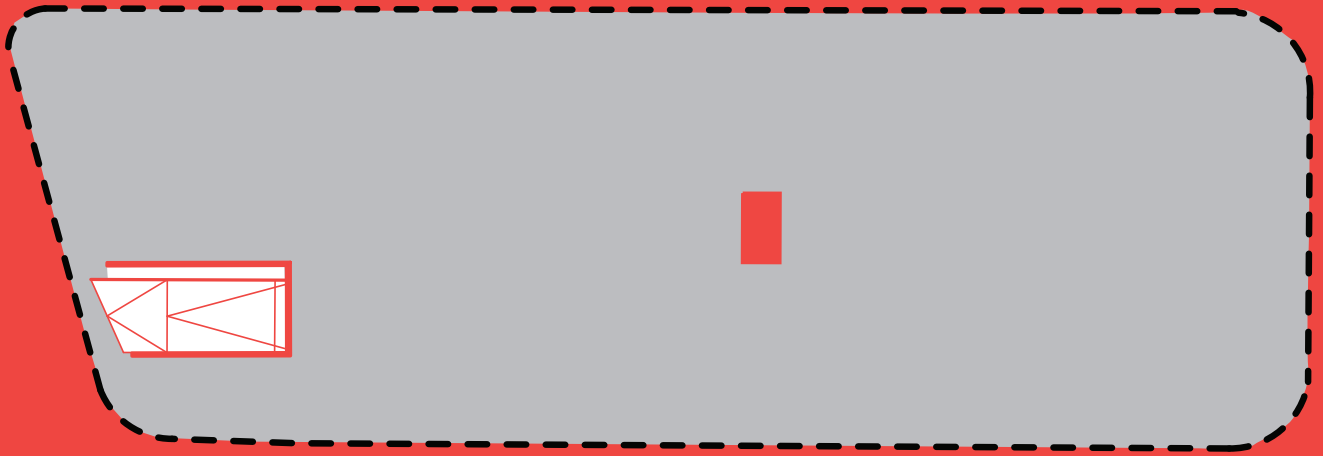


Fig. 2.37: Interventions of the parking garage with the square

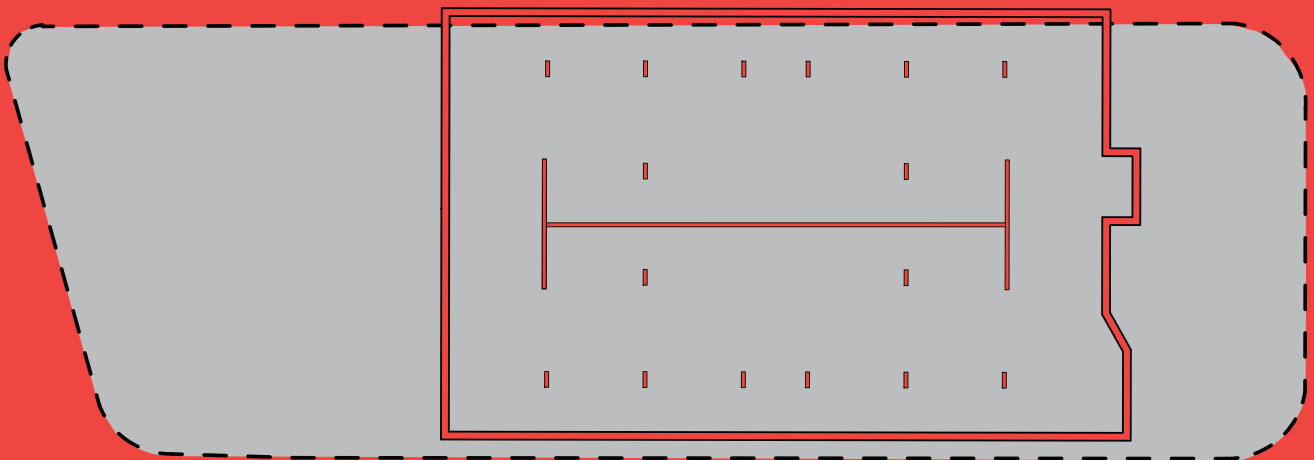


Fig. 2.38: Location of the parking garage pillars



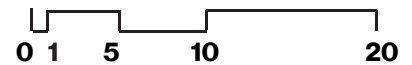


Fig. 2.39: Section A-A

0 1 5 10 20



Fig. 2.40: Section B-B



THE PARKING GARAGE

Beneath most of the square we can see one of the first interventions that was made on it: the parking garage. It includes an entrance for the vehicles in the South-Eastern part of the square and a staircase in the centre (Fig. 2.37).

The garage has three different parking levels, two of them covering around 1600 square meters and one of them around half of that. There are pillars with the dimensions of 30 cm x 120 cm. I do not want to take away the parking lots, since people generally tend to complain about too little parking space in the city. For the sake of peace and tolerance for the project, the decision has been made to keep the garage for now, although future developments cannot be ruled out.

Considering that the ground is not soil only but has a construction already, the new structure can not be built without reacting to the parking garage. The pillars as shown in Fig. 2.38 might be a first parameter for the architectural design of the new project, since they seem to be the bearing walls.

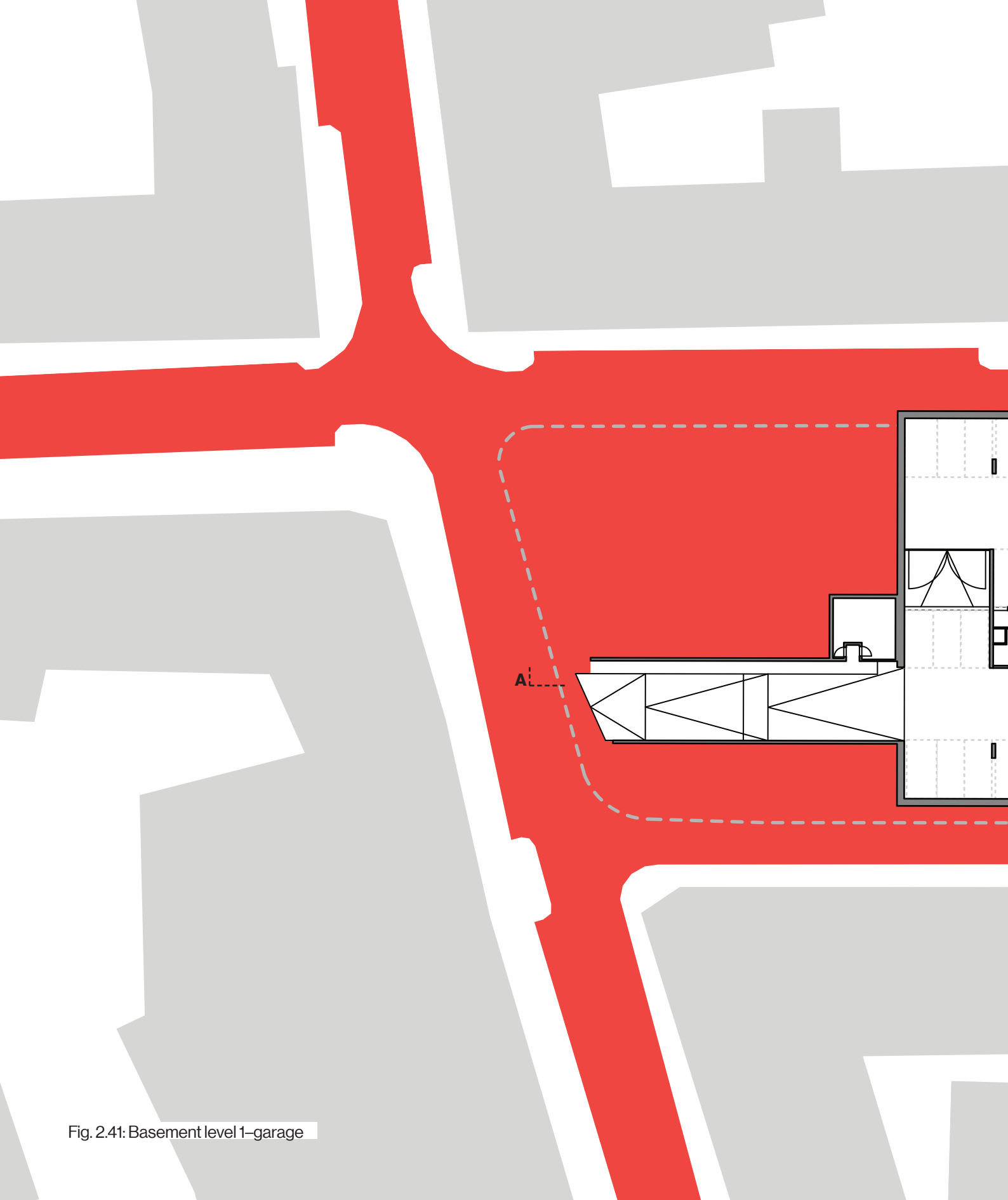
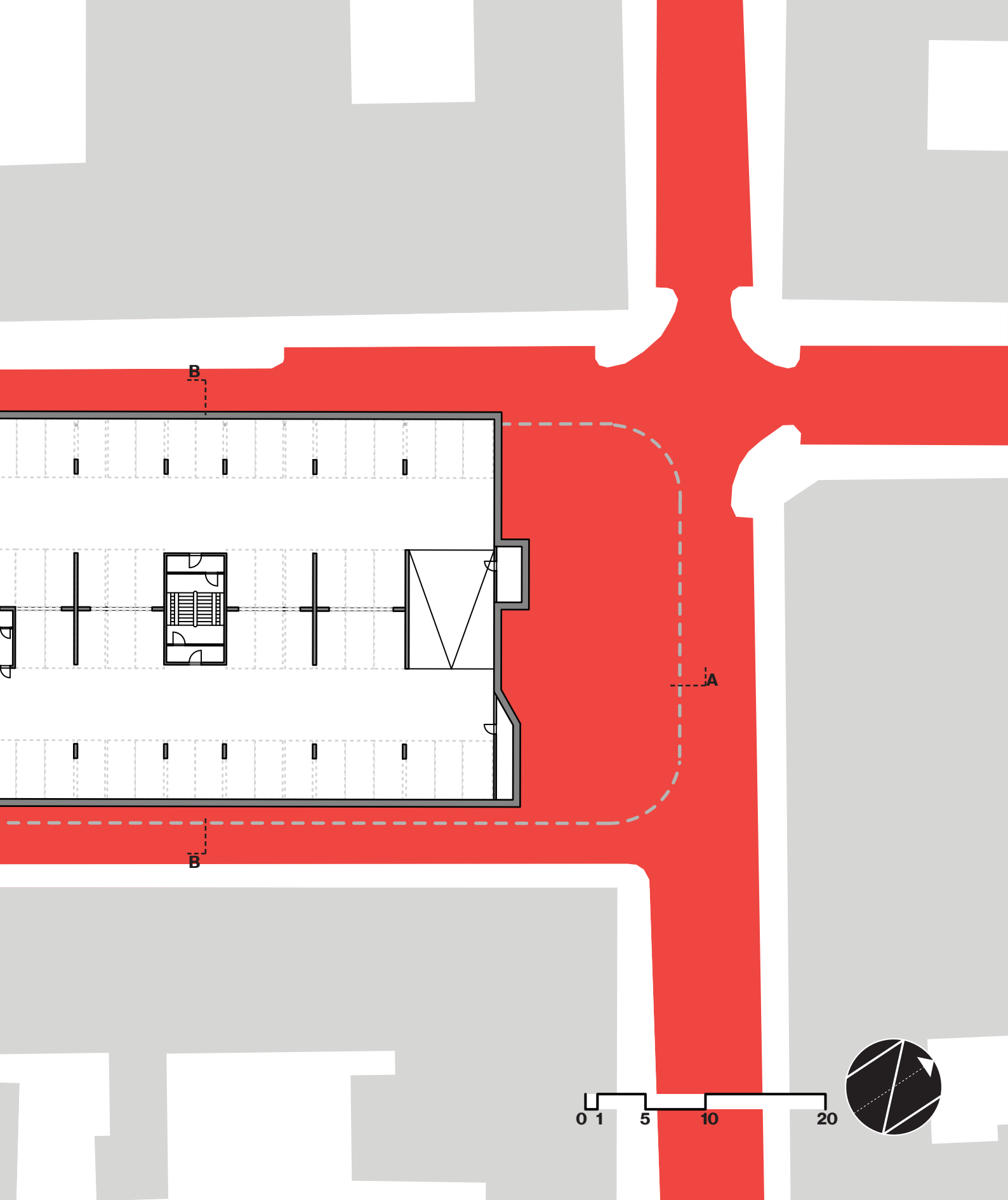


Fig. 2.41: Basement level 1–garage



B

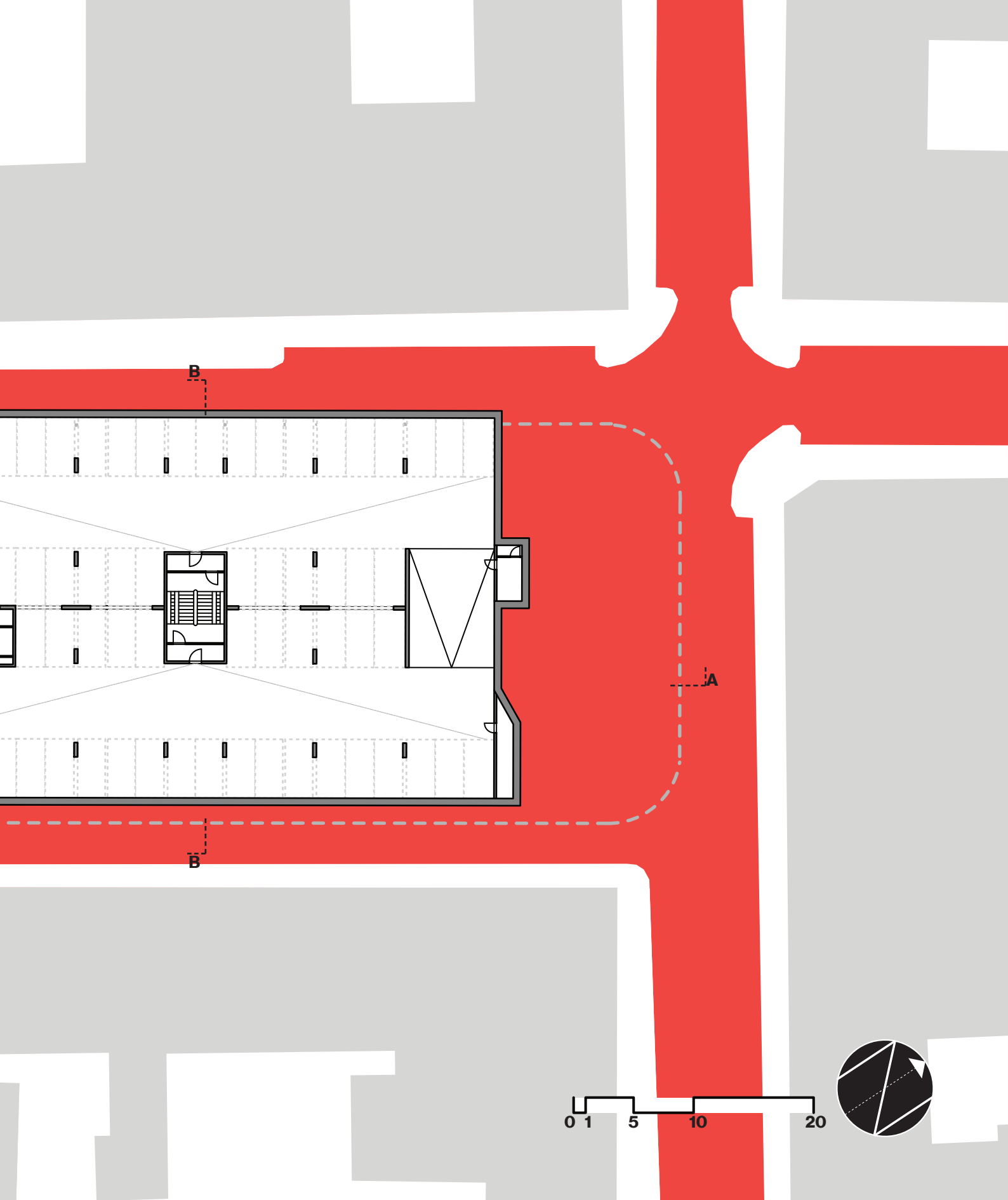
A

B





Fig. 2.42: Basement level 2-garage



B

A

B



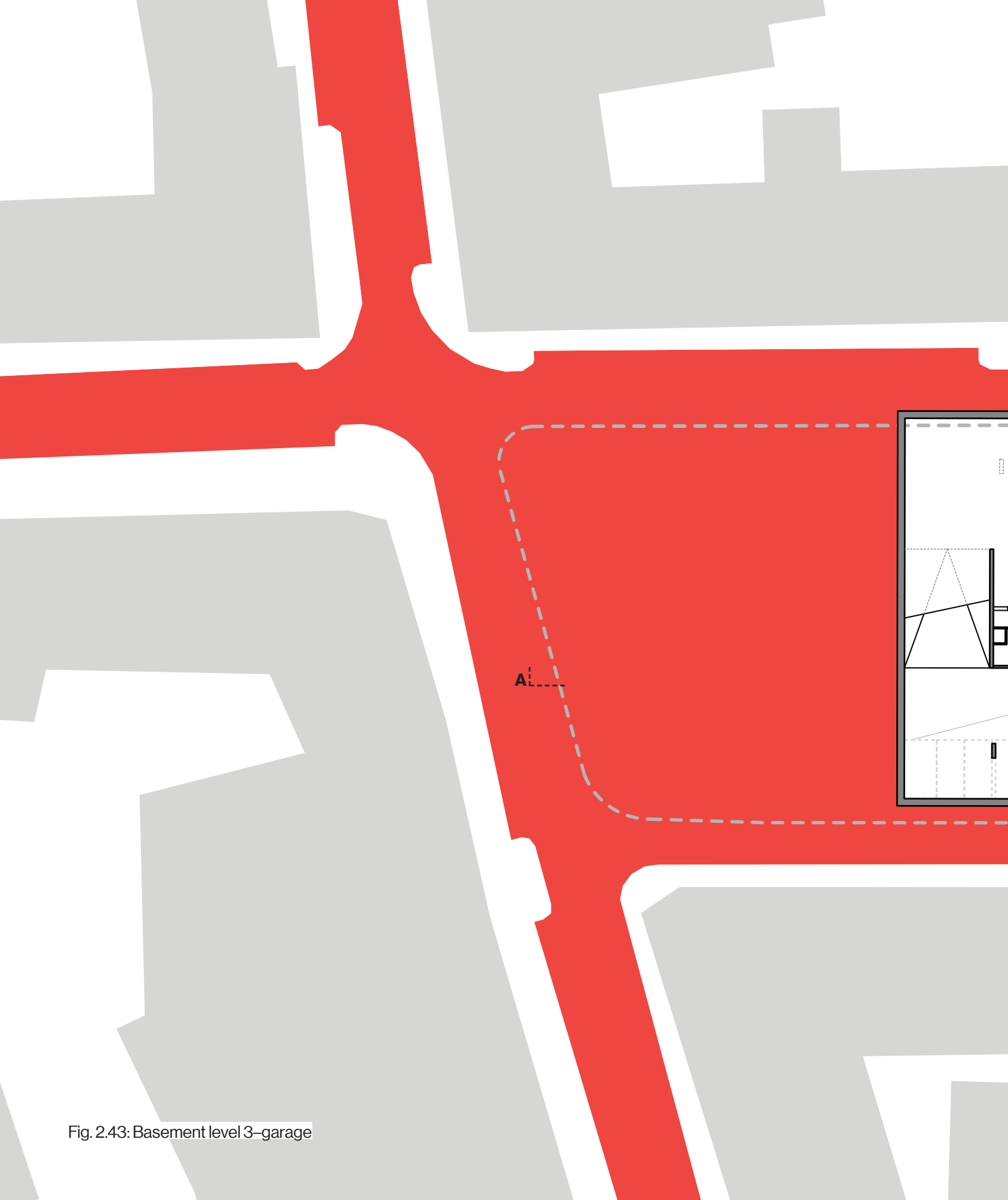
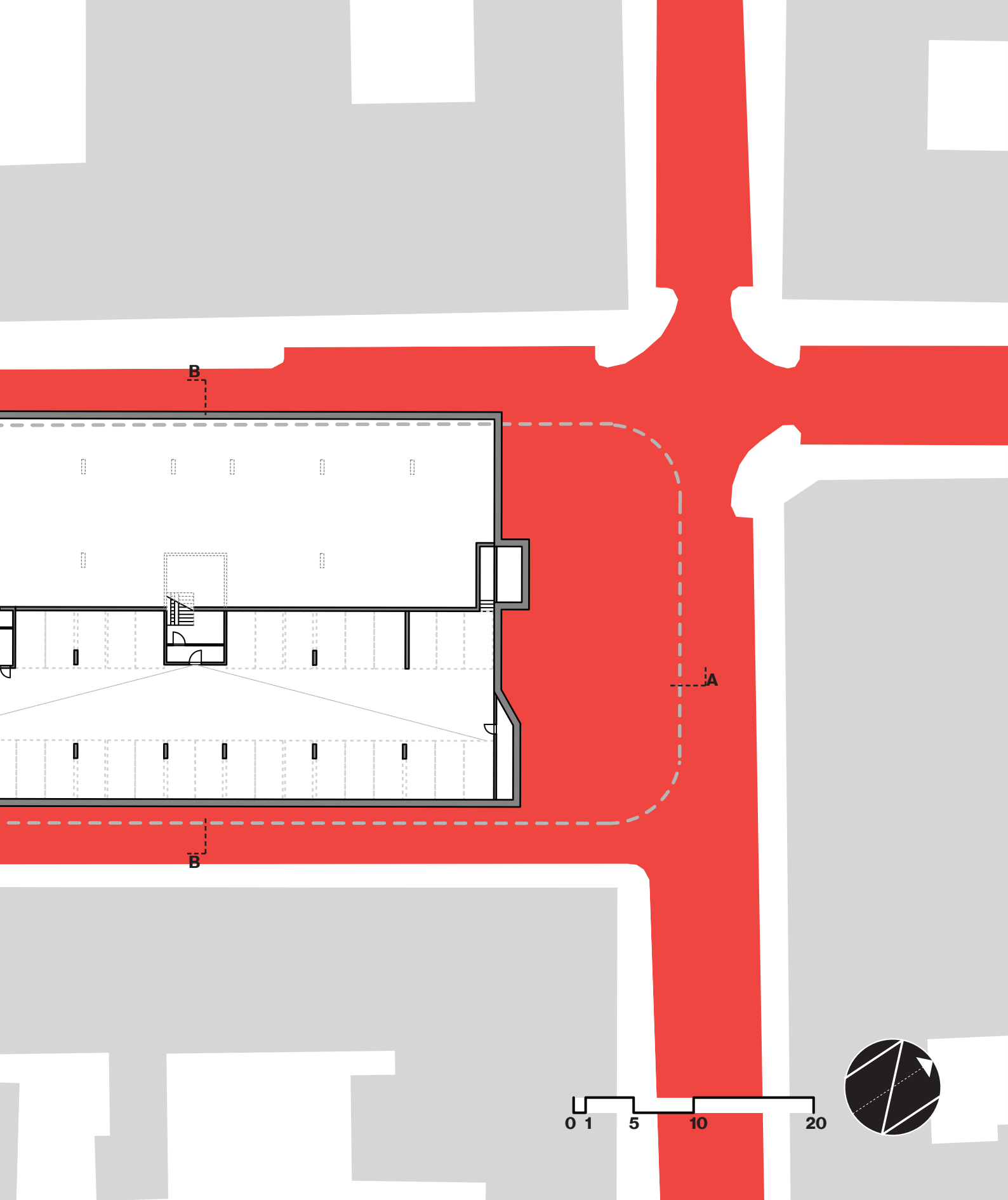


