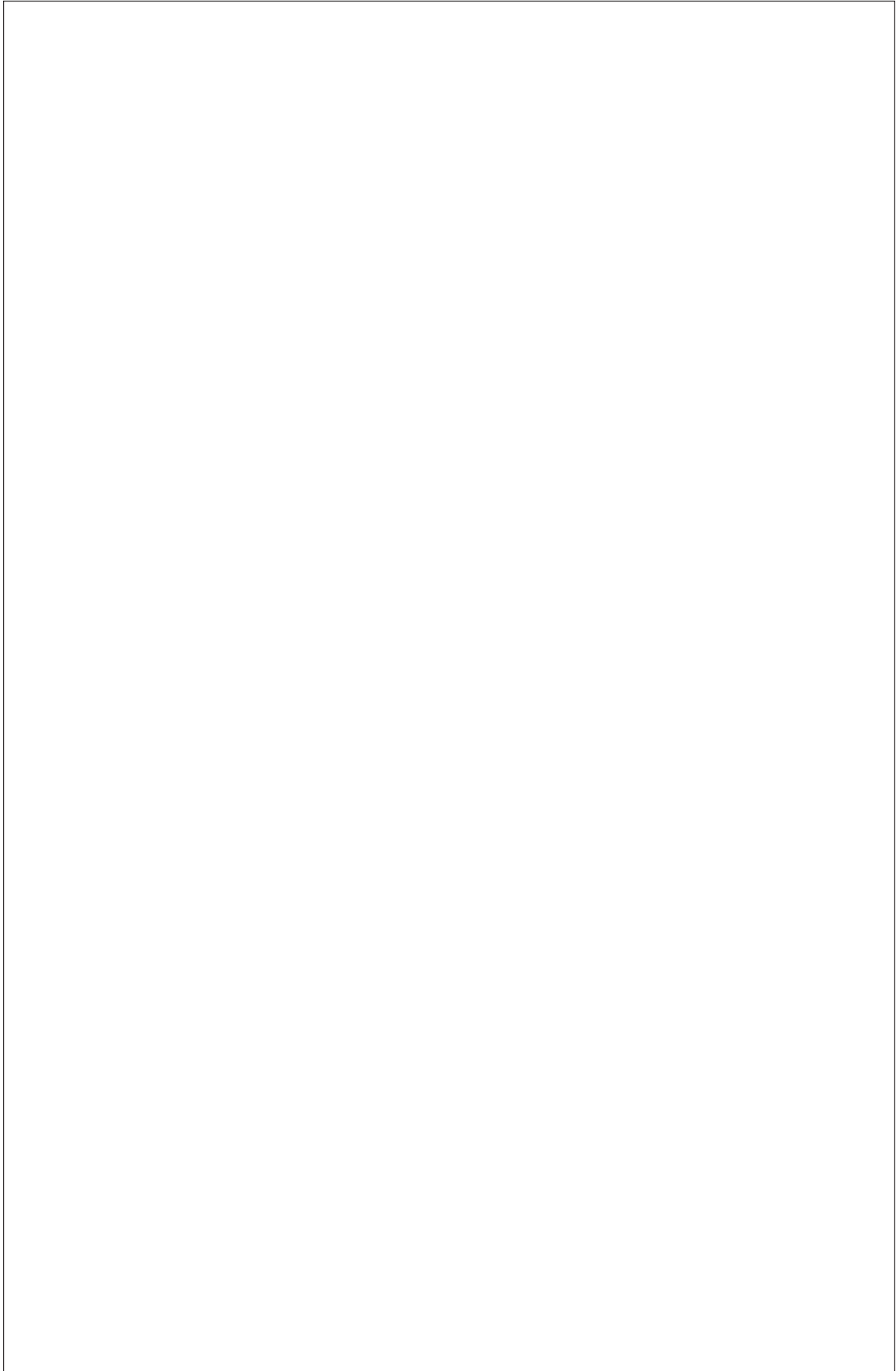


CATERING ARCHITECTURE FOR MIGRATING SOCIETIES

Polina Moroz



CATERING ARCHITECTURE FOR MIGRATING SOCIETIES

Master Thesis by Polina Moroz

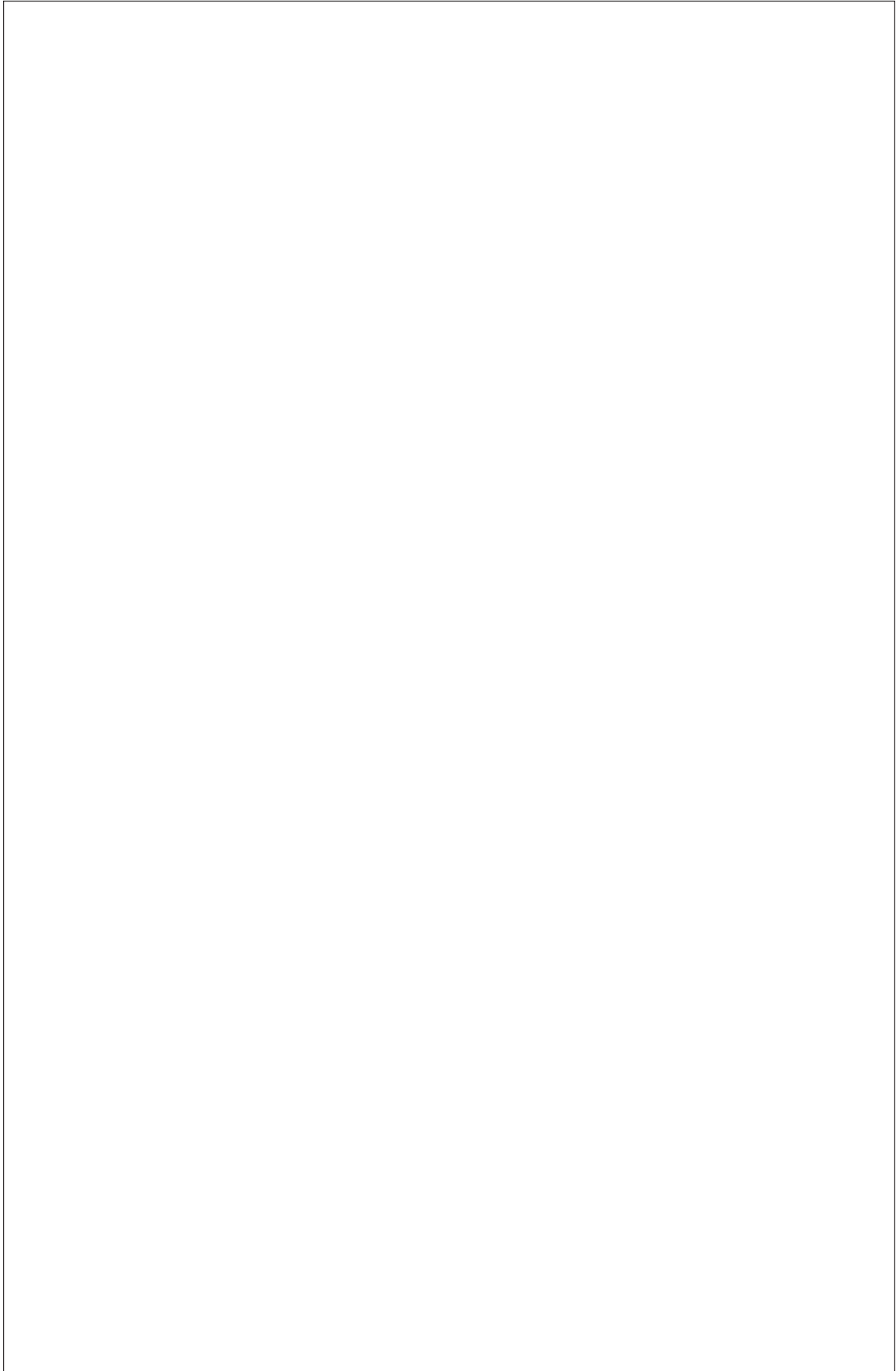
Lund University School of Architecture | 2017



PREFACE

Over the past 30 years, globalization emerged as a trend and has completely taken over the world we live in now. According to UN data sources, there were 244 million international migrants - 20 of which are forced refugees, living abroad worldwide in 2015. Hypermobility, standardized and distance are the some of the consequences of globalization. Megacities are drawing more and more labor forces from the rural areas and other capitals. Networking became the main organizational form of economy and society. Detachment from something familiar, losing the feeling of belonging is the new norm for millions of people willingly or forcefully having to leave their home. I myself belong to the generation being born in a Post-Fordist capitalist state based on flexibility and fast information-exchange. No wonder that 98% of the people I communicate with on an everyday basis are coming from countries and cities different from their current place of living.

This thesis work is an elaboration on the consequences of a constant movement throughout the world and how architecture can provide solutions to improve the process of settlement of the human soul.



CONTENT

Preface	5
Part 1 Research	
Research question	8
Research methodology	9
Theory. Eliminating challenges	10
Interviews.	12
Site introduction	
City of New York	16
Brooklyn Navy Yard	18
Programme	20
Part 2 Proposal	
Site development concept	22
Site development strategy	24
Programme: Multisensory Experience	
Food Market Scent Library	36
Communication Center	44
Conclusion	48
Bibliography	50
Appendix	52

Course Spatial Experiments
Project period 1.02.2017 - 1.06.2017
Supervisor David Andreen
Co-Supervisor John Stark Ross
Special Gratitude Gediminas Kirdeikis
Galyna Nikulina
Andrey Moroz
Joakim Bouaziz
Dana Kosmina



LUND
UNIVERSITY

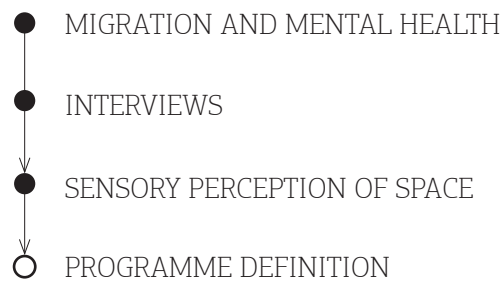
School of Architecture

RESEARCH | QUESTION

IN WHAT TERMS ARCHITECTURE AS PHYSICAL
CONSTRUCT CAN RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF
MIGRATING SOCIETIES?

RESEARCH | METHODOLOGY

THEORY

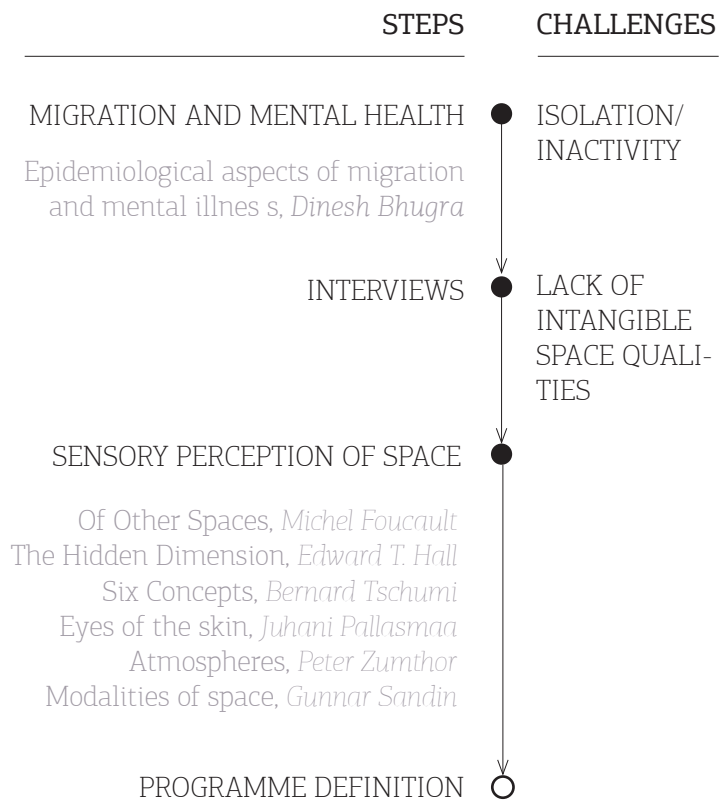


PRACTICE

- SITE VISIT
- ESTHETIC/FORMAL SEARCH

RESEARCH | THEORY

ELIMINATING CHALLENGES



MIGRATION AND MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health issues arising from cultural displacement are inevitable consequences of globalization. The whole process of adjusting to the new cultural environment is referred to as “Culture shock”. According to Wikipedia, it is the personal disorientation a person may feel when experiencing an unfamiliar way of life due to immigration, a move between social environments, or simply transition to another type of life. Among four officially recognized cultural shock stages, the depression period is meant to happen in between so-called Negotiation and Adjustment stages. Frustration, lasting from several months up to 2 years, is mainly caused by subject’s *inactivity and isolation*.

