

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT

SOCIAL MALAISE

by
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An Undergraduate Architecture Design Thesis
submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of Bachelor of Architecture
to the Department of Architecture and Design
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Approved by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'S. Damluji', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Prof. Salma Samar Damluji
Department of Architecture and Design

Thesis Advisor

Date of project presentation: May 27, 2021

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my two advisors Prof. Salma damluji and Rana Samara for the continuous support.

I would like to thank Mona Hallak and AUB neighborhood initiative for the data regarding the targeted community. And many thanks to my family for their love and encouragement.

ABSTRACT

Title: Social Malaise

Social Malaise is one of the common aspects observed in the urban fabric. A domain of subjective psychological state encompassing dissatisfaction, unhappiness, despair, boredom, melancholy, disillusionment, and discomfort. These feelings are due to social, political, and economic realities. My question is how can architecture intervene on the social malaise?

This project diagnoses these feelings spatially and distorts the system by creating a matrix that measures each neighborhood's social malaise and proposes spatial solutions to ease it.

The project focuses on a specific area in hamra that suffers from social malaise. Despite the cultural and commercial aspect, the laissez faire urban development, external political and economic realities have a high impact on the area that is gradually changing its character. With this transformation, social malaise is increasing, and it can be seen in the physical and socio-economic aspect of the neighborhood.

Following the matrix and the voices of the residents, the project responds to the community's needs and interests by creating a focal space along with multiple temporary installations that support it. Designed in a way that is flexible enough to accommodate the area's constant change and the residents' different needs. By taking advantage of invisible plots, residual spaces, vacant buildings or parking.

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“Malaise” is a domain of subjective psychological state encompassing dissatisfaction, unhappiness, despair, boredom, melancholy, disillusionment, and discomfort.

-----● Social

-----● Economic

-----● Political

Social Malaise ● -----

----- ● **Social**

----- ● Through the onset of modernity, in the 19th century, and its results of mass consumption, low social interactions and entertaining devices that cannot fill the void, leading to a lack of meaning.

----- ● Introduction

● **Economic**

● **Political**

● This context is compounded with the critical global economic situation as well as political scenes that reflect the global pandemic, famine, wars, dictatorships, and genocides etc... that has pushed the youth to revolt against this system to seek liberty and to escape the unbearable situation. Yet the presence of hope and sublime seem to disappear. Thus, social malaise is borne by the current system that did not evolve with the contemporary events

How can **architecture**
intervene on the **social malaise**?

Architecture diagnoses these feelings spatially and distorts the system by creating a matrix that measures each neighborhood's social malaise and proposes spatial solutions to ease it.



Urban life generates malaise due to the unnatural state of human existence which is to be in a populated dense environment. That results in the isolation of individuals that suffer from alienation and deviance, which means that the sense of community is missing in the dominance of anomic society. In other words, social malaise is an inevitable consequence of urban development.



--- ● Venice

--- ● Beirut

Area: 414.6 km²
 Density: 630/km²
 Diversity: 91% Italians 3% Eastern European
 1% South Asian 1% East Asian 4% other
 Crime rate: 70/1k residents
 Legibility: no
 Unemployment rate: 9.8%
 Poverty rate: 11%
 Education: 98.5%
 Homelessness rate: 3.2%
 Tourism: 4.7 million
 Unplanned

Area: 19.8 km²
 Density: 36,185/km²
 Diversity: Muslim 61.1% , Christian 33.7%,
 Druze 5.2%, very small numbers of Jews,
 Baha'is, Buddhists, and Hindus
 Crime rate: 60 per month
 Legibility: Mostly no
 Unemployment rate: 6.17%
 Poverty rate: 27.8%
 Education: 90%
 Homelessness rate: nd
 Tourism: 550,000
 Unplanned

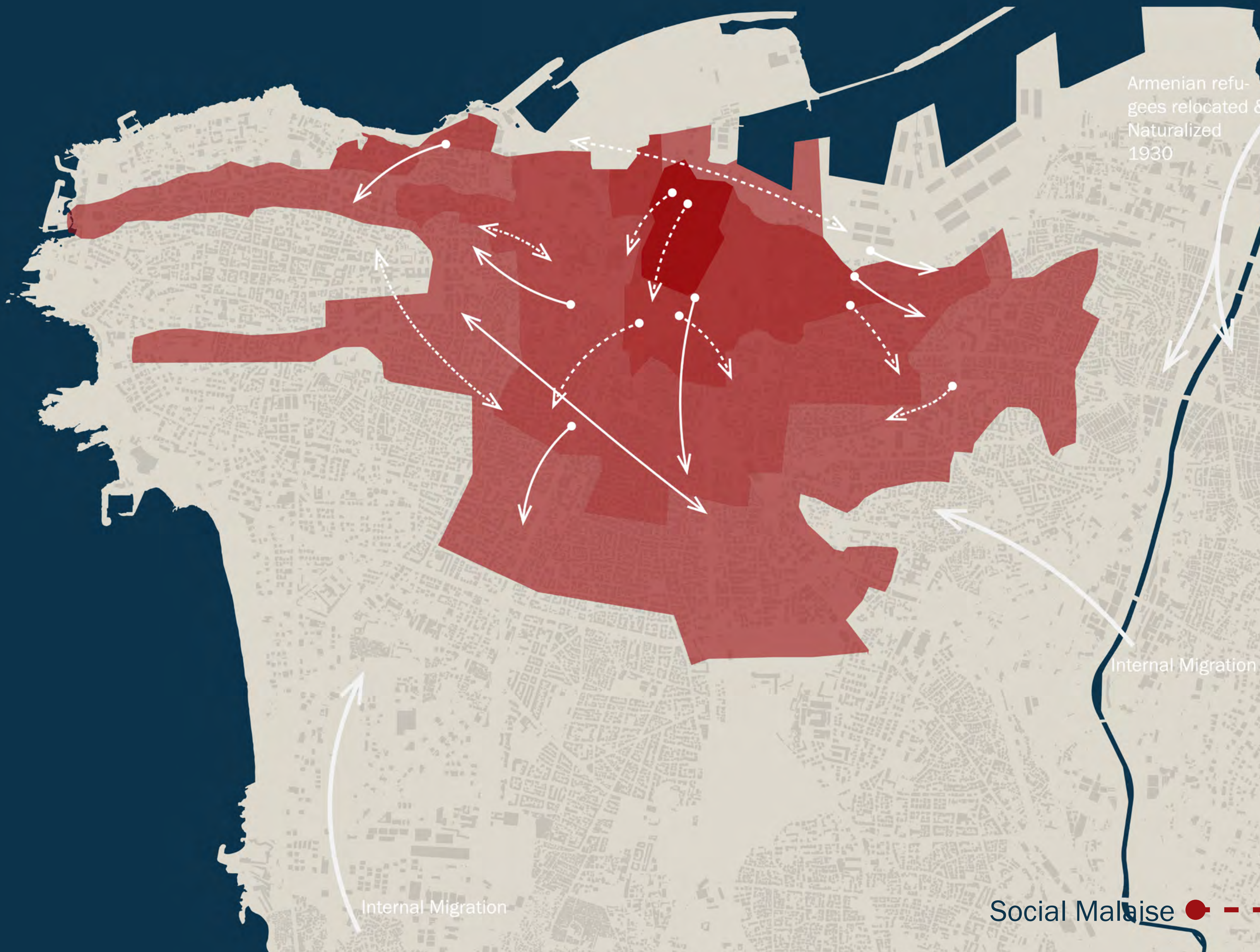
ic, 4.6% orthodox Chris-
 , 1.5% other Christians
 d 11.7% are non-religious
 ents

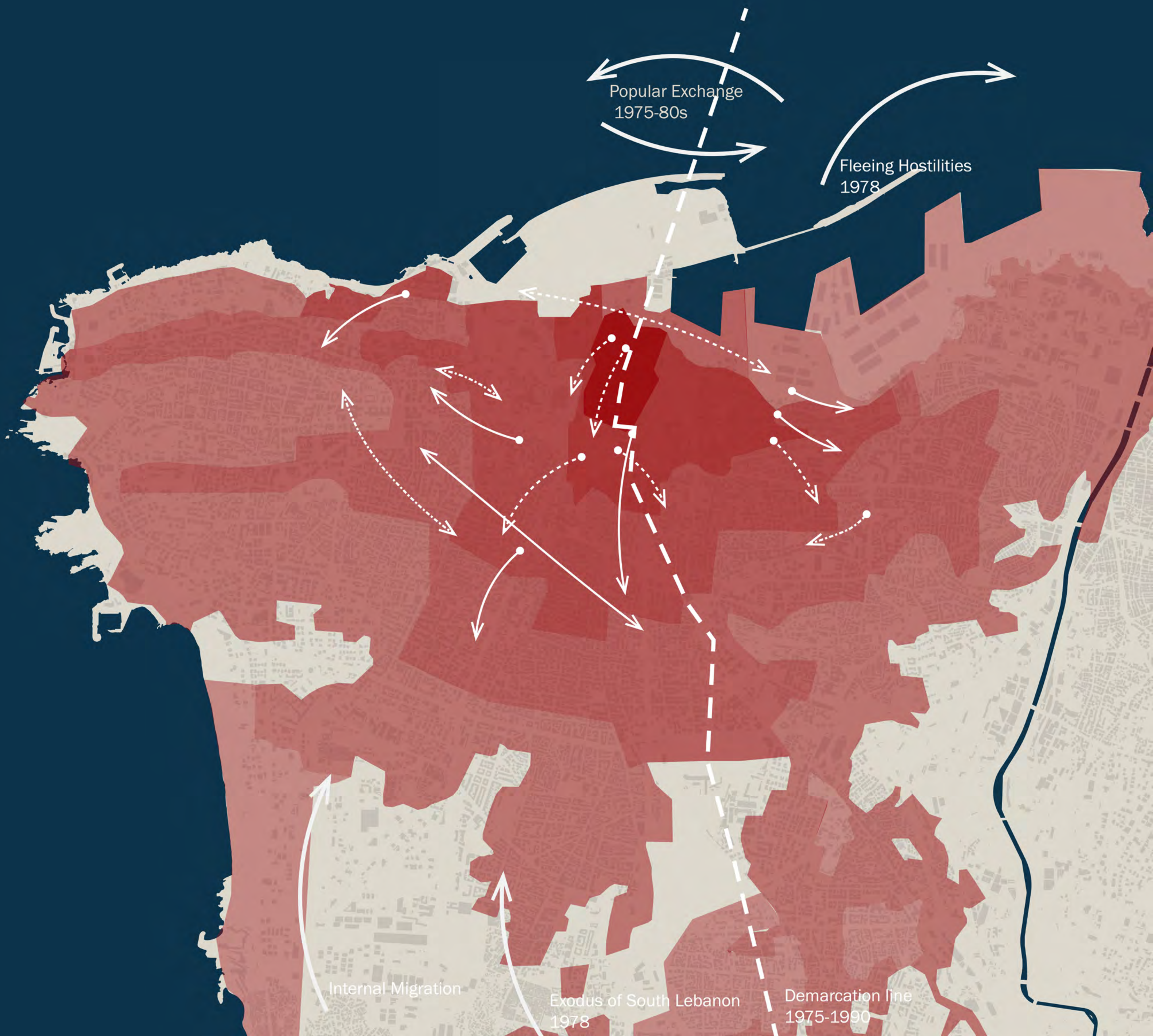
e population

people



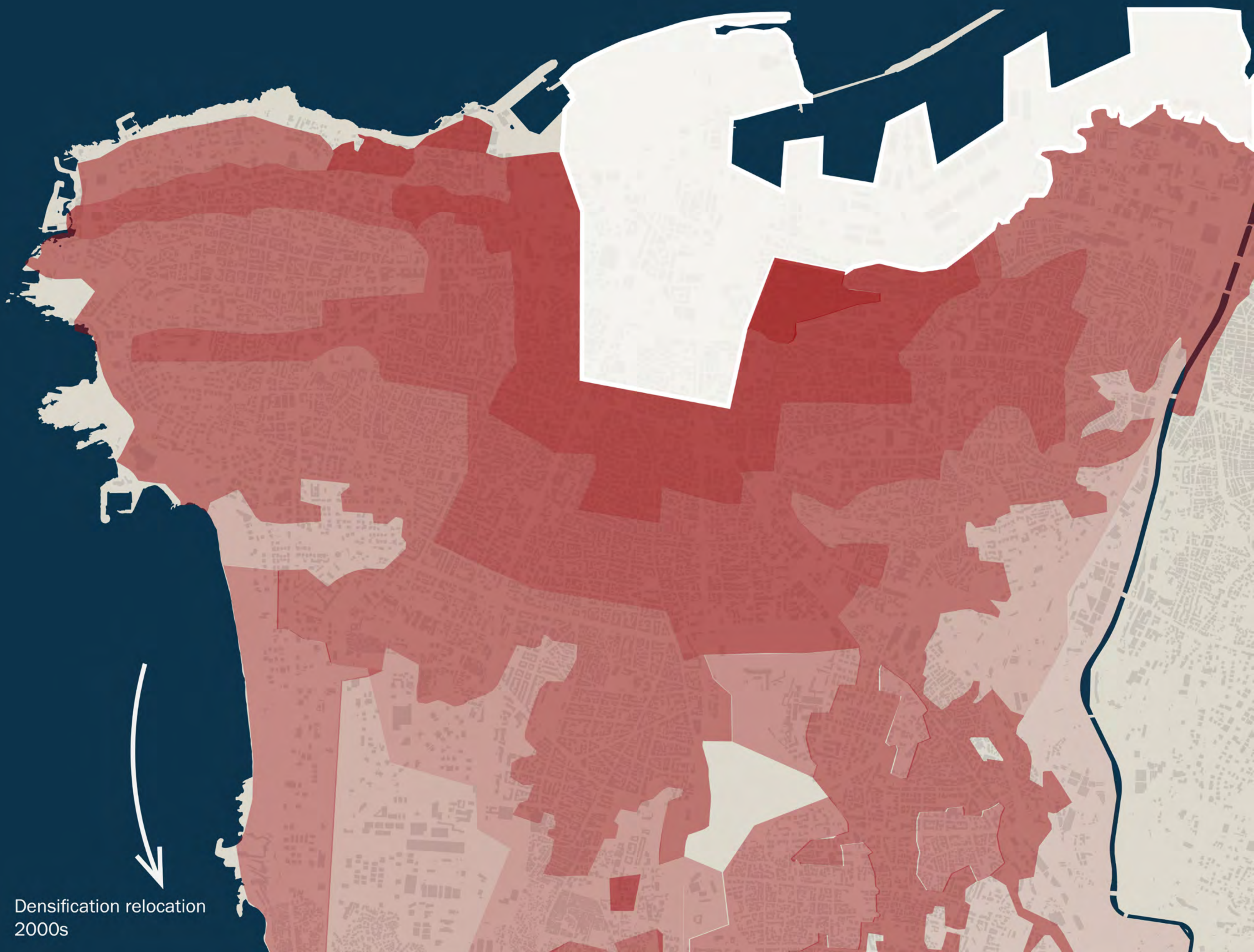
● The thesis is focused on the city of Beirut as the Metropolis that encountered many traumatic events, from 1840 till 2020, that increased the social malaise. The 180 years of continuous disruptions from wars, migrations, influx of refugees, infrastructural interventions and external interventions had their toll on the urban morphology that has a predominate eclectic approaches to city making. Samir khalaf compares the city's districts to a mosaic of clustered communities instead of a "melting pot" of amorphous urban masses. That is due to its historical expansions, either by series of migrations, centralization, or decentralization from the core. These different forms of Beirut are a product of laissez faire and planned urban development where the planned form seems unusual to the unplanned context of Beirut.







Densification relocation
2000s



What is the social **malaise**
in the **urban fabric**?

The Matrix is a combination of two schools of thoughts:
Jane Jacobs and Kevin Lynch.

- Diversity
- Safety
- Street Social Structure
- Subsidize dwellings
- Improving visual order
- Salvaging projects
- Storekeepers

● Jane Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, 1961

-----● Legibility

-----● 5 elements

-----● Identity

-----● Structure

-----● Meaning

-----● Movements

-----● Kevin Lynch, The Image of the City, 1960

● Jane Jacobs explores the city neighborhood as an organ of self-governance, and where cities are seen as a problematic of organized complexity. Kevin Lynch gave the city five main mental images: paths, nodes, edges, districts and landmarks. He also adds by classifying the environmental images that are present as an open-ended order; identity that allows the people to recognize the urban elements, the structure that identifies the relationship between the urban elements, and the meaning that gives the emotional and practical aspect to the viewer. The matrix is made of various interrelated elements, physical and nonphysical, that produce “aise” in the urban fabric, more specifically, in a neighborhood.

Open Space

Location
Scale
Amount
Private Vs Public

Density

Number of Residents
Overcrowding
Rent/Ownership
House Size
Distribution

Streets

Traffic
Accessibility
Side Walks
Parking
Safety
Building Heights

Infrastructure

Maintenance
Structure
Exterior
Street Furniture
Street Maintenance

Local Market

Landuse
Amenities
Owners Vs Rent
Type
Number
Gender

Context

Introvert
Extrovert

● **The Matrix** ●

Physical
Social

Diversity

Age of the Residents
Nationalities
Religion
Income
Gender

Daily Routines

Age Groups
Leisure
Social Relations
Unemployment

Political

Internal
External
Tensions
Time

Movement

Refugees
Migration
Emigration
Immigration

Socio-Economic

Education
Health
Poverty
Employment

----- ● Using the matrix, a comparison will be made between two neighborhoods in Beirut: Hamra and Hayy Tamlis. This comparison has a purpose to interpret and to assess the level of social malaise or aise in different built environments

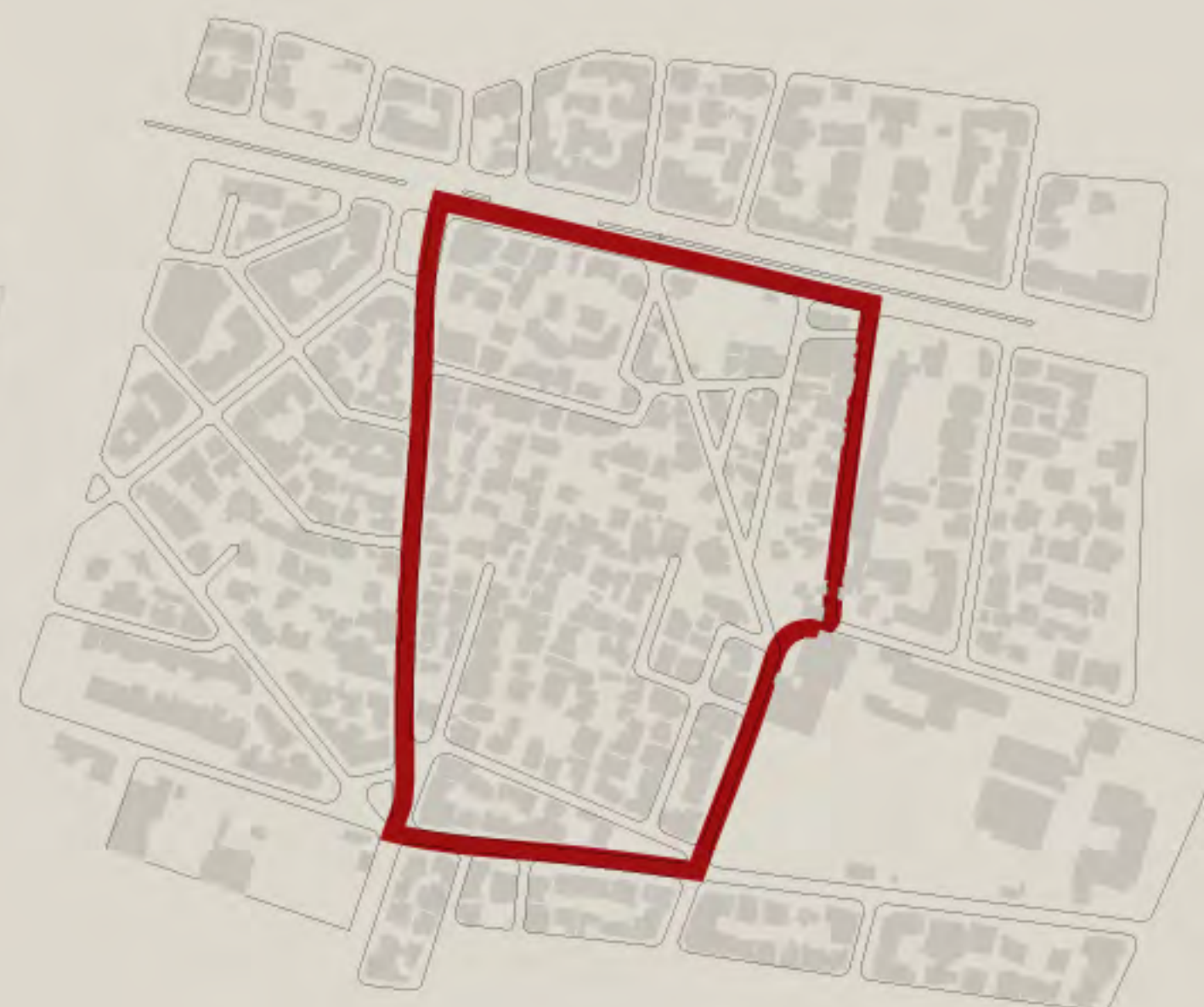
----- ● Hamra & Hayy Tamlis

• Hamra

• Hayy Tamliis



● General



● Hamra is chosen because of its diverse sociocultural character and residents who are distinct from the other broad communities of Beirut. What is peculiar about Hamra is that it was fast growing cosmopolitan district with a salient feature that characterizes the city's urbanization. However, Hamra's rapid change in recent years with pockets of vulnerability attracting marginalized groups allows us to interpret the social malaise in such a neighborhood.

● The name of the neighborhood means the "inability to see clearly" that can be perceived in the built fabric. According to the UN Habitat, Mazraa is identified as one of the 251 most vulnerable cadasters in the country with. Hay Tamlis being considered a disadvantaged neighborhood that currently being redeveloped by market-led forces that threaten its sociopolitical and historical identity.

● Hamra & Hayy Tamlis

● Socio-economic



Chronically ill population

12.4% of all Leb
6.7% of all Syrians

2.1% of all Leb
7.1% of all Syrians



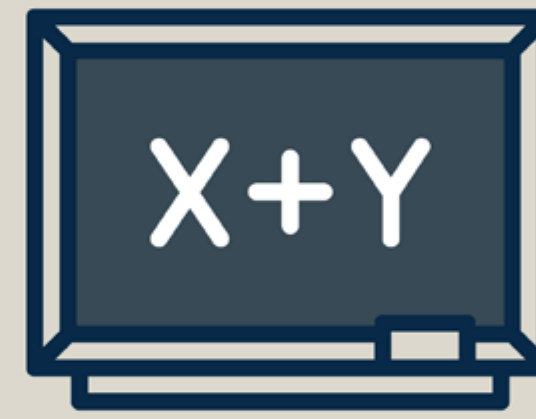
Livelihoods

5,245 working age (15-63) population
with unemployment rate:
35.3% of all Leb
29.1% of all Syrians

14.7% Population poverty rate:
10.1% of all Leb households
22.66% of all Syrian

2,836 working age (15-63) population
with
unemployment rate:
40.5% of all Leb
47.8% of all Syrians

14.7% population poverty rate
2.7% of all Leb households
30.1% of all Syrian



Education

74.5% primary school attendane
58.1 % Secondary school attendance
25% Children (6-14) who never attended
school

91.1% primary school attendane
75.7 % Secondary school attendance



Overcrowding

describes or more peresons withing the
same room

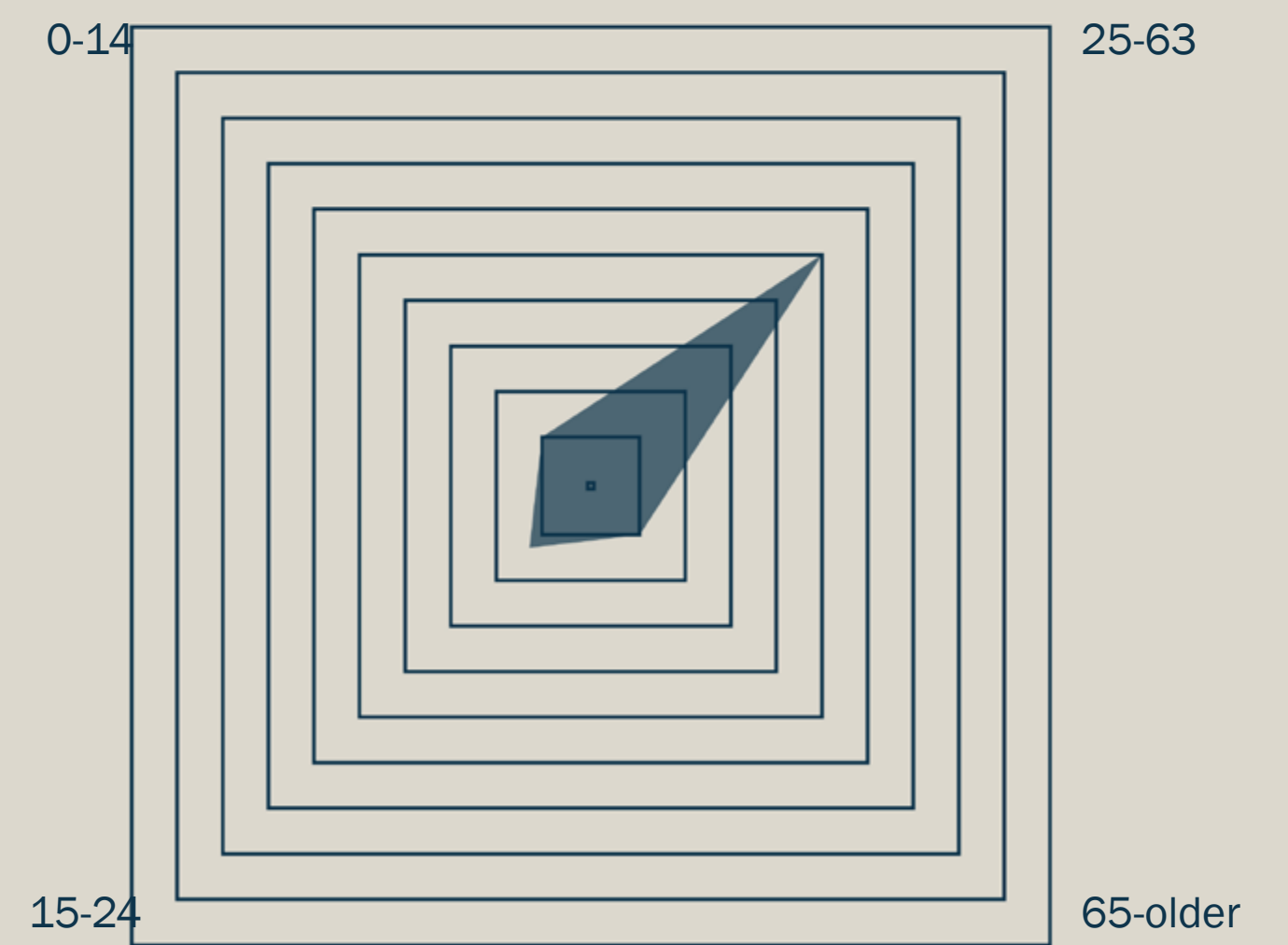
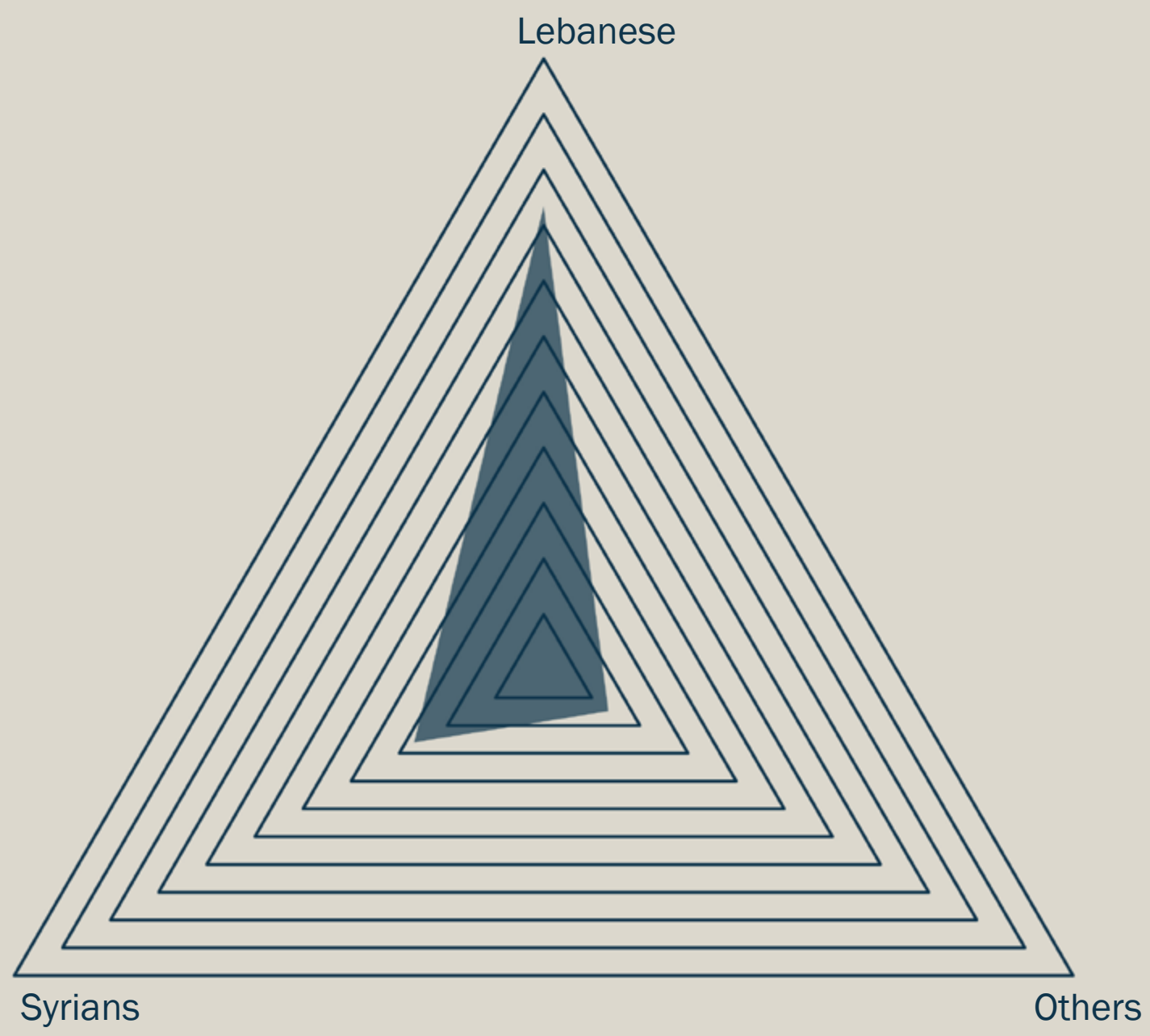
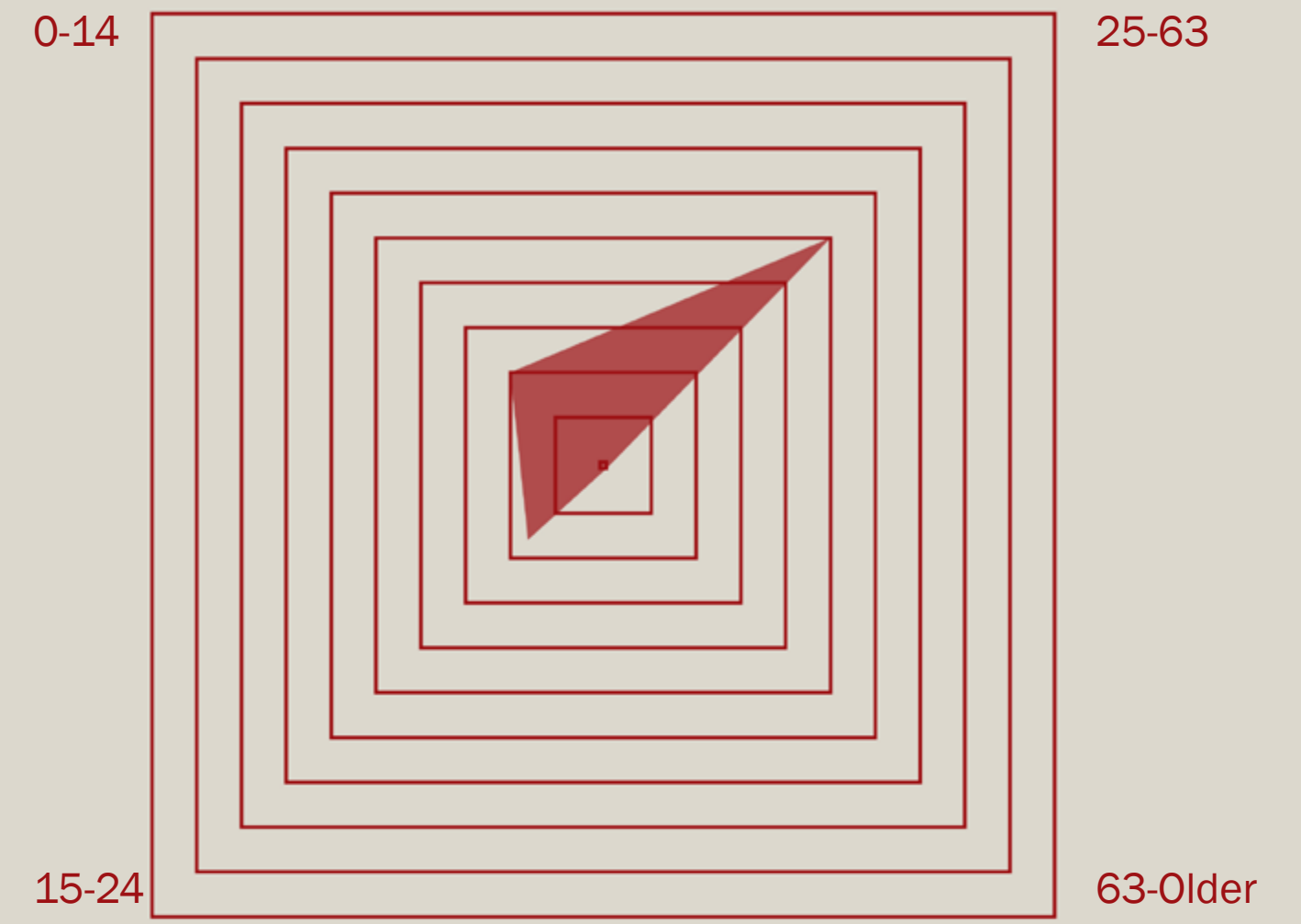
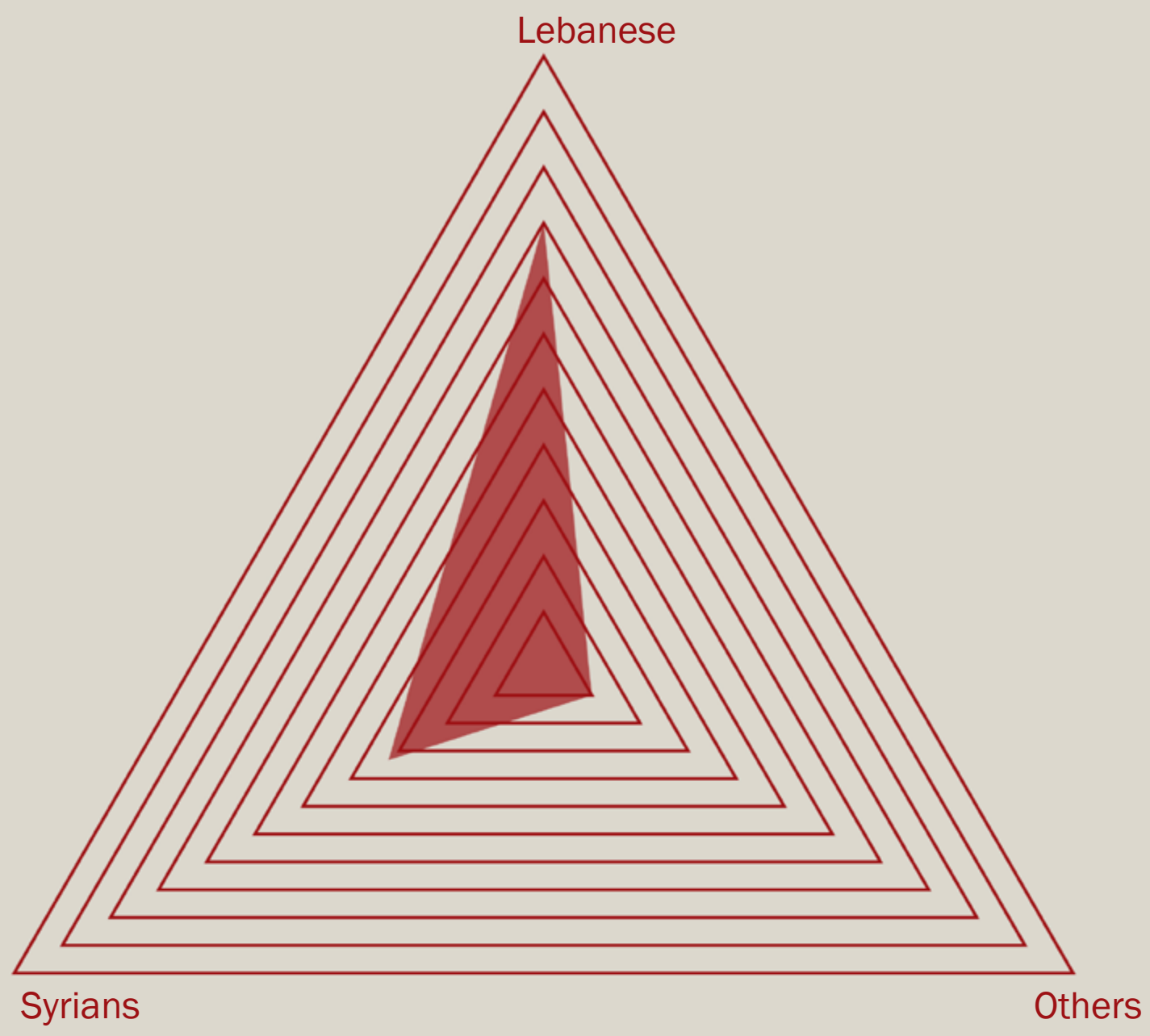
4.8% of all Leb households
41.9% of all Syrian households

0.7% of all Leb households
28.3% of all Syrian households

● Political



● Diversity



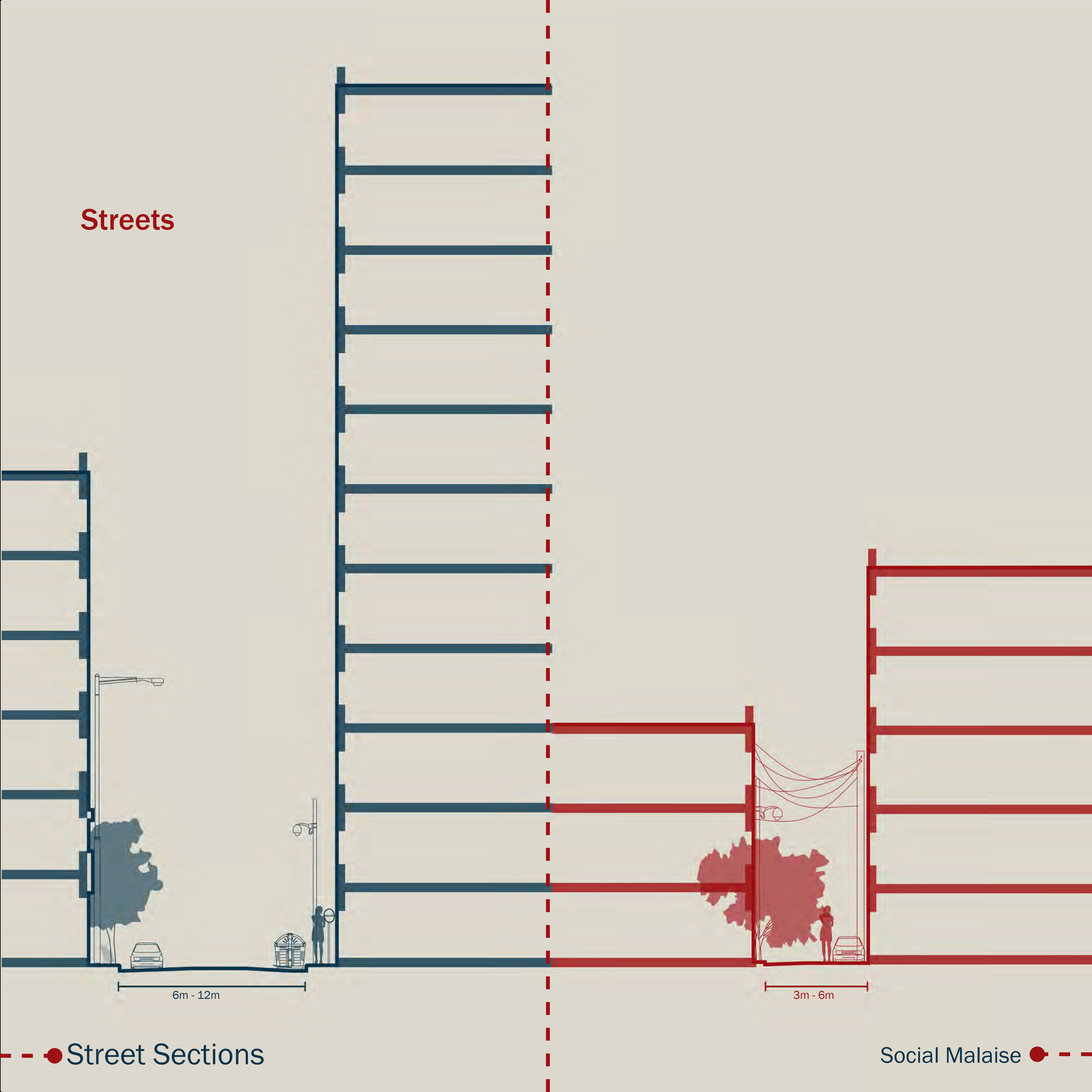
Nationalities

Age



● Hamra & Hayy Tamlis

Streets



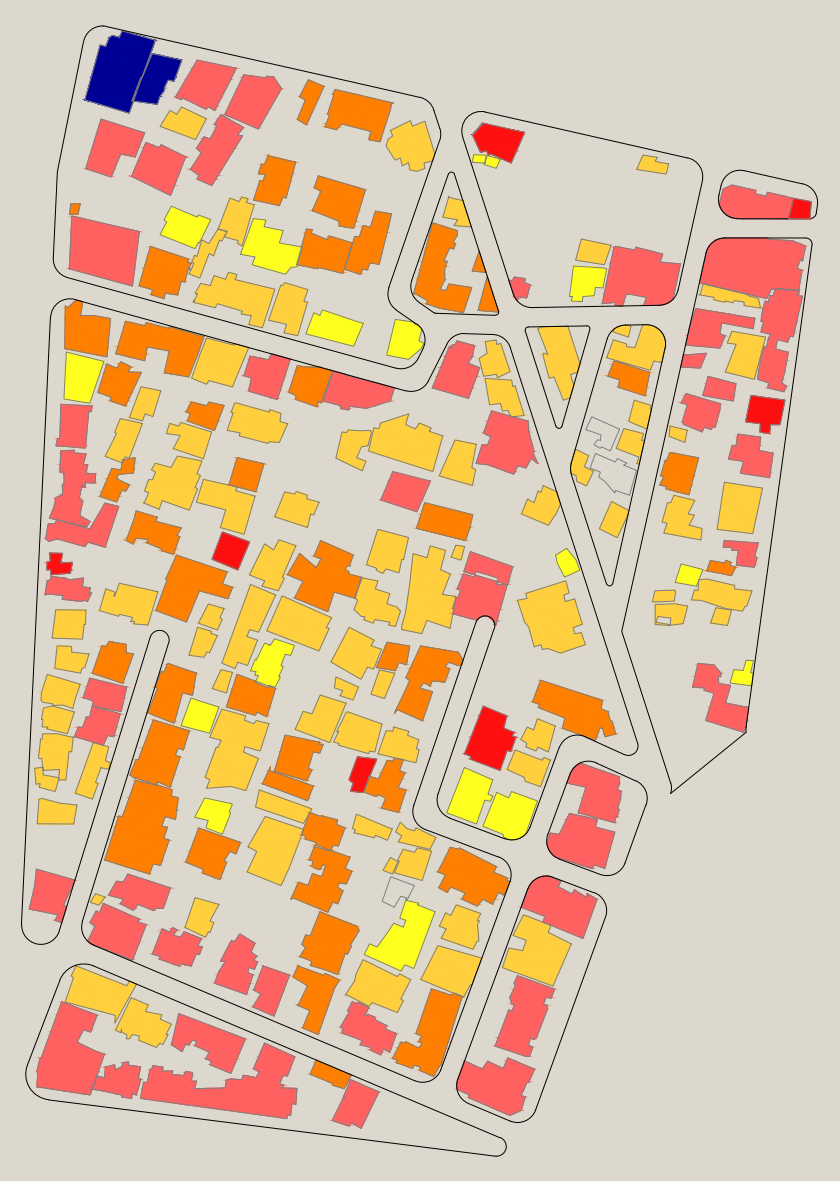
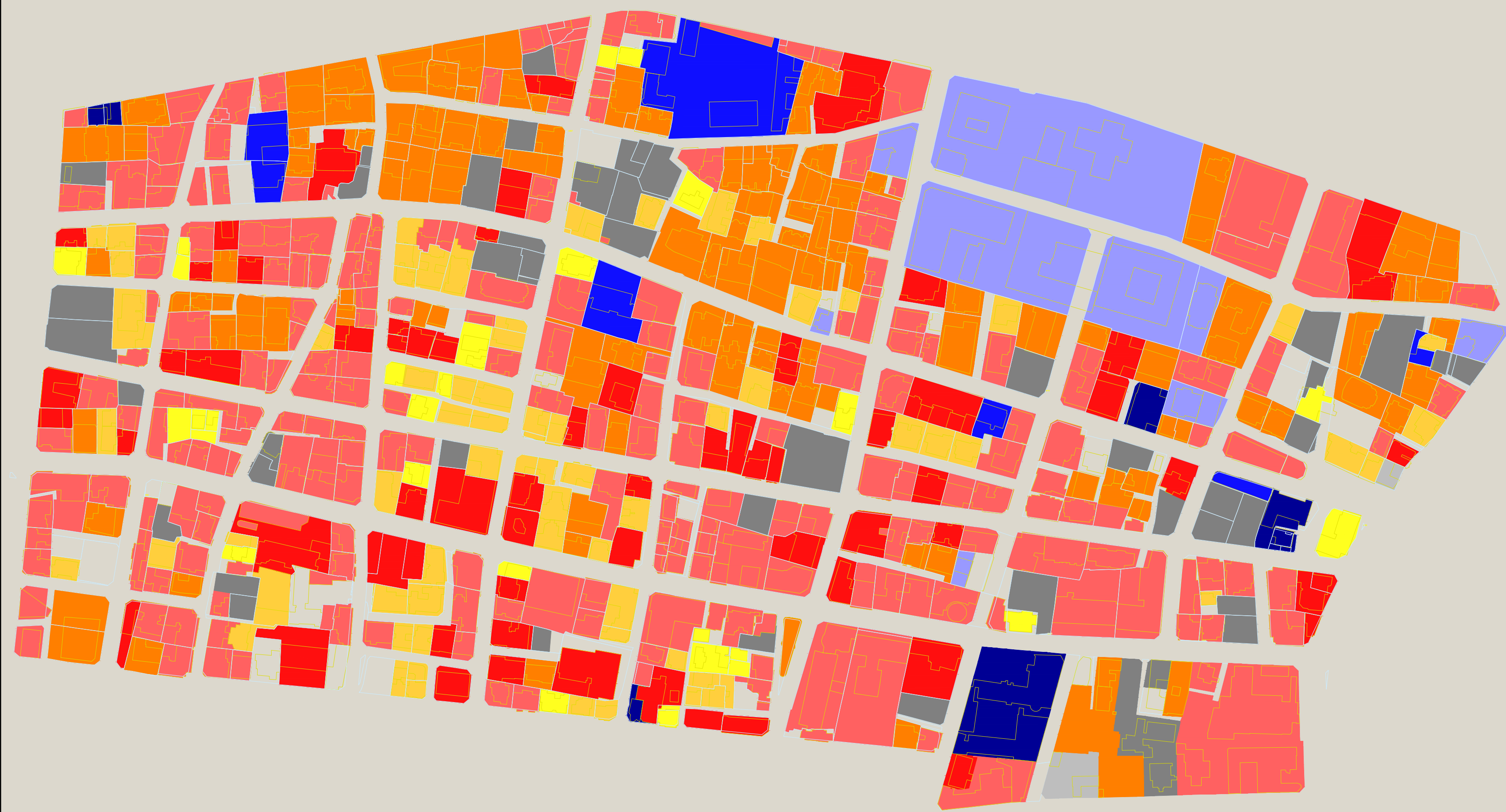
6m - 12m

3m - 6m

● Street Sections

● Social Malaise

--- ● Market



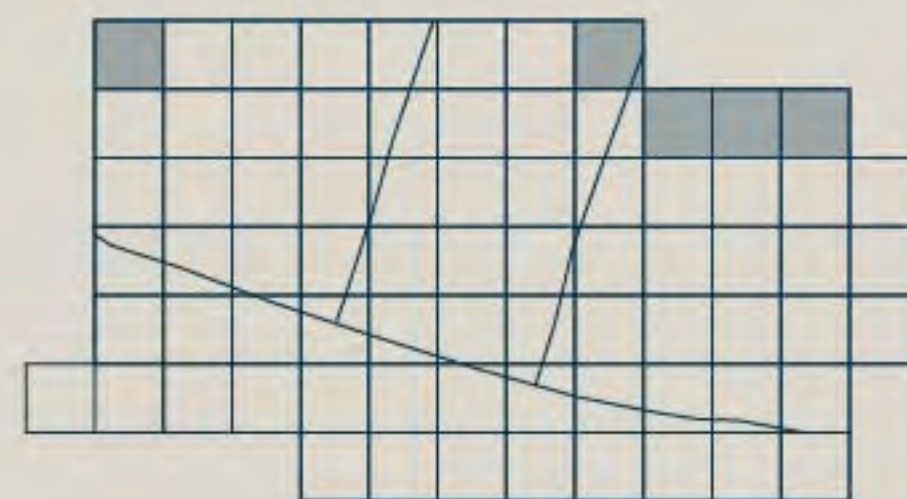
--- ● Hamra & Hayy Tamlis

● The comparison allowed me to conclude that each neighborhood has its own level of social malaise that has to be dealt differently. Where the matrix is three-dimensional that is made of parameters that study the social malaise and responds to it relatively to each neighborhood.

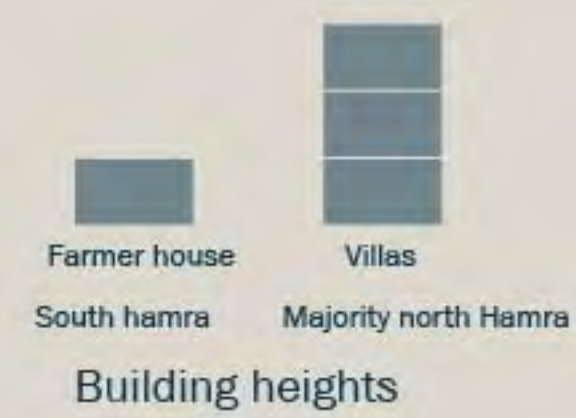
Looking at the urban morphology of Hamra, starting with the injection of an attraction point, American University of Beirut, that introduced a new typology of mansions at the northern part of the district to the farm land area. With the second injection of attraction point, being Lebanese American university, with the intervention of real estates the neighborhood started to form the commercial aspect. After the Palestinian nakba and the funding of Haigzian university, the neighborhood increased its diverse character from the arab region, with the presence of arab investors. After 1967, the neighborhood is highly urbanized with a dense environment that is rich with cultural and economic activities, nevertheless, the laissez faire urban development didn't allow the neighborhood to have breathing spaces. Despite the cultural and commercial aspect, the external political and economic realities have high impact on Hamra which is gradually changing its character. With this transformation, social malaise is increasing and it can be seen in the physical aspect of the neighborhood.

