



# A CITY IN THE CITY

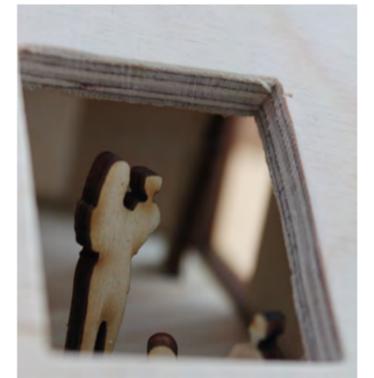
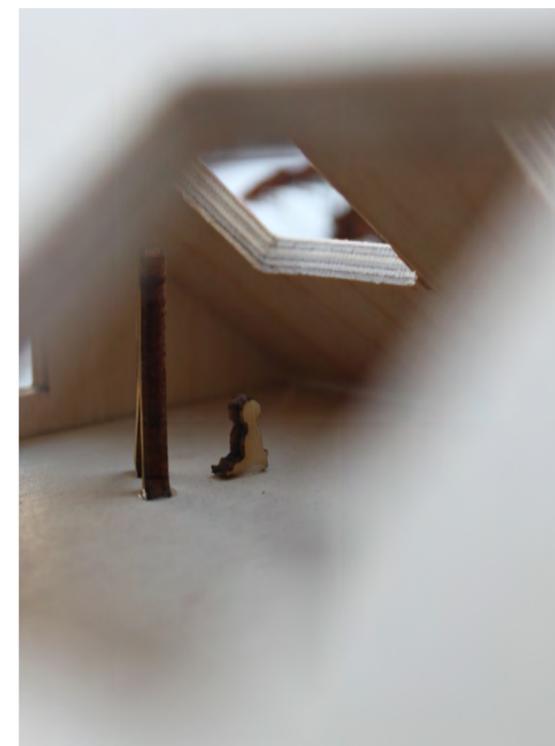
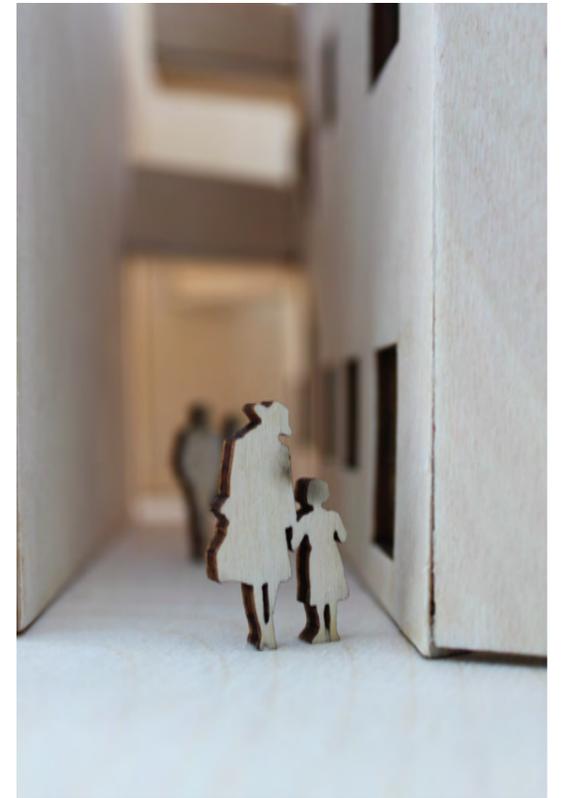
COUNCIL HOUSING | A PLACE FOR CHILDREN

