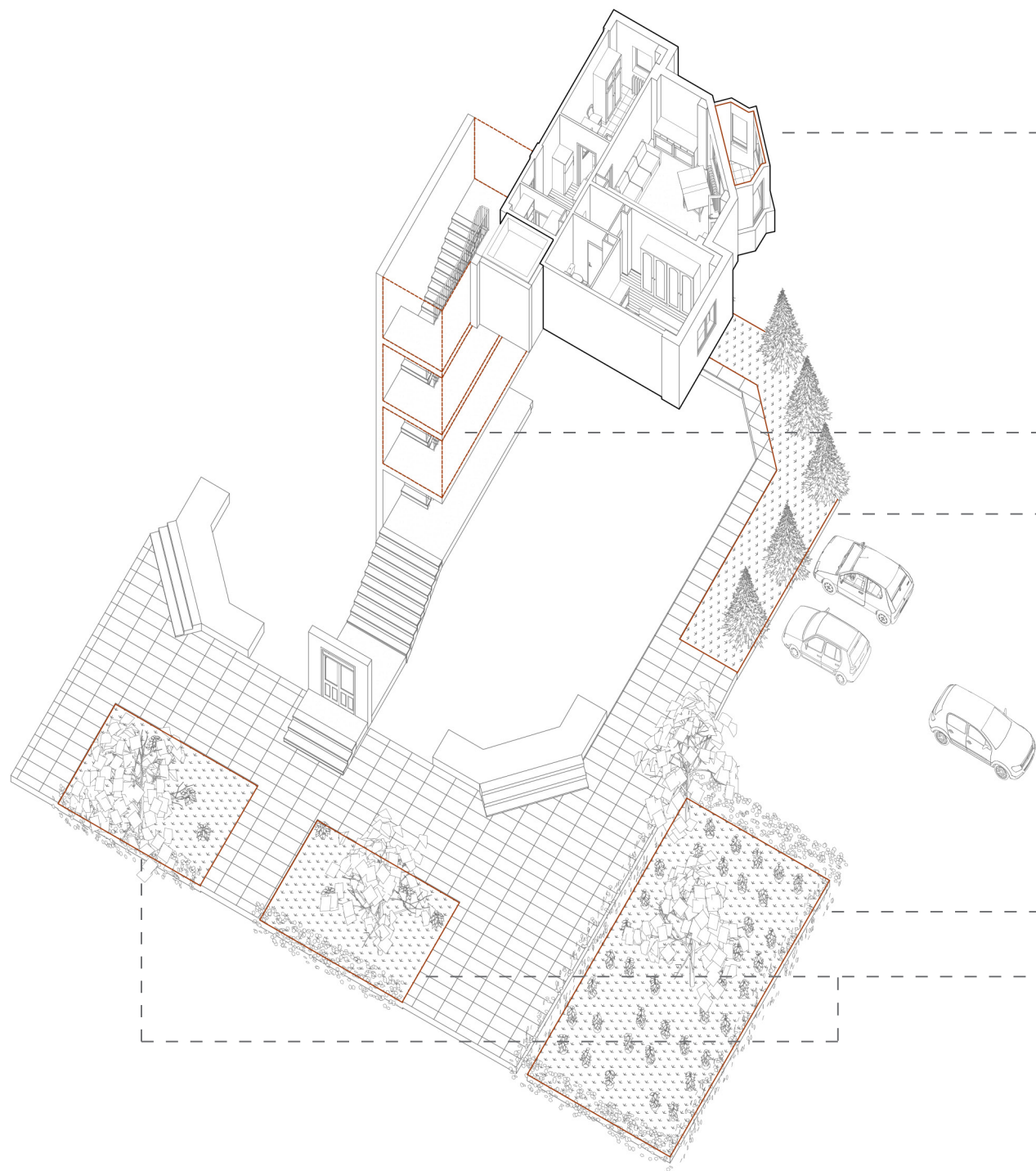


My grandparents apartment
The first generation of people living in a block
*Block built in the 1980's
Constanta*

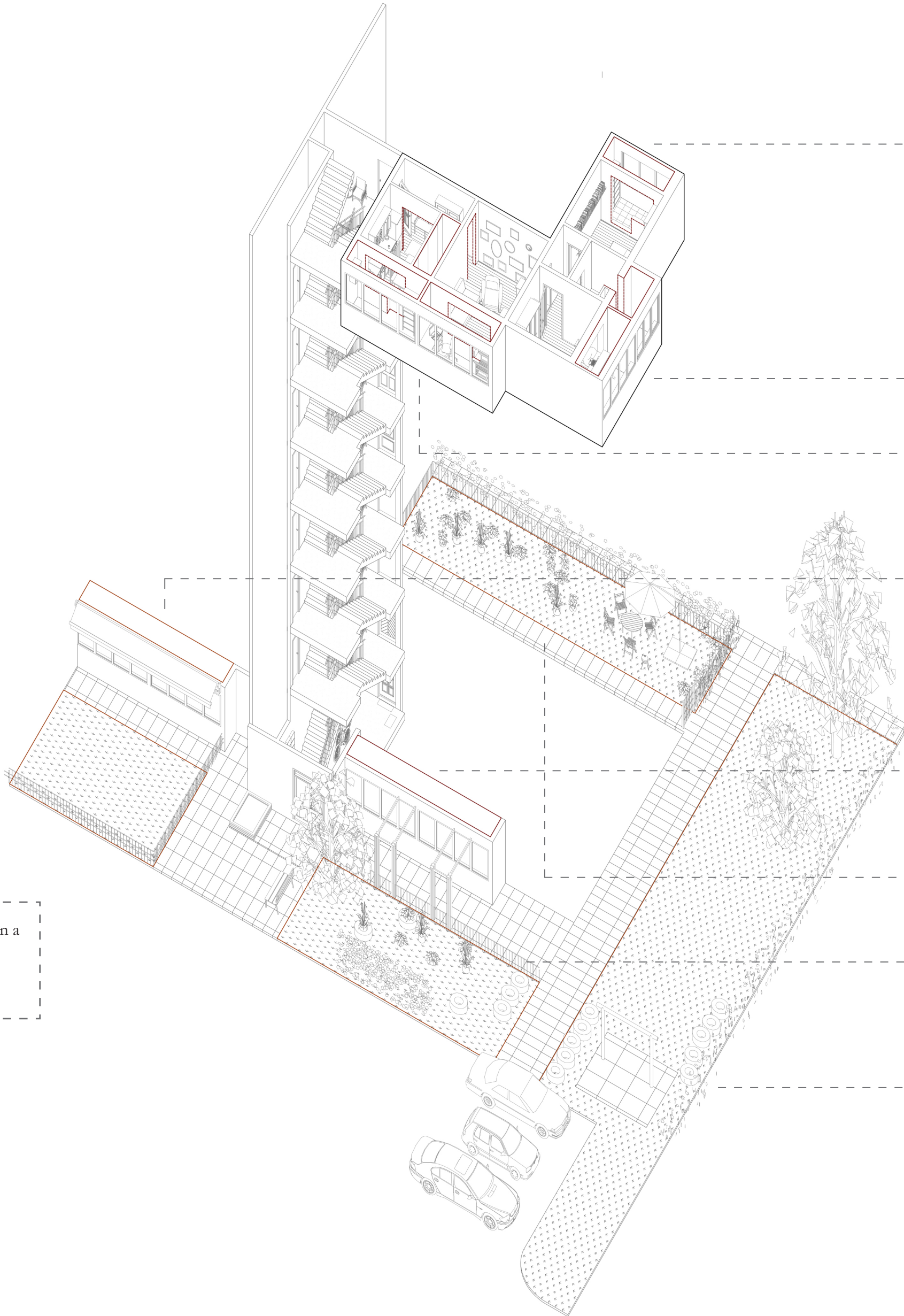


Enclosing the balcony
-the need for thermal insulation-
The recovery of the porch as an intermediary space, an essential part of the house

Decorating the common walls
-the need for a community-
The recovery of the communication that was lost between the members of a community

Appropriating the public domain
-the need for an exterior space-
The recovery of the garden, as part of the previous lifestyle that took place mostly outdoors

My parents apartment
The second generation of people living in a block
*Block built in the 1960's
Constanta*

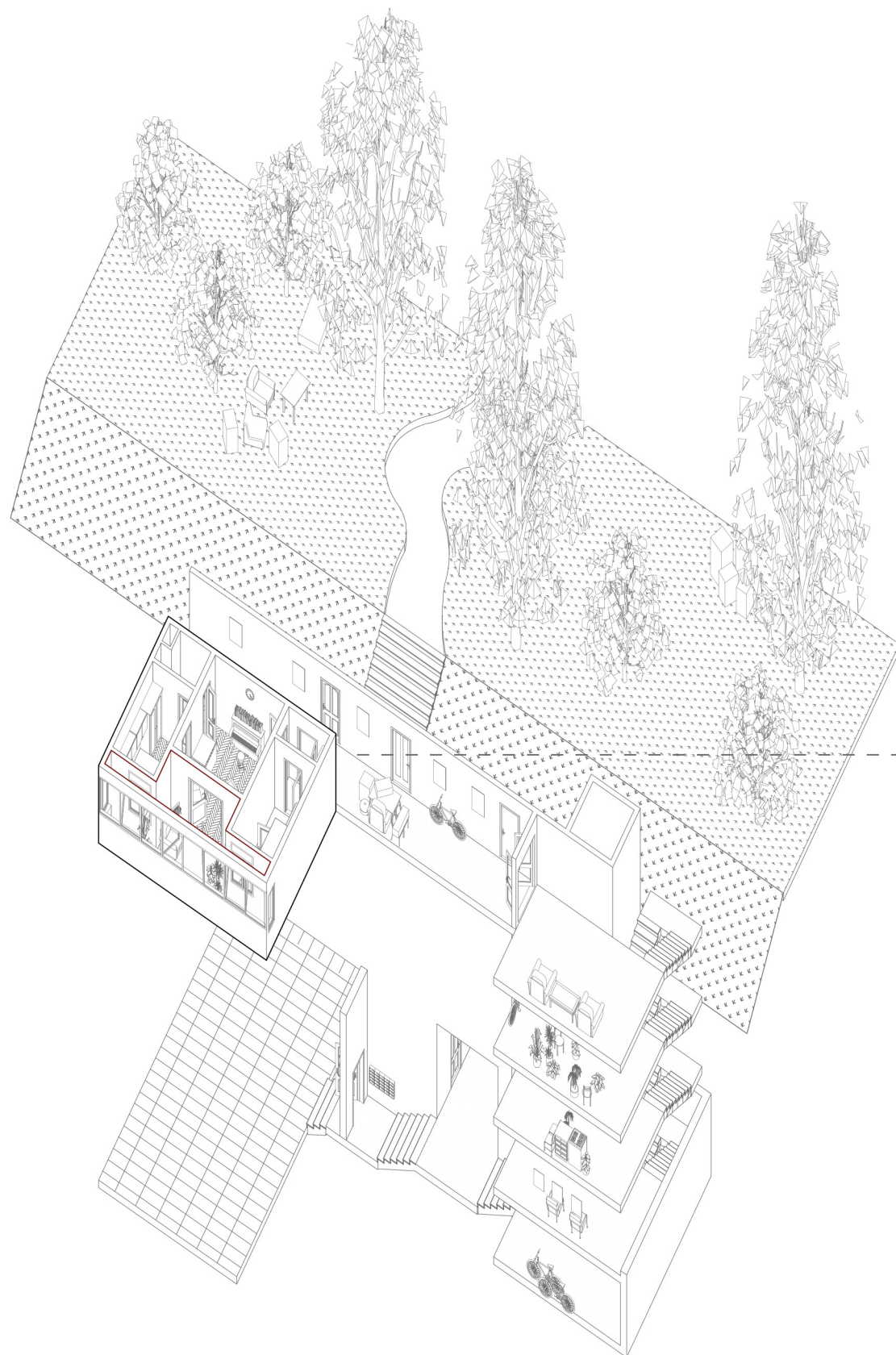


Enclosing and insulating the balcony
-the need for extra space-
The extension of the private space by tearing down the wall separating the balcony from the room, creating an open space apartment, with an American inspiration