1920

The Syrian Protestant College (established in 1866) converts its name to the AUB and faculty vote to end discrimination against hiring Arab professors.



Urbanized Urbanizing Rural

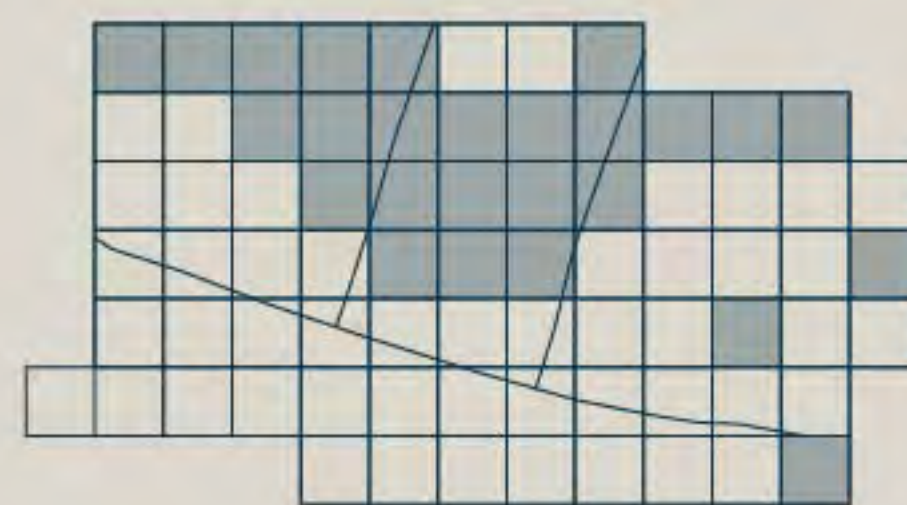
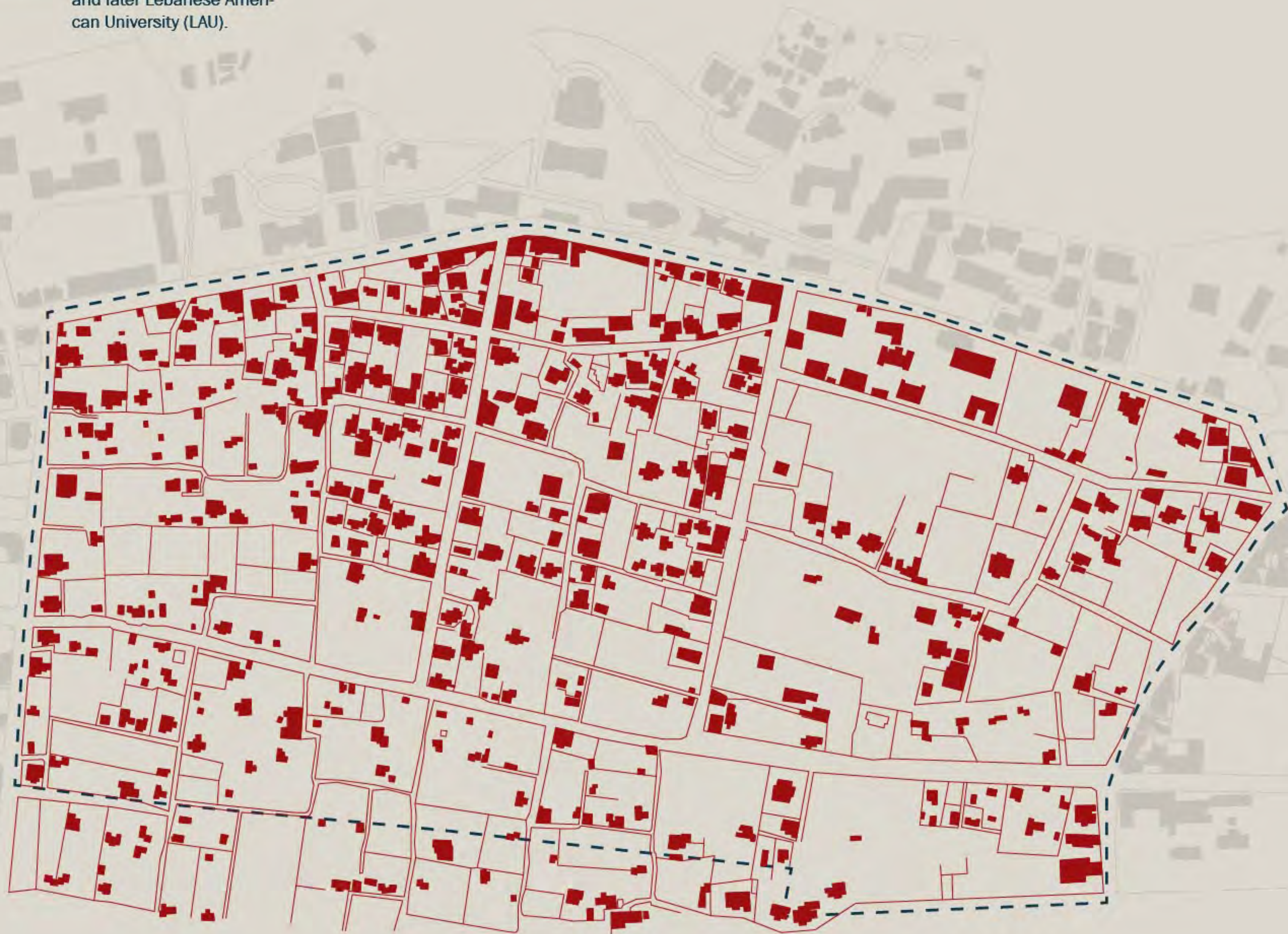


1920

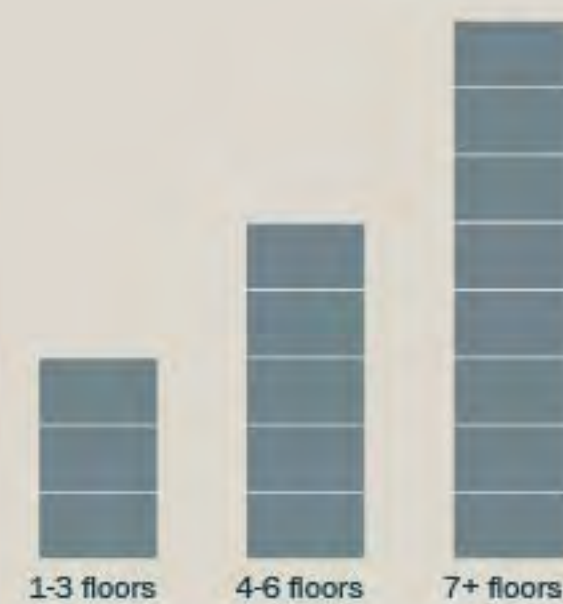
The Syrian Protestant College (established in 1866) converts its name to the AUB and faculty vote to end discrimination against hiring Arab professors.

1927

Founding of the American Junior College for Women, later Beirut College for Women (BCW), then Beirut University College (BUC), and later Lebanese American University (LAU).



Urbanized Urbanizing Rural



Building heights

1920

The Syrian Protestant College (established in 1866) converts its name to the AUB and faculty vote to end discrimination against hiring Arab professors.

1927

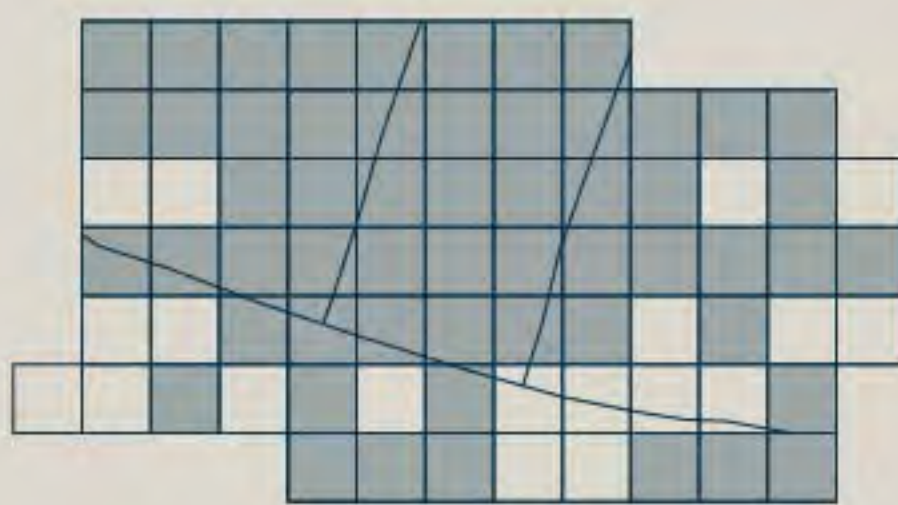
Founding of the American Junior College for Women, later Beirut College for Women (BCW), then Beirut University College (BUC), and later Lebanese American University (LAU).

1948

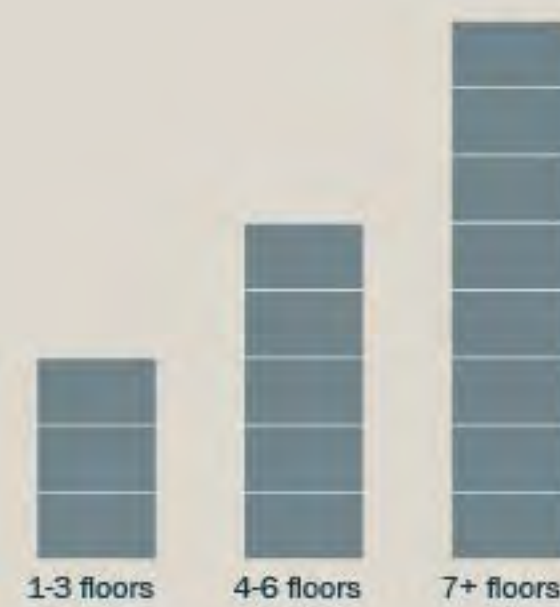
Palestinian Nakba

1955

Founding of Haigzian University



Urbanized Urbanizing Rural



Building heights



Social Malaise

Palestinian Influx 1948



1920

The Syrian Protestant College (established in 1866) converts its name to the AUB and faculty vote to end discrimination against hiring Arab professors.

1927

Founding of the American Junior College for Women, later Beirut College for Women (BCW), then Beirut University College (BUC), and later Lebanese American University (LAU).

1948

Palestinian Nakba

1955

Founding of Haigzian University

1958

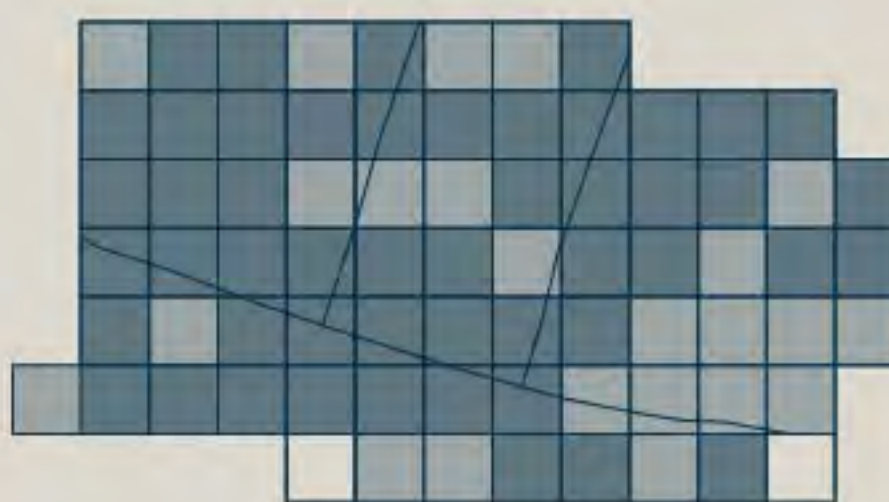
Sectarian tension & President Camille Chamoun's alliance with America against Gamal Abdel Nasser's pan-Arabism caused American occupation of the airport and port. Hamra Street begins its building boom due to unrest in Downtown

1963

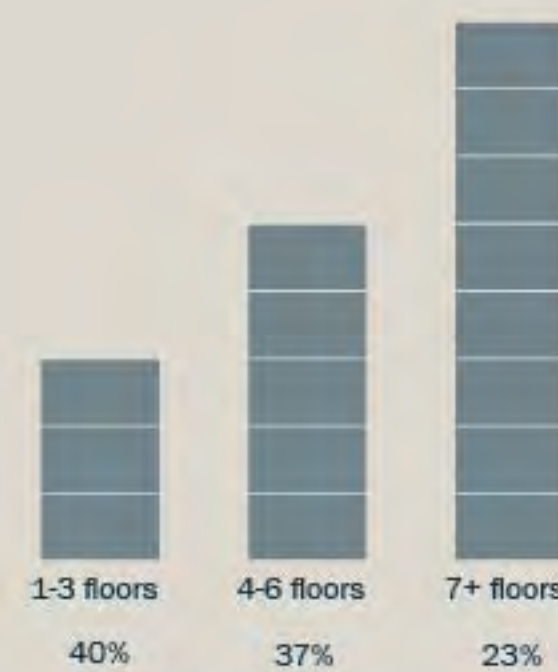
Establishment of the Central Bank of Lebanon east of Hamra Street.

1967

After the Arab army's defeat in the Arab-Israeli War, censored Majdaloun play, written by Henry Hamati, was staged in front of the Horseshoe Café by actress Nidal Achkar and director Roger Assaf.



Urbanized Urbanizing Rural



Building heights

Building heights

63% Residential

37% Commercial

1963

Establishment of the Central Bank of Lebanon east of Hamra Street.

1967

After the Arab army's defeat in the Arab-Israeli War, censored Majdaloun play, written by Henry Hamati, was staged in front of the Horseshoe Café by actress Nidal Achkar and director Roger Assaf.

2006

After the July 2006 War, anti-14 March government protests intensify in Downtown Beirut in December, leading shops to close. Economic activity moves to Hamra, which witnesses a renaissance.

2008

Street fighting in Hamra between Hezbollah-led opposition fighters and the Future Movement.

2010

First Hamra Festival
Hamra's nightlife is bustling with bars and restaurants. In the next few years, Hamra's popularity is in decline in favour of other neighbourhoods popular for their leisure activities.

2011

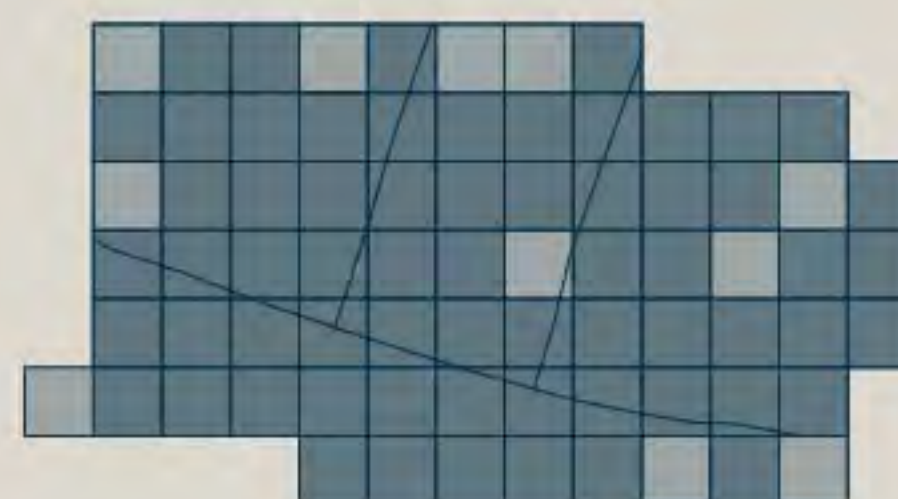
The Syrian refugee crisis brings an influx of Syrian residents and businesses.

2019

17 October Revolution
The 17 October Revolution sees demonstrations at the Central Bank, AUB and LAU as well as political debates and lectures at Hamra cafés and restaurants.

Present

Global pandemic
The blast of aug 4, 2020
Economic crises
Gradually closing shops




Urbanized Urbanizing Rural

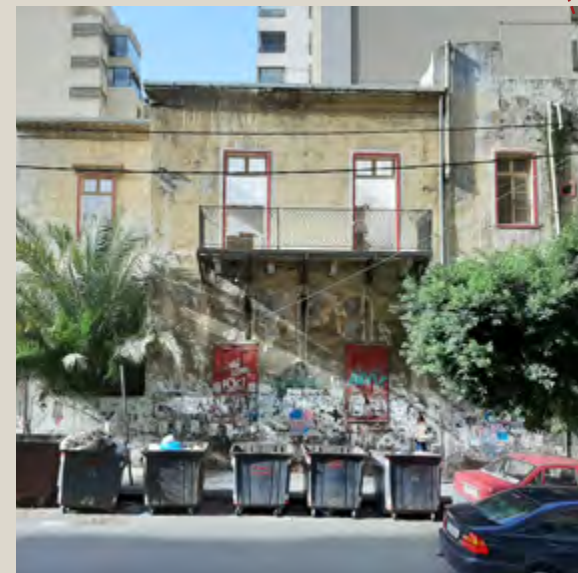
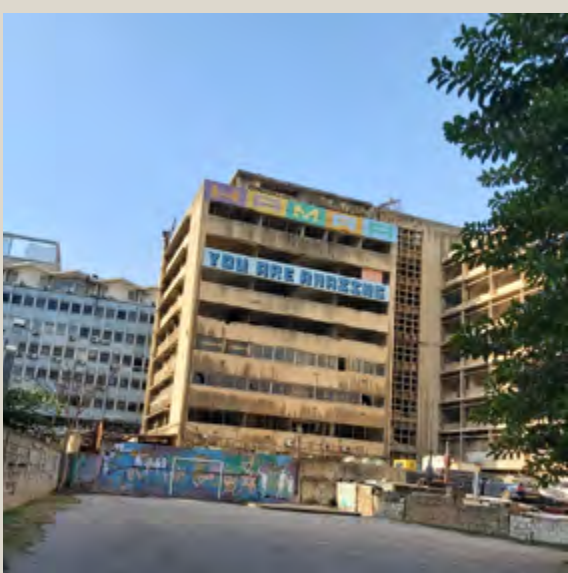


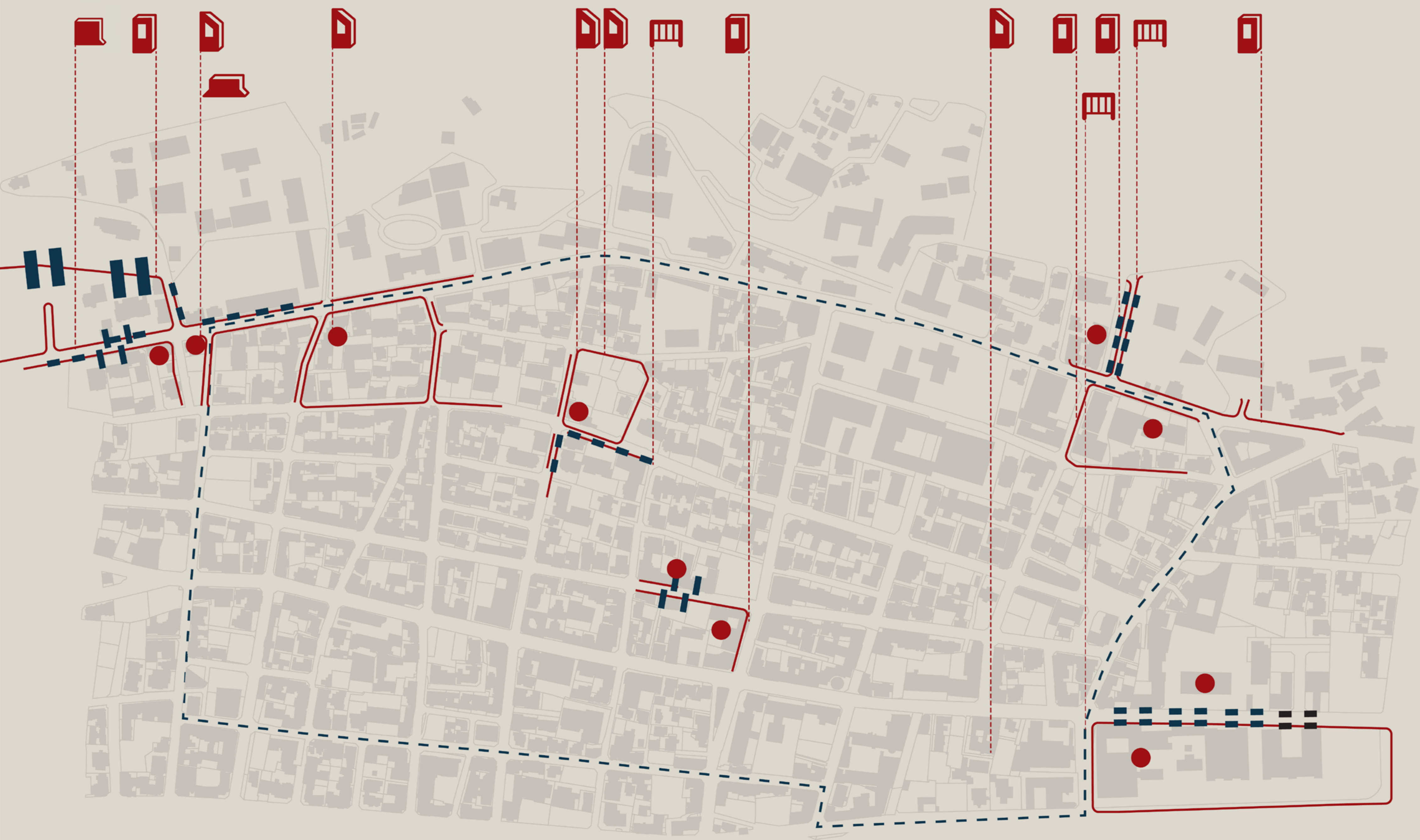
1-3 floors 25%
4-6 floors 37%
7+ floors 38%

Building heights

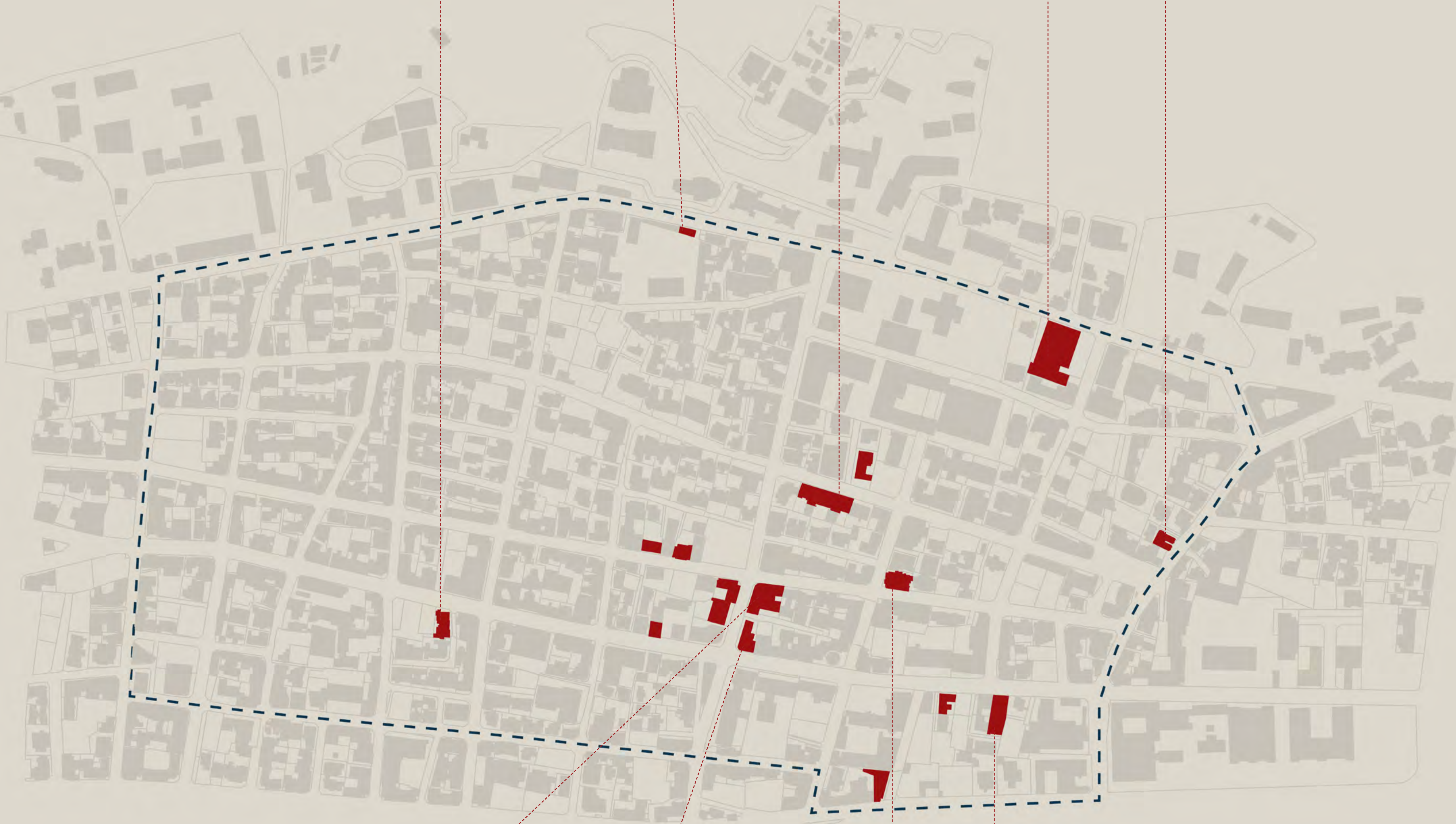


Social malaise can be seen in the closure of shops with the presence of vacant buildings that highly emphasize on the changing character of the neighborhood. Also, the loss of cultural activities such as theaters and artisans workshops. Whereas, the security map shows the presence of political figures and embassies that limit the level of inclusivity in Hamra. It is seen either at the entrance of the neighborhood or even within it. Furthermore, with economic realities and financial restrictions, an aggression is highly expressed in Hamra and it is reflected towards banks that have been vandalized. Which eventually created a counter effect that protects banks from people by camouflaging them with steel gates. On the other hand, poverty can also be seen through the presence of beggars, homeless people and the built form. The demolishing and under construction sites decrease the diversity of the built by losing part of Hamra's heritage and produces uncomfortable noise area to the dwellers. Whereas, the usage of leftover spaces for generators produces a toxic environment for the dwellers. However, the unlit roads of Hamra show that the social malaise is present differently during the day than during night. Where different timing of the day affects the safety of the dwellers that have been attacked mostly in the southern part of Hamra and on the main roads.

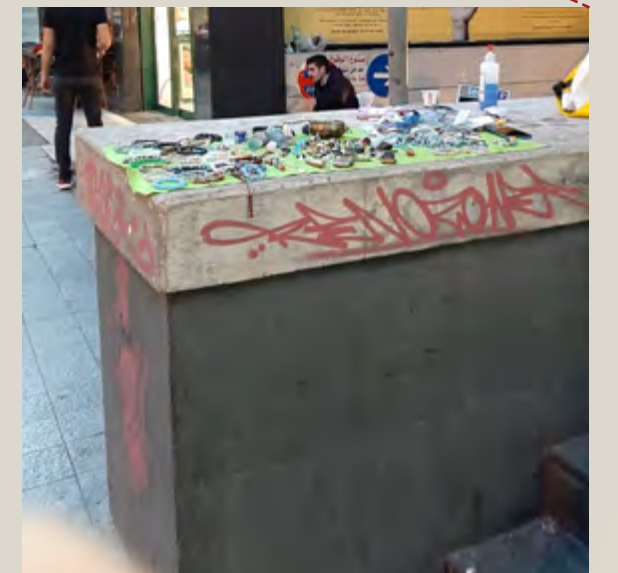
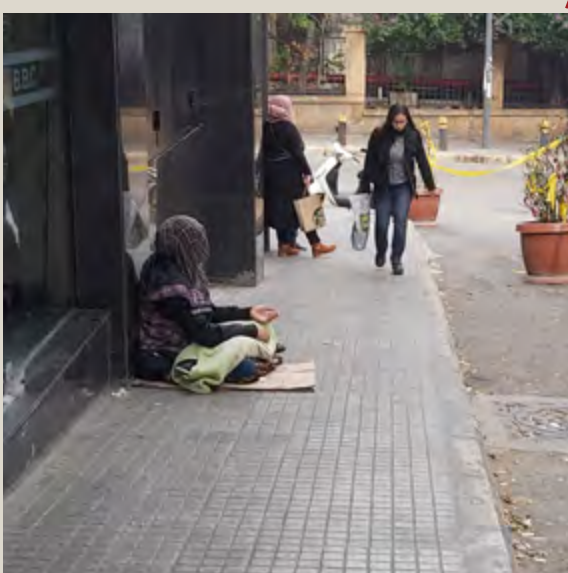


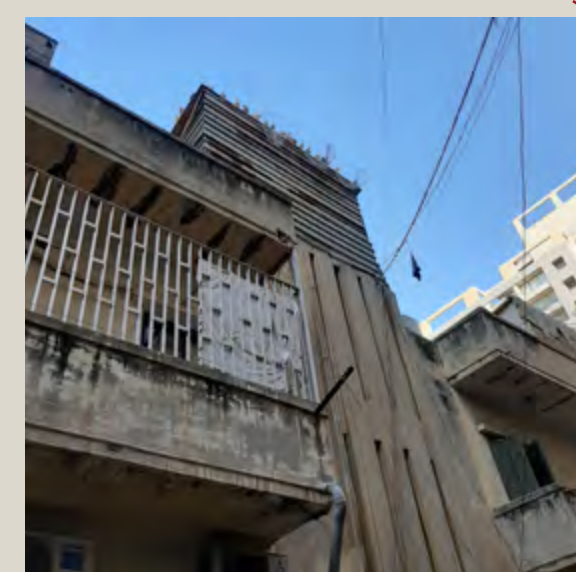
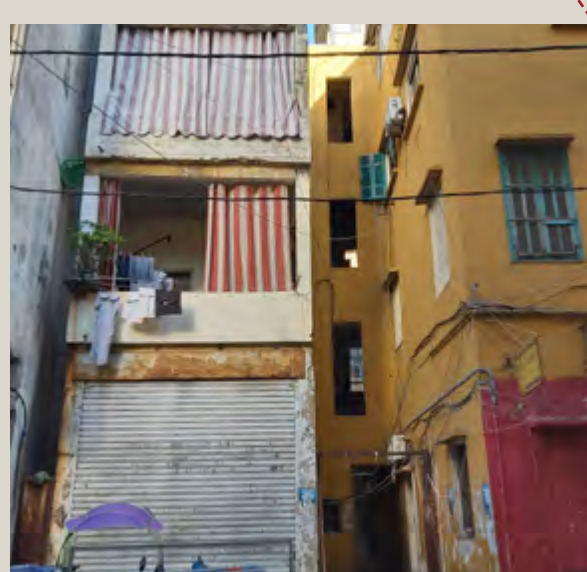
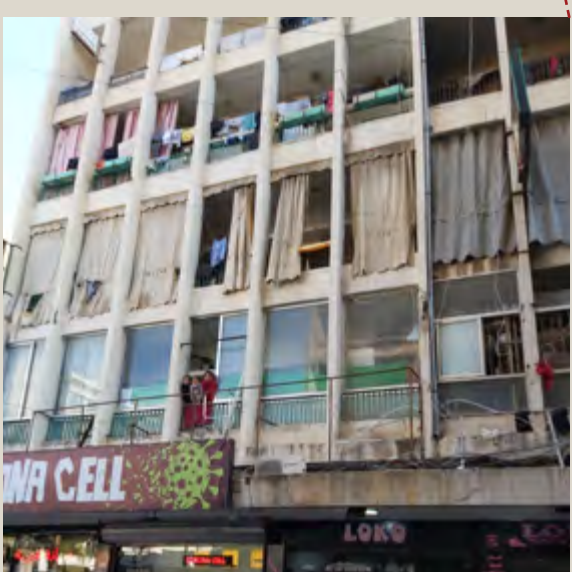
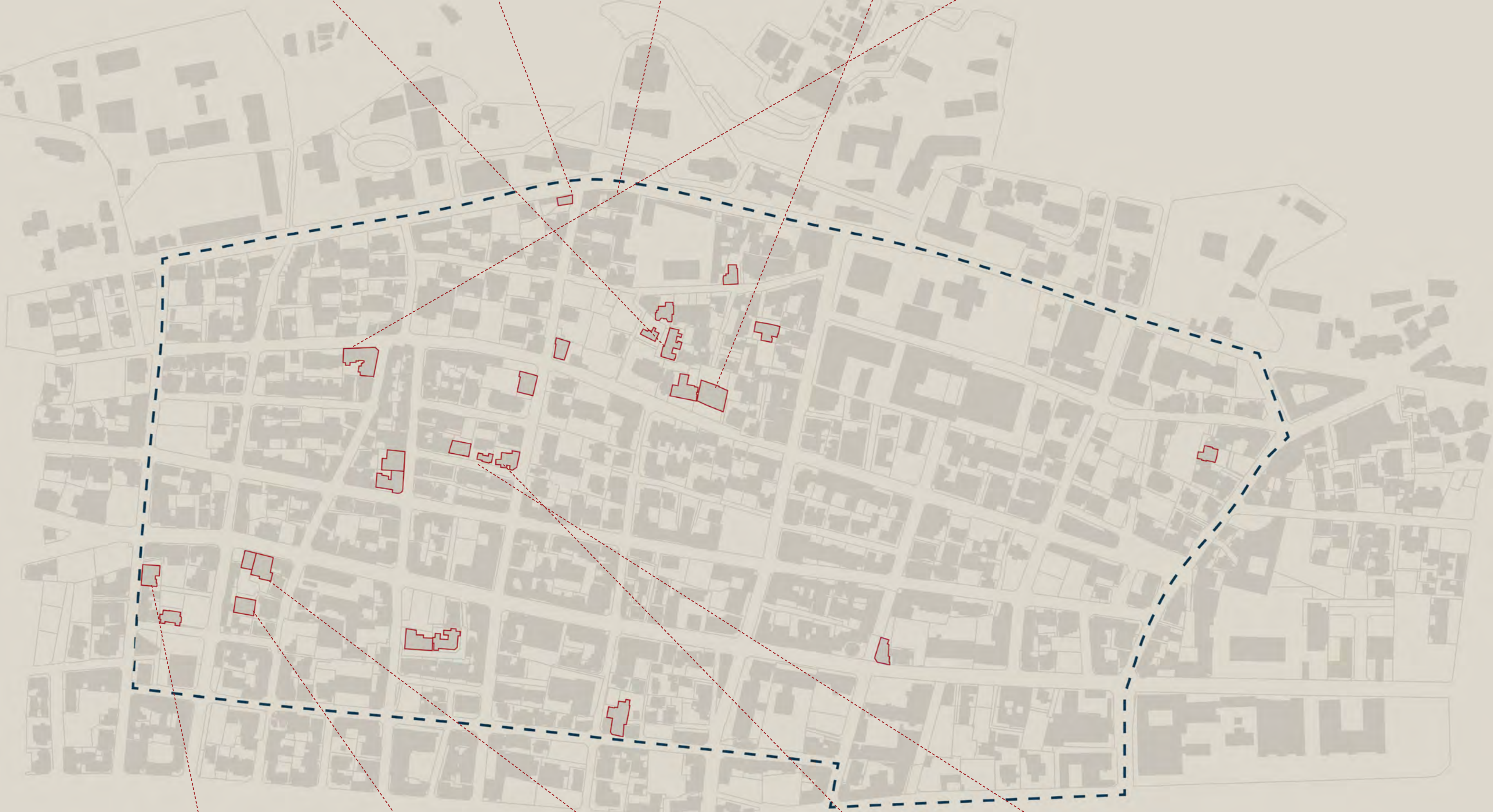
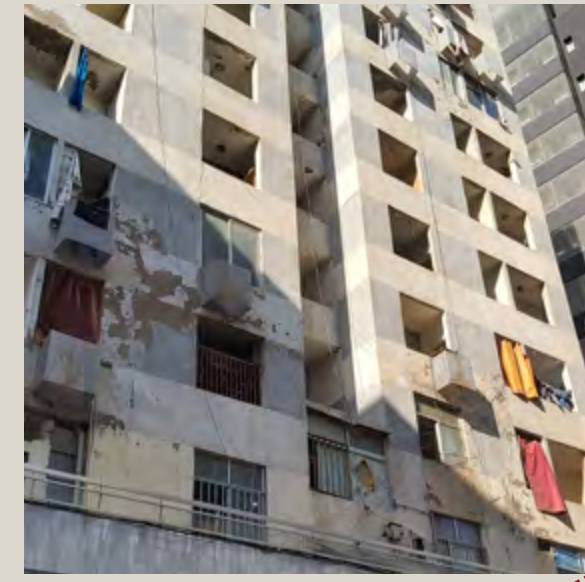


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|------------------------|------------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Secured street | Police booth | Steel gates | Homeless | Informal Gathering | No street lighting |
| Parking prohibited | Private security booth | Closed | Vandalism | Private gardens | Street lighting with defects |
| Traffic flow moderated | Fortifying wall | Abandoned | Underconstruction | Empty Lots | Secured landmark |
| Street access denied | Heavy blocks | Physical Poverty | Demolished | Campo | Books box |
| Street access narrowed | Movable elements | Toxic void | Safety | Souk | |

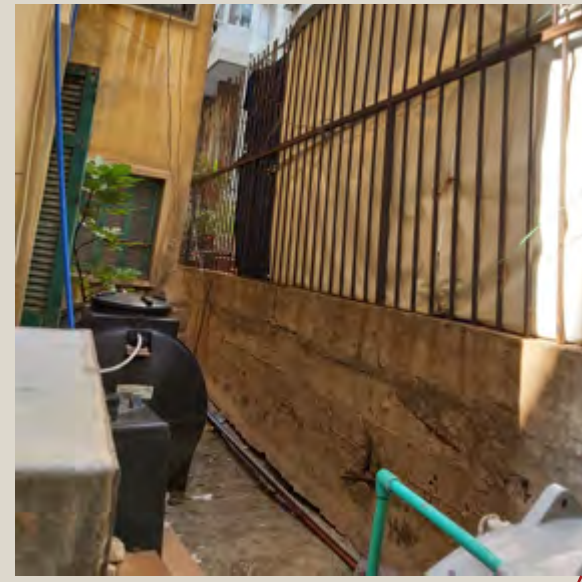






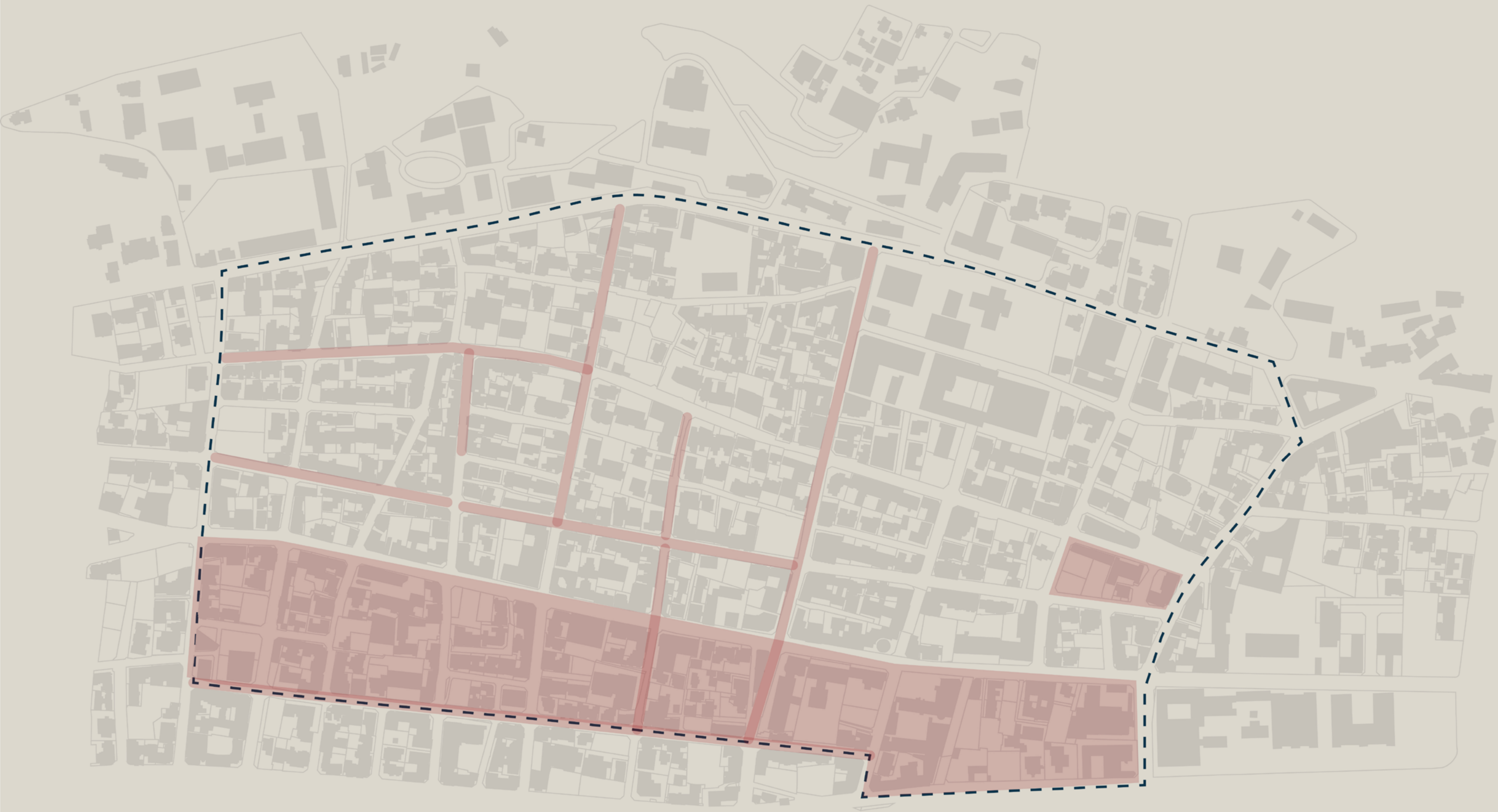




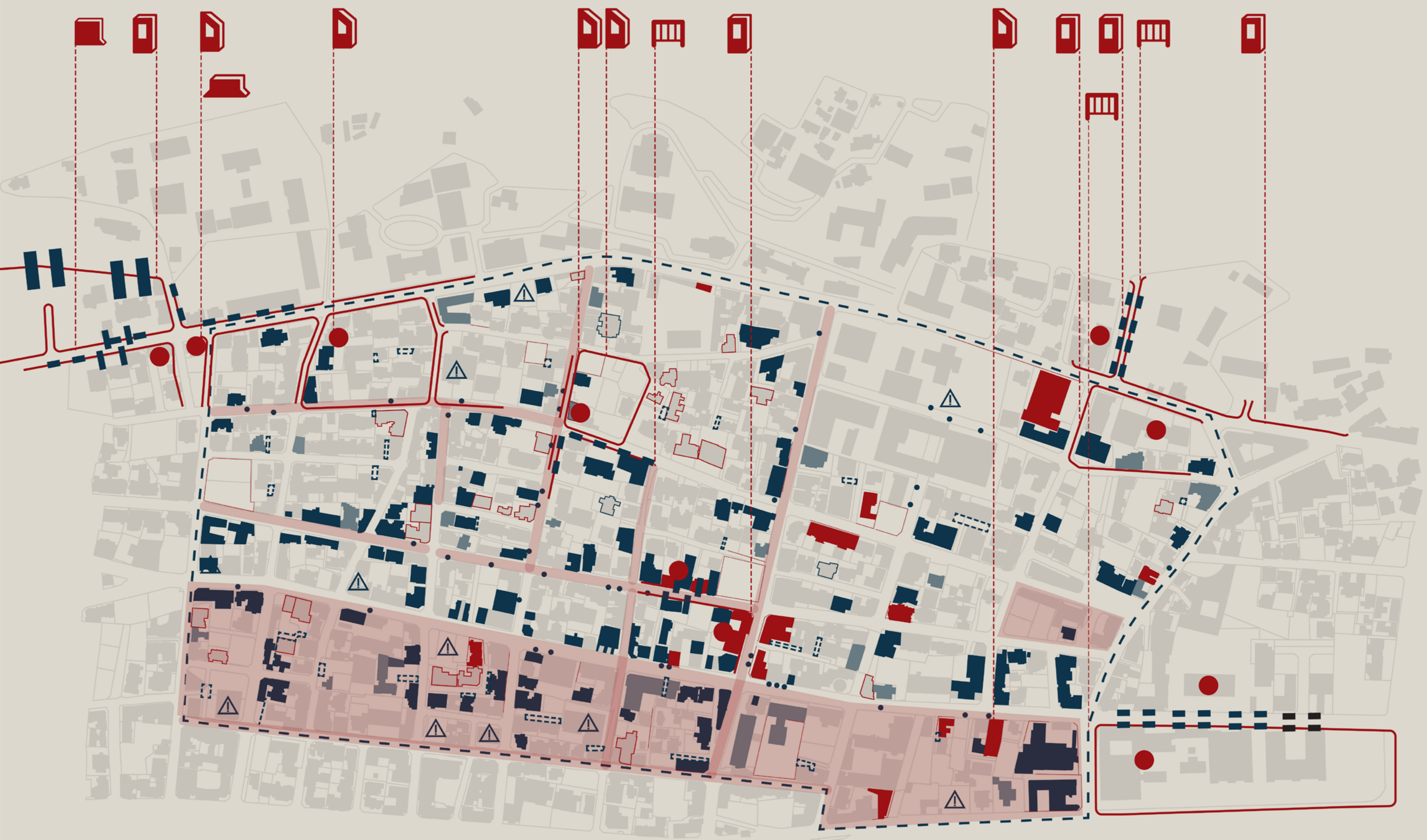




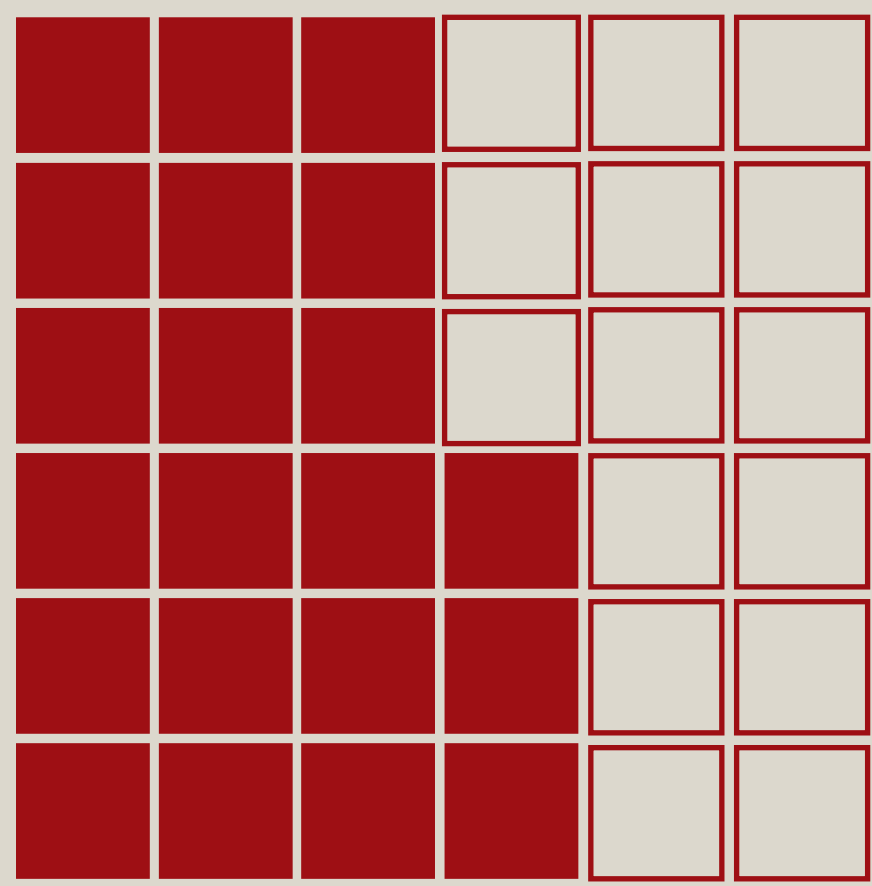
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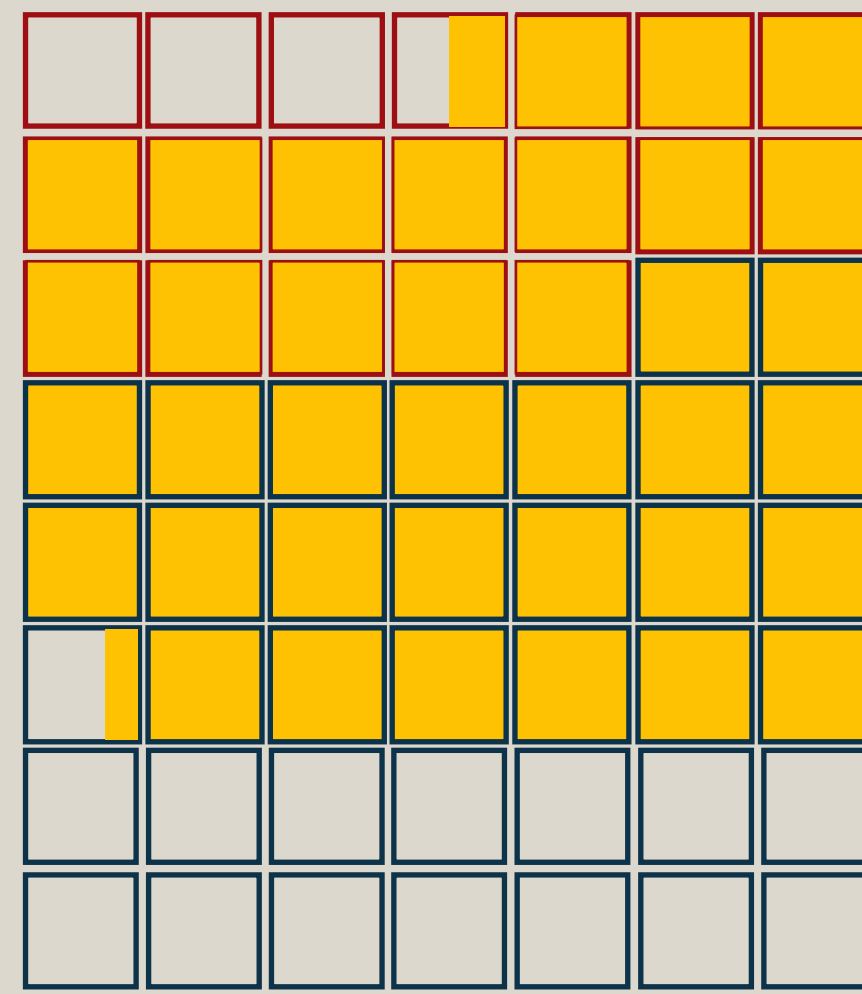


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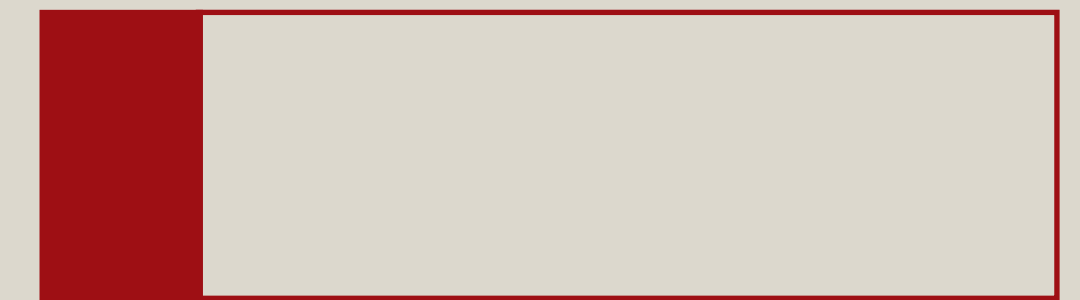
51% have common interest with their associates

