

IMAGINING TOGETHERNESS

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HOW TO LIVE TOGETHER AGAIN

*- In search of a collective form through
an investigation in the border between
public and private space*

MASTER THESIS PROJECT BY SARA FÖRBOM

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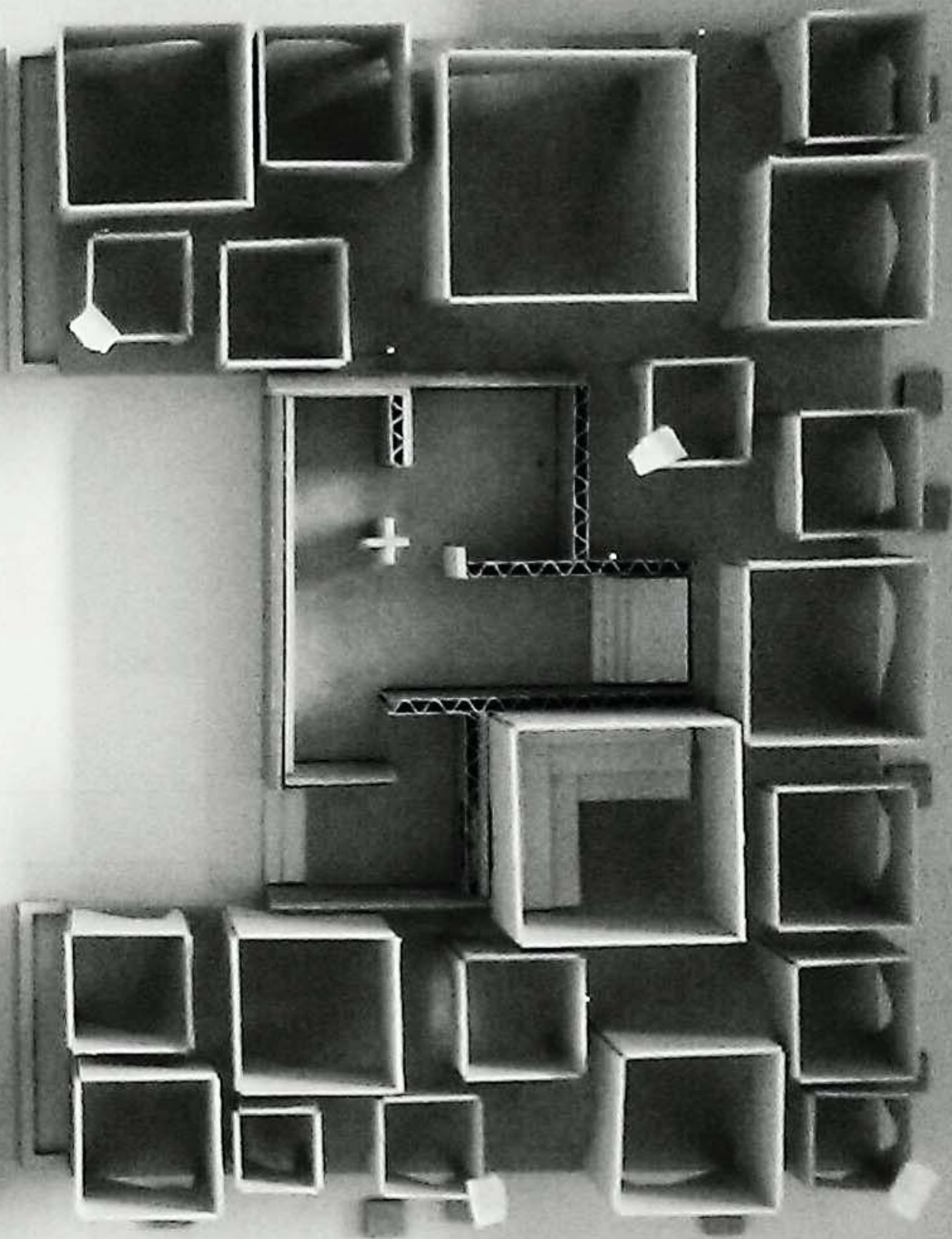
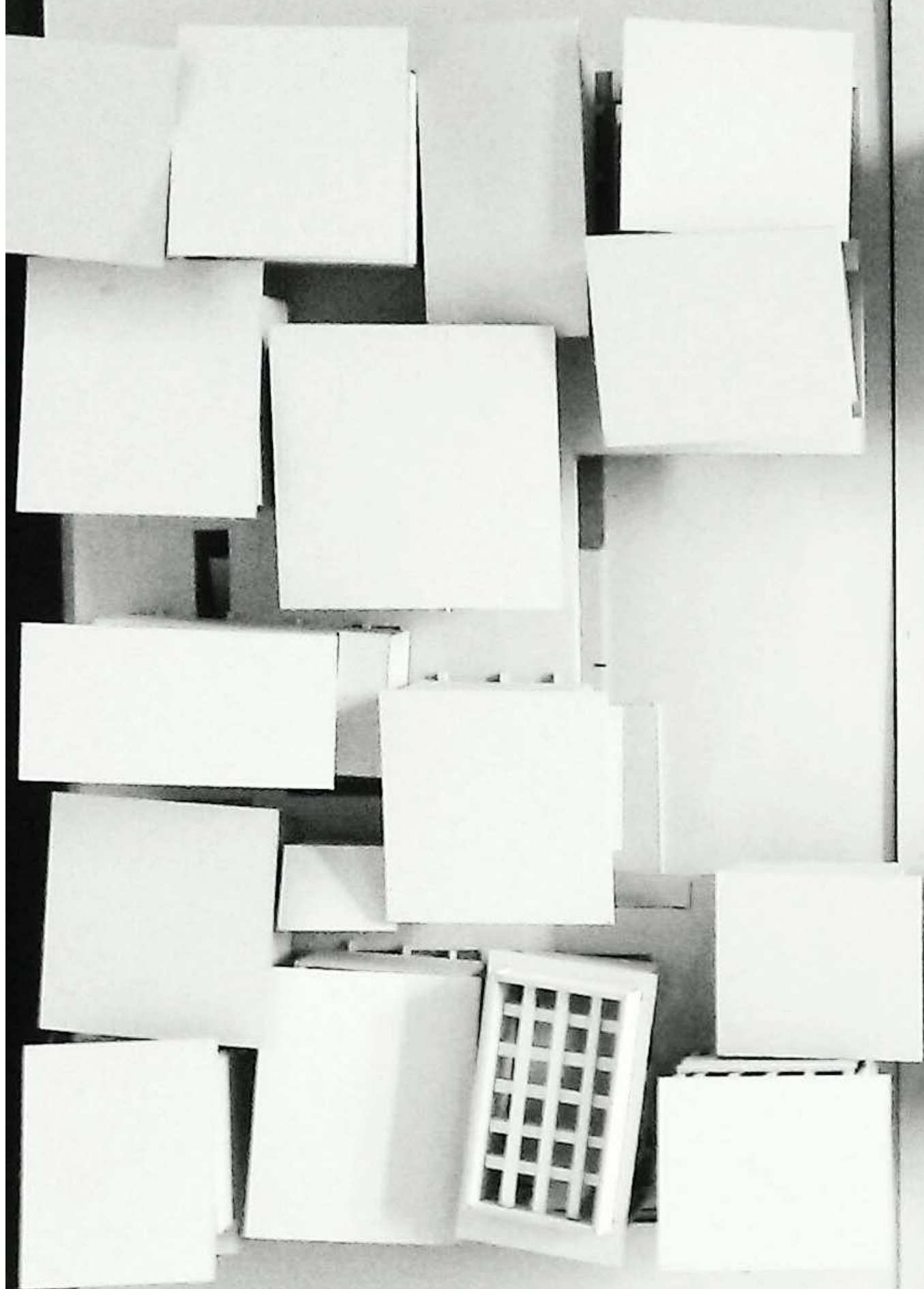
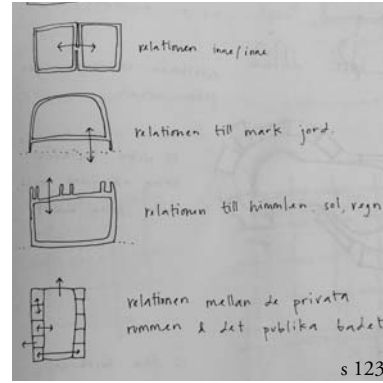
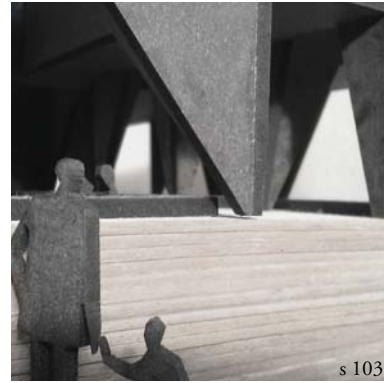
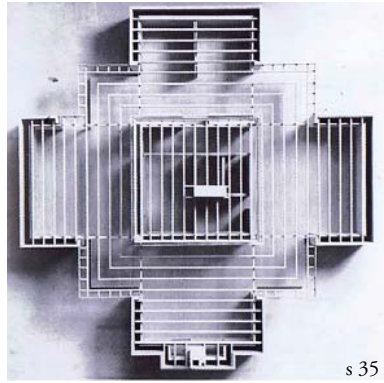
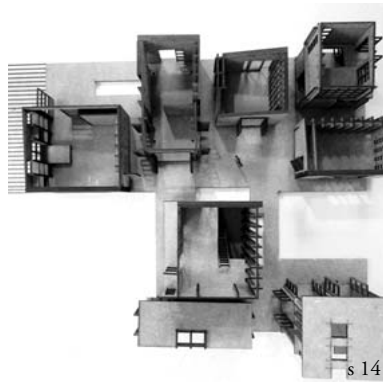
