

An architectural rendering of a dementia village courtyard. The scene is set in a winter or late autumn environment with snow on the ground and trees. A large, modern building with a gabled roof and light-colored wood cladding is the central focus. It features several balconies with green railings. To the left, there is a playground with a red slide and a wooden structure. A person in a pink coat is walking near the playground. In the foreground, a person is pushing a stroller along a paved path, and another person is walking a dog. The courtyard is landscaped with tall grasses, rocks, and trees. A black flag with a white skull and crossbones is visible on a pole in the background. The sky is blue with scattered clouds and a few birds flying.

**IT TAKES A VILLAGE**  
A DEMENTIA VILLAGE FOR BRÄCKE DIAKONI

Group 6 - Fabian Lecker, Sofia Leijonberg, Åsa Martinsson, Sofia Olsson

# Introduction

## IT TAKES A VILLAGE

It takes a village to raise a child is an old african proverb.

In our case it refers to all generations of a community being able to interact with each other in order for the elderly to live and grow old in a safe and healthy environment. Our design proposal prioritises an enriched and supportive social environment, connection to nature as well as to other people and relatable building structures.

## OUR PROGRAM

The project is located at Bräcke in Hisingen, Gothenburg. Our task was to design a dementia village consisting of 80 -120 apartments with common and public functions. Out of two possible sites we chose to work with the one closest to the forest to be able to integrate nature into the project.

## DEMENTIA

The residents in this building suffer from different stages of dementia. The underlying cause for the symptom varies between the residents and they therefore have many different needs in their environment. How far the dementia has progressed also determines how much help they need. Some are able to walk outside and to the city while others need to be in a safe enclosed space. A typical behaviour for people with dementia is to wander around. Research shows that social interaction, physical activity and outdoor access help to slow down the progression of the disease. Our goal therefore is to create architecture that supports those health benefits.



# Urban plan

## CONNECTIONS

The entrance to the site is from Bräckevägen, the main road passing by the area. It can be reached by public transport, a bus stop is located along the main road. Our site today consists of unused land, a parking lot and a part of the forest.

A square in front of the main entrance connects our village to a historic, currently unused, building. After renovation it can be used by Bräcke Diakoni as a place for events and guest accommodation for visitors.

By placing a playground close to the forest, our proposal strengthens the connection to the existing preschool. It invites both preschool children and young relatives into the area, making the residents feel less isolated from the society and removing the institutional character.

The forest path leads to the only existing restaurant in the area. By connecting the path from the building to the restaurant, the residents and their visitors get a place where they can eat and relax while exploring the surroundings.



