

Slopes and Streams

Alb + Enter



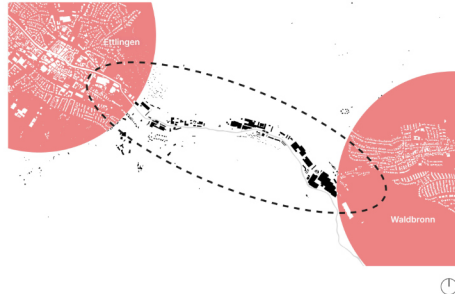
Agency: ...

Context

Bottle Neck - Entrance to the Black Forest 1:75.000



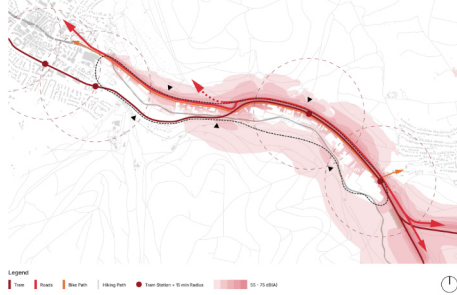
Connective Space - Place of passing through 1:15.000



Chair for International Urban Planning and Design - Prof. Dr. Barbara Engel

Analysis

Mobility - Analysis 1:12.000



As of today, the Spitzere area is primarily a place of transit. It serves as part of many people's journey into the Black Forest. While mobility through the valley sections of the Alb valley is mostly linear, it consists of various overlapping mobility patterns. These patterns are undulating and occasionally intersect. Such intersections can enhance connectivity and in this case, they also lead to challenges. For example, the intersection of a main road and a side road is not marked and is not present for pedestrians. Although the site has an abundance of mobility infrastructure, it is predominantly designed for cars. This

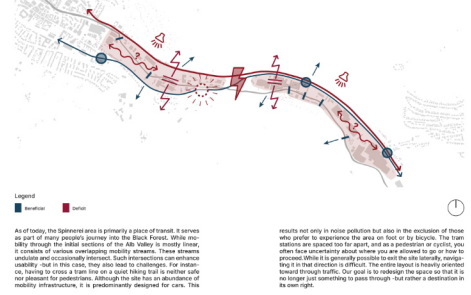
Greenspace - Analysis 1:12.000



Despite the valley serving as a gateway to the Black Forest and being situated between two wooded hillsides, it is surprisingly unshaded and lacks in vegetation - or public green spaces, for that matter. This is partly a result of car-oriented mobility, but also due to historical and developmental factors. The Black Forest has long been an area of mobility through forests and timber cutting and evolved into what we see today: large residential buildings surrounded by paved streets we aim to make the part of the valley more attractive and sustain-

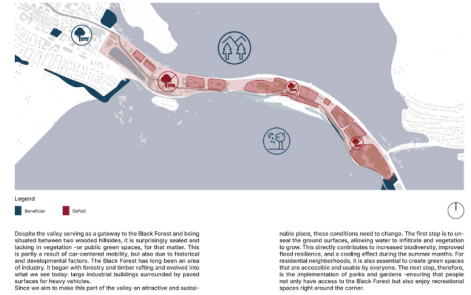
Potentials

Mobility - Potentials 1:12.000



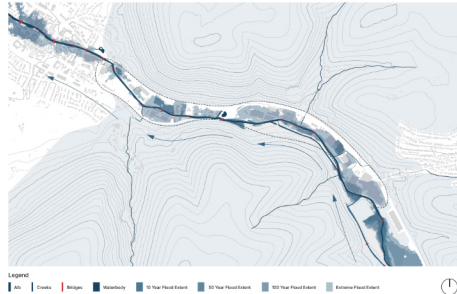
results not only in noise pollution but also in the exclusion of those who prefer to experience the area on foot or by bicycle. The main stations are spaced too far apart, and as a pedestrian or cyclist, you often face uncertainty about where you are allowed to go or how to proceed. While it is generally possible to exit the valley locally, navigating it in that direction is difficult. The road layout is heavily oriented toward through traffic. Our goal is to leverage the space so that it is no longer just something to pass through - but either a destination in its own right.

