

Shared Unconvention

UAH! TRIESTE



UAH!

Unconventional
Affordable
Housing!

UAH - Design Studio Network

Fakultät für Architektur - Universität Innsbruck, Austria
FAUP- Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade do Porto, Portugal
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Master's Degree in Architettura - Ambiente Costruito - Interni
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Learning from practices: UAH! goes Biennale

in collaboration with
AGENCY FOR BETTER LIVING
AUSTRIAN PAVILLION
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Shared Unconvention

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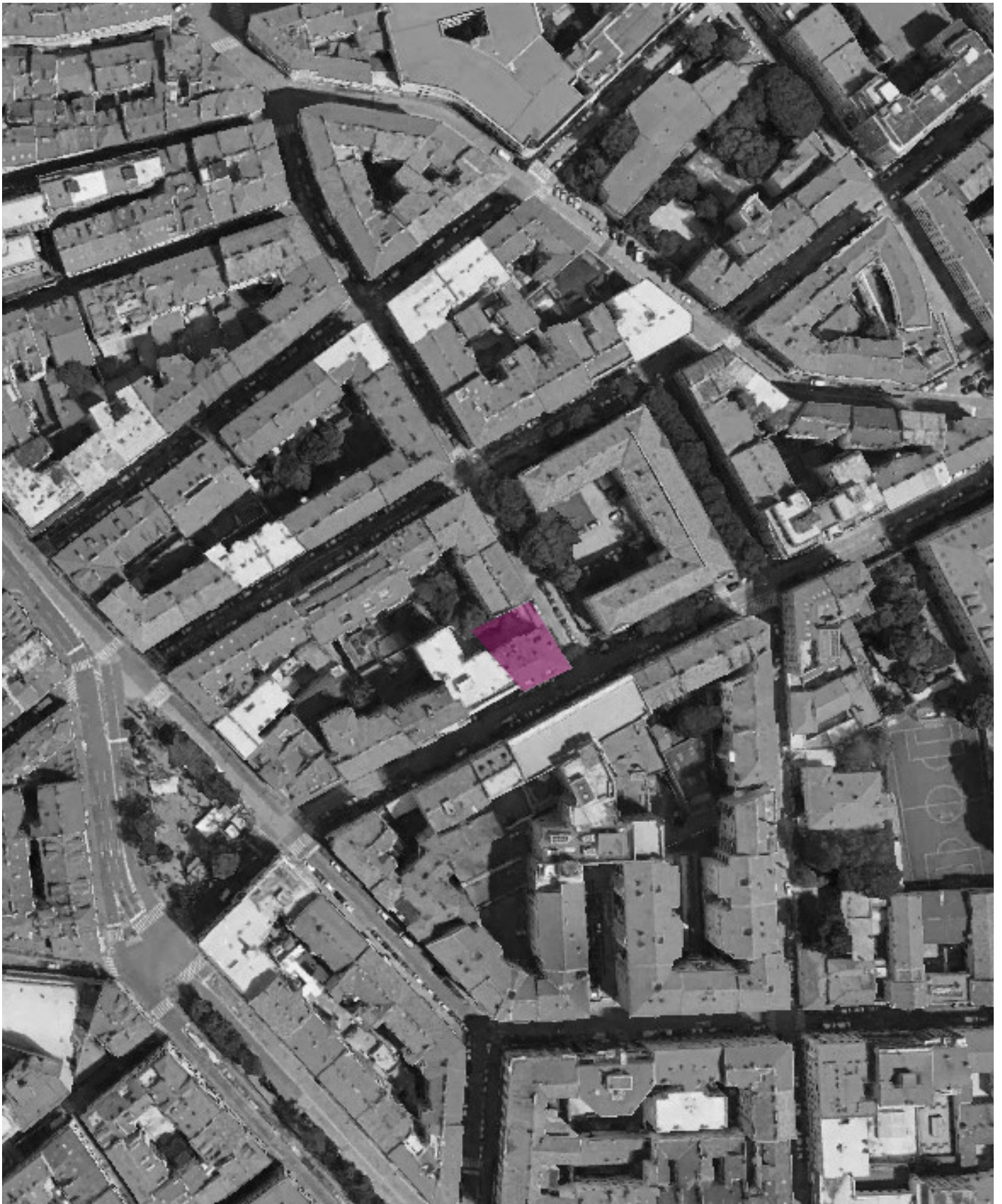
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TRIESTE



01

The project is located in Trieste, a port and border city that has long been a crossroads of cultures, exchanges, and social tensions. The intervention involves a pre-existing building at Via Pascoli 12, owned by ATER and currently disused. The urban context is dense with public services: schools, hospitals, social welfare offices, nursing homes, and green spaces form a lively and accessible network. The design strategy aims to build a widespread network: the building becomes a node in a larger system of regenerated spaces intended to host vulnerable users and shared activities. The project enhances the relational potential of the neighborhood, activating new connections between places, people, and functions.

1. Living in Trieste

LEGEND

Intervention Areas

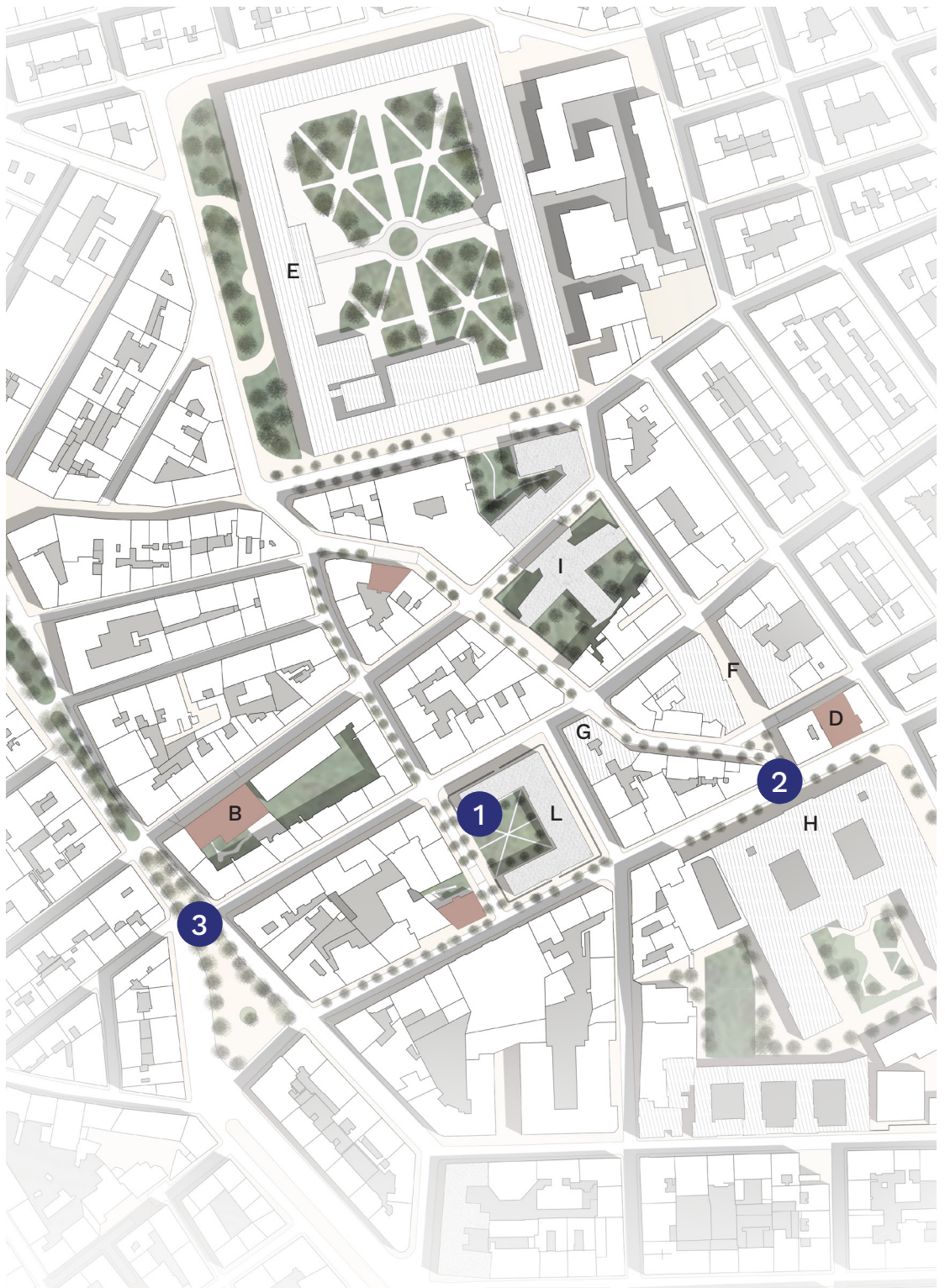
- A** Via Azeglio 5 ITIS
After-School Activities
- B** Via Vasari 5-7 Caritas
Coworking and Cafe
- C** Via Pascoli 12 ATER
Workshop + Shop
- D** Via Pascoli 28
Shops

Sanity

- E** Ospedale Maggiore
- F** ASD Table Tennis Club
- G** Portierato Sociale
- H** Nursing ITIS

Education

- I** State Primary School
- L** Secondary School



GREENSPACE



CONNECTIONS



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

1

Via Pascoli - Via Parini

Intervention in the courtyard of the school on Via Parini, with a direct connection to the building on Via Pascoli. Widening of the sidewalk.

