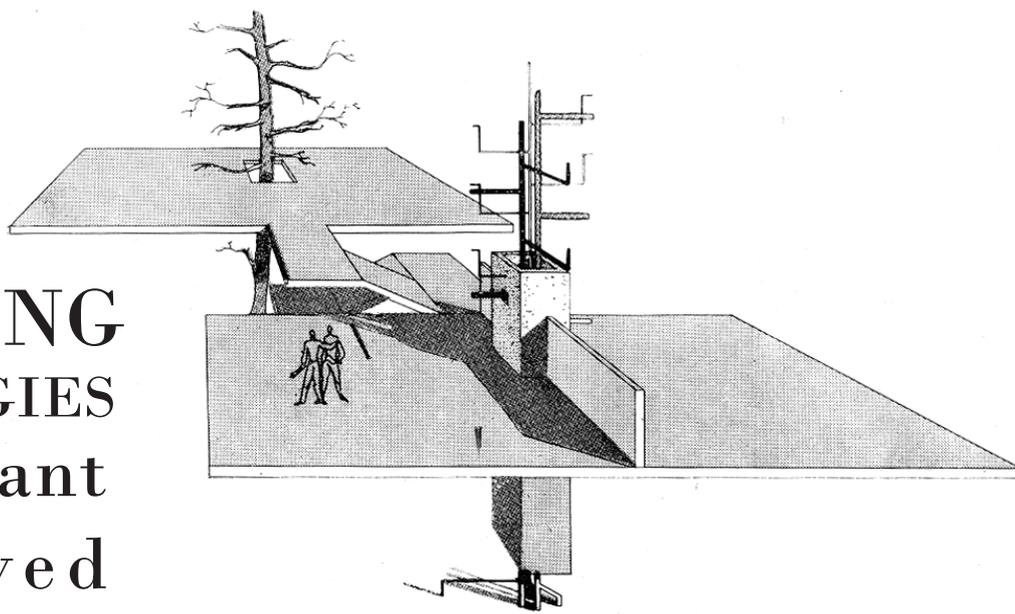
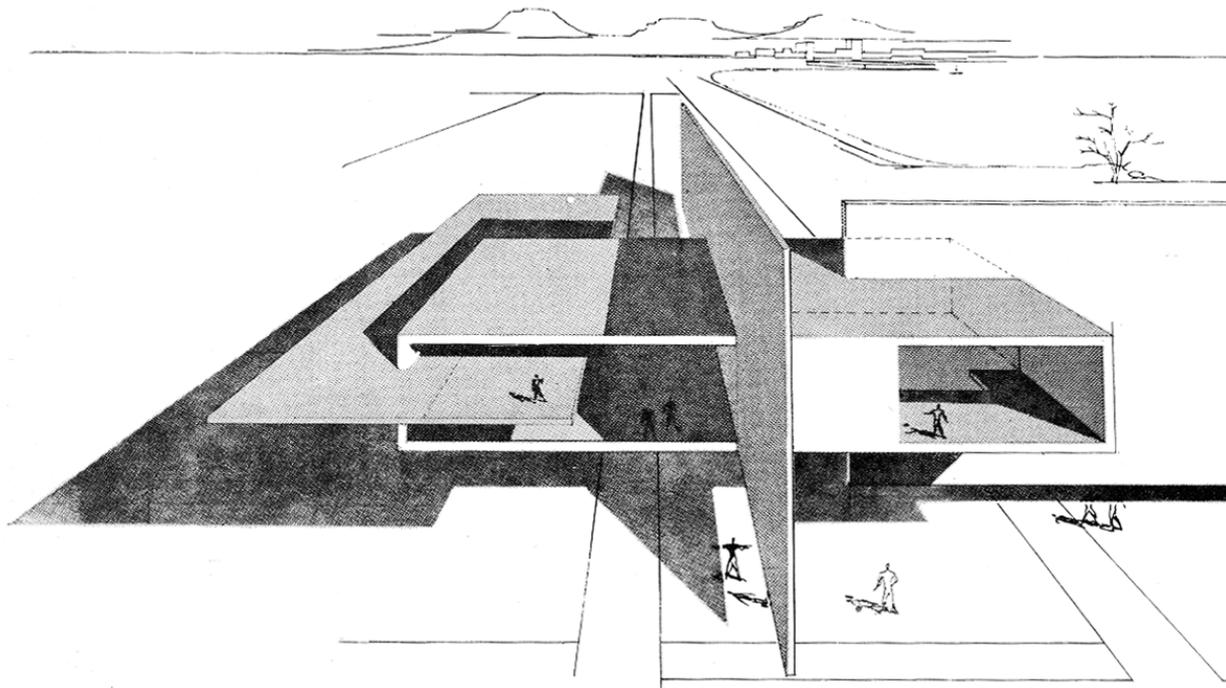
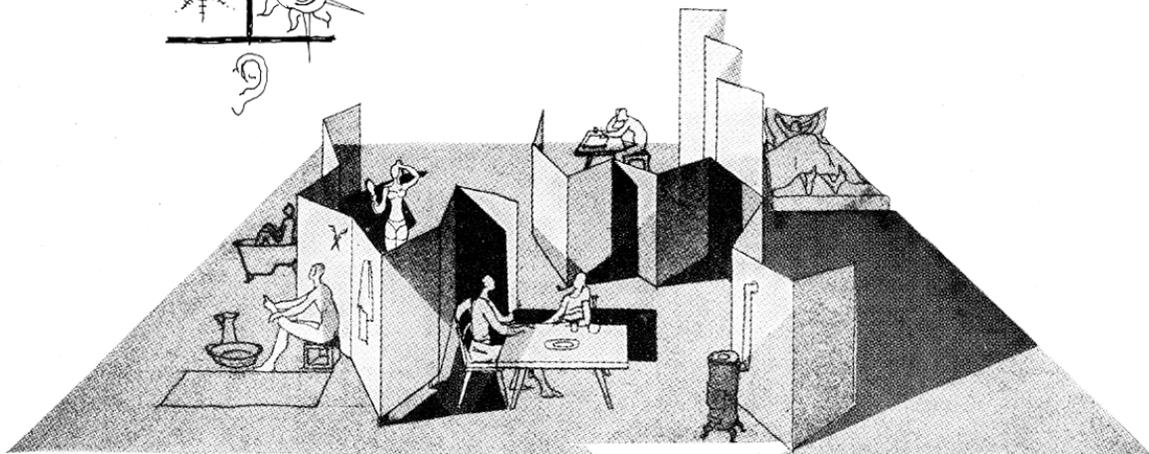


LES ELEMENTS DETERMINES

LES ELEMENTS INDETERMINES



HOUSING TYPOLOGIES

Servant
Served
Spaces

If anything is described by an architectural plan, it is the nature of human relationships, since the elements whose trace it records— walls, doors, windows, and stairs—are employed first to divide and then selectively to reunite inhabited space

Robin Evans¹

Certainly, it would be foolish to suggest that there is anything in a plan which could compel people to behave in a specific way towards one another, enforcing a day-to-day regime of gregarious sensuality. It would be still more foolish, however, to suggest that a plan could not prevent people from behaving in a particular way, or at least hinder them from doing so.

Robin Evans¹

Cover drawing of G. Candilis, A. Josic, and S. Woods, Extension of Bagnols-sur-Cèze, 1961
¹ Robin Evans, «Figures, Doors and Passages,» in *Translations from Drawing to Building and Other Essays* (London: Architectural Association Publications, 1997)

HOUSING TYPOLOGIES

Servant Served Spaces

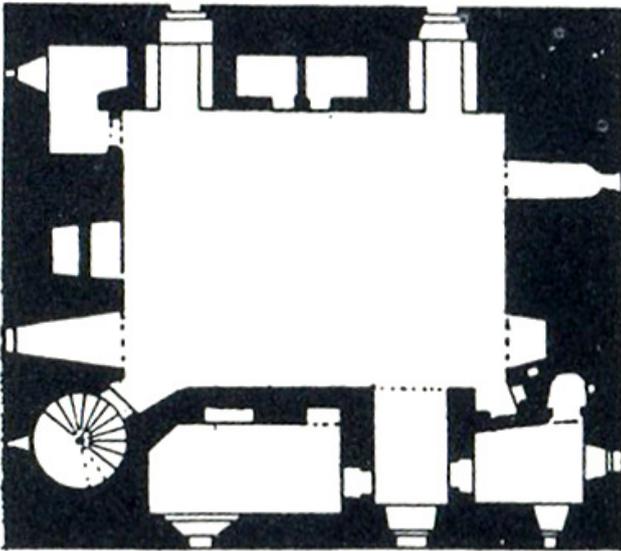
To transfer the concepts of servant space and served space to the residential context, coined by Louis I. Kahn, allows one to interpret and address the collective housing project through the floor plan.

While the servant space is usually associated with all the equipment of the house, from circulation, fitted installations and humid cores that serve it to storage spaces that collect the maintenance tools and the personal belongings of its inhabitants, the rest, the negative, intended as much to interaction as to privacy, corresponds to the served space.

However, such differentiation does not refer exclusively to the programme but, above all, to the strategy.

Previous to the function, the structure of the floor plan can be defined by the occupation guidelines of the servant spaces or by means of the emptying processes of the served space.

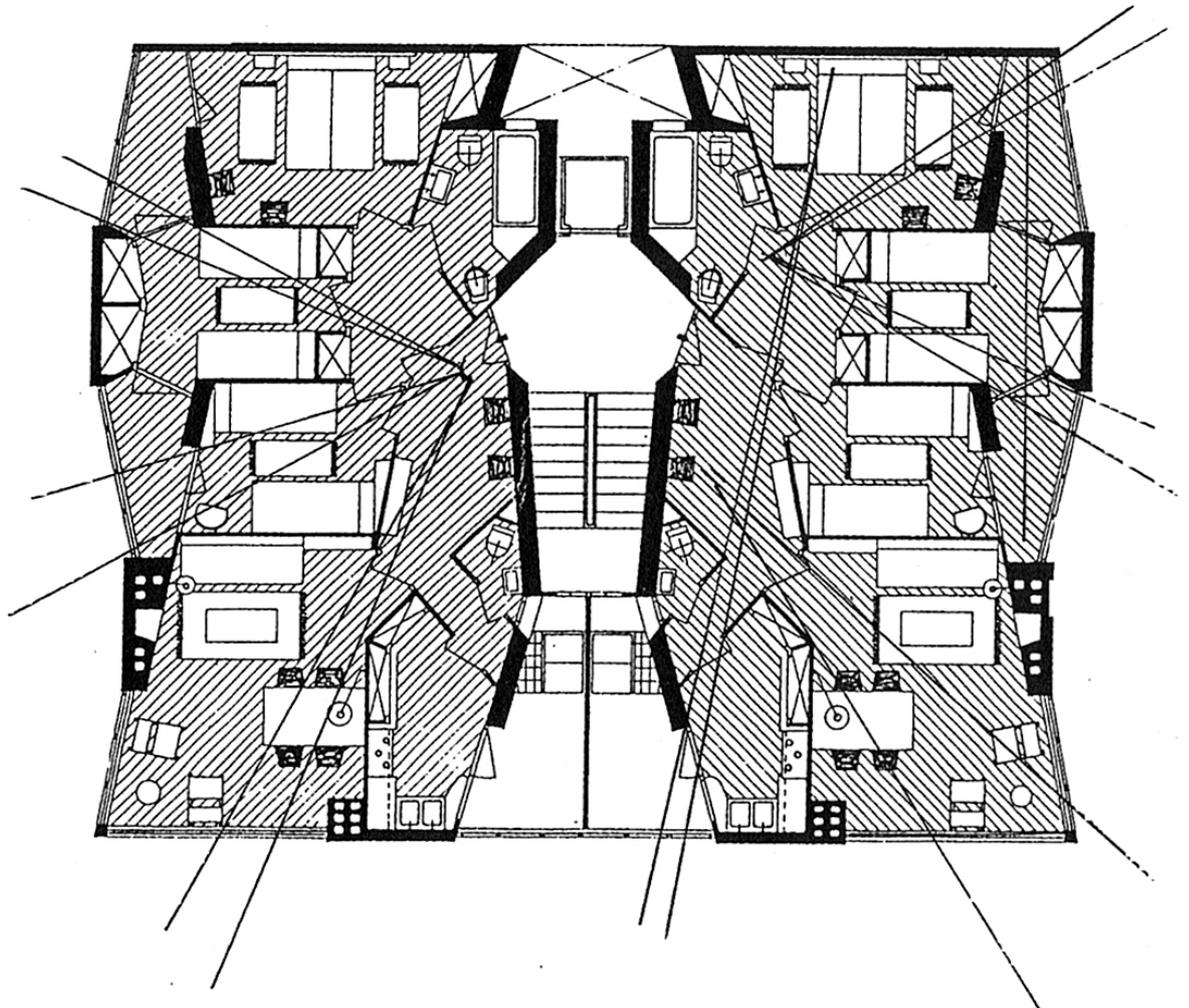
Therefore, a kitchen space may fill a servant space and enclose itself in it or open itself to empty the served space and make it permeable. The character of the pieces depends on their relative position and their interaction with other parts of the house.



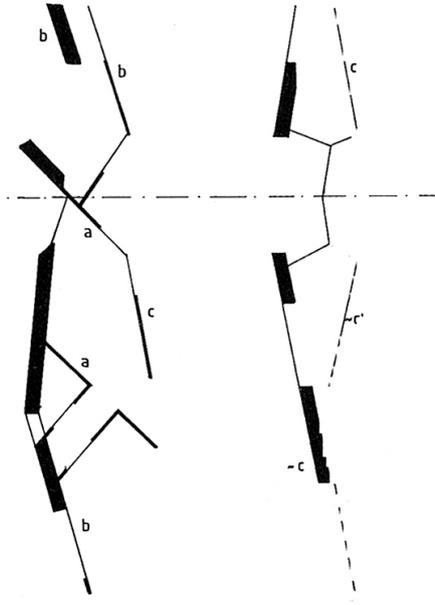
PLAN POCHÉ

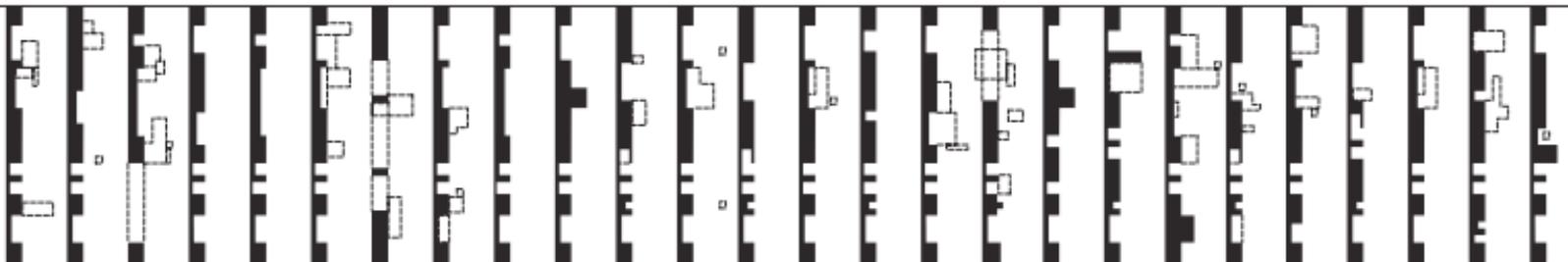
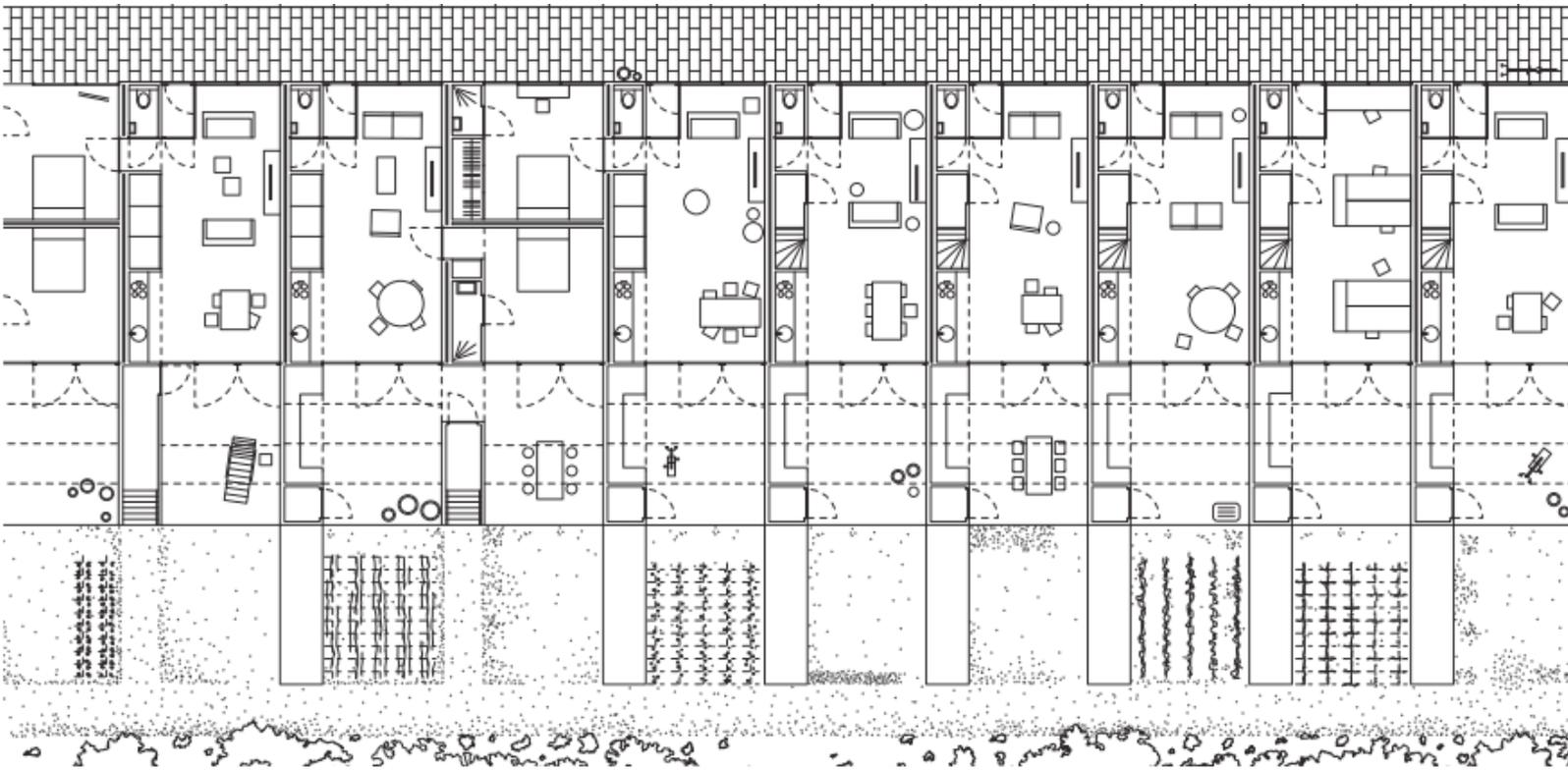
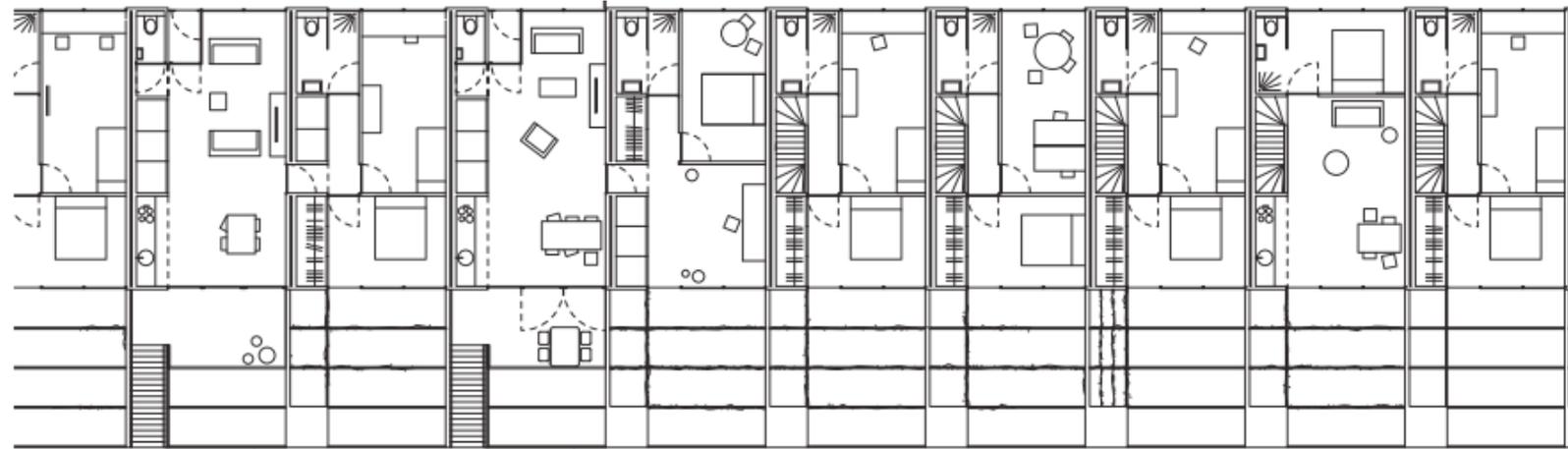
The eyes of our imagination can walk through walls. We can penetrate the space of solids; relearn the lessons of space, mass and volume, and appropriate the old plans through this new interpretation, revealing a space that was never meant to be seen.

