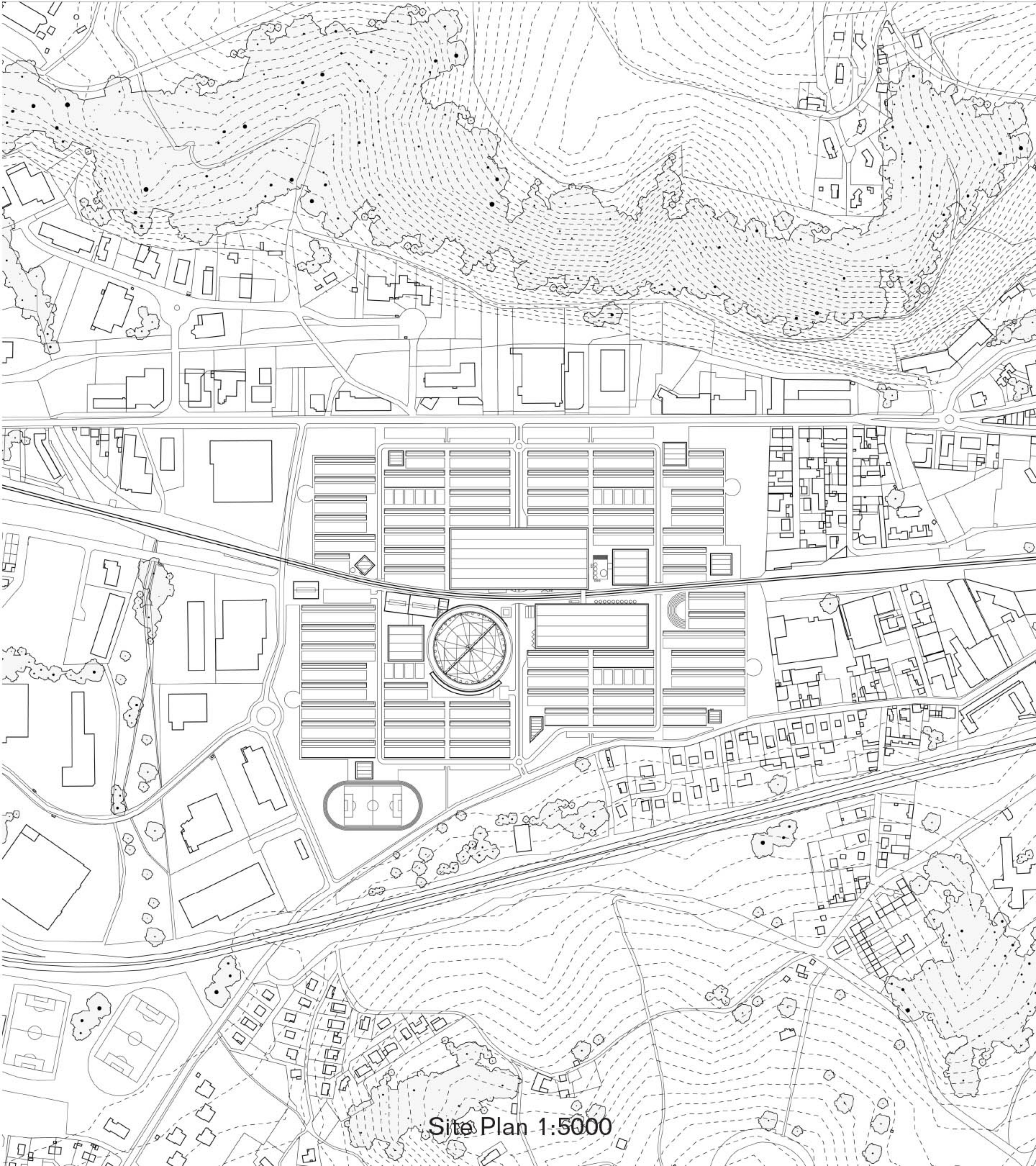
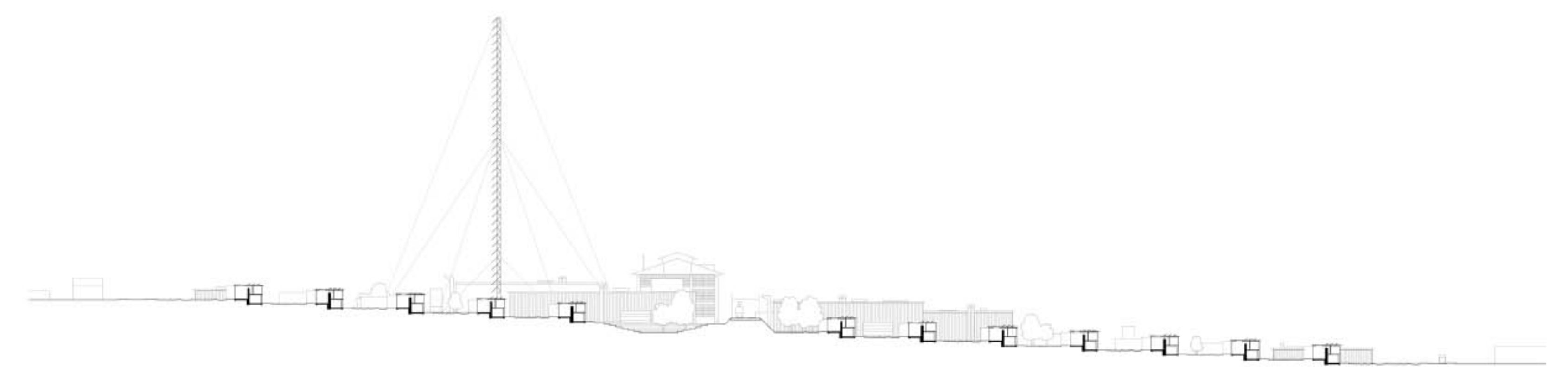


Jakob Uhlenhopp
La Société Solaire





Site Plan 1:5000

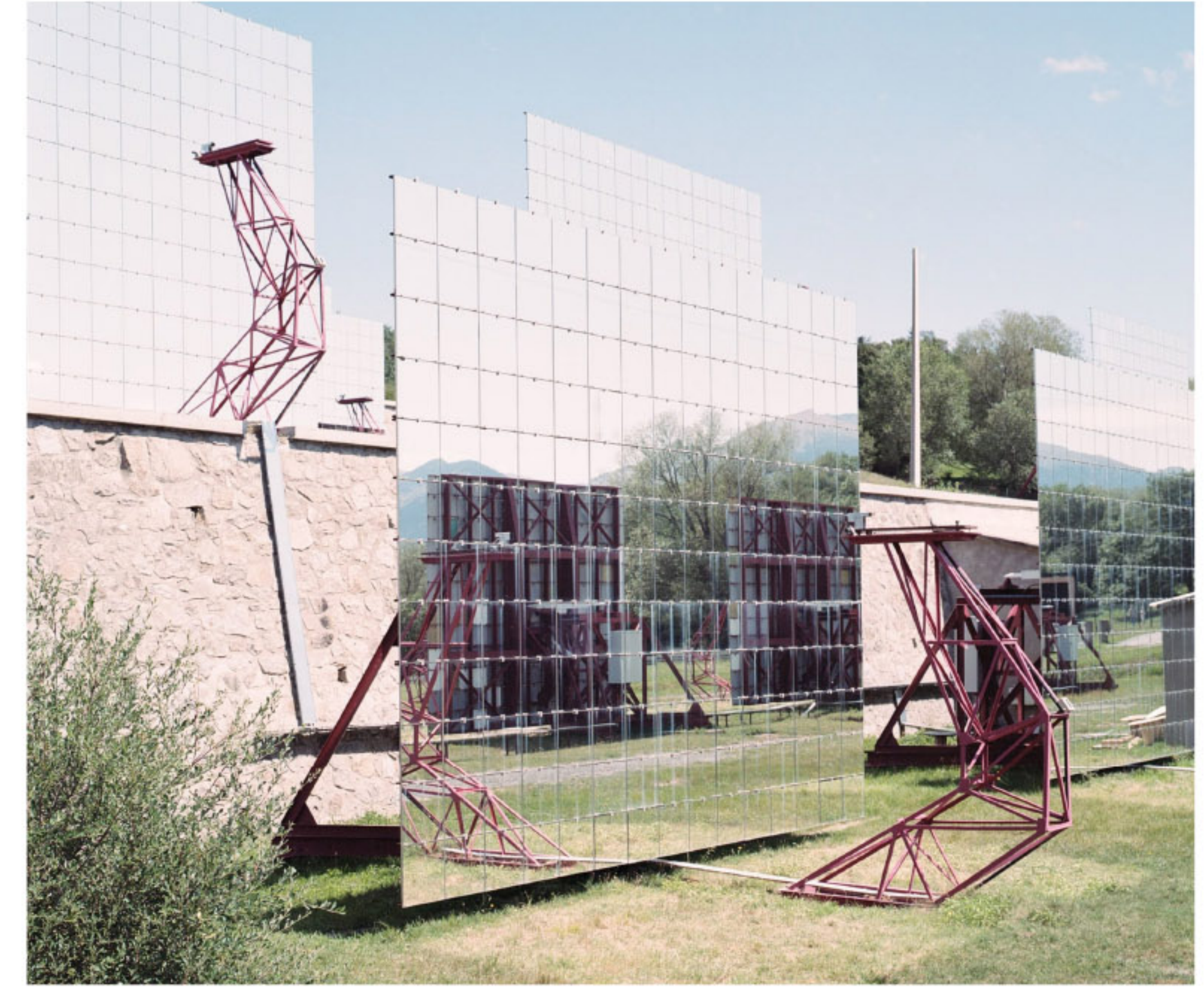


Section 1:2000



Photovoltaic panels were already efficient enough and commercially available in the 1950s. Large corporations like Exxon founded solar research facilities everywhere but why didn't we make the transition to a more decentralized, democratic, and cleaner energy source?

