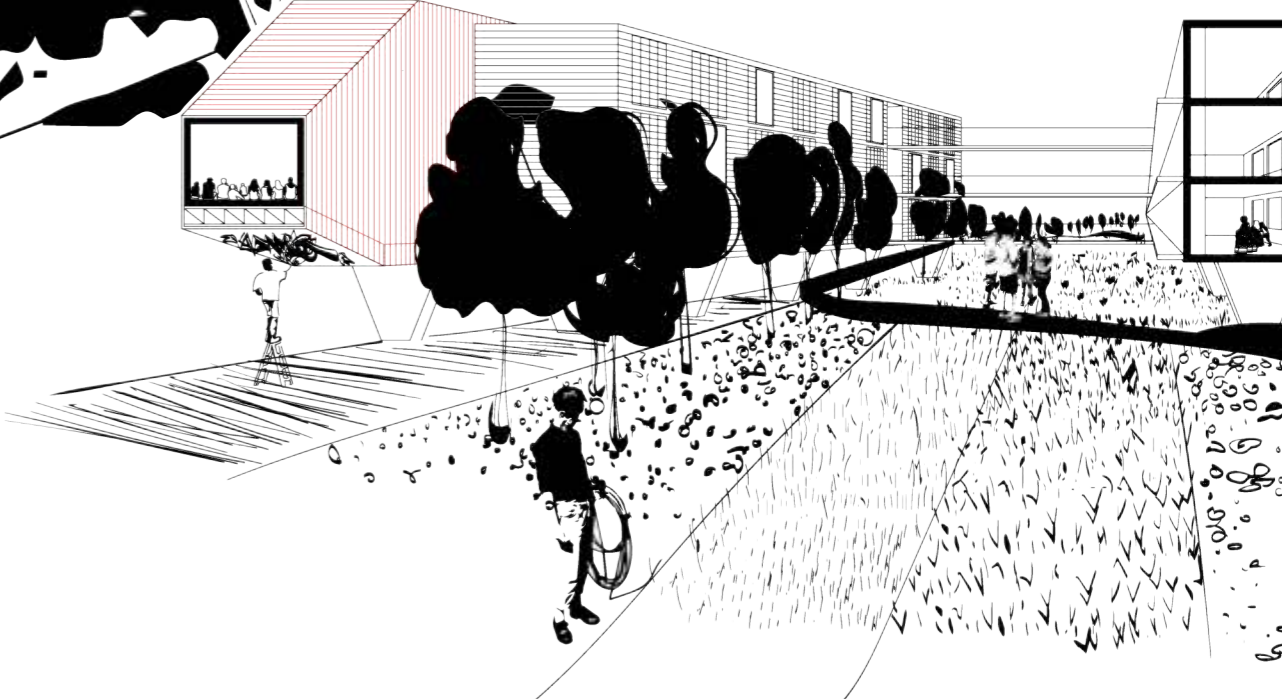
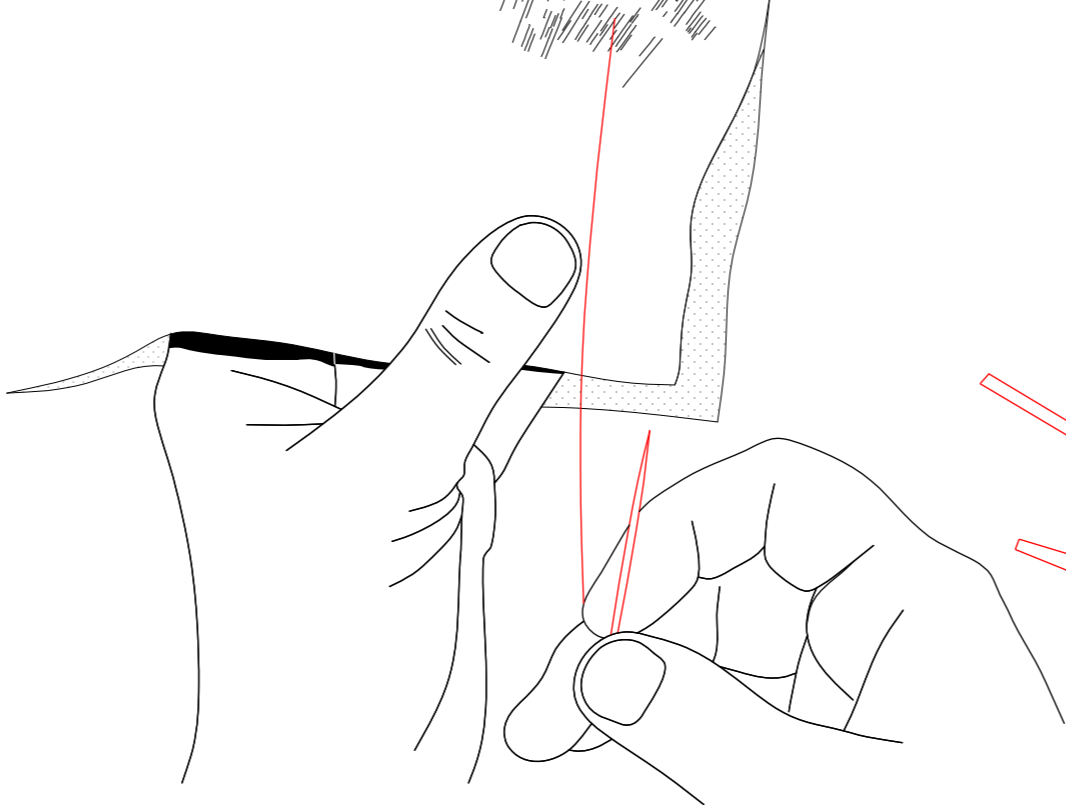
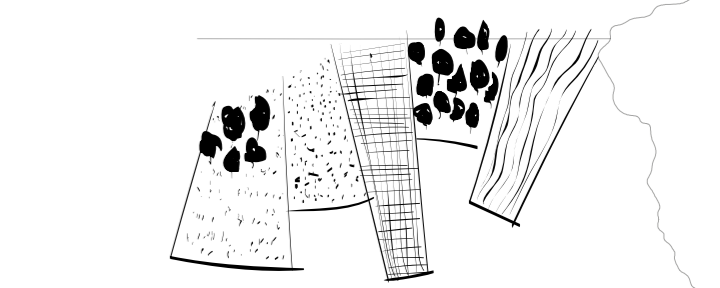