INTERVIEWS

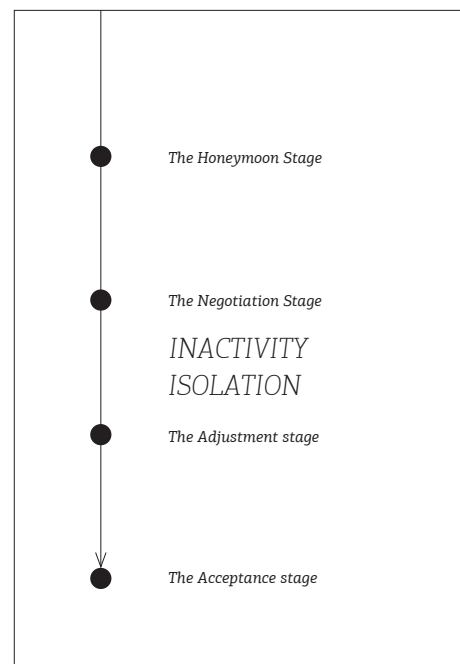
A series of interviews were conducted among people who could be referred to as economic migrants, refugees or inland refugees. The latter were chosen as a focus group for further investigation. Additionally, some responses were collected through anonymous polls placed in spaces of transition throughout the international student housing (fig.1).

The main question raised was to define the concept of home. Most of the answers revealed the longing for immaterial qualities inherent of migrants’ places of origin. A majority of respondents were describing either traditional food they missed or friends and family relationships as attributes of the meaning of home.

The compiled results of these surveys and interviews, together with some literature about the sensory perception of space, set a direction for further theoretical investigation.

SENSORY PERCEPTION OF SPACE.

While buildings tend to decay, memory continues to develop with the contextual fabric of the place. Authentic architectural experiences come from experienced bodily encounters rather than visually observed entities. (*Pallasmaa, 2000*). Judging from the author’s background as a foreigner, the first things reminiscent of one’s native city are rarely physical objects. Rather they are clouds of lilac scent filling the streets, colors of the sky above the gray city during the golden hour or particular sounds of trolleybuses roaming the central streets.



RESEARCH | INTERVIEWS

EXTRACT

“

The space in which we live, from which we are drawn out of ourselves, just where the erosion of our lives, our time, our history takes place, this space that wears us down and consumes us, is in itself heterogeneous. In other words, we do not live in a sort of vacuum, within which individuals and things can be located, or that may take on so many different fleeting colors, but in a set of relationships that define positions which cannot be equated or in any way superimposed.

”

Michel Foucault, Of Other Spaces: Utopias and Heterotopias

"I was missing the home, the city, the street before, now it feels indifferent. I am not missing the space anymore. Wherever I find myself it feels right. Home as space is a place where you feel secure, it's the place which is yours legally. Moreover, the concept of the home includes a sense of people close to you, your parents and friends. It includes the sense of being loved and that someone needs you, the sense of loyalty."

Masha Makerenkova, artist | Ukraine

"Home is a place of a personal order. It is an egoistic infrastructure, where everything is organized according to your interests and demands. For me, home is not limited to the particular place of living (building or a room) but appears to be a territory in a wider sense. The streets I walk every day become home as well. If I would describe the home as a physical object, I would say that it has to be an expression of my views and way of life. In my case, it would be a compact modular structure of two elements: permanent and transportable for two people and two animals. The permanent, ideally located in the forest on the ocean shore would serve as the base, while the second one would be a traveling room. This type of home is not staying in one place, but travels through the beauty of nature, while maintaining the territory of your comfort zone."

Anatoliy Ulyanov, artist | Ukraine—USA

"A home is a place that you settle in for a period of time enough to make a family. Therefore, besides the place that a person is born and raised in, it is hard to establish home somewhere else. My first impression of the new place was that the sky is bluer here (i.e. much less pollution including noise). The local architecture felt small, cozy, and old. The main difficulties in adjusting stage were buying freshly cooked food which is more expensive here. Plus, the diversity is less, especially among vegetables. If I would bring some qualities of physical space from my home country to the new home, I would bring more people and night working shifts."

Firas Moulki, engineer | Syria — Sweden

"When I just came to Sweden all the houses felt smaller apart from the dense high rises we had in Turkey. The doors felt significantly larger. If I would name something that I felt uncomfortable with, was the Swedish way of sharing. I

would prefer to have more personal space."

Gulce, biotechnologist | Turkey — Sweden

"Home is the place where you leave all the troubles outdoors and where you dive into calmness. By entering the home you enter the cocoon of coziness and warmth. The rental apartments could not be called home, only the place you know is yours forever. It is the place where you create your own world which is completely apprehensible with your dreams.

The existence of general cultural similarities between Crimean and Kievian citizens was the major reason behind moving to Kyiv (*Auth. In March 2014, Ukrainian Peninsula was seized by Russian special forces and annexed. While Russia currently runs the peninsula as two federal subjects, Ukraine continues to assert its right over the territory.*) Nonetheless we arrived in a city of a different scale and geography, we didn't have to adapt. We felt like being at home — in our country.

However, if you were born in Crimea, you will never forget it. The thing I miss the most is its nature: its trees, air and the sea. No matter where we are in the world, we always remain in love with it."

Maxim and Yana Melnyk | Crimea — Kyiv, Ukraine

"You often find yourself completely inappropriate to a place. Especially when you are running out of clean clothes. Sometimes you would wake up in the morning not understanding where you are. My home is the glass of champagne on the Air France flight."

Barry, DJ | Scotland — rest of the world

"A home is an enclosed space, preferably with the temperature above zero, where you can spread the books and place all your favorite postcards, drawings, and maps on the plains. The place shouldn't be a passthrough and must contain a bed and a wide table. It could be nice to have the electricity and a lot of lightning at different levels. It should have a large balcony and space without walls but with a system of moving curtains instead."

Dana Kosmina, architect | Ukraine — France

RESEARCH | INTERVIEWS

ANONYMOUS POLL

To thoroughly investigate the notion of home among people finding themselves in a completely different cultural setting, international students of Lund were chosen as respondents. Being one myself, living abroad for two years I couldn't help but question a relationship between the feeling of belonging and a built environment.

An anonymous template entitled "HOME" was placed in public transit spaces of international student housing, encouraging passersby to fill in blank spaces. Surprisingly, the results, collected in two days, demonstrated that home appears to be associated the strongest not with specific architectural settings but rather with sensual memories — mostly food.

"Home is wherever I am alone with you" Edward Sharpe
Home is the safe place in the middle of nowhere
Home is a place, where one can restore the energy
Home is where your loved ones are
Home is far
Home is LGBTQ-friendly
Home is Seattle <3
Home is wherever you are!
Home is pizza!
Home is where there's free food
Home is creme brûlée (that is my favorite!)
Home is where I can eat cocido
Home is where I can sleep unbothered through the daylight
Home is warm
Home is happiness
Home is homies
Home is where I can fart in peace (Amen)

Fig.2 Anonymous poll filled by Lund University students

home is wherever you are!

HOME IS... Warm

happiness

where the heart is homies

where I can sleep unbothered through the daylight where + feel loved

Safe & yes; intersection
Seattle (take a shit)
Pizza! ...where I can fart in peace → Amen
where there's free food

FAR

LGBTQ-Friendly

I ♥ Klostergaden :) and you?

↑ I also do :-)

Creme' brulee ← that's my favorite!

RESEARCH | SITE

CITY OF NEW YORK

New York was chosen as the city for this project as being one of the main international ports welcoming immigrants from all over the world in the recent past. The whole NYC demography is defined by a constant flow of people coming in and out. Being an entry point for most of the immigrants arriving in the United States, more than a third of them settle down in NYC. At the moment, 36% of New York's total population (3.07 million persons) has a foreign origin, while more than 800 languages are spoken within the city boundaries making it the most heterogeneous and multicultural city in the world.



Fig.3 City of New York with boroughs

RESEARCH | SITE

BROOKLYN NAVY YARD

area 7,2 ha

The project area — Brooklyn Navy Yard was functioning as the country's largest shipbuilding and maritime facility since 1801. In 1966 the production stopped after many military bases around the country were closed.

In 1971, after the estate was purchased by the City of New York from the federal government, an Urban Renewal Plan was established with the goal of retaining and attracting manufacturers within the city boundaries.

Until now, surrounded by residential neighborhoods, the area hosts a range of design offices, movie production companies, art studios and a few manufacturers. In order to attract more customers to this site which sits right in front of Manhattan, new transportation routes are sought to be added by the city officials. The project programme proposes to turn a navy yard that once produced America's most important fighting ships into a space that promotes inclusion, adaptation and well-being for new immigrants.

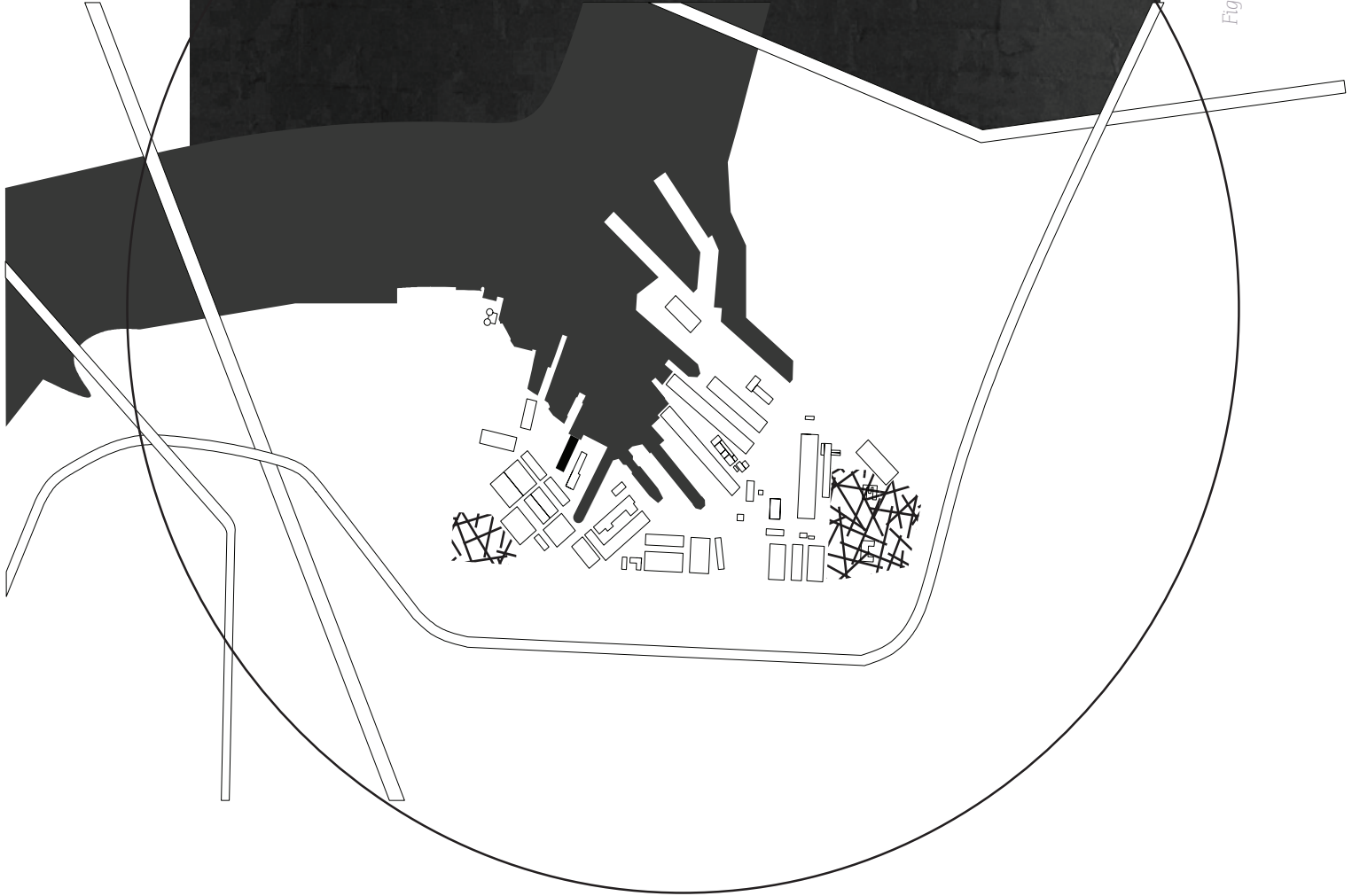


Fig.4 Brooklyn Navy Yard

RESEARCH | PROGRAMME

IMMATERIAL

According to the American anthropologist Edward T. Hall, the perception of space is based on far more key factors than it seems at a first glance. The construct of the physical space is often being perceived as a simple arrangement of objects. However, cultural background of an individual is a major influence on space understanding, alongside with its physical parameters: smells, textures, light and sounds. For instance, space awareness is much dependent on the spoken language construct, as humans' mind register the external environment based on the program already instructed in their mind.

While it is impossible and pointless to recreate the original environment of immigrants in the newly established home, some measures still can be taken to restore the mental health and reduce the homesickness. The goal here is not to try to recreate the residents' original environment but to remind about a place once used to be called home through evocations of something familiar.

