SOMETHING FANTASTIC
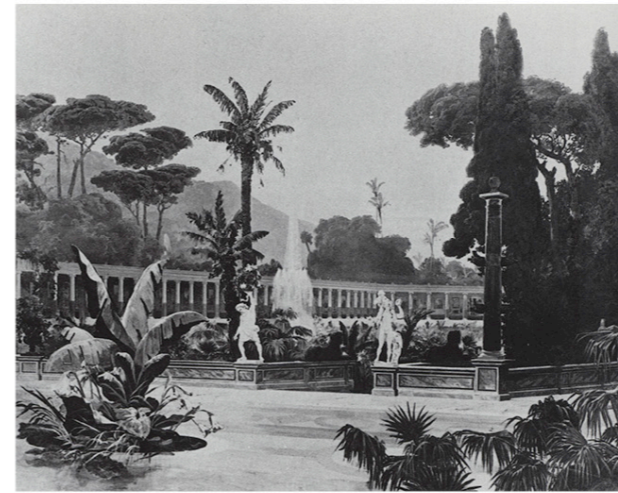
IT WILL TELL STORIES

IT WILL BE ELEGANT

IT WILL BE ARCADIAN

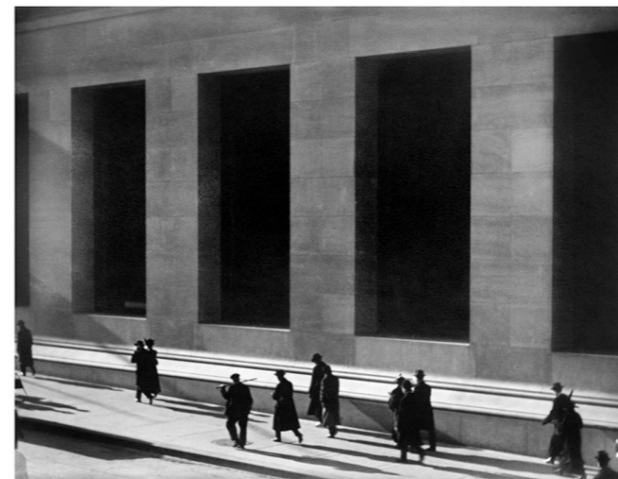IT WILL BE DENSE

NOT EVERYTHING WILL BE ALIGNED
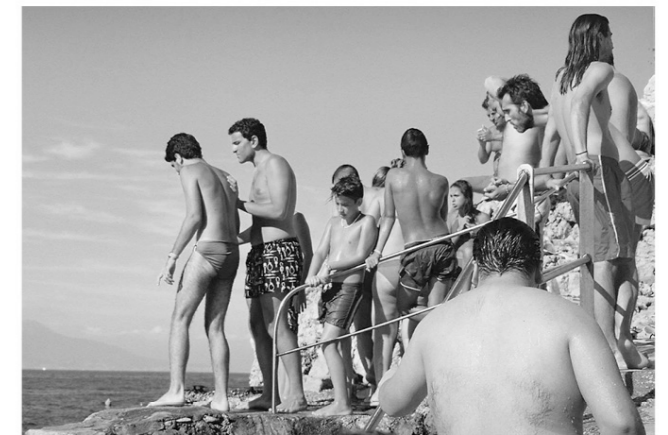

IT WILL BE PAINTED

IT WILL BE HEAVY

IT WILL BE AS IT ALWAYS WAS

Photograph of a hut in Africa by David Goldblatt

IT WILL TELL STORIES

Heinrich Müller, Kohlestaubmahlwerk Moabit, 1924 / 25

IT WILL BE ELEGANT

Wallpaper, Café Bauer on Unter den Linden 1877

IT WILL BE ARCADIAN

Parque Tenant Siqueria Campos, Avenida Paulista, Sao Paulo, 2014

IT WILL BE DENSE

Rio das Pedras, Rio de Janeiro, 2013

NOT EVERYTHING WILL BE ALIGNED

1 Brotschrank, »Bhalter«, aus Ostfranken,
spätes 17. Jahrhundert.
Wunsiedel/Oberfranken, Fichtelgebirgsmuseum

Late 17th century bread closet, Frankonia

IT WILL BE PAINTED

Paul Strand, Wall Street, New York by Sheldan C. Collins

IT WILL BE HEAVY

Lido de Faro, Capri, 2014

IT WILL BE AS IT ALWAYS WAS

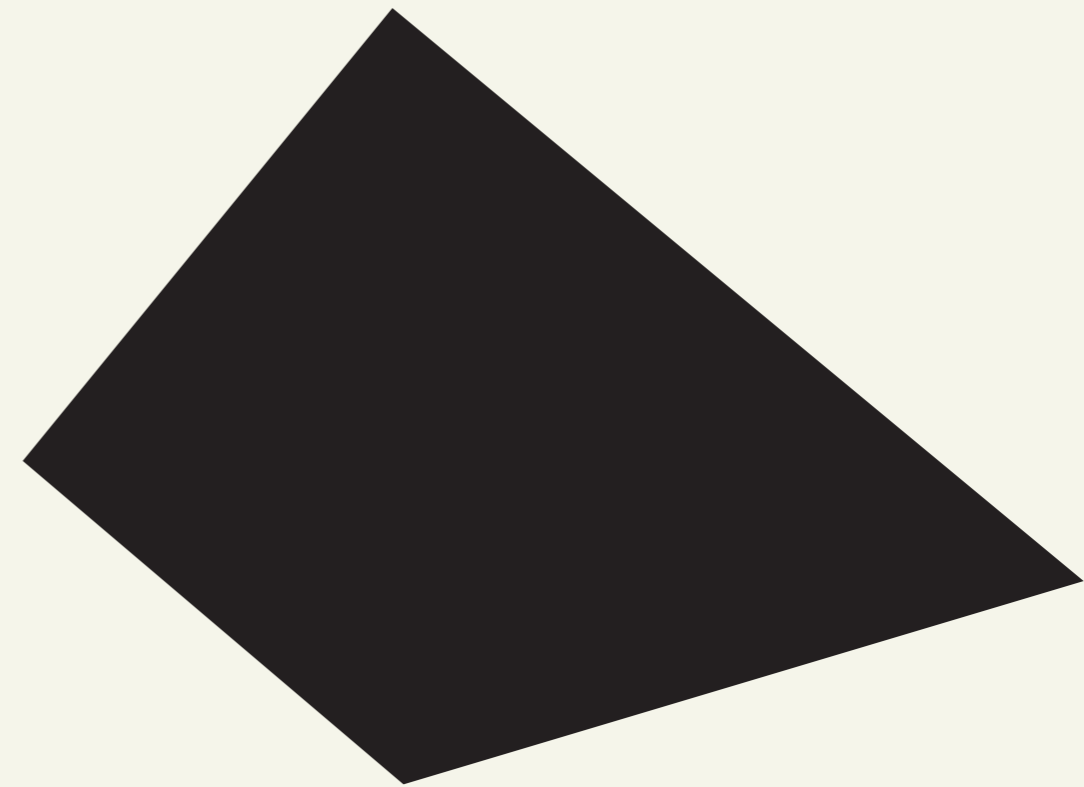Book cover: Housing Cairo, The Informal Response, Ruby Press, forthcoming 2016

ETH Zurich
MAS Urban Design

Housing Cairo –
The ~~Informal~~ Answer

Ruby Press

Edited by Marc Angélil,
Charlotte Malterre-Barthes and Something Fantastic
in collaboration with CLUSTER

Housing Cairo, The Informal Response, Ruby Press, forthcoming 2016

Housing Cairo, The Informal Response, Ruby Press, forthcoming 2016

0   100   500 m

0   100   500 m

Fig. 2: Ard el-Lewa of the 1970s (after the Cadastral Plan)
The first urban development appears along the train tracks.

144

Fig. 3: Ard el-Lewa in 2015.

145

