



Sotto le Querce

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AUT164: Residential Healthcare, fall 2019

Bräcke Diakoni and a Swedish dementia village

The project takes inspiration from the pastoral landscape of the site, with rising topography and large oaks on the Western slope. Set back from the road, the site offers a more secluded and safe location for a dementia care residence, while still situated within the Bräcke area and relevant as a location for offices and more public areas for Bräcke Diakoni's various operations.

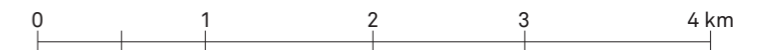
The aim of this project is not to mimic the dementia village concept as executed in the Hogewijk (Netherlands), but to bring the dementia village into a Nordic setting and apply it in combination with the knowledge, experience, and methods for dementia care in Sweden.

Rather than mimic urban life, the design takes notes from the secluded character of a monastery: functioning as a part of the urban fabric, but as an oasis on the edge rather than a central node.

The building volumes turn inwards, focusing on creating attractive spaces that encourage residents and visitors to explore and reside (indoors and outdoors) within the project rather than wander off site. This is further reinforced in how the buildings relate to the surrounding building fabric: intentionally set apart it opens an axis in the more restful East- West direction of the forest and close off the axis towards the busier North and South directions.



Reference photo: Charter House Padua
Location map 1:40 000



Sotto le Querce - *Under the Oaks*

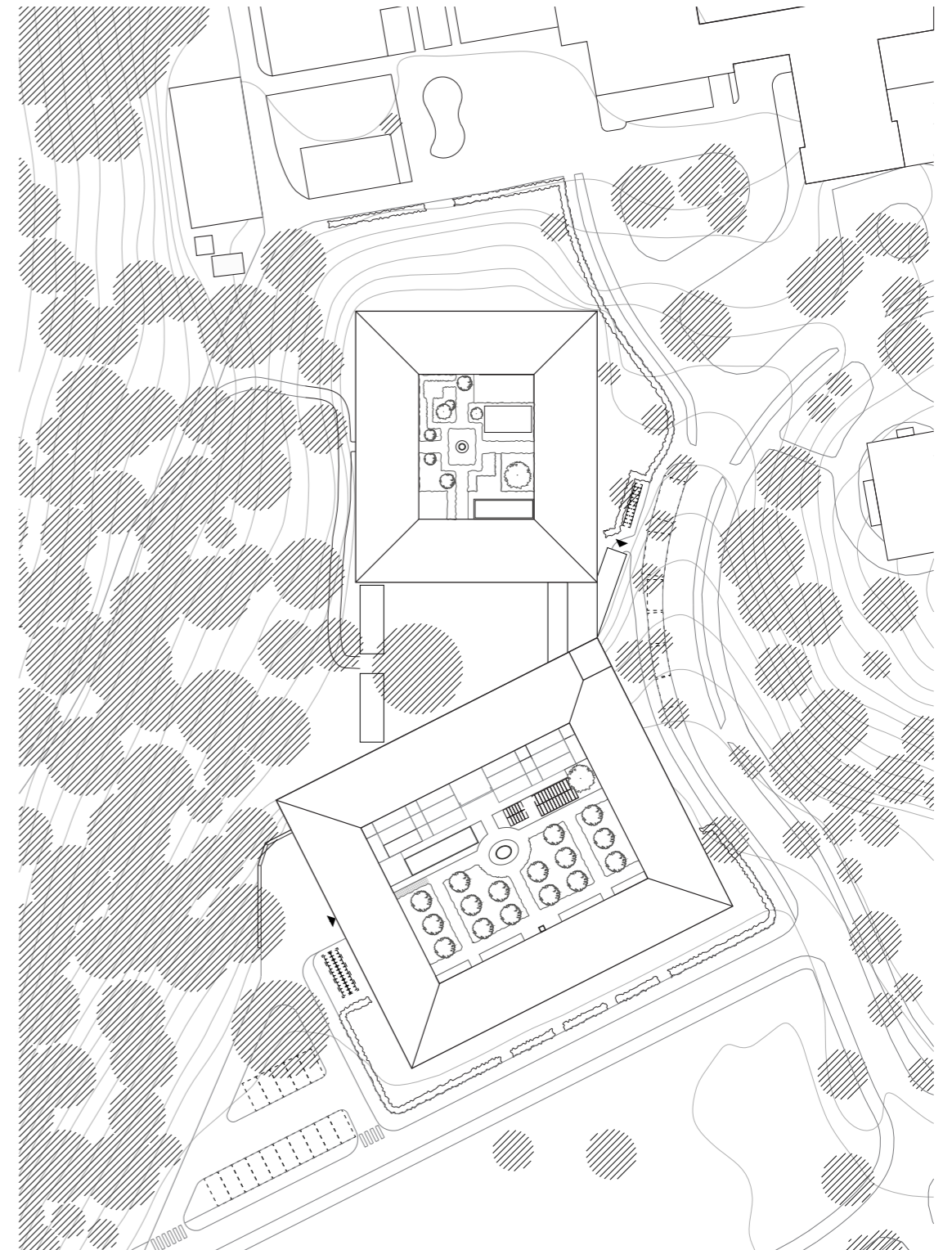
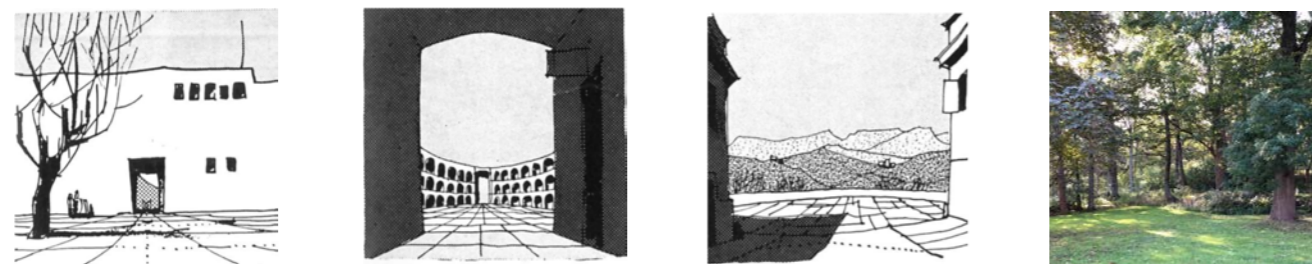
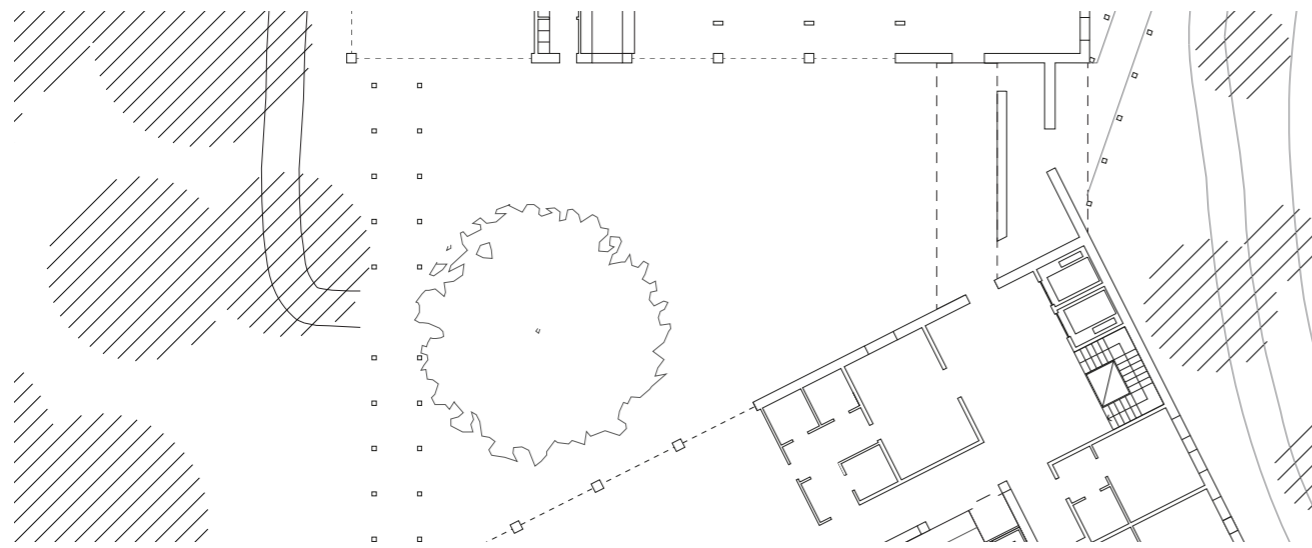
The topography have a big impact on the arrangement of functions within the project. The rising hill, with the steep slope of oak trees characterise the site and provide both a backdrop and a visual focus for the buildings.

