

Reflection Site Axo Diagram

Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 25
Too many citizens are left homeless or without adequate housing in Europe, in the Netherlands and even in Tilburg. Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and wellbeing of themselves including housing.

Statement
"Wonen is een recht" is a building which does not solve the housing crisis but dedicates itself to the architectural pursuit of finding a solution.

The project dedicates itself to tackling the most two pressing issues architects and the construction industry face. That is meeting the requirements of Article 25 in the Declaration of Human Rights to provide adequate housing for humans and protecting our natural habitat. The project proposes to house an existing array of biodiversity while also allowing for new growth to flourish.

Netherlands is consistently one of the top 5 countries in the European Union with the highest GDP. Despite this fact, there is a housing crisis - there is a known homeless population of around 40,000 people a night, and a staggering shortage in affordable housing and lack of student accommodation. The country should be exemplary of the goals and ambitions of the European Union.

"Wonen is een recht" aims to equalize living conditions for every individual. A stimulant towards a world where every human is housed, no compromises. This is also the architect's responsibility.

Densifying Housing, Expanding Nature
People are first, but we cannot forget the land that we inhabit and co-habit with our fellow creatures. The urban strategy secures a maximum amount of area to be isolated from human contact. The interior of the project is left for nature to take back what was taken from it.

Architecture acts as a separating barrier between the natural and the human. When the natural is protected we humans also benefit. The environmental crisis is also real as the housing crisis.

Historical Dutch houses along a canal have been densifying the plot of land into thin slices. This strategy is taken on the plot, a thin and long building of 6 storeys high surrounding the natural oasis. Further the individual modules of the house are thin and long slices.

Biodiversity and Rewilding
The most striking aspect of the site is the abundance of natural environment, from the algae on the pond, the migrating geese, ducks and variety of bird species to the underwater fish. The ecology and biodiversity of this site and it's linking to the Green Link running towards the city center is vital to protect. Although the humans cannot come into contact with the internal environment of the nature reserve. The biological species will be able to move in and out with ease through the design of specific natural corridors.

The hanging structure is lifted off of the ground allowing for 200-500mm of space for wildlife to easily flow in and out from beneath the building.

This will be connected to the green loop which surrounds the reflection site. At the moment the train tracks and bicycle paths prevent for a complete green connection. Specific urban interventions will be planned in each node such as a green corridor underneath the bicycle tunnel and a lightweight bridge over the train tracks.

Urban Connections
The bicycle paths around the site are clearly vital for quick connection to the train station. We believe that the bike path on the east should be rerouted as it currently creates an unsafe situation at the southern east corner of the project site where bicycles are turning onto oncoming traffic and pedestrians are at this corner as well. Along the perimeters of the building there will be adequate walking lanes for pedestrians. On the western site of the project site there is a walkway across the pond to better connect the residents on the existing Northern residential buildings towards the train station.

The Woonwagewenbouners Community
On the South end of the reflection site there is an existing community of Caravan Dwellers. Historically this community of Caravan Dwellers have been discriminated against and have been moved from their living spaces. The intention of the reflection site is to provide more space to them as reparations for previously taking away their spaces of inhabitation. It is a violation to move these residents.

The Public Corners
Each of the public corners will support the Kenniskwartier and be focused around the housing and environmental crisis. For the people in the emergency shelters there can be food banks, laundry, canteen, social support services, shared outdoor terrace spaces, child care spaces, unemployment support networks and a community cafe.

This is a great opportunity for start up and scale up businesses to rent or purchase property on the corner. But the only rule is that the business is involved in hiring people from the emergency shelters or be actively involved in the housing/environmental crisis.

The Phasing
At the beginning there will be community workshops to better understand all the stakeholders involved in the project. The caravan dwellers, the existing housing residents, the students, the cyclists, the new arrivals, the vulnerable citizens affected by the housing crisis, the new businesses wanting to move or expand.

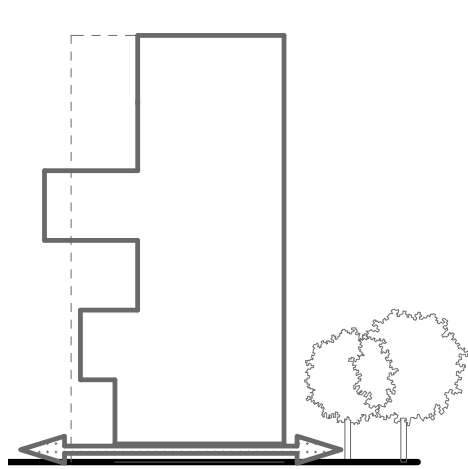
First will be light structure to cordon the natural area off from humans. Although the neighborhood seems to enjoy using the pond, they will have space on the adjacent site to the west to site by the pond.

The corner building at the site nearest to the train station will be erected with the one module of 10 structural frames and subsequently the housing blocks will be hung. This process will continue until the entire 'border' is complete.

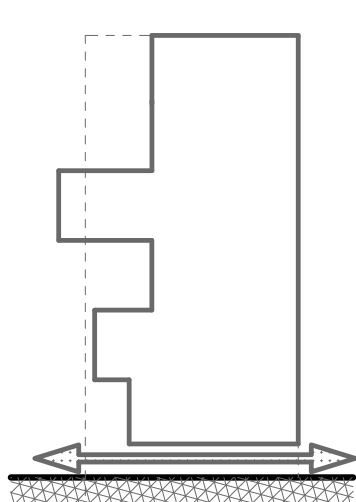
As needed, the residents will be able to expand their units outdoors and not be concerned of the structural integrity as it will all be able to be hung by the existing frame and cables.

The Community Garden
The community garden must be relocated with this strategy. We have actively decided to place a biodiverse natural environment and densifying housing above maintaining the community garden in it's current state. It is vital to keep the precious local residents who currently care for the garden as a part of the community, there will be extensive workshops with the people of the community garden to work through relocating them in the reflection site and the public corner buildings.

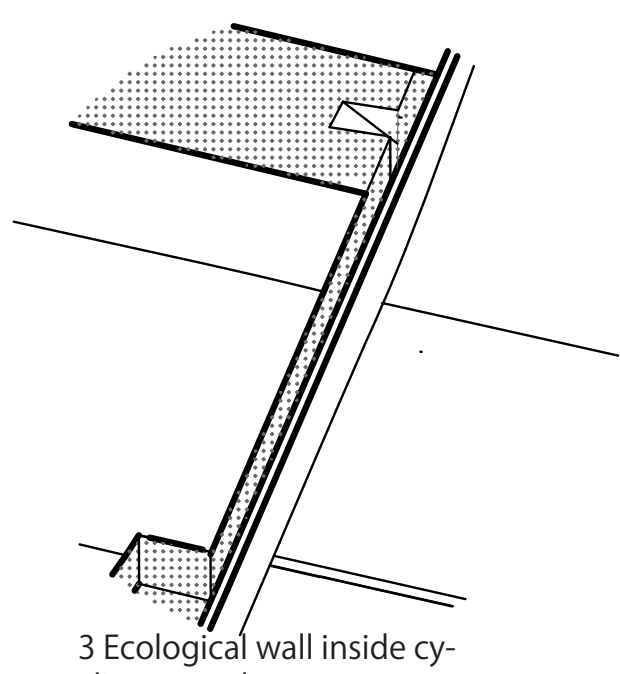
This is a decision that was not taken lightly and must weigh the impact between different actions.



