

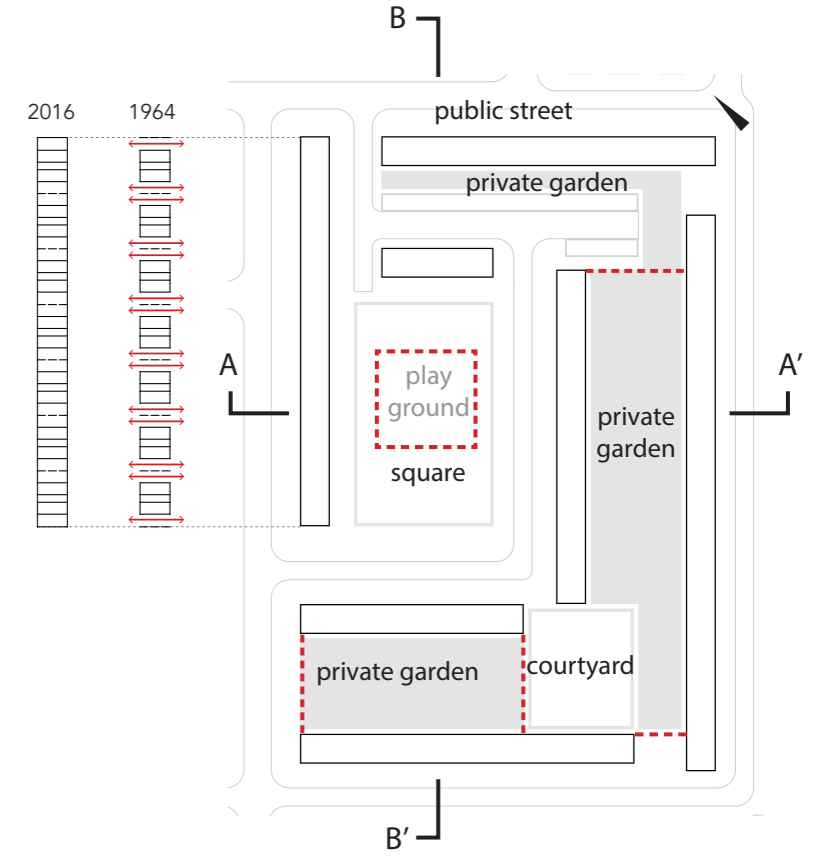


Intervam Housing

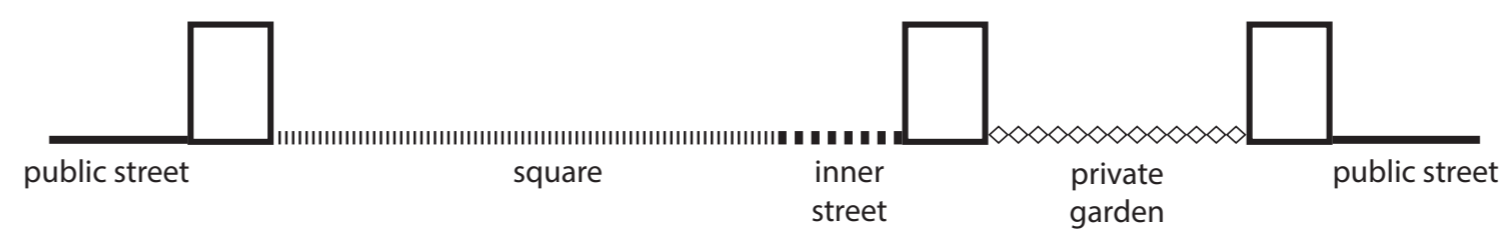
Research Questions

1. Modern principle of Light, Air and Space

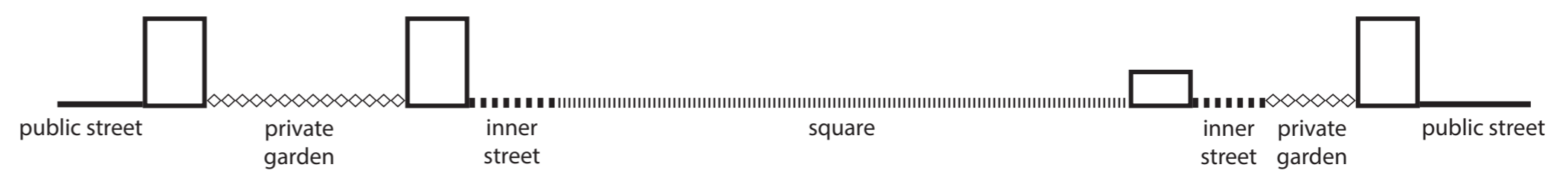
Intervam housing estate was built under the modern principle of Light, Air and Space. The idea set guidelines to the housing blocks to occupy the best position for favorable solar exposure. The high-density apartments allowed to offer spacious outdoor spaces next to the residential buildings. The idea was intended to give more opportunity to interact with physical environment and social community. However, most of the post-war housing production look differ from what urban planning theory aimed to create. The emphasis of tall and high-density housings amongst wide, green spaces ended up with the isolation of residents from outdoor space and improper maintenance of communal spaces. Intervam housings estate was regarded as a failure of modern architectural ideals that should be either demolished or replaced by new buildings. I believe there are many qualities from the history and building system that are still relevant to our society. Those mass housing estates provided spatial and hygienic standards to inhabitants in those days, and now they occupy the substantial part of the built environment at the outskirts Utrecht. They also still provide a shelter for all kinds of households. To create a sustainable neighborhood, the awareness of community which requires more organic approach should be considered in response to the contemporary times.



section A-A'

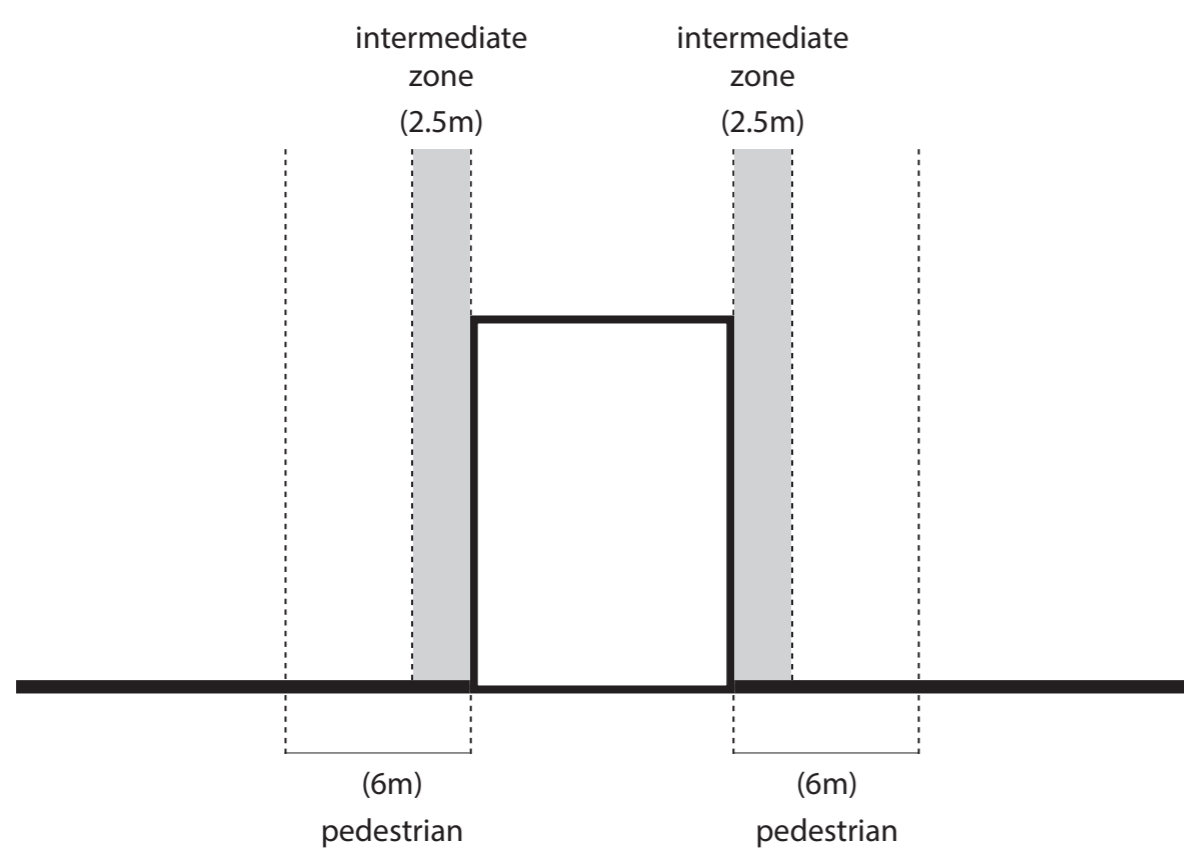
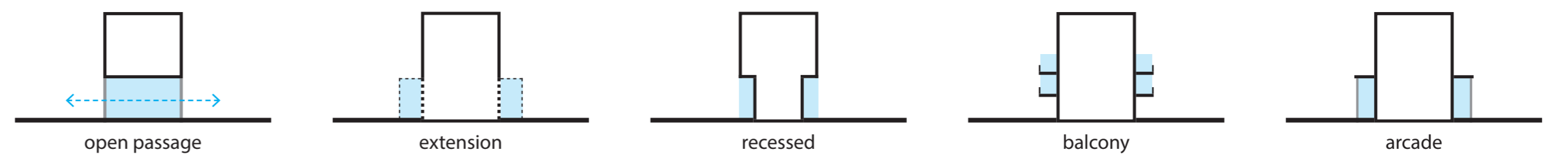


section B-B'



Redefine the boundary

The housing blocks are standing in-between the different outdoor spaces. The boundary between public and private space was not clearly defined so, those outdoor spaces were more open to public in the past. Now, they are closed by the fence to secure safety and privacy and thus most of the time those spaces remained empty and useless. I focused on the intermediate zone between public and private space and try to play with various options that would provide positive relationship with each other.



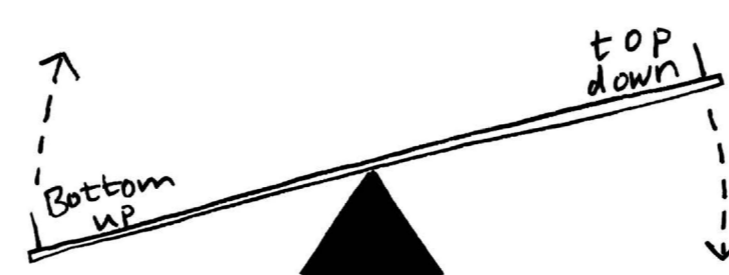
2. Urban theory "Wijkgedachte"



During the war architects and urban planners in the Netherlands had made a planning of residential areas based on the neighborhood unit concept called "Wijkgedachte". It was conceived as a physical planning tool for designing what they perceived as an ideal city in response to the dislocation of the past war and the fear of unstructured urban growth from previous years. The idea was to construct cities made up of neighbourhood units, which could function as close-knit communities. Residents would be able to find what they needed close to home. The neighborhood also included various types of housing related to different stages of life and an individual's increasing range as he or she grew up.

The "Wijkgedachte" was seen as the panacea against the negative social effects of industrialized city. It should have enhanced the feeling of identification for incomers to support their spatial integration, foster social cohesion and prevent social pathology that represented as an alienation and civic indifference. However, the unintended consequences of modern urban planning raised the question of its application. Due to the divisive nature of the neighborhood unit, the idea was misused as an instrument for social segregation. Moreover, the top down planning strategy solely emphasized on physical and functional environment as a determinant for wellbeing. To strengthen the inherent value of Wijkgedachte, the residents should actively engage in the design process to meet new requirements for today's lifestyle. The Intervam housing could play a role as a central hub of the neighborhood that encourage the self-contained community for the inhabitants.

The theory emphasized the importance of the neighborhood unit that allows inhabitants to feel safe and comfortable and also available to take care of their own affairs within the neighborhood. The size of the neighborhood is limited by the surrounding green frames, but it also is suitable to maintain identifiable and sustainable community. I believe the idea is still relevant and worth to preserve in today's society.