Fig. 2.43: Basement level 3–garage



B

A

B



three



law school

post office

theatre

academy of fine arts

embassy

Fig. 3.01: Sarajevo



Goals

POLITICAL AND SOCIAL MESSAGES BEHIND PROJECTS FOR REFUGEES AND SOCIALLY SIMILAR GROUPS

When researching the topic of built realities for refugees in Europe, we can see a number of projects that are planned with the selling point of “thinking ahead” for the usage of the newly built structures. Usually, there are two stages: the first being the habitation of migrants and refugees, the second one the habitation of the local population. The difference between these two stadiums is usually the size. The apartments that house migrants in the first stage are planned to be rebuilt to make more space for local families, singles, etc. We can see examples in Reutlingen, Germany, where this is accomplished by simply removing walls¹, as well as in Langebach-Freising, Germany, by simple modifications², and also in Hanover.³

It needs to be clarified that the idea of the reuse itself is not to be criticised. The idea of having built spaces for one group of human beings that arrive in a foreign country and then later on rebuild them and make them bigger in order for the local population to live in them seems a little excessive. It is the thought of having the need to plan differently for refugees than for locals that needs to be criticized. It has the taste of second-class-human beings to it.

Of course, the main argument on the other side is that there is a large number of refugees streaming into the Western countries (although the peak has

already been in 2015⁴) and that the structures need to be more dense, so more people can occupy less space. But what kind of message does this send across?

Architecture has the power of indicating and maybe even initializing change in political or social structures. If we just look at the monumental architecture that was built in the past centuries for the ruling powers of the time or symbols of victories. As an example triumphal arches, palaces and other ruling buildings like parliaments can be named. There is no functional need for most of them to be as elaborate, expensive and as big as they are but it has to send across a certain message of power to not only the own population but the rest of the world. Of course, a simple structure that is not this sophisticated would have been sufficient for its purpose, but that was never what it is really about. Countries do not preserve these mostly old, prominent buildings because of historical and cultural reasons only. It shows the wealth and power of the society (or the regime that it is ruled by). Probably the most famous example of such demonstration of power is the official residence of the President of the United States. Probably every child around the globe is familiar with the White House.

Even smaller, less wealthy countries try to keep their important representative buildings as intact as possible. The wealthier the country, the more “less important” buildings like the facades of apartment buildings are looked after thoroughly—at least those in the touristically and economically important spots.

To elaborate this theory, we will compare two cities to each other. One of them being the capital of a wealthy country and the other one being the capital of a less wealthy country—in this case Vienna and Sarajevo. In each city we will pick two

1 Wilfried Dechau: Between Lidl and 1001 Nights, in: Peter Cachola Schmal/Oliver Elser/Anna Scheuermann (Eds.): “*Making Heimat. Germany, Arrival Country. Atlas of Refugee Housing*”. Berlin 2017, p. 54

2 Peter Cachola Schmal/Oliver Elser/Anna Scheuermann (Eds.): “*Making Heimat. Germany, Arrival Country. Atlas of Refugee Housing*”. Berlin 2017, p.90.

3 *ibid.*, p. 200.

4 Stadt Wien 21.03.2017, p. 3.



Fig.3.02: Vienna

roads with important representative buildings on it and analyse the surrounding environment.

In Sarajevo we are looking at the “Obala Kulina Bana” that includes a theatre, the law school building and—on the other side of the river bank of the Miljacka—the academy of fine arts with its relatively new bridge designed by its students. We can see in Fig. 3.01 that the more representative buildings are well restored, while the buildings in between do not seem to be taken care of too well.

In Vienna we can observe a great contrast to the situation in Sarajevo along and around the “Ring”: The representative buildings like the parliament, the town hall, theatre, main university, the Votive church and the barracks are not the only buildings that are in a good shape. Even if we move towards the smaller streets off of the main tourist roads we can see that the state of the surrounding buildings is very good—at least as far as we can tell from the facades.

Now if we think about projects for refugees as signifiers for social equality, fairness and kindness—as they should be—we would not have to rebuild homes just so “We” can live in the same structures as “Them”. If we started designing more long term for human beings, maybe even the bad attitude of some people would slowly die out.

Architecture should not follow the frustration of the most discontent members of society. It needs to consider them and try conciliate their fears with the built reality. At the same time it needs to teach and show new methods, change and improvement to the ways of its societies. Even if that means that it fails or is not met with kindness from all sides at the time. It has the obligation to *try*. In some parts of Austria like Upper Austria—and surely other countries as well—refugees are already second-class citizens when it comes to their financial status.⁵ Already discriminated in such a fundamentally important part of their social lives, it should be an obligation to at least make sure they have a comfortable home to overcome their physical and psychological traumas.

It is like Peter Haslinger writes:

“Architecture says something about us, about our society, our engagement, our values, our perspectives for the future. What kind of society are

5 Michael Völker: Die Erde, eine türkis-blaue Scheibe. URL: <<https://derstandard.at/2000066629382/Die-Erde-eine-tuerkis-blaue-Scheibe>> [25.10.2017]

*we? What kind of society do we want to be?”*⁶

It would not be right to give up on ideals just because of the cruelty that reality sometimes brings along. It is the Architecture’s job to present the possibilities of those ideal values and it is very important to show and teach those who can not see it, that treating arriving people well and not differently will have benefits for everyone.

Now the real question is: Does this mean that we have to design big apartments with spacious rooms for everyone? To answer this question we have to take a look at the current development of living structures. It is a fact that cities are becoming more and more crowded. According to the United Nation’s data booklet of 2016, 60 % of the global population will live in cities by 2030. That is an increase of 5.5 % in 14 years.⁷

In certain countries, we can already see that the majority of its population lives in cities. In the United States of America, 82 % of the population inhabits urban space.⁸

Thus, space will become more and more valuable and if we do not react as a society, it will inevitably lead to an even more dramatic shortage than there already is.

We can make observations of certain changes in the available architectural structure. For example: in Vienna more and more flats in old buildings are divided into two or more different apartments. Living in a city has always been the equivalent of living in denser spaces. In the future, smaller living areas will probably become more of a reality.

Ultimately, even if we decide to build on a smaller scale space wise—which we should do economically as well as ecologically—then we should not have to rebuild structures just for “Us” and treat immigrants like second-class-citizens.

6 Peter Haslinger: Point missed—Problem understood, in: Peter Cachola Schmal/Oliver Elser/Anna Scheuermann (Eds.): “Making Heimat. Germany, Arrival Country. Atlas of Refugee Housing”. Berlin 2017, p. 194.

7 United Nations: The World’s Cities in 2016. Data Booklet. Online pdf at: URL: <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/urbanization/the_worlds_cities_in_2016_data_booklet.pdf> [27.10.2016]

8 Rachael Post: Are tiny houses and micro-apartments the future of urban homes? URL: <<https://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2014/aug/25/tiny-houses-micro-living-urban-cities-population-newyork-hongkong-tokyo>> [27.10.2016]

All in all, we can summarize the main goals as followed:

- It is very important, that the local population is treated equally to the foreign, arriving population. This means that it should not be necessary to rebuild or modify units for the Austrians to be able to house it.

- Most relevant is that the structure creates communal space and offers a variety of activities where people from the neighbourhood as well as the inhabitants of the building can meet. This supports integration and takes away prejudices.

- Living units should contain: student housing, single and couple units, family housing (even for big families with up to four children) and opportunity for flat sharing.

- Construct the project on a site that, ideally, already is known for a welcoming ambience.

- The project should have the ability to adapt to demographic changes: It needs to be able to add units, rebuild units and take away units, if needed.

four

Methodology

WHAT STRUCTURES WILL BE PROVIDED?

As we have learned before, the Dornerplatz seems ideal for the purposes of integrating migrants and introduce the local population to the “new population”. Not only because of its well-situated position and accessibility to public transportation, but also because of the popularity it has within its community. It has many functions and it is safe to say that the events are the most important factor for connecting people of the neighbourhood and maybe even beyond it.

But how can we ensure that these very important circumstances do not get lost despite planning a new building development? The idea is based on adding extra elevated levels - similar to the already existing parking garage, which only intervenes with the urban space at the

most necessary points: At the entrance/exit for vehicles and the entrance/exit for pedestrians via the staircase. Other than that, the garage does not seem noticeable, as it is usually wanted for such structures of basically just storing cars.

The solution would be to build a structure that stretches above the public space, while intervening as little as possible with its publicly accessible infrastructure. In comparison to the “buried” garage, this project needs to attract attention and is even capable of adding value to the communal space below (Fig. 4.01). The concept of a home wants and needs to be seen to the contrary to the garage.

There are two phases of planning: One is the improvement and modification of the Dornerplatz itself; the other one is the design of the upper levels meant for living.

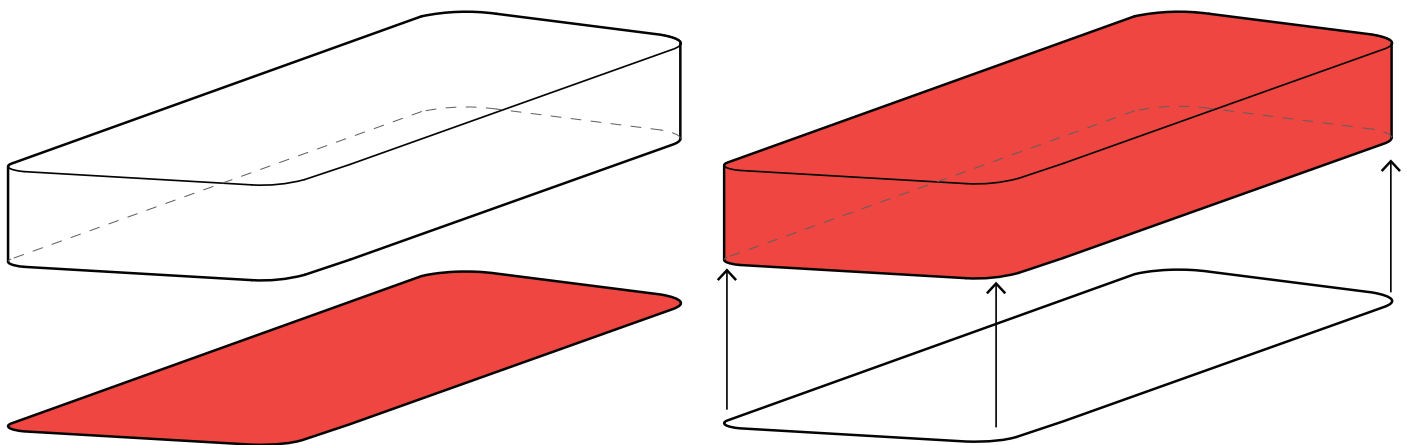


Fig. 4.01: Public space remains for public

THE MODIFICATION

The decision to redesign the area has arrived from the analysis from chapter 2.2 ("The Site"). A lot of the elements described in that chapter bring more disadvantages than advantages for the users of the square. Because of that, the space will be mostly replanned.

The street bordering the Western section is where movement happens most. The reason is simple: it is the shortest stretch to the tramway station as well as the shopping centre and the district office (Fig. 4.02). Also, the road connects the North and South of the district most directly and is therefore used more than the road to the eastern side of the premises. That side is generally used very little, since it only serves as the connection between the other two surrounding roads – but more than that as the entrance area for the adjoining residences. These surrounding roads going from West to East/from East to West, are frequently used as well, but not as much as the main road, which makes the corners A and D more important than the corners B and C (Fig. 4.03 - Fig. 4.04), although the East-road is not very important other than for that building's residents. Hence, the corners A and D (Fig. 4.03) are the main entrance points of the square.

Corner B (Fig. 4.06) is the least attractive corner, obviously blocked by a public toilet building and some public garbage cans right next to it. Hence, it is not used very much for entering – while corner C (Fig. 4.07) does try to invite pedestrians to enter through a stairway but fails because of the parking garage entrance right next to it. This corner makes this corner feel a little isolated from the rest of the space.

The goal is to open up most of the corners and make the entrance more inviting and open.

The challenge is to provide enough shade and greenery to make the space attractive. Also, a good amount of height is very important, so the feeling of constriction does not occur whilst standing beneath the raised new building. The chosen minimum height will be 6.50 meters.

Fig. 4.02:
Main roads

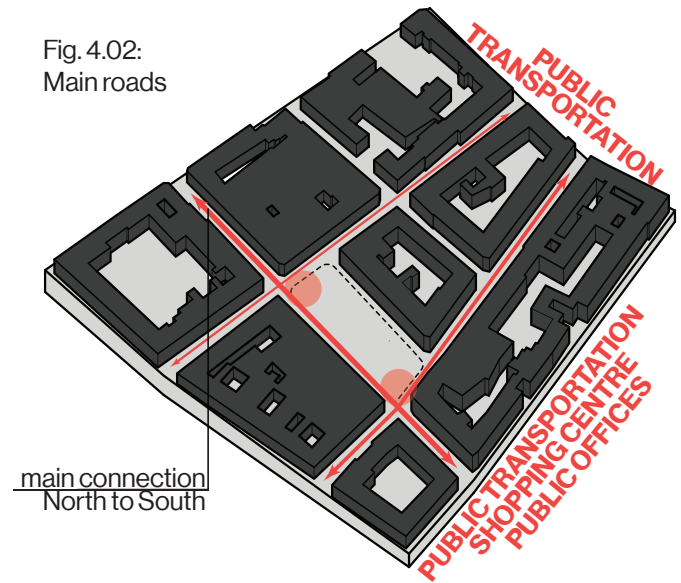


Fig. 4.03: Main entrances

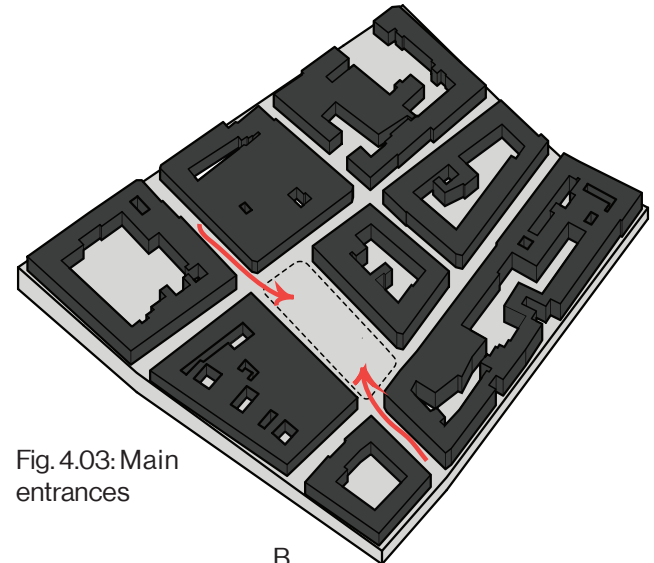


Fig. 4.04:
Corners A-D

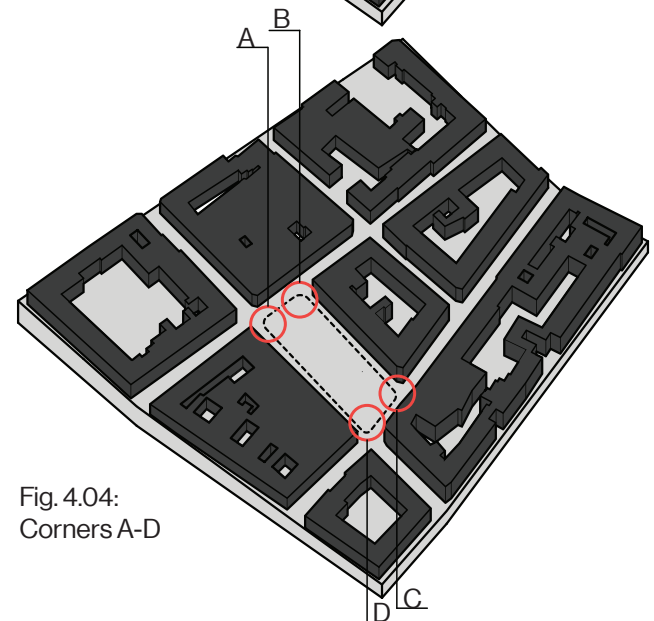




Fig. 4.05: Corner A



Fig. 4.06: Corner B



Fig. 4.07: Corner C



Fig. 4.08: Corner D

THE SQUARE

As Fig 4.09 shows, the square will keep its division in three parts. The first part in the southern section will mostly stay empty space for planned events like cinema evenings, exhibitions etc. It is important to keep the already popular and necessary events alive by leaving some empty room for them. Corner C will be screened by a public toilet and moving the stairs back towards the empty space. This will give this otherwise lost corner between the parking garage entrance and the rest of the premises a useful function.

The second portion in the middle is reserved for playing and as a social meeting point that is

more open to new people. It contains a basketball court, some playground opportunities and seating areas. The stairs that lead up to the housing units are designed as a little seating area that can be used for communal movie nights. Because of the slight natural slope of the property, this part will be evened out.

The most northern part will be a seating/meeting/barbequing area. It is – compared to the middle section – a more group-exclusive area. Nonetheless, benches can, of course, be pushed together, thus creating space for bigger groups.

The terraced structure will be straightend parallel to the bordering street. This will create (similar to the middle part) a distinction between the transitional sidewalk and the space itself.

