



16TH DOCOMOMO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

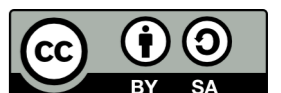
REVIVING MODERNIST HOUSING: ARENA DISTRICT OF RENAAT BRAEM

ARCH. DRS. MARIE MOORS

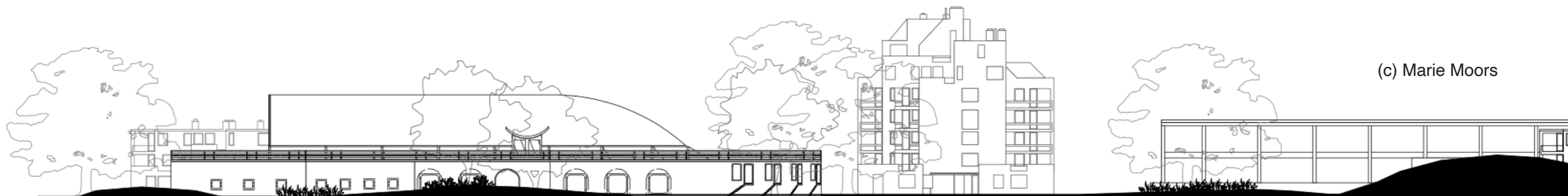
Faculty of Architecture and Arts, Hasselt University Belgium

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Co-supervisor: Dr. Bie Plevvoets



(c) Marie Moors



CONTENT

1. INTRODUCTION AND PROBLEM STATEMENT

2. THE EMERGENCE OF THE ARENA DISTRICT

3. BRAEM AND THE ARENA DISTRICT

3.1. RENAAT BRAEM AS POLEMIC FIGURE

3.2. THE VALUES OF THE ARENA DISTRICT

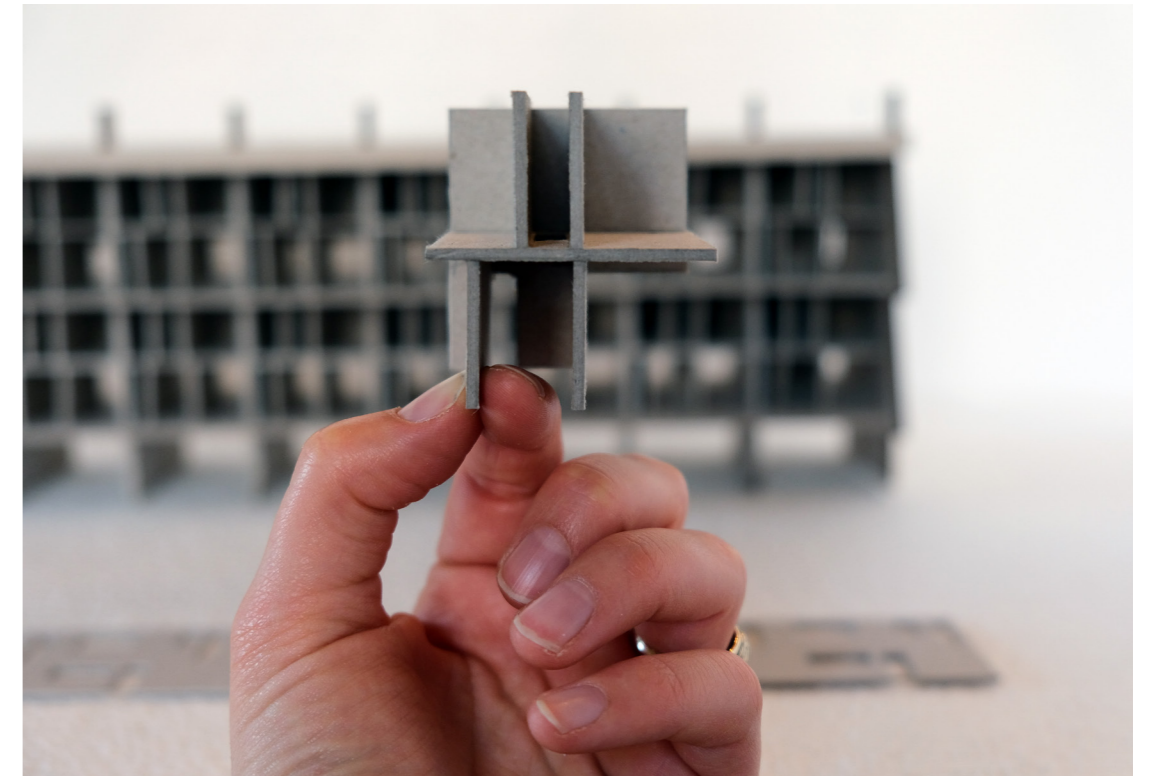
3.1.1. THE HISTORICAL STRATIFICATION OF THE SITE

3.1.2. THE HUMAN SCALE

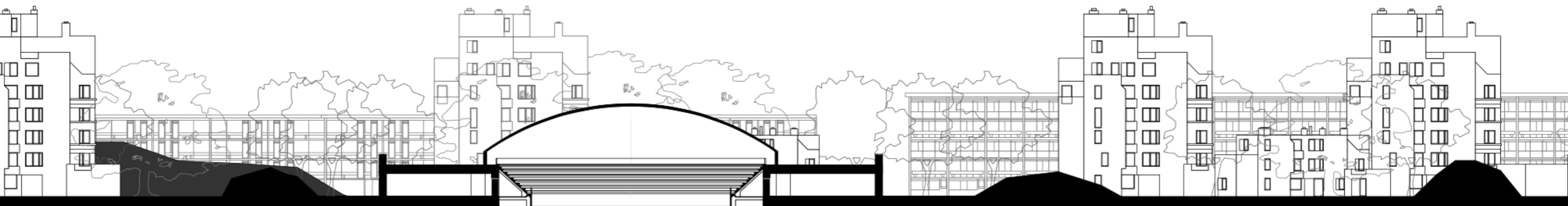
3.1.3. THE FORMALISTIC LANGUAGE AND ICONOGRAPHY

4. CONCLUSION

5. BIBLIOGRAPHY



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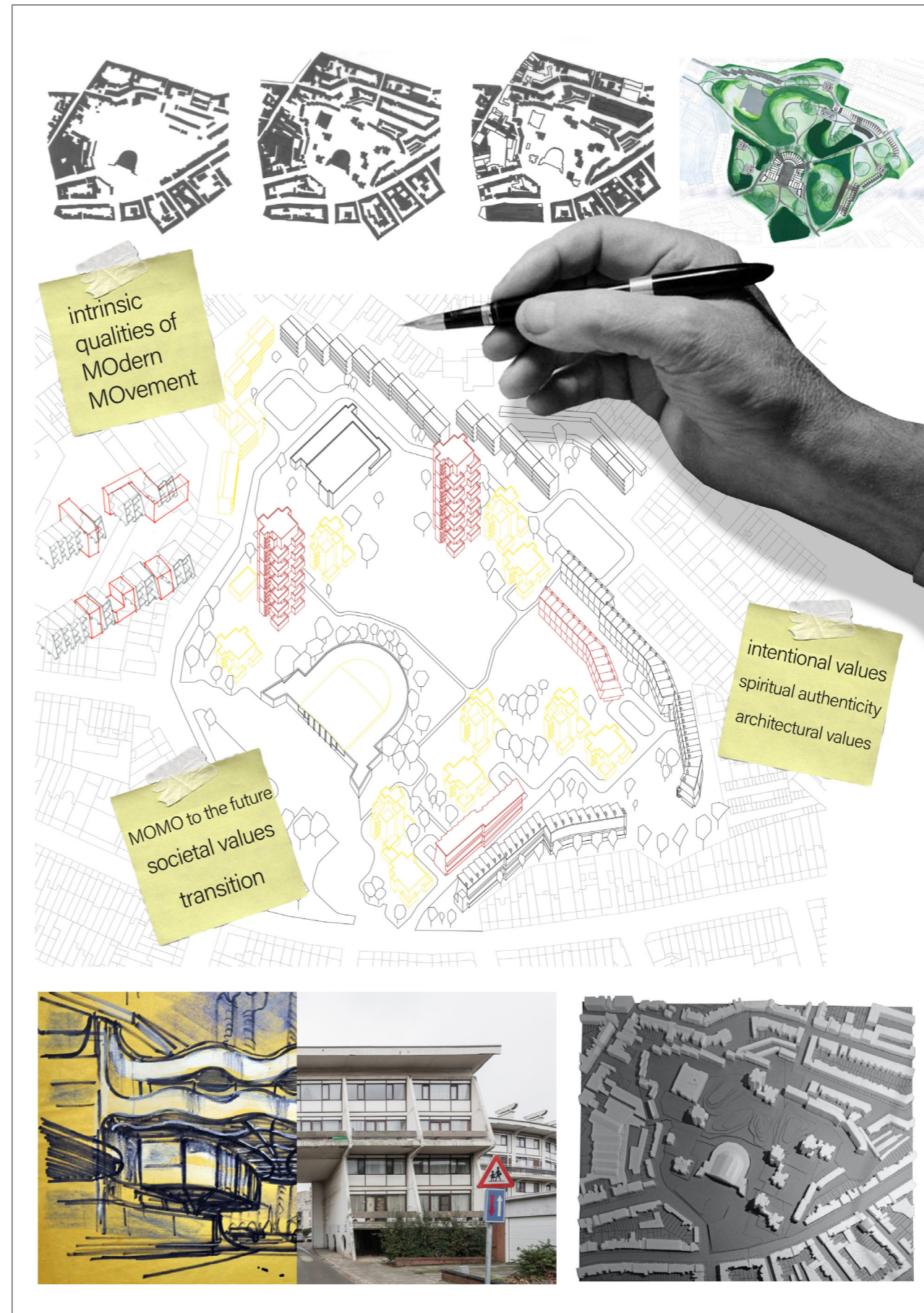


