

# COMMON LAND

„The common land has two specific social functions. First, the land makes it possible for people to feel comfortable outside their buildings and their private territory, and therefore allows them to feel connected to the larger social system (...). And second, common land acts as a meeting place for people.“  
*Alexander, C. (1977): A Pattern Language. Towns Buildings Construction. New York: Oxford University Press.*

Behind the facade of the building at Zentralstrasse 150 stands the idea of a social utopia from the 1980s, the remains of a social fight against real estate speculation inspired by Hans Widmer's successful novel. Today, Karthago is one of the symbols of Zurich's cooperative housing history. The building is part of a "Blockrand" consisting of 17 units. After missing the opportunity to buy the neighboring building a few years ago, it was sold to a private investor and is about to be replaced by a housing complex, whose values and principles are the antithesis of the idea of Karthago and cooperatives in general.

However, the building bordering Karthago has great potential for expansion. Its facade, having been renovated in 1965, has been redesigned according to the logic of Karthago's facade and the two blocks, although visually separated by their respective colors, function as a large ensemble. This already existing link thus offers a strong potential for expansion of the actual cooperative. The capacity of Karthago could therefore be increased while the existing community adapts and grows. It is in this context that I wish to list the Karthago cooperative and expand its boundaries.

My project is based on 3 principles:  
 A simple and flexible structure based on the existing raster, which allows the plan to be adapted as needed while fostering the community;  
 A space that lives through the development and occupation of the inhabitants;  
 The project as a driver of the neighborhood by creating various meeting spaces that activate the local community.

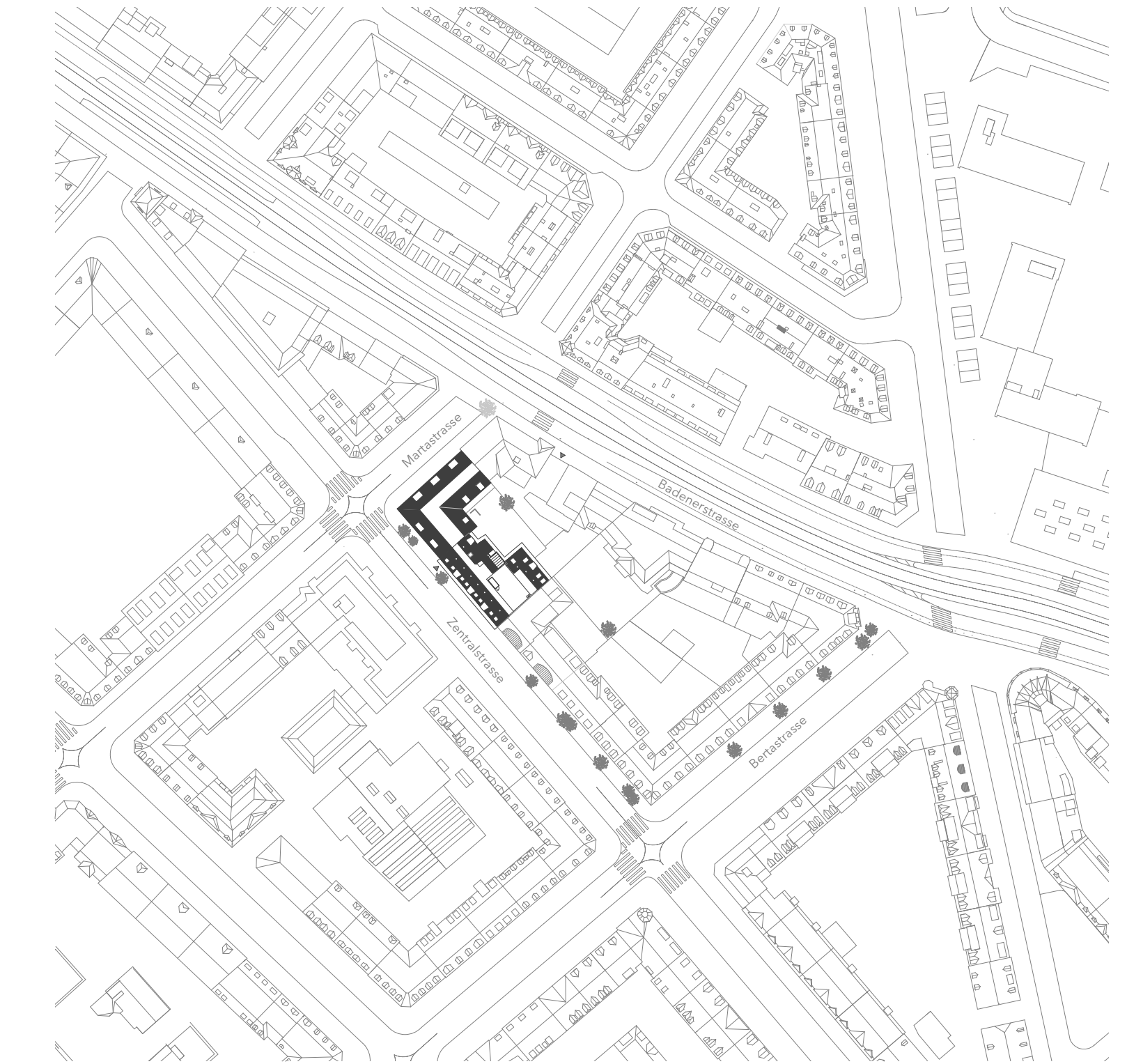
Today, the original ideals have become largely detached from the building, and its social network survives almost exclusively through the common kitchen. Although Karthago works, the new generation struggles to find comfort in this kind of configuration, which they find a bit too communal. It is a question of finding the right balance between community life and private life, a space where we can live together while keeping our privacy.

By multiplying the spaces of sharing and exchange, my project aims to reactivate and expand the community of Karthago's inhabitants while at the same time keeping a more private space, where one can find its peace. Thus, the common spaces encourage encounters and allow the creation of a community while keeping more or less large common living spaces.

