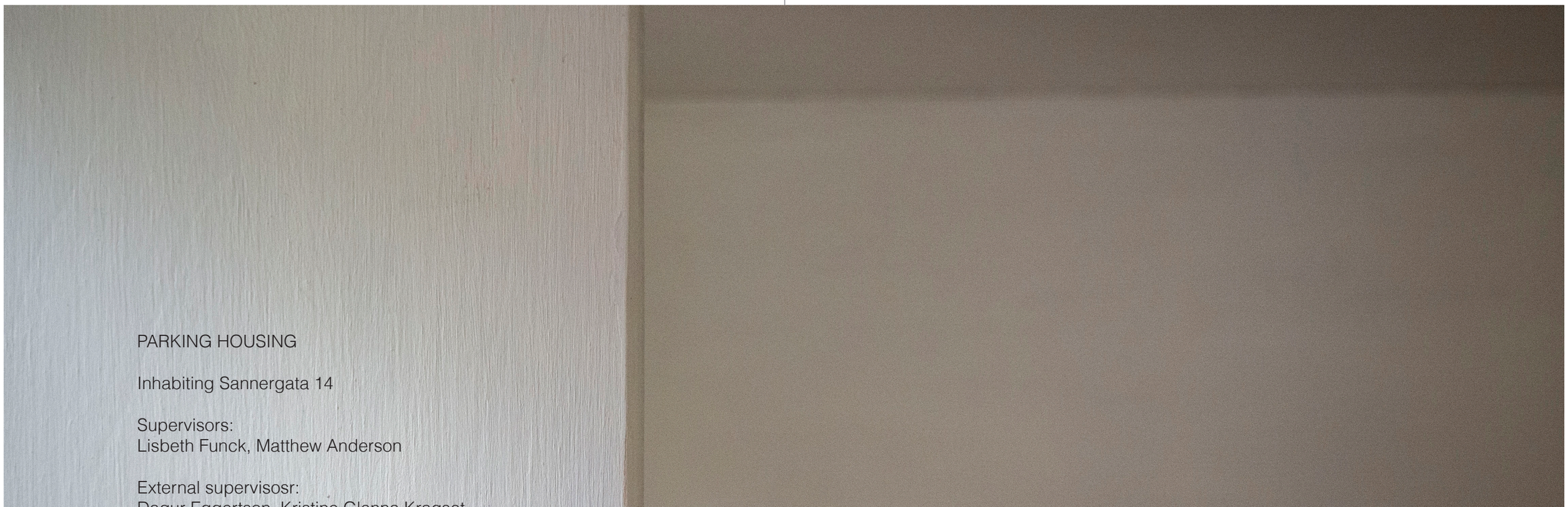


PARKING HOUSING

Inhabiting Sannergata 14

Supervisors:
Lisbeth Funck, Matthew Anderson

External supervisosr:
Dagur Eggertson, Kristine Glenna Kragset

Binder 01
Maria Schrøder

Diploma fall 2022
Binder 01

Intervention model 1:25

Can transformation of a building made for vehicles make it suitable for human scale?

Replica model, 1:50

Introduction

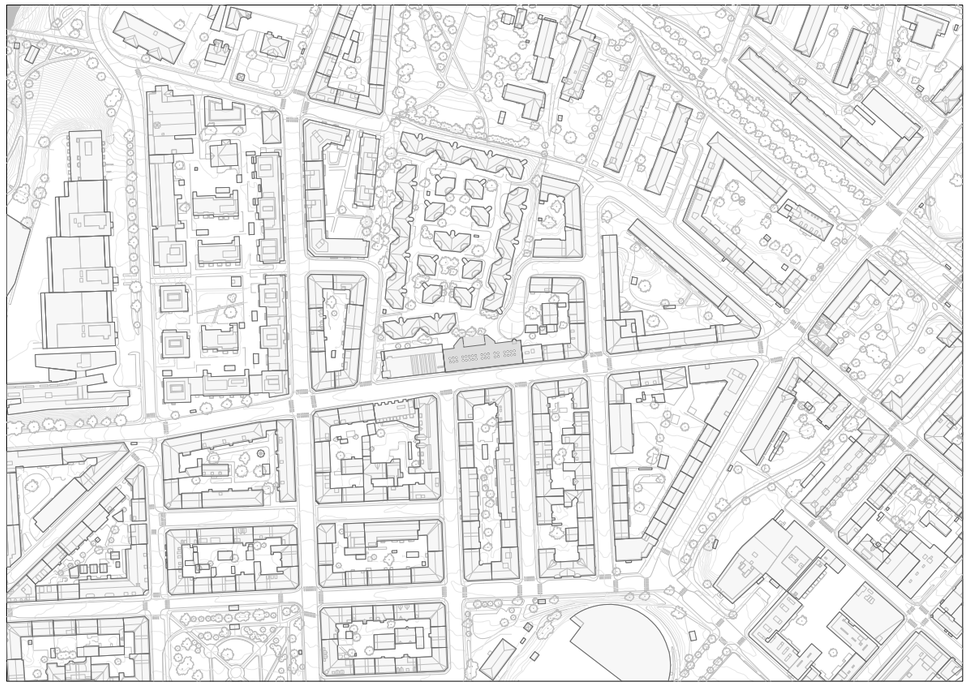
The project deals with facilitating for humans in a structure once erected for cars. The human hides his mode of transport from his surroundings by driving it into a building where it is parked. By the act of parking, stopping and disengaging a vehicle, it is left unoccupied, but protected by the security provisions of the space. The space is organized in a tailored grid dimensioned for vehicles, marked up in individual spots for its still measurements and turning radius. The ceiling height is often lower than average 2.4m, a response to the height of the passenger car. In addition to security and weather protection, the off-street parking house hides the city's vehicles behind an often semi-closed facade. As the structures are subjected to heavy and shifting loads, the robustness of the structure is most often prioritized over ornamentation.

