

Studio Sergison
Accademia di architettura
Universita' della Svizzera italiana

Spring Semester 2016
The Palazzo Type



Introduction

This semester formed the second part of a yearlong investigation into the manner in which type can generate an urban and architectural response. Working at a large-scale projects considered strategies for how the Palazzo type, the building solution that has been employed as the means of building the historic city centre of Turin can generate a contemporary urbanism. Emphasis was placed on normative, predominantly housing programmes.

Turin is a city that along with Milan and Genova forms a triangle that can be understood as the industrial heart of Italy. It is the home of Fiat and many other significant Italian companies. In terms of production it is second only to Milan and Rome. This economic base creates a pressure for it to house its growing and changing population needs.

A site was chosen in the northern periphery of the city and one that was formerly associated with industry. The site adjoins the neighbouring Regio Parco neighbourhood, which is emerging as a home for creative industry in the city.

The centre of Turin in many ways represents an ideal urban structure. It is reasonably dense and compact with buildings of a mostly homogenous height. The foundation of the city is a Roman one, and unlike Milan, Como or Naples, which share the same heritage, in the case of Turin the grid is extremely present in the experience of the contemporary city. In many ways it reminds one of the equalising character of American cities even if the building language is so emphatically Italian.

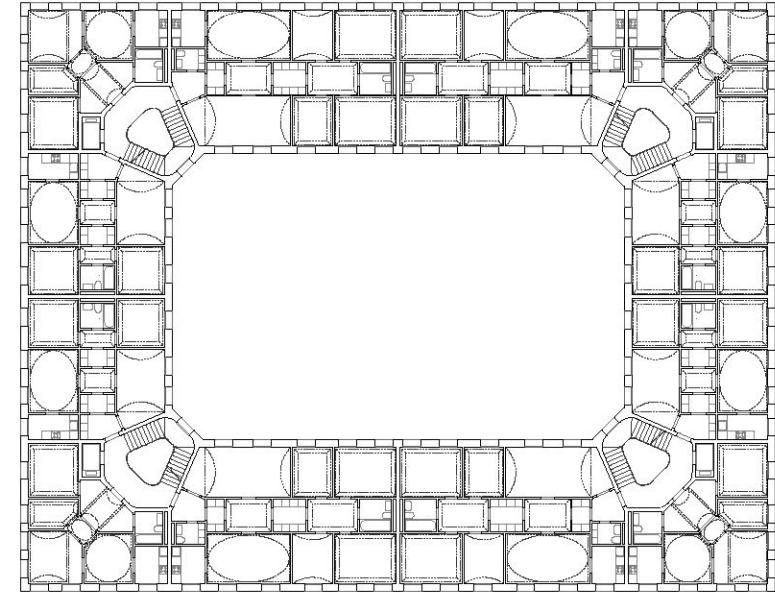
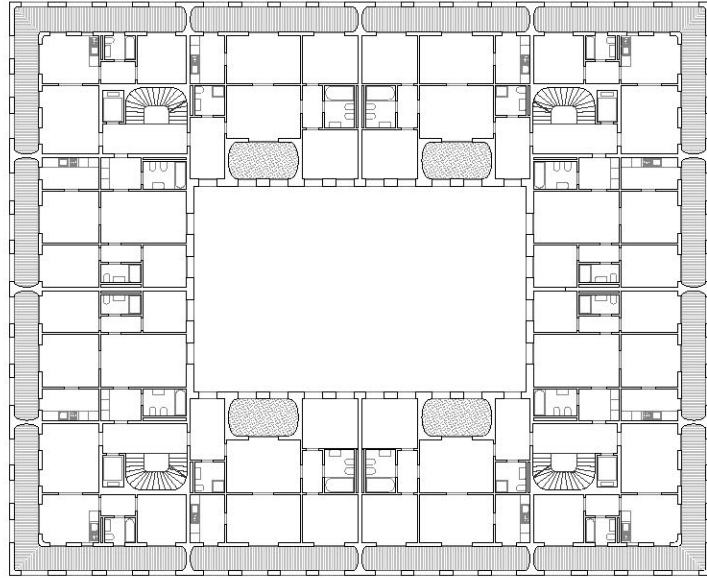
The experience of walking through Turin is not monotonous as there are numerous exceptions to the grid structure. These take the form of open spaces, public buildings and institutions, secular and non-secular alike.

The figure ground of the city, the ordinary tissue, is formed of housing and places of employment. With few exceptions they are arranged as blocks with inner courtyards. The dimensions of the block derive from the Roman urban structure of decumanous and cardo. What were in the past Roman courtyard houses have over time been rebuilt as palazzo apartment buildings, sometimes with porticos, always with residential uses on the upper floors, commercial uses on the ground floor, and the overall height of the building typically 6 stories. As blocks in the city they represent the image of a big house, or palazzo with all of its historical associations to a Renaissance heritage.

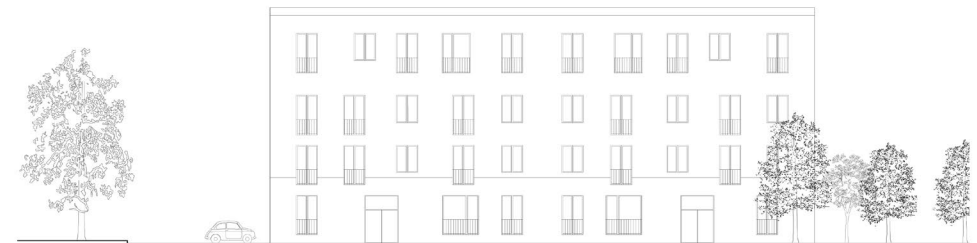
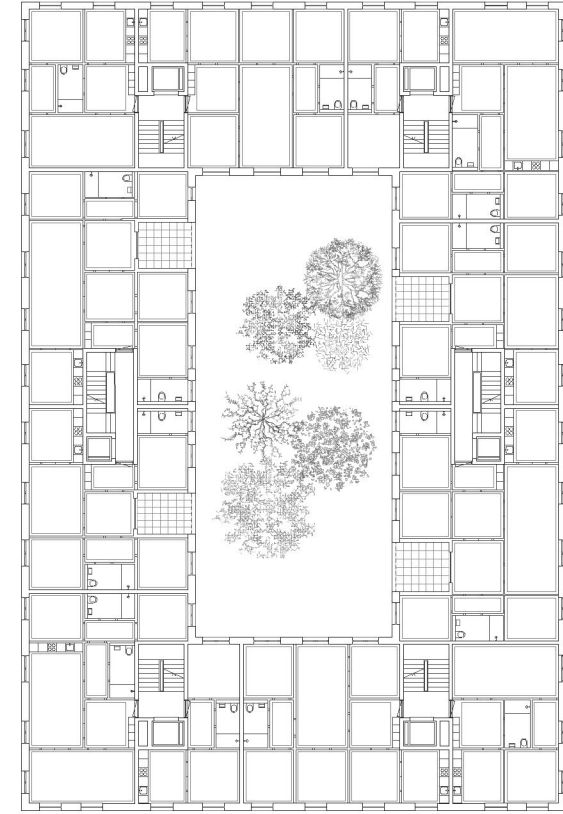
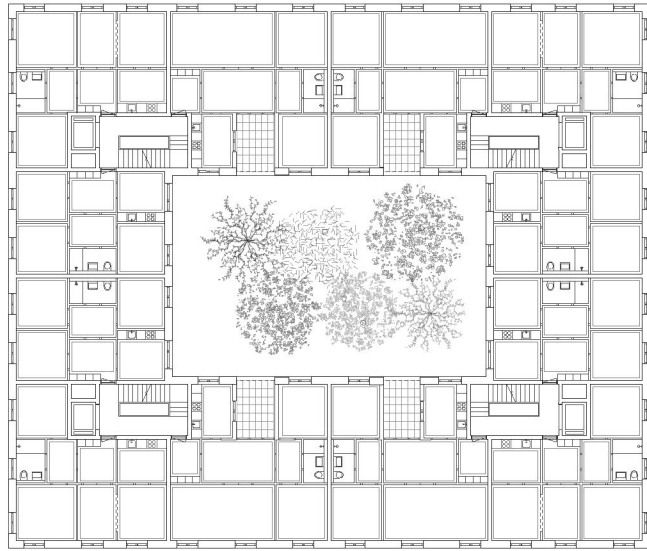
The task for this semester was to consider the capacity for this urban model to be applied or appropriated in contemporary terms. We considered the manner in which versions of the palazzo type can be adapted to form a contemporary urbanism.

In the first instance the task was to develop a strategy plan, or urban concept. Throughout the course of the semester this was tested and refined at different scales.