with people's values and do not fulfill their wants and needs. All people, inside and outside government, learn how to best make use of it; the neo-vernacular 'fusion' in urban growth, in governance, in daily life."
—Dina Shohayeb

"Officially, informality includes practices and conditions taking place outside the state's regulatory framework. But I personally find it important to distinguish between three definitions of informality.

The first is the 'non-condition' (not formal), i.e. the structural opposite of formal, which is close to the above, rather reductionist definition. It is based on a political-economic framework of decentralized practice, as is apparent in informal urban development and informal economy, and as repeatedly occurs throughout urban history whenever the centralized power gets weakened, such as the medievalization of Roman cities. It could be abstracted as A being the opposite of B (both locked in a binary structure, and thus mutually constitutive).

The second approach is embedded in an anthropological interpretation of informality as an anti-structure: a processual condition that defies concretization, farming, and thus definition. Similar to rituals, oral history and vernacular traditions, informality is more fluid and experiential, rather than structural and representational. It could be abstracted into A is the negation of B (defying the very structural opposition).

A third definition views informality as the blurred boundaries between formal and informal, and is thus slippery and rather mystical. Informality is thus not a position of either-or, but one of both-and. In that sense, it may better be exemplified as the grey zone, the spectrum of negotiation and contestation, rather than being on one end of this binary. An abstract formulation would then be: A = A+B."
—Omar Nagati

