

# Converging Currents

## Analysis, 1:10000

### Lack of accessible green and separation of forests

Currently, there are few publicly accessible green or recreational spaces on the site.

Plants grow and thrive on the site, yet they remain disconnected from human interaction and are therefore reduced to their ecological value.

Even though nature is close, with the black forest right there, direct access and connection to nature lacks severely.

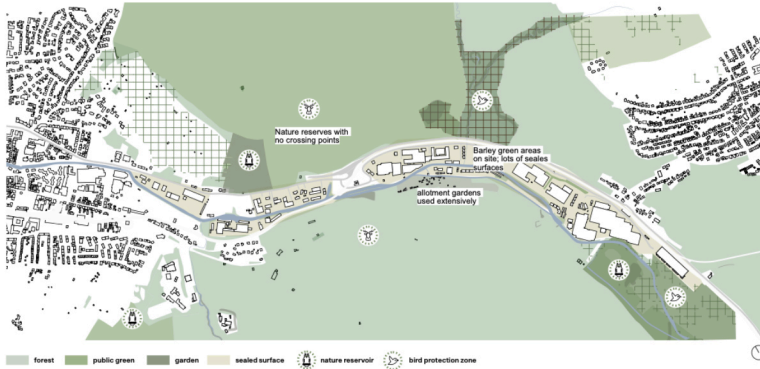
Numerous nature reserves surround the site. The northern ones, as well as the extended forest reaching until Karlsruhe and Durlach are cut by sealed surfaces, buildings, fences and roads on this site.



Valley separates woods and nature reserves



No accessible recreational green spaces



### The valley as a mobility corridor

With a short commute to Ettlingen, Karlsruhe and surrounding towns like Busenbach, the site is exceptionally well connected.

A lot of people pass through this valley day by day, yet few linger.

The site is well connected by car and tram but needs improvement for bikes and pedestrians passing through.

An attractive car-free path up the valley does not exist, so the numerous mountain bikers, road bikers and commuters go along the road.

The few pedestrian paths that do exist go around the large private lots, which are mostly off-limits for the public.

Most buildings at the spinning mill have a confusing entry situation.



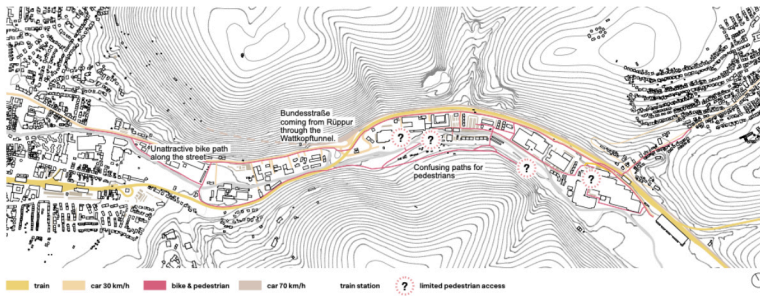
Prioritization of cars



Disorientation



Limited access for pedestrians



### Structures built for cars, logistics, industry and... living?

The structures on the site tell a story of the history of this place and seem to indicate a sort of confusion about what it role it plays today and what role it will play in the future.

The older industrial buildings were built with a high quality and local materials. They form most of the identity the site possesses.

More recent buildings are mostly purpose-built industrial halls or affordable housing, leading to a patchwork buildings that try to match in scale, use or quality. Often with no context or relationships between the different buildings.

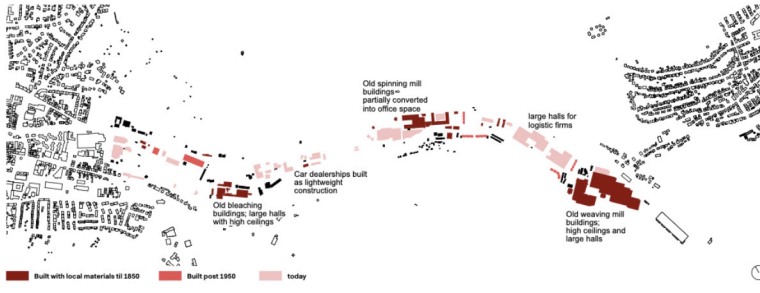
The old factory buildings have a high potential for housing new uses, but remain in use today.



