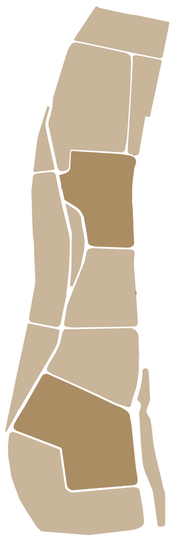
EP510 ISLAND (e)SCAPE

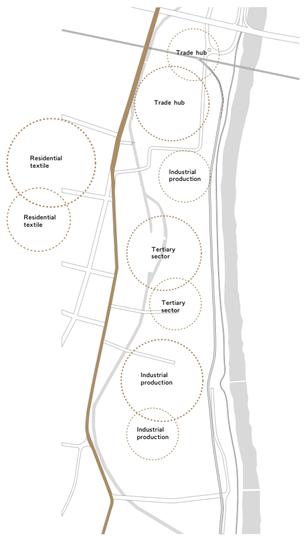
The project focuses on the idea of breaking existing limits of the territorial site - limits that have been defined over the years, provoking a change in “metabolism” of the area.

The site looks today like an urban island or a bastion, as the Palm in Dubai or the city of Palmanova, which are both generically isolated and unaccessible, if not from specific gates. The idea is to re-activate the site offering quality public spaces for the residential neighbourhood located east (considered troubling nowadays). That means transforming the entire island (the territorial site) into multiple smaller in size islands. The spaces in-between will then increase the permeability and overcome both social and economical boundaries that have been setting physical barriers between human beings until today. We are talking about twelve islands - 10 porous and 2 private/ unaccessible (the slaughterhouse and the power station).
The porous islands will be slightly transformed, aiming an increased usage comfort, the connections among people coming from the nearby neighbourhoods, recalling the typical relationships you can see in a local marketplace. Small buildings and constructions will start the site re-activation process: the main focus is on social and functional terms, leaving aside the aesthetic component. The road network is located along the porous islands’ edges: the access to them will be restricted to loading and unloading. The sustainable mobility (bikes, electric buses and vehicles,...) will be encouraged as the base of the site transformation.
The main focus of the project takes place within the architectural site: a research and teaching centre for production and development, as it was for Bauhaus. The center will be integrated to the existing ateliers and to a small cafe on water; both are opportunities for the urban regeneration (also in economical and of job-offer terms) of the area. The research center would collaborate with the TU University in Graz and with the companies located in the surroundings in order to solve problems like pollution, contamination and to develop recycling strategies, involving multiple professionals such as chemists, doctors, designers, architects, anthropologists, carpenters and retired artisans willing to cooperate.
The companies will be involved as sponsors in the project as the research aim to provide solutions to problems that these companies are facing daily.
The centre can also be seen as an urban centre which promotes the future development of the area: it is the first piece of a bigger puzzle and needs to be activated during the first phase of the transformation. It will also assurge as a reference for the next phases of the project.



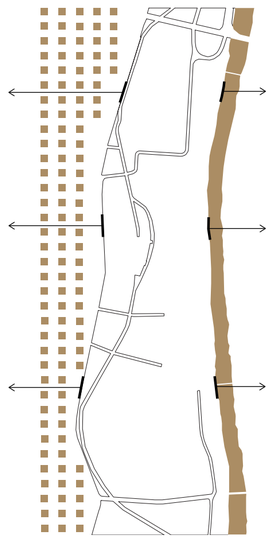
MORPHOLOGY

The strategic site looks like an isolated compound (composed by multiple islands) impermeable to the life and to the westside residential block.
The creation of the twelve islands increases the permeability across the site thanks to the spaces in-between them.



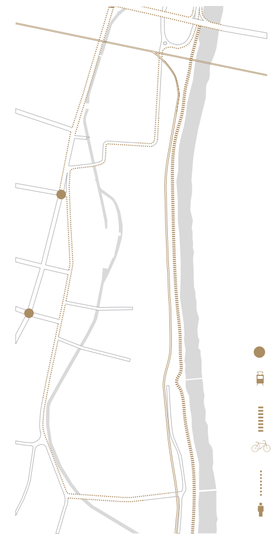
PROGRAM

There is a rigid separation between the residential area and the industrial site. The morphology of the strategic site relates to the functional program of each part of the city. Moving from zoning to mixitè (heterogenous program) can bring the industrial site back to the urban surroundings.