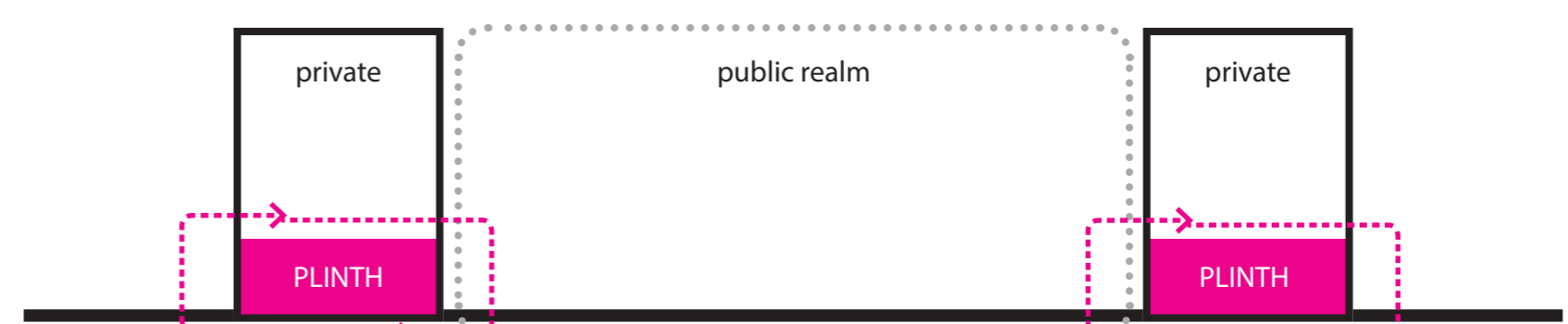
Current use of ground floor

The ground floor of the Intervam building is used for various purposes. Mixed use of ground floor was considered from the beginning to offer basic necessities that residents would need for their living. The flexible use of ground floor strengthen the idea of "Wijkgedachte" by having its own facilities in the neighborhood. Many of the public facilities, however, disappeared from the street due to the the changing trends over time. I found that some spaces on the ground floor is now used for various social activities such as donation shops, bicycle repair store and art studio. There are some spaces which still have public functions, but they do not contribute to create positive relationship with public space.

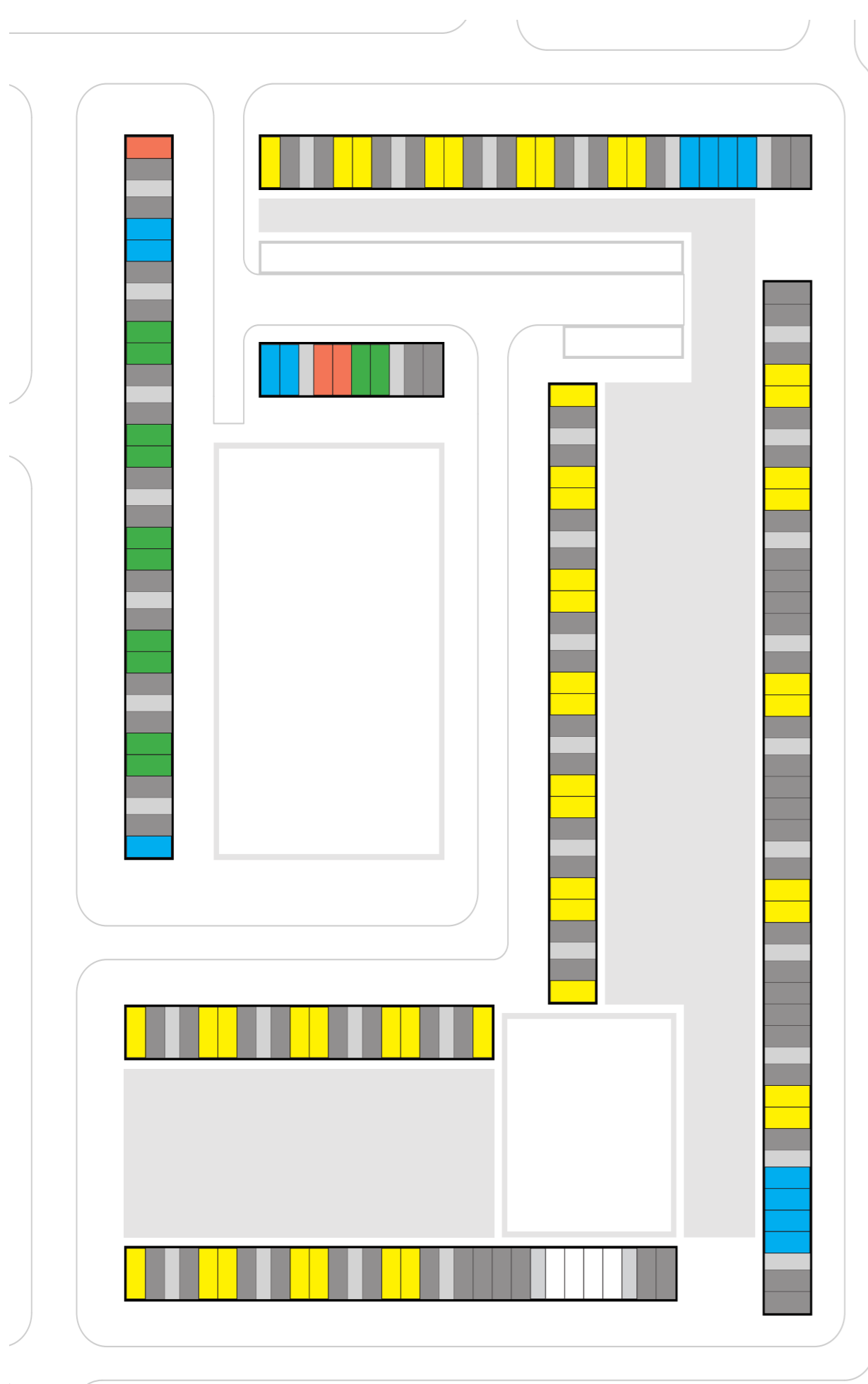


Flexible use of ground floor

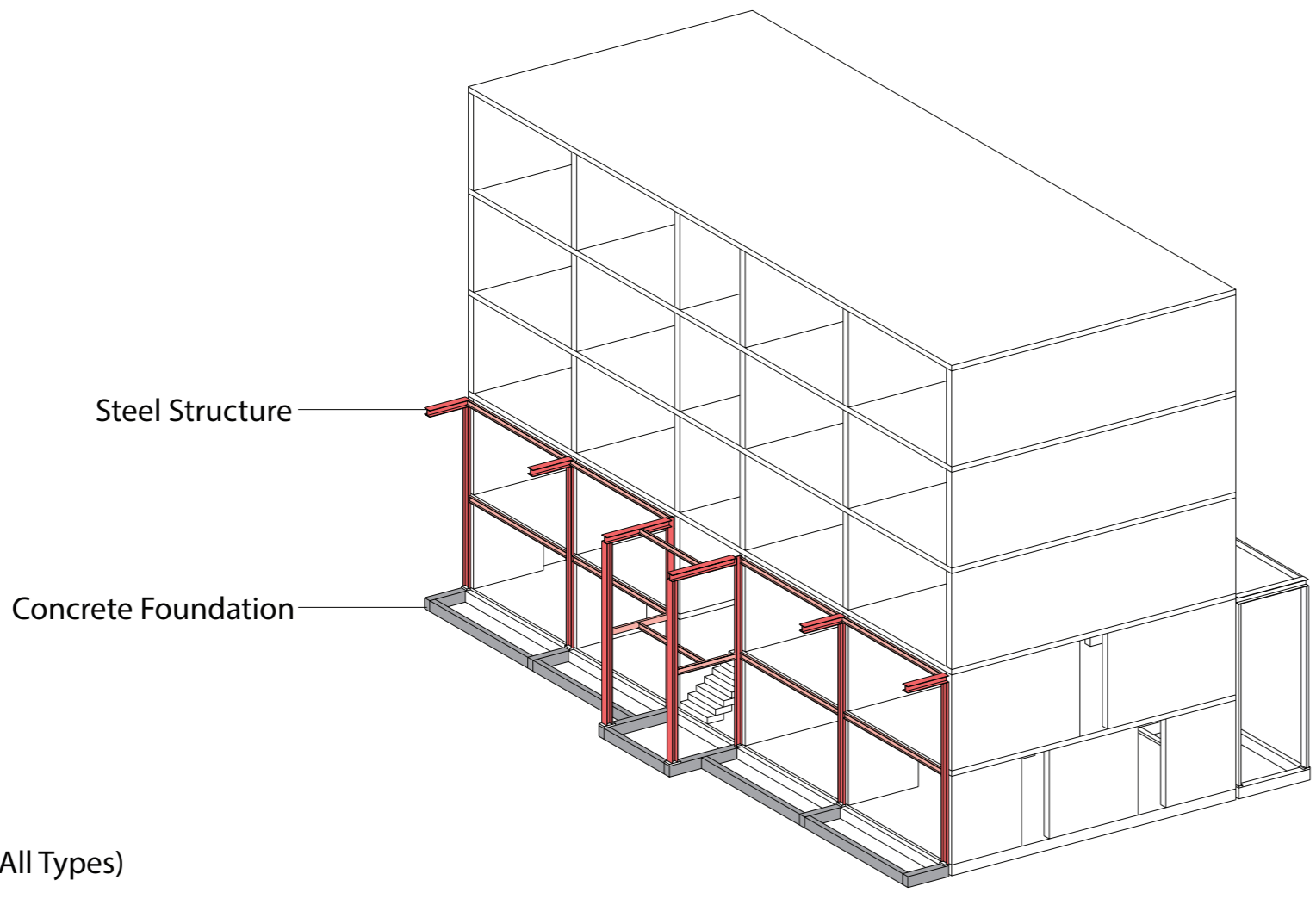
My design proposal aim to redesign the flexible plinth which can respond to the changing needs over time. The plinth can provide various functions and diverse housing types for the neighborhood. The use of space would be discussed with housing corporation and inhabitants of Intervam housing. In this way the residents would feel more related to their community and will put more effort to make a better living environment.



