

ANCIENT CITY RESERVATION

Daxin Jia

Thesis submitted to the faculty of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

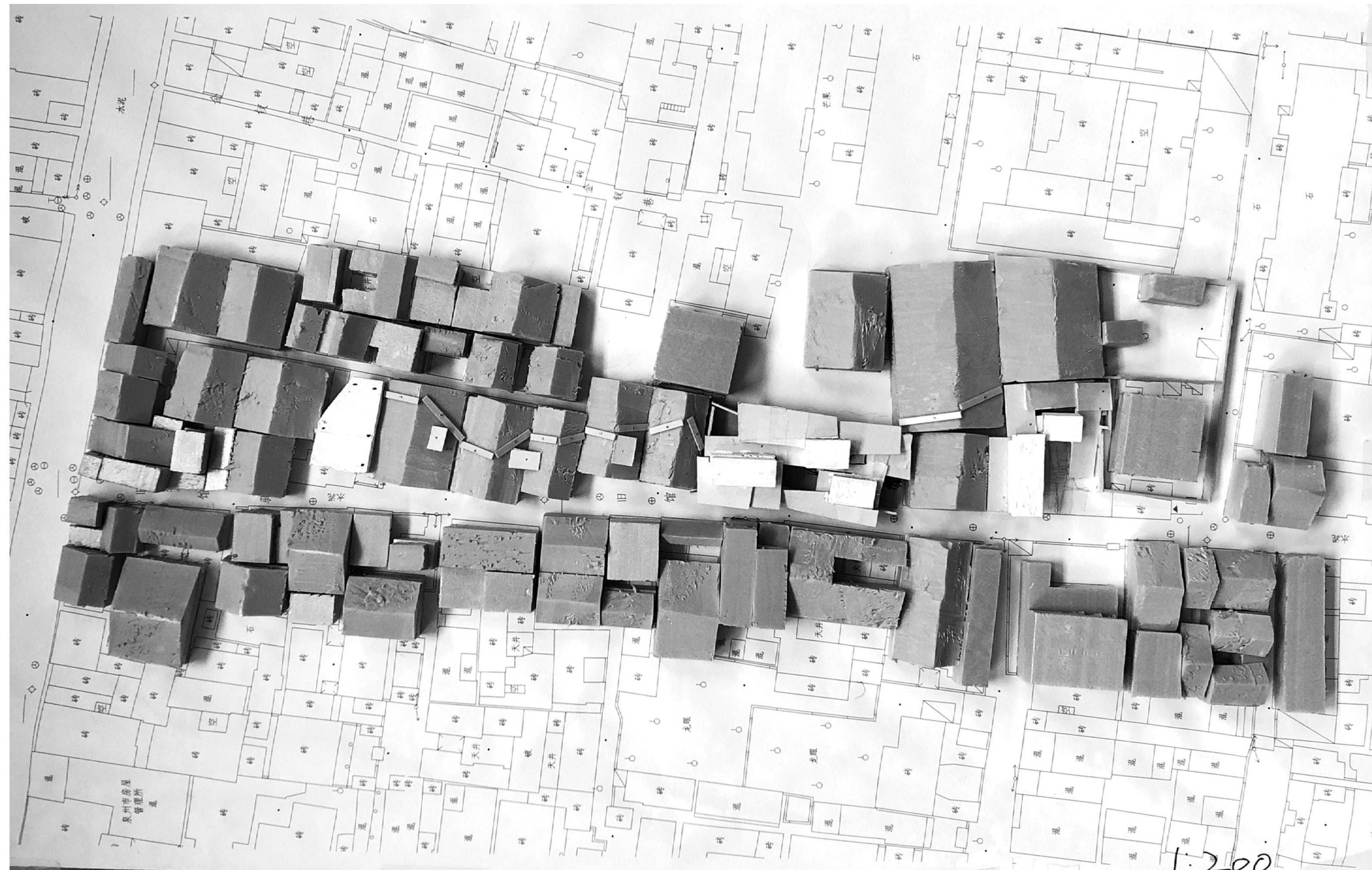
Master of Architecture
In
School of Architecture + Design

David Dugas
Frank Weiner
William Galloway

Dec 30th, 2019
Blacksburg, VA

ORIGIN

The thesis started from the nostalgia for the historic district and the life within it. I don't agree with the radical method of reforming the historic district at the moment, which is rebuilding the whole district or demolishing it. I tried to find a new way to reform the historic district, so that the new project can blend into the habitats' lifestyle, in which way people can reconnect to their home land. During the design process, there is movie scenes, kungfu novels, and the living moment from my childhood came to my mind. And I translate those scenes into the spaces in the project through an architectural language.