Local building materials



Industrial heritage



### The Alb river: (un)tapped potentials

The potentials for the Alb river that were perceived by people changed multiple times over time. From transporting logs to mills to hydroelectric stations, today most uses on the site stand in no connection to the river right next to them.

There are only few locations where a direct relationship to the Alb enriches public spaces or buildings.

Today, there is no pathway along long stretches of the river with most of the riverbanks directly bordering random commercial areas.

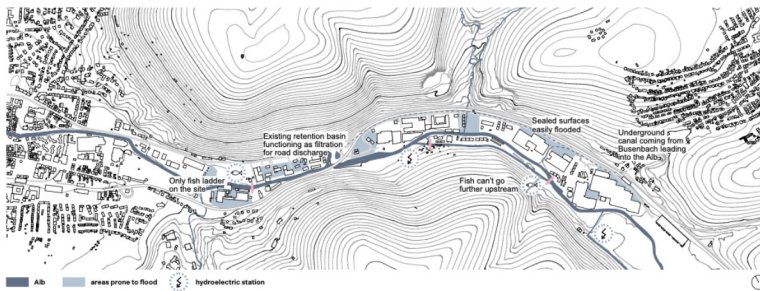
This leads to the Alb being perceived as a spatial border, not a connector.



The Alb as a border



Limited access to the Alb



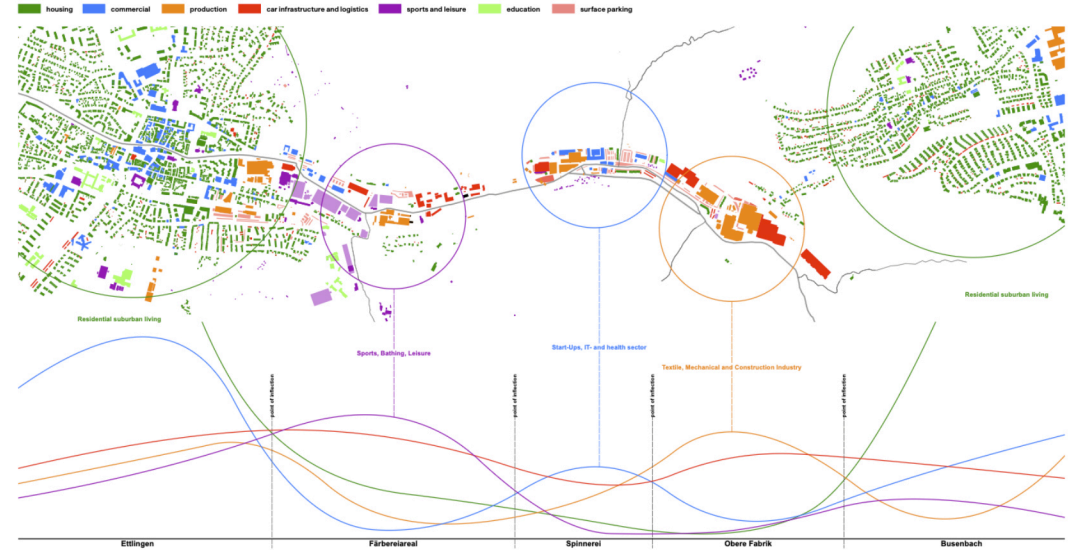
### Functions - Status Quo

While Ettlingen and Busenbach offer lots of residential space and connected commercial centers, only few people live on our site today.

In the functional analysis, we conclude that there is a high abundance of car dealerships, surface parking lots and logistics centers, offering no attraction at all.

Apart from that, there are accumulations of functions around our designated attraction points: three distinct identities have formed today, though they stay diluted, separated from another.

With a selective approach we want to question some uses, such as the logistics centers, and strengthen the presence of others.