Ona Katrina Findall & Katarina Sæbø Dale

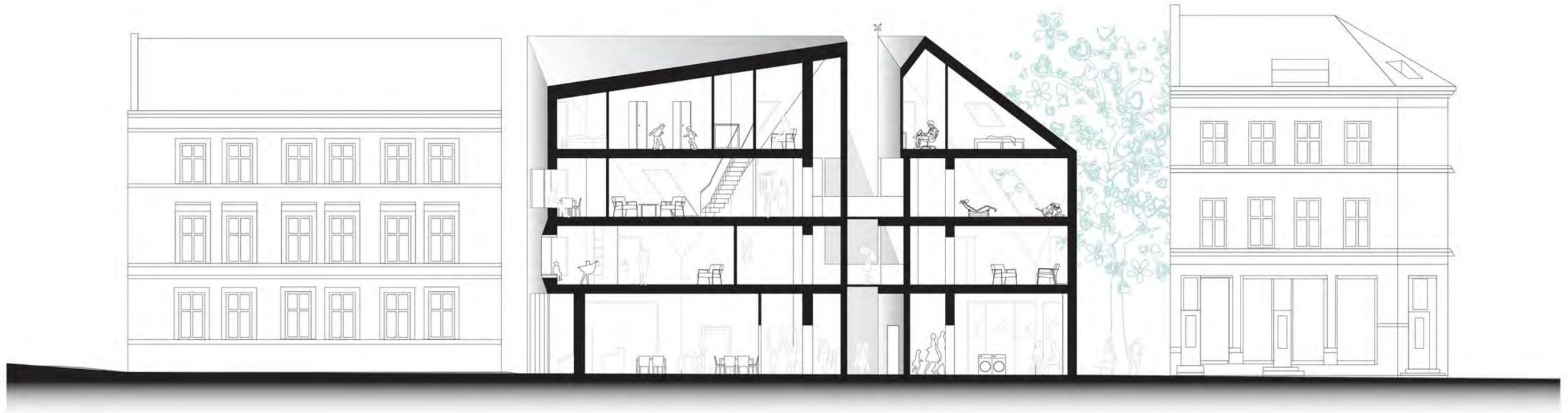
SITUATION AND URBAN PLAN



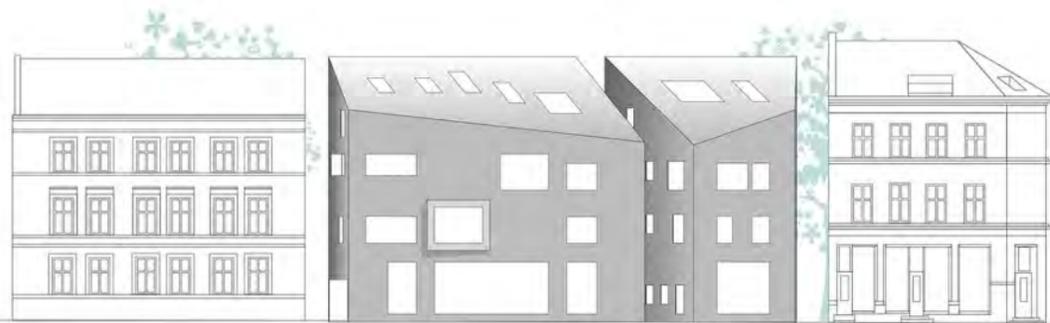
MODEL PHOTOS



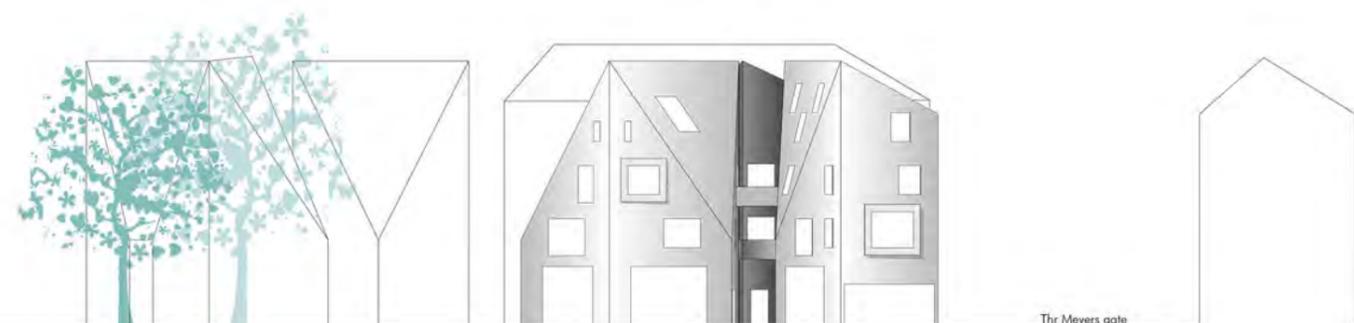
SECTION EAST



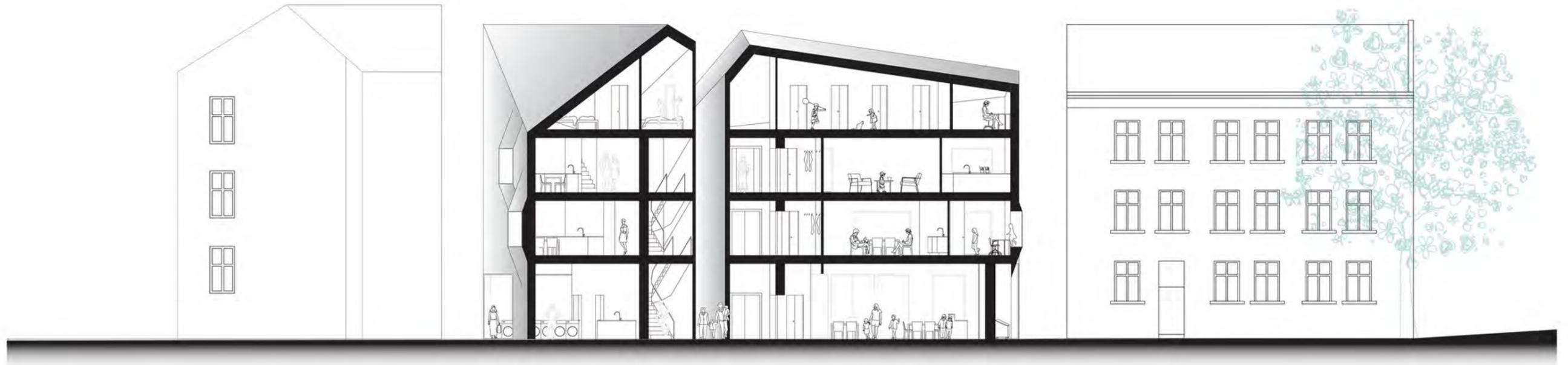
FACADE WEST



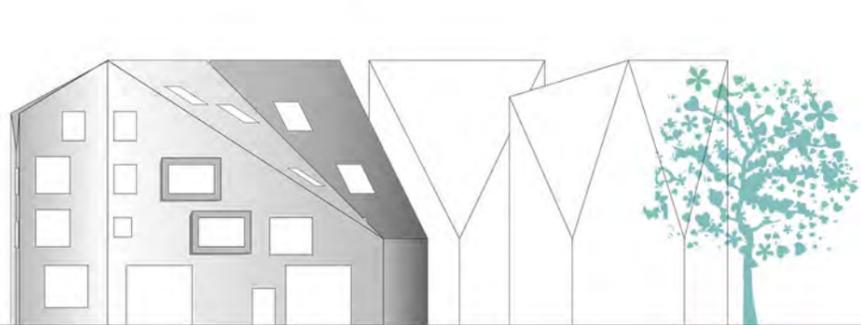
FACADE NORTH



SECTION WEST



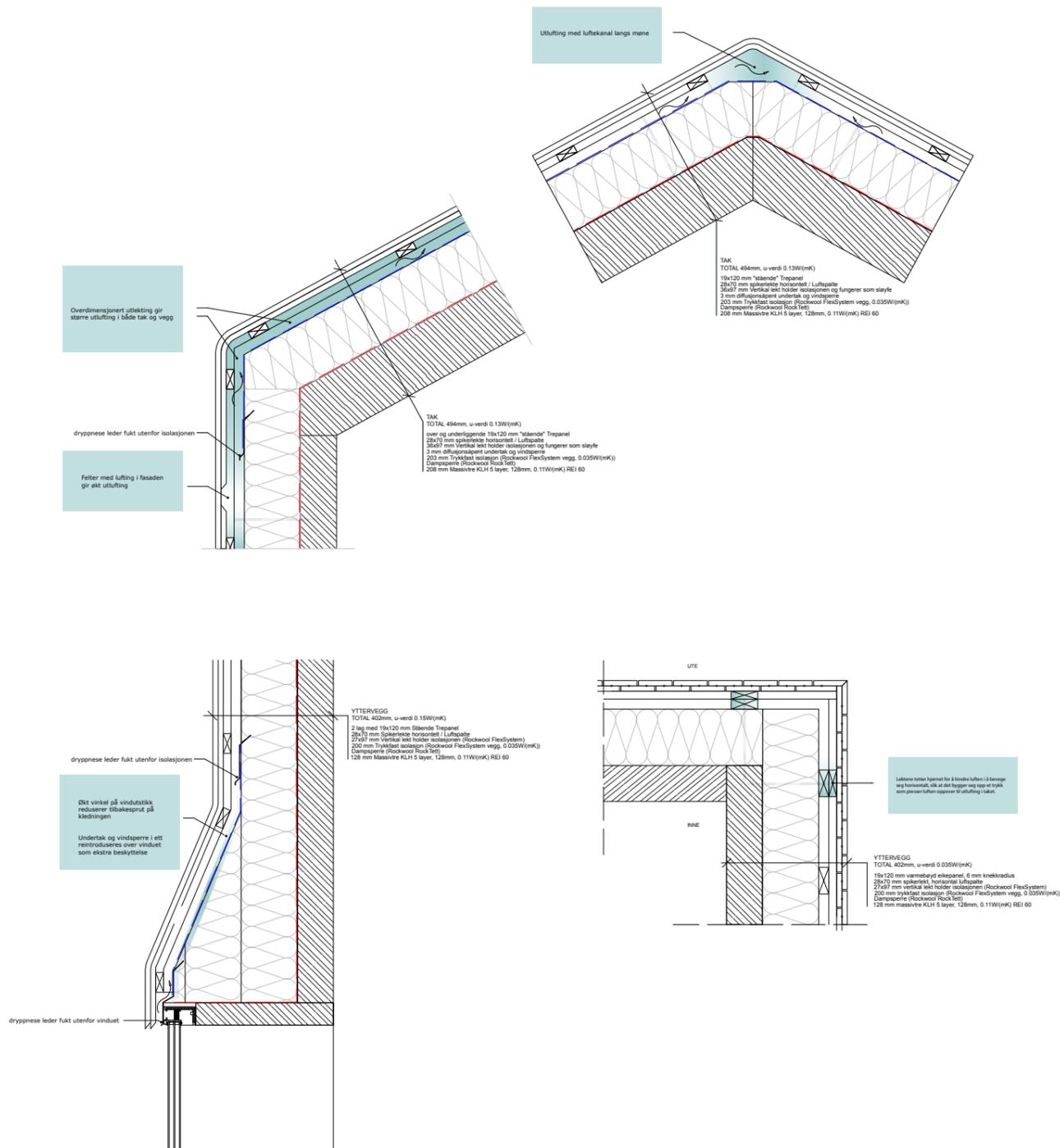
FACADE SOUTH



FACADE EAST

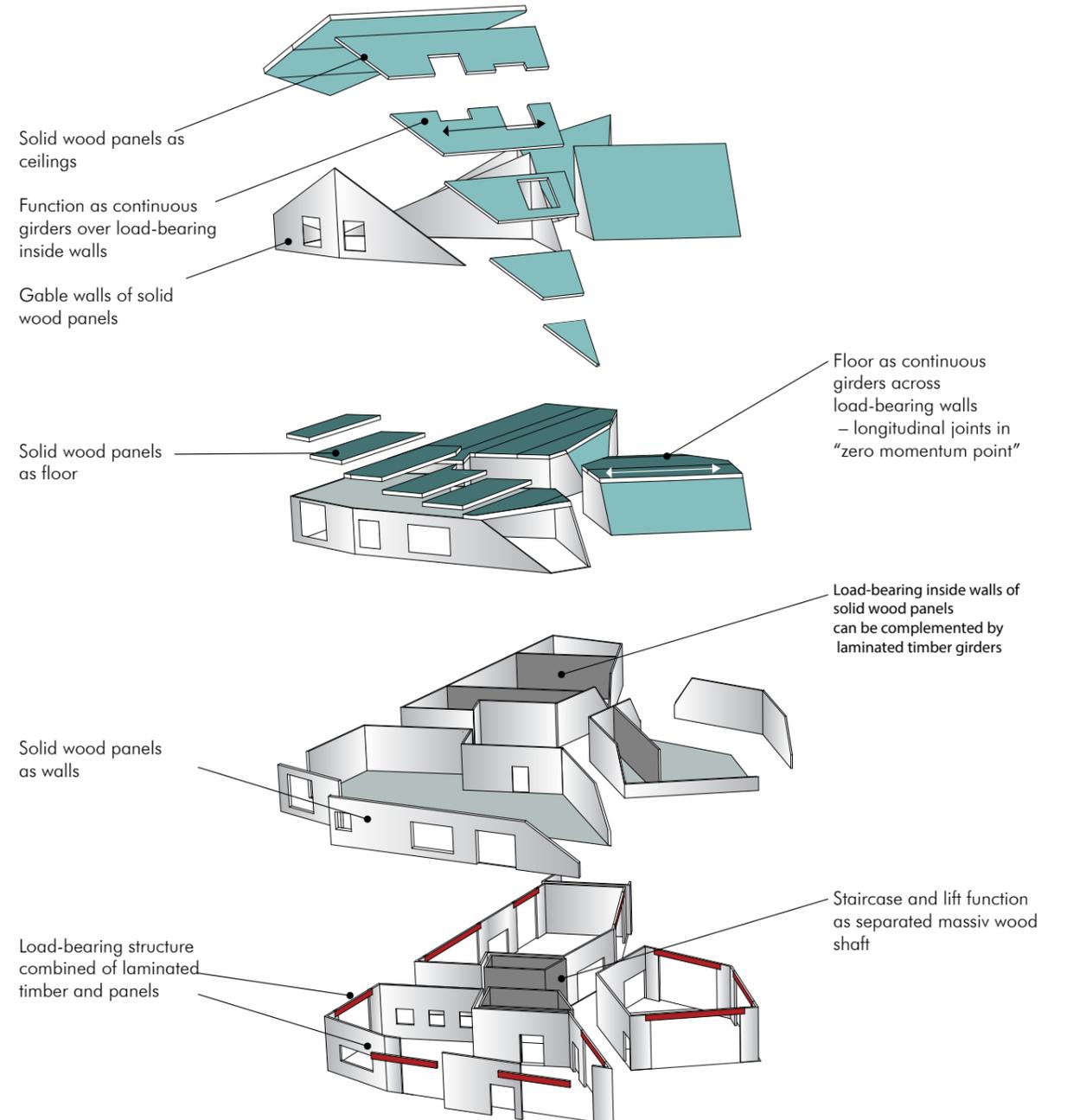


## CONSTRUCTION DETAILS



## SOLID WOOD PANEL CONSTRUCTION PRINCIPLE

### KLH Component System



## PROJECT AIMS: COUNCIL HOUSING FOCUSING ON CHILDREN



The project aims to establish Schous Square as a Child and Family Support Hub in the heart of Grünerløkka. By focusing on activities for families with young children as a universal entry point the hub will provide a wrap-around family support services. It provides the city with much needed council housing, tailor made for families with children, and will also be able to deliver a range of integrated child and family support services. Facilitating the delivery of parenting education, links to or delivery of early childhood education and care services, family support, child health services, resource libraries, information and referral services and pre-post natal health care.