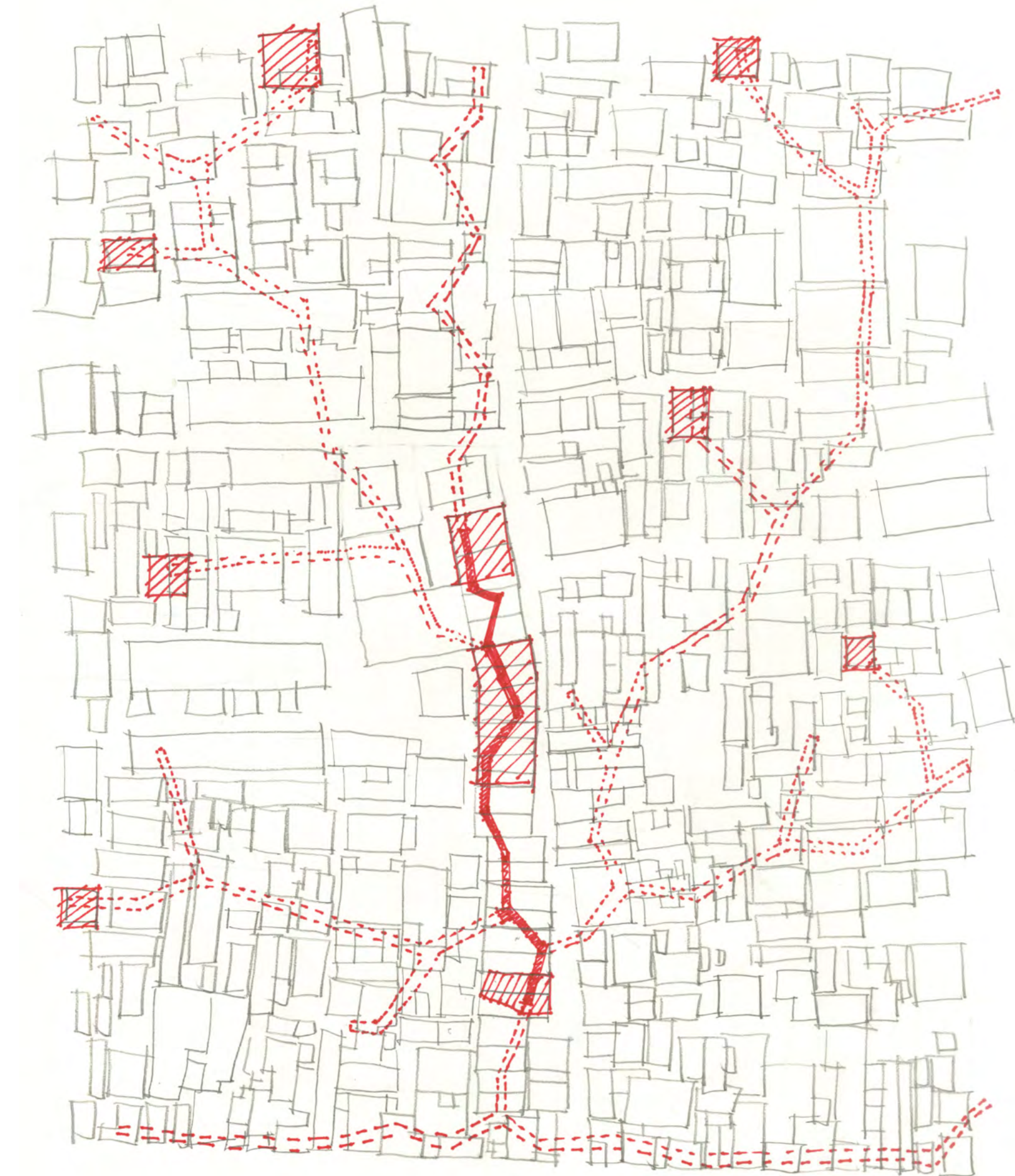
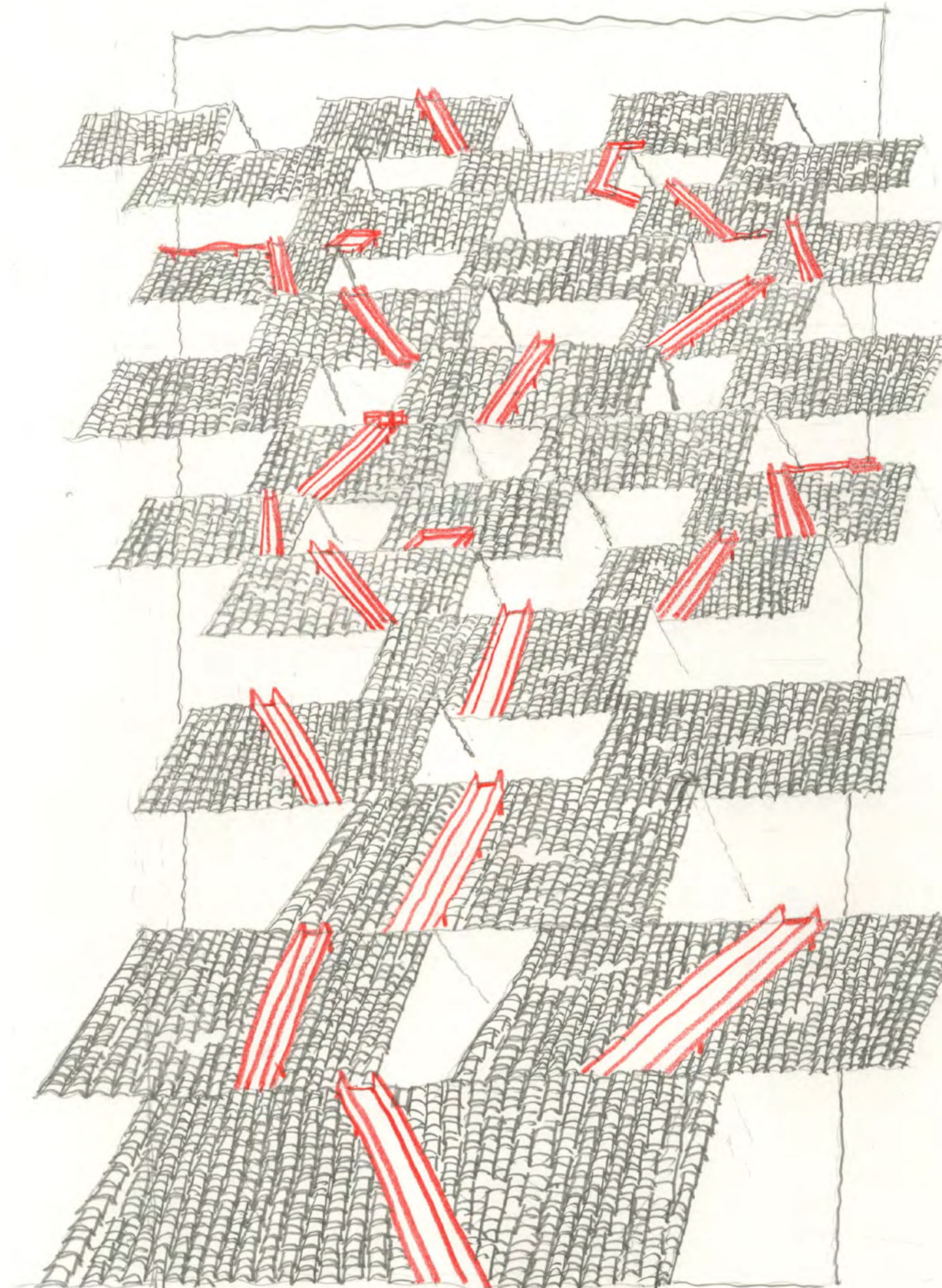


CONCEPT

The walkway layouts on the roof of the ancient city. People can walk along the rooftop, feel the sky, cloud, wind, and sunshine. Everyone becomes a knight-errant, and they can rattle freely from one rooftop to another. Their sight can go through each houses, and let the living moment of habitats come into their eyes.

For people who live on the ground, the ones who walking along the rooftop is mysterious when they appear every now and then.

This scene make the ancient city into a world of chivalry, and makes the movie and novel scenes come true.



PROJECT

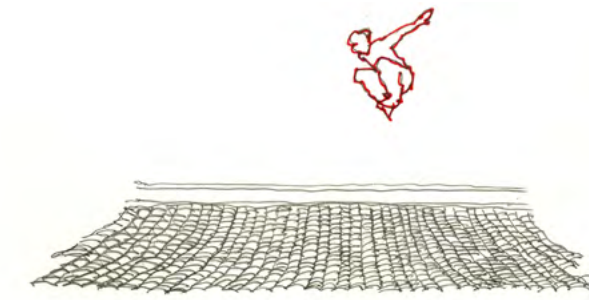
I set a street at the historic district as the site of my thesis project. The reformation projects are three individual architecture connected by the walkway on the roof. This thesis project is just a sample of the idea. What I imagine is to lay the walkway out to the whole roof of the historic district infinitely.



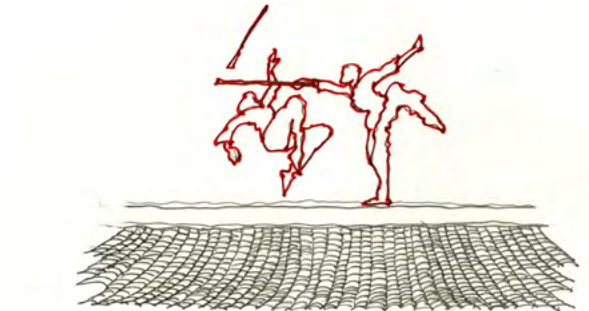


Zhang, Zeduan. Along the River During the Qingming Festival. 1085, Palace Museum, Beijing.