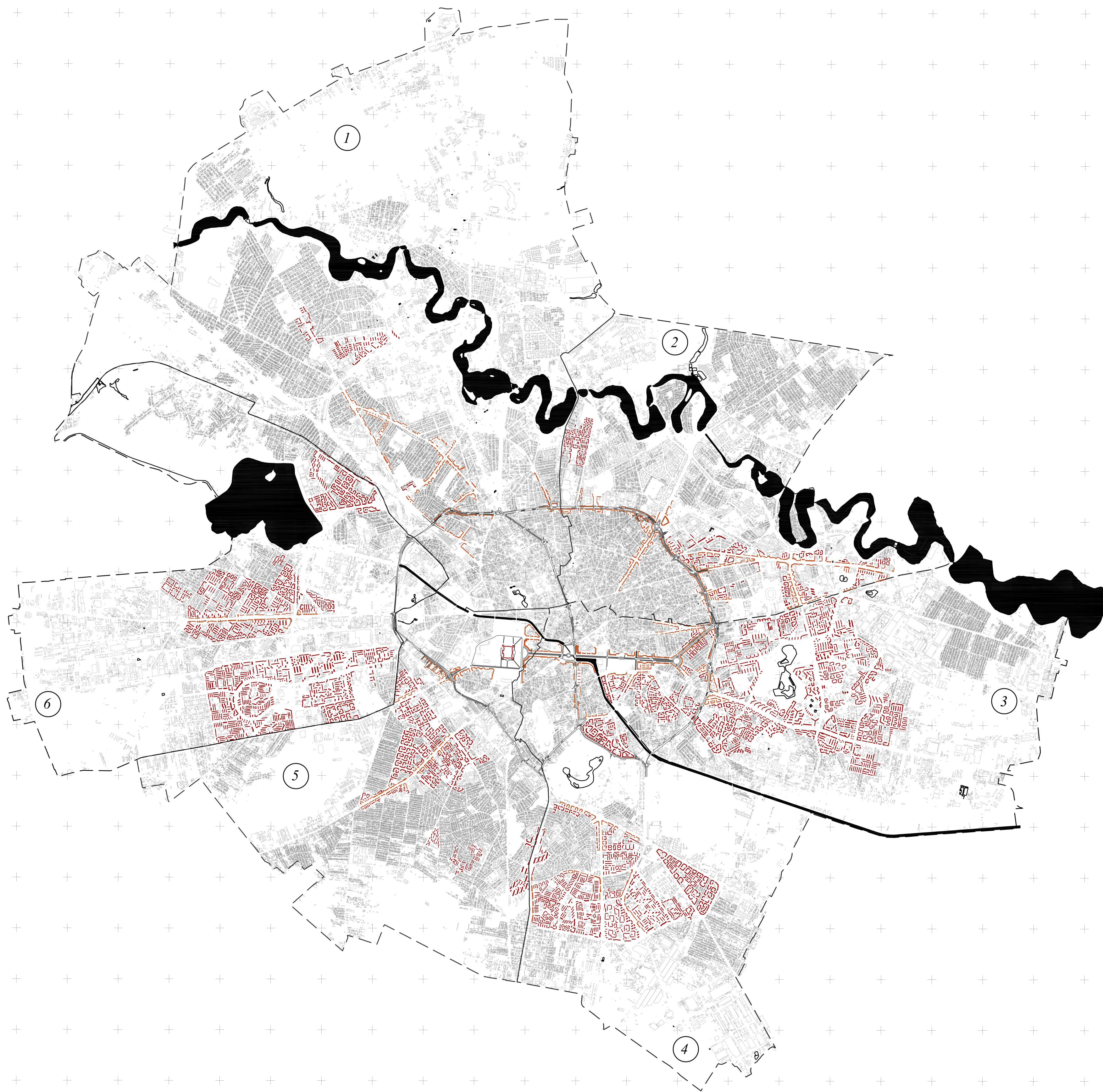
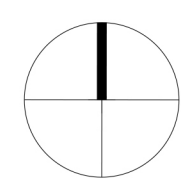
Enclosing the common space
-the need for extra space-
The extension of the private space by enclosing the common property in front of the apartment at the ground floor

Appropriating the public domain
-the need for an exterior space-
The recovery of the garden, as part of the previous lifestyle that took place mostly outdoors

My apartment- a temporary home
The third generation living in a block
*Block built in the 1960's
Bucharest*



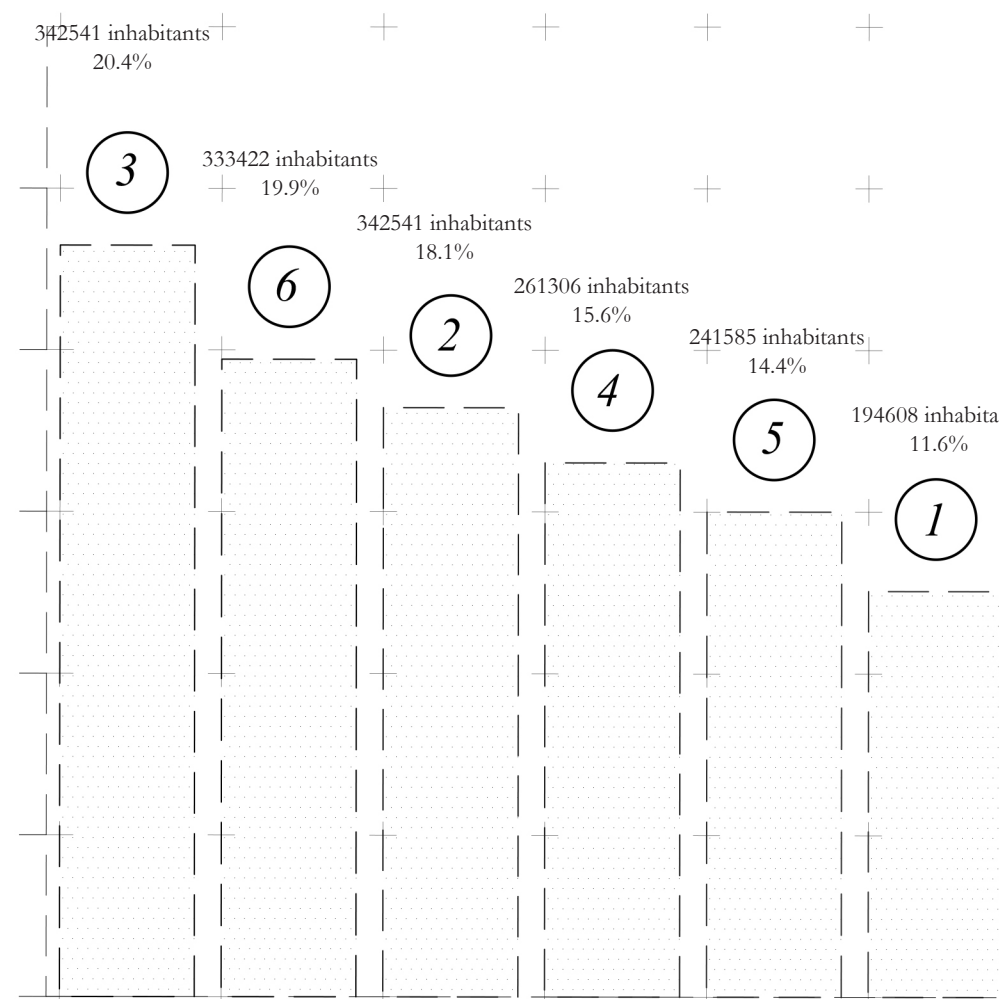
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The Socialist blocks- street plating

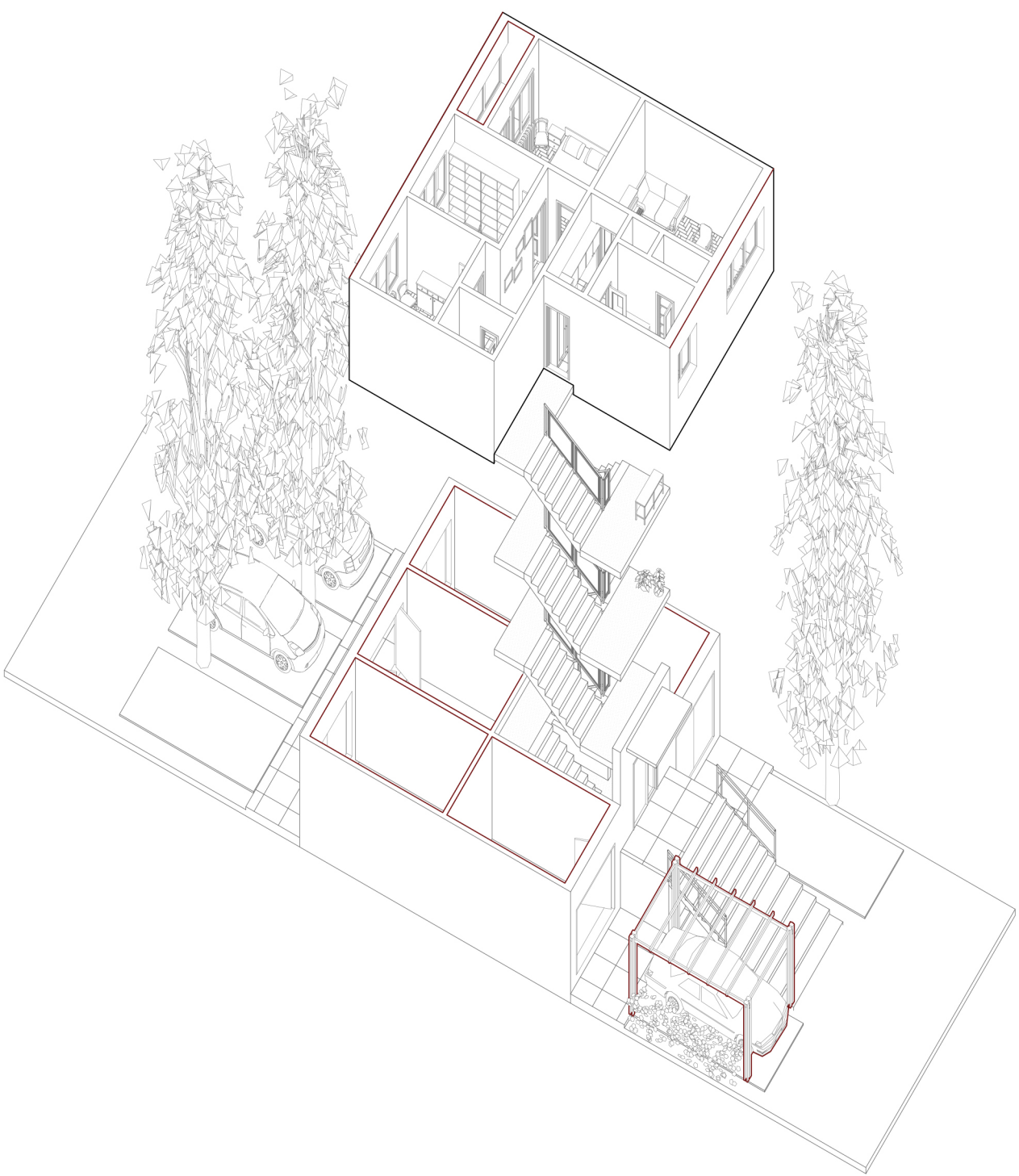


The Socialist blocks- mass housing ensembles



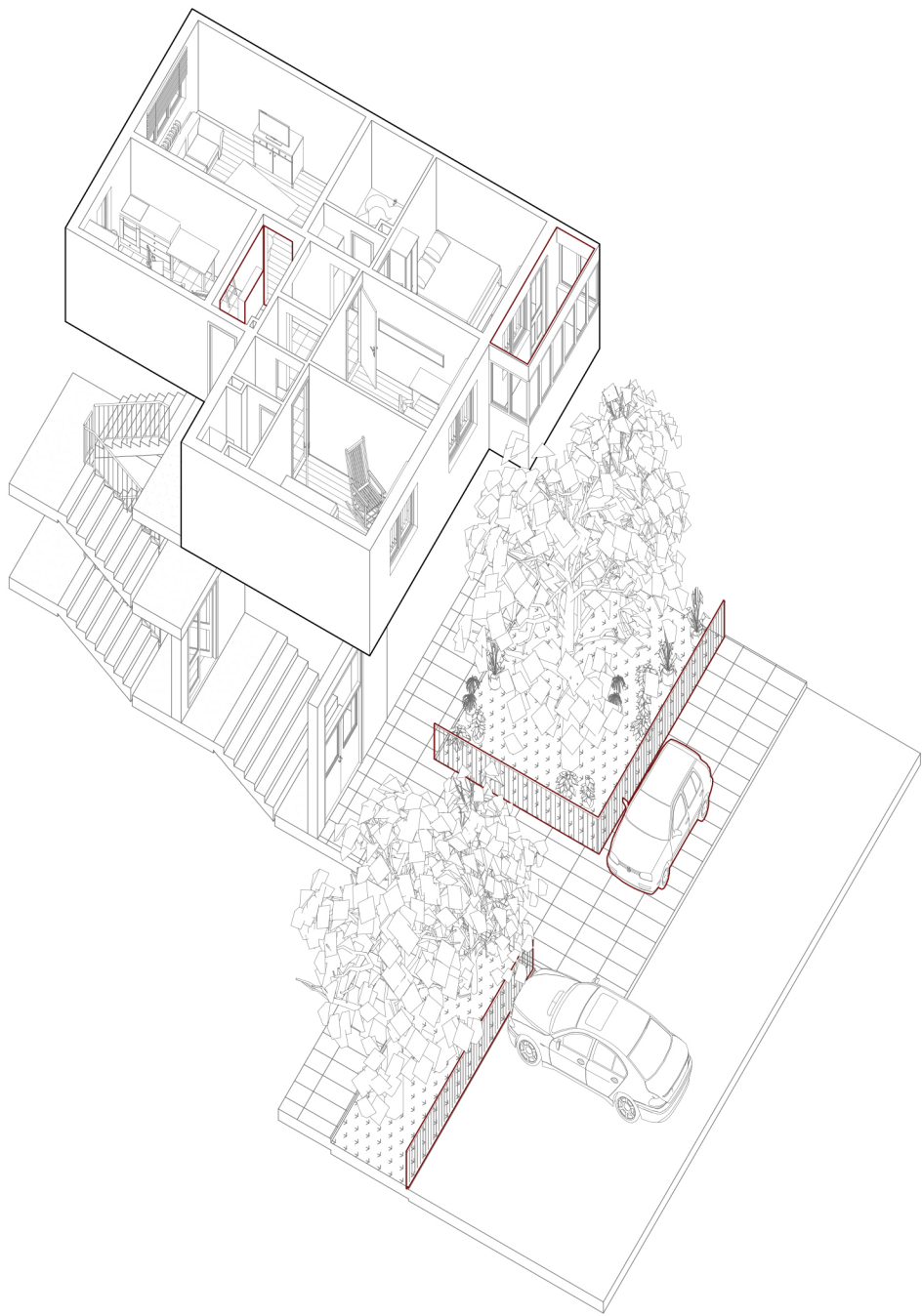
Population density per administrative division (Sectors)