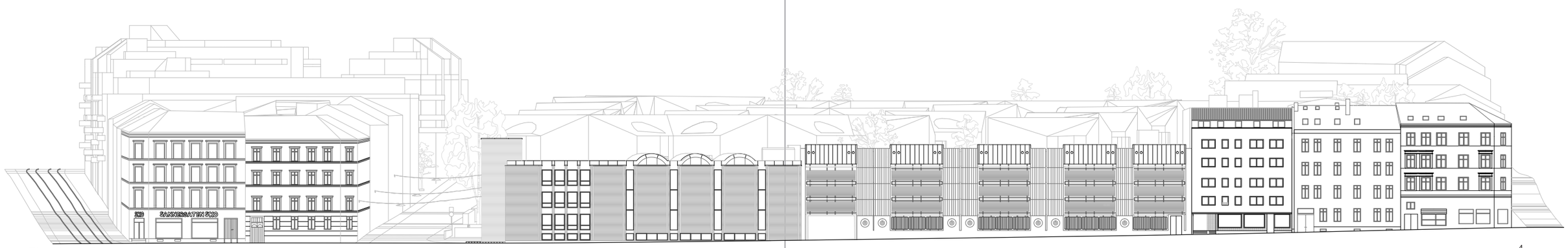
Addressing the busy traffic of the street bordering Grünerløkka and Torshov lies the parking house in question, in the plot of Sannergata 14. The building, from 1979, comes across as a typical parking house. It has minimal ceiling height and quite a deep plan of 16 meters. Light moves around its periphery from North to South and it has a transparent facade. Small ray of light moves around its periphery from North to South, as it has a semi closed facade. The load bearing construction is solid and the infrastructural systems are exposed. The shell is not climatized, but has boundaries purely for the security of the building's content.

Among the fundamental strategies for a green future in architecture is a commitment to discover hidden potential in what is already built. Parking houses above ground inside the pressured central parts of Oslo are long on their way to becoming anachronisms as the private car is politically pushed out of the city center. Although the established structures come with stories, demolition has often been their destiny. The aim of this spatial investigation is to identify architectural quality, as a means to outweigh the alternative of demolition.

Central to my proposition is an argument of a higher awareness of our surrounding building's values and potential, and further that this awareness should come precedent to an eventual discussion of repurposing or demolition. The specific building in Sannergata 14 is not listed, and not yet subject to a discussion of its existence. Still, a speculation on its future holds validity as the plot is valuable, and a higher efficiency in terms of how we utilize central spaces in Oslo is an expressed political aim.

A sustainable building provides spaces for a life to unfold. This view of architecture gives access to shake the hierarchy of how buildings are valued, and therefore an opportunity to take even the least obvious building structure more seriously. By applying transformation strategies and architectural imagination we can test and/or prove whether the construction can take on various human activities. This brings us to the question of the minimum requirements of human life quality, to plan for different people with different lives. The parking house in Sannergata 14 can teach us enough to trace out a site-specific architecture, generated from history, suitable for human life to unfold.





Elevation of Sannergata

History of site and building

The parking house sits wall to wall with the Salem church on one side, and an apartment building with a massage studio on the other. The building is very present at Grunerløkka, both Falsens gate and Romsdalsgata have a sightline that ends in the parking house, looking up to north.

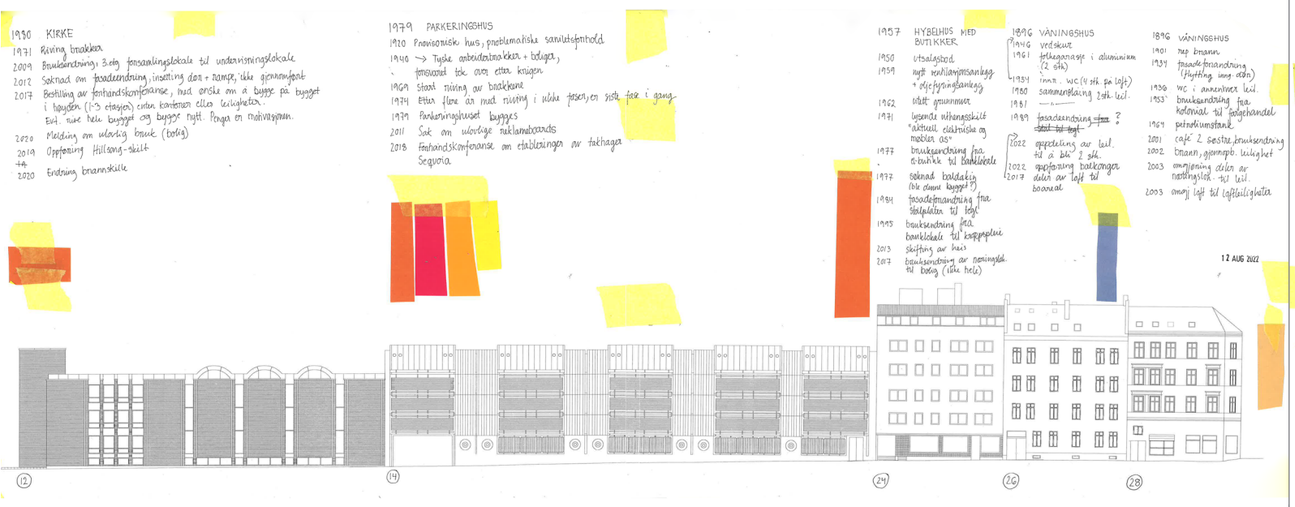
Sannergata is a highly trafficked street, with a three-lane road with frequent bus departures. The surrounding buildings mostly consist of apartment blocks from late 1800, each one more densified over time by lofts transformed into apartments, and some even has transformed the former public premises to housing. The current programs in the nearest premises in Sannergata are a shoe shop, a grocery store, a sushi place and a coffee shop.