Västra Bräckevägen

Restaurant

Playground

Preschool

Historic building

Rehab

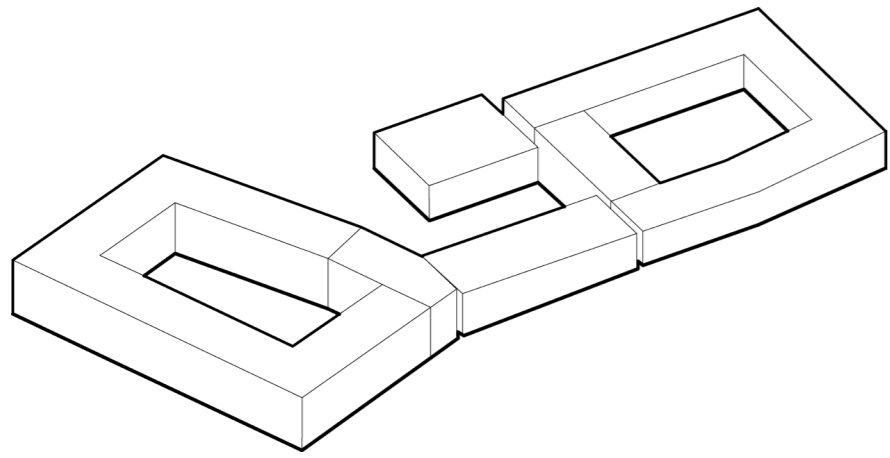
Busstop

Residential area

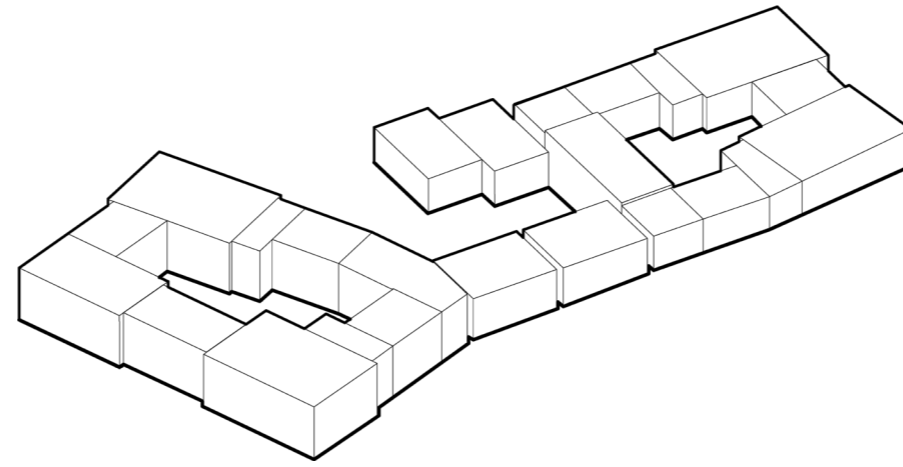
1:1500

60

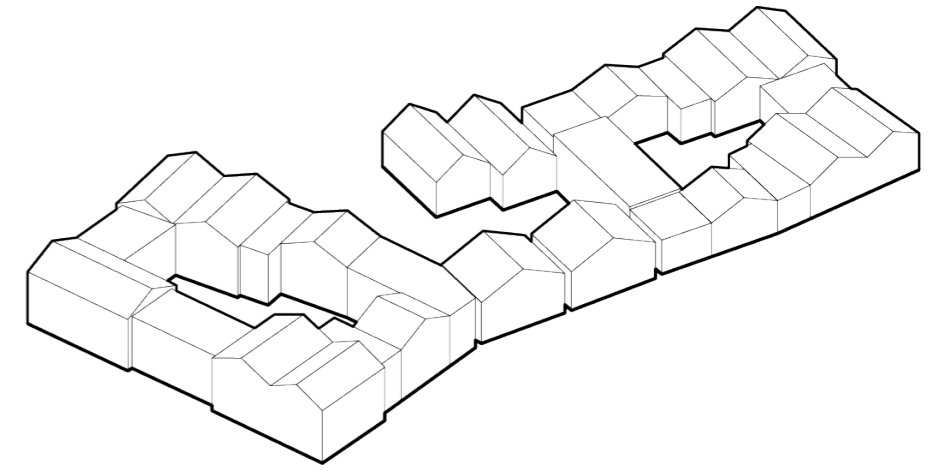
# Development



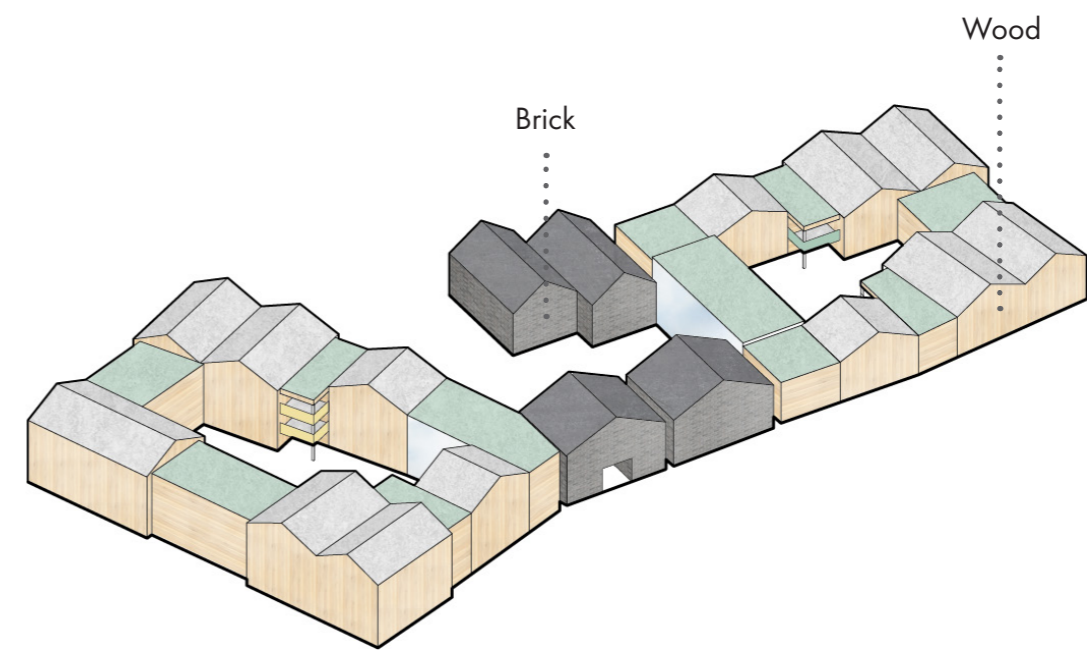
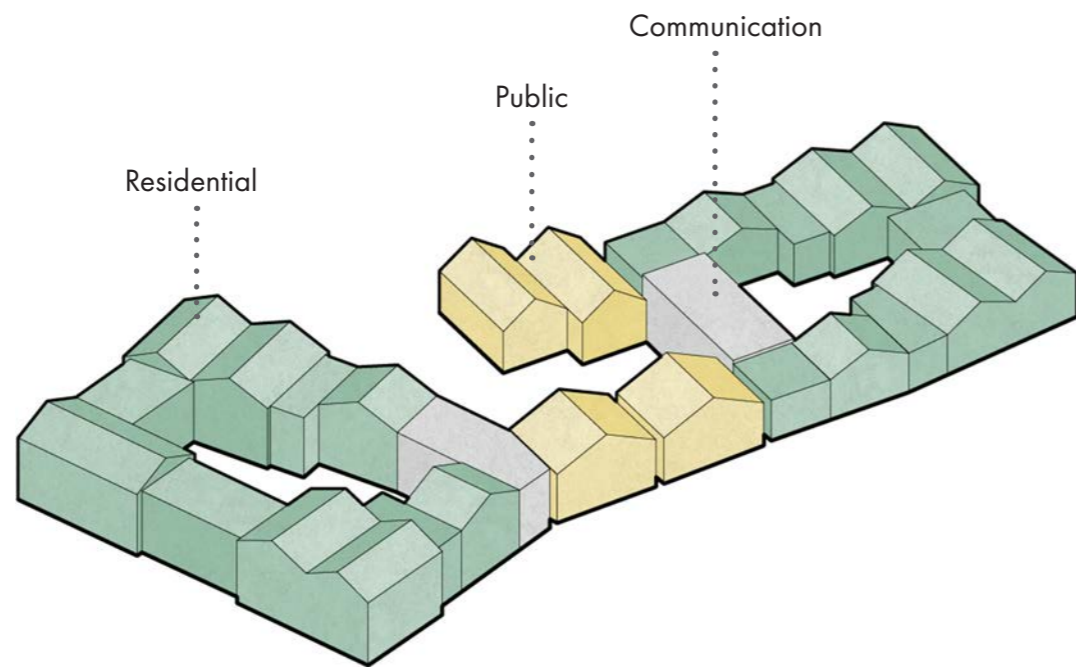
1. Building volume