with people's values and do not fulfill their wants and needs. All people, inside and outside government, learn how to best make use of it; the neo-vernacular 'fusion' in urban growth, in governance, in daily life."
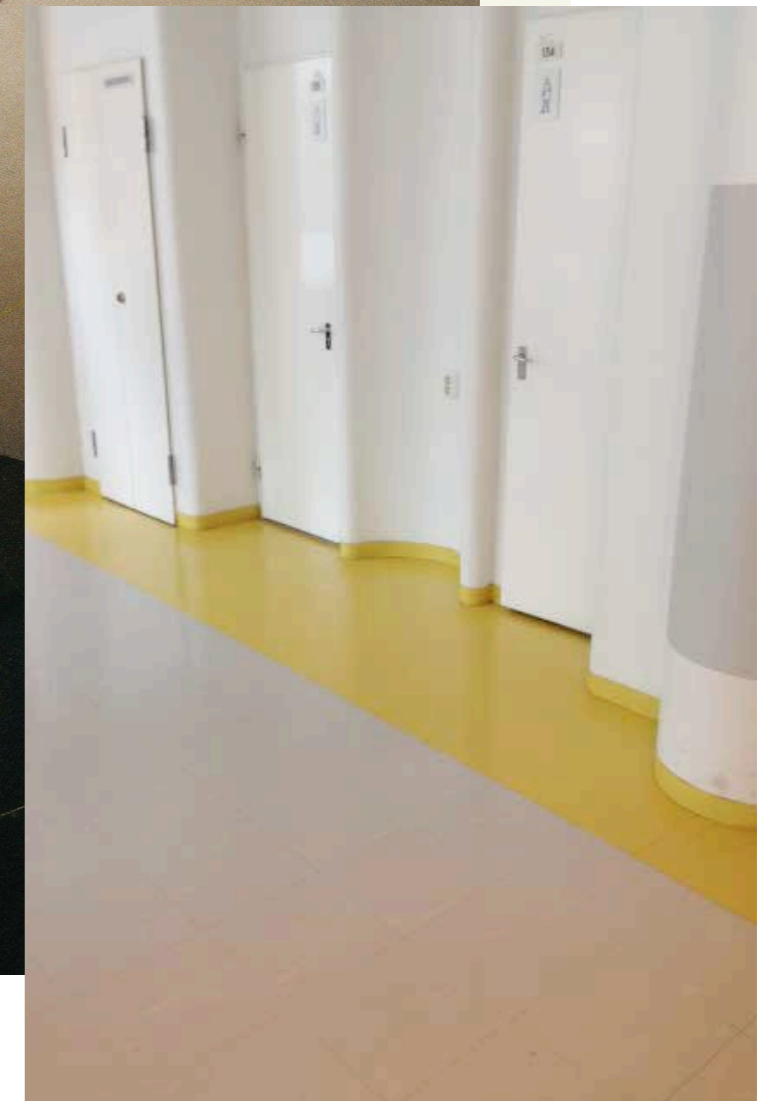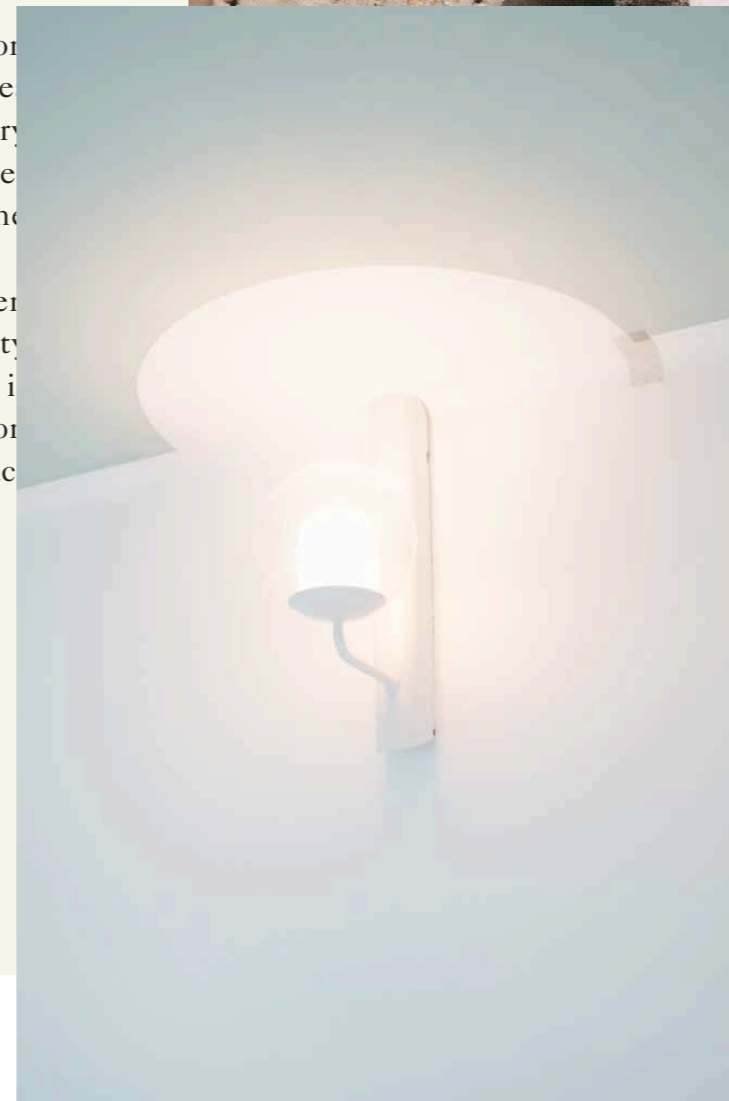—Dina Shohayeb

"Officially, informality includes practices and conditions taking place outside the state's regulatory framework. But I personally find it important to distinguish between three definitions of informality.

The first is the 'non-condition' (not formal), i.e. the structural opposite of formal, which is close to the above, rather reductionist definition. It is based on a political-economic framework of decentralized practice, as is apparent in informal urban development and informal economy, and as repeatedly occurs throughout urban history whenever the centralized power gets weakened, such as the medievalization of Roman cities. It could be abstracted as A being the opposite of B (both locked in a binary structure, and thus mutually constitutive).