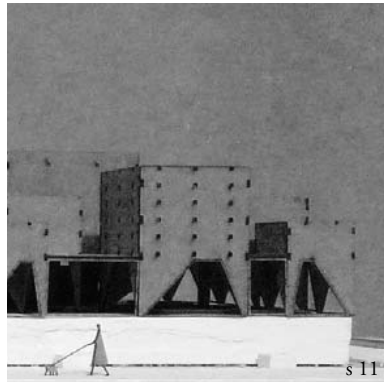
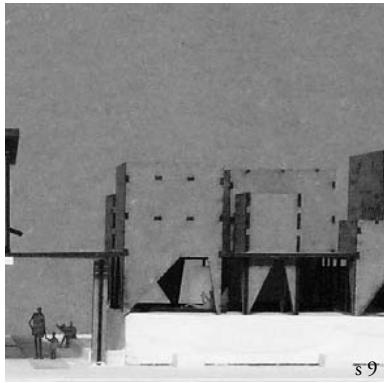
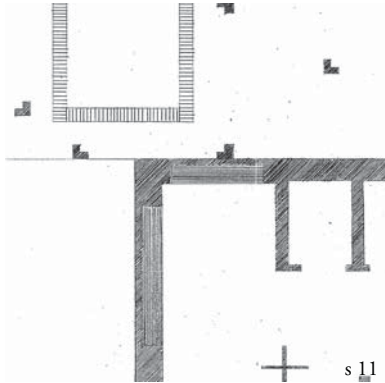
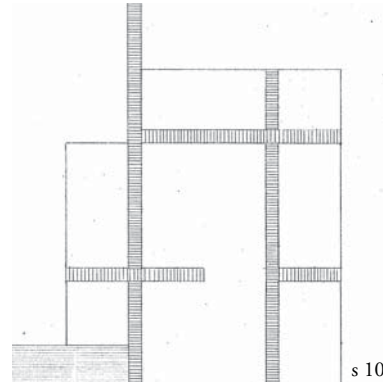
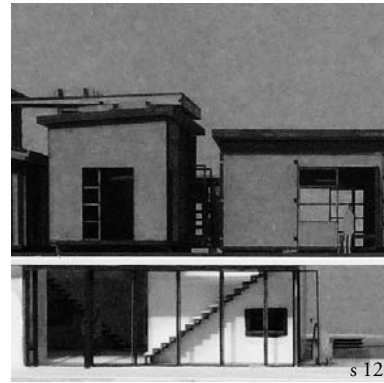
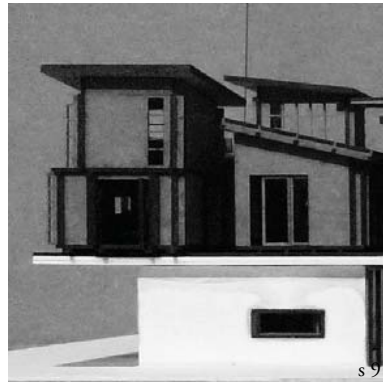
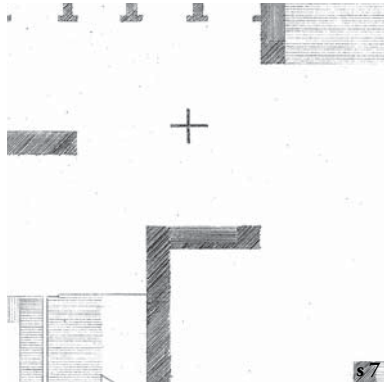


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INTRODUCTION

The project is an explorative investigation of architectural space and the borders surrounding our lives. It is a search for a new relation between human, humans and nature through a new collective architectural space.

