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Department of Architecture

Promised Land

Diploma Thesis of the Integrated Master's Degree M.Arch.

ARCH 501 | Advanced Architectural Design Studio

ARCH 503 | Advanced Architectural Design Studio

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Abstract

The aim of this diploma thesis is to examine the role architecture in the inclusion of subjects like refugees and asylum seekers in the society of Cyprus. Cyprus, due to its strategic position but also because of the social, economic, and geo-political transformations in the broader area of the Mediterranean Sea receives increased migration flows. Regardless of the increased migration flows to the island, little or no effort was made by the respective authorities of the Republic to examine the ways in which – at least spatially – those subjects can get included in the society. This results the marginalization of those subjects and in many cases the ghettoization of several neighborhoods, precisely because of this lack of care from the competent authorities. In response to the above, I propose a halfway-like living condition whereby the subjects can stay for reasonable amount of time, after the close migrant structures in which they live in when they arrive in Cyprus, until they can fully get absorbed by the local and the wider community. The area under study is that of Agios Dometios and more accurately the Agios Pavlos' Refugee Estate. More specifically this thesis examines the existing building stock of Agios Pavlos' Refugee Estate and the ways it can adapt in order to meet the needs of the subjects whom periodically are going to inhabit it, and ultimately help them to get included in the society. Finally, this thesis hopes to provide descent conditions of living for the aforementioned subjects and cultivate a culture of care to the residents of the local and the broader society which will hopefully lead to the inclusion of the subjects in the society.

Περίληψη (Abstract in Greek)

Στόχος της παρούσας διπλωματικής εργασίας είναι να διερευνήσει το ρόλο της αρχιτεκτονικής στην ένταξη υποκειμένων όπως πρόσφυγες και αιτούντες άσυλο στην κυπριακή κοινωνία. Η Κύπρος λόγω της στρατηγικής της θέσης, αλλά και λόγω των σύγχρονων κοινωνικών, οικονομικών και γεω-πολιτικών μετασχηματισμών στην ευρύτερη περιοχή της Μεσογείου δέχεται αυξημένες μεταναστευτικές ροές. Παρά τις αυξημένες μεταναστευτικές ροές που δέχεται το νησί, ελάχιστη έως καθόλου προσπάθεια έχει καταβληθεί από τις αρμόδιες αρχές σε σχέση με τους τρόπους με τους οποίους, τουλάχιστον χωρικά, μπορούν να ενταχθούν υποκείμενα να ενταχθούν στην κοινωνία. Αυτό έχει ως αποτέλεσμα την περιθωριοποίηση αυτών των υποκειμένων, ενώ σε ορισμένες περιπτώσεις την γκετοποίηση αρκετών γειτονιών, ακριβώς λόγω αυτής της έλλειψης πρόνοιας από τις αρμόδιες αρχές. Ως απάντηση στο πιο πάνω, η παρούσα διπλωματική εργασία προτείνει μία ενδιάμεση κατάσταση κατοίκησης σύμφωνα με την οποία, μετά τις κλειστές δομές μεταναστών που διαμένουν μόλις φτάσουν στο νησί, θα μπορούν να διαμένουν για εύλογο χρονικό διάστημα μέχρι να μπορέσουν να ενταχθούν τόσο στην τοπική όσο και στην ευρύτερη κοινωνία. Περιοχή μελέτης αποτελεί η περιοχή του Αγίου Δομέτιου και πιο συγκεκριμένα ο συνοικισμός του Άγιου Παύλου. Ειδικότερα, η παρούσα διπλωματική εργασία εξετάζει τους τρόπους με τους οποίους το υφιστάμενο κτηριακό απόθεμα μπορεί να προσαρμοστεί στις ιδιαίτερες ανάγκες των υποκειμένων που θα κατοικούν περιοδικά και πώς αυτό μπορεί να βοηθήσει στην ένταξή τους στην κοινωνία. Τέλος, η παρούσα διπλωματική ελπίζει να παρέχει αξιοπρεπείς συνθήκες διαβίωσης στα προαναφερθέντα υποκείμενα, ενώ παράλληλα να διαμορφώσει μία κουλτούρα πρόνοιας και φροντίδας στην τοπική και την ευρύτερη κοινωνία η οποία αισίως θα οδηγήσει στην ένταξή τους.

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1. Introduction

According to the Asylum Information Database of the European Council on Refugee and Exiles, during the year 2021, 13.773 people applied for asylum in Cyprus – 659 of which were unaccompanied children. The vast majority of those people come from Africa and Asia, and especially from Syrian Arab Republic, DR Congo, Nigeria, Pakistan, India, Cameroon, Bangladesh, Somalia, Nepal, Sierra Leone, and, most recently, in 2022, after the Russian invasion in Ukraine, from Ukraine (See Figure 1). Of course, this must be seen and understood in a larger context. Historically, the island of Cyprus was adjoining Europe, Asia, and Africa. After the Turkish invasion in Cyprus in 1974 and the *de facto* division of the island, the southern part of the island – controlled by the Republic of Cyprus – gained big economic growth based on tourism and services. This growth played a key role in migration. As Trimikliniotis described it: “The country was transformed from a country of migration to a migration destination.” Though, the biggest change in Cyprus regarding the asylum system, took place in 2004 after Cyprus’ accession to the European Union, which was seen – by the asylum seekers, immigrants, refugees – as their entrance to Europe. Nevertheless, the hopes of many of those people who seek asylum in Cyprus didn’t meet reality. According to an interview by Alpha Kypros – a local broadcaster – executed in 2019, it revealed the bad conditions of living that these people experience (See Figure 2).

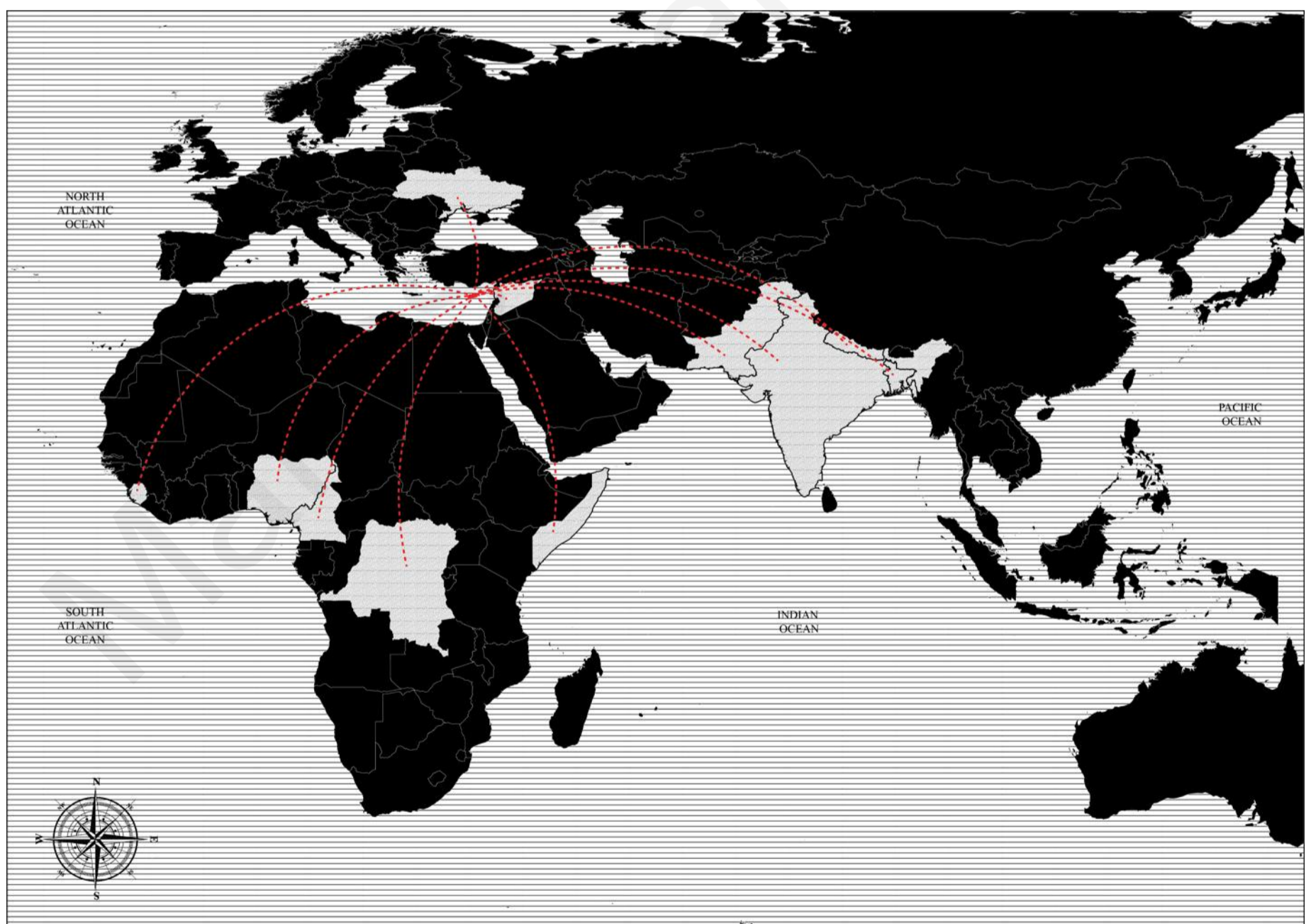


Figure 1. Main Nationalities of the People that Seek Asylum in Cyprus.

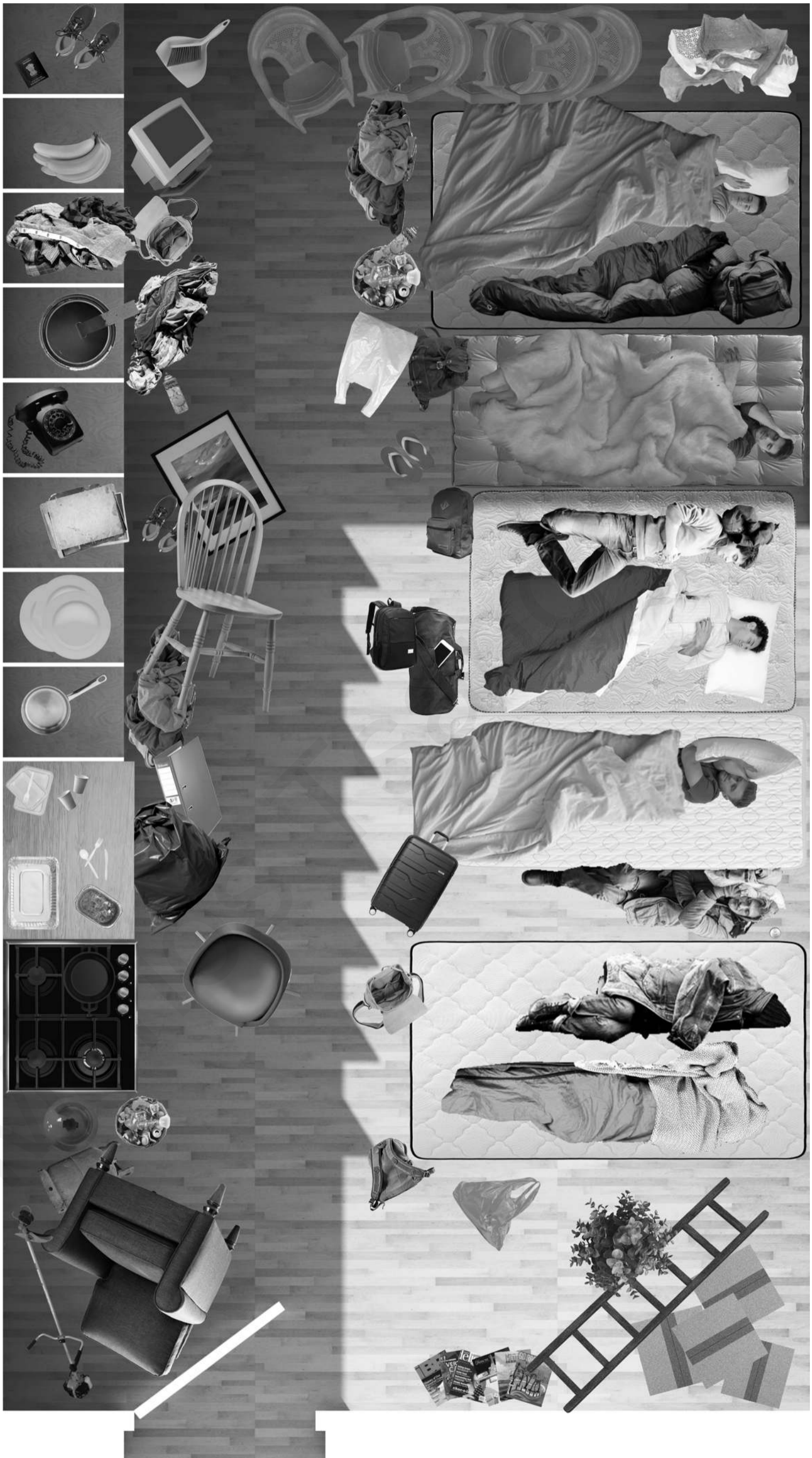


Figure 2. A Room for 30 or so People.

The above story unfolds in an abandoned space in Archbishop Makarios III's Avenue. All the people who live in that room are asylum seekers who came to Cyprus with the hope to find a better future or support (financially) their families. Many of them haven't talk or seen their families in years. Others don't even have families. They live with less than minimum. They live with whatever is offered to them by charity parties. They share the room, the bed, the food, the medicine, and everything. Some of them victims of harassment, sexual or other. They get pay pennies. What is remarkable though is the sense of collective that those people developed in order to survive. They let some of their fundamental human rights – such as privacy – behind them, to co-exist with others. They formed their own small community in a room. Providence and care are principles which shape their space.

In his book *Homo Sacer*, Giorgio Agamben introduces the concept of “Bare Life” to describe the above condition, by which the person who is outside the law has no purpose and the person can be mistreated without any consequences. Agamben understands the concept of “Bare Life” as a technique in contemporary politics, in the form of exception, that is, as something that is included solely through an exclusion.

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Section One: Theoretical Research

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2. Historical Background

2.1. Cyprus During the Last Half Millenia: A Brief Historic Overview

Since the ancient times, the island of Cyprus seems to have worked as the crossroad between three continents – Europe, Asia and Africa. The strategic location of the island rendered it a suitable target for many different conquerors. In the last half millennia, after the Venetian Rule, from the mid-16th century, the island went under the Ottoman Empire's sovereignty for three centuries until the year 1878. In 1878, the Anglo-Turkish Treaty was established, by which the Ottoman Empire maintained its sovereignty over the island and entrusted the administration of the island to Great Britain, due to the geo-political developments in the area. By the year 1923, the full sovereignty of the island passed to Great Britain by the Treaty of Lausanne. Cyprus, finally, and yet paradoxically unlike what the Greek Cypriot majority of the island wanted – the unification with Greece, after five years of fights for freedom (1955-59) between the *EOKA* (National Organization of Cyprus Fighters) and the British Rule, Cyprus gained its independence on October 1st, 1960, with the Zurich-London Treaties. Not long after Cyprus gained its independence, on July 20th, 1974, and on August 14th, 1974 – the two phases of the Turkish invasion in Cyprus, the Republic of Cyprus lost its sovereignty to an approximately 37% over its territories. Since then, a buffer zone – which is commonly known as the Green Line – has been created between the Republic of Cyprus and the Possessive Rule of the Turkish-Cypriot minority – which is being supported by Turkey ever since, and which, by the way, resulted thousands of refugees. On May 1st, 2004, regardless the resolution of the 'Cyprus Issue', the European Council of Copenhagen welcomed Cyprus as a member of the European Union.



Figure 3. The Mediterranean Sea. Image Courtesy of Eric Gaba. Accessed September, 2022.



Figure 4. Aerial View of the Island of Cyprus. Image Courtesy of ESA. Accessed September, 2022.



Figure 5. The Political Landscape of Cyprus.

2.2. The Refugee Issue of Cyprus and the Refugee Estates Development

The Turkish invasion in Cyprus resulted over two-hundred thousand (200.000) Greek-Cypriot refugees in their own country. The government, in order to resolve the Refugee Issue suggested four provisions: *Aftostegasi* (A plot and a financial support was given to some refugees in order to build their own houses – the inhabitants were the owners); *Synoikismoi* (Refugee estates where the residents were not the owners of the apartments/houses, and the properties were supposed to be returned to the government after the resolution of the Cyprus Issue and the refugees could move back to their old homes); residency to abandoned Turkish-Cypriot villages (until, of course, the resolution of the ‘Cyprus Issue’, and the refugees could move back to their old homes); and residency to existing settlements. The most interesting research interest of them all, at least in the framework of this thesis, presents the second case, the *Synoikismoi* (Refugee Estates) that were built under the supervision of the Republic of Cyprus. As Mr. Spyros Kyprianou – former president of the Republic of Cyprus – said: “As I repeatedly said, we want to create conditions of comfort temporality for the refugees, until we achieve a fair resolution of the Cyprus Issue.”

All those four provisions had a great impact on the built environment of Cyprus, but, in my opinion, the greatest impact of them all had the *Synoikismoi*. They consist one of the few organized developments in Cyprus, with very good social and spatial cohesion.



Figure 6. *Agios Pavlos* 'Refugee Estate, 2022.



Figure 7. The Complex Socio-Political Context of the Refugee Estates.

On the following schematic map, a mapping of all the *Synoikismoi* of Nicosia was attempted. The *Synoikismoi* were constructed in the then suburbs of Nicosia, forming a Refugee Necklace around the city of Nicosia. This spatial dynamic in the city of Nicosia, address the city itself a unique case study for proposals related to health and social care.

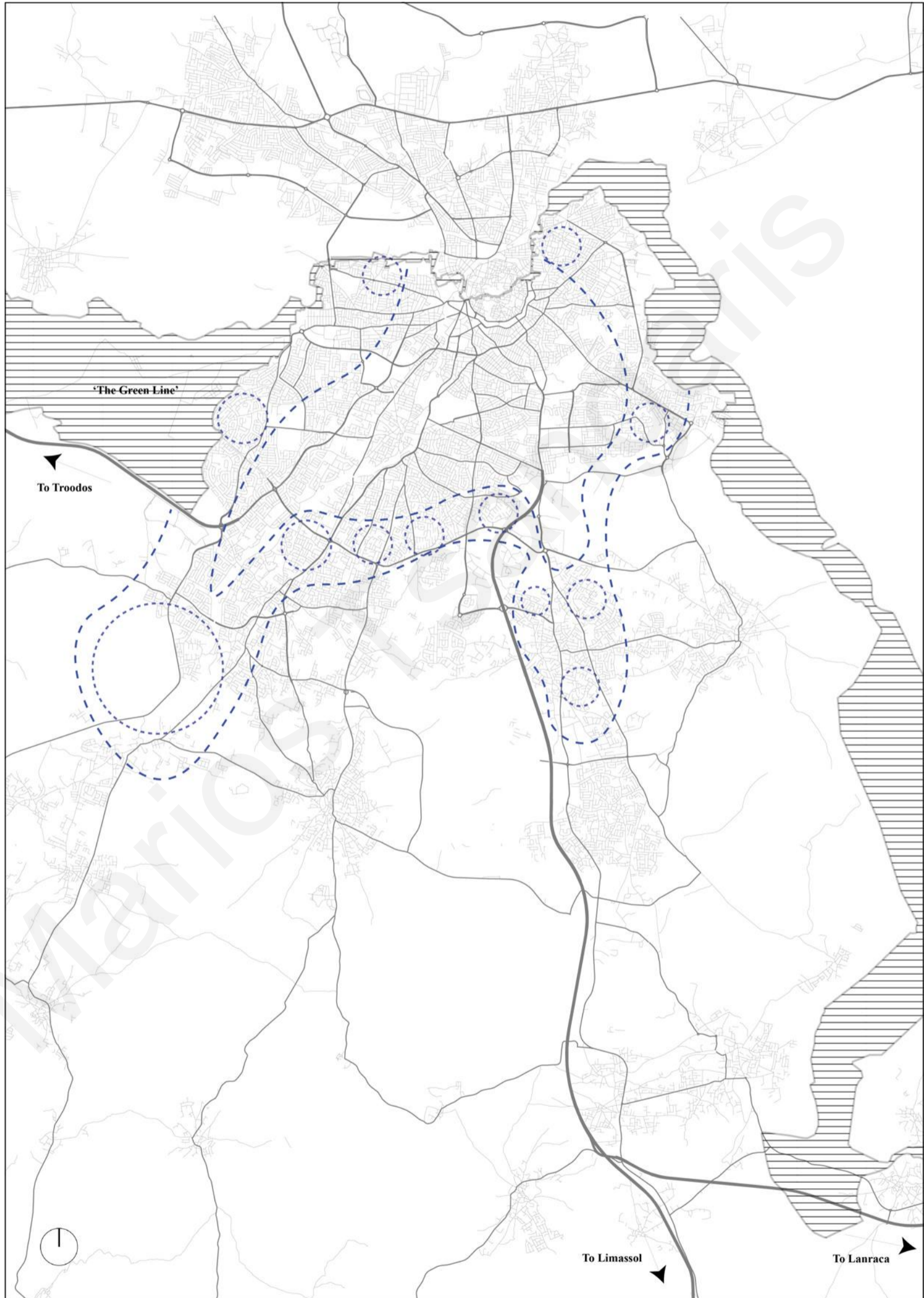


Figure 8. The Refugee Estates of Nicosia.

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3. The Immigration Issue

Europe generally struggles to handle the large number of immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers try to enter its borders in order to secure a better future both for them and their families. As said previously, Cyprus' geographic location renders it a "migration destination" which results an overload to the island's capacity.

During the year 2021, 13.773 people applied for asylum in Cyprus – 659 of which were unaccompanied children. The vast majority of those people come from Africa and Asia, and especially from Syrian Arab Republic, DR Congo, Nigeria, Pakistan, India, Cameroon, Bangladesh, Somalia, Nepal, Sierra Leone, and, most recently, in 2022, after the Russian invasion in Ukraine, from Ukraine.

Mr. Nouris – Minister of Interior – said that during the first three months of the year 2022, more than 4.793 asylum seekers tried to enter the territory controlled by the Republic of Cyprus. Mr. Nouris also pointed out that 90% of those people are entering Cyprus' territory from the 'Green Line'. To said differently, the Refugee Issue becomes a 'tool' by Turkey who tries to put pressure on the Republic of Cyprus' system regarding the asylum seekers. Other ways asylum seekers try to enter Cyprus' territories is through sea, where, unfortunately, many of them do not make it alive. After entering the territories controlled by the Republic of Cyprus, is the government's responsibility to provide them with a safe home, food, and care, until the asylum application is checked, and it is validated by the authorities. There are currently two refugee camps in Cyprus: in Kofinou and in Kokkinotrimithia. Because of the great amount of people who ask for asylum, those camps are overcrowded, and people live in miserable conditions.

Once their asylum application is validated, people are allowed to move into the society, where most of the times things do not get any better. Most of the asylum seekers struggle to find a job, and even if they manage to do so, employers do take advantage of their urgent need to make money that they pay them with less than the minimum and force them to work inhuman hours.



Figure 9. Immigrants Arriving to Cyprus via the Sea. Image Courtesy of Dialogos. Accessed October, 2022.



Figure 10. Immigrants at the Reception Center at Pournara. Image Courtesy of Philelephtheros. Accessed October, 2022.

Besides their overexploitation by the employers, those people also struggle to have a dignified way of living. That is, of course, due to the rise of the prices to rent an apartment while the prices to buy an apartment make it impossible. This condition results many people coming together to rent an apartment which leads to miserable conditions of living due to overcrowded spaces, and, in some cases, leads to episodes of aggressive or even violent behaviors in the case of a possible conflict. In other cases, we also experience a shift from the city towards the suburbs or the rural areas of the island due to lower prices. Furthermore, from different incidents that took place in the past, we know that the majority of those people live in apartments or homes which are unsafe and which in some cases led to serious injuries.



Figure 11. House of a Family of Immigrants in the Walled Town of Nicosia. Image Courtesy of Alpha News. Accessed October, 2022.

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4. On Urban Inclusion

4.1. The Cases of Meadowvale and Thorncliffe

Two particular communities – Meadowvale and Thorncliffe – in the city of Toronto (See Figure 12.), consist great examples to understand the concept of inclusion. Meadowvale is located east of Toronto, and it is a homogenous, low-density, single-zoned area, an absolute reflection of the 1960s urban planning and design philosophies. Because there are no mixed-use zones, and the low density of suburban houses, any open space is turned into private pieces. Furthermore, where open space is expansive, it tends to become parking lots, which supports the sprawl of the neighborhood. The above conditions render the area to be less accessible from a pedestrian perspective, and so residents need vehicular transportation to access most services which becomes an additional financial burden. Entrepreneurship, small term businesses, employment and educational growth are not encouraged to flourish due to the spatial structure of the region itself. Informal interaction and encounter are also not possible due to the lack of proximities with the immediate collective space of the neighborhood, which strengthens an identity of isolation, and breeds an ‘us’ versus ‘them’ narrative. For all the aforementioned reasons, refugee integration in the community of Meadowvale has turned out to be quite unsuccessful.

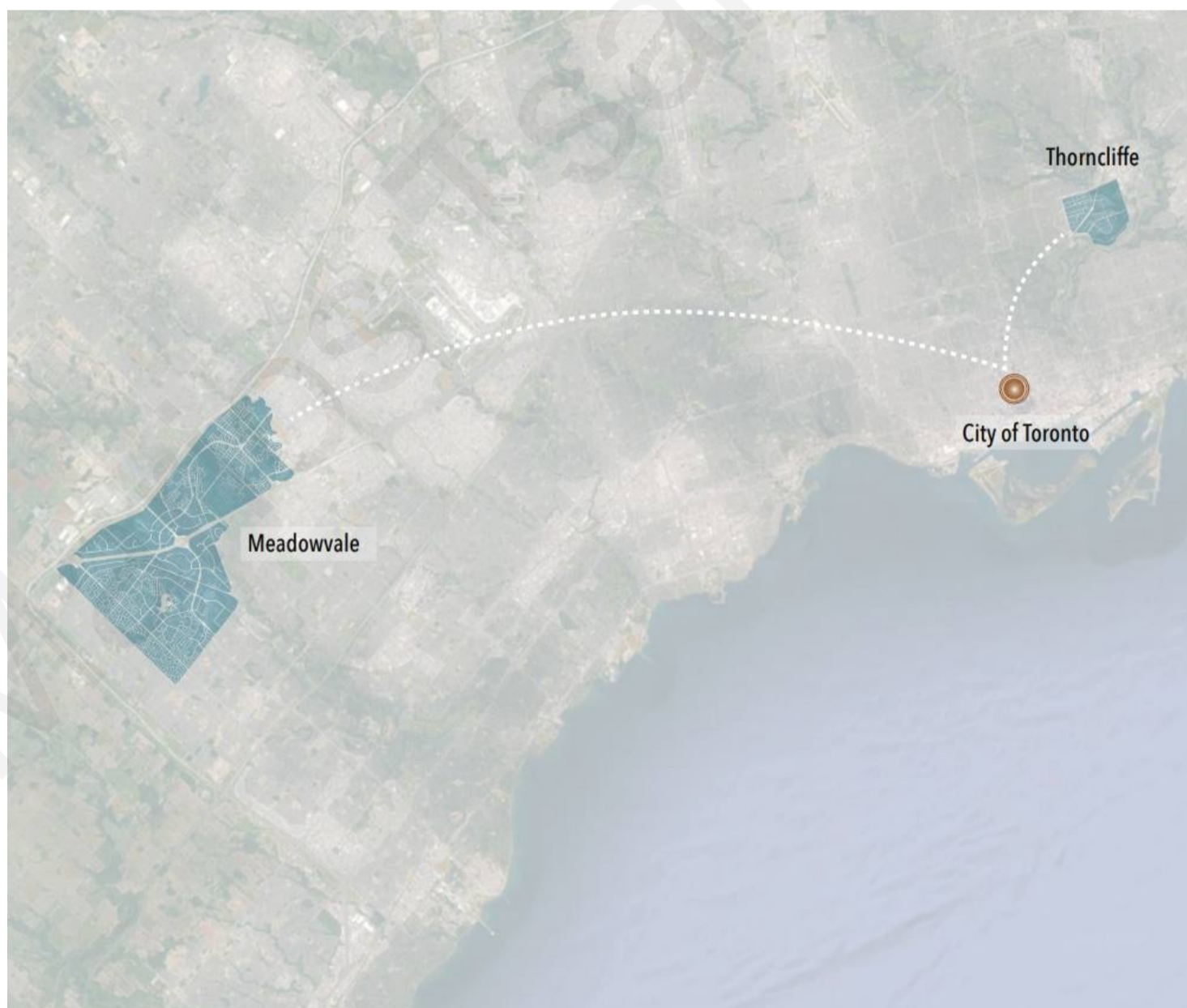


Figure 12. Key Plan. Image courtesy of Safira Lakhani and Sneha Sumanth. Accessed September 2022.