1 km



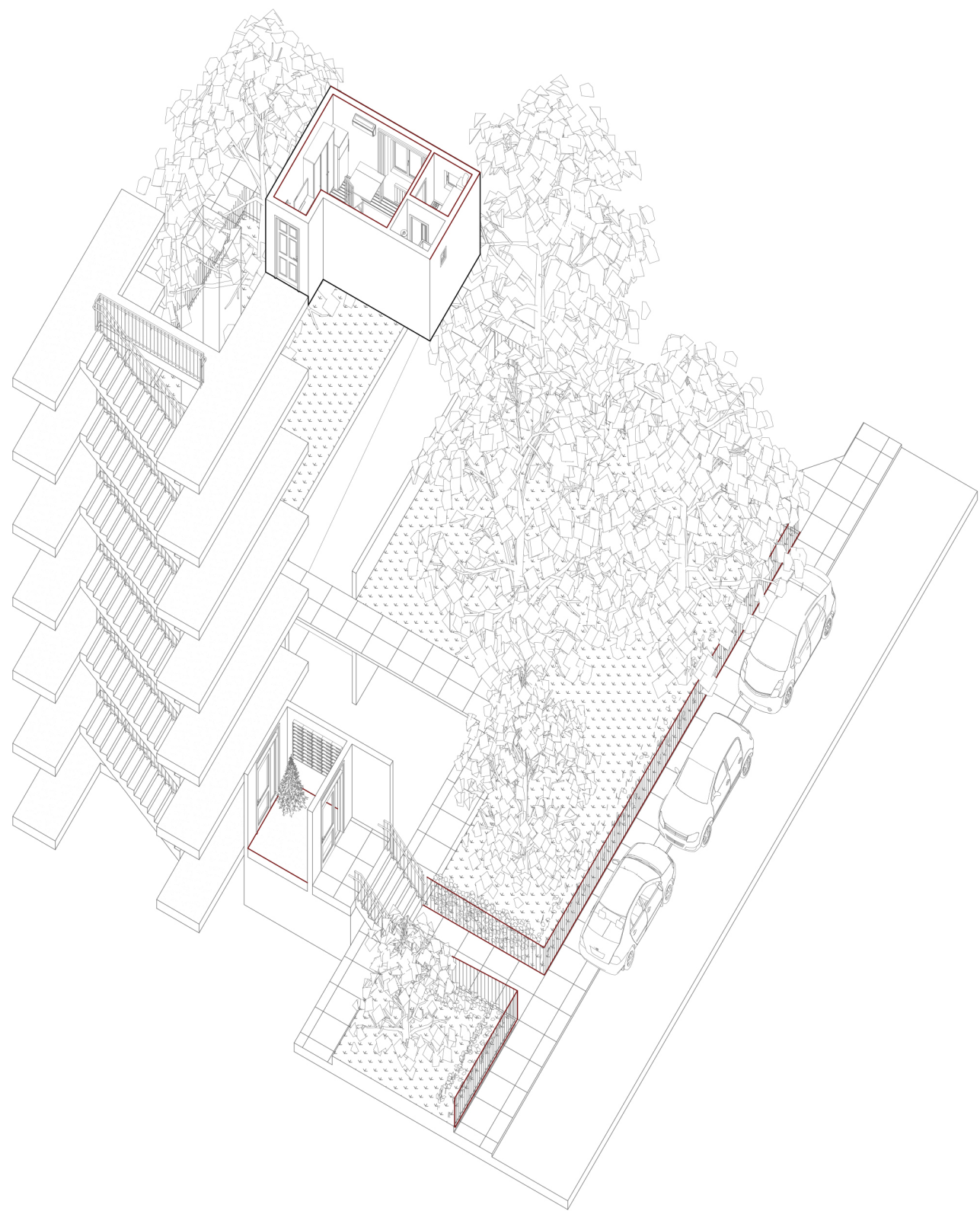
D's apartment
86, living alone
Block type A, built in the 1970's
Drumul Taberei, Bucharest

+ first owner of the apartment, which she received by submitting an application to the state services, having the possibility to buy it using a loan
+ opted for receiving it unfinished, completing the finishing work herself together with her husband
+ the only change regards the **enclosing of the balcony**, which offered her a space to dry her clothes, finding it hard to climb down the stairs to access the laundry space
+ the initial, common laundry room has been incorporated by a neighbour without permission
+ since she has been living alone, she feels the flat is too big, but she keeps the rooms of her children prepared for visits
+ she has tried to create a common washing space where all the inhabitants could store their washing machines, but this did not work
+ the block was entirely insulated using polystyrene



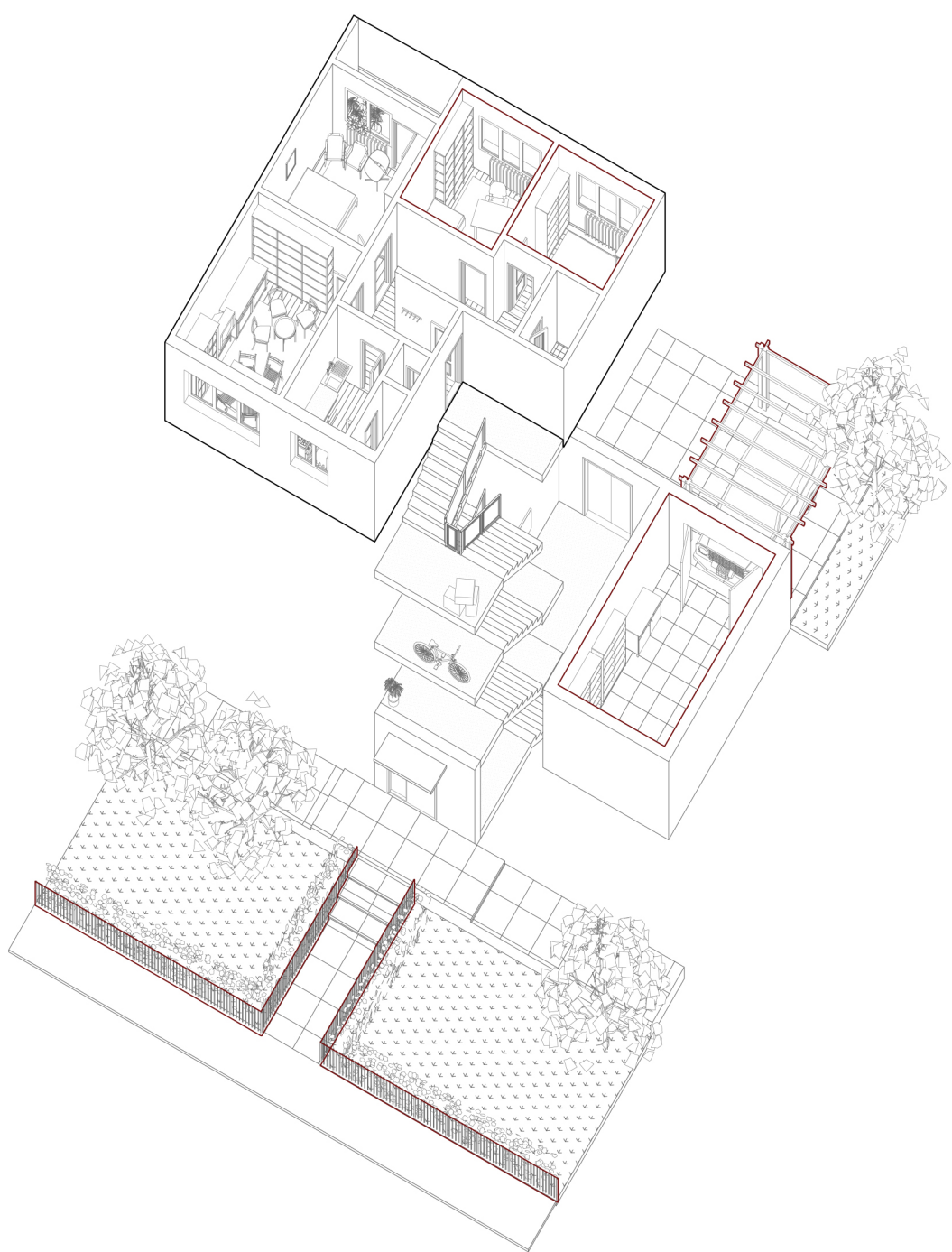
J's apartment
23, lives with family
Block built in the 1980's
Crangasi, Bucharest

+ she lives together with her mother and two sisters
+ she has previously left the house, allowing her room to take up different functions
+ the apartment was received with the basic finishes such as linoleum, and was renovated by taking one room at a time, starting with the kitchen
+ the living room becomes a flexible space, being a guest bedroom or a space for birthday parties when necessary
+ the changes implicated opening up the kitchen, making it an **open space** towards the hallway, and **enclosing the balcony**
+ the fact that the block is not thermally insulated is felt in the monthly charges, which are quite expensive
+ the block is surrounded by improvised gardens at the ground floor, done by the inhabitants



R's apartment
24, living alone, renting
Block built in the 1970's
Balta Alba, Bucharest

+ she has been renting the flat for about one year
+ the very small surface of the flat implies a strict use, mainly for sleeping, accentuating the feeling of a dormitory neighbourhood
+ the block is ten stories high, with twelve apartments on each floor, most of them quite small
+ originally from outside the city of Bucharest, she considers the small flat strictly as a temporary living situation
+ she does not know her neighbours and she rarely meets them, mostly in the elevator
+ she is aware of the **impact of the thermal insulation**, which implies low monthly charges
+ the apartment, though the reduced costs, allows her to be independent financially



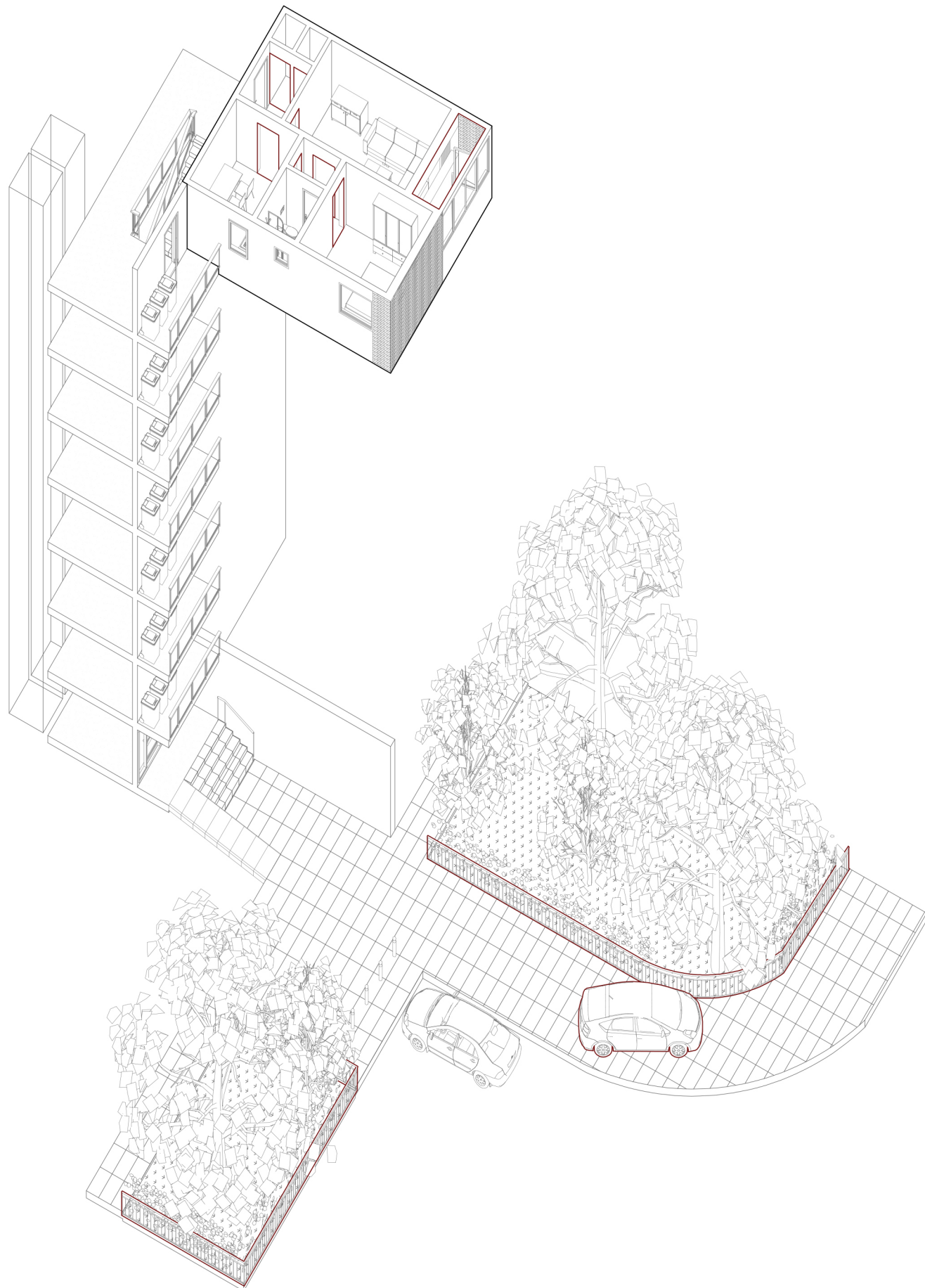
Y' apartment
90, lives alone
Block type D, built in the 1970's
Drumul Taberei, Bucharest

+ first owner of the apartment, which he received by submitting an application to the state services, having the possibility to buy it
+ he lives in a three bedroom apartment at the second floor of the block
+ has never renovated the interior space
+ since he has been living alone, he feels the flat is too big, and he has occupied the rooms with tools for his hobby- fixing and tinkering various devices, in this way creating his **personal workshop** inside the house
+ he has not insulated the exterior or enclosed the balcony
+ he owns a car, for which he uses the garage from the ground floor of the block
+ he is quite satisfied with the neighbourhood, feeling that most services are at hand



