

Second Opportunities (in Architecture)

M1 Option Studio

Harvard University Graduate School of Design

Second Opportunities (in Architecture)

*understanding the
elasticity of our own
archive*

It is a mistake to consider projects as specific responses to given local conditions, an innocent idea inherited from functionalist and contextualist modernist ideas without a historical perspective of our discipline.

The reality is that Architecture has demonstrated extensively (in space and in time) an enormous capacity for adaptation.

Throughout time and within all cultures, and in extremely different contexts, ideas and forms originally created for specific conditions have succeeded in completely different circumstances.

Our aim with this studio is to experiment with the enormous elasticity of interesting architectural ideas.

As a consequence, the aim of the studio is to invite student to experiment how innovation arises in better ways through adapting schemes, typologies, forms... originating from projects that were thought for completely different scales, programs, sites... This means to learn about the immense richness of the discipline and the fruitful value of the archive.

Methodology

Students will arrive the first day with two of their own archive projects, those they feel a special appreciation.

After brief presentations the rest of the studio will be explained in detail.

From the Archive

Adaptive Reuse

Cooperative Housing

with Maddie Farrer, GSD MArch I 25'

Adaptive Reuse Co-Housing

The given site (Chelsea MA, northeast of Boston) featured four vacant office buildings surrounded by parking lots and adjacent homes. Characters representing American domesticity and comfort were identified as:

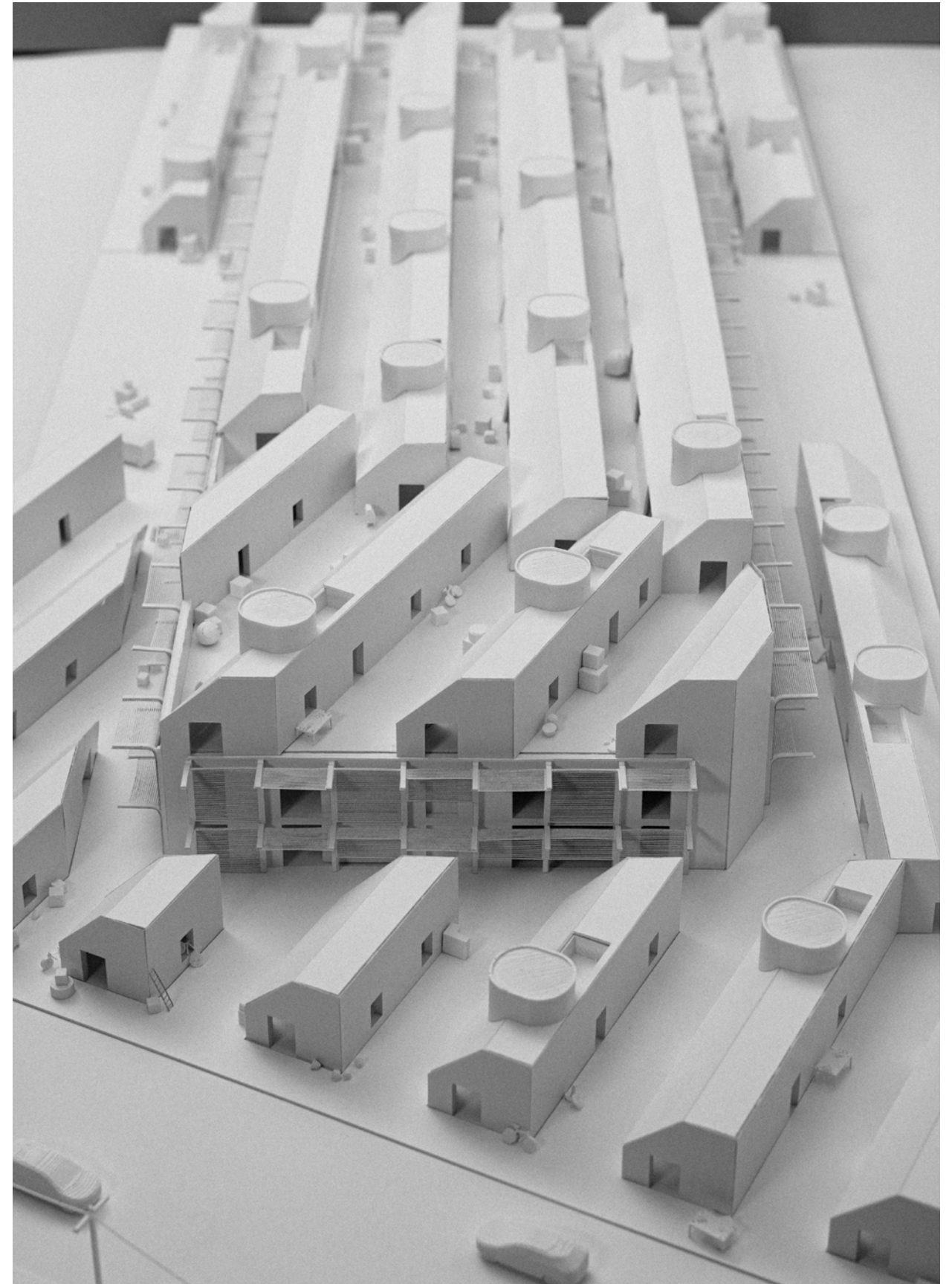
1. The Self Storage Warehouse
2. The Scrap and Salvage yard
3. The Big Box Store
4. The Distribution Center

Each office building is recast as one of these characters, inheriting plan and infrastructural logistics. Within these satellite collectives, informal markets, like online buy-nothing groups, extend the lifespan of goods and promote communal wealth.

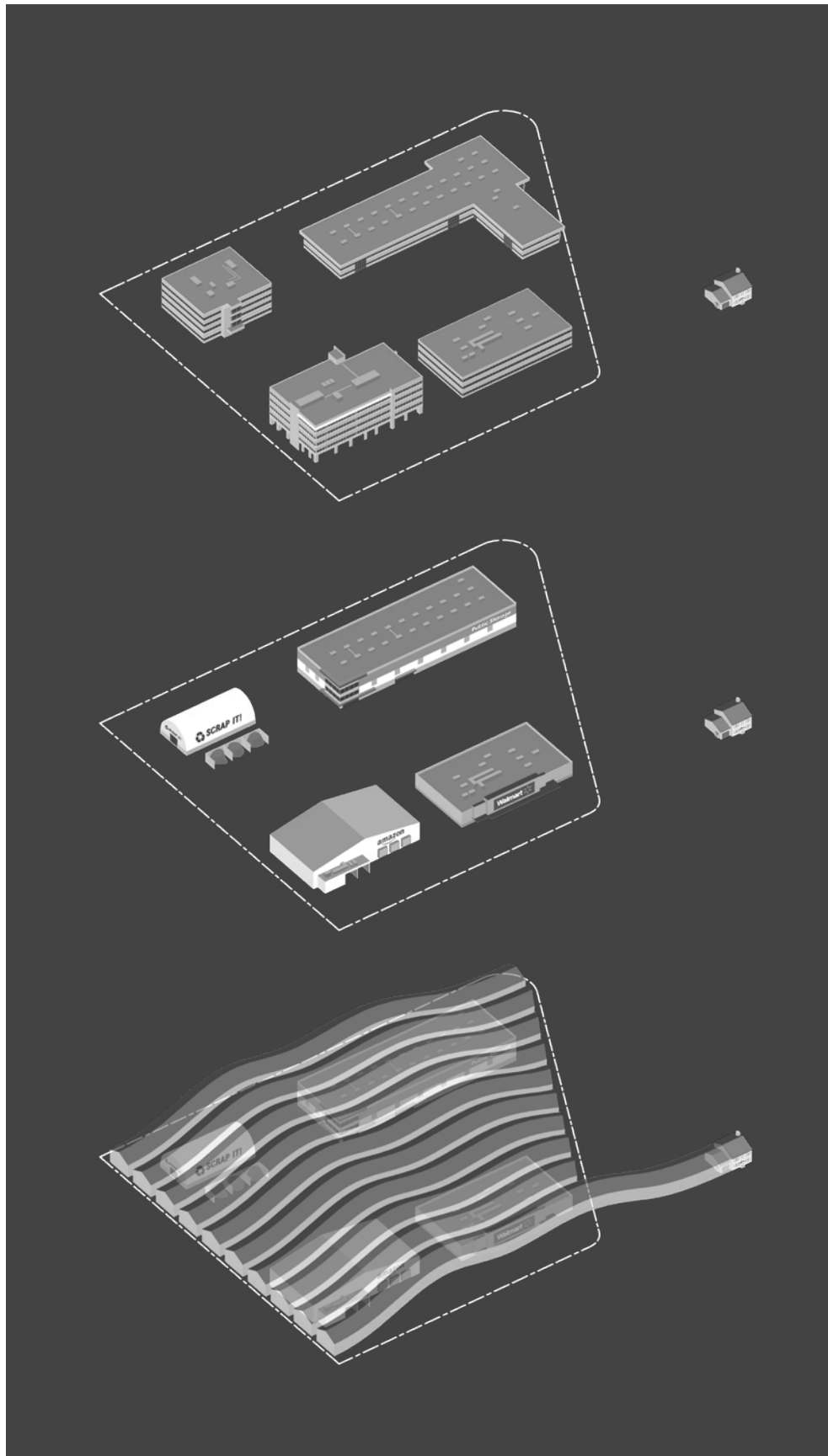
Urbanistically, a field strategy is employed where row houses fill the spaces in between (and on top of) buildings to intensify density while maintaining suburban tropes.

Residential units are modular, modest, and light - manufactured on-site in a variety of configurations for varying family structures.