The entrance is placed on the main East- West axis opposite the villa. It is enhanced by a campanile, to facilitate recognition and act as a directional guide for people unfamiliar with the area. Vertical circulation is placed by the campanile, giving equal access from the North and South buildings. Parking lots and drop-off sites are placed along the street outside the entrance, with low plants and bushes creating a buffer between the facade and the walking path.

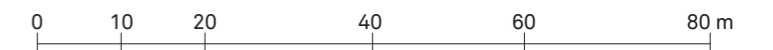
Towards the slope the internal square open up towards

the oaks, with a light pergola structure marking the border of the square. From the pergola a path connects to the North house, and the pre-existing path between the preschool (North of the project) and Bräcke administrative buildings.

The main parking for staff and visitors is placed to minimise visual exposure for the residents, and provide quick staff access across the South courtyard to offices and changing rooms. Deliveries, main storage and technical facilities are placed in the West corner of the building, at the steepest point of the site. This way the project utilise the program to "level" the physical experience of the site, whilst preserving the visual character of the landscape.



Entrance plan 1:400
Site plan 1:1000



The Unit

Eleven units are divided between the houses with five in the north house and six in the south. Each standard unit is made up of eight apartments, and the couples unit have four apartments. The strategy applied for the unit layout is to design smaller individual apartments in order to have more square meters per person in the common areas, as these have a tendency to be more used by the residents of dementia care facilities.

The units are arranged to create a circular loop around the courtyard, with apartments looking out towards the surroundings. As walking within the building tend to be common with dementia residents, the corridor is designed to be a place for this activity, rather than solely functioning as a circulation space. Large glass windows overlook the internal courtyard, and at the corners destination points are the focus at the end of the sight lines. The loop provide a safe route for residents to walk, avoiding dead ends without leading to unsafe or confusing destinations.

On levels 1 and 2, two units share one loop and support functions, and with the vertical circulation placed in the clock-tower at the corner of the houses, there is direct access to all units from the lobby. The exception is level 2

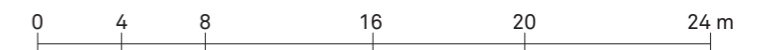
in the South house which hold three units, where the third unit can be reached by passing through either of the other two units, or with direct access from the secondary staircase (fire evacuation stairs).

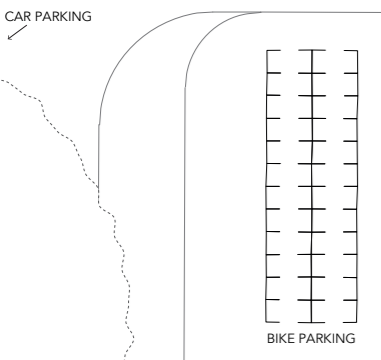
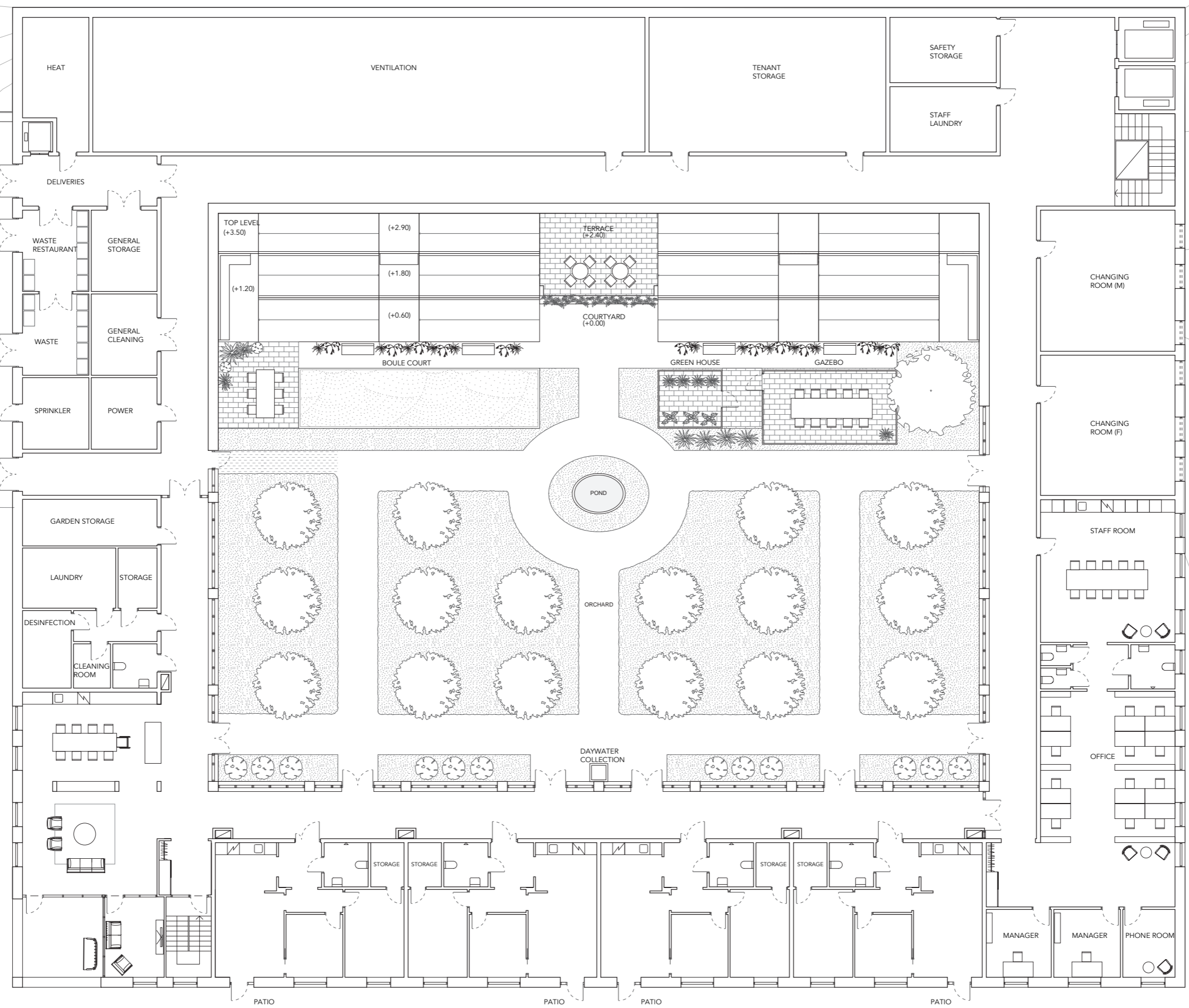
The ground floor of each house contain one unit and the main "village" and administrative functions of the program: the offices and staff spaces, the café lounge, rehabilitation areas with a small pool for water rehab, and a small auditorium space. In the North house two "flex-rooms" are placed the unit entrance, close to the vertical circulation point. The restaurant and conference spaces are placed on the second level of the South house, to have direct access to the square. The auditorium, the restaurant and the café lounge can be opened up towards the square when the weather allows.

