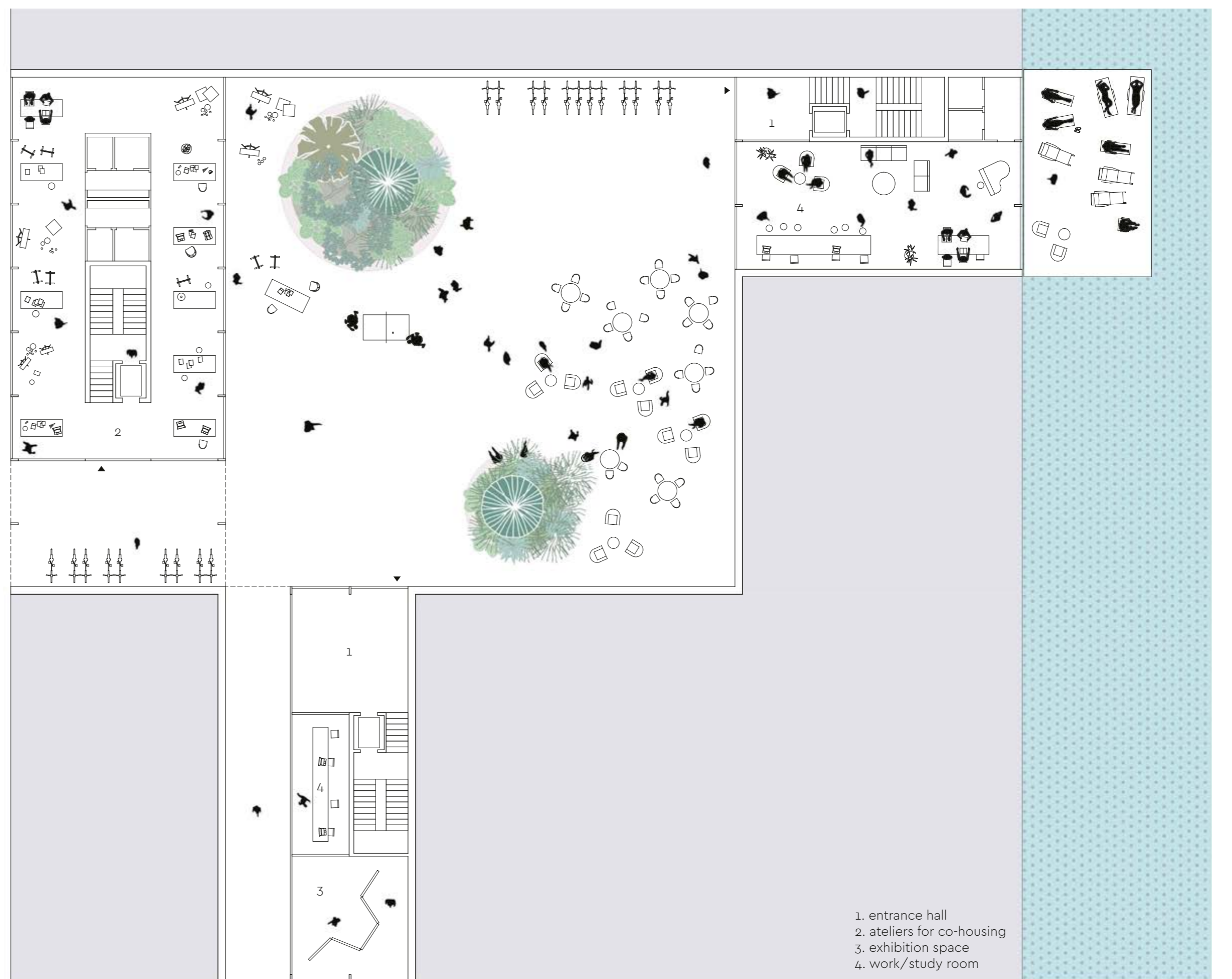


Ground floor plan - Work/study room overlooking the canal (4)



Ground floor plan - Artist/creative workers ateliers for co-housing extending in the courtyard (2)



0 1 2 10
1:200

**AN OPEN NEIGHBOURHOOD
ACTIVATING SOCIAL EXCHANGE**

Free up the "center"

Within an area often characterized by a highly fragmented ownership that therefore implies bizarre plot shapes in the case of plots groupage, the strategy is to fill the borders this way gaining a double benefit: against a future denser urban environment, built limit operates as an interface through which it is possible establishing meaningful connections between "inside" and "outside".