Randy Crandon



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01
existing
conditions:
vacant office
buildings and
adjacent single
family homes

02
vacant office
park buildings
are recast as
satellite storage
spaces / characters
representing
suburban
domesticity

03
the home is
stripped down to
essential living
functions and
extruded across
the site



American Consumerism, Slowed

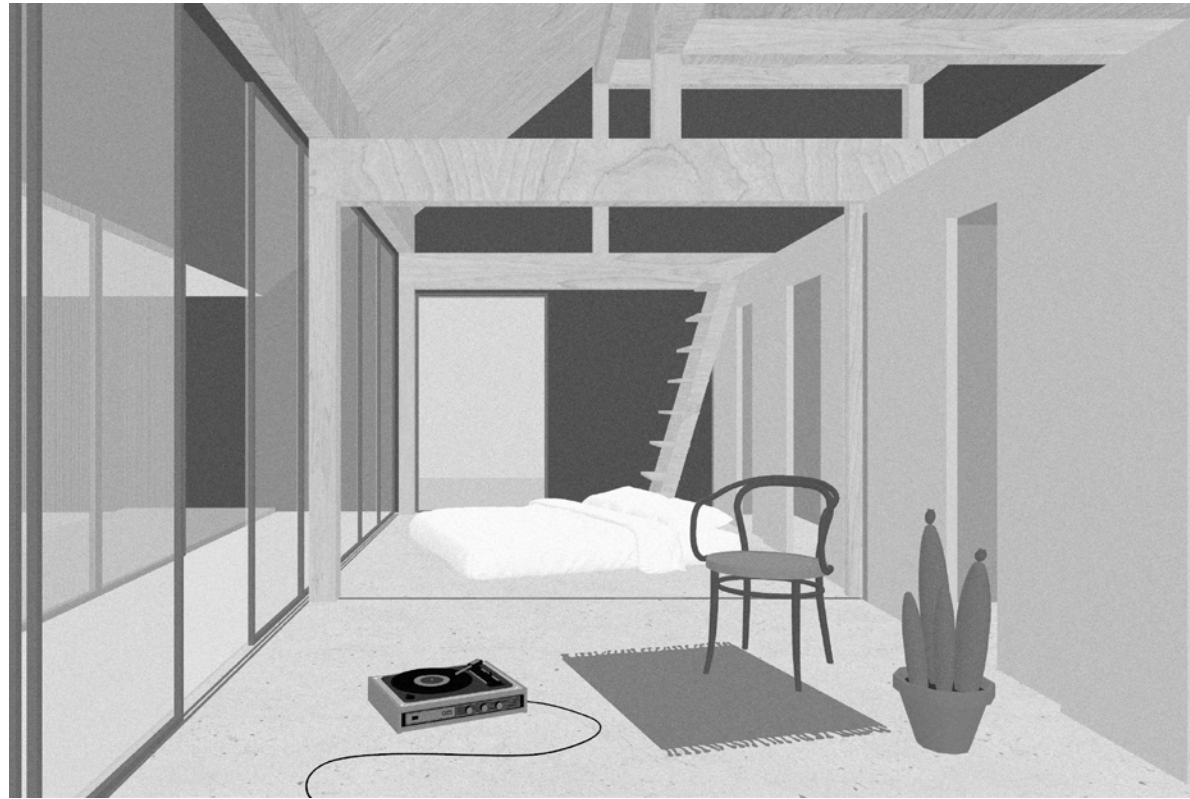
By re-framing domestic life through the lens of shared goods, this proposal takes American consumerism and renders it contained and re-ordered. In the act of redirecting waste streams and sharing goods in a circular economy, we not only avoid over-consumption of material and energy but also build human relationships, kinship, and purpose — infinitely valuable and non-commodifiable resources.



Site Plan

The organizational strategies of each character informs the logics of each building.

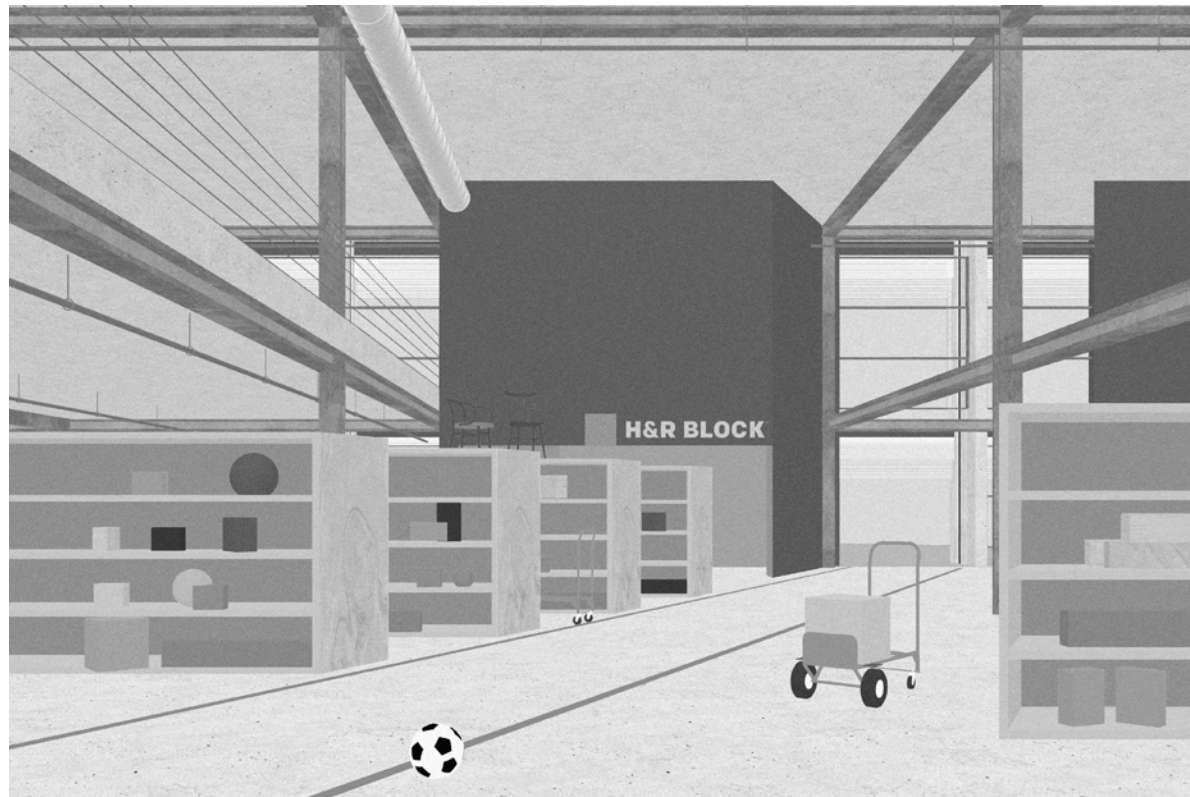
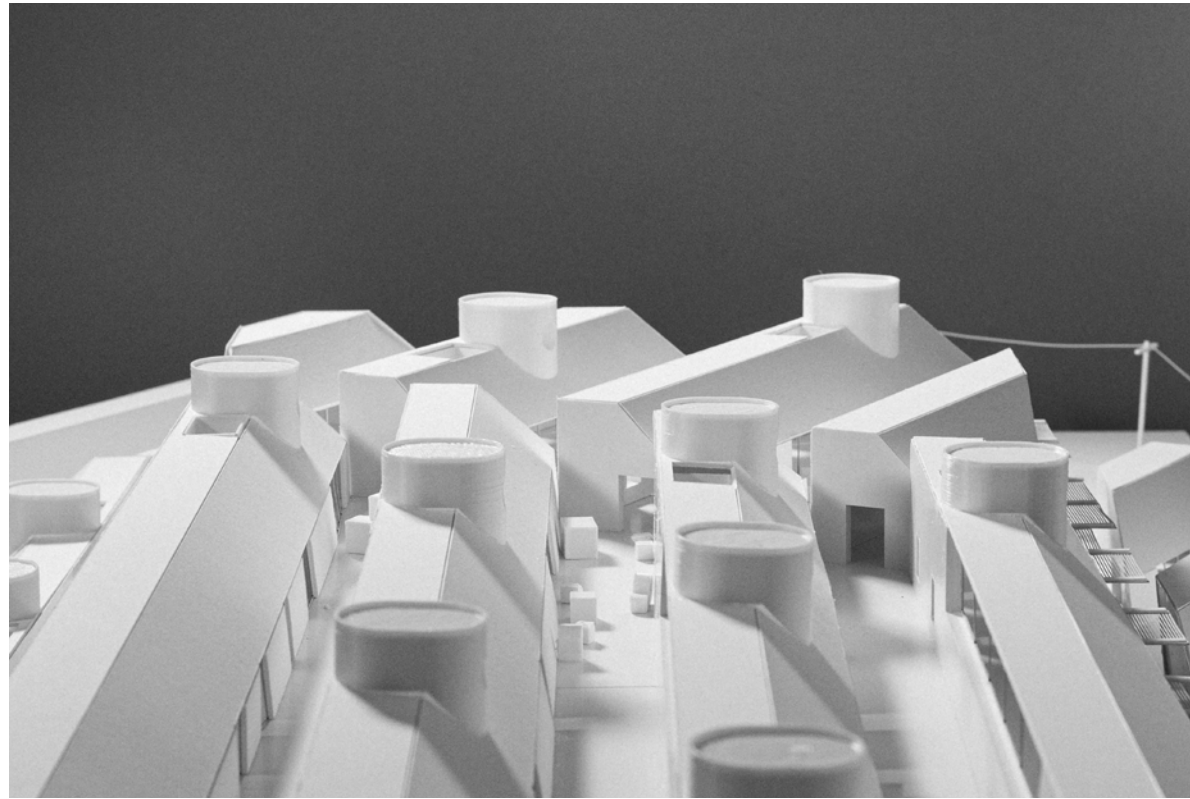
The self-storage unit prioritizes stacked garages, the workshop provides deeper and more flexible maker spaces, the amazon warehouse sympathizes with linear one-directional efficiency, and the big box store subscribes to a model of shelving for shopping that follow the logics of living units above.



