

Backegården



Residential Healthcare Architecture

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Location

Utby is an established “egnahem”- suburb 6 km northeast of Gothenburg. The area, that mostly consists of villas and row houses, began to build up in 1910 and expanded in several stages until the 1960s. Utby is best known for its beautiful nature and climbing mountains that are of national importance. There is not a lot of public functions in the area today except a grocery store, some restaurants and hairdressers. A church and a preschool are situated close to the site.

The site, in the centre of Utby, is mostly unspoiled nature and allotment gardens which provide green recreational spaces for the residents today. It is situated on one of the highest points in the area which results in great views over the mountains. The site has a varied topography and a challenging height difference, which can be an opportunity to create interesting architecture but at the same time it is a challenge to solve access to and accessibility within the site.

Program

The task of the project was to design an assisted living facility for people with dementia. With consideration of the dementia village concept, the scale of the context, size of the site and its topography this project is designed for 80 residents.

Dementia village

A dementia village is about providing a home where life can feel as normal as possible for people with the dementia disease that can no longer stay in their own homes. The concept of a dementia village is to be a safe and accessible space, where people with dementia can continue being independent with the help of easy orientation, ability to take part in the community and everyday activities. By dividing the housing into smaller volumes, the project adapts to the small scale of Utby at the same time as it makes the assisted living feel more like a village. With functions as for example a hairdresser, pub and a spa that can be co-used with the surrounding neighbourhood. The new built environment is a way of providing qualities for the local community, that also normalizes the everyday life for the residents.



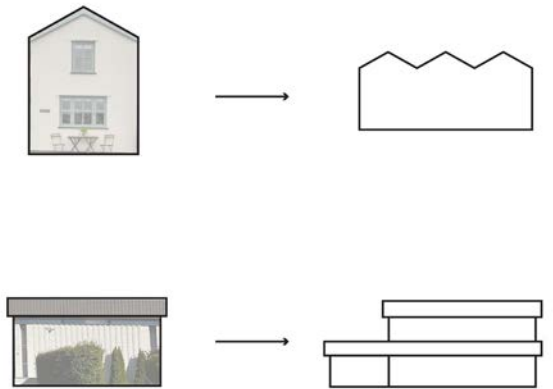
Buildings

The area began to be built in 1910 and expanded in several stages until the 1960s. It consists of villas, row houses and a few apartments.



Main roads and transportation

The site is easily accessible both by car and bus and the bus stops are located close to the site.



Form

We were inspired by the characteristics of the surrounding buildings. The gable roofs are common and are here used to break down the scale. The church and houses in 1960's style in the area by the access to the plot inspired the flat roof of the entrance building.



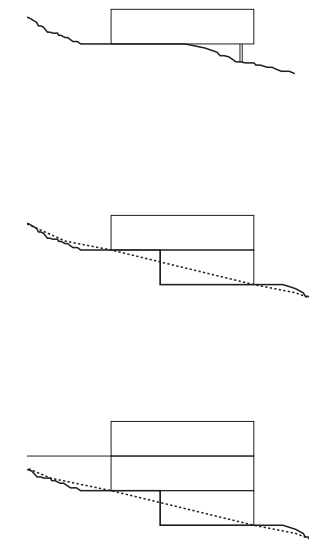
Public functions

There is not a lot of public functions in the area. A preschool and a church are situated in close connection to the site. There is also a grocery store, some restaurants and hairdressers in the area.



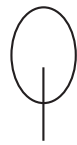
Greenery

The site is edged by unspoiled nature and old pine trees, which plays a central and very beneficial role in the design of our building. Allotment gardens can be found in the north-eastern corner and are used today.



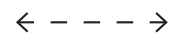
Topography

The site has a varied topography and a challenging height difference which creates opportunities for interesting architecture. The buildings follow the terrain and takes up the height difference through a souterrain typology.



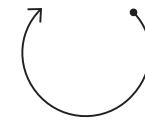
NATURE

The unspoiled nature is one of the biggest assets of the site. We want to create different outdoor environments in different scales and grades of privacy.



TRANSPARENCY

To contribute to better wellbeing both for the staff and the residents, transparency will be used to create better light qualities and a feeling of being outside even when being indoors.



LOOPS OF WANDERING

We want to encourage movement, both inside and outside, through circular paths that do not end up in dead ends to facilitate wayfinding and orientation.



LEVELS OF PRIVACY

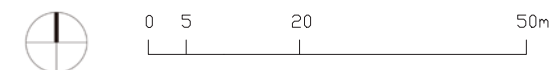
We want to create a feeling of being home and at the same time being a part of the community in a shared living facility. With different levels of public and private spaces residents get can choose to participate or not.

