Politecnico di Milano
Scuola di Architettura e Società
Dipartimento di Architettura e Studi Urbani

Thematic Studio "Edgelands and Urban Agriculture"
Corinna Morandi, Fabrizio Leoni, Andrea Rolando,

Tutors:
Matteo Paracchini, Paola Sturla

Urban Design studio

Edgelands and urban Agriculture

Berlin, April 29th – May 3rd, 2013
ANCB AEDES NETWORK CAMPUS_Berlin

Learning from Berlin

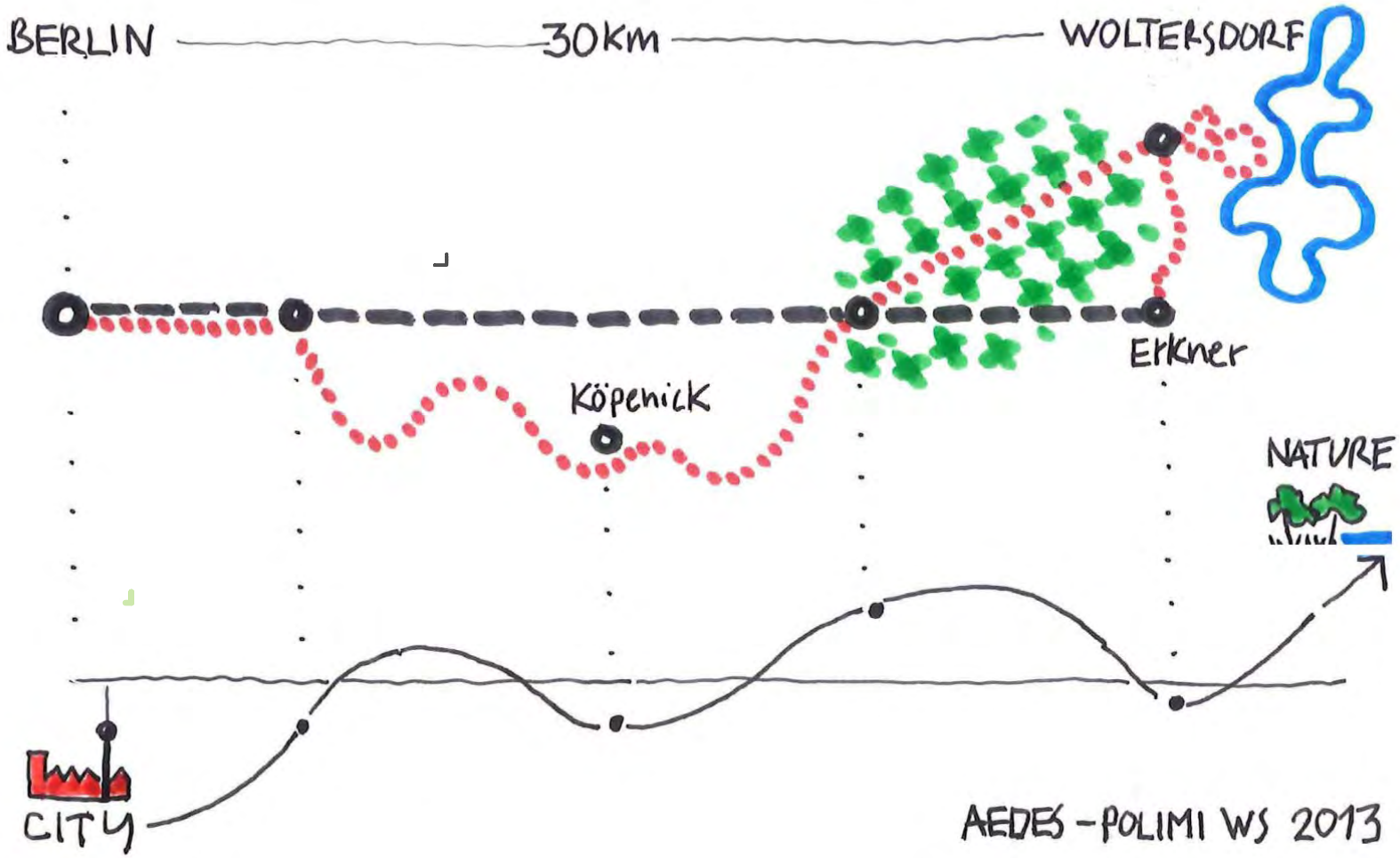
1 studio

Edgelands and Urban Agriculture

27 students 12 nationalities

The emerging of the themes of **edgelands** and **urban agriculture**, focused on a new consideration of the role of the spaces **in-between the urban and the rural**, and on the relationships city/agriculture or **production/consumption/leisure**, draws the attention of planners, urban and landscape designers towards a specific interest in those open spaces, which play economic, **spatial, ecological and social roles**.

Experiencing urban and territorial scale



Experiencing urban and territorial scale:

Carl Marx Allee, Köpenick, Rahnsdorf, the forest, Woltersdorf

A similar situation in Milan

Interacting with nature

Productive landscape

material total

Woltersdorf

Woltersdorf, the town center

Corbetta, the town center

Erkner, the railway station

Corbetta, the railway station

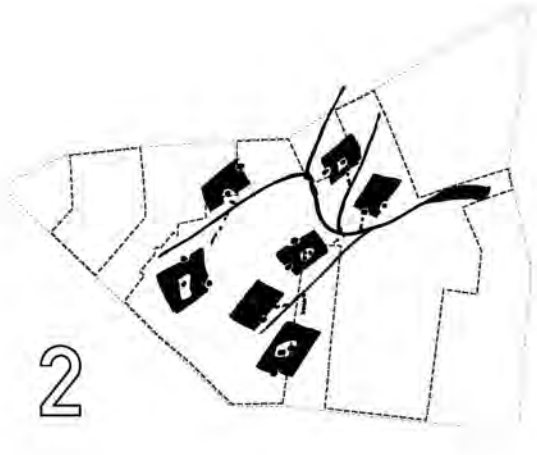
From Woltersdorf to Rahnsdorf through the forest along the tramway

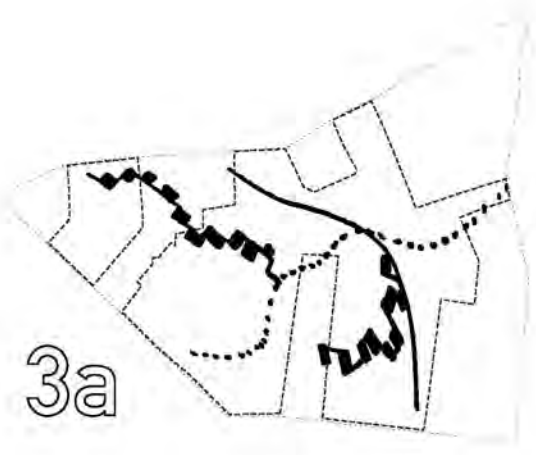
From Corbetta to Milano through the countryside along a canal

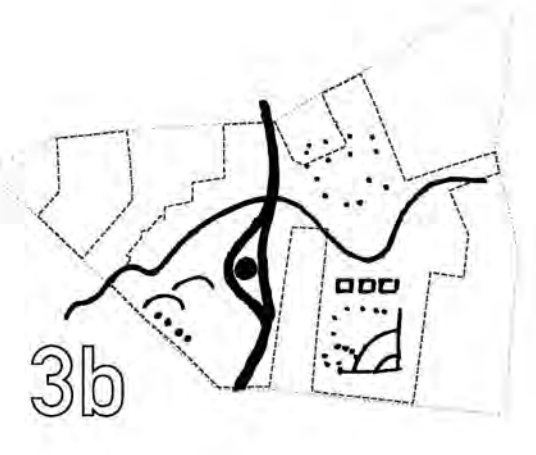
Woltersdorf

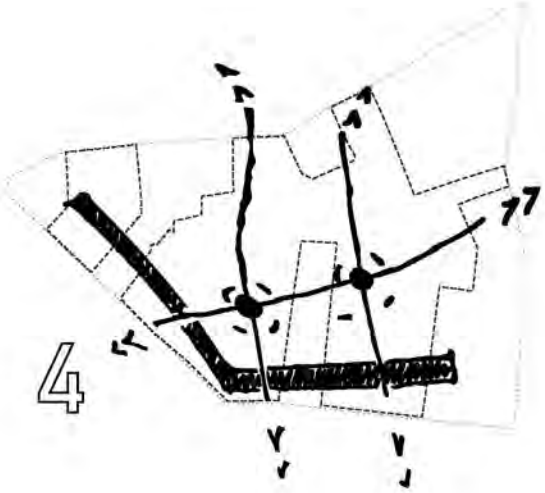
Working in Woltersdorf

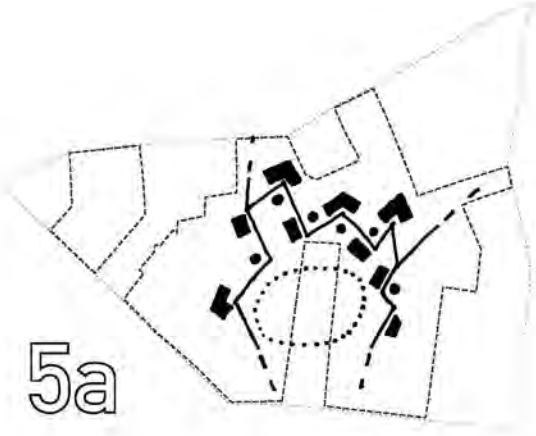
- **Experiencing** the territorial Relationships 1
- Readig the **topography** of the site 2
- **Interacting** with each **tree** 3
- Thinking about **social life**, **leisure** and **urban agriculture** 4
- Understanding what **typologies** may be suitable 5