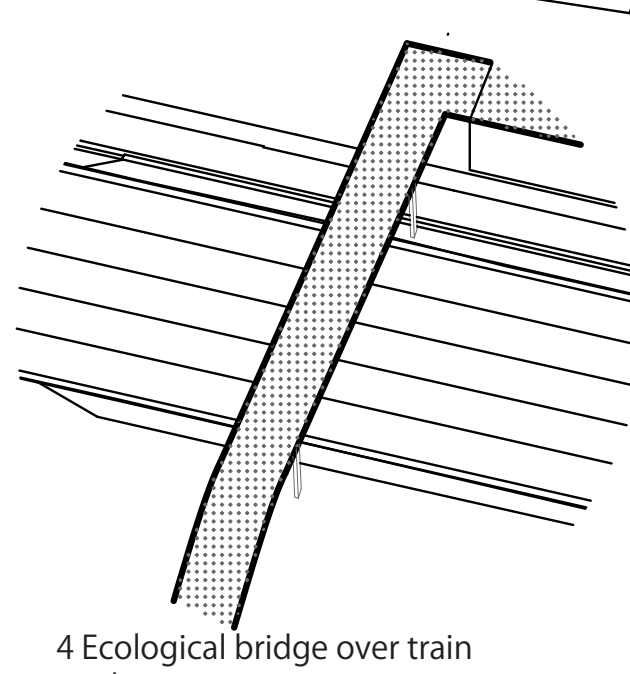
1 Animal Crossing below building



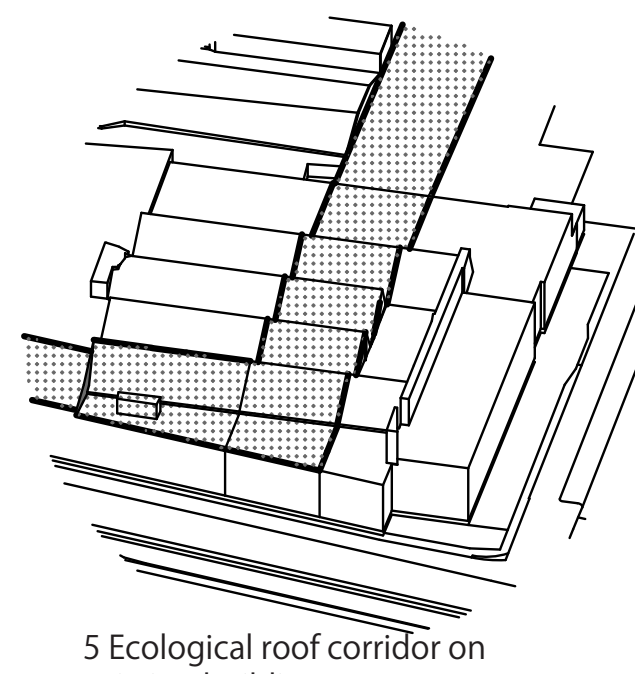
2 Ecological water connection under building



