



# 002 Unhide

Multiples  
Masterthesis DARCH  
Spring Semester 2023

Figures 1  
Elaborated space out  
of the process of  
unhiding.  
Source: Own illus-  
tration, 2023.

This documentation summarizes the process and the findings of the elaboration phase. As a basis, waste management was interpreted as a multiple that hides our attitudes as a society. The project questions, what is happening, if we start to unhide and how this act of unhideing is looking like.

For their support in developing the research I would like to thank the three chairs of Prof. Jan De Vylder, Prof. Silke Langenberg and Prof. Maarten Delbeke and especially the assistants Jakob Junghanss, Linda Stagni, Lukas Ryffel, Oliver Burch and Reto Wasser.

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# 001 About



# 0011 Abstract

**Trash. Waste. Disposal. As individuals, we coexist with our environment, moving through our daily lives, consuming goods, and generating waste. The proper disposal of waste affects every single person, and it is the lowest common denominator of all of us. «Hiding trash from the public demonstrates appropriate behavior and a sense of social belonging,»<sup>1</sup> writes Alessandra Ponte in a text about the domestication of trash. Waste is a testimony of the imperfect. Nevertheless, there are innumerable approaches to get waste out of sight as efficiently as possible. Hiding is the solution we found to deal with our production of waste. Hiding, in that sense, is seen as a multiple, as it is something that is repeated every day by each of us in different ways.<sup>1</sup>**

## **Removement - Start the Hiding**

For a long time, the window was the place to dispose of trash. What was generated inside and disturbed was handed over to the public space with a simple flick of the wrist. The stench, which drifted

from the street up into the private sphere, was at that time the only thanks for the goods. Therefore, in ancient Rome, a law was first enacted to protect passers-by from falling trash. Later, in the Middle Ages, the system of waste disposal developed. France played a pioneering role in this regard. «Impurities, dung, dirt - everything that is unclean or impure in a physical and also in a moral sense is subjected to a new regime of discretion.»<sup>1</sup> France initiated an increasingly efficient waste management system. «The state assumes responsibility for trash, making it a public matter; but at the same time, it is privatized and <domesticated>.»<sup>1</sup> For example were citizens forced by law to sweep the waste in front of their houses and collect it in litter baskets. In Paris, as a result, backyards experienced a transformation of their use: They were no longer read as a public street, but rather as «places of garbage disposal.»<sup>1</sup>, a place to avoid. Inside the buildings, a similar development took place. Trash was vehemently hidden by the invention of the trash chute. «Garbage seems to magically disappear into the depths - and out of the user's

life.»<sup>1</sup>

The consequent hiding was first questioned with the advent of the discussion on resource scarcity in the 1960s. Criticism of waste production was voiced for the first time, and dreams of a closed-loop economy were dreamed of.<sup>1</sup>

## **Overconsumption - Using the Hiding**

In Switzerland, since 1997, disposal is part of the public interest according to Article 7(6) of the Environmental Protection Act. Since the 19th century, the city of Zurich has established, continually expanded, and improved its waste disposal system.<sup>2</sup> Waste is produced in various ways in the settlement areas, collected there, and finally disposed of completely. 53 percent of Swiss waste remains in the cycle through recycling.<sup>3</sup> The other 47 percent is incinerated in waste to energy plants at decentralized locations.<sup>3</sup> Switzerland stands for cleanliness and order due to its perfectly structured waste disposal system. And simultaneously, Switzerland produces a relatively large amount of waste. Concretely, the amount of waste reaches 716 kilograms per capita per year.<sup>3</sup> Only five European

countries report a higher per capita quantity.<sup>4</sup>

## **Inwastement - From Overconsumption to Efficiency**

Since the oil crisis in the 1970s, awareness of our scarce resources has been growing. At the same time, we live in a society that focuses on constant growth and thus also wants to maintain consumption despite resource scarcity. Waste as a material is getting more and more important. It has a financial value, is traded as a good. 10 percent of the waste, that is thermally incinerated and produces heating energy and electricity, is imported waste.<sup>5</sup> From this incineration, and thus from our material overconsumption, Switzerland today covers 2.5 percent of its total energy demand and 4 percent of its electricity production.<sup>6</sup>

## **Perfectionism - The Pursuit of Order**

It is not the organized, the perfect, the smooth, the clean, the shiny that has always fascinated me during my research. It was the confrontation with the repetitive hidden processes. Processes and systems to keep the city

clean. Systems like the Züri wie Neu-app, launched by the city of Zurich, which allows residents to record disorder and ask the city to rearrange a perfect order. The app makes it possible, for example, to complain about dead birds or broken bicycles on the street. In the past 10 years, the city, in turn, has thanked nearly 40 000 attentive residents.<sup>7</sup> When thanking, they strive to ensure that residents can «[...] die Sauberkeit der Stadt geniessen [...]».<sup>7</sup> «Die Sauberkeit der Stadt»<sup>7</sup>, as I learned, is something important in Zurich. The intensive use of the app shows, that the inhabitants want a clean city as well as that the city of Zurich is exerted that the cleanliness and the perfectly organized city as a figurehead should be kept as true as possible.

### Conclusion - Hiding Waste, a multiple

Hiding Waste – a multiple which is differently implemented in our environment. We strive to the perfect order. We never question this attitude. Our hiding infrastructure gets better and better. We don't want to be confronted with our own overconsumption. We try to optimize our buildings and our public spaces in terms of cleanliness. We want to maximize our comfort and to minimize our effort for taking care of banalities. We are surrounded with underfloor containers or underfloor bins to hide the waste until we transport it to the next bigger collection point. We locate recycling stations or waste to energy plants at decentralized places. We thus eliminate disruptive factors

such as noise or stench. We expect from the city, that they organize the maintenance work as unobtrusive as possible. We expect that the act of cleaning should not disturb anyone. We expect them to do their work in hiding.

Waste reflects our society very well. The optimization of waste management as an example of the urge to continue to increase capital and achieve constant growth. The vehement hiding of disorder through a detailed organization stays for our tendency to perfectionism. It visualizes our prosperity. Due to our increasing demands, we are changing our environment. We claim that places of encounter are smooth and tidy. These places become to clean ones, to anonymous ones and to completely generic ones.

Imagine this generic, anonymous city. It makes me think of a dystopia. The bleak picture disappears very quickly when I think of the moments and stories from the research that described the imperfect. Stories about Saturday hanging-out-meetings at the recycling center, stories about passing on and giving second life to old clothes, stories about being amazed while watching bins or containers being emptied, stories about talking to neighbours on the way to the disposal, stories about taking home items declared as waste and being delighted by their discovery. Hiding the waste causes such moments to disappear. The public spaces, places of encounter, threshold rooms loses a sense of character.

### Imagine - Unhiding the Hidden

This finding referred to the city of Zurich. I was looking for a place where order and perfectionism were taken to the extreme. It was at Europaallee that I came to a halt. Zurich, one of the cleanest cities in the world. Europaallee one of the cleanest places in the city. A place that stands for «high social, economic and ecological quality»<sup>8</sup>, for «high architectural relevance, clear identity and functionality»<sup>8</sup> and for «sustainable enhancement of the area and interaction with the neighbouring city quarters»<sup>8</sup>.

An employee of the waste disposal management of the city of Zurich told me on a walk through the neighbourhood that especially at this location it is important not to disturb people by the disposal and cleaning processes. This means cleaning early in the morning before waking up, emptying the public bins multiple times a day so that there is no stench, and organizing the infrastructural spaces so that they do not attract attention. It became clear to me once again: this pursuit of perfect cleanliness leads to social separation. A separation between the people who do the care work and those who live or work there. Although there is actually a space where all people meet, namely the waste disposal room. However, this encounter happens in a staggered manner. With my project, I want to reflect on what happens when the encounter actually takes place, the waste disposal space becomes a common space and begins to eat its way up from below to create new places in the currently generic public space.

- 1 Cf. Ponte, Müllschlucker, 2016.
- 2 Cf. Stadt Zürich, Geschichte, 2023.
- 3 Cf. Brunner, «Recycling-Weltmeister», 2022.
- 4 Cf. Figure in «001 Appendix».
- 5 Cf. Keller, Klimaneutraler Müll, 2019.
- 6 Cf. BFE, Kehrrichtverbrennungsanlagen KVA, 2019.
- 7 Cf. Stadt Zürich, Züri wie Neu, 2023.
- 8 Cf. SBB Immobilien, Über die Europaallee, 2023.

# 0012 Observing

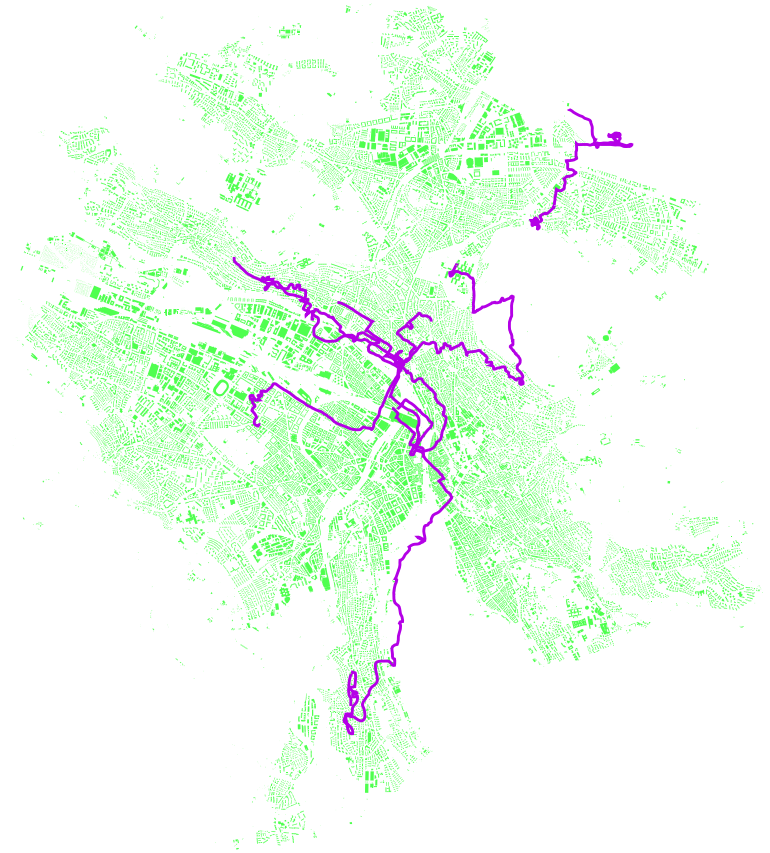
After a short input from the chair, the journey to find the multiples began. Days of strolling aimlessly through the city, of observing, of capturing things, and of reflecting passed.

On the fourteen walks (see Figure 1 on page 12.), mainly my camera accompanies me to take pictures and my cell phone to film. After the first walk I felt an overstimulation. That's why I quickly got into a rhythm: Walking and roaming, sitting down and reflecting. Inspired by an exhibition of Peter Piller in the Fotomuseum Winterthur,<sup>9</sup> I sorted my collection of photos from the walks by themes. Titling them helped me get closer to the multiple. I found that I am fascinated by processes that only become visible through the slow pace of walking, processes that are overlooked in the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

With the found focus of the waste and how people deal with it, I did a sober data observation as a second step. Here, too, I switted back and forth between thinning out and presenting data sets and reflecting on the subject matter through supplementary literature. The results of the observations are categorized and presented on the following pages.

9 Cf. Bader, Peter  
Piller Archive :  
Materials (G) :  
Albedo, 2015.

Figure 1  
Observation walks,  
1:75000.  
Graphic: Own illustration,  
2023.



# 0013 Experiment

The focus was set: it is about hiding the imperfect in our everyday life, specifically about hiding the waste. Through informal conversations among friends, I realized, that everyone starts to talk about their personal story connected to waste. Yes, we all produce waste through our everyday lives. It is the lowest common denominator in our society. Like the chemical process of chromatography, waste management can be broken down into very small fragments. And each fragment has its own story. I made use of this observation for the further course of the research. Tried to uncover stories through conversations with friends and experts. The exchange with the employees of the city sanitation department remained special to me. For the first time, I was able to take a look behind the scenes. During their work, the two cleaning employees Dominik and Michele told me stories and discoveries about their work for the city cleaning as well as stories from their private live. Christian Schumacher, head of the southern region, talked to me very openly about the organization, about the problems in performing the work and the

demands of society. The many conversations triggered the first what-if questions. Among the different strands of thought, one theme was always central, with which I started the next movement «Imagine»: start to show the hidden in a place known for its perfect appearance, namely the Europaallee.

What kind of environment will emerge, if we stop hiding the waste we produce?

How do objects, that currently contribute to hiding, interact with their surroundings?

What conflicting uses arise, when decentralized processes become centralized?

Who will be affected, by the resulting chaos?

Figure 2  
Analysis of Europaallee, 1:2000.  
Graphic: Own illustration, 2023.



Figure 3  
Synthesis Collage,  
Hand-In Research,  
1:2000.  
Graphic: Own illustration, 2023.



## 0014 Imagine

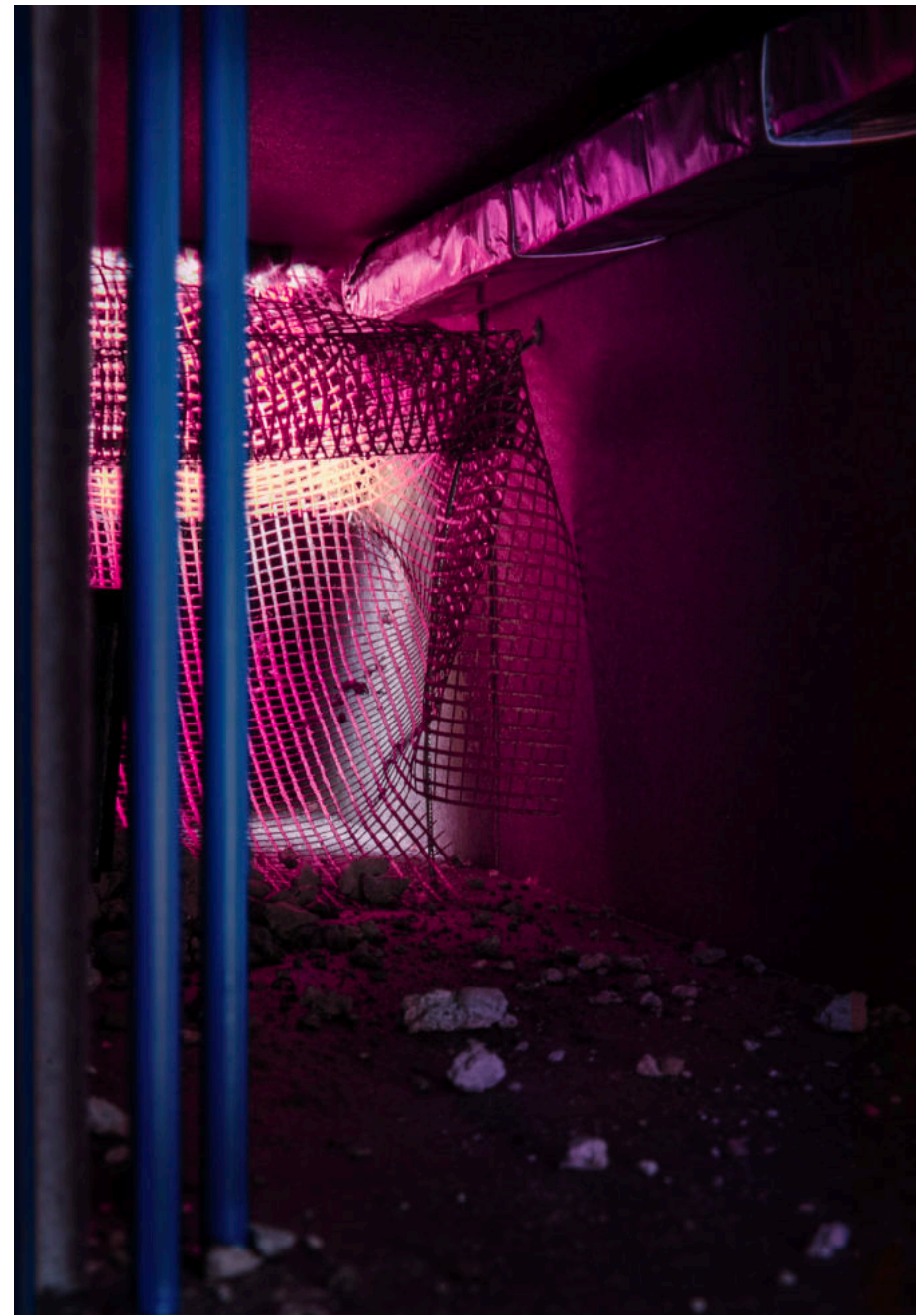
The starting point of the design are the 42 waste disposal rooms. In each of these rooms, the wall opposite the front door is broken through first. This expands the room and merges with the adjoining technical or storage room. From there the upward push begins. The breakthrough is formulated by a net that is subjected to tension. The porous texture of the mesh mixes smells and sounds between the waste disposal rooms and the adjacent rooms. The doing is continuing. A sense of what is happening next door arises. The net is held in place by construction sprouts. On the surface, the breakthrough appears in three differently shaped and multiple recurring situations: once in the inner courtyards, once in the in-between passages and once in edge zones. In the inner courtyards, the network extends through scaffolding to the higher terraces and roofs. The privatized places become accessible. The different social groups start to mix.

