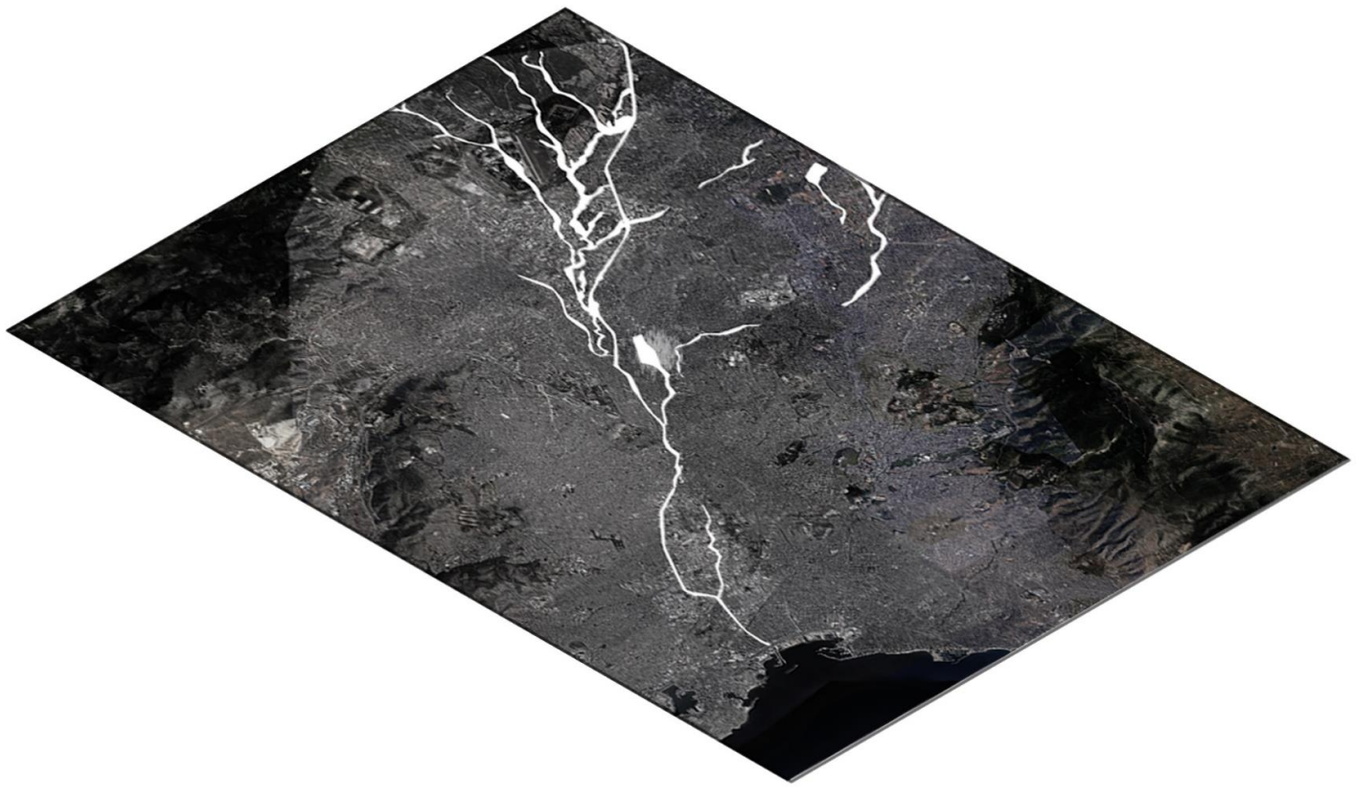
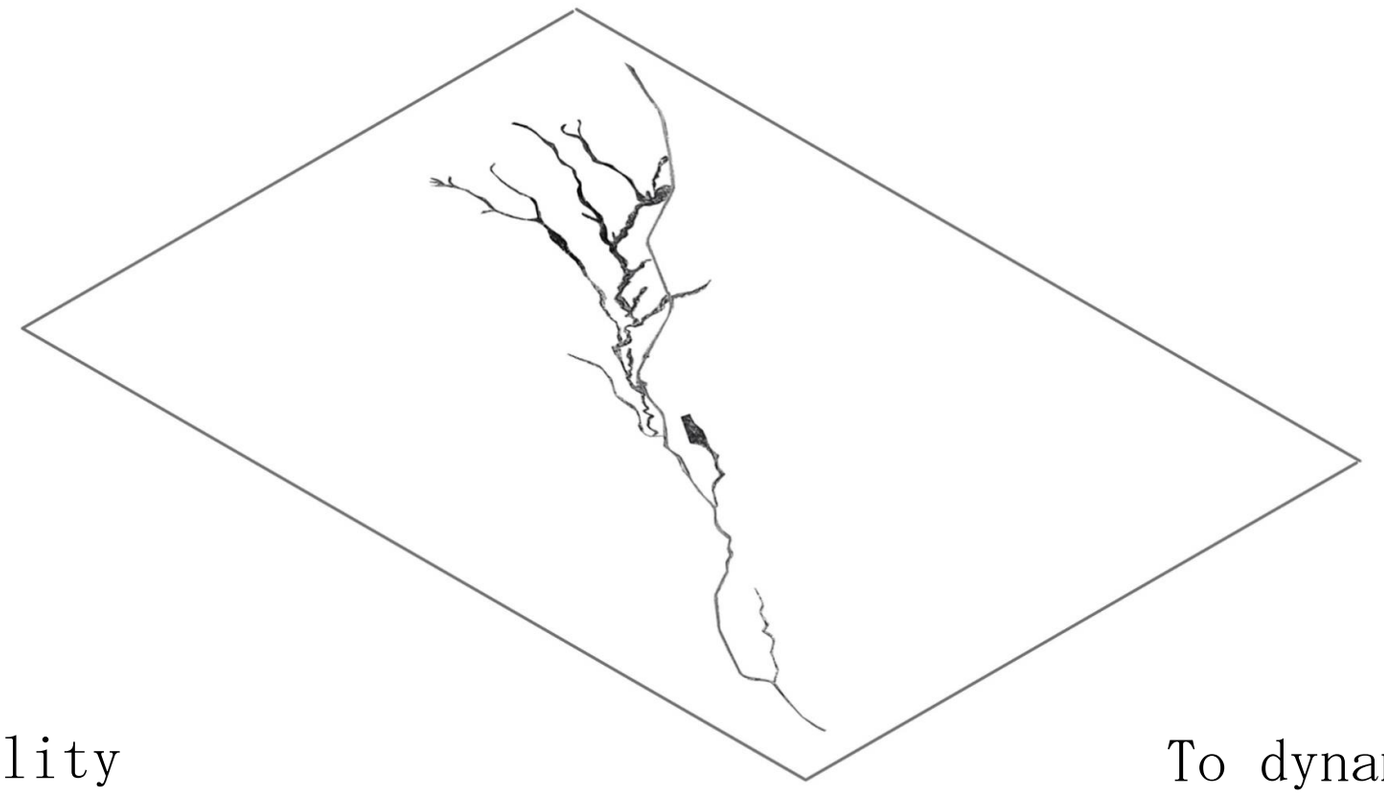
The oppositions of Kifissos

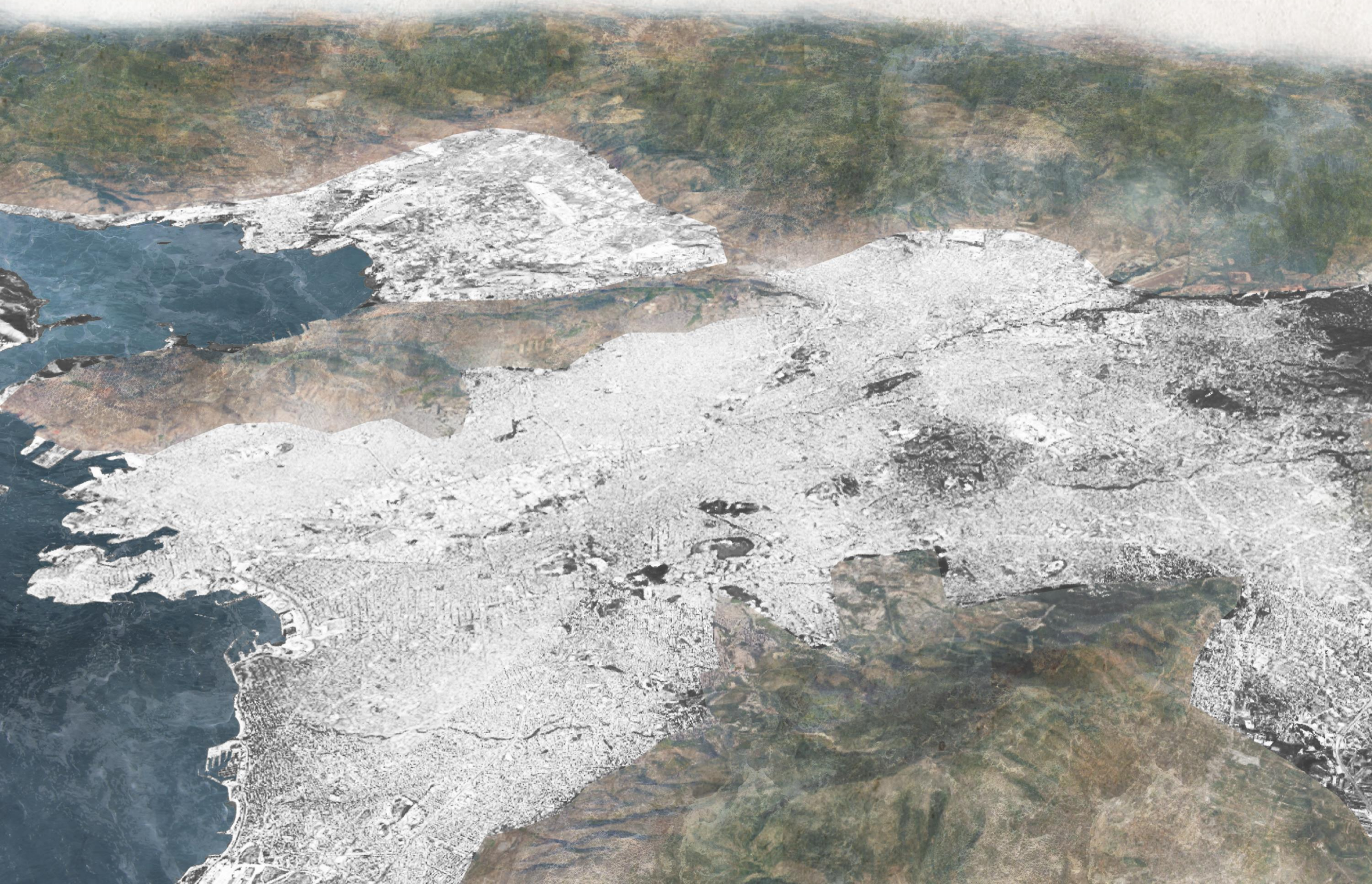




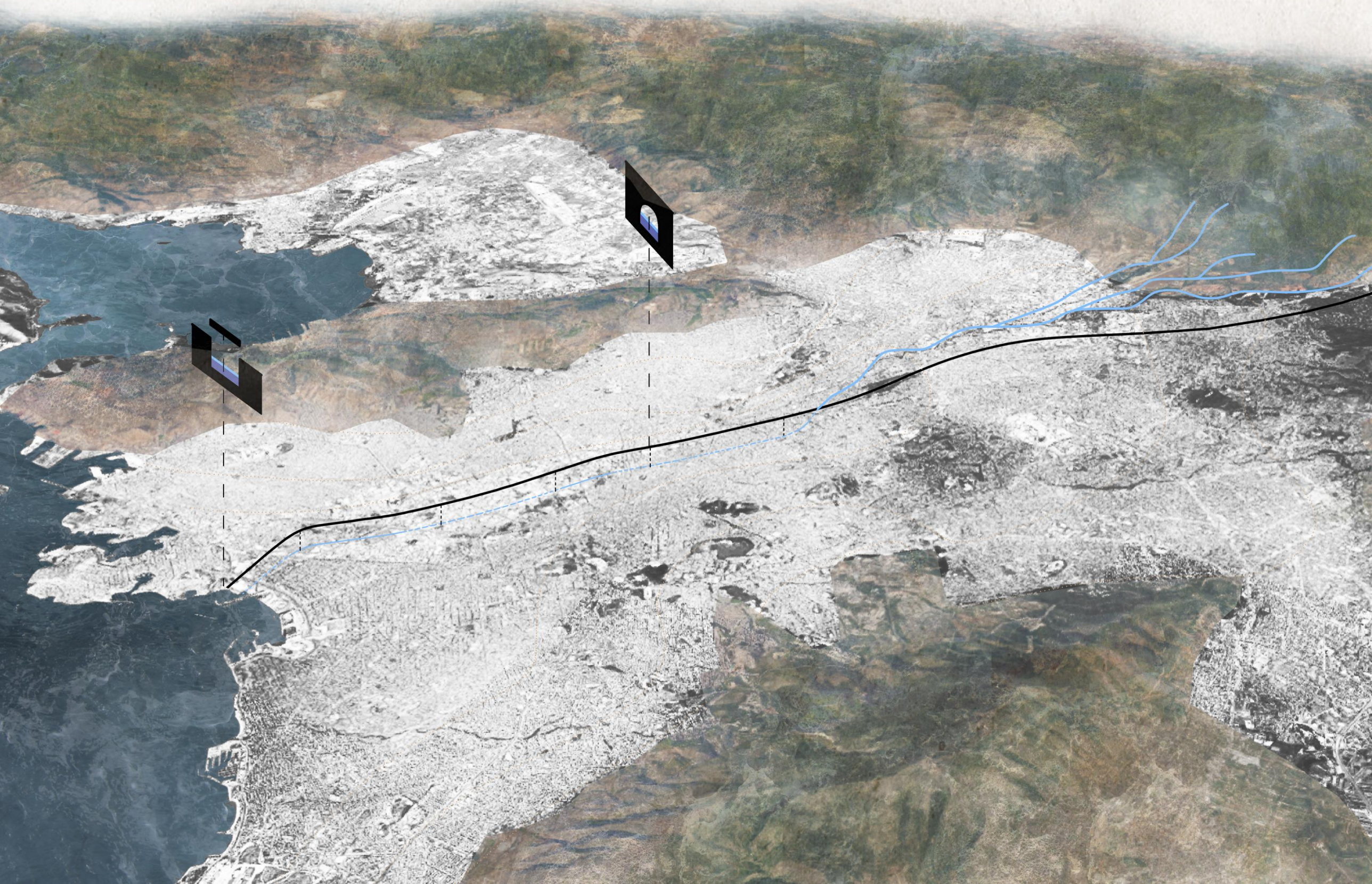
From static duality

To dynamic coexistence

Kifissos - An ambiguous landscape



Kifissos - An ambiguous linear landscape



A landscape full of problems

1890-1933

1933 -1955
decrease

1955 -1980
increase

1980 -2002
less spread
more intense

2002 -2007
dicrease
flood protection works

only temporarily 2007-2017
increased
more intense

ΑΠΟΓΕΥΜΑΤΙΝΗ

Ο ΑΠΟΛΟΓΙΣΜΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΤΡΑΓΩΔΙΑΣ ΤΗΣ ΝΥΚΤΑΣ ΤΗΣ ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗΣ ΠΡΟΣ ΤΗΝ ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑΝ

ΕΙΣ 47 ΝΕΚΡΟΥΣ ΚΑΙ 300 ΤΡΑΥΜΑΤΙΑΣ ΑΝΕΡΧΟΝΤΑΙ ΤΑ ΘΥΜΑΤΑ
ΕΚ ΤΗΣ ΧΘΕΣΙΝΗΣ ΘΕΟΜΗΝΙΑΣ ΠΟΥ ΕΠΛΗΞΕ ΤΗΝ ΠΡΩΤΕΥΟΥΣΑΝ

3500 ΟΙ ΑΣΤΕΓΟΙ, 800 ΤΑ ΚΑΤΑΡΡΕΥΣΑΝΤΑ ΟΙΚΗΜΑΤΑ ΚΑΙ ΥΠΕΡ ΤΑ 20 ΕΚΑΤ. ΑΙ ΖΗΜΙΑΙ

ΟΛΟΚΛΗΡΟΙ ΟΙΚΟΓΕΝΕΙΑΙ ΕΠΙΓΗΣΑΝ ΟΜΑΔΙΚΩΣ, ΕΝΩ ΑΙ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΕΙΣ
ΠΡΟΣ ΒΟΗΘΕΙΑΝ ΤΩΝ ΕΣΧΙΖΑΝ ΤΟ ΣΚΟΤΑΔΙ ΤΗΣ ΕΦΙΑΛΤΙΚΗΣ ΝΥΚΤΑΣ

Fifty-two floods are identified between 1880 and 2010
in various locations around Athens basin,
which caused 182 casualties and substantial damage.

ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΑ

Νὺξ θανάτου καὶ καταστροφῆς εἰς Ἀθήνας

Νεροποντή, ἀνεμοθύελλα, χάλαζα καὶ πλημμύραι

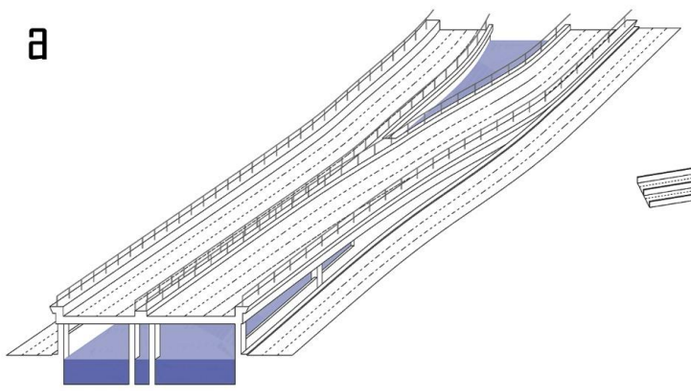
ΤΡΙΑΝΤΑ ΕΝΝΕΑ ΝΕΚΡΟΙ ΑΠΟ ΤΗΝ ΘΕΟΜΗΝΙΑΝ

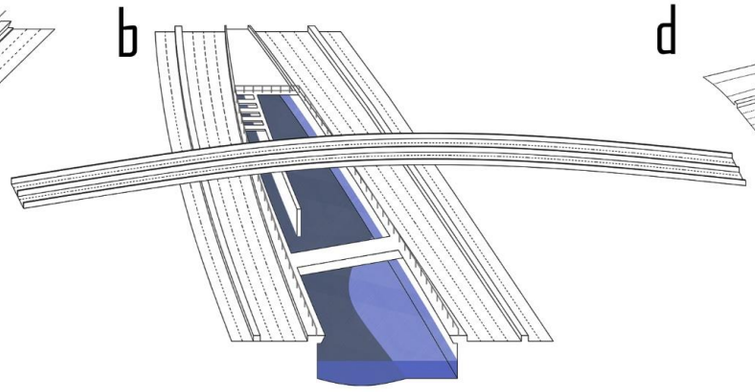
ΤΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟΝ ΑΝΕΝΔΟΤΟΝ ΘΑ ΑΓΩΝΙΣΘΗ ΕΝΑΝΤΙΟΝ ΤΟΥ ΑΠΟΤΕΛΕΣΜΑΤΟΣ

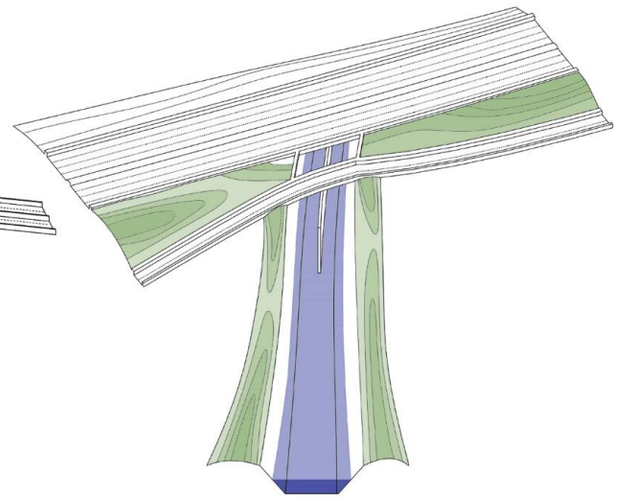
Οἱ ἄστεγοι ἀνέρχονται εἰς 3-4Π2 χιλιάδας

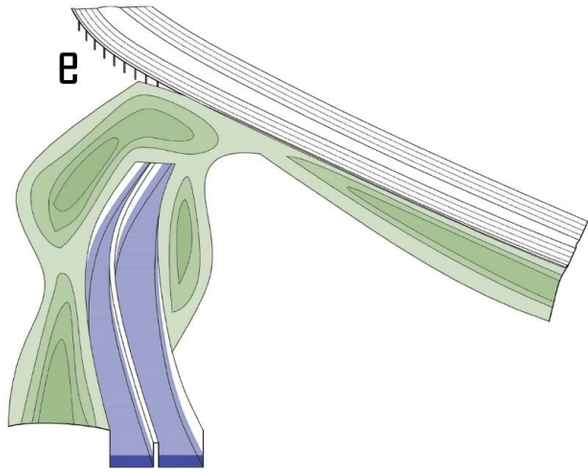
Η ΣΥΜΦΟΡΑ

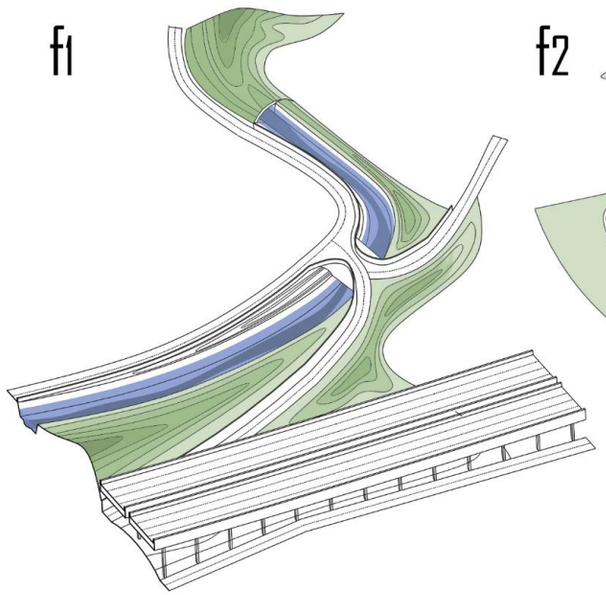
A landscape of conflicting identities

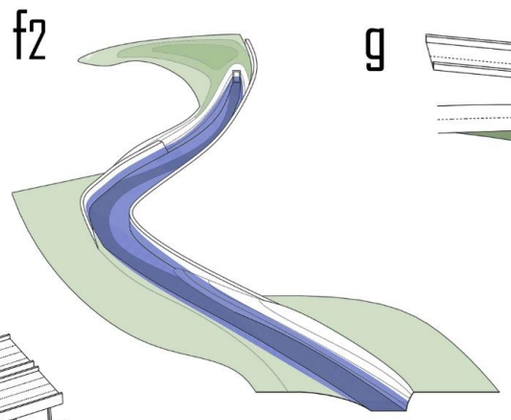


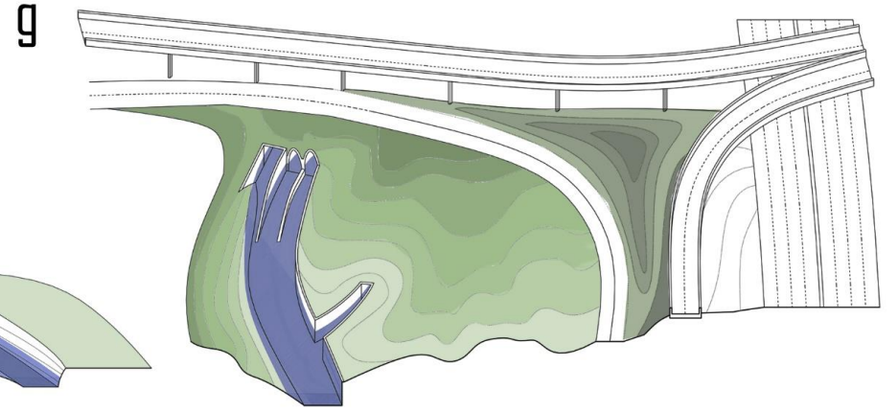


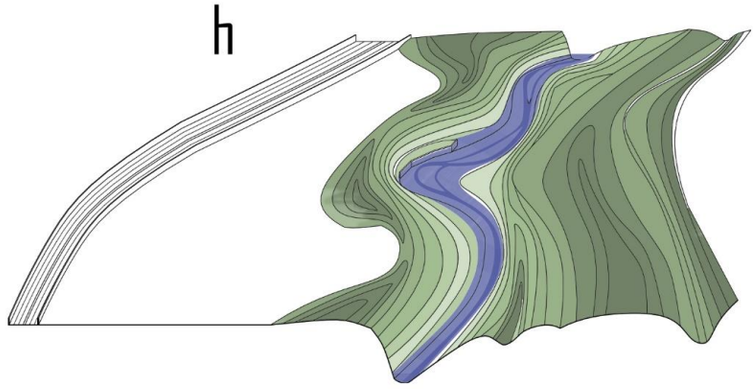


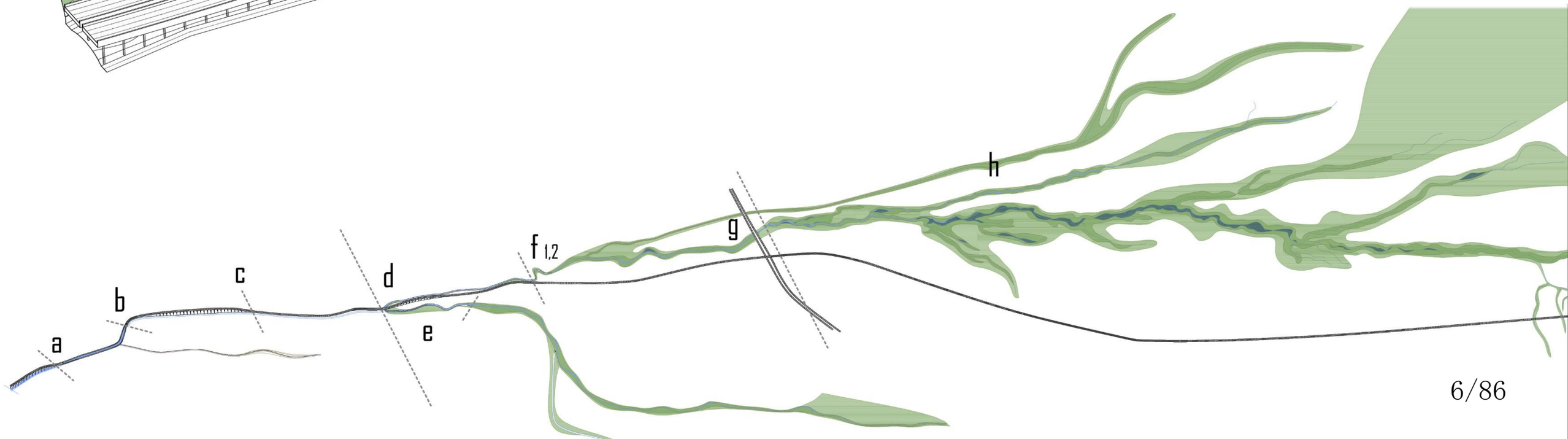






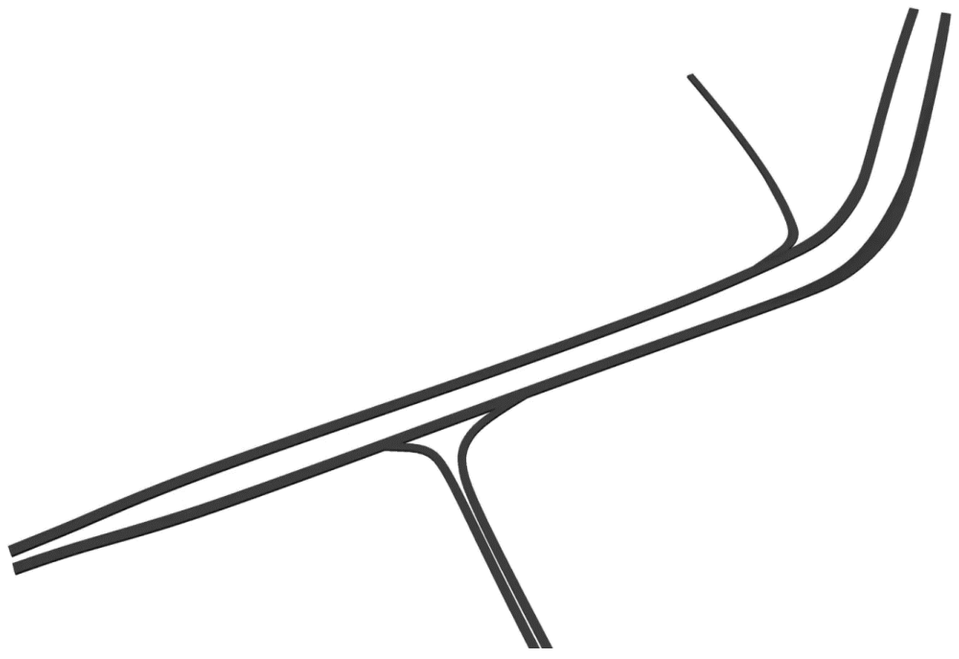






A landscape of conflicting identities

The oppositions of Kifissos
The dynamic river or the functional highway

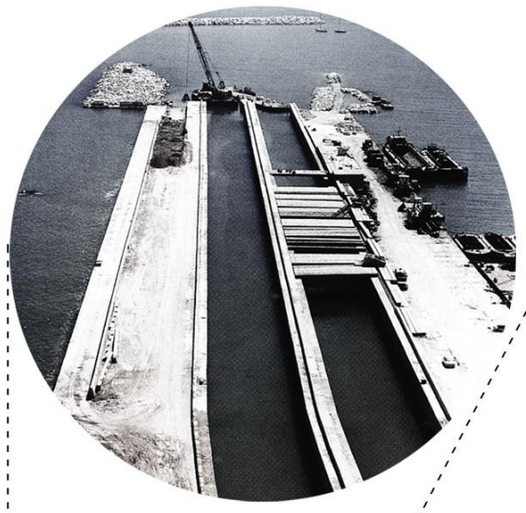


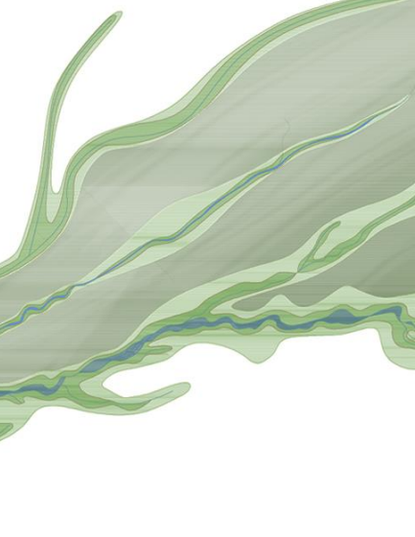
The consequences of over-control

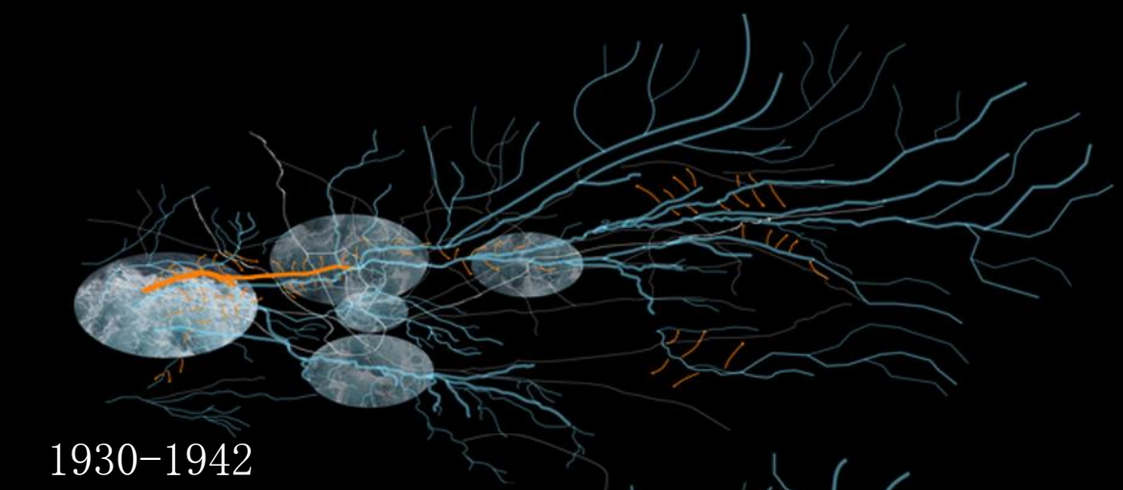
The dynamic river reclaims its land

Nature as a threat - the conceived necessity of over-control

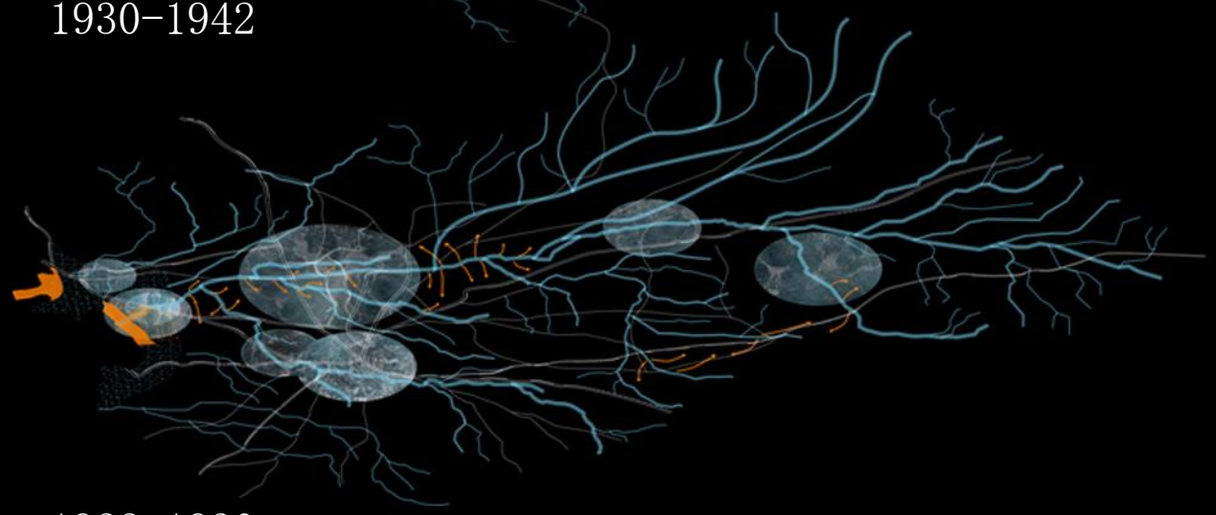
The opposition between “natural” and “engineered”