MOVIE SCENE



WALK ON THE ROOF



BATTLE

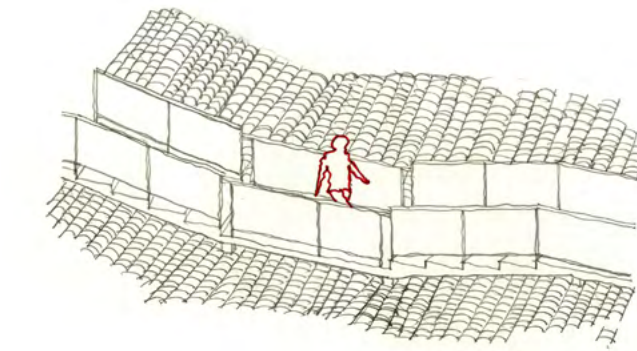


PARTY

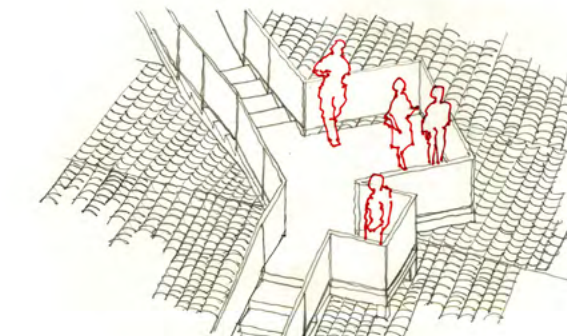


LOVE STORY

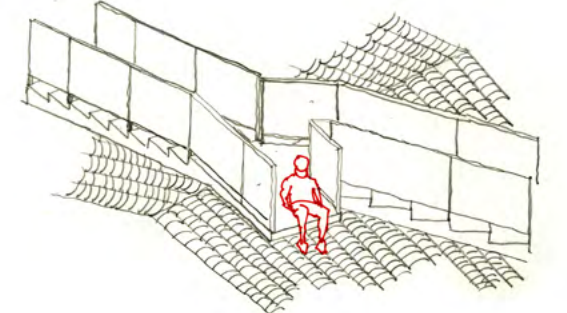
PROJECT SPACE



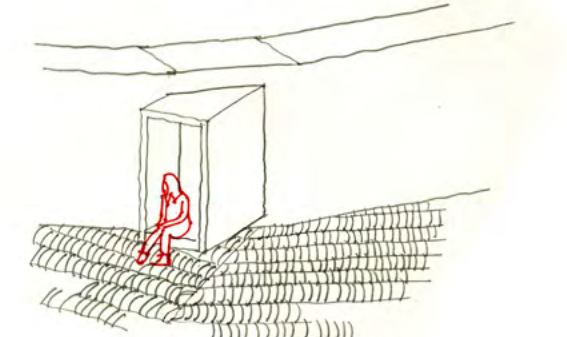
PASSAGE



TERRACE



TERRACE



TERRACE

CHANGE OF WALKWAY



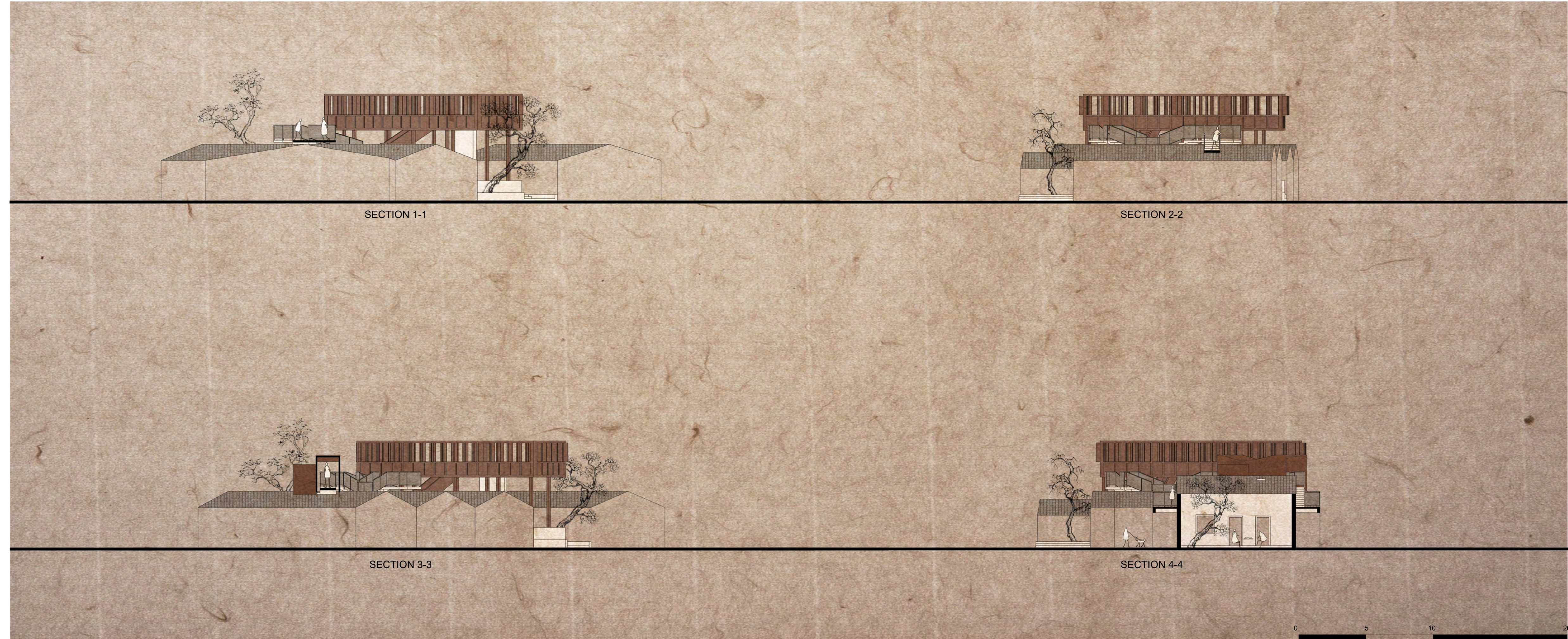
SITE PLAN