2. Small scale



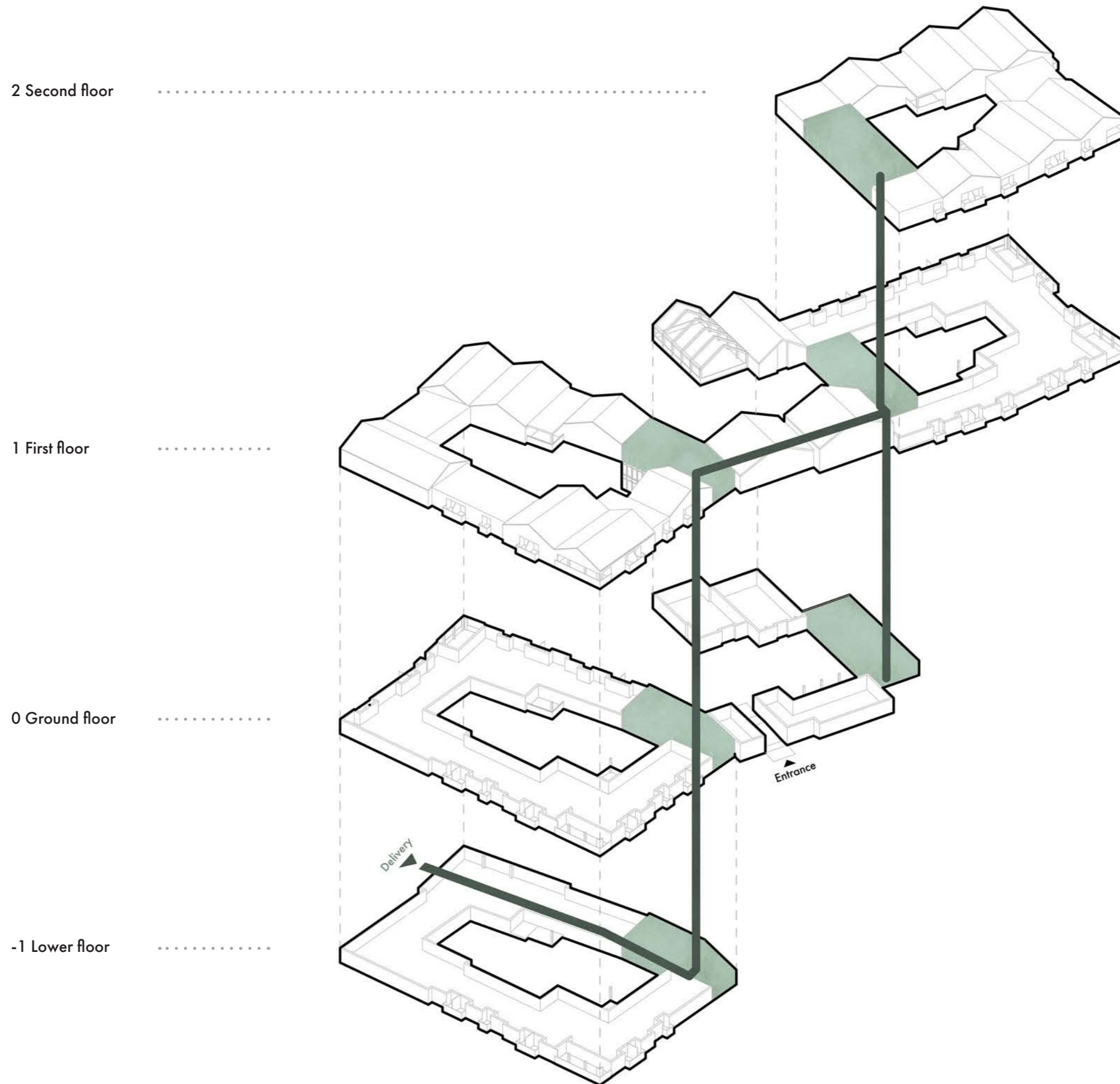
3. Roof landscape



Axonometric view



# Communication



# Site plan



Parking

Workshop

Viewing platform

Delivery

Staff entrance

Playground

Bike storage

Village square

Upper Village

Lower village

Main entrance

Preschool

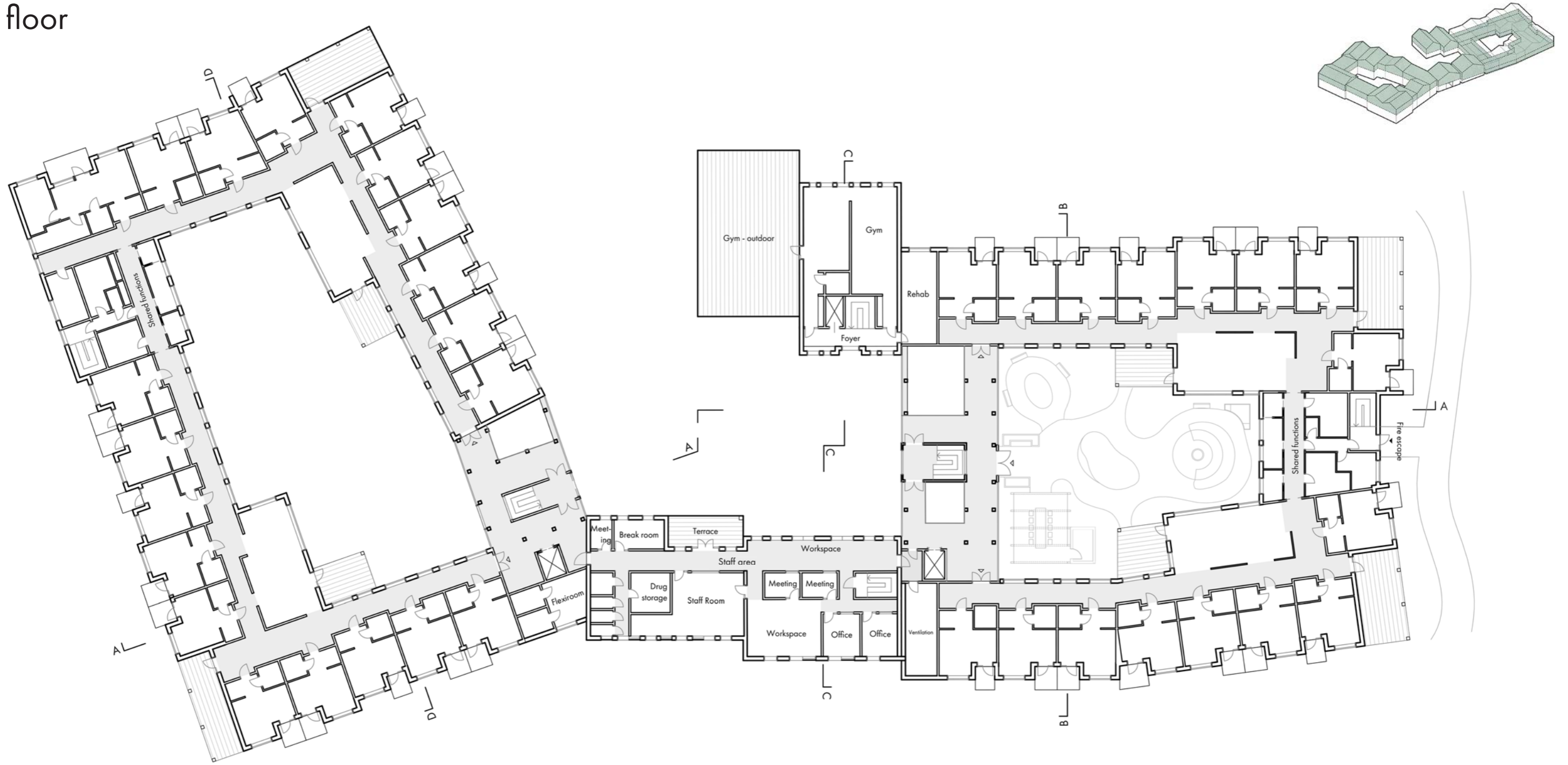
Bräcke Östergårdsgata

0 20

1:500



# First floor



First floor 1:400



Section A-A 1:400



# Lower village

## ORGANISATION

The lower village consists of five units across three stories. Access to the housing is possible through the vertical gardens. From here, the residents can either go to one of the two units on the floor, or use the elevator to access the courtyard.