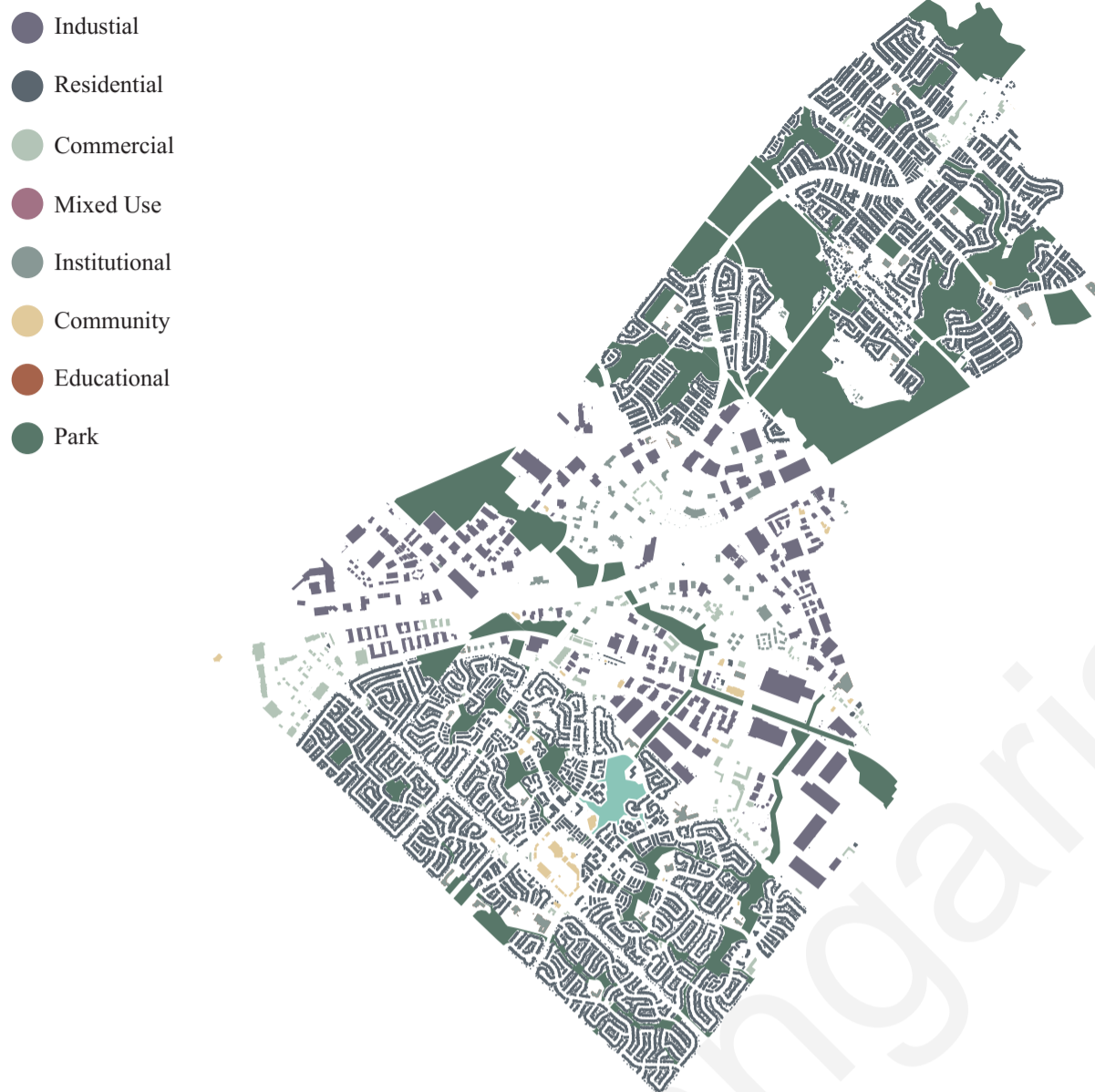


Figure 13. Zones, Meadowvale. Image courtesy of Safira Lakhani and Sneha Sumanth. Accessed September 2022.



Figure 14. Density and transit, Meadowvale. Image courtesy of Safira Lakhani and Sneha Sumanth. Accessed September 2022.

On the contrary, the city of Thorncliffe turned out to be quite successful in the integration of arriving populations. Successful integration demands that arriving populations have opportunities to ownership, education, security, business creation, and connection to the wider economy. Spatially, these things can be translated into density; connected urban spaces that have accessible pathways to the city around it, especially with regard to transportation, education, and places to lunch small businesses. Additionally, such spaces enable informal community interaction, and empower social networks. Unlike in the case of the low-density Meadowvale, given the nature of higher density spaces in Thorncliffe, open space tends to become collective space.

Taking into consideration the case studies of Meadowvale and Thorncliffe we observe that integration is a complex and long-term process which requires synergy between scales. Self-sufficiency is not about the individual, but about the collective and the community. Thus, the built environment plays a critical role in shaping a collective conscience between existing and arriving populations. So, in this lens, architecture becomes a means of operationalizing compassion.

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- Industrial
- Residential
- Commercial
- Mixed Use
- Institutional
- Community
- Educational
- Park



Figure 15. Zones, Thorncliffe. Image courtesy of Safira Lakhani and Sneha Sumanth. Accessed September 2022.

- ⋈ Transit
- Low Density
- Mid Density
- High Density



Figure 16. Density and transit, Thorncliffe. Image courtesy of Safira Lakhani and Sneha Sumanth. Accessed September 2022.

4.2. The Cases of the Belgian Prison Houses

In this sub-chapter, the role of architecture in urban inclusion will be discussed, and, more specifically, through the case studies of the Belgian transition houses. The principle of ‘normalization’ in penology, claims that the life of people in captivity should anticipate to the greater degree possible the positive aspects of the ‘normal’ – whatever might that means – life in free society. The Belgian NGO De Huizen, since 2012, “has worked to reform the county’s penitentiary system, by proposing that large prison complexes should be substituted with a network of small-scale, differentiated and socially integrated detention houses.” (Puđu, 2022; 2) Puđu, says that normalization is paired with self-determination, which suggests the facilitation of a process of individualization. In the cases of the Belgian transition houses, De Huizen rejects a typological approach, arguing that each house should be designed differently, according to its context.



Figure 17. The city as a true “opportunity factory.” Map of the city of Mechelen and location of the transition house. 1. Transition House. 2. Mechelen Prison. 3. Mechelen city center. 4. Train station. Image courtesy of A. Lampropoulou and S. Puđu . Accessed September 2022.



Figure 18. NON! a la maison de transition pour d eteneus a Enghien. Map of the town of Enghien and location of the Transition House. 1. Transition House. 3. Enghien City Center. 4. Train station. Image courtesy of A. Lampropoulou and S. Puđu . Accessed September 2022.

The first transition house started to be operational in September 2019 in the Flemish city of Mechelen. Fifteen people inhabit the house, and who are not called inmates but ‘participants’, to encourage their active participation in the project. This ‘house’ is located in the city-center and occupies two buildings that are owned by the city. The G4S Care’s – a private security company – Coordinator expressed that is “just a house in the row.” The bedrooms are private for each participant, only furnished with some basic items, while the participants can further decorate or furnished their rooms according to their personal taste and needs. Furthermore, participants are responsible for preparing their own meals and do their own laundry. The house also consists of a cluster of shared domestic facilities, for which each participant bears responsibility to maintain clean etc. Life coaches assist in ensuring the smooth operation of the everyday activities.

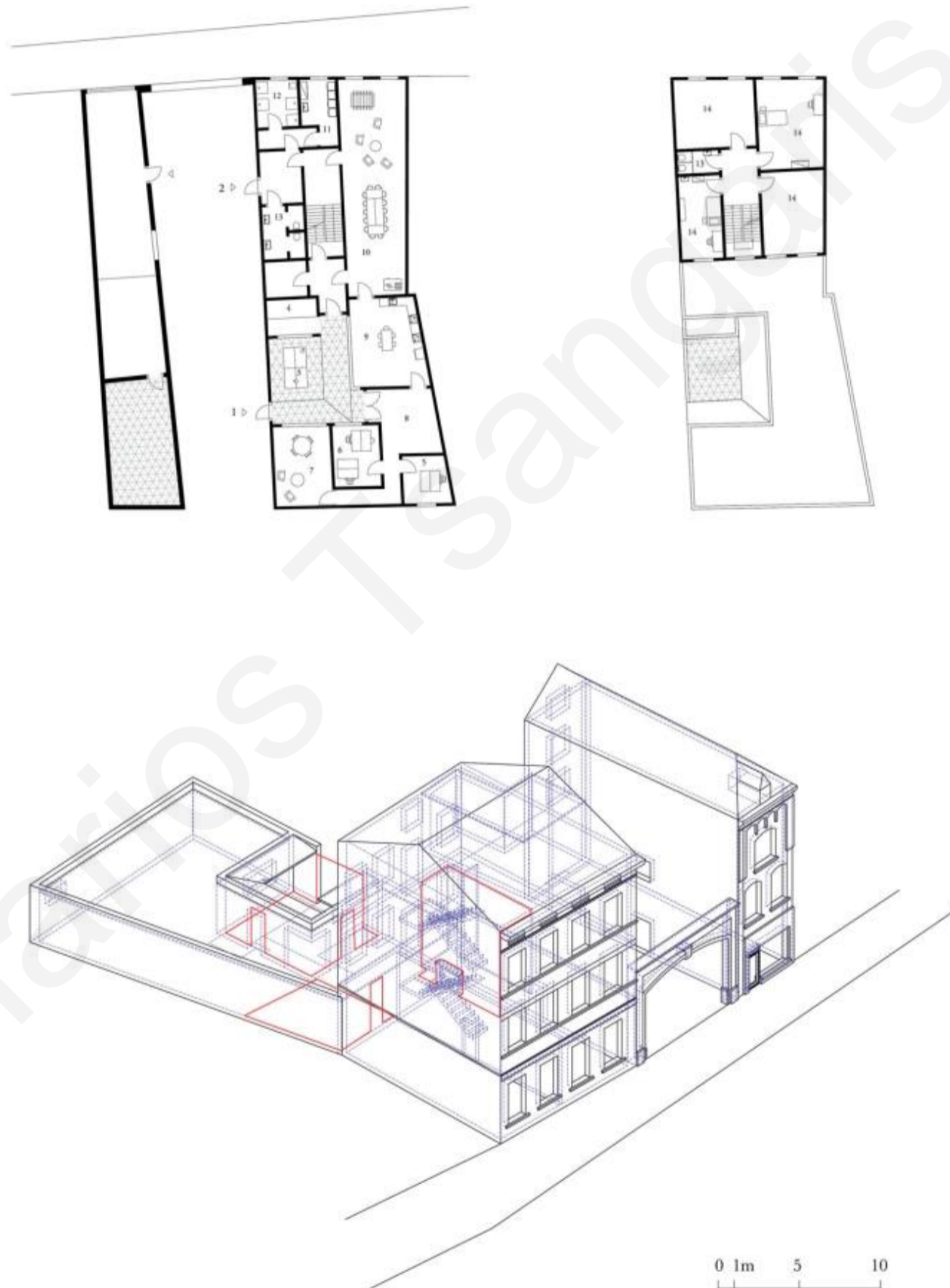


Figure 19. The alley, the ping-pong patio, the kitchen, the living room, the staircase, and the bedroom. Axonometric and floorplan of Mechelen Transition House (elaboration based on visitors’ description). 1. Entrance to the main building. 2. Secondary staff entrance. 3. Patio. 4. Storage. 5. Staff bureau (coordinator office). 6. Staff bureau (life coaches’ office). 7. Visitors’ room and private meeting room. 8. Entrance hall. 9. Kitchen. 10. Living room. 11. Laundry. 12. Showers. 13. Toilet. 14. Bedrooms.. Train station. Image courtesy of A. Lampropoulou and S. Puddu . Accessed September 2022.

The second transition house is located in the Walloon municipality of Enghien and opened in January 2020. In the case of this transition house, De Huizen used the same formula as in the first case, like life coaches to assist the day-to-day activities etc. This house was described to be less successful than the other one. There are many reasons as to why the failure with this case: first of all it is isolated, while the surrounding are works against promoting normalization and integration; second, the building is a one-storey prefabricated office building in an industrial area, and can be described as less distinctive than the one in Mechelen. Additionally, the building which host this transition house is share with a co-working company, which results a divided courtyard for two separate communities. Respectively with the entrances, at the front is situated the entrance to the co-working company, while at the side, situated the controlled access to the transition house.

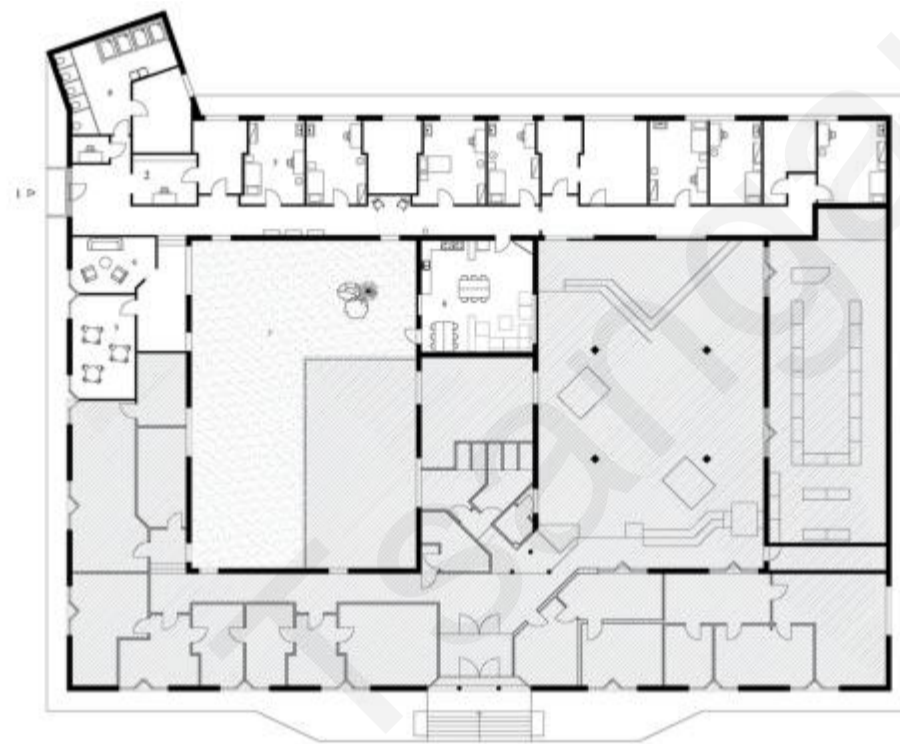


Figure 20. The corridor, the bedroom, the kitchen and the split patio. Axonometric and floorplan of Enghien Transition House (elaboration based on visitors' description). 1. Entrance. 2. Doorman. 3. Bedroom. 4. Visitors' Room. 5. Coaching Room. 6. Kitchen and Living. 7. Courtyard. 8. Bathroom. Image courtesy of A. Lampropoulou and S. Puddu . Accessed September 2022.

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Section Two: Design Proposal

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5. Site Analysis / Selection

5.1. Urban Scale

As examined in the previous section, urban inclusion is a very complicated, long-term process, which requires great synergy between different scales. “Arriving populations need opportunities for ownership, education, security, business creation, and connection to the wider economy.” (Lakhani, Sumanth, 2018; 3) On urban scale this translates to: high density; connected urban spaces that have accessible pathways to the city around it; good transportation; places to lunch small business etc. Usually, in Nicosia, the areas in and adjacent to the city center are not economically feasible for subjects like asylum seekers due to the high prices to buy or to rent an apartment. As a critique to the high purchase value, as territory of intervention, the area of Agios Pavlos – which has one of the highest purchase values in Nicosia – was selected. Agios Pavlos is an area very well connected to city center by all means, buses pass by frequently which makes it ideal for people with disabilities as well, and is also ten to twenty minutes’ walk from the city-center. It is also very close to Nicosia’s Municipal Garden and to Nicosia’s Line Park – which is a hyperlocal connection to the city center. Agios Pavlos’ area also includes a Refugee Estate. As mentioned previously, the Refugee Estates are large building stocks that were built in order to provide shelter to the thousand of refugees of the 1974’s war, and consist one of the few organized developments in Cyprus. For the scope of this thesis, it is assumed that Agios Pavlos’ Refugee estate, to its entirety, in means of ownership, still belongs to the government and no property titles were granted.

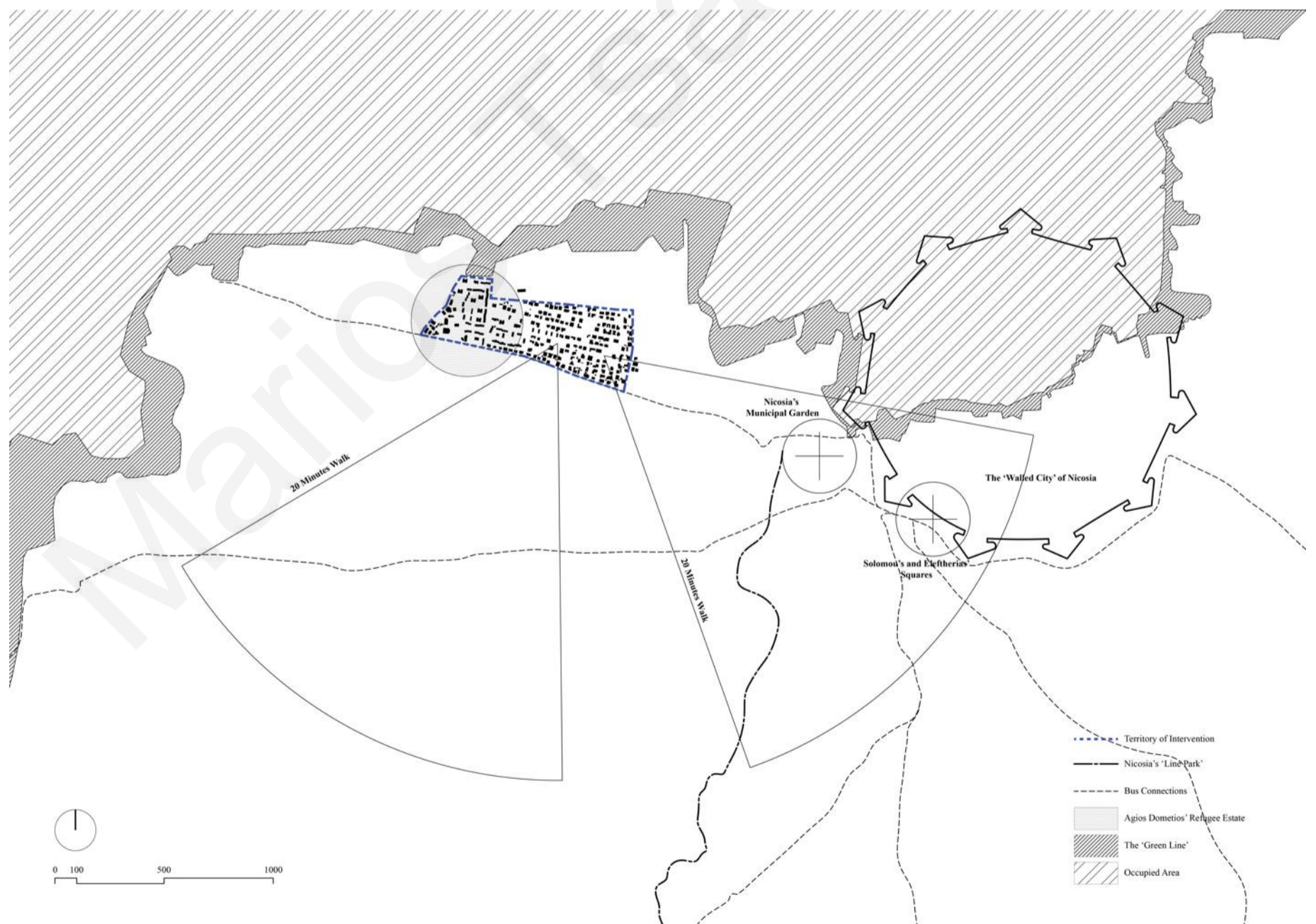


Figure 21. Analysis on Urban Scale, and the Territory of Intervention.

5.2. Territorial Scale

In the aerial photograph below (See Figure 22) we can see that the territory under study is very unique, due to its structure. On the right part of the territory, there is the part which the property purchase values are insanely high, and, on the left part of the site lies the Agios Pavlos' Refugee Estate. The territory is purely residential with the exception of the buildings that are adjacent to the main road that passes by the territory. The area only has three public spaces, all of which are located in or next to the Refugee Estate. The most important observation made was that the Refugee Estate is very well spatially connected through the existence of different pathways that pass by every building – a very strong spatial characteristic which gives a very strong social cohesion to the development. It is worth noting that the spatial characteristic of the pathway is absent to the right part of the territory because of private ownership – which also, in my opinion, is a technique of exclusion. The territory hasn't yet reached its full development, which explains the number of empty plots that can be observed in the area.



Figure 22. Aerial Photography of the Territory. Image Courtesy of Google. Accessed September, 2022.

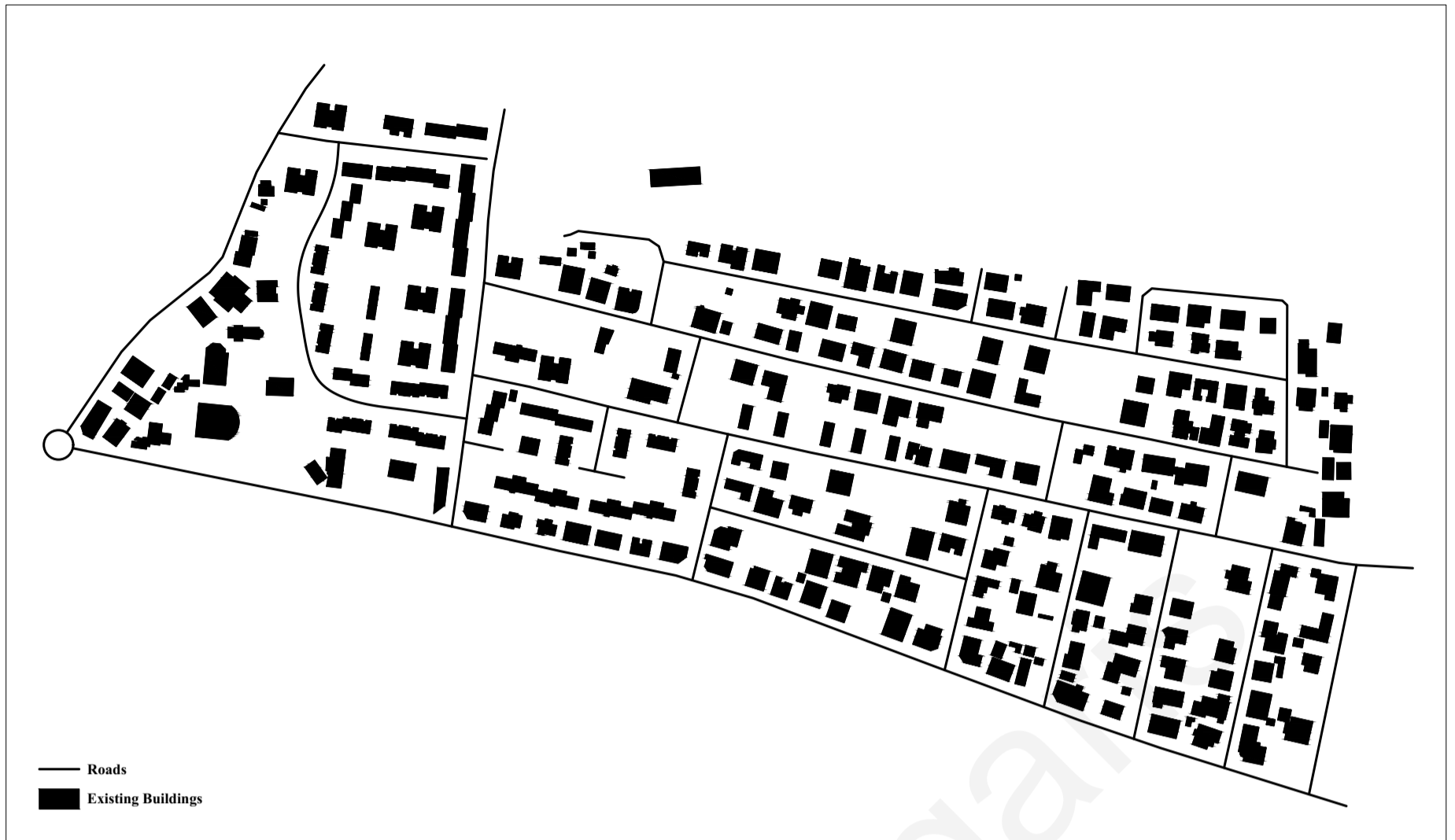


Figure 23.1. Territorial Analysis, Solid-void Diagram.



Figure 23.2. Territorial Analysis, Types of Development in the Area.

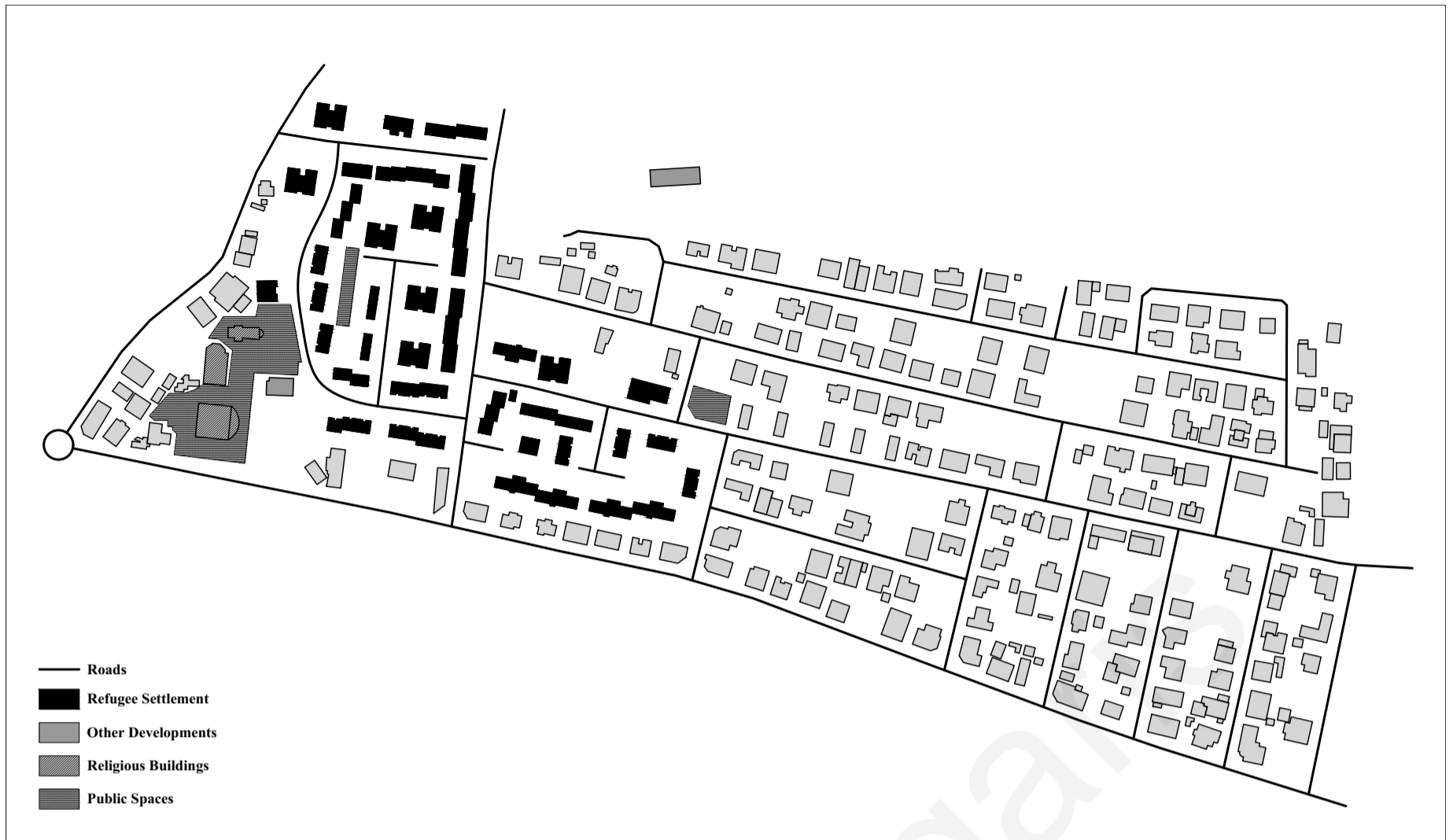


Figure 23.3. Territorial Analysis, Types of Development in the Area, and Public/Green Spaces.



Figure 23.4. Territorial Analysis, Types of Development in the Area, Public/Green Spaces, and Pedestrian Roads.