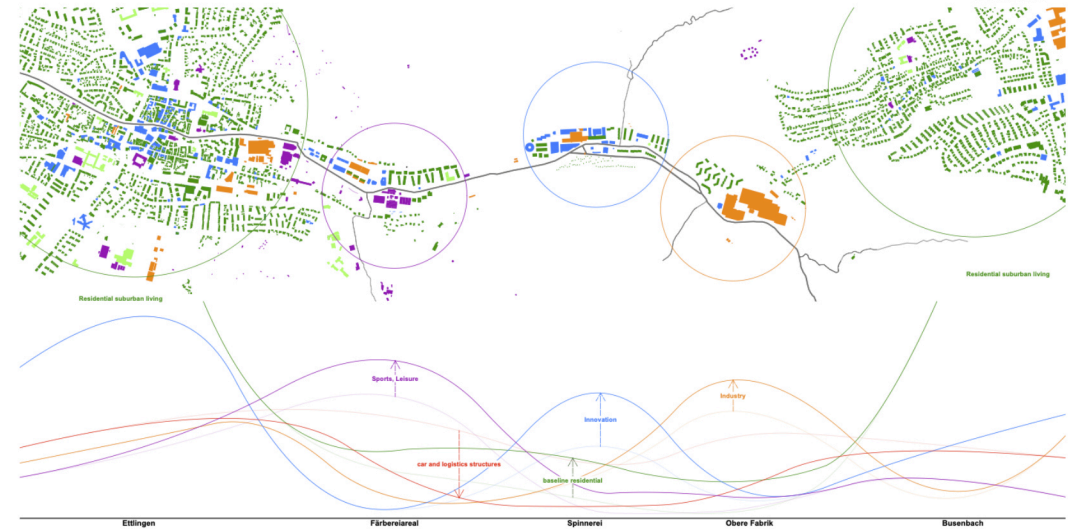
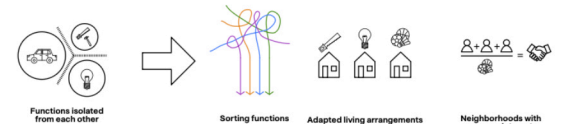


### Functions - Enhanced

Deconstructing or reusing the excess of car structures, we raise the baseline residential and create a potential connecting residential zones of Ettlingen and Busenbach. The existing functions of future potential are concentrated in the respective former industrial buildings, using them to strengthen a local identity.

Adding to these functions, we propose adapted types of residential buildings, bringing interested user groups closer to the place that fulfills them.

These neighborhoods are designed in a way to encourage connection between people that already have common interests, creating a stronger sense of community.



# Converging Currents

## Concept Layers, 1:5000

### Public spaces and connecting (to) nature

We aim to connect the people on the site with nature by introducing attractive recreational green spaces and also by strengthening the relationship with the surrounding forests.

By connecting the forests in the north and the south using unsealed at two points, animals and plants can cross the valley again. This is also tangible for residents as they cross the renaturalised sections in between the subcenters.

New residential units are conceived with a special relationship to the nature around them.

At these renaturalised sections, the Alb riverbank is extended and renaturalised, offering habitats and nurseries for numerous species.

At the new thematic subcenters, individual public places offer different experiences at each center.



Connecting green via partially renaturalizing the Alb



Accessible recreational green spaces along the water



Creating individual places

### Re-prioritization of bikes and public transit

While the car infrastructure is functional on the site, parking everywhere will be replaced by parking on lots or in garages along the main street. Passing deeper into the structure is only allowed for delivery and guests.

The main introduction is an attractive new bike and pedestrian path along the alb, leading through the different centers of green. This offers a varied experience for commuters and a safer, nicer path for tourists or sports bikers, runners and bikers.

While two of our envisioned subcenters already are home to a tram stop, we propose to add another one at the lower factory, the bleaching mill.

Supporting Ettlingens ambitions to become a car-free city, we offer great public transport and good reasons to choose the bike everyday.



Access to transportation at subcenters



Parking along the main street



Bike and walking paths along Alb

### Developing Subcenters along the Alb

We propose to use the expressional and historically charged existing buildings as an anchor for future development with distinct identity.

Revitalizing these structures is one of the first steps. Their reuse will be focused on a "selective remix" they absorb what surrounds them and has a future at this location. Then, they serve as specialized local hubs, concentrating and potentiating what is there and improving on it.