1. INTRODUCTION AND PROBLEM STATEMENT

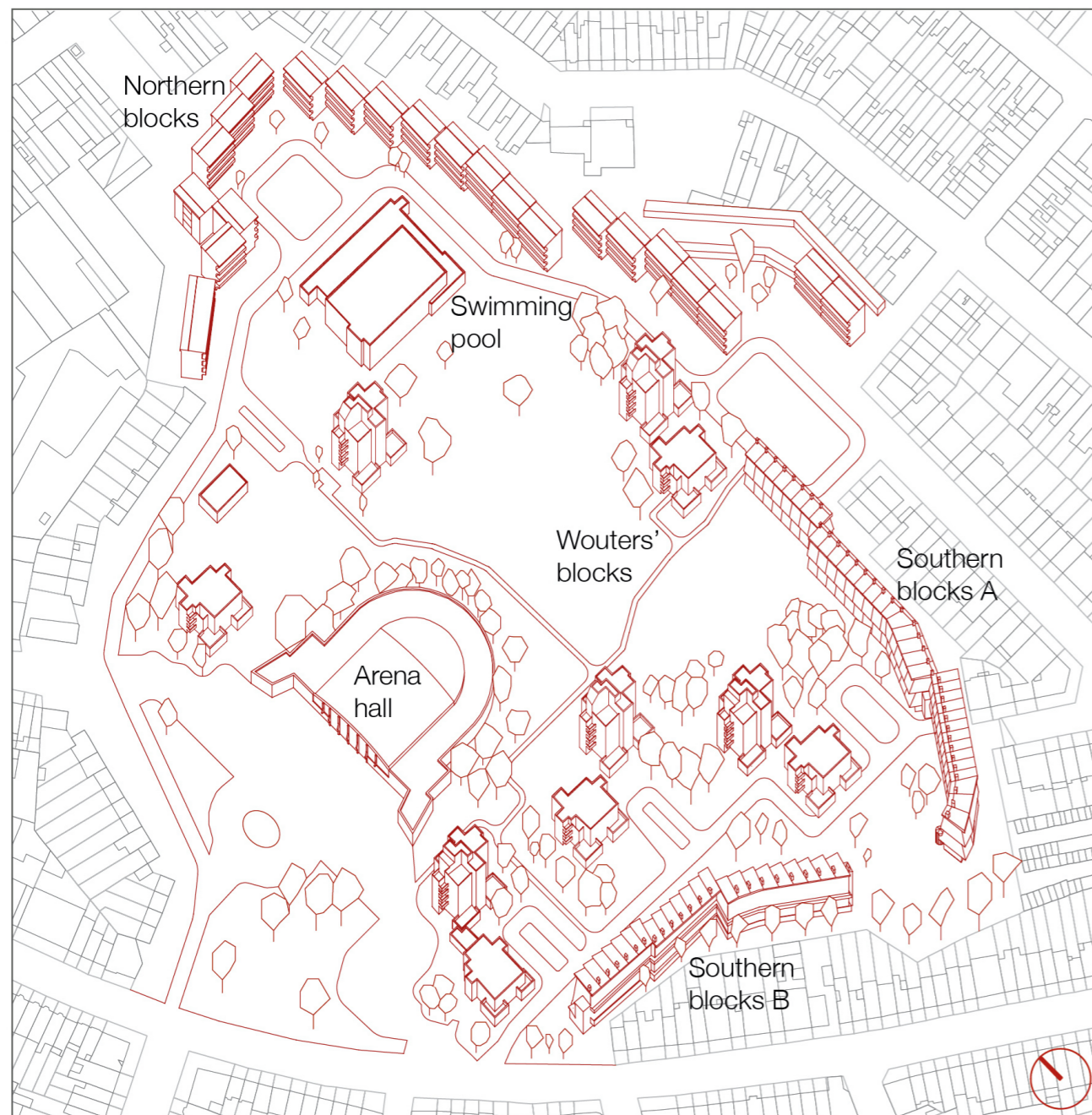
BELGIAN MOMO HERITAGE ON THE RADAR

Re-reading modernist housing estates: an inquiry into the value of threatened heritage sites and the possibilities of adaptive reuse as a method for re-evaluation.

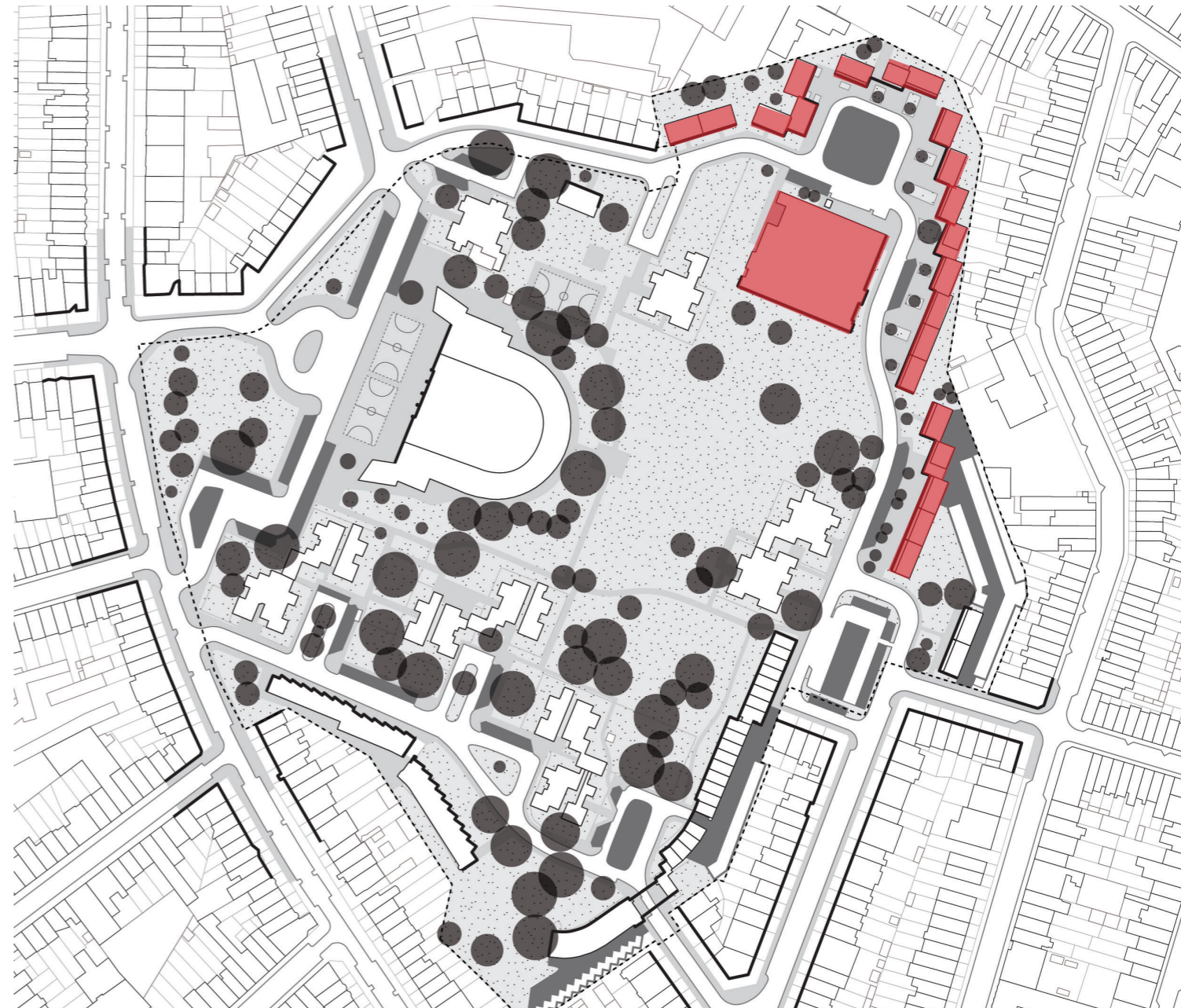
PhD FWO Fellowship fundamental research 111642N



(c) Marie Moors



Isometric drawing and model of the Arena district, 2020
source: Marie Moors



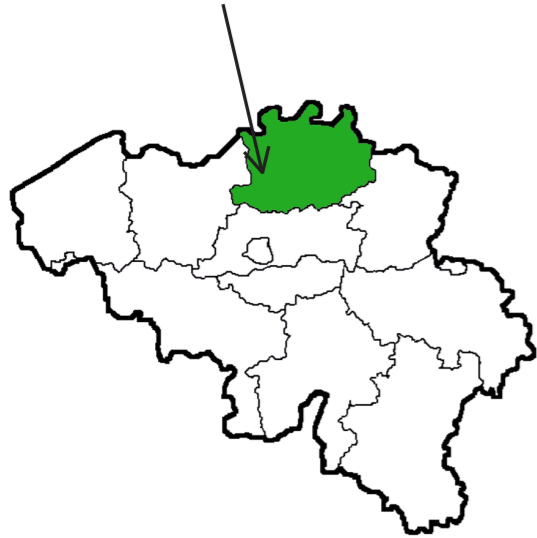
Site plan of the Arena district, Antwerp Belgium, current situation (in red the complexes which are meant to be demolished, incl. the swimming pool)

source: drawing by Tara Op de Beeck (2017), University of Antwerp



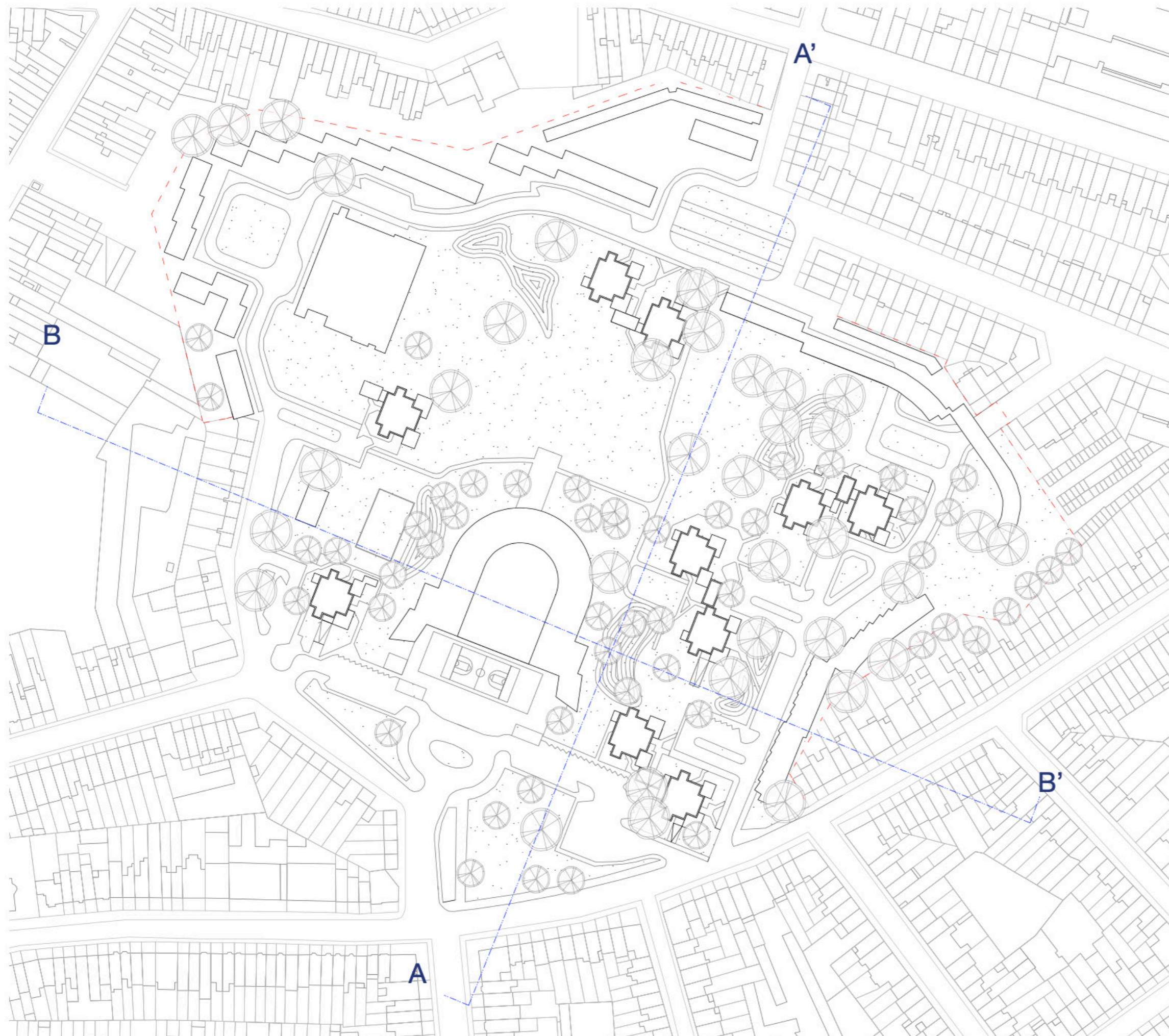
Bad condition of the buildings of the Arena district, 2020
 source: Marie Moors