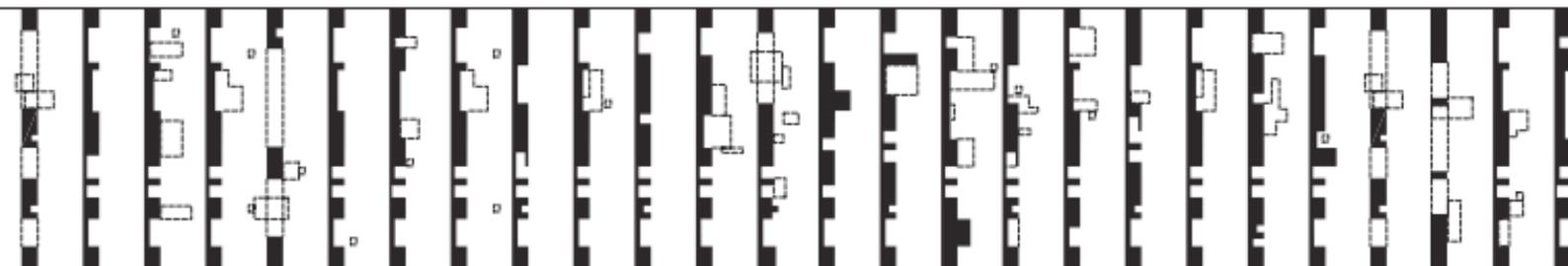
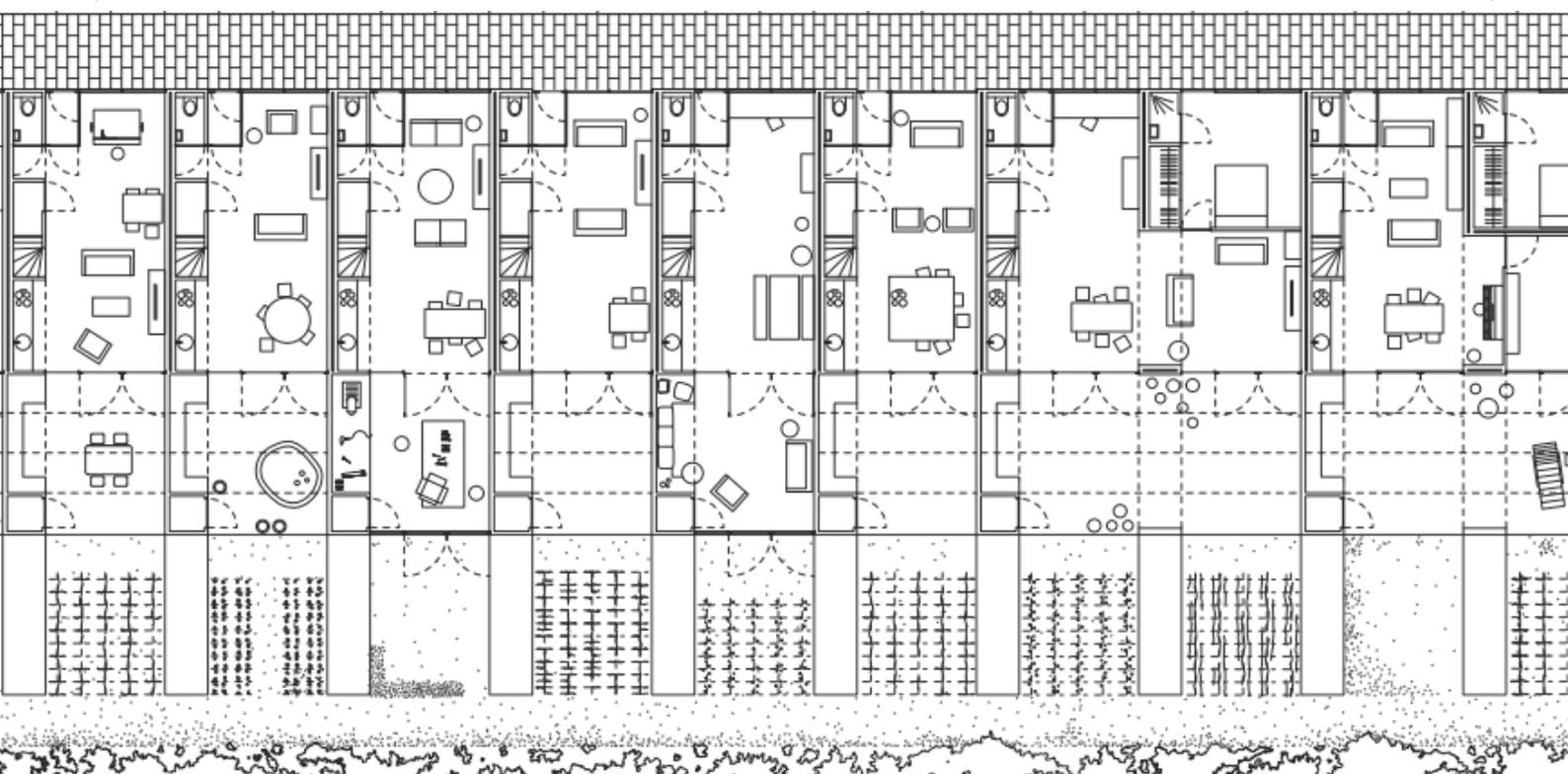
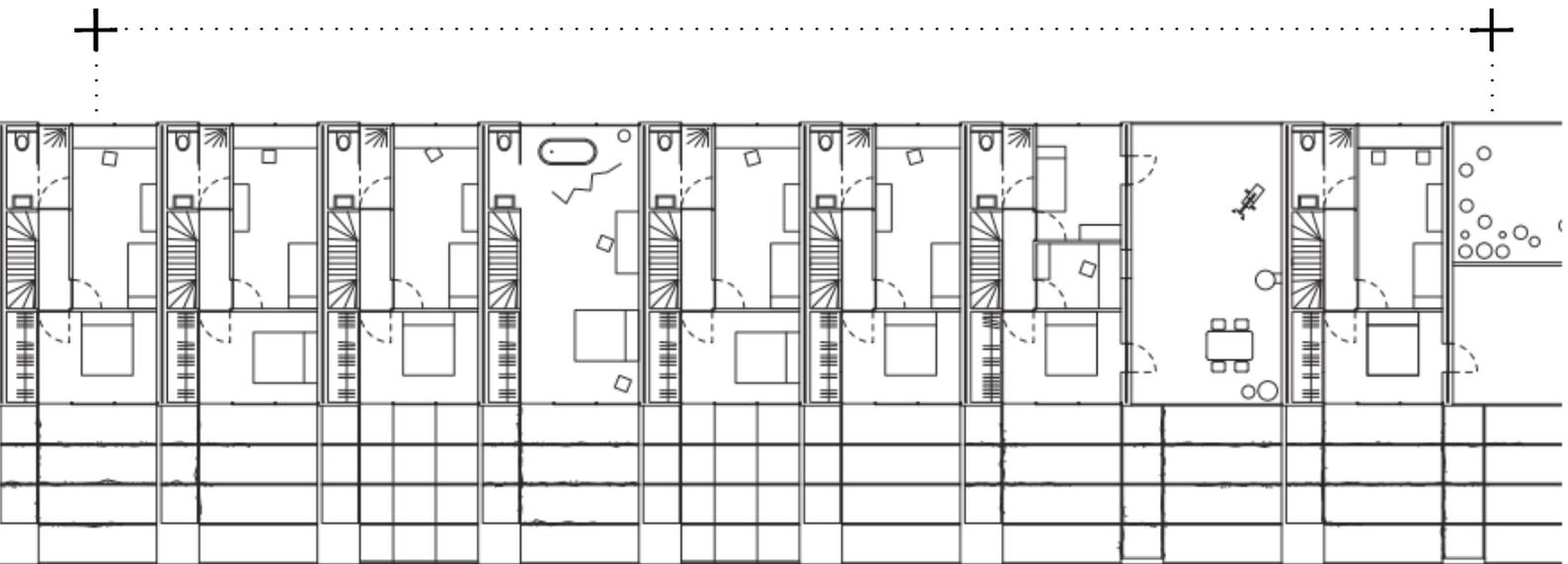
Steven Kent Peterson, 1980



J. A. Coderch, *Housing in Barceloneta*, Barcelona, 1954



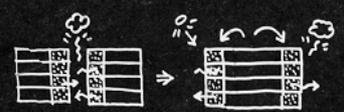
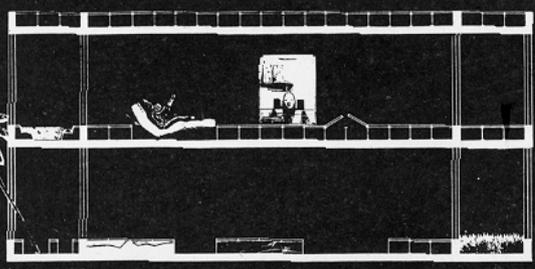
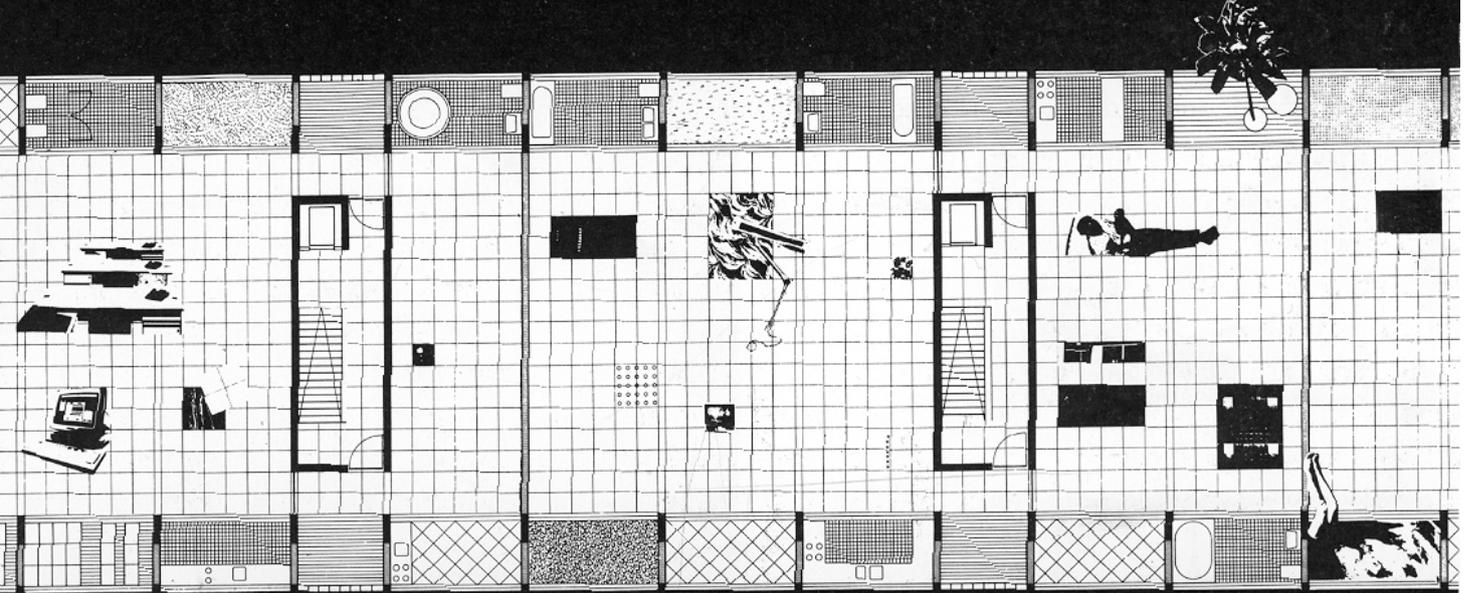






GB

W.J. Neutelings, A. Wall, X. De Geyter, F. Roodbeen, *Habitat and the City BCN Competition 1990*



THE FILTER HOUSE

By relocating the traditional services on the outside, the filter house provides a continuous interior floor space that can be adapted to any programme or lifestyle.

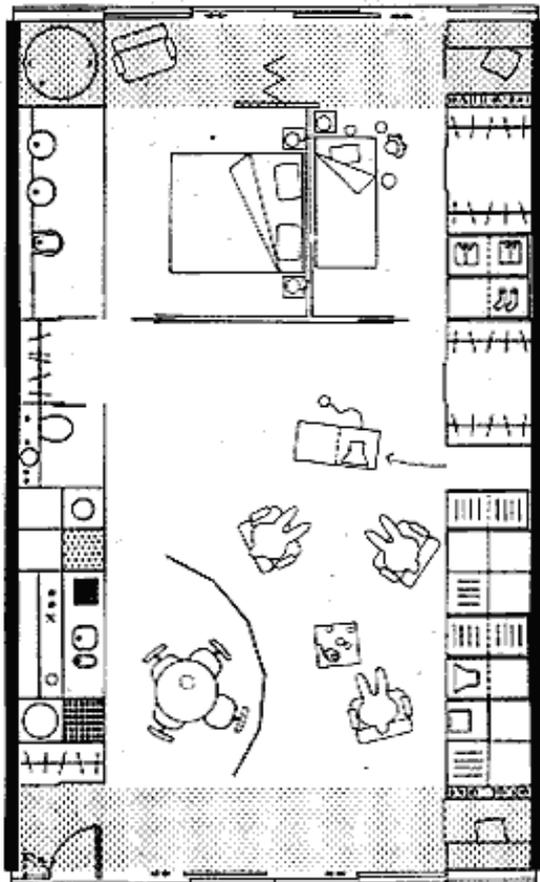
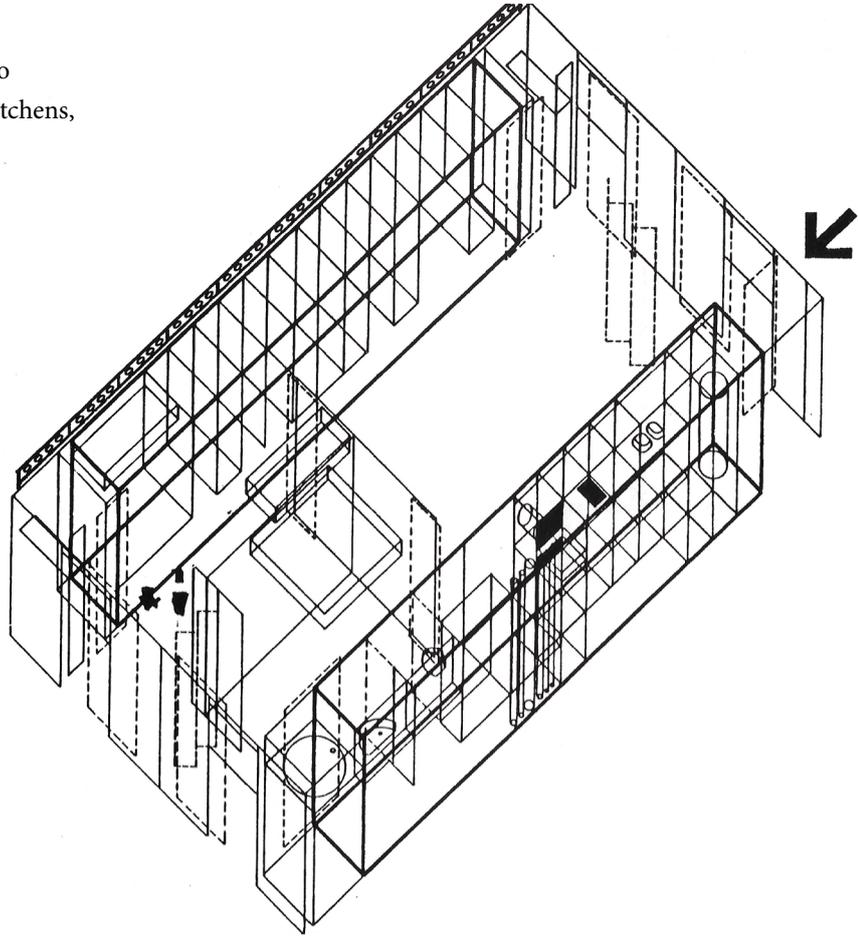
The central living area is framed by a screen of kitchens, bathrooms and loggias, that ventilate to the outside and filter the Mediterranean light. The raised floor covers a dry service void that ensures the accommodation of any domestic or commercial equipment and removes the distinction between residential and commercial space.

HC

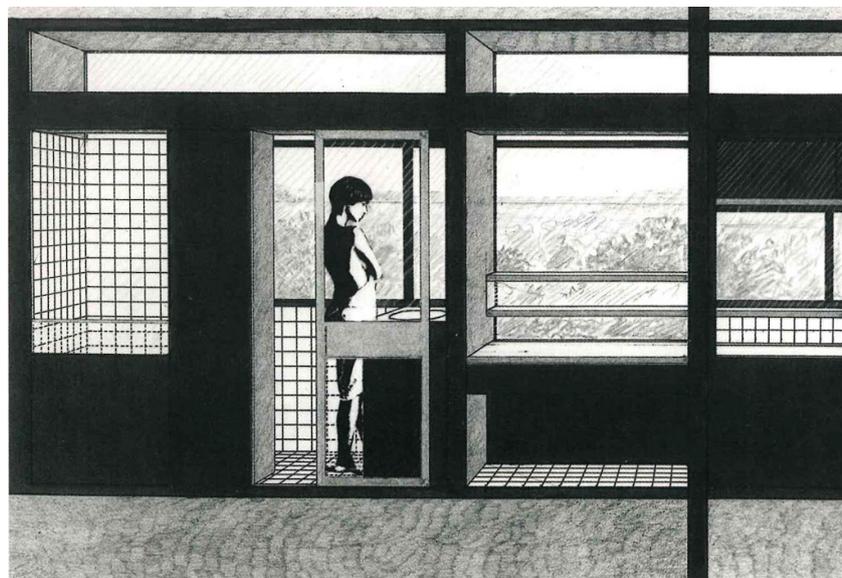
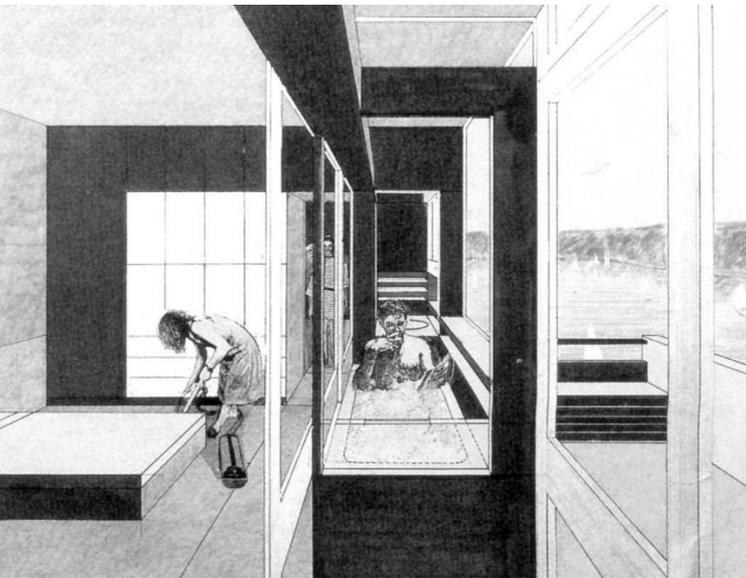
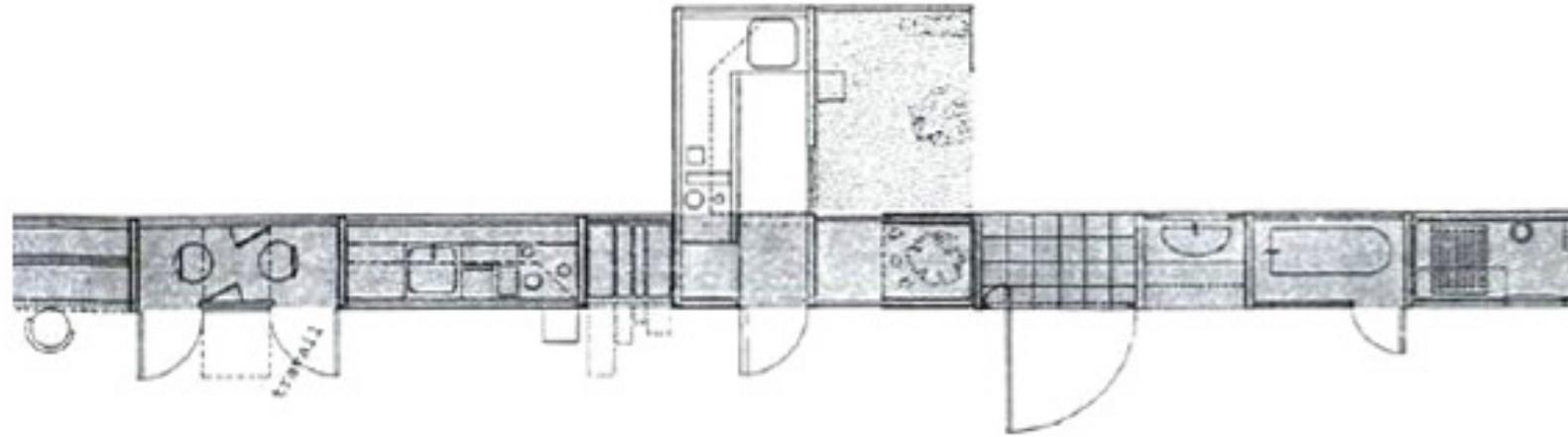
GB

DEEP WALL

The load-bearing walls are thickened to accommodate servant areas, such as kitchens, closets, and bathrooms.