Jimmy Carter installs Solar Panels on the White House (1979)



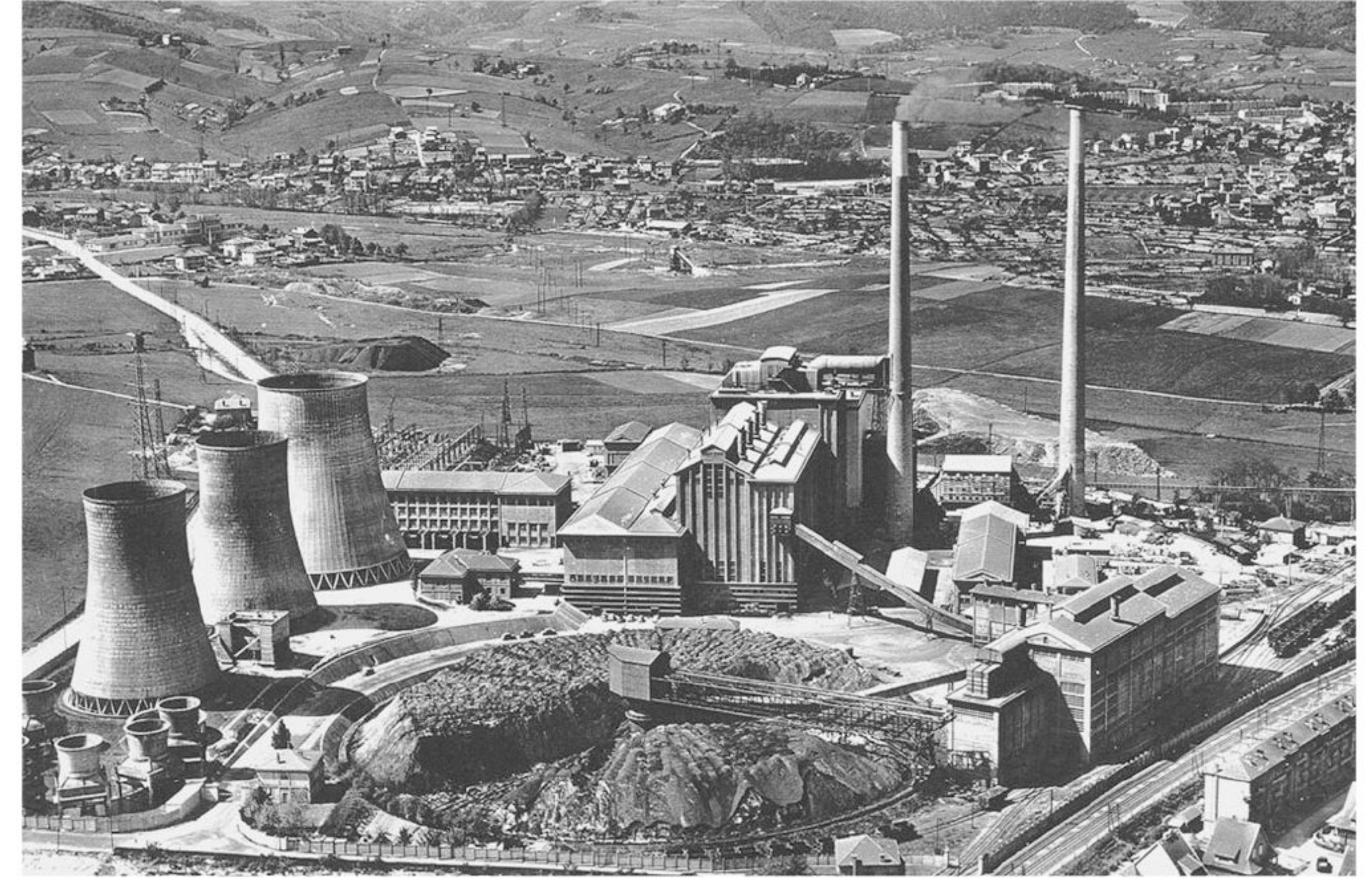
The Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) has been a pioneer in solar energy, catapulted by Felix Trombe's research in the 1960s. If the solar furnace serves as the catalyst for photovoltaic research in France, what could other solar typologies include?

The Solar Furnace, CNRS, Odeillo (1968)



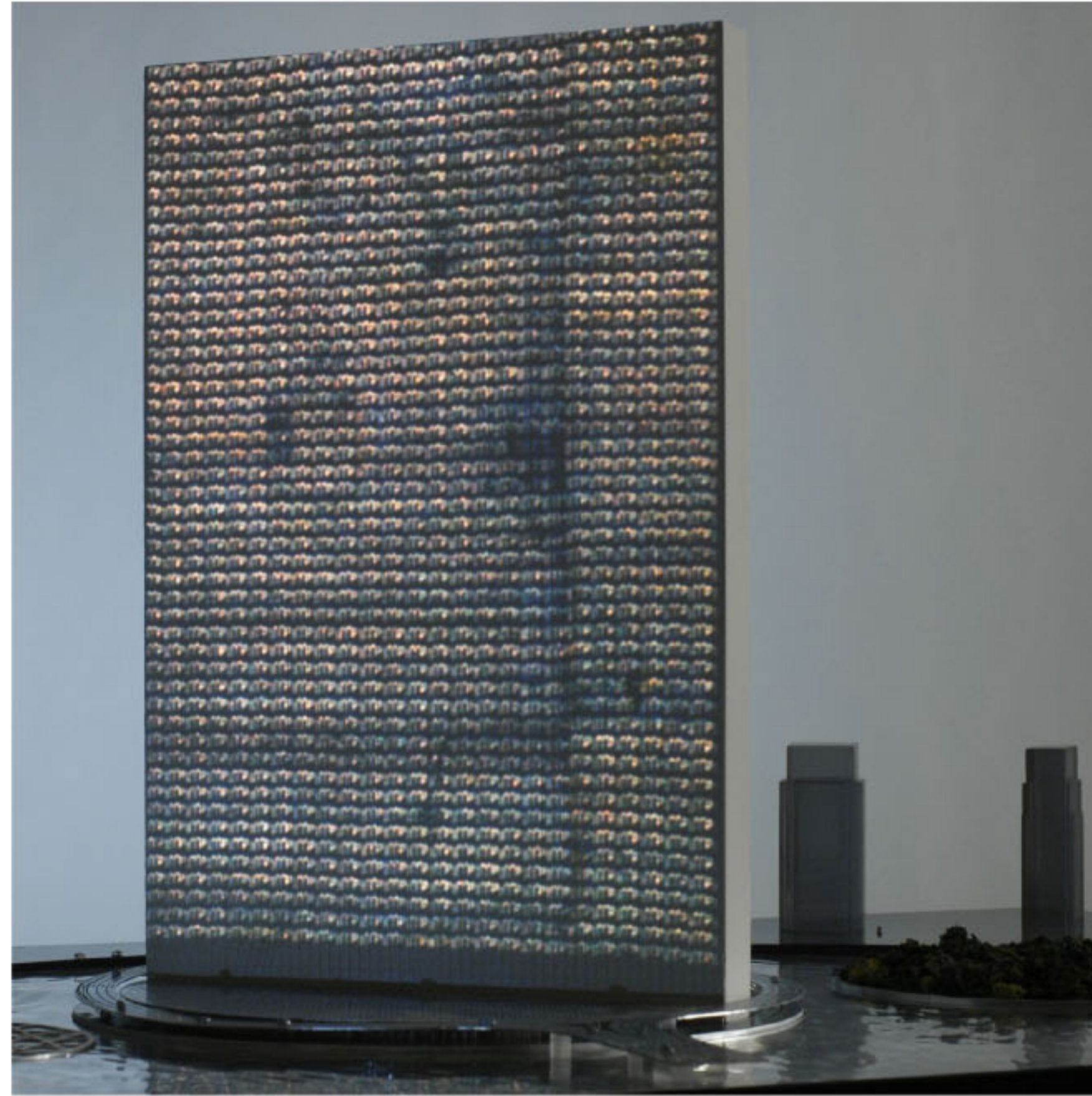
Since the 1970s, the Messmer Plan aided the construction of countless nuclear power plants across France. The cooling tower has been enshrined as a monument on to France's contemporary landscape. What is the new monument to solar energy?

George Etheredge, France (2016)



For three decades, the centrale thermique provided coal-powered energy to Firminy to Saint Etienne. How can we re-use the coal plant as an artifact?