The type and mix of programs available within the hub are intended to meet the needs of young children and their families within their local communities. While the overall focus is to promote the safety and well being of children through the use of prevention and early intervention strategies, to develop networks for families, and to provide family support and parenting education to support parents to achieve the best outcomes for their children.

### SCHOUS SQUARE: HISTORIC PRECEDENCE

**Schous Square**  
Named after brewery master Christian Schous, Schous Square was established as a place of sun and water for the children of the working families in Grünerløkka. The focal point of the park was a small paddling pool for children which was used for swimming in the summer and skating in the winter.

**The Deichmanske Library**  
The Library was built in 1914 and was the first purpose built library in Norway. It was built as a library for children and has retained some of its initial outreach

purpose. Today it houses "Serieteket" - a resource centre for comics, and hosts regular free cinema events, both indoors and outdoors.

### CHALLENGE: CHILDREN IN COUNCIL HOUSING

In 2001 there were 5000 children living in council housing in Oslo. In 2008 the Office of the Auditor General of Norway requested that a new count be conducted. No such count has as yet been initiated and today the number is unknown. The council housing being offered to families with children in Oslo has repeatedly faced sharp criticism in the past few years. In large this criticism has been leveled at the unsuitability of housing conditions and the exposure of very young and vulnerable children to unstable and occasionally dangerous tenants and neighbors.

Article 27 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child states that all "States Parties recognize the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development." Oslo Council currently wants to build 2500 new council residences, 30% of which are intended for family homes.

### CHALLENGE: FAMILY VS. URBAN DENSITY

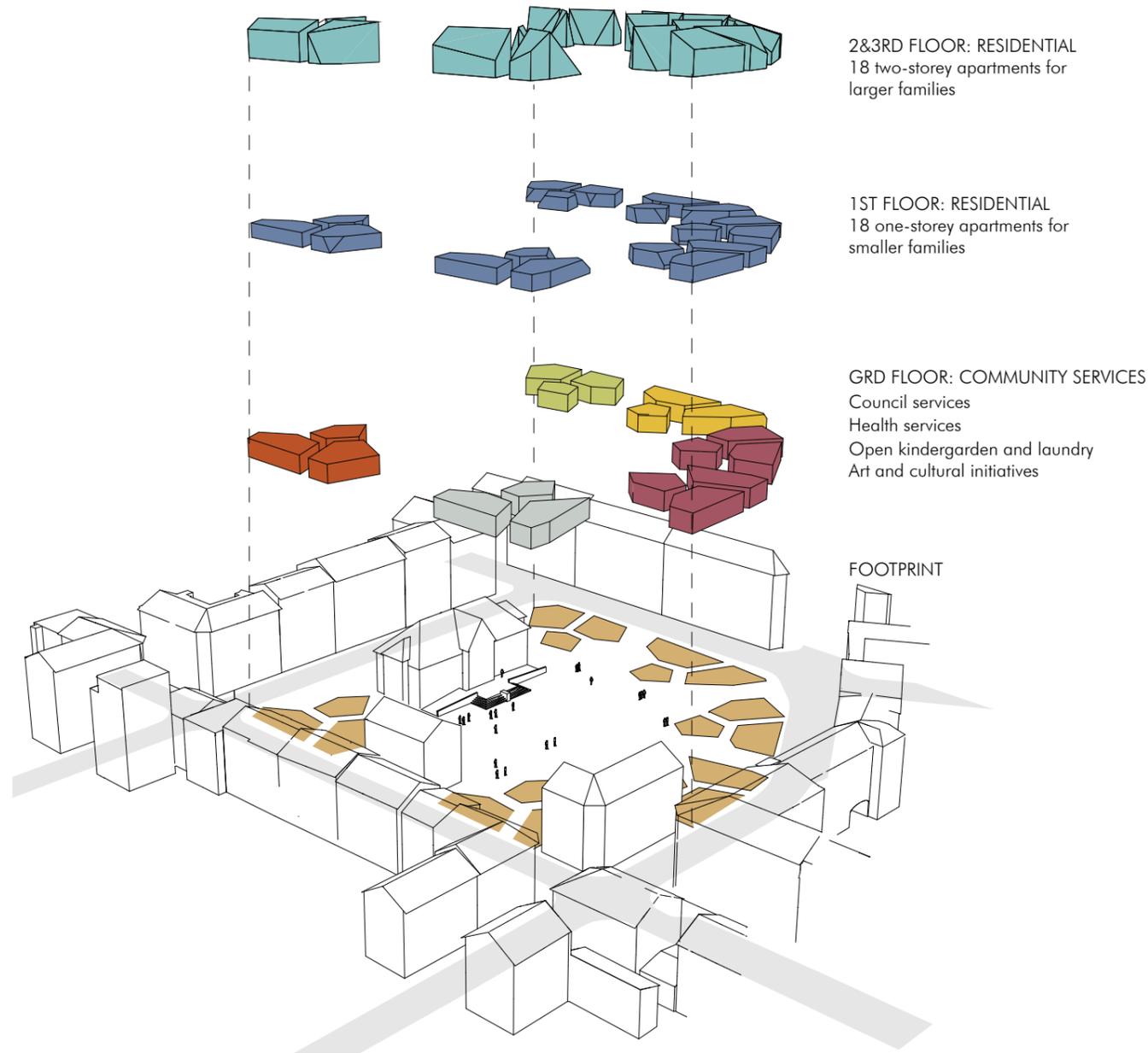
The nineteenth-century French historian Fustel de Coulanges observed that the family hearth formed the core of the ancient Greek and Roman city. Family was likewise the foundation of

the great ancient cities of China and the Middle East and the modern European cities were described by Simon Schama as "the Republic of Children."

