

Diellëza Tahiri

A SLOW CITY:

RETHINKING FERIZAJ'S INFRASTRUCTURES,
LANDSCAPES & URBANISM

A Slow City
Rethinking Ferizaj's Infrastructures, Landscapes & Urbanism
Master Thesis
Research by design

Author:
Diellëza Tahiri

Academic Supervisor:
prof. **Matteo Motti**

A.A. 2021/2022
Sustainable Architecture and Landscape Design
Politecnico di Milano
Piacenza



POLITECNICO
MILANO 1863

CONTENT

INTRODUCTION

A land of palimpsest
A rail that made a city
What stays? What goes?

RESEARCH

Transformation as permanency
Methodology Model
Infrastructure
Buildings
Economy
Landscape
Water

SYNOPSIS, CONCEPT & STRATEGY

Mobility System
Building System
Green System

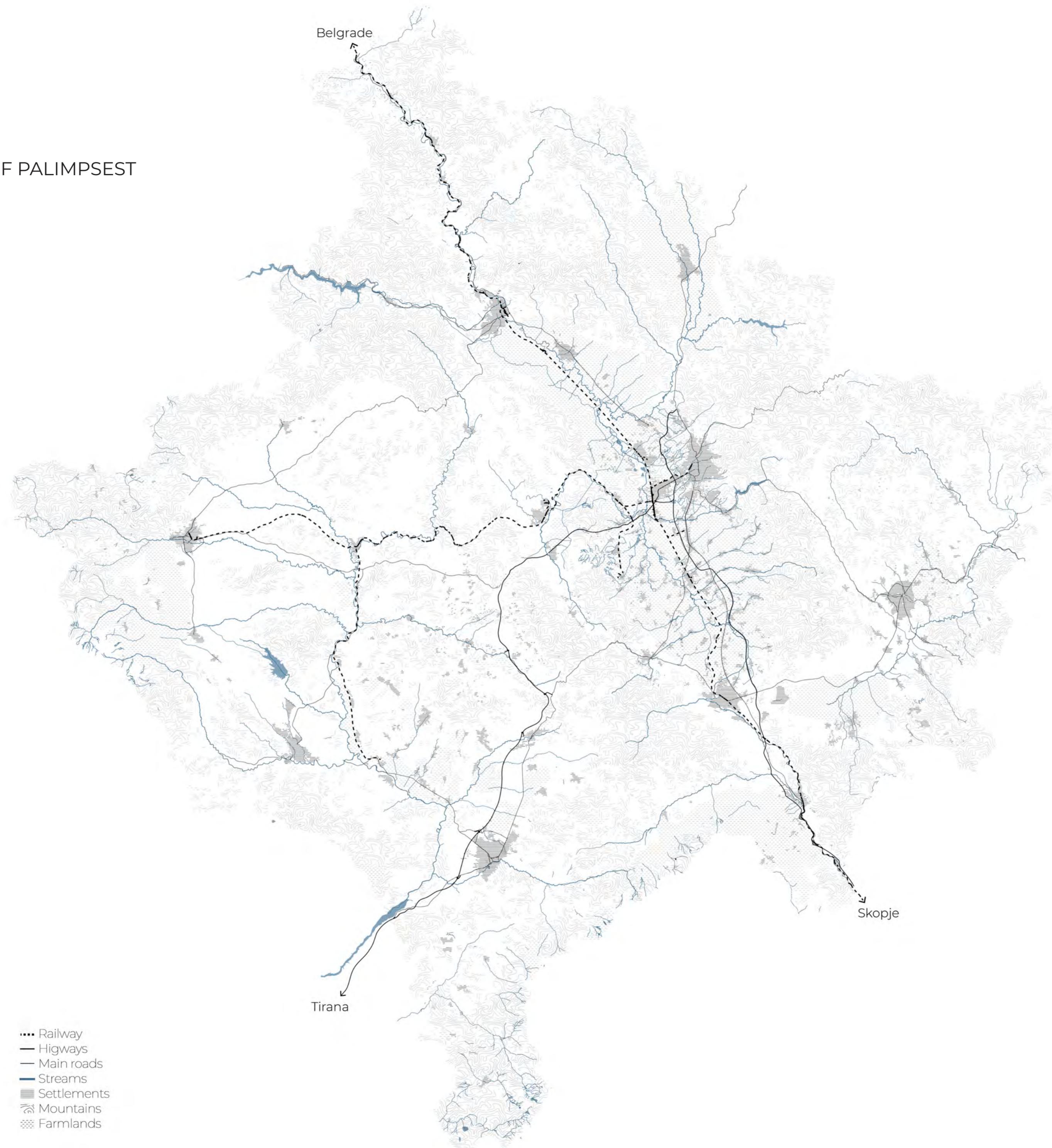
ZOOM-IN DESIGN

City Centre
Green-edge
Agri-edge

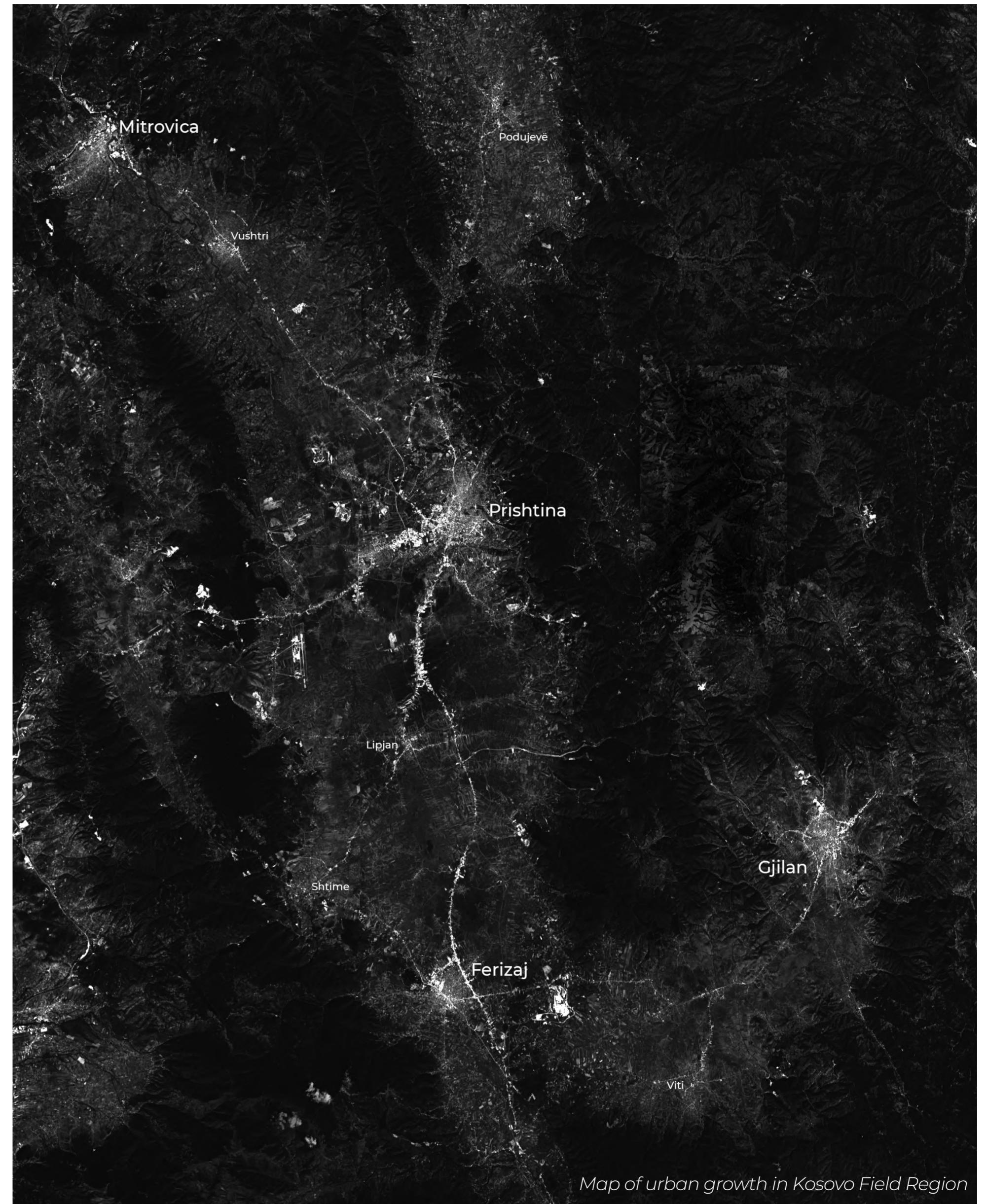
CONCLUSION

KOSOVO
10,887 km²
1.873 million

A LAND OF PALIMPSEST



KOSOVO
10,887 km²
1.873 million

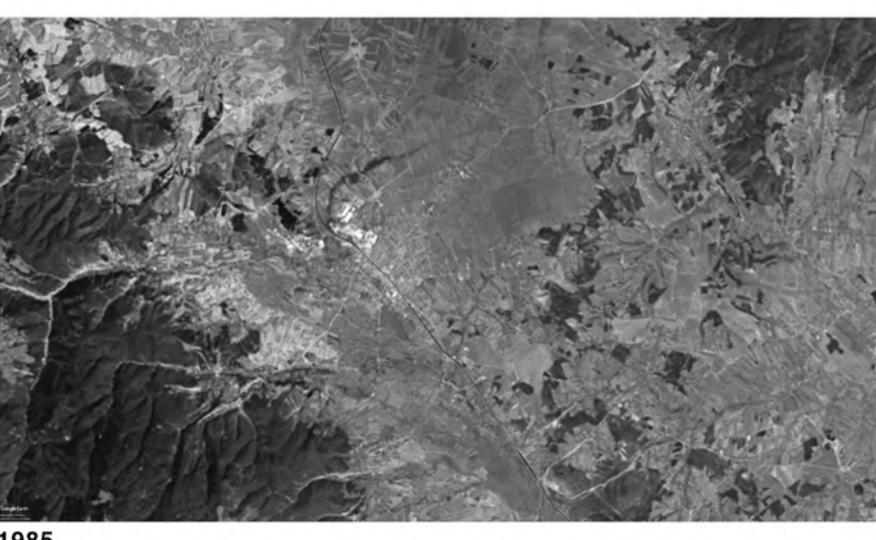
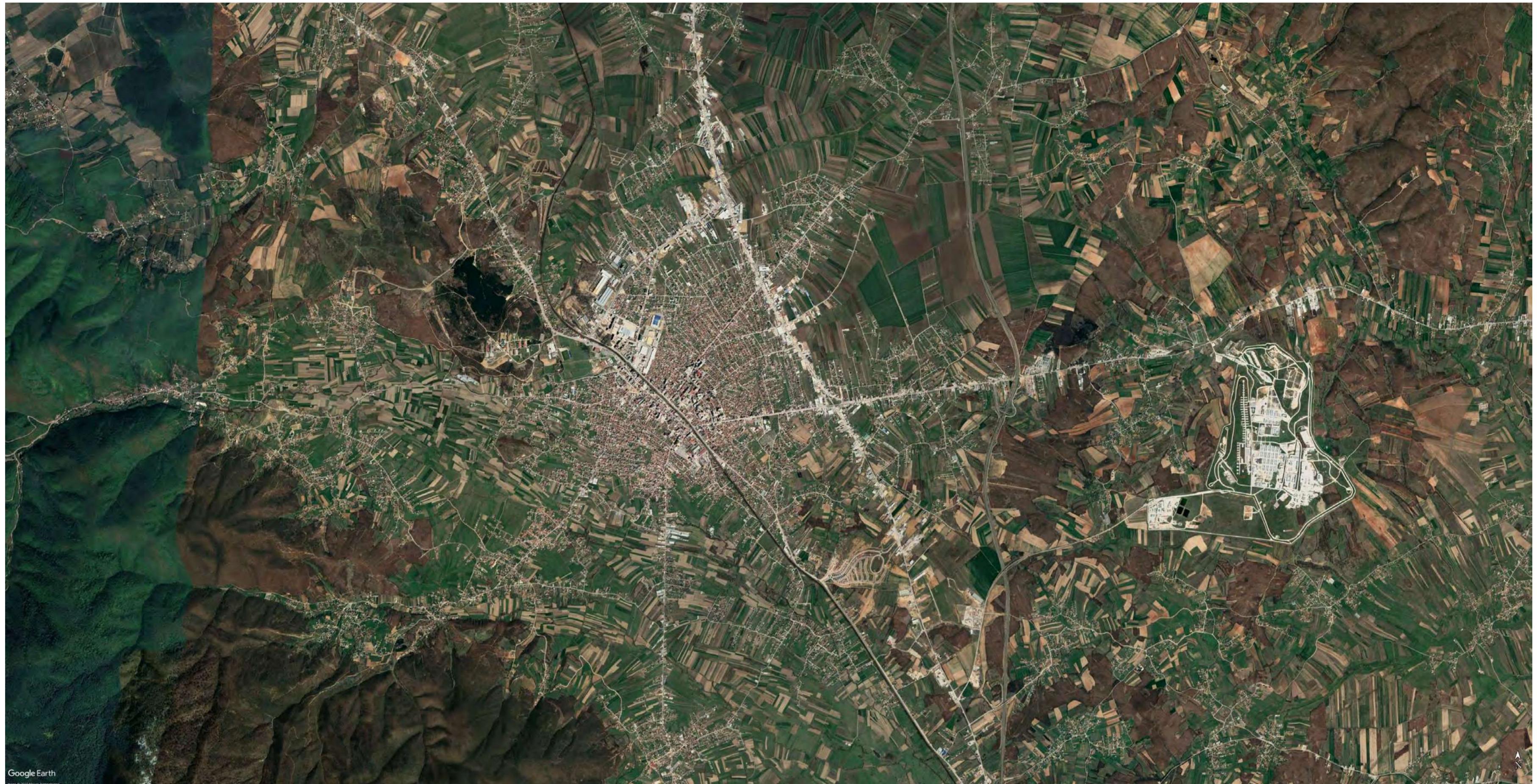




Map with a photo of Ferizaj Railway, 1903
Photo credits: ©Franz Baron Nopcsa

A rare case how a city was established on the basis of the construction of the railways. The development of the city had been on both sides of the railway, and the railway has played and plays a vital role in the lives of the citizens of Ferizaj.

WHAT STAYS? WHAT GOES?

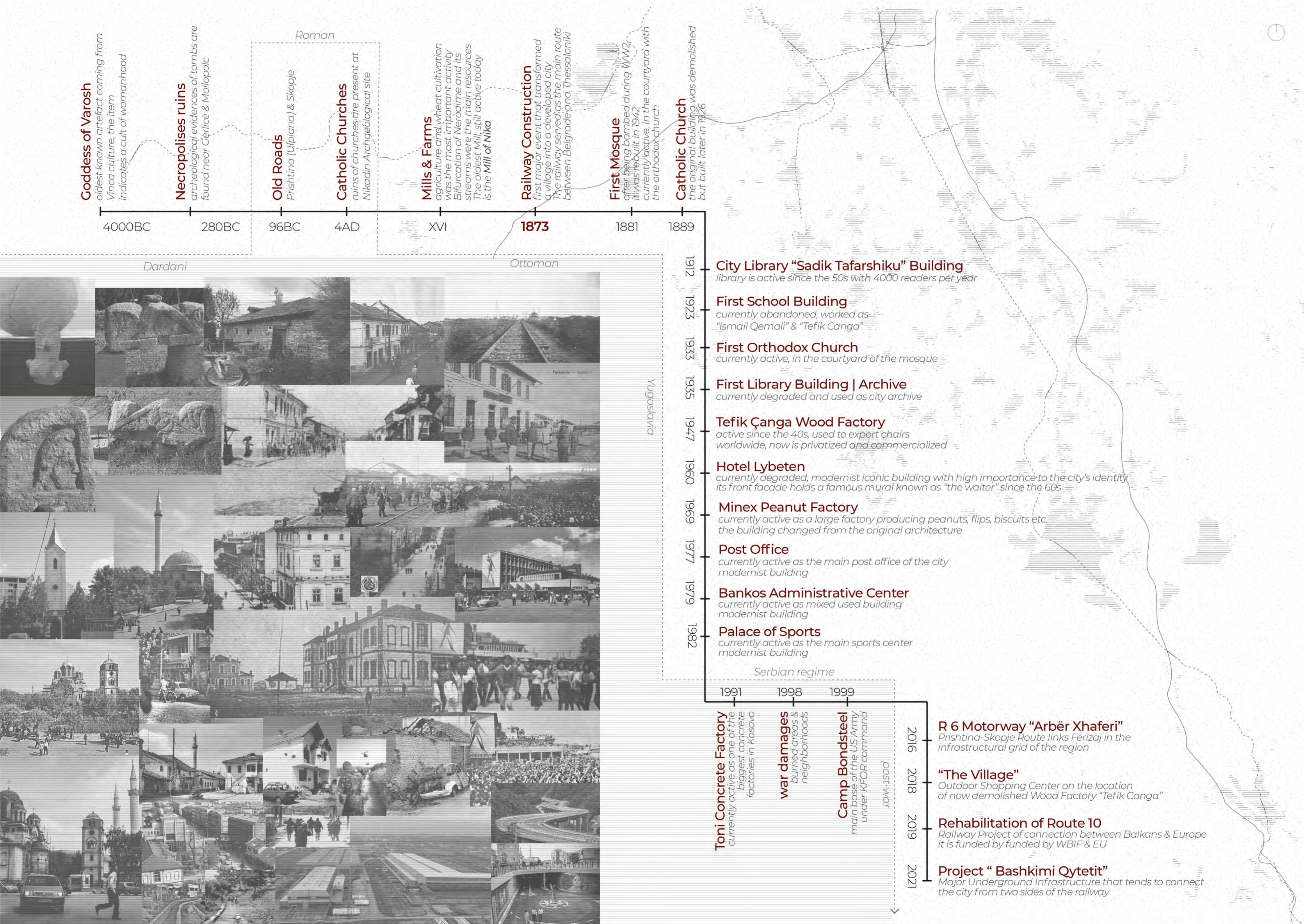


1985

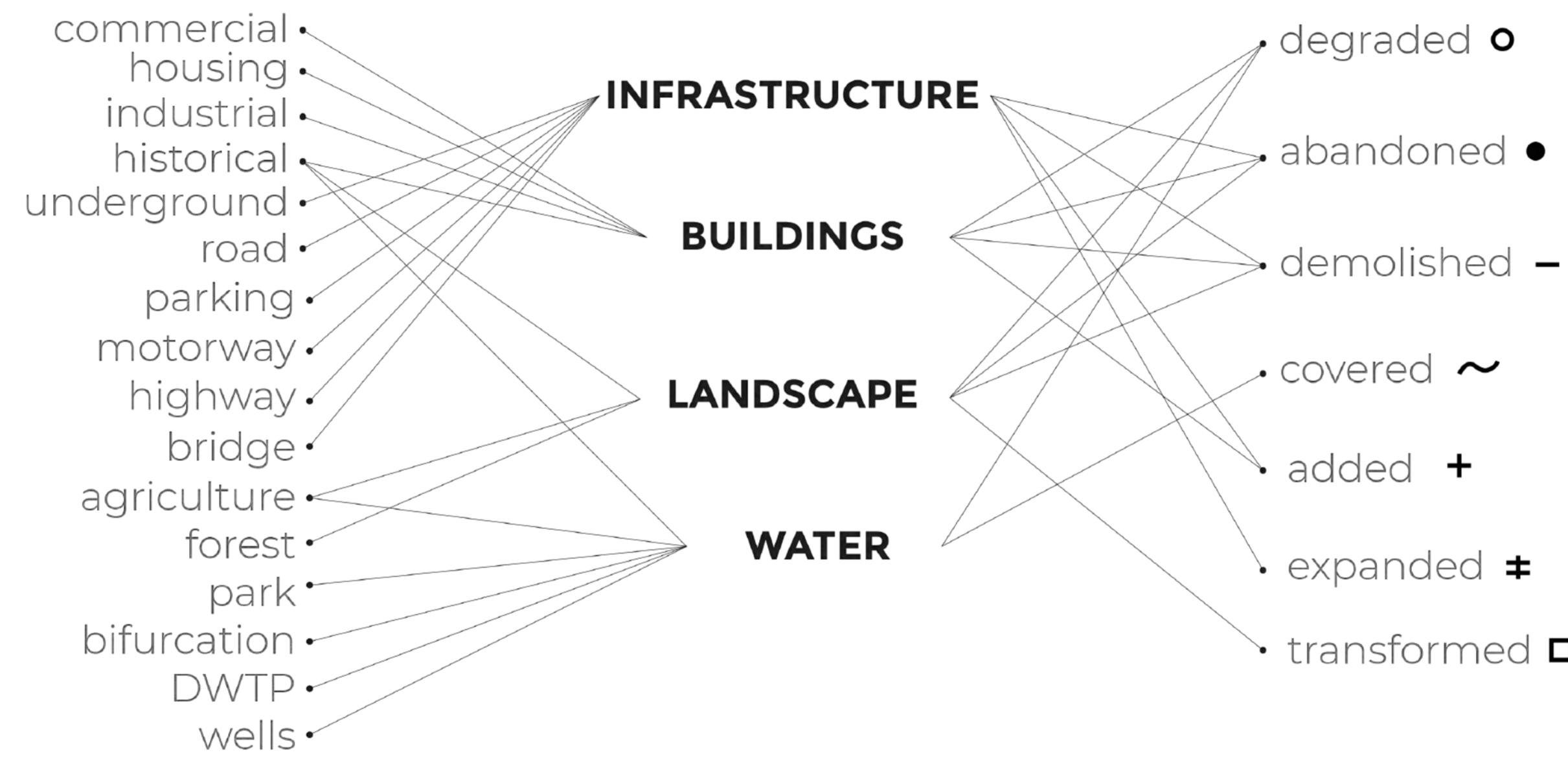
2004

2020

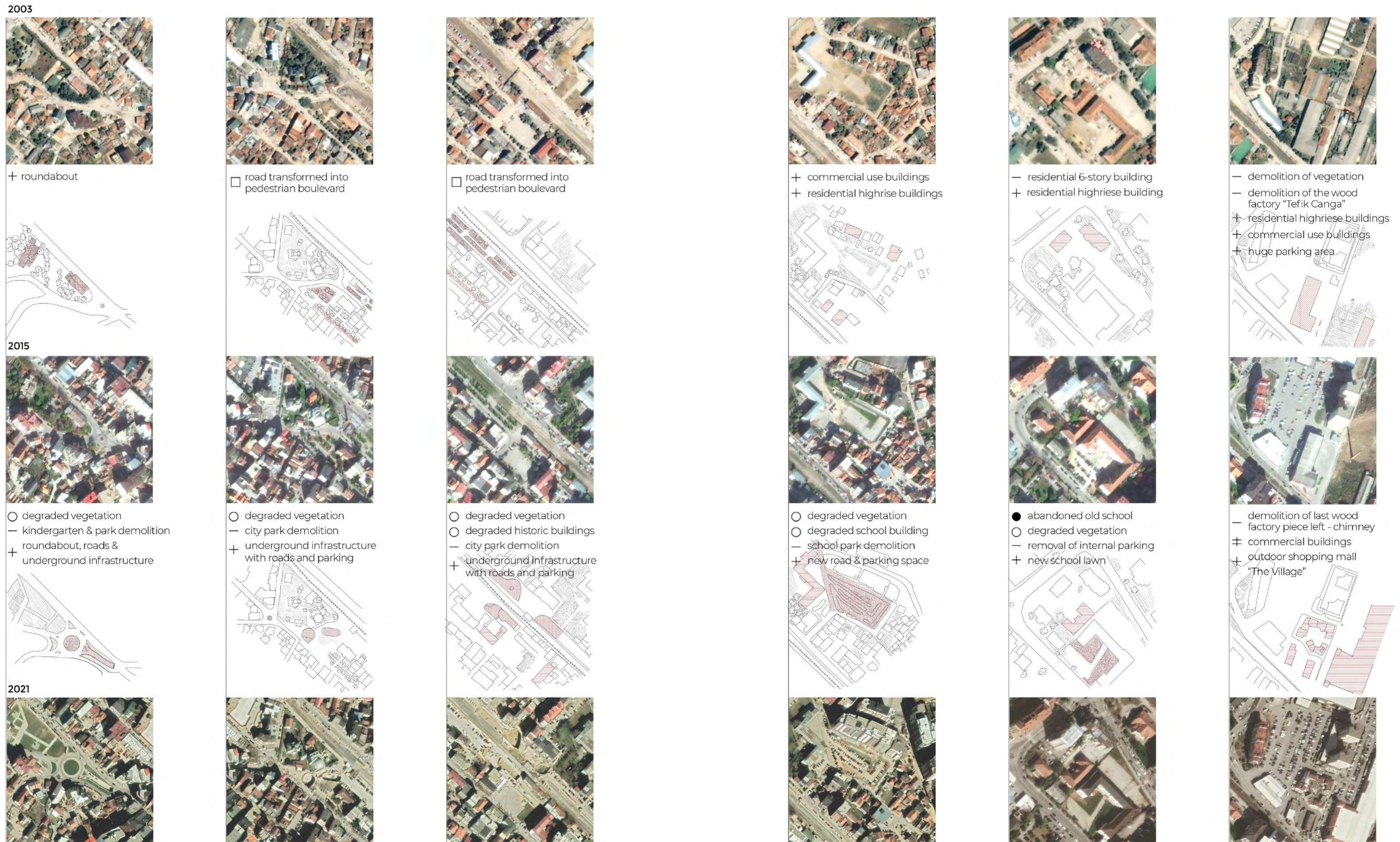
2021

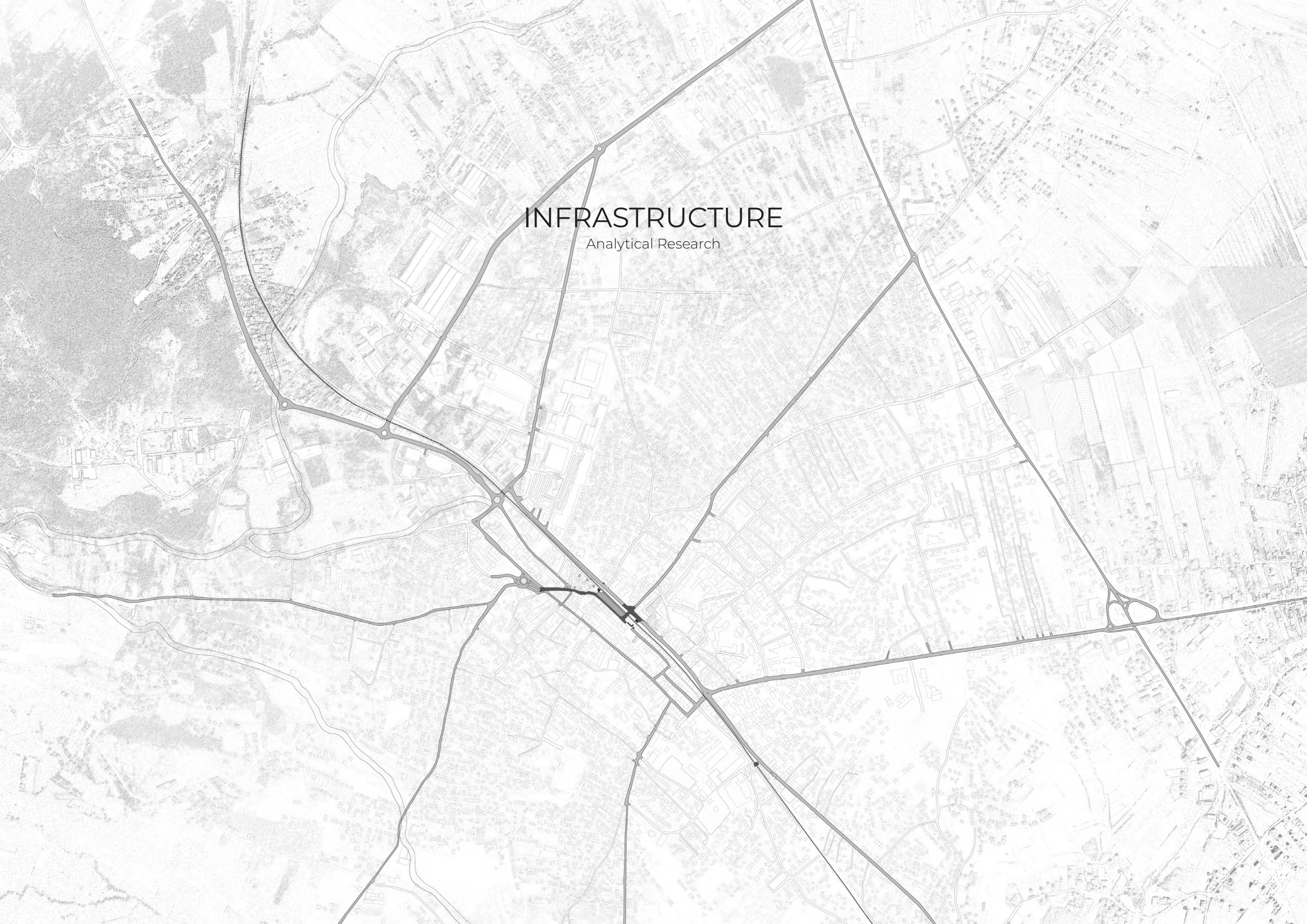


METODOLOGY MODEL



TRANSFORMATIONS IN THE CITY CENTRE

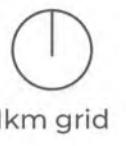


The background of the image is a detailed grayscale map of a city, showing a complex network of roads, buildings, and other urban infrastructure. The map is rendered in a light gray tone against a white background.