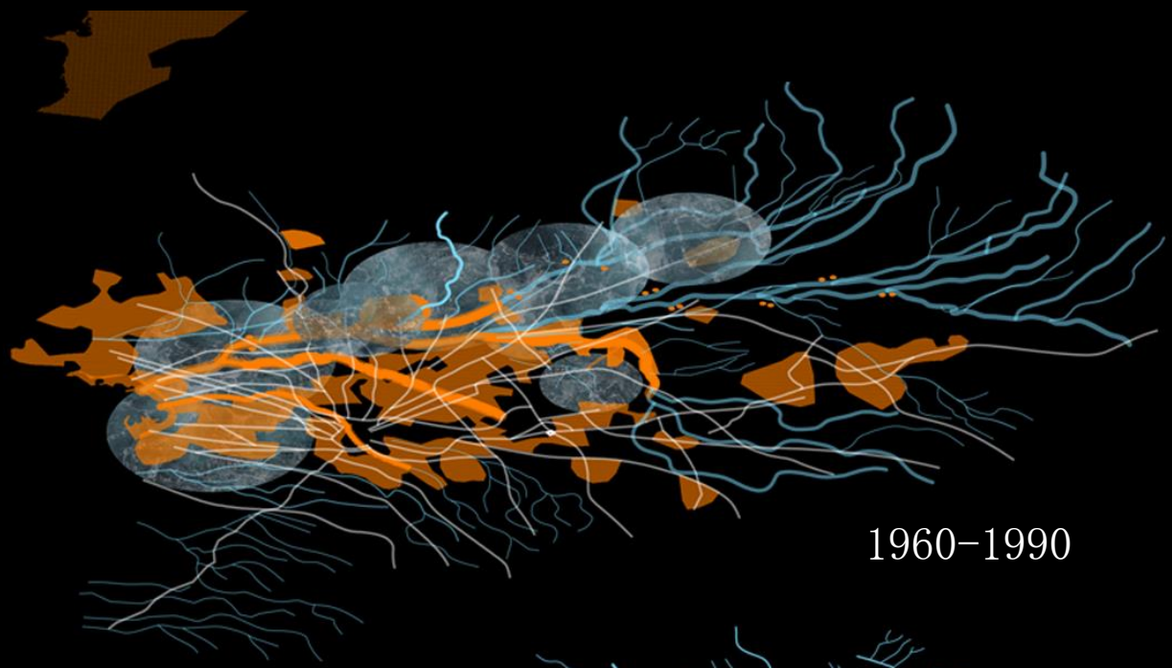




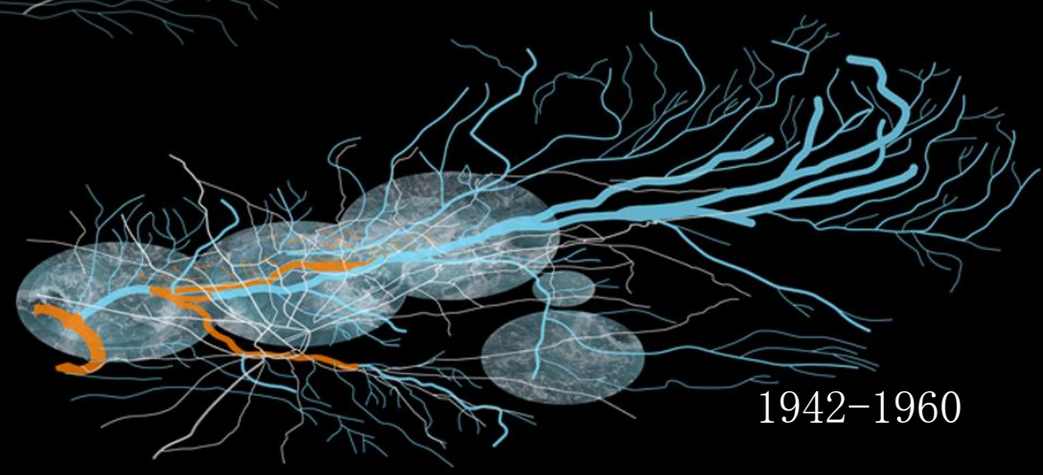
1930-1942



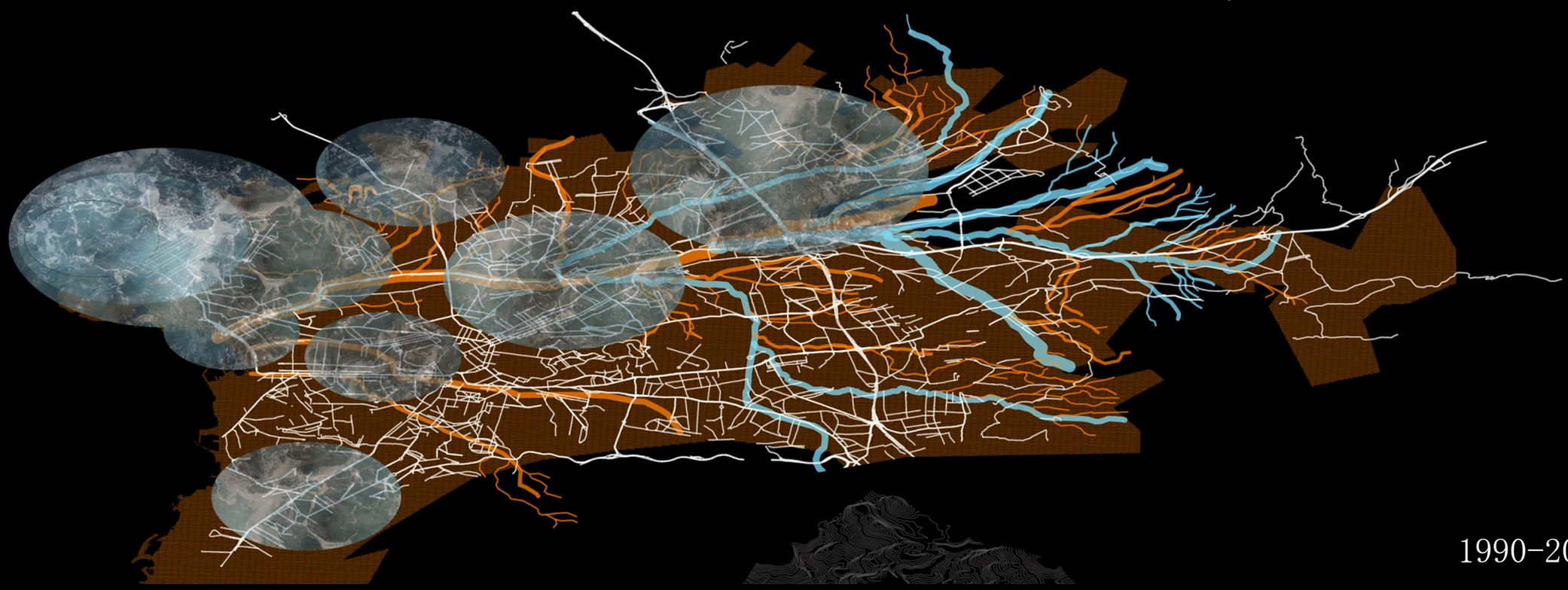
1922-1930



1960-1990



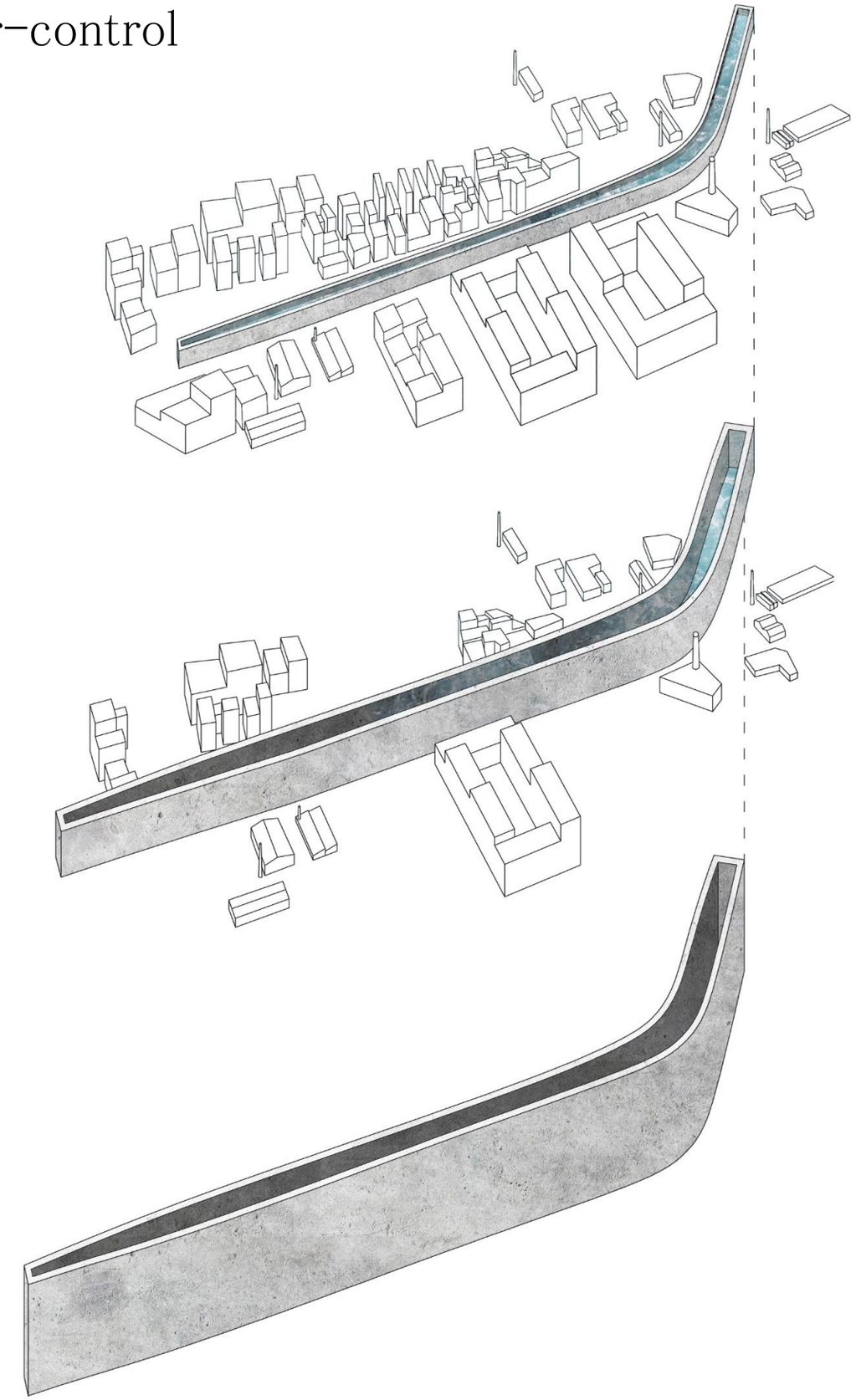
1942-1960



1990-2014

The consequences of over-control

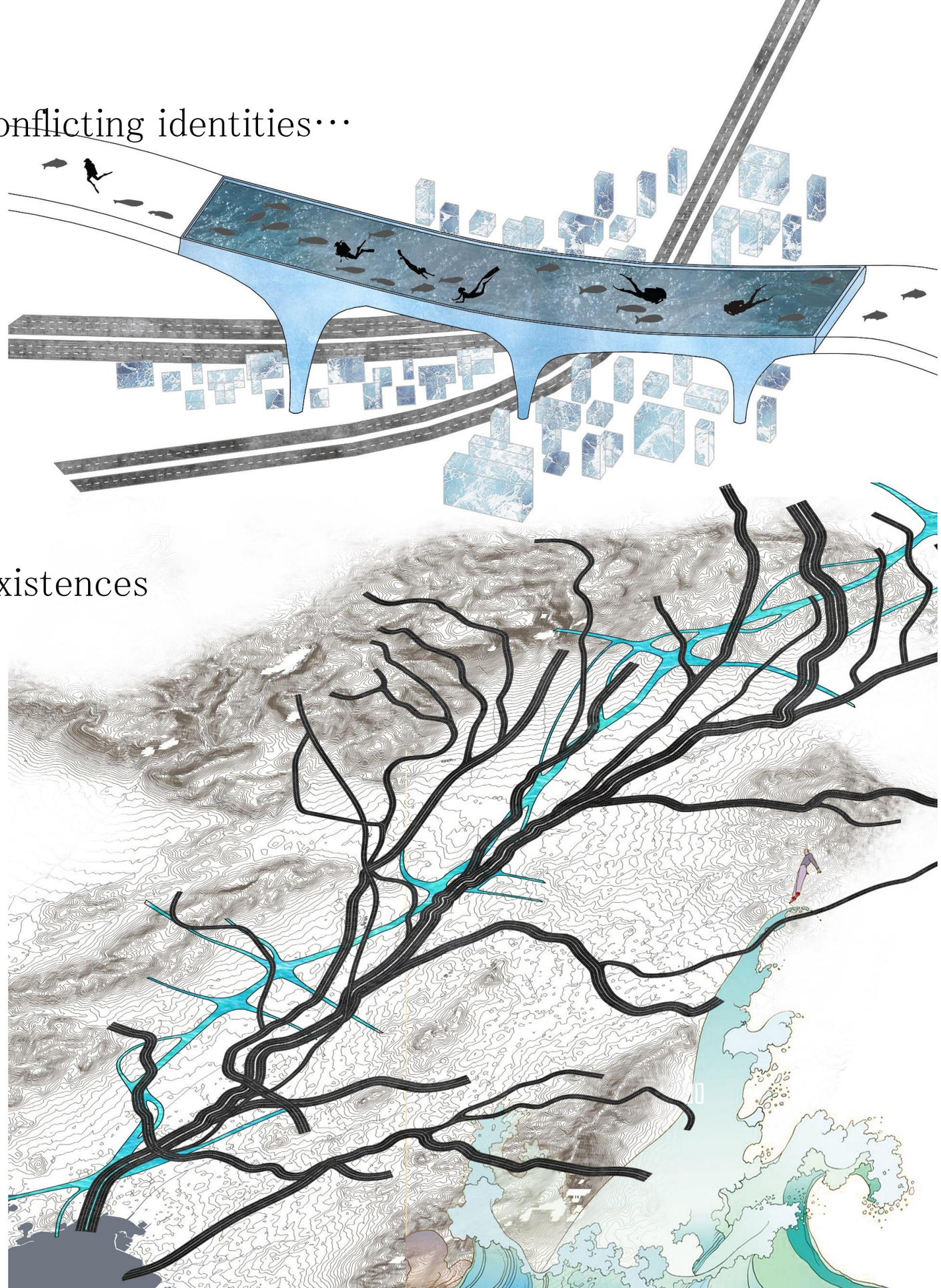
Boundaries and Isolation



A spatial and social boundary

Opposition between formal and informal

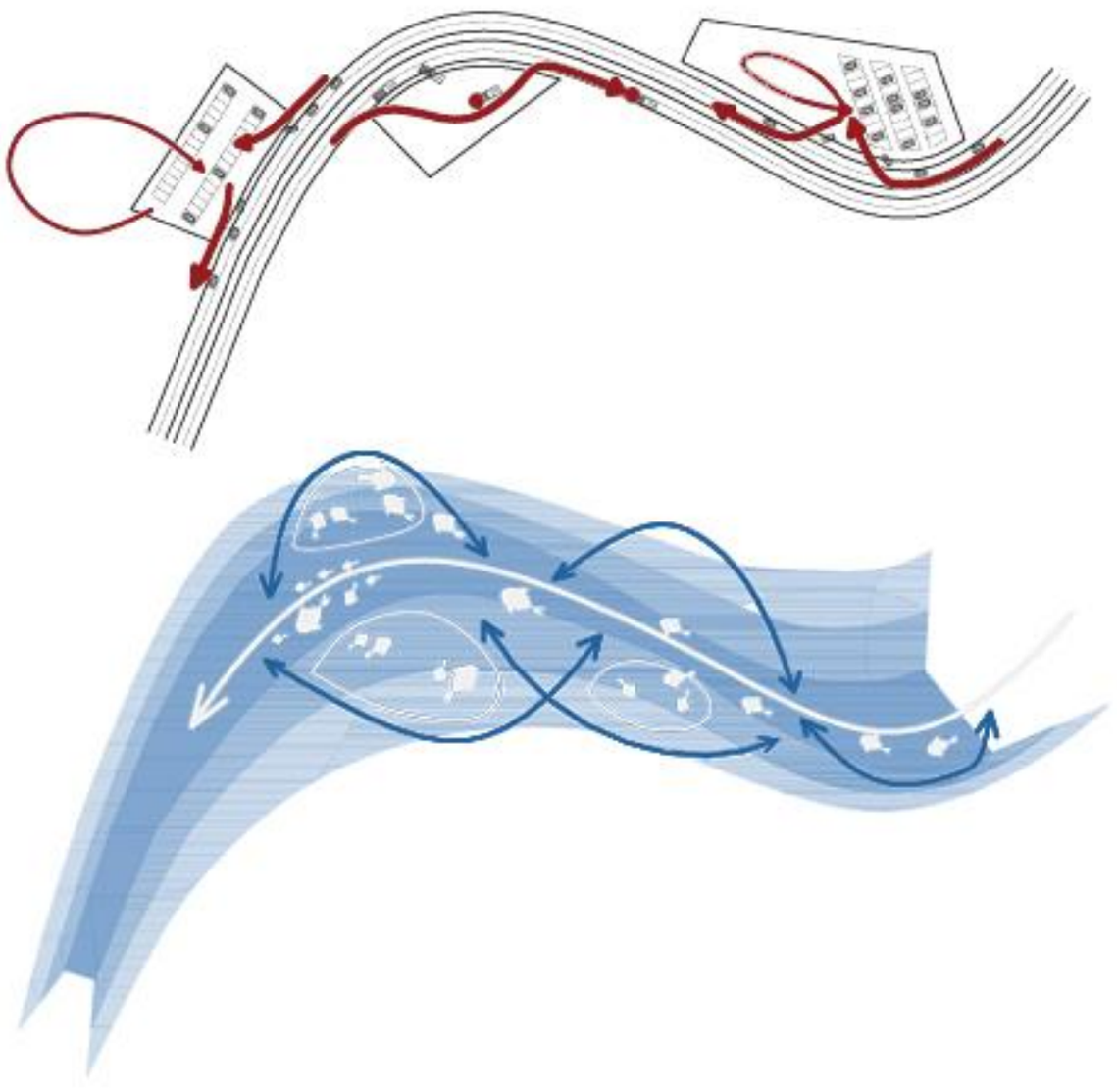
A landscape of conflicting identities…



…and latent coexistences

Can we address the opposition of Kifissos…

…through a creative reading of the site?



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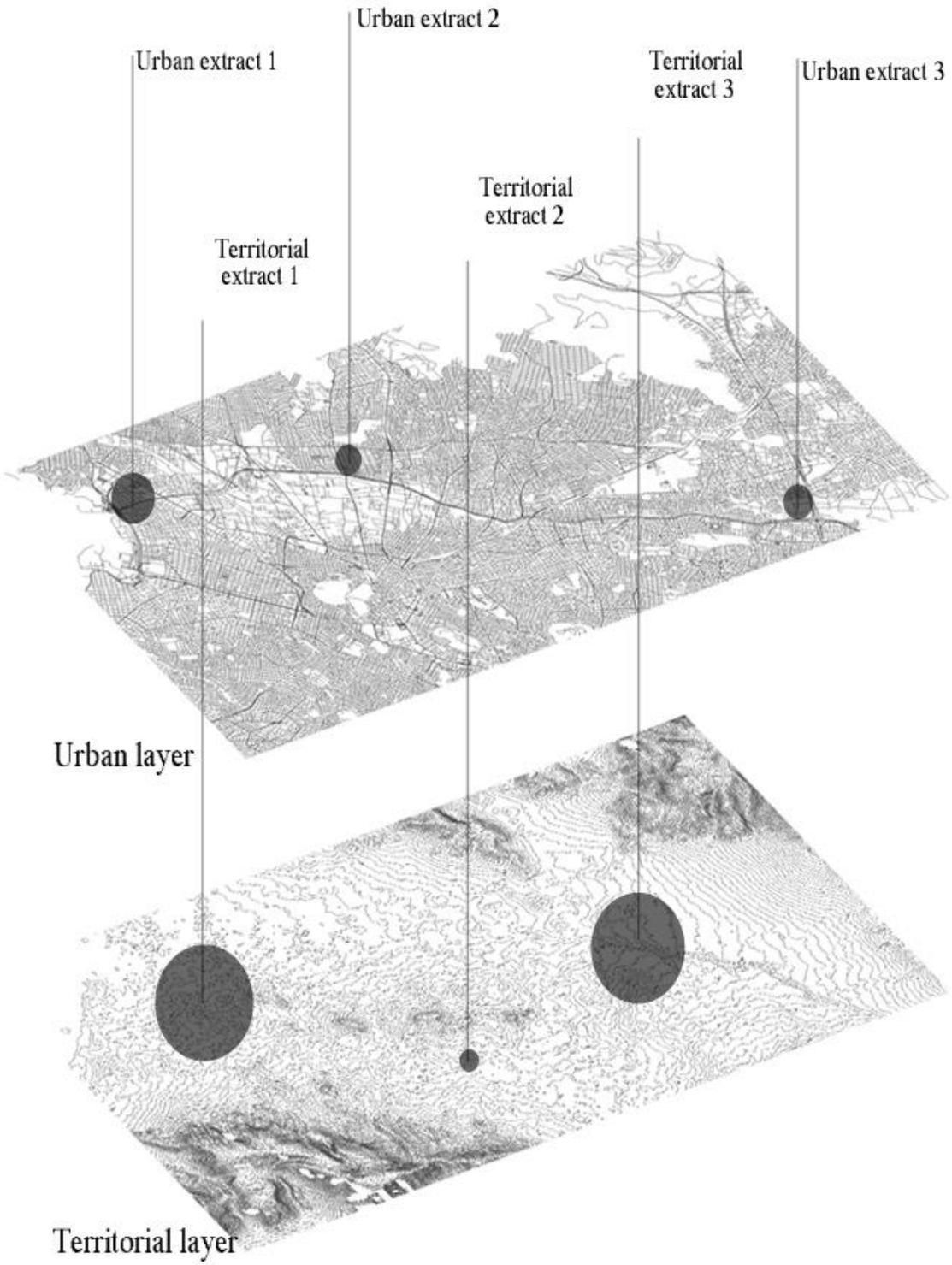
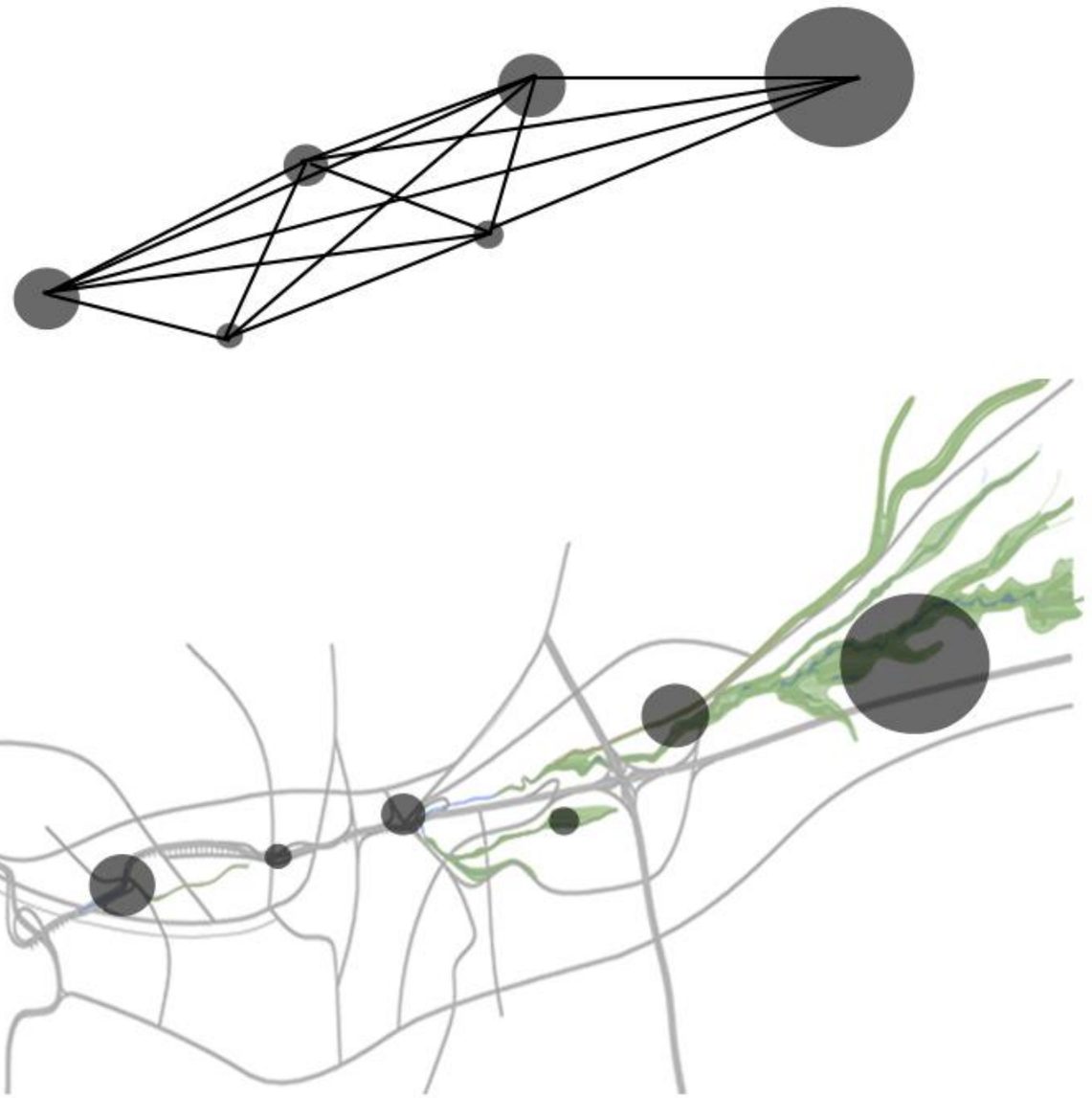
Method - reading the site

1. Extracting existing qualities - potential conceptual tools

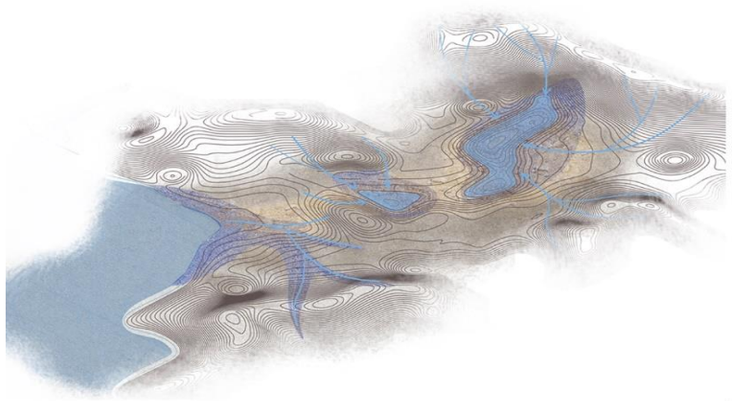


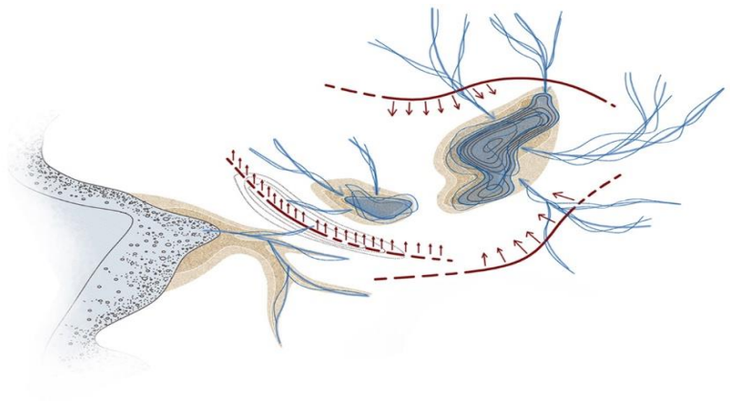
2. Interrelating the extracts on the plain of Kifissos

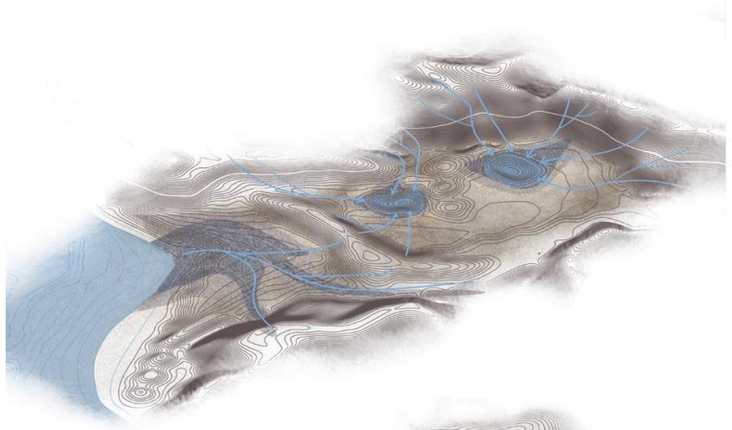


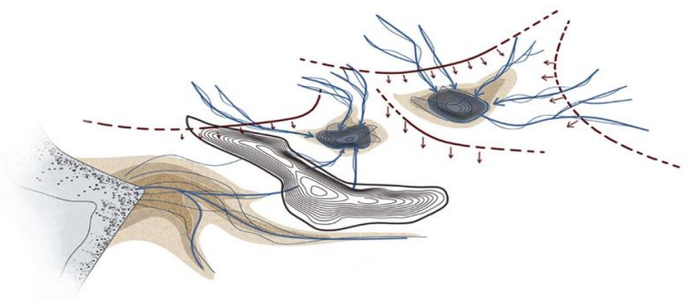
Territorial layer

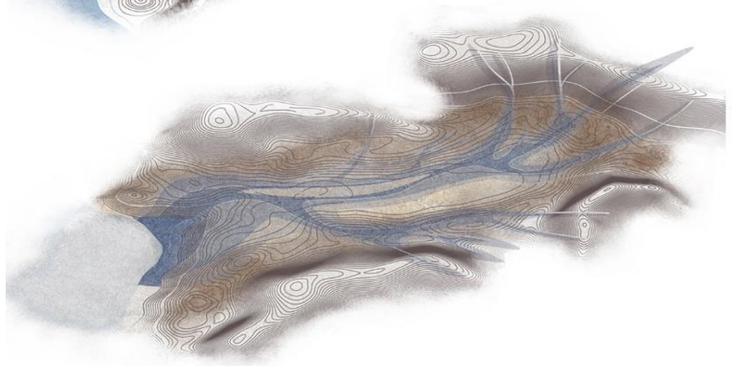
Natural processes erased by urbanisation