2. THE EMERGENCE OF THE ARENA DISTRICT



The Arena-district, 2020

source: <https://www.google.be/maps/place/Sporthal+Arena+-+Deurne/@51.2061892,4.4511887,745a,35y,90h,39.25t/data=!3m1!1e3!4m5!3m4!1s0x47c3f7647dd8caf9:0x94b0be4f-1882816c18m2!3d51.2068432!4d4.4586483>

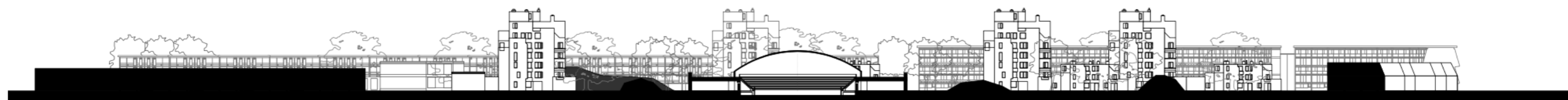


Plan on the scale of the district
2020

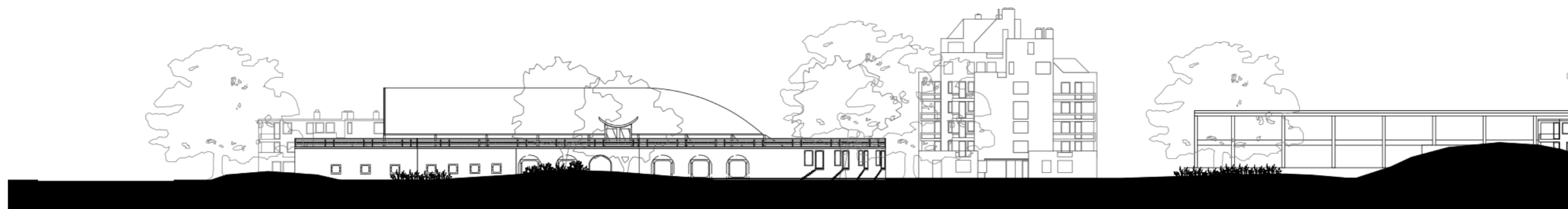
(c) Marie Moors



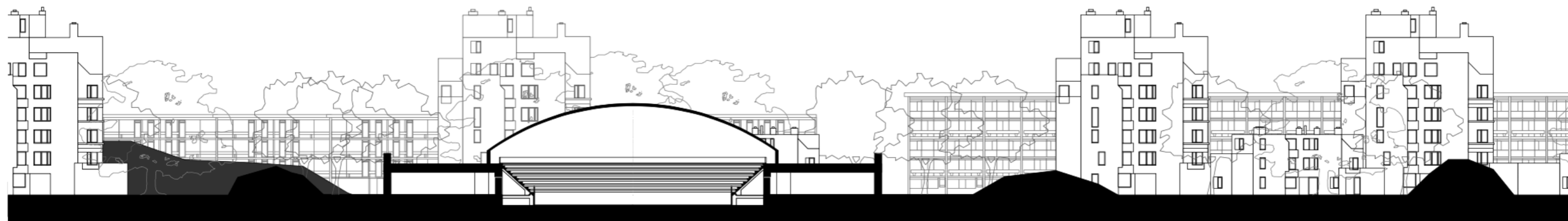
Section AA'



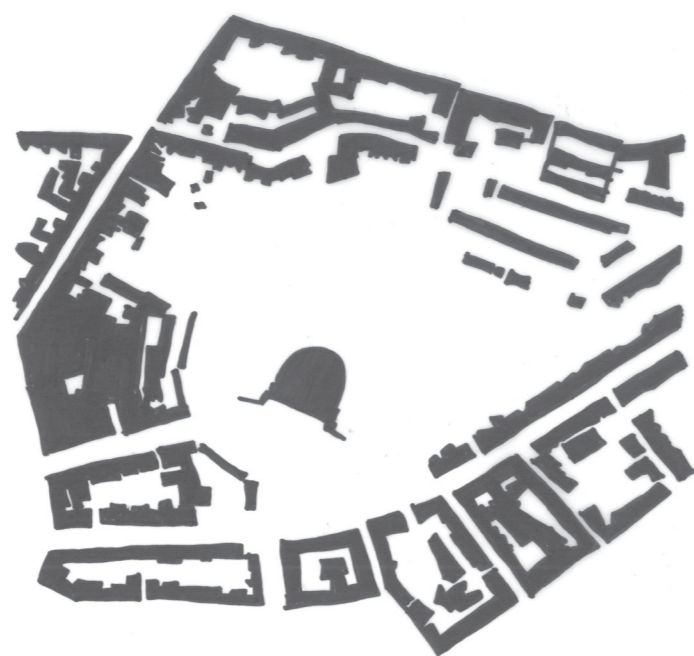
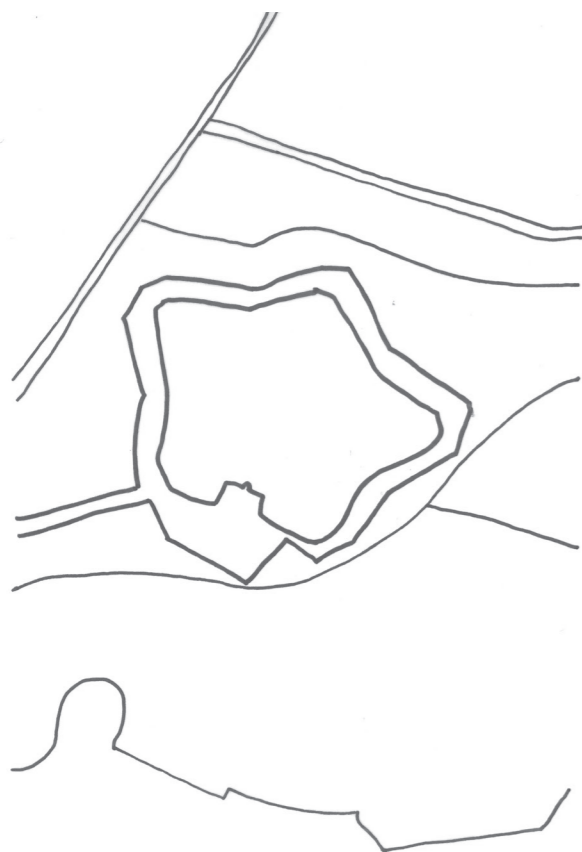
Section BB'



Detail Section AA'



Detail Section BB'



(c) Marie Moors



18th century



1948



1969



2002

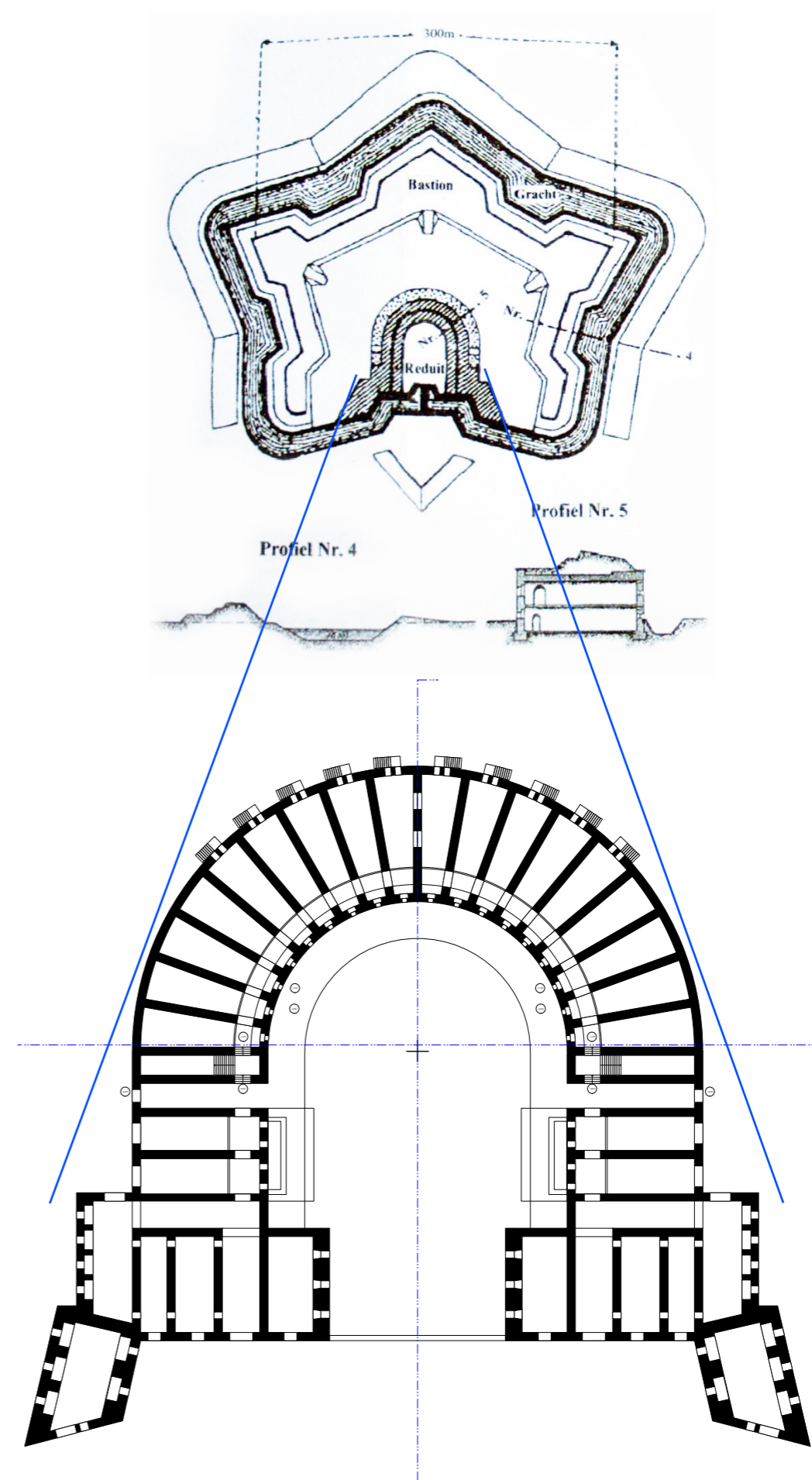
Historical overview of the Arena district, 18th century - 2002

source: Nationaal Geografisch Instituut





The covering of the Fortress of Deurne in circa 1960
 source: <http://knyffstraat.blogspot.com/2014/04/>