INFRASTRUCTURE

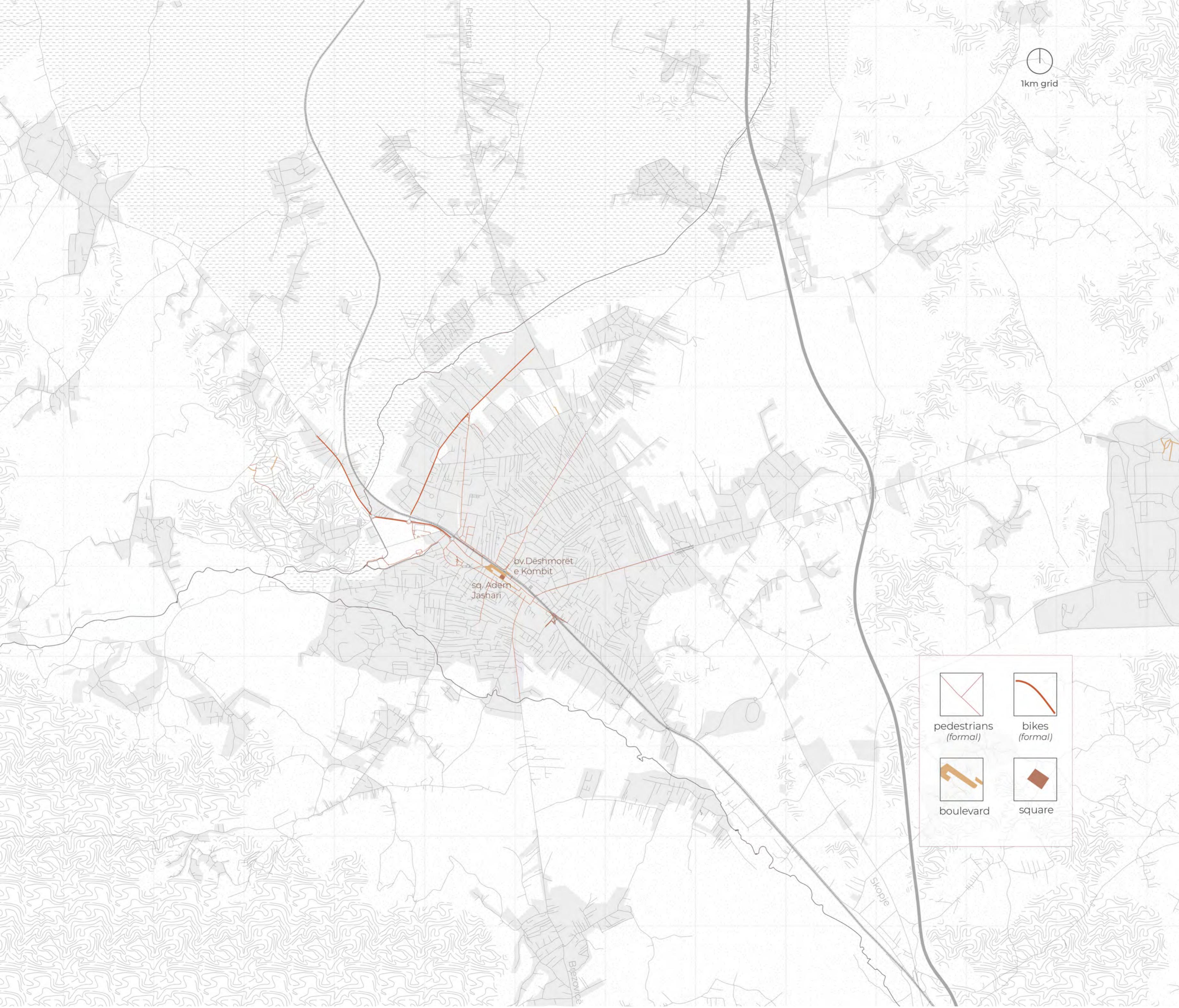
Analytical Research

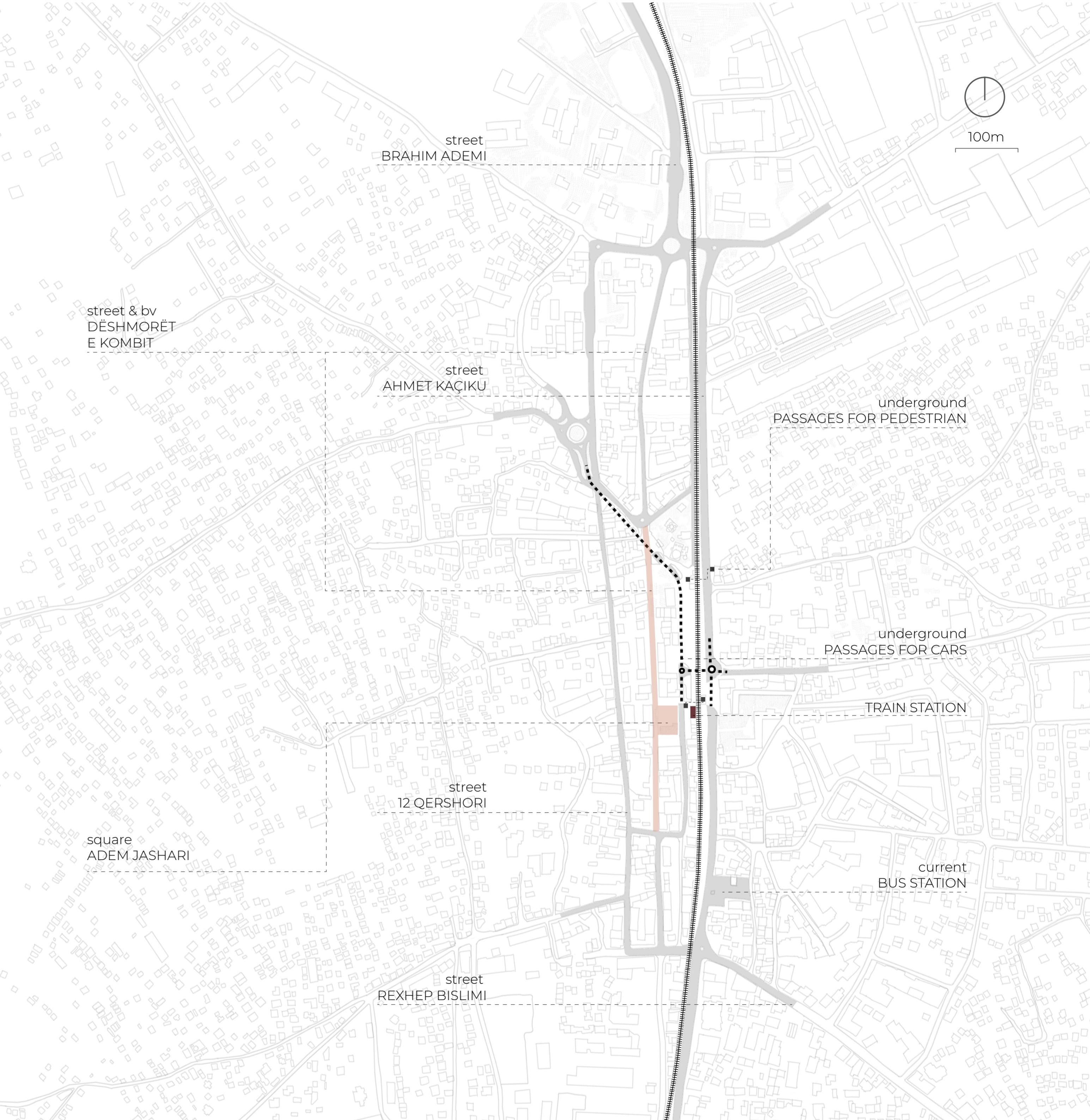
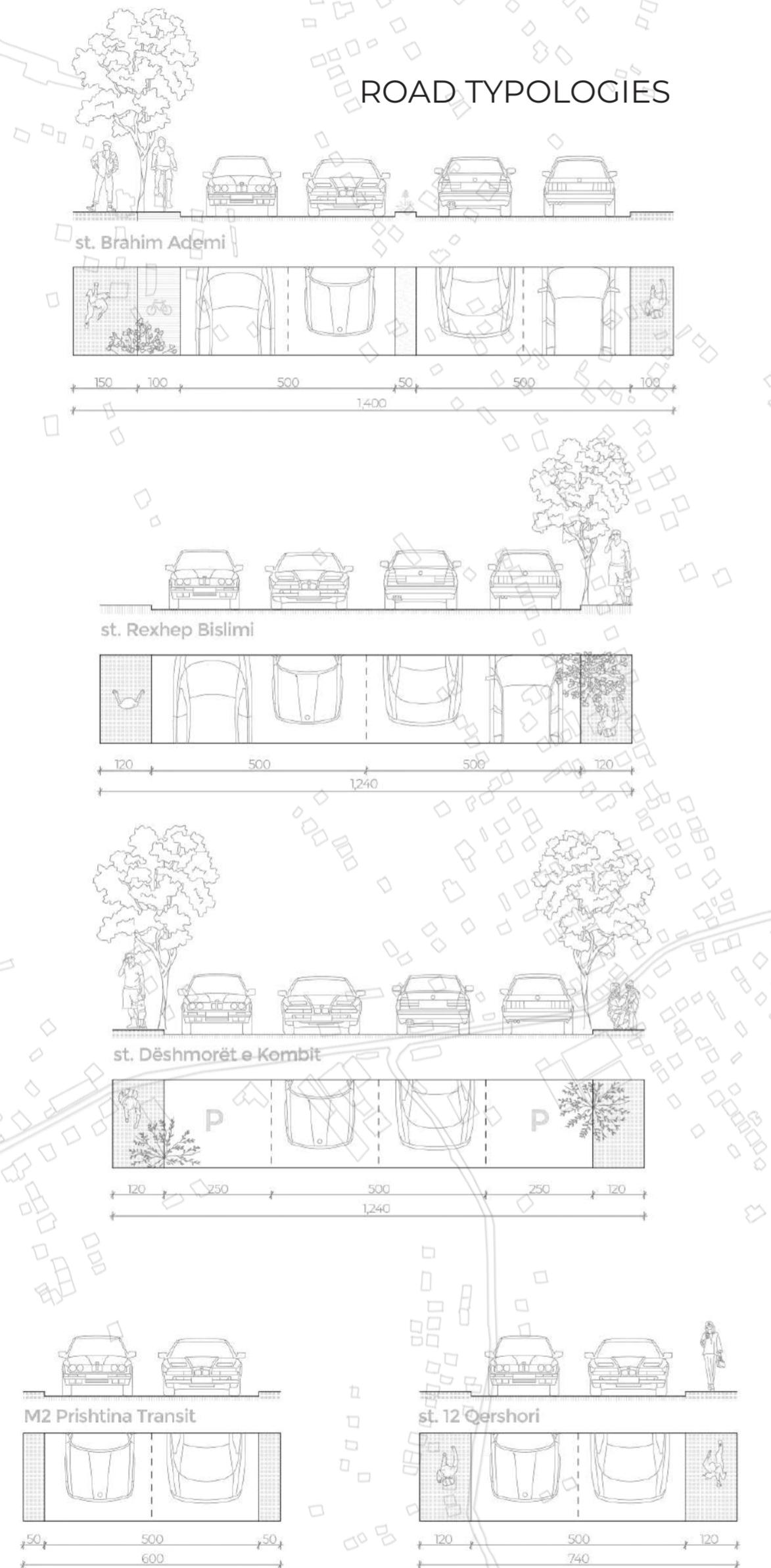
ANALYSIS
INFRASTRUCTURE
Analytical Map



- railway
- motorway
- roads
- parking
- underground
- bridge
- bus station
- train station

SOFT MOBILITY
Analytical Map





BUILDINGS

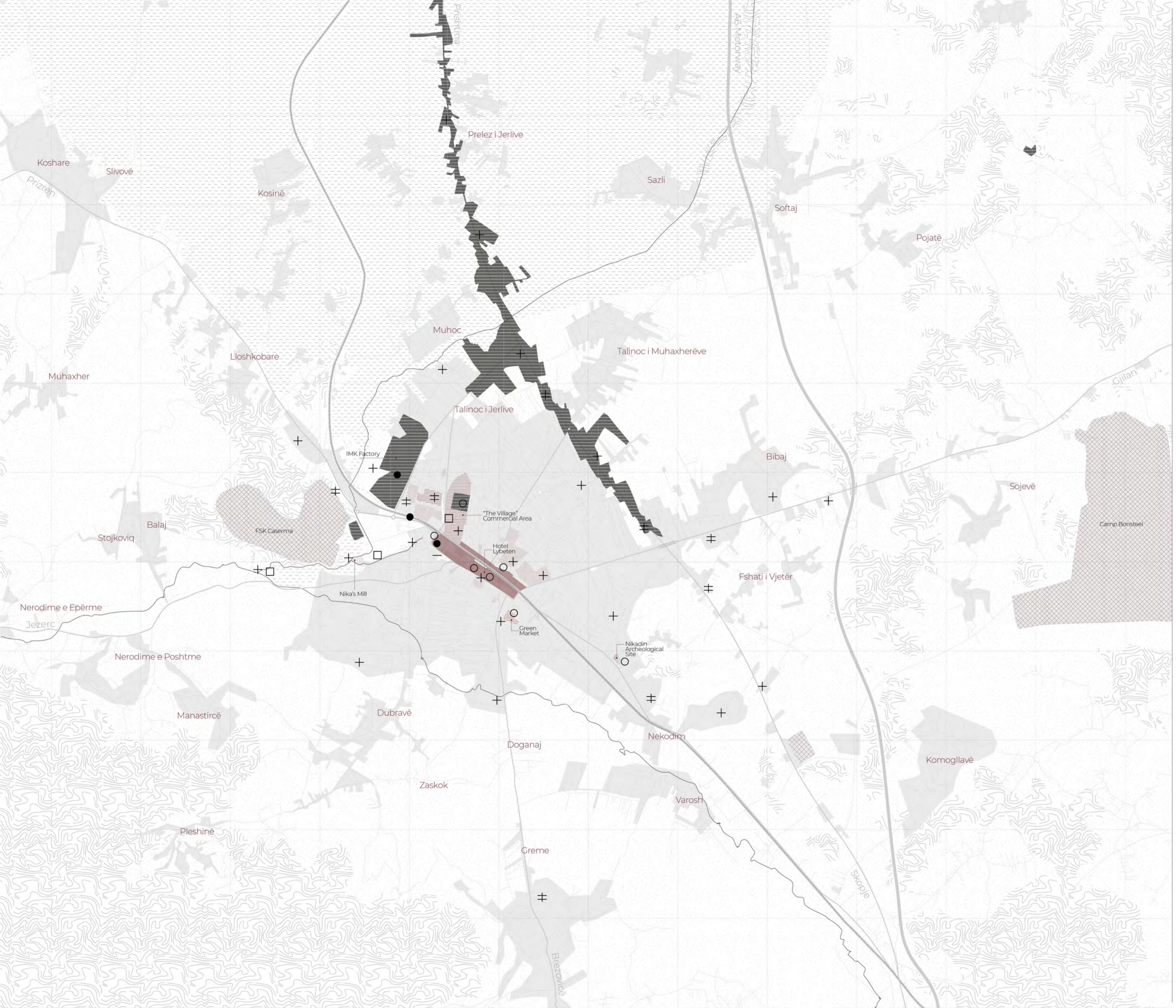
Analytical Research



ANALYSIS
URBAN FABRIC
Analytical Map



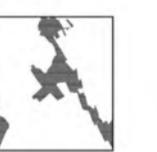
1km grid



military



mix-used center



industrial



public residential



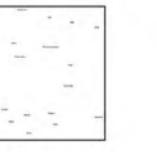
commercial



archeological



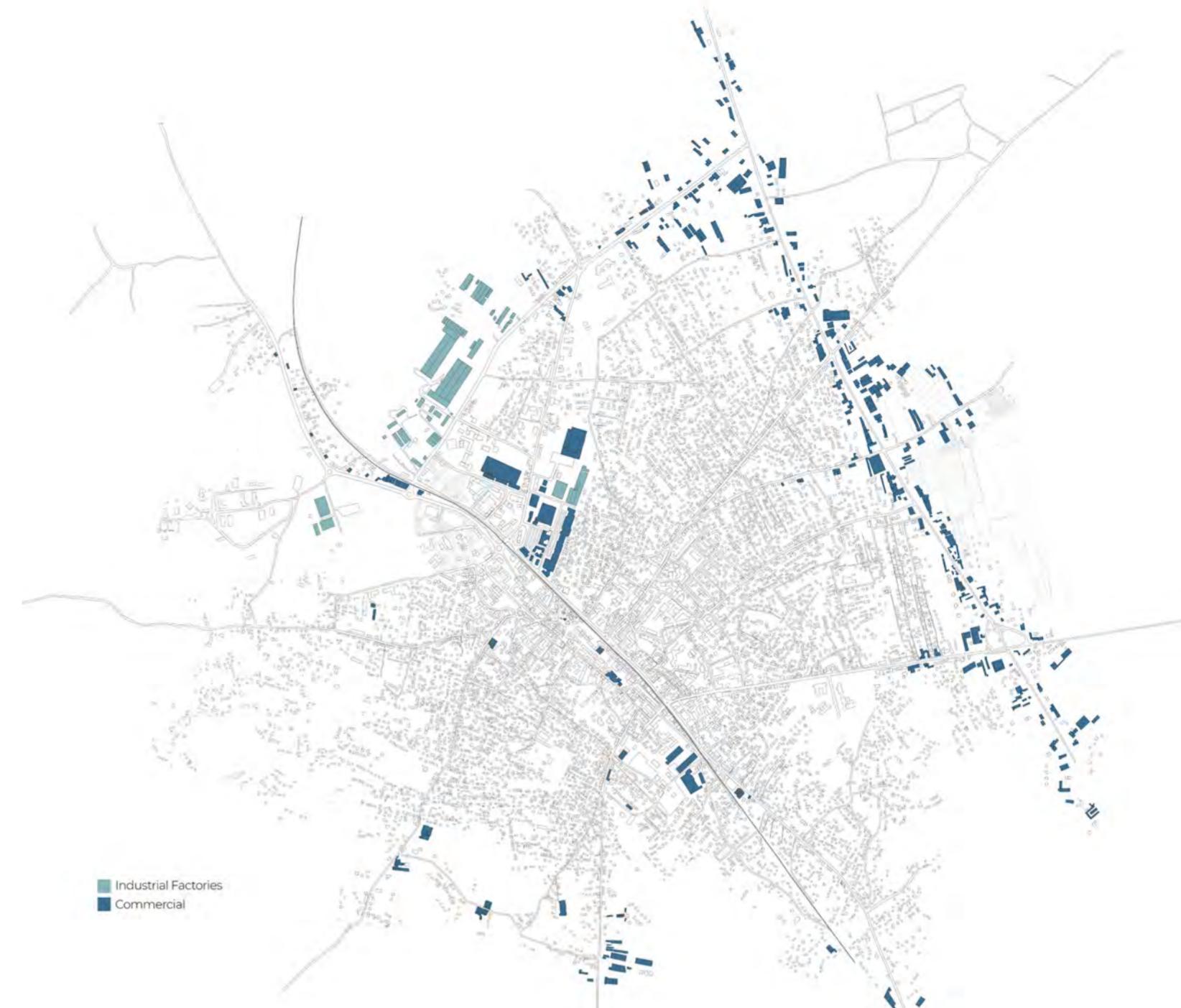
private residential



villages



HOUSING



ECONOMY

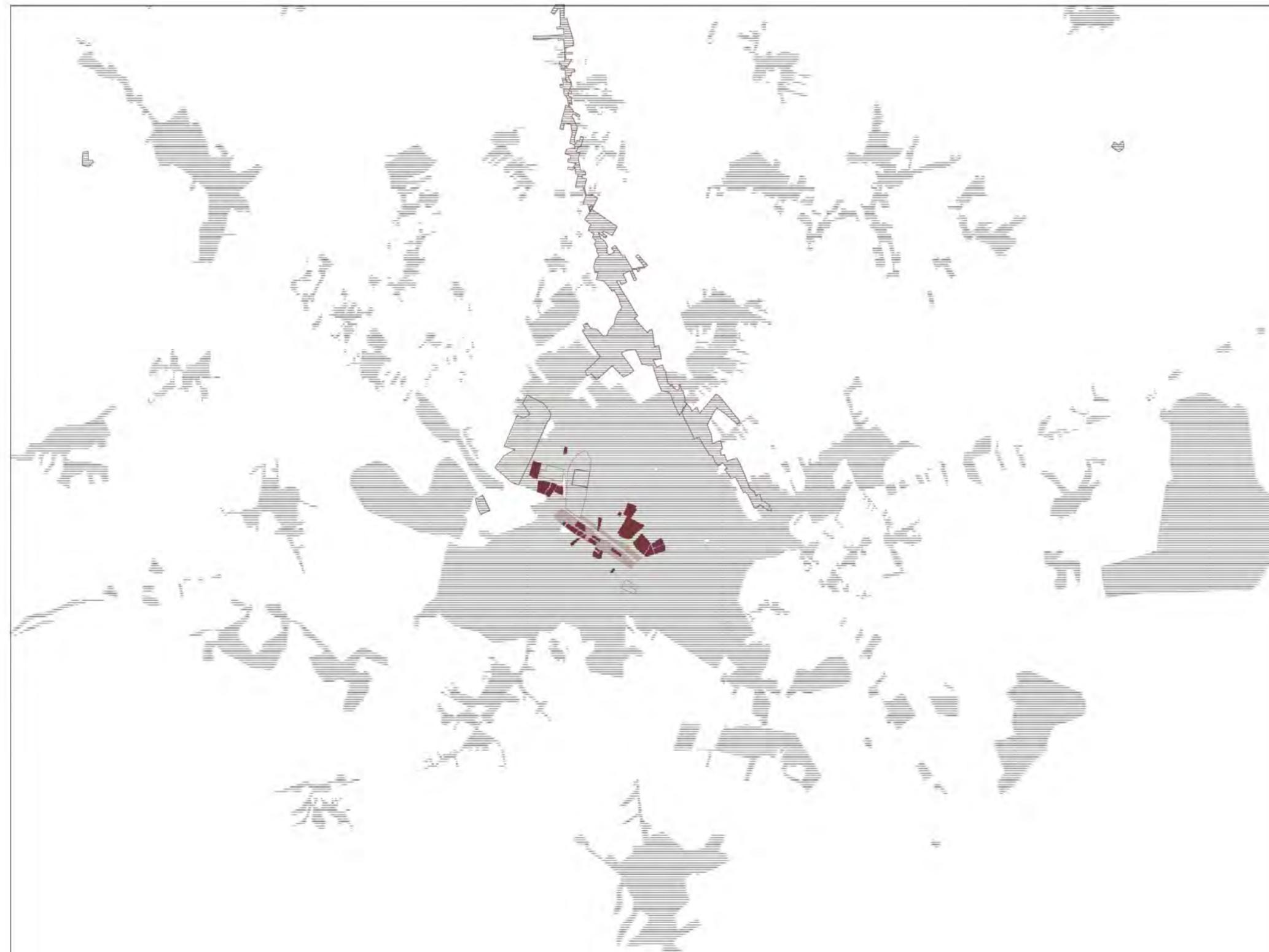


CULTURE

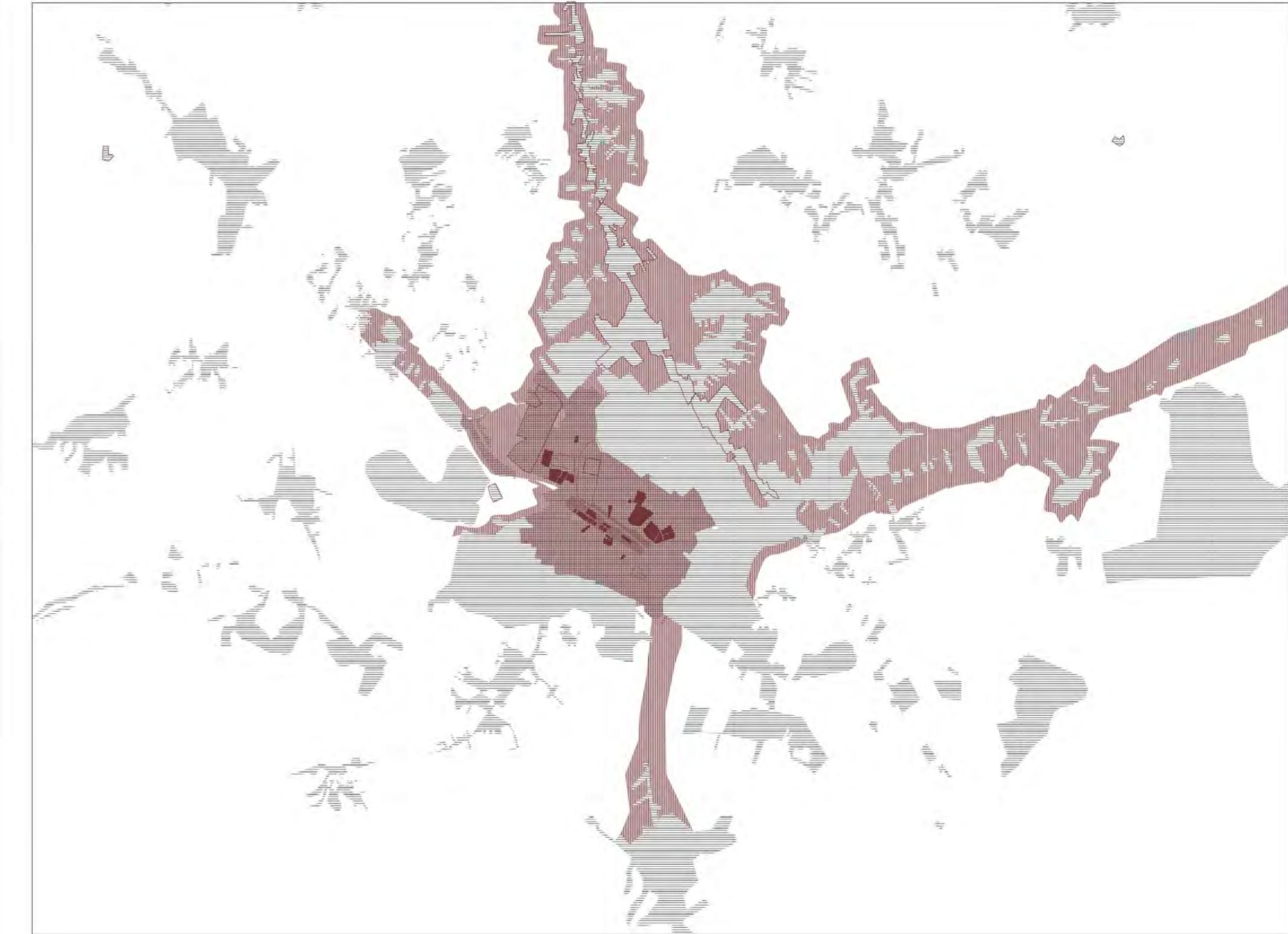


SERVICE

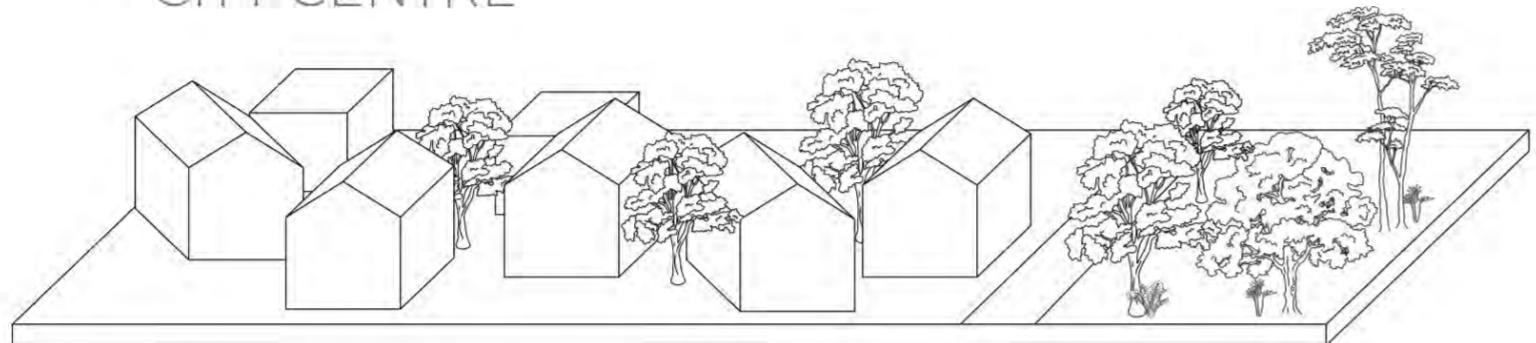
URBAN GROWTH IN 2022



URBAN GROWTH IN 2042



CITY CENTRE

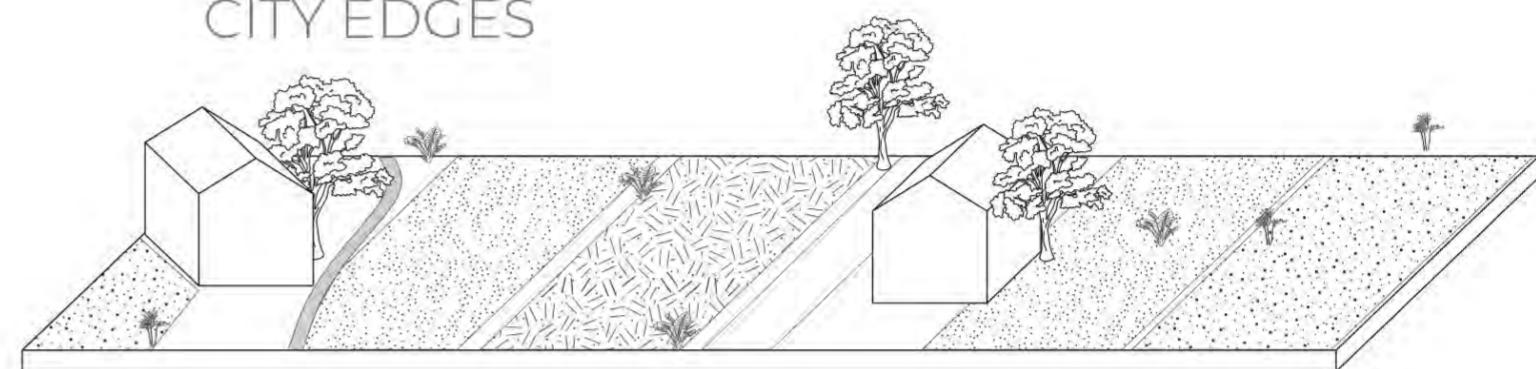


individual housing and public space



public housing, commercial areas, no public green space

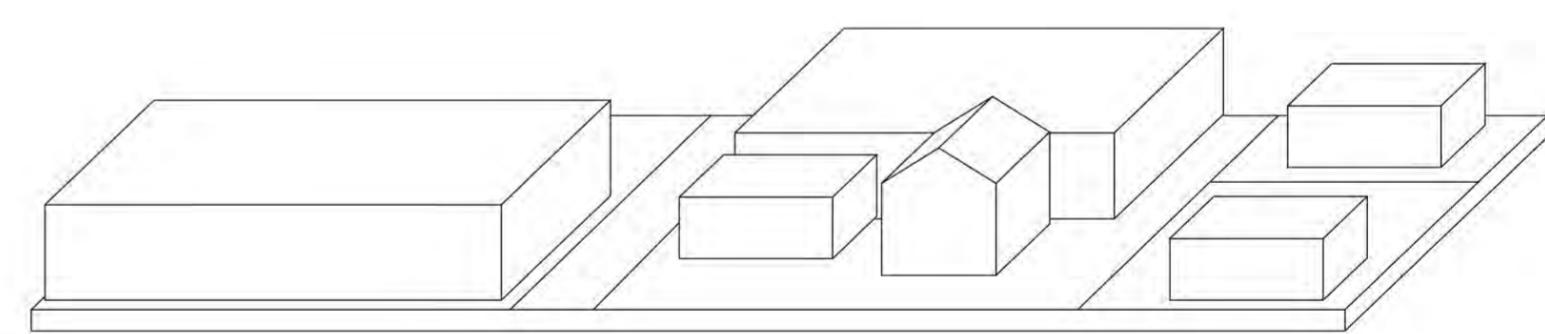
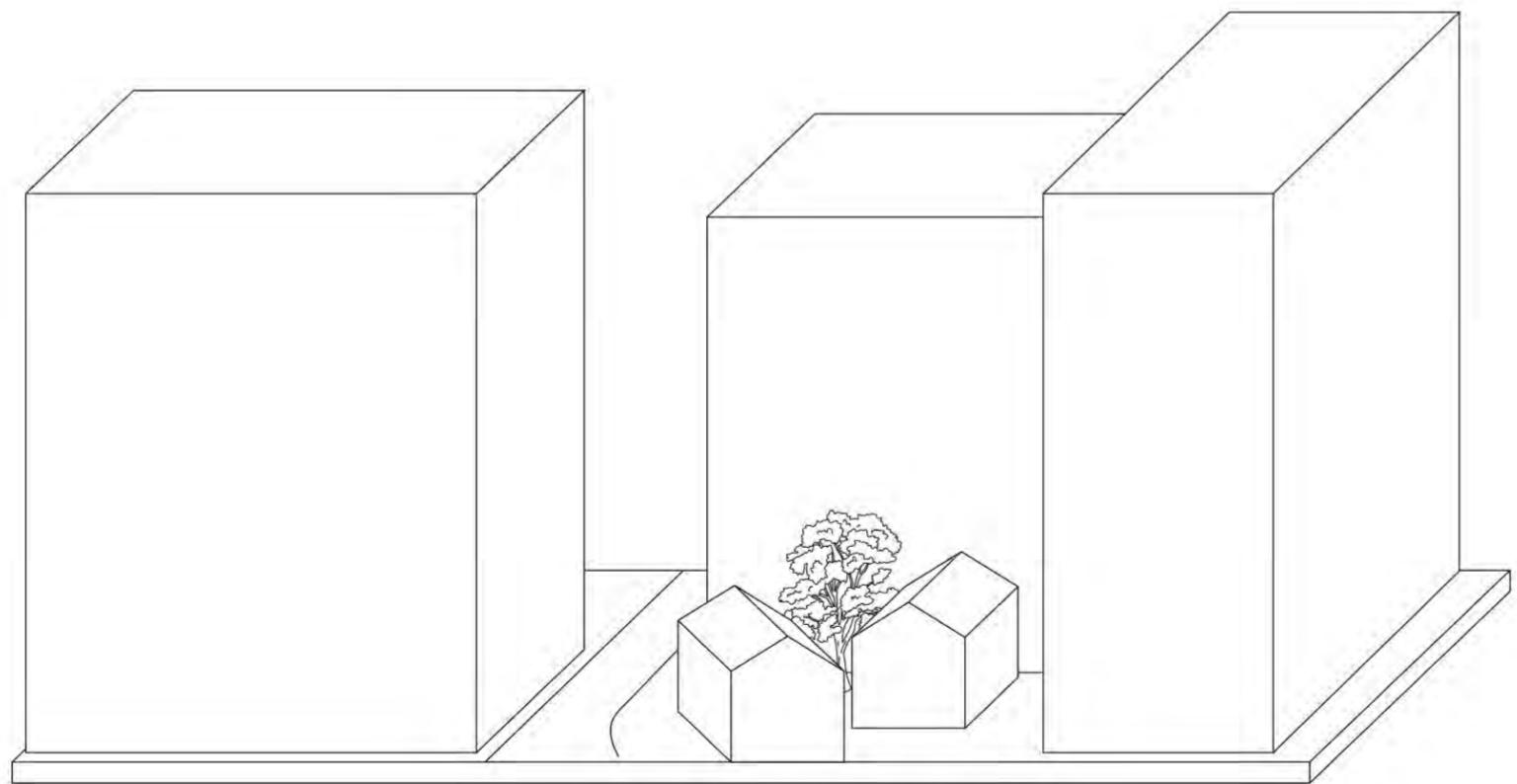
CITY EDGES