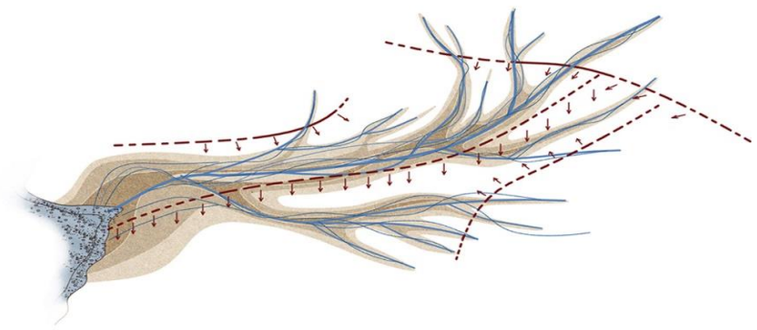


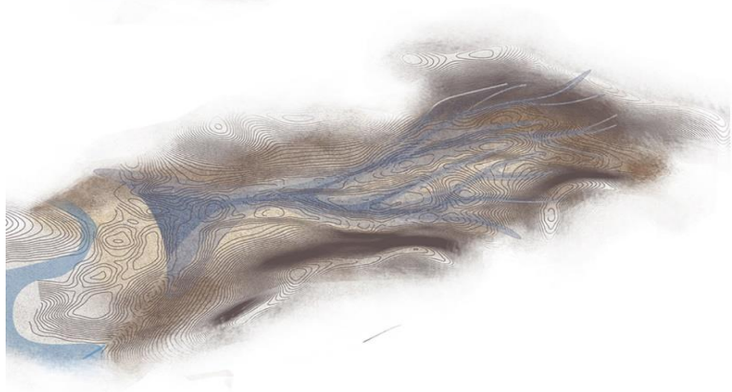


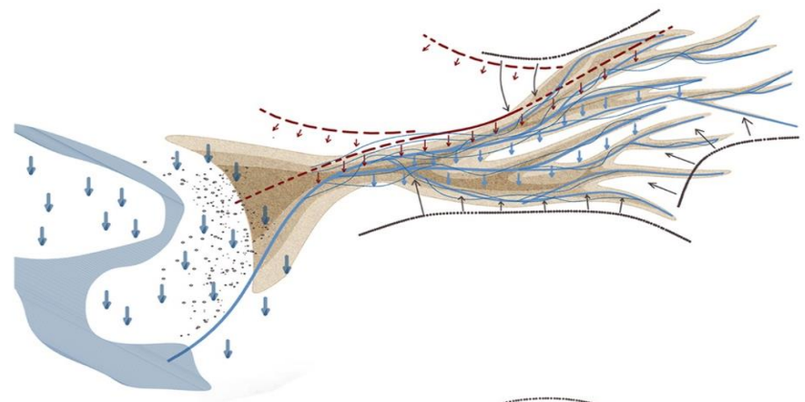


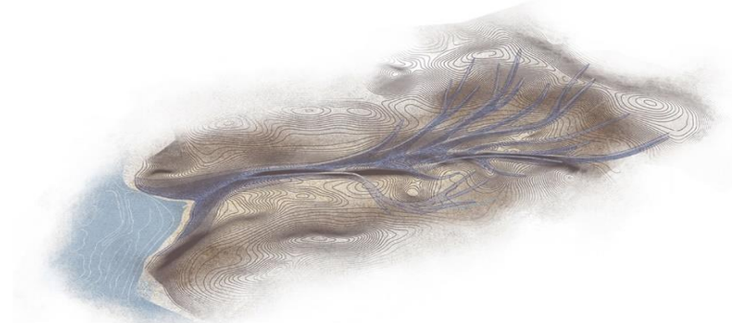


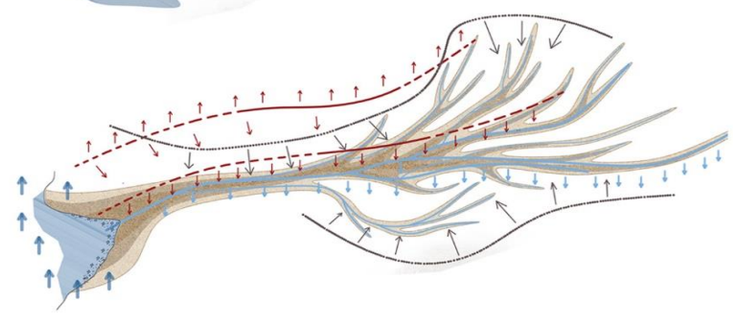






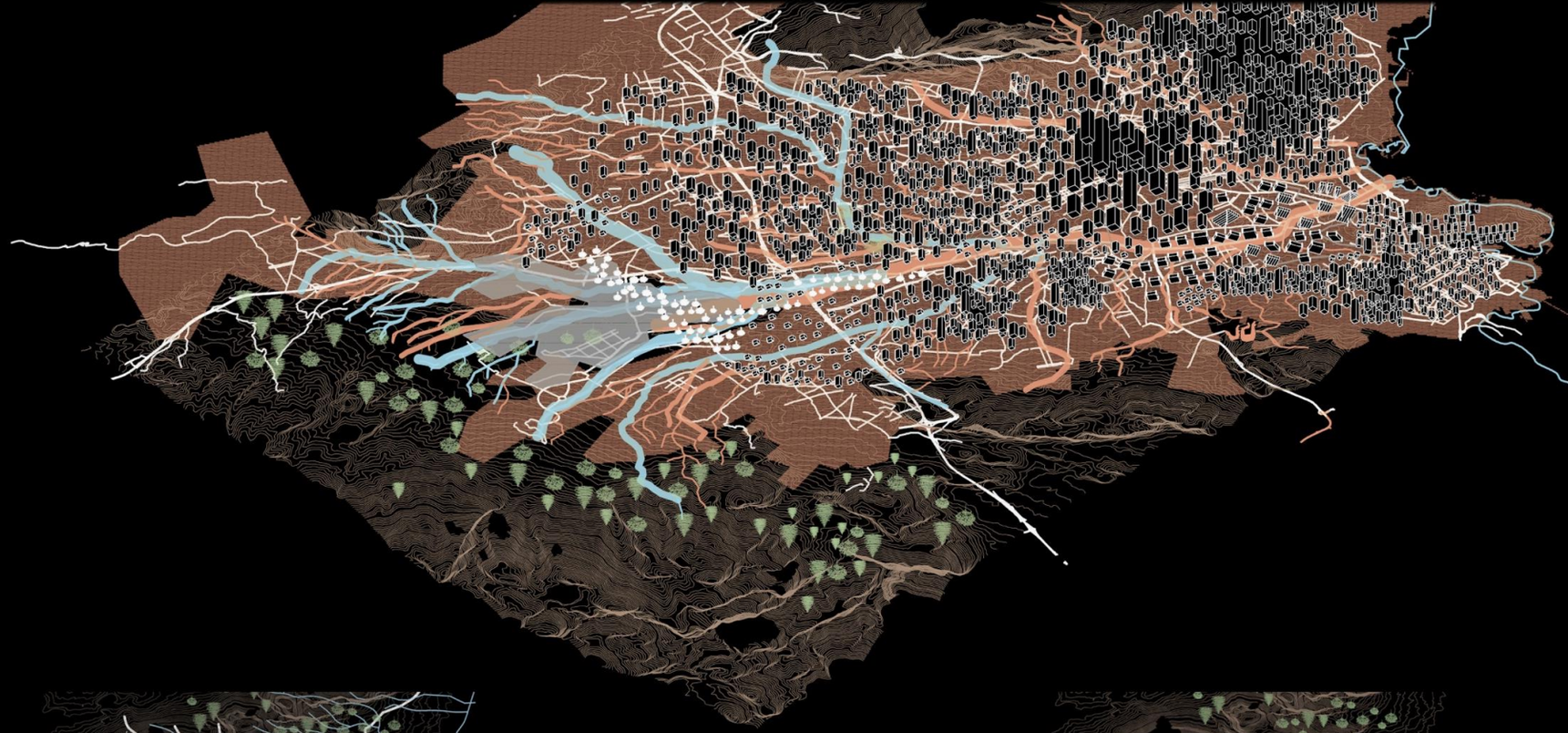


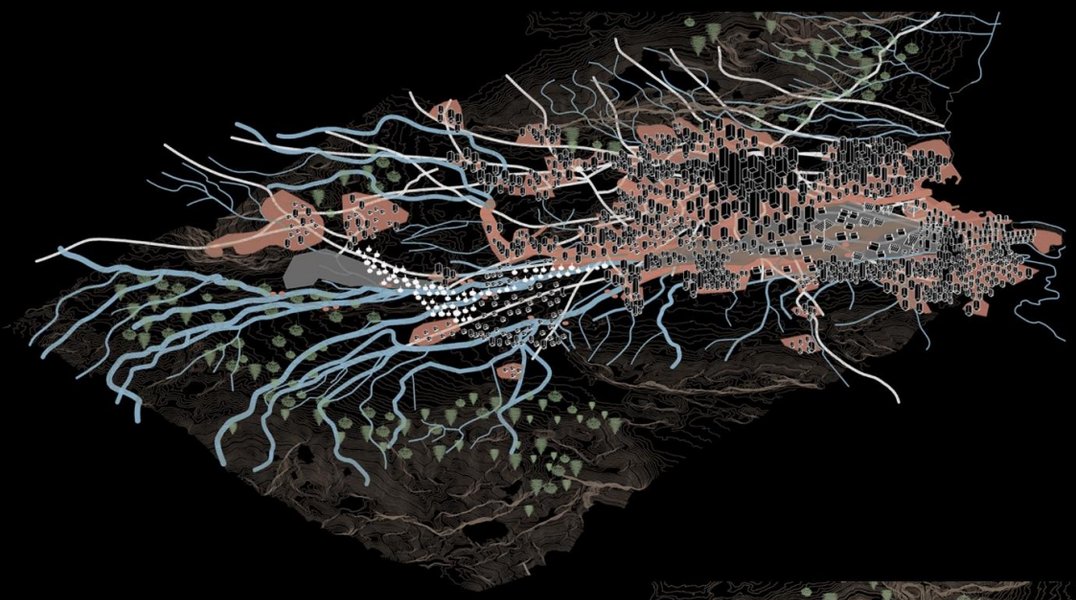


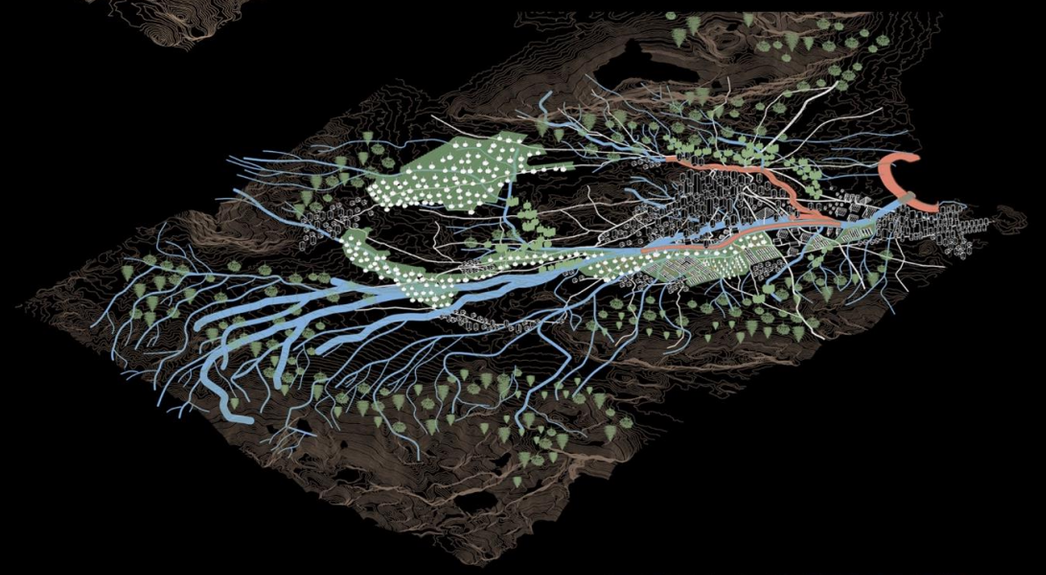


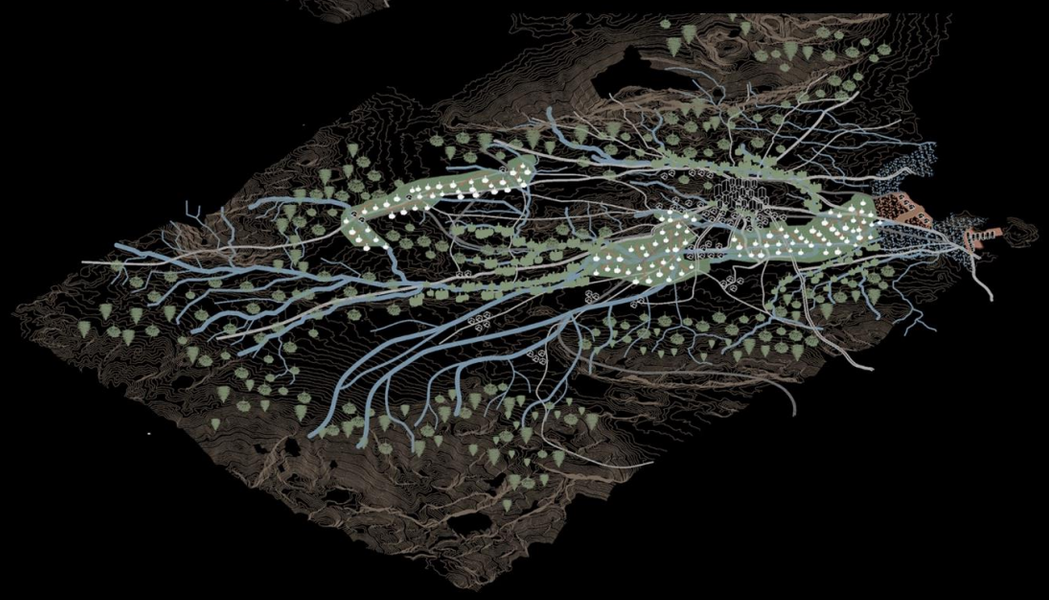
Urban Layer
Fertile situations between formal and informal

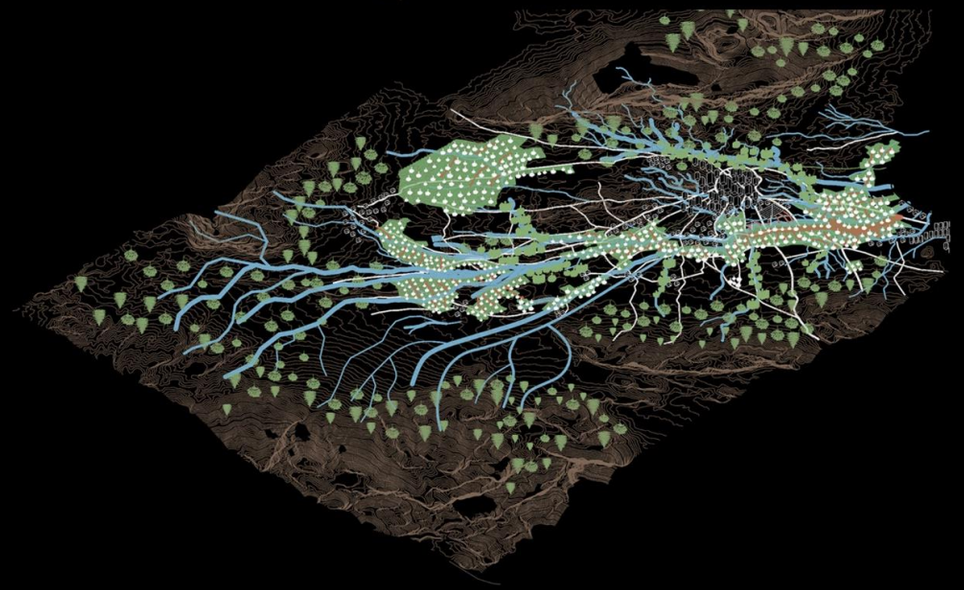
Source: “Athens: Labour, City, Architecture. Towards a Common Architectural Language” (2010-2011)
Pier Vittorio Aureli, Maria S. Giudici, Platon Issaias, Elia Zenghelis and postgraduate researchers Juan Carlos Aristizabal, Hyun Soo Kim, Ivan K. Nasution, Davide Sacconi, Roberto Soundy, Yuichi Watanabe, Ji Hyun Woo, Lingxiao Zhang

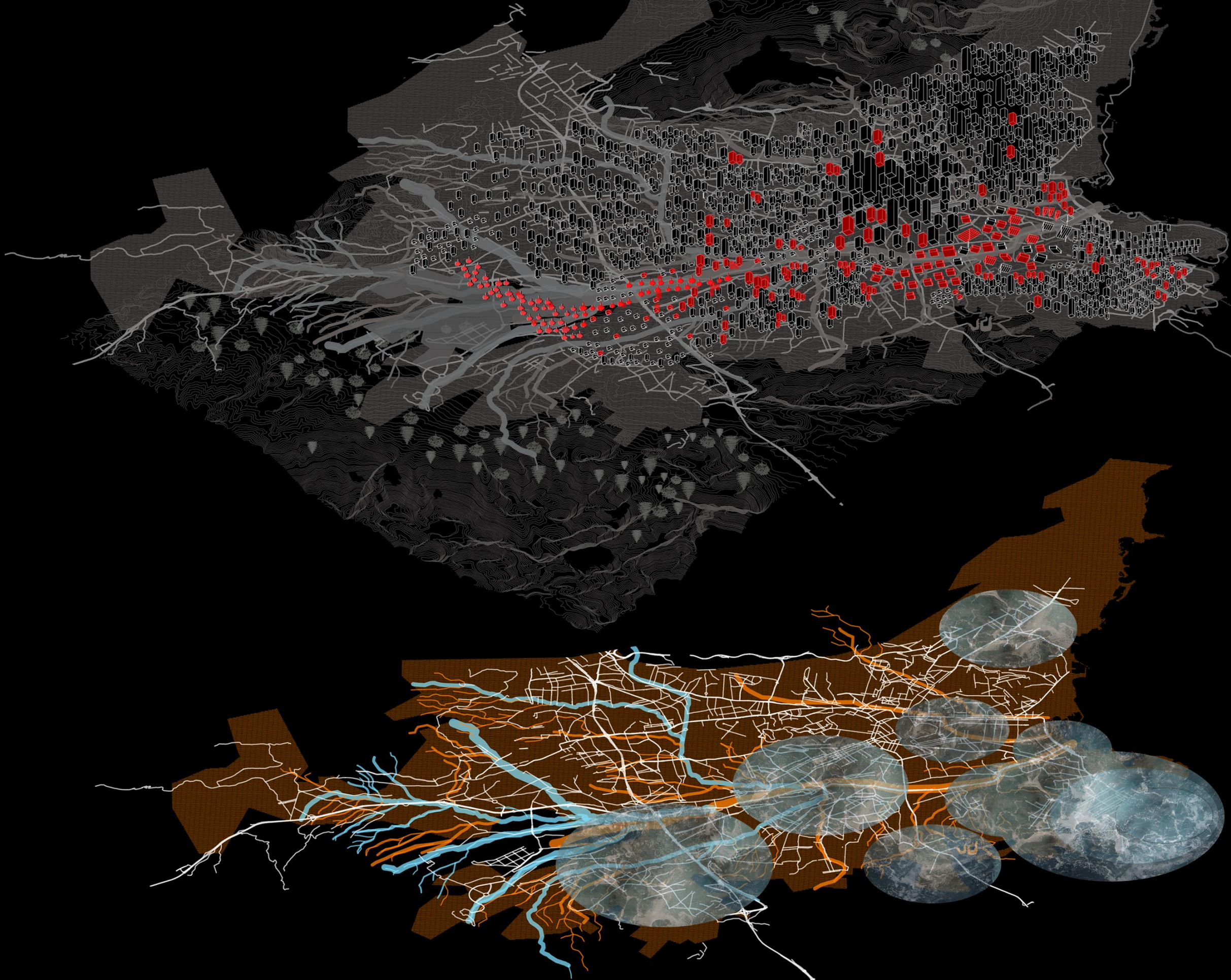












material transformation

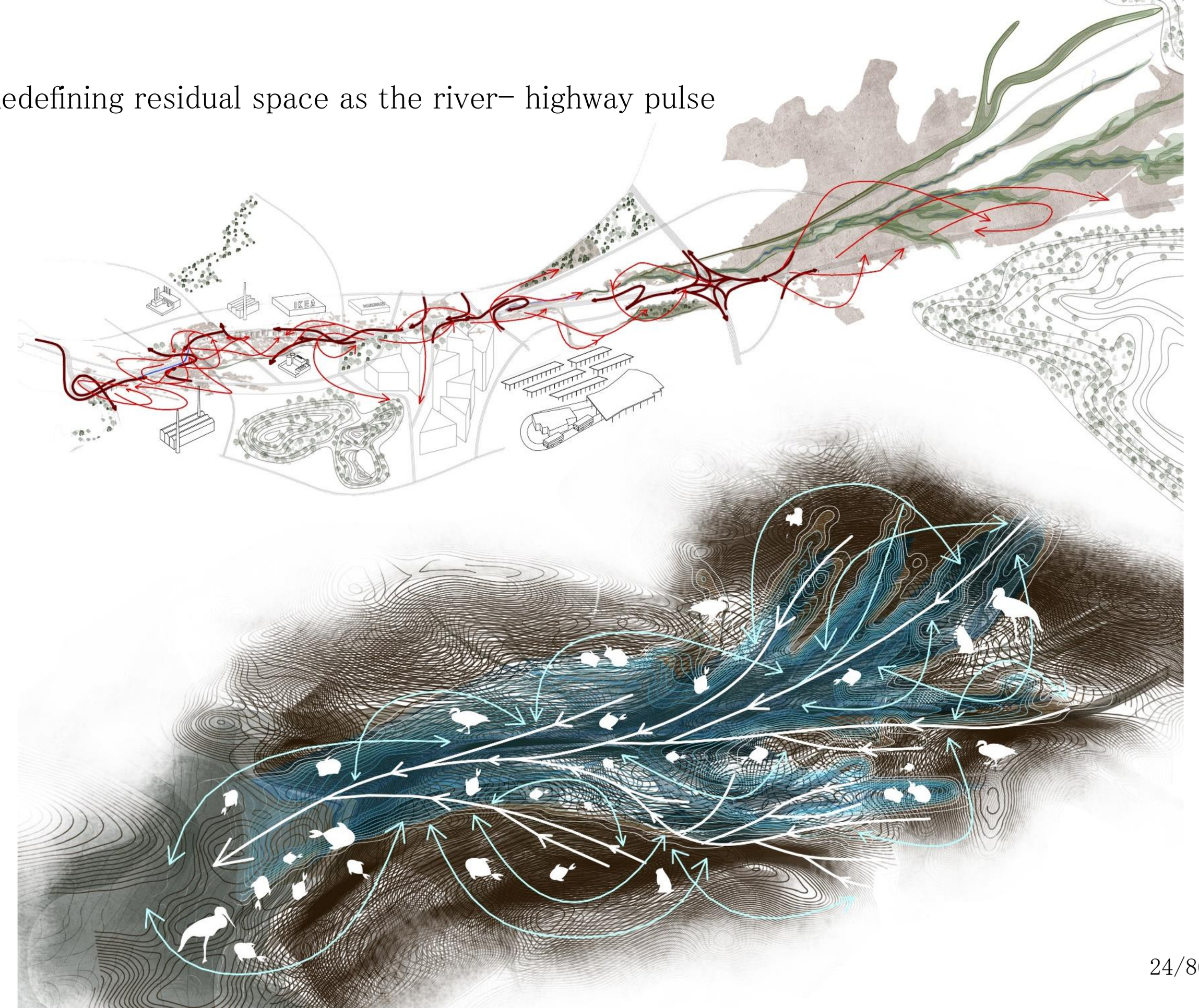
“polykatoikia”

purification

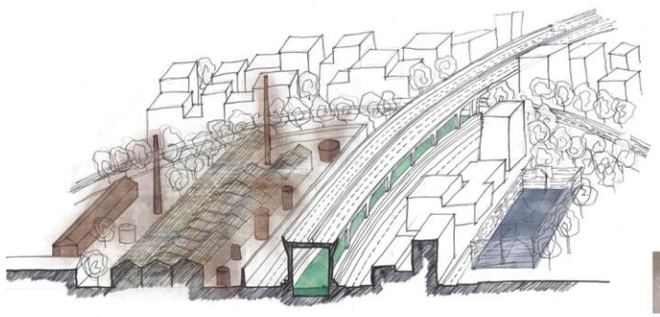
highway avulsion

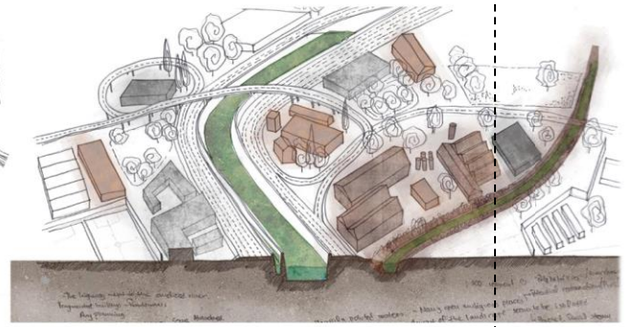
residual pulse

Redefining residual space as the river– highway pulse

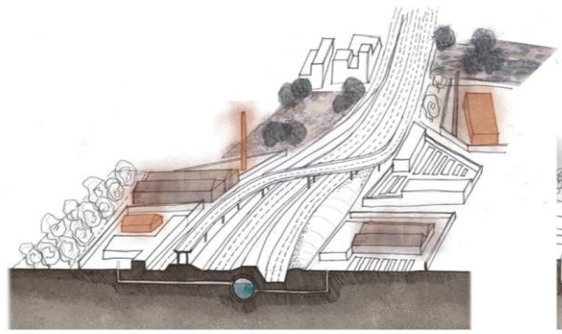


Residual spaces: in between different identities

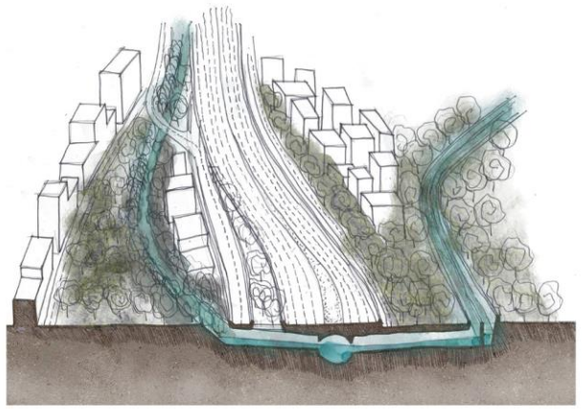


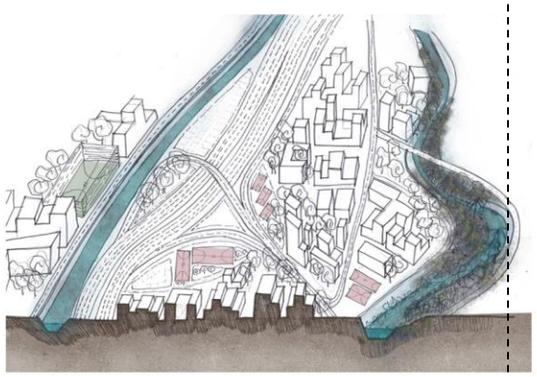


Segments a, b, c: between the residential and the post-industrial city

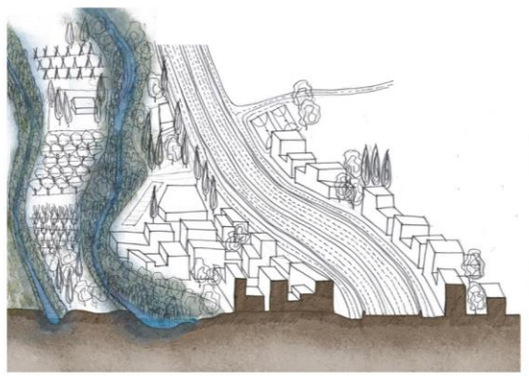


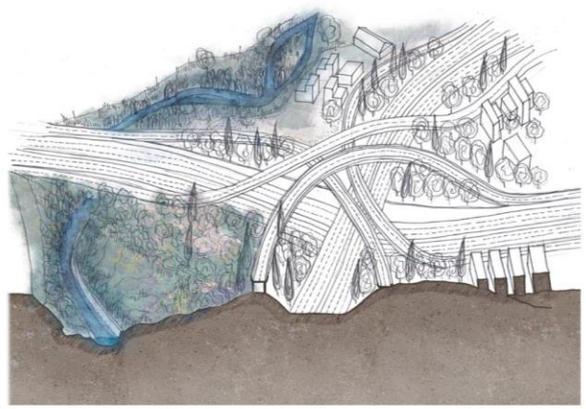
Segments b, c, d: between the infrastructural network and the city





Segments e, f: between more and less contained streams





Segments g, h: between the river and the highway

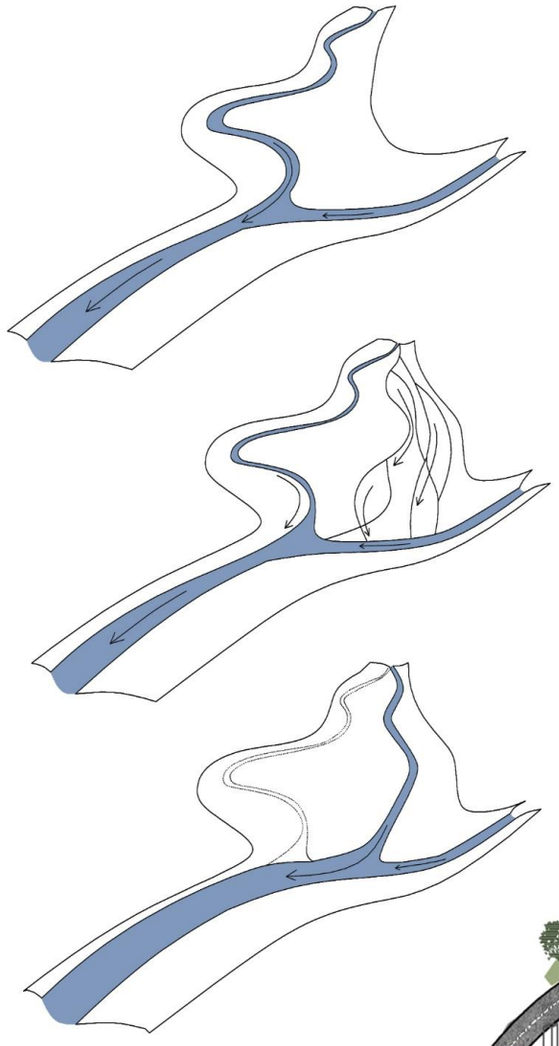
The residual spaces of “Elaionas”: Cracks of Hybridity

Athen’s leftover

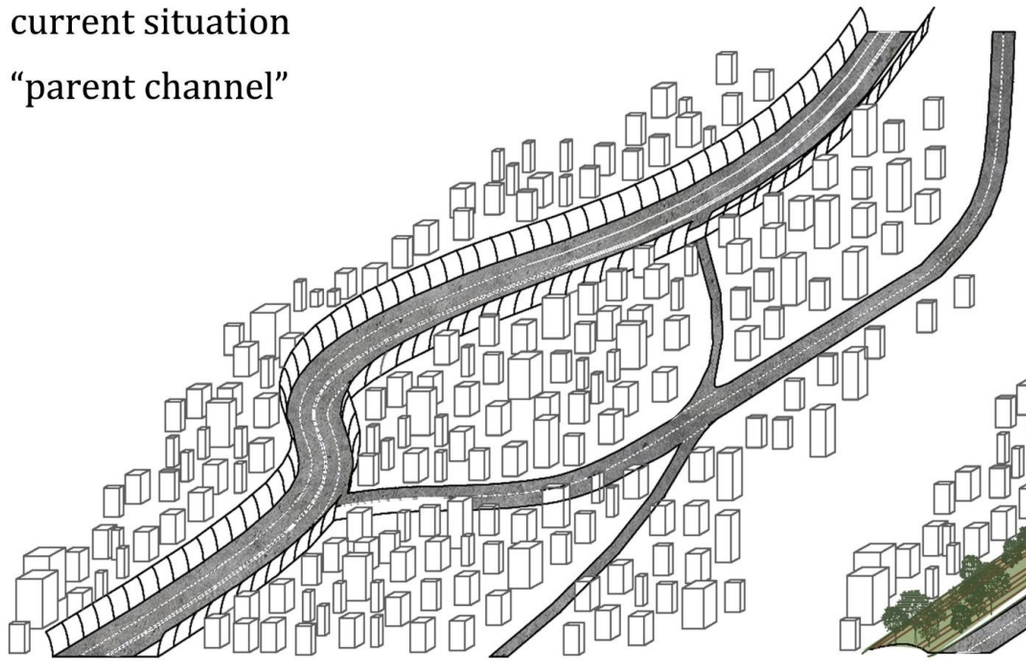
Messy and inactive

From river to Highway avulsion - A way to make room for the river

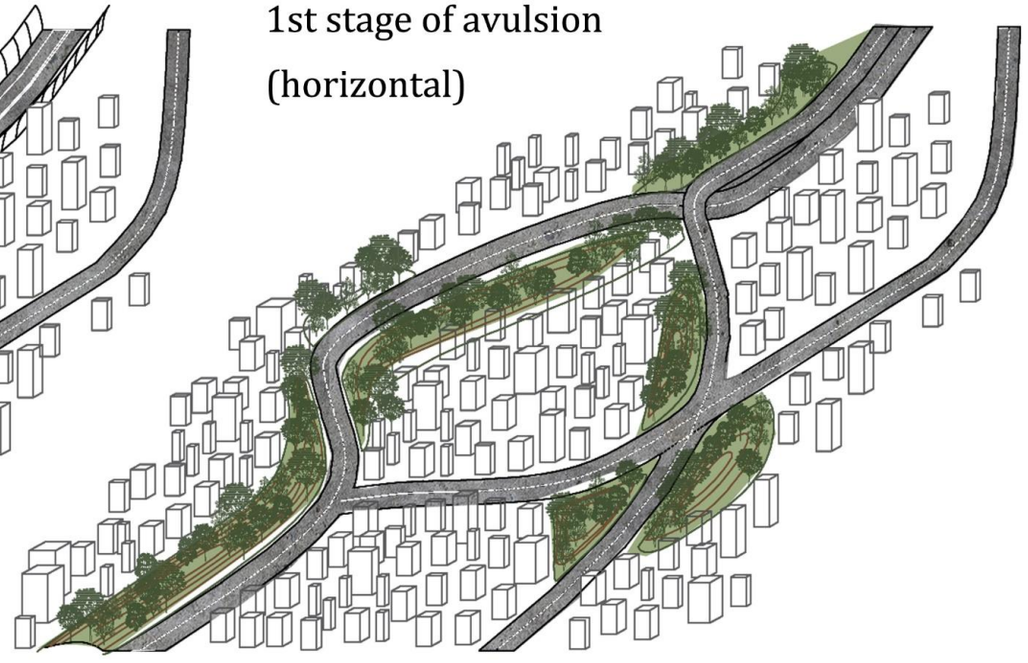
gradual process
of river avulsion



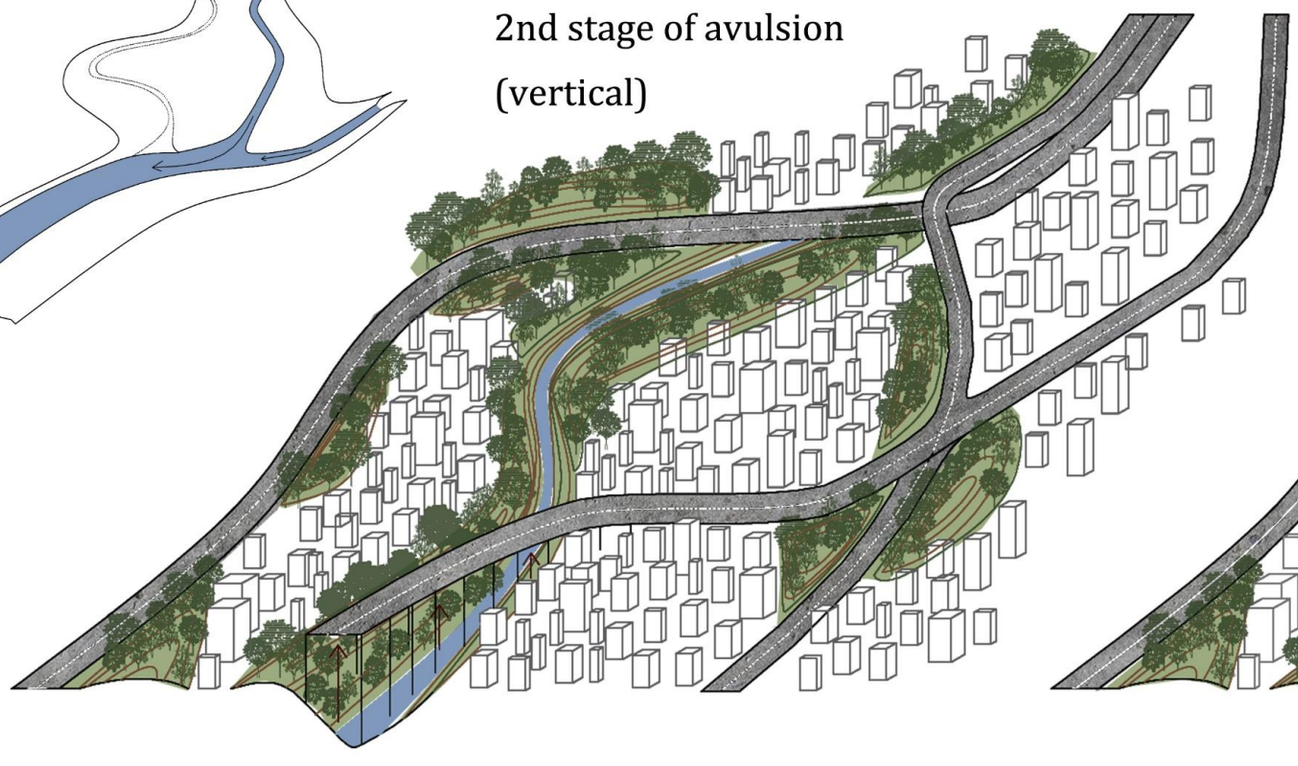
current situation
“parent channel”