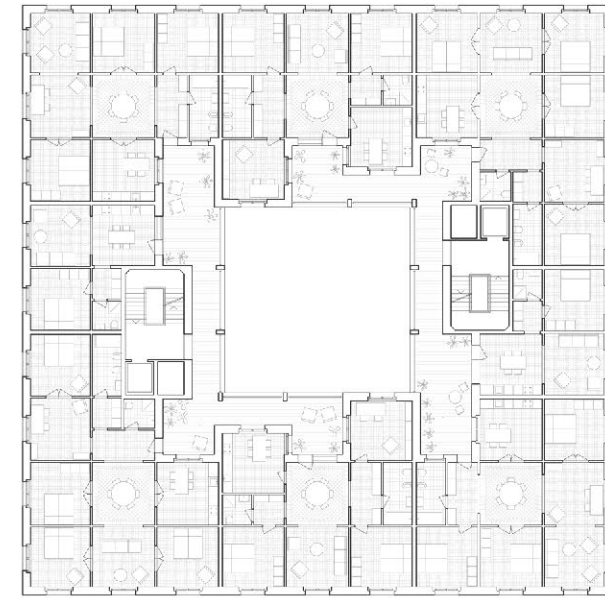
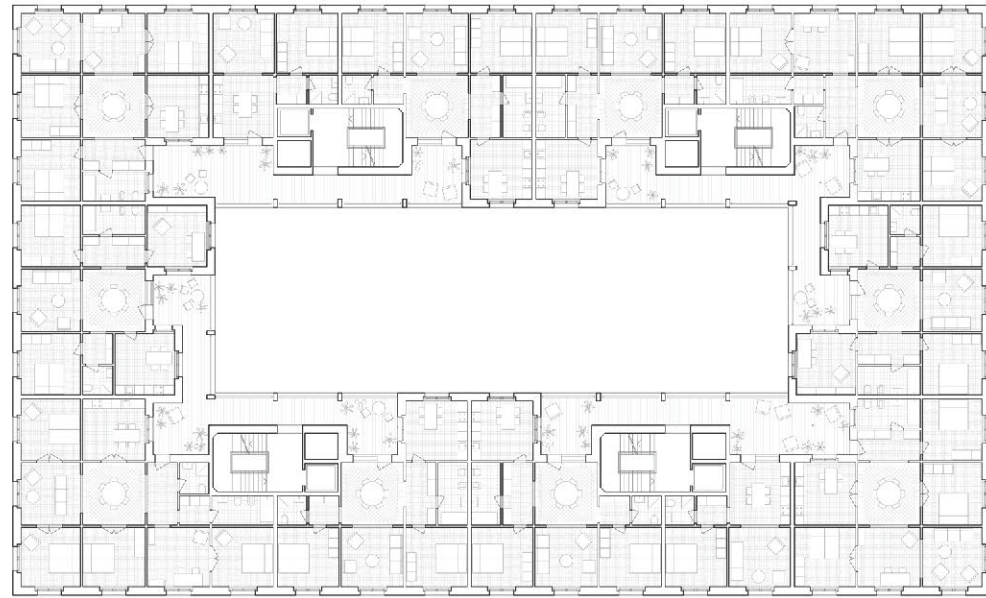