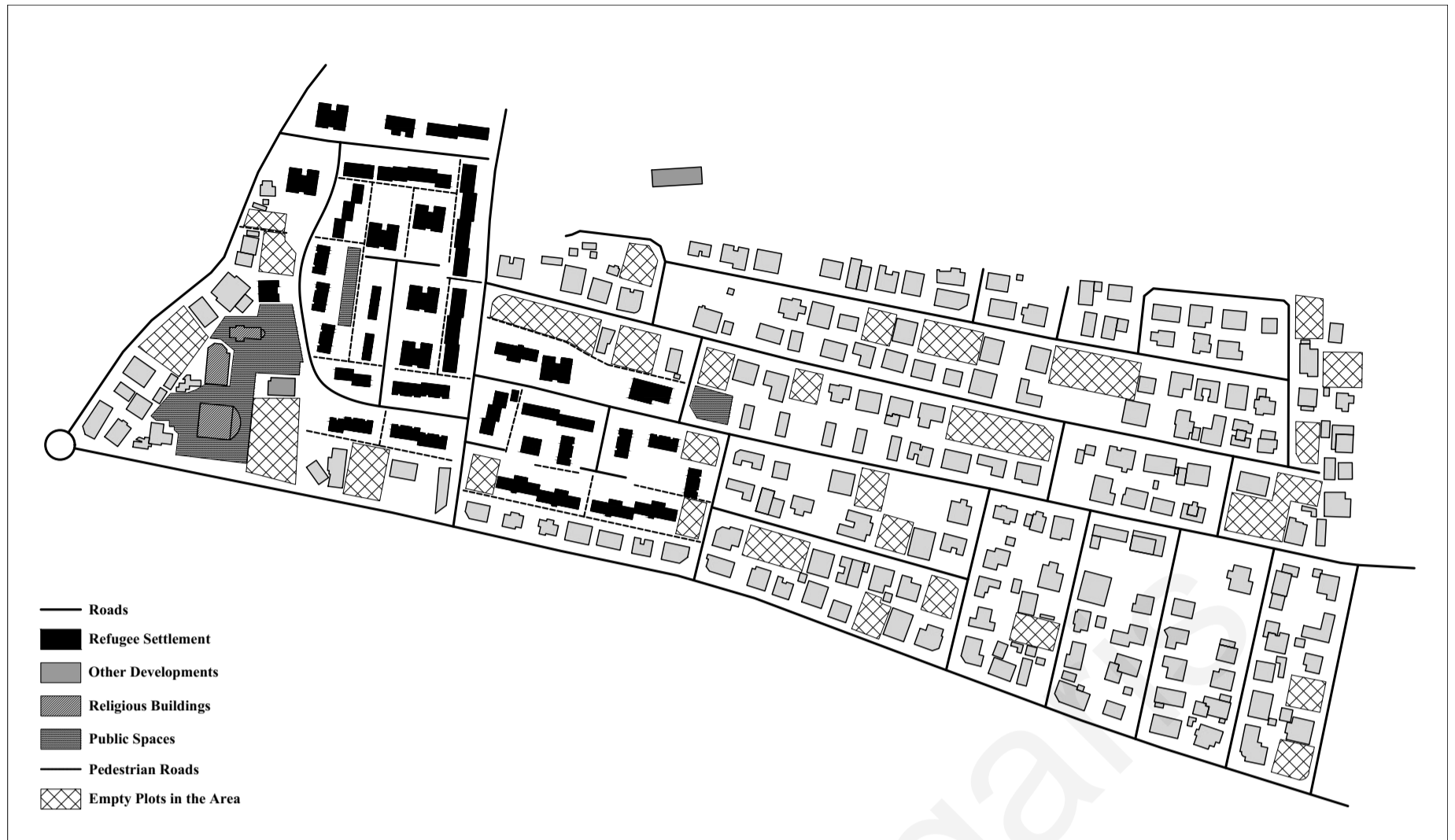


Figure 23.5. Territorial Analysis, Types of Development in the Area, Public/Green Spaces, Pedestrian Roads, and Empty Plots.

Through the analysis of the territory, one thing becomes totally clear: the left part of the territory where the Refugee Estate is in tension with the right one, that of the private developments. The Refugee Estates are developments which promote inclusion, supportiveness, care amongst others. As mentioned, in the case of Agios Pavlos' Refugee Estate, those conditions express spatially, mainly, with the existence of the pathways which connect the development to its entirety, both spatially and socially. Furthermore, due to the relatively high density of the Refugee Estate, the open spaces become landscapes of care, collectiveness, cultural production, and, ultimately, inclusion. On the contrary, on the right part of the territory, that of the private developments, the absence of public spaces and intermediate spaces between different developments promotes exclusion, lack of care and collective living.

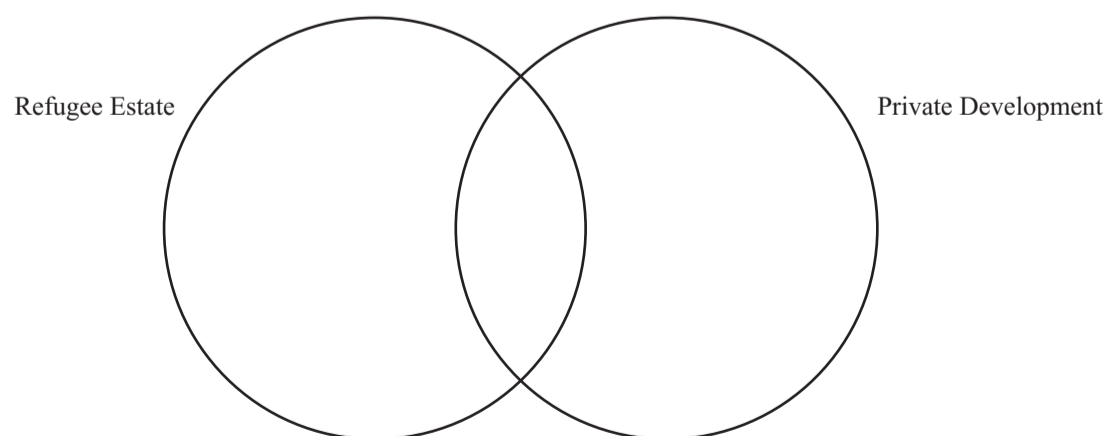


Figure 24. The Refugee Estate and the Private Development in Tension.

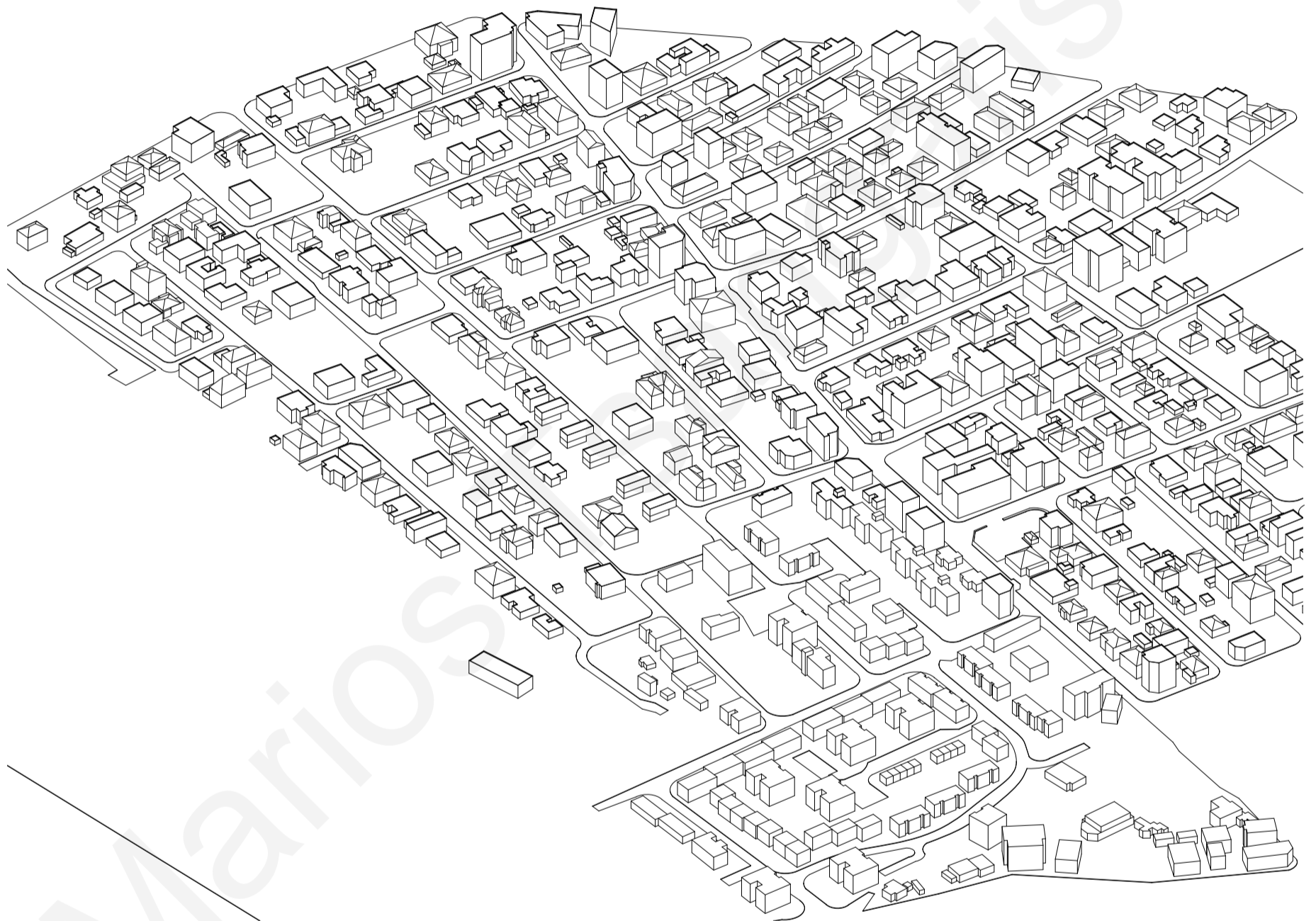


Figure 25. Volumetric Isometric of the Territory.

5.3. Architectural Scale

The Refugee Estate's masterplan, as illustrated in the figure below, it is a representative example of the 1960's design philosophies. It consists of four different typologies of multi-housing buildings – two storeys high, and, four different typologies of single-housing – which can either be ground-floor buildings or with one storey. The designed pathways within the development give the Refugee Estate very good spatial and social cohesion. The open spaces in the area become landscapes of care, collectiveness and inclusion.

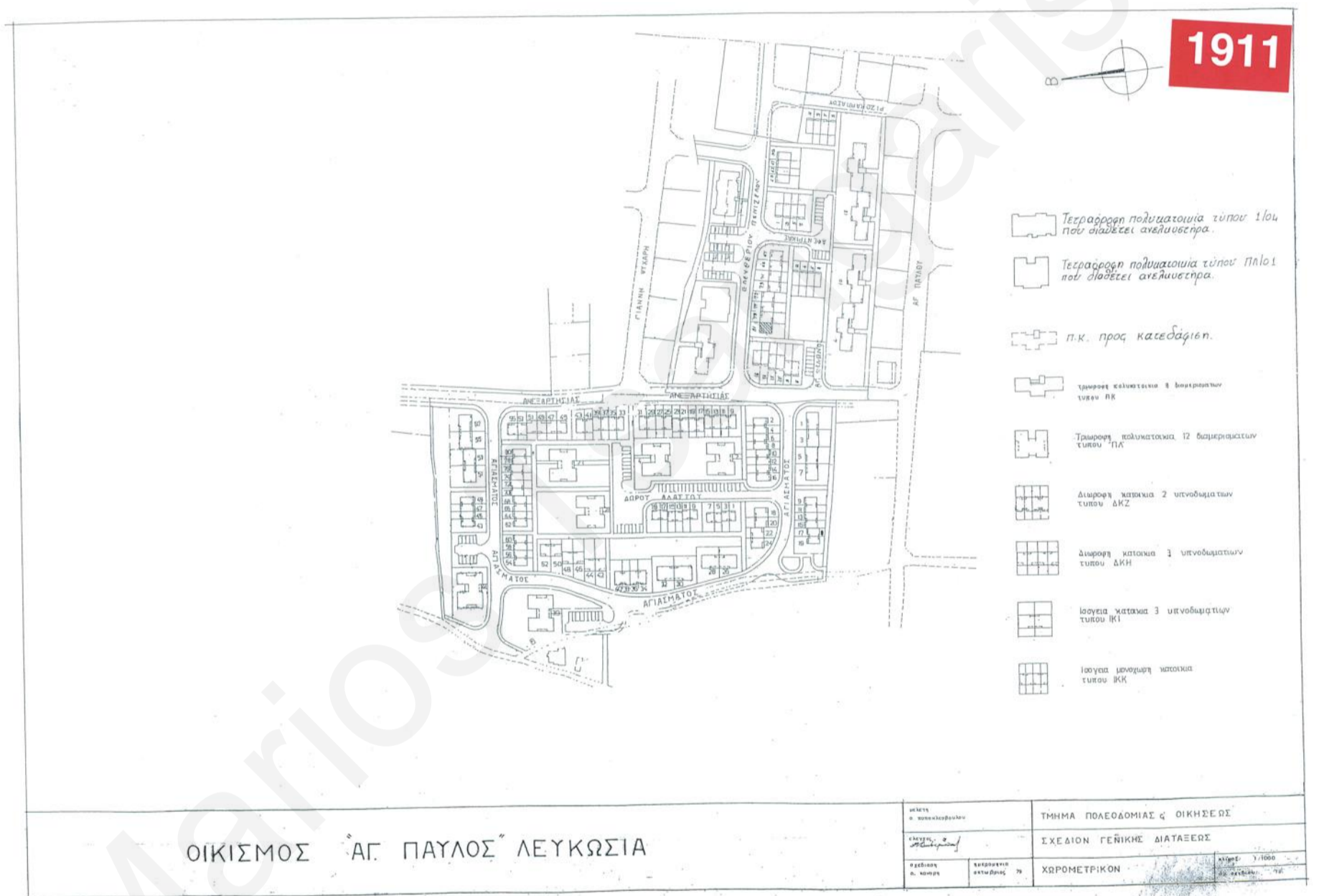


Figure 26. Agios Pavlos' Refugee Estate Masterplan. Image Courtesy of the Department of Town Planning and Housing. Accessed December, 2022.

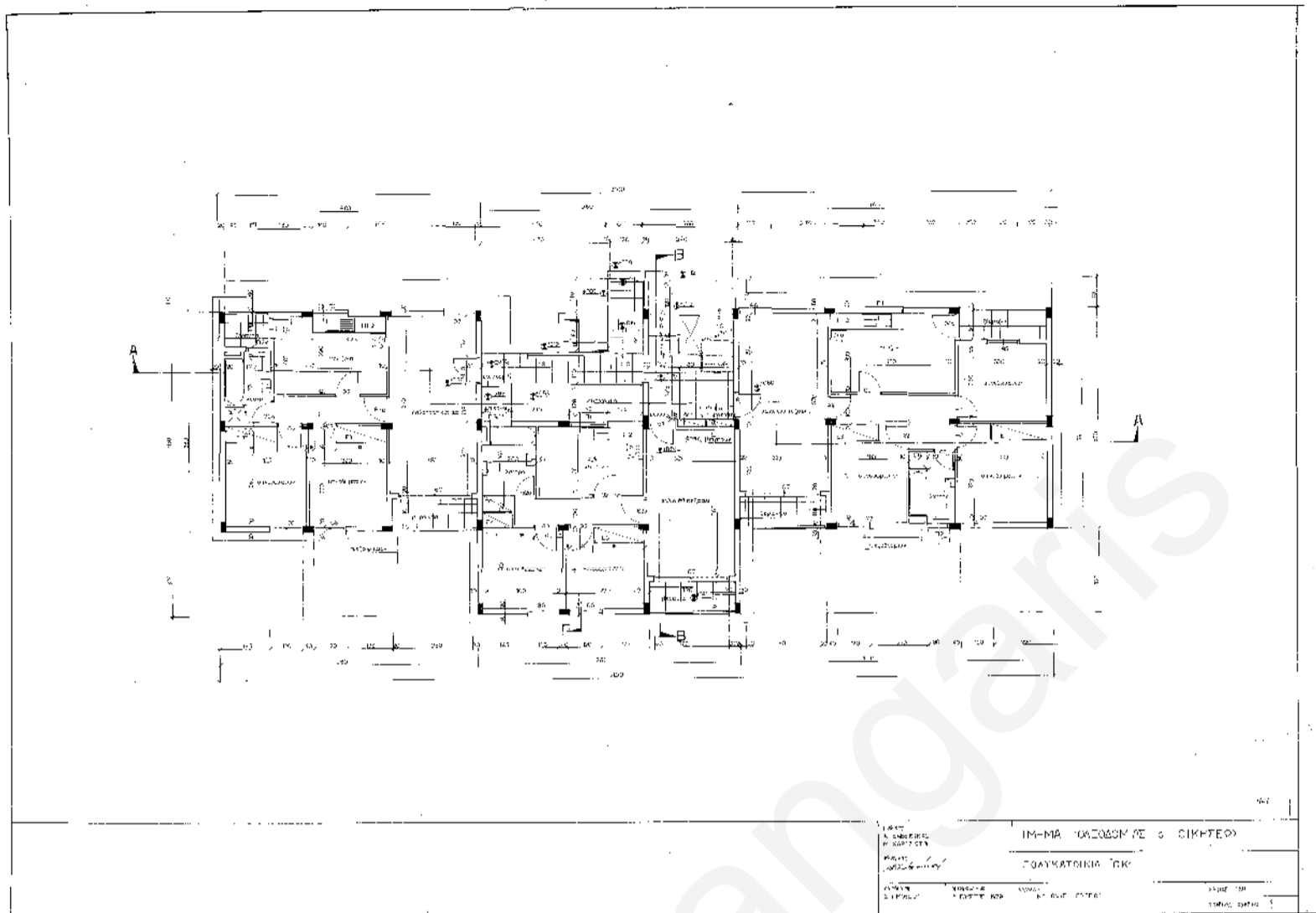


Figure 27. Indicative Plan of a Multi-storey Building (Typology PK). Image Courtesy of the Department of Town Planning and Housing. Accessed December, 2022.



Figure 28. Indicative Elevation of a Multi-storey Building (Typology PK). Image Courtesy of the Department of Town Planning and Housing. Accessed December, 2022.

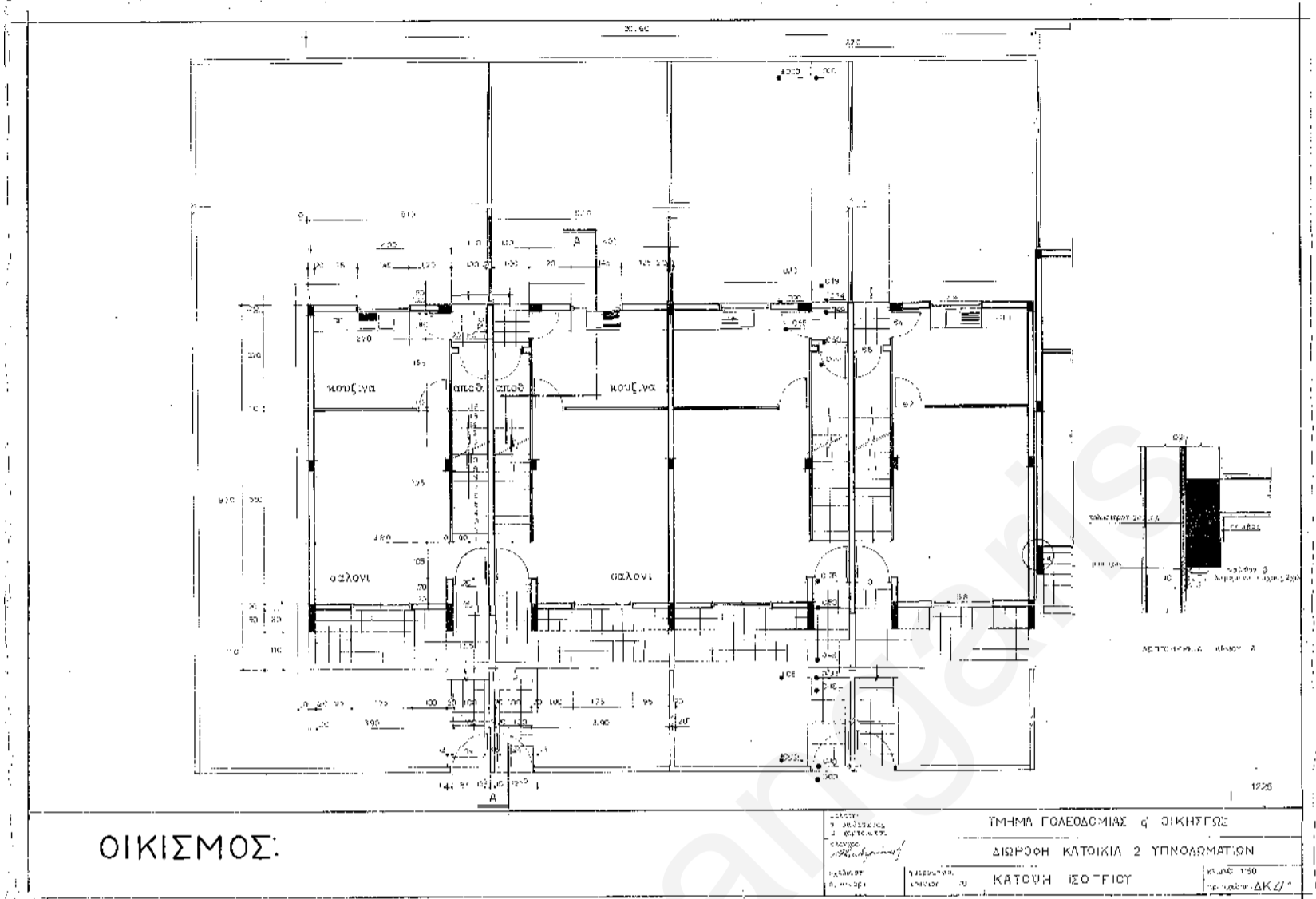


Figure 29. Indicative Plan of a Single-Family House (Typology DKZ). Image Courtesy of the Department of Town Planning and Housing. Accessed December, 2022.



Figure 30. Indicative Elevations of a Single-Family House (Typology DKZ). Image Courtesy of the Department of Town Planning and Housing. Accessed December, 2022.

5.4. Photographic Mapping of the Territory



Figure 31.1. Territory of Intervention.



Figure 31.2. Territory of Intervention.



Figure 31.3. Territory of Intervention.



Figure 31.4. Territory of Intervention.



Figure 31.5. Territory of Intervention.



Figure 31.6. Territory of Intervention.



Figure 31.7. Territory of Intervention.



Figure 31.8. Territory of Intervention.



Figure 31.9. Territory of Intervention.



Figure 31.10. Territory of Intervention.



Figure 31.11. Territory of Intervention.



Figure 31.12. Territory of Intervention.



Figure 31.13. Territory of Intervention.

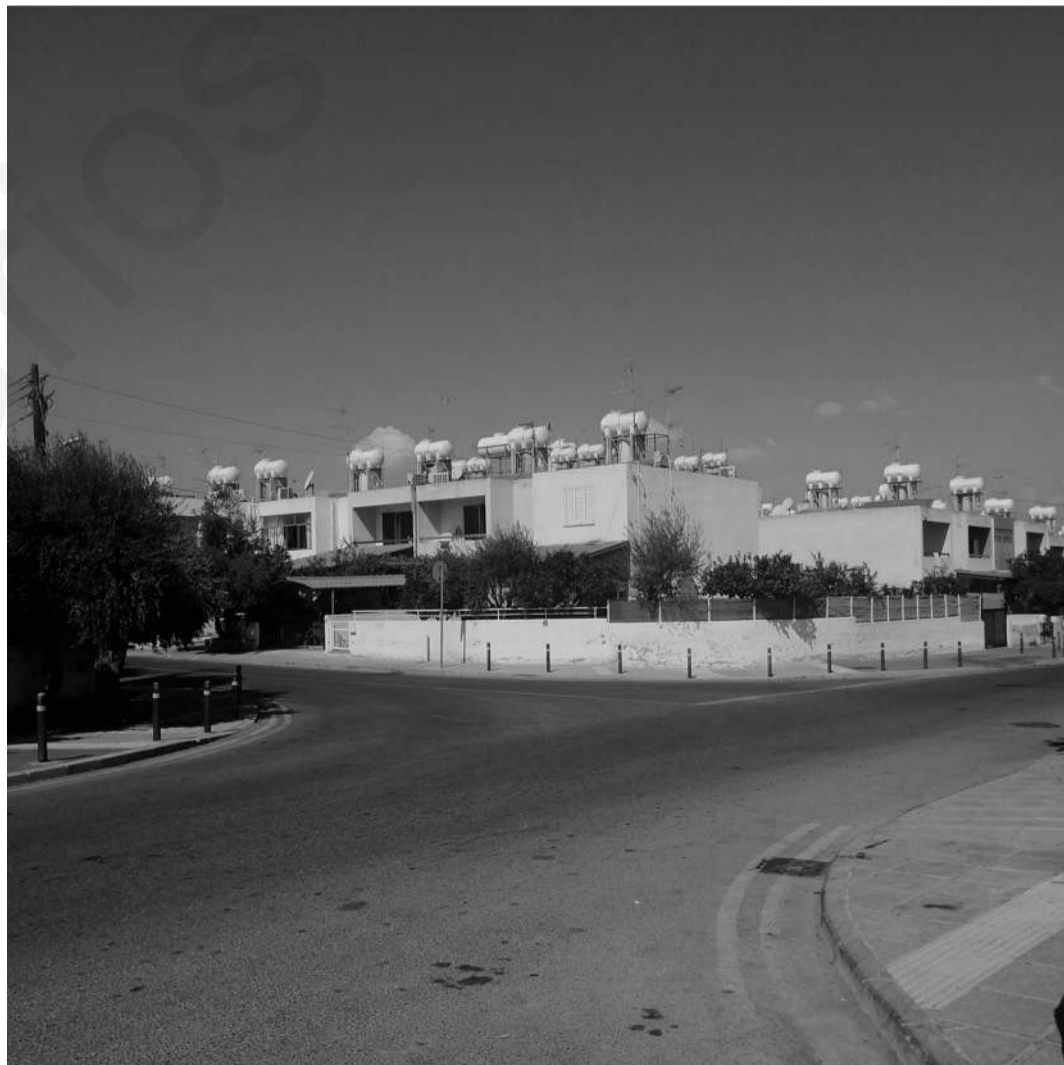


Figure 31.14. Territory of Intervention.



Figure 31.15. Territory of Intervention.



Figure 31.16. Territory of Intervention.

6. Selection of Buildings / Mapping / Interpretation

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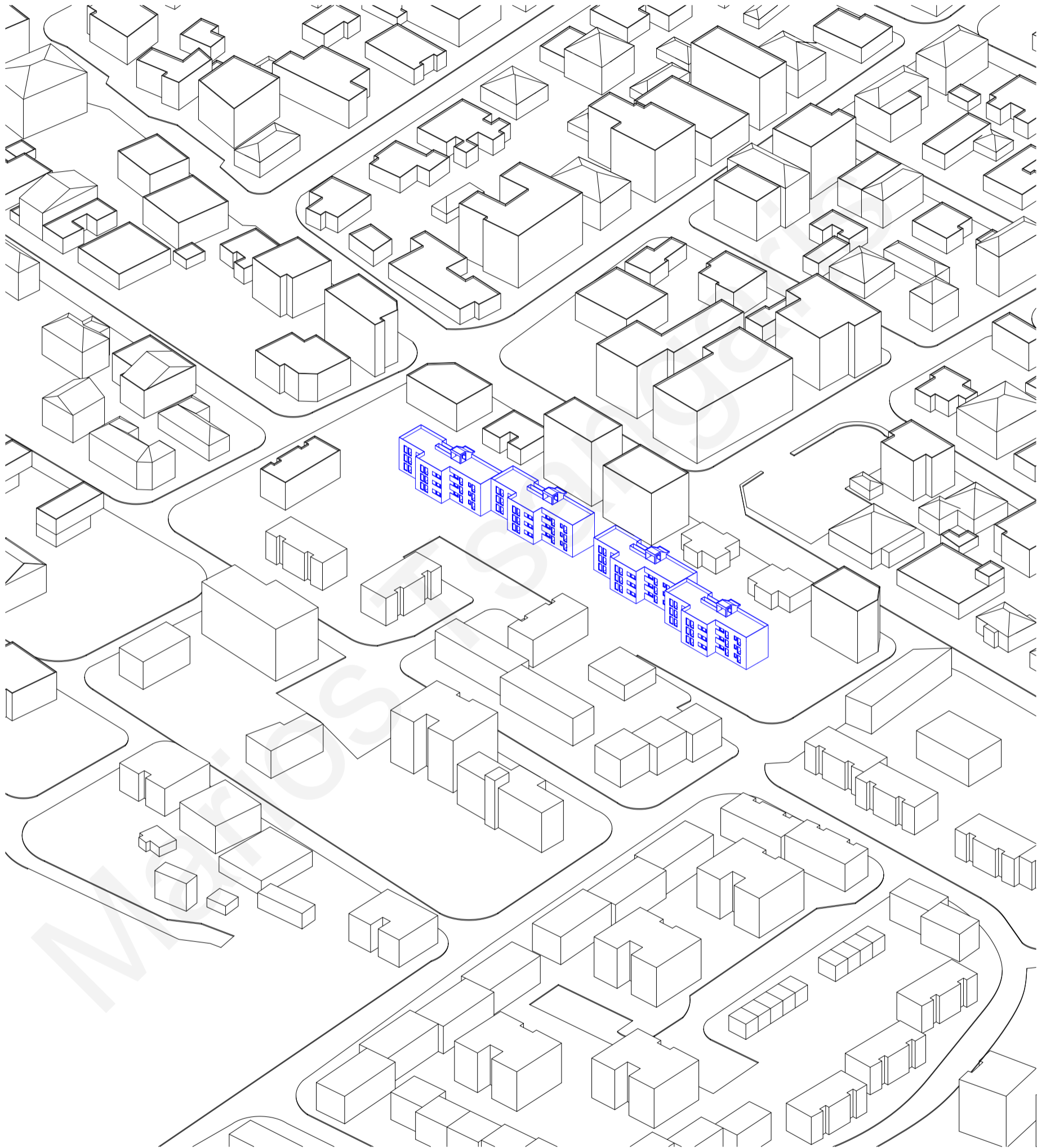


Figure 32. Selected Buildings to Intervene.