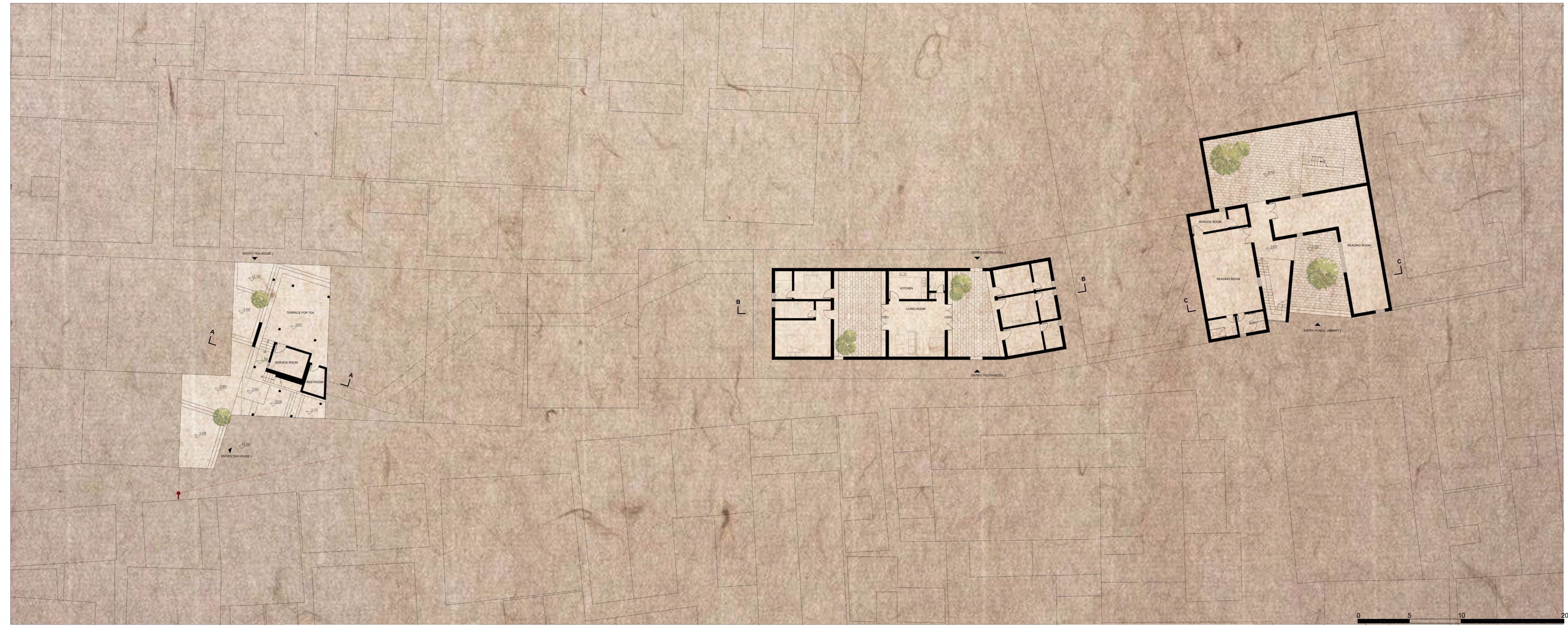
SECOND PLAN



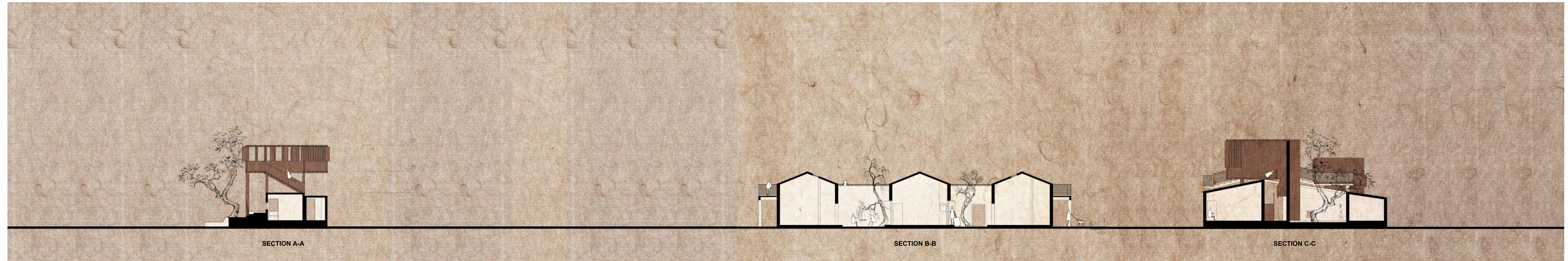
SECTION OF WALKWAY



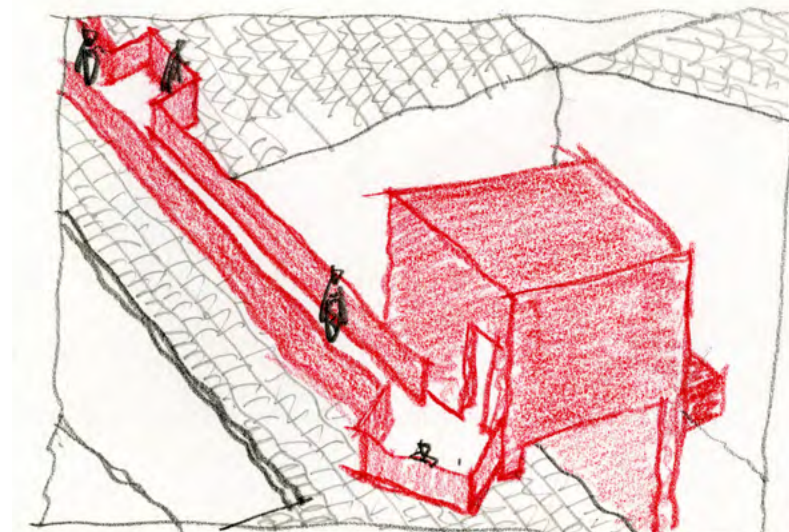
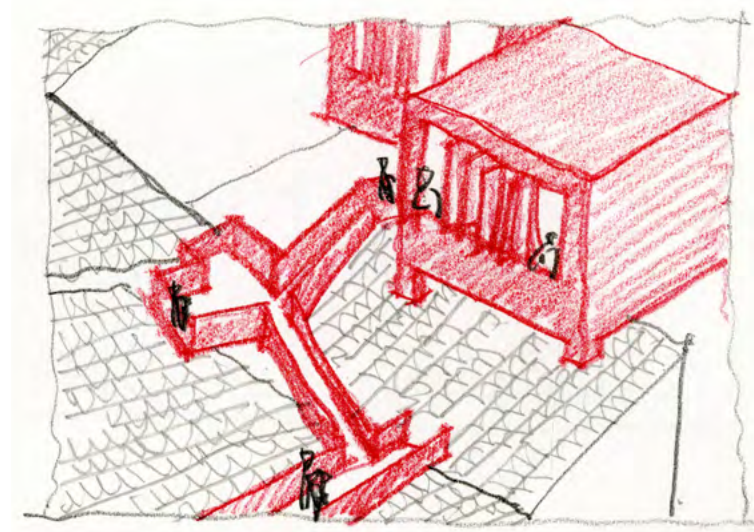
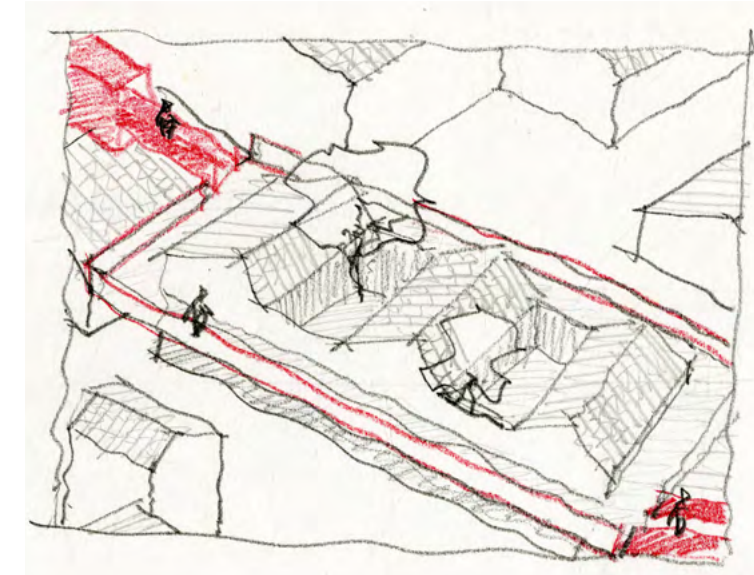
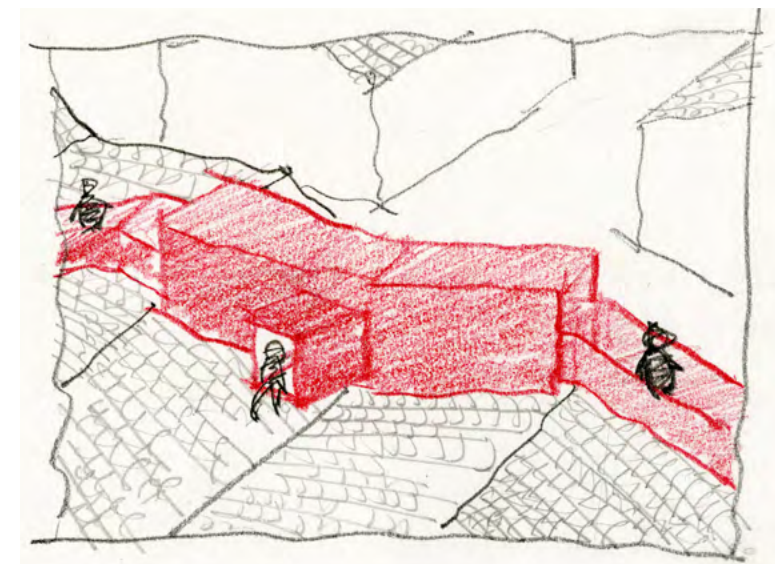
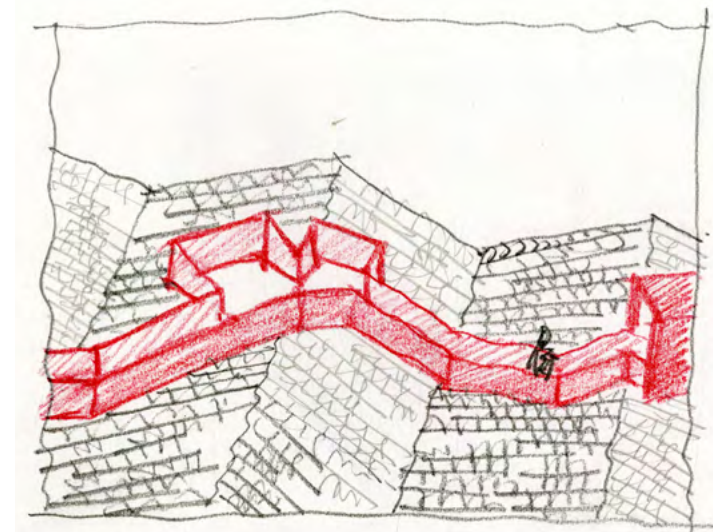
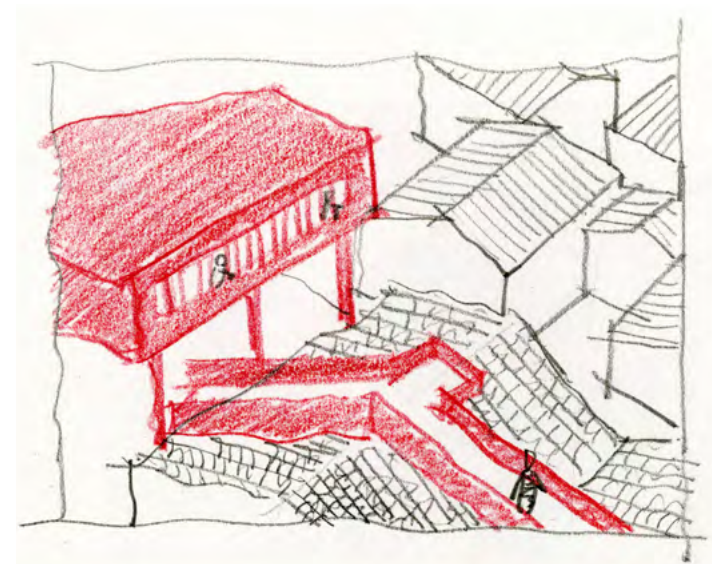
GROUND PLAN



