

Remembrance of Repasts

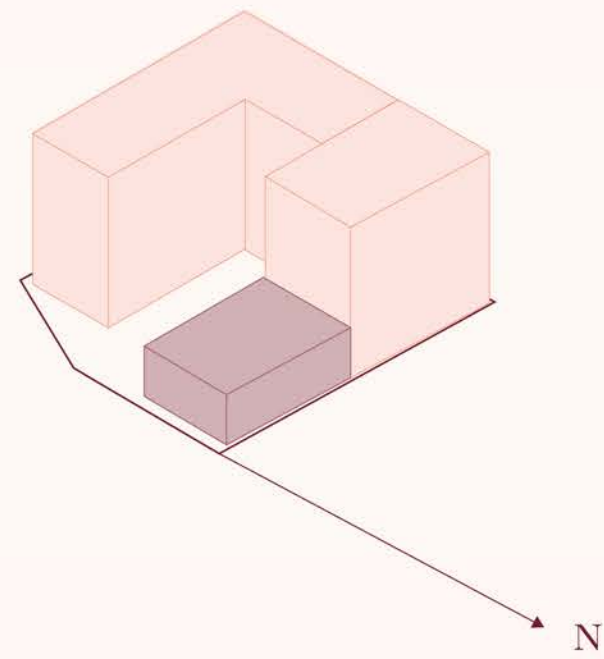
“Tell me what you eat, and I will tell you who you are.” –Jean Anthelme Brillat-Savarin

Remembrance of Repasts addresses the two primary barriers to finding housing for Syrian refugees: the first is a scarcity of affordable housing for large families, and the second is the freedom to explore and re imagine one’s identity in a foreign land. The apartments on the site explore a user’s creativity in a variety of ways, with different unit types to accommodate both small and large families, especially given the vast multi-generational families from which many Syrians originate. Despite being a diverse and growing community, religious services in Cambridge are frequently confined to one faith. This project explores the relationship between food ways and migrant communities’ identity preservation by establishing an unique devotion to the rhythm and ritual of food ways that helps Syrians to not only construct a new home, but also feel at home in a new land. Furthermore, it investigates the role of religion in the provision of social services and the potential of a mosque to offer a sense of home not only for Syrian refugees but other residents of Cambridge. According to a publication it is stated that, “in order to feel at ease in their new houses, refugees strive to recreate or remake the notion of their old homes or duplicate specific elements of it.” Sharing meals together not only makes Syrians feel at ease, but it also helps them establish and maintain their “Syrianness.” Furthermore, because eating is a sensory and embodied action, producing handmade food and feeding it to community shelters or mosques back home encourages migrants to keep their Syrian *nafas* (breath) alive. The second level of the mosque helps keep this *nafas* alive, by allowing the upper portion of the mosque to become a place of refuge for those who are seeking shelter in Cambridge, again keeping the promise of reaching out to a diverse group of people and not having the specific confinement of one faith. When life is uncertain and routines are interrupted, migrants recreate home by eating traditional meals and participating in community activities and rituals influenced by their hometown. Remembrance of Repasts gives migrants a sense of autonomy while also providing assistance through a communal kitchen, halal grocery shop, mosque, language learning facilities, and affordable housing units. Meals and memories go hand in hand, migrants use their senses especially with respect to food preference and eating to guide them in a new place while maintaining their identity and recreating a notion of home.

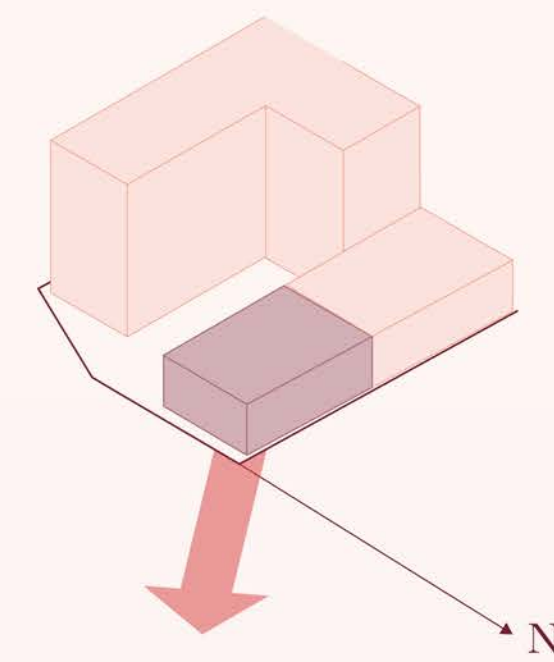


site context mapping | 1:2000

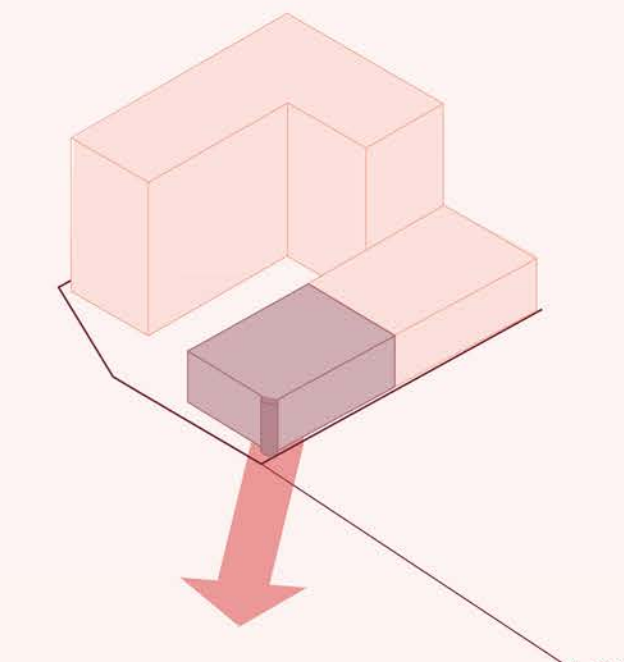
1. Extruding basic volume of building on site while maintaining boundary restrictions



2. Placing the mosque on the corner of the site so it isn’t sandwiched between two buildings



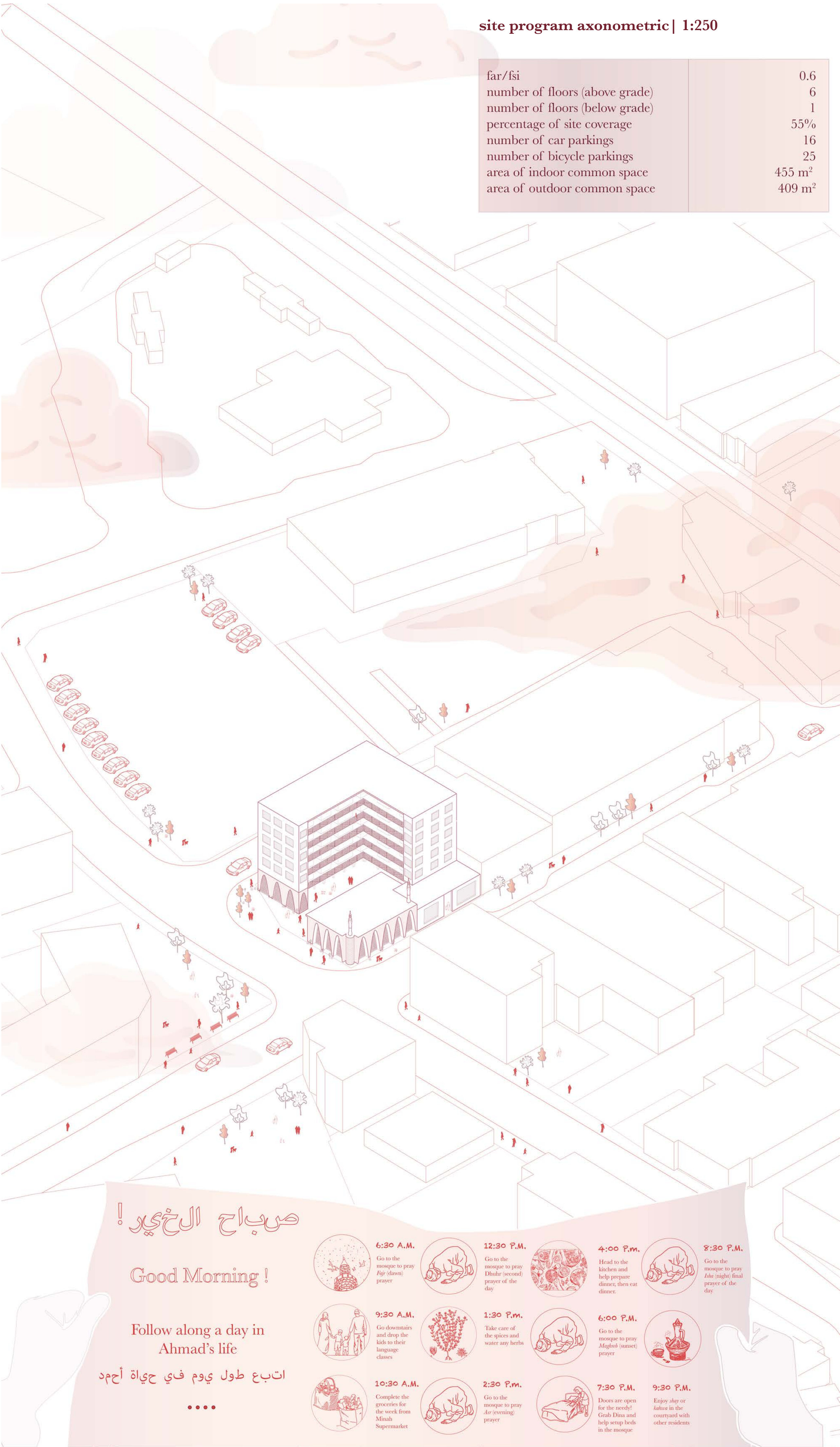
3. Decreasing the height of the grocery store nearby to create a clear distinction between the public programs and residential programs.