Floorplan Arenahall
 source: Marie Moors based on archive plan of Simon Stevin



Drawing by Renaat Braem circa. 1960, representing one of the variants for the high-rise towers of circa. 10 floors
 source: Archives d'Architecture Moderne (AAM) Brussels



Different housing typologies in the Arena district, designed by Renaat Braem
 source: Alexander Dumarey - <https://www.vrt.be/vrtnws/nl/2017/12/28/markante-plekken--de-arenawijk-in-deurne/>



Different housing typologies in the Arena district, designed by Renaat Braem
 source: Alexander Dumarey - <https://www.vrt.be/vrtnws/nl/2017/12/28/markante-plekken--de-arenawijk-in-deurne/>



AKTIE GROEP 'RED DE ARENAWEIDE'

ERKEND DOOR DE DEURNESE BEVOLKING

ZETEL: ARENAWEIDE

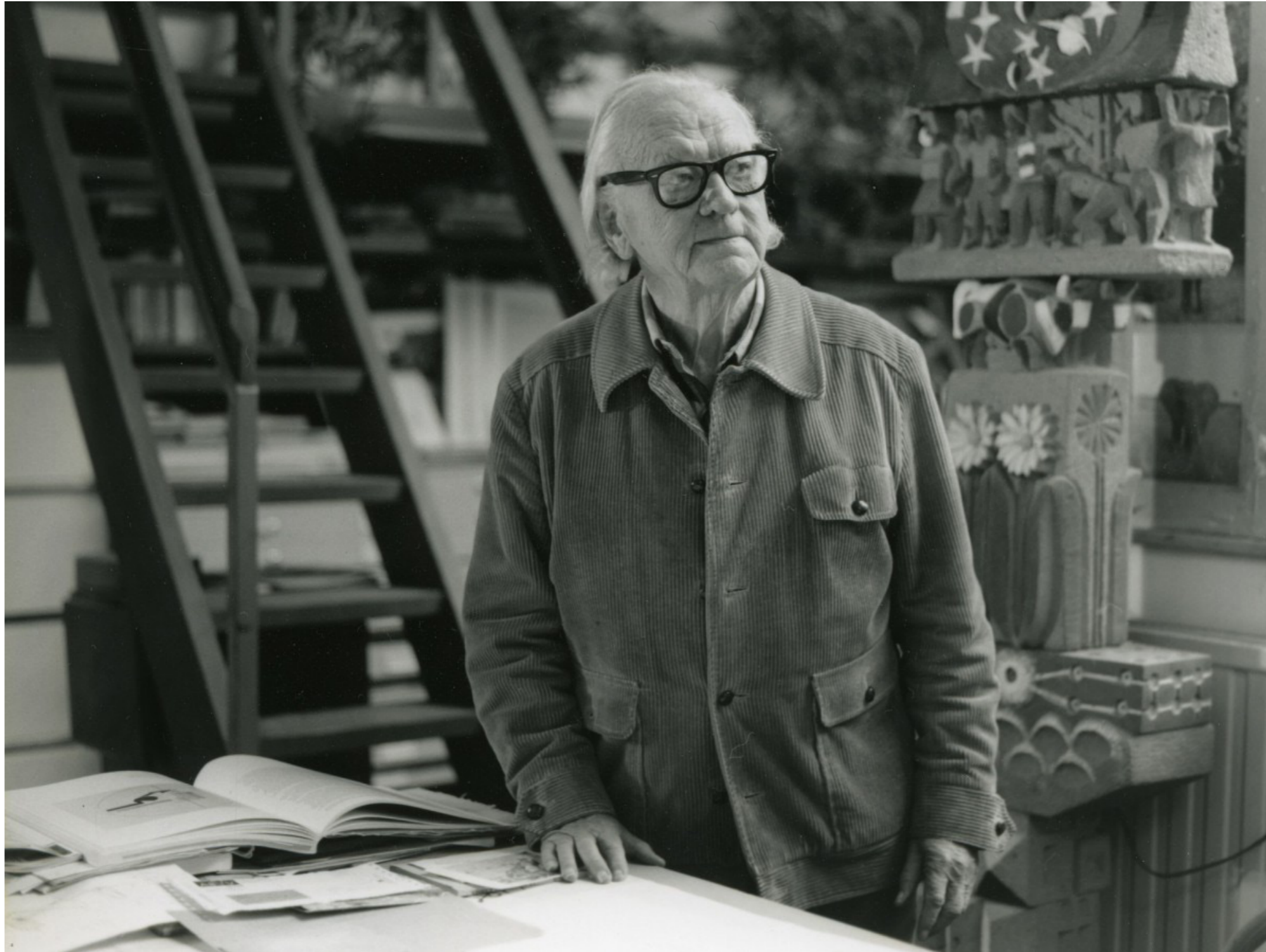
de bezetterskrant voor durvers! ie kan ze geen week missen!



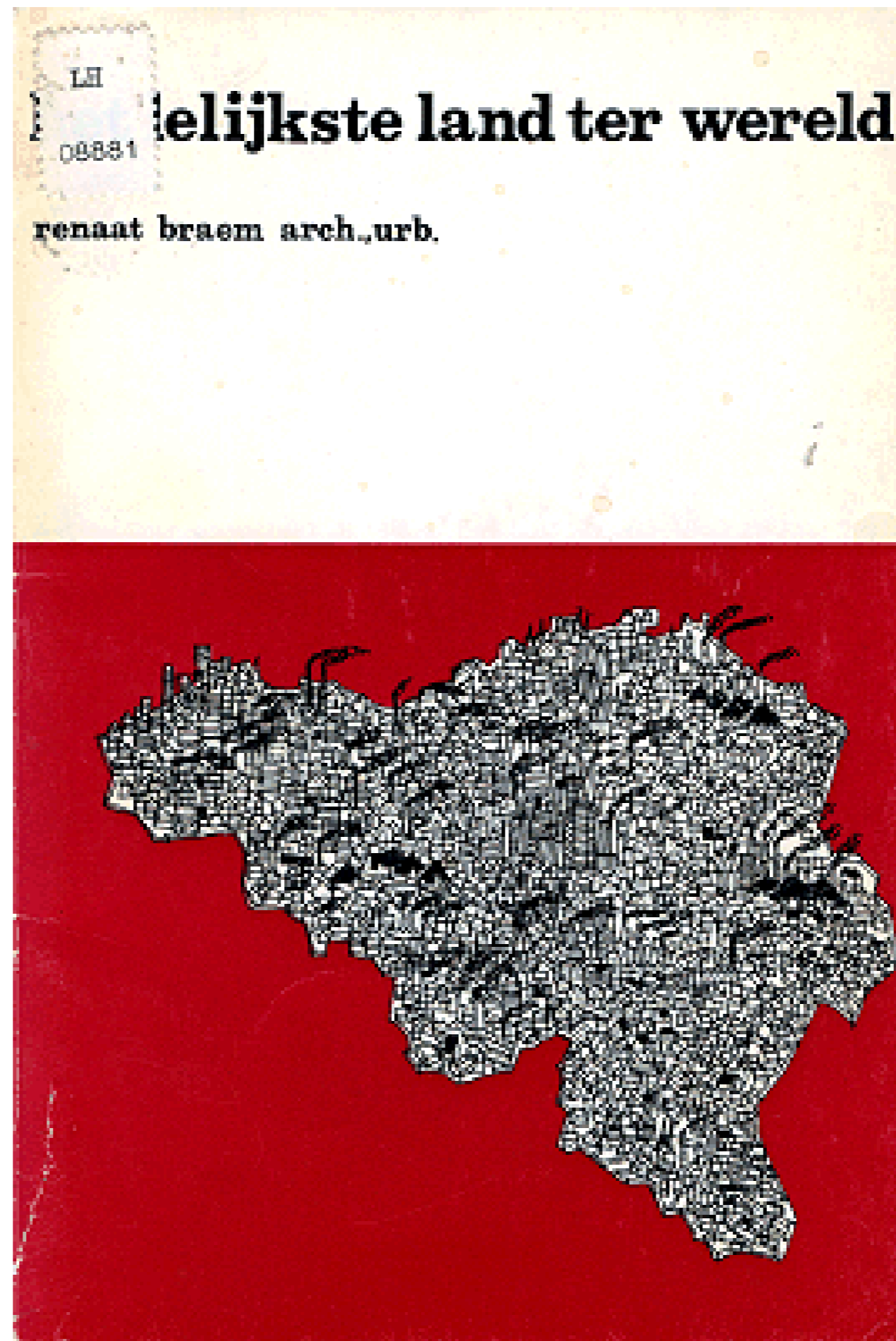
Dwellings in the Arena district, designed by Lode Wouters, Fons Mostien and Boud Rombouts, constructed between 1980 and 1982
source: Alexander Dumarey - <https://www.vrt.be/vrtnws/nl/2017/12/28/markante-plekken--de-arenawijk-in-deurne/>

3. BRAEM AND THE ARENA DISTRICT

3.1. RENAAT BRAEM AS POLEMIC FIGURE



Architect Renaat Braem
source: <https://www.desteigerboom.be/reinat-braem>



Book by Renaat Braem, 'Het lelijkste land ter wereld' ('The ugliest country in the world'), publised in 1968
source: https://www.dbnl.org/tekst/brae012leli01_01/brae012leli01_01_0011.php