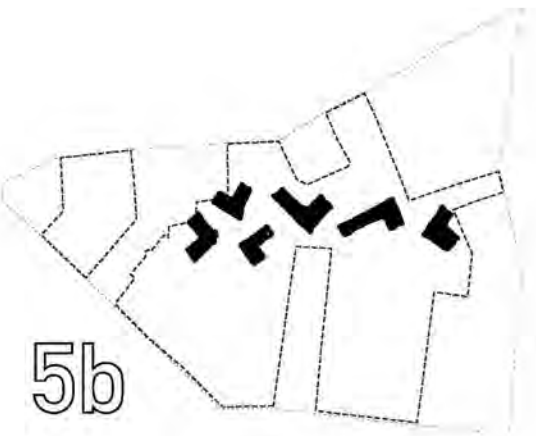












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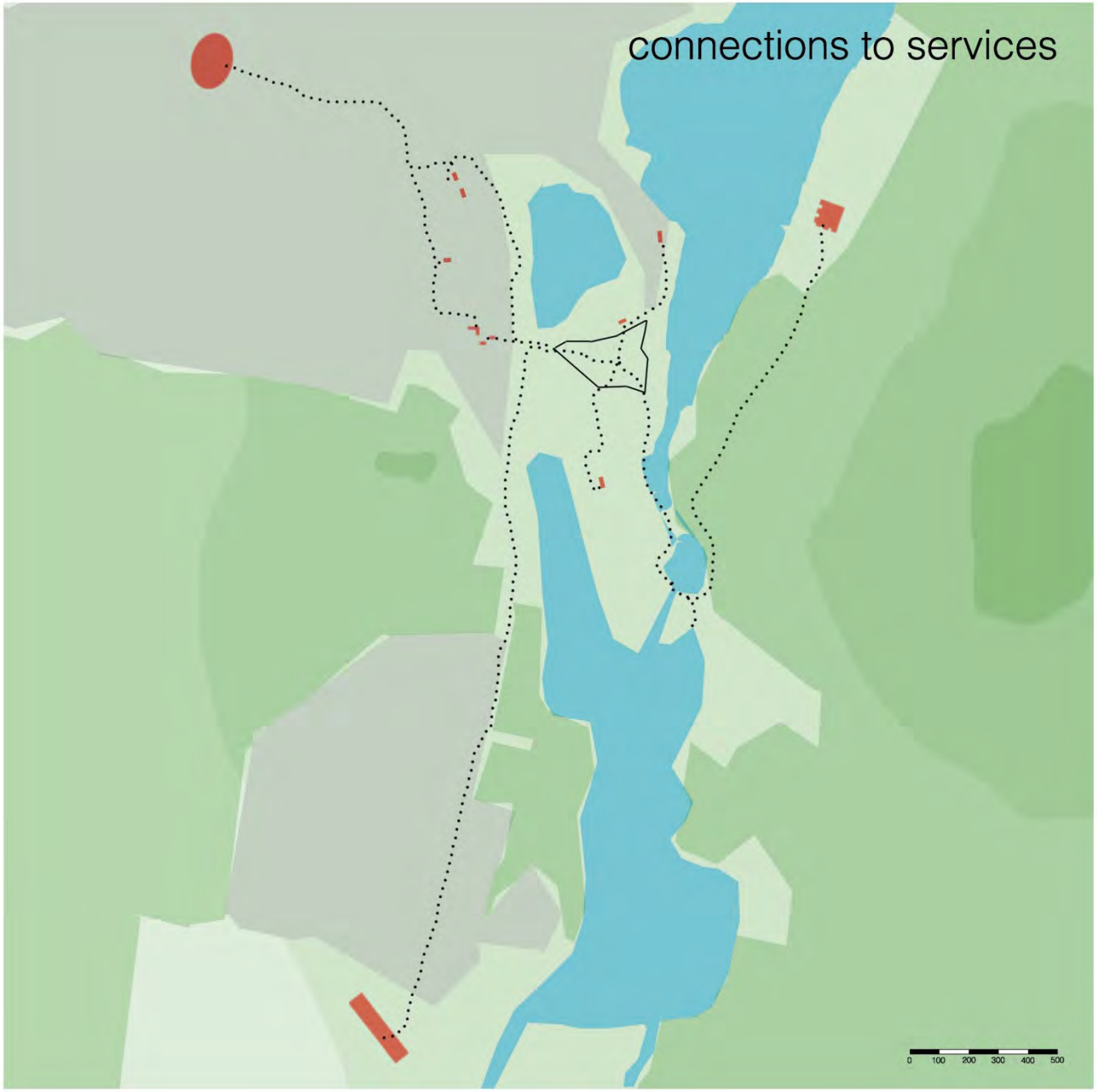
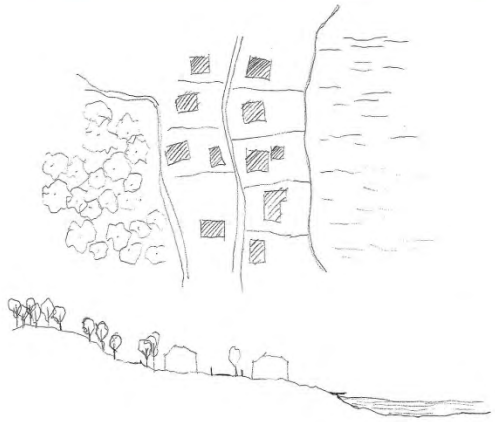
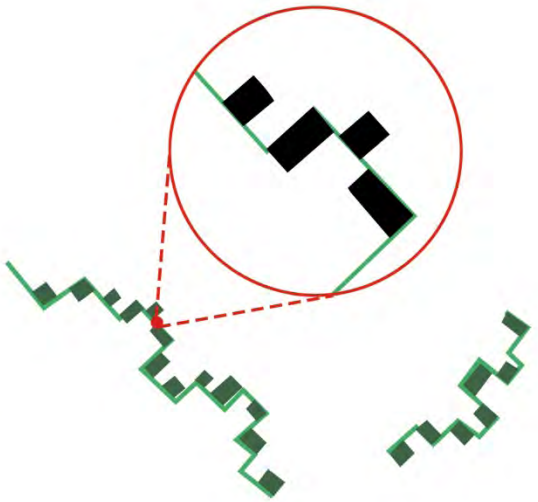
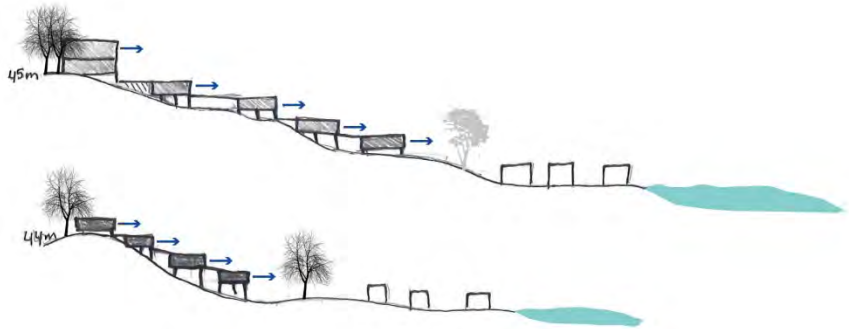