An indoor overpass on top of the main entrance to the village connect the North and South houses, and the campanile with the main stairs and the elevators. By limiting the vertical circulation to one location, the risk of residents wandering off is lessened while still providing resident access to the elevators, and the circulation surfaces minimised.

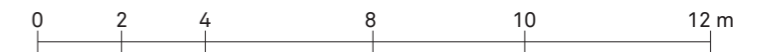


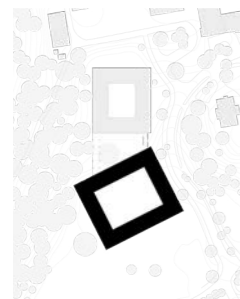
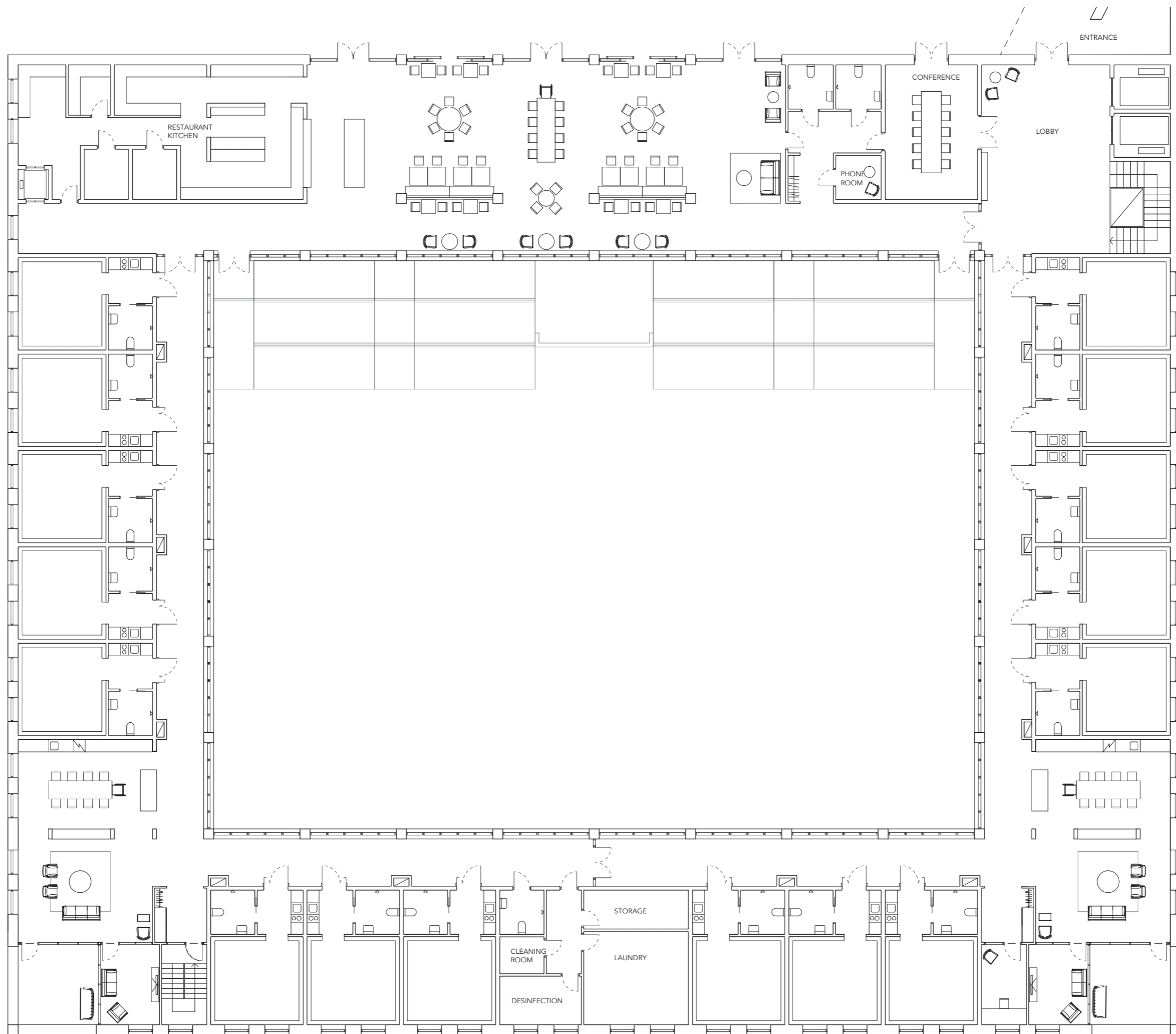
Site photo, South direction
Section 1:400