More specifically, the project explores what it can mean to dwell in today's society. In order to dwell, I sense that it is necessary to create a new connection and awareness between people and between people and nature. Architecture has the capacity to connect and isolate. Rather than assuming a dwelling as a functional program the project investigates the possible architectural/spatial conditions for it, an architecture where dwelling can occur.

This idea of dwelling can be linked to the notion of a new collective. I search for a particular collective architectural space to make it possible for a social construct of collectivity to occur that can overcome a mere image. A collective architecture is one that goes beyond the singular object, as stated by Fumihiko Maki. Through the discovery of new spatial relationships within a structure that challenge our perception of what is public and private, new ways of living together can emerge.

The collective architecture is to contain dwellings and a bath. The bath, usually looked upon as a private issue, will here be shared and a public, social space. As such, it can further charge the public/private living condition with questions of exposure and the human body.

Topics that are to be discussed are the relations of public and private space, loose borders, fields, in-between or interstitial space, collectivity and to dwell.



“In an age in which people are communicating through various medias in non-physical spaces, it is the architects responsibility to make actual physical spaces for people to meet in real life.”

- Kazuyo Sejima, Venice Biennale 2010

PROJECT PHASE #3

- to inhabit the structure





SILVERKÄLLEGATAN

STRANDRIDDAREGATAN

KJELLESTADSGATAN

THE FINAL STRUCTURE

- SITUATION PLAN 1:250



THE FINAL STRUCTURE

The project is a “public home”, a structure that shares its spaces with the surrounding community.

It is a structure with a very thick, yet porous border between the community and the individual and between public and private spaces. The structure consists of five different field conditions divided into three spatial constructions; programmed with a housing project, a public bath and a garden.

The spatial constructions are held together by a continuous roof and all of them contains spaces where to dwell.

The structure is visualized in three different plan drawings; a common ground, a connecting garden and a shared plateau.

The construction for the bath has three spatial layers.

The base; a layer creating the field of water and the connection to the surrounding streets and the public exterior space. This layer has the highest degree of connection.

The pillars; a layer creating an internal spatial variation and a support for the light containers on top.

Seen from the level of the water the pillars appear slim and the whole space is connected, but when seen standing on top of the base the pillars widen and divide the space.

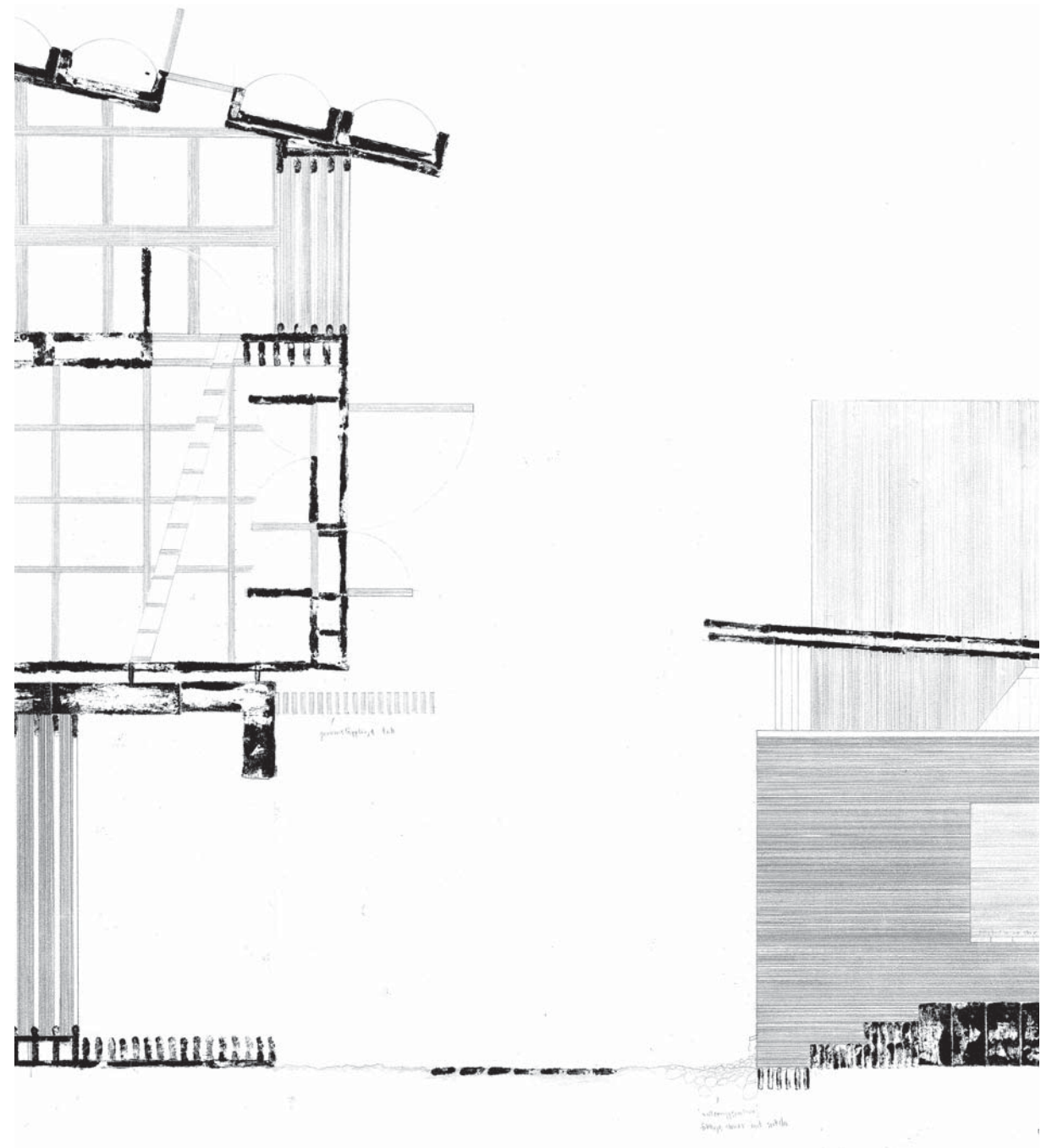
The light containers; a layer establishing a relation between the sky and the base, between light and water.