Just like in the case of the Belgian transition houses, the existing building stock is going to be used to create a halfway-like living situation for asylum seekers, refugees, and immigrants. More specifically the cluster with the four Type PK Multi-housing (see Figure 33) are going to be used, and, examine how they can potentially be transform to correspond in the best manner possible to the contemporary ways of living of the 21st century.

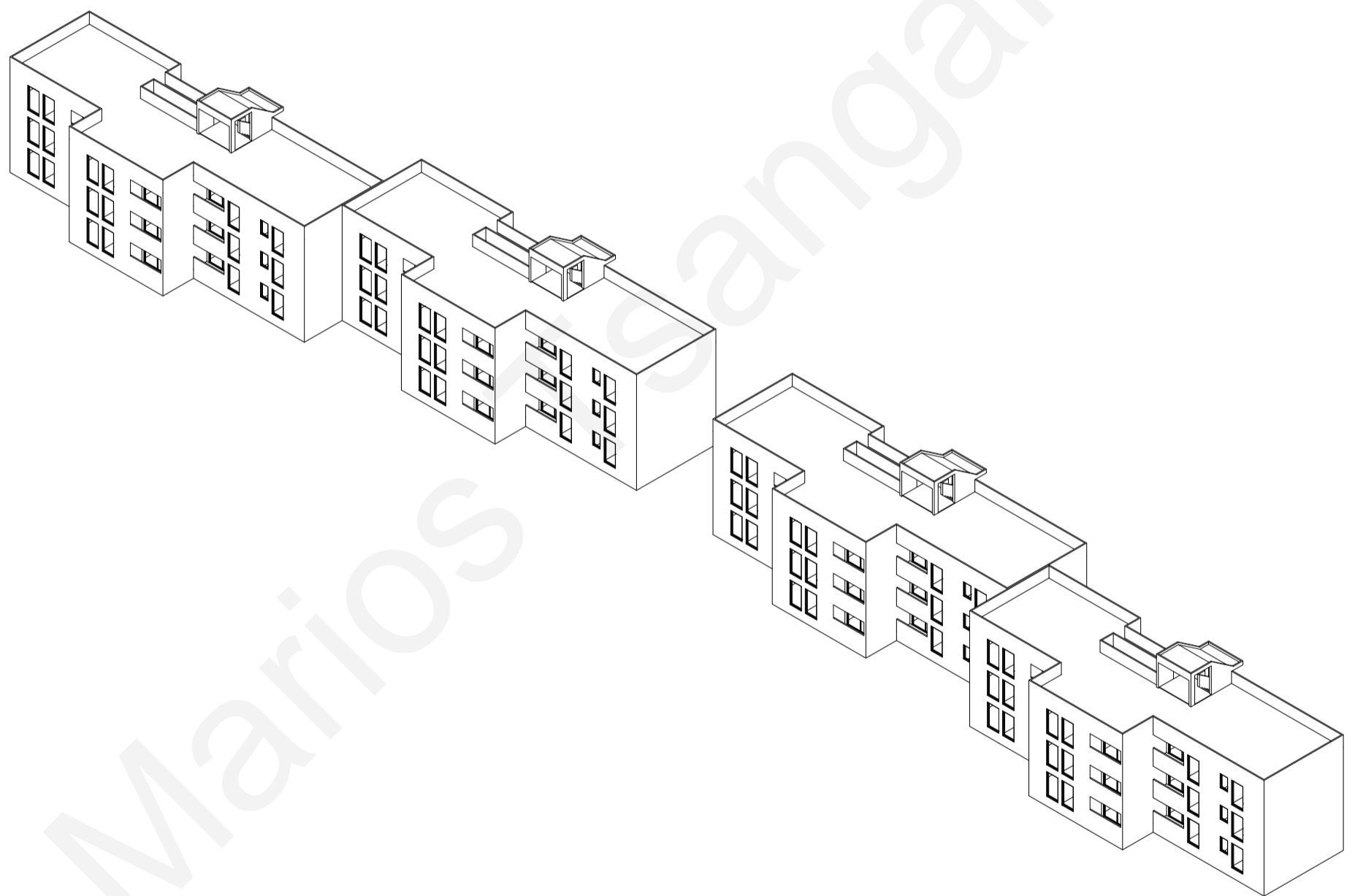


Figure 33. Focused Isometric of the Selected Buildings.

The plan of the Type PK Multi-housing is identical for all the floors. It has three apartments in each floor, the two of which are with two bedrooms, and the other with three bedrooms. What is noticeable, the spatial arrangement in plan, only corresponds to the nuclear family, which is the case for every house in the refugee estate and in Cyprus in general – maybe with a few exceptions. Can this building stock be transformed to meet the contemporary needs of living of the 21st century? Given its background, can this building stock be transformed to host other refugees as well?

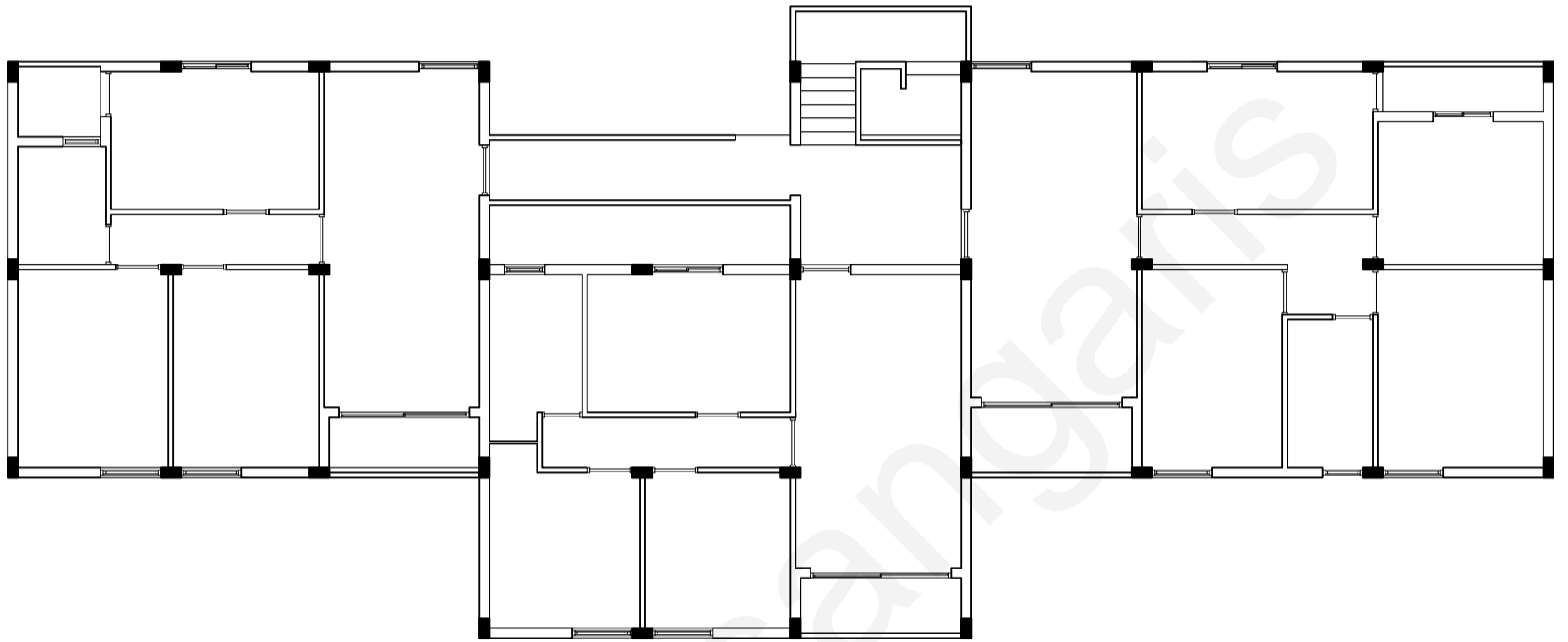


Figure 34. Typical Plan of the Multi-Storey Building.

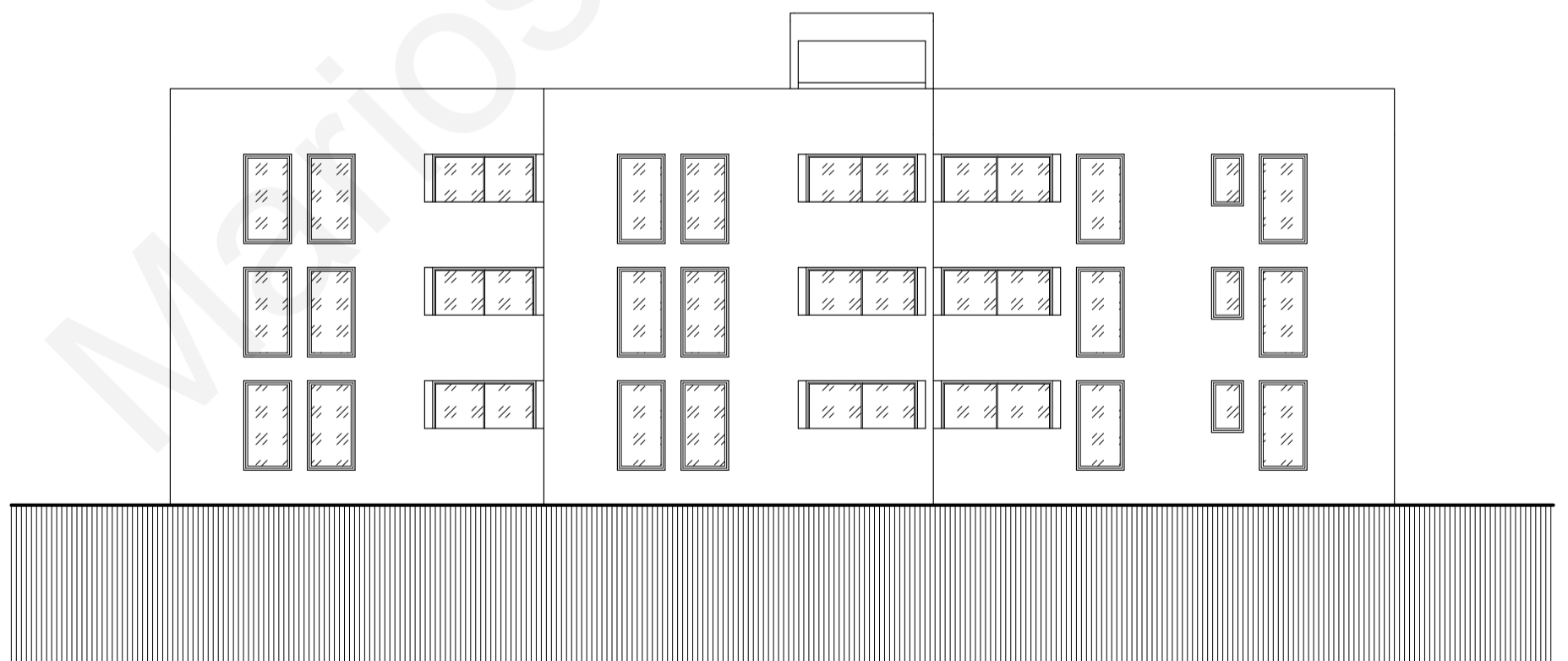


Figure 35. Typical Elevation of the Multi-Storey Building.

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7. References

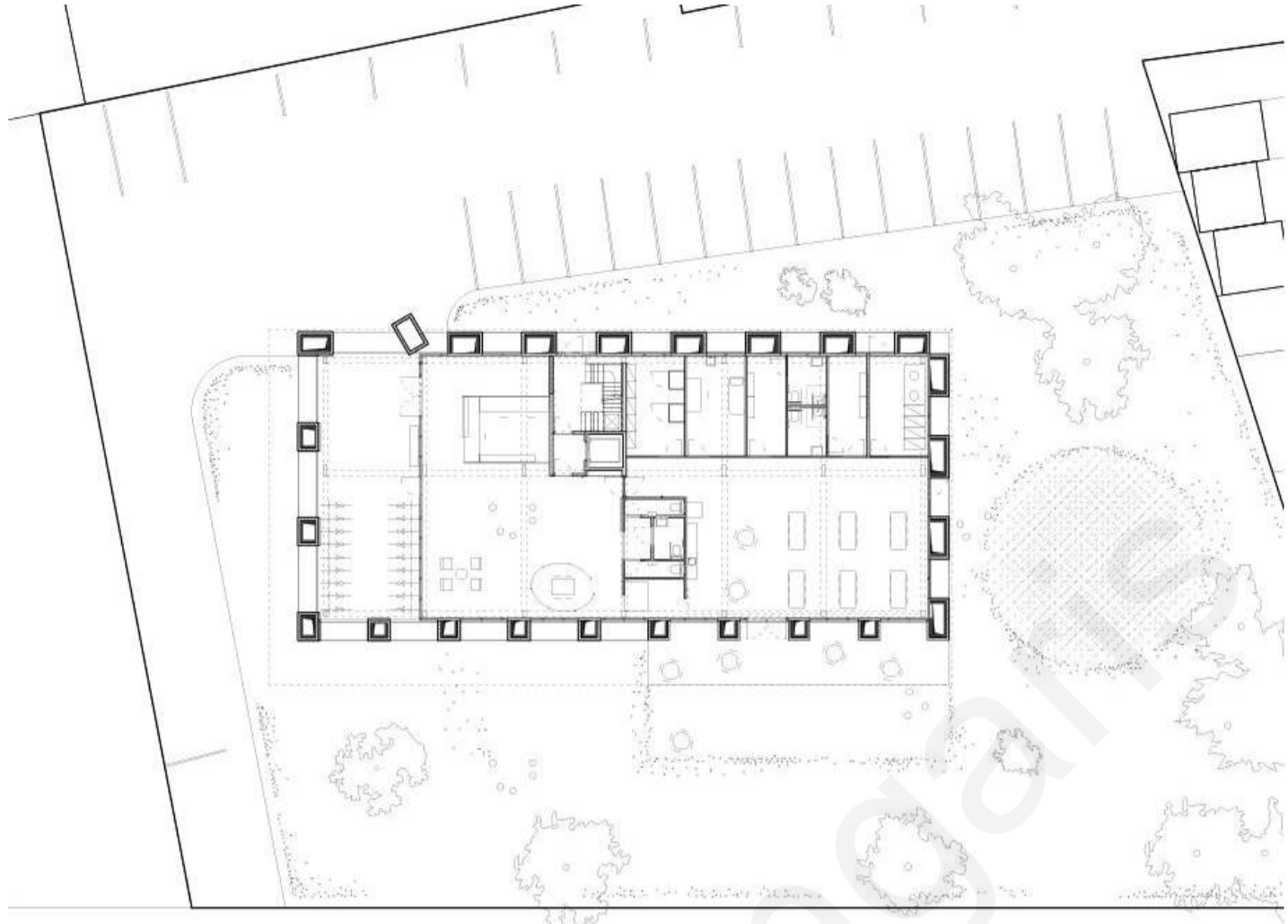


Figure 36. 164 - Masterplan. Image Courtesy of the Office KGDVS. Accessed December, 2022.



Figure 37. 164 - Elevation. Image Courtesy of the Office KGDVS. Accessed December, 2022.

7.2. Living Room - Jongwon NA

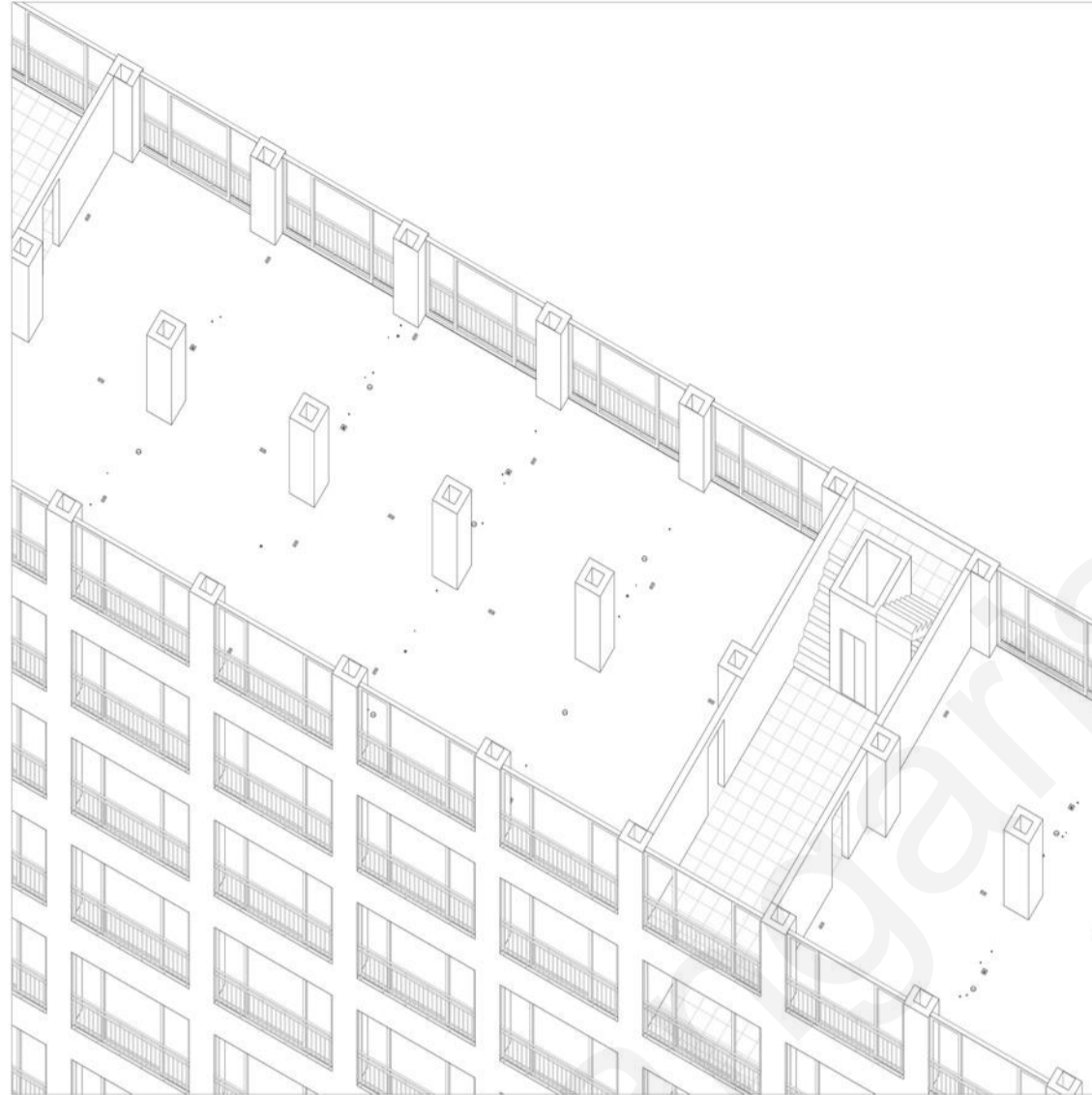


Figure 38. Living Room - Isometric Plan Indicating the Position of the Utilities.
Image Courtesy of Jongwon NA. Accessed December, 2022.

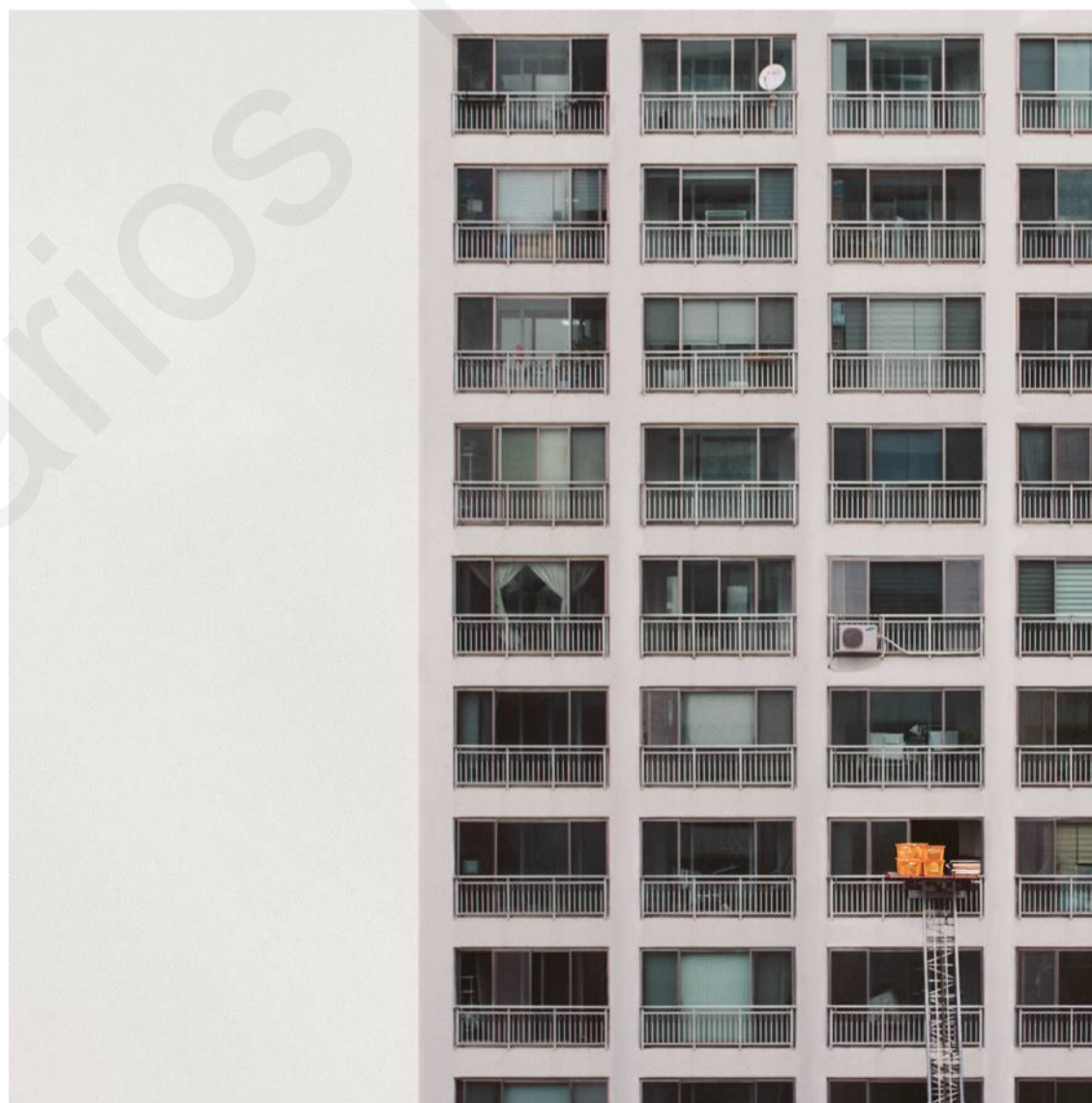


Figure 39. Living Room - Elevation.
Image Courtesy of Jongwon NA. Accessed December, 2022.

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8. Synthetical Intentions and Strategies

Protocol 1

Not many years ago, the Republic of Cyprus decided to grant ownership titles to the residents of the refugee estates, both to secure the residents themselves as well as their descendants. Ontologically, this means that no such a project as that of the present thesis' could be implemented in any of the areas of the refugee estates due to property issues. To overcome this problem, a protocol with a series of hypotheses and assumptions was created in order to allow such projects both to take place as well as secure the owners of the estate.

1. No ownership titles have been granted to the existing residents, which means they cannot pass the house to any progeny they might have.
2. Existing residents might stay in their residences until the end of their lifetime.
3. Any possible descendants of theirs will be compensated.
4. The structural system is fine, without any significant damage, and its safe for people to use the structure until 200years after construction.
5. Any work concerning the proposed intervention, on the exterior, can begin whether the initial residents are still alive or not.

Principles

As illustrated in the scheme below, every layer of the building has a different life span. For us, the most important one – and sensibly different from any traditional case – is that one of the plans. Realizing domestic space as a space of cultural production and expression, domestic space has the most important role to play in the inclusion of the aforementioned subjects. So to speak, if the space is to be designed to host different subjects over a period of short time, the plan should be able to change or adapt accordingly.

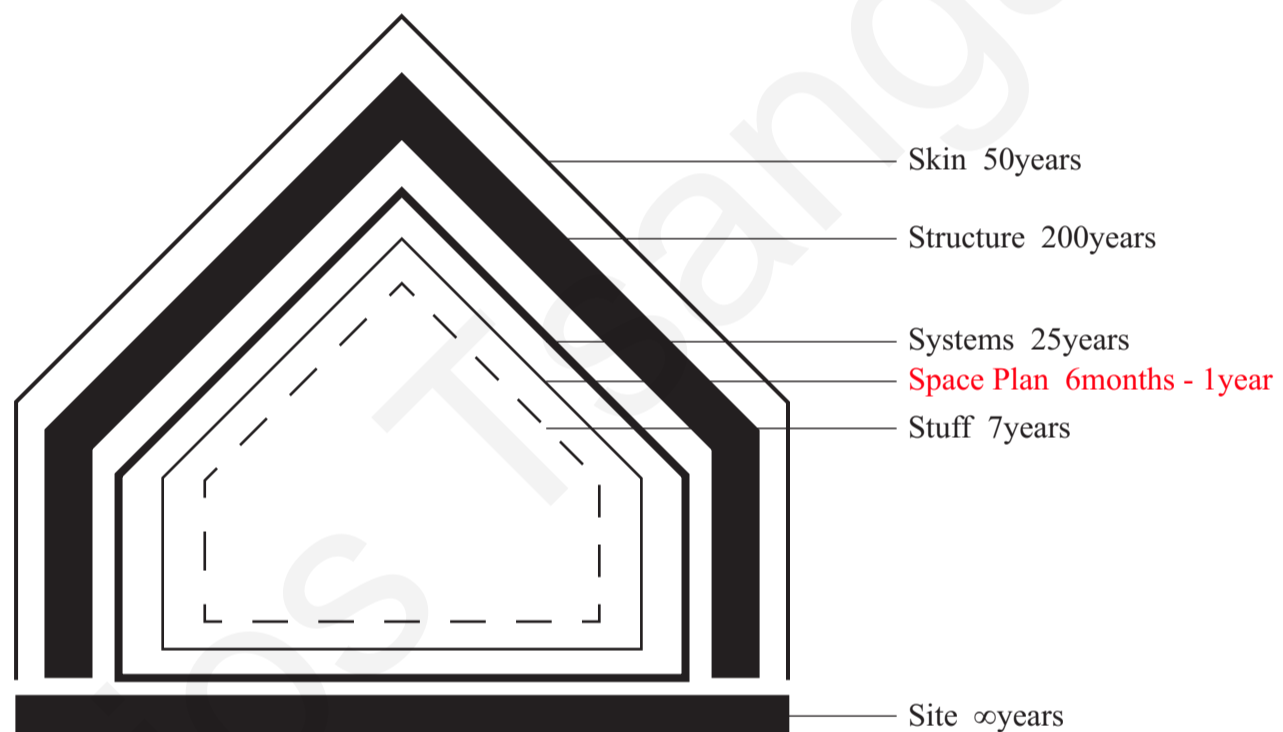


Figure 40. Different Layers of the Building.

Utilities

To achieve the adaptability needed, according to the set of principles that were set before, the position of the utilities has a very crucial role to play. In any renovation case, the most important factor that usually affects the adaptability of the plan is the position of the utilities. In the schematic plan below, we can see diagrammatically the position of the wet spaces. More specifically two wet zones were designed on the two sides of each apartment, so the plan can change or adapt easily according to the needs of the subject at any given time, without many difficulties.

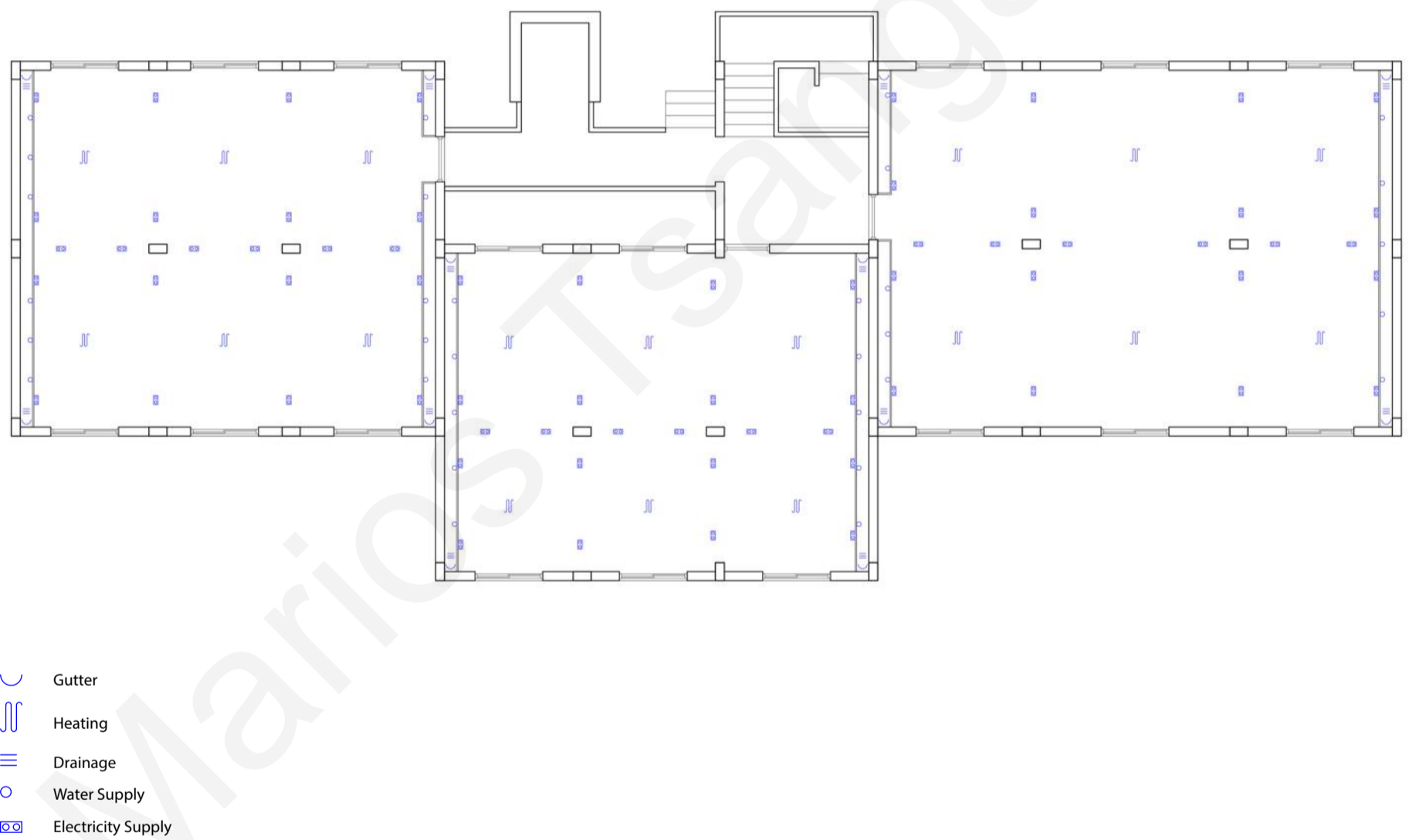


Figure 41. Utilities Plan.