The second approach is embedded in an anthropological interpretation of informality as an anti-structure: a processual condition that defies concretization, farming, and thus definition. Similar to rituals, oral history and vernacular traditions, informality is more fluid and experiential, rather than structural and representational. It could be abstracted into A is the negation of B (defying the very structural opposition).

A third definition views informality as the blurred boundaries between formal and informal, and is thus slippery and rather mystical. Informality is thus not a position of either-or, but one of both-and. In that sense, it may better be exemplified as the grey zone, the spectrum of negotiation and contestation, rather than being on one end of this binary. An abstract formulation would then be: A = A+B."
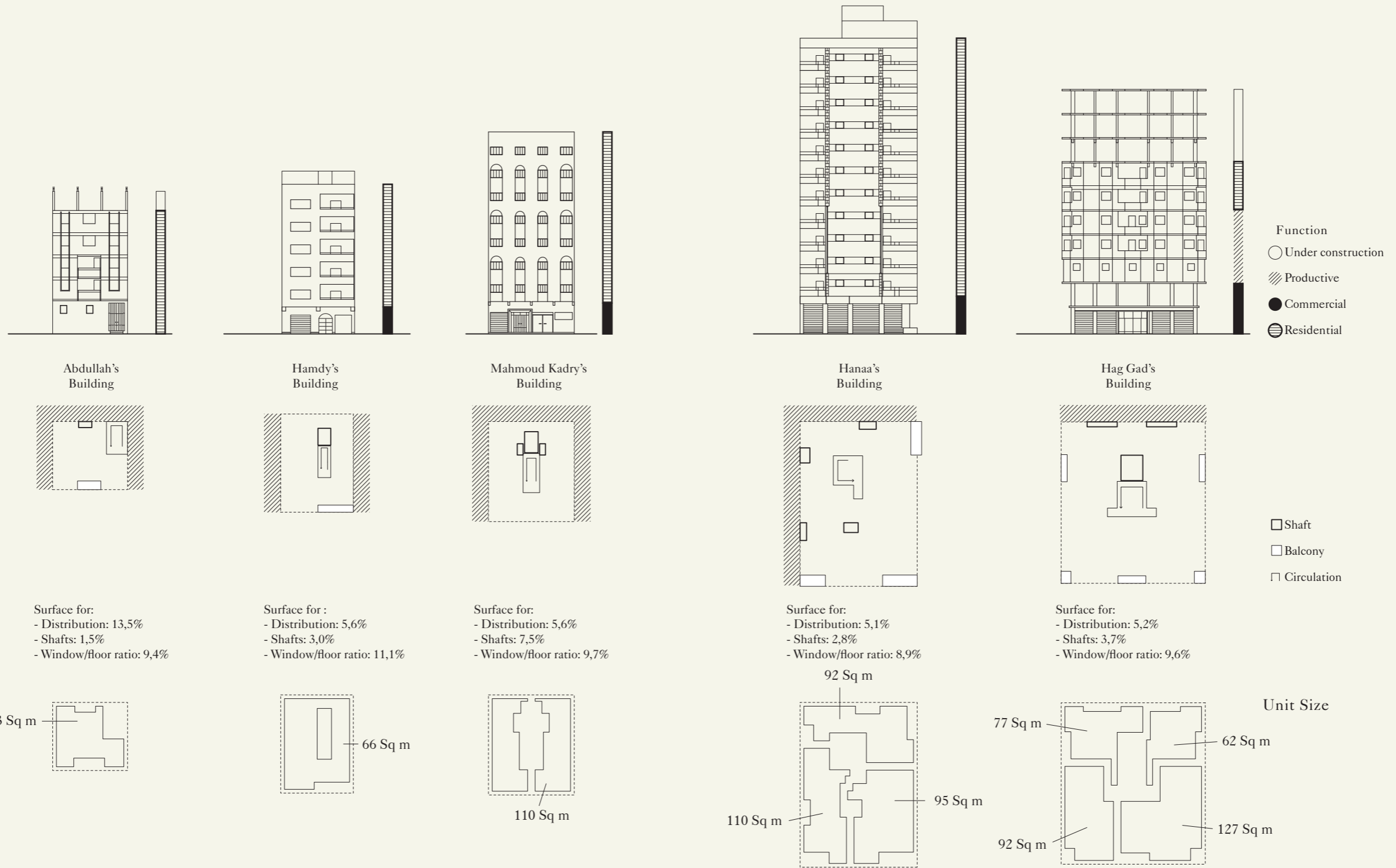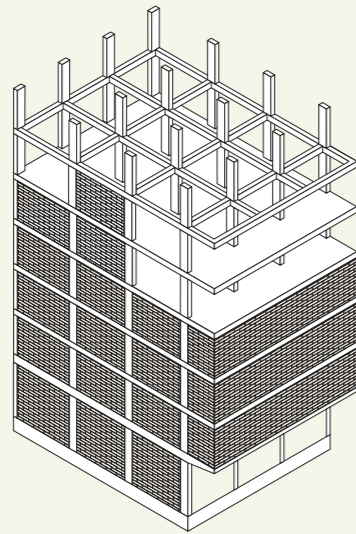—Omar Nagati

