ONSUMPTION CITY= COMMON

architecture of the commons

Masterthesis FS 2020 ETH Zurich | Topic B | Simeon Bodmer | Studio Anne Lacaton

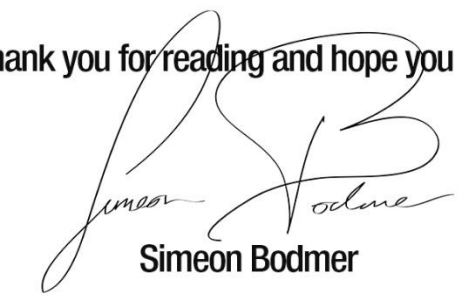
cities are the most complex **common**

The following thesis tries to analyse the area of the Zurichberg in Zurich and to propose the **architecture of the common** for this area.

We will talk about the **common**, what it is, why we need to do something at this area, how we can achieve the desired effect and what exact architectural interventions are needed.

Subsequently I hope that this thesis can be used as an example of how to tackle cities and bring back the **common spirit**.

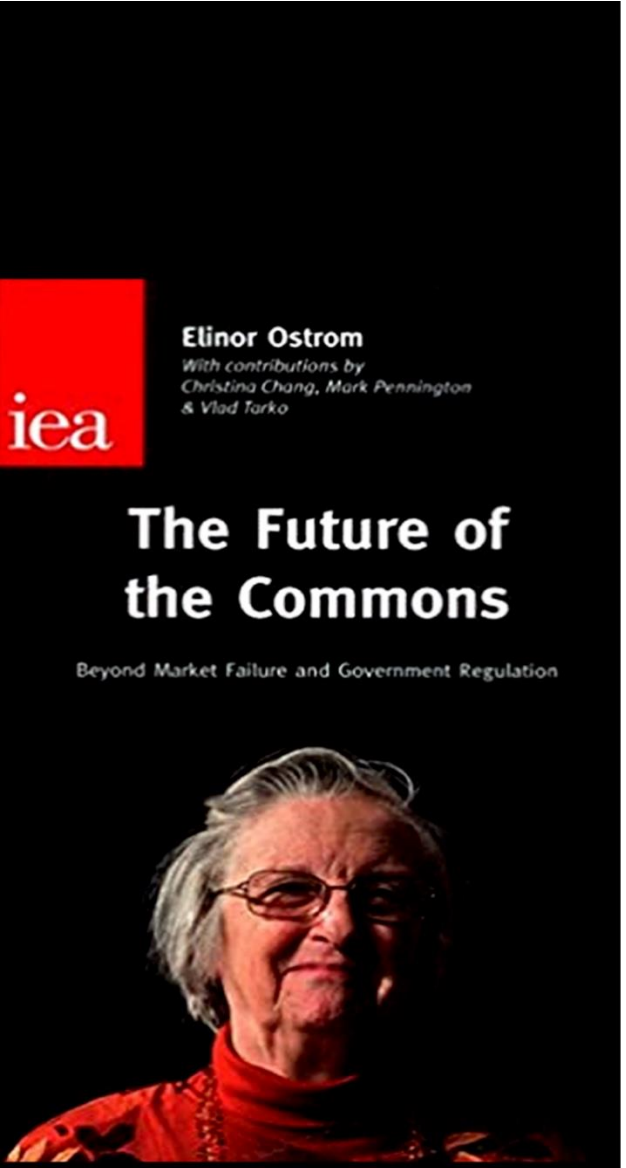
I thank you for reading and hope you enjoy



Simeon Bodmer

„An oak tree might be in the **commons**,
its shade in summer for the sheperd,
its acorns for the pigs of the peasants,
its dry branches serve as fuel in winter,
its fresh twigs are used as ornaments
and at sunset it might be the place for
the village assembly.“

IVAN ILLICH



COMMON POOL RESOURCES

	excludable	*non-excludable*
rivalrous	**private goods (market)** food, clothing, cars, parking spaces	**common pool resource** fish stocks, timber, coal, ground
non rivalrous	**club goods** cinemas, private parks, satellite TV	**public goods (government)** air, national defense, open access parks

the „**common** thing“
water, land, ground,
fish stocks
the resource itself.

res communis

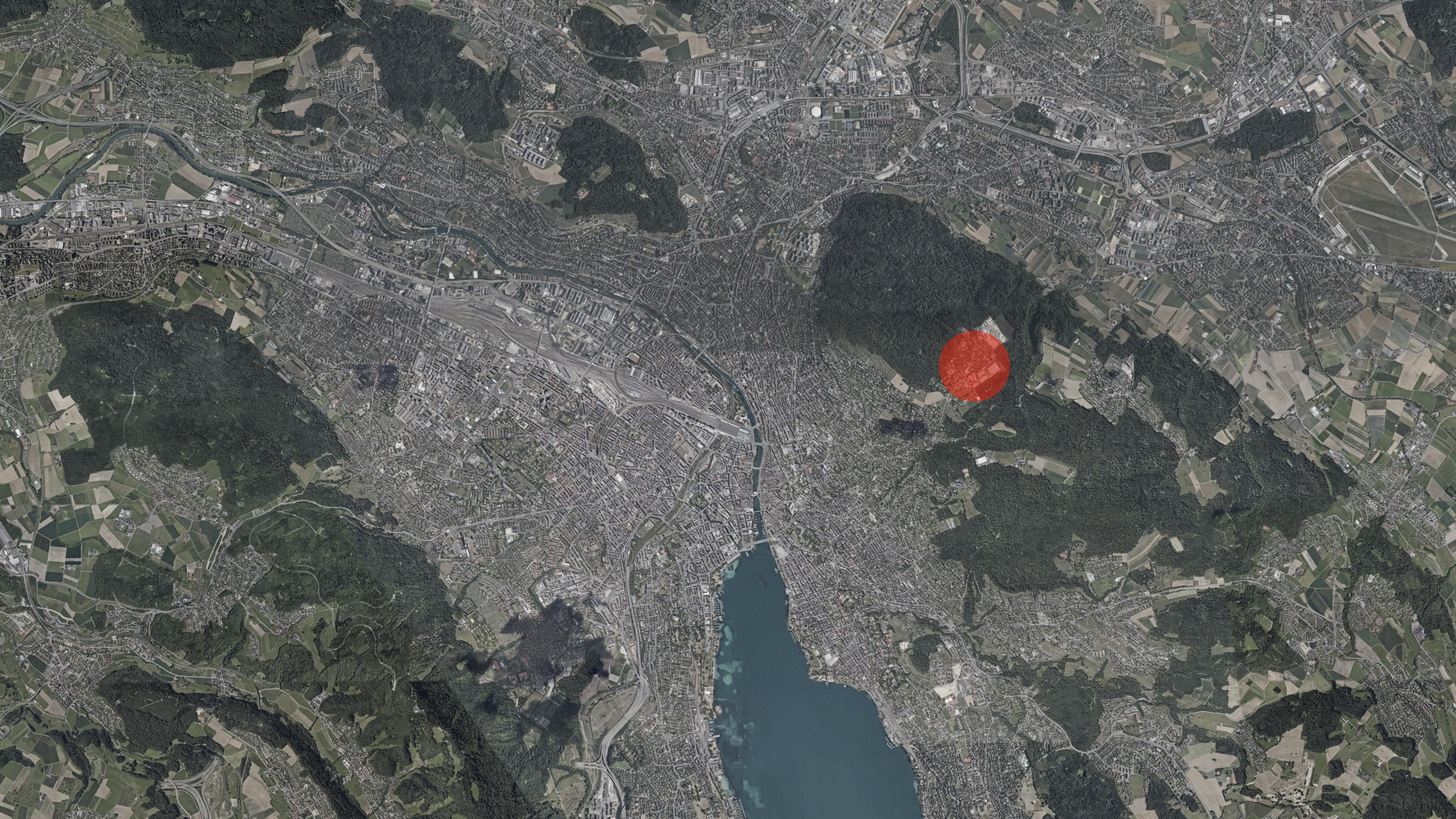
COMMON

praxis communis

the „**common** practice“
rituals, social practices,
conflict, negotiation,
communication and
experimentation.

lex communis

the „**common** law“
commons **need** rules.
without rules a CPR
becomes an
„open access resource“
and will be exploited until
destroyed.



A graveyard

B zoo

C forest

D boy scouts

E tennis club

F Fifa HQ

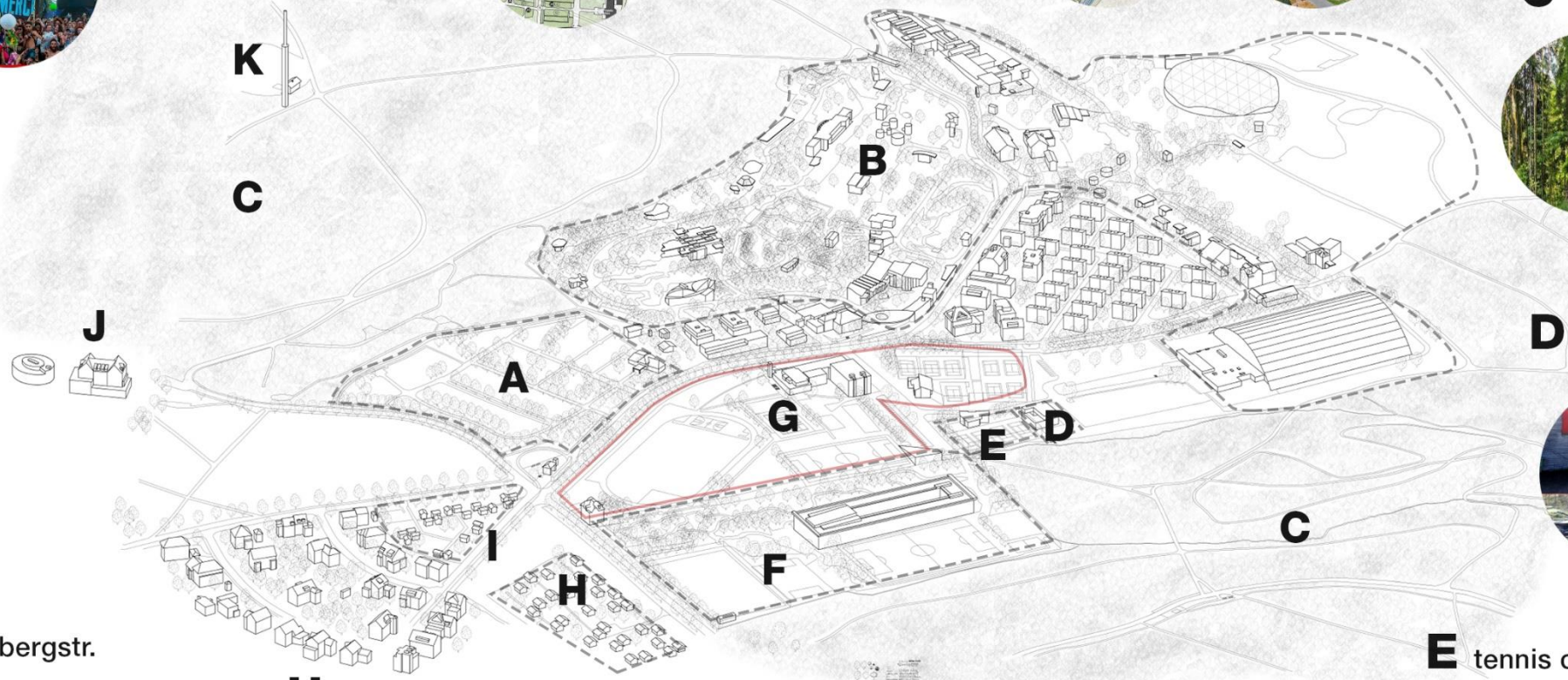
G ASVZ

H family gardens

I Zurichbergstr.

J Hotel Sorell

K Escherhöhe



SOCIAL COMMON SPIRIT

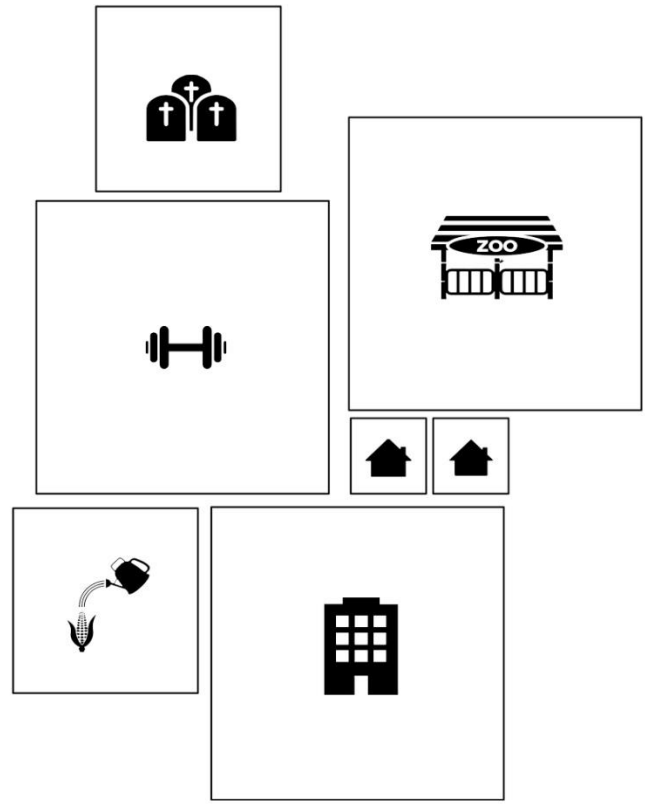
Altes Klösterli
FIFA
Welcome
Visitor entrance
Welcome to the Home of FIFA
PRIVAT
TENNIS-CLUB-FLUNTERN
ZUTRITT NUR FUER
CLUBMITGLIEDER
HOCHSCHULSPORTANLAGE
FLUNTERN
Das Betreten dieser Anlage ist nichtberechtigten Personen strikte verboten.
Zuwiderhandelnde werden verzeigt.
Benützer haben sich auszuweisen.
Universität Zürich
Rektorat
ETH Zürich
Schulleitung
Ich warte draussen
REALITY OF THE SITE

MAKE THIS AREA FEEL LIKE ONE

COMMON

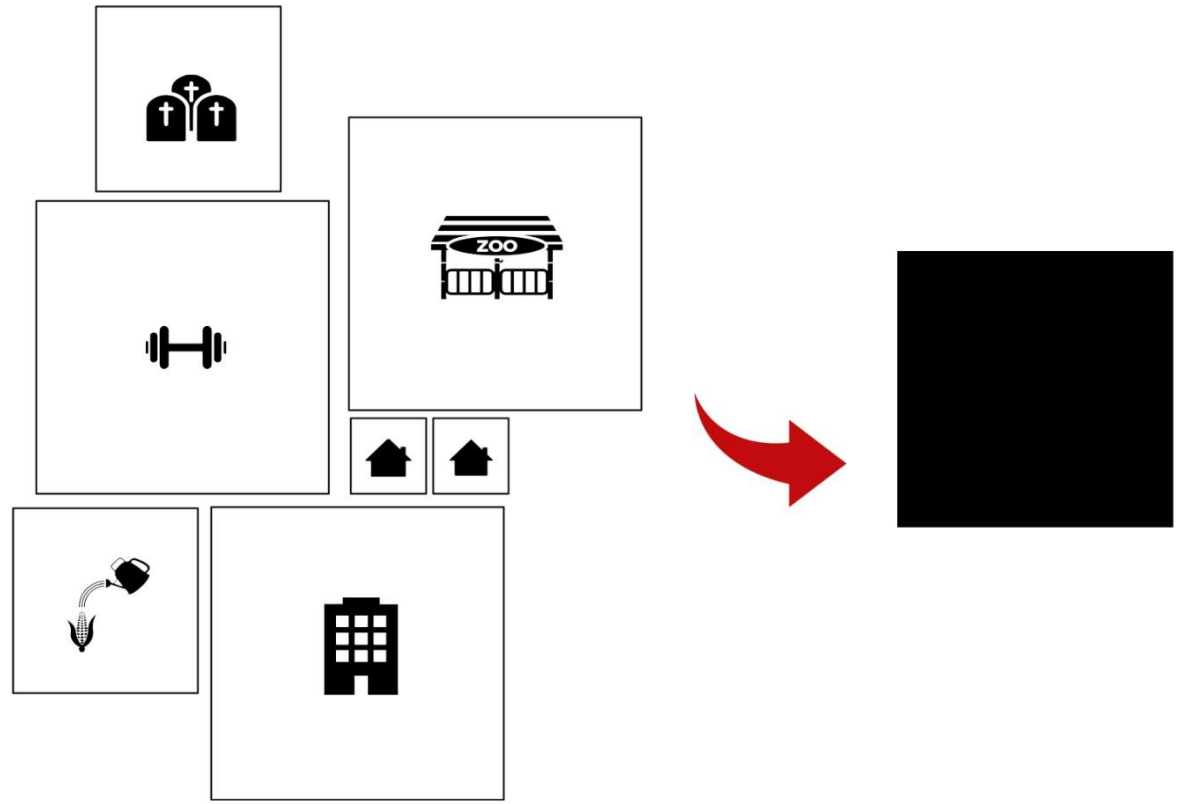
HOW?

The different actors form their bubbles (they are club goods mostly)

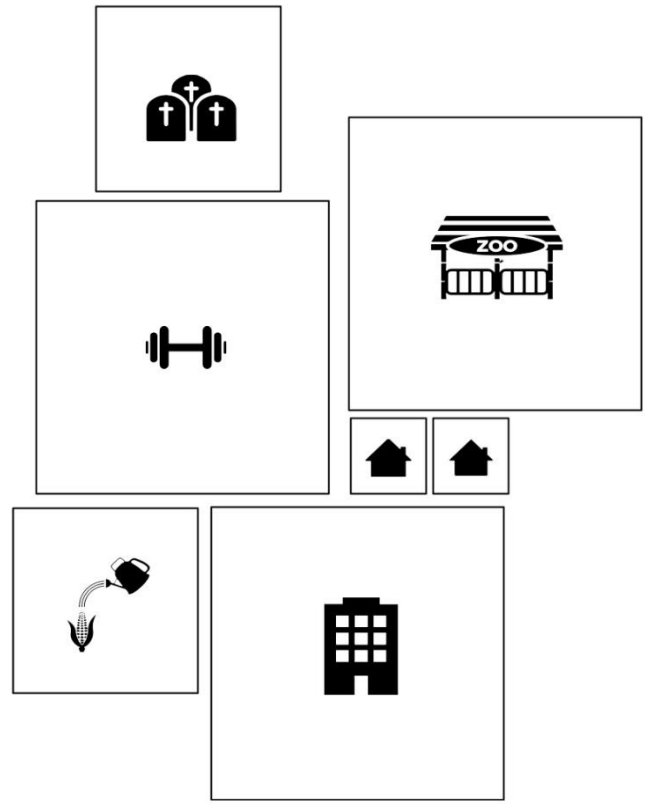


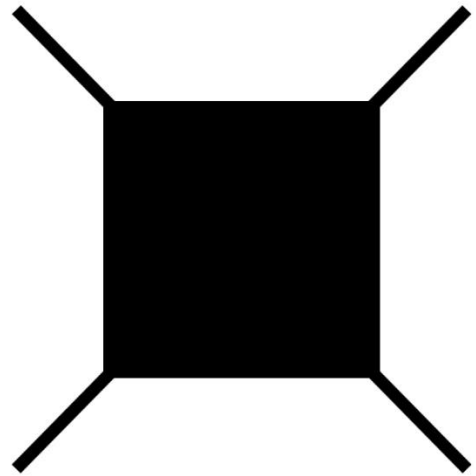
They are needed and can‘t be opened to everyone

an additional space
is needed to interact
and meet

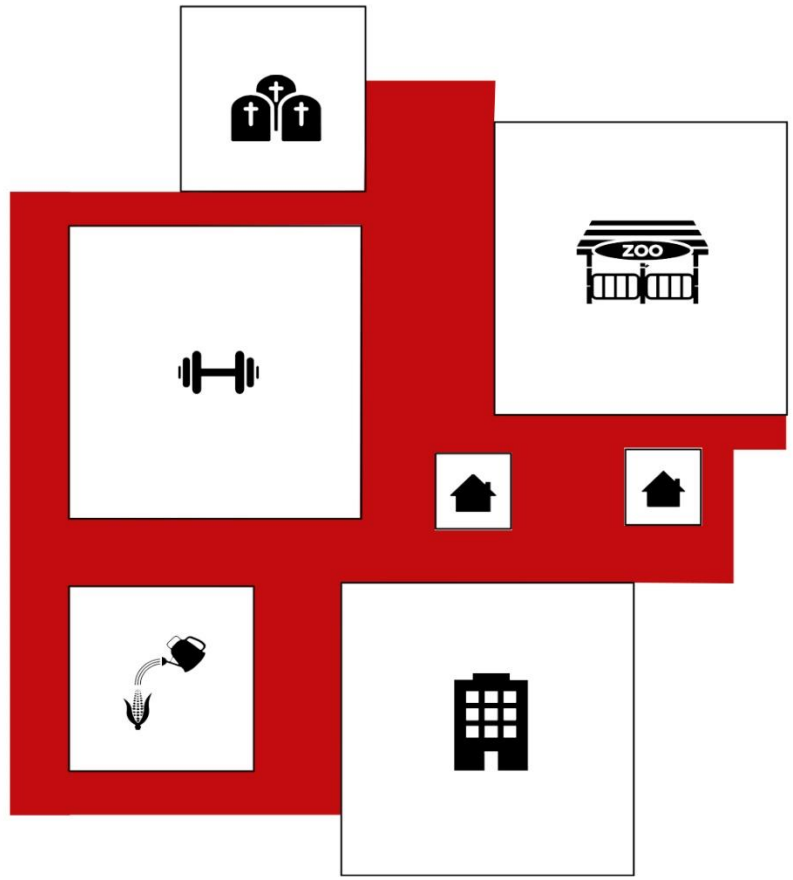


watch out that you don‘t create another enclave (club good)





maximize and focus on the in between space (public realm)