Greenspace - Potentials 1:12.000



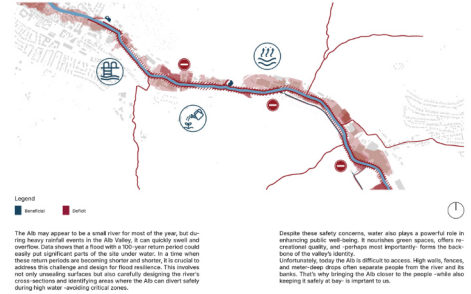
While these conditions need to change, the first step is to surround the ground network, allowing water to infiltrate and vegetation to grow. This directly contributes to increased biodiversity, improved flood retention, and a cooling effect during the summer months. For residential neighborhoods, it is also essential to create green spaces that are accessible and usable for people. The next step, therefore, is the implementation of parks and gardens, ensuring that people not only have access to the Black Forest but also enjoy recreational spaces right around the corner.

Water - Analysis 1:12.000



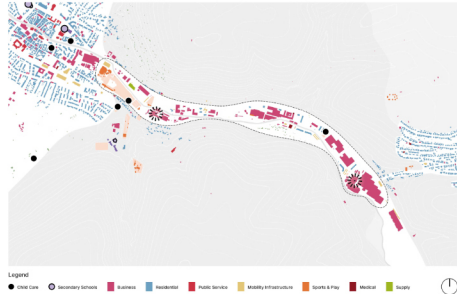
The Alb may appear to be a small river for most of the year, but during heavy rainfall events in the Black Forest, it can quickly swell and overflow. Data shows that a flood with a 100-year return period could reach a significant level of the site under water. In times when these return periods are becoming shorter and shorter, it is crucial to address these challenges and design for flood resilience. This involves not only assessing surfaces but also carefully designing the river's cross-sections and identifying areas where the Alb can divert safely during high water-revolving critical years.

Water - Potentials 1:12.000



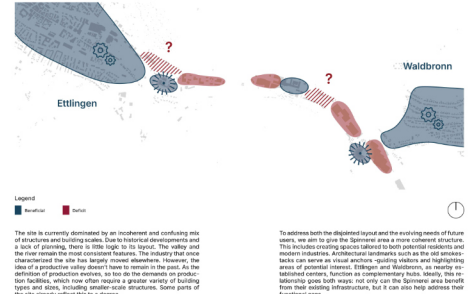
Despite these safety concerns, water also plays a powerful role in redefining public space, creating green spaces, enhancing recreational quality, and - perhaps most importantly - forms the backbone of the valley's identity. Unfortunately, today the Alb is difficult to access. High walls, fences, and other structures often separate people from the river and its banks. That's why bringing the Alb closer to the people - while also keeping it safely in place - is important to us.

Uses - Analysis 1:12.000



The site is currently dominated by an incoherent and confusing mix of structures and building scales. Due to historical developments and a lack of planning, there is little logic to its layout. The valley and the river remain the most consistent features. The history that once characterized the site has largely faded elsewhere. However, the idea of a productive valley center's heart to remain in the heart. As the definition of production evolves, so do the demands on production facilities, which now often require a greater variety of building types and sizes, including smaller-scale structures. Some parts of the site already reflect this in a program.

Uses - Potentials 1:12.000



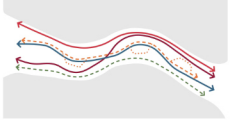
To address both the dispersed layout and the evolving needs of future users, we aim to give the Spitzere area a more coherent structure. This includes creating spaces tailored to both general purposes and specific programs. Elements and structures, as well as anchor points, can serve as visual anchors, guiding visitors and highlighting areas of particular interest. Edges and boundaries, as well as focal centers, function as complementary tools. Ideally, this relationship goes both ways: not only can the Spitzere area benefit from their existing infrastructure, but it can also help address their functional gaps.

Blue-green transformation: water-sensitive strategies for the Spitzere Hill area in Ettlingen

Alex Ehrhart, Ignaz Wink - Summer 2025

Elements & Rules

Streams - Framework of flow



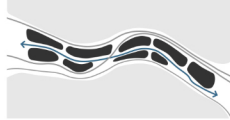
The reigning **Streams** of water and traffic compel a picture of continuous flow and accessibility. That is something we want to harness and develop further. Our proposal adds a complementary stream to the existing ones, mainly addressing the needs arising from the 'Spatio-temporal' on the map in addition to being an attractive entrance to the ABB.