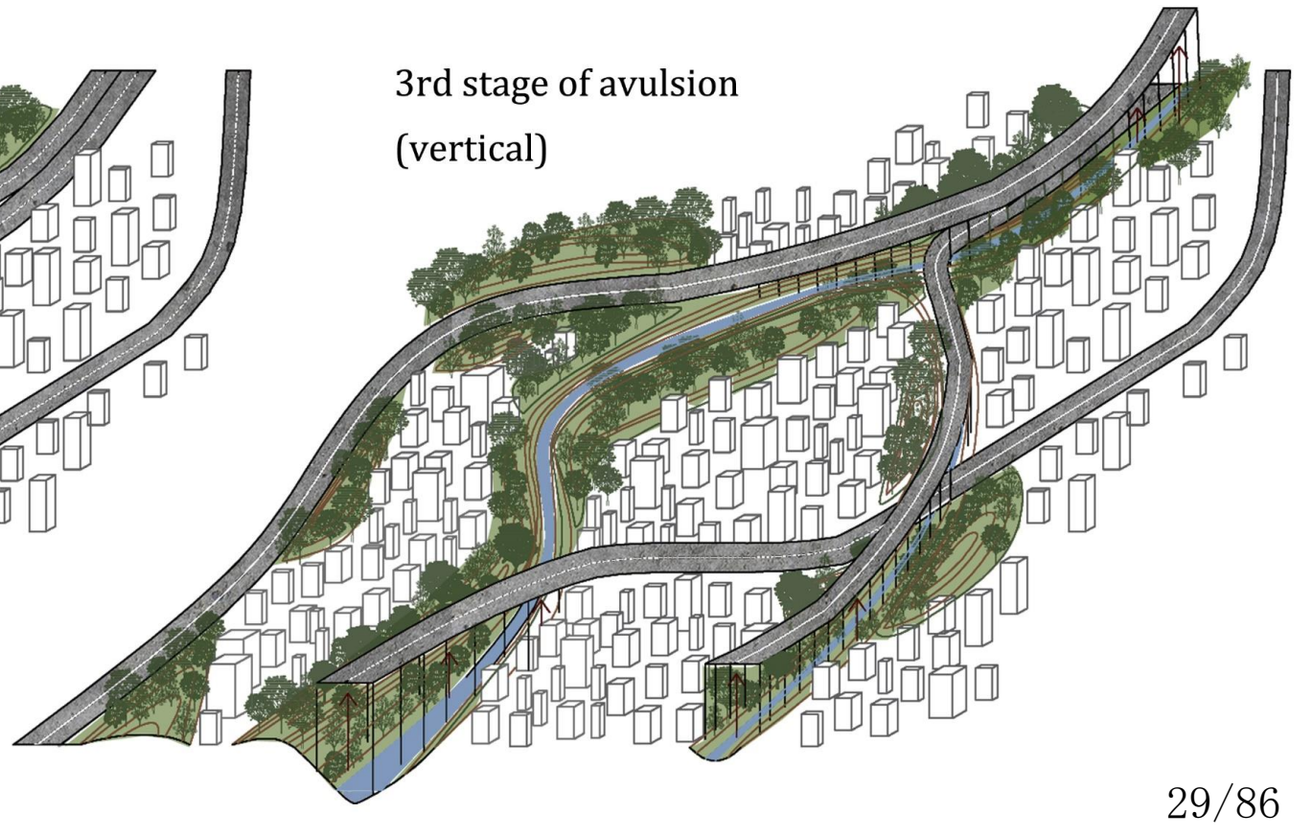
1st stage of avulsion
(horizontal)



2nd stage of avulsion
(vertical)

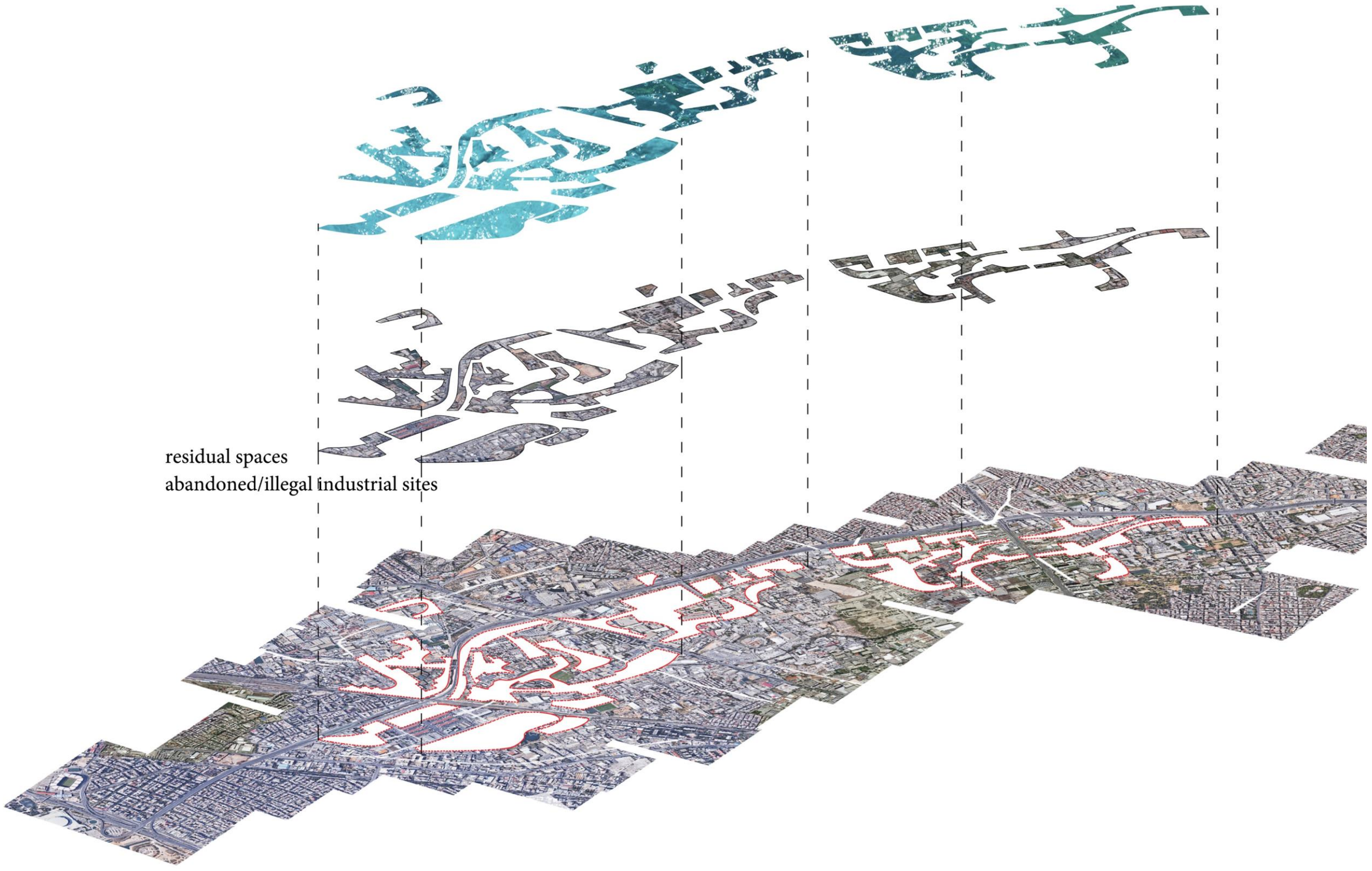


3rd stage of avulsion
(vertical)



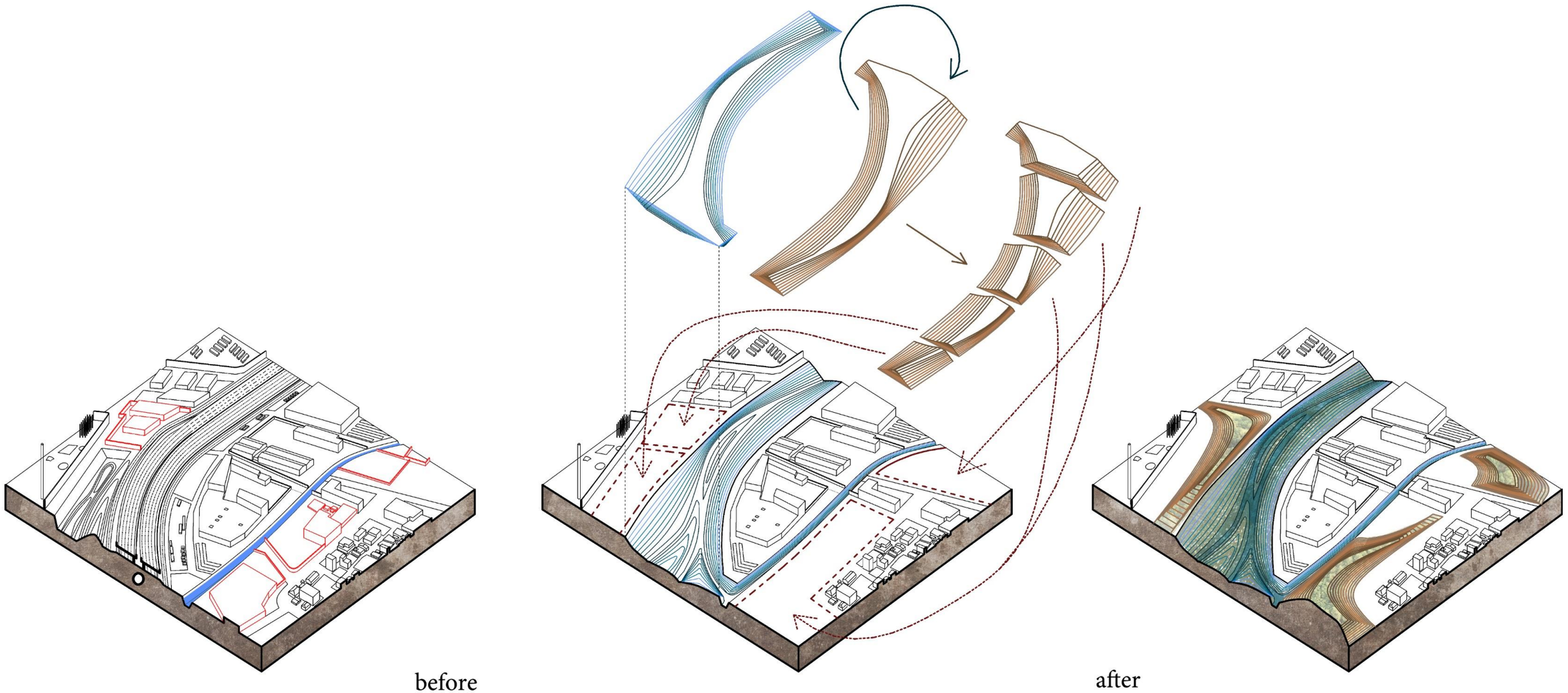
Concept 2. From residual fragments to an integrative landscape

The “cracks” define the widened river space



Concept 3. A topography of Affordances

Relocating the excavated land: from a practical solution to an integrative landscape



before

after

“Polykatoikia” : The formal-informal hybrid

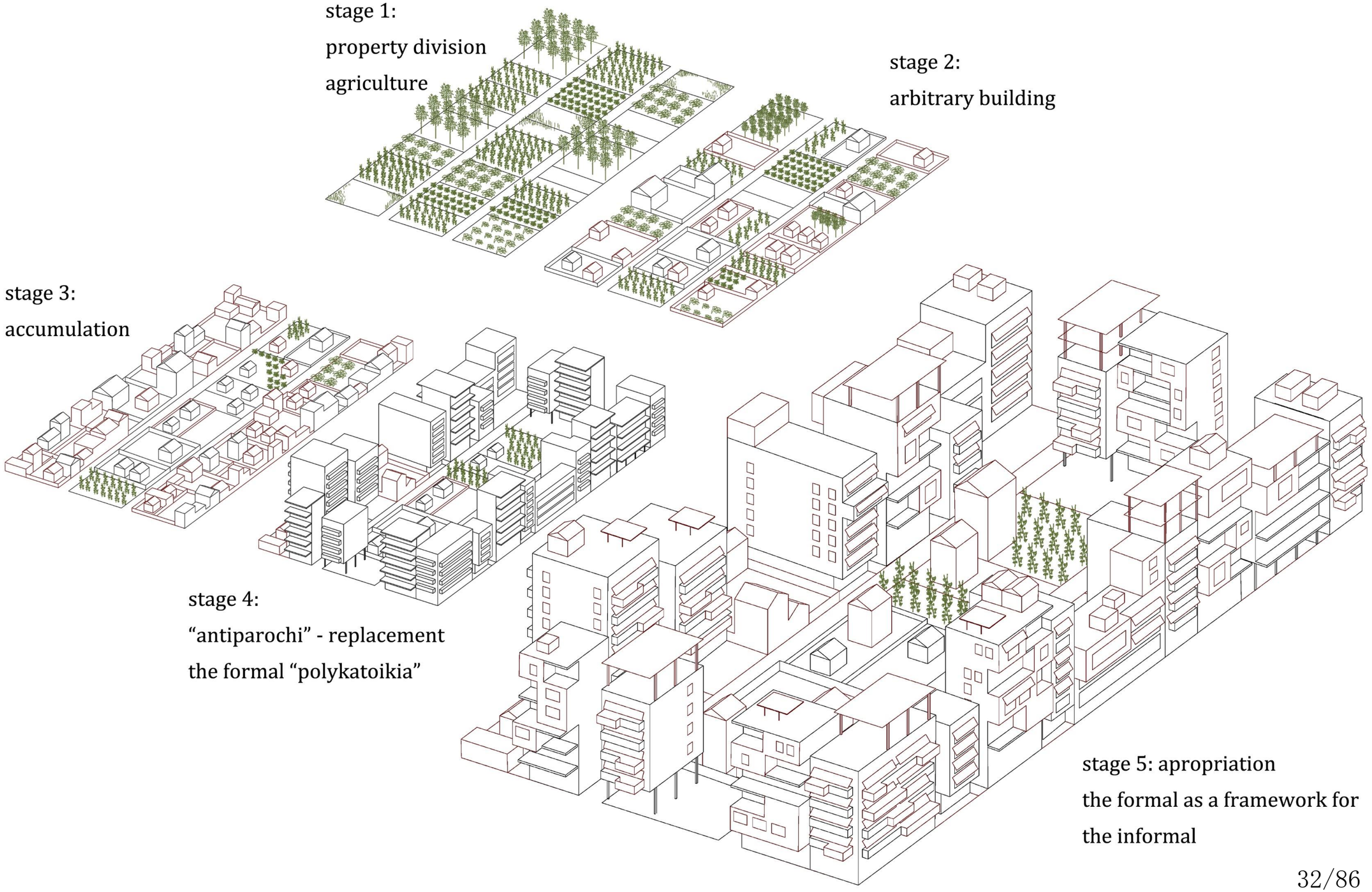
stage 1:
property division
agriculture

stage 2:
arbitrary building

stage 3:
accumulation

stage 4:
“antiparochi” - replacement
the formal “polykatoikia”

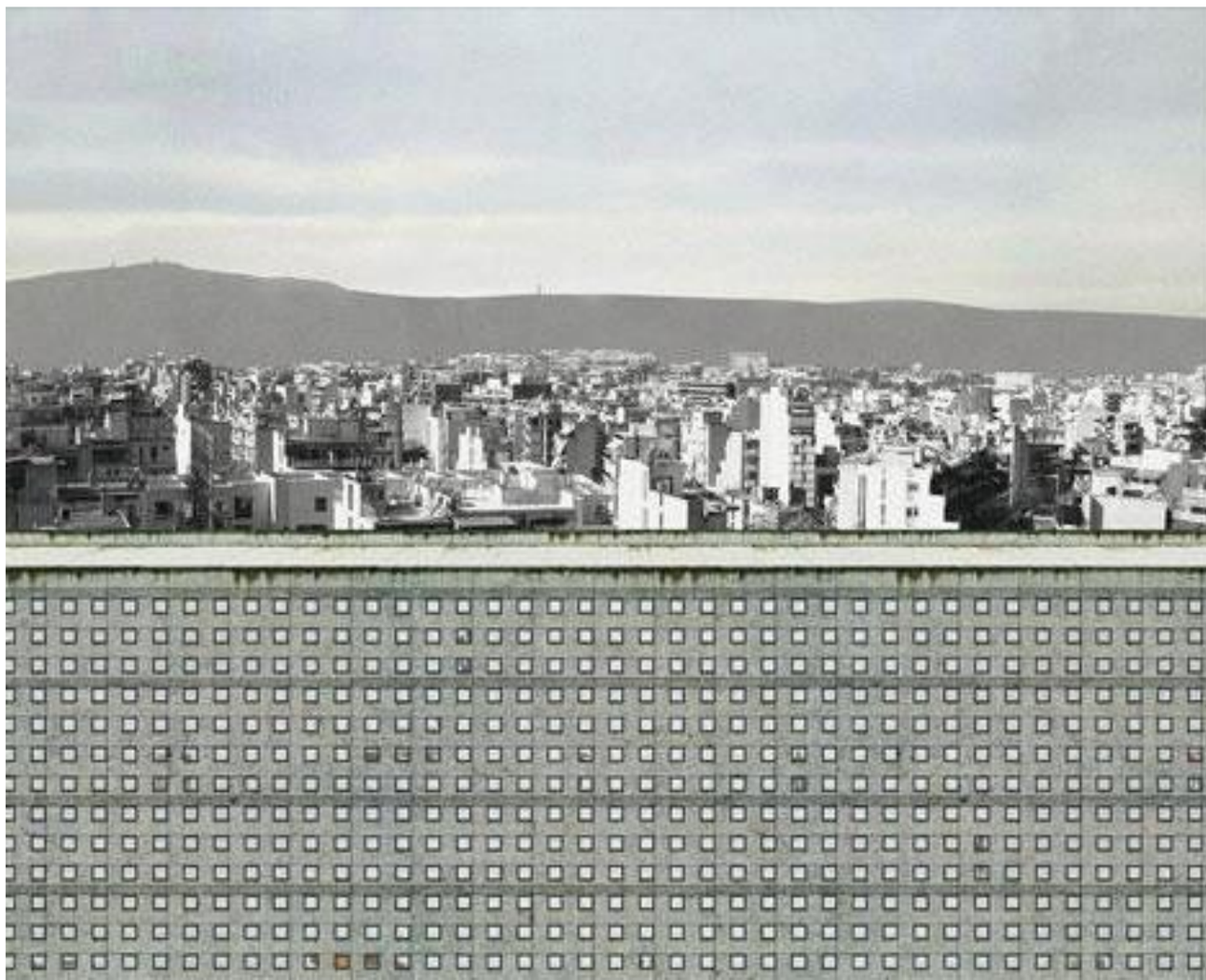
stage 5: apropriation
the formal as a framework for
the informal



In contrast to the new towns that were built in post-war Europe, the mix of uses that was achieved in the "semipermeable" Athenian urban block has contributed to the creation of intimate, safe, and vibrant neighbourhoods. This "osmosis of private and public spheres" that takes place in a modern urban context has been the strongest output of the informal urban development in Greece.

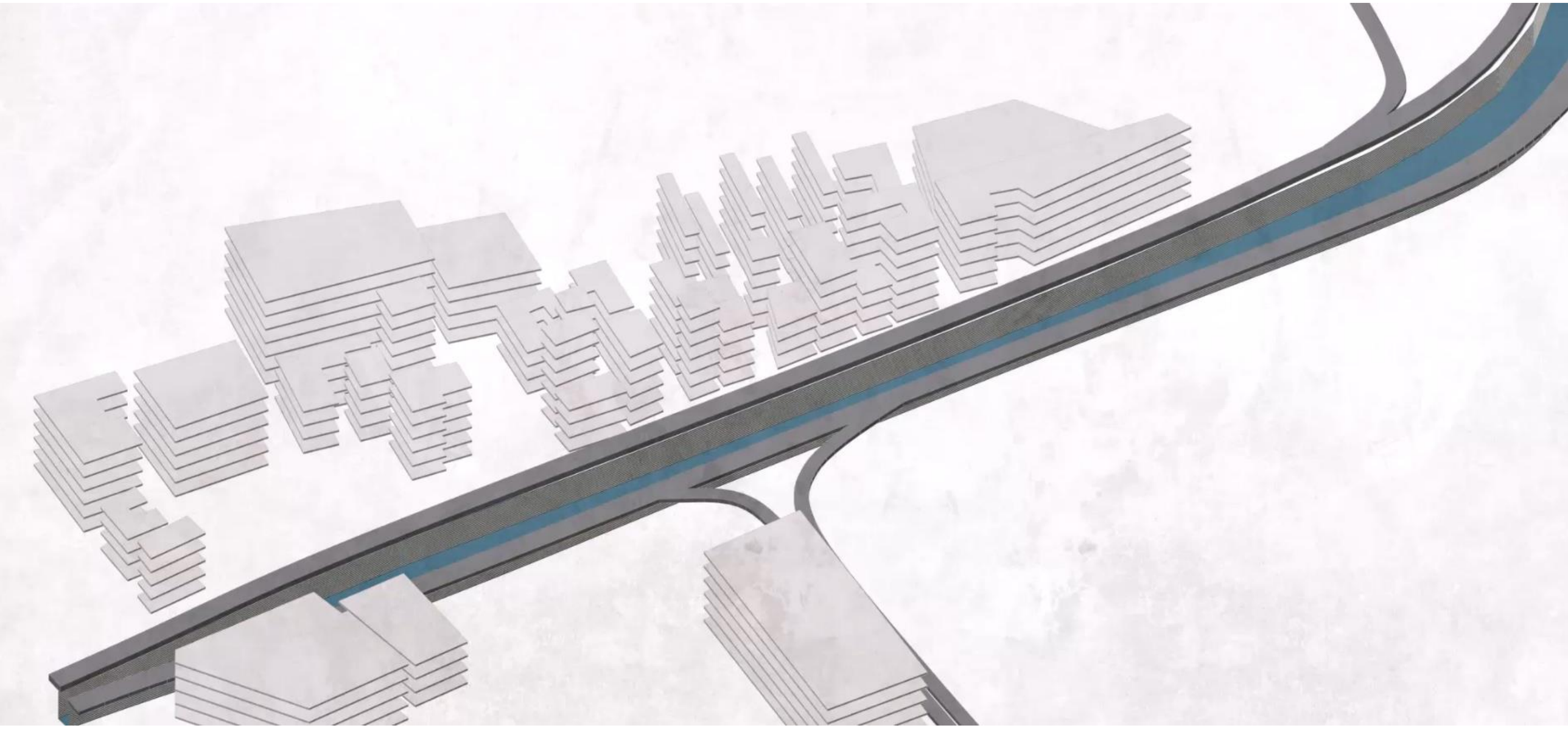
Panos Dragonas, "The birth of polykatoikia"

Source: "Athens: Labour, City, Architecture. Towards a Common Architectural Language" (2010-2011)
Pier Vittorio Aureli, Maria S. Giudici, Platon Issaias, Elia Zenghelis and postgraduate researchers Juan Carlos Aristizabal, Hyun Soo Kim, Ivan K. Nasution, Davide Sacconi, Roberto Soundy, Yuichi Watanabe, Ji Hyun Woo, Lingxiao Zhang



Concept 1. The formal as framework for the informal

The expanded river space as a flexible framework for appropriation



Layers of intervention

Layer 6 - Informal interventions

Layer 5 - Framework for informal interventions

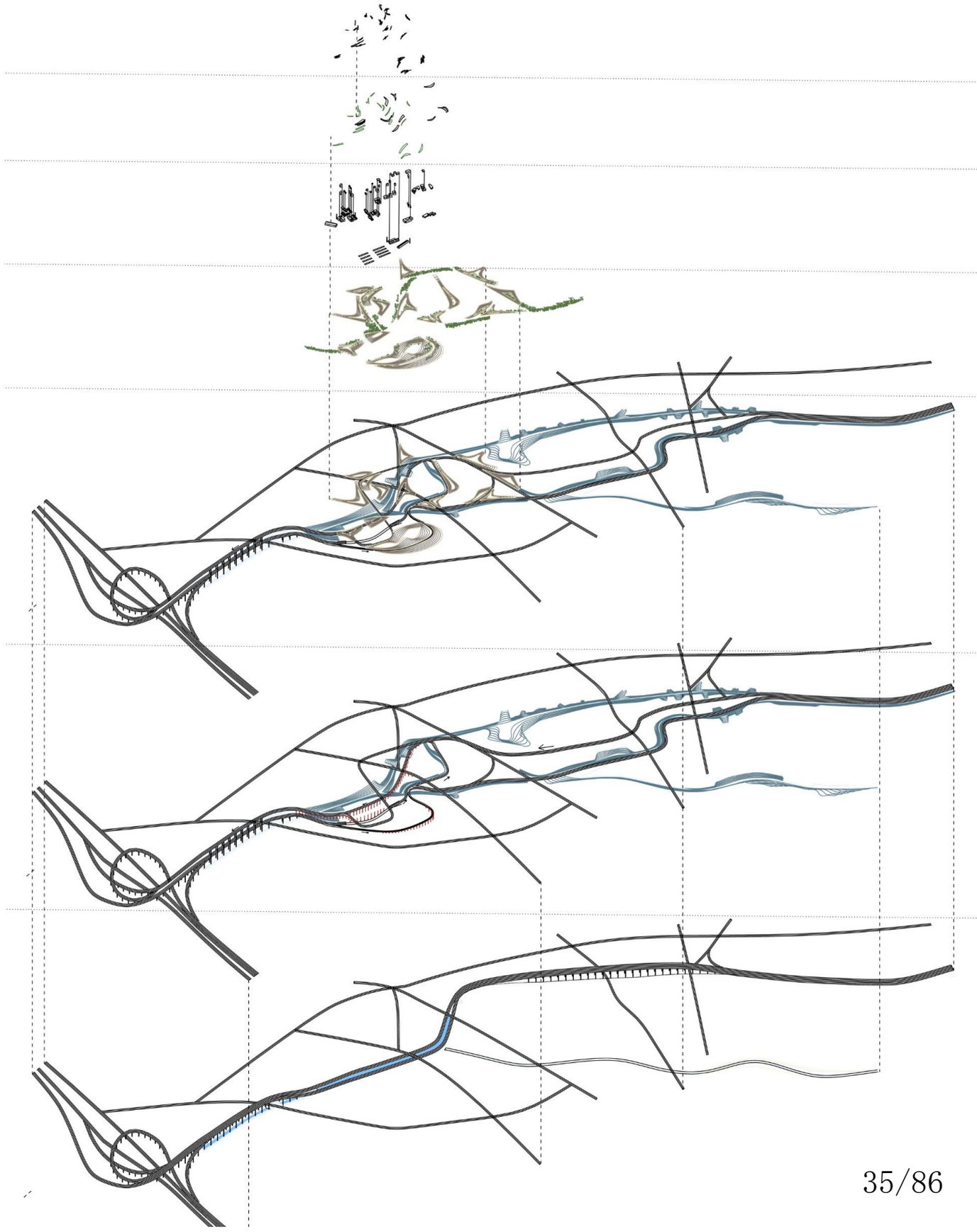
Layer 4 - Transformation laboratories – Material recycling

Layer 3 - Vegetation: boundaries, enclosures, spaces

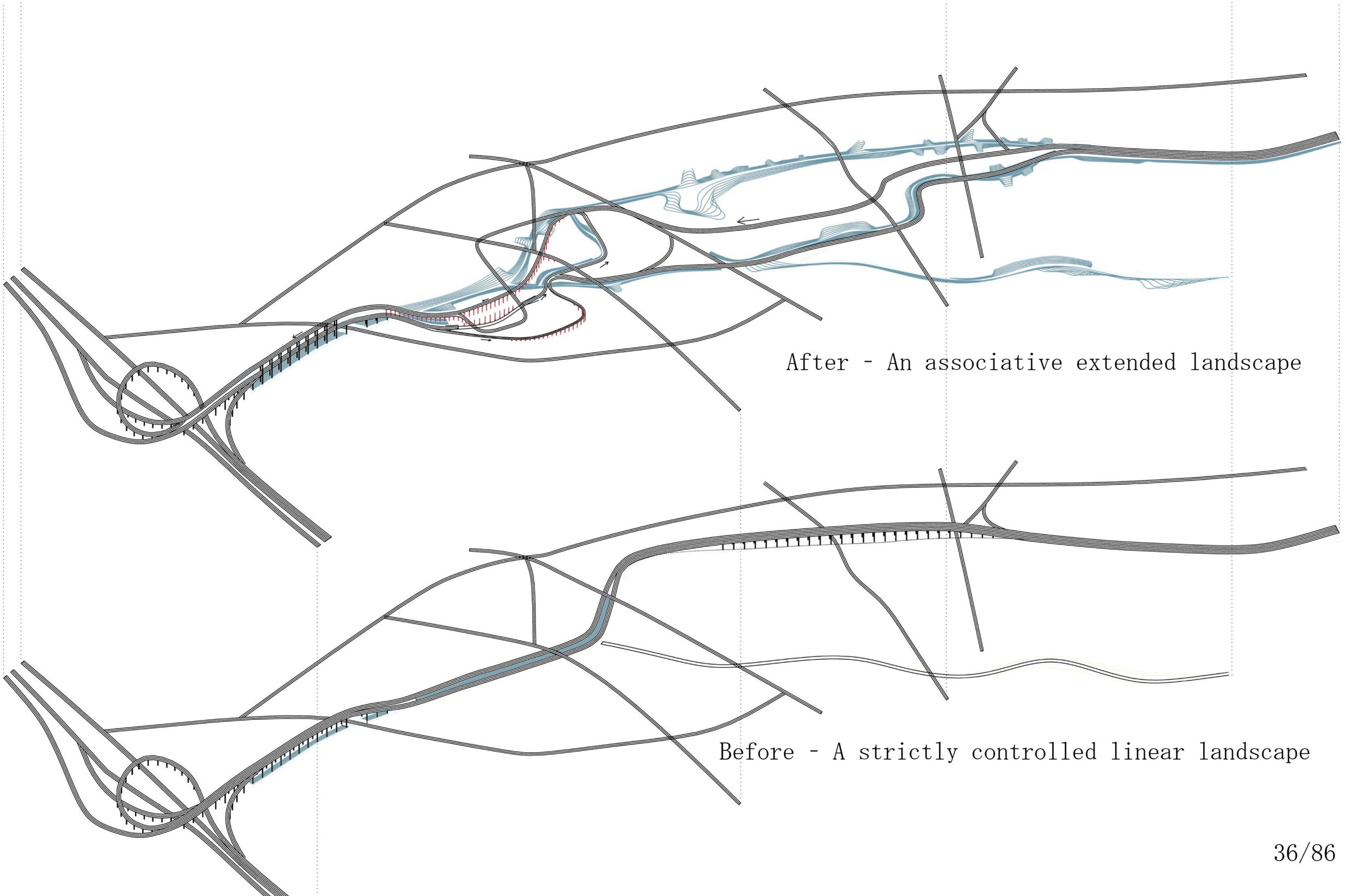
Layer 2 - Transforming the land

Layer 1 - Highway avulsion and widening the river space

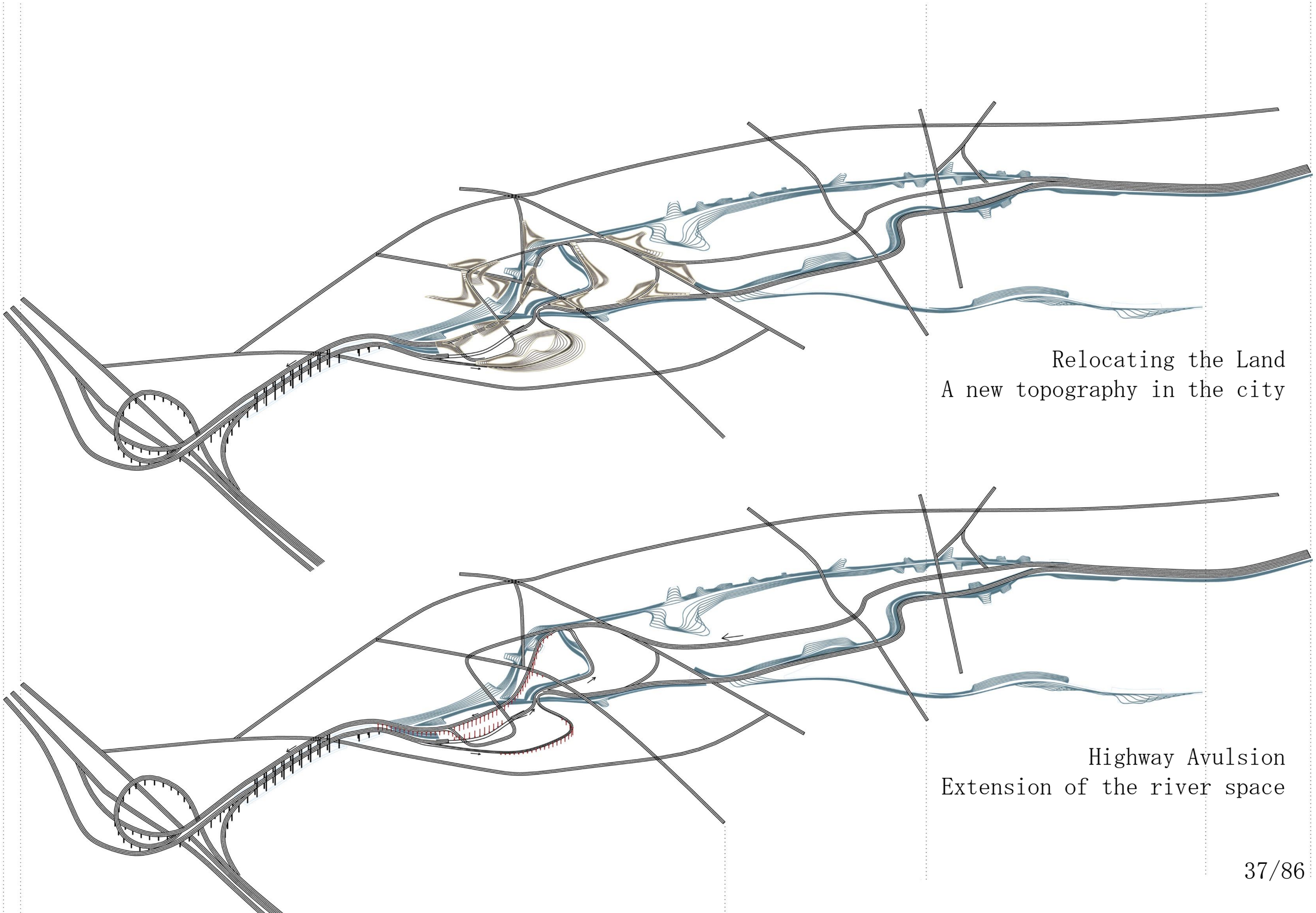
existing condition



Layer 1 - Highway avulsion and widening the river space



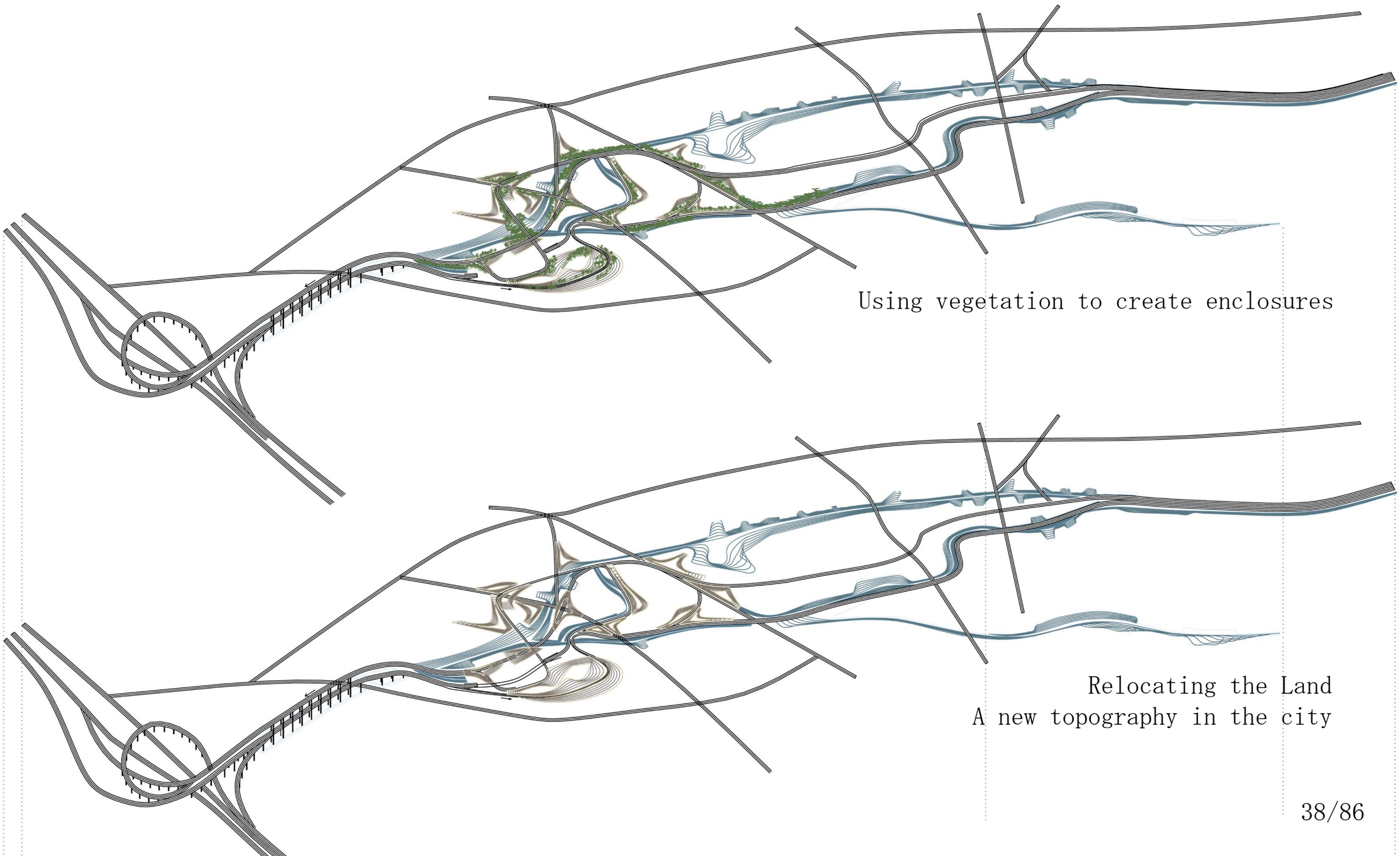
Layer 2 - Relocating / Transforming the land