Roof Plan - Residential Units



Typical Plan - Workshop & Maker Space



Roof Plan - Residential Units



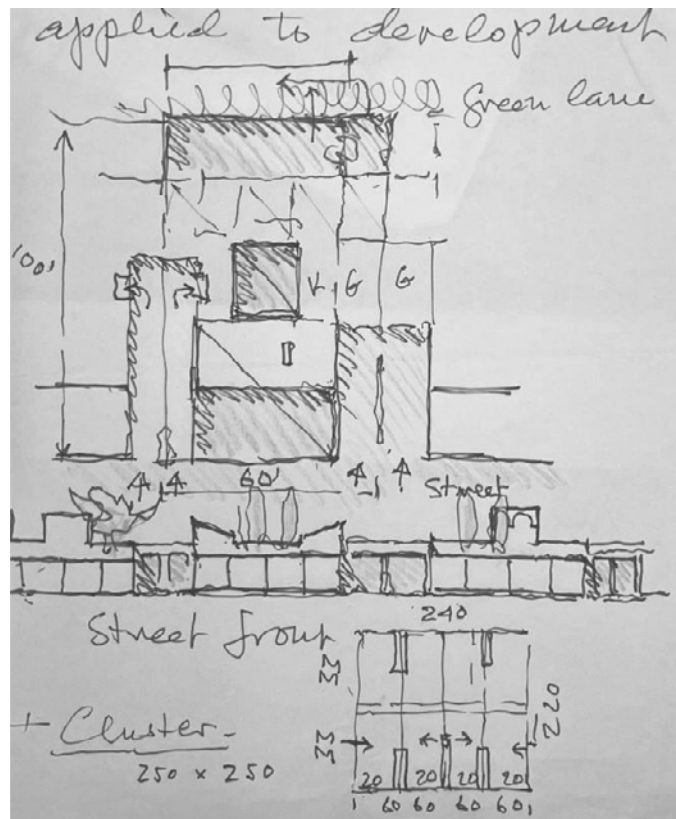
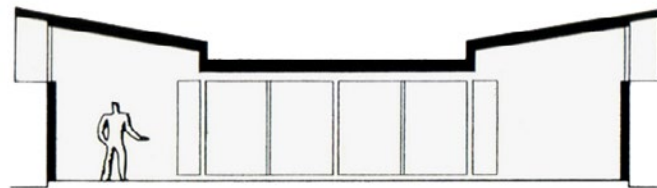
Typical Plan - Big Box Cooperative

Adaptive Reuse Co-Housing

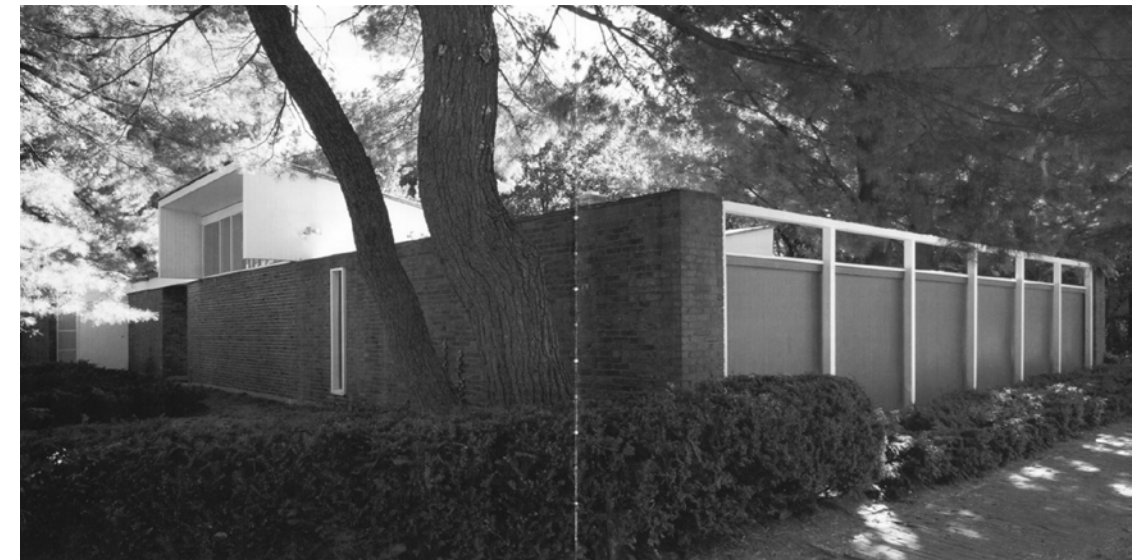


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Process
Context
 Sert House
 Cambridge, MA



“Applied to development,” (above) original sketch by Josep Lluís Sert, courtesy of Harvard GSD archives. The Sert House is comprised of three intimate courtyards on its interior, appearing as a low brick volume on its exterior. The house is inward facing and was intended to multiply into larger clusters.



Process

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The surrounding neighborhood features large private residences. Many are gabled and brick with enclosed walls around their properties (above).

The site is currently a park - it appears like a dense forest in a suburban landscape. The Cambridge Academy of Arts and Sciences occupies the highest elevation and looks down onto the site (right).

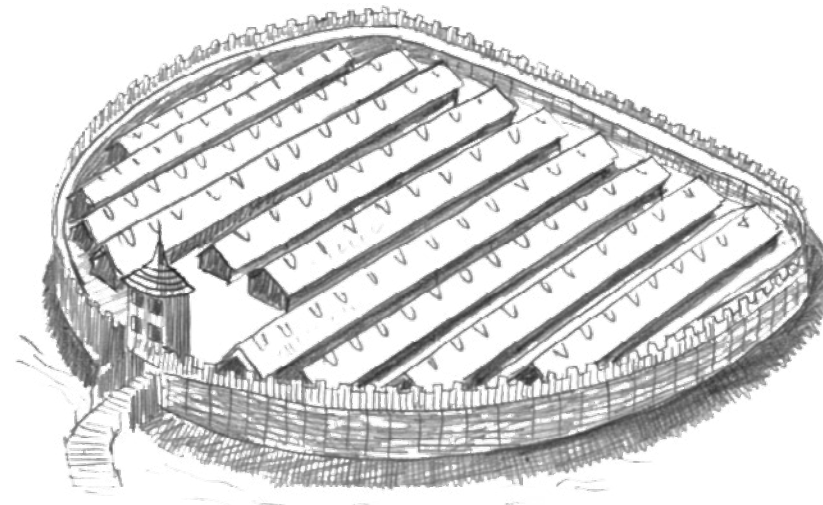


Process

Early Schemes

Archive as Fortified

Process

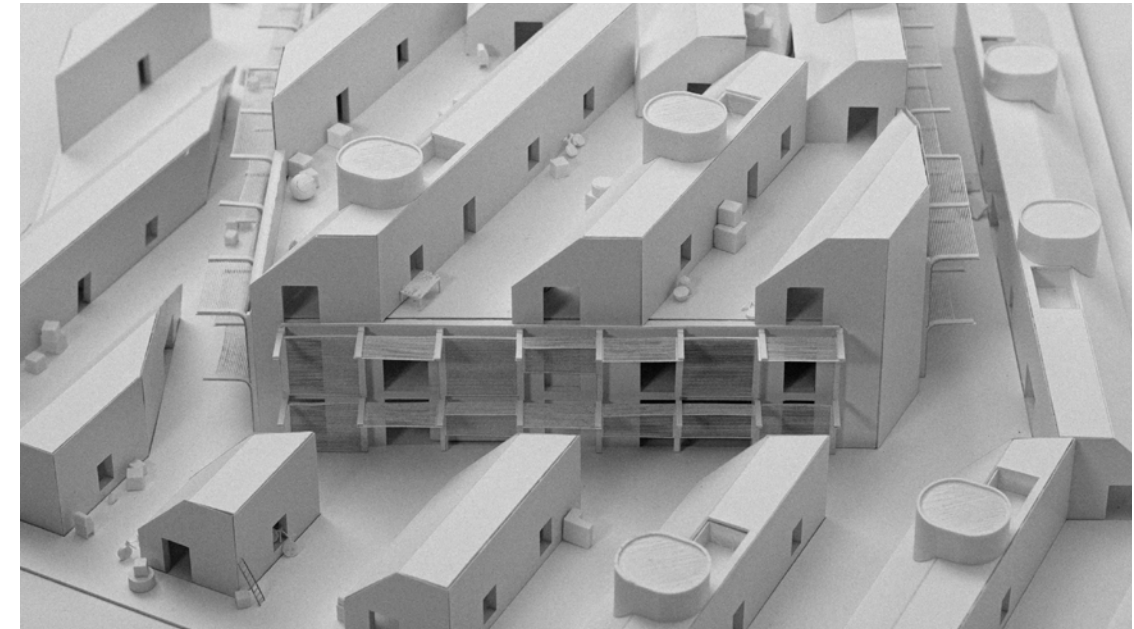


The archive is fortified. It must protect sensitive material. Ideas and artifacts are precious.

Rather than be a completely open system like the housing proposal, the archive becomes seemingly enclosed, mimicking the strong perimeter walls of surrounding buildings.

The ancient typologies of iron age settlements (above, Poland 700 BC) and medieval monasteries and castles are referenced.