P
100 m
30
ZH 728 340

Hochschulsportanlage Pluntern

Rolf-Dalsiger-Strasse

Zentrale Parkuhr
1 – 48

60%+ of the public realm used up by cars
20% for the trees
20% for humans

private good
public realm

CONCEPT

stop private goods (cars, car parkings)
from taking over the public realm

re-claim the street as a
common pool resource (ground)

prepare for a
car free future

BUILD CITIES FOR

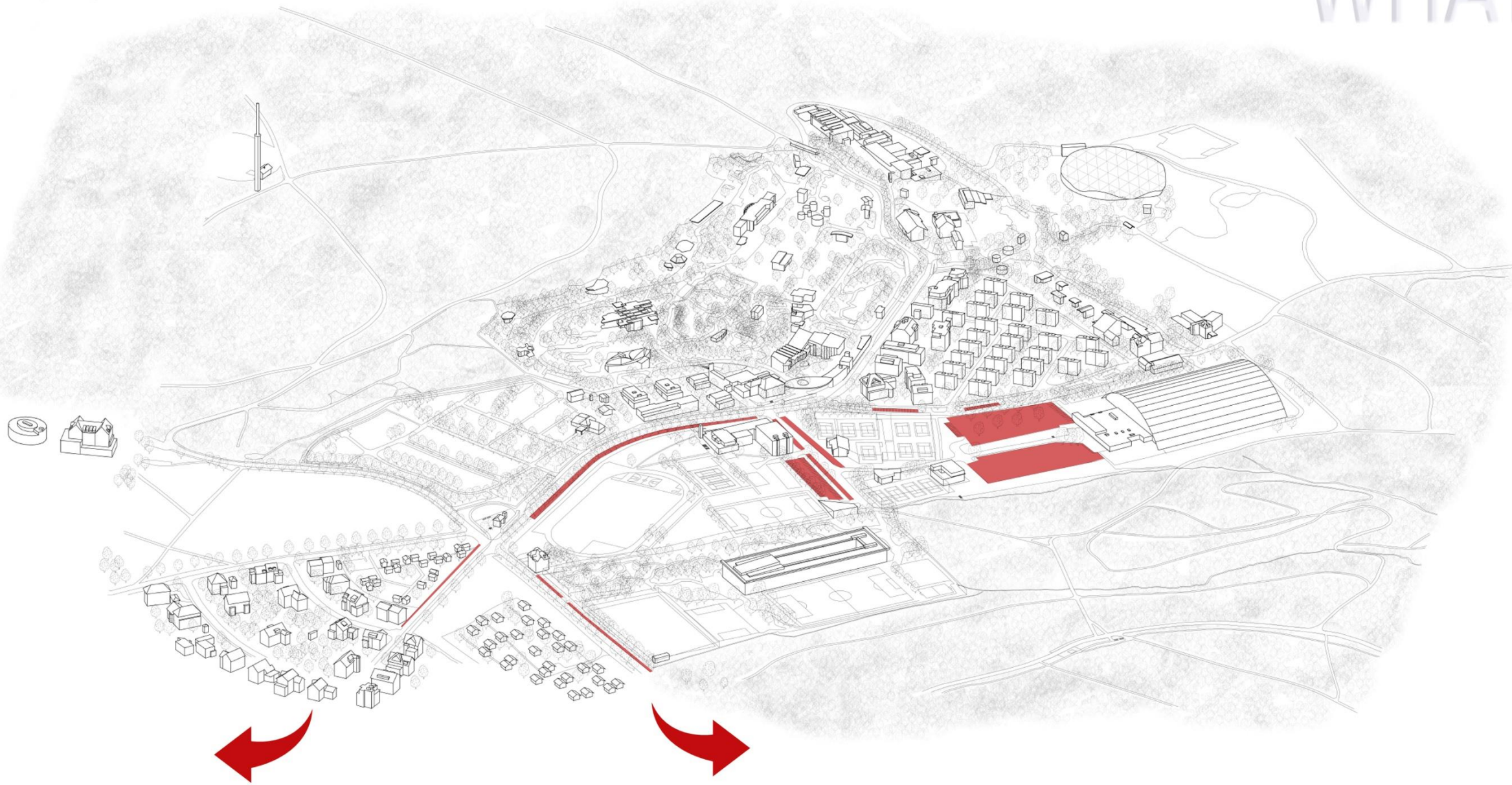
HUMANS

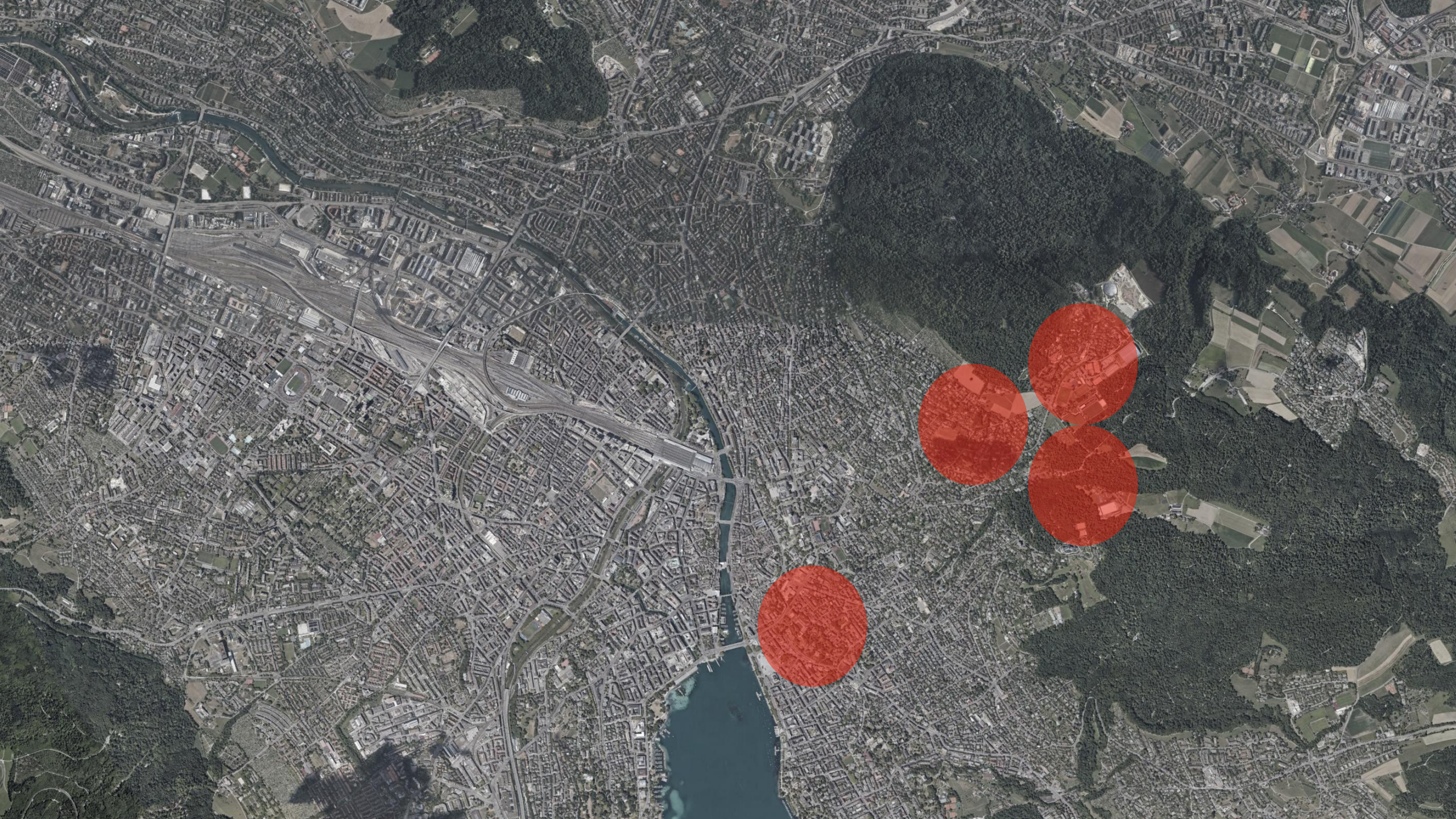
NOT FOR CARS

WHAT?

The main actors of the site are by far the **visitors of the zoo (5 mio/a)** and the forest.
60% of these visitors **travel by car** and don‘t use the public transportation.
There are **not enough parking** spots and the public transportation is at its limits.

parking situation..
if full people evade into the city



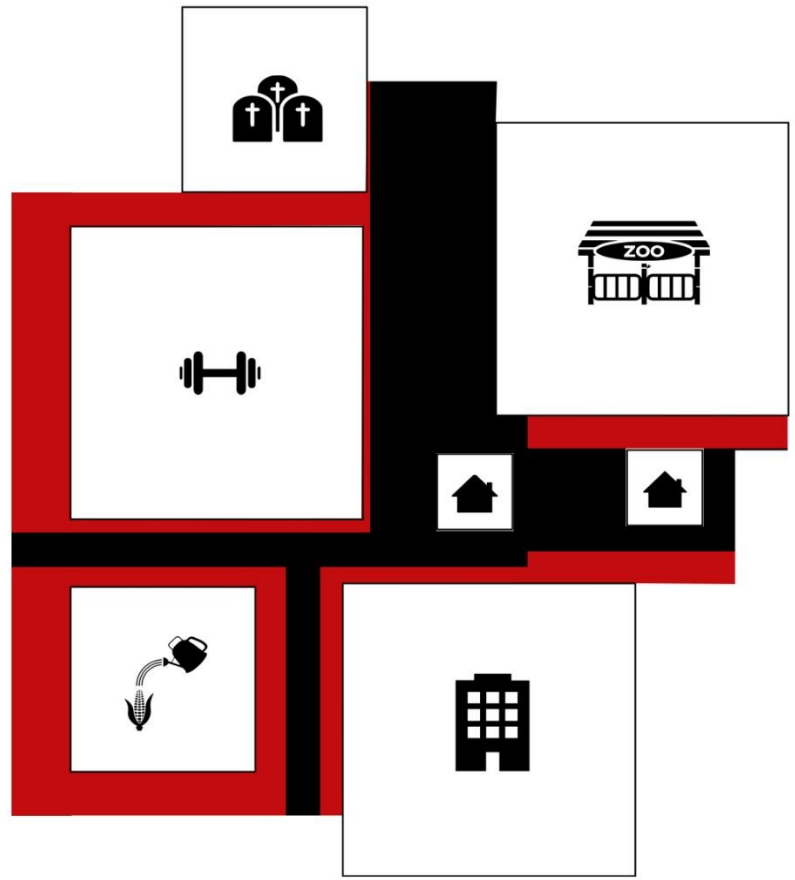


WHAT

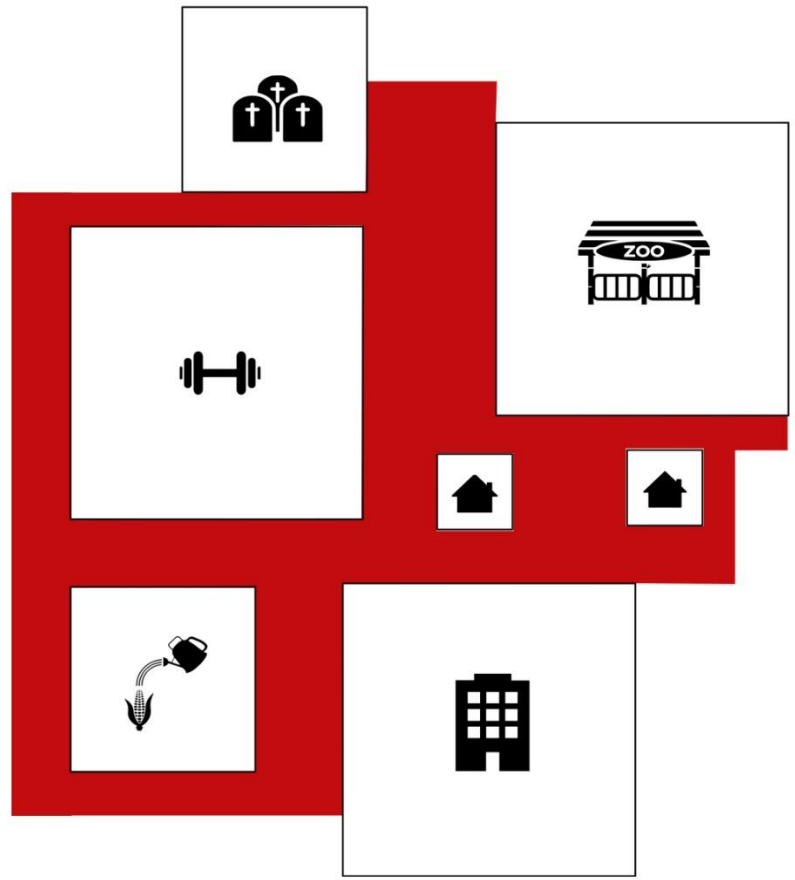
suggested solutions to the parking problem are: 1. Getting rid of the parking entirely 2. making it cost more or 3. build the Zoo Seilbahn.
All of these solutions don‘t tackle the reality of cars being here at the moment and just move the traffic to another place.

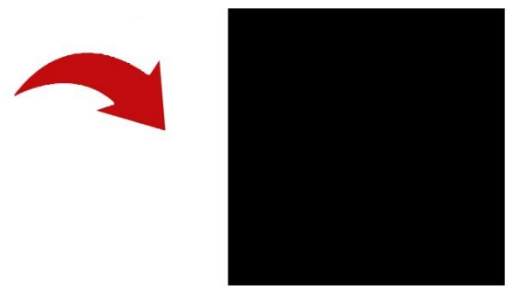
to tackle the problem in the present...

WHAT



we take the car parking...



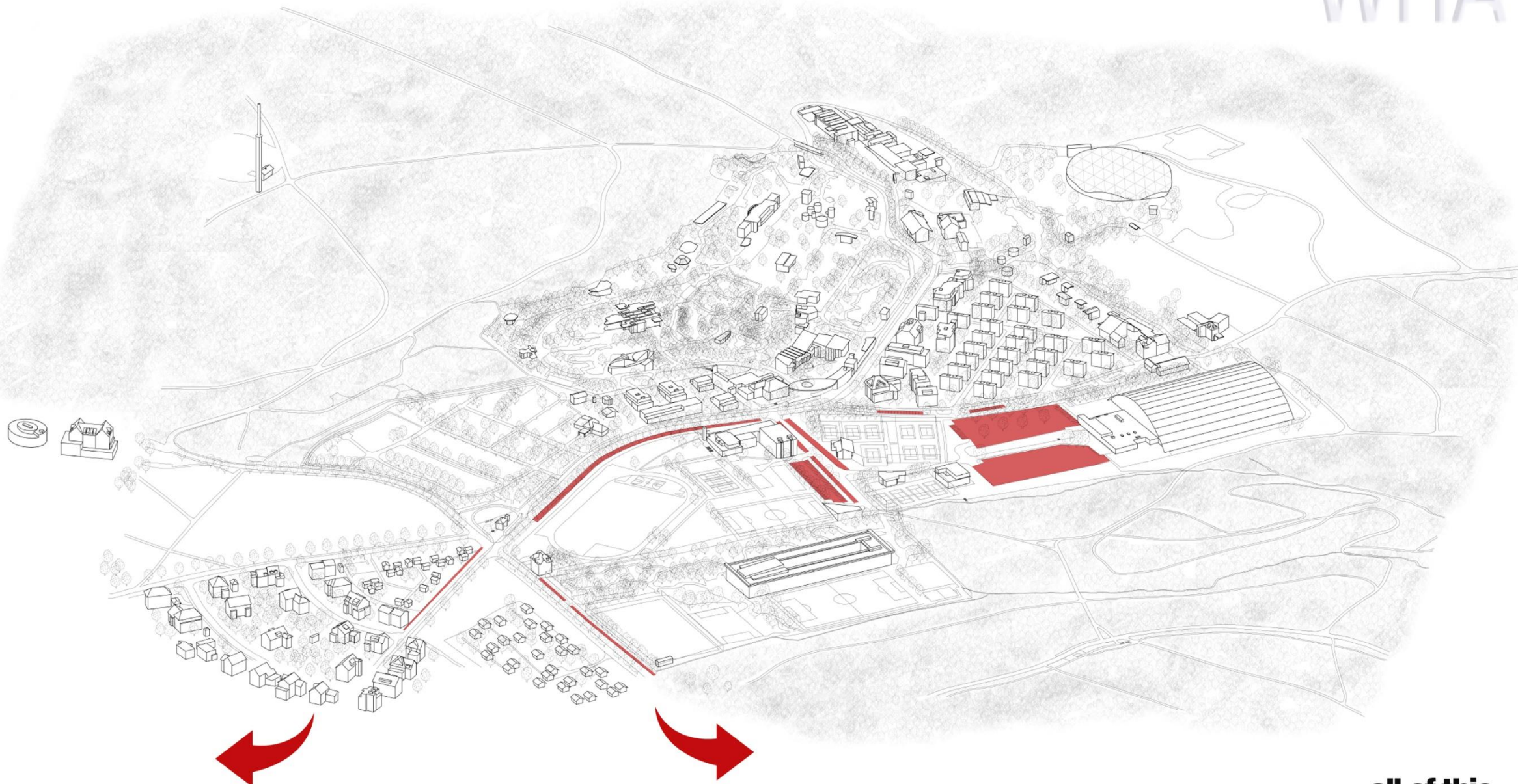


private good

public realm

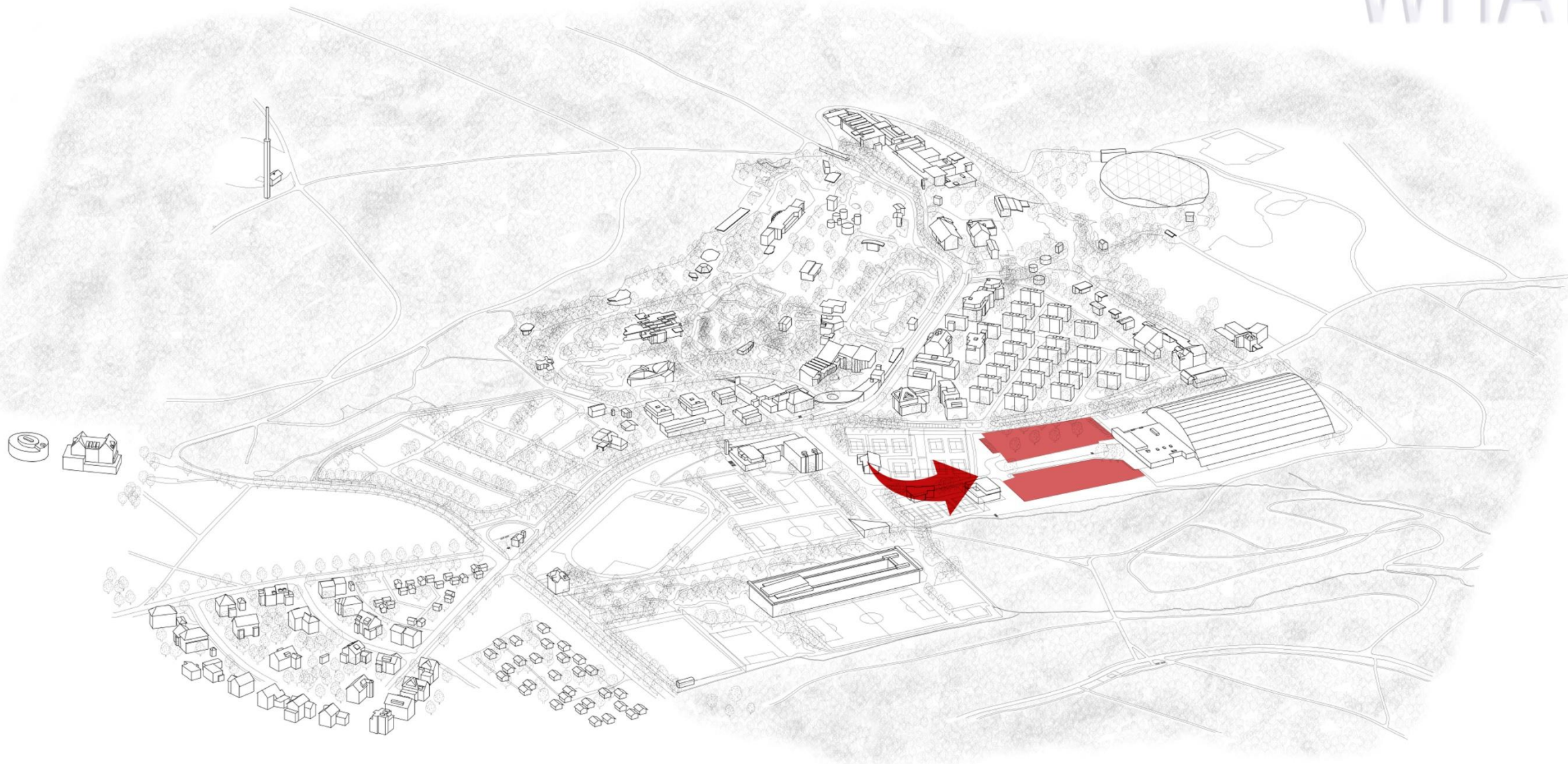
...and put it in its own enclave

WHAT



all of this...

WHAT



goes here

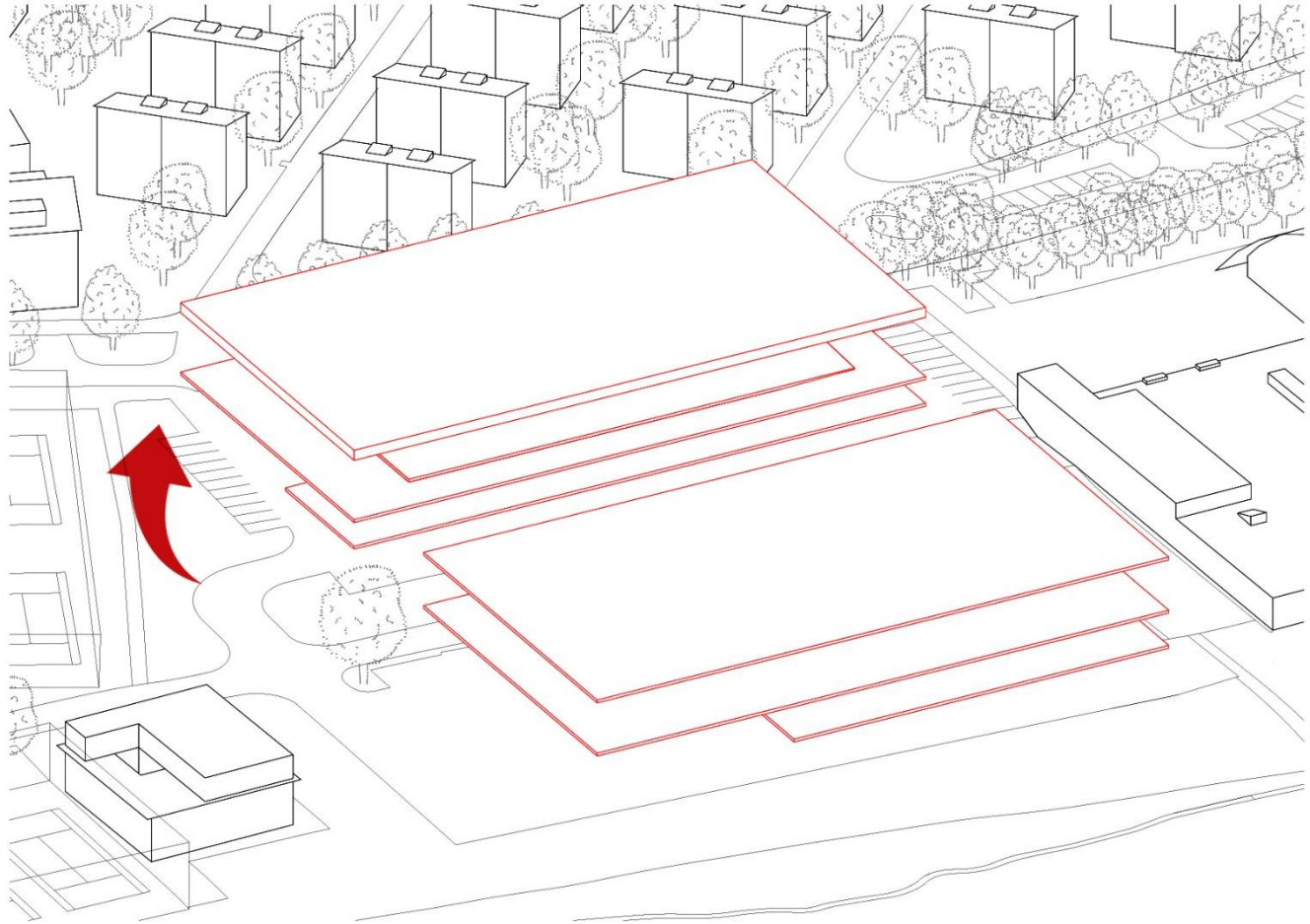
THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE COMMON SHOULD ACCOMODATE TO THE CHANGING NOTIONS OF PUBLIC LIFE

BUILD A STRUCTURE THAT IS TEMPORARY USED BY CARS AND CAN EASILY BE REUSED BY THE COMMON

The flexible reusable structure temporary for parking needs:

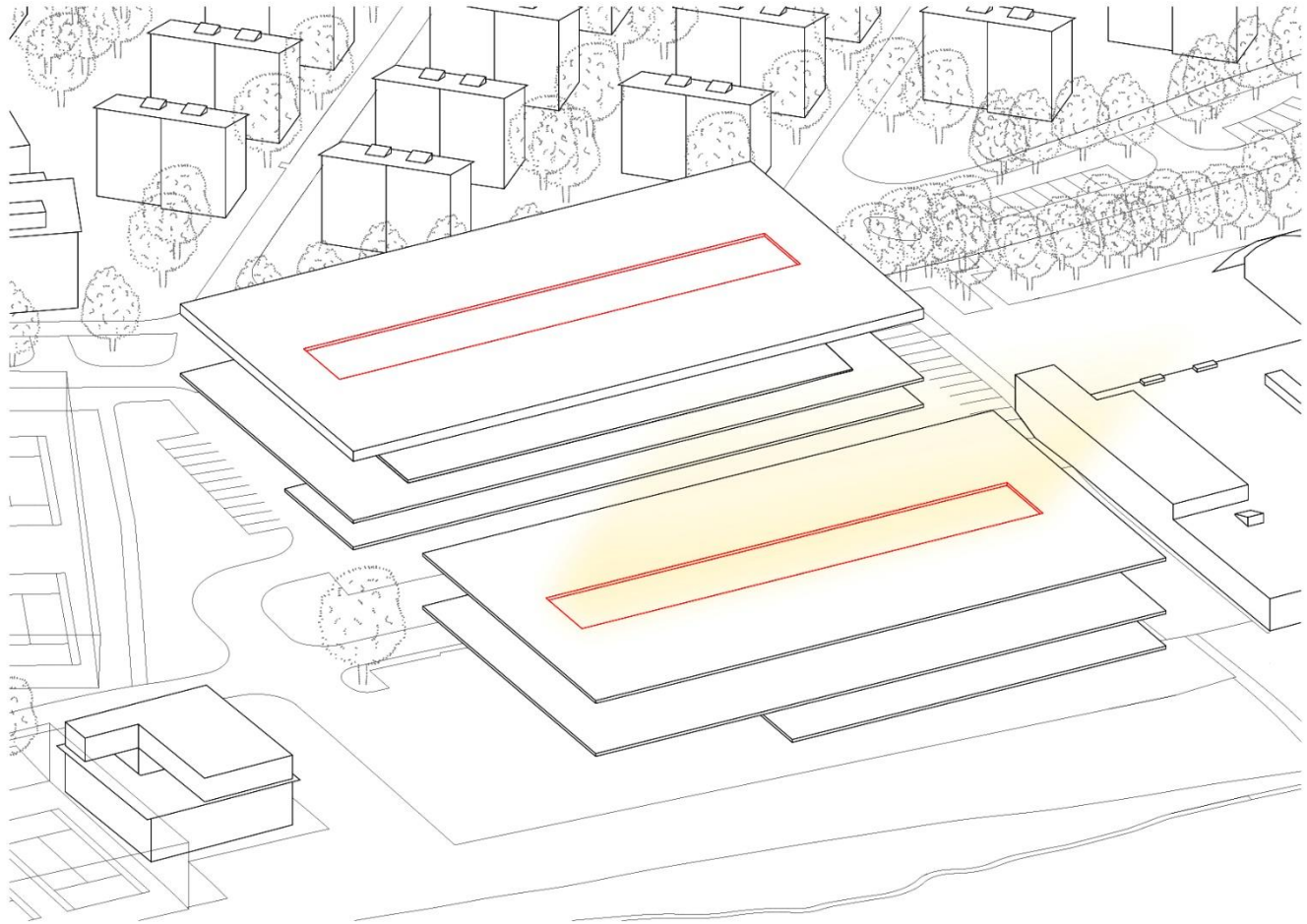
1. high rooms (to build into)
2. pre built stairs and rise zones for easy access
3. light (not too deep rooms)
4. free spaning structure

REvolve



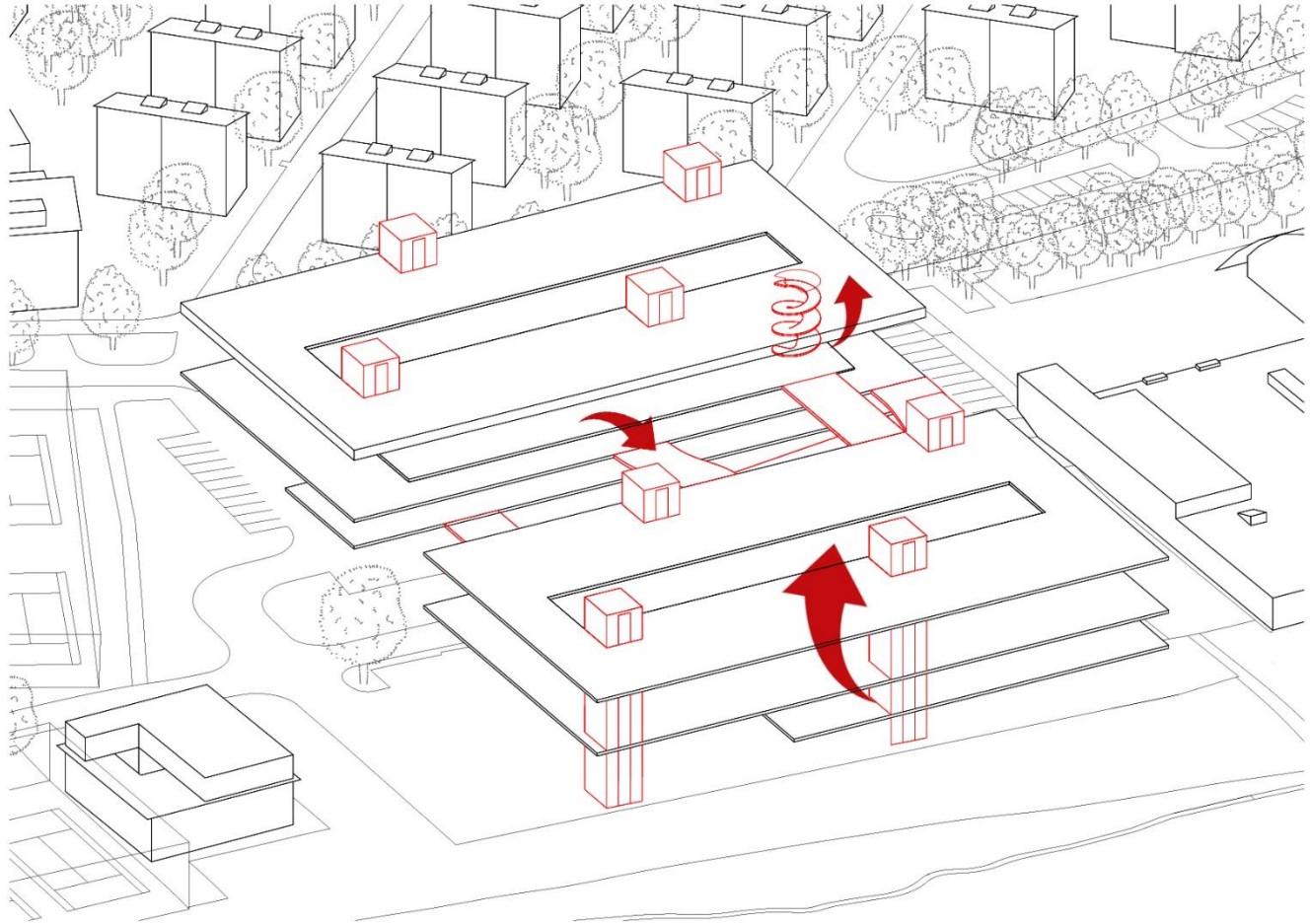
multiply floors

REvolve

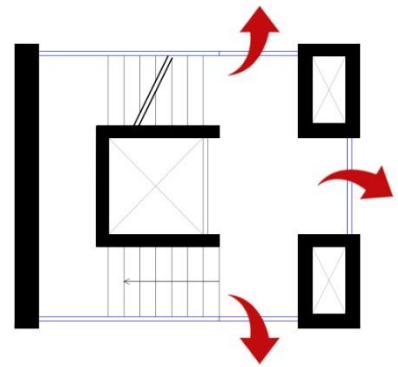


cutout for light

REvolve

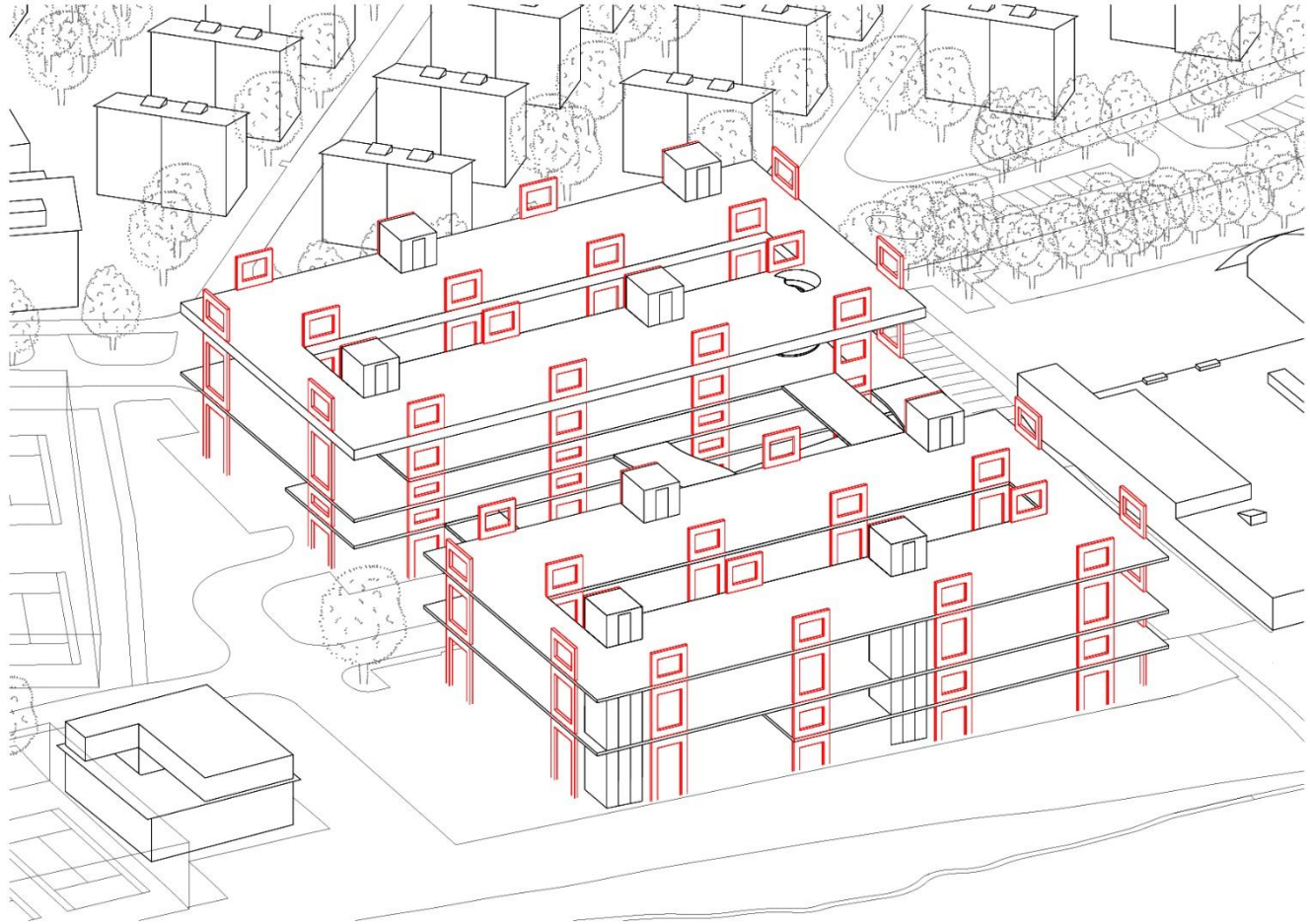


connect for humans and cars



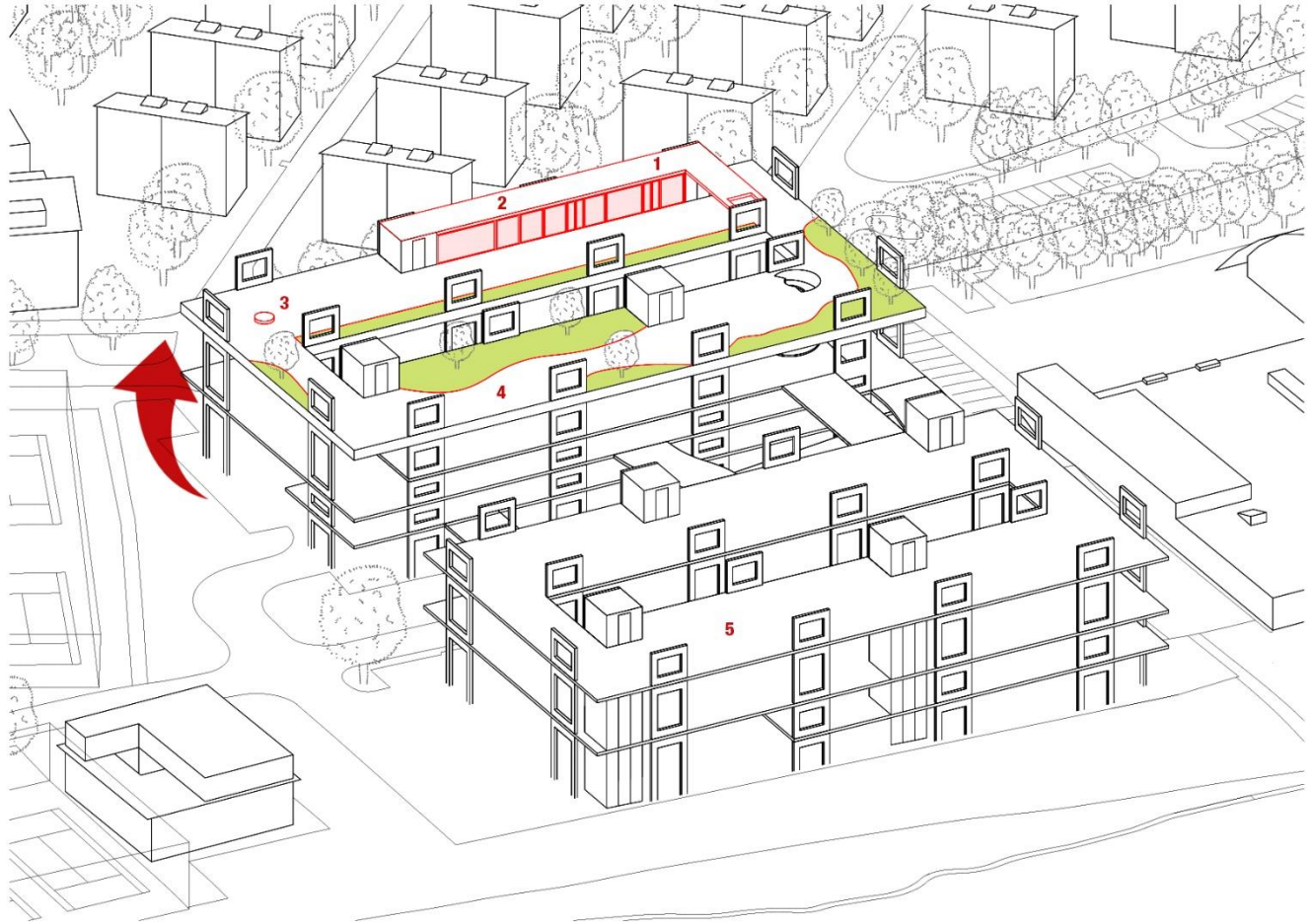
stair case and rise zones made
for easy reuse

REvolve



simple structure for maximum freedom

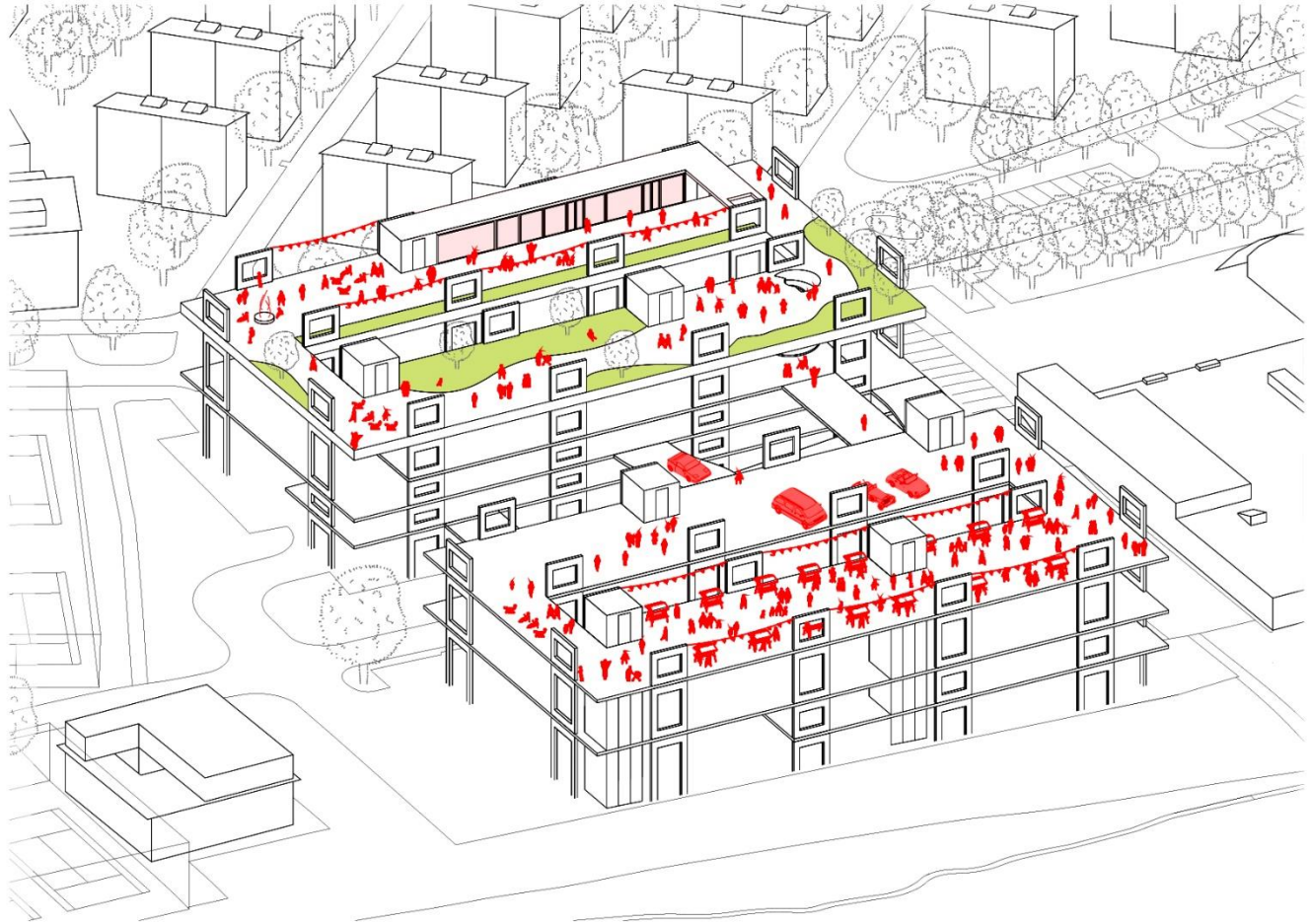
REvolve



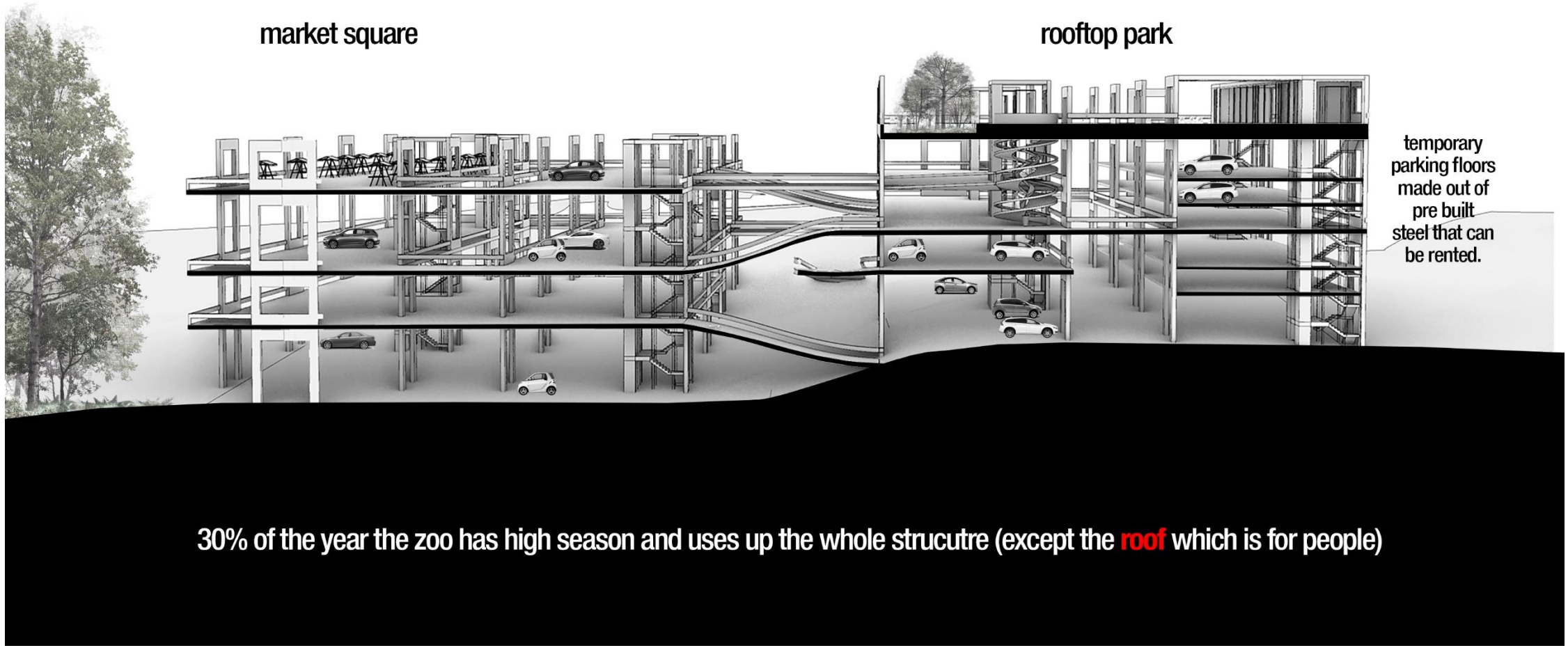
1. toilets
2. heated indoor
3. fireplace
4. rooftop park
5. market square

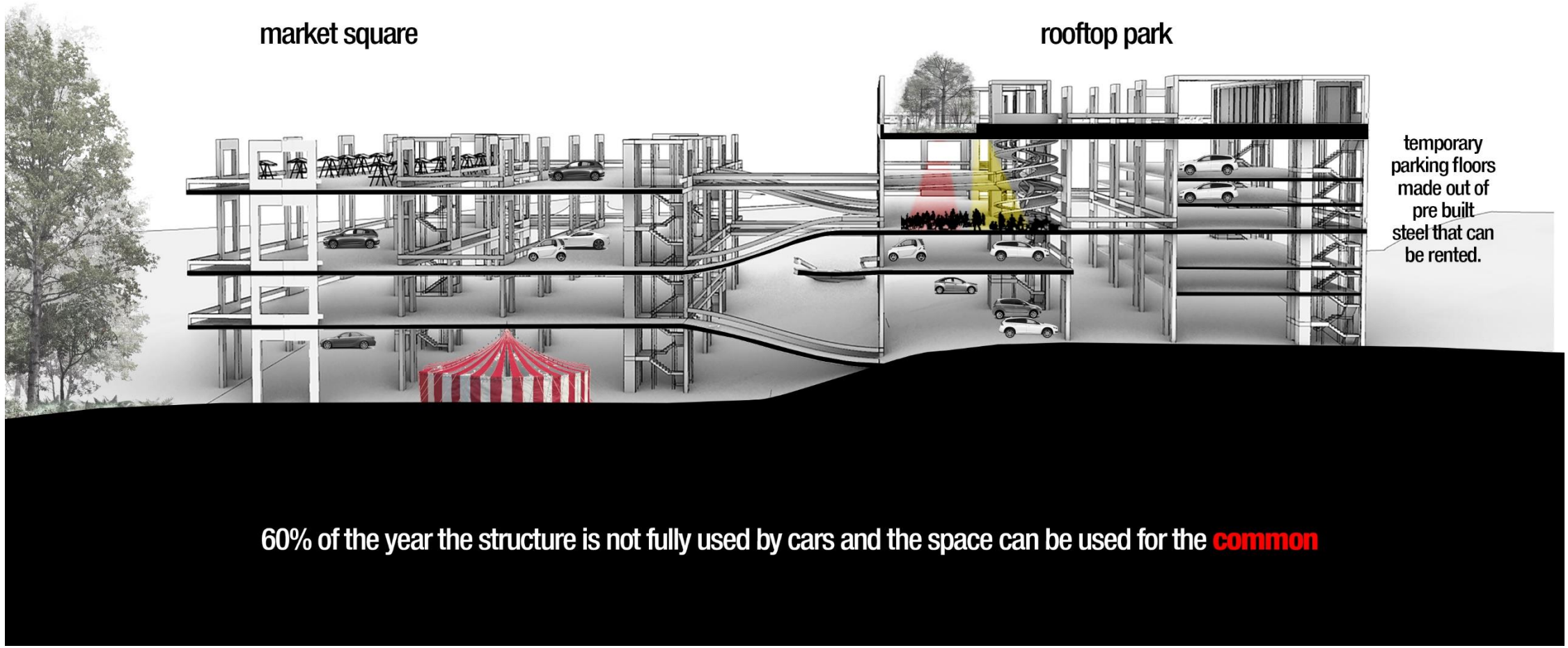
public roof gives back the space taken up by cars to humans