167

Abdullah's
Building

Hamdy's
Building

Mahmoud Kadry's
Building

Surface for:
- Distribution: 13,5%
- Shafts: 1,5%
- Window/floor ratio: 9,4%

Surface for :
- Distribution: 5,6%
- Shafts: 3,0%
- Window/floor ratio: 11,1%

Surface for:
- Distribution: 5,6%
- Shafts: 7,5%
- Window/floor ratio: 9,2%

73 Sq m

66 Sq m

110 Sq m

Hanaa's
Building

Hag Gad's
Building

Function
○ Under construction
▨ Productive
● Commercial
◉ Residential

Surface for:
- Distribution: 5,1%
- Shafts: 2,8%
- Window/floor ratio: 8,9%

Surface for:
- Distribution: 5,2%
- Shafts: 3,7%
- Window/floor ratio: 9,6%

▢ Shaft
▢ Balcony
▢ Circulation
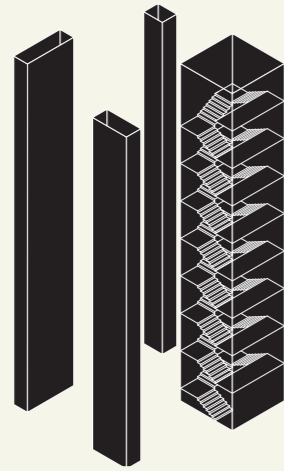
92 Sq m

Unit Size

77 Sq m
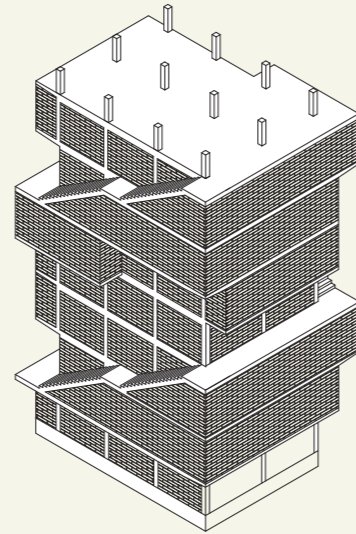
62 Sq m

110 Sq m

95 Sq m

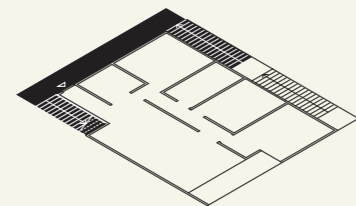92 Sq m

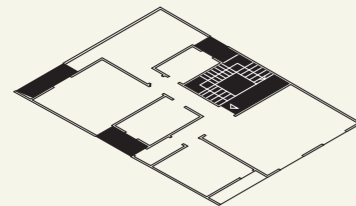127 Sq m

Another Architecture
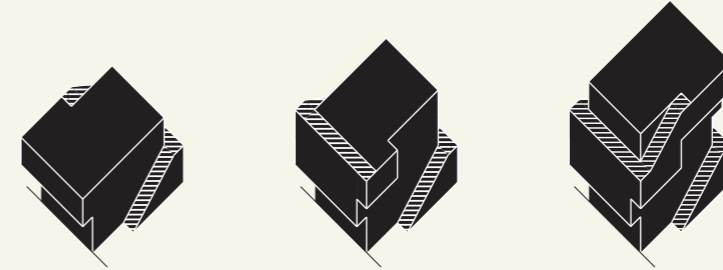
Existent archetype

New building
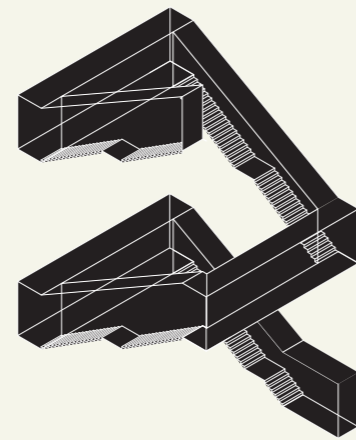
The total volume of staircases
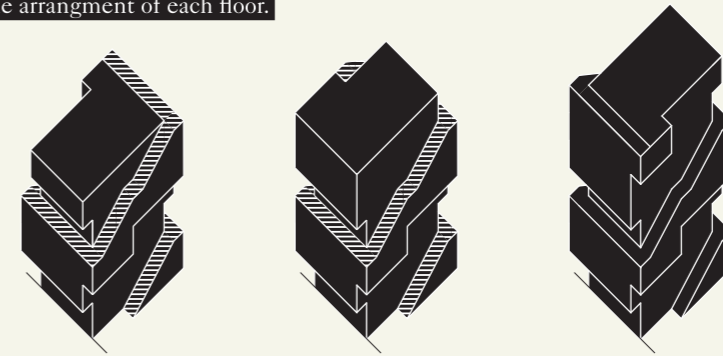and shafts is redistributed along
the four facades.

Inside Out

Incremental growth

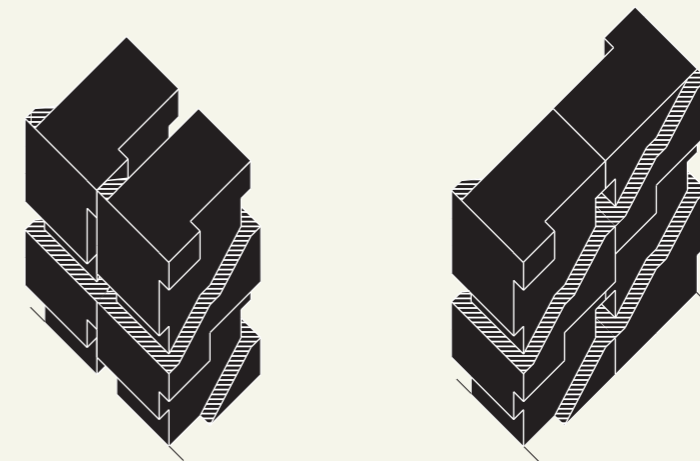The circulation path spirals up following the building's growth,
and determining the arrangment of each floor.