The lower floor in the lower village consists of one unit and general staff functions. The staff have their main entrance towards north, close to their parking, while the delivery is located next to it towards west. The kitchen is placed with a direct connection to the residential courtyard where urban farming outside and in a greenhouse are placed. Residents have the possibility to grow and harvest their own food, giving them the opportunity to be included in the food cycle and preparation process.

The paths are organized around a pond with a small fountain. Both the boule field and the urban farming encourage the residents to be active, while the greenery, flowers and water encourage them to experience the environment with all their senses.



Lower floor 1:250



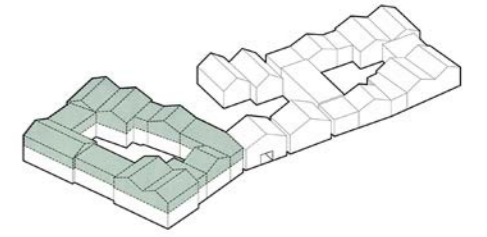
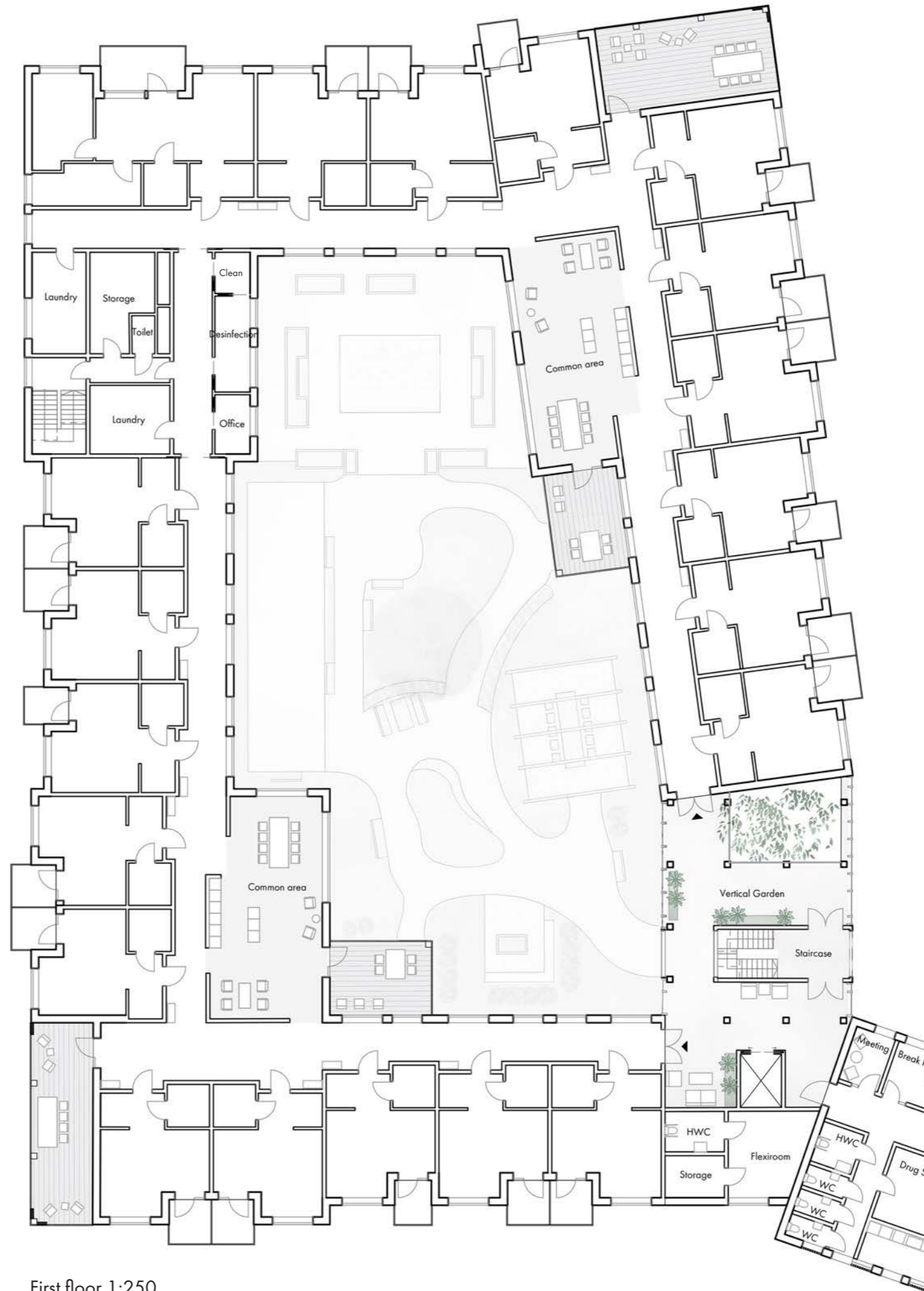
# Lower Village

## ORGANISATION

The entrance to the two units on both the ground and first floor is also accessed through the vertical garden. In order to help the residents with orientation, the corridors from the entrances always lead to a terrace with an attractive view. Each unit is also given a terrace towards the courtyard in connection with their common area. The latter is centered in the unit to encourage the residents to interact with each other. Support functions are placed as a buffer between the units.

The inhabitants are able to wander around in the units in a circular movement and are eventually taken back to where they started. The orientation in the units is supported by the view towards the courtyard that will help them understand where they are. The layout of the apartments to one side and the common spaces towards the courtyard not only brings more light into the building, but also ensures that there won't be any insight between apartments.