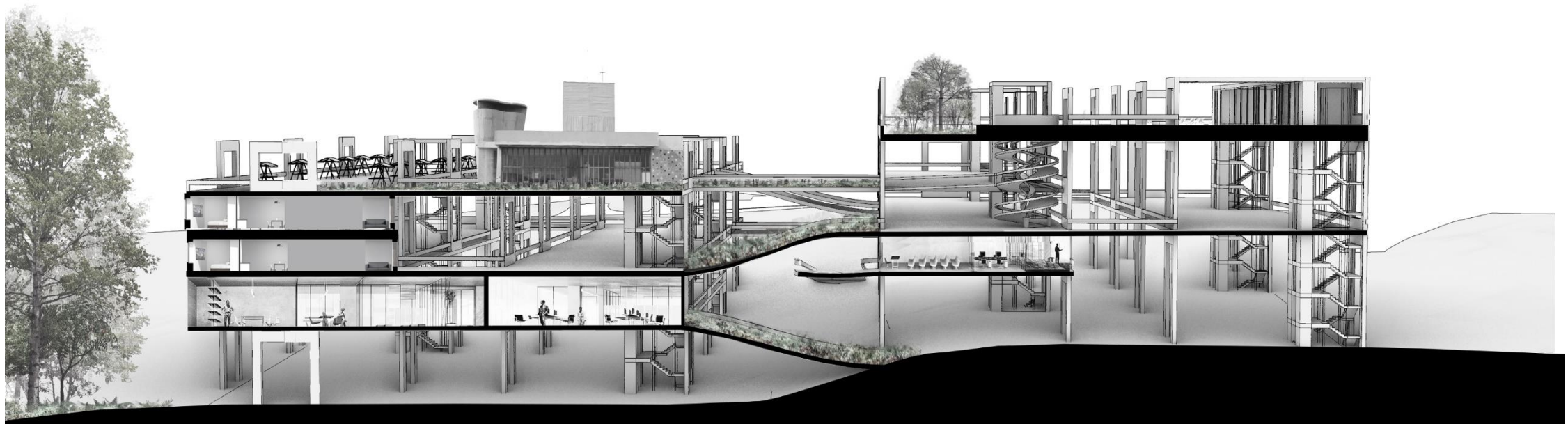
REvolve



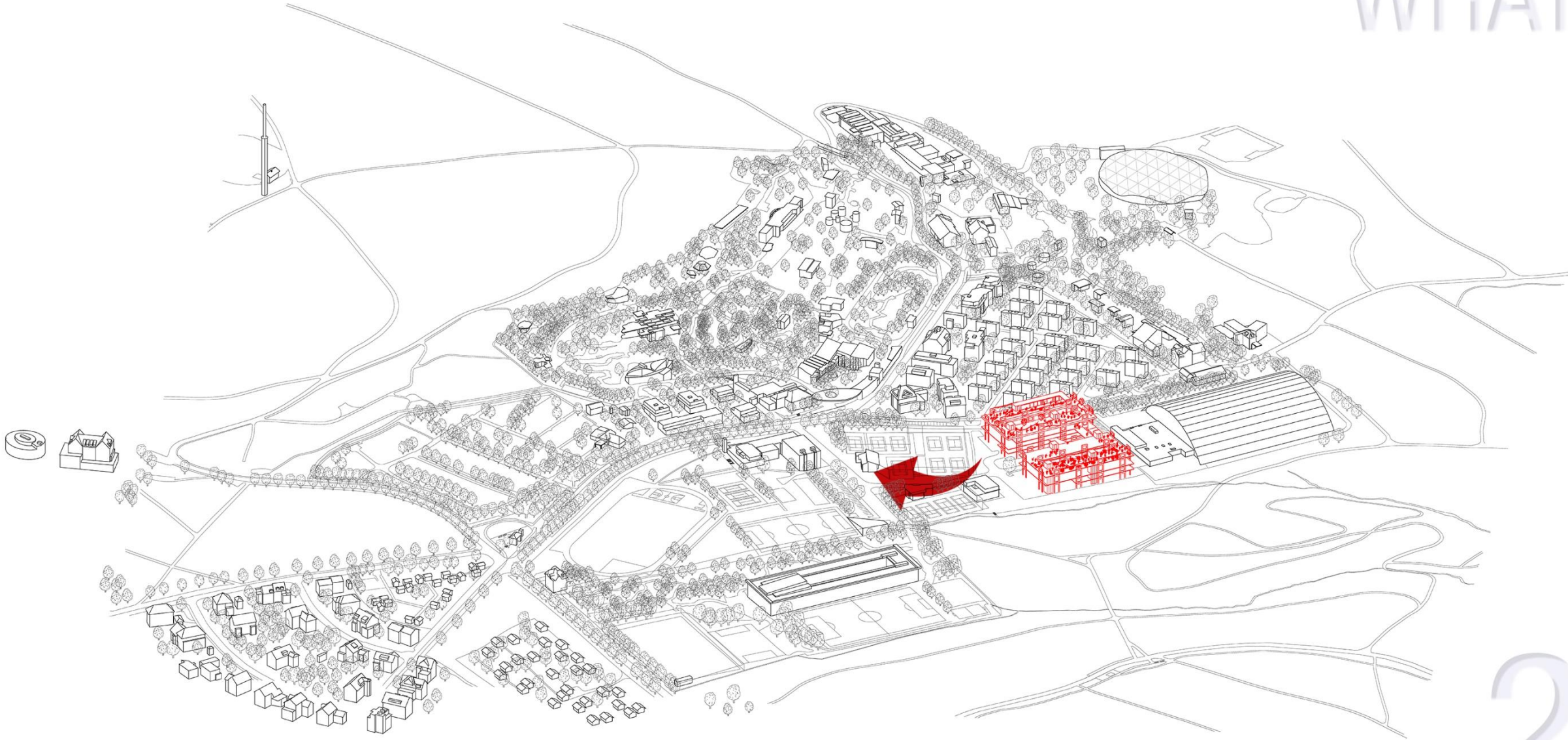
REvolve


market square
rooftop park
temporary parking floors made out of pre built steel that can be rented.
30% of the year the zoo has high season and uses up the whole strucutre (except the roof which is for people)


market square
rooftop park
temporary parking floors made out of pre built steel that can be rented.
60% of the year the structure is not fully used by cars and the space can be used for the common



In the future the cars might go for good. Whatever the **common** needs can be built into or onto the structure.
The ramps could become streets or extensions of the park.



the structure is a catalyst evoking a chain reaction along the street

RE-CLAIM THE STREETS

private good
public realm

the car parking is gone and the street is widened along the sport area

private good
public realm

SOCIAL GROUPS AND USES

families with kids

safe area for the kids

path to the zoo or forest becomes an event

playground

fountains

wind chimes (music)

tree paths and houses

fun mirror wall

shape walls (fence as plaything)

employees

places to sit for breaks

cafe / restaurant / takeaway to eat

place to have a beer before they go home

seniors

places to sit

plants / fruits to taste and smell

open library „take a book leave a book“

animals to watch: bee sanctuary and batcave

pergola

sportlers/students

climbing walls

jogging path and vita parcour

place for yoga

dancing mirror

slackline between two trees

inhabitants

more lively neighborhood

MEET

cafe / bar / restaurant

hammot

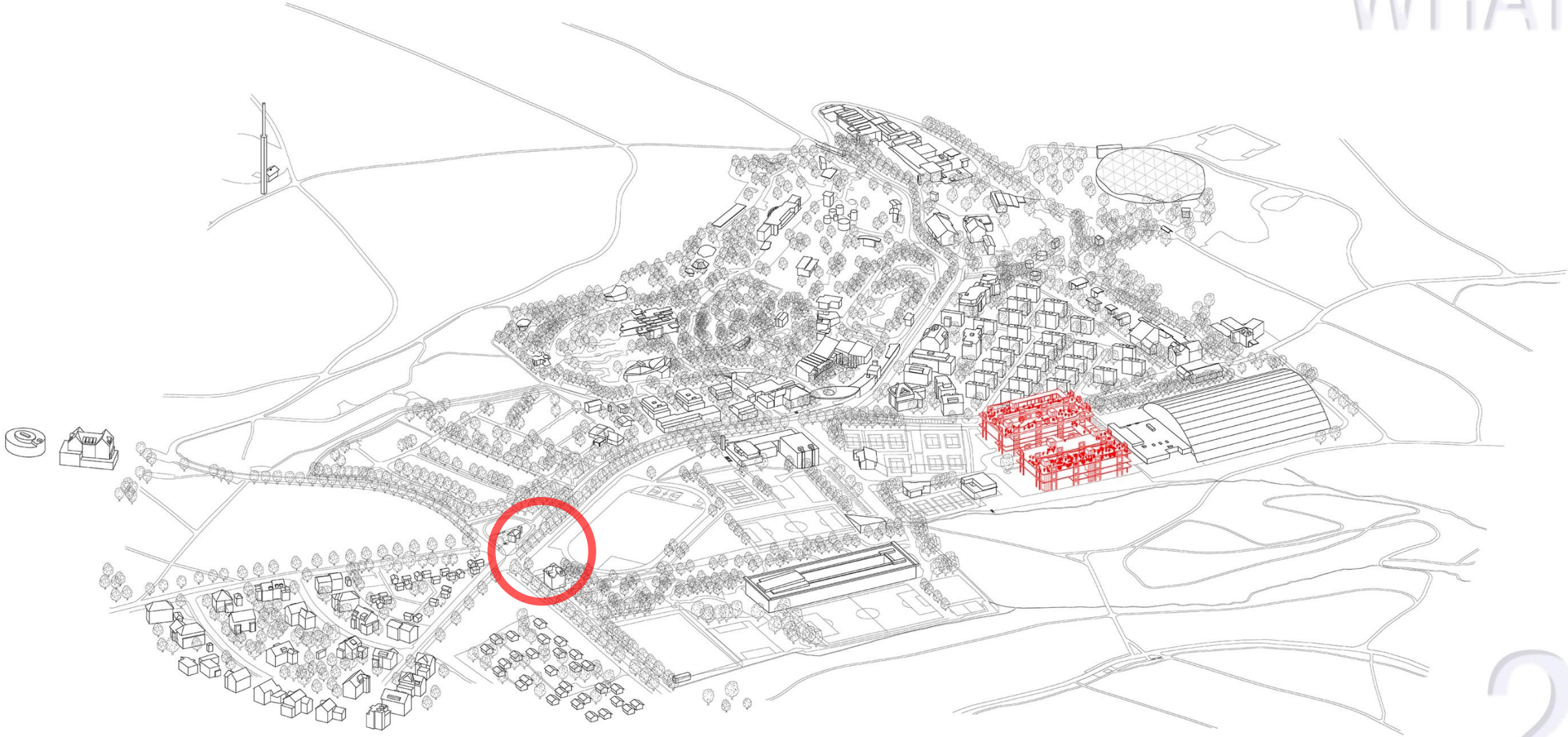
fireplace

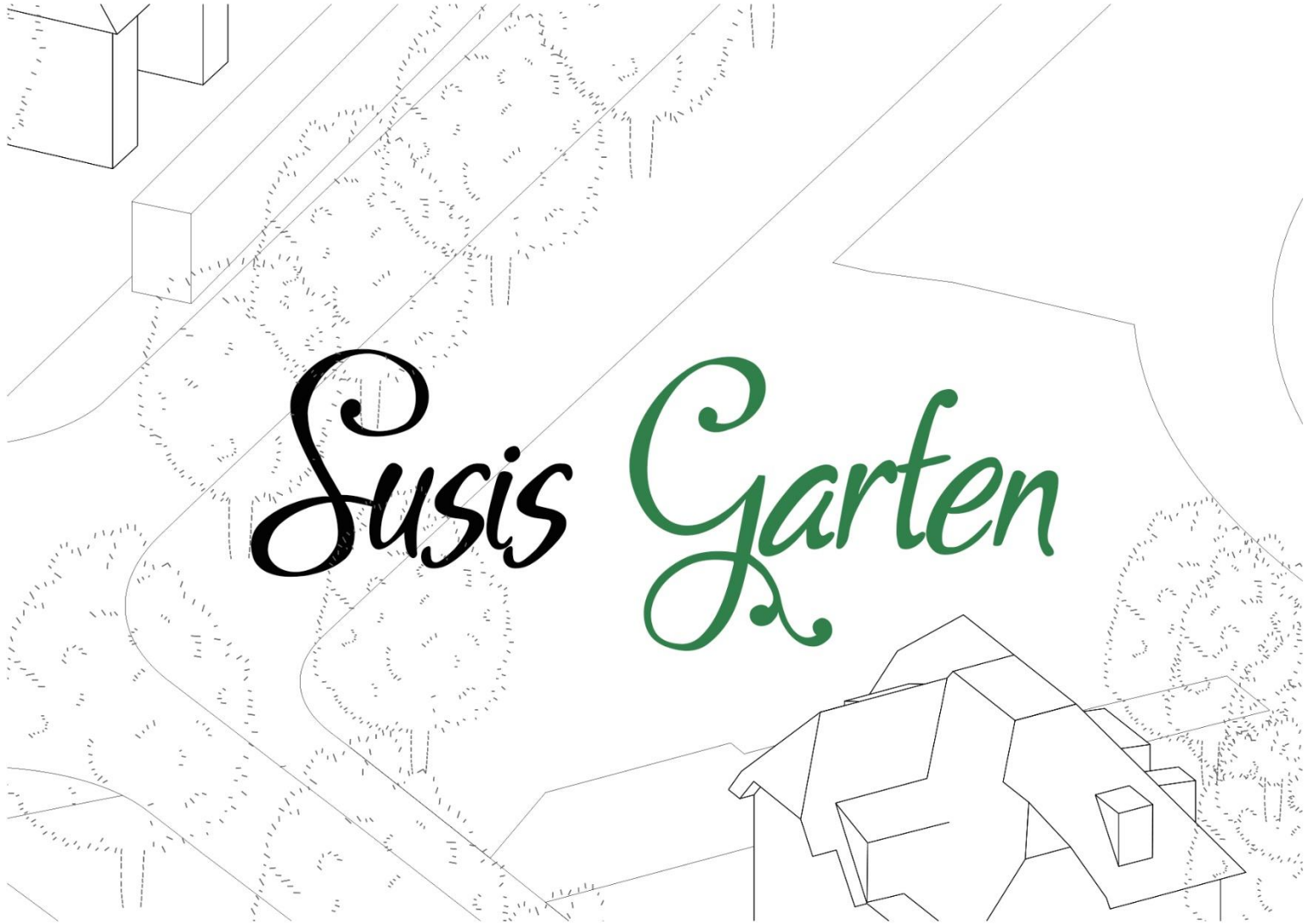
learning space

market place

adding functions that **add** to the social spirit existing on the site

WHAT

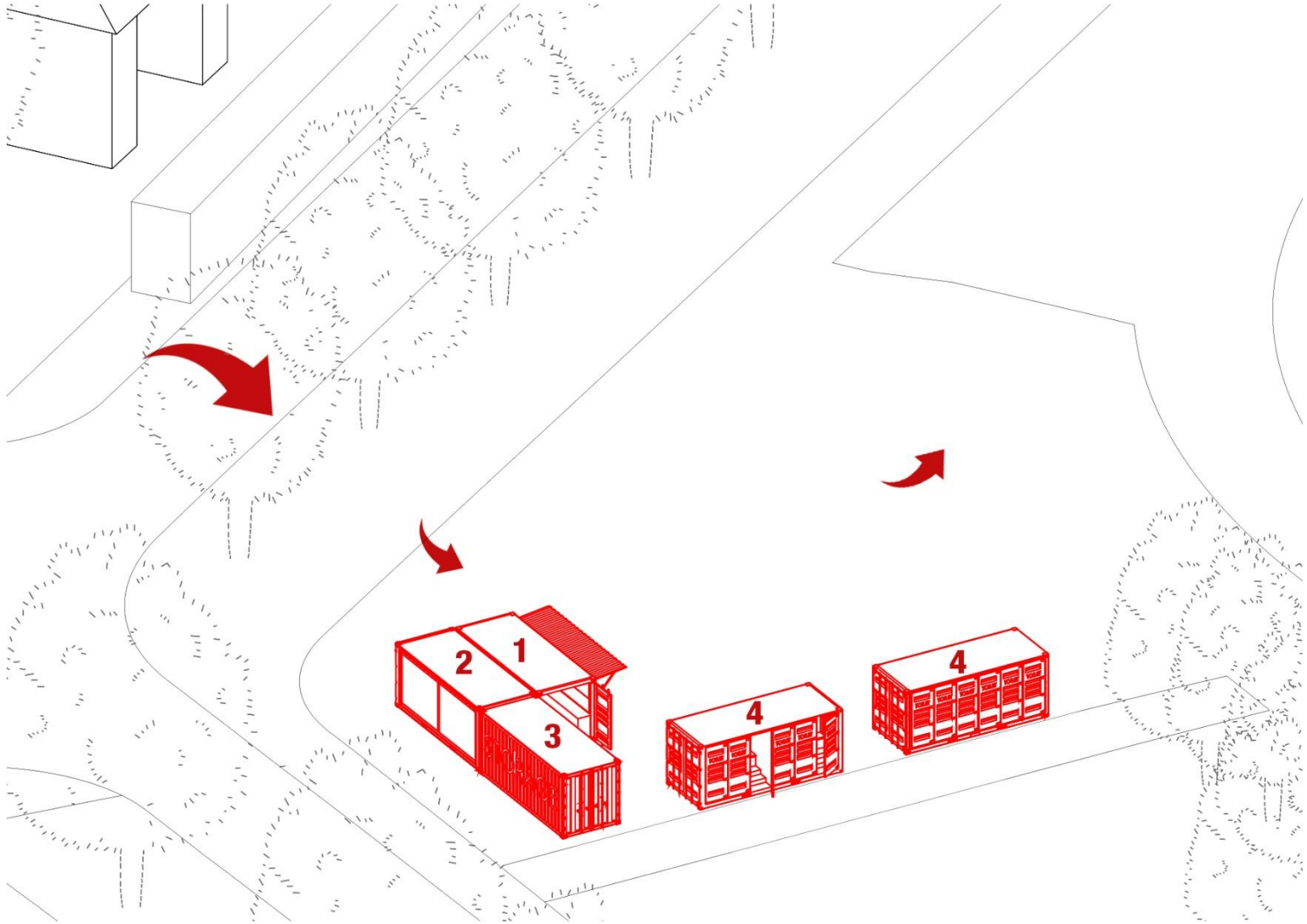




Next to the tramstation tought to engage actors to stay longer at the site after visiting, for a beer or to eat something.
Also a place to eat lunch.

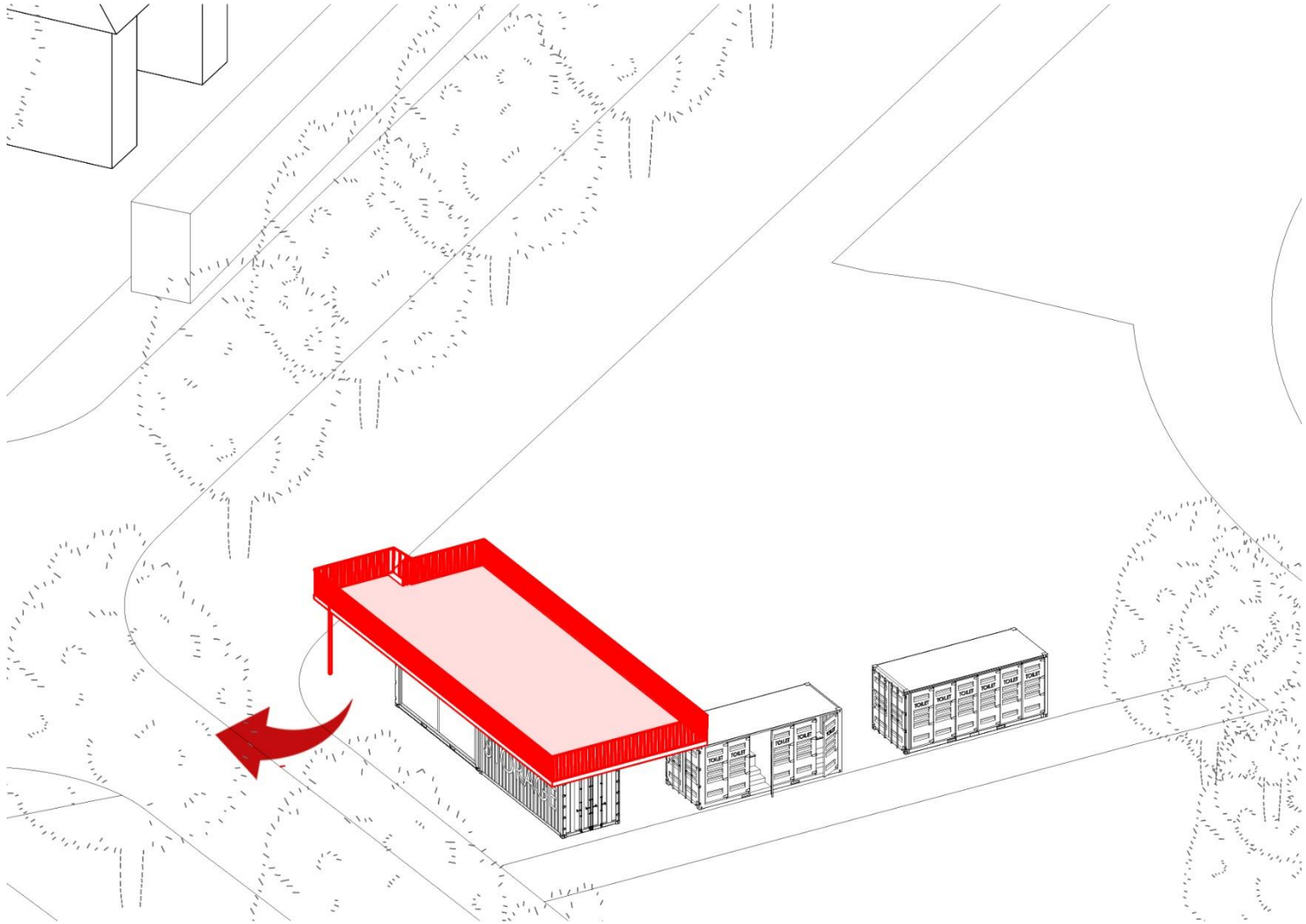
The name is a hint to „Gerolds Garten“ which is a common garden/restaurant in the city of Zurich made out of reused shipping containers. Susanne Orelli founded the hotel next to the site with a very social spirit of gastronomy.

Shipping containers are already used on site for storage of sport equipment.