BEFORE



AFTER

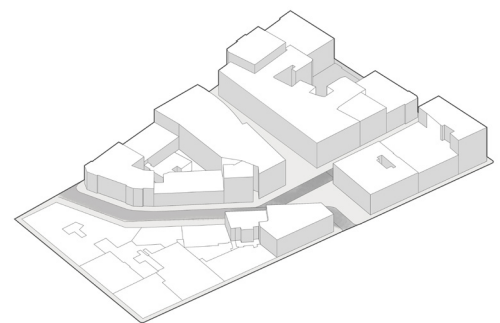


2

Largo Niccolini

Intervention on the open space in front of the retirement home, creating a connection with the square between the two buildings of the ASD Table Tennis club.

BEFORE



AFTER

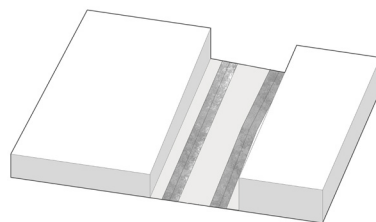


3

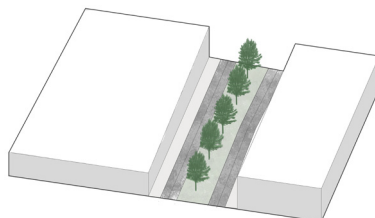
Via Giosué Carducci

Intervention on the central carriageways of the main street leading to the city park, introducing a tree-lined pedestrian boulevard.

BEFORE



AFTER



02

The project extends its impact to the surrounding public spaces, enhancing urban quality. Widened sidewalks, safe crossings, new tree planting, and better-maintained green areas make the neighborhood more livable. A former lot previously occupied by illegal parking has been transformed into a resting area with trees and benches. On a major multi-lane road, a central pedestrian walkway lined with trees was added, connecting the neighborhood to the city park and becoming a green corridor and social gathering place.

The proposal

“Shared Unconvention” is a project of a residence proposing a new way of living based on sharing, flexible use, and creative material reuse. The project reuses a pre-existing building, reinterpreted as a collective structure able to welcome a hybrid community composed of refugees and elderly people. Two different vulnerabilities, two often isolated generations, find here an opportunity to coexist and support each other.

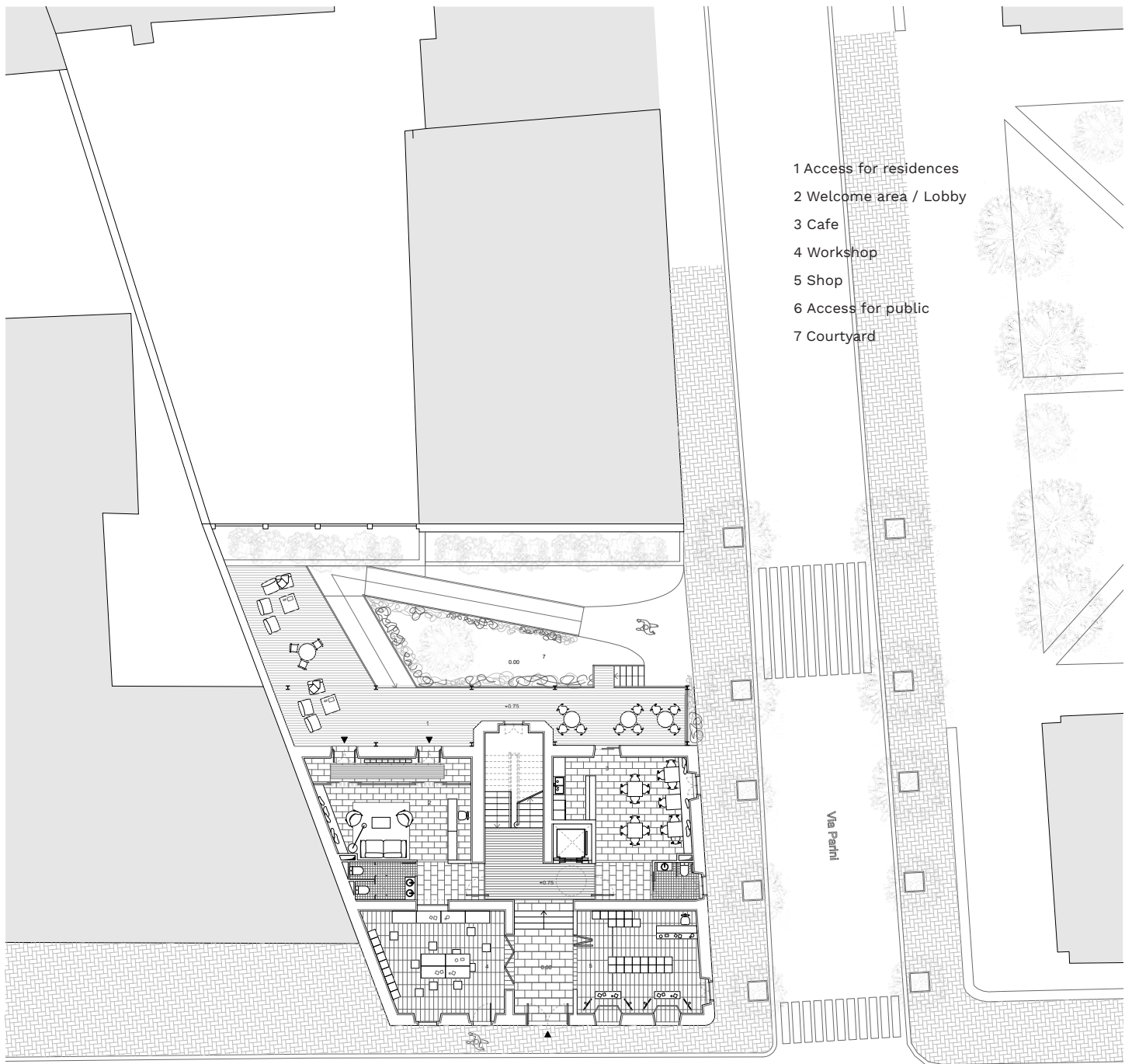
The building is configured as an unconventional housing system where boundaries between public and private blur, favoring a more open and participatory coexistence. It opens to the context through courtyards, porticos, and transitional spaces, acting as a threshold between inside and outside. Minimal housing units are grouped around shared spaces—common kitchens, bathrooms with dual access, social rooms—designed to stimulate interaction and residents’ autonomy. Spaces are non-hierarchical, interconnected, and adaptable.

The project integrates a material reuse system: fragmented ceramics, reclaimed bricks, and wood are expressively used as cladding, mosaics, or furniture elements. Materials are not only a construction resource but also a narrative: fragments that tell other lives, other homes. Living thus becomes a collective act, built on shared differences.



Elevation Via Pascoli, scale 1:100

03
View of the rear courtyard, the green heart of the project, with an architectural walkway that crosses the space and leads to the rear entrance, reserved for residents. This landscaped core offers a quiet, sheltered environment for everyday encounters and relaxation.