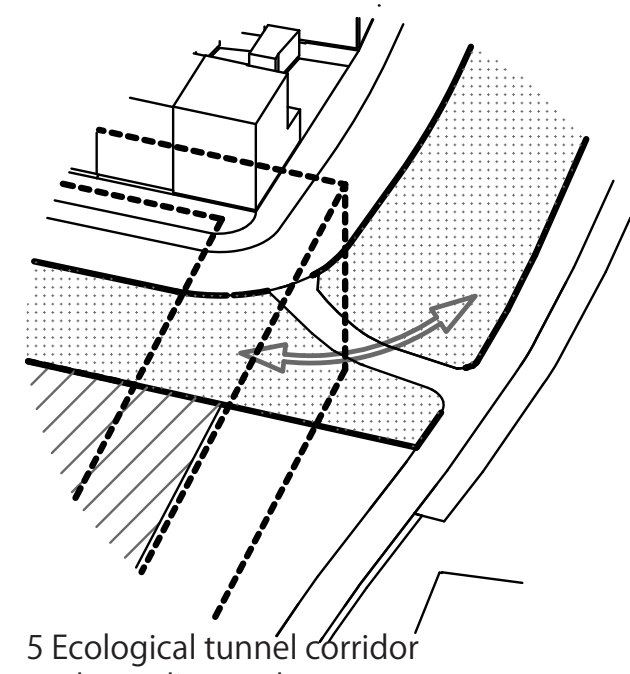
3 Ecological wall inside cycling tunnel



4 Ecological bridge over train tracks



5 Ecological roof corridor on existing buildings

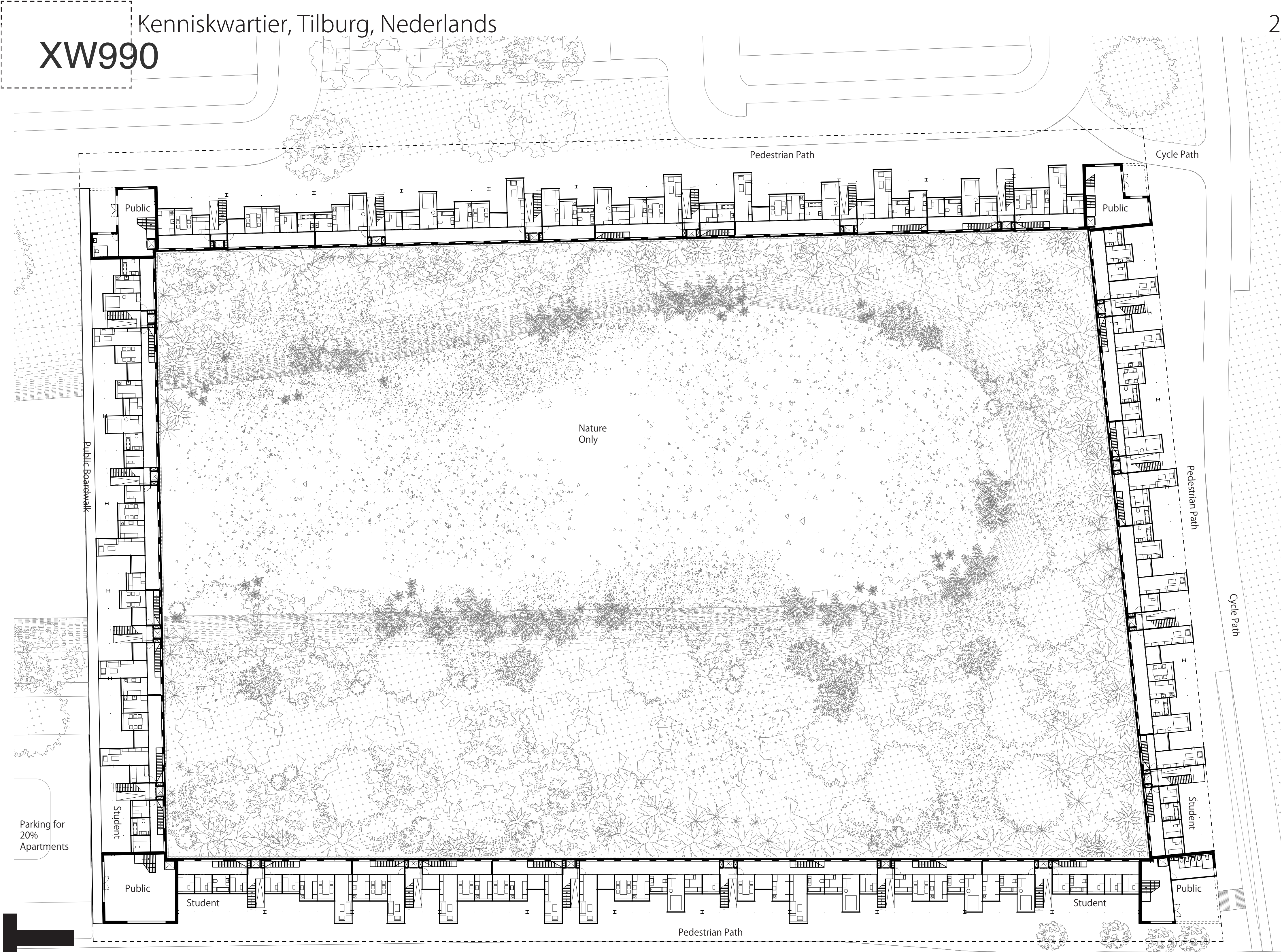


5 Ecological tunnel corridor under cycling path

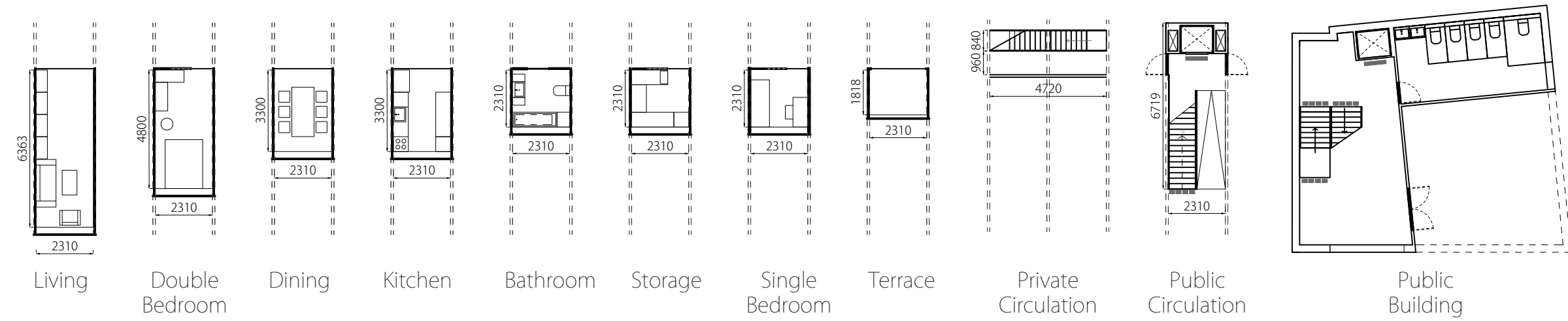
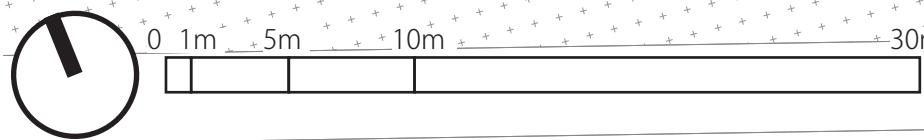
Micro Interventions at Special Conditions