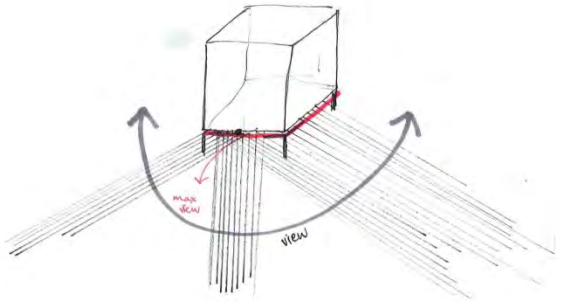
lake's dwelling



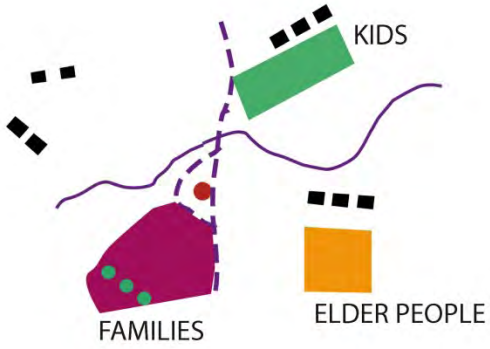
MASTERPLAN 1

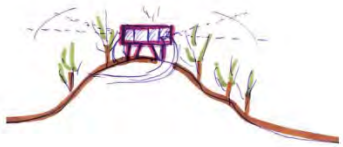


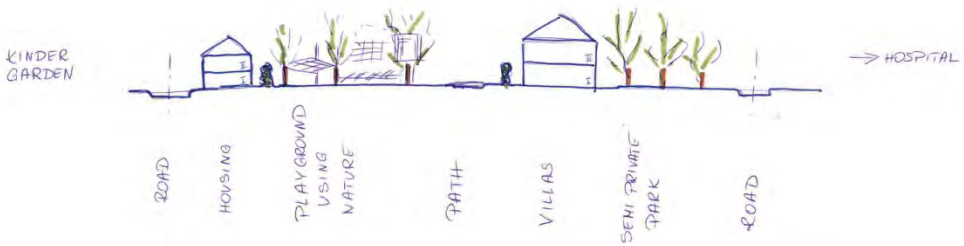


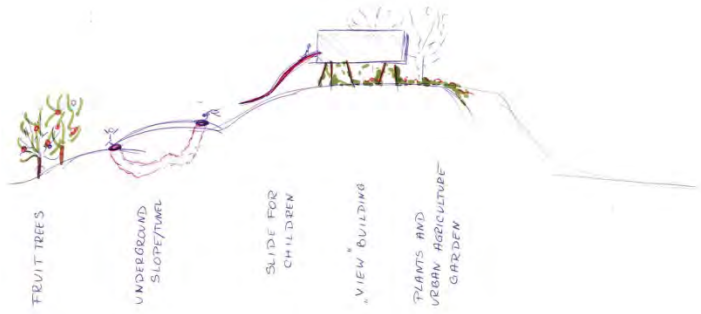


MASTERPLAN 2

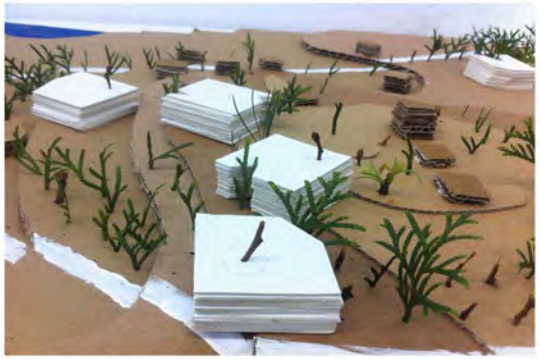


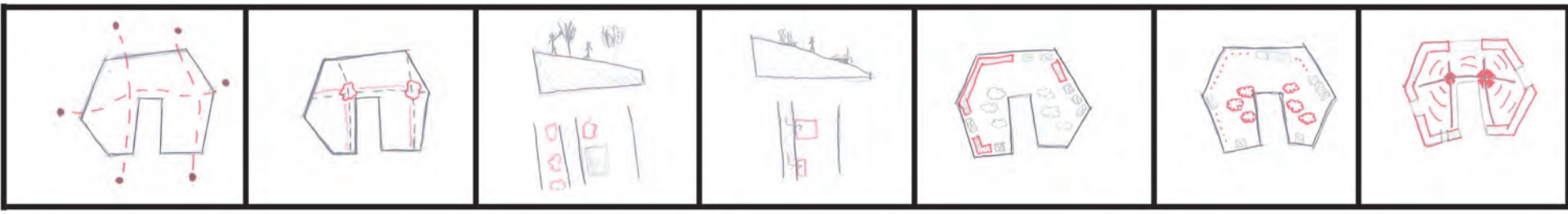


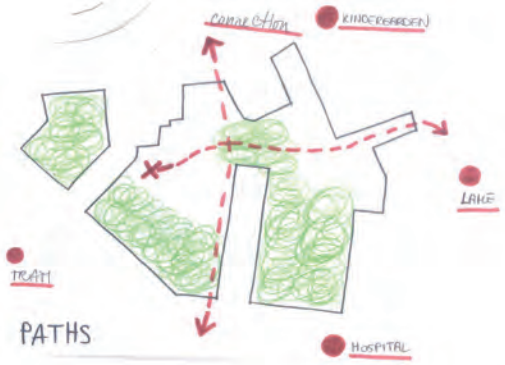


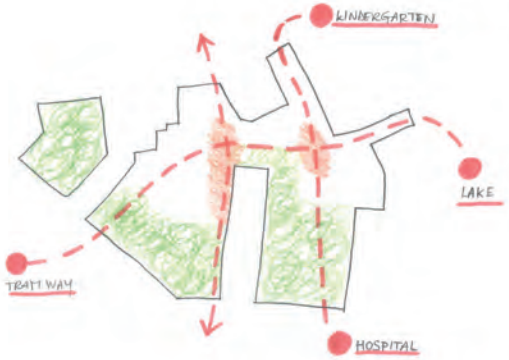


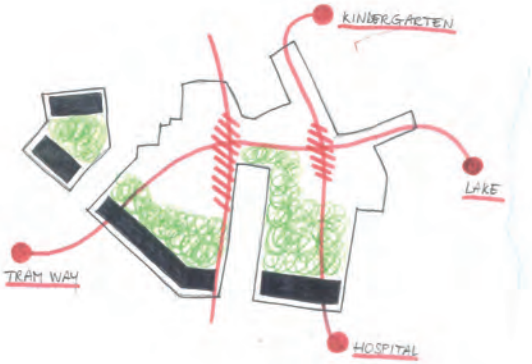
KEY PLAN






KINDERGARDEN
LAKE
TRAM
HOSPITAL
PATHS


KINDERGARTEN
LAKE
TRAM WAY
HOSPITAL


KINDERGARTEN
LAKE
TRAM WAY
HOSPITAL

KINDERGARDEN

LAKE

TRAM WAY

HOSPITAL

N

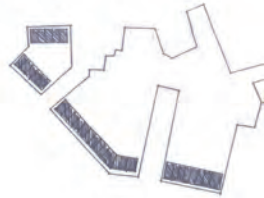
MASTERPLAN

from
LOW DENSITY

1st year

5th year

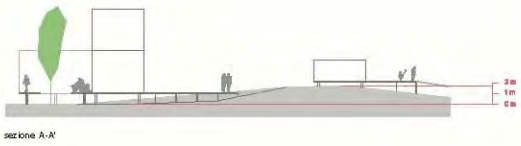
10th year



to
HIGH DENSITY

Master Plan (Low Density)

0 50 100m



sezione A-A'

sezione B-B'

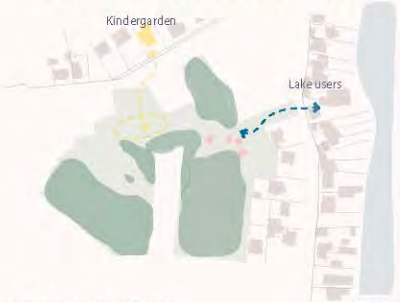
sezione C-C'

Pre-existing

Define Path

Built elements

Use and connection with the City



MINIMUM SQ_one floor building

280 sq	16 people
570 sq	24 people
TOT 850 sq	40 people

MAXIMUM SQ_two floor building

560 sq	24 people
720 sq	30 people
TOT 1280 sq	54 people

Master Plan (High Density)

Define Path

Path

Access Point

Locate Open Space

Open Space

Path

Apply typology

Family
(with private garden)

Apartment

Connect Open Spaces with the City

Small park

Urban Service (cafe)

Urban Agriculture

SEE GARTEN GEHÄUSE

spontaneous living, informal design and urban agriculture

A proposal for the Community of Woltersdorf in the outskirts of Berlin

Arezoo Akbarvand and Cecilia Ricci

Prof. Andrea Rolando

POLITECNICO DI MILANO
School of Architecture and Society
Masters Degree in Architecture A.A. 2012/2013

RURAL OR NOT?

How is going to be our life in the next 20 or even less years?

The conflict between agricultural and urban territories is changing in a dialogue, finding again a dimension of coexistence and collaboration.

G. Berengo Gardin, Asciano, Siena, 1961.

WHAT IS NEEDED?

People need to be re-linked with the natural features, a replacement in the ground.

Urban Agriculture plays a key role in two global challenges: urbanization and food security.

It can make an important contribution to a sustainable urban development and creation and maintenance of multifunctional urban landscapes.

During the past years this process happened spontaneously from people's needs and demands.

Prinzessinnengarten, Berlin, 2012.

WHAT IS NEEDED?

"The garden doesn't belong to anyone, we manage it, but anyone who wants to, can participate, because the goal is to provide locally produced organic vegetables to the people who live in the district, and promote community work and the revival of organic agriculture traditions which have been forgotten in cities like Berlin."

Robert Shaw, Prinzessinnengarten's founder and coordinator

Prinzessinnengarten, Berlin, 2013.

URBAN SPACES AS A PLATFORM FOR THE HAPPY DEGROWTH

"the Decrease is the reduction of the production and the consumption of the goods, which don't have utility - also called as "junk goods"..it consists in the reduction of the energetic and non-energetic wastes. The achievement of this objective depends very much on technologies' development, aimed to both a reduction of materials' and energetic waste during the process of production as well as to the reduction of the products that are wasted when they fall into disuse."

Maurizio Pallante

Baby eating a homemade yogurt with mummy in front of a laptop.

EDUCATION AND HORTICULTURE THERAPY

"To live together in the world means essentially that a world of things is between those who have it in common, as a table is located between those who sit around it: the world like every in-between, relates and separates men at the same time."

Daniel Kemmis

"These commons are the spaces that expand and deepen cultural and ecological vision and mold citizenship"

Brian Donahue

Baby playing in a garden, 2013.

EDUCATION AND HORTICULTURE THERAPY

Therapeutic or healing gardens and green spaces of many kinds are becoming key elements in the design of hospitals, assisted living facilities and nursing homes.

Horticultural therapy is a time-proven practice. The American Horticulture Therapy Association defines horticulture therapy as, *"a process utilizing plants and horticultural activities to improve social, educational, psychological and physical adjustment of persons thus improving their body, mind and spirit."*

The use of place in educational contexts not only provides students with knowledge and understanding of a particular place, but also communicates that the land has value, that students' experience outside the classrom have value, and that students' own personal knowledge has value.

Couple in their garden, 1998.

HUMAN SCALE AS A UNIVERSAL STARTING POINT

"Cities are the places where people meet to exchange ideas, trade, or simply relax and enjoy themselves. A city's public domain — its streets, squares, and parks — is the stage and the catalyst for these activities. Jan Gehl, the doyen of public- space design, has a deep understanding of how we use the public domain and offers us the tools we need to improve the design of public spaces and, as a consequence, the quality of our lives in cities.

Everyone should have the right to easily accessible open spaces, just as they have a right to clean water. Everyone should be able to see a tree from their window, or to sit on a bench close to their home with a play space for children, or to walk to a park within ten minutes. Well-designed neighborhoods inspire the people who live in them, whilst poorly designed cities brutalize their citizens. As Jan says: "We shape cities, and they shape us."

Lord Richard Rogers, from introduction to Cities for People by Jan Gehl

Marc Riboud, Shangai, 2005.

SHAPING THE CITIES TO SHAPE US

The close connection between people's use of city space, the quality of city space and degree of concern for the human dimension is a general pattern that can be shown at all scales.
Just as cities can invite city life, there are many examples of how the renovation of a single space or even change in furniture and details can invite people to a totally new pattern of use.

G. Berengo Gardin, Monaco, 1965.

SPONTANEOUS LIVING

Venice has everything: dense city structure, short walking distances, beautiful courses of space, high degree of mixed use, active ground floors, distinguished architecture and carefully designed details – and all on human scale.

"How can I design if I do not know what the end results will be like? Is a frequent complaint. Why would you need to design if you already knew? Is my response."

John Habraken in Spontaneous Cities by Urhan Design

Giovanni Nardi, Venezia, 2010.