4. Qibla (direction of prayer) is 53° E of N. Rotated the prayer area in the mosque and mihrab so it faces the Qibla

site program axonometric | 1:250

far/lsi	0.6
number of floors (above grade)	6
number of floors (below grade)	1
percentage of site coverage	55%
number of car parkings	16
number of bicycle parkings	25
area of indoor common space	455 m²
area of outdoor common space	409 m²



صبح الاحد!

Good Morning !

Follow along a day in Ahmad’s life

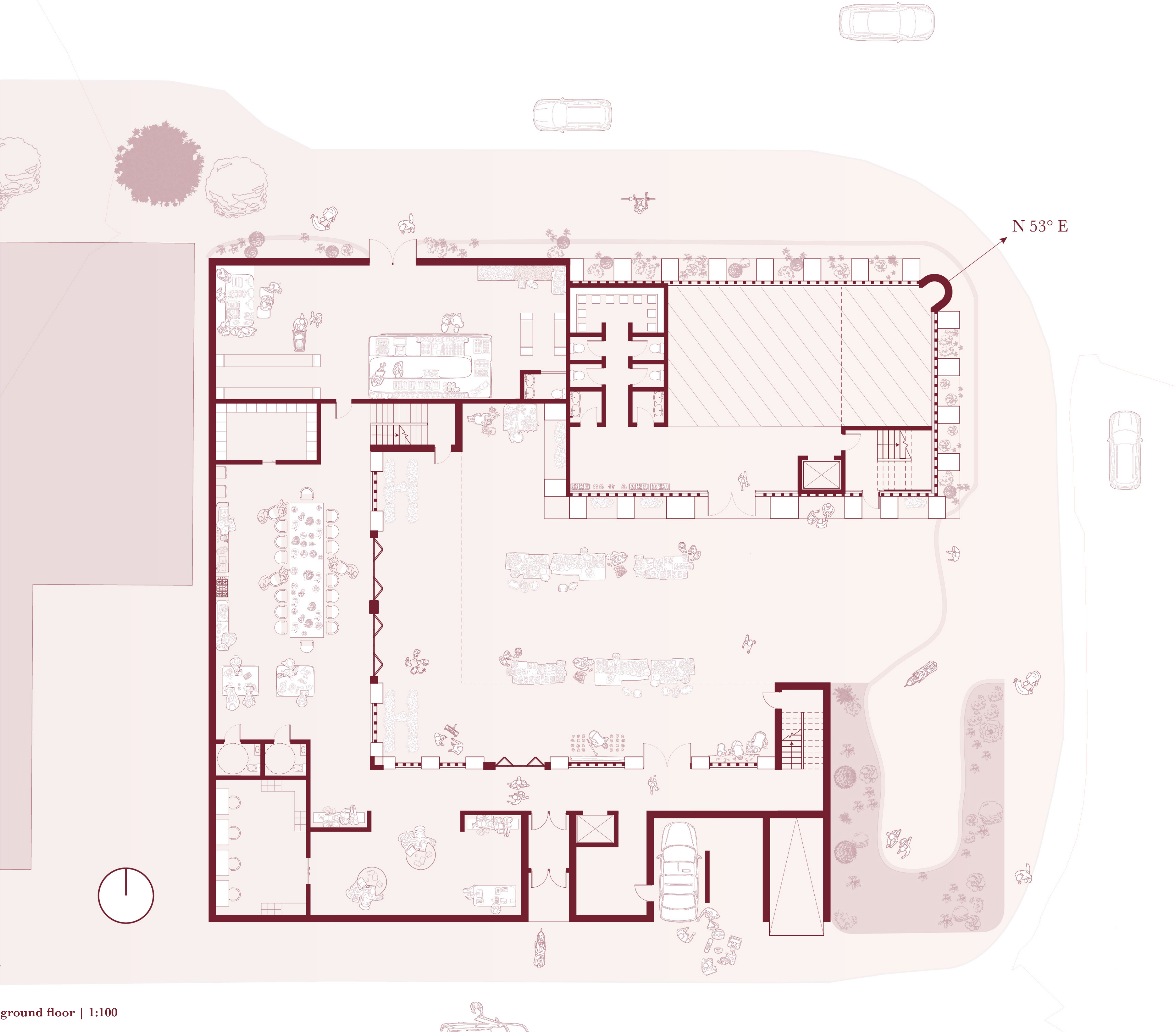
اتبع طول يوم في حياة أحمد

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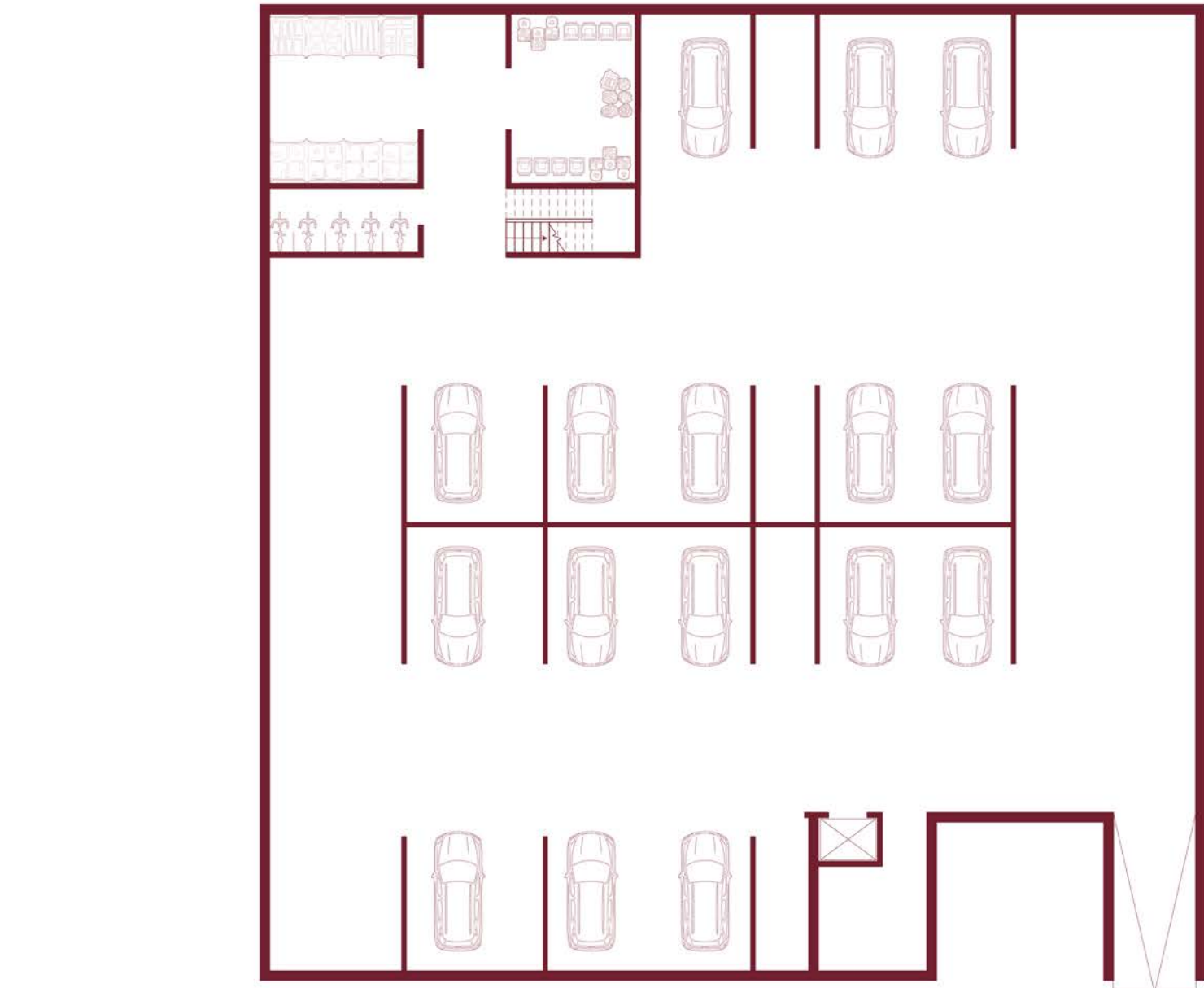