62.38% feel like they belong to the neighborhood



66% lived for less than 10 years

34% lived for over 10 years



15% participated in cultural activity

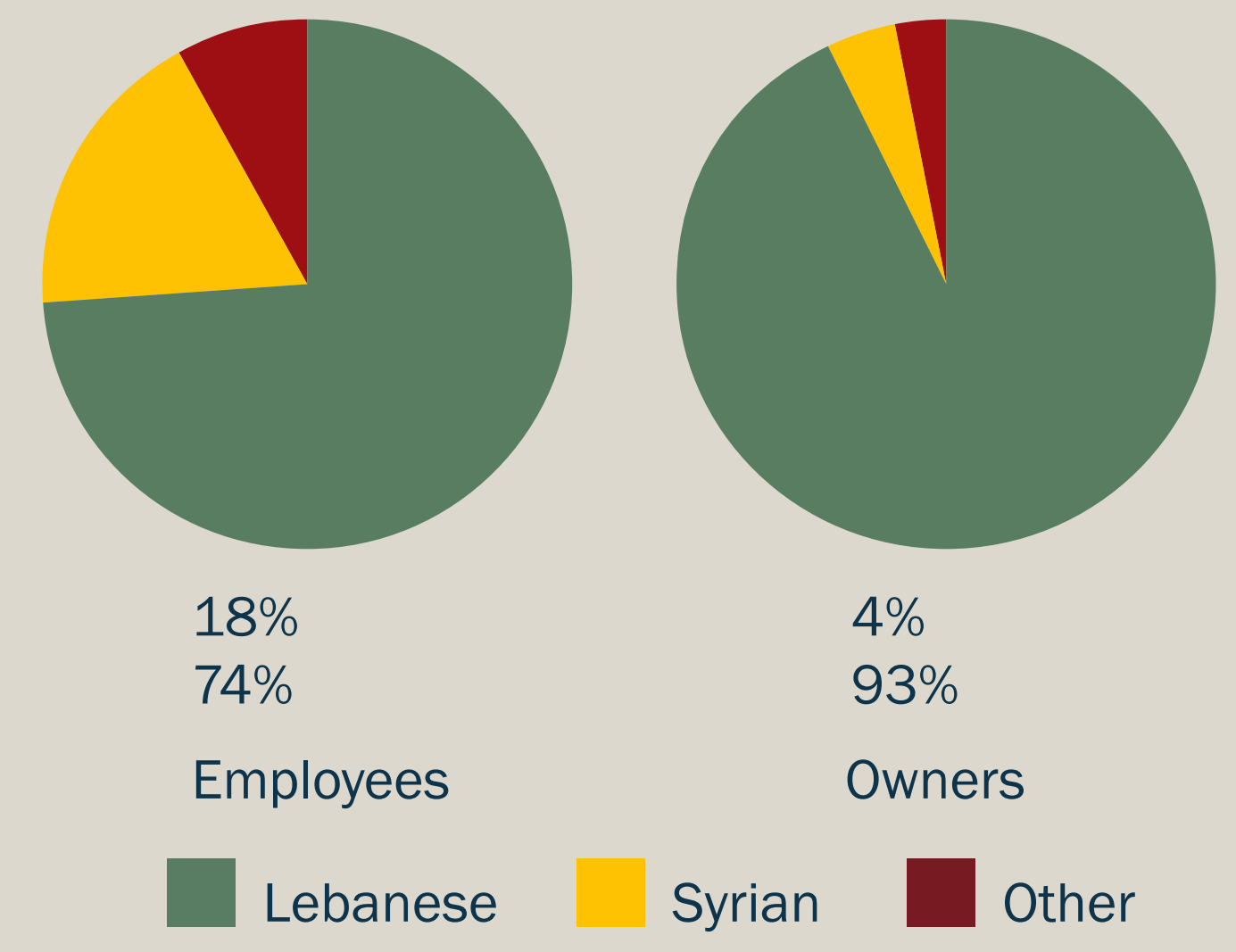
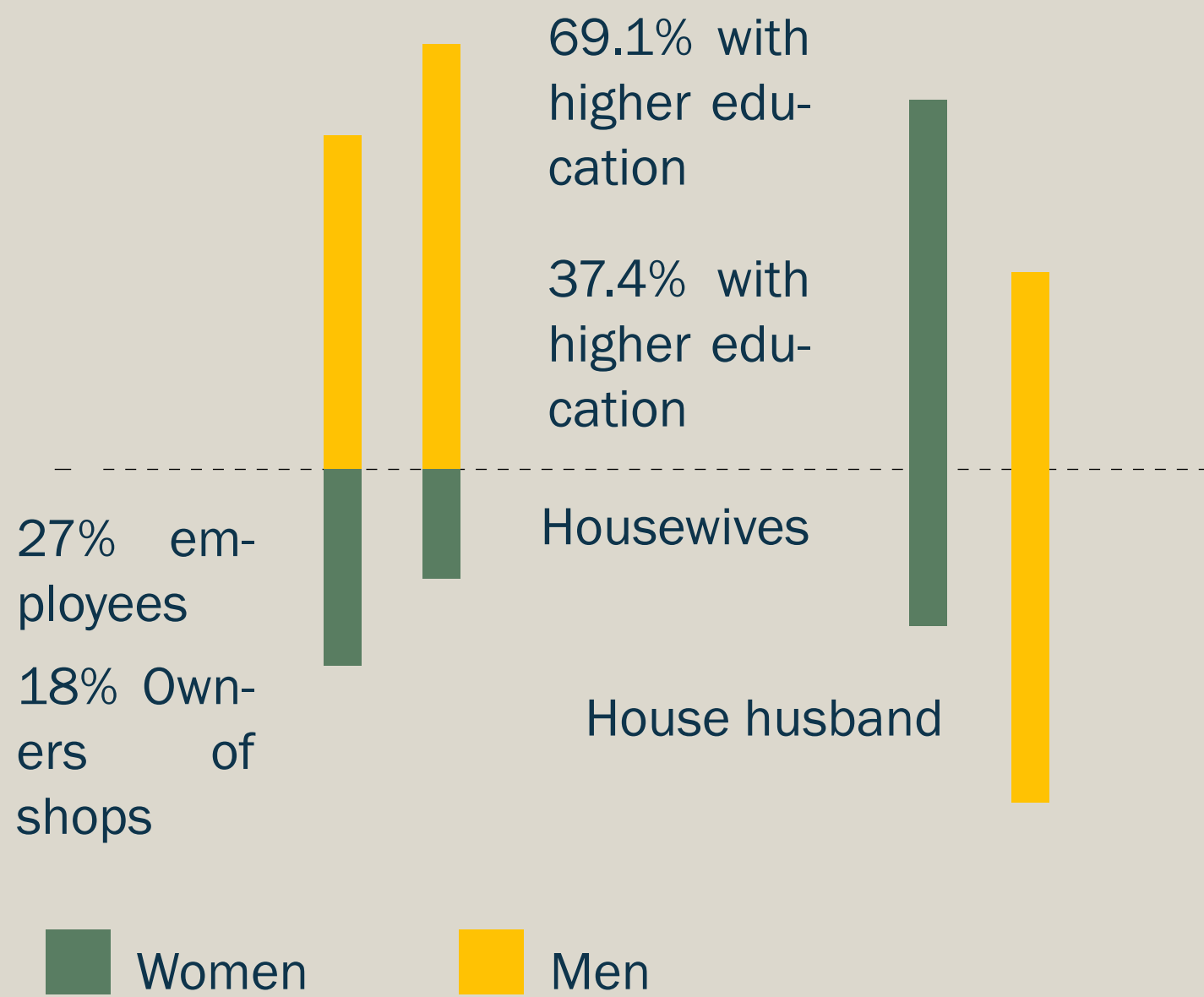


24% participated in community gathering

Social diversity

Inclusivity

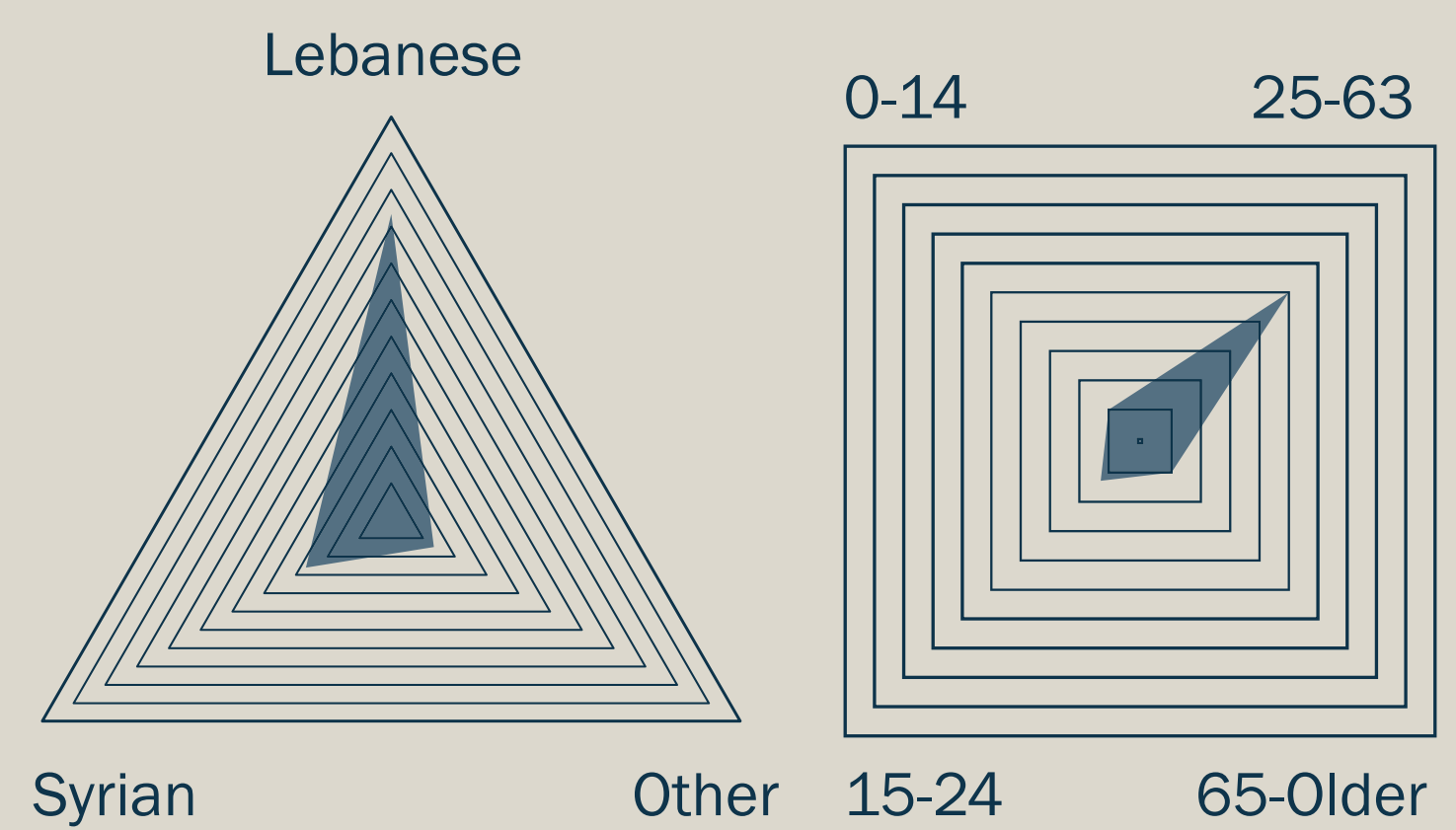
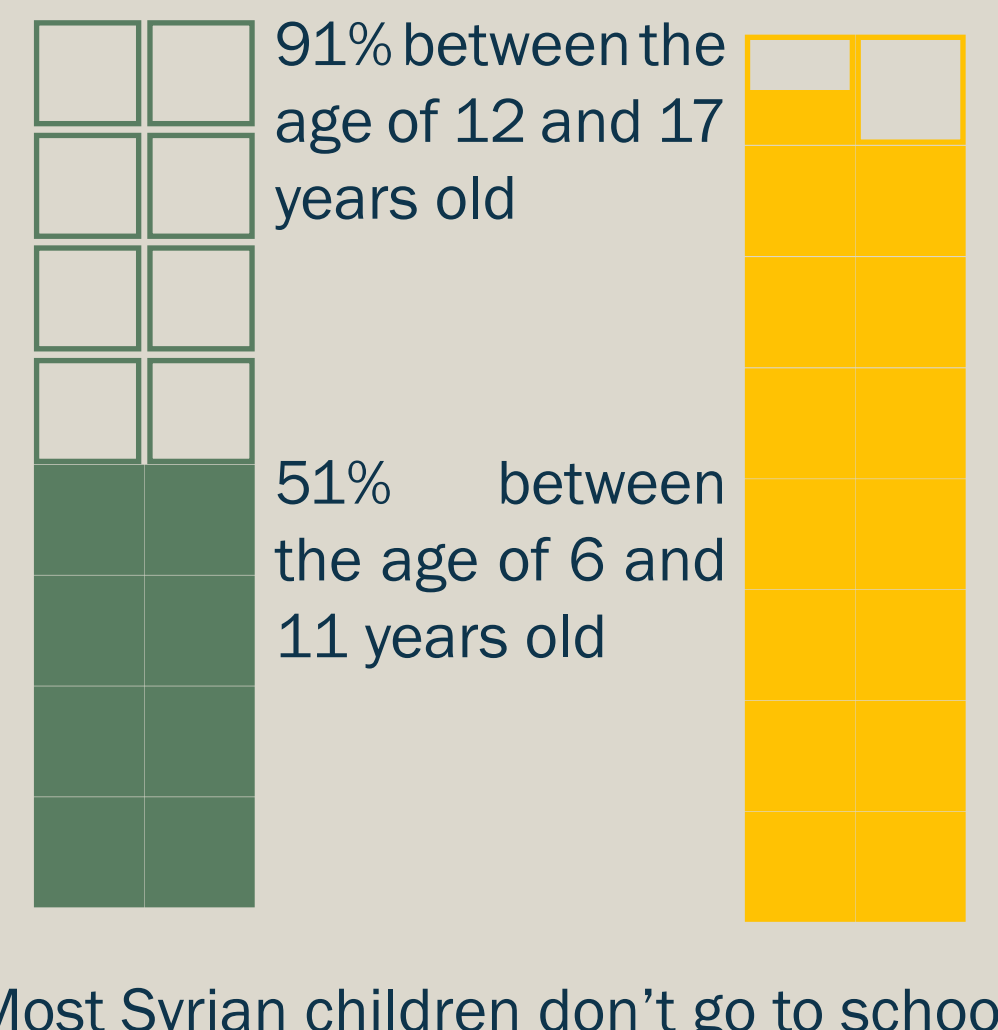
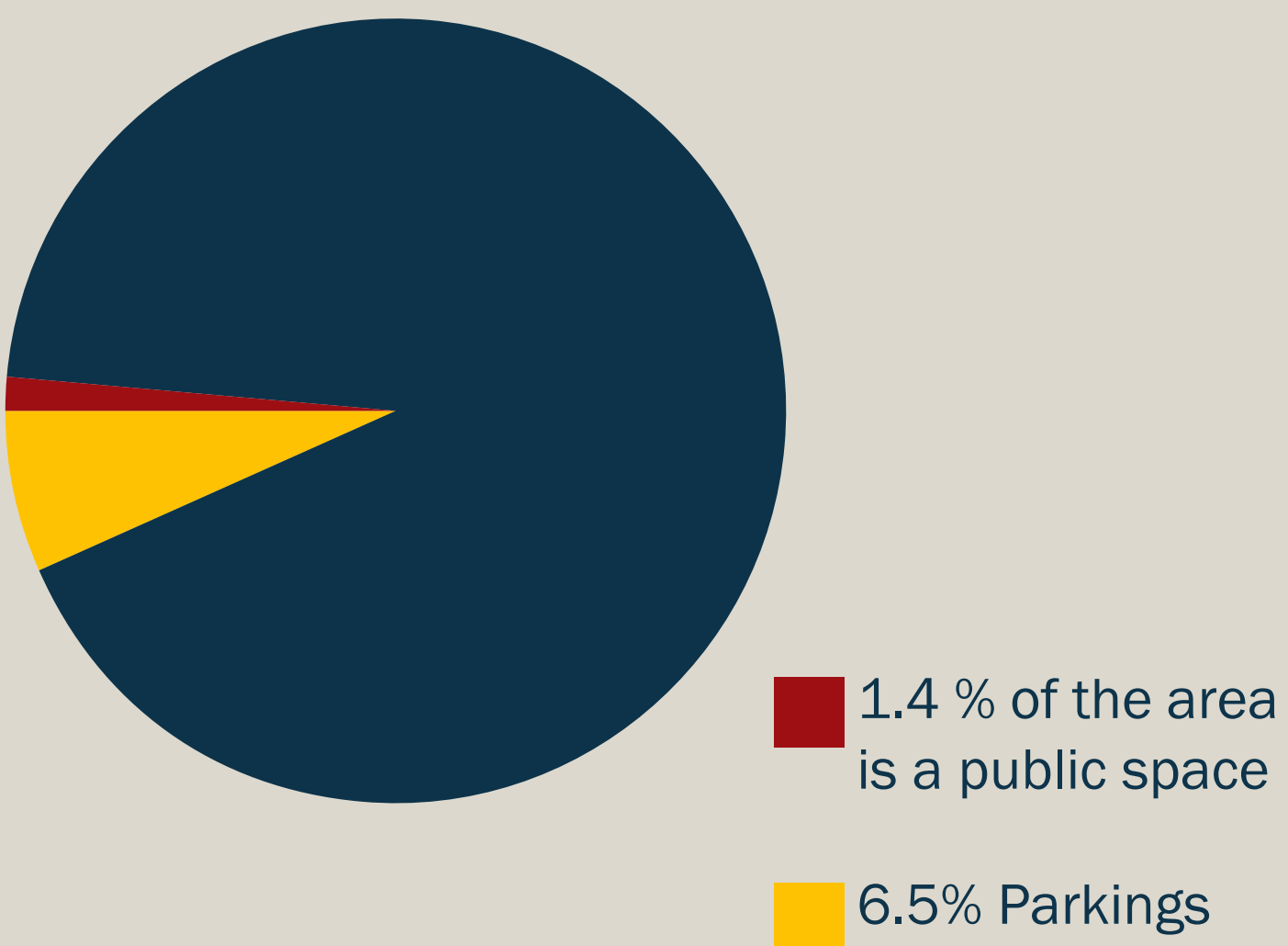
Cultural activities



Gender Equality

Income

Employment/Ownership



Open spaces

Education

Diversity

● Despite the social malaise in Hamra, however there's social aise that mitigates it. This social aise can be seen mainly during the day with informal street activities, high social interactions on the main streets, Aub neighborhood initiative that has an imput on Jeanne d'arc street, private green spaces for some dwellers and finally, plazas that are either used for commercial purposes or for waiting spots that can be seen in the AUBMC outdoor area and banks. However, social aise is less present in the evening, but it activates some streets such as Makdisi and Hamra at night more than the day due to the commercial character that includes pubs and coffee shops. In addition, the yearly Hamra festival that highly activates these streets.

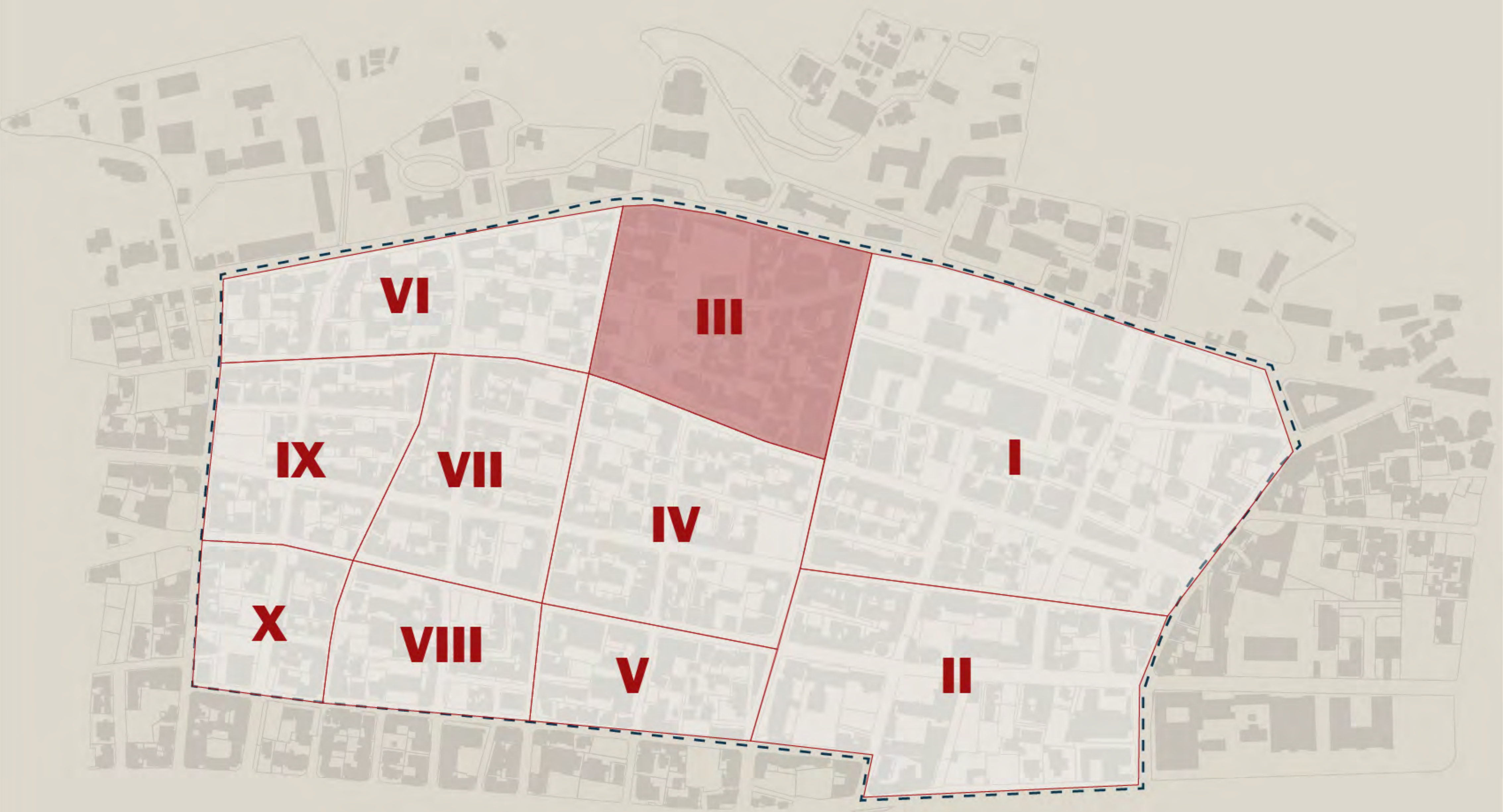


- Informal Gathering
- Private gardens
- Empty Lots
- Campo
- Souk
- Active streets day
- Active streets night
- Aub neighborhood interventions

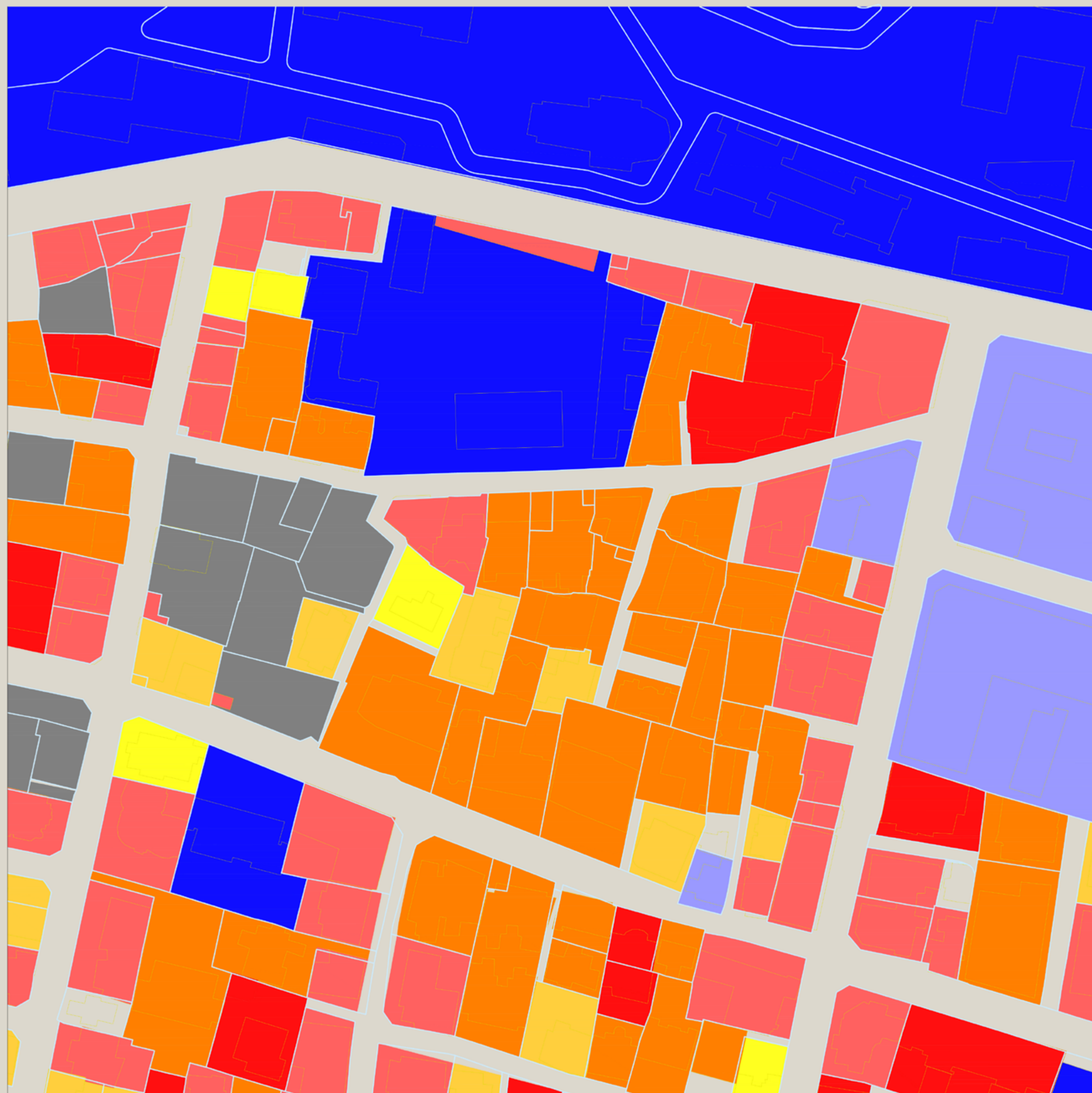


-  Informal Gathering
-  Private gardens
-  Empty Lots
-  Campo
-  Souk
-  Social activities night
-  Active streets day
-  Active streets night
-  Aub neighborhood interventions

From Urban to architecture, the zoomed in area is zone III according to Samir Khalaf division. This zone is located on the northern part in contact with AUB's main gate, in the middle connecting the eastern side that includes the medical center of AUB and the western side that includes dense commercial activities. Additionally, this zone can be split into three part, the northern part that includes the cemetery, the orthodox school and commercial activities that are located on Bliss street. The southern east area is known of its dense residential aspect where commercial activities are located on the periphery. And finally, the south west area that is made of parking lots and includes some vacant buildings. These three areas show the diverse physical and non-physical aspect of that area, where social malaise is also embedded in it.



Zoom In



- RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS
LOW DENSITY-SINGLE
FAMILY
- RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS
MEDIUM DENSITY- UP TO 5
STOREYS
- RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS
HIGH DENSITY 6+
- SHEDS, FARM BUILDING
OR AGRICULTURAL
FACILITIES
- ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT
AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

- PARKING
- SPECIALIZED MILITARY
STRUCTURES
- INDUSTRIAL, MANUFACTURING, WASTE-RELATED
ACTIVITIES/ MANUFACTURING AND WHOLESALE
TRADE/ PUBLIC ASSEMBLY STRUCTURES
- EDUCATION
- PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
- HEALTHCARE
- RELIGIOUS BUILDING
- SHOPPING, BUSINESS OR
TRADE ACTIVITIES
- COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS



- | | | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Secured street | Steel gates | Homeless | Informal Gathering | Vegetation | 41-70 resident/bldg |
| Parking prohibited | Closed | Vandalism | No sidewalk | No street lighting | 11-40 residents/bldg |
| Secured landmark | Abandoned | Demolished | Narrow sidewalk with obstruction | Street lighting with defects | 1-10 residents/bldg |
| Books box | Physical Poverty | Empty Lots | Wide sidewalk with obstructions | Street lighting | |
| Police booth | Toxic void | Private gardens | Sidewalk without obstructions | | |

Zone III Malaise

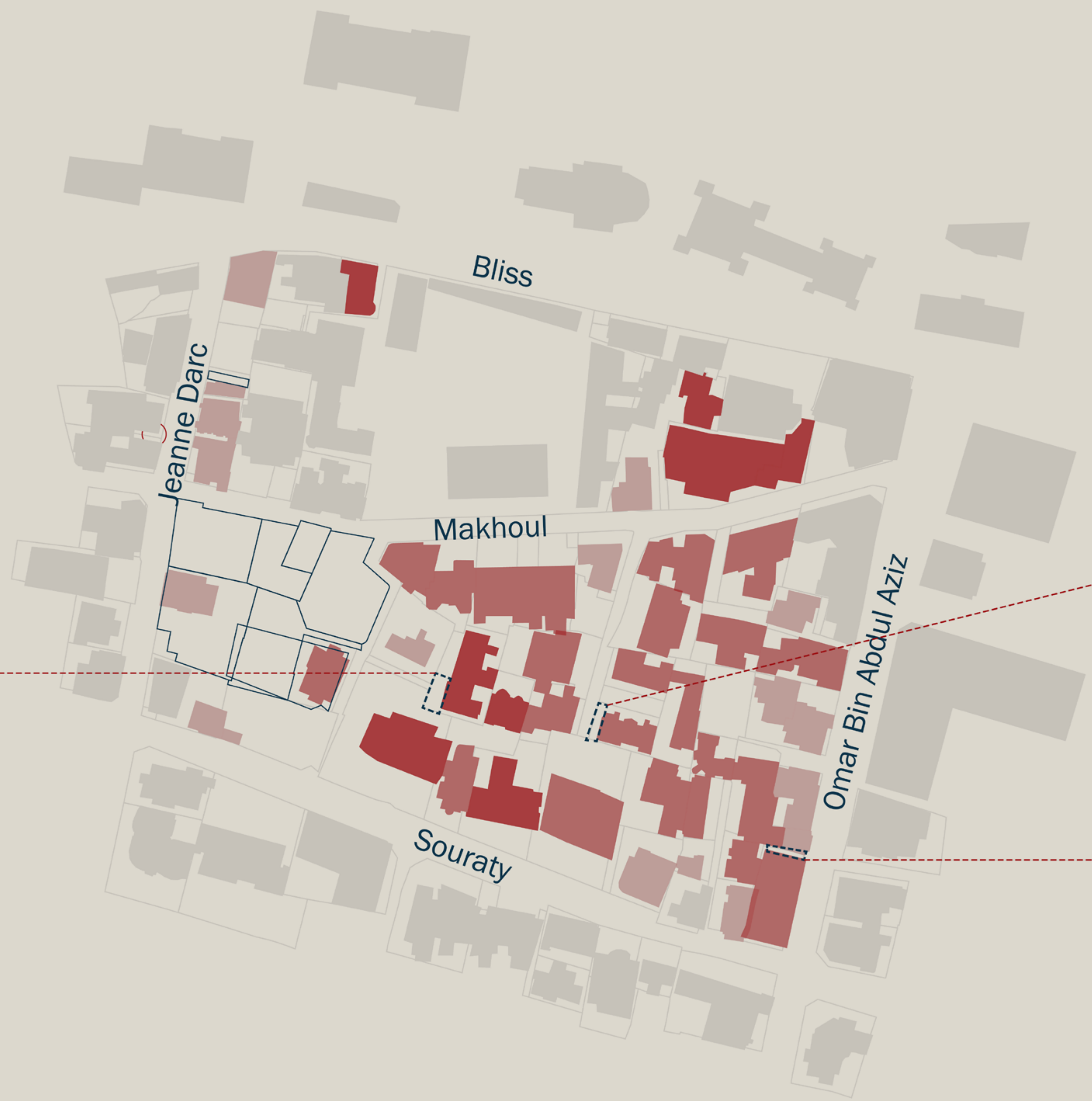


Secured street	Steel gates	Homeless	Informal Gathering	Vegetation	41-70 resident/bldg
Parking prohibited	Closed	Vandalism	No sidewalk	No street lighting	11-40 residents/bldg
Secured landmark	Abandoned	Demolished	Narrow sidewalk with obstruction	Street lighting with defects	1-10 residents/bldg
Books box	Physical Poverty	Empty Lots	Wide sidewalk with obstructions	Street lighting	
Police booth	Toxic void	Private gardens	Sidewalk without obstructions		



- | | | | | | |
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Zone III Malaise



- | | | | | | |
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| Police booth | Toxic void | Private gardens | Sidewalk without obstructions | | |



- Old ownership
- New ownership
- Old rent
- New rent
- Mix use

● Ownership Scale 1/750

AUB Neighborhood Initiative, 2017



● Based on the analytical study on the focused area, the malaise is perceived through the presence of security points such as police booth and steel gated banks that decreases the inclusivity in the area along with street infrastructure issues that doesn't provide sidewalks and light in certain streets that affects how the area is used. The closure of shops and abandonment of buildings, increase in density, change of ownership and typologies means that there's constant changes in the area.



«The quality of people changed, people used to afford enjoying cafes. Cafes in Hamra were very important places, but now it's just a space to pick up a drink. I'm very pessimistic because we're always in a survival mode, the area is dying.»

«The area is not longer how it used to be, it's very commercial I no longer know the people around me.»

«Political conflicts between people. There's hatred between different sects this makes me uncomfortable. I love my community, there are very kind to me but we're also distant, each has its own life.»

«There is nowhere to take a break. The crises are affecting my lifestyle here, I usually study in a coffee shop but now it's hard to find a space to work without paying a lot »

«I fear the uncertainty because it's unknown where we are heading. I love nature but the most powerful thing in Lebanon is real estate. The value of a land will be an economic loss if it's only used for greenery.»

«I feel very distant from the community, I don't know them much and it worries me a lot the current situation. The situation is suffocating them and they cannot get out of it. I feel paranoid sometimes in public spaces because I do not feel invisible.»

«The community changed back then people knew each other very well. Things were easier for me but now it's harder, I used to have a reputation from my job. People knew me and sought my help because I was next to them.»

«It's not a country where the future is guaranteed especially not as anything. Before the economic situation, it's not the right place the society nor the environment fit me too that's why I feel like I want to escape.»

«I feel disconnected from my neighborhood I don't think I rely on the idea knowing there's people around.»

«I can't afford anything everything is expensive now. People here don't respect me much because I'm Syrian. I'm glad I have my job but I don't feel I'm welcome here.»



Age	Ahmad, 16 yo	Tarek, 22 yo	Sarah, 26 yo	Salim, 31 yo	Sherin, 37 yo	Dani, 39 yo	Yazan, 44 yo	Khodr, 54 yo	Sobhi, 78 yo
Occupation	Student	Student	Student	Pilot	Phd Student and a mother	Shop owner and an investor	Concierge	Shop owner	Retired shop owner
Period Ownership	16 years Rent	22 years Rent	8 years Rent	31 years Owner	12 years Rent	5 years Rent	7 years Benefit	30 years Old rent	78 years Owner



- 1 Lebanese American University
- 3 Saint Mary's Orthodox Church
- 5 Sanayeh Garden
- 7 The Art Workshop
- 9 Casper & Gambini's
- 11 Riyadi Center
- 13 Premiere Aviator
- 2 American University of Beirut
- 4 Saint Mary's Orthodox College
- 6 Multiverse Board Games
- 8 Ajyal Gallery
- 10 Piccadilly - Closed
- 12 Sport Ville
- 14 New center
- 15 Corniche

---● Residents destinations

Malaise

- Lack of sense of community
- Social conflicts
- Noise Pollution
- Constant change
- Type of people
- Density
- Typology
- Lack of green spaces

Needs

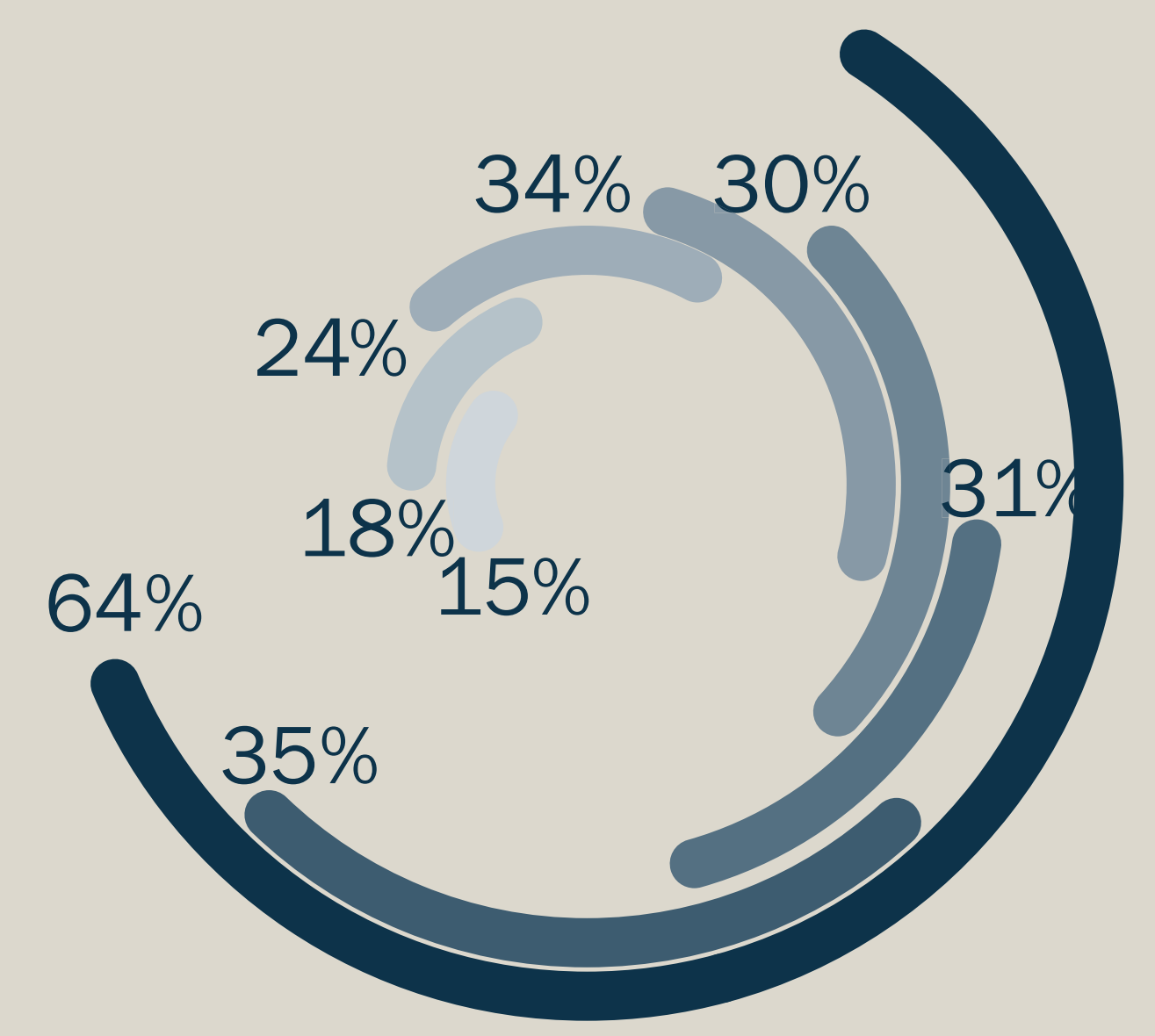
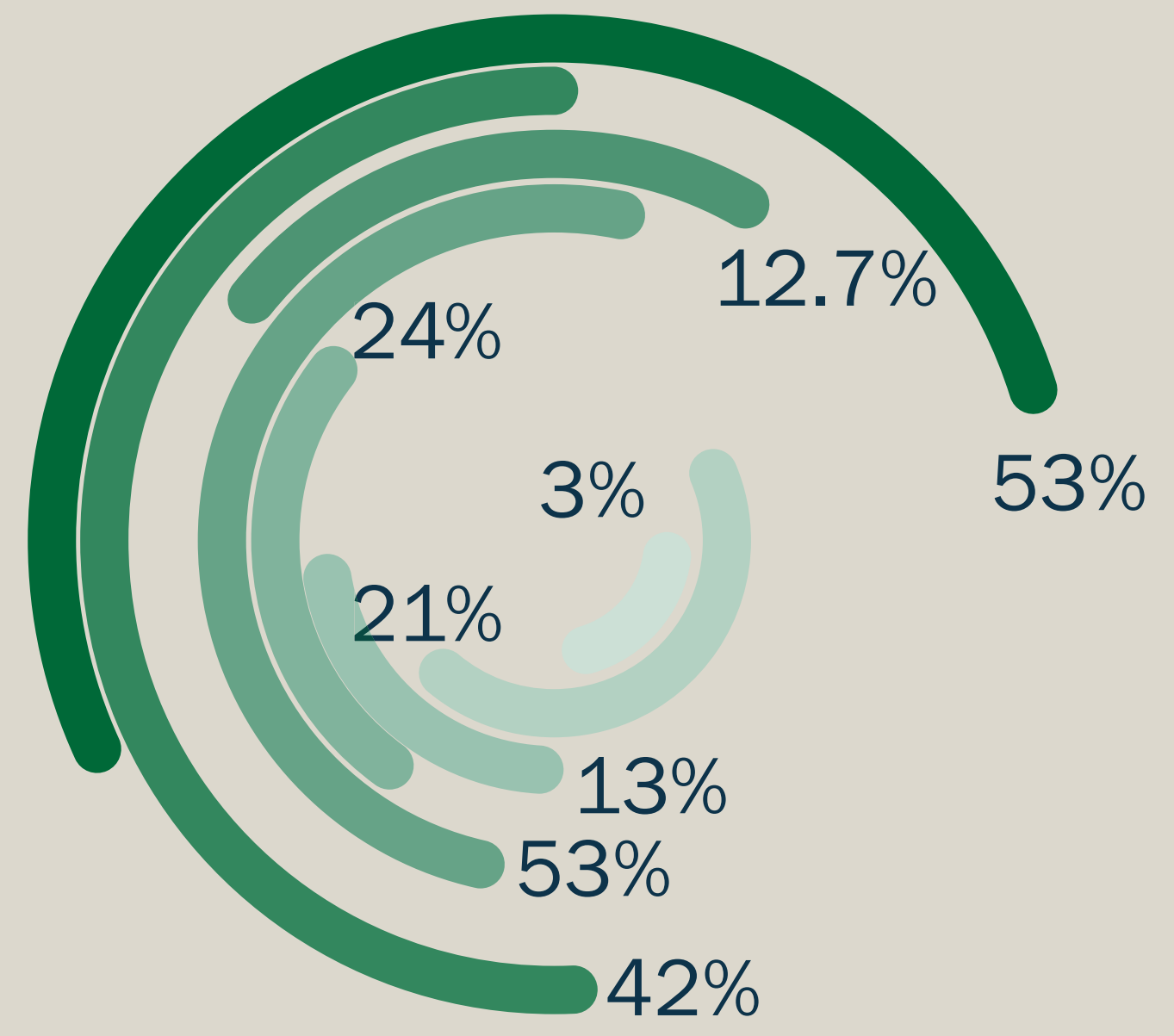
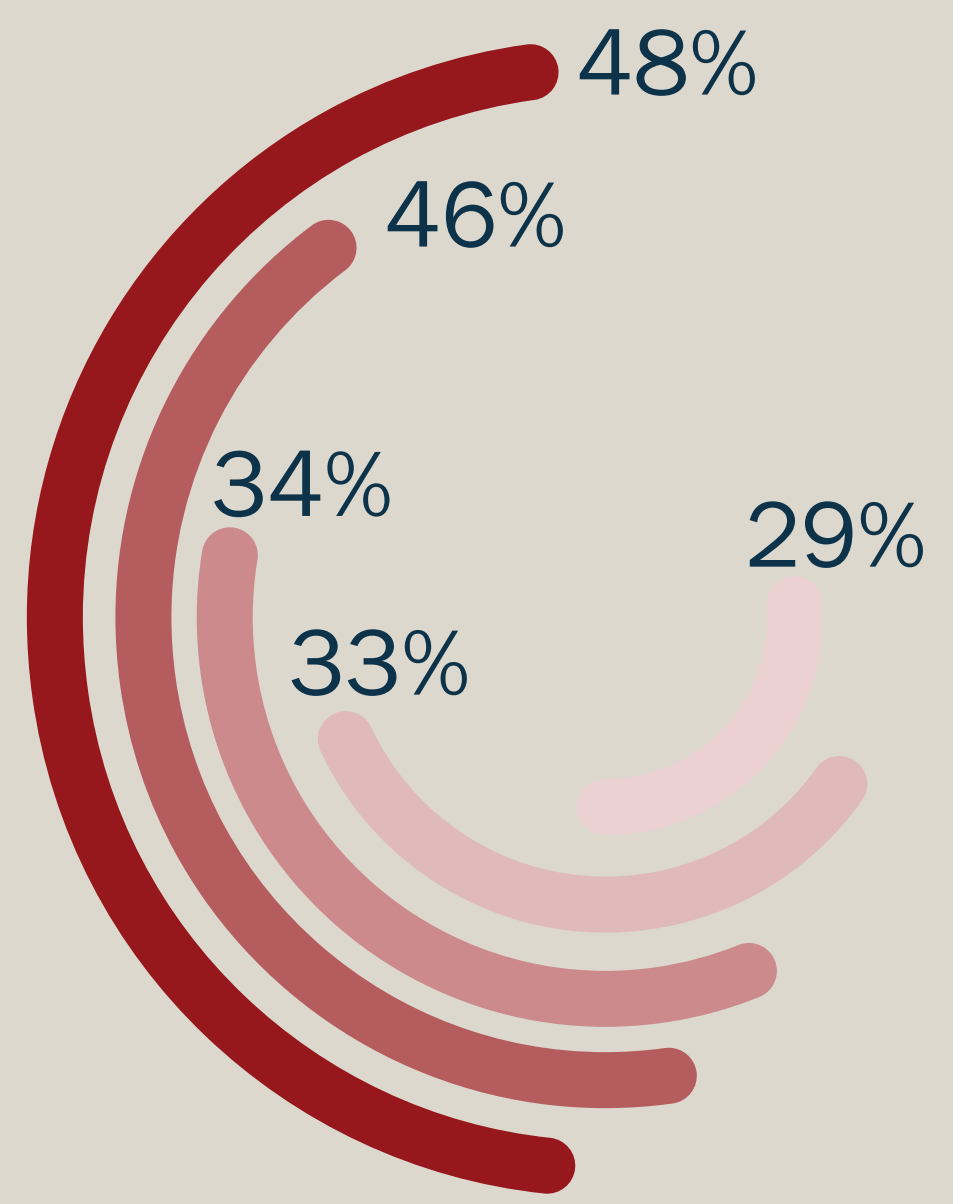
- Socialize
- Exchange Knowledge
- Stability
- Calmness
- Blend with nature

Interest

- Social interactions
- Walking
- Attend workshops
- Cinema
- Sport
- Reading
- Hiking
- Gardening

Types Of Spaces

- Educational
- Co-working
- Bazaar
- Event Spaces
- Resting
- Noise free spaces
- Playgrounds
- Green spaces



● Resident's needs

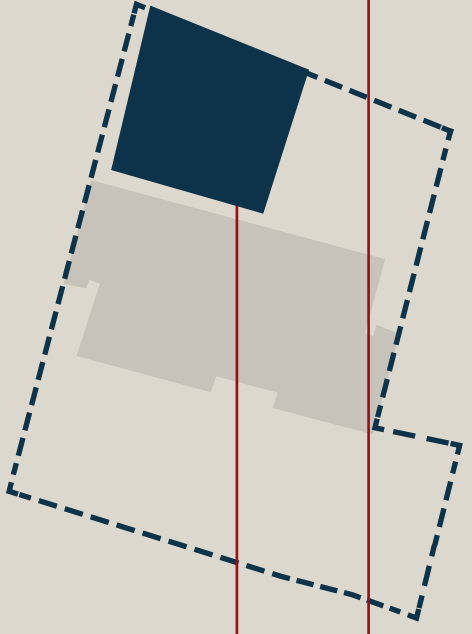
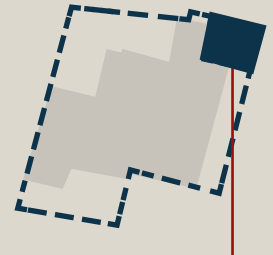
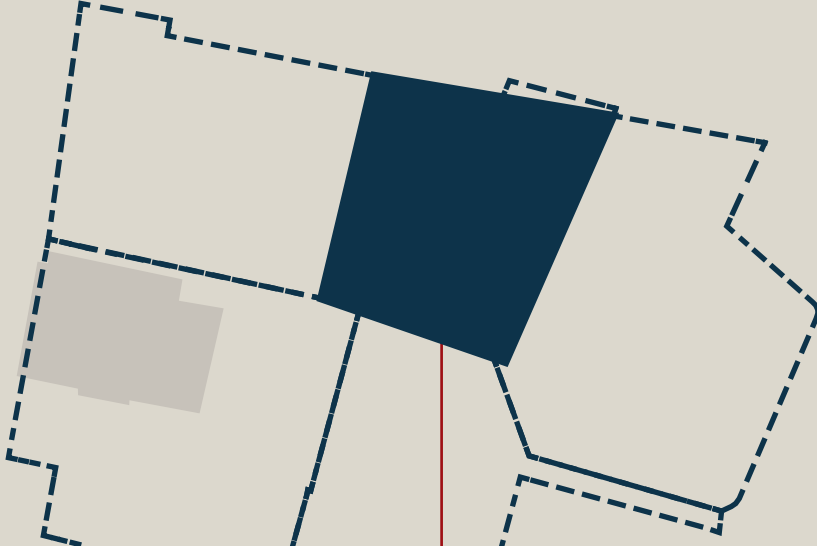
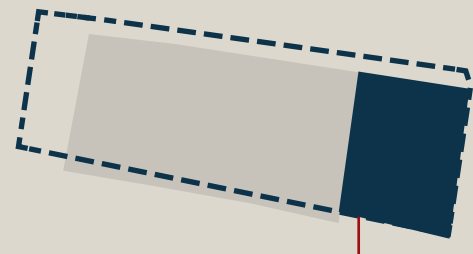
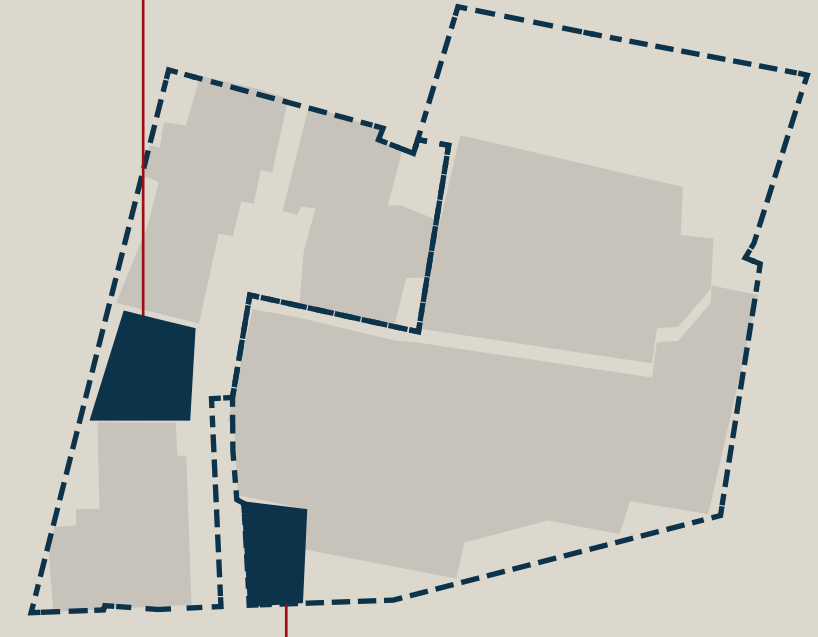
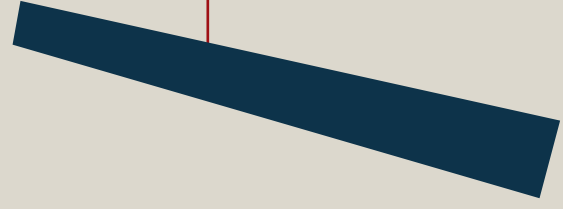
● The constant change is expressed by the residents by conducting interviews with different age groups. Where they also stressed about their discomfort of lack sense of community, social conflicts, noise pollution and lack of green spaces. From these interviews, a mapping of social activities has been made on the larger scale of Ras Beirut. From the voices of the residents a translation of their needs, their interests in order to know the types of spaces they wish to have in their area.