POROSITY (?)

The industrial site works as a barrier for the residential district towards the riverside.
A new porosity is needed in order to add quality to the residences located West, projecting them towards the water (as a quality public space).



MOBILITY

The existing mobility circulates along the edges of the big industrial site. Again, the analysis states the lack of permeability across the strategic site. Re-thinking the way people move in this part of the city and encouraging a sustainable mobility is needed as a basic concept for the future regeneration.

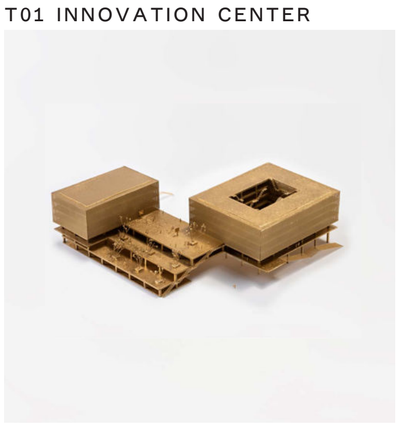
DENSITY

Density decreases starting from the residential area towards the riverside, even if the buildings are bigger in size in the industrial site.
The balance between constructions and free spaces can be directed by small and punctual additions driving the uses of the regeneration.

TOOLS

TYPE 1 / ELEMENTS TO ACTIVATE THE TRANSFORMATION

T01 INNOVATION CENTER



Two blocks elevated on a permeable basement host the program related to the research centre.

Flexibility_100\100
Sustainability_90\100
Durability_90\100
Replicability_70/100

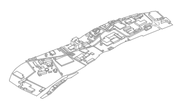
T02 SPORT CENTER

A built island connected to the other islands thorugh ramps and bridges. It hosts the facilities of a sport center and has the technology to produce green energy.

Flexibility_80\100
Sustainability_90\100
Durability_90\100
Replicability_70/100

T03 MOBILITY HUB

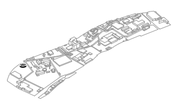
This building is both a mobility hub and a new mobility gate for the urban surroundings thanks to its site specific location.



Flexibility_90\100
Sustainability_80\100
Durability_90\100
Replicability_70/100

T04 PERMANENT CIRCUS

A building made for entertainment: it is flexible inside and can be adapted to the needs of many shows and gathering occasions.



Flexibility_80\100
Sustainability_80\100
Durability_90\100
Replicability_80/100

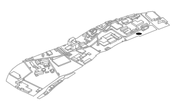
T05 CAGE

A building that looks like a cage: perfect as a boxe ring, a trampoline, a colourful ball pool for kids.

Flexibility_70\100
Sustainability_80\100
Durability_80\100
Replicability_90/100

T06 SPORT FIELD

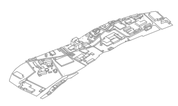
An area dedicated to a playground.
It can be used in combination with another tool or put inside a green area.



Flexibility_80\100
Sustainability_90\100
Durability_90\100
Replicability_100/100

T07 GATE / WALL

In private and protected areas, power plant and the slaughterhouse, a wall takes place along the edges and interrupted with gates strategically located.



Flexibility_90\100
Sustainability_80\100
Durability_80\100
Replicability_90/100

T08 GABLE ROOF

The roof defines a space under it that can be used for public activities like the street market or be a plus for existing small retails.

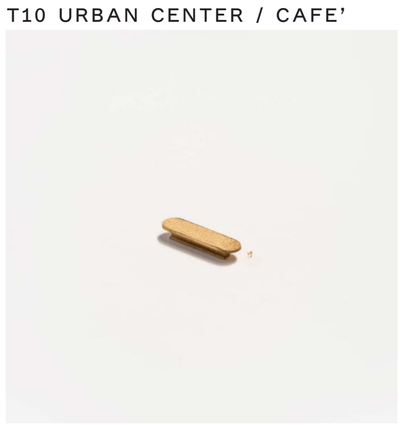
Flexibility_100\100
Sustainability_90\100
Durability_90\100
Replicability_90/100

T09 FLAT ROOF

The roof defines a space under it that can be used for public activities like the street market or be a plus for existing small retails.

Flexibility_100\100
Sustainability_90\100
Durability_90\100
Replicability_90/100

T10 URBAN CENTER / CAFE’



A place dedicated to people and their needs to gather as a community.
The covered and closed space can be adapted to multiple uses.