Na'ee el Ba'doonays
(picking the parsley)

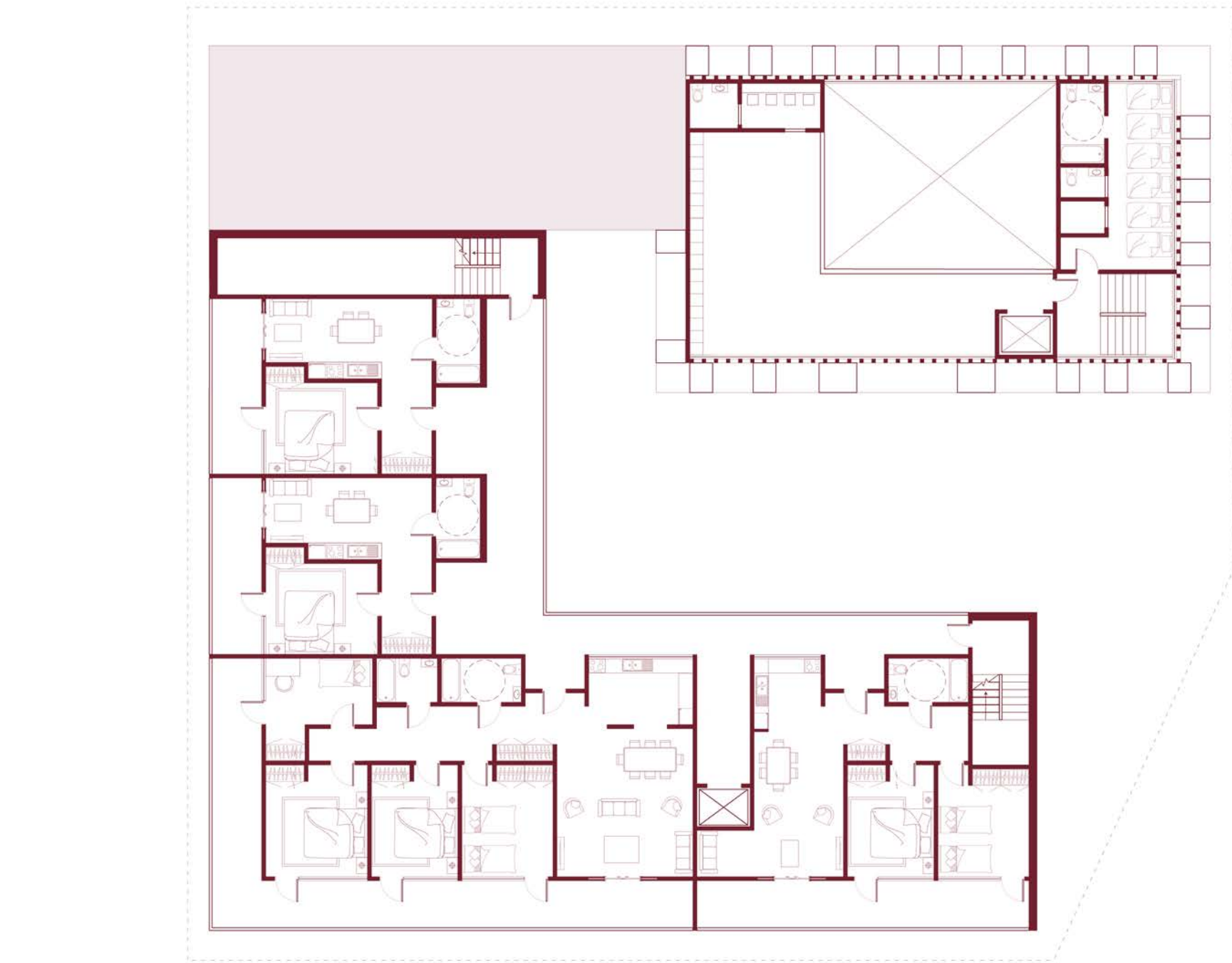
This is a common phrase depicting the example of both the labour and love involved in the preparation of making Syrian dishes. The open courtyard space of the apartment becomes a place of several temporarl moments along the year. With traditional and authentic Syrian herbs and spices being planted all along the entrances of the apartment building and the mosque, it allows people to be attracted to the smell and come out to enjoy the communal kitchen. In addition, when the weather is warm the courtyard becomes a place for the community to come together and collect the harvest of the season and lay down a big sheet to start the drying process of the spices. Yet again, filling the *sahn* (courtyard) with the nostalgia and aroma of home in their new home.



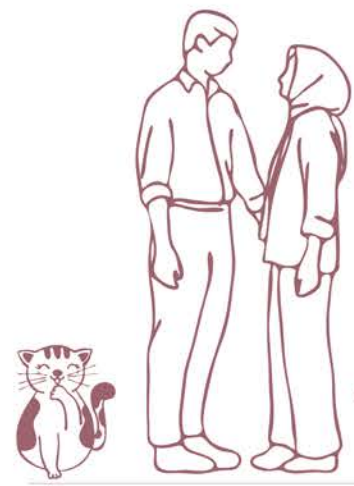
ground floor | 1:100



underground parking plan | 1:200



first floor | 1:200



occupants: omar, laila
zaatar & zeit

ages: 28 yrs (omar), 27 yrs (laila)
6 months (zaatar), 12 months (zeit)

fun fact about the household:
we just got married and none of us can cook!



occupants: ahmad, yara
dina, aisha, baby yousef

ages: 35 yrs (ahmad), 37 yrs (yara)
10 yrs (dina), 6 yrs (aisha), 1 yr (baby yousef)

fun fact about the household:
our favourite chocolate is kitkat!