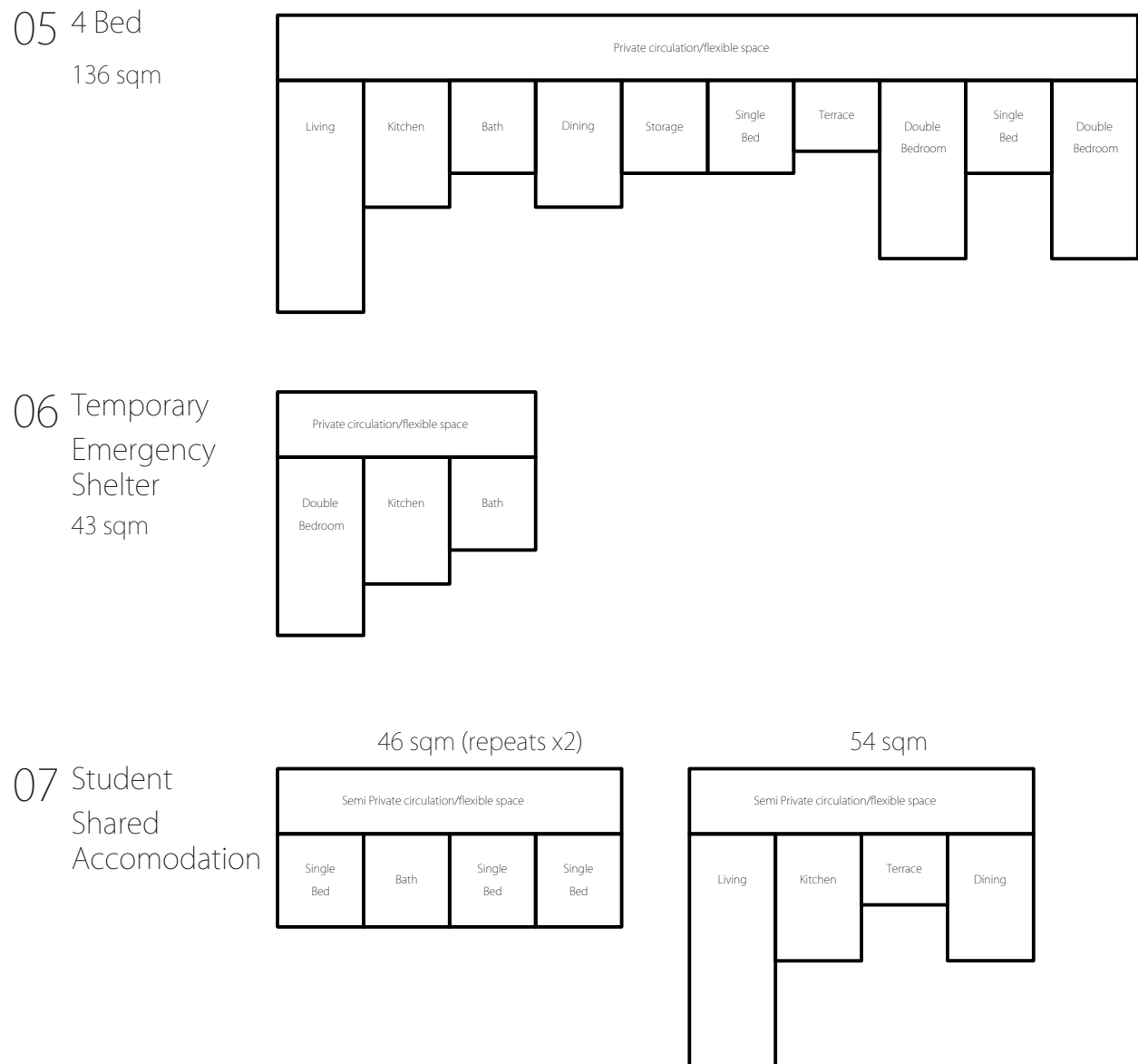
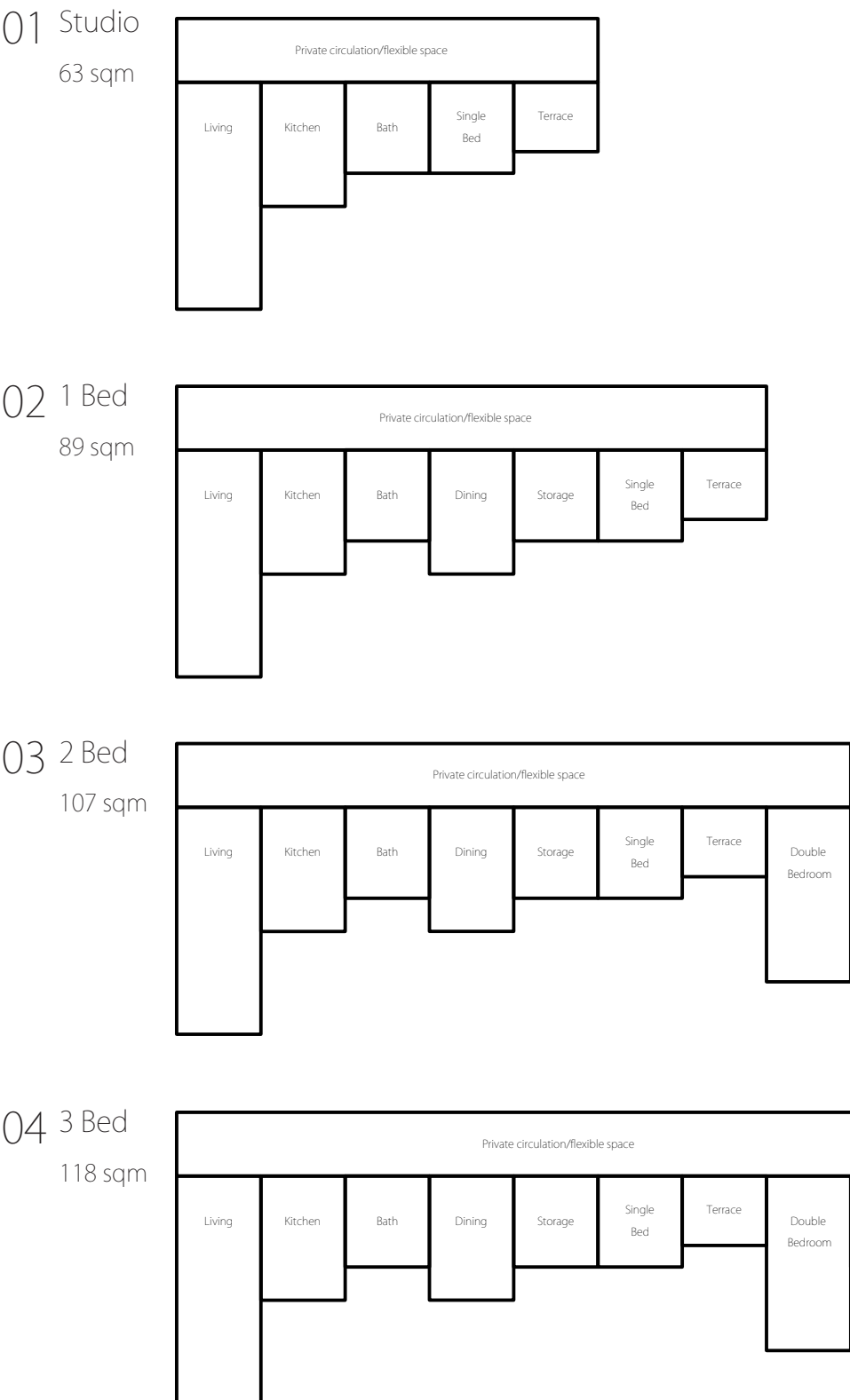
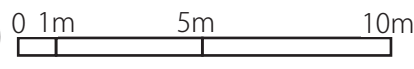
No Human Access - Only Nature on Interior



First Floor Plan 1:300



5% Higher Than The Bouwbesluit Regels Block Types 1:200

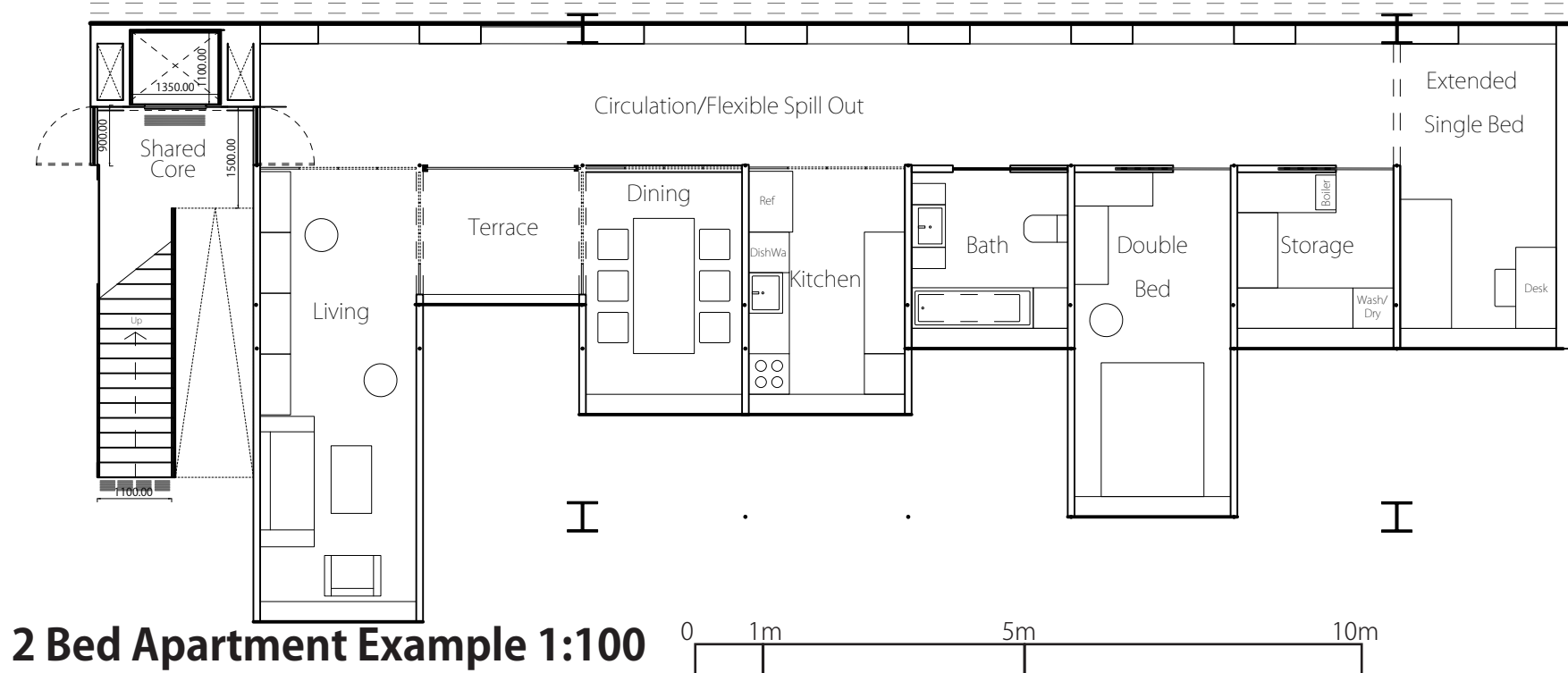
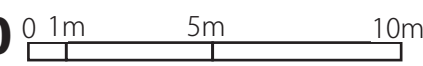


Minimum Standards
Apartments are stackable, minimum two grid width to accommodate internal staircase when more than one level. Each space takes into account the minimum requirements plus 5% for a wheelchair user. Thus all apartments could be accessible for wheelchair visitors. Elderly and Limited Mobility Apartments to be across one level only.