Relocating the Land
A new topography in the city

Highway Avulsion
Extension of the river space

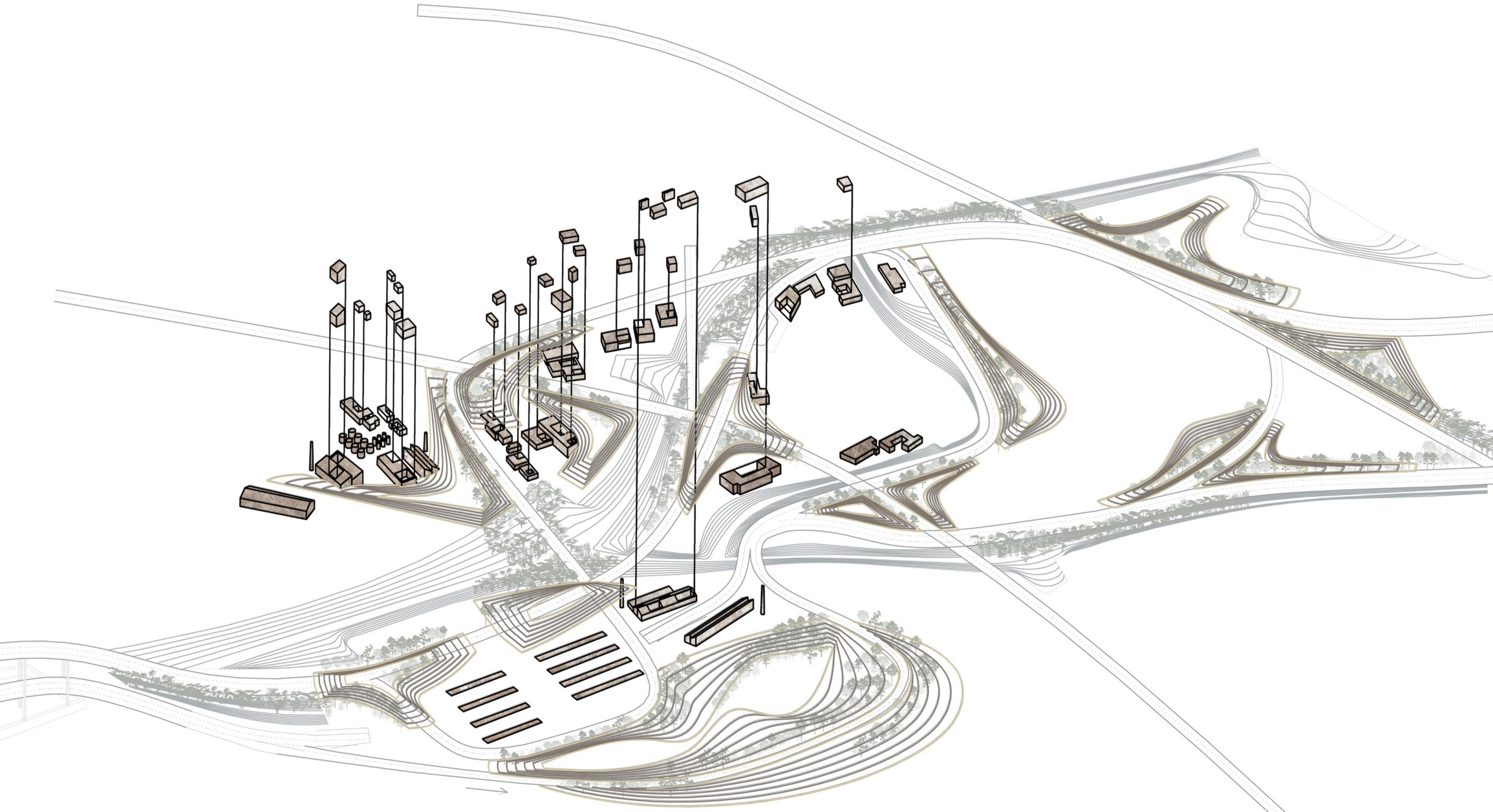
Layer 3 - Boundaries of Vegetation



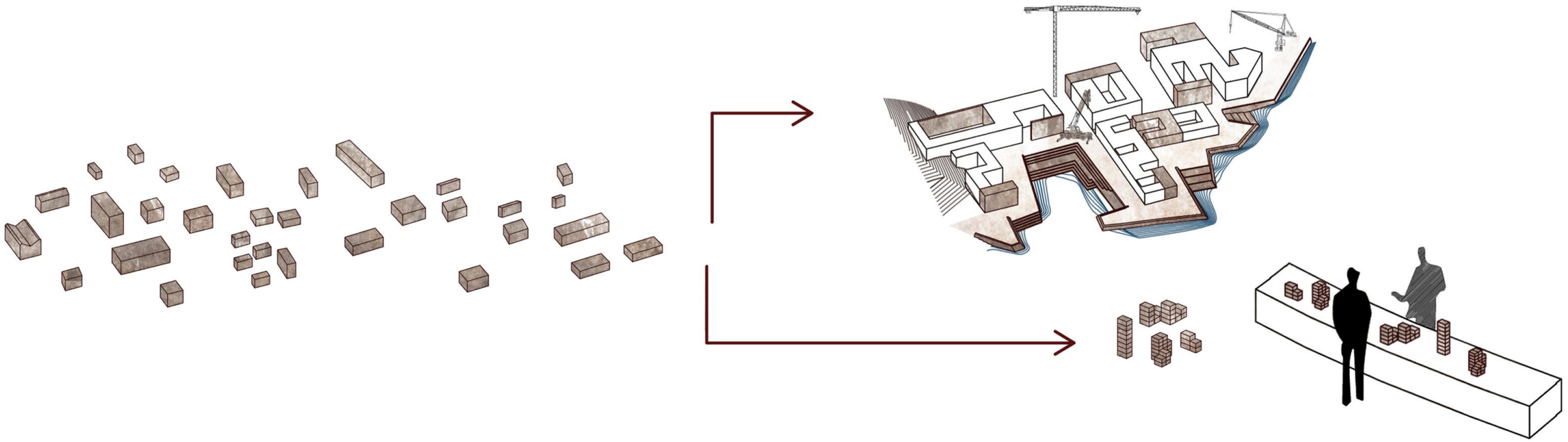
Using vegetation to create enclosures

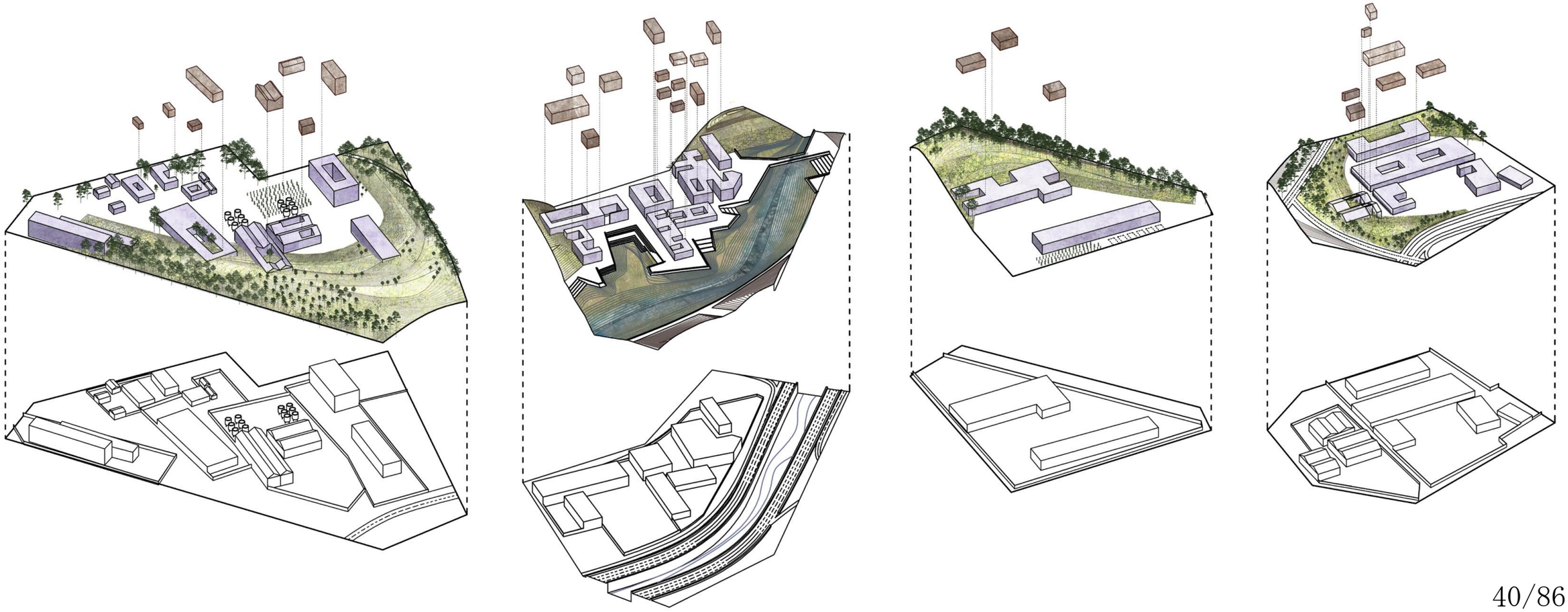
Layer 4 - Transformation laboratories

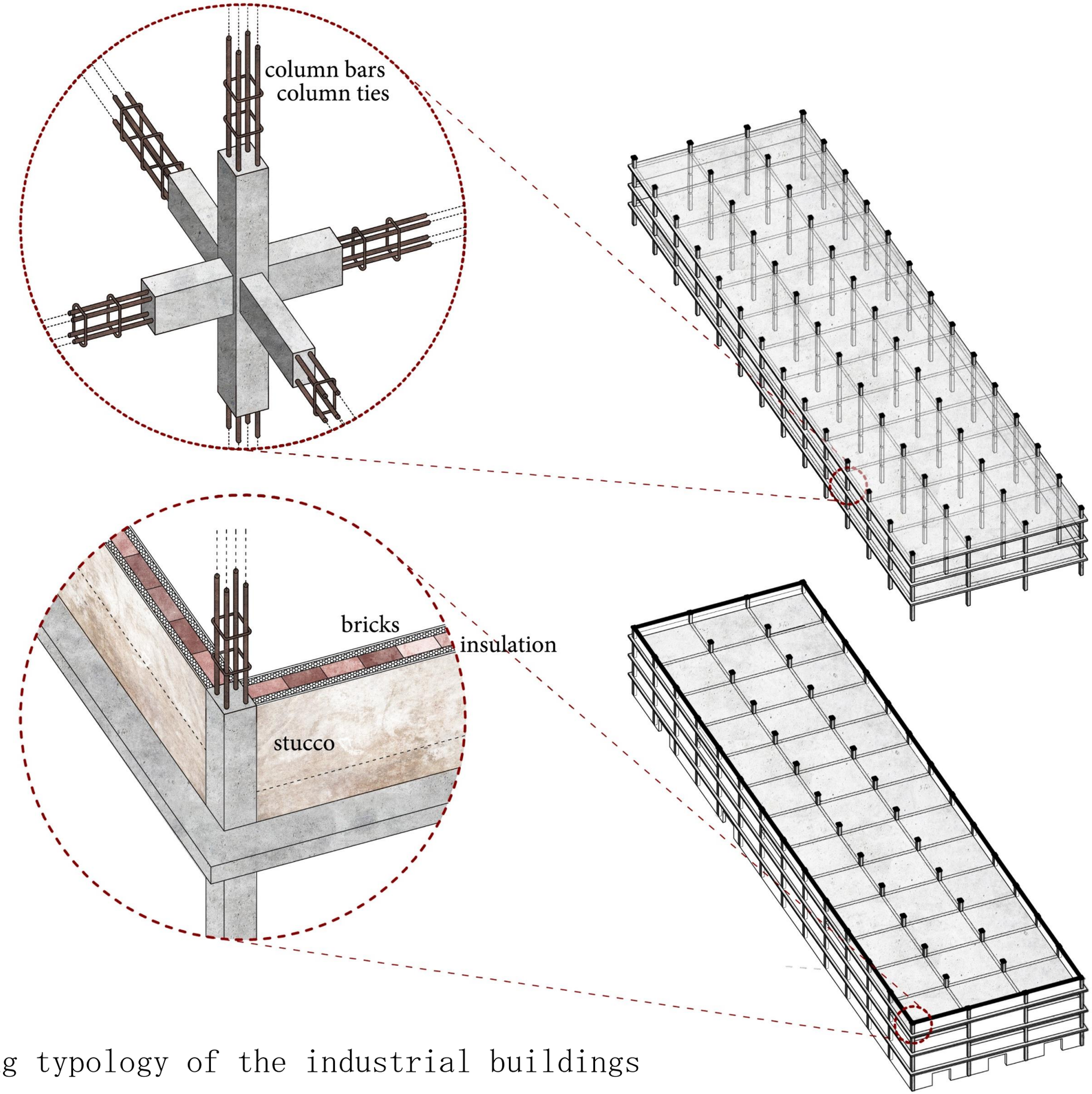
Reuse of Material - Recycling the post industrial city



Recycling the post industrial city - reusing material for new constructions

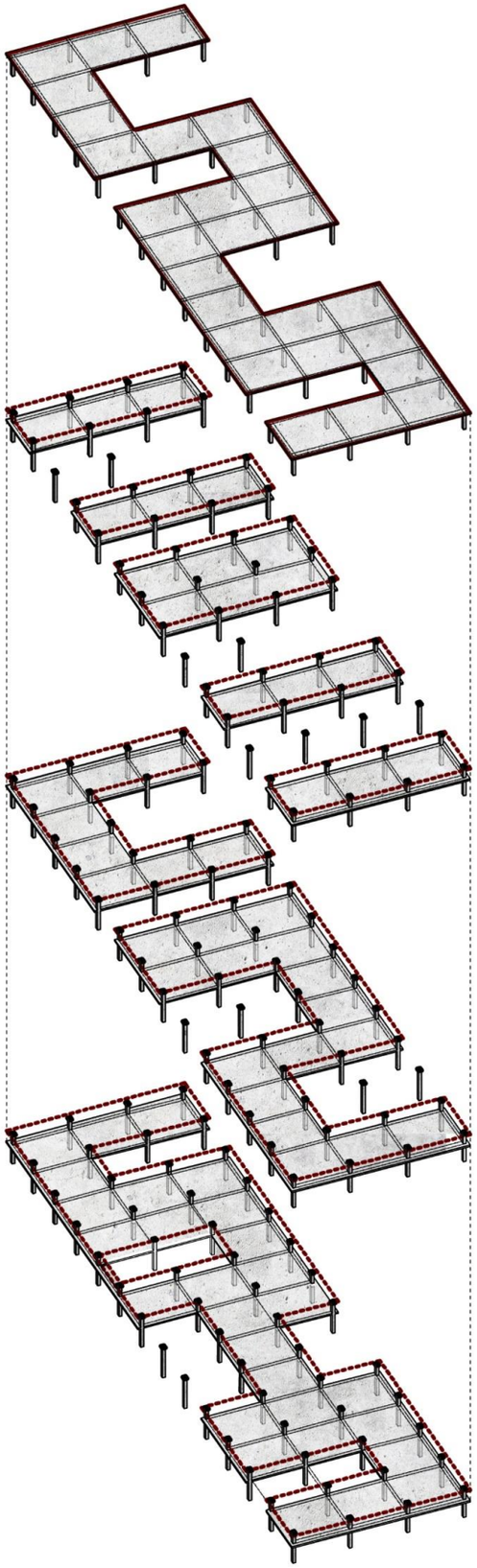


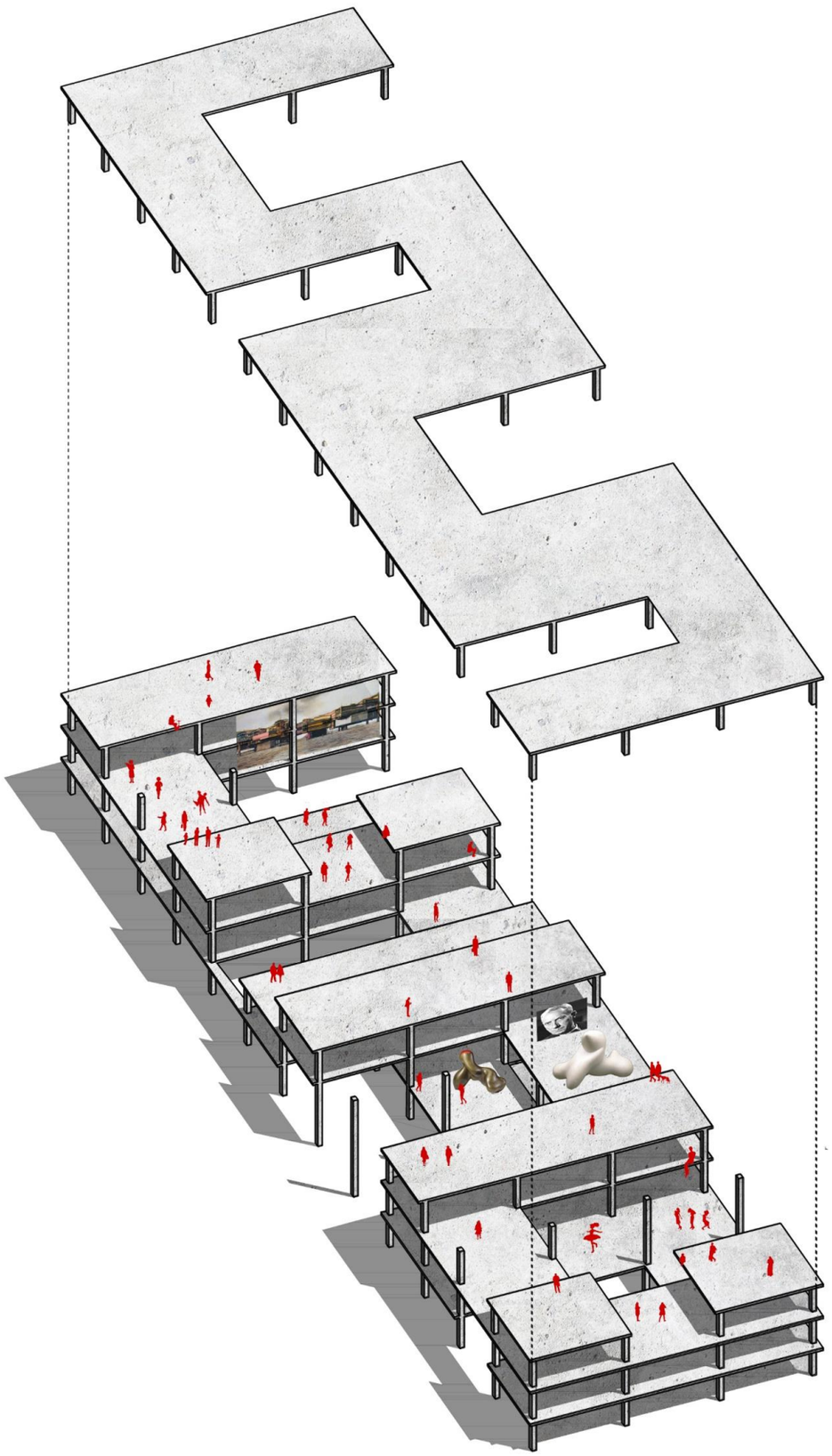


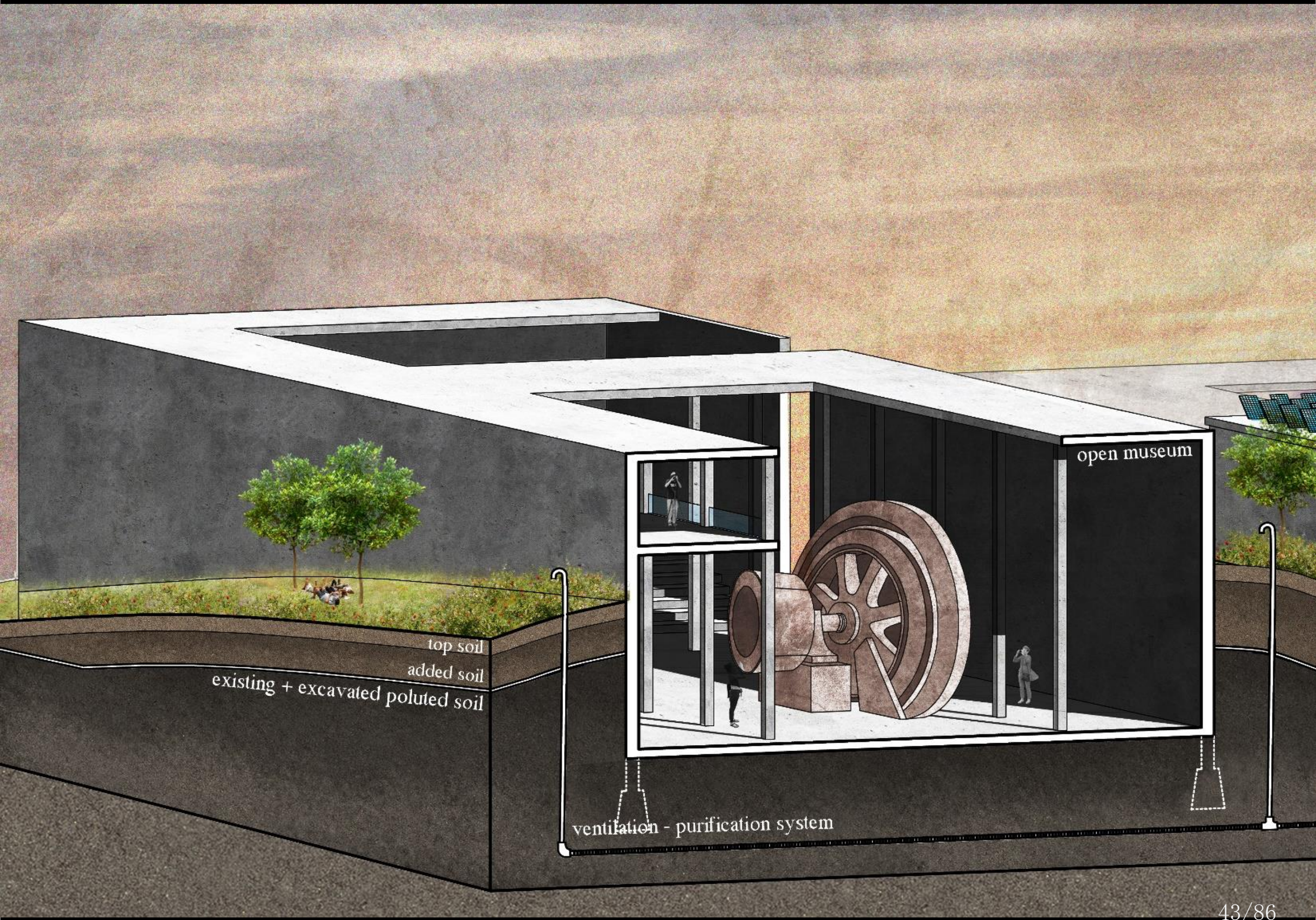


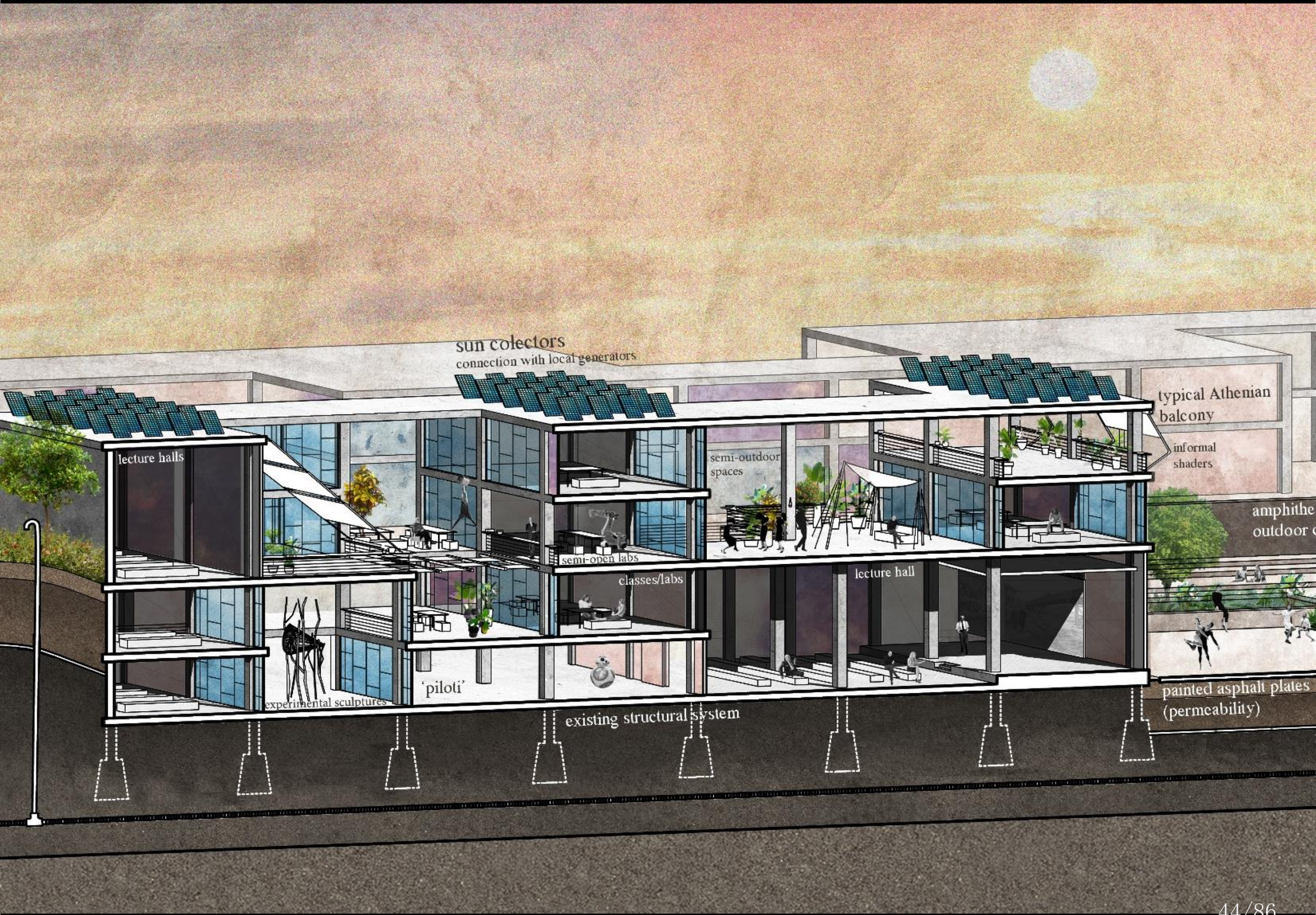
Existing typology of the industrial buildings