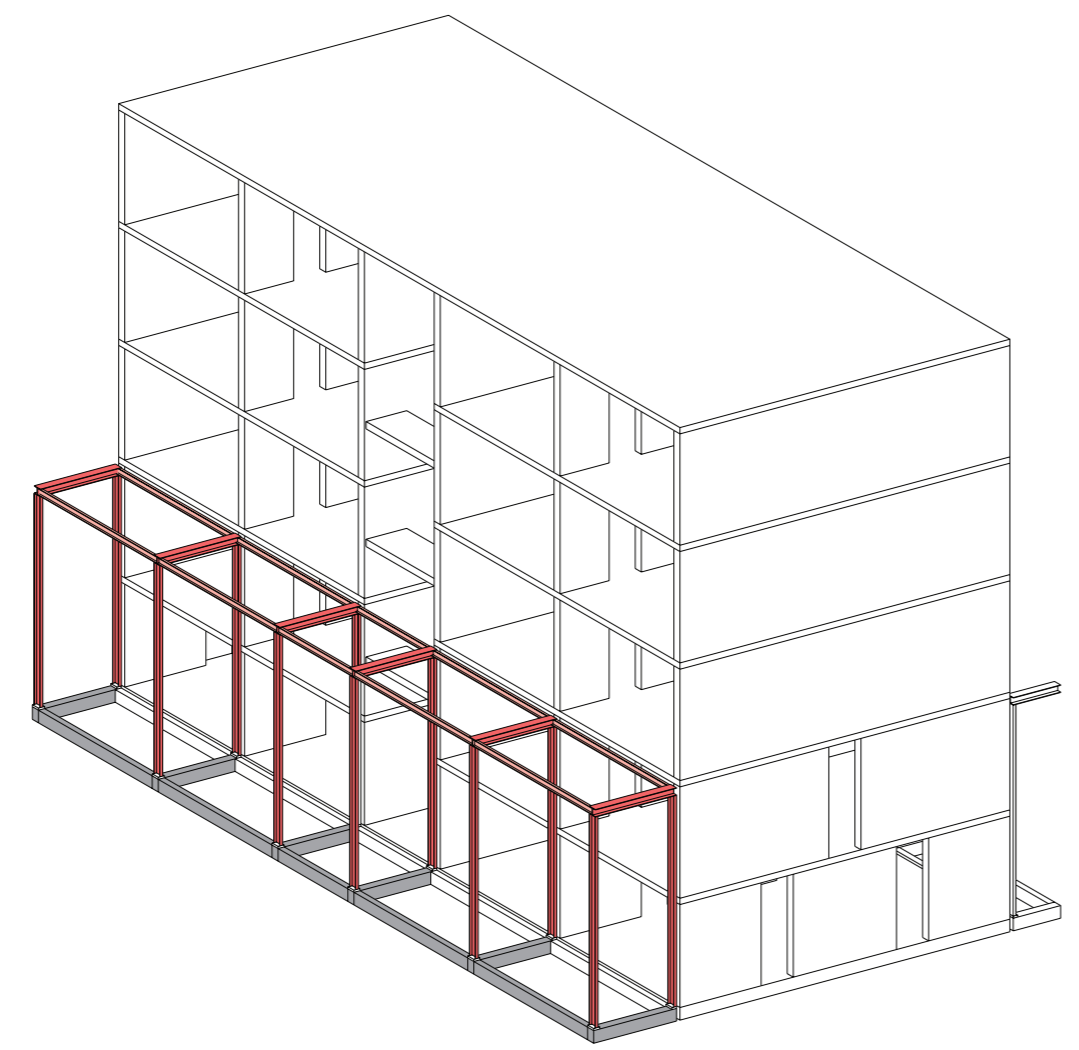
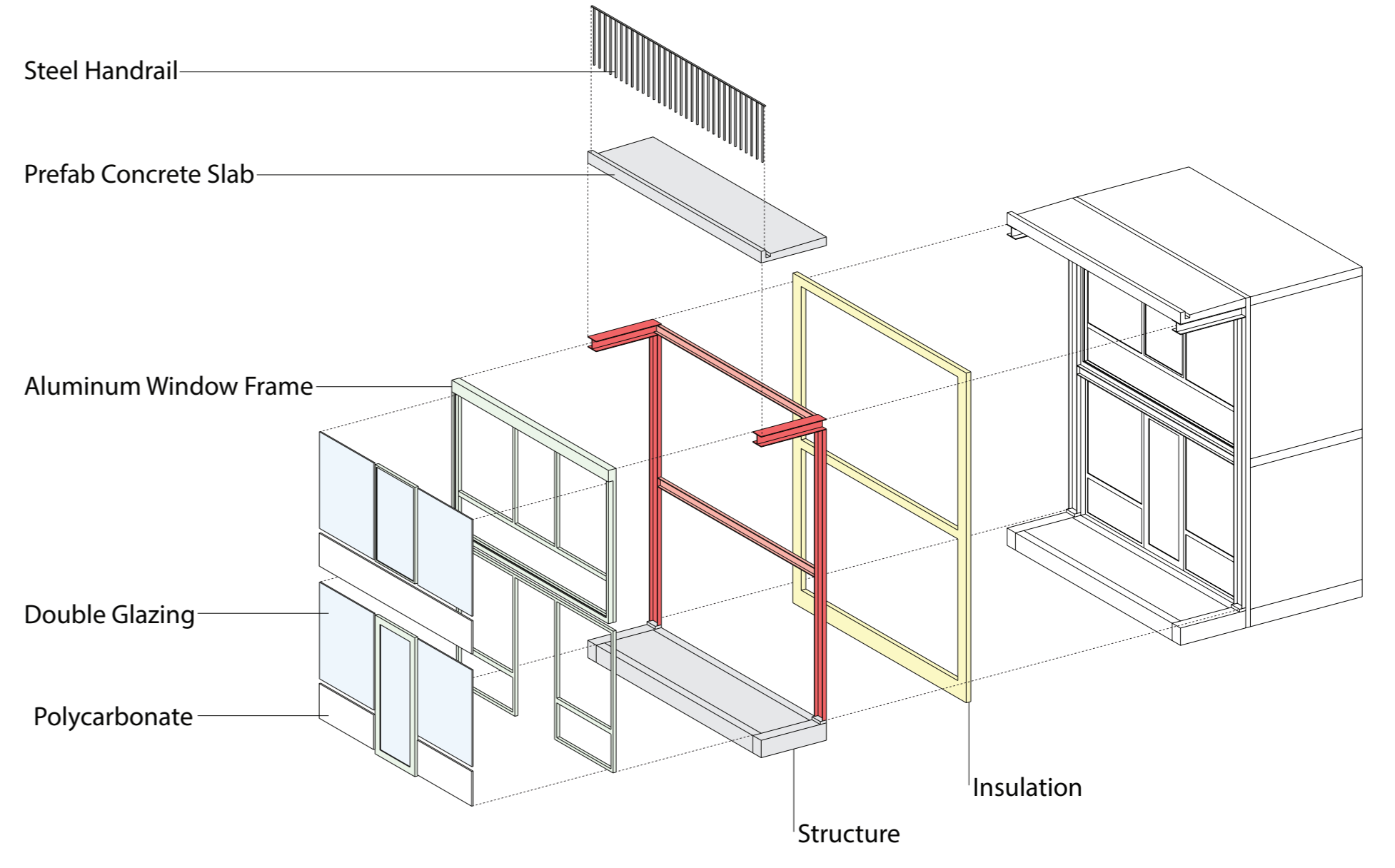
- storage
- commercial
- social program
- office
- residential



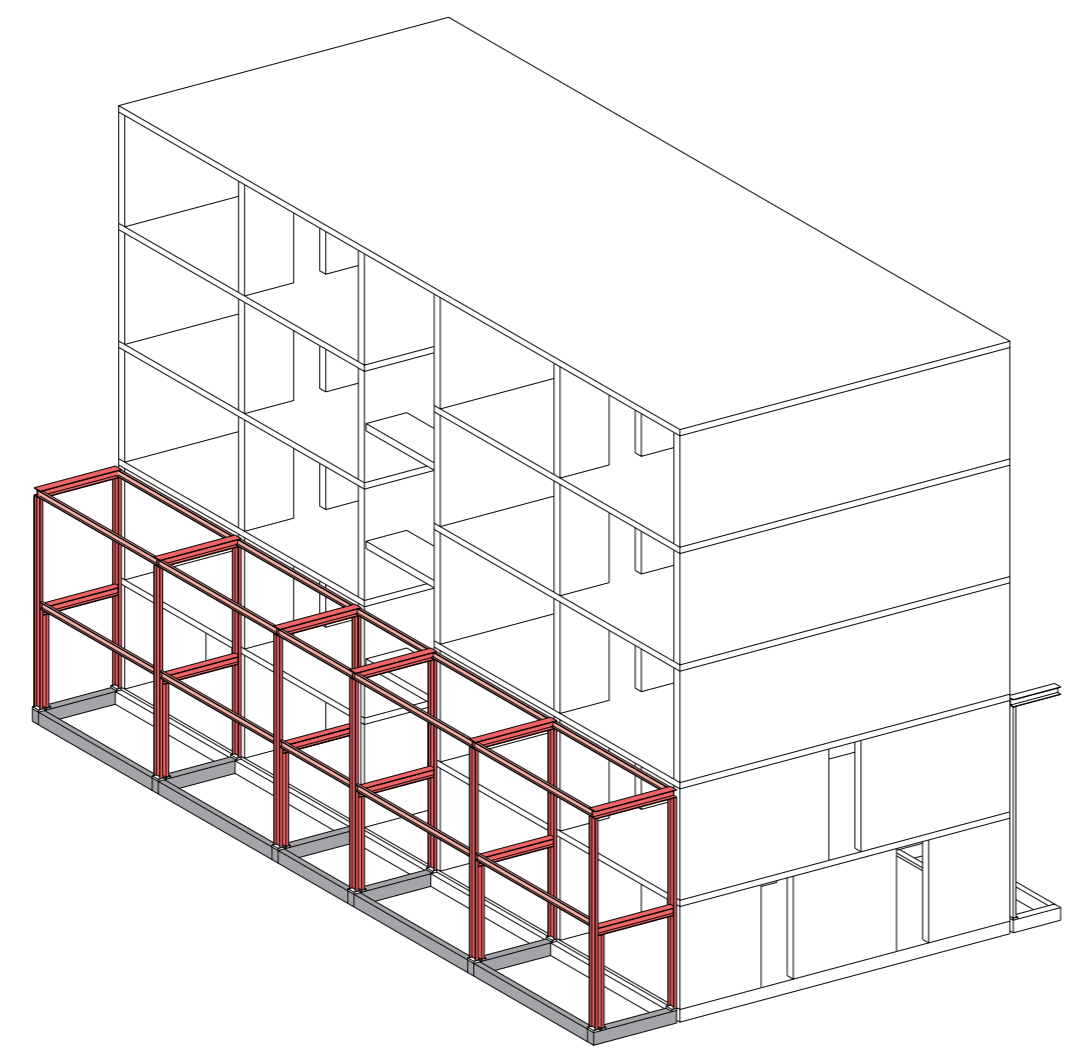
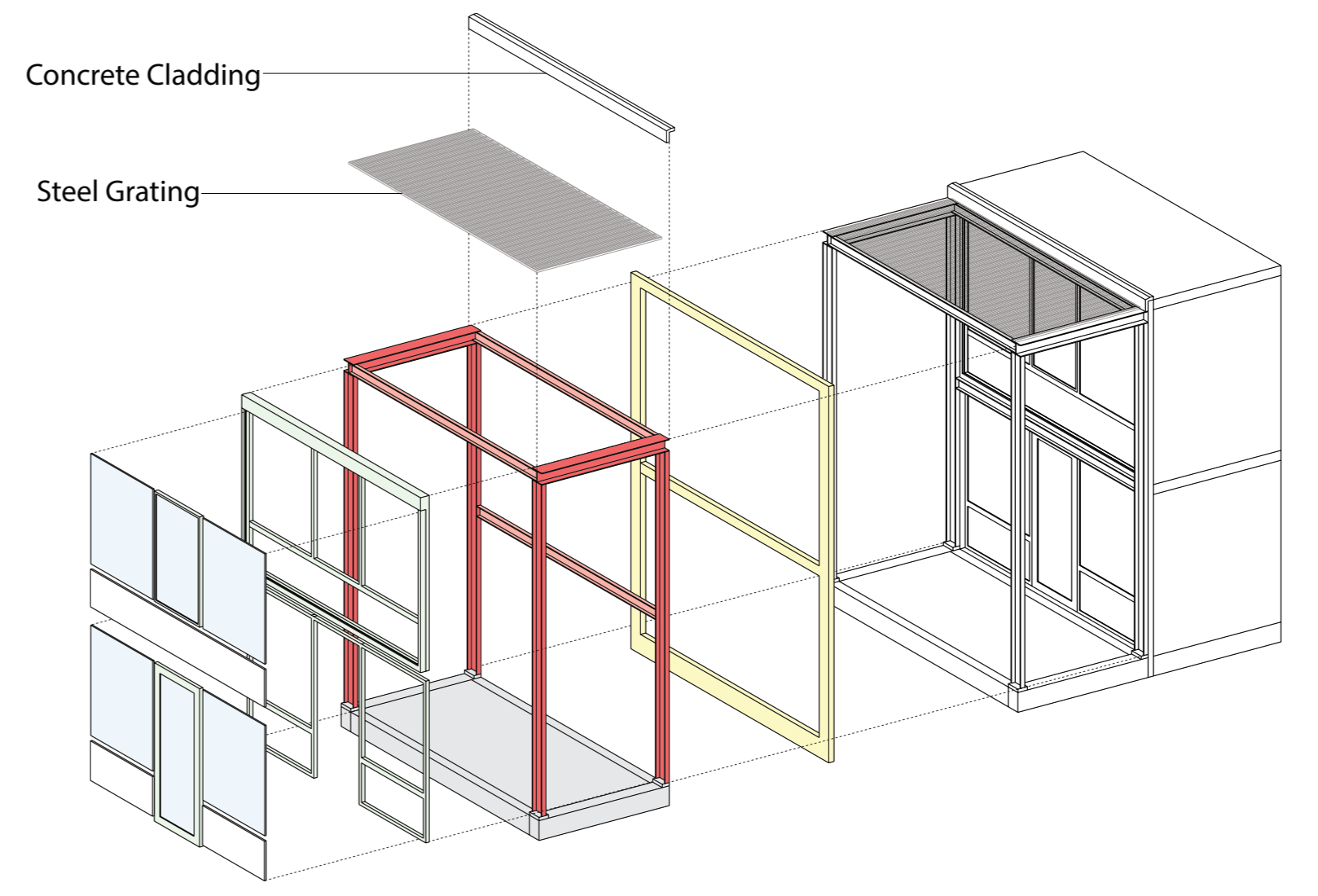
Structural Diagram