In the intermediate lanes, the passage is roofed over by a new structure. Where waste containers weekly used to wait in a strict line to be emptied, places to hang out

are being created. The containers are converted into temporary furniture with small additive elements such as stepping aids or backrests for sitting.

The edge zones mean the retention basins between the track field and Europaallee. A close-meshed fence currently blocks the view between the footpath and the lower-lying retention basin. The garden is furnished with benches, chairs and tables. The furniture is raised. The elevation refers to the sea of sprout from the underground. The elevation also restores the visual reference to the footpath and allows water to continue to be trapped in the retention basin.

Figure 4  
Connection from the underground space of the Europaallee to the public space  
Graphic: Model Picture, 2023.



002 Zurich

# 0021 Layers

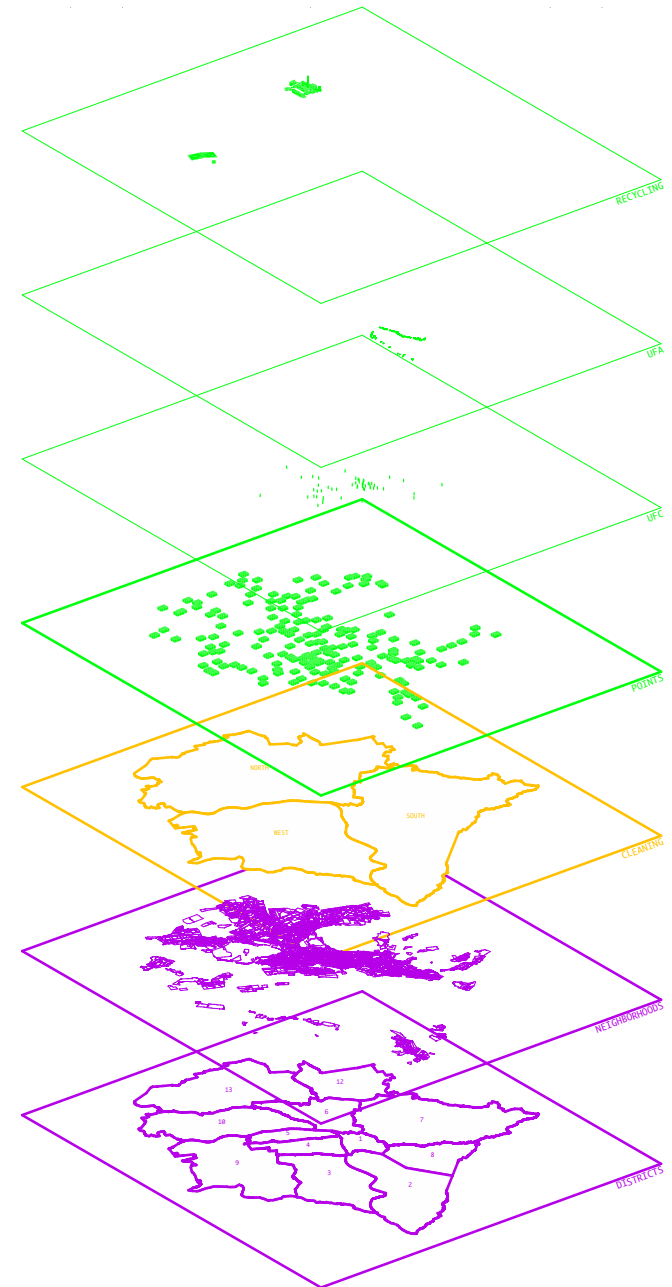


Figure 5  
Districts, neighbour-  
hoods, cleaning  
responsibilities,  
waste collection  
points, underfloor  
bins, underfloor  
containers and re-  
cycling stations of  
the city of Zurich.  
Source: GIS-Zentrum,  
Stadtkreise, 2023.  
Graphic: Own illus-  
tration, 2023.

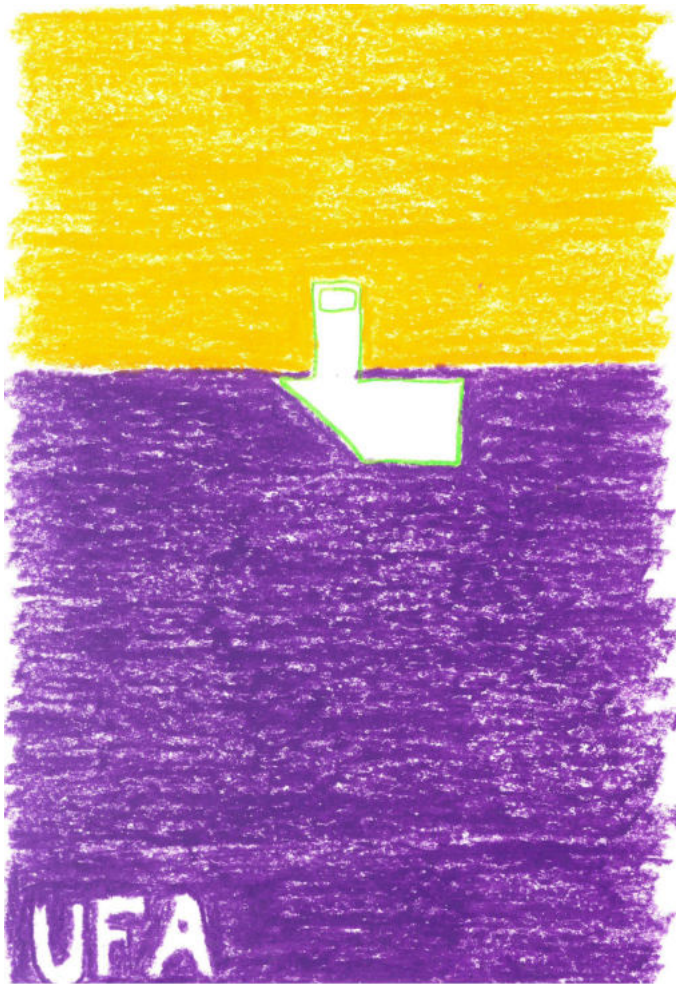


Figure 6  
Section of an under-floor bin.  
Graphic: Own illustration, 2023.

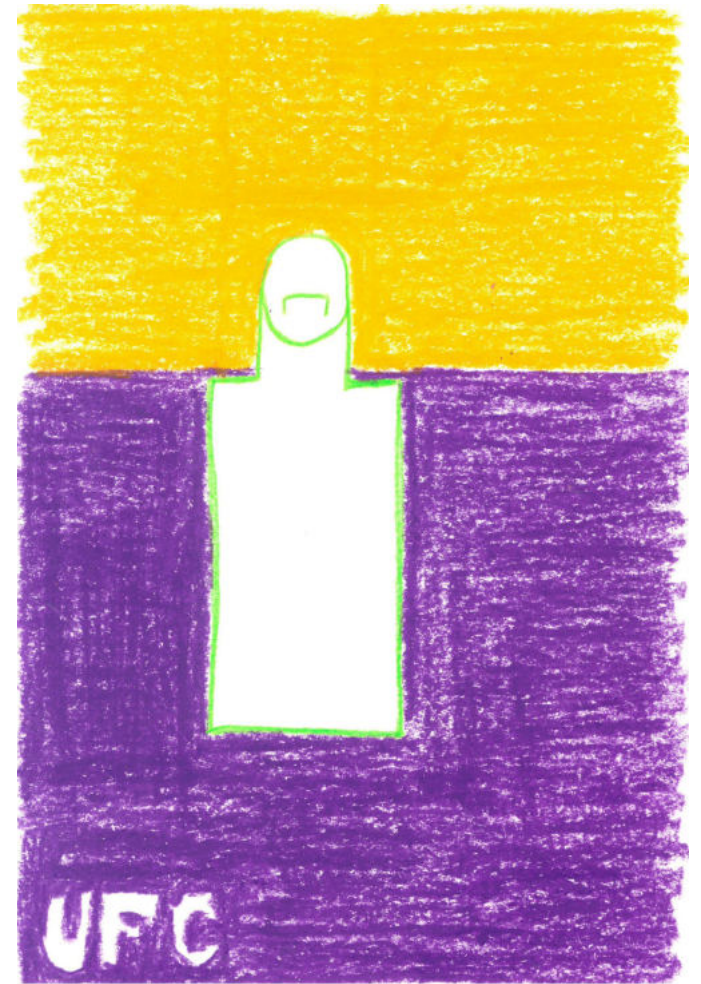


Figure 7  
Section of an under-floor container.  
Graphic: Own illustration, 2023.



# 0022 Adaption

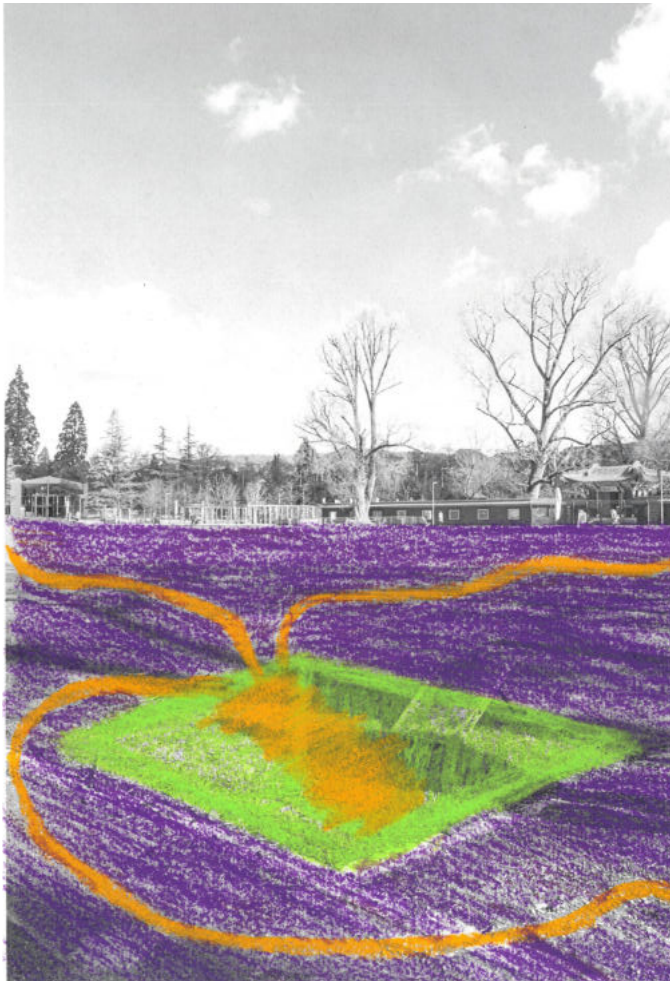
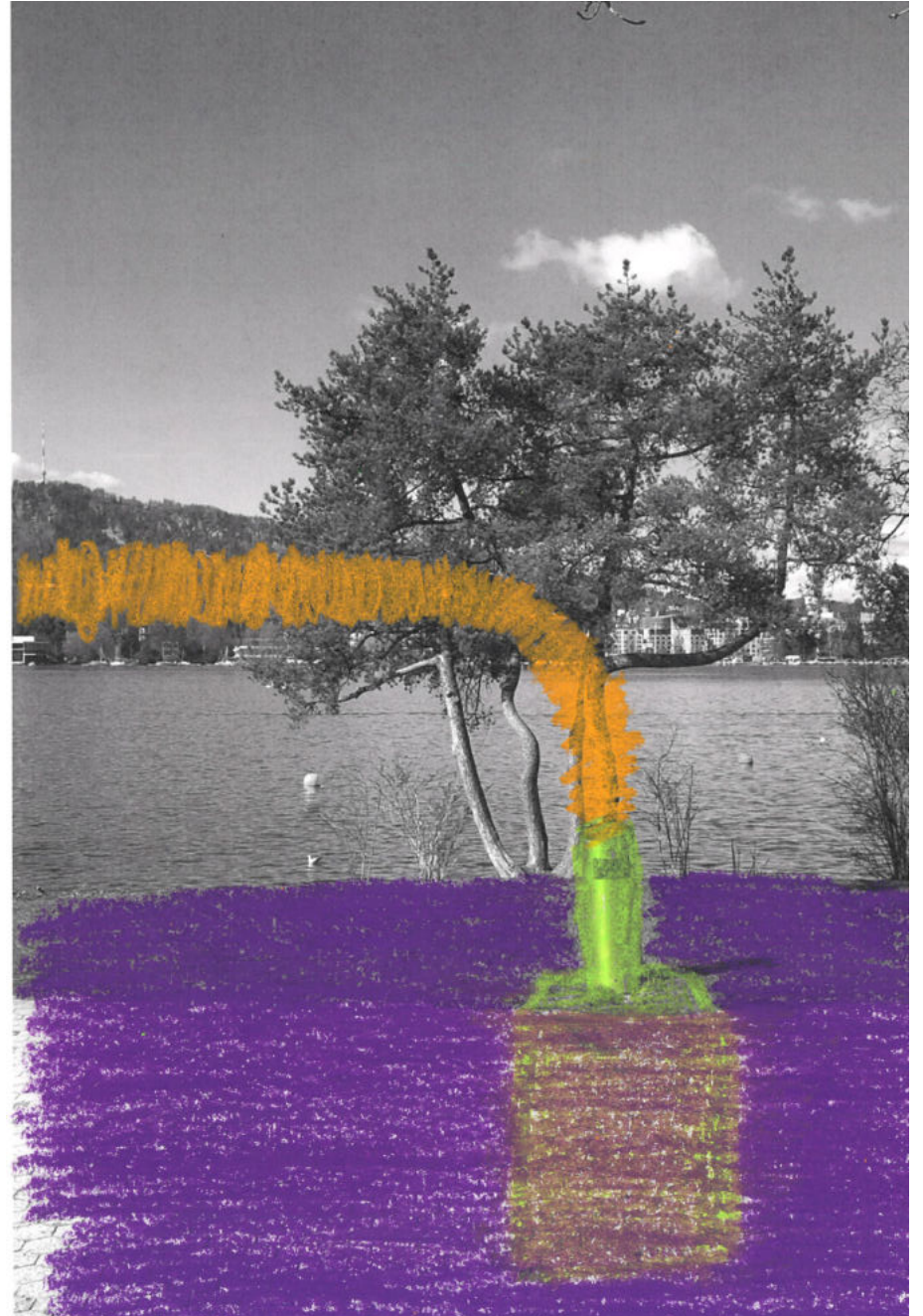
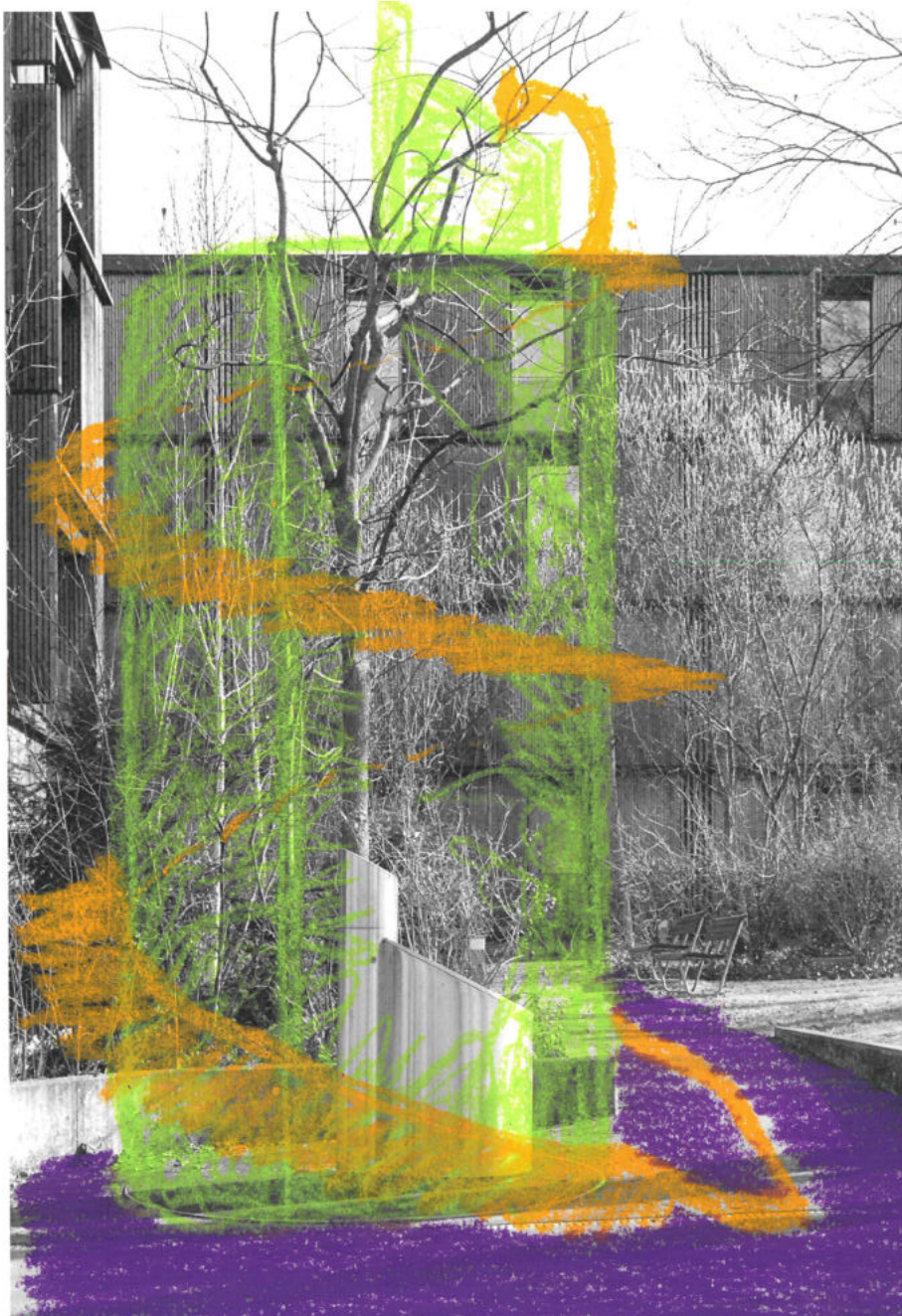