- - ● Proposal: Focal point & Installations

Invisible Plot

Vacant

Residual space



Residual Space

Residual Space

Parking

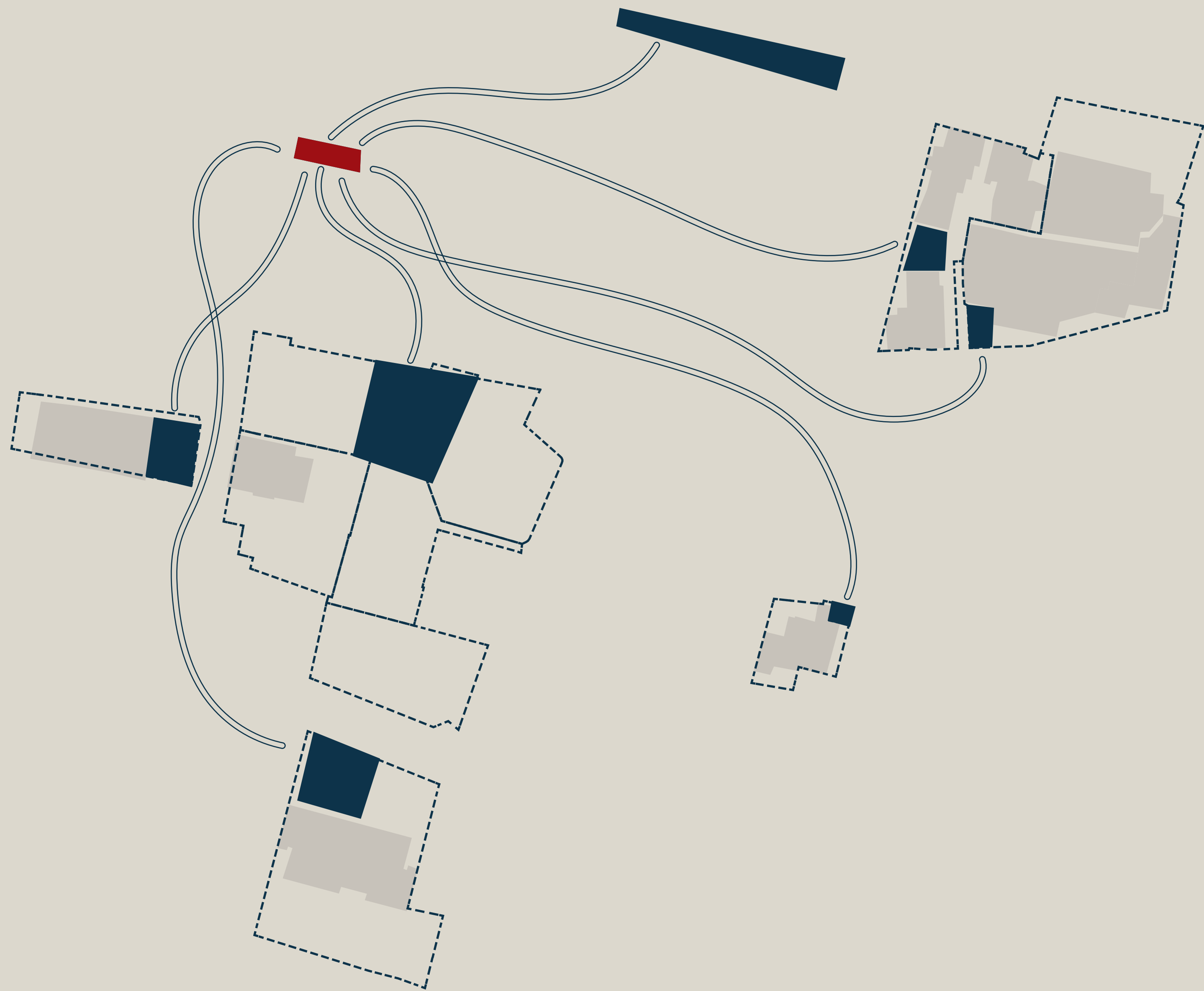
Residual Space

Residual Space

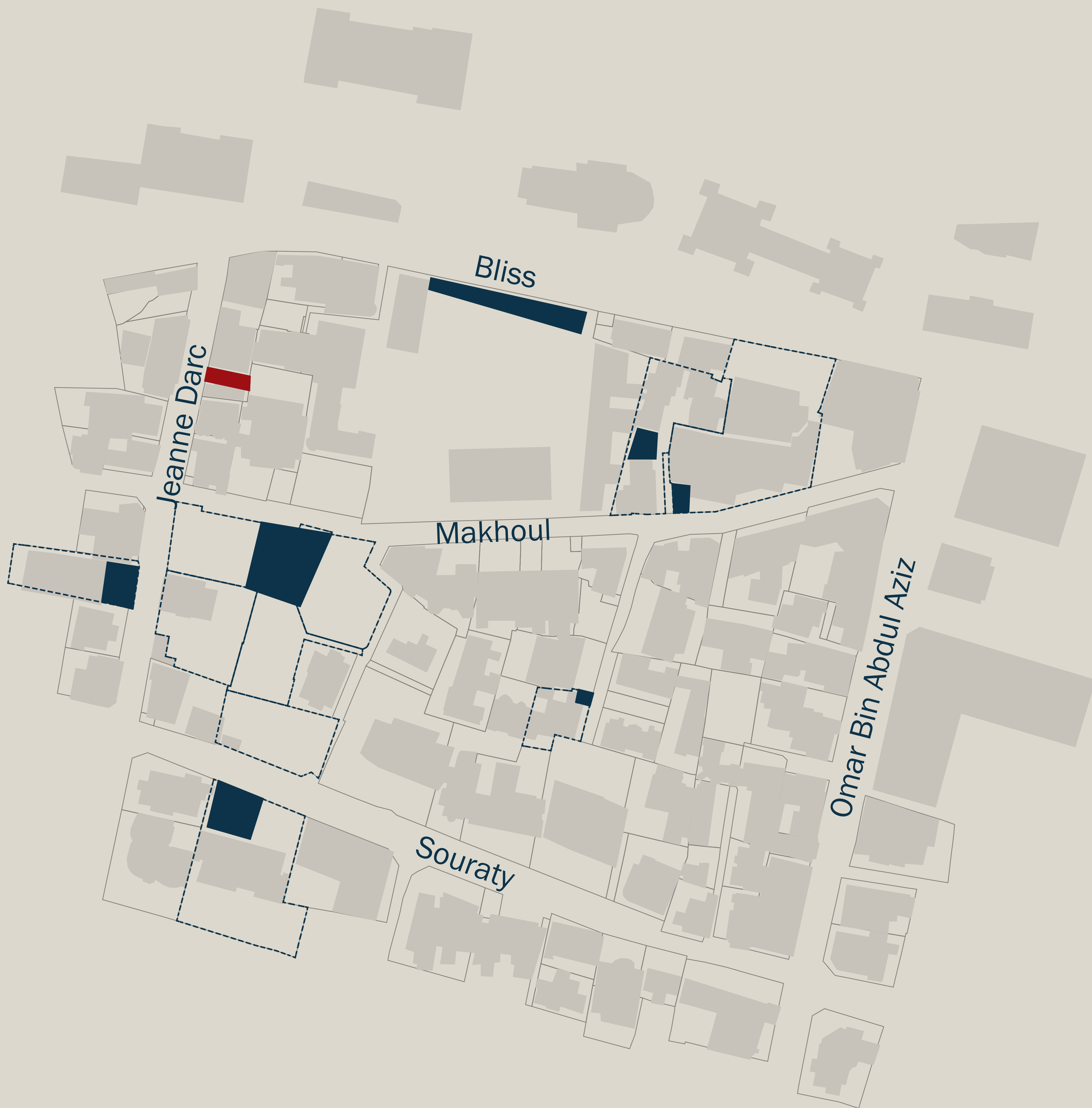
● Sites types

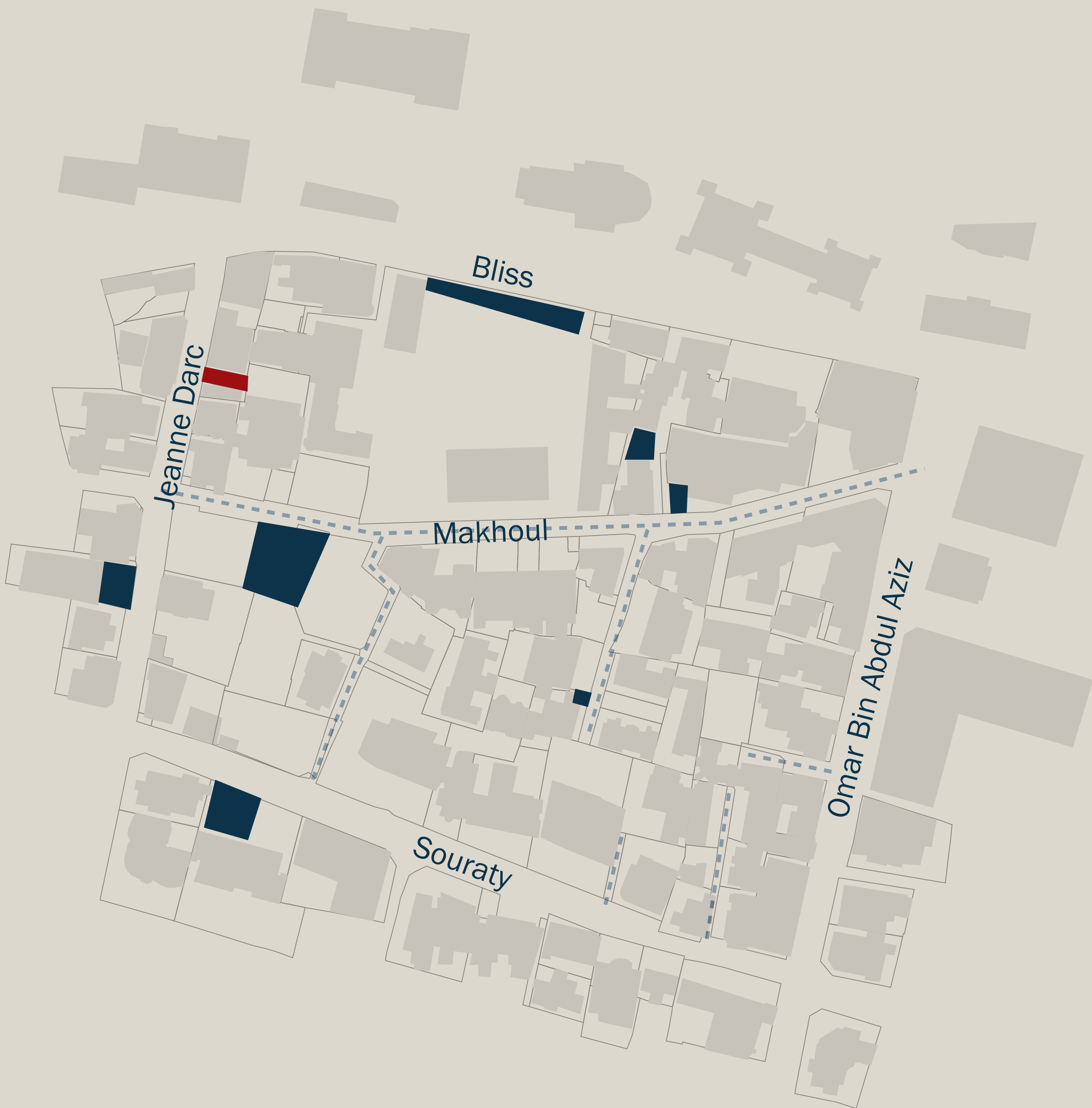
Social Malaise





● Connections





—● Pedestrian during weekends

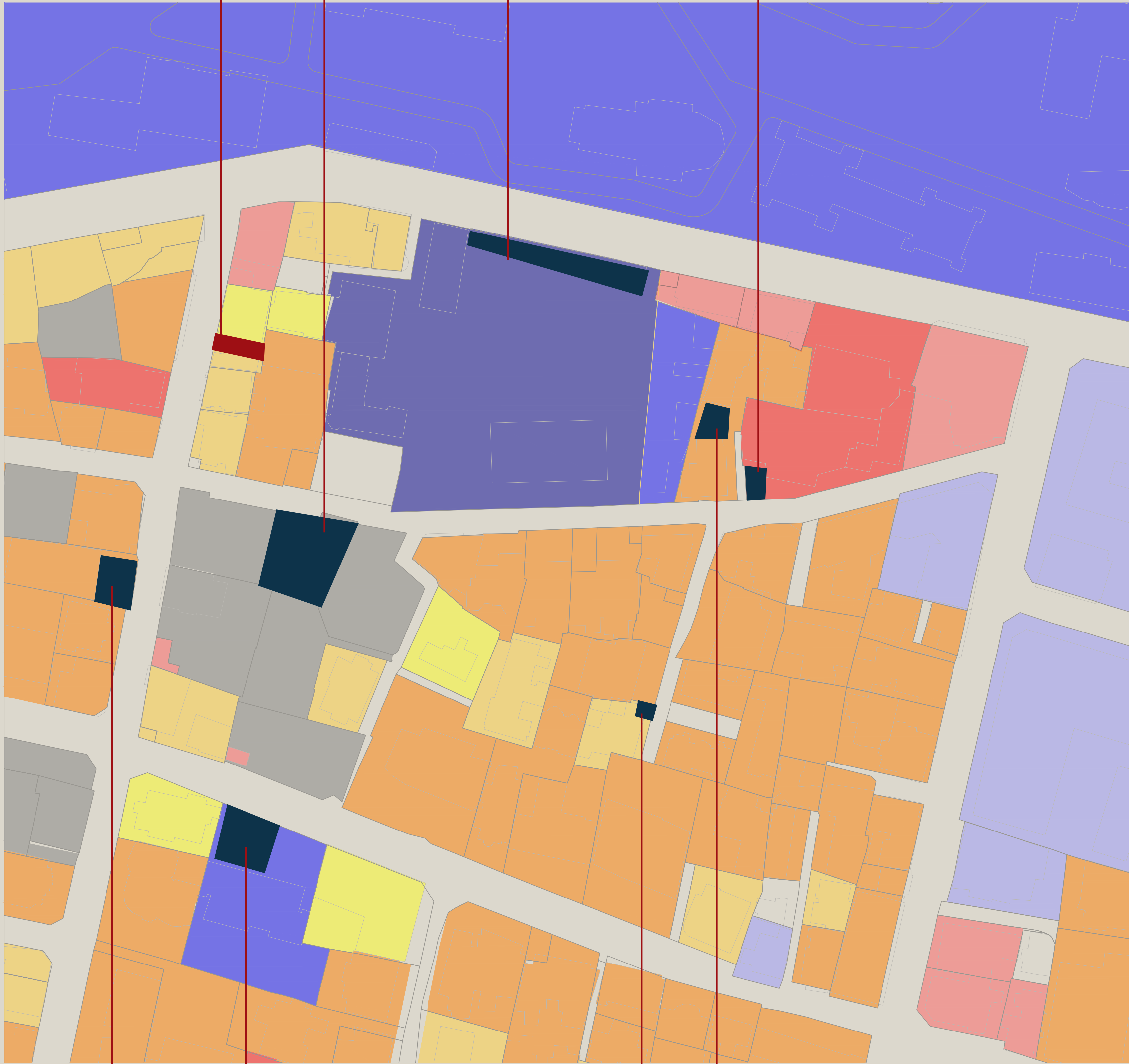


Community Center

Event space

Exhibition + Film Projection

Reading Space



Playground


Playground

Garden

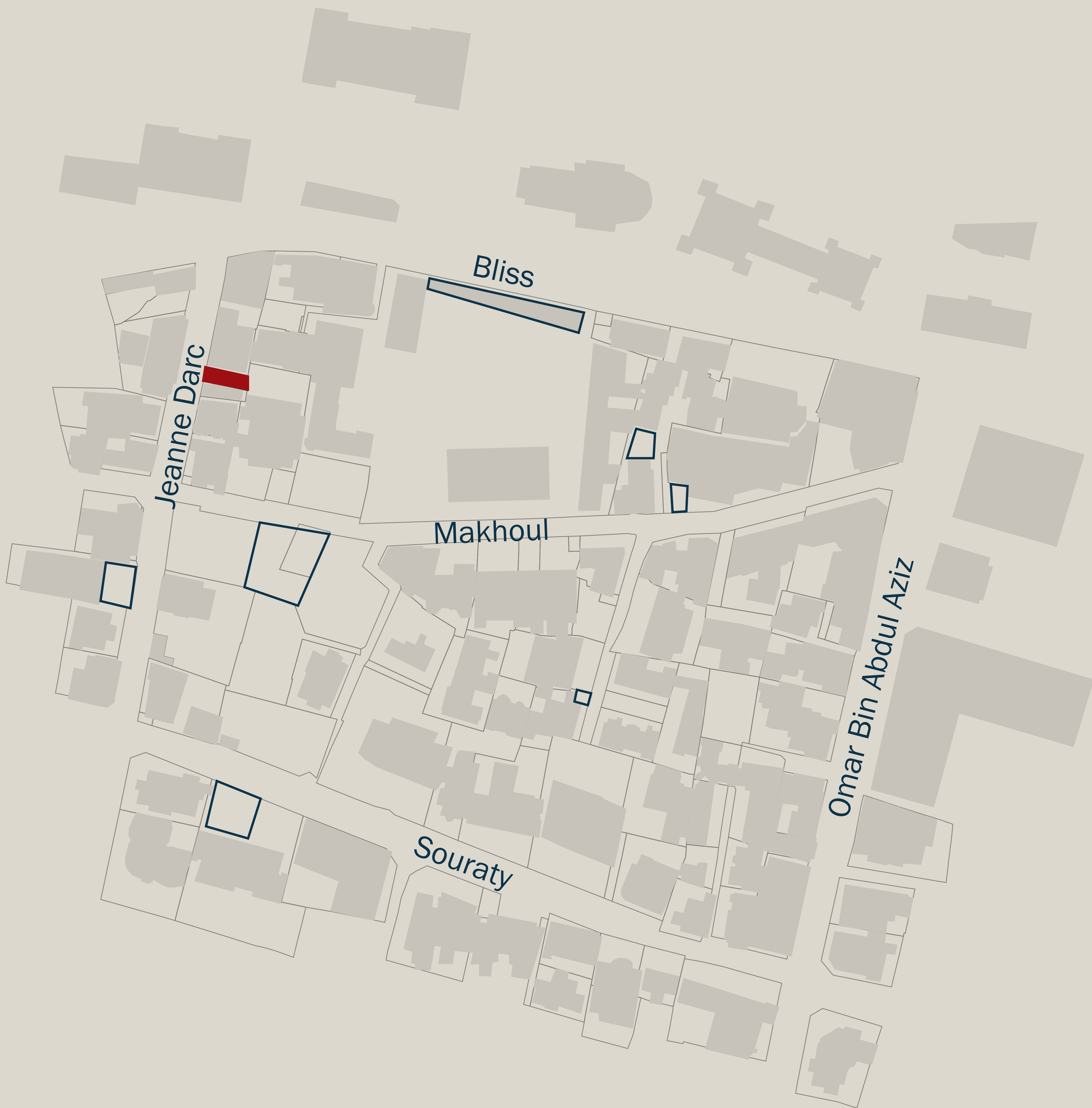
● Program

Social Malaise





● In an attempt of responding to people's needs a focal space is created along with multiple temporary installations that support it. Designed in a way that is flexible enough to accommodate the area's constant change and the residents' different needs. By taking advantage of invisible plots, residual spaces, vacant buildings or parking. The plots have been selected with the context in mind, maintaining walkability and interconnection between installations, the area becomes strictly pedestrian during weekends. The program's distribution is as follows : Gardens are enriching the heart of the residential area to provide a breathing space for the residents. Playgrounds are on visible lanes near schools for physical activities and social engagement for families as well. Event spaces are provided as an addition to existing parking without disturbing the main function but to create community engagement and energize the area. Reading space near a vibrant area to bring a moment of peace for people passing by and to allow for cultural and educational exchange.

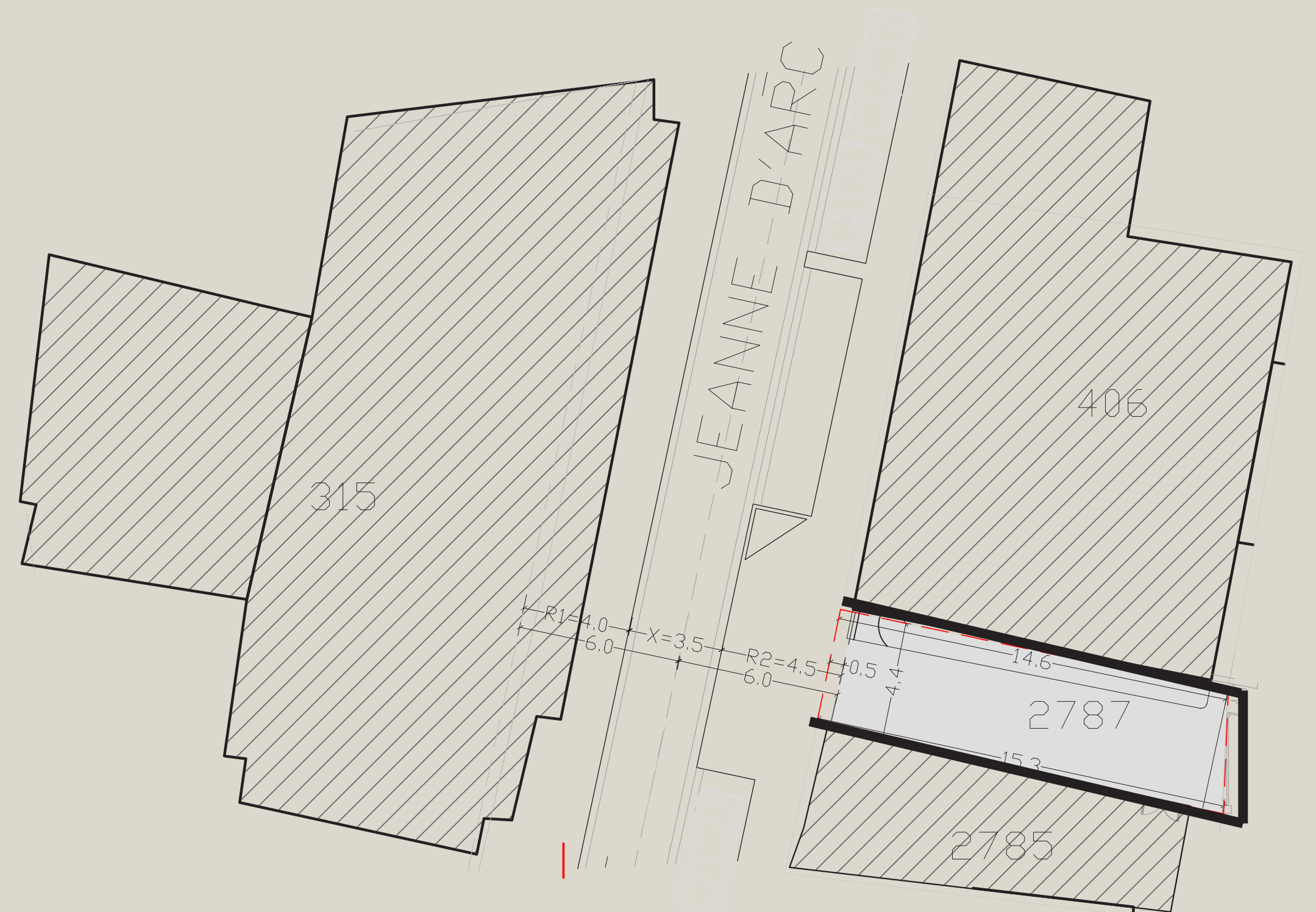
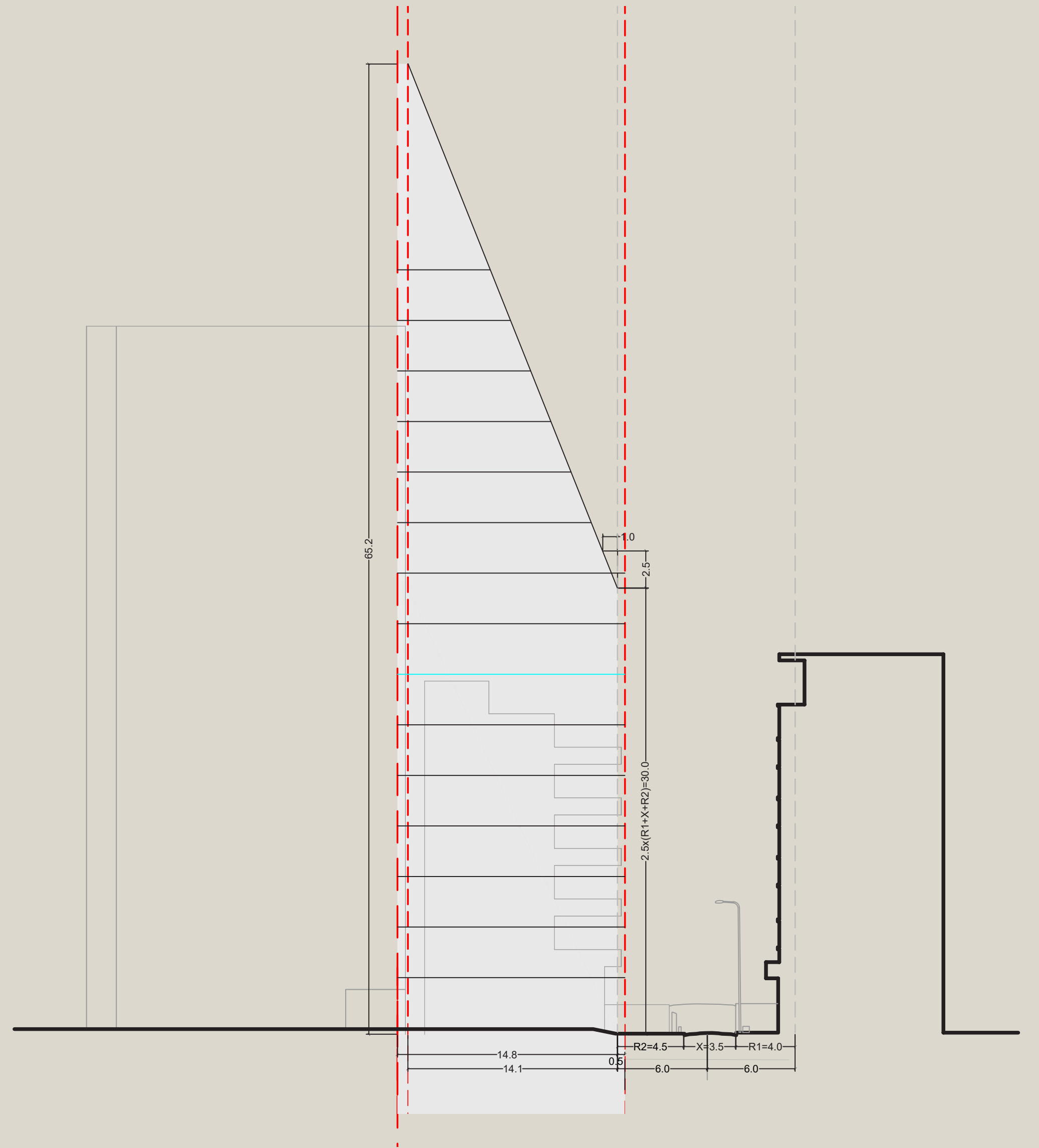


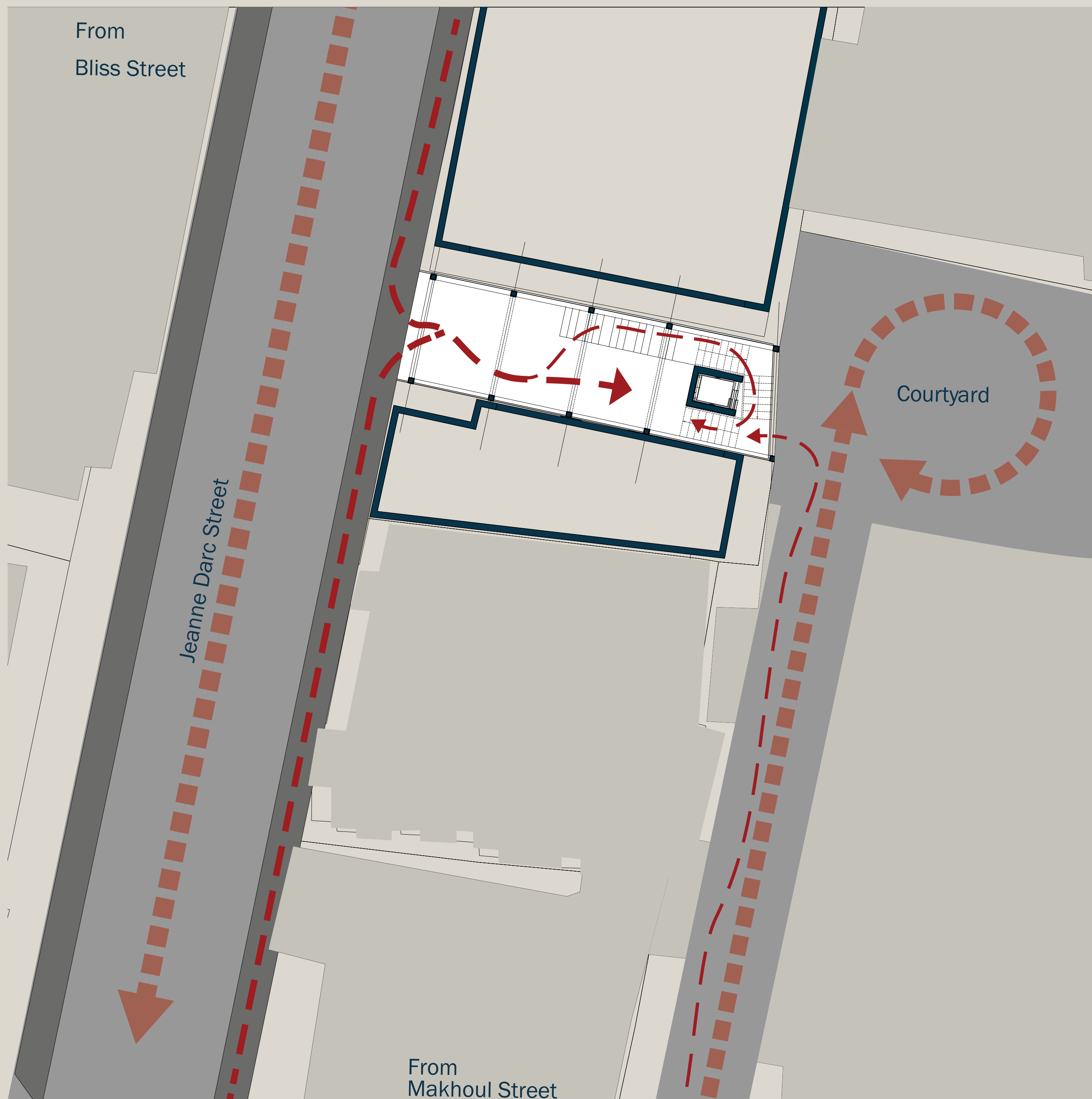
● Community center



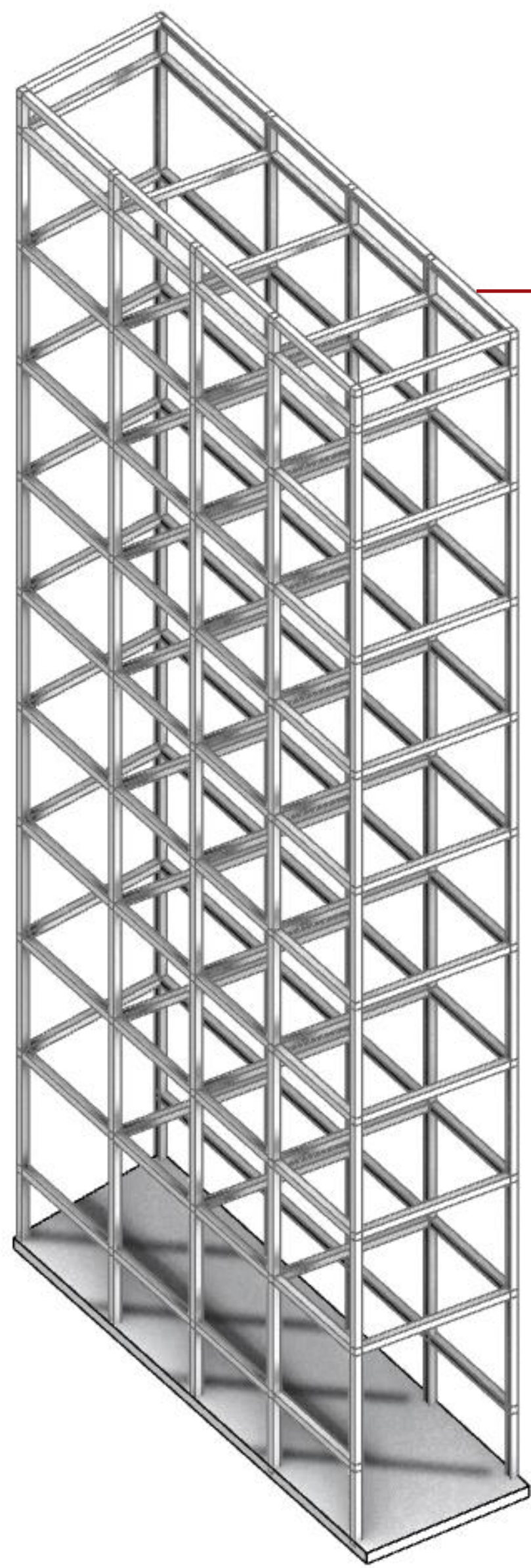
67 m²

● Plot #2878 - Community center

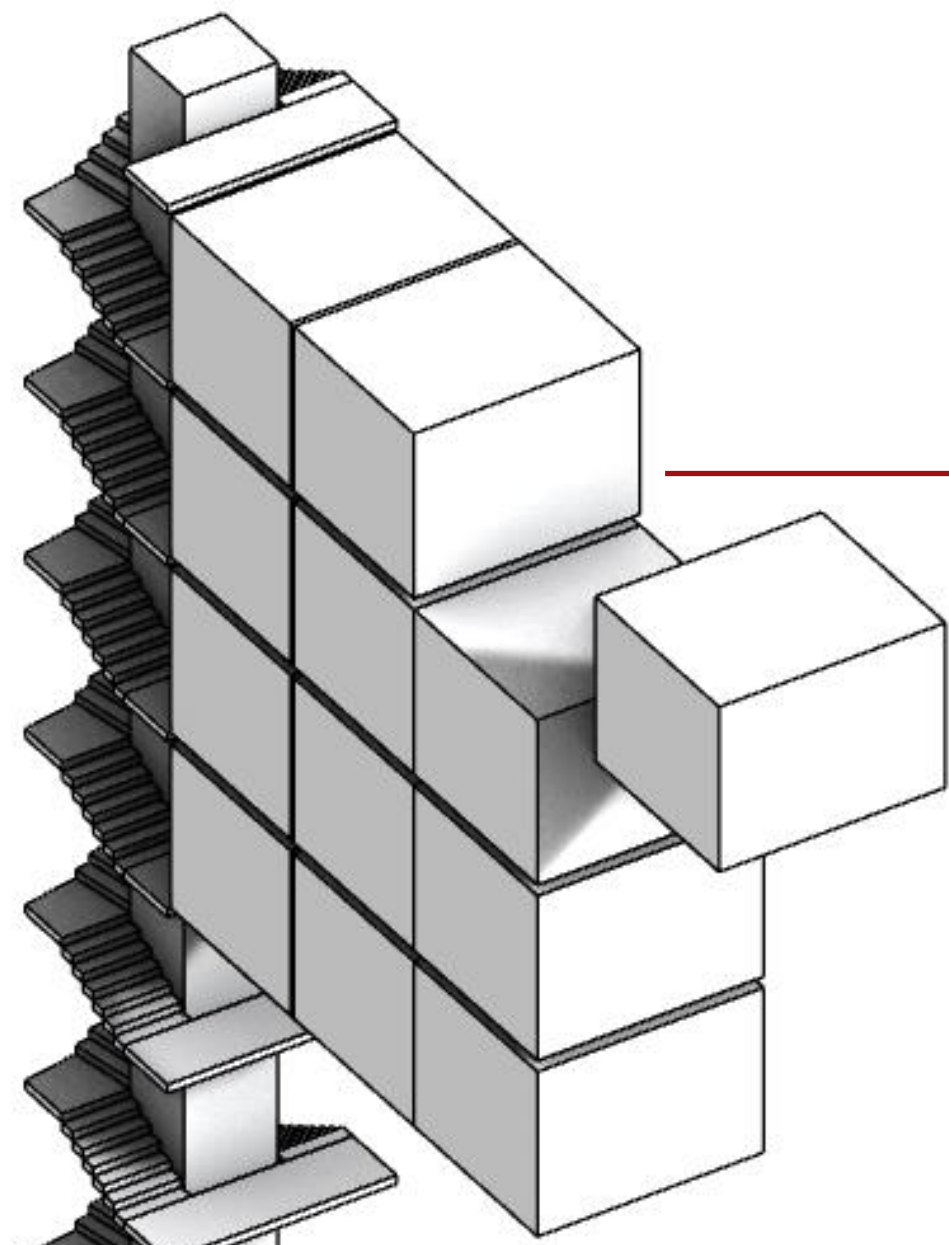




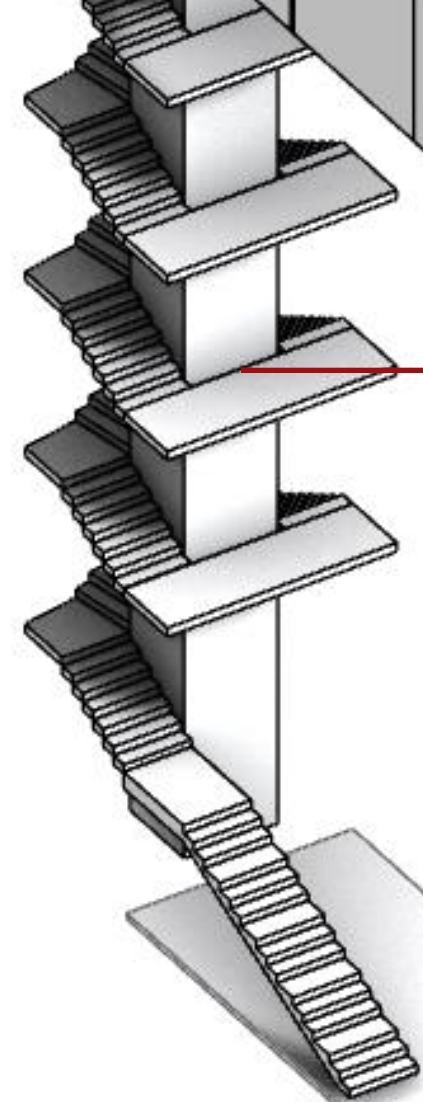
Starting with a community center taking the place of an invisible plot, according to the building law these plots are smaller than the minimum allowable built of the zone. The site is currently used as an access,



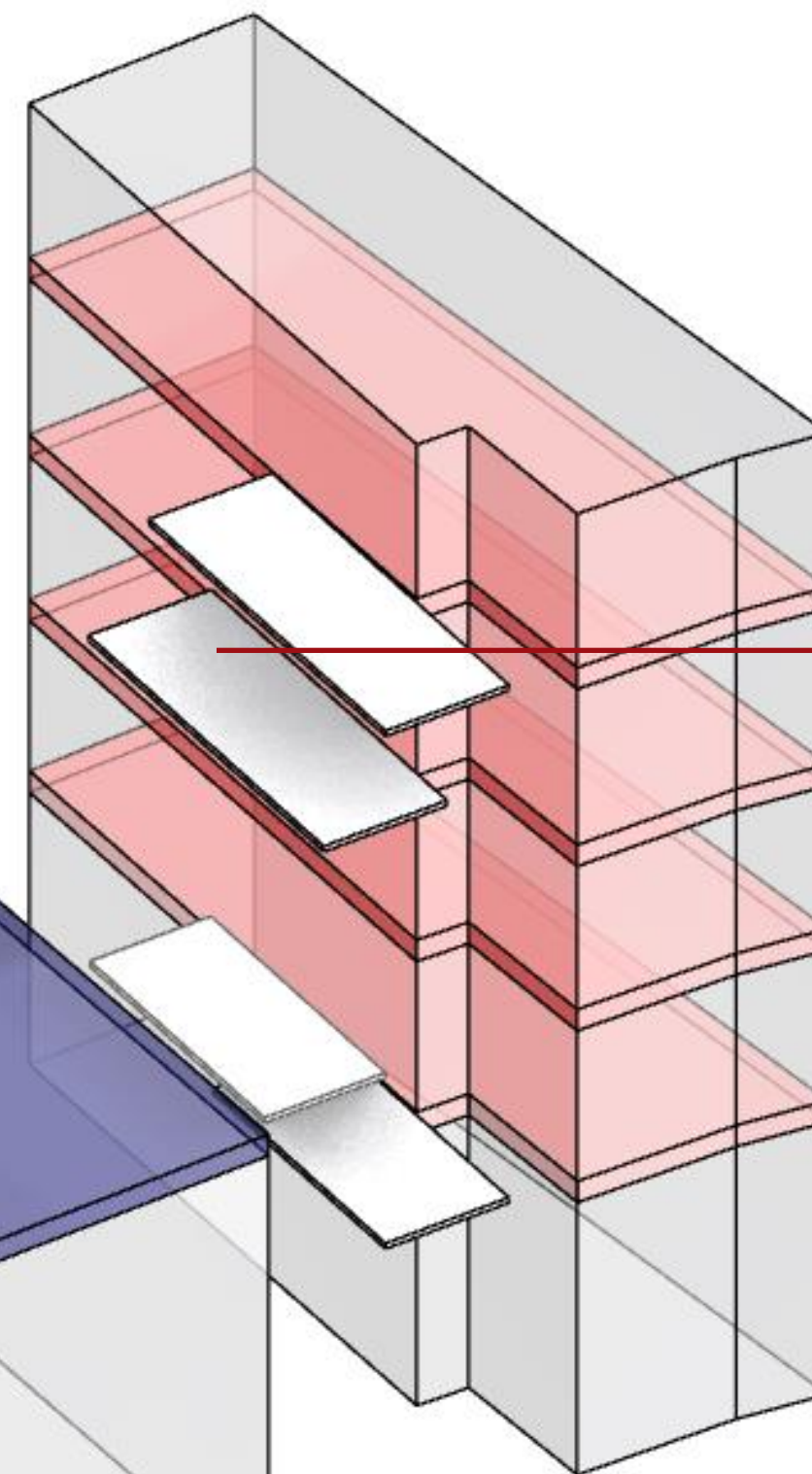
Timber structure



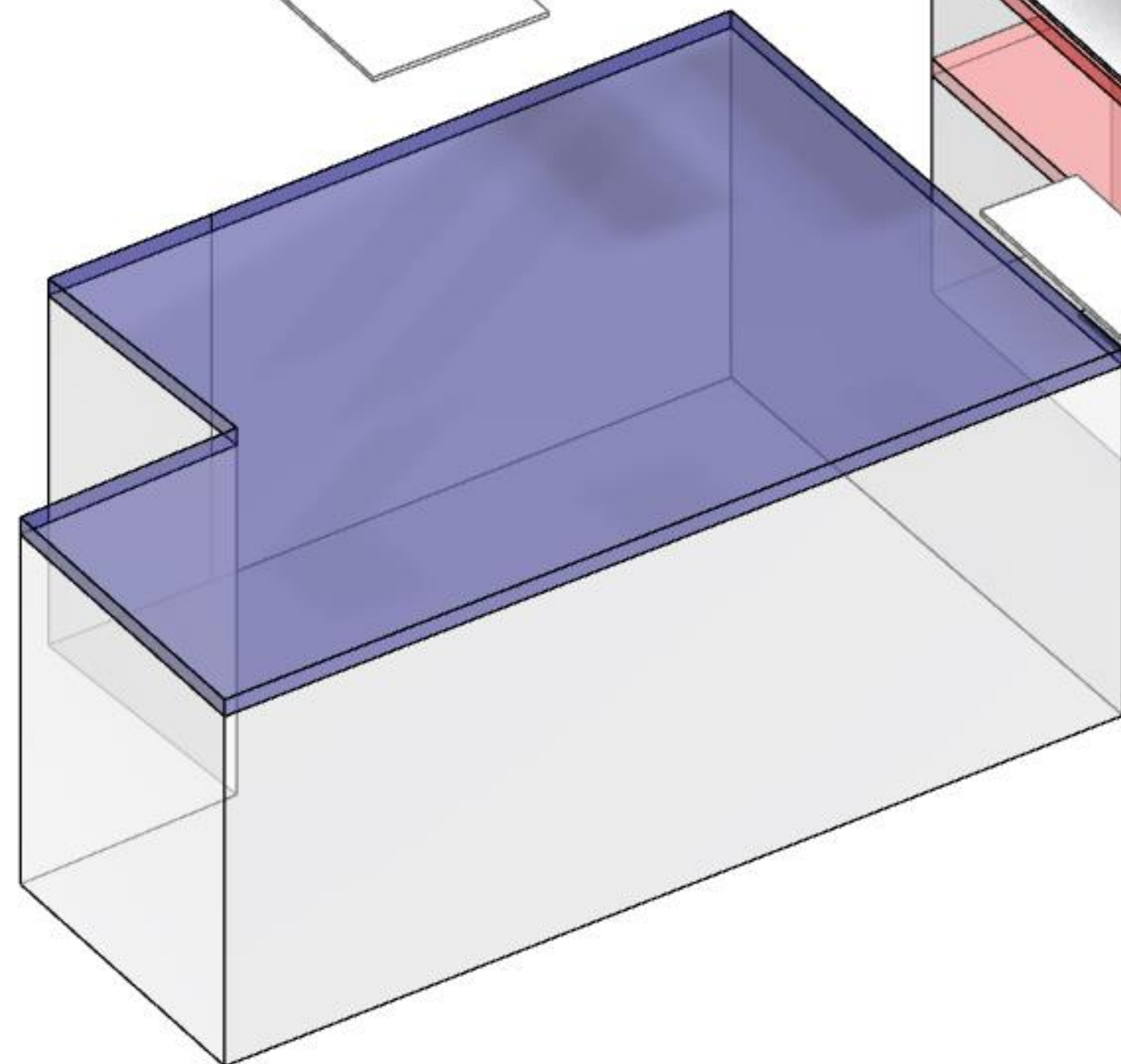
Flexible units

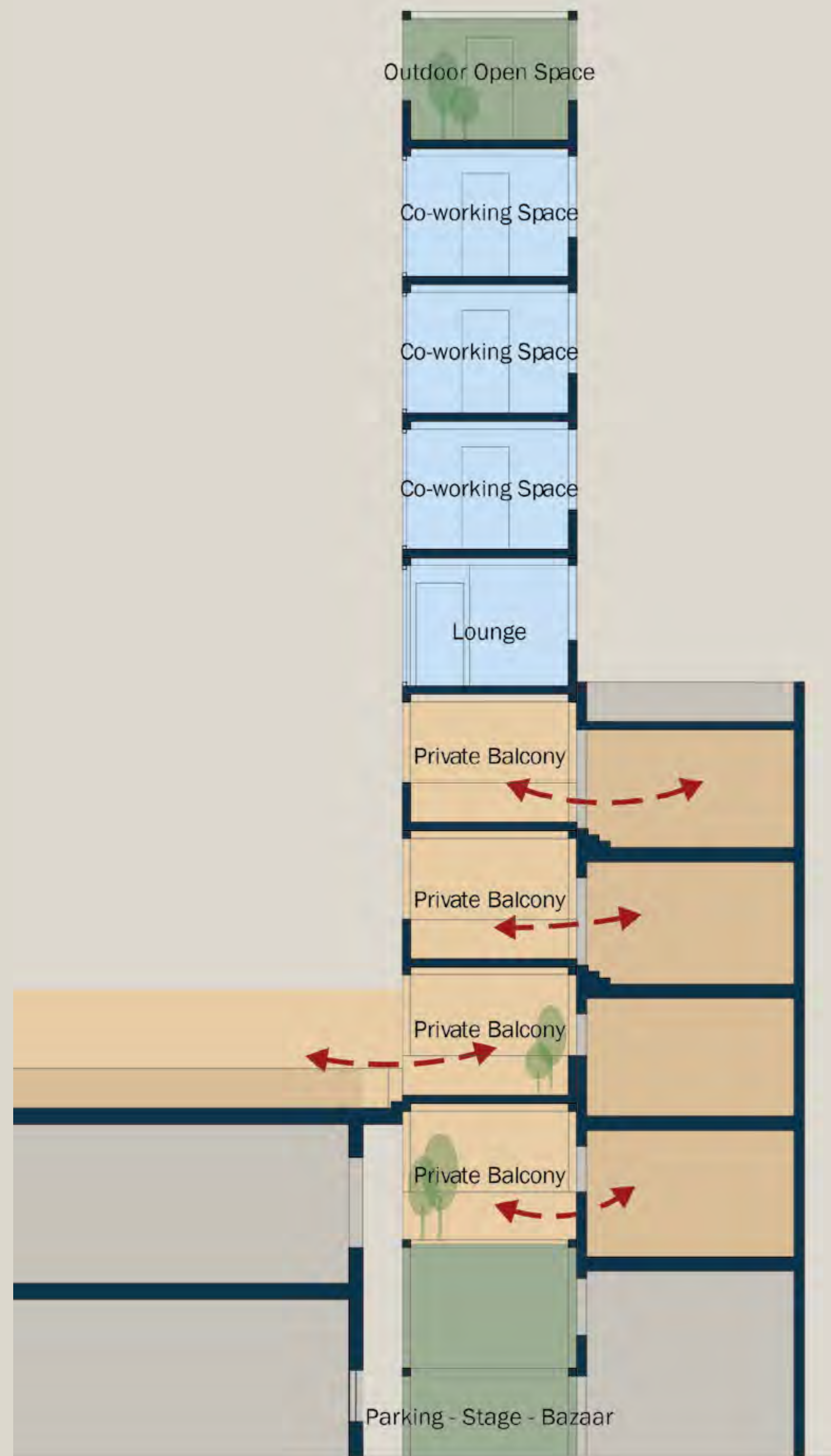
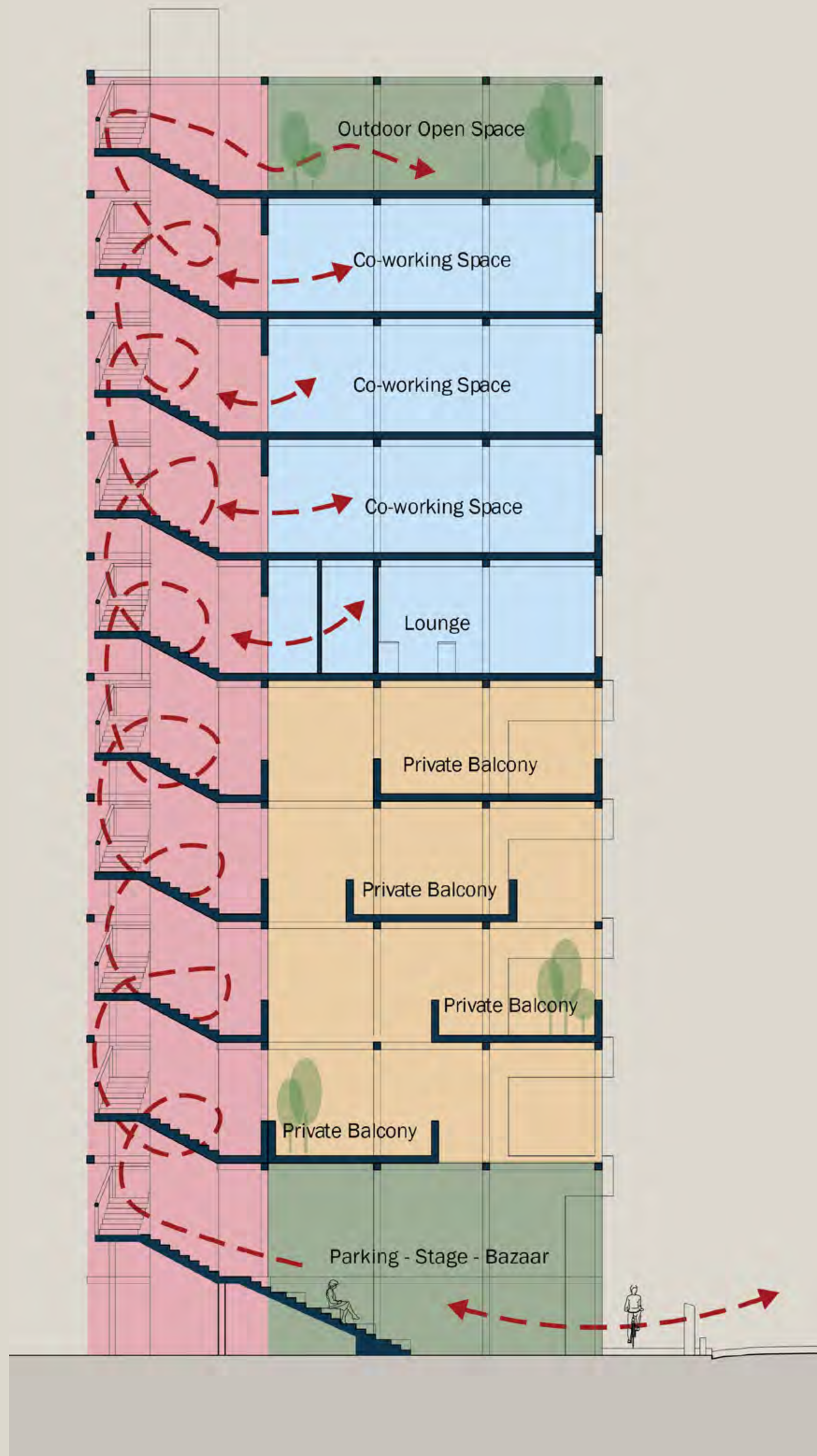