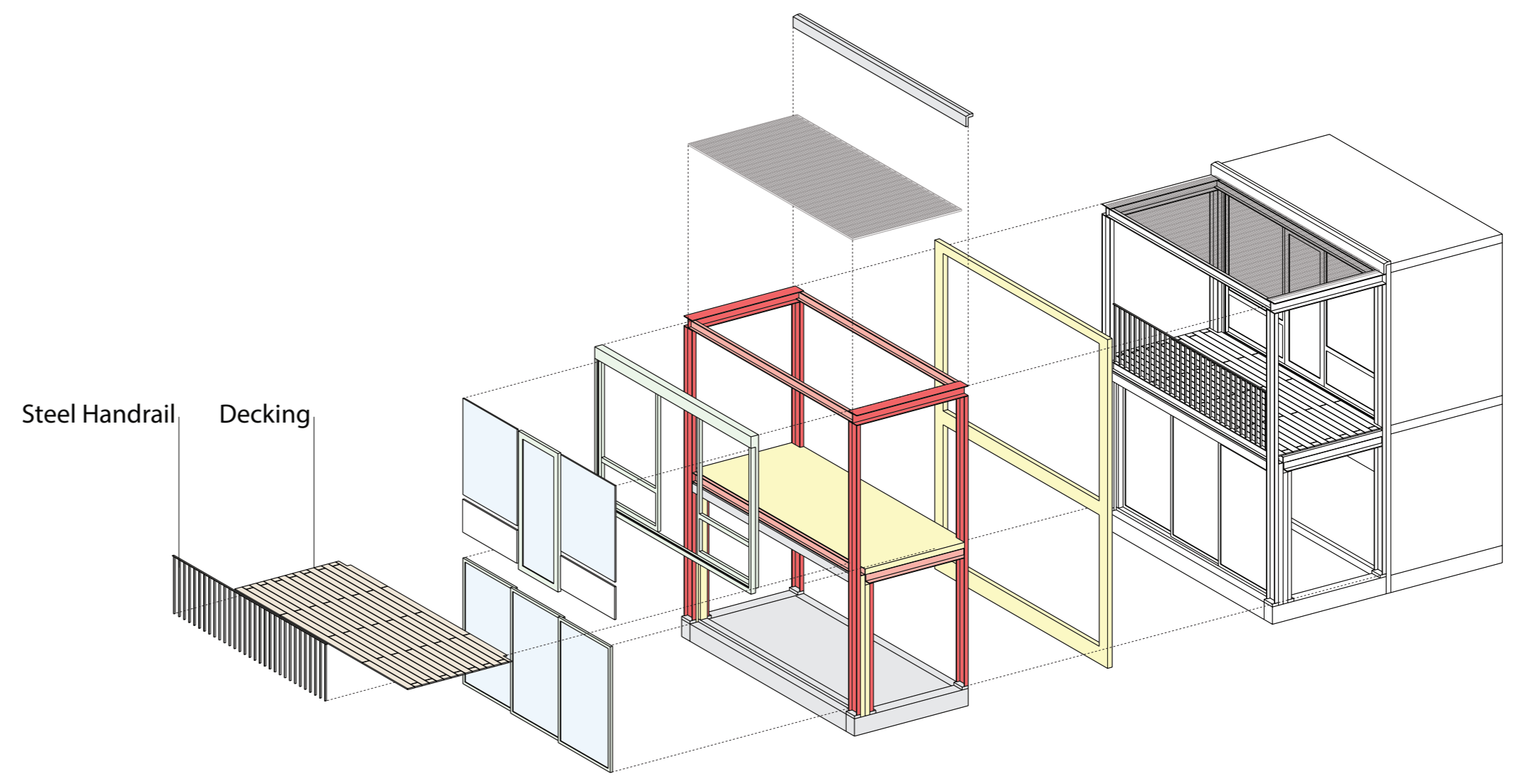
Front Extension (All Types)



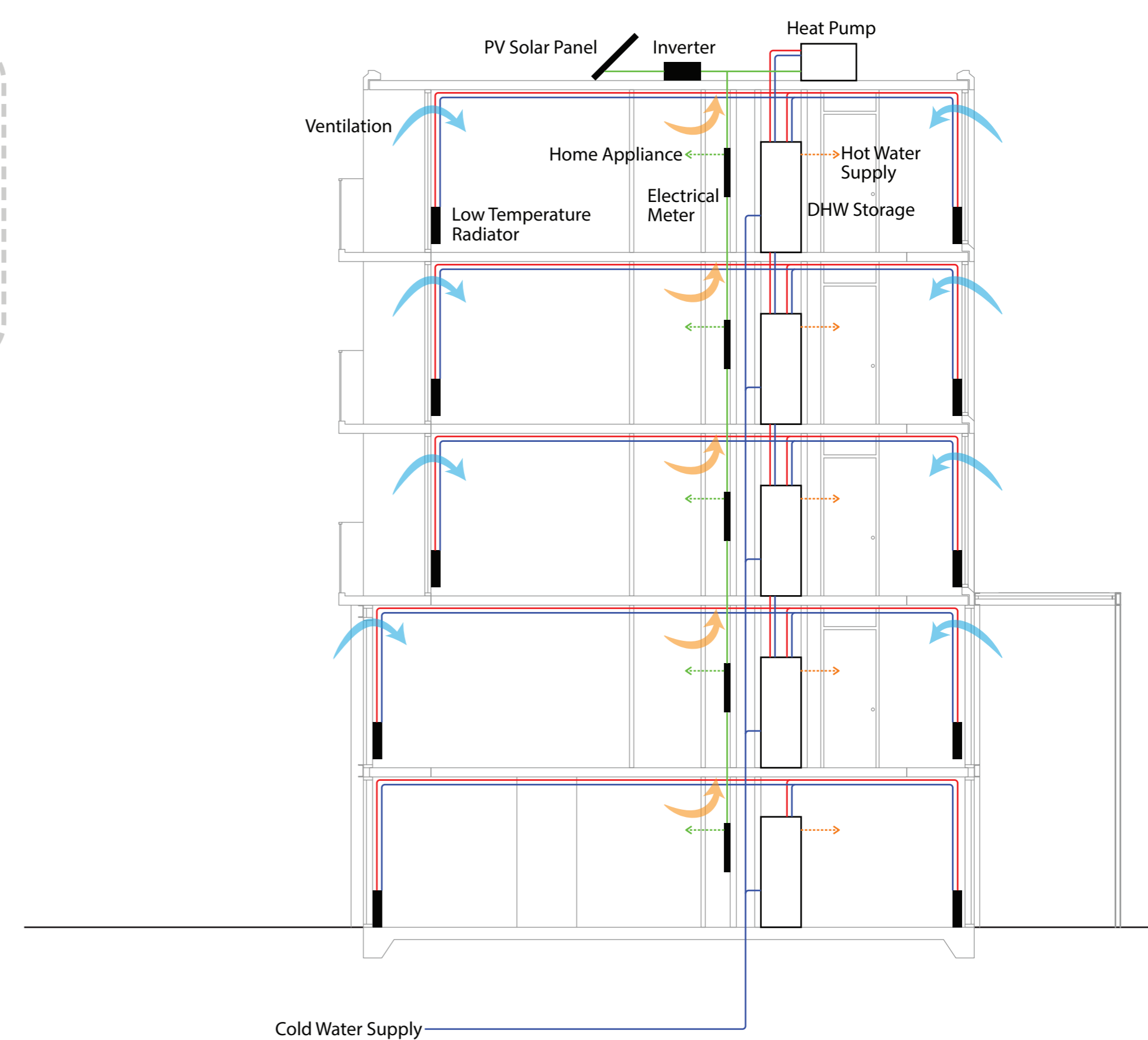
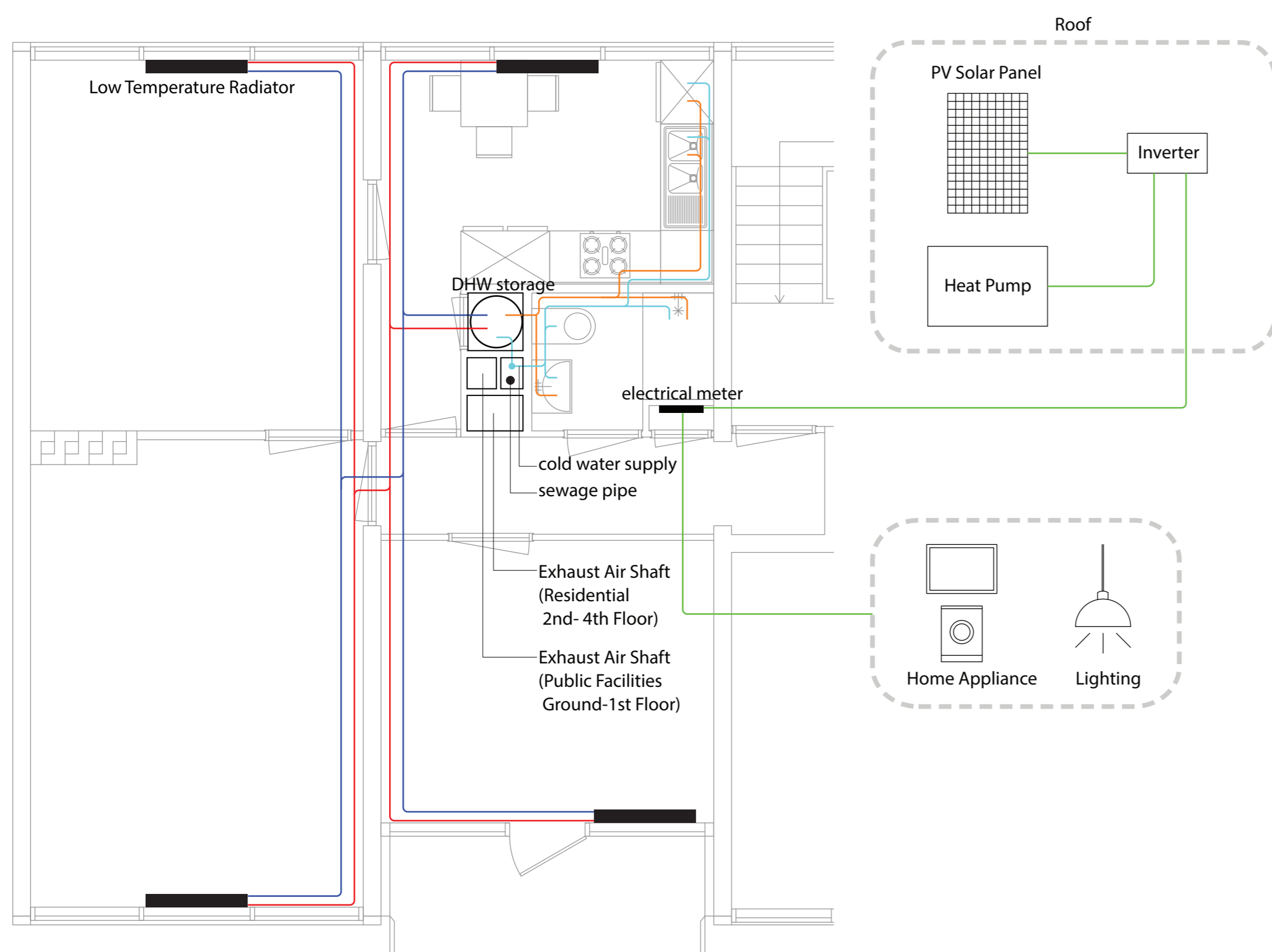
Rear Extension (Type A, B)