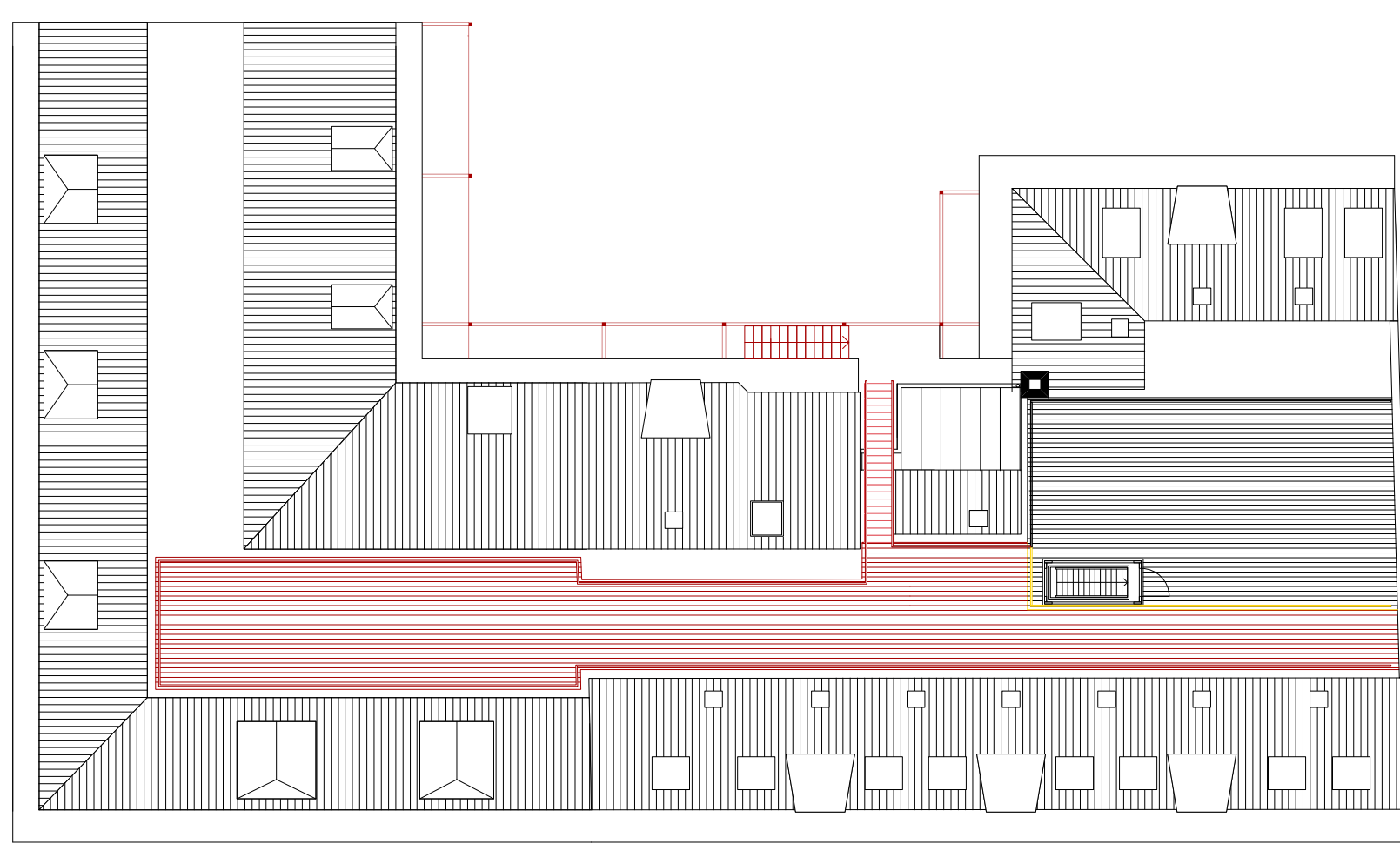
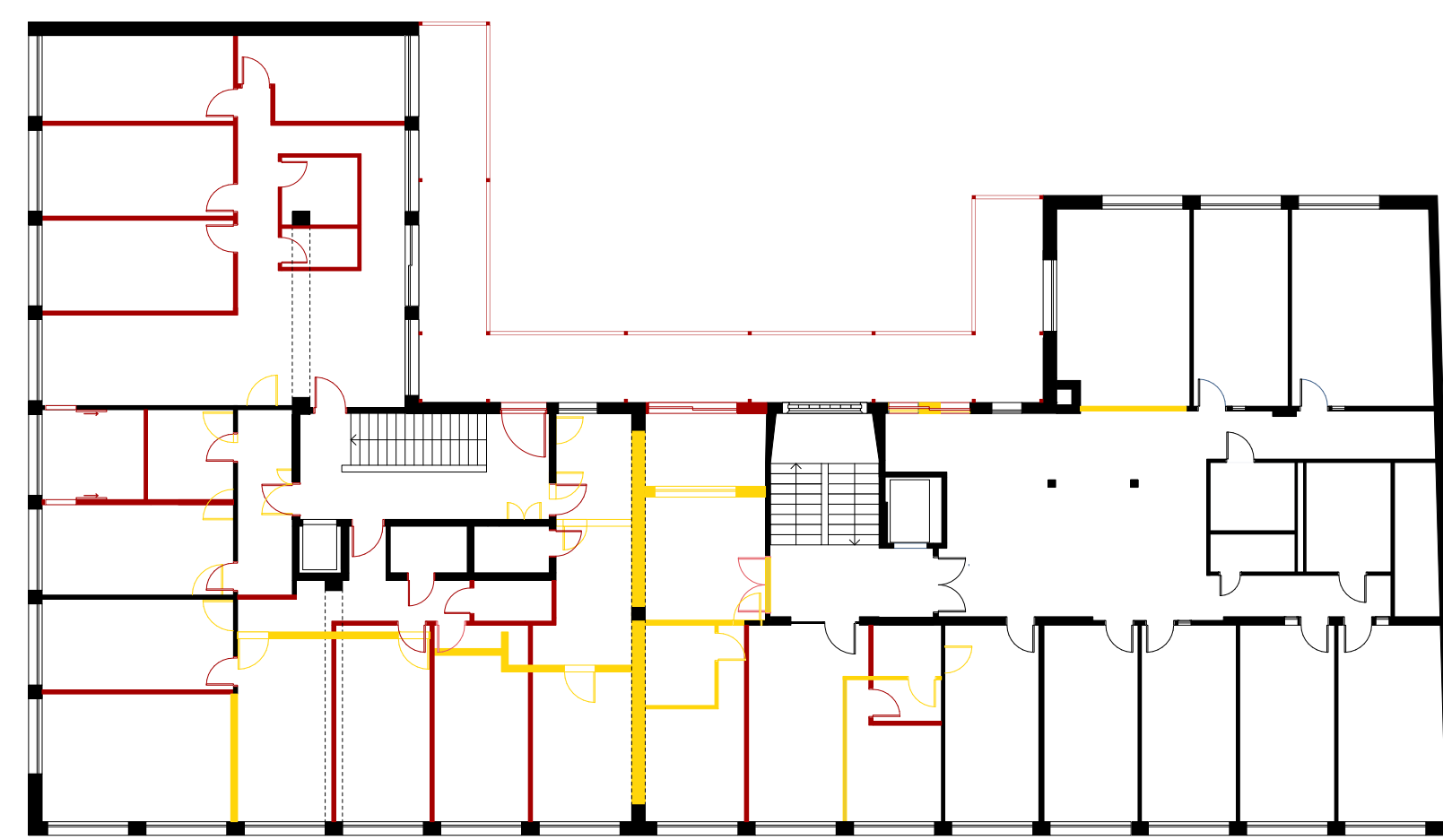
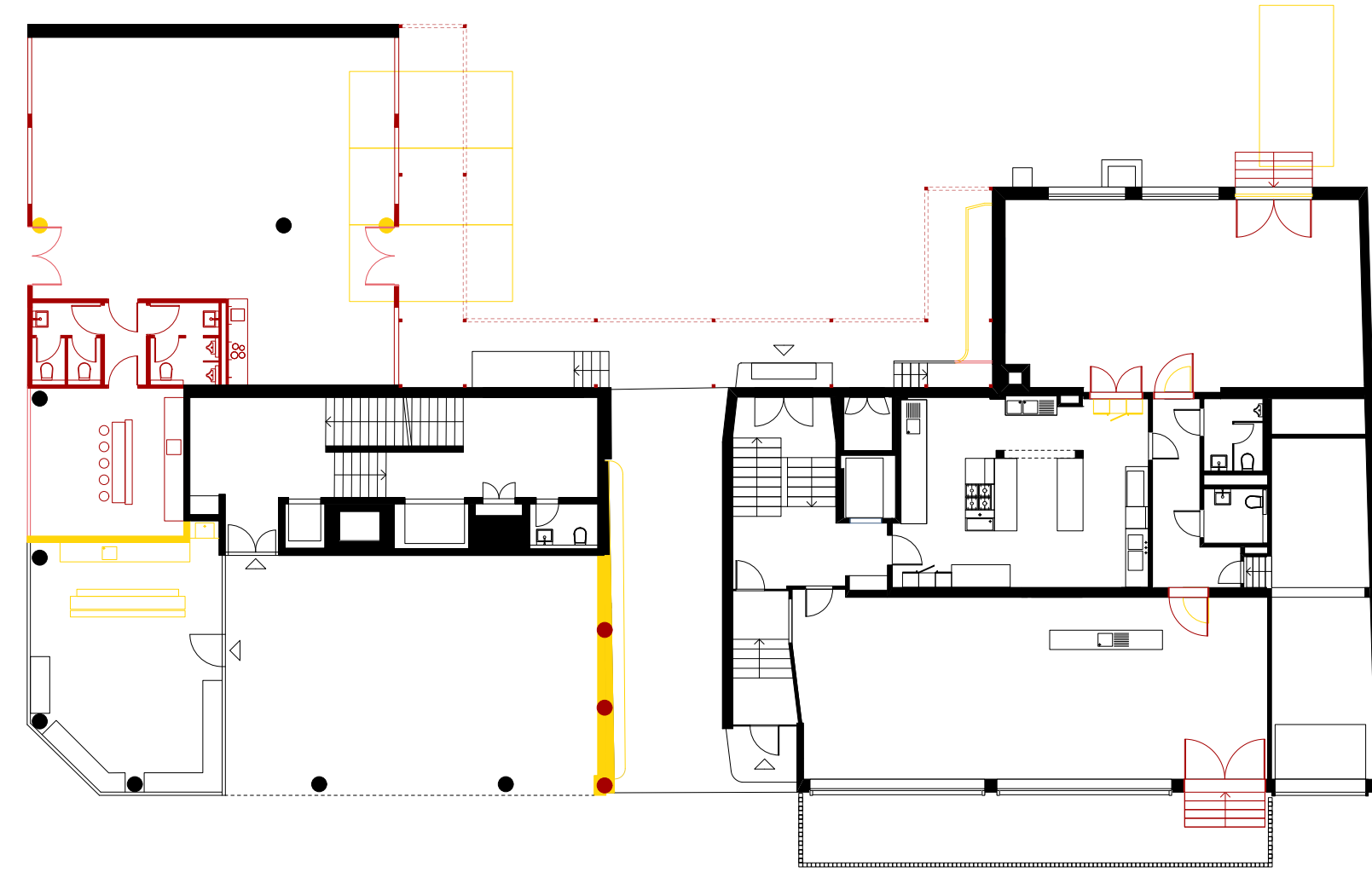
Through this project, I propose an update of this alternative way of life, an in-between, so that this kind of place continues to exist in the big cities, where it tends to disappear. This project allows us to continue experimenting with this new form of living, a community habitat adapted to the needs of its inhabitants while maintaining the possibility of affordable housing in the city center.