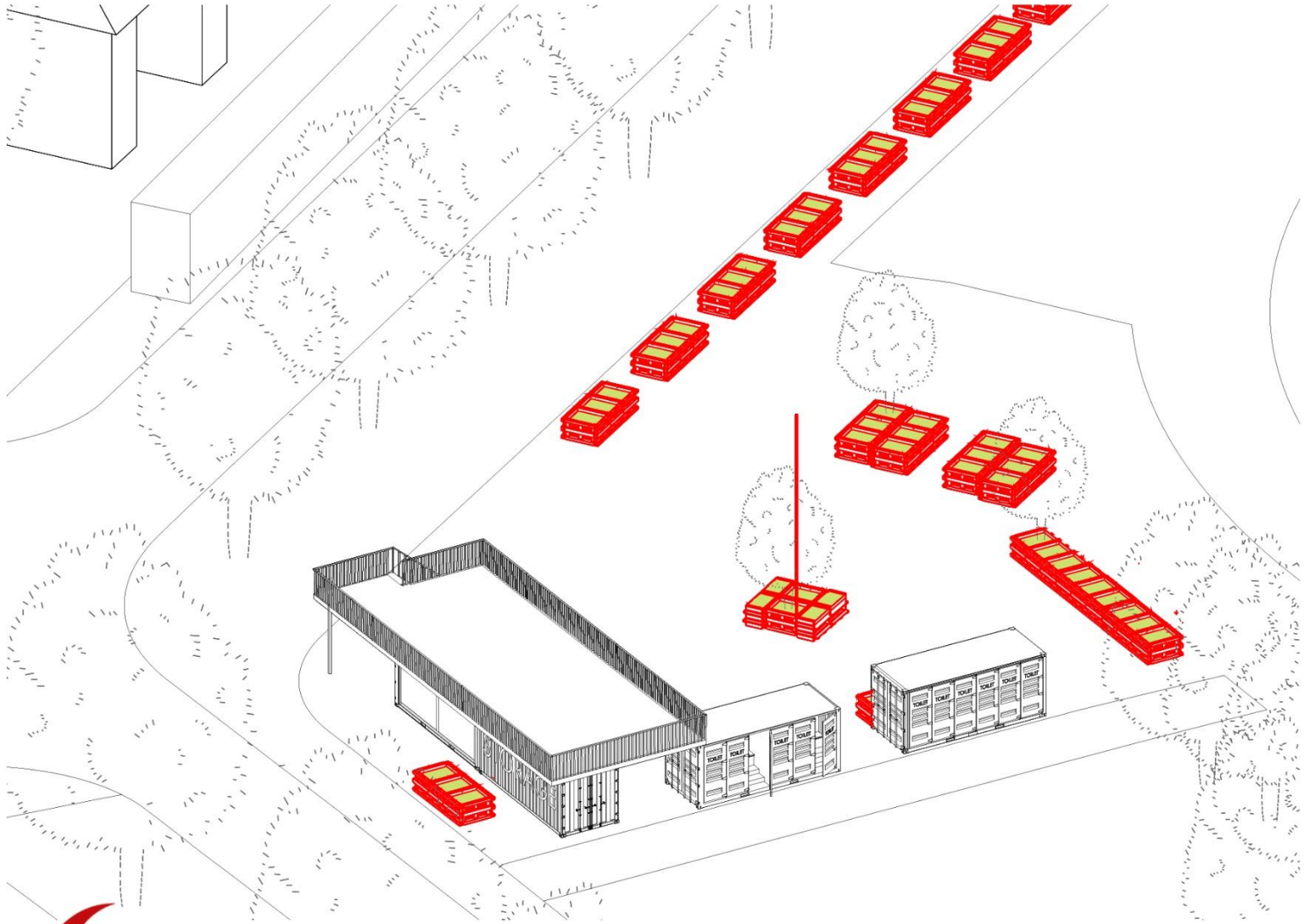
1. kitchen
2. office
3. storage
4. toilets

Susis Garten



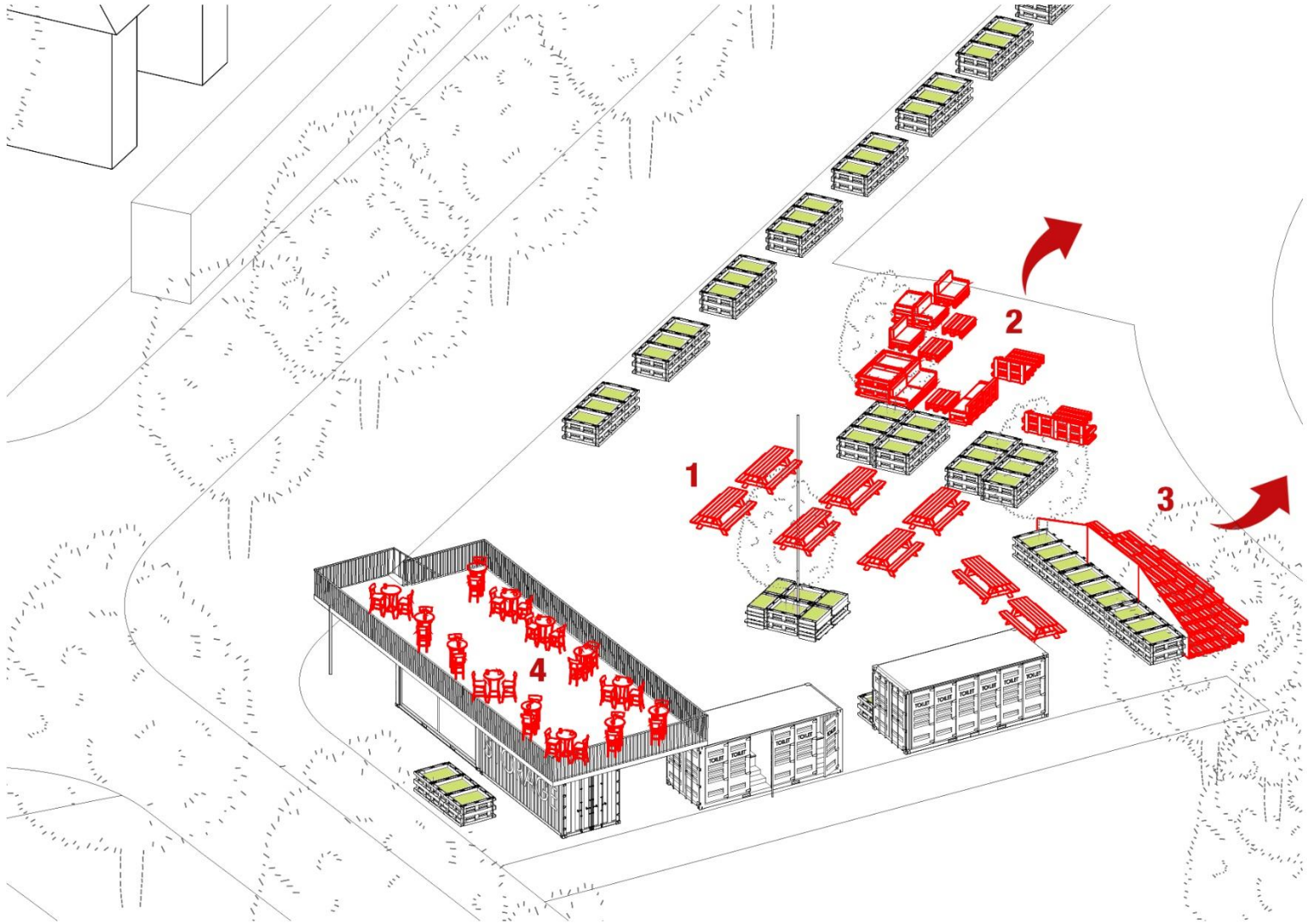
sundeck to see the sunset

Susis Garten



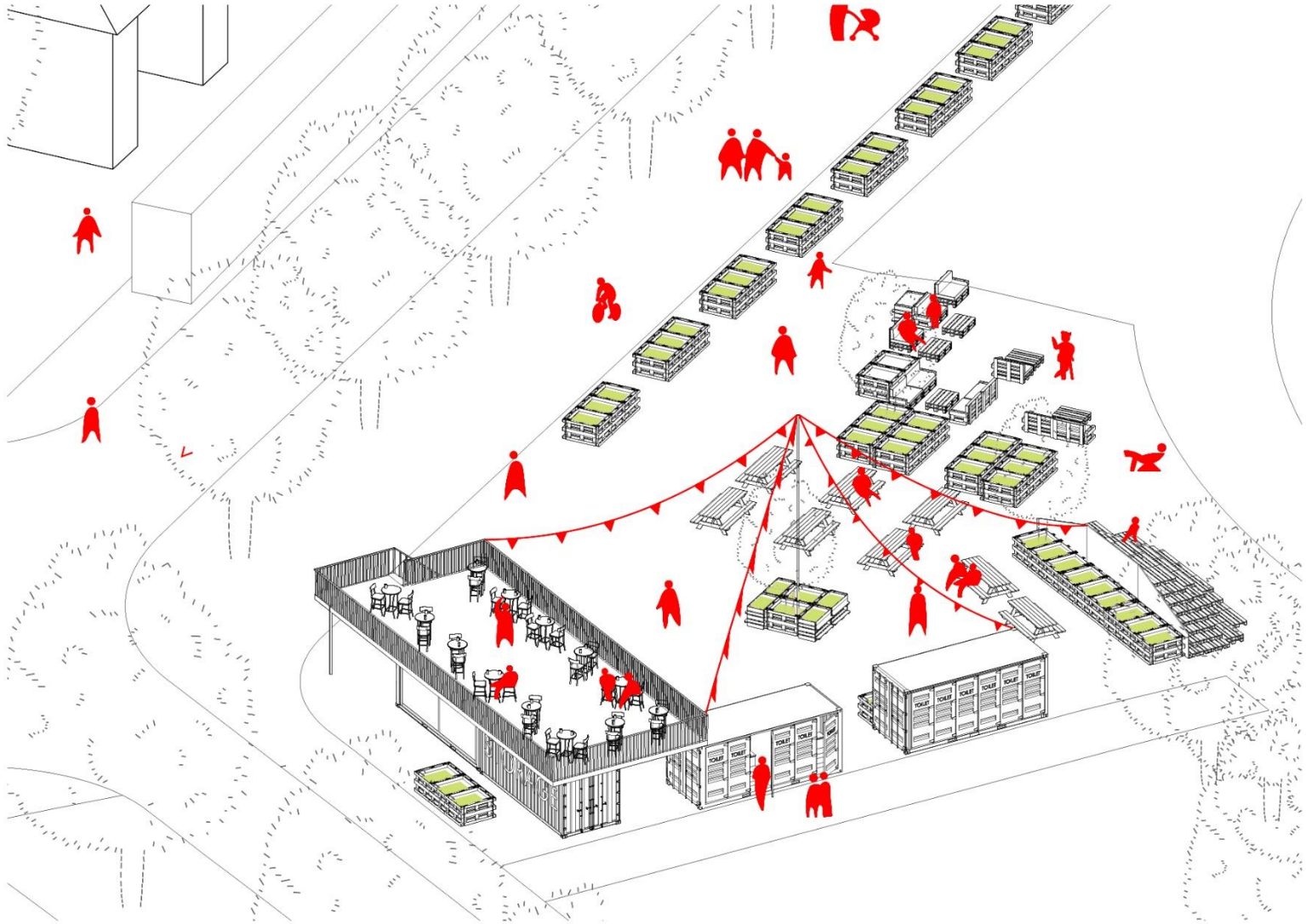
urban farming in connection to nearby family gardens

Susis Garten



1. tables
2. lounge
3. watch the sports
4. tables

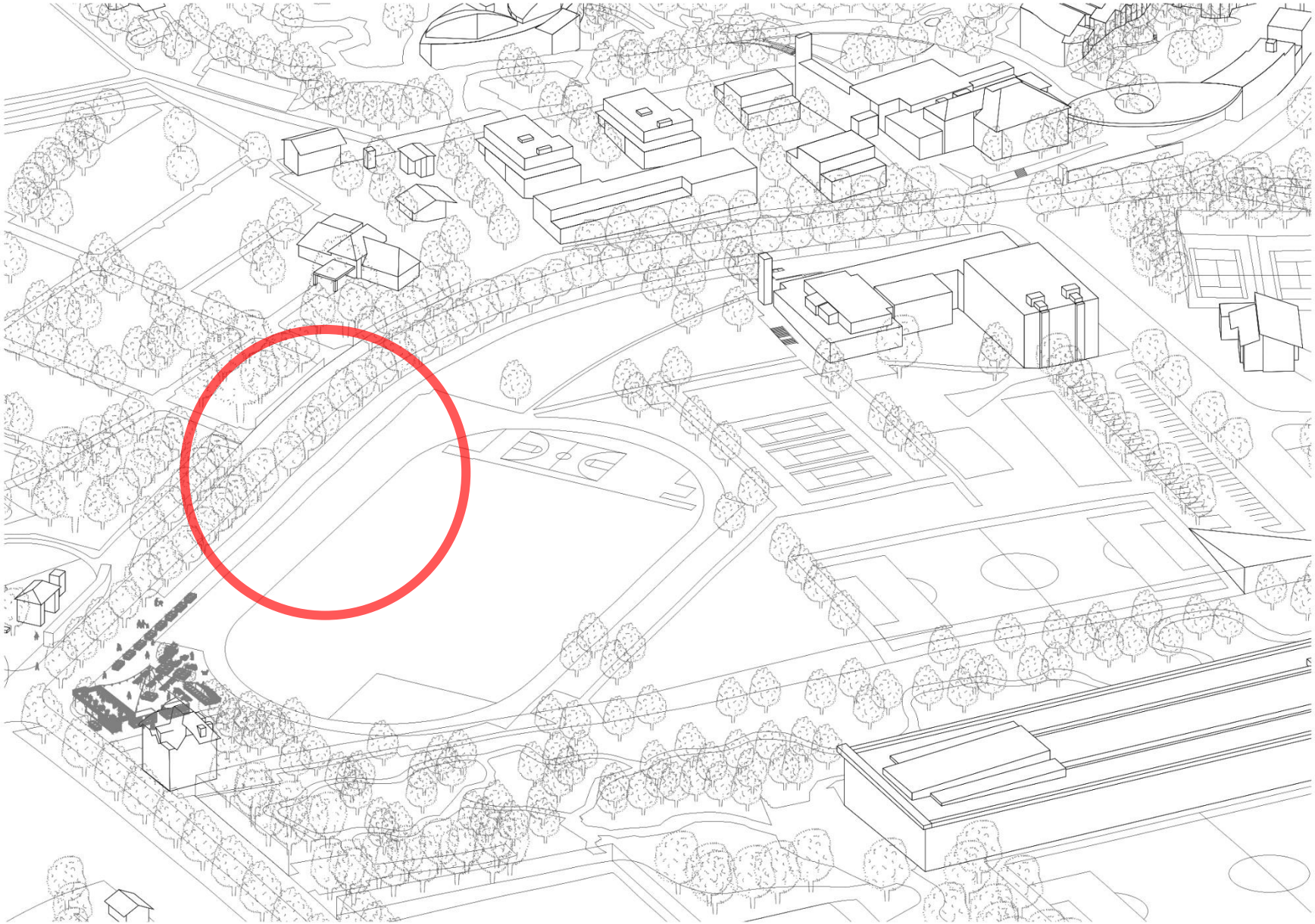
Susis Garten



Susis Garten

NO
MOTOR
VEHICLES
WOMEN

WOMEN
WOMEN



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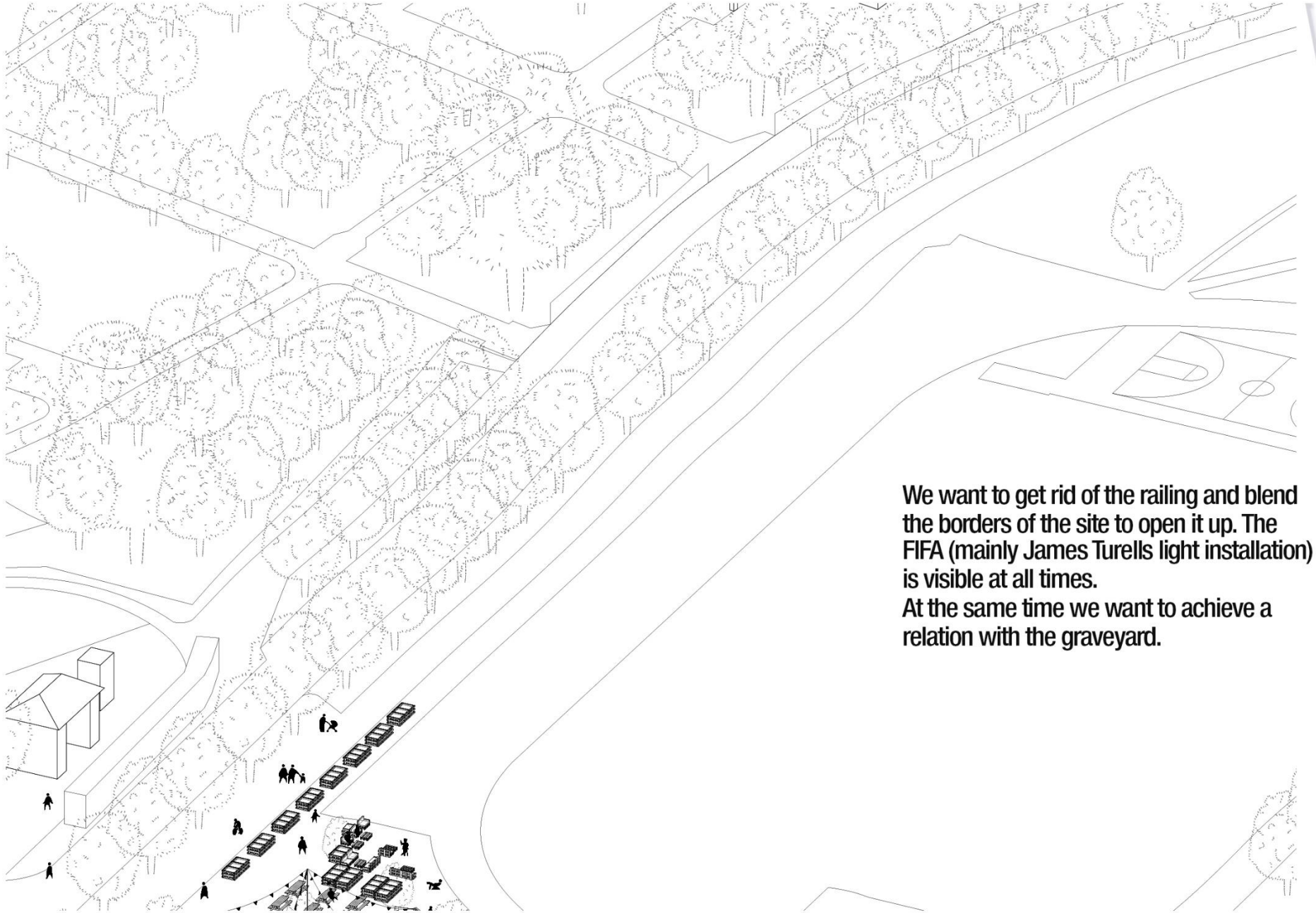
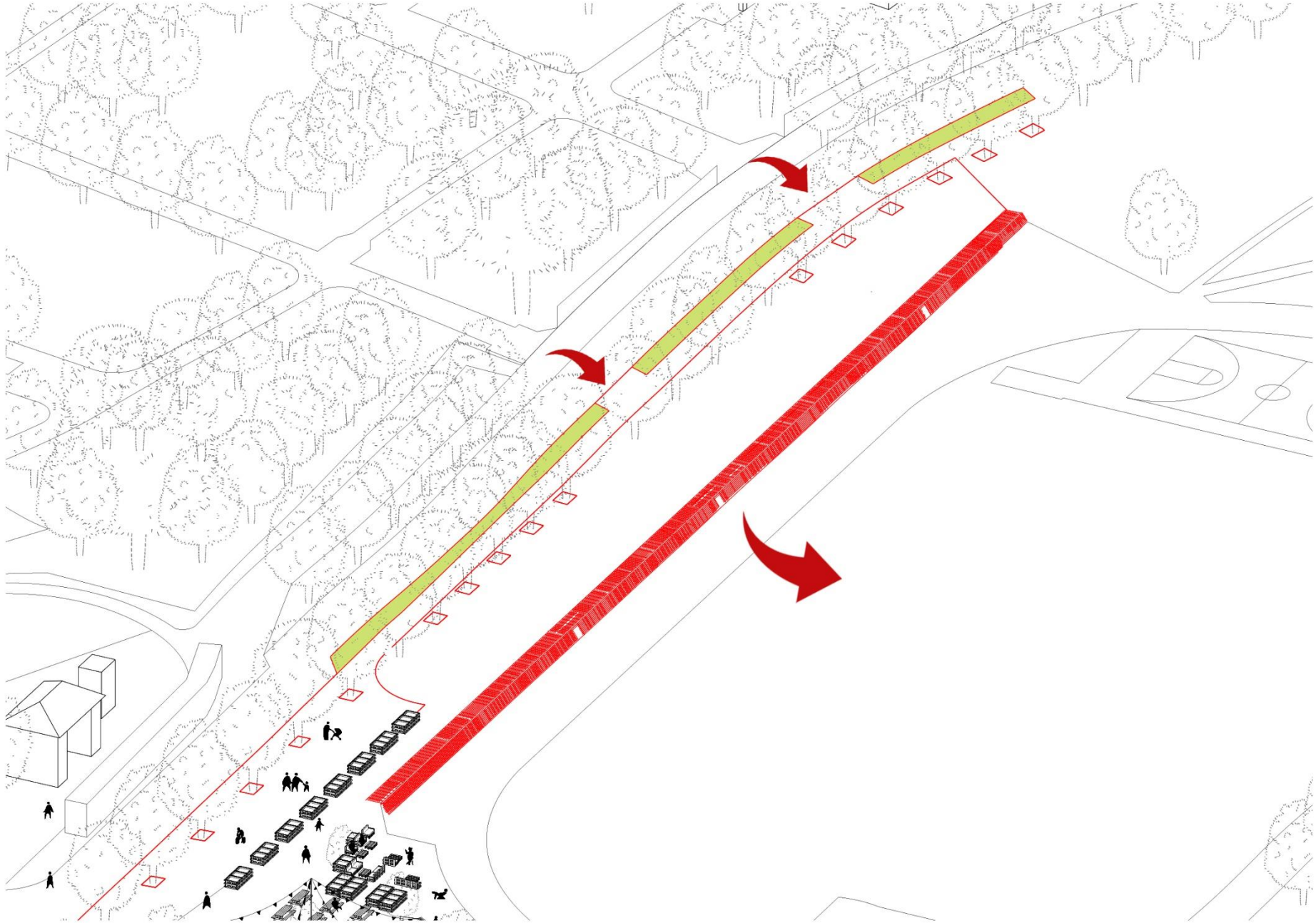
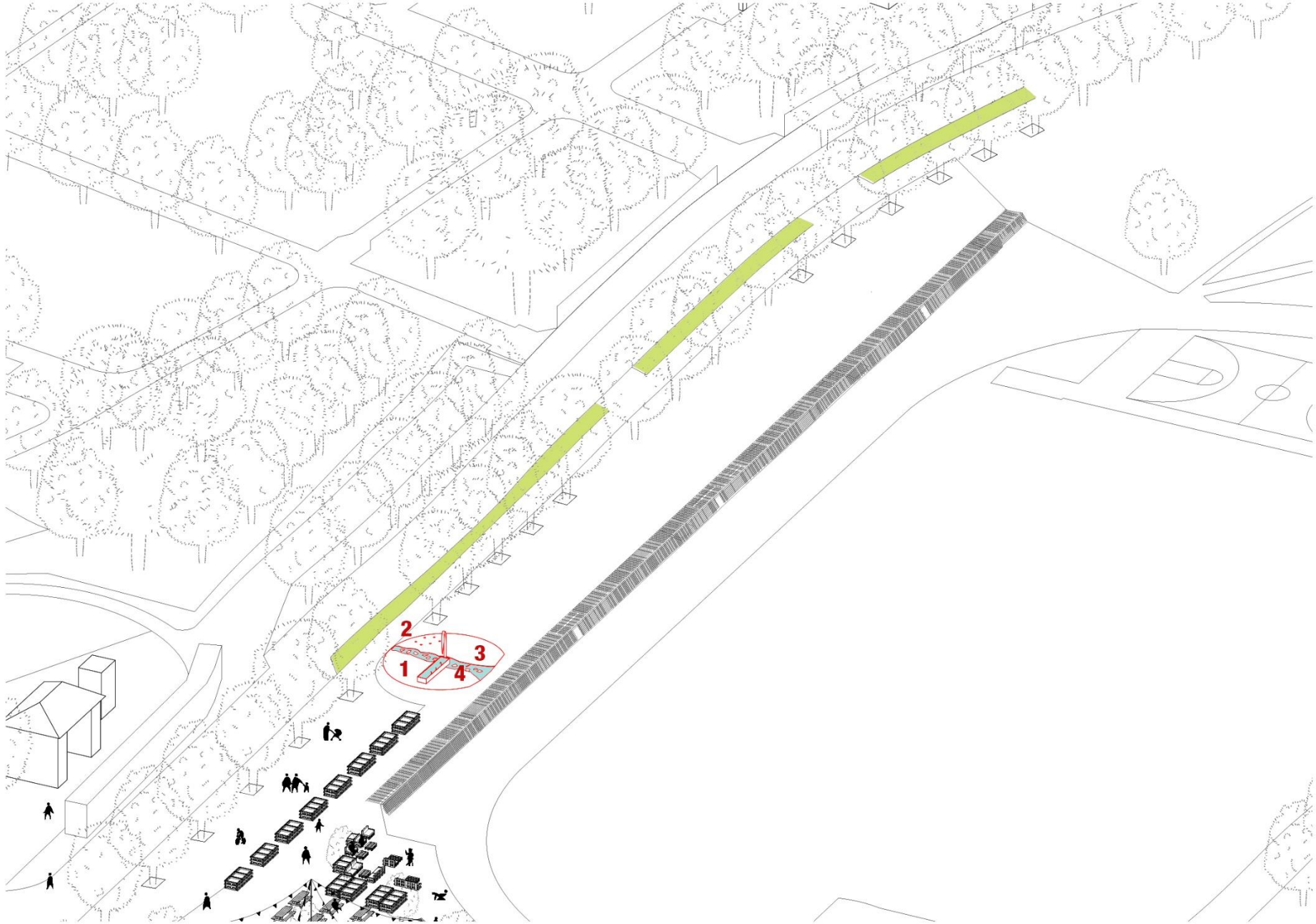