Centrale Du Bec, Le Chambon-Feugerolles (1947)



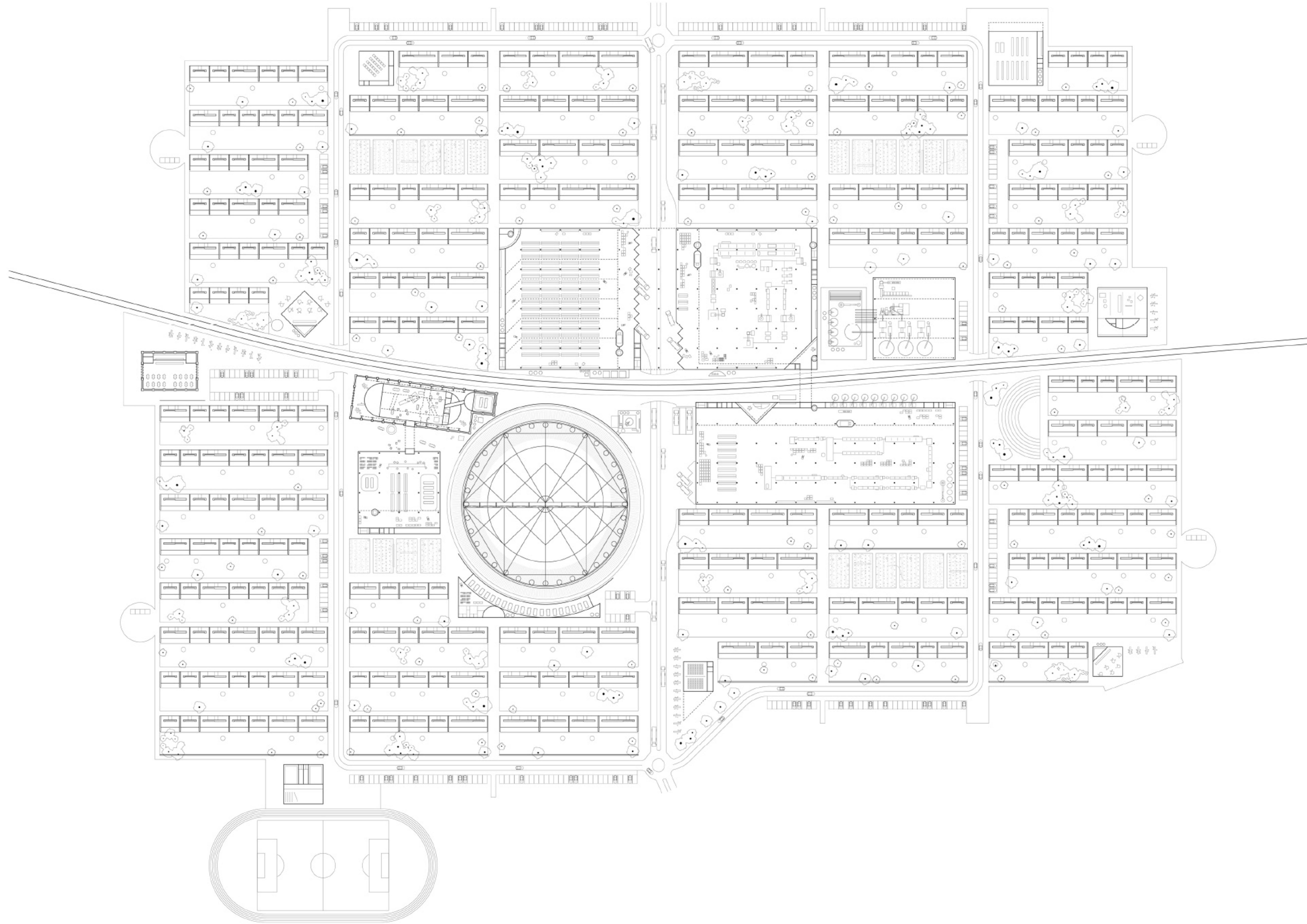
This is an architecture of engineering, where intelligence is not invested in effect, but in a structural and conceptual logic that offers a new kind of performance and functionality—rotation. Could harvesting the sun include a daily ritual?

OMA, The Dubai Renaissance (2006)

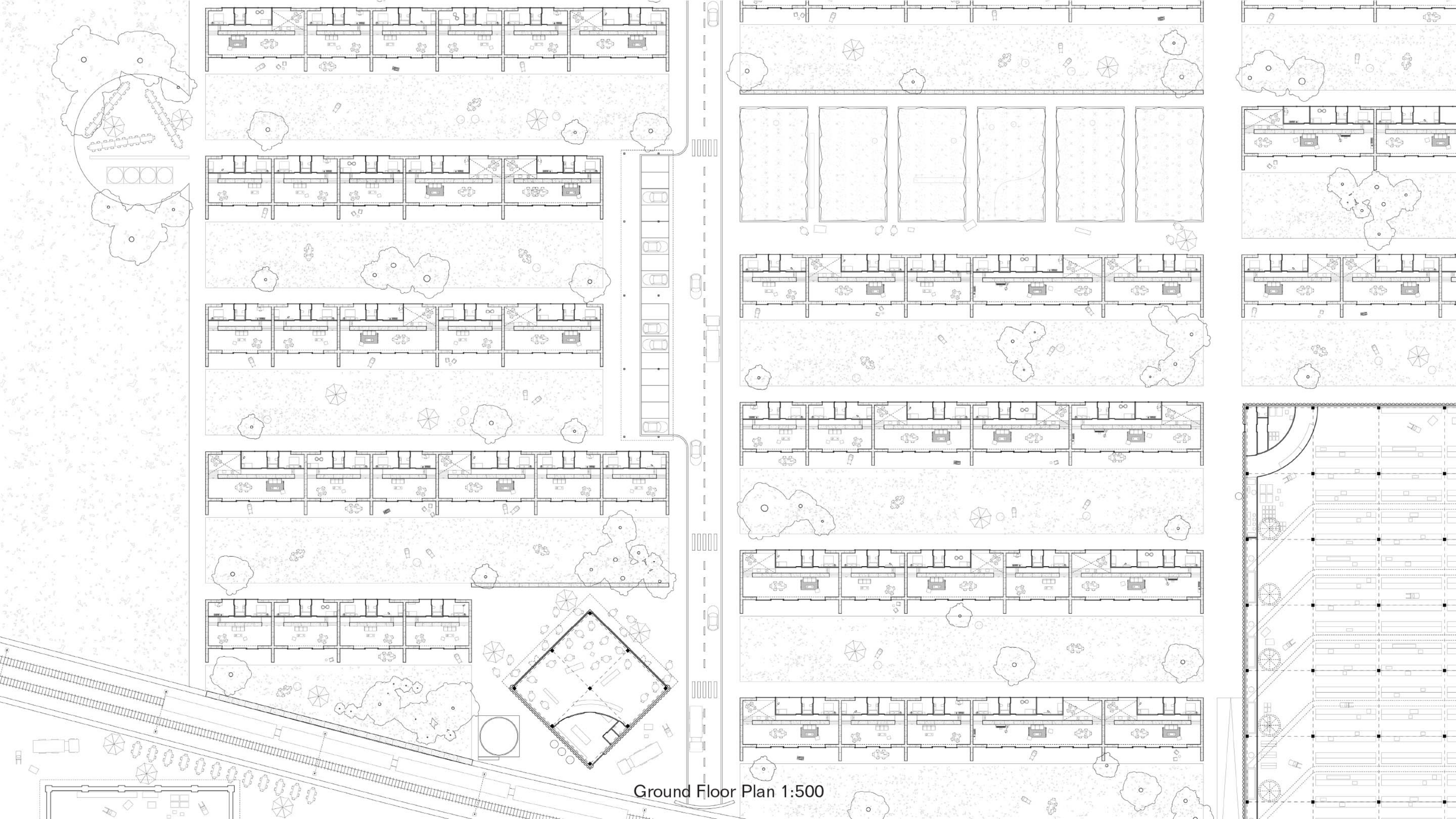


The roman city of Timgad is ambiguous. Its strong perimeter proposes an object, its scale proposes a city. More literally, its ruin shows a permanent structure of a society. Could this ruin be functional?

Roman City of Timgad, Algeria (CE 100)