But more recently, we have embarked on an experiment to rid our cities of children. In the 1960s, sociologist Herbert Gans identified a growing chasm between family-oriented suburbanites and people who favored city life—"the rich, the poor, the non-white as well as the unmarried and childless middle class." Families, argued Gans, are abandoning the cities for the suburbs, driven away by policies that failed to keep streets safe, and made living spaces unaffordable. History has shown that rapid declines in childbearing—whether in ancient Rome, seventeenth-century Venice, or modern-day Tokyo—correlate with an erosion of cultural and economic vitality. The post-family city appeals only to a certain segment of the population, one that, however affluent, cannot ensure a prosperous future on its own. If cities want to nurture the next generation of urbanites and keep more of their younger adults, they will have to find a way to welcome back families.



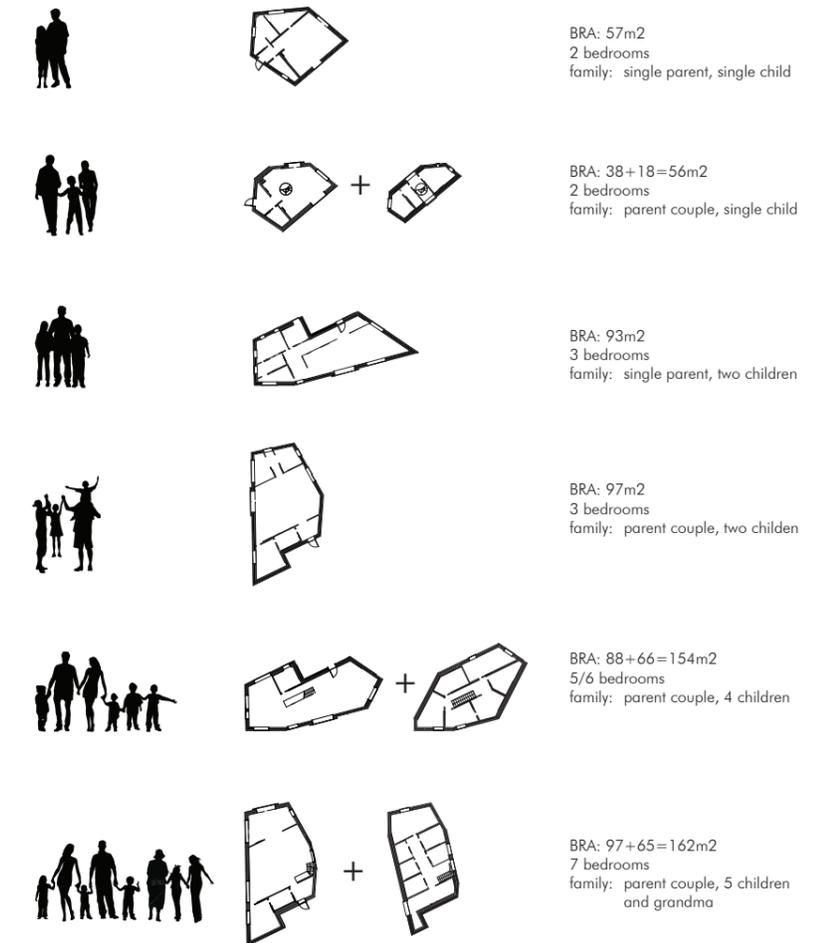
PROGRAM DIVISION DIAGRAM



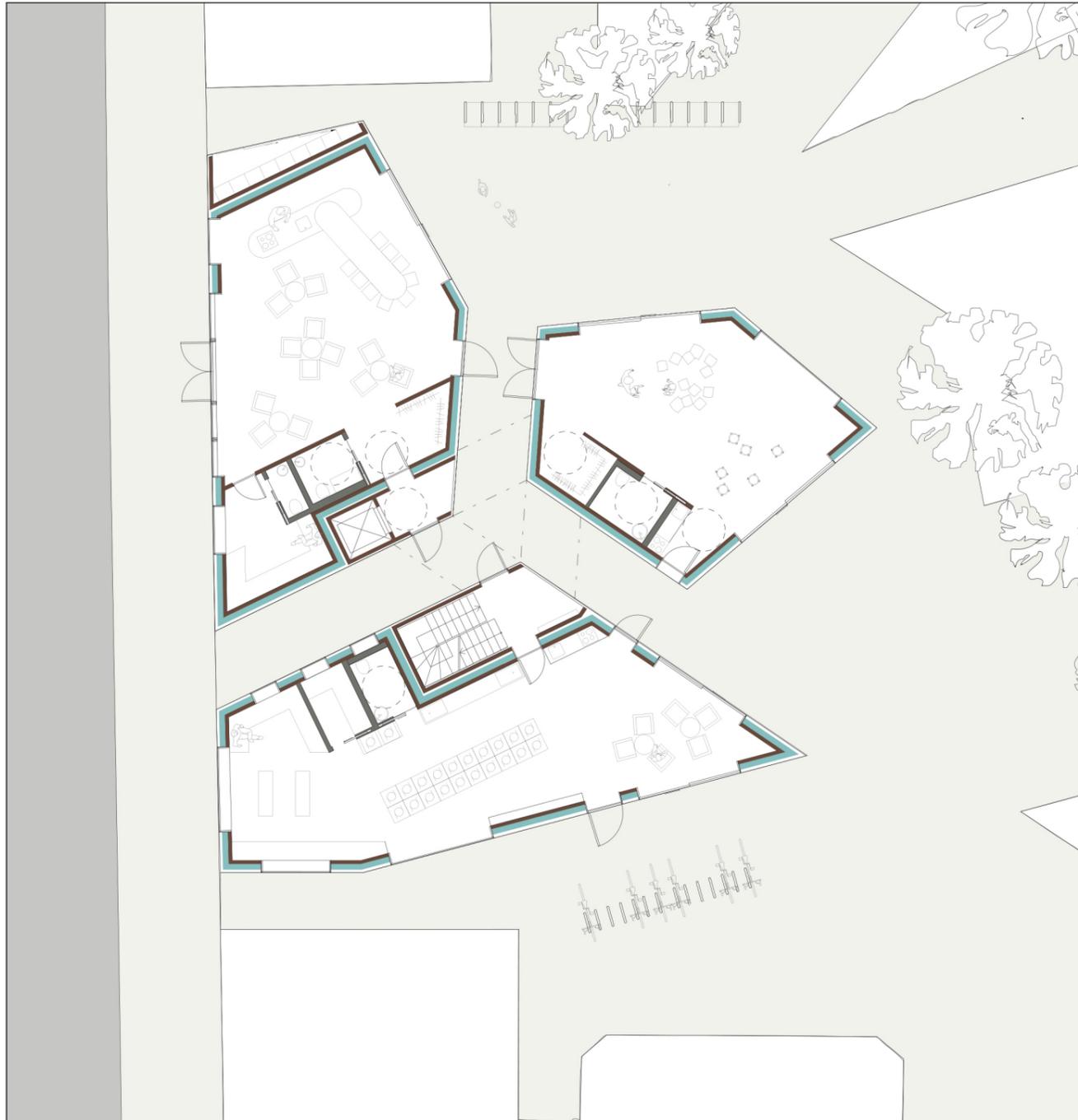
SOCIAL HOUSING THAT ANSWERS TO A VARIETY OF FAMILY

