

REMEMBERED ARTIFACTS

PORTFOLIO - ABHAY NARASIMHAN



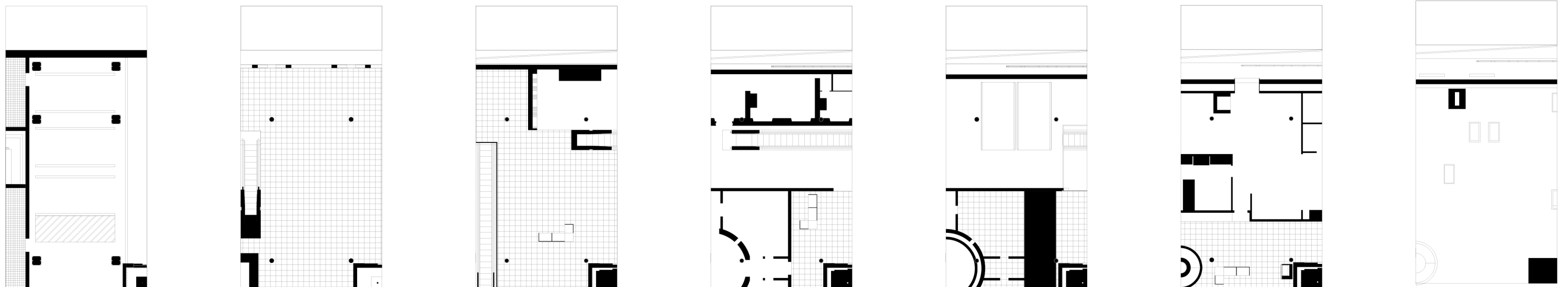
A Thesis on Uncooperative Housing

The housing block on 3646 Obama Blvd amplifies to its zenith the phenomena recasting the neighbourhood - individual homeownership, gentrification and rampant commercialization. The confines of the “free-market” place few regulations on the purchasing of units, insofar as the developer is able to exceed their bottom line. Speculation runs rife, and wealthy owners even own 4-5 units; for them, this is a safe bet and prices are bound to skyrocket.

Therefore, we seek to invert ‘cooperation’ that is inherent to a building type that commands spatial proximities of individuals, and instead redefine it as a free-for-all. Every owner enacts the transformation of cube footage into a “dream” home. Where then does the “dream home” figure into the profit-driven mania that characterizes developer housing?

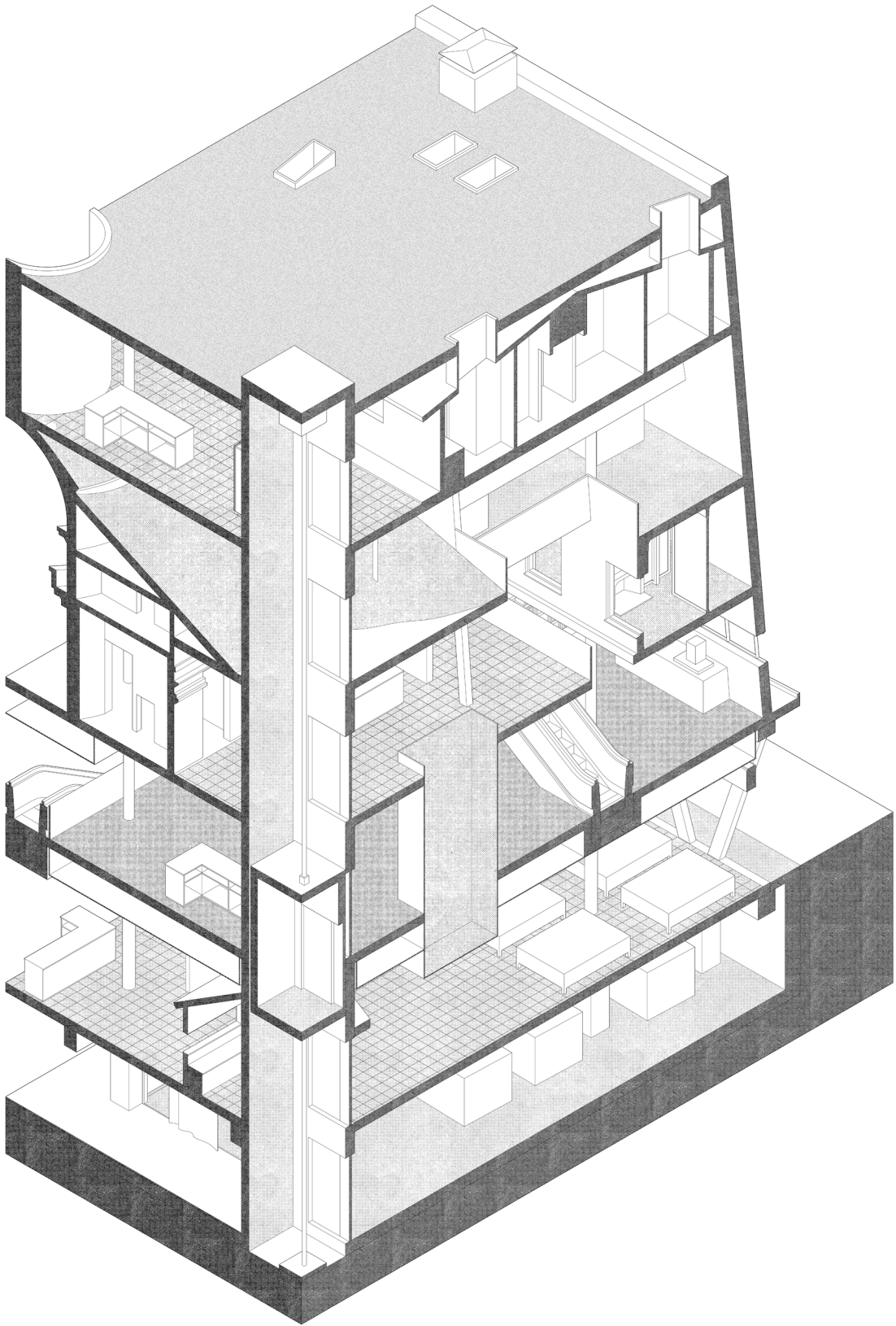
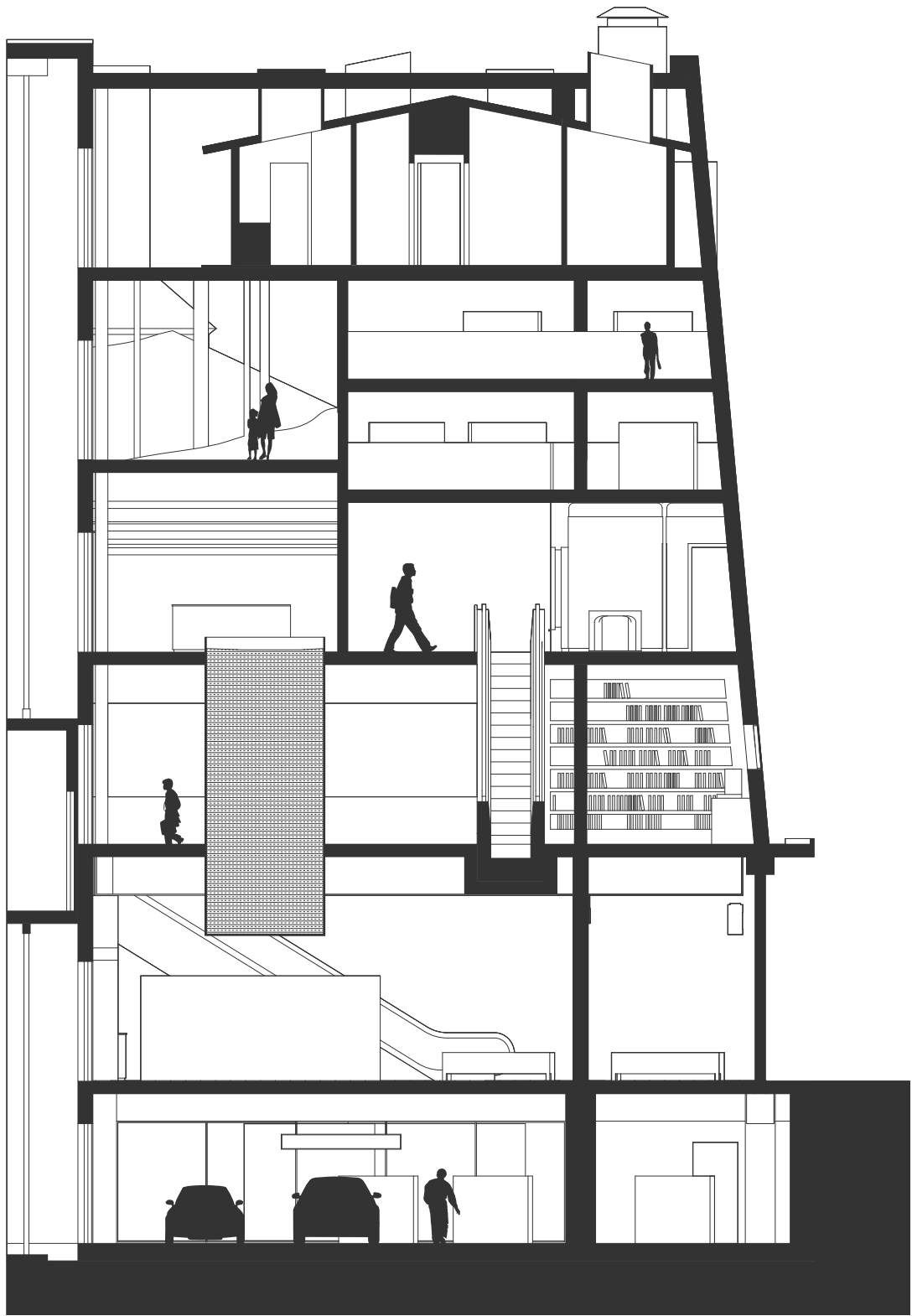
...