Flexibility_90\100
Sustainability_80\100
Durability_90\100
Replicability_90/100

T11 BUS STOP

Recognisable small and simple element with the basic function of protecting people waiting for the bus.

Flexibility_90\100
Sustainability_90\100
Durability_90\100
Replicability_90/100

T12 BENCH

The smallest element among the urban design is the main one to increase the interaction among people.

Flexibility_90\100
Sustainability_90\100
Durability_80\100
Replicability_100/100

TOOLS REACTION WITHIN THE STRATEGIC SITE

PHYSICAL MODEL 1:500

DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

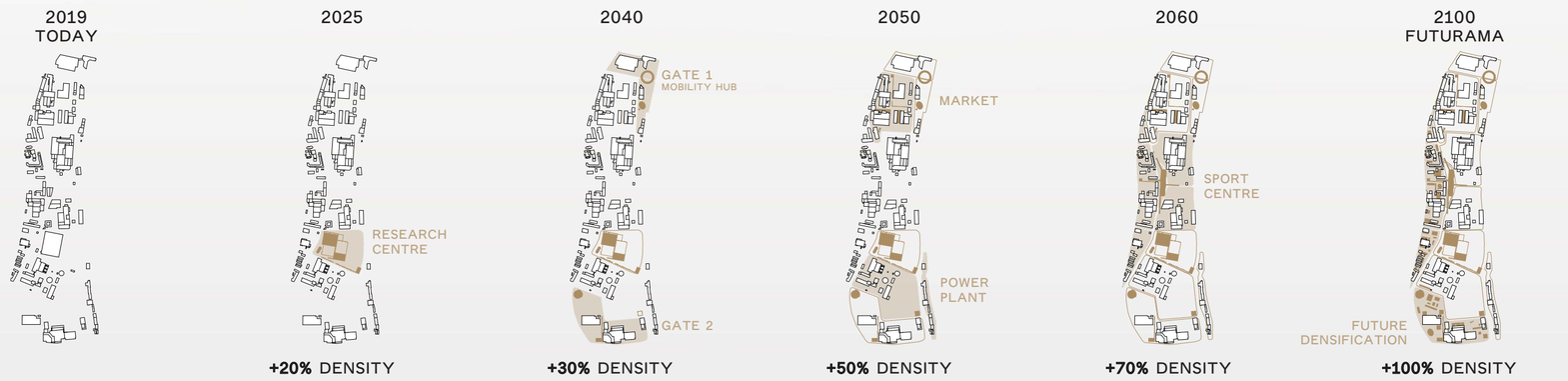
The RESEARCH CENTER starts the regeneration process in 2025 and gradually involves the entire strategic site and the urban surroundings.

Over the years the use of tools activates each single island one after the other producing a sequence of upgrades that helps to the inclusion of this former industrial site within the urban fluxus.

The development can take place in stages starting from the research center, then involving both south and north edges that can be seen as new entrance gates to the entire strategic site.

The sport center strategically located in the middle activates the surroundings islands and connects them through ramps and bridges.