Previously, Sannergata was a more pedestrian friendly street, with the tram passing by its bank, a butcher, Oslo Coffee Association, a fishnet factory, a milk shop, a furniture shop.

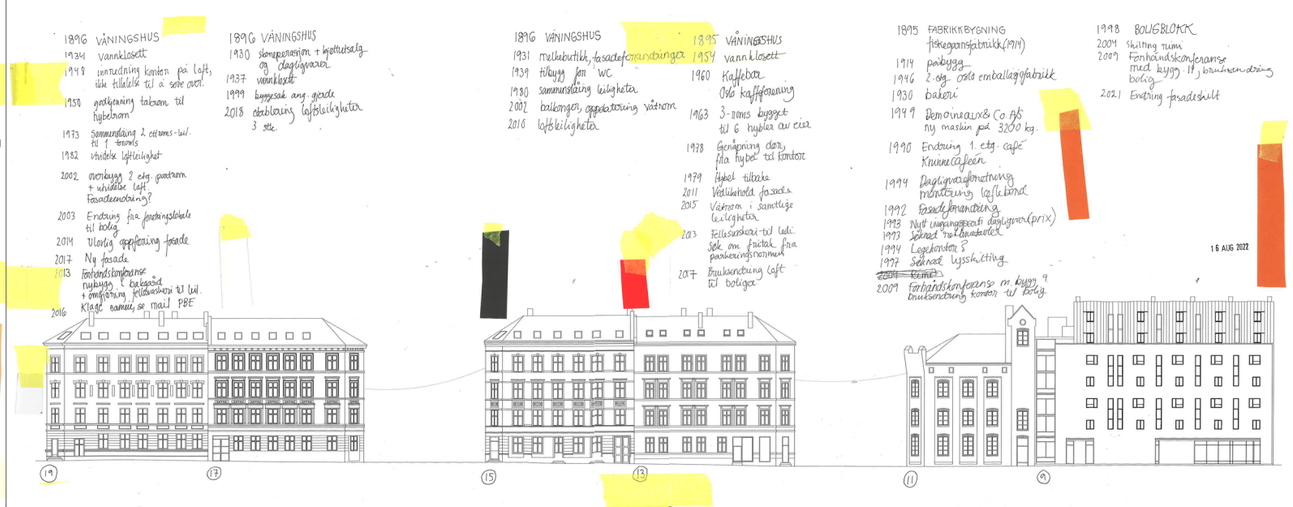
The parking house in Sannergata 14 was drawn in 1979 by F.S. Platou A/S architects, for the joint ownership of Valdresgata by initiative of OBOS.The lot was previously owned by the norwegian military, and consisted of barracks for the defense force. In 1975, a closed competition for the Sannergata lot was announced, and the winning project was conceived as a residential area for around 200 families, drawn by Jan Digerud and Jon Lundberg. Digerud and Lundberg wanted a diverse city, with fewer boundaries.

The housing project is a great success, but the situation around is not built according to plan, mainly because of the parking lot. The parking house was added to the plan after Digerud and Lundberg left Platou Architects, as it was not included in the initial proposal. Skjefsarkitekt Mogens Hjort Kristensen tok over. The parking house is not in line with the initial thought about fewer boundaries, thinking about the conflict with the inner and the outer forces, but the parking house now functions as a wall towards Sannergata. The initial thought was a main entrance from Sannergata, but which has since been closed off.