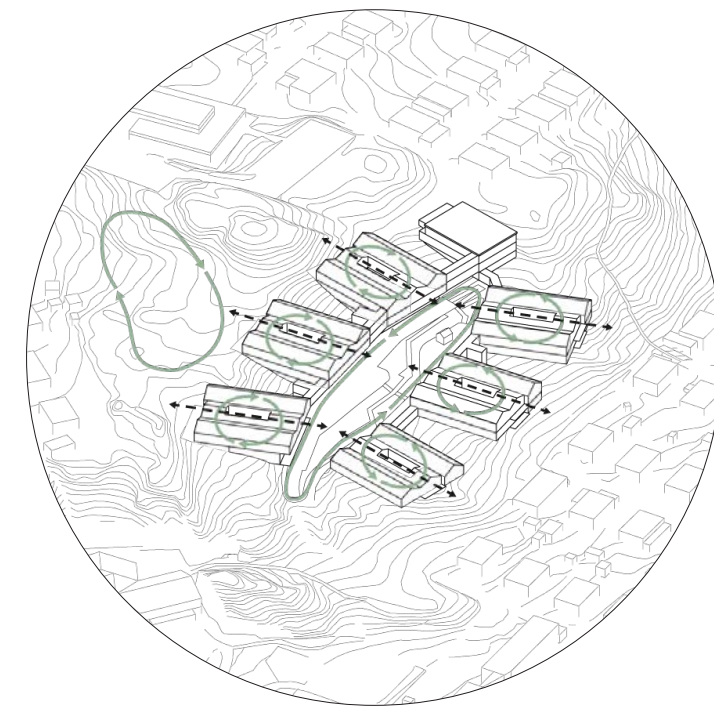
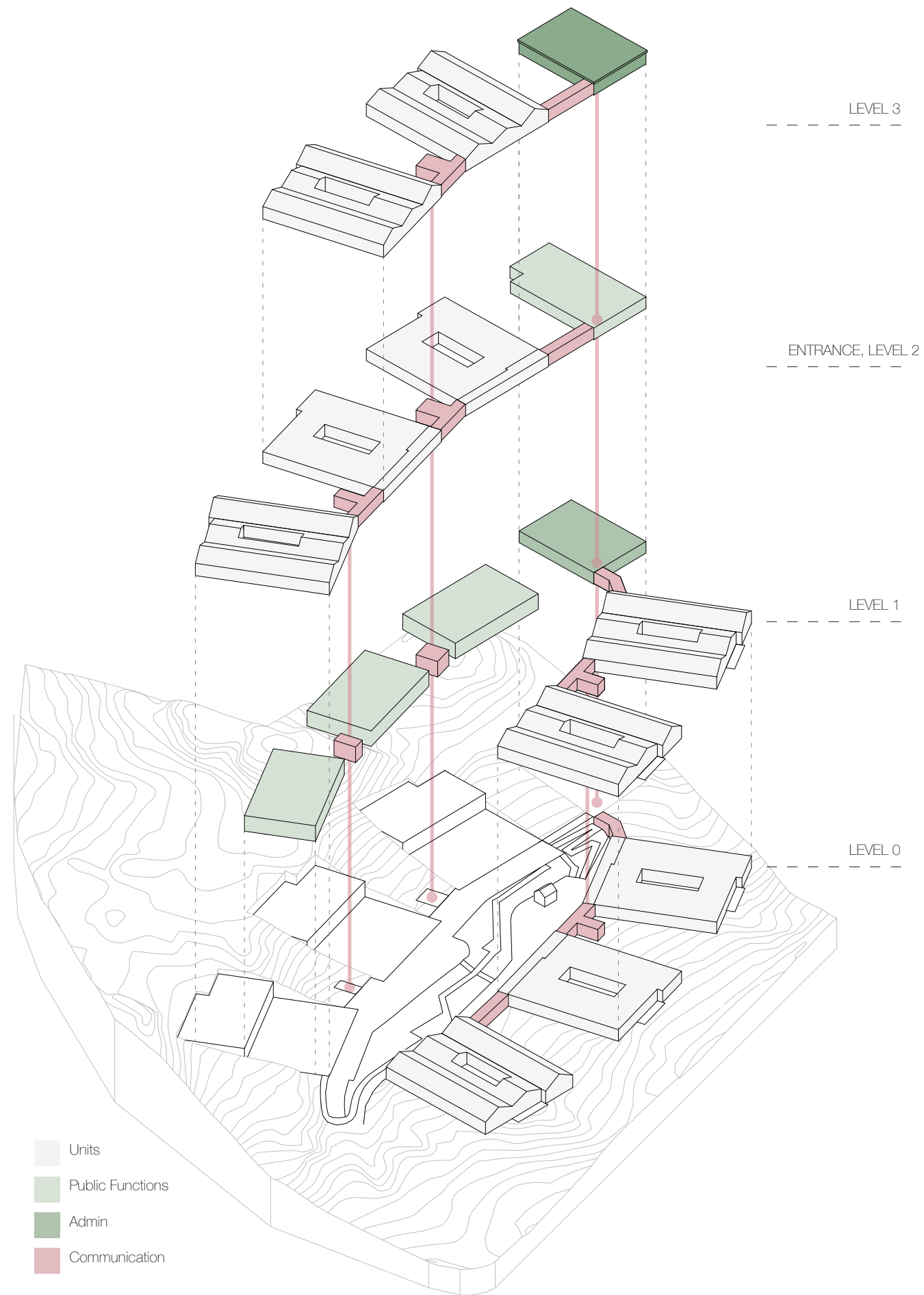


Plot area: 22 640 m²
 Total footprint: 5130 m²
 Unit area: 536 m²
 Apartment area: 33,1 m²
 Courtyard area: 2000 m²
 Atrium area: 375 m²
 Units: 10
 Apartments: 80

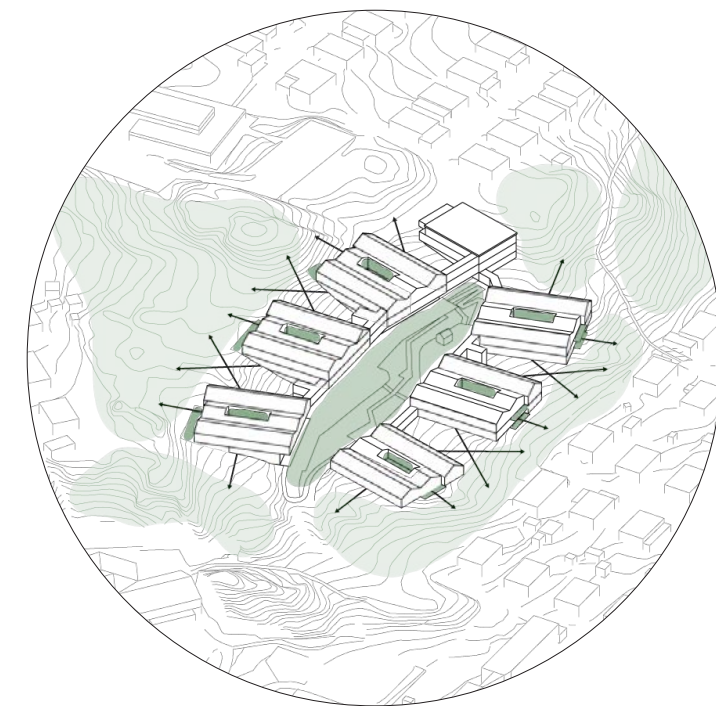
The site strategy is to place the dementia village on the flatter part of the site and dividing the volume to connect to the local scale and create nice views, as well as to shape an enclosed shared courtyard. The units are spread out in six volumes which can keep the height down as they do not need to be stacked tall, the communication allows for movement between the buildings and gives access to the courtyard.

The entrance and parking are connecting to the church parking. In the south there is access for pedestrians to the dementia village courtyard and a walk path connects to the nature park and then the church parking lot. By including a playground and some allotment gardens the nature park as part of the project is giving back qualities to Utby.