Figure 8  
Drawings of adapted  
objects.  
Graphic: Own illus-  
trations, 2023.







# 003 Site

# 0031 Neighbourhoods

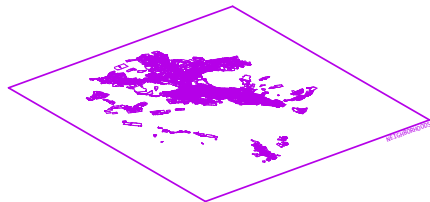
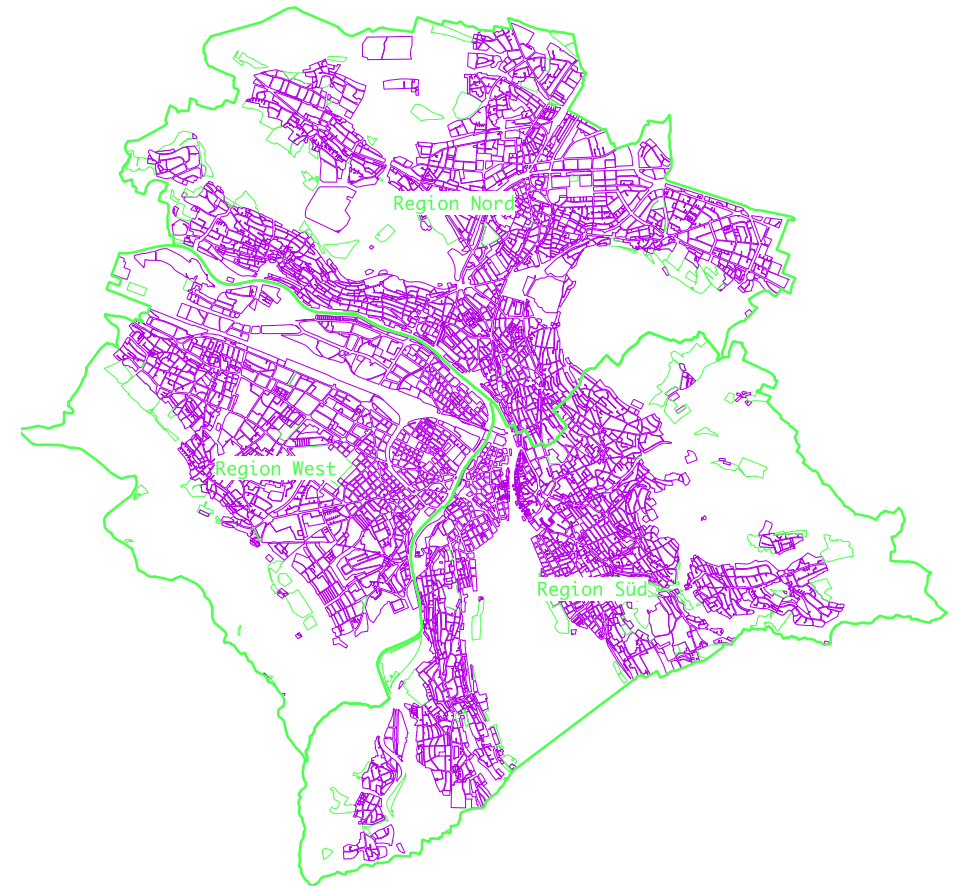






Figure 9  
Neighbourhoods of  
Zurich.  
Source: GIS-Zentrum,  
Stadtkreise, 2023.  
Graphic: Own illus-  
tration

 Cleaning Areas

Neighbourhoods

 non-settlement area inhabited

 non-settlement area uninhabited

 settlement area

0 1 2 km





# 0032 Europaallee

287

«Risse auf dem Trottoir in längs Richtung, in der Nähe der Silpost. <br/><br/> Sturzgefahr»

6790

«Kann der Velopark-plotzwüste Europaallee an dieser Stelle ein Ende bereitet werden? Platz wäre zwar viel vorhanden, Läden hat es auch viele, aber Veloparkplätze dort in der Nähe sah ich keine in sinnvoller Distanz. 24h Parkplätze würden an dieser S»

24479

«Hier fehlt eine Halteverbotstafel. Die Taxis blockieren die Taktiken Linien.»

2518

«Mülleimer überfüllt - bitte leeren Danke!»

12580

«Sämtliche Anzeigetafeln, Abfallkübel, Hydranten sind von Tags, Kleber usw. übersäht. Seit Wochen macht da niemand was. Für den Image der Europaallee ist nicht fördernd.»

25502

«Bett am Boden»

7457

«Baum tot»

29632

«Lift defekt Negrellisteg»

5682

«Guten Tag, Eine Meldung für die Leuten, die für die Strassenbeleuchtung verantwortlich sind. An der Lagerstrasse (gegenüber das Restaurant Hin & Weg) hat jemandem vor eine paar Wochen ein Paar Schuhen ganz einfach an die Beleuchtung, respektive Stroml»

16975

«Verschmutzung in der Europaallee»

4553

«Deponierter Abfall»

26619

«Schmiererei an Nordfassade.»

35414

«Es gibt einen starken Gestank im Hauptbahnhof direkt wenn man bei der eingang Sihlpost herein geht mit der Roltreppe. Dieser Gestank ist nicht einmalig ober (fast) immer da schon seit einzige Monate. Vielleicht ist etwas falsch gegangen mit der Konalisat»

5726

«Service Trolley steht direkt vor einen Fussgänger Streife. Guten Tag, Das Imbiss-Bar HIN & WEG an der Lagerstrasse 16b erlaubt sich neuerdings seit eine paar Wochen: - zuerst einen grossen Service Trolley 24 Std./Tag direkt an eine Fussgänger Streife z»

18195

«Pünktlich zur hitze wurde die europaallee schwarz geteert. gratuliere. wo bleiben die vor jahren auf bildern versprochenen wasserflächen?»

36839

«Schockiert über die hemmungslose Beschmiererei des Negrellistegs. Nebst Boden auch diverse Grafiti auf Gelände, Lift. Etc. <br/><br/> Macht es Sinn mal medial darüber zu berichten. Oder sogar Kameras zu installieren? Als Anwohner ärgert es mich imm»

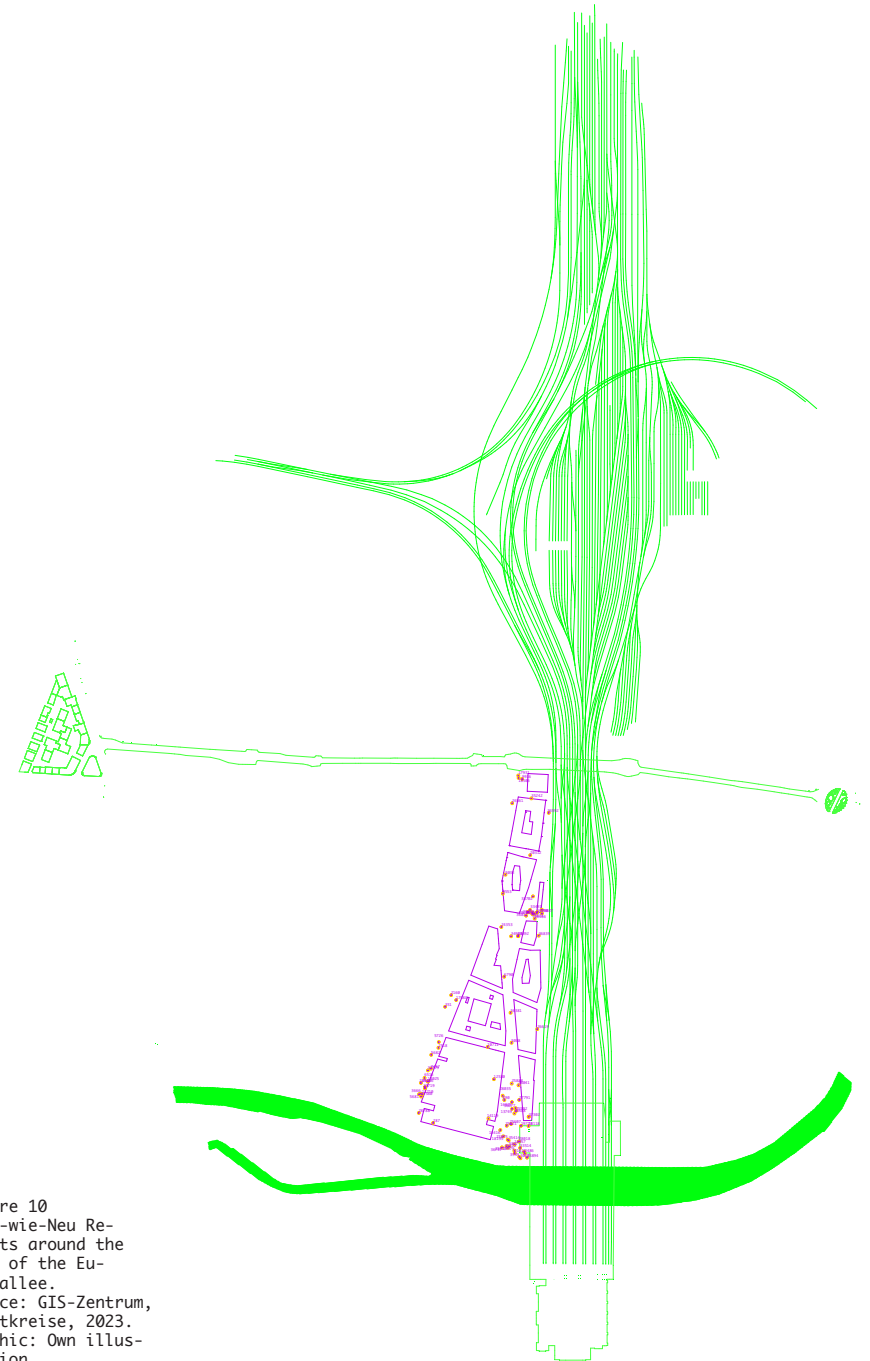
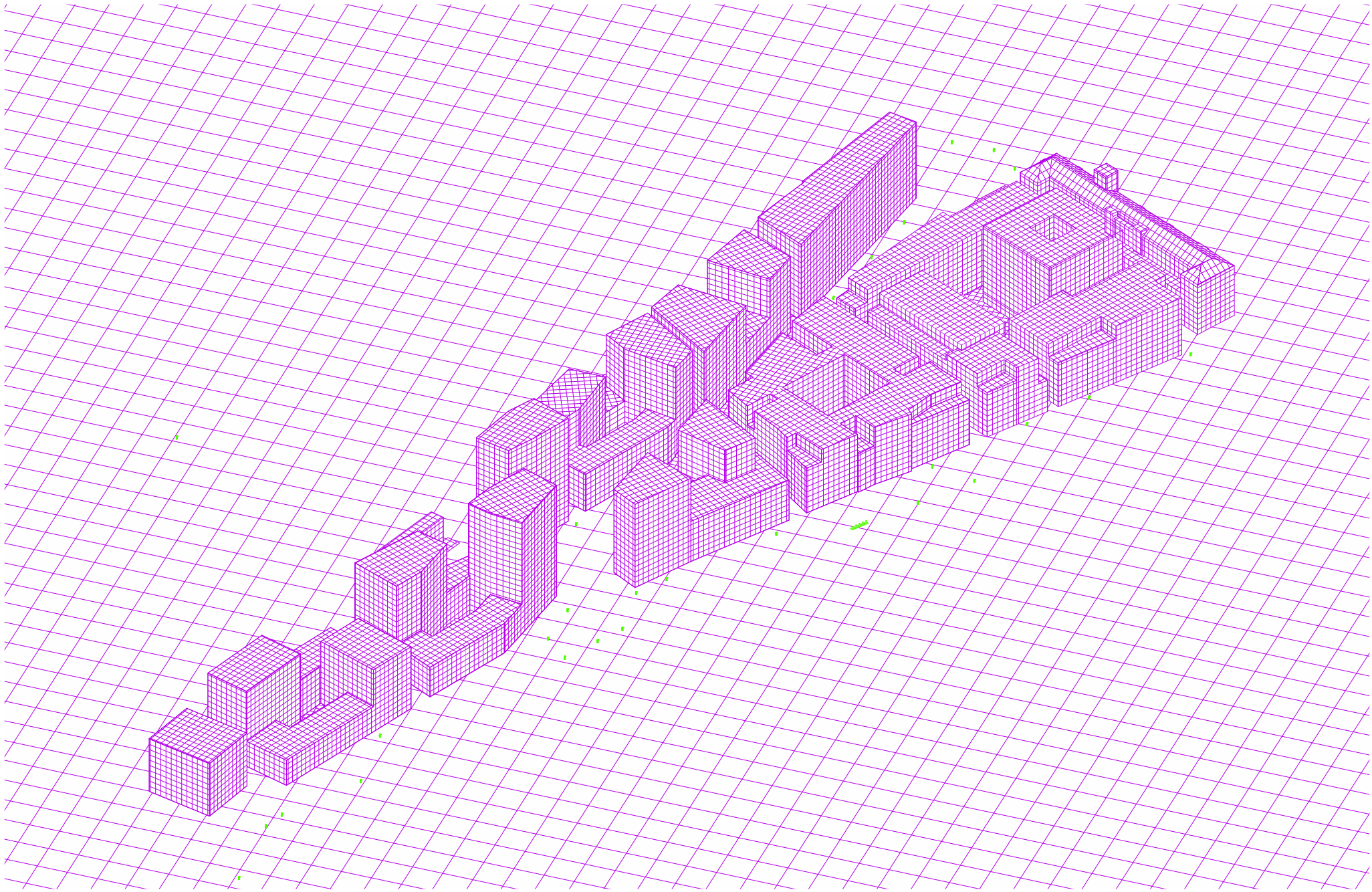