The construction for the housing has two spatial layers.

A common ground: a layer with an open interior space acting as a public floor. Here you dwell in collectivity with shared functions such as kitchen and toilets.

This is also an entrance space from where you reach your own personal spaces through the stairs.

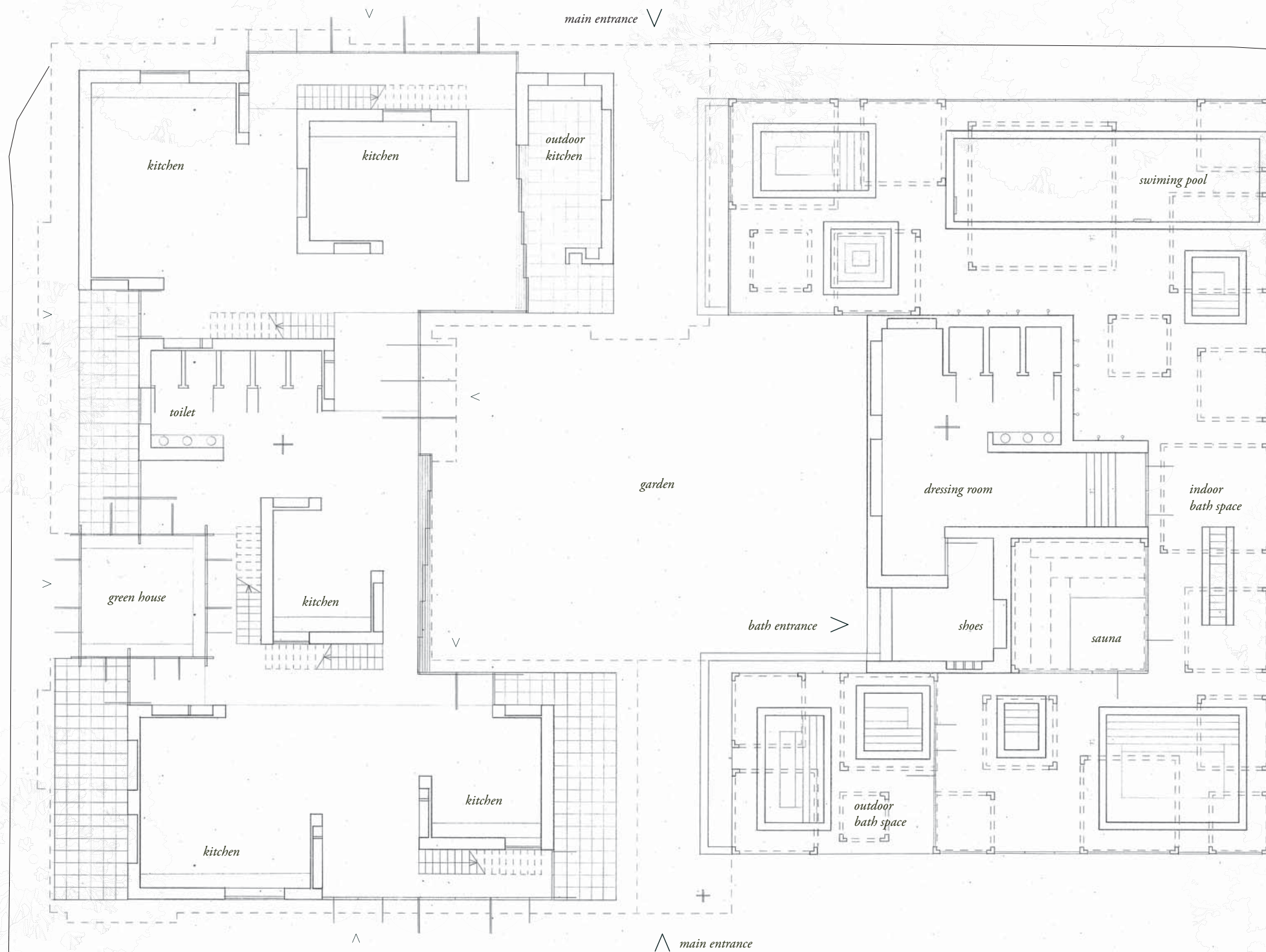
A sky of your own: a layer establishing a second ground, acting as a connecting exterior space where the private housing spaces are situated. To reach your own personal space you have to pass through a sequence of common spaces that vary in their relation to nature.



KJELLESTADSGATAN

SILVERKÄLLEGATAN

STRANDRIDDAREGATAN



A COMMON GROUND

- GROUND FLOOR PLAN 1:200



SILVERKÄLLEGATAN

KJELLESTADSGATAN

STRANDRIDDAREGATAN

personal living space
(unfinished)