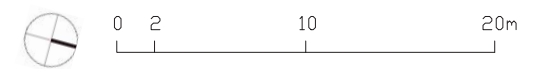
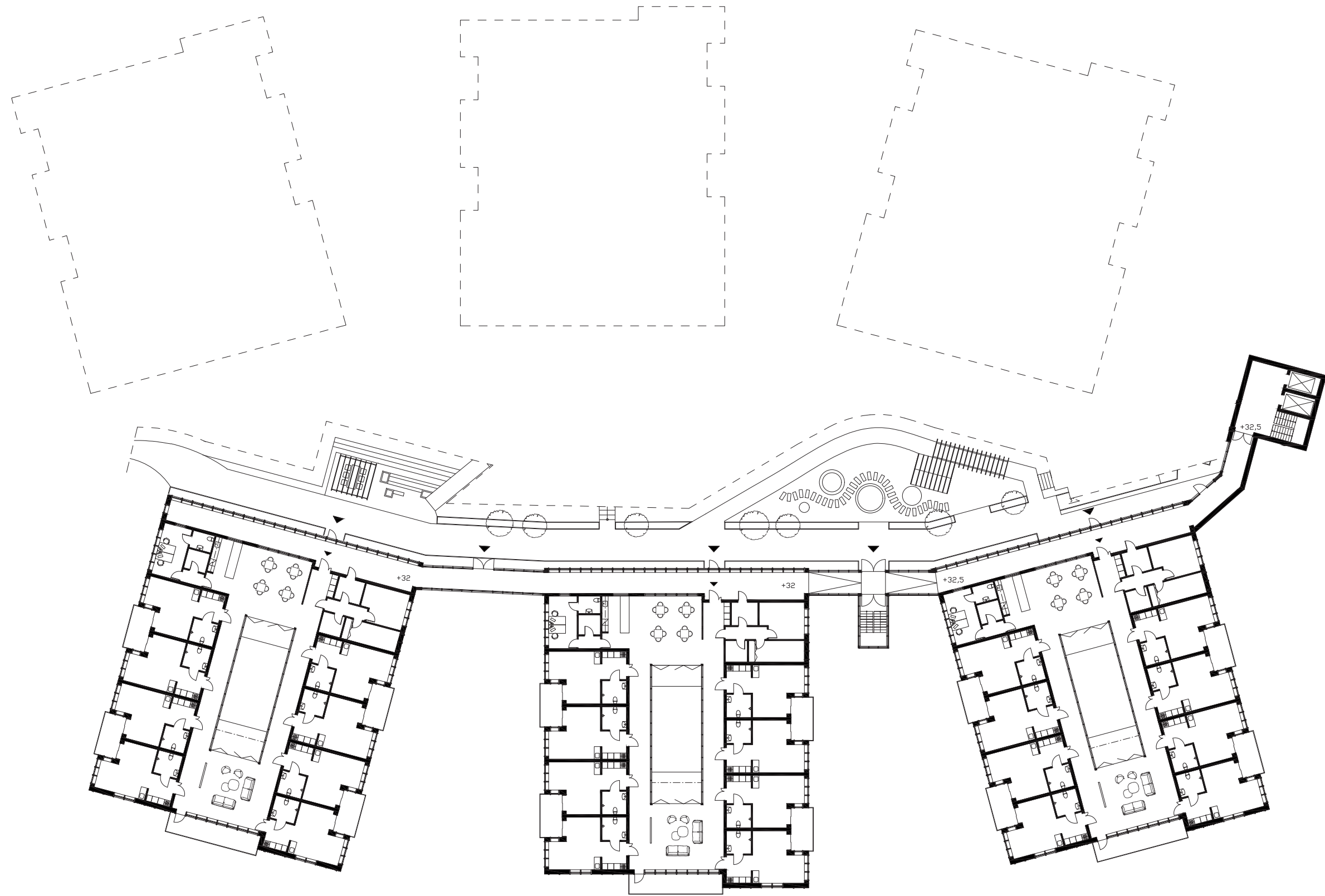