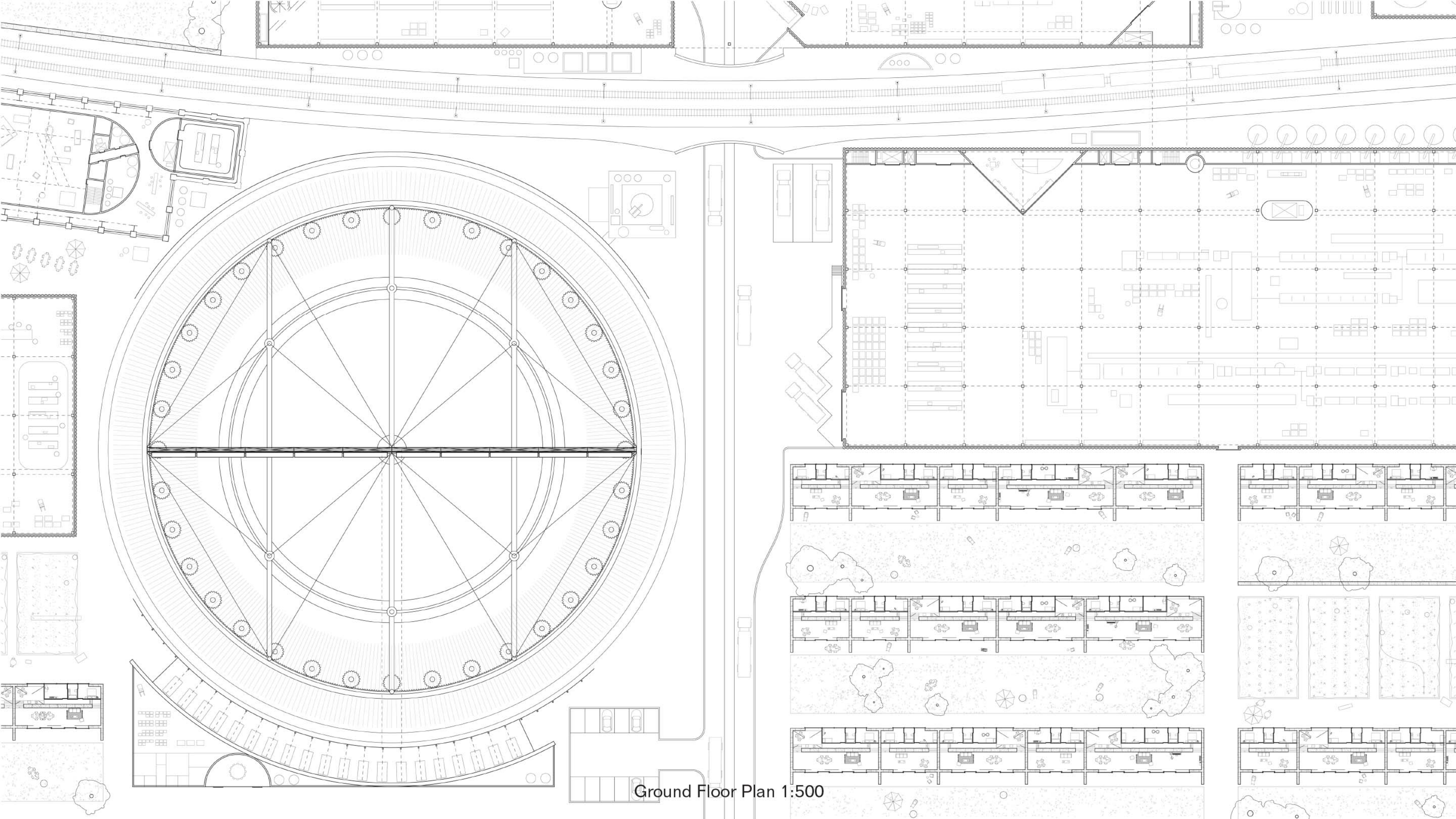


Ground Floor Plan 1:2000



Ground Floor Plan 1:500



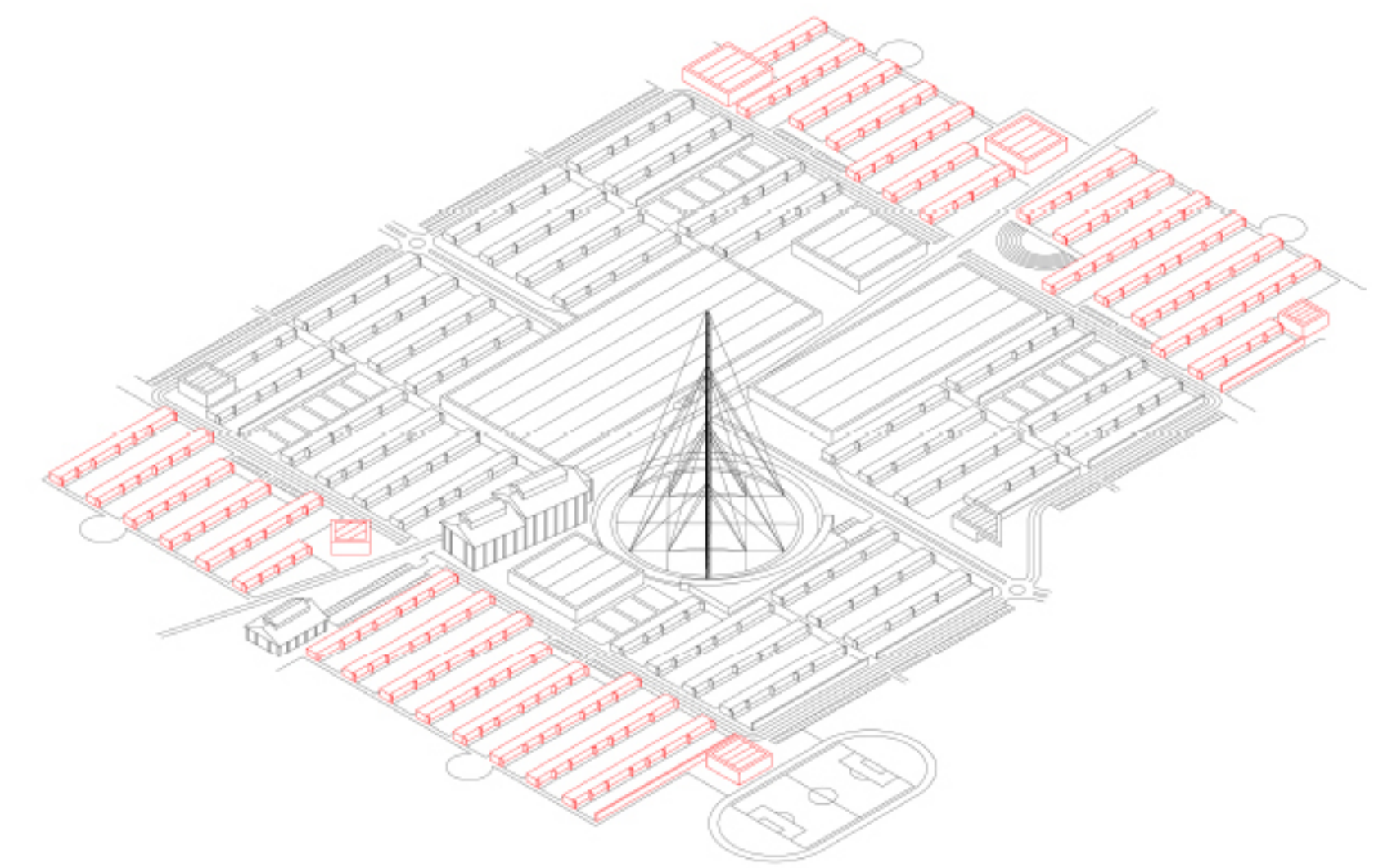
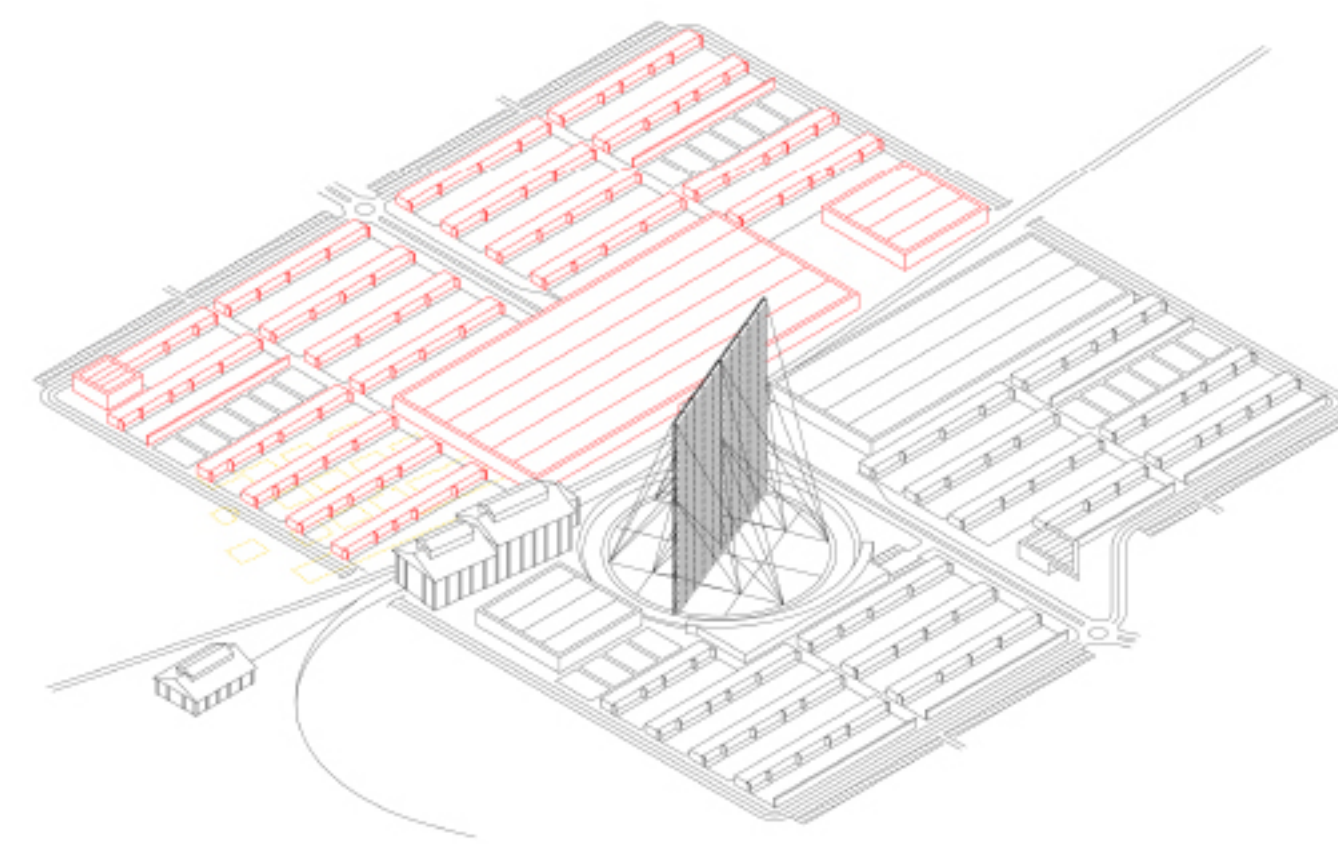