light containers

wooden roof

garden

personal living space

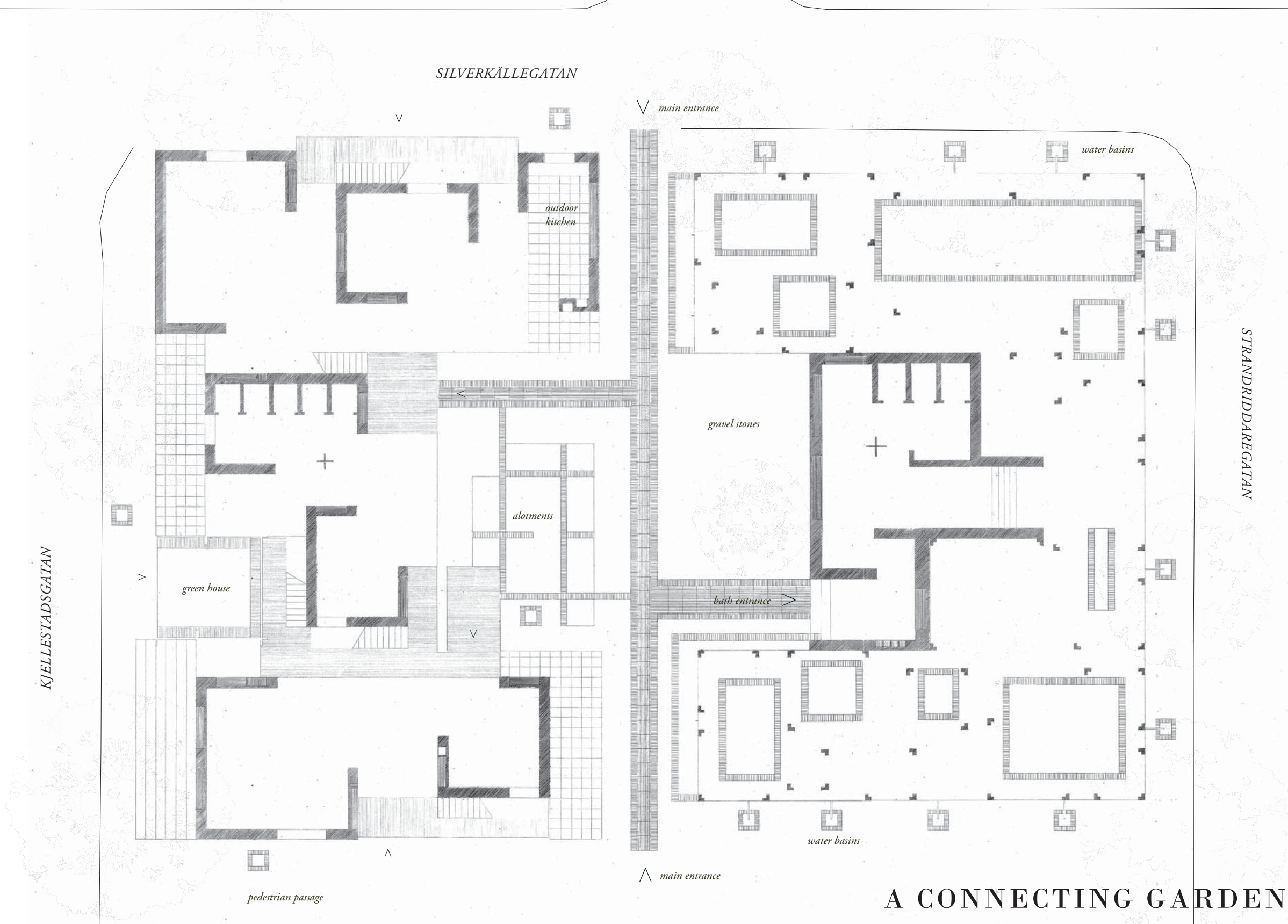
wooden
platform

light
containers

A SHARED PLATEAU

- TOP FLOOR PLAN 1:200





SILVERKÄLLEGATAN

KJELLESTADSGATAN

STRANDRIDDAREGATAN

main entrance

water basins

outdoor kitchen

gravel stones

alotments

green house

bath entrance

water basins

main entrance

pedestrian passage

A CONNECTING GARDEN

- OUTDOOR SPACES 1:200



A common ground

The first layer is a common ground where water, fire and earth is present. This is a public floor, an open space with an ambiguous border between interior and exterior. A border that filters the surrounding streets with the garden and the open space of the bath. In the housing structure the common ground goes from being an interior downstairs to an exterior upstairs and from being an open space between robust walls to a dense space between more fragile walls. In the bath structure the common ground is a very thick base with a clear border to the surroundings. But as soon as you step into the base and climb onto its surface you are in a continuous space of light and water.

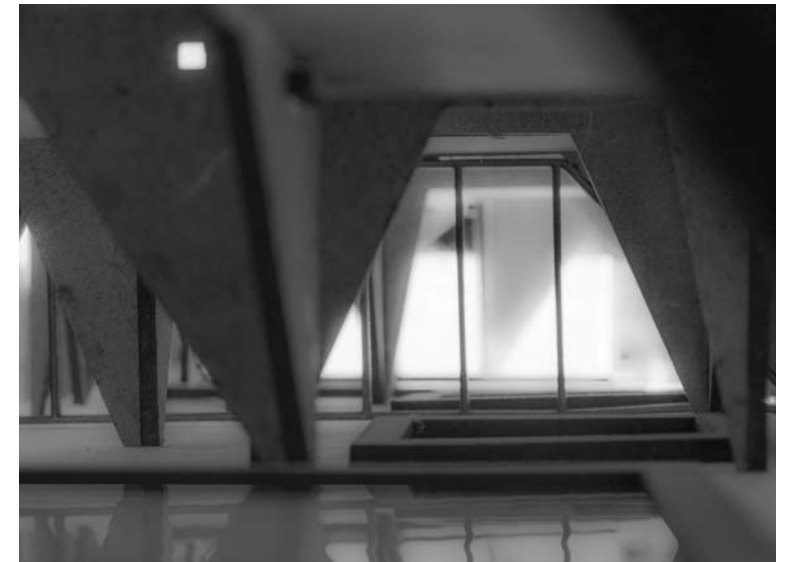
A shared plateau

Between the ground and the sky is a platform established, acting as a continuous roof connecting the housing structure with the bath and framing the garden. The plateau becomes a second ground, a space for movement within the housing structure. It's perforated with five stairs and a greenhouse that creates linkage to the common ground. In the bath structure the plateau is acting solely as a roof. It separates the ground from the sky and it's perforated by the light containers. The shared plateau defines a clear relationship between ground and sky, between light and darkness.

A connecting garden

The garden is an exterior space acting as the link between the two built structures. The garden is also a space where public and private life meets and thus this space mediates between the two conditions; public and private, city and home. The garden is where you enter to visit the bath coming from outside, and it's also a place where you as a resident grow your own vegetables, spend time together with others and where you can see the seasons passing by in the ever changing colors of the trees.