Figure 10  
Züri-wie-Neu Requests around the area of the Europaallee.  
Source: GIS-Zentrum, Stadtkreise, 2023.  
Graphic: Own illustration



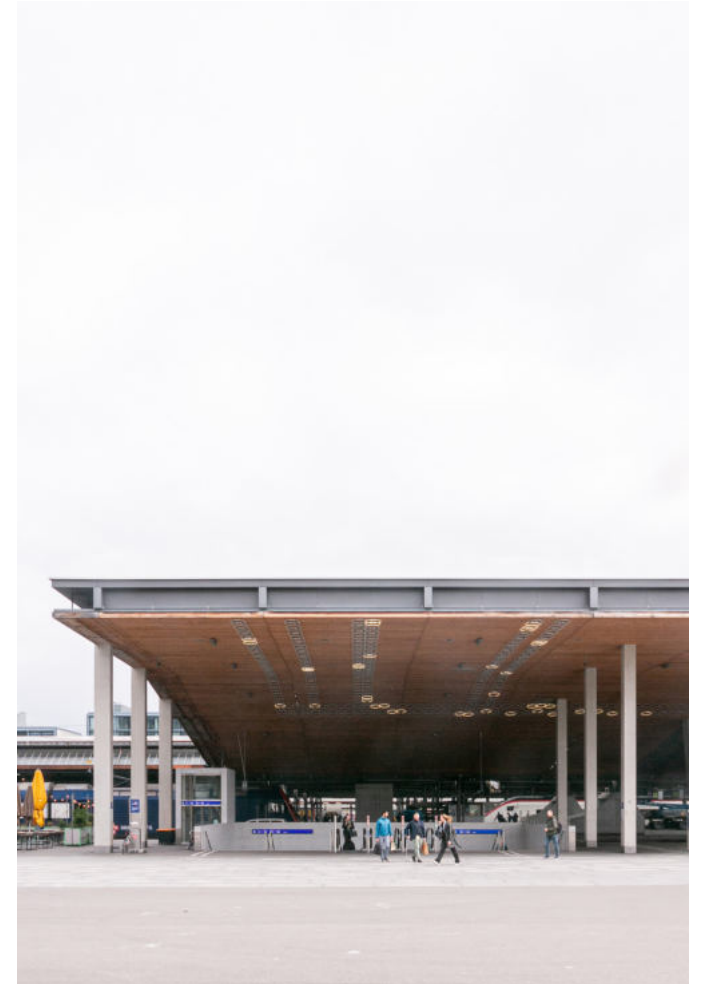


Figure 11  
Volumetric Axonom-  
etry of the area  
(previous page).  
Source: Own pho-  
tography, 2023.

Figure 12  
Entrance to mainsta-  
tion.  
Source: Own pho-  
tography, 2023.

Figure 13  
Containers ready for  
emptying.  
Source: Own pho-  
tography, 2023.

# 0033 InsideOut

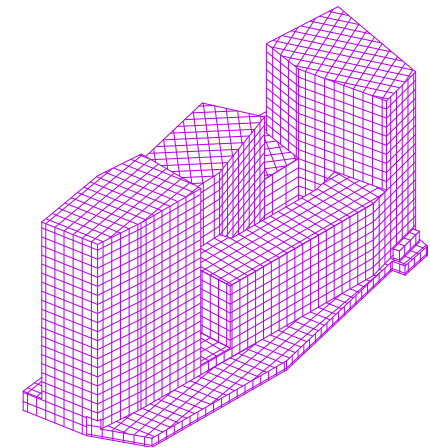
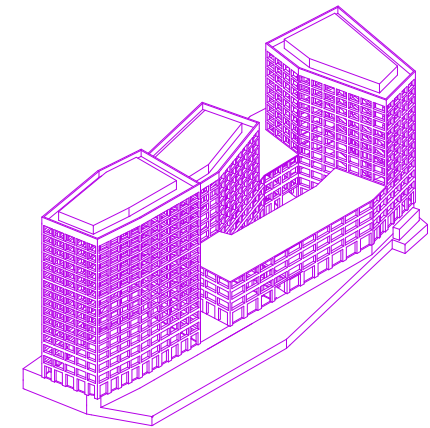
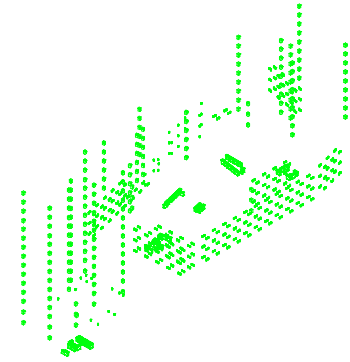


Figure 14  
Building F and its  
hidden objects.  
Source: Own illus-  
tration, 2023.



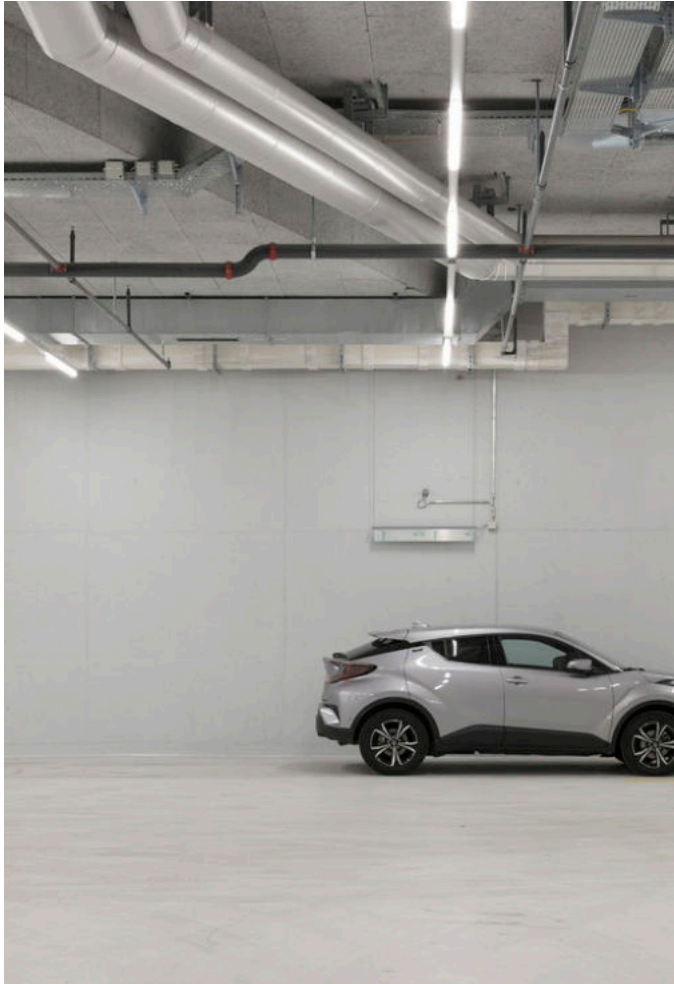


Figure 15  
Moments inside of  
the foundation of  
plot D.  
Source: Wiel Arets  
Architects.

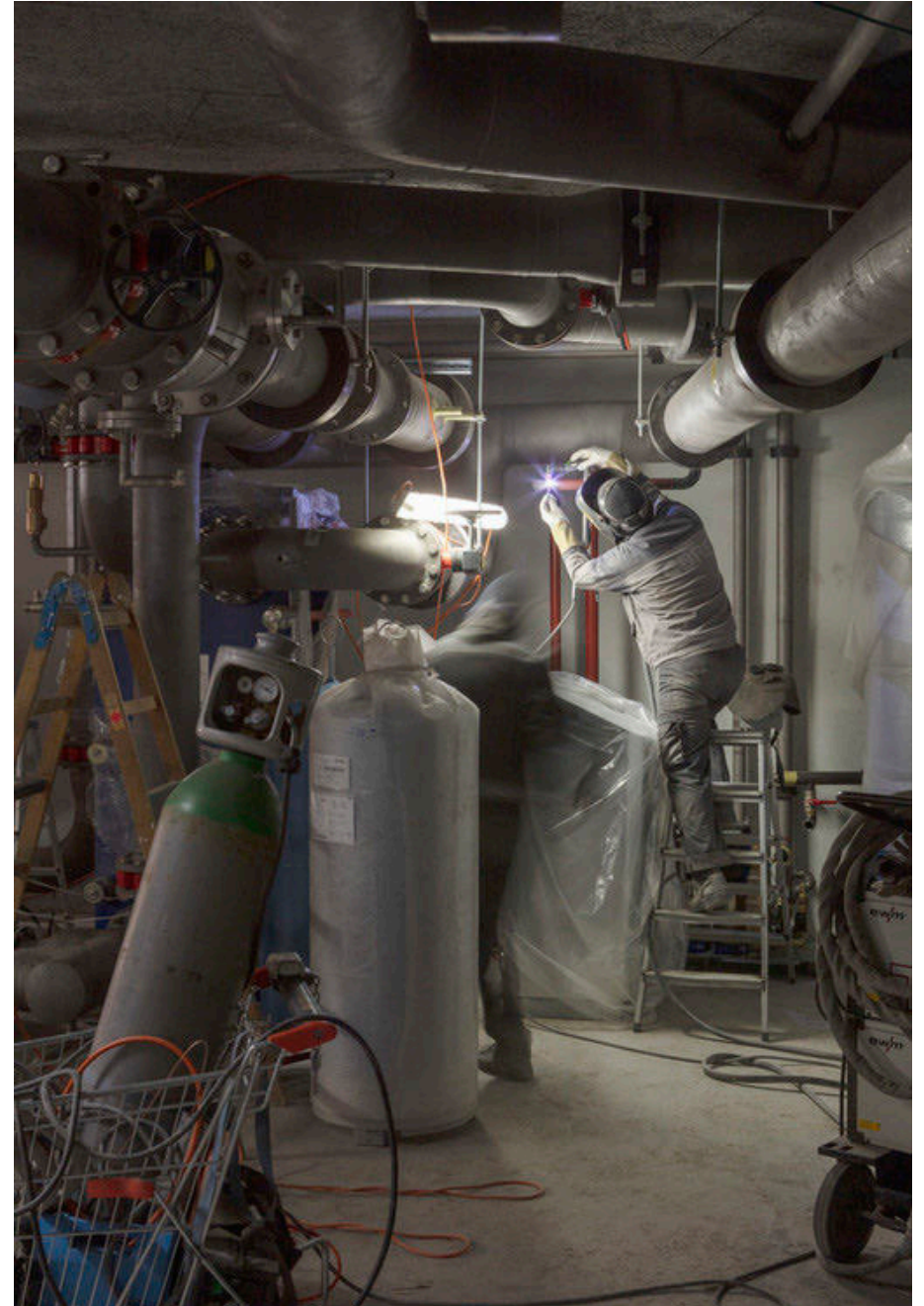




Figure 16  
Moments inside of  
the foundation of  
plot D.  
Source: Wiel Arets  
Architects.

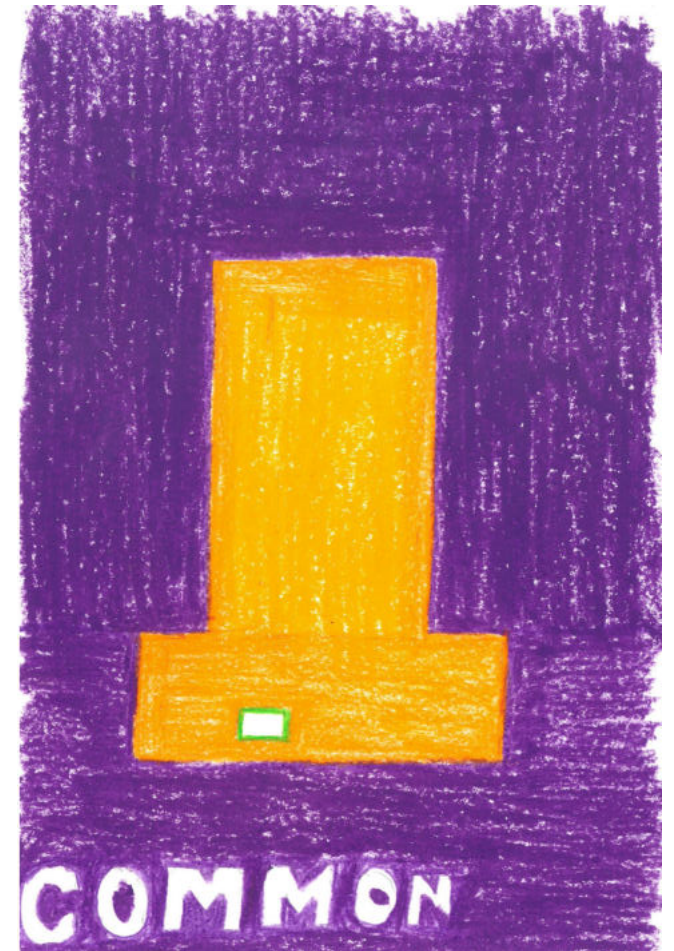


Figure 17  
Space to dispose  
waste.  
Graphic: Own illus-  
tration, 2023.