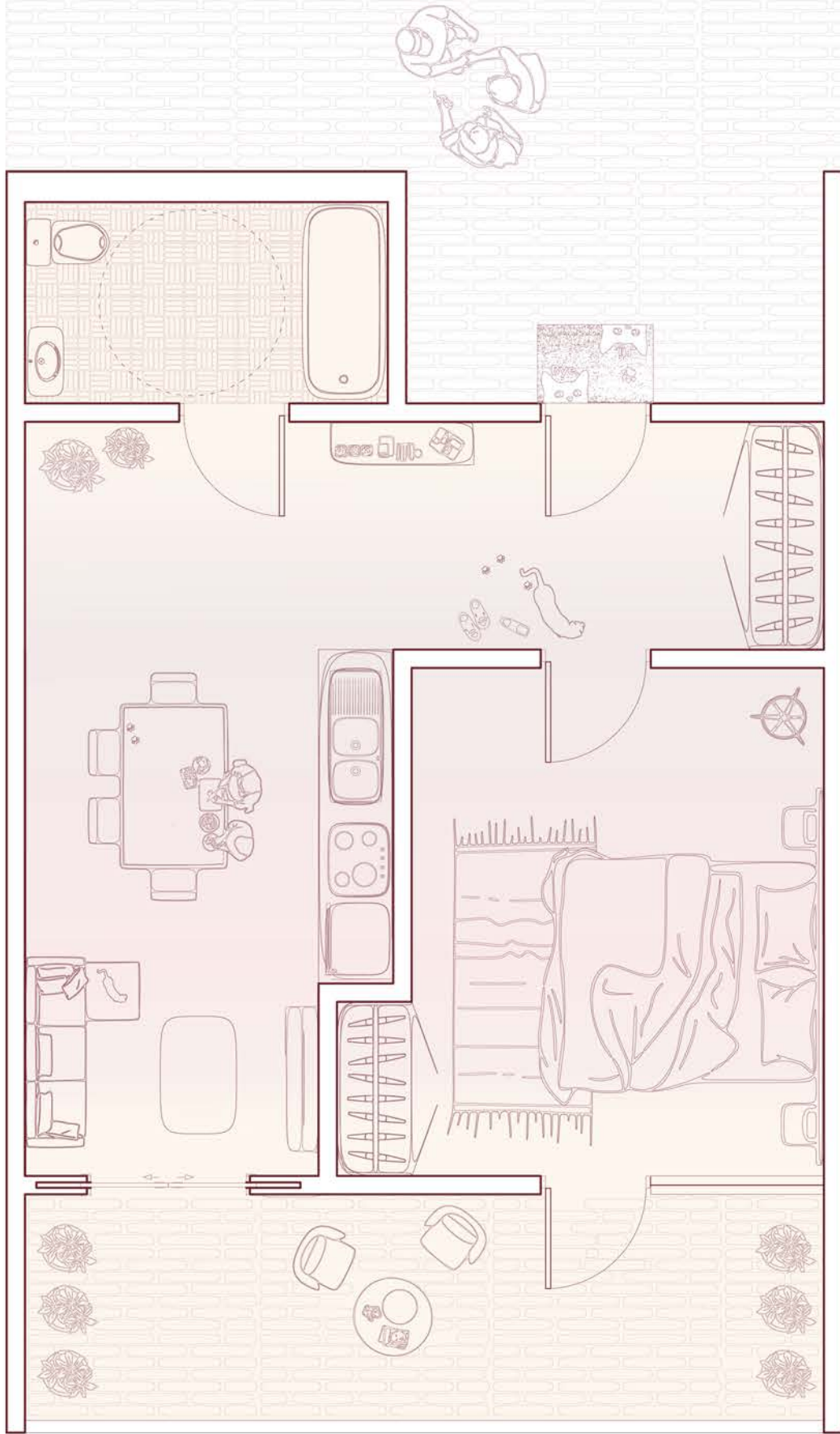


occupants: mohammad, farah
mustafa, nadine
asiya, anwar, musa
squiddy & sandy

ages: 79 yrs (mohammad), 74 yrs (farah)
44 yrs (mustafa), 41 yrs (nadine)
18 yrs (asiya), 14 yrs (anwar), 9 yrs (musa)
2 yrs (squiddy), 6 months (sandy)

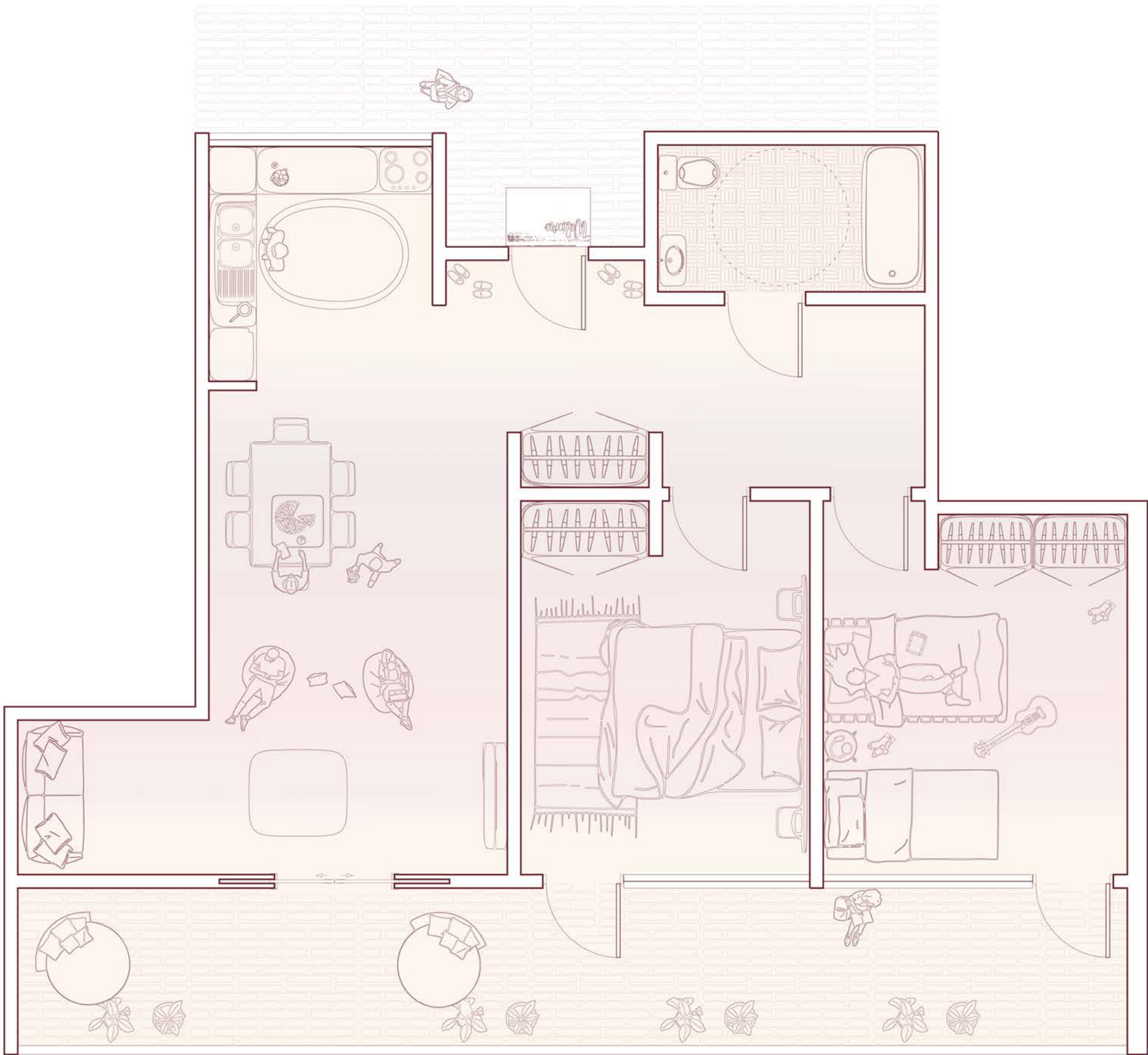
fun fact about the household:
reciting the spongebob squarepants theme song in arabic is part
of our morning routine!

