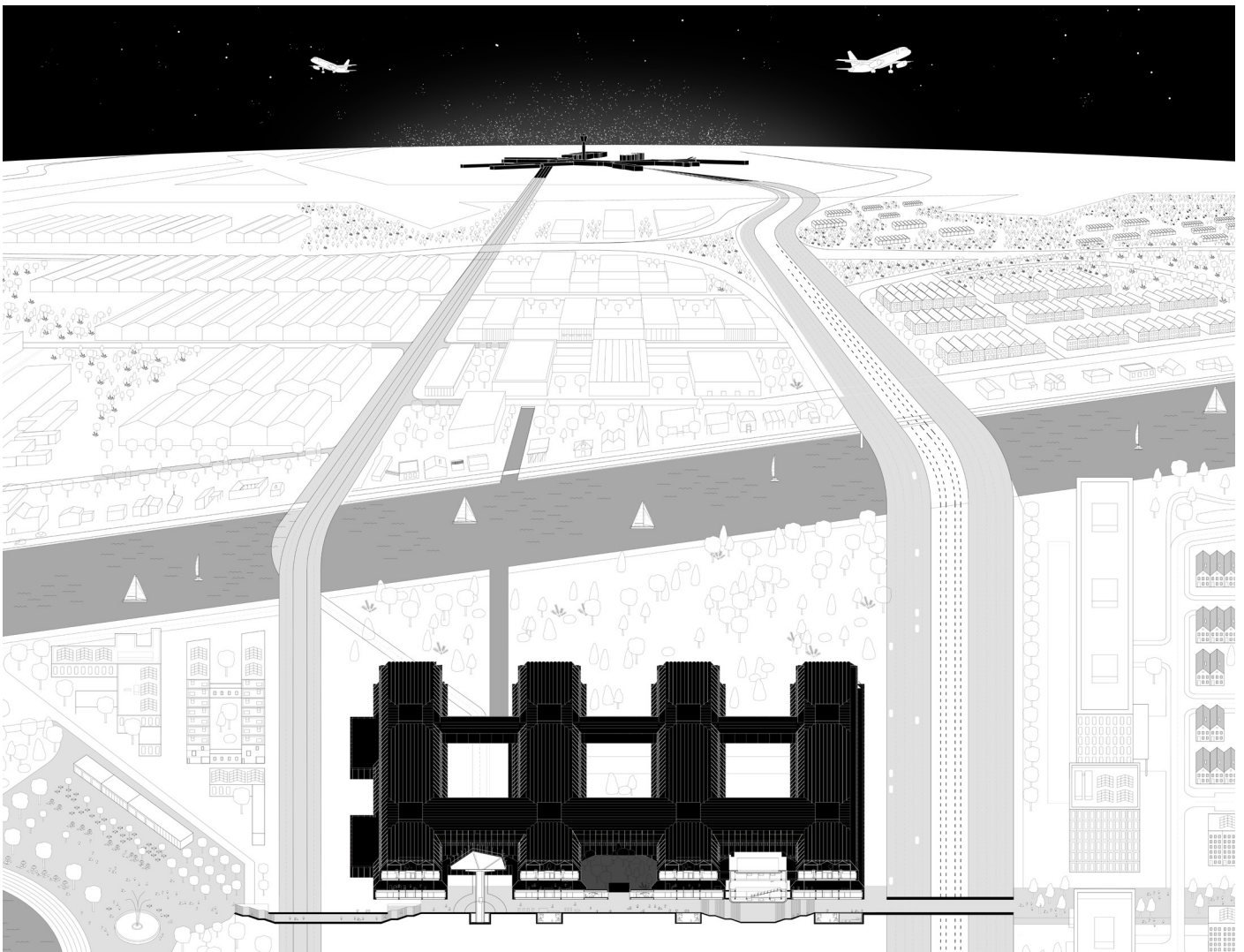


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# Thesis reflection

Studio:  
**AMS MID CITY STUDIO**  
Topic: Amsterdam in 2050  
Main themes: mobility, health and circular  
economy