We want to get rid of the railing and blend the borders of the site to open it up. The FIFA (mainly James Turells light installation) is visible at all times.
At the same time we want to achieve a relation with the graveyard.



make street wider and prolong the axis of the graveyard

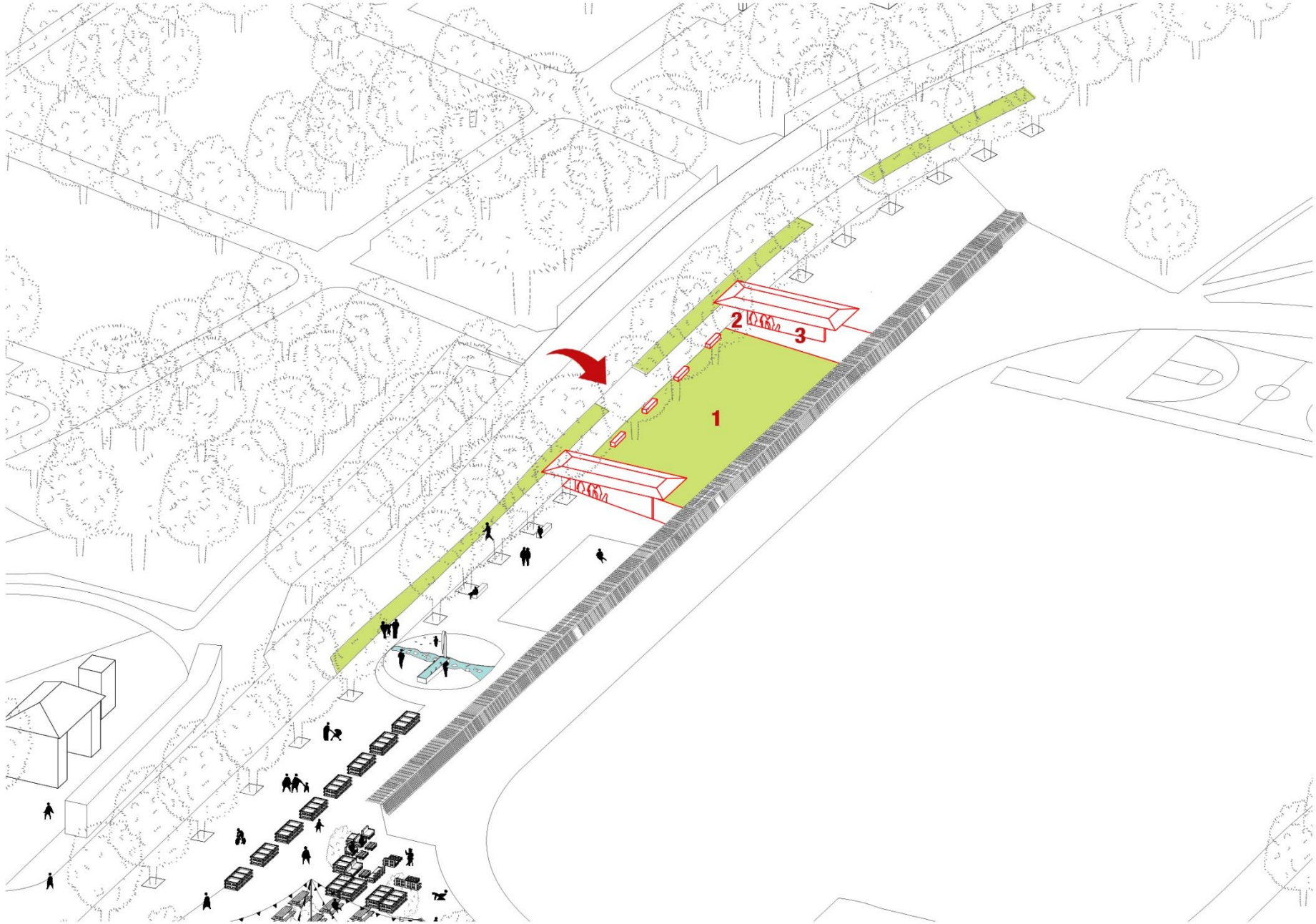


1. Generationenbrunnen
2. small fountains
3. big fountain
4. „river“ with stepping stones

water

1. wooden sundeck
2. benches
3. gravel

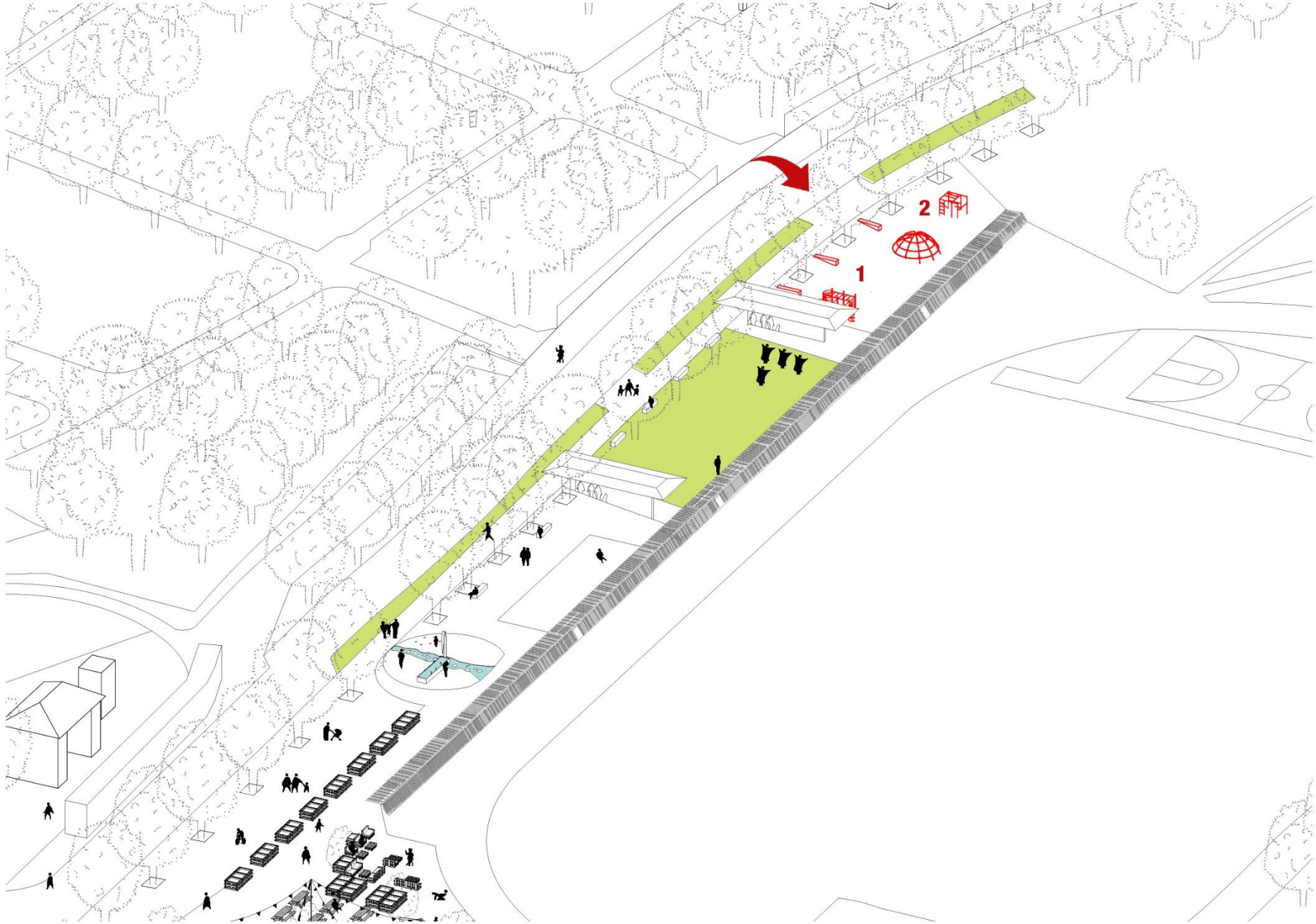
sundeck



the yoga area in the end of
the axis of the graveyard
as a celebration of life

1. grassfield
2. „shape wall“
3. mirror or dancing

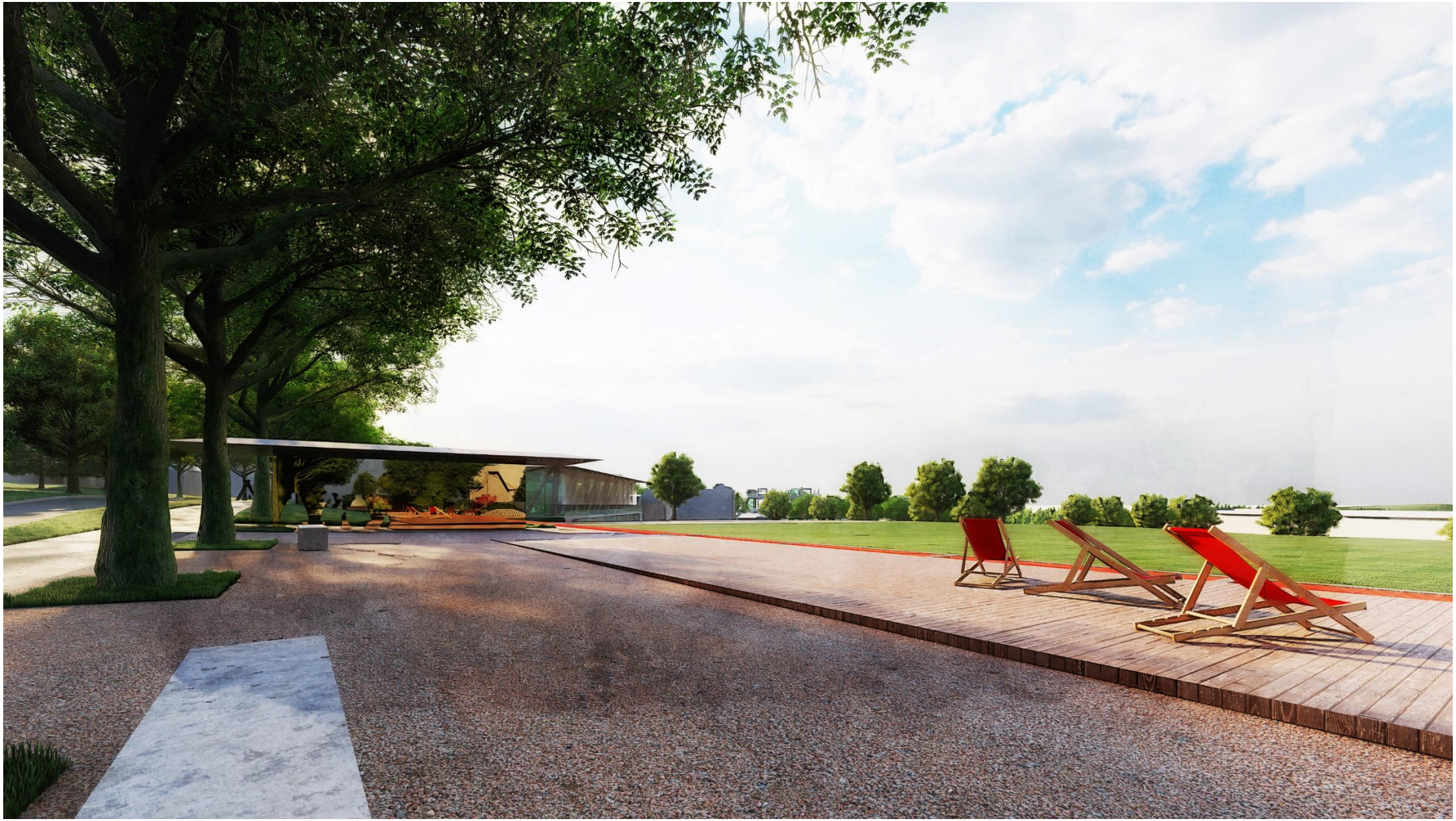
yoga

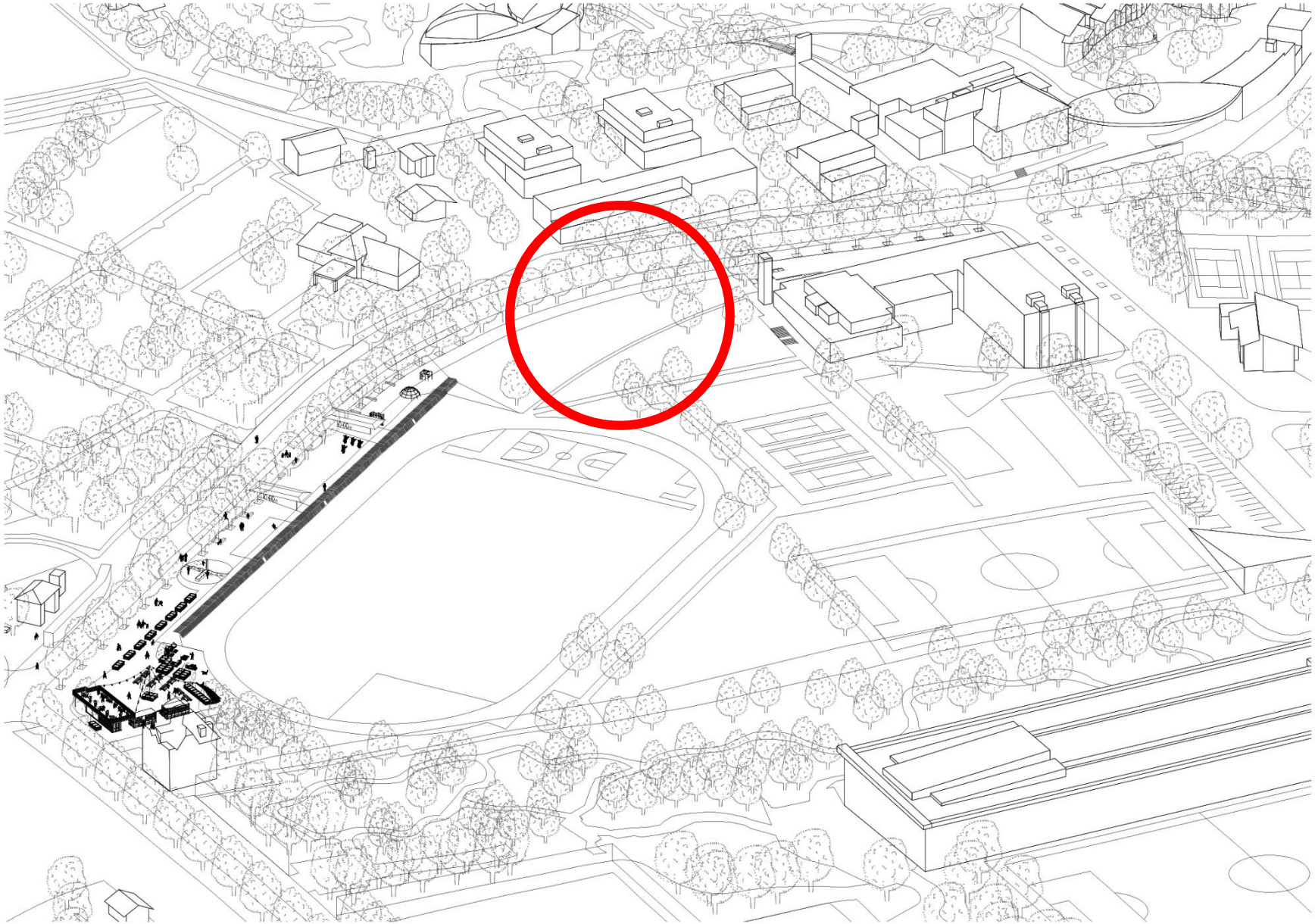


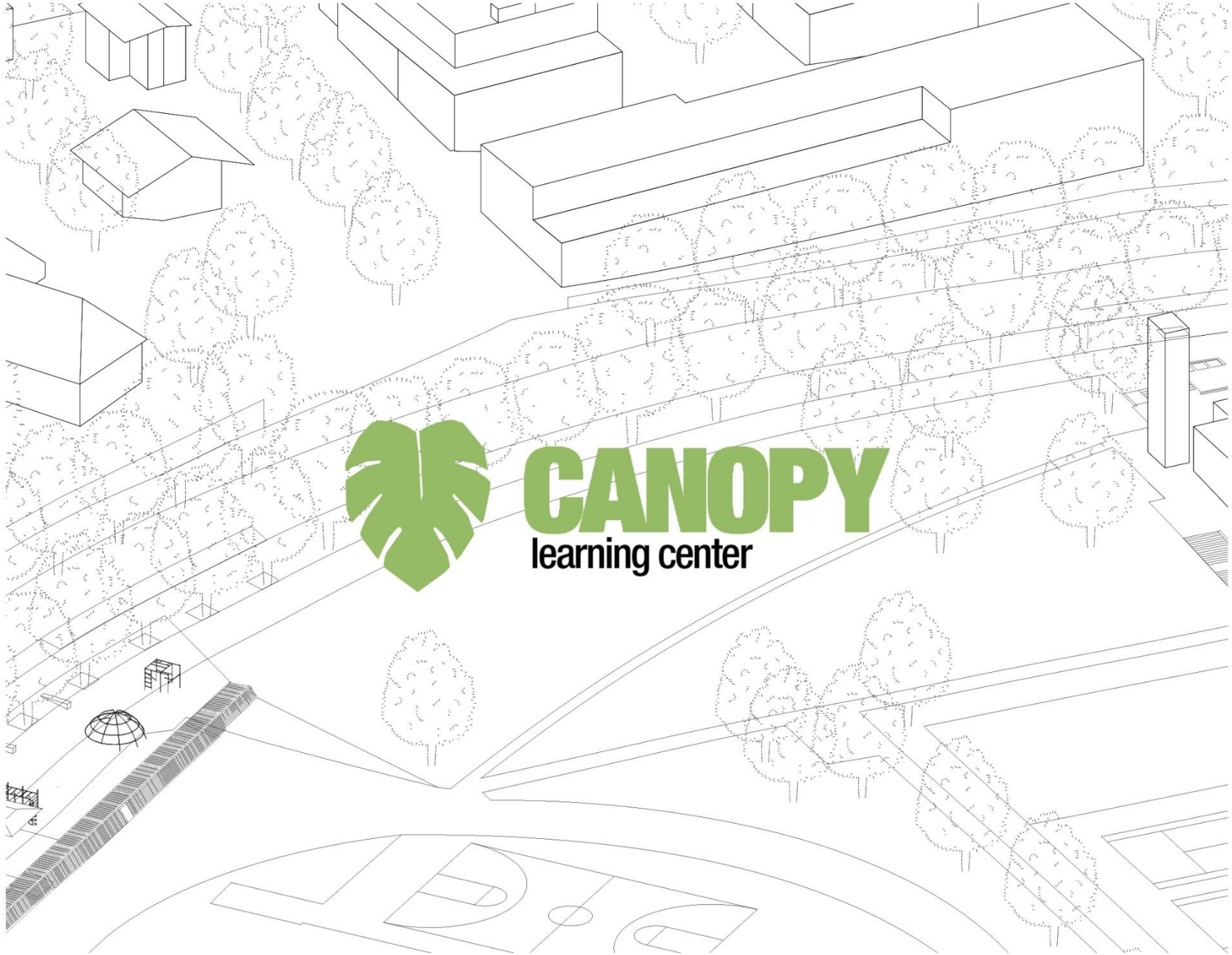
the playground in the end of
the axis of the graveyard
as a celebration of life

1. playground climbing
2. outside gym

playground







where humans blossom...

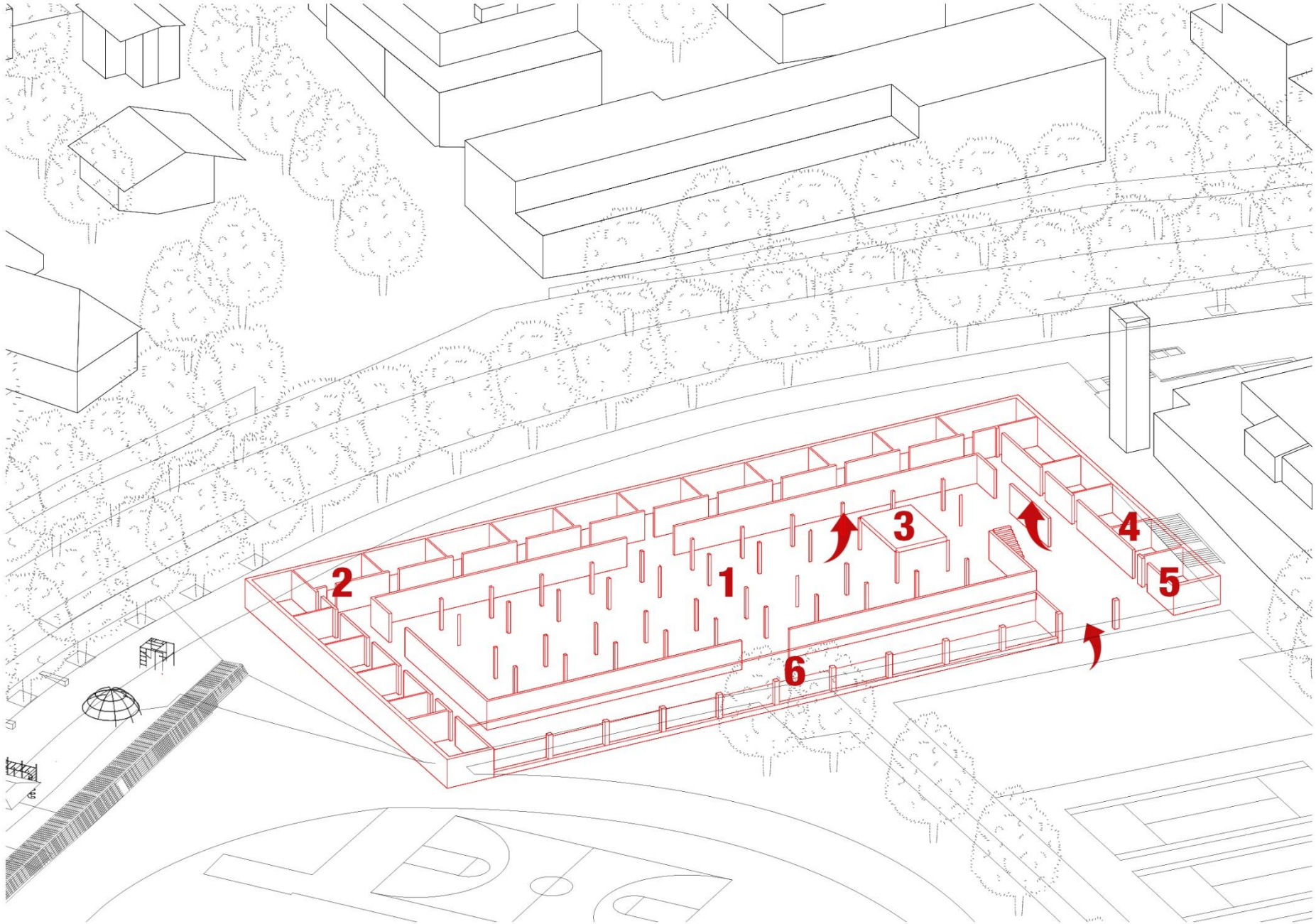
A reinterpretation of the antique temple. A temple for learning.