When two buildings are built adjacently
the staircases are combined into a continuous circulation space.

2 Units: Side by side

2 Units: Back to back

The modified archetype, once duplicated, can trigger a large-scale tranformation.
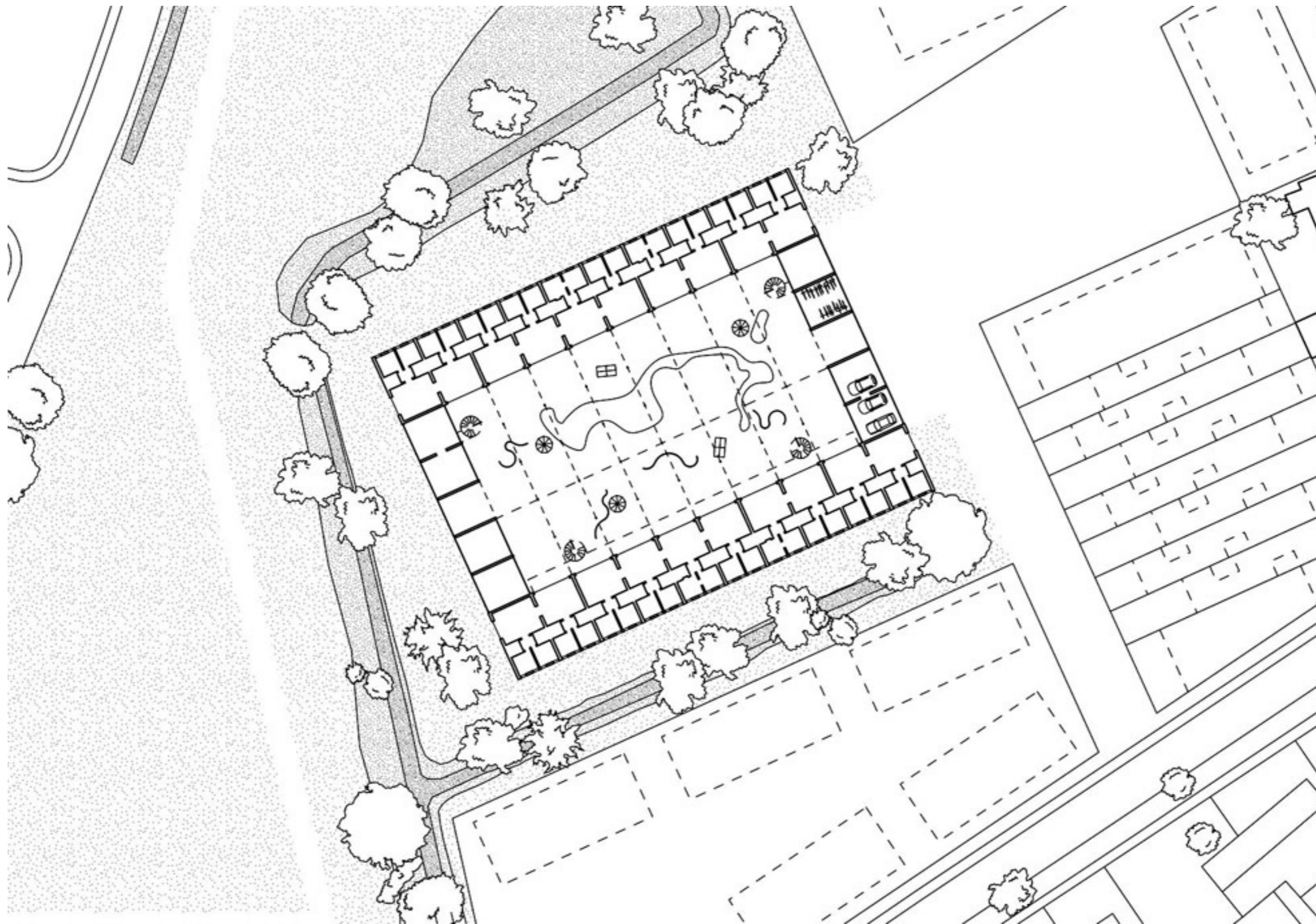
Housing Cairo, The Informal Response, Ruby Press, forthcoming 2016