SECTION OF BUILDING

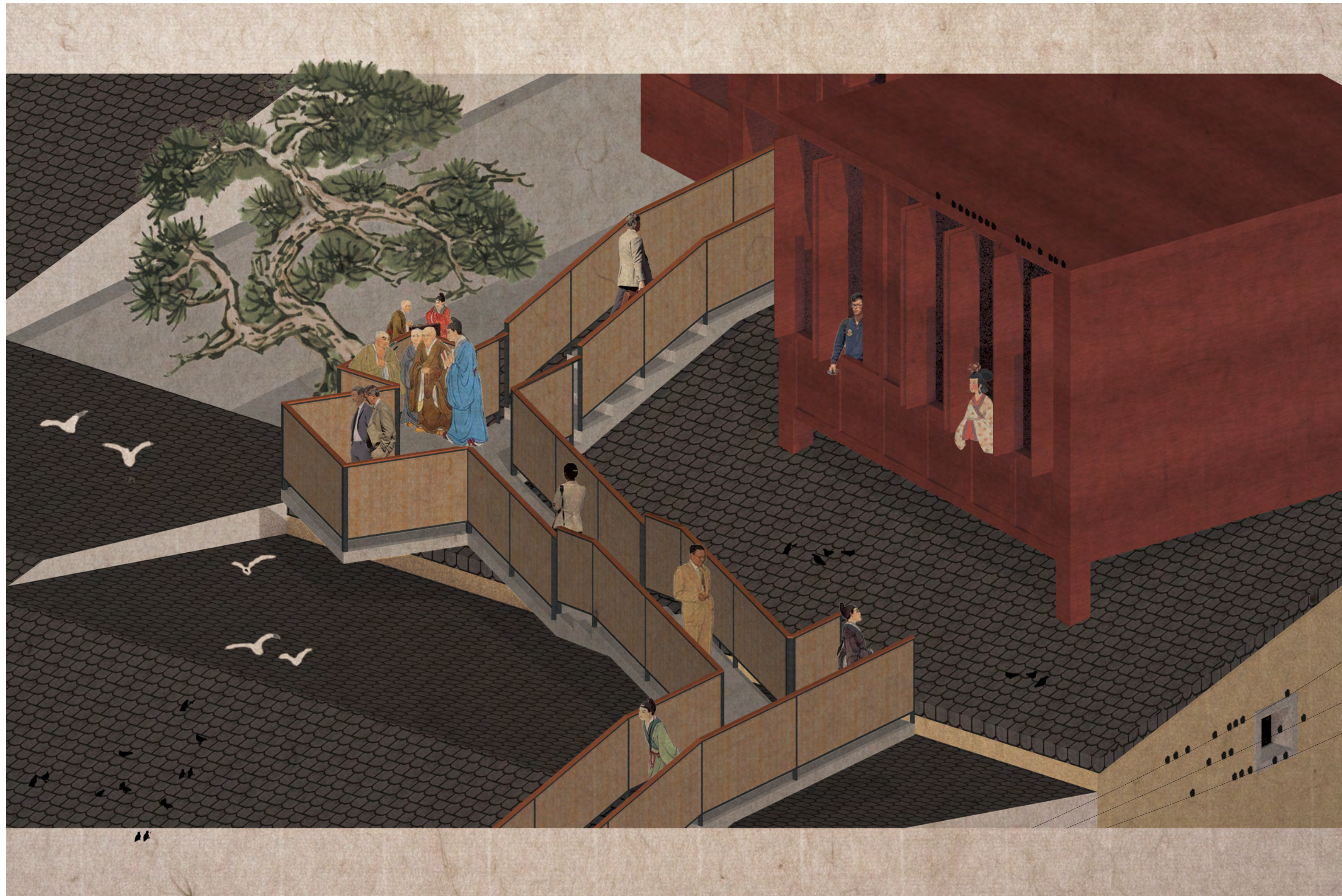


STORYBOARD OF OBSERVER

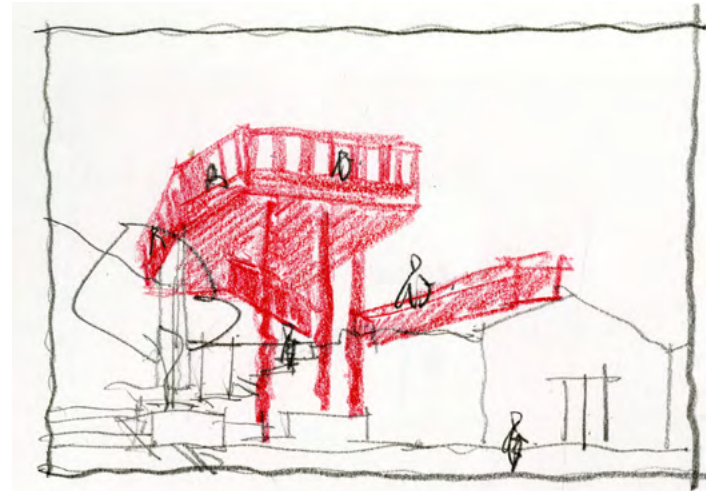




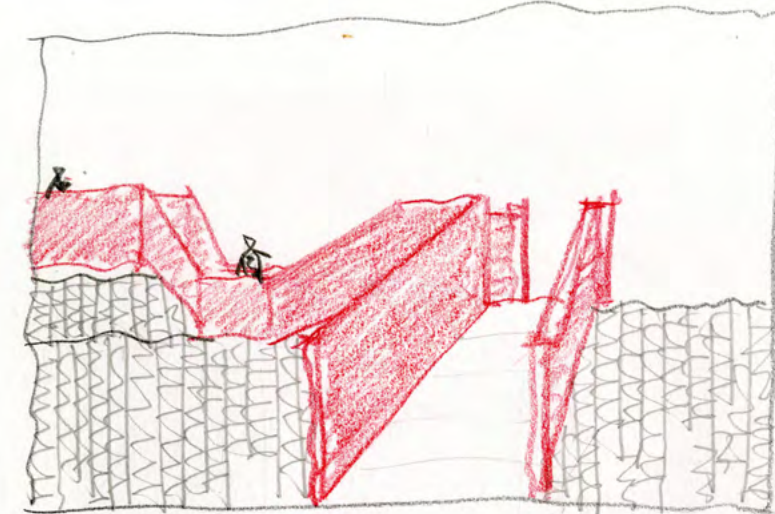




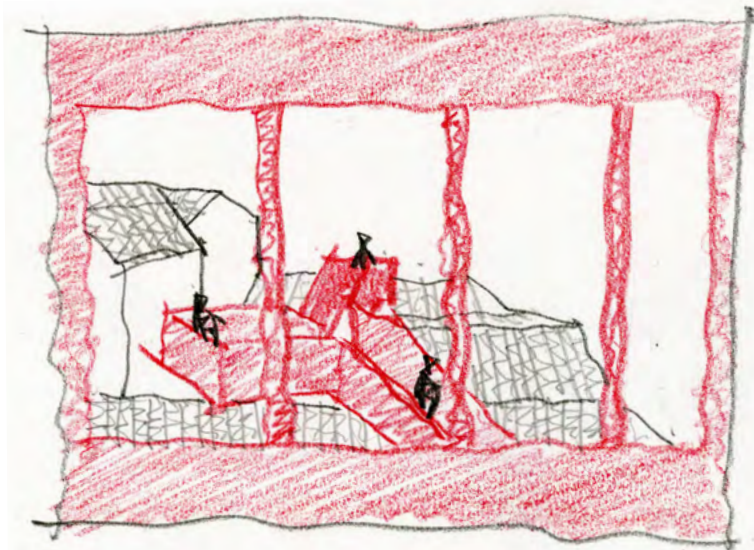
STORYBOARD OF PARTICIPANT



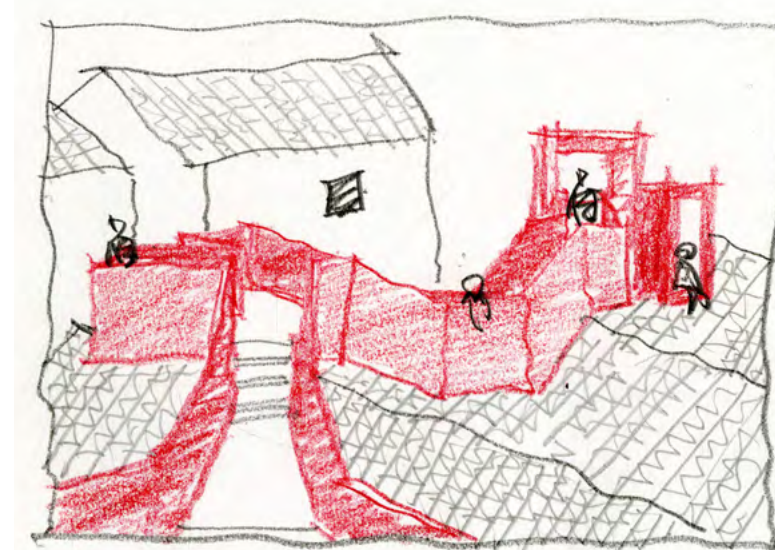
I



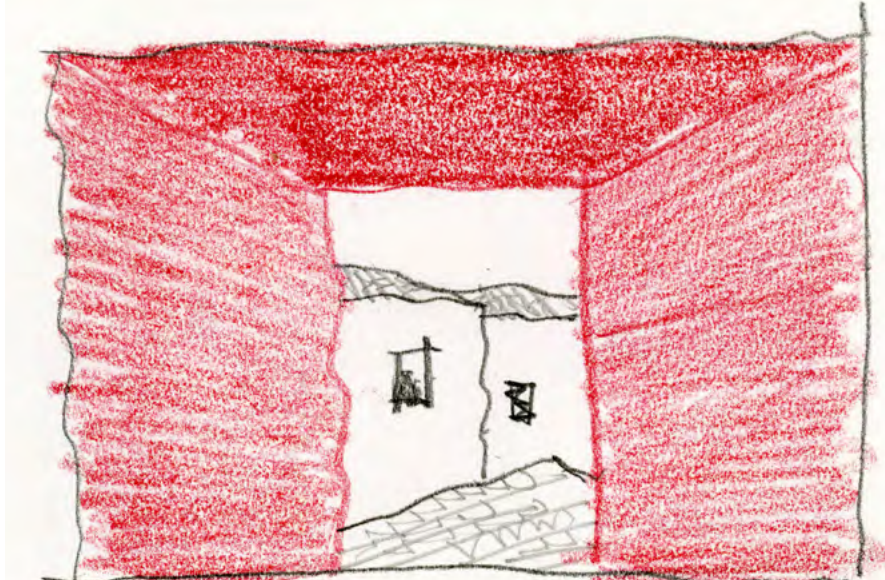