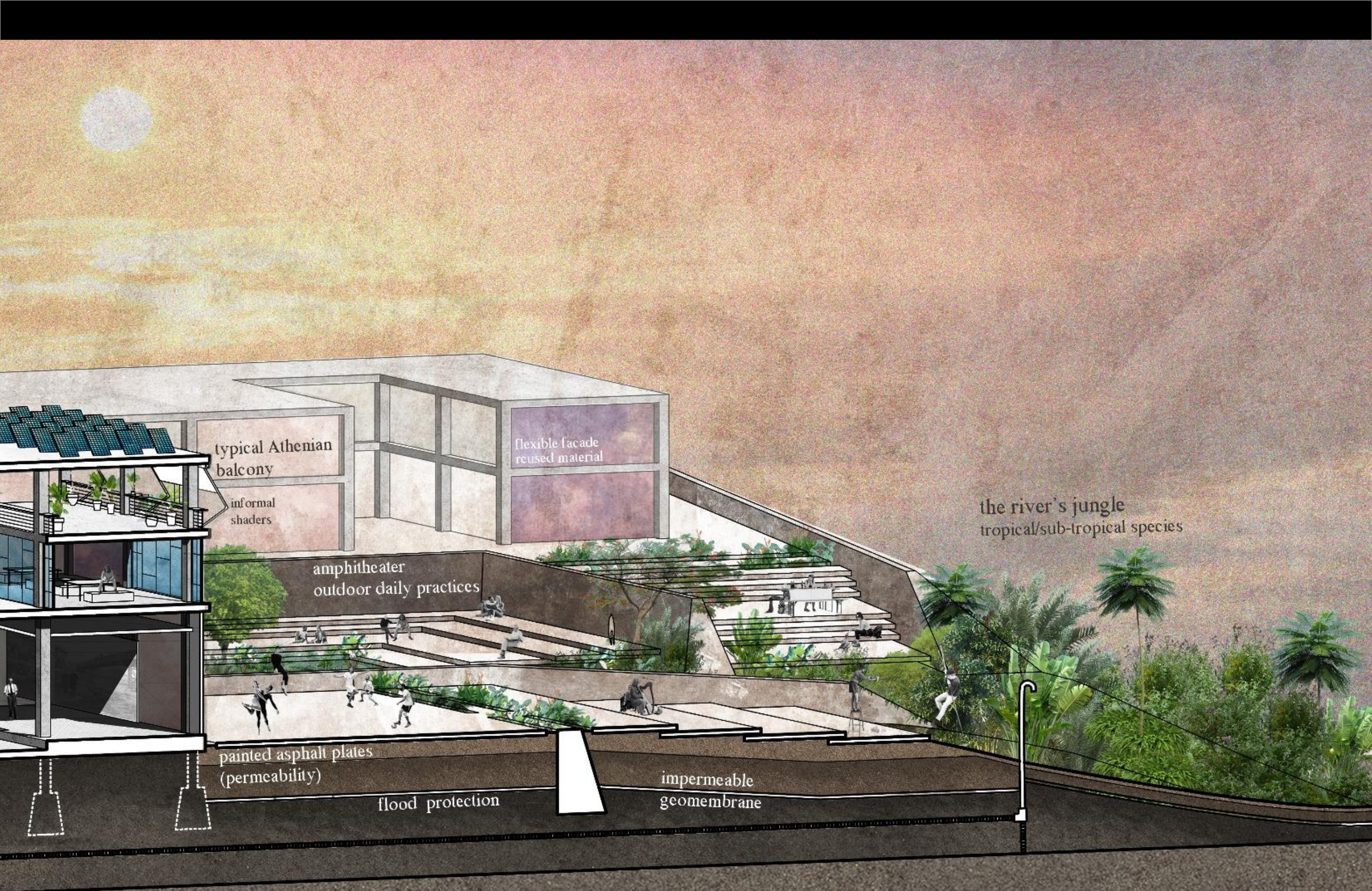
Principle of transformation

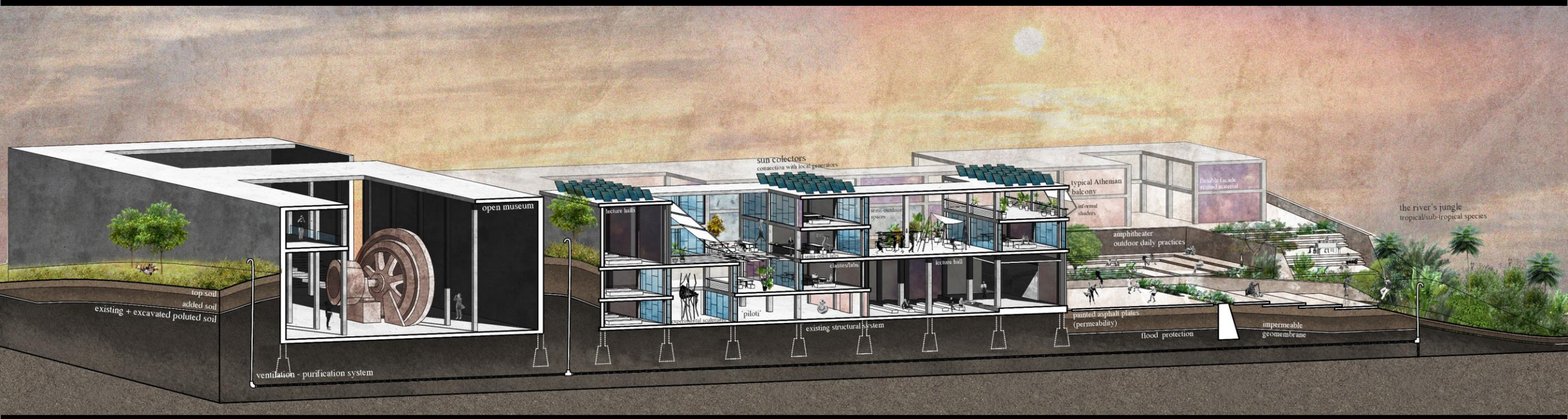





open museum
top soil
added soil
existing + excavated poluted soil
ventilation - purification system


sun colectors
connection with local generators
lecture halls
semi-outdoor spaces
typical Athenian balcony
informal shaders
amphithe
outdoor
semi-open labs
classes/labs
lecture hall
'piloti'
experimental sculptures
existing structural system
painted asphalt plates (permeability)


typical Athenian balcony
informal shaders
flexible facade reused material
amphitheater outdoor daily practices
the river's jungle
tropical/sub-tropical species
painted asphalt plates (permeability)
flood protection
impermeable geomembrane


sun colectors
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open museum
lecture halls
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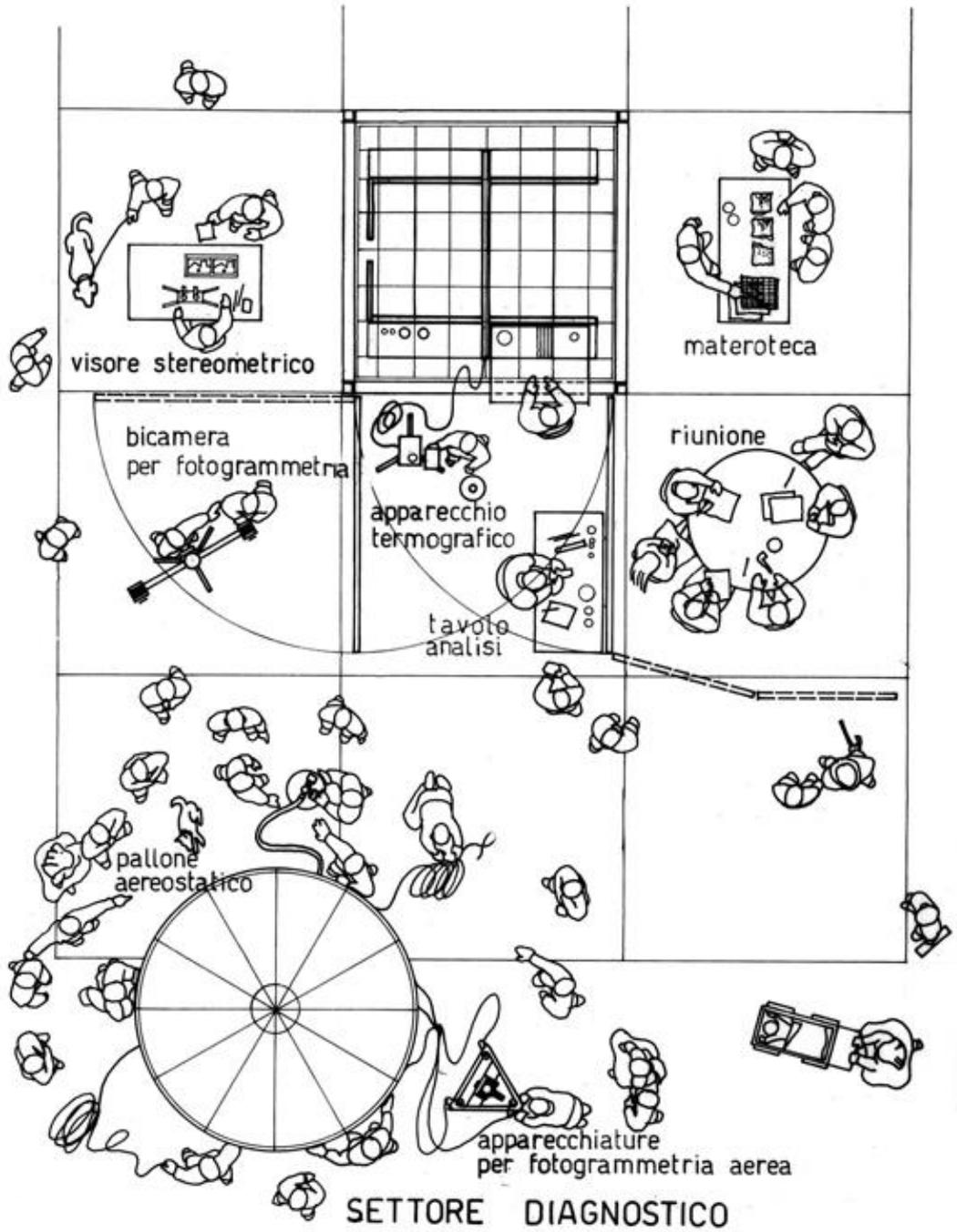
outdoor daily practices
classes/labs
lecture hall
top soil
added soil
existing + excavated poluted soil
'piloti'
existing structural system
painted asphalt plates (permeability)
flood protection
impermeable geomembrane
ventilation - purification system

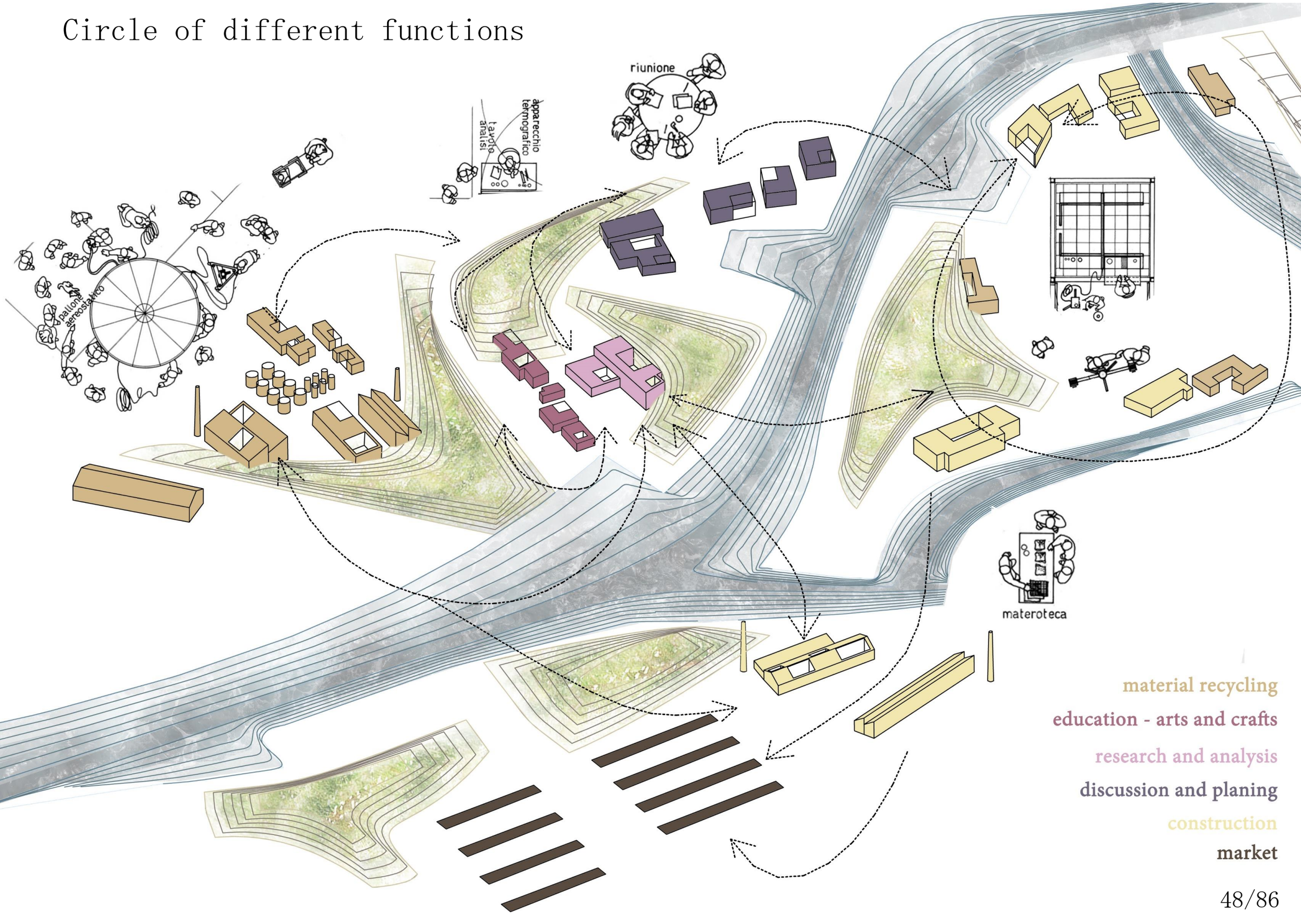
Involving people in the transformation of the city

Renzo Piano - Otranto Mobile Wolkshop (1969)



Source: Toshio Nakamura, “Renzo Piano : building workshop, 1964-1988”, Japan Architect Co., 1989