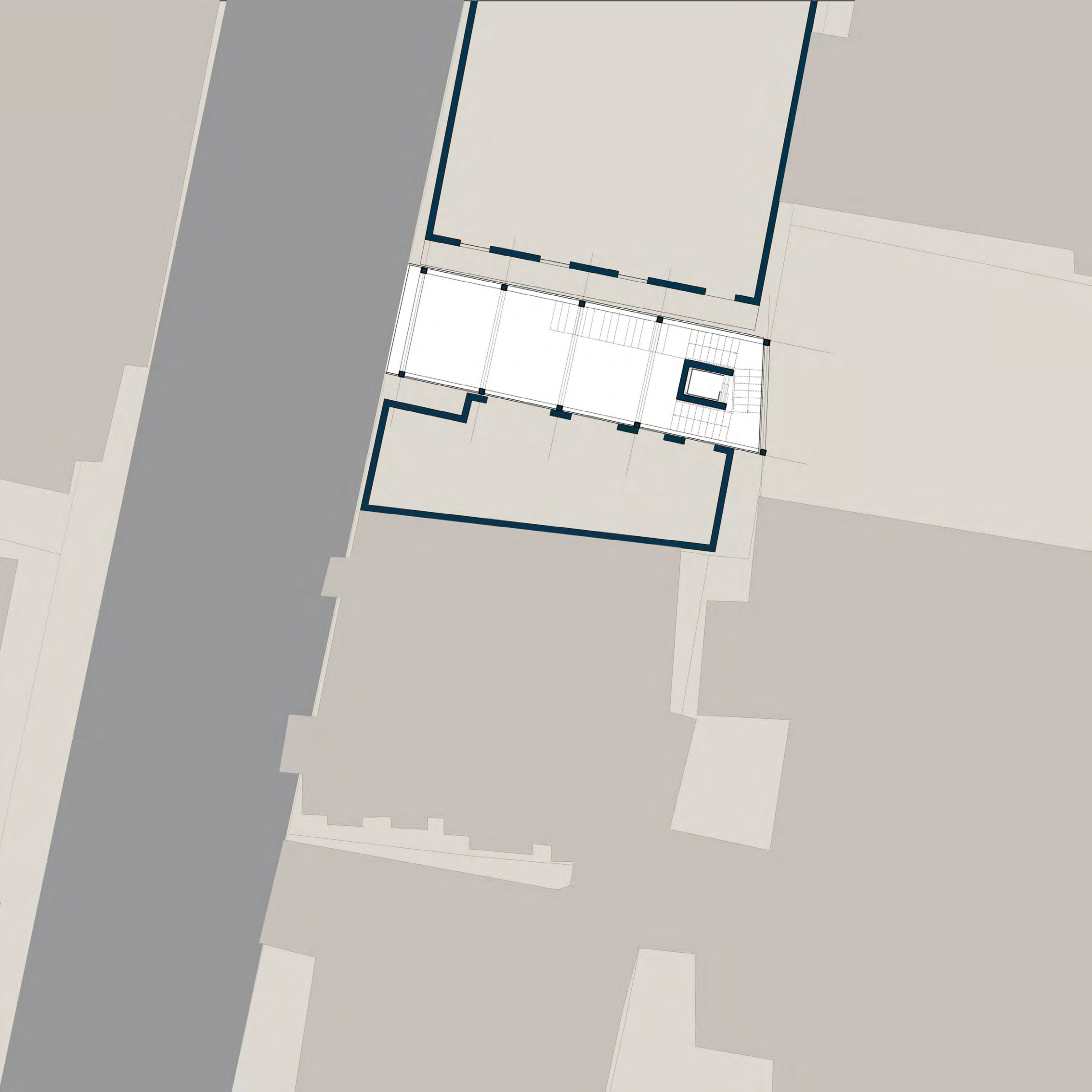
Circulation

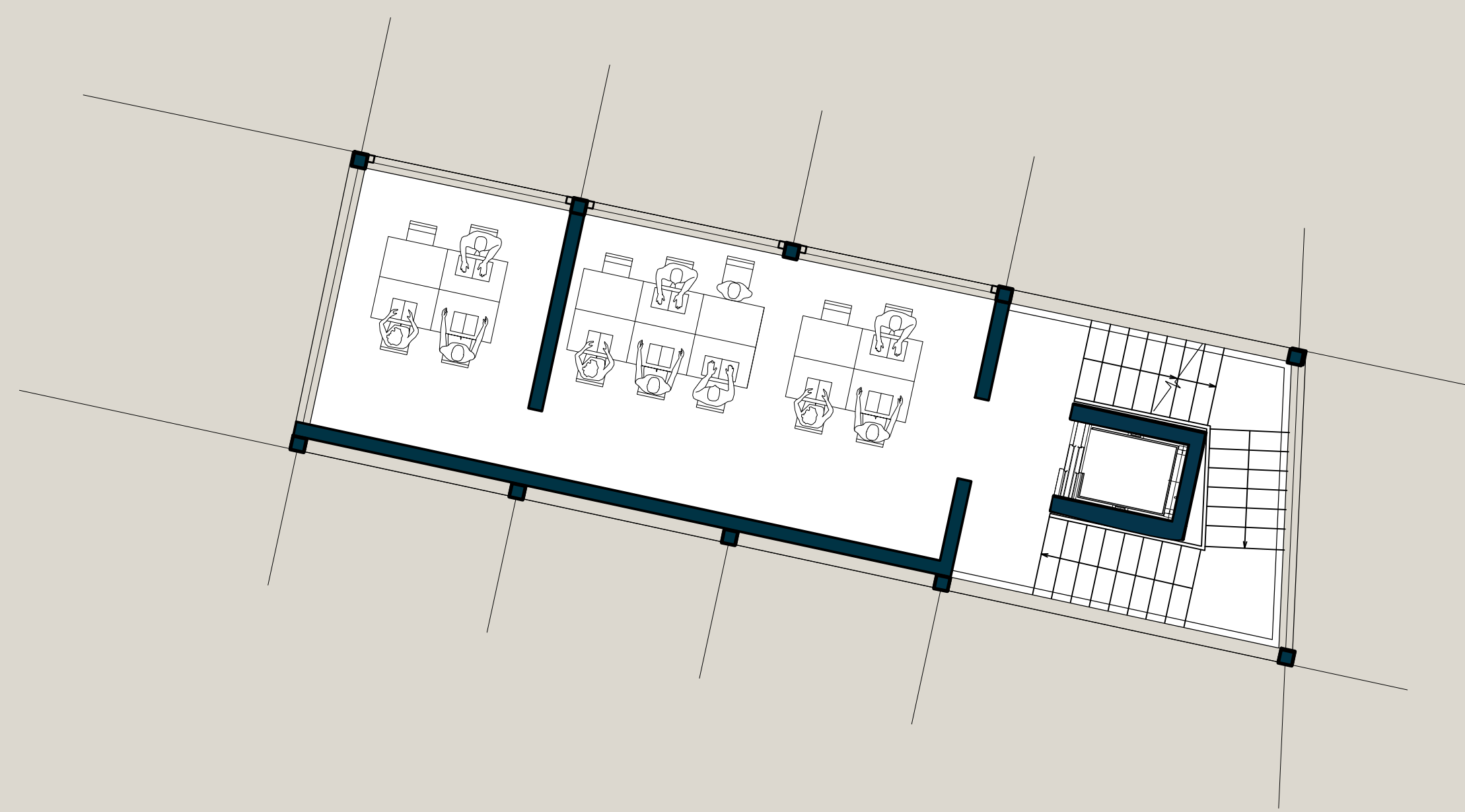
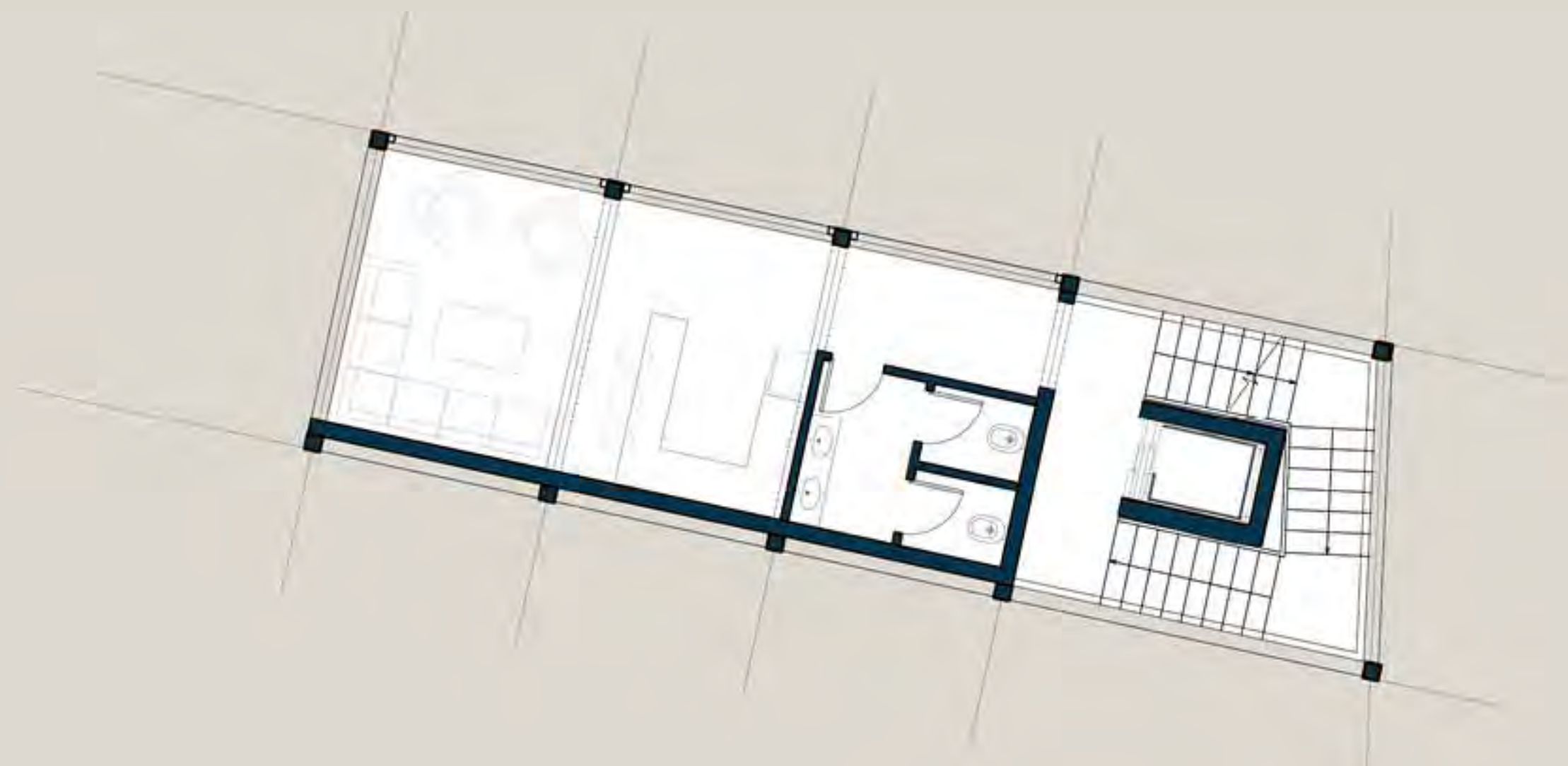
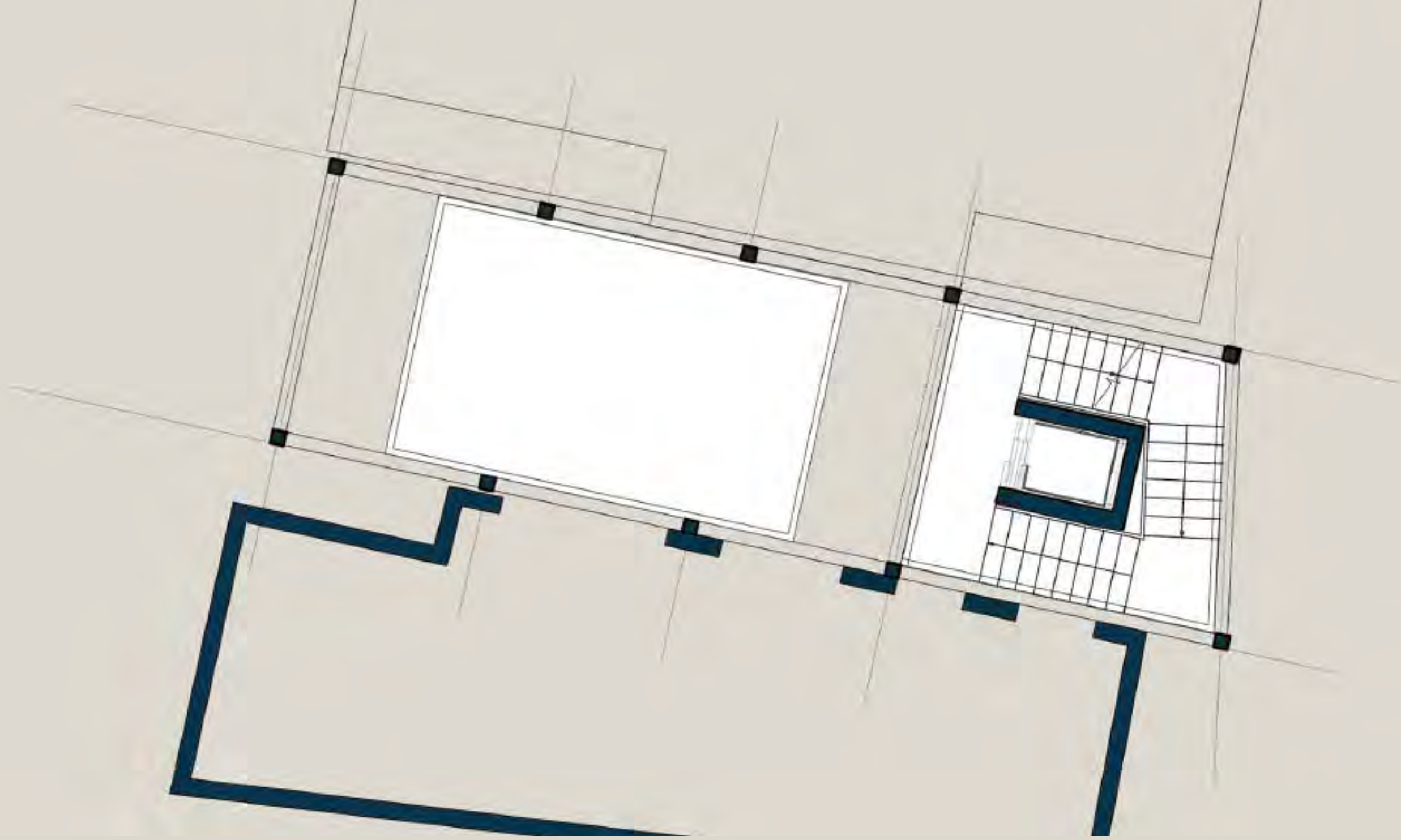


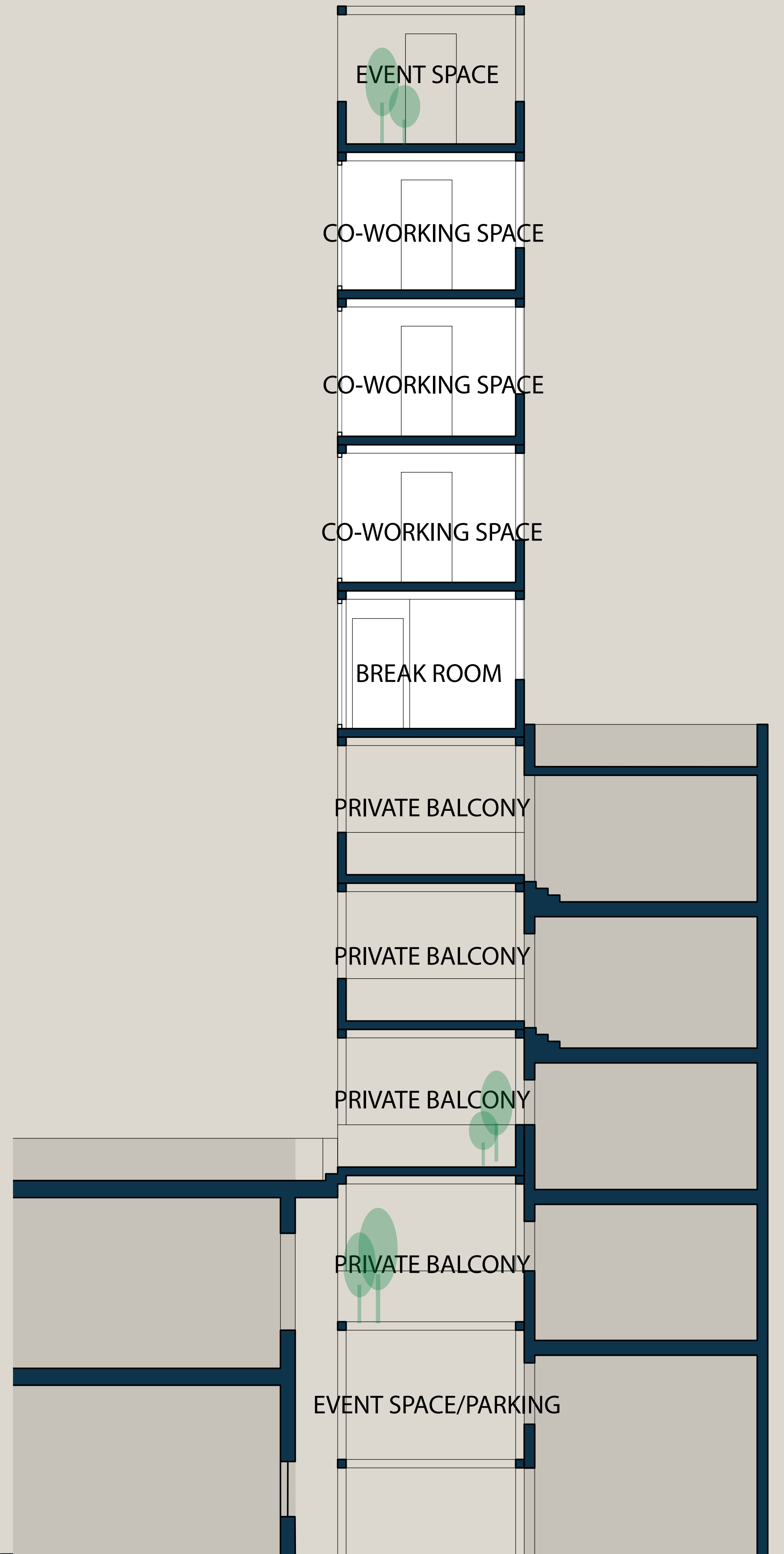
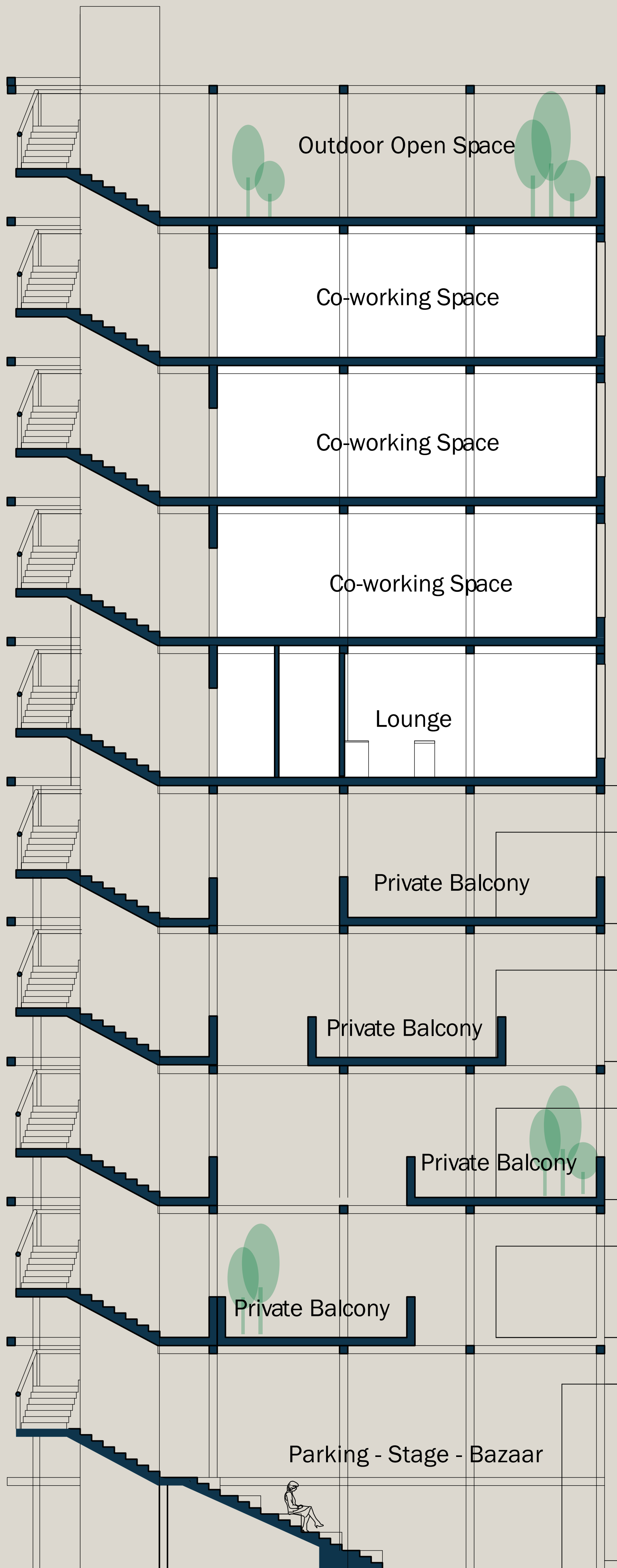
Private balconies








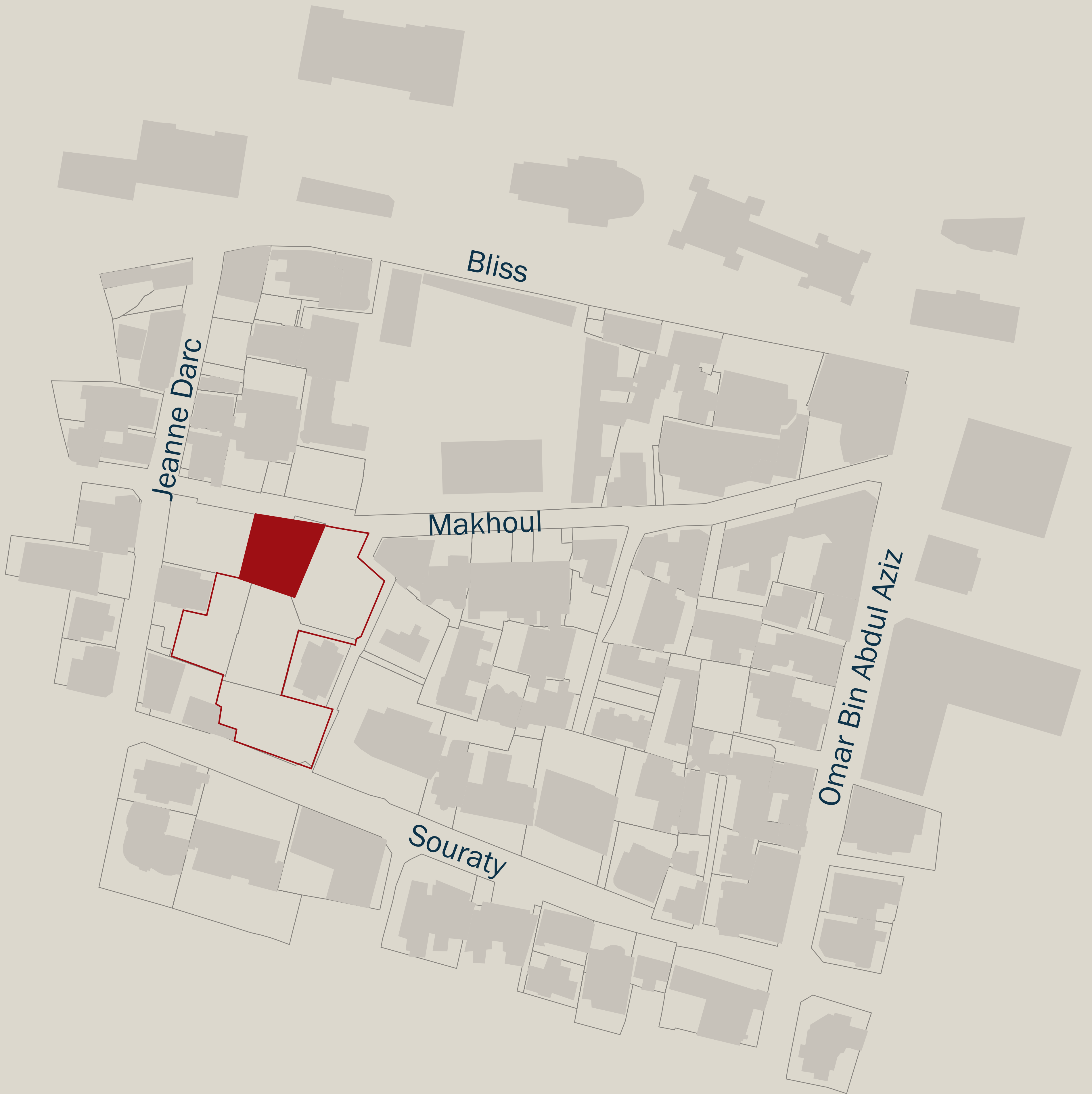


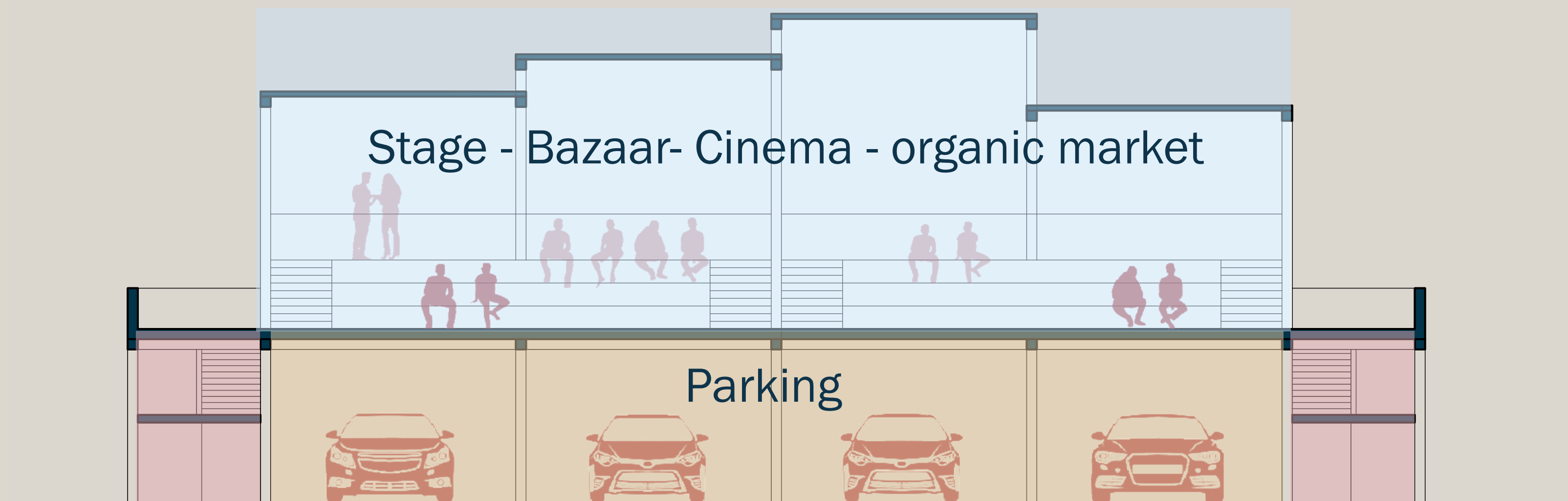
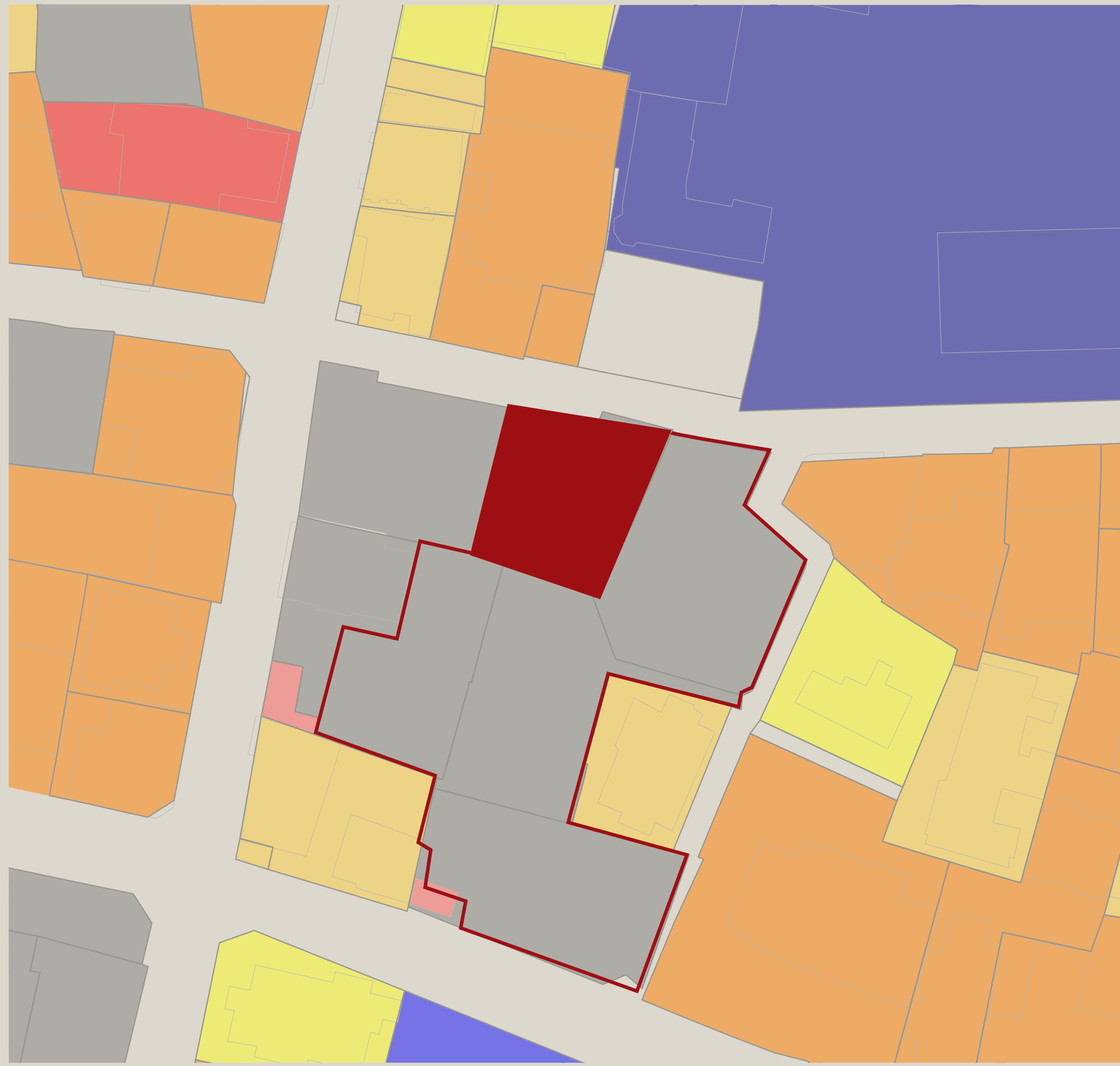


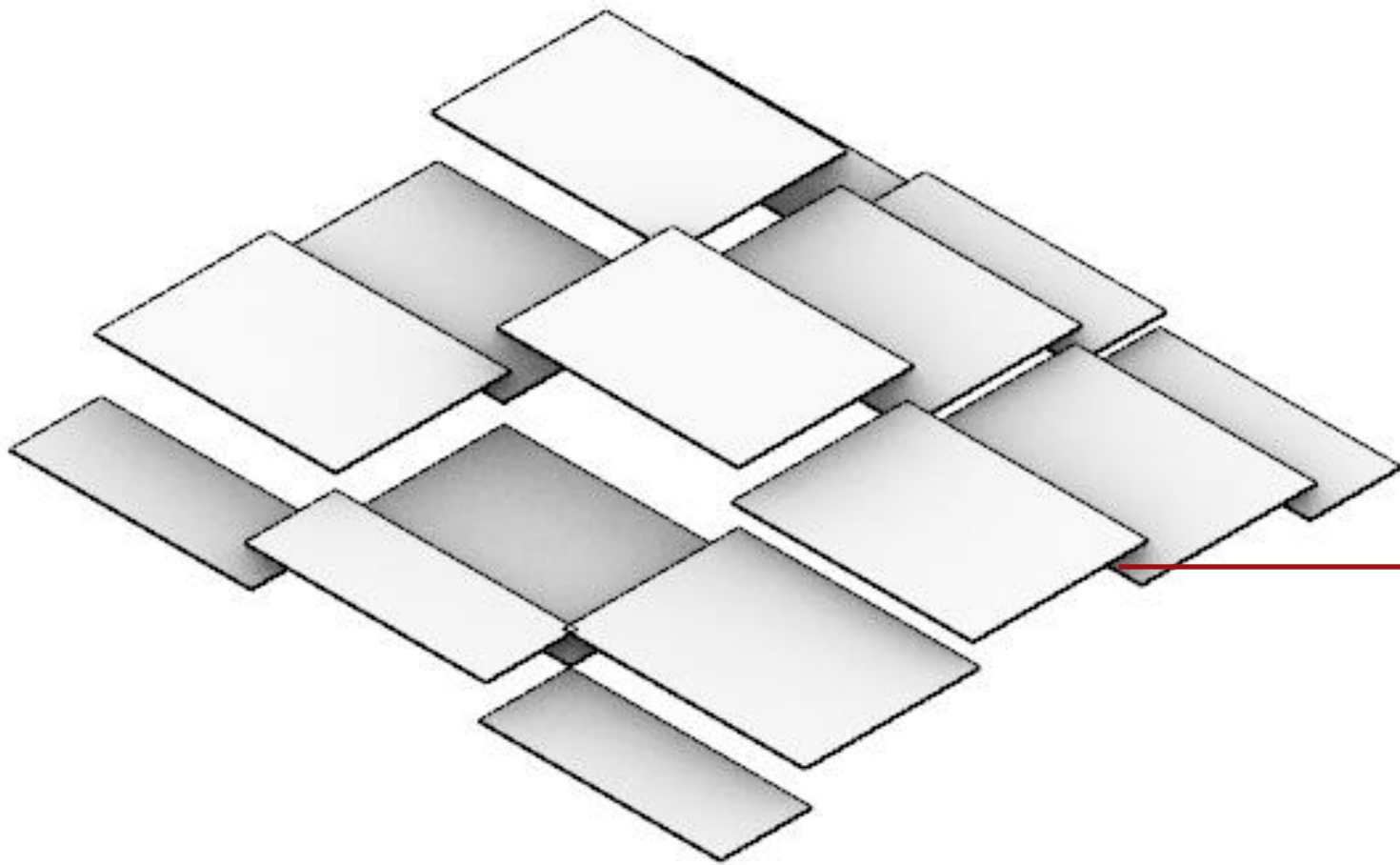




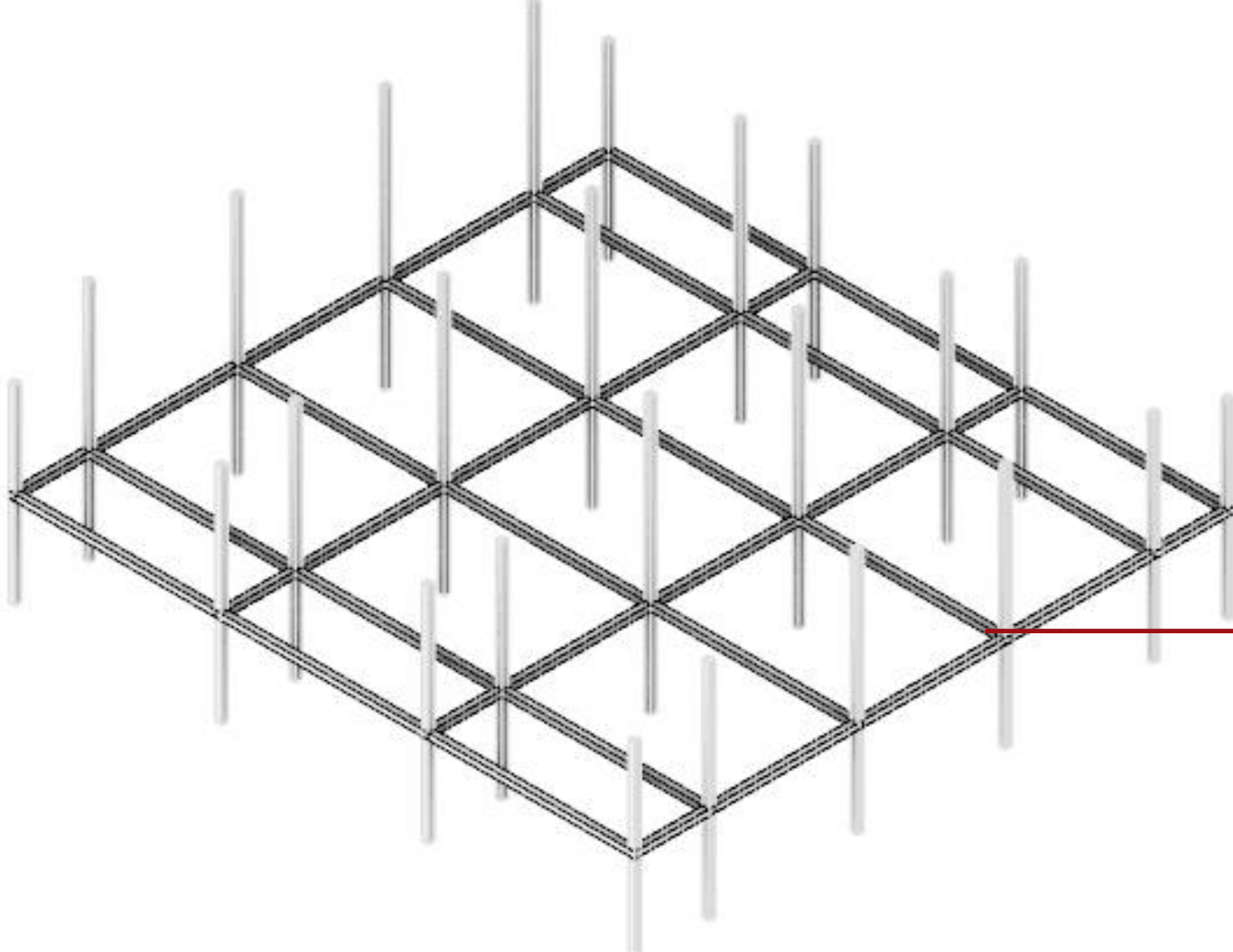
● Starting with a community center taking the place of an invisible plot, according to the building law these plots are smaller than the minimum allowable built of the zone. The plot is currently used as a vehicular access, nevertheless there's another passage for cars therefore the plot will only provide pedestrian accessibility. Modular units are held by a wooden structure providing a coworking space, lounge and services. These units are flexible based on the residents needs. Elevated from the neighboring building in order to maintain it privacy. In which The space in between can be used as optional private balconies for the neighboring buildings. As for the ground floor and the roof are open spaces for the residents to use as gathering space hosting different activities such as Bazaar, stage, parking etc.