Therefore, the programme took its shape as a series of public spaces providing unique sensual experiences to ease the Cultural Shock Frustration stage period:

The Food Market

The Scent Library

The Communication Centre

Colour
Patterns

Time-zones
spaces

Light
Patterns

Thermal

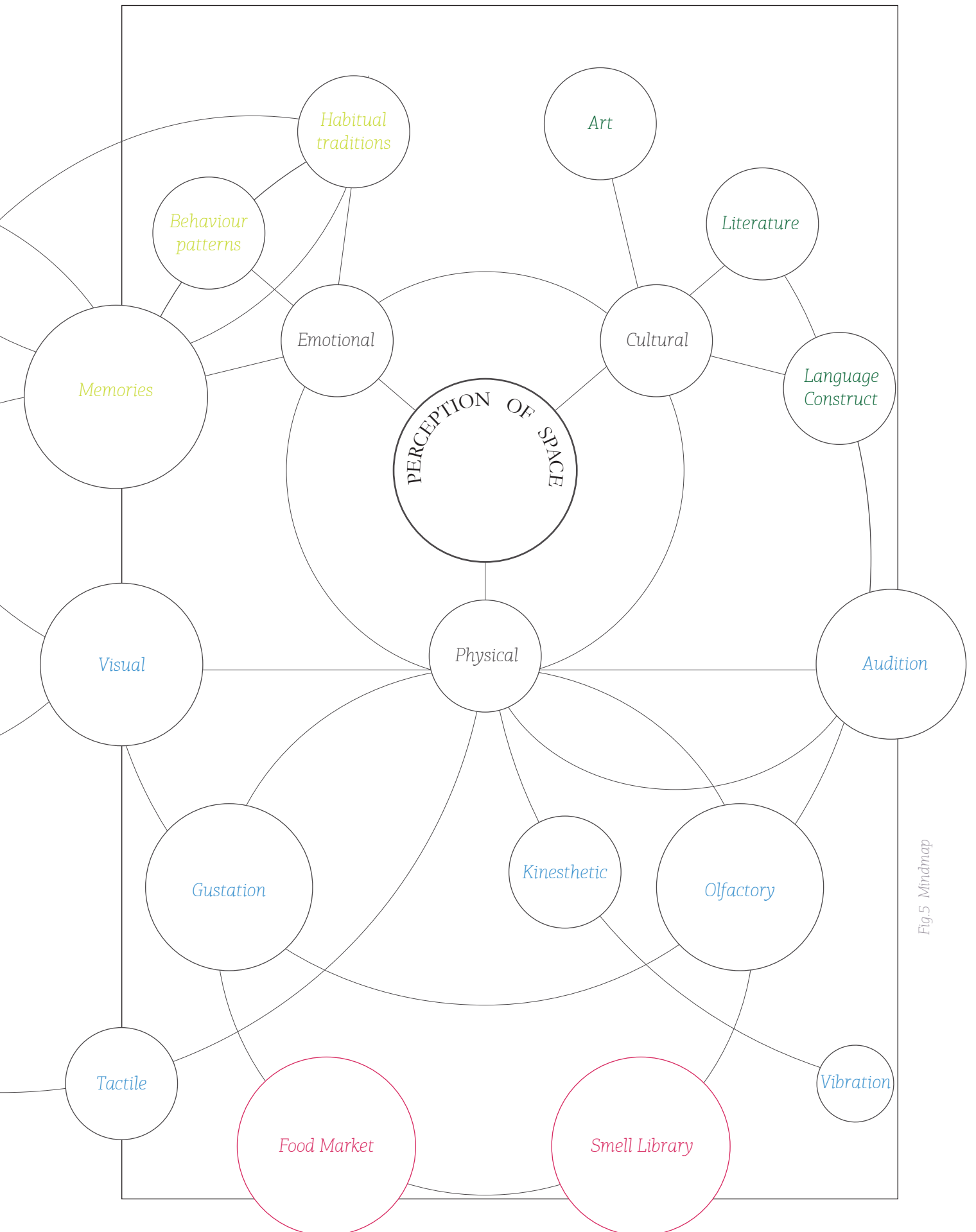
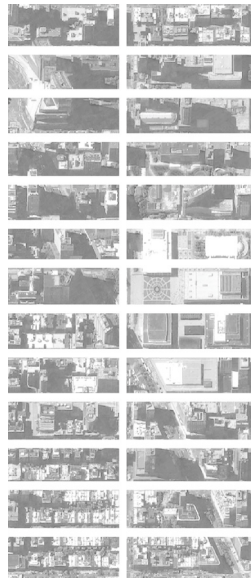


Fig.5 Mindmap

PROPOSAL

SITE DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT



The project's goal is to develop a framework for economic migrants and vulnerable communities empowerment. This is to be achieved by setting spatial boundaries and scenarios aiming at bringing communities together.

The typical New York street grid known for its rigid structure seems less effective in doing so in comparison with organically developed labyrinths of European cities. Being almost a physical illustration of Guy Debord's Spectacle Society, New York's city spatial layout symbolizes the hegemony of capitalist ideology: streets lose their primary function of facilitating public interaction and solely become vectors connecting main nodes of dwellings - workplaces.

In order to step away from this rigid utilitarian spatial scenario, a new street layout incorporating New York masterplan features is proposed.

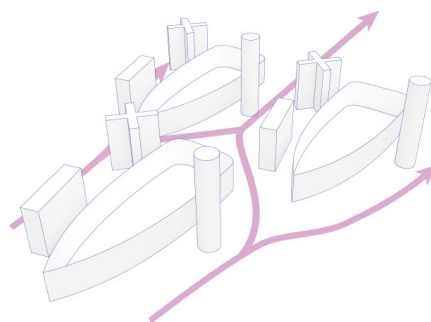
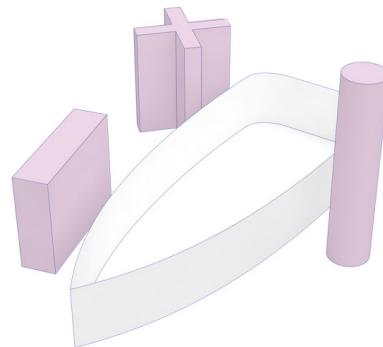
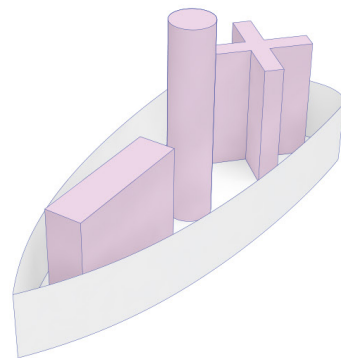
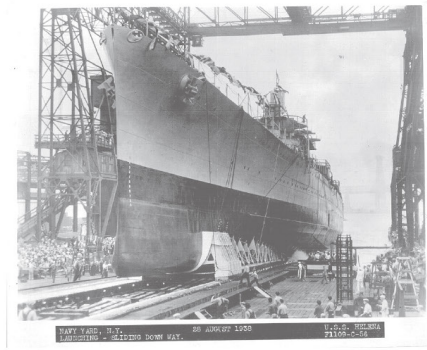
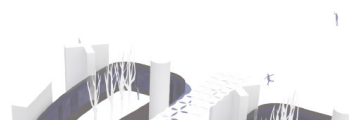


Fig.6 (left page) Manhattan block structure

Fig.7 Concept diagram
Deconstruction and working with negative space creates fluidity in movement scenarios.



SITE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

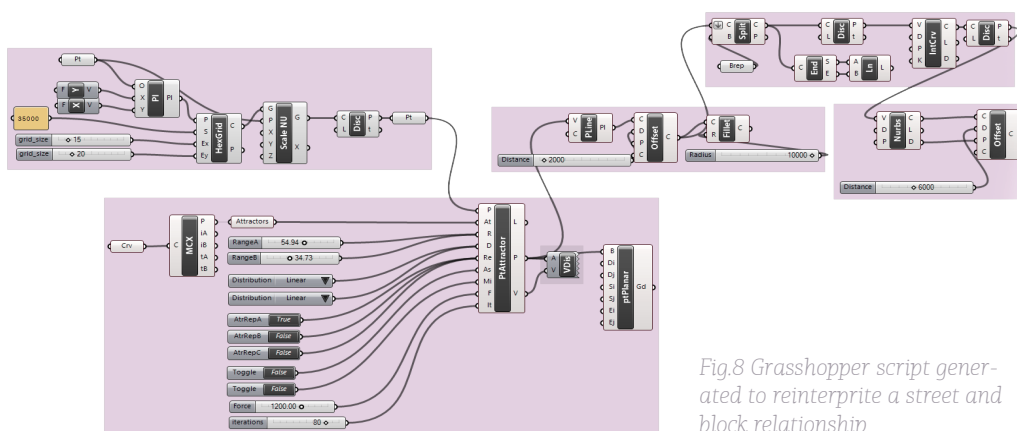
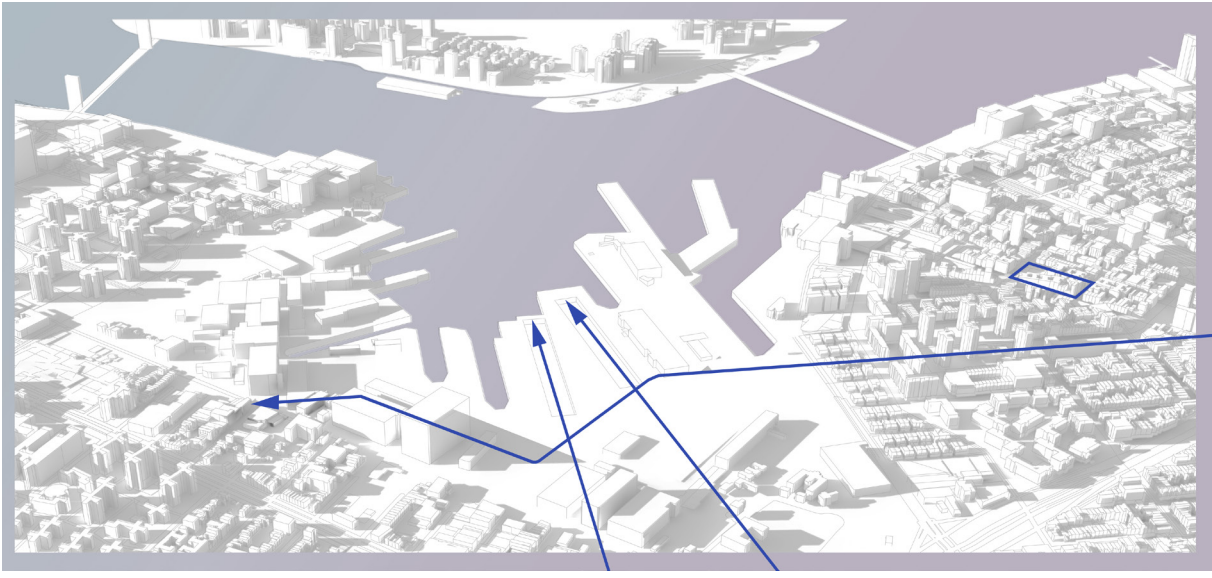
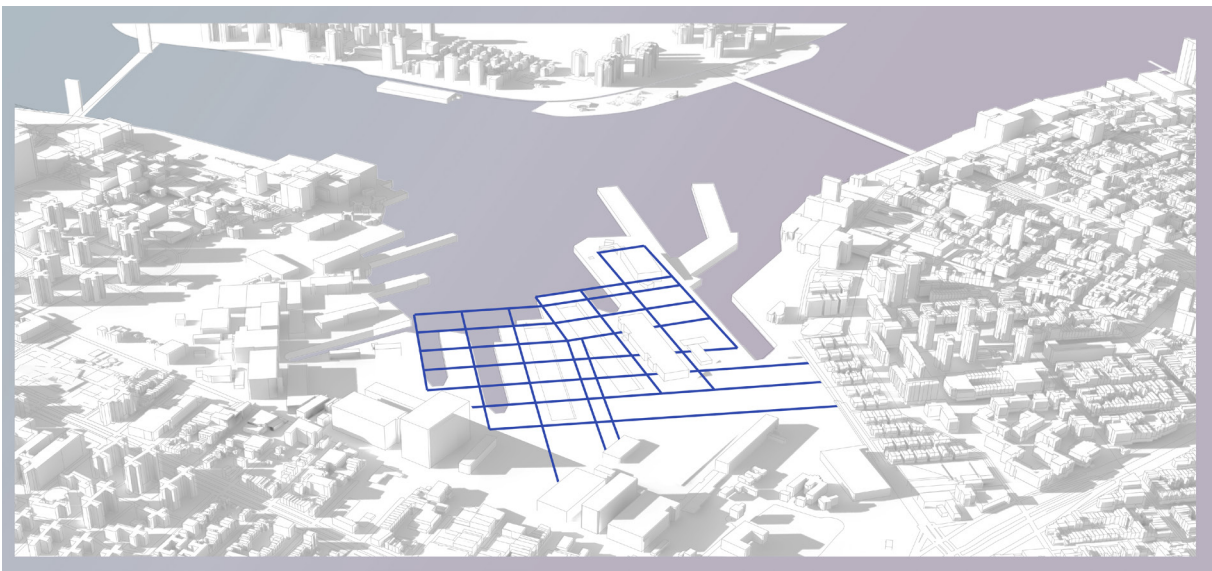