Rules

- Ensure continuity and accessibility of all **Streams**
- Offer a variety of options for movement in the valley besides the car
- Create an additional pedestrian and bicycle stream that follows the **Alb**
- Streams can have offshoots that always circle back to one of the main **Streams**



Stepping Stones - Rhythm by way of structure



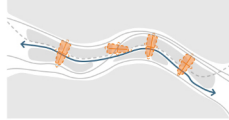
Having identified areas of different qualities and functions the logical move is to establish some sort of rhythm. By creating an **Alb** **Stepping Stone** that are evenly spaced by the previously introduced **Streams** we help to form a pattern of distinct neighborhoods that distribute functions and keep existing ones, structuring the site in the process.

Rules

- Each **Stepping Stone** has a focal point that defines its character
- Every **Stepping Stone** combines working and living functions to avoid mono-functionality and ensure consistent use throughout the day
- Grouping and structuring existing functions and structures are preserved
- Buildings with communal functions must exist in every **Stepping Stone**



Interfaces - Gaps at points of connection



The **Stepping Stone** concept leaves gaps that look like further barriers at first glance. By opening up **Interfaces** as sort of connection tissue we want to solve that. They act as interconnectors as well as public space and cross-connectors between the **Streams**. Further more they are points of local transfer. Through added non-linear lines and mobility hubs we are strengthening the usability and readability of the area network.

Rules

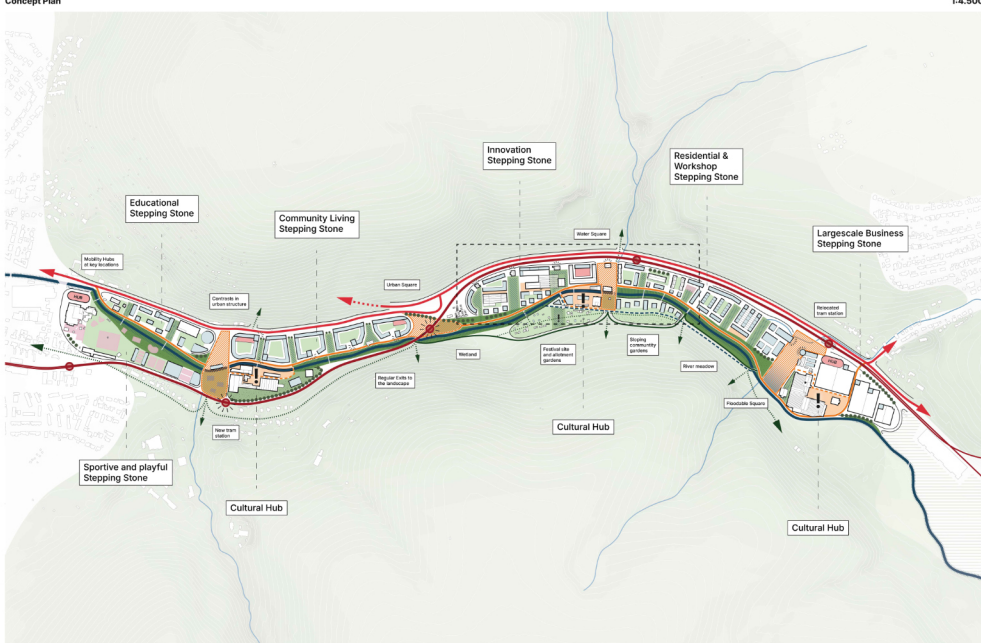
- **Interfaces** at **Intersections Stepping Stone**
- They handle up several of the **Streams**
- The most important mobility and public functions are here
- **Interfaces** offer public open space that can have a quality of characteristics (urban/organic)
- They always implement some sort of visible water feature.