Two couple apartments are placed in the lower village to allow for tenants to live together with their healthy partner.



First floor 1:250

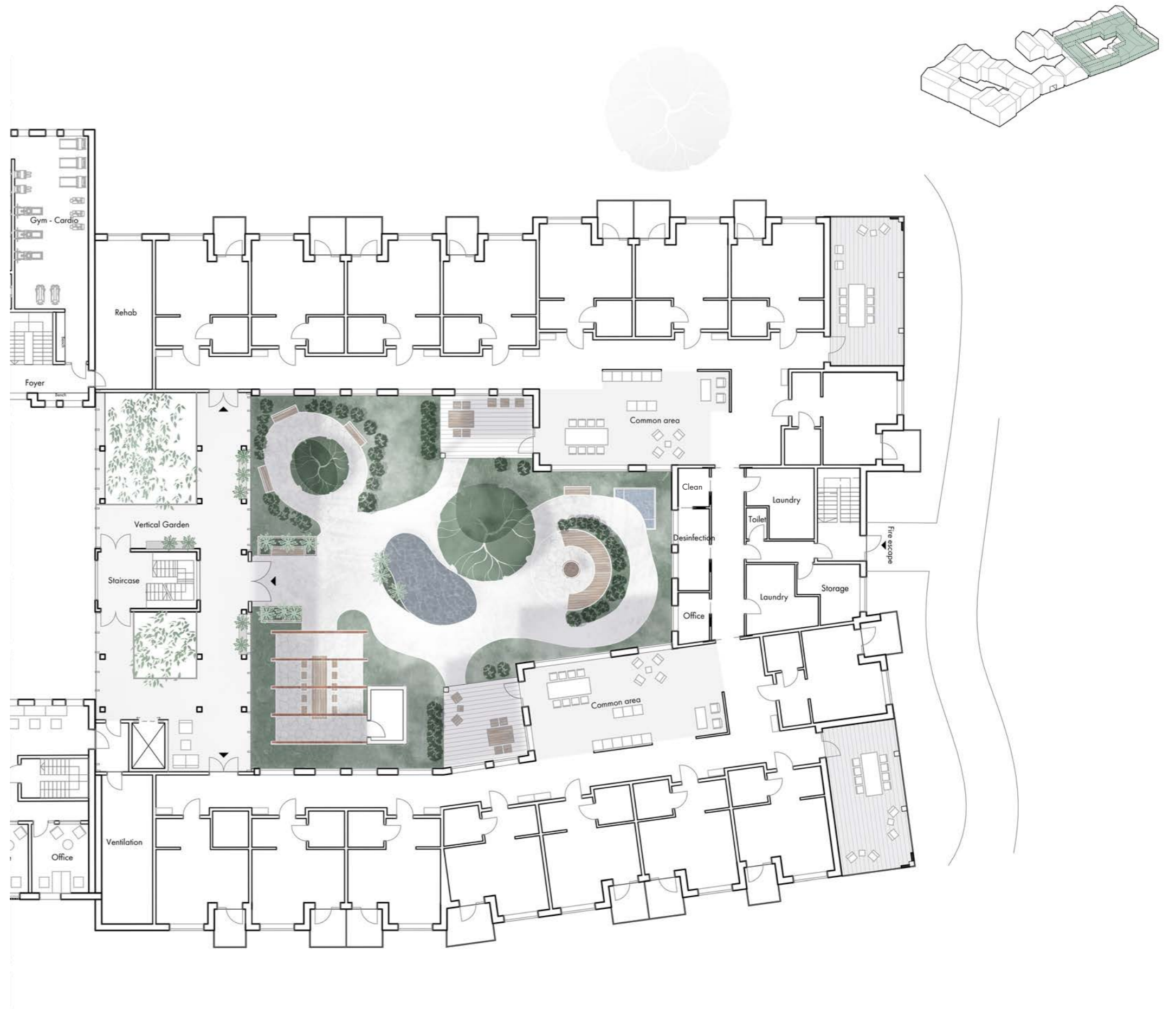


# Upper village

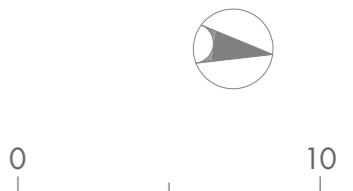
## ORGANISATION

The upper village is made out of two stories with two units each. Like in the lower village, you enter the housing through an open and green vertical garden, leading you either to the units or to the courtyard. Inside the units, the corridors also end in a terrace and the shared support functions are placed between the units to create a buffer zone and to minimize the workload for the staff. In addition, this layout allows for the caregivers to have a good overview over the common areas.

During the winter, when the weather might not allow the residents to access the courtyards, the vertical gardens can furthermore function as an in-between-space. Seating groups, atrioms and greenery give the inhabitants an atmosphere of being outside while being protected from cold and snow.