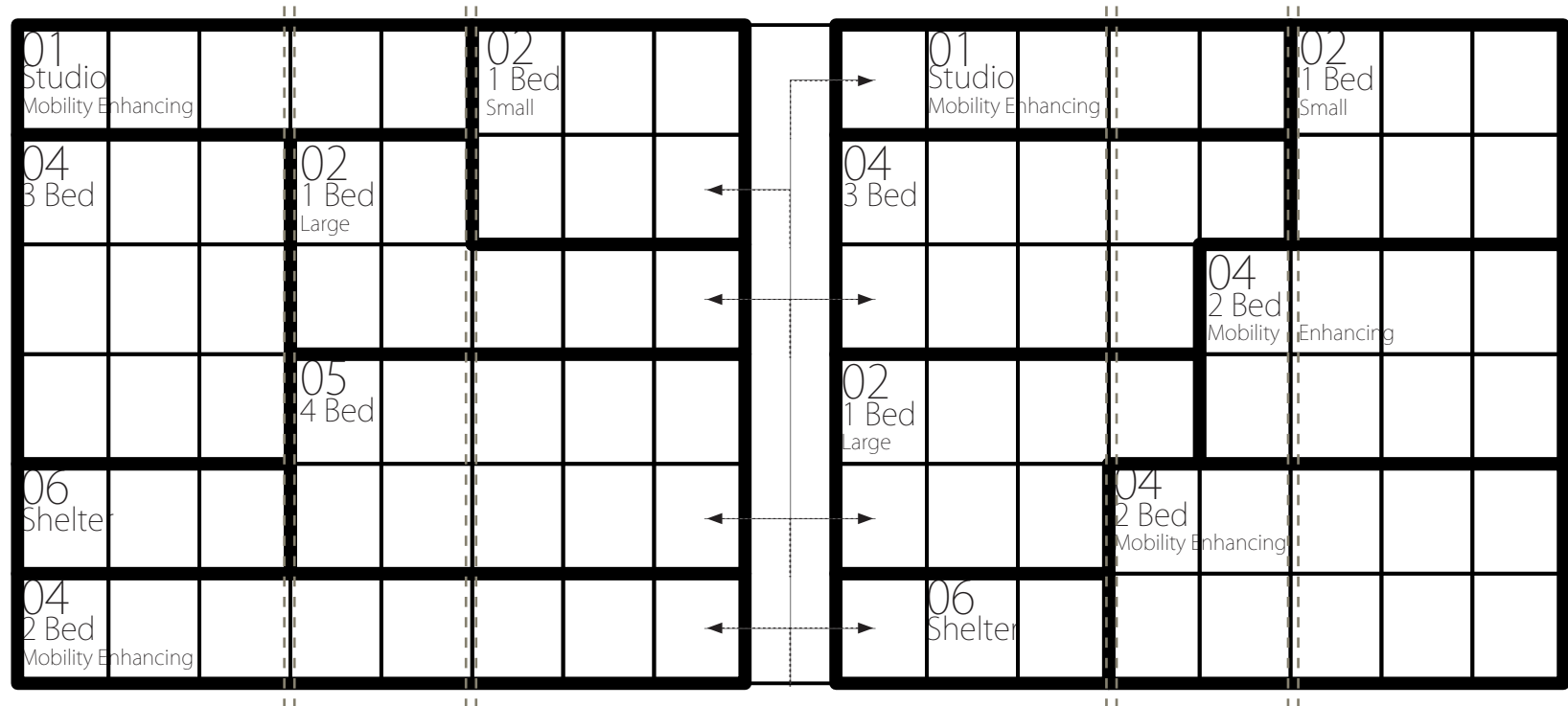
Arrangements can differ depending on variety of factors such as existing adjacency, MEP service grid location, access from vertical circulation core from one side minimum, and individual preference if involved in pre-concept.

Essentially residents will decide which space functions to their desired needs. The naming of spaces is based on modernist living divisions.