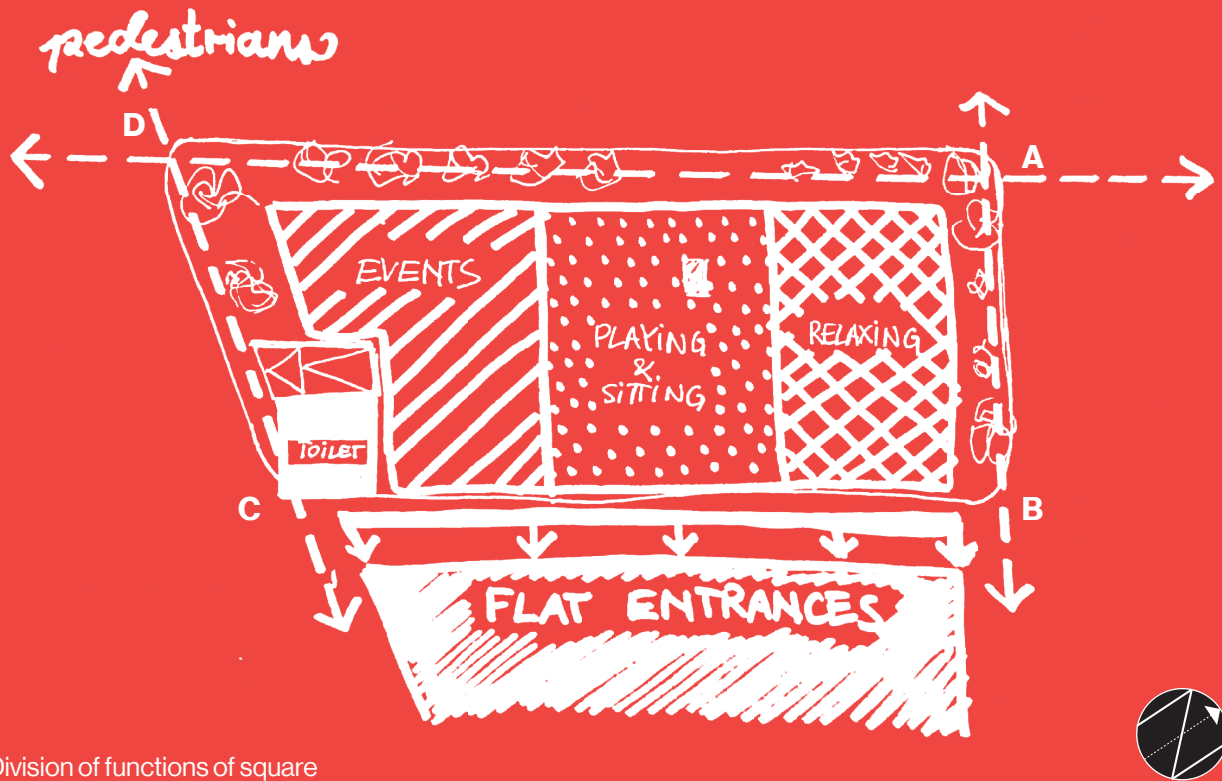


Fig. 4.09: Division of functions of square

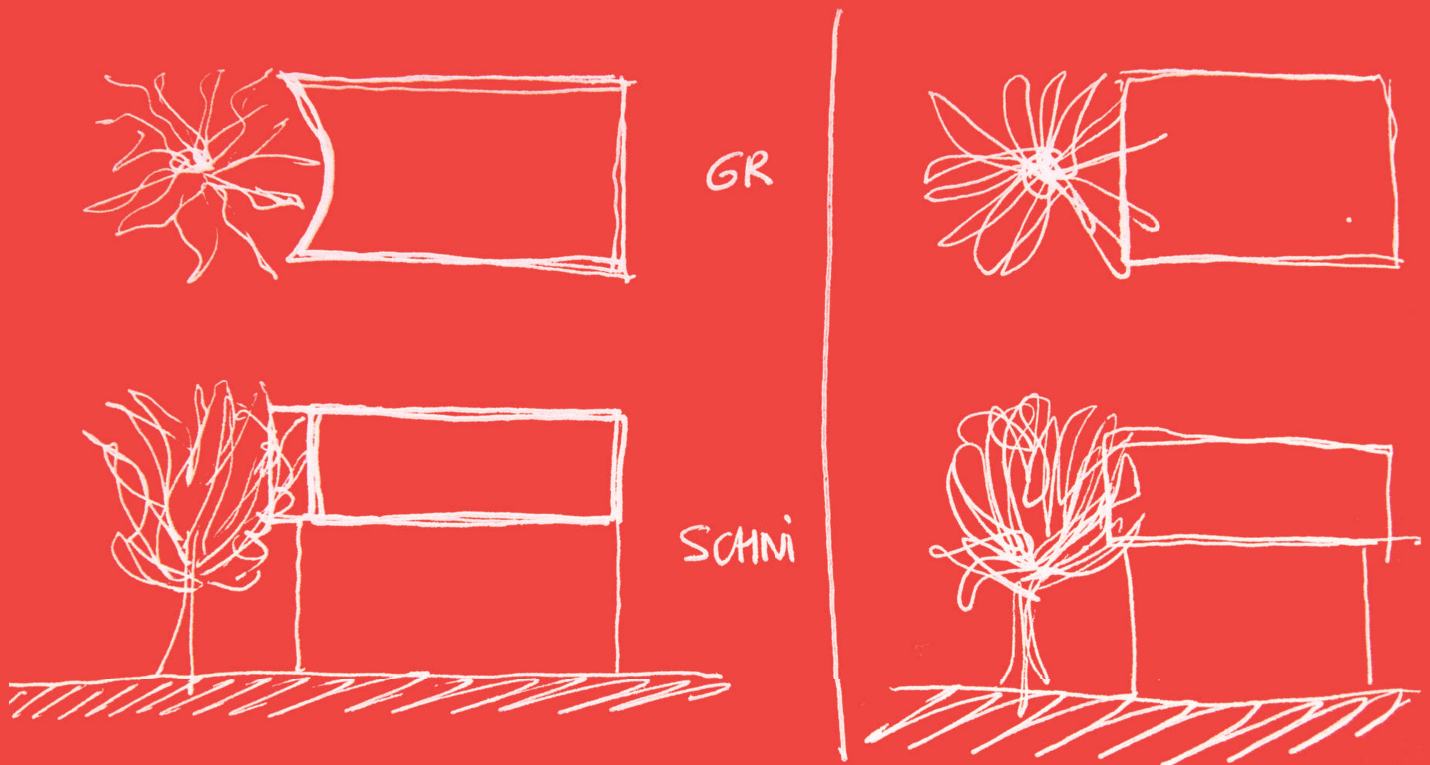


Fig. 4.10: Formfinding – adaption to trees

The eastern side of the square will be shielded, because this road is mainly used as entrance space to the building. This will be accomplished by an elevation difference.

THE HOUSING

The main concept of this project is the ability to adapt to changes.

Housing space needs to be adjustable to society's needs, for example: increasing/decreasing birthrate, immigration, emigration, general demographic developments, etc.

One of the possible solutions is presented here. There is one basic module that can be used and connected to units applicable to different lifestyles. Once it is organized, it can still change its function as needed by making small adjustments, like removing or adding single walls or simply change furniture.

There are three basic types of housing units in this project:

A) STUDENT APARTMENT (Fig. 4.11)
each unit having approximately 26 m²

B) SINGLE/COUPLE'S APARTMENT (Fig. 4.12)
each unit having approximately 55 m²

C) FAMILY/SHARED APARTMENT (Fig. 4.13-
Fig. 4.16)
each unit having approximately between 113 m²
and 170 m²

Generally, every group can be extended or shrunk, hence becoming a new group. It has to be said though, once the structure is assembled, it is easier to make changes within the different groups.

A group A unit, for example, could be converted into a group B unit, due to the similar position of the bathroom and kitchen. It would, however, take considerably more effort to do so, while the only difference between the single apartment unit and the couple apartment unit is the furnishing. It is rather easy and uncomplicated to convert them into one another.

The same applies to group C.

In Fig. 4.18 we can observe two modules – one being two student apartments (Group A) and the other one being a single apartment (Group B) – that are changed into a family apartment (Group C) through the process of removing and reinstalling the interior walls, as well as one side of the exterior wall.

It has to be noted that there are two exceptions to the usual floor plan: Group C has an extra element in the north-eastern corner. This has an area of about 150 m² and has a toilet that is looking towards the street. This is the only exception to the rule.

The other one is on the second level and is a common area with a communal kitchen and laundry room that can be used by residents only.

The idea is that these groups consisting of the modules can be assembled wherever they are needed. Due to the demographic predictions, that more and more people will live in cities¹, the used material needs to be able to develop upwards as well. One such material could be CLT (cross laminated timber), since there are already a few examples.

For this particular location it does seem to be a good fit, since the material is available in Austria. CLT has already been used in several wooden high-rise building structures and has proven to be as good as - if not better than - the reinforced concrete alternatives.

This material has many advantages: It is sustainable, quick to build, efficient and climate-positive.²

The dimensions of the modules were adapted to the lengths of the producible CLT-components: The heights of the rooms are 2.95 meters, while the longest piece does not exceed 16 meters.

The support-system that holds the construction has been customised to the structure, since the

1 United Nations: The World's Cities in 2016. Data Booklet. Online pdf at: URL: <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/urbanization/the_worlds_cities_in_2016_data_booklet.pdf> [27.10.2016]

2 Oona Horx-Strathern, Christiane Varga, Georg Guntchnig: The future of Timber Construction. CLT - Cross Laminated Timber. A study about changes, trends and technologies of tomorrow. URL: <<http://www.clt.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Stora-Enso-The-future-of-timber-construction-EN.pdf>> [19.03.2018]

ground-building-span differs in heights (Fig. 4.21).

The formal language is kept quite simple but it does adapt to the given surroundings. The shape adjusts to the trees, making an arch to the inside of the building, while doing the contrary when there is no plant. This continues throughout the levels, since the trees will need space to grow (Fig. 4.10).

The arrangement of the separate modules show shifts on the western side (Fig. 4.17), which makes the columns jump, too. These are due to the fact that the sidewalk is quite green and always with a sense of walking beneath something and being protected from all weather conditions. The intention was to let this feeling continue beneath the built structure, where there were no trees before.

The adaption to the construction of the surface jutties are more important than the adaption to the garage below. The garage-construction is supported by reinforced concrete slabs to help carry off the forces into the load-bearing walls (Fig. 4.19 - Fig. 4.20).

As we can see in Fig. 4.11 - Fig. 4.16, there is a clear distribution of the functions within the apartment. The thought behind this is that the square beneath the building is representative of the public space – not least because the entrances to the units are connected to the extension of that space. This space is used as a meeting point as well as for resting and playing games – there is a certain willingness to connect to new people while being in such a public location. In contrast to this, there is the transitional space used by pedestrians and vehicles only for transportation from point A to point B. Here, one does not wish to be disturbed, arriving as fast as possible at the desired destination is the main goal – social contact is not hoped-for. It is a sort of private space.

According to this partition, the ground plan of the modules were designed: the more private rooms (bedrooms) are located on the side facing the street (private space), while rooms used by several people (bathroom, kitchen, living room) are located on the side facing the inner access area (public space) (Fig. 4.17).

Also, the different levels feature additional communal space. It is built with platforms and the roofs of the uppermost buildings can be used by the community as well. Those places are open not only to its residents, but to everyone.

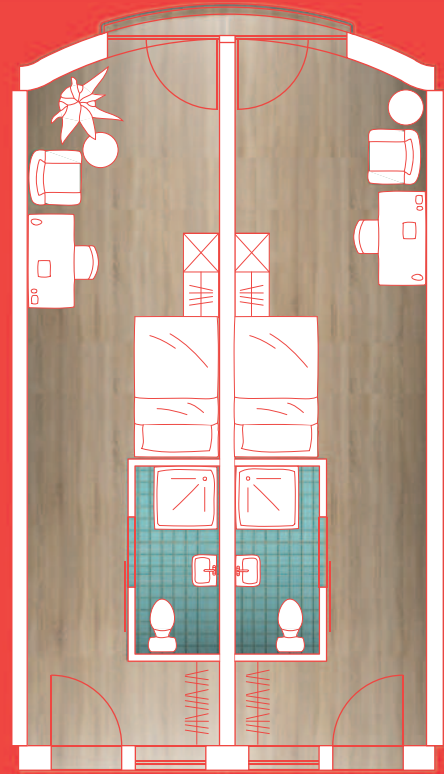
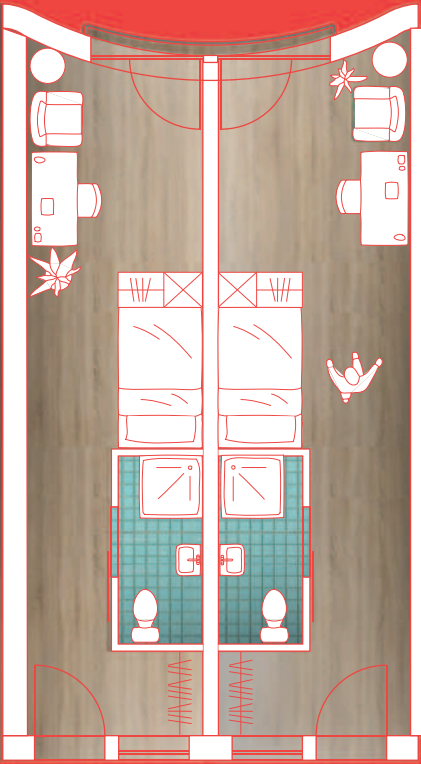


Fig. 4.11: Group A: Student apartment

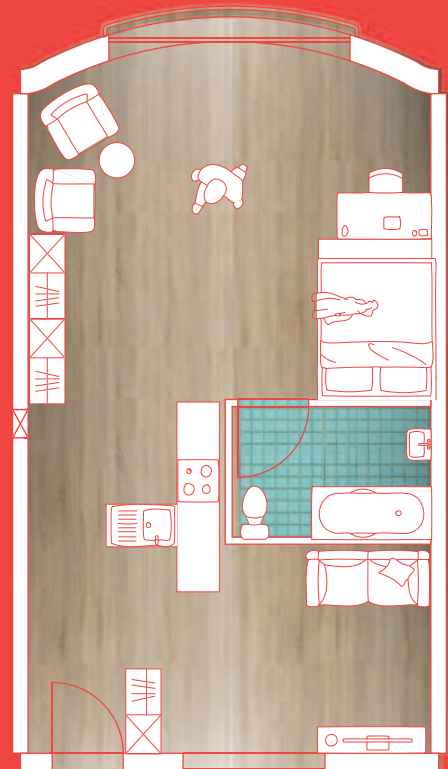
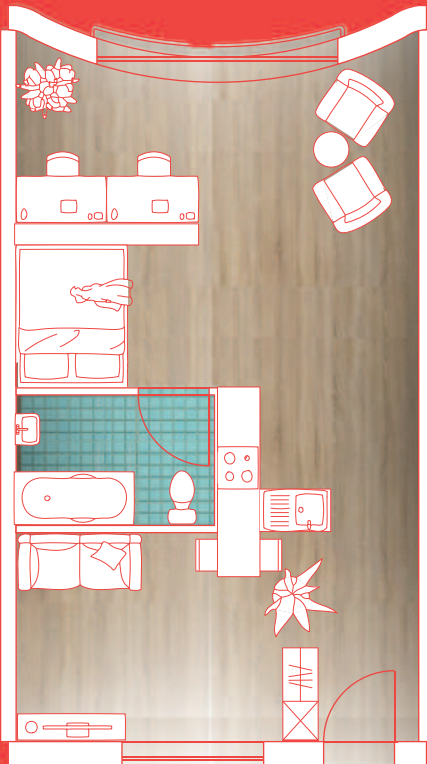