First floor 1:250



# Village square

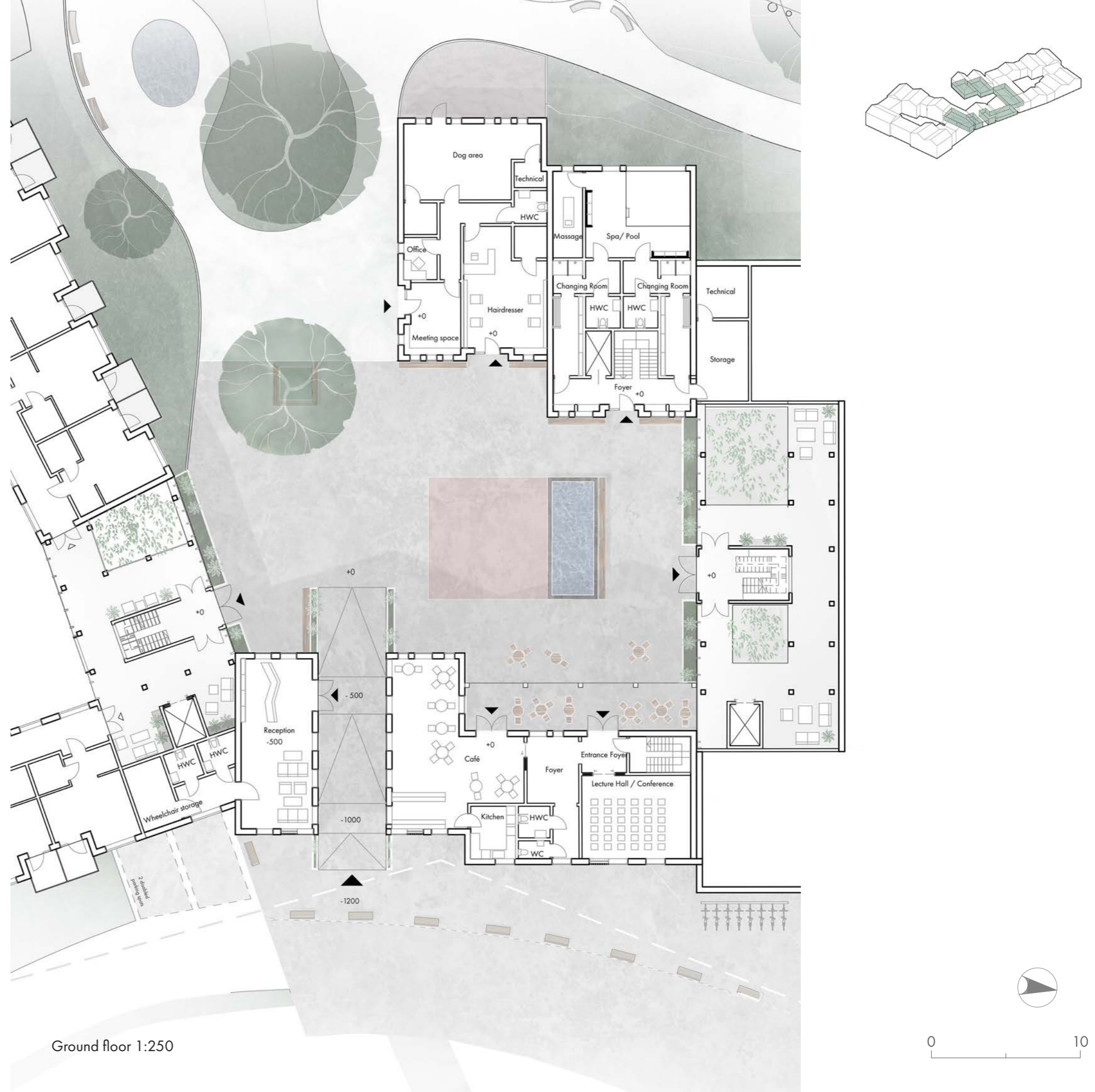
## ORGANISATION

The centre part of the village is a public space in the style of a town square. Here the residents, neighbours and visitors find activities and functions for everyday use. The inhabitants can access it through the vertical gardens. It is open from the main street and the forest and invites people to join the vibrant daily life. The reception, which is placed near the main street, has a good overview of both the tunnel entrance and the square in order to easily keep an eye on the residents movements.

The square itself is designed in an open way to allow for events to take place, for example group yoga in the mornings or markets celebrating different holidays.

People can visit a hairdresser and stay physically active in the gym with spa and outdoor area. Closely linked to the forest, a dog day care centre encourages the residents to interact with animals and also allows the owners to take their dog for a walk in the nature.

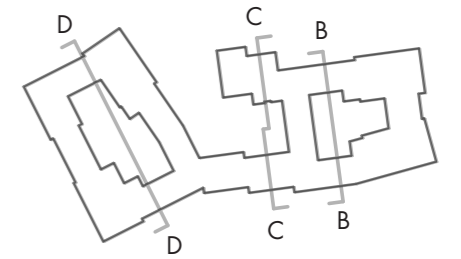
Near the entrance, a café during day time and a bar at night invite people into the area. The lecture hall next to it gives the residents an opportunity to listen to interesting events or music. It can also be used for staff meetings or be booked by school classes. This way, the Brücke village integrates all generations to join its community and grow together.