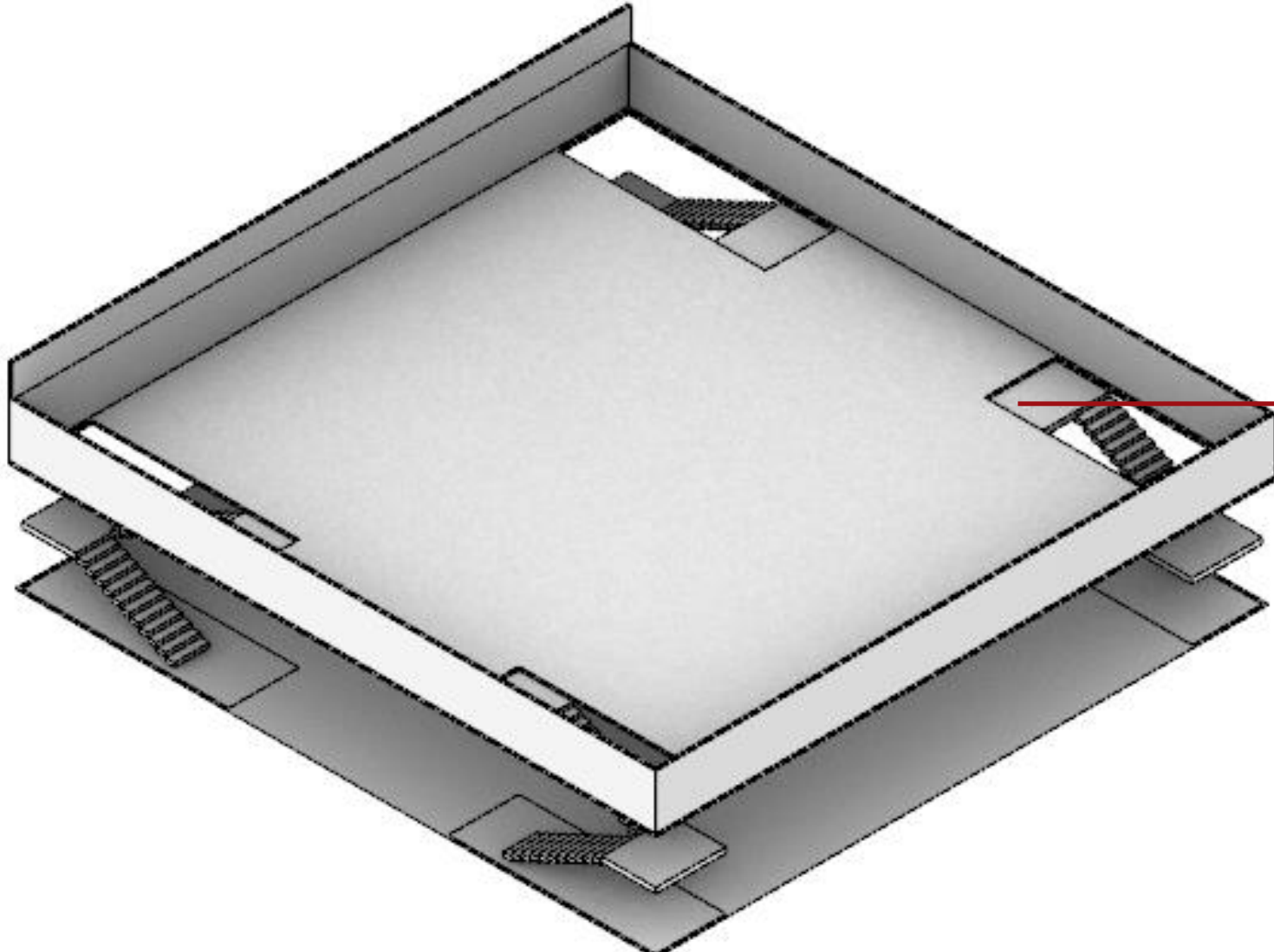




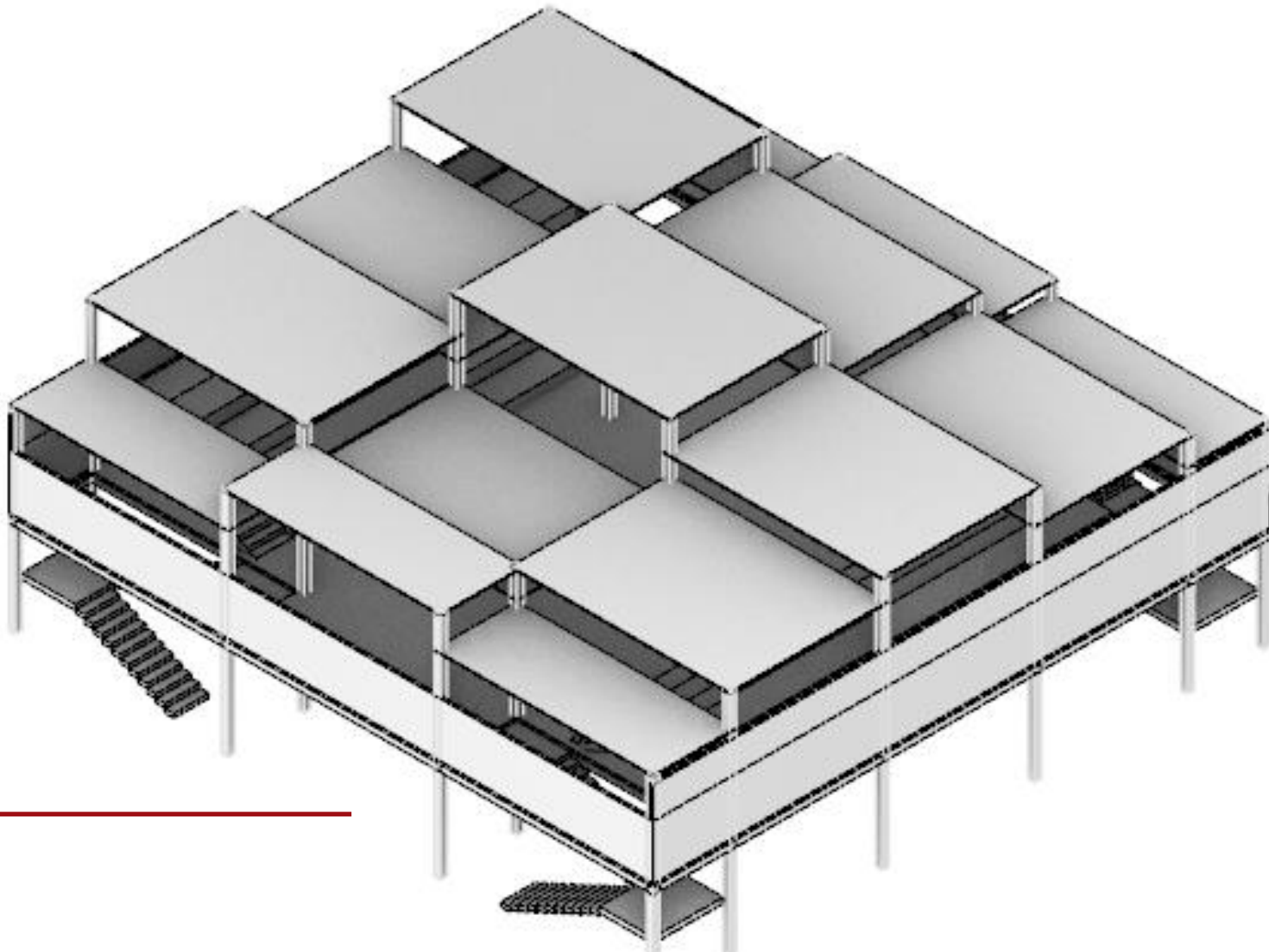
Canopies



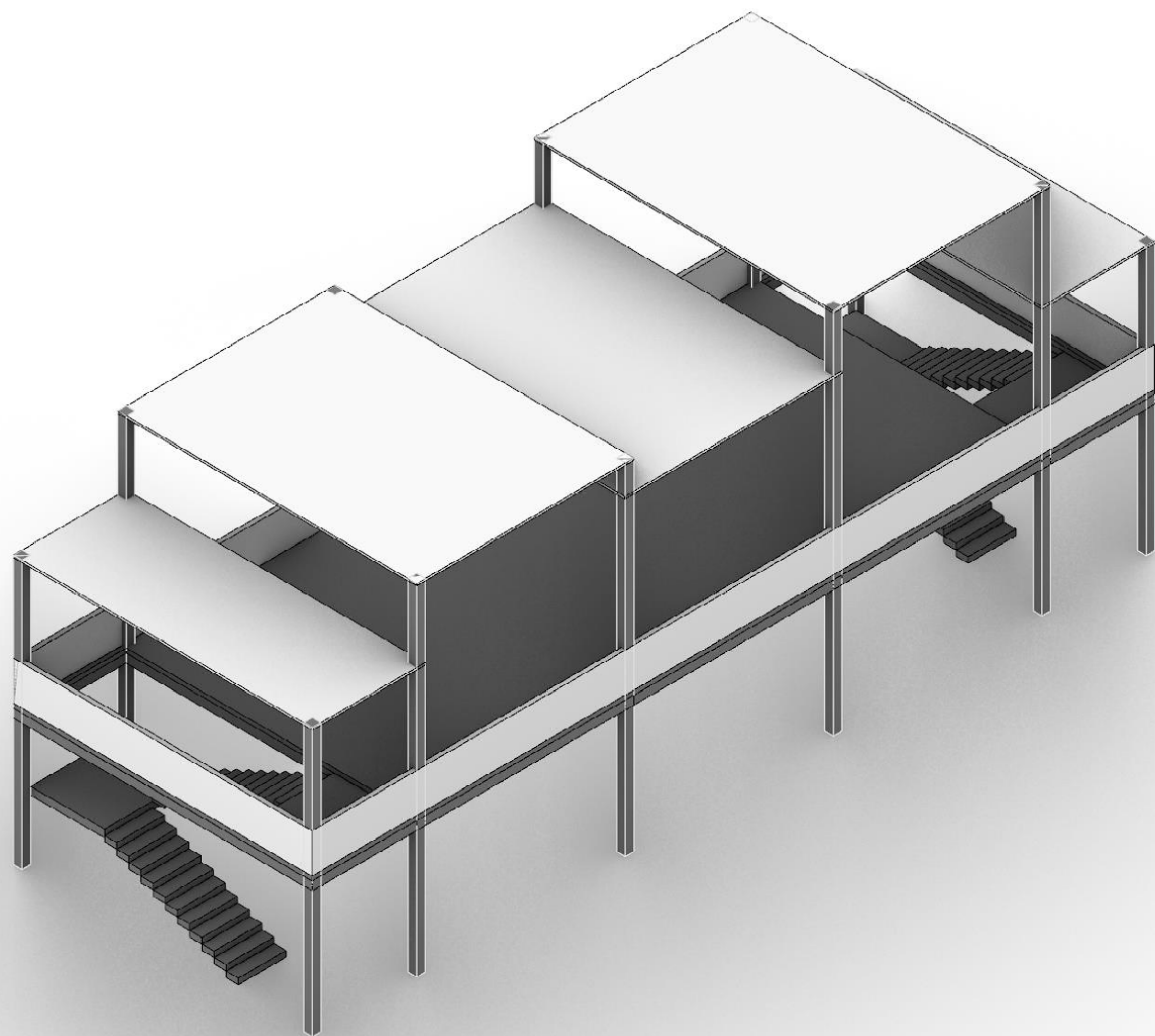
Wooden structure

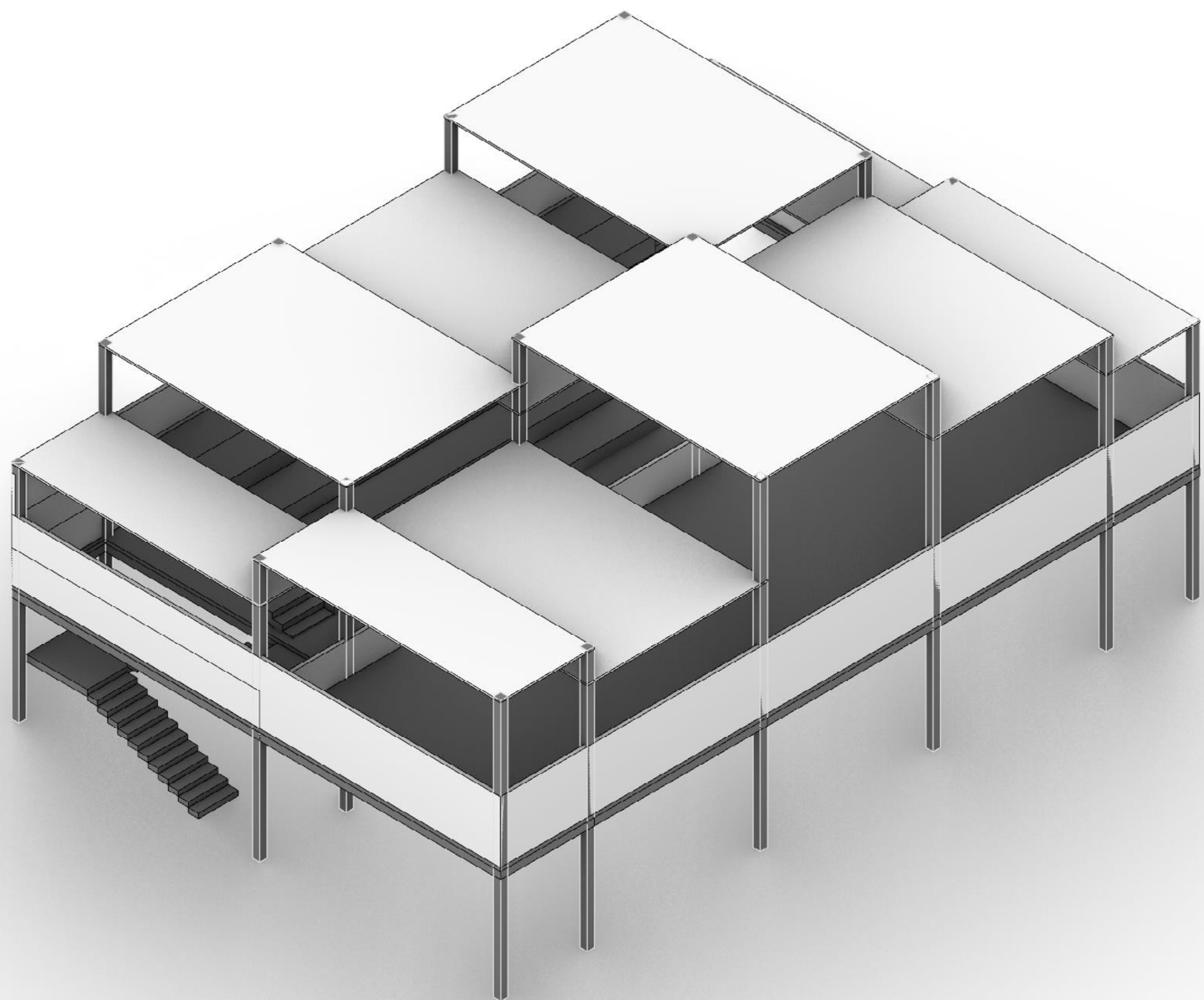


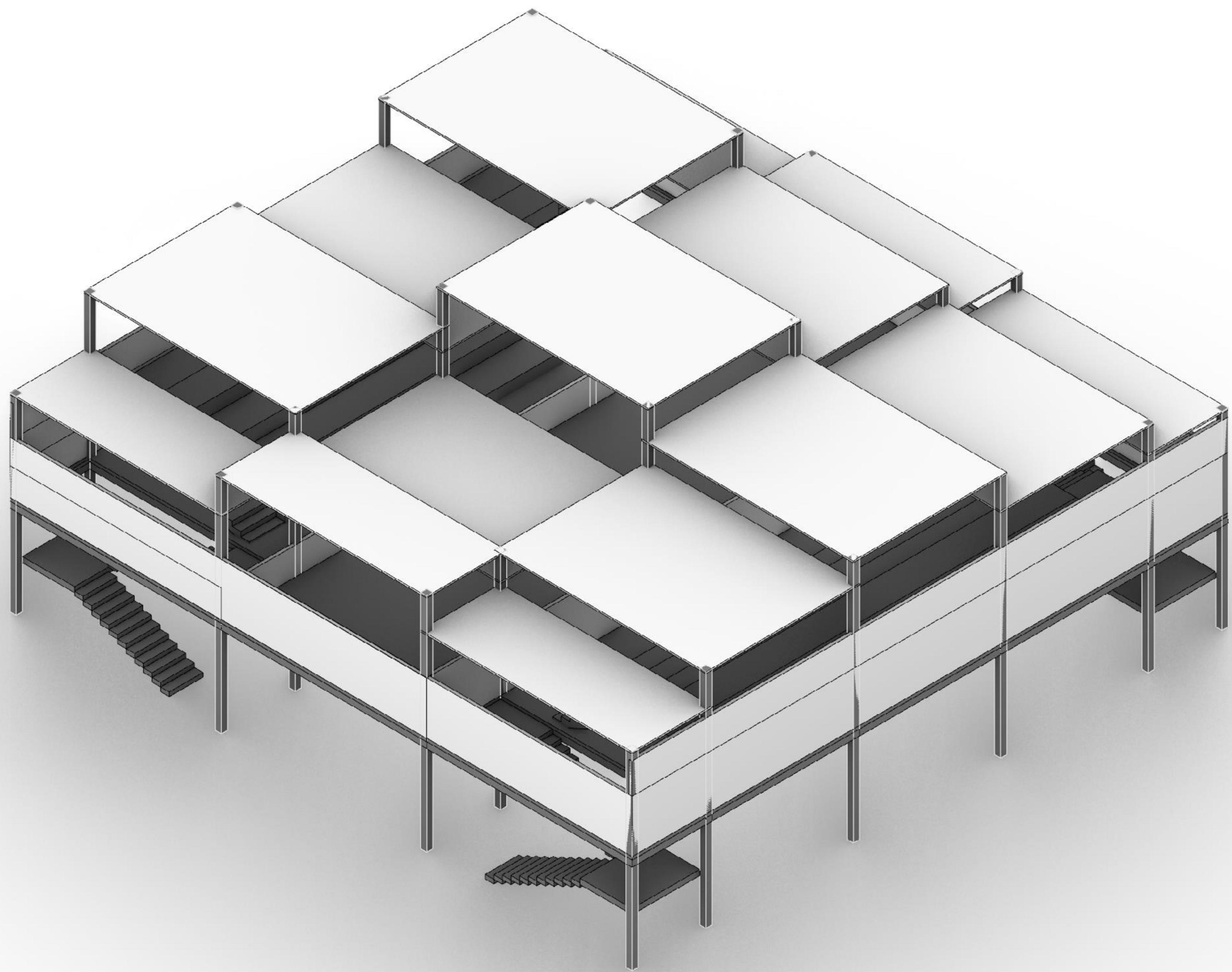
Staircase

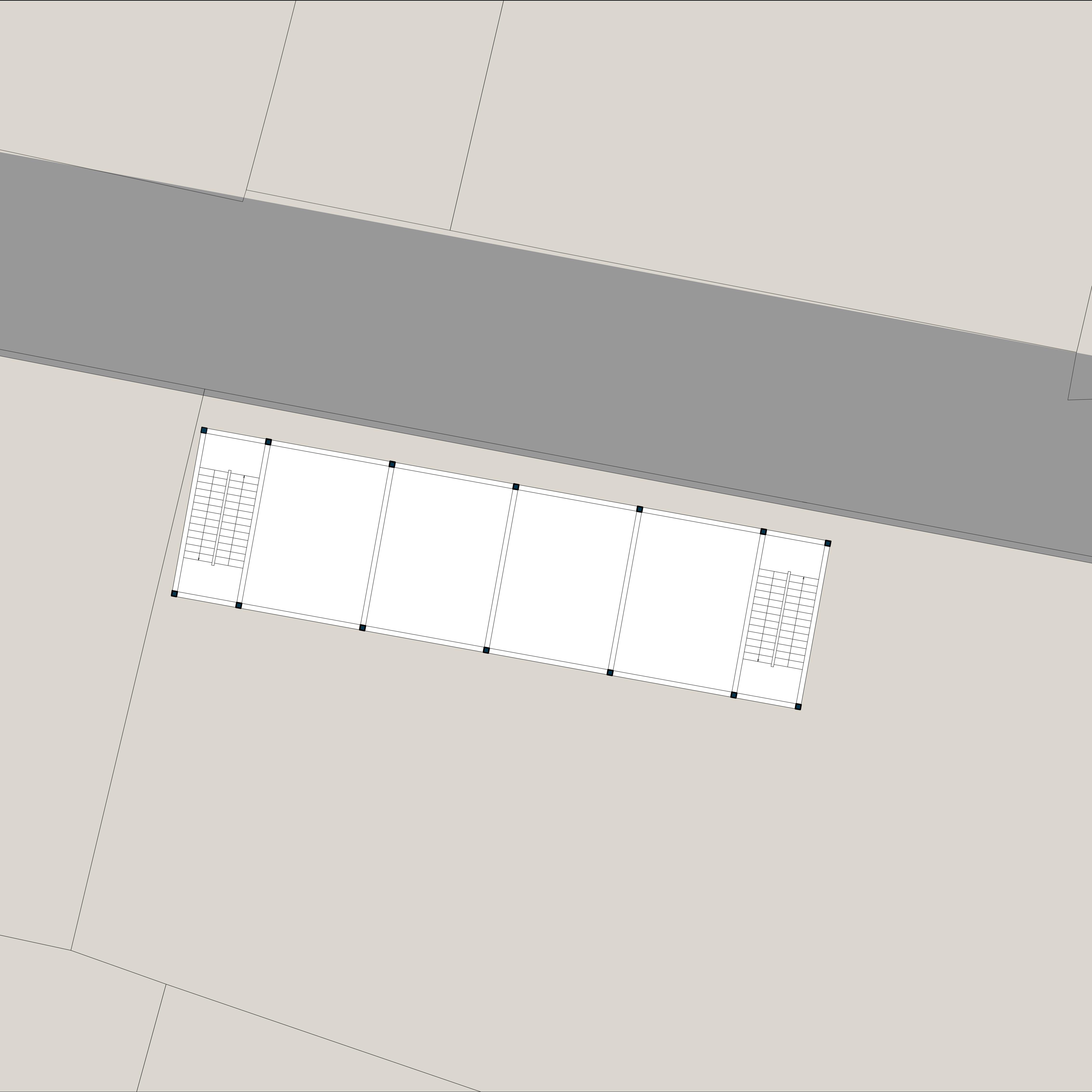


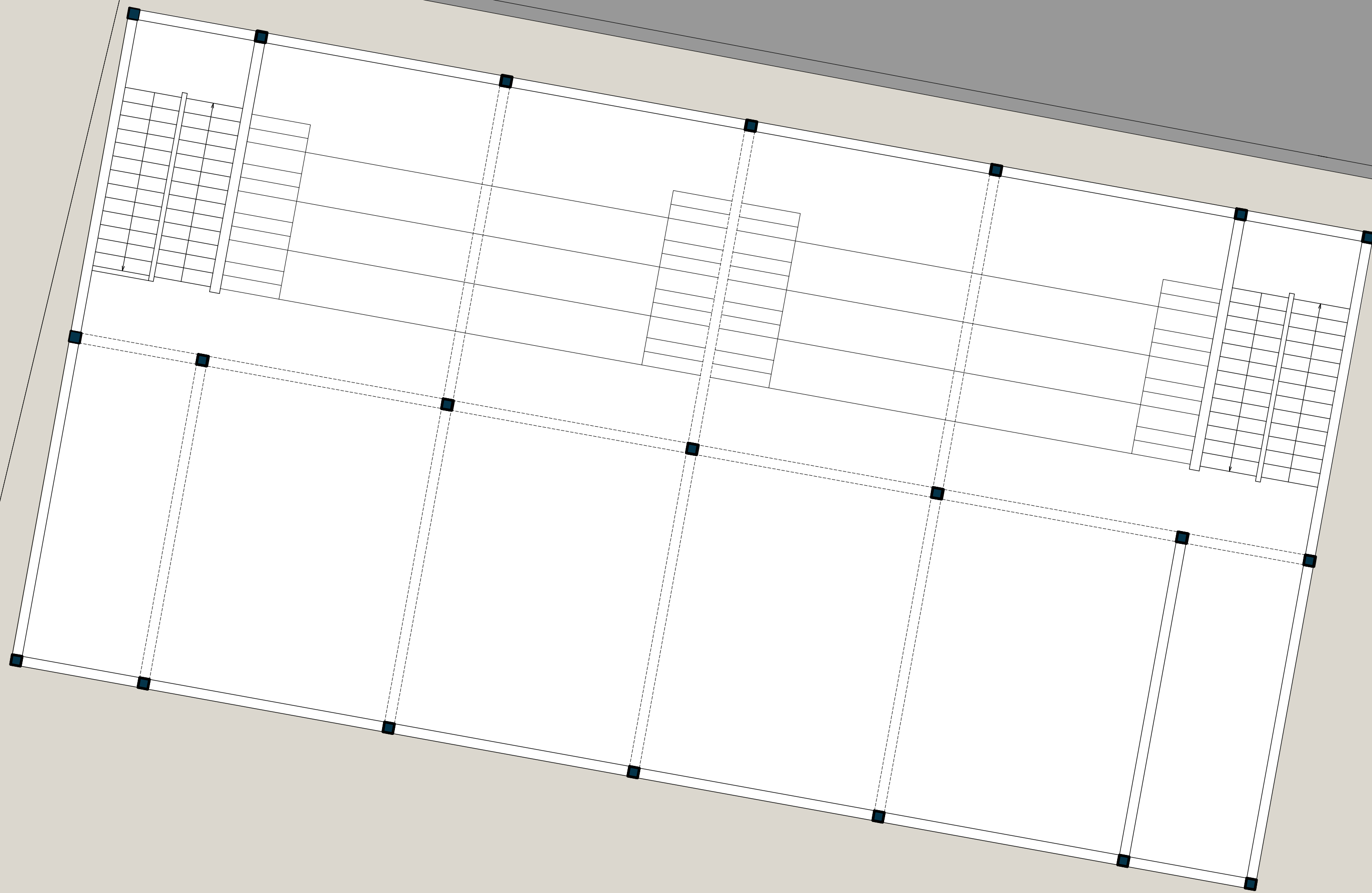
Entrance

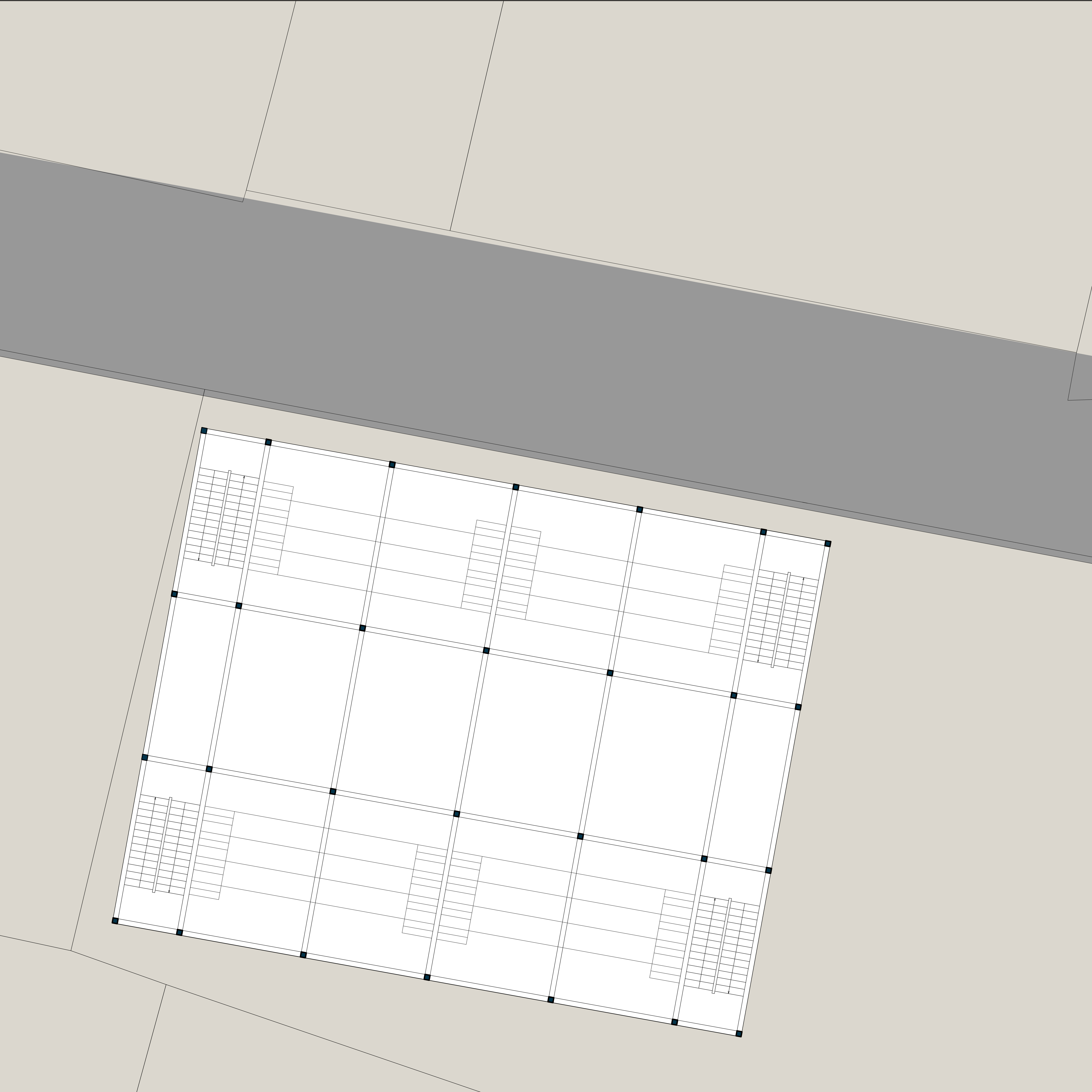


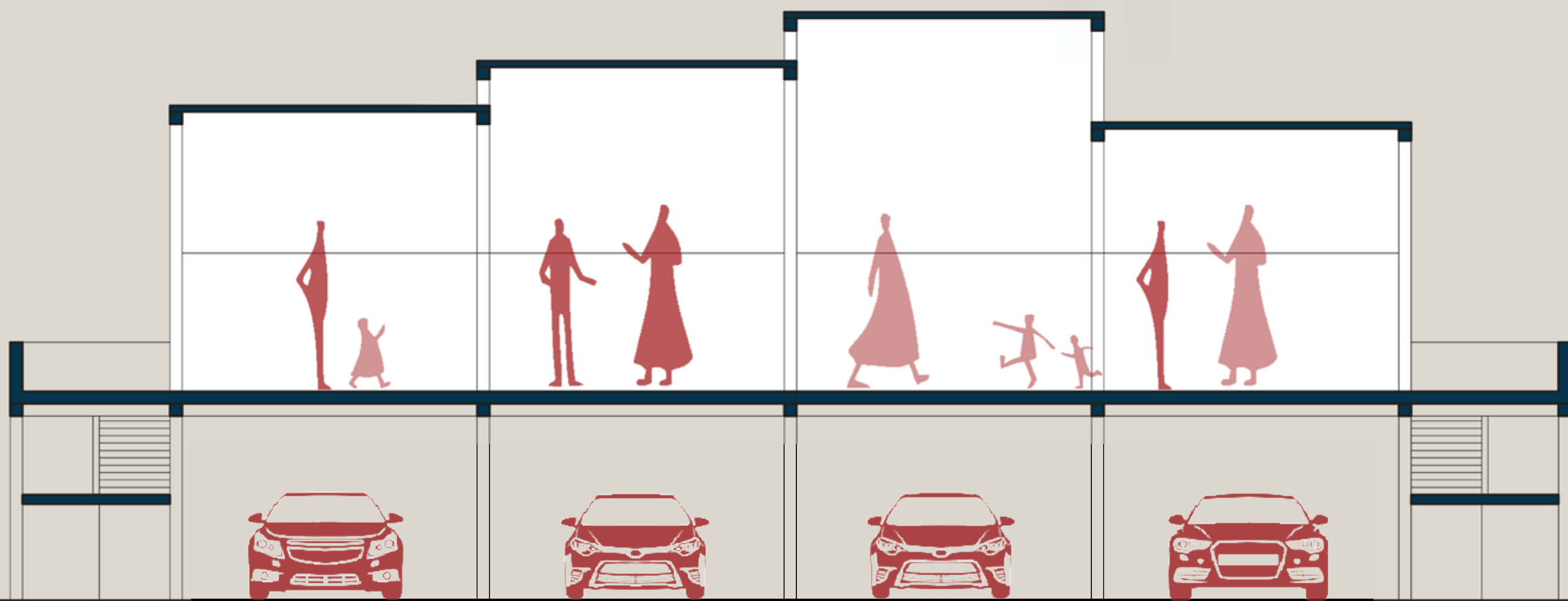
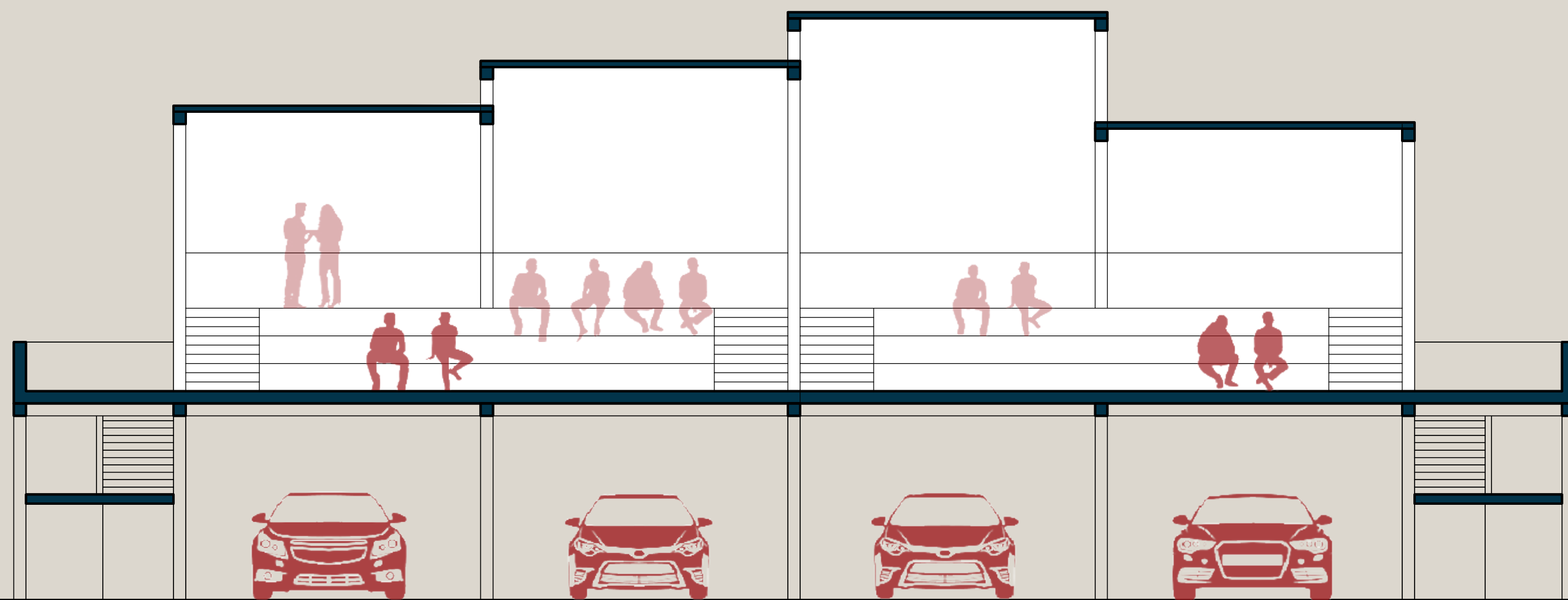


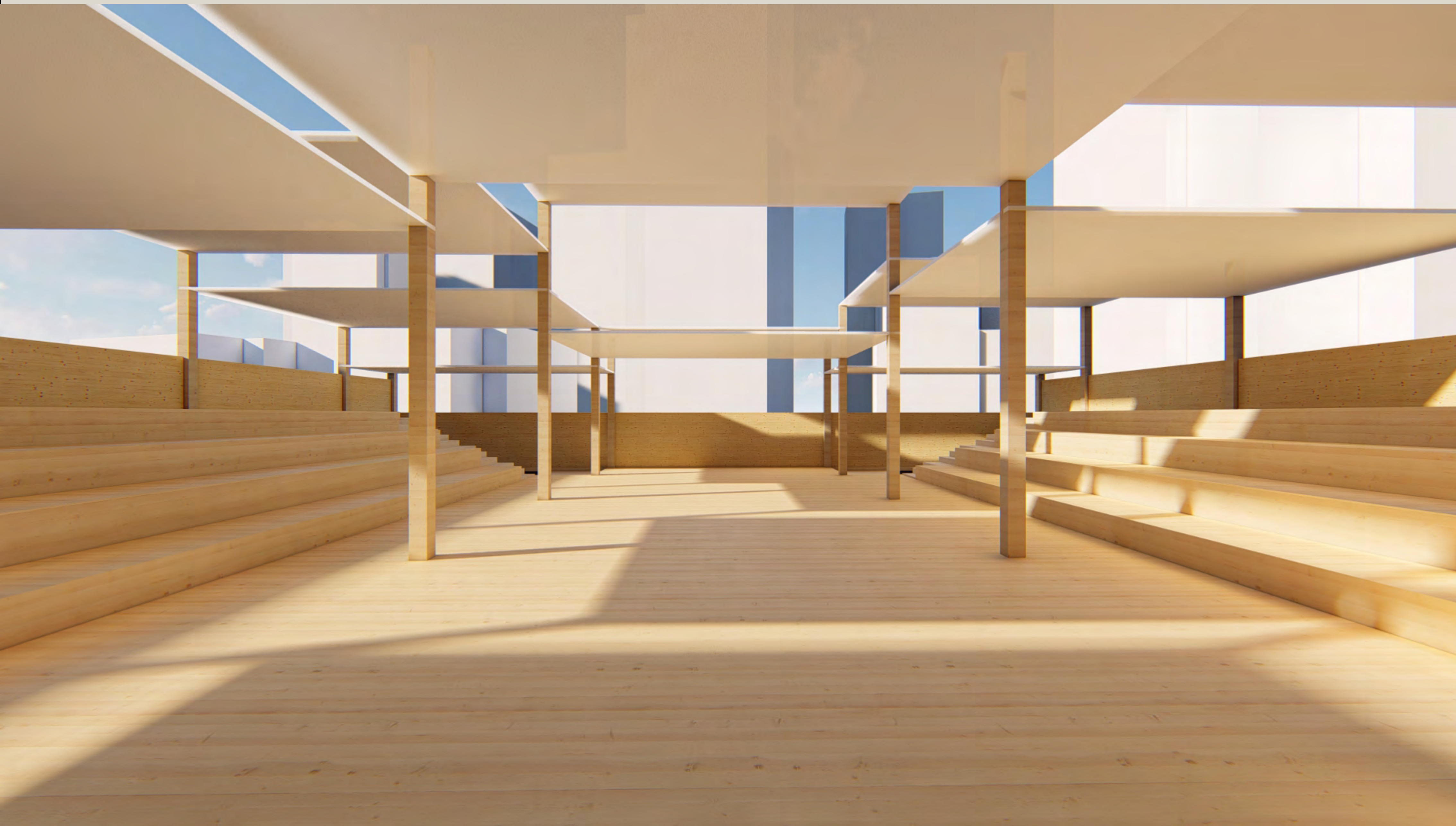












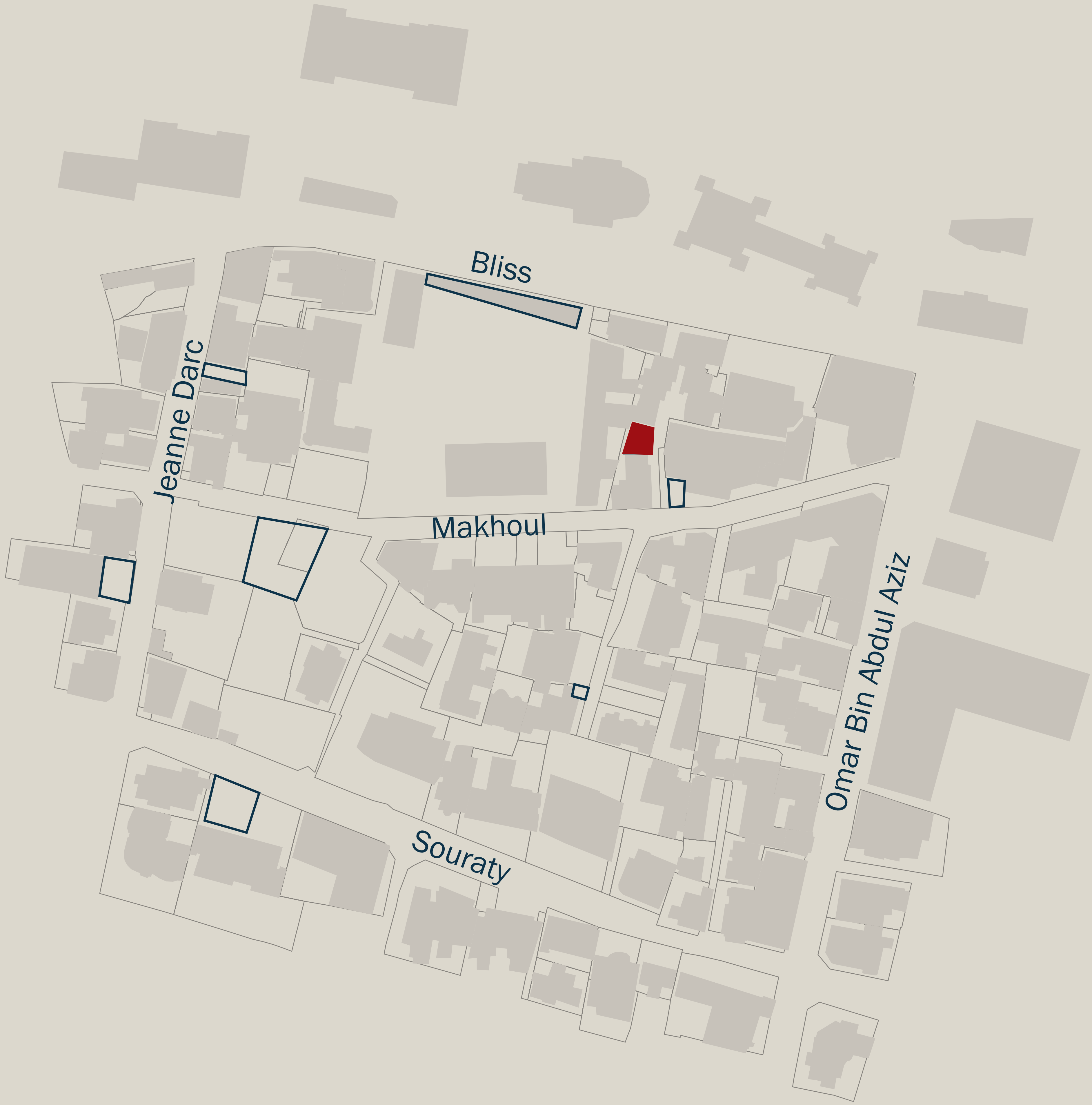


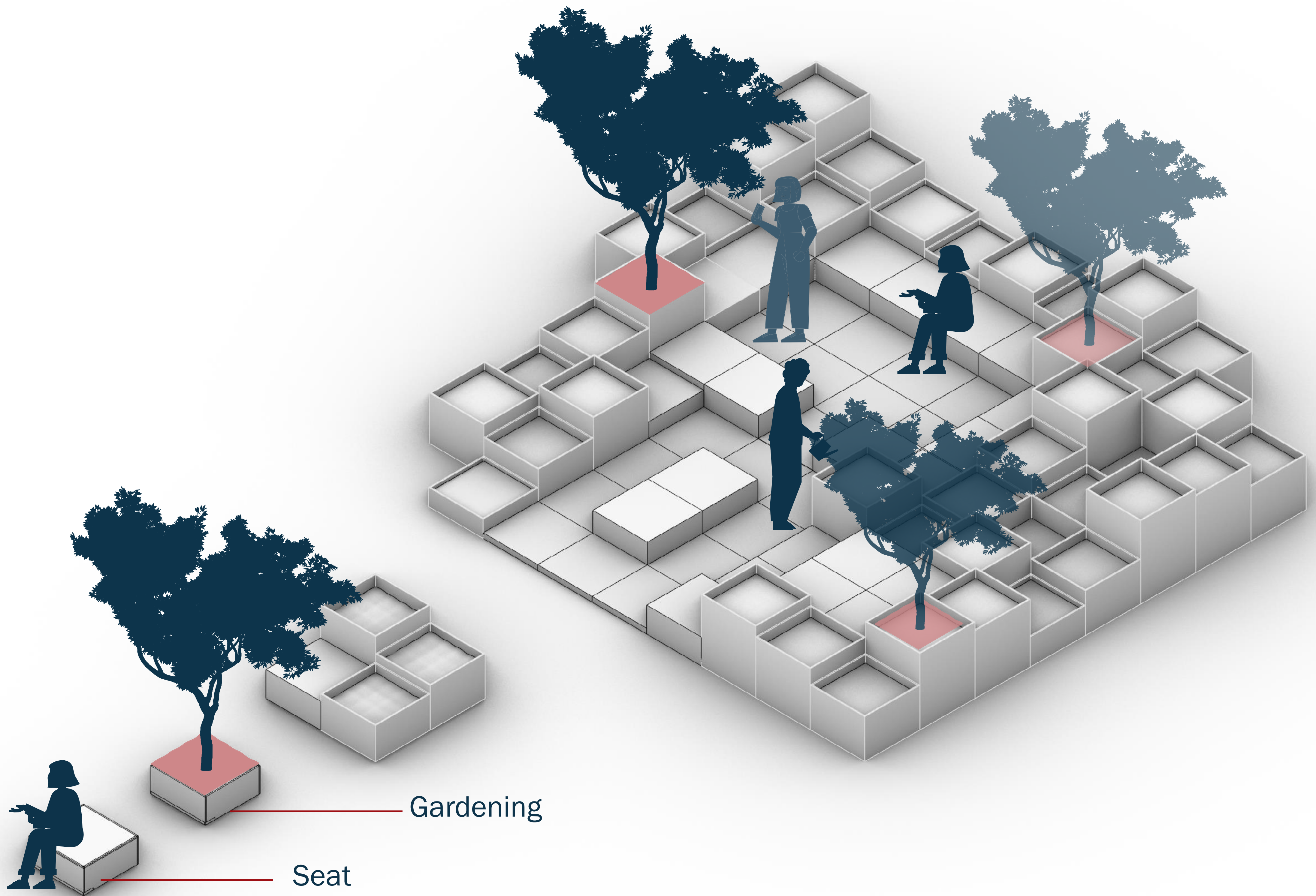


● The second structure is located on a multiple parking lots owned by the same family. The structure is raised maintaining the parking function on the ground floor and providing shading. The floor above is also open for outdoor activities such as organic market, bazaar, picnic, cinema and can transform into a stage. It also follows modular system where it can expand based on occupant number.

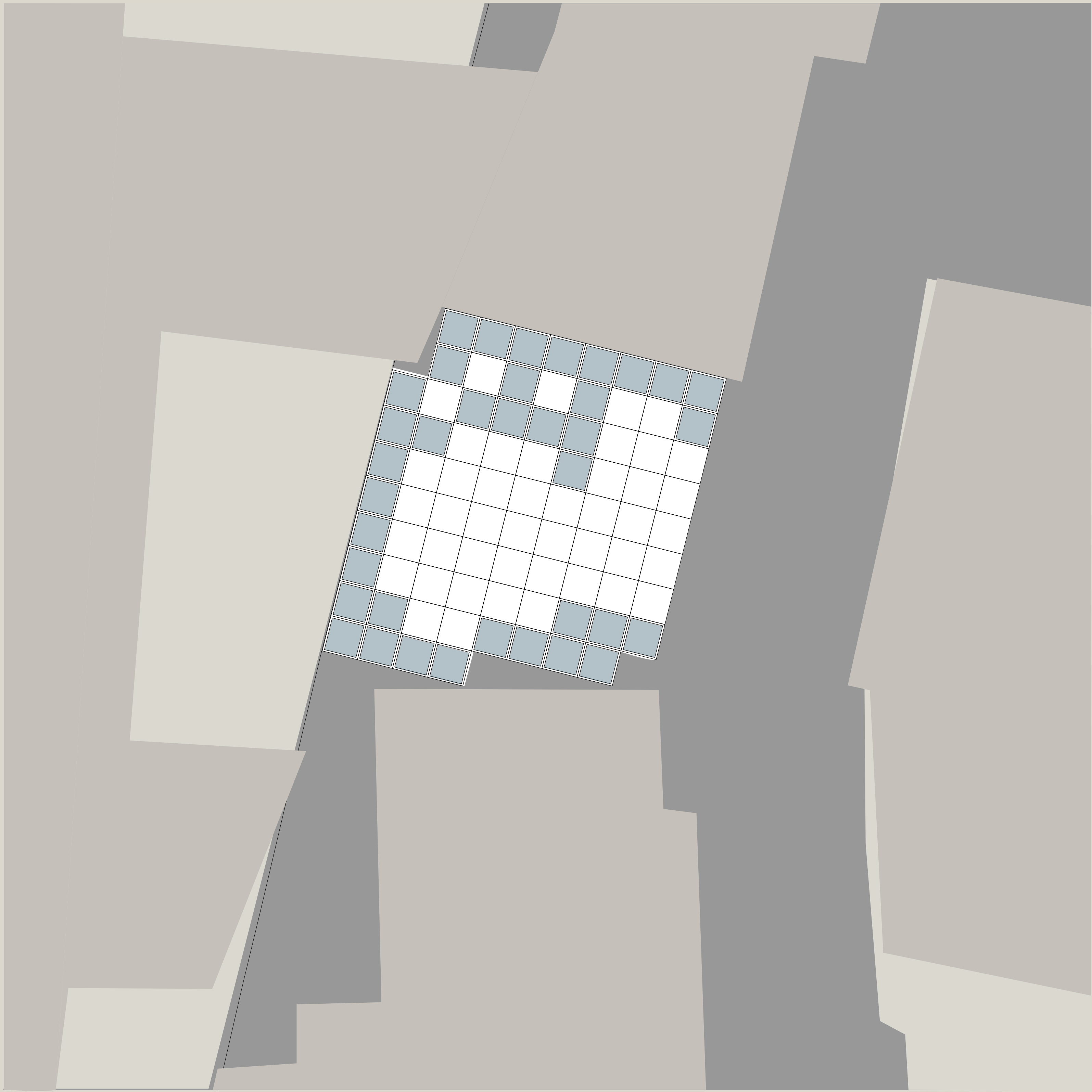


● The next two installations are gardens, that bring life to the dull area. Breaking the routine of the residents' daily life, by gardening, socializing or maybe just enjoying the fresh air.



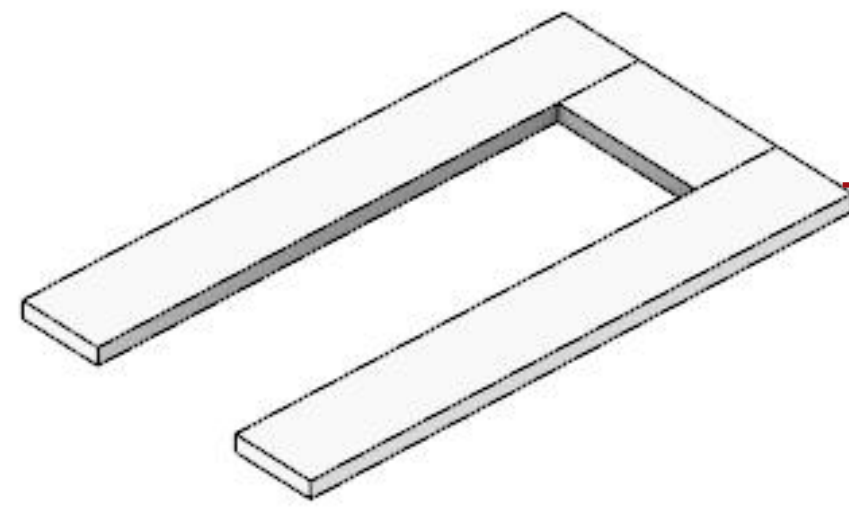


- The first one is a repetition of a module creating a stepped garden that can either be used as gardening pots or seating distributed in a playful matter.