Circle of different functions



material recycling

education - arts and crafts

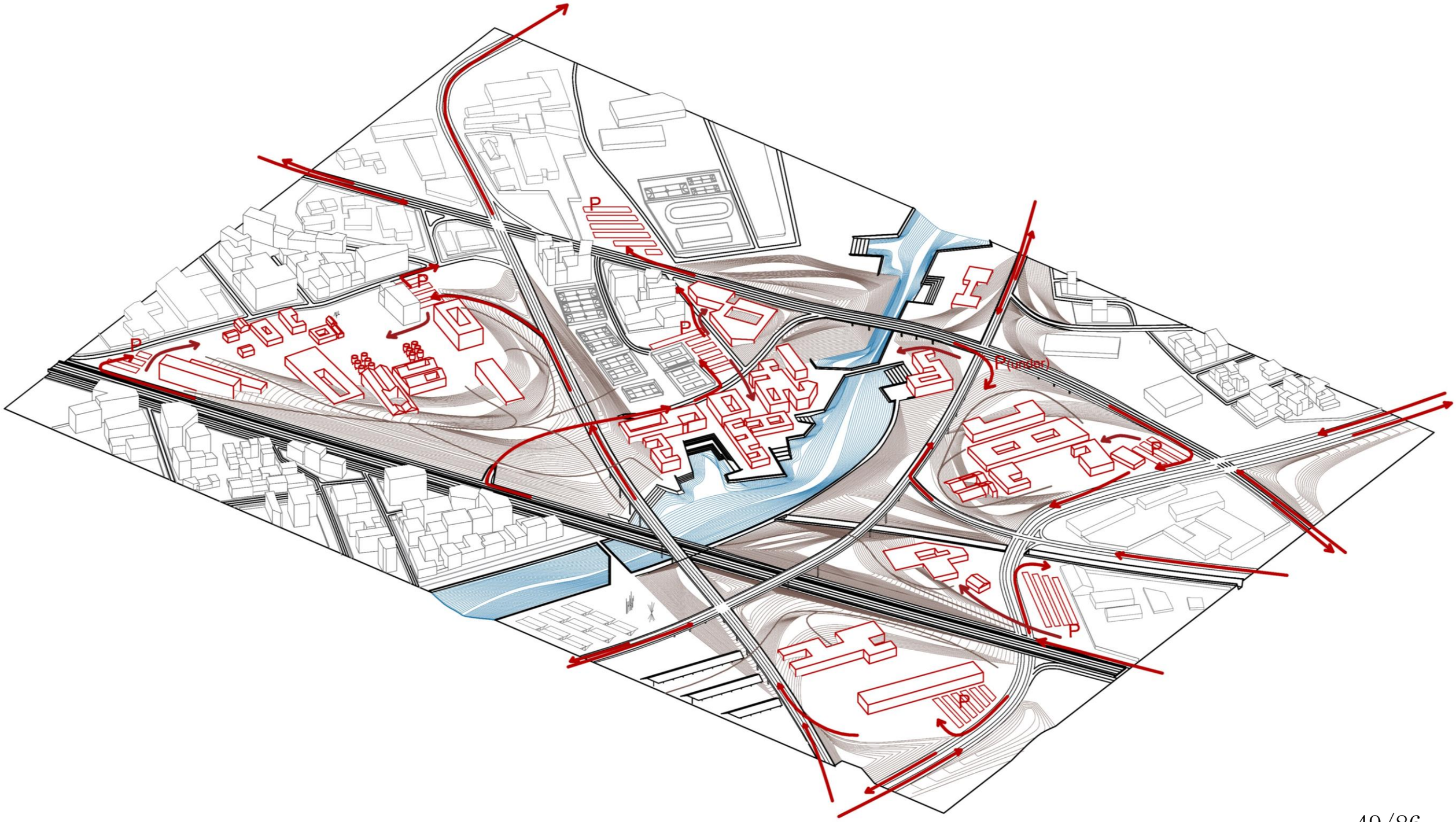
research and analysis

discussion and planing

construction

market

Connections



legend

parking stations

driving directions

highway- structural system

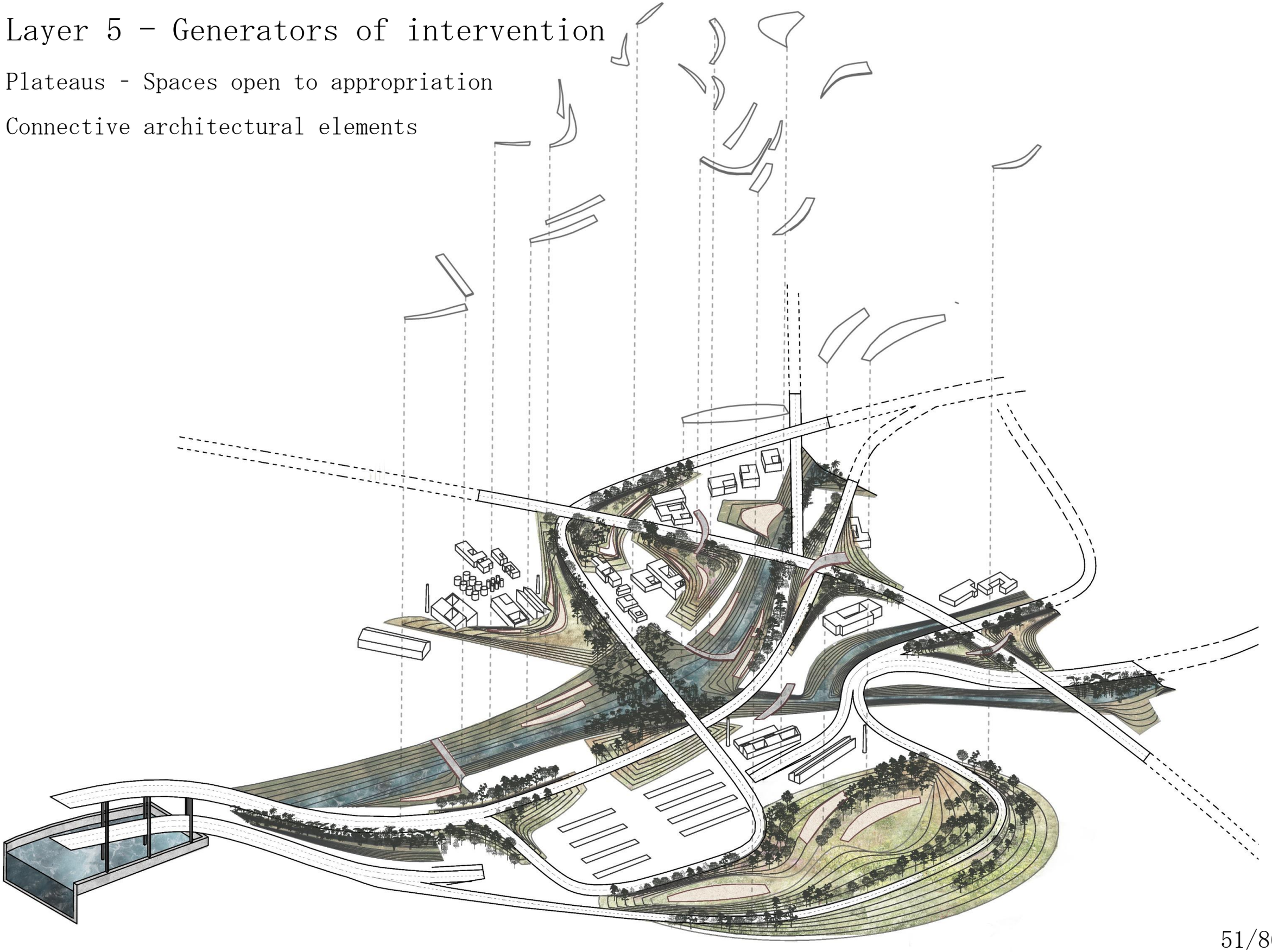
entrances

cut land

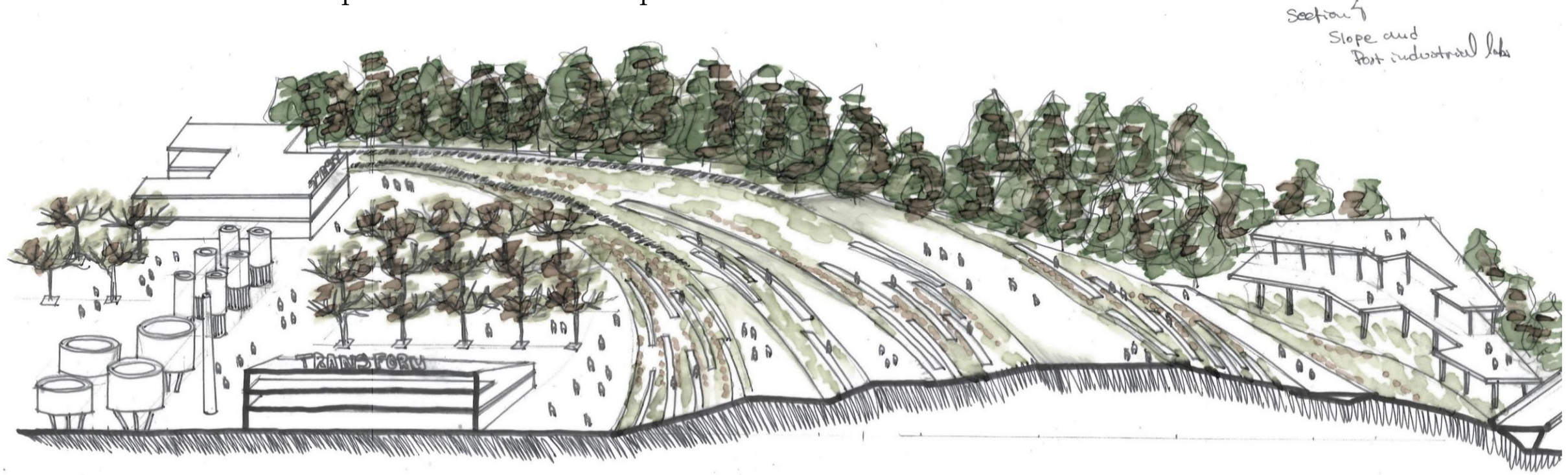
Layer 5 - Generators of intervention

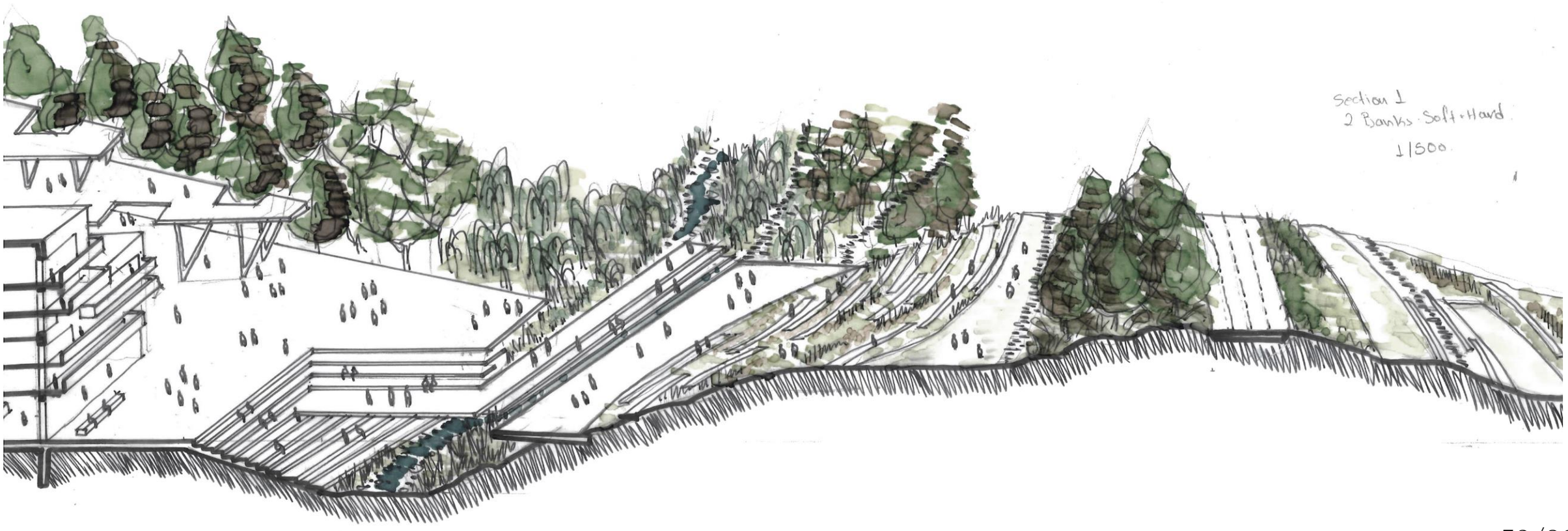
Plateaus - Spaces open to appropriation

Connective architectural elements

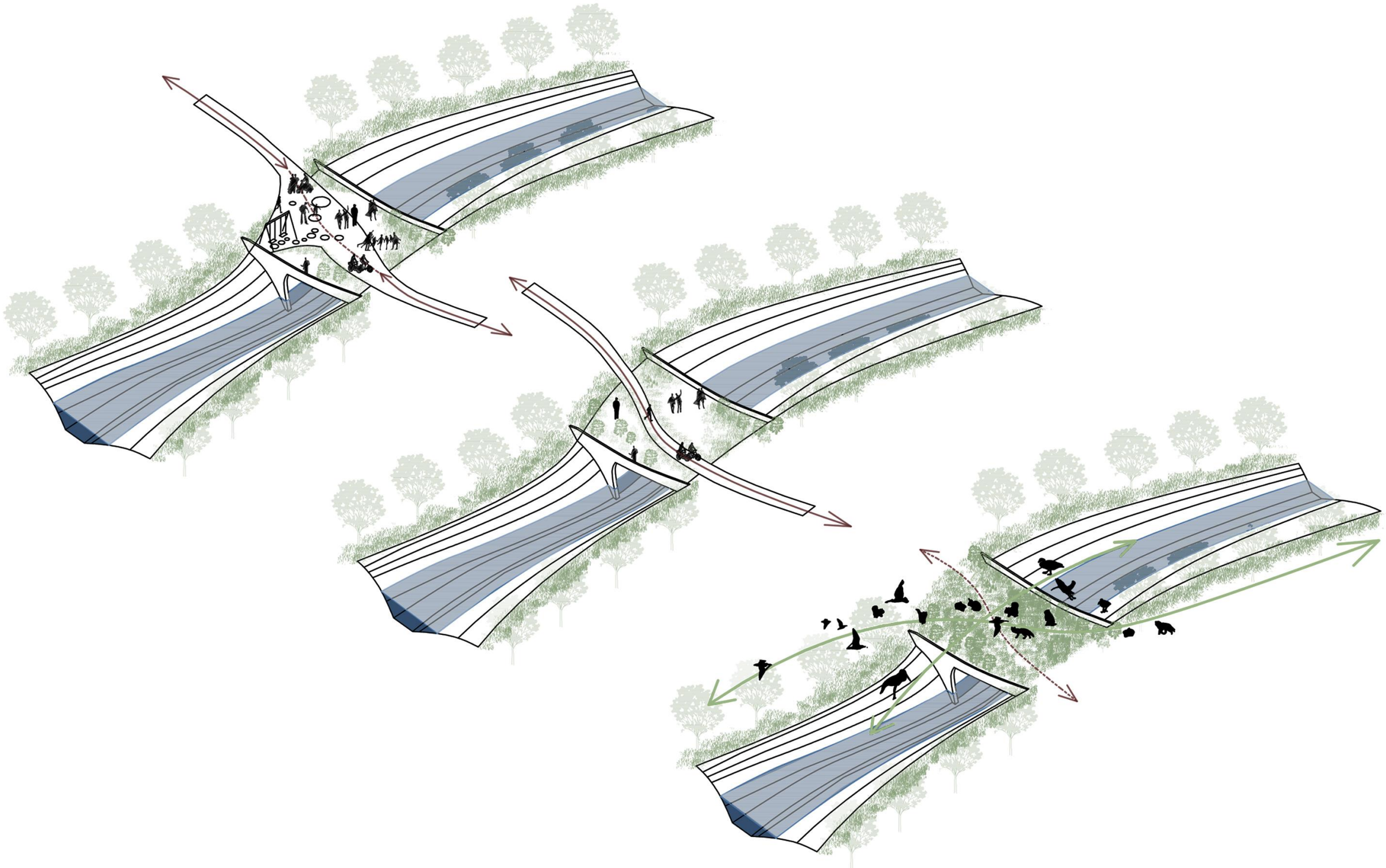


Plateaus and amphitheatrical spaces

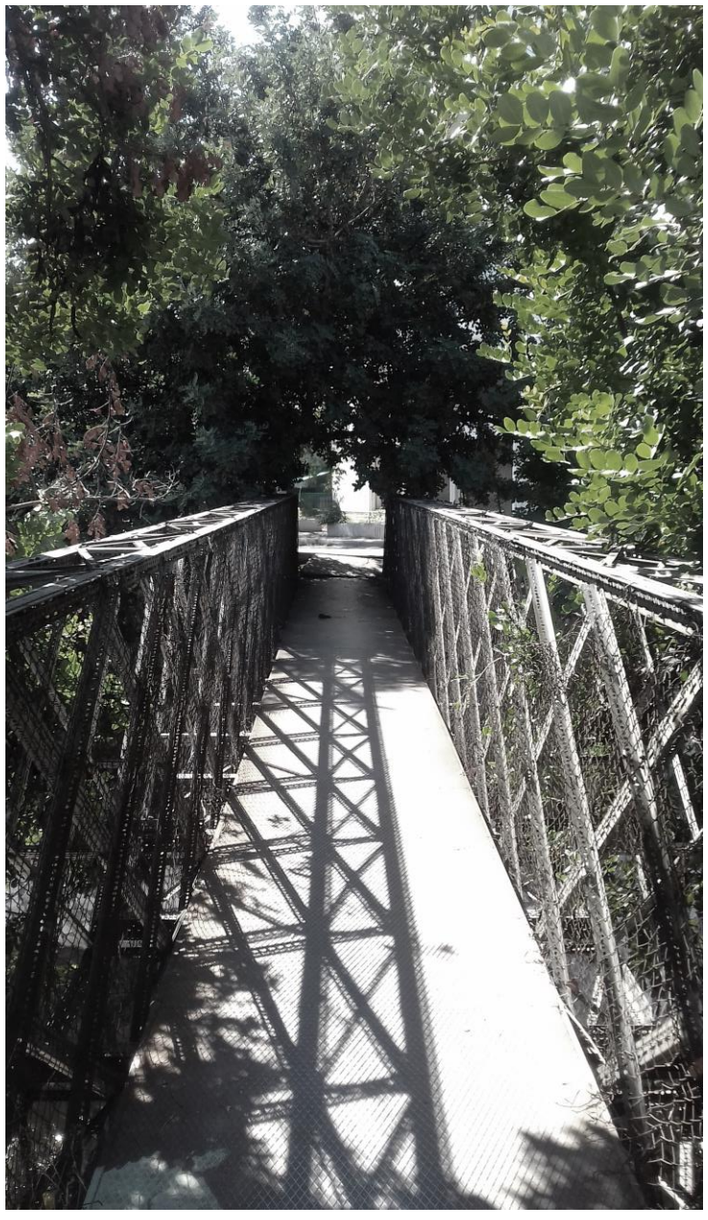




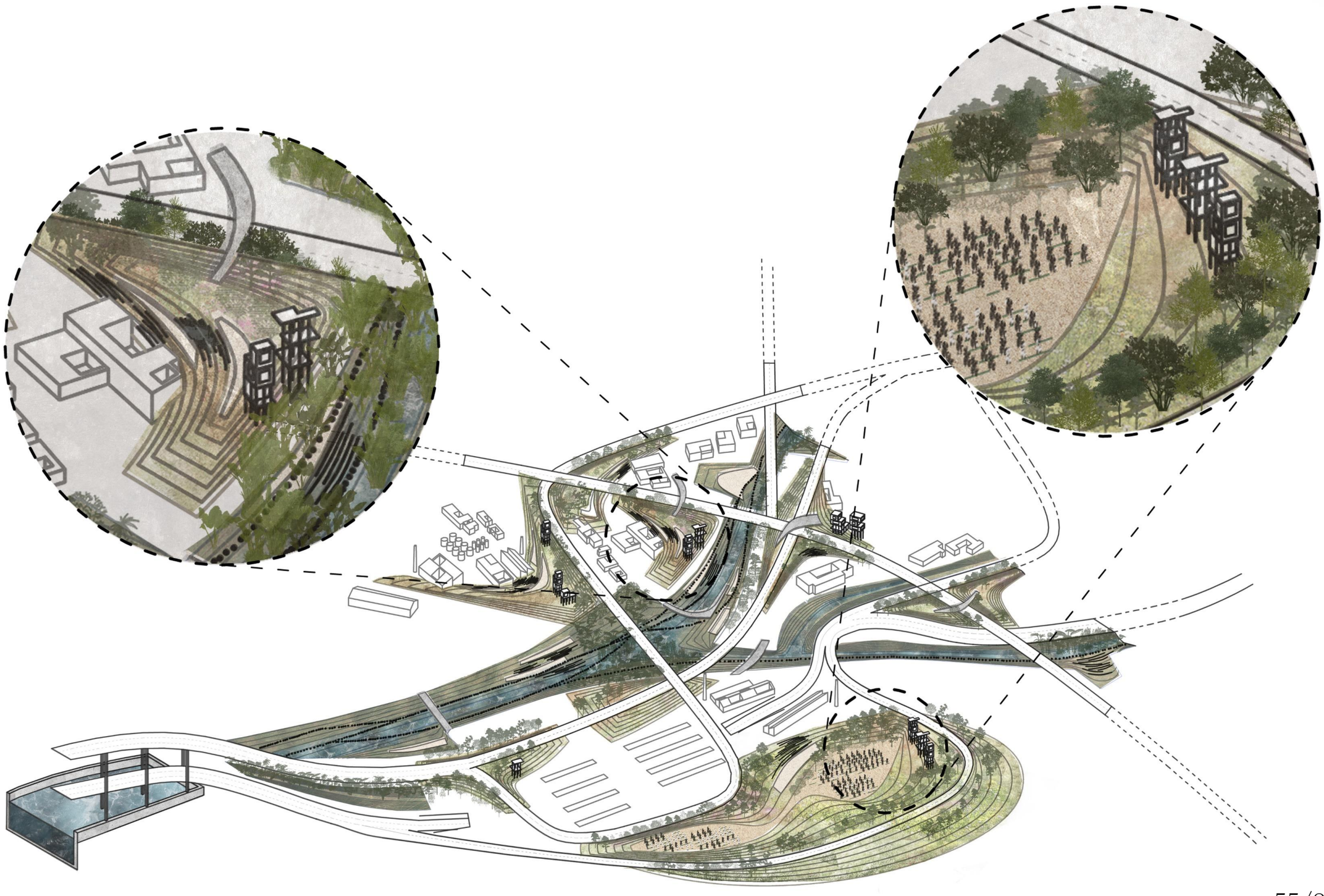
Bridges as flexible places



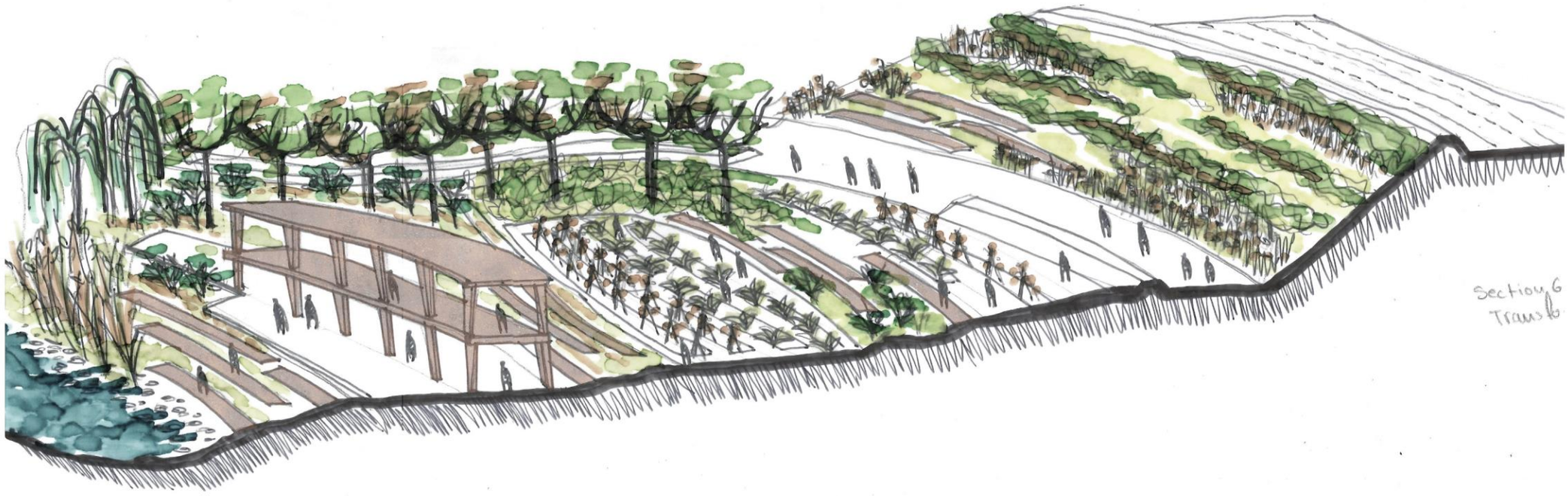
Existing Bridges



Layer 6 - Informal interventions

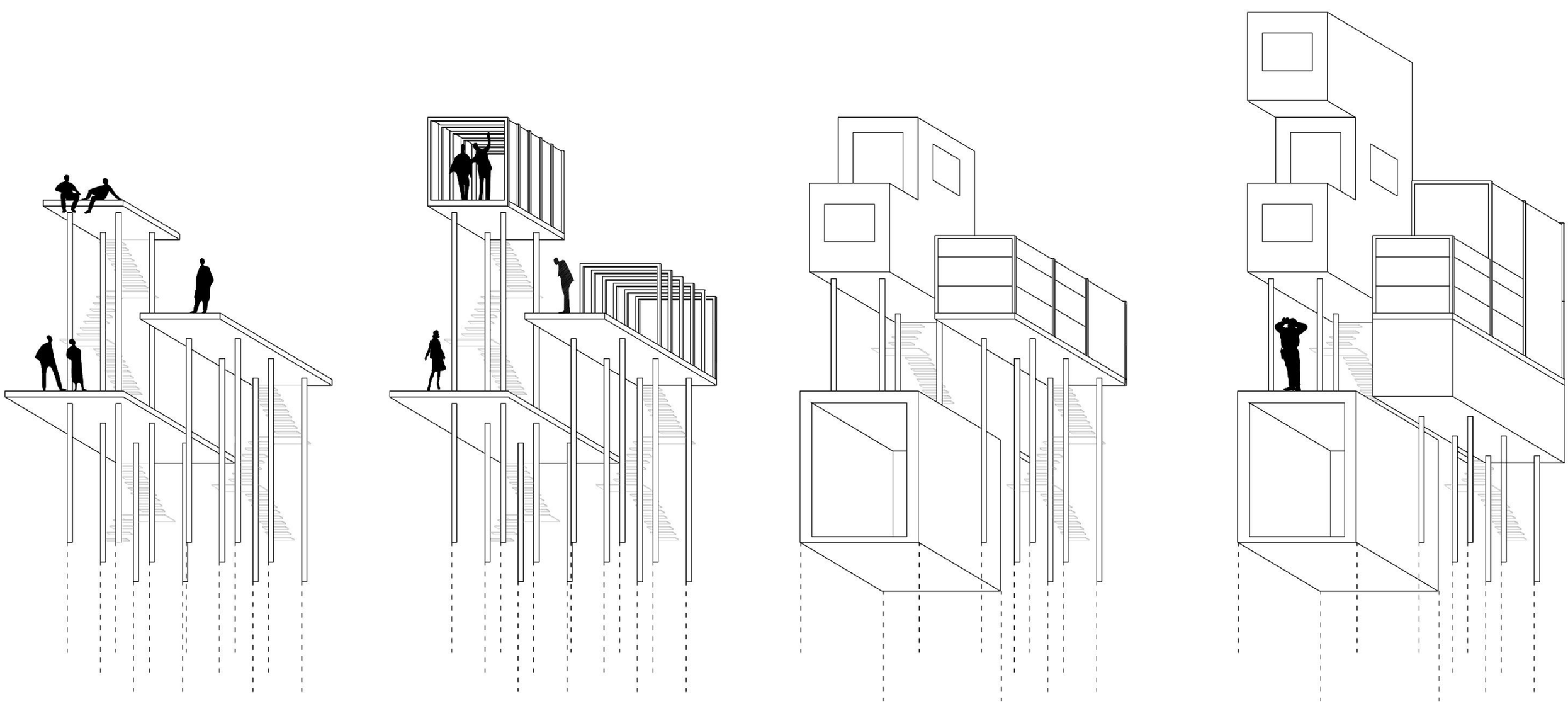


Appropriation of the plateaus



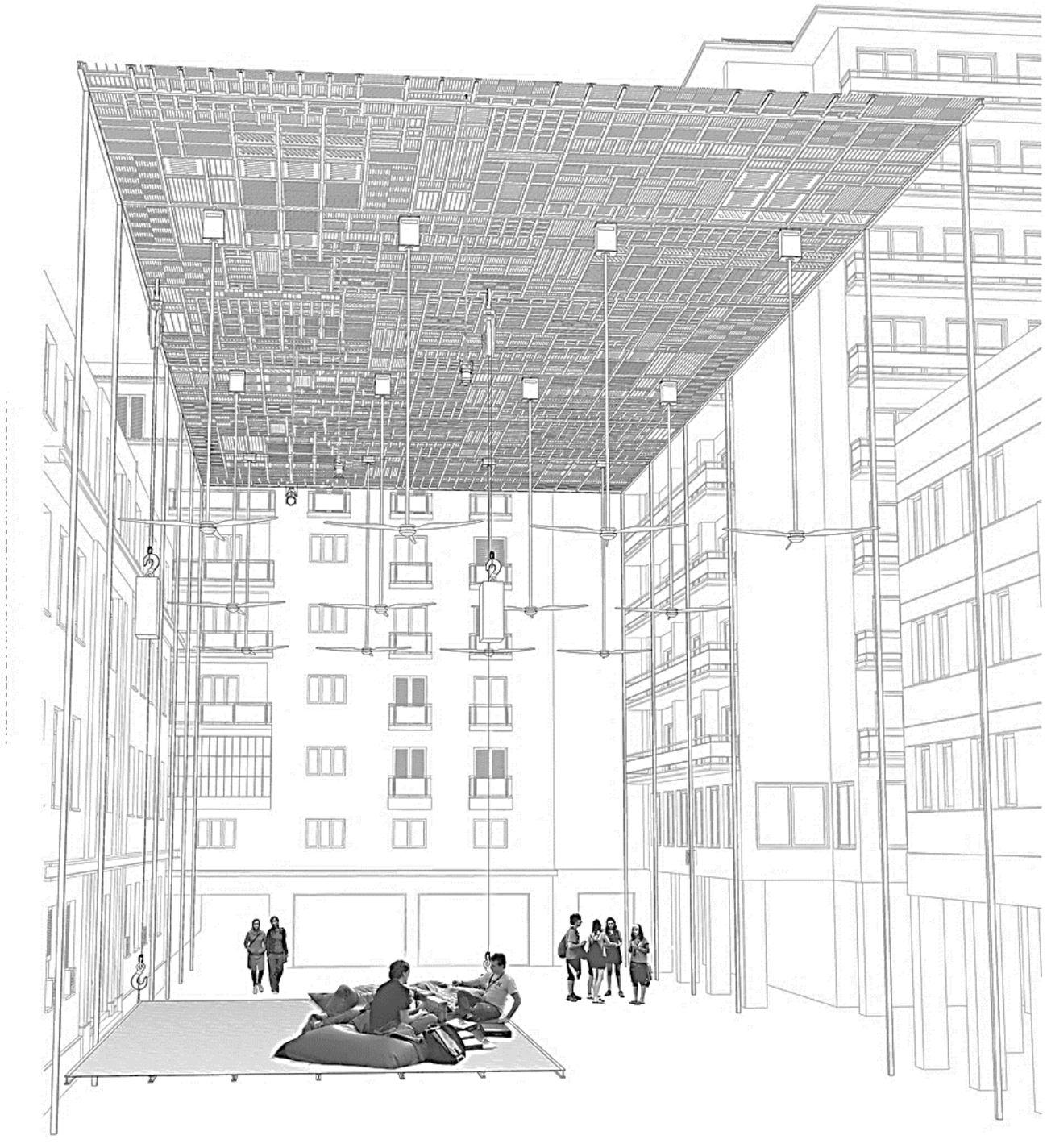
Adaptable “observatories”

The “polykatoikia” quality of appropriation - from observatories to temporary shelters



“Signifiers” of social (inter)action

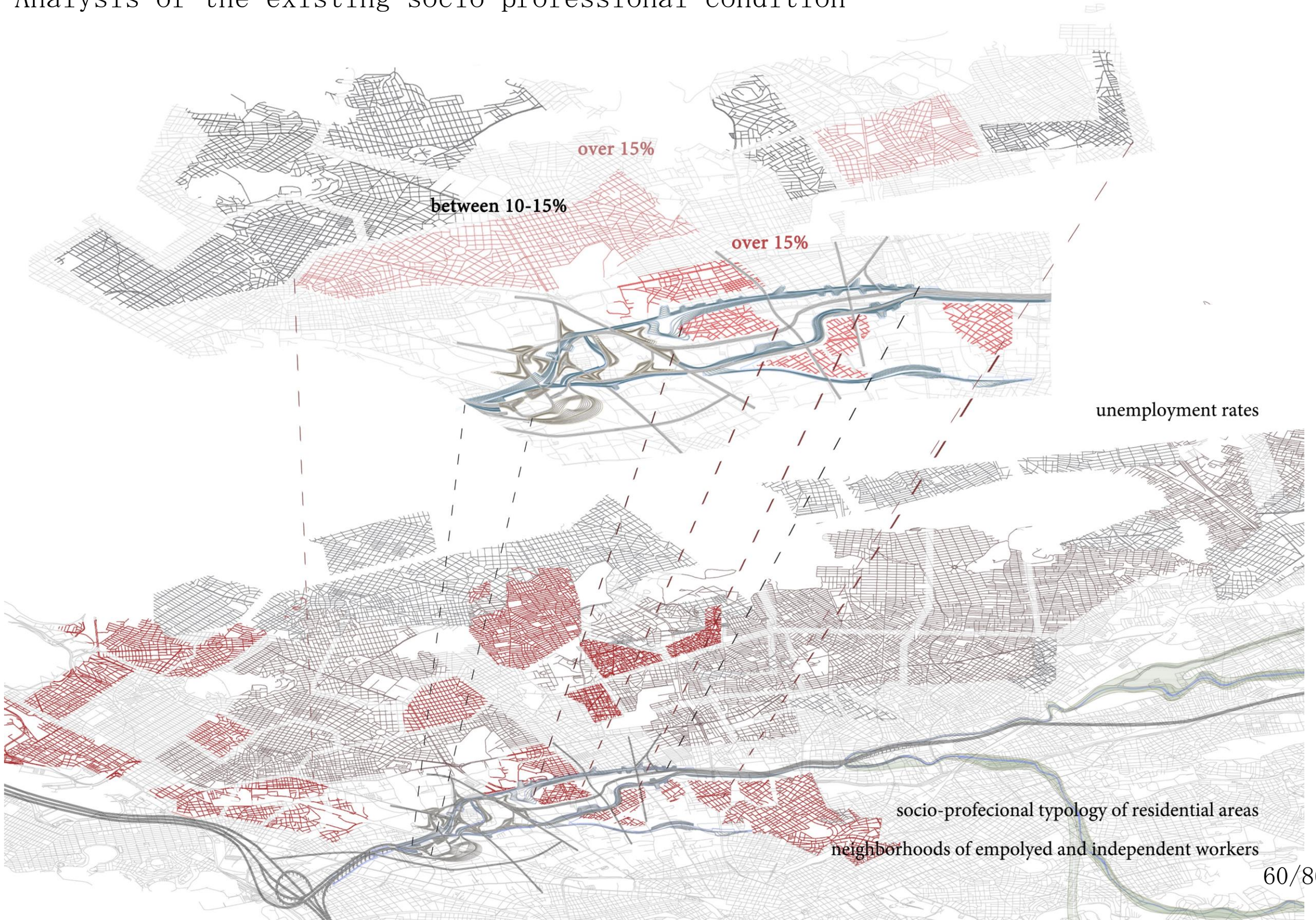
ANTONAS Office, Urban Hall: spatial practices of creative activism



Source: http://www.aristideantonas.com/tag/athens/project/urban-hall/link/303

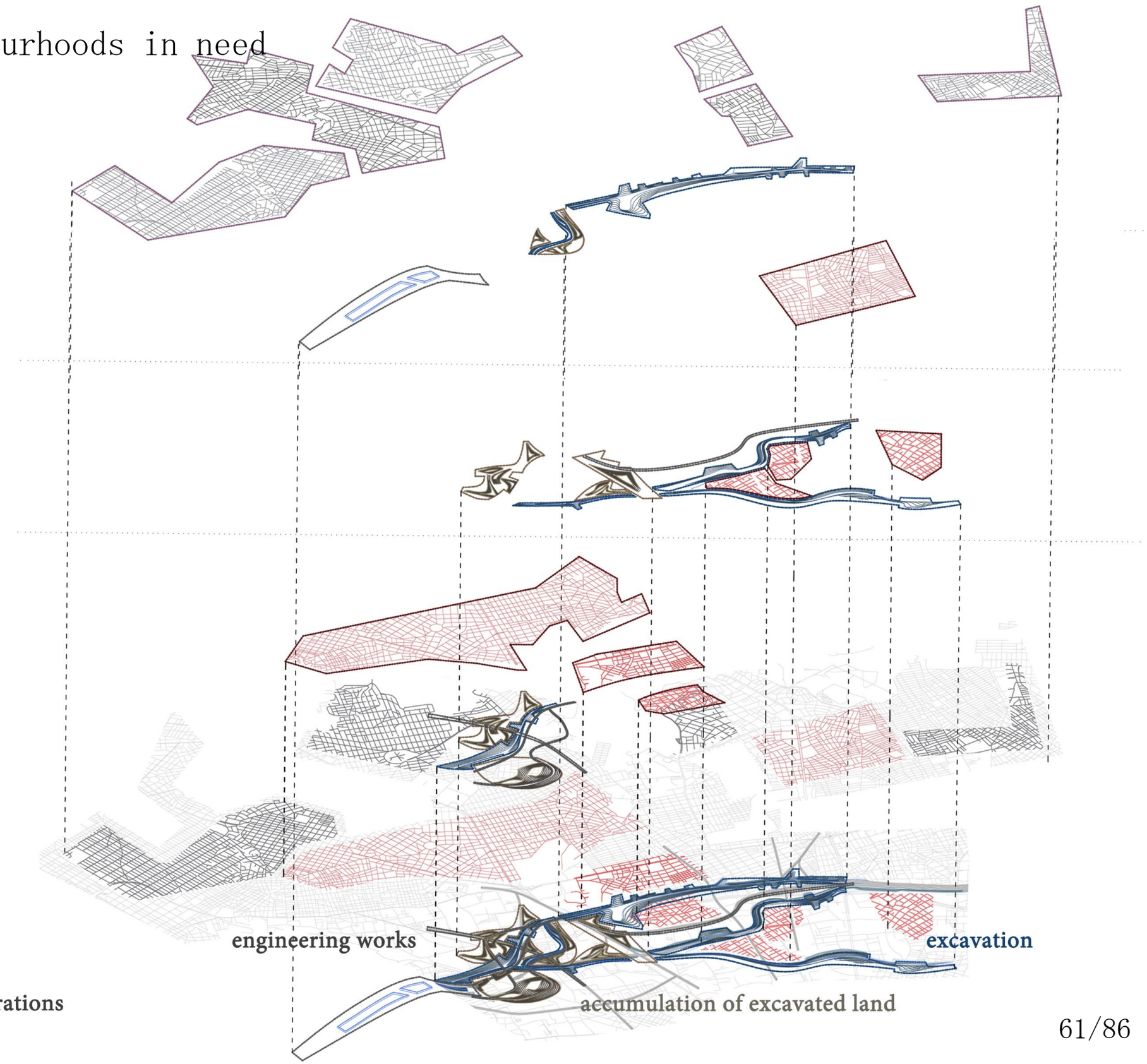
Involving in construction the local population

Analysis of the existing socio-professional condition



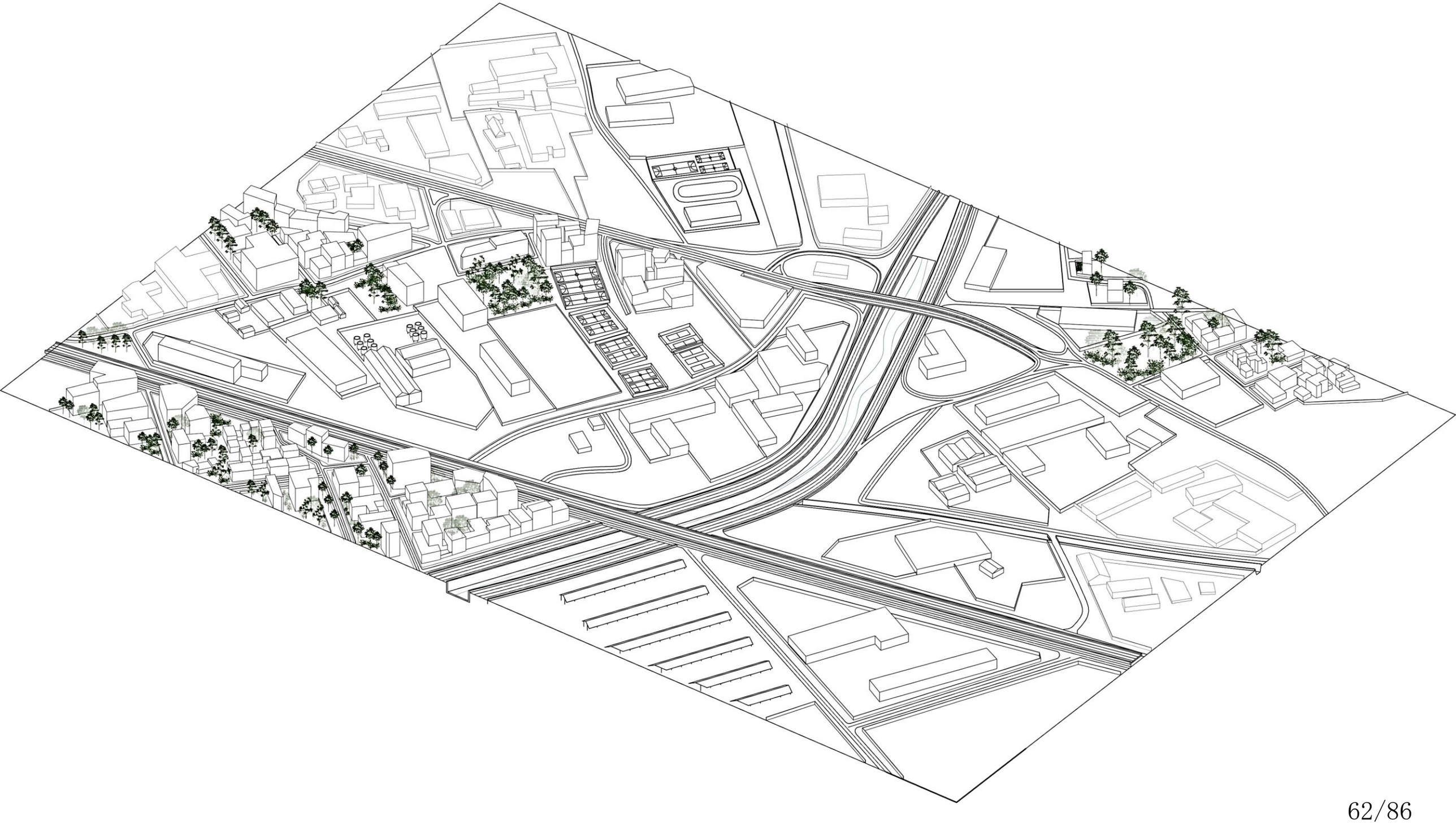
Different operations and Construction phasing

Prioritizing neighbourhoods in need



Steps of transformation in time

Existing condition



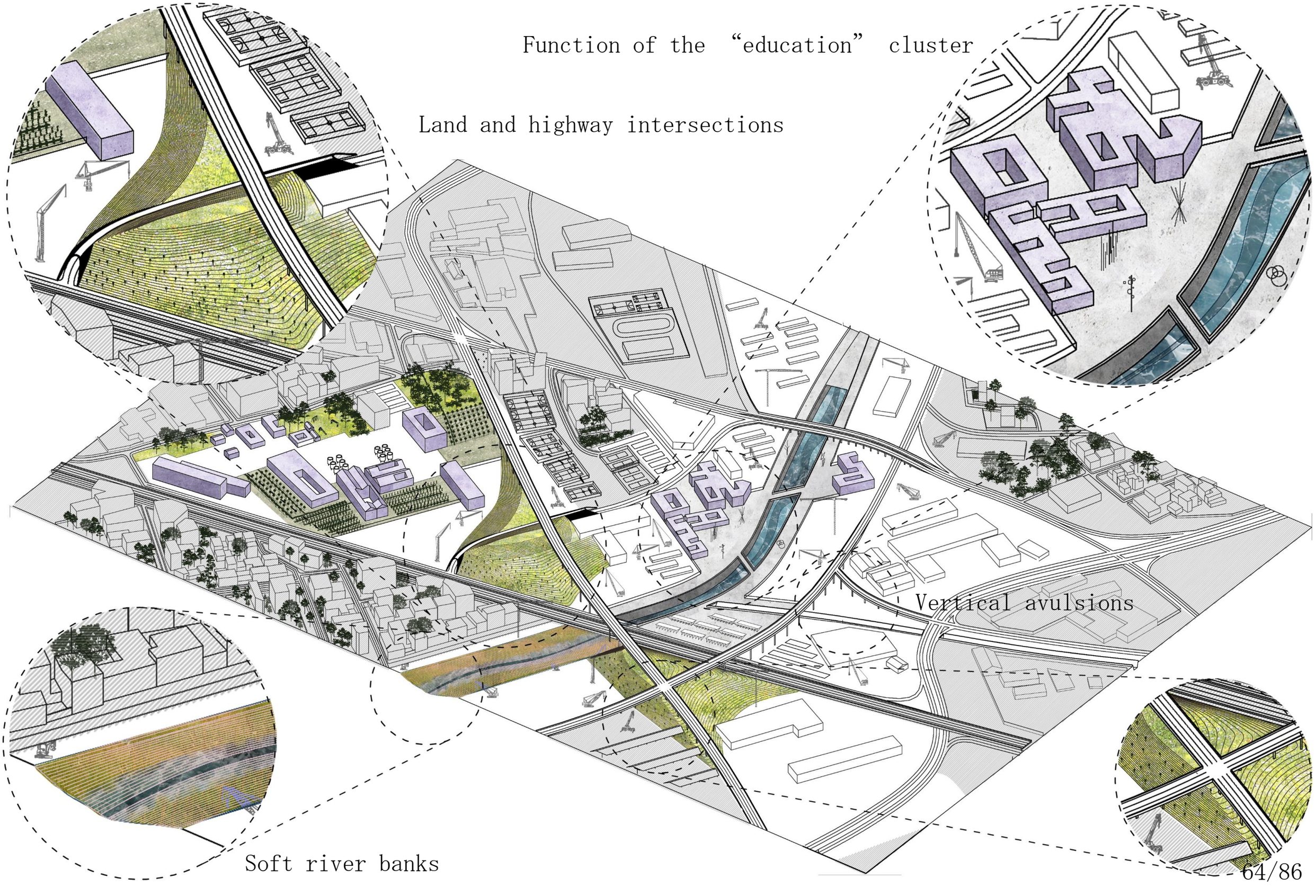
1. First fragmented interventions

Public river banks

Function of the “Workshop cluster”
Urban farming

Material to be re-used (collection sites)

2. The integrative landscape starts to grow



3. The first connections

The topography creates enclosures

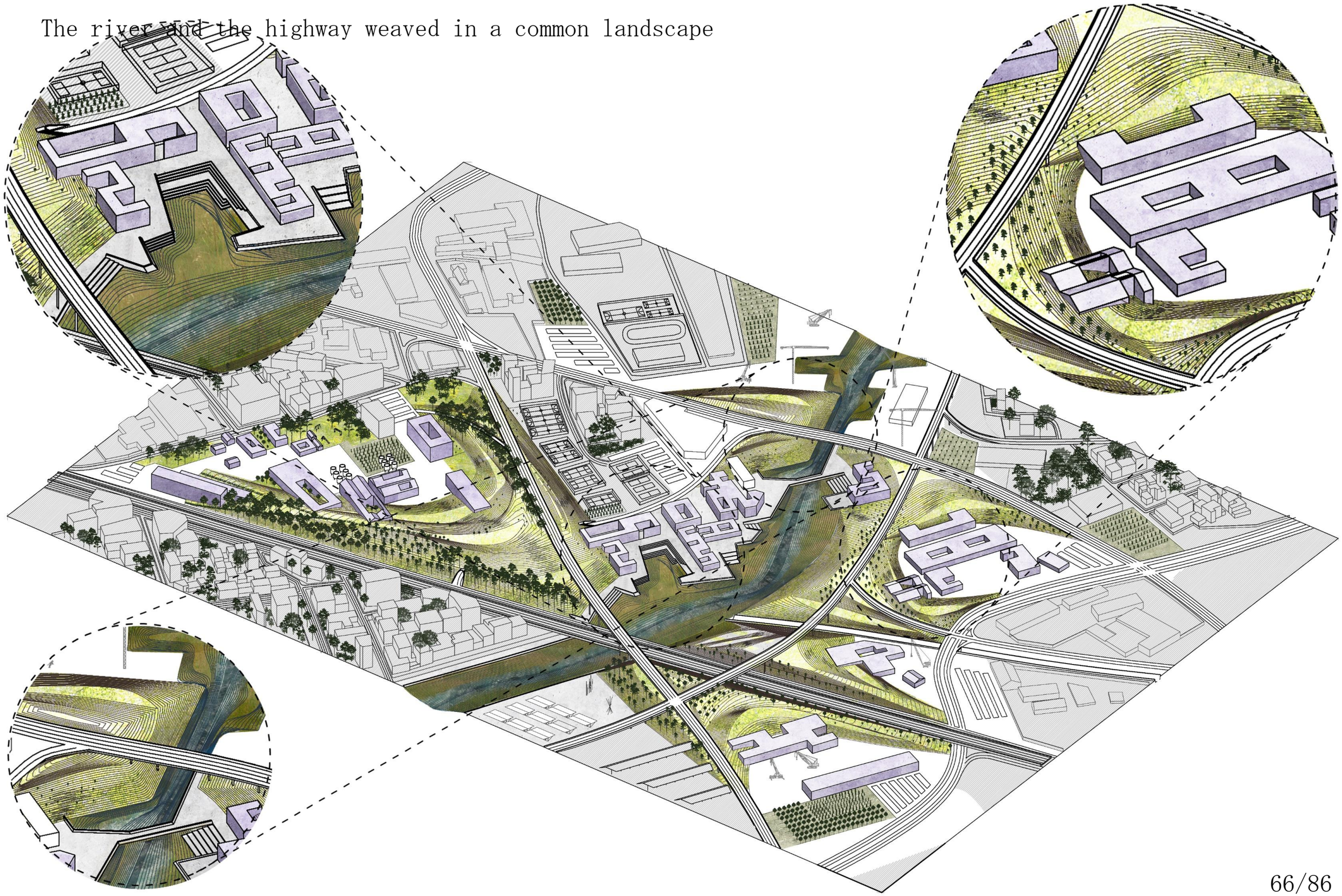
Elaborated public bank

Urban farming

“Construction” clusters

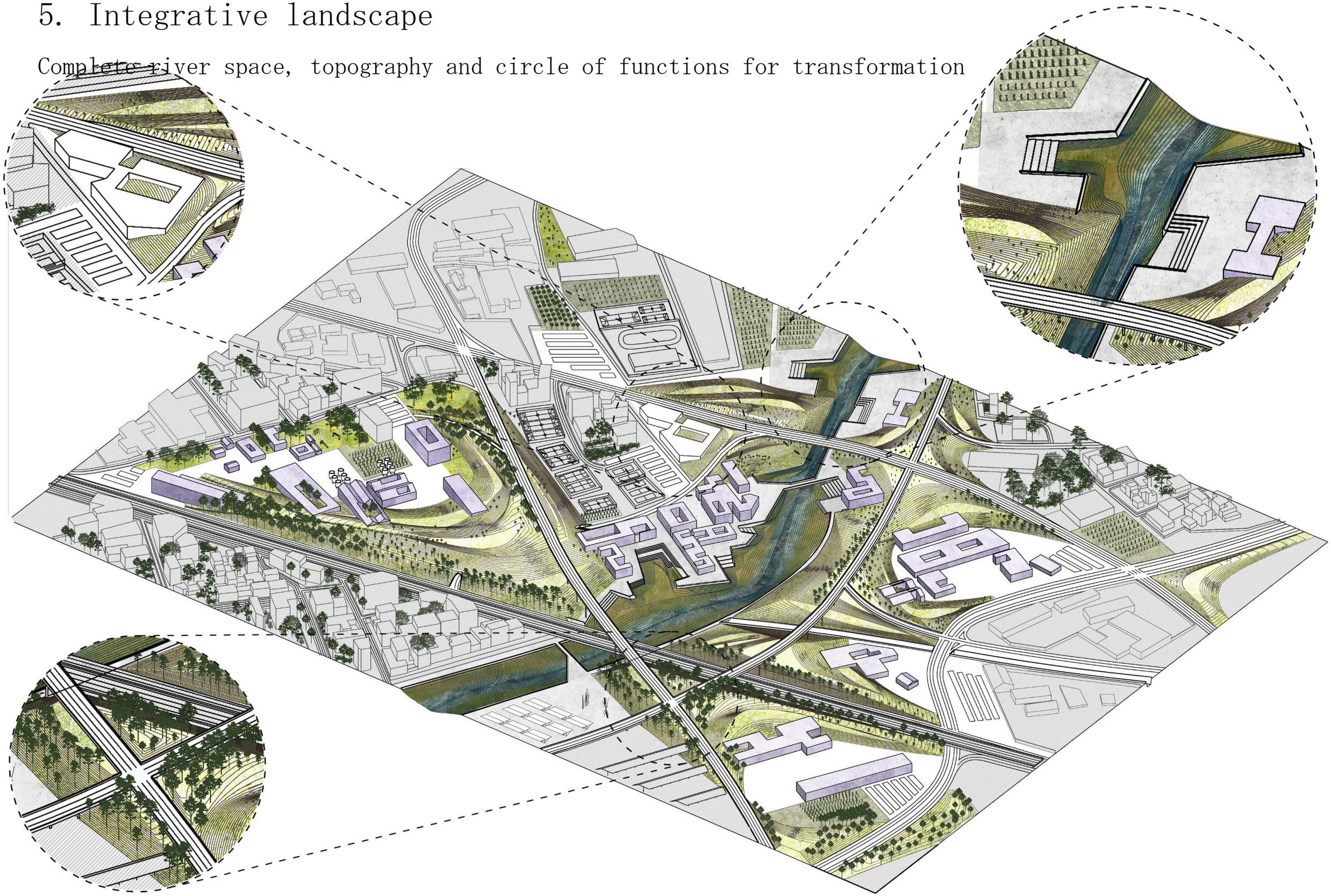
4. The topography topography grows into a connective tissue