From 2011 to 2012 there was an 11 % increase of households with children in social housing in Norway. The lack of family-sized social housing often means that many families are forced to live in overcrowded accommodation. This can have a detrimental effect on family relationships and health, as well as a damaging influence on children's education and emotional development.

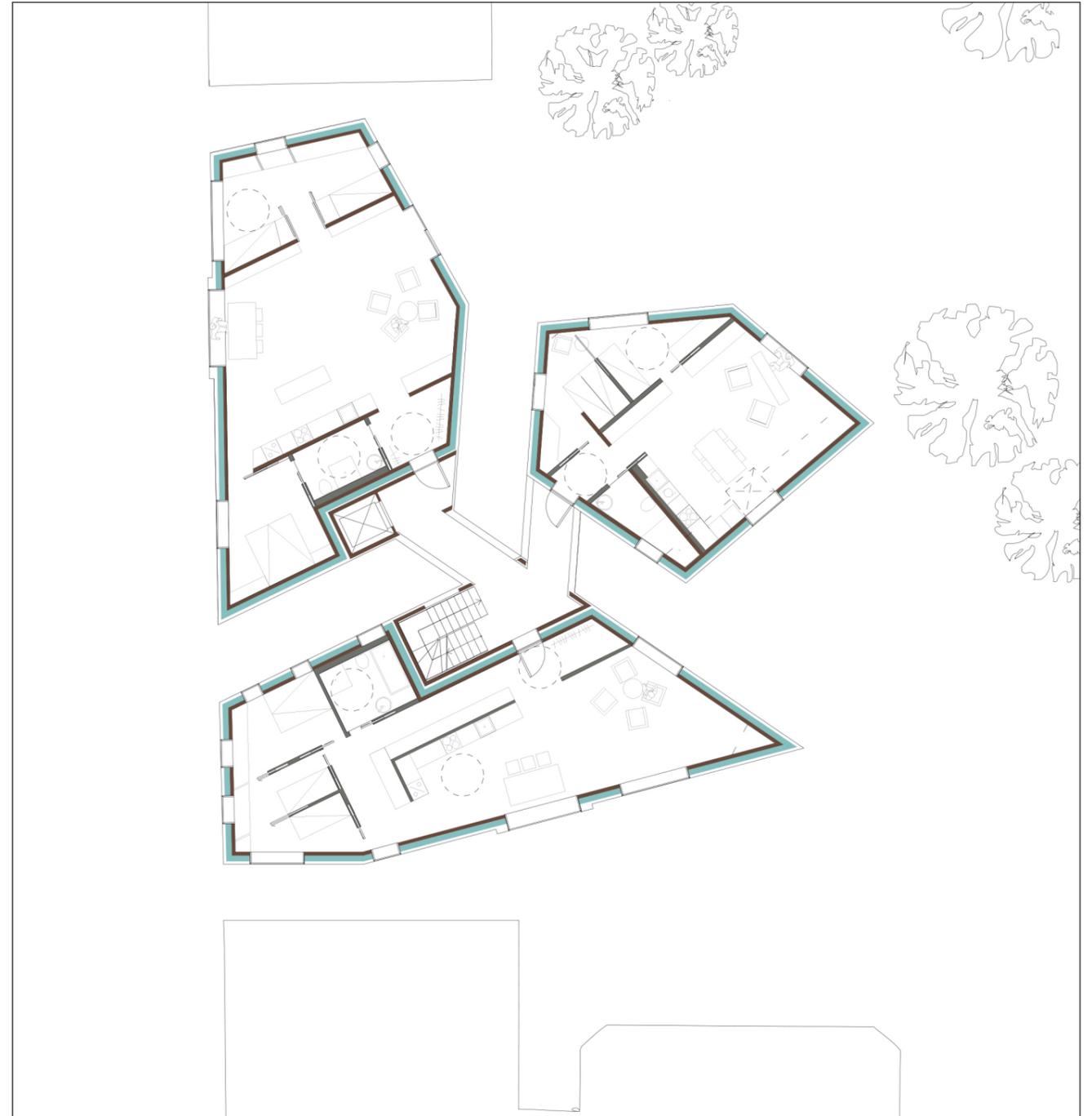
This project envisions a variety of apartments to cater for an array of modern family constellations, with a particular focus on providing accommodation for families with a large number of children.