Replica model, 1:50



Prosess, timeline of Sannergata

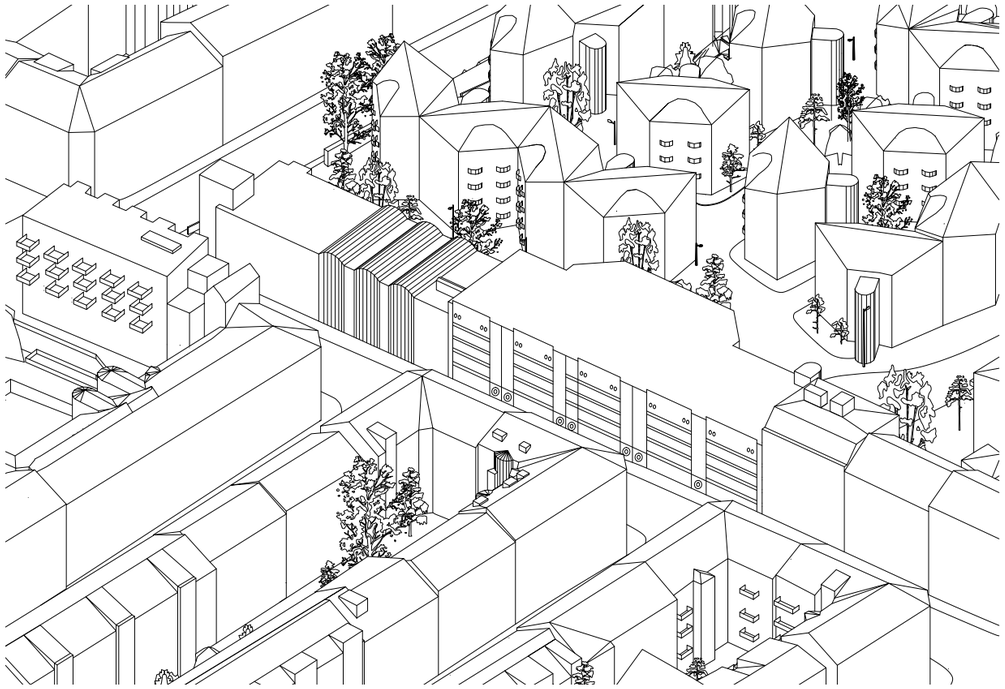


Existing construction

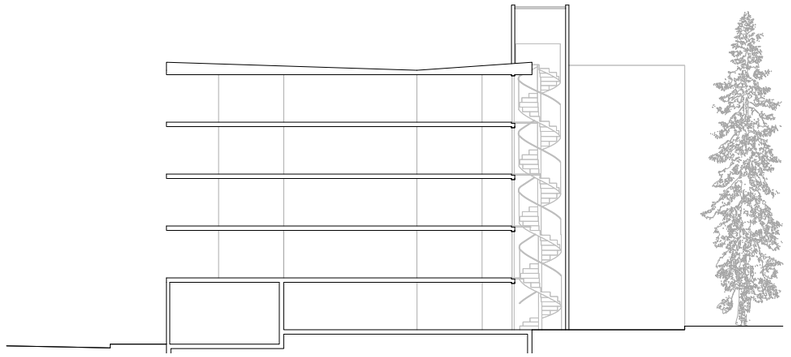
The building is approximately 5.500 square meters, divided into five floors. This results in 138 parking spots, which is, along with storage, how the entire structure is utilized. It emerges as a dense volume of mainly concrete, broken by small vertical stripes of light admission.

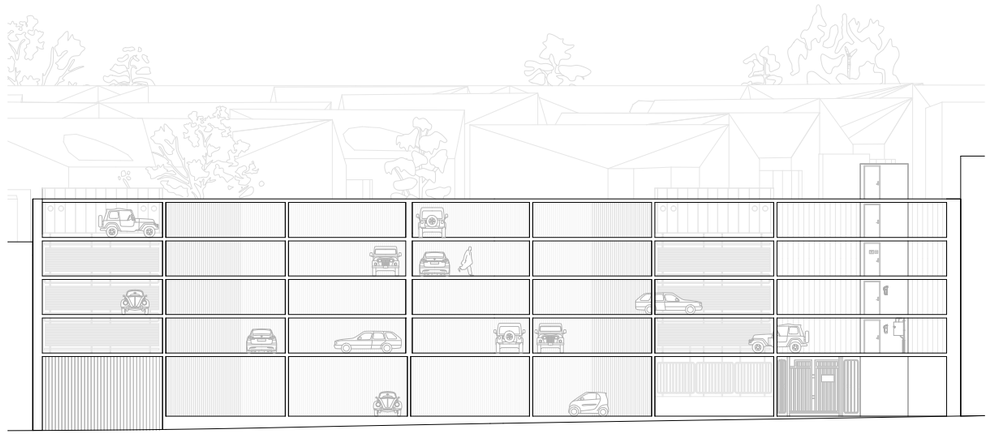
The structural system consists of concrete slabs resting on concrete walls. The building has a non-load bearing facade system of mainly corrugated steel and netting added over time. There are no water or sewage pipes. The ceiling has a blank coating, emitting light deeper into the plan.

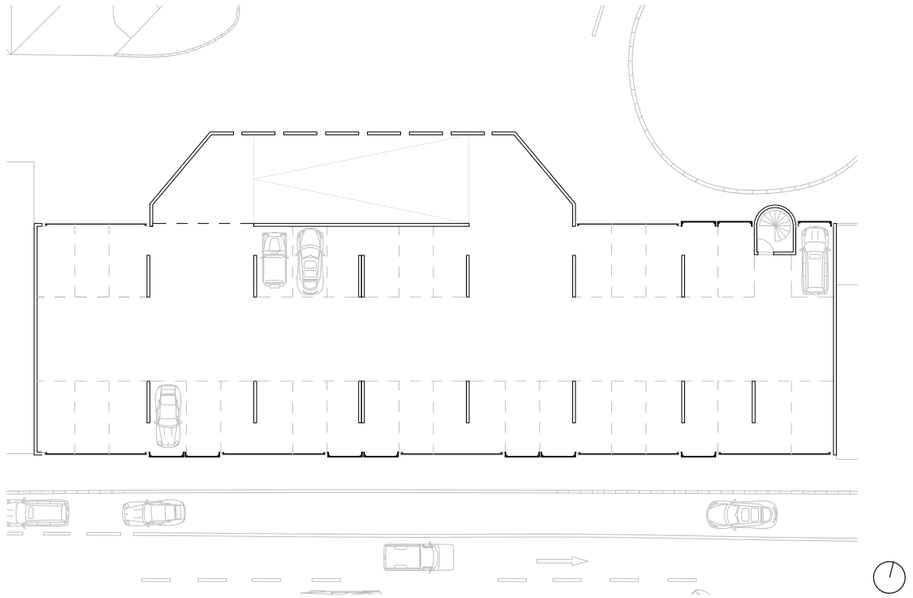
The only entrance is from the North, and is only car-oriented. Thus, a car ramp is placed on the North side of the facade. The stairwell in north is the only place a car can not enter, taking you all the way from ground to roof.



Eksisterende langsnitt, 1:200







(Existing drawings in scale is placed in binder 2)

Consept

Parking Housing is about finding seriosity in eccentricity, and entering the transformation project with simple, but strong moves. These moves continue to prove architectural transformation's inherent ingeniousness. We almost certainly always end up with rooms we could never have imagined when we allow some of the building's original essence to pertain. Letting history interact with the new ideas is therefore not only for sustainability of resources, but a means to preserve historical uniqueness of our cities and making sure our collective stories are not lost.