Temples and churches tried to resemble forests and leaf canopys. The mind of the common together under one roof.

A learning and meetingplace for the common. Tought to keep actors longer at the site. Students can learn and then go to sports (or vice versa).

There are seminar rooms, a cafe and a big flexible space for the common to shape.

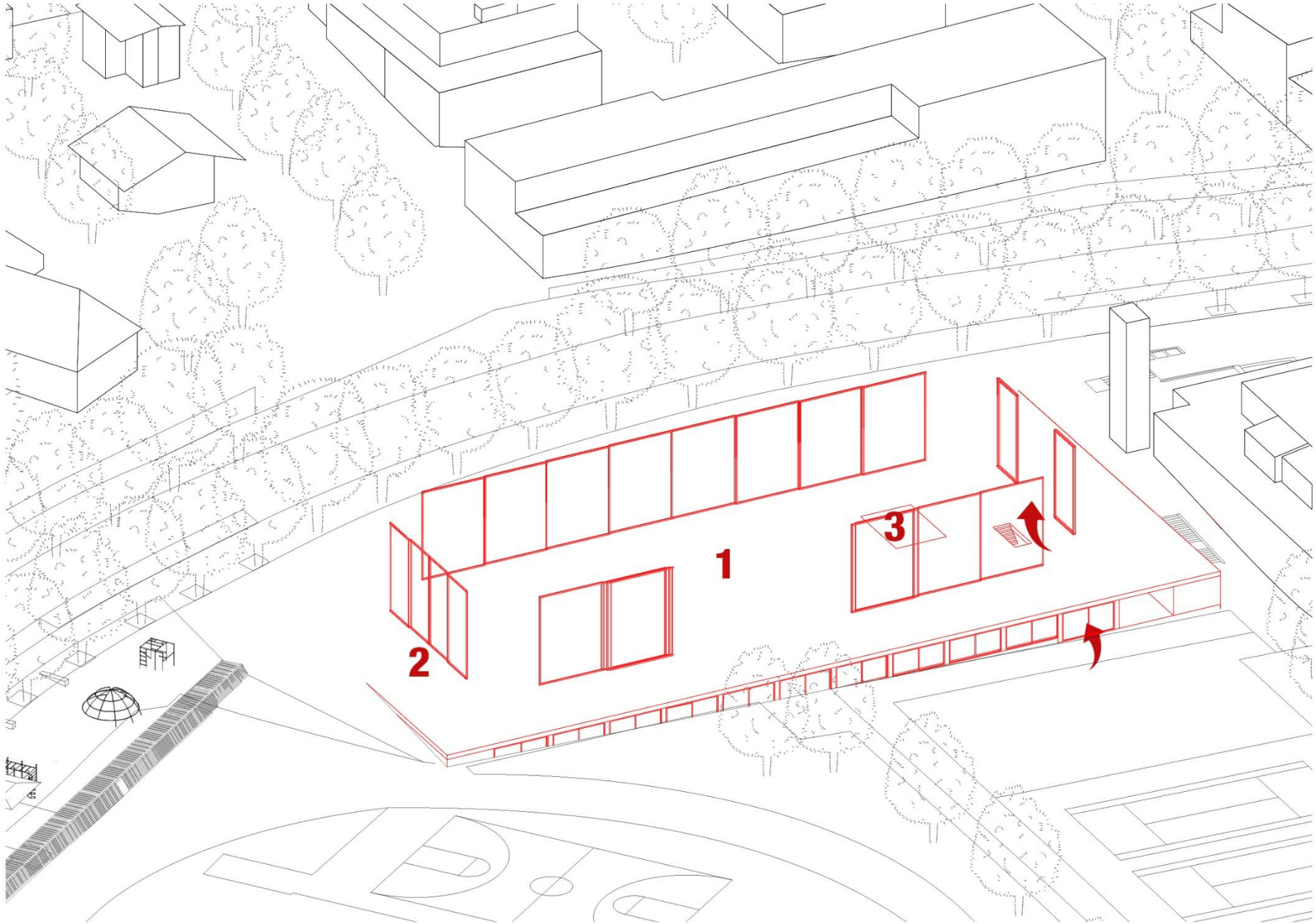
A day and night curtain enables various light situations.