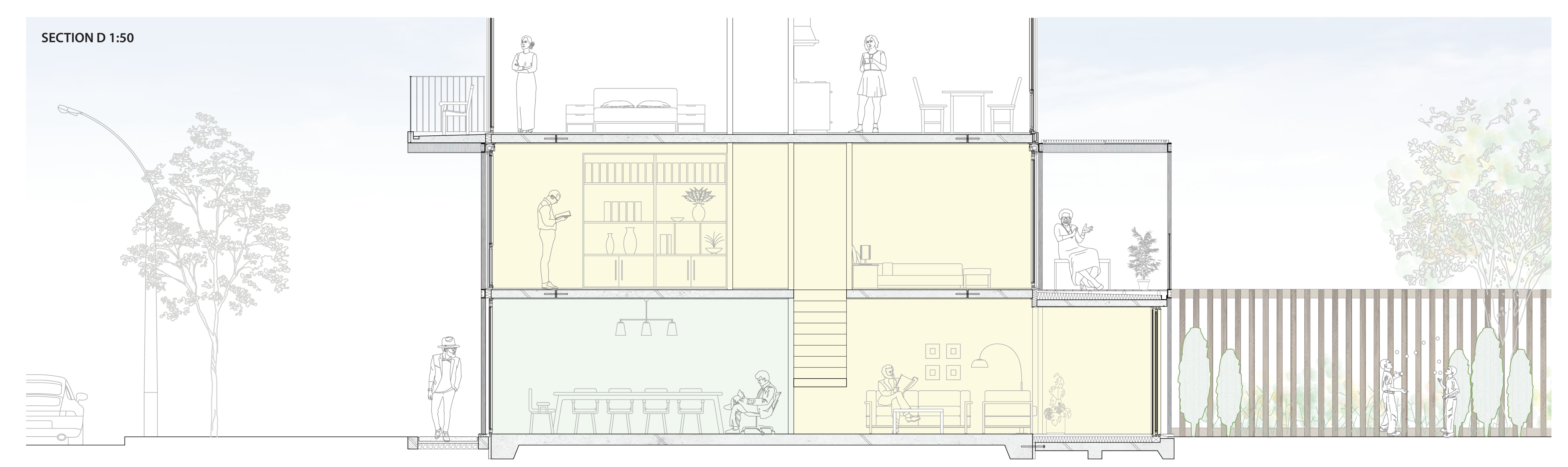
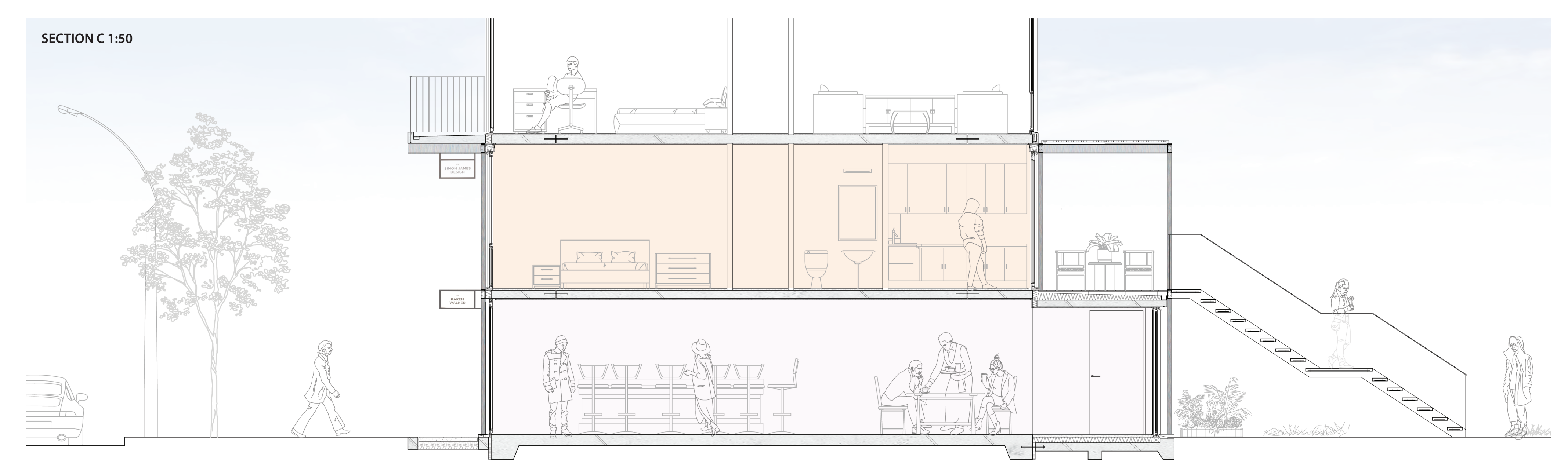
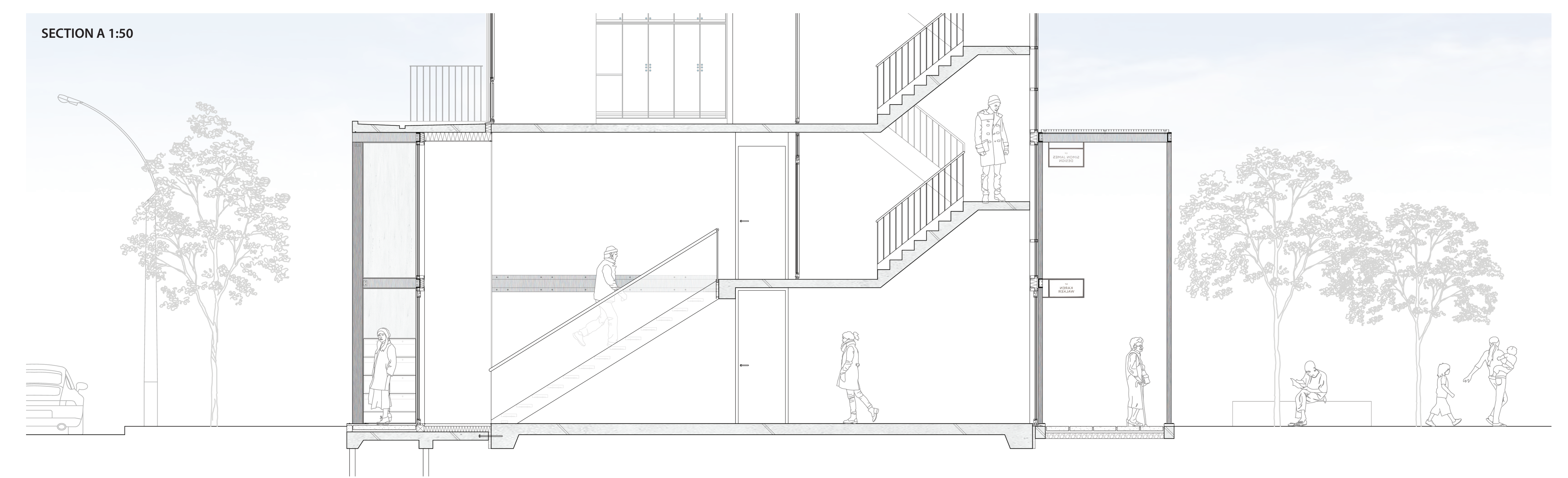
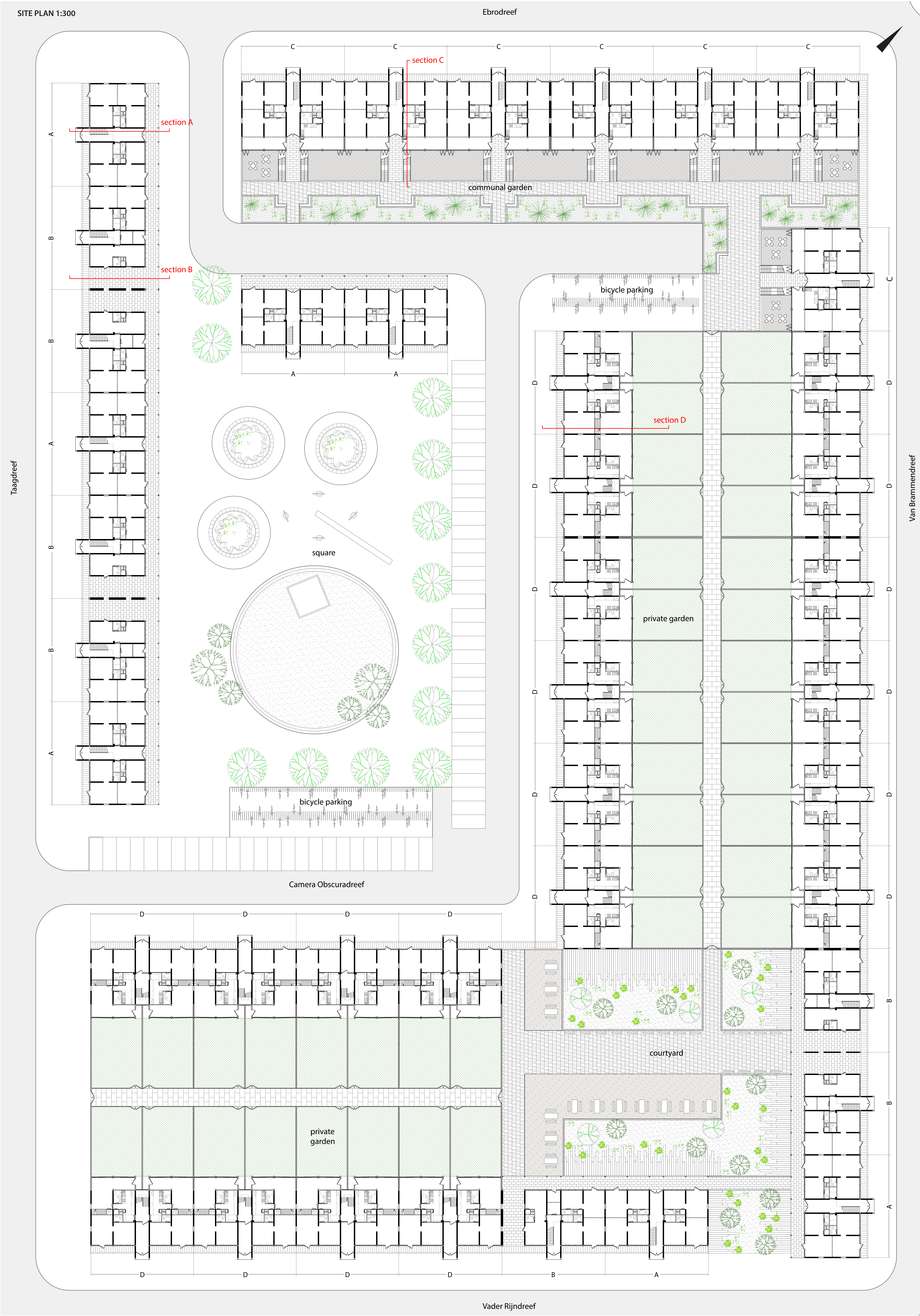


Rear Extension (Type C, D)