Subcenters at industrial heritage



Revival and Transformation

### The Alb as the common thread

The Alb river is everywhere on the site, making it one of the few constants.

We aim to elevate the river from just flowing through the site to interlacing with it.

By creating different access points along the river with individual relationships to the water, we connect the people and the buildings to the Alb. Therefore, in a more abstract way, we create a subconscious sense of unity of the different subcenters. A barrier becomes a connector.

Additionally, all added buildings will divert the rainwater to the river, reducing the burden on sewers and keeping clean water in the environment.

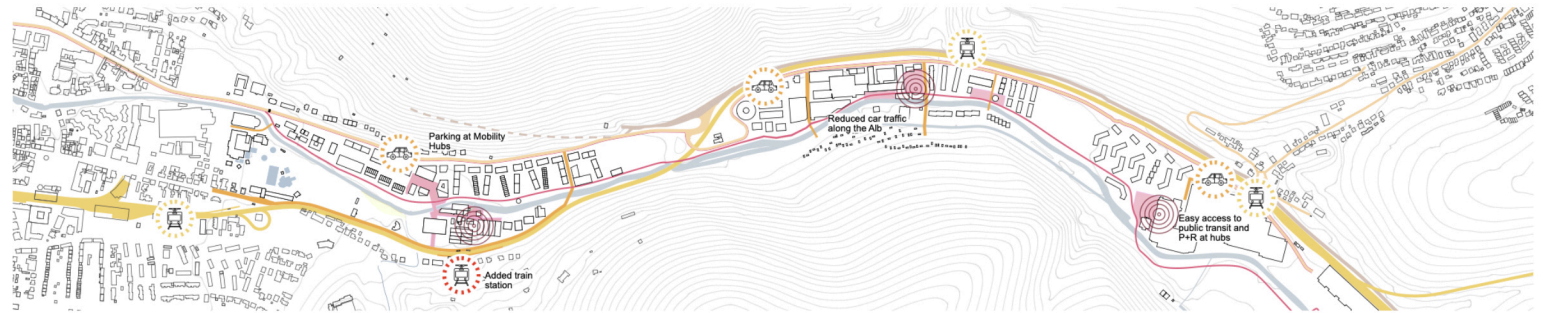
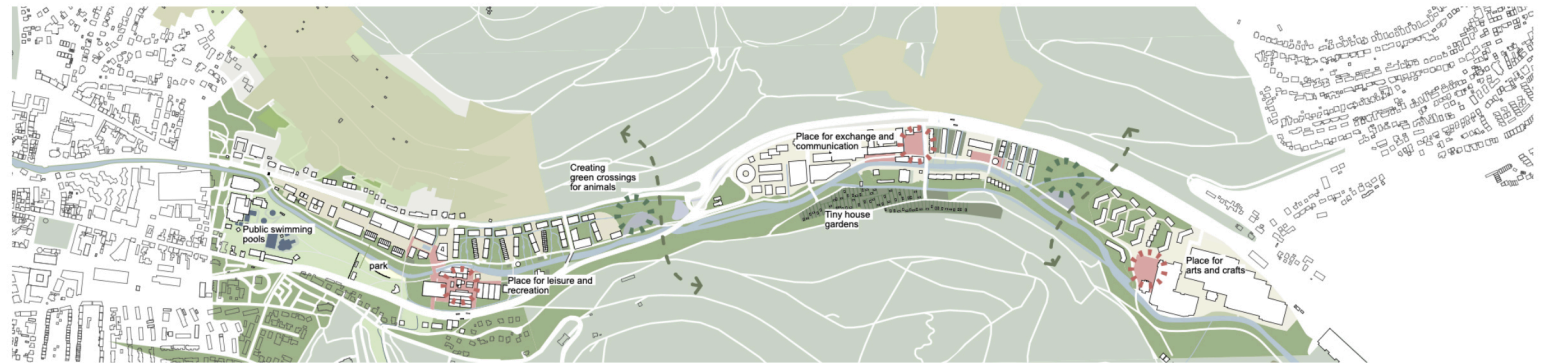
Other interventions include new retention areas and an improved road discharge filtration system.