Protocol 2

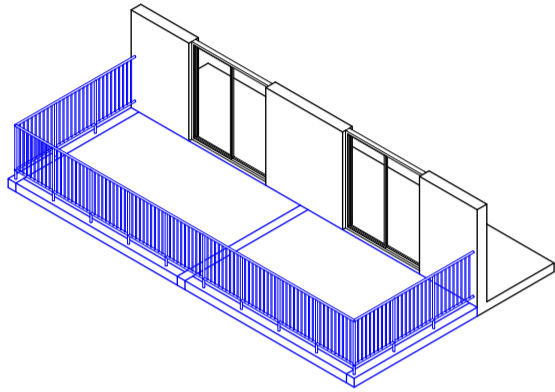
To have a more pragmatic approach to the design and the management of the domestic space, but also for the proposal in its entirety, an NGO will be established for this cause. The NGO will be responsible to manage the day-to-day problems and, also assist them in their journey to get included.

1. The spaces will be designed in cooperation with local architects and the subjects.
2. The subjects are entitled to transform and organize their space as they see fit, according to their needs.

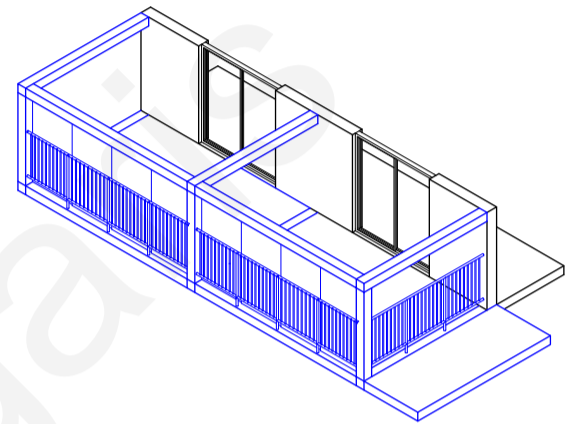
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Design Tools

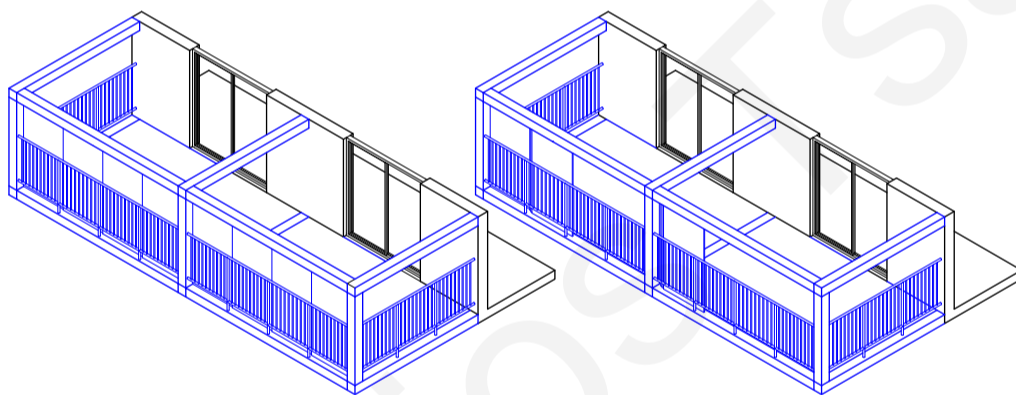
Regarding the second axis of the proposed intervention – which is about the external additions – a pallet of architectural grammar was created – based on the notions of the ‘Boundary’ and the ‘Intermediate Space.’ That grammar is about a set of conditions which can both spatially and socially bring the subjects closer to each other, but also – and maybe most importantly – closer to the surrounding community, cultivating conditions for care – just as it happens to the area of the Refugee Estate.



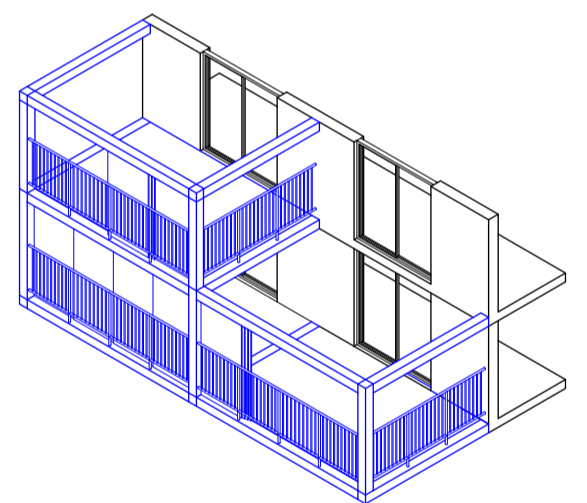
Balcony



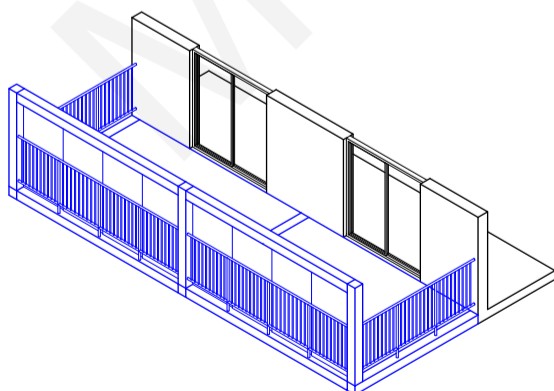
Railing, as boundary



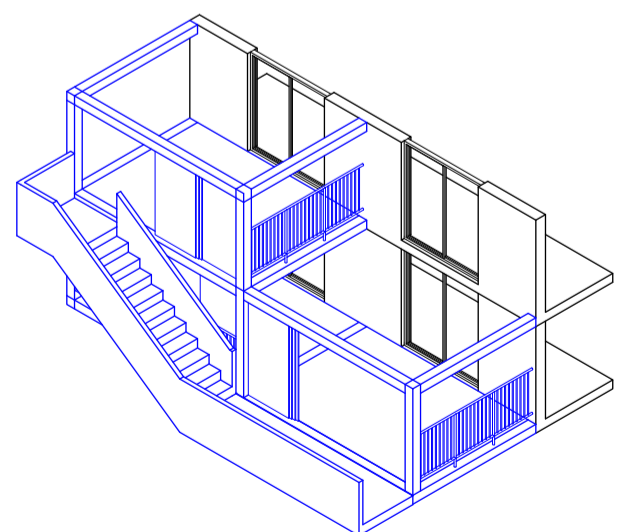
Grid which creates space, with movable panels that allow the users to define their relationship with the city



Relation between floors to provoke interaction between subjects



Grid, as a surface that defines space, with movable panels that allow the users to define their relationship with the city



Motion - Stop - Space to have random encounters

Figure 42. Design Tools.

Program

The proposed program is structured in four axes, each and every one equally important for the successful inclusion of the subjects. As illustrated in the scheme below, the landscape aims to bring the existing and the new inhabitants closer together through a sequent of interventions, closely related to the ground floor's program which is all about collective and shared facilities, both for the new residents but also for the residents of the nearby neighborhoods. On the first and second floors of the building there will be the domestic spaces of the subjects alongside some shared kitchens. The roof will function as an extension of the landscape onto the building and will host public programs and activities.

Roof	Recreational Spaces	Basket Field	Theatre	Observatories	Gardening Spaces	
Domestic Spaces	Proposal 1	Proposal 2	Proposal 3	Proposal 4	Proposal 5	Proposal 6
Ground Floor	Kindergarten	Shared Kitchens	Workshops	Classrooms	Cafe	Elderly Carespaces
Landscape	Square	Market	Gardens	Children Playgrounds	Gym Spaces	

Figure 43. Program.

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9. Design Proposal



Figure 44. Masterplan of the Proposed Intervention.



Figure 45. Moment on the Ground Floor. Space on Pilotis.

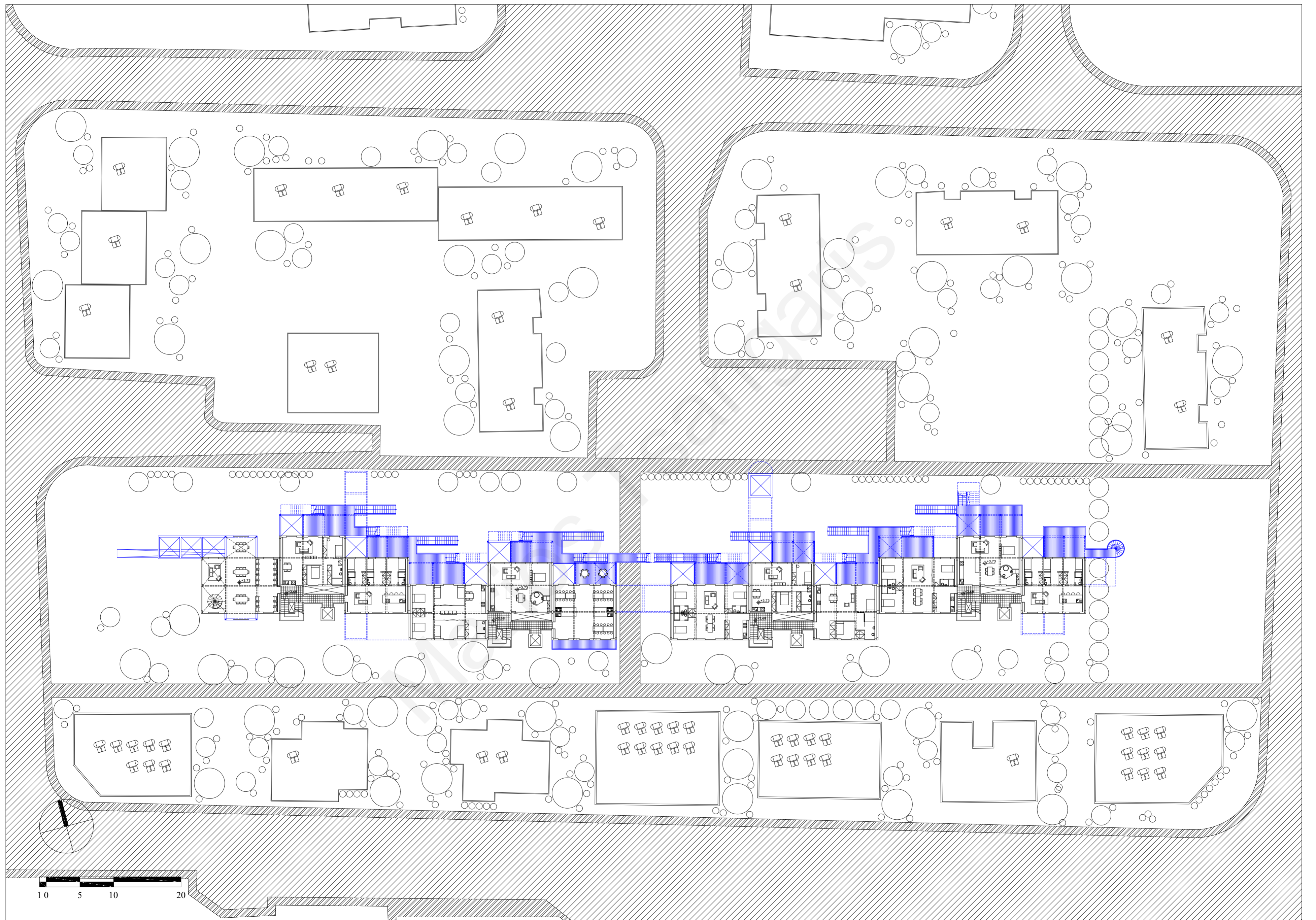


Figure 46. 1st Level Plan
Design Proposal

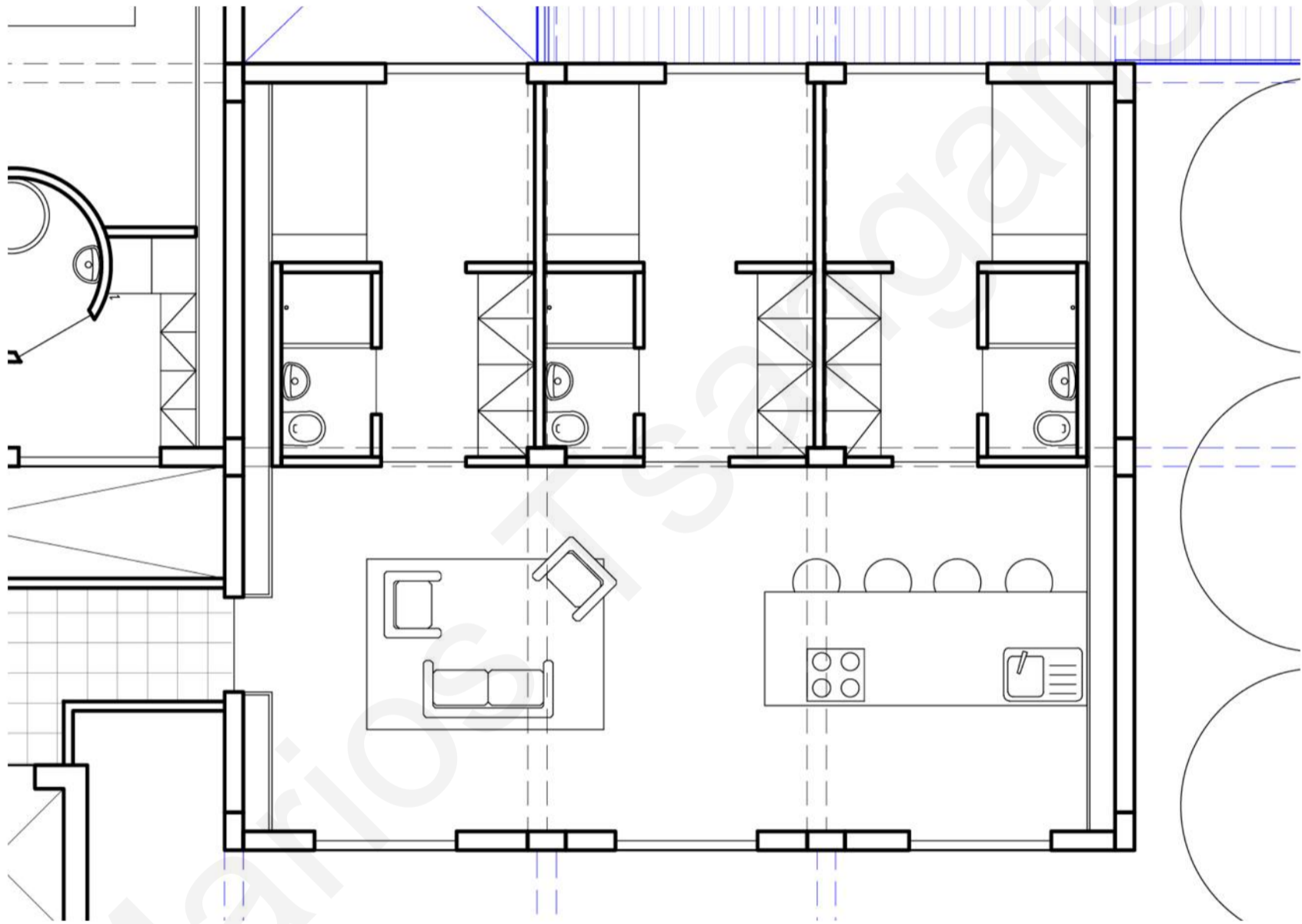


Figure 47. Focused Plan of the Apartment for three Young Adults.



Figure 48.1. Moment in the Apartment for the Young Adults - Phase 1.



Figure 48.2. Moment in the Apartment for the Young Adults - Phase 2.



Figure 48.3. Moment in the Apartment for the Young Adults - Phase 3.

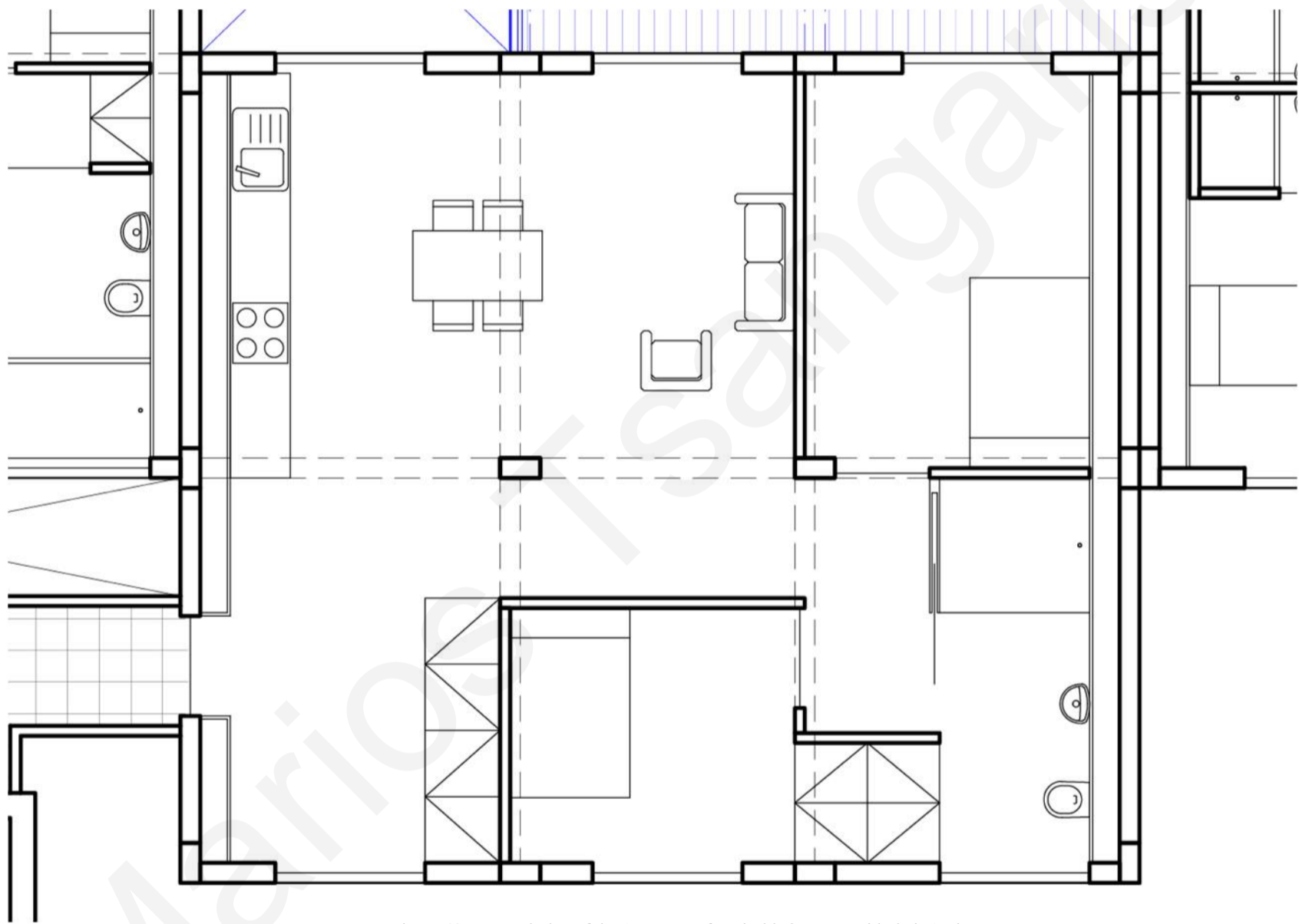


Figure 49. Focused Plan of the Apartment of a Disabled Person with their Assistant.

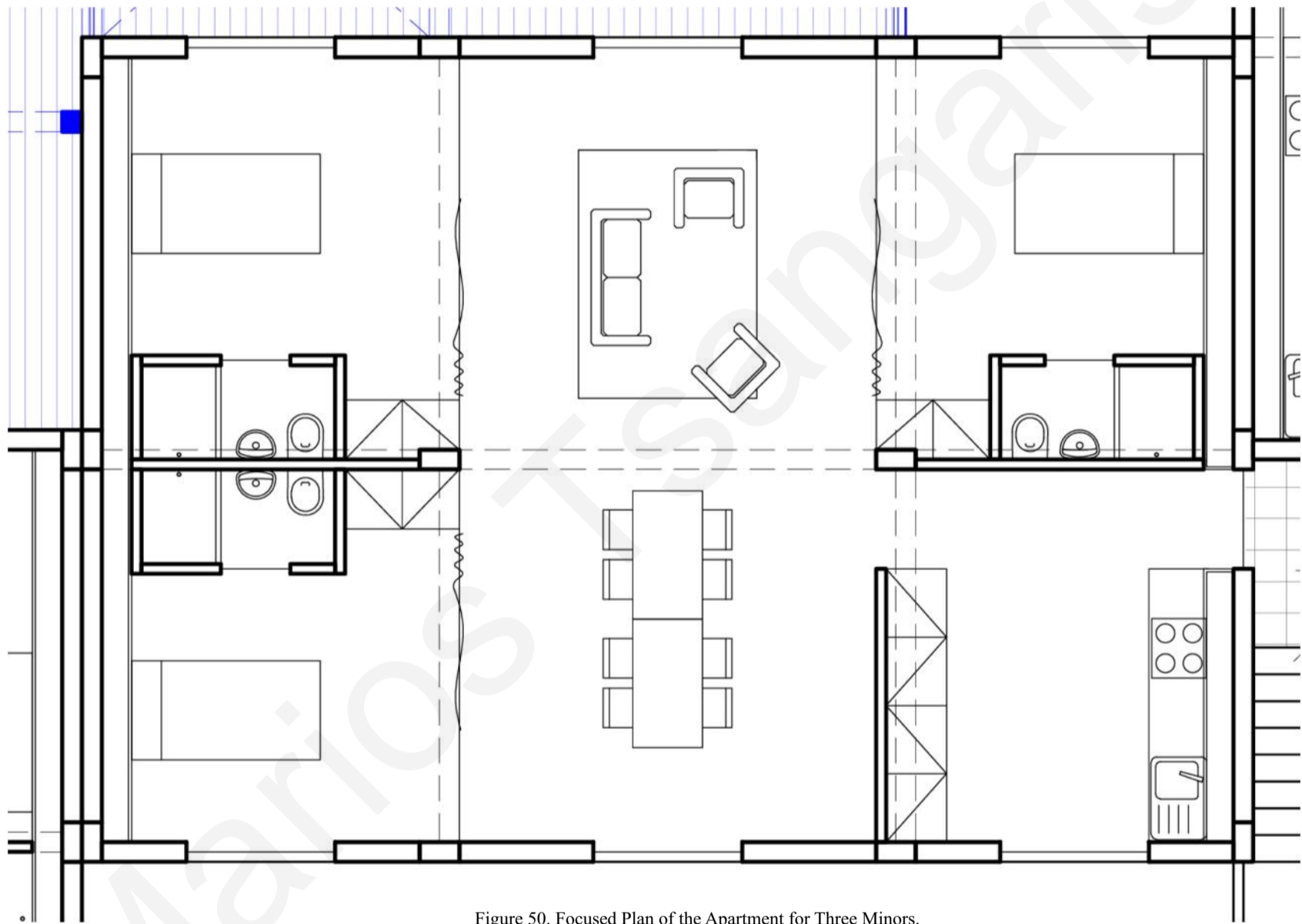


Figure 50. Focused Plan of the Apartment for Three Minors.

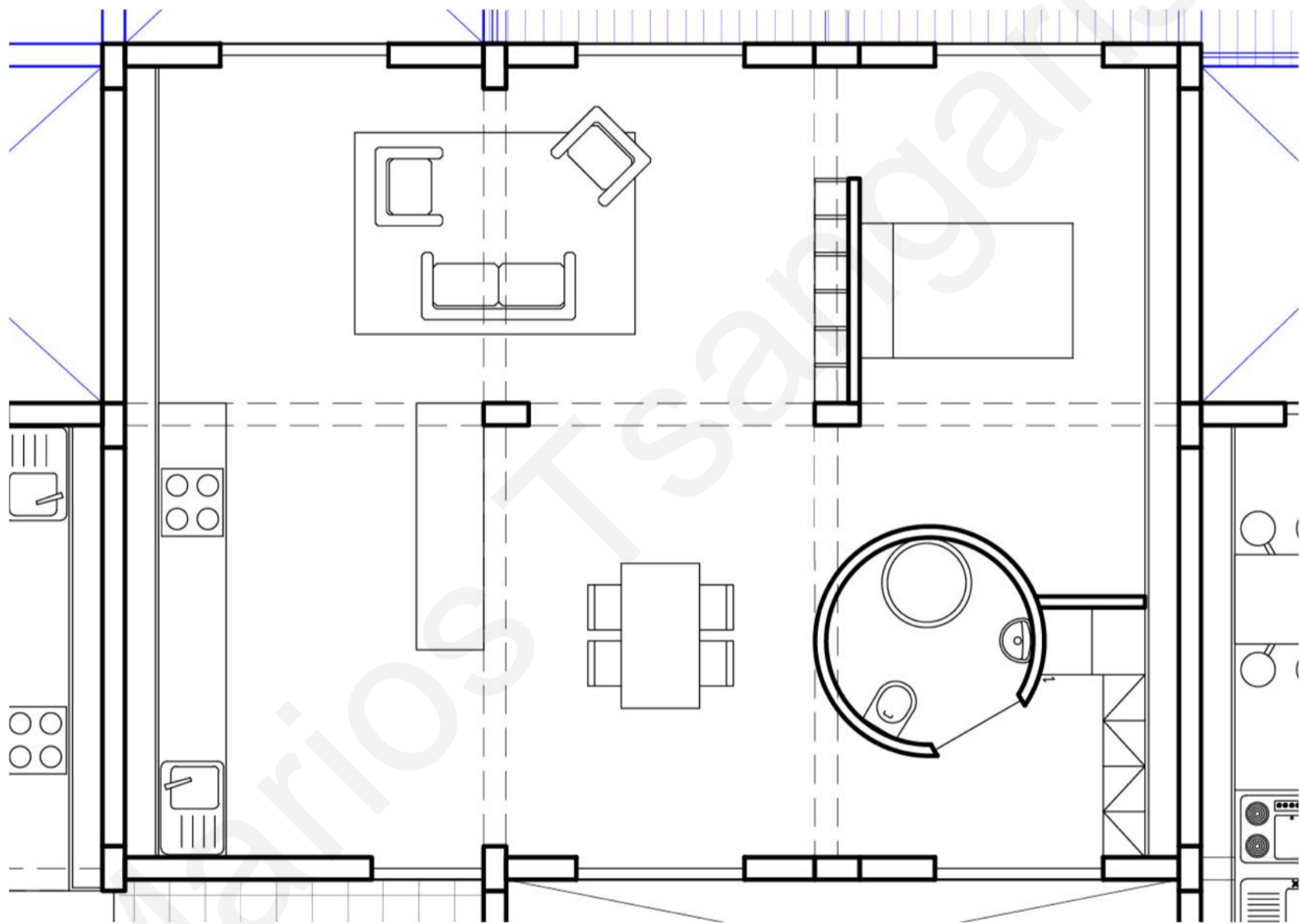


Figure 51. Focused Plan of a Studio Apartment for a Family of Two.



Figure 52. Moment at the Studio Aptment for a Young Family of Two.