PERSONAL DWELLING SPACES

The housing structure also consists of personal spaces; 15 wooden constructions on top of the shared plateau. In these personal spaces the sky is present and this is where you dwell on your own above the common ground.

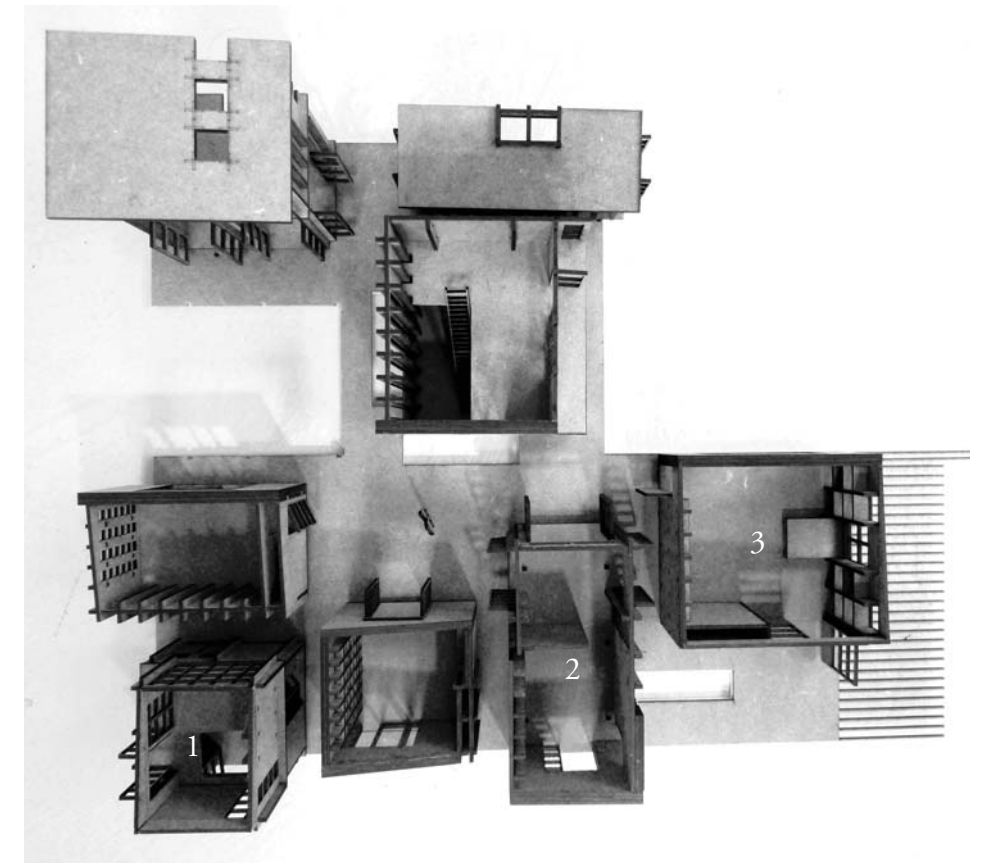
The structures have uniformity in scale and material but they can vary in openness both towards each other and towards the sky.

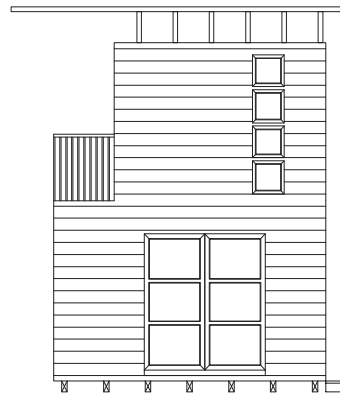
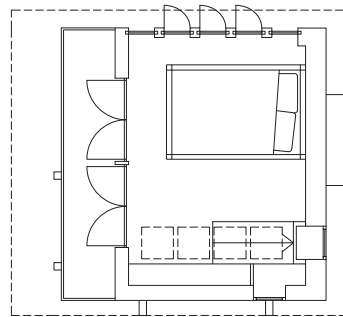
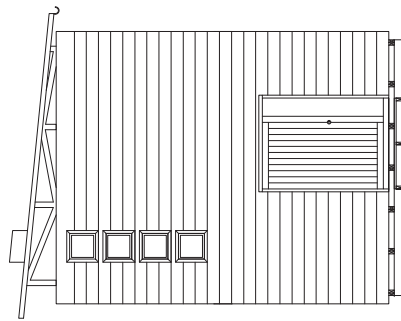
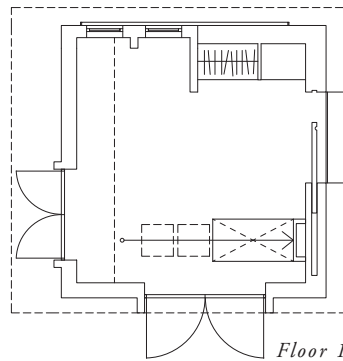
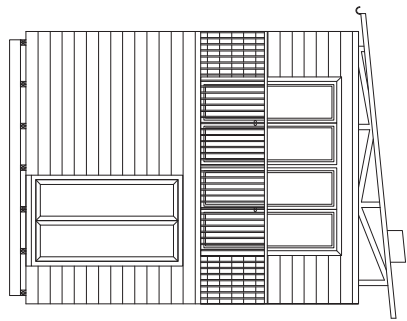
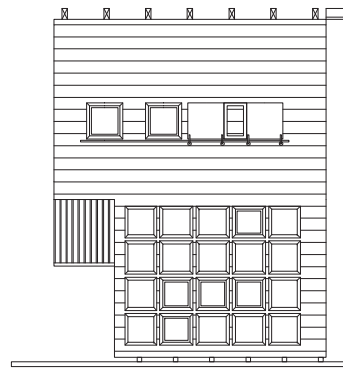
The structures create a dense place on top of the plateau but all the personal spaces get direct light both from the ceiling and from at least one façade.

To reach your own personal space you first have to climb one of the stairs before entering the exterior space of the shared plateau. When walking around on this plateau you will both find open gathering spots and narrow alley-like spaces between the wooden constructions.

This plateau offers both a free movement and enclosed destinations where you as a dweller enjoy spaces on your own.