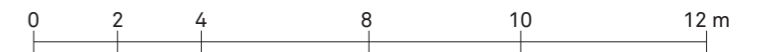


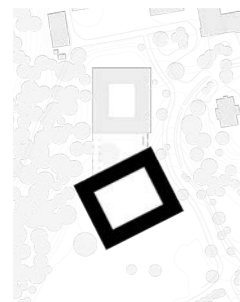
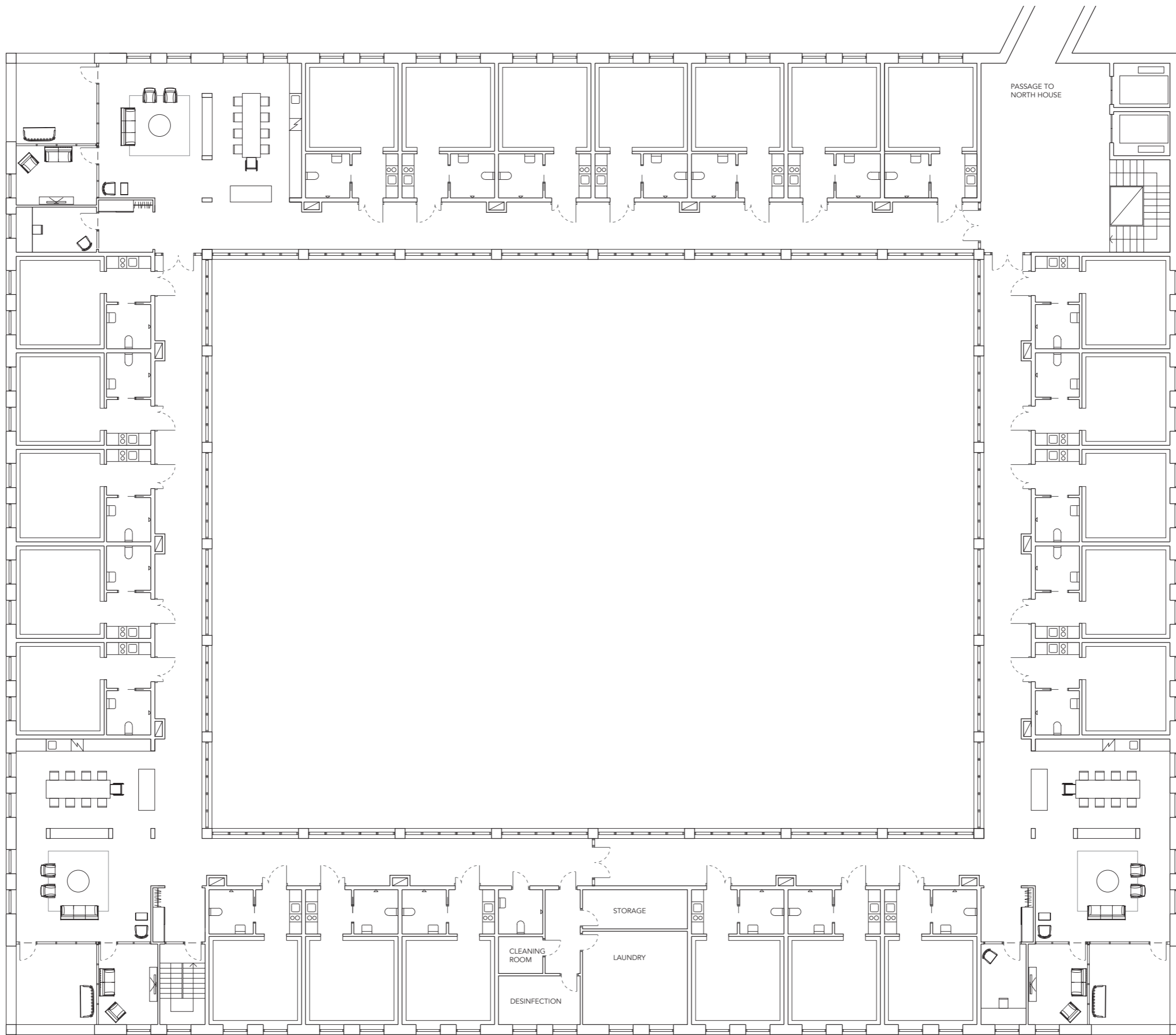
Ground floor
Plan 1:200