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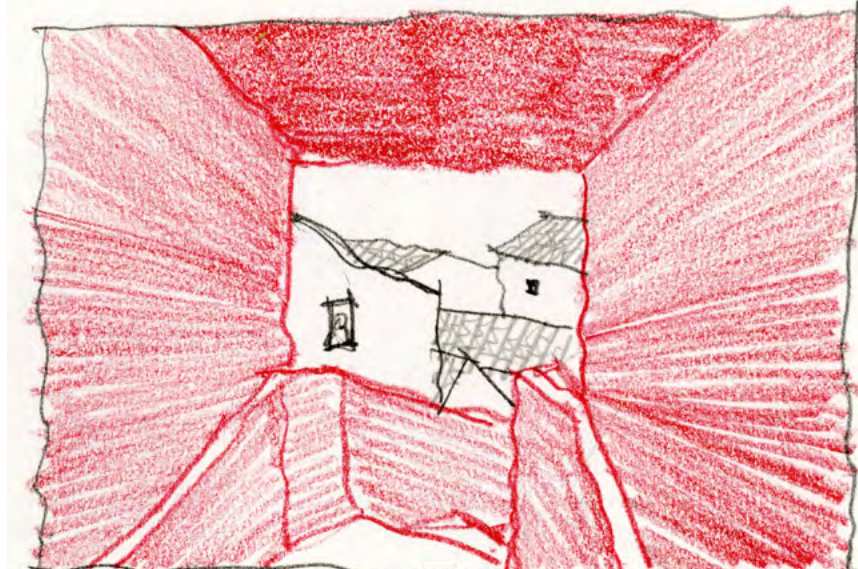
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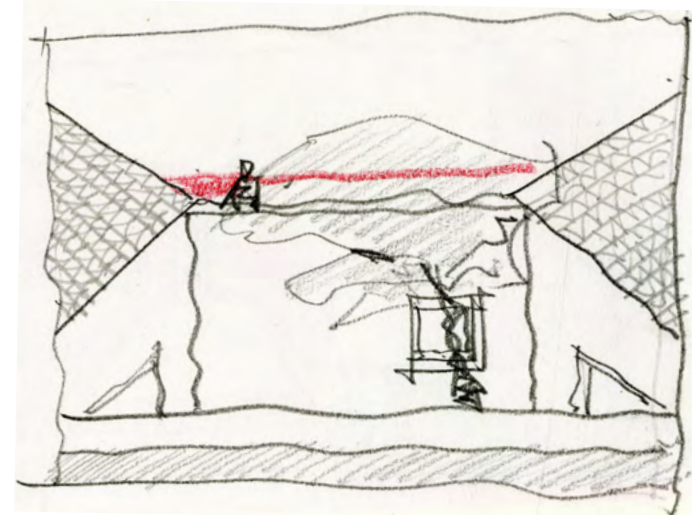
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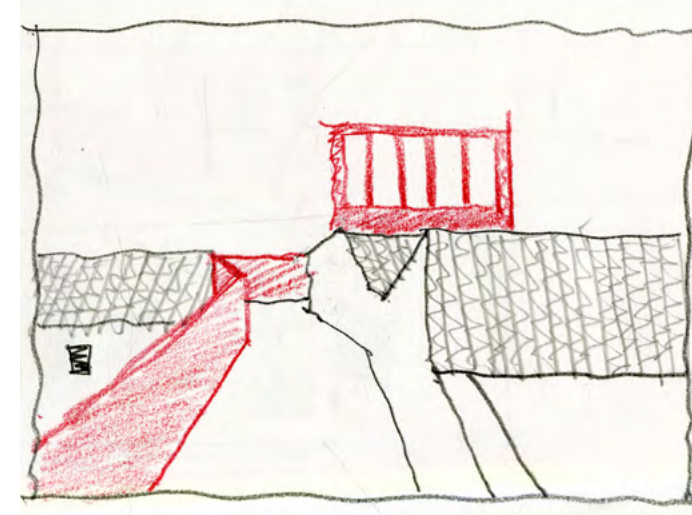
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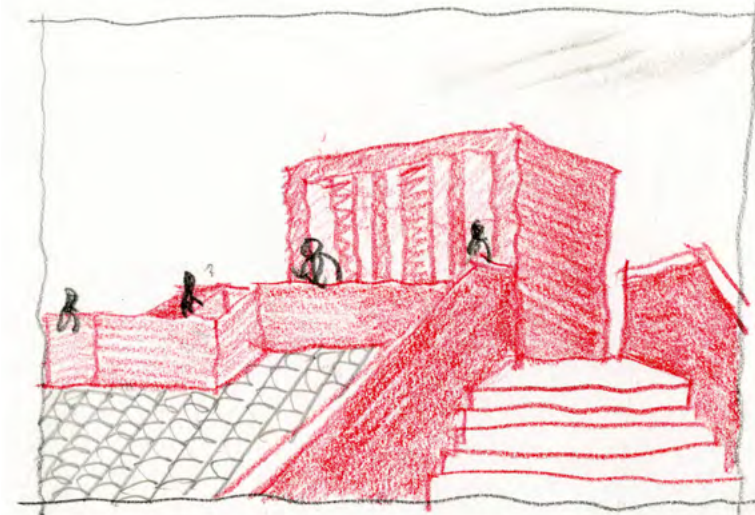