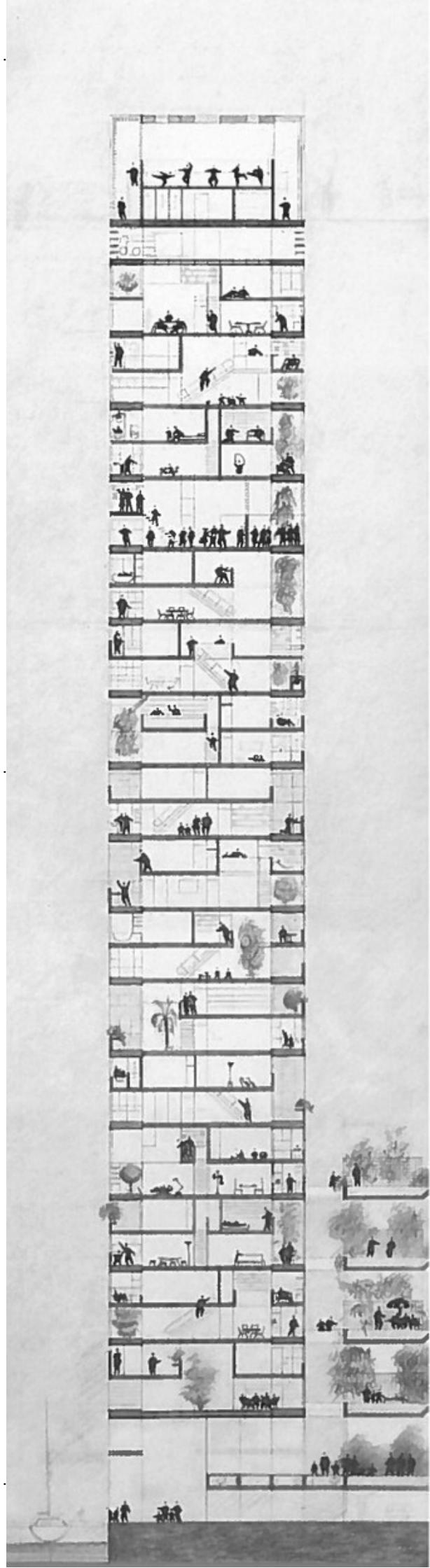
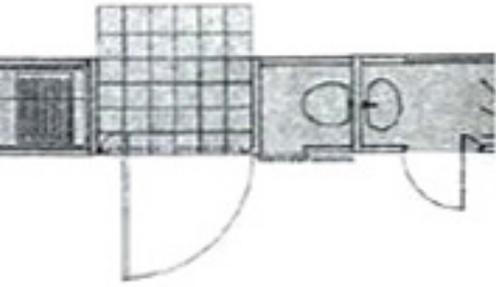
J. Delsalle and J.B. Lacoudre, *Project for the PAN 14 competition*, 1987

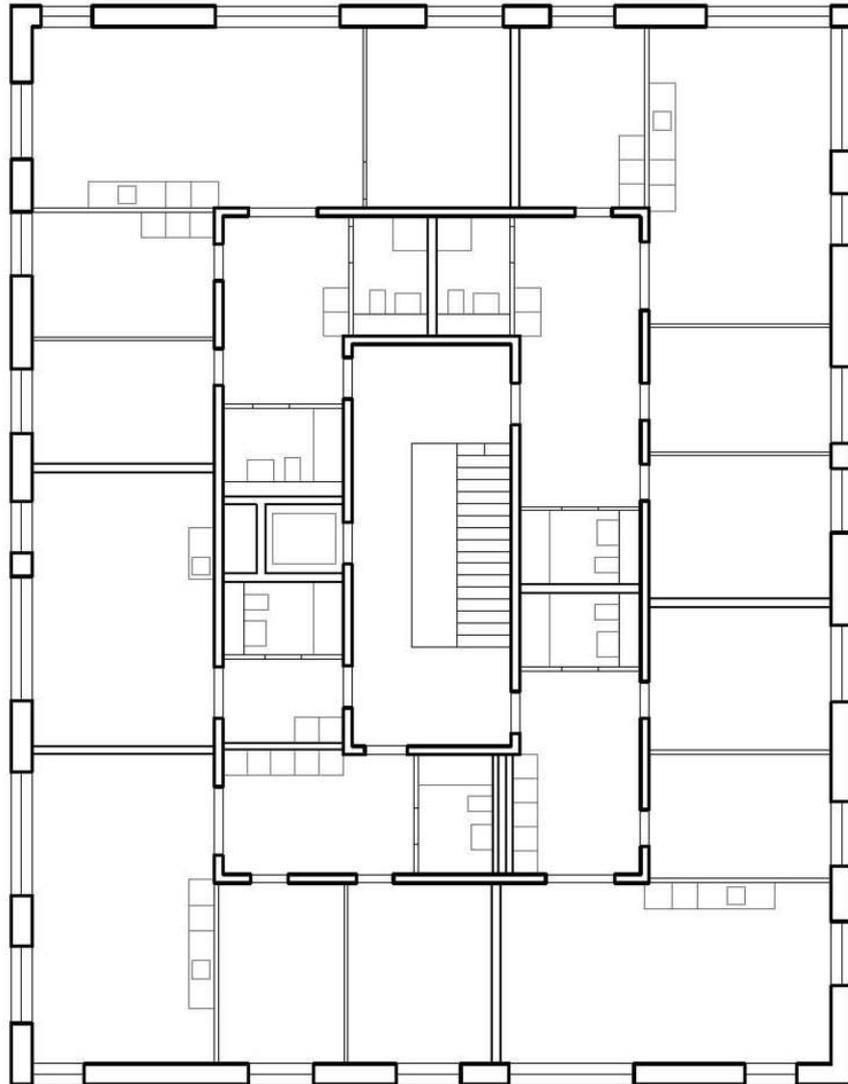


Yves Lion, *Domus Demain*, 1984

ACTIVE BAND

Yves Lion developed even more radical proposals that removed the hygienic chamber, disseminating the sanitary parts in a linear display,



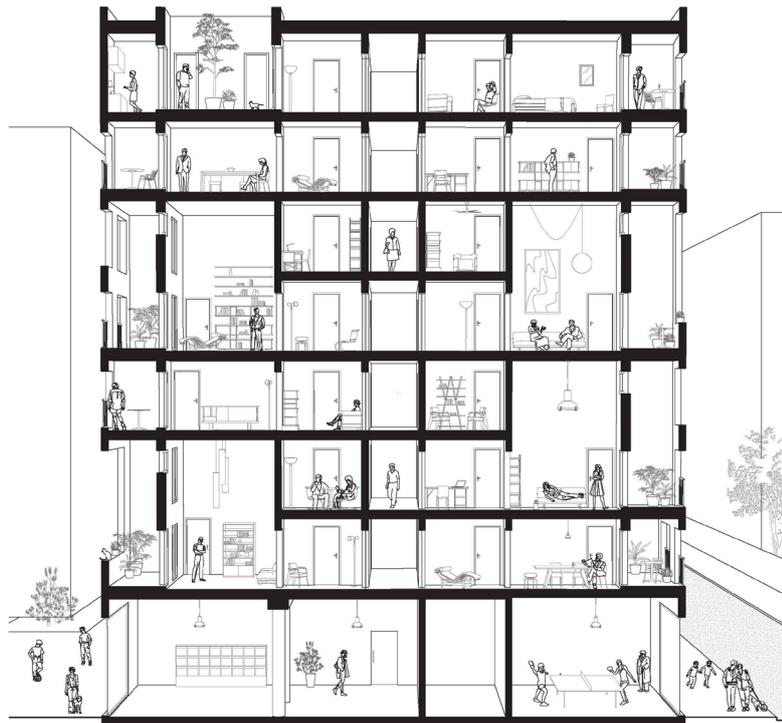
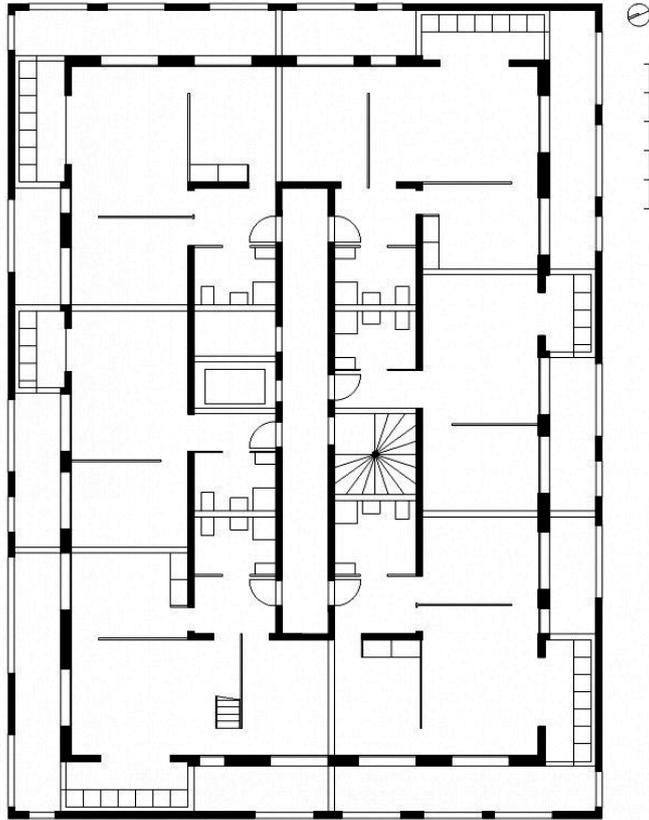


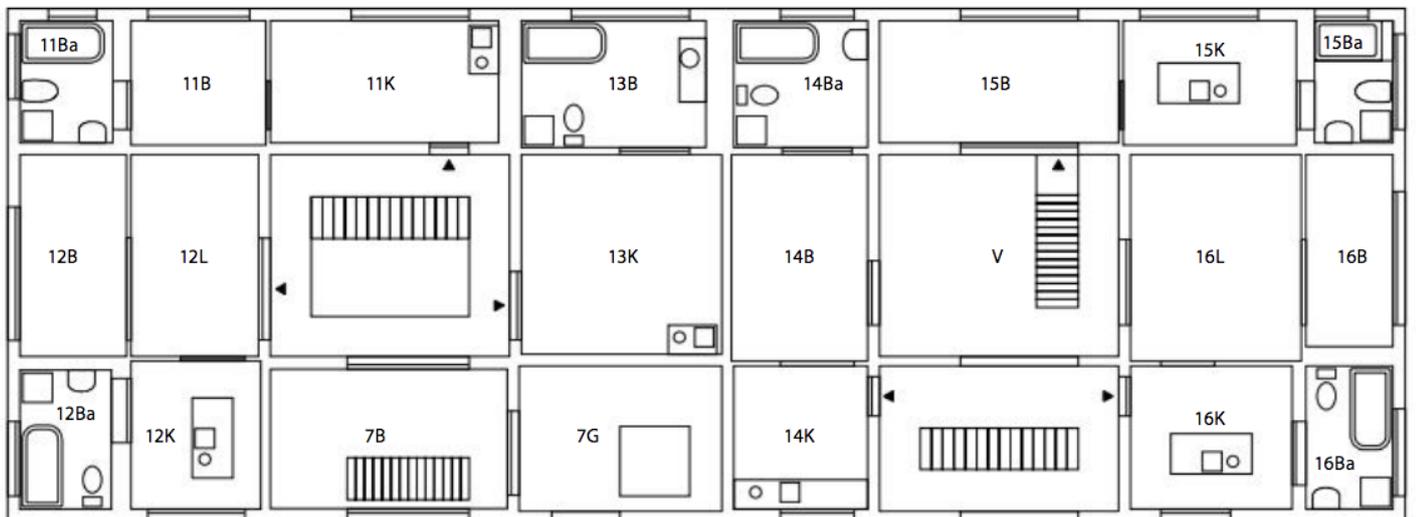
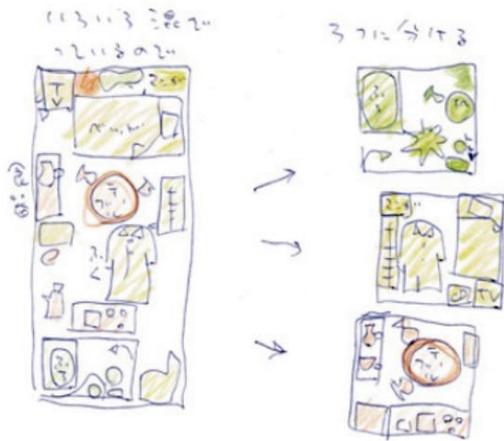
CONCENTRIC PLAN

Concentric structural walls establish a clear hierarchy, dividing the plan into an inner ring of 'servant' spaces and an outer ring of 'served' spaces.

ALVEOLAR FAÇADE

The facade is no longer treated as a simple envelope; it becomes a deep, 'inhabited wall' able to accommodate programs like kitchens and galleries



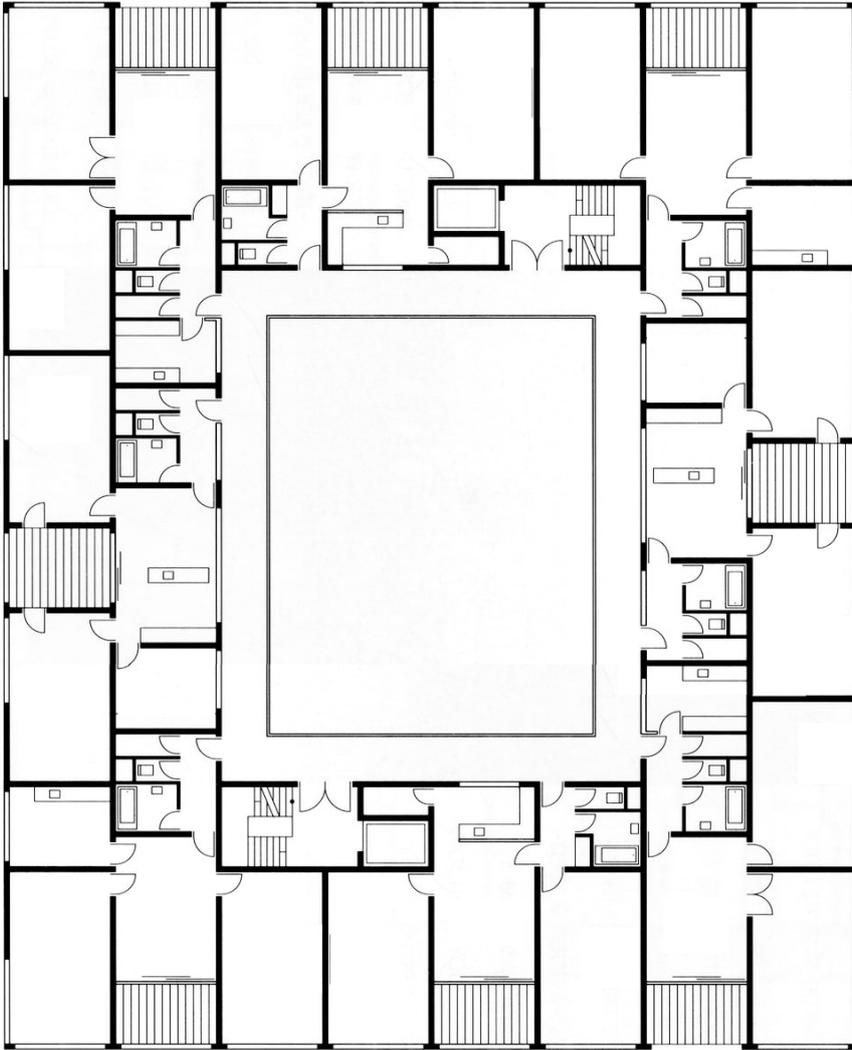


R. Nishizawa, *Funabashi Apartment House*, Funabashi, 2004



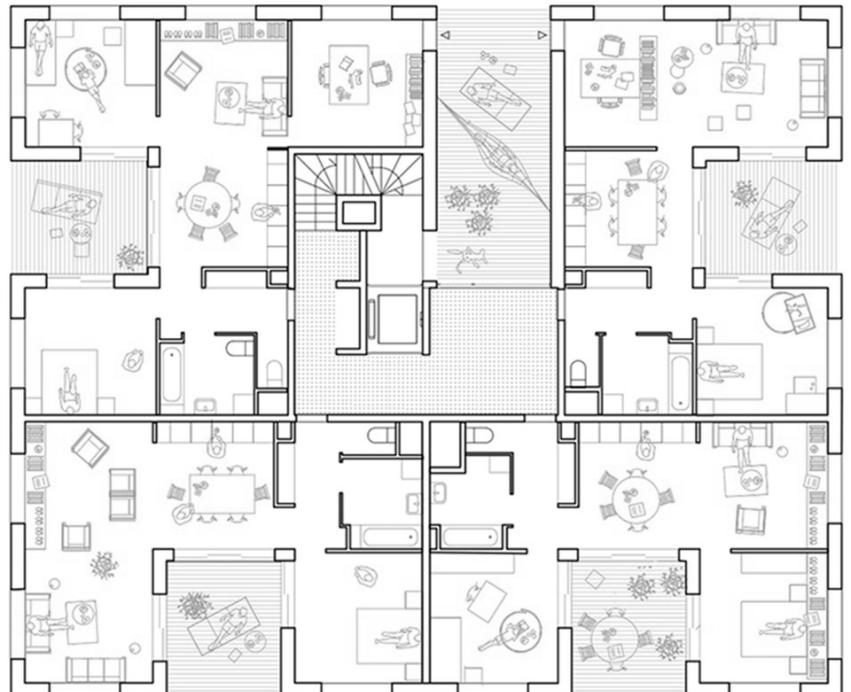
POROUS ROOMS

The radical nature of Japanese floor plans is oriented in another direction, as seen in the proposals of Ryue Nishizawa, where servant spaces are over dimensioned to the point where they take on other uses. The concept of serv-ant stops corresponding to a space to condensate itself into objects, such as domestic appliances or sanitary ware, scattered throughout the dwelling.



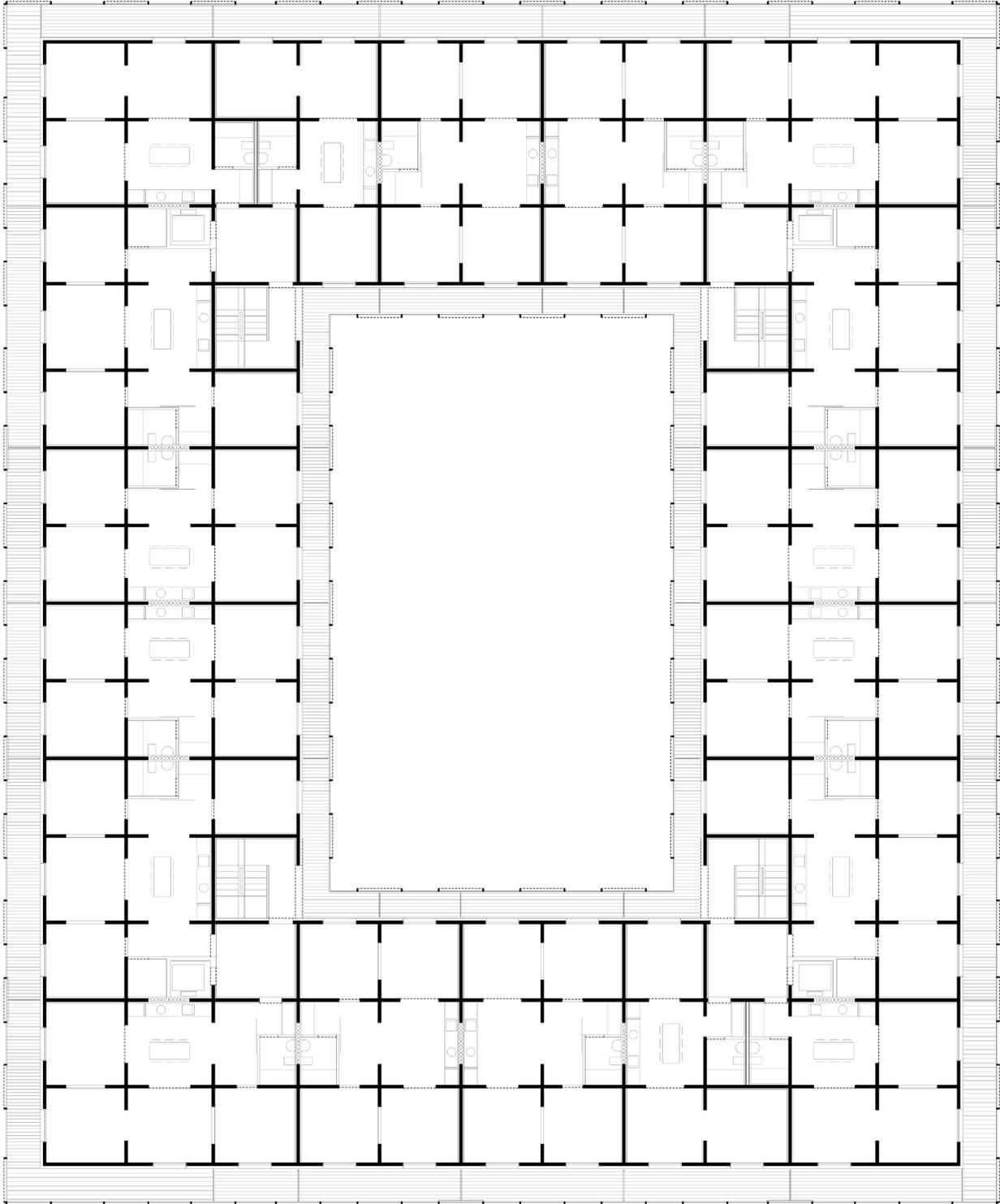
EXTERIOR ROOMS

That equalize the room's surface area and have an articulating function in the floor plan