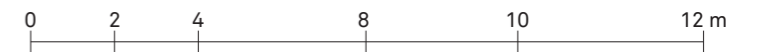


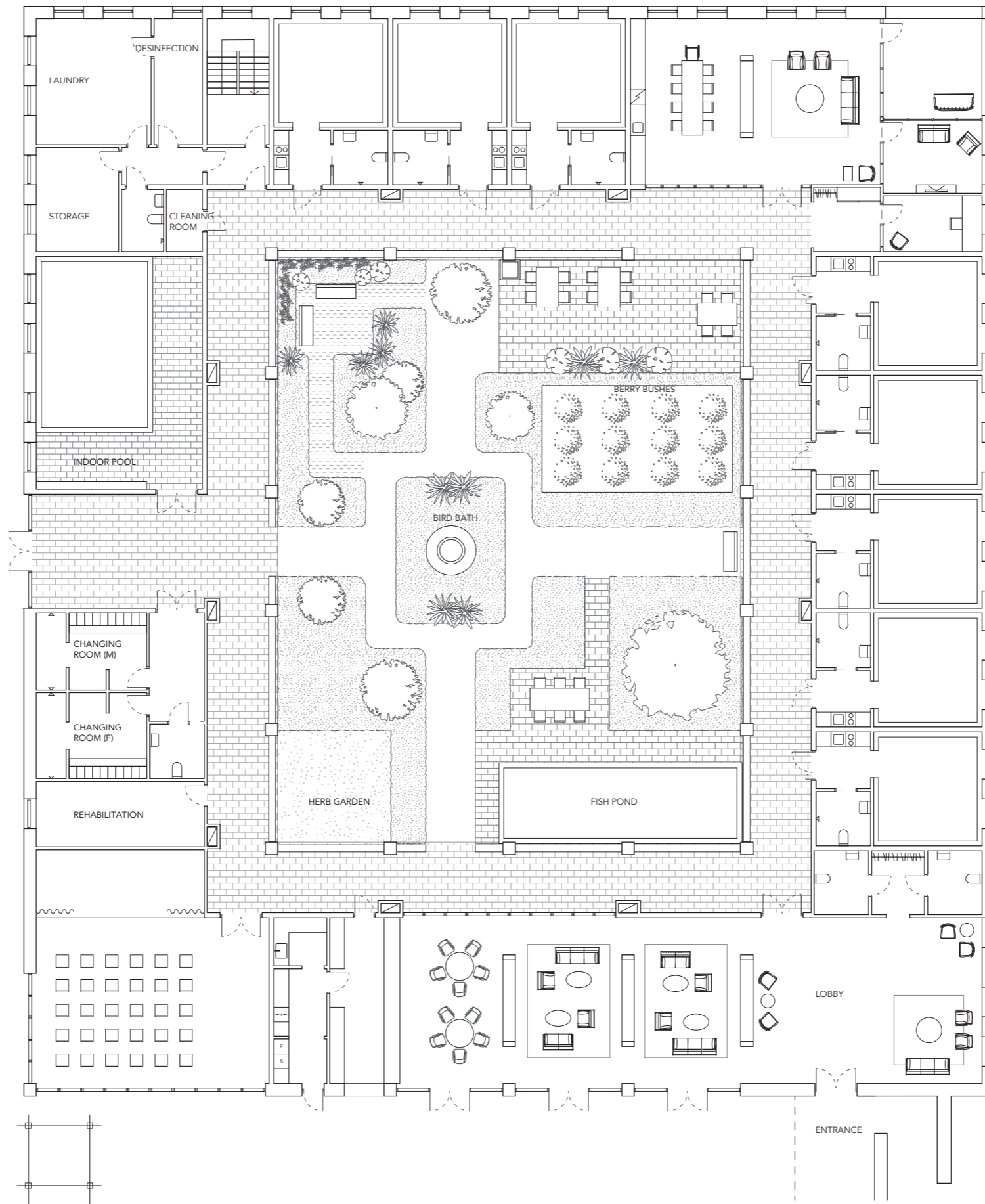
Level 1
Plan 1:200



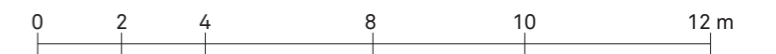


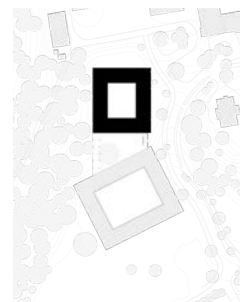
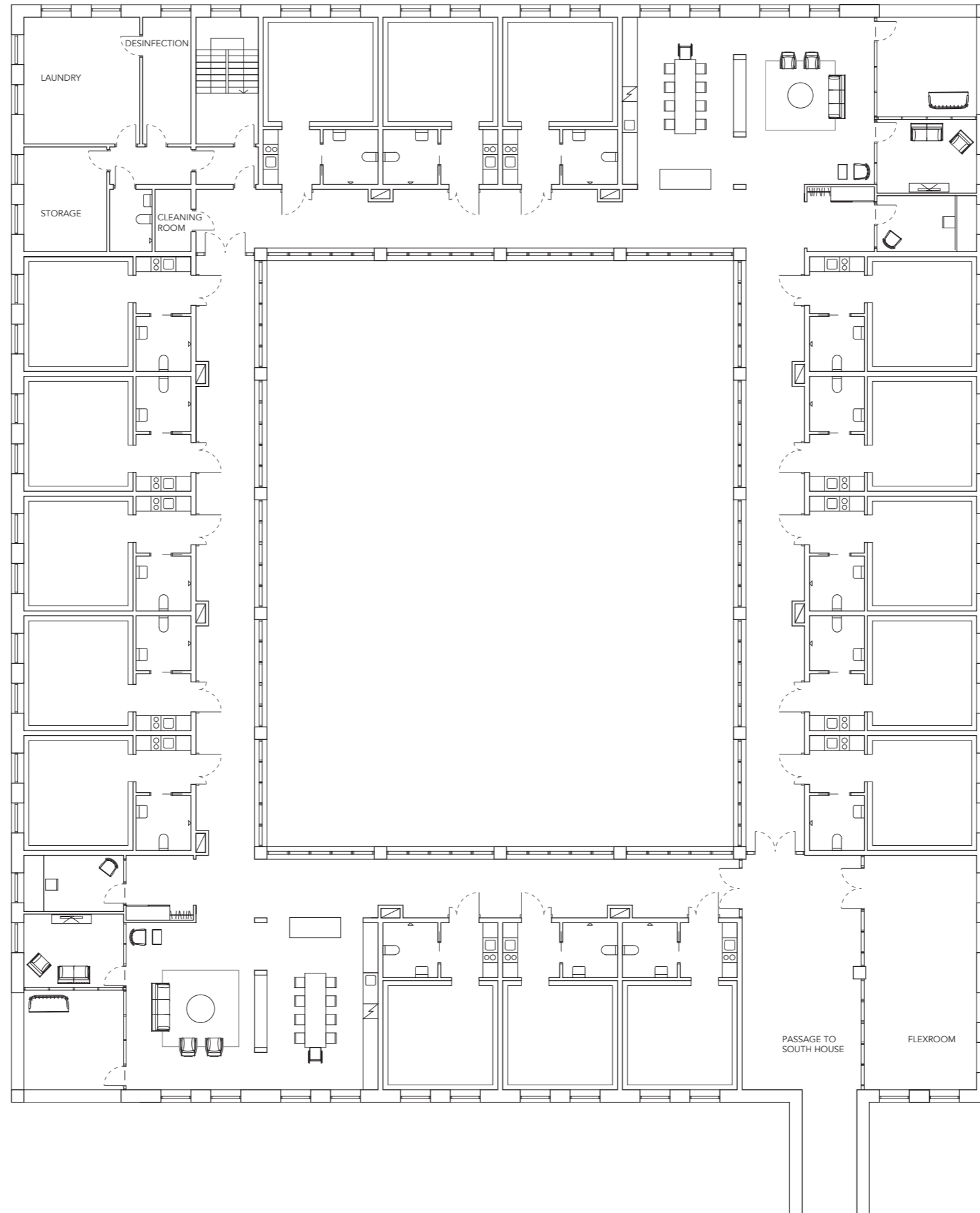
Level 2
Plan 1:200



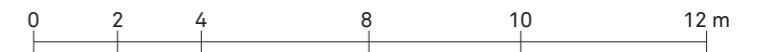


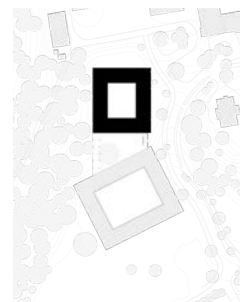
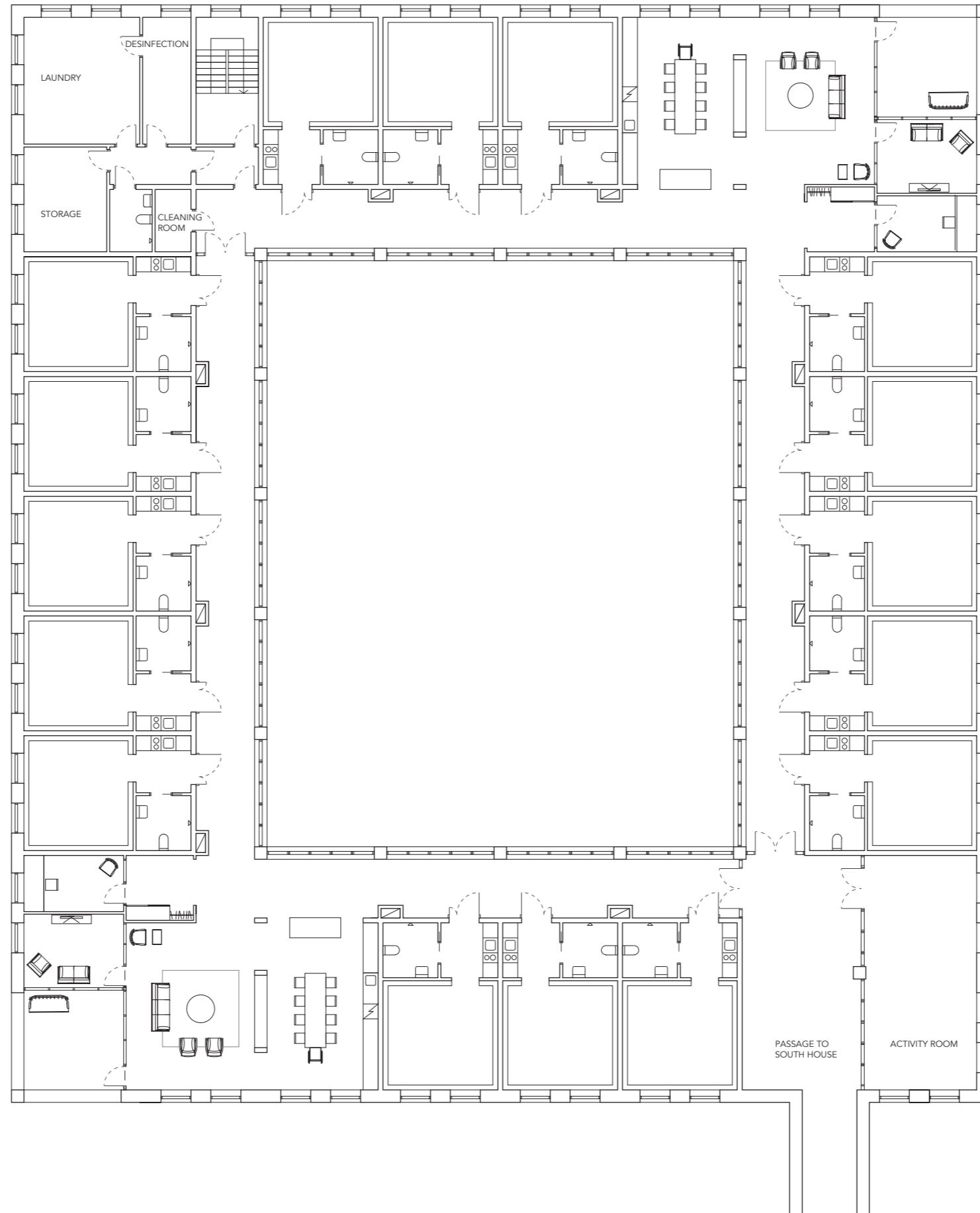
Ground floor
Plan 1:200