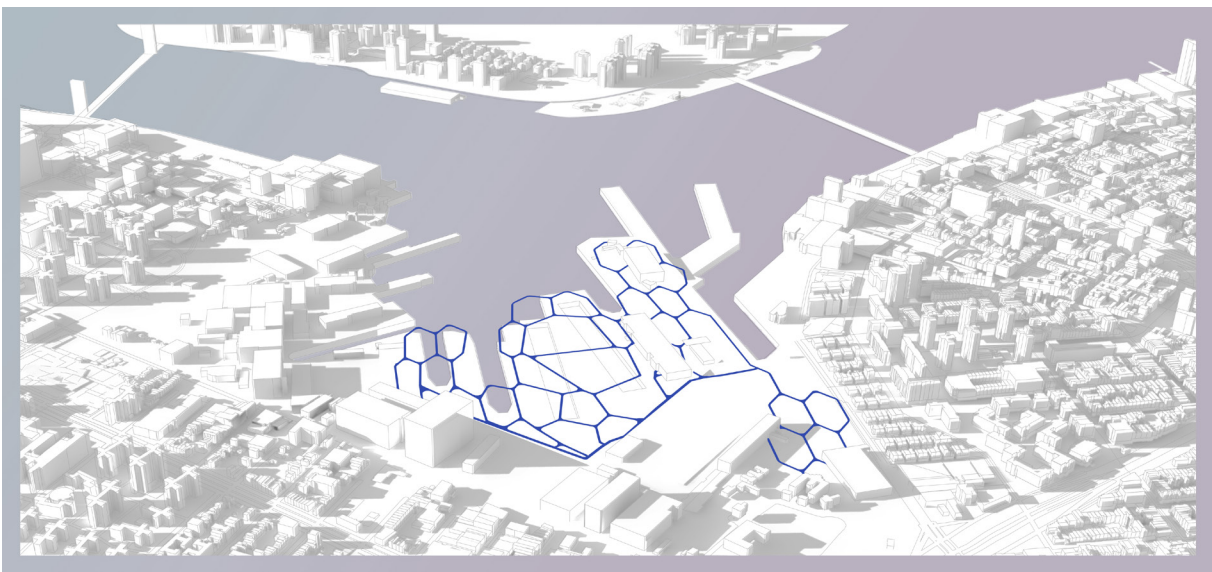
Fig.8 Grasshopper script generated to reinterpret a street and block relationship



1. Neighborhood street vectors and block dimension (45x80 m) are defined



2. Based on the parameters new grid is generated



3. Using rectangular grid interconnections as attractor points, new structure is generated in Grasshopper plugin (Fig.6)

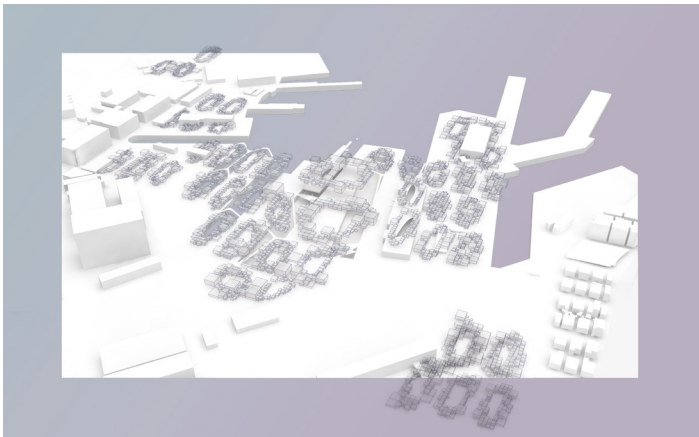
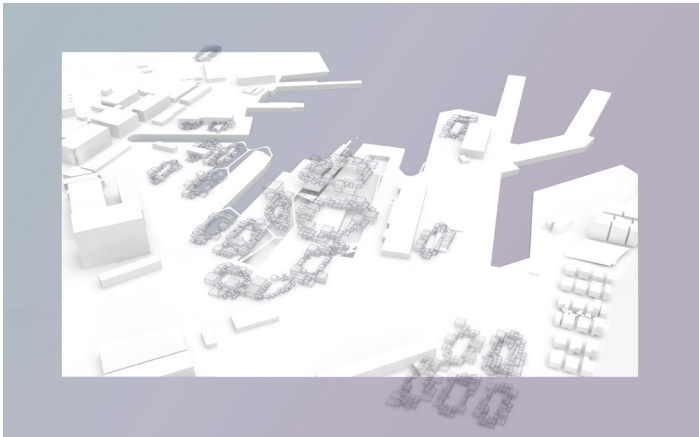
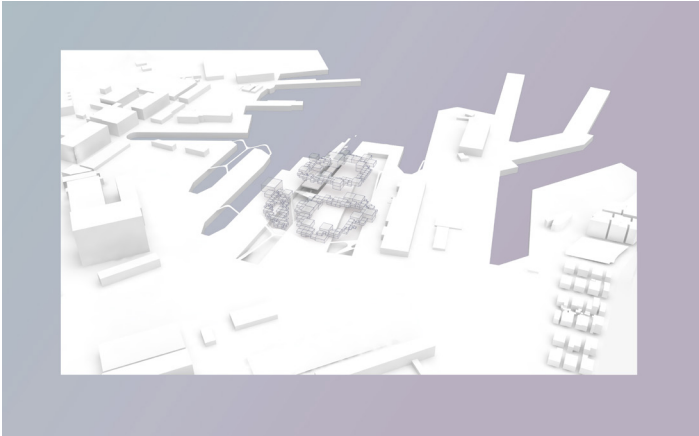
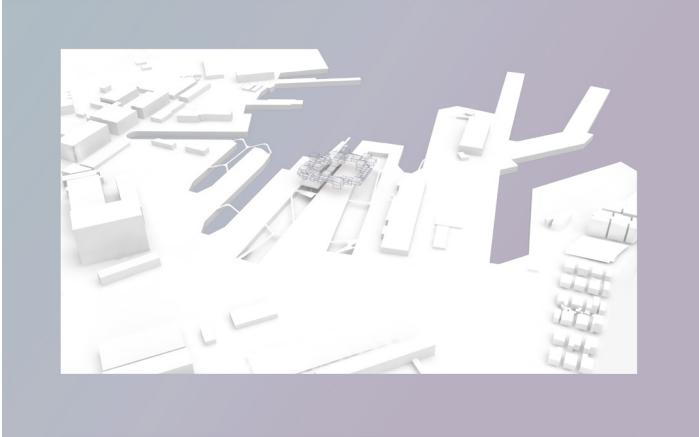


Fig.8 Expansion diagram
Possible scenarios of future site development organically growing into existing city grid.
Phase 1 — 5% of total area
Phase 2 — 12 %
Phase 3 — 60 % (part of the development melts into existing structures)
Phase 4 — 100%

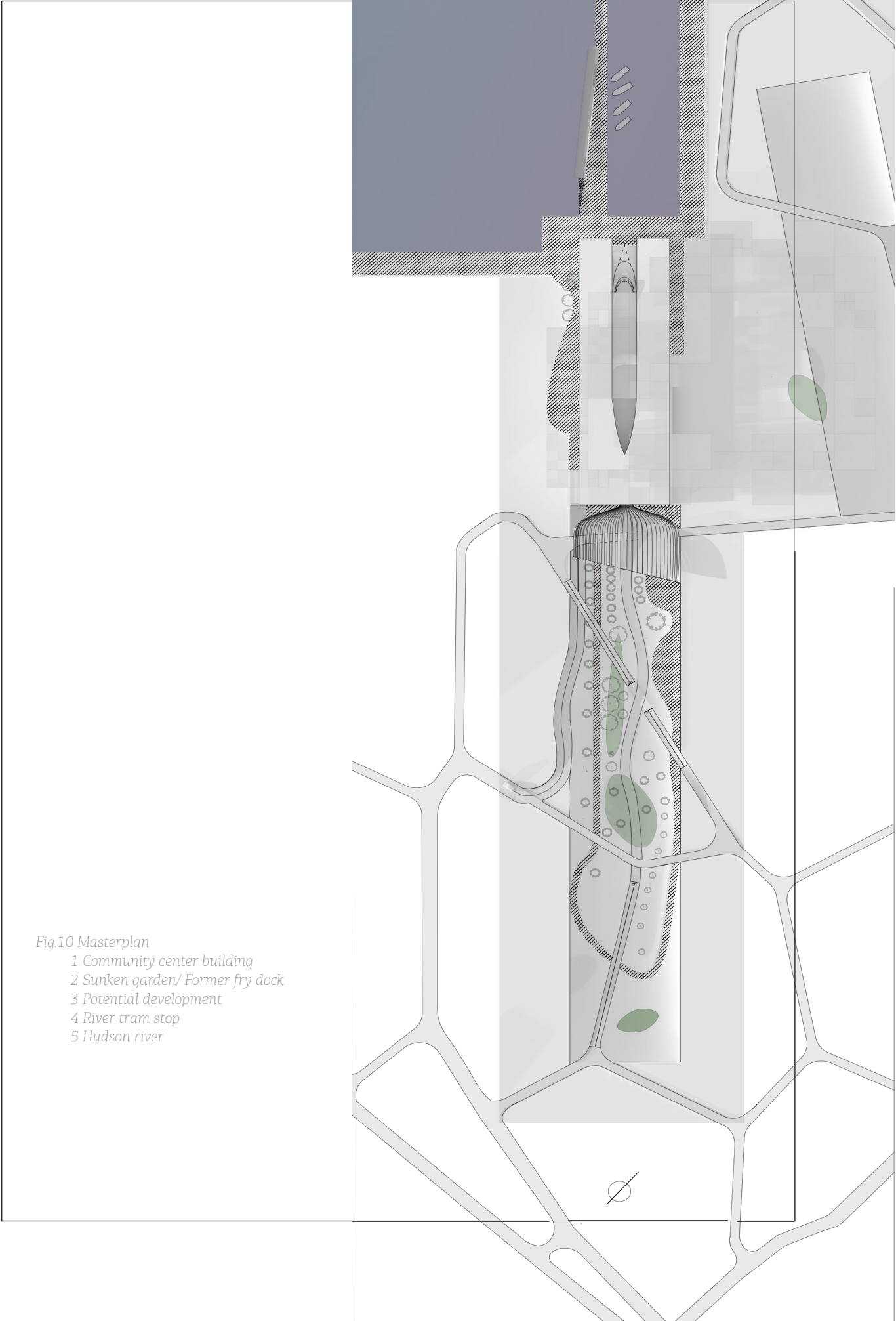
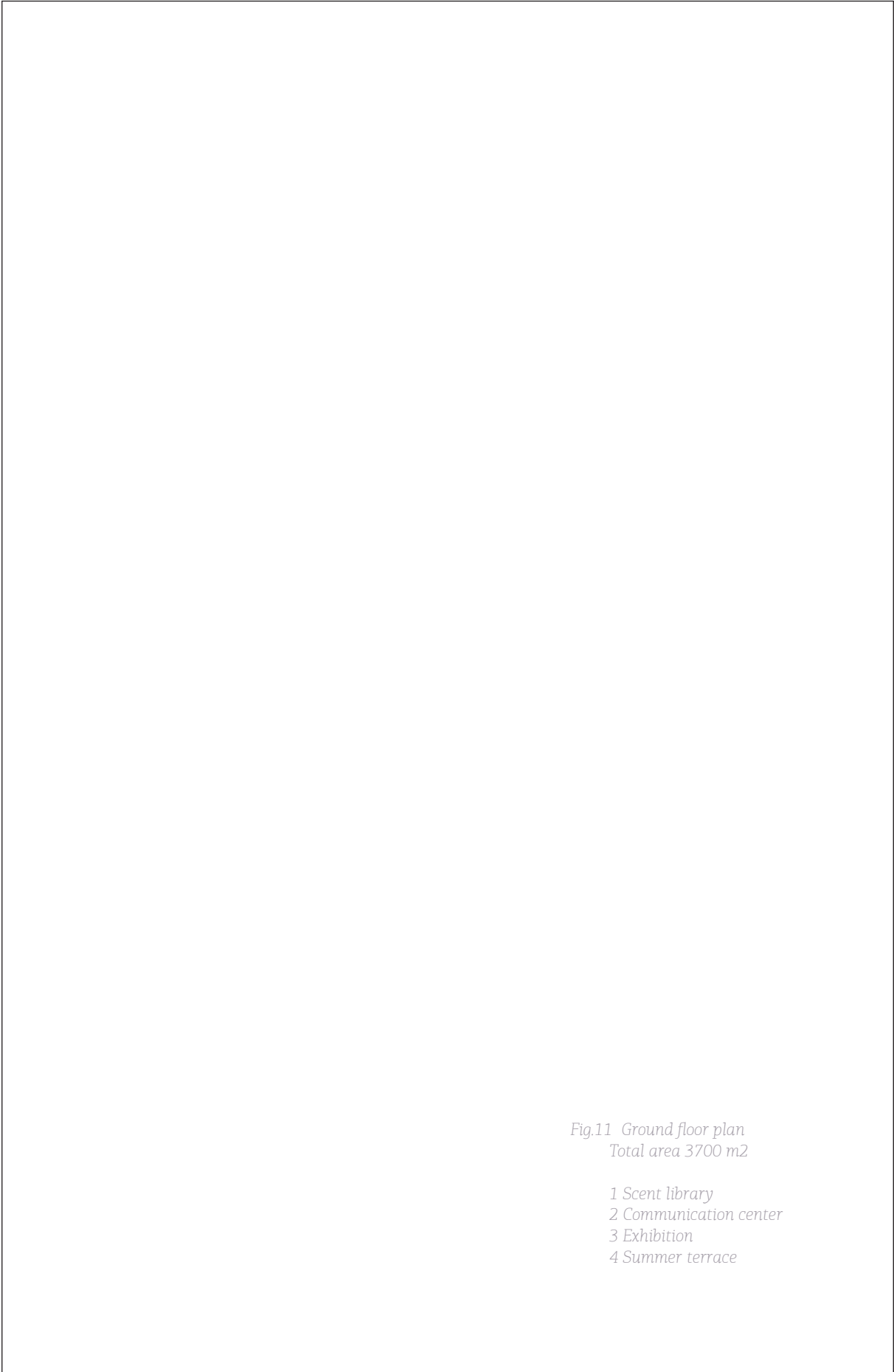