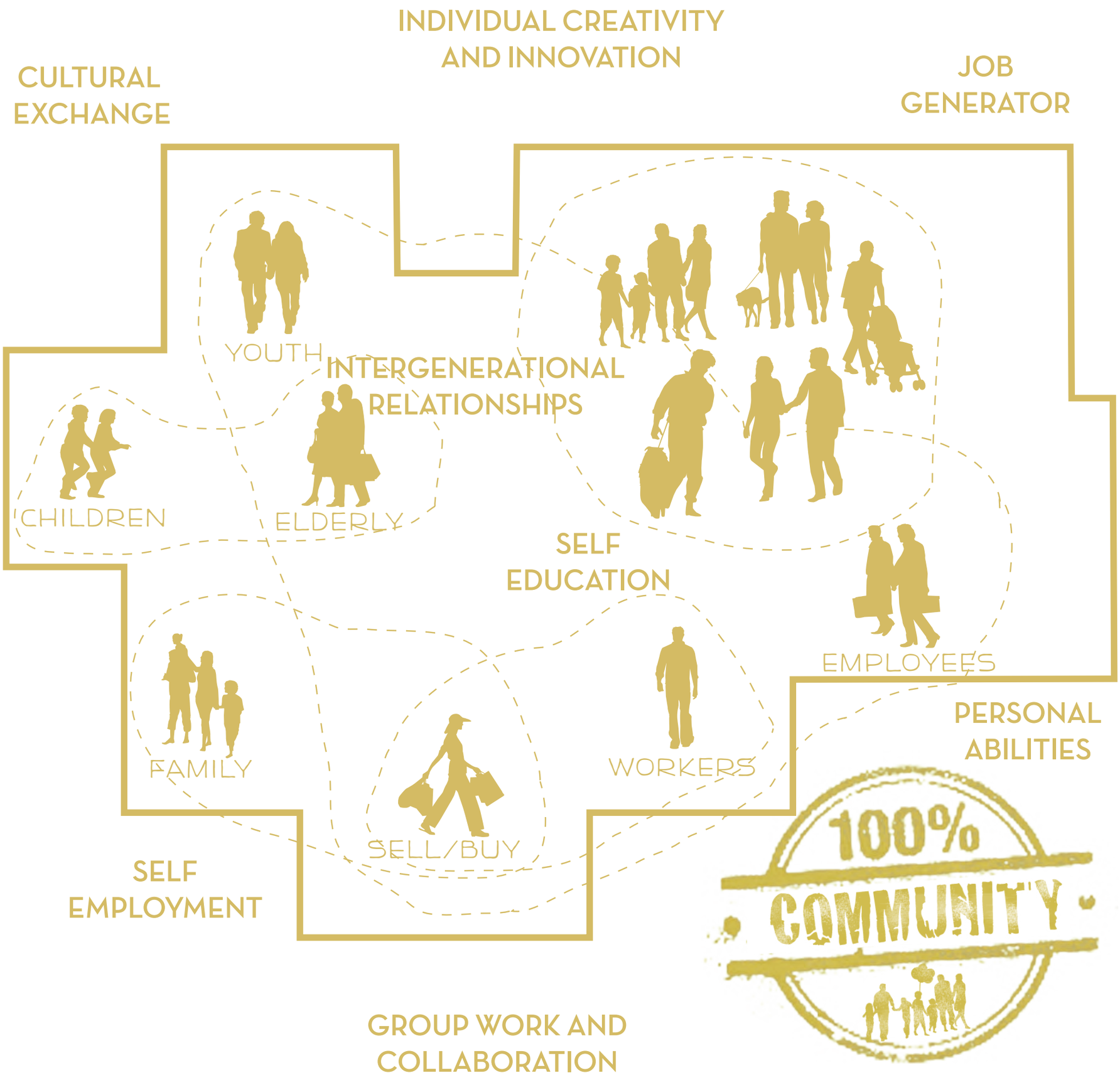
FREE INSTEAD
OVER REGULATED PLANNING

SELF-ORGANIZED CITY
WITHOUT
TOO MUCH BUROCRACY

CREATE YOUR SPACE
BASED ON YOUR NEEDS

CHOOSING YOUR
OWN LIFESTYLE

FLEXIBILITY IN TIME


INDIVIDUAL CREATIVITY
AND INNOVATION
CULTURAL
EXCHANGE
JOB
GENERATOR
YOUTH
INTERGENERATIONAL
RELATIONSHIPS
CHILDREN
ELDERLY
SELF
EDUCATION
EMPLOYEES
PERSONAL
ABILITIES
FAMILY
WORKERS
SELL/BUY
SELF
EMPLOYMENT
100%
COMMUNITY
GROUP WORK AND
COLLABORATION

INDIPENDENT OF LARGE PROVIDERS
OF ENERGY, WATER AND WASTE TREATMENT.

GREEN AND GARDEN
TO IMPROVE LIFE QUALITY

NETWORK OF ENERGY, FOOD, JOB,
SKILLS EXCHANGE.

SELF MENAGEMENT
OF RESOURCES

FOOD PRODUCTION

100%
SUSTAINABLE

CONCLUSIONS

'Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when they are created by everybody'

Jane Jacobs

With the aim of shaping a spontaneous city we need to consider four important principles:
ZOOM IN
SUPERVISE OPEN DEVELOPMENTS
CREATE COLLECTIVE VALUES
BE USER-ORIENTED

With those premises we present our project, that it's more a proposal for a **FLEXIBLE URBAN PLANNING**, grafted onto the **POWER** of **PRIVATE INITIATIVES.**

Our answer to the instant city and the economical crisis is the **SPONTANEOUS CITY**.

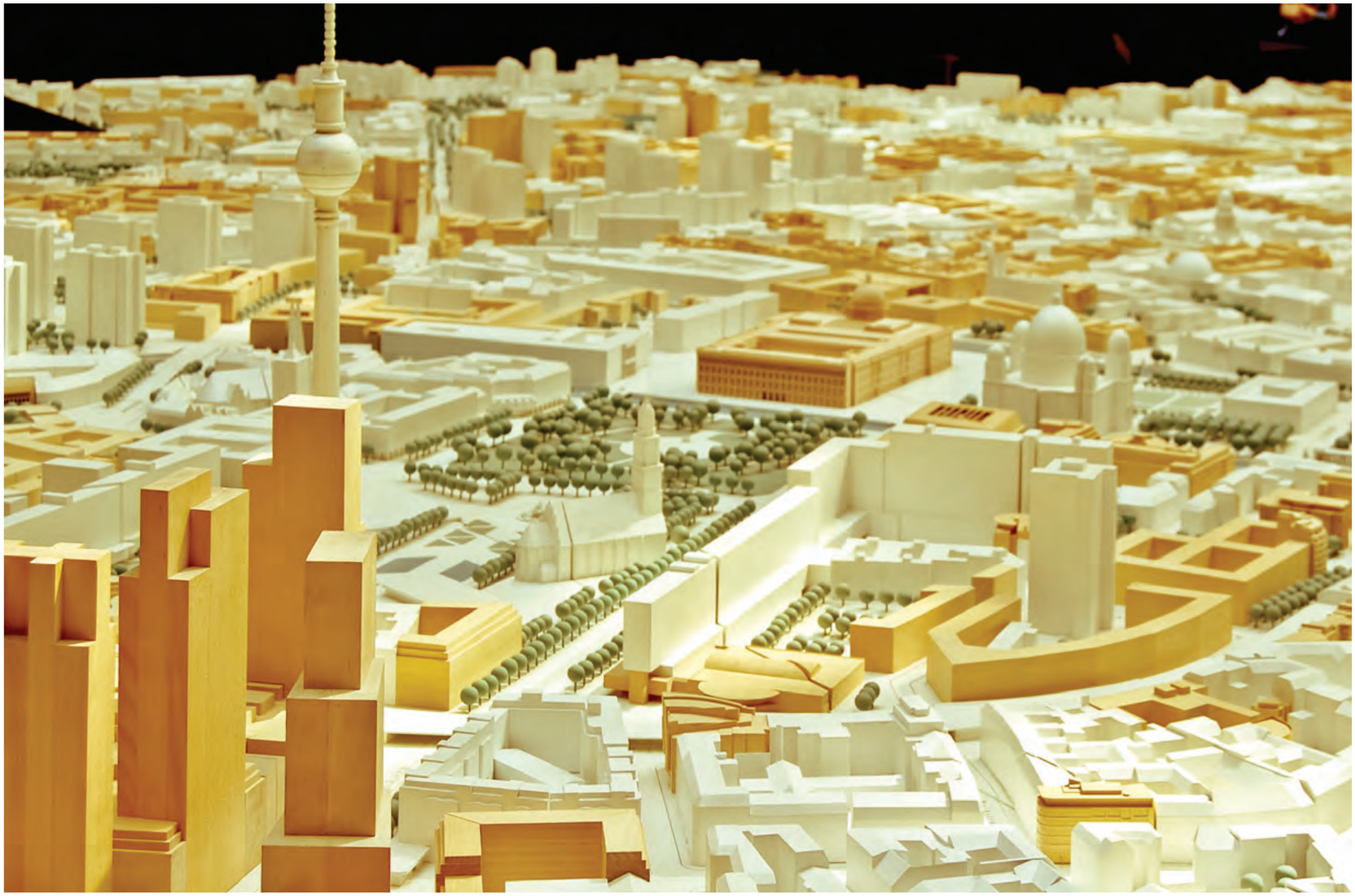
This is an opportunity for another practice with a new investment logic:
A CONCEPT, OPEN TO INDIVIDUAL INTERPRETATION.

In reaction to the current economical crisis, we need to scrutinise our planning strategies. Instead of just making cut-backs or deducing cost, we should be focusing on weighing the value of the environment and on mobilising **SMALLER BUDGETS** on a **LARGER SCALE**.

BERLIN AND GARDEN SENSIBILITY

Berlin will host the 2017 'Internationale Gärten Ausstellung' (IGA), Germany's world horticultural exhibition that will be held at the site of Berlin's former airport Tempelhof.

The expo is set to become the engine behind the future development of the Tempelhof park which will become known by a wide audience and will make Berlin even greener and more attractive.



Berling maquette of reconstruction, 2013.

LIVING A RENEWING CITY

From the water garden to the urban farm, from forest to park: 2017 Berlin becomes an international showcase for the diversity, beauty and transformational power of contemporary garden and landscape design.

This can be the right occasion to sensitise the people about this topic and the perfect scenario to the project and policies proposed in this research.

Open air lessons, Berlin, 2013.

WHAT ABOUT THE COUNTRYSIDE?

Schöneiche, Rüdersdorf and Woltersdorf are three towns just outside the eastern city border of Berlin, in the Landkreis of Märkisch Oderland, which is part of the state of Brandenburg. Together they have a population of approx. 35,000.

These towns are linked to Berlin S-Bahn stations via two tram lines that are independent from the Berlin tram network. The town of Woltersdorf an der Schleuse, it's become popular for being Germany's smallest town with an own tram.

Passing by the forest and cultivated lands, the journey from the town to the city offers a complete view of the outskirts of Berlin throw the countryside.