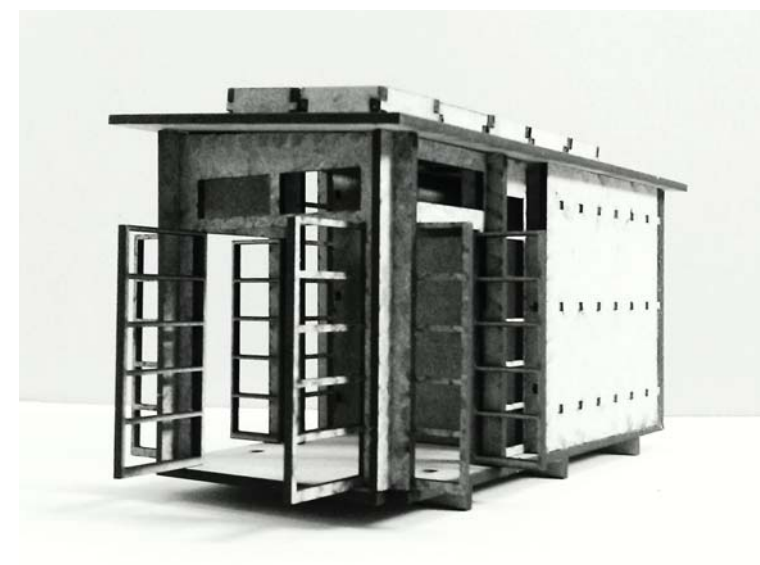
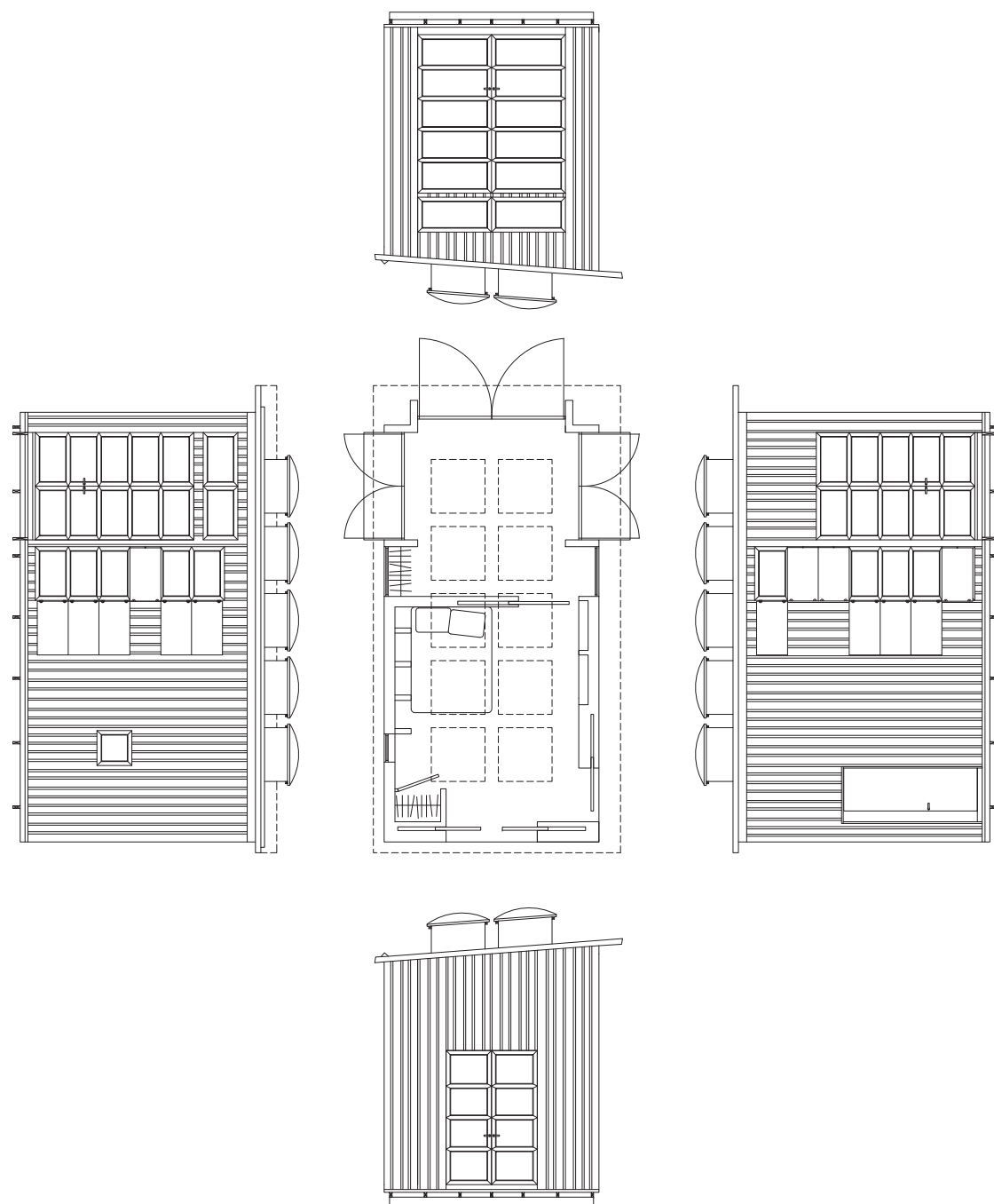
The model picture to the right shows half of the personal spaces standing on top of the shared plateau. The ones with numbers will be shown in detail on the following pages.