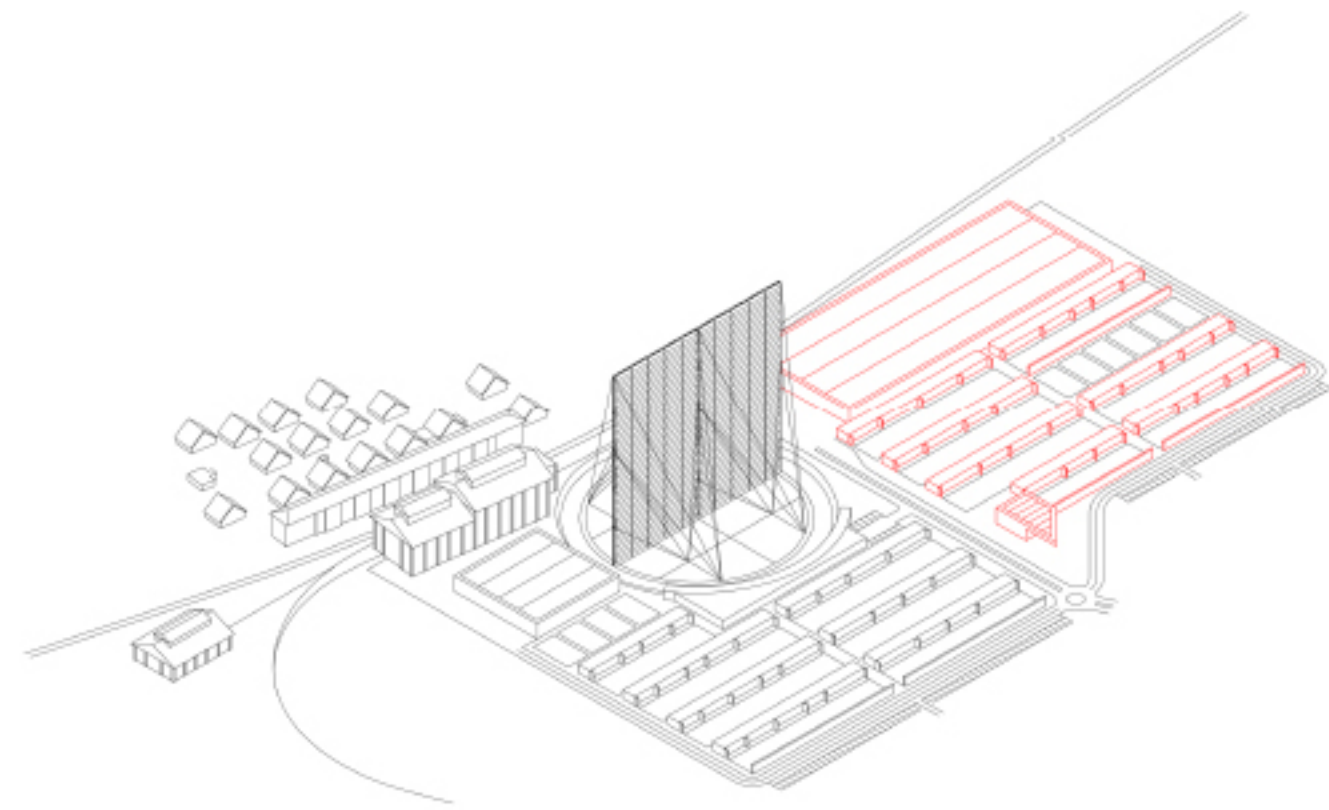
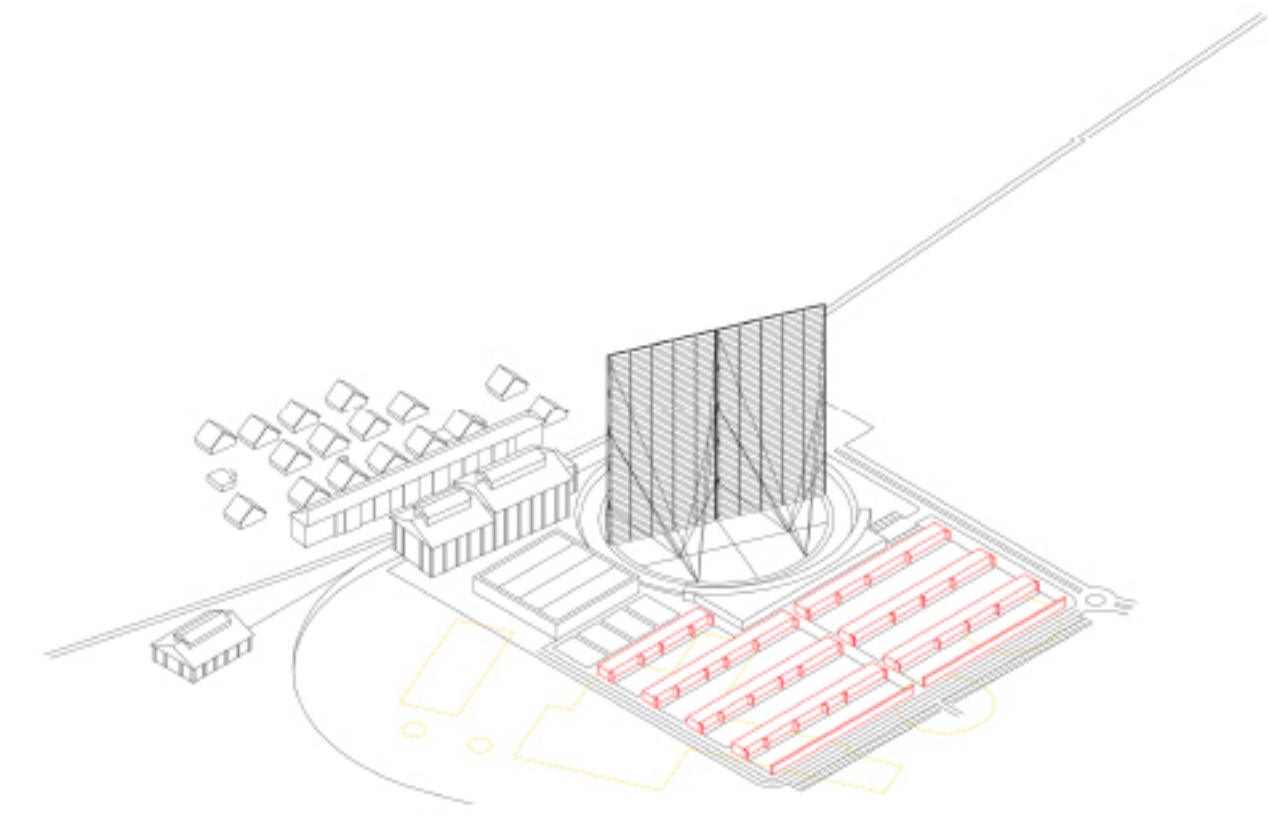
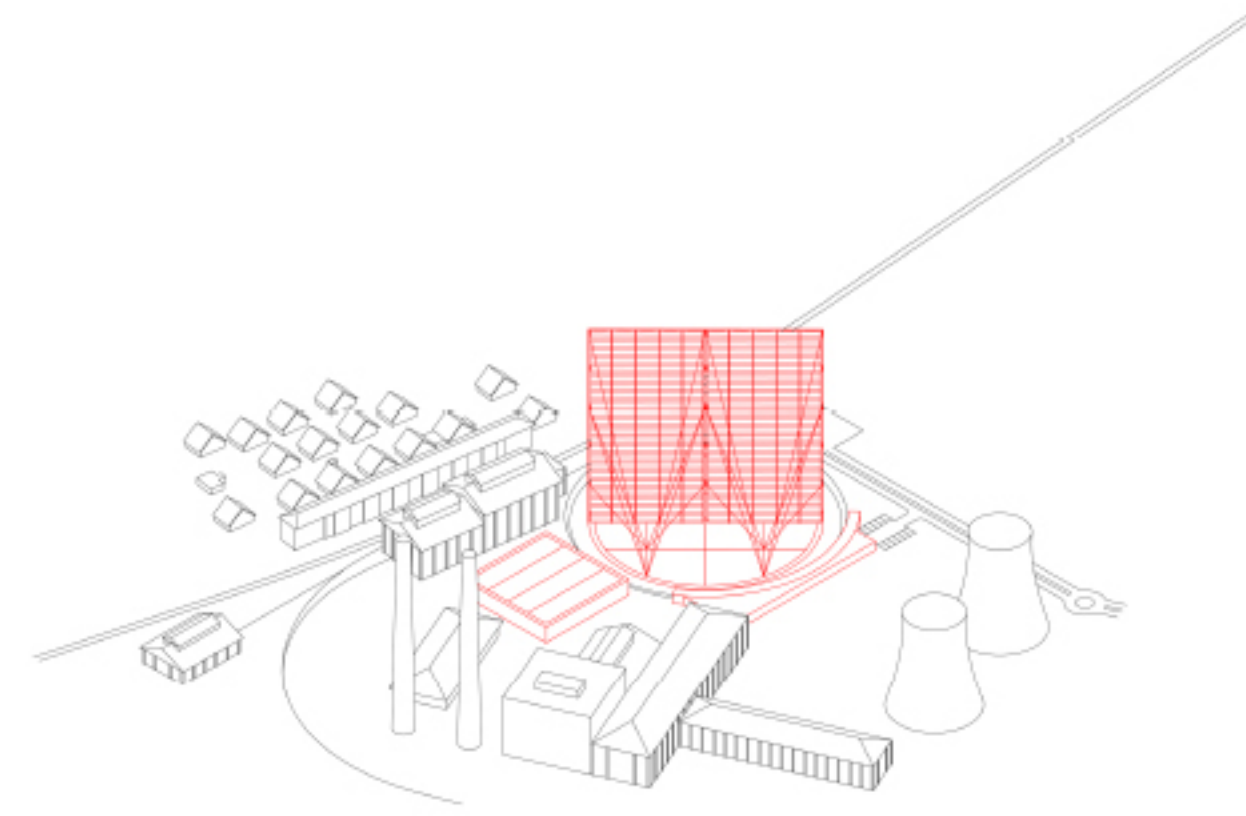
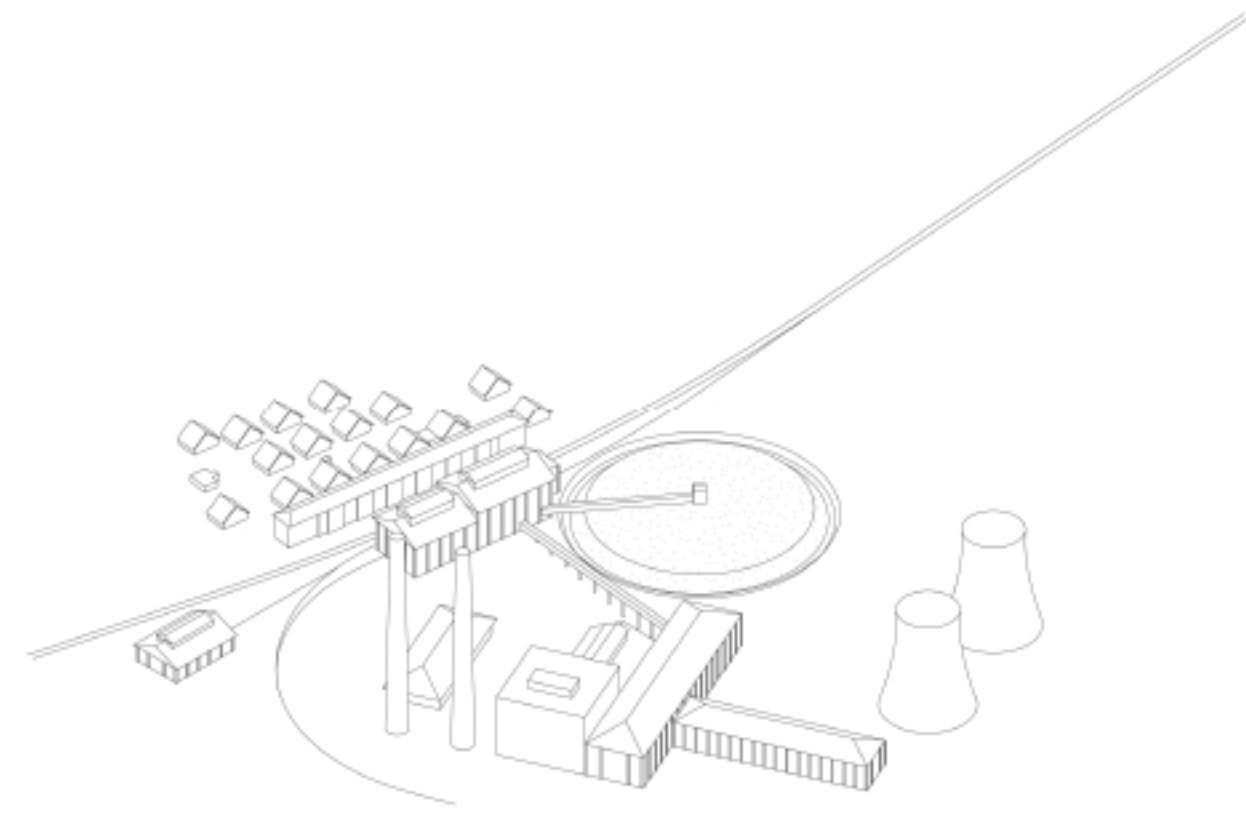


