Good City
Has Industry

Cities are the incubators and the engines of the economy. We can see the different economic eras in their architecture and structure. Over the past decades, the renewal of the European city was accompanied by the rapid growth of services and knowledge economy. But in our effort to turn city into an attractive living and working environment, we have also driven the industry out of the city. Productive areas disappear into the outskirts of the city or to low-wage countries. The city is turning into a place of consumption, without production. That is a problematic.

The western part of Zurich is one of those old industrial sites that is gradually being swallowed up by the development of the city. The site of Herden is on the fringe to be gradually squeezed between Zurich, Höng and Altstetten, and therefore will become a new city hub in the next decades. This proposition is to protect this industrial site by encouraging and intensifying the activity that resides there.

Engros Markt is a wholesale market, the keystone of our contemporary food system, and the place where an astronomical quantity of food passes through. Today, an apple produced in a Swiss orchard (A) will first be sold to a wholesaler (B). The wholesaler will collect the different types of fruit and vegetables according to their offer (C), pack them (D) and transport them (E)to one of the wholesale centres. It is at Engros Markt (F) that the wholesaler will sell his goods. After setting up his products (G), everything intensifies between midnight and 4 am. Restaurant managers and food retailers come to get the best products in a mighty round of negotiations (H).

After each night of trading, the wholesalers find themselves with a significant amount of unsold goods (I). The Engros Markts wholesalers account for 400 kg of unsold fruit and vegetables per day (J).

My project is an extention of this procession of food. The availability of so much fruit and vegetables offers a raw material that would be worth exploiting directly on the site (K). My proposal is to establish a distillery, a soup factory that will use these unsold food under the mero roof structure.

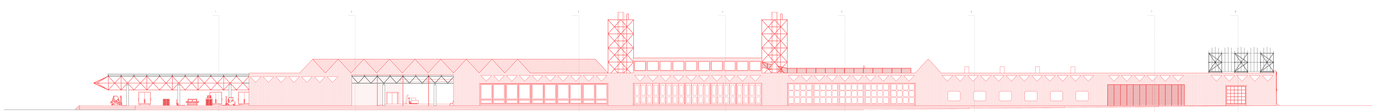
Unsold fruit is taken to a new processing line (1). The crushing room (2) from where the fruit is transformed into mash, is then sent to the fermentation room (3). After a few weeks they are processed in the distillery. Characterized by large alembics machine, the room is central to the project. A large infrastructure recover the heat from the fruit mash to warm the whole building (4). After the distillation the liquid is placed in barrels to be kept in a cellar at the west part of the building (7).
If the unsold goods cannot be used in the distillery, they go to the soup factory. After a quick architectural promenade by pallet truck, they are processed in the kitchen of the building (6). Here it is the hot water recovered from the distillation process that is used to heat the soup. The bottling and the sale of the products in the shop (8) or in the restaurant (5) are the very last steps built into the project.

The project is a catalogue of structural strategies that extend the capacity of the neutral MERO structure. A truss column (0) becomes the key element to increase the flexibility of the facade. The quality then remains in the wall. It is a series of architectural potential.

Very didactic, each stage of production is clear and has its own space. The 200m long roof becomes an industrial showcase where every moment of the fruits and vegetables' modifications becomes a visual and olfactory experience.
Each space has its own window and communicates through the façade of this long structure, which theatralizes the production to the city.

By extending the food distribution chain directly onto the site, the project sends a strong signal for a productive city. In contrast to the average 2400km that food travel to reach our plates, the unsold Distillery soup factory becomes a food saving machine over a simple 200 meter distance. Products destined to be wasted are then saved by entering this long tunnel of enrichment.