escalators into nowhere and nowhen
villa rotunda on the second floor
Monets, not house numbers
arrive a la betting tables for the cube footage index
duty free reigns



DRAWINGS

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MODEL IMAGES I

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MODEL IMAGES II

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MODEL IMAGES III

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MODEL IMAGES IV

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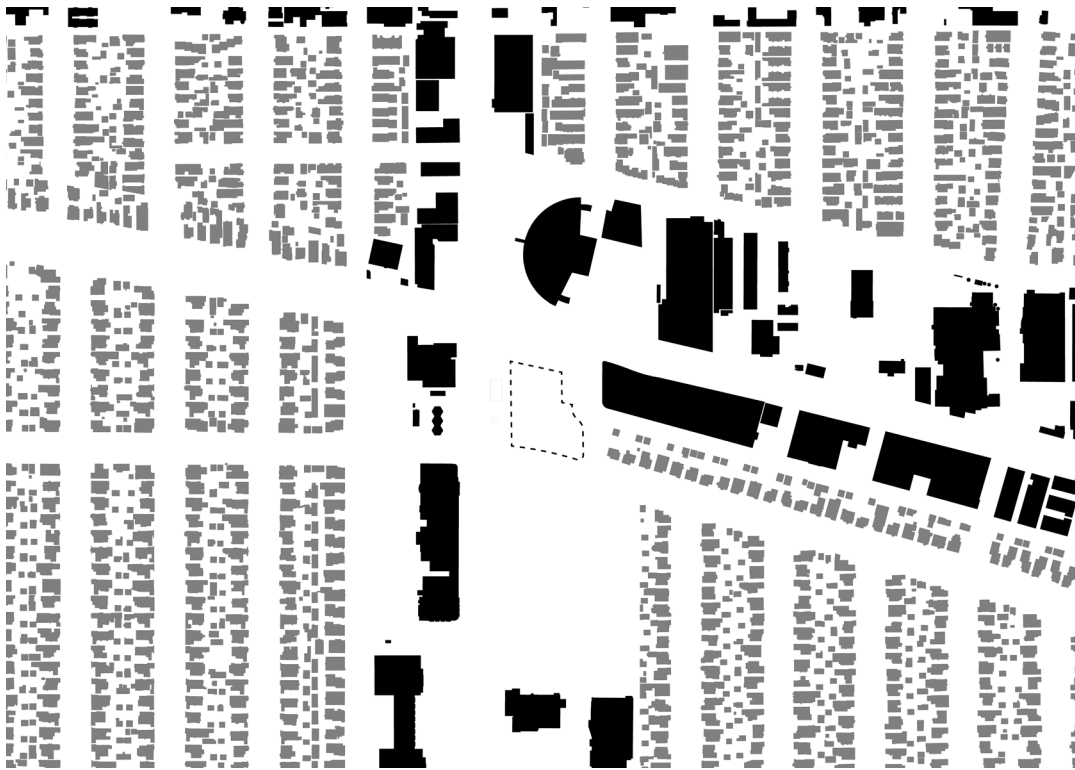
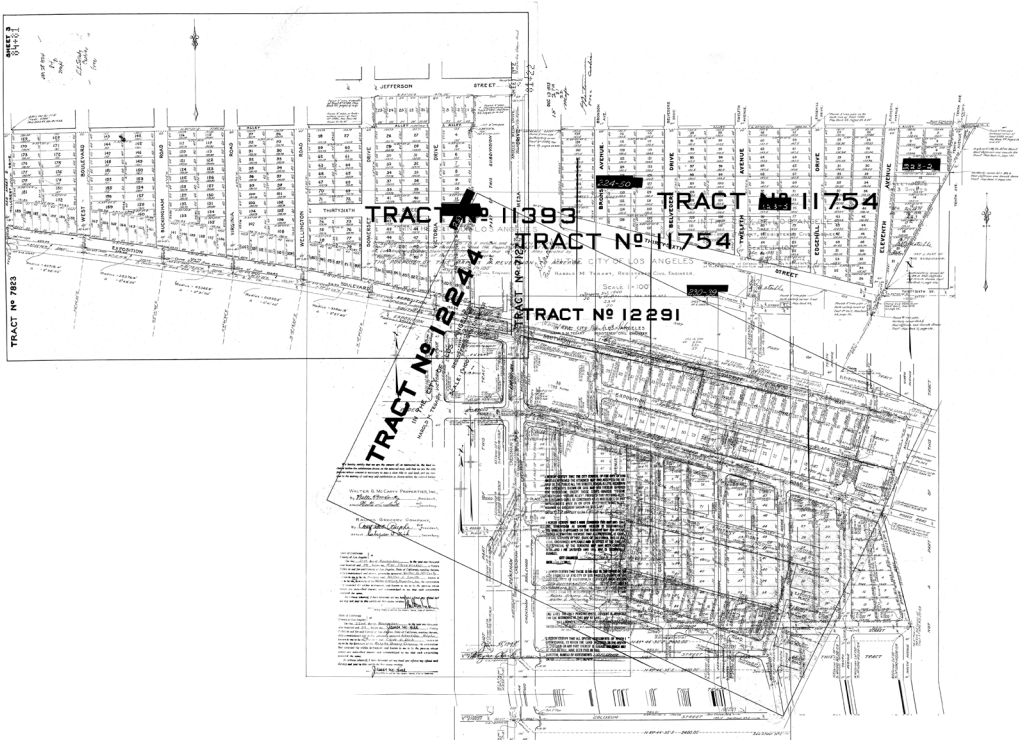
CRENSHAW MARKET HOUSING

3rd Year - Arch 302a

In this course, students are asked to develop a series of innovative solutions addressing today's critical housing needs. The profession of architecture has been involved in providing housing solutions since the late nineteenth century as the rise of industrialization - in city after city - provoked migration from rural areas to urban cores. In an effort to influence the focus upon and provision of the massive housing needs for society's poorest and working-class communities, the CIAM Congress of 1928 addressed the issue under the topic 'The Minimum Dwelling;' driven by the emerging possibilities of new materials and industrial mass production. While transformative, and enormously effective at the time, helping to shape ways of denazifying cities, too often the architectural propositions resulting from these theories resulted in processes that focused on quantities, technical efficiencies, and minimal living requirements rather than qualities of experience.

SITE DIAGRAMS I

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AESTHETICS OF SECURITY



Note: While the dog may be construed as an aesthetic of security, after spending 2 minutes talking to him, I didn't identify him as such.

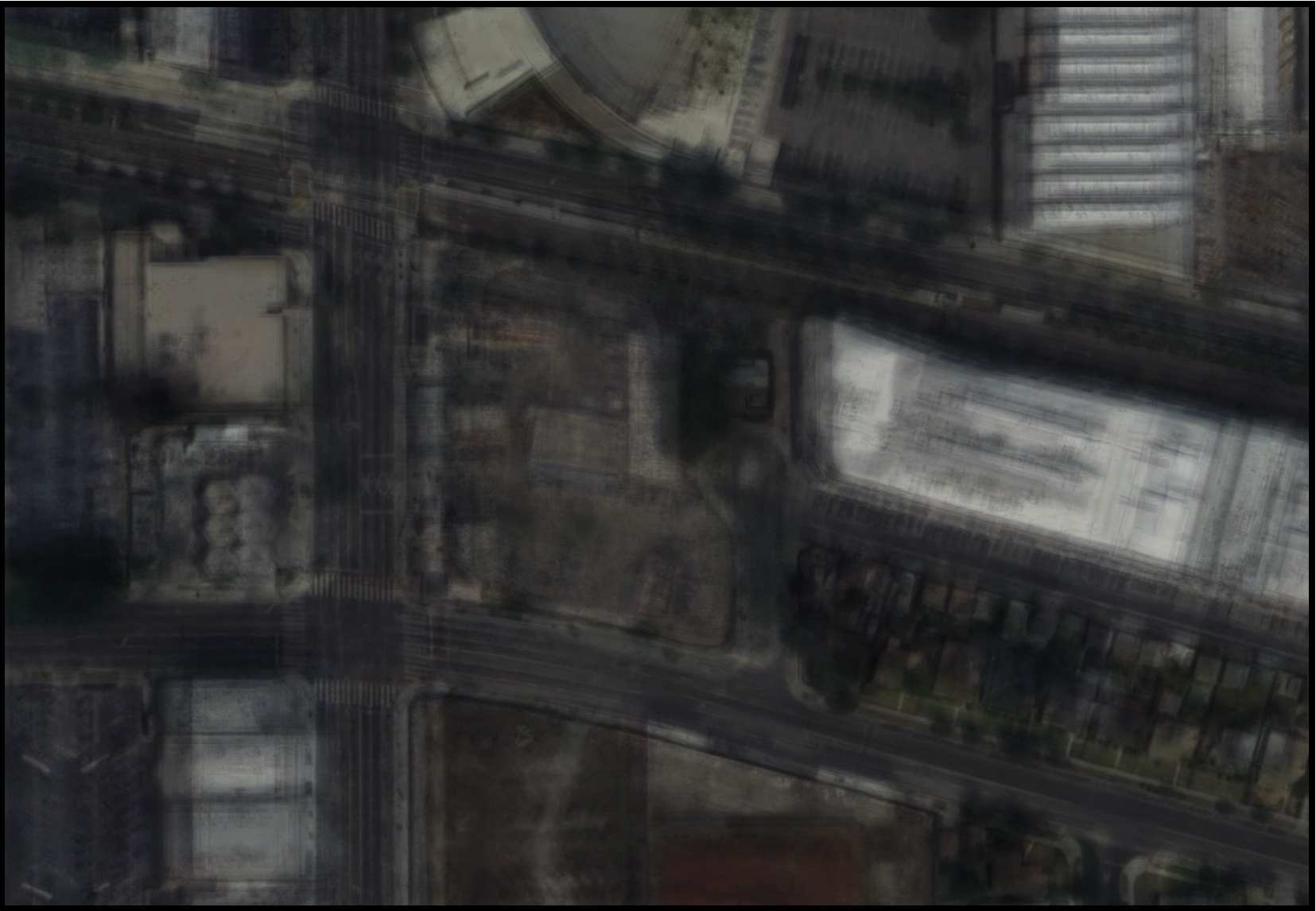
Recollections of the Site

A block of housing that is suddenly-erected is devoid of an existence. It is only the movements of that insatiable nature that sets its course within time, and produces for it, a history. Each separate but unperceived clang of the metro car against the wrought iron tracks happen simultaneously for the housing block. A rumble, short enough to offer the illusion of permanent solitude, and loud enough to produce a state of mania for the uninitiated and a practiced discomfort for the initiated.