Fig. 4.12: Group B: Single apartment and couple's apartment

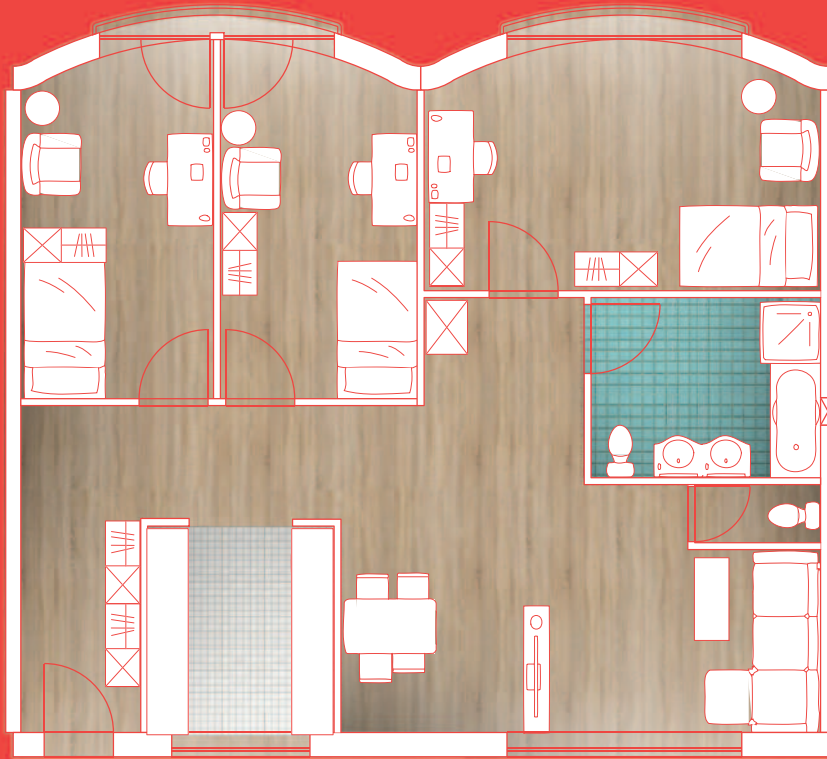


Fig. 4.13: Group C: Shared flat - three people



Fig. 4.14: Group C: Shared flat - four people





Fig. 4.15: Group C: Family apartment small - max. two children

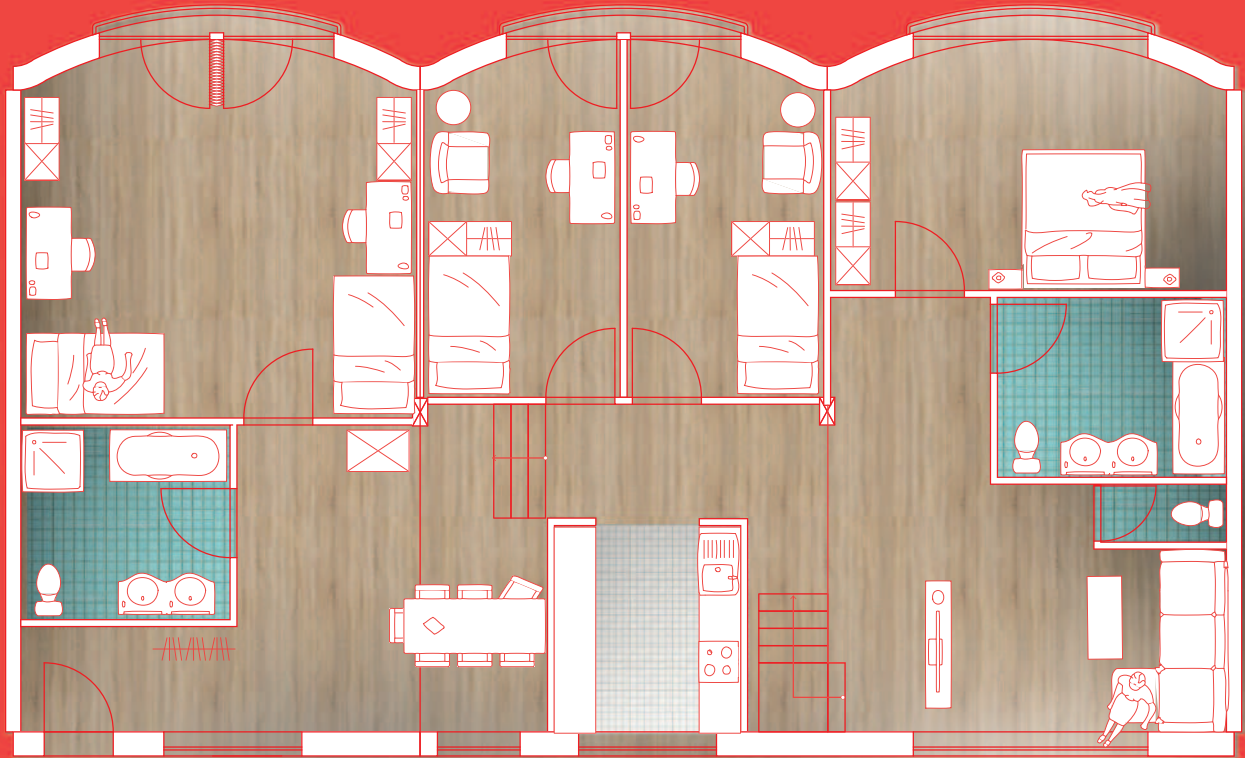


Fig. 4.16: Group C: Family apartment big – max. four children with stairs



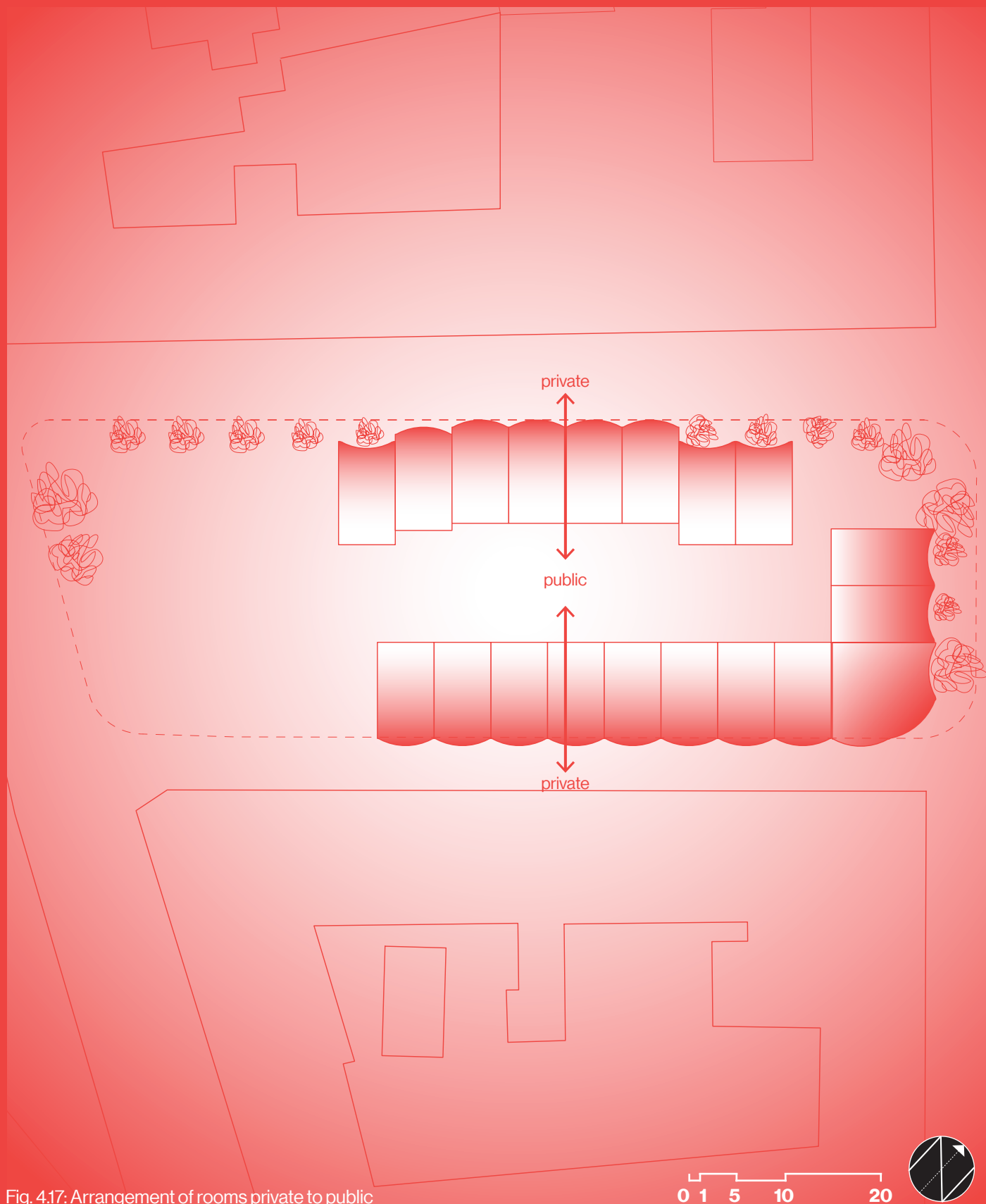


Fig. 4.17: Arrangement of rooms private to public

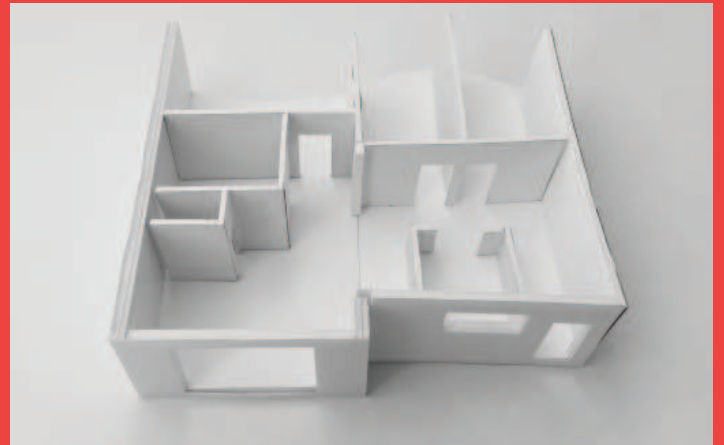
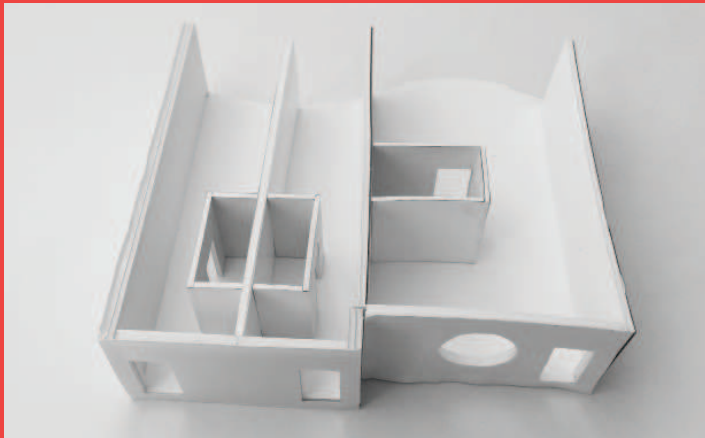
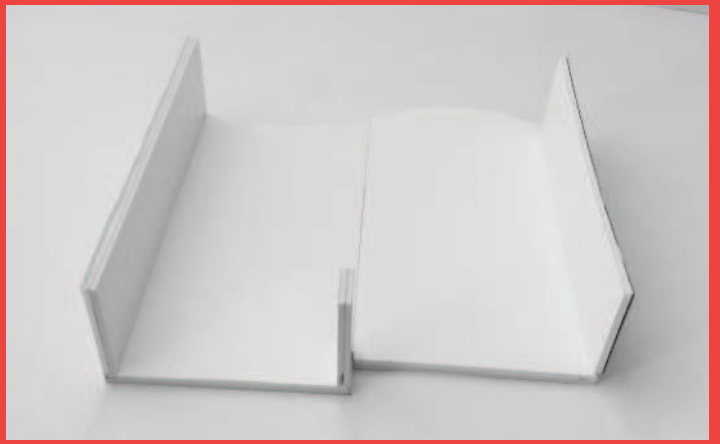
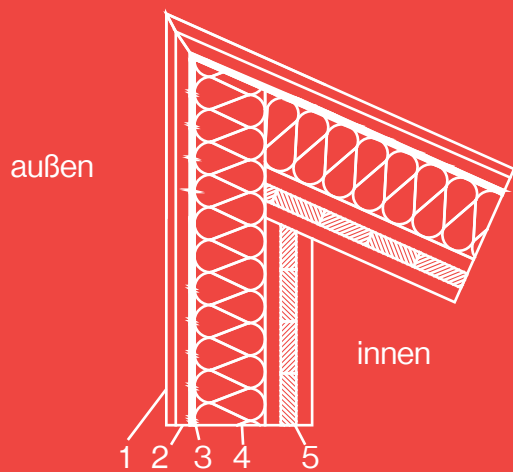
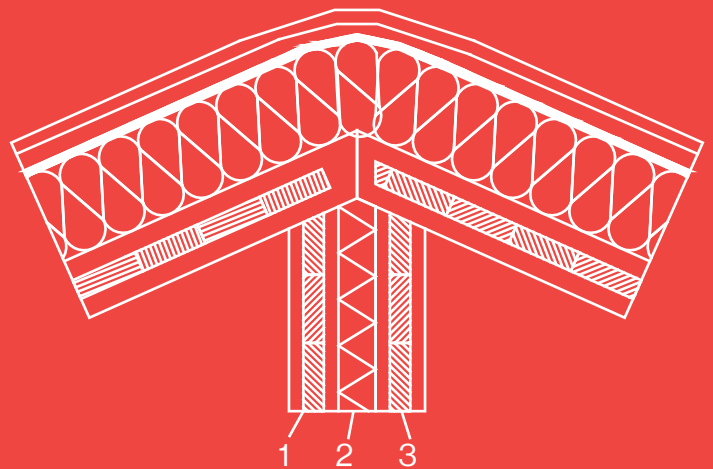


Fig. 4.18: Interchangeability



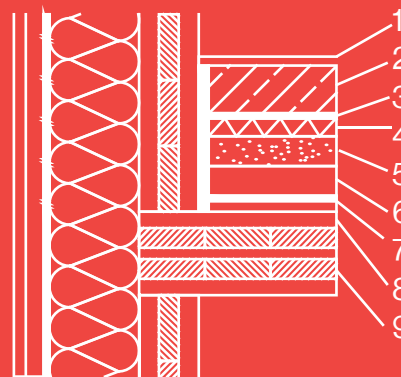
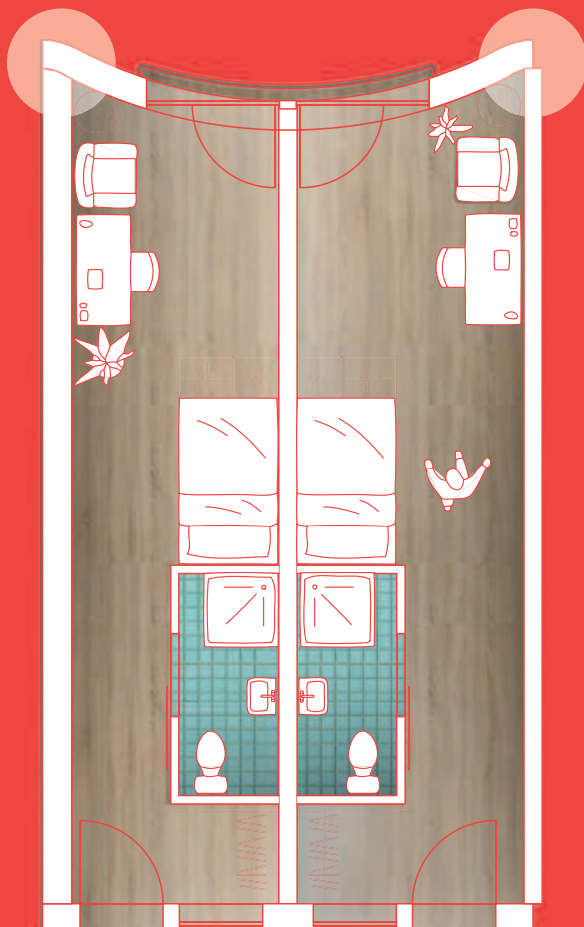
AUSSENWAND

1	horizontale Schalung	20mm
2	Lattung (30/60)	30mm
3	Abdichtung	-
4	Mineralwolldämmung	150mm
5	CLT-Wandplatte	100mm



TRENNWAND

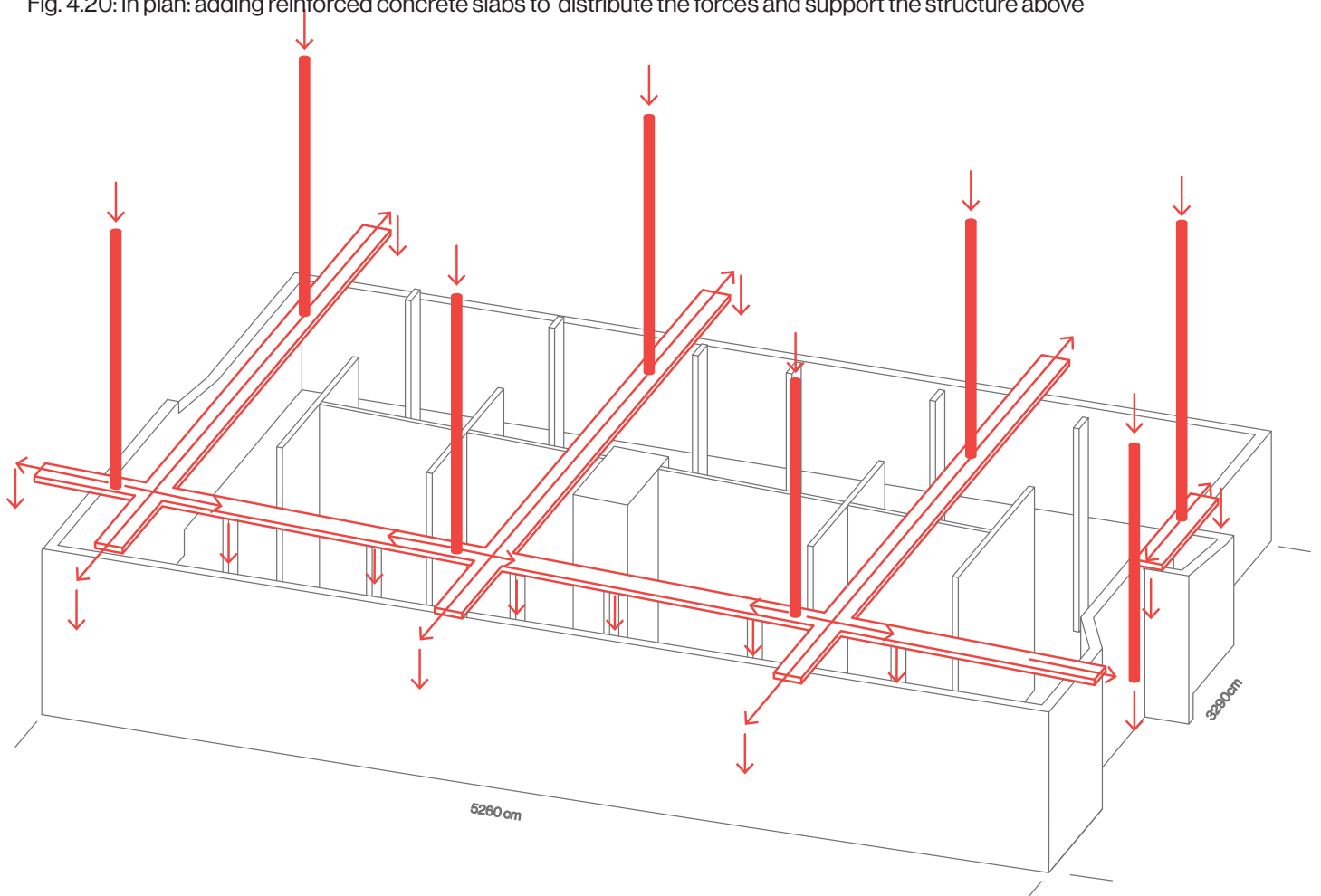
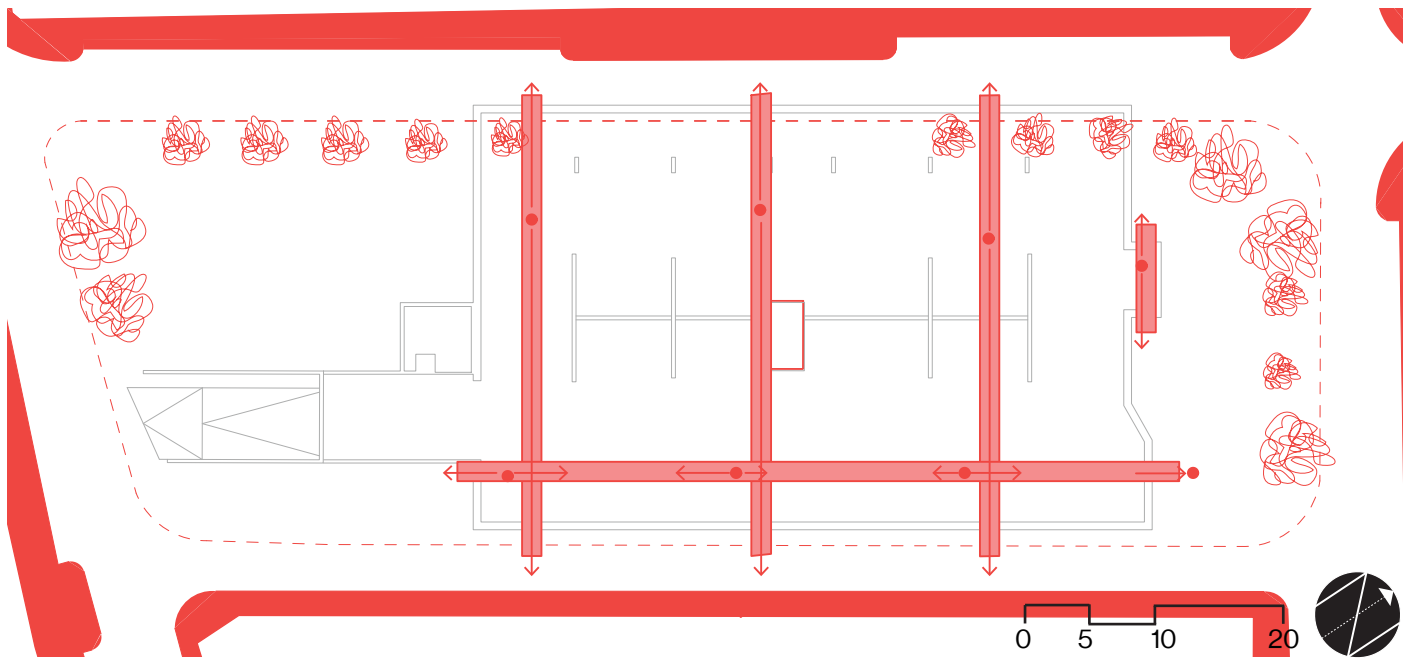
1	CLT-Platte	80mm
2	Dämmung	60mm
3	CLT-Platte	80mm



DECKE-AUSSENWAND-ANSCHLUSS

1	Bodenbelag	15mm
2	Zementestrich	70mm
3	PE-Folie	-
4	Trittschalldämmplatte	30mm
5	Splittschüttung	50mm
6	Gehwegplatte	50mm
7	Rieselschutz	-
8	Weichfaserplatte	18mm
9	CLT-Platte	140mm