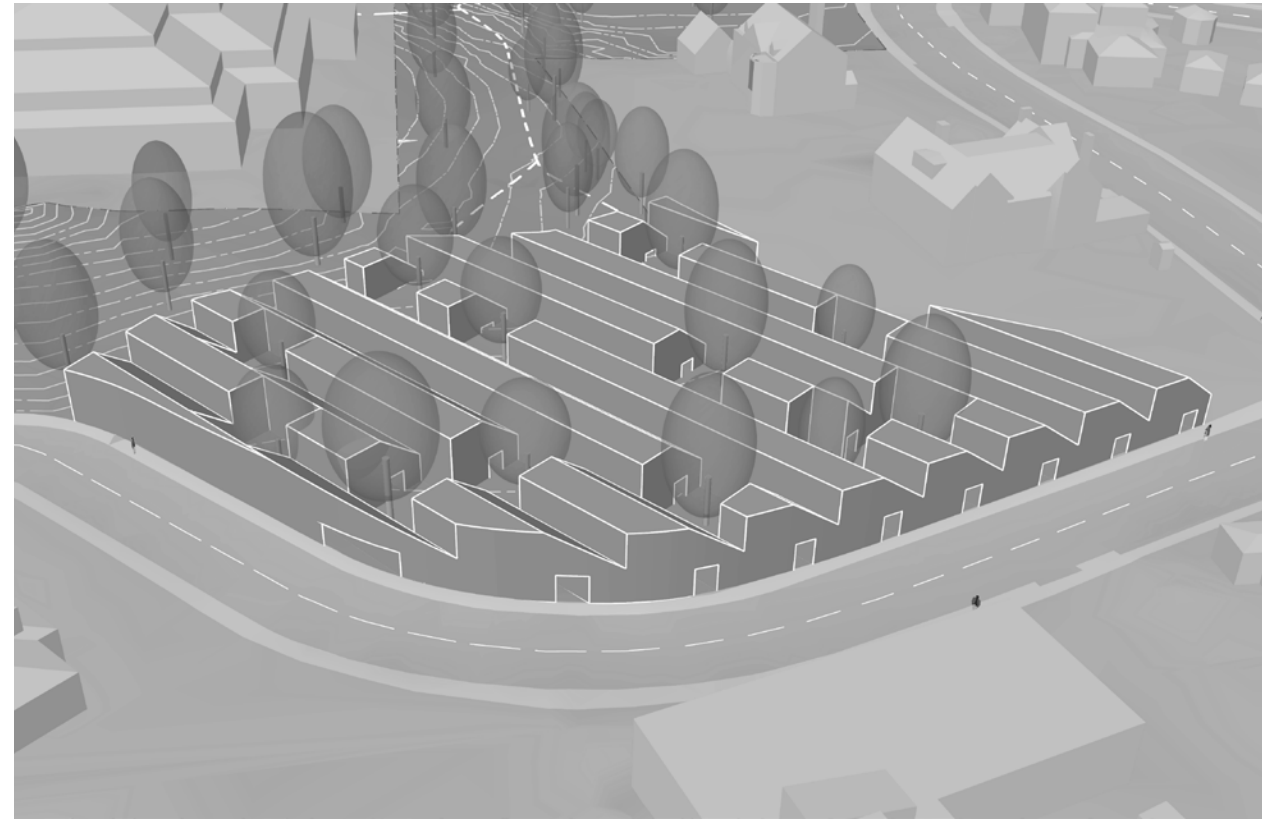
The first scheme collapses the house module onto itself; exterior yards are no longer necessary. The grain and scale of the Sert house is mimicked. Courtyards are scattered across the scheme to preserve trees.



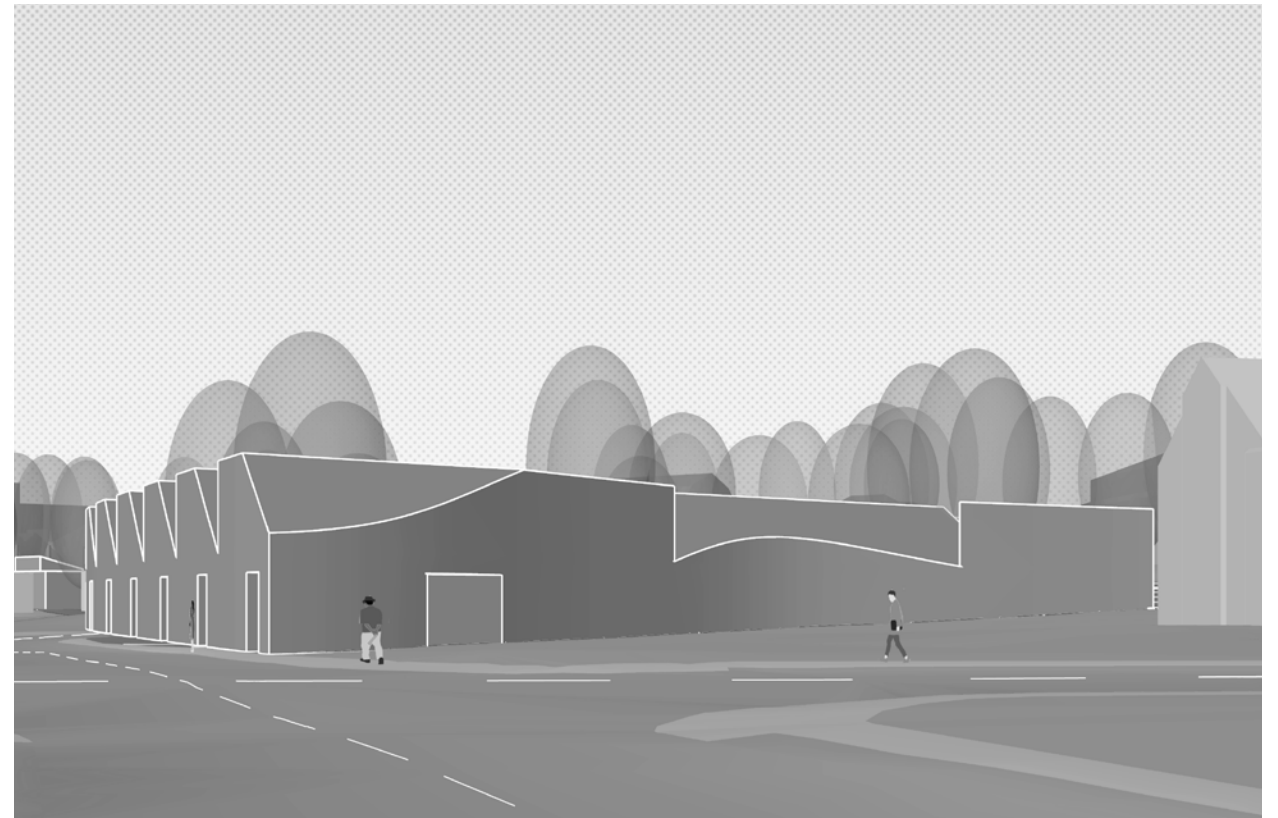
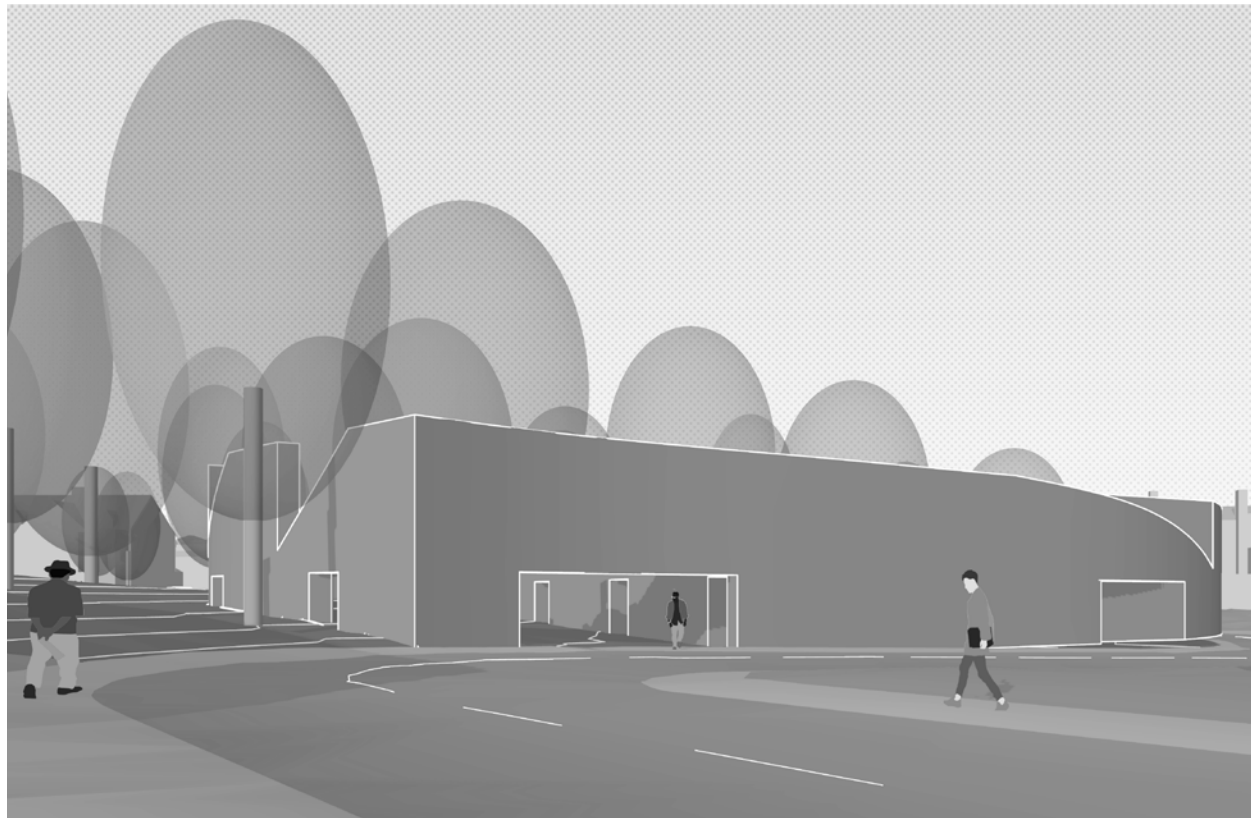
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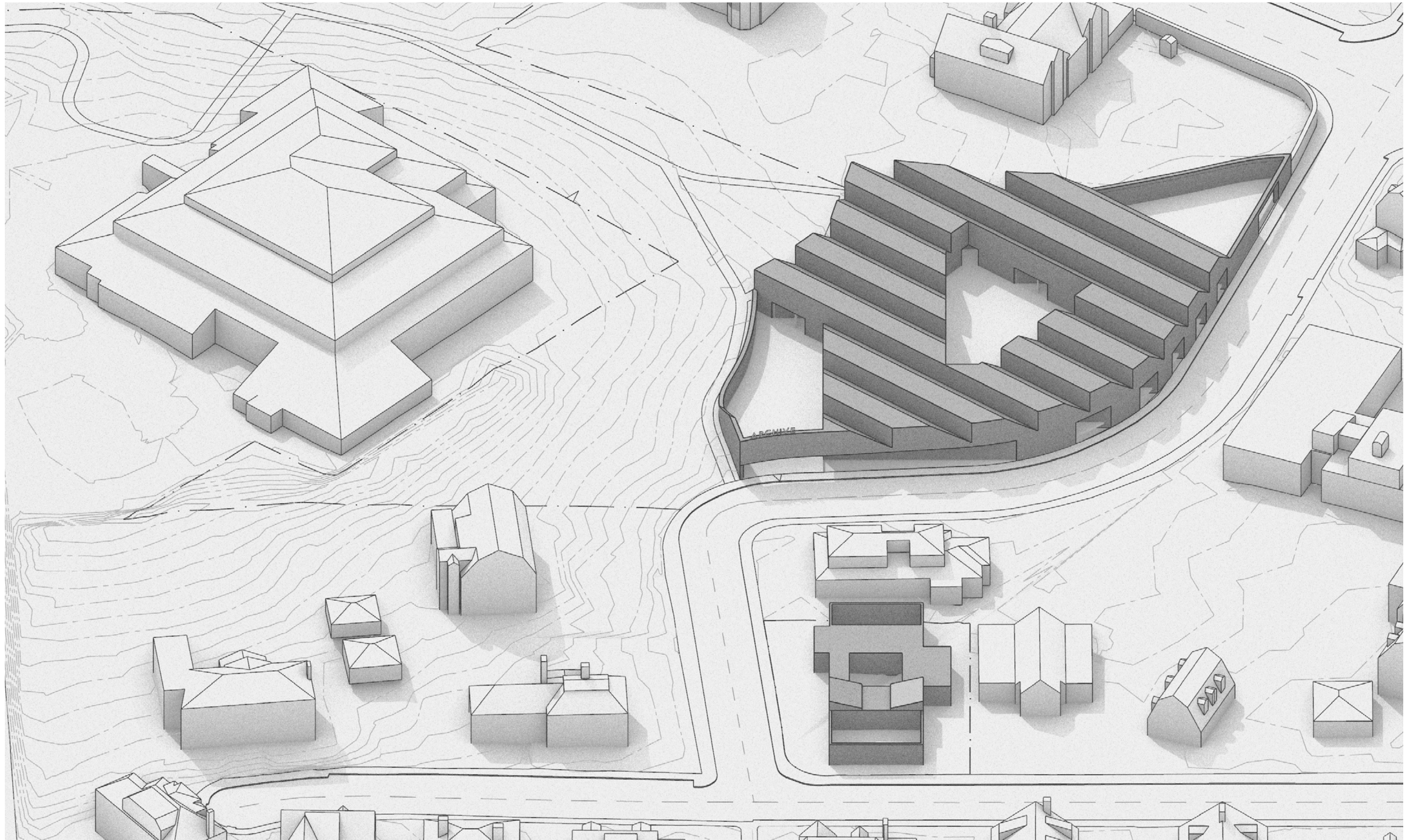