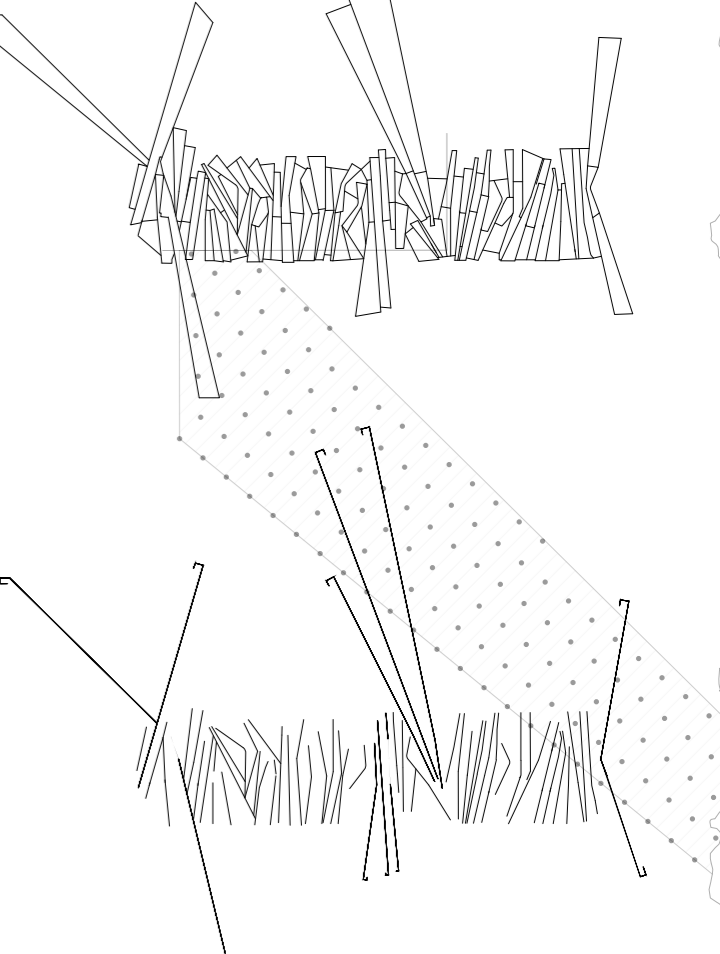
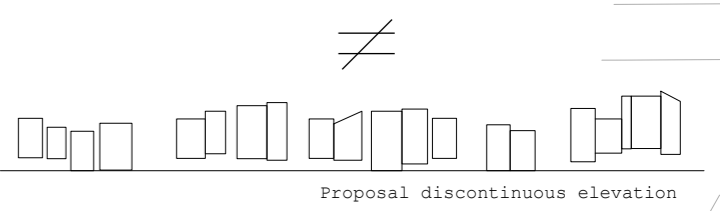
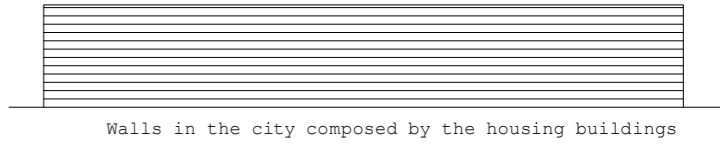