Access points to the Alb



The Alb as a connecting tool

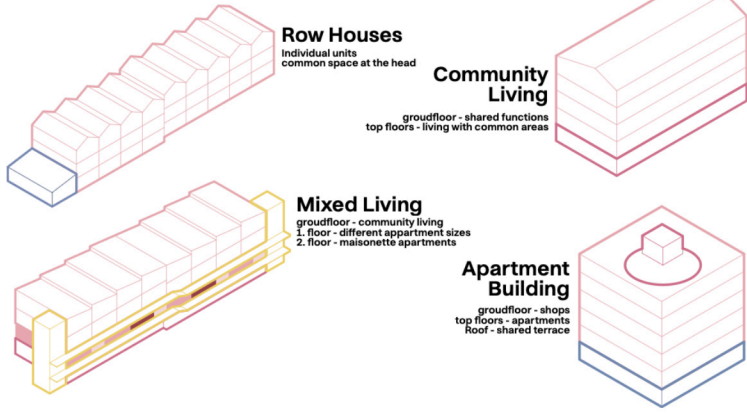




# Converging Currents

## Converging Housing

Typologies ■ Commercial ■ Access ■ Housing ■ Community



Perspective - common naturalized yard

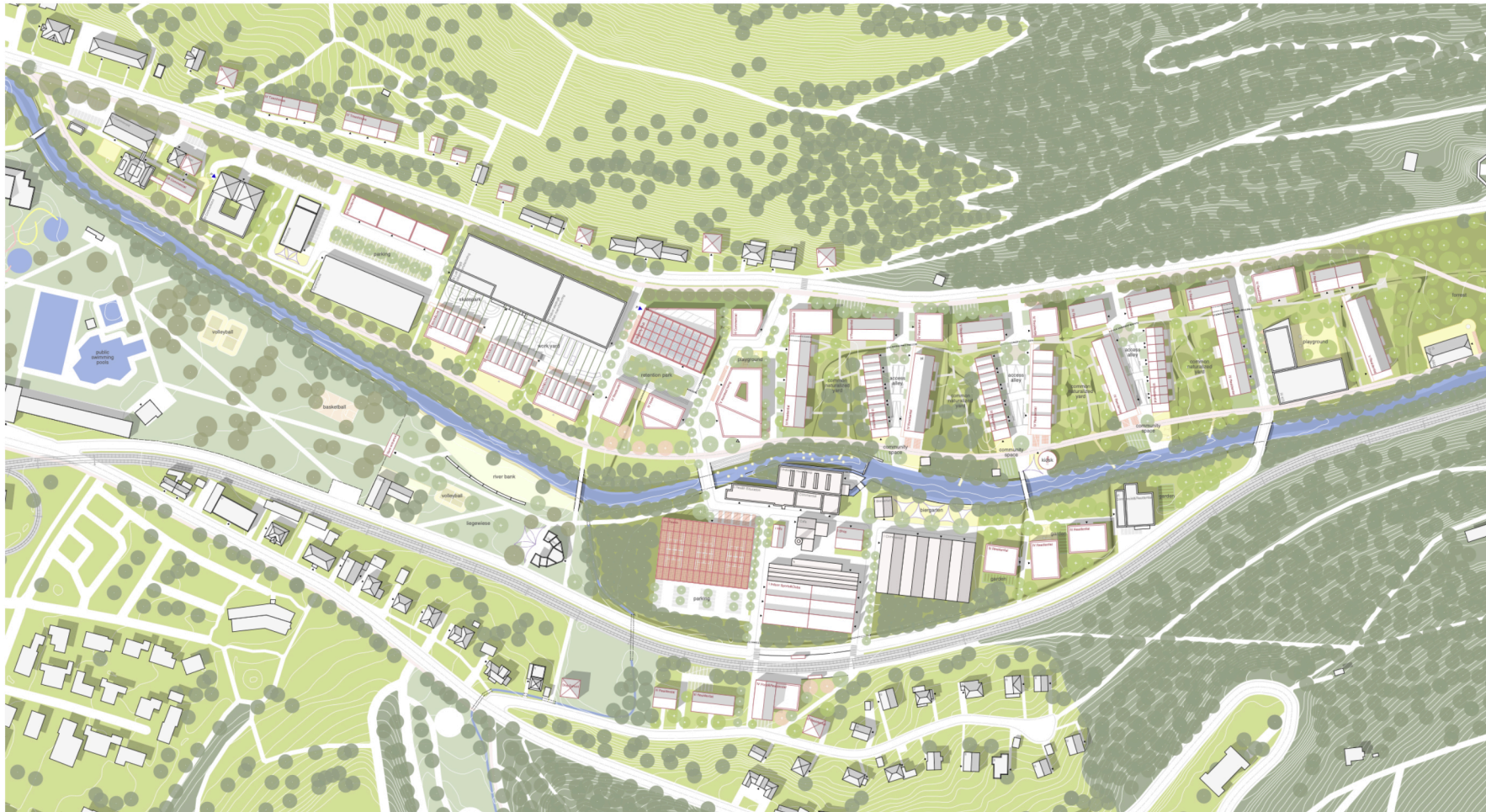


Zoom In 1: 200



Section 1: 200

# Converging Currents

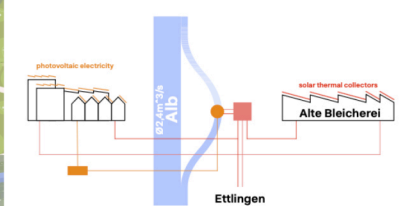


Masterplan 1: 1000

## Altes Bleicherei Areal

At the heart of our project lies the transformation of the old bleaching mill, which we aim to restructure and repurpose as a central anchor that strengthens and reinterprets the site's existing identities rooted in sports, commerce, housing, and recreation. In combination with the adjacent public swimming pool and the accessible riverfront, this area is envisioned as a vibrant social hub, made more accessible through the introduction of a new train stop and a deliberate densification strategy in its immediate surroundings. A newly designed central axis will extend from this tram stop to Pforzheimer Straße, guiding movement through a revitalized urban core that integrates public uses, a mobility hub, and assisted living facilities, all contributing to a well-connected and inclusive district. On the current site of the logistics center and supermarket, we propose a diverse mix of intensified commercial functions and innovative housing forms that interact with the existing large-scale retail structures, while the repurposed