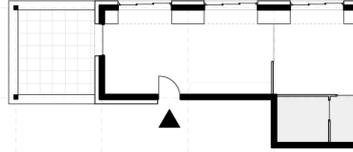
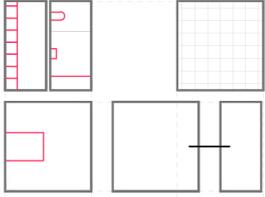
EQUAL ROOMS

Surfaces are redistributed until they are equal, ensuring a minimum area to accommodate any type of use



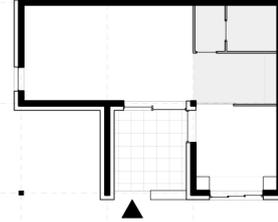
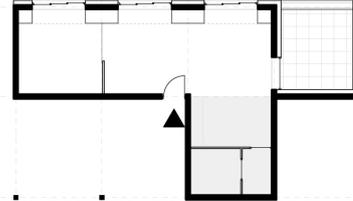
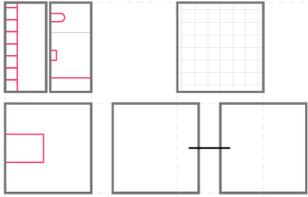
T2

3,5 pièces + loggia, 45,5 m²



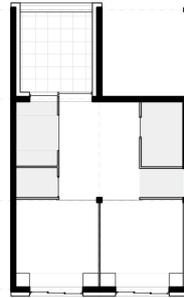
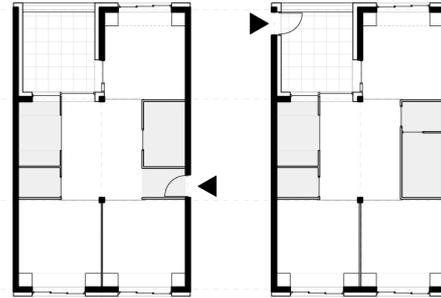
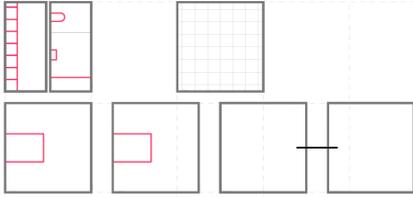
T2 +

4 pièces + loggia, 52 m²



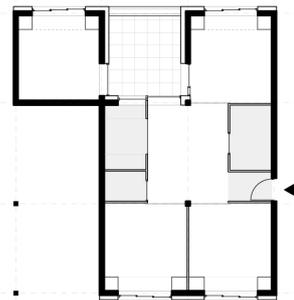
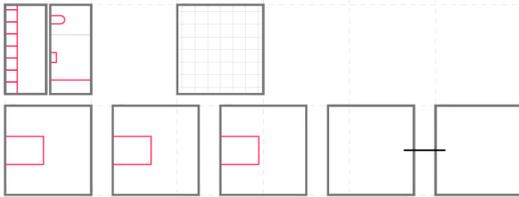
T3

5 pièces + loggia, 65 m²



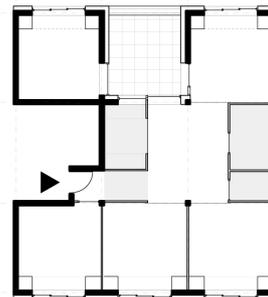
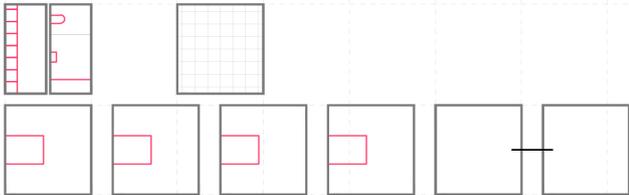
T4

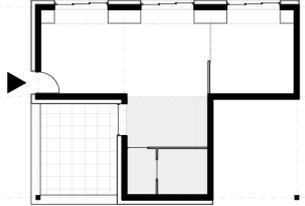
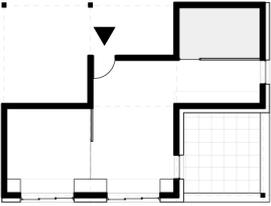
6 pièces + loggia, 78 m²



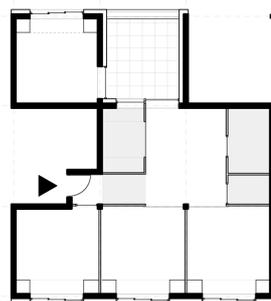
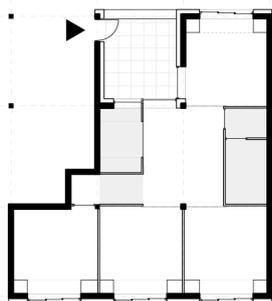
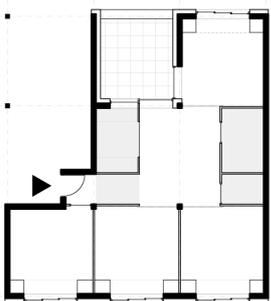
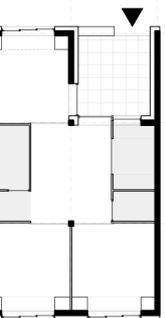
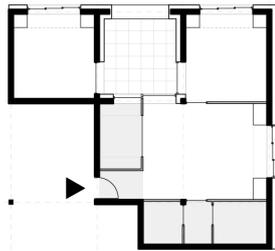
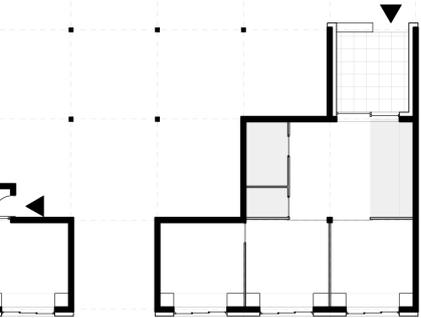
T5

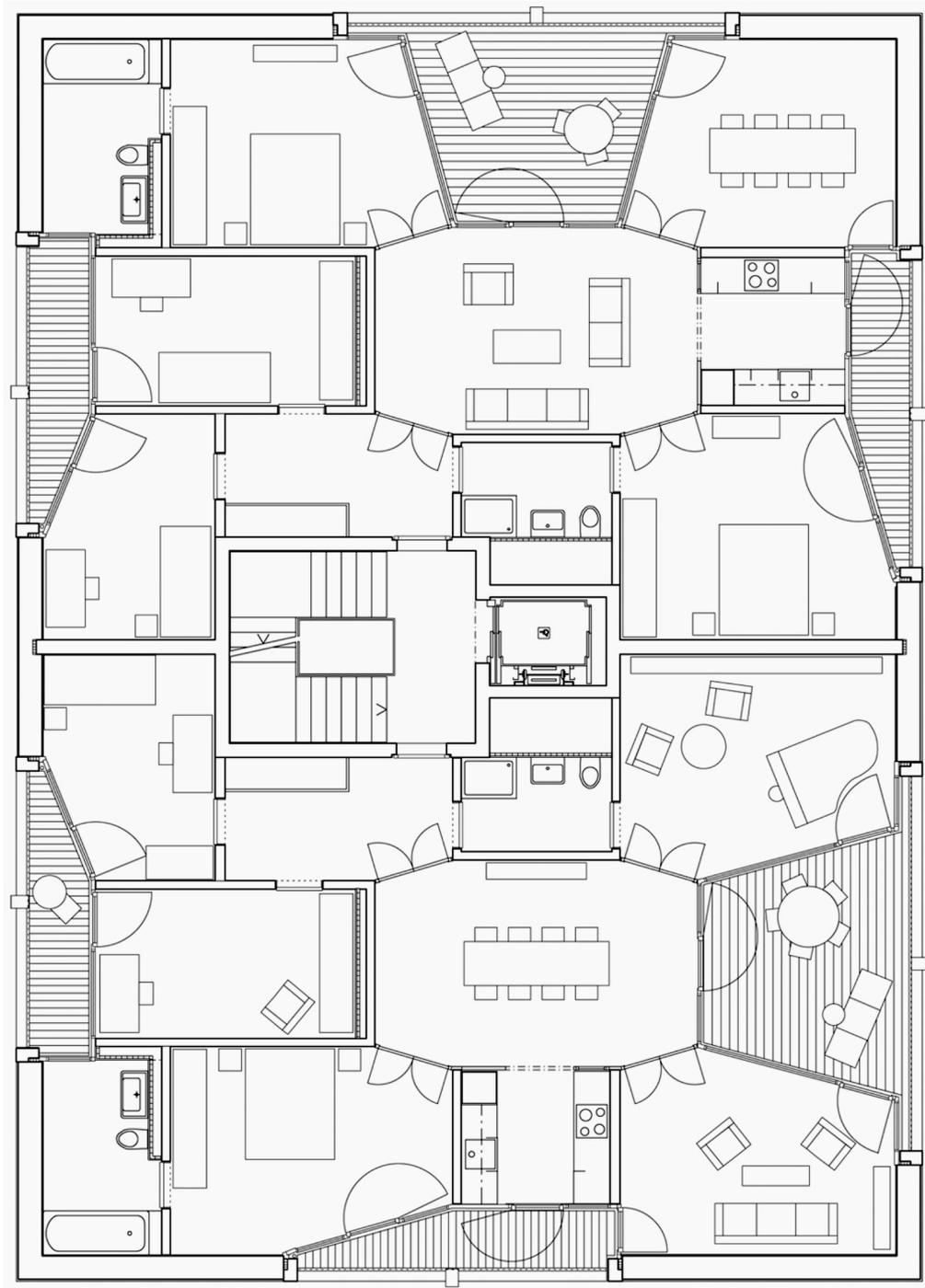
7 pièces + loggia, 91 m²





© Bertrand Marinov

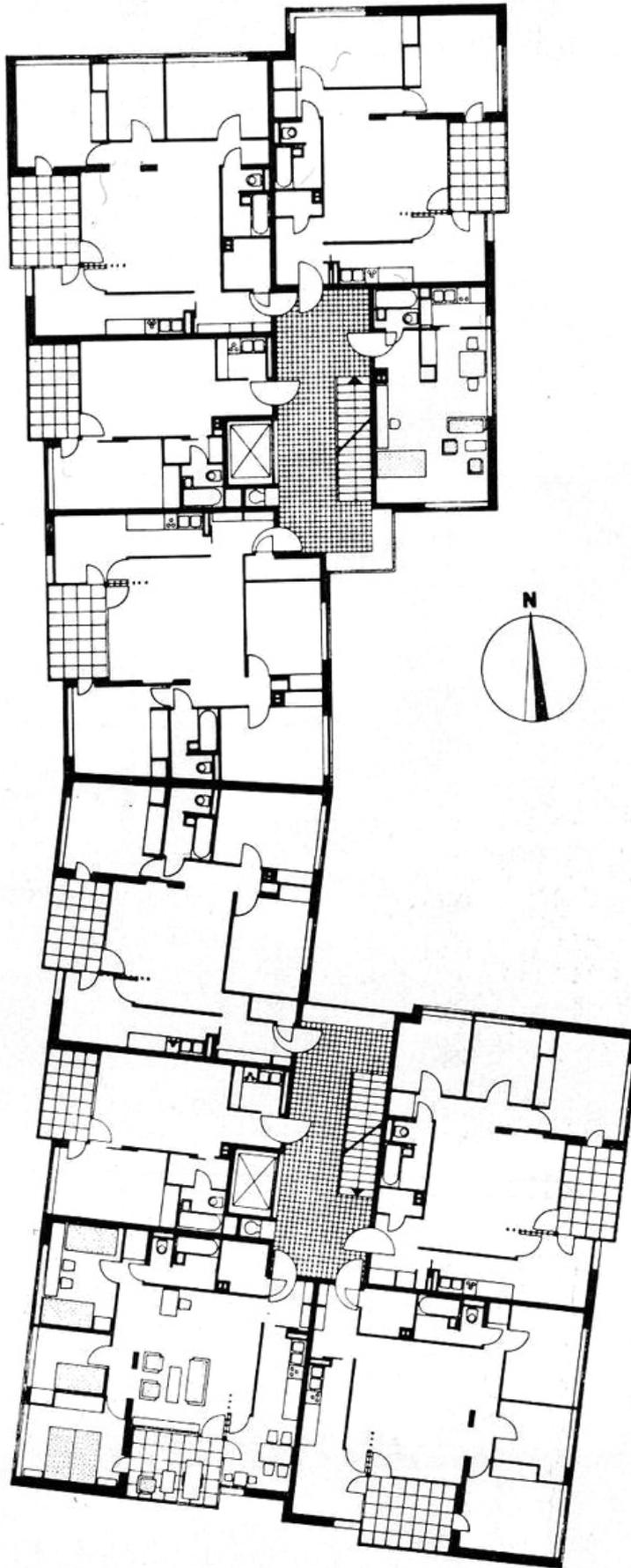




MIDDLE ROOM

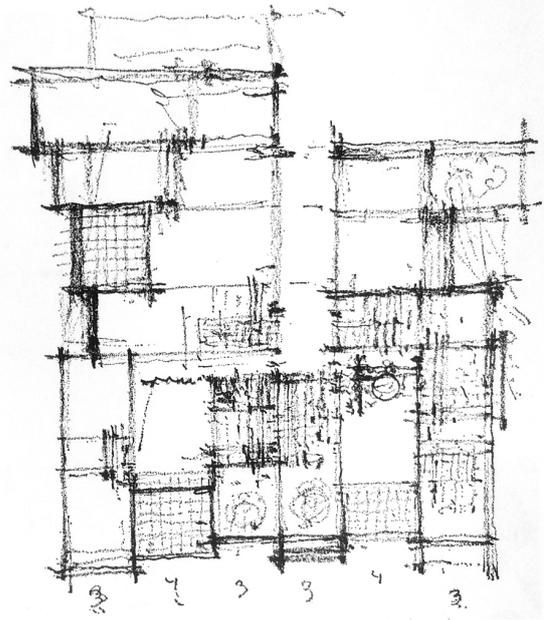
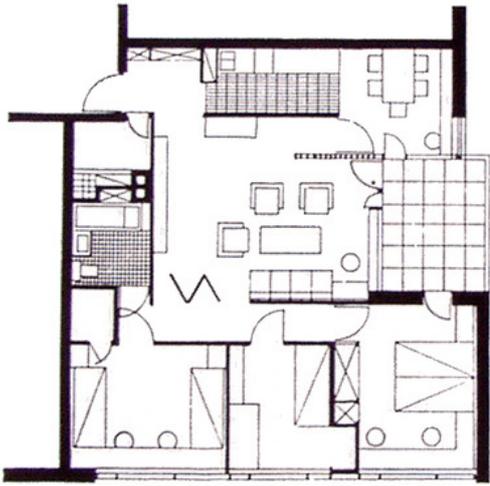
One strategy in a matrix of rooms is to establish a middle room that functions as a distribution space. Since this core room lacks direct exterior windows, it relies on 'borrowed light' from the adjacent, perimeter rooms



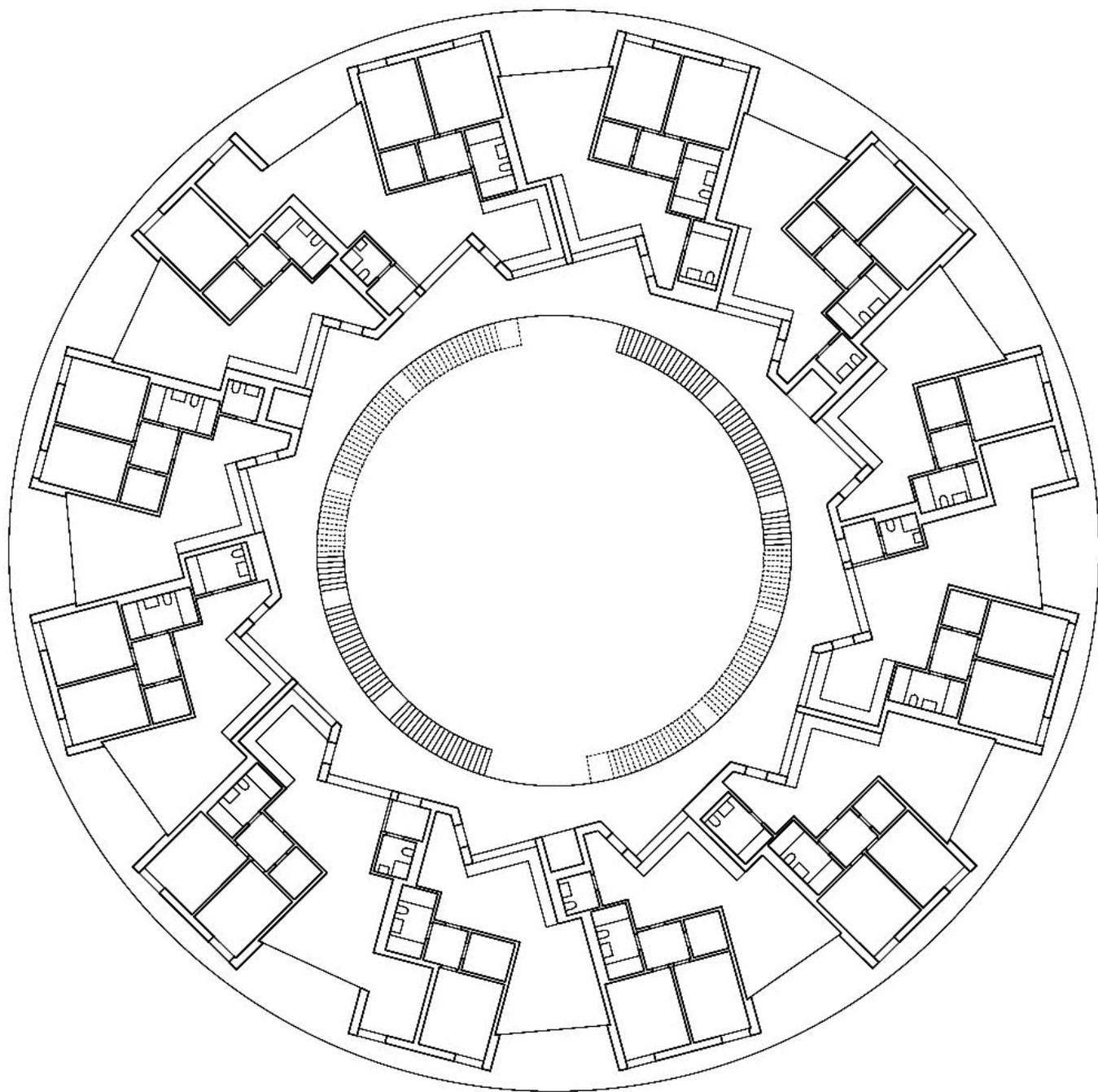


OFFSET WALLS

In the Hansaviiertel floor plan (1955-1957) by Alvar Aalto, the servant areas are centrifuged to the perimeter and are supported on the dividing walls. However, the triad, living room-dining room-gallery takes on a revealing presence by emptying the centre and articulating all the floor space around it.



A. Aalto, *Hansaviertel*, Berlin 1957



INTERLOCKING WALLS

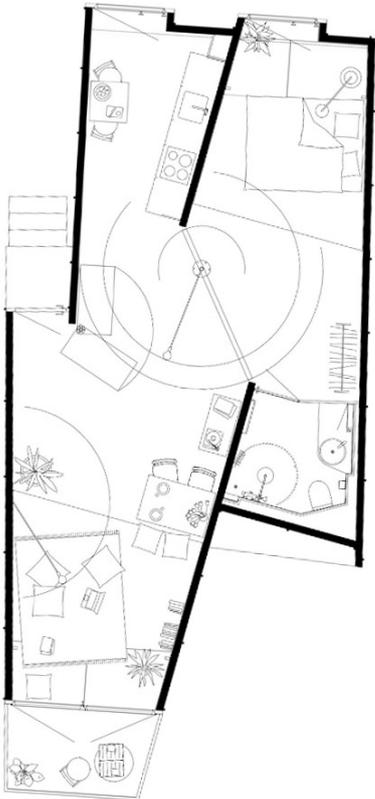
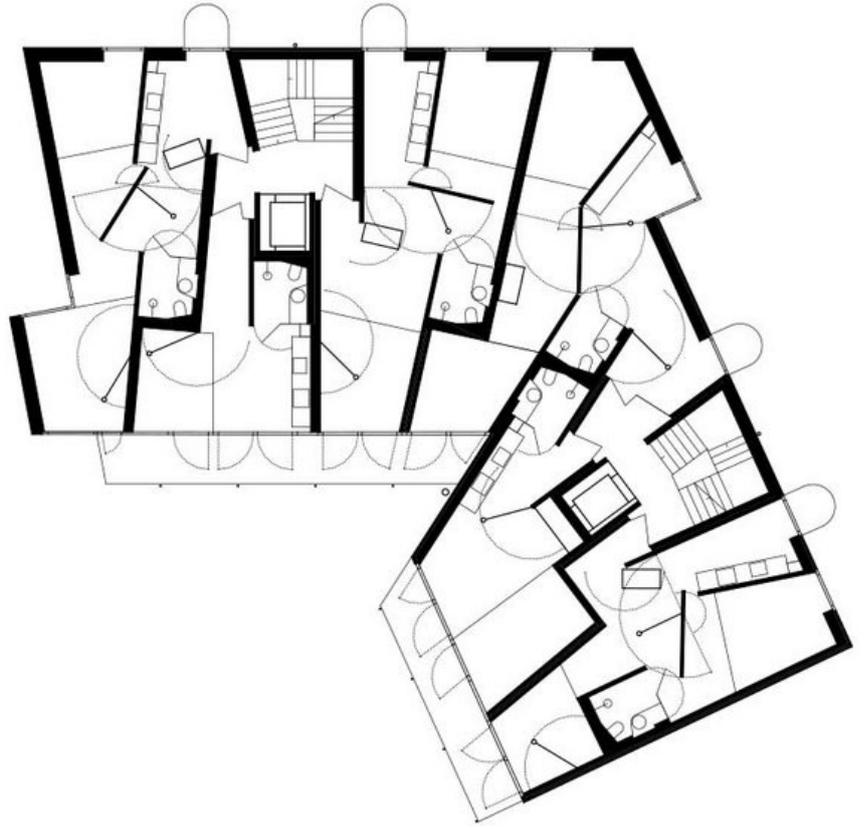
Walls are sometimes folded to introduce diagonals into the 'served space'.