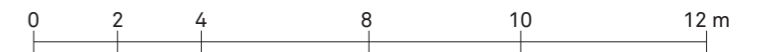


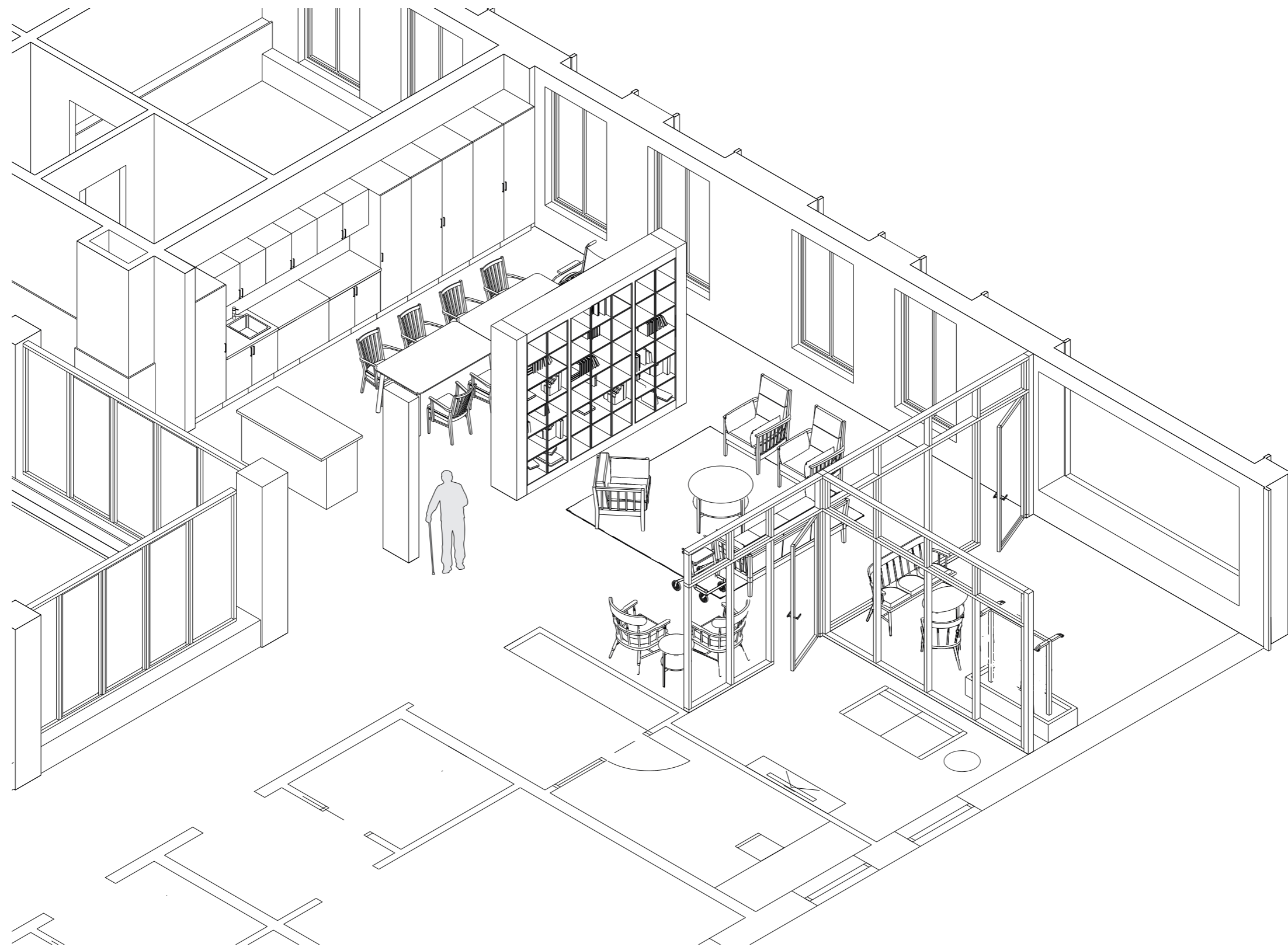
Level 1
Plan 1:200





Level 2
Plan 1:200





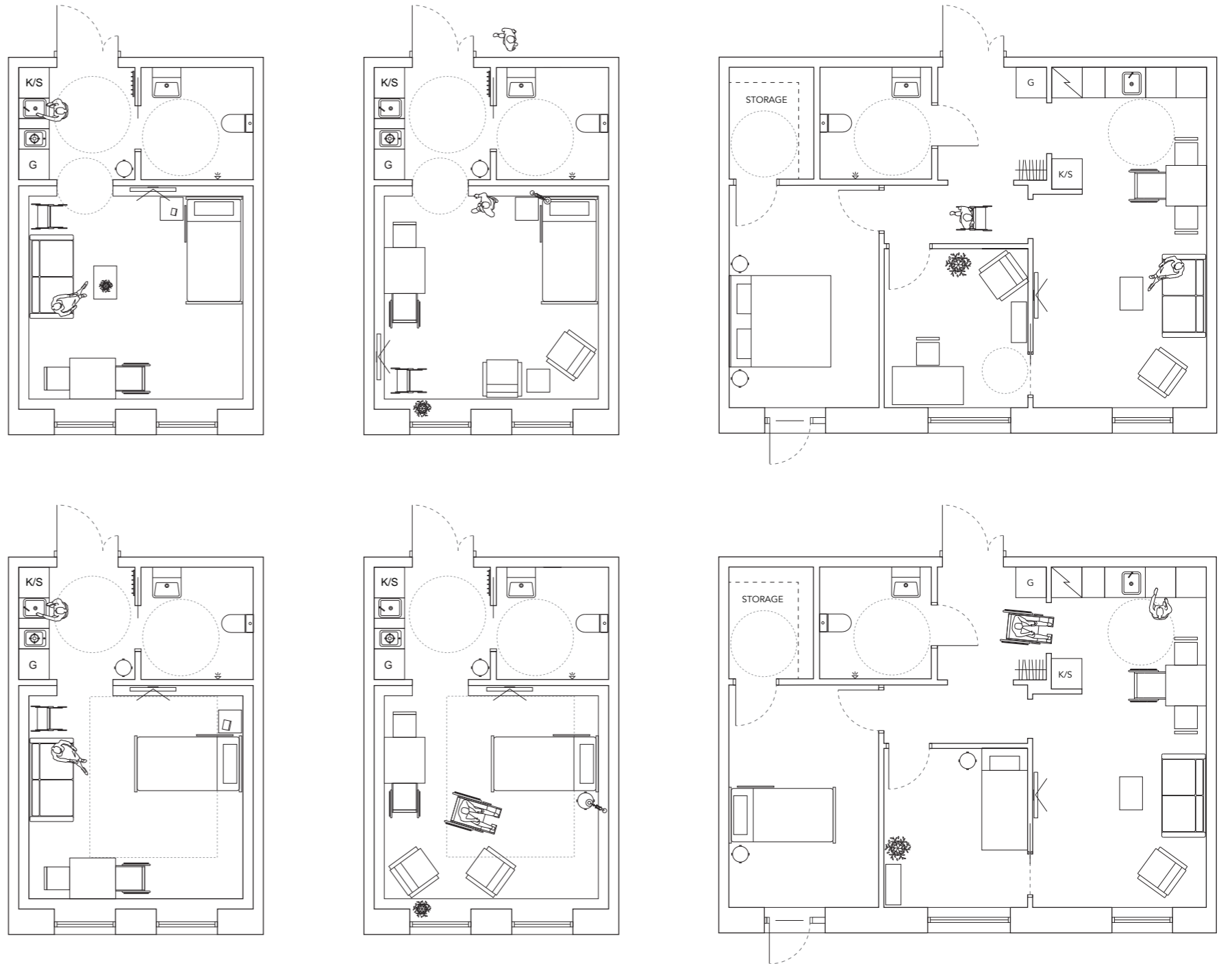
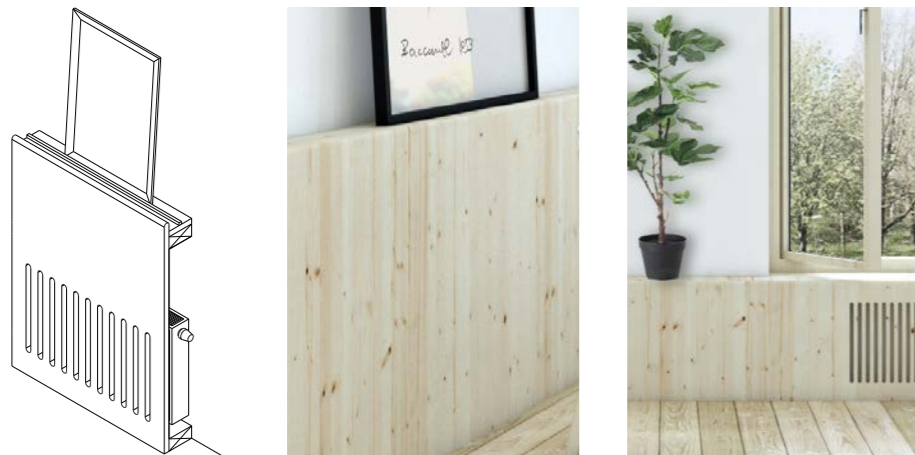
Common areas
Isometric