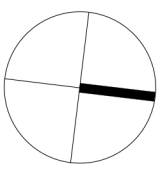
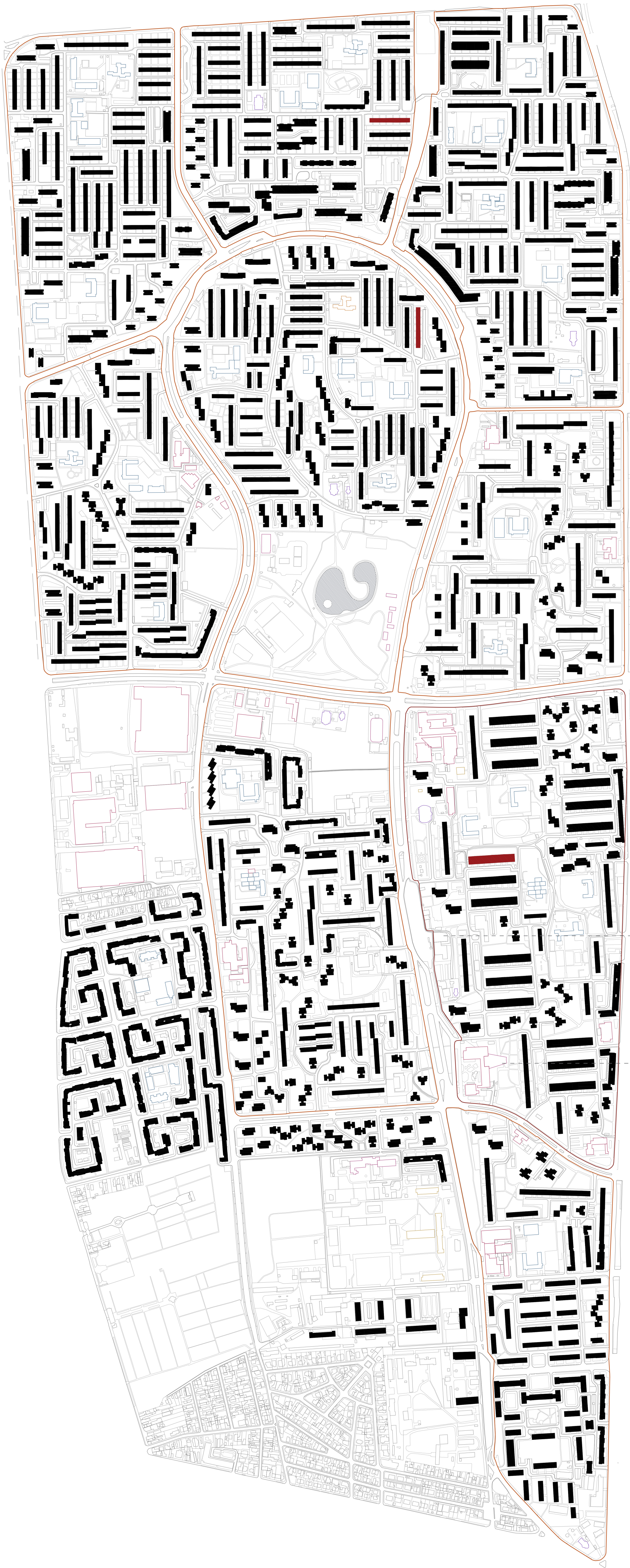
A's apartment
22, lived with her parents
Block type P, built in the 1970's
Drumul Taberei, Bucharest

+ the flat was given to her grandmother by the state during the 80's, as a replacement for her house which was being demolished
+ she has been living in the flat since she was born, together with her parents and grandmother
+ she has moved out last year, but would have wanted to remain in the same area
+ she would be willing to return, and if the flat would have an **extra room**, somehow separate to offer her some independence, it would be a great option
+ the balcony was already closed when they arrived, but they replaced the enclosing and the broken window frames in order to properly insulate the interior
+ her block was completely rehabilitated thermally using funds from the state and they feel it has improved the interior temperature



R.E's apartment
24, lives with partner
Block built in the 1970's
Drumul Taberei, Bucharest

+ has been living in the flat for about one year
+ situated at the seventh floor of a ten stories high block
+ has renovated the apartment by **taking down all door and floor finishing**, leaving the exposed concrete and painting it white
+ not being insulated, the apartment feels quite cold in the winter, but remains cool in the summer days
+ the surface is a good fit for only two persons
+ the **balcony was enclosed**, now part of the living room, but still used as a transition space between the interior and exterior
+ the neighborhood around also has improvised garden at the ground floor, contributing to the very green landscape



Aerial view in the area of the ensemble of "Drumul Taberei 34" postcard from the 1960's



The commercial ensemble "Drumul Taberei 34" Before and Today

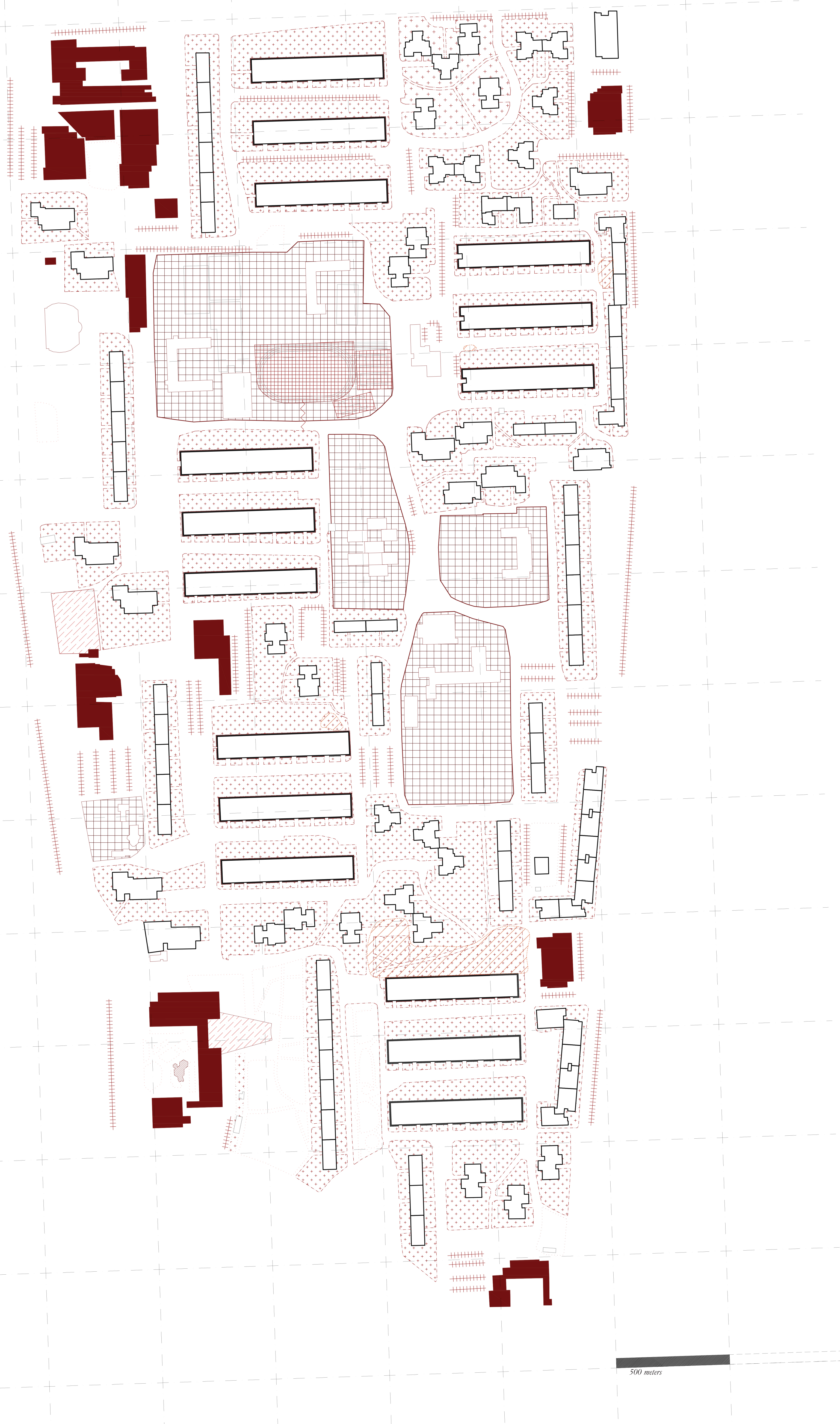
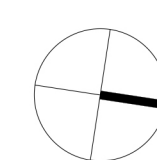


The commercial ensemble "Vavort" Before and Today

The neighborhood units- "Microraion"

The neighborhood unit- "a basic urbanistic unit, a housing ensemble conceived organically, whose population is bound together through social and cultural institutions of daily use, thus representing the smallest, complex, structural unit with an important degree of autonomy". represented the basic unit which composed the entire housing ensemble of Drumul Taberei. Even if every unit was equipped with its own public equipment, the highlighted unit held some of the most important landmarks of the area- the cinema Vavort, the commercial ensemble of Drumul Taberei 34, the market. Today however, the value of these places has decreased, and a revival is being prepared, along with the installation of the new subway line, just along the main boulevard.

- The neighborhood units
- The neighborhood unit chosen for detailing
- Public equipment_Leisir
- Public equipment_Commerce
- Public equipment_Education
- Public equipment_Religion
- Public equipment_Health
- Public equipment_Institution
- The Block- accessed through the interviews
- The Blocks



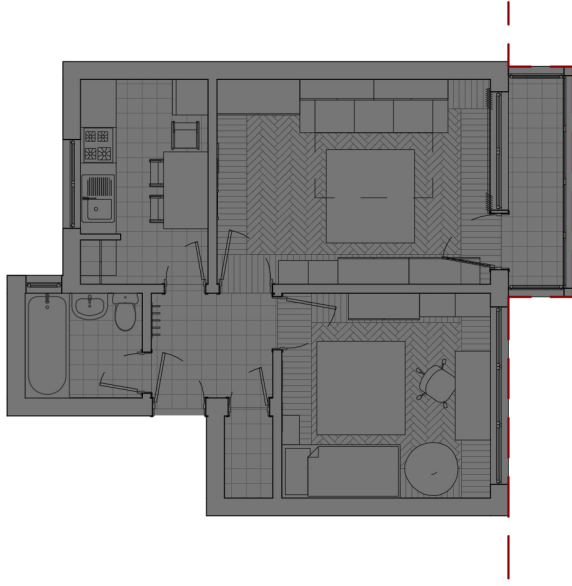
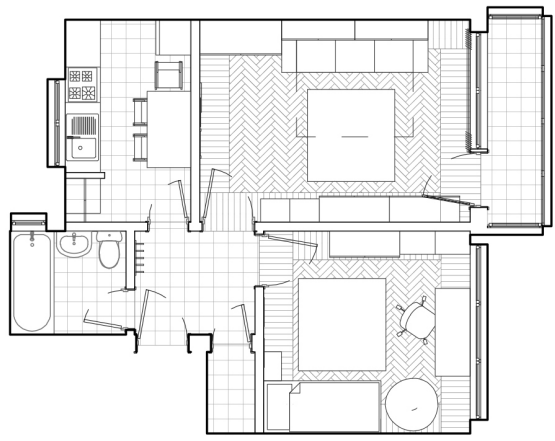
- | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|---|
| | Public domain- closed access | | Public domain- appropriated | | The Blocks- limit of the private property |
| | Public domain- restricted access | | Public domain- privatised | | Public equipment- restricted access |
| | Public domain- open | | Public domain- appropriable | | Public equipment |
| | Parking spaces | | Public equipment- demolished | | |
| | Lost pedestrian connections | | Common property | | |