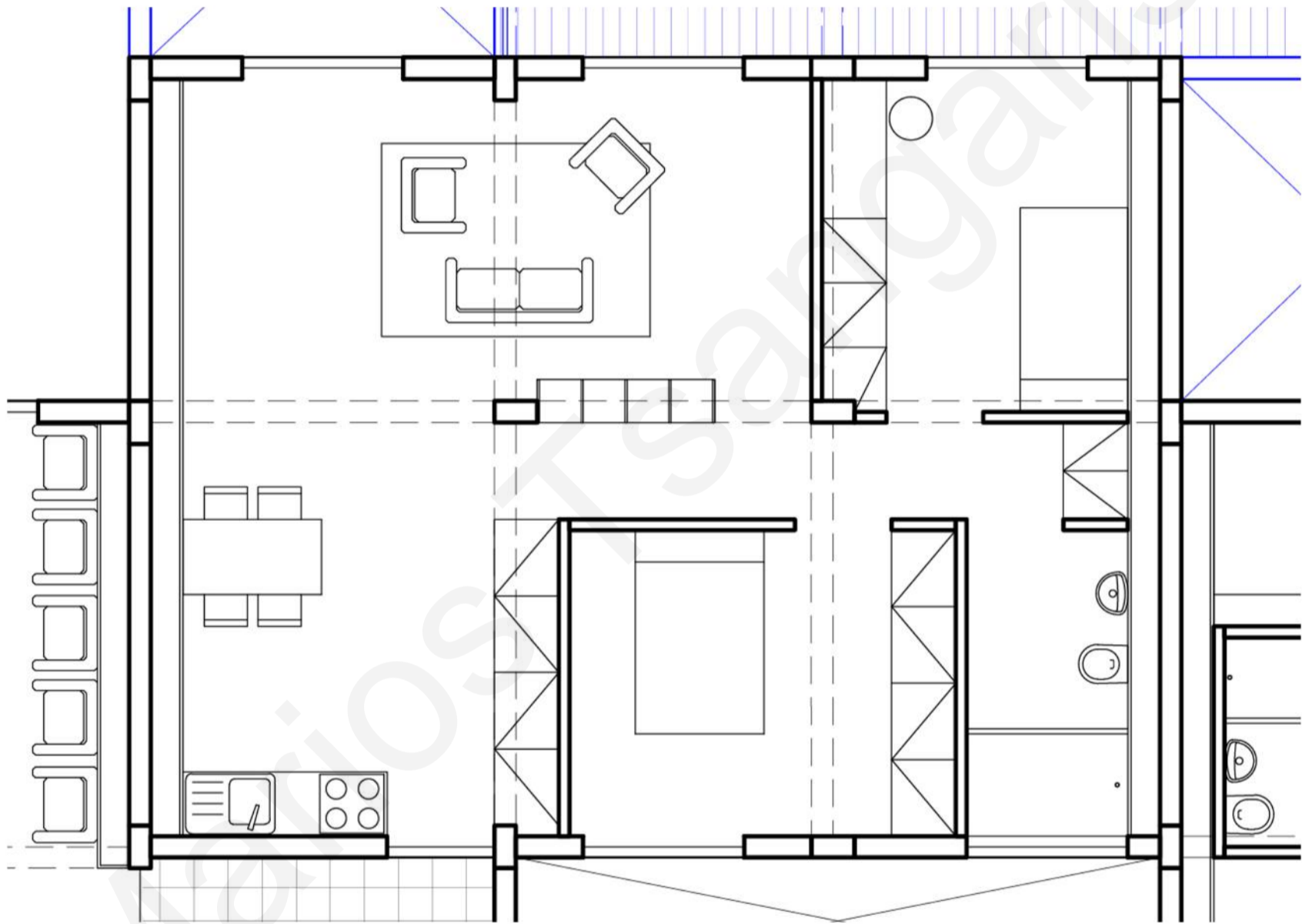


Figure 53. Focused Plan of the Apartment for a Family of Three or Four.

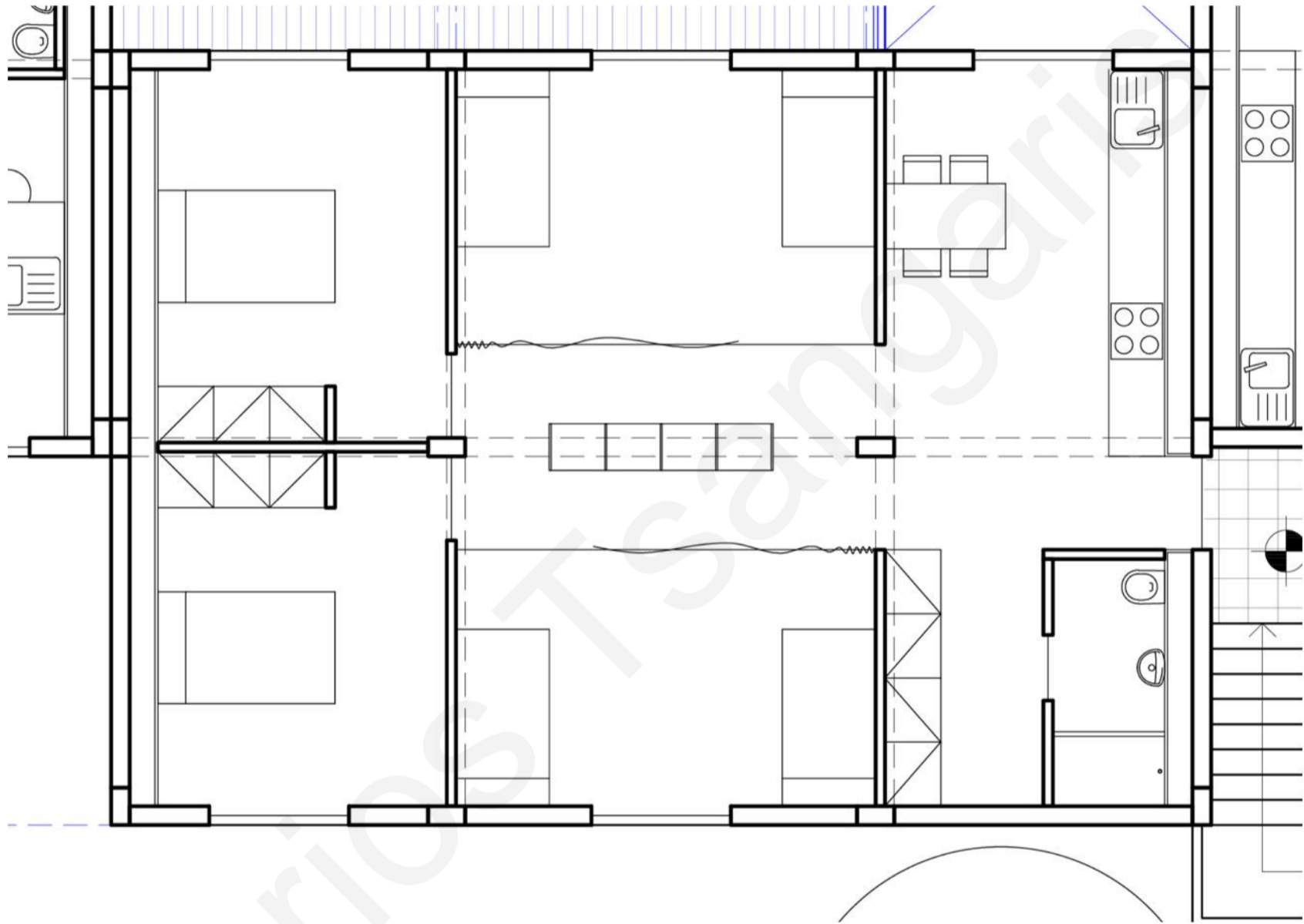


Figure 54. Focused Plan of the Aptment for Two Young Families with Four Children.



Figure 55.1. Moment at the Apartment for Two Young Families with Four Children - Phase 1.



Figure 55.2. Moment at the Apartment for Two Young Families with Four Children - Phase 2.



Figure 55.3. Moment at the Apartment for Two Young Families with Four Children - Phase 3.



Figure 56. 2nd Level Plan.

Design Proposal



Figure 57. Moment at the Balcony.



Figure 58. 3rd Level Plan.
Design Proposal



Figure 59. 4th Level Plan.
Design Proposal



Figure 60. Top View.
Design Proposal

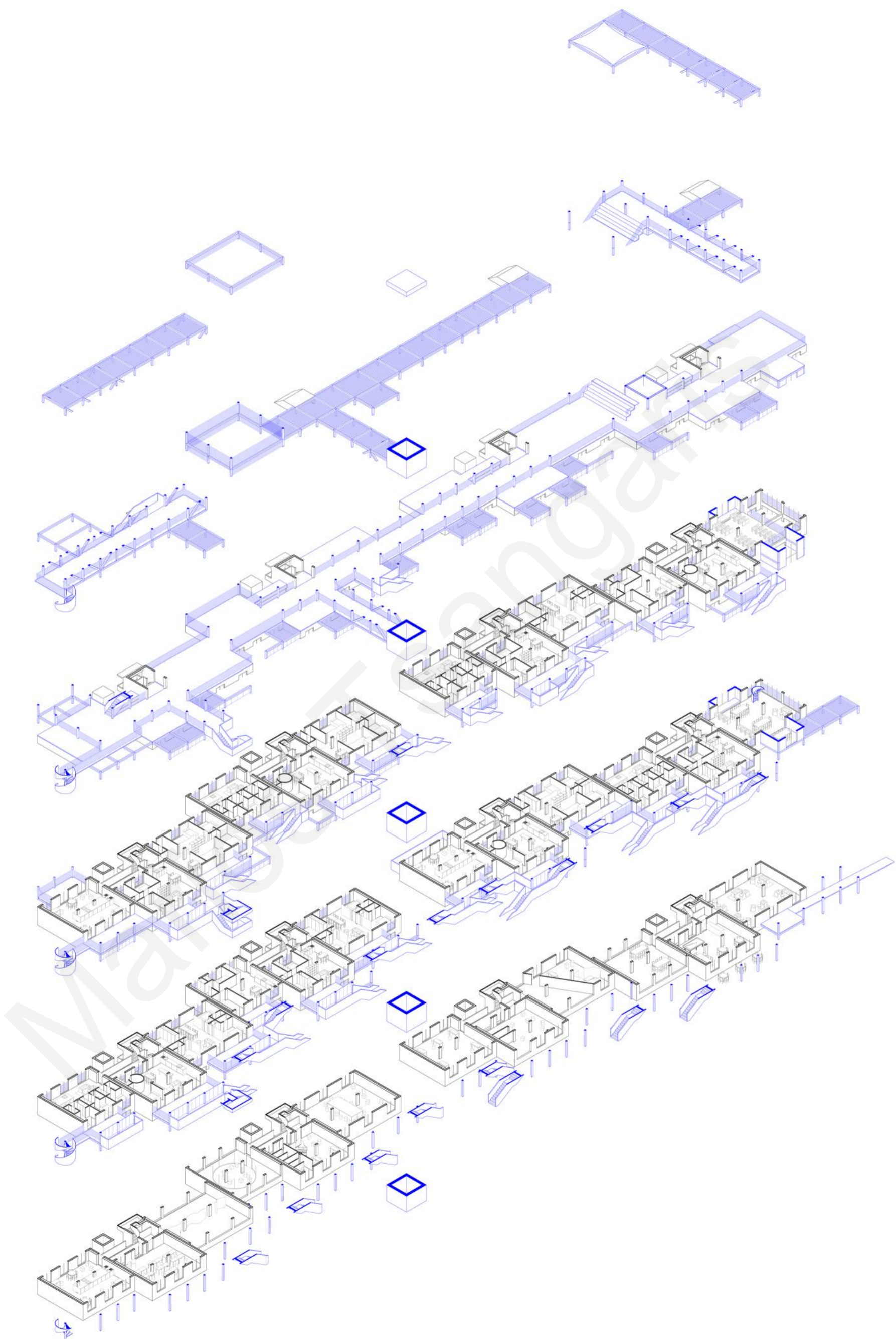


Figure 61. Exploded Isometric.

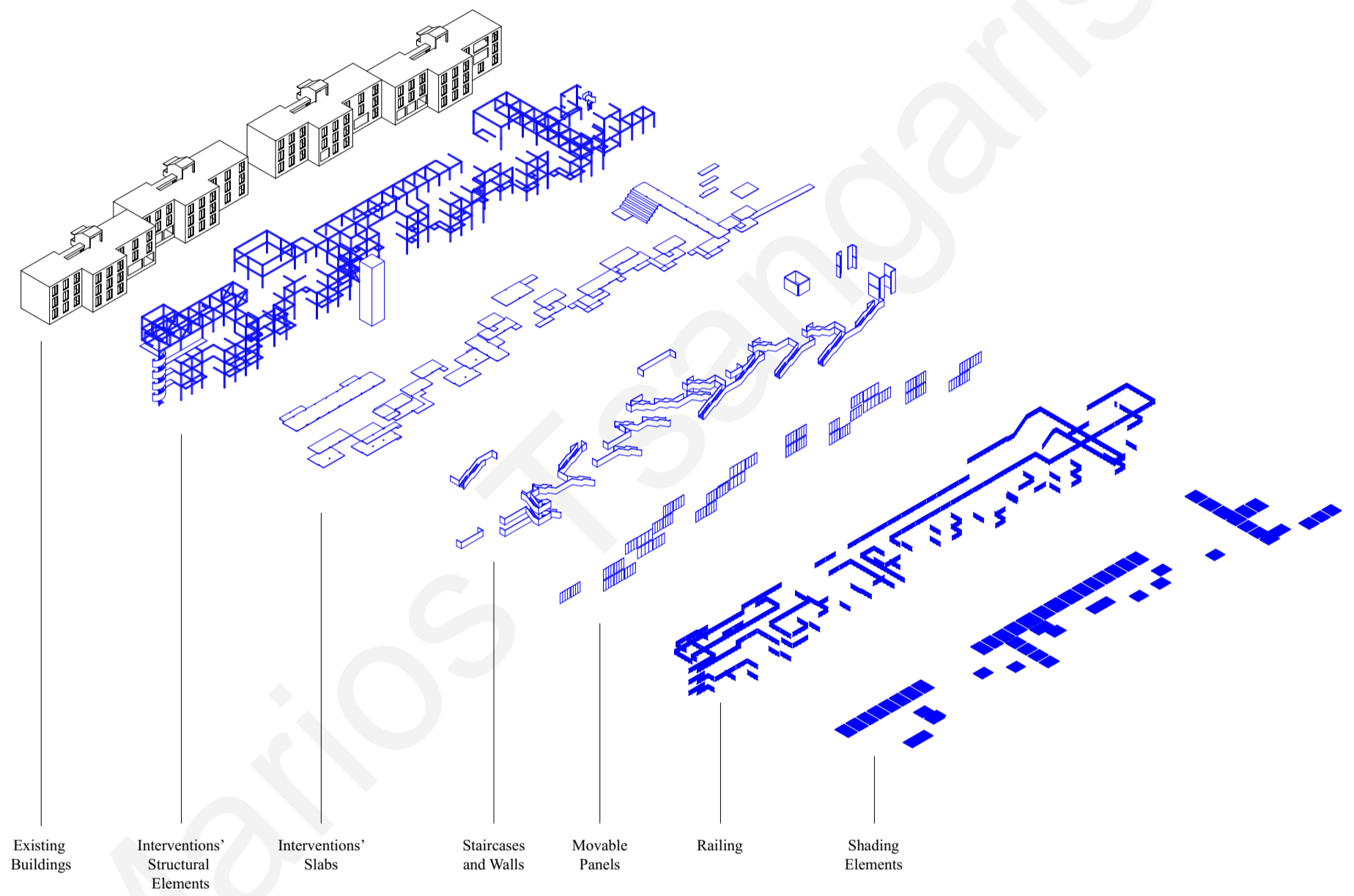


Figure 62. Construction Diagram.

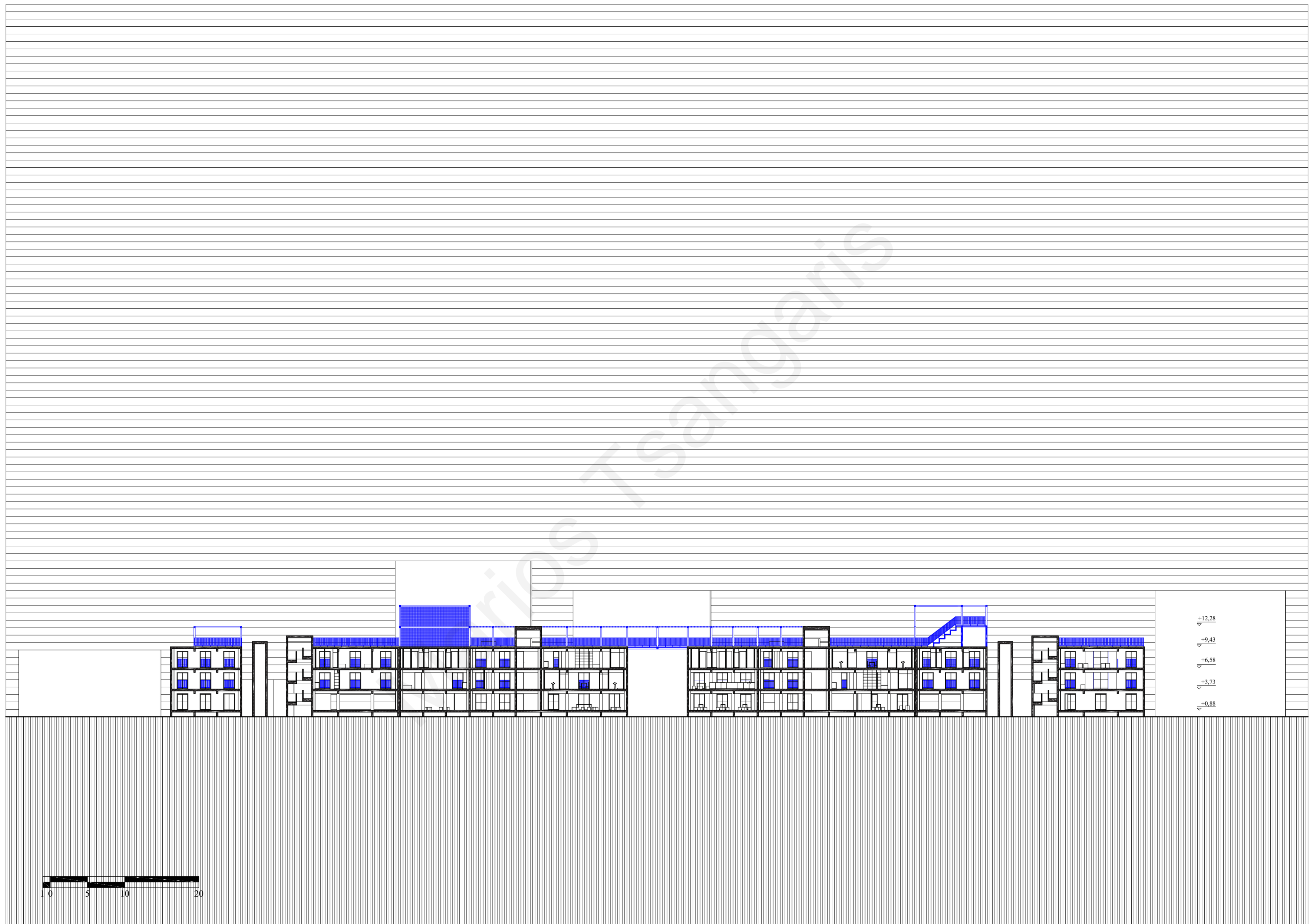
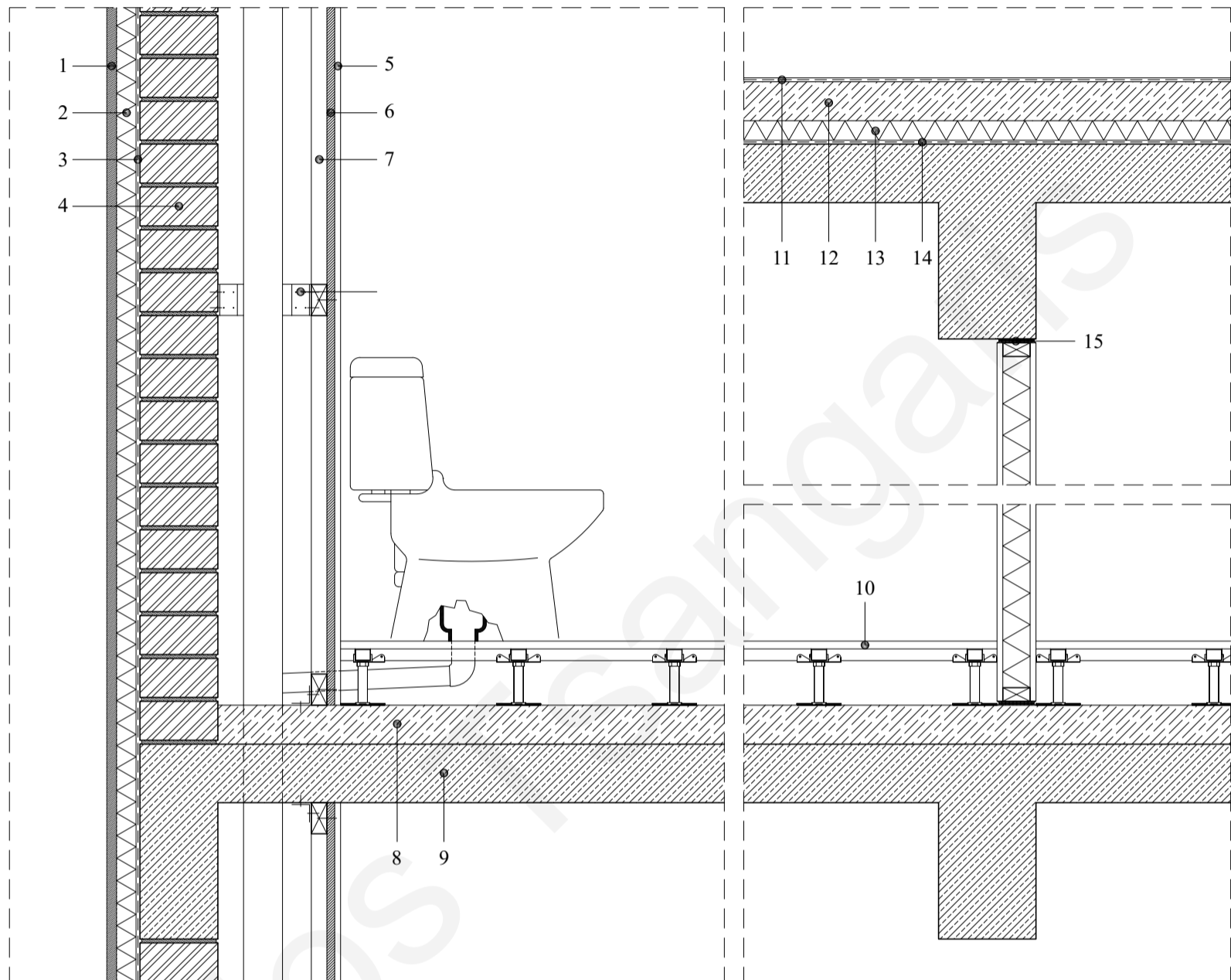


Figure 63. Longitudinal Section.
Design Proposal



1. Cement
2. Thermal Insulation 5cm
3. Vapour Barrier
4. Brick
5. Plasterboard
6. OSB Board
7. OSB Wooden Structure
8. Concrete Slabs
9. Load-bearing Concrete Structure
10. False Floor
11. Bituminous Drainage Membrane
12. Concrete Slabs
13. Therma Insulation
14. Vapour Barrier
15. Elastomer

Figure 64. Construction Details.