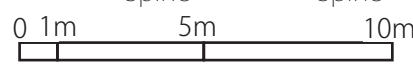
Livable Apartment Types 1:200



2 Bed Apartment Example 1:100



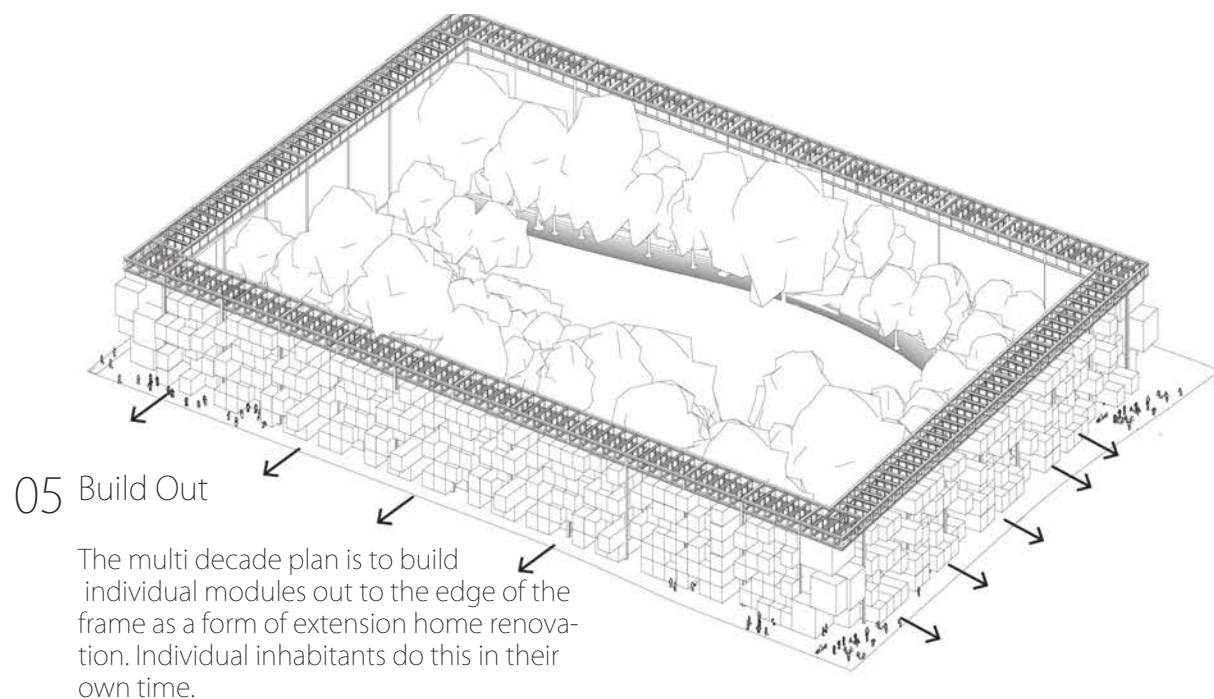
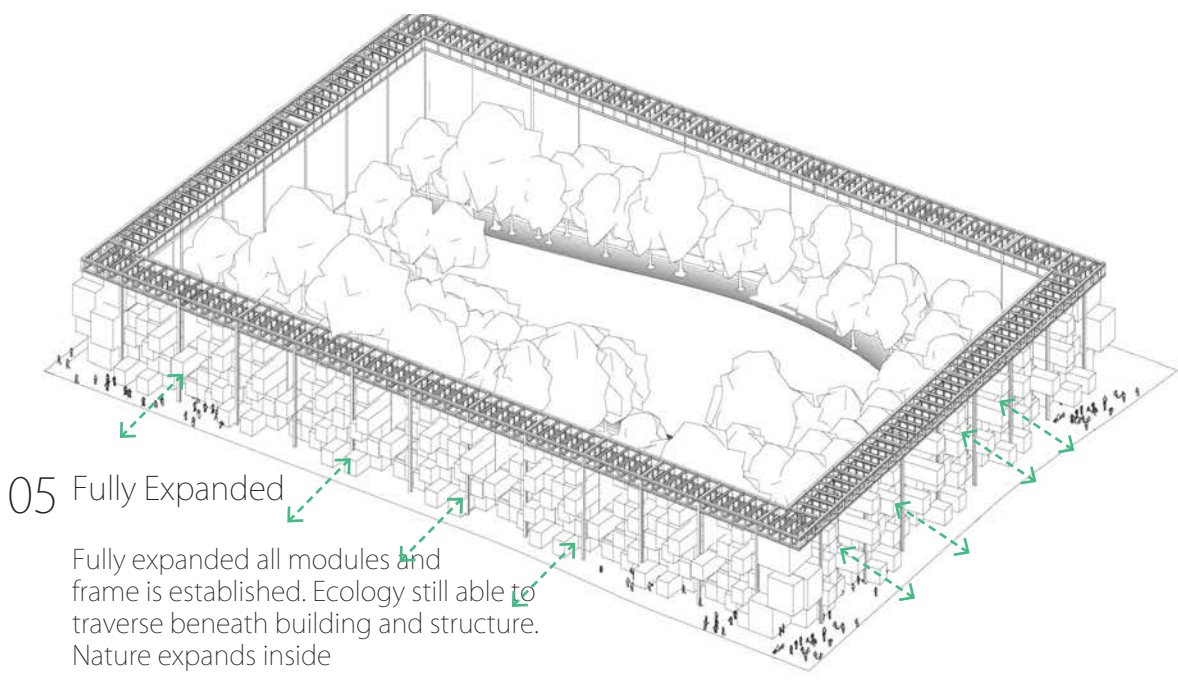
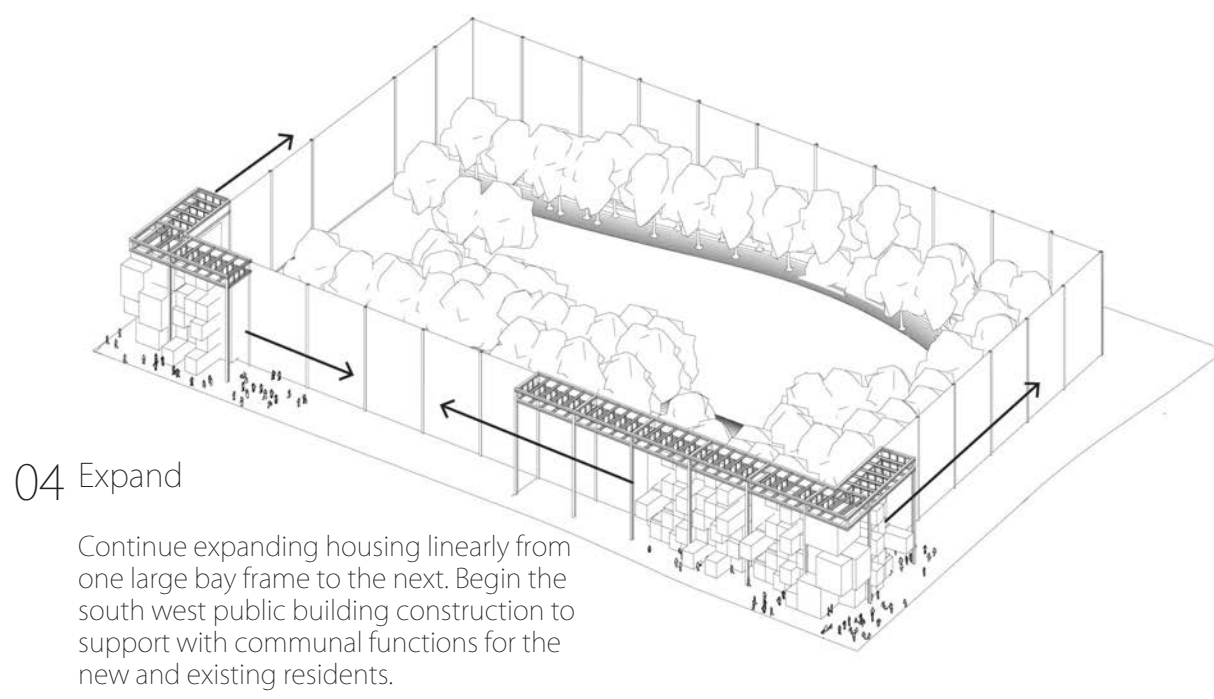