The river and the highway weaved in a common landscape



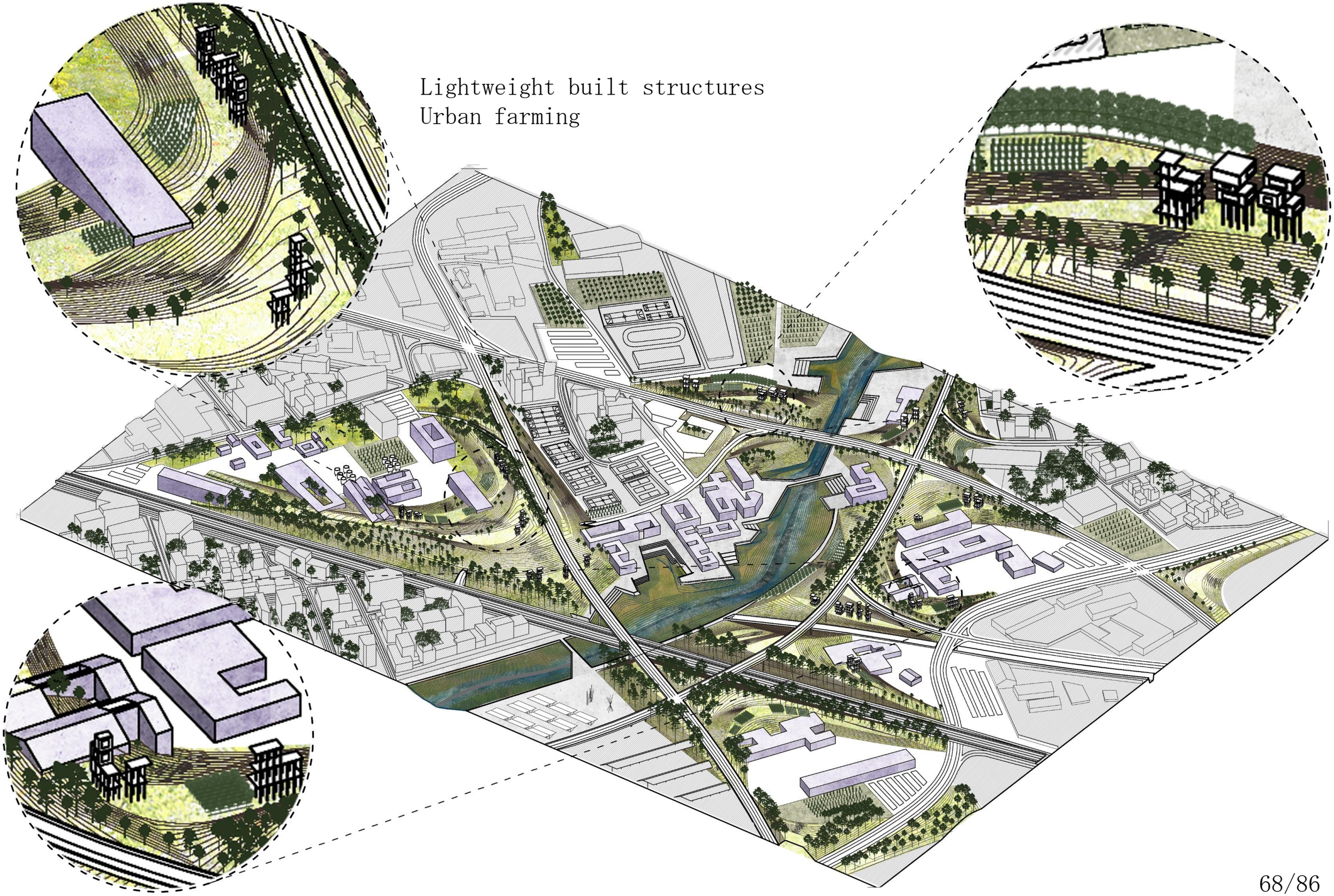
5. Integrative landscape

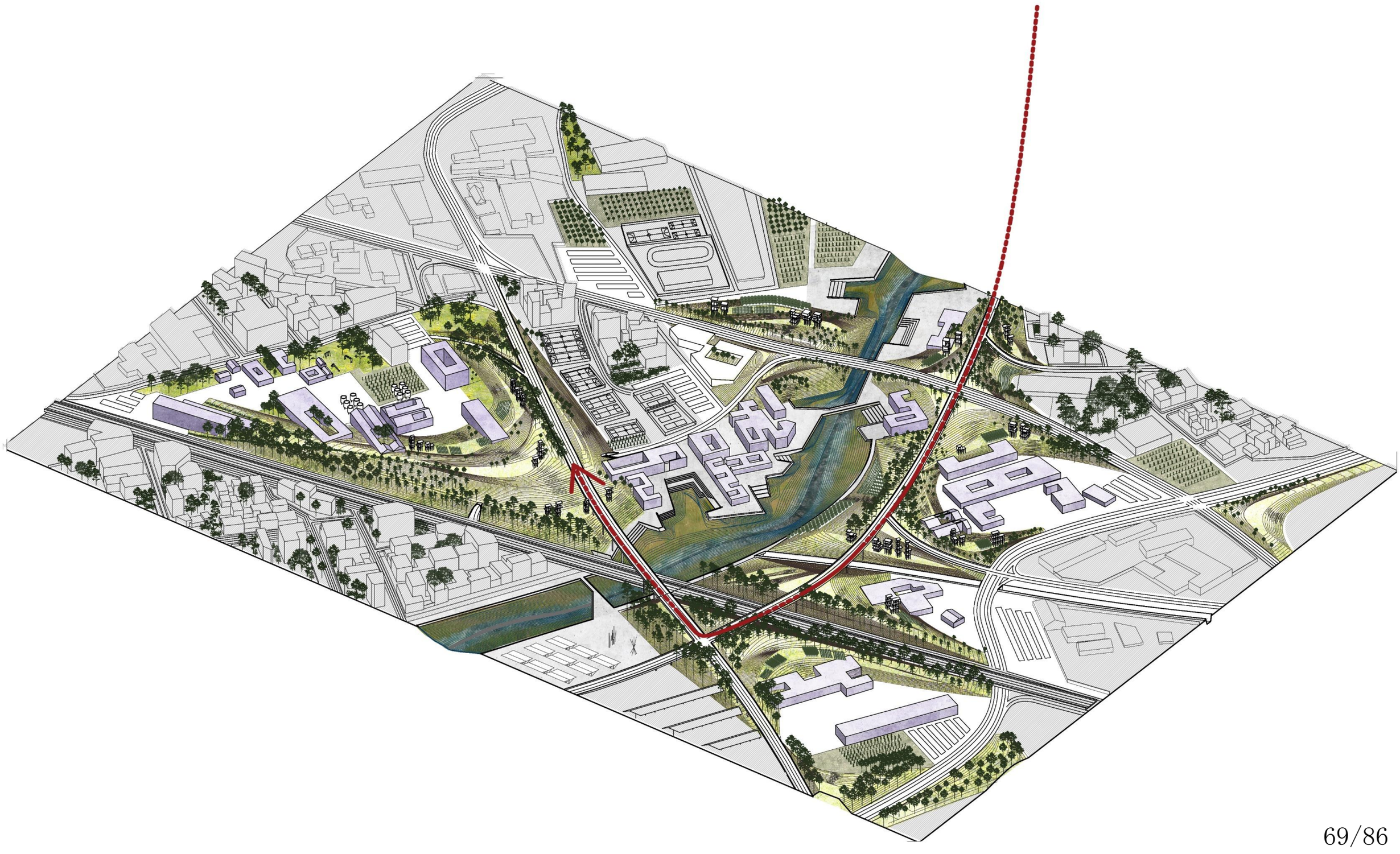
Complete river space, topography and circle of functions for transformation

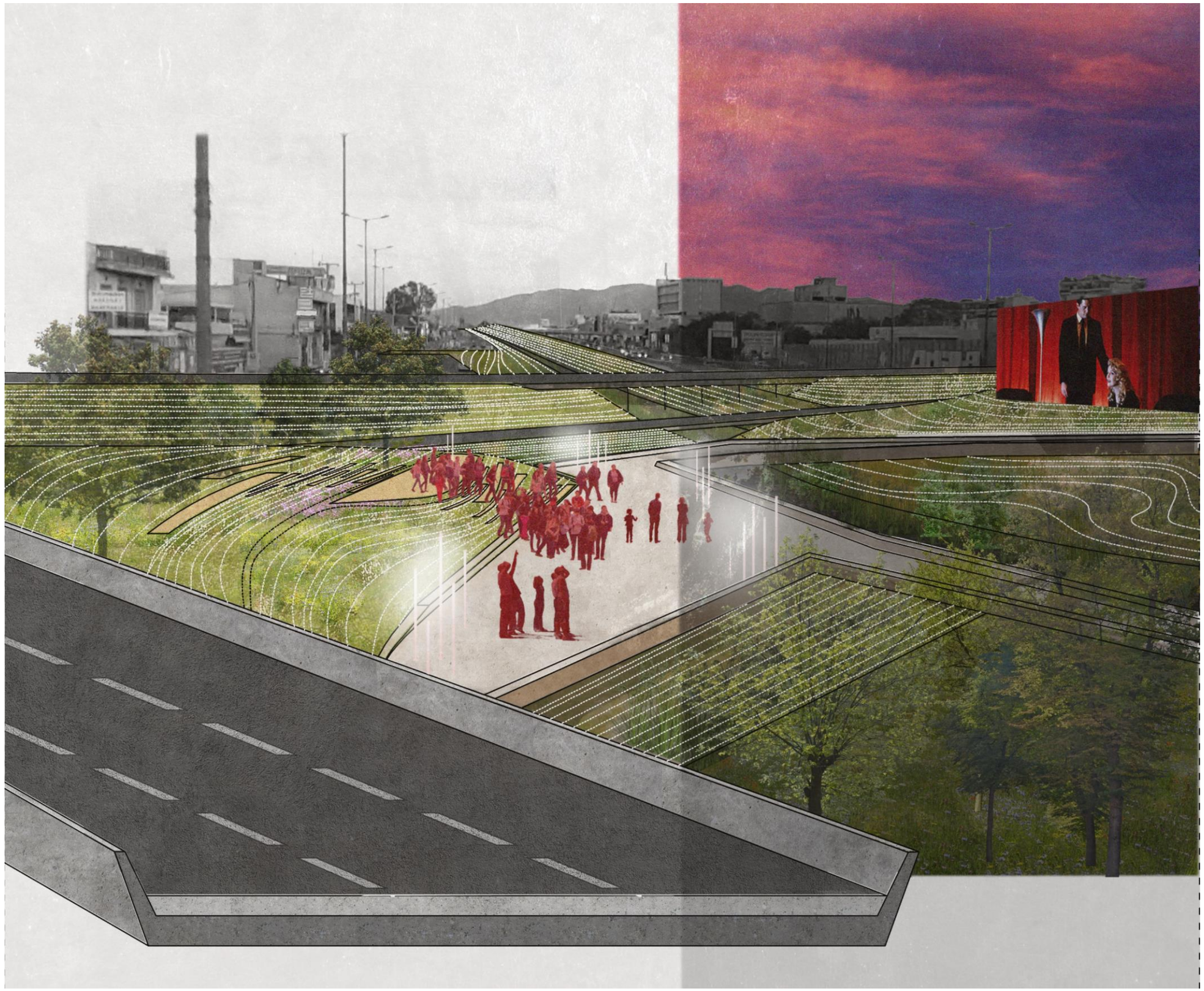


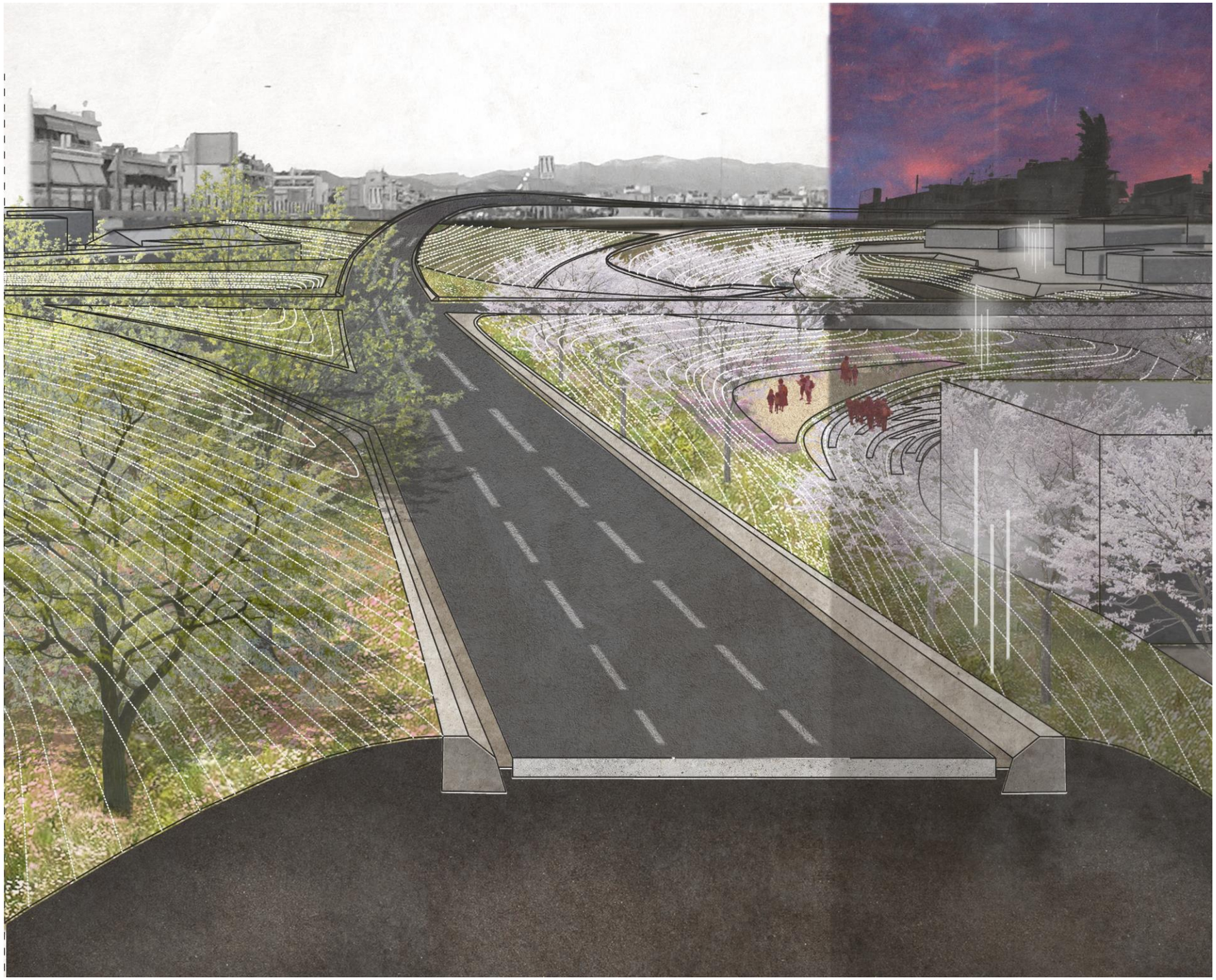
6. A Topography of affordances - first acts of appropriation

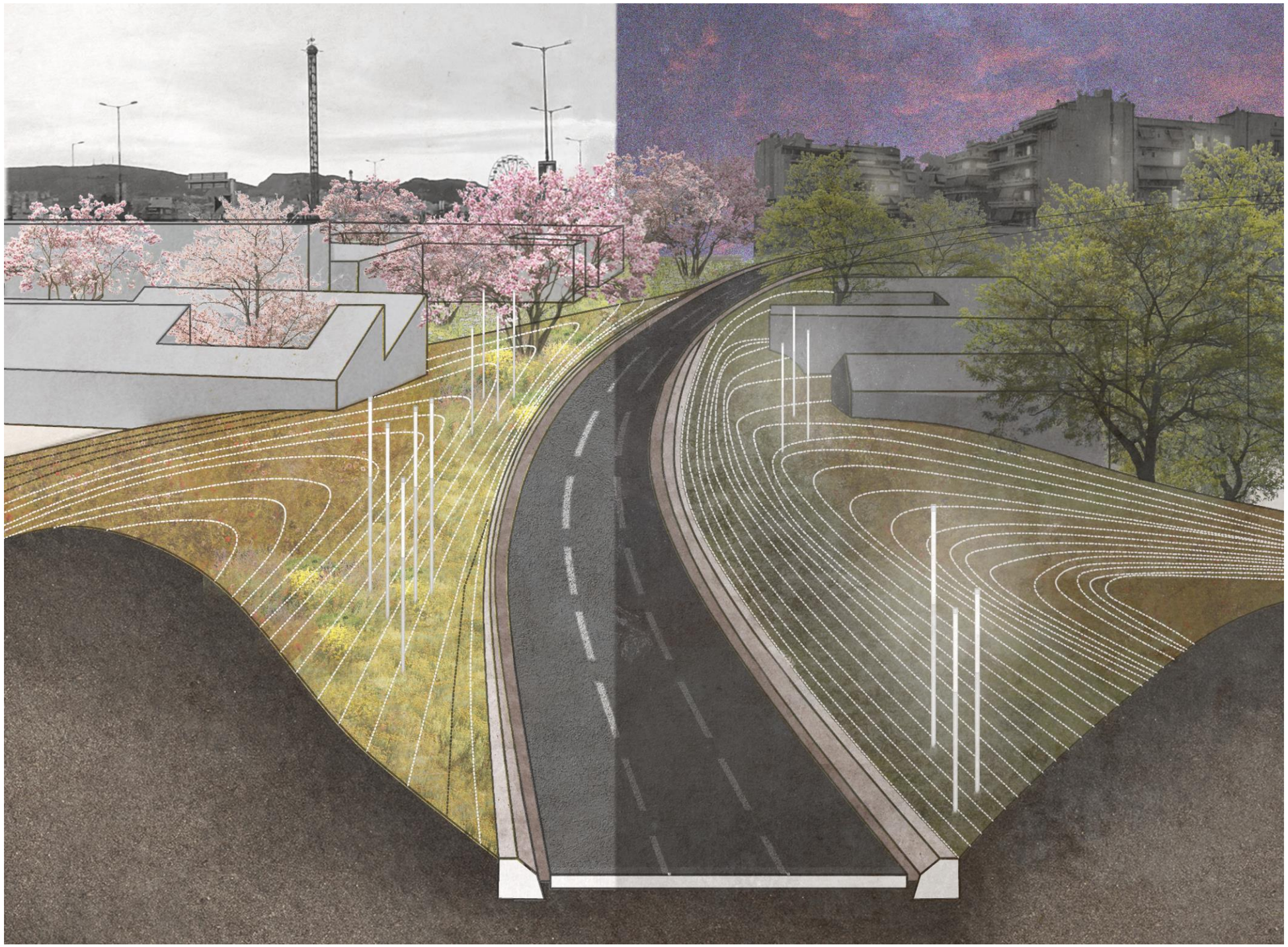
Lightweight built structures
Urban farming

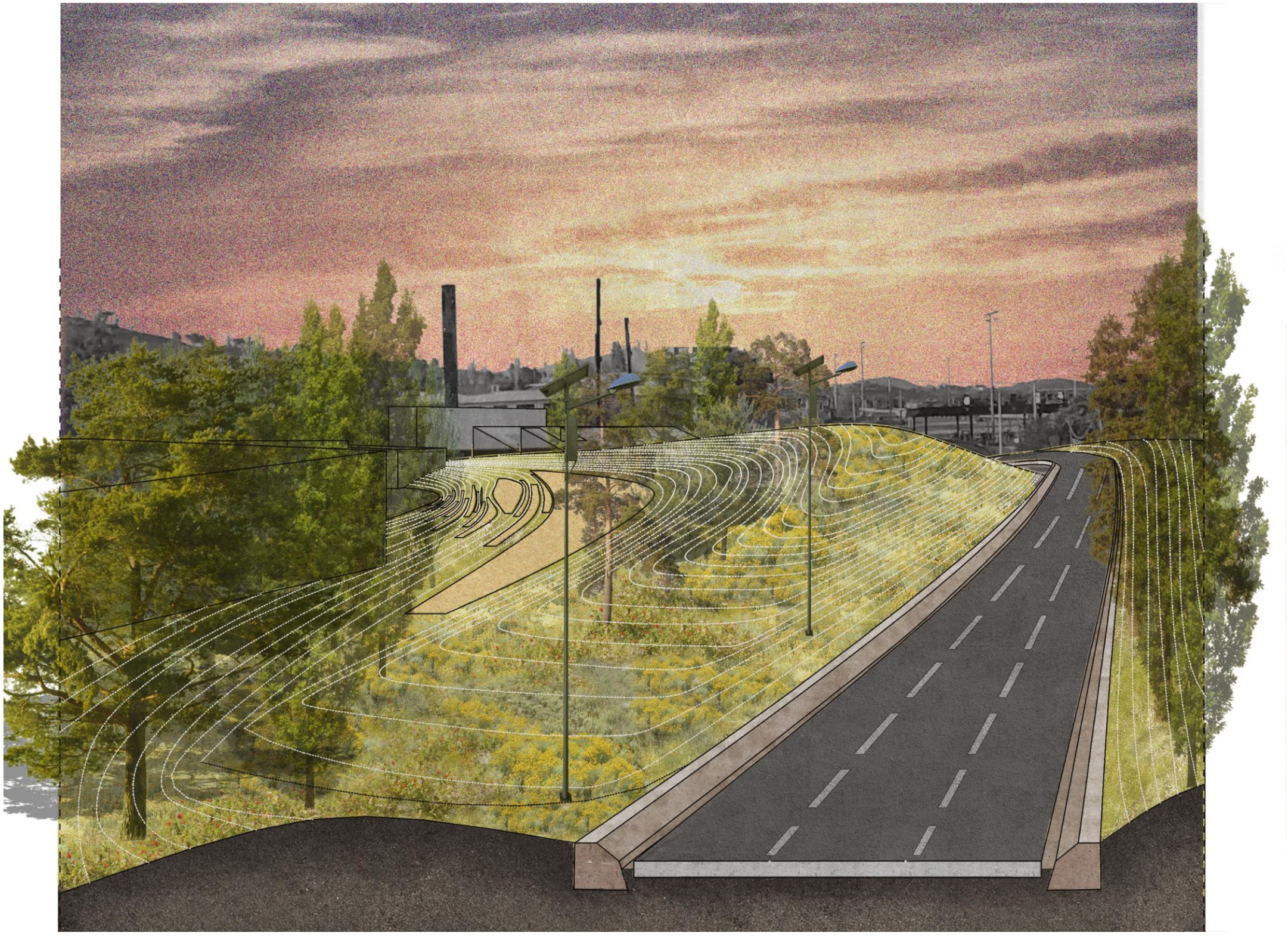


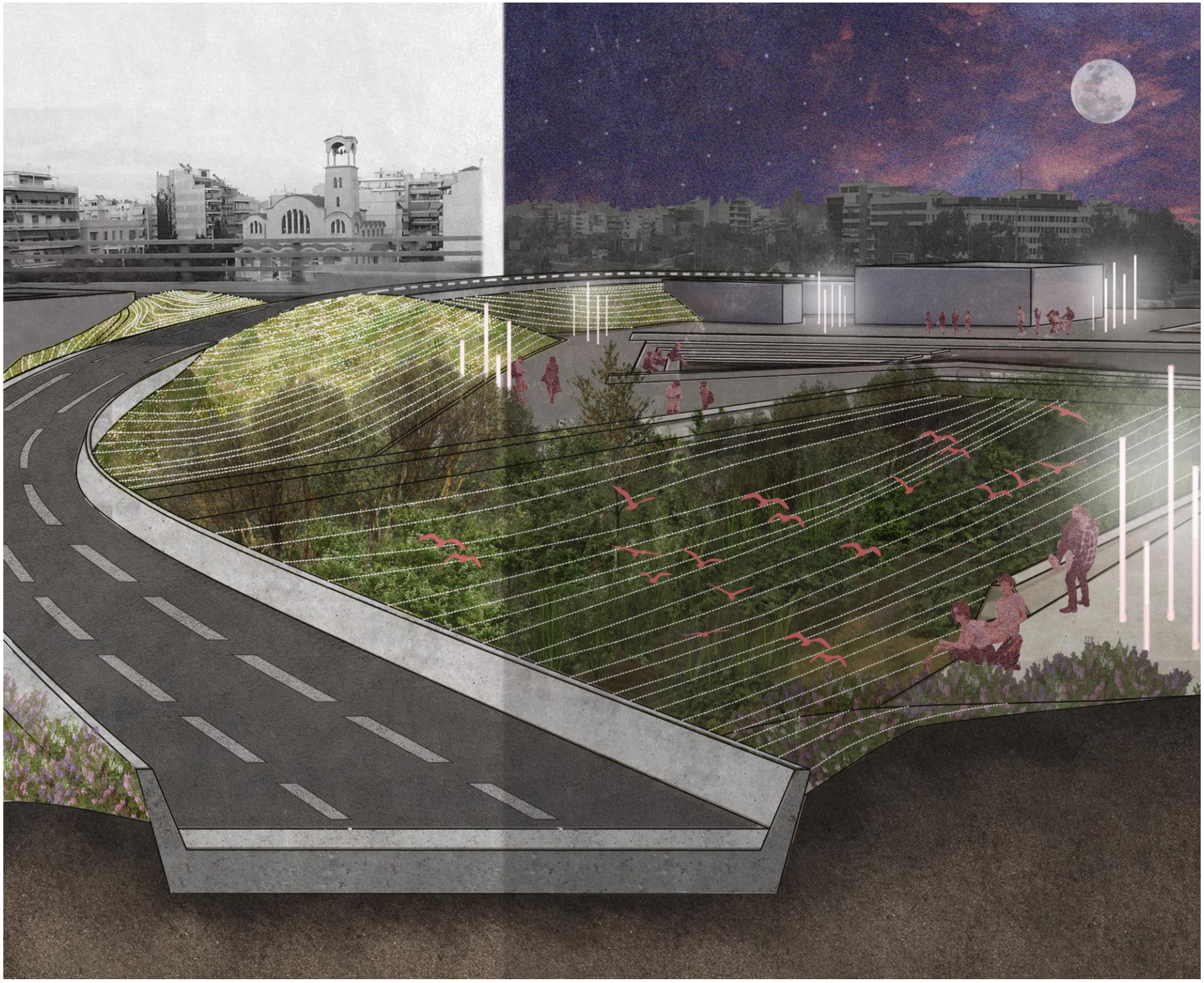


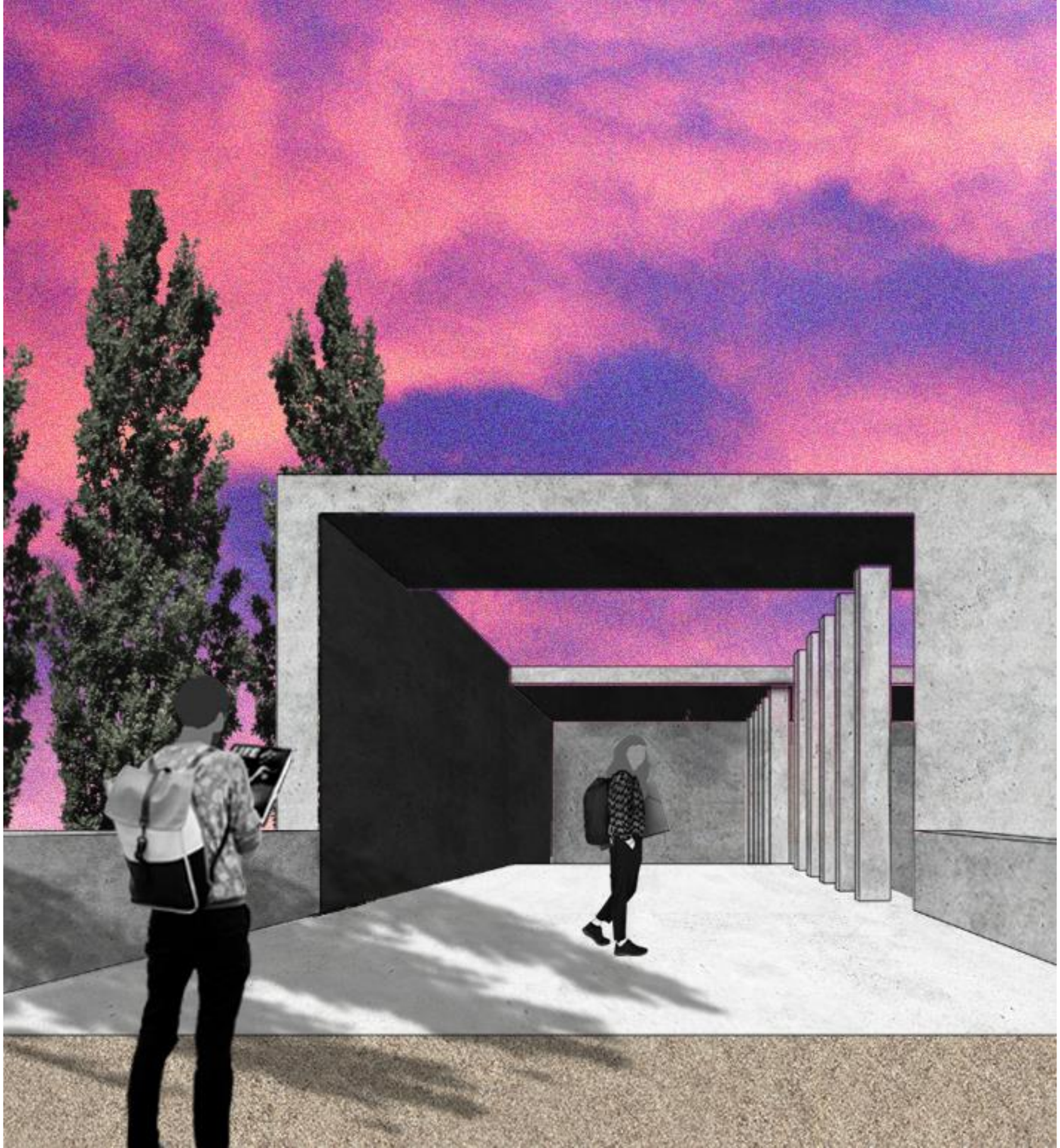


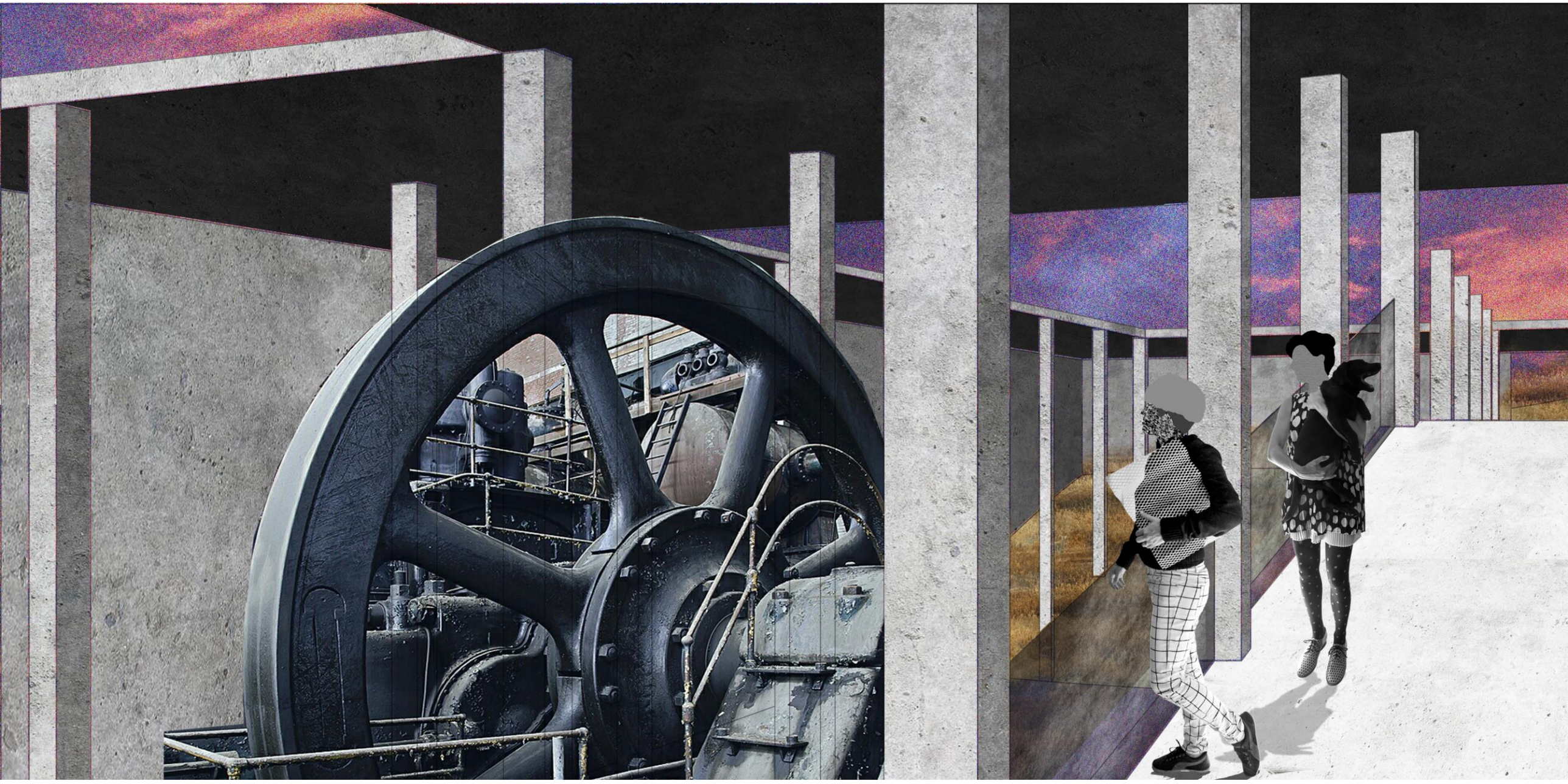








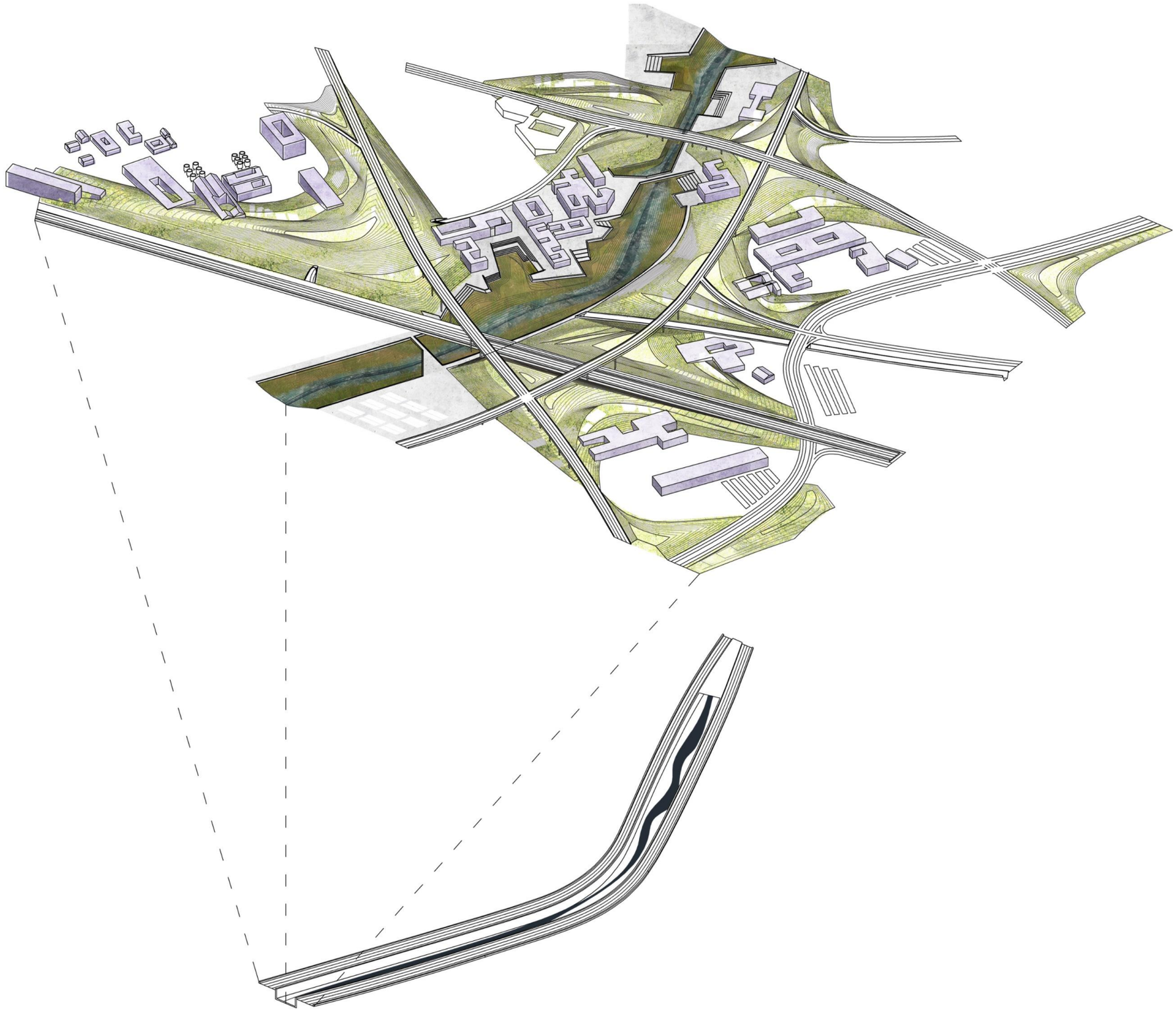




The created order (of any formal plan) *is everywhere punched and torn open by ellipses, drifts and leaks of meaning: it is a sieve-order.*

Michel de Certeau, *The Practice of Everyday Life*

Kifissos - An open changing landscape



Thank you

Fin!