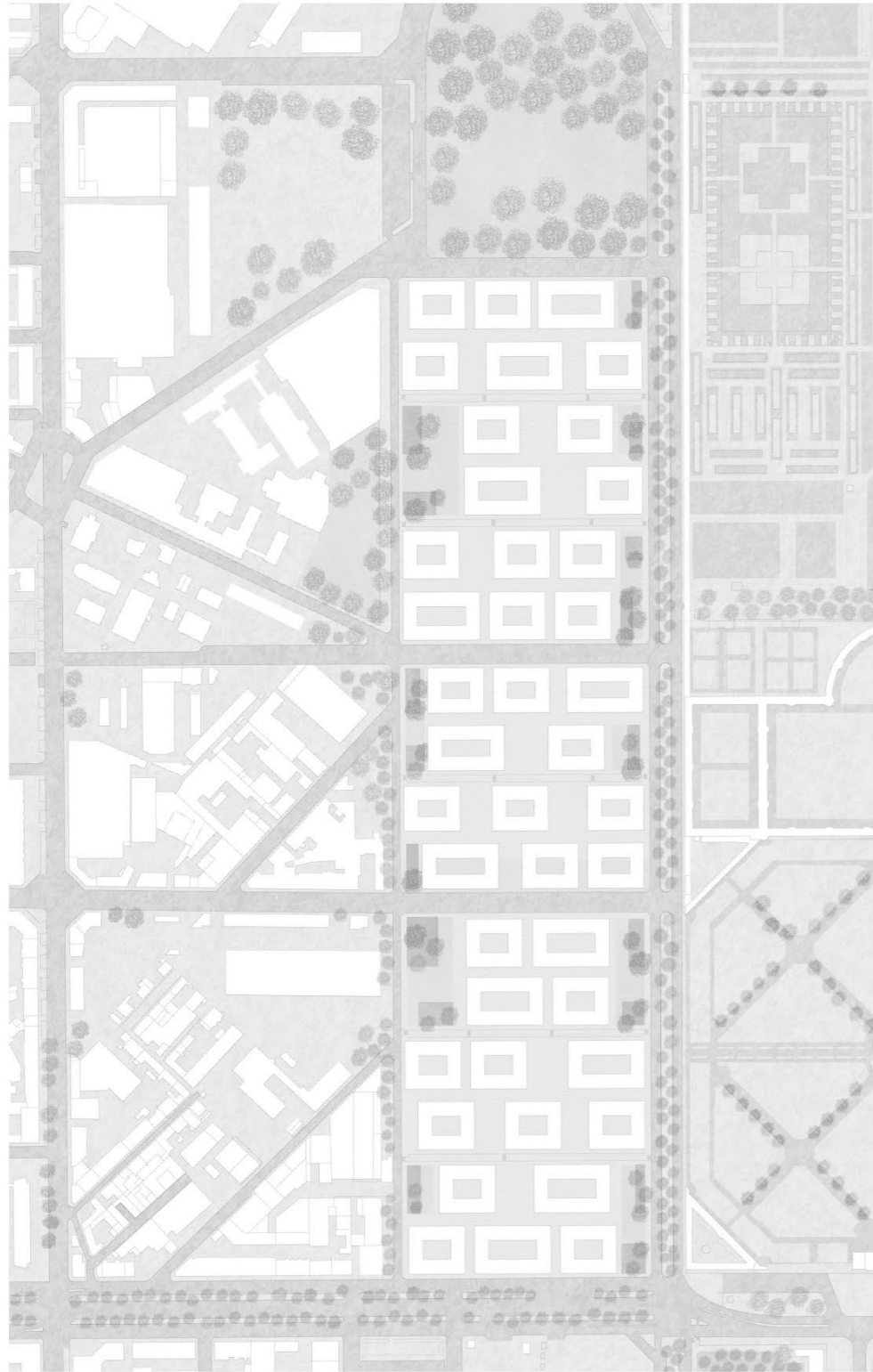


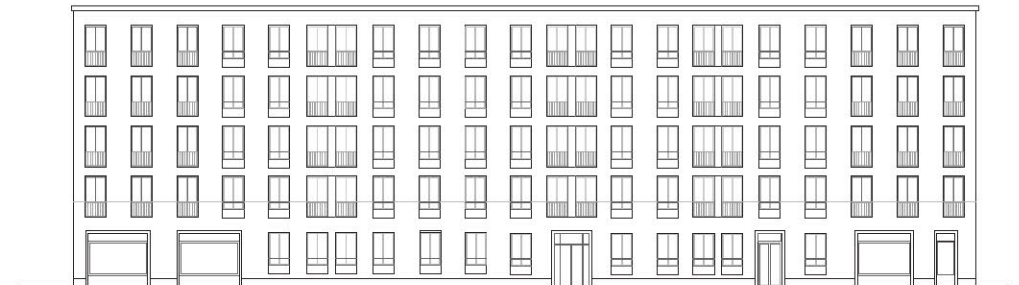
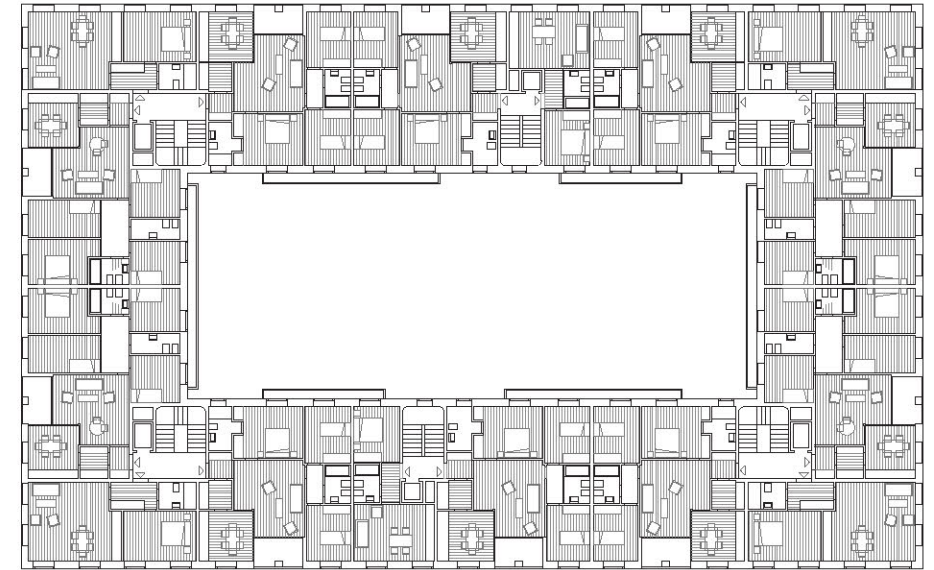
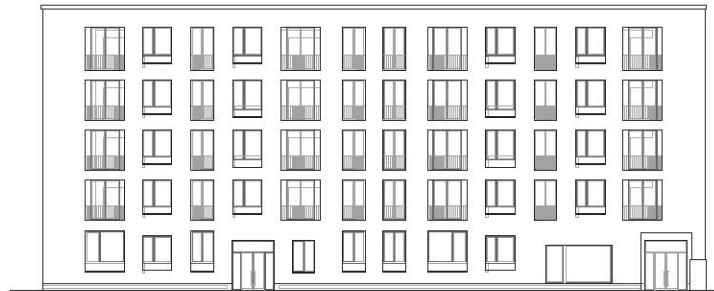
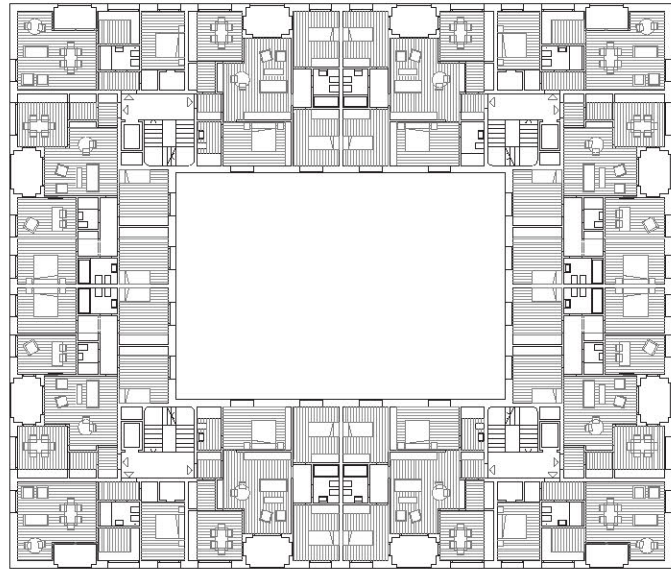