There is resistance in the parking house, several conditions contradicting the expectations of an apartment building. The difficult prospect of our high expectations therefore makes the residential program a suitable test to investigate a structure's universal value. There is much honesty in how the construction is presented and exposed. The ceiling height in Sannergata 14 is too low for today's regulations. The plan is deep and much darker than what you would typically build today with a residential program in mind. Still, the 'throughout reaching plan' is known for its potential.

The process has very much been a dialogue between what must be preserved to retain the character of the building, and what must be added to stimulate new life. Some rules were established for progression. The infrastructure was to be kept exposed, I wanted to expose the core walls of the building as a window into its past, and continue the notion of honesty and 'what you see is what you get' through exposed concrete.

The construction of the apartments consist of stages of parasitic interventions that could all be implemented in other unacclimatized concrete volumes. However, the steps are first and foremost developed as site-specific. This is mainly as the site holds special light conditions which bears consequences for the limits of how the design can be translated to other situations.

Construction model, 1:25

7 steps of interventions:

Step 1: Dismantling the facade and saving it for later.

Step 2: Adjusting room heights by removing a floor. The two middle slabs are ejected, one of them transformed and put back on new steel beams, clamped down to the existing walls, making them even more important and highlighted. Slab sizes are cut to pieces of 8 square meters, moved with construction machines through the open facade, and connected to each other with steel bolts, before they are casted together again.

Step 3: Skylight. The process of subtraction is repeated in the upper layer of the building, adding skylight. Columns are vertically clamped down to the existing slabs, and connected to a net of steel beams. Slab pieces of 8 square meters are then connected on top of the beam net, and holes are cut, for parabola skylight to be connected.

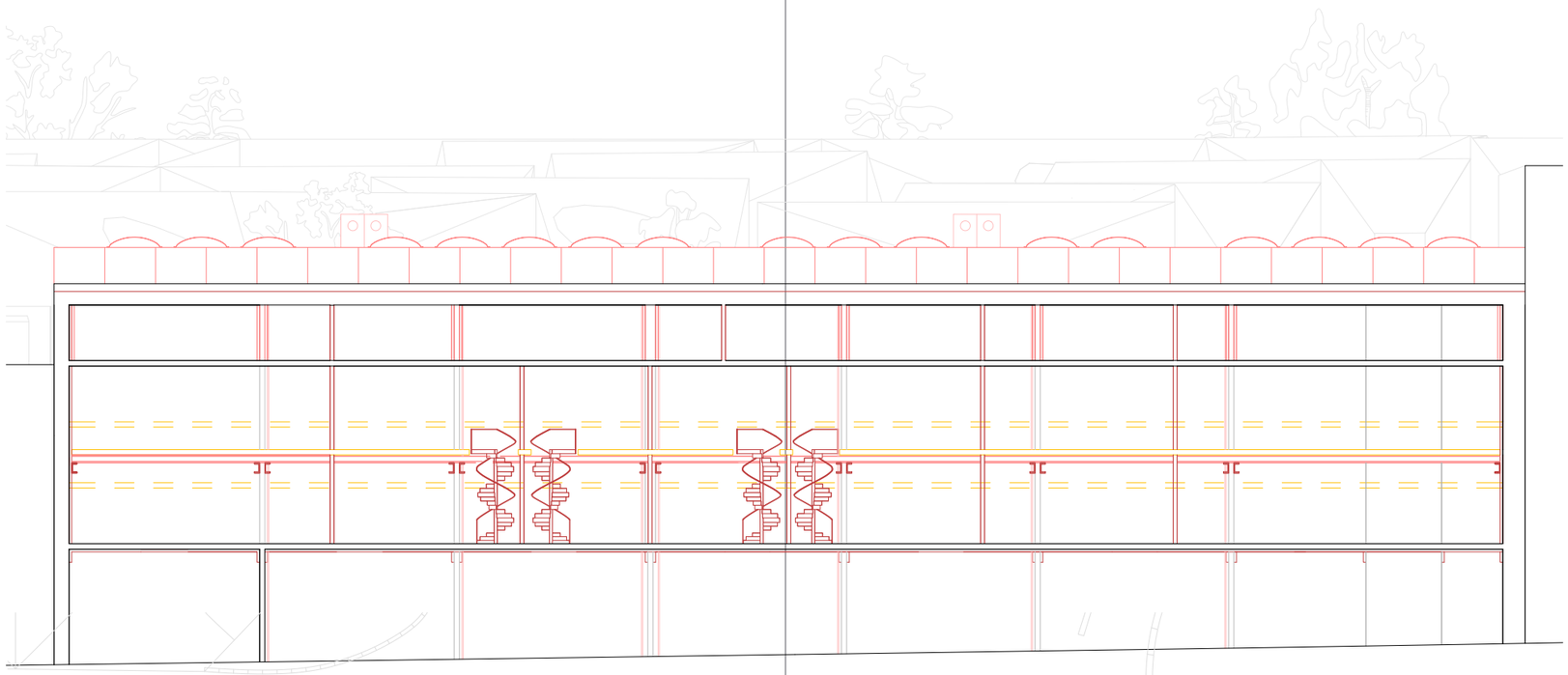
Step 4: Piping
Exposed piping, to follow the line of the exposed construction. Steel brackets are covering the pipes.