The project starts with the identification of the deficiencies and contradictions of the place and then inverts them. One of its fundamental premises is to try to bring together the countryside and the city. The aim is to recover a part of that forgotten territory, - at the same time adulterated by man-, by inserting it into the urban fabric of H-Buurt. Precisely, the longitudinal character of the fields, so characteristic of the Netherlands, is what allows sewing the existing urban fabric, because instead of putting on a single line on the map where the building will be constructed, multiple ones are drawn, where new homes will be created.

The houses proposed are linear blocks. However, they are inversely proportional to the already existing ones, since the intention here is to break the endless facades of this residential area, favouring a discontinuity that will enrich the public space. The large and elongated facades now appear fractured, in support of narrow parts of variable height, which enhance the transversality of the landscape.

On the other hand, these residential buildings rise from level zero, that is to say, from that inhabited by humans so that public space prevails over constructed space. This is done to return to the citizen what has always been theirs: the public space. Under the buildings, paths, parks and small forests exist with the aim that there be multiple areas where children can play, couples can have a walk along, or the elders can stop and sit in the shade of a tree. The entire surface of intervention is intended to be a large green area where one can enjoy both the countryside and the city. Some of the green traces that project over the area, stretch to venture into zones not necessarily related to that of the proposed intervention. These trails that expand are green benches full of fruit trees and aromatic plants, in such a way that the perspective continues along the tree trunks. These trees, just like ranks of soldiers, will seem to move through the areas with the objective of joining and clipping different sectors that were previously disconnected.

On the other hand, within the green zones proposed in the area of intervention, there are dedicated spaces for cultivation. The aim is that these will serve not only for the supply of the inhabitants of this residential area but also to form a production cooperative. This way, food grown in these spaces can be sold, thus creating jobs. Others zones are proposed as zones with sand, grass or pavement for pedestrian ways.