individual housing, agriculture, streams

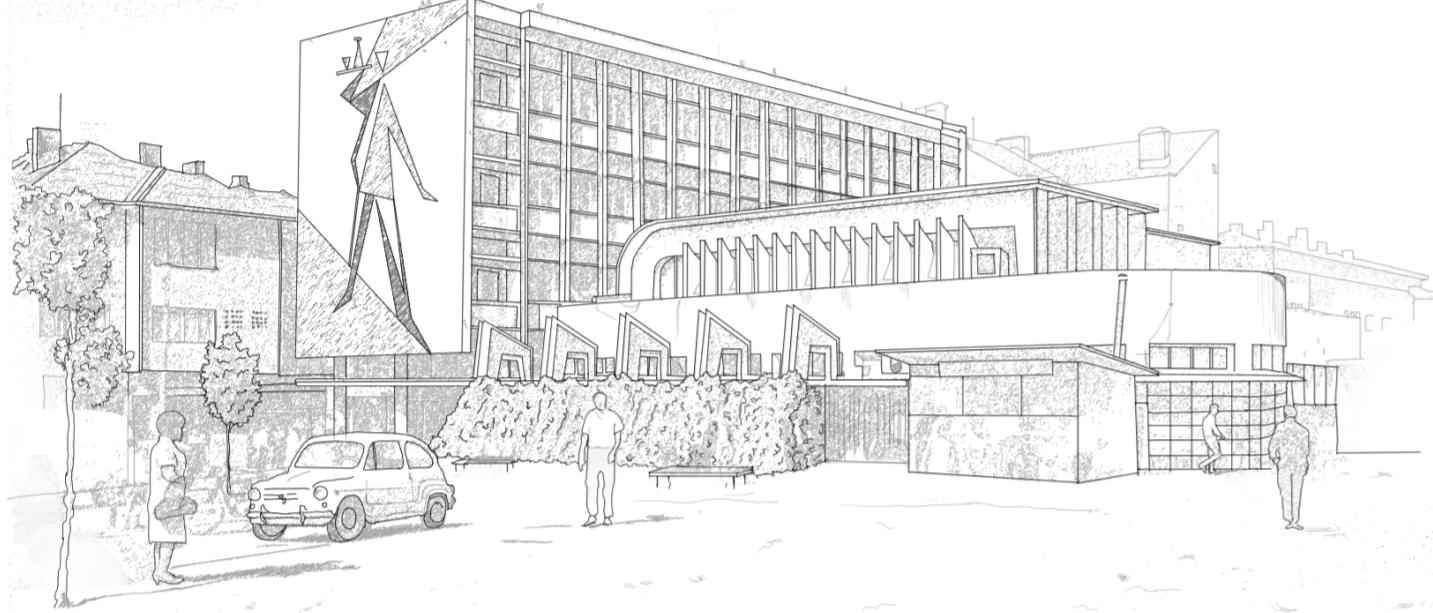


commercial areas, abandoned fields, suburbia



BITS OF ARCHITECTURAL IDENTITY

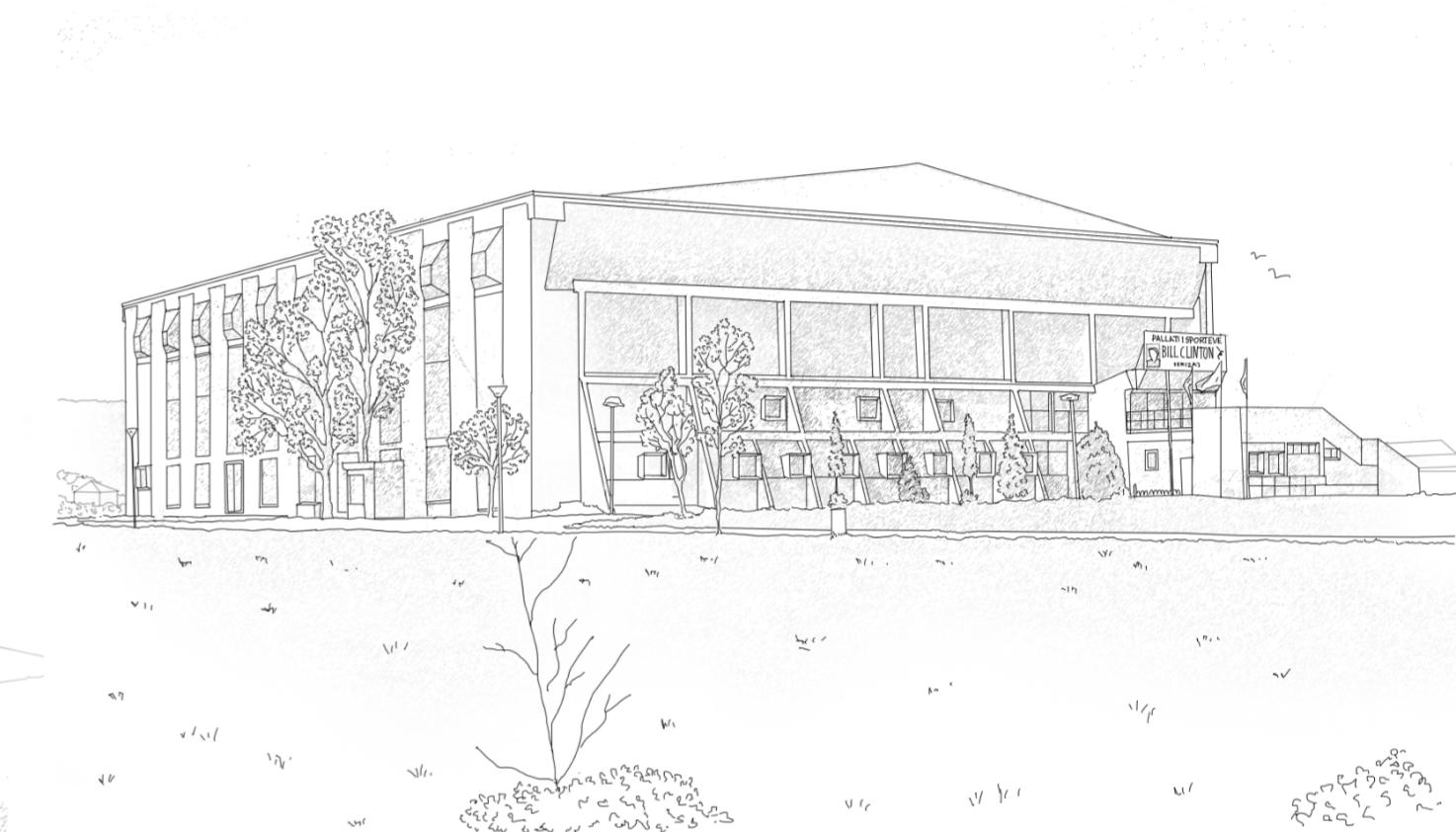
Hotel Lybeten (1960)



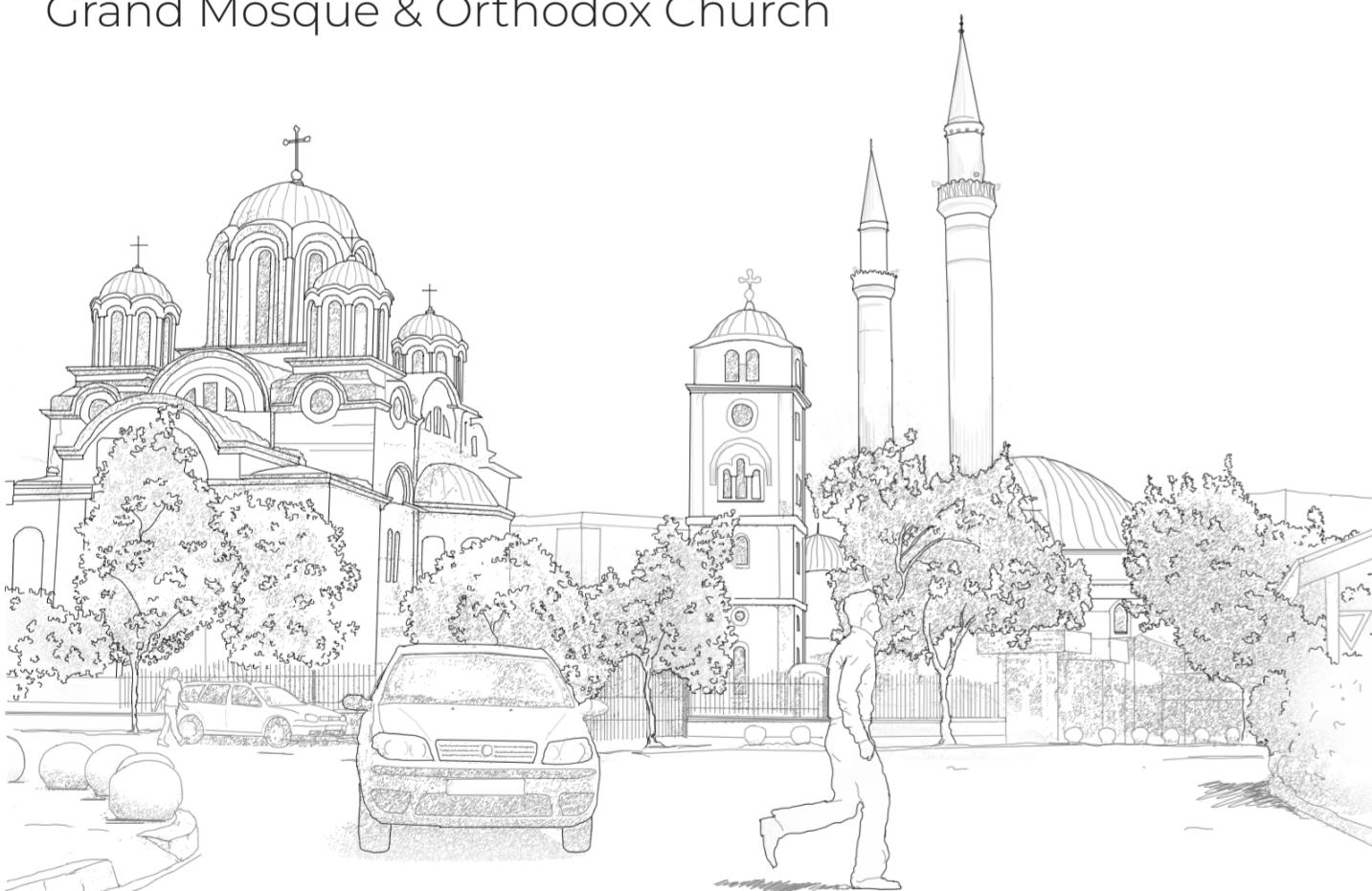
Train Station



Sports Hall



Grand Mosque & Orthodox Church



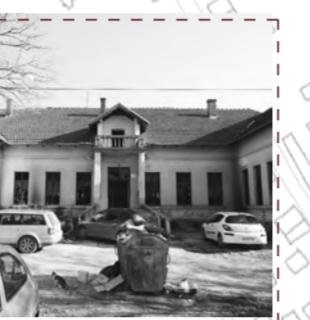
Public Library



Former City Mall



100m



FIRST SCHOOL
BUILDING



PUBLIC LIBRARY



HOTEL LYBETEN



TRAIN STATION



CITY ARCHIVE



CITY THEATER



POST OFFICE



BANKOS



SPORTS HALL
“BILL CLINTON”



GRAND MOSQUE &
ORTHODOX CHURCH



SMALL MOSQUE

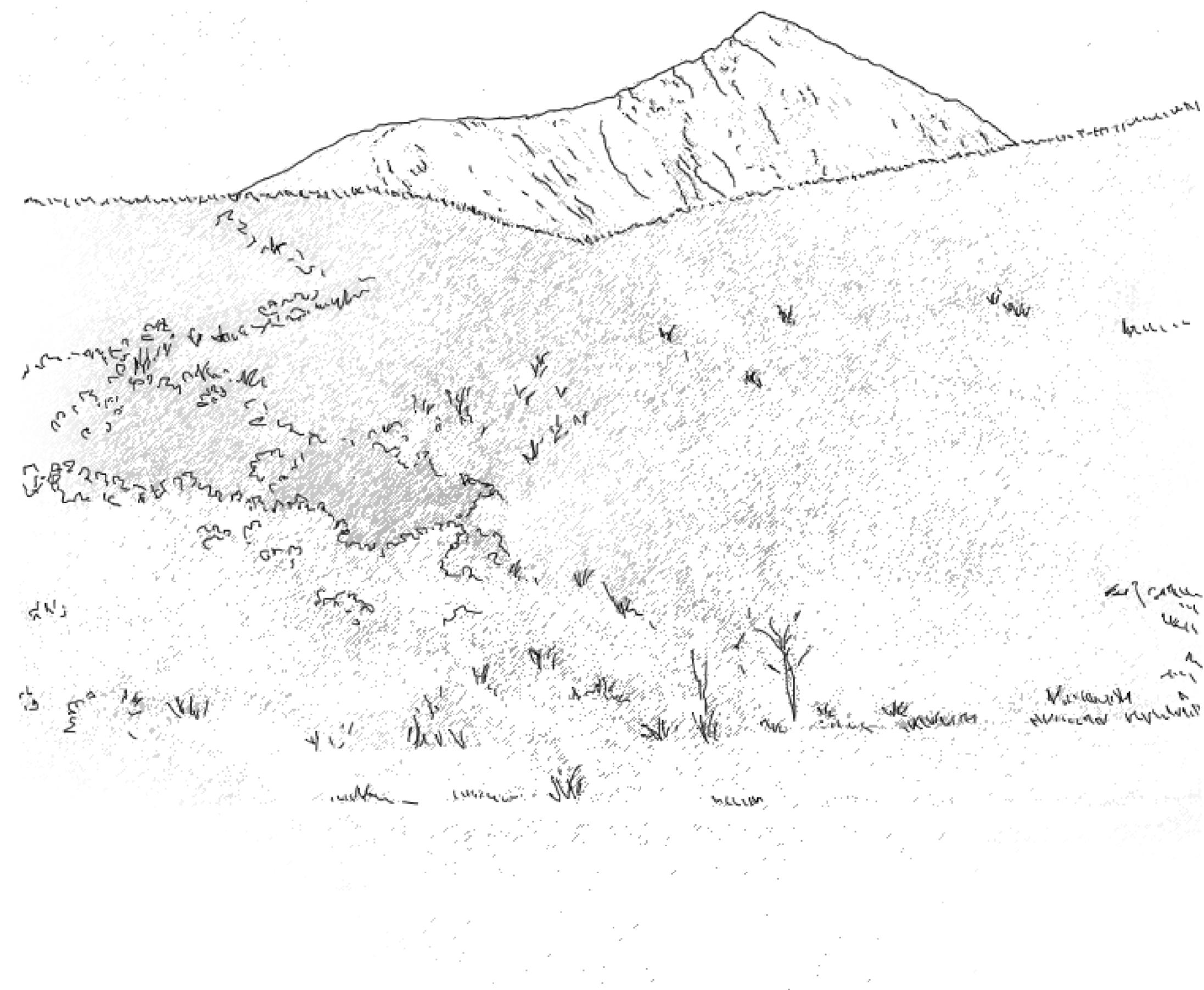


CATHOLIC CHURCH



LANDSCAPE

Analytical Research

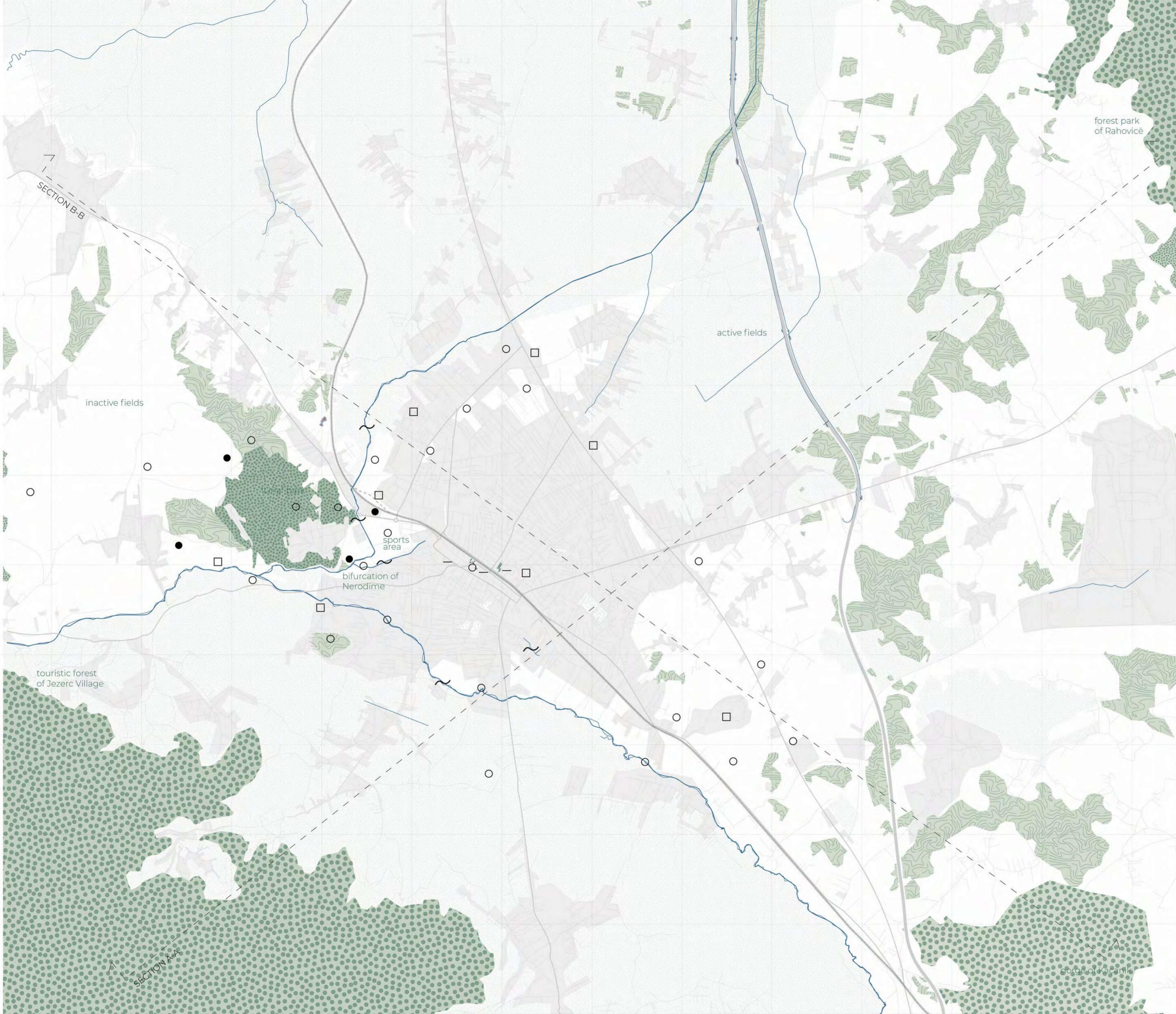


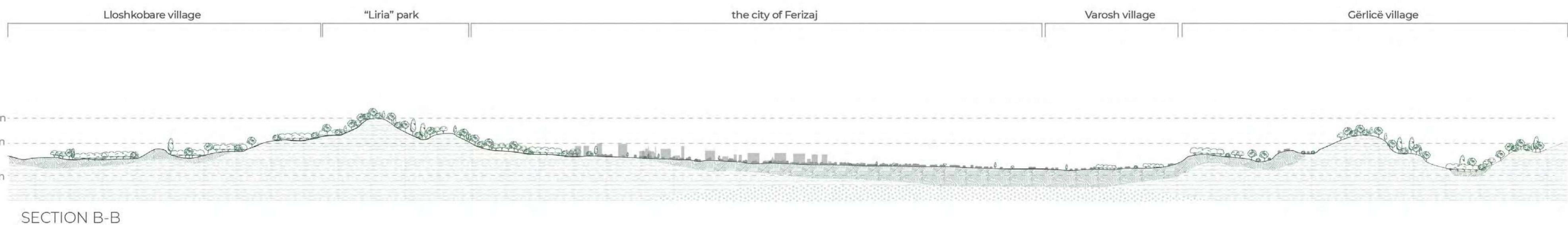
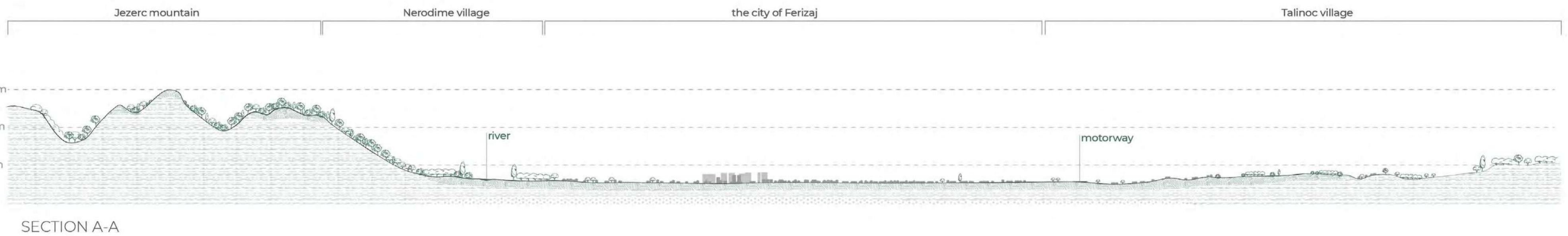
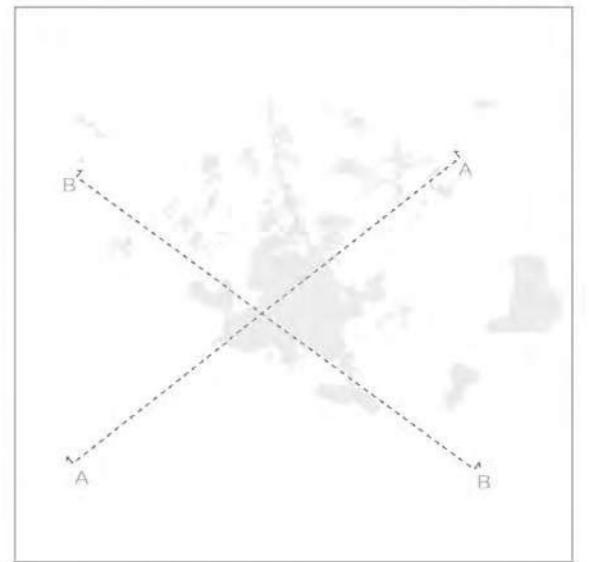
ANALYSIS
LANDSCAPE