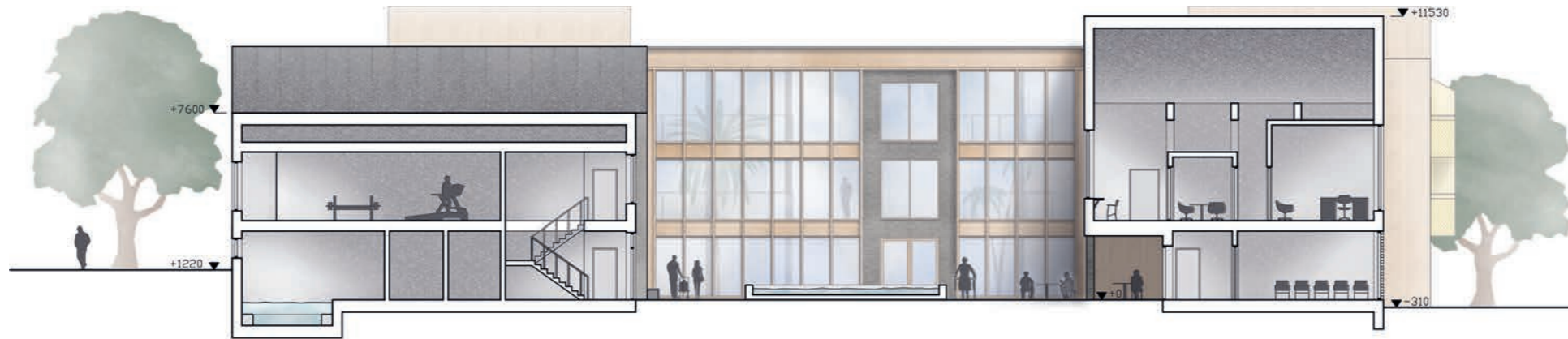
Ground floor 1:250



# Sections



Section B-B Upper village 1:250



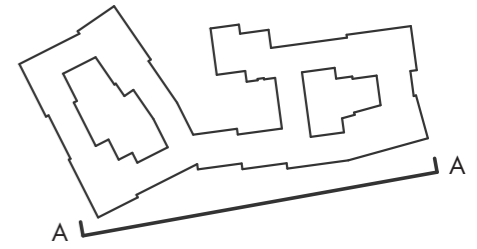
Section C-C Village square 1:250



Section D-D Lower village 1:250



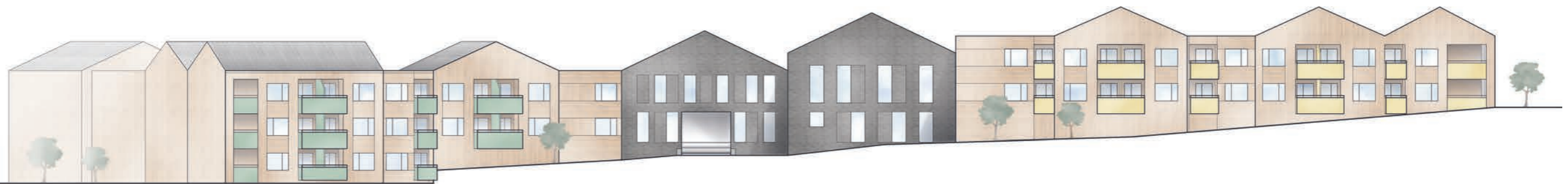
# Facades



Elevation apartment 1:50