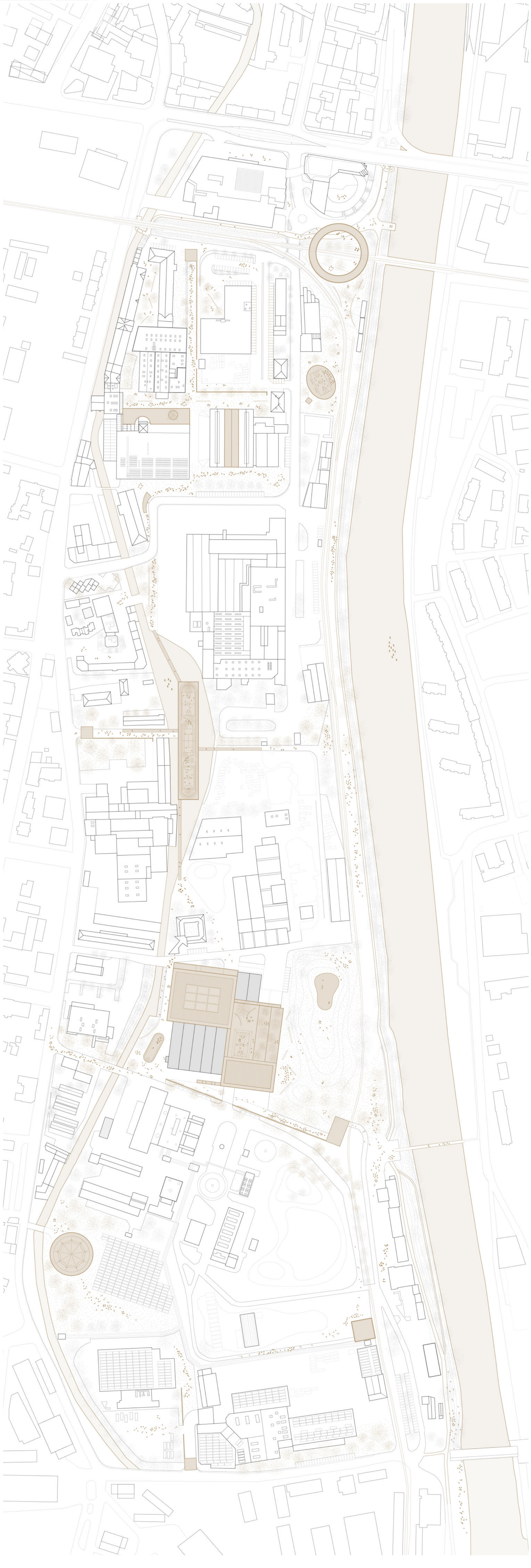
The project gradually increases the permeability of the site aiming an increased usage comfort, the connections among people coming from the nearby neighbourhoods, recalling the typical relationships you can see in a local marketplace.



Graz [AT]

EP510 ISLAND (e)SCAPE

SITE PLAN MODEL 1:2000



11 ISLAND

This island opens the strategic site up north. The MOBILITY HUB links slow and fast mobility: train station on the upper floor, while bus station below (next to the main road). There you can also fine a bike park and the car sharing facilities.

T03-T06-T11-T12

12 ISLAND

This island works with n. 11.

Under the MOBILITY HUB there is the bus stop that defines the access to the strategic site at a lower level.

T03-T06-T11-T12

9 ISLAND

The slaughterhouse occupies one of the impermeable island.
A WALL defines its edges while BENCHES are placed within the green area under the trees, offering a resting place for workers.

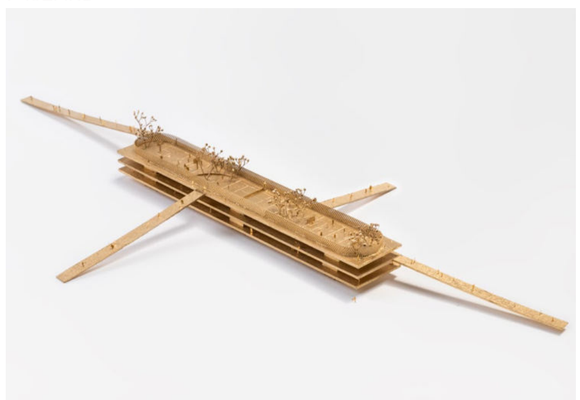
T07-T12

10 ISLAND

A private island where the former industrial buildings are involved in the regeneration that sees the intense activity of the market. It will be hosted under the GABLE ROOF while the FLAT one protects the stop and go of the building.

T06-T07-T08-T09-T11-T12

7 ISLAND



A built island placed in-between 4 islands connects all the public spaces increasing the permeabily throughout the strategic site. It hosts some SPORT FIELDS on the top floor and the related sport facilities.

T02-T06-T12

8 ISLAND

One of the islands connected by the SPORT CENTER and its ramps/ bridges. The porosity is the main characteristic of the empty space, which is public and enriched with urban furniture, such as BENCHES.

T02-T12

5 ISLAND

Two blocks act like a parasite on an former industrial building. It will be included in the complex of the new RESEARCH CENTER. The island is protected by a WALL with a GATE. The BUS STOP increase the use of the public mobility.

T01-T07-T11-T12

6 ISLAND

The GATE underlines one of the main entrance to the site and to a more private part of the Sport Center with its ramps/bridges. Other than that the island is porous: fluxus can cross the island in multiple points.

T02-T12

3 ISLAND

One of the islands connected by the SPORT CENTER and its ramps/ bridges. The porosity is the main characteristic of the empty space, which is public and enriched with urban furniture, such as BENCHES.