3. BRAEM AND THE ARENA DISTRICT

3.2. THE VALUES OF THE ARENA DISTRICT



Positive vs. negative space



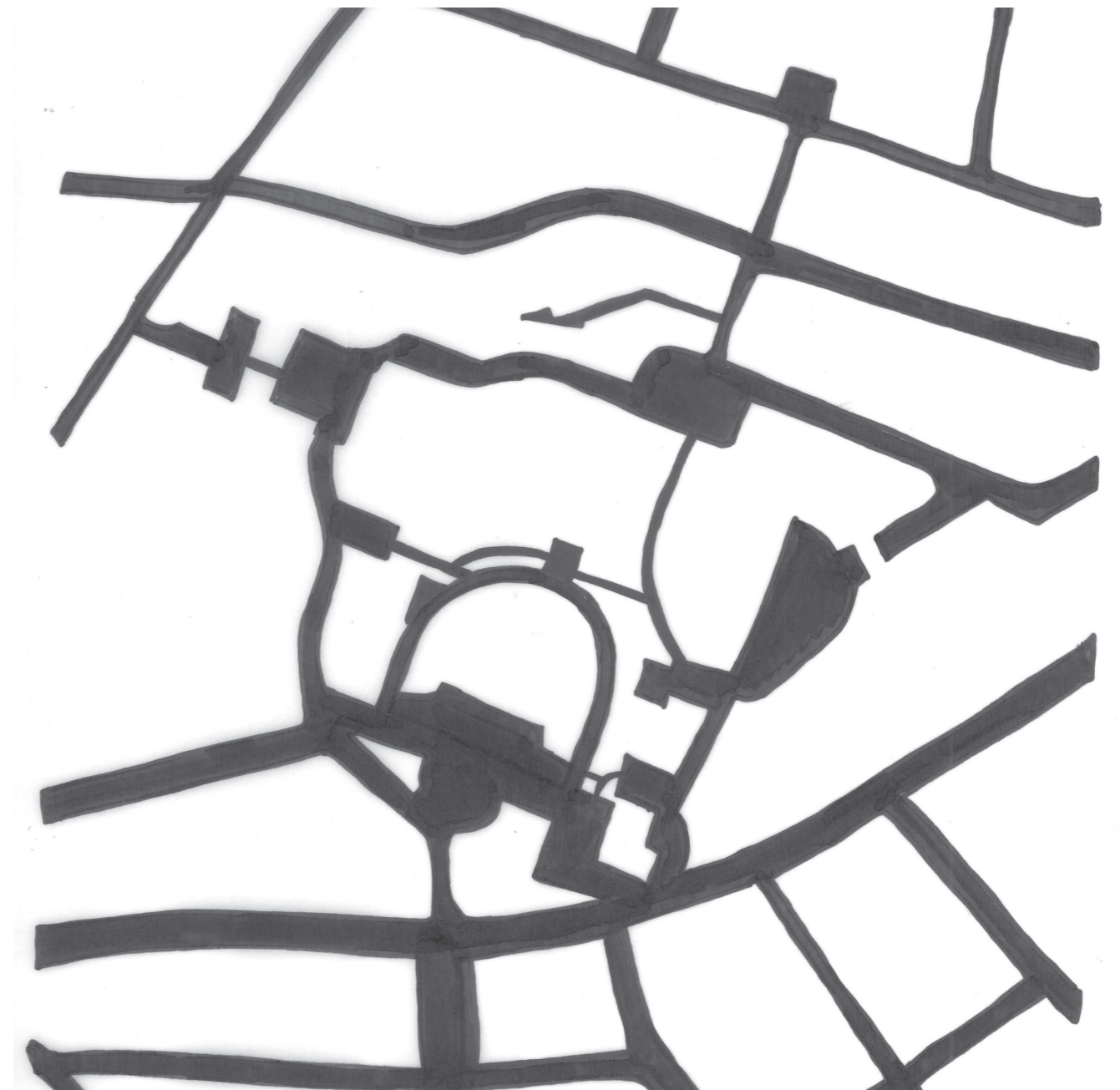
(c) Marie Moors

Nolli Map



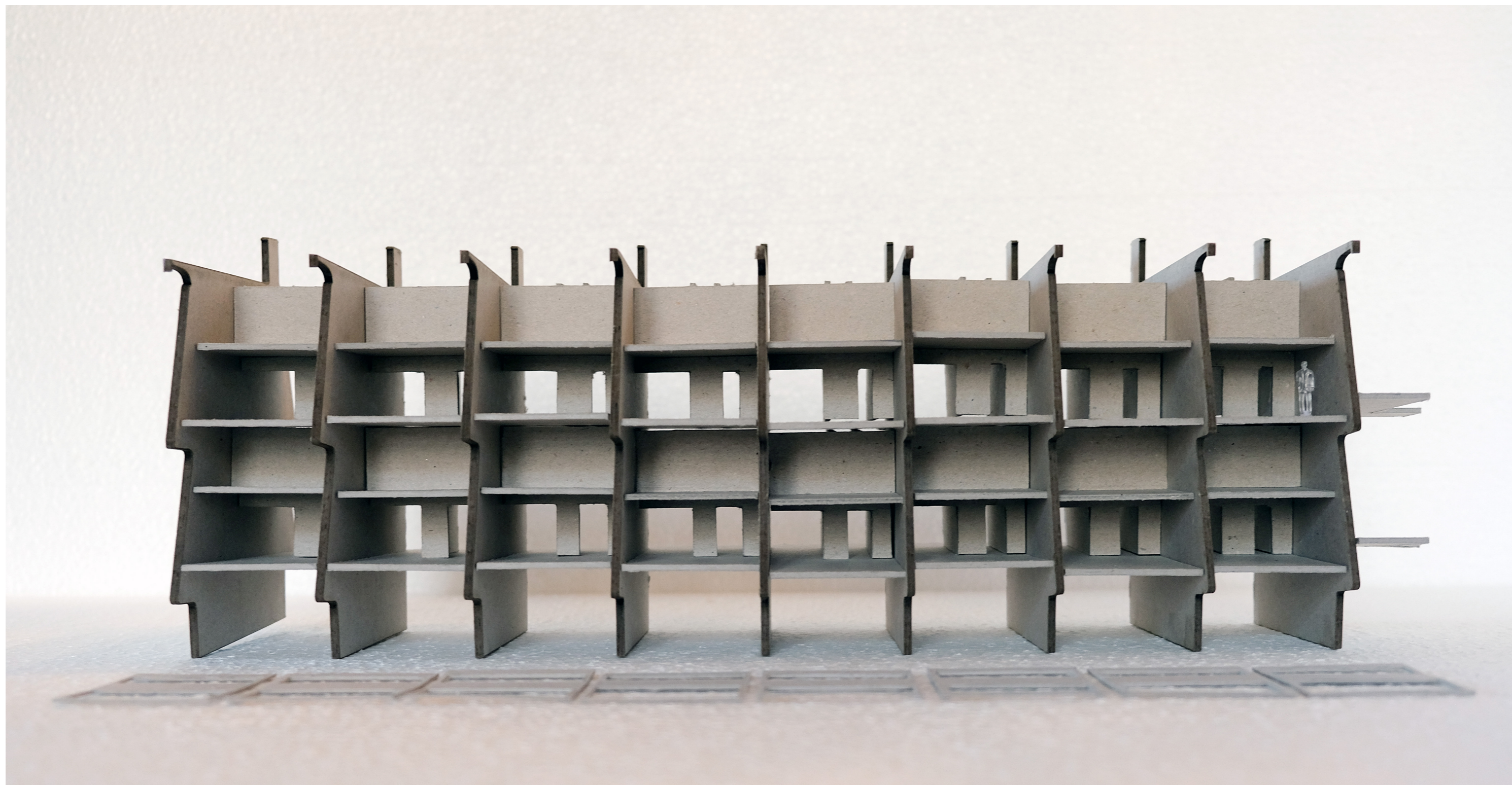
Greenary - green elements

Layers of the site



Pavements

(c) Marie Moors



Model of the structure of the Southern blocks Arena district
(c) Marie Moors

3. BRAEM AND THE ARENA DISTRICT

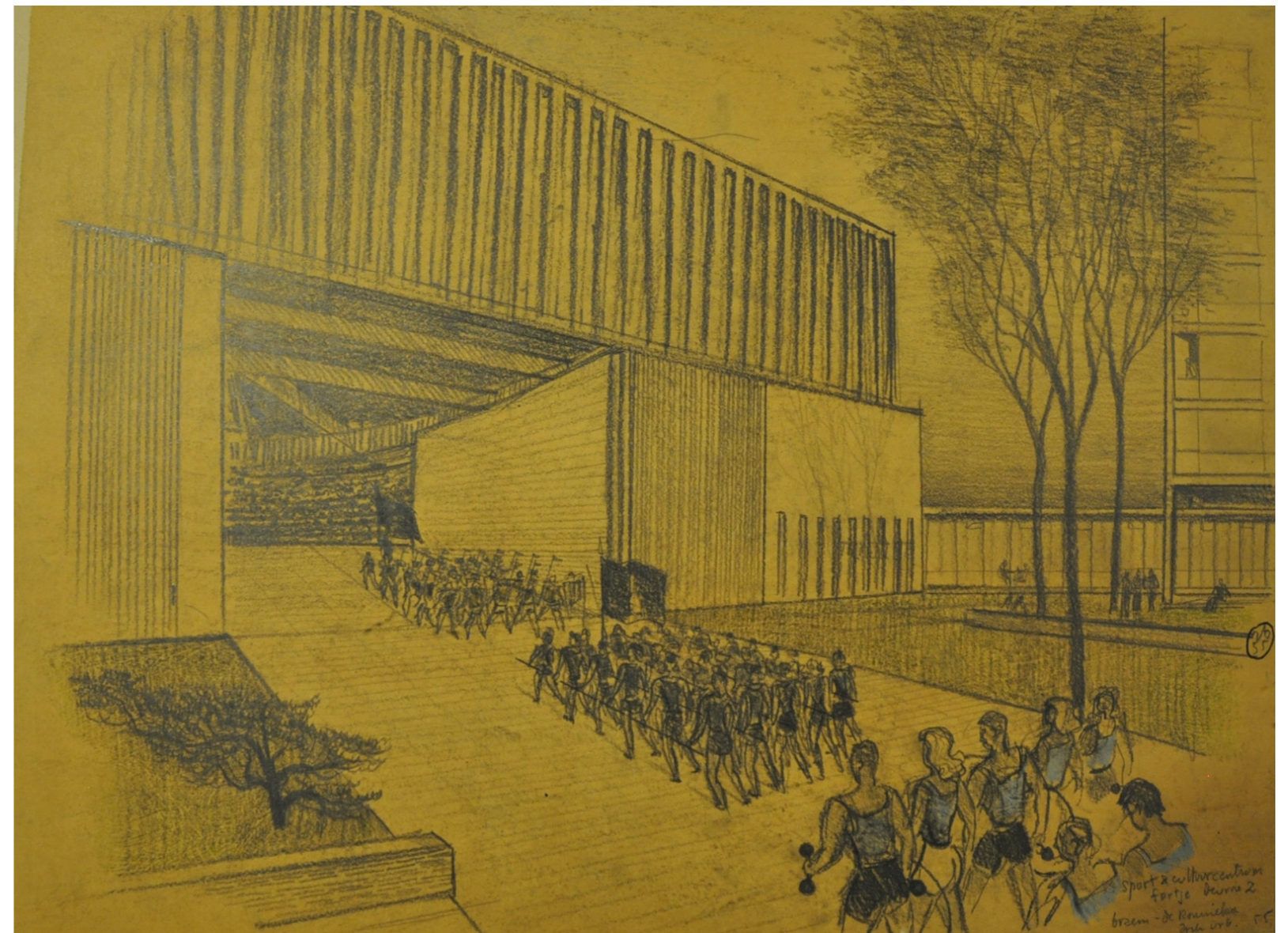
3.2. THE VALUES OF THE ARENA DISTRICT

3.2.1. THE HISTORICAL STRATIFICATION OF THE SITE



Fortress of Deure / Arenahall, 2020

Alexander Dumarey - <https://www.vrt.be/vrtnws/nl/2017/12/28/markante-plekken--de-arenawijk-in-deurne/>