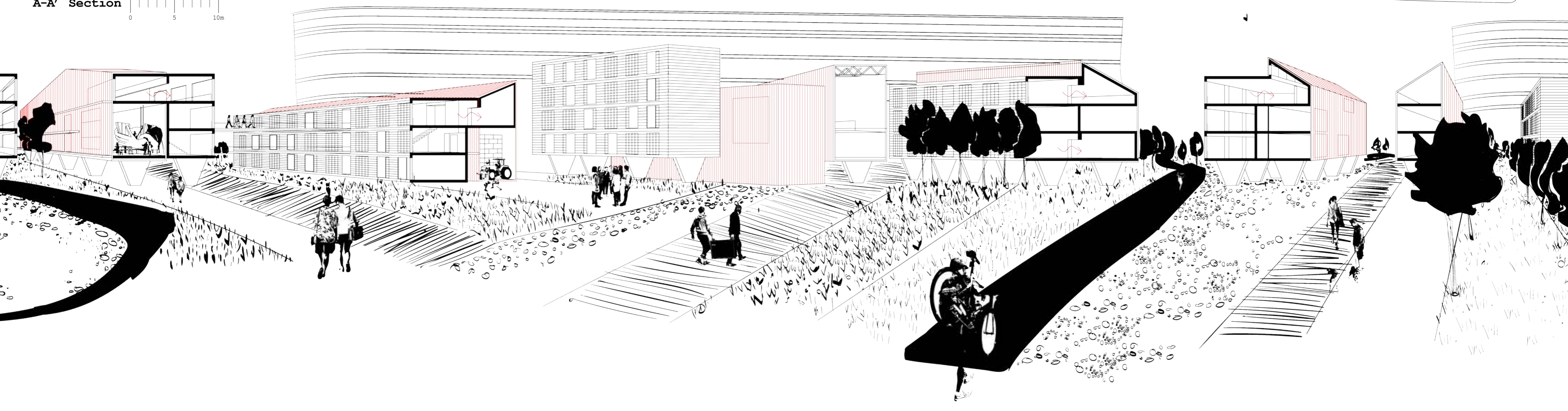


Current view and proposal



General Plan | 0 50 100m

A-A' Section | 0 5 10m



Expandable houses

In some cases, such as when there are duplex, the space aimed for alternative uses to housing, such as office, storage, workshop or community work spaces do not provide access through the upper floor of the duplex. This is because the gallery only gives access to the lower floor, and therefore to the establishments/premises of said floor. That is why these spaces have an inside staircase to access the upper floor.
The access is a light and movable metal staircase. The object of this distribution is that if in the upper floor houses do not buy this space for themselves, then they can continue to be accessible from the lower floor. The forging of such plant will not reach the enclosure. The tenant who buys the premises of the top floor of the duplex must forge a small part to isolate his property from the lower floor. This is unless the tenant decides to rent the lower floor to start his/her business.

The ensemble has a north-south orientation so that the main façades are oriented East-West, with the purpose of obtaining the highest number of light hours. Both the houses and the expandable parts breathe through a single facade and are opposed so that all rooms get ventilation since the surface area of the houses is bigger.