logistics hall and new workshop-maisonettes form a lively courtyard for urban production, sport, and events. Central to our spatial strategy is a locally adapted housing typology that merges multiple dwelling styles around two courtyards—one active and connected to the public path network along the Alb, the other quieter and ecologically embedded—fostering a strong sense of diversity and neighborhood interaction.

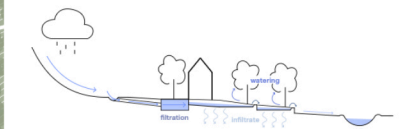
## Energy concept



The existing private infrastructure, including the dam on the river Alb, the intake channel, and the former generator hall of the former factory power station, is repurposed for communal use. We propose to use regulatory reclassification to transfer water rights previously granted for hydropower generation toward renewable heat production for the public.

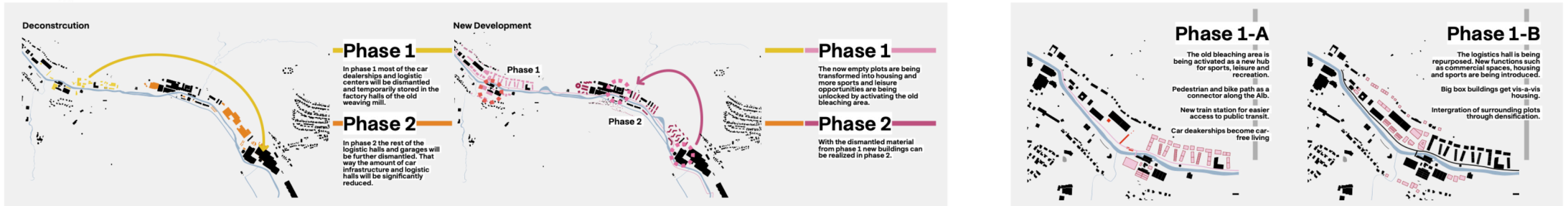
River water (average flow: 2.38m³/s, ranging seasonally from ~0.8 to over 3m³/s) is fed through the intake channel into a large-scale heat pump housed in the former turbine hall. This setup provides up to 6MW of thermal output in winter and 2-3MW in summer. Supplemented by photovoltaic electricity and solar thermal input, the system supplies a 40°C low-temperature district heating network serving over 1,000 residents. Thermal storage and smart control enable year-round heating and summer cooling, using the river as a stable renewable energy source now dedicated to communal climate resilience.