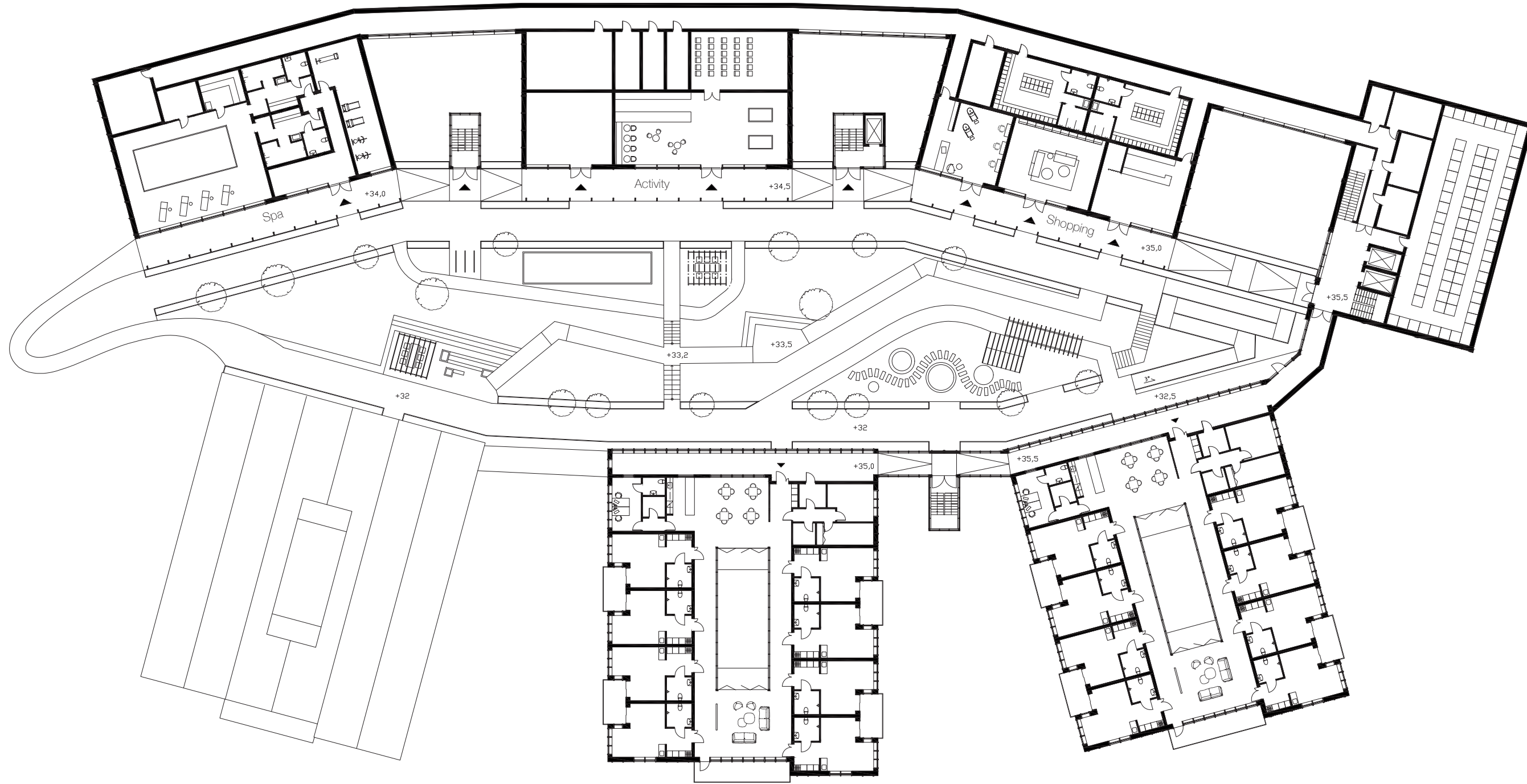


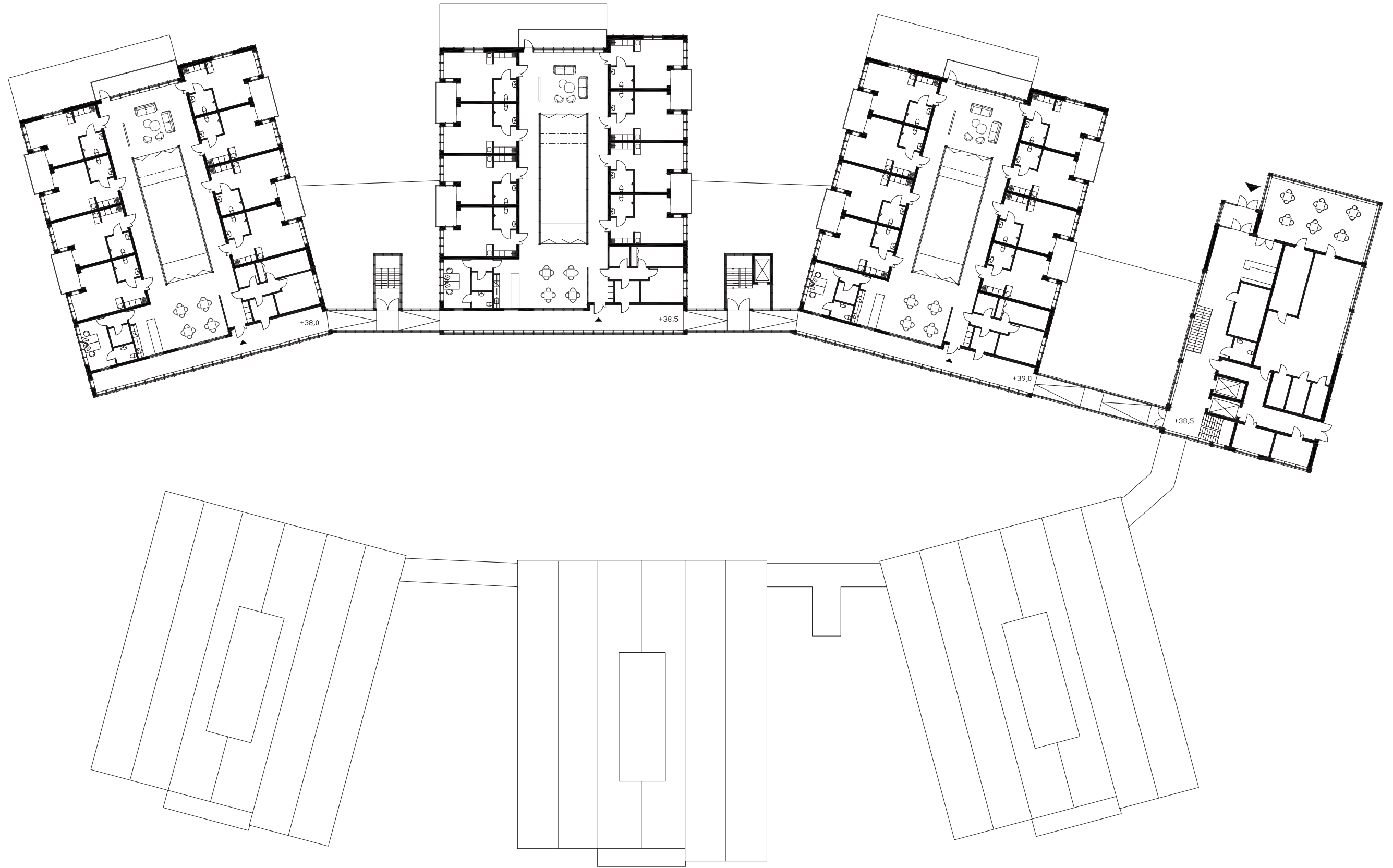
Loops and transparency

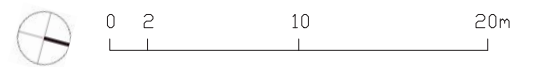
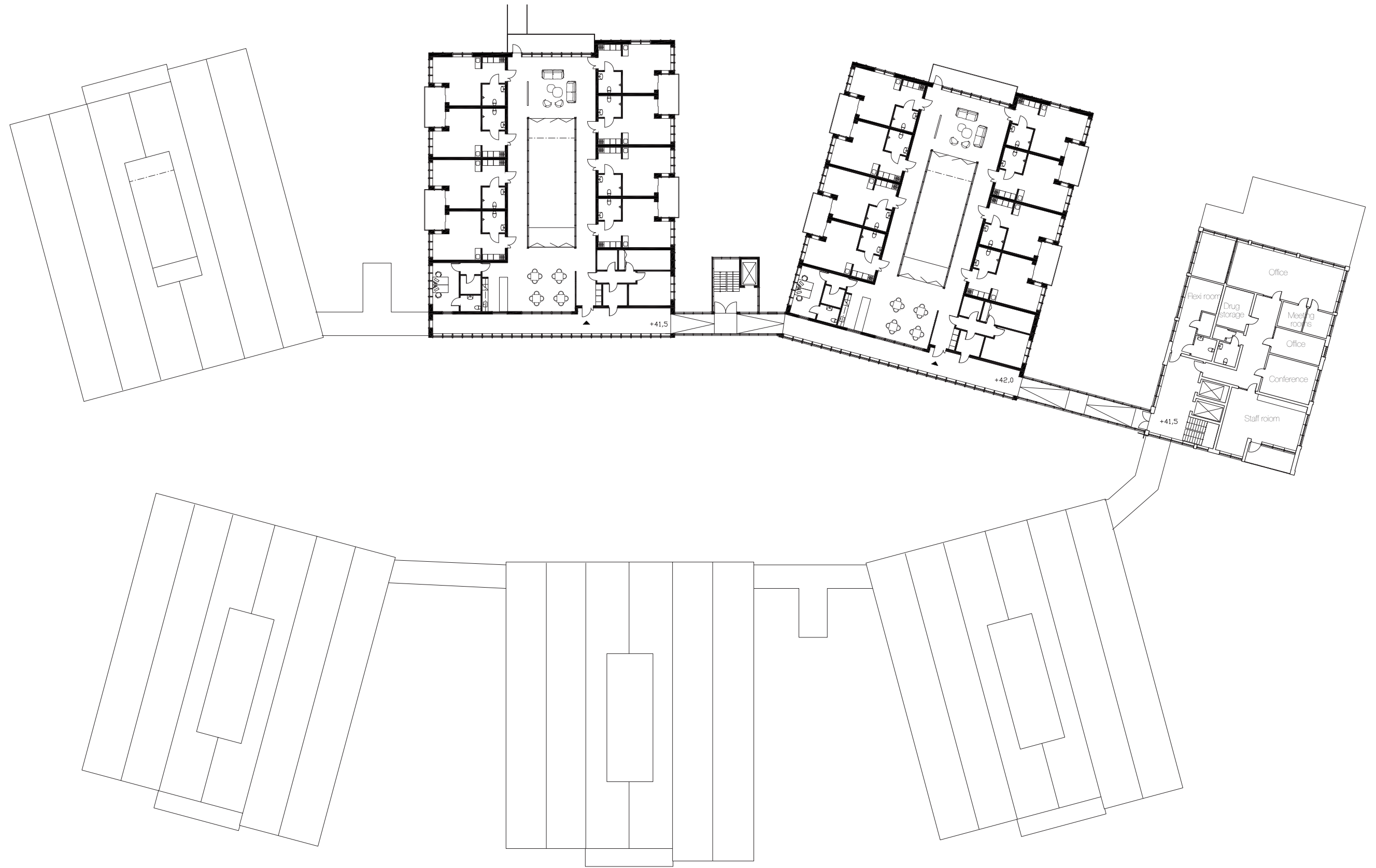