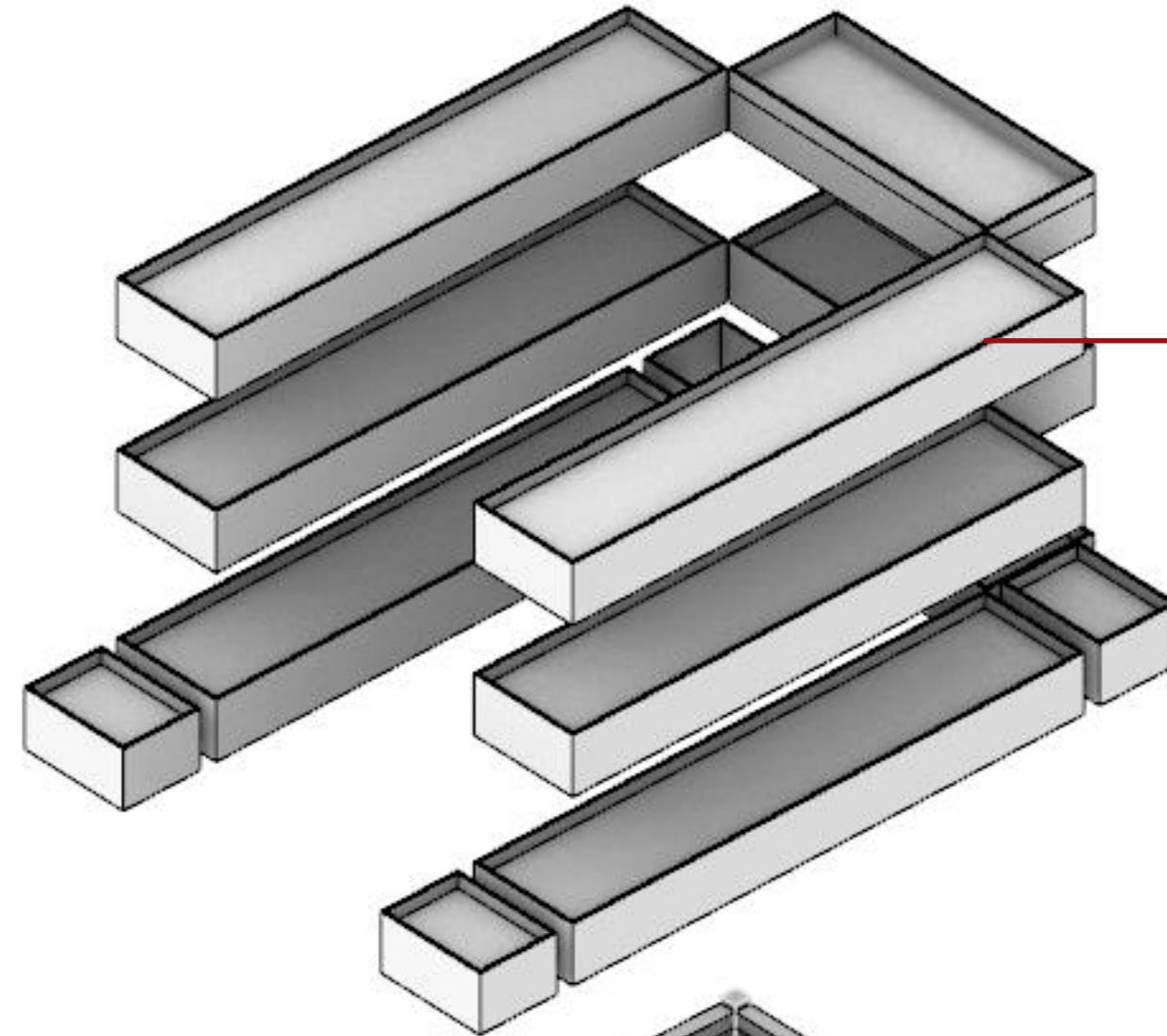




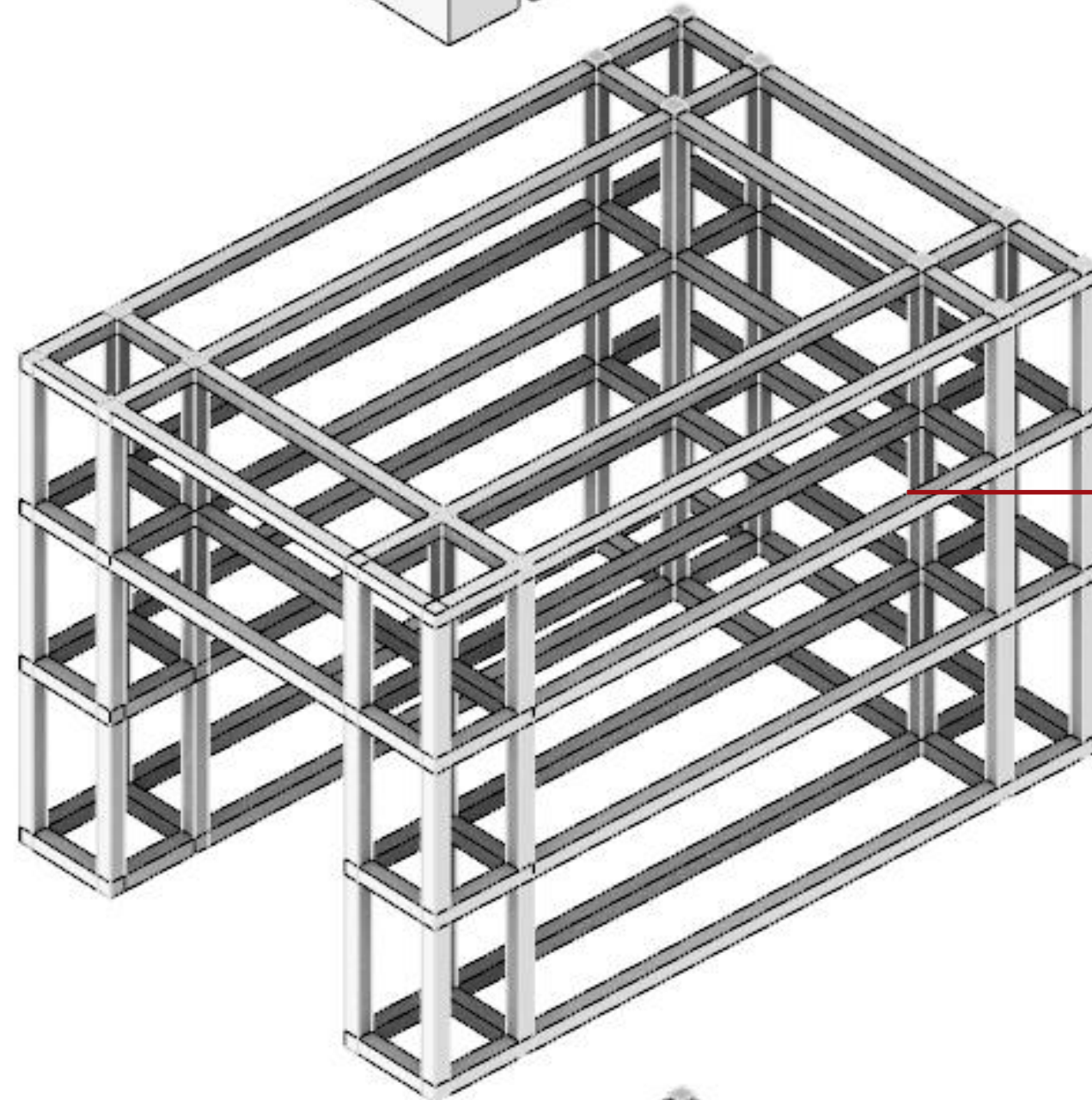




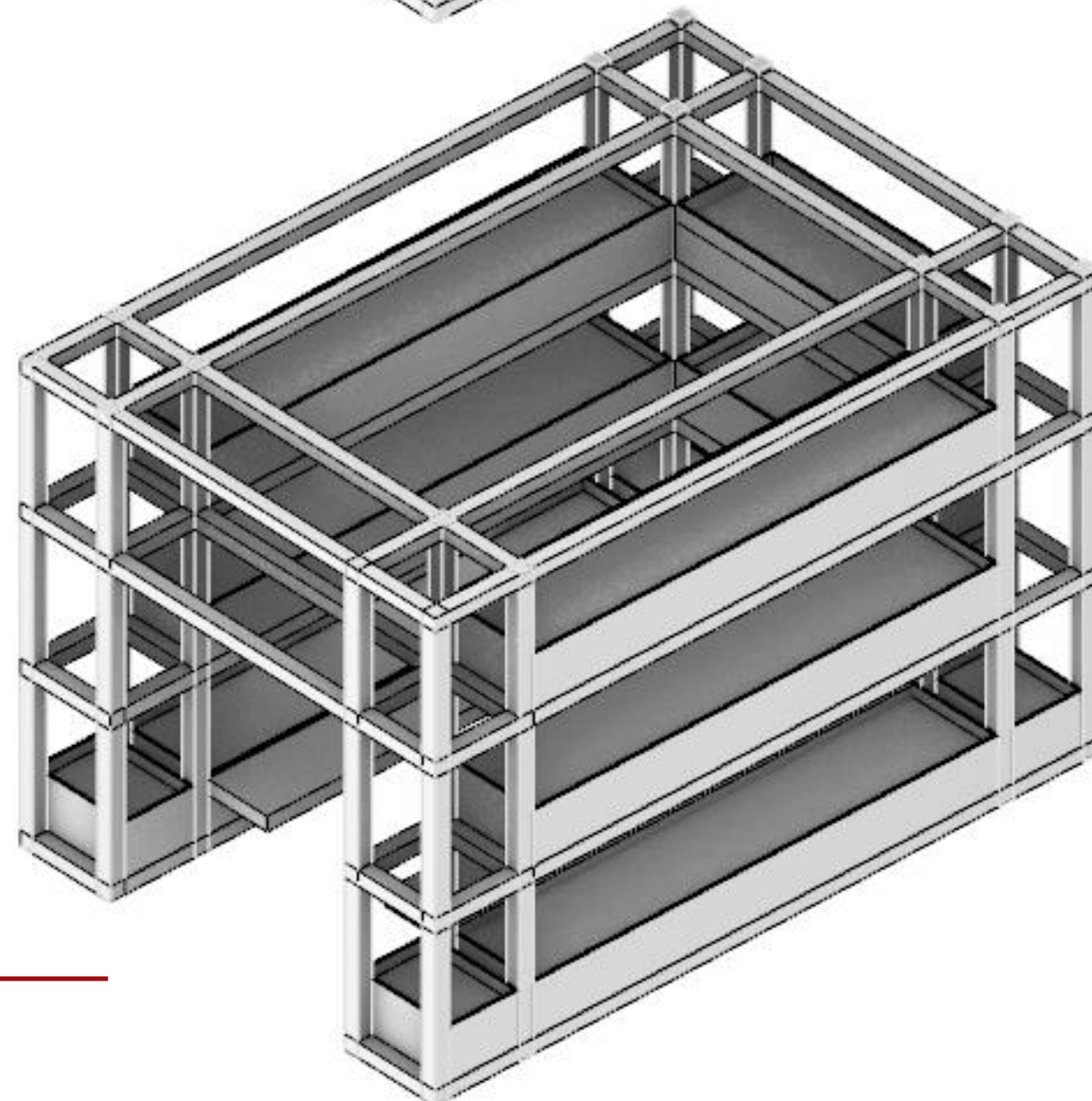
Wooden seat



Gardening pots

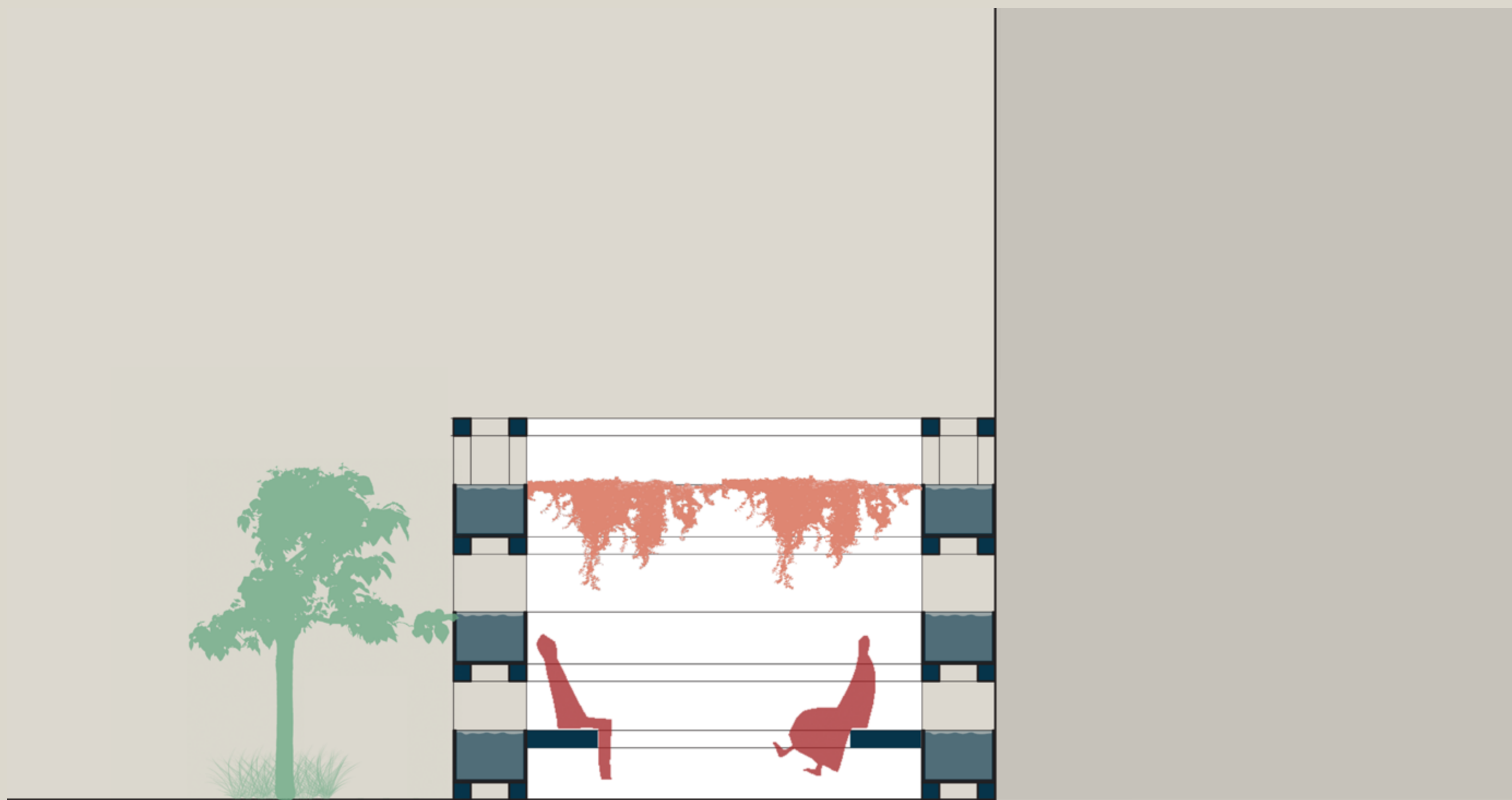
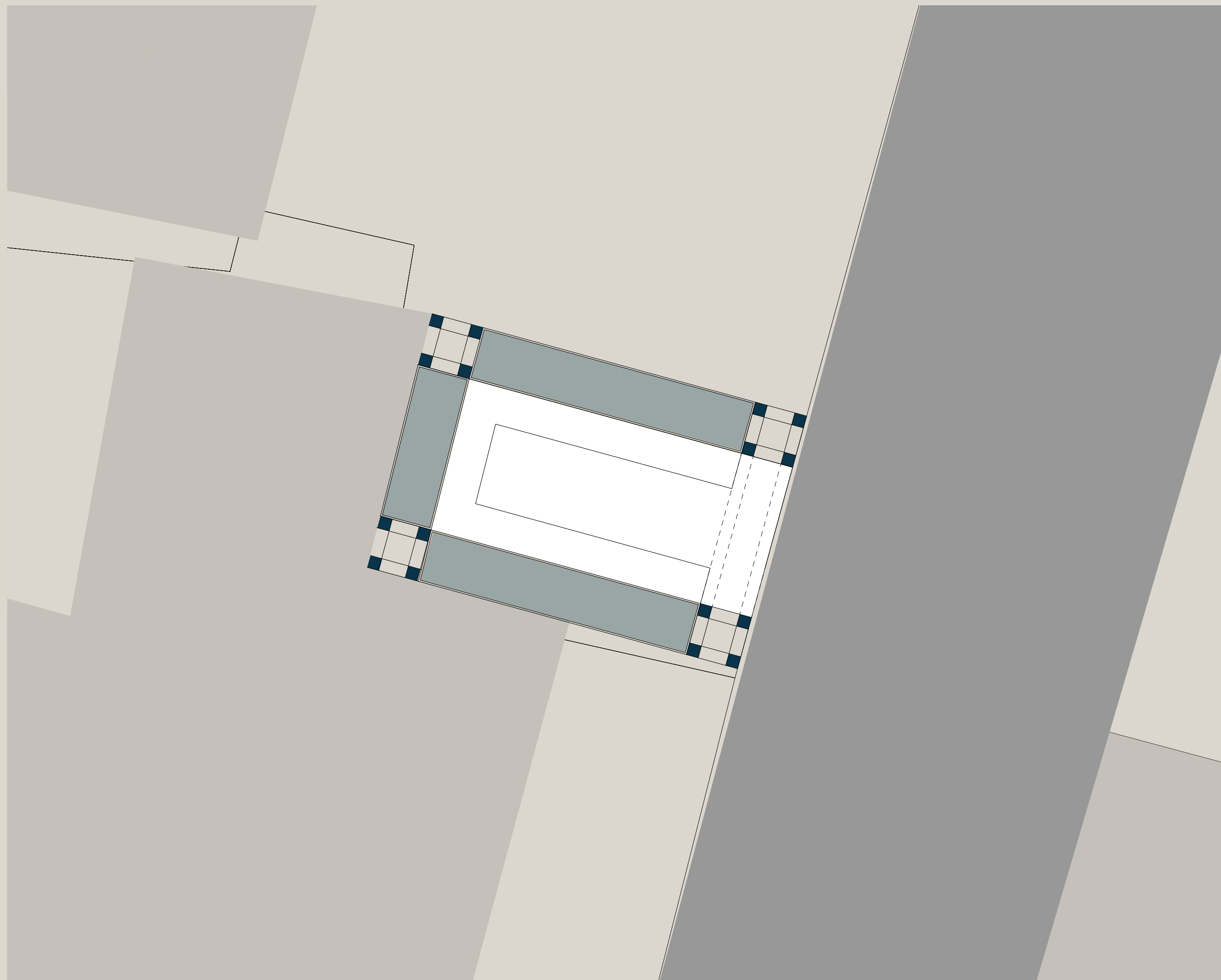


Timber structure



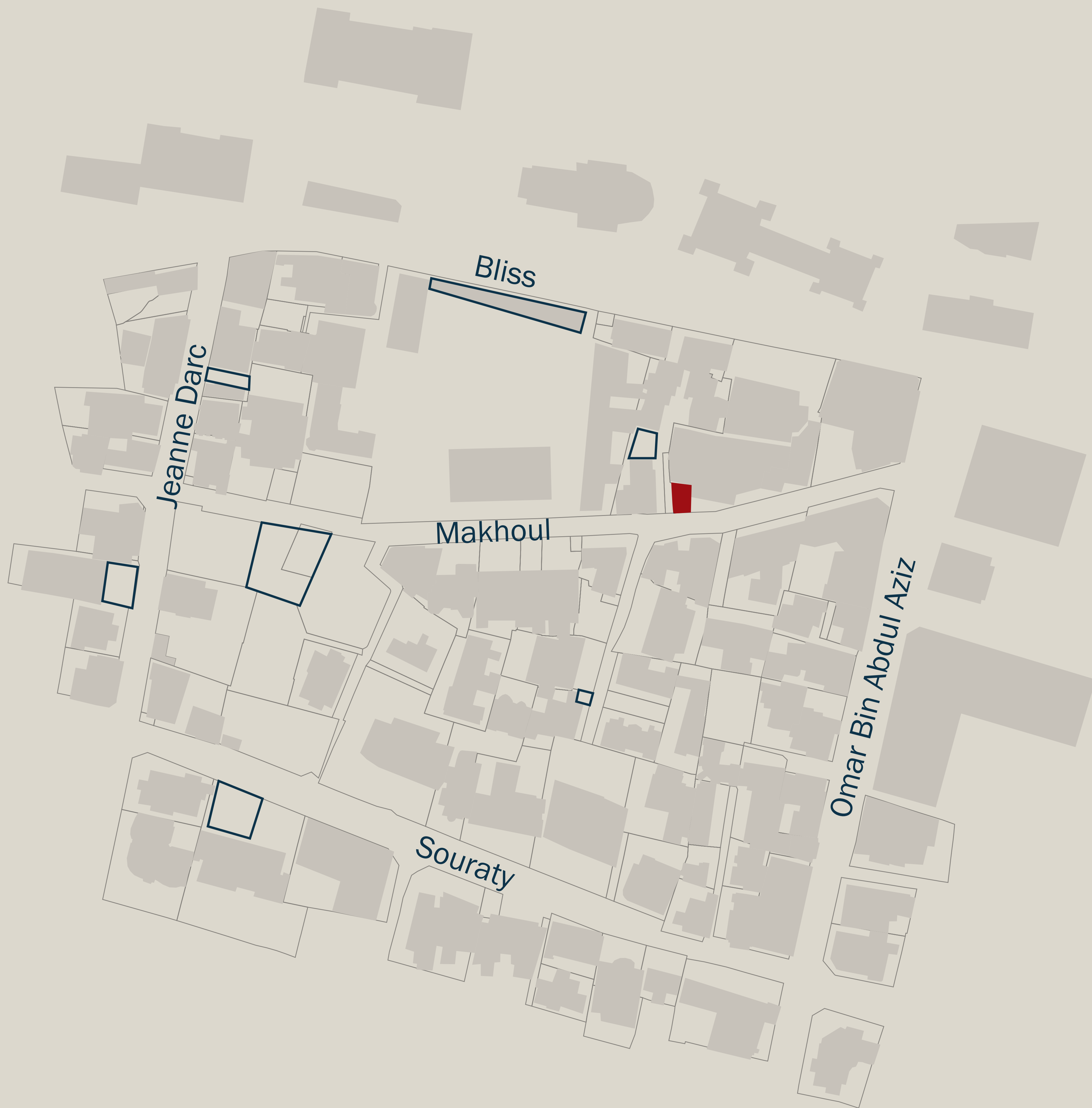
Entrance



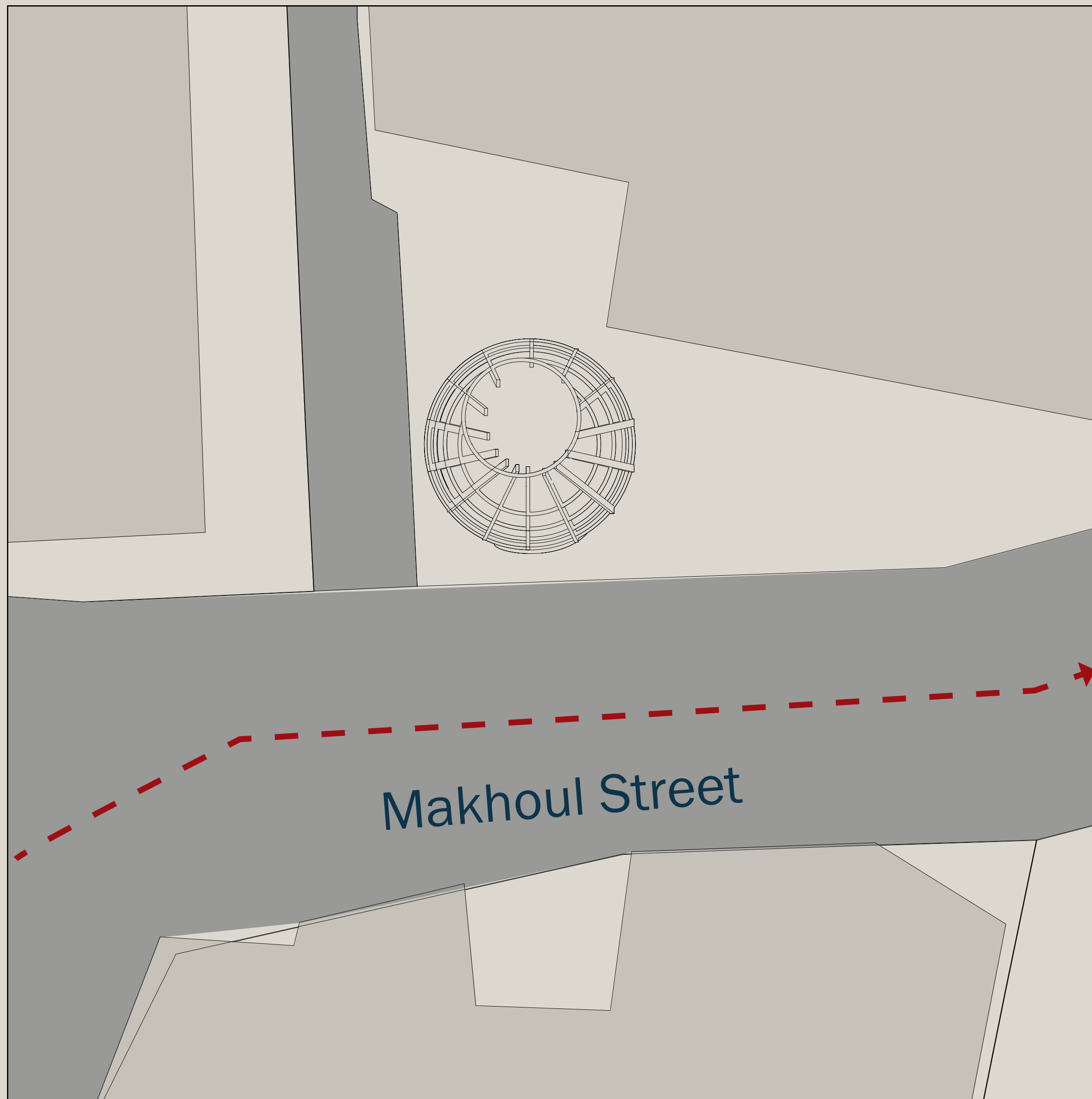


- The second one is a garden embracing a seating area. Modular in a way that can be easily assembled on site, starting with wooden structure that can occupy gardening and reading units along with a seating area



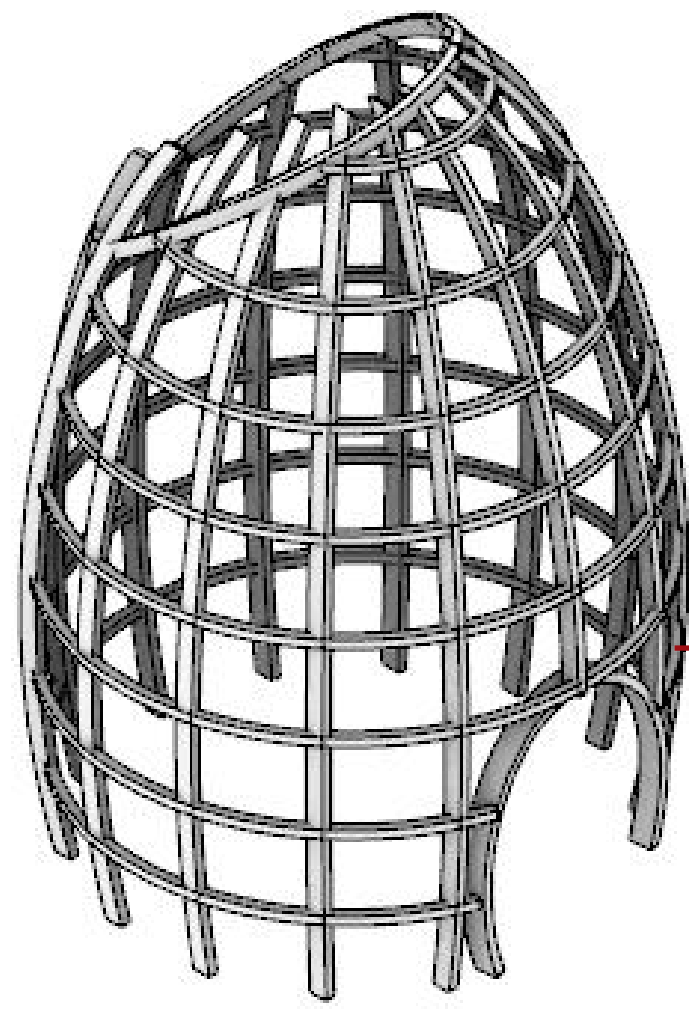


● Reading space

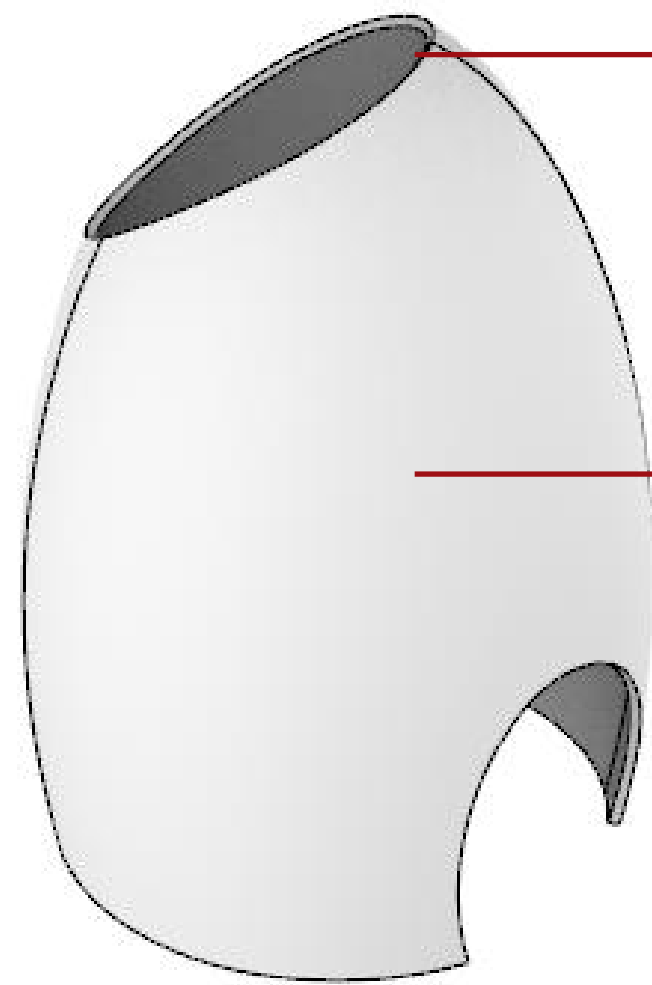


- The fourth installation is a reading space, it is located on makhoul street to be in direct contact with the passengers. It is made of two overlooking floors along with a skylight on the north west. It serves as an isolation space for reading, relaxing and intellectual exchange. The structure is ribbed timber and the inner material provide noise free space.

● Reading space context

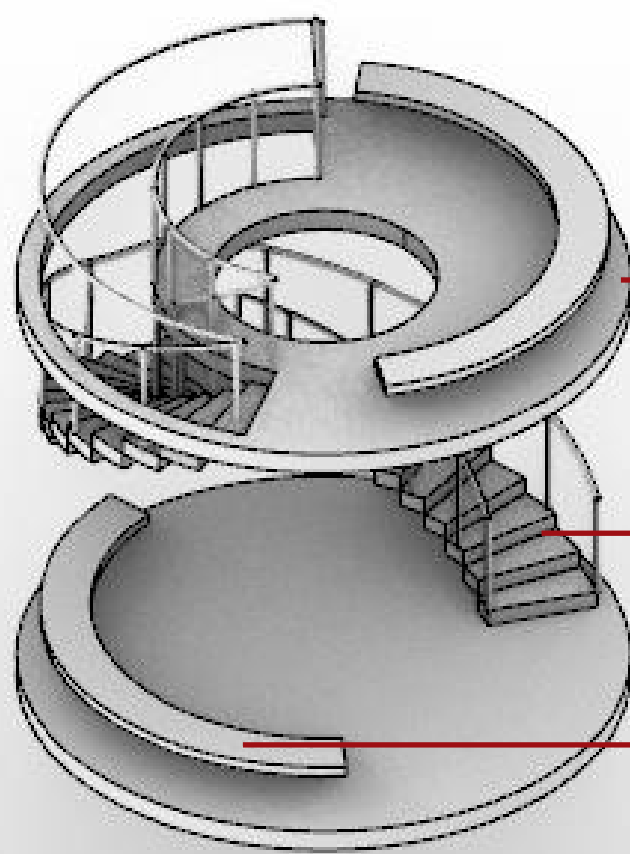


Timber Ribbed Structure



Skylight north west

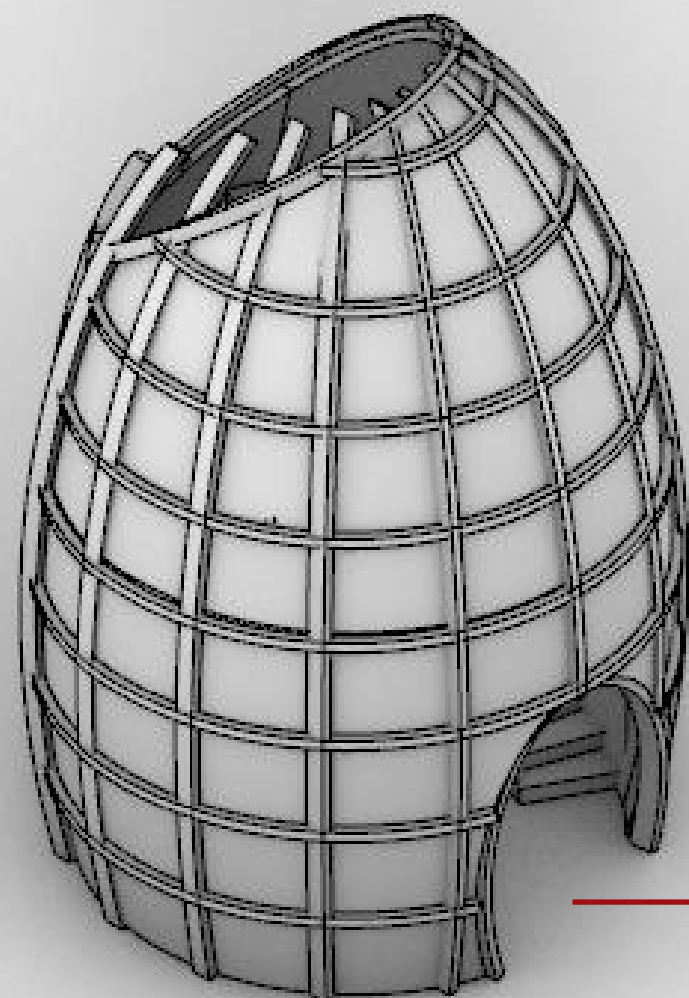
Wooden Facade
with absorbant material



Wooden Slab

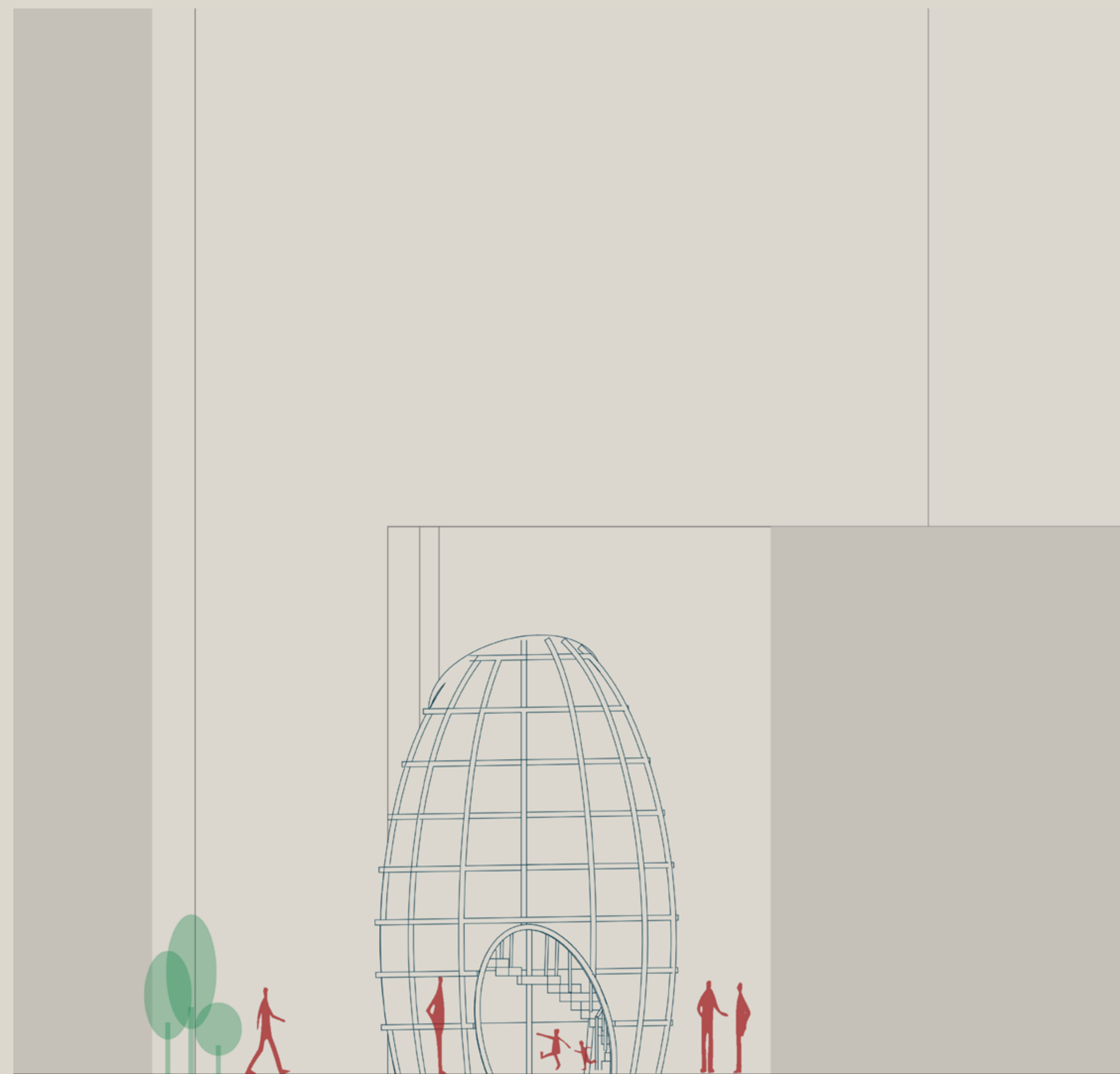
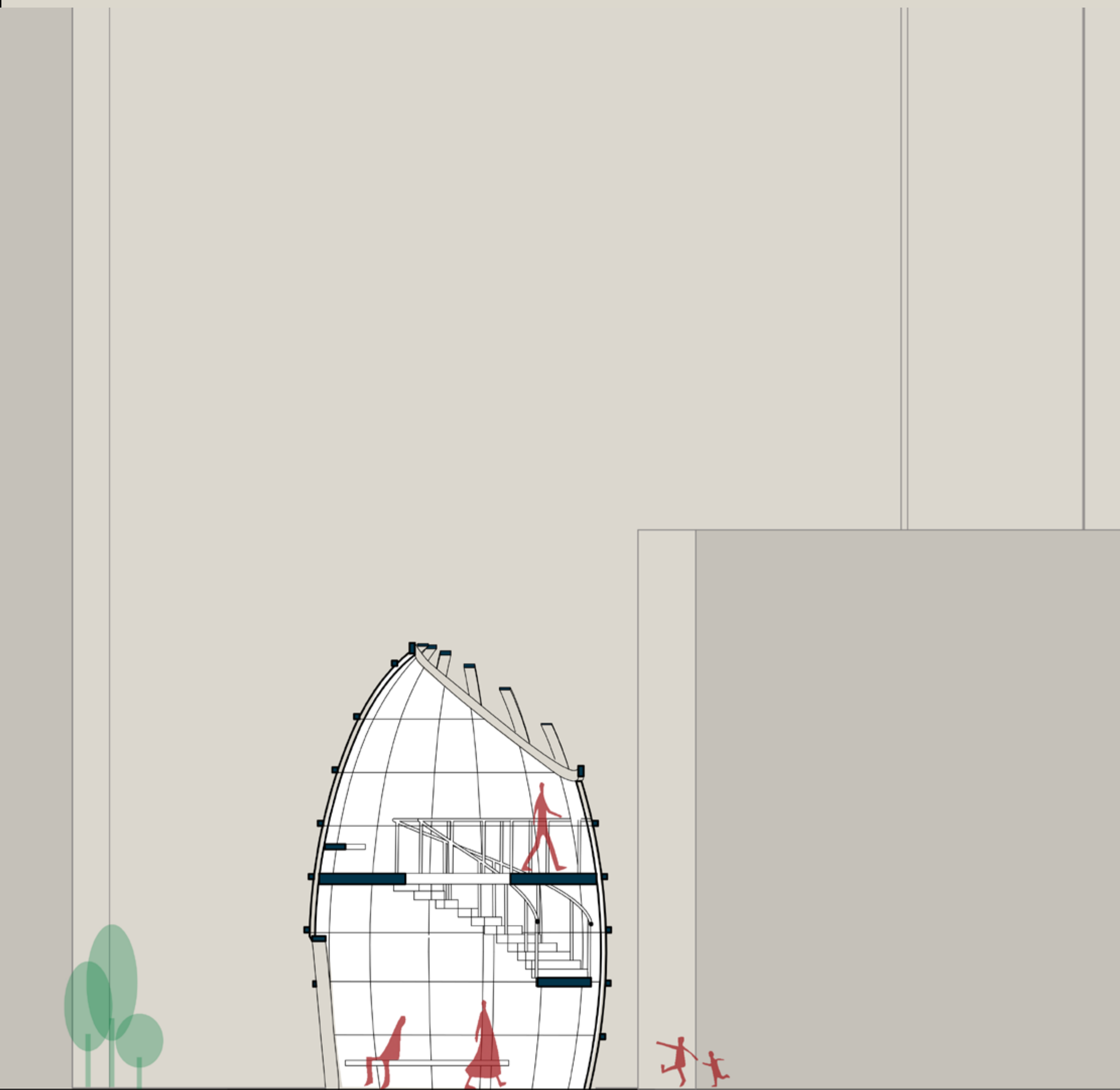
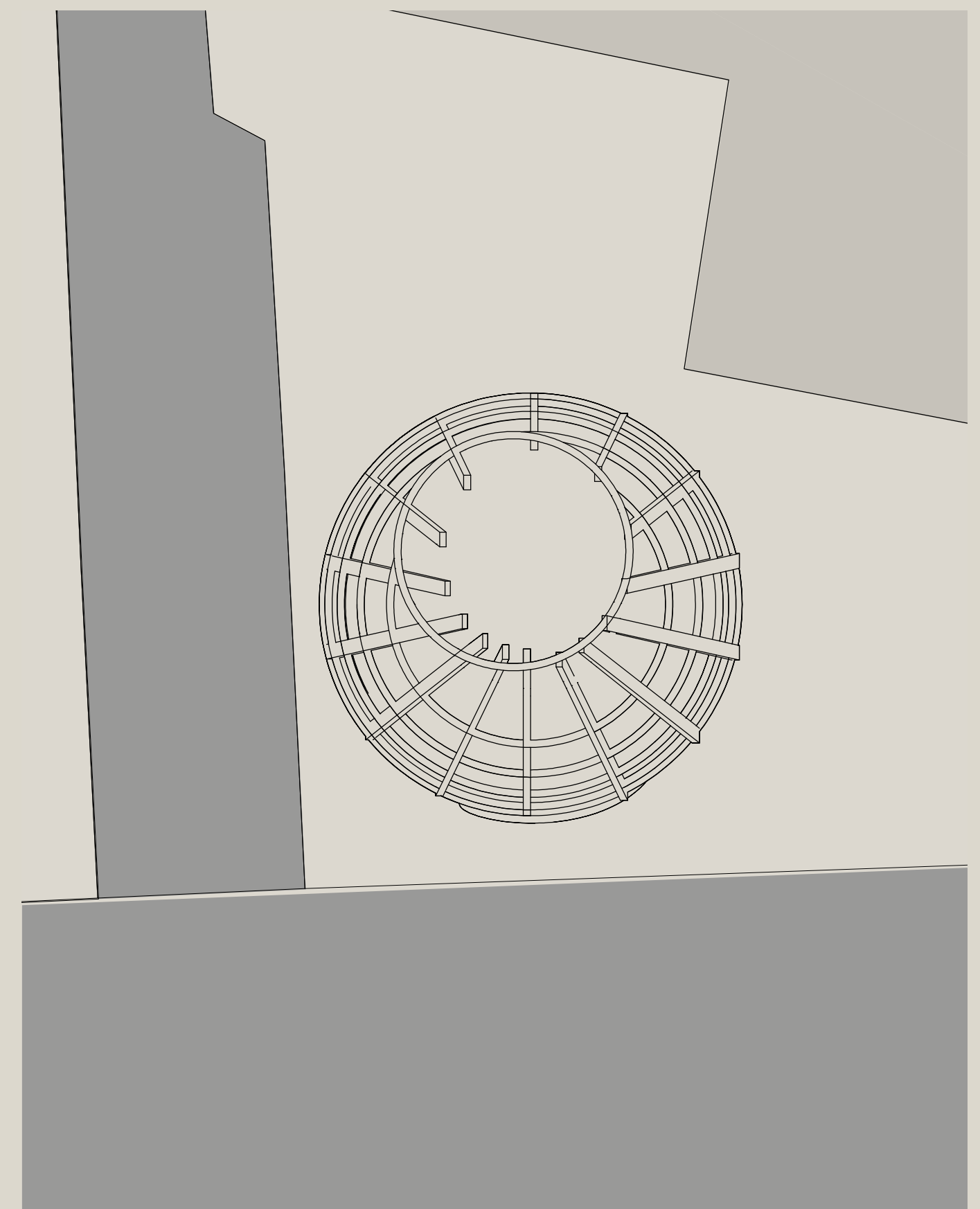
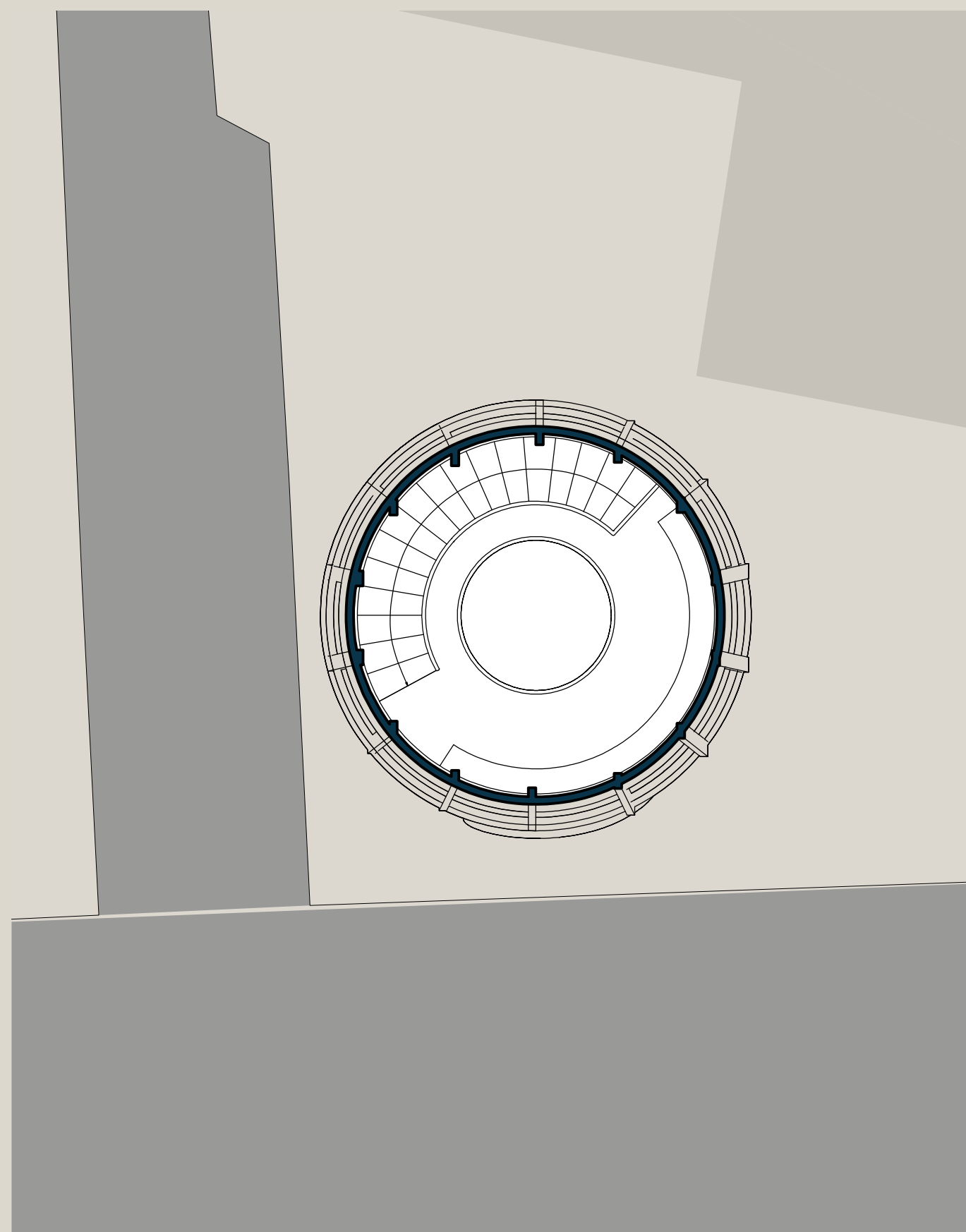
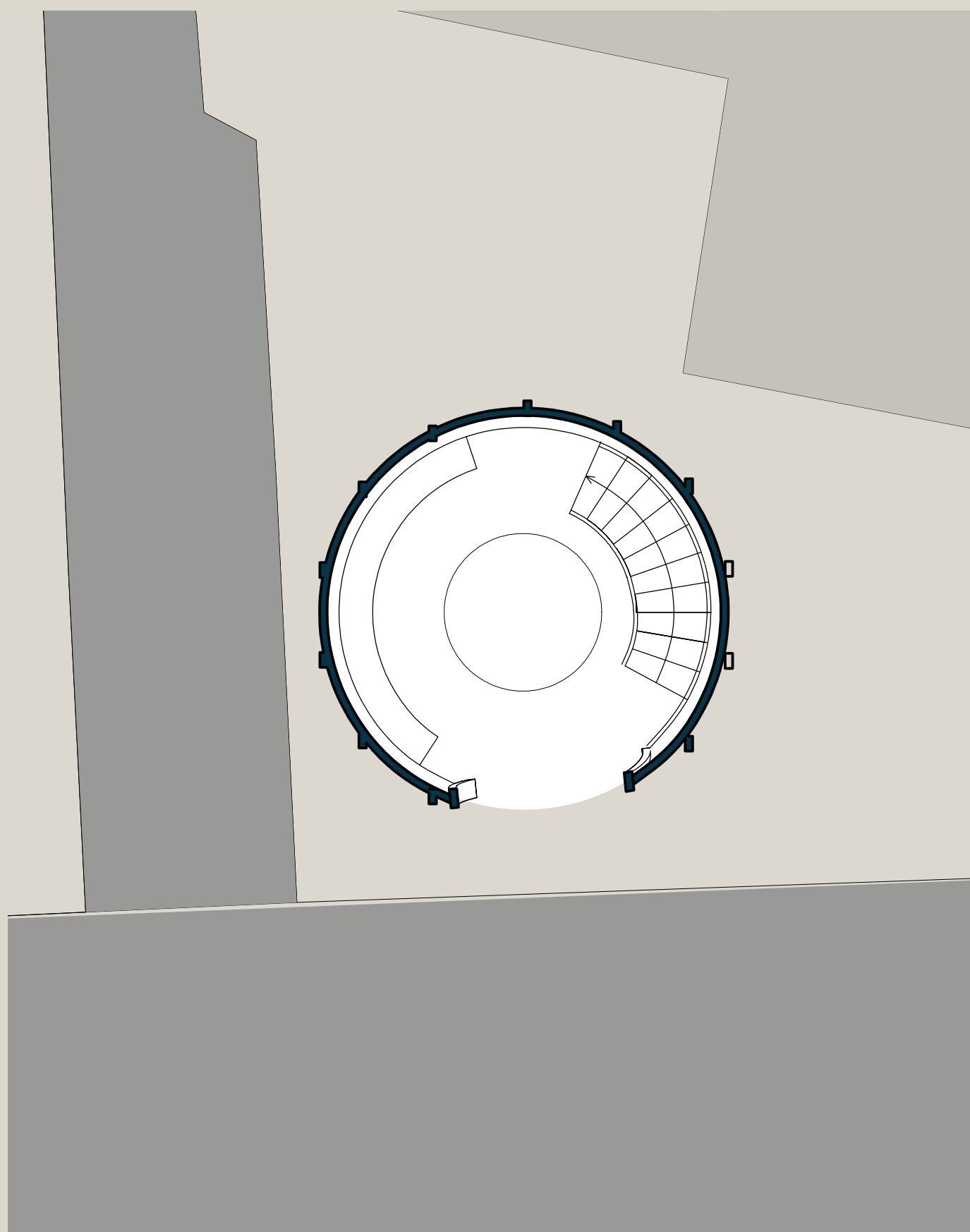
Staircaise