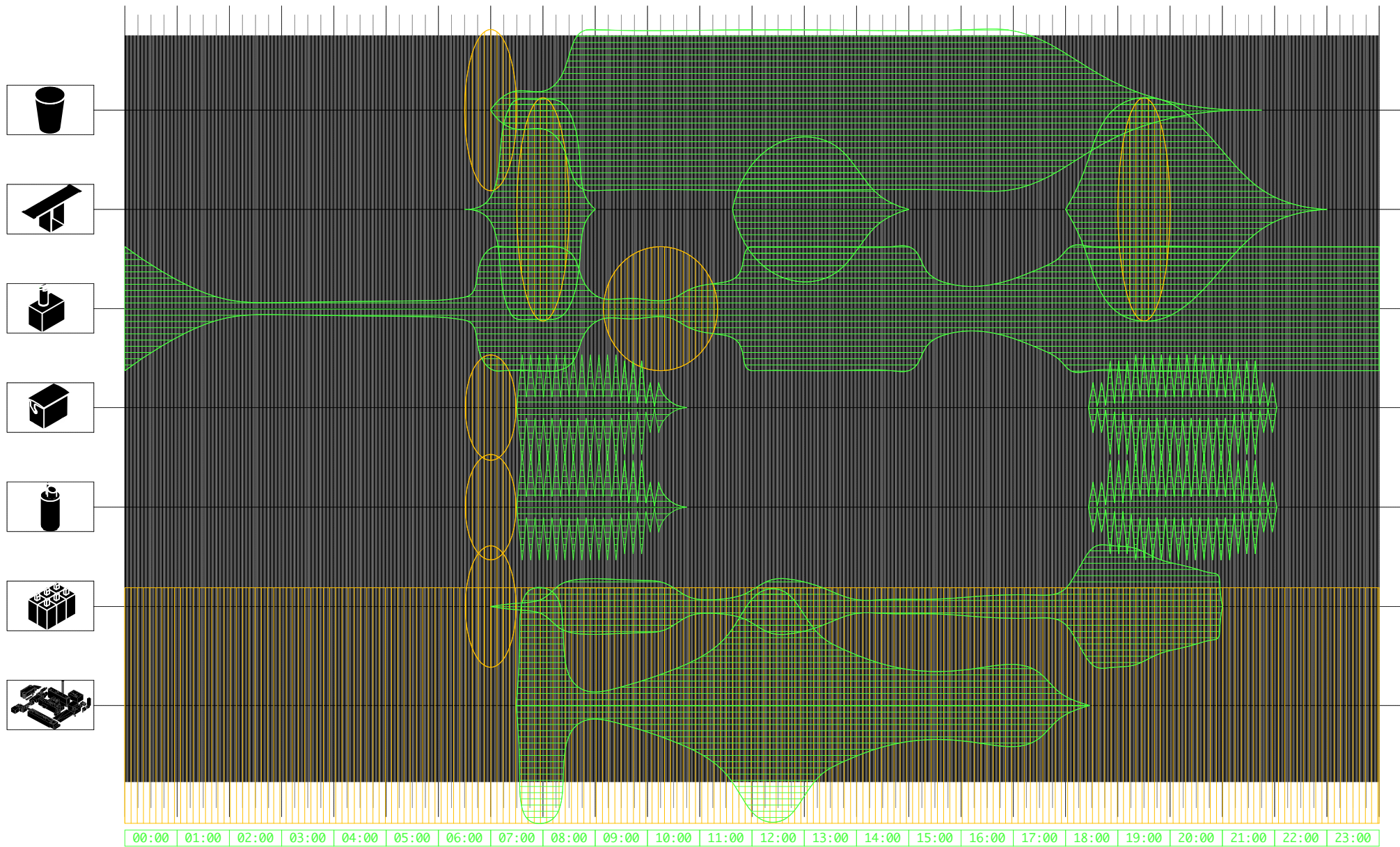
## 0034 Organisation

<sup>10</sup> Cf. Conrads, Hundertwasser, Programme und Manifeste zur Architektur des 20. Jahrhunderts, 2013.

Figure 18  
Rhythm of filling and emptying the waste infrastructure.  
Graphic: Own illustration, 2023.

«Denn die jetzt vielgepriesene architektonische Vorplanung von Wohnstätten ist nichts anderes als gelenkter Massenmord durch vorsätzliche Sterilisierung.» <sup>10</sup>





# 004 How to Unhide

# 0041 Compression

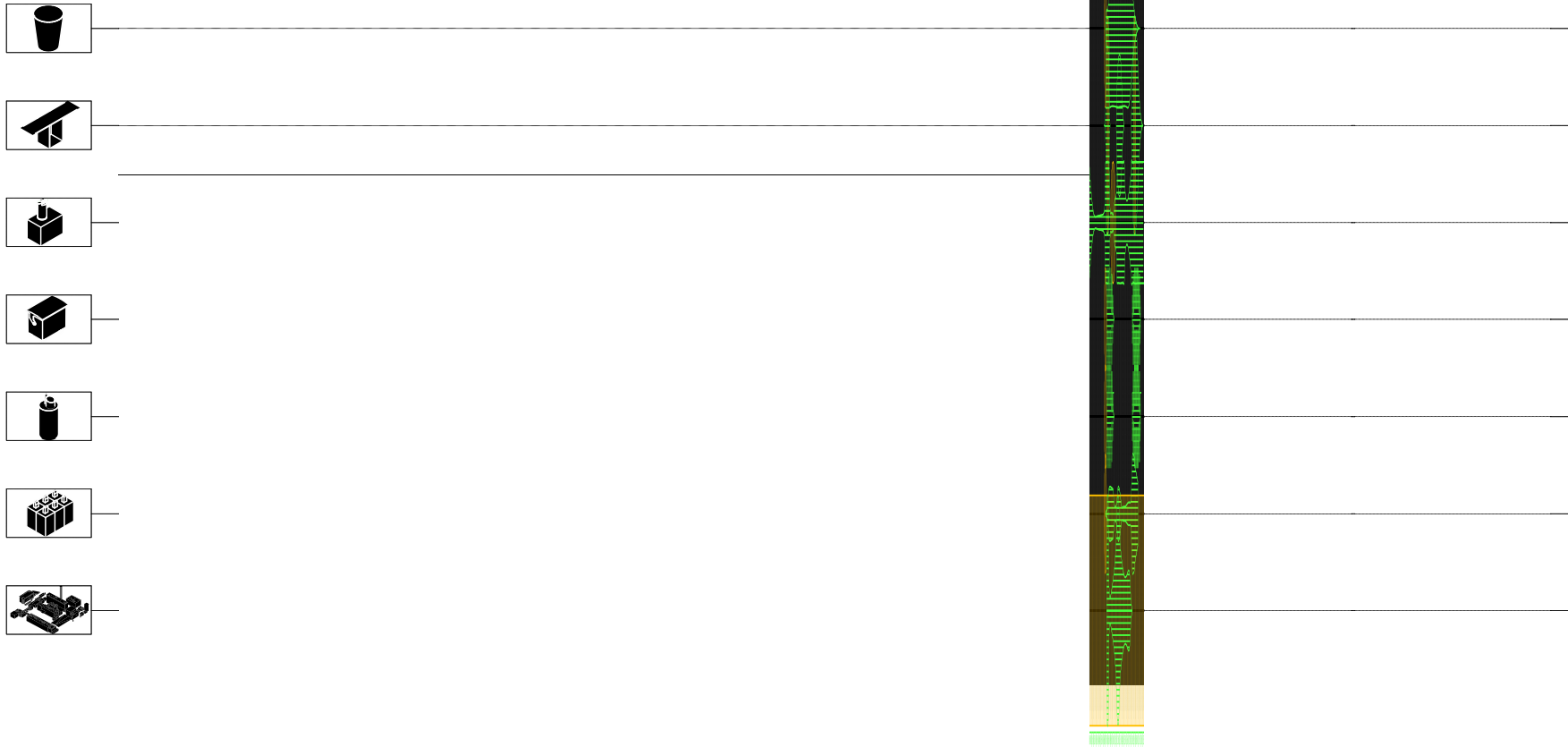


Figure 19 Responsibilities of the city cleaning overlapped with the city districts, 1:33750  
Source: GIS-Zentrum, Stadtkreise, 2023.  
Graphic: Own illustration

# 0042 Joints

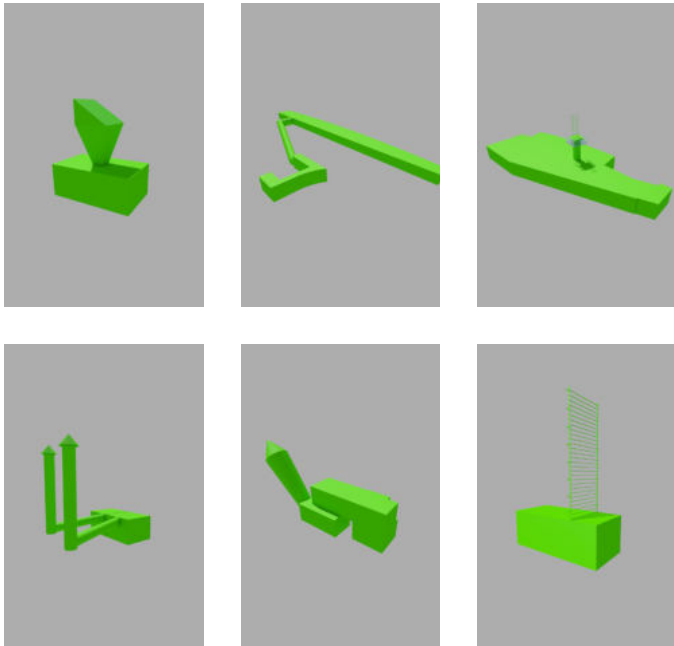


Figure 20  
Test of connections  
between trashrooms  
and the public  
space.  
Graphic: Own illus-  
tration, 2023.



# 0043 Fusions

Figure 21  
Adaptation of the  
public space.  
Graphic: Own illus-  
tration, 2023.





# 0044 Moments



Figure 22  
Collage as a test of  
how the hidden could  
appear in the public  
space.  
Graphic: Own illus-  
tration, 2023.



Figure 23  
Collages as a test  
of how the hidden  
could appear in the  
public space.  
Graphic: Own illus-  
tration, 2023.



Figure 24  
Collage as a test of  
how the hidden could  
appear in the public  
space.  
Graphic: Own illus-  
tration, 2023.

# 005 The Unhidden



# 0051 Inside



Figure 25  
Floorplan Plot F,  
Floor -2.  
Original Scale:  
1:200.

# 0052 Outside

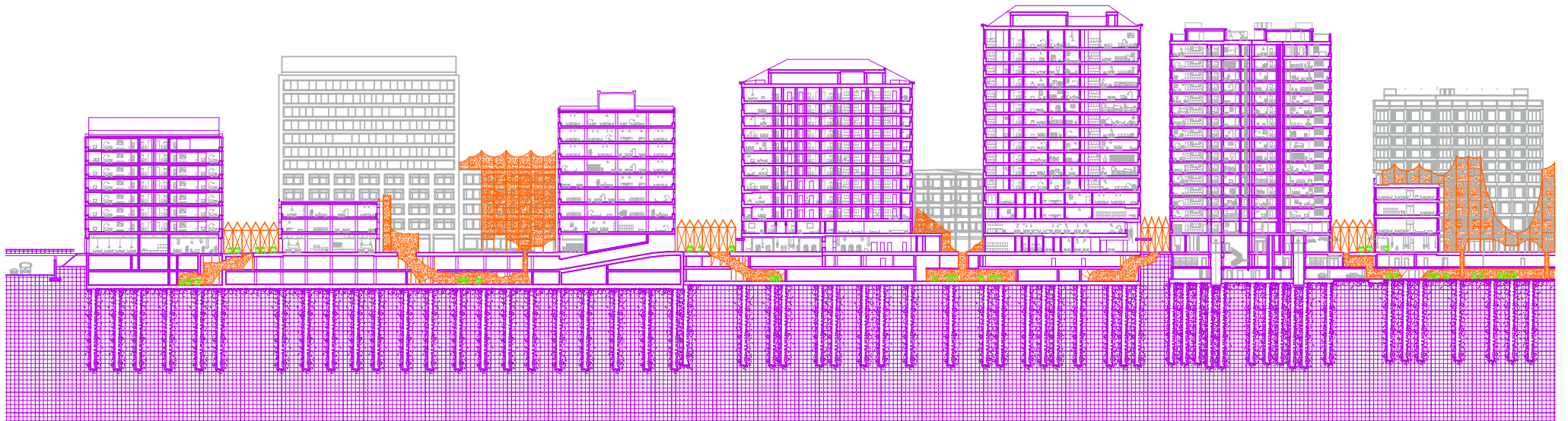




Figure 26  
Cut Europaallee,  
from Langstrasse  
through plots H, G,  
F, D, B to the main  
station.  
Original Scale:  
1:200.



# 0053 Garden



Figure 27  
The existing retention basin between the Europaallee and the Gleisfeld.





Figure 28  
The existing foot-  
path next to the  
retention basin.

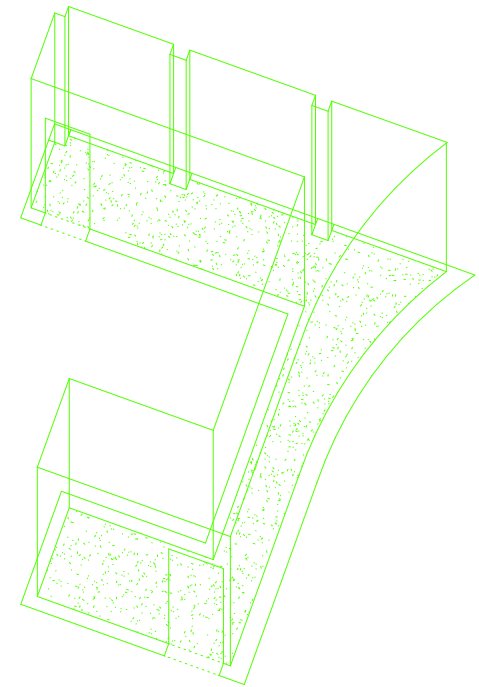


Figure 29  
Evolution of the  
garden from the in-  
side to the outside:  
Existing Room.