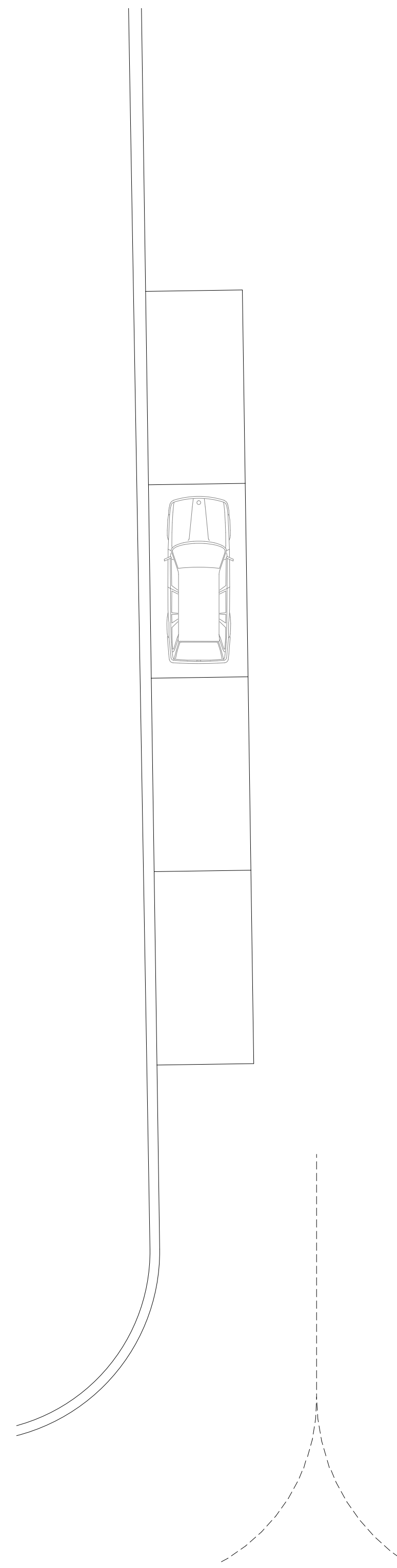
figure ground plan  
 1:5000



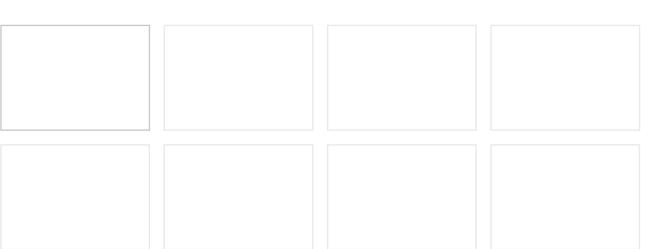
site plan  
 1:1000

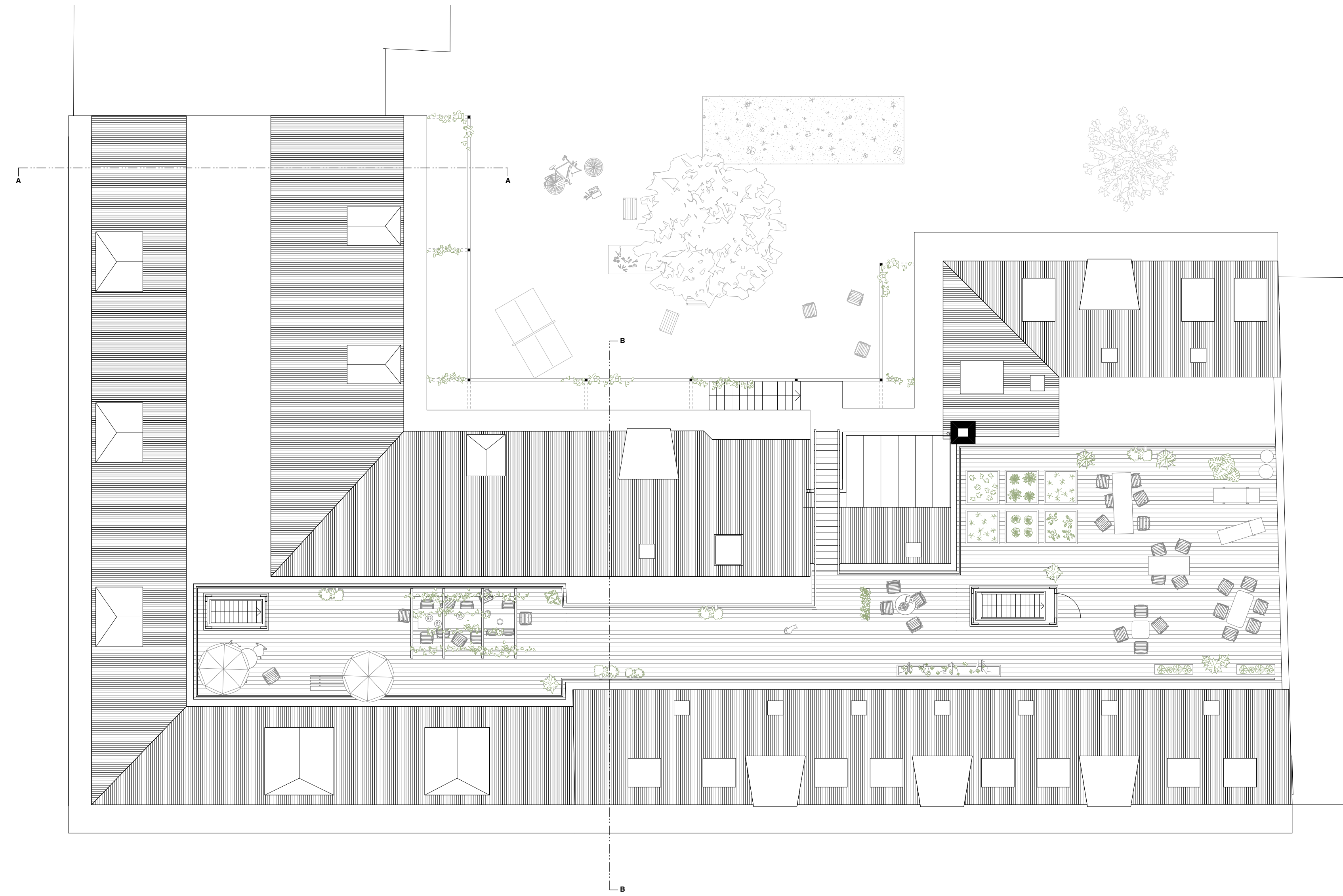


demolition and construction  
 1:200



ground floor  
 1:100





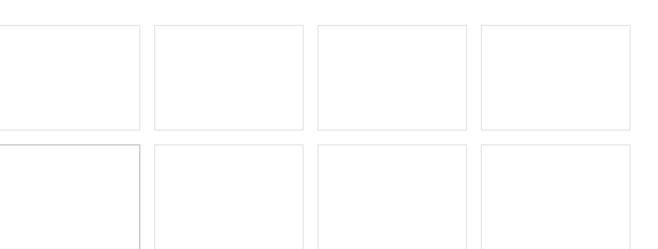
rooftop  
1:100

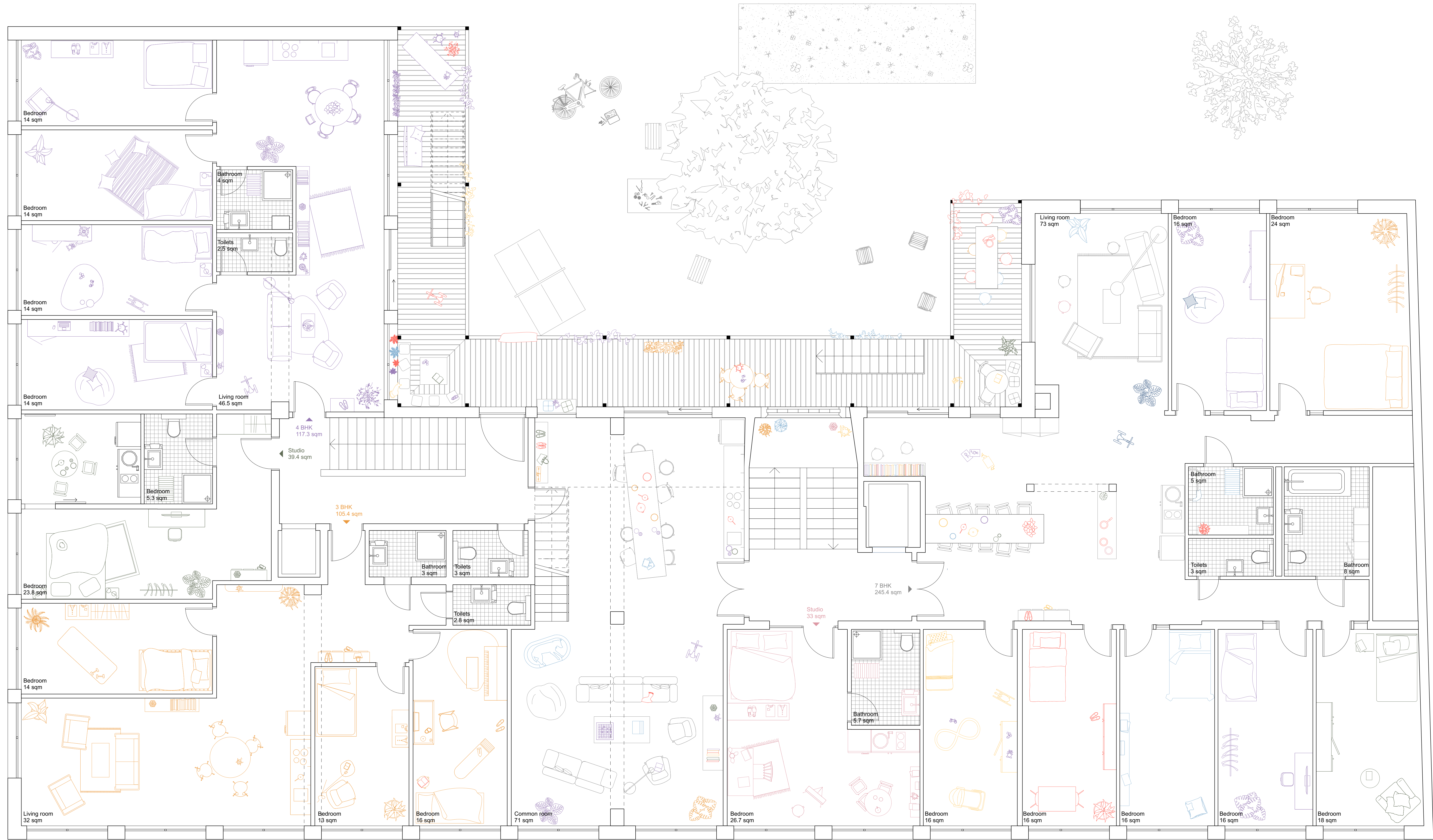


view of the roof terrace



north-west facade  
1:100





Philip (38), Camille (35), Joel (6) & Zoe (4)  
 Emily, Joel & Zoe love to hang out in the backyard after dinner. They enjoy the swing and other games while their parents meet for drinks.