Connections from Berlin to Woltersdorf

THE TOWN OF WOLTERSDORF

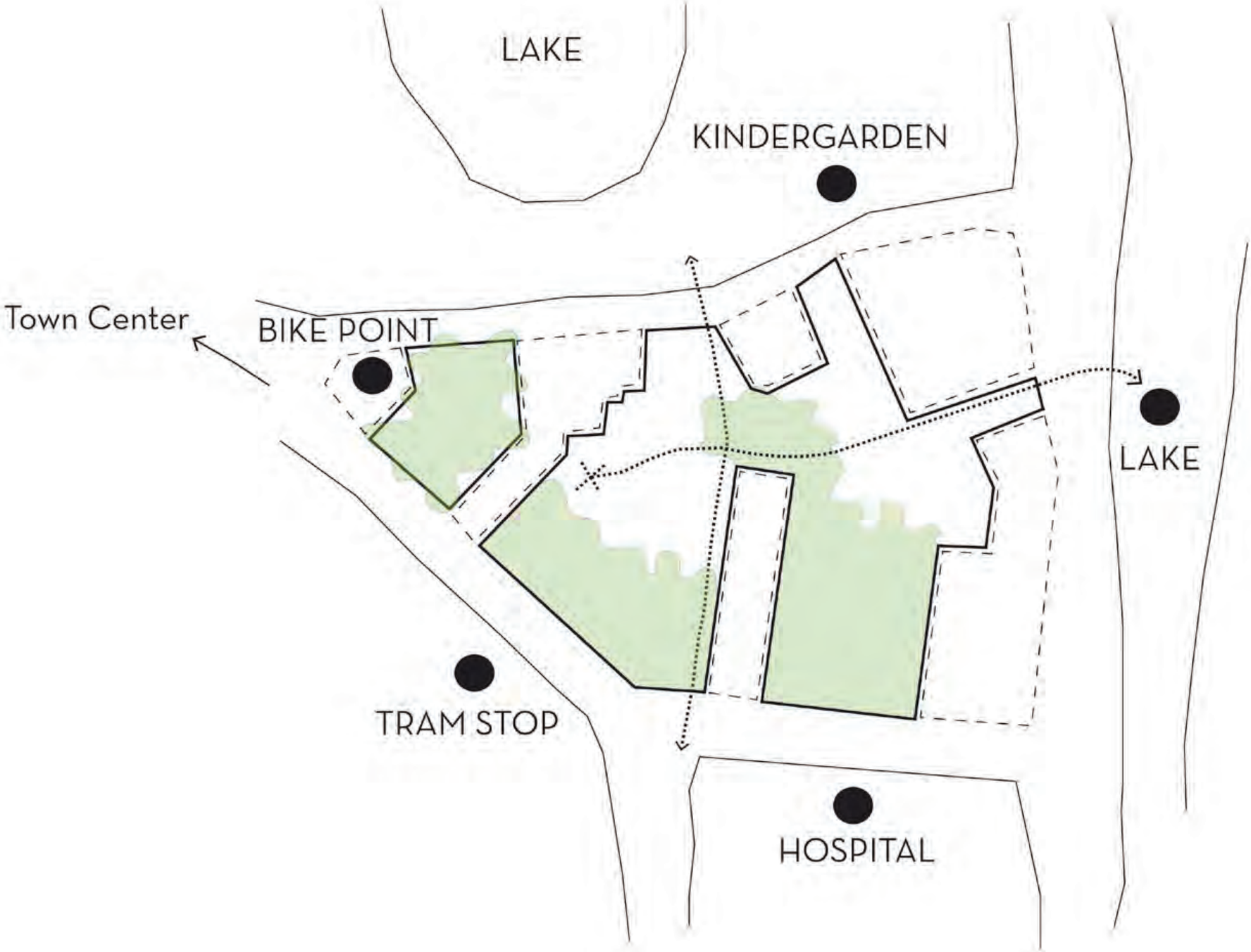
The town was founded in 1240 by 14 farming and sailors families.

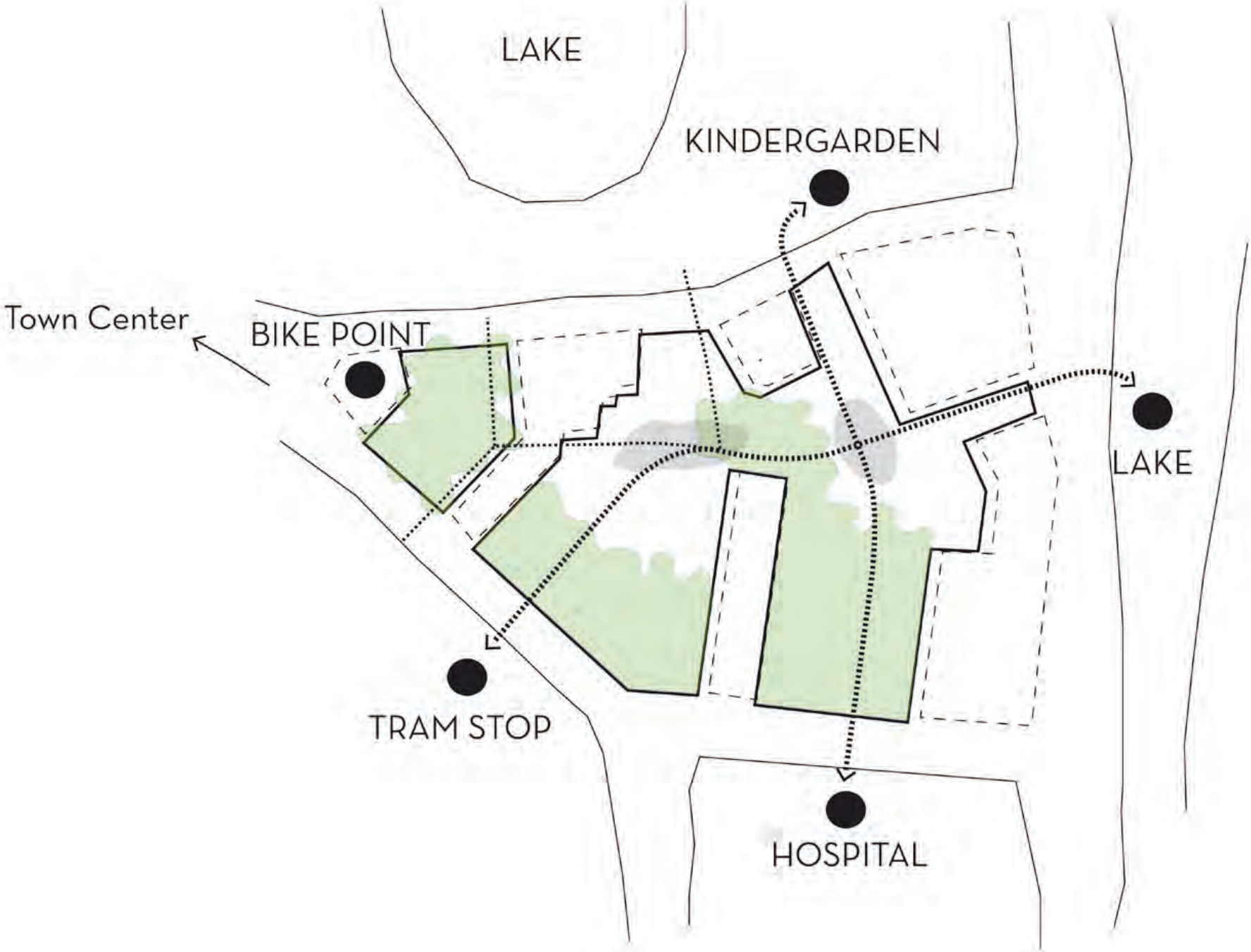
Rich in natural and built interesting features, the town struggles to become a place to live rather than just being an habitat for people working in the metropolis, it has potential on many levels: it has a protected landscape (a dune, two lakes, national park...),sites and empty buildings for development, growing population and excellent infrastructural equipment. It is also part of a "Ortsverband" which is a regional community network of four townships to strengthen inter-communal strategies on political and planning levels.

The community itself asked to the Architecture Forum Aedes a new proposal for a residential area, requiring a change inside their town especially in terms of people relationships.

Woltersdorf top view, 2008.

PROPOSAL FOR A NEW MODEL OF LIVING


LAKE
KINDERGARDEN
Town Center
BIKE POINT
LAKE
TRAM STOP
HOSPITAL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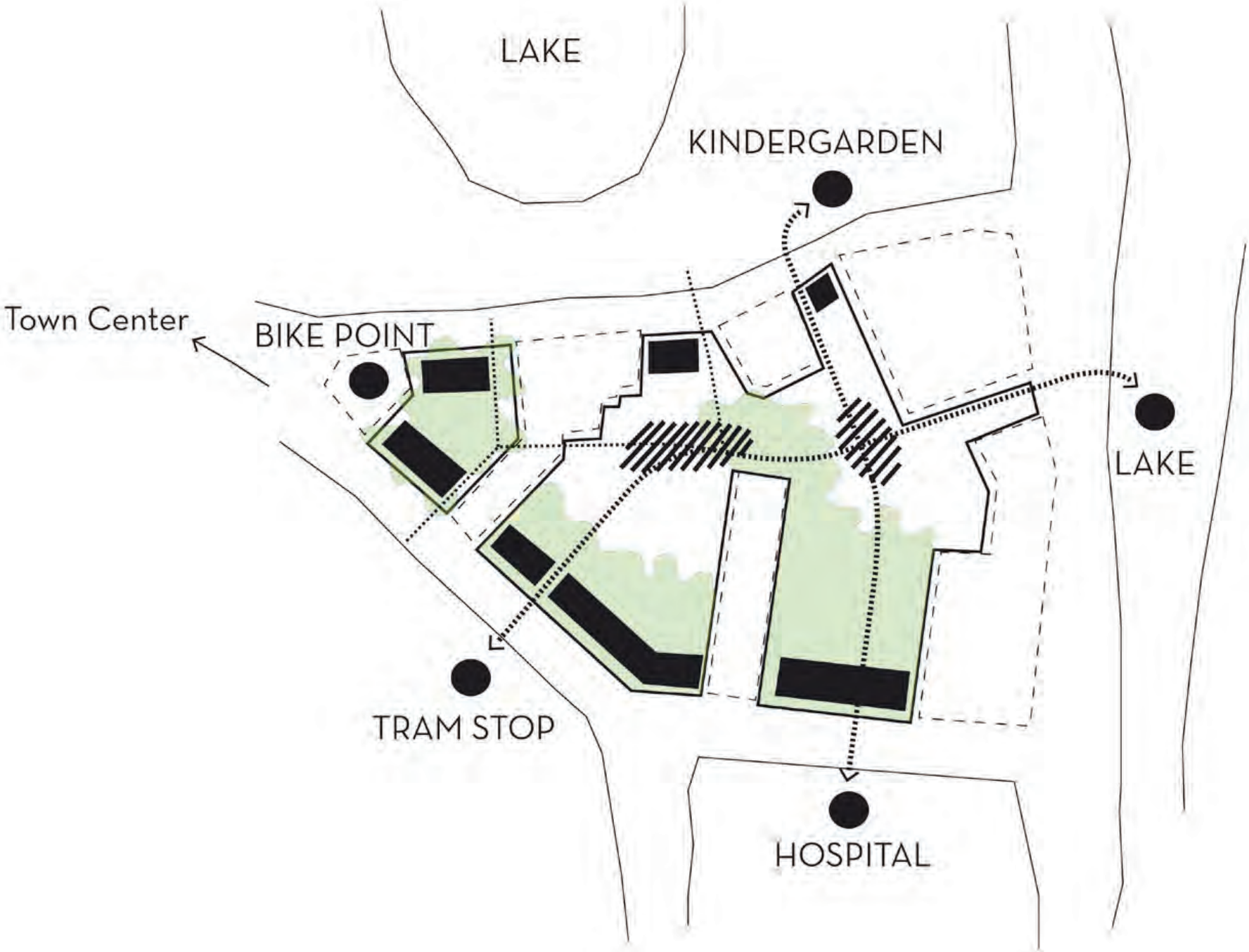
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Town Center
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KINDERGARDEN
LAKE
BIKE POINT
TRAM STOP
HOSPITAL

MASTER PLAN | YEAR

0 1 5 N

DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY:

The town is settled down on a **HILL** and was founded in 1240 by 14 farming families between Schöneiche forest and the fishing village of Radensdorf.
The original inhabitants were mostly **FARMERS** or **SAILORS**.
In the last 20 years, the **CITY CONTINUED TO DEVELOP** into an attractive residential address so that the population curve with currently about 7,730 inhabitants.
Today Woltersdorf offers its residents and guests all the **ADVANTAGES OF A SMALL TOWN**, the opportunity for recreation and **PROXIMITY** to the city of **BERLIN**.
Rich in **NATURAL** and **BUILT** interesting features, the town struggles to become a **PLACE TO LIVE** rather than just being an habitat for people working in the metropolis.