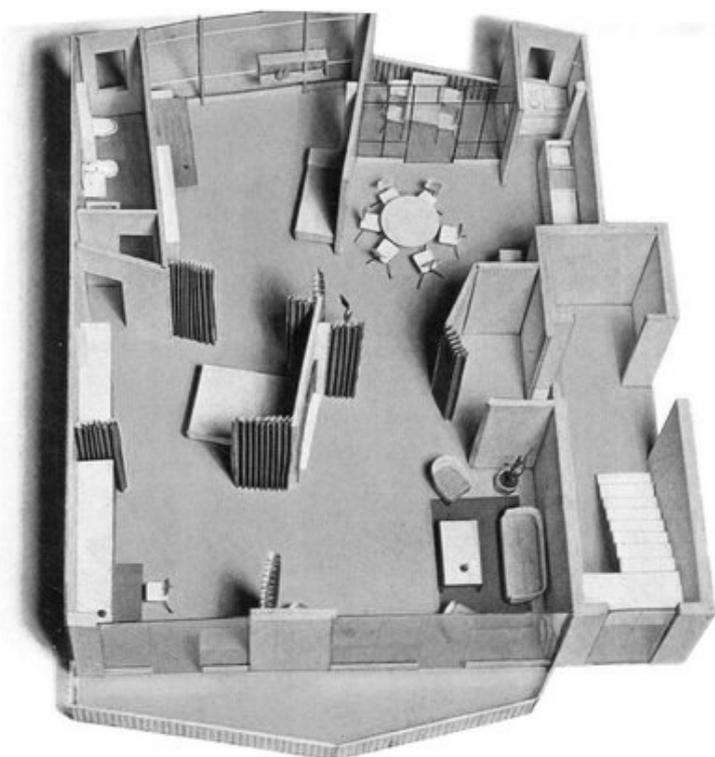
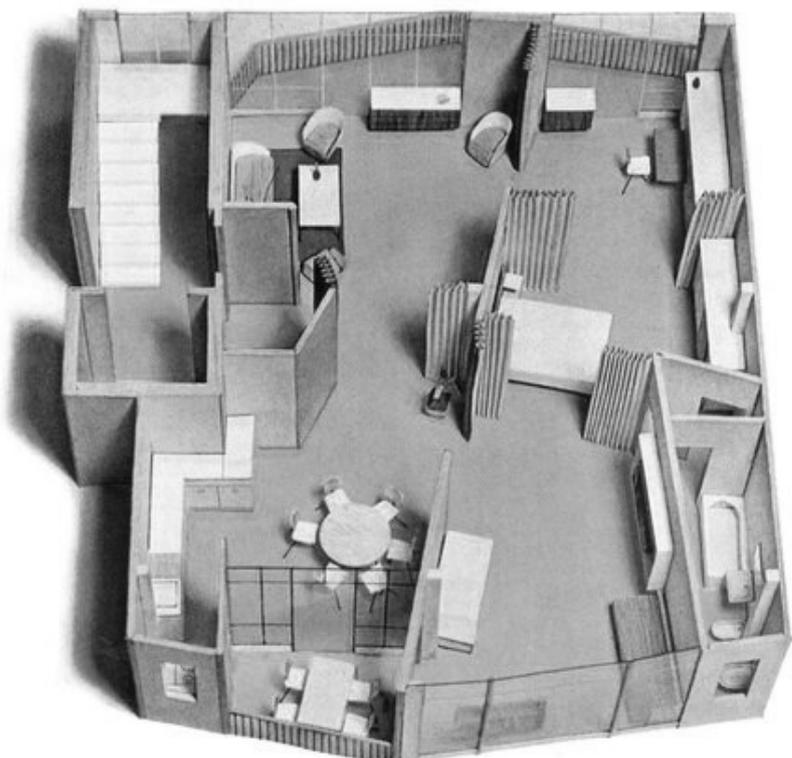
This strategy aims to create a single, continuous space that is articulated into a series of distinct places, each with its own character

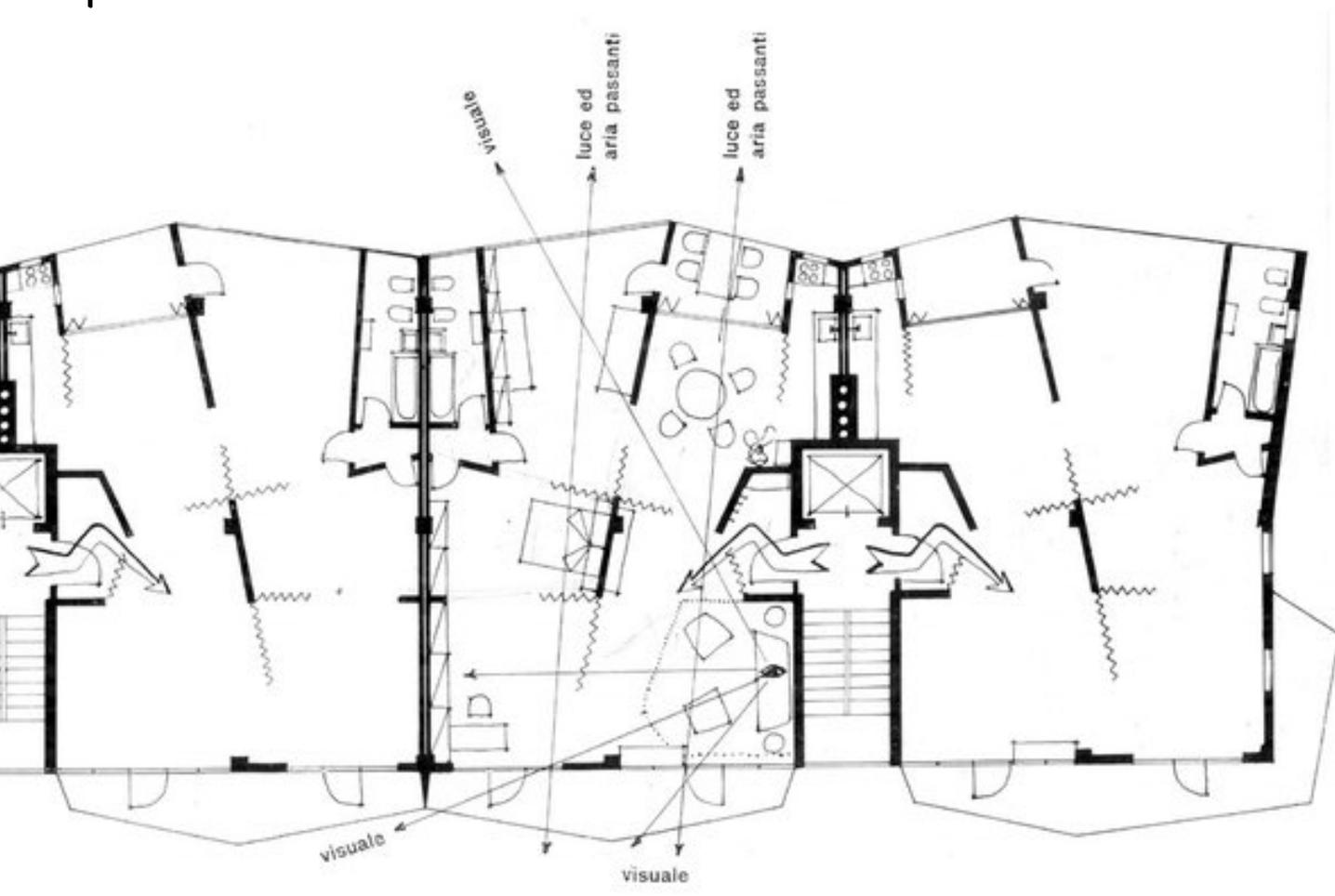
UNFIXED WALLS

As the strategy of emptying the floor plan through the space served progresses, the walls cease to be fixed elements and can be adjusted to make the floor plan more fluid.





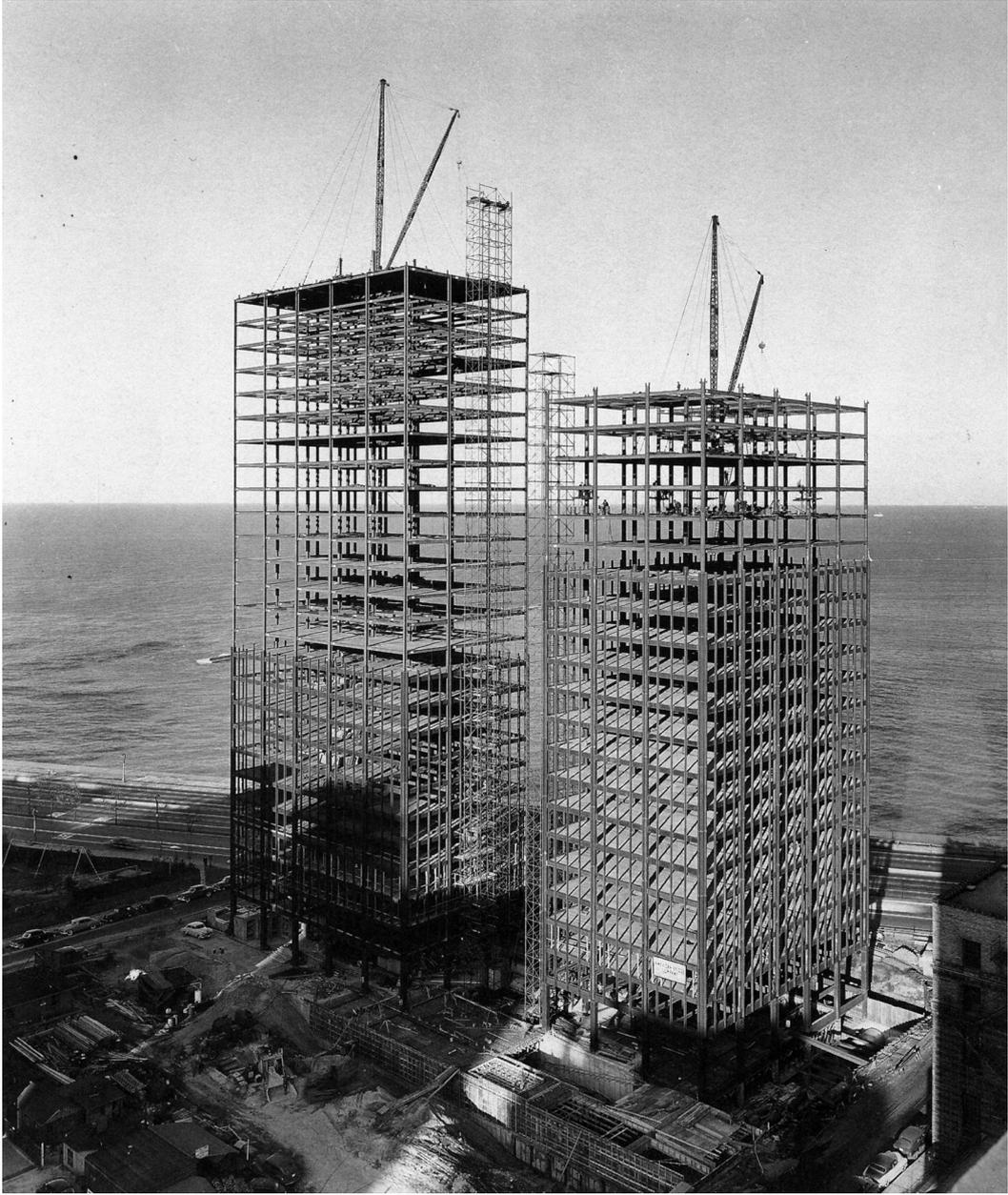




Gio Ponti, *Single-space house for four people*, 1956

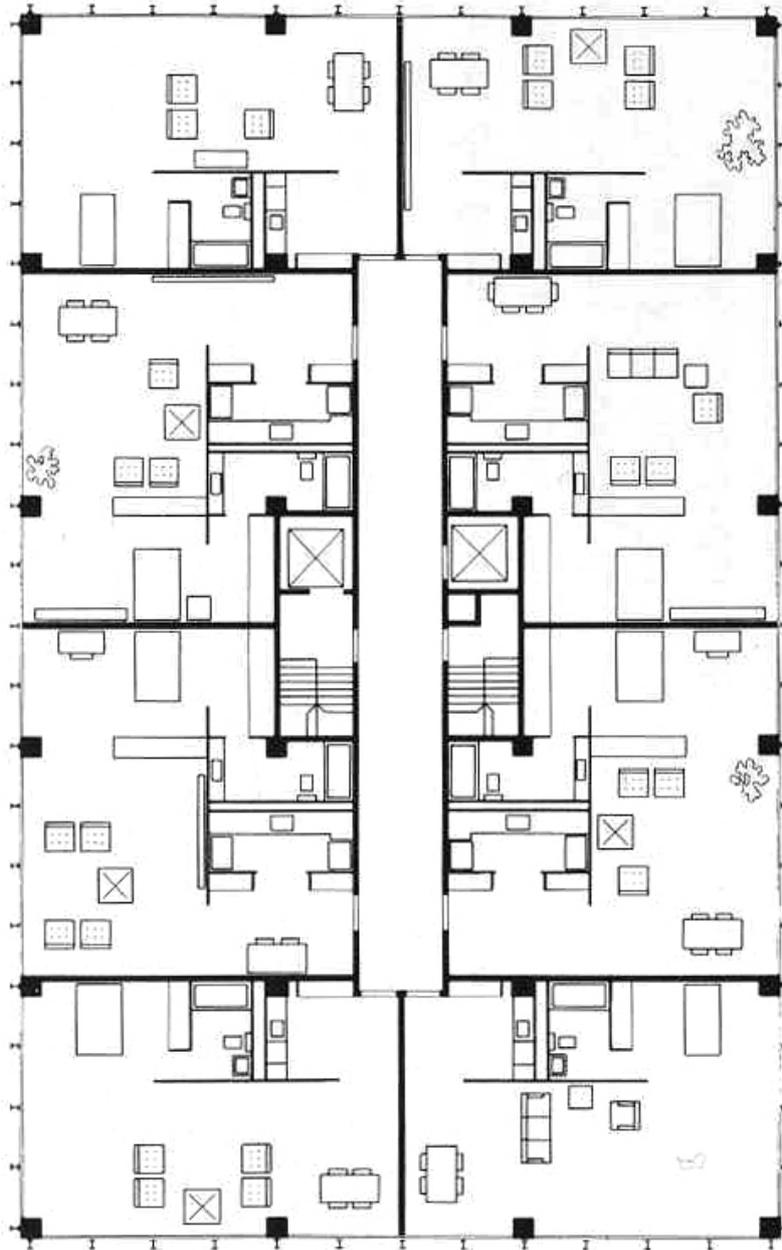


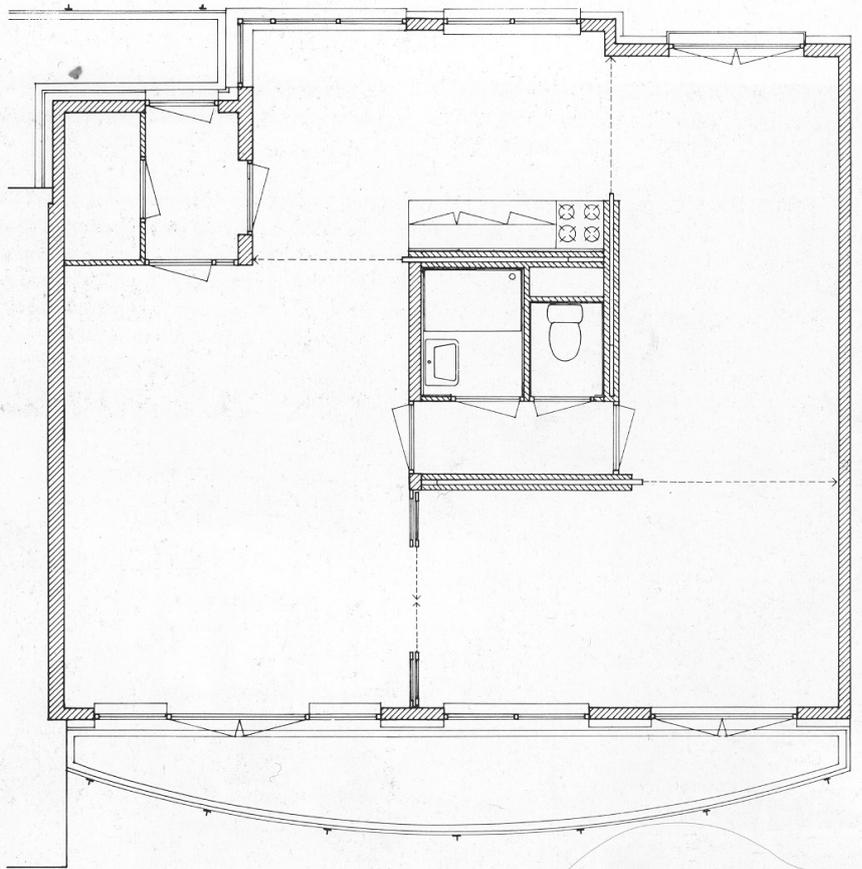
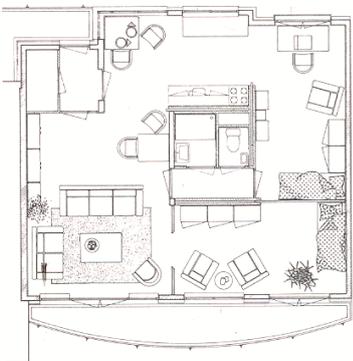
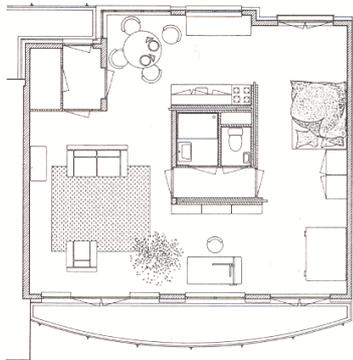
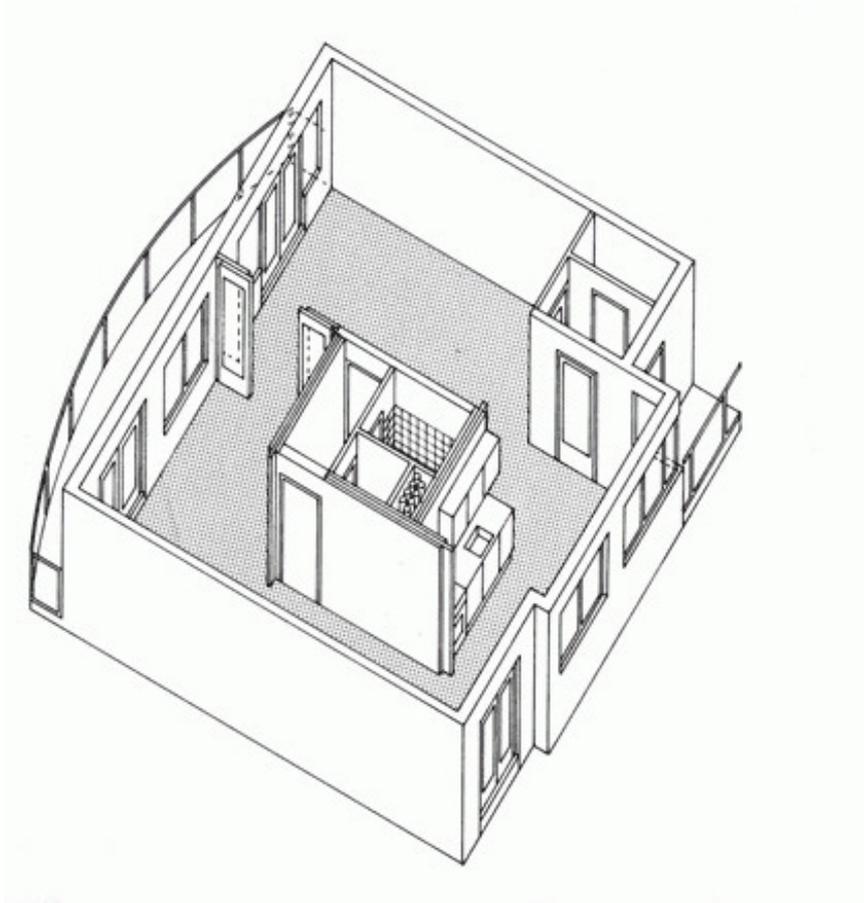
G. Ponti, *Apartment Building, Via Dezza*, Milano 1957



FREE PLAN

The structure is resolved as an independent grid, liberating the interior walls to become furniture. This creates a fluid and continuous space in which dissolves the traditional served spaces.