The Apartments

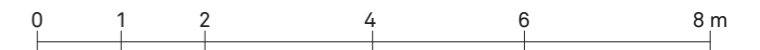
The standard apartment is 30,5 m², at the smaller end of the standard interval. Residents generally tend to prefer spending the time in the common areas, and the smaller apartments free up square meters that are instead used in the common areas. Turning the bathroom door towards the hallway, the main room gains flexibility for alternative furnishings, and can be kept in the same position if the bed needs to be accessible from both sides. Avoiding a constant view of the toilet through the commonly open bathroom door also offers more dignity and living quality to the apartments. The single room apartment is designed with a built-in wood railing. This is to offer the resident greater freedom within the apartment, to be able to move around in one's home without having to use a walker. The railing also functions as a shelf, and as protection for radiators and wall installations.

The unit with the couples apartments is separated from the other units, on the ground floor facing South. This unit's location is chosen since it is likely one of the people living in the apartment doesn't suffer from dementia, and there is a greater need and potential for integration with the surrounding neighbourhood. The apartment is 61 m², and can be furnished with one or two bedrooms according to residents needs. The apartments have quick access, from the unit corridor, to the courtyard, and a small patio with direct access from the living room.

The three room apartment is design with the same external measurements as two single apartments. This way, the program can fit a switch from the unit of four couples apartments to a standard unit with eight single apartments.



Apartments
(singles and couples)
Plan 1:100





Single Apartment

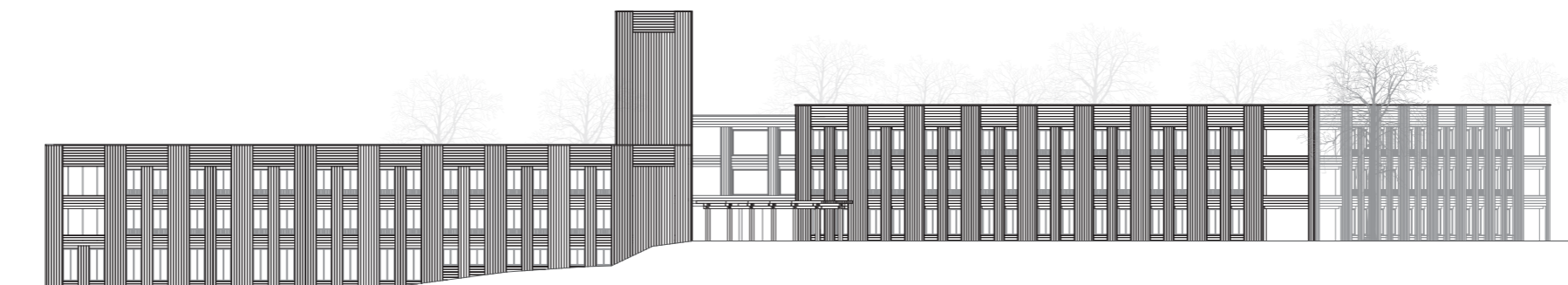
North



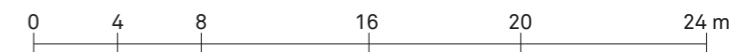
South



East (entrance)



Façades
Elevation 1:400





Left: exterior façade
Right: courtyard façade



Courtyards and Square

The courtyards and green spaces on the site are designed to offer safe and easy access to a variety of outdoor spaces, with a focus on creating variation in spatial and sensory experiences. Inspiration is taken from the layout of the Italian renaissance garden, which include elements of sight lines, resting places, view points overlooking surrounding nature and the gardens, smells of growing herbs, and the sound of water.

The two enclosed courtyards are differentiated in scale and character. This is intentionally done to encourage residents to move within the project, depending on their preference or specific mood. The square between the buildings offer a more urban and active place, with easy access for both residents and visitors.

The larger courtyard in the South building is open, primarily characterized and given spatial direction by the ramp. It provides an outdoor path from the ground up to the restaurant, which is supplemented with two elevators in the foyer close by. Along the path of the ramp several resting spots are placed at different levels, offering a variation of views overlooking the activities and the orchard planted in the courtyard.

Around the boule court seating is placed for players and onlookers to rest between games. The top of the orchard trees provide the couples apartments visual privacy from the terrace and restaurant one level up, while still giving the courtyard an open overview at the ground level. The green houses provide gardening possibility all year round, and a place for communal

gatherings outside of the residential unit's common area. The South courtyard is more public in nature, with the administrative and more open functions of the care facility. Paths on the ground level are along the axis' for movement from the parking to the staff areas, and access from the unit common area and the apartment entrances to the couples apartments.

The North courtyard is smaller, and covered by a glass roof in order to provide a pleasant climate for use through out the year. The paths are laid out to be incorporated with and added to the circulation encouraged between the two ground level units. The ground floor is open to the courtyard, giving the circulation space the character of an arcade rather than a corridor, and enhancing the connection between the indoor space and the garden. In the garden, small places for contemplation and rest are designed, giving priority to seclusion and small gatherings, rather than the more open larger places provided in the South courtyard.