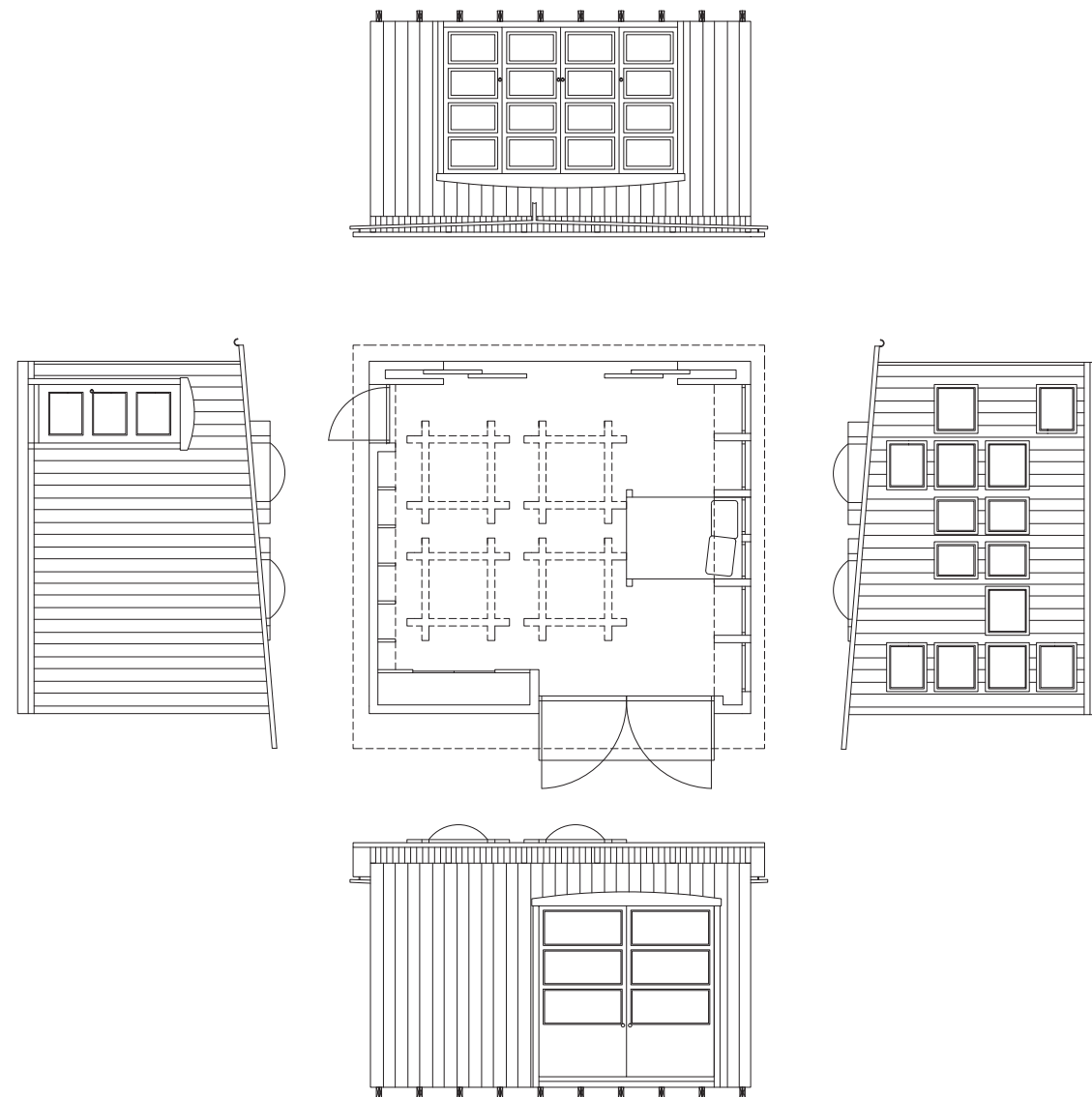
HOUSE #1

- PLAN & FACADES 1:125



HOUSE #2

- PLAN & FACADES 1:125



HOUSE #3

- PLAN & FACADES 1:125

REFLECTION

I have explored and imagined an architecture for a new collective. For a new future, socially and spatially. And through this project I have created an architectural space that holds the potential for a social collective to occur. It is not a finished architecture, but an attempt, and a proposal for a building in the context of a city.

Through this project I have found and developed my own approach towards the creation of an architectural space and I have also had the chance to develop my tools to try different ways to represent space. Writing has taken a great part of my process and I am very glad for that. I believe that words can sharpen our creative thinking and together with drawings and visualizations shape a strong idea of architectural practice.

Looking back at the project I see one crucial point that should have been pushed further. That is the stair.

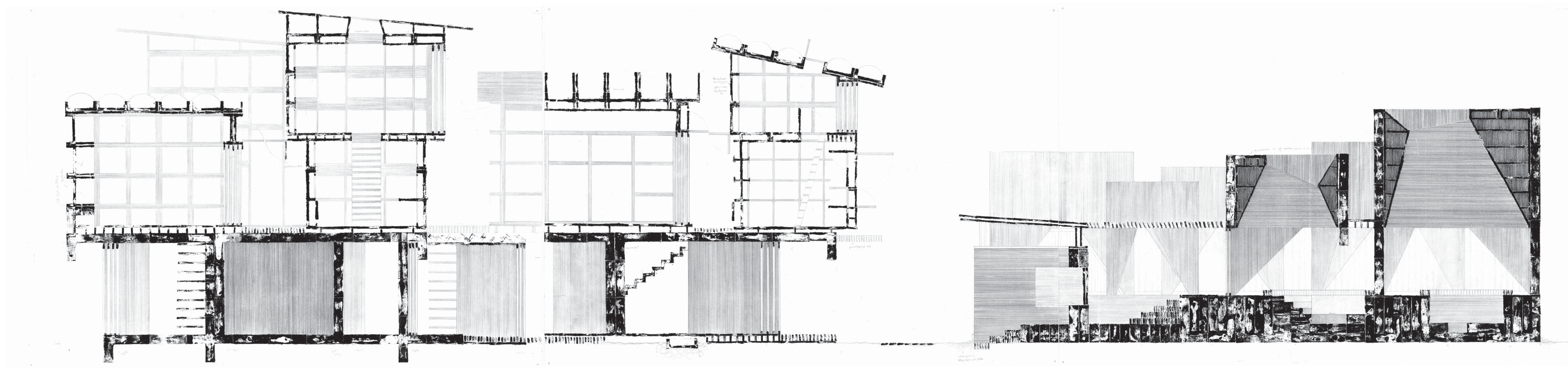
As for now the housing structure does not have the same spatial clarity as the bath structure, due to the relationship between the personal spaces, the shared plateau and the stairs. The section of the housing construction creates movement through too many spatial layers and I think it would have become a much clearer spatial structure if the thickness of the slab had been acting as a division and a transit space between individual and collective spaces. Then the stair could then have been the element of both connection and isolation.

Throughout the project I have worked on the idea of architecture as a spatial field. A field where linkage, interstitial space and connection has been guiding my decisions towards the proposal for a construction I would like to call a collective form.

Form, being the opposite of object, is a spatial idea where the space in between is as important as the space within.

The project leaves me with the notion that everything around is spatially connected in one way or another, and it is my responsibility as an architect to deal with how this connection will take place in our common world.





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