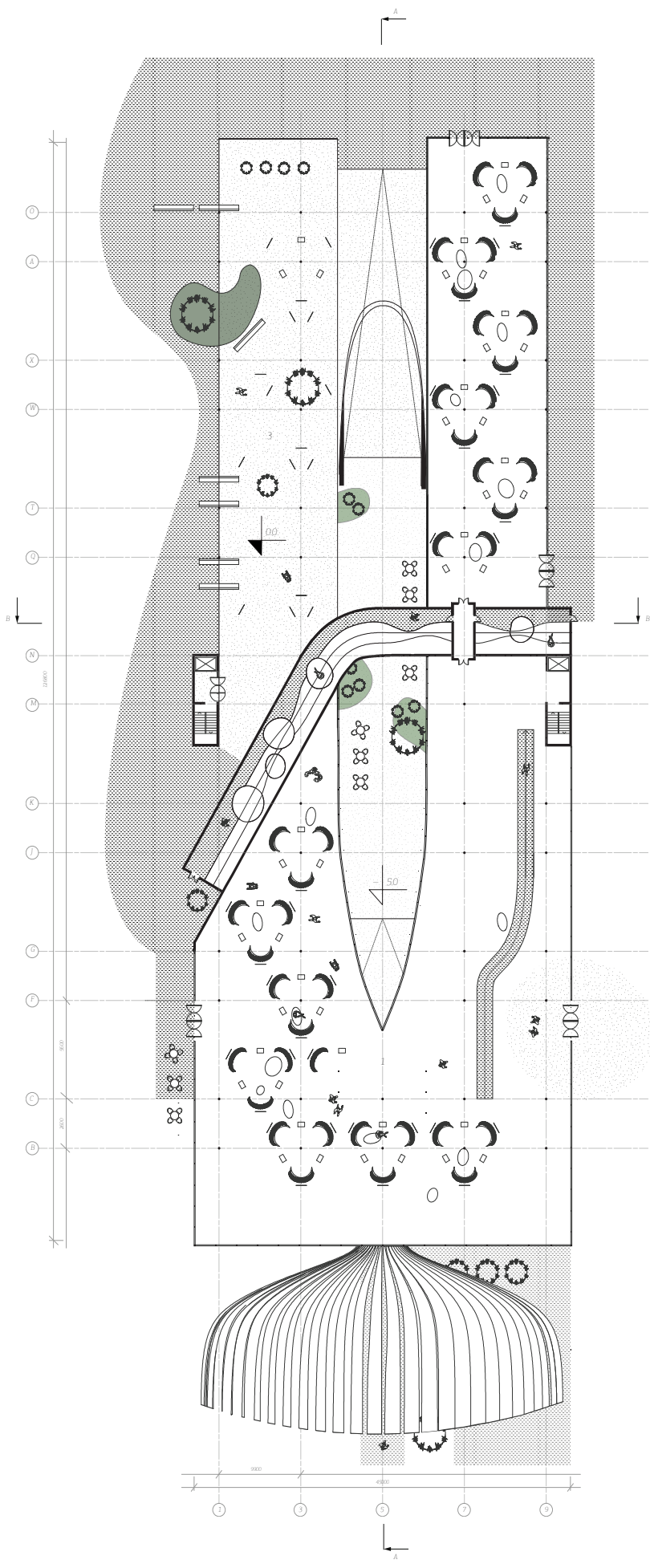
Fig.10 Masterplan

- 1 Community center building
- 2 Sunken garden/ Former fry dock
- 3 Potential development
- 4 River tram stop
- 5 Hudson river



*Fig.11 Ground floor plan
Total area 3700 m2*

- 1 Scent library*
- 2 Communication center*
- 3 Exhibition*
- 4 Summer terrace*



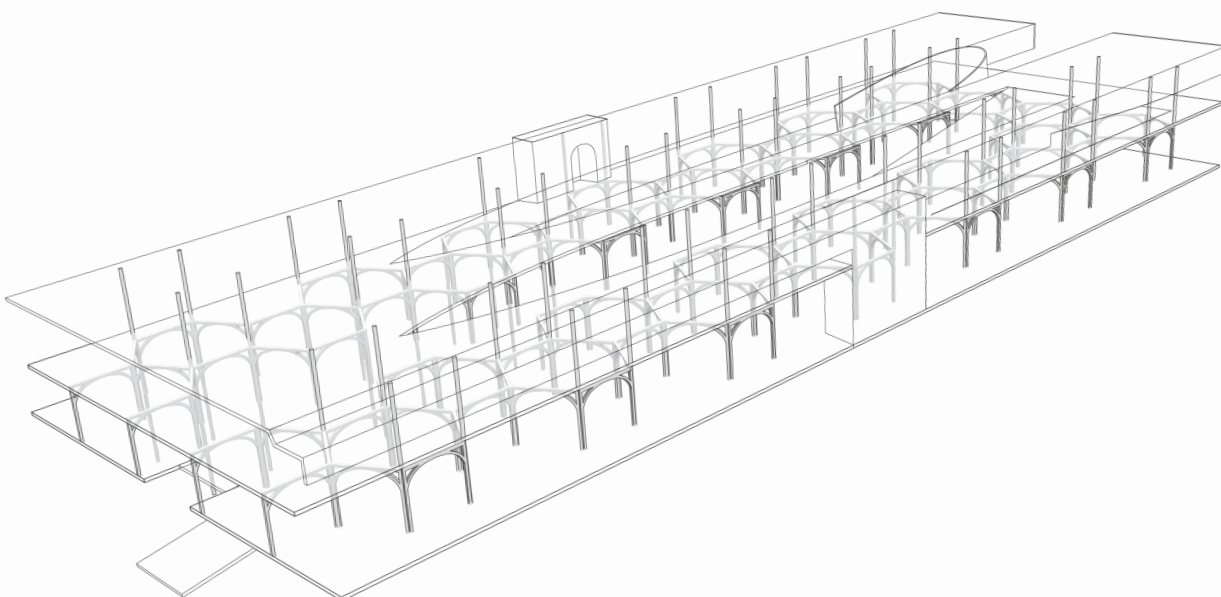
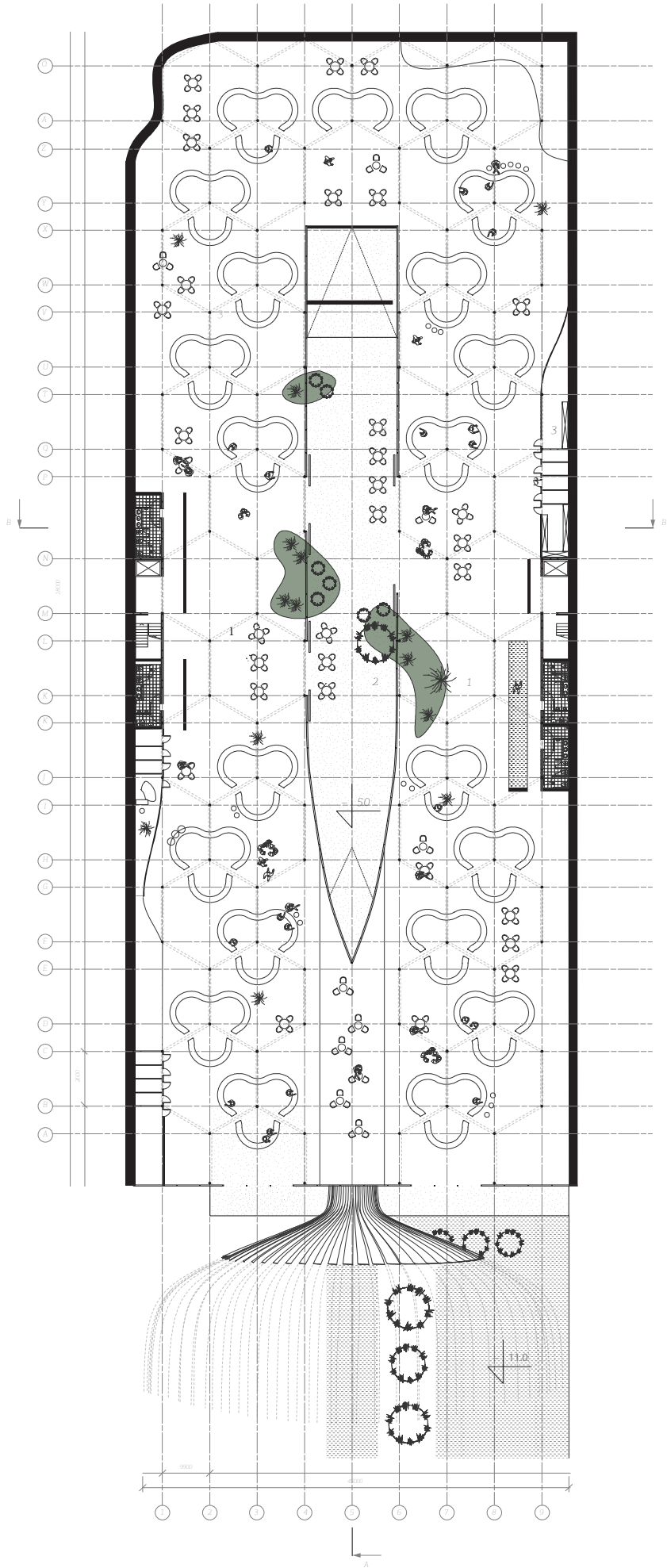