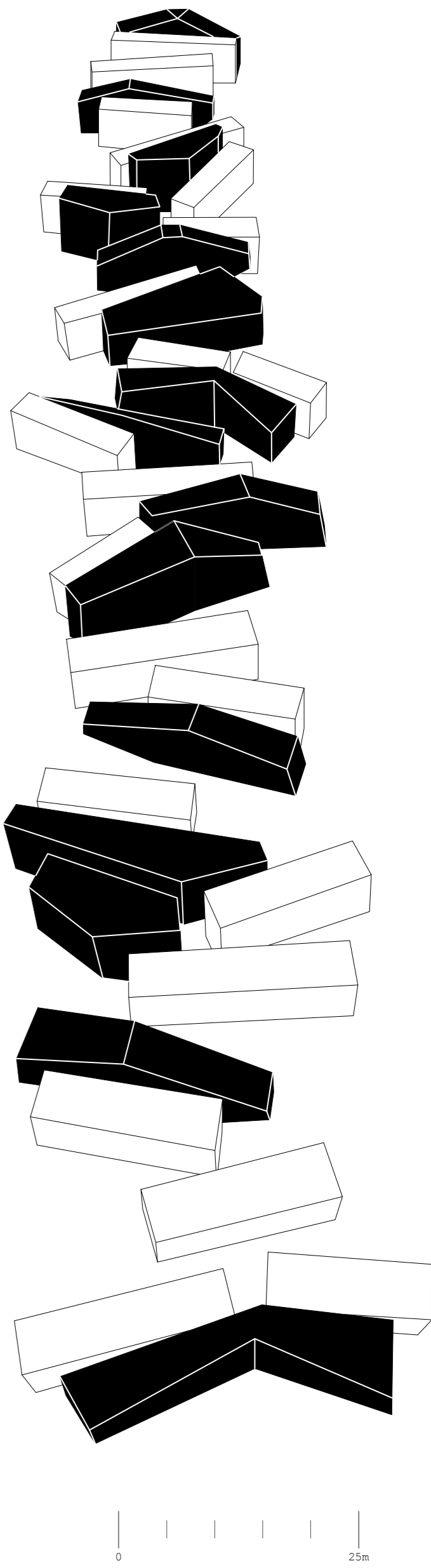
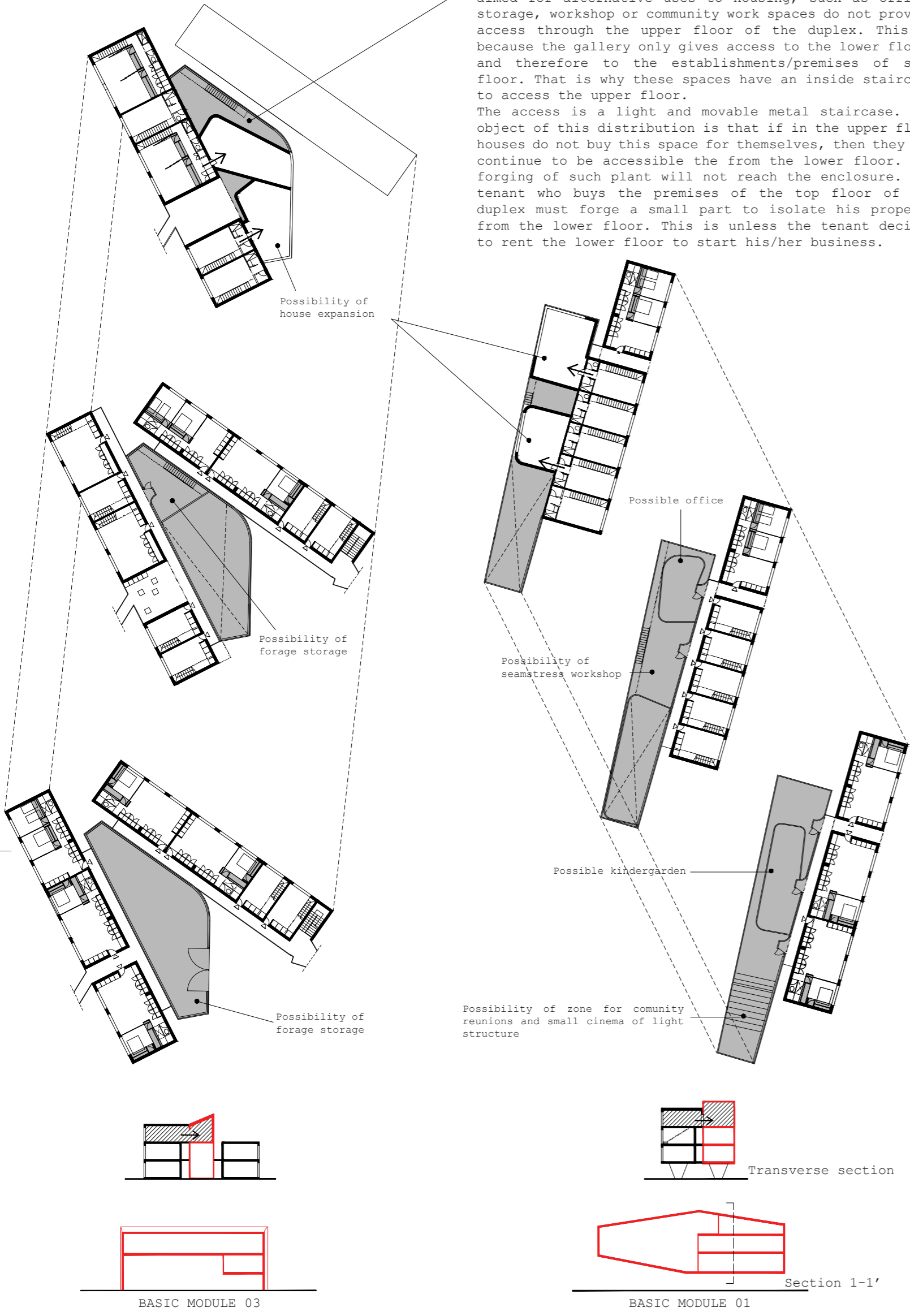
The materials proposed are the following:

- The housing set is made of black bricks, an equally black closure system will protect its large windows. This structure will leave the assemblage completely opaque when all inhabitants close said system of protection. However, in most cases, these systems will be open in some flats or rooms and closed in others, thus yielding a building with an ever-changing image.