Greenery and views

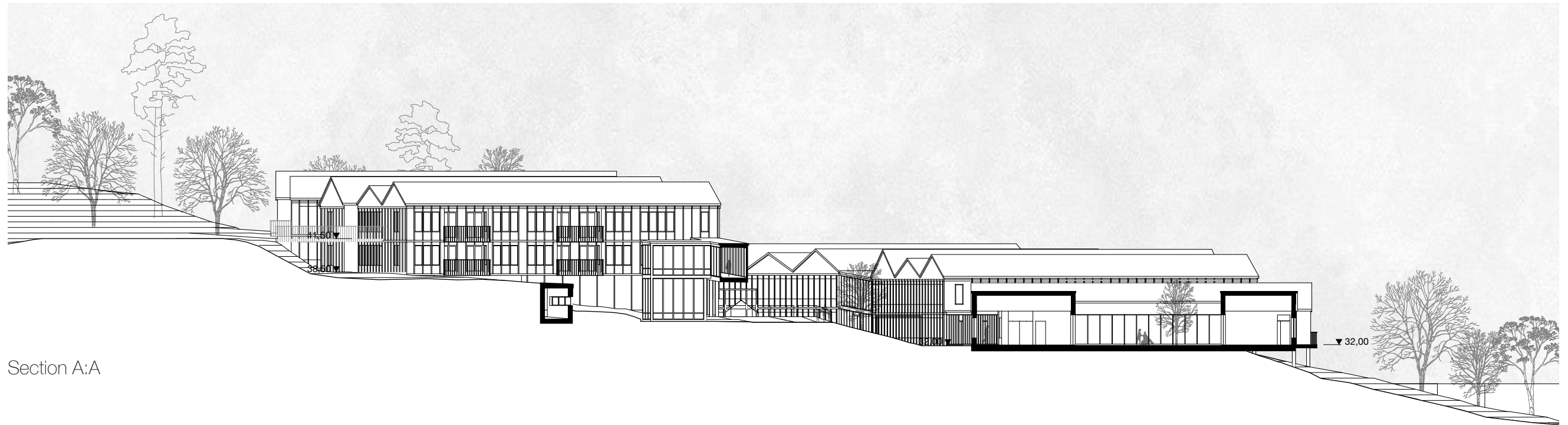








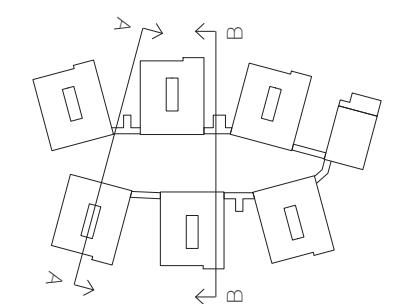




Section A:A



Section B:B

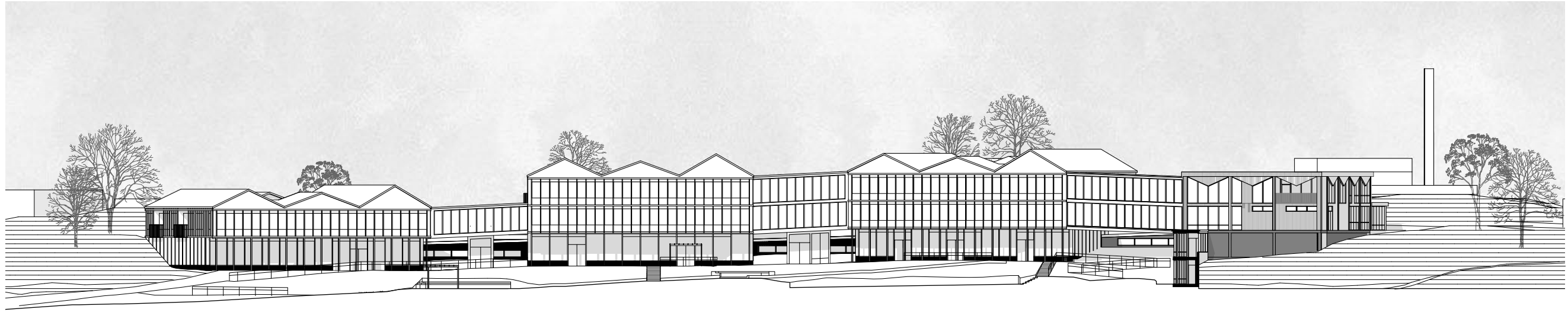




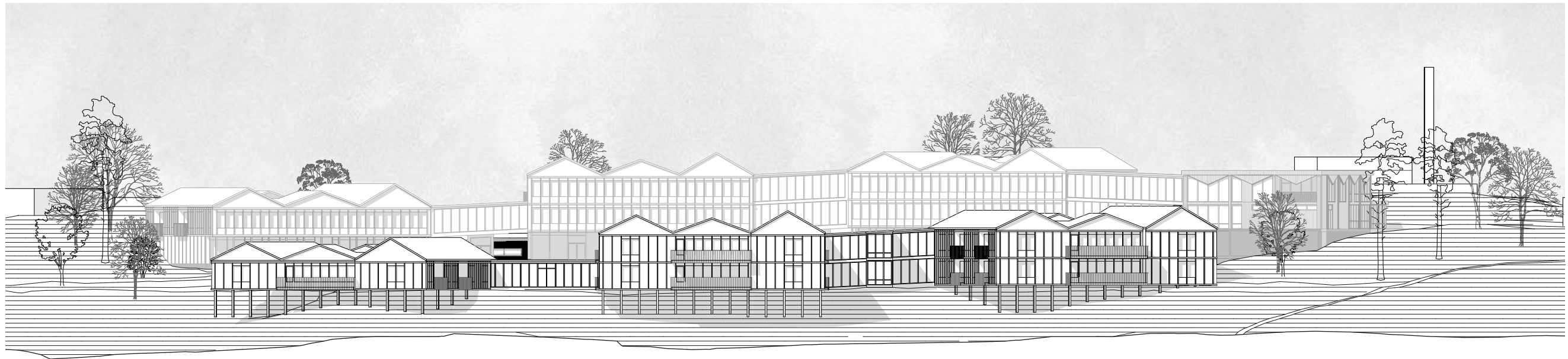
Facade detail unit



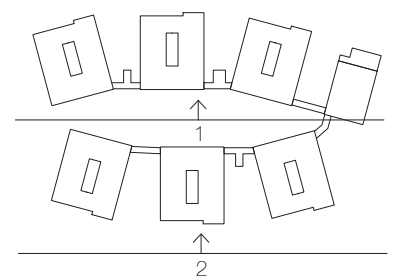
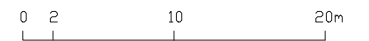
Facade detail administration