Finaly it will intensifies the industrial character of Zurich West by establishing a real Industrie in the centre of a future multi-programmatic district.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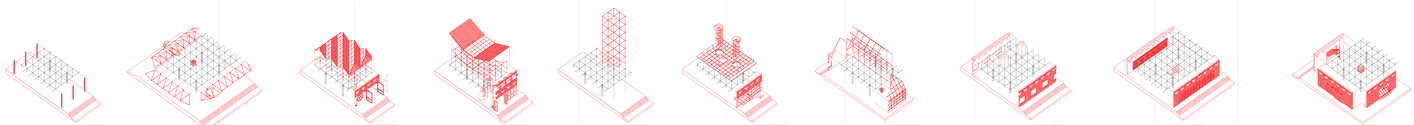
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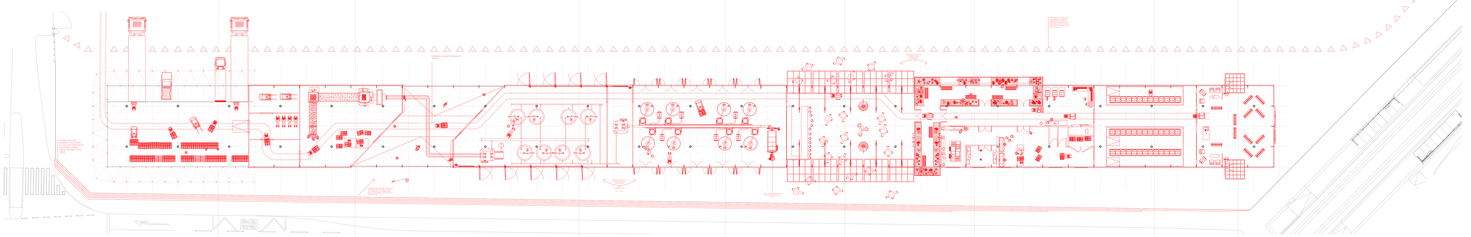
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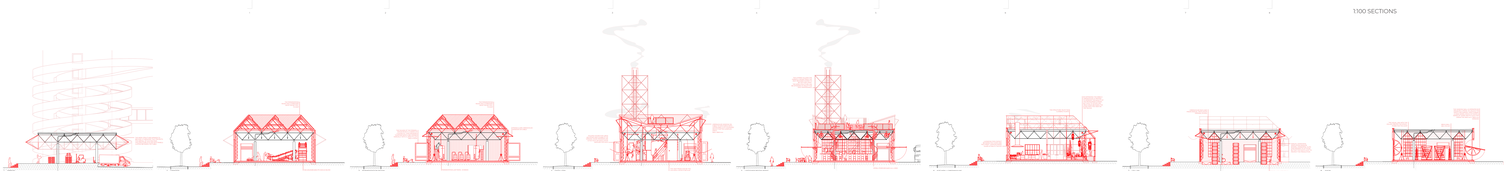
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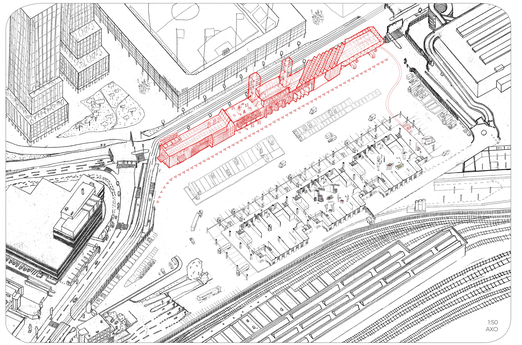
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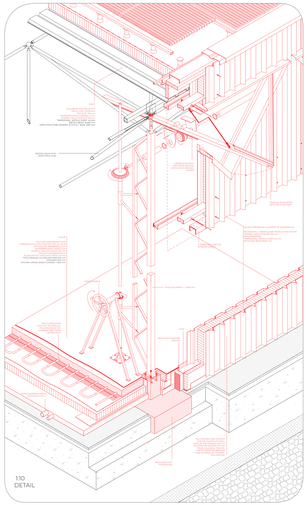
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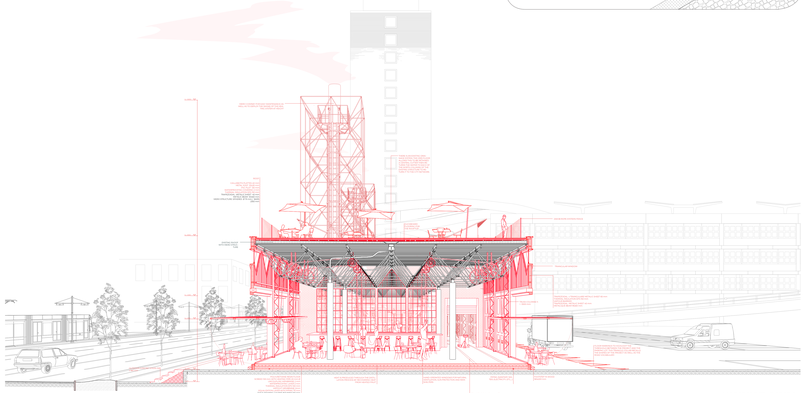
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