Fig.12 Structure scheme

*Fig.13 Plan - 5.0
Total area 3700 m²*

- 1 Communal food market*
- 2 Open terrace*
- 3 Storage rooms*
- 4 Bathrooms*



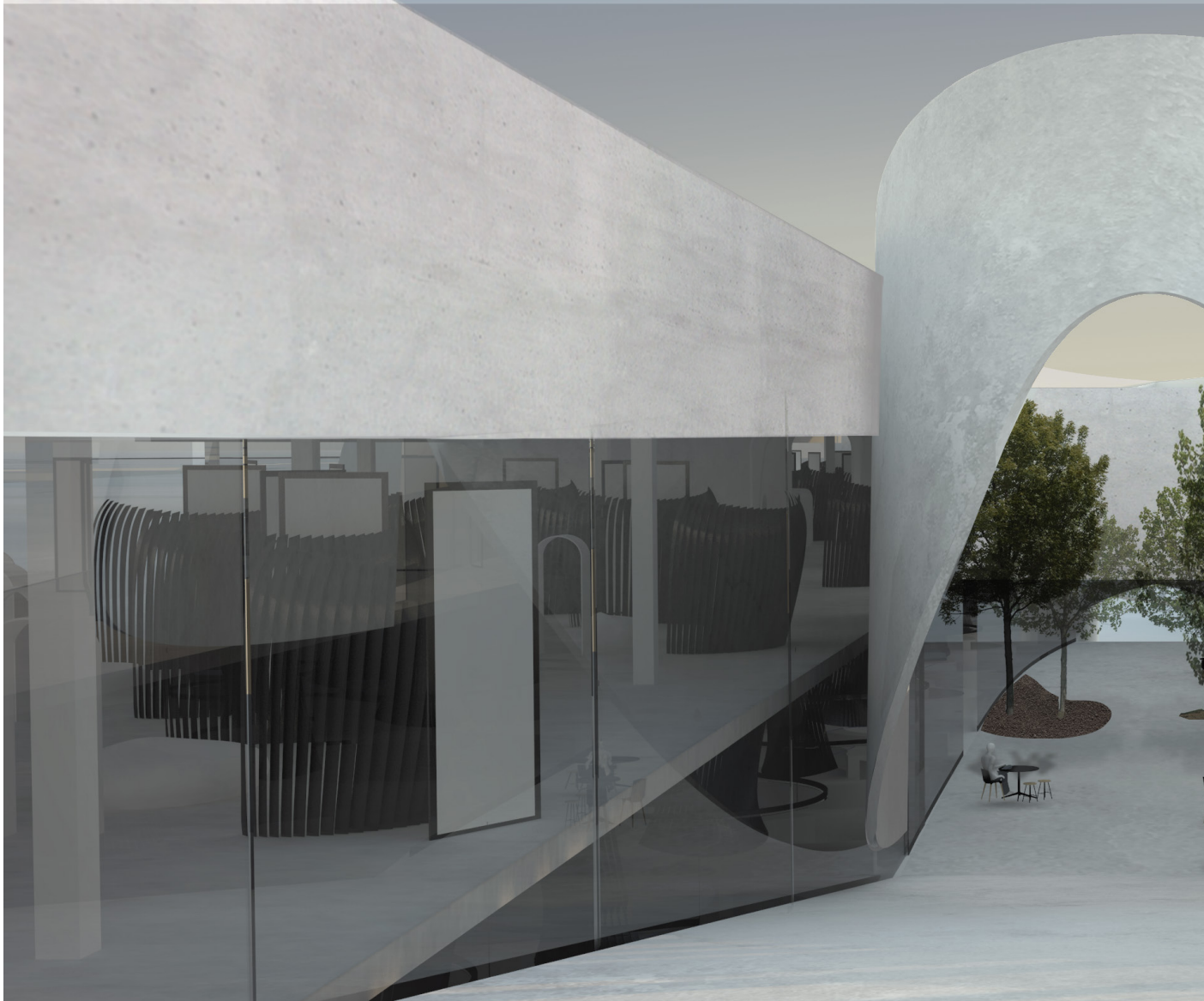
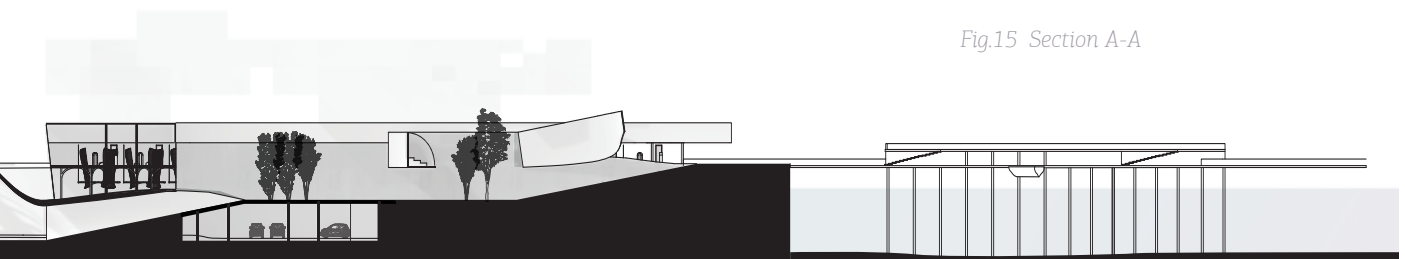
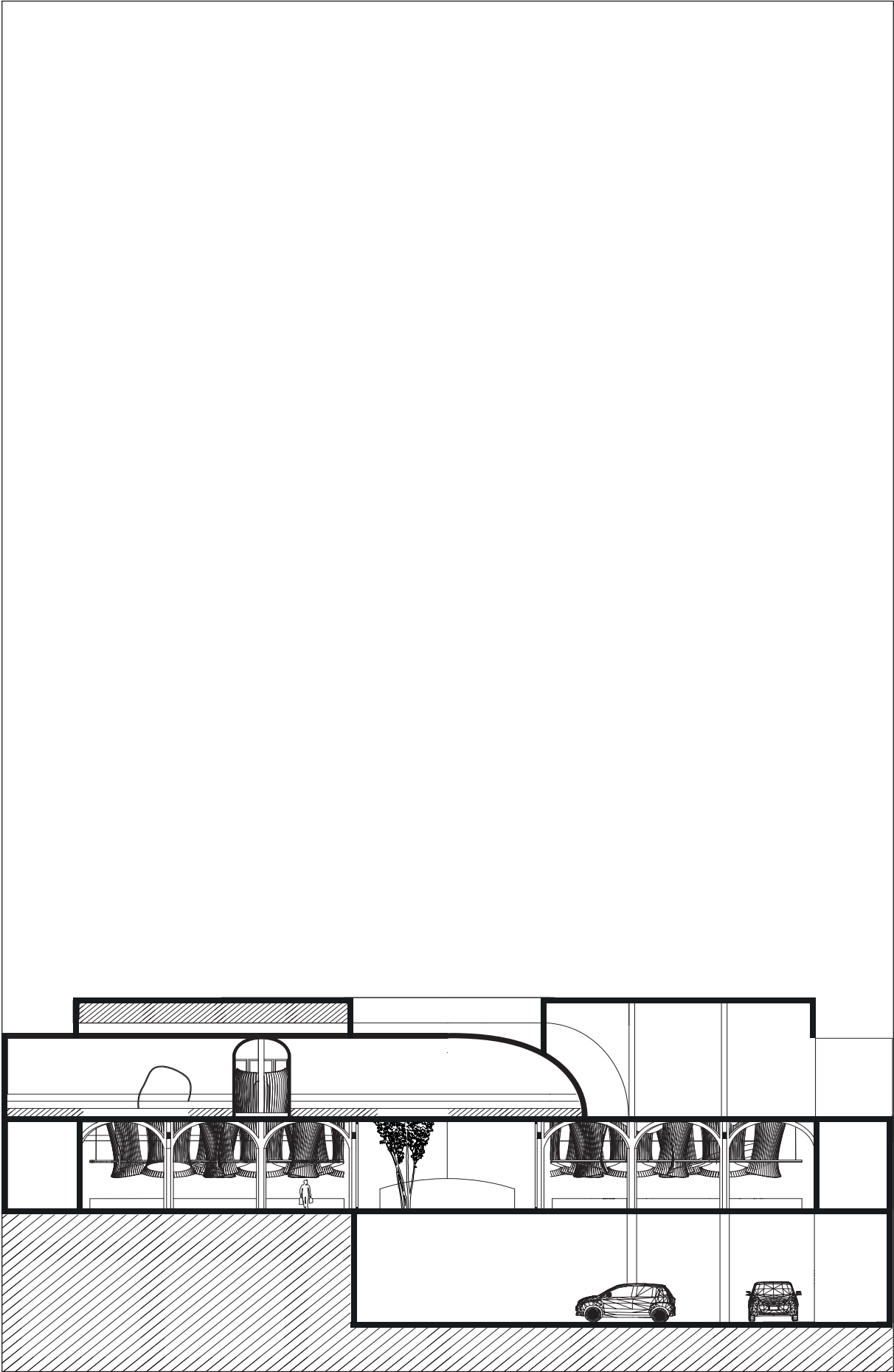




Fig.14 Courtyard view

Fig.15 Section A-A





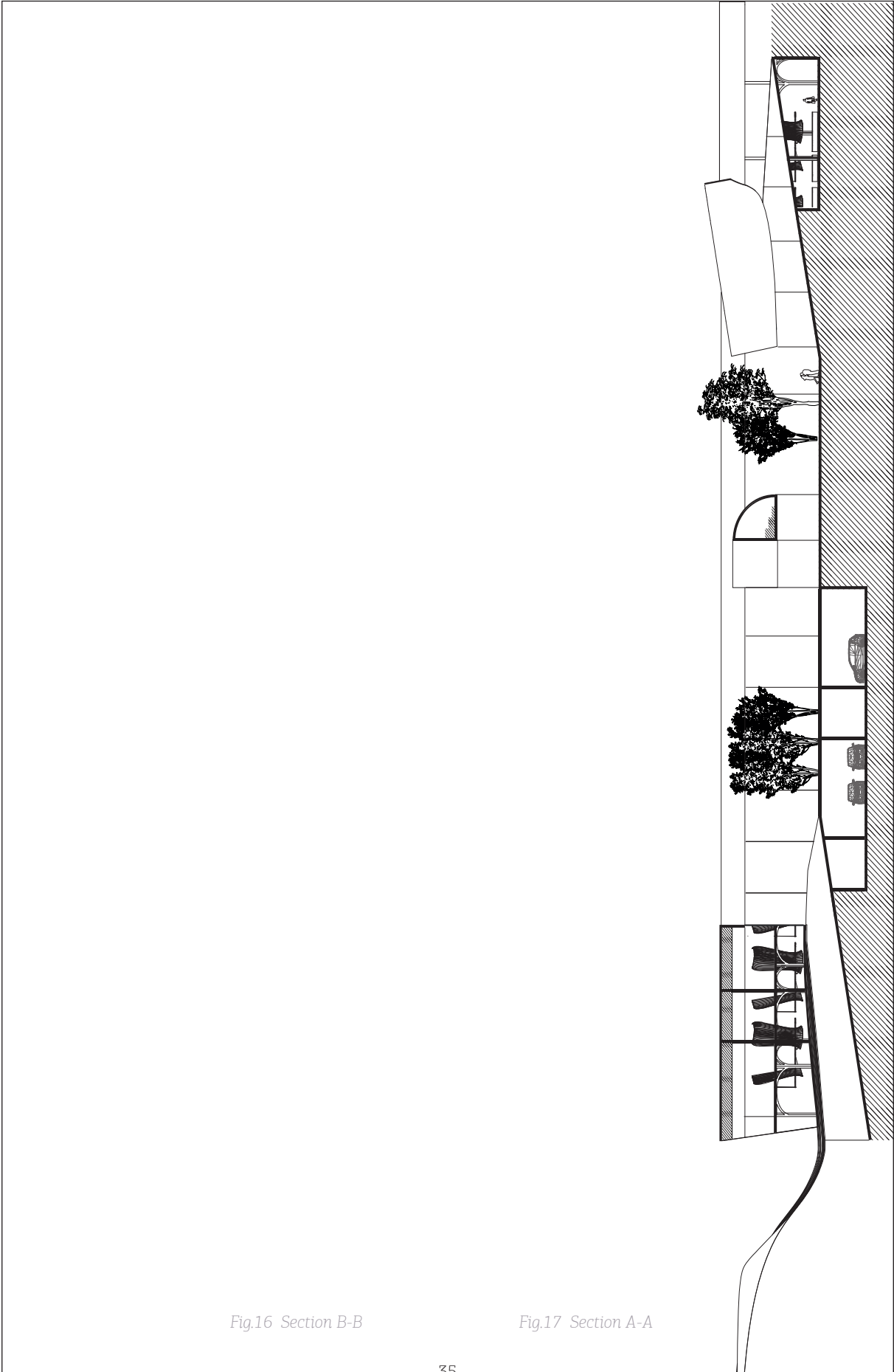


Fig.16 Section B-B

Fig.17 Section A-A

MULTISENSORY SPACES

FOOD MARKET | SCENT LIBRARY



To deal with the challenges of migration, I decided to focus on a kinesthetic approach to spatial experiences in this project. That decision was based on preliminary investigations in the beginning of the Thesis process. In particular, interviews recorded among current migrants played a key role. As Edward T Hall puts it in "The Hidden Dimension", the perception of space is based on receptors (eyes, ears, nose, touch). Architecture tends to focus on the eyes and functionality. However, senses like smell are also powerfully (if not more) suggestive.

Being a migrant means in most cases having a different cultural background attached to a whole personal library of sensual memories: smells, tastes, colors, shapes and sounds that evoke home.

The "Scent Library" is part of a set up aimed at creating a sense of home through the sensuality of space. Within the project programme, it is connected directly to the Food Market located beneath. Not only the latter serves to bring people from different cultures together to share their experiences and avoid isolation, it invokes a feeling of familiarity through colors and tastes of food, creating a collection of aromas stored and retrieved on demand.