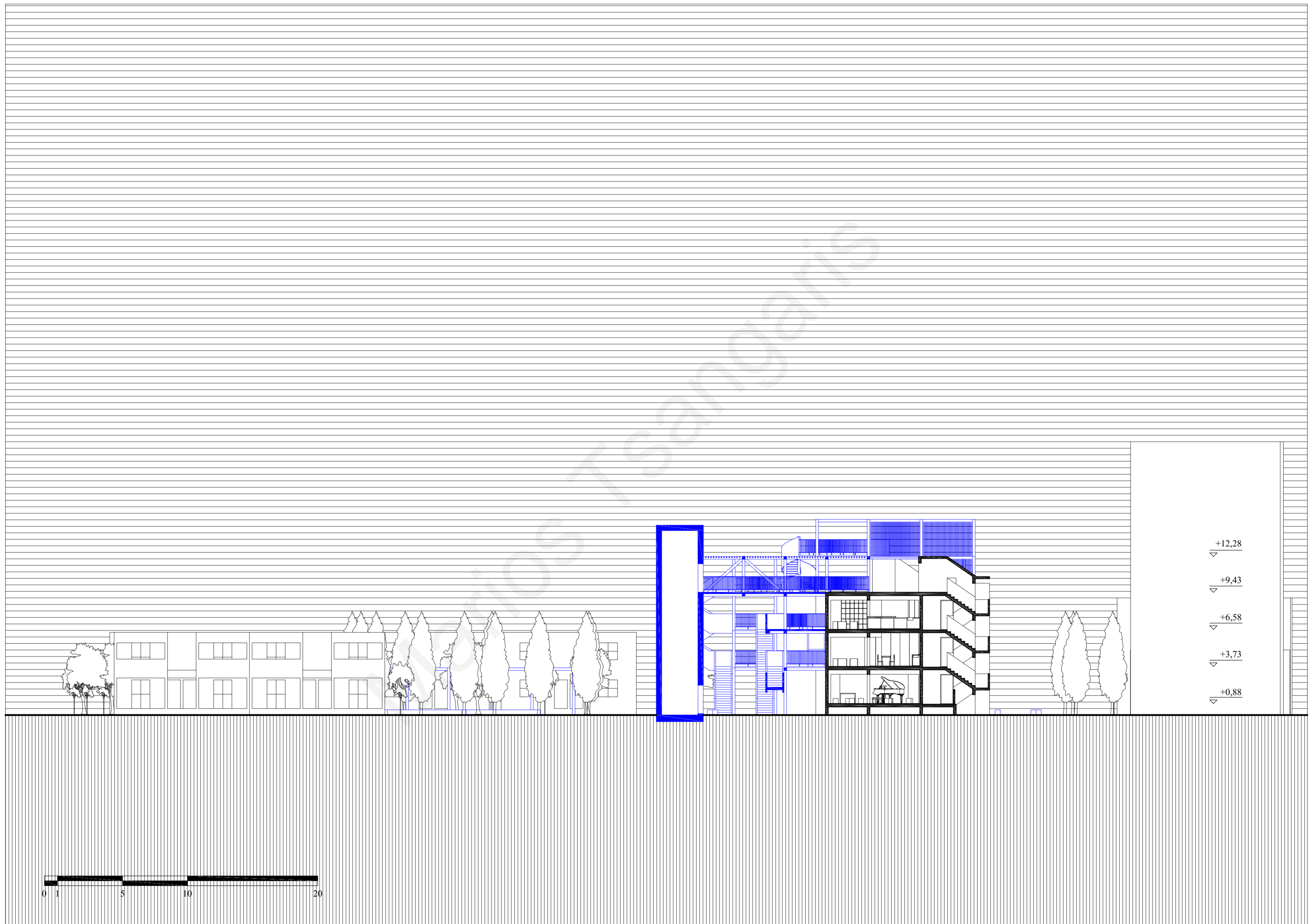


Figure 65. Cross Section.
Design Proposal

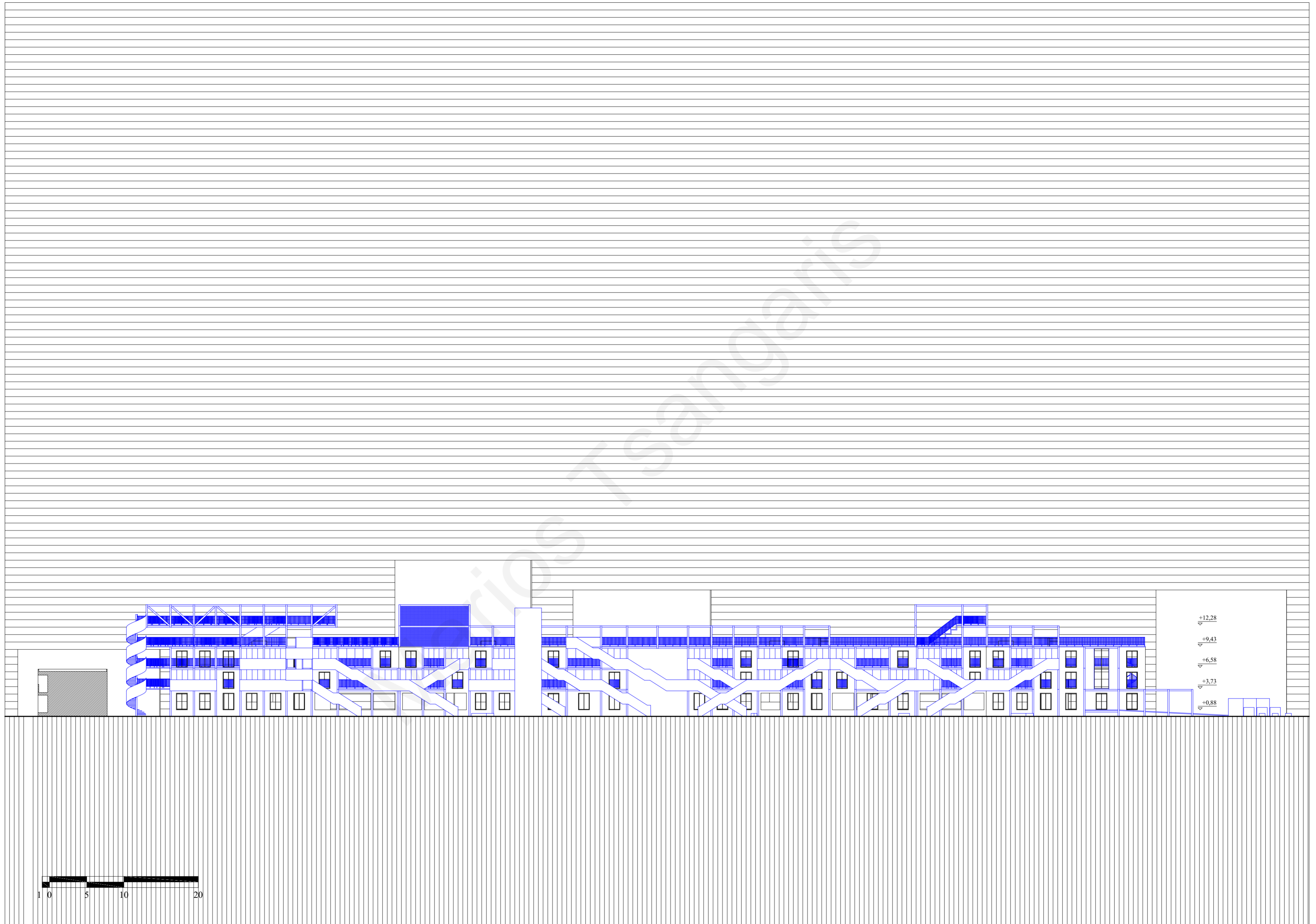


Figure 66. North Elevation.
Design Proposal

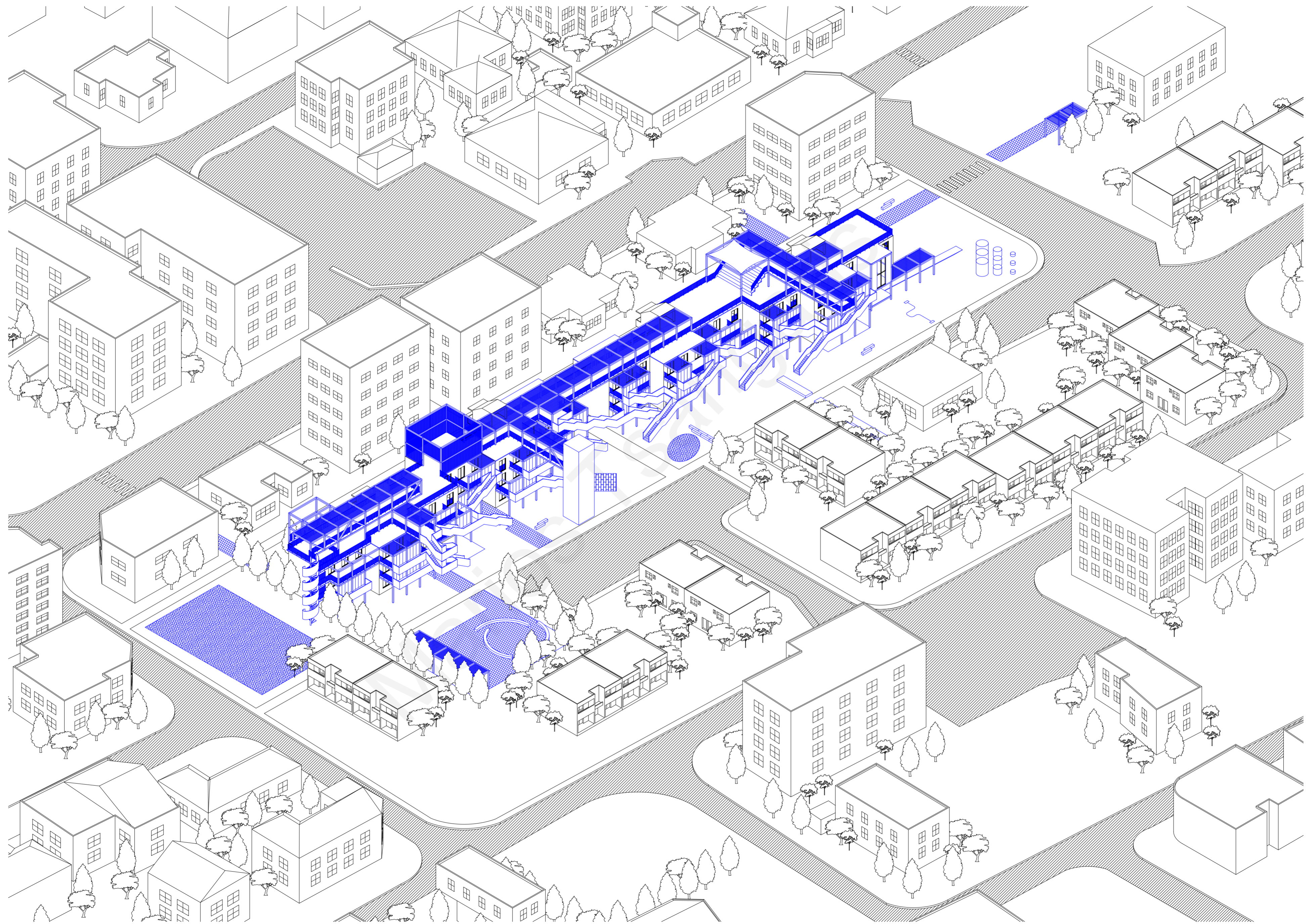


Figure 67. Isometric View.
Design Proposal



Figure 68. Moment on the Pathway that Passes by the Buildings.

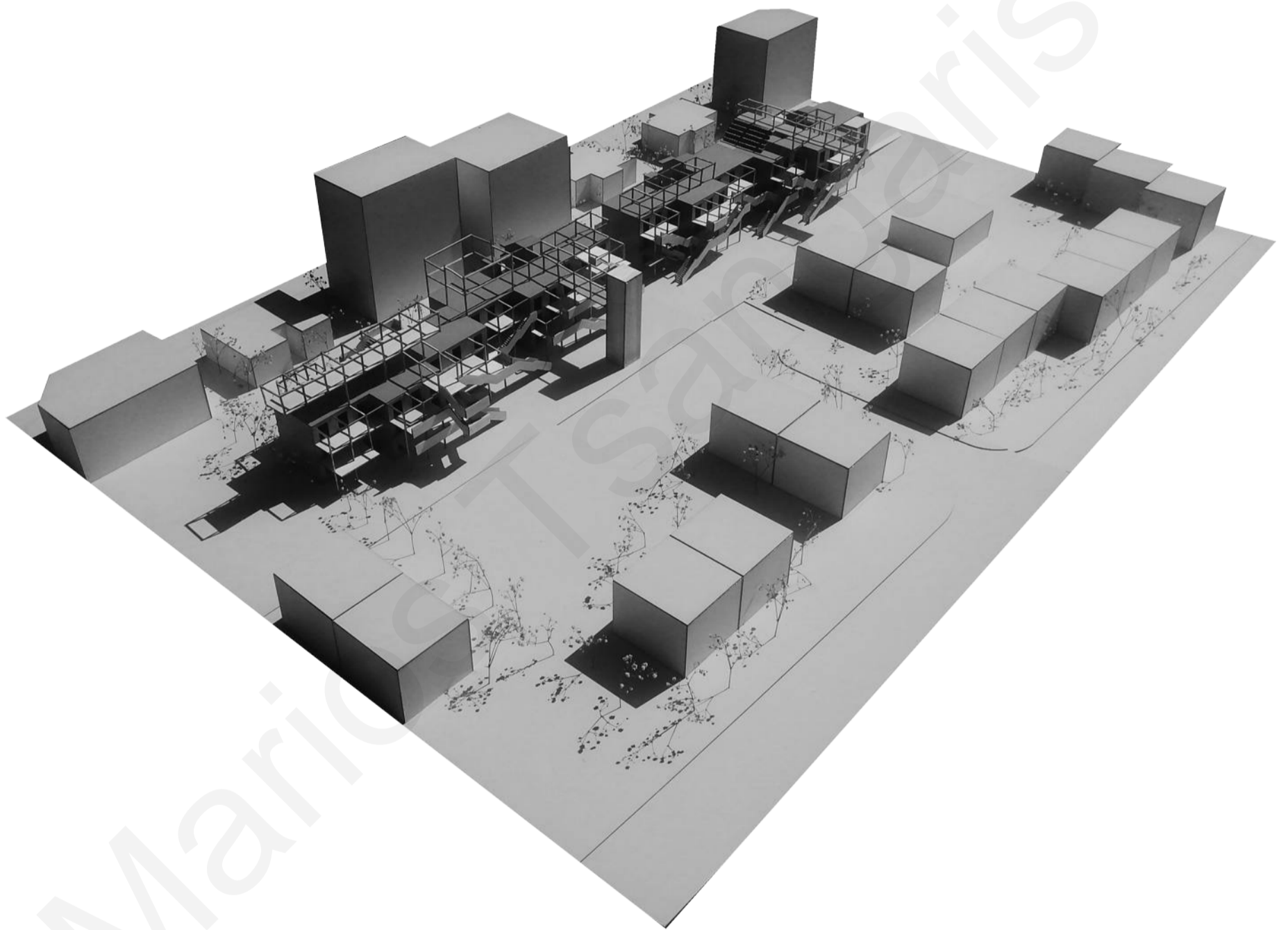


Figure 69. Physical Model.

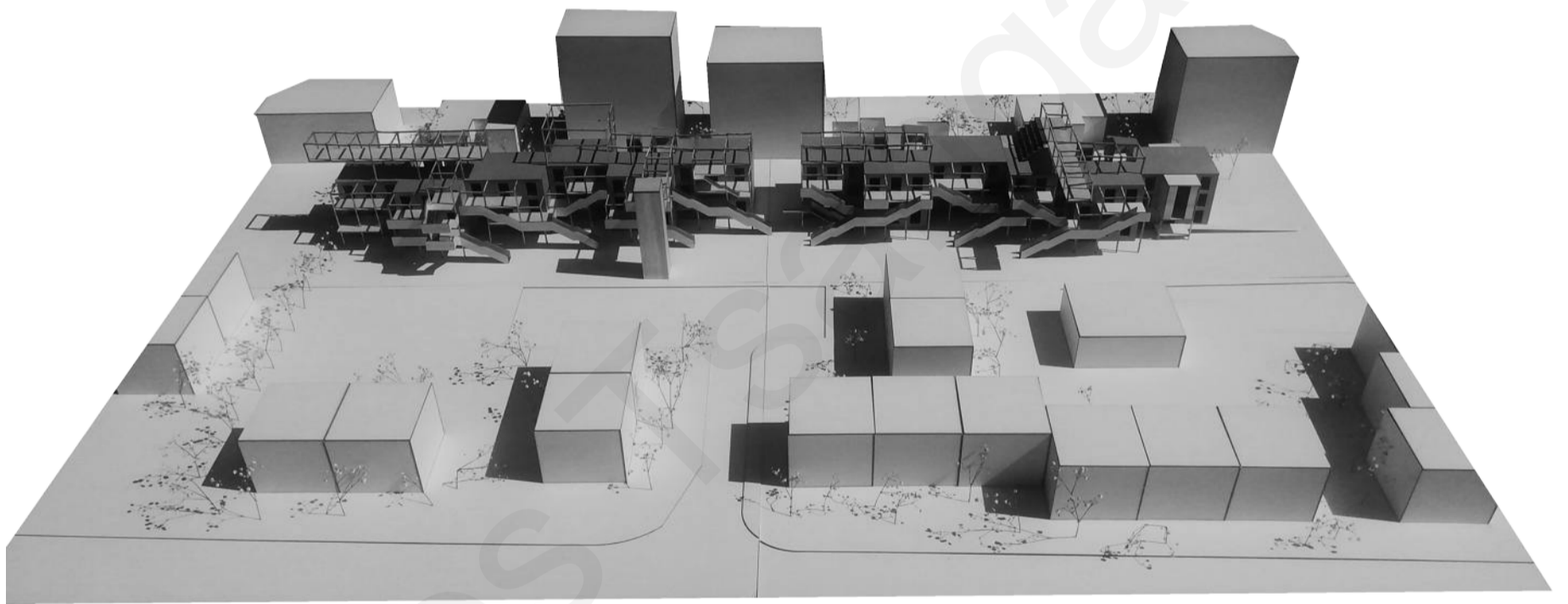


Figure 70. Physical Model.

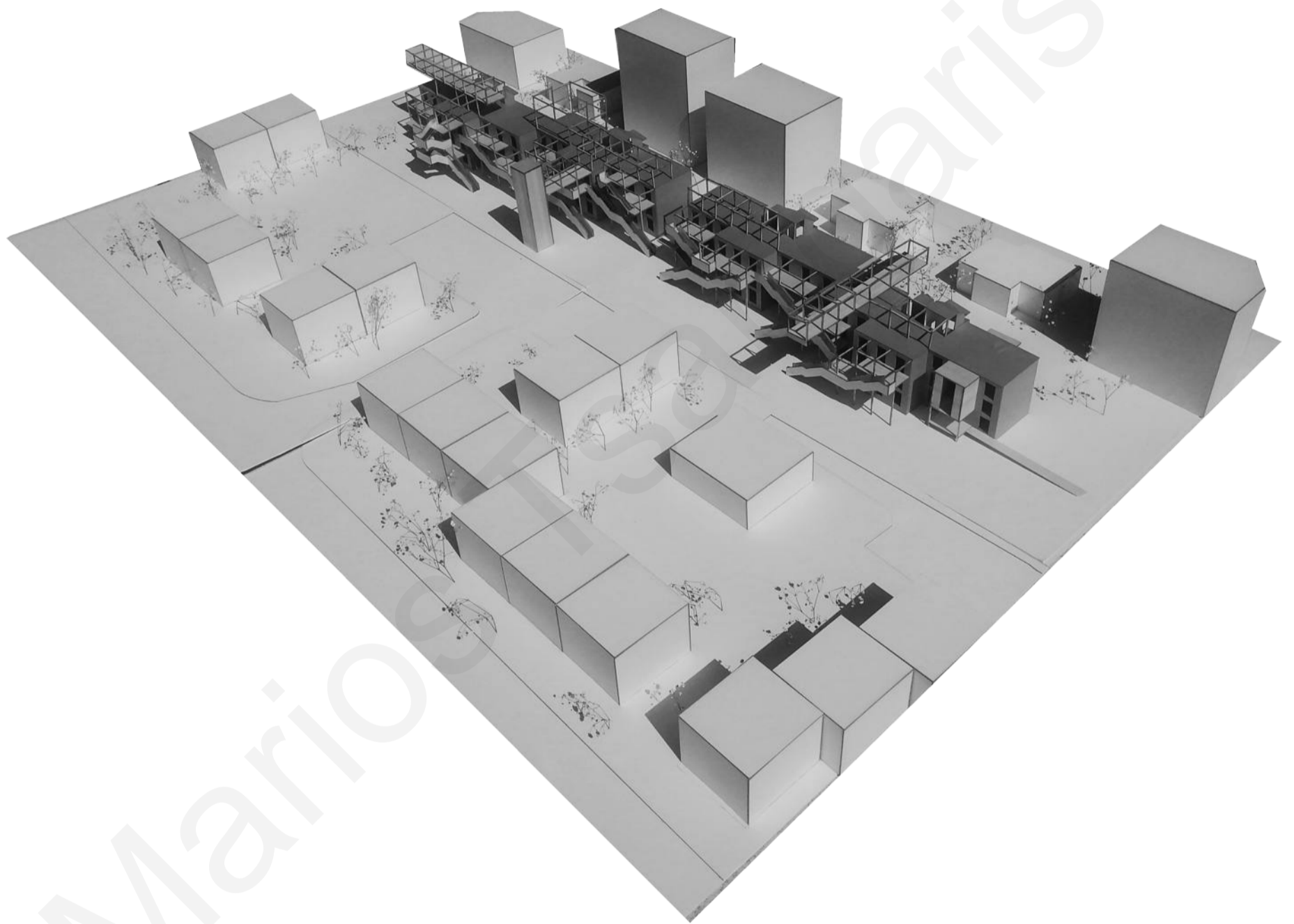


Figure 71. Physical Model.

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Annex 1

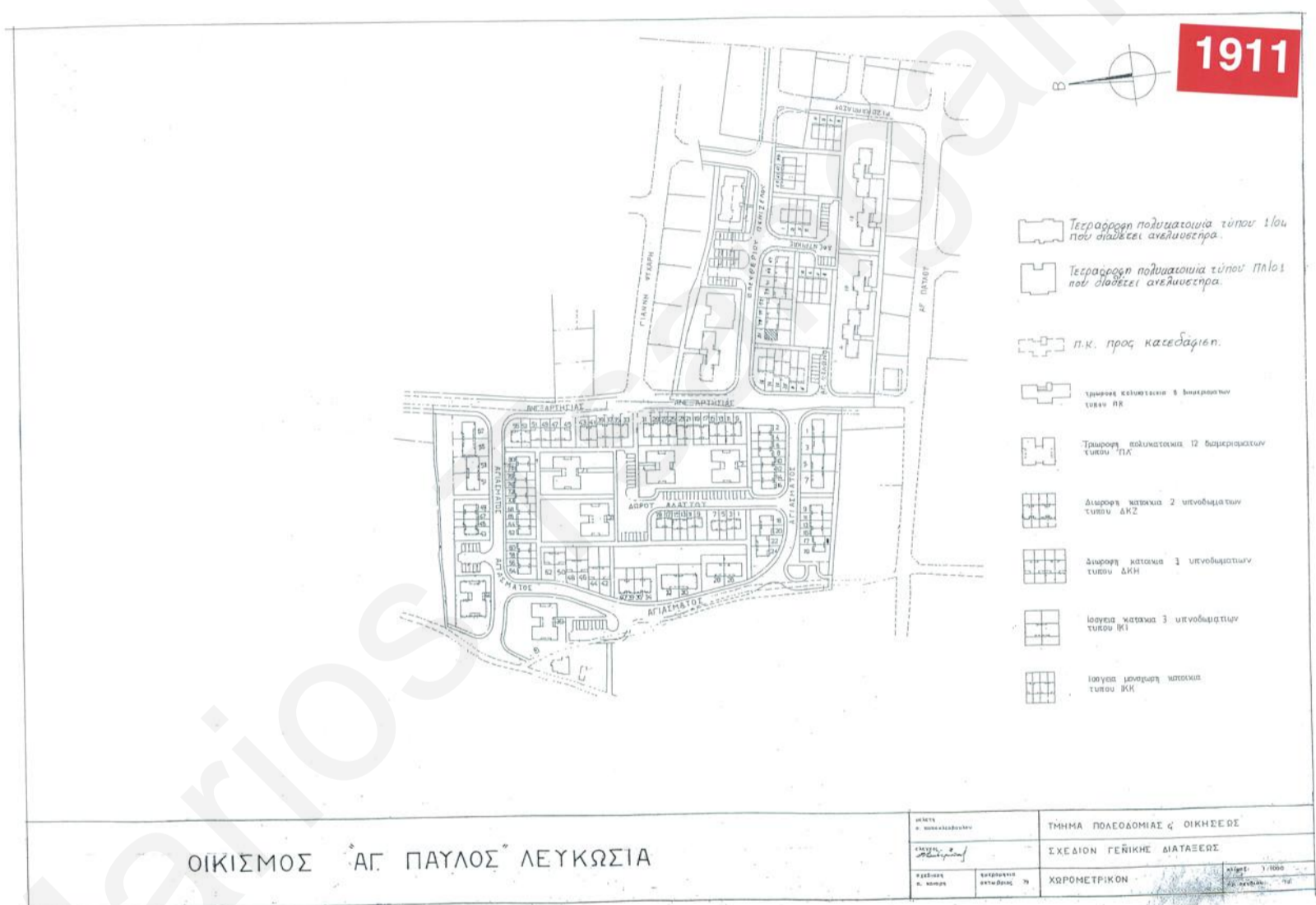


Figure 72. Agios Pavlos' Refugee Estate - Masterplan. Image Courtesy of the Department of Town Planning and Housing. Accessed December, 2022.

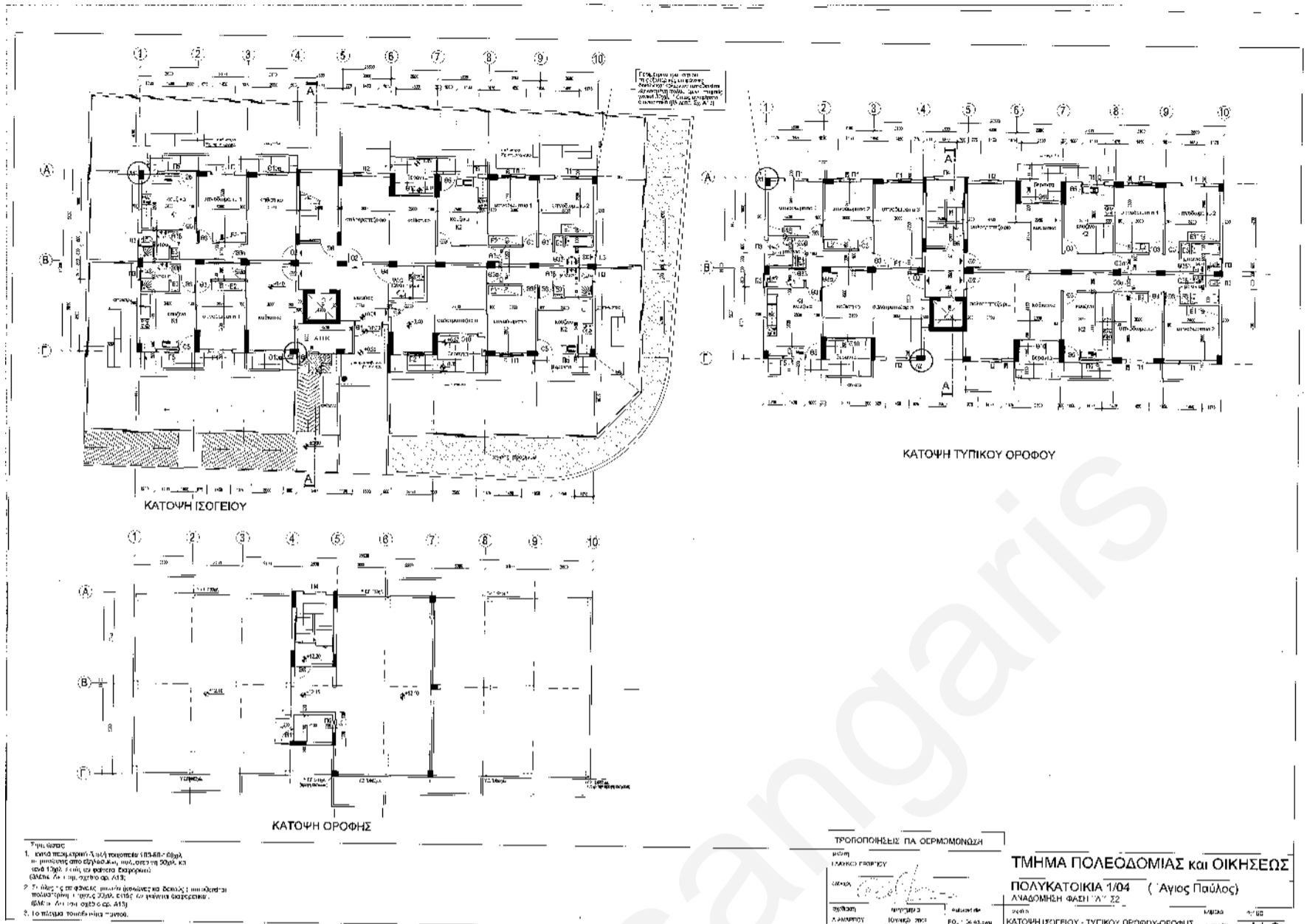


Figure 73. Indicative Plan of a Multi-storey Building (Typology 1/04). Image Courtesy of the Department of Town Planning and Housing. Accessed December, 2022.



Figure 74. Indicative Elevation of a Multi-storey Building (Typology 1/04). Image Courtesy of the Department of Town Planning and Housing. Accessed December, 2022.

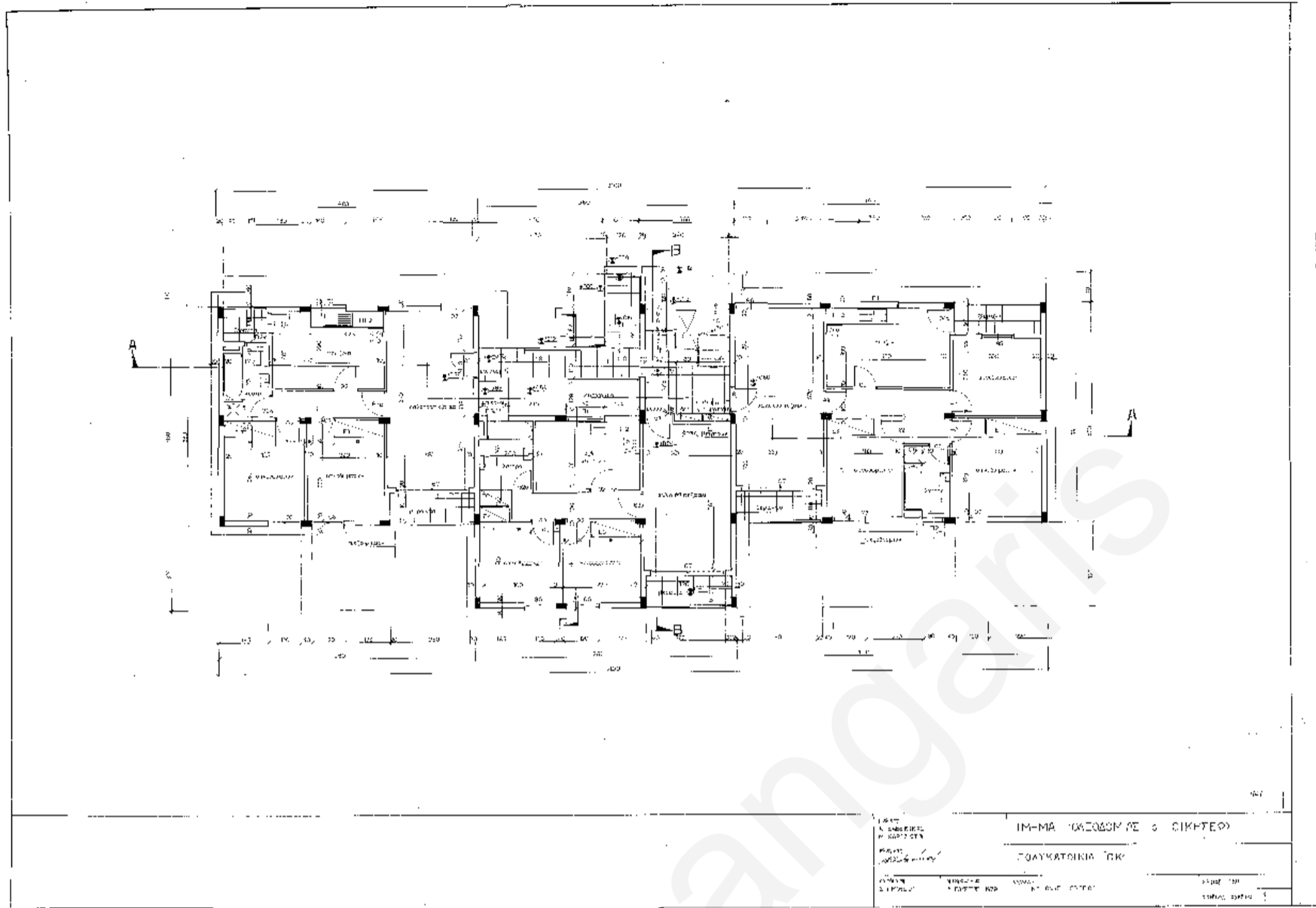


Figure 77. Indicative Plan of a Multi-storey Building (Typology PK). Image Courtesy of the Department of Town Planning and Housing. Accessed December, 2022.



Figure 78. Indicative Elevation of a Multi-storey Building (Typology PK). Image Courtesy of the Department of Town Planning and Housing. Accessed December, 2022.

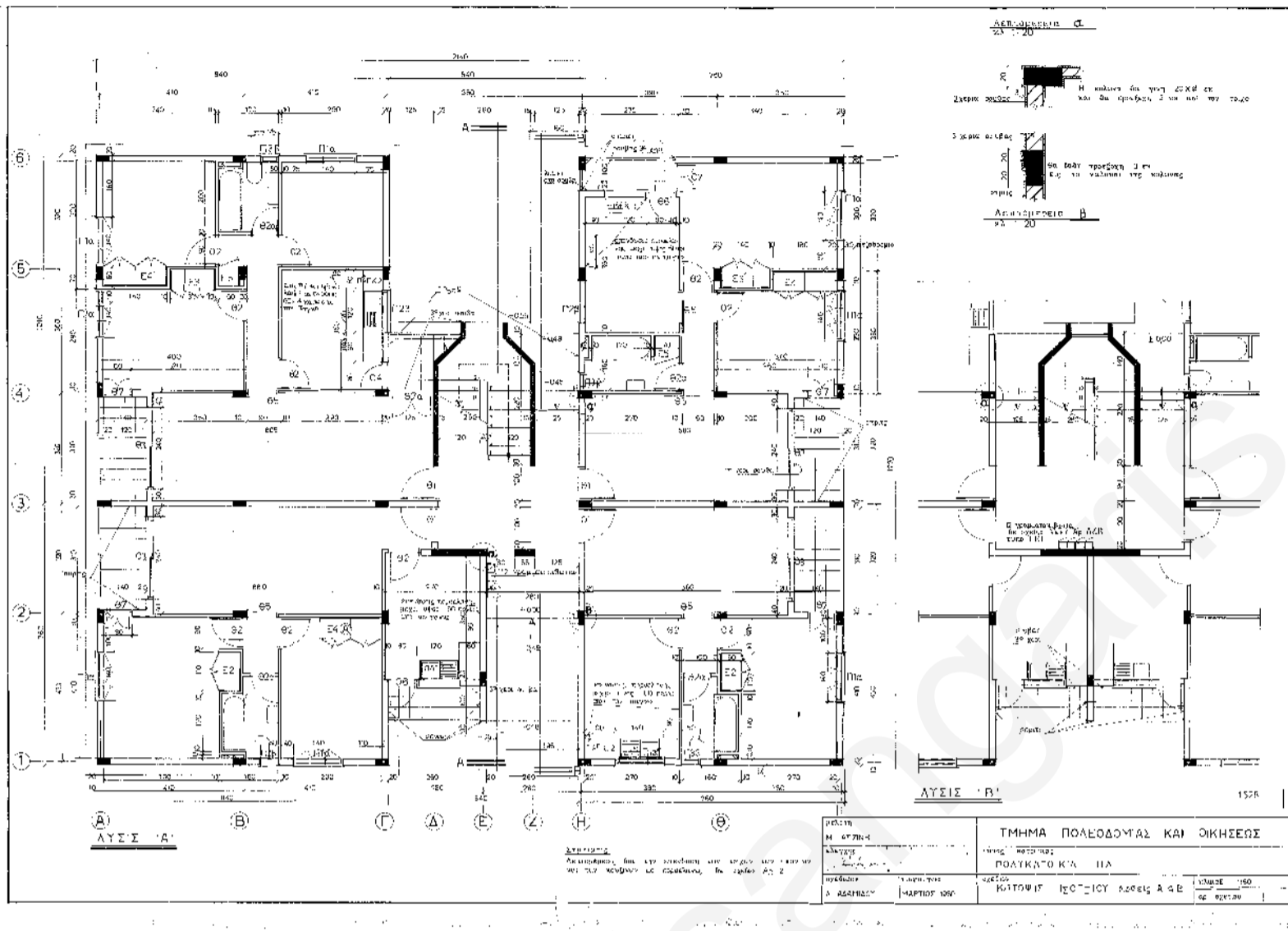


Figure 79. Indicative Plan of a Multi-storey Building (Typology PL). Image Courtesy of the Department of Town Planning and Housing. Accessed December, 2022.