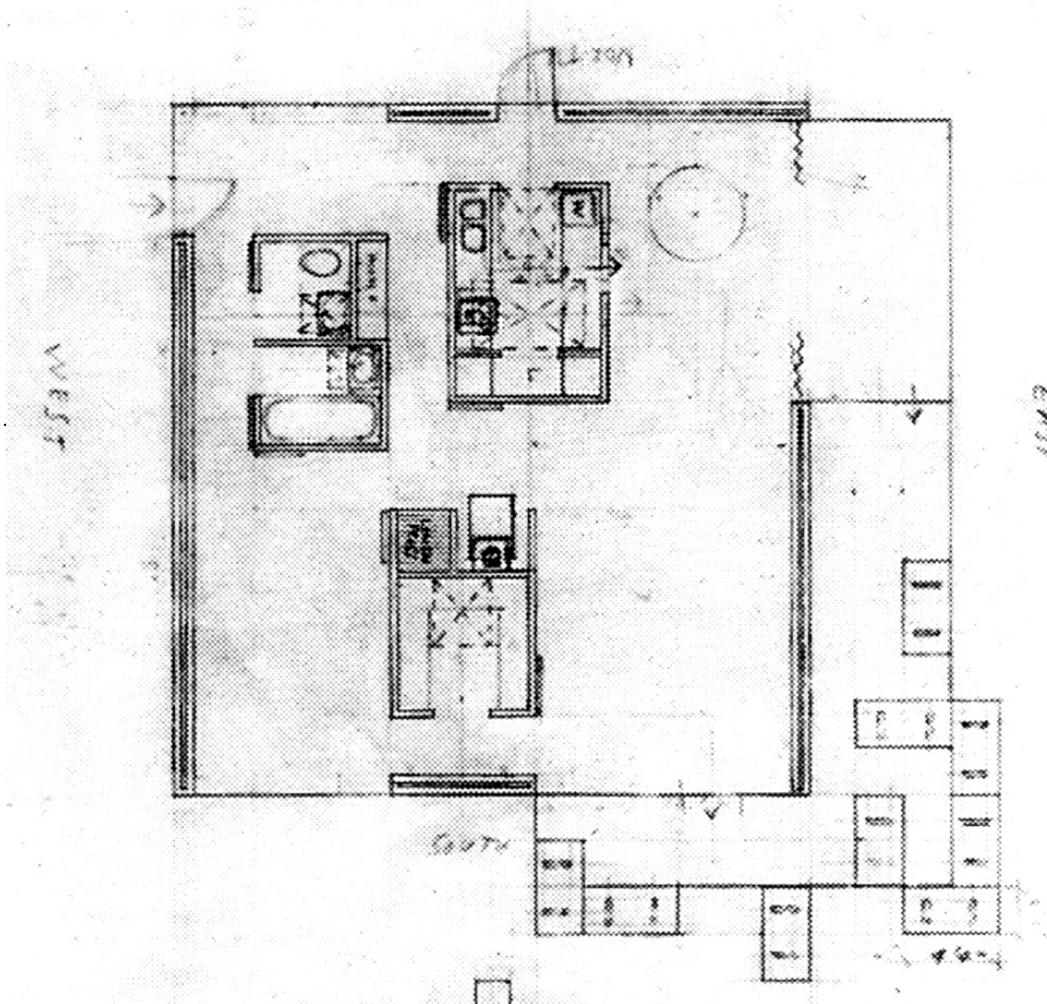


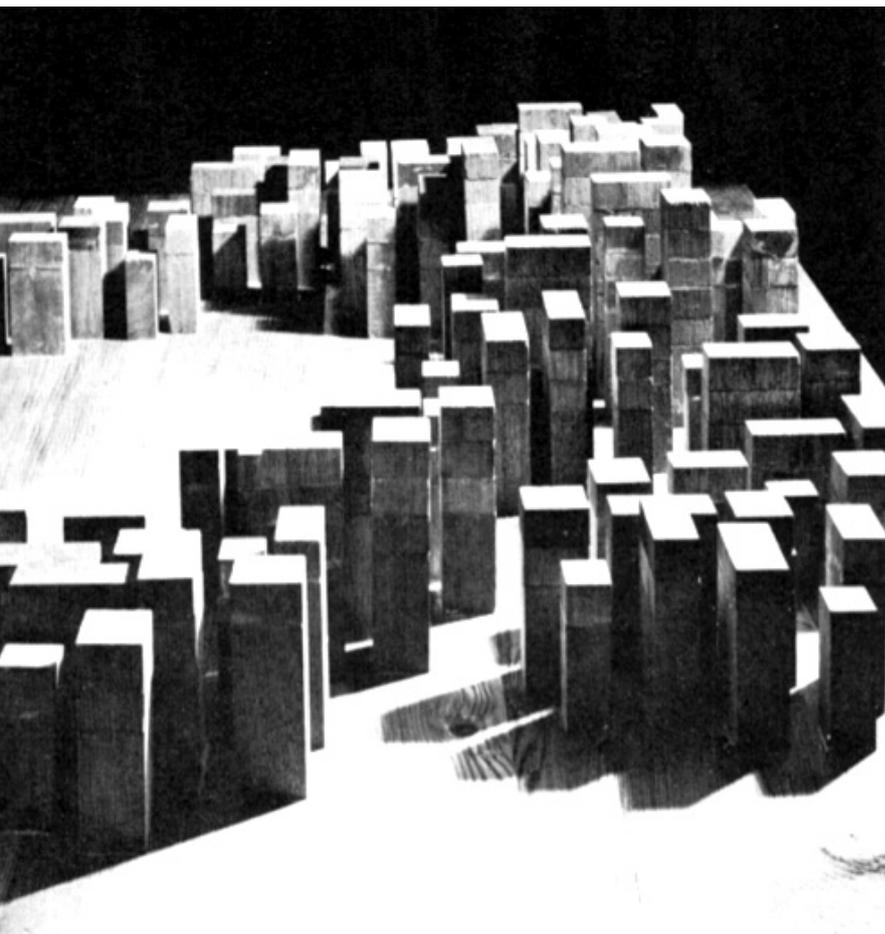


M. van der Torre and D. Duinker, *Housing in Nieuw Sloten*, Amsterdam, 1989

SERVING CORES

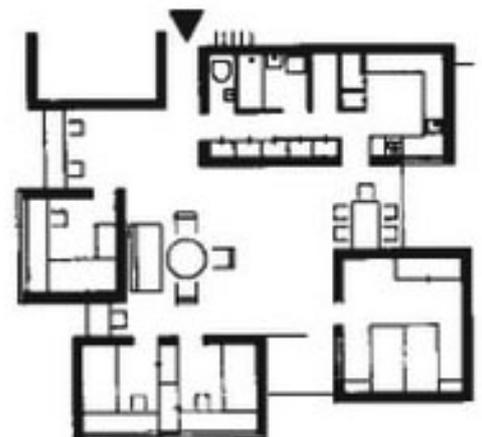
These cores are detached from the walls and float in the domestic space, defining thresholds between rooms that replace doors, making it possible to follow the entire perimeter of the house without interruption. Each room blurs its boundaries by breaking three of its corners, encouraging a spatial continuum that interrelates with the entire dwelling.

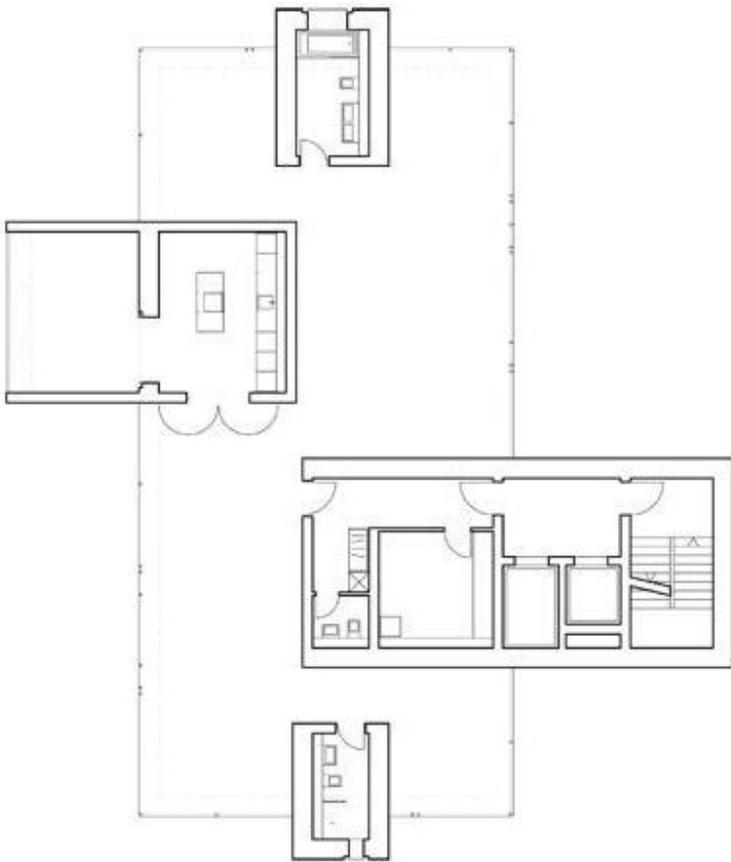
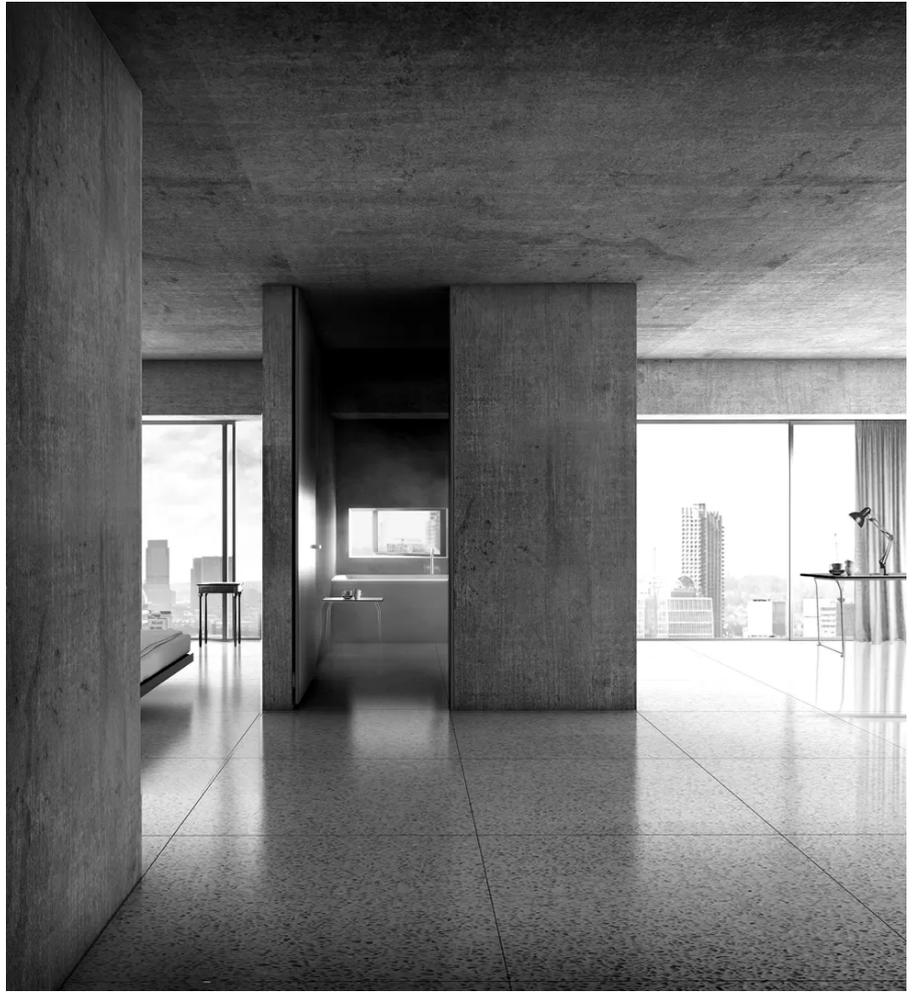




INHABITED BOXES

It refers to volumes or spatial elements which, despite possessing their own formal or structural identity, are designed to accommodate specific functions or activities and, critically, directly connect with or intersect the building's façade.





E2A *Eagle House High-rise*, London, 2016

fall semester 2025

The concepts of "servant space" and "served space," originally formulated by Louis I. Kahn, offer a valuable framework for interpreting and designing collective housing projects through their floor plans. This distinction isn't just about programmatic function; it primarily refers to a fundamental design strategy.

Servant spaces generally encompass all functional and utilitarian components of a home. This includes circulation areas, built-in installations, "wet" cores (such as bathrooms and kitchens), and storage areas for both maintenance tools and personal belongings. Conversely, served spaces are the remaining areas - often considered the "negative" space - designed for both interaction and privacy.

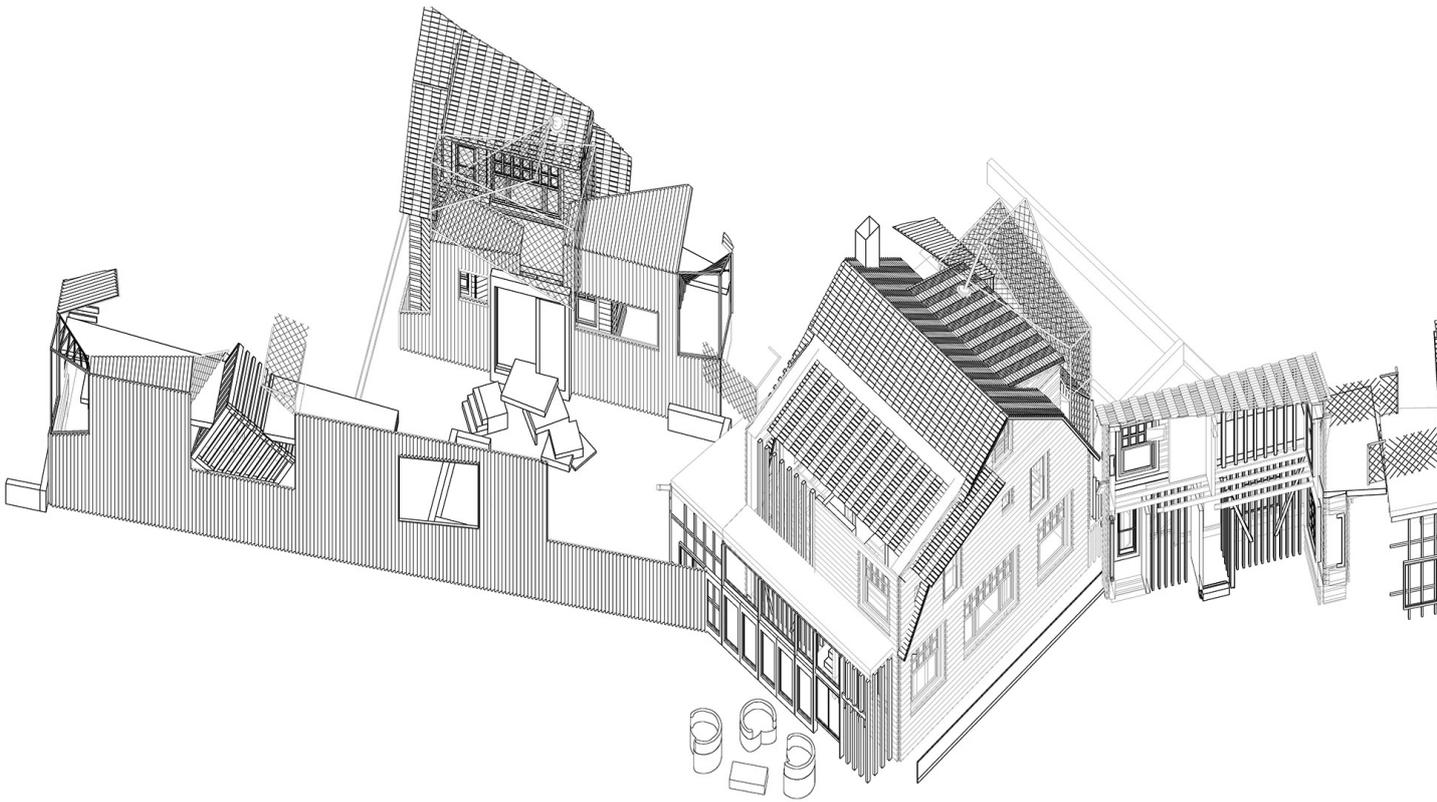
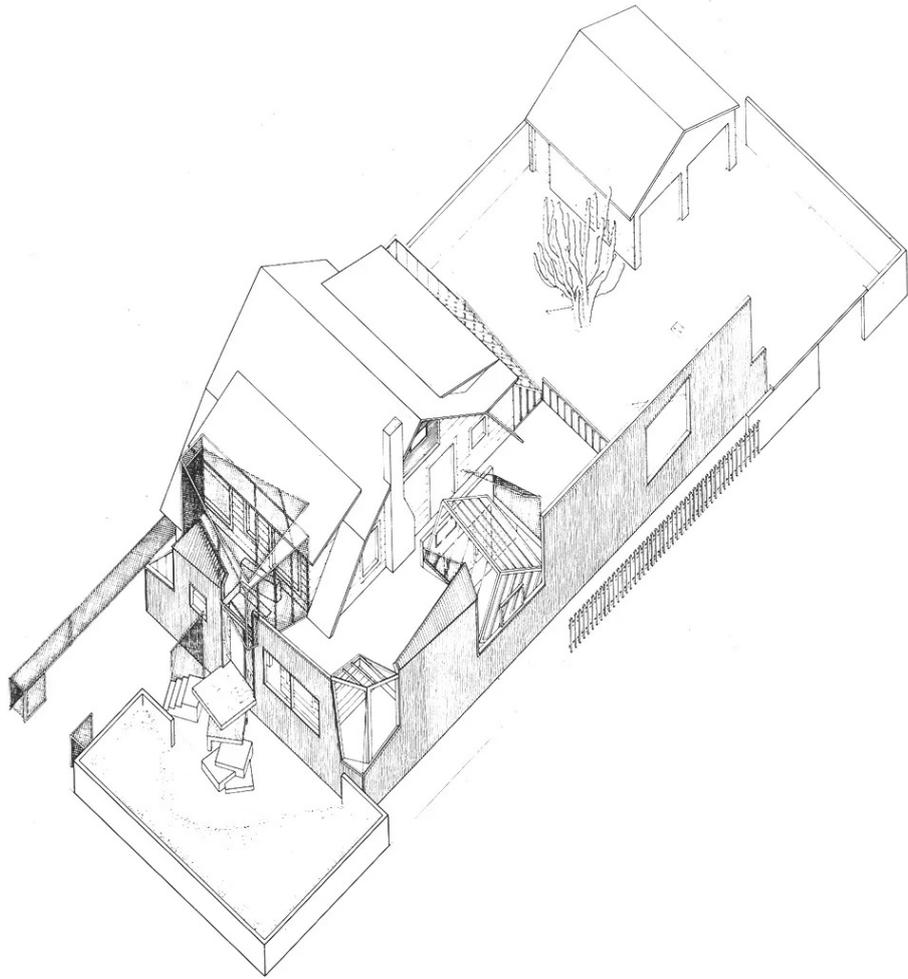
The structure of a floor plan can be defined by how servant spaces are strategically located, or by how served spaces are created through "emptying" processes. For instance, a kitchen might be contained entirely within a servant space, or it could open to expand the served space, making it more permeable. Whether an element is a service or a served element is not so much determined by its use as by its relative position and interaction within the overall layout.