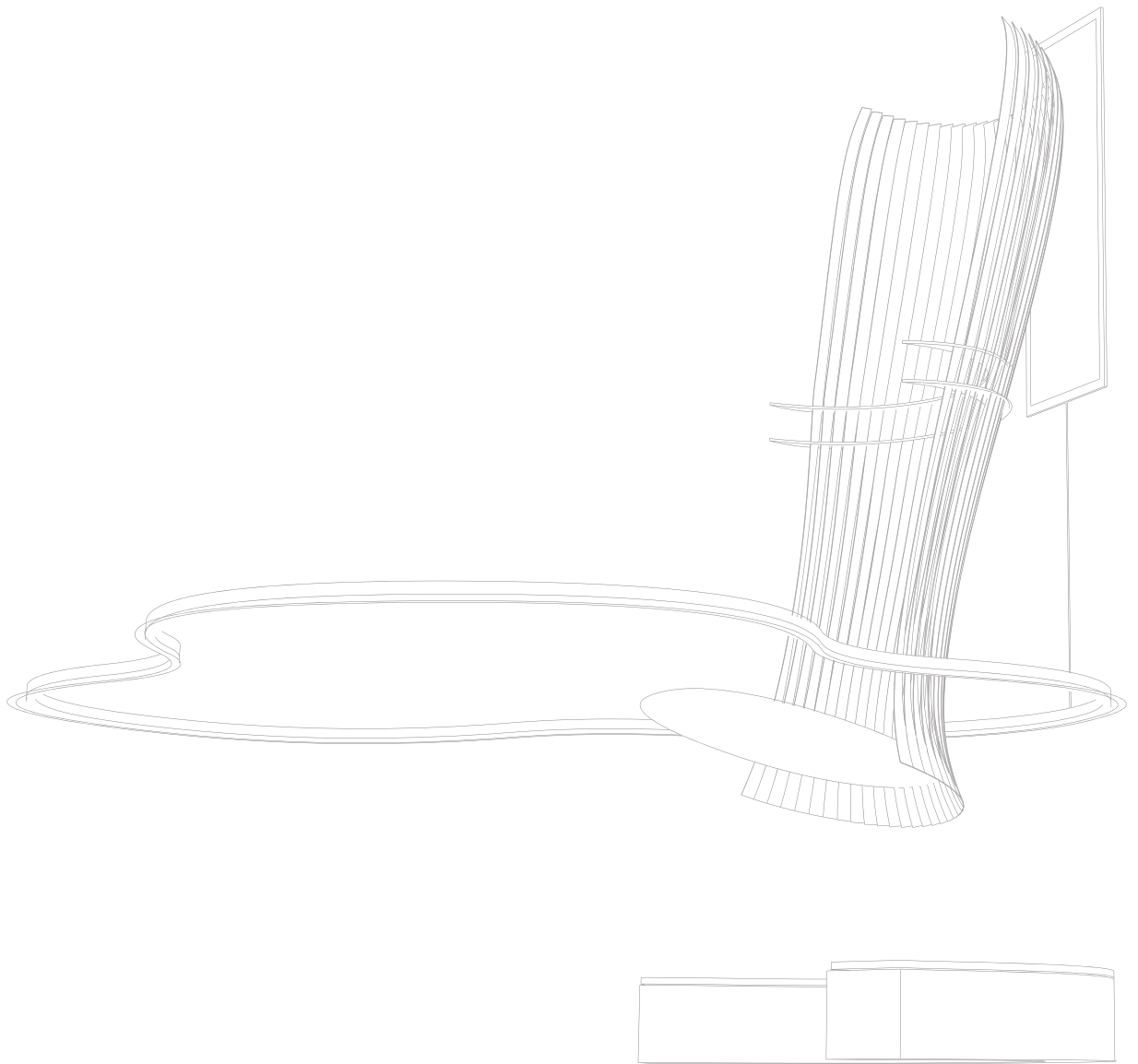


Fig.18,19 Food market and scent library
function diagram

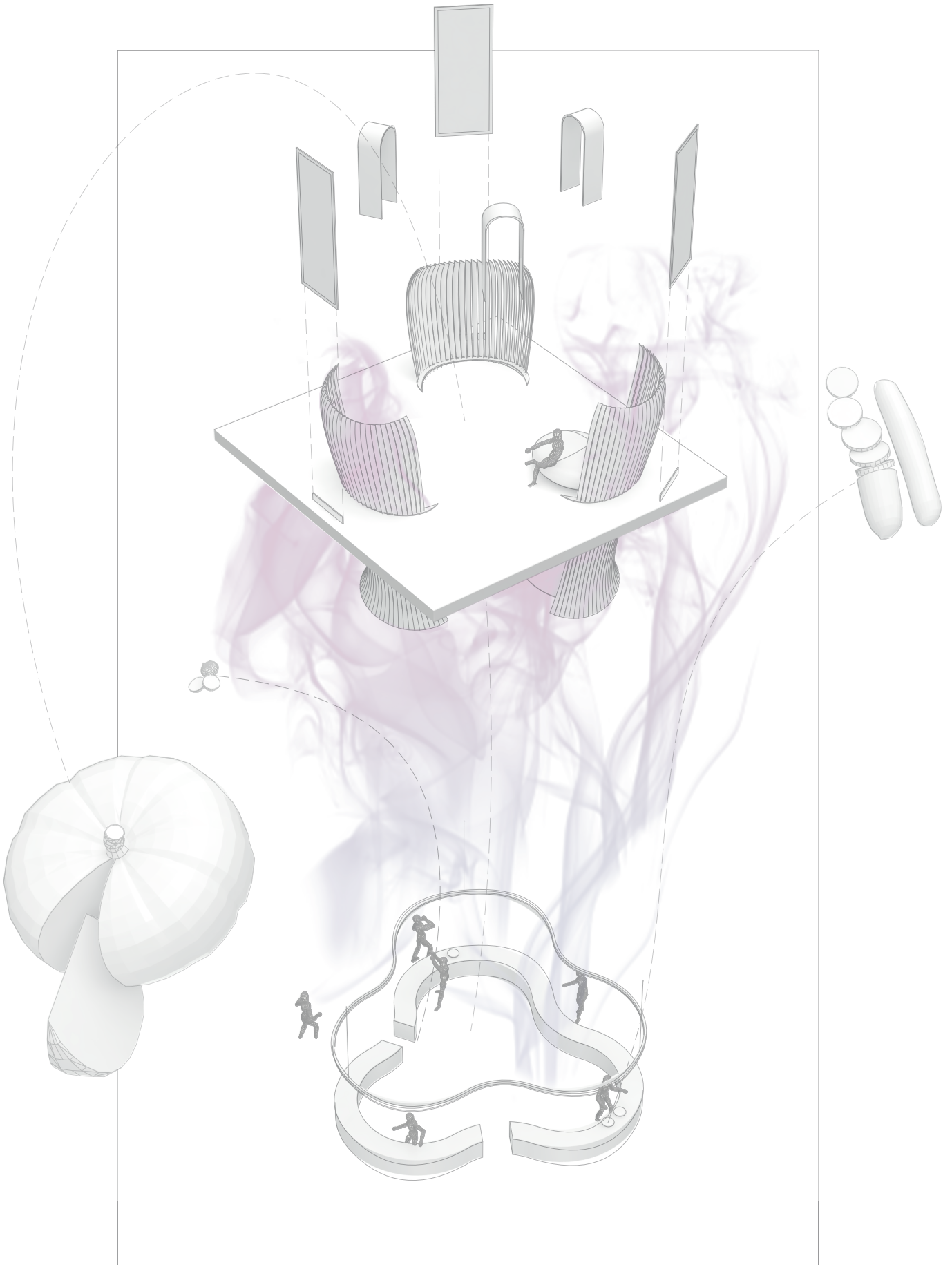






Fig.20 Scent Library



“

...Consciousness can in course of time modify the structure of its surroundings;...At every moment, its former experience is present to it in the form of a horizon which it can reopen — “if it chooses to take that horizon as a theme of knowledge” — in an act of recollection, but which it can equally leave on the fringe of experience, and which then immediately provides the perceived with a present atmosphere and significance.

”

Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Phenomenology of Perception

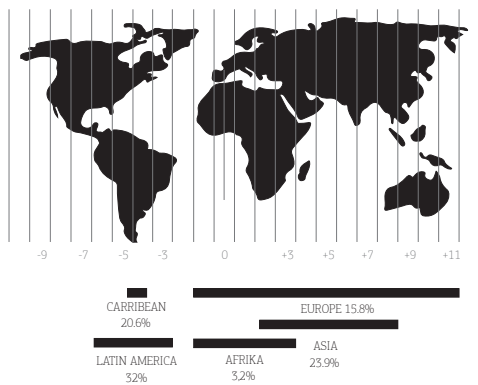
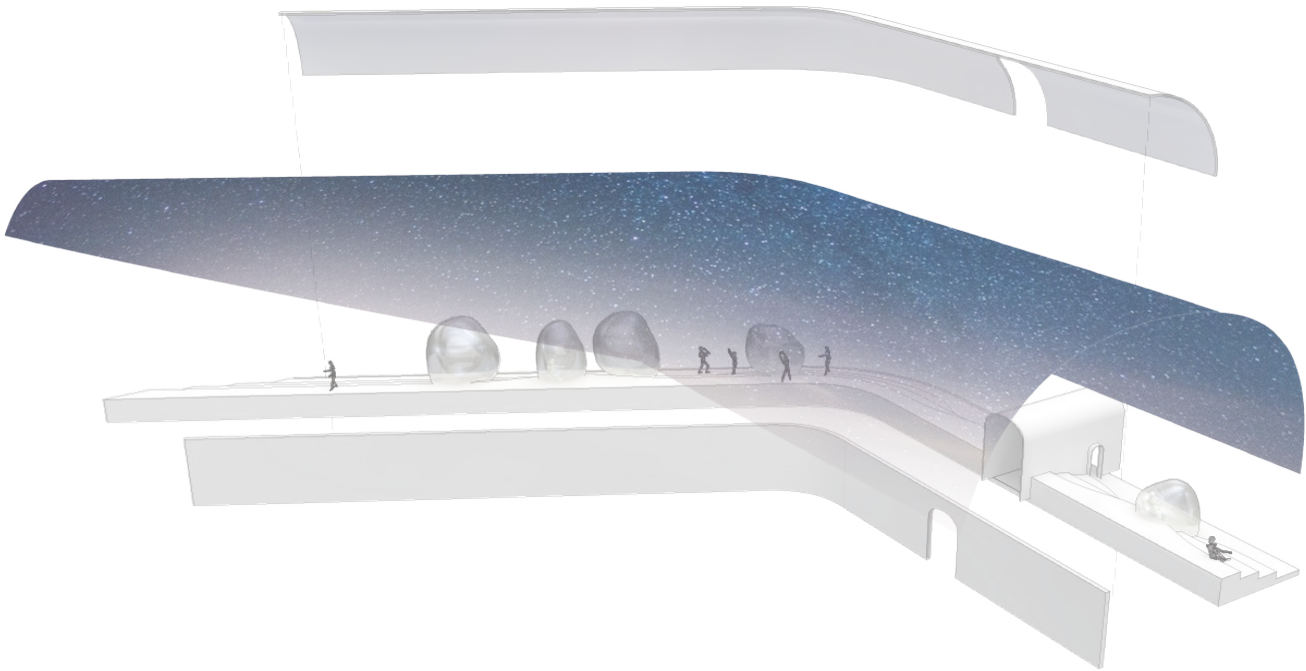


Fig.21 Food Market

MULTISENSORY SPACES

COMMUNICATION CENTER





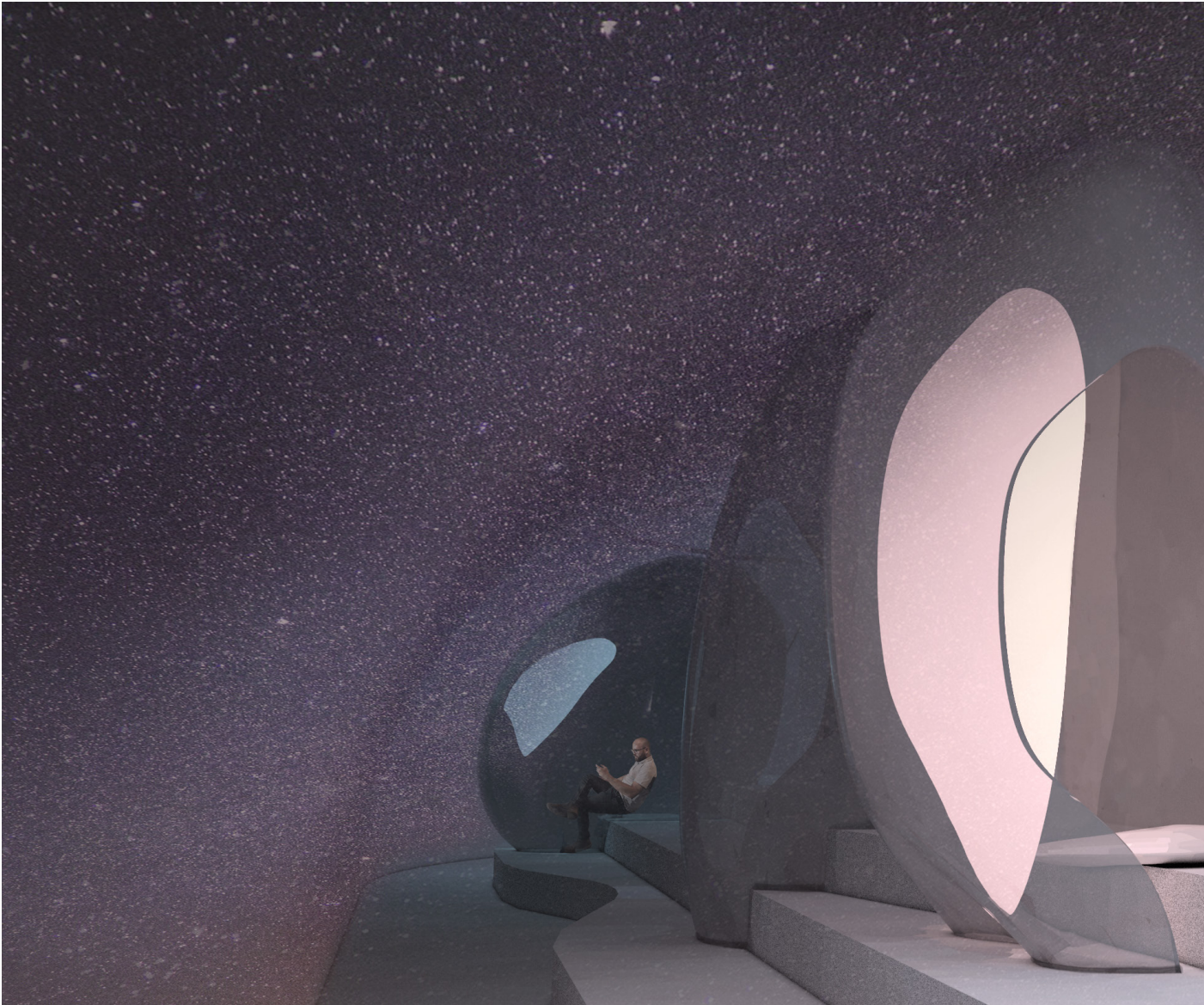
The interviews conducted during my thesis research stage confirmed that human relationships are the main factor of the feeling of belonging to a place. It is never easy to cope with missing someone. This feeling of solitude, exacerbated by a new environment, light and climate, contributes a lot to « Cultural Shock » depression. In order to reduce the distances, my thesis proposal incorporates an immersive communication center that allows the user to contact friends or family abroad while experiencing the same time zone light environment (for instance, if you call a relative in a timezone where it's night time, the light in the booth will adjust accordingly).