That said, even the most seemingly-static entities can be impressed upon them, rhythm, perhaps an interminable one (Le-febvre.) The ladle of creation reaches into the furthest realms of the inverted vessel, past the great mountains and gorges to carve out the obtusely banal “shapes” of humanity. The rectangles lie luke, distant from the fiery furnace that is nature’s embrace. It must resonate with the rhythms of naked life, the quest for survival in order for it to situate itself in history, and therefore reality.

SITE DIAGRAMS II

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Historic Overlays



Crenshaw House Prices

SITE OVERVIEW + CONCEPT

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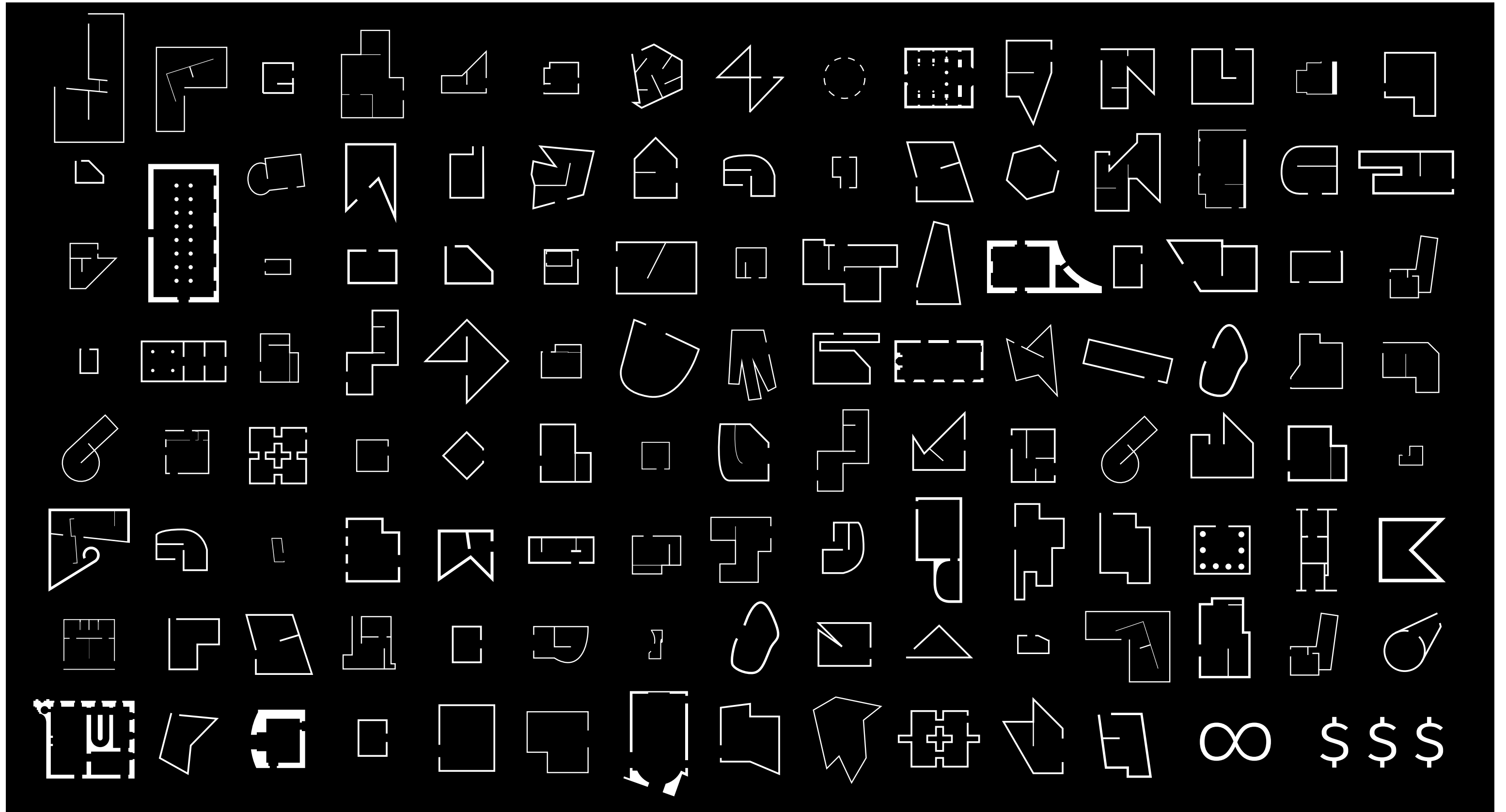


As an extension of Crenshaw's rapid commercialization and increasing home prices, we seek to explore the commodification of housing at the scale of domestic programmatic plates. Housing is framed as infinite combinations of programs that, in turn, produce its definition. Here, the formal 'unit' is dictated by the erratic, trend-driven desires of the capitalist consumer.

Social Housing then drifts across the imaginary threshold into its simplest transactional formation. Within this formation, it becomes a walk through a bazaar, where amenities for survival are merely services to be purchased.