Process



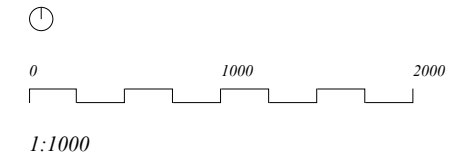
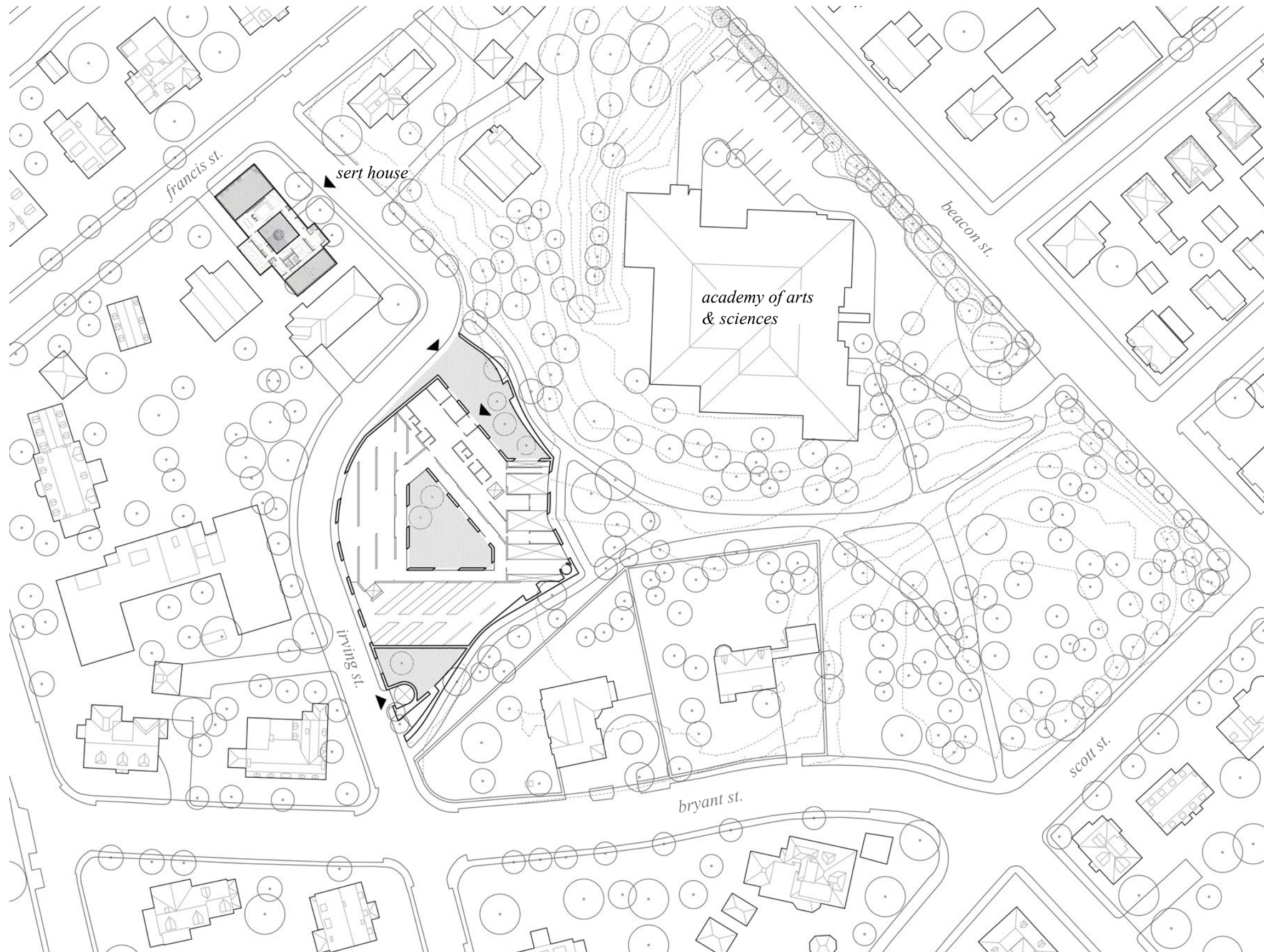
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Process

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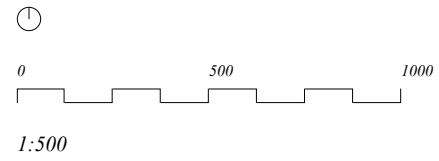


Site Plan

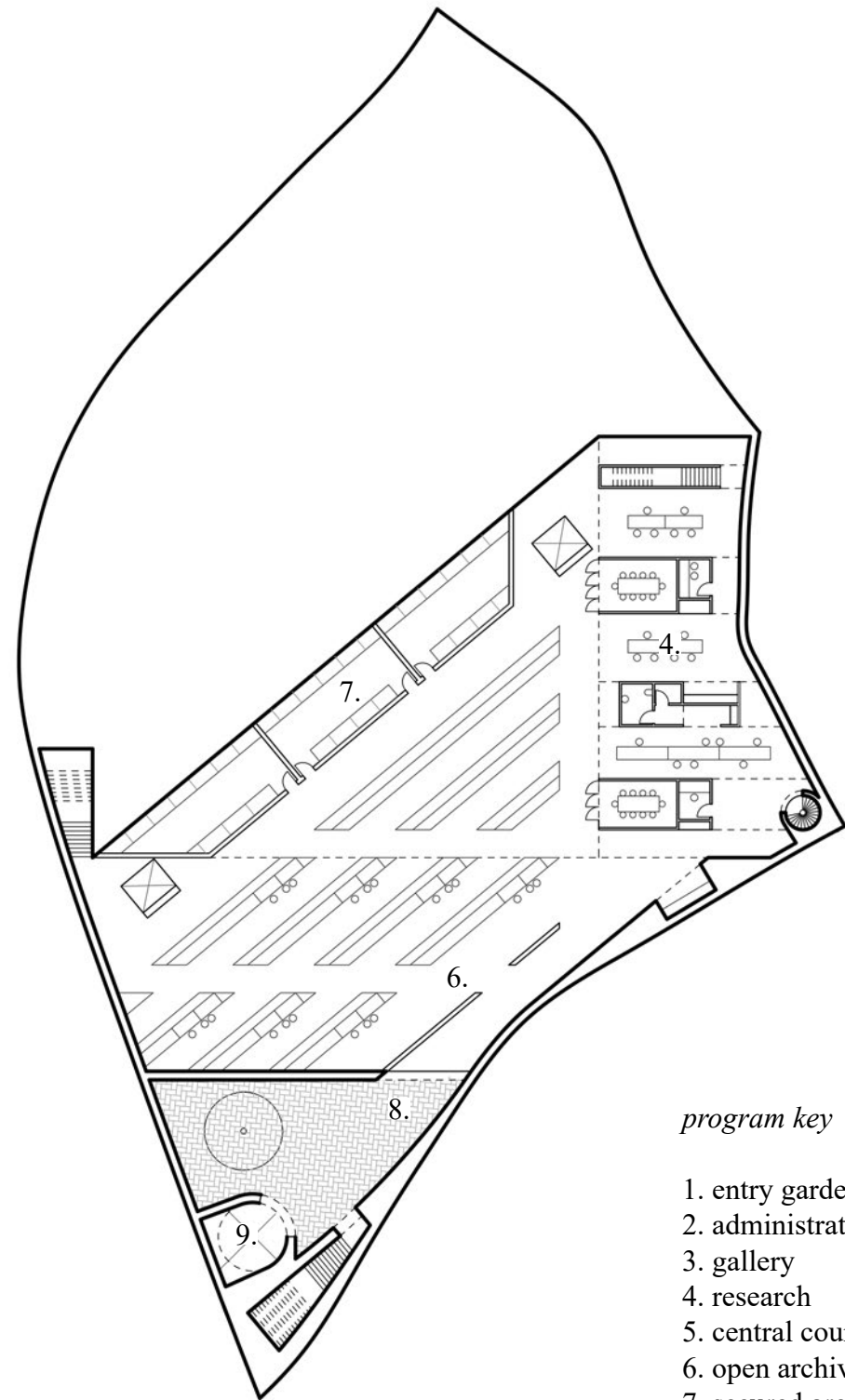
The streets and paths of the park define the perimeter of the building completely.