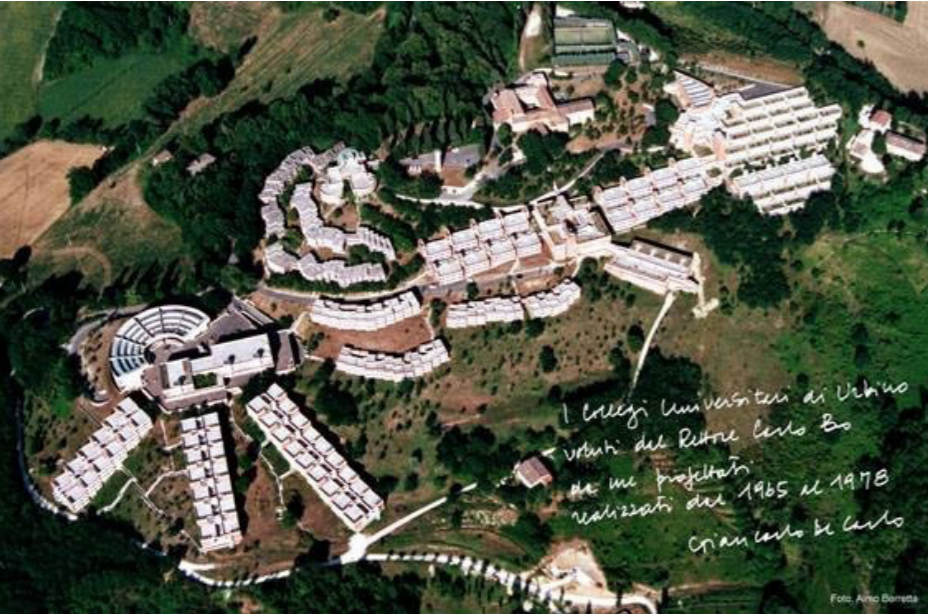
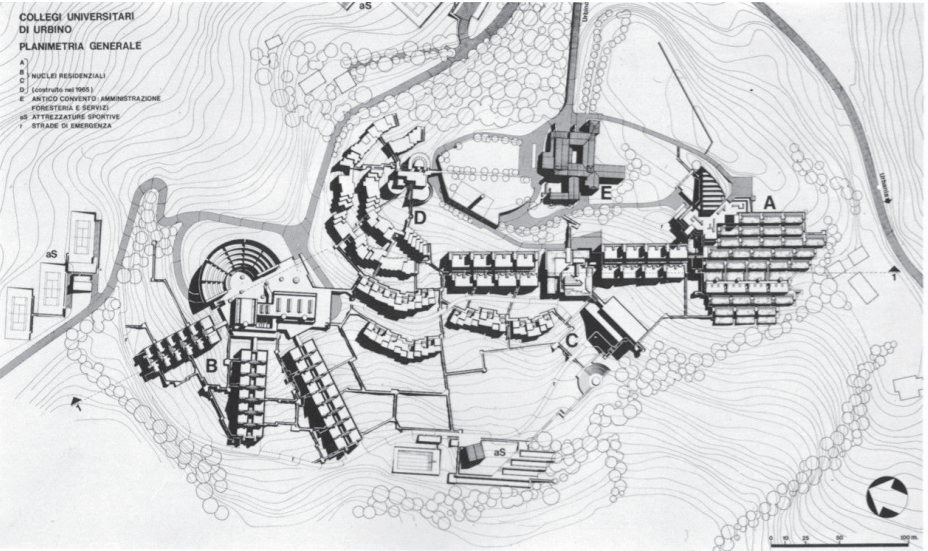
Fortress of Deure / Arenahall, designprocess Renaat Braem
source: Archives d'Architecture Moderne (AAM) Brussels



Plan that indicates the present high-trunked trees of the Arena District, 2021

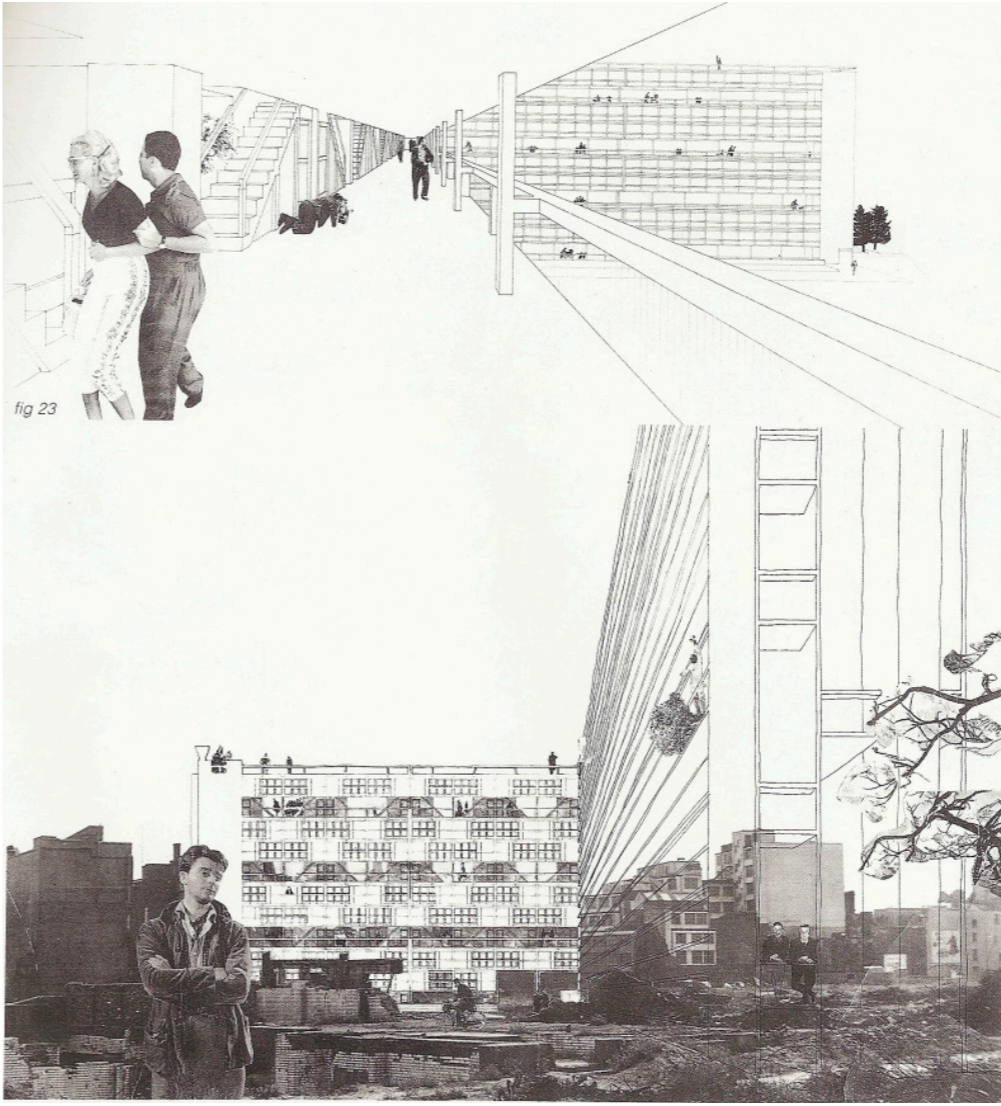
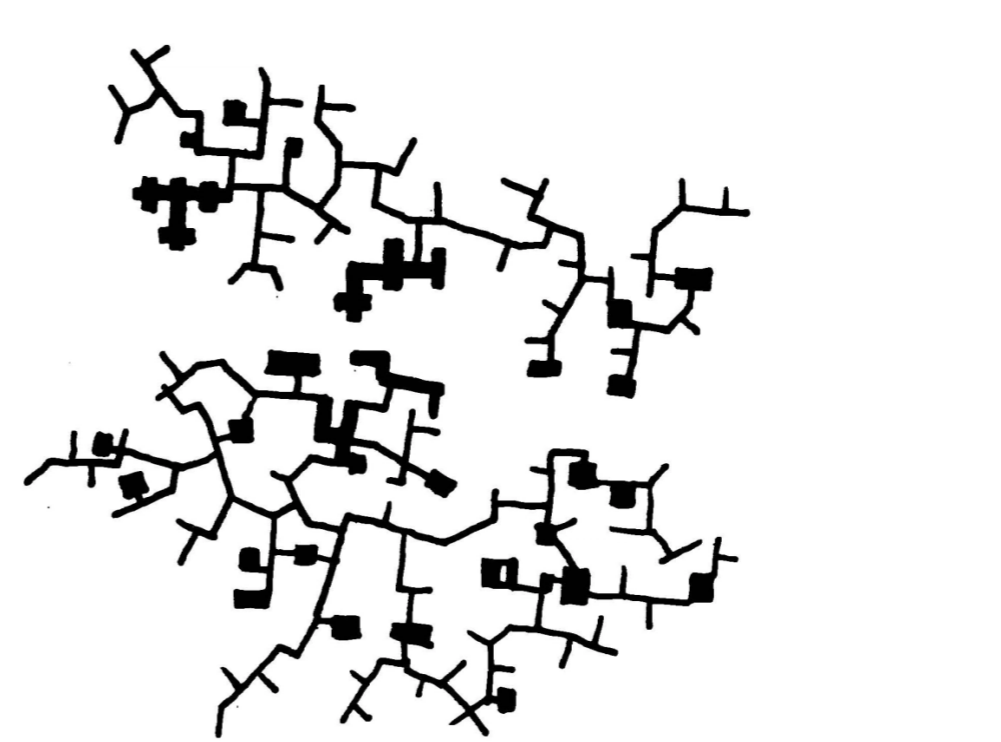
source: Marie Moors based on 'inrichtingsplan' AG VESPA

Masterplan Urbino, Giancarlo De Carlo, 1964



source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Collegi_Universitari_Urbino.jpg