Fig. 4.19: Details



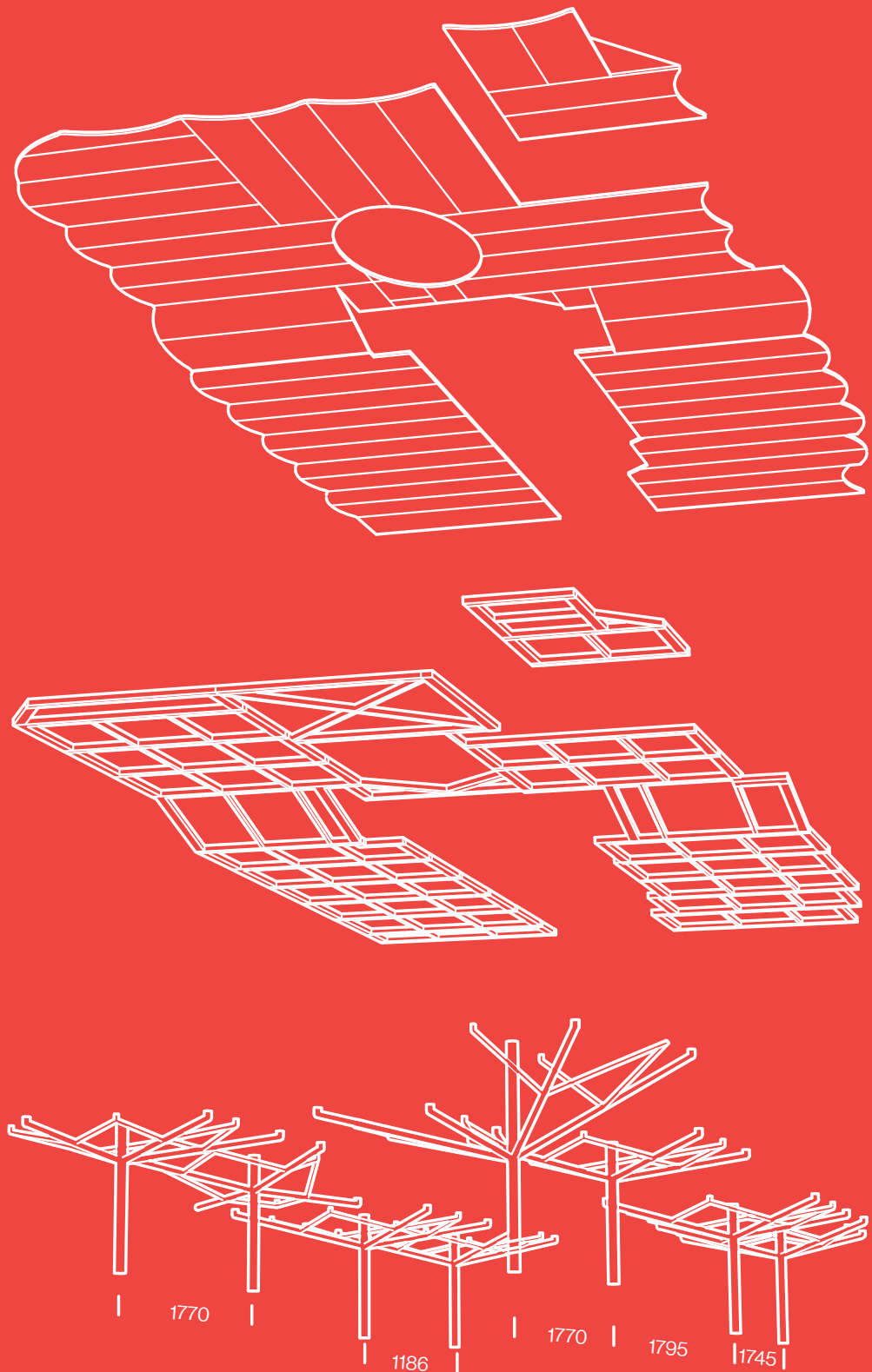


Fig. 4.22: Supporting system setup

five

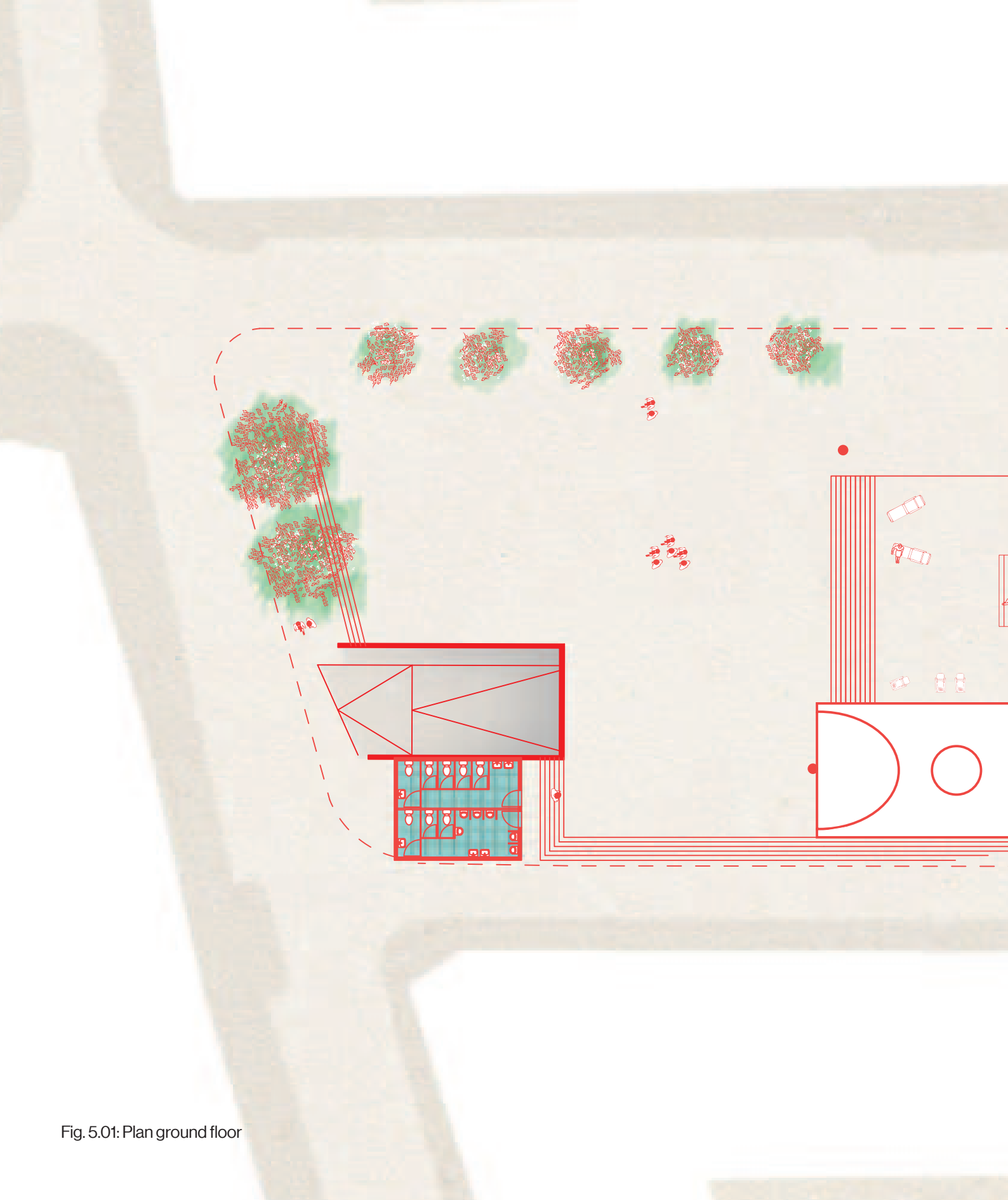
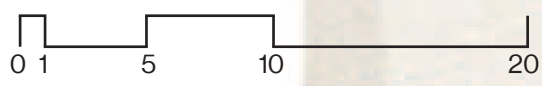
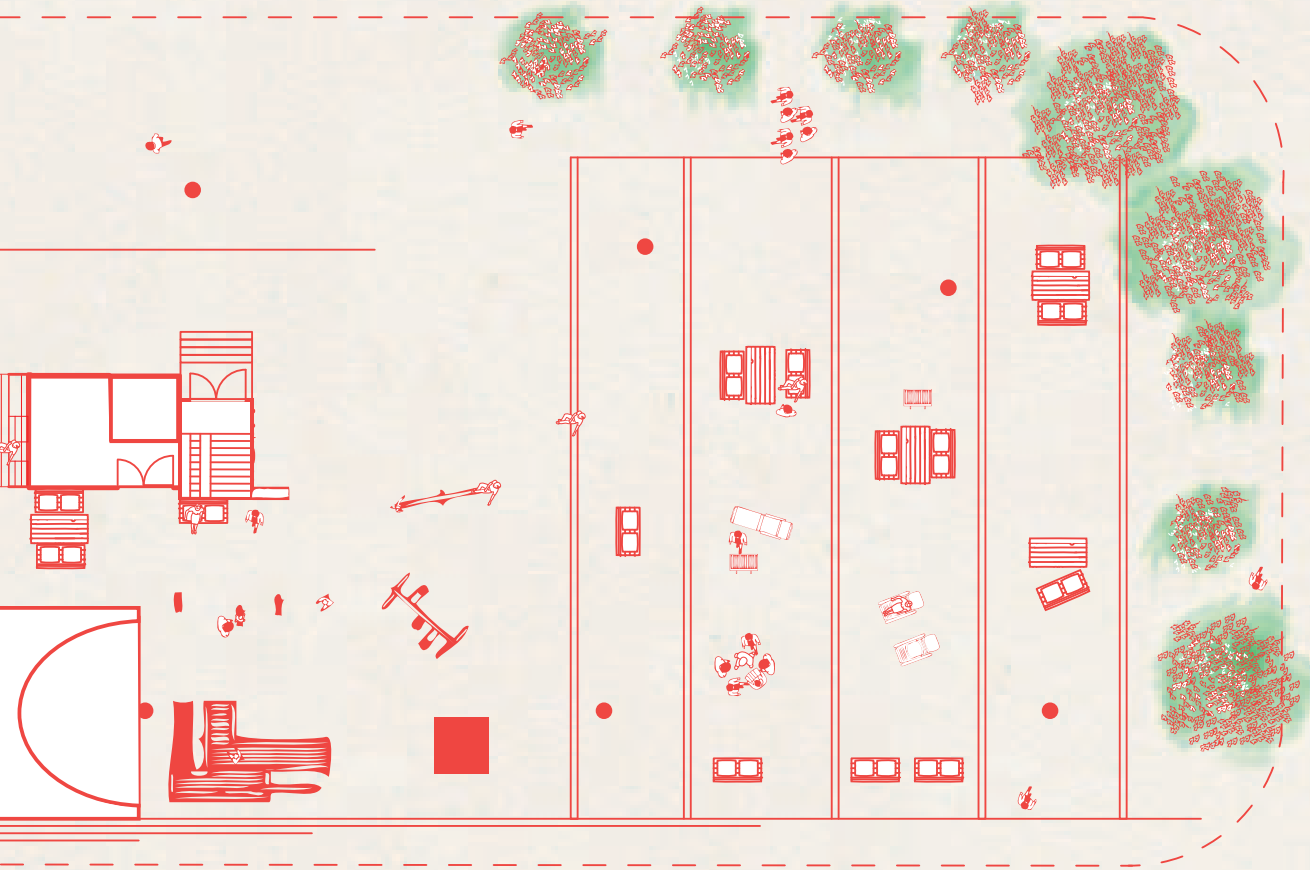


Fig. 5.01: Plan ground floor



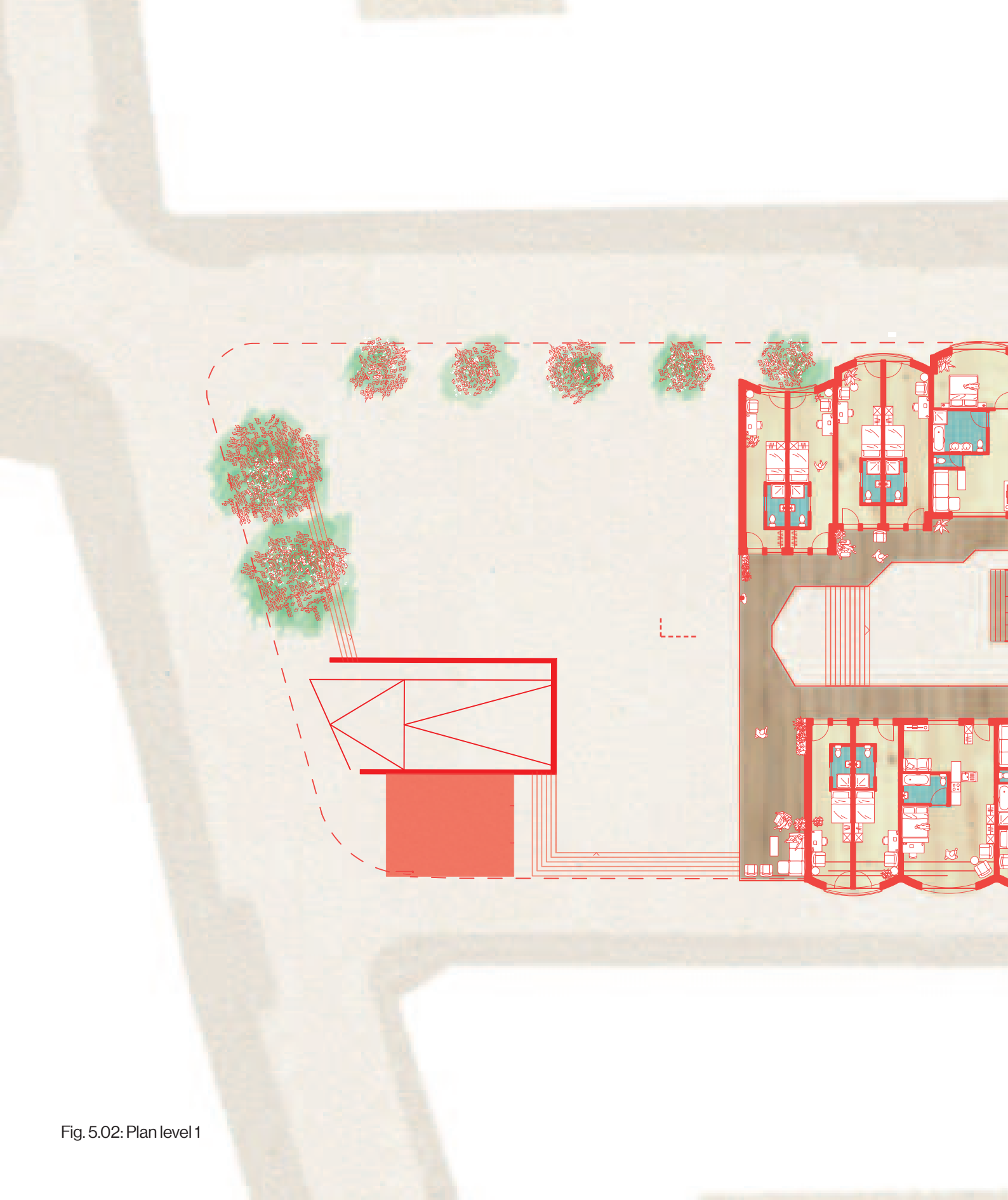
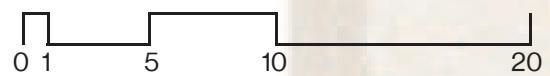