Analytical Map



1km grid

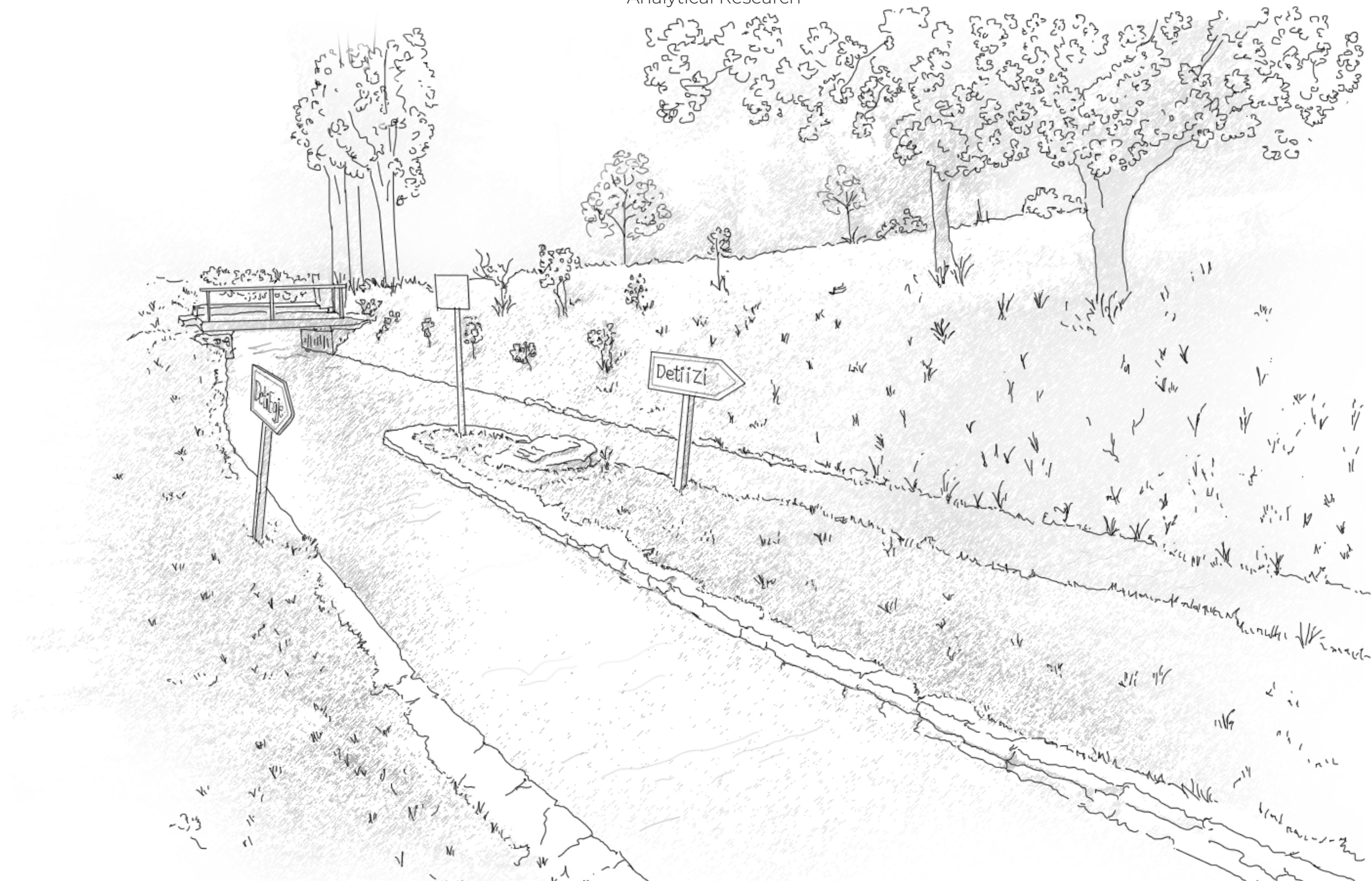




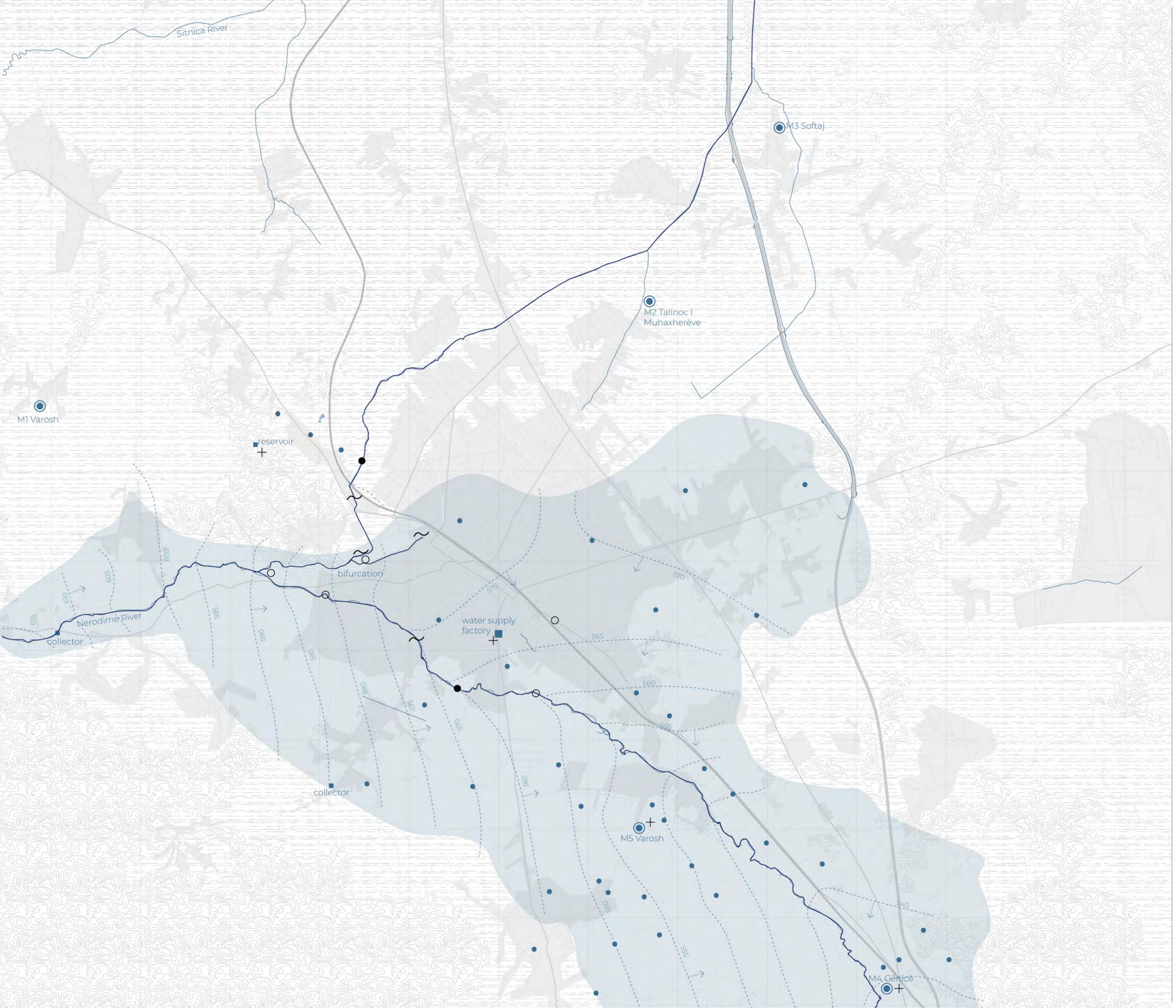
1km

WATER

Analytical Research



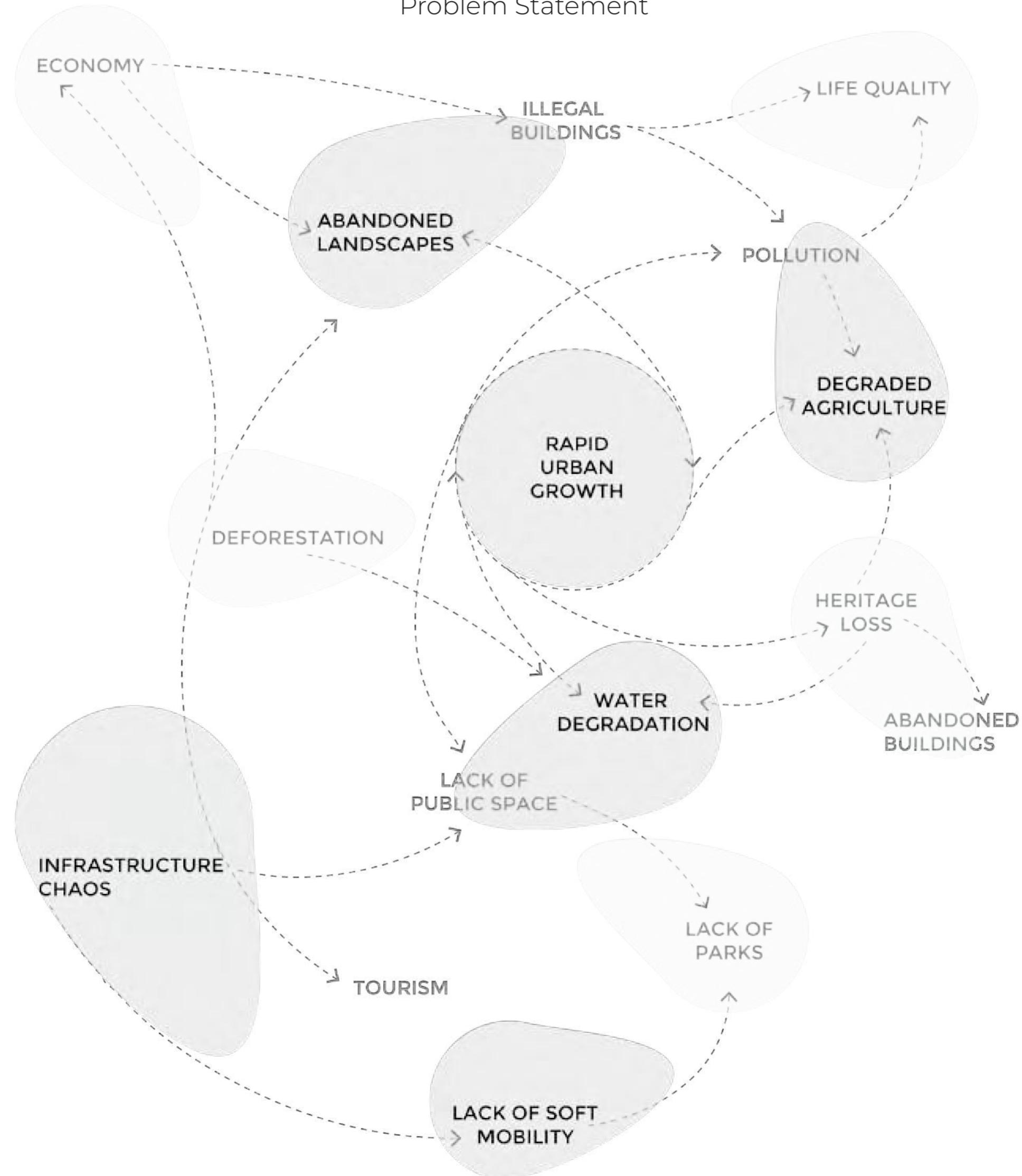
ANALYSIS
WATER
Analytical Map

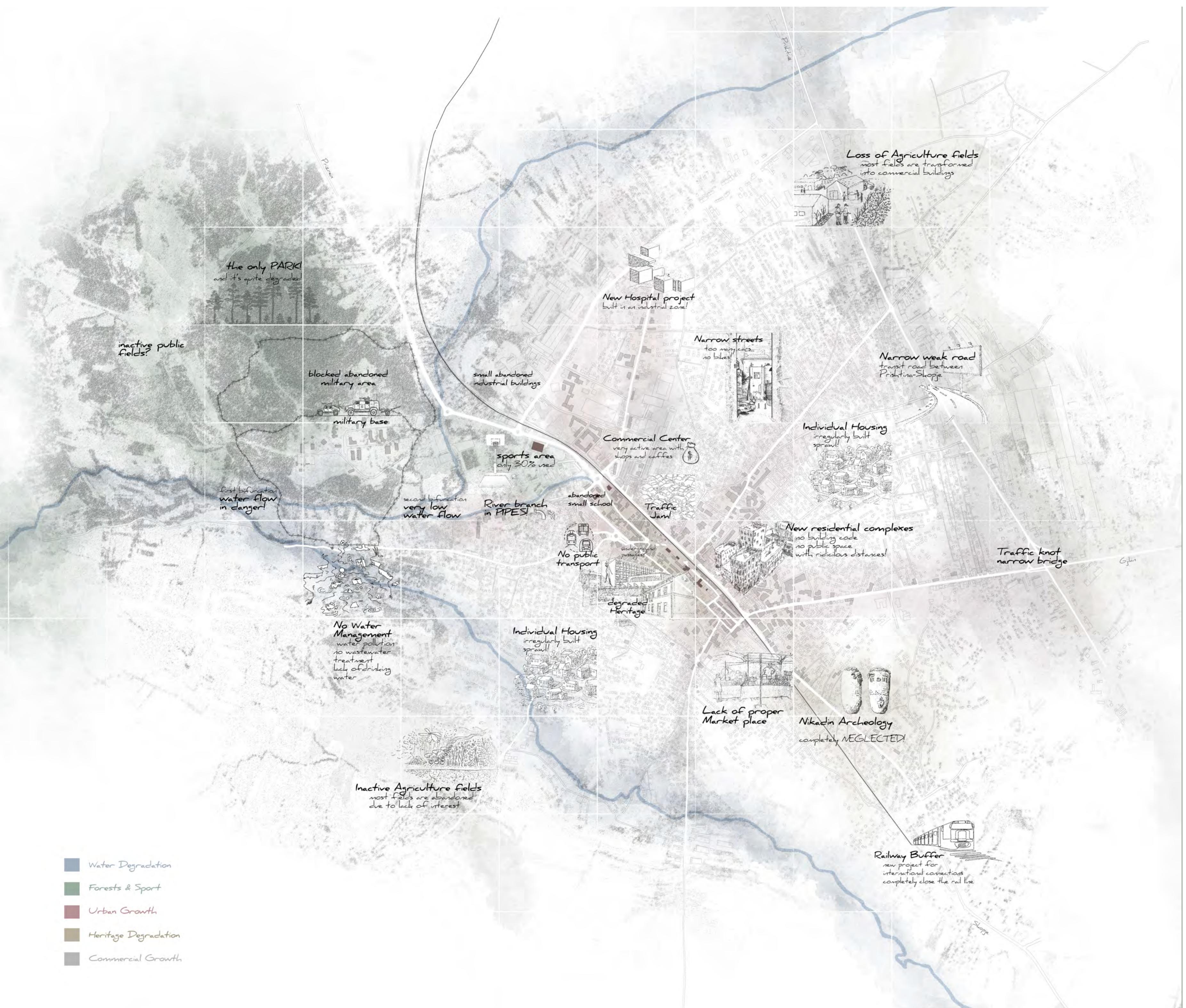


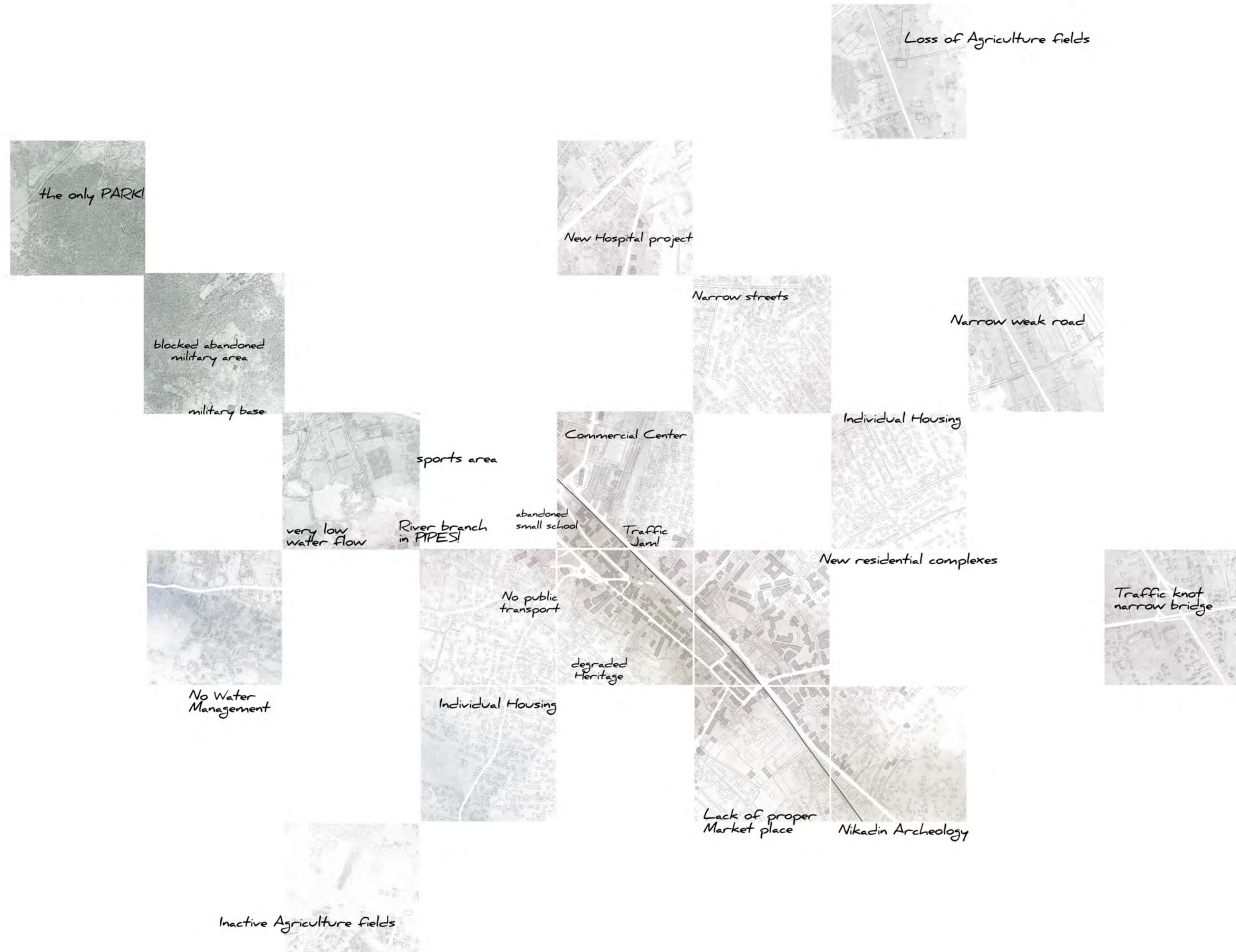
- bifurcation
- production well
- wells
- runoff
- alluvial aquifer
- DWTP

SYNOPSIS

Problem Statement







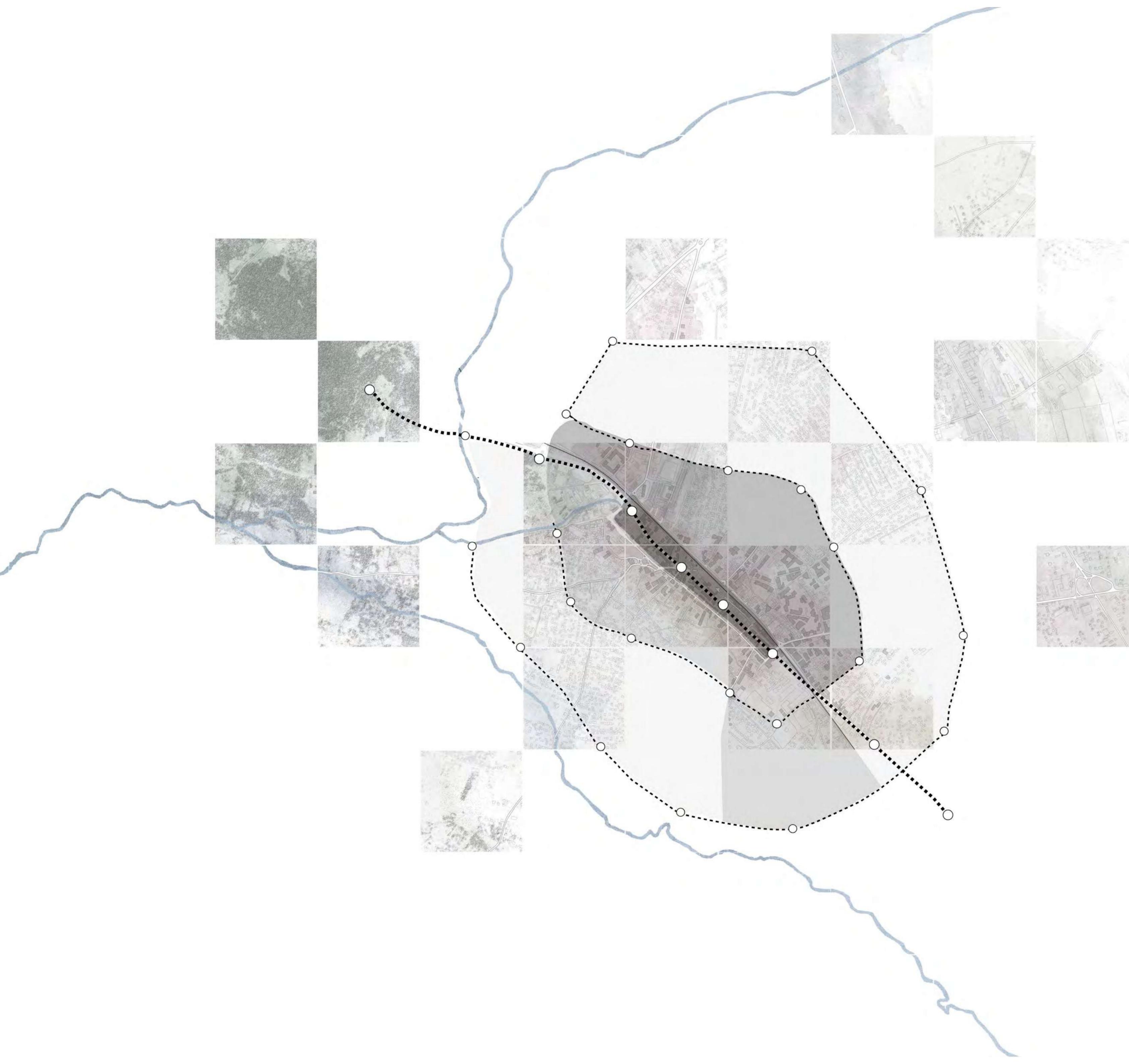
600m

WHAT IF WATER DEFINES GROWTH?
CONCEPT
Sketch Mapping

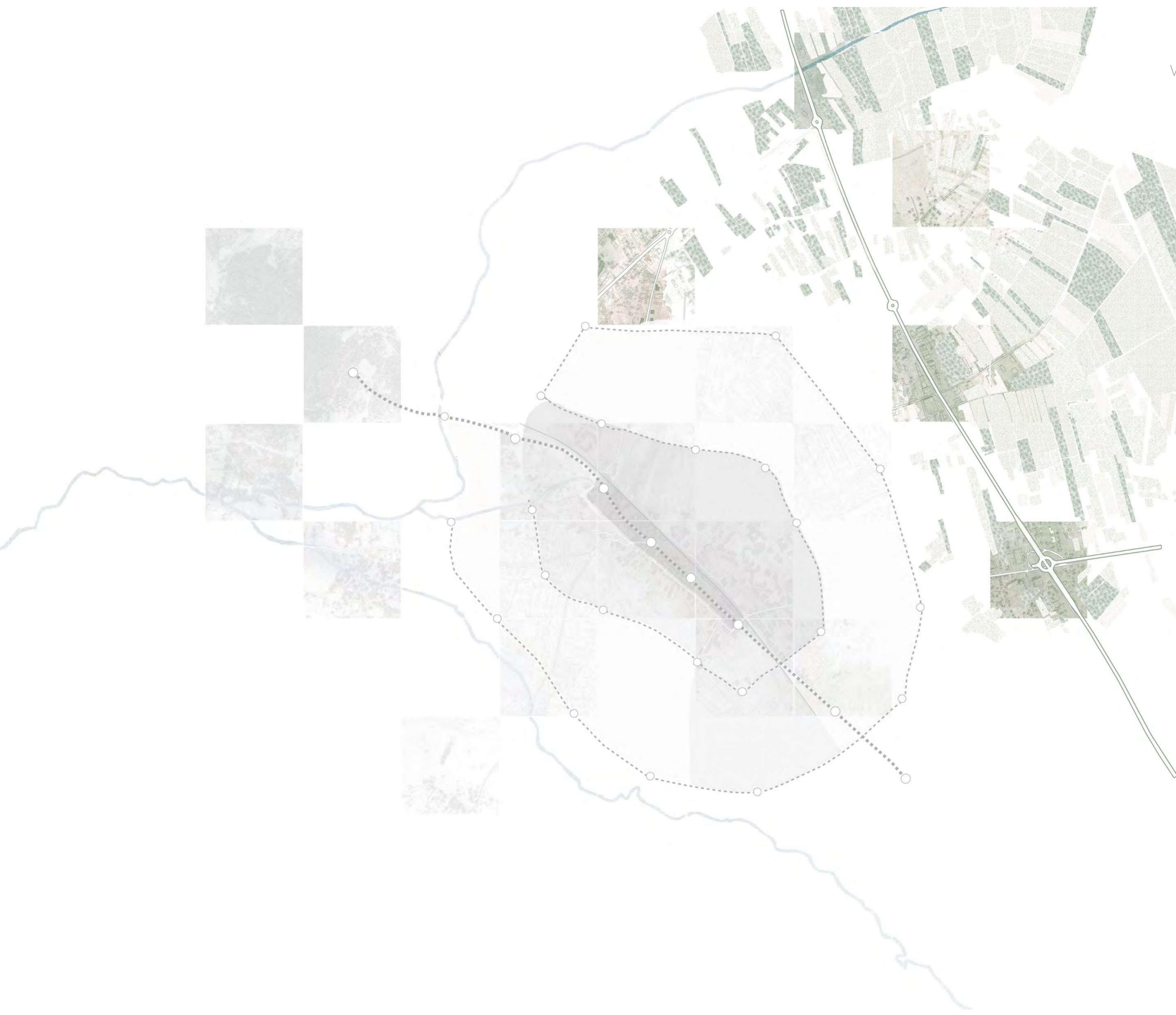


600m

WHAT IF TRAM REVIVES THE CITY?
CONCEPT
Sketch Mapping

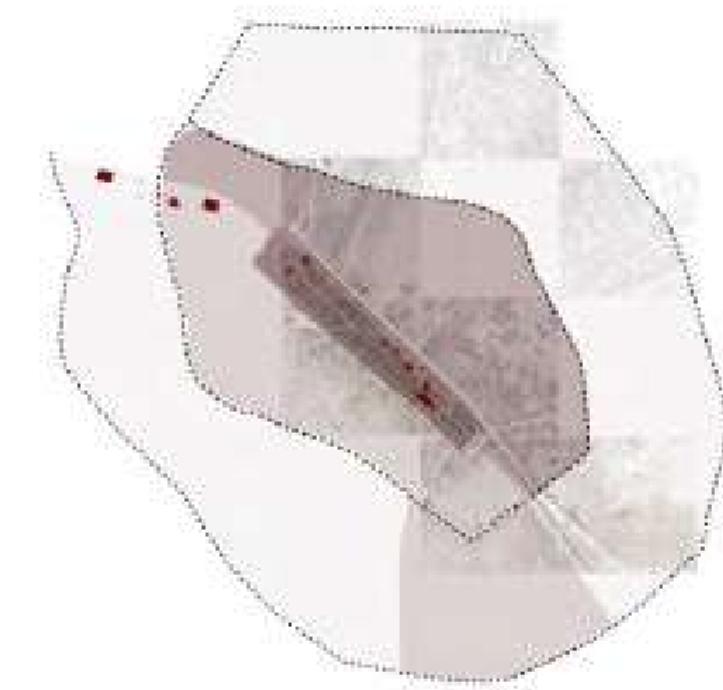


WHAT IF THE EDGES GAIN
A NEW IDENTITY?
CONCEPT
Sketch Mapping

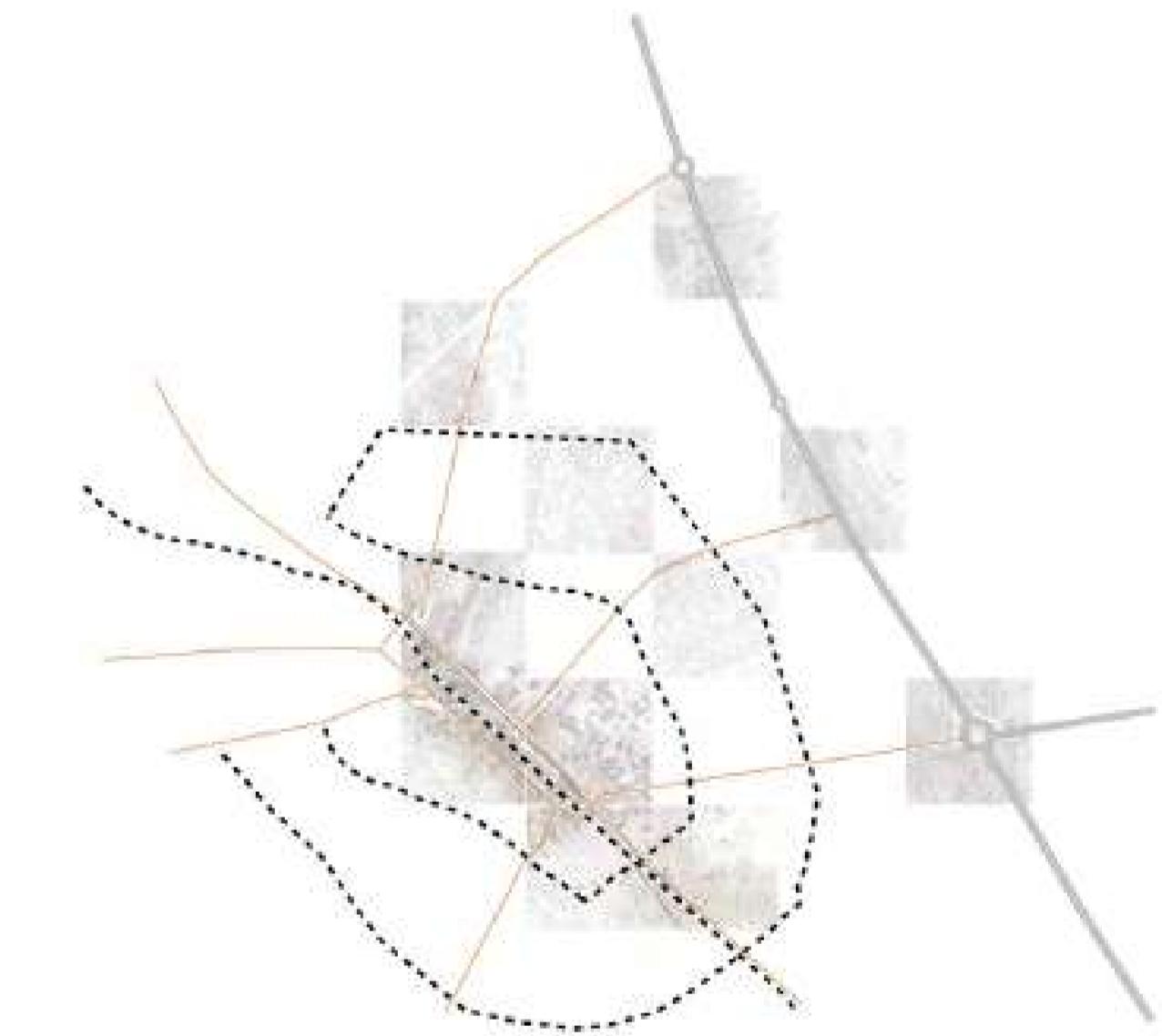




LANDSCAPE

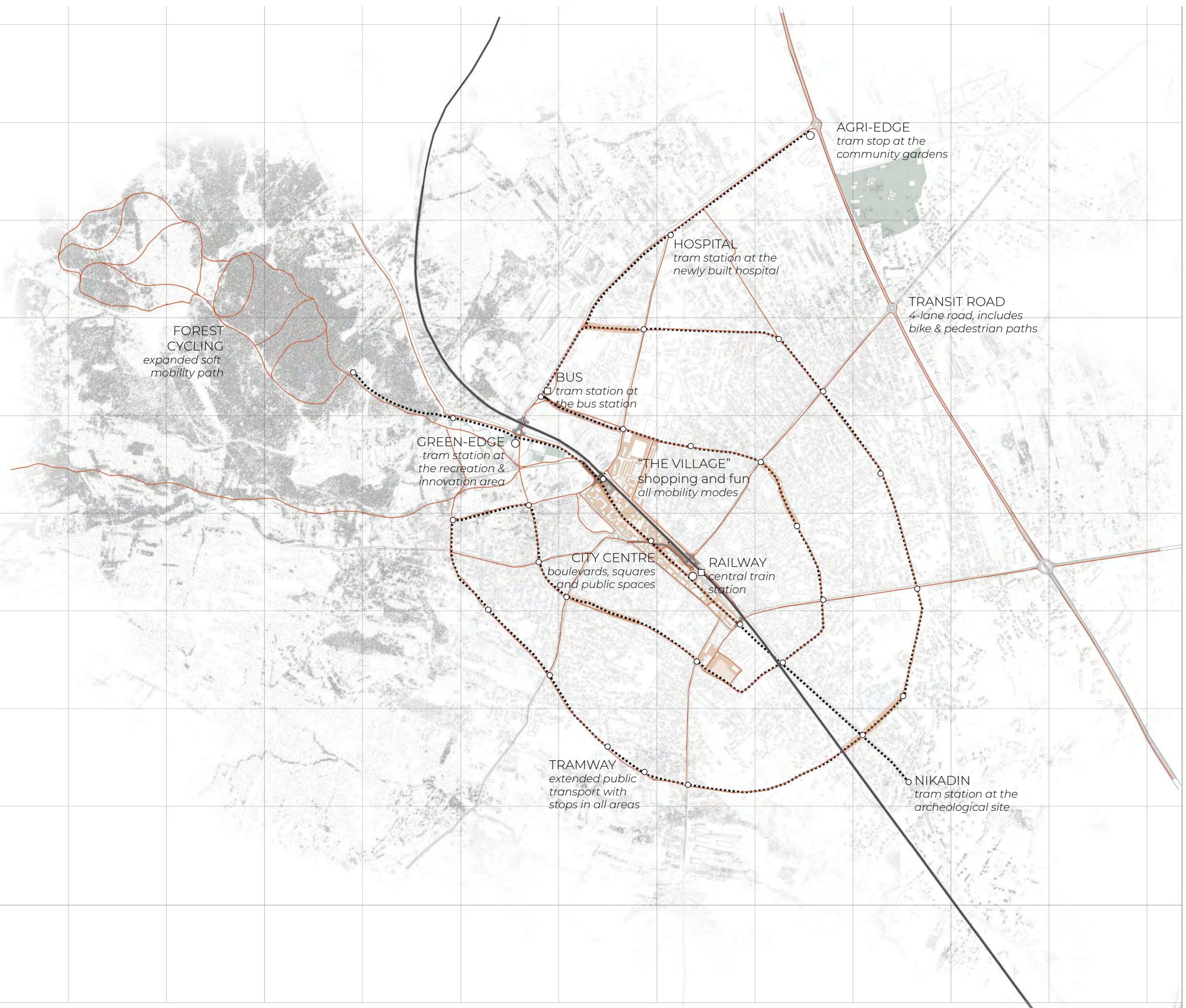


BUILT ENVIRONMENT

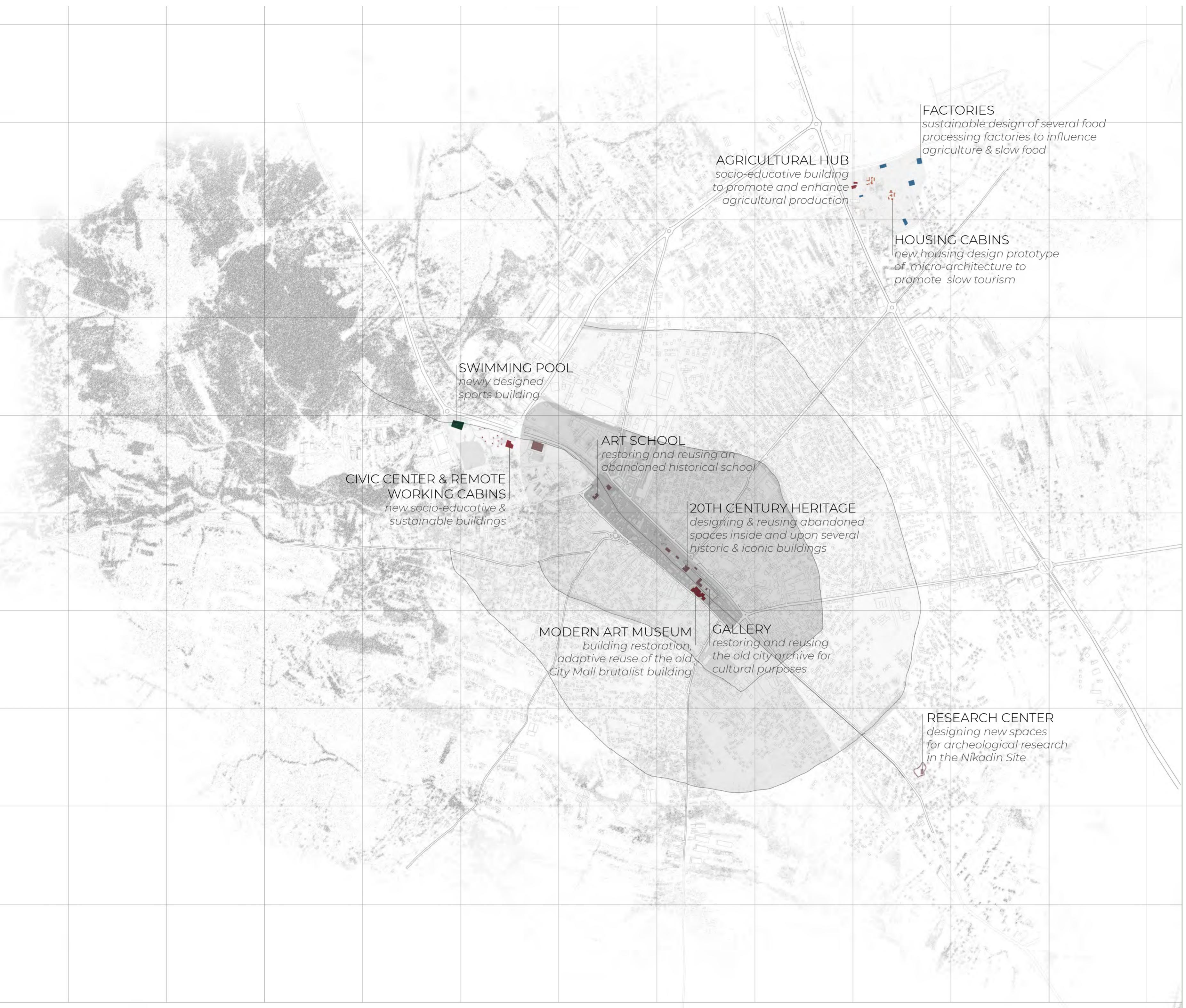


MOBILITY

A SLOW CITY
STRATEGY
Systematic Map



A SLOW CITY
STRATEGY
Systematic Map



A SLOW CITY
STRATEGY
Systematic Map



A SLOW CITY
STRATEGY
General Map



MOBILITY SYSTEM:

- Stops & Stations ○□
- Railway Buffer ■■■
- Tramway ⋮⋮⋮
- Underground Infrastructures └
- Main Roads └└
- Soft Mobility —
- Boulevards, squares & public spaces └

BUILDING SYSTEM:

- Preservation Projects └
- Socio-Cultural Buildings └
- Sports Buildings └
- Factories └
- Micro-Housing └
- Existing Buildings □

GREEN SYSTEM:

- Rivers └
- Wetlands └
- Ecological Corridors └
- Forestation └
- Urban Parks └
- Tree Rows └
- Low Vegetation └