## Rainwater concept



Our semi-natural stormwater management system intercepts runoff from both a hillside and adjacent roadway. Roadwater passes through gully inlets equipped with sediment and hydrocarbon filters before merging with hillside runoff in a subsurface filtration zone composed of engineered soil layers and drainage gravel. The system promotes infiltration and pollutant removal through physical, chemical, and biological processes. Treated water flows into a vegetated retention swale for further infiltration and ecological integration, merging there with the roof water of our new development. Overflow is safely discharged into the Alb during peak events.

## Phasing



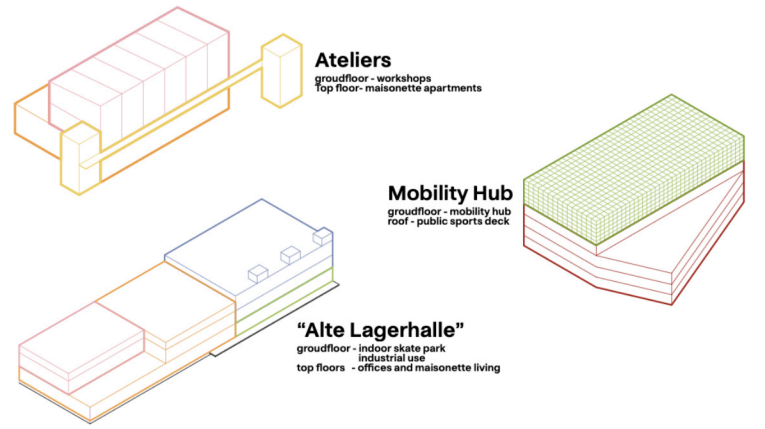
# Converging Currents

## Work Yard



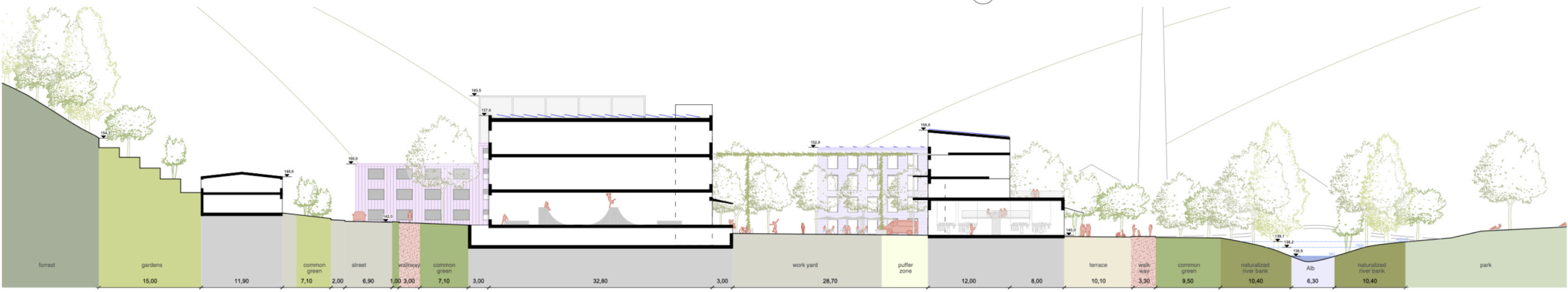
### Typologies

- Workshops
- Housing
- Access
- Sports
- Parking
- Commercial



Zoom In 1: 200

Perspective - Workshops



Section 1: 200