zurich study trip



fall semester 2025





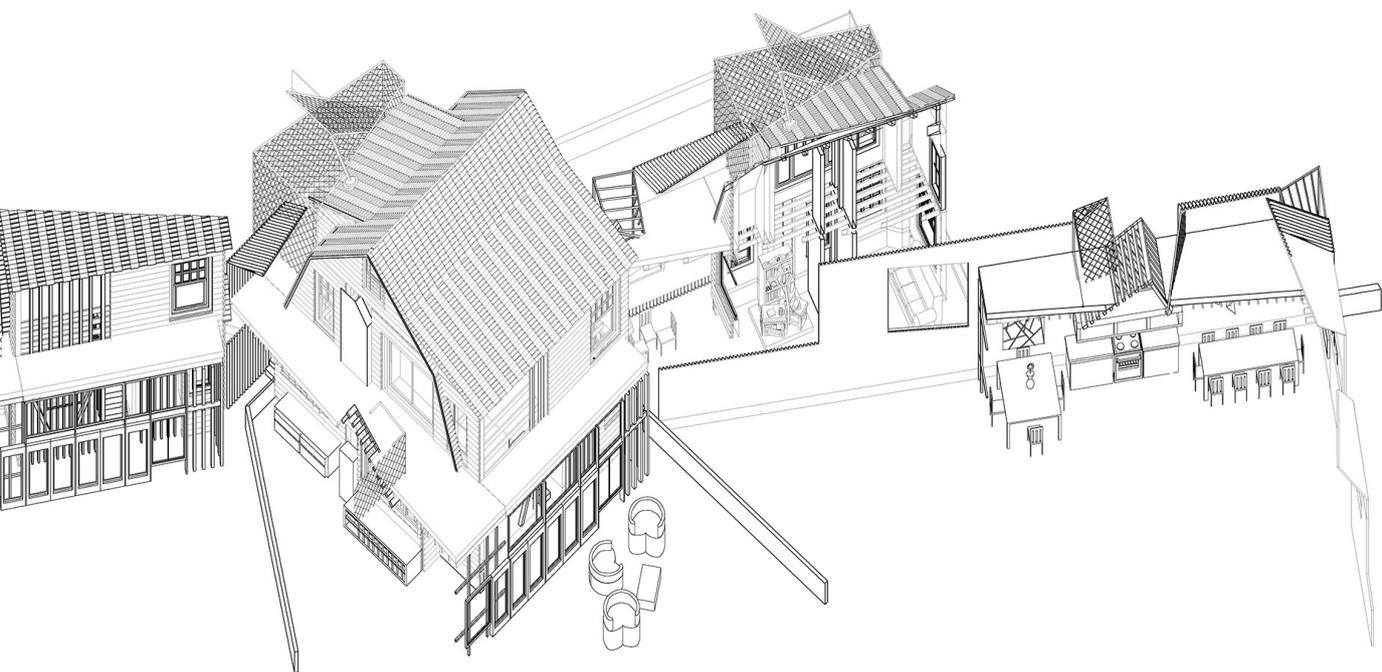
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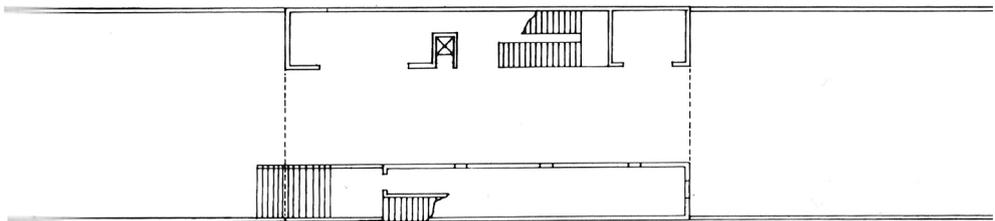
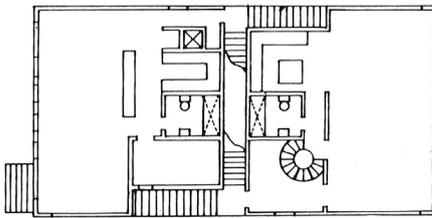
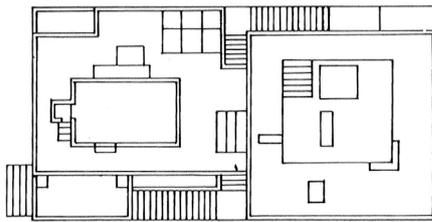
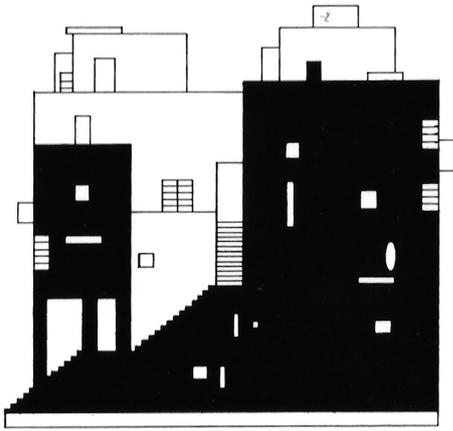
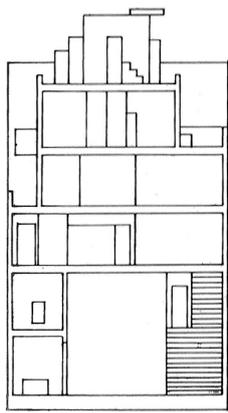
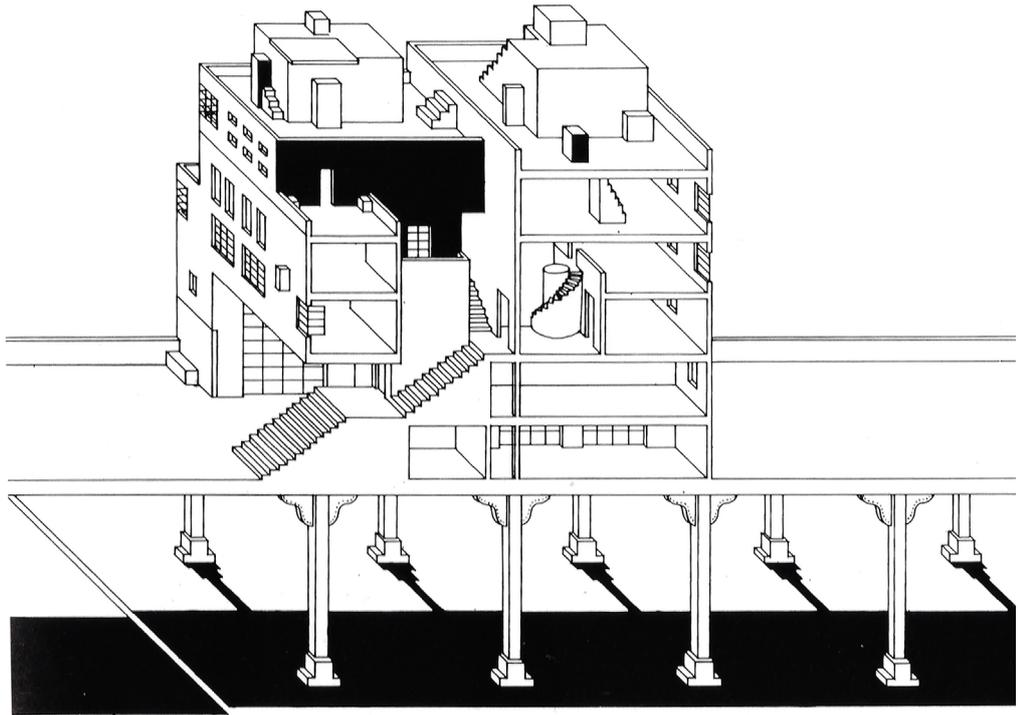
EXERCISE I

For the initial exercise, students will individually analyse a provided reference typology through the lens of servant and served spaces. The primary objective is to study the relationship between these two complementary space types by examining their proportion, formalization, and arrangement within the floor plan. Beyond simply identifying these spaces, this exercise aims to foster a discourse that doesn't just categorize but rather observes how the relationship between servant and served spaces influences the way we inhabit our homes.

This exercise will conclude at the midterm, at which point students will submit a vertical sheet. This sheet should include a floor plan of both the typology and the complete building, relevant elevations or sections, and an axonometric drawing. The axonometric drawing should specifically explain the role of either the servant or served space in the overall structure of both the building and its typology. Though this information may originate from several documents, it must be composed as a single, cohesive drawing on the sheet.

Individual work
One vertical sheet





fall semester 2025

EXERCISE II

Before completing the first exercise, students will begin Exercise 2, a two-person group assignment. They'll design a building for three families, including shared spaces. While there's no specific physical site, the building will be defined by party walls with varying dimensions on each side of the plot, allowing it to connect with other groups' designs

The core idea here is to apply the servant and served space strategy analysed in the reference to this concrete case. The assignment also proposes shared housing to encourage exploration of the challenges and potential of communal living, including the complexities of space privacy. Finally, by adapting to existing party walls, students will understand that a building isn't an isolated entity; it's part of a larger whole that contributes to shape the city.

For the final submission of this exercise, students will submit two vertical sheets. These sheets should include floor plans, elevations, sections, and an axonometric drawing, presented in a manner analogous to the previous exercise, where all documents are composed into a single, cohesive drawing.

Additionally, a 1:33 model will be required. All models from the studio will be presented together to form an aggregation, and by fitting their party walls together, we'll observe how the sum of individual decisions can collectively generate a city.

Groups of two
Two vertical sheets
One model 1/33

spring semester 2026

EXERCISE III

The second semester's exercise will continue to be a partner assignment, with the same pairs as the first semester. The semester will kick off with a trip to Barcelona. Besides visiting innovative housing projects throughout the city, we'll also visit the Can Batllo site. This former textile factory in Barcelona's Sants neighbourhood is currently undergoing a transformation, turning the entire area into a superblock. This presents an opportunity to add new buildings to the perimeters and rehabilitate existing warehouses for housing.

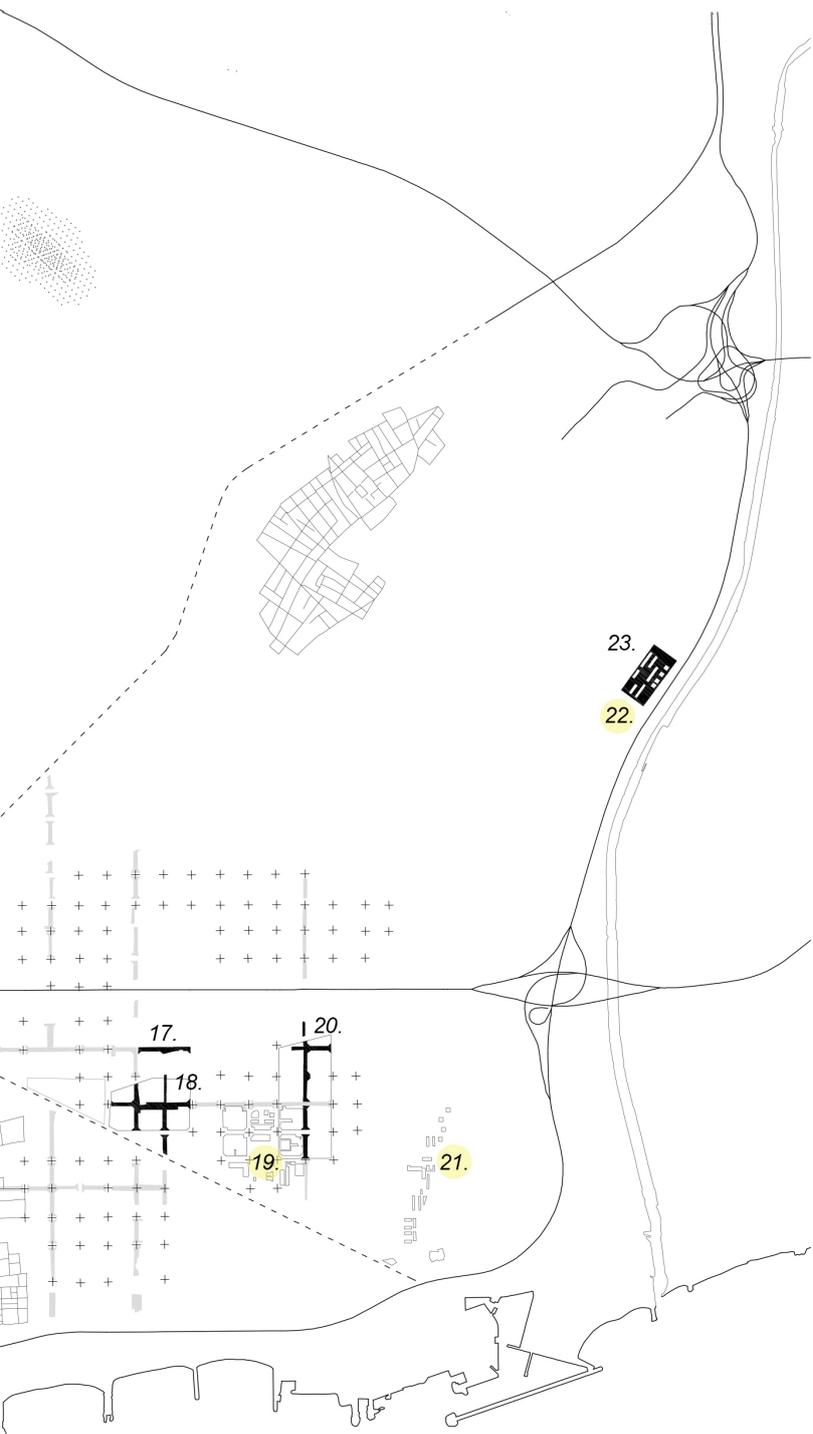
This programme will take an in-depth look at collective housing, focusing mainly on the aggregation of typologies to create shared spaces. We will understand the thermodynamic performance of these spaces, considering their energy efficiency and comfort. In addition, the programme will explore the structural logic of spatial systems, examining how elements are organised and interconnected. We will also consider the aesthetics of building systems, investigating how materials and construction techniques contribute to the overall visual experience. Finally, we will integrate the concepts of 'served and serving spaces, explored in the previous semester, to understand their functional relationships and how they enhance the way we live.

For the final submission, a 1:300 scale group model of the industrial complex will be required. You'll also need to generate at least four vertical documents: a Site Plan, Inhabited Plans, Elevations and Sections, and a Constructive Axonometric. Finally, a 1:33 scale model of the Project must be produced.

Groups of two
four vertical sheets
General model 1/300
One model 1/33

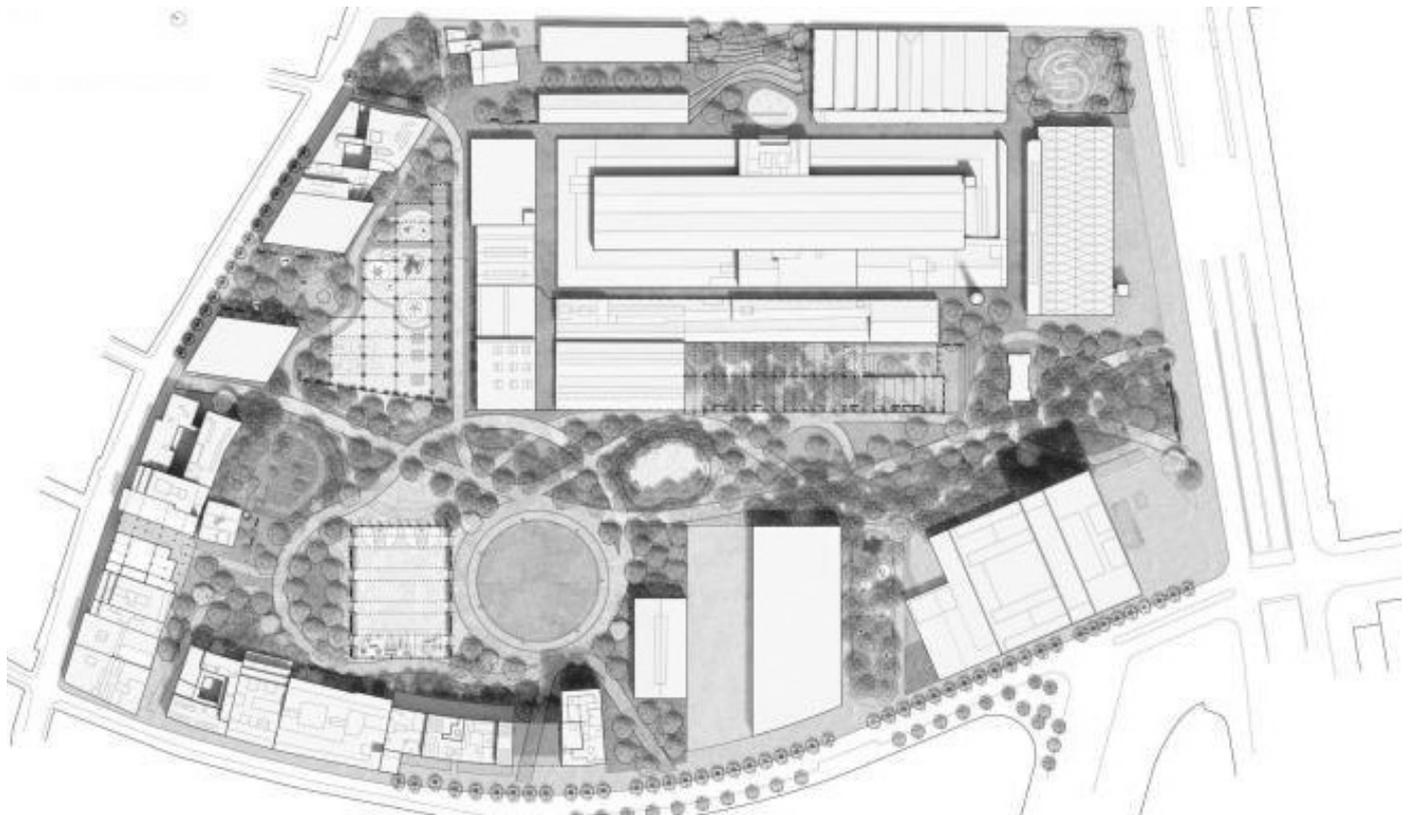
barcelona study trip





1. SuperbolckCan Batlló
2. La Borda (Lacol)
3. EMAV
4. Fàbrica Lehmann
5. Superblock Rocafort
6. Superblock Sant Antoni
7. Superblock Rocafort
8. SuperblockConsell de Cent
9. Superblock Comte Borrell
10. Superblock Enrique Granados
11. Superblock Zamora
12. 105 Social Housing Glòries (P+T)
13. Can Framis (BAAS)
14. Nest City Lab
15. Superbolck de Poblenou
16. Viviendas Mas de Roda (Jordi Garces)
17. Superblock Bolivia
18. Superblock Cristóbal de Moura
19. 140 Social Housing - Greenhouse Housing (P+T)
20. SuperblockPuigcerdà
21. 54 Social Housing - Social Atrium (P+T)
22. 54 Social Housing - Living in lattice(P+T)
23. Superblock Bonpastor
24. 39 Social Housing - Turó del Sastre (dataAE)
25. 40 Social Housing - Masnou (P+T)
26. 30 Social Housing - Sant Just Desvern (dataAE)
27. Walden 7 (Ricardo Bofill)
28. 85 Social Housing - Modulus Matrix (P+T)
29. 136 Social Housing - Gavà (H Arquitectes)