Ground Floor Plan 1:500

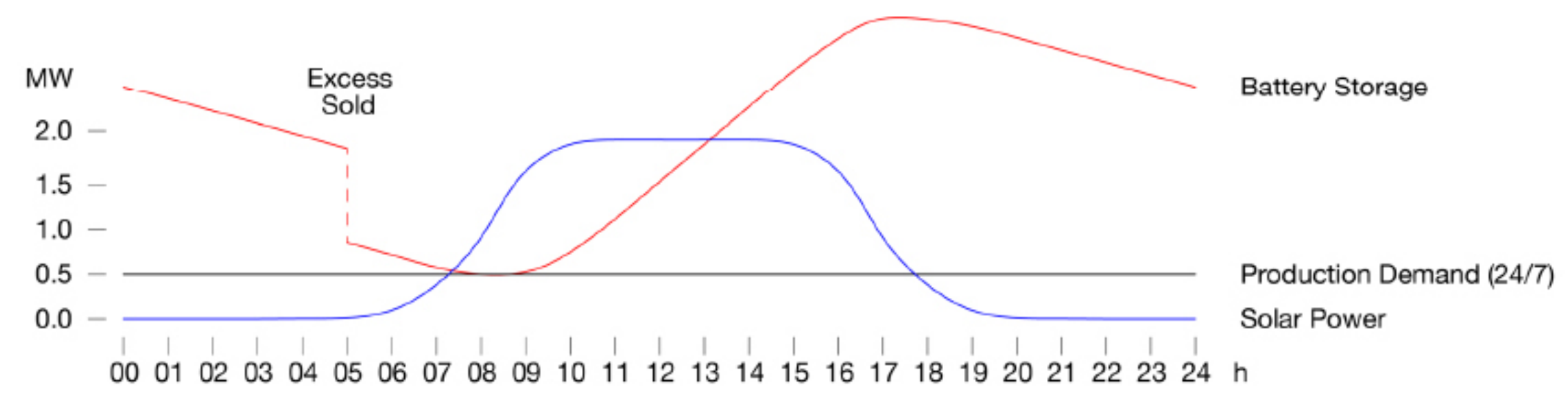
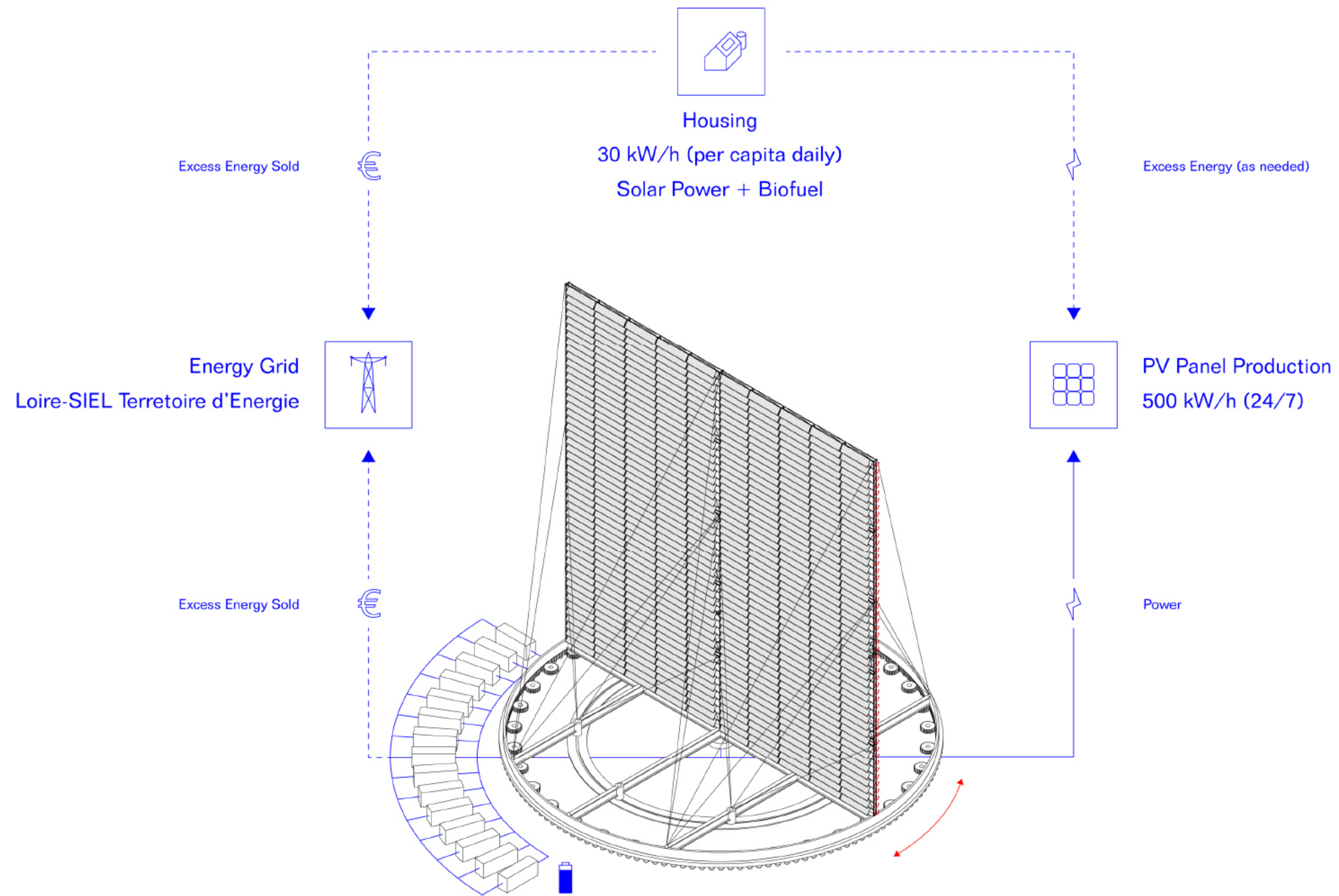