- On the contrary, the "expandable" parts are made of a much more delicate material: a metallic structure wrapped in translucent greenhouse sheets. This brings, above all, a sense of transparency. The opacity of the housing set contrasts remarkably with this luminosity. Thus, anyone can have a glimpse of the fodder and the hay of the farm warehouses; or the wood piled up by a carpenter; even big oeuvres made by artists. Furthermore, in the background, the silhouette of the residential part is insinuated through this lightweight enclosure, appearing distorted, almost camouflaged.

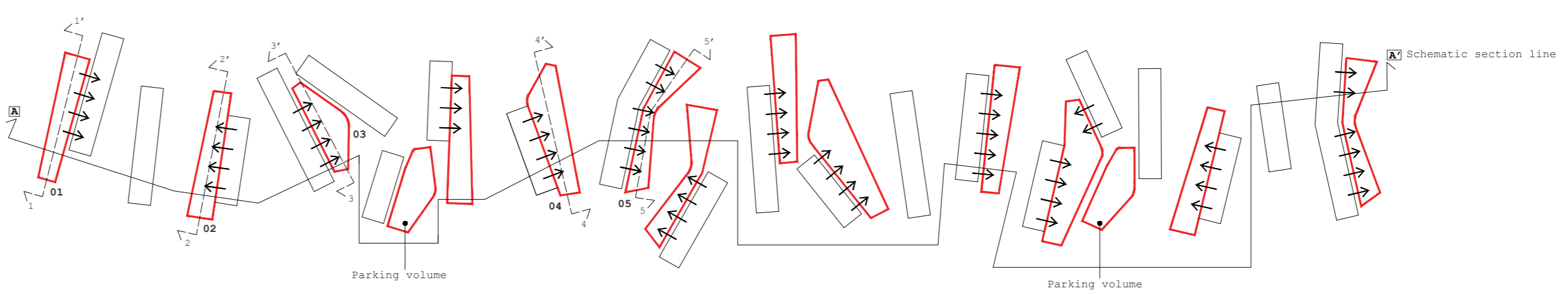
It is important to have in mind that the windows of these parts are holes that will be free when the translucent panels, which are also part of them, slide laterally. Therefore, the gaps are actually projected elements. However, we propose that the mass of enclosure, necessary for the housing, remains unbuilt until the ensemble is bought and habitated as a living space. Meanwhile, only a minimum number of layers will be built, of which the finishing touch will be the greenhouse sheet. Thus, the costs of these "expandable" parts will be minimised. It will be the owner of the house that will build the enclosure as he enlarges the house. This way of constructing the space, which can be discussed, causes the opacity of the ensemble to increase as the housing surface takes over the "expandable" one. There are, in all parts of the project, areas that cannot expand. In some cases, because it would prevent correct ventilation. In most cases, because the plan is that, even after buying more terrain to increase housing space, areas destined to other purposes can continue to exist. Thus, the areas of tall heights, or those that coincide with the ground floor of the projected duplex, will always serve as warehouses, recreational areas, workshops for artists, etc..

These drawings of the expandable bags are schemes, the growth of the house, or the offices, workshops, etc., will be in one way or another depending on the demand.



One of the key aspects of the project are the pieces that hold the new uses that will be hosted in this mainly residential area. We have coined them as "expandable" bags. These parts contain (among other things): warehouses to store characteristic machinery of the countryside; workshops for artists who need to work with large volume oeuvres, offices, areas for community work, leisure centres, small day care centres, neighbourhood community meeting space with stands, free areas at higher heights... These uses are not separated from the housing but are widely shared by them, for between these and those there are often communicating galleries.

However, these "expandable" bags that contain such uses will also serve to expand the housing, -that is, to increase its area-. It should be kept in mind that they are party walls with the residential spaces so that there is only one wall that separates them. The community and the homeowner must agree to sell, on the one hand, and to buy or rent, on the contrary, part of the "expandable" pieces. Therefore, if a person wants to increase the surface area of her home, she only needs to buy part of the neighbouring piece, pull the wall that separates her two properties, and then expand her home. Another possibility is to just communicate her home directly with her work area. This option leads to a sort of hybridization between housing and work.



Flexible Housing