Type 1_Private property

Type 2_Common property

Type 3_Public property

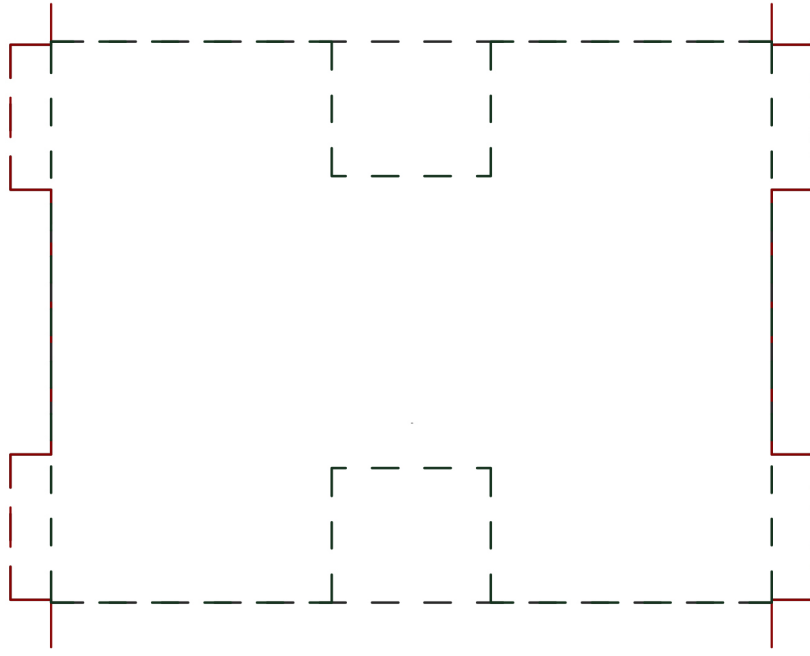
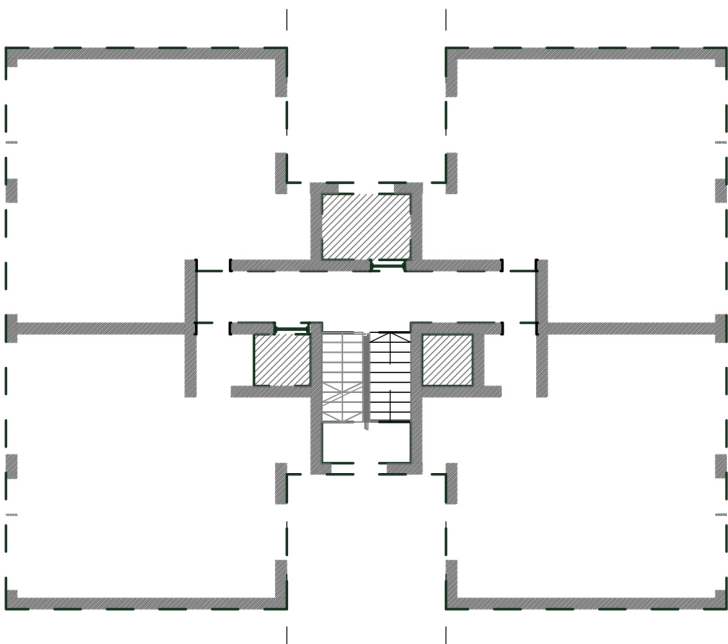
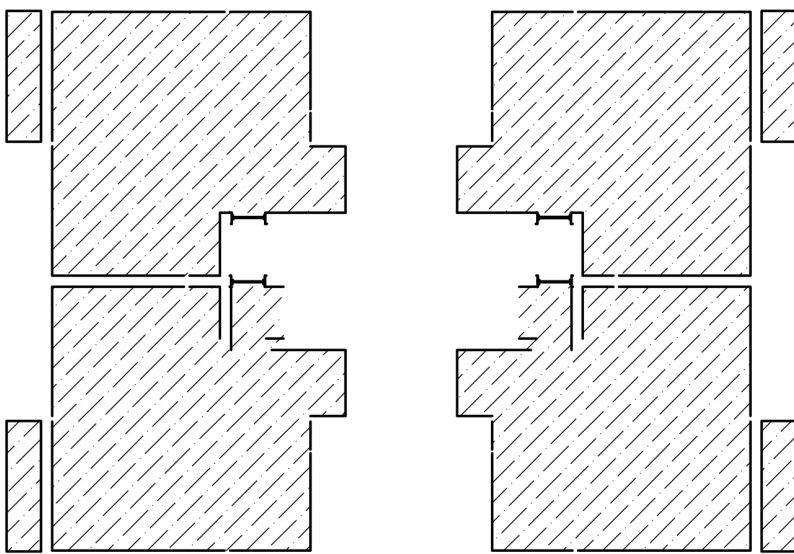
Scale of the apartment



Common property- structural walls

Limit towards the public domain

Scale of the entrance

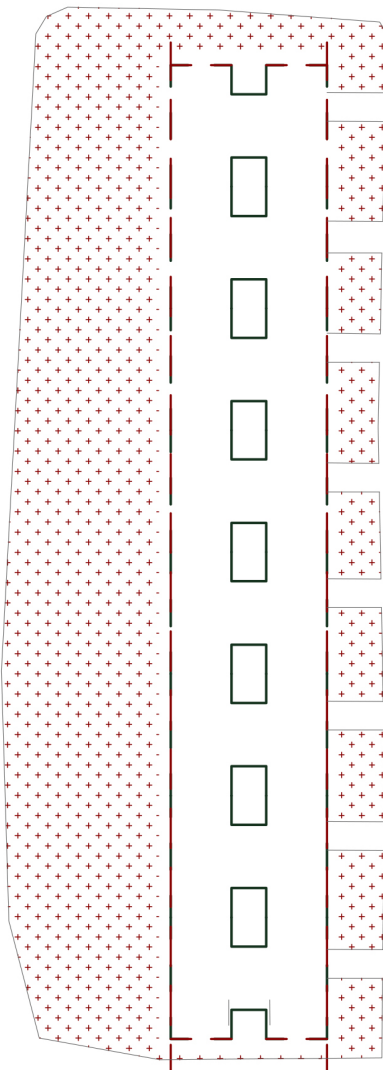
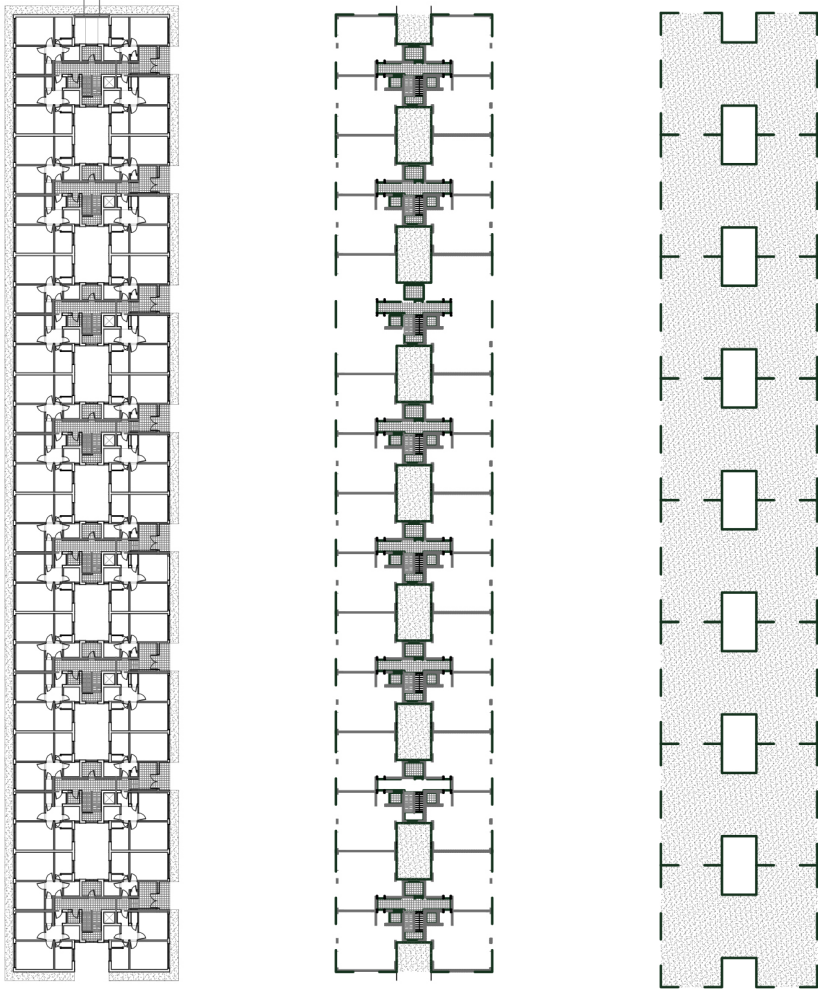
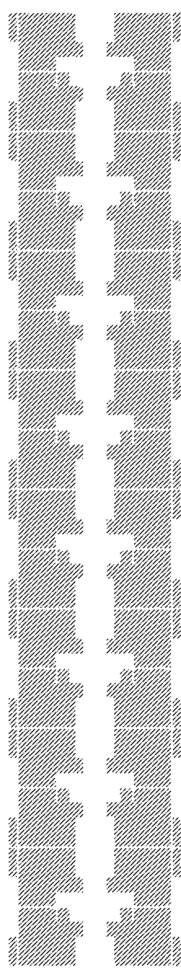


Private Property

Common Property- vertical surfaces

Limit towards the public domain

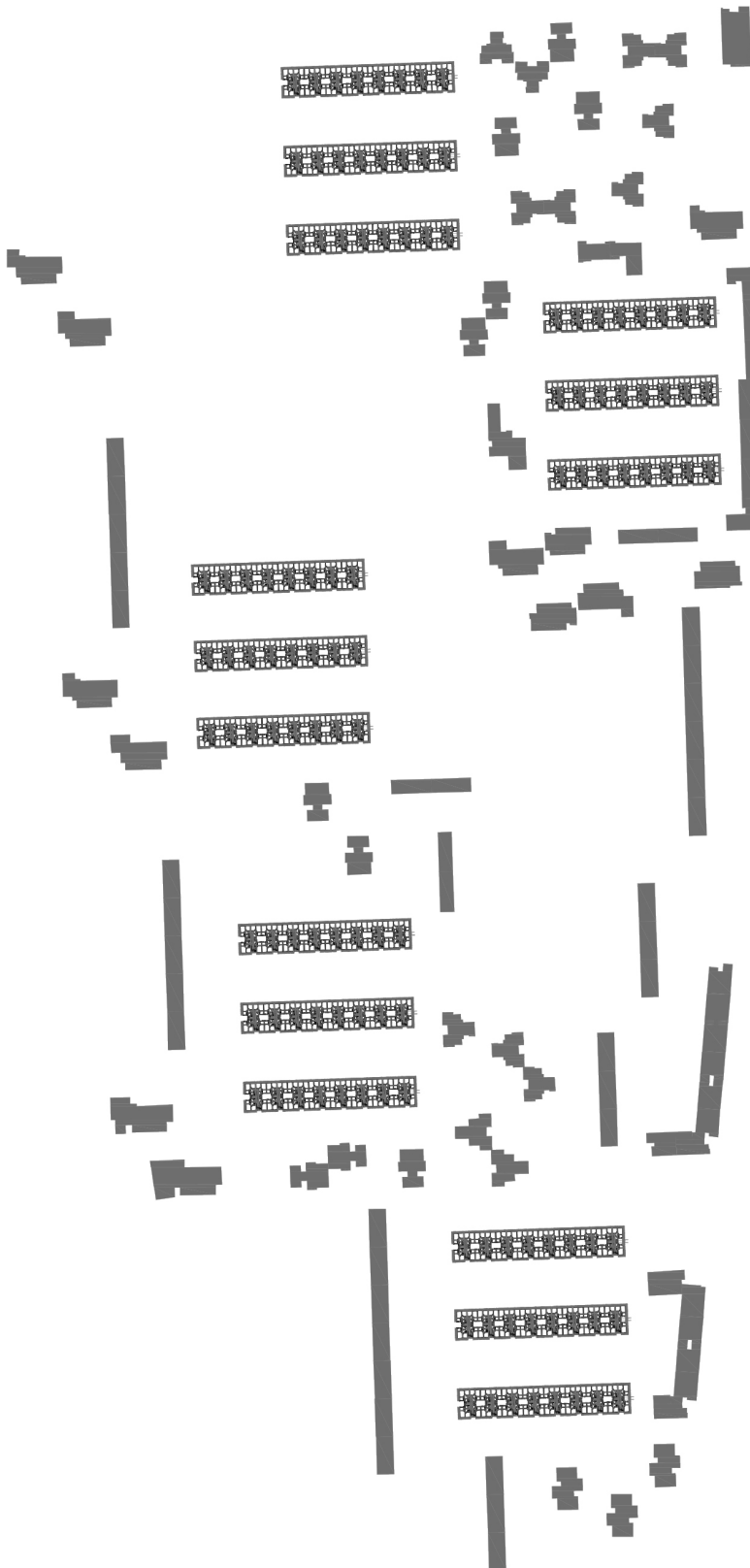
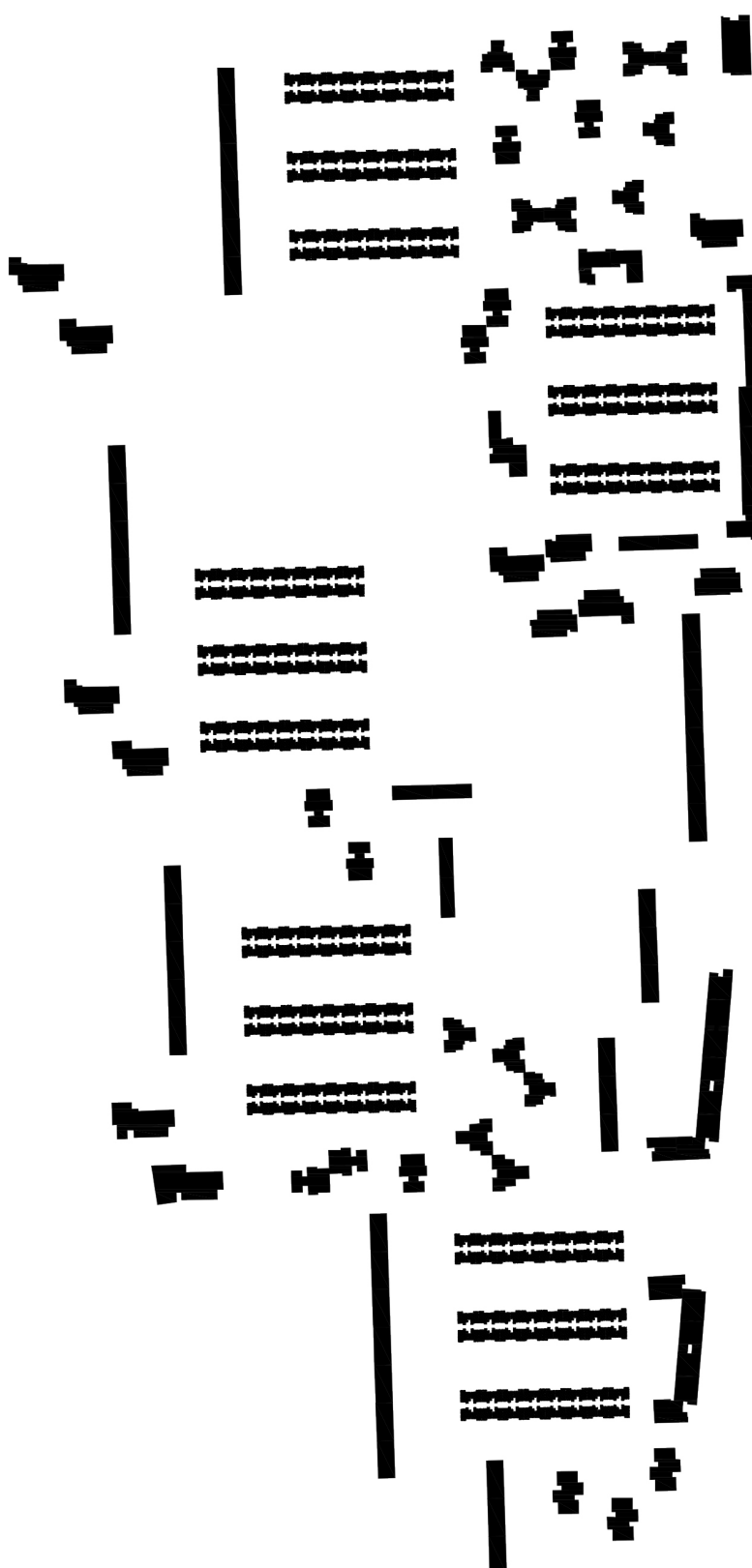
Scale of the block