Deno (27)  
 Deno has just arrived from London and is working from home. He spends a lot of time in the computer room with Samuel, who is also doing home office. This means they're not constantly alone, and reminds them of the office atmosphere.

Ben (27), Linnea (25) & Nat (29)  
 Ben and Nat have just finished their studies and wanted to continue living in a shared flat. Linnea is still at university and was looking for an apartment. The two boys love to challenge each other to a game of table football or pool in the game room to see who is going to do the dishes. Meanwhile, Linnea spends time in the reading room to find some peace and quiet at the end of the day.

Vivienne and Deno used to live in a two-bedroom apartment, but they split up a few months ago. They were each able to move into a studio, allowing them to continue living in the cooperative.

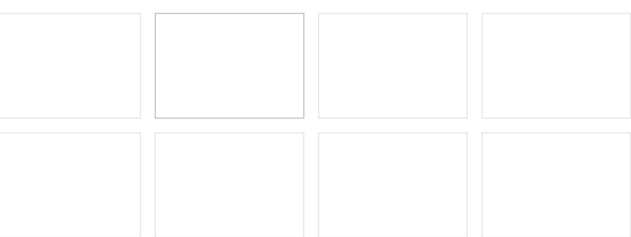
Families on the third and fourth floors often gather in the common room or back courtyard in the late afternoon and at weekends, so that the children can spend time together.

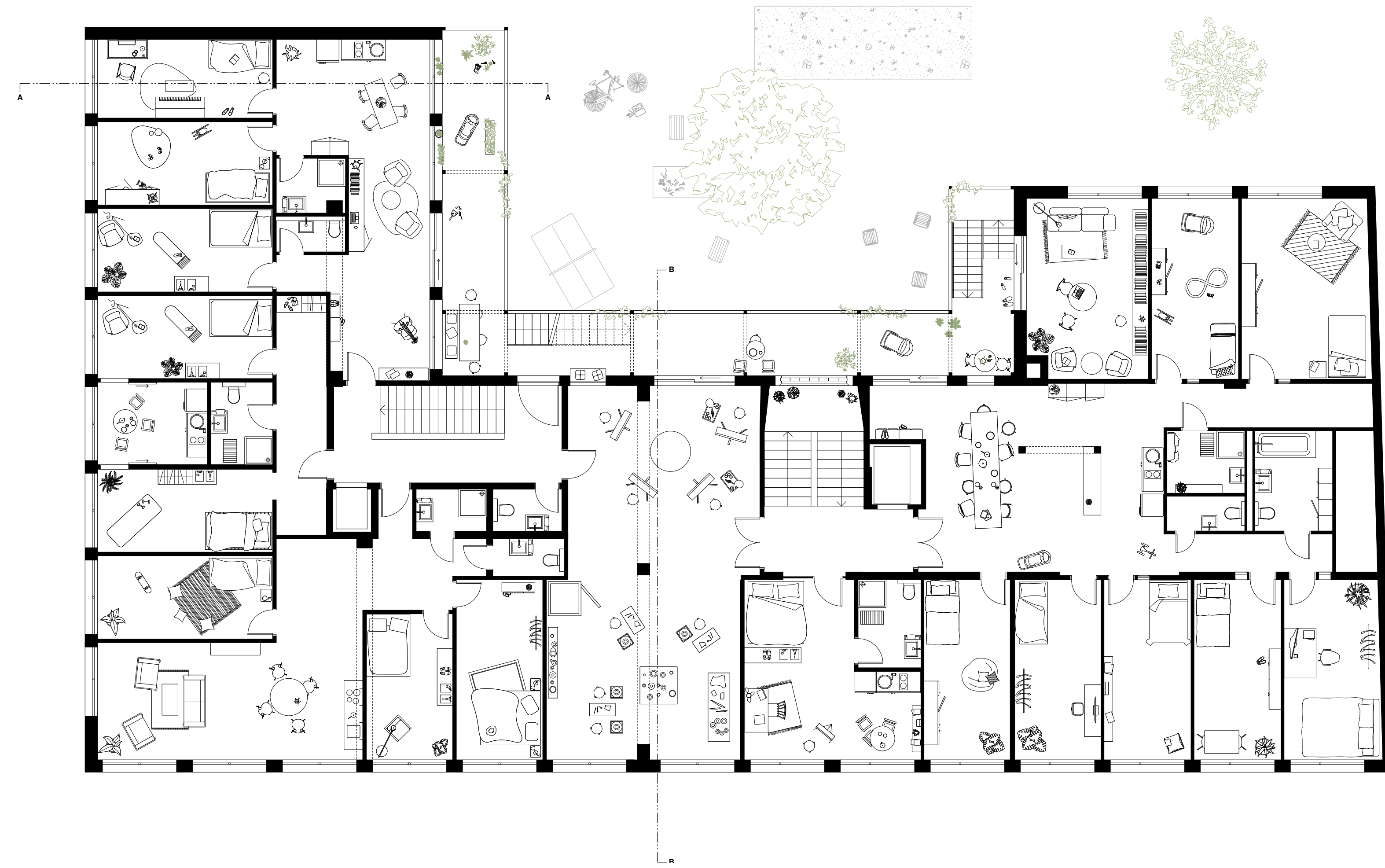
Vivienne (24)  
 Vivienne's favorite spot is the rooftop terrace. She eats breakfast there every morning and goes there for each sunset, as it offers a breathtaking view of the city.

Peter (67), Hedi (65), Dylan (26), Nouria (42), Samuel (28), Angela(53), Emily (6) & Noah (38)