City-neighbourhood interactions

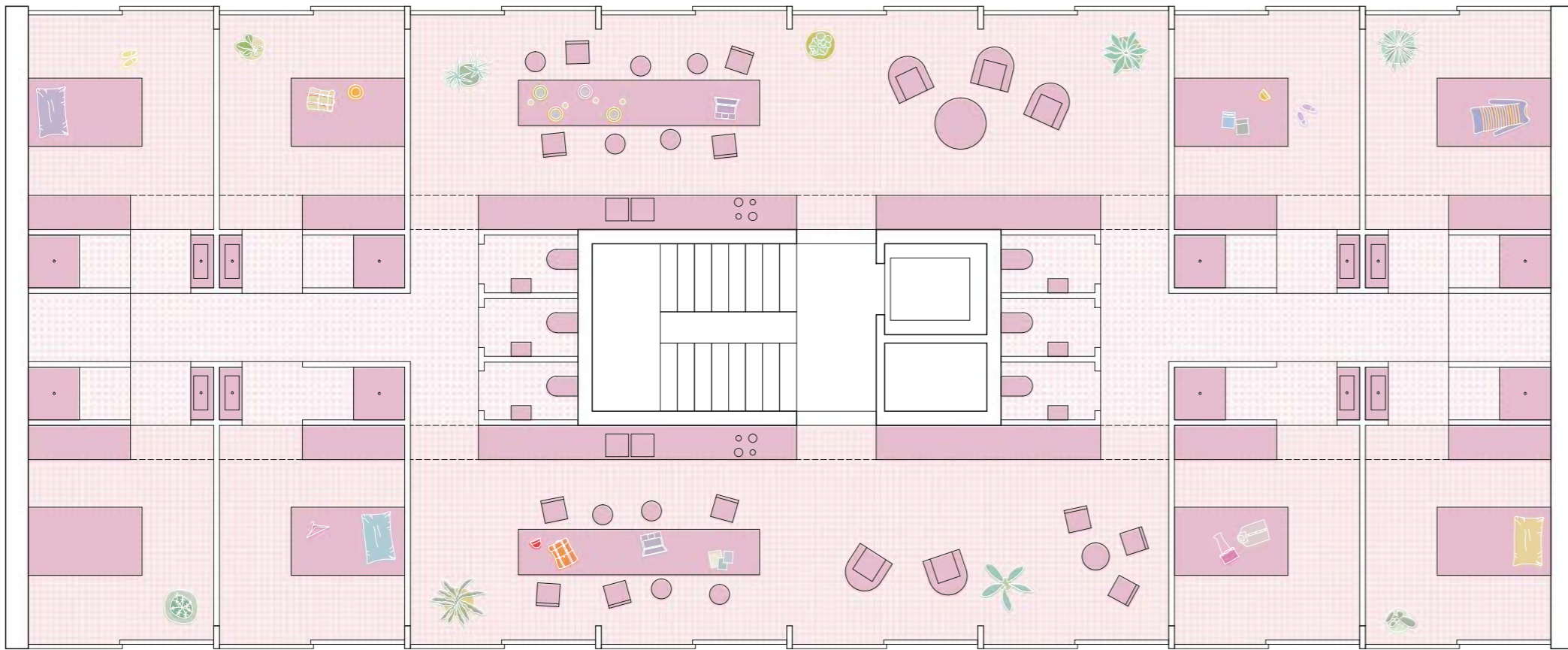
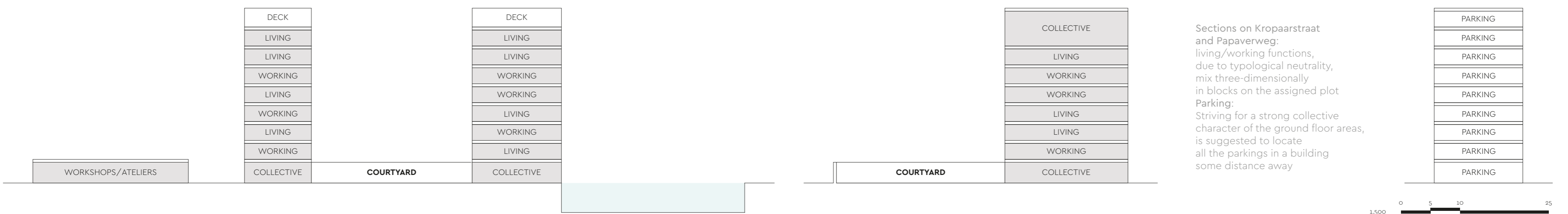
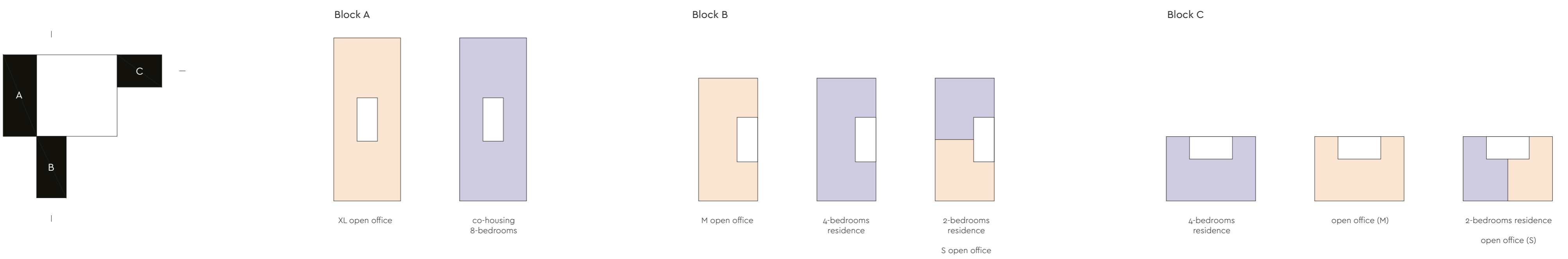
Inner freed up space is the living core of the settlement: conceived as a semi-public space, but at the same time clearly shaped by the architectural volumes, here highly differentiated activities, both extensions of private spheres and public incursions, take place and discover a fertile meeting point. The design of the pavement is the architectural device through which transition between public and private spheres is controlled: this is the main task that design process aims to suggest, leaving as consequently physical inhabitation of this open-air space free and informal.