Researching data about the countries of origin of immigrants residing in New York city revealed that five Communication Booth with the 5 most common time zones of origin would cover most cases.

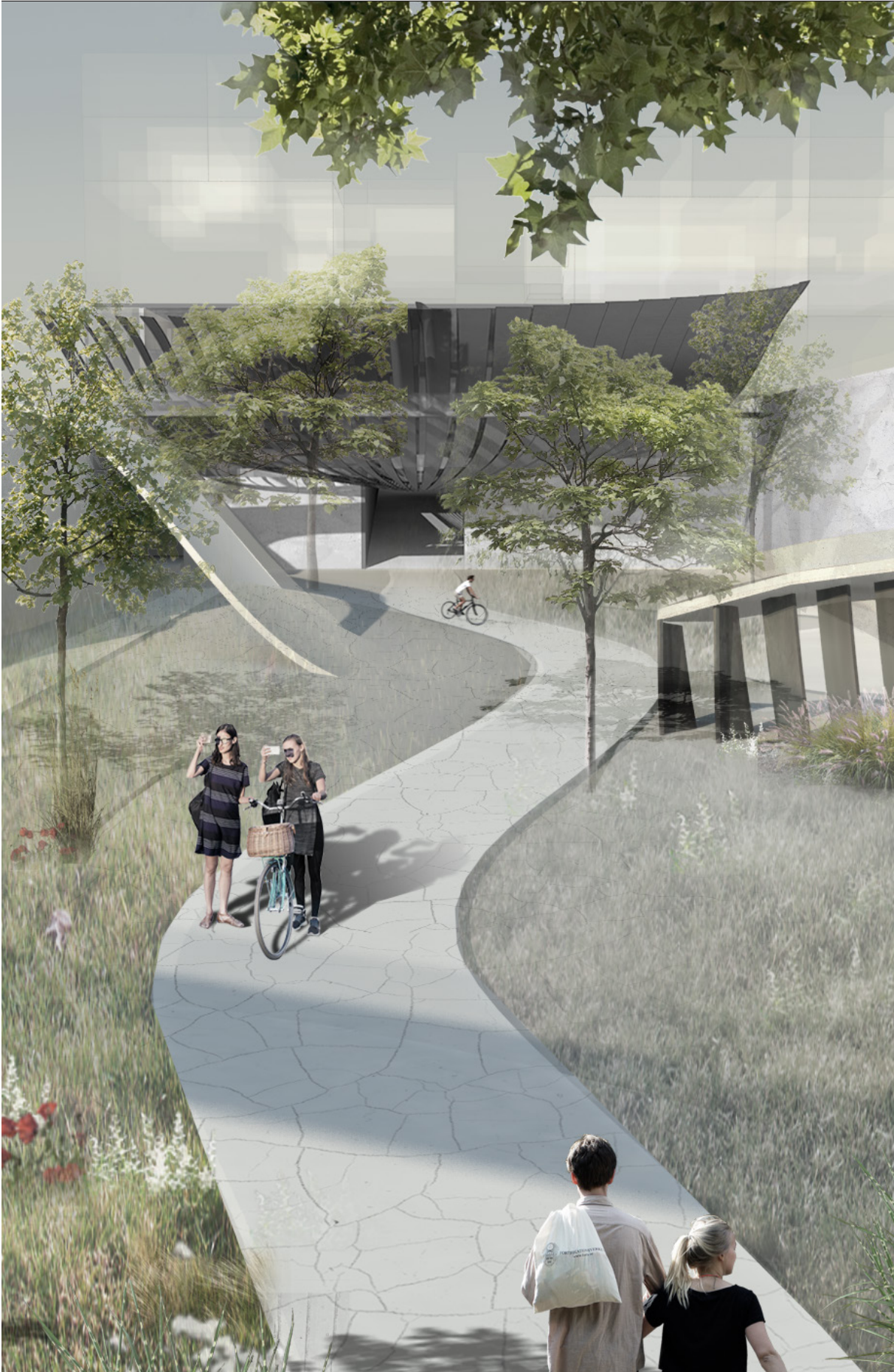
Fig.22 Communication center function diagram

Fig.23 Concept diagram

Fig.24 Time zone diagram







CONCLUSION

The topic of current migration flows is one of the greatest and most debated challenges in today's world. Architecture, as an integral part of our everyday lives, is eventually evolving in that context. Obvious signs of these evolutions could be noticed in the themes of many Architectural Exhibitions throughout the world. For instance, the Finnish Pavilion « From Border to Home » at 2016 Venice Biennale was showcasing architectural solutions for asylum seekers. The British Pavilion « Home is where WI-FI is » proposed new perspectives on the shared economy. That same year, Oslo's Architectural Triennale entitled « After Belonging: A Triennale In Residence, On Residence, and the Ways We Stay In Transit » explored how design field professionals can respond to the different ways we inhabit the globalized landscape. The list can go on, but the housing crisis is screaming for itself throughout the titles.

While acknowledging housing being of the utter importance, I felt the need in my thesis to address those new challenges on a deeper level. Drawing from my own experience of being displaced from everything familiar for a long time, I focused on the idea of « Home » and how it could translate in terms of architecture through a certain sensuality of space that would help migrants feel « at home » and adapt to a new environment at the same time.

There is no universal answer to these challenges of a globalized world and there never will be. By promoting the recognition of simple everyday qualities and turning them into design tools, this thesis proposes a way.

*Fig.26 Entrance to a building
from the sunken garden in the
former dry dock*

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Epidemiological aspects of migration and mental illness, *Dinesh Bhugra*

Of Other Spaces, *Michel Foucault*

The Hidden Dimension, *Edward T. Hall*

Six Concepts, *Bernard Tschumi*

Eyes of the skin, *Juhani Pallasmaa*

Atmospheres, *Peter Zumthor*

Modalities of space, *Gunnar Sandin*

Phenomenology of Perception, *Maurice Merleau-Ponty*

All illustrations are provided by author

APPENDIX

PROCESS

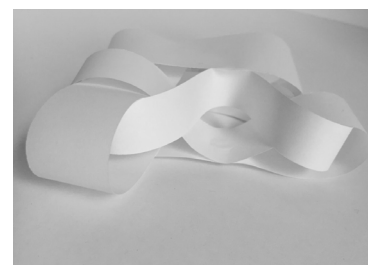
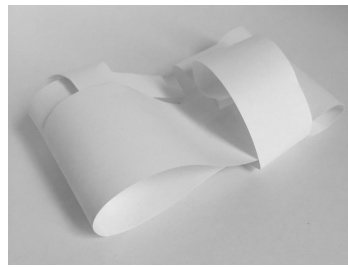


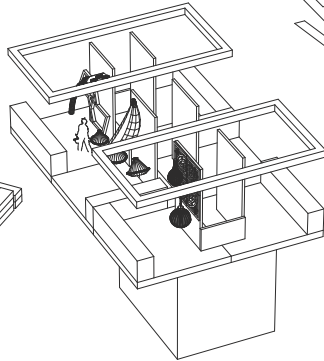
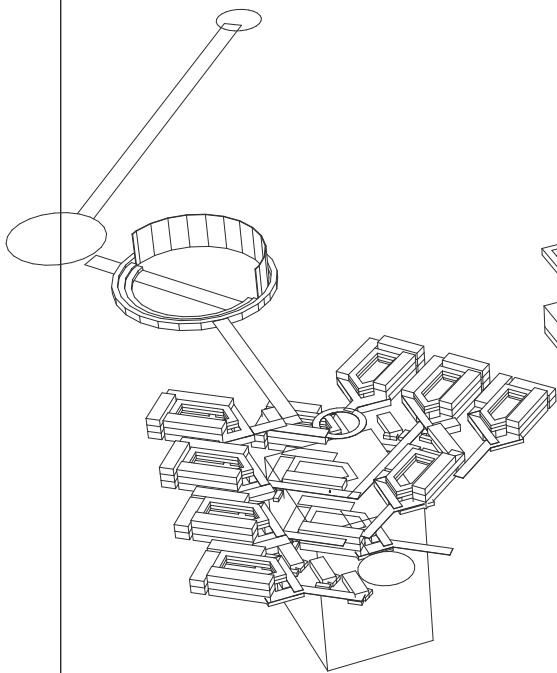
Fig.27 Detail depicted at the site

Fig.28 Formal exploration models

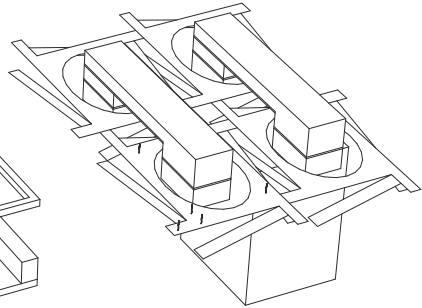
APPENDIX

CEMETERY OF REJECTED IDEAS



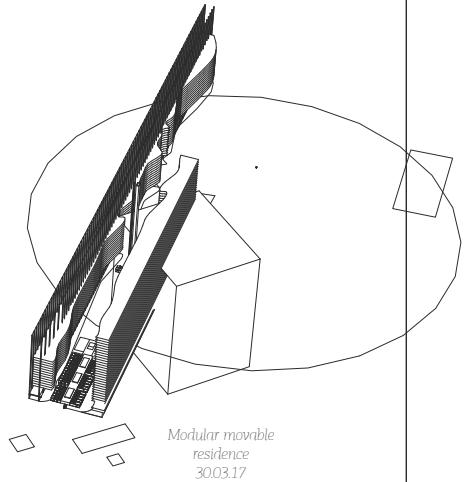
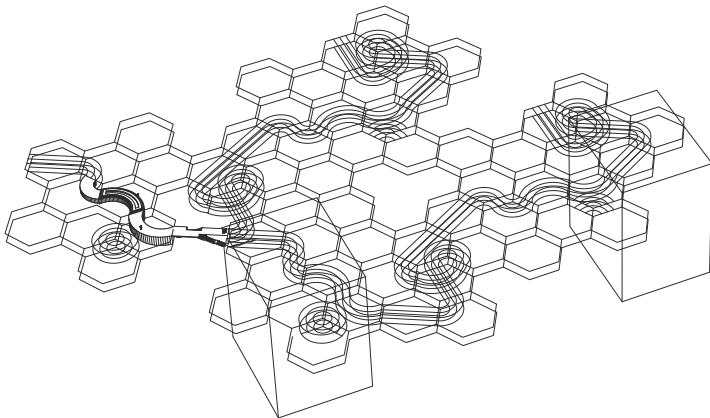


Market of Symbols
15.02.17



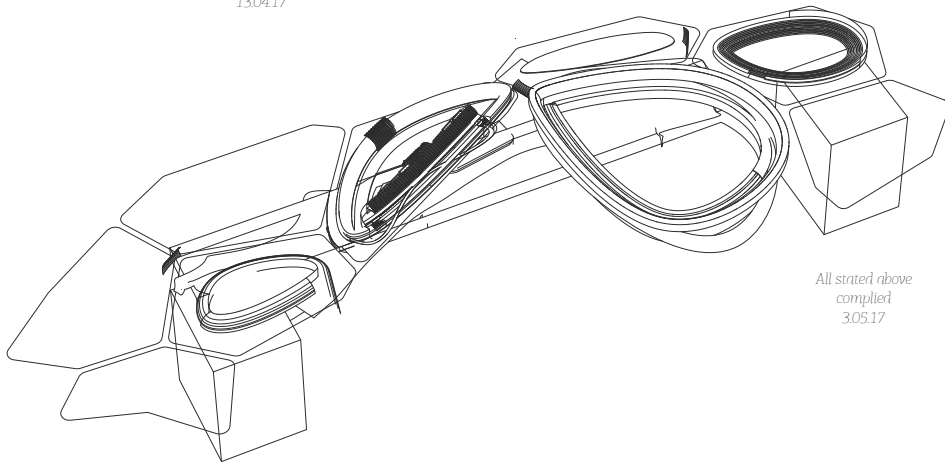
Evergrowing
Garden #1
13.04.17

Labyrinth
30.03.17



Modular movable
residence
30.03.17

Evergrowing
Garden #2
13.04.17



All stated above
completed
3.05.17