Seating



Entrance

● Reading space exploded axo



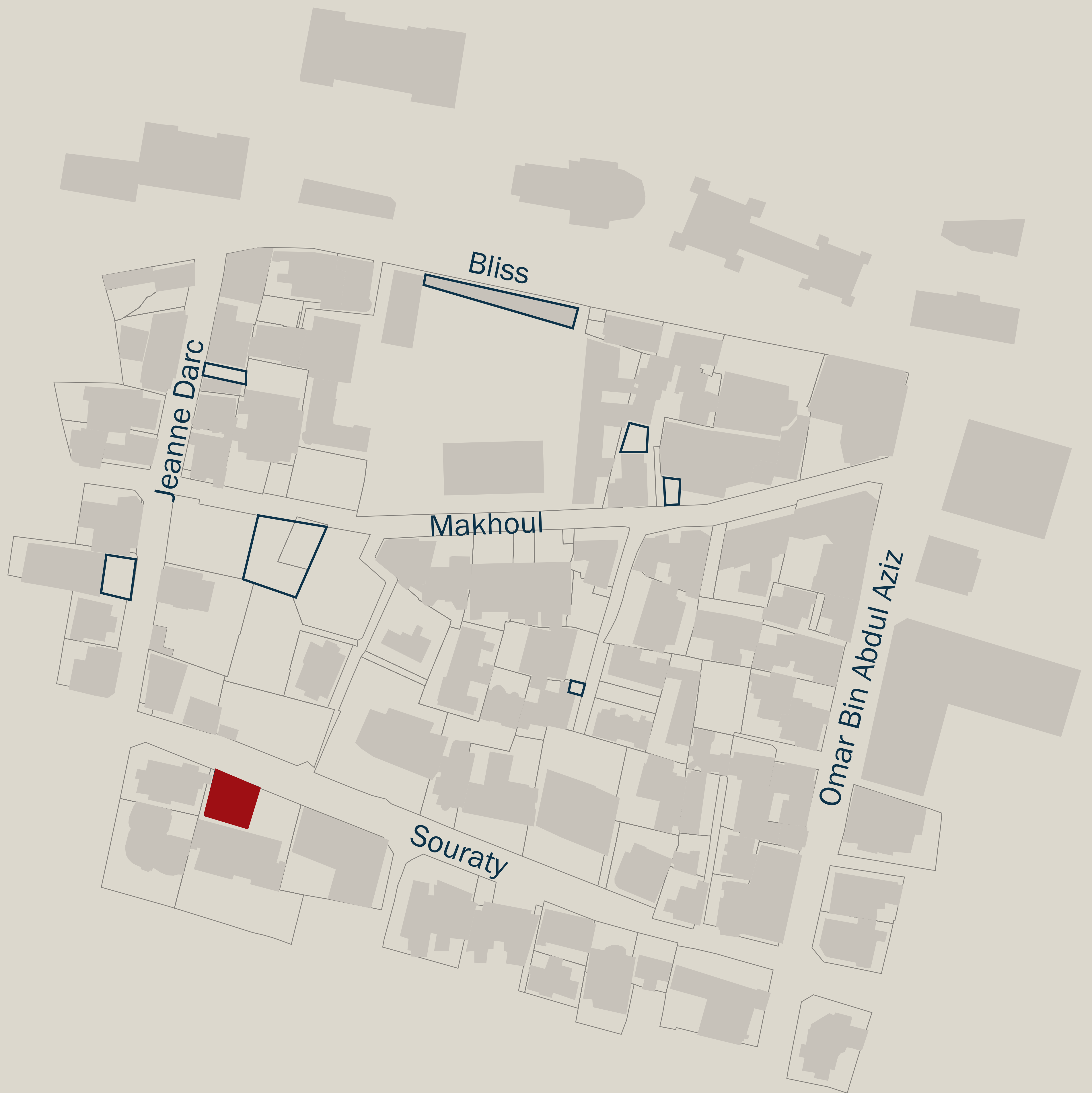
● Reading space plans & sections




● Reading space exterior render



● Reading space interior render

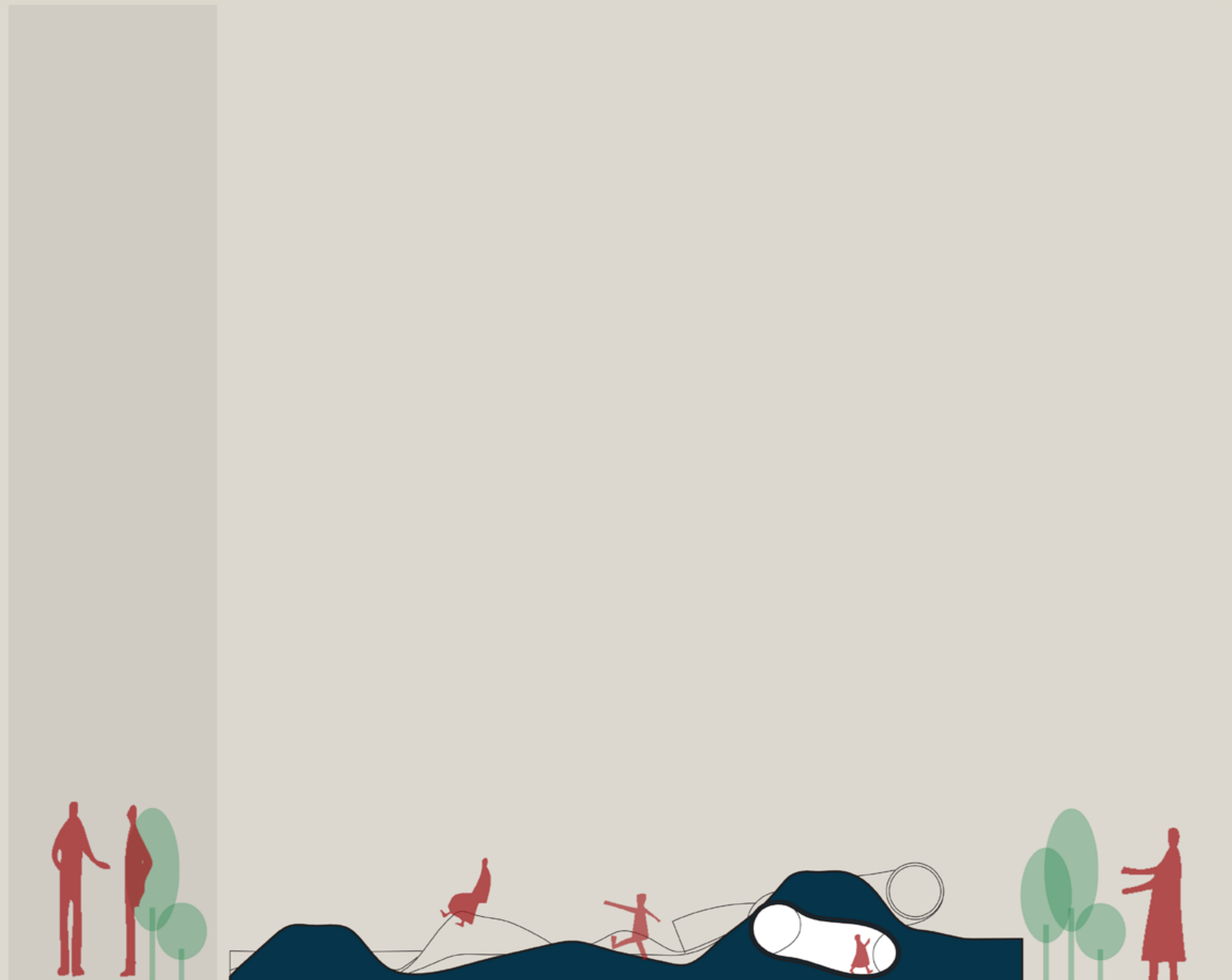
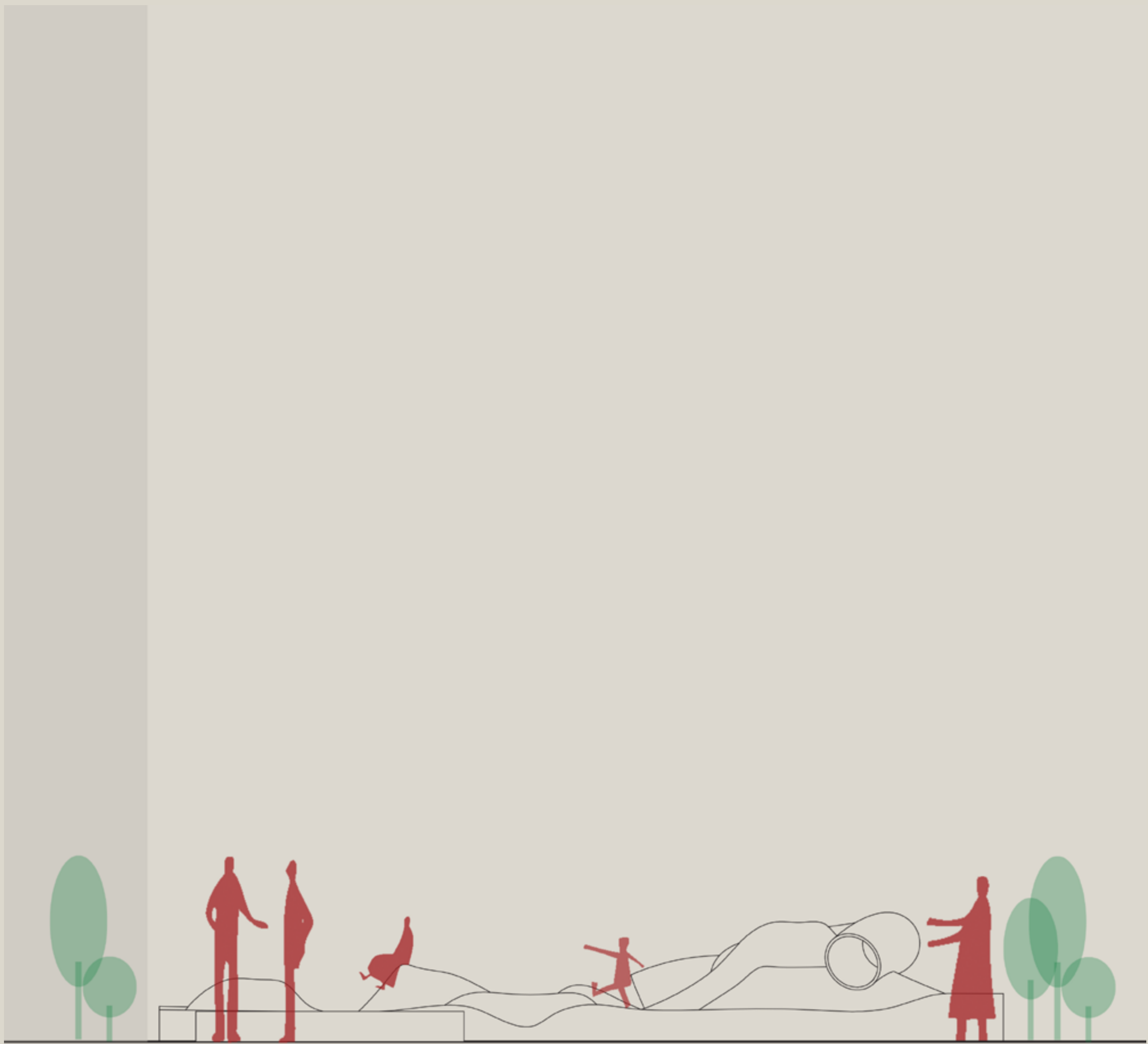
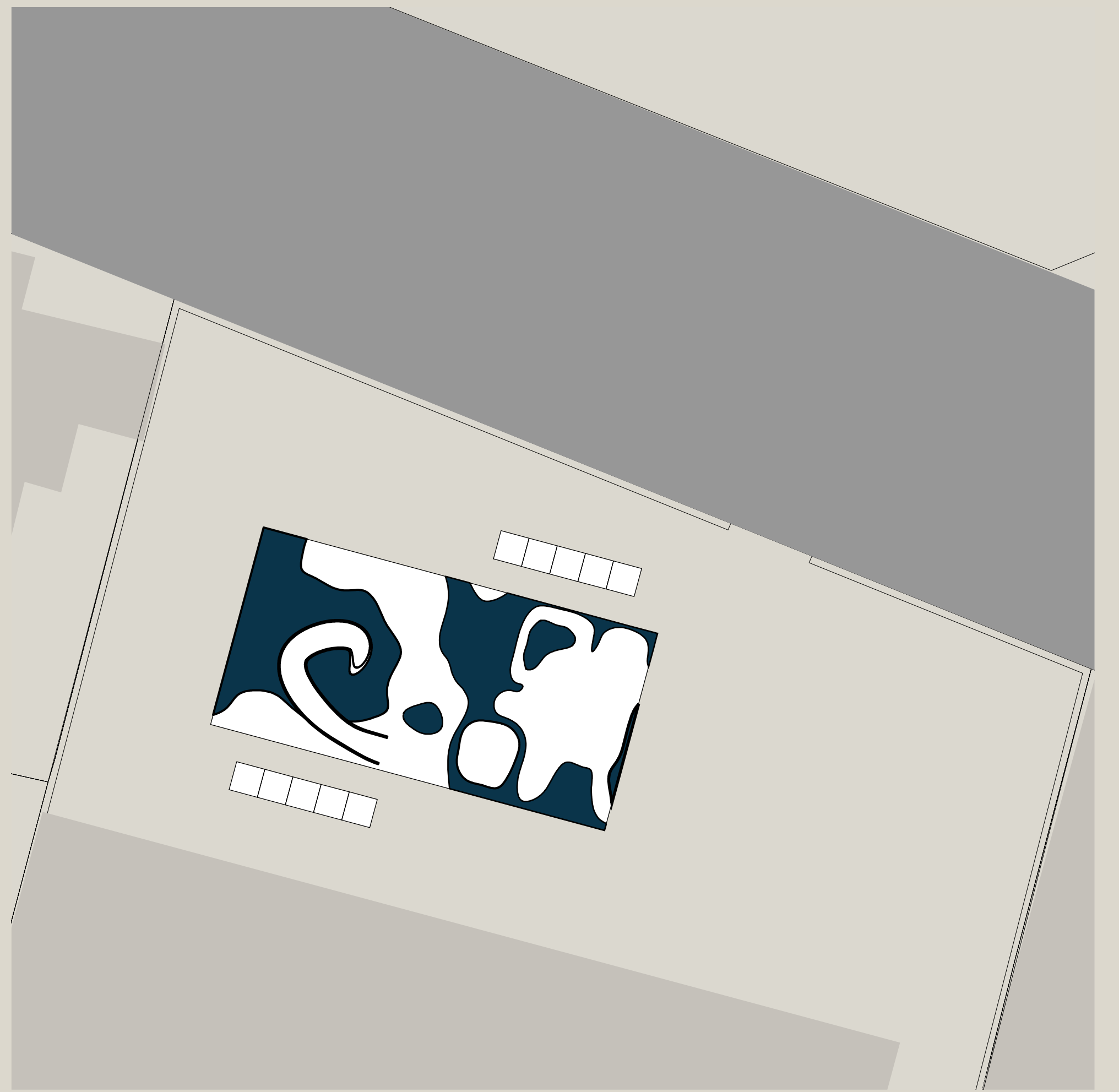
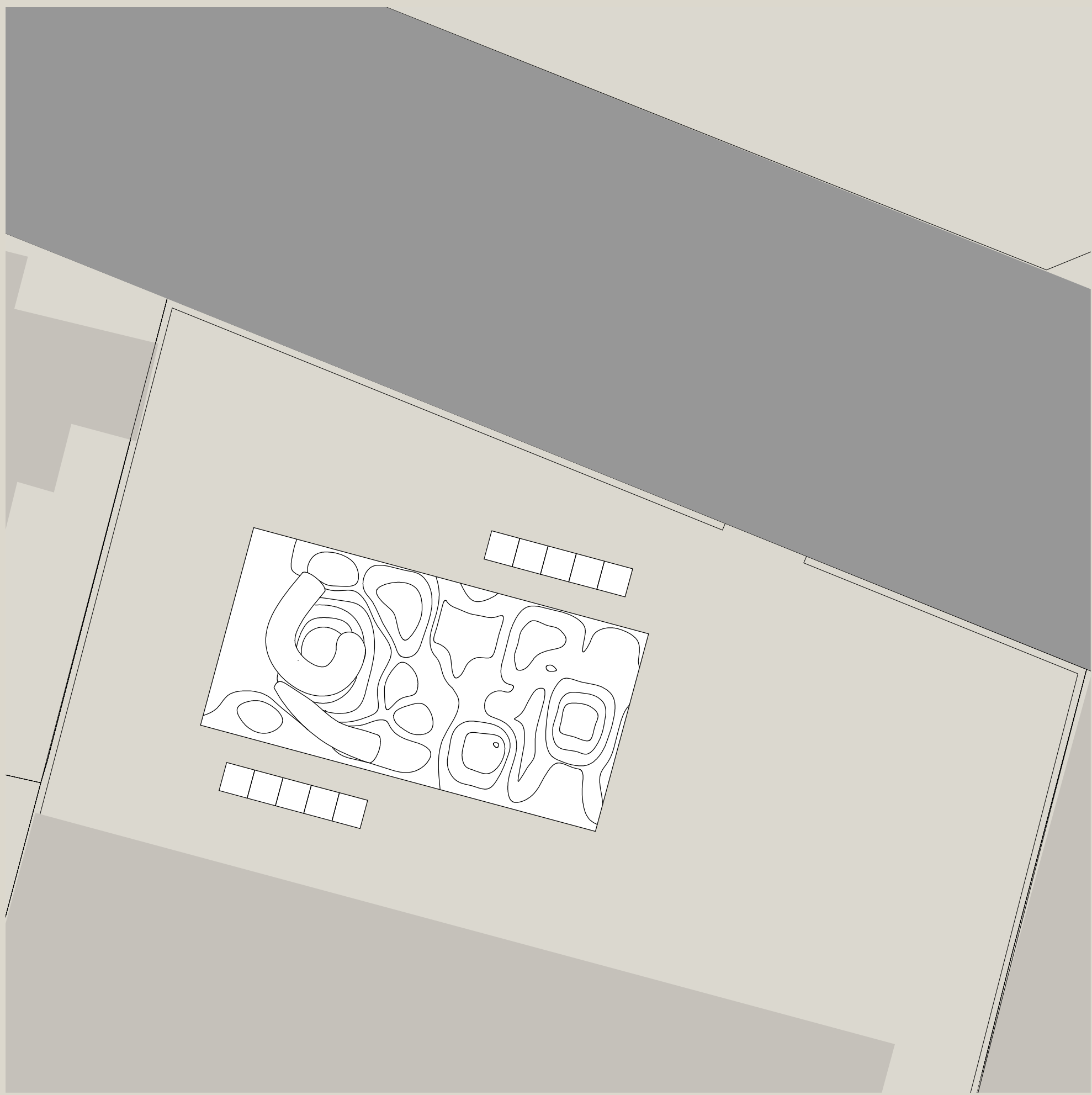


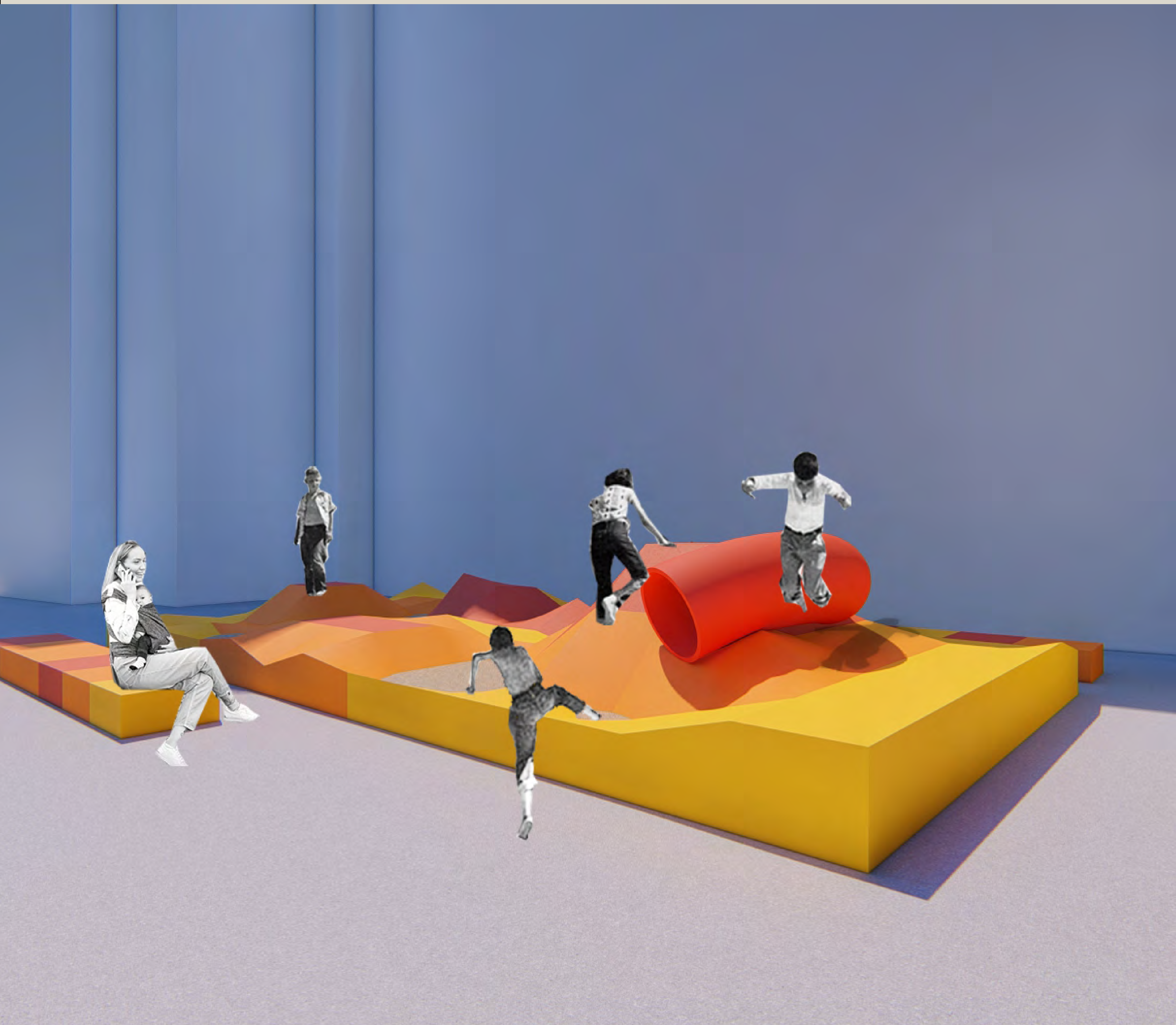
● Playground Topography

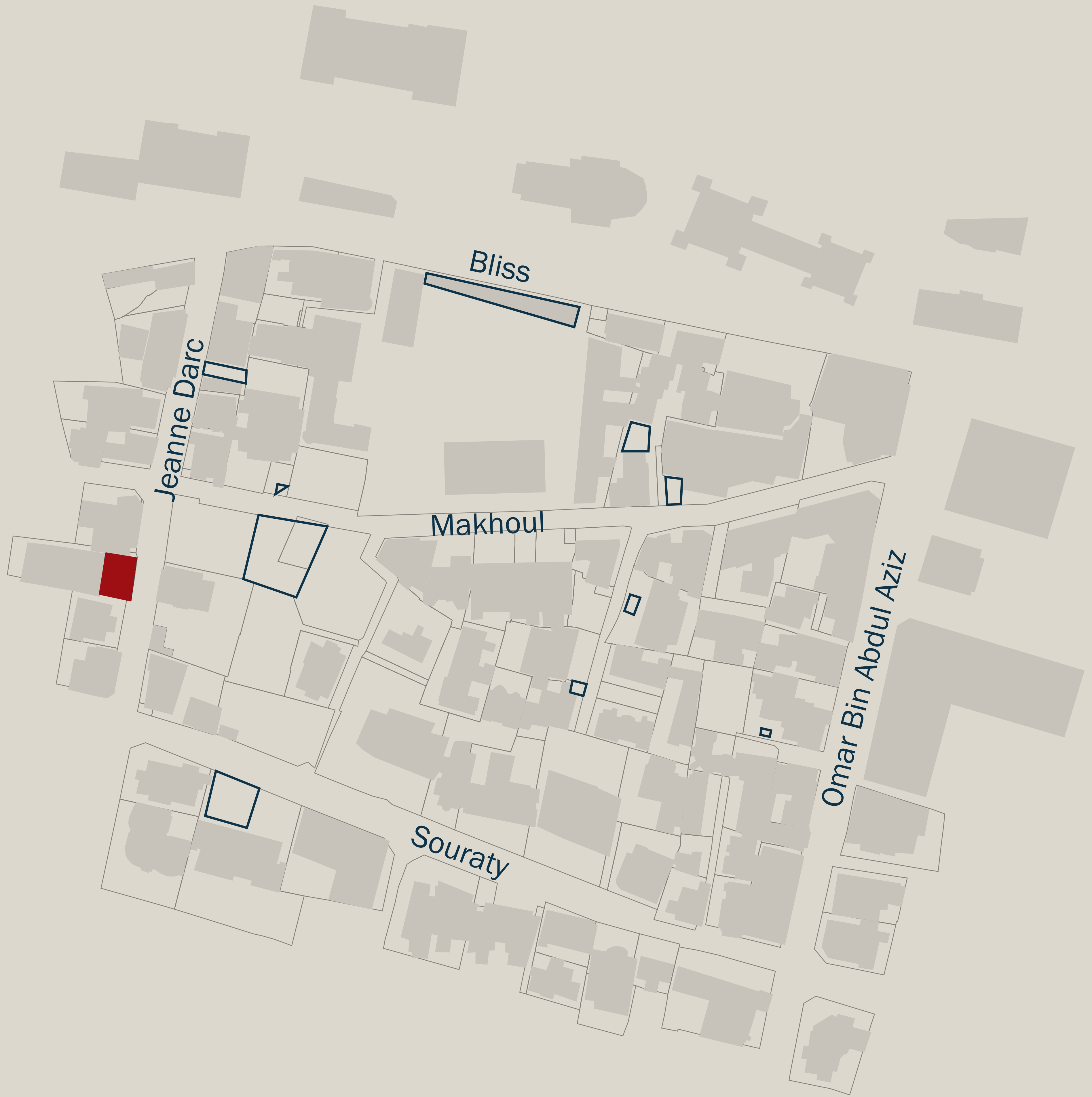


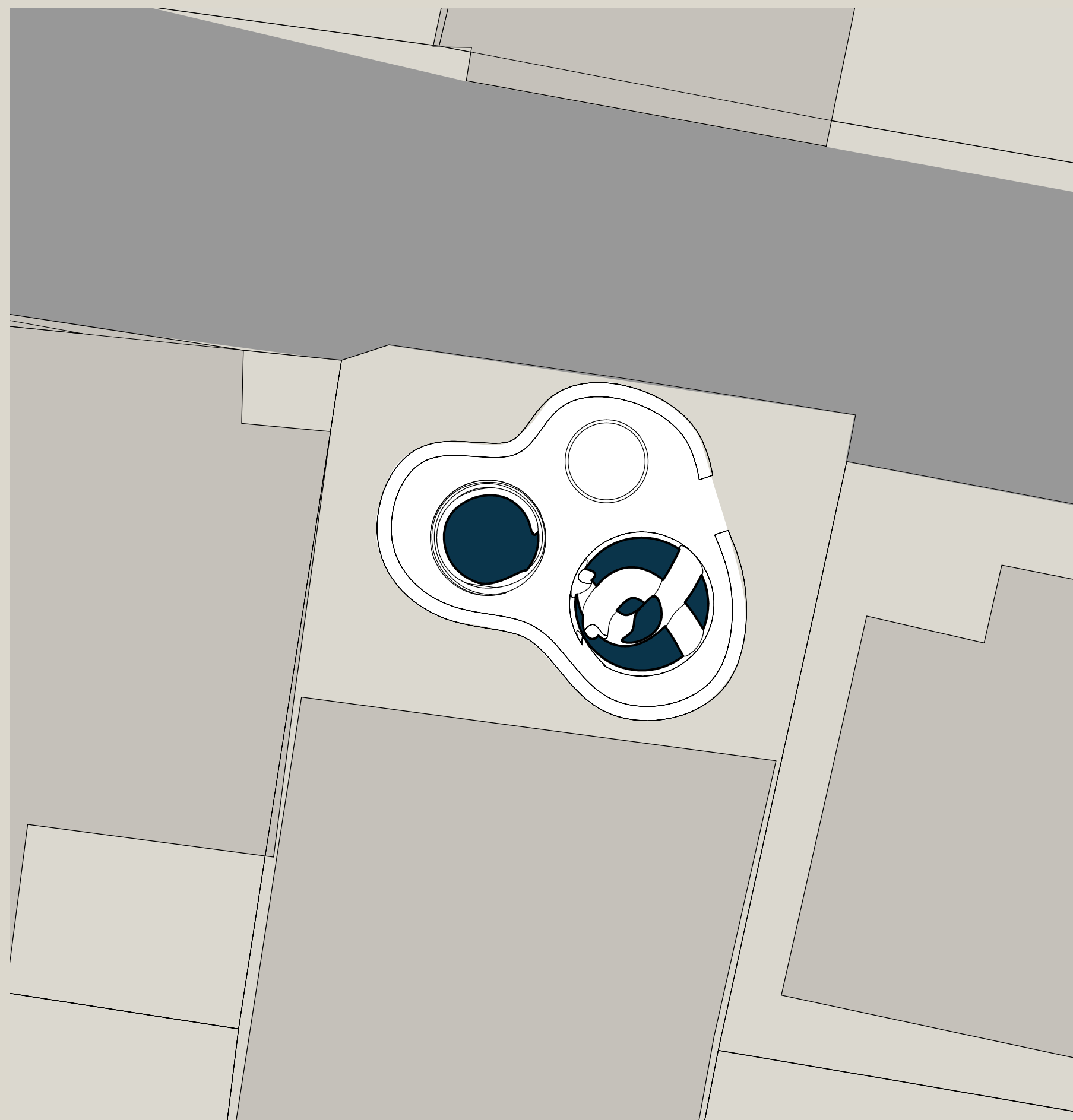
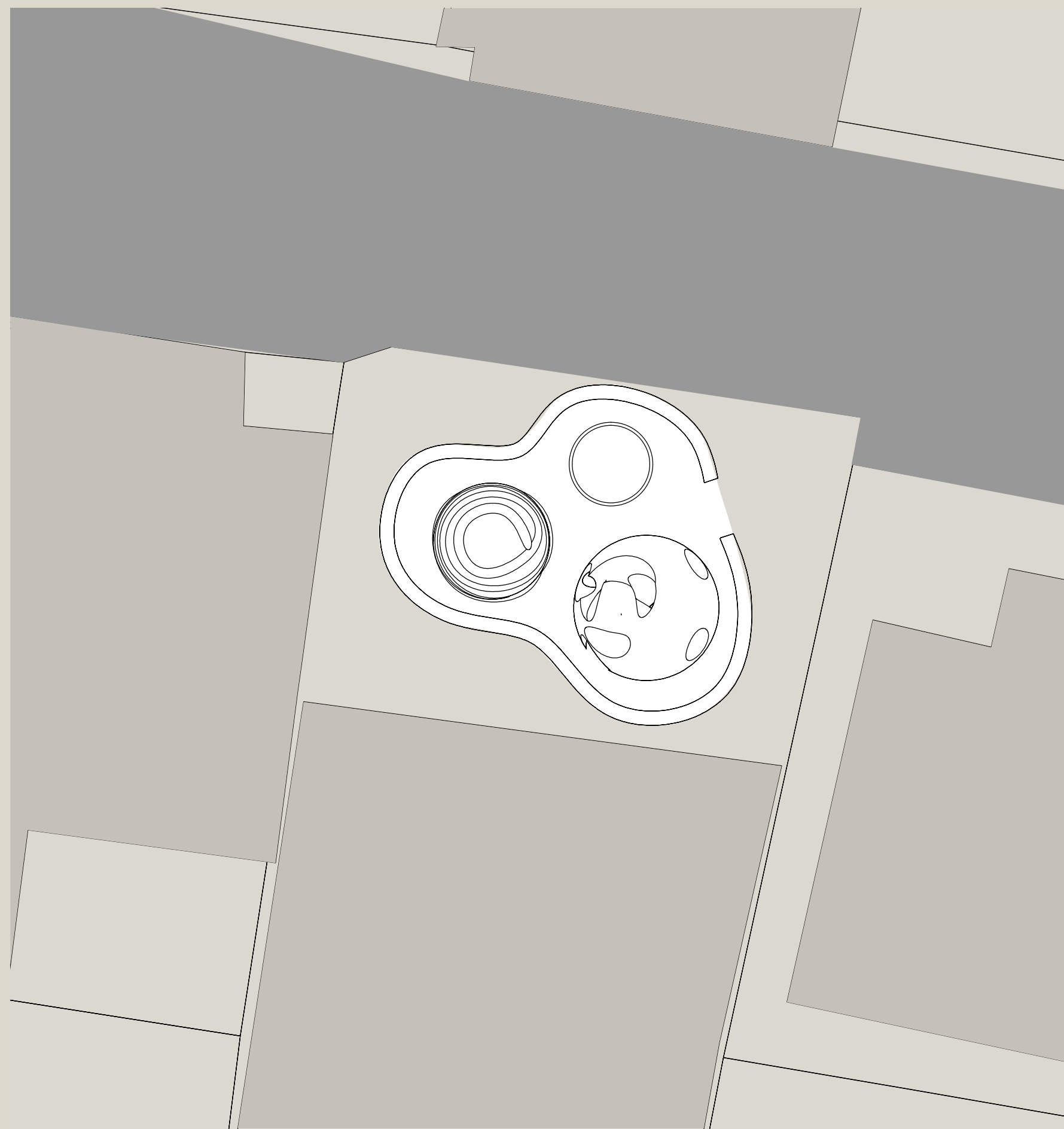
● The next two installations are playgrounds for children, the first one is located on the plot of the Near East School of Theology. The structure is an artificial topography that is penetrated by a tunnel that enriches the children's curiosity and nurturing their creativity and playfulness. It can be assembled and made of different materials including rubber and sand.

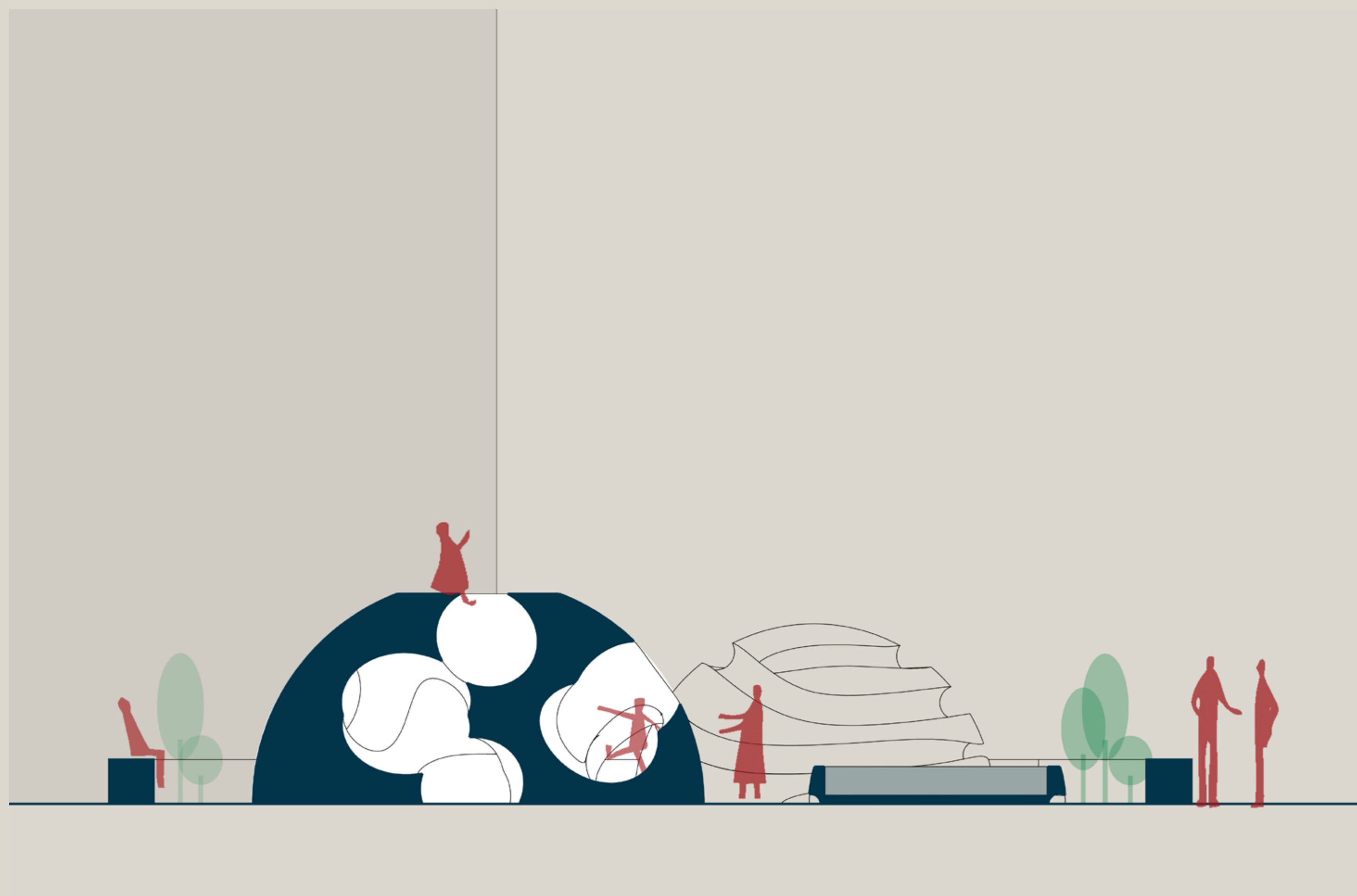
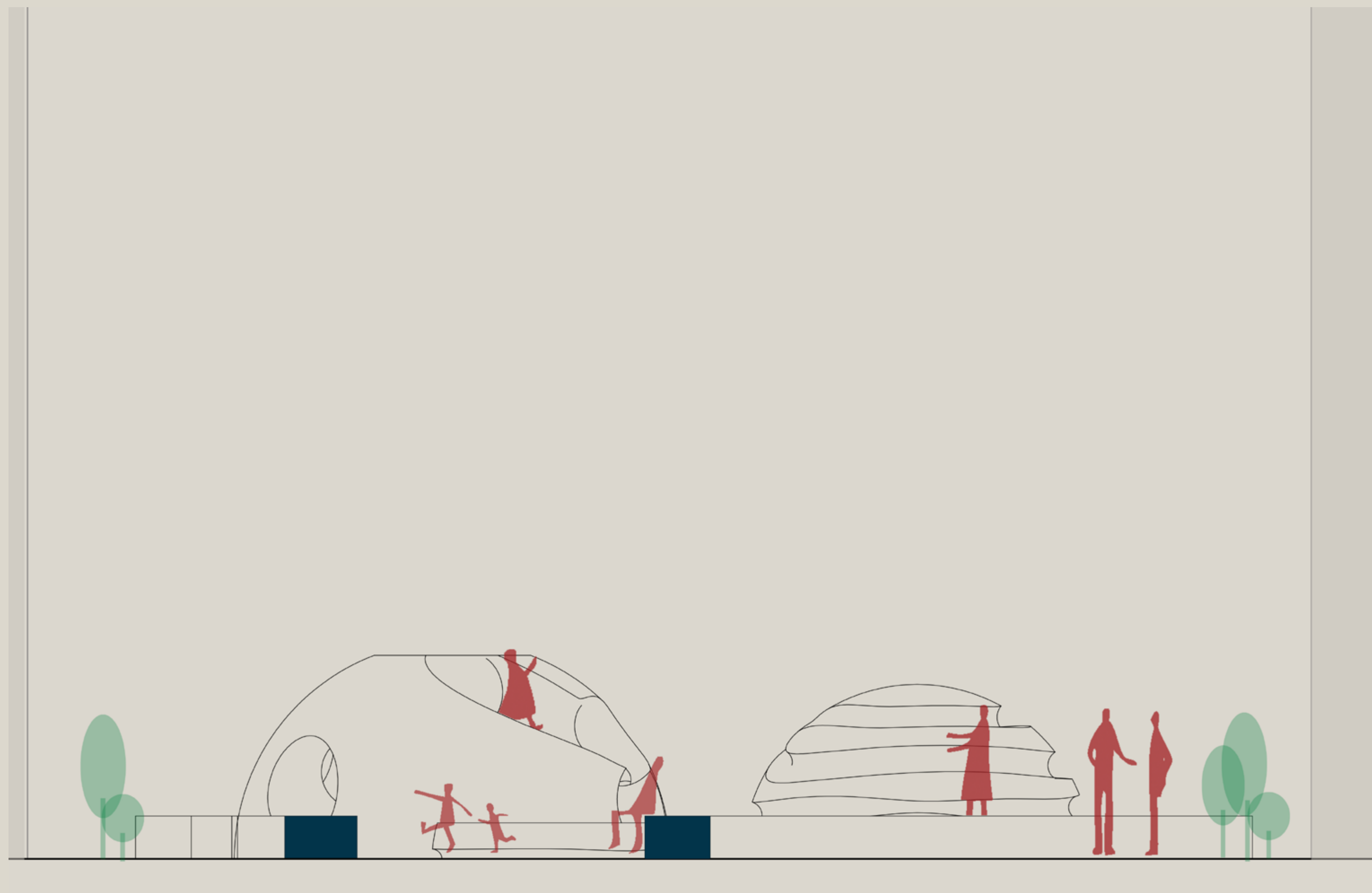
The second one is on Jeanne d'arc street, it's an assembly of 3 playful volumes, a maze, a climbing and sand box surrounded by a seating area to protect the children from the street and to allow parents to overlook their children.







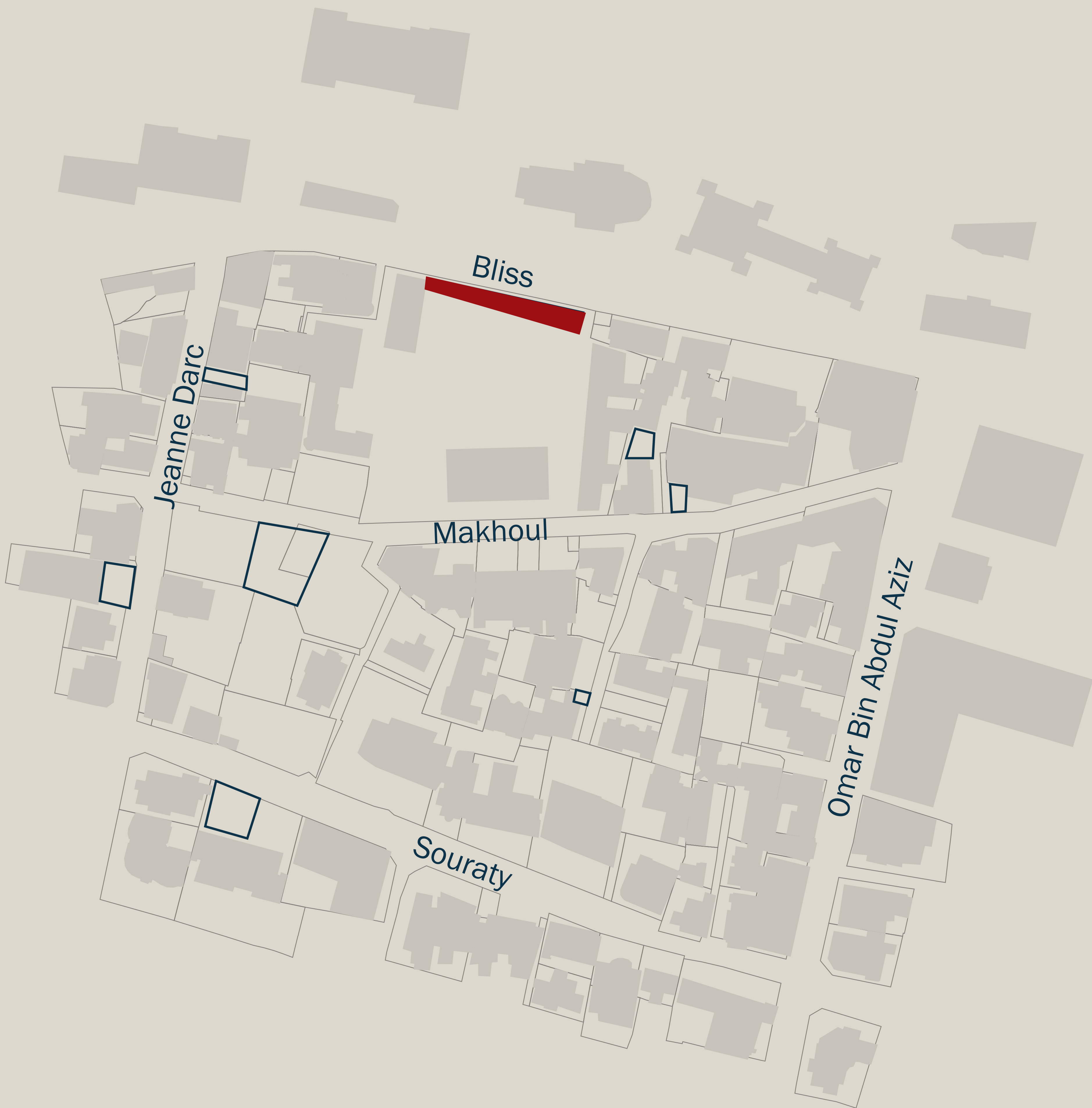






What have been presented so far are residual spaces, the following site is repurposing vacant buildings such as first floor of the vacant building on Bliss Street. That is currently owned by the church and it was previously owned by AUB as dorms for medical students. The space can be used as is as a rentable space for kitchen soup, exhibition, film projection etc for the community,

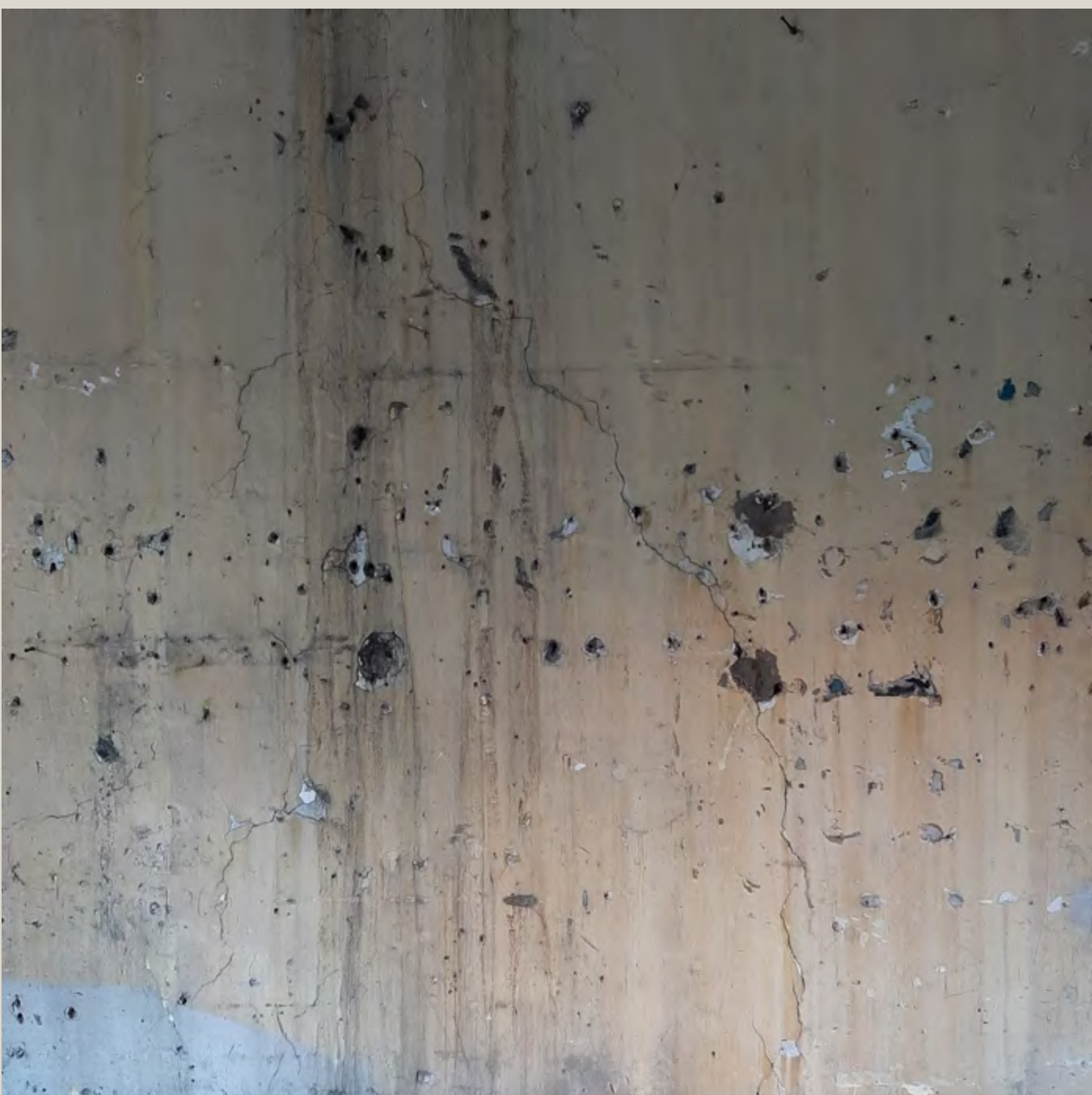
This is just a sample of the endless possibilities of interventions within an urban space that can have a positive impact on the neighborhood imagine what can be achieved in other neighborhoods.




● Playground Topography









● In attempt in assessing my interventions I have set parameters of people's needs and rated each installation based on what is responding to. However, further development will be done in communication with the residents to respond better in terms of design and also creating their own parameters to assess the installations.



Community Center



Event Space



Playground volumes



Physical Activities

Education



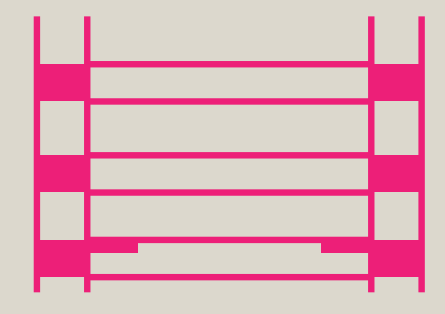
Garden



Playground Topography



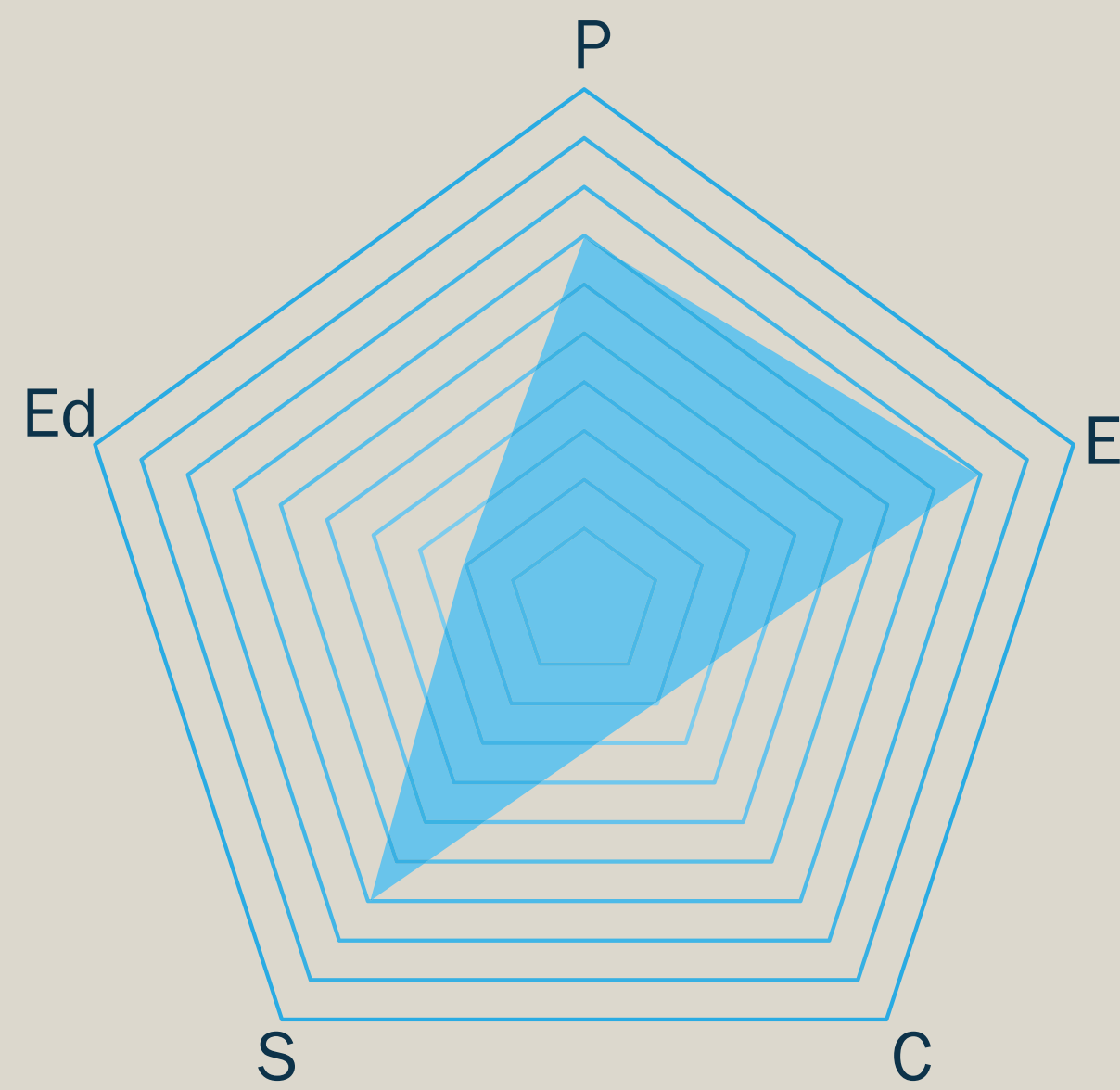
Reading Space



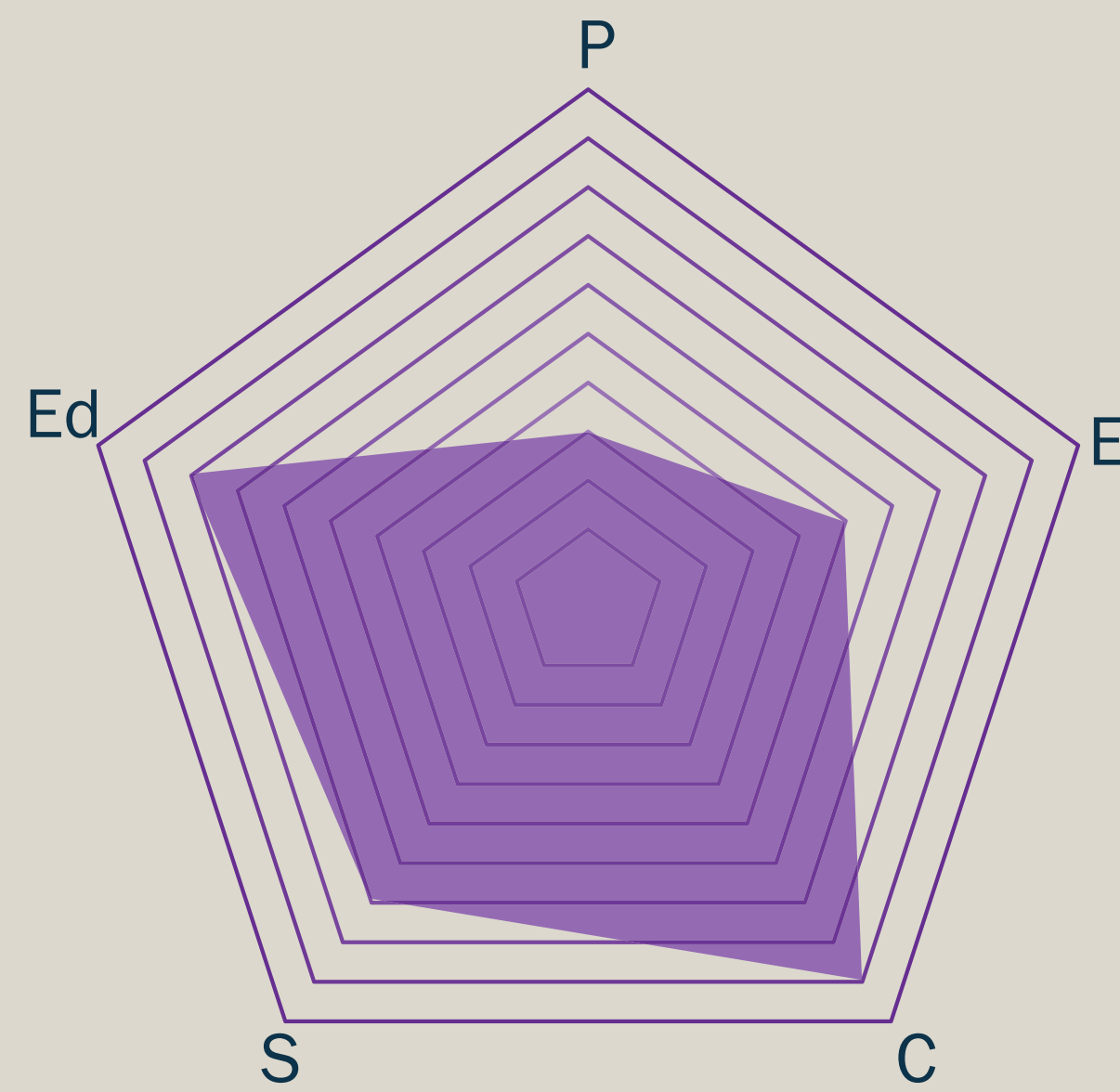
Pocket Garden



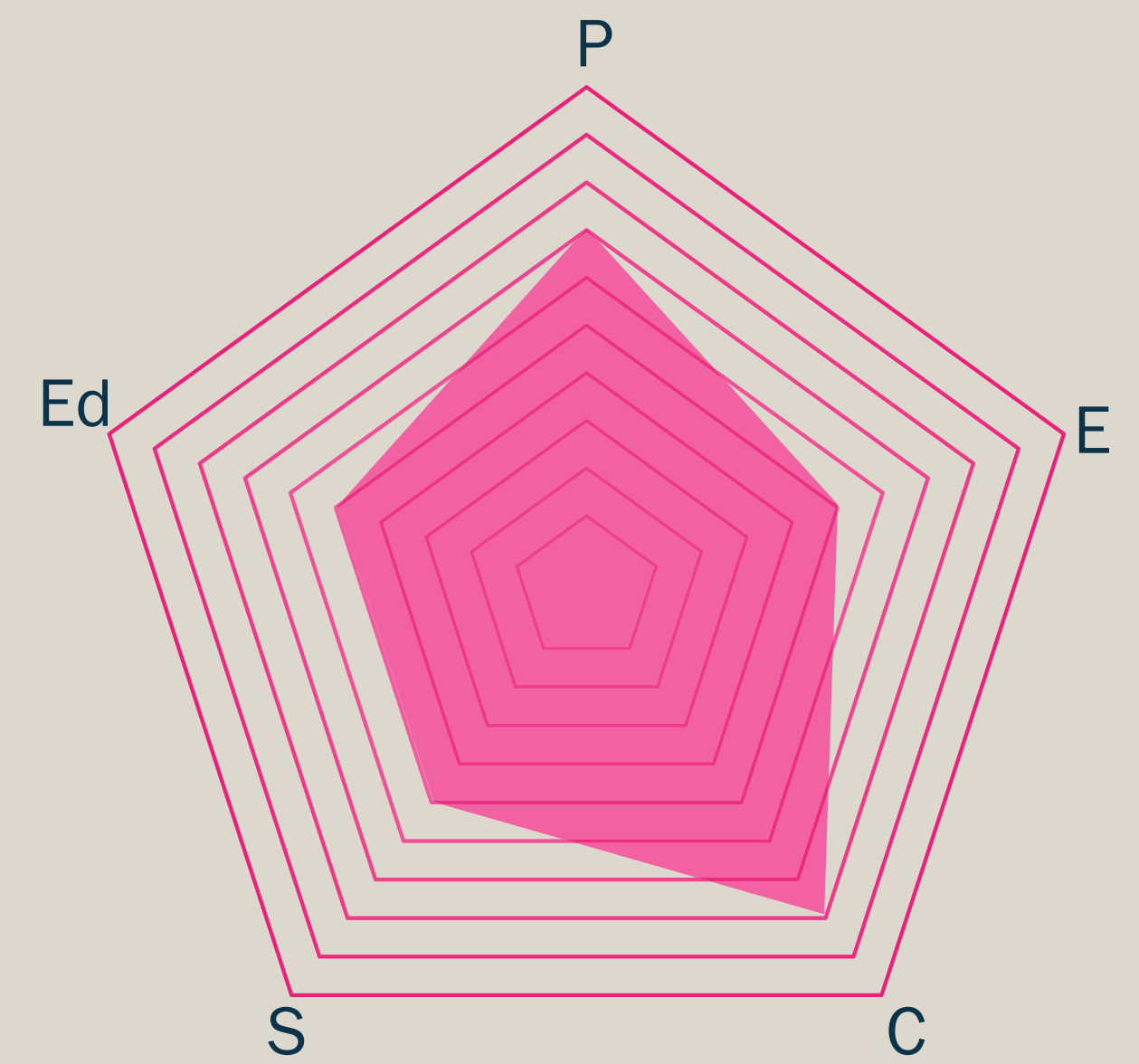
Interactions



Calmness



Entertainment



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