46 m²



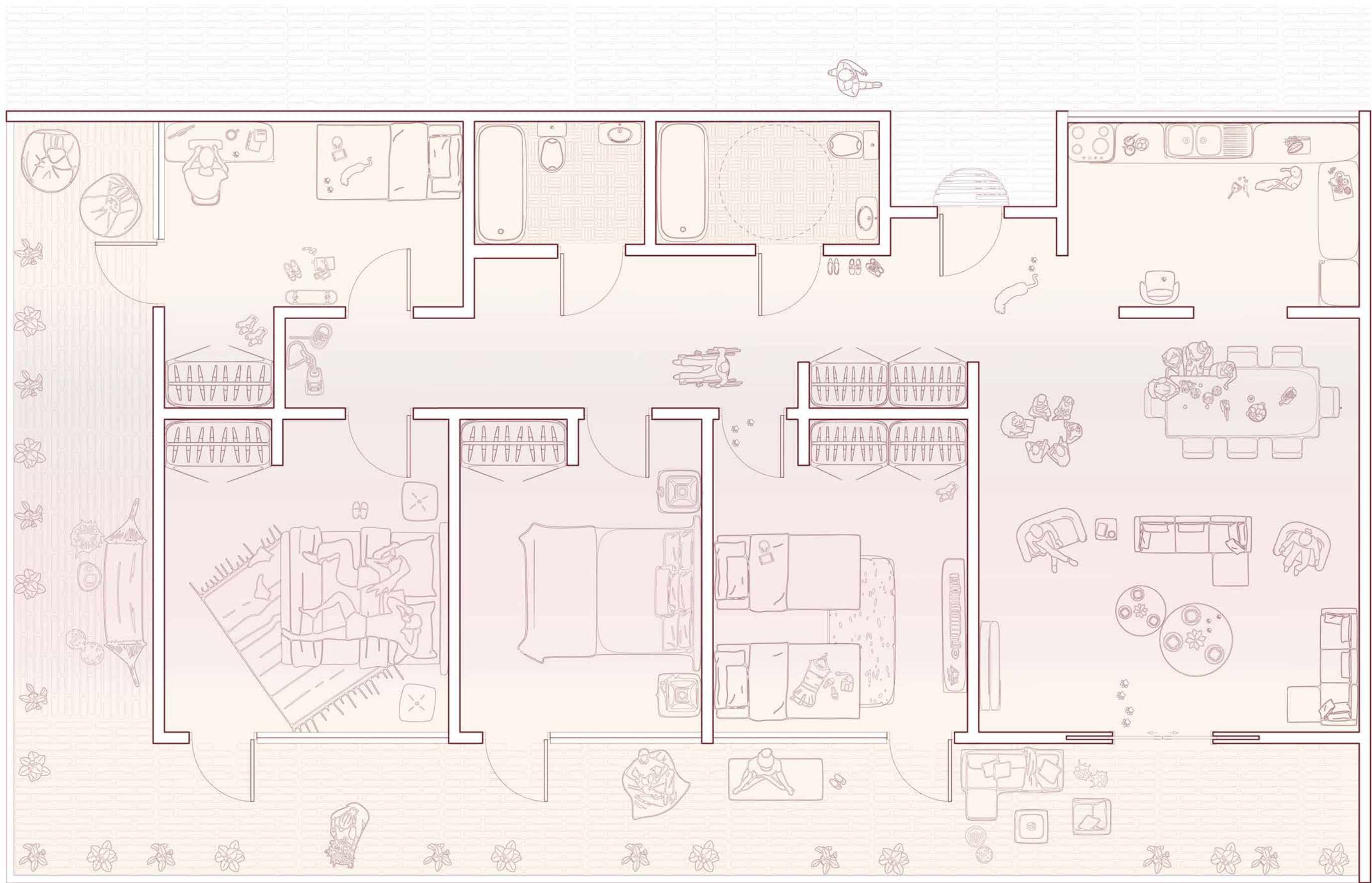
one bedroom unit | 1:50

76 m²

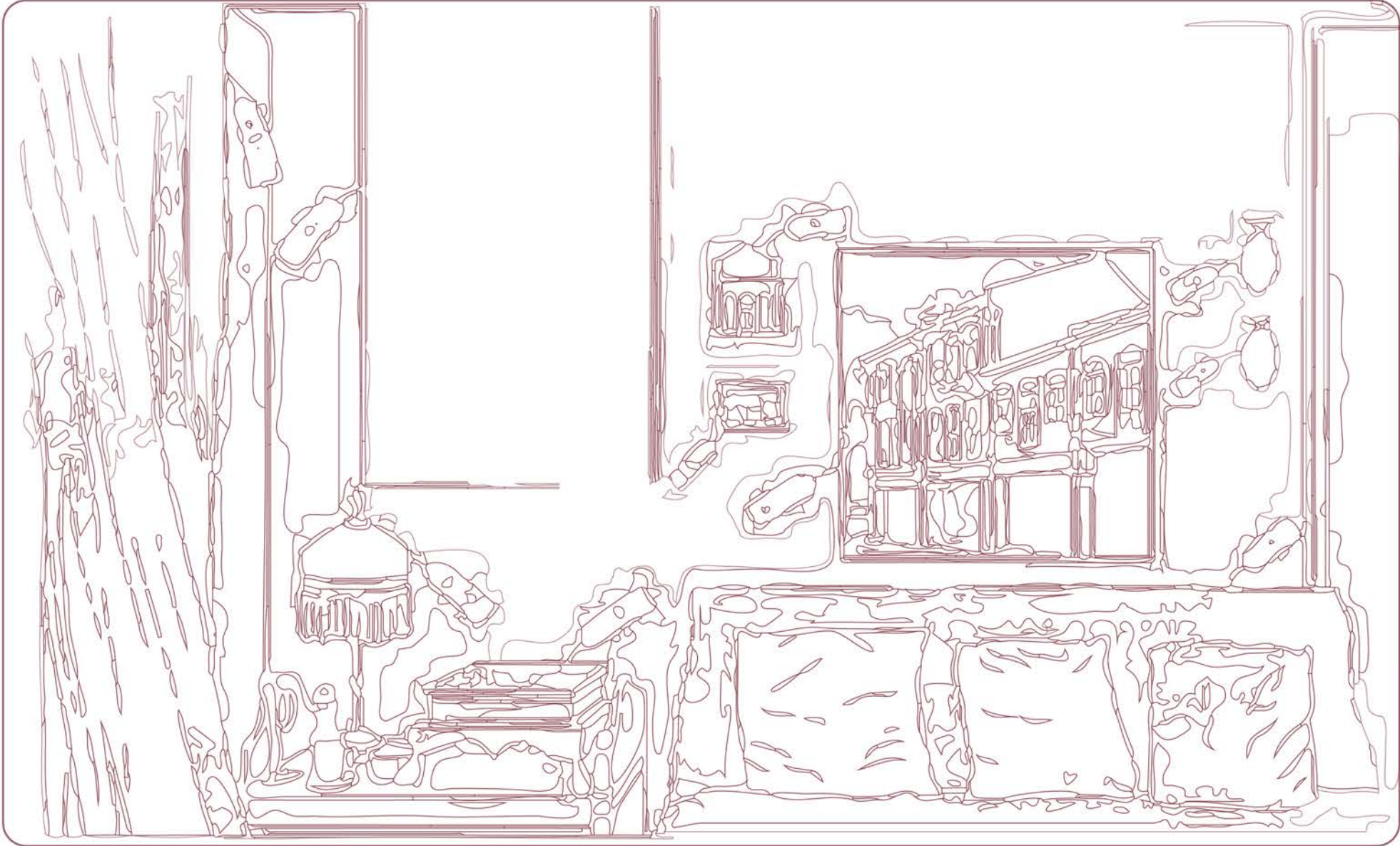


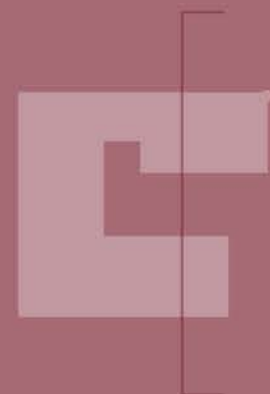
two bedroom unit | 1:50

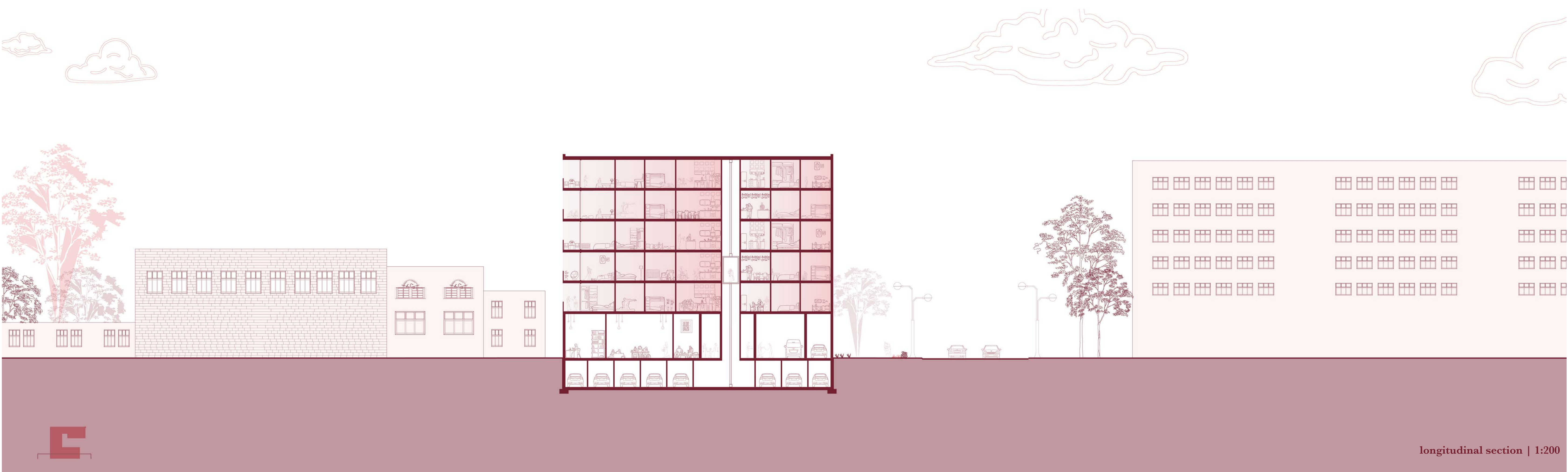
128 m²



multi-generational bedroom unit | 1:50



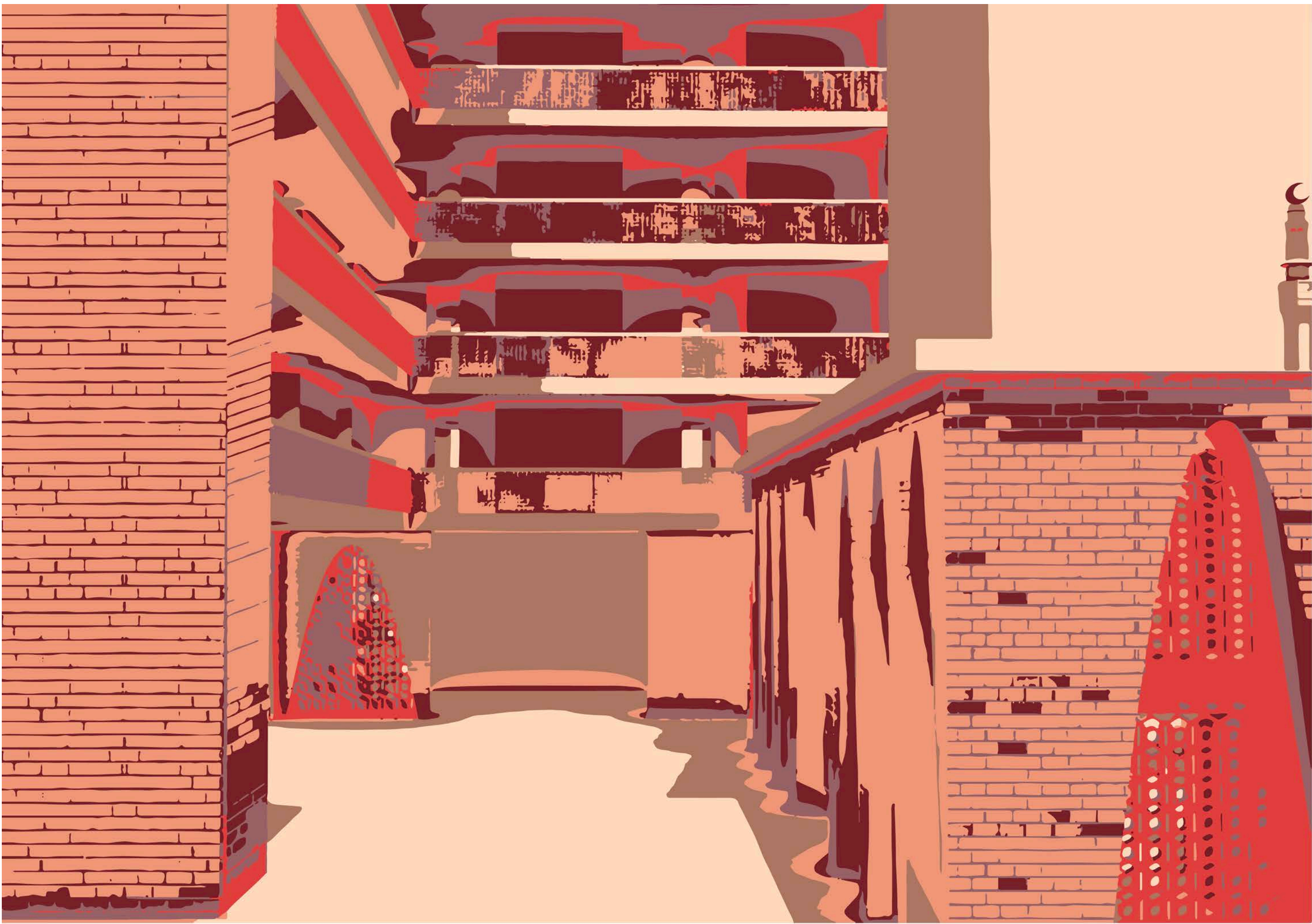




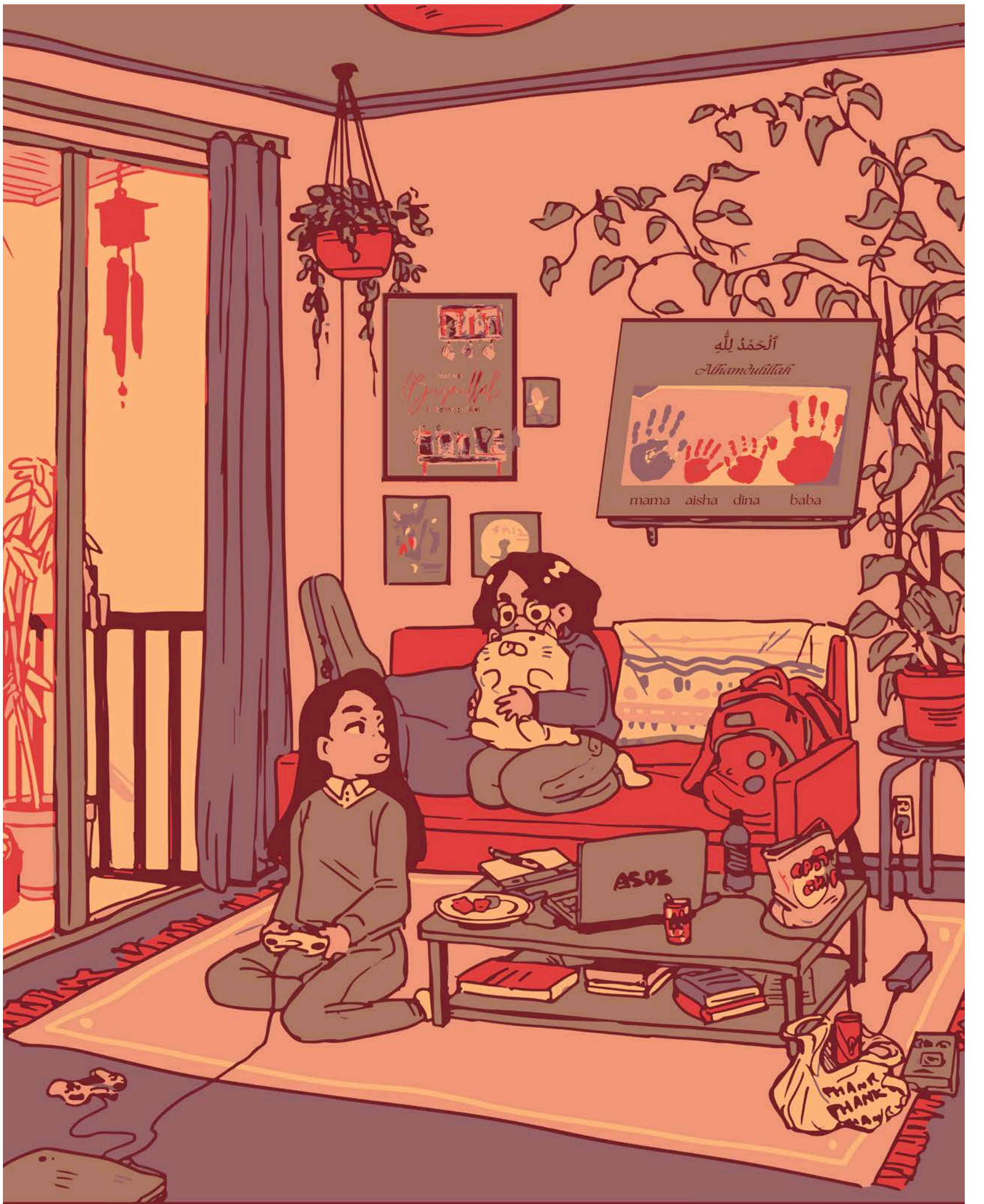
longitudinal section | 1:200



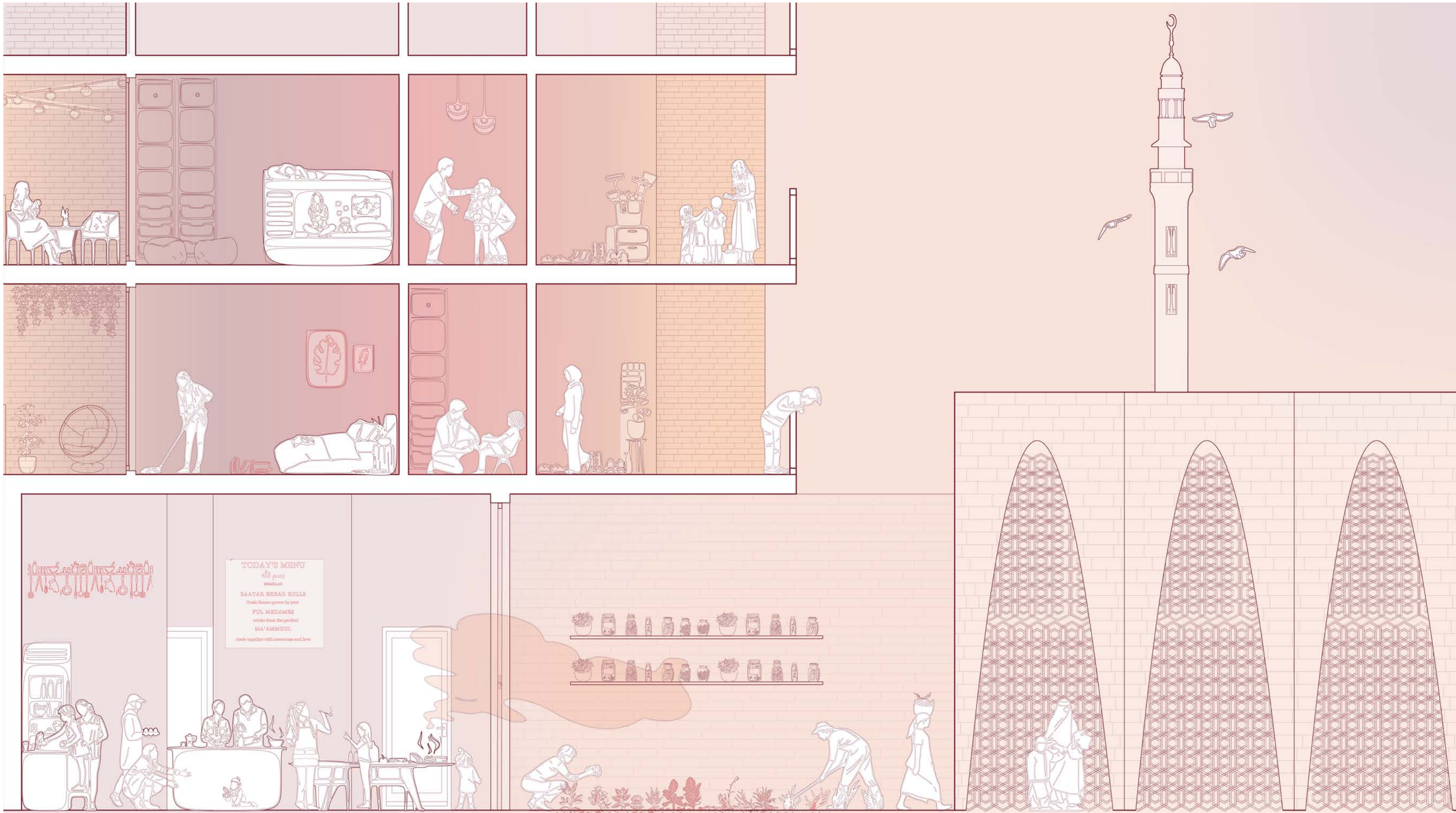
mosque view



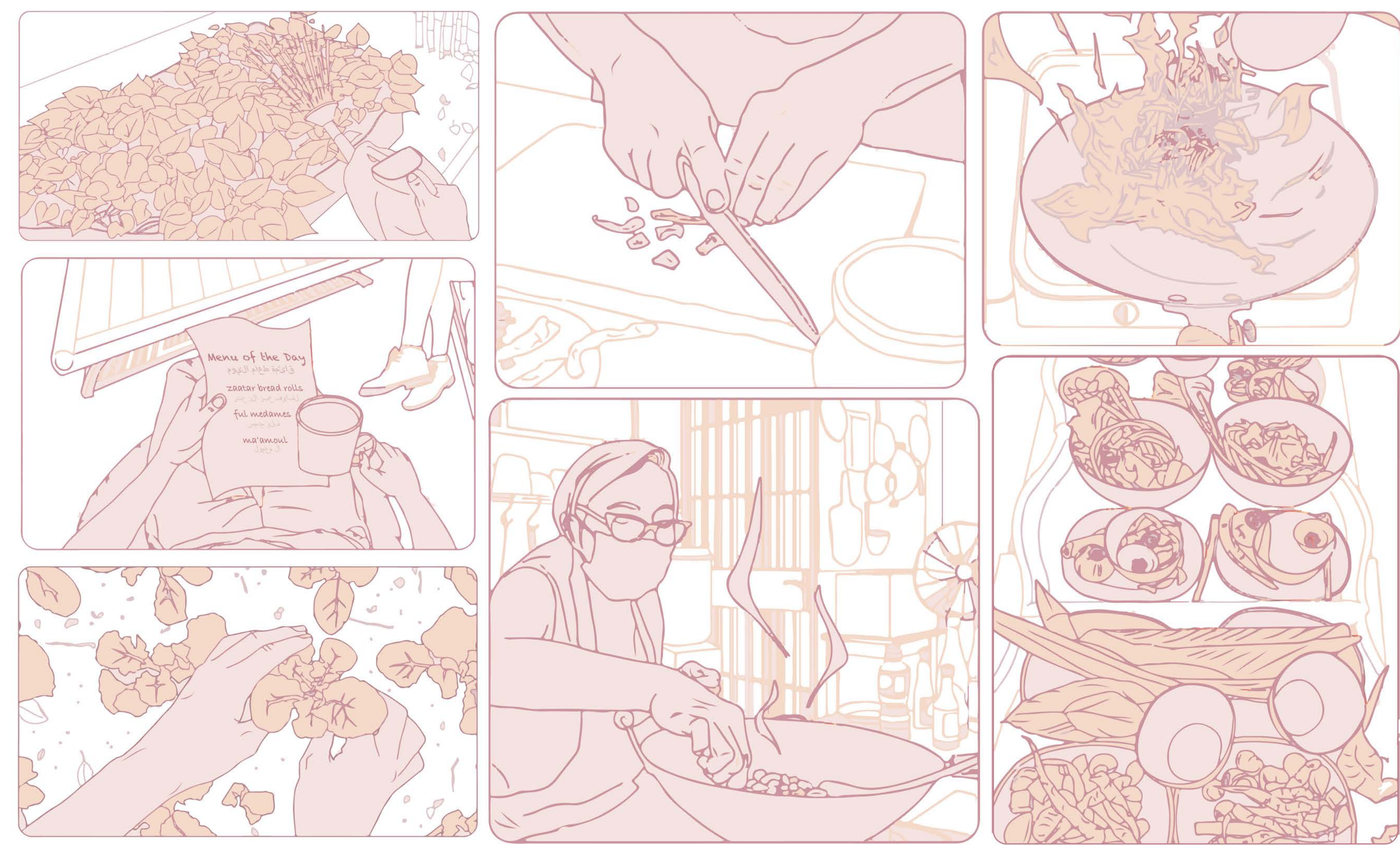
exterior view



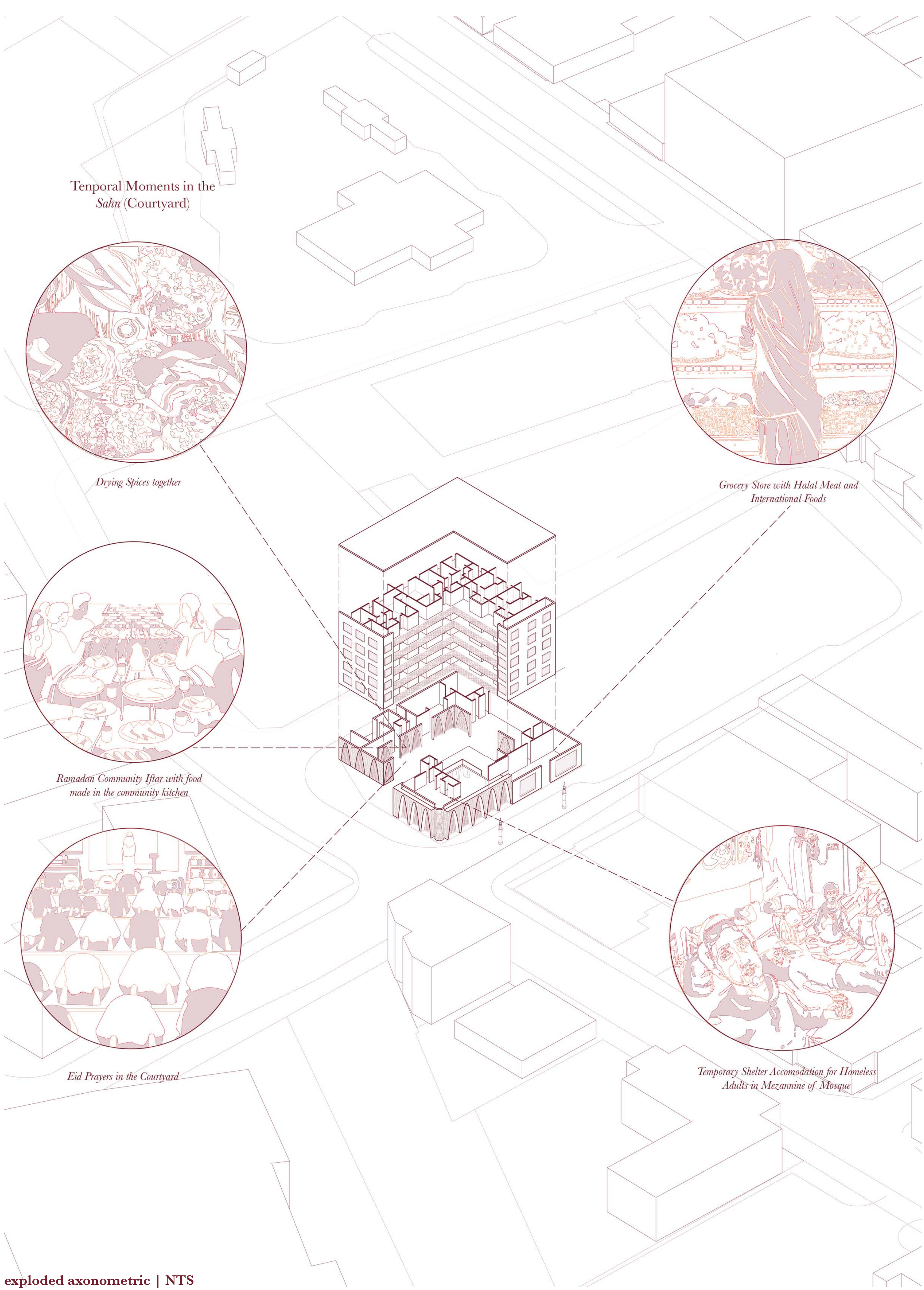
in unit living room view



detail section | 1:50



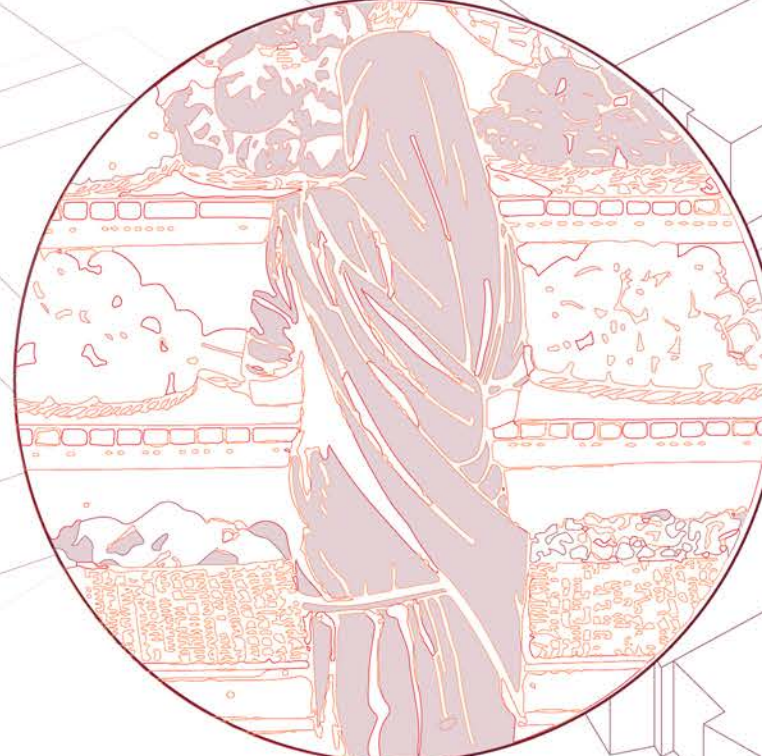