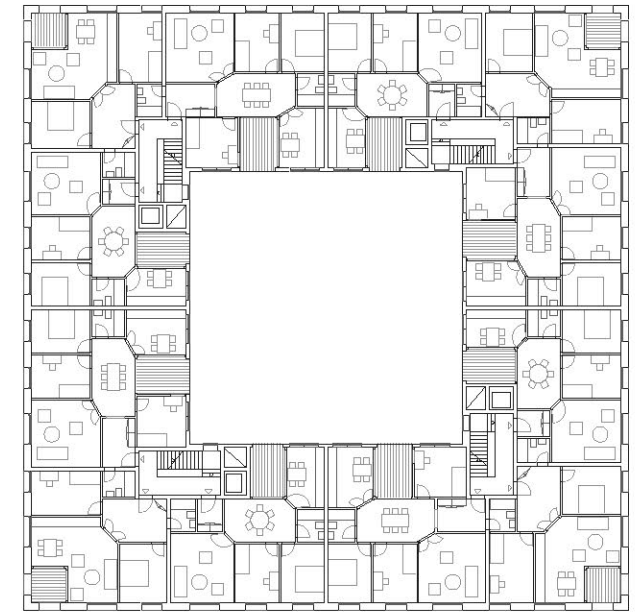
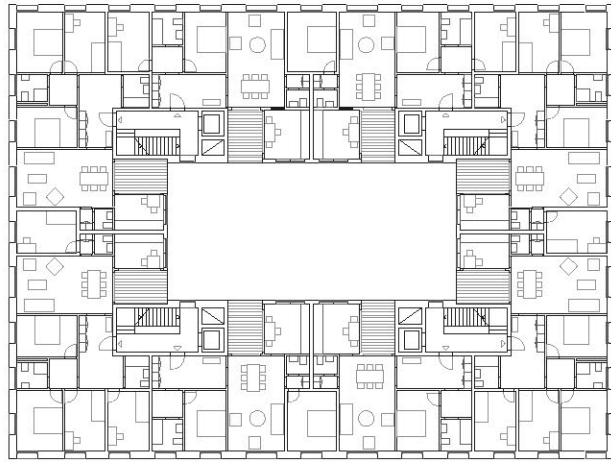




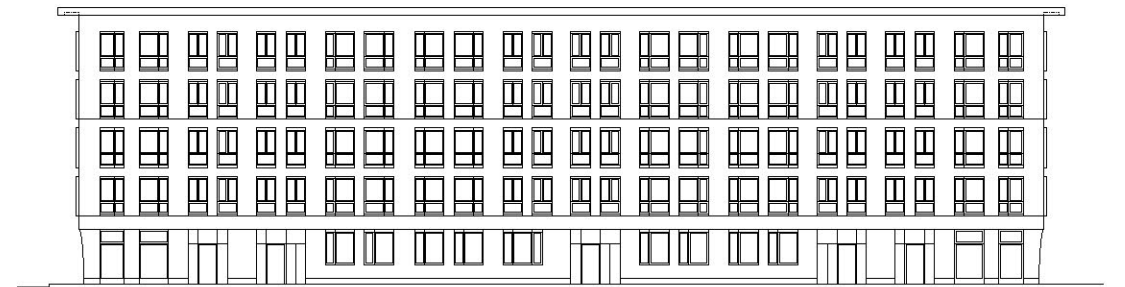
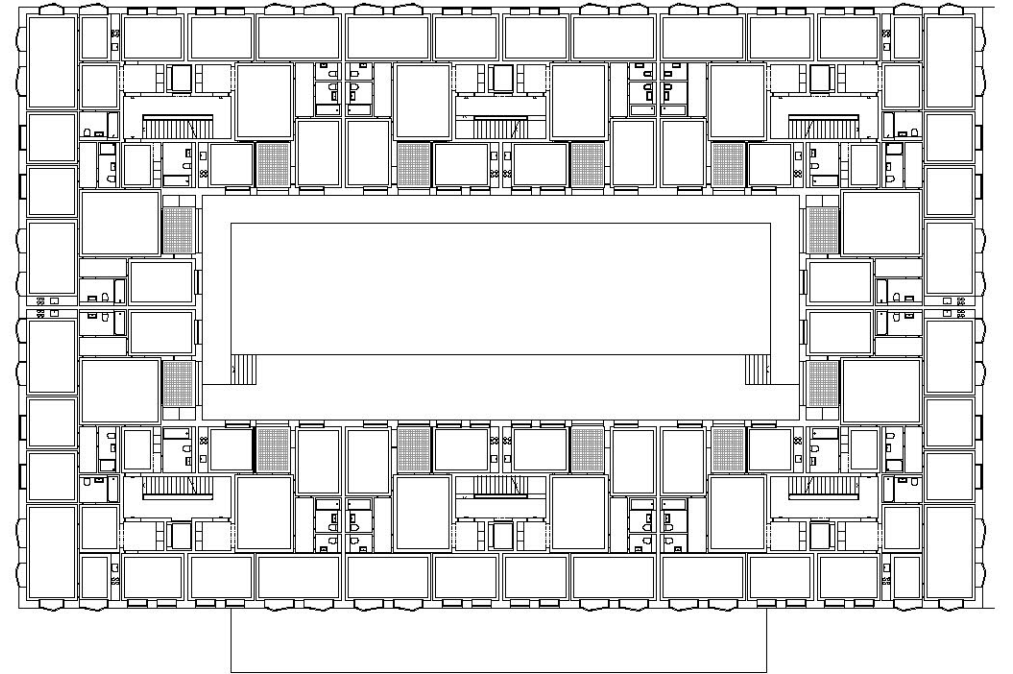
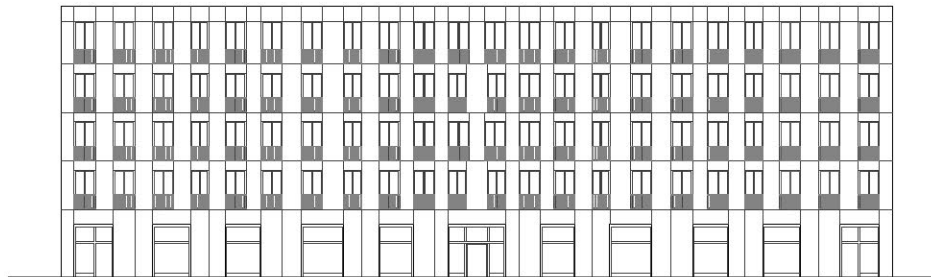
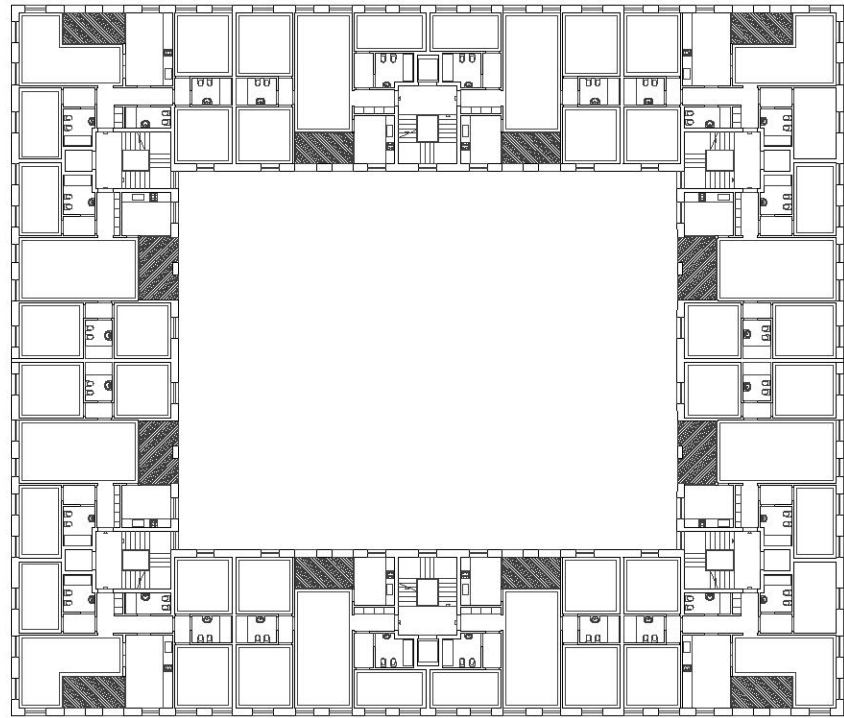