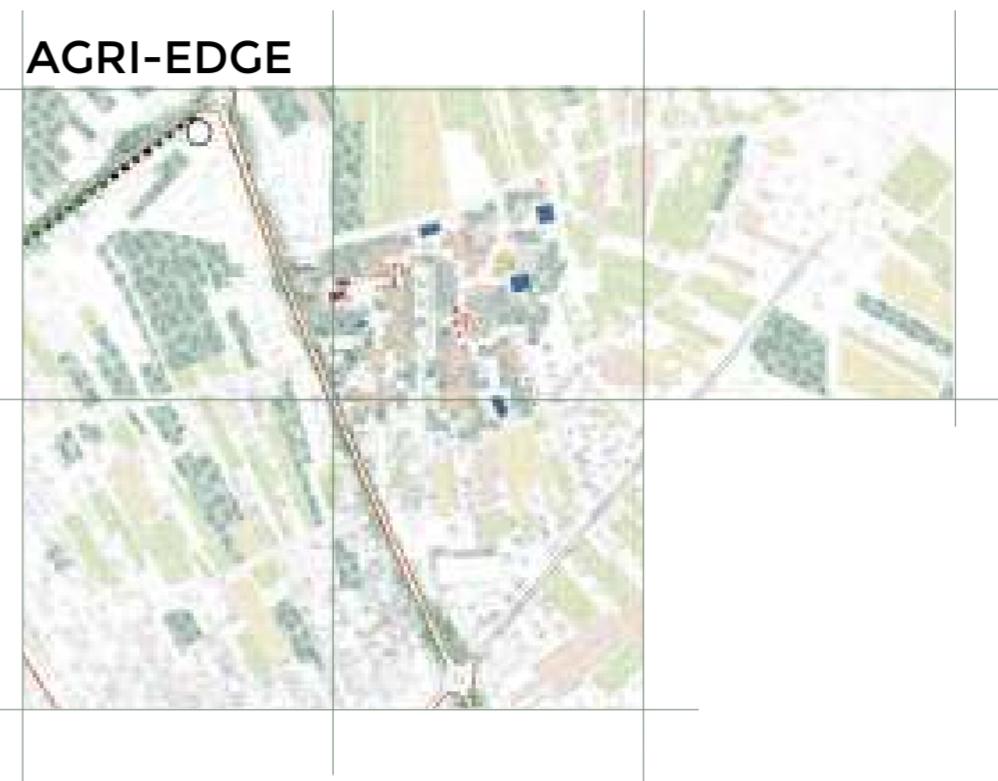
AGRICULTURE:

- Plantation └
- Cereal Crops └
- Vegetation Crops └
- Cash Crops └
- Community Gardens └



600m

ZOOM-IN DESIGN



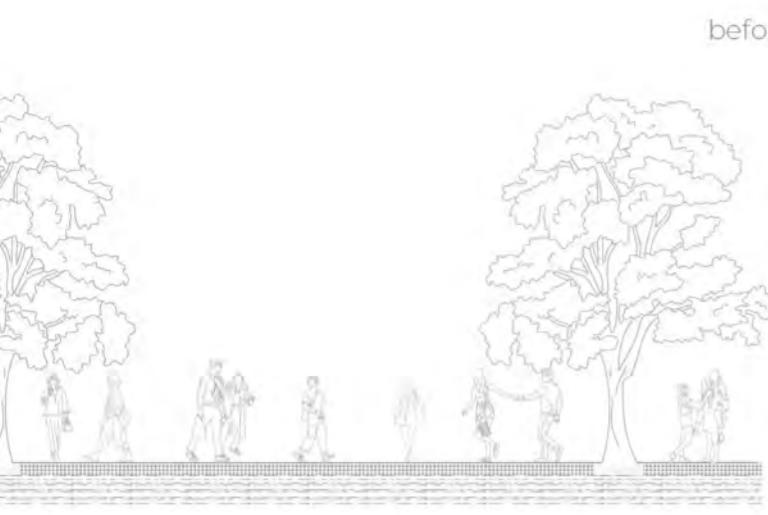
CITY CENTRE



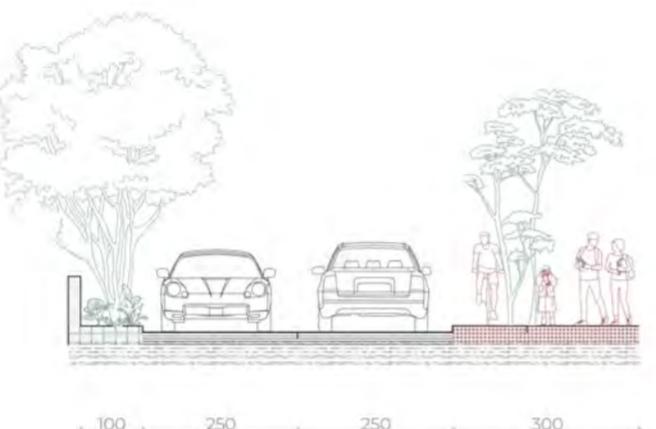
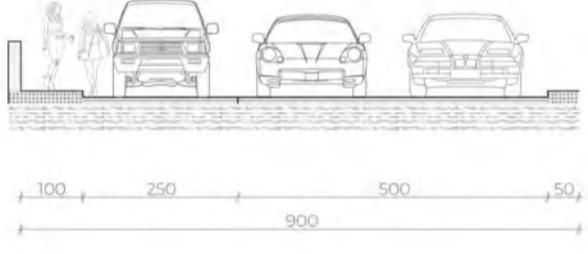
st. Ahmet Kaçiku

bv. Dëshmorët e Kombit

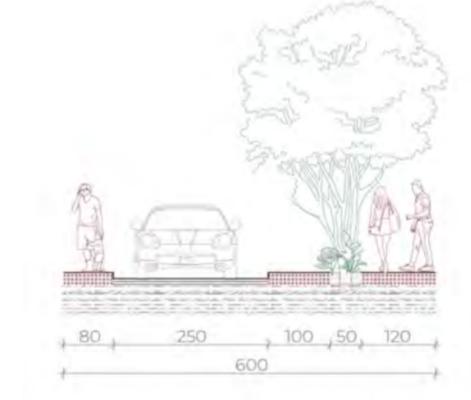
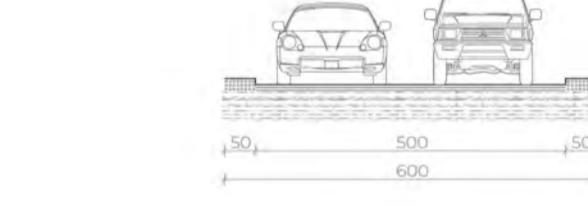
INTERVENTIONS IN INFRASTRUCTURE



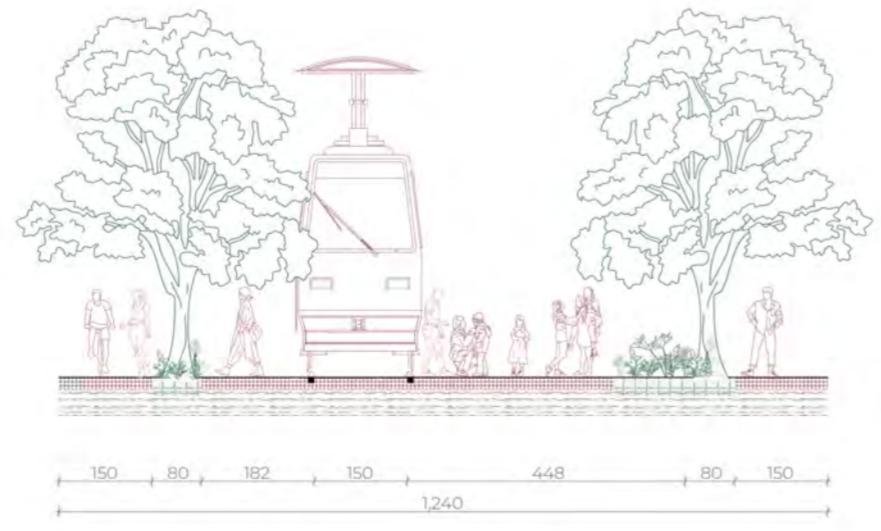
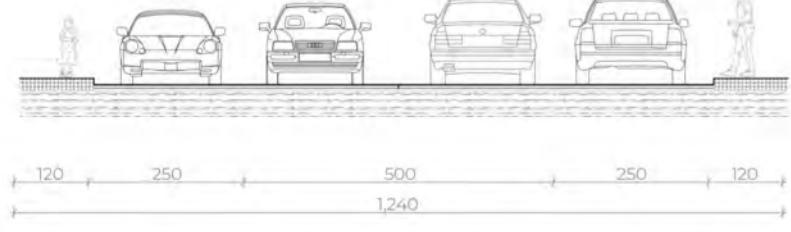
→ TRAMWAY & GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE



→ SOFT MOBILITY & GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE



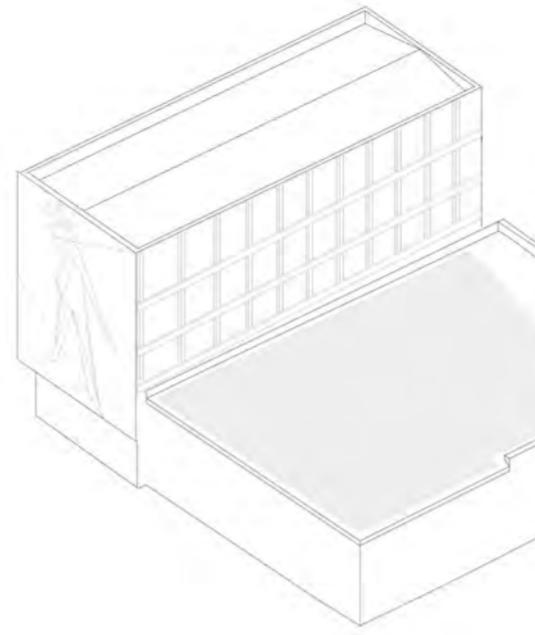
→ SOFT MOBILITY & GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE



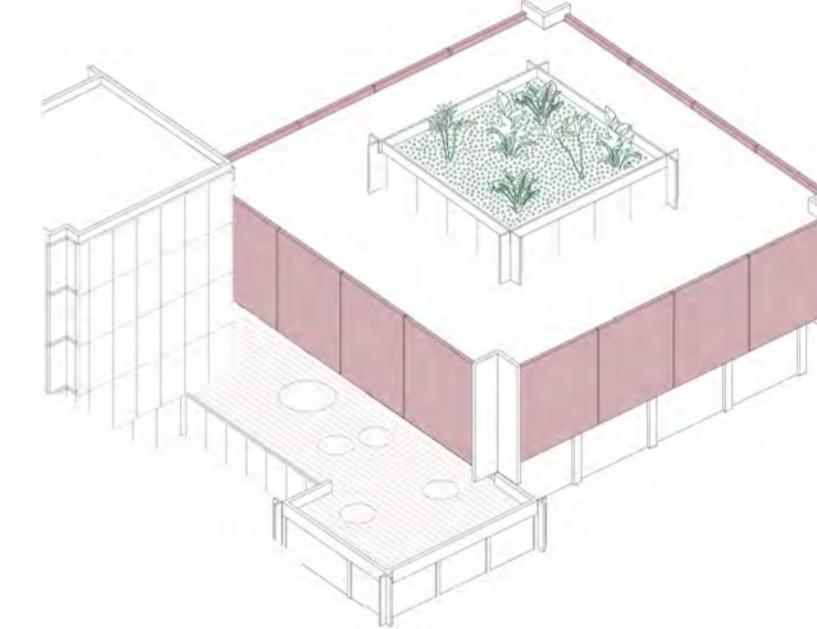
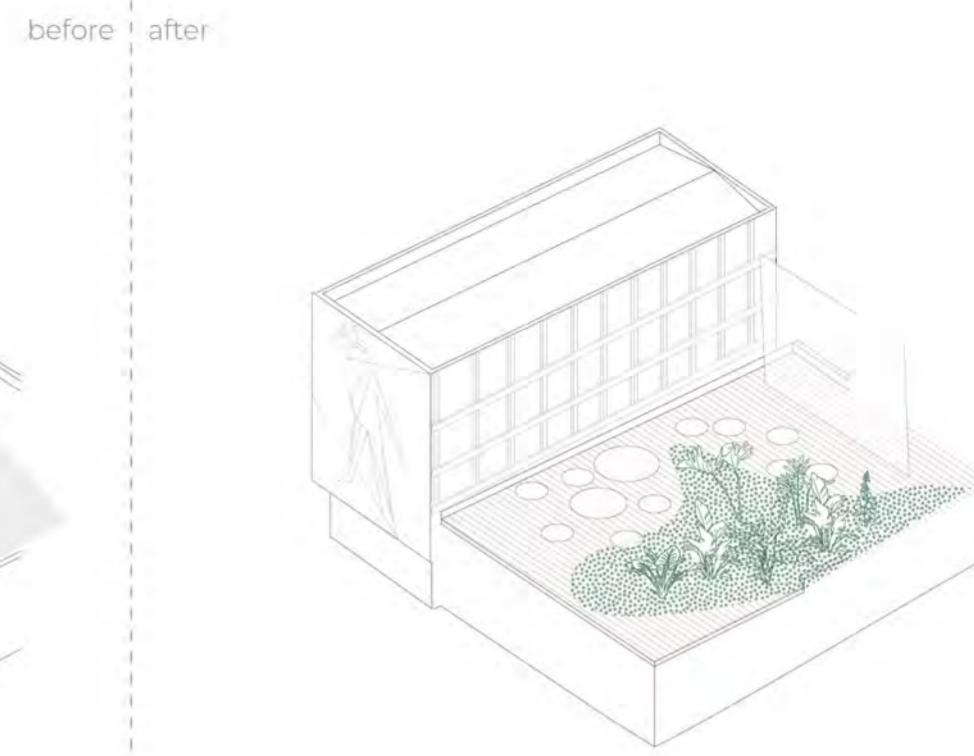
→ TRAMWAY, BOULEVARD & GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

ex City Mall / current shopping center

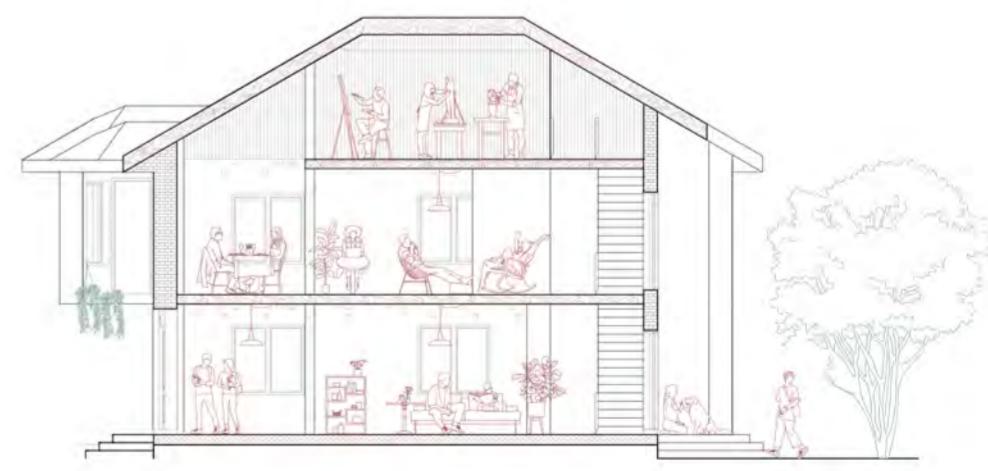
Hotel Lybeten



INTERVENTIONS IN BUILDINGS

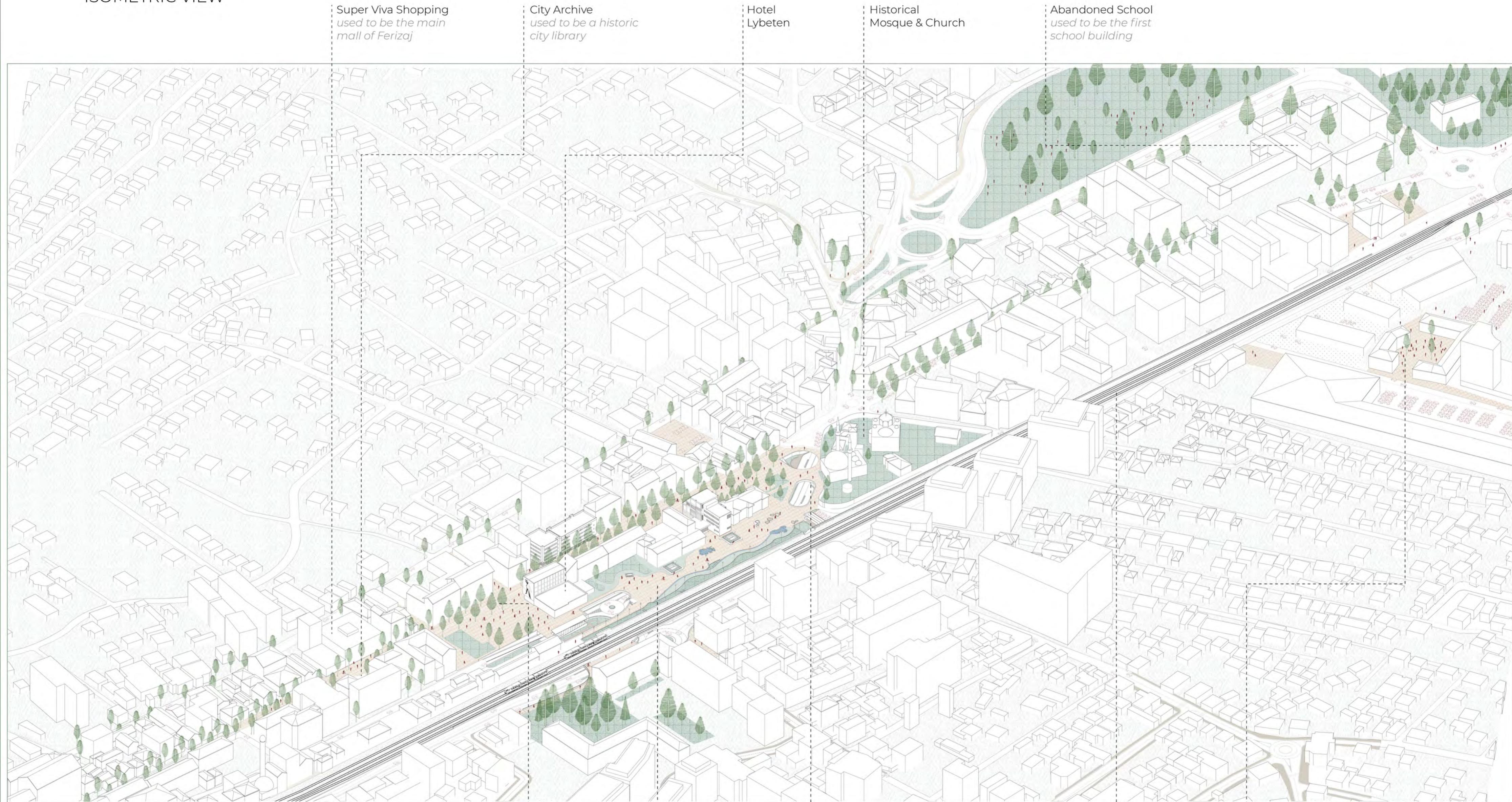


→ ADAPTIVE REUSE OF THE ABANDONED ROOFTOP



→ ADAPTIVE REUSE OF INTERIOR SPACE INTO A GALLERY

EXISTING CONDITION
CITY CENTRE
ISOMETRIC VIEW



Fagus sylvatica (beech)

Catalpa bignonioides (catalpa)

Prunus cerisifera (japanese cherry)

Quercus alba (white oak)

Platanus acerifolia (london plane)

Quercus palustris (pin oak)

Main Square
Adem Jashari
Square

the Platform on top
newly developed
platform

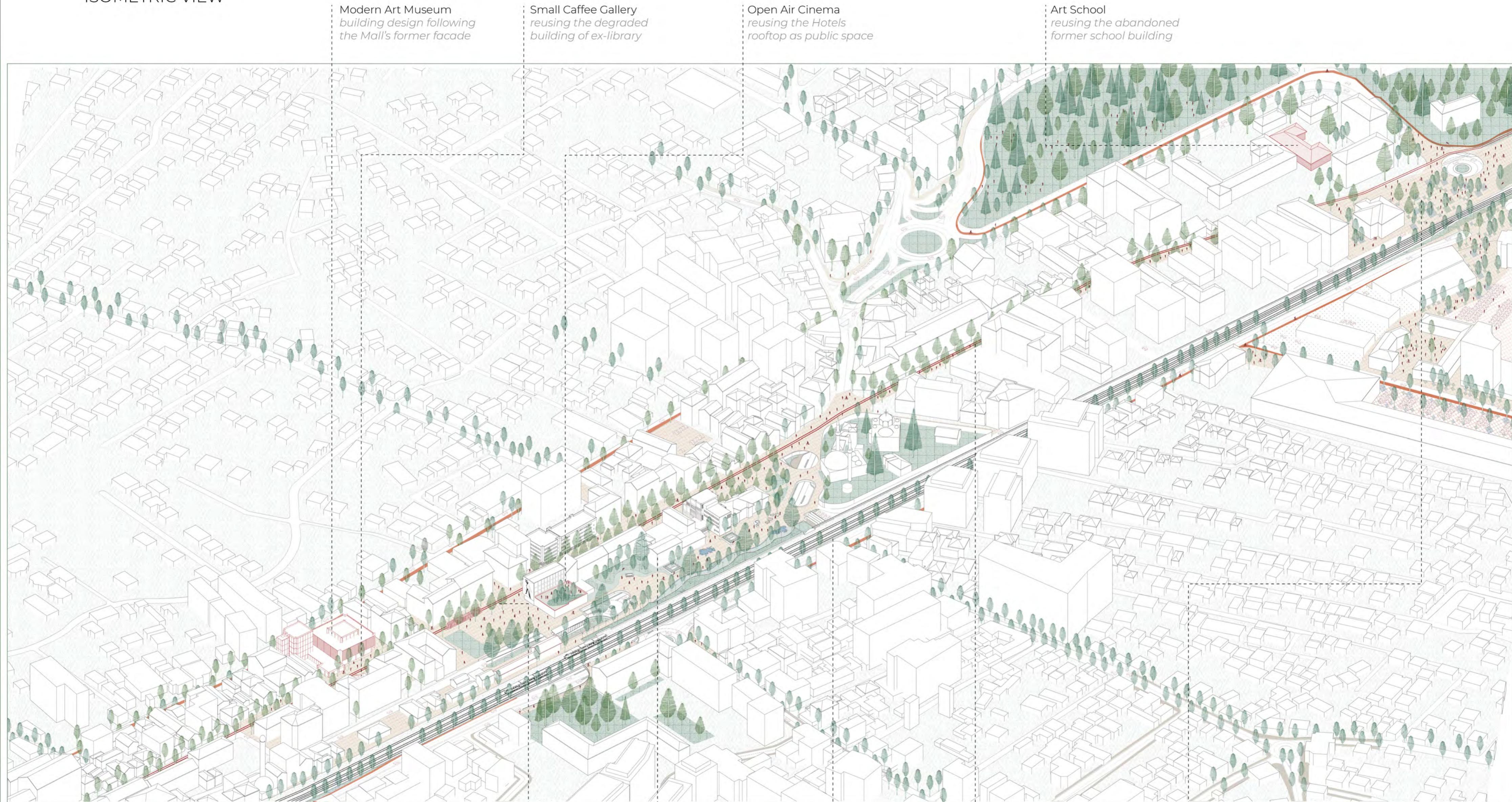
Underground Passages
newly developed project
"Bashkimi i Qytetit"

Railway
buffered
zone

The Village
very active area of
outdoor shopping mall

50m

PROPOSAL
CITY CENTRE
ISOMETRIC VIEW



Fagus sylvatica (beech)

Catalpa bignonioides (catalpa)

Prunus cerisifera (japanese cherry)

Quercus alba (white oak)

Platanus acerifolia (london plane)

Quercus palustris (pin oak)

Tramway
new public
transport

the Platform on top
improving the new
public platform along
the railway

Main streets
adding trees &
soft mobility

Boulevard
Extention
soft mobility
platform

Theater Square & The Village
extended spine of public spaces,
linked to the existing outdoor
shopping area

50m

**PROPOSAL
CITY CENTRE
PLAN VIEW**



Fagus sylvatica (beech)

Quercus alba (white oak)

Catalpa bignonioides (catalpa)

Platanus acerifolia (london plane)

Prunus cerisifera (japanese cherry)

Quercus palustris (pin oak)

1 Tramway
new public
transport

2 Boulevard
Extention
soft mobility
platform

3 Theater Square
cultural realted
public space

4 ex Station Square
re-using the old
bus station

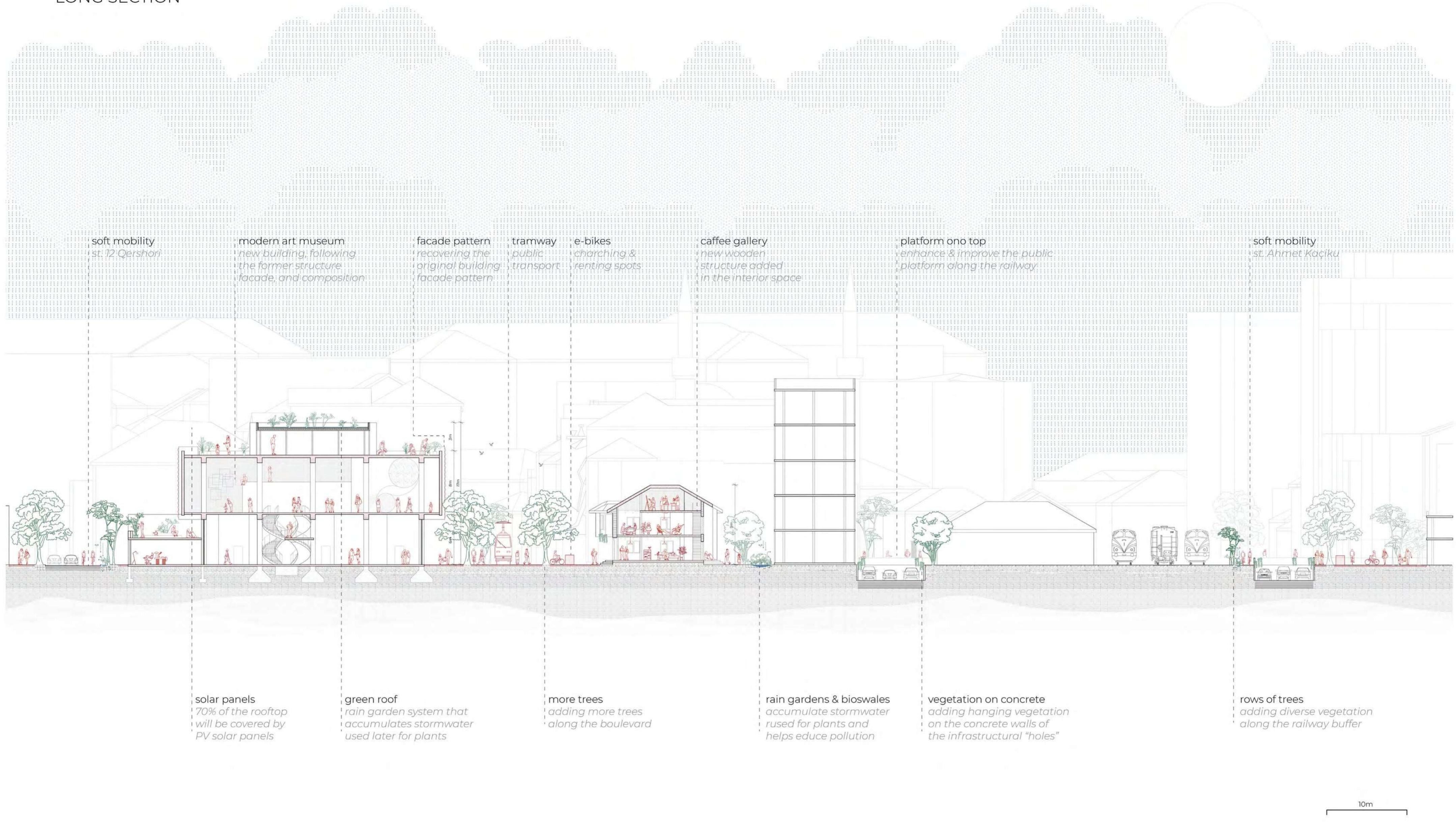
5 st.Ahmet Kaciku
adding trees &
soft mobility

6 st. 12 Qershori
adding trees &
soft mobility

7 the Platform on top
improving the new
public platform along
the railway

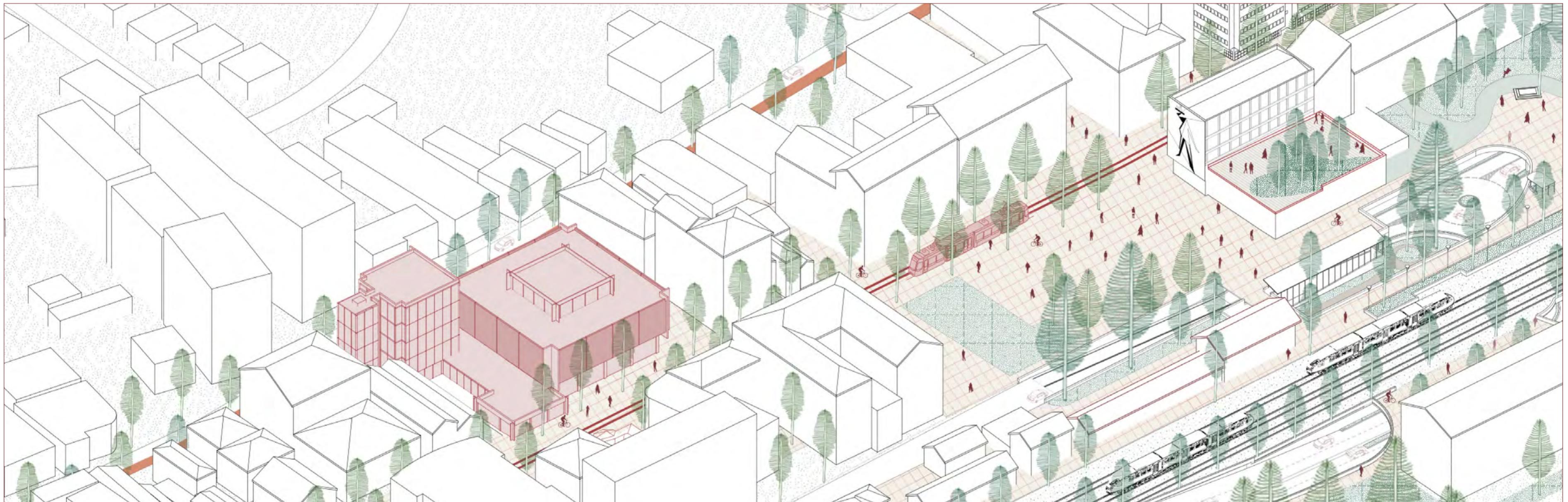
50m

PROPOSAL
CITY CENTRE
LONG SECTION



MODERN ART MUSEUM

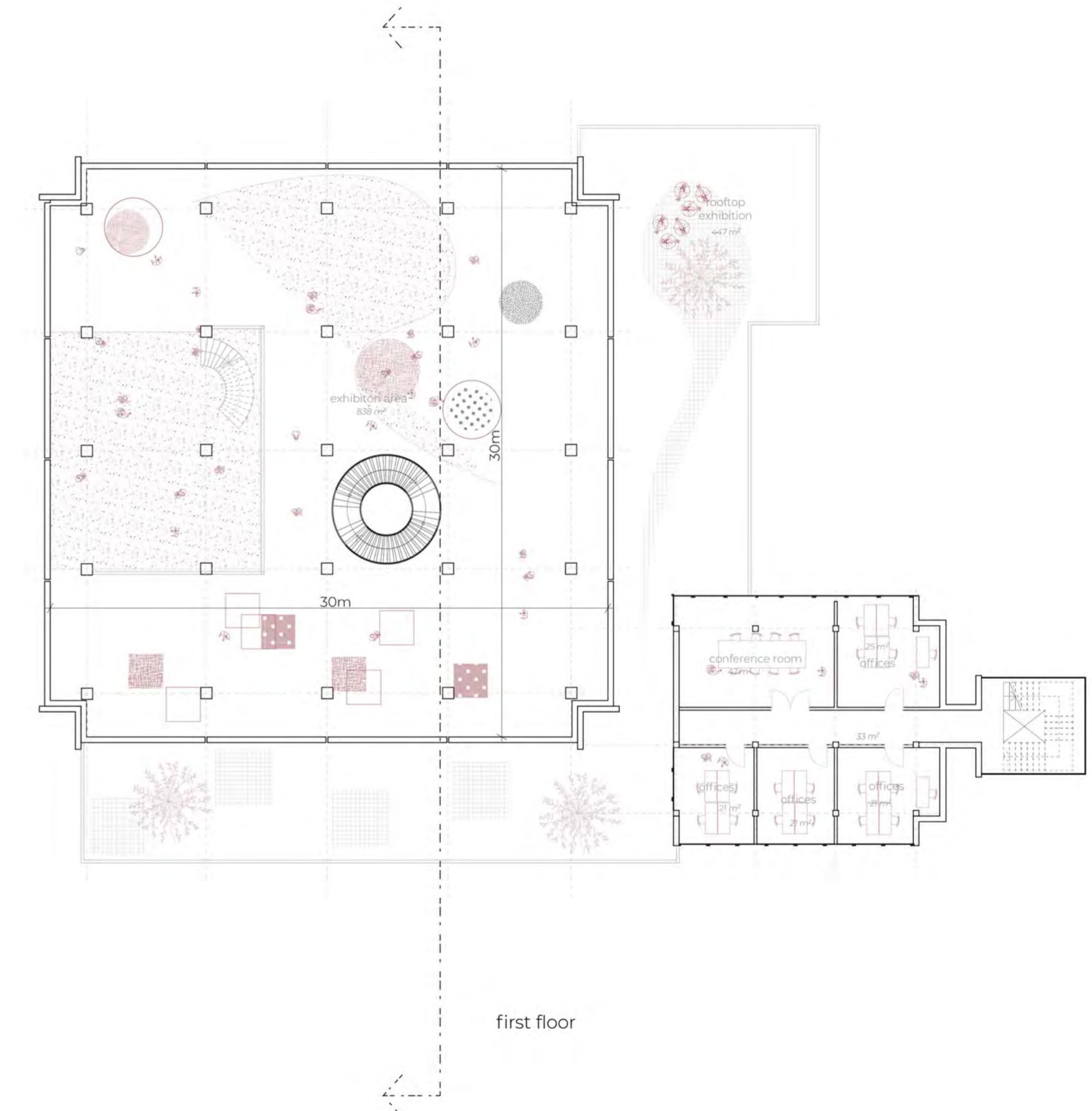
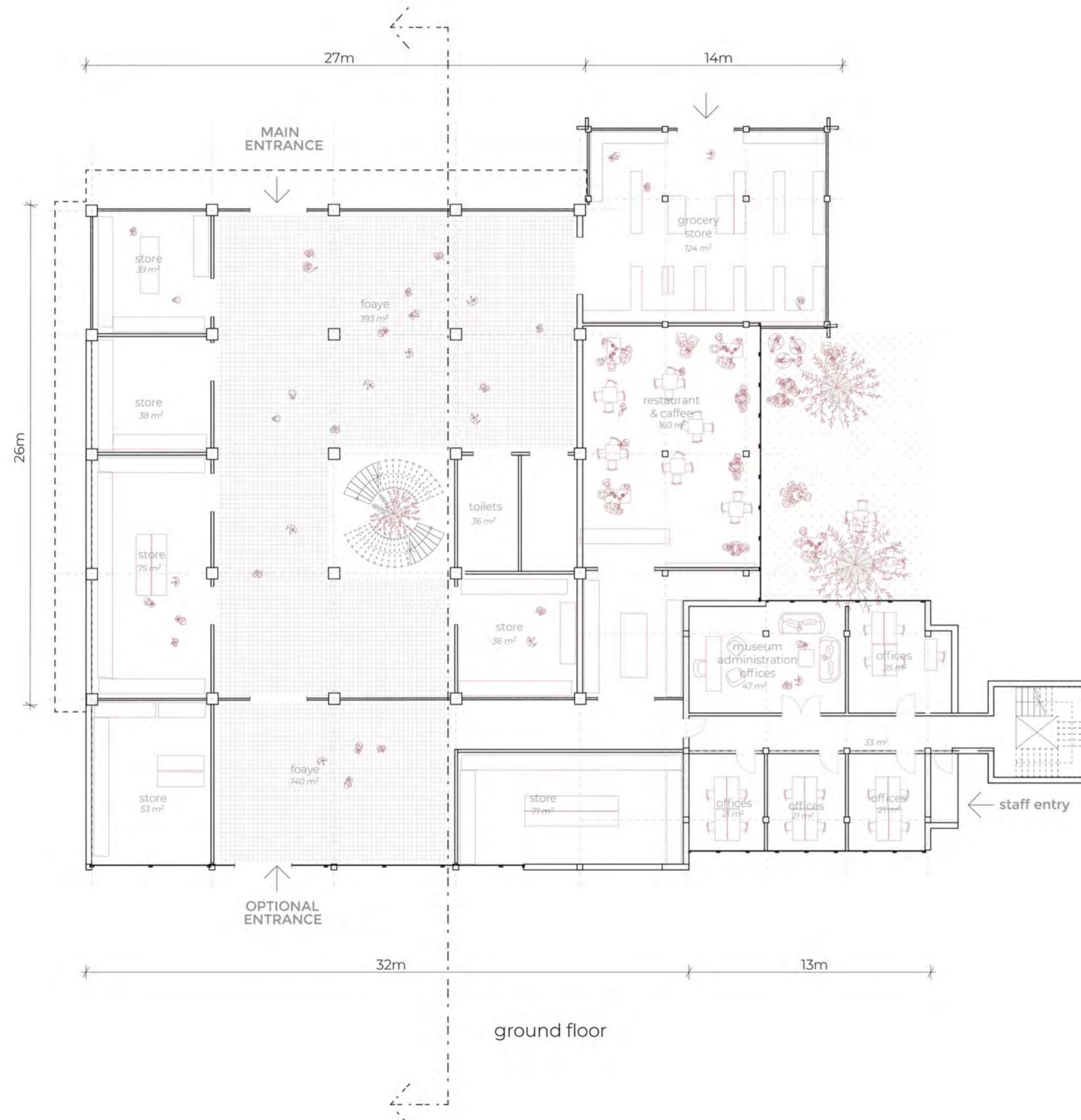
BUILDING RESTORATION



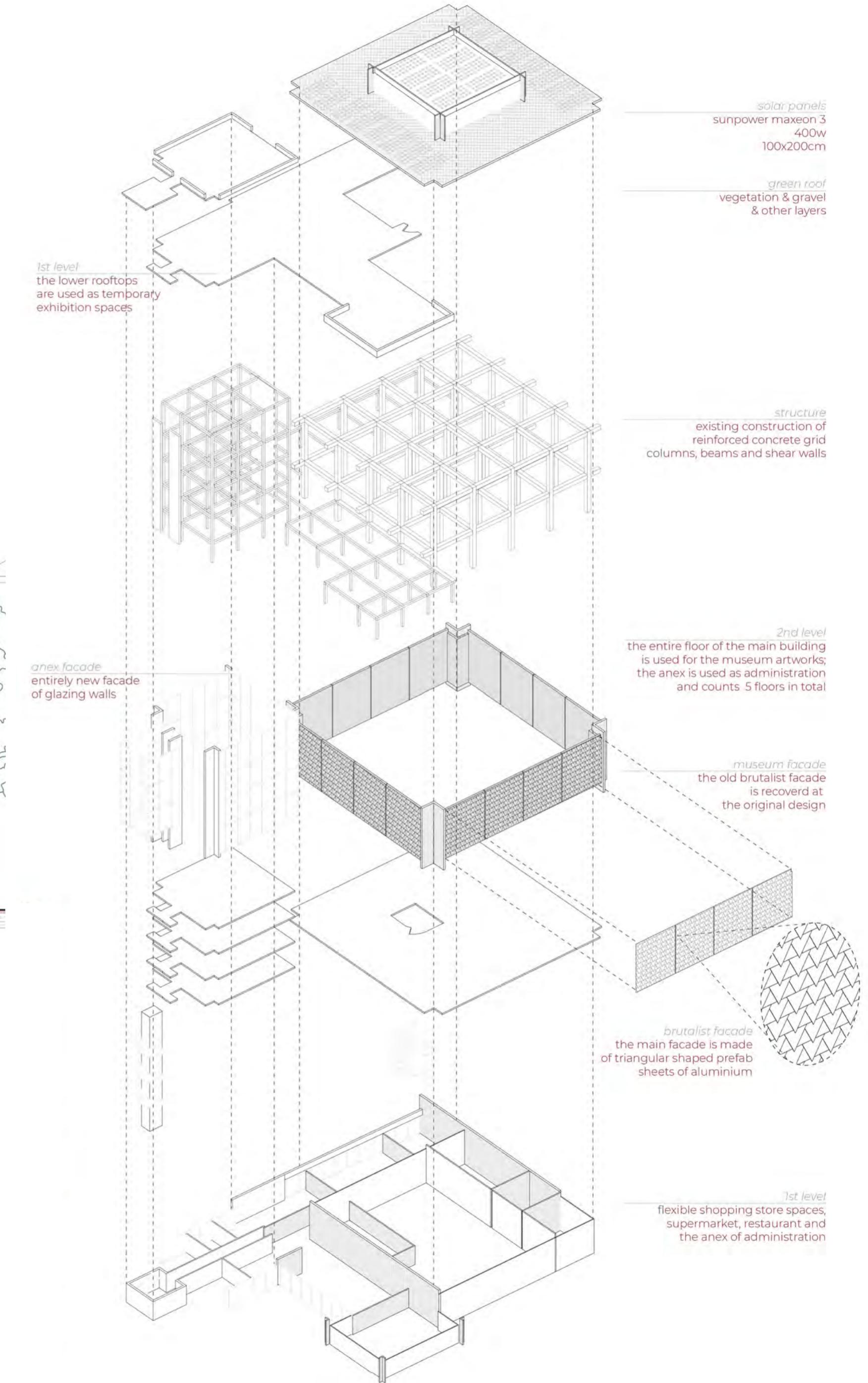
CITY CENTRE
MODERN ART MUSEUM

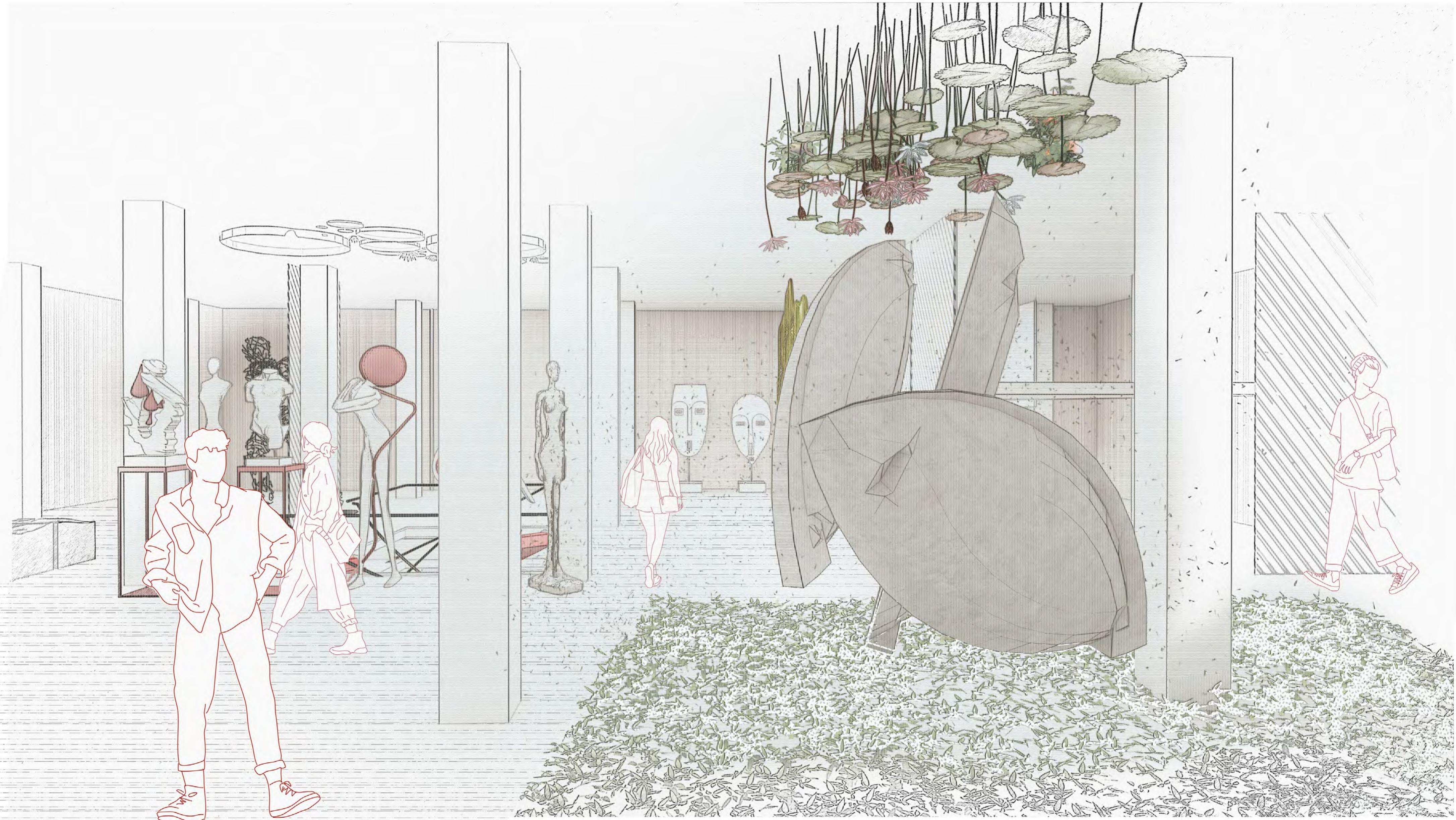


5m



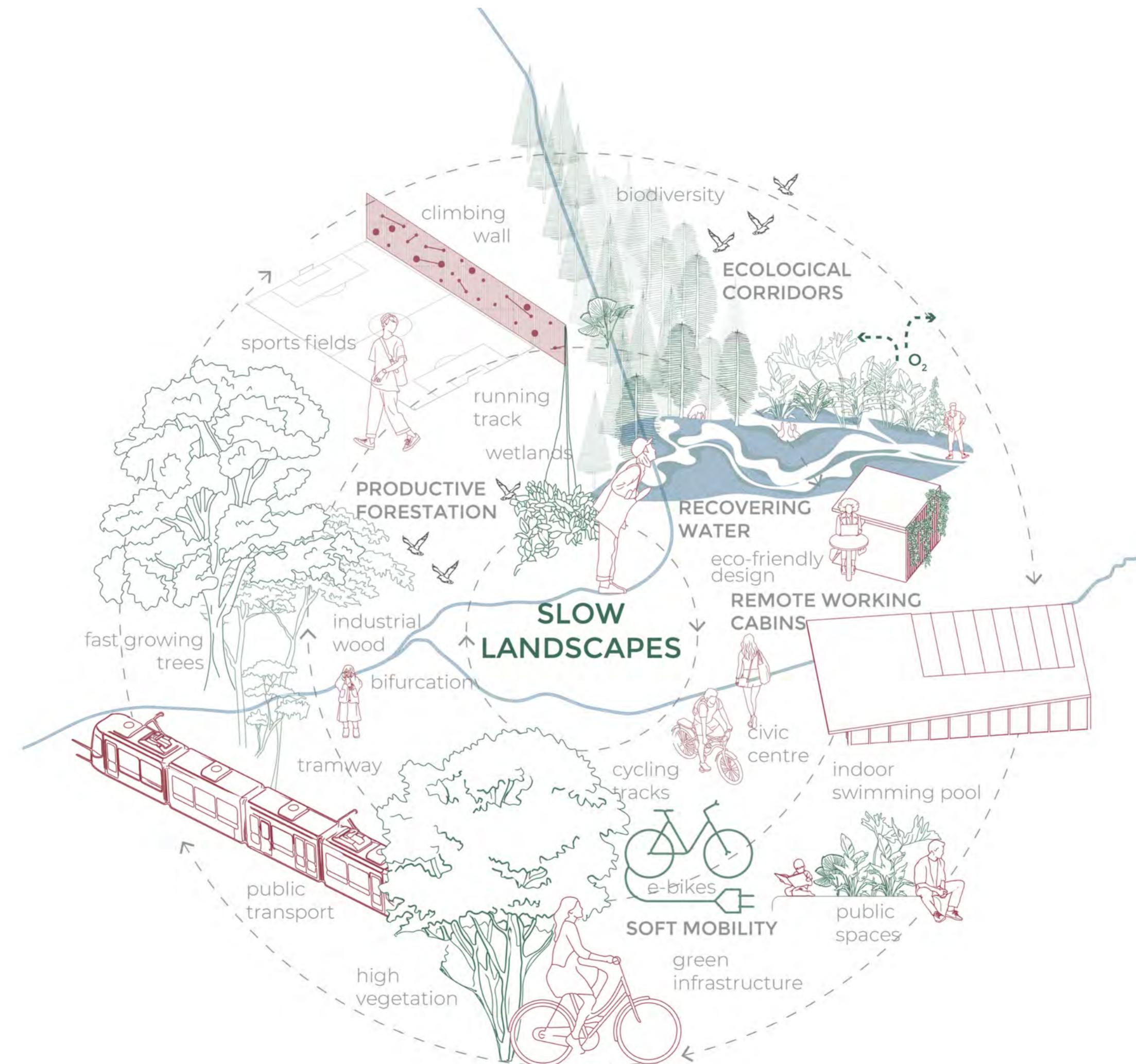
CITY CENTRE
MODERN ART MUSEUM







GREEN-EDGE



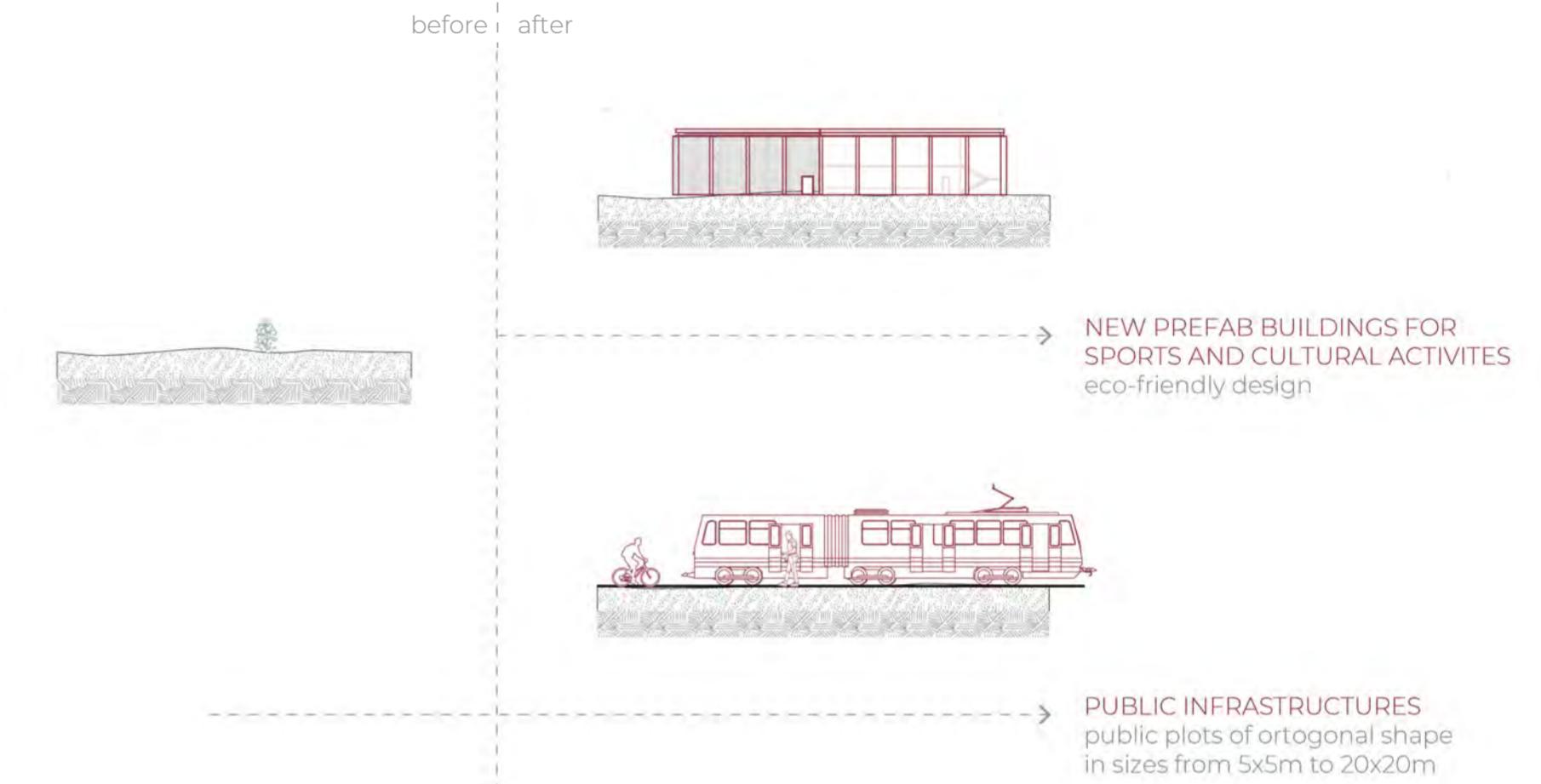
Nerodime River & its
Bifurcation

INTERVENTIONS IN LANDSCAPE



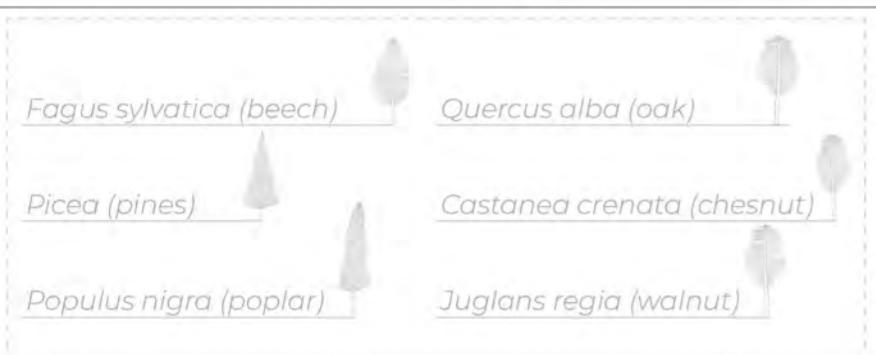
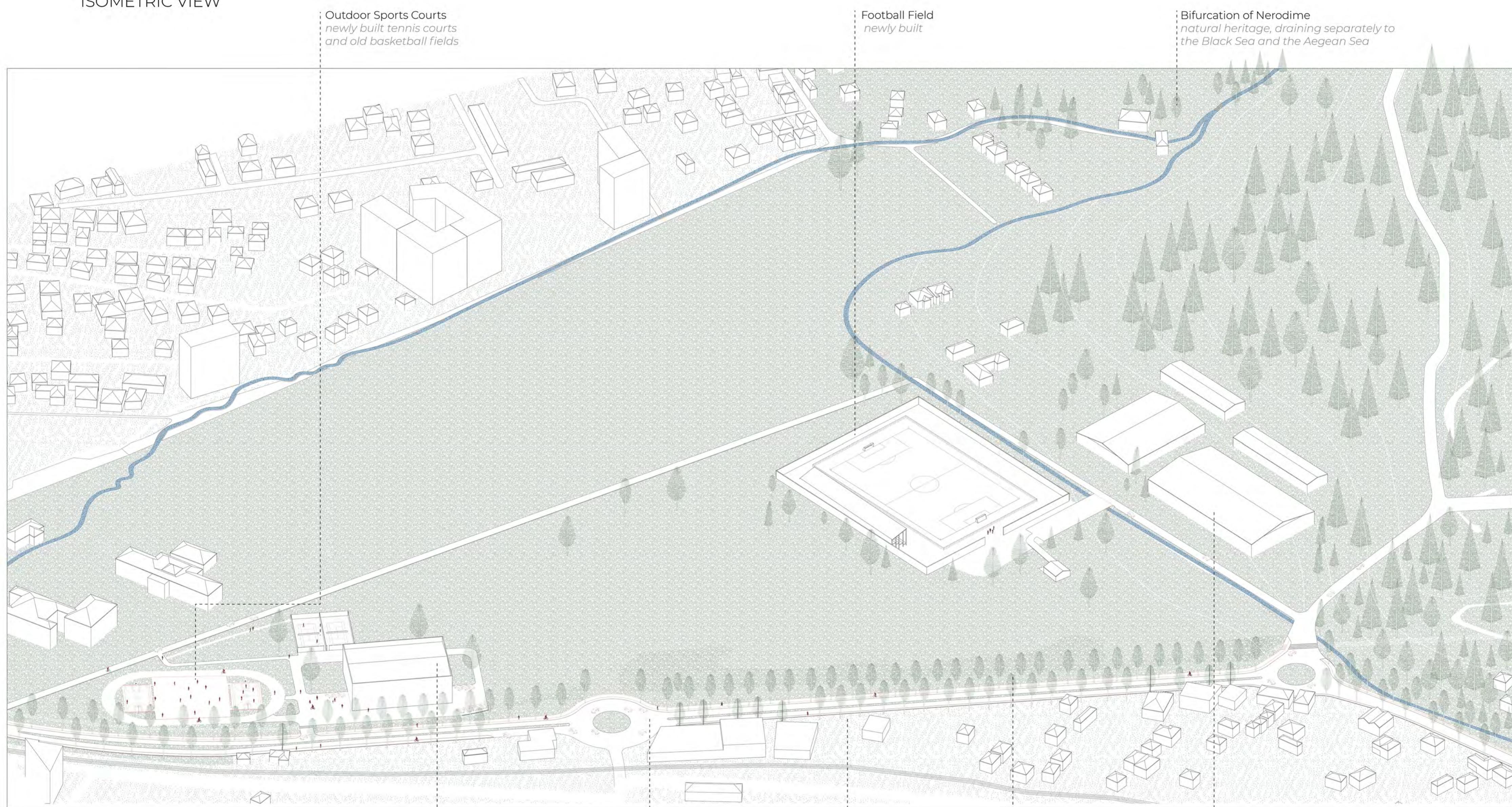
Degraded Landscapes

ADDITION OF BUILDINGS AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Degraded & Abandoned
Landscapes

EXISTING CONDITION
GREEN-EDGE
ISOMETRIC VIEW



"Bill Clinton" Sports Hall
modernist building
of brutal facade

st. Brahim Ademi
4 lane street, with
soft mobility paths

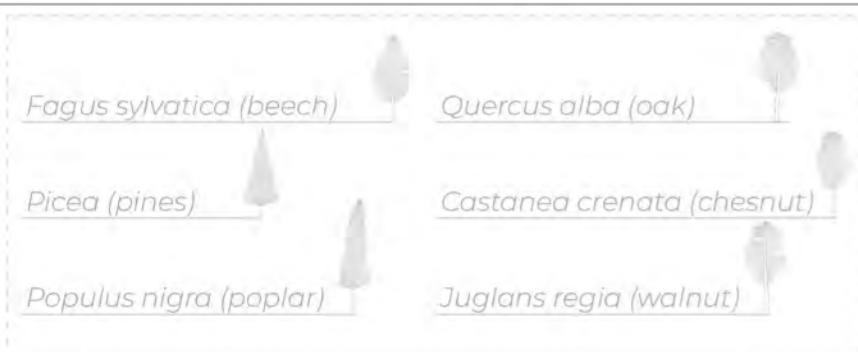
Railway
main railway
route

Tree Rows
healthy trees
along the road

Industrial Factories
Minex Peanut Factory

50m

PROPOSAL
GREEN-EDGE
ISOMETRIC VIEW



Productive Forest
trees cultivated
for logging

Soft Mobility
pedestrian &
bike areas

Urban Park
public park

Track Racing
area used for
cycling sports

Wetlands
ponds with
aquatic vegetation

Tramway
public transport

50m

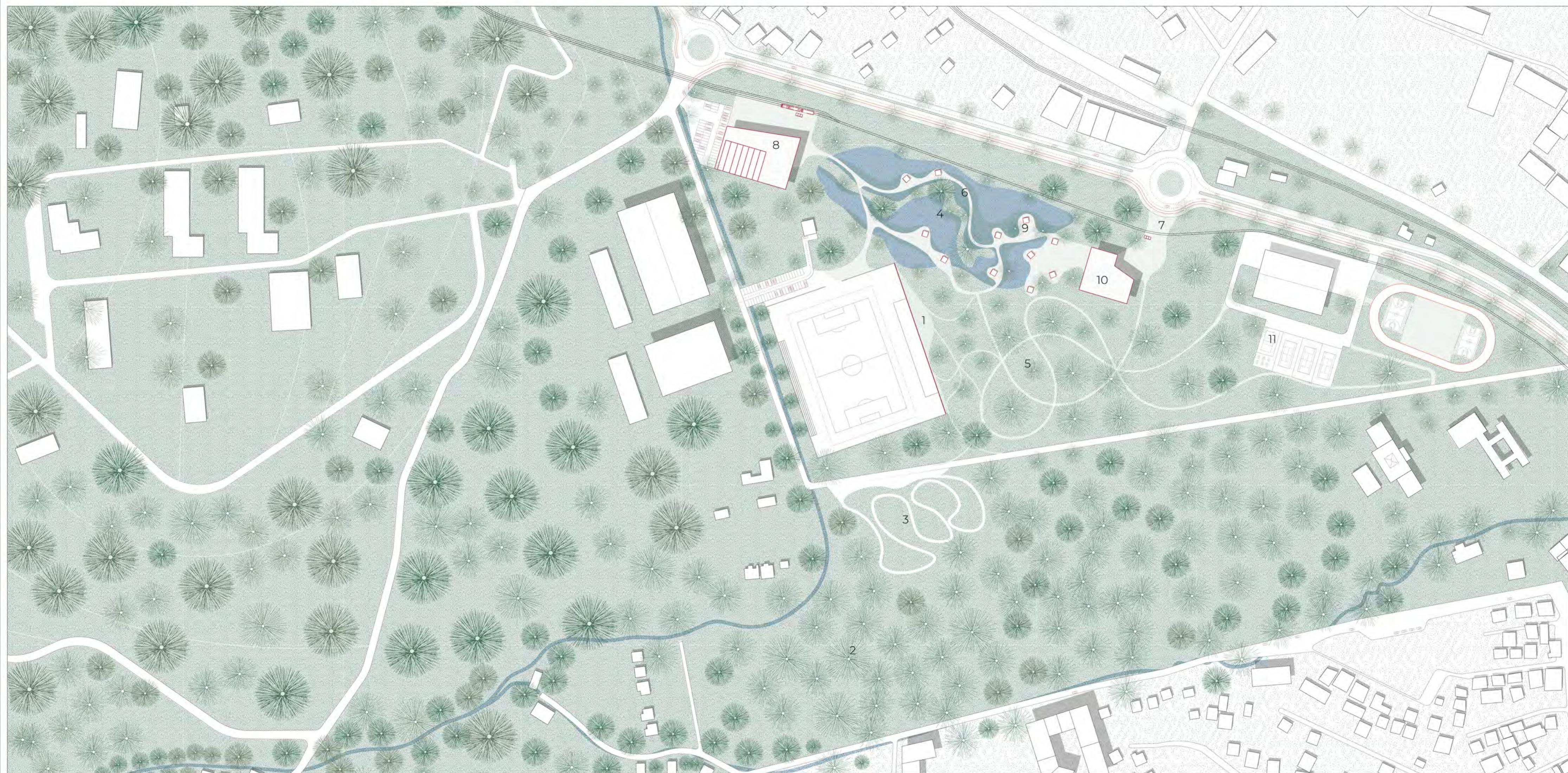
PROPOSAL
GREEN-EDGE
PLAN VIEW

8 Indoor Swimming Pool
medium sports pool

9 Remote Working Cabins
semi-open cabins
for working

10 Civic Center
socio-education
workshop spaces

11 Sports Fields
volleyball, tennis
courts



<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> (beech)	<i>Quercus alba</i> (oak)
<i>Picea</i> (pines)	
	<i>Castanea crenata</i> (chesnut)
<i>Populus nigra</i> (poplar)	<i>Juglans regia</i> (walnut)

1 Climbing Wall Playground
recreational wall for
different activities

2 Productive Forest
trees cultivated
for logging

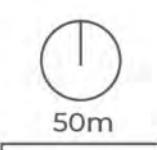
3 Track Racing
area used for
cycling sports

4 Wetlands
ponds with
aquatic vegetation

5 Urban Park
public park

6 Soft Mobility
pedestrian &
bike areas

7 Tramway
public transport

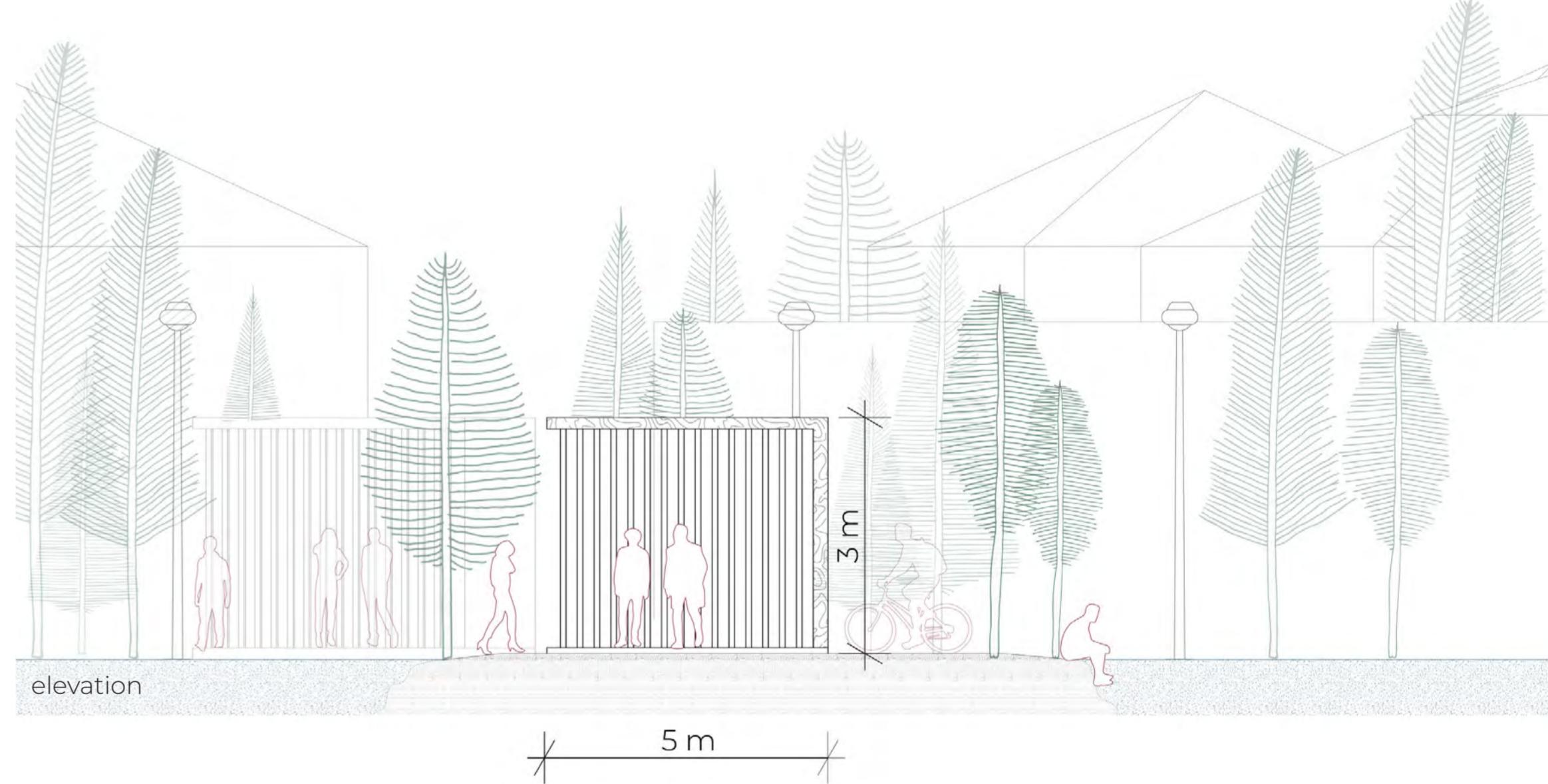
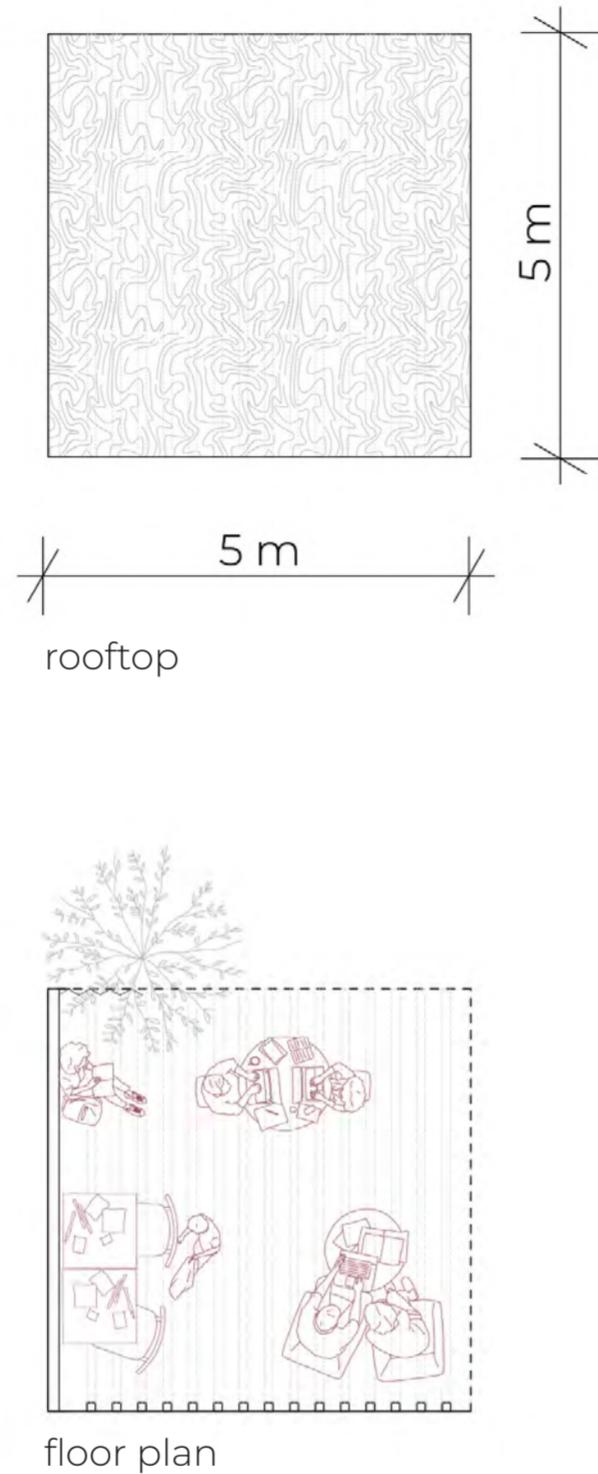
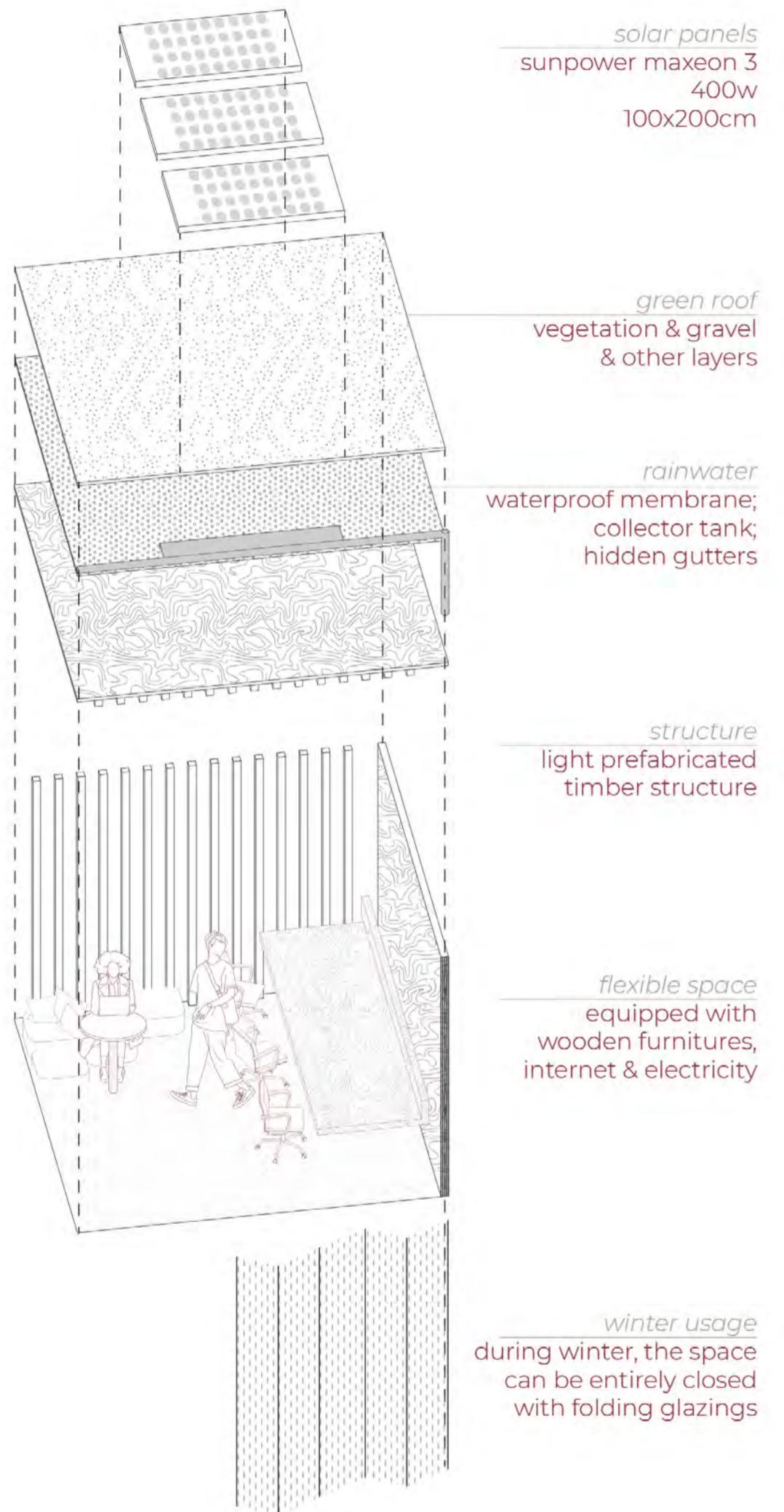


REMOTE WORKING CABINS

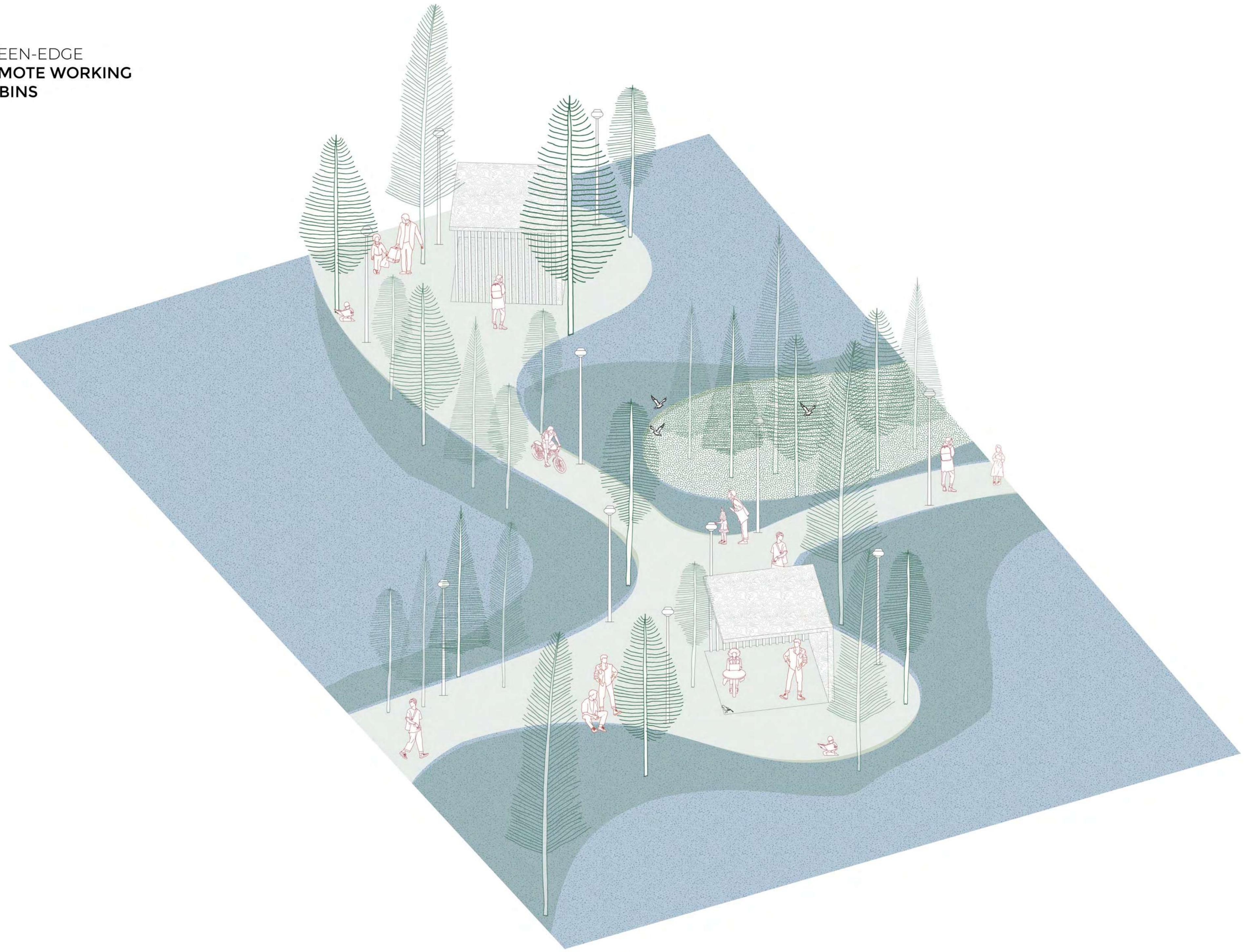
NEW BUILDING DESIGN



GREEN-EDGE
REMOTE WORKING
CABINS



GREEN-EDGE
REMOTE WORKING
CABINS

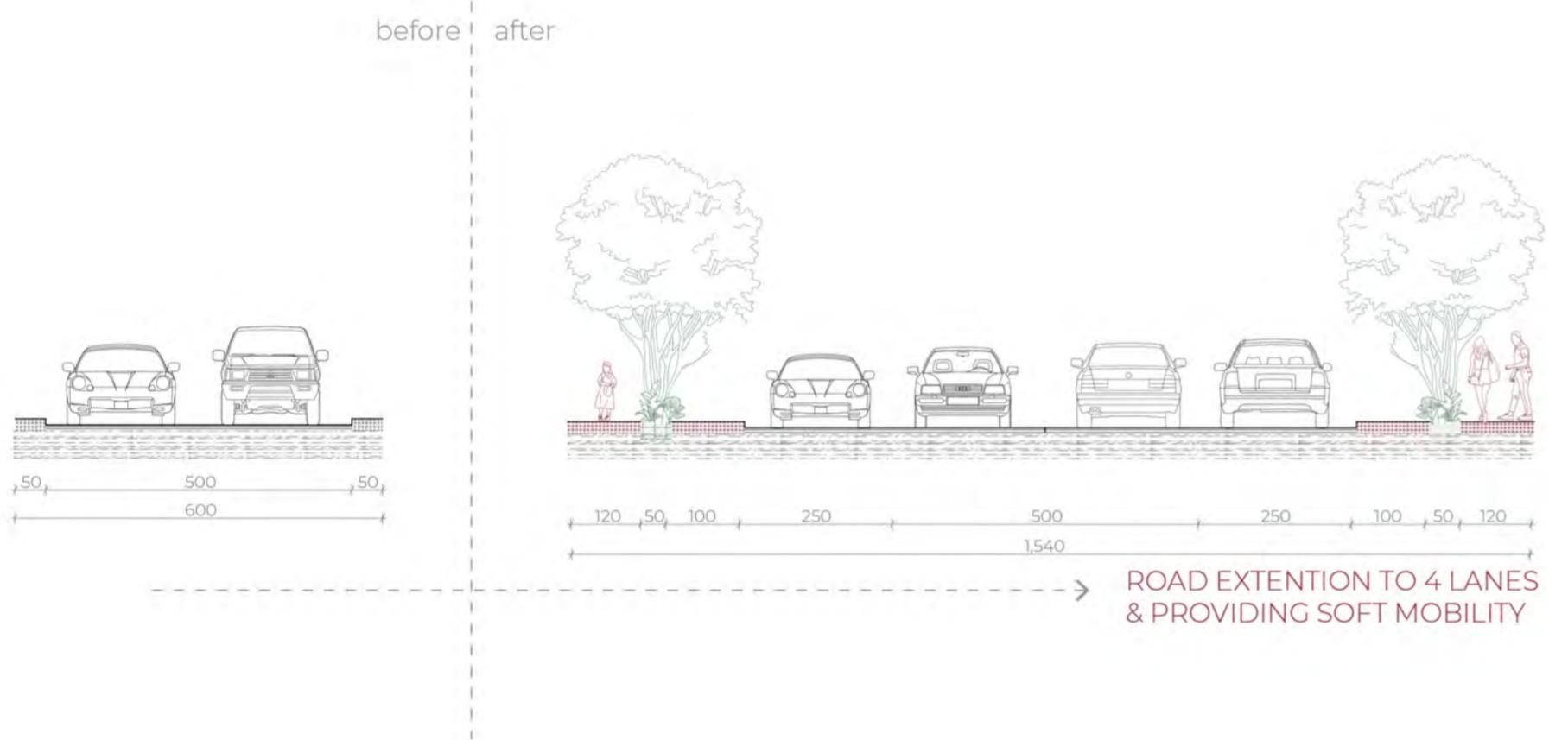




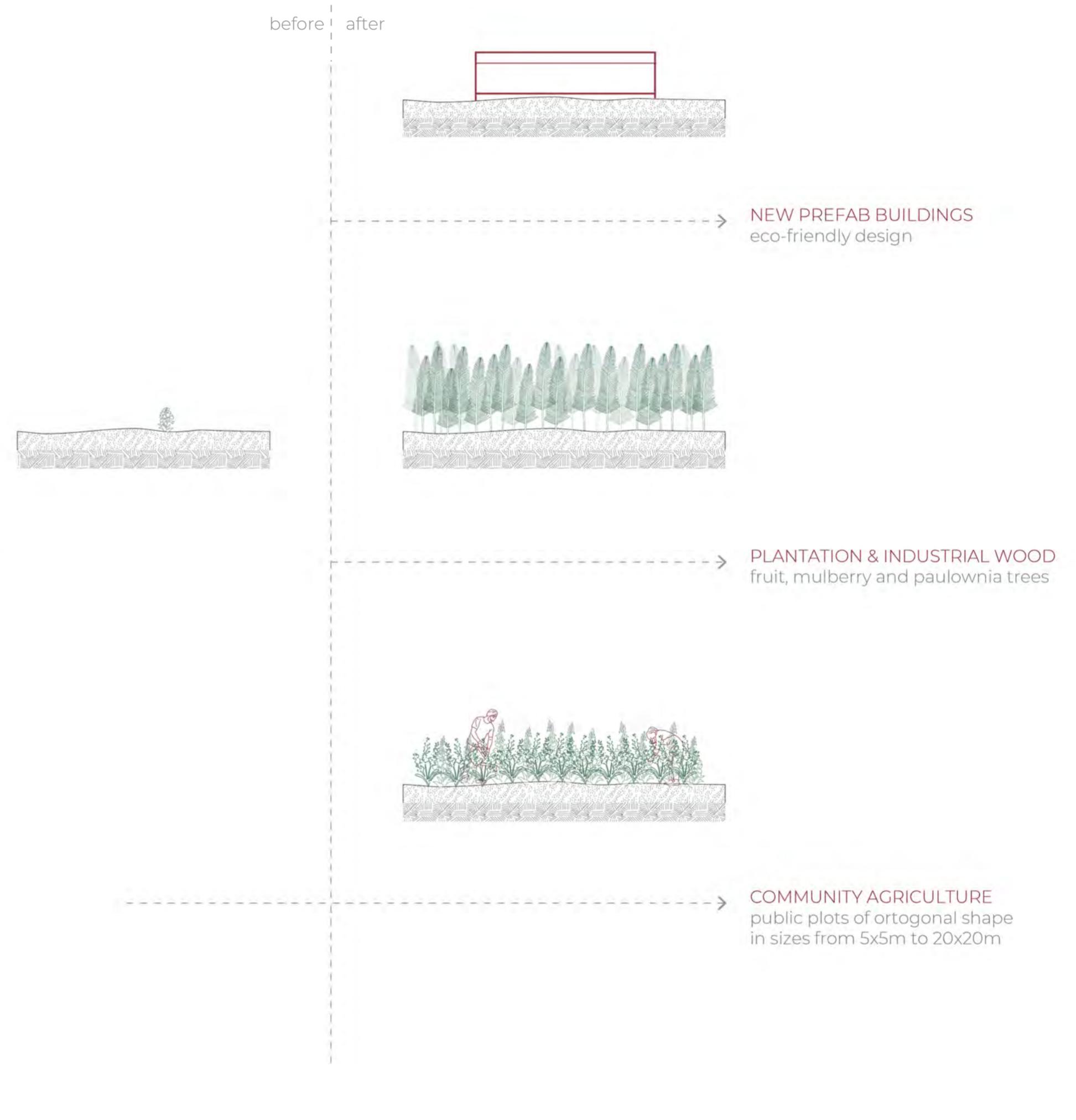
AGRI-EDGE



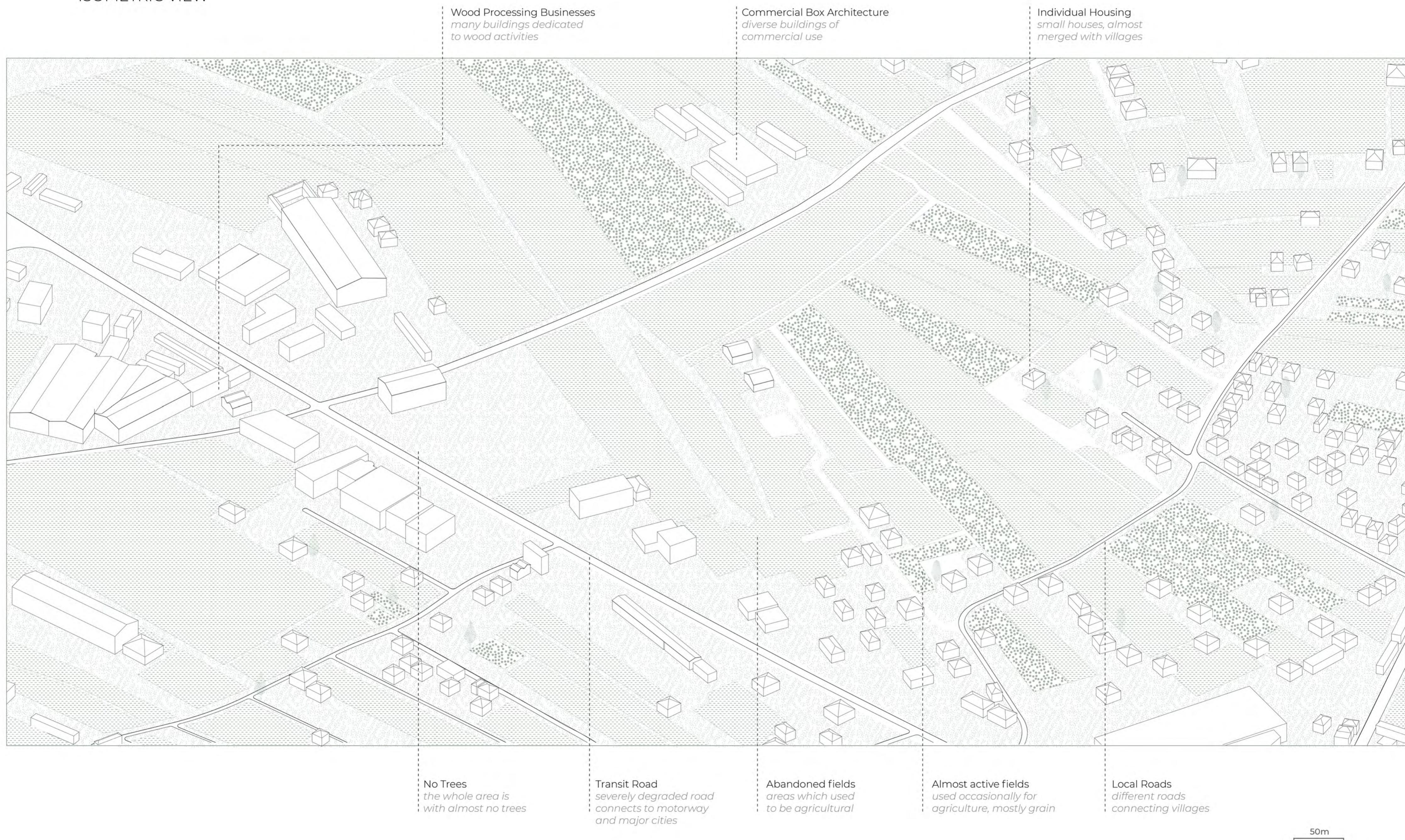
INTERVENTIONS IN INFRASTRUCTURE



INTERVENTIONS IN LANDSCAPE

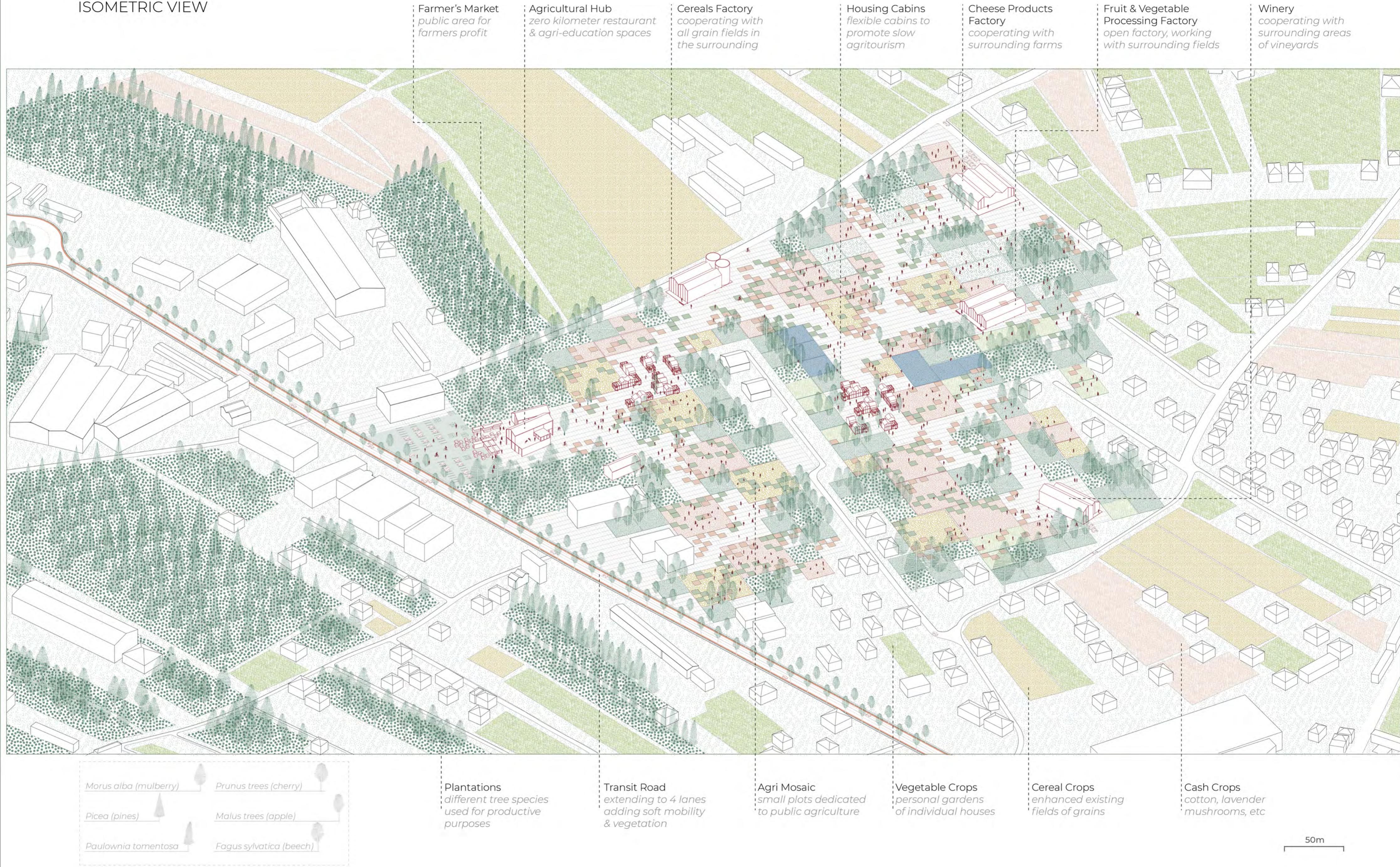


EXISTING CONDITION
AGRI-EDGE
ISOMETRIC VIEW



50m

PROPOSAL
AGRI-EDGE
ISOMETRIC VIEW

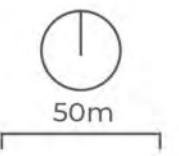


**PROPOSAL
AGRI-EDGE
PLAN VIEW**

- 7 Farmer's Market public area for farmers profit
- 8 Agricultural Hub zero kilometer restaurant & agri-education spaces
- 9 Cereals Factory cooperating with all grain fields in the surrounding
- 10 Housing Cabins flexible cabins to promote slow agritourism
- 11 Cheese Products Factory cooperating with surrounding farms
- 12 Fruit & Vegetable Processing Factory open factory, working with surrounding fields
- 13 Winery cooperating with surrounding areas of vineyards
- 14 Silkworm Factory cooperating with surrounding areas of Mulberry trees



- 1 Plantations different tree species used for productive purposes
- 2 Transit Road extending to 4 lanes adding soft mobility & vegetation
- 3 Agri Mosaic small plots dedicated to public agriculture
- 4 Vegetable Crops personal gardens of individual houses
- 5 Cereal Crops enhanced existing fields of grains
- 6 Cash Crops cotton, lavender mushrooms, etc



PROPOSAL
AGRI-EDGE
COMMUNITY MOSAIC



cereals



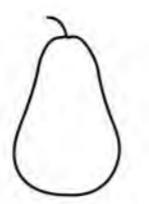
vegetables



root vegetables



fruits



grapevines



fungi



industrial trees



industrial flowers



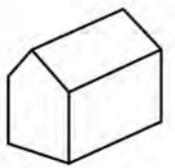
farm animals



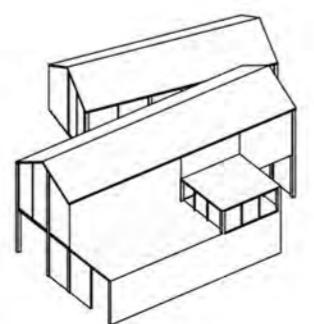
fish



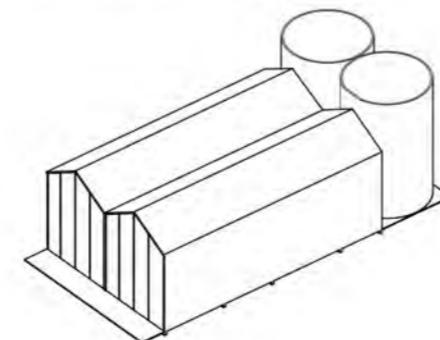
individual homes



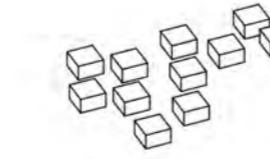
zero kilometer restaurant



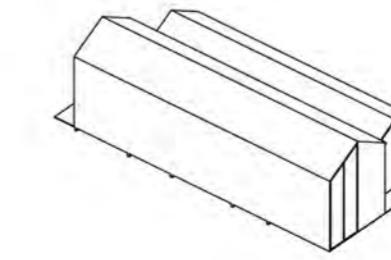
food processing factories



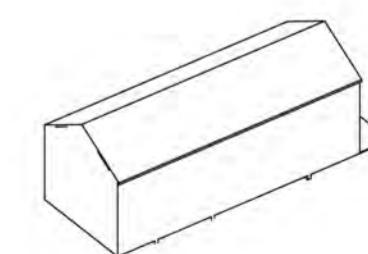
farmer's market



wood processing factories



sericulture factory



AGRICULTURAL HUB

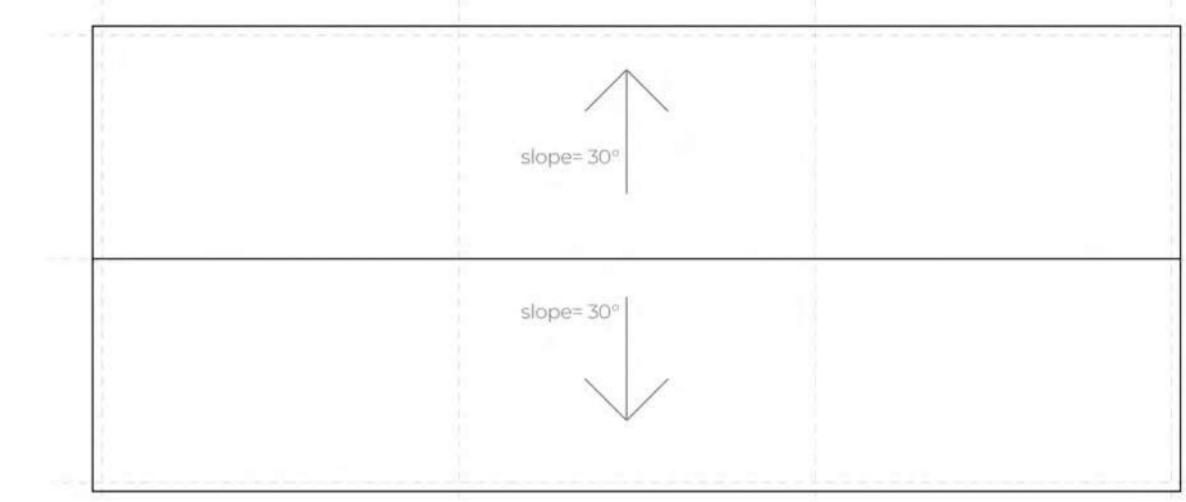
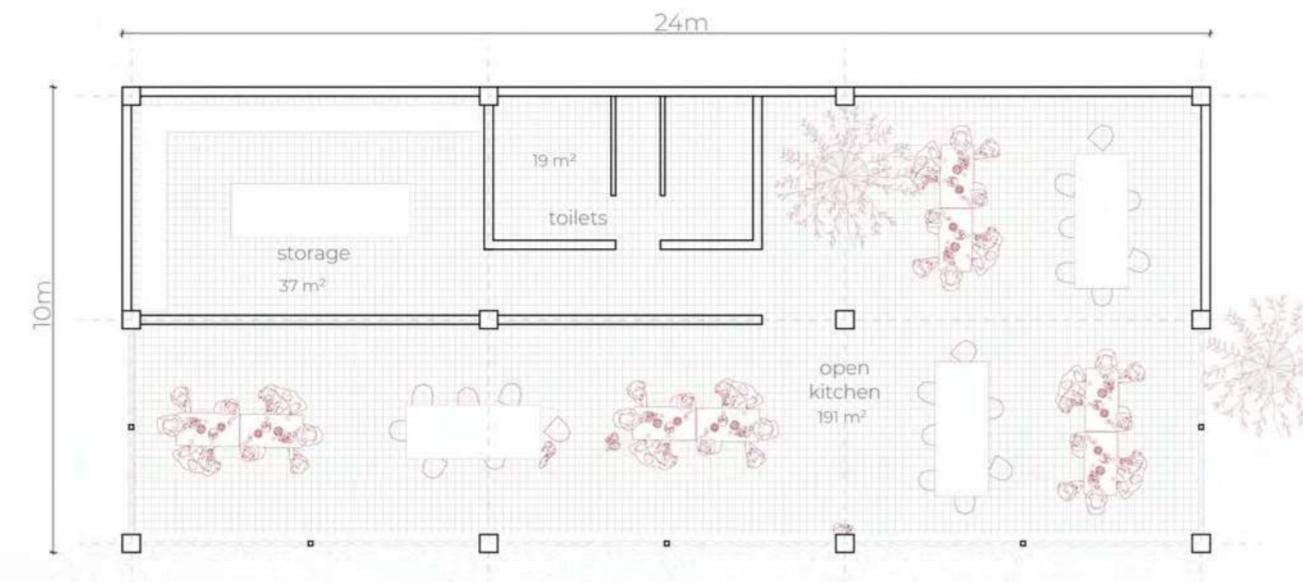
NEW BUILDING DESIGN



AGRI-EDGE
AGRICULTURAL HUB



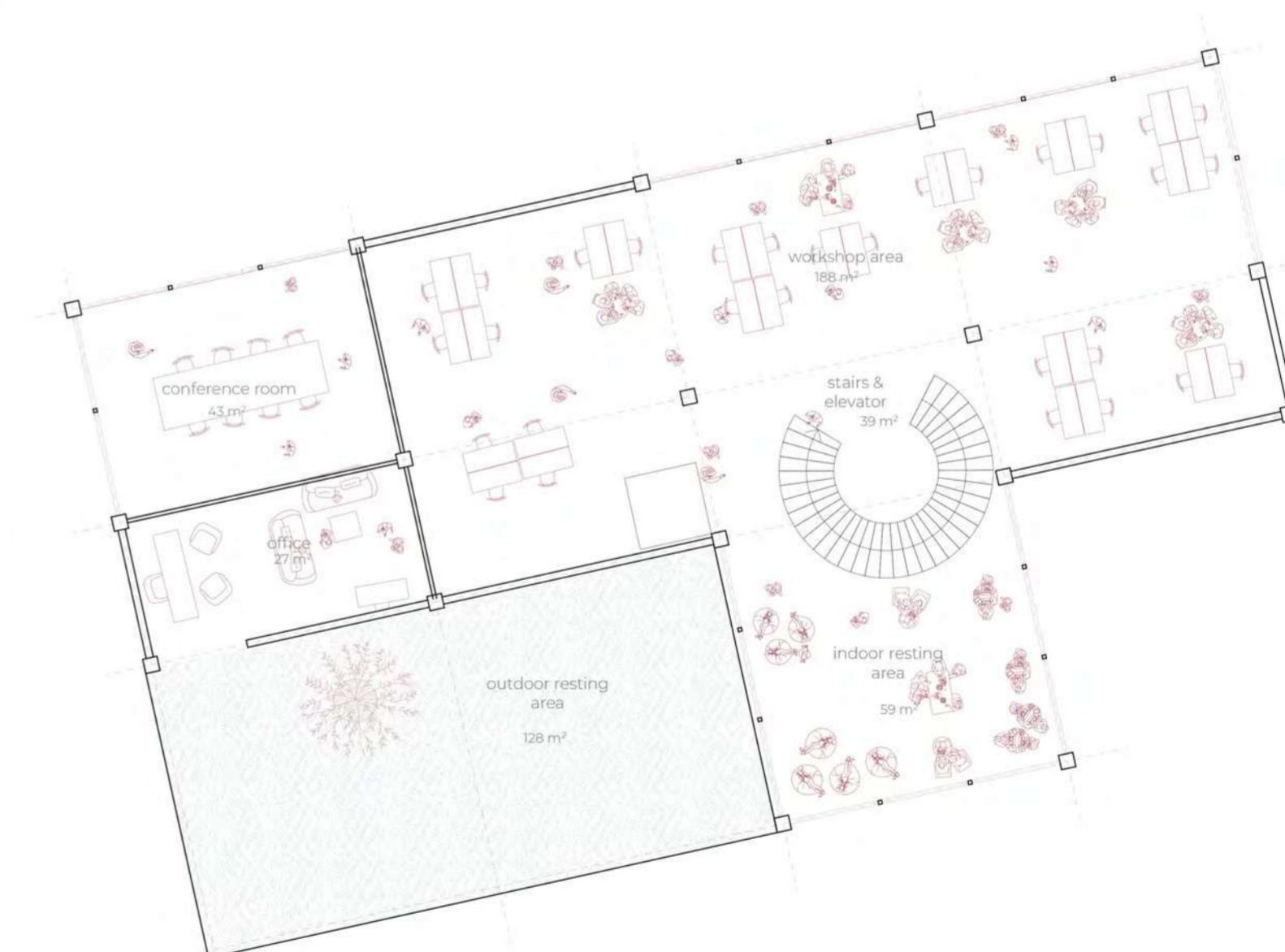
5m



MAIN SQUARE
ENTRANCE →

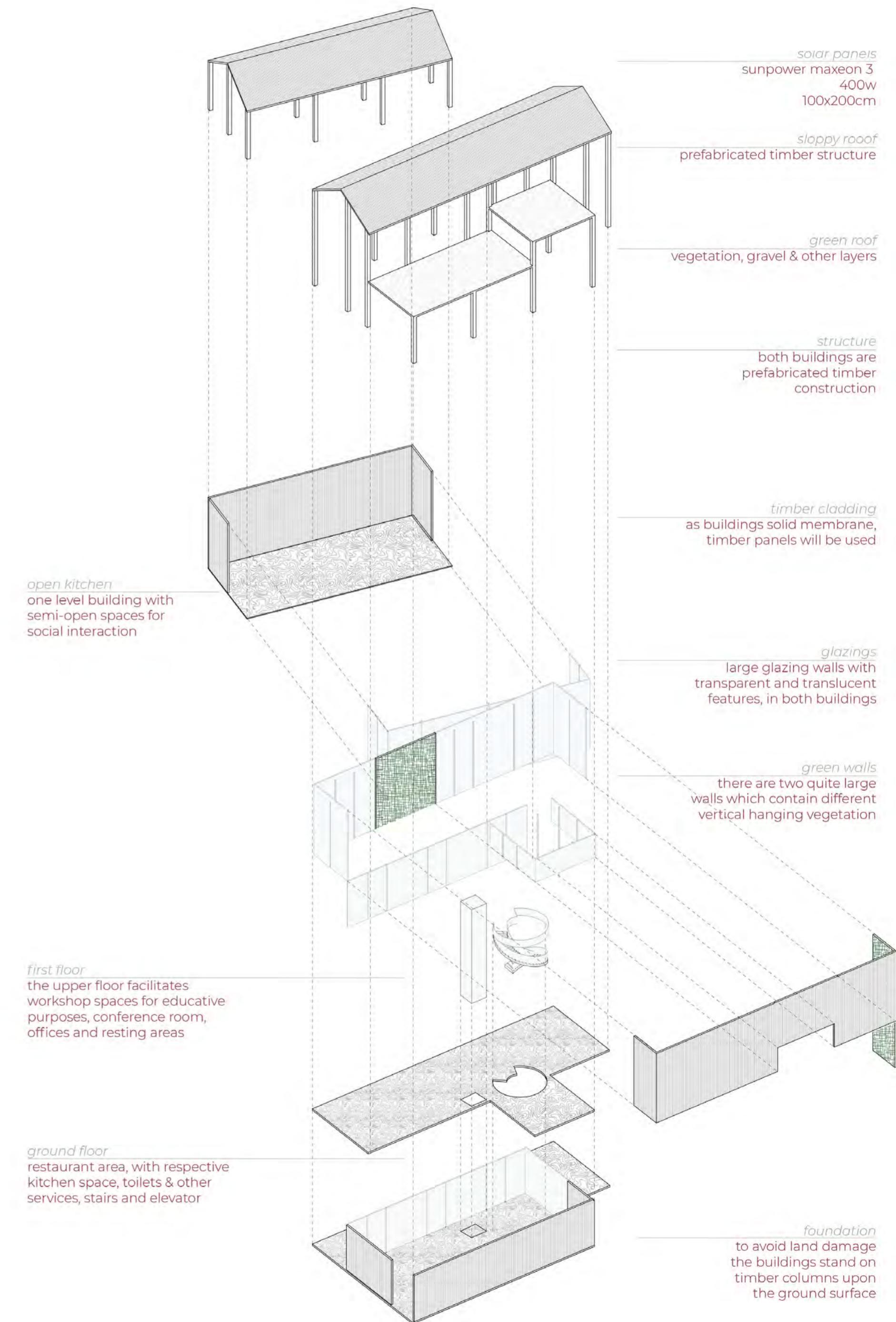


ground floor



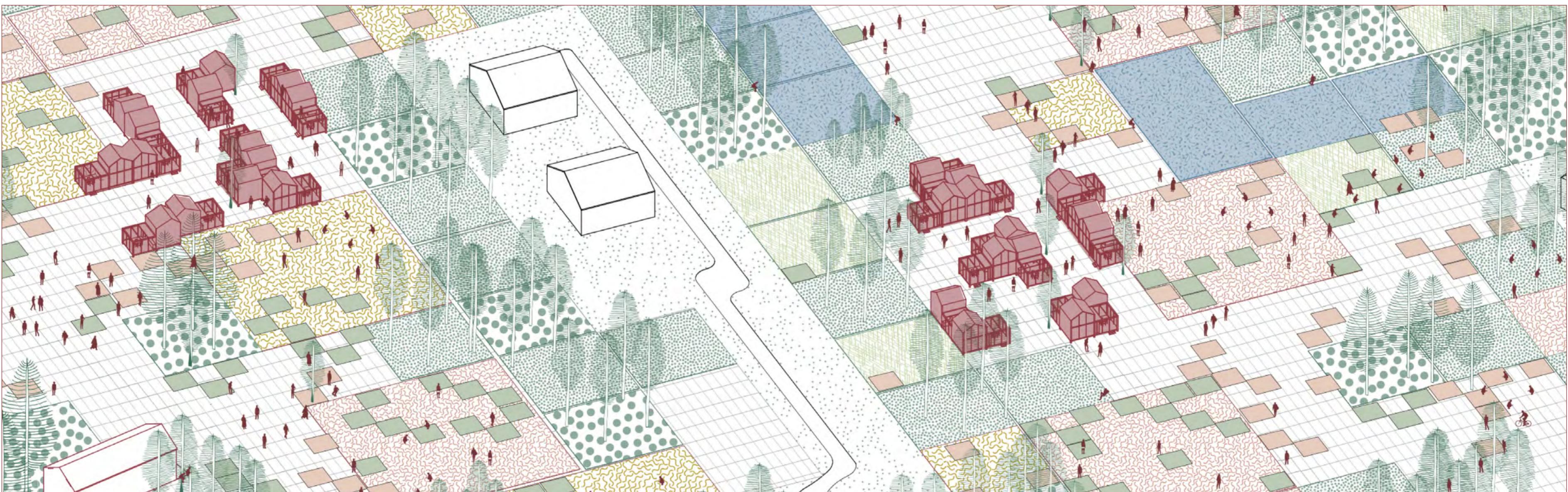
first floor

AGRI-EDGE
AGRICULTURAL HUB

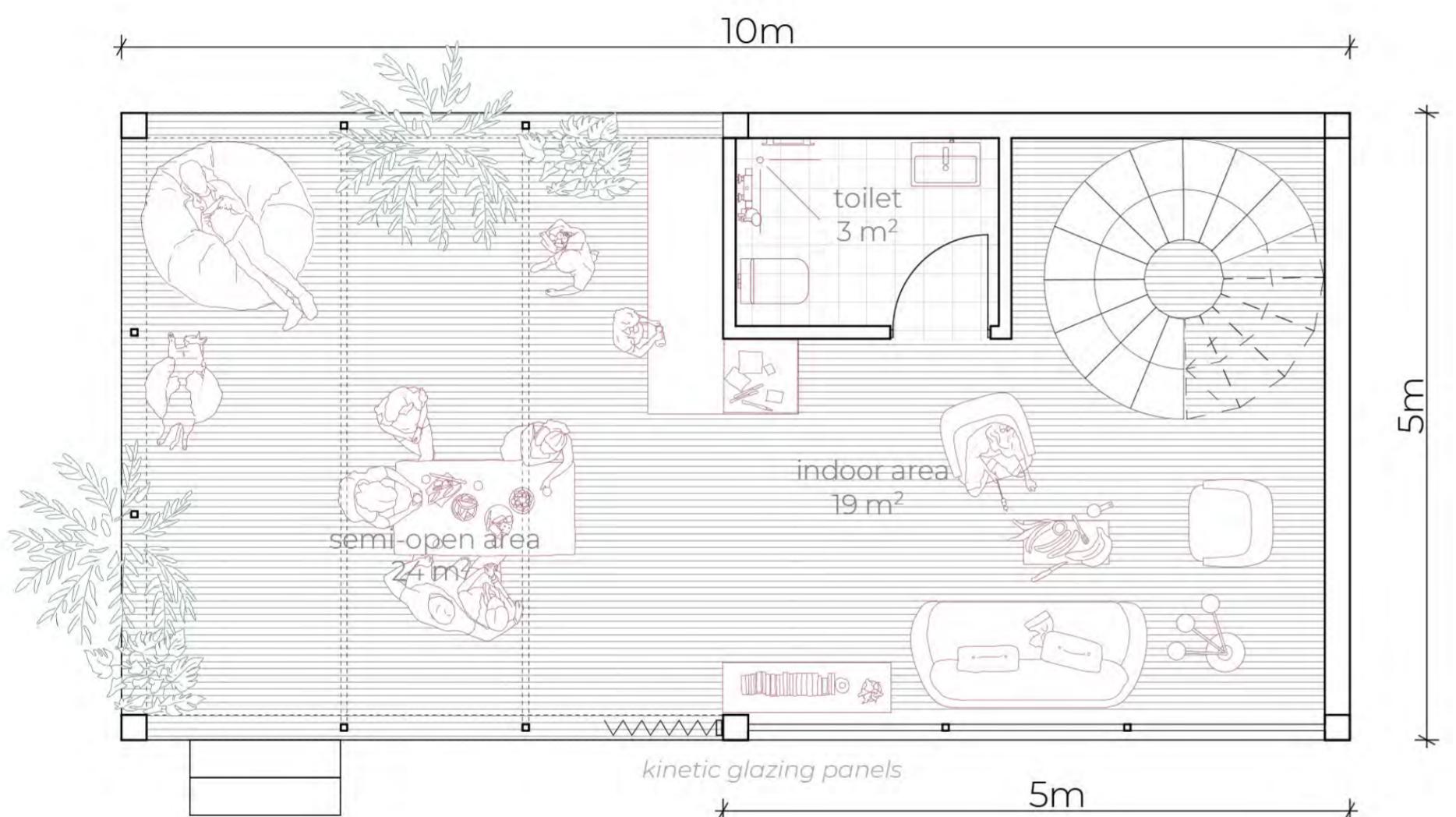


HOUSING CABINS

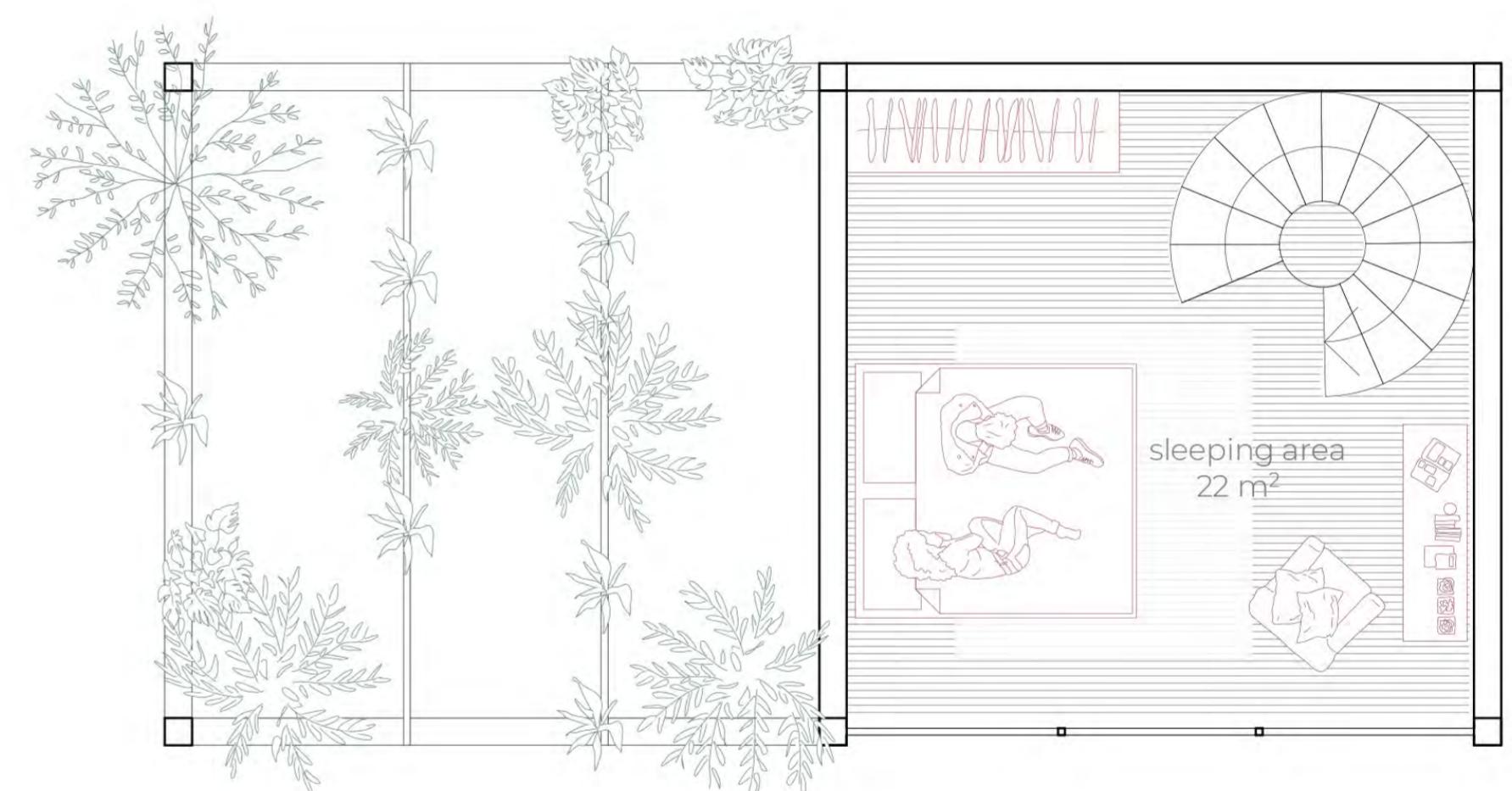
NEW BUILDING DESIGN



AGRI-EDGE
HOUSING CABINS

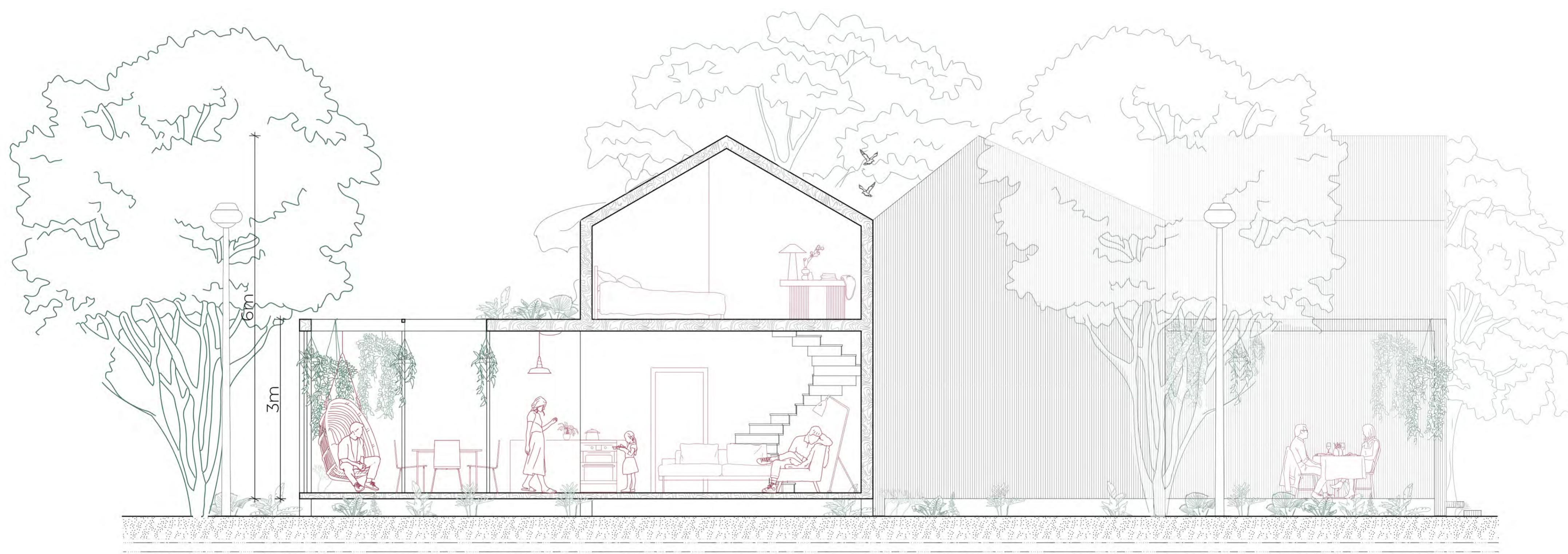


ground floor



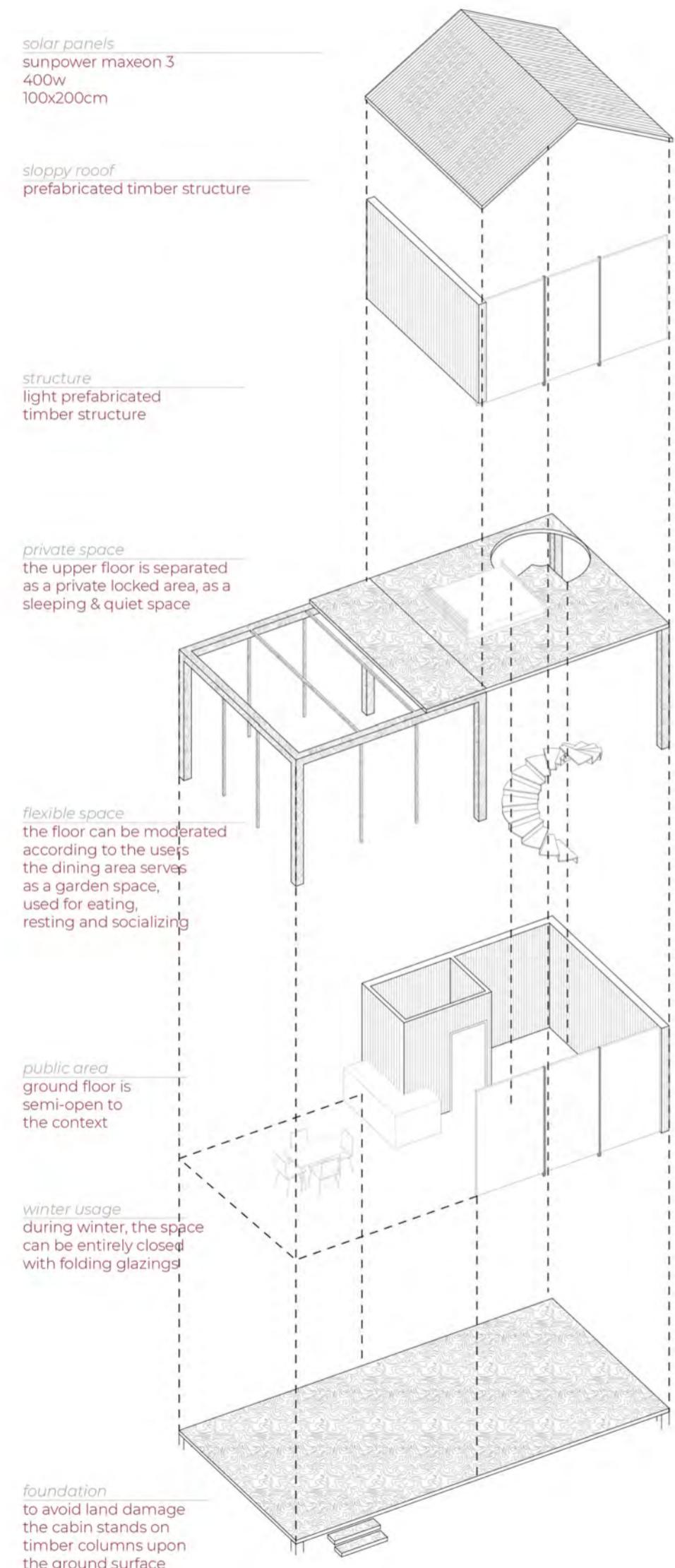
first floor

AGRI-EDGE
HOUSING CABINS



typical section

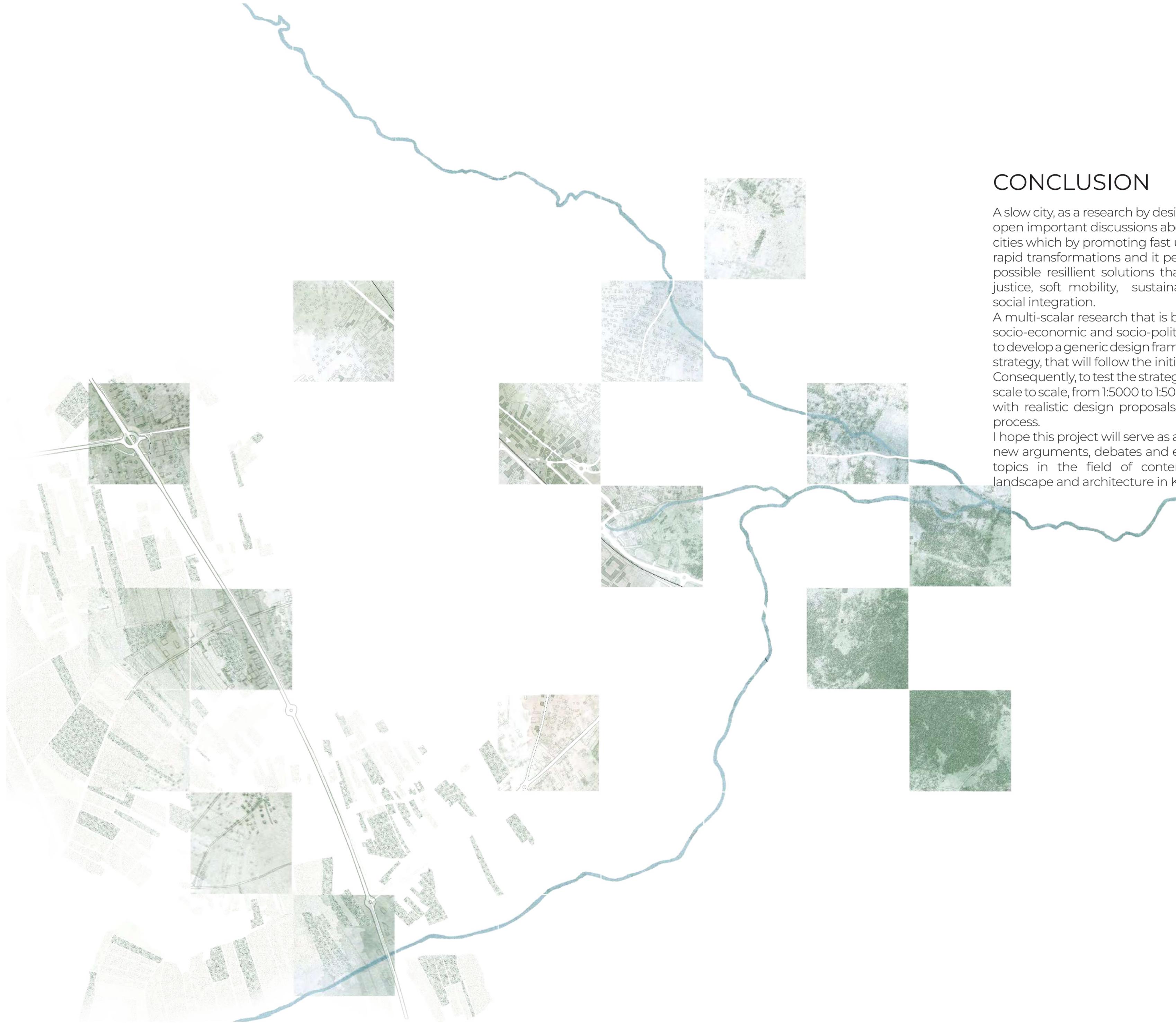
AGRI-EDGE HOUSING CABINS











CONCLUSION

A slow city, as a research by design project, critically aims to open important discussions about the pragmatic issues in cities which by promoting fast urbanism, are experiencing rapid transformations and it persistently seeks to propose possible resilient solutions that promote environmental justice, soft mobility, sustainable design, heritage and social integration.

A multi-scalar research that is based on multiple drivers of socio-economic and socio-politic factors, is crucial in order to develop a generic design framework for a singular layered strategy, that will follow the initial conceptual ambitions. Consequently, to test the strategy itself, we must jump from scale to scale, from 1:5000 to 1:50 and constantly experiment with realistic design proposals, into a full circular design process.

I hope this project will serve as a critical pivot point to open new arguments, debates and encourage further research topics in the field of contemporary urban planning, landscape and architecture in Kosovo.