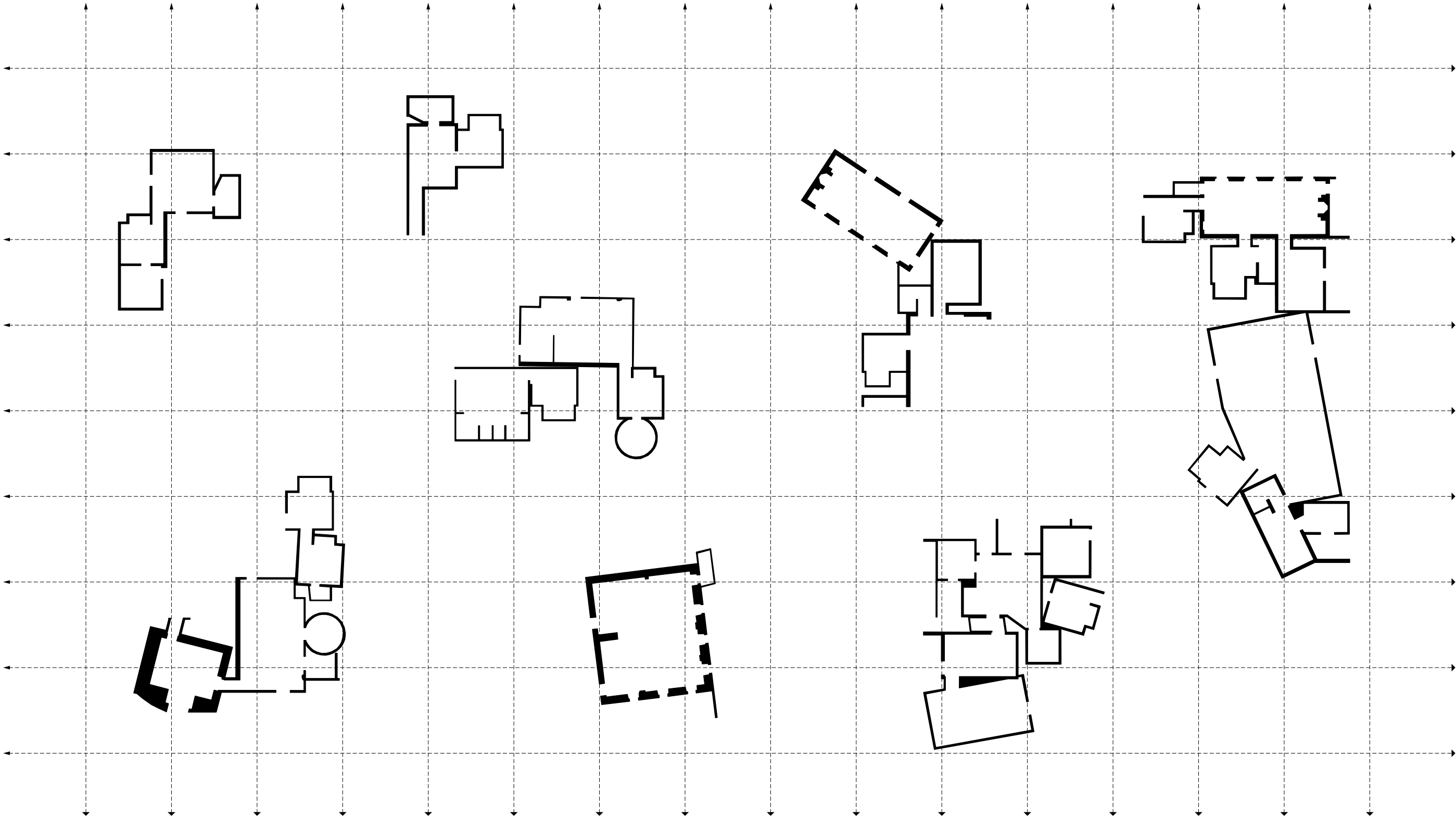
PROGRAM PLATE LIBRARY

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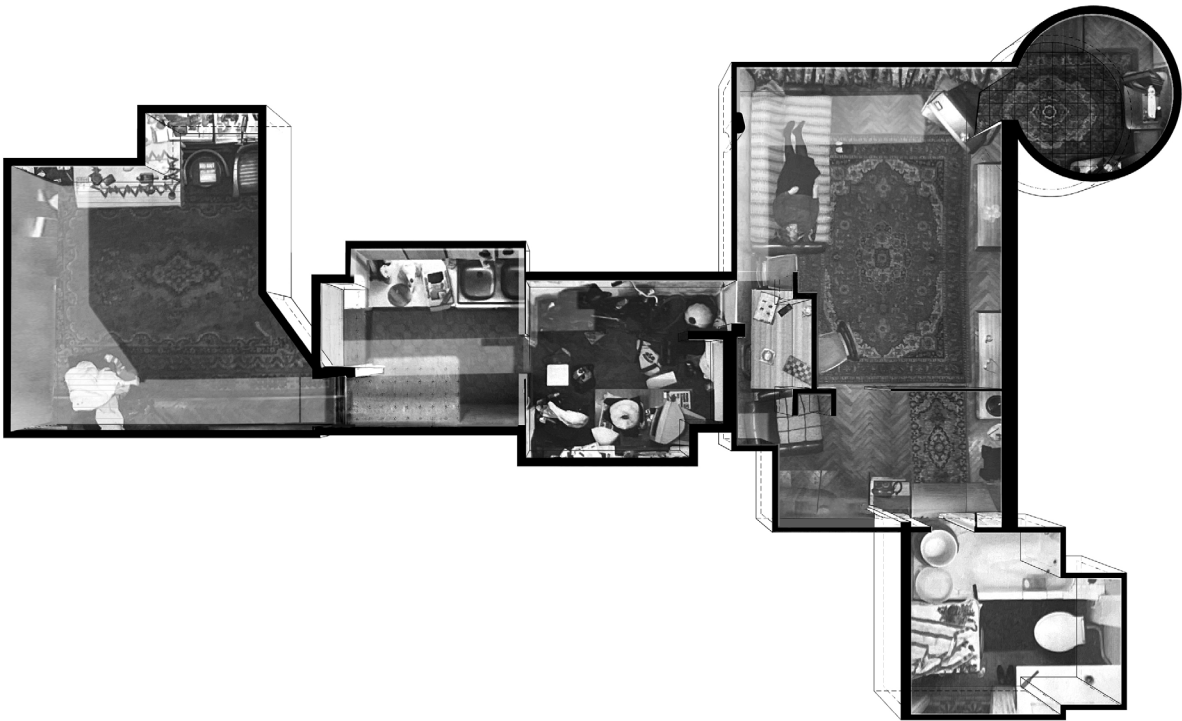
INFINITE POSSIBLE UNIT COMBINATIONS

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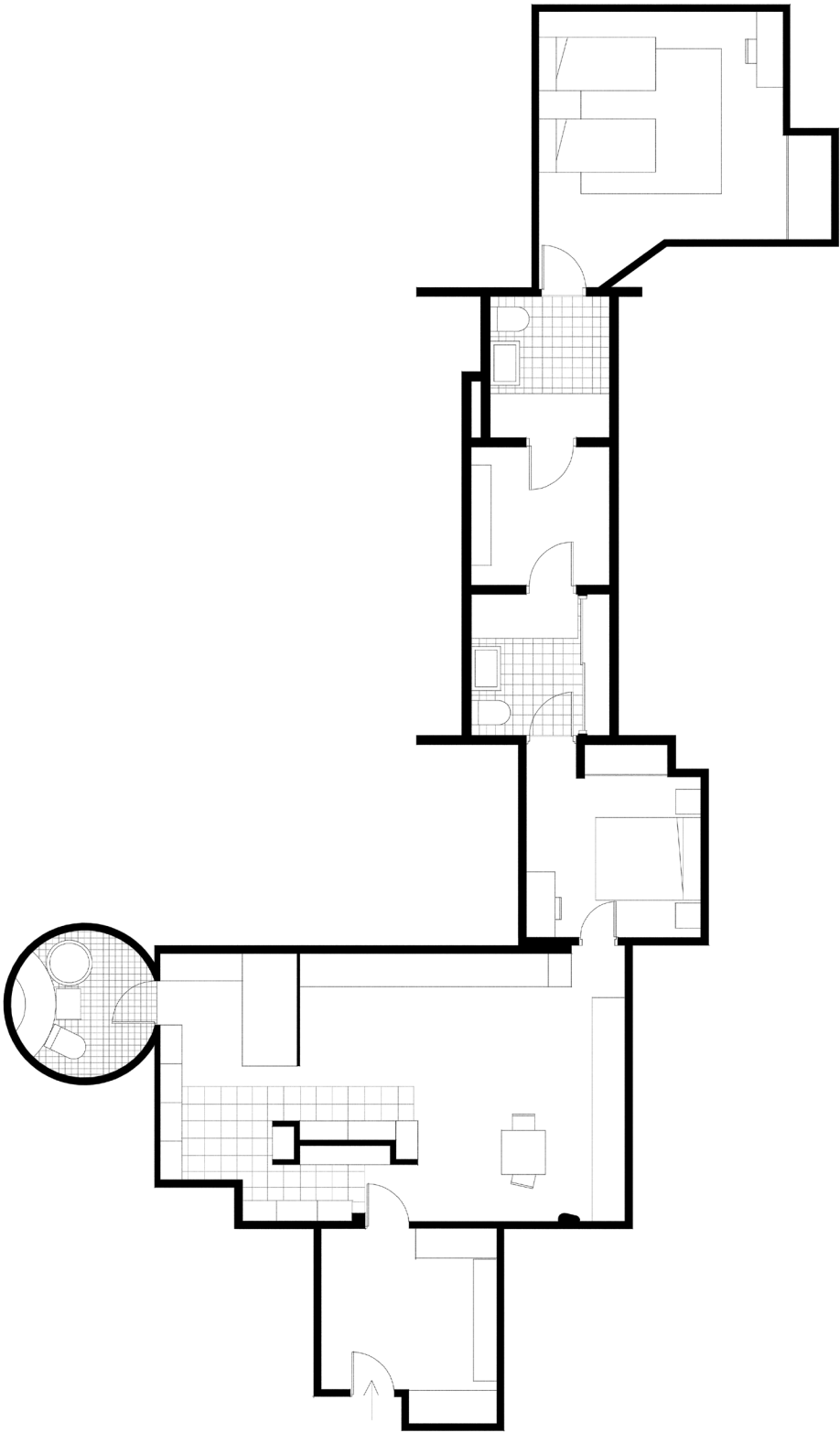


INTERPRETING UNITS

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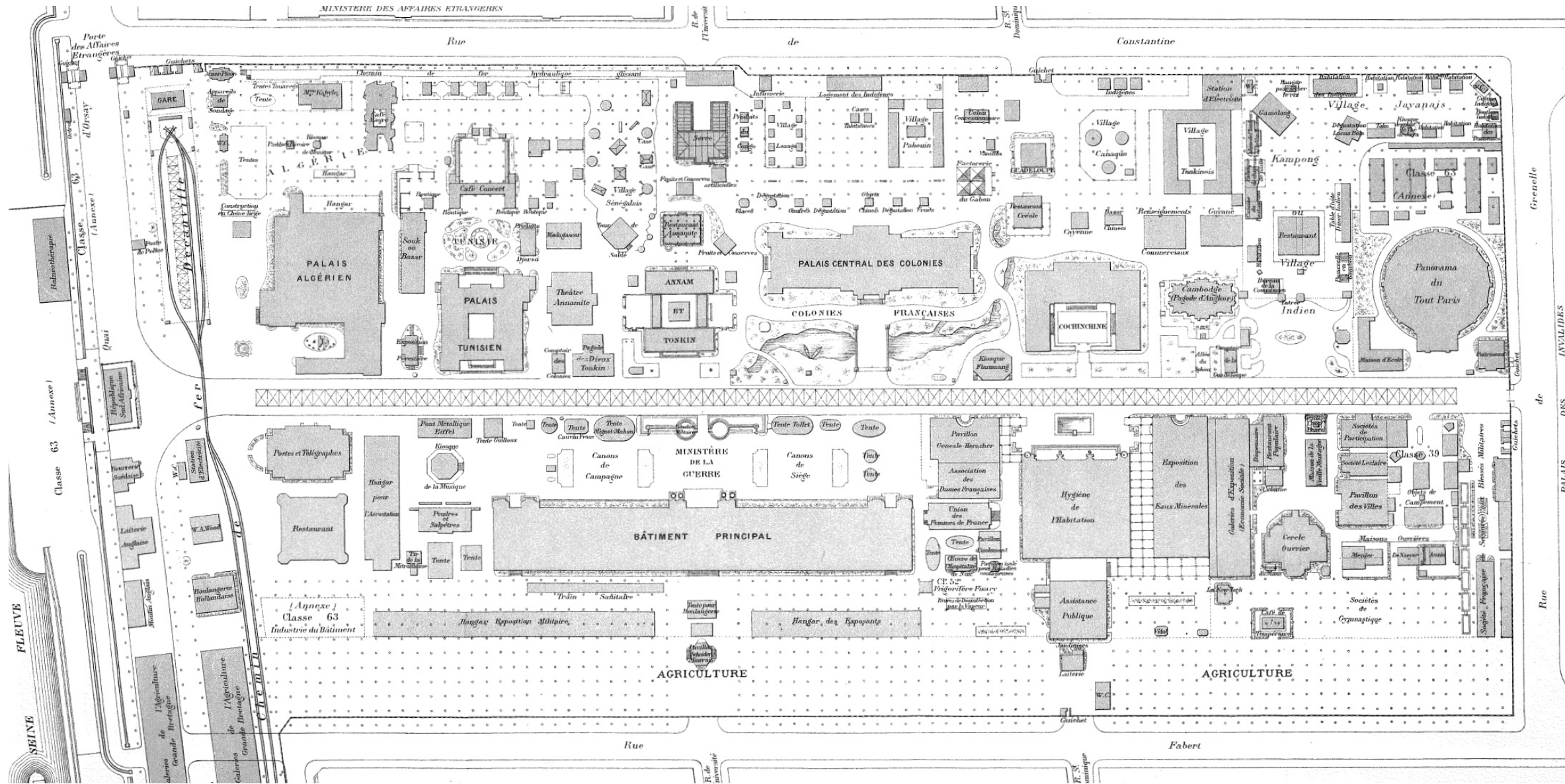
Unit + Interior Render