Facade 1, north-east

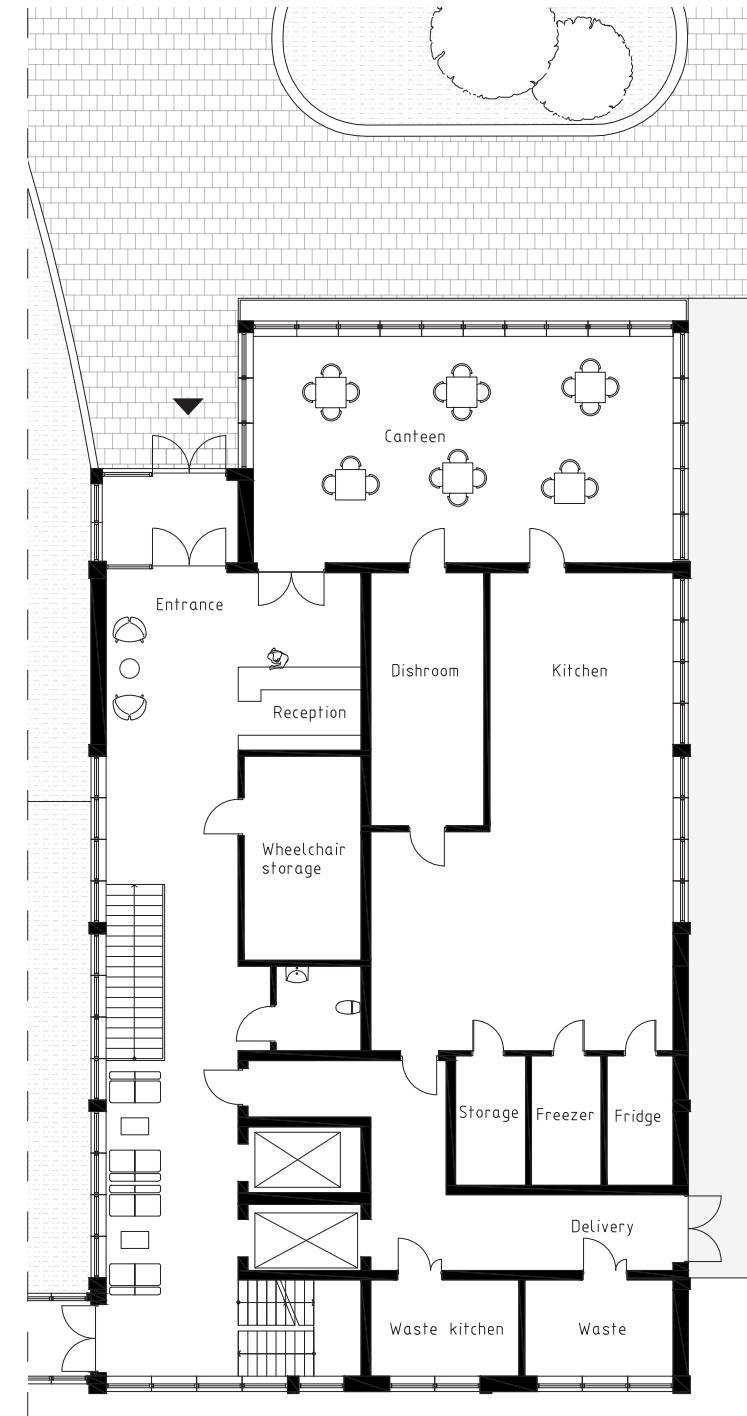


Facade 2, north-east

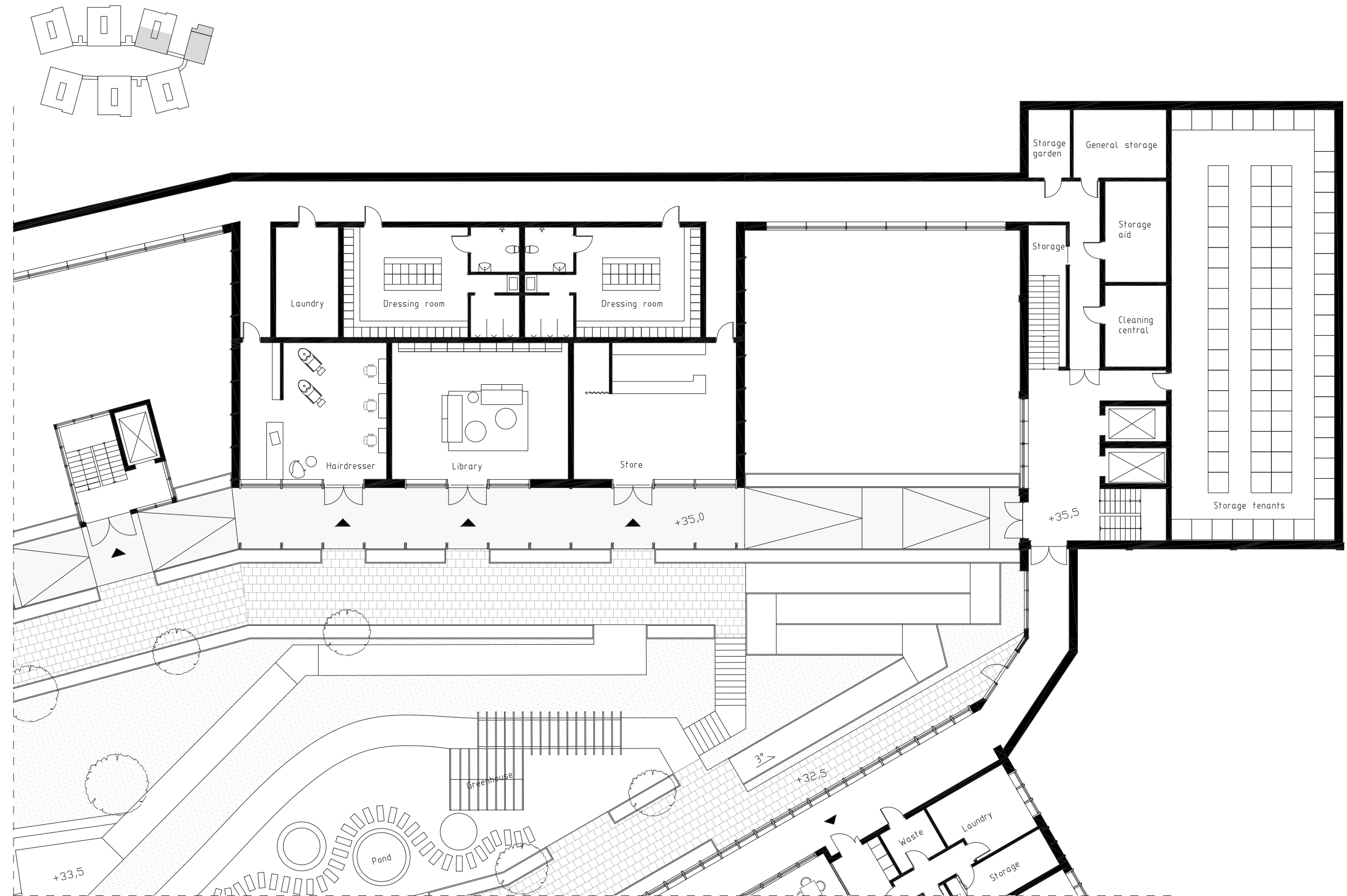




Facade detail, Scale 1:50

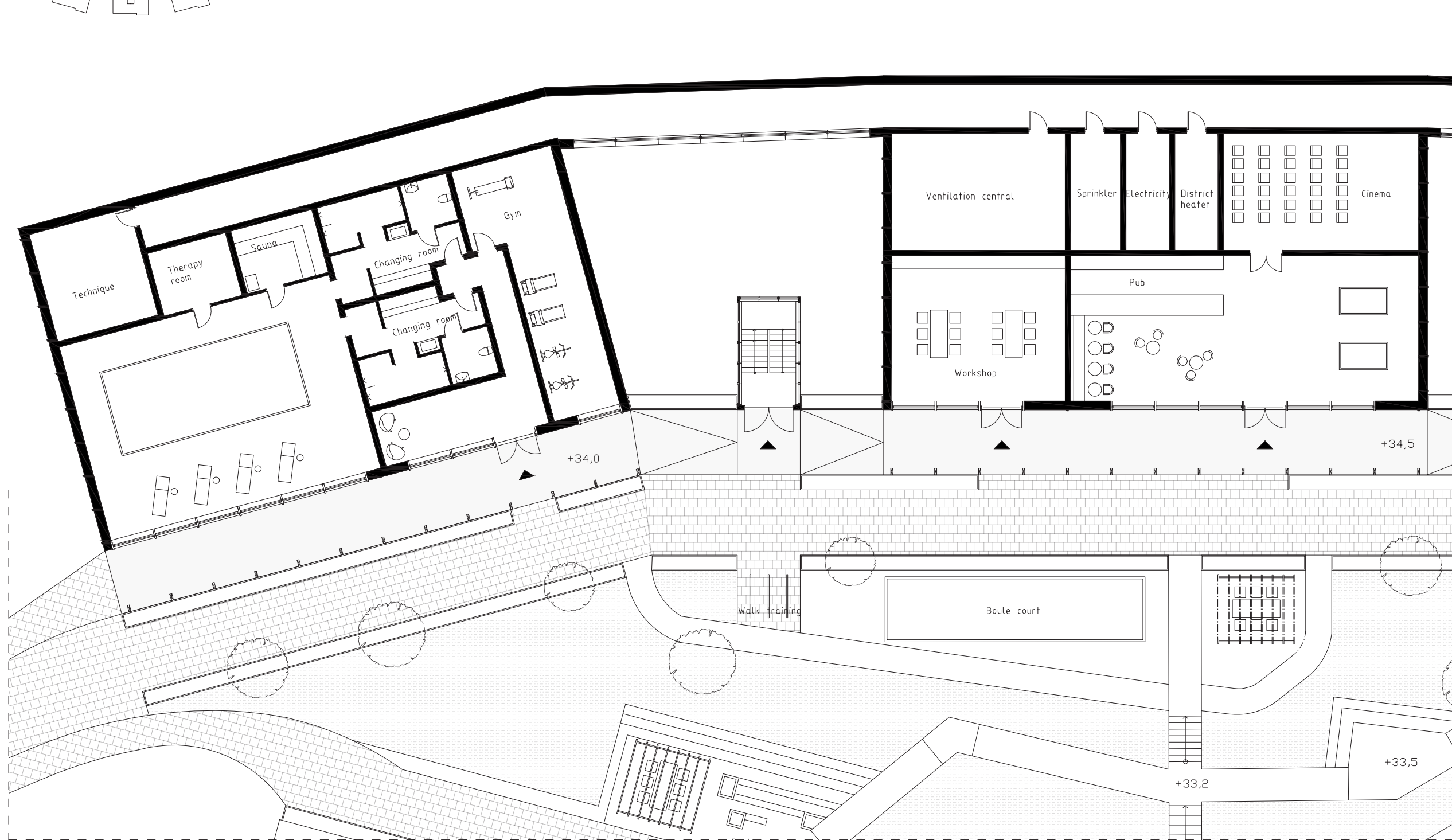
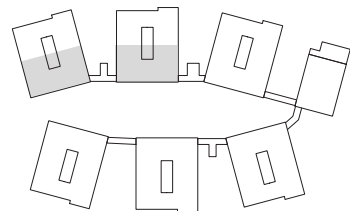


Plan, Scale 1:200 0 1 5 10m



The topography is tackled by a basement with spaces for common use and different activities facing out towards the street and square of the upper level of the courtyard. In the back of the basement floors storage, staff changing

rooms, support and technical space is put as daylight is not needed. A hairdresser saloon, a library and a shop along the street and gallery walk allows for residents to do everyday tasks, strengthening their independence.