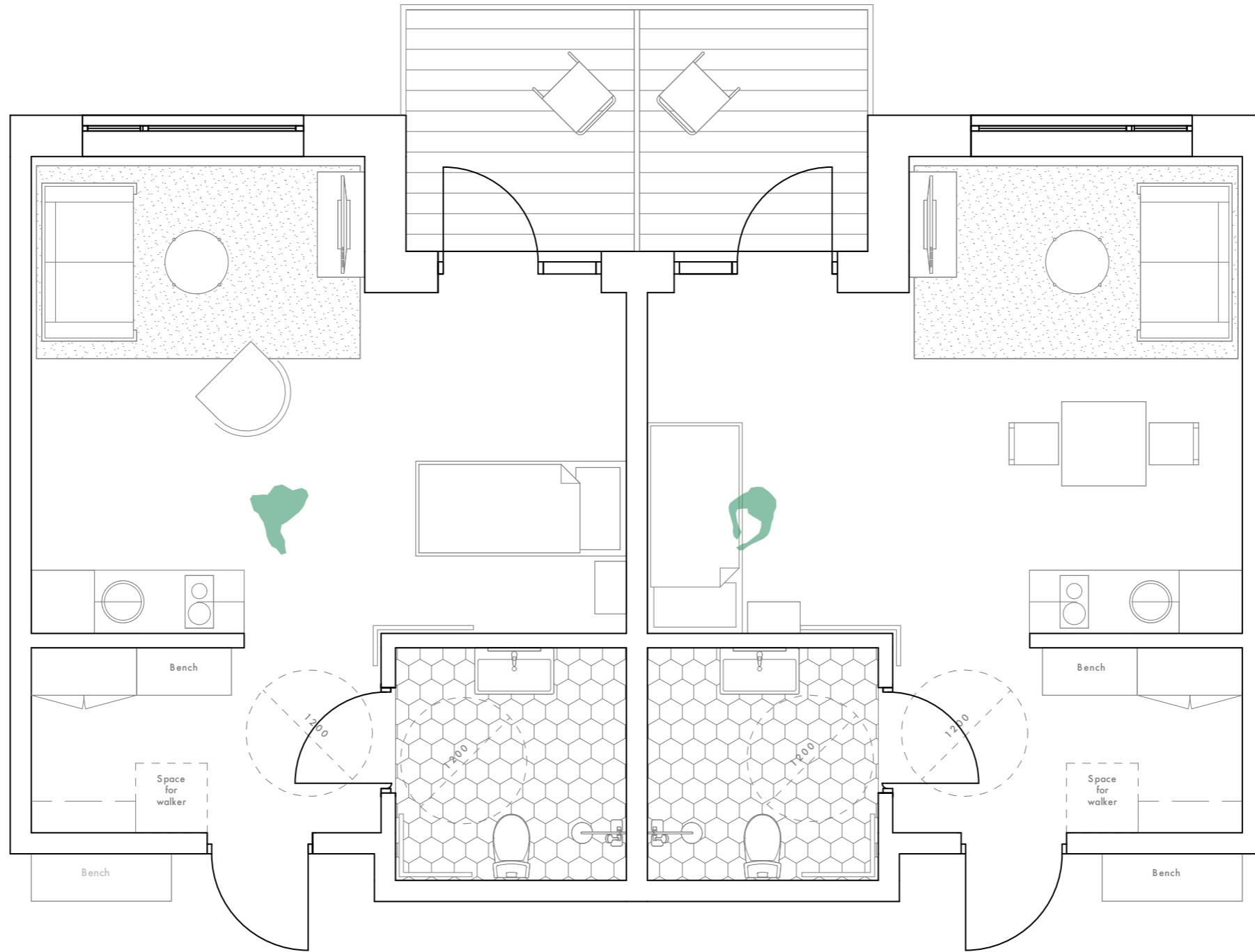
Elevation main entrance 1:50



Elevation A-A 1:400

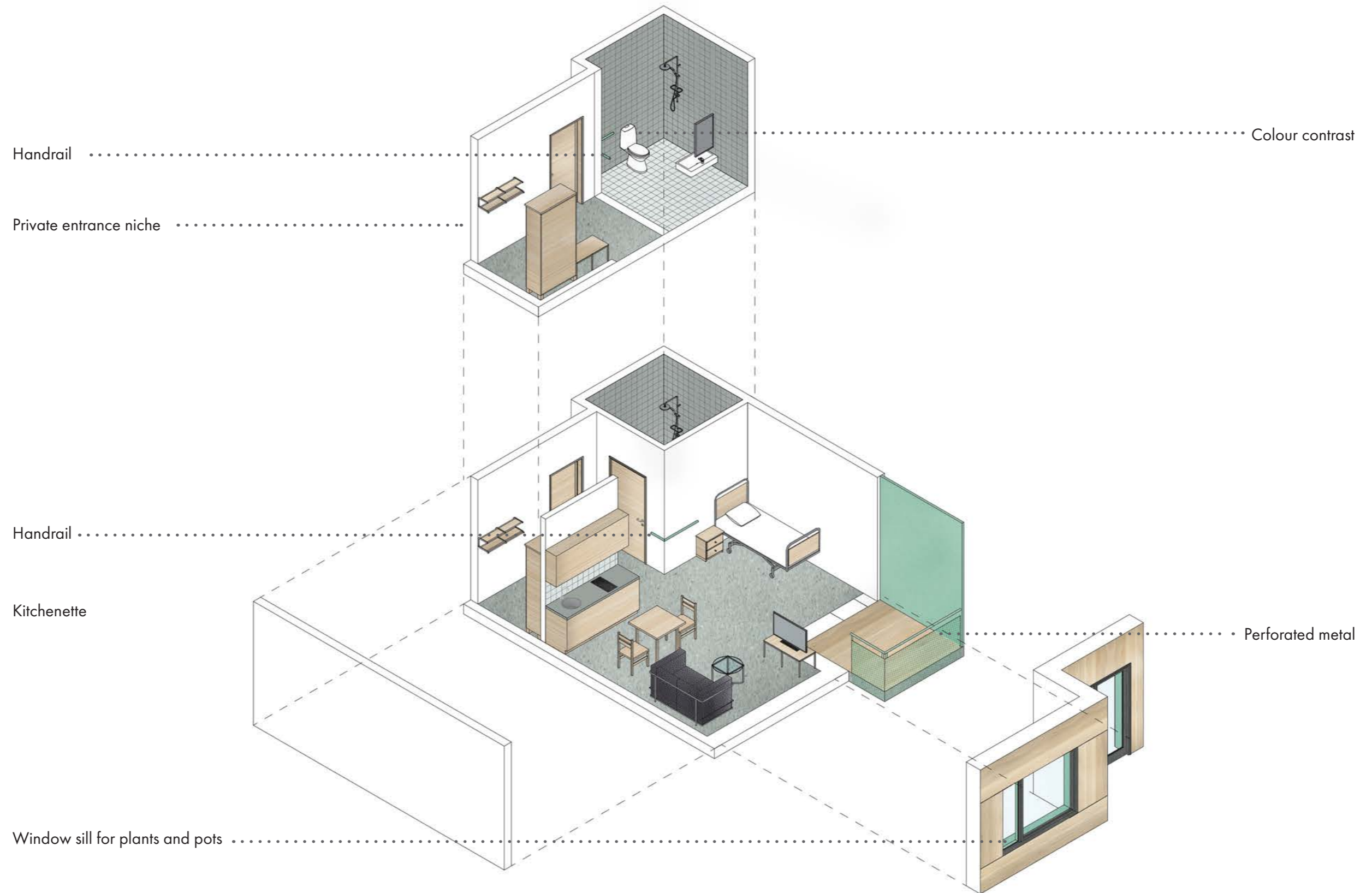


# Apartment single

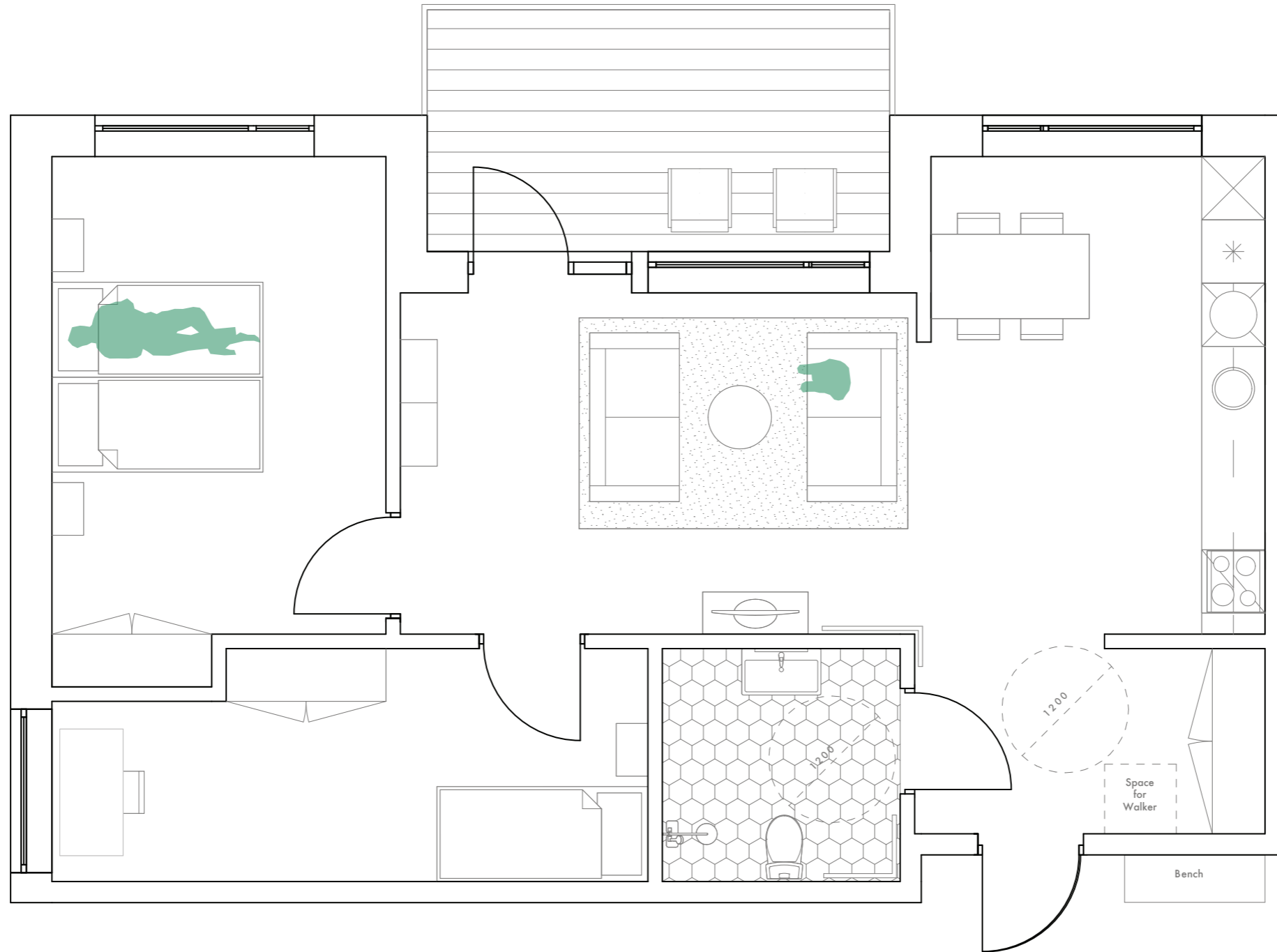


Plan 1:50

# Apartment axonometric



# Apartment couple



Plan 1:50