Groundfloor, scale 1:100

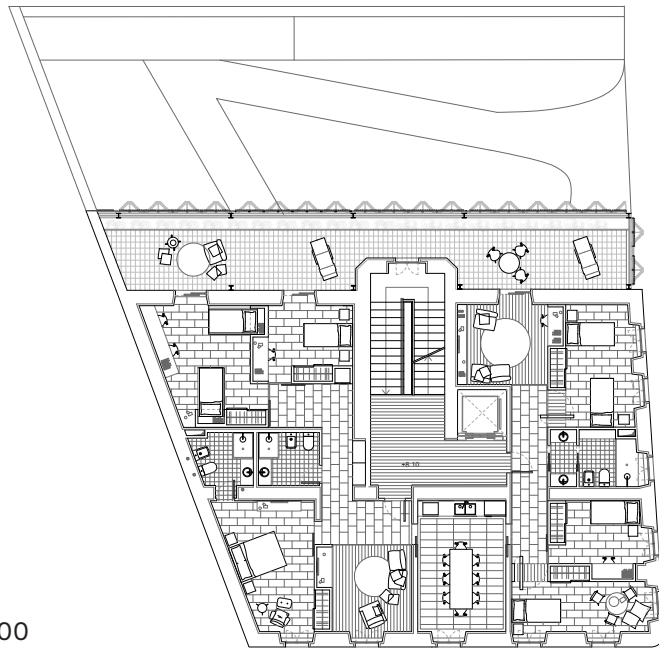
Via Pascoli



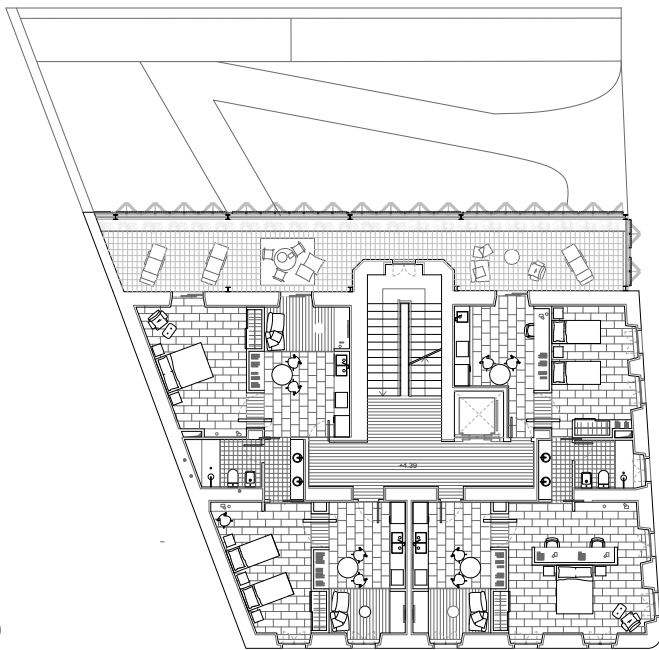
04

The ground floor is organized around two distinct yet complementary entrances. The main entrance, located at street level, hosts the shop and a workshop dedicated exclusively to residents, featuring an exhibition area that showcases creations born in the studios, fostering interaction and active community participation. A second entrance, at the rear, opens onto the inner courtyard and leads to an architectural walkway rising to +0.75 m. Here, cozy relaxation spaces, a small bar, and sheltered outdoor areas create an intimate and private atmosphere. This dual access balances openness to the outside with privacy and conviviality within.

Second Floor, scale 1:100



First Floor, scale 1:100



05

The upper floors of the building are dedicated to residential units, organized around a central stairwell and distributed along a horizontal corridor. The **first floor** hosts four studio apartments, each comprising a living area with kitchenette and a bedroom. Within each studio, the sleeping area is separated from the living space by custom-designed furniture elements, replacing fixed walls and allowing for flexible spatial configurations over time. The studios share bathrooms, located along the central axis of the floor—representing a first level of shared living. The **second floor** accommodates two larger apartments, each with three bedrooms, a living room, and one or two bathrooms. These apartments share a common kitchen, introducing a second level of sharing that balances private and communal spaces.

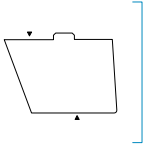
06

View of the rear side of the building, revealing the design of the new façade: a steel structure of external walkways, screened by a system of operable brise-soleil.



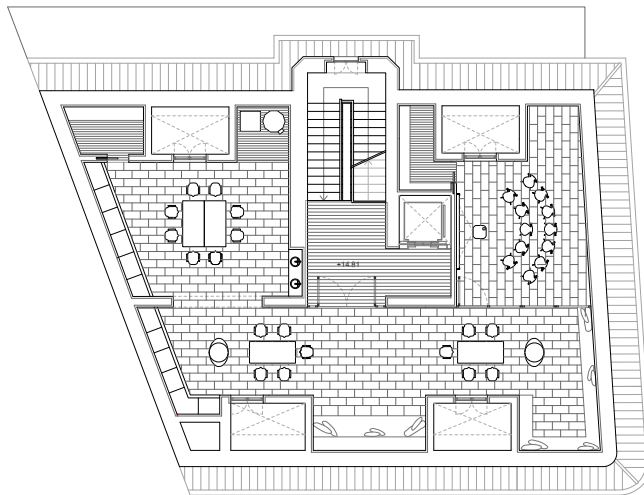
Elevation Via Parini, scale 1:100



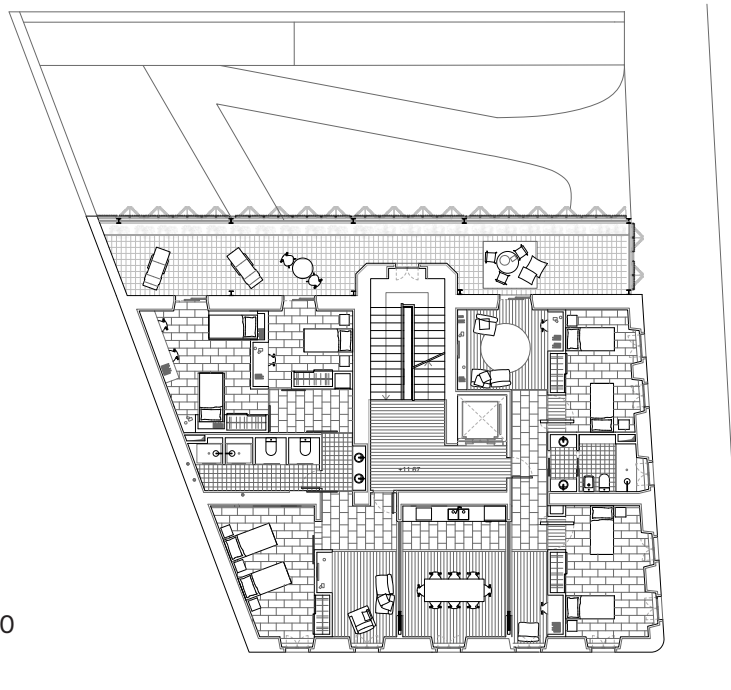


Elevation Courtyard, scale 1:100





Attic, scale 1:100



Third Floor, scale 1:100

07

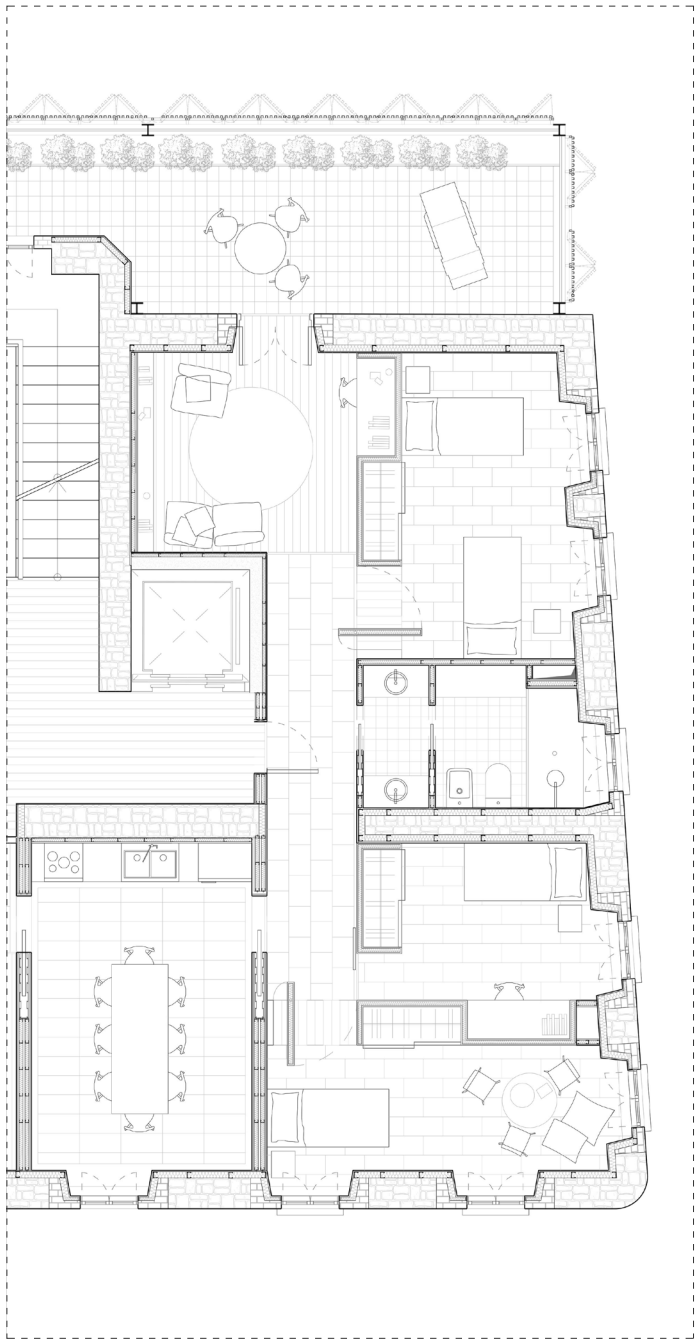
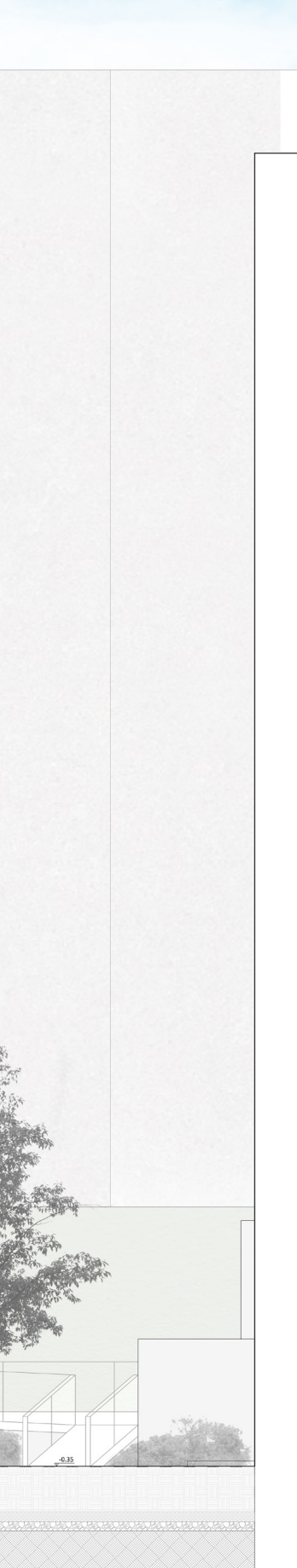
The **third floor** represents the highest level of shared living within the building. It features a “cluster” apartment with five bedrooms, two living areas, a dining area, and two bathrooms. This layout allows residents to live together, sharing every room in the home, with movable elements designed to allow different configurations, providing flexibility that adapts to the changing needs of communal living. The fourth and top floor is an **attic** that again reaches 100% shared use. It is dedicated to a multifunctional collective space where residents can meet and express their creativity. The space includes workshops for ceramics, weaving, painting, woodworking, and various other shared activities.