Flamish Pilot Project, Communal Housing Outside of Antwerp

Flamish Pilot Project, Communal Housing Outside of Antwerp

+1

GF

Flamish Pilot Project, Communal Housing Outside of Antwerp

Flamish Pilot Project, Communal Housing Outside of Antwerp

Flamish Pilot Project, Communal Housing Outside of Antwerp

Competition for the Museum of the 20th Century, Berlin

+47,0

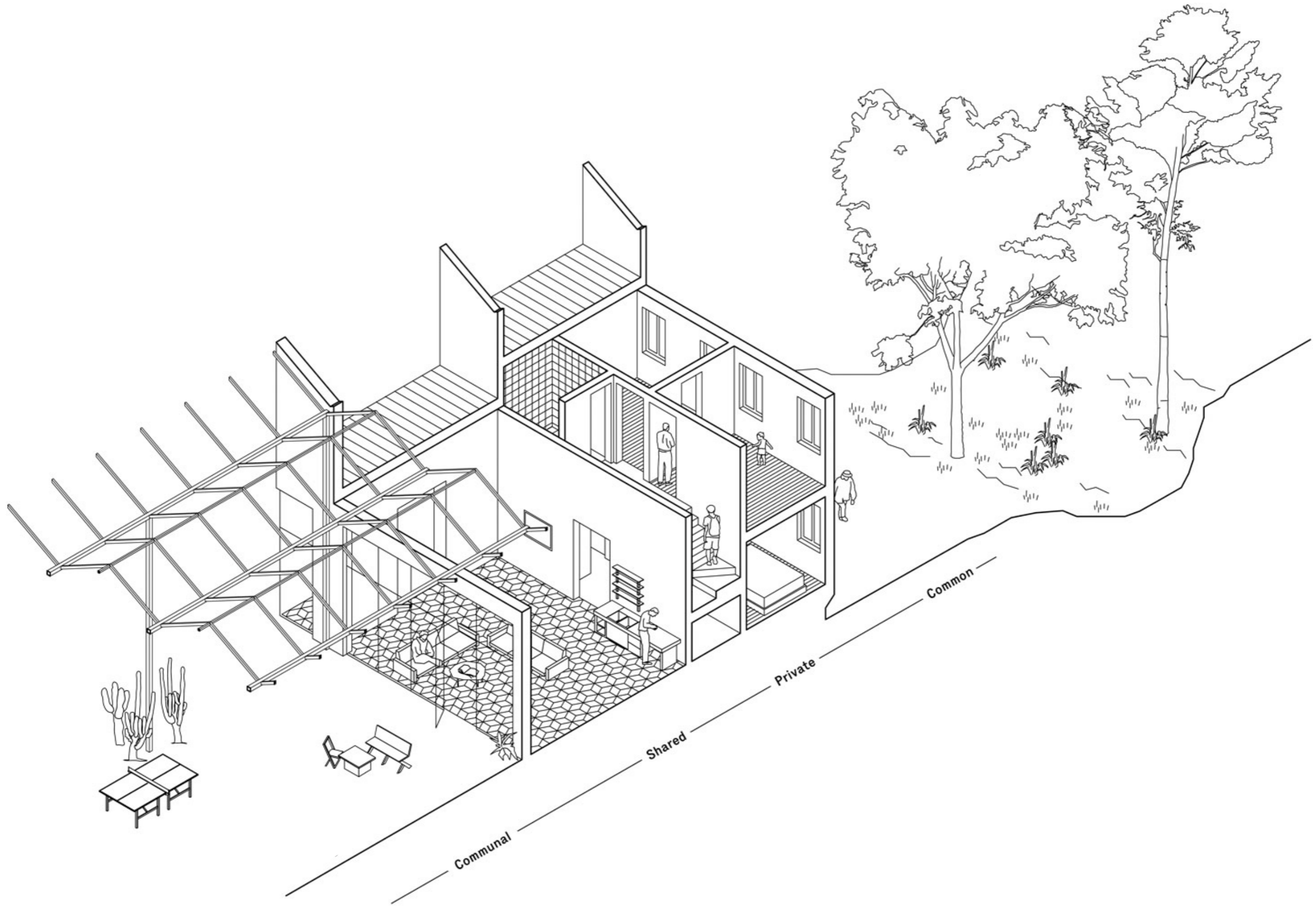Zusatzetage

+39,0

Depot

+32,0

Kunst nach 1945   Sammlung Marx   Überhohe Installationen

+26,0

Kunst nach 1945

+19,0

Kunst nach 1945

+13,0

Besucherdienste   Wechselnde
                                                                         Sammlungspräsentation

Anlieferung

0,0

Competition for the Museum of the 20th Century, Berlin

Competition for the Museum of the 20th Century, Berlin

Left poster:

GERMAN PAVILION AT THE 15TH INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE EXHIBITION 2016
DEUTSCHER PAVILLON AUF DER 15. INTERNATIONALEN ARCHITEKTURAUSSTELLUNG 2016
15. ULUSLARARASI MİMARLIK SERGİSİ'NDE ALMAN PAVYONU 2016
الجناح الألماني في المعرض الدولي ال15 للعمارة ـ بينالي البندقية 2016
PADIGLIONE TEDESCO ALLA 15. MOSTRA INTERNAZIONALE DI ARCHITETTURA 2016

15. Mostra
Internazionale
di Architettura
Partecipazioni Nazionali

MAKING HEIMAT.
GERMANY, ARRIVAL COUNTRY

OBSERVATION 7

THE ARRIVAL CITY NEEDS THE GROUND FLOOR

**DAM DEUTSCHES ARCHITEKTURMUSEUM
SOMETHING FANTASTIC**

makingheimat.de

Right poster:

GERMAN PAVILION AT THE 15TH INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE EXHIBITION 2016
DEUTSCHER PAVILLON AUF DER 15. INTERNATIONALEN ARCHITEKTURAUSSTELLUNG 2016
15. ULUSLARARASI MİMARLIK SERGİSİ'NDE ALMAN PAVYONU 2016
الجناح الألماني في المعرض الدولي ال15 للعمارة ـ بينالي البندقية 2016
PADIGLIONE TEDESCO ALLA 15. MOSTRA INTERNAZIONALE DI ARCHITETTURA 2016

15. Mostra
Internazionale
di Architettura
Partecipazioni Nazionali

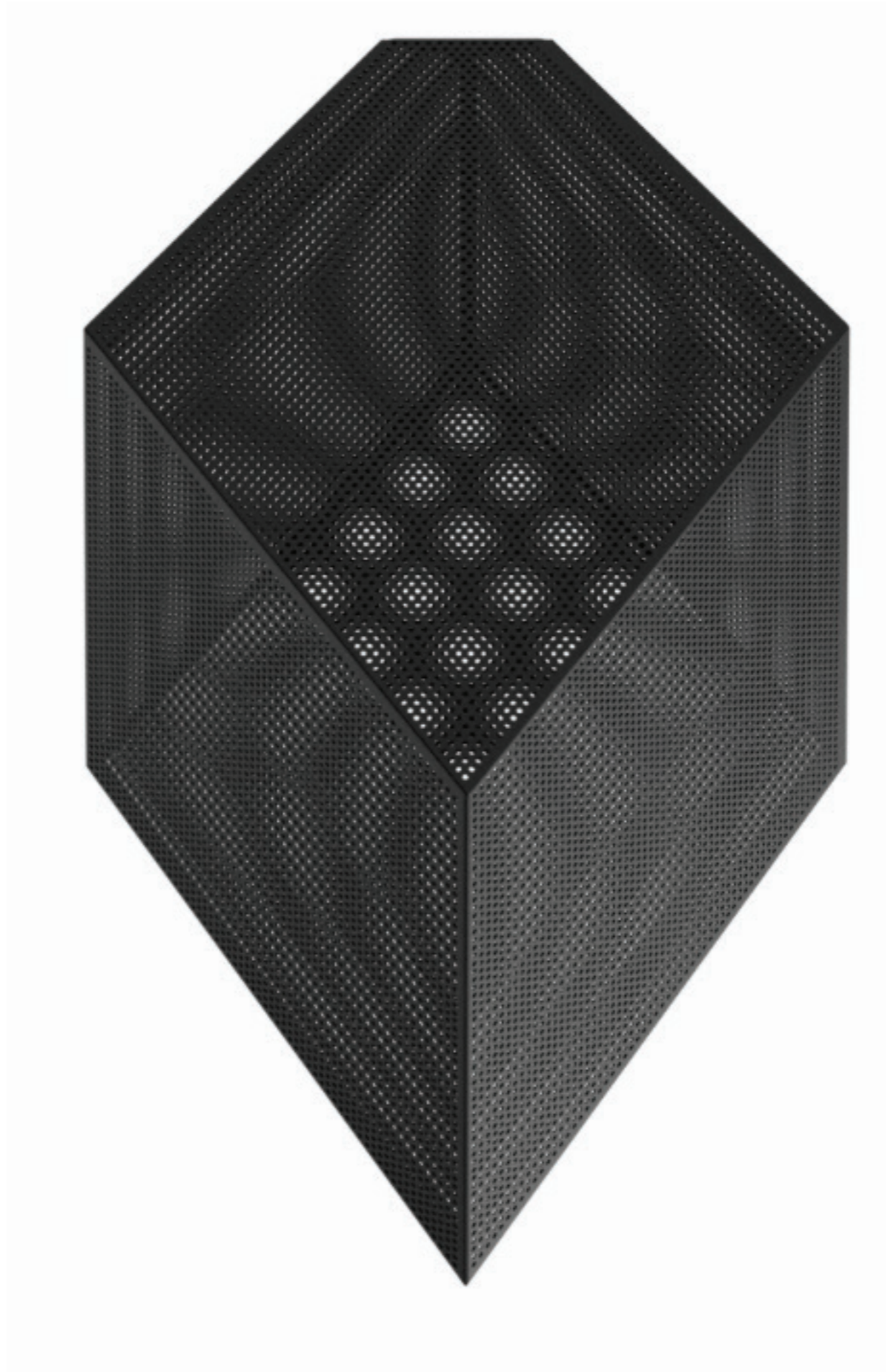# MAKING HEIMAT.
GERMANY, ARRIVAL COUNTRY

OBSERVATION 7

BERLIN, NEUKÖLLN: SHOP OF AN ENTREPRENEUR WITH TURKISH ORIGIN

**DAM DEUTSCHES ARCHITEKTURMUSEUM
SOMETHING FANTASTIC**

makingheimat.de

Campaign: German Pavilion La Biennale 2016

Pendant Lamp, Something Fantastic and New Tendency, 2015

Stage for Theater Performances in the Common Ralm

Stage for Theater Performances in the Common Ralm

Something Fantastic, Leipzigerstr. 61, Berlin

SOMETHING FANTASTIC