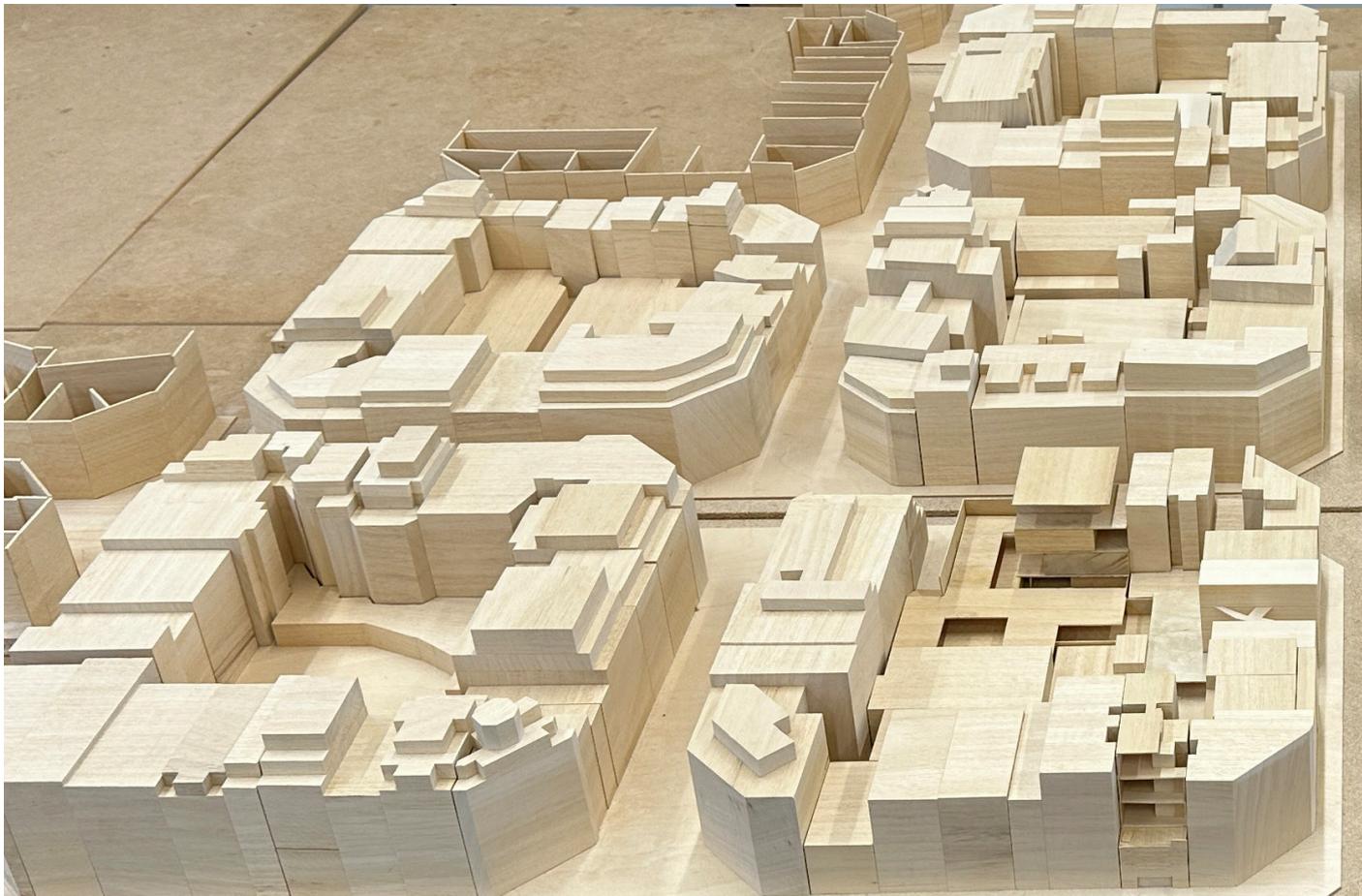
site: Can Batllo former factory



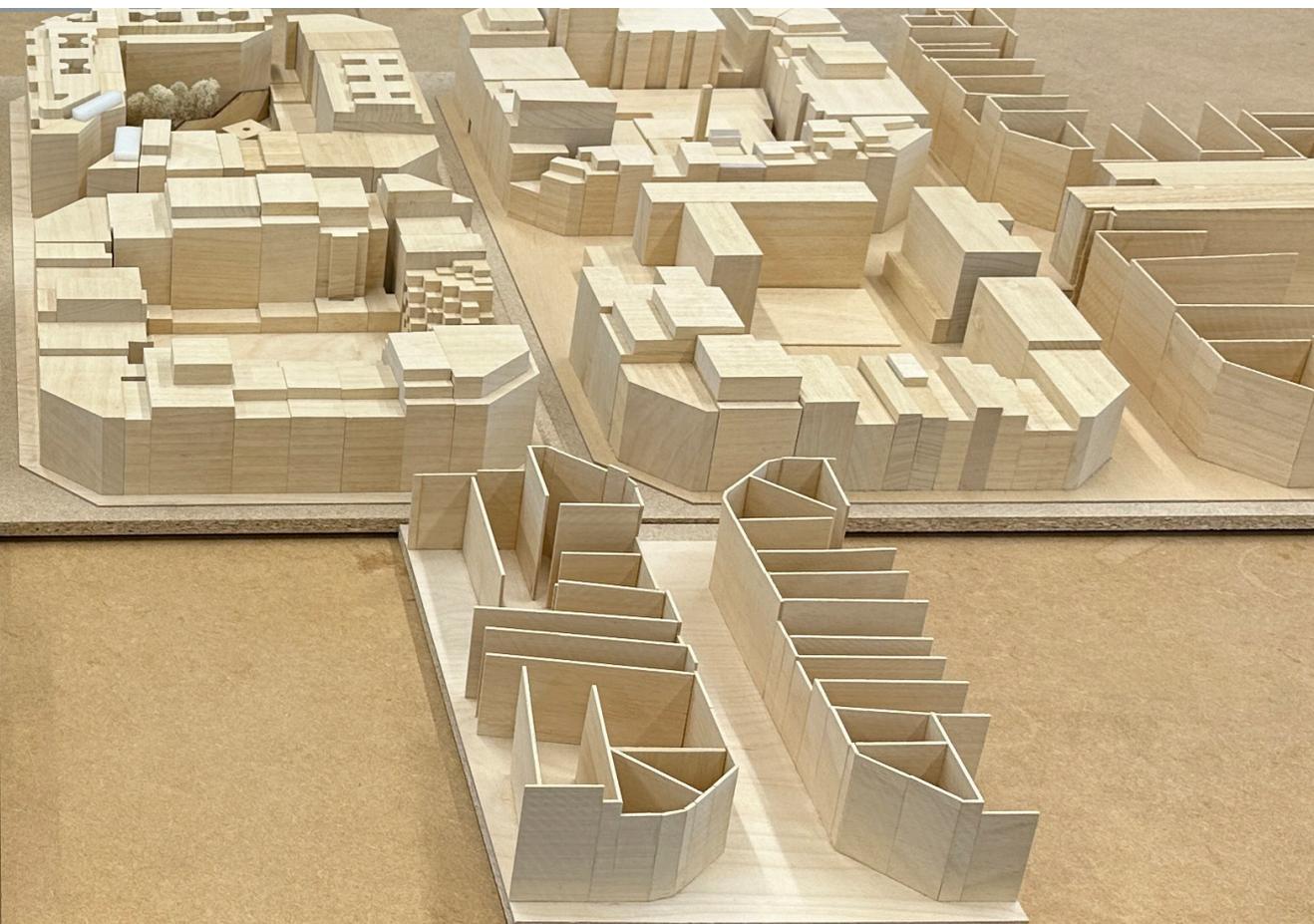


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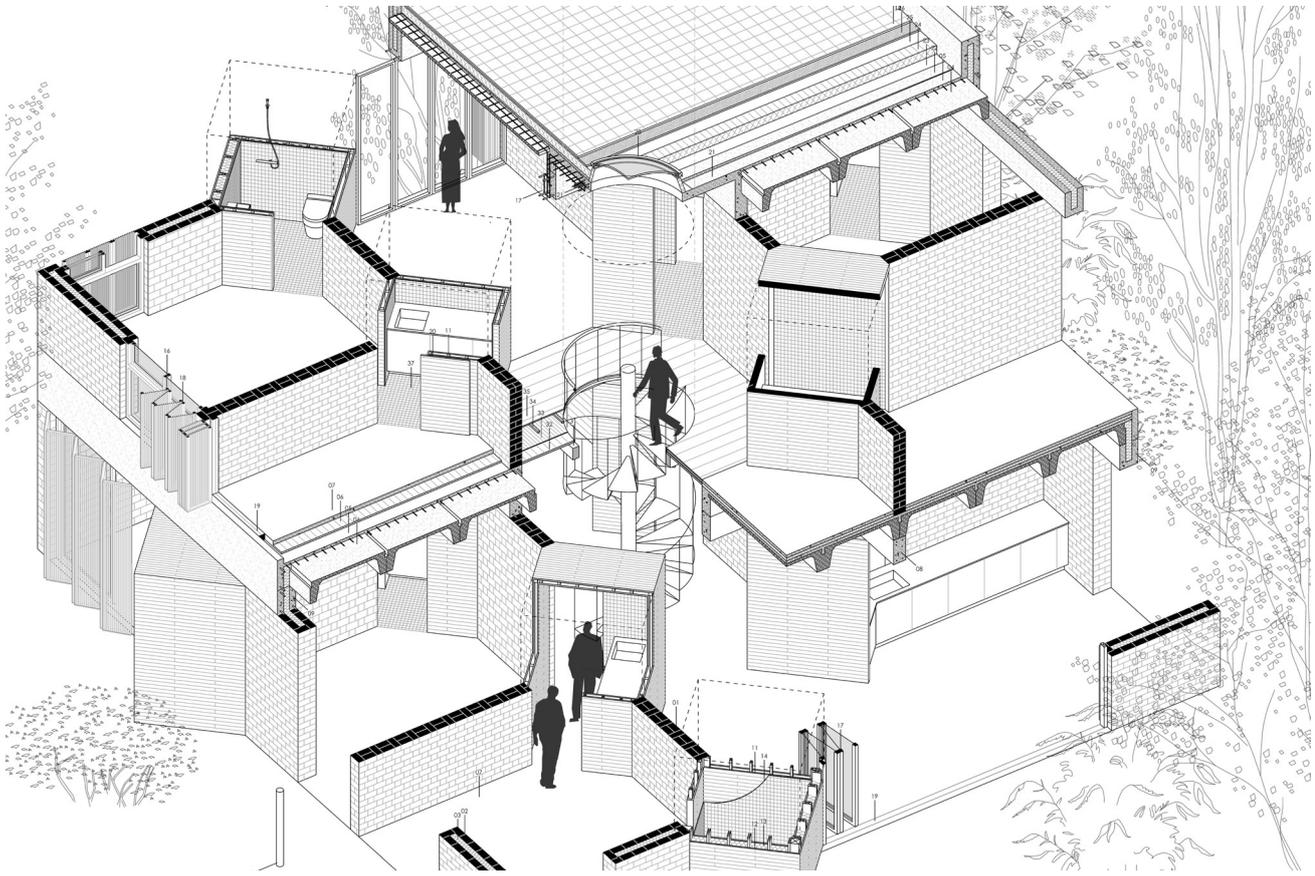




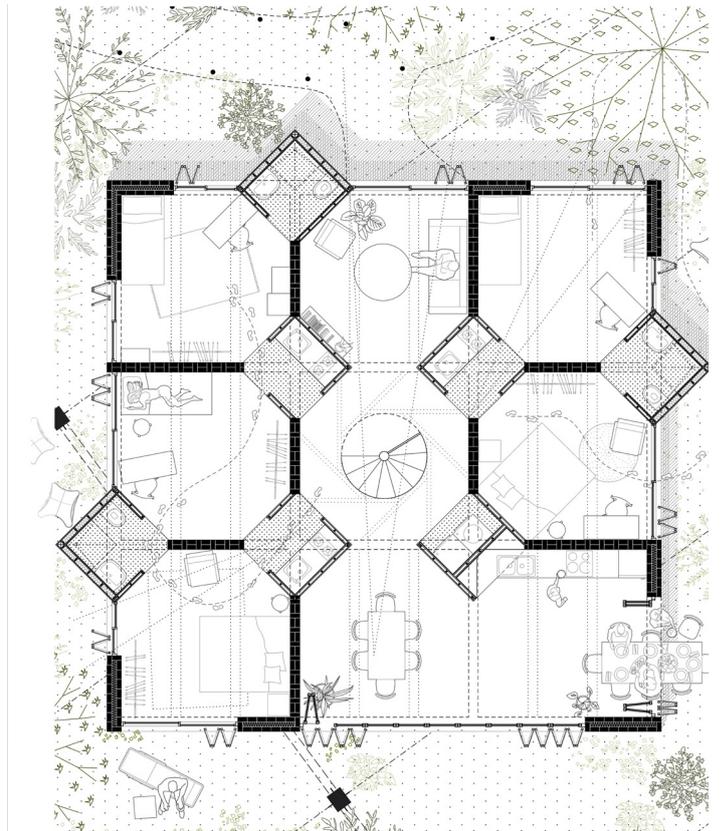
spring semester 2026

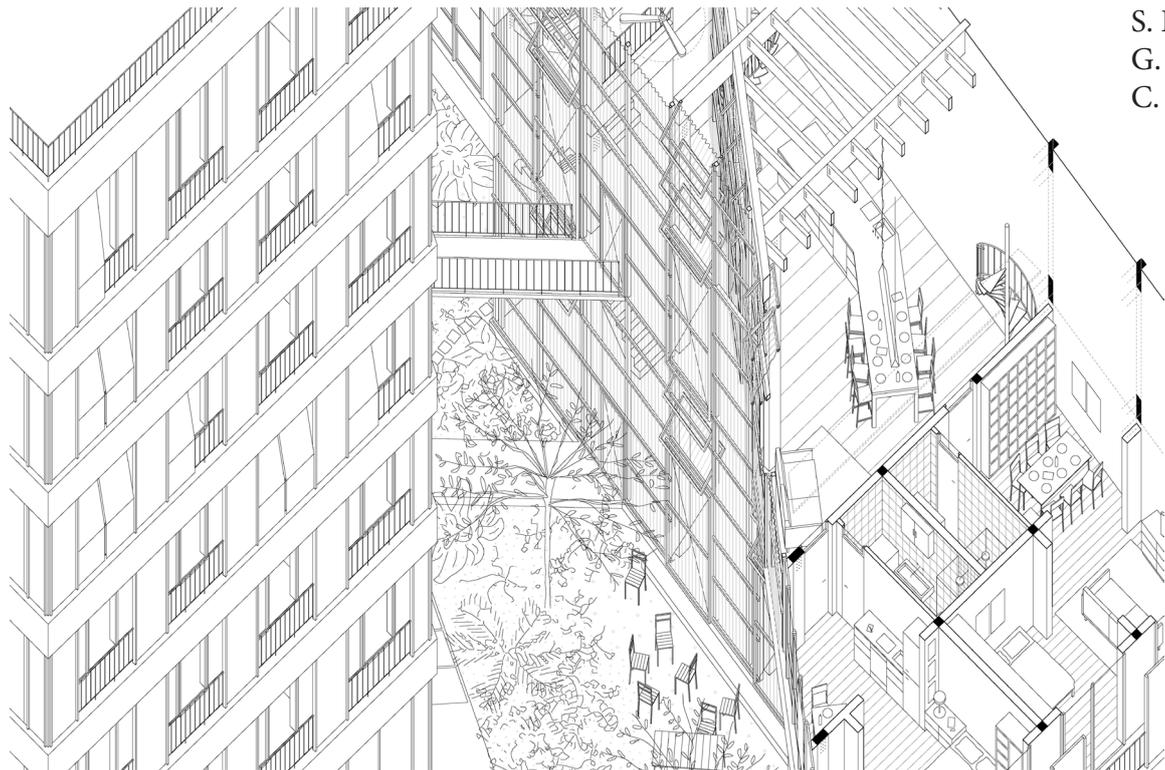
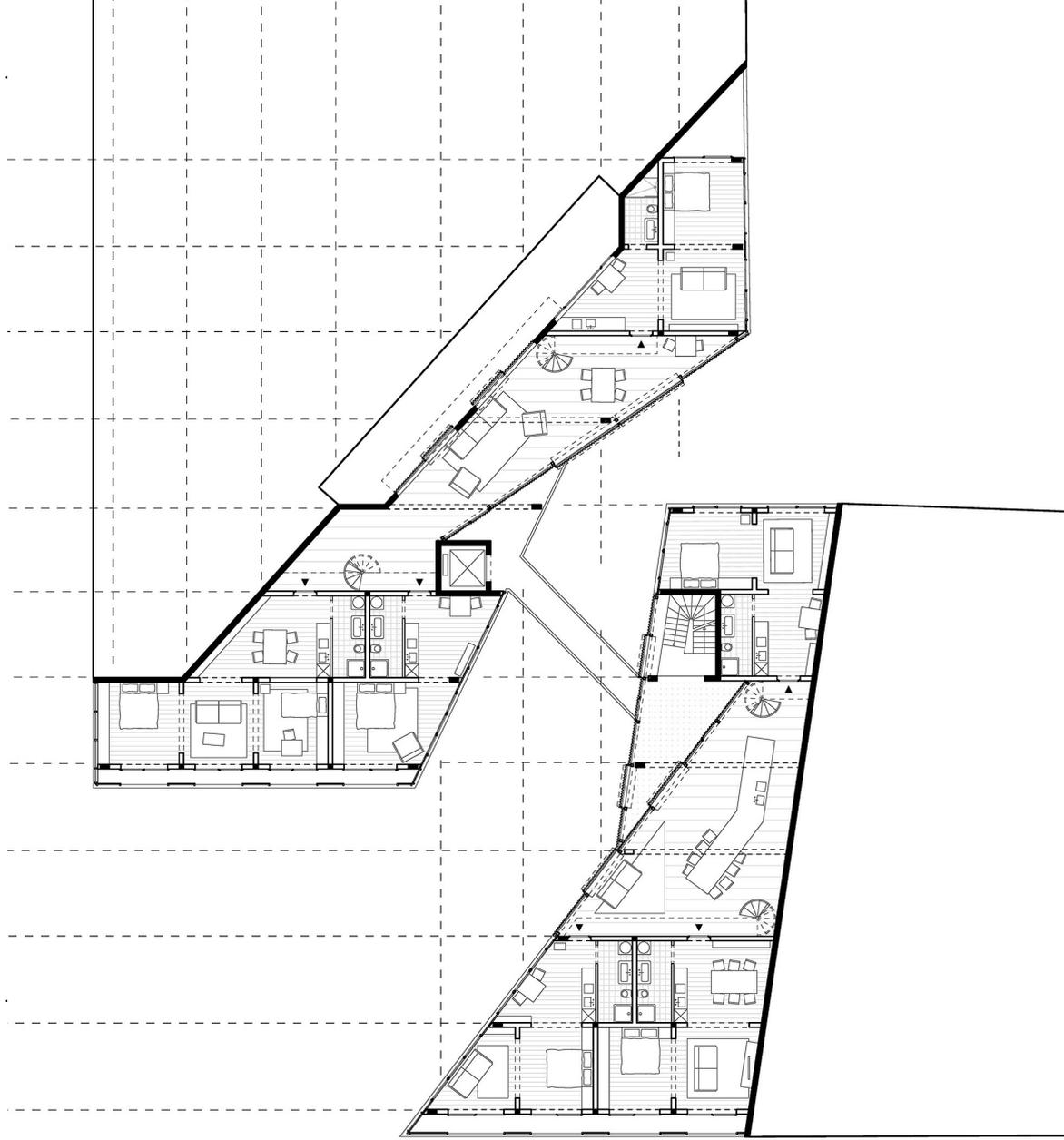


General Model 1/300

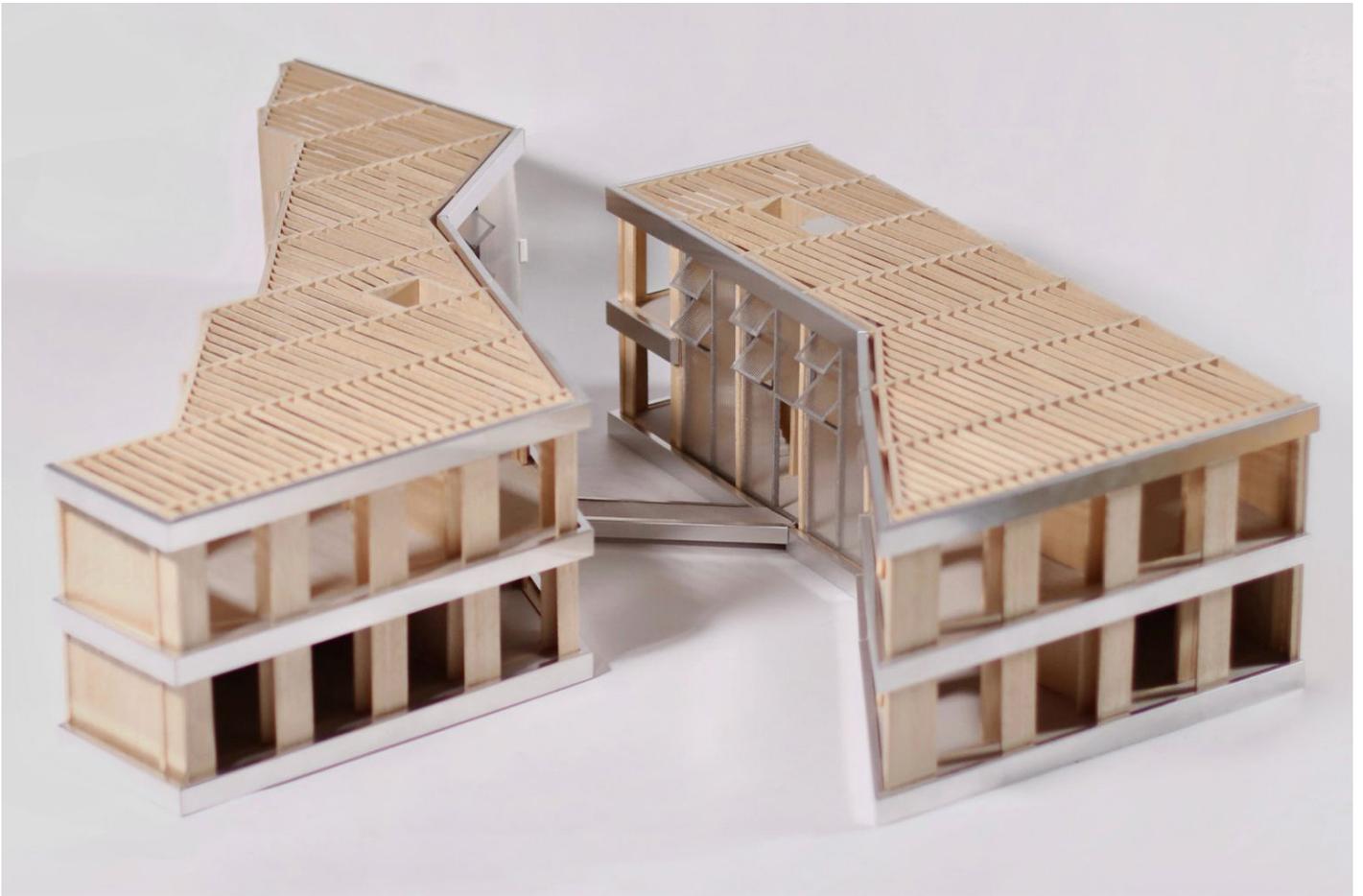


J. Couëlle
J. El Laham Joya
H. Fernández Ríos





S. Brantner
G. Sánchez Cardenas
C. Scharff-Hansen



S. Brantner
G. Sánchez Cardenas
C. Scharff-Hansen

Model 1:50



A. Baumgartner Alma
R. Dubettier-Grenier
K. Van Der Poel

Model 1:300



J. Couëlle
J. El Laham Joya
H. Fernández Ríos

Model 1:50

week 01	08-09 september	introduction course and exercise I lecture on drawing
week 02	15-16 september	study trip Zurich (Saturday 13th+ Sunday 14th) desk discussion
week 03	23 september	lecture on structural systems
week 04	29-30 september	desk discussion introduction exercise II
week 05	06-07 october	MID TERM tuesday - lecture materials
week 06	13-14 october	desk discussion
break	20-24 october	holidays
week 07	27-28 october	desk discussion lecture - axonometry
week 08	03-04 november	desk discussion
week 09	10-11 november	desk discussion
week 10	17-18 november	desk discussion
week 11	24-25 november	desk discussion
week 12	01-02 december	desk discussion
week 13	08-09 december	charrette
week 14	15-19 december	FINAL REVIEW (Tuesday 16th)

assistants

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