T02-T12

4 ISLAND

The power plant occupies half of the surface of the island while the rest is left as a green area. At the very edge the CAGE tool connects this impermeable island with the others, offering a kid playground linked to the public space.

T05-T07-T12

1 ISLAND

This island is closing south the site.
A GATE introduces to it and the PERMANENT CIRCUS offers a flexible space for the community and an underground hub with a bike park (increasing the sustainable mobility).

T04-T07-T12

2 ISLAND

A BRIDGE connects this island and the entire strategic site with the eastern side of the river.
The island is completely porous: fluxus can cross it in multiple points.

T07-T12

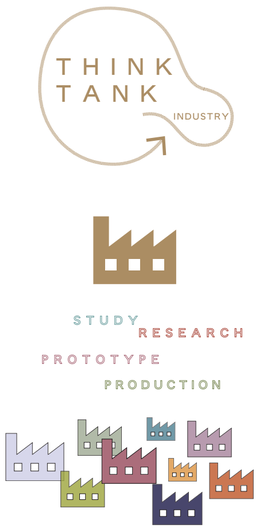
Graz [AT]

EP510 ISLAND (e)SCAPE

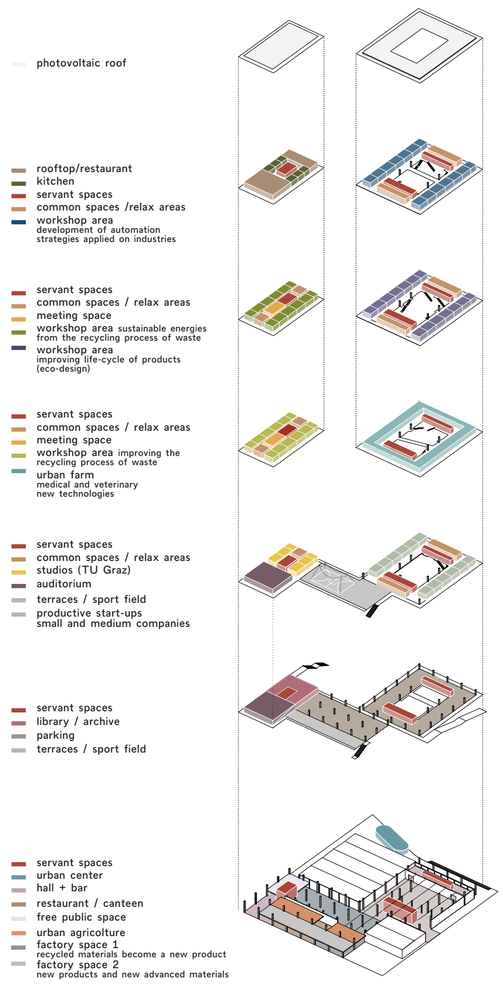
3

THE THINK TANK PARASITE

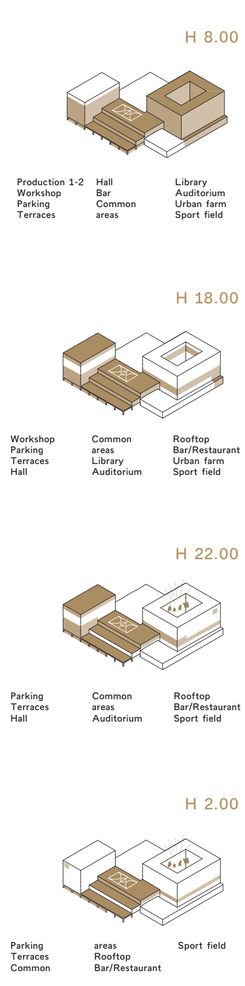
The idea of a new research center becomes the starting point for the development of the circular economy that helps the regeneration of the entire strategic site.
In collaboration with the TU University in Graz will investigate and research solutions on the possible ways for the recycle, reuse and disposal of the waste produced by the industries on the island. The building will host the activities of the slaughterhouse, the robotics and cars, chemistry, etc... each one occupying a different level floor.
The ground floor will be conceived as a large lab with double height and a overhead traveling crane suitable for the production of big machinery prototypes. Products can indeed be conceived, produced and tested in the center and finally used, once approved, by the companies. It is a sort of circular process that works from the companies to the companies adding value to the production.
The new building, the Parasite, reacts to the presence of the existing building and becomes part of it without showing itself as an addiction (if not only for some aesthetic solutions). This new building, rich in complexity, will also be a sort of landmark, able to communicate to the urban context what is happening and what is new on the site. The center with its multiple functions involved will be open 24/7, as any other advanced university department. In research, we trust!