1 **HOSPITAL**

Evangelisch-Freikirchliches Krankenhaus, one of the main hospitals of the region, located on the south of the project area

2 **KINDERGARTEN**

Located on the north of the project area, which is one of the educational zones of the district

3 **LAKE and SAILING CLUB**

In Kalksee which has a direct access from the site, and also from its perimeter, located on the north of the project area

4 **MONUMENT GARDENS TRAM STOP**

Kriegerdenkmal 'Fidus-Denkmal', a war monument in one the parks of the region, located on the south

5 **BIKE POINT**

In which it is possible to rent or buy bicycles, located on the north of the area.

1

HOSPITAL

Evangelisch-Freikirchliches Krankenhaus,
one of the main hospitals of the region,
located on the south of the project area

2

KINDERGARTEN

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LAKE and SAILING CLUB

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MONUMENT GARDENS TRAM STOP

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a war monument in one the parks of the region,
located on the south

5

BIKE POINT

In which it is possible to rent or buy bicycles,
located on the north of the area.

MASTER PLAN | YEAR

0 — 1 — 5 — N

THE LOCATIONS POTENTIALS:
The old **TRAM** which passes by an adjacent street
BIKE POINT where is possible to rent/buy bikes
Accessibility to the **SAILING CLUB** in Kalksee directly from the site and also from its surrounding area
KINDERGARTEN on the nord, and Evangelisch-Freikirchliches Krankenhausone, of the main **HOSPITAL**s of the region, on the south.
Kriegerdenkmal 'Fidus-Denkmal', a **WAR MEMORIAL** in one of the **PARK**s of the town.

1 **"SPEED-REDUCTION SLOPES"**

Which are considered at the borders of the project area to increase the security and safety of the pedestrian.

3 **"EDUCATIVE and THERAPY GARDENS"**

Connecting the kindergarten and the hospital, which gives the chance of an intergenerational exchange between the children and the elderly. Close to the "Organic Cafeteria and Info Point".

5 "The **STRUCTURE**, as a **GUIDELINE**"

rather than a fixed elemnt, that would be filled and developed during the time, related to the inhabitants, usage and needs, with the front access to the main street for the vehicles, and back access for pedestrian.

2 **"COVERED MARKET"**

Located on the main access that connects the Tram Stop and the Lake, which is open to the vehicles as well, and gives the possibility to the farmers to sell their own products.

4 **"PUBLIC GARDENS"**
"PICK YOUR OWN"

Which provides everybody the possibility to cultivate their own products. Fruitful trees along all the paths, so the passengers can pick up their own fresh fruits passing by.

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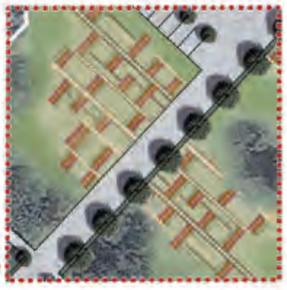

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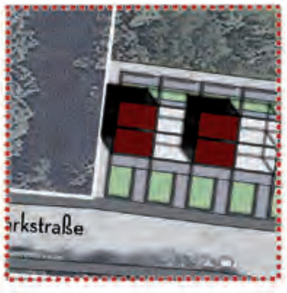

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MASTER PLAN | YEAR

0 — 1 — 5 — N

DESIGN CRITERIA OF THE CONCEPT:
Potential of the **KEYPOINS**
Main **EXISTING ROUTS**
Connecting the zone both physically and mentally to be **ACCESSABLE FOR EVERYBODY**
Designing the space as open and **FLEXIBLE** as possible, so the **COMMUNITY** can change it based on their needs
Proposing **CIVIC AGRICULTURE** to the people as a tool for **EDUCATION** and **THERAPY**