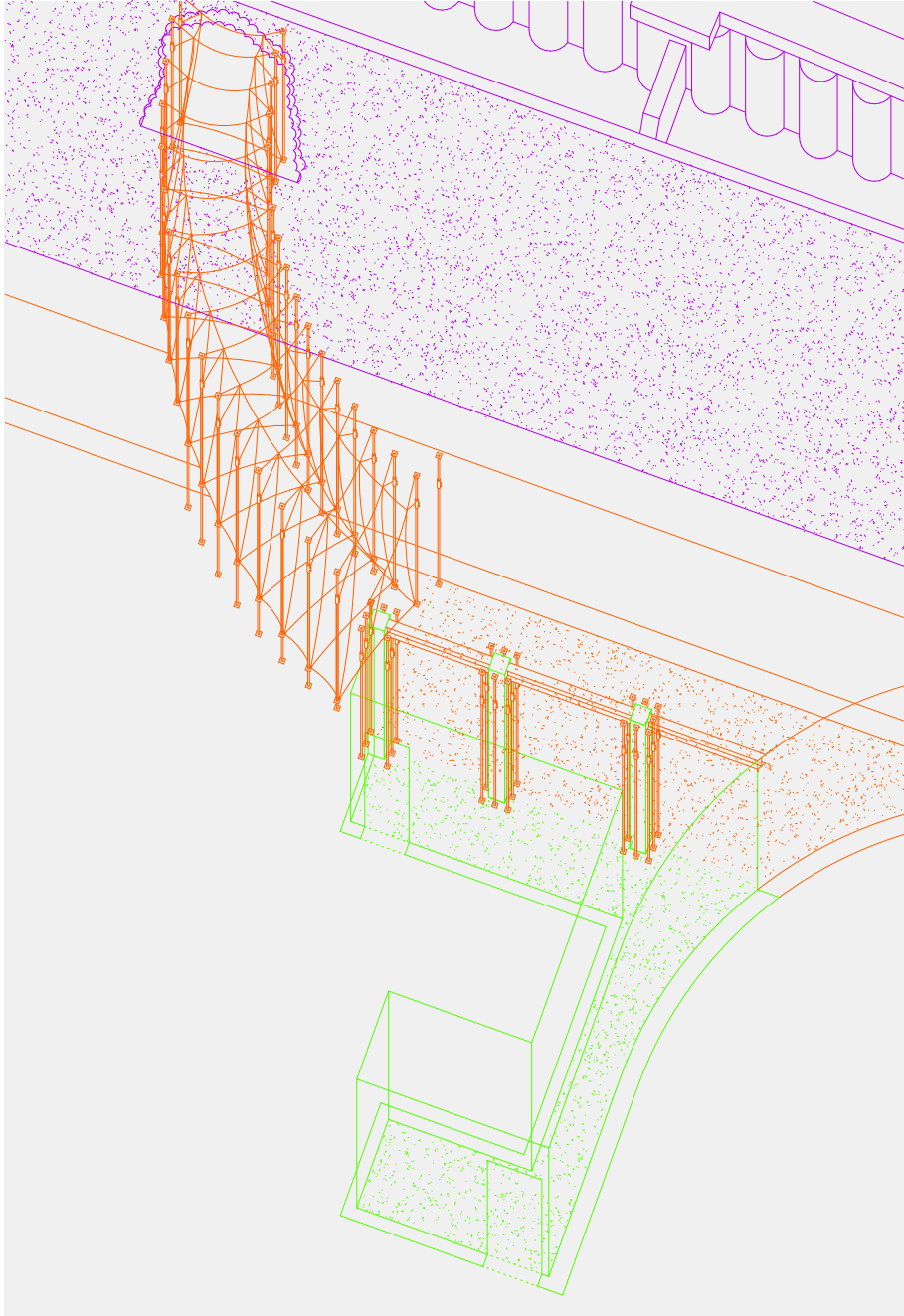


Figure 30  
The waste disposal  
room as the starting  
point to connect the  
inside and outside,  
Photomodel, 1:20.





Figure 31  
The waste disposal  
room as the starting  
point to connect the  
inside and outside,  
Photomodel, 1:20.

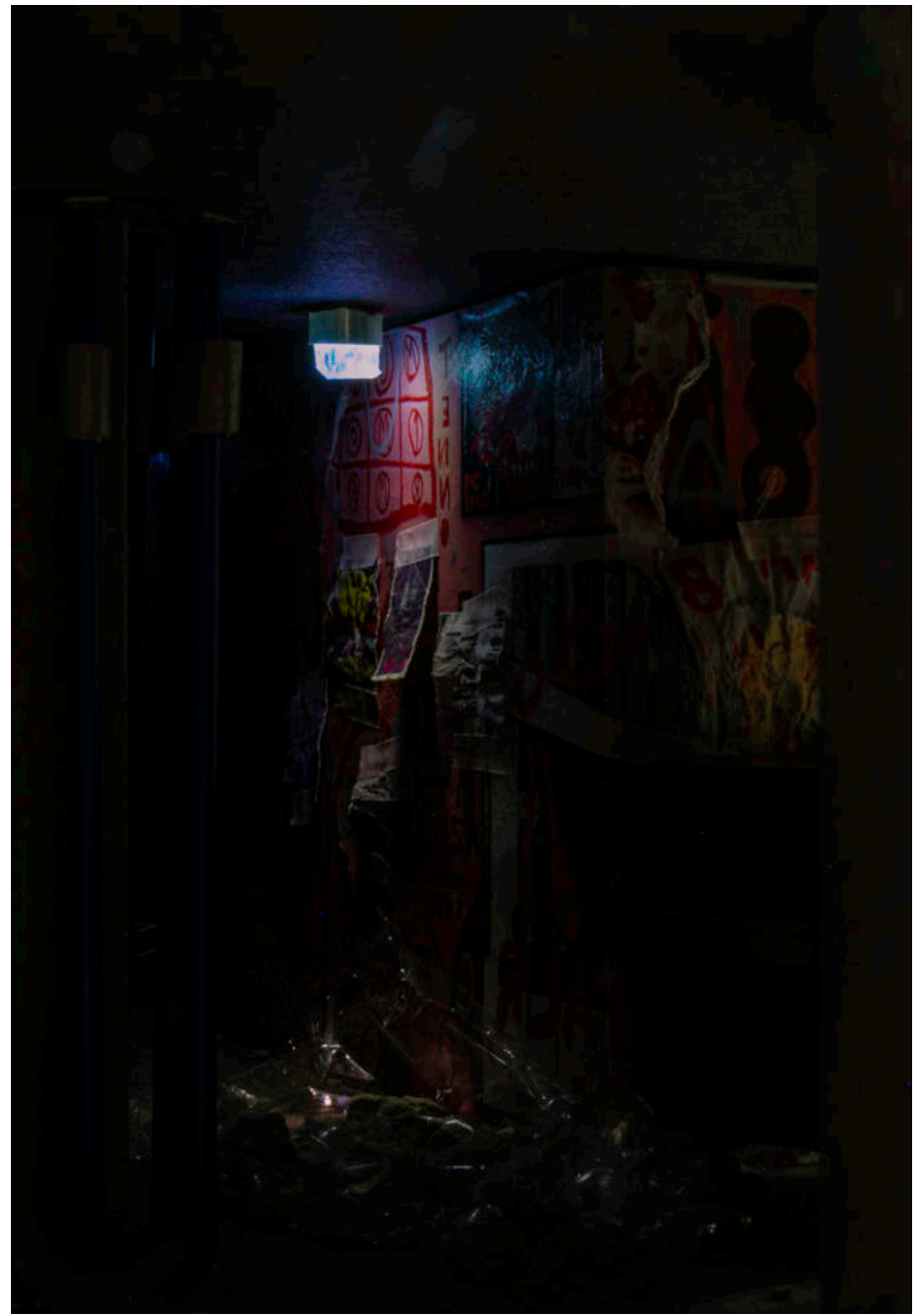


Figure 32  
The waste disposal  
room as the starting  
point to connect the  
inside and outside,  
Photomodel, 1:20.

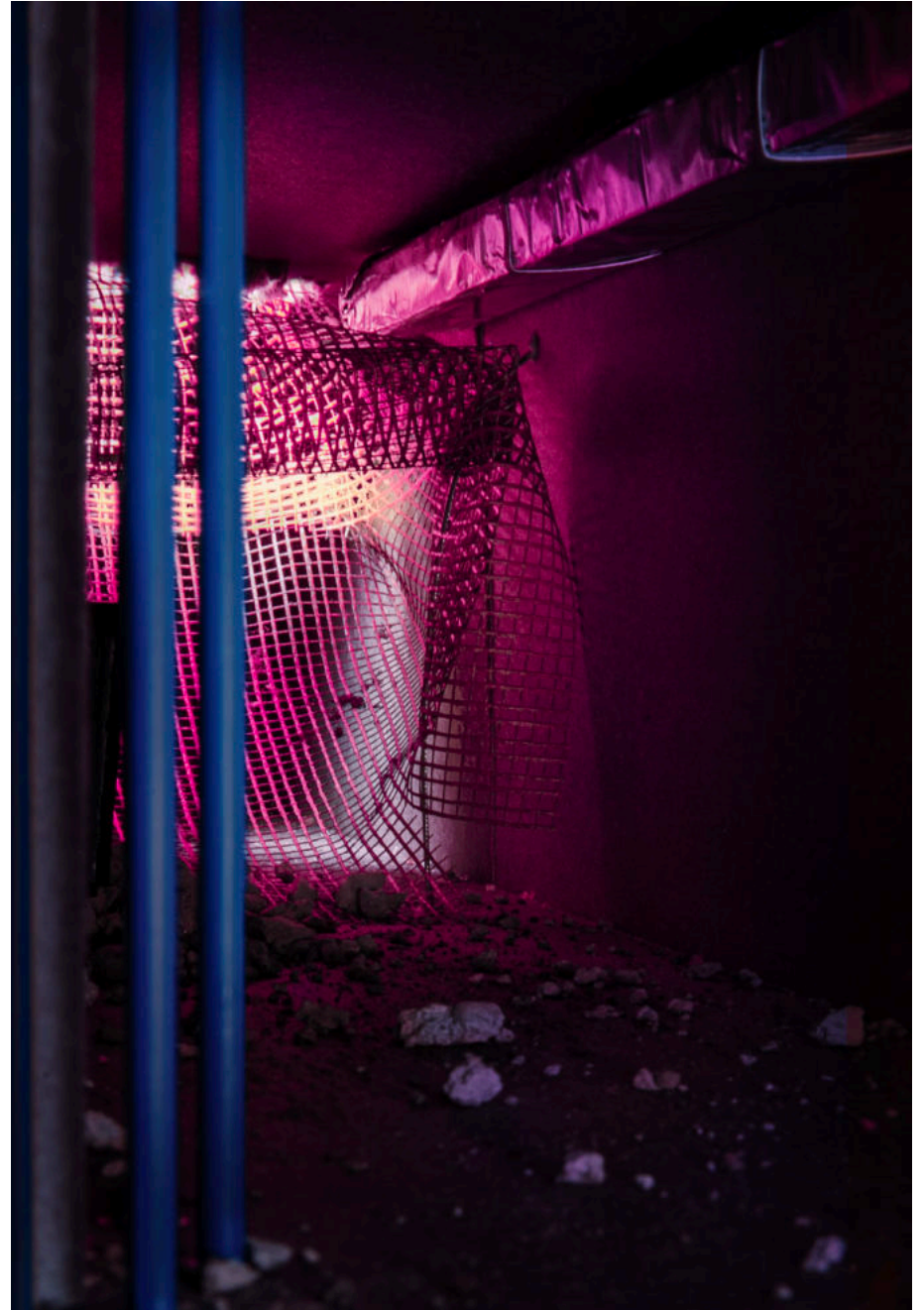


Figure 33  
Joint to the garden,  
Photomodel, 1:20.

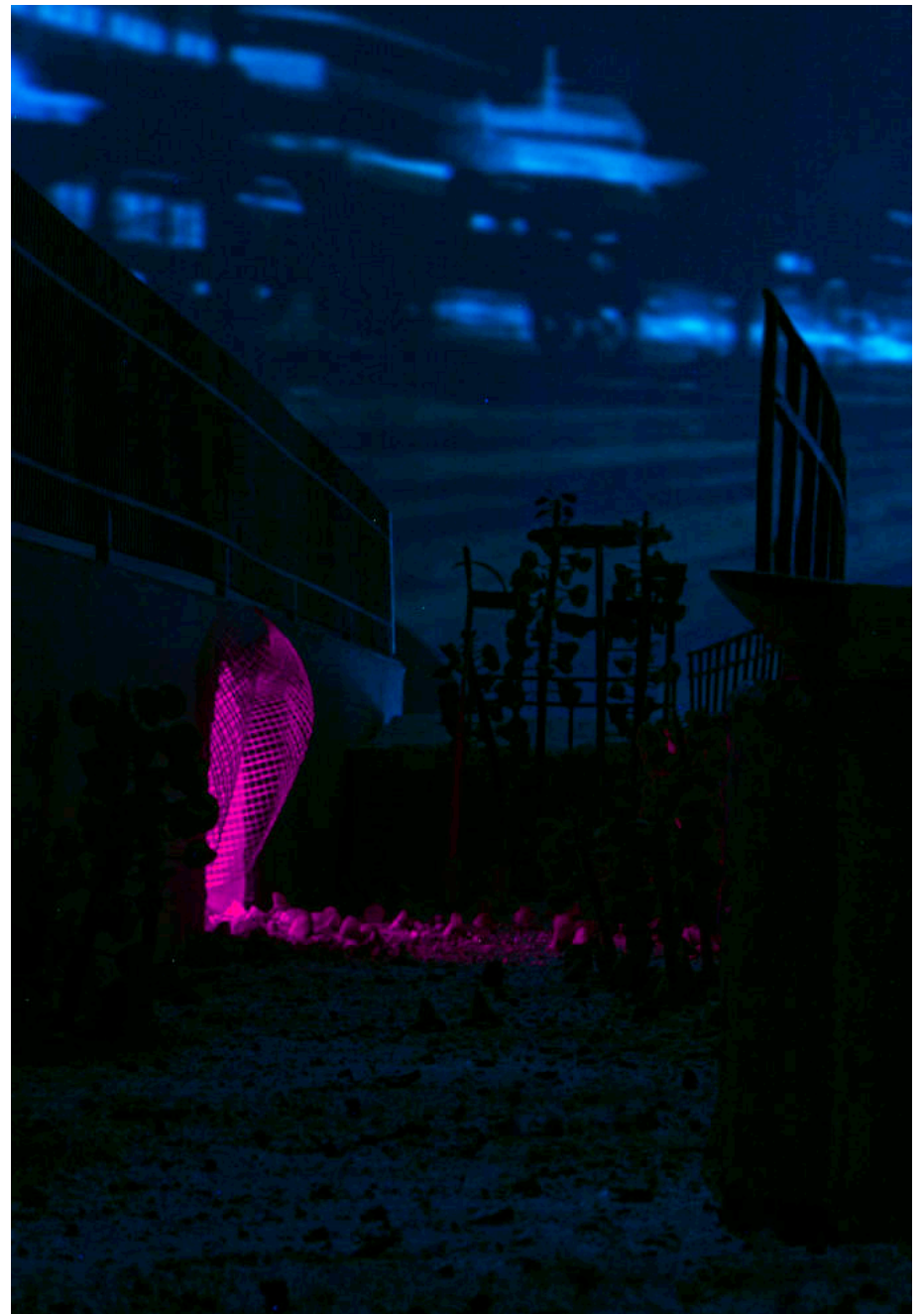




Figure 34  
Joint to the garden,  
Photomodel, 1:20.





Figure 35  
Joint to the garden,  
Photomodel, 1:20.

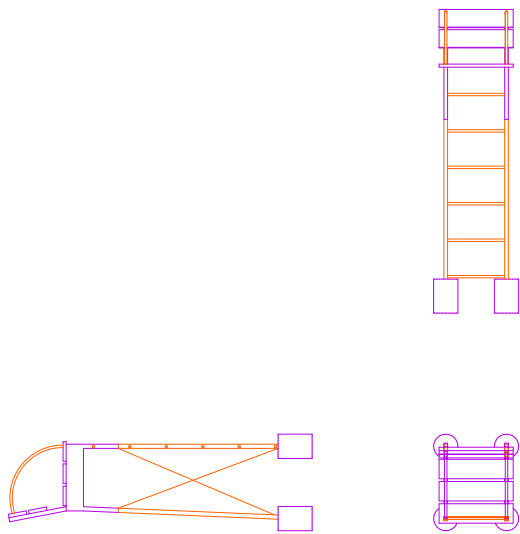


Figure 36  
Chair for the garden.