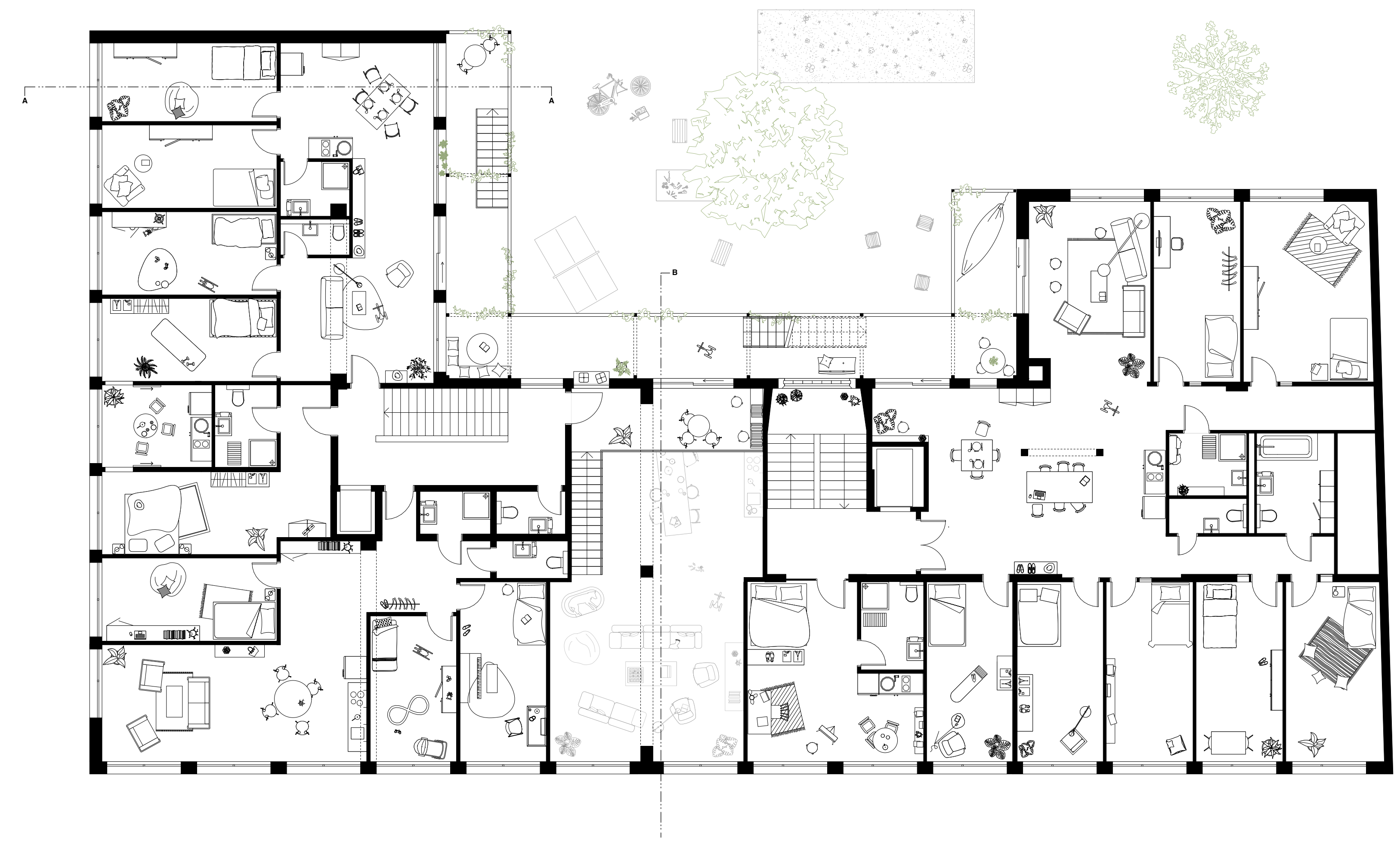
Peter and Hedi have been married for 40 years and have lived here since the beginning. They love living with six other people, as they couldn't bear to live with just the two of them. Nouria is divorced and lives with her daughter Emily, and the father lives on the second floor. Angela works as a college teacher and is happy to share her apartment with Dylan. He's a pastry chef and makes her the best cakes.