Neighbours interactions

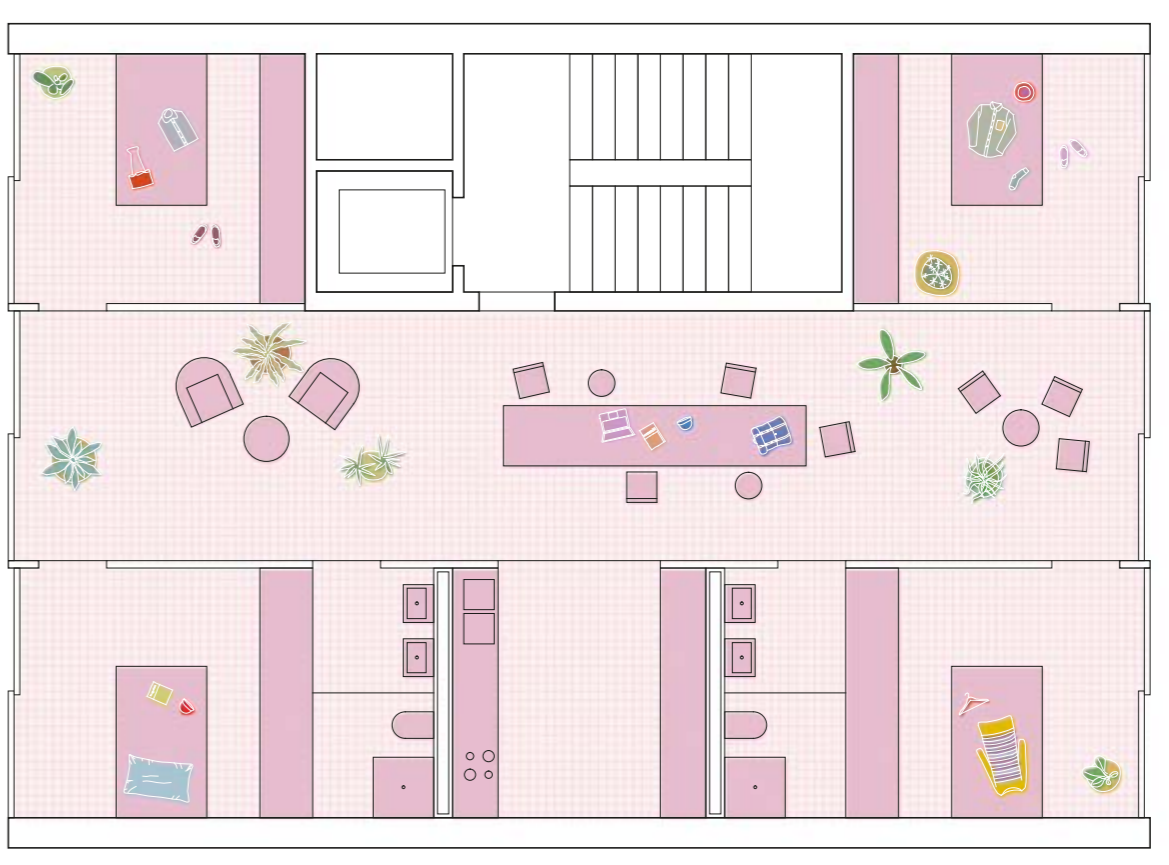
With the aim to be an alternative to traditional dwellings blocks based on nuclear families exclusive presence - which, in the best cases timidly allow coexistence with some different activities on the basement floors - here a diversified and colourful three - dimensional mix of uses happens. Due to the extremely flexible typology, that hybridizes houses and offices ones, a further design phase would aim to support a well-balanced coexistence of ateliers, cohousings, home/office, family houses at all the blocks levels.

Home-mates interactions

Being occupancy by young people sharing a house the most likely in a close future, at least at the beginning, the hypothesized dwelling layouts are mainly intended for them. Even if flexibility could support many formal alternative, central idea is always to provide restrained but comfortable private areas that, following the leading logic at all scales, open up on generous and vibrant communal zones where meeting and sharing life.



Block A/Co-housing standard level:
individual rooms, essentially equipped, relate to large communal spaces



Block C/four bedrooms unit standard level

**HOUSING THE UNCERTAINTY
TOWARDS A NEUTRAL SPACE**

Load-bearing structure

Limiting load-bearing vertical structures to external areas, completely frees up internal space and makes it apt to easily accommodate very different layouts according to repentine changes in real estate market during the development phase, multifaceted customers' life styles and various social models, needs updating over time. All the dry-assembled internal partitions are removeable.

Ubiquitous infrastructures

Sandwich floors integrating all ductwork - here including warming and cooling systems - guarantee free uses of spaces. Indeed, what mostly restrains the use of a space to a predetermined scheme is often the position of infrastructures: the kitchen is there and cannot be somewhere else since the gas is supplied to a specific point. Fix elements of the floor are therefore reduced to the vertical service column.

Home/Office

Above-mentioned features makes houses resembling more and more to offices and this perfectly fits the ongoing trend that sees these two fields overlapping: nowadays we can have a Skype call at our lunch table, email on the sofa, schedule a work meeting in the bar at our house corner; moreover companies that, in order to reduce commuting and improve productivity, choose for telework as the main modality are always improving. By strengthening the role of communal areas within the units, this proposal envisions that these spaces could act also as home co-working areas for young people sharing a residence.

Pret-a-porter architecture

Highly standardized, easily found and cheap components and materials become the main ingredients for buildings construction. Mass housing architecture - if not already public architecture in general - cannot afford anymore to be an artisanal practice if it is really interested to compete with pervasive speculation: it is necessary to change standing point and reverse this economy of means - that financial crisis stretched to limit - to own advantage. Quality achieved by some industrial architecture in the decades following the Second World War act as a model.