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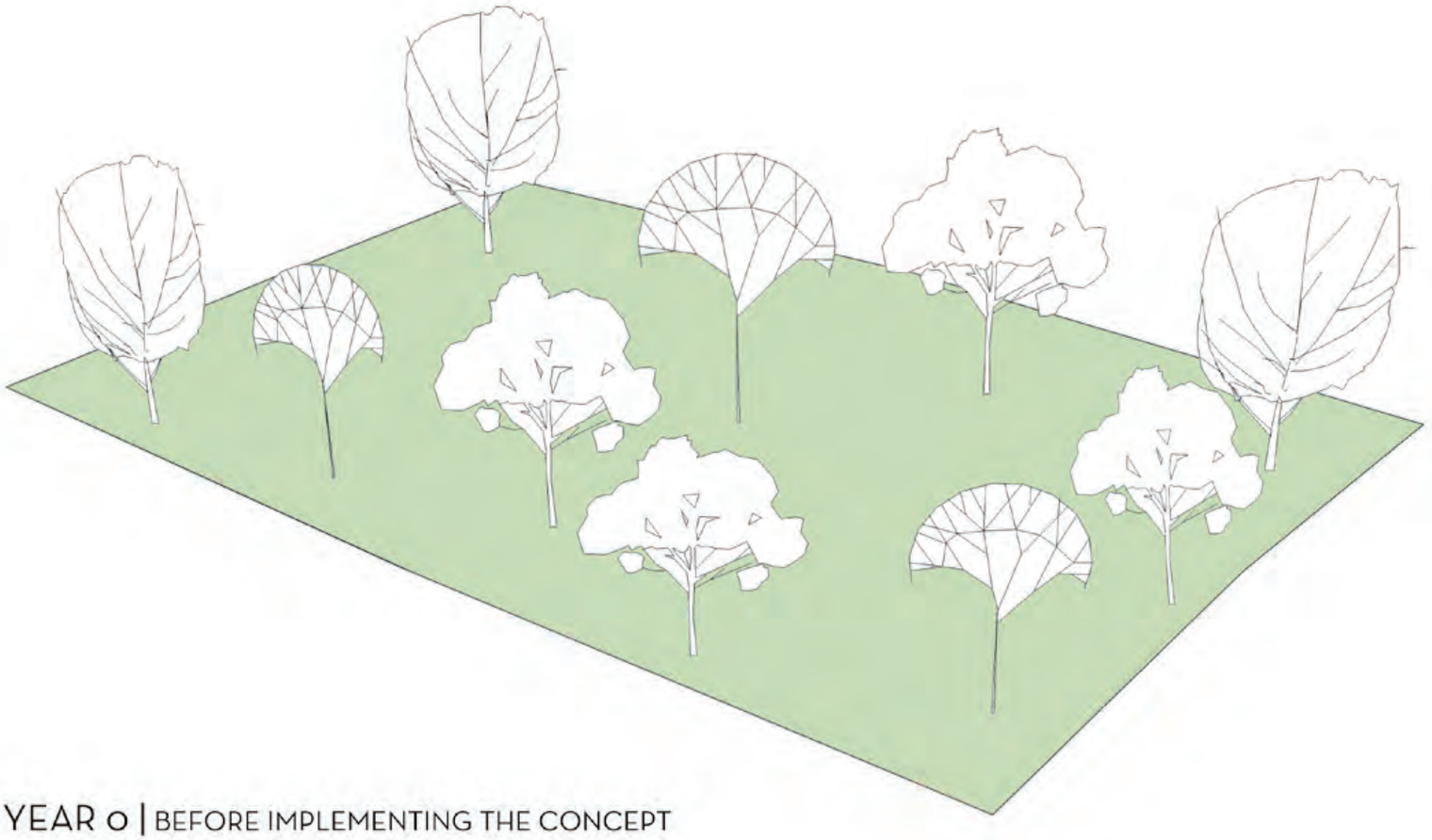
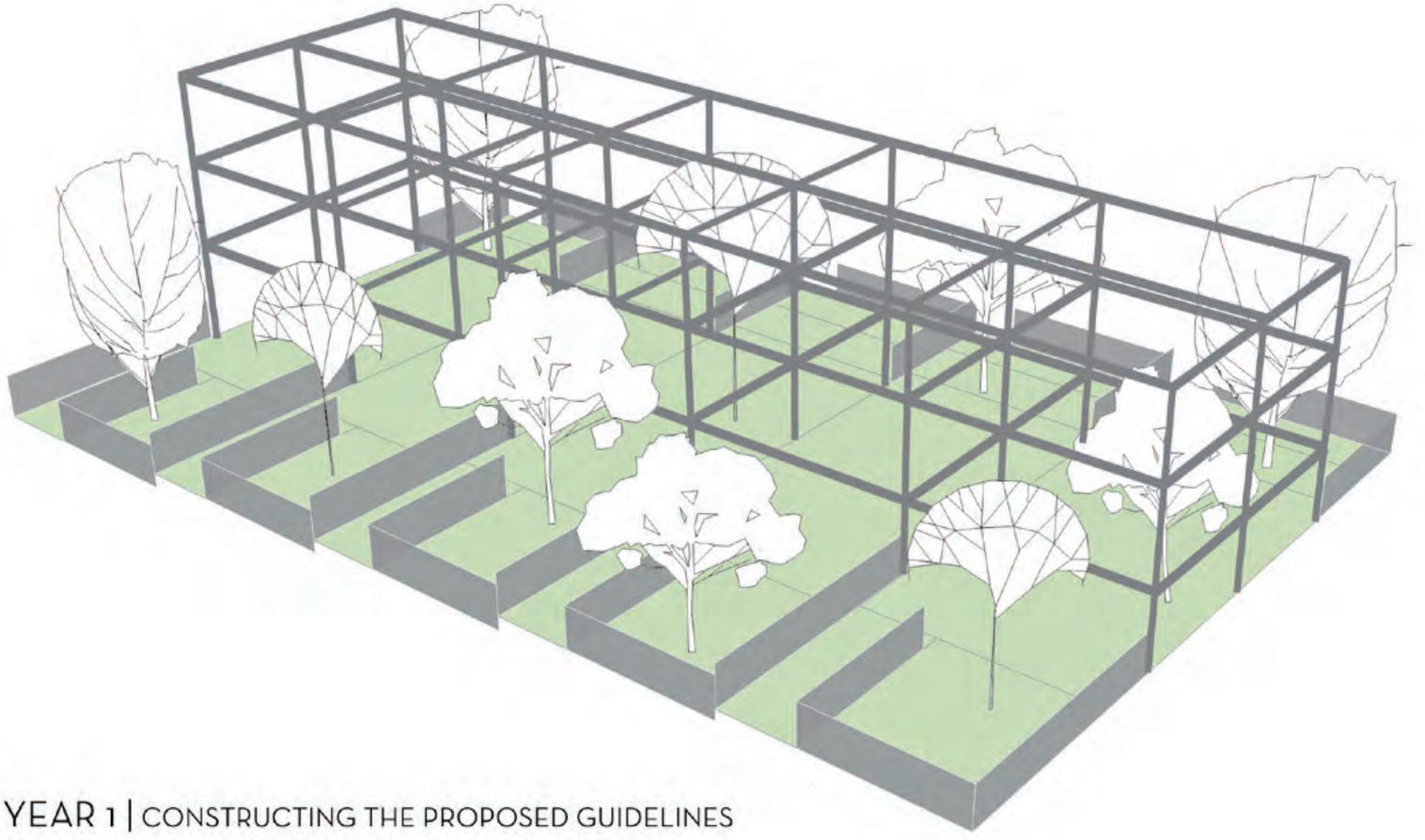
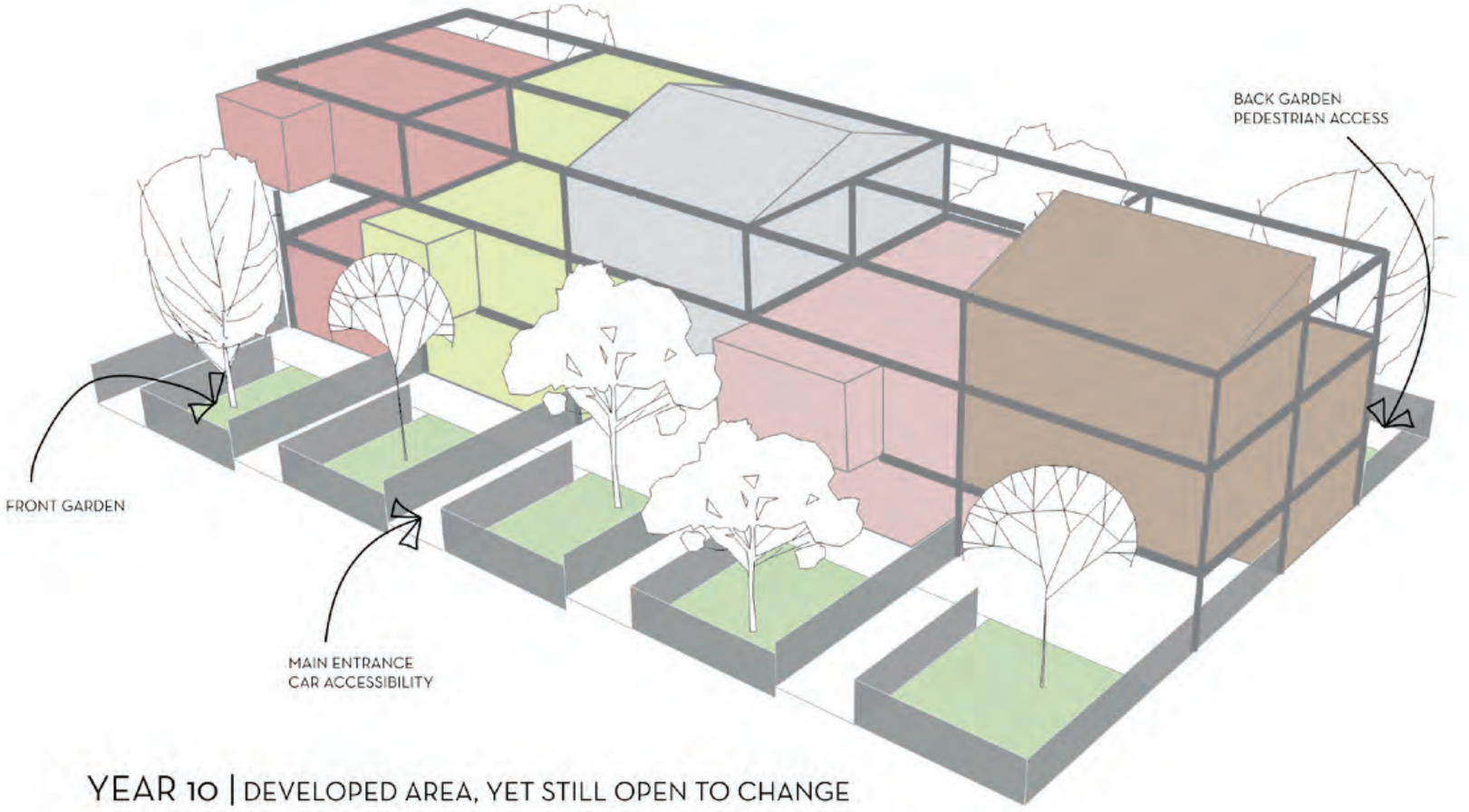


YEAR 0 | BEFORE IMPLEMENTING THE CONCEPT



YEAR 1 | CONSTRUCTING THE PROPOSED GUIDELINES

YEAR 5 | GROWING THE SPONTANEOUS SETTLEMENTS



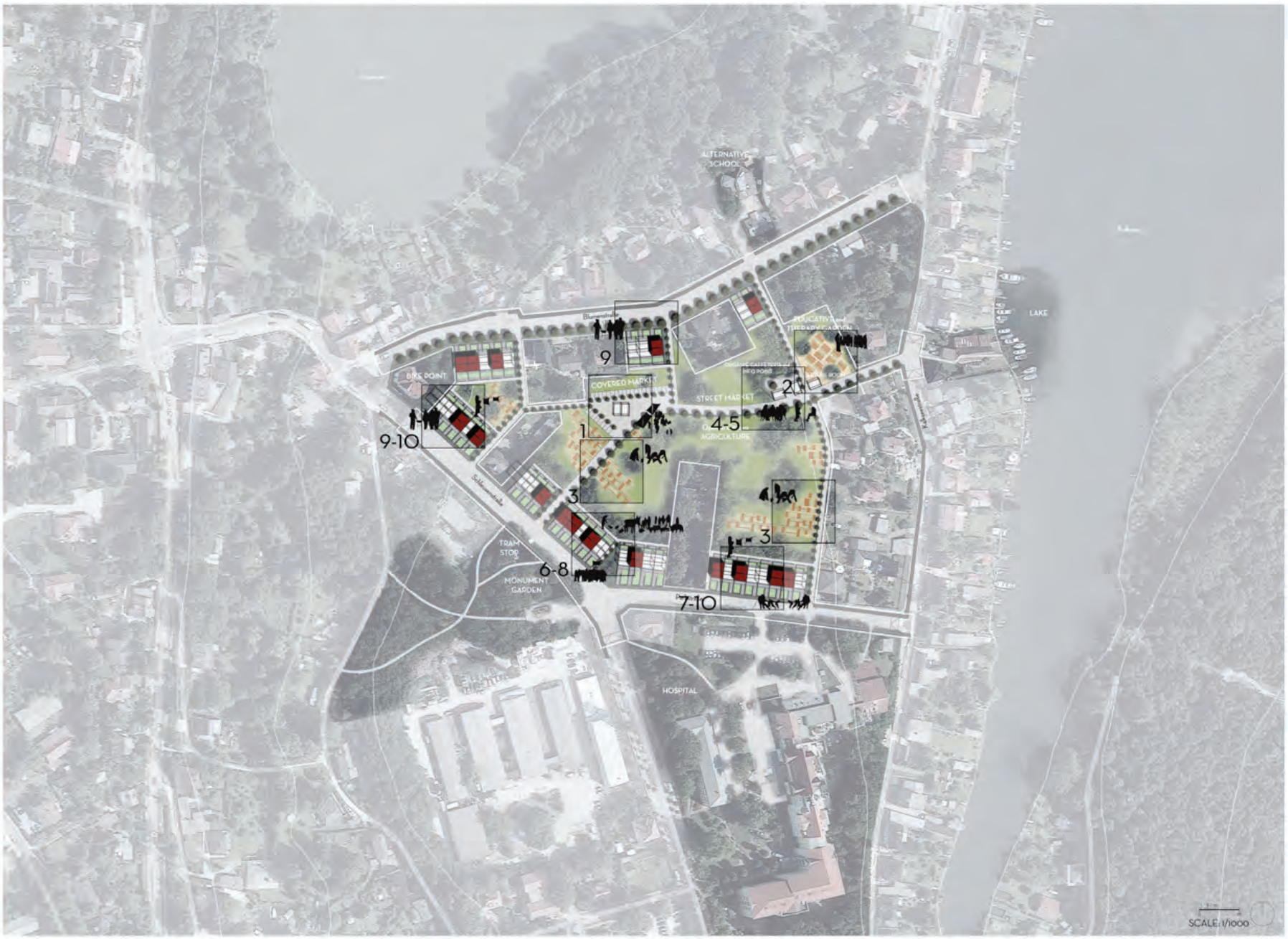
YEAR 10 | DEVELOPED AREA, YET STILL OPEN TO CHANGE

MASTER PLAN | YEAR

0 — 1 — 5 — N

WHAT ABOUT THE FUTURE?