Unit Plan

RETAIL PRECEDENT

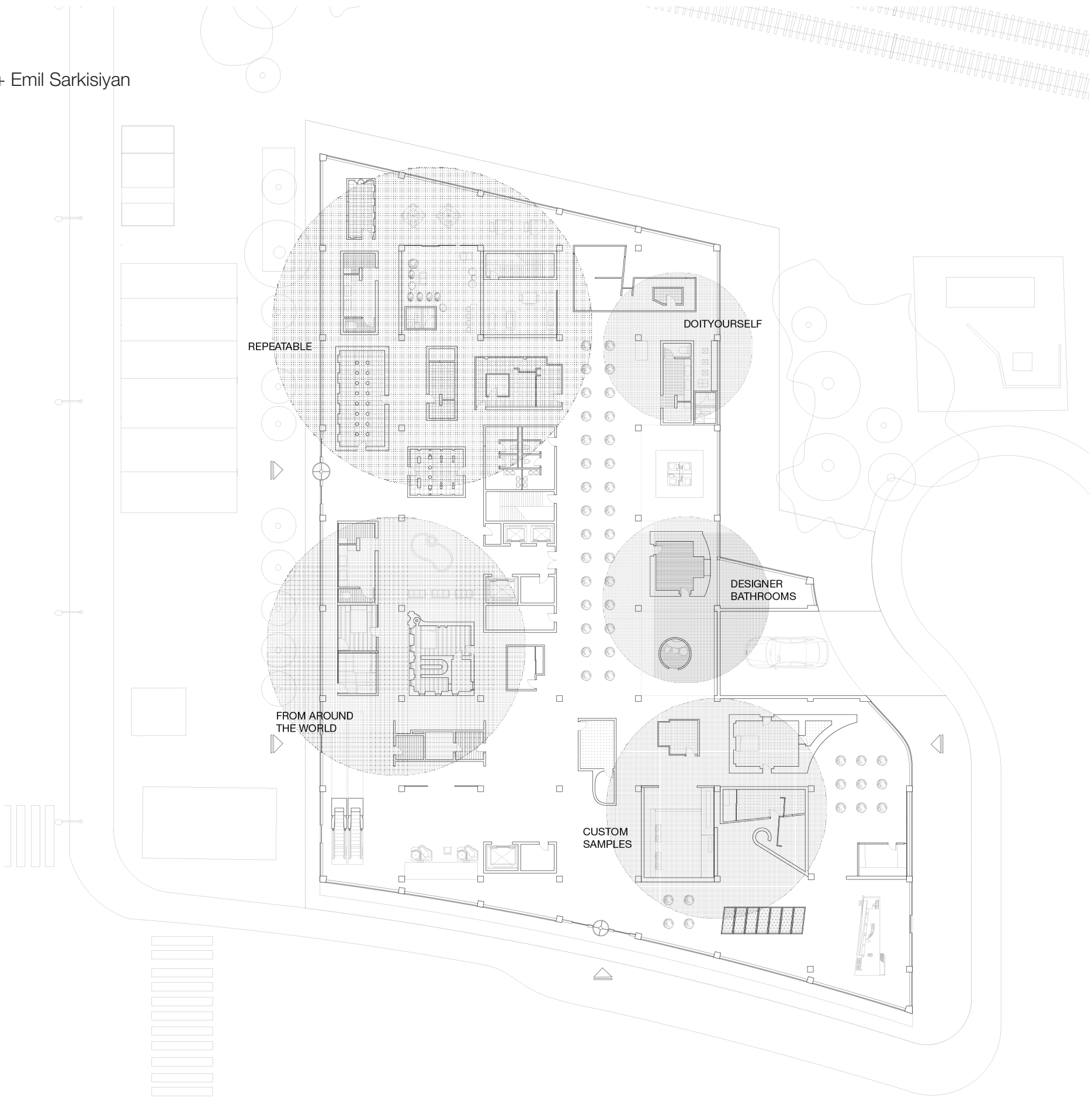
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Paris Exposition - 19th Century