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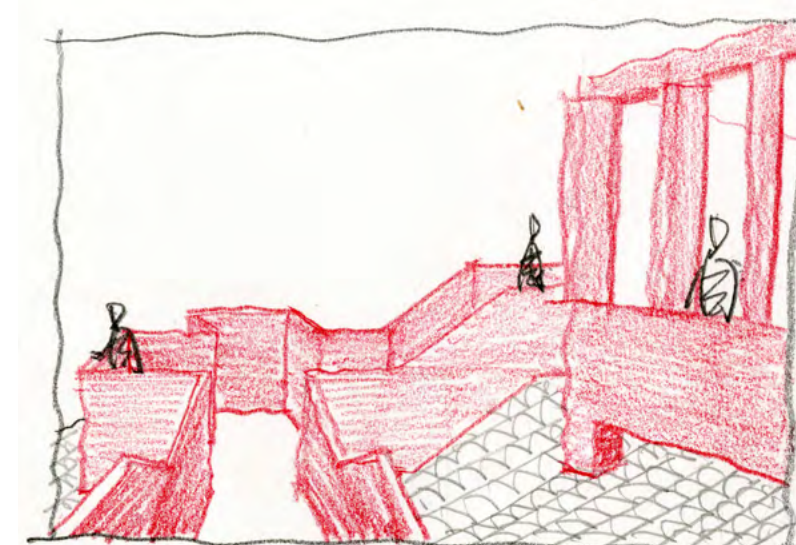
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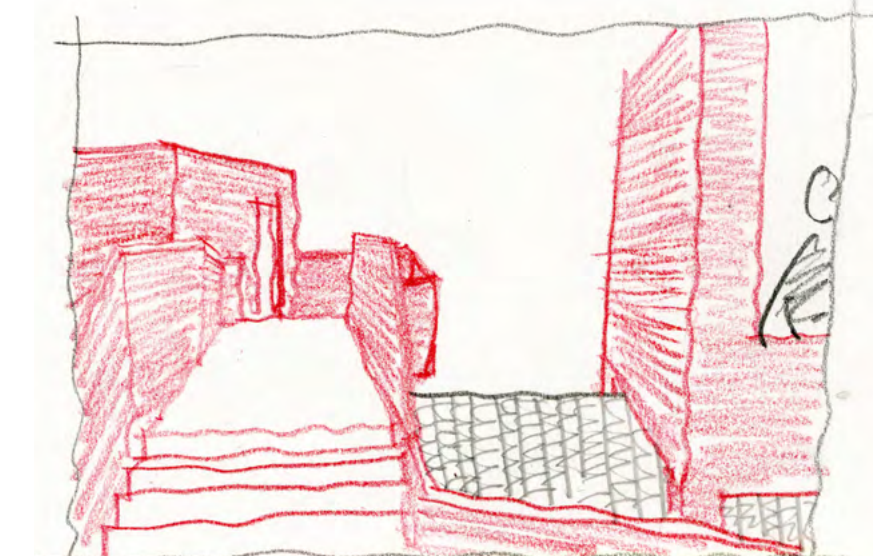
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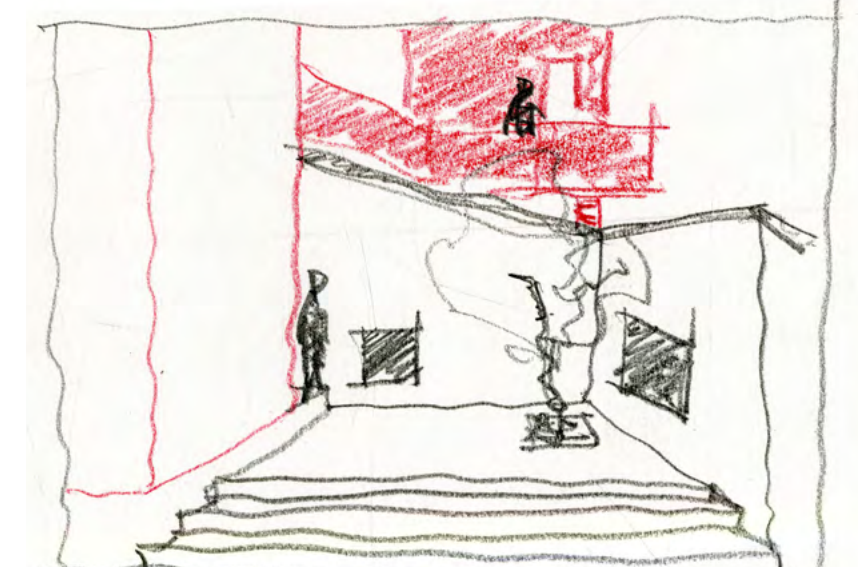
IX