The project is an **EXPERIMENT** which would shape based on **PARTICIPATION** and **SHARING** of changes, implementing by the **INHABITANTS** already settled.
A **FLEXIBLE** design and more responsive layouts, to the **EVER-CHANGING NEEDS**.
As flexibility corresponds to a **FREEDOM** in terms of not only **TIME** , but also **Space**.
Seen in a light of the "**POSSIBLE**" donated to the community with the ability to **MANAGE SPACE** by creating a **PERSONALIZED AND UNIQUE SPACE** for every single or family.
An **INFRASTRUCTURAL SUPPORT FOR HOUSING UNITS**, as a **BASIC GRID**, with different sizes and shapes, featuring a lightweight autonomous, flexible and **ADOPTABLE** to different configurations.



COVERED MARKET

1 In the main course which connects the main entrance of the zone and the lake, where people can **sell**, **buy**, or **exchange** their **products** and belongings.

PUBLIC GARDENS

3 Along the different paths of the area, where people can cultivate and produce different **agricultural** and **handmade** products, pratice **teamwork and communal living**.

INFO POINT

5 At the junction of the main two paths of the zone, where would inform tourists and also local people about the **available services**.

PLAYGROUND

7 Where you can find a **tree** or your **cosy corner**, just let your **fantasy** grow, and **create a space** for yourself or for the ones you love.

NEIGHBOURHOOD GATHERINGS

9 In the **backyard**, or **unbuilt part** of the **structure** between the neighbours, you can organize your **feasts**, or afternoon teas together and let your family grow.

EDUCATING AND THERAPY GARDENS

2 A great place for **interfacing of generations**, where children **learn** from the elderly and the professionals, and also do it **in practice**, which would be useful also for **medical needs**.

CAFETERIA

4 At the **junction** of the main two paths of the zone, close to the gardens, which would sell the **local products**, where the people could relax, take their time, **socialize** and interact with each other.

OUTDOOR CINEMA

6 In the **unbuilt part** of the **structure** as a **common space** for the neighbours, where people could **entertain** themselves performing a movie.

CHICKEN COOP

8 The **backyard** also could be an ideal space for the children to take care of their own **pets**, and learn how to **raise animals**, not only the plants.

LAUNDRY

10 In the **backyard**, or the **common space** with your neighbour, while getting to know better your neighbours, you can do your **laundry** and let your clothes dry.

COVERED MARKET

In the public zone, along the main course
which connects the main entrance of the zone and the lake
where people can SELL, BUY, or EXCHANGE
their PRODUCTS and belongings.

PUBLIC GARDENS

Along the different paths of the area,
where people can cultivate and produce
different AGRICULTURAL
and also HANDMADE products,
and pratice TEAMWORK and COMMUNAL LIVING.

INFO POINT

At the JUNCTION of the main two paths of the zone,
where would inform tourists and also local people
about the SERVICES AVAILABLE in the area.

TREEHOUSE AND PLAYGROUND

Anywhere in the zone, where you can find
a TREE or your COSY CORNER,
just let your FANTASY grow,
and CREATE A SPACE
for yourself or for the ones you love.

NEIGHBOURHOOD GATHERINGS

In the BACKYARD,
or also in the UNBUILT PART of the STRUCTURE
between the neighbours,
you can organize your FEASTS, gathering,
afternoon teas ot dinners together, and let your family grow.

EDUCATING AND THERAPY GARDENS

In the public zone, along the main course
which connects the kindergarten and the hospital,
a great place for INTERFACING OF GENERATIONS,
where children LEARN from the elderly and the professionals,
and at the same time can cultivate and do it IN PRACTICE,
which would be useful also for MEDICAL NEEDS.

CAFETERIA

At the JUNCTION of the main two paths of the zone,
close to the gardens,
which would sell the LOCAL PRODUCTS,
and where the people could relax, take their time,
SOCIALIZE and interact with each other.

OUTDOOR CINEMA

In the public and also the private zone of the area,
like the UNBUILT PART of the STRUCTURE
as a COMMON SPACE for the neighbours,
or even the private gardens,
where people could ENTERTAIN themselves
and their children performing a movie.

CHICKEN COOP

The BACKYARD also could be an ideal space
for the children to take care of their own PETS,
and learn how to RAISE THE ANIMALS,
not only the plants.

LAUNDRY

In the BAKCYARD,
or the COMMON SPACE with your neighbour,
where the STRUCTURE is still UNBUILT,
while getting to know better your neighbours,
you can do your LAUNDRY as well and let your clothes dry.

YEAR 0

Min. Housing Area per Person = **30** sqm
Min. Services Area per Person = **25** sqm
Each Plot Area = Garden (100sqm) + House (75sqm) = **175** sqm

Territorial Area (St) = **28000** sqm
Net Area of Land (Sf) = n. plot x area = 35 x 175sqm = **6125** sqm
Services Area = 28000 - 6125 = **21875** sqm

YEAR 5

Built Houses:
2 floors = n.8 built area = 75x2=150 sqm
3 floors = n.8 built area = 75x3=225 sqm
Inhabitants:
2 floors houses = 150/30 = 5 persons
3 floors houses = 225/30 = 7 persons
total = (5x8)+(7x8) = **96** persons

Building Space Area (Sed) (Slp) =
n. persons x 30sqm = 96 x 30 = **2880**sqm

Index of tot Building Space Area (ET) =
Sed/St = 2880/28000 = **0.10** sqm/sqm
minus of 0.5 sqm/sqm

Index of Net Area of Land (EF) =
Sed/Sf = 2880/6125 = **0.47** sqm/sqm

Density =
n. persons /St = 96/28000= **0.003**

Services Area = n. persons x 25 = 96 x 25
= **2400** sqm minus of 21875

YEAR N

Built Houses:
2 floors = n.17 built area = 75x2=150 sqm
3 floors = n.18 built area = 75x3=225 sqm
Inhabitants:
2 floors houses = 150/30 = 5 persons
3 floors houses = 225/30 = 7 persons
total = (5x17)+(7x18) = **211** persons

Building Space Area (Sed) (Slp) =
n. persons x 30sqm = 211 x 30 = **6330**sqm

Index of tot Building Space Area (ET) =
Sed/St = 6330/28000 = **0.23** sqm/sqm
minus of 0.5 sqm/sqm

Index of Net Area of Land (EF) =
Sed/Sf = 6330/6125 = **1.03** sqm/sqm

Density =
n. persons /St = 211/28000= **0.007**

Services Area = n. persons x 25 = 211 x 25
= **5275** sqm minus of 21875

WHAT ABOUT THE FUTURE?

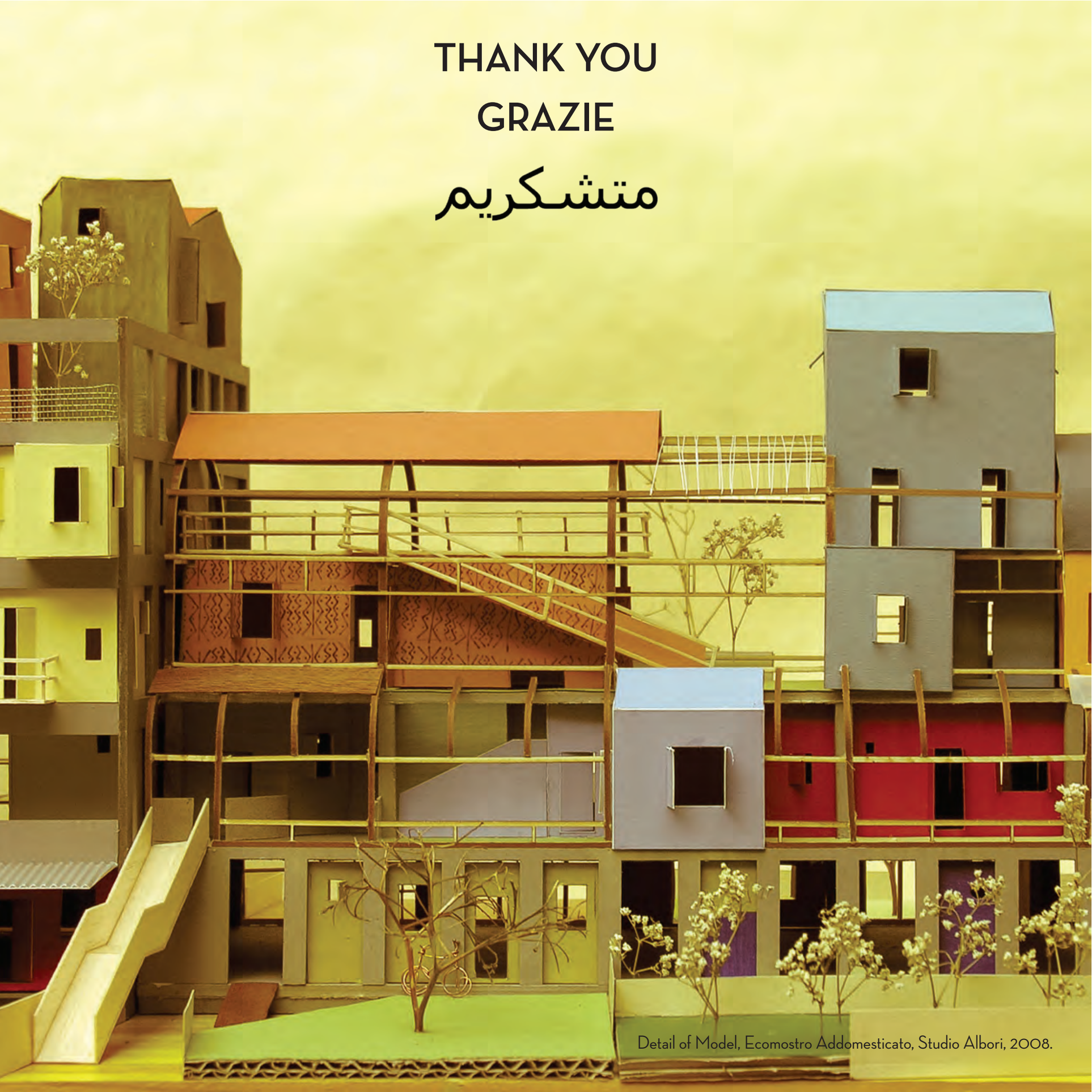
"I do not even know if these jobs really have to do with architecture...Risking rhetoric, I state that the imagery which emerges from this work, with its overflowing vitality and painful, it seems to me to indicate a research's perspective much more fertile and friendly of those, too arid and formatted, currently architecturally official jokes. I would be honored to consider myself a student of the Asinitas school."

Giacomo Borella

Model, Ecomostro Addomesticato, Studio Albori, 2008.

Renzo Piano, Thomson Factory, France, 1988-1990.

THANK YOU
GRAZIE
متشکریم



Detail of Model, Ecomostro Addomesticato, Studio Albori, 2008.