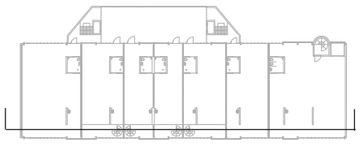
Step 5: Climate shell
Insulation in the ceiling on the ground floor. Reinsulated roof and insulated glass in the facade.

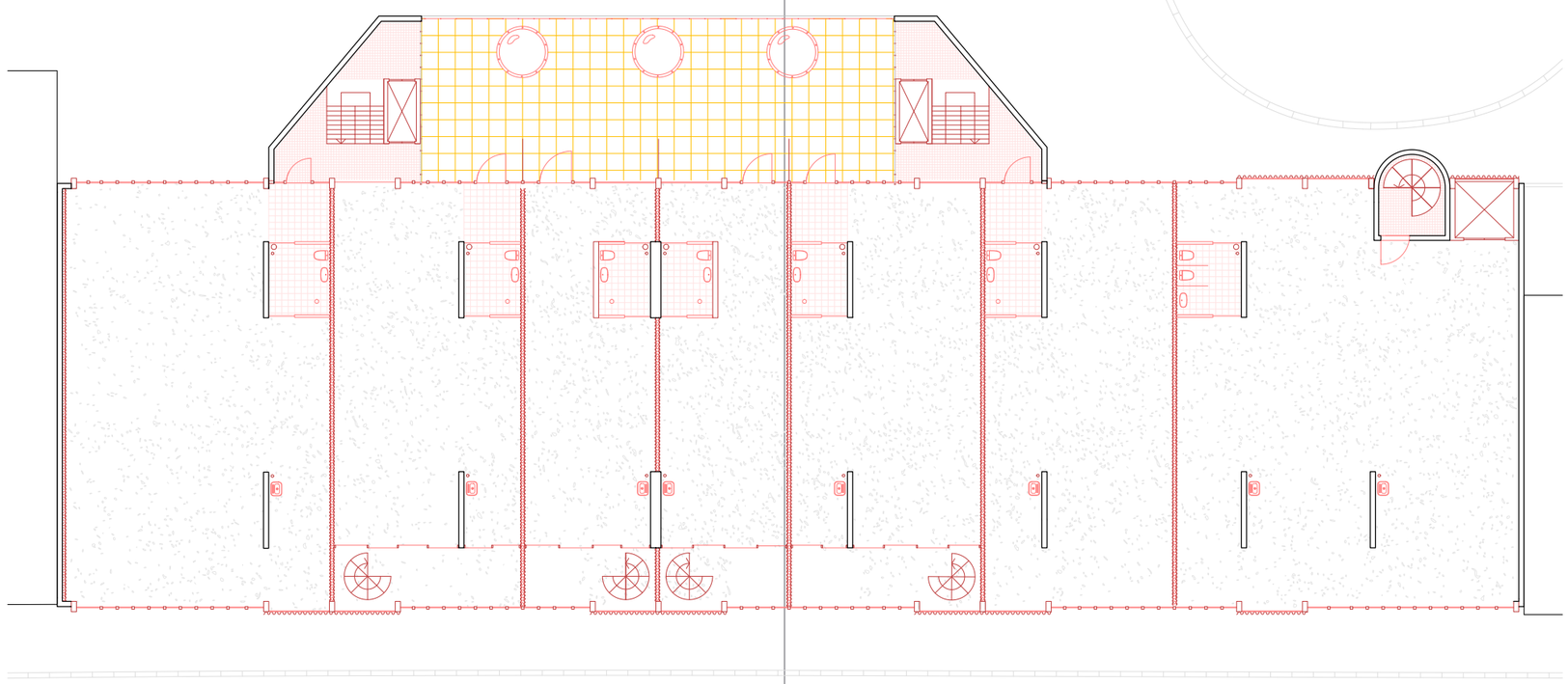
Step 6: Stairs and elevators. Roof box with the facade element.

Step 7: Room dividers consisting of corrugated steel and leftovers from the facade.