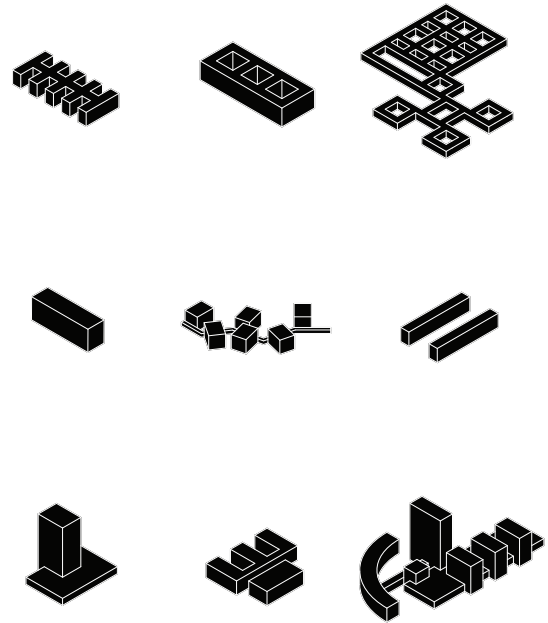
Title:  
**Organ factory - Airport city  
transplantation hospital**



The organ factory lies in the core of the Schiphol corridor, directly connected to the airport activities. It is a specialized hospital which biomanufactures and distributes organs, performs transplantation surgery and gathers experts in the field. The project investigates the hospital as an urban type and applies it to the questionably urban condition of airport cities.

## The relationship between research and design?

Within the complex project graduation studio the preliminary research is given considerable attention. While including conventional practices of urban analysis and the study of precedents the research focuses heavily on wider socio economical forces. The focus of the project on medical tourism is conditioned by the circumstances of the site - primarily the proximity of the airport and the presence of developed life sciences sector in the region. The research dealt with the dynamics between the site and Schiphol airport and future scenarios of airport urbanization around the Nieuwe Meer lake. I investigated the new urban phenomena of airport cities - their urban qualities and the issues they pose for development of expanding city borders. Airport cities tend to generate generic spaces, caricatured typologies and an abundance of pseudo public space. These conclusions greatly influenced how the building interacts with the surroundings. While the hospital assumes the form of a generic entity with its own system of extremely functional interior flows, it's

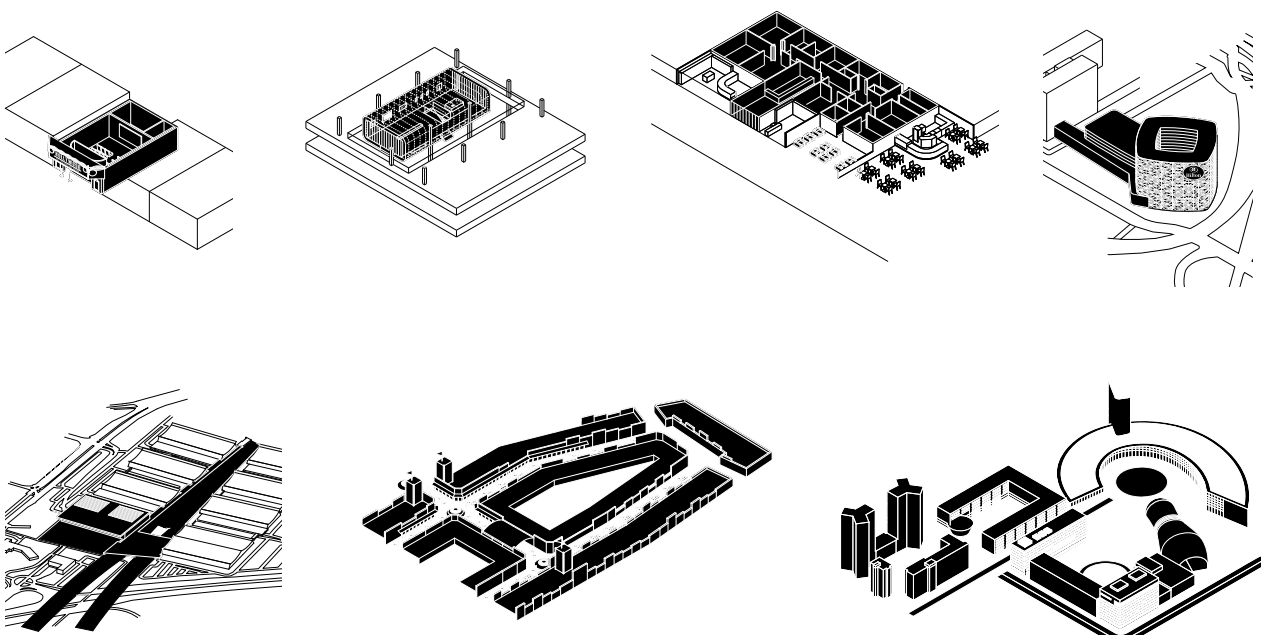


typological study of hospitals

system allows for permeable ground level and adaptability to the site conditions. In later stages the research was continuing parallel to the design. Materials and architectural details were developed based on case studies of hospital and airport buildings and their functional and hygienic requirements.