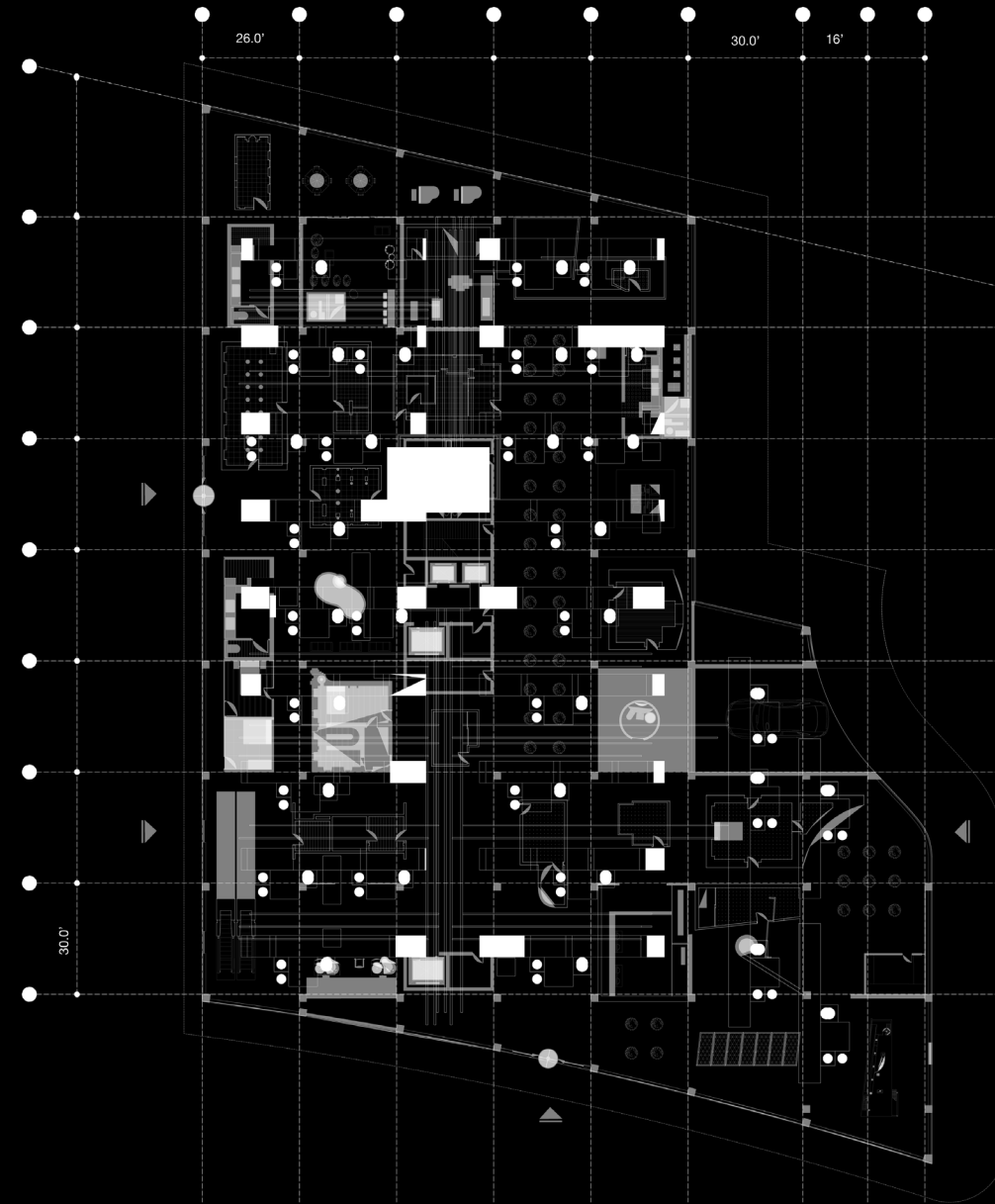
RETAIL PLAN

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HVAC PLAN

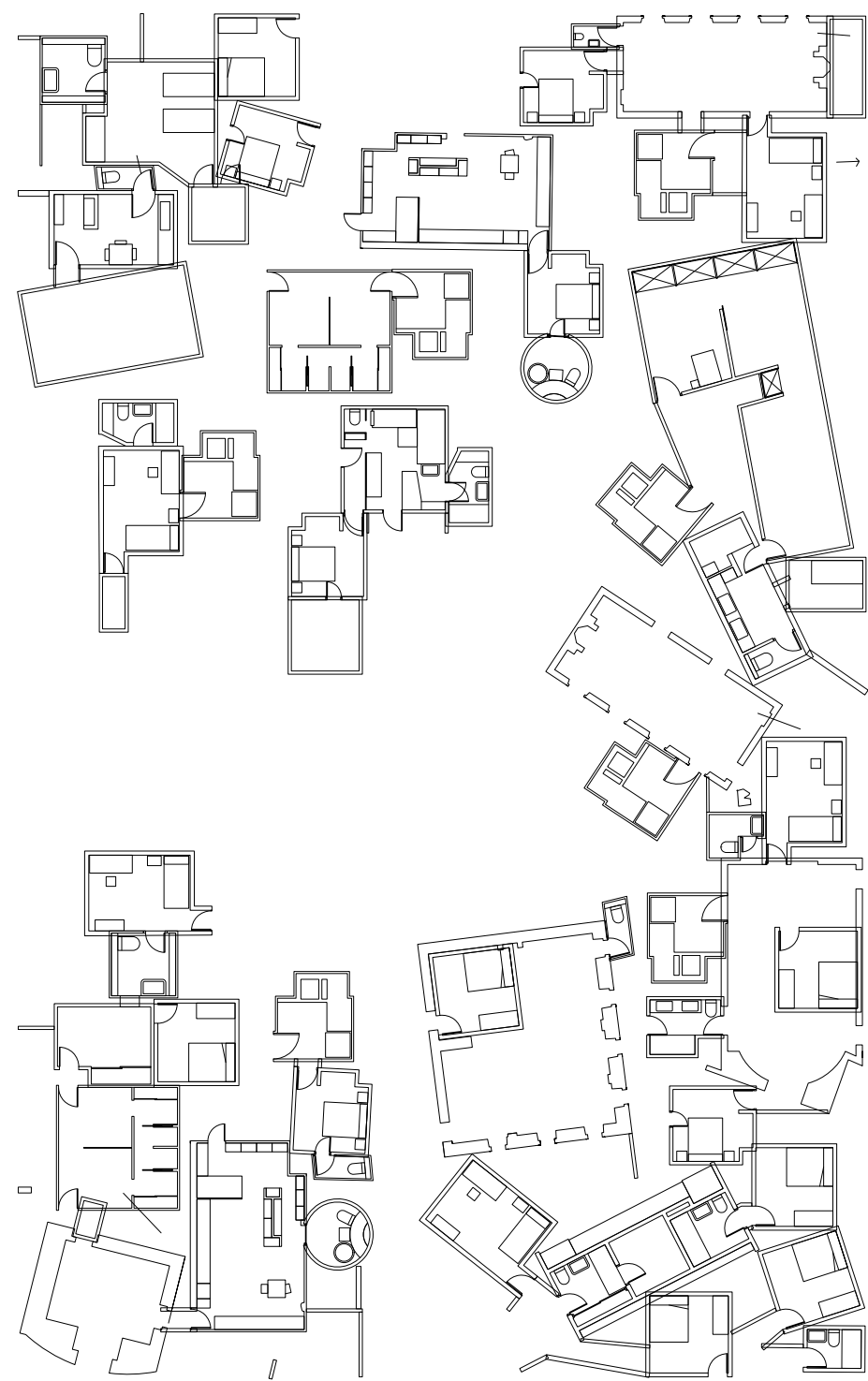
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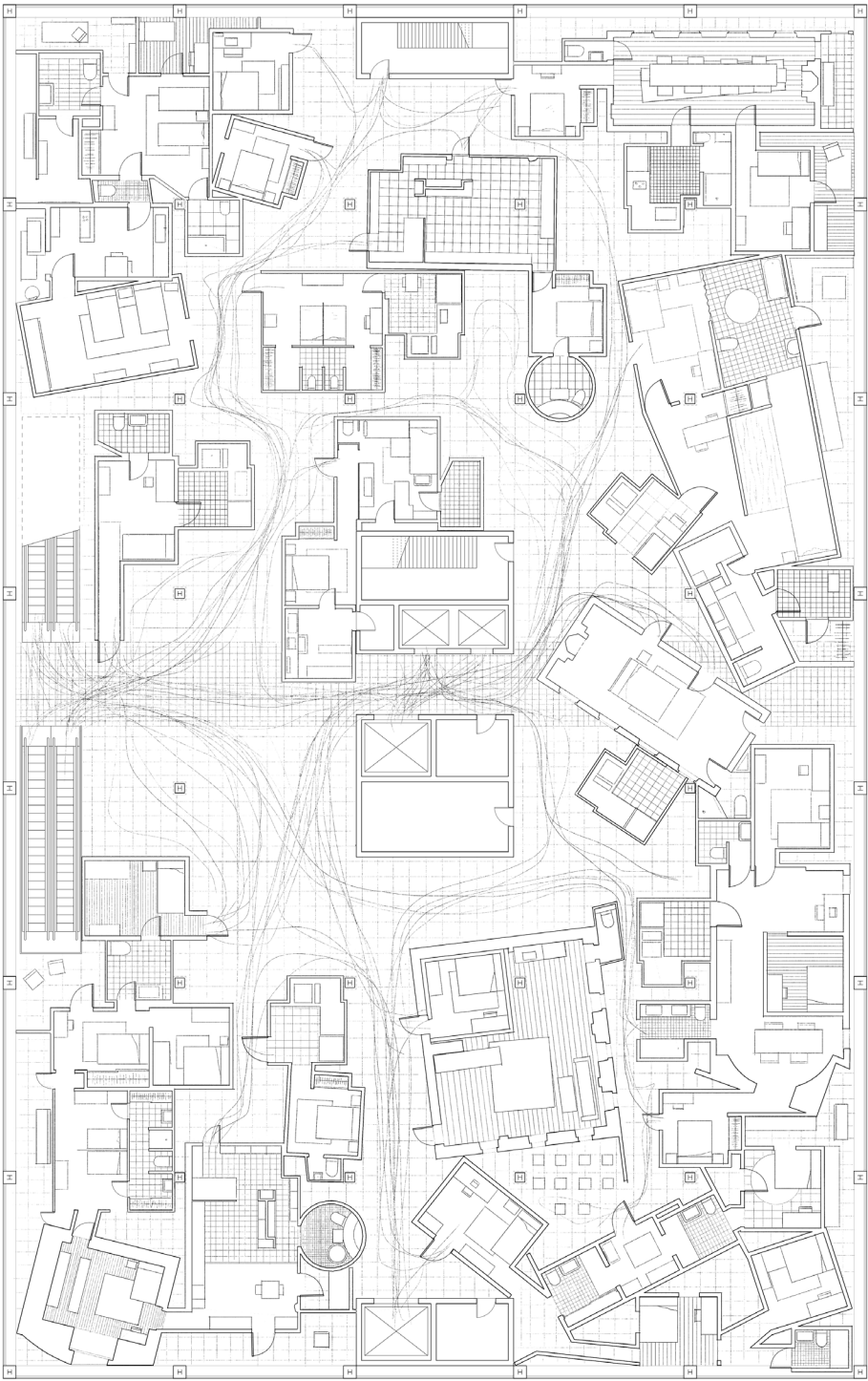
"Society must be remade before it can be the object of quantification. Categories of people and things must be defined, measures must be interchangeable; land and commodities must be conceived as represented by an equivalent in money." *Seeing Like a State, James C Scott*

PLANS II

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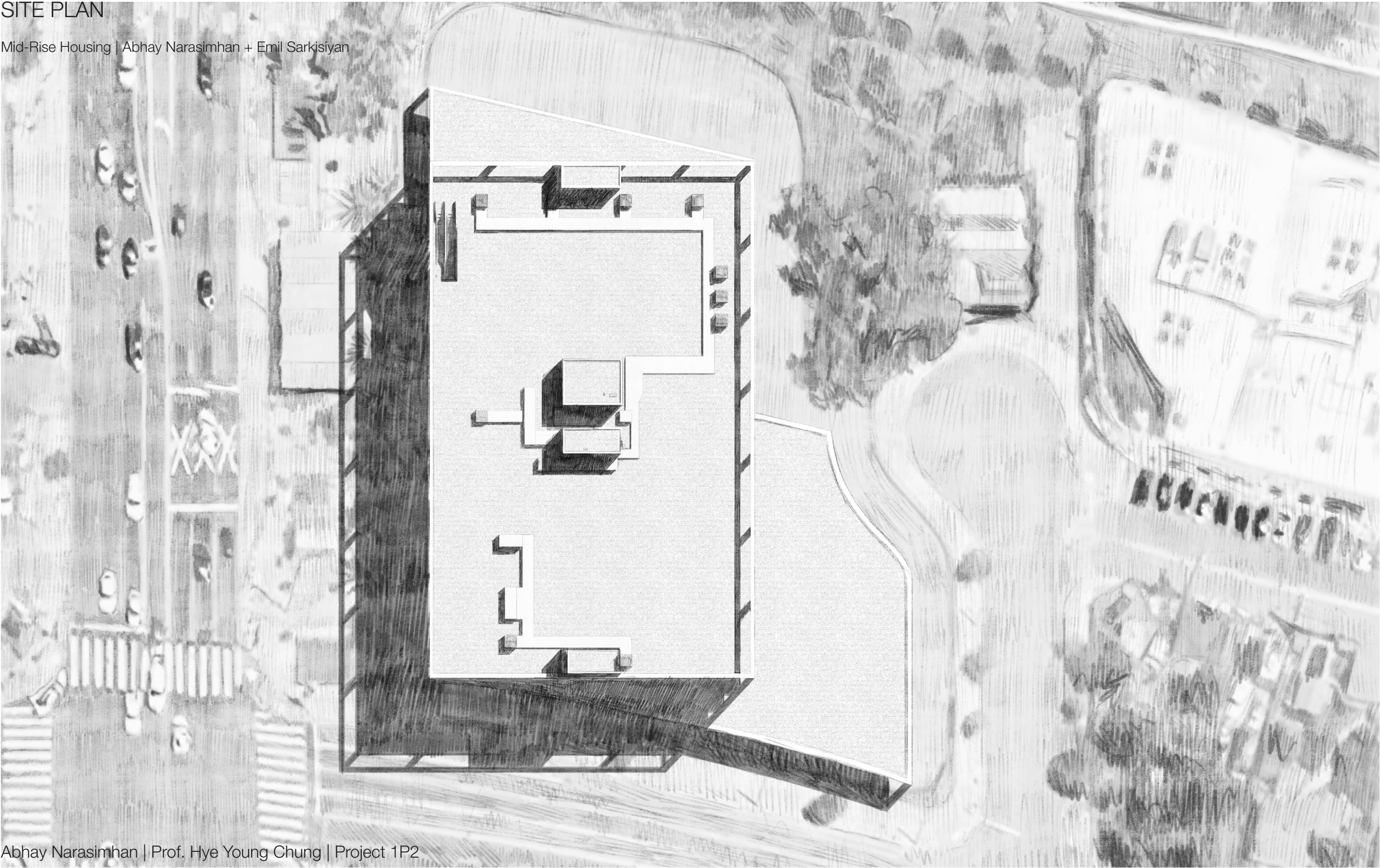
Residential Arrangement Diagram