The many courtyards of the early scheme are consolidated into three larger courtyards across the building - similar to the Sert House.

Four major programs are identified: administration, research, exhibition, and archival storage. Each inherits its own grain in plan. The roof grain normalizes the experience while allowing users to register the difference.

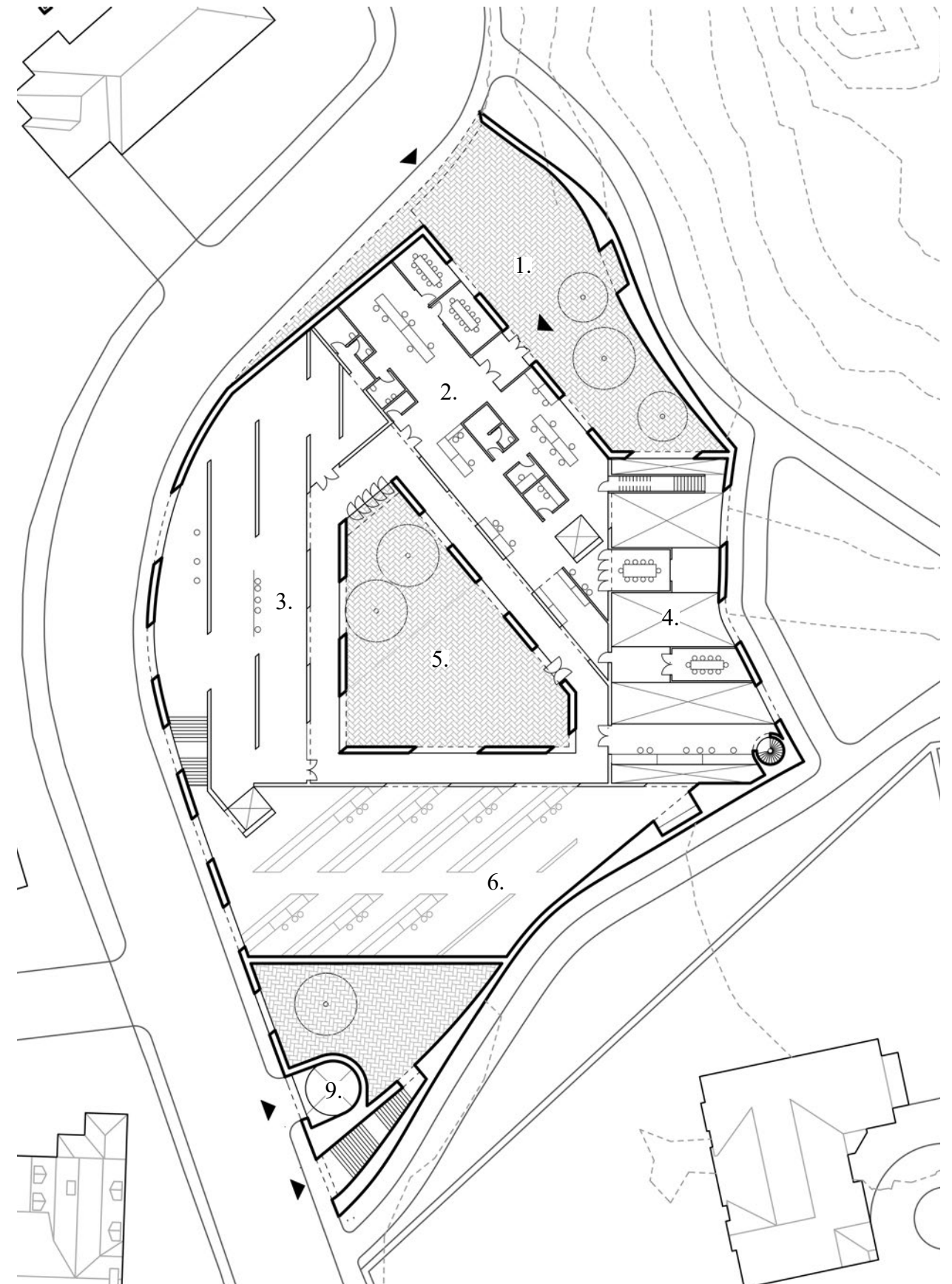


Process

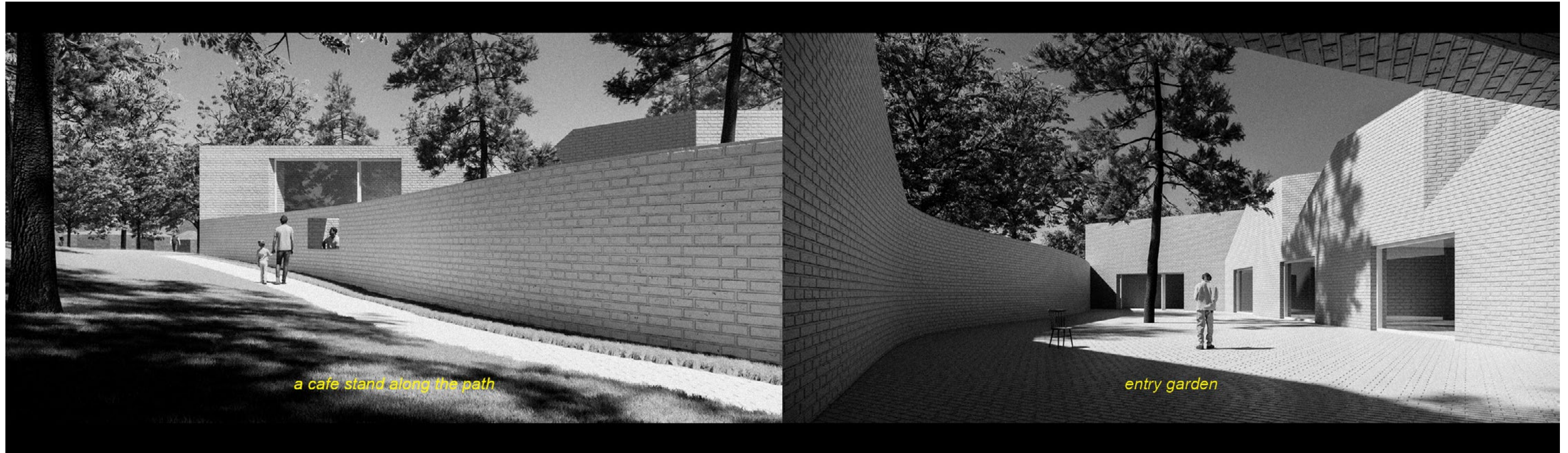


program key

- 1. entry garden
- 2. administration & cafe
- 3. gallery
- 4. research
- 5. central courtyard
- 6. open archival storage
- 7. secured archival storage
- 8. sunken courtyard
- 9. truck lift



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a cafe stand along the path

entry garden

Process

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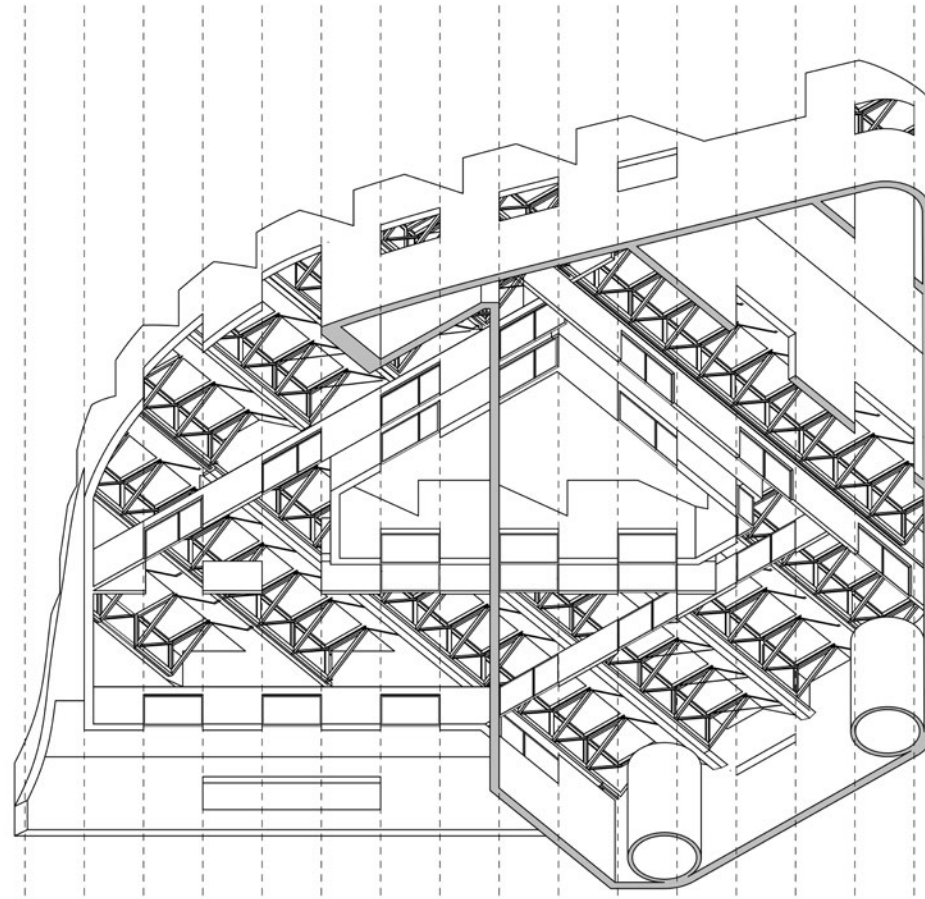
meet me in the park next to the archive

morning light on irving street

Final Proposal

Archive

Final Archive Proposal



Two organizing grains govern the design of the building. The roof module maintains an east/west orientation to capture diffuse northern light while the floor plan maintains a northeast/southwest direction like that of the Sert house (worm's eye above).

A white brick rainscreen is typical, with wood framing across the building and glue-laminated trusses to achieve long roof spans. A cross-laminated timber decking is employed.

Polished concrete floors and simple drywall assemblies are found throughout to maximize economy and flexibility.



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looking south to the archive



here at the corner of bryant and irving



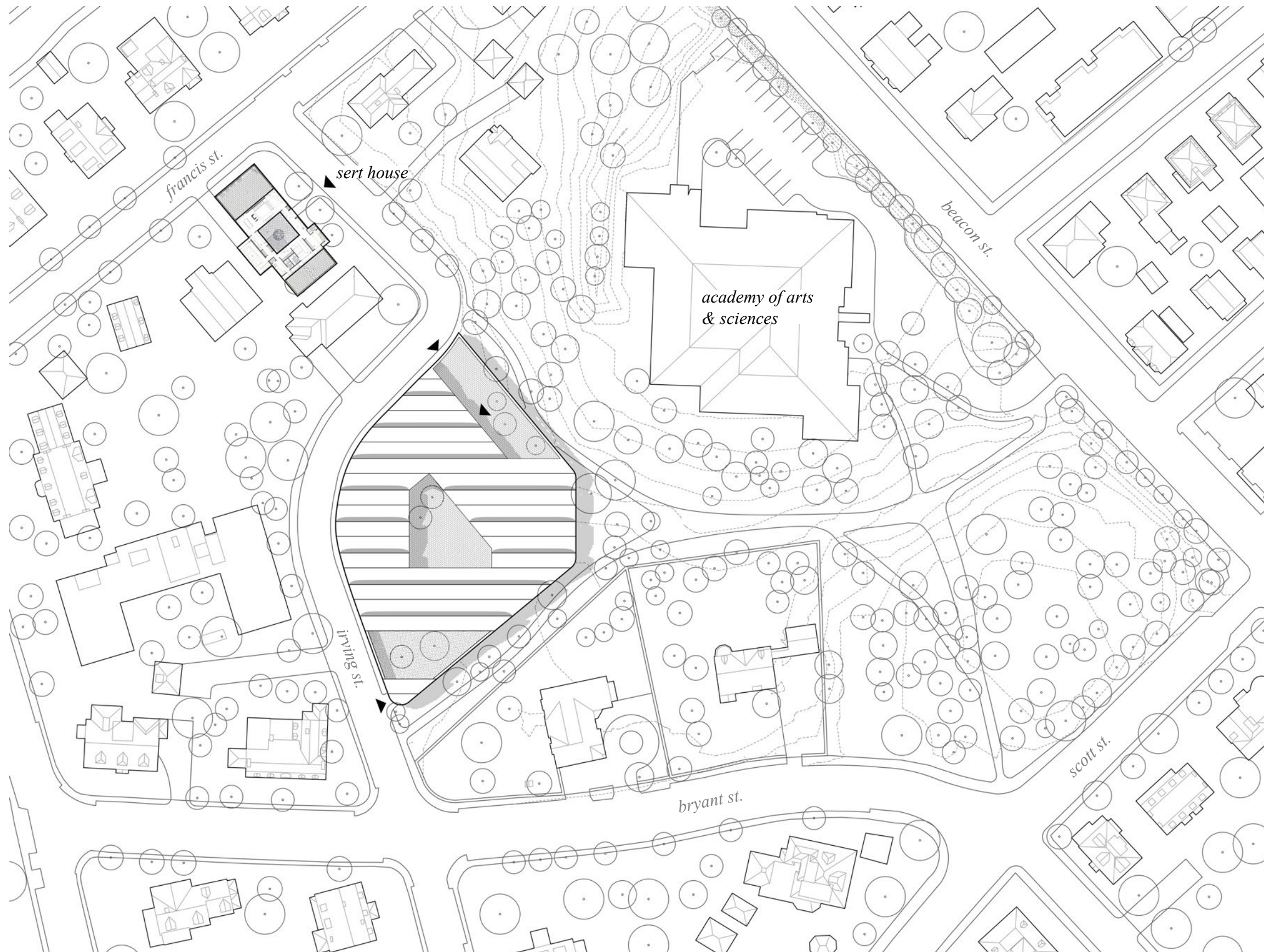
swept under the gate



the building had the same color eyes



a late lunch in the courtyard



Final Archive Proposal

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Site Plan

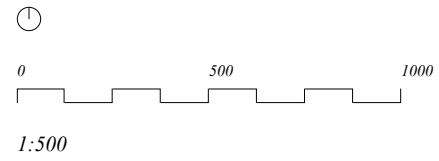
On the west side, Irving street defines the perimeter of the building. On the east side within the park, the perimeter is simplified. The curvilinear paths now weave in and out, offering glimpses into the building.

Each of the four major programs - administration, research, exhibition, and archival storage - inherits its own grain in relation to the Sert house.

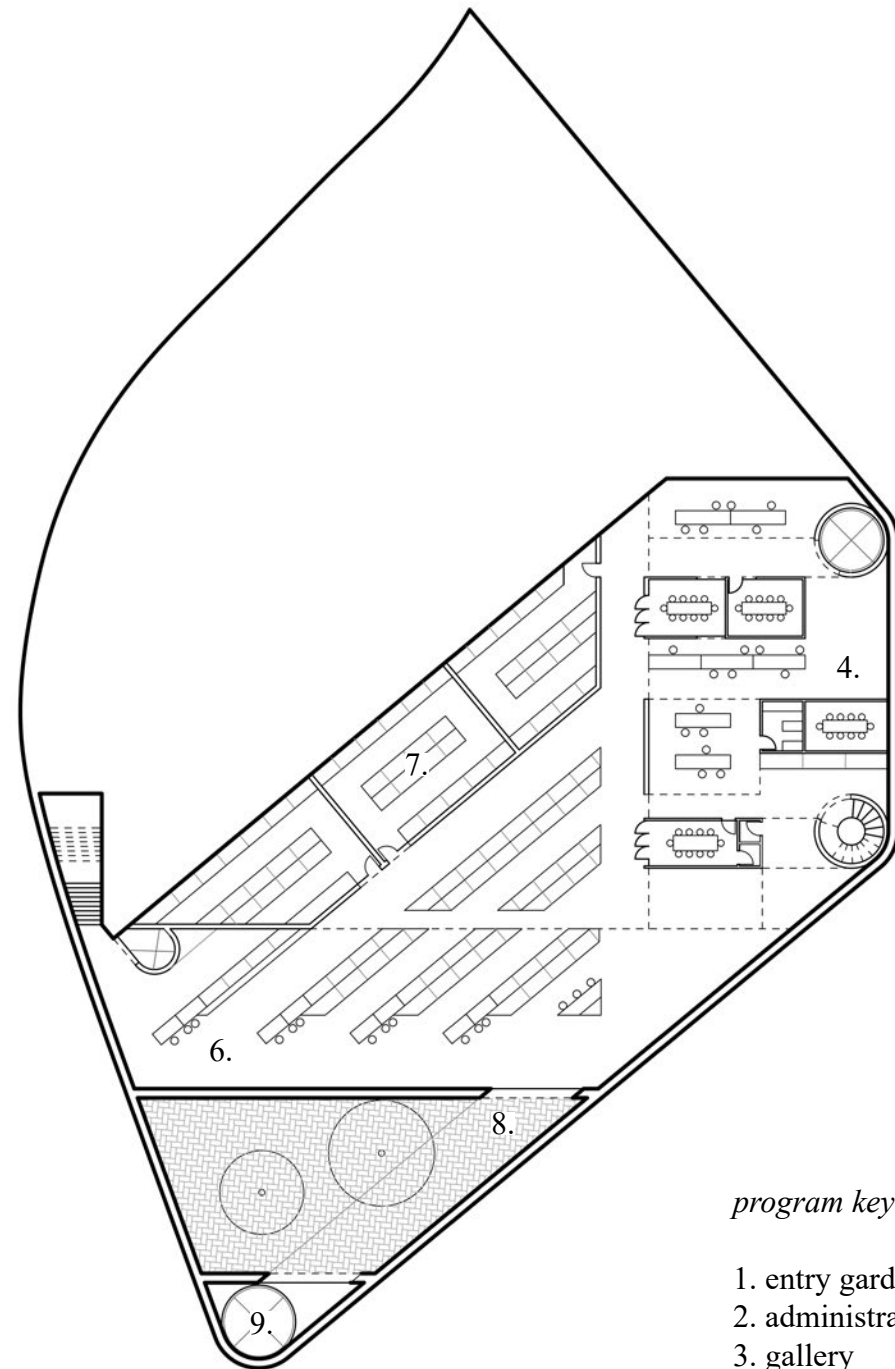
The repetition of the roof grain allows users to register the difference and not get lost.



a glimpse into the building from the park

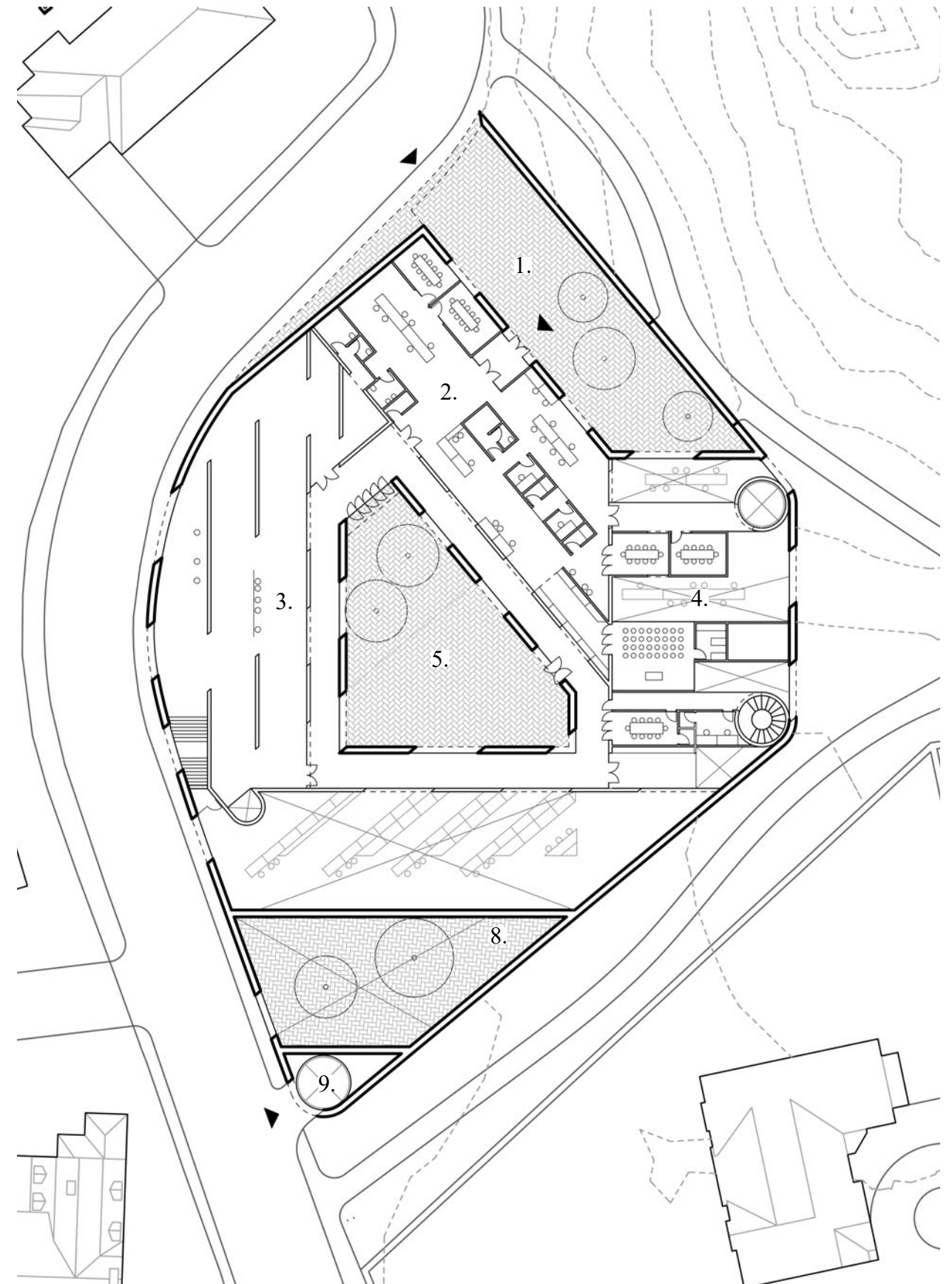


Final Archive Proposal

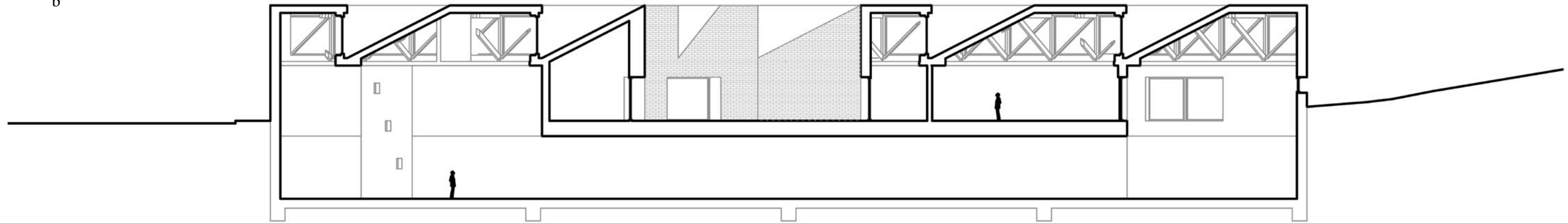
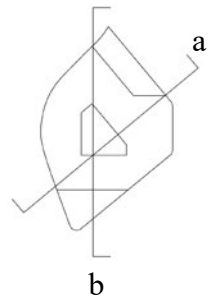


program key

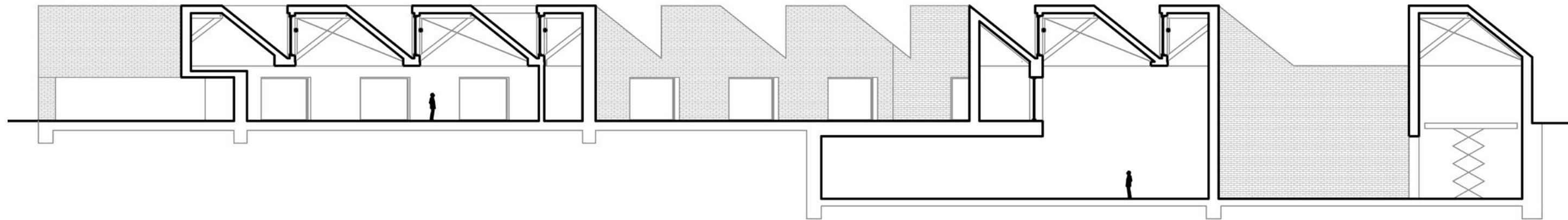
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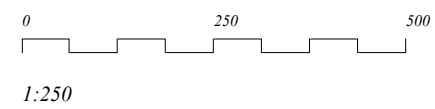
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section a

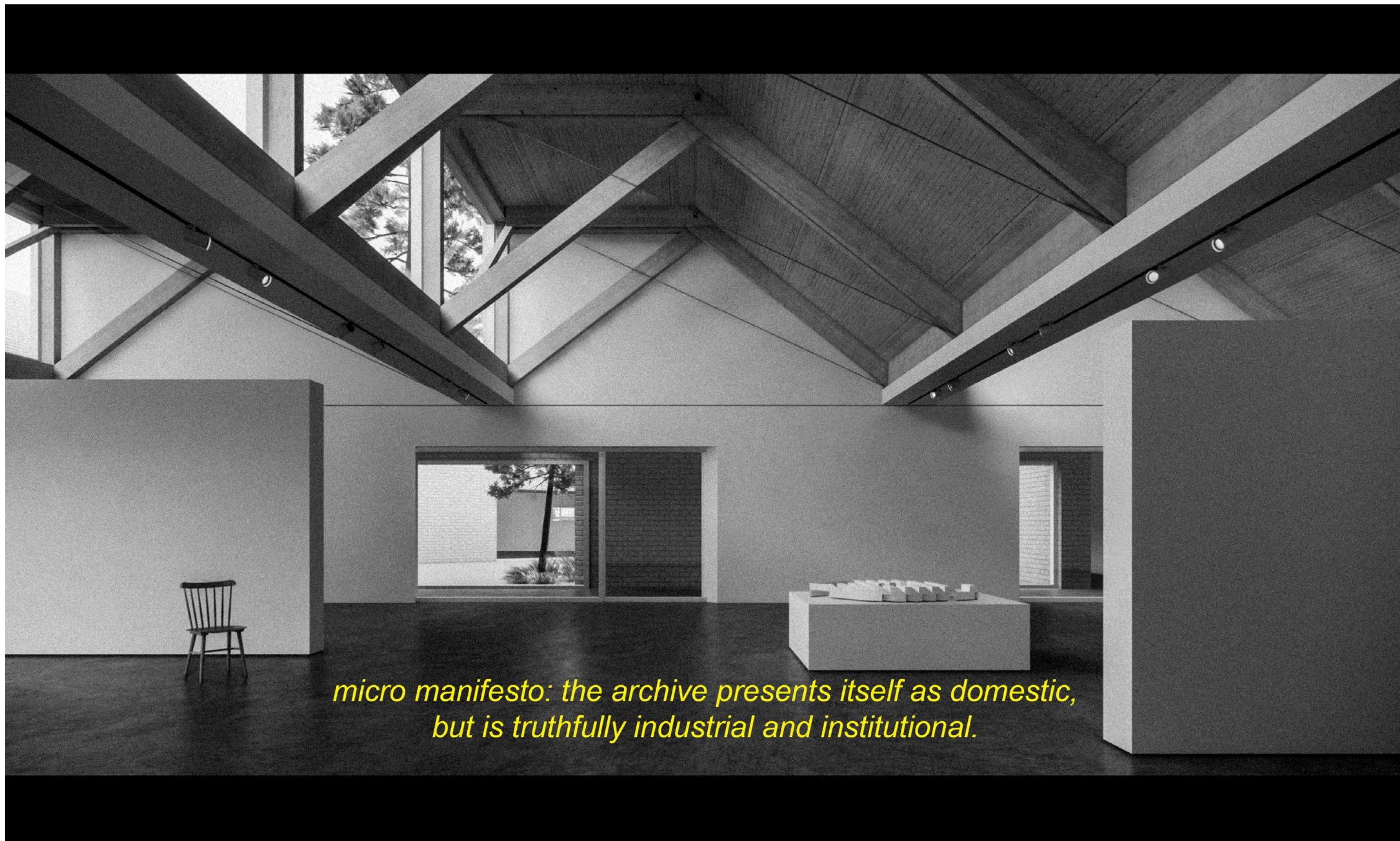


section b









*micro manifesto: the archive presents itself as domestic,
but is truthfully industrial and institutional.*

Final Archive Proposal



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the end.

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