third floor  
 1:100

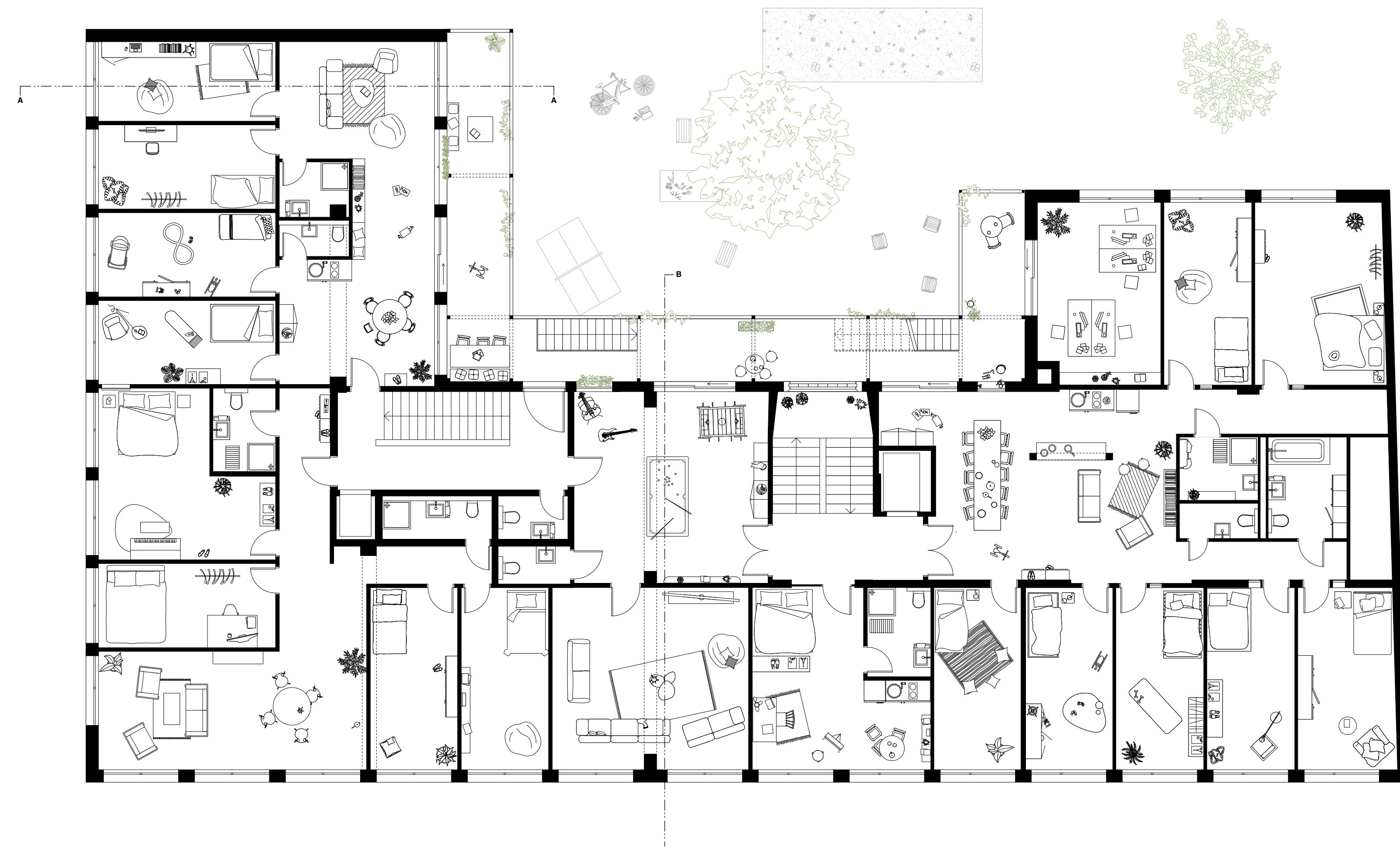




first floor  
1:100



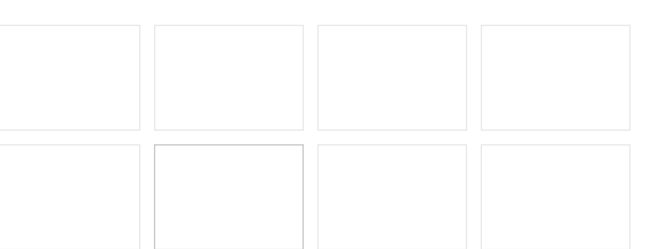
fourth floor  
1:100

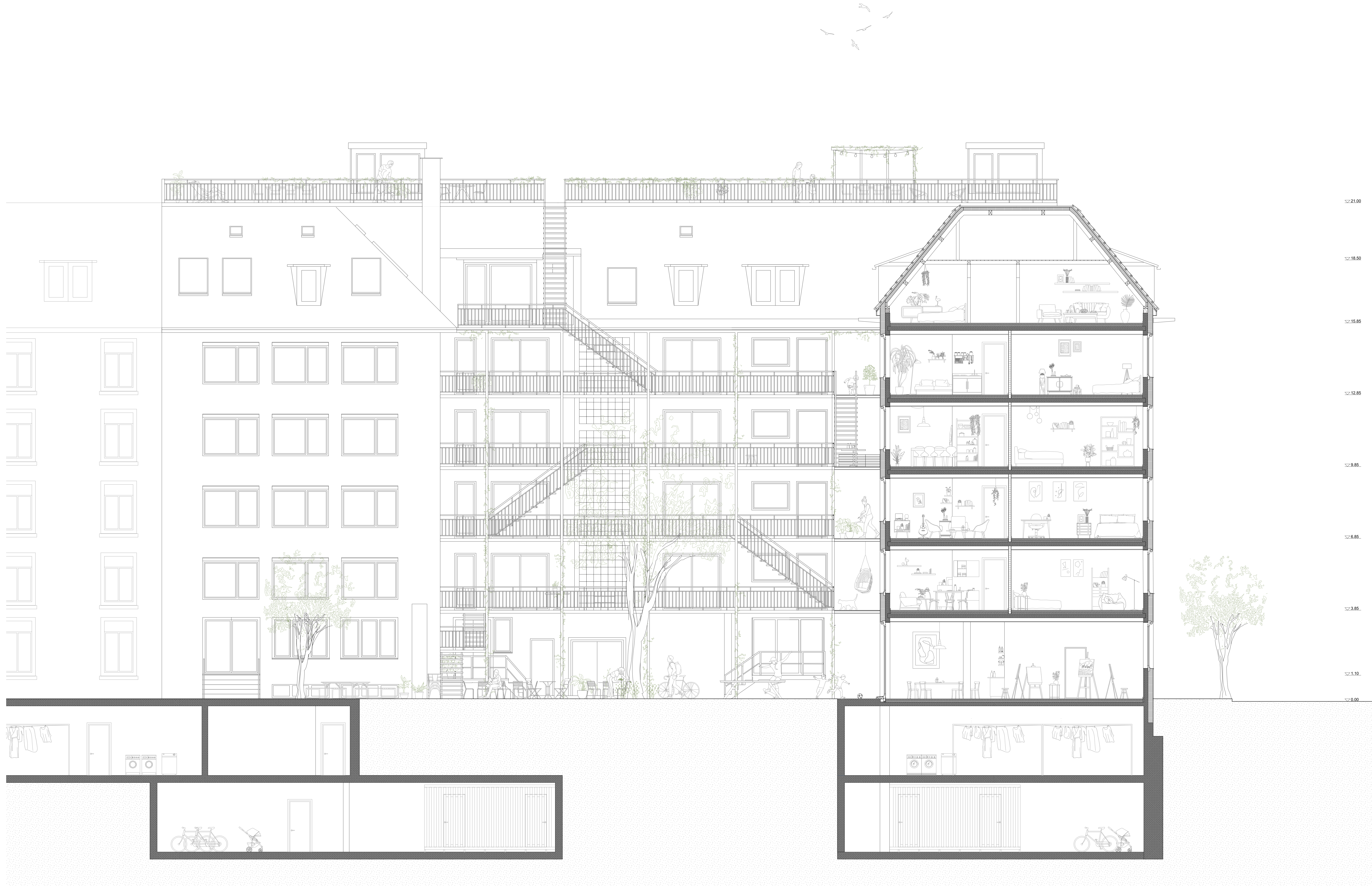


second floor  
1:100

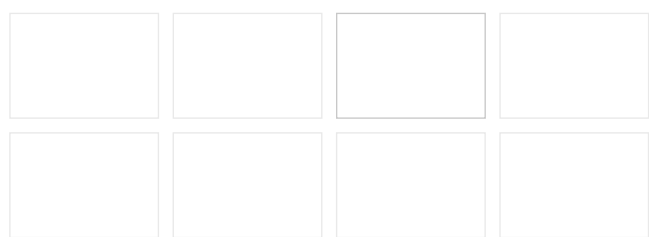


view of the common room



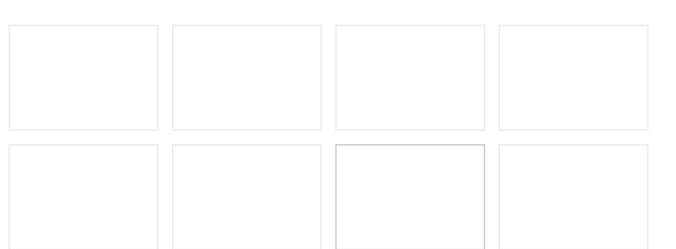


longitudinal section B-B  
1:50





cross section A-A  
1:50





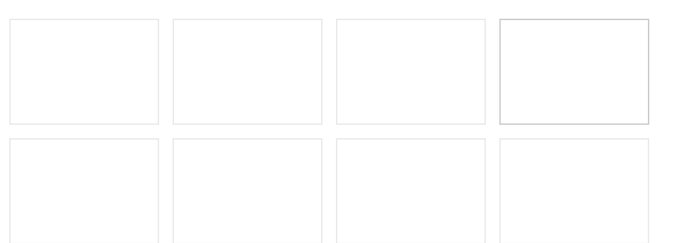
view of the backyard



view of the «Laubengang»