Figure 80. Indicative Elevation of a Multi-storey Building (Typology PL). Image Courtesy of the Department of Town Planning and Housing. Accessed December, 2022.

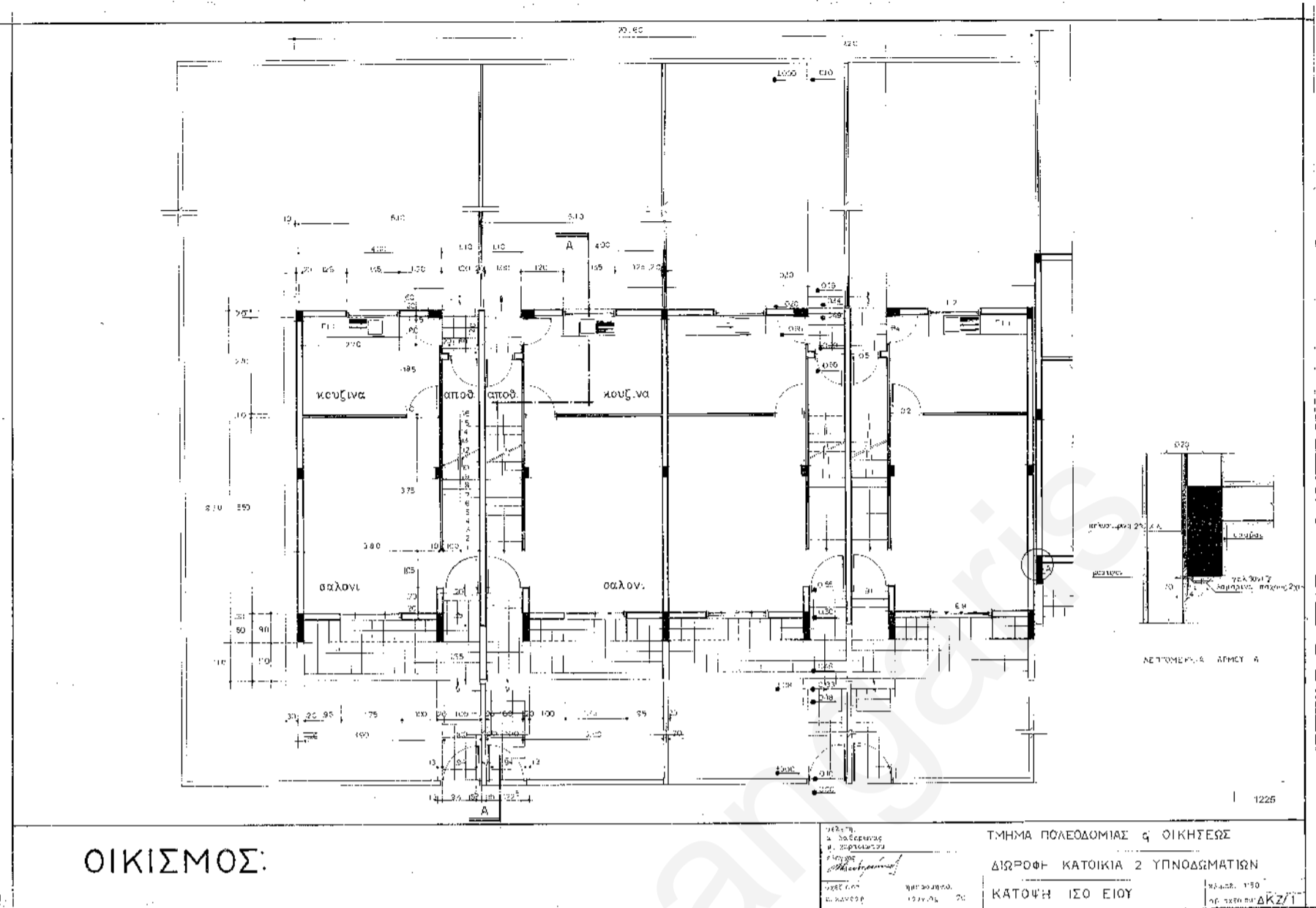


Figure 81. Indicative Plan of a Single-Family House (Typology DKZ). Image Courtesy of the Department of Town Planning and Housing. Accessed December, 2022.

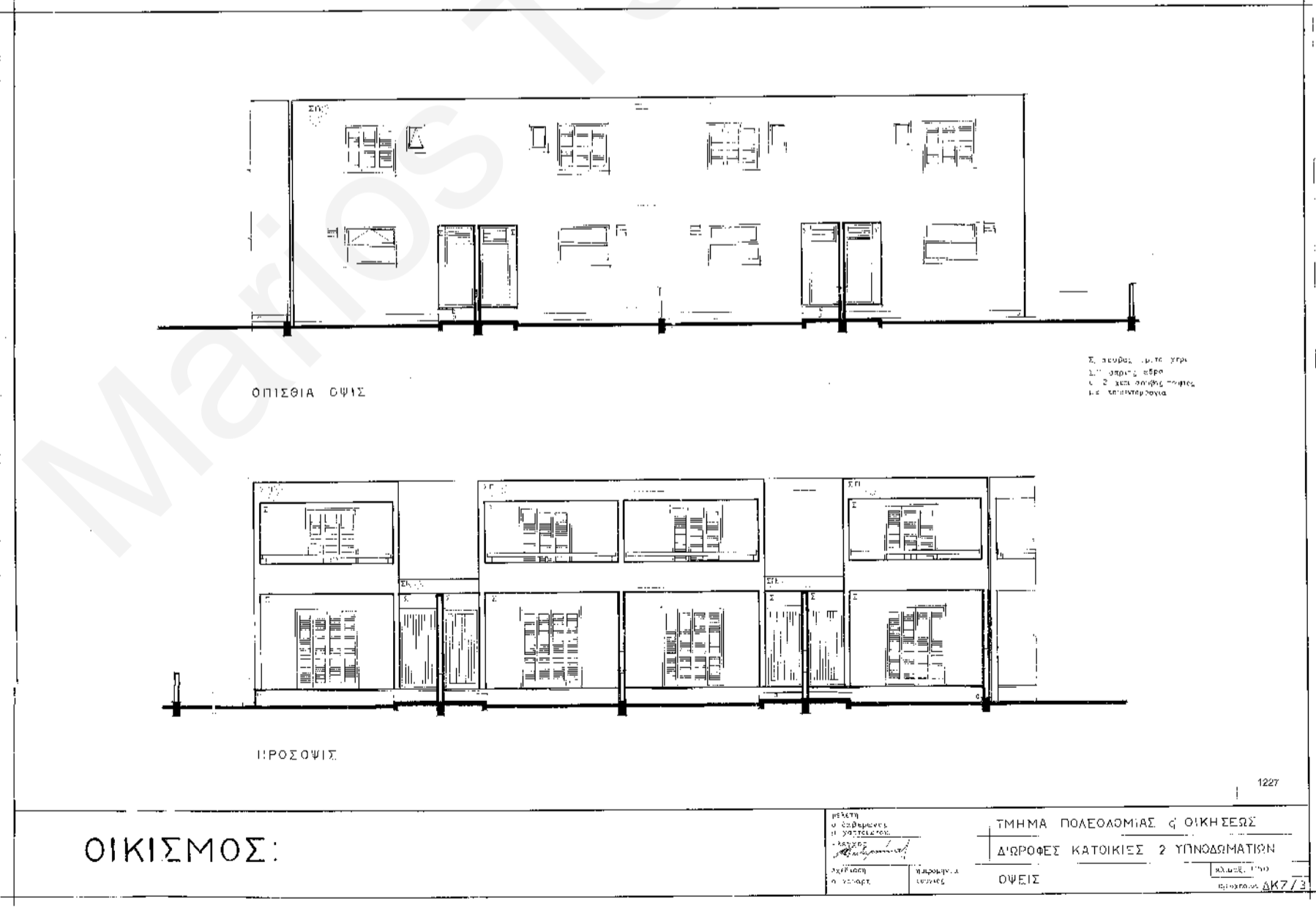


Figure 82. Indicative Elevation of a Single-Family House (Typology DKZ). Image Courtesy of the Department of Town Planning and Housing. Accessed December, 2022.

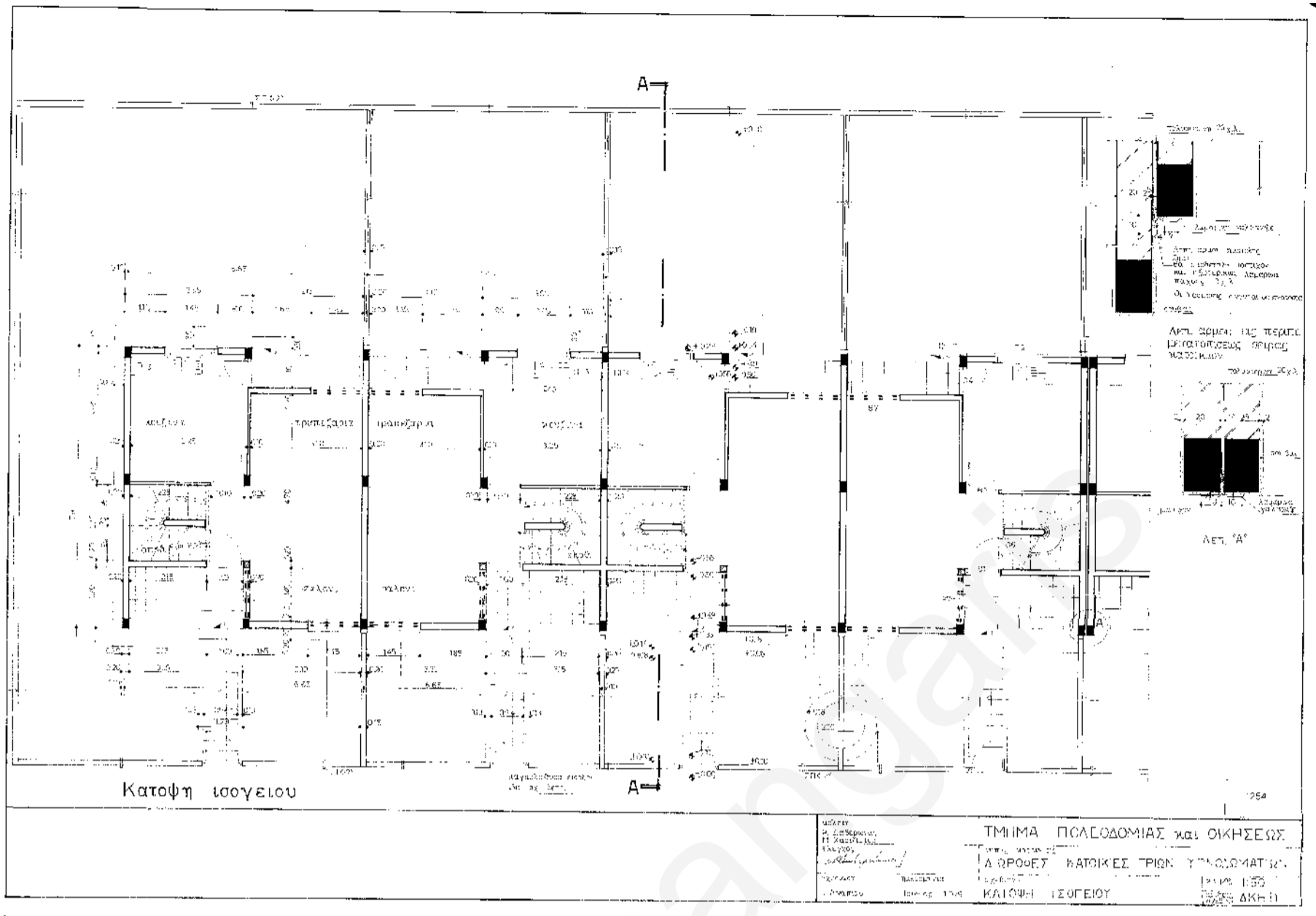


Figure 83. Indicative Plan of a Single-Family House (Typology DKH). Image Courtesy of the Department of Town Planning and Housing. Accessed December, 2022.

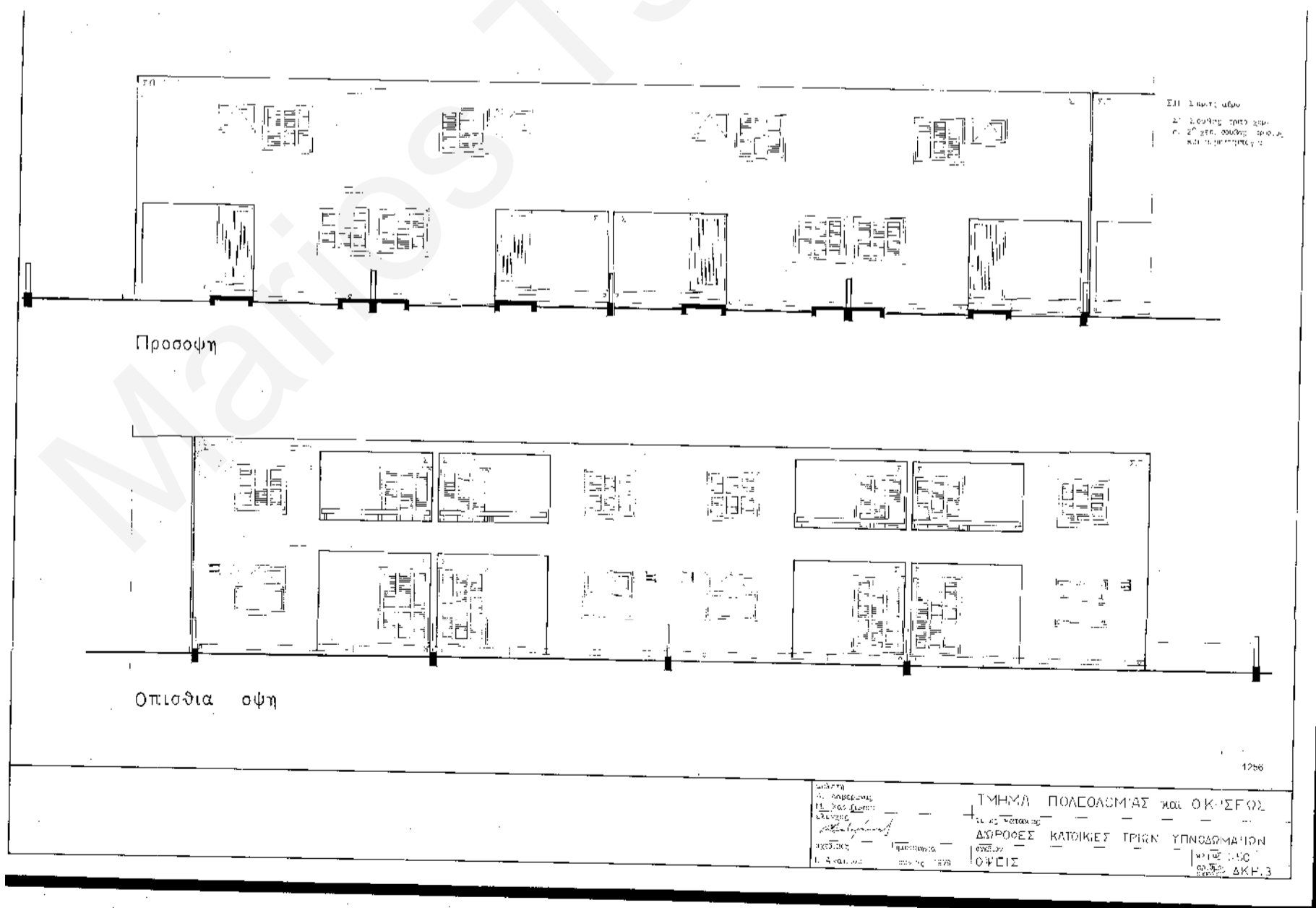


Figure 84. Indicative Elevation of a Single-Family House (Typology DKH). Image Courtesy of the Department of Town Planning and Housing. Accessed December, 2022.

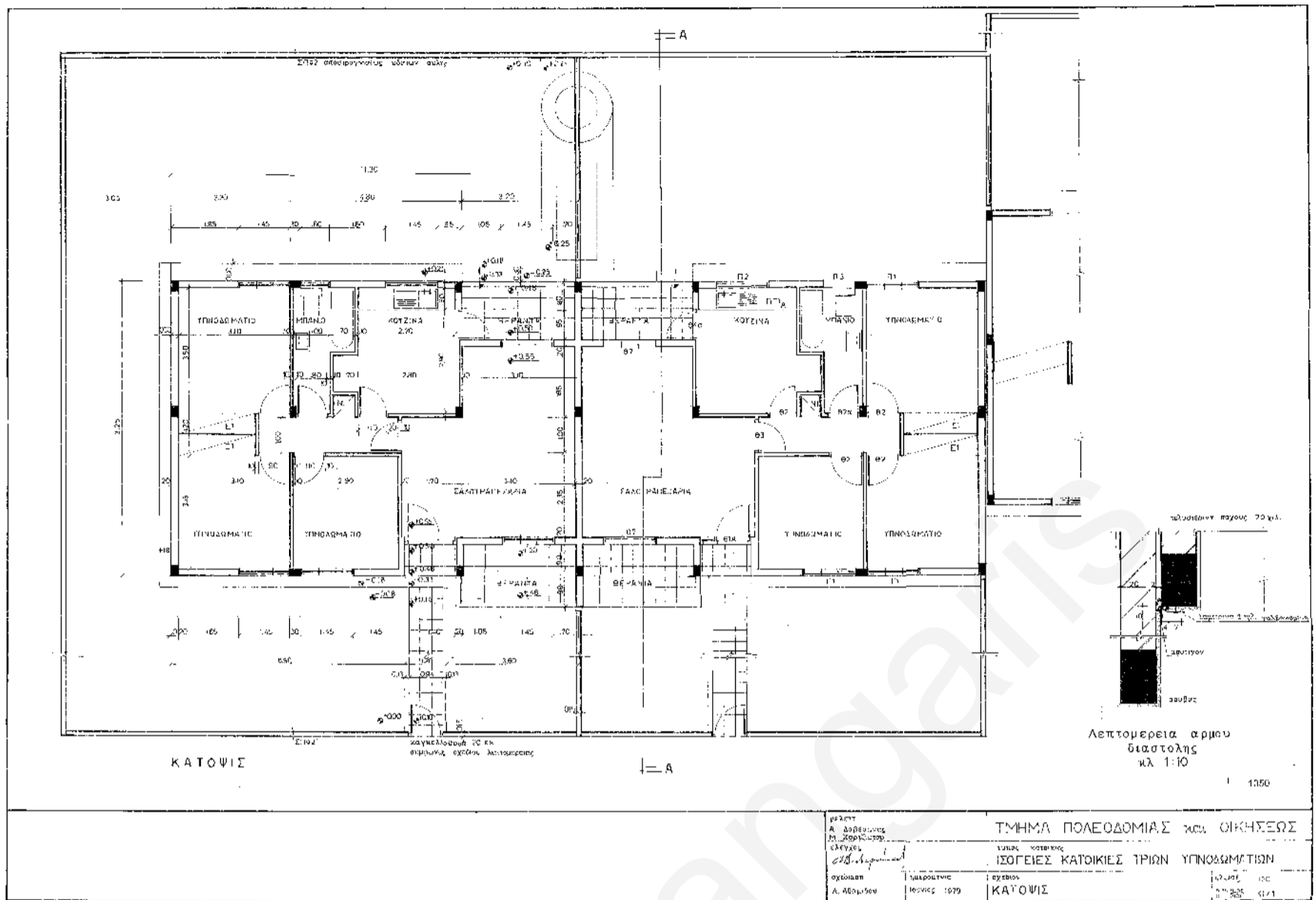


Figure 85. Indicative Plan of a Single-Family House (Typology IKI). Image Courtesy of the Department of Town Planning and Housing. Accessed December, 2022.

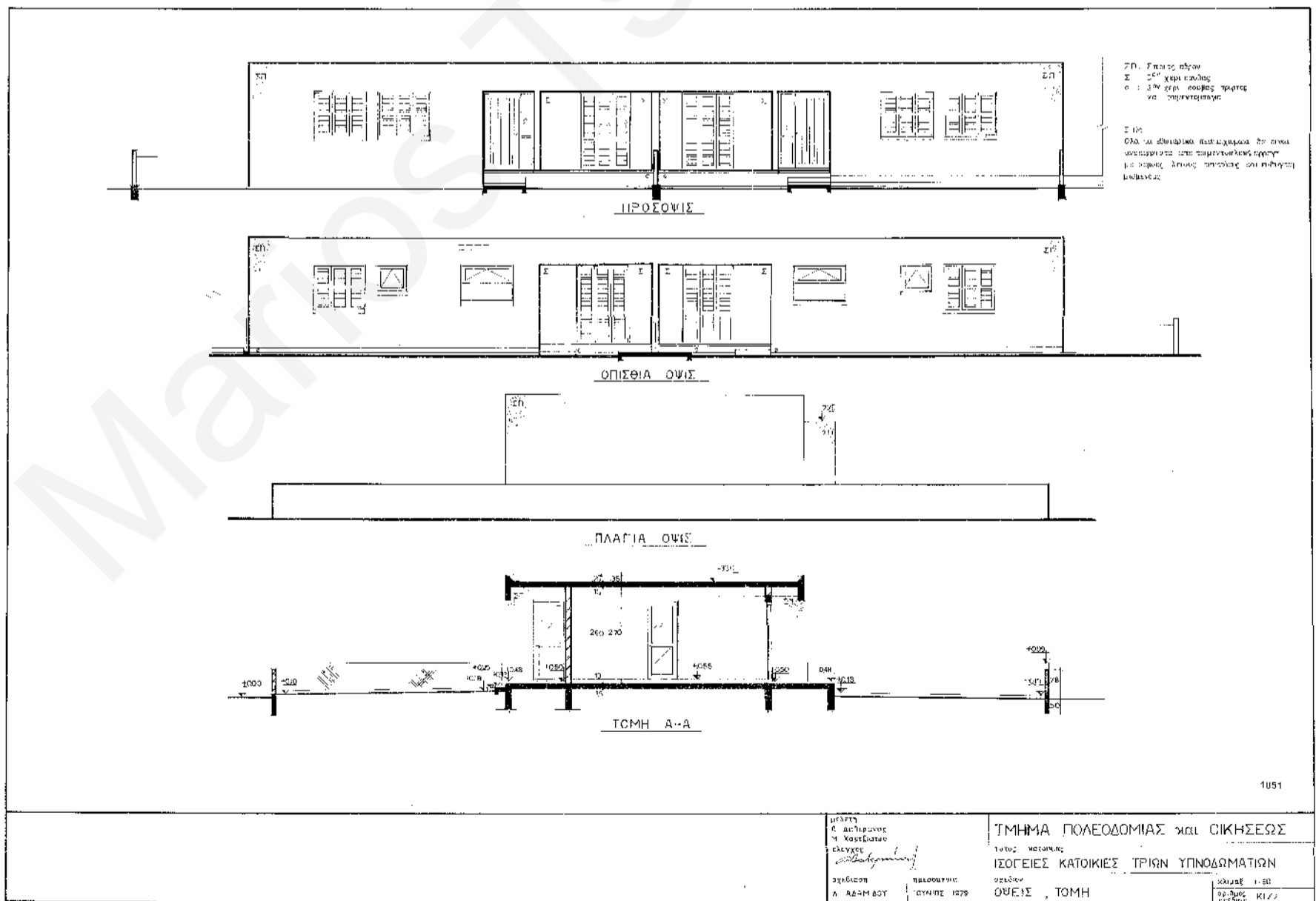


Figure 86. Indicative Elevation of a Single-Family House (Typology IKI). Image Courtesy of the Department of Town Planning and Housing. Accessed December, 2022.

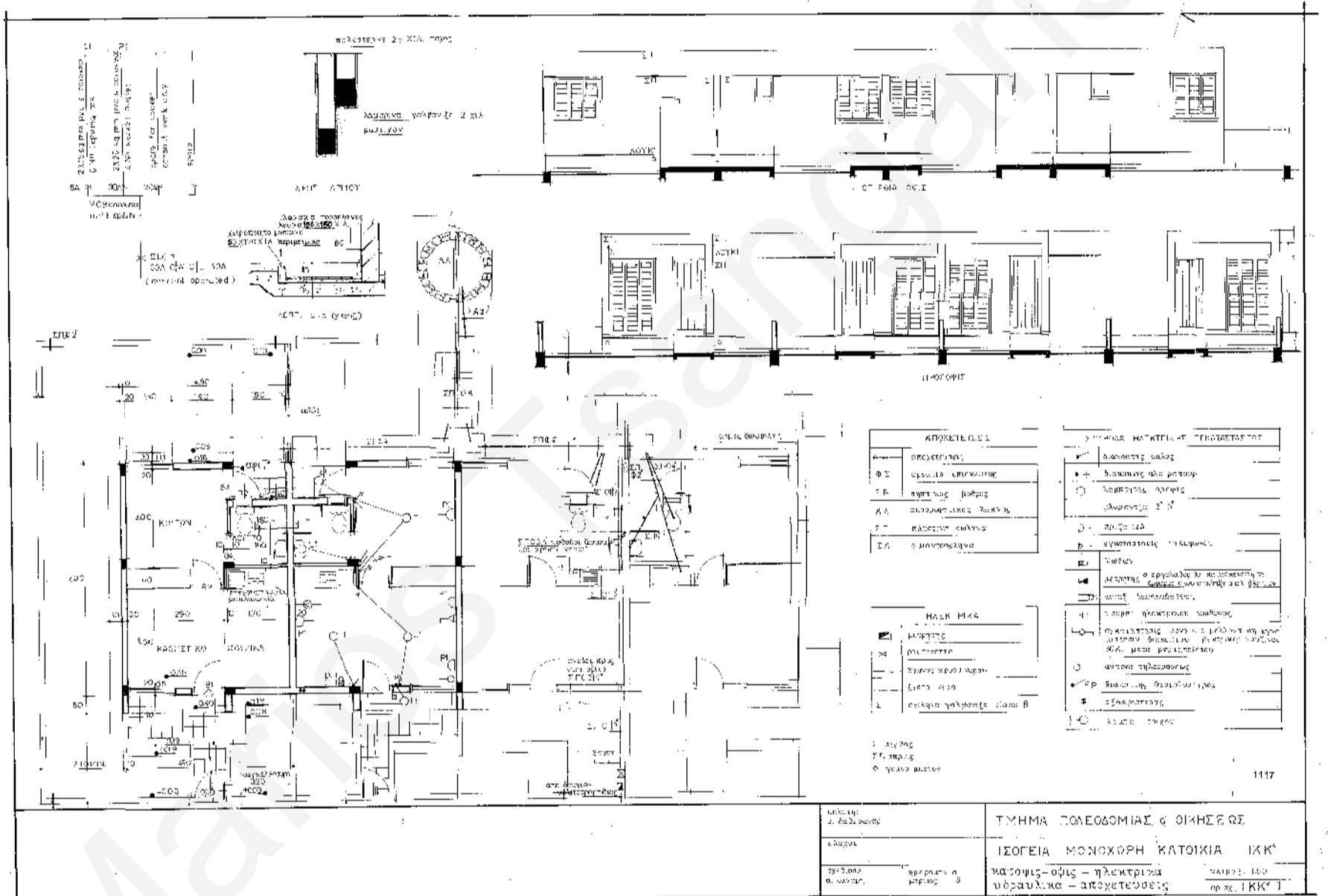


Figure 87. Indicative Plan, Elevations, and Sections of a Single-Family House (Typology IKK). Image Courtesy of the Department of Town Planning and Housing. Accessed December, 2022.

Marios Tsangaris

Annex 2



Figure 88. Exhibition Panel.

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