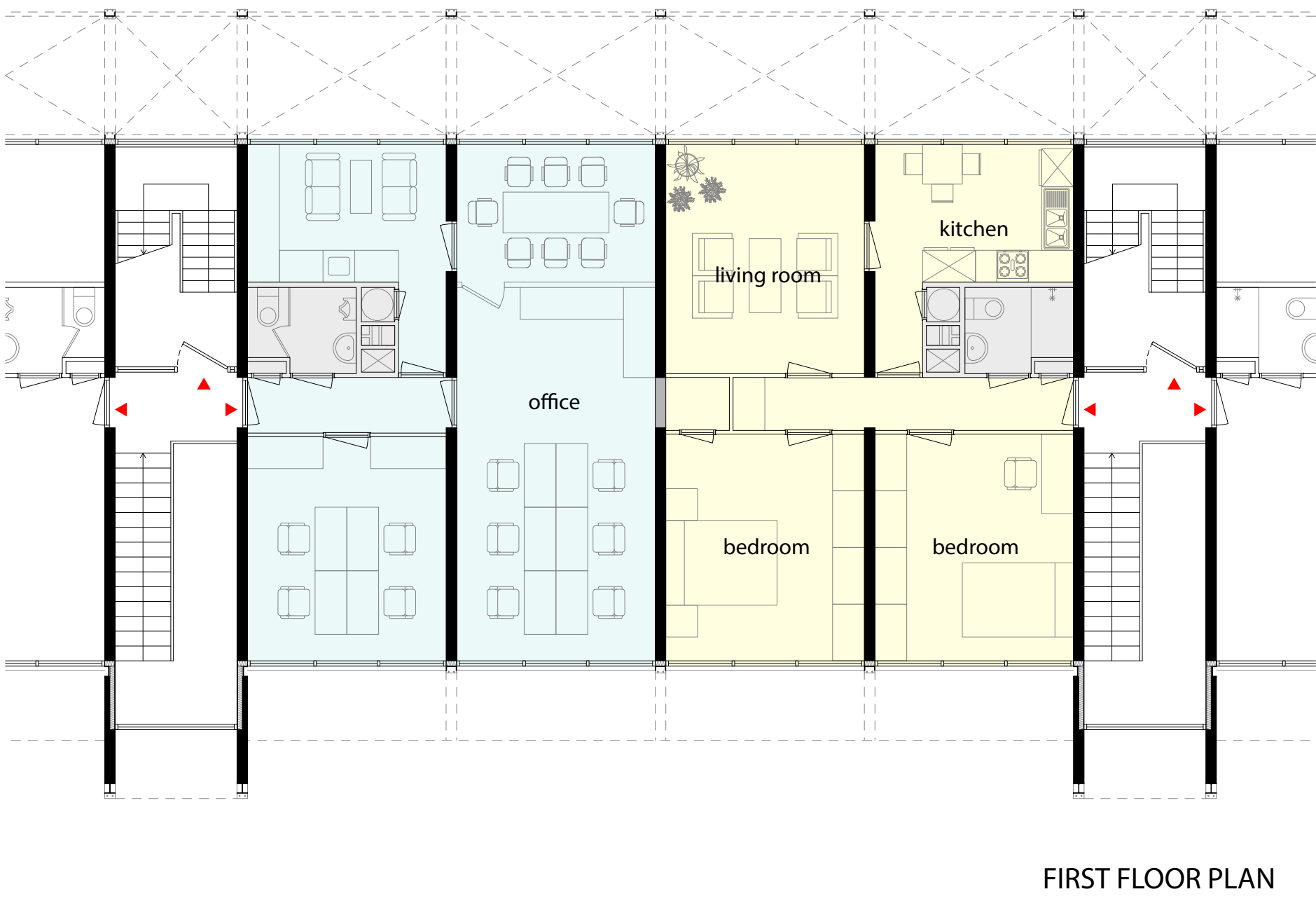


Heating/Ventilation Scheme



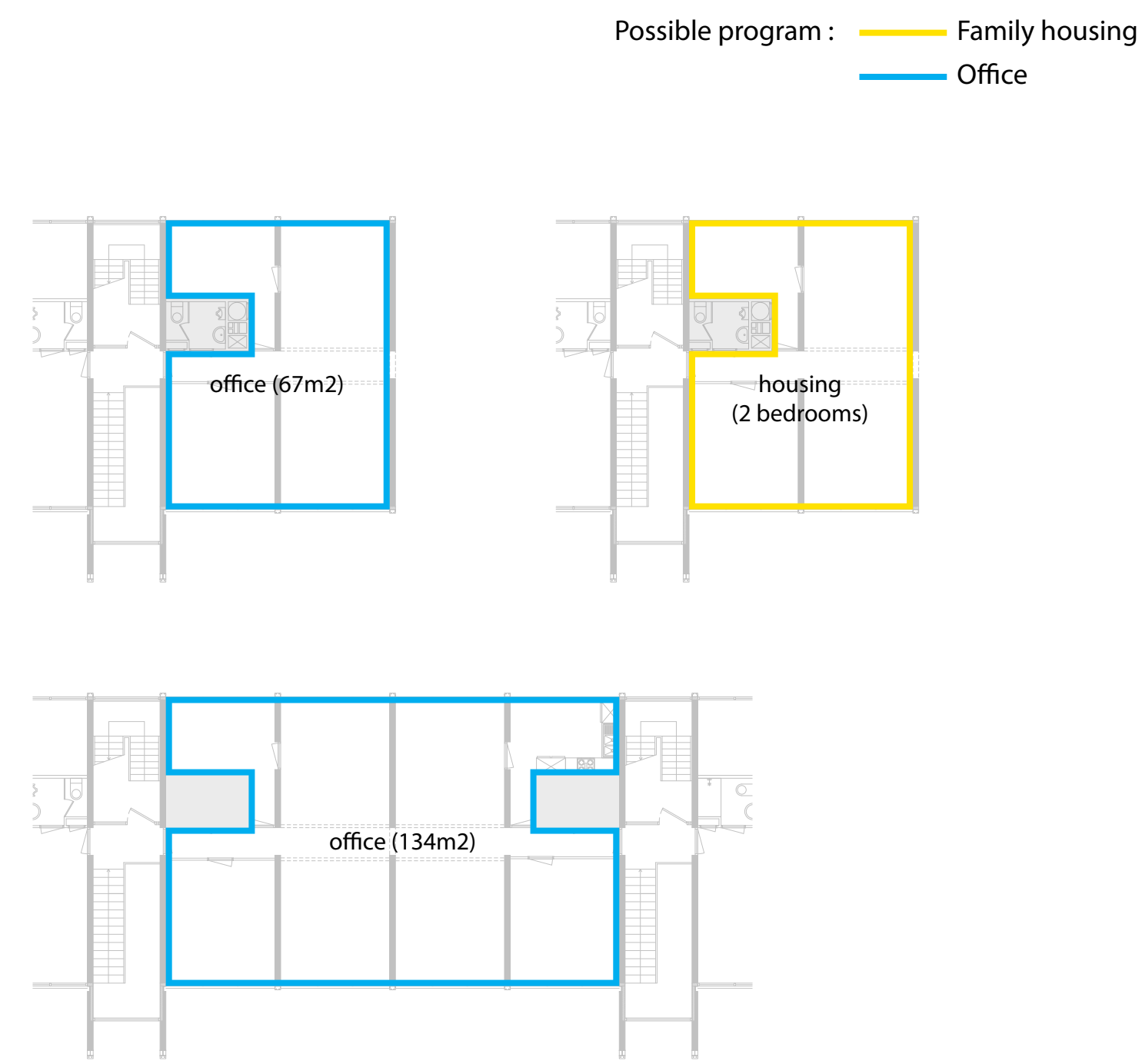


FLOOR PLAN 1:100 (TYPE A)

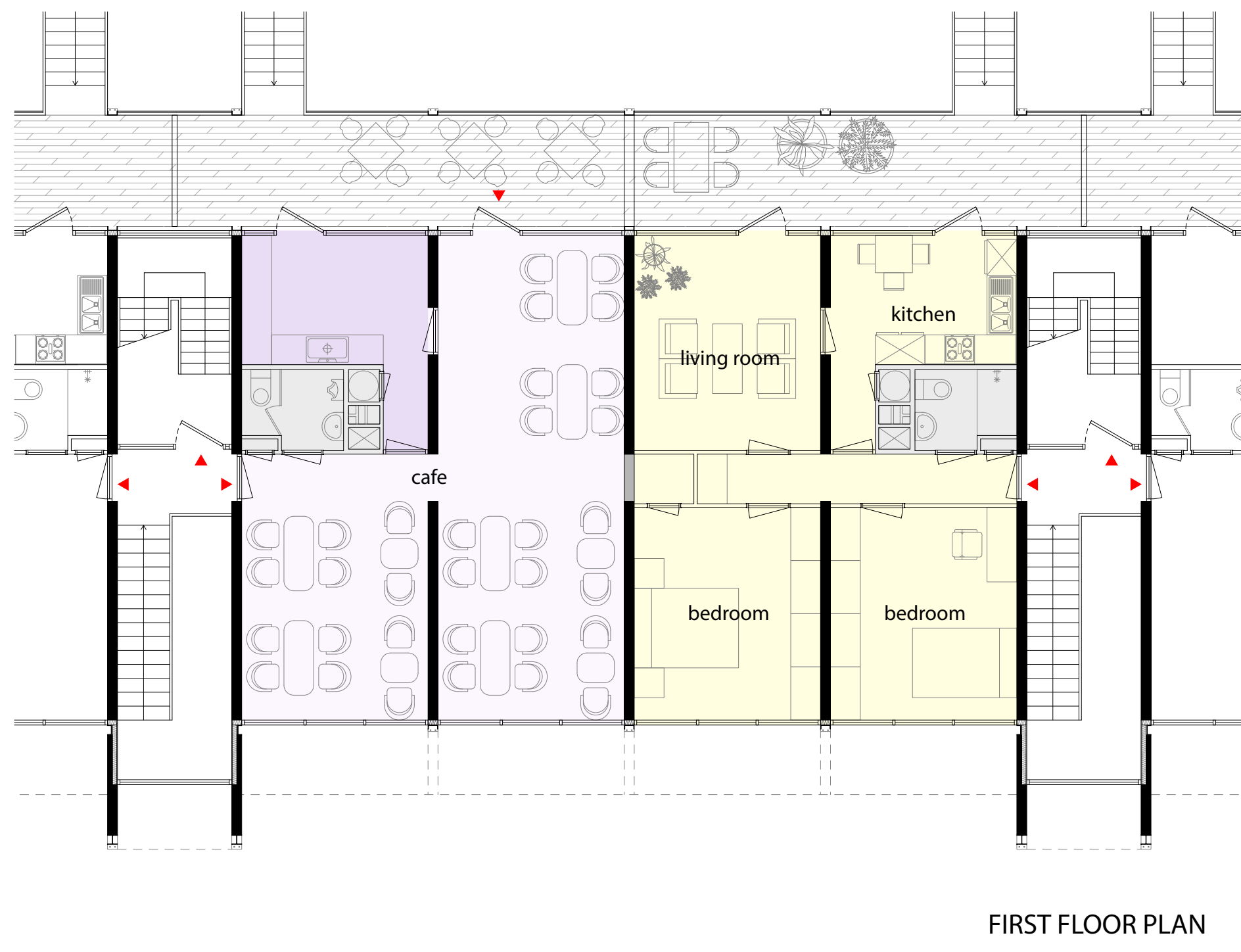


FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Program Variations

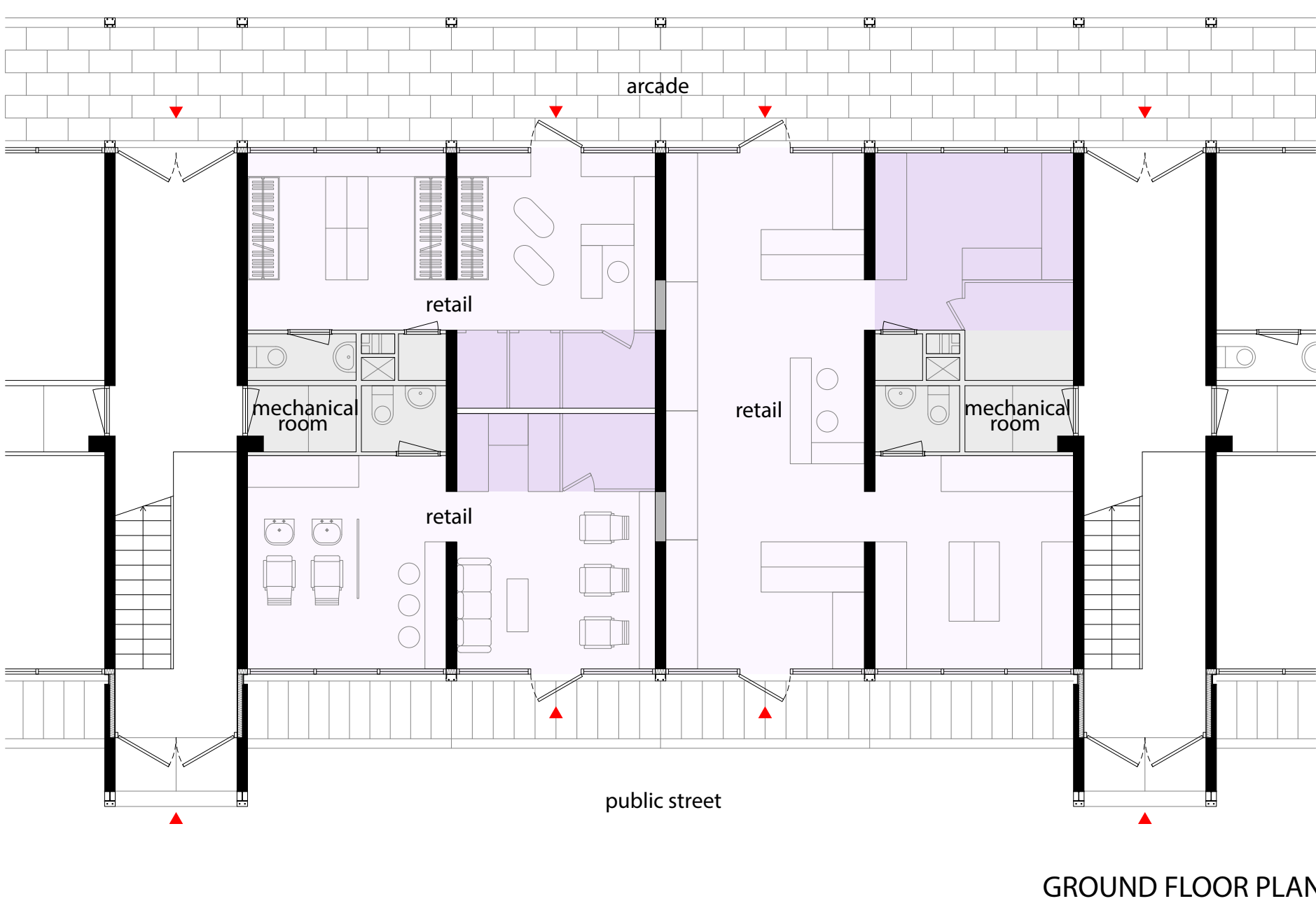
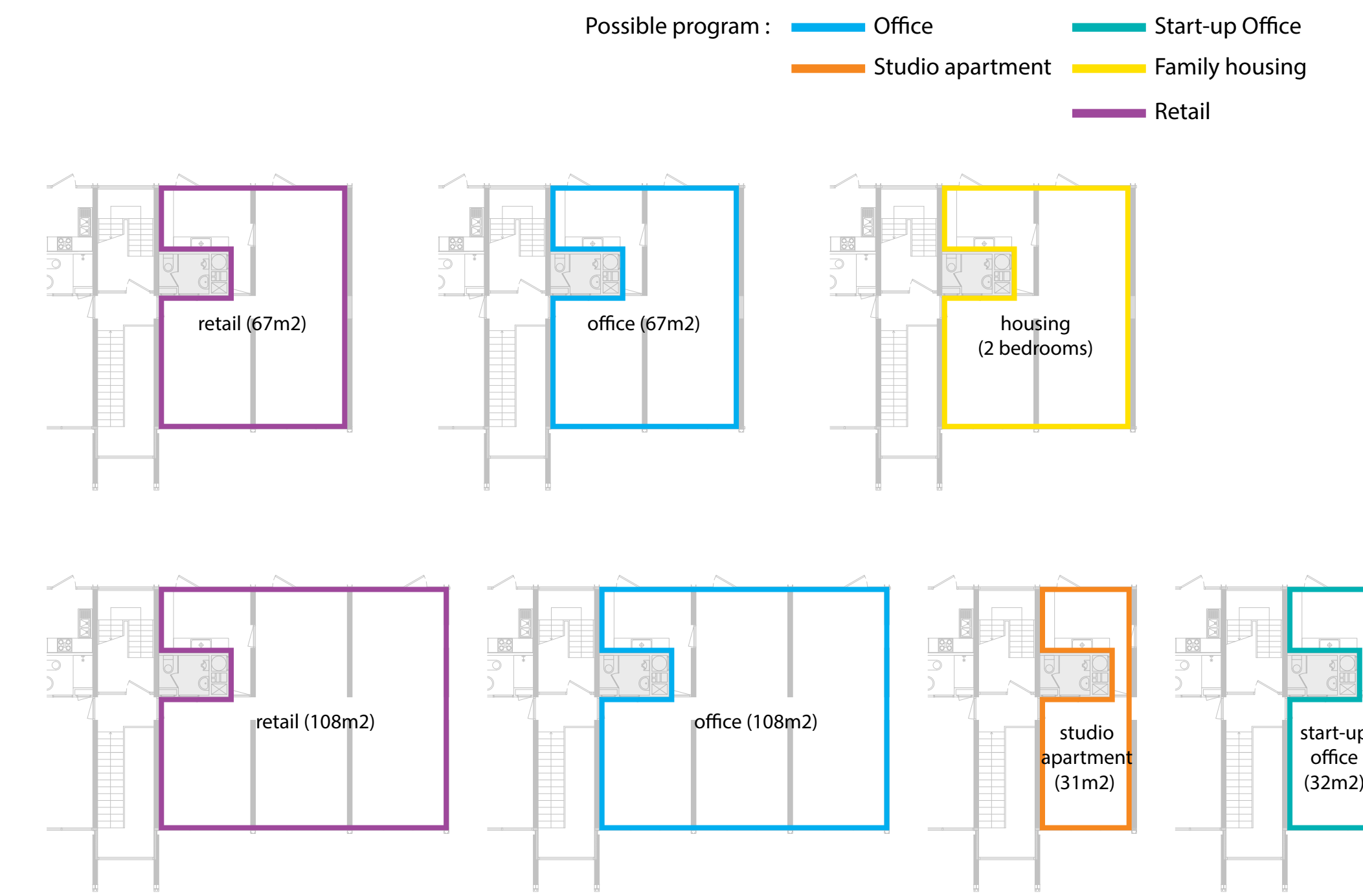