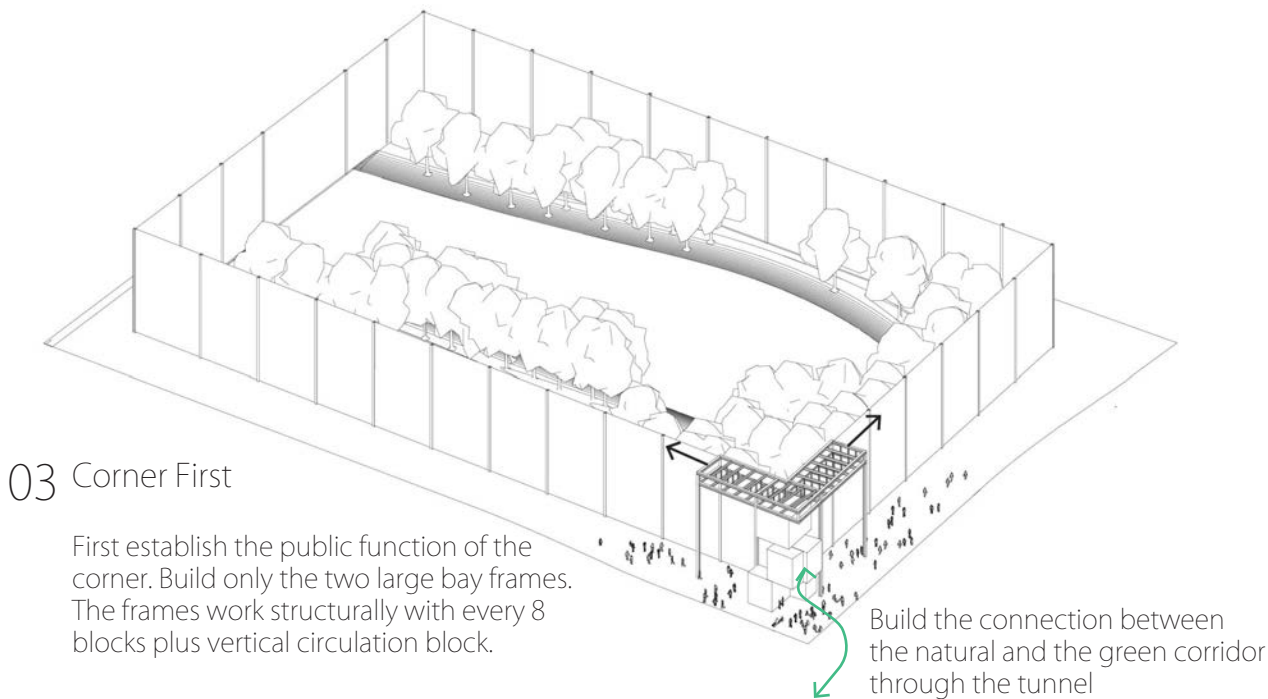
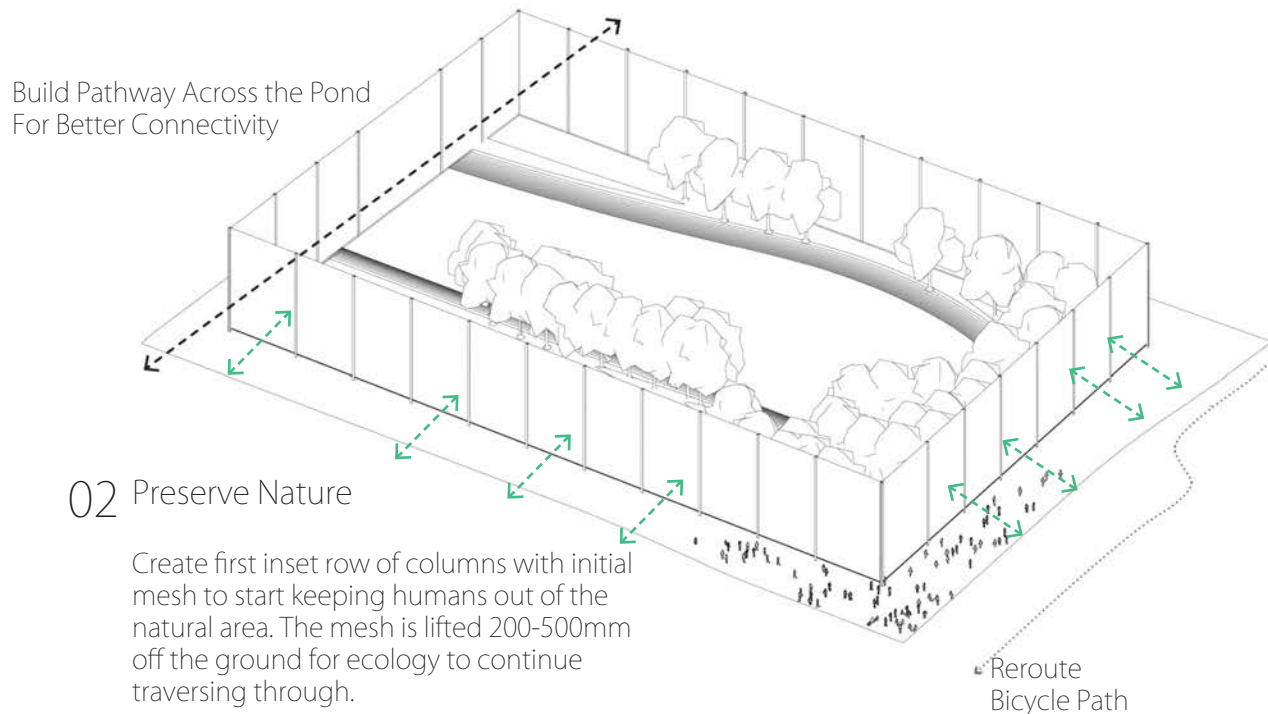
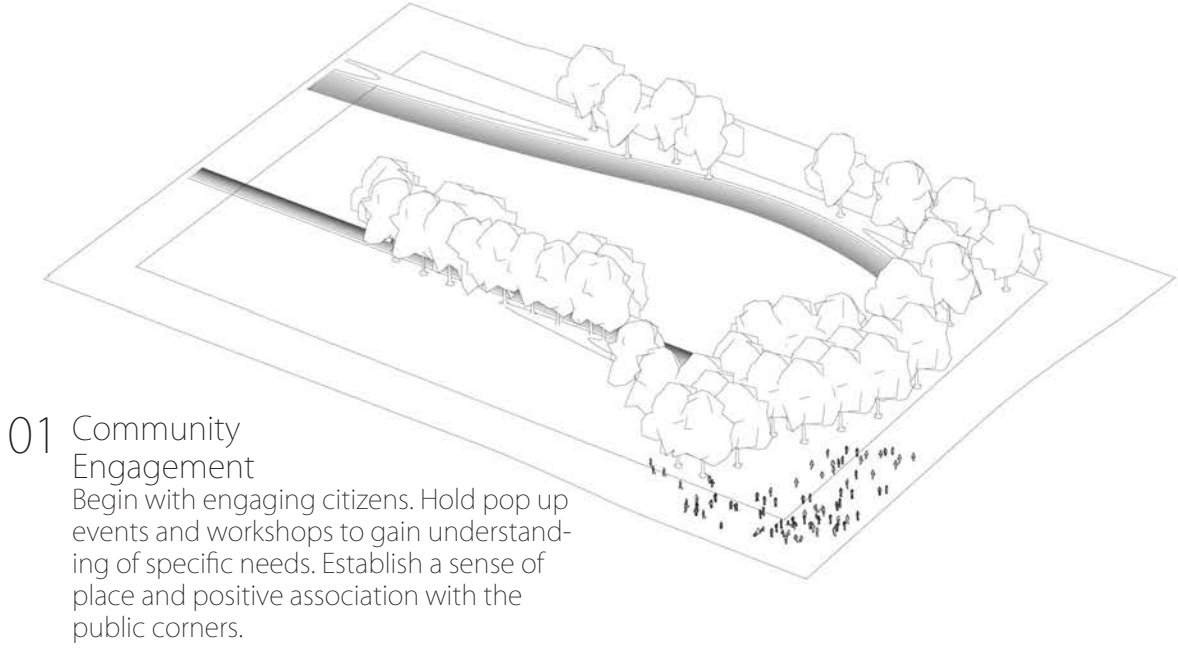
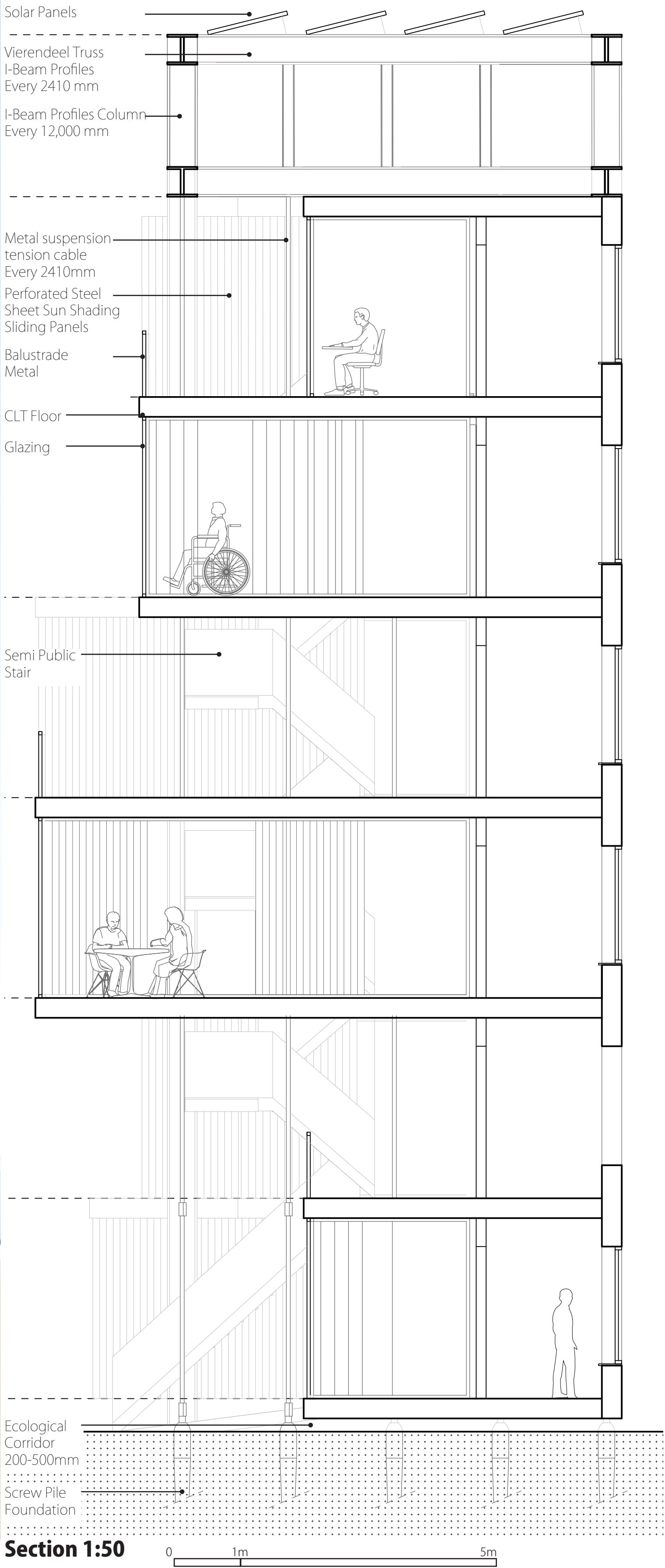
Elevation Local Neighborhood Example 1:200