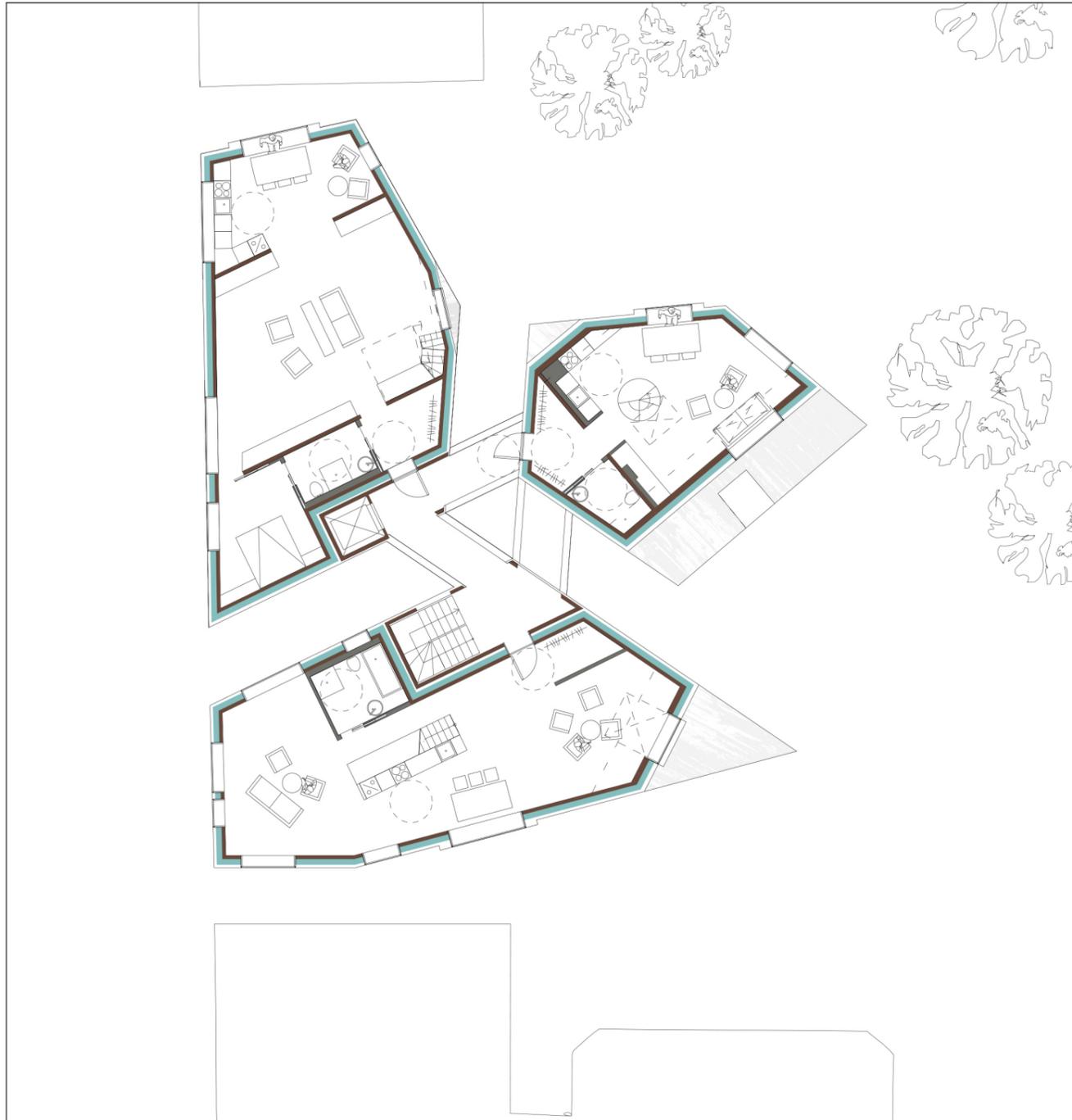
PLAN GROUND FLOOR



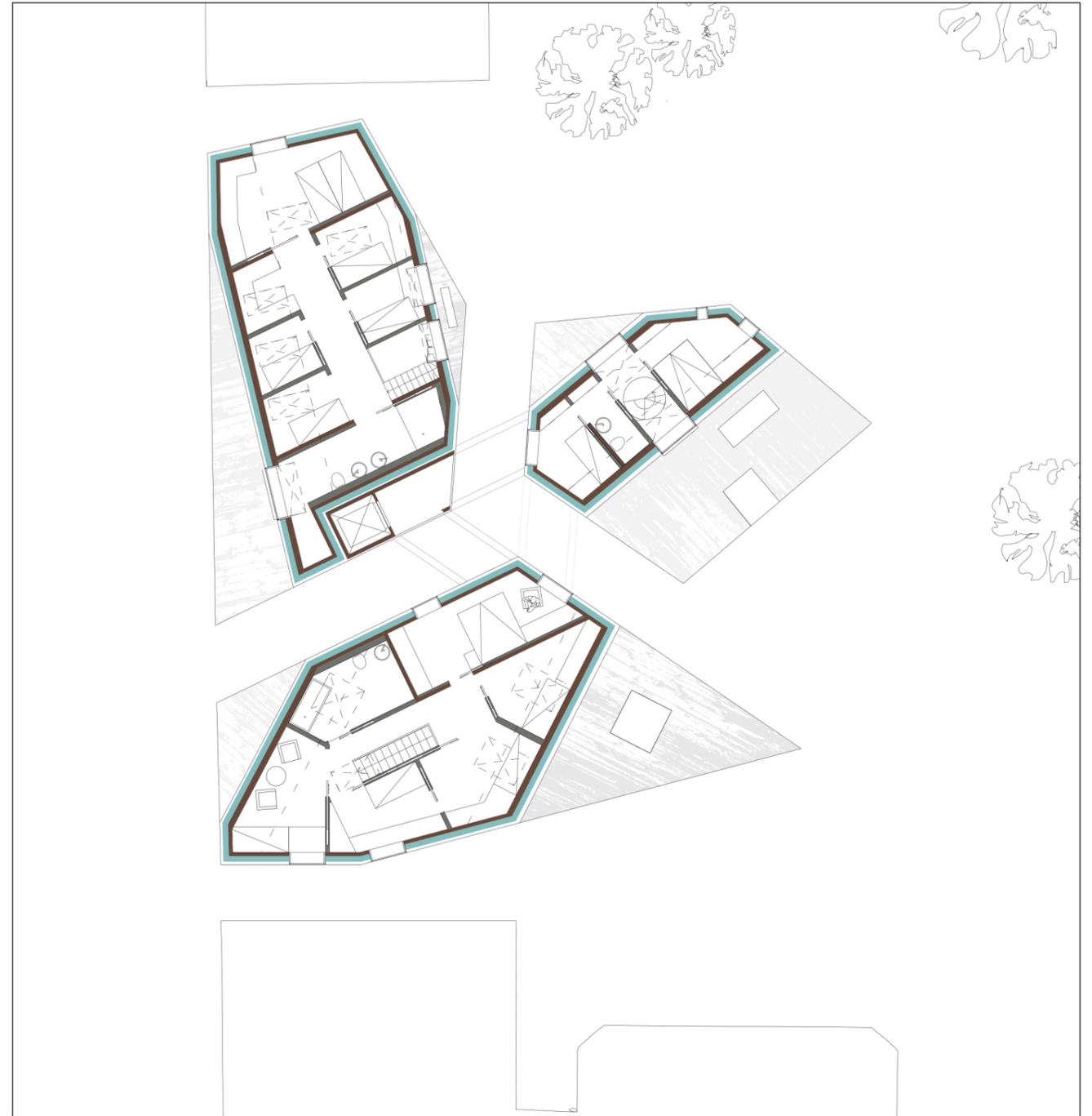
PLAN FIRST FLOOR

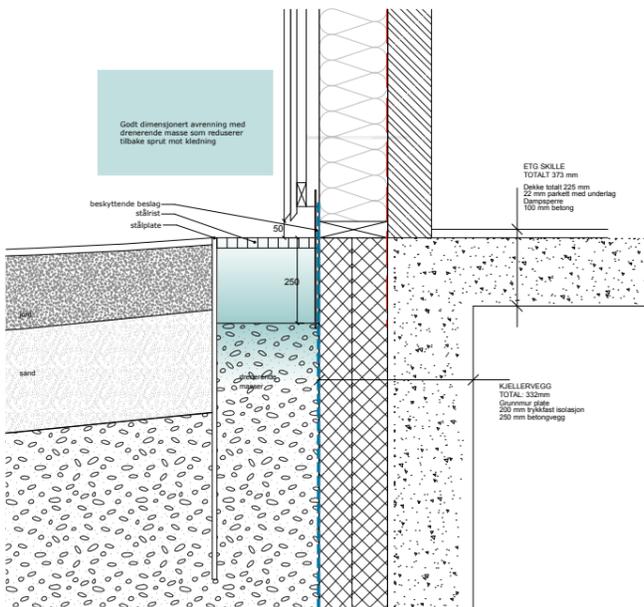
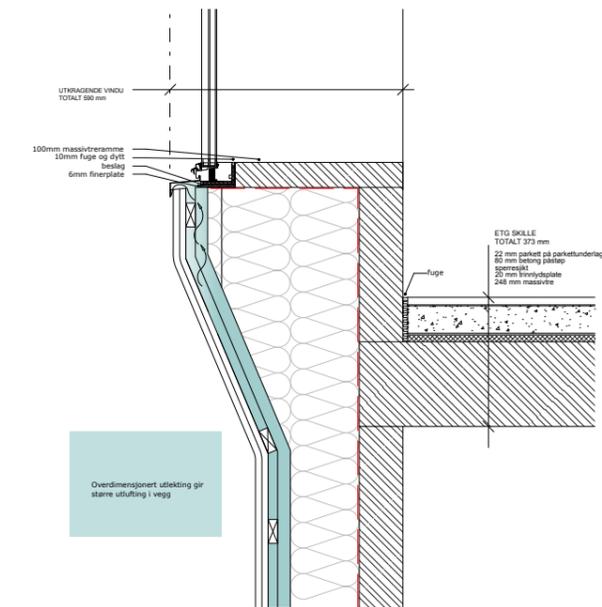


PLAN SECOND FLOOR

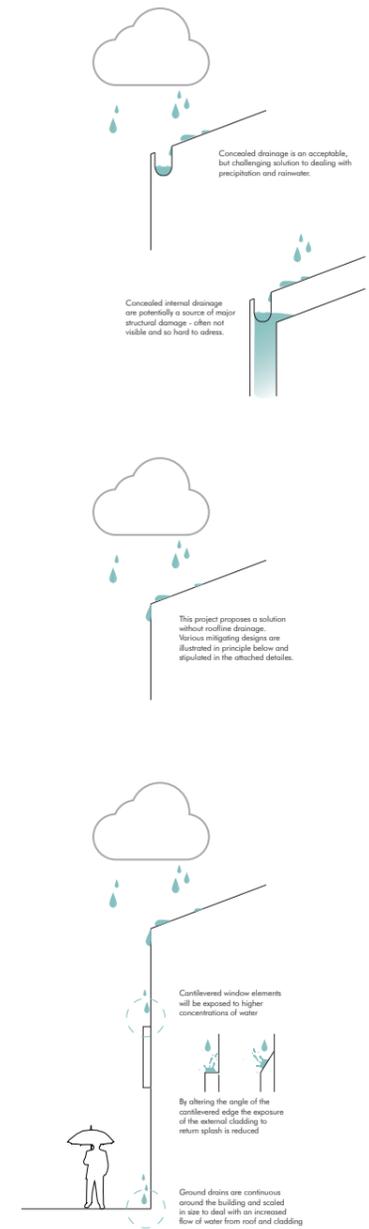


PLAN THIRD FLOOR





## DRAINAGE



## STEAM BENT WOOD CLADDING

The desire to create a building without roof drainage led to a study of various cladding options that would allow for a continuous layer along wall and roof. In discussions with Dorte Klarskov Reksten from Høyer Finseth AS - the potential for using a cladding of steam bent wood panels arose.

The steam bending of wood is a traditional craft extensively used in boatbuilding and furniture. However the potential for architectural form and expression has yet to be explored fully. A few projects in recent years have tried to remedy the situation, but there the field requires more extensive research and new approaches.

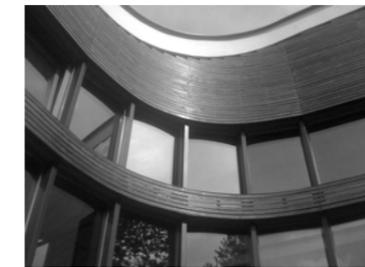
In choosing to clad this project in steam bent wood we have sought to inspire to further use and consideration of potential.

We also present as part of this exhibition some of the research previously conducted by Sveinn Thorarinnsson and Trond Slåke as a student of AHO into the steam bending of wood. This is meant as supplementary material for those interested in the process and we ask that both Thorarinnsson and our workshop master Roald Jensen be credited for their invaluable knowledge and for making their materials available to us and to this exhibition.

Dorte Klarskov Reksten intends to investigate some of the potential in bent wood cladding as part of her forthcoming phd work at Ås. We encourage interested parties to follow her work.



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1. GGZ clinic in Nijmegen by Bogerman Dill Architecten, The Netherlands
2. Villa cladding bent by De Jong's Houtwarenfabriek B.V., The Netherlands
3. Langley Academy by Forster and Partners, United Kingdom