FLOOR PLAN 1:100 (TYPE C)



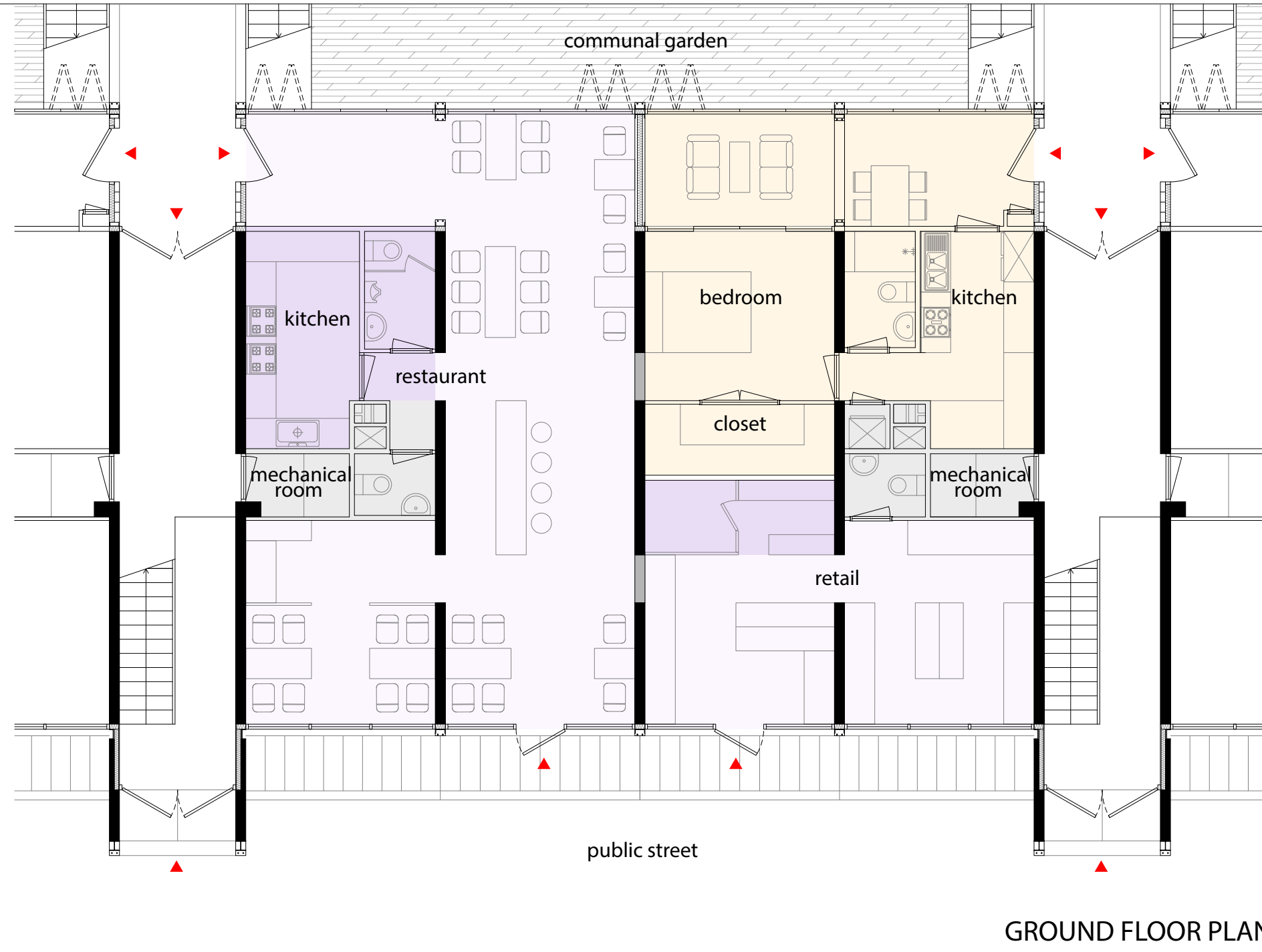
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Program Variations