Golden Lane Project London, The Smithsons, 1952



source: <https://archiflux.wordpress.com/2010/09/11/ap-smithson-golden-lane-2/>

3. BRAEM AND THE ARENA DISTRICT

3.2. THE VALUES OF THE ARENA DISTRICT

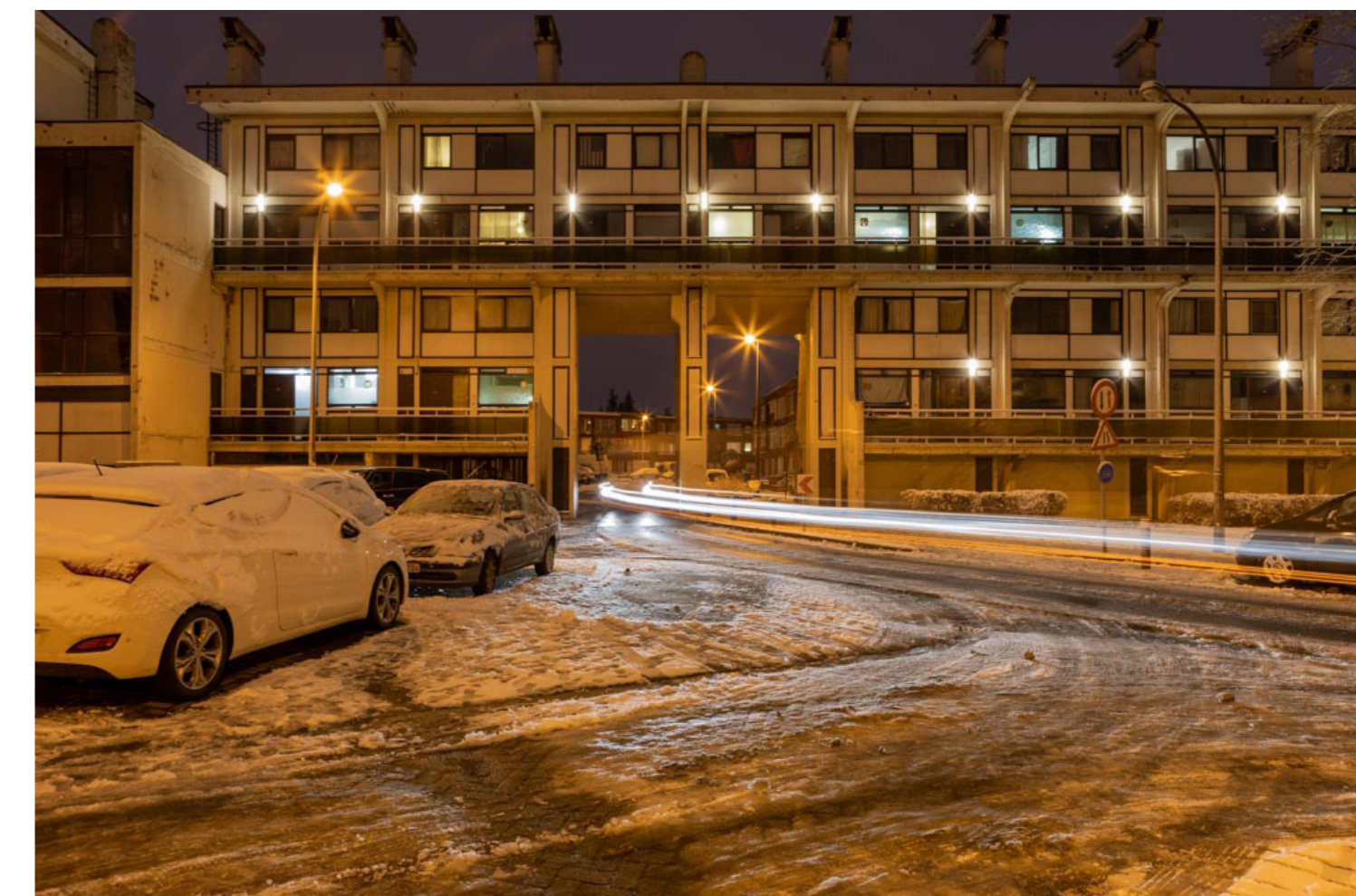
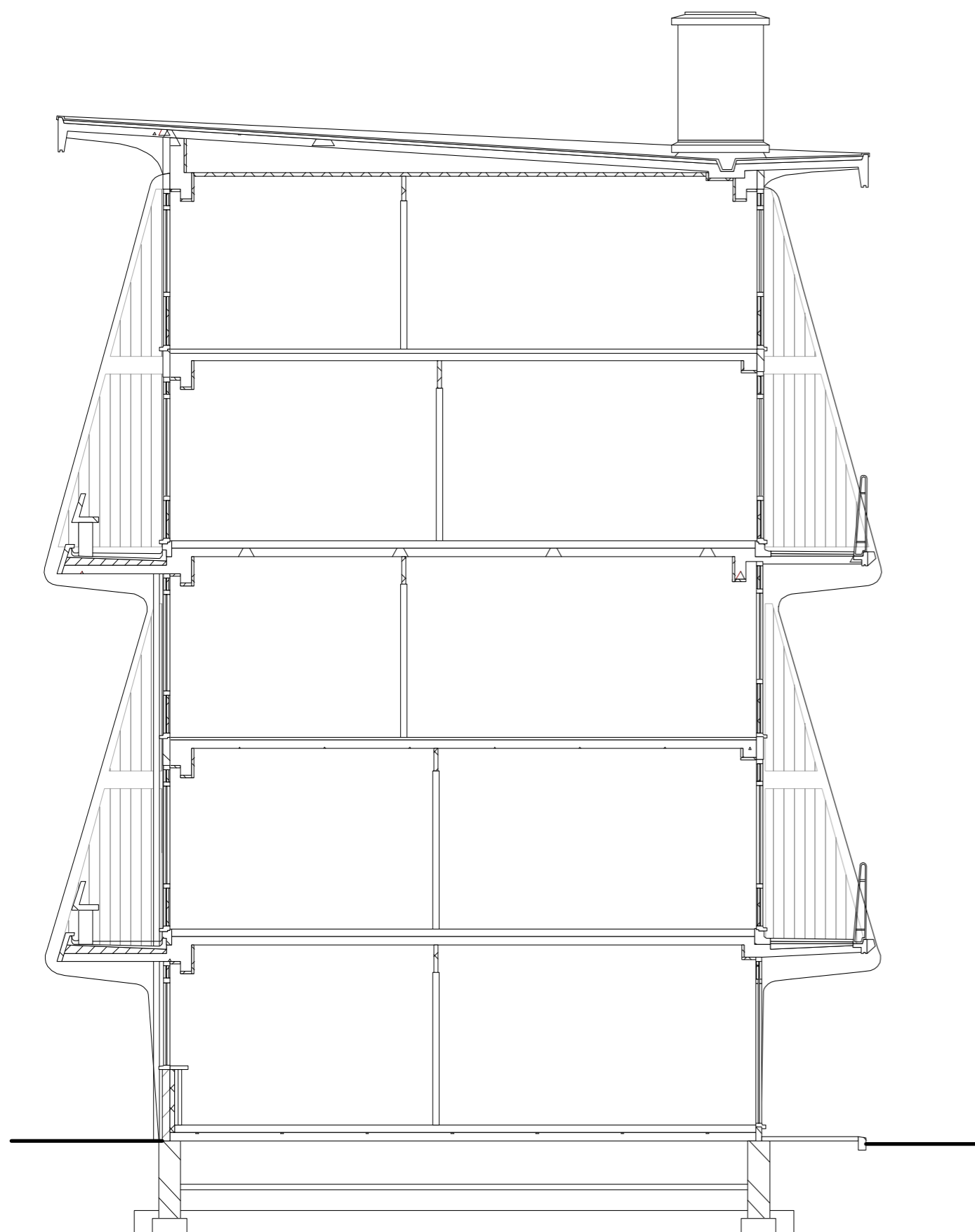
3.2.2. THE HUMAN SCALE