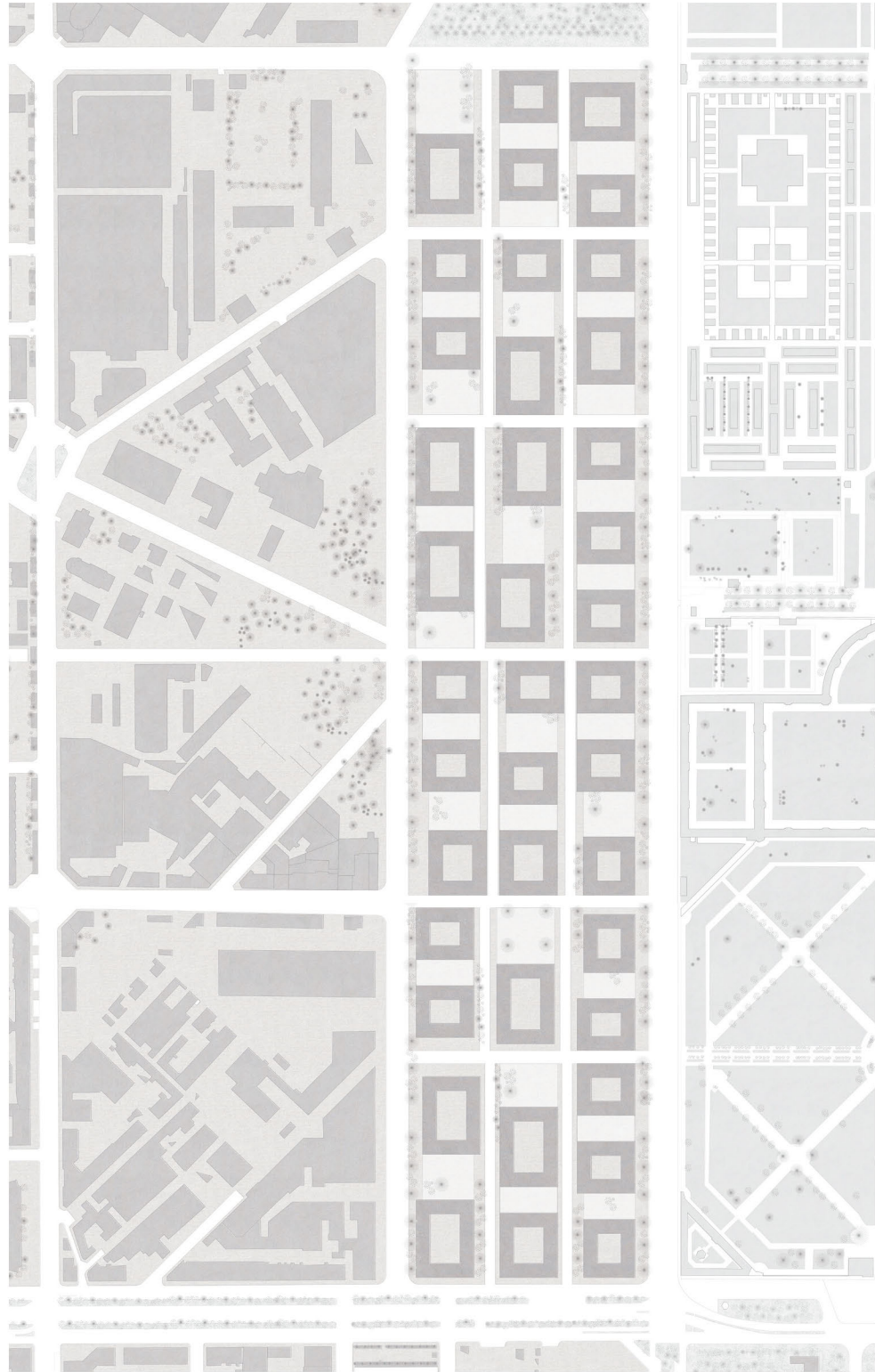


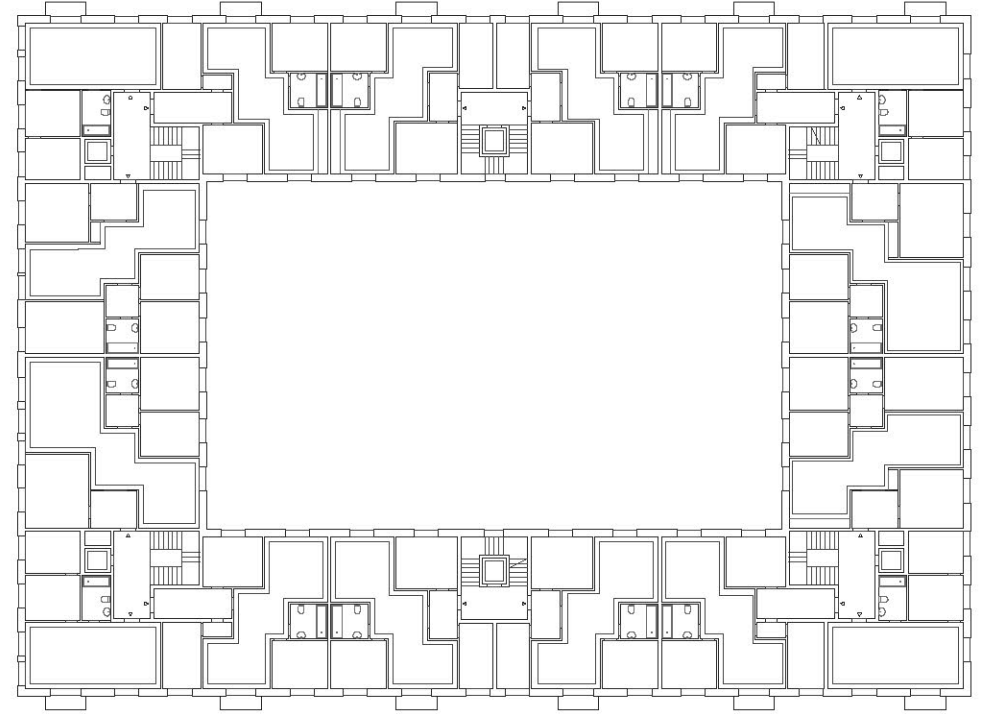
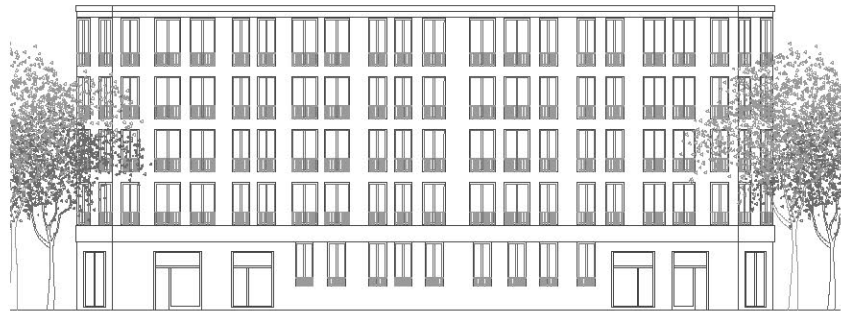
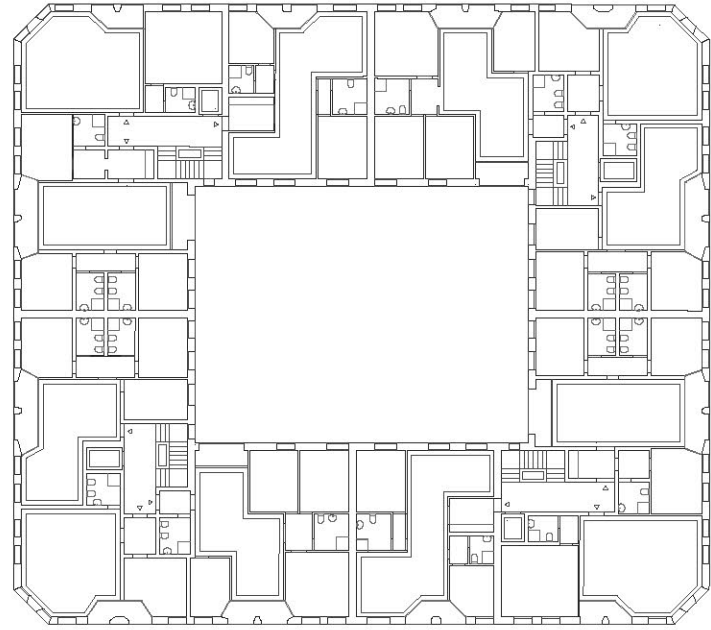




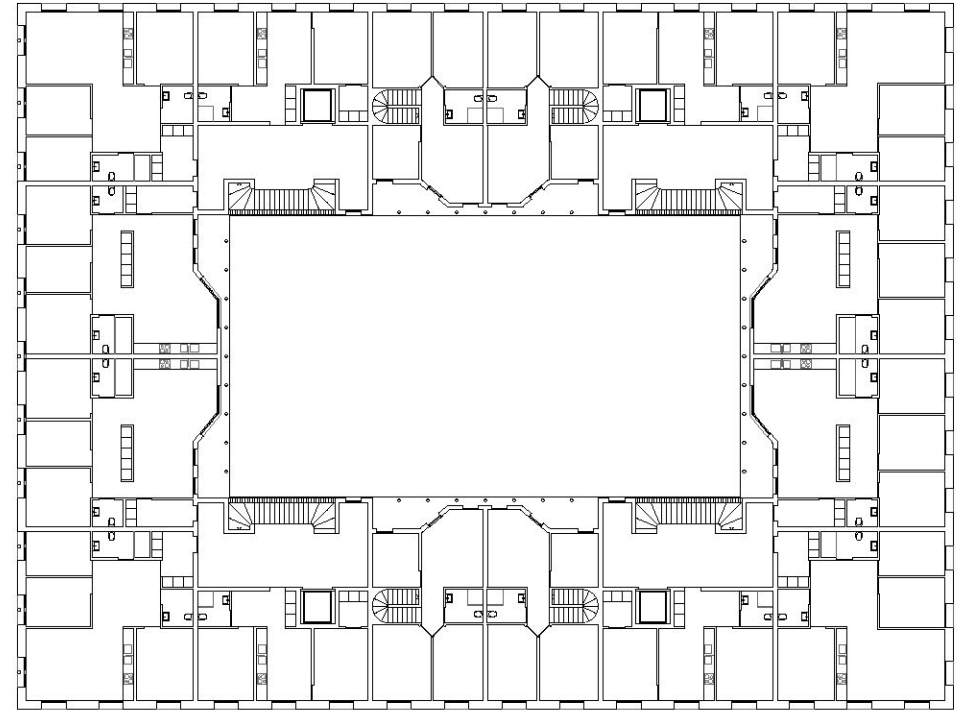
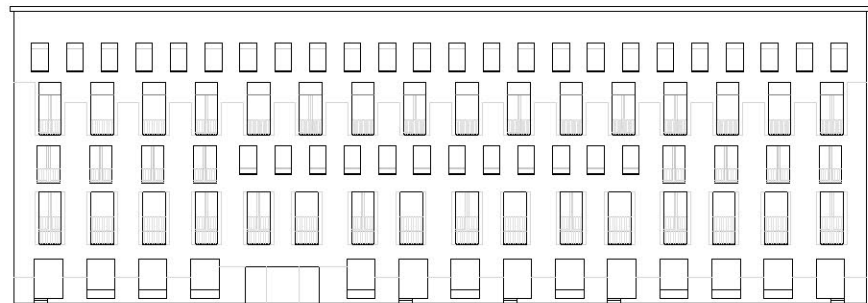
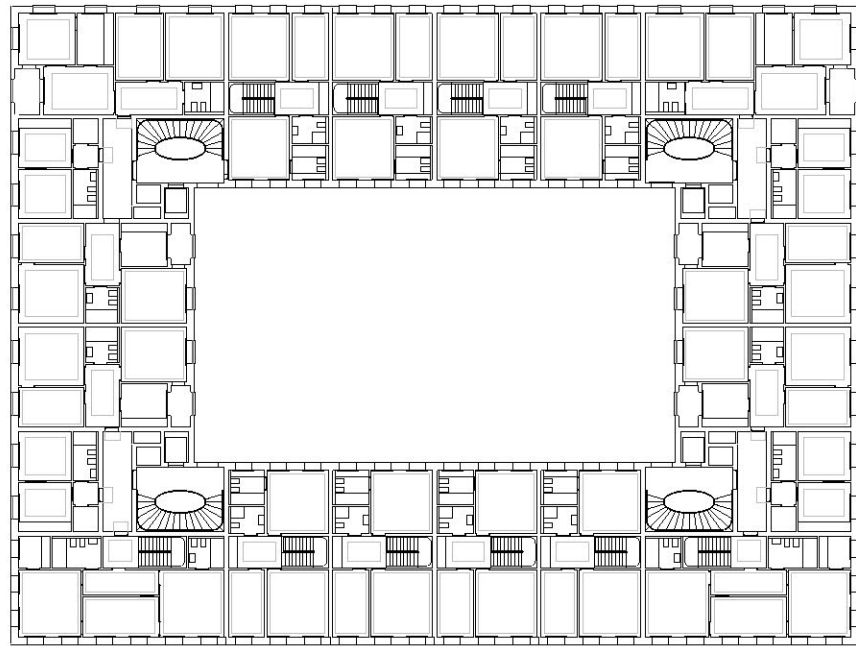