## The relationship between graduation topic, the studio topic and the master architecture track?

typological study of airport amenities



As the studio is dealing with Amsterdam 2050 the topic of airports as urban generators is very relevant. Throughout the process i felt that the research into the concept of airport city was extremely important for the understanding of the site as it lays in the core of what is planned to develop into the Schiphol corridor. The alignment of the topic with the studio theme is what motivated me most throughout the process. Narrowing the analysis from the urban scale to actual typologies of airport amenities (such as museums, conference centers, university campuses and other non-aviation program) I managed to bridge the shift from urban to architectural scale and developed a possible typology for the future.

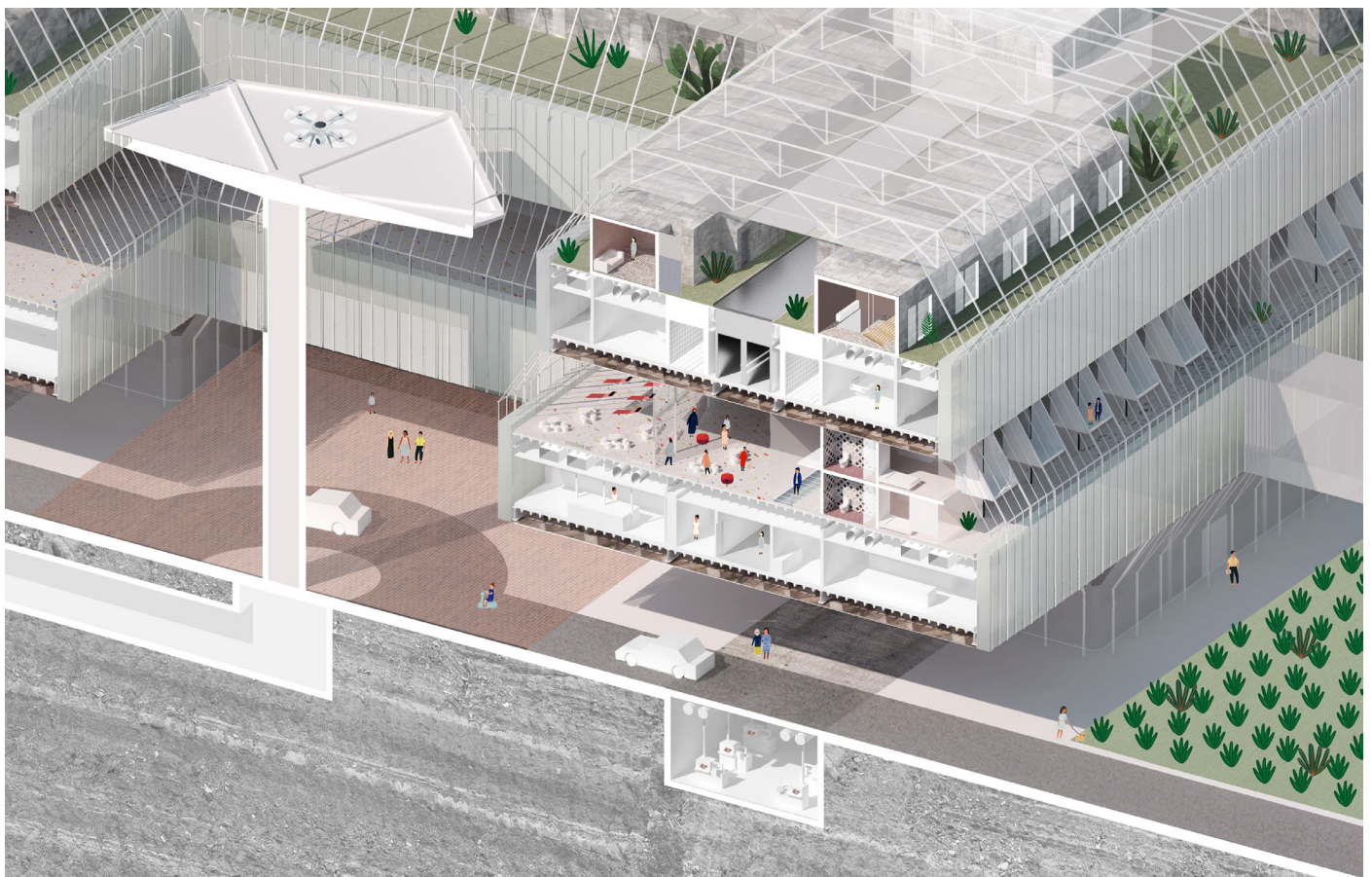
### **Elaboration on research method and approach chosen by the student in relation to the graduation studio**

### **methodical line of inquiry, reflecting thereby upon the scientific relevance of the work.**

Upon starting my graduation process I have made the decision to adopt the methodology of the studio of Complex Projects as closely as possible in order to open up to alternate and more structured methods than those I have developed myself through the years.