Residential Level 2 Plan

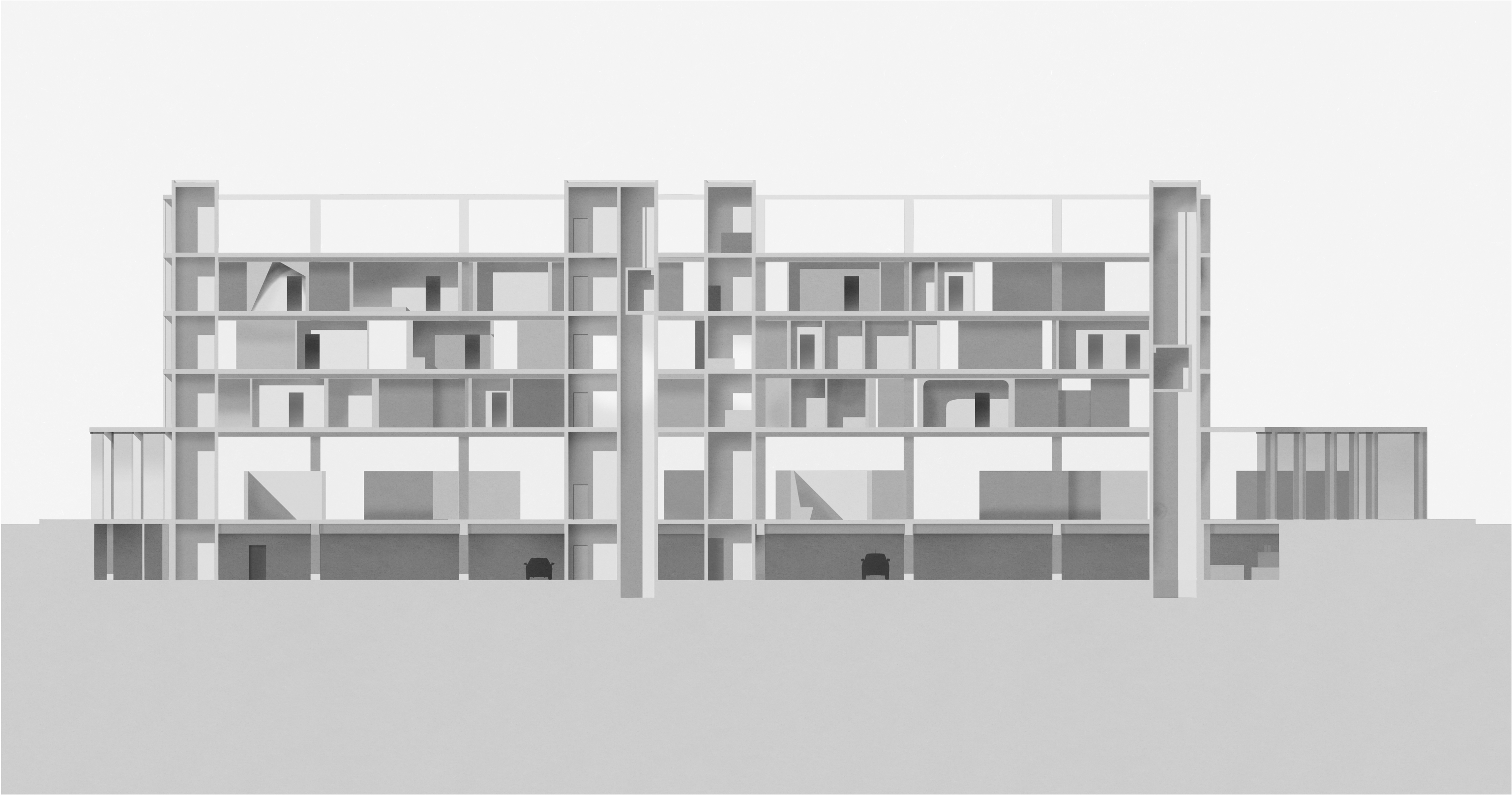
SITE PLAN

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SECTIONS I

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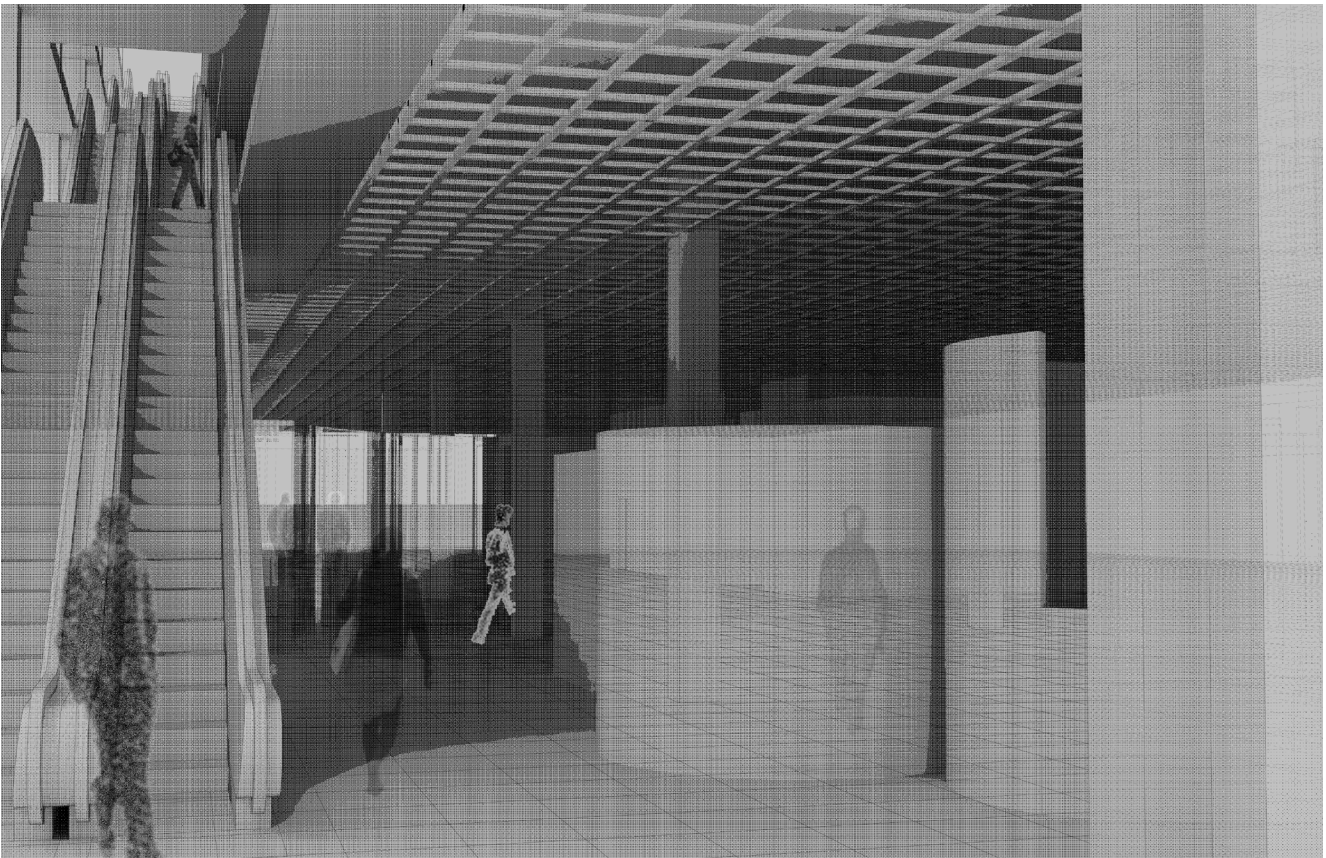


INTERIOR RENDERS

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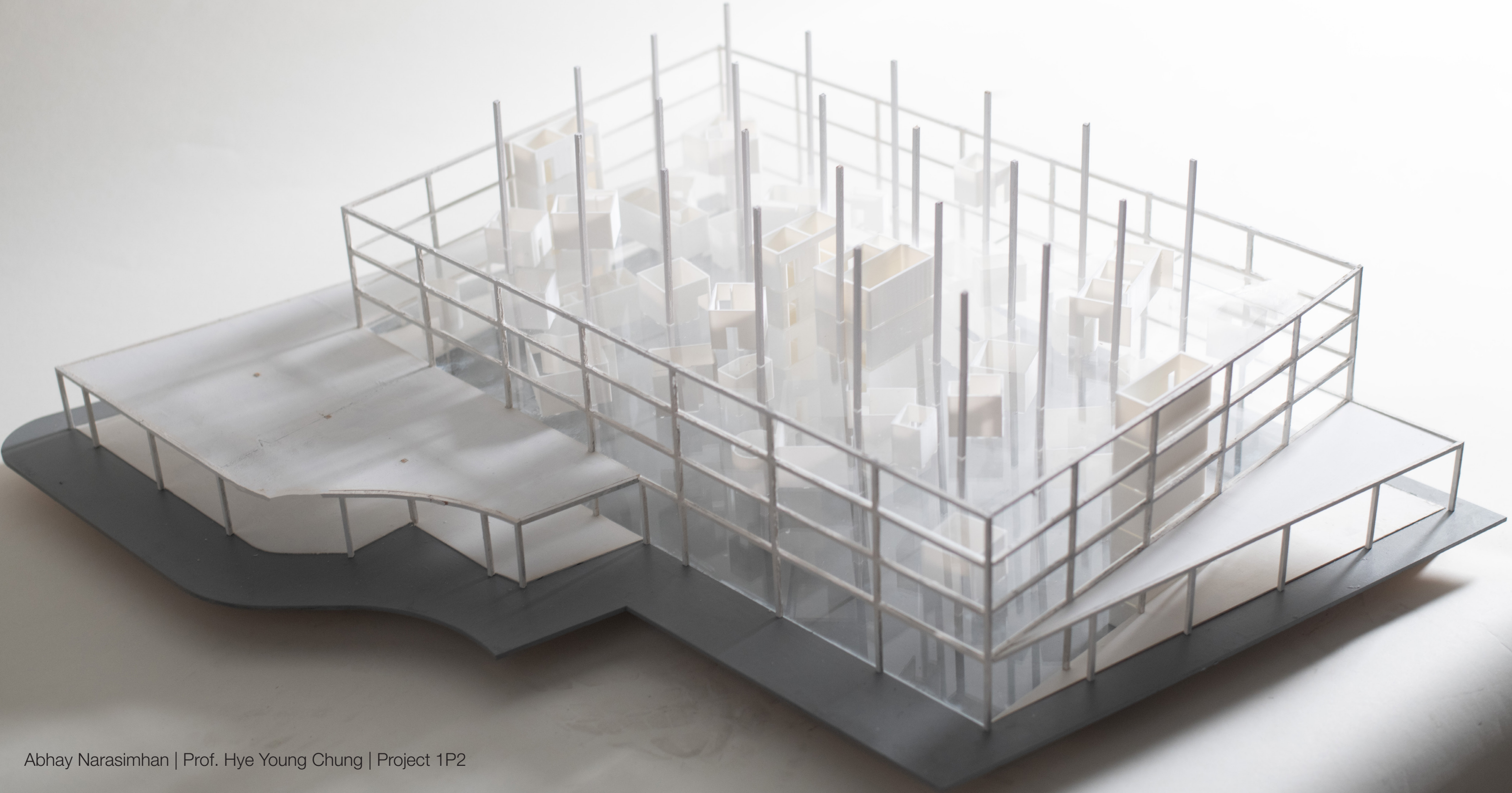
Residential Floor Render