08

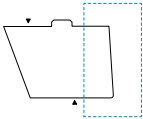
Each floor shares the common outdoor space provided by the new external steel walkway structure, designed to offer an open-air area and encourage interaction among residents.



Section, scale 1:50

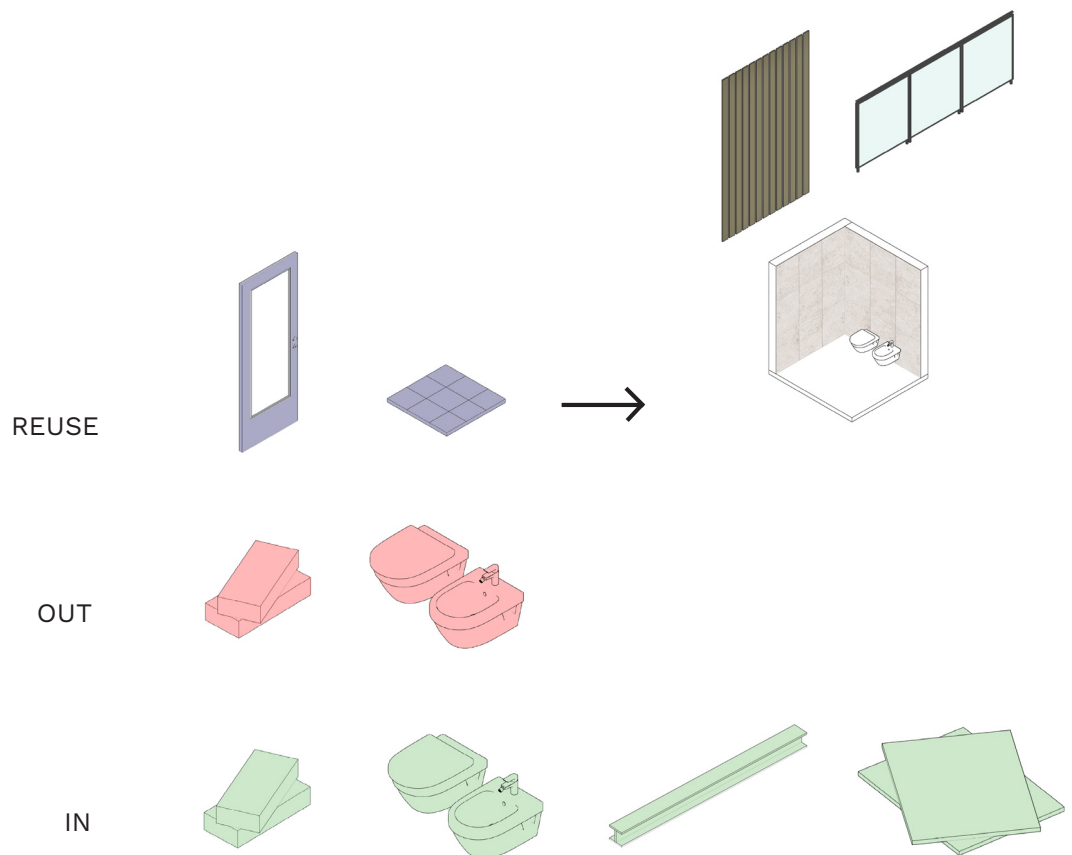


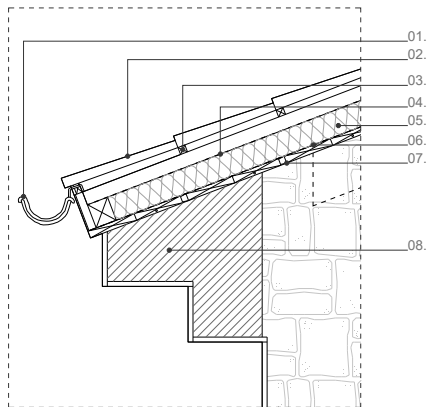
Plan, scale 1:50



MATERIALS FLOW

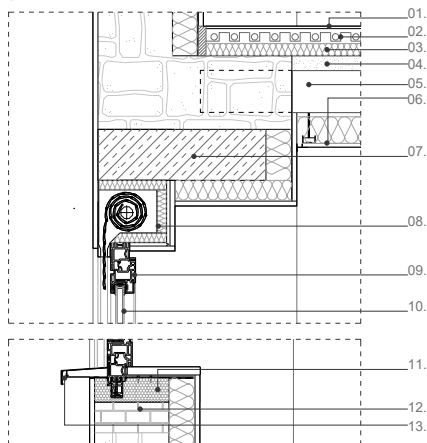
Materiale	Volume (m ³)	% Volume totale	Peso (kg)	% Peso totale	Destinazione
REUSE					
Legno di pino	1,059	1,19%	593,26	0,32%	Brise Soleil
Vetro smerigliato	0,062	0,07%	153,03	0,08%	Balaustra Esterna
Ceramica bianca/panna	1,185	1,33%	1955,25	1,06%	Rivestimento mosaico bagni
OUT					
Mattoni	25	28,04%	45000	24,49%	Demolizione
Cartongesso	8	8,97%	5600	3,05%	Demolizione
Sanitari	0,2	0,22%	400	0,22%	Demolizione
Moquette	14,3386	16,08%	43015,8	23,41%	Demolizione
IN					
Mattoni	20	22,42%	36000	19,58%	Nuove partizioni interne
Cartongesso	10	11,21%	7000	3,81%	Nuove partizioni interne
Sanitari	0,3	0,34%	600	0,33%	Nuovi impianti
Lastre compensato	5	5,61%	3000	1,63%	Arredi
Isolante	3	3,36%	500	0,24%	Isolamento
Acciaio	1	1,12%	7800	4,27%	Struttura ballatoi esterni





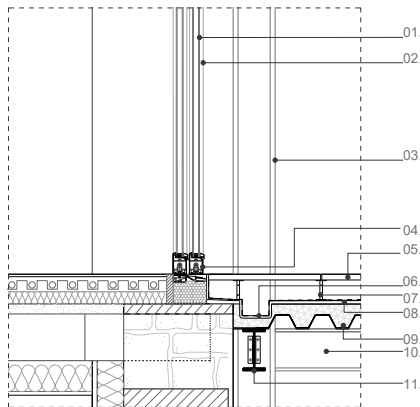
01 Dettaglio della copertura:

1. Strato finale di finitura
2. Coppi da 45 cm
3. Listelli in legno 30 x 30 mm
4. Membrana impermeabilizzante
5. Isolante termico in polistirene estruso da 10 cm
6. Barriera al vapore
7. Tavole in abete rosso 2000 x 300 mm e travi in abete rosso 150 x 200 mm
8. Modanatura di cornice esistente



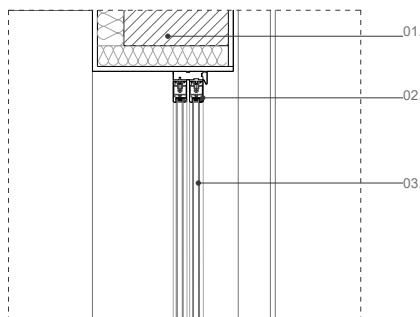
04 Dettaglio incontro serramento con paramento verticale:

1. Piastrella ceramica da 20 mm con strato di livellamento
2. Pannello per riscaldamento a pavimento marca Terra Radiant con rivestimento in malta
3. Isolante ad alta densità da 5 cm
4. Calcestruzzo strutturale
5. Volterrane
6. Controsoffitto in cartongesso con isolamento in lana minerale da 10 cm
7. Architrave
8. Cassonetto per avvolgibile con isolante termico integrato
9. Serramento in alluminio con taglio termico
10. Vetro stratificato doppio con camera d'aria
11. Vetro cellulare da 10 cm
12. Muratura in laterizio da 12 cm
13. Davanzale metallico con gocciolatoio



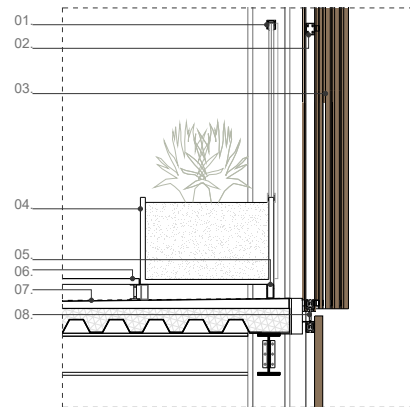
02 Dettaglio porta scorrevole e incontro con terrazza esterna:

1. Vetro stratificato doppio con camera d'aria
2. Porta scorrevole doppia con infisso in alluminio a taglio termico
3. Profilo metallico HEB 180
4. Infisso in alluminio + vetro cellulare da 10 cm
5. Pavimento in legno da 3 cm
6. Gocciolatoio
7. Supporti regolabili (plots)
8. Calcestruzzo a pendenza 1% con guaina impermeabile
9. Vetro cellulare con lamiera metallica
10. Profilo metallico IPE 170
11. Profilo metallico IPE 170



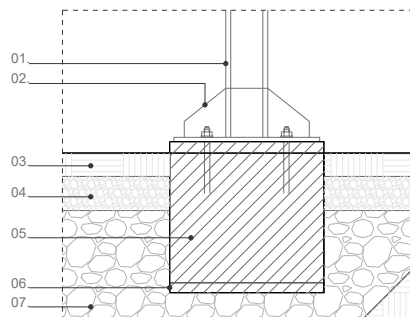
05 Architrave in calcestruzzo:

1. Architrave in calcestruzzo armato
2. Porta scorrevole doppia con serramento in alluminio a taglio termico
3. Vetro stratificato doppio con camera d'aria



03 Dettaglio terrazza con parapetto:

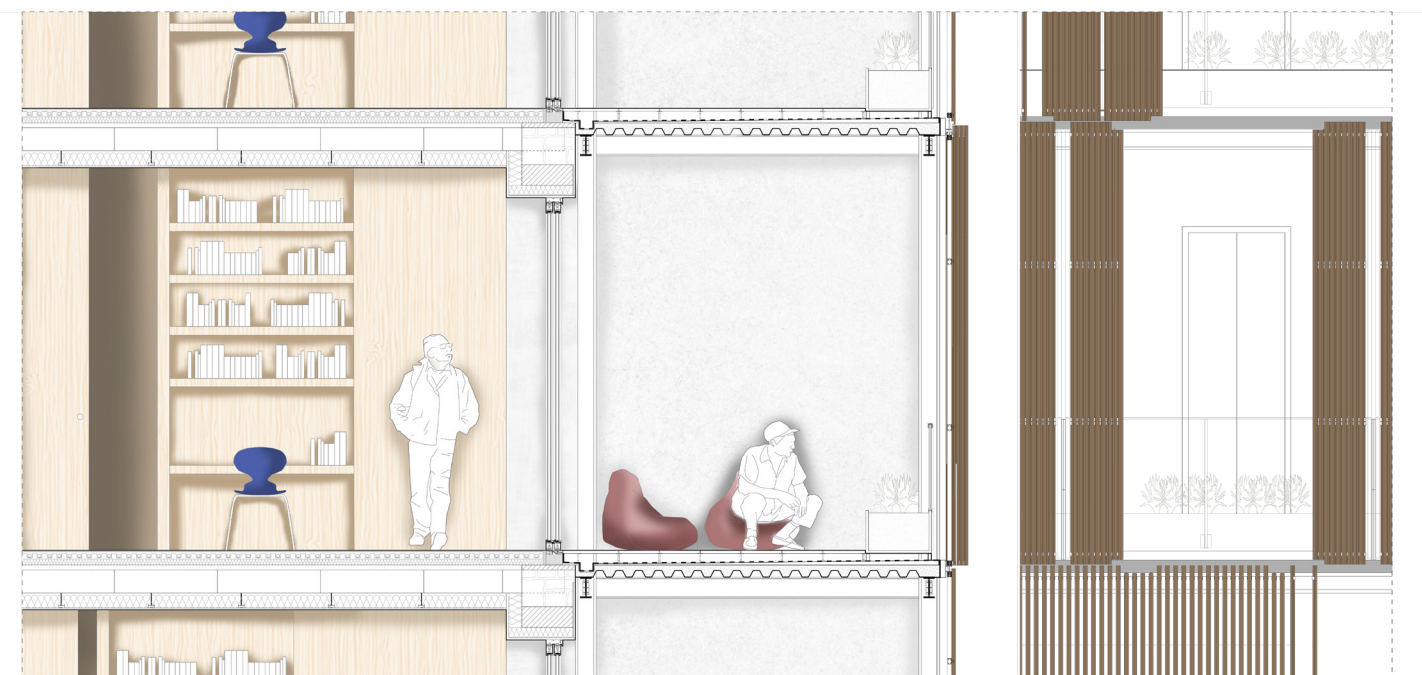
1. Incastro a U per il fissaggio del parapetto superiore
2. Profilo metallico in acciaio zincato verniciato a polvere (nero) per il fissaggio delle lamelle
3. Lamelle in legno di recupero 4 x 4 cm
4. Fioriera in profilo metallico utilizzato come supporto per parapetto in vetro
5. Profilo rettangolare continuo di fissaggio per fioriera
6. Pavimento flottante con finitura in legno
7. Guaina impermeabilizzante su calcestruzzo con pendenza
8. Giunzione dei profili metallici



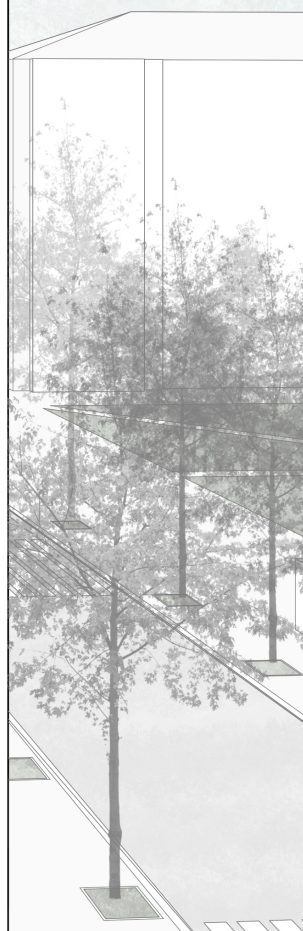
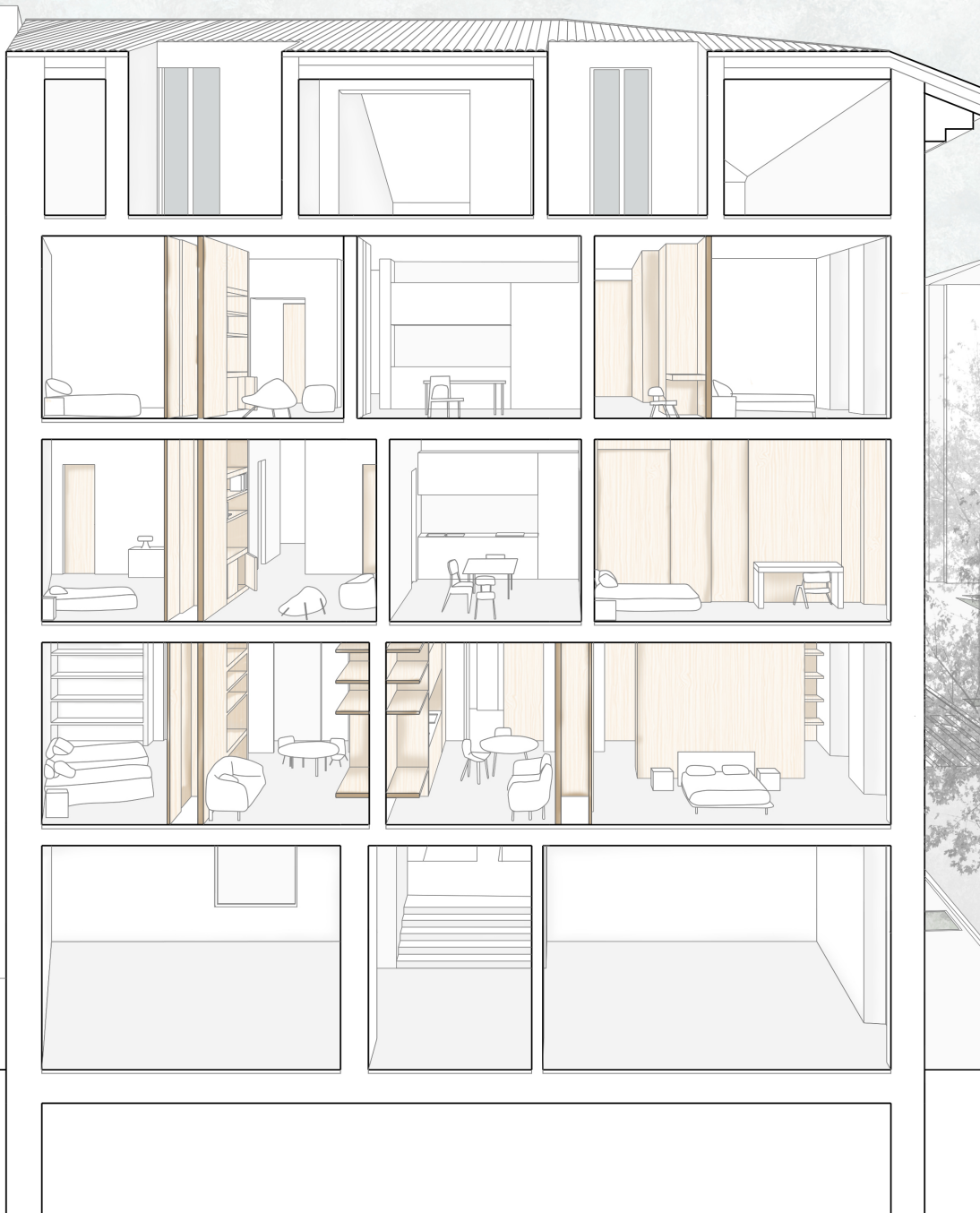
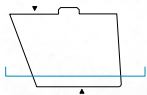
06 Dettaglio fondazione:

1. Profilo HEB 180
2. Irrigidimenti dei profili
3. Terreno naturale
4. Terreno compattato
5. Plinto in calcestruzzo armato
6. Sottofondo in calcestruzzo di pulizia
7. Ghiaia

Construction Details, scale 1:10



Section, scale 1:10



The perspective section highlights the flexibility of the spaces and the role of furniture in shaping the interior architecture, replacing conventional partition walls. Living modules adapt to changing configurations through modular furnishings that organize and define the spatial and functional quality of each environment. The layering of materials, the interplay of solids and voids, and the use of natural light reveal a dynamic architecture designed to evolve over time and respond to different needs.



building typology
block building

number of dwellings
7

number of buildings
1

floor height
3,64 m

total floor area
320 sqm

number of floors
4

private spaces
390 m²

shared spaces
264 m²

collective spaces
218 m²

public spaces
415 m²

access to the building
from the courtyard and direct from the street

building layout
vertical distribution through a central staircase and elevator, and horizontal circulation via corridors on each floor providing access to the individual apartments

spatial solutions of the building
the building features two main entrances: one from the street at ground level, giving access to the shop and workshop; the other from the elevated rear courtyard, leading through shared spaces like the café and relaxation area. this dual access fosters openness and social interaction

dwellings typologies
4 studio apartment, 2 three-bedrooms apartments, 1 five-bedrooms cluster

dwellings area
40; 80; 172 sqm

dwellings layout
the units open onto an open space with a living area, leading to a corridor that gives access to private rooms. kitchen, dining area and bathrooms are shared among multiple units

night / private zone
in shared apartments, private rooms offer individual space while staying connected to common areas. in traditional layouts, the night area is separated, ensuring quiet and privacy

day / shared zone
in shared apartments, common areas foster interaction. in traditional ones, the day area supports daily family life

spatial solutions of dwellings
custom-designed furniture that replace fixed walls, allowing flexible configurations over time. these elements define private or shared zones and integrate functions such as wardrobes, desks and bookshelves

Data: people and spaces



- long- and short-term rentals
- shared and private units
- flexible layouts
- designed for different users
- focus on community spaces

number of users

26

typology of users

refugees and elderly people

integration with non-residential spaces

public spaces include collaborative areas such as workshops and labs for joint work, alongside a shop where residents can sell their products, fostering community engagement and creativity

other information on uses and services

a secondary façade has been added to the building's rear, featuring a structure of open walkways that serve as shared outdoor spaces. these balconies overlook the renovated internal courtyard, transformed into a communal garden

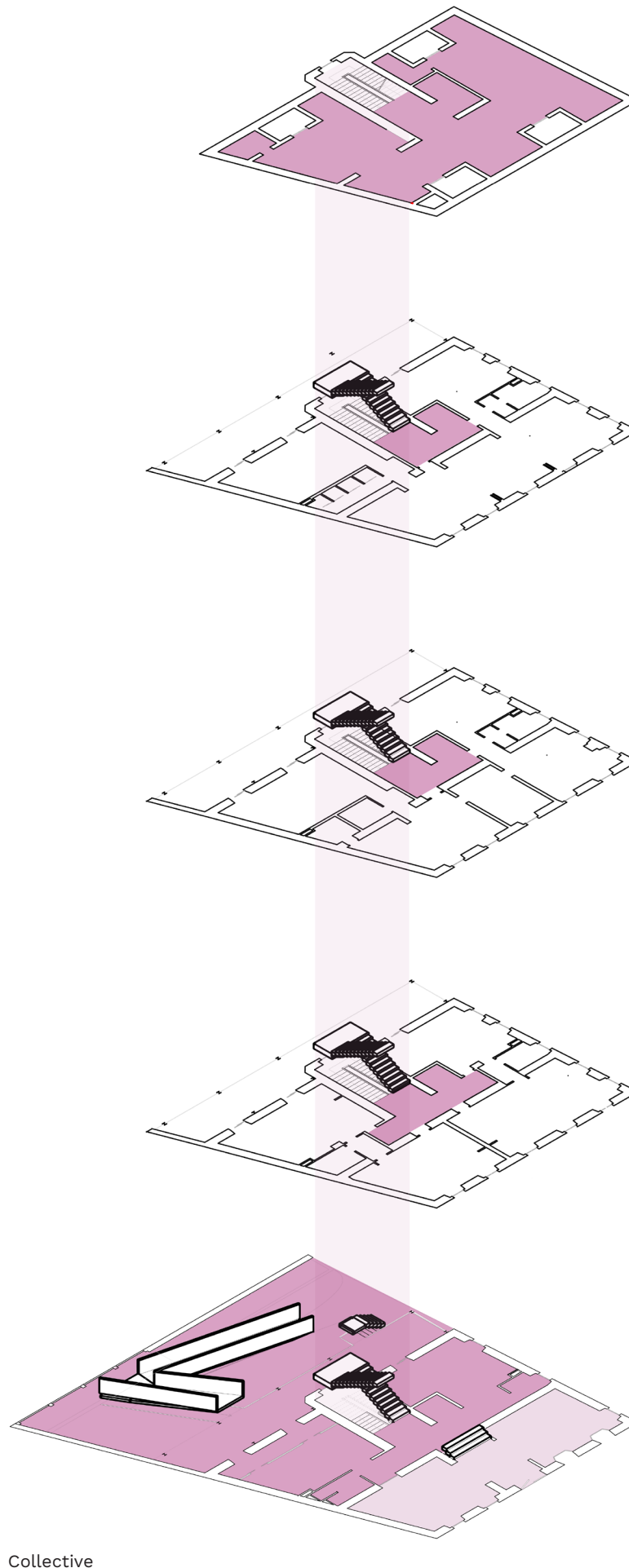
UNCONVENTIONALITY

Challenging traditional housing models by breaking the link between family and dwelling unit. It introduces flexible living arrangements where private and shared spaces blend: kitchens and bathrooms are shared across units, and common areas foster daily interaction. Cohabitation becomes a deliberate architectural strategy, and architecture itself becomes a relational tool—supporting new ways of living together.