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

Possible program : Retail Storage

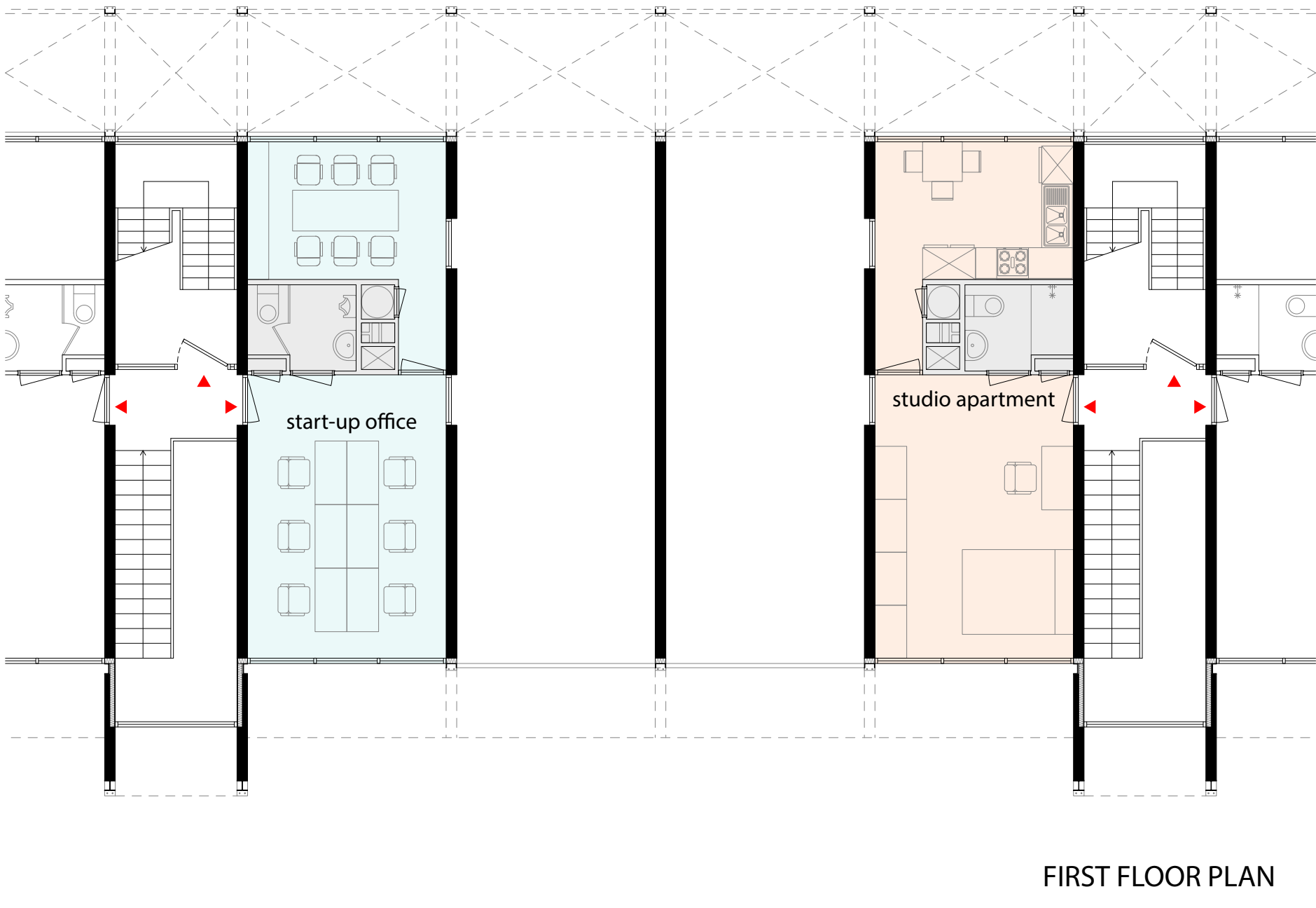


GROUND FLOOR PLAN

Possible program : Office Retail Single Family housing

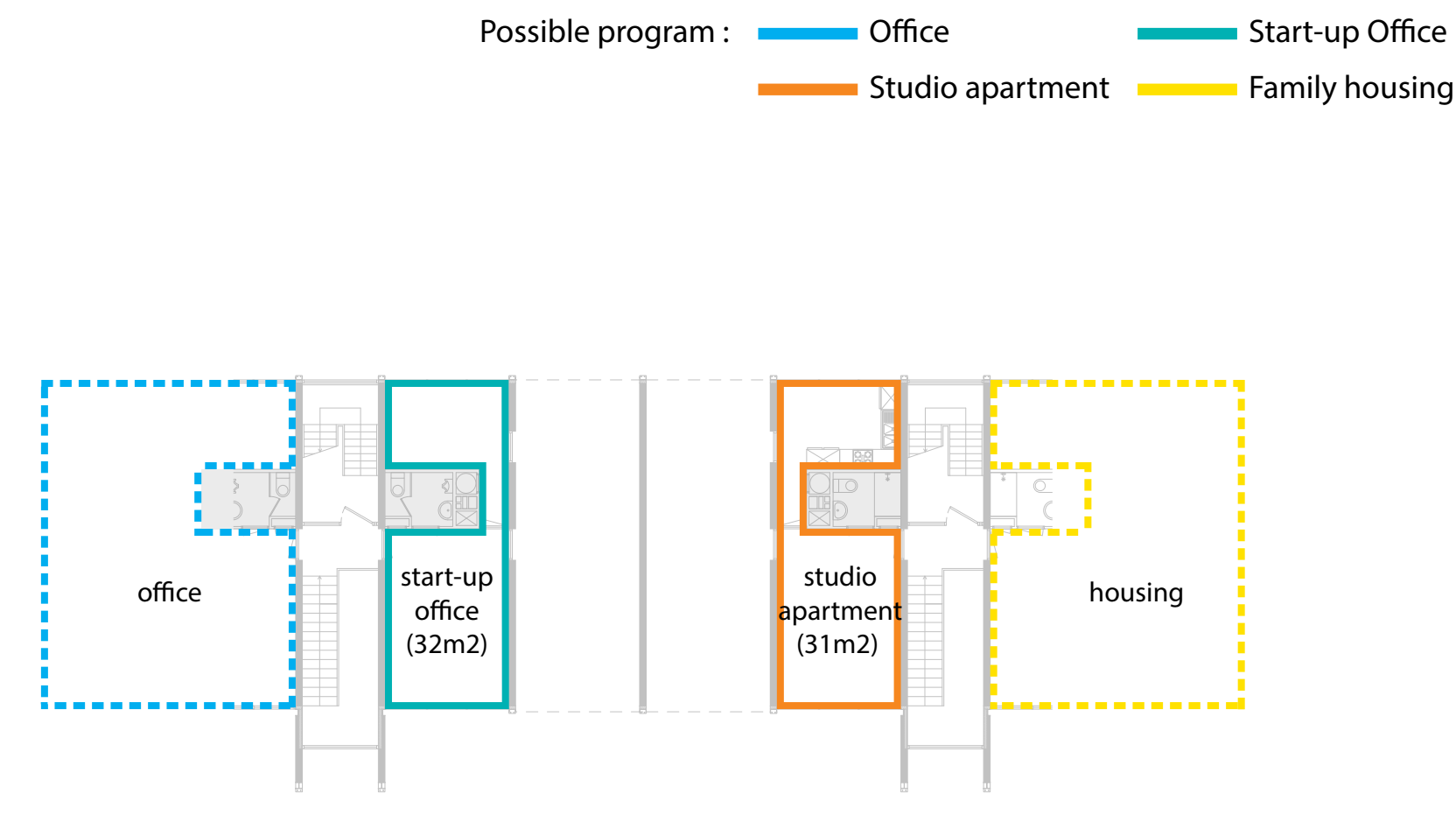


FLOOR PLAN 1:100 (TYPE B)



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Program Variations

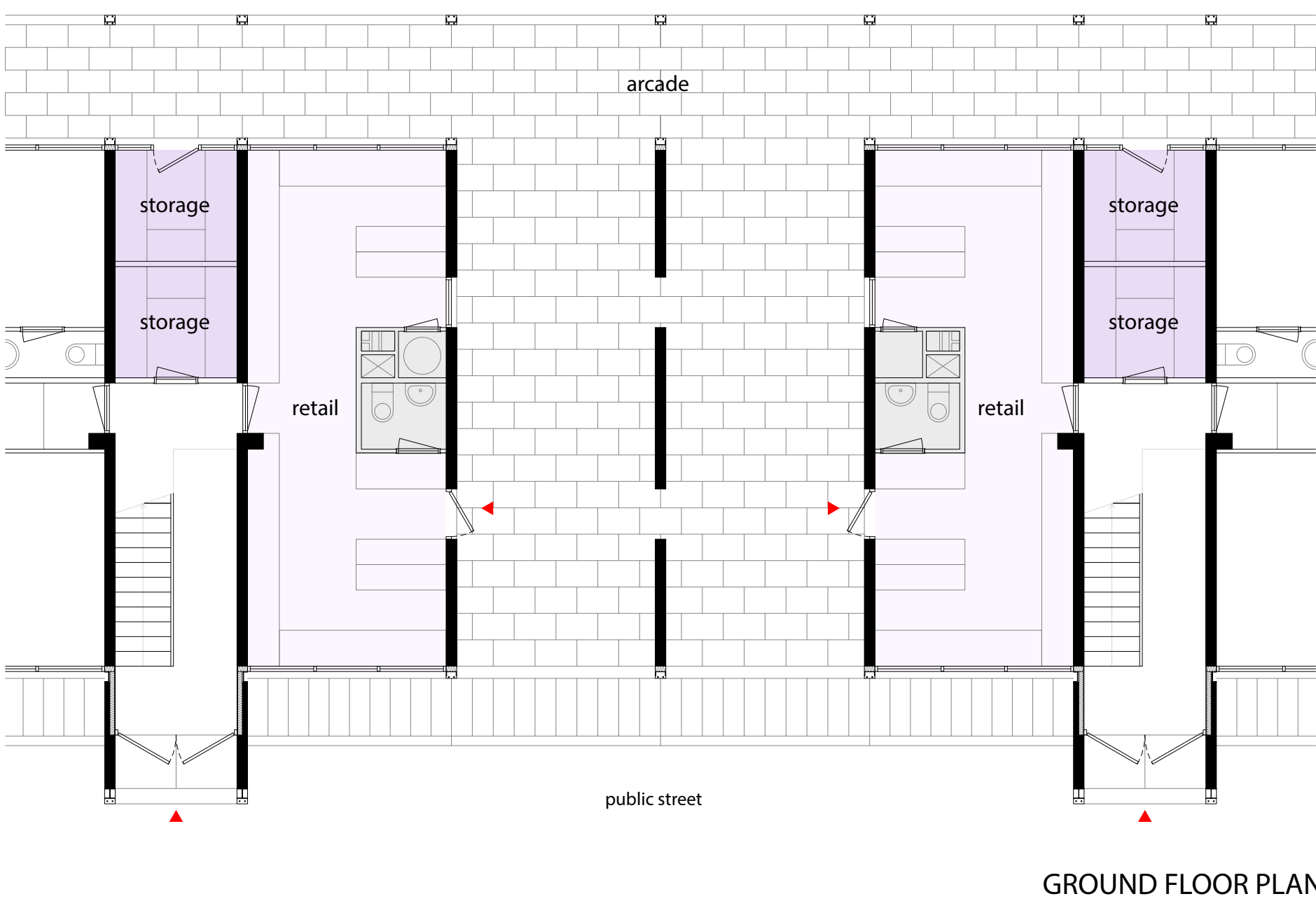


FLOOR PLAN 1:100 (TYPE D)



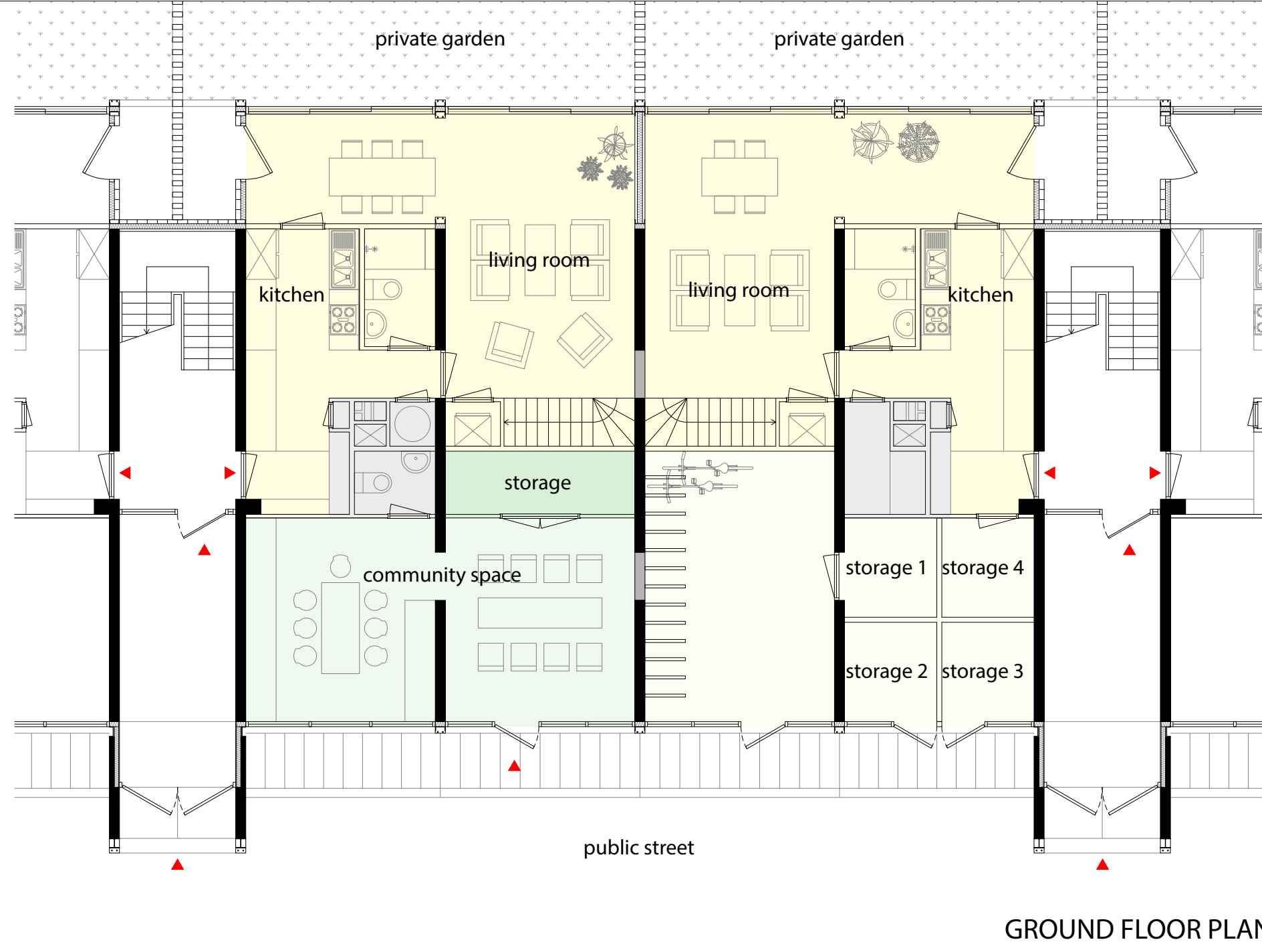
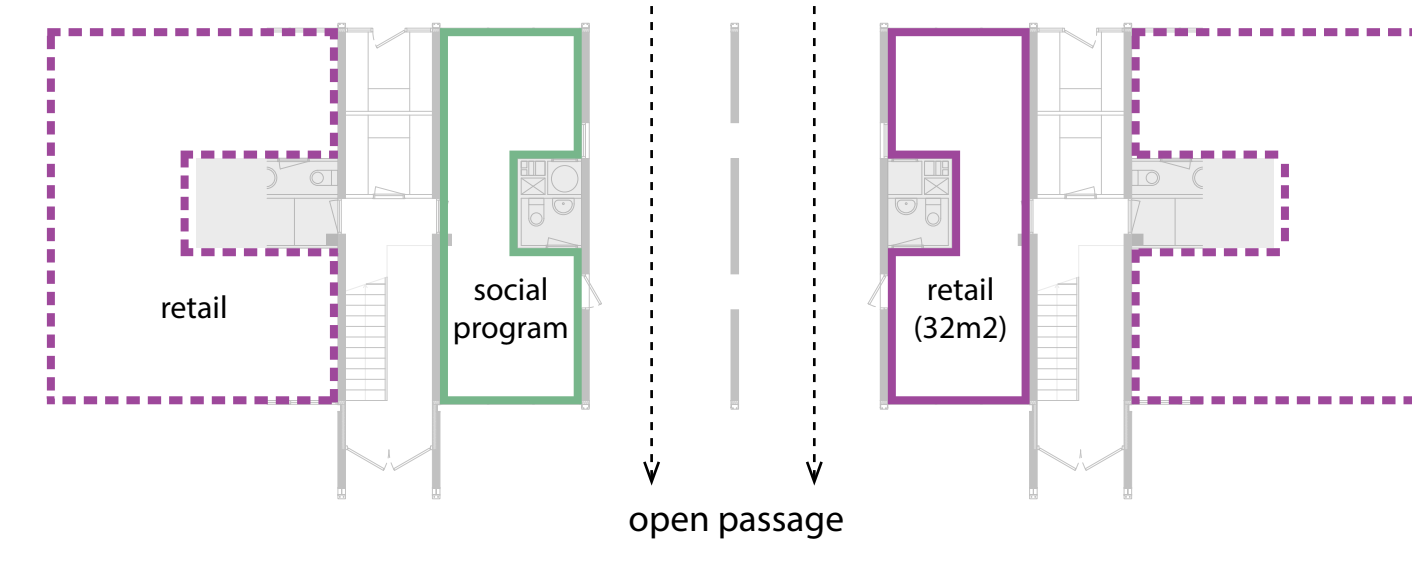
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Program Variations



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

Possible program : Social Program Retail



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

Possible program : Family housing Social program Bicycle storage