Retail Floor Render

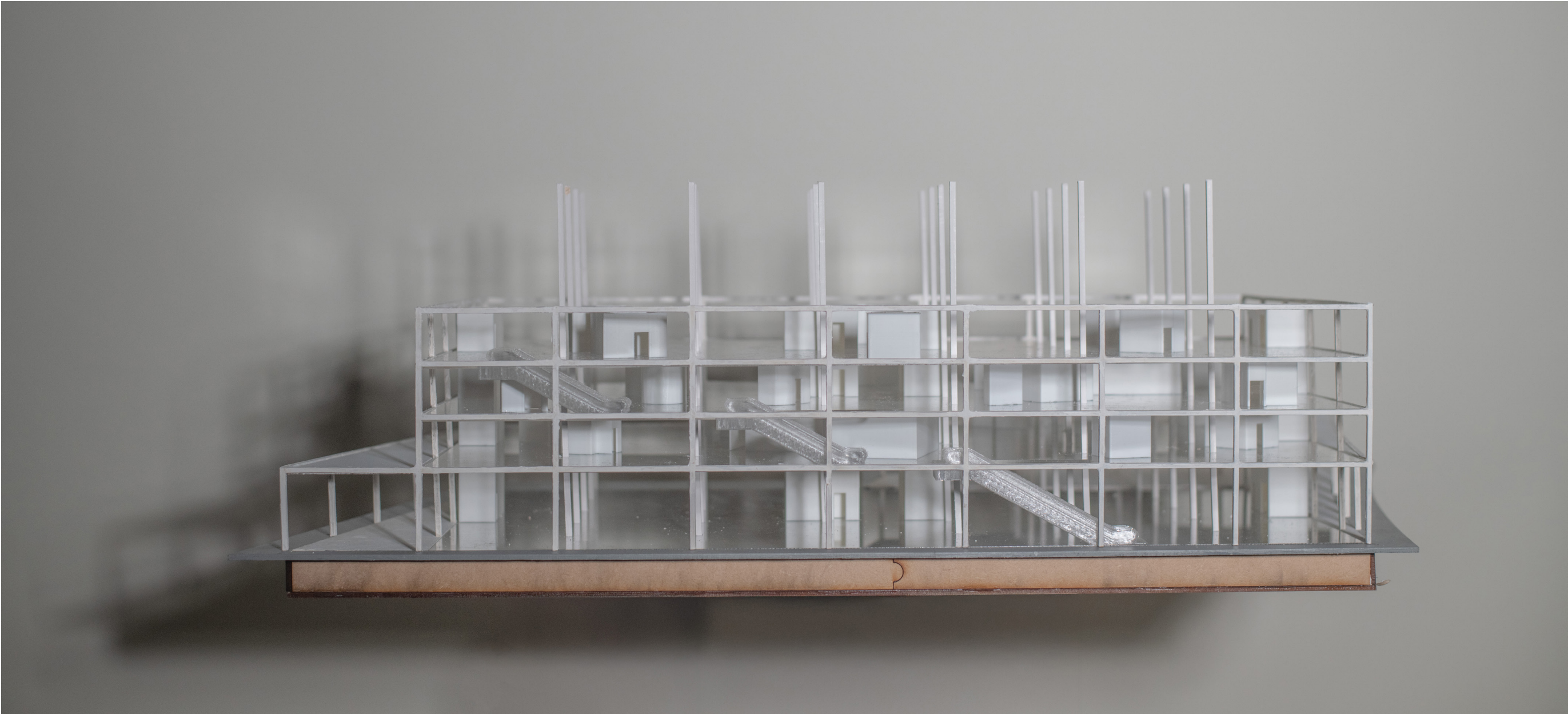
MASSING MODEL IMAGES I

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MASSING MODEL IMAGES II

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West Elevation

MASSING MODEL IMAGES III

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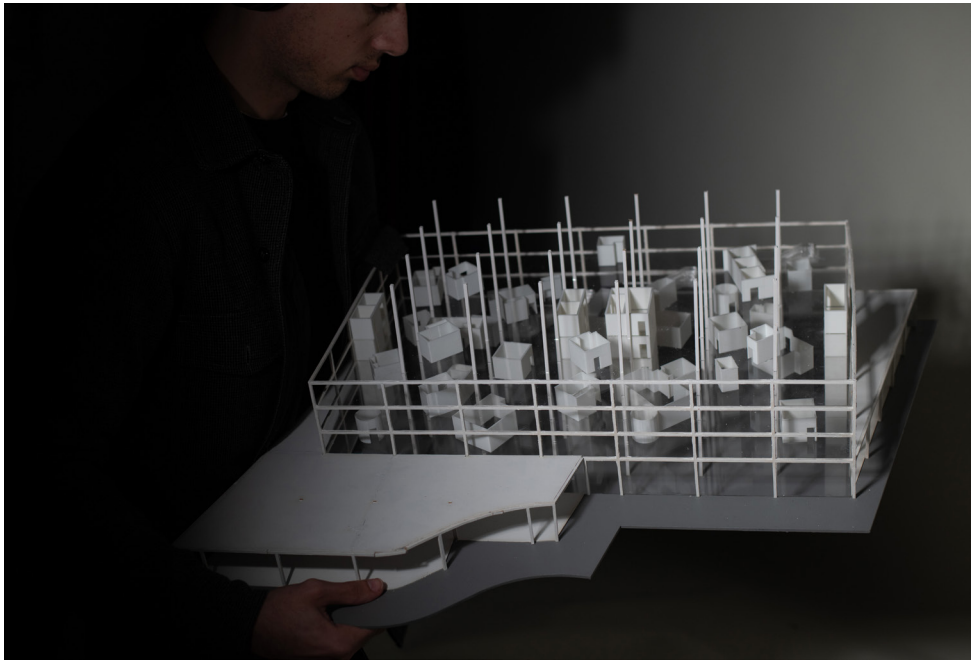
Residential floors



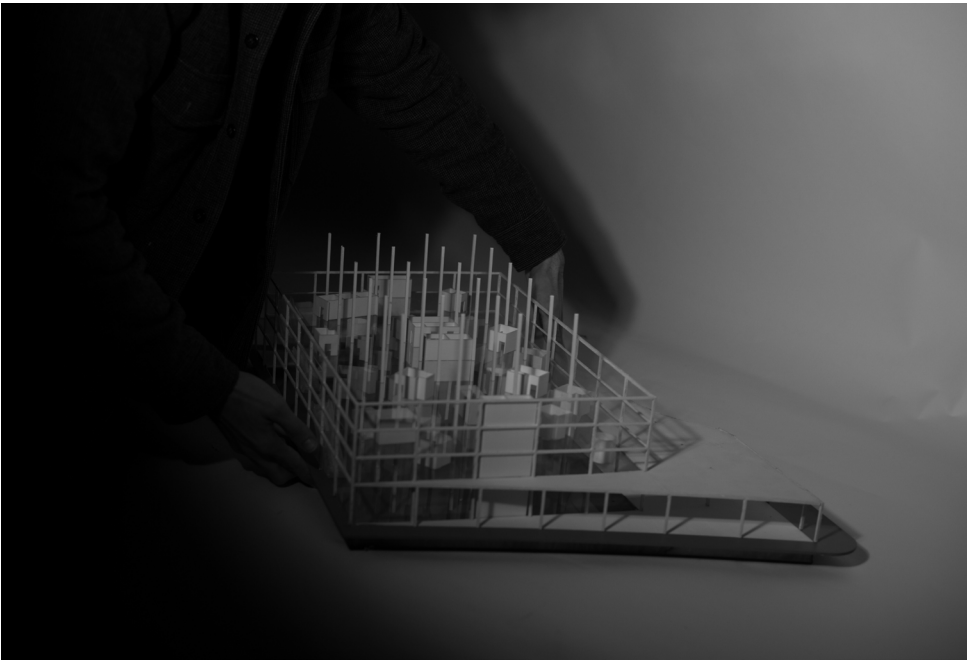
On Crenshaw

MASSING MODEL IMAGES IV

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held



and placed.