AFFORDABILITY

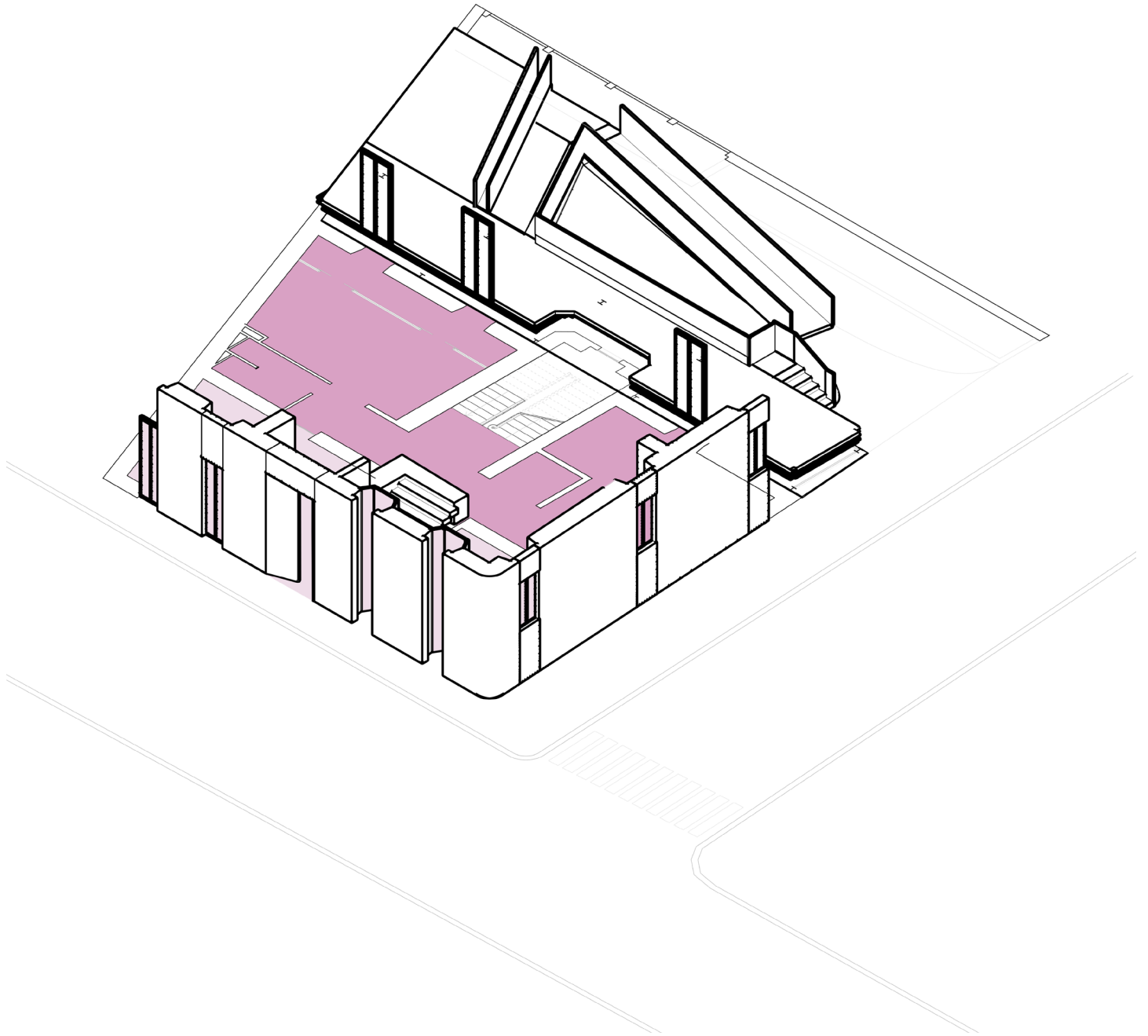
Flexible, shared spaces that reduce the need for large private areas, combined with the use of durable, reclaimed materials that lower costs and environmental impact. The unconventional housing model promotes the sharing of amenities like kitchens and bathrooms, optimizing resources and maintenance. This strategy guarantees sustainability and social inclusion, providing quality housing without compromising comfort and well-being.

2.Unpacking



● Public ● Collective

Systems of Relationships

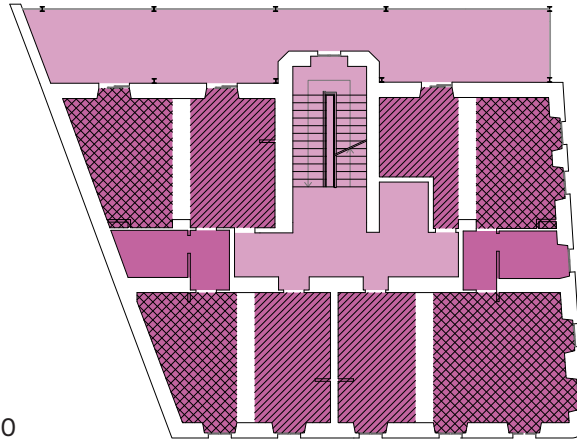


11

The internal distribution of the building is organized around a central vertical core, which ensures access to all floors and acts as a connective element between different functional areas. Horizontal paths—such as corridors and transitional spaces—are designed not merely as passages but as potential zones for interaction and social exchange. This network of connections supports a gradual transition between public, shared, and private spaces, fostering a dynamic and inclusive community within the building.

Levels of Privacy

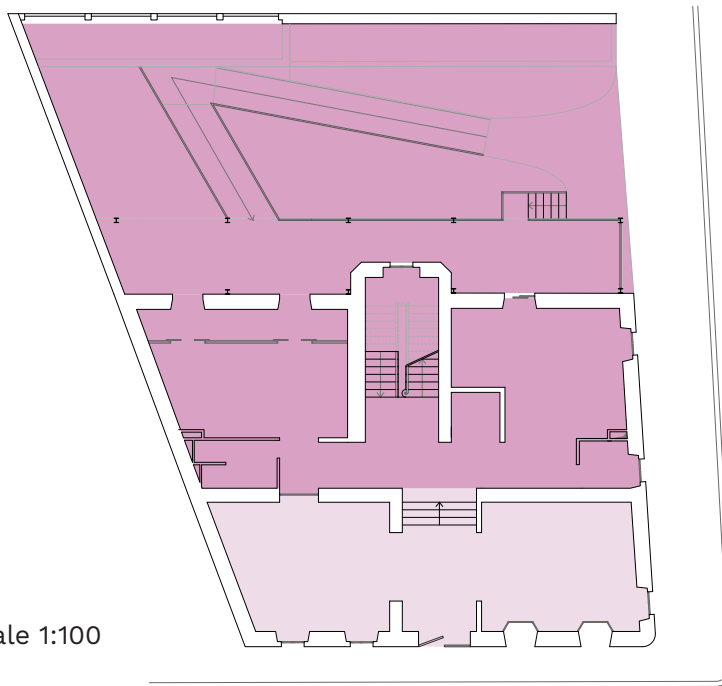
First Floor, scale 1:100



- Private for exclusive use (40%)
- Private for social use (30%)
- Shared (10%)
- Collective (20%)

Private (Studio Ap): 146 mq
 Shared (Toilet): 19 mq
 Collective: 40 mq
 Outdoor space: 47 mq

Groundfloor, scale 1:100



- Collective (80%)
- Public (20%)

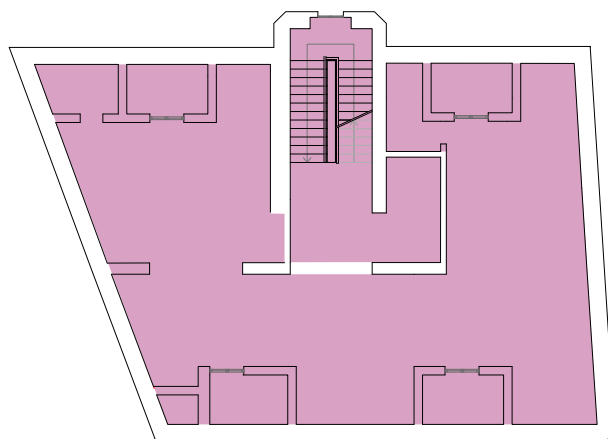
Collective: 127 mq
 Public: 83 mq
 Outdoor space: 232 mq

Functions: Café, Area Relax,
 Workshop, Shop

12

The project organizes spatial functions according to different levels of privacy. Each floor of the building reflects a functional and relational hierarchy among users. **Ground Floor:** mainly collective (80%) and public (20%), it hosts common functions such as a café, relaxation area, and workshop spaces. **First, Second, and Third Floors:** residential areas organized into individual and cluster apartments, with shared spaces (bathrooms and kitchens) and collective outdoor areas. **Attic:** fully collective, dedicated to labs and workshops, encouraging interaction and collaboration. This spatial distribution promotes a balance between private life and community engagement, adapting to the diverse needs of the residents.