Concept Layers



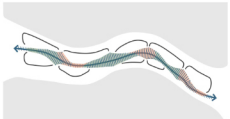
Concept Plan



Legend

- all
- Stream
- Result
- Special Stream
- Cultural Loop
- Urban Fabric
- existing Buildings
- New Buildings
- Mobility Hubs
- Interface
- Green Backbone
- Public Green
- Recreation
- Sports & Play

Edges - Interlocking the river



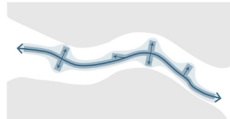
The edges of the **Stepping Stone** have to be able to react to vastly different conditions. In reaction to the surroundings, we have identified two different connecting types of edges. The ones that are impacted by traffic noise act as a more closed urban structure, and ones that are shaped by the **Alb** want to be more open and porous. This can water edge is further specified into two possible topologies of riverbanks. Whose shape and character are different.

Rules

- Closed structure towards loud traffic **Streams**
- Porous to the less different types of riverbanks
- Urban riverbanks that can have cultural loops
- Green riverbanks that offer direct contact with the **Alb** and space for nature



Alb - Main element of identity



The **Alb** plays a big part in the identity and history of the site. The unique qualities that river can bring are distributed by the east channeling of the riverbanks. Flushing remains as before. The **Alb** **Stepping Stone** always enters water of the, but the problem remains that water is abundant at some points, and other times it is scarce. To solve this we imagine a change of the river profile, which goes along with the **Alb** and concept that makes them more flood resistant. Along the way, water distribution is necessary. This can happen at the **Interfaces** and other points on the site.

Rules

- The **Alb** is the center of the developed area
- Major interventions are connected to the **Alb**
- River crossings have to bring flood resistance
- **Interfaces** can act as extensions of river



Green Spine - Resilience through green public space



Firstly, our proposal is to improve the existing greenery alongside the **Alb**, secondly we propose the implementation of green pockets emanating from the **Alb**, creating a **Green Spine** of public green space throughout the site. This ensures a major of regular biotope and leisure opportunities. On top of that, these pockets also act as water retention systems, further enhancing the space resilience to drought.

Rules

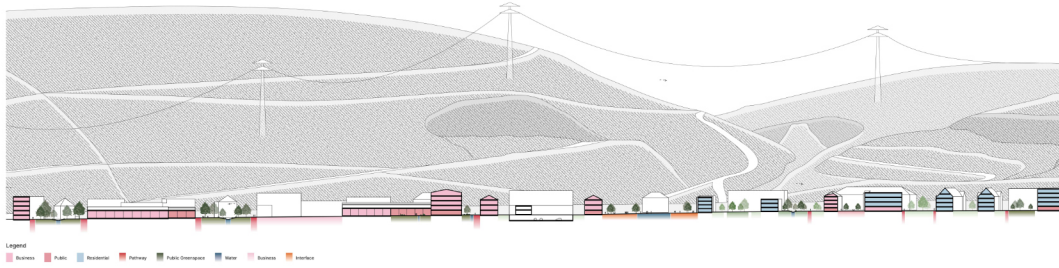
- This **Green Spine** is interlocking with the urban structure
- Public green spaces are always connected to the **Alb**
- They can retain water and have capacity for flood water
- Private green is enclosed by the urban structure to create more intimate situations



Masterplan

Section - Longitudinal

1:1,000



Legend
 Buildings Existing, Buildings New, Central Green, Public Green, Private Green, Trees New, Trees Existing, Water Body, Water Existing

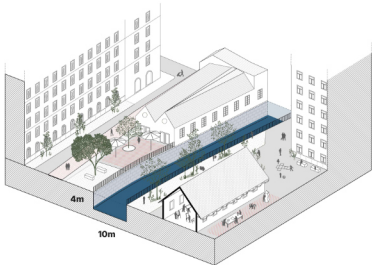
Masterplan

1:1,000

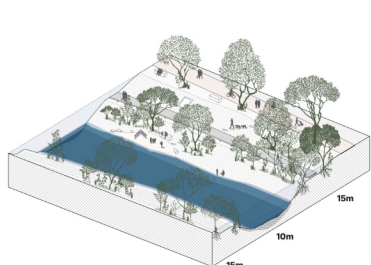


Legend
 Buildings Existing, Buildings New, Central Green, Public Green, Private Green, Trees New, Trees Existing, Water Body, Water Existing