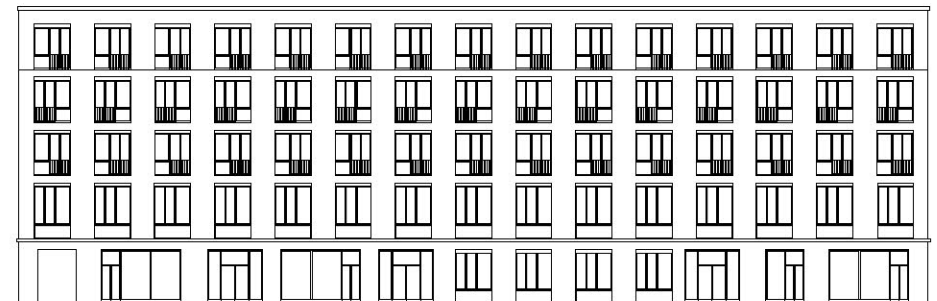
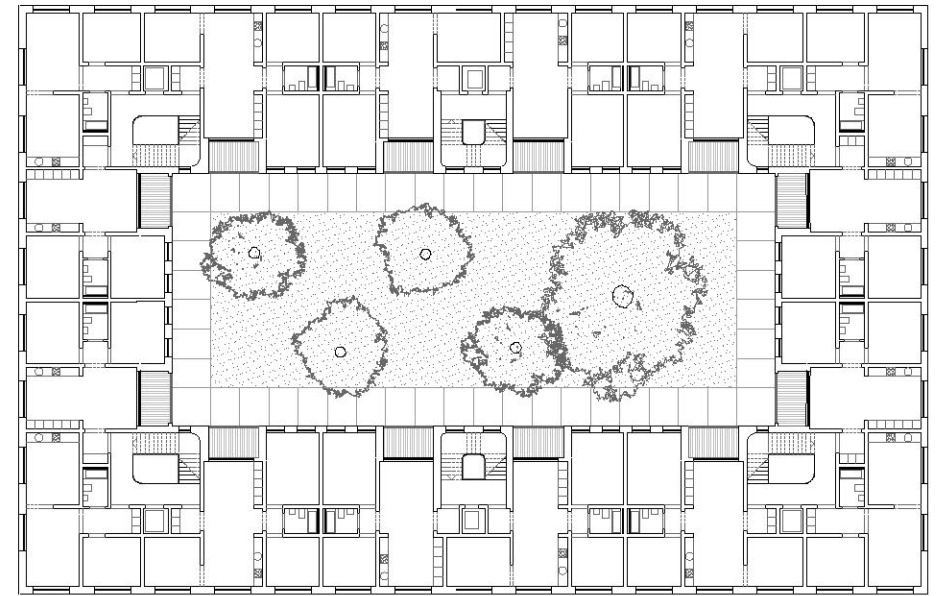
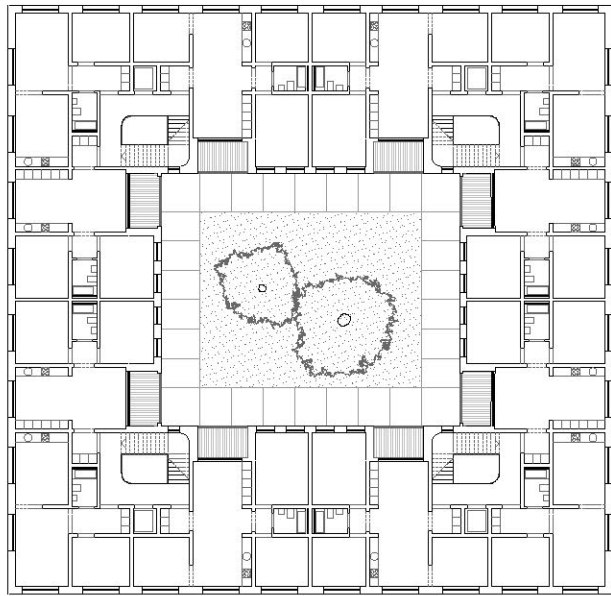


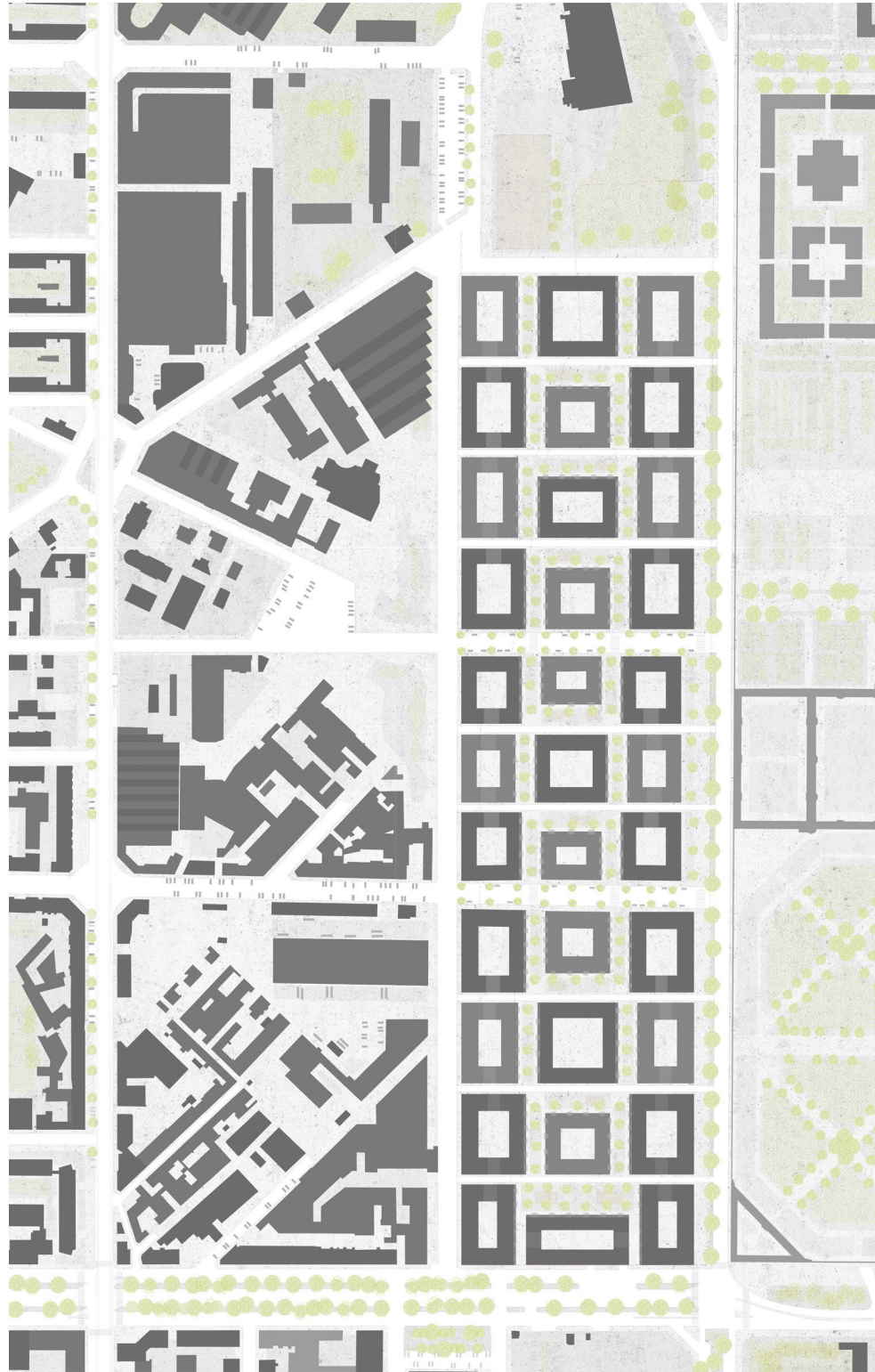


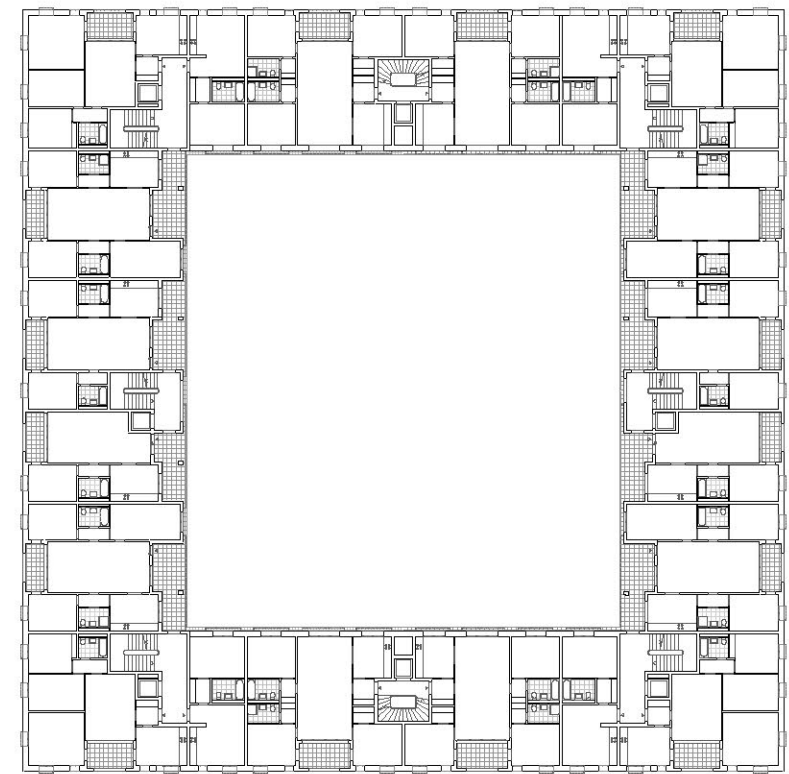
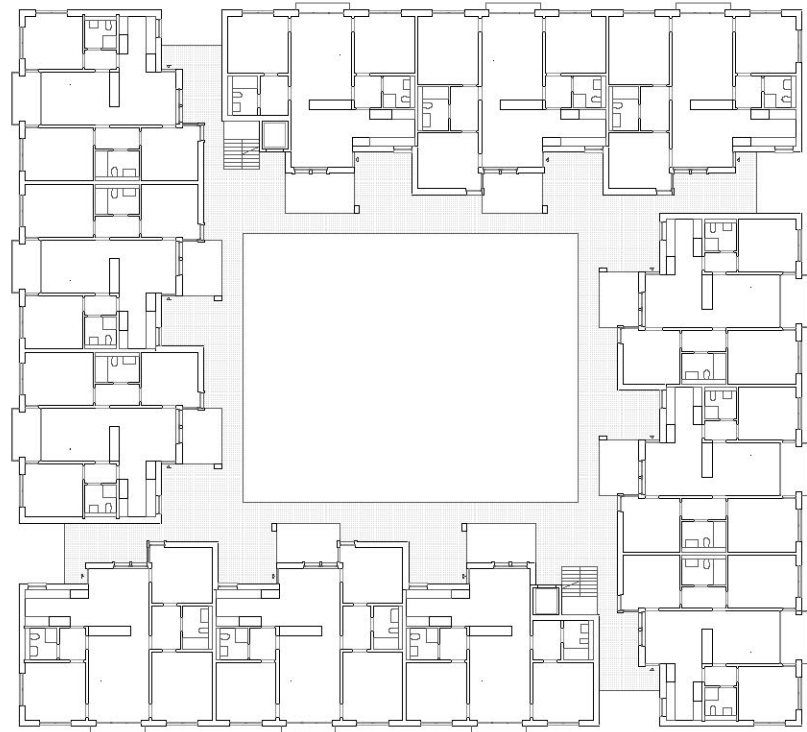