Common Property- interior
Common Property- exterior

Public domain

Scale of the neighborhood unit



Public equipment



The type P Block
A case study of Bricolage

Mara Catargiu_ Nesting in Bucharest
LBARC2200 - Travail de fin d'études en & sur l'architecture

Layer 1_ The Original Project

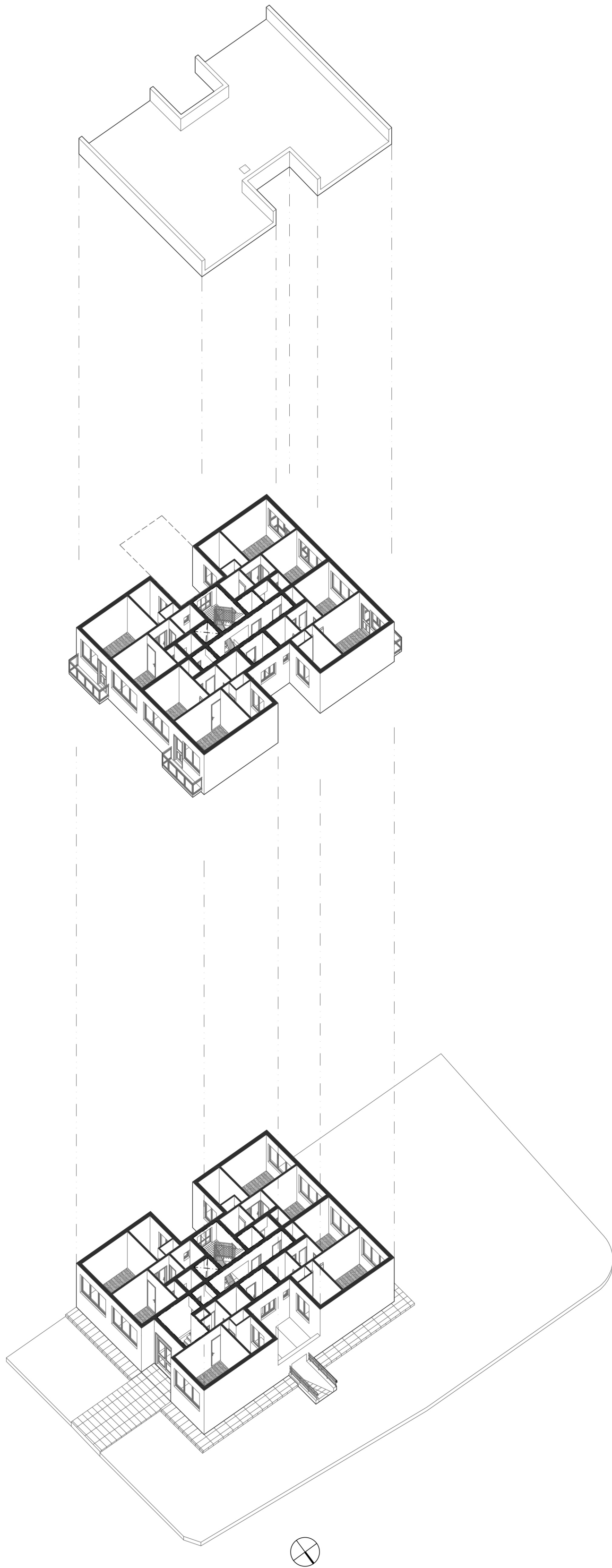
Layer 2_ The First Generation

Layer 3_ The Second Generation

Level 5_ Terrace

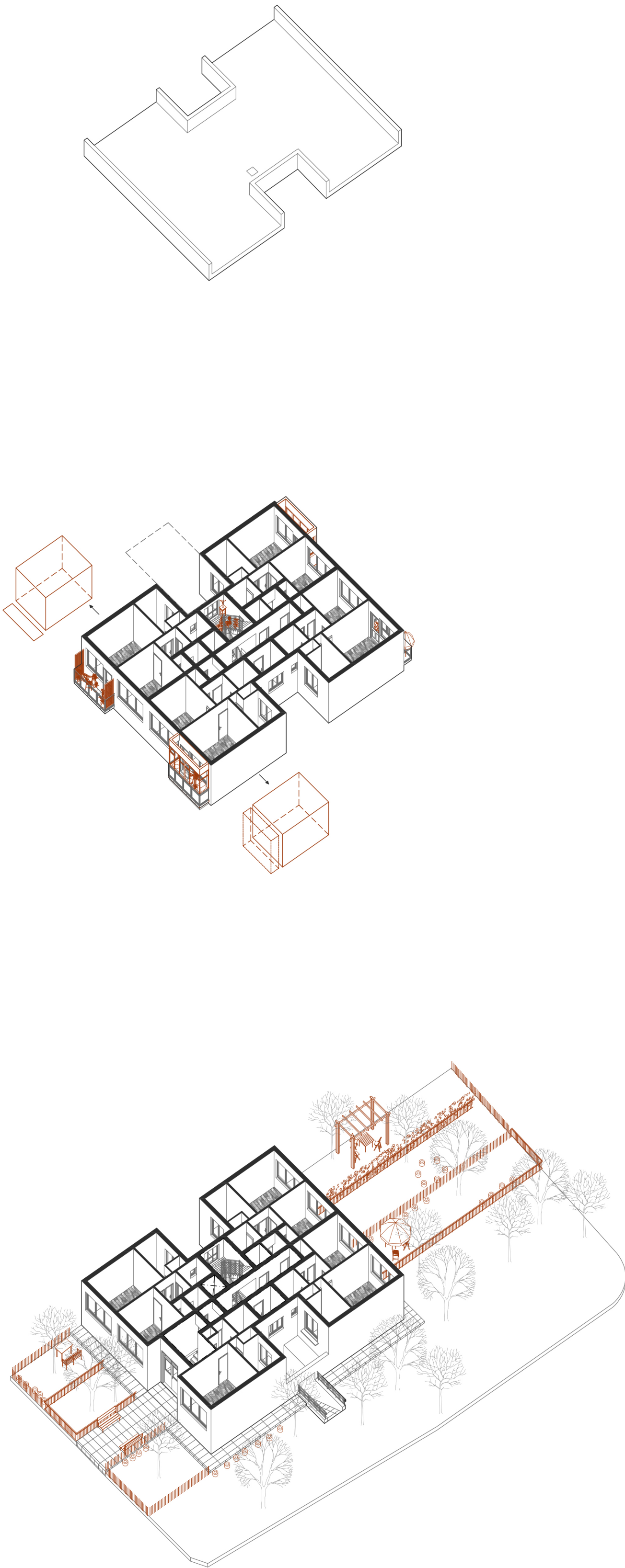
Level 1-4_ A typical floor

Level 0_ Ground floor



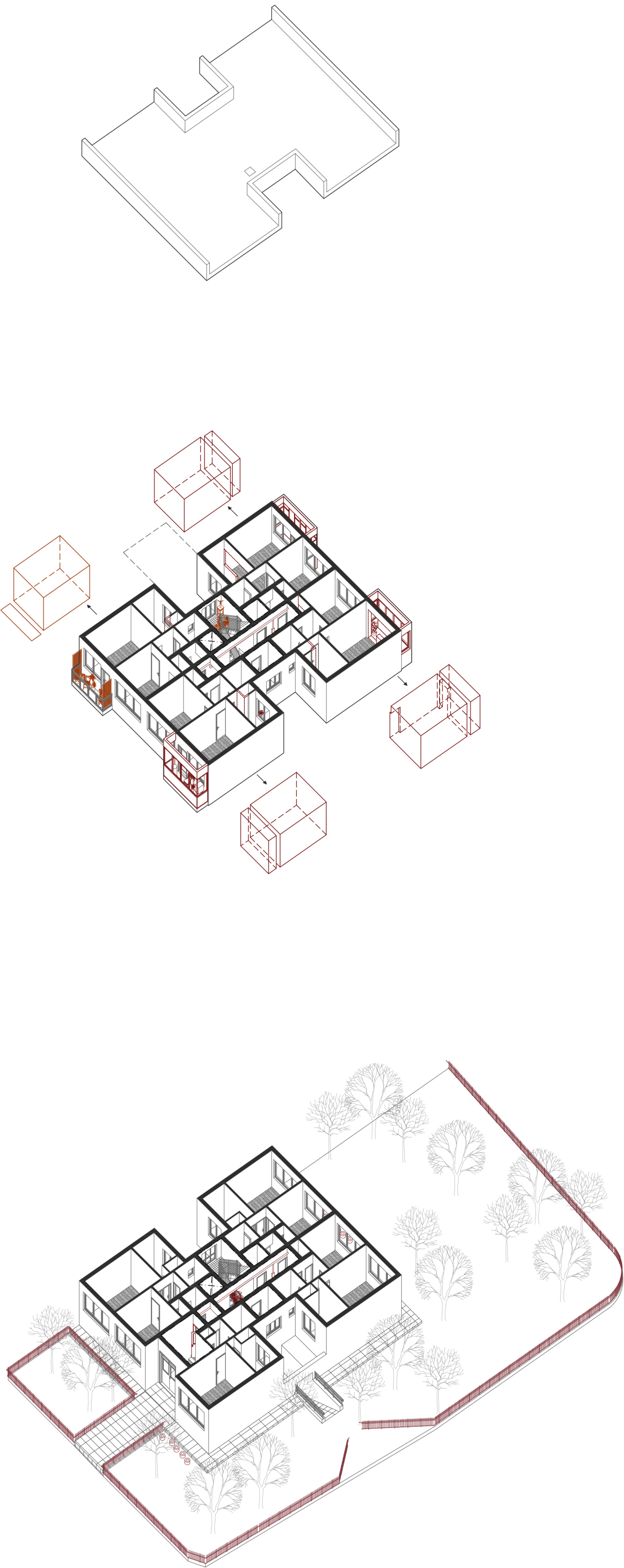
Block type P, built in the 1970's
Drumul Taberei, Bucharest

The Original project was destined to be a block of eight stories high, which was interrupted halfway during the construction works. As such, the block does have some particular features, like the elevator shaft, unused, the atrium bringing light for the service areas, and lastly the balconies, which were built in cantilever of about one meter. At the level of the neighborhood, this is the only type of block that has the atrium and the cantilevered balconies amongst the other blocks of the same height. From the point of view of the density, each entrance, having 20 apartments, is repeated eight times, making up the block, while the entire neighborhood unit has 15 blocks of this particular type.



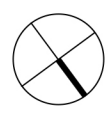
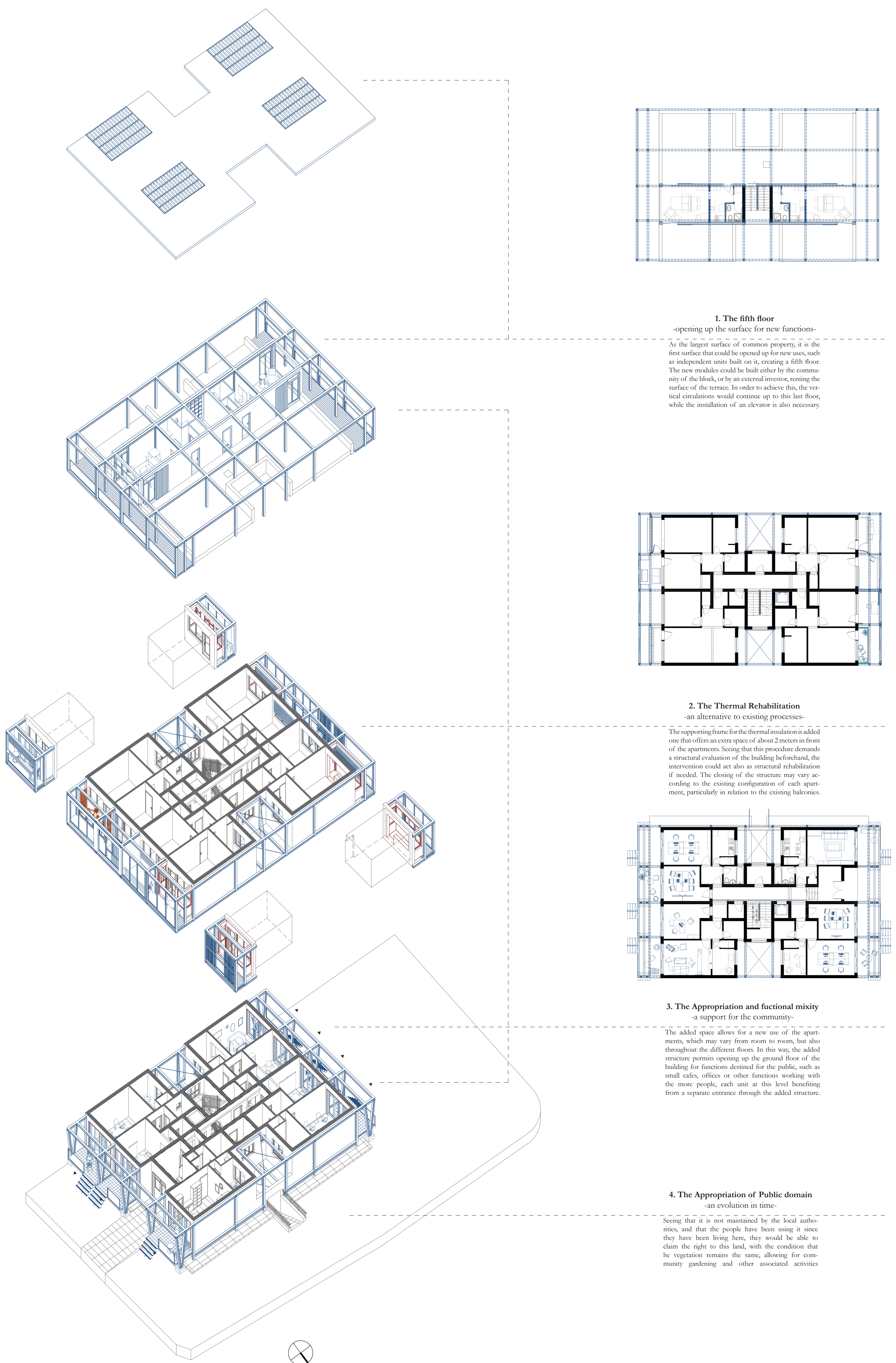
Block type P, after the year of 1989
Drumul Taberei, Bucharest