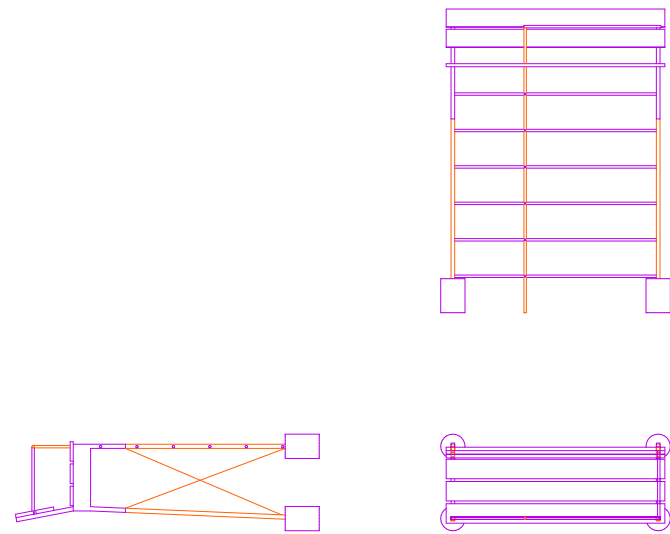


Figure 37  
Bench for the garden.

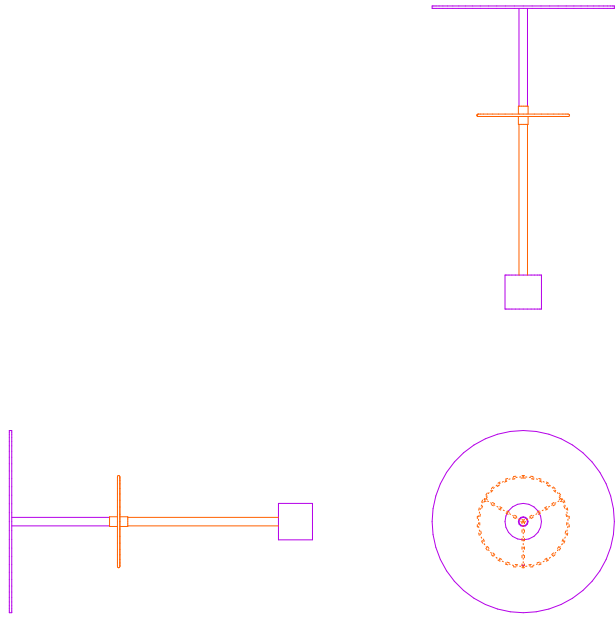


Figure 38  
Table for the garden.

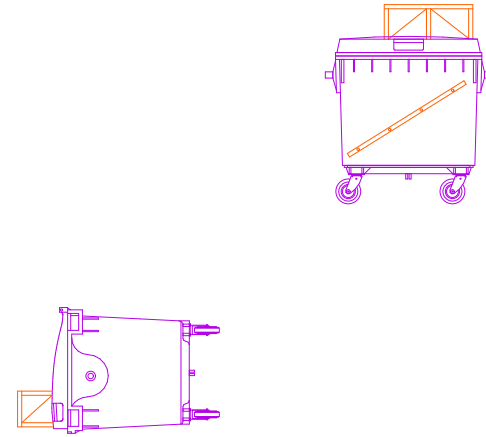


Figure 39  
Acquired container.

# 0054 Corridor

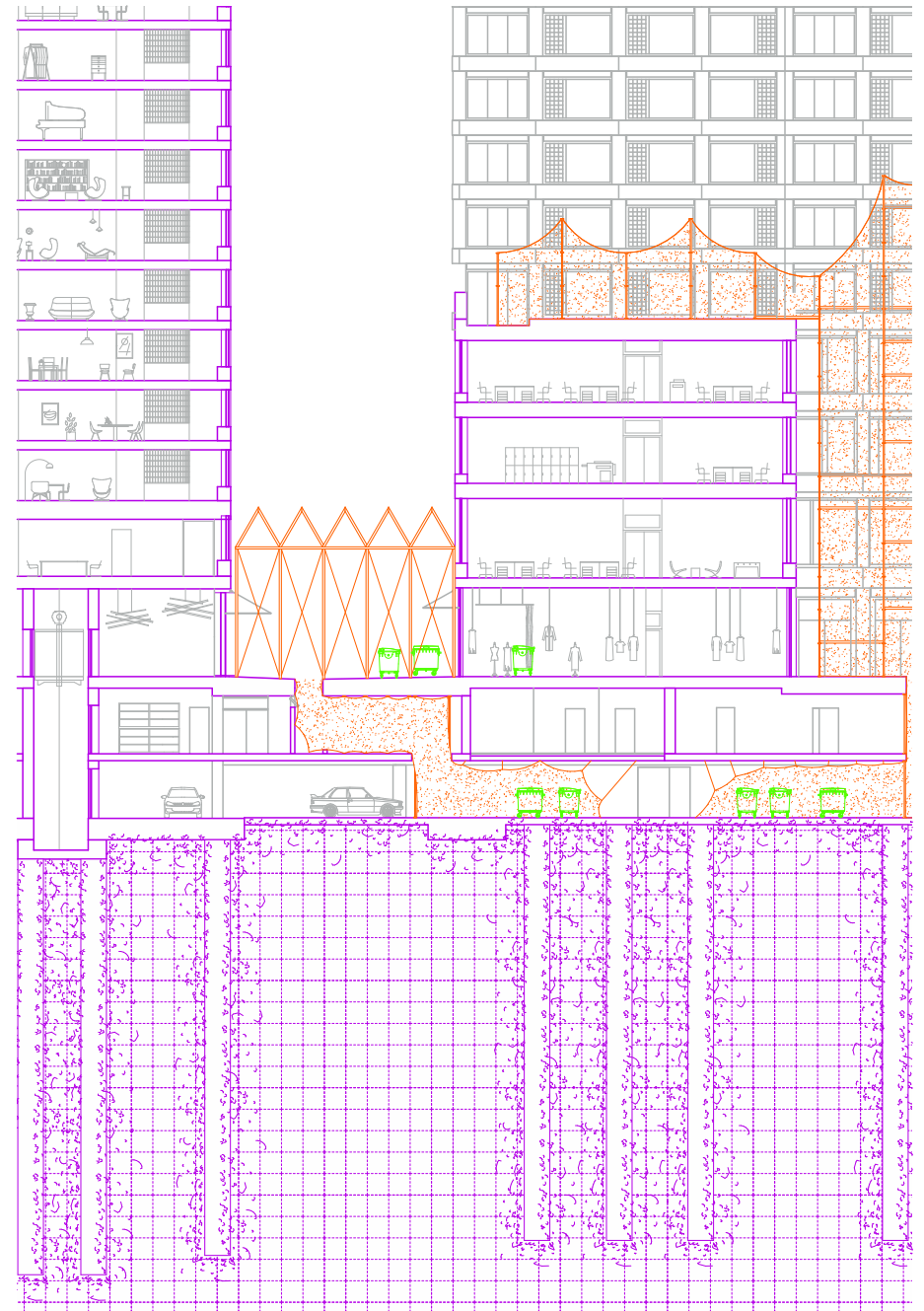


Figure 40  
Example of the corridor: Cut.



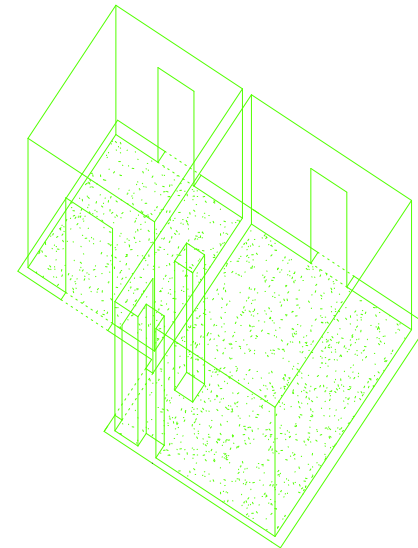
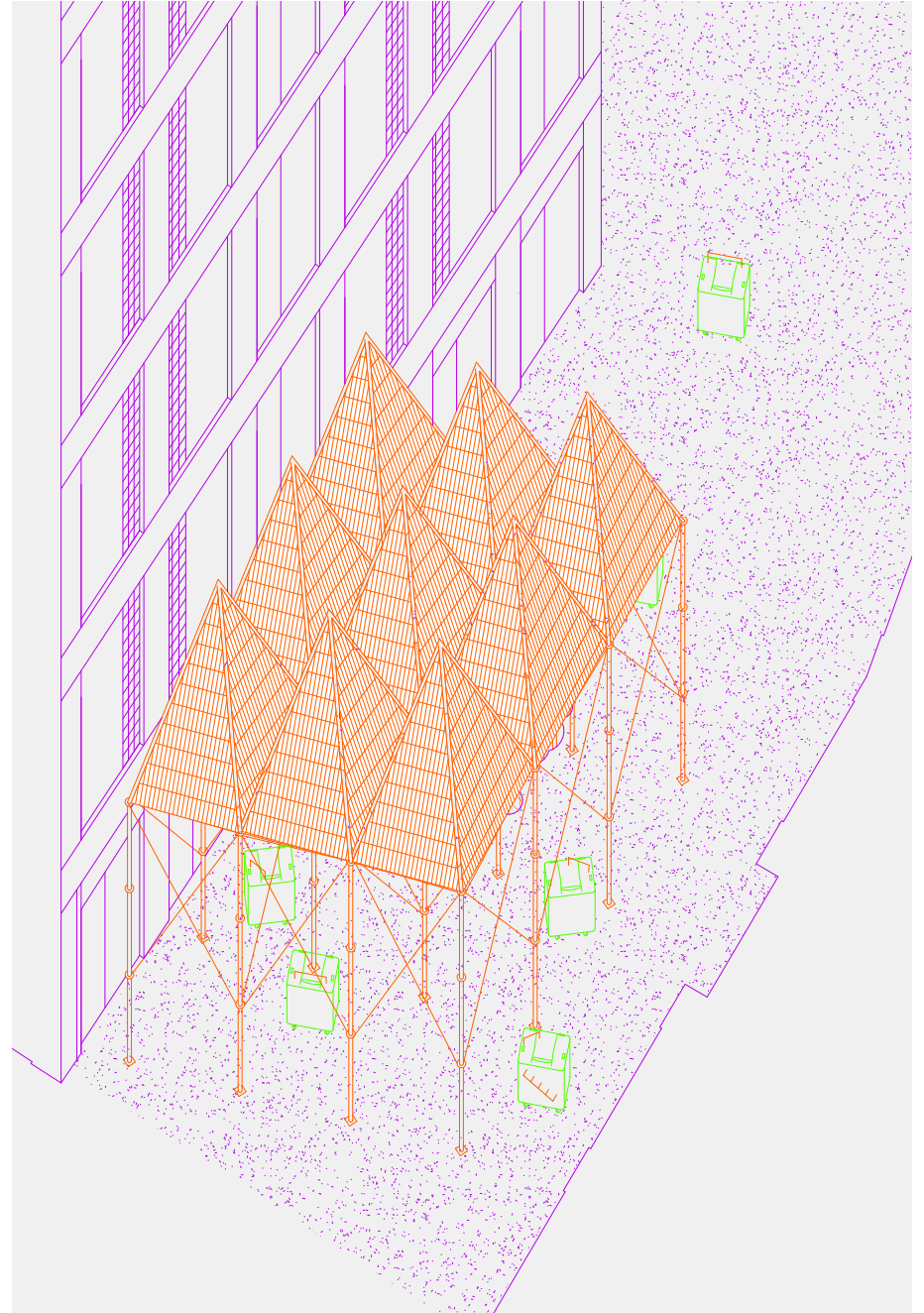
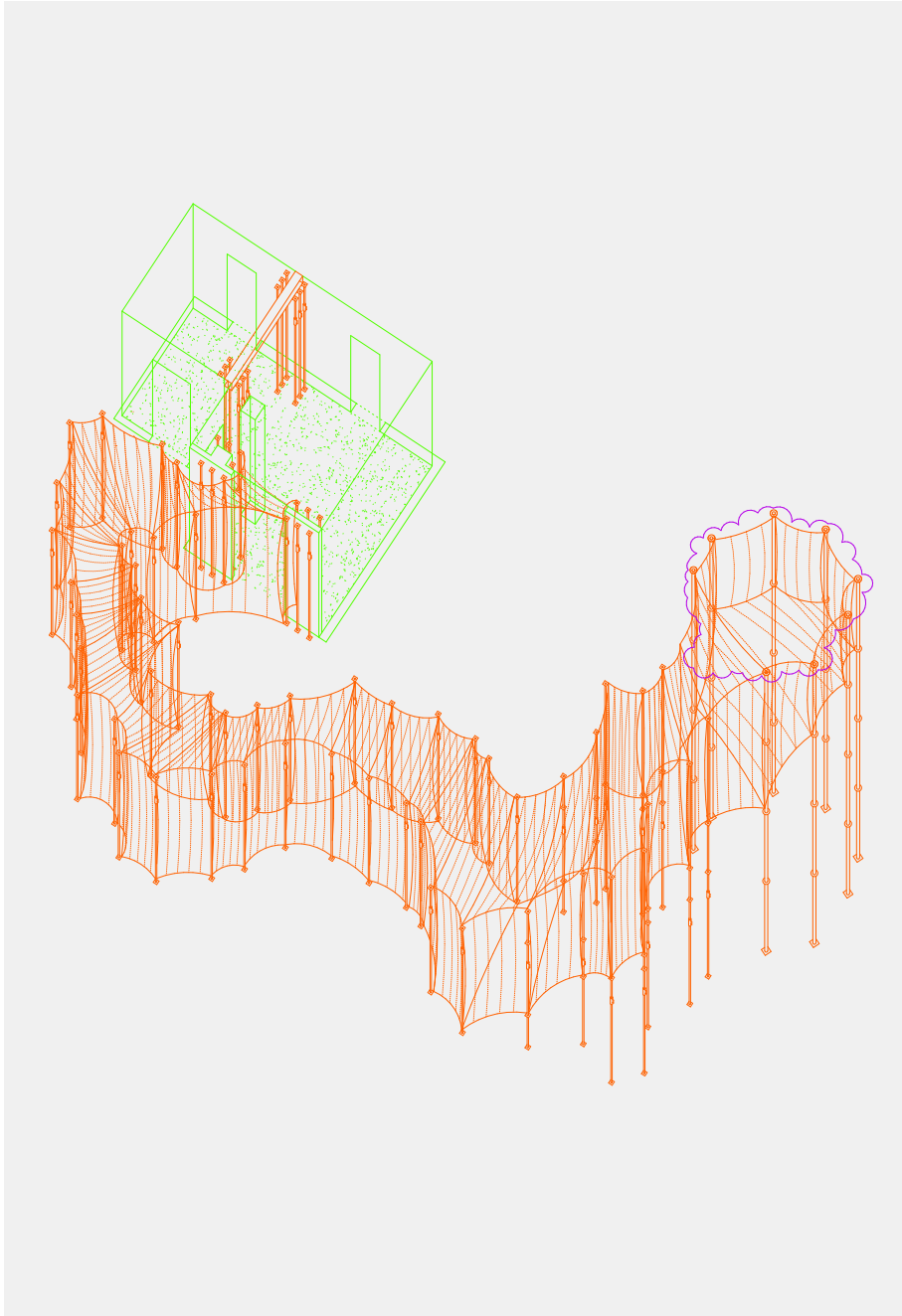


Figure 41  
Example of the  
corridor: Existing  
Room.