X



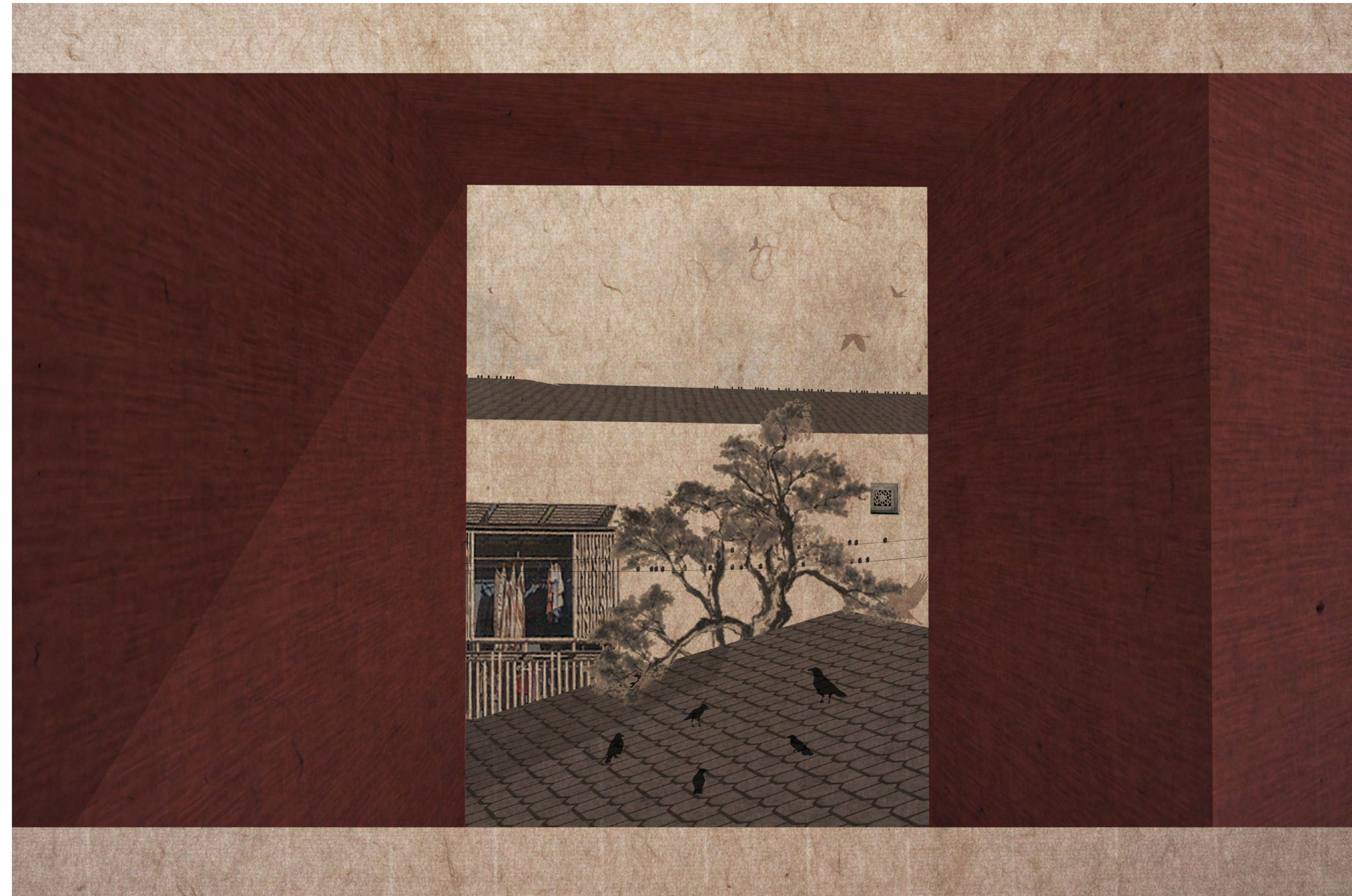
XI

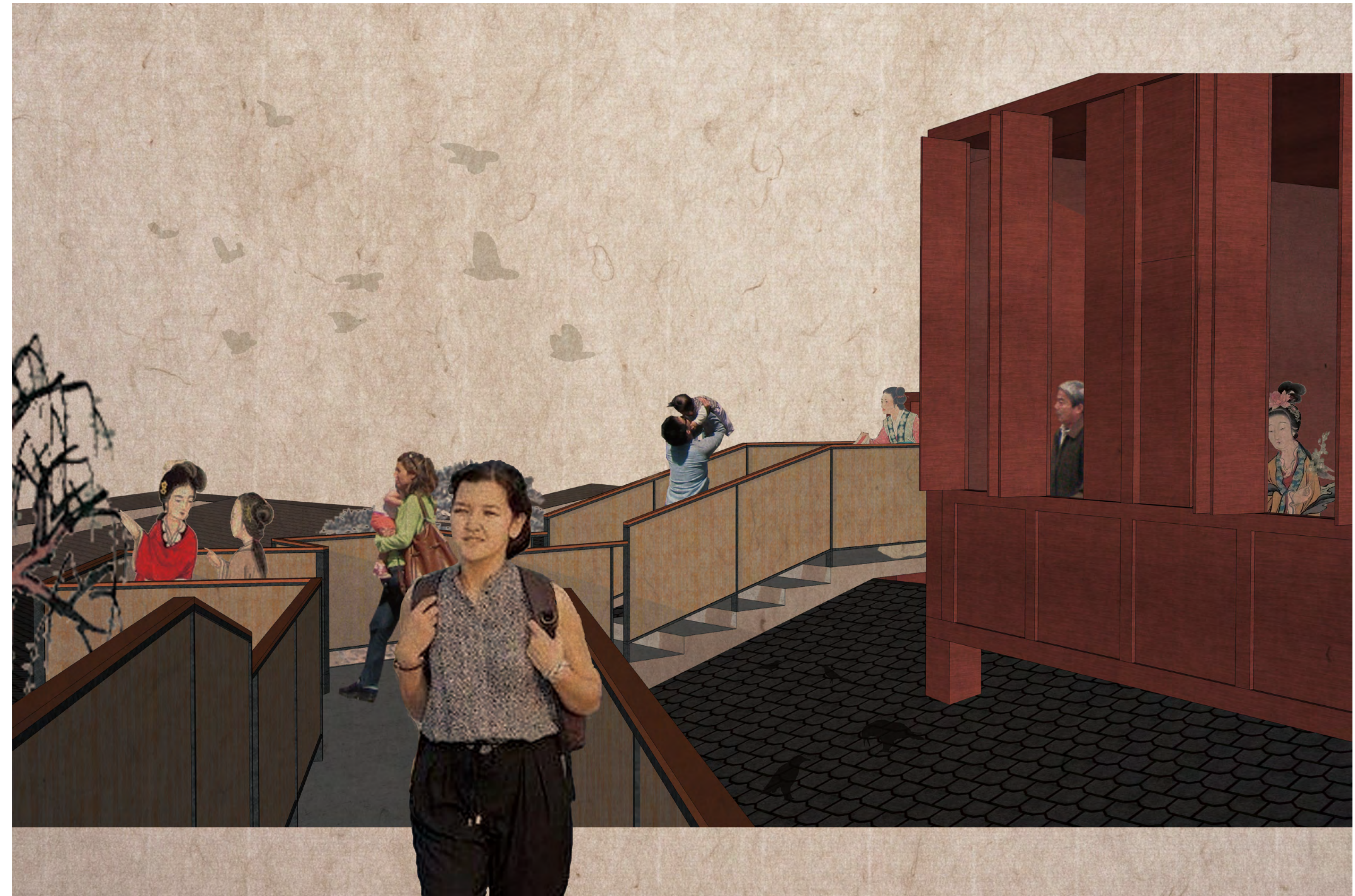


XII











EPILOGUE

In my opinion, architect is not only the designer and constructor of the architecture, but is also the observer and participant of the life. Architecture as a profession endows architects the correlative knowledge and ability to create spaces. However, architects should not be limited to the form and space of the architecture, we should integrate ourselves into human life, and to create more and better lifestyles and experiences. I am always thinking that only when people, animal, plants, sound, light, and more things take part in an architecture, then the architecture would have its soul. Therefore, architect is not only the observer and participant of the life, it is also the creator of the lifestyle.