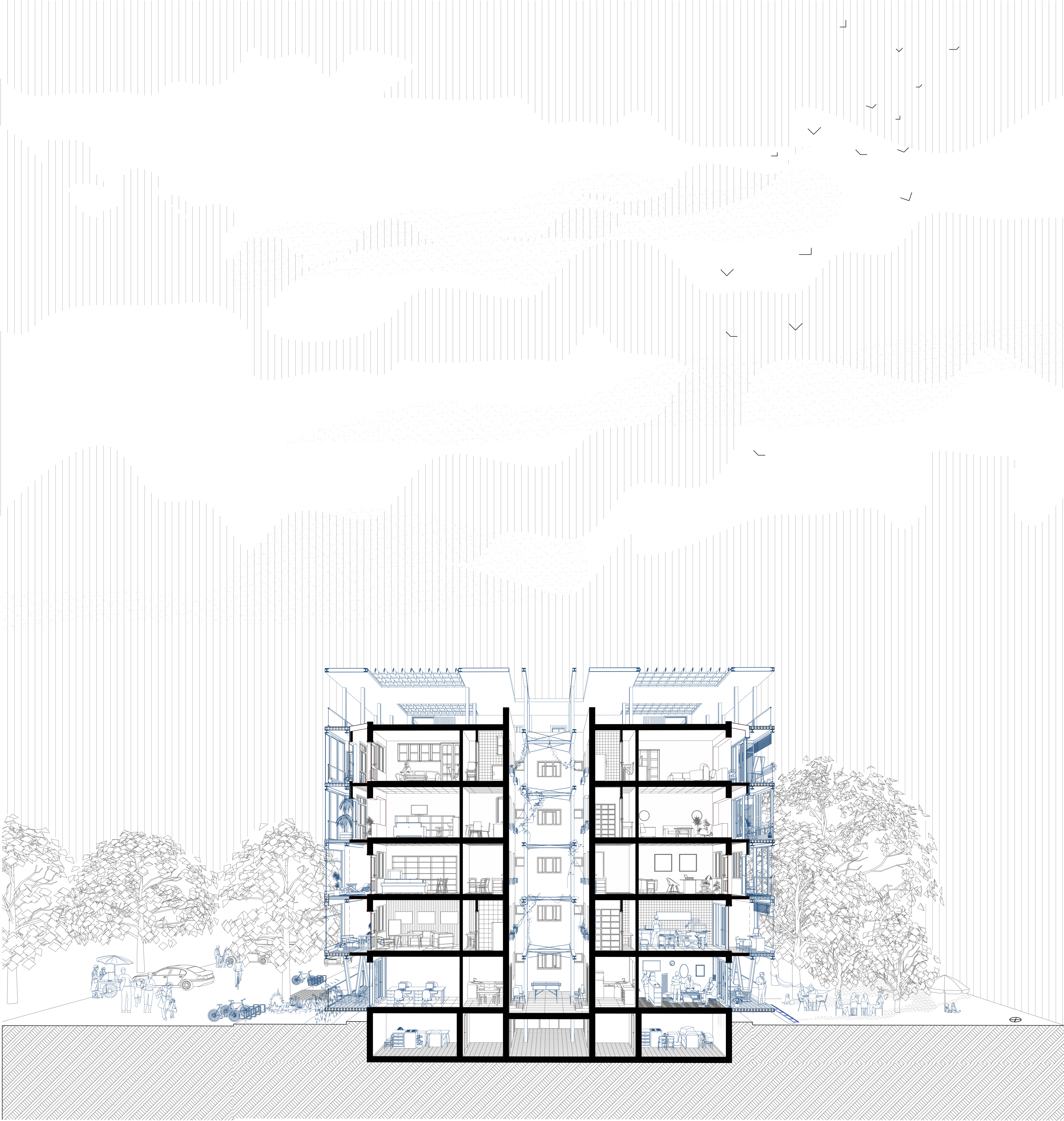
The first generation that arrived in the blocks during the 1970's lived here for a long time, remaining attached to the neighborhood. *Bricolage*, especially that present in the facade, was forbidden during the communist regime. It is after the Revolution in 1989 that *bricolage* took over, particularly oriented towards the outer space. Thus, the balcony became the equivalent of a porch or a garden, but it often came out of the private space in the form of flowers installed onto the hallways, taking over the common spaces. Still present today, this practice arrived into the public domain, claiming it as the private gardens of the inhabitants of the block.



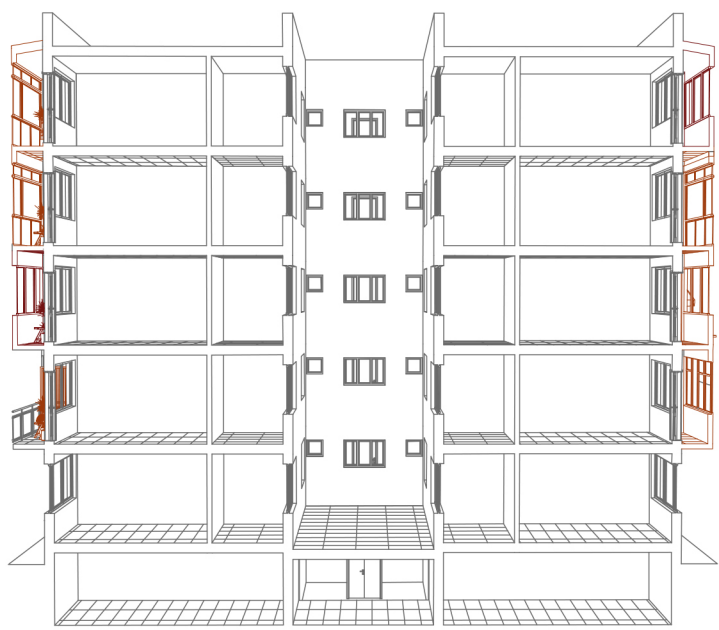
Block type P, today
Drumul Taberei, Bucharest

Layering on top of the *bricolage* generated by the first inhabitants in the block, the second generation, raised in the environment of the collective housing and living in a capitalist society, brought up a *bricolage* that was more introverted, focused mainly on improving the private space. As such, the closing of the balcony became mandatory, while also applying to the public financed programs for thermal rehabilitation. However, even if this process does improve the energetic performance of the building, it does erase all traces of previous informal practices, that offered the block its unique character. Ultimately, even the gardens at the ground floor come to disappear, being fenced by the public authorities, in order to restrict access.

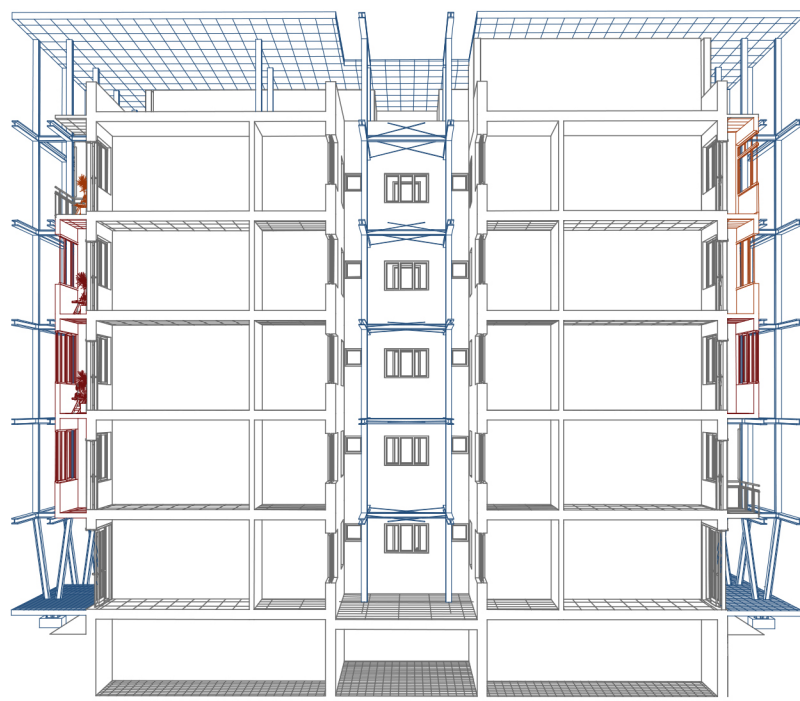




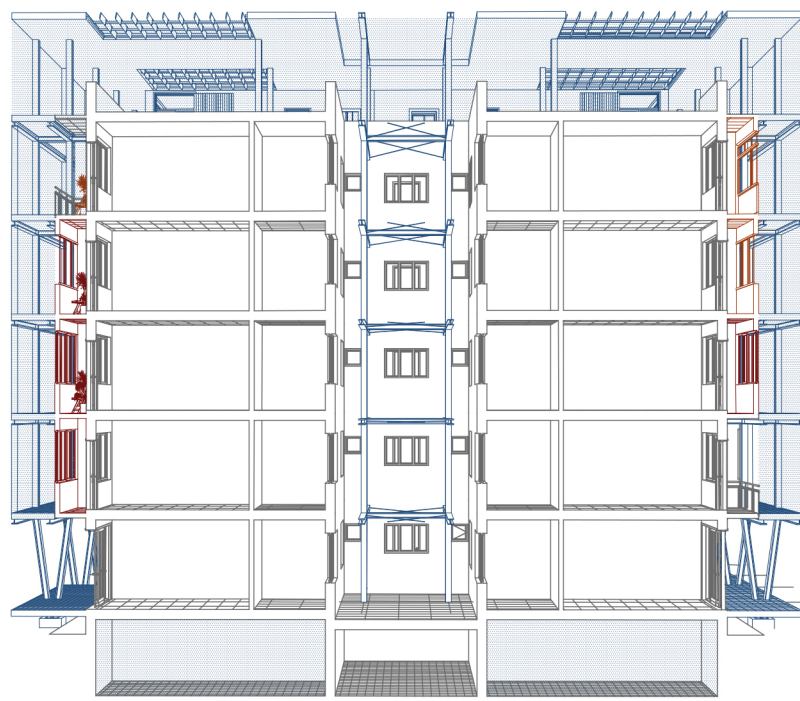
The Final Phase- Introduction of functional mixity, legal appropriation of the public domain



Phase one- evaluation of the existing *bricolage*



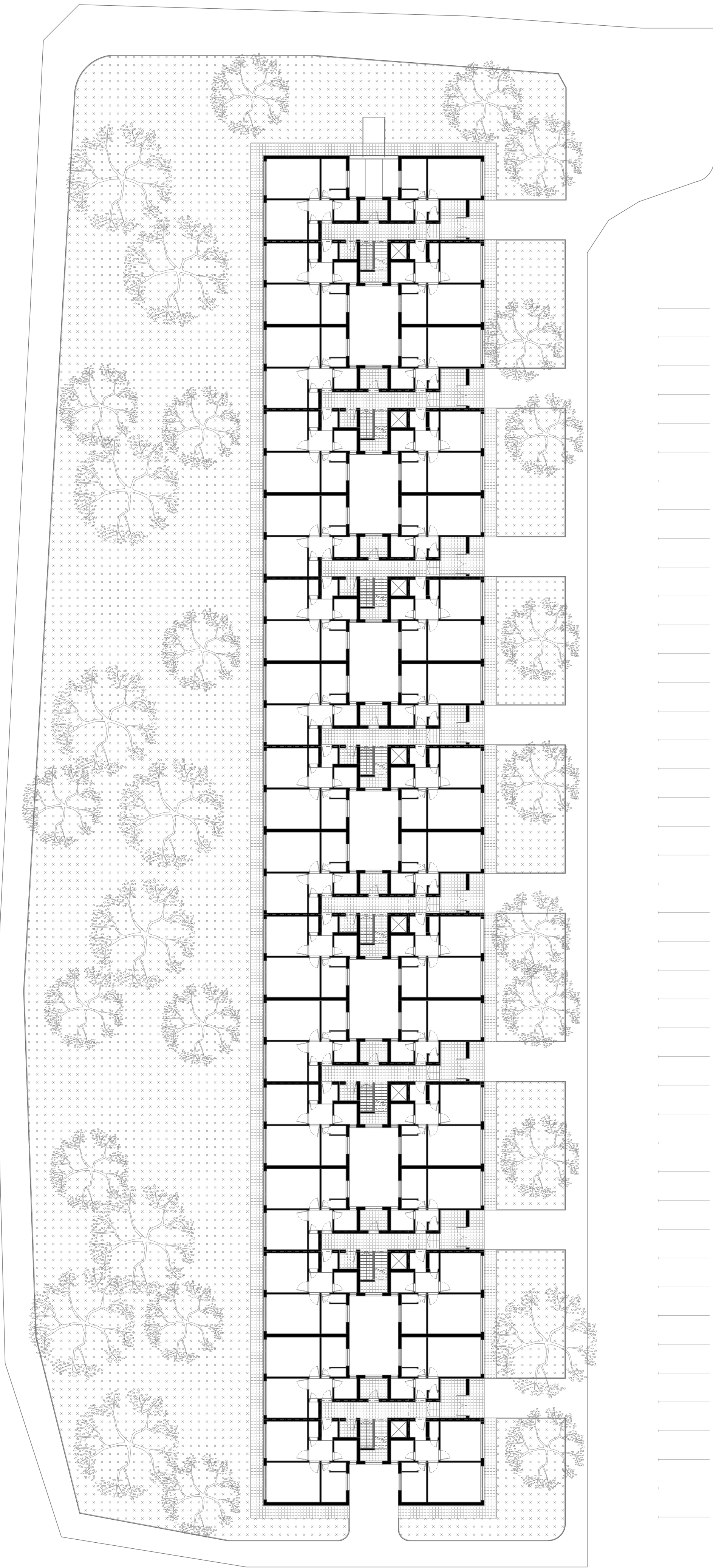
Phase two- attaching the supporting structure