Fig. 5.02: Plan level 1



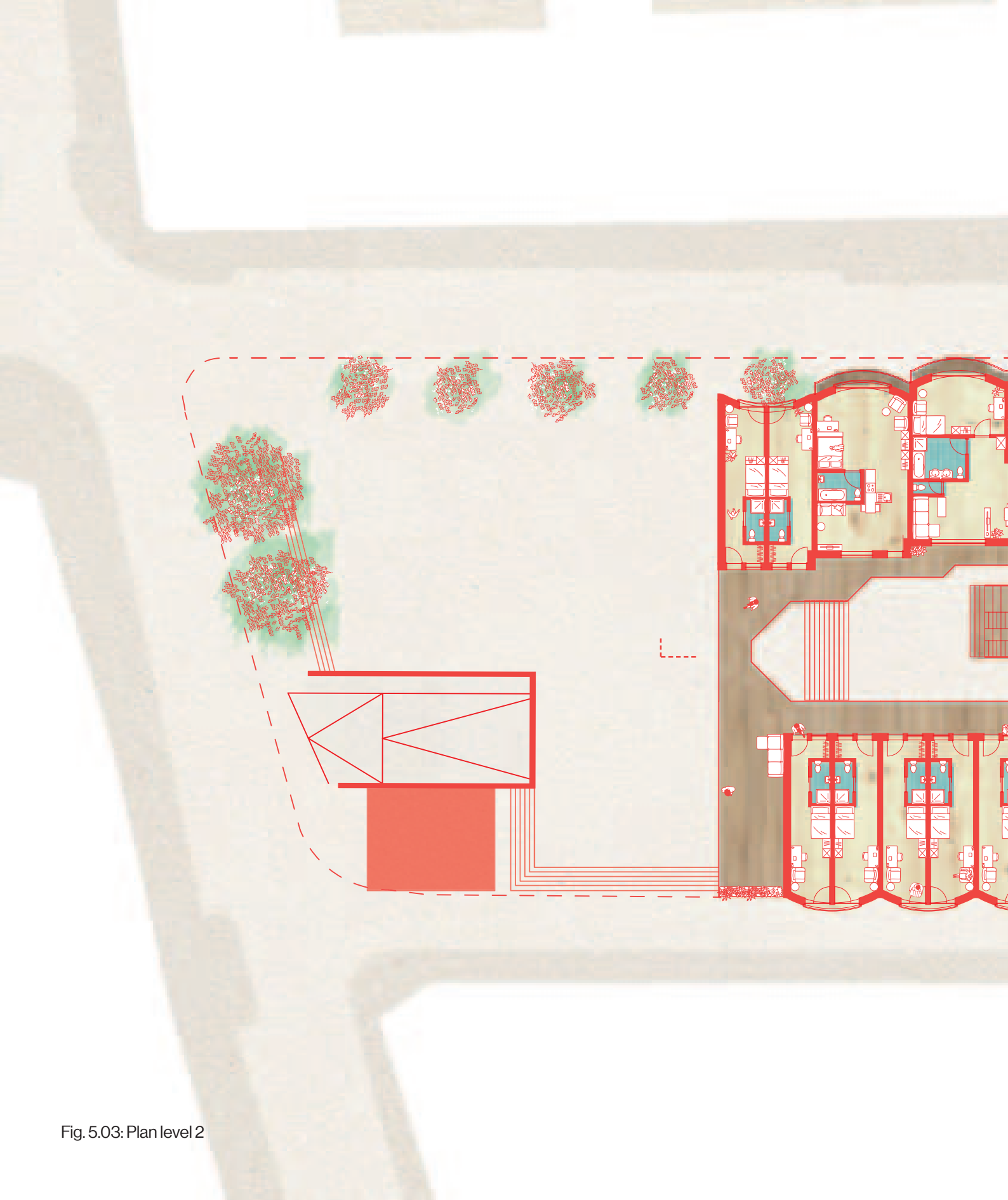


Fig. 5.03: Plan level 2



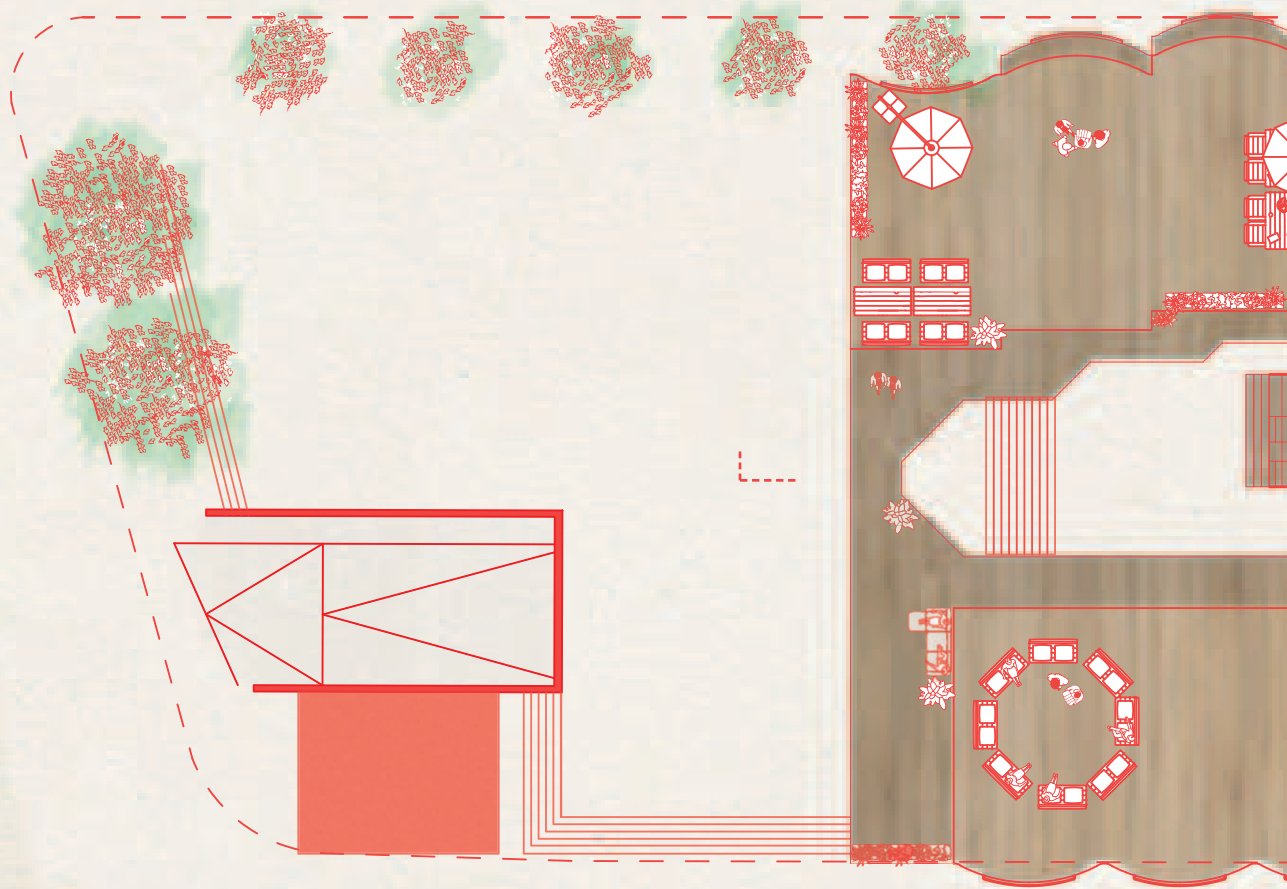


Fig. 5.04: Plan level 3



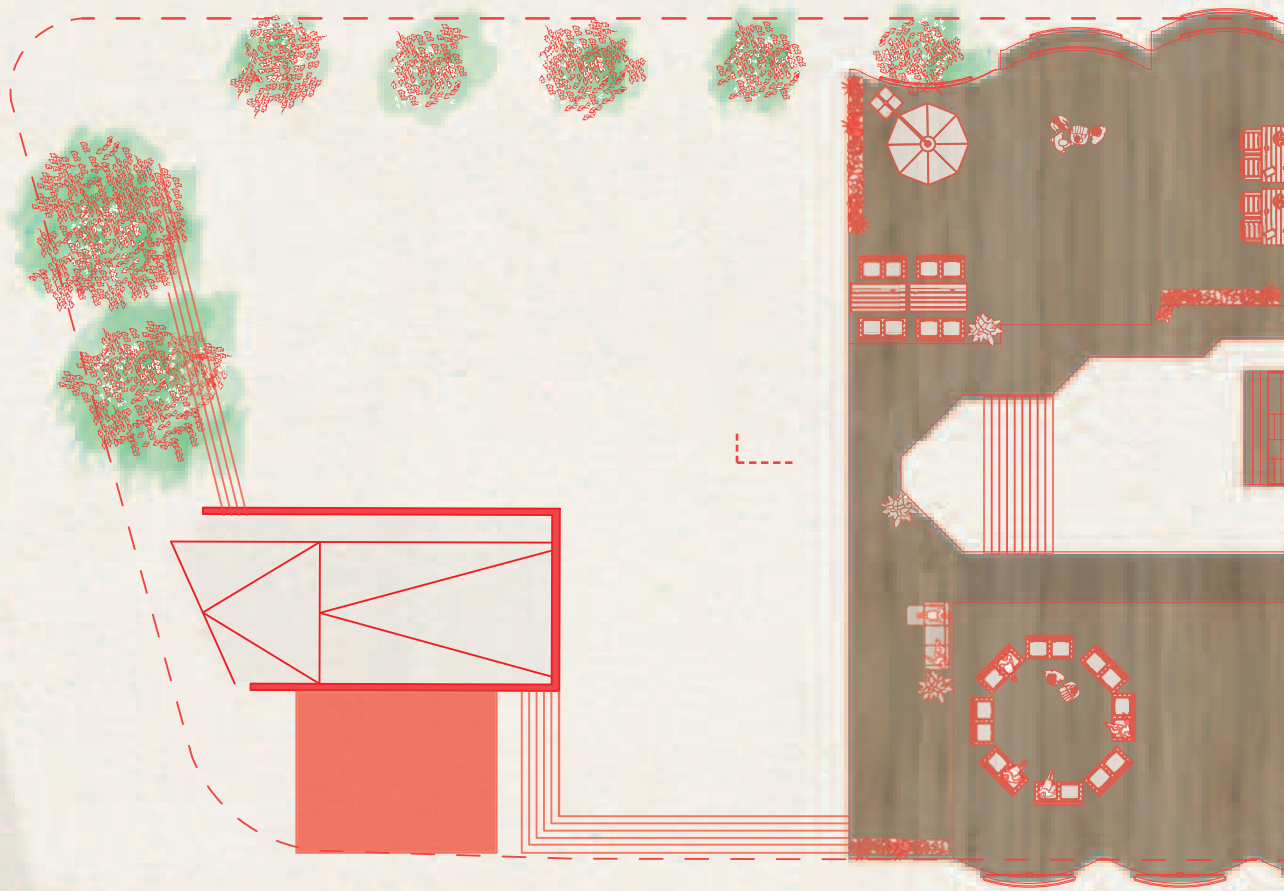


Fig. 5.05: Plan level 4



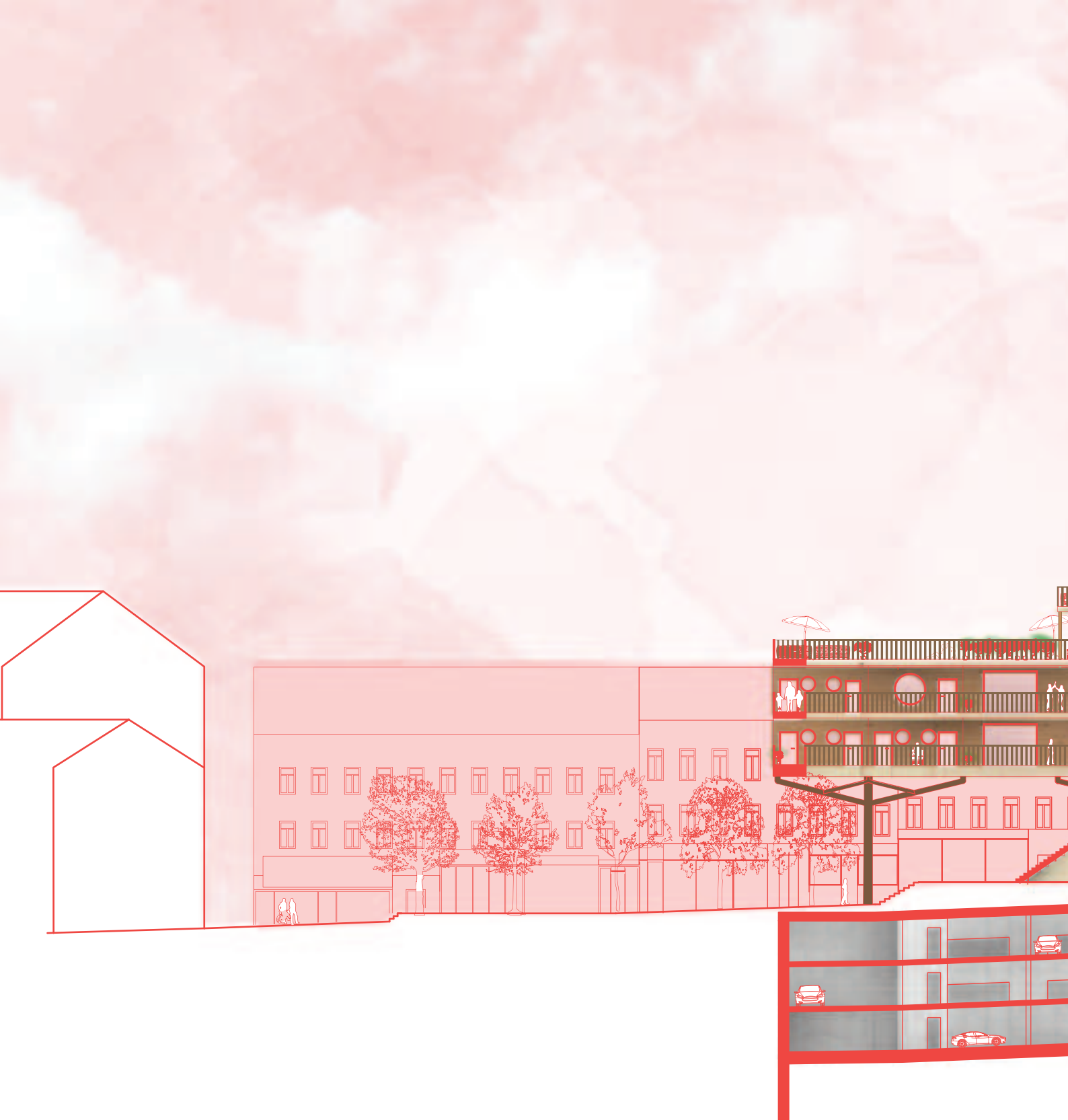
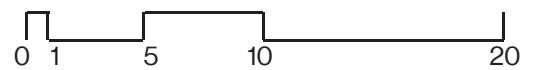


Fig. 5.06: Section



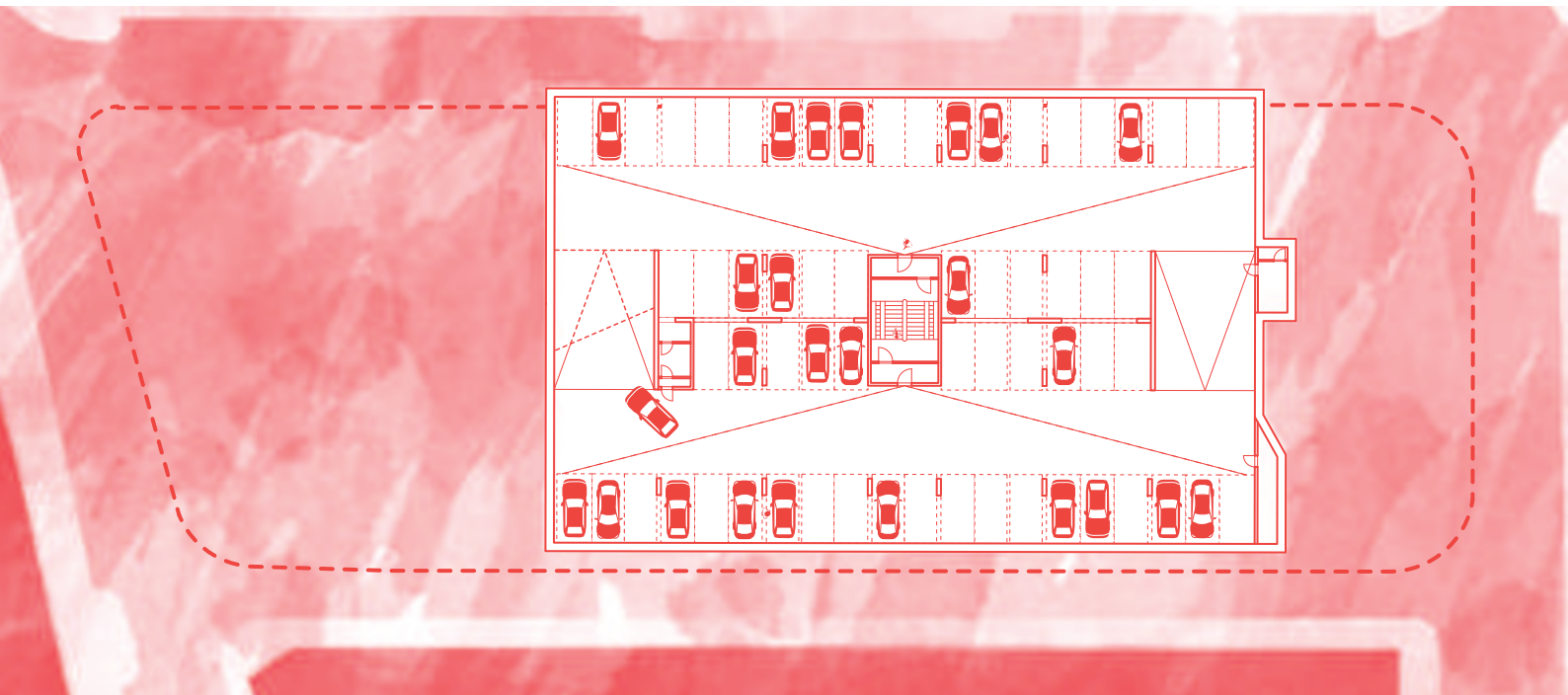


Fig. 5.07: Step one: garage as it is now

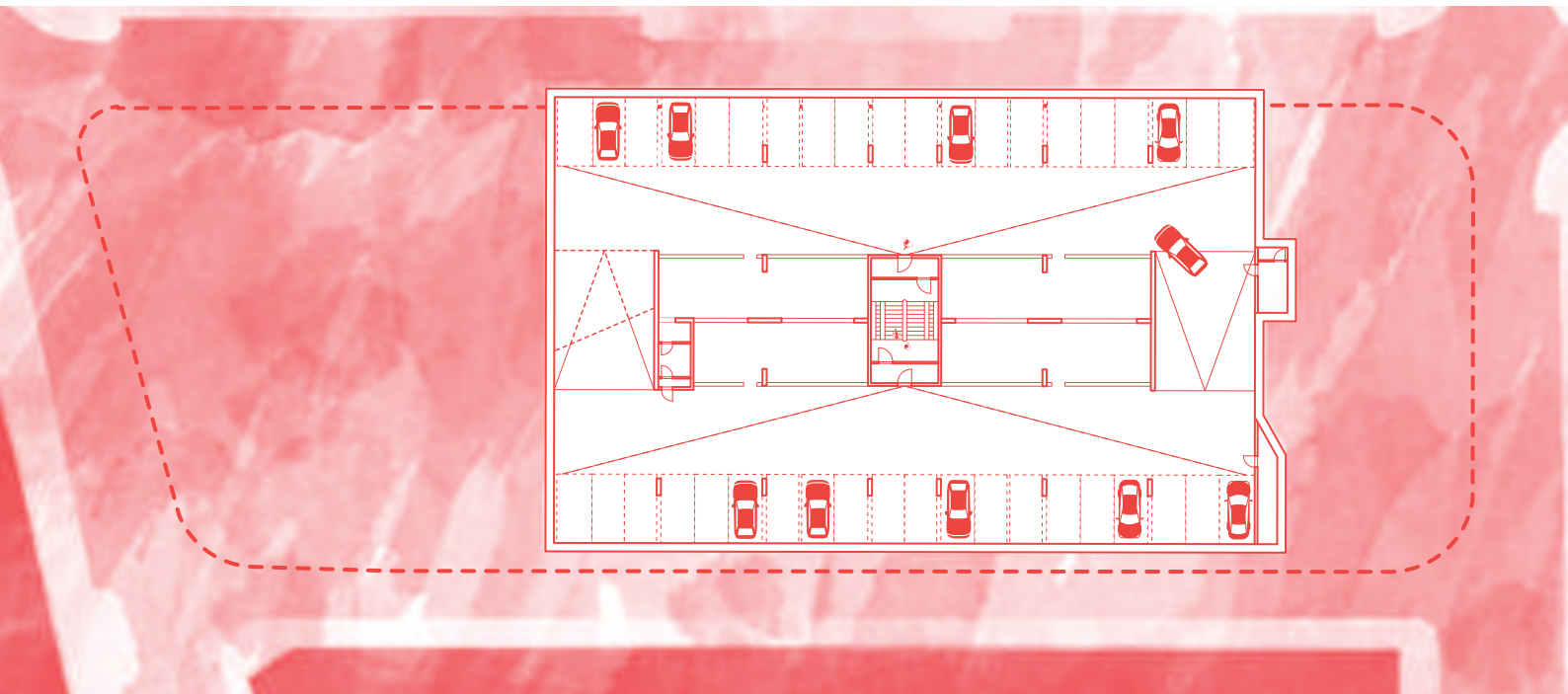


Fig. 5.08: Step two: space begins to be reused bit by bit

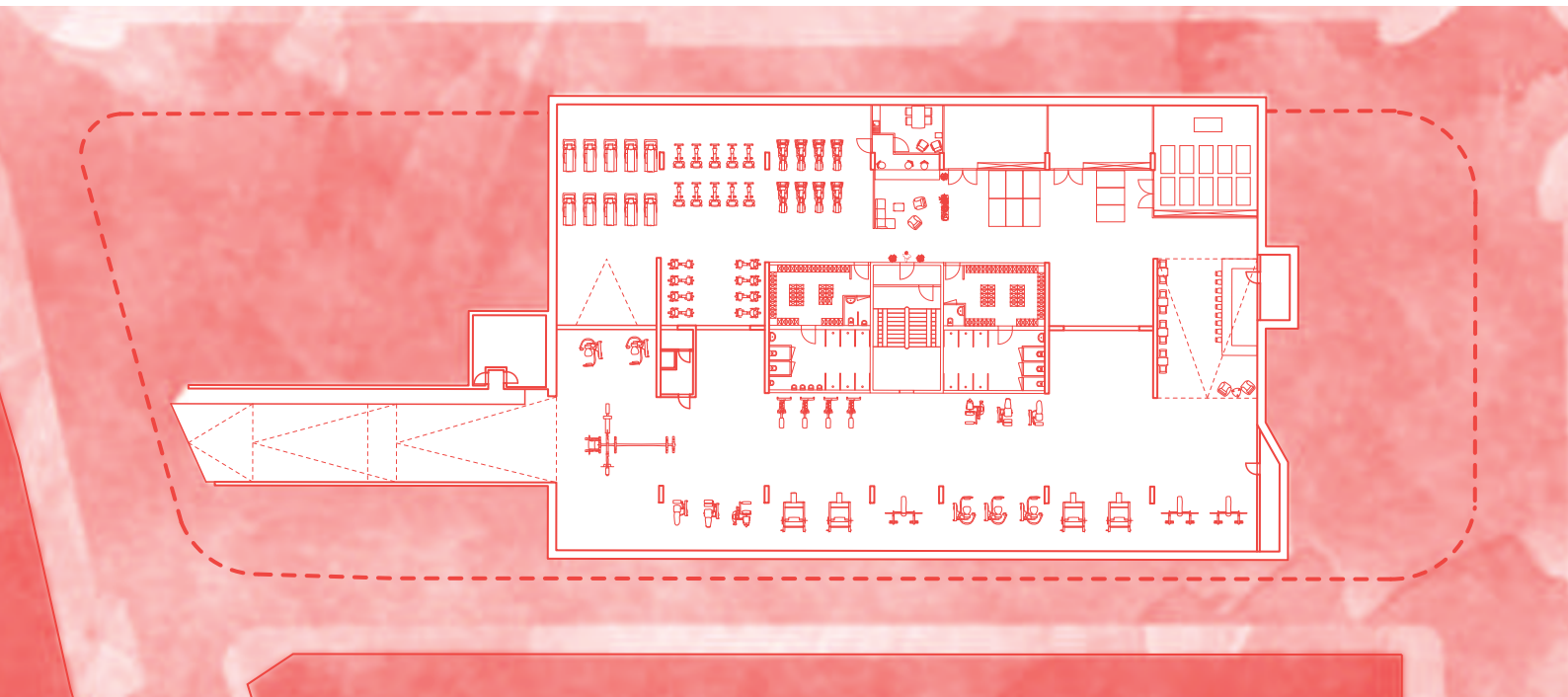


Fig. 5.09: Step three: garage spaces is reused with different functions - example fitness centre at level 1

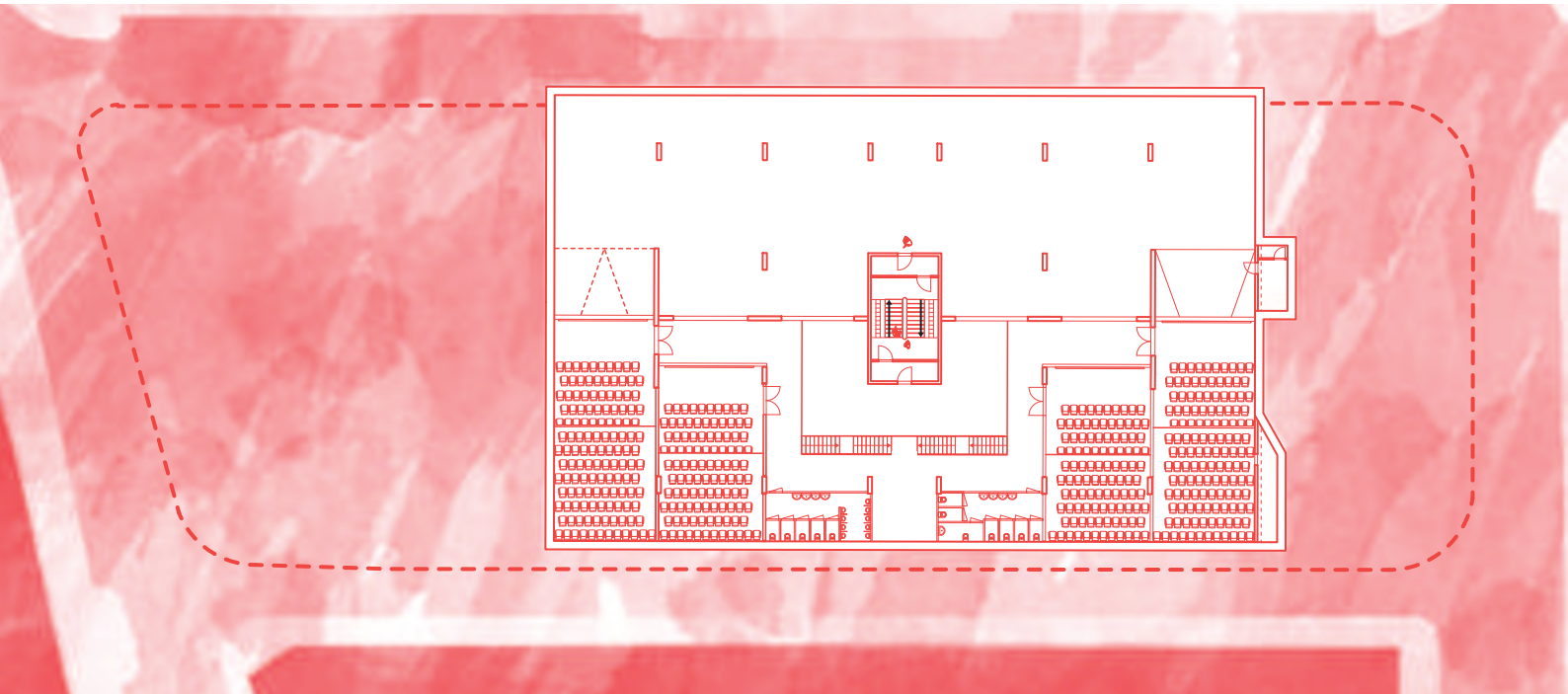


Fig. 5.10: Step three: garage space is reused with different functions - example cinema at level 2

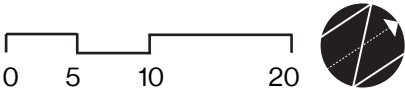




Fig. 5.11: Aerial view





Fig. 5.12: On platform level three





Fig. 5.13: The square





Fig. 5.14: On platform level two



six

Evaluation



Fig. 6.01: Parcel: 3,134 m²

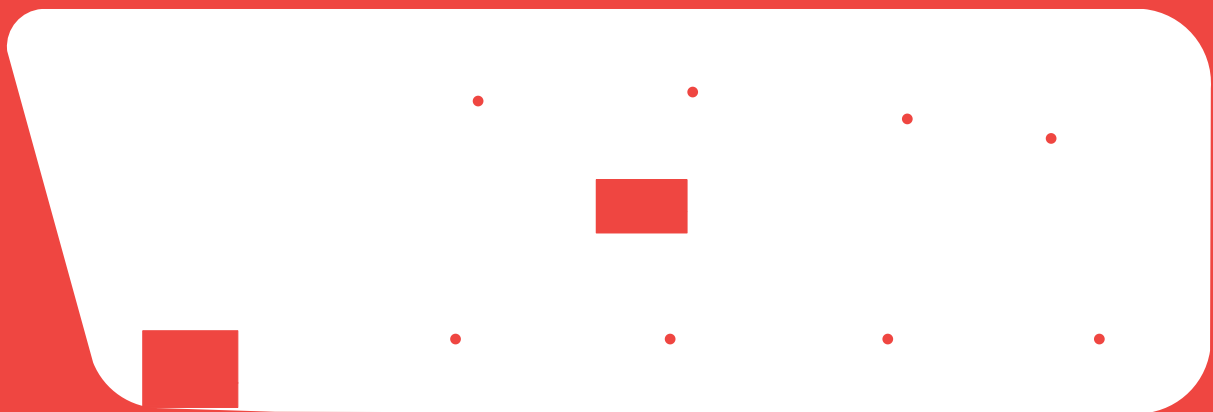


Fig. 6.02: Open space: 3,050 m²



GROSS FLOOR AREA (BRUTTO-GRUNDFLÄCHE)