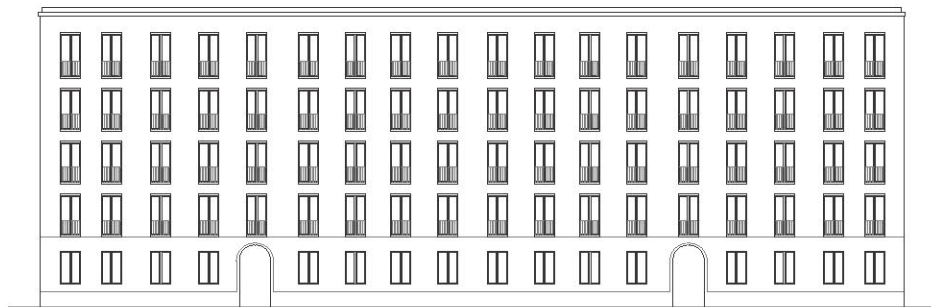
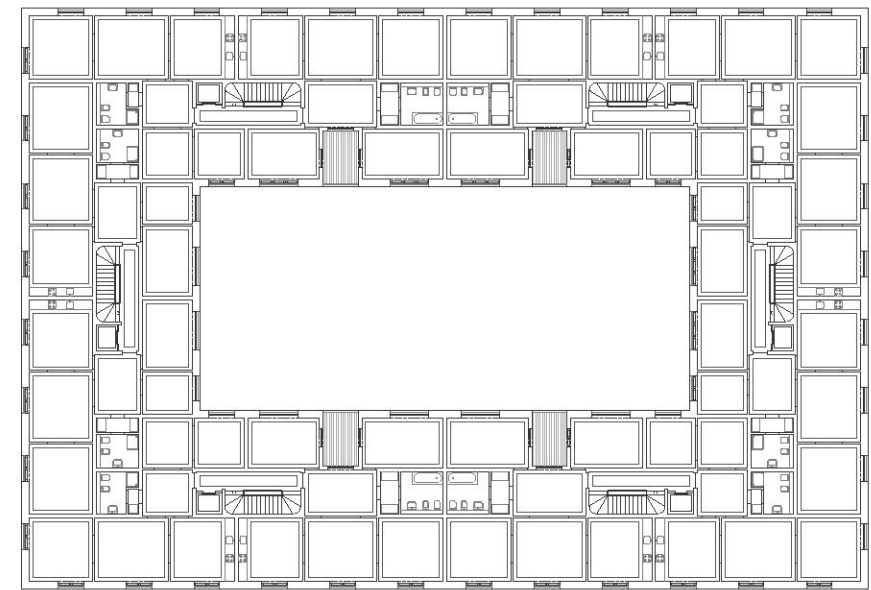
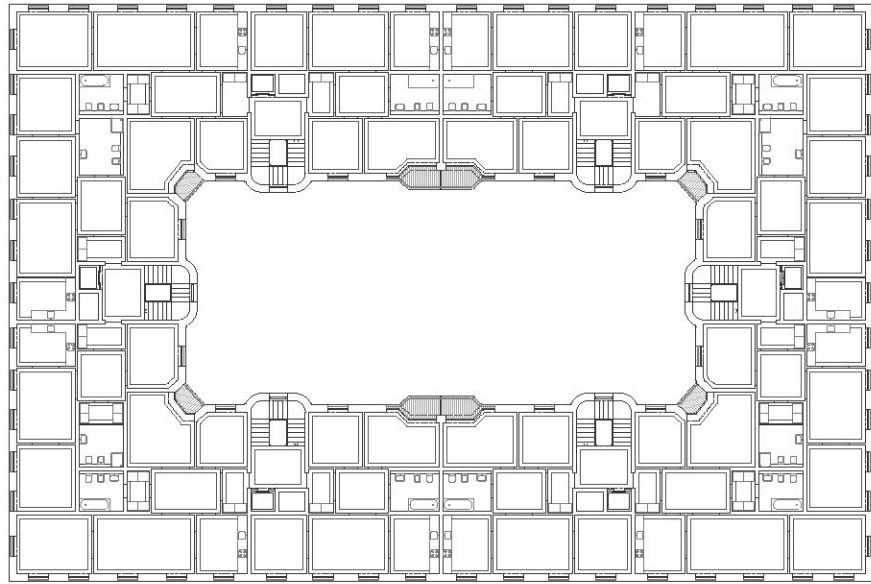