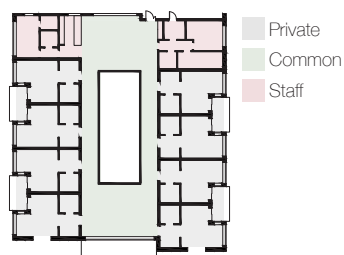
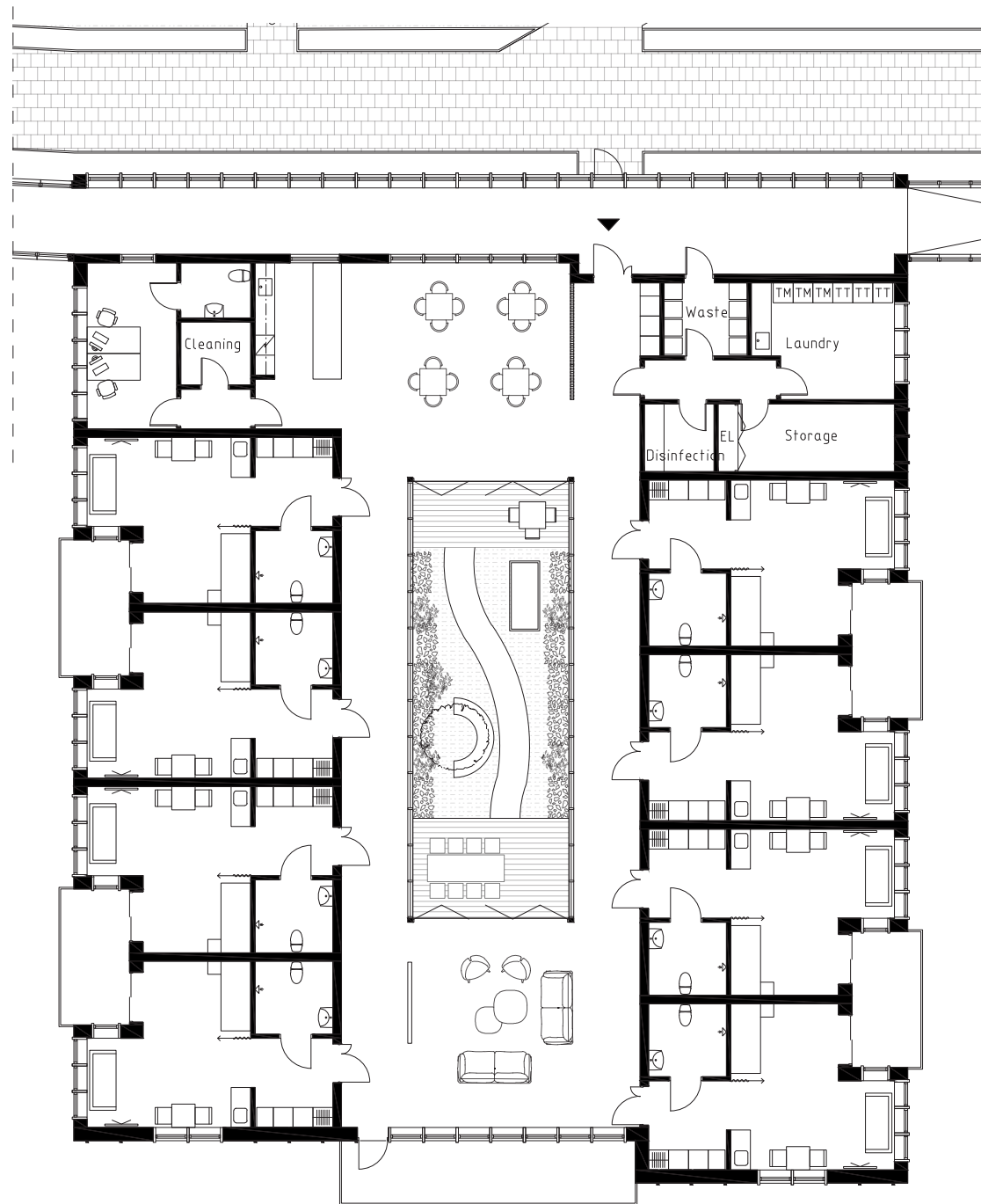


The wellness space has a gym for physiotherapy for the residents and a spa with a pool and sauna, which can also be used for baby swimming lessons for the local neighbourhood. In the activity part the cinema and bar are spaces for the

residents to gather and enjoy a movie, a performance or a drink, and on special occasions the public could be invited. A workshop for the residents is a social space where activities for crafts and creativity are arranged.



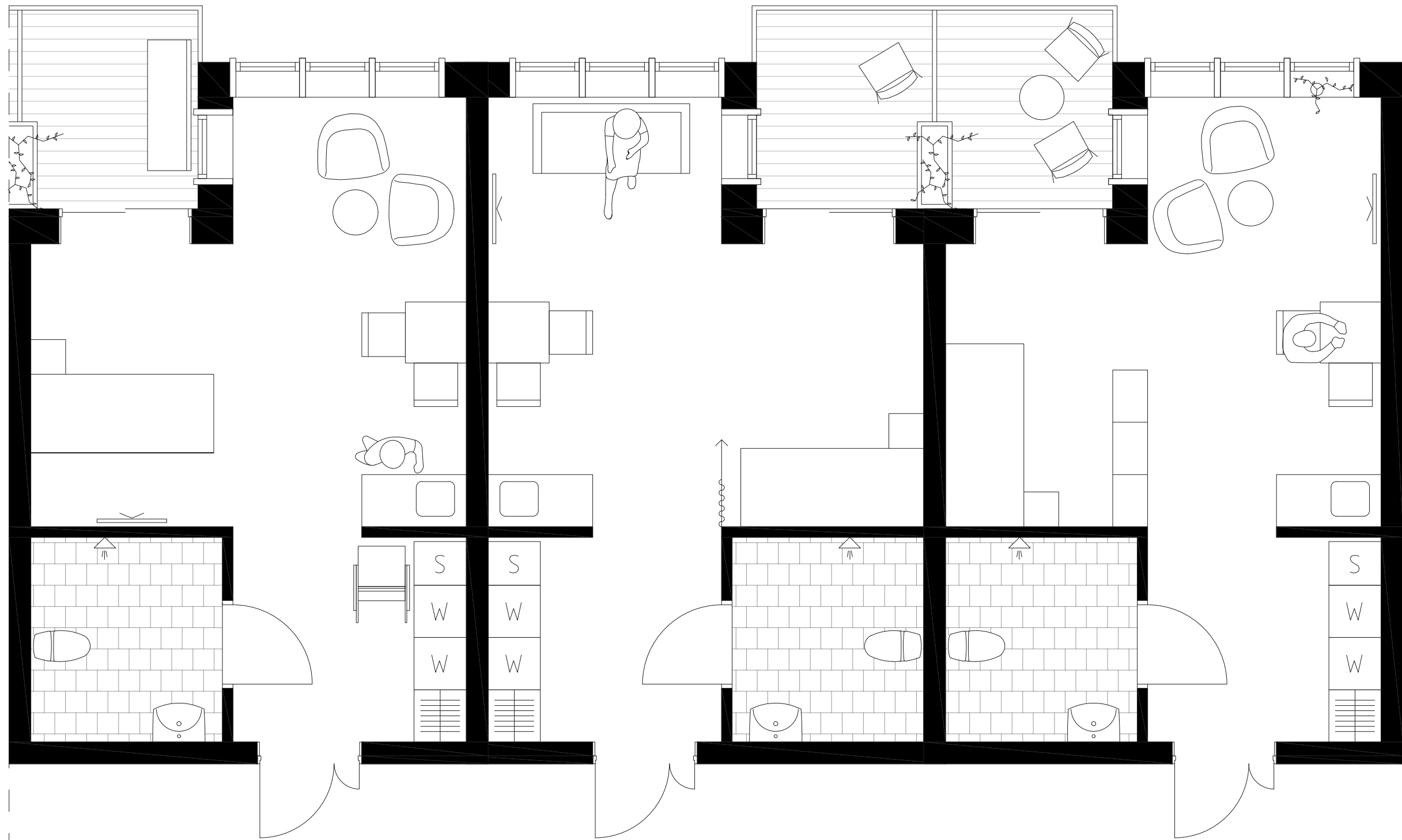




The unit group houses 8 apartments on two sides of the atrium, on the short sides the common spaces as dining room and living room are placed. Staff rooms are located close to the communication and are less visible for the residents. Around the atrium is an indoor loop, and the unit has a transparency throughout the middle of the volume.



The spaces go from more public by the unit entrance and dining space to more private in the living room, the nuance of privacy changes through the building and the apartments become the most private. There is a variety of privacy also in the outdoor spaces, from the courtyard shared by all residents, then the atrium and balcony or terraces shared within the units, and then every resident has their own private balcony.



The apartment is small but can be furnished in many different ways, in the plan drawing three examples are given. The indrawn wall by the balcony creates different views from the whole apartment.