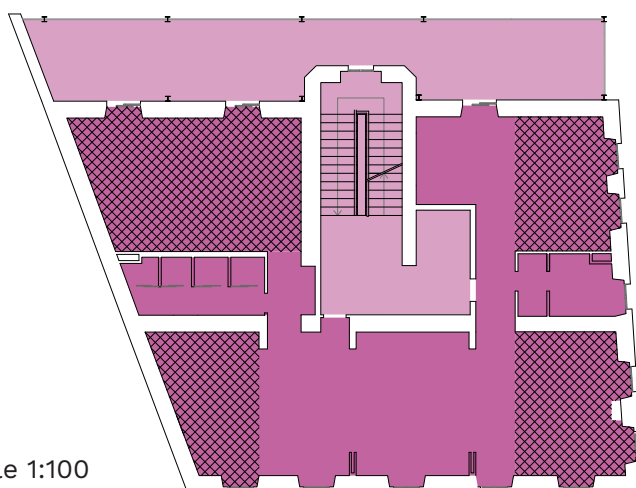
Attic, scale 1:100



● Collective (100%)

Collective: 218 mq
Functions: Labors, Workshop

Third Floor, scale 1:100



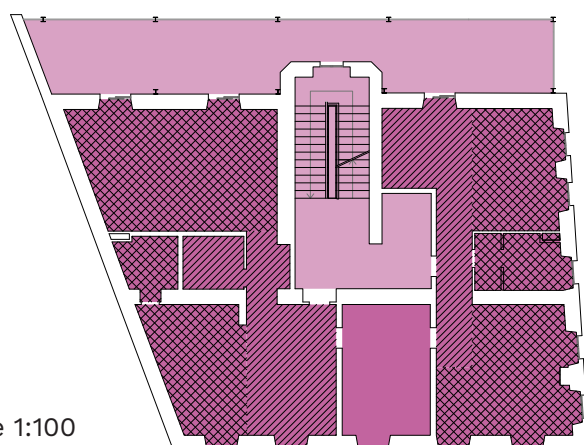
● Private for exclusive use (40%)

● Shared (50%)

● Collective (10%)

Private: 157 mq
Shared (Cluster): 172 mq
Outdoor space: 47 mq

Second Floor, scale 1:100



● Private for exclusive use (50%)

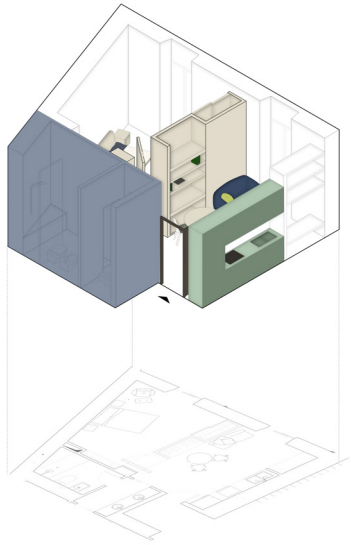
● Private for social use (20%)

● Shared (20%)

● Collective (10%)

Private (3-rooms Ap): 157 mq
Shared (Kitchen): 18 mq
Outdoor space: 47 mq

Ways of Use



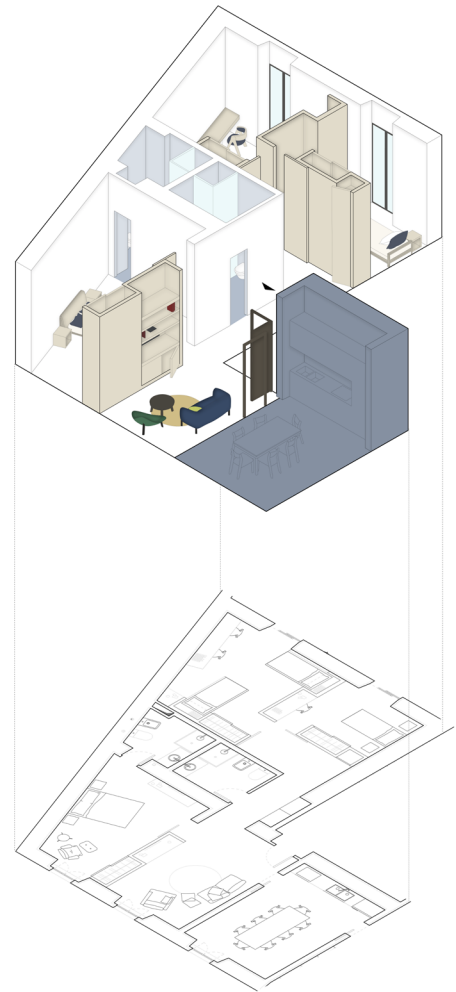
STUDIO APARTMENT

mq 40

users: 1/2

rooms: living room, bedroom

shared: bathroom



3-BEDROOMS APARTMENT

mq 80

users: 5

rooms: living room, 3 bedrooms, 1/2 bathrooms

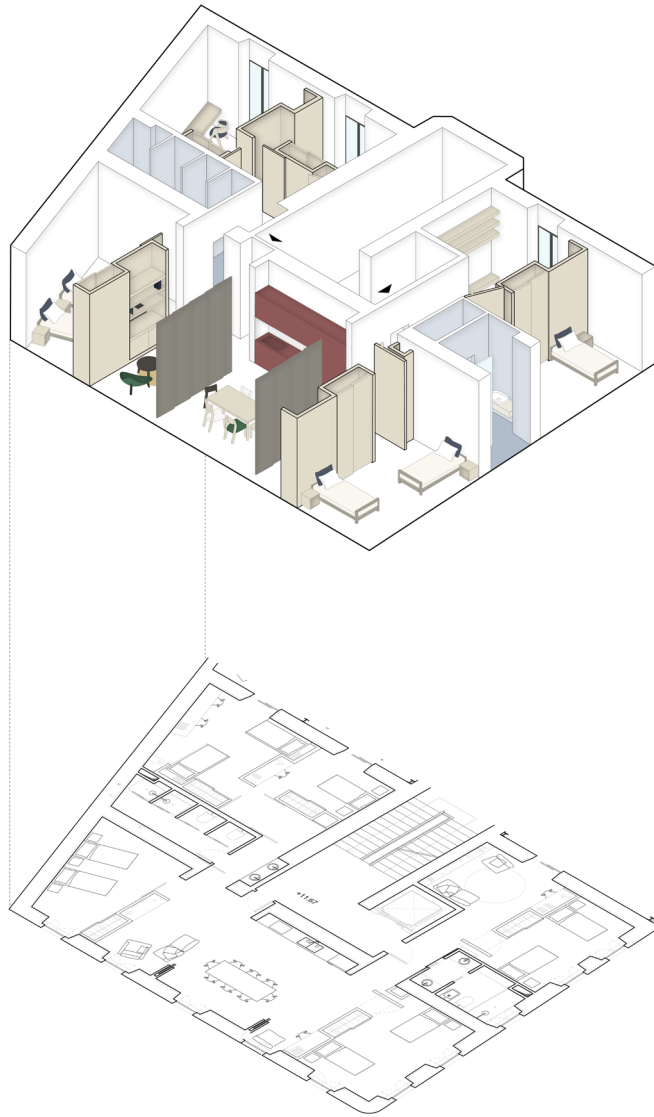
shared: kitchen

13

The project adopts a flexible housing system, articulated through various typologies: from individual units designed to ensure autonomy and privacy, to cluster apartments that encourage closer and more collaborative forms of living. Shared spaces — such as kitchens, bathrooms, and common areas — play a central role in the layout of the building. They are not only efficient in terms of space usage, but also serve as key elements to foster social interaction, exchange, and a sense of belonging among residents. This spatial organization reflects a contemporary vision of collective living, where sharing is not merely a functional necessity but a design strategy that generates relational quality and new forms of community.

14

The furnishings are designed to replace walls, featuring internal insulating panels and offering multiple configurable arrangements. They are based on modular units—such as wardrobes, desks, and bookshelves—that can be combined or rotated freely to adapt the layout of adjoining rooms. Constructed from plywood boards, they prioritize sustainability, durability, and ease of reuse in various forms over time.



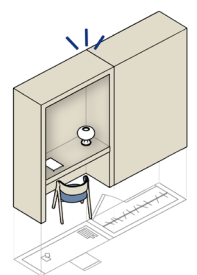
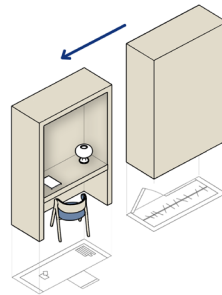
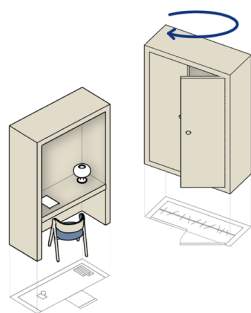
CLUSTER

mq 170

users: 9

rooms: 5 bedrooms

shared: kitchen, living rooms, bathrooms



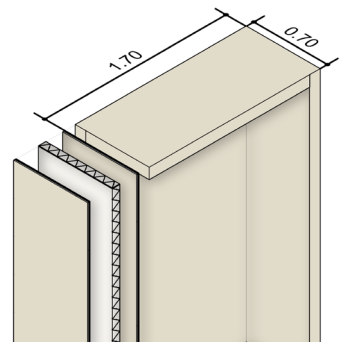
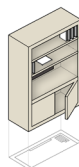
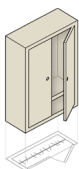
01_DESK

02_WARDROBE

03_BED

04_LIBRARY

05_STORAGE



Shared Unconvention

**revolutionizes living:
shared spaces, fluid
boundaries between
private and collective,
reclaimed materials,
and flexible design.**

**A home that unites,
adapts, and regenerates,
creating communities
based on solidarity and
sustainability.**

UNCONVENTIONAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING

explores the new possibilities of contemporary living at the intersection of affordability and unconventionality, starting from a reflection on existing housing projects, practices and policies.

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