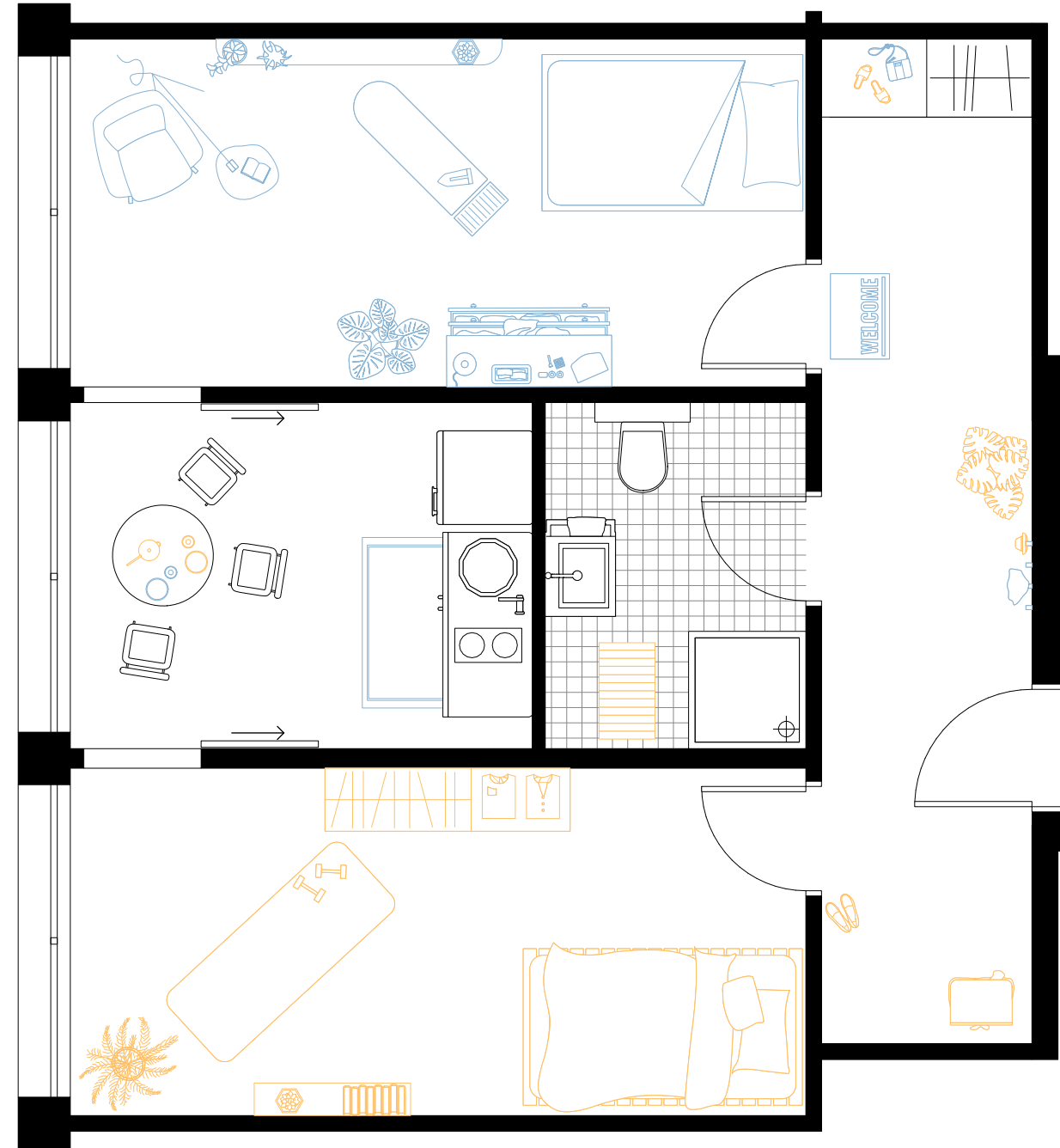
south-west facade  
1:100





Ethan (48), Sophie (45), Lucia (15) & Charlotte (12)

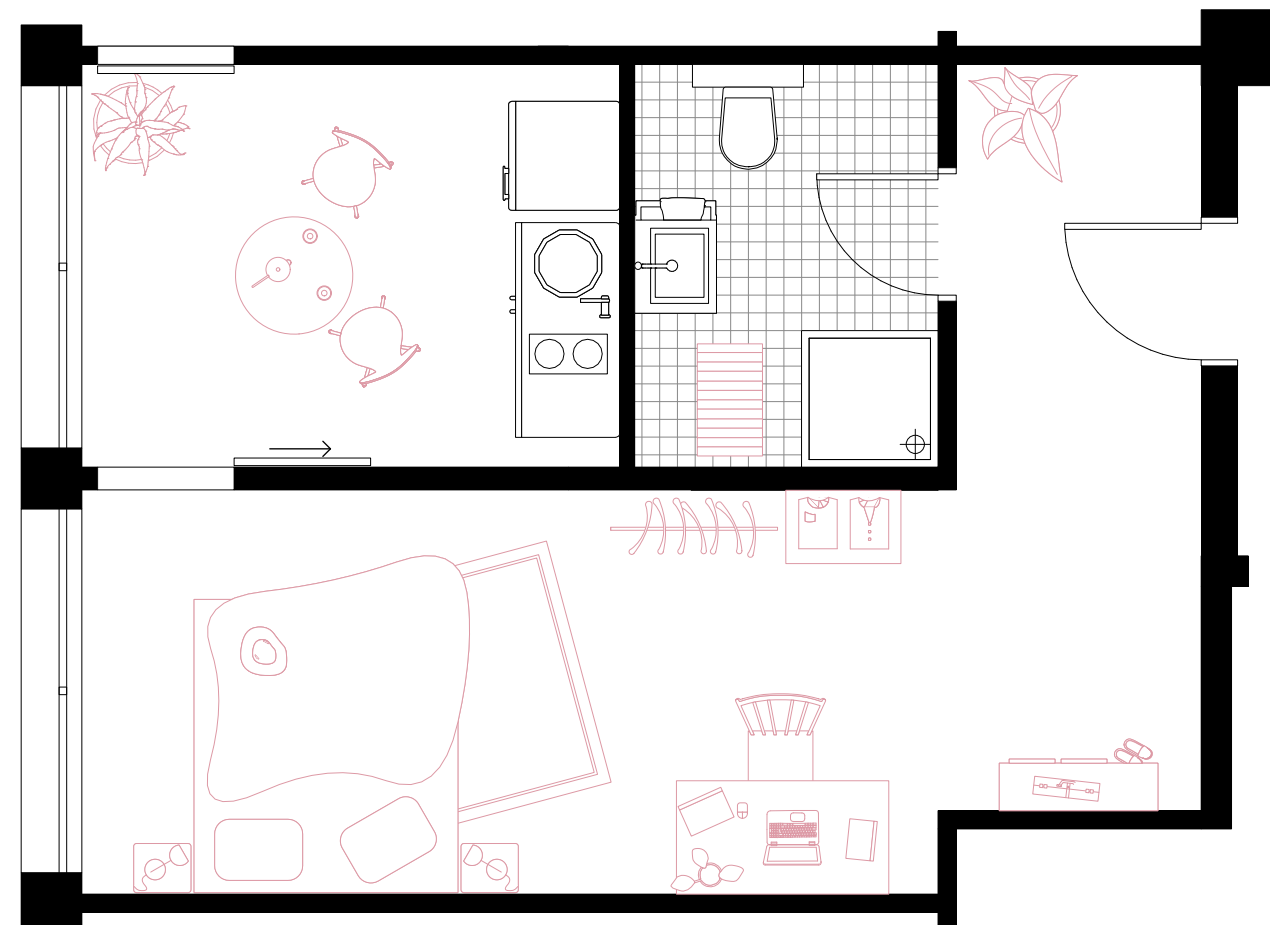
Ethan works a lot and doesn't spend much time at home. So his family decided to move into the co-op so that his wife wouldn't be left all alone when the girls weren't around. Every Thursday morning, Sophie reserves the common room on the first floor for yoga classes.



Lillie (24) & Leo (19)

Lillie has had a passion for handicrafts ever since she was young. She would like to make a career out of it, and spends every evening and weekend in the studio, painting or making pottery. She loves passing on her knowledge and regularly organizes workshops for adults and children.

Leo has just finished high school and wanted to become a little more independent. His parents live on the second floor and he has chosen a room on the third floor, which means he can always be close to his parents while still having his own space.



Hippolyte (31) & Silvia(30)

Hippolyte and Silvia just got married. Their dog Moka loves to run around the yard. They enjoy spending time with the rest of the residents, but also like the comfort of being able to be in their own little bubble in the evening, just the two of them.

housing variations  
1:50



view of the north-east facade  
1:50