# 0055 Yard

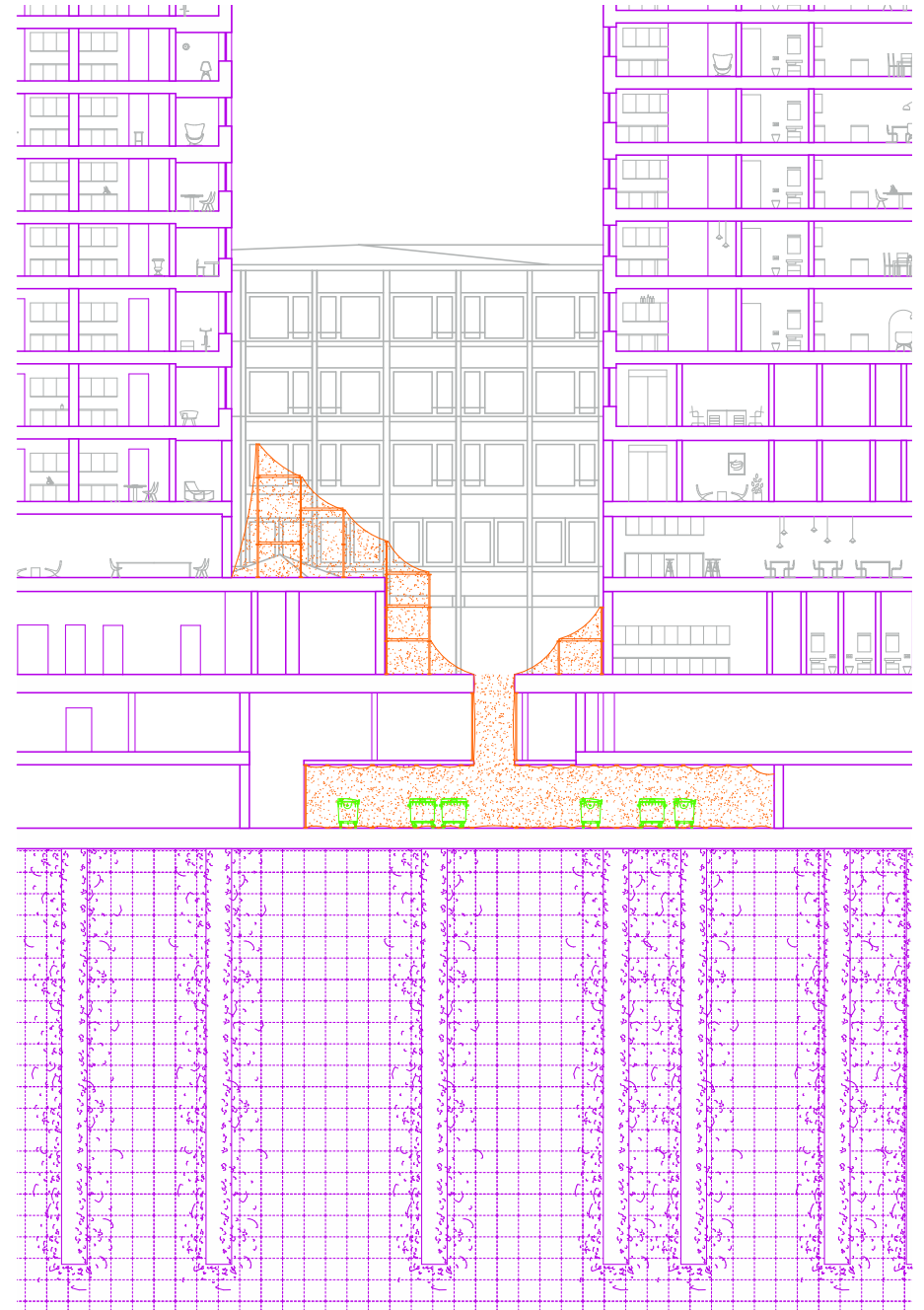
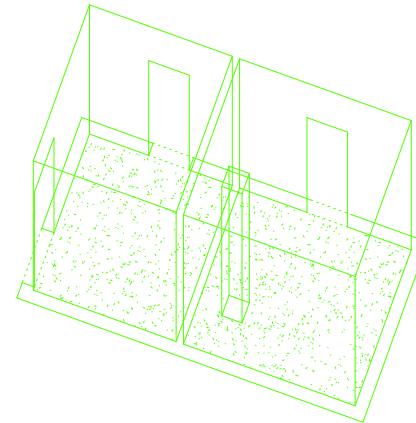
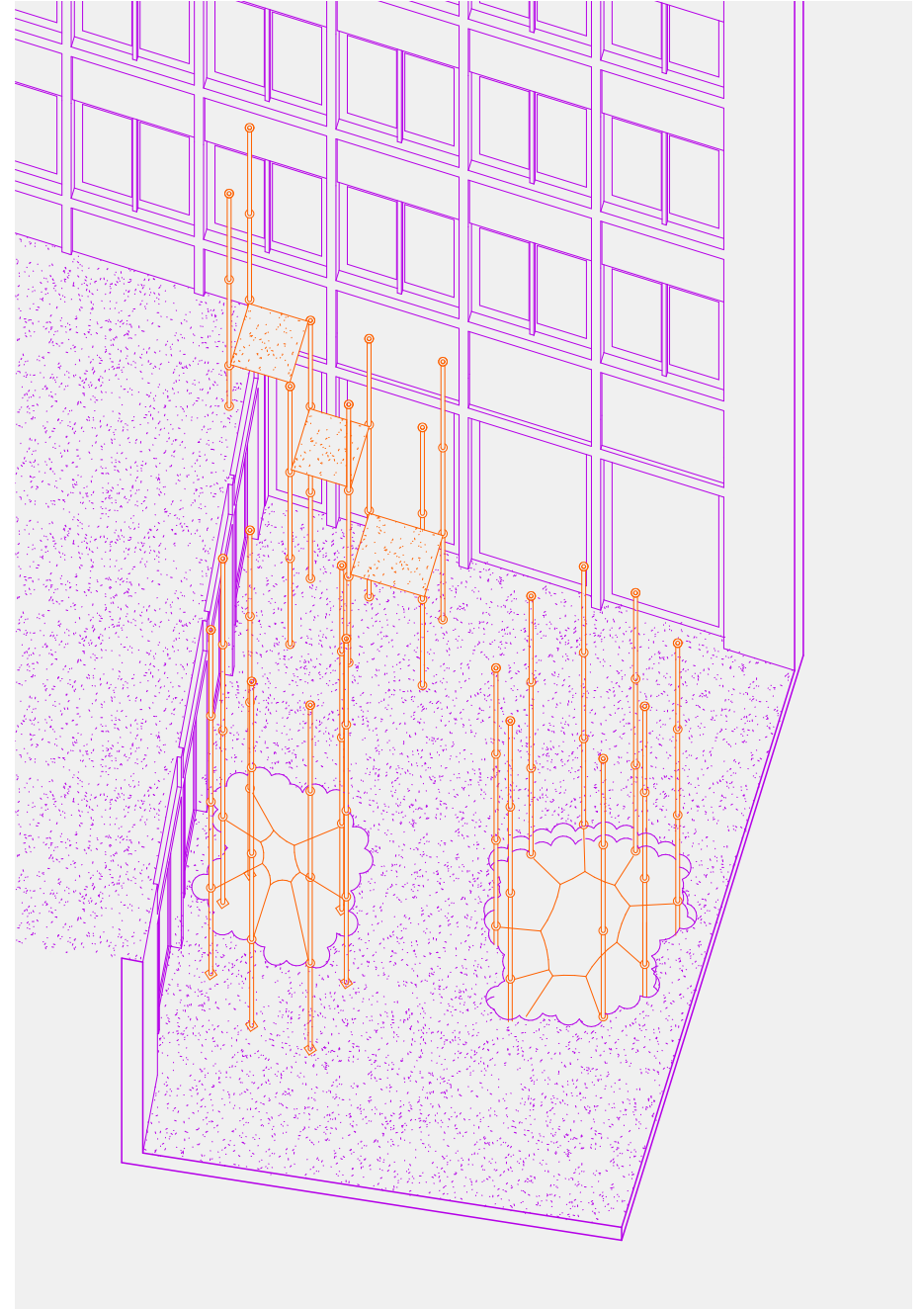
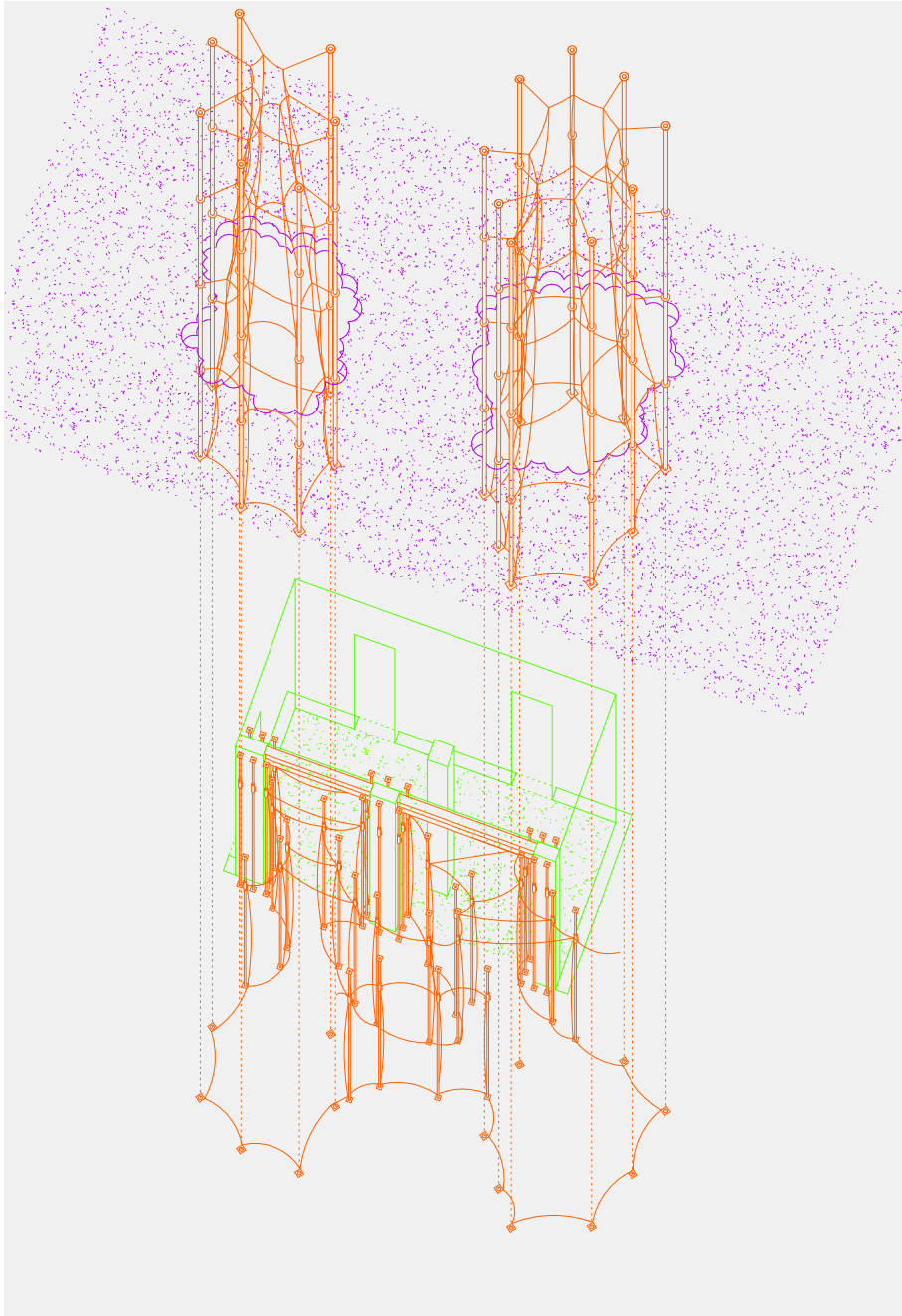


Figure 42  
Evolution of the  
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Figure 43  
Evolution of the  
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# 006 Register

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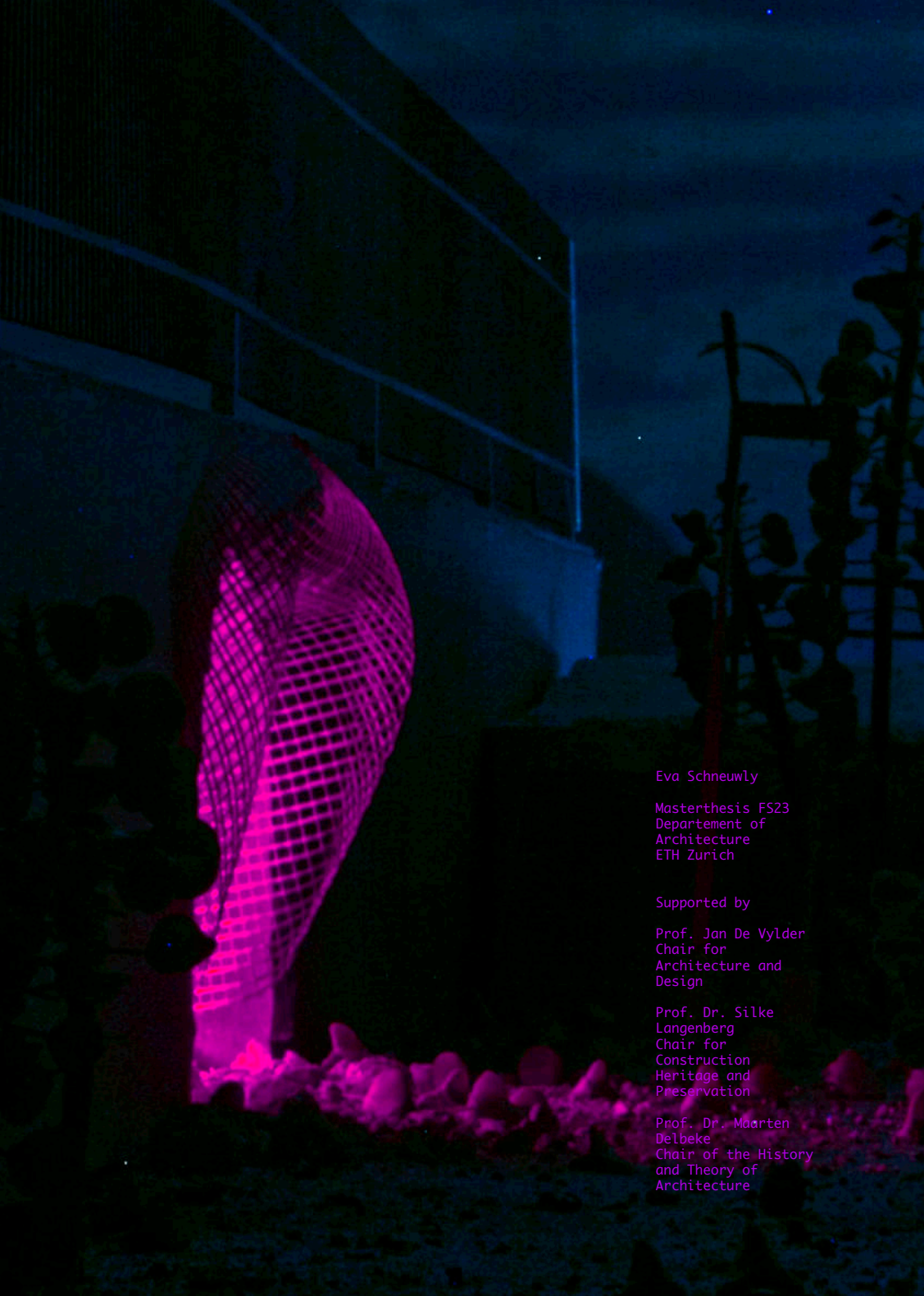
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