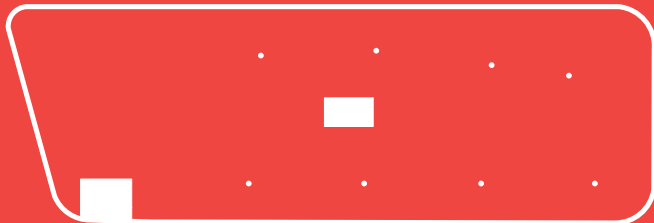


Fig. 6.03: Gross floor area gound level: 84 m²



Fig. 6.04: Gross floor area level 1: 1,637 m²

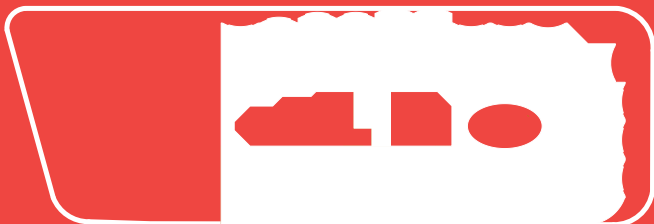


Fig. 6.05: Gross floor area level 2: 1,695m²



Fig. 6.06: Gross floor area level 3: 1,539m²



Fig. 6.07: Gross floor area level 4: 725 m²

TOTAL GROSS FLOOR AREA

ground level:	84	m ²
level 1:	1,637	m ²
level 2:	1,695	m ²
level 3:	1,539	m ²
level 4:	725	m ²
TOTAL:	5,680	m²



GROSS LEASABLE AREA (NUTZFLÄCHE)



Fig. 6.08: Gross leasable area ground level: 60 m²

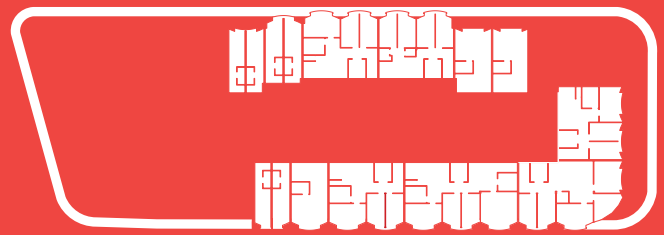


Fig. 6.09: Gross leasable area level 1: 1,131 m²



Fig. 6.10: Gross leasable area level 2: 1,205 m²



Fig. 6.11: Gross leasable area level 3: 1,261 m²



Fig. 6.12: Gross leasable area level 4: 663 m²

TOTAL LEASABLE FLOOR AREA

ground level:	60	m ²
level 1:	1,131	m ²
level 2:	1,205	m ²
level 3:	1,261	m ²
level 4:	663	m ²

TOTAL: **4,320 m²**

= 76 % of the gross floor area

GROSS CONSTRUCTION AREA (KONSTRUKTIONSFLÄCHE)

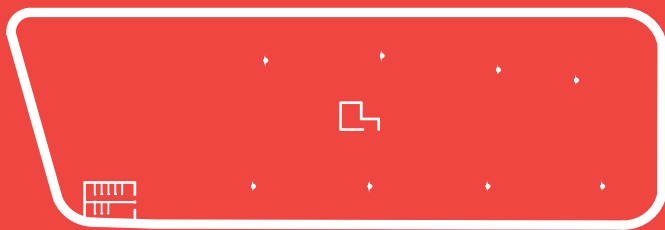


Fig. 6.13: Gross construction area ground level: 24 m²

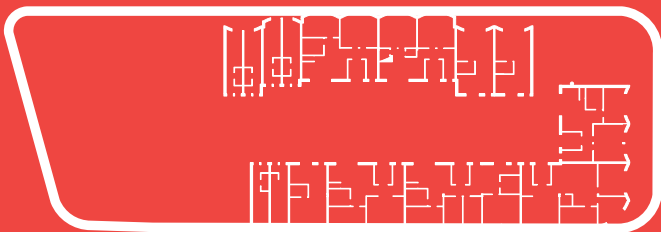


Fig. 6.14: Gross construction area level 1: 169 m²

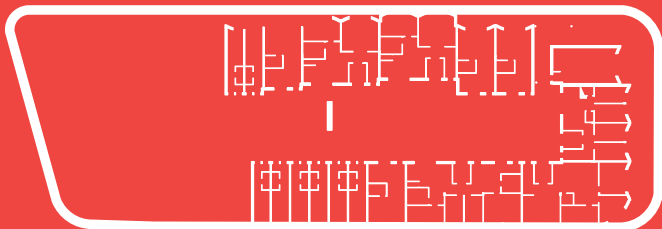


Fig. 6.15: Gross construction area level 2: 176 m²



Fig. 6.16: Gross construction area level 3: 93 m²



Fig. 6.17: Gross construction area level 4: 20 m²

TOTAL GROSS CONSTRUCTION AREA

ground level:	24	m ²
level 1:	169	m ²
level 2:	176	m ²
level 3:	93	m ²
level 4:	20	m ²

TOTAL: 482 m²

=9 % of the gross floor area

GROSS CIRCULATION AREA (VERKEHRSFLÄCHE)

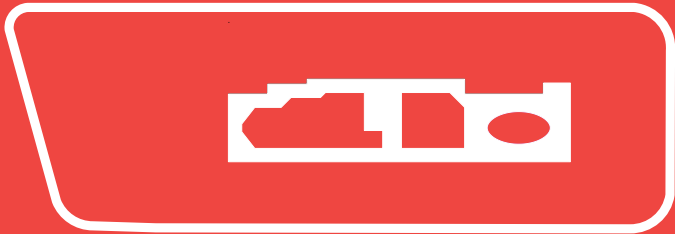


Fig. 6.18: Gross circulation area level 1: 337 m²



Fig. 6.19: Gross circulation area level 2: 314 m²



Fig. 6.20: Gross circulation area level 3: 185 m²

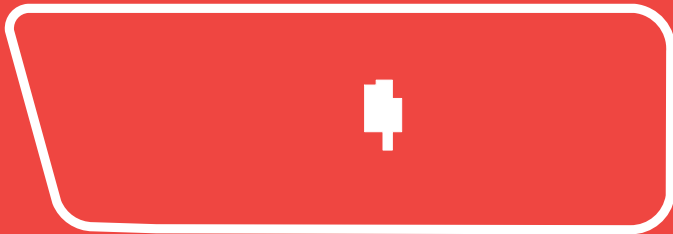


Fig. 6.21: Gross circulation area level 4: 42 m²

TOTAL GROSS CIRCULATION AREA

level 1:	337	m ²
level 2:	314	m ²
level 3:	185	m ²
level 4:	42	m ²
TOTAL:	878	m²

= 15 % of the gross floor area

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Conclusio

Summarizing, this project's main topic is the inclusion of immigrants and refugees socially as well as spatially on the basis of the theoretical research. There are a few points that have been taken under consideration while planning this structure:

First of all, this project is about adaptability to society's needs and changes. It must be able to accommodate students, families, single individuals and it must adapt to demographic developments. This means, if we consider the predictions of experts, that we have to prepare for a general increase in population – which also includes crises like the one in 2015 concerning refugees. The concept of this project in particular is expandable vertically as well as horizontally.

Another thing we need to understand is that we cannot build for one group of people exclusively. A structure is needed that will serve as a home for the arriving population, the foreign population as well as the local population. We need to keep in mind that the locals need to be equal to the immigrants on a spatial basis – especially because they are certainly not equal politically or even socially. Treating immigrants differently in terms of housing, in addition to inequality on the social and political level, may lead to isolation and lack of integration. This means that the same apartment units that are used by one group should be able to house the other group without going through any or very few changes. On the contrary to what can be observed in similar projects, where the local population gets to stay in enlarged versions of the refugees' accommodations.

Furthermore, to allow for a central location of the building, while not angering the locals by taking away public spaces, the structure is built *above* a square, while ensuring that no public space will be “taken away”. On the contrary, the communal space increases, as the structure makes room for even more public area above the square itself, whilst creating residential property. The Dornerplatz, which is located in the 17th district is already used for several events, and will continue to do so. It is divided into a event-part, a “playing”-part that involves a basketball-court, a playground, the main staircase to the structure above, which contains storage room for public furniture. The last terraced section of the site is devoted to resting, relaxing, meeting.

The architectural piece itself stands on treelike pillars of the modified new square so it only intervenes with it on the most necessary points. The curved walls towards the streets are adapted to the trees, so they can keep growing next to the building.

The room arrangement always contains the most private rooms (bedrooms) towards the streets, while the common areas are located towards the square.

All the platforms and roofs are to be used by everyone, not only the residents, as well as the public furniture.

The garage beneath the site is taken under consideration for future developments as well. As cars will probably become less in the cities of Europe, the parking garage will have to adapt to the developments of society.

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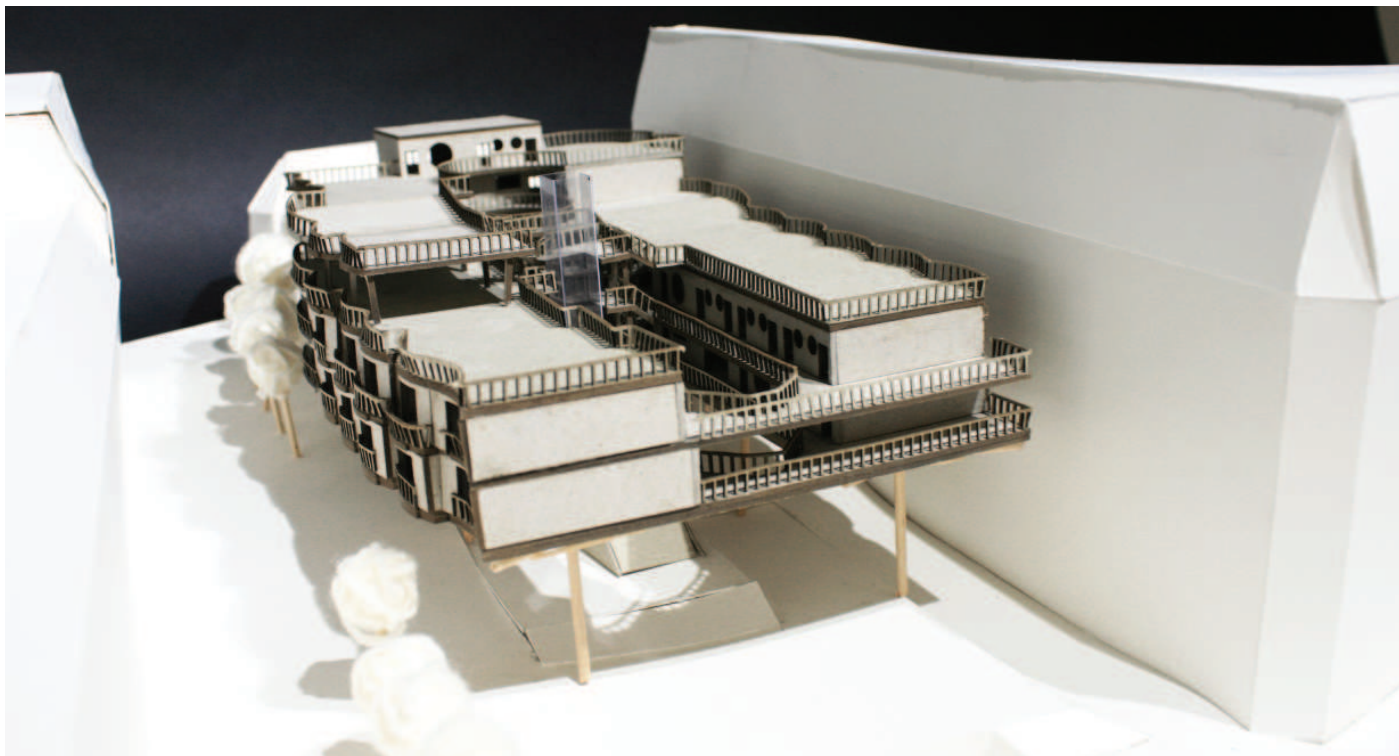