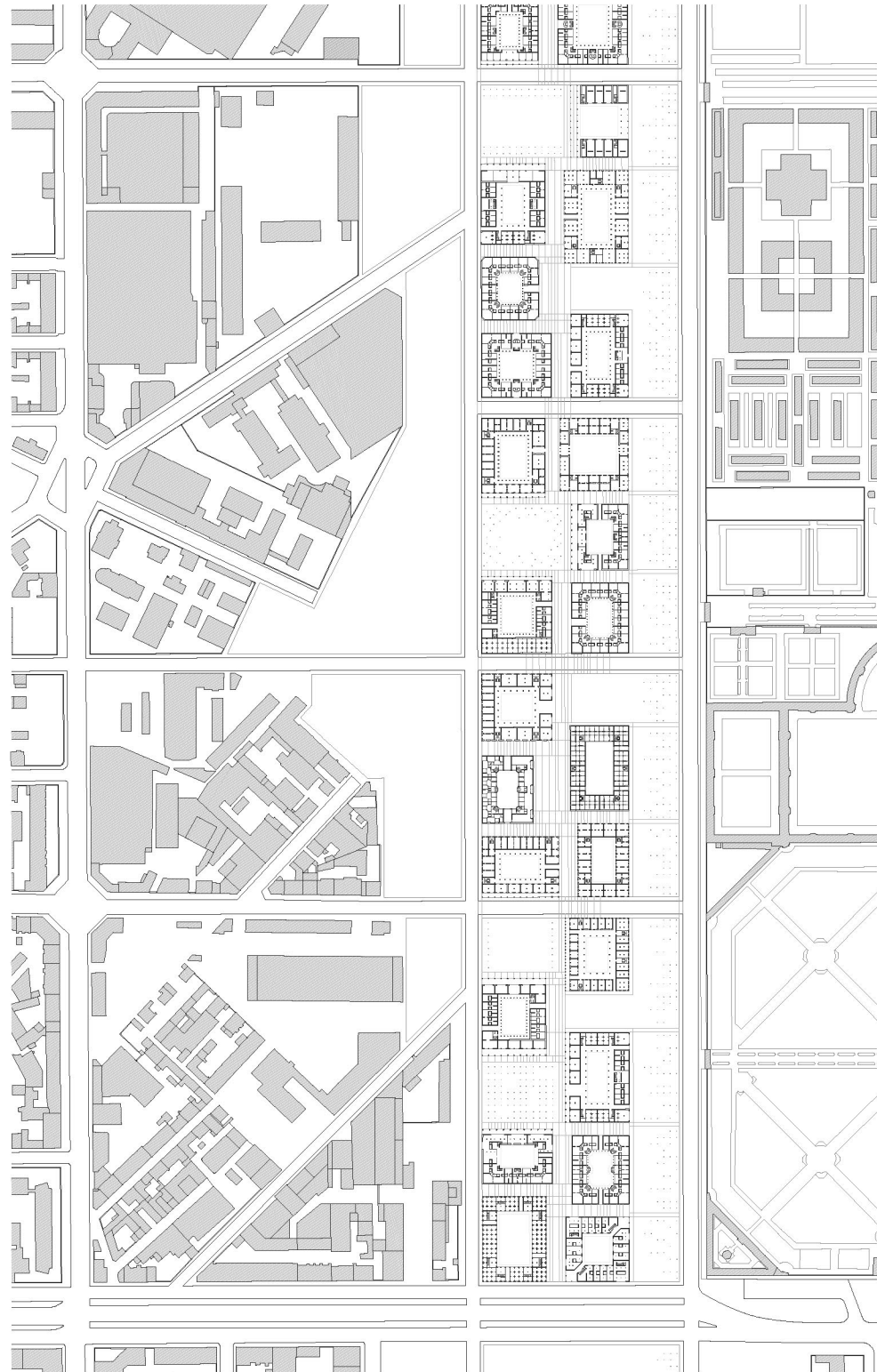


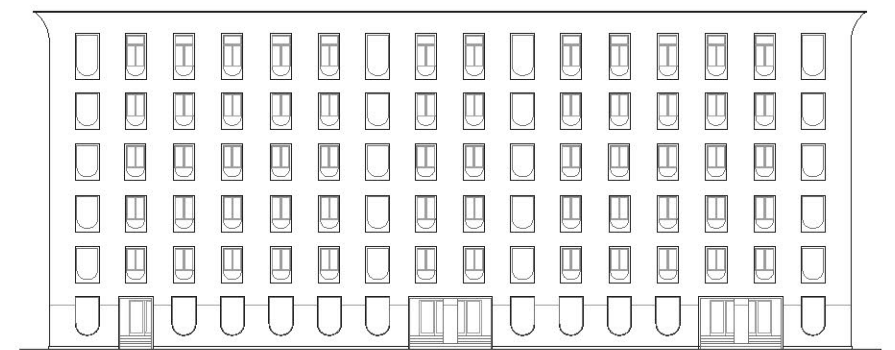
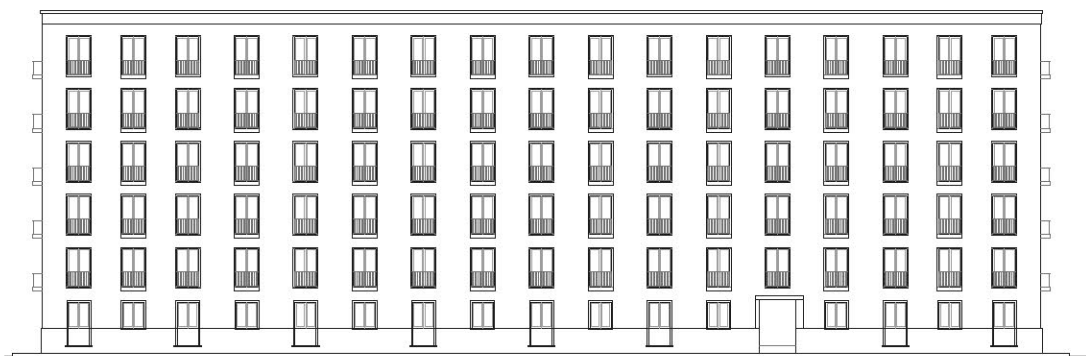
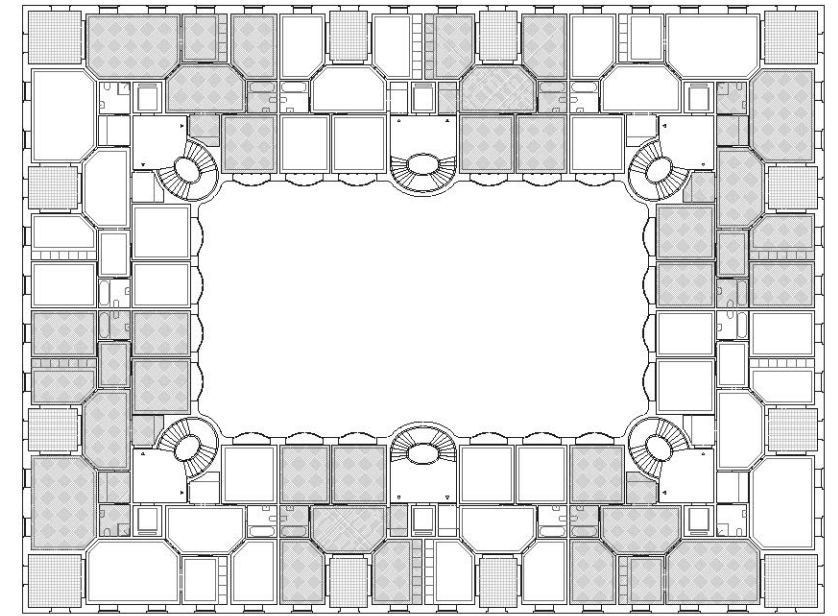
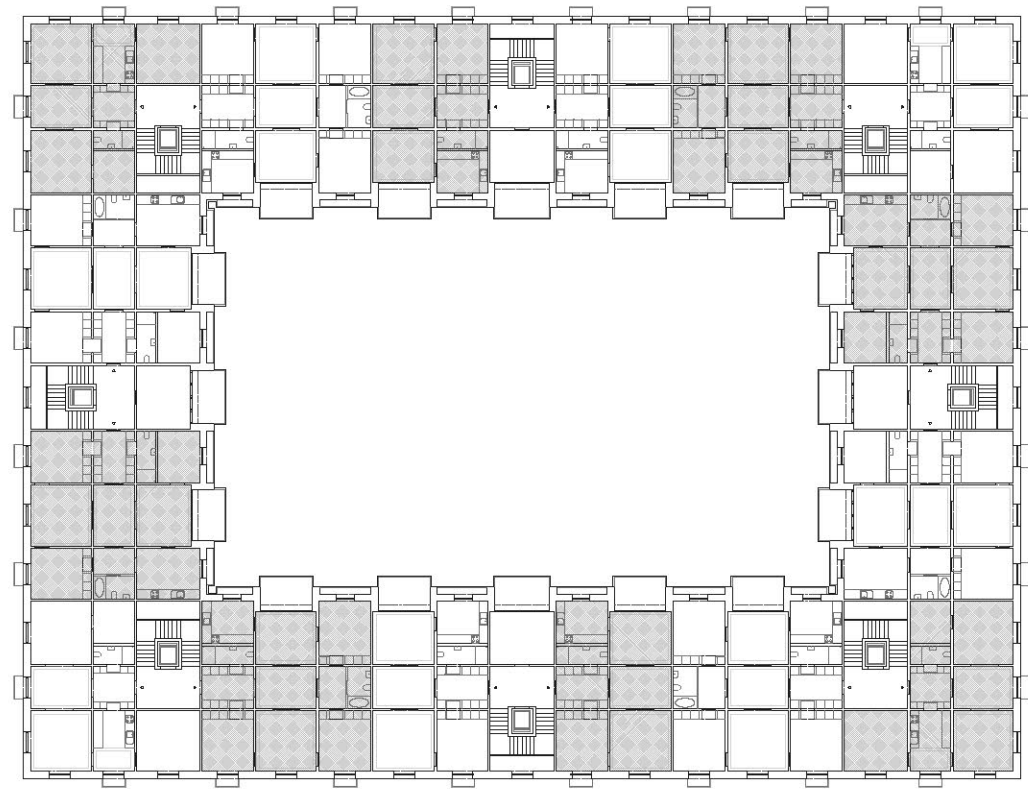






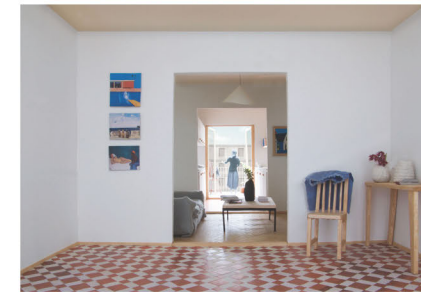








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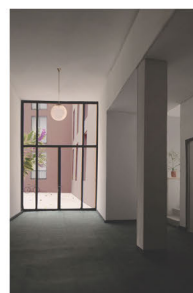
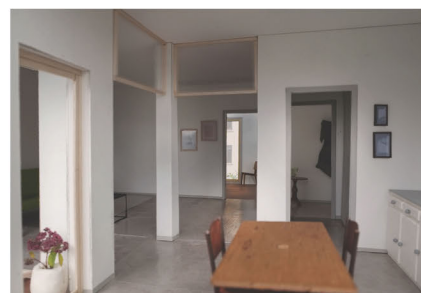
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