The methodology of the studio focuses heavily on interdisciplinary research, study of precedents and learning by doing. Much of literature was reviewed at the initial stages of research and later compiled into a Site book and a Source book – a reinterpretation of research findings leading to P2. Sifting through large amount of data and articles, mapping, redrawing demanded a lot of time, but has made the design decisions a lot faster in the later stages. The

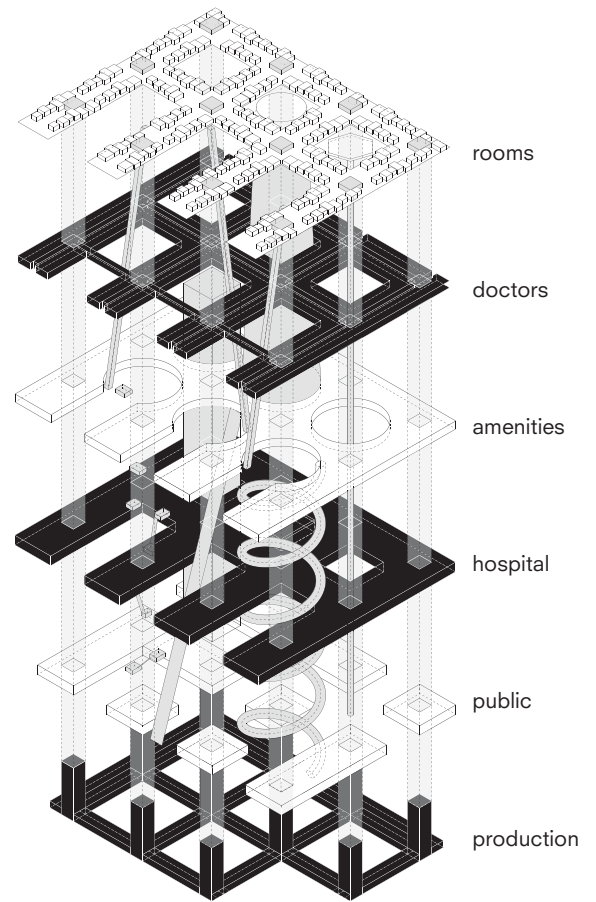
characteristic section



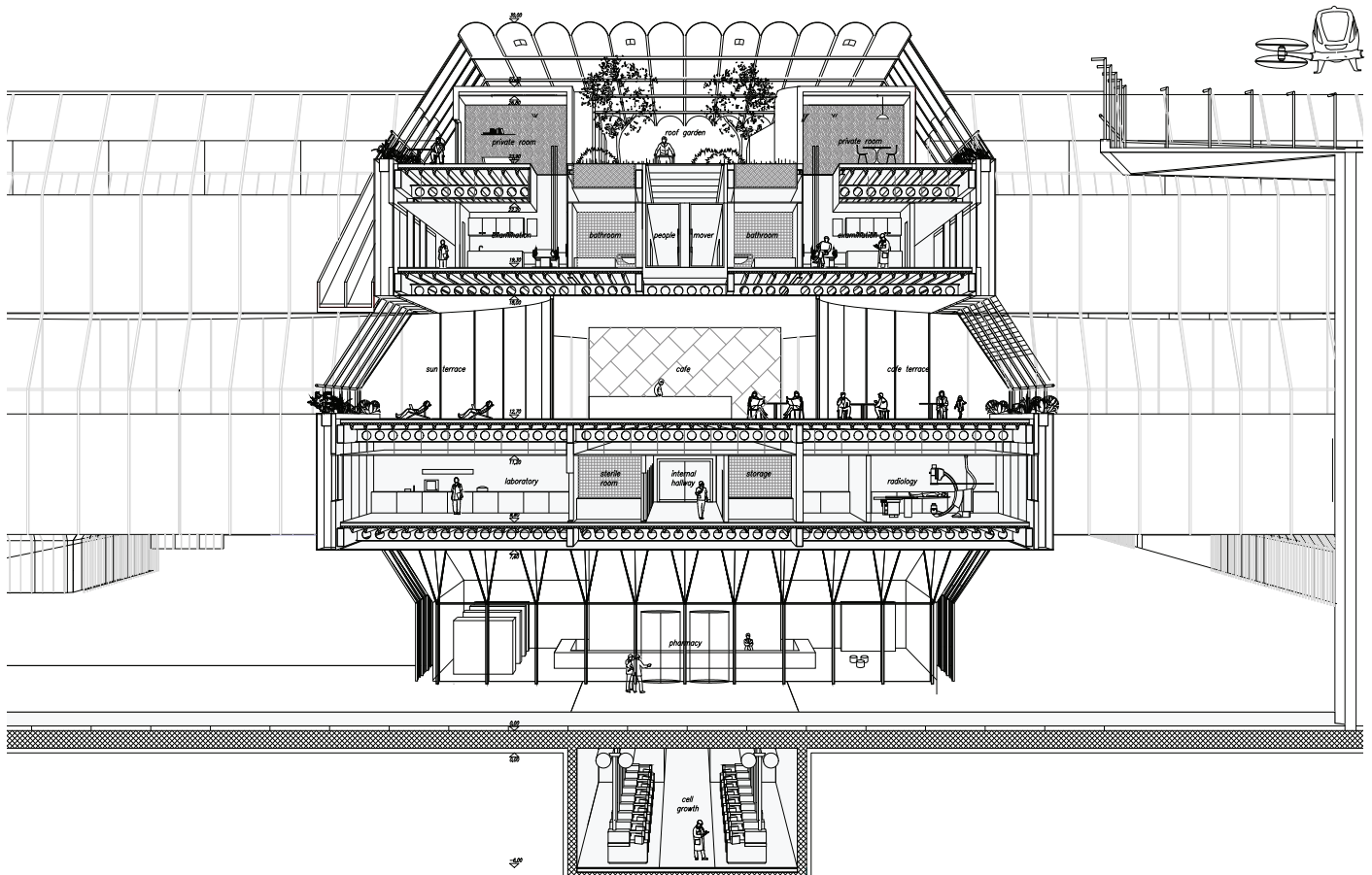
method was nevertheless still heavily based on production and learning by doing. Models are used extensively as tool for architectural design. This approach often uncovered a lot of problems early on, before any kind of drawings were made.

**Elaboration on the relationship between the graduation project and the wider social, professional and scientific framework, touching upon the transferability of the project results.**

The topic and the project deal with the contemporary urban phenomena of airport cities, speculating on how such airport urbanization might change the role of airports in the future. Airports are becoming increasingly intertwined with urban living thus it is necessary to explore what kind of spaces they have the potential to produce. The project is based on the notion of acceptance of



section detail



airport city development by common culture but provides a critical stance toward spatial repercussions of hyper commercialized territory and pseudo-urban space. How can future airport city amenities perform as an interface between global demands and local urbanity? The project proposes one solution to this issue, in which development is oriented to site specific program, aligned with the economic and logistic ambition of Schiphol but also reaffirming qualities of the area, so it can develop into a mixed and livable part of Amsterdam. Similar principle is applicable to other airport regions but would lead to alternative conclusions in terms of program.

**Discuss the ethical issues and dilemmas you may have encountered in (i) doing the research, (ii, if applicable) elaborating the design and (iii) potential applications of the results in practice.**

The project takes for granted increasing focus on healthcare as the life expectancy extends in the future. The notion of producing replacement parts for the human body is in a logical step for the current ideology of constant technological progress and innovation but also opens up questions of ethics of biofabrication and the human body as a commodity. Yet my decision was to step away from overly dystopian approach and to attempt to develop a rather realistic vision of organ production. The result therefore a highly specialized transplantation hospital which operates on the larger EU network of hospitals.

The conclusion was that such an approach should translate into a relatively simple structural and material principle which can expand with new additions. However the complexity of the program in the end resulted in an extremely large and intricate building. It became apparent that a different

approach will be needed to elaborate the design consistently on both urban and architectural scale. Therefore the presentation focused on cataloging building components and the building section as the principal element of design. In this way the material and architectural qualities could be explained more consistently with the concept of the building itself.

As a hypothetical project investigating the future it is consistently based on conclusions stemming from conventional research methods. The project is thus a structured study into the future evolution of the hospital type and as such has the potential to instigate questions about the viability of a passenger driven typology - an airport city hospital.