E3

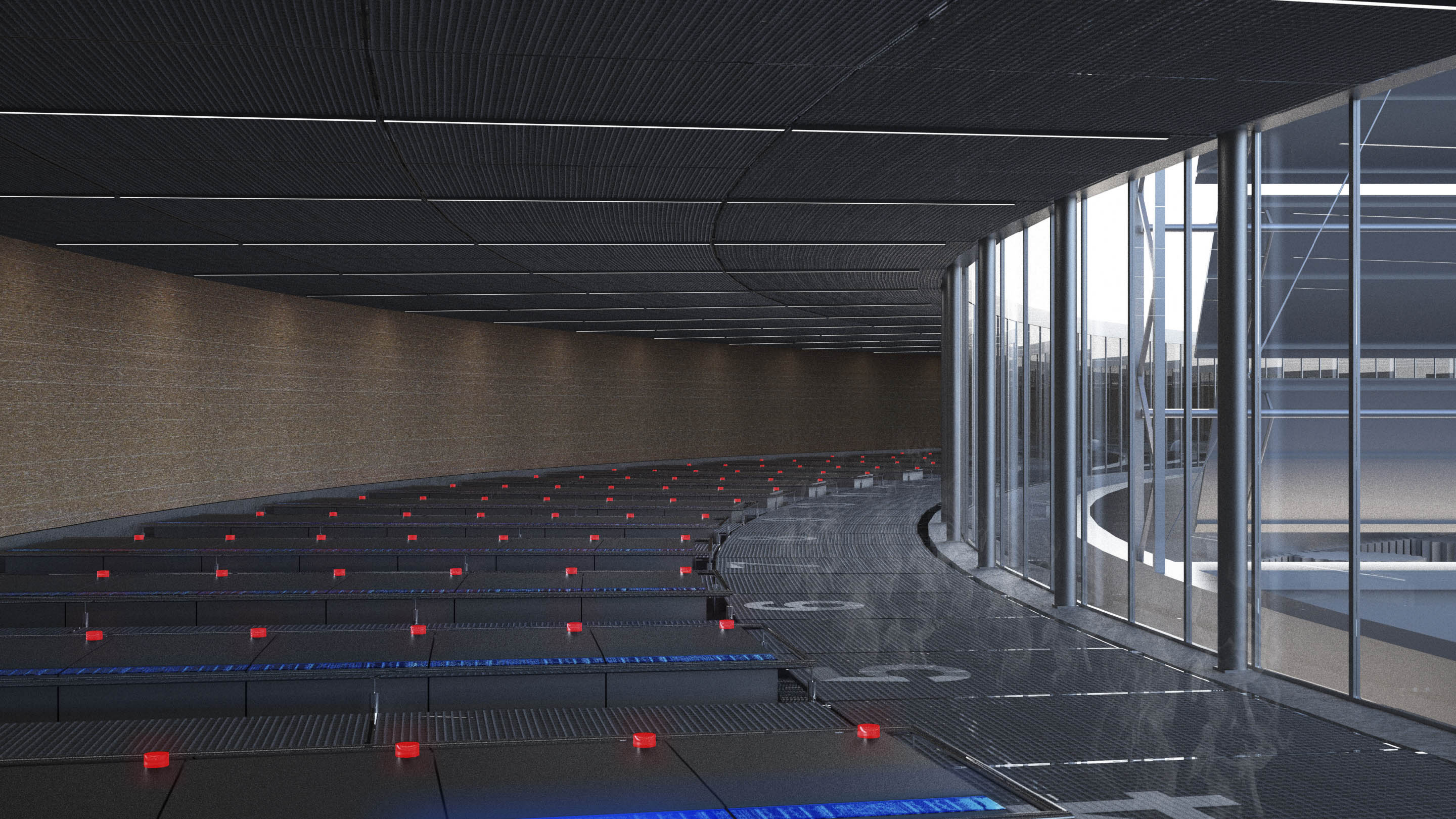


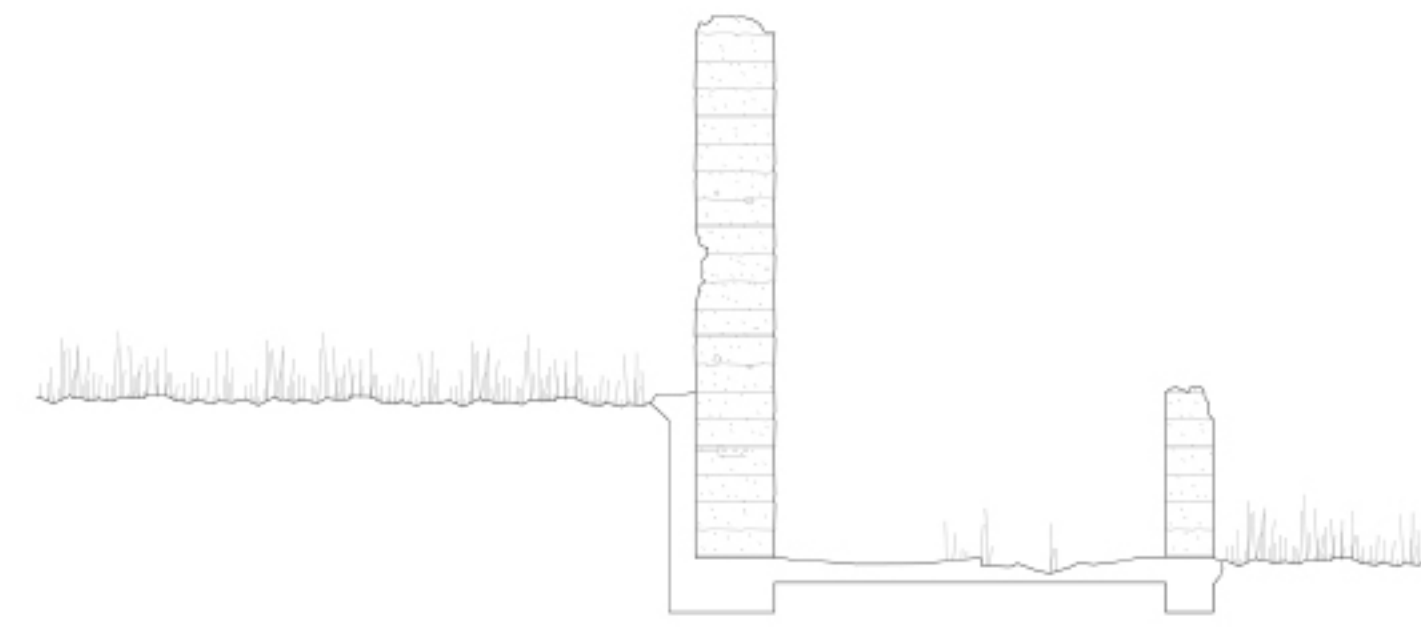
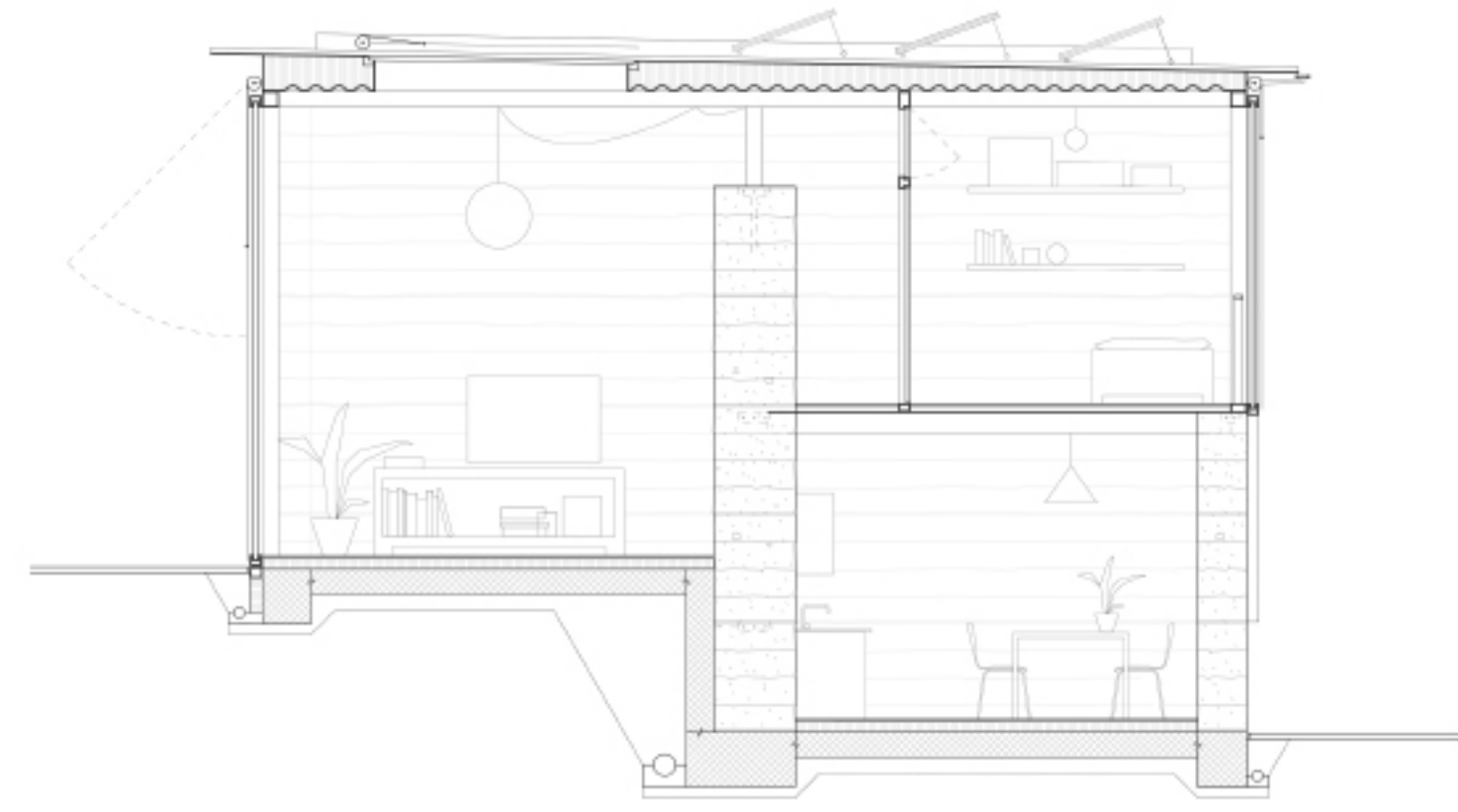
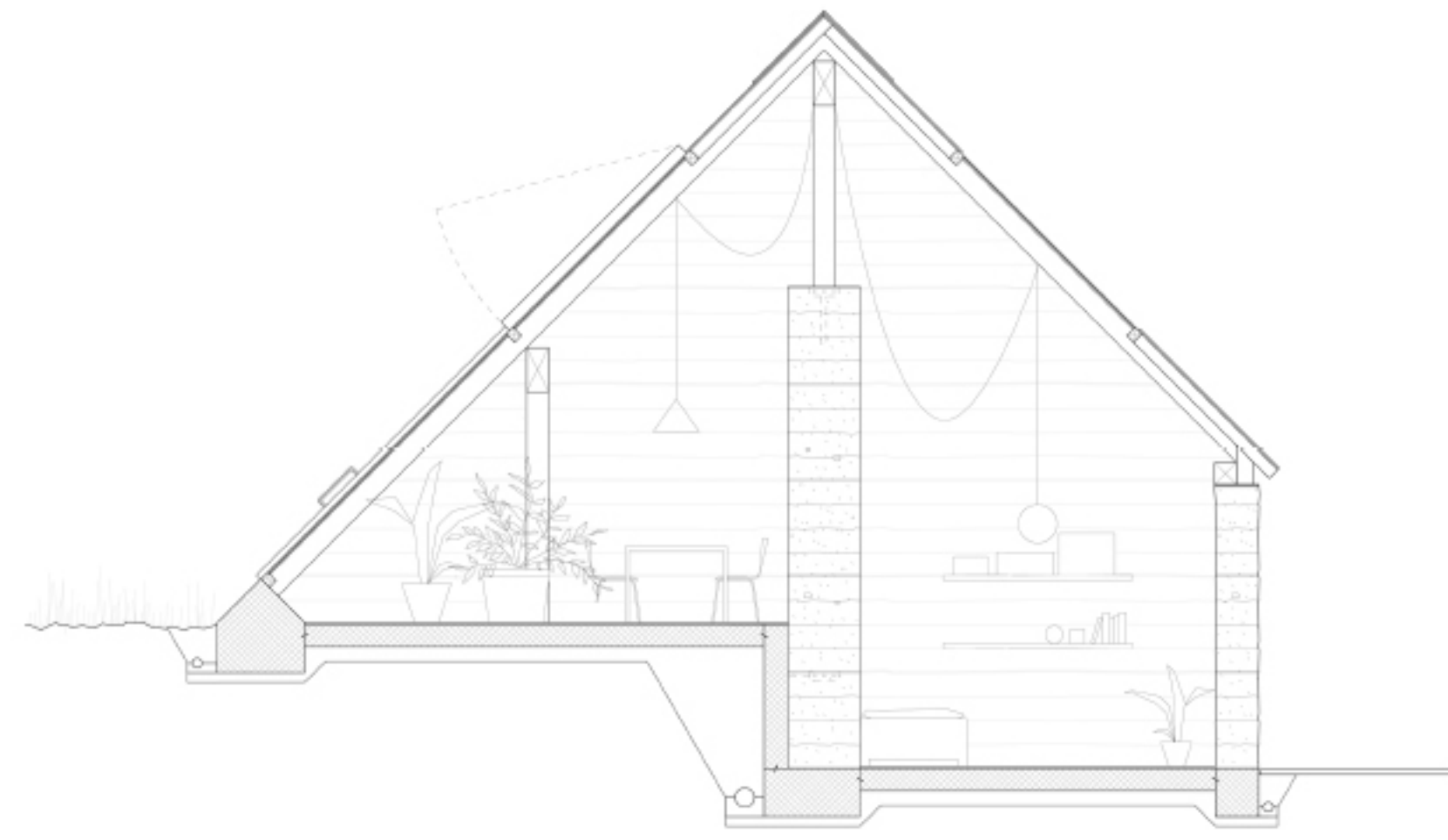


Timeline

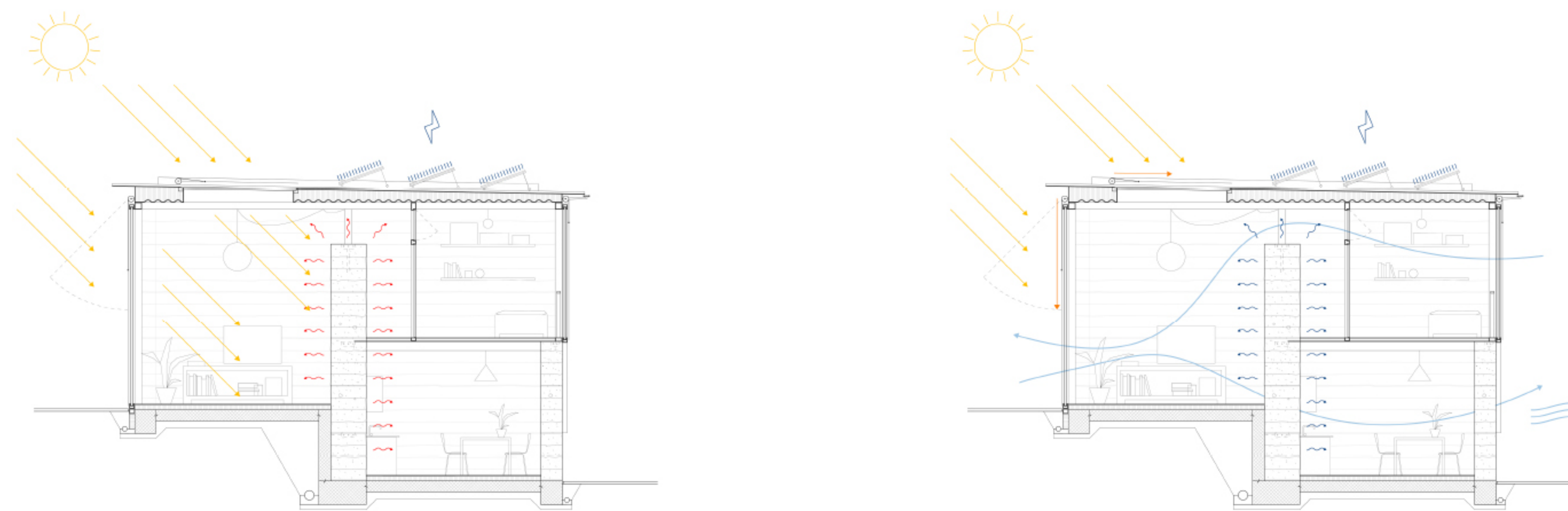


Solar Energy Cycle





"Trombe Wall" System



“Trombe Wall” System



Jakob Uhlenhopp

Atelier Geers

La Société Solaire

Le Chambon-Feugerolles

Solar panels have been commercially available since the 1950s but why didn't they take off earlier?

If the solar furnace built by the CNRS in 1968 serves as the catalyst for photovoltaic research in France, what could other solar typologies include? If the nuclear cooling tower has been enshrined as a monument on to France's contemporary landscape what could the new monument to solar energy be? For three decades, the Centrale du Bec provided coal-powered energy to Firminy and Saint Étienne. How can we build upon this artefact? How can this monument be settled around?

La Société Solaire deals with opposites; vertical and horizontal, material, and immaterial, hi-tech and low-tech. It makes up for its large size in plan for its lack of presence in its height, broken up into smaller pieces to make a collective whole - a village. The only thing that rises from the mess is its rotating solar monument. From the time the power plant was appropriated by hippie-researchers in 1979 until now where a fully integrated community devoted to photovoltaics dwells, researchers, workers, and environmental enthusiasts all live in the presence of their own rotating energy source.

<https://www.diploma.arc.usi.ch/it/2021/geers-2021/jakob-uhlenhopp>