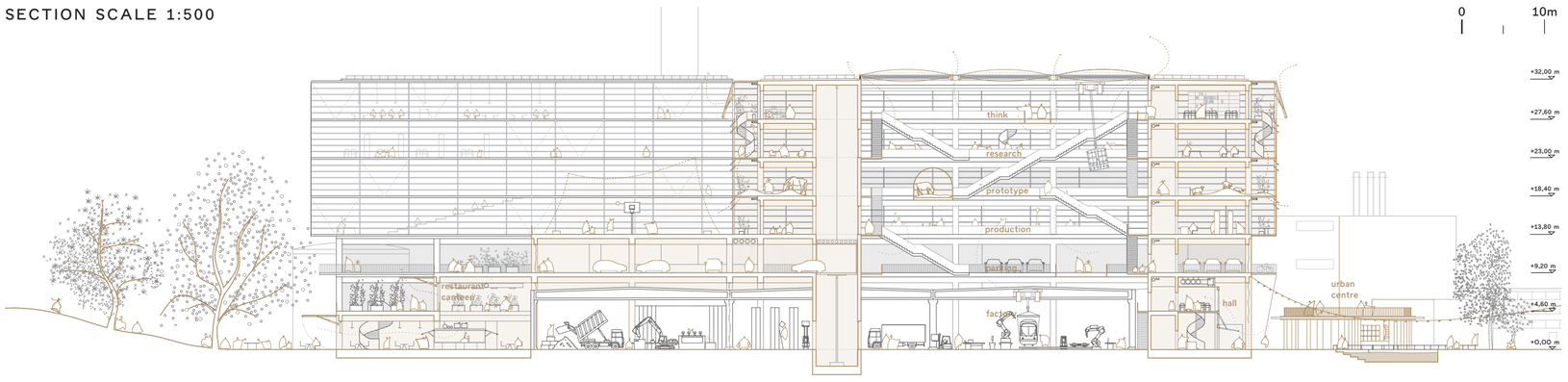
FUNCTIONS / PROGRAM



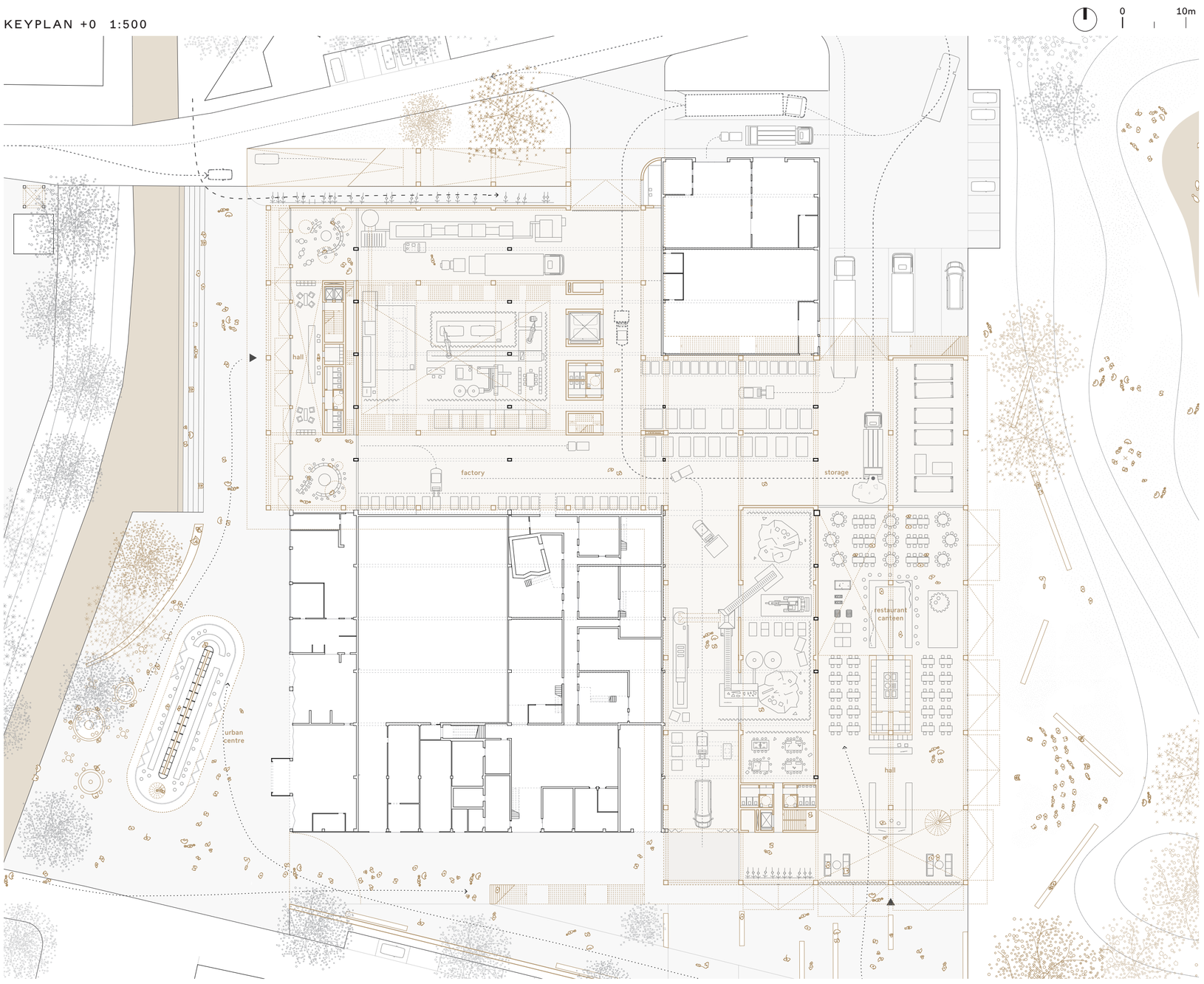
24 HOURS / USE



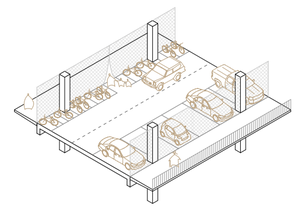
SECTION SCALE 1:500



KEYPLAN +0 1:500

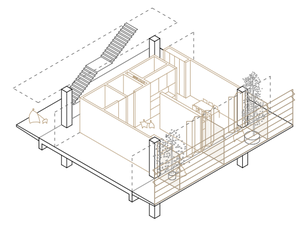


FUTURE SCENARIOS / FLEXIBILITY



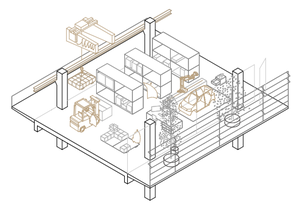
PARKING

The structural elements are modulated accordingly to the parking standards.
It fits the parking lots and the maneuver area, while keeping the pedestrian circulation on the sides.



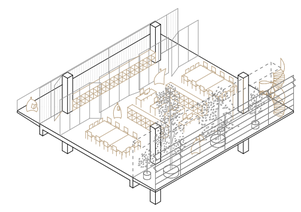
HOUSING

Movable walls (non structural) can be used to divide the open space into a series of apartments. Walls enclose servant spaces in sort of solid boxes leaving the living space open and rich in light, facing each one a private balcony. A communal walkway gives access to the residences.



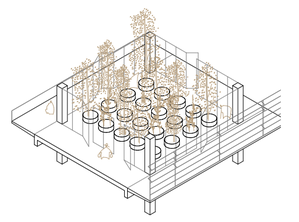
FACTORY

The open plan is suitable for the production process. Machineries, materials and tools take place inside the space.



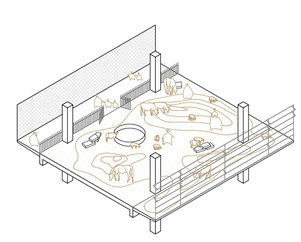
OFFICE

The open space suits the open desk posts, while more private spaces can be created/isolated with movable non structural walls. The offices face a longitudinal balcony enriched with plants, while on the opposite side the circulation gives access to each area, though a transparent diaphragm.



GREEN HOUSE

Top or double-height levels can host a greenhouse. These spaces can be mixed up or alternated with the public circulation across some levels of the building. The presence of plants and greenery increase the quality of life within the building itself.



FARM

Open air levels can be adapted to farming.
The facades are indeed permeable to air.
These spaces can be mixed up or alternated with the public circulation across some levels of the building.