1. storage
2. smaller storage
3. elevator
4. toilets
5. cafe
6. seminar rooms

underground „functional base“

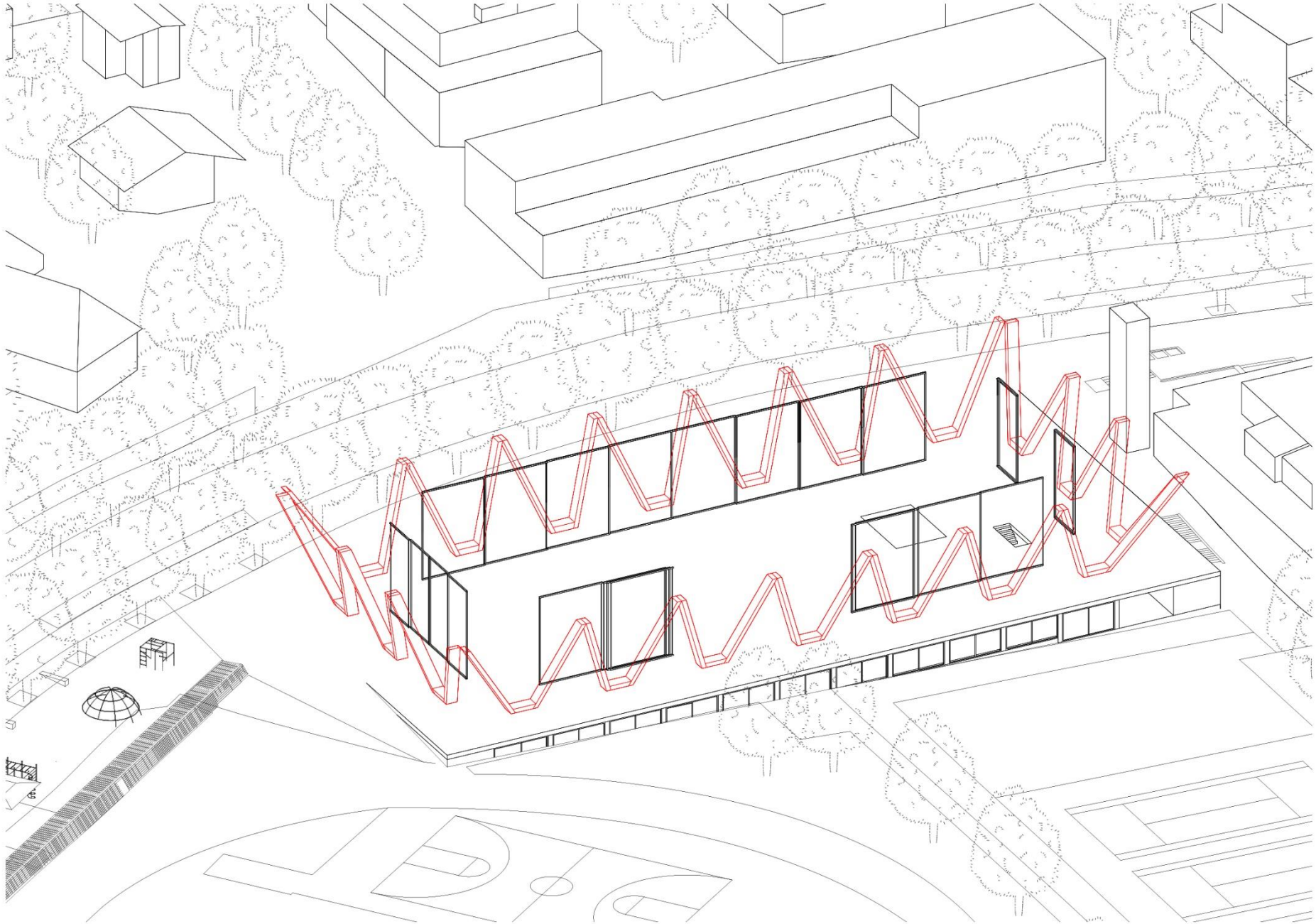
CANOPY
learning center



1. heated inside
2. moveable windows
3. elevator

groundfloor

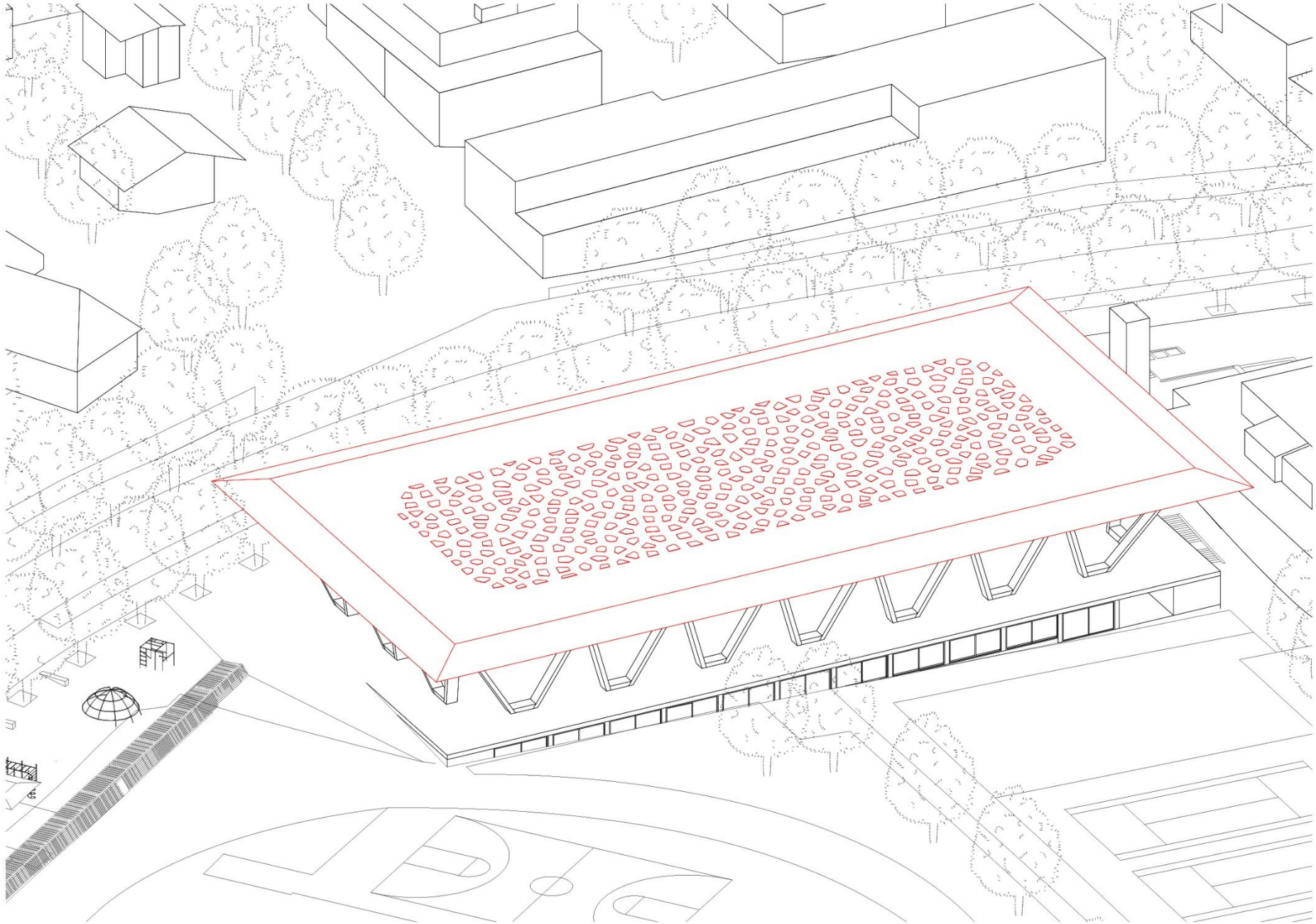
CANOPY
learning center



the structure bases
double as benches

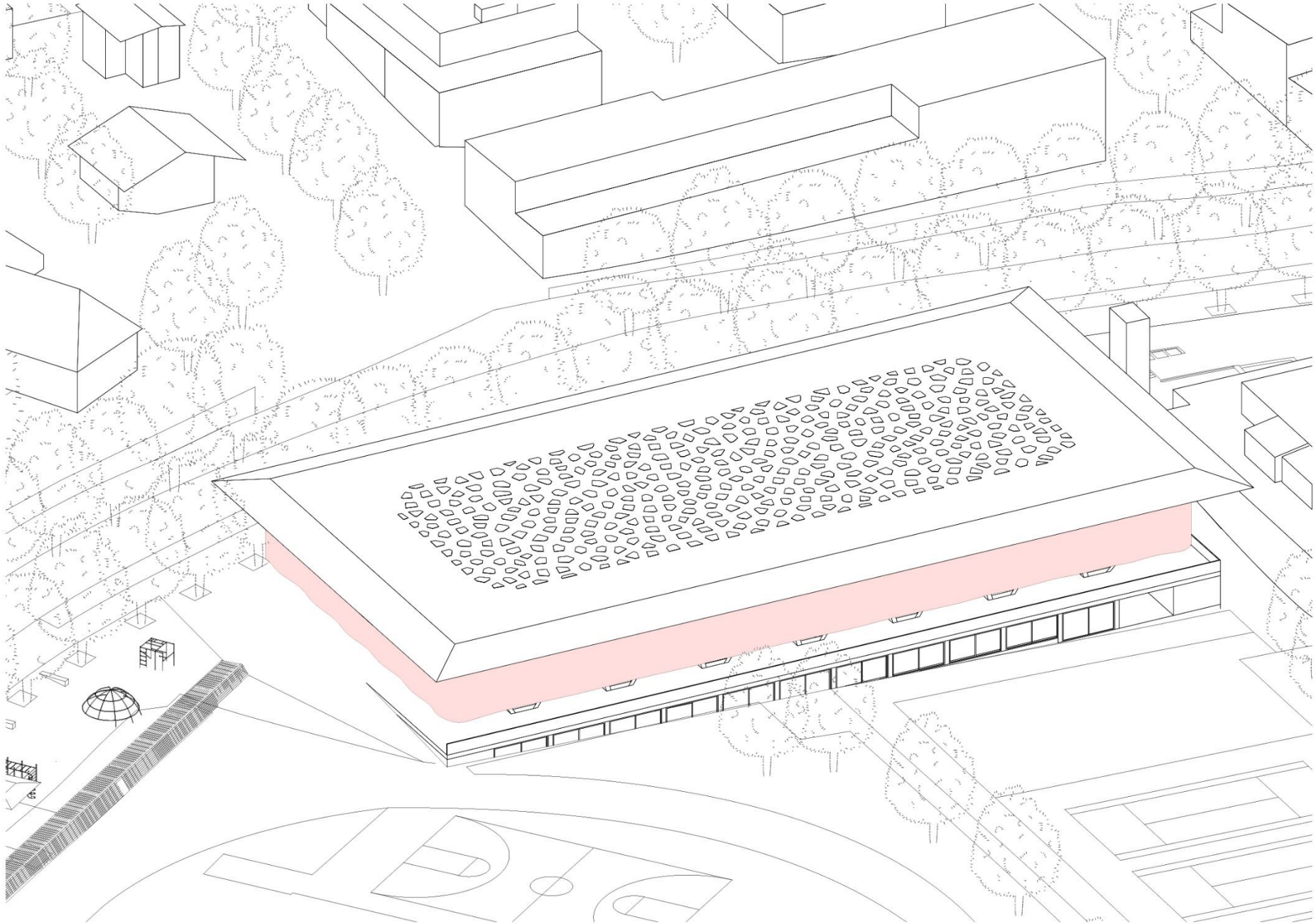
structure for maximum freedom inside

CANOPY
learning center



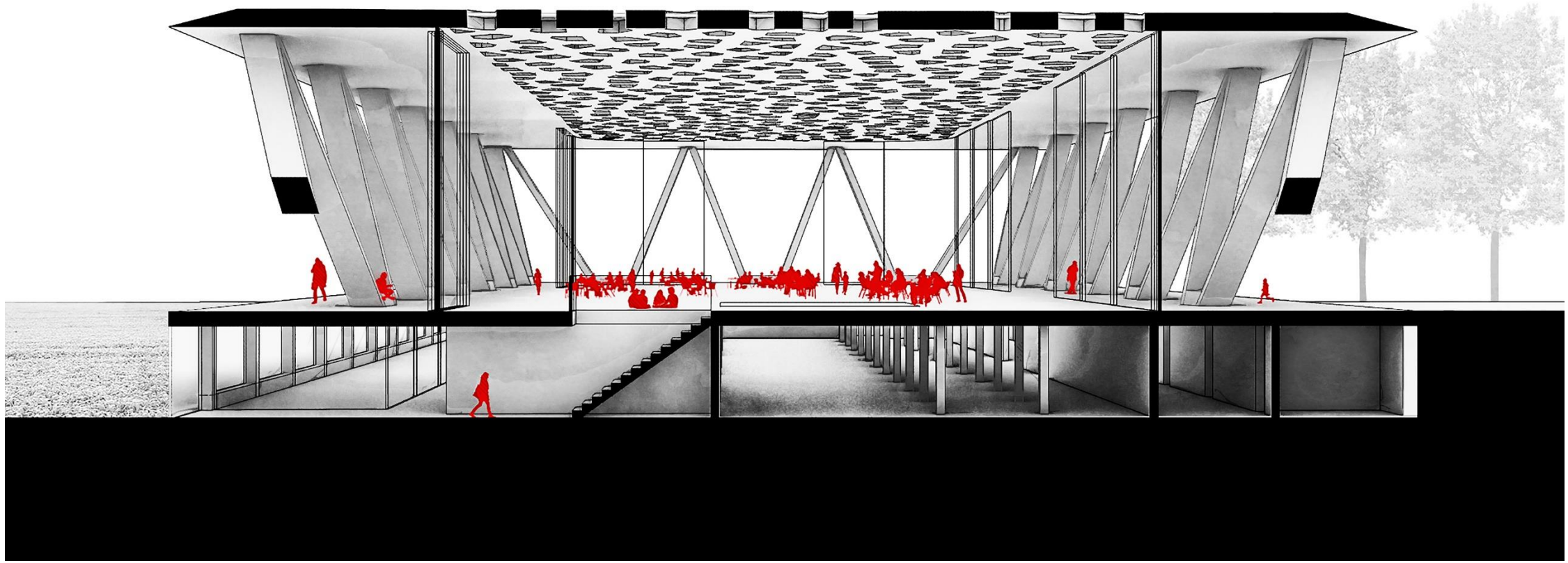
canopy

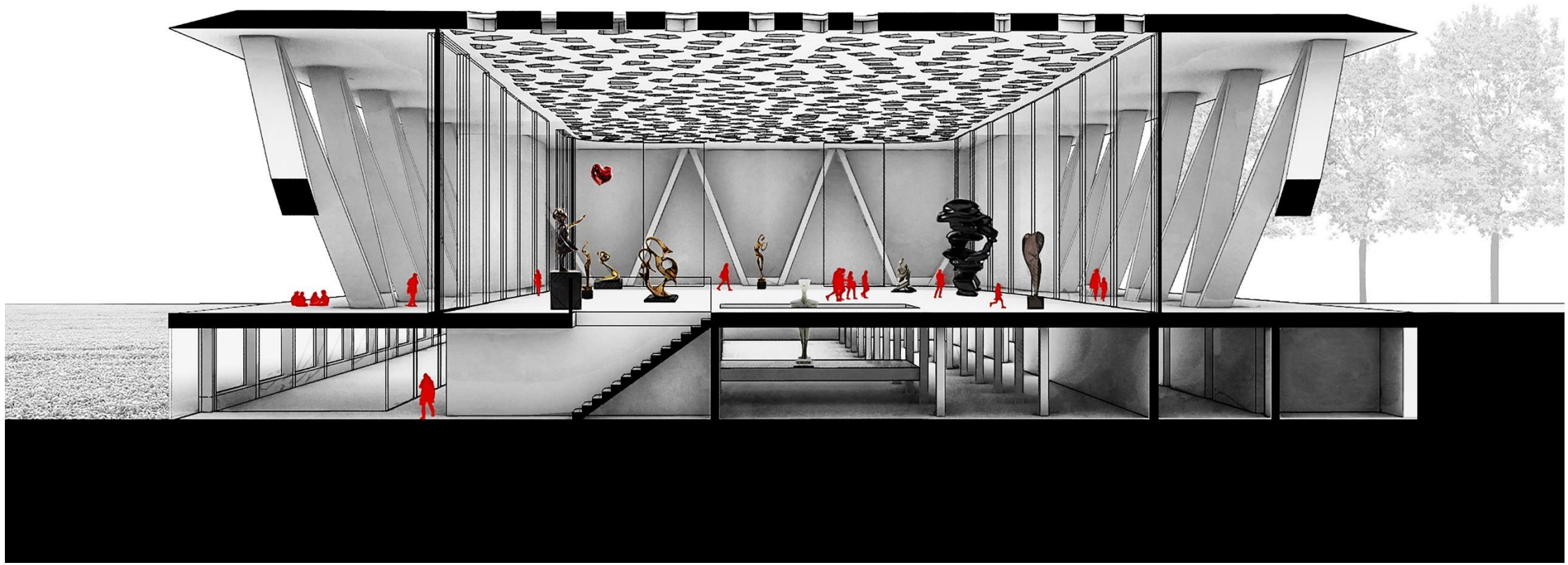
CANOPY
learning center

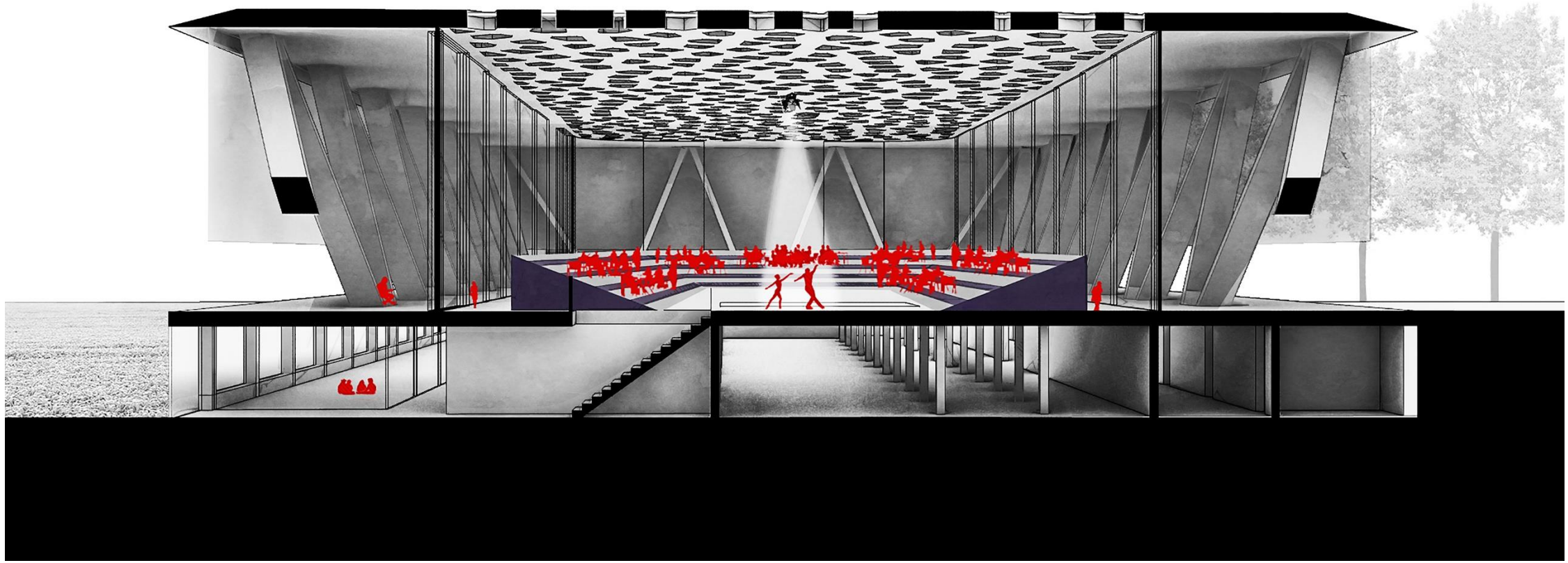


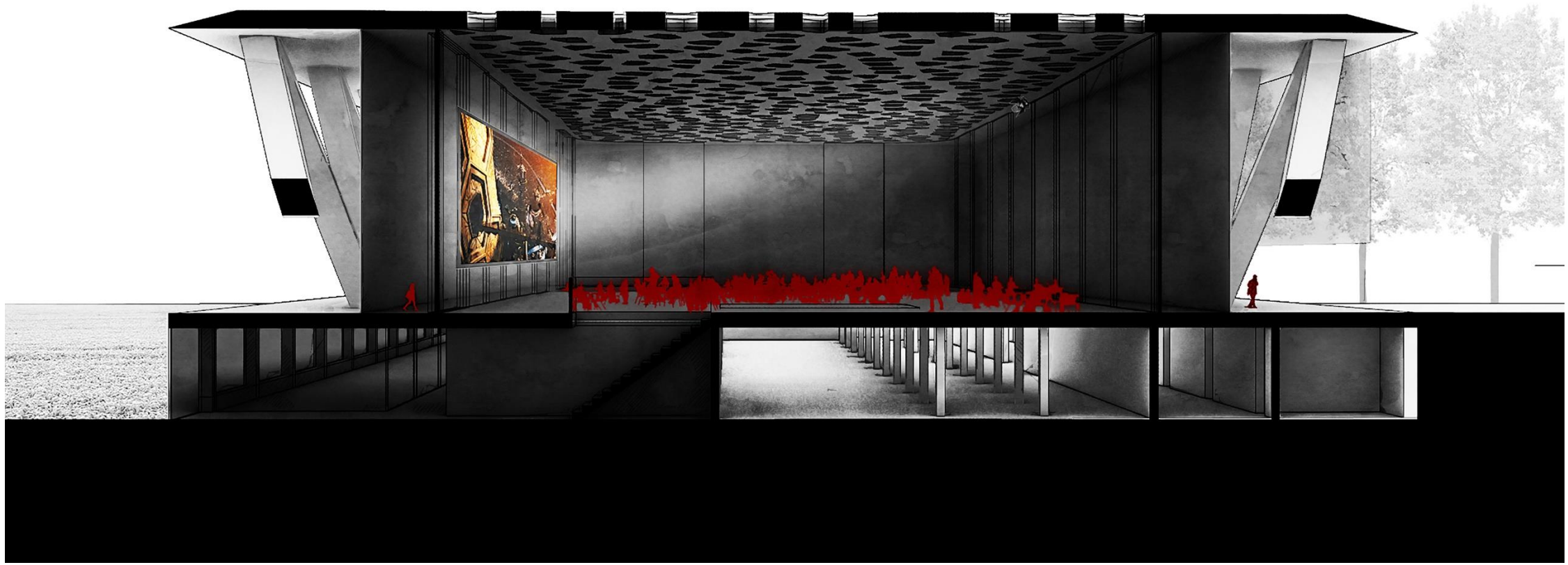
curtains

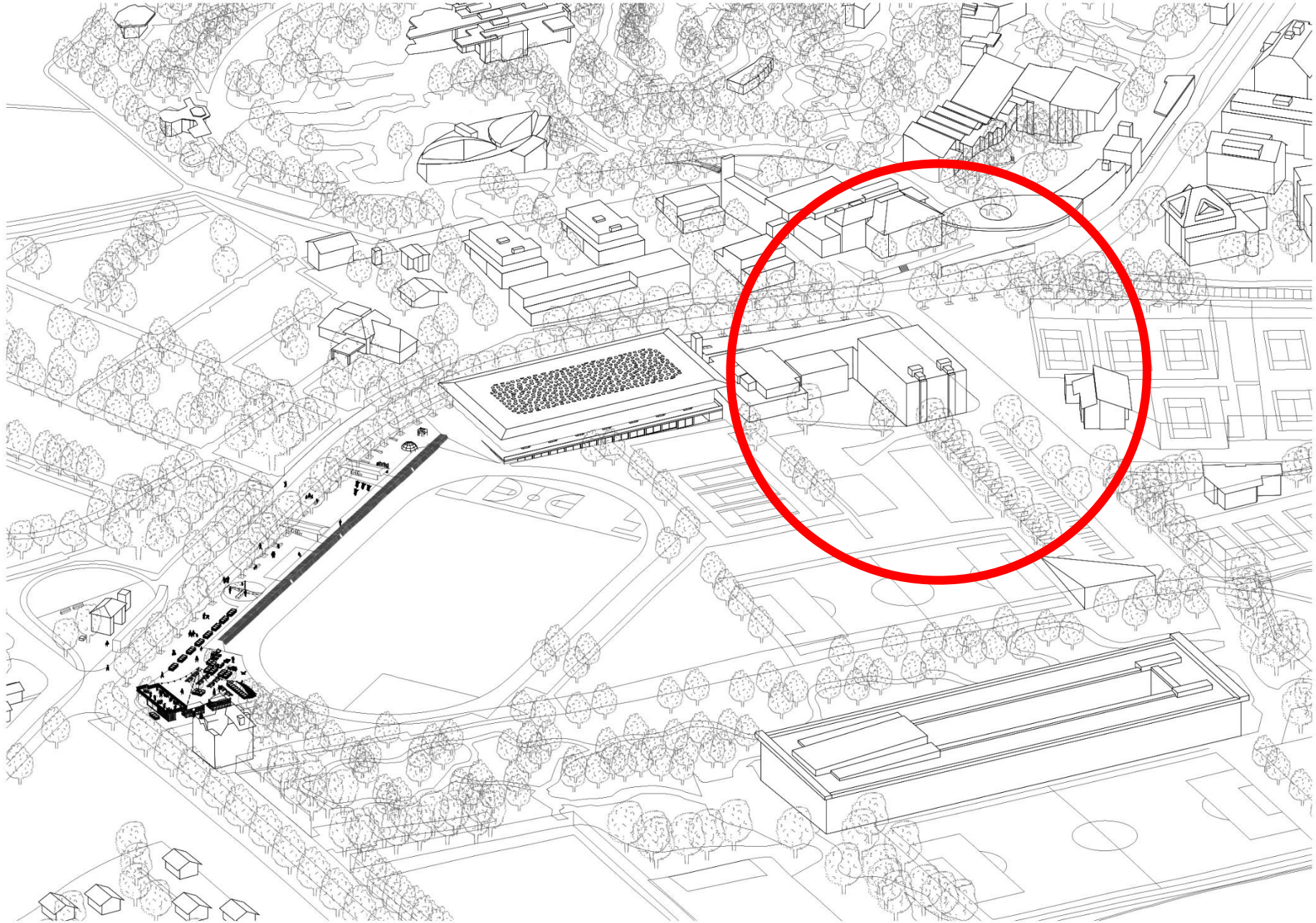
CANOPY
learning center



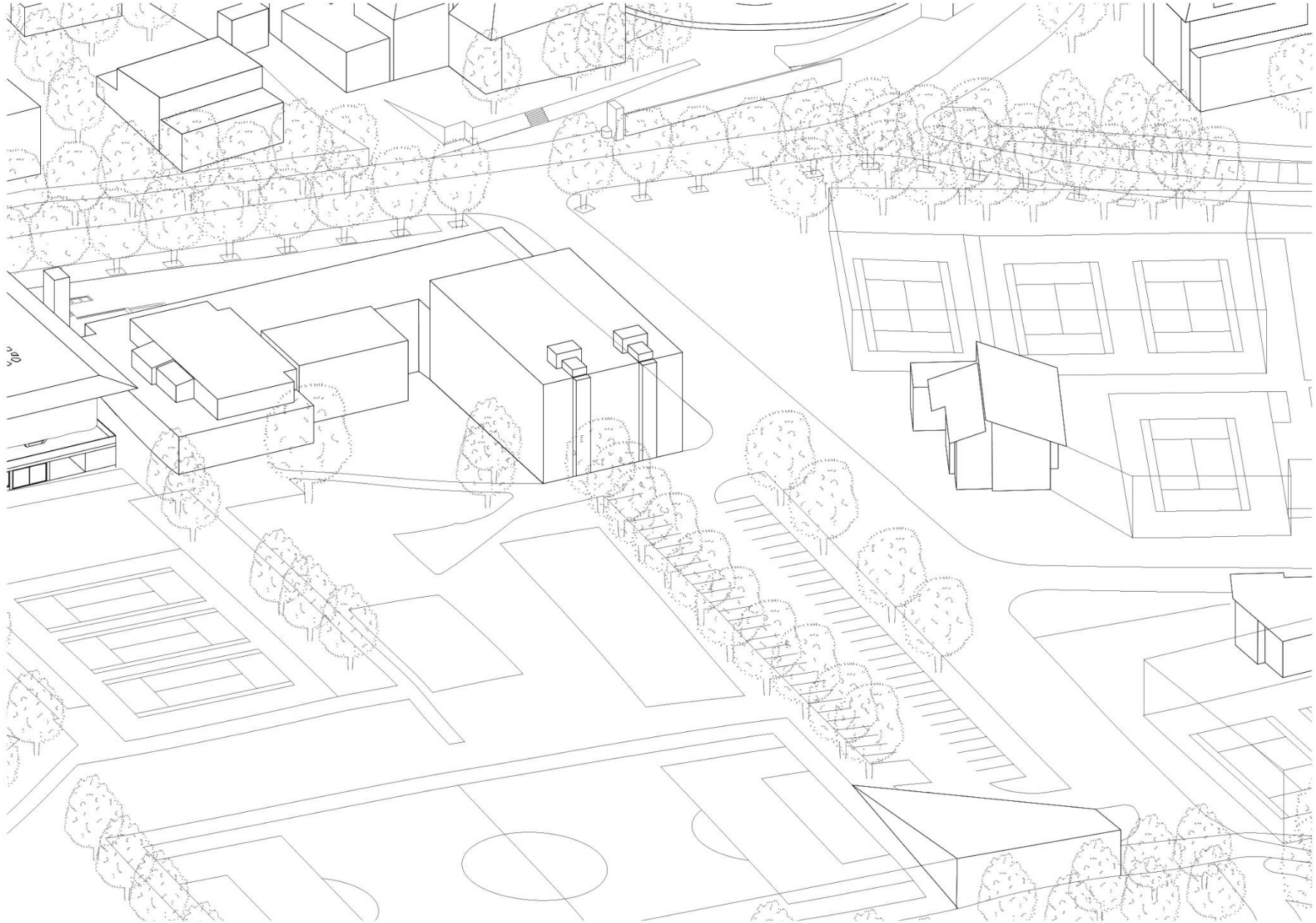




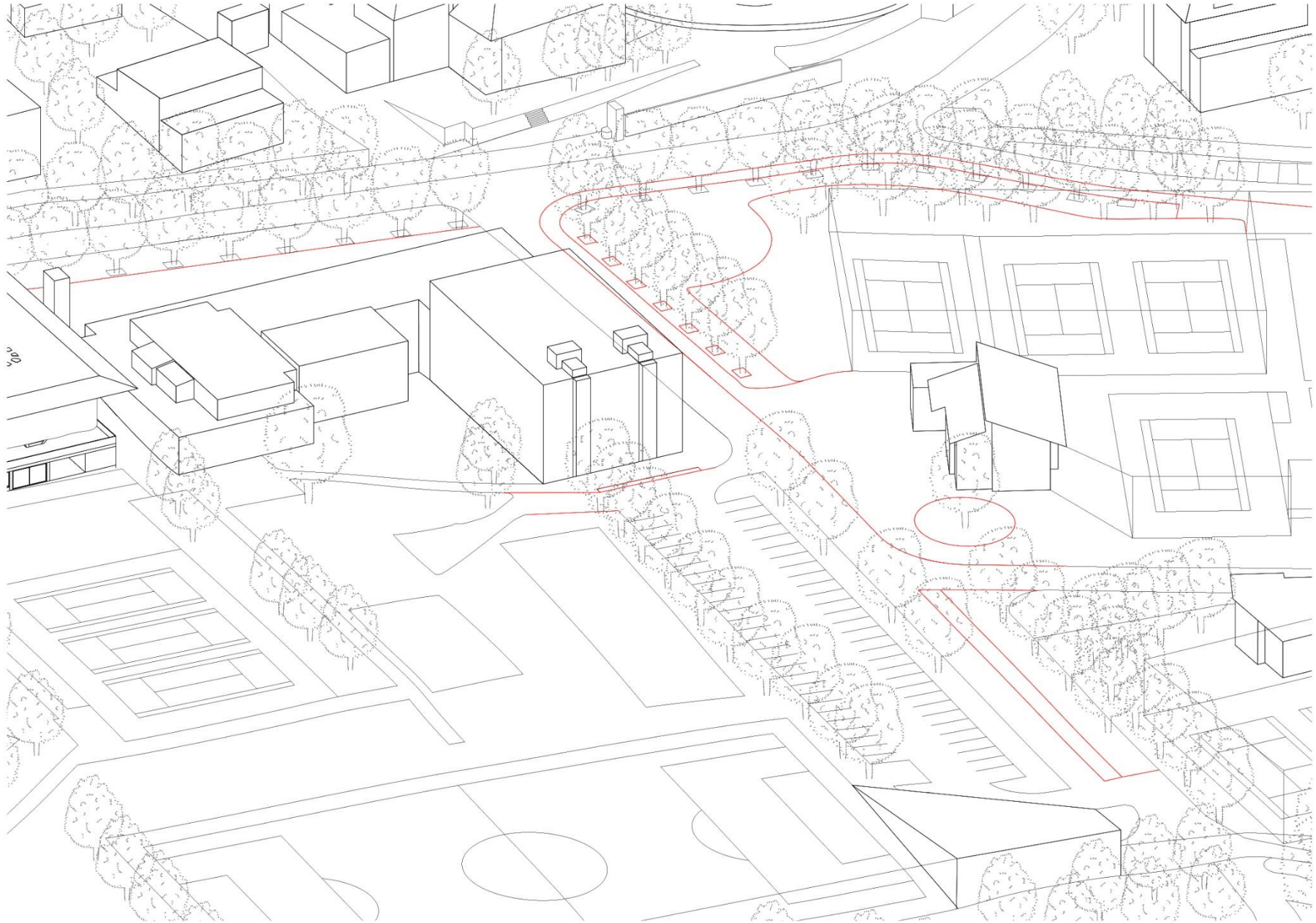




WHAT

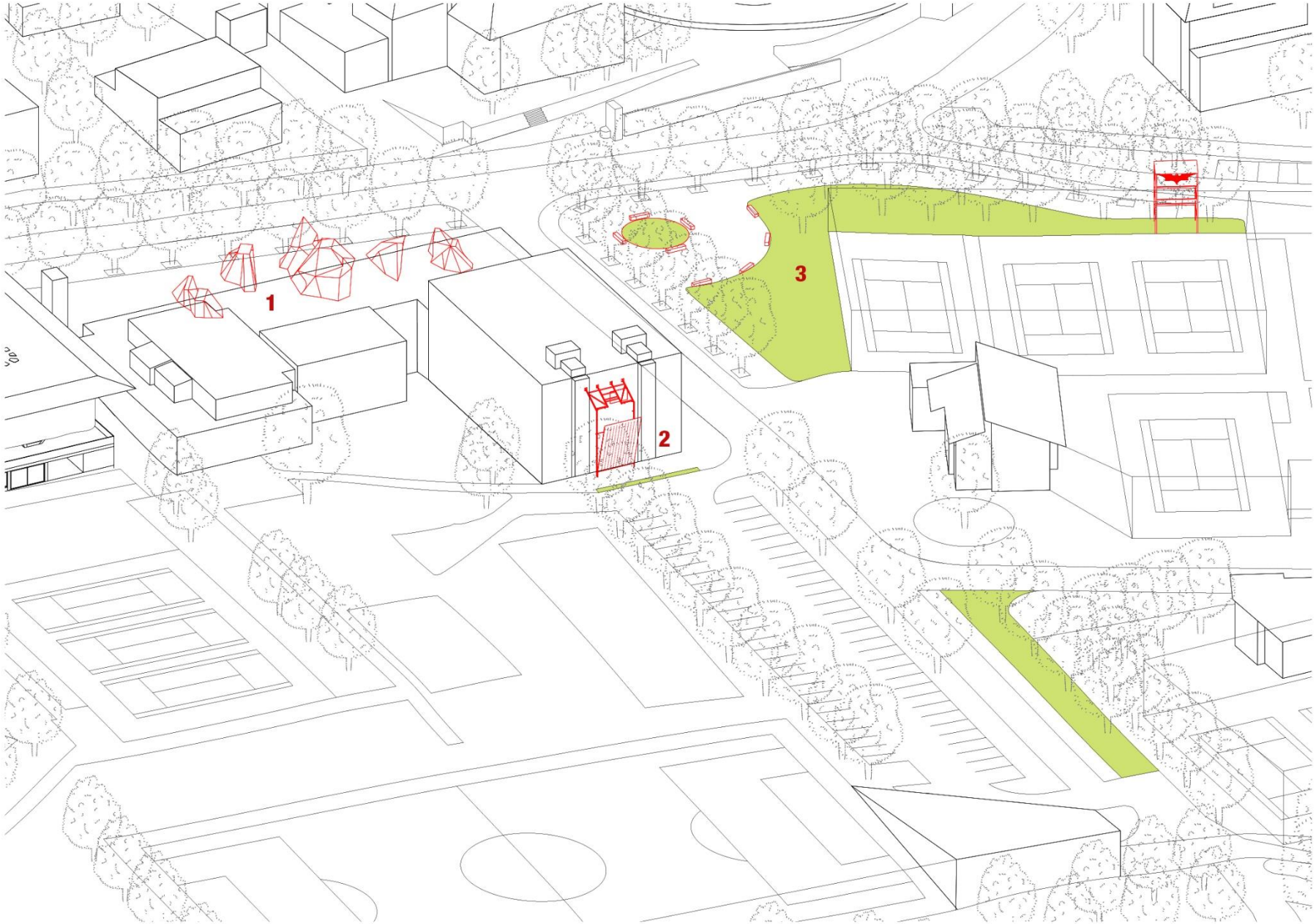


The street to the FIFA from the zoo entrance should be changed from a praking lot into a pedestrian street. Meanwhile functions will be added to add to the site.

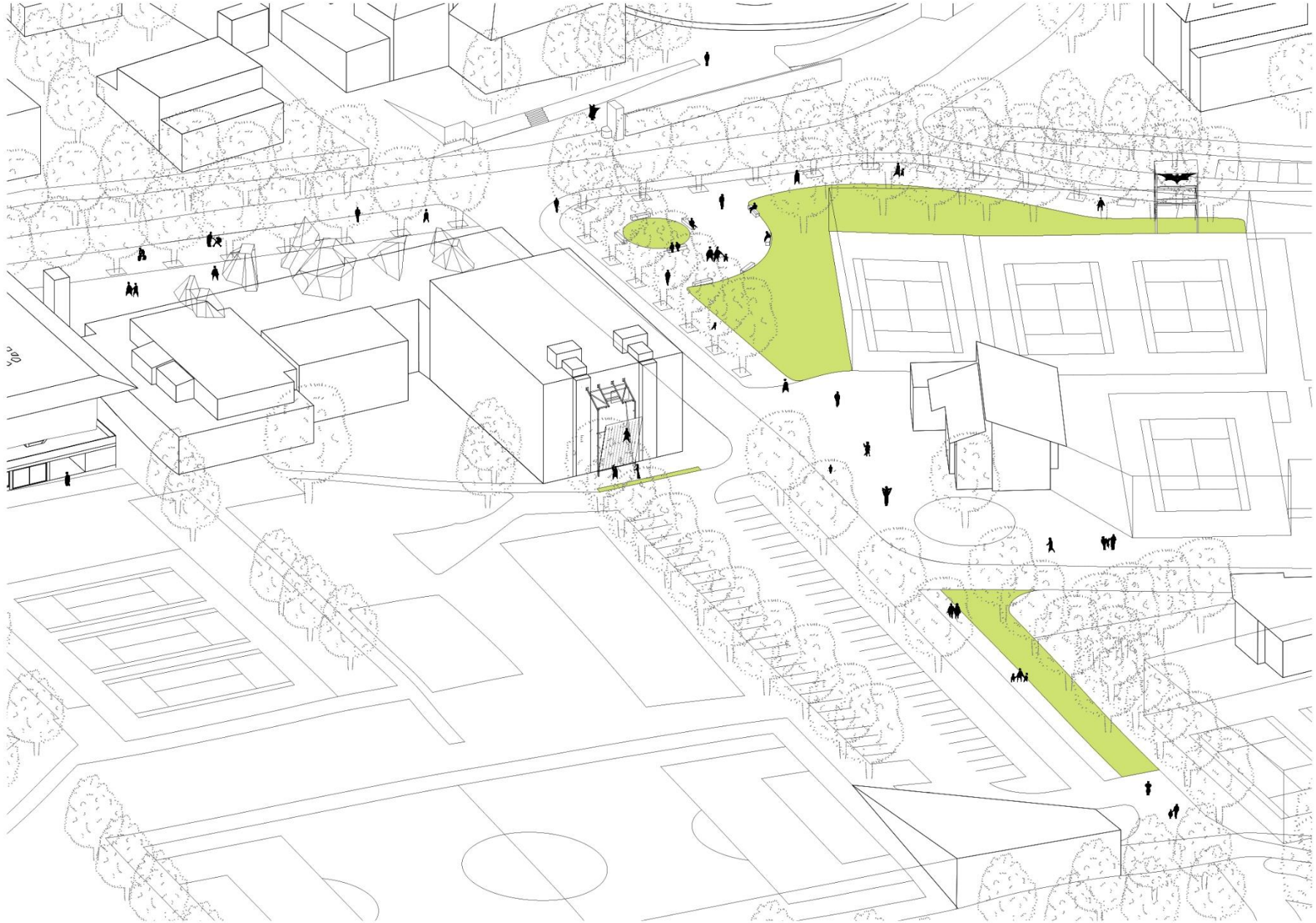


change street

WHAT



1. boulders for climbing
2. climbingwall
3. bees, bumblebees and bats preserve



special thanks and hugs to my supporters and mentors:

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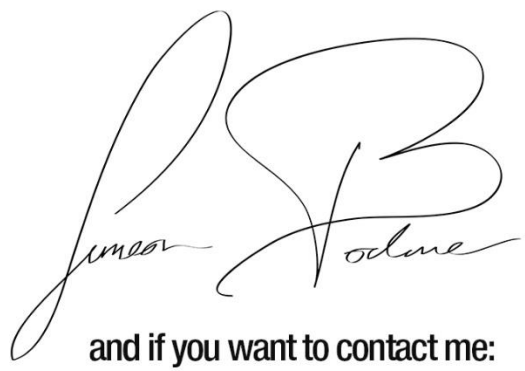
Prof. Christoph Küffer

Matthias Wermke



and if you want to contact me:

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