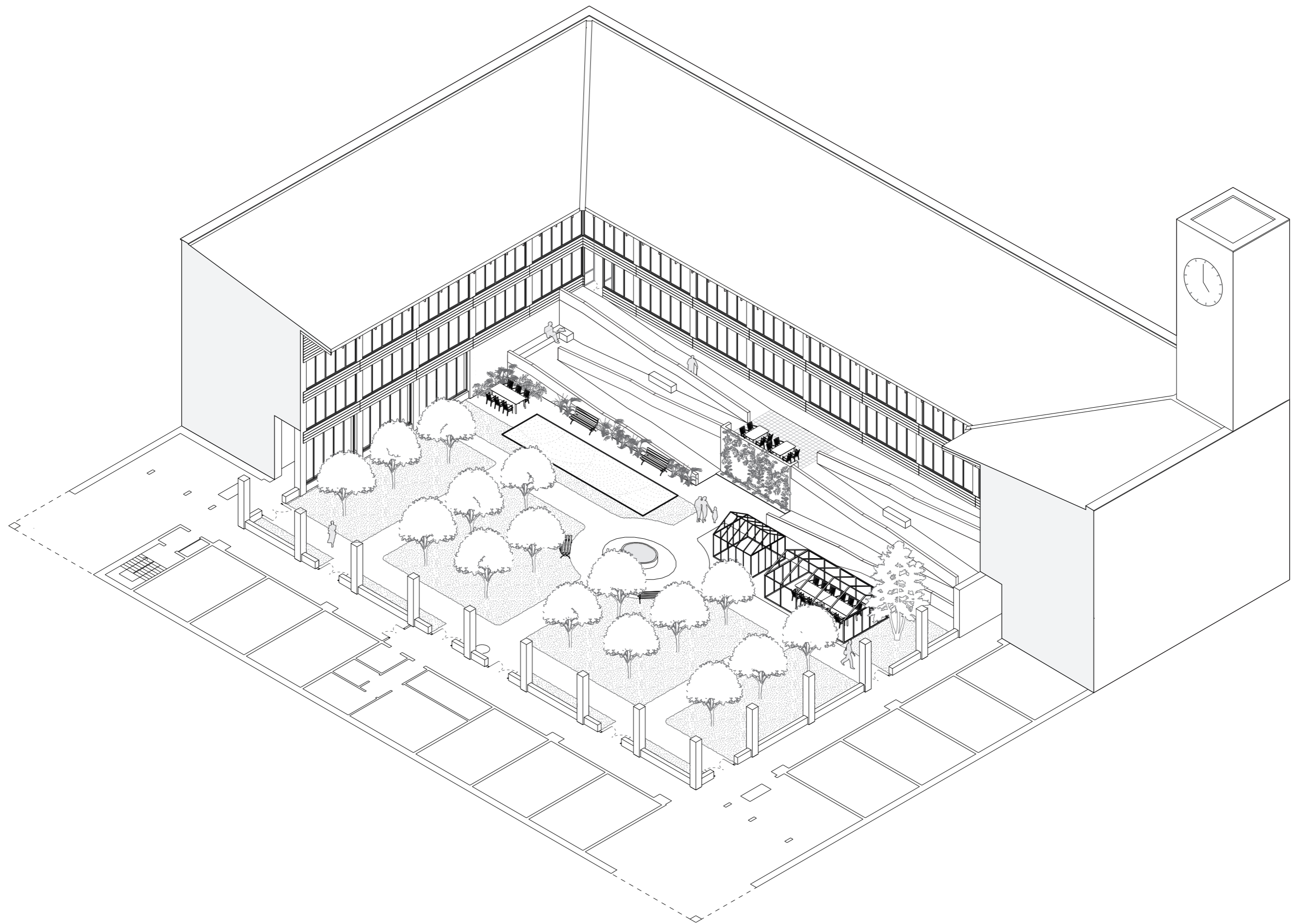
Sight lines are directed towards either destinations, such as the entrances to unit common areas and the rehabilitation facilities, or interesting and restful views towards the forest. Depending on the sight line "focus point" either paths or attractors are placed to guide residents towards entrances or resting spots. The sound of rippling water is introduced in the fish pond and the bird bath, smells are introduced with the herb garden, and berry bushes are planted directly adjacent to where benches and tables are placed.



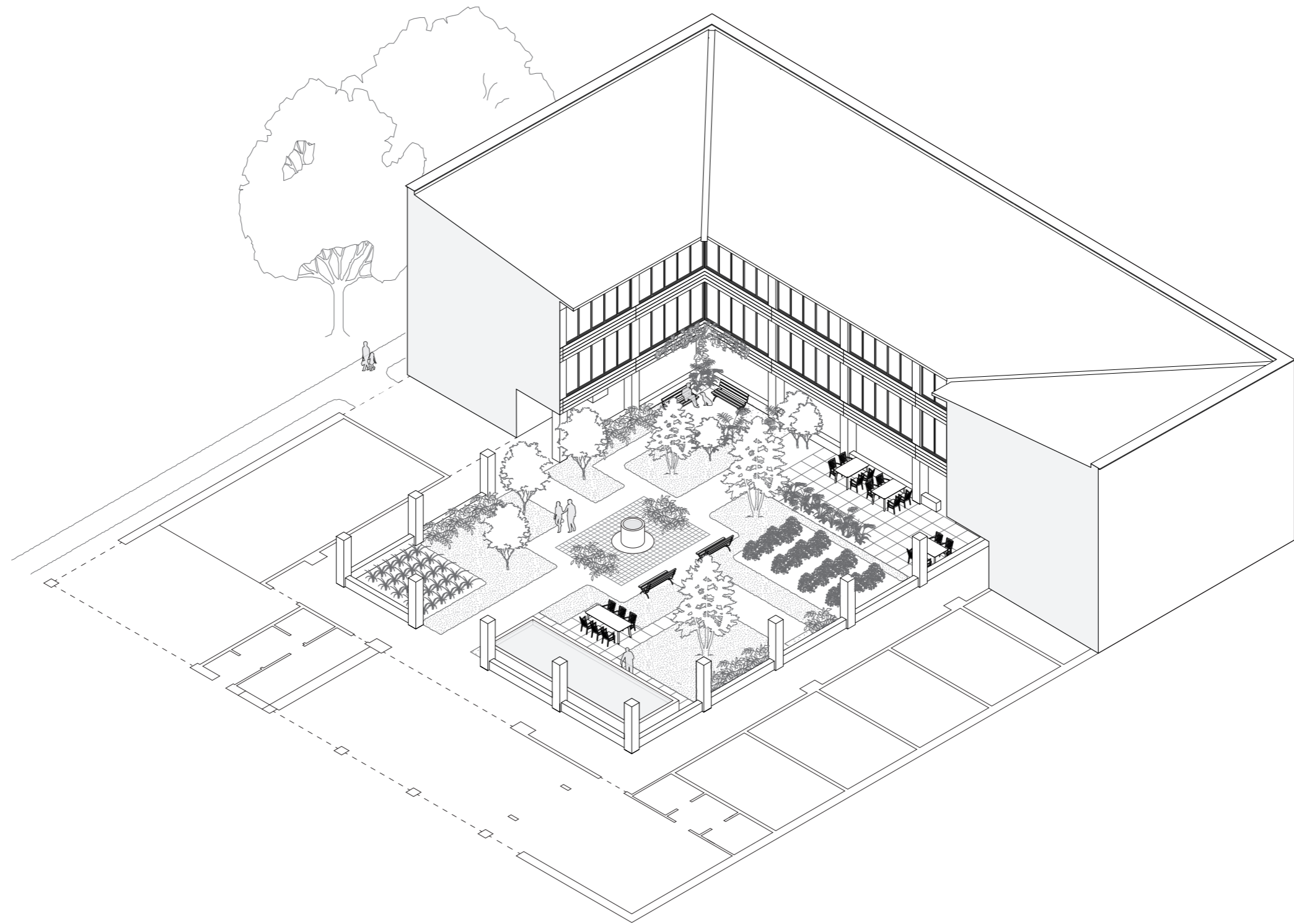
Reference image:
Charter House Padua



Central square



South courtyard



North courtyard



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Emil Karlsson
Tove Söderberg

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