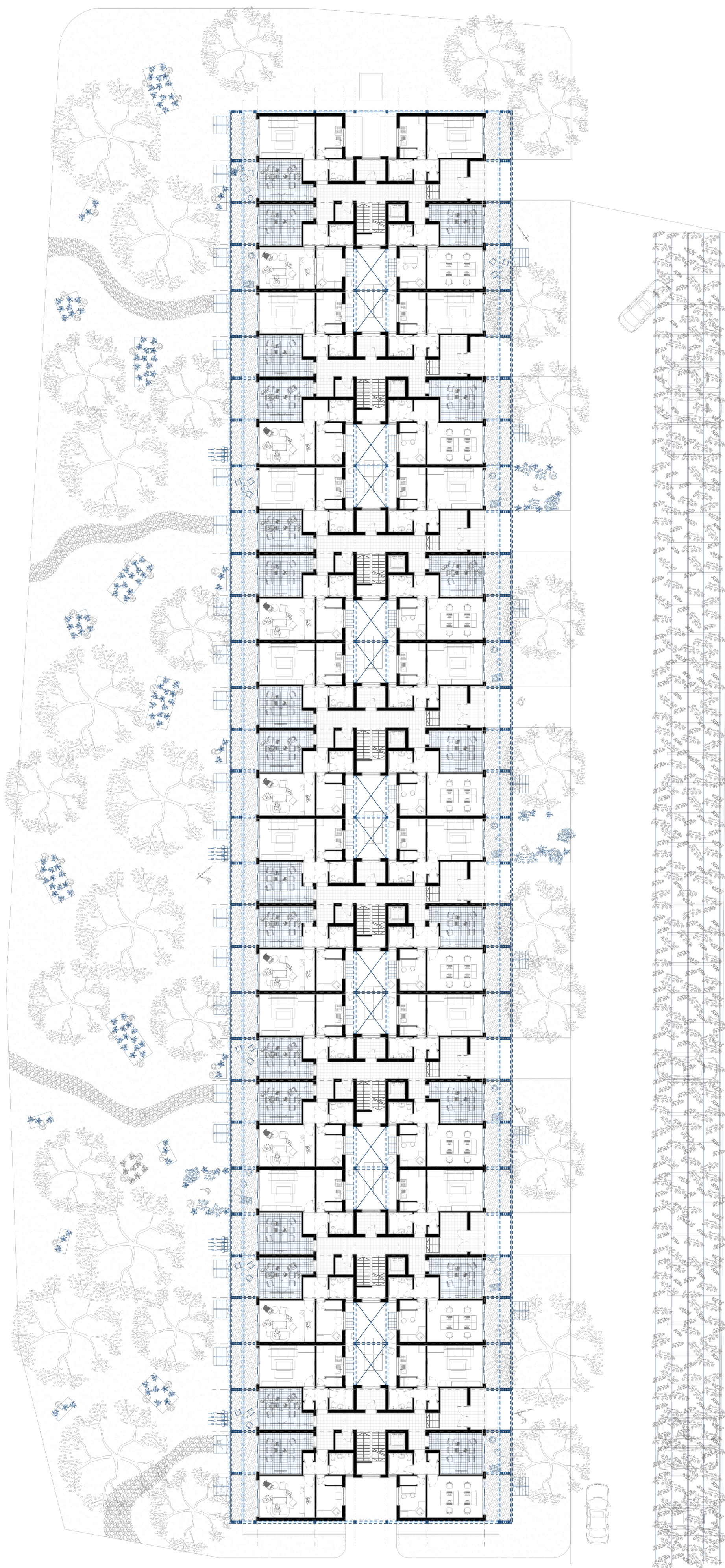
Phase three- appropriation of the structure, rooftop and basement, insulation of the apartments

The New Living Possibilities
The Variation of each floor

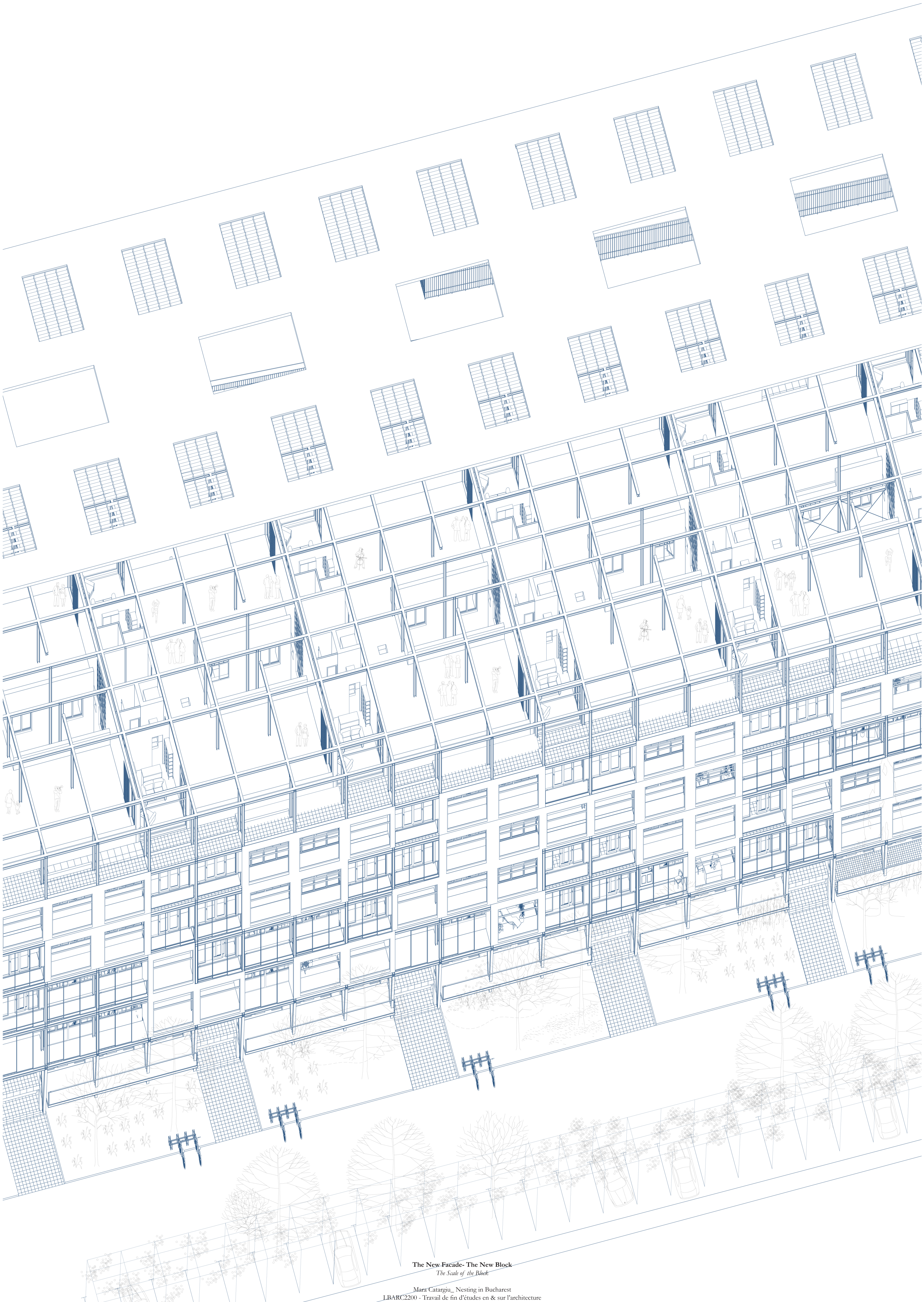
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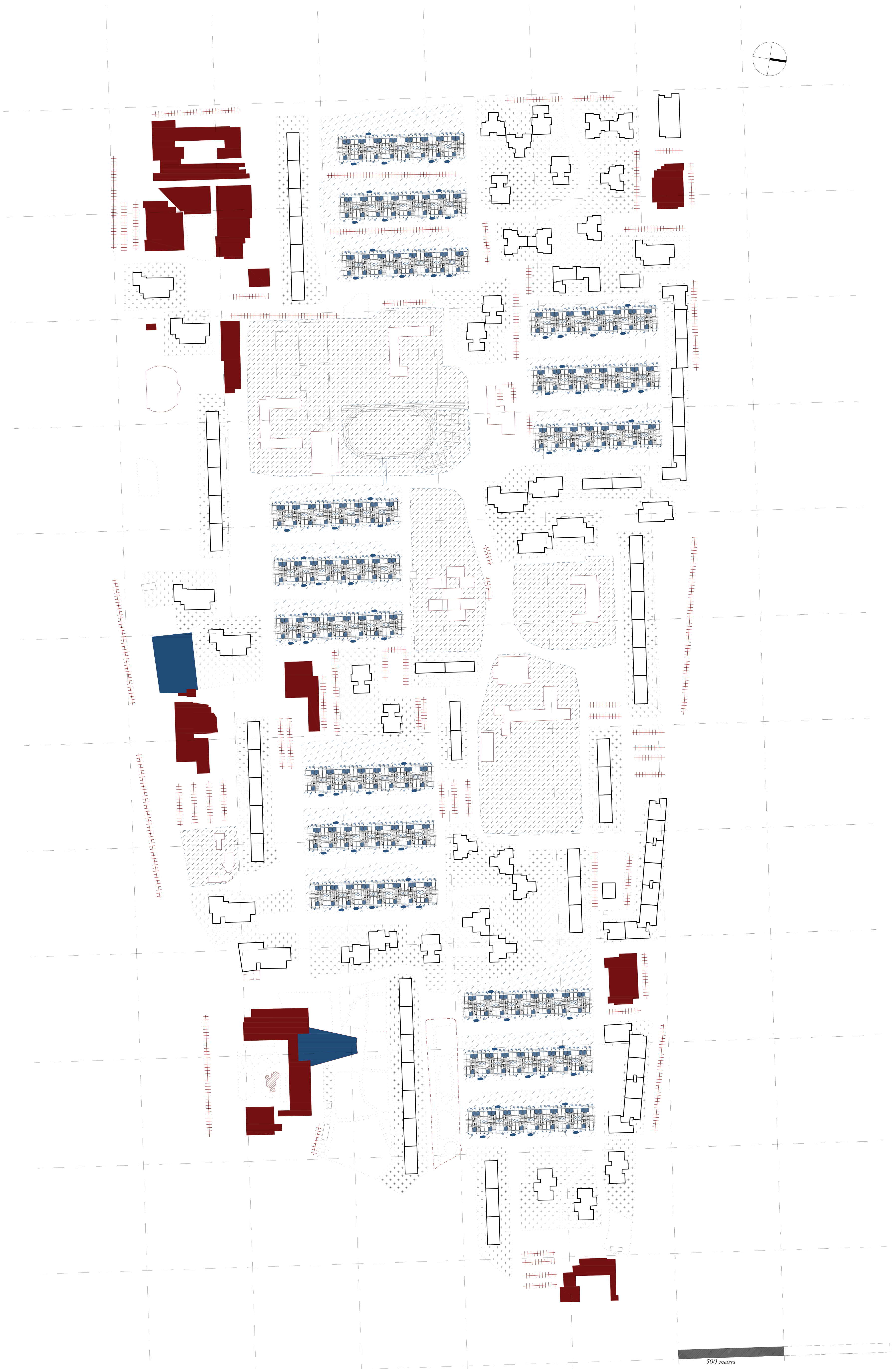
Before- Cancellation of Bricolage towards the exterior and reduction of common property at the inside of the block, Ground floor 1/250



After- Opening up the ground floor towards the exterior, introducing mixt functions, enhancing the common property as an intermediary between private and the city, Ground floor 1/250



The New Facade- The New Block
The Scale of the Block



- | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| | Public domain-limited access | | The Block-rehabilitation | | The Block-future subjects for rehabilitation |
| | Public domain-open | | Public domain-access for the community | | Public equipment- restricted access |
| | Common domain-open | | Common domain | | Public equipment |
| | Parking space | | Common domain | | |
| | Reclaimed path | | -individual appropriations | | |
| | | | Community landmarks | | |
| | | | -rehabilitated | | |

The Ripple Effect
The Scale of the Neighborhood Unit

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