Isometry - Riverbank Crosssection Urban

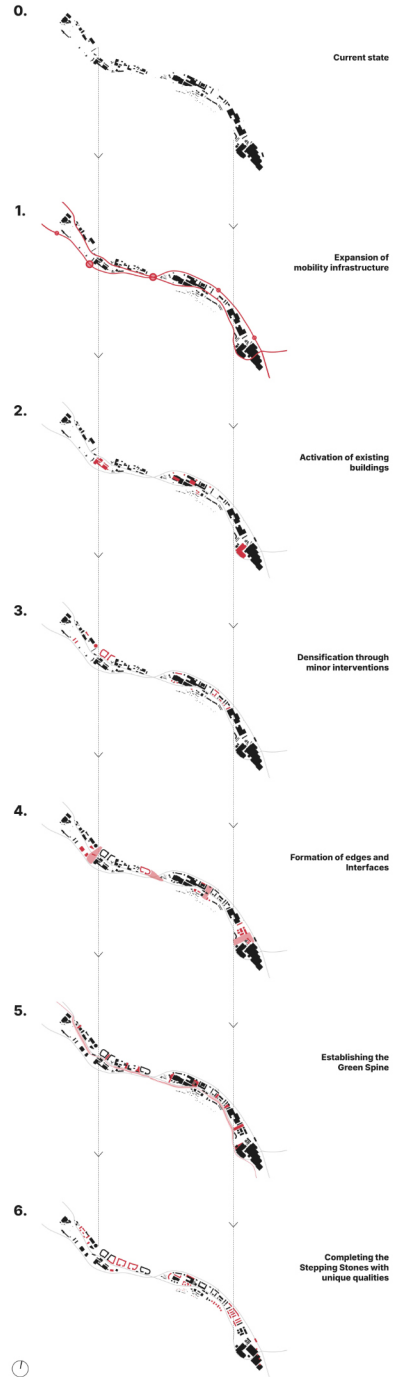


Isometry - Riverbank Crosssection Green



Phasing

3/4

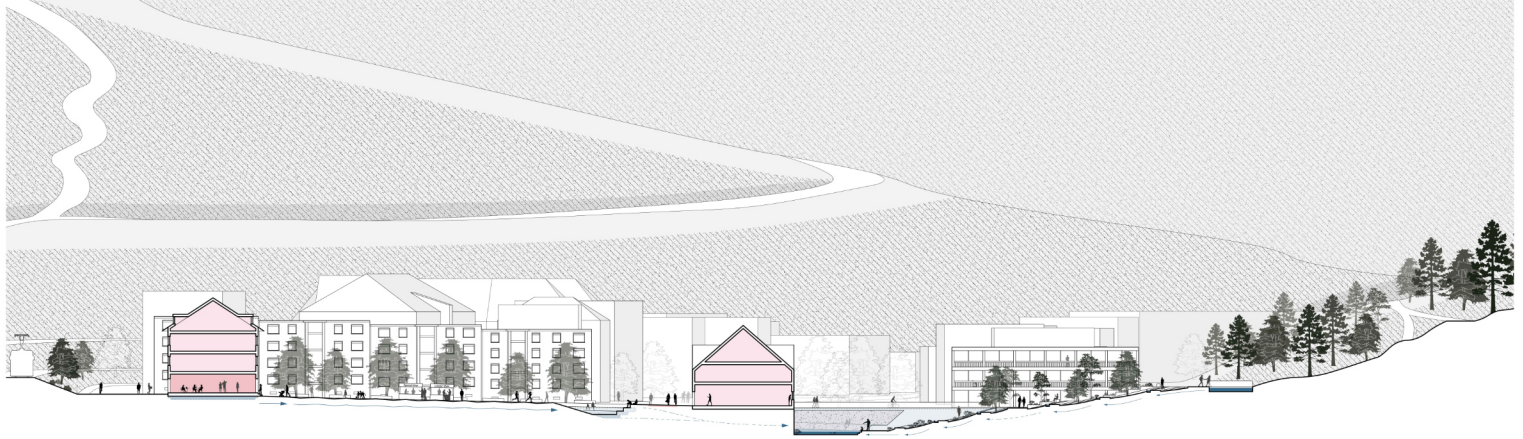


Zoom In - Interface

4/8

Section

1:200



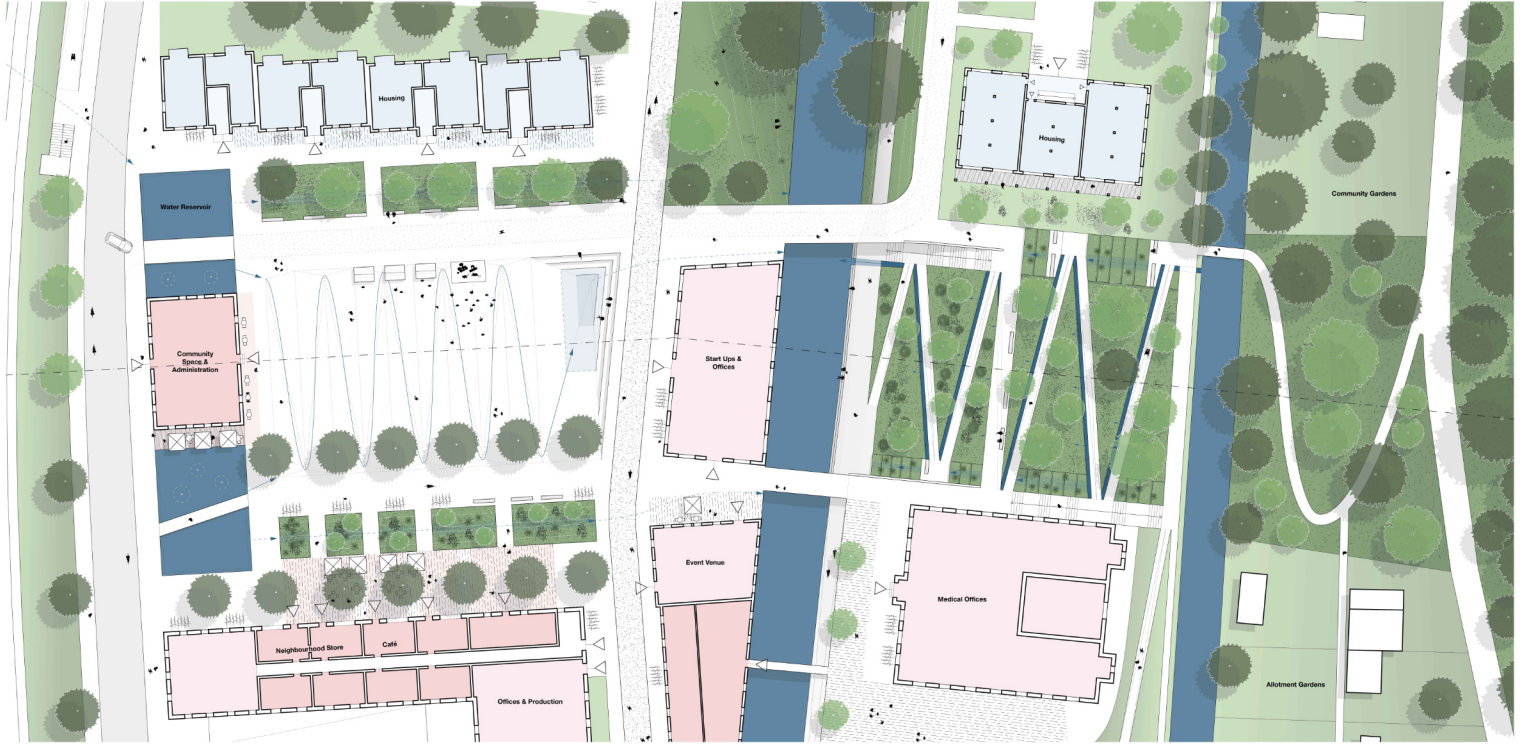
Legend



Floor Plan

Roofs and sealed surfaces contribute an average of approximately 15 m³ of water per day to the reservoir over the course of a month. On a full day of rain, the small creek flowing in from the north can add around 60 m³, with a total capacity of about 250 m³. The reservoir is capable of storing several days' worth of rainwater and can release it as needed. The overflowing water will fill up the pool in the center of the square. The Ab can reach into the southern part of the Interface, and flood parts of it.

1:200



Legend