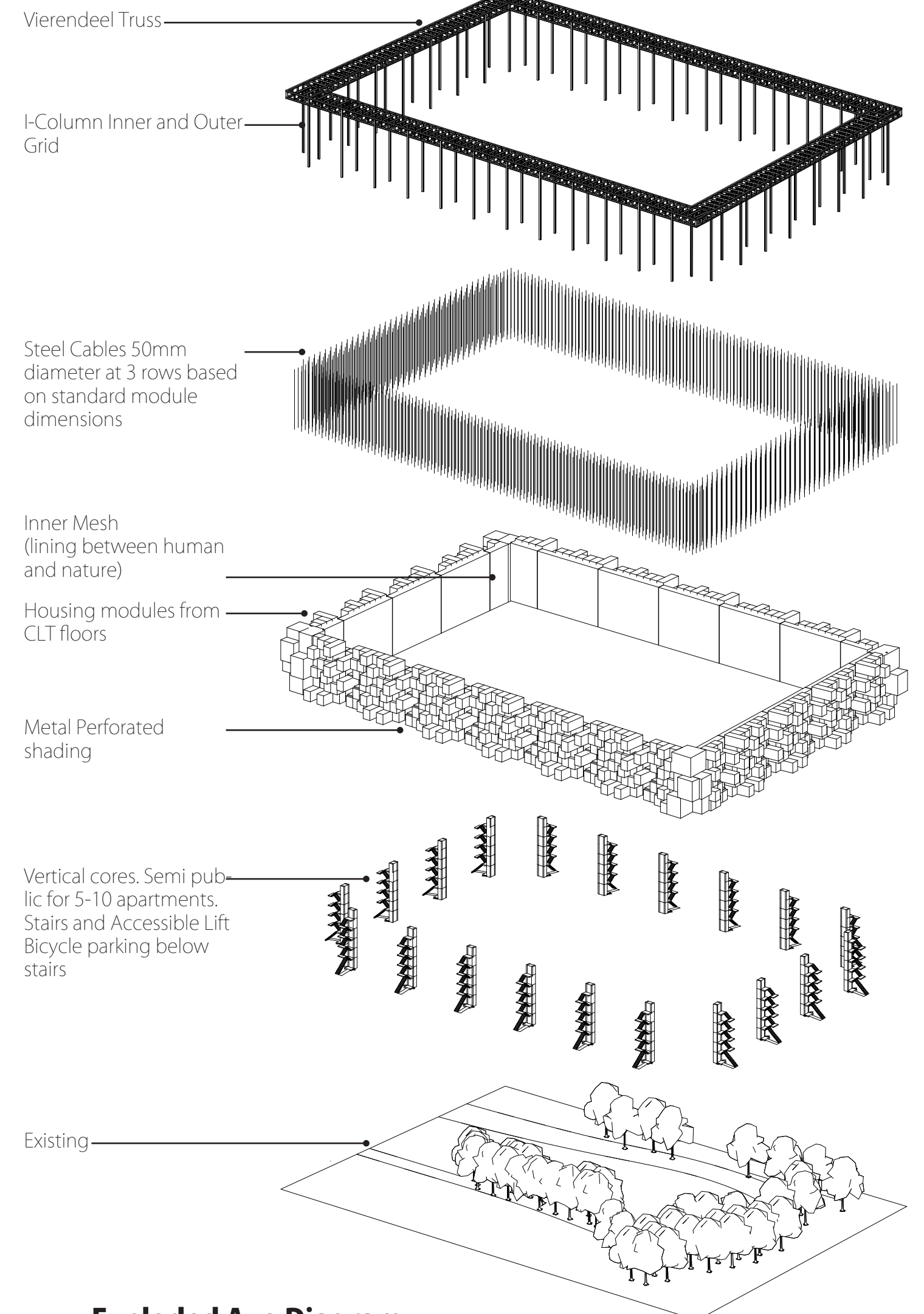
WONEN IS EEN RECHT



Apartments Facing Along the South



Construction/Inhabitation Phasing Plan



Exploded Axo Diagram