Southern blocks with organic typology
source: Marie Moors

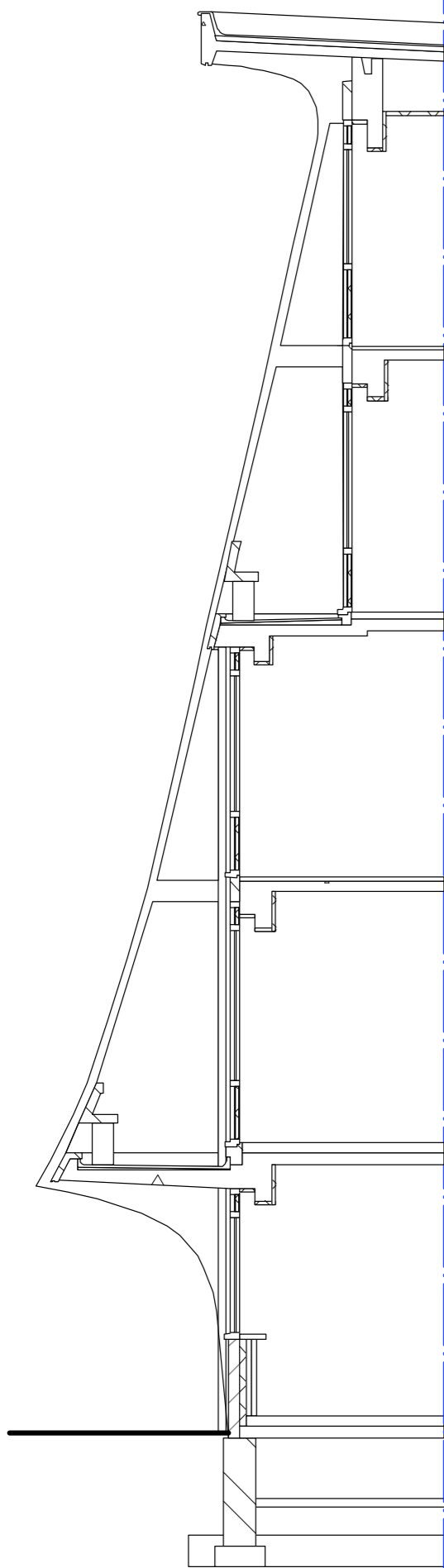


Southern blocks with organic typology
source: Marie Moors



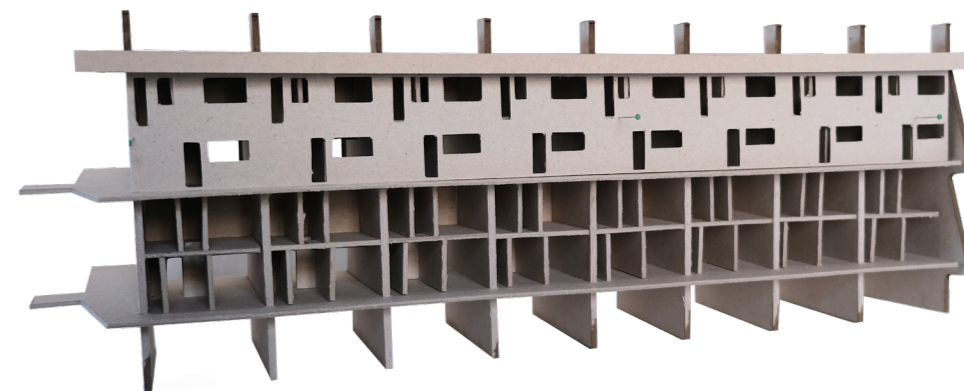
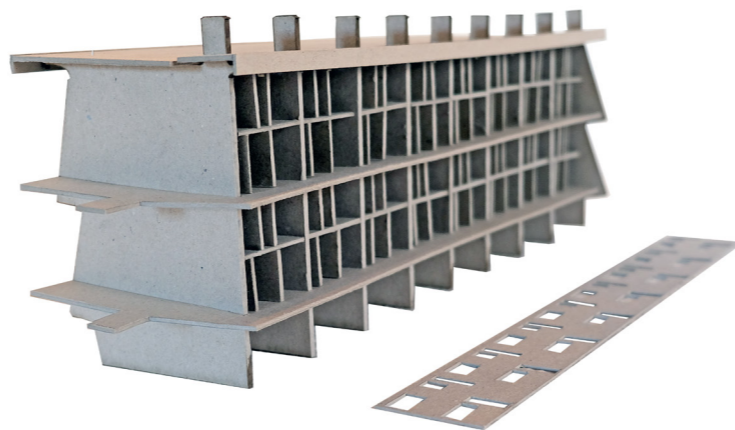
(c) Elisabeth Broekaert

Section detail Southern blocks
(c) Marie Moors

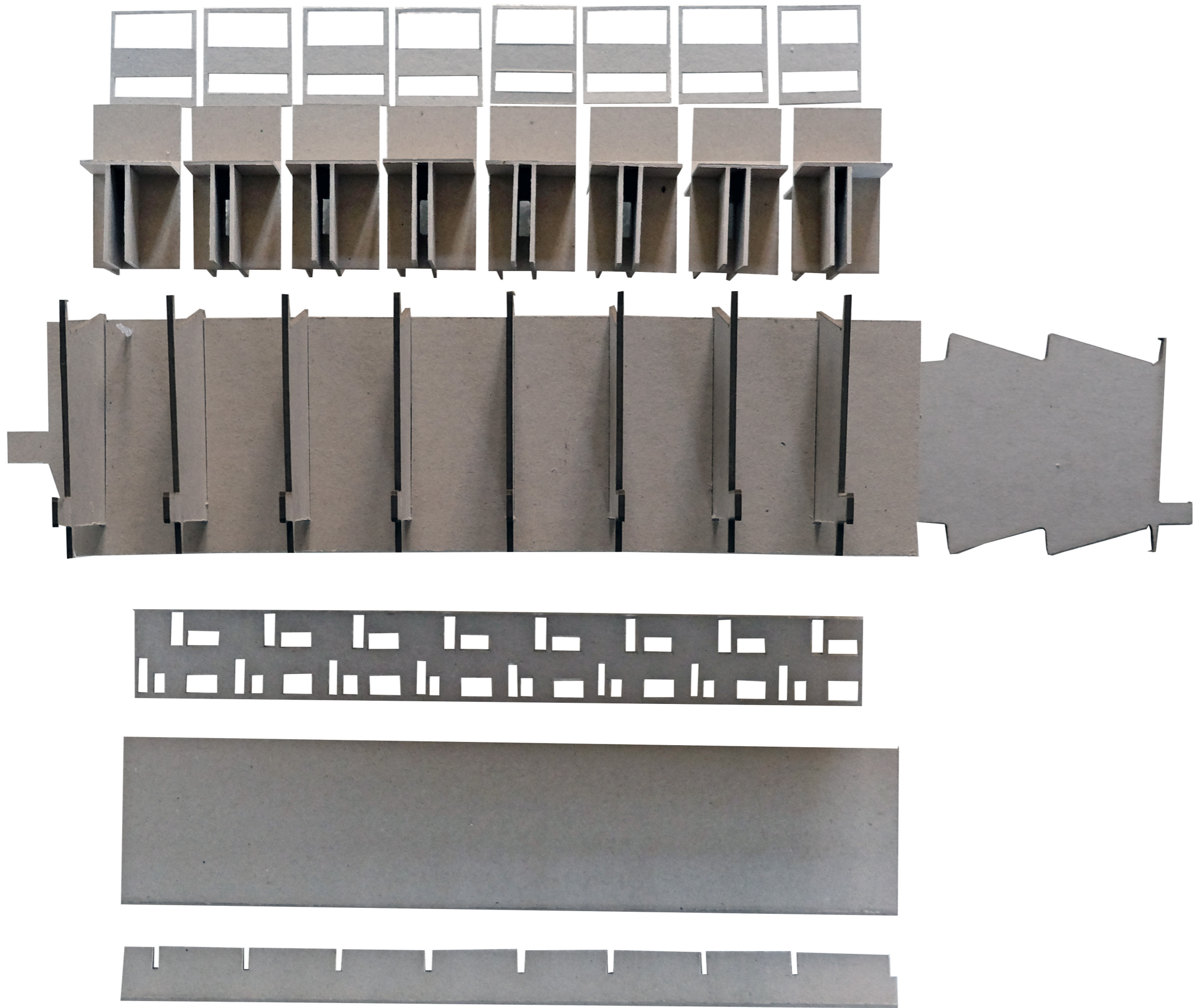


(c) Elisabeth Broekaert

Section detail Southern blocks
(c) Marie Moors



Different sides of the model with and without facades
 (c) Marie Moors

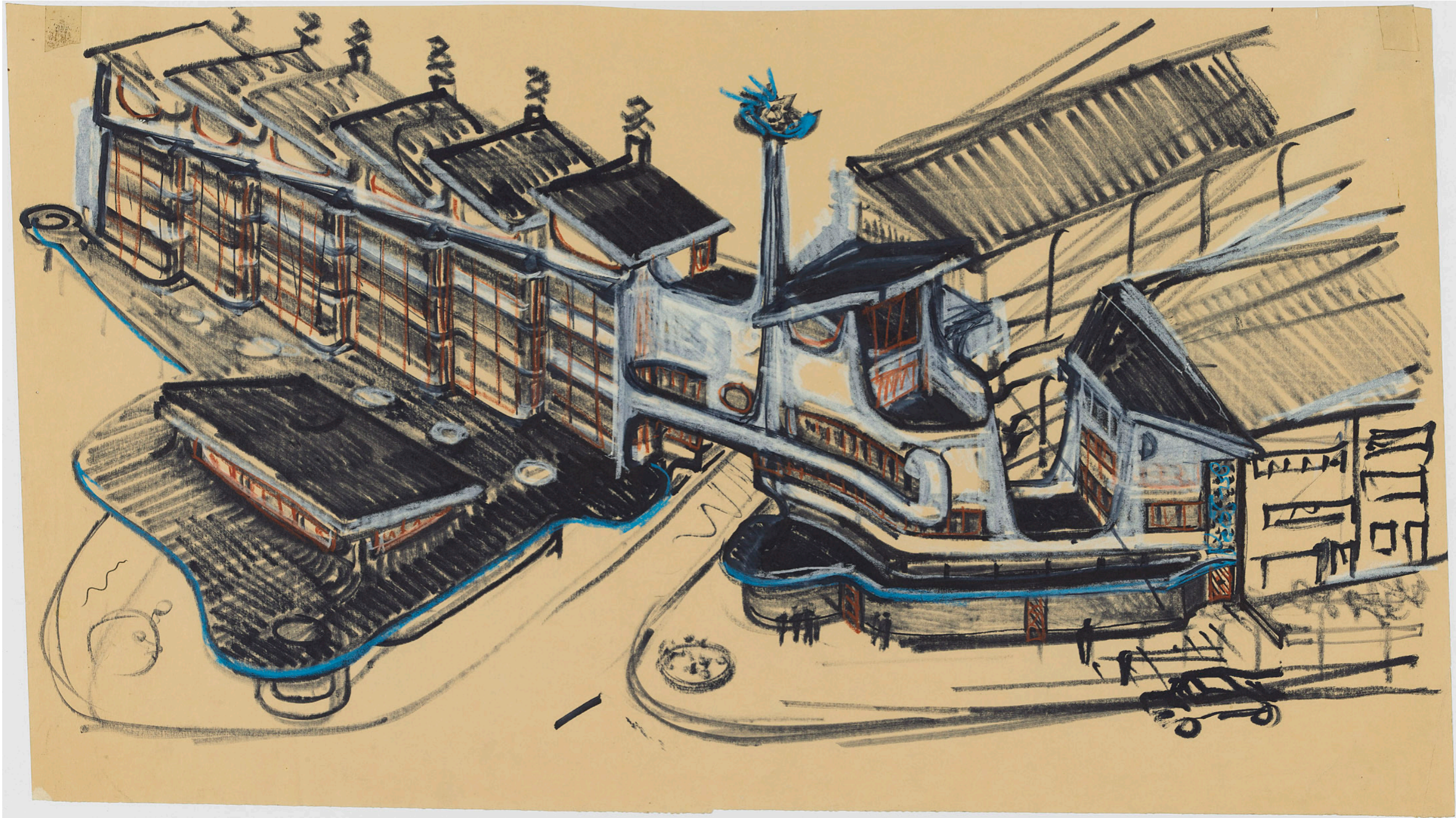


Unfolded model of the Southern block Arena district - structural assembly
(c) Marie Moors

3. BRAEM AND THE ARENA DISTRICT

3.2. THE VALUES OF THE ARENA DISTRICT

3.2.3. THE FORMALISTIC LANGUAGE AND ICONOGRAPHY



Drawing by Renaat Braem of 1968 in which his 'organic brutalism' is very clear represented,
with the integration of art in architecture
source: Archives d'Architecture Moderne (AAM) Brussels



fig. 11. Huisvestingscomplex Arenawijk in Deurne, ontwerp met zeven woontorens rond de Arenahal, vermoedelijk uit 1962 (Archives d'Architecture Moderne)

Drawing by Renaat Braem of 1962, seven towers are placed around Arenahall
source: Archives d'Architecture Moderne (AAM) Brussels



the Antwerp Station



the Cogels Osylei

Renaat Braem was very active in the protection plan for the Antwerp Station and Cogels Osylei as active member of Royal Commission for Monuments and Landscapes

source: www.delcampe.net



A flower that grows right through two faces



Flowers that blossom from a star

Iconography in the Arena district, representing elements of love and happiness
 source: Elisabeth Broekaert and Marie Moors

4. CONCLUSION



(c) Marie Moors



(c) Marie Moors



(c) Elisabeth Broekaert

5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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