Fig. 8.01: Model 1



Fig. 8.02: Model 2

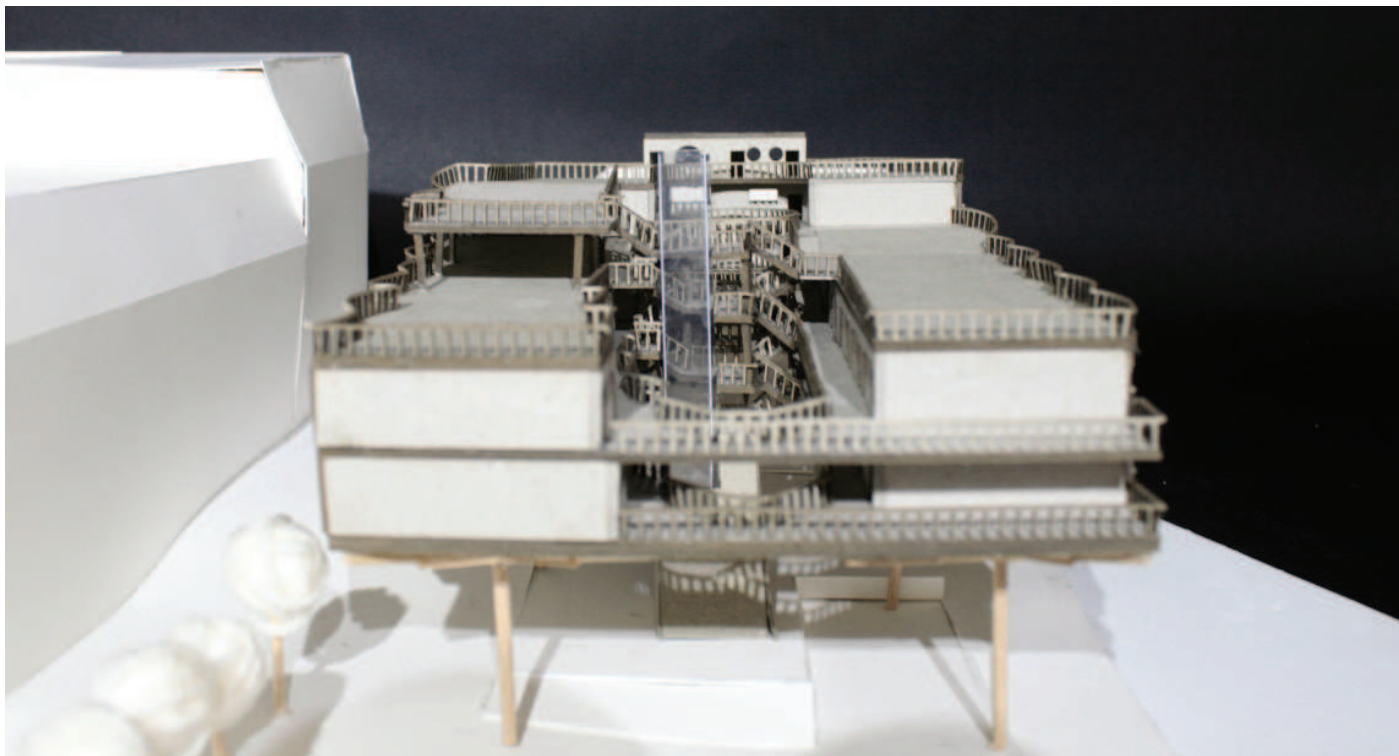


Fig. 8.03: Model 3

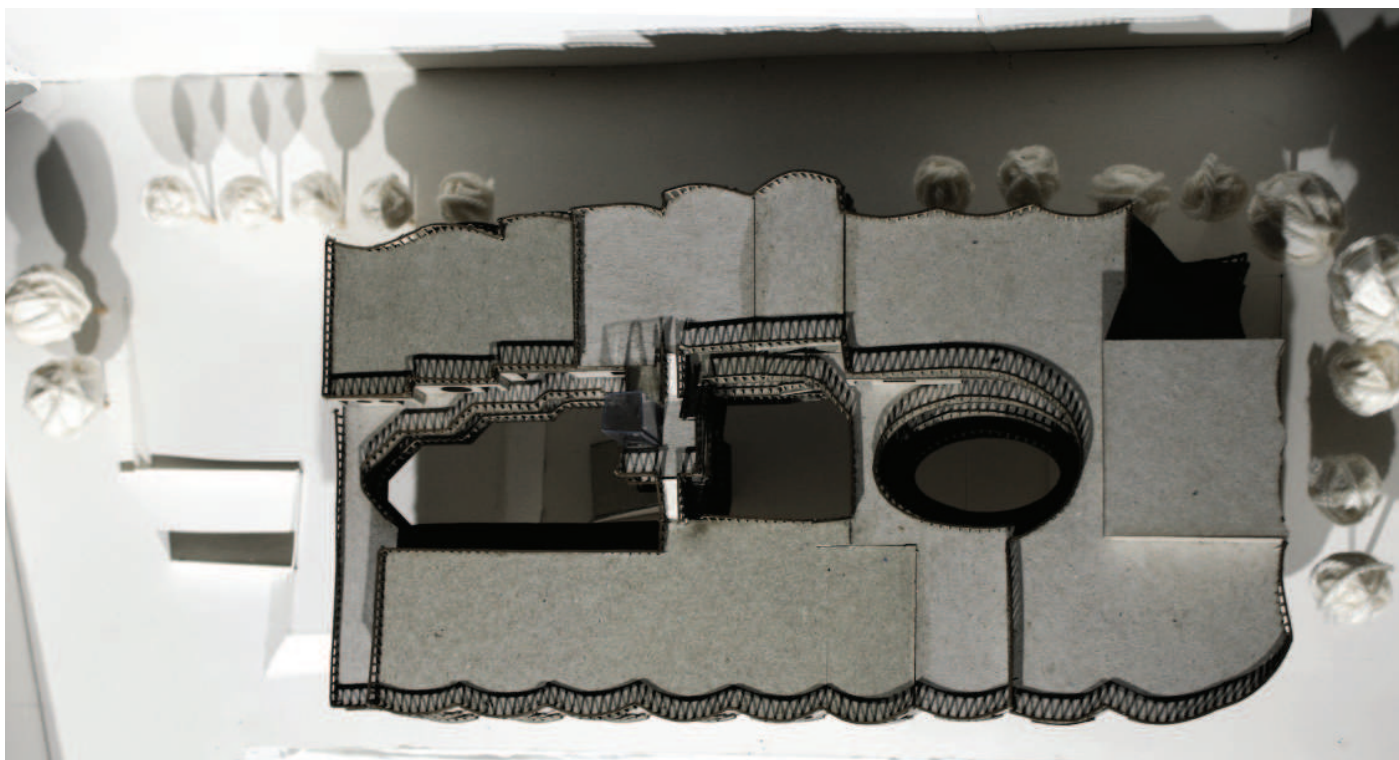


Fig. 8.04: Model 4



Fig. 8.05: Model 5

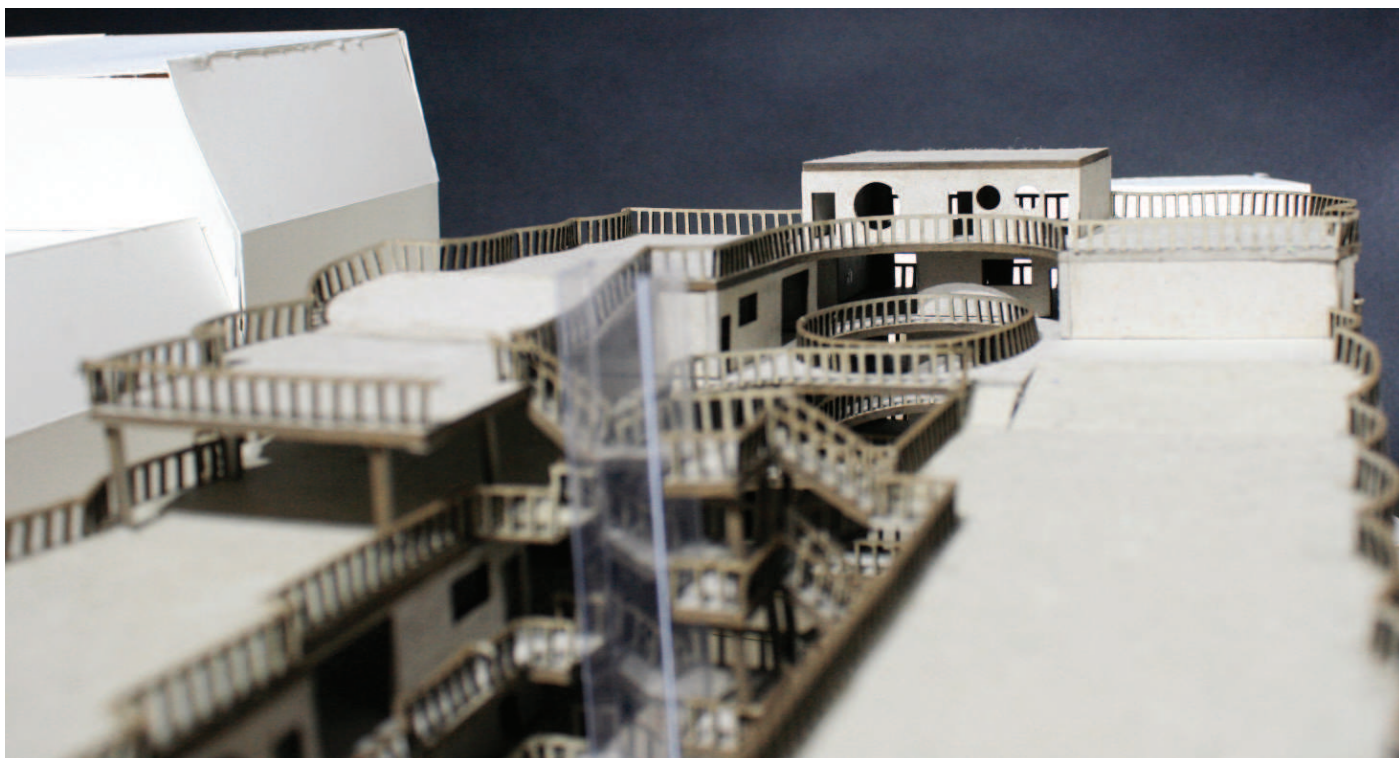


Fig. 8.06: Model 6



Fig. 8.07: Model 7

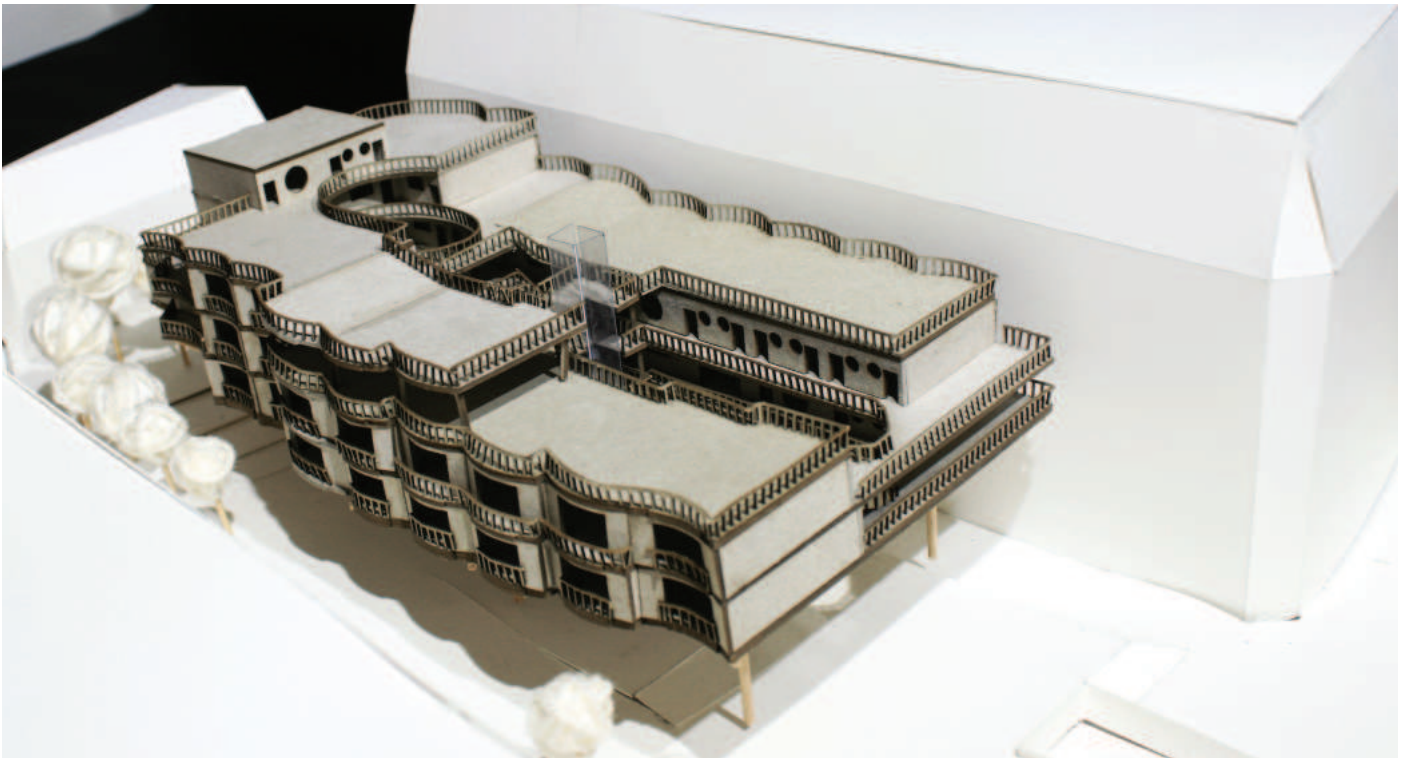


Fig. 8.08: Model 8

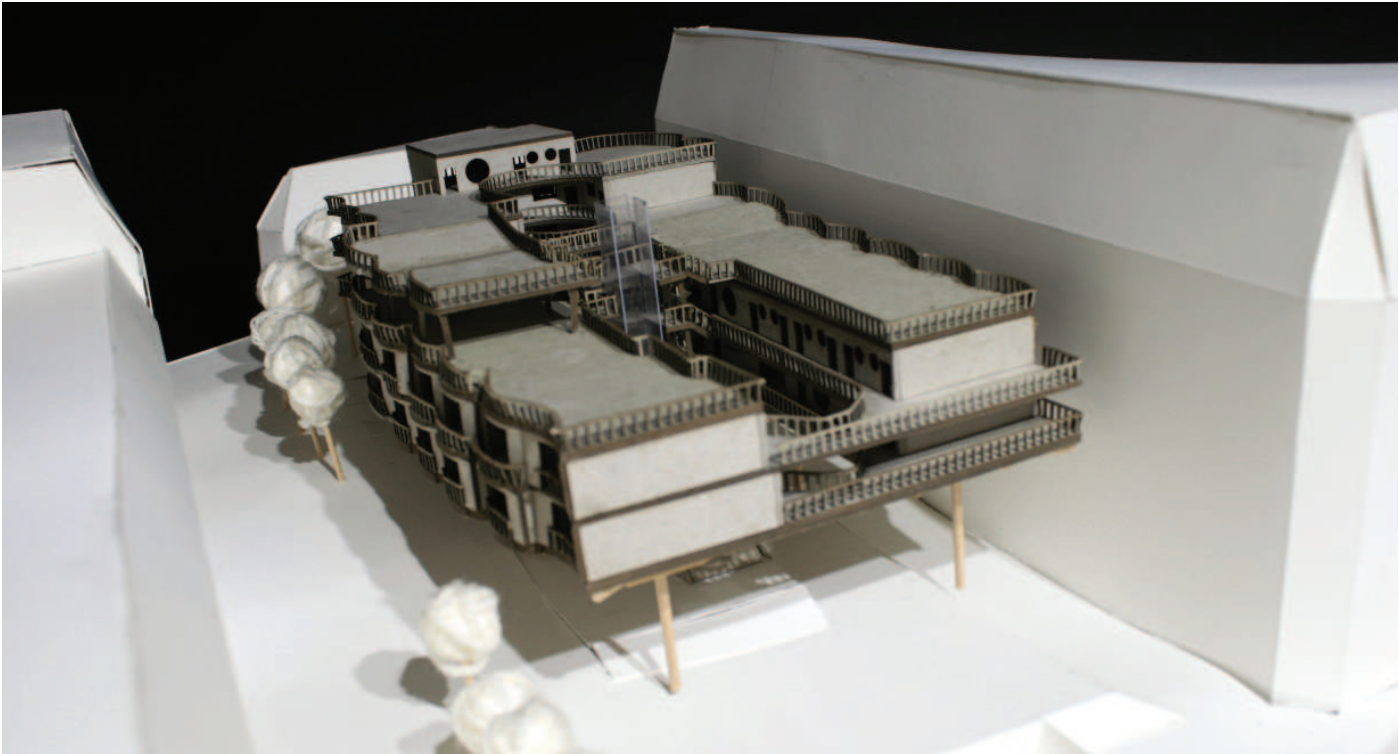


Fig. 8.09: Model 9

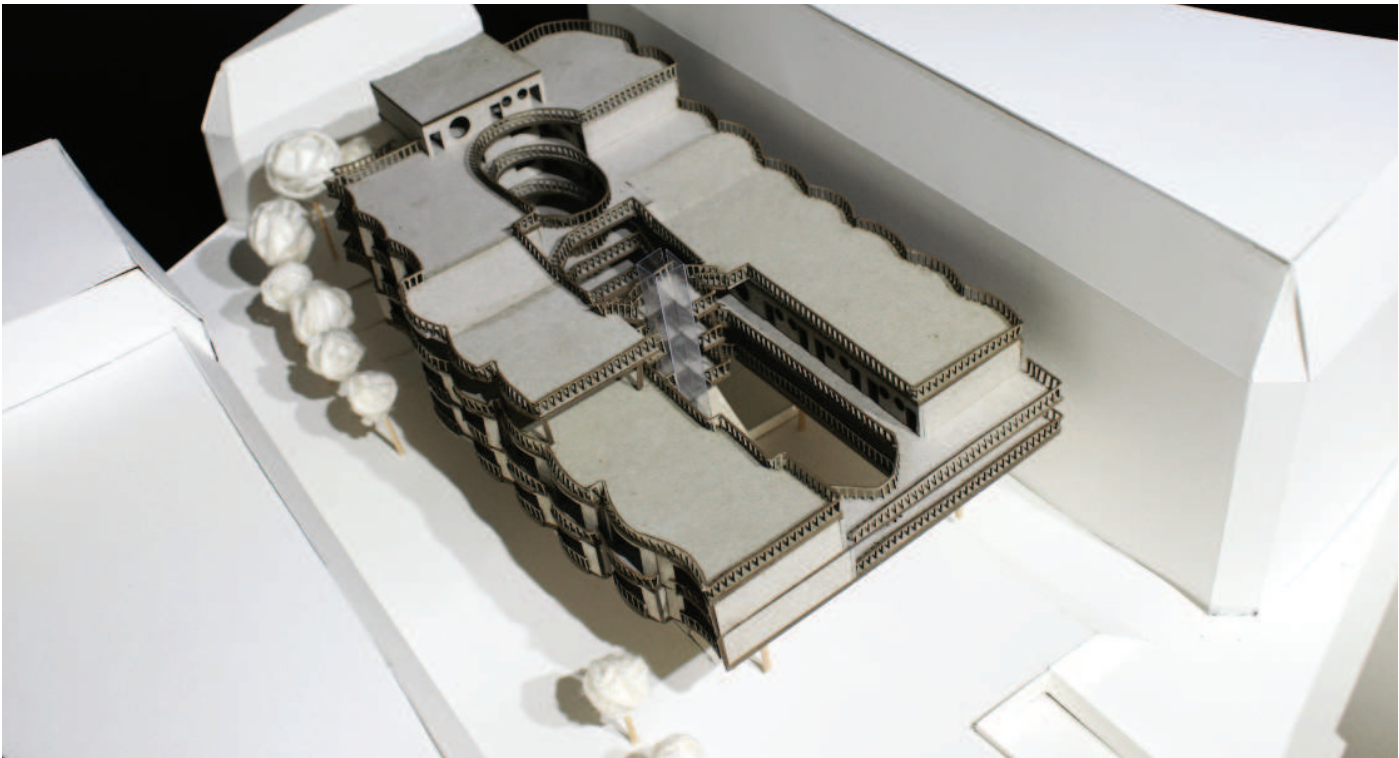


Fig. 8.10: Model 10

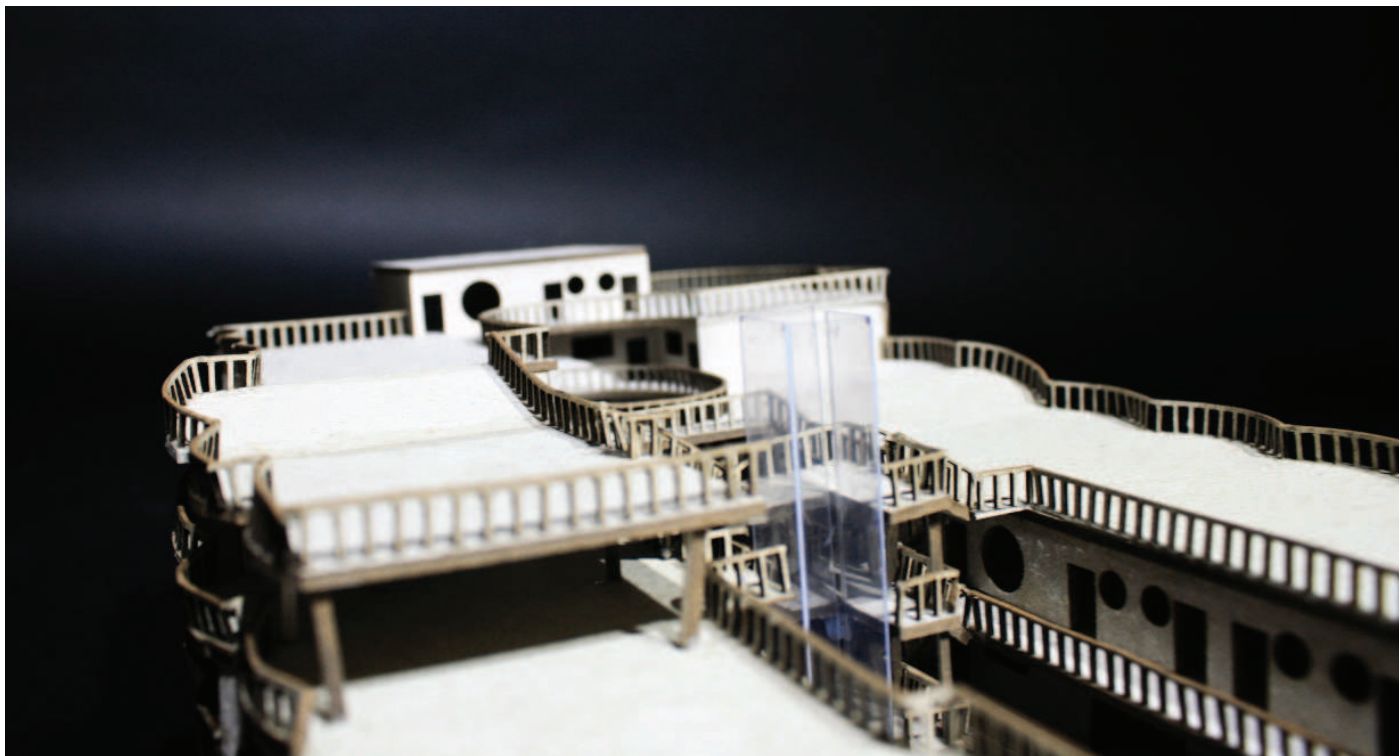


Fig. 8.11: Model 11



Fig. 8.12: asdfas Model 12

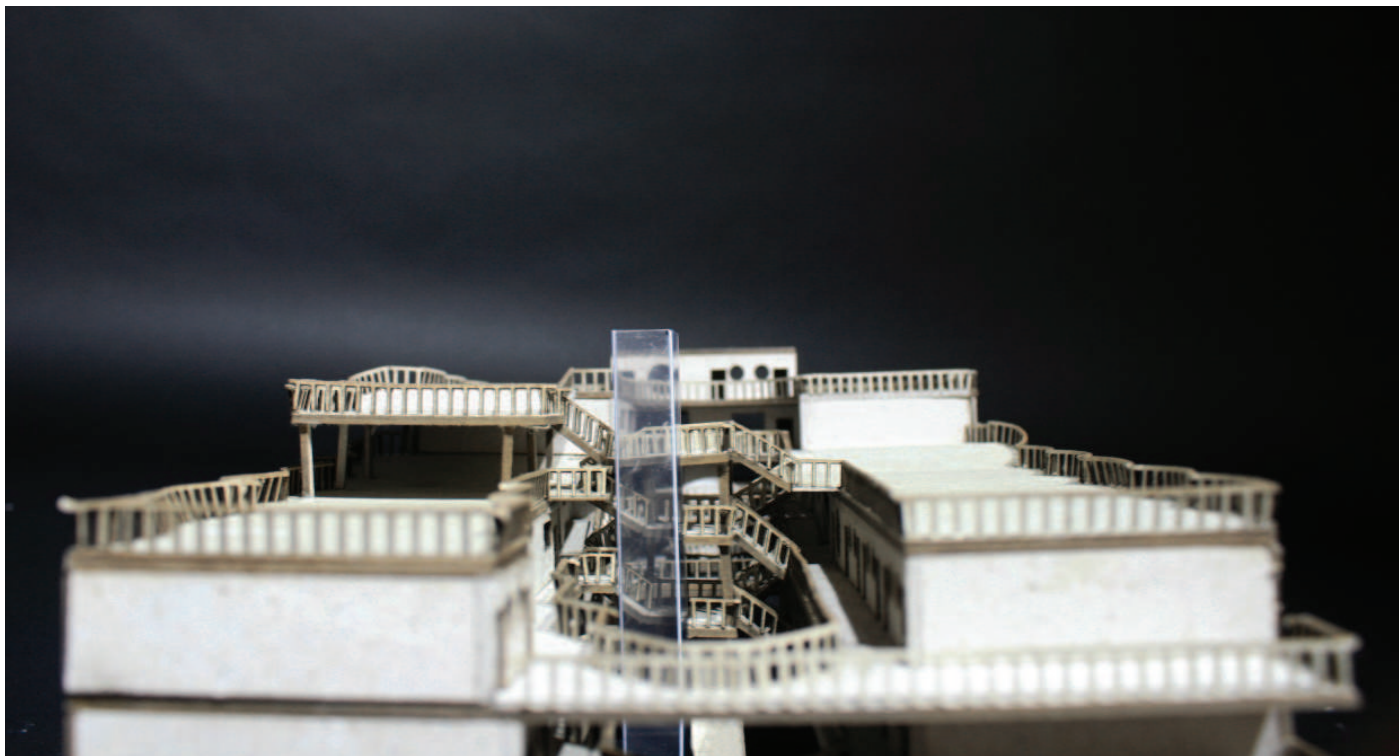


Fig. 8.13: Model 13

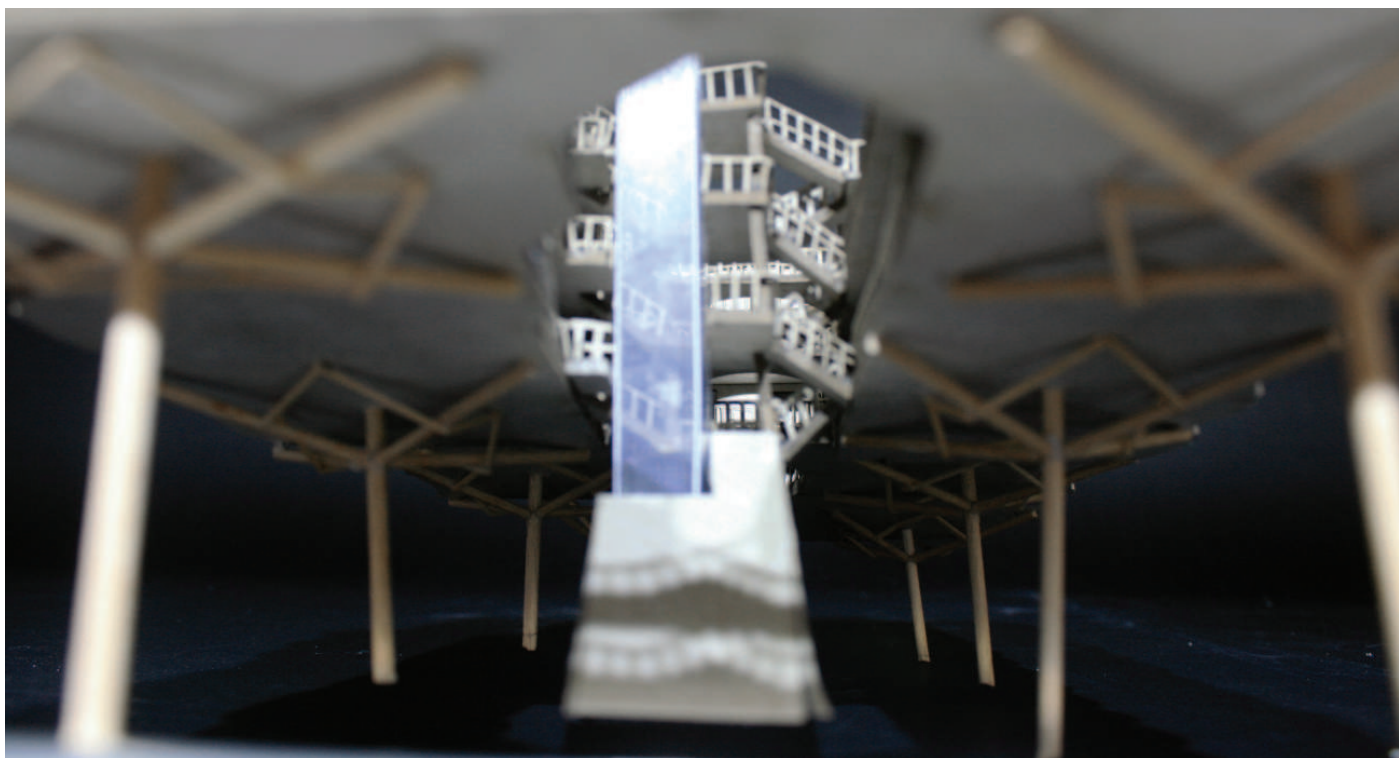


Fig. 8.14: Model 14

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(USA)**
2013 - 2014

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES AT THE LFU INNSBRUCK
2010 - 2014