action diagrams for detail section



Temporal Moments in the
Sahn (Courtyard)



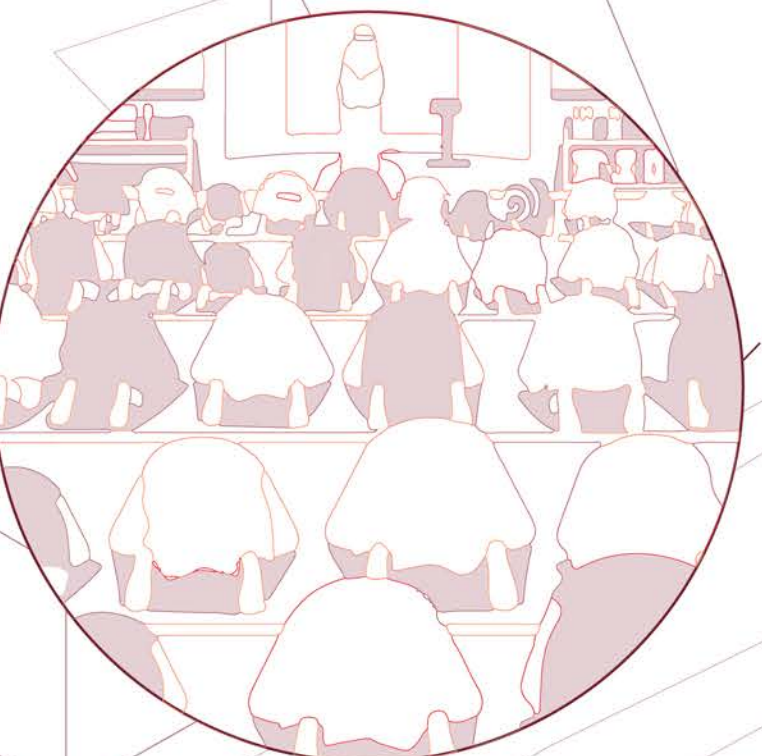
Drying Spices together



*Grocery Store with Halal Meat and
International Foods*



*Ramadan Community Iftar with food
made in the community kitchen*



Eid Prayers in the Courtyard



*Temporary Shelter Accomodation for Homeless
Adults in Mezannine of Mosque*

exploded axonometric | NTS

Response to the Climate Crisis

Remembrance of the Repasts uses vernacular architecture to allow the community of Cambridge to notice the traditions, environment and the way of living for Syrian refugees. It addresses the need of the individual occupant (syrian refugees) and the local community of Cambridge by using what is already available in the surrounding. The surrounding buildings in Cambridge heavily rely on materials such as brick and stone, as a result brick becomes the primary material in this project. As for the mosque, the orientation not only is helpful for the direction of prayer but it allows itself to become very energy efficient and sustainable in the methods of construction. The screens of the mosque are inspired by Jaali architecture. Jaali is an architectural term for a perforated stone or latticed screen, typically with an artistic pattern constructed using scripts, geometry, or organic patterns. In the Middle East, they are also often referred to as wind catchers and are very common to be used as ornamentation for a mosque. Almost every mosque in Syria is constructed with these latticed screens reflecting Islamic geometrical patterns. Using this knowledge, the architecture practice translates itself all the way back to Cambridge playing a crucial role as an architectural component that becomes very multifaceted. It helps provide privacy, cooling and shading. In the current use of it in the mosque, Jaali is used as a tool to cut down the solar heat gain and cool the natural breeze passing through it, optimizing the energy requirement of the building.