Intervention model, 1:25



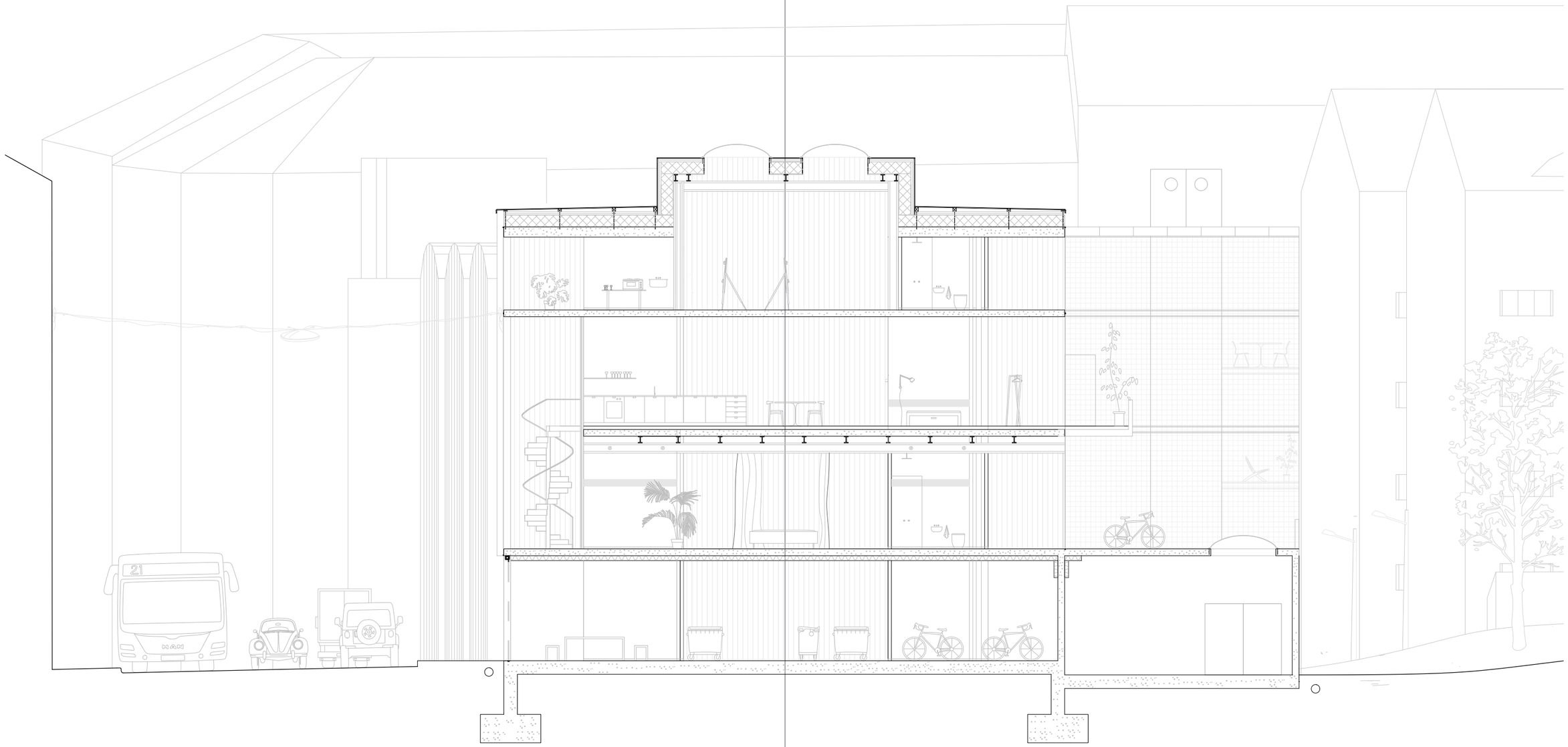


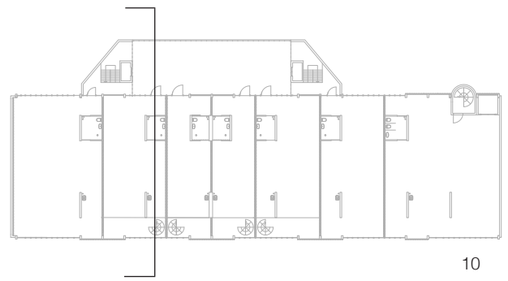


Additions

Moved and reused

Section 1:150, interventions



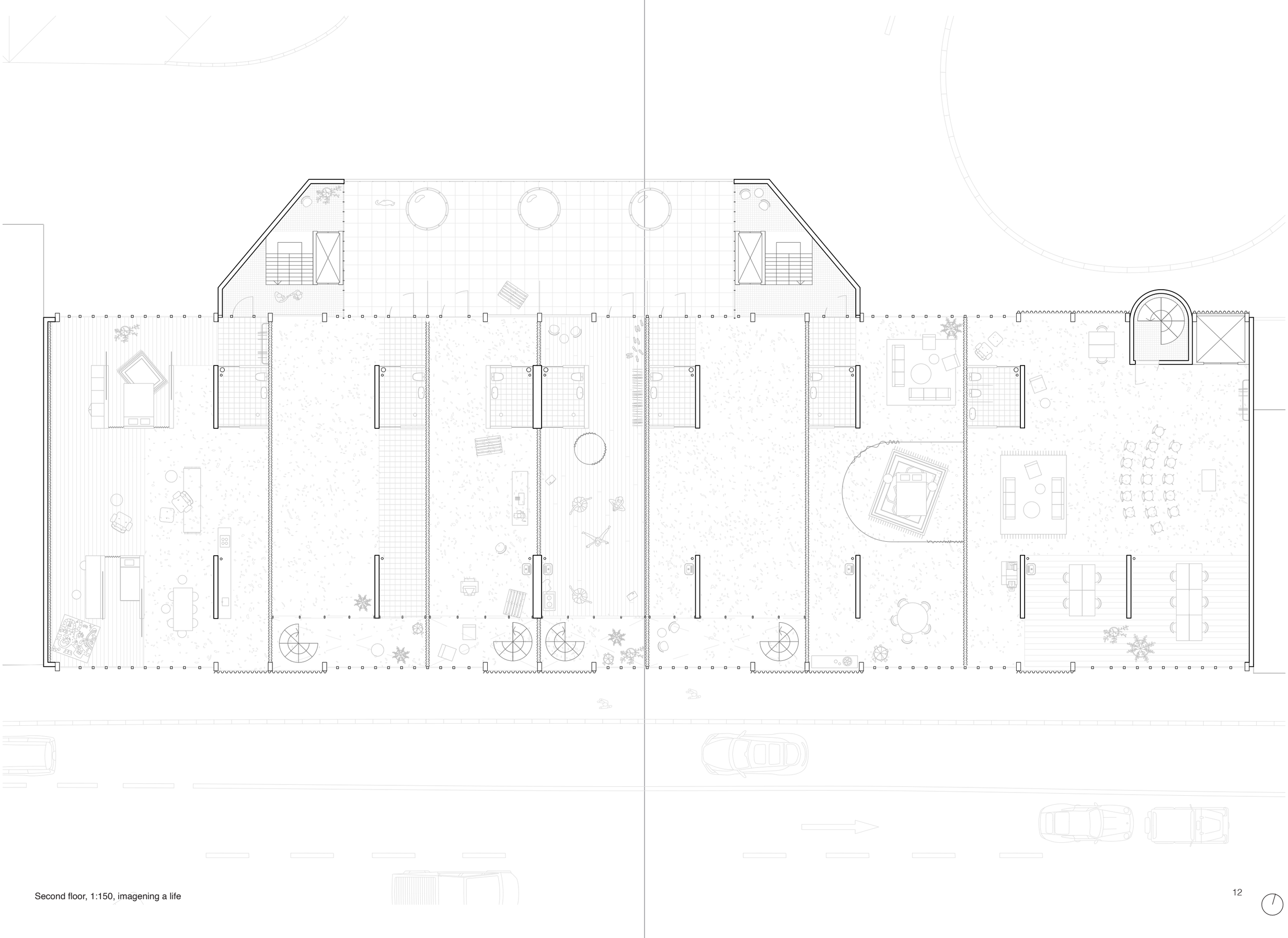


Kortsnitt, 1:100 på A3, imagening a life

The apartments are consciously drawn with different degrees of precision. This reveals the extent to which inhabitants can adapt the area themselves, guided by the distinction of free and necessary space. A layer of light analysis has also directed the organization of the spaces, divided into the South-facing, North-facing and the in-between. The organization emancipates the contrastes between the conditions. The common denominator of the apartments is a bathroom and a sink.

This is an experiment in space, light, necessary space and free space. What do we really need? And how can we adjust what we need? Building conventions correspond to conventions of comfort, and here it is necessary for both sides to stretch further in order to pave the way for suitable housing in the future. By challenging the conventions of material use, ceiling heights and dimensions a potential space for future habitation materializes.

Intervention model, 1:25



Second floor, 1:150, imagening a life

Intervention model 1:25

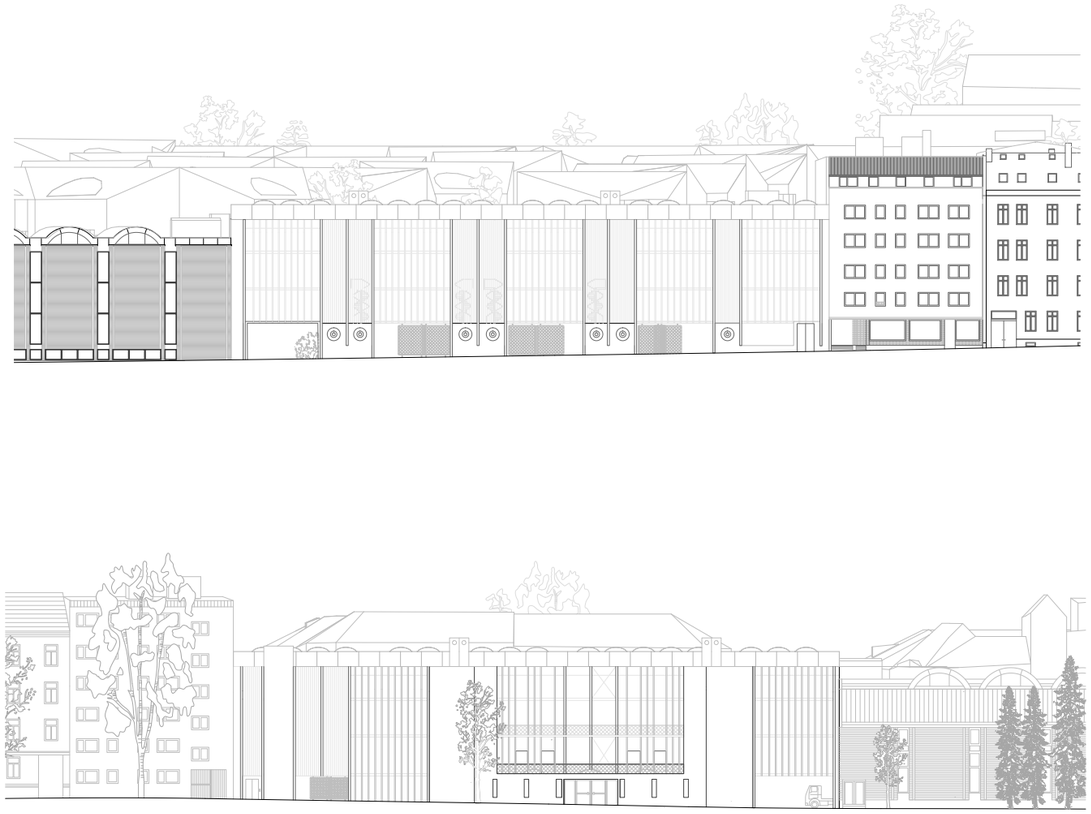
The public first floor

Unacclimatized. The first floor facilitates public spaces, with pipes, for water and sewage, it can make room for visionaries to move in. Either to fill the whole space, or three different spaces.

The reopening

The opening against the Valdresgata housing association has been reopened. You create a shortcut, you follow the original plans with transparency, you perhaps activate Sannergata in a different way. You create a threshold and a mediator between two different states.

On the north side of the facade, I established a new lobby. One enters a separate entrance, with blackboard, mailboxes, and neighbors. Prams and walkers and people who have put down a paint box and expect the janitor to handle it.All the premises vertically towards the building on the right are public functions, for the joint ownership to distribute. Ground floor hosts a launderette, garbage, bicycles and shared parking space and storages. With a separate entrance. The old staircase and an added elevator. Spaces that accommodate a sink, water closet and a big elevator. Here we have infra-structure that facilitates various situations, but as a way to make this building live for a long time.



New fasades, east and west 1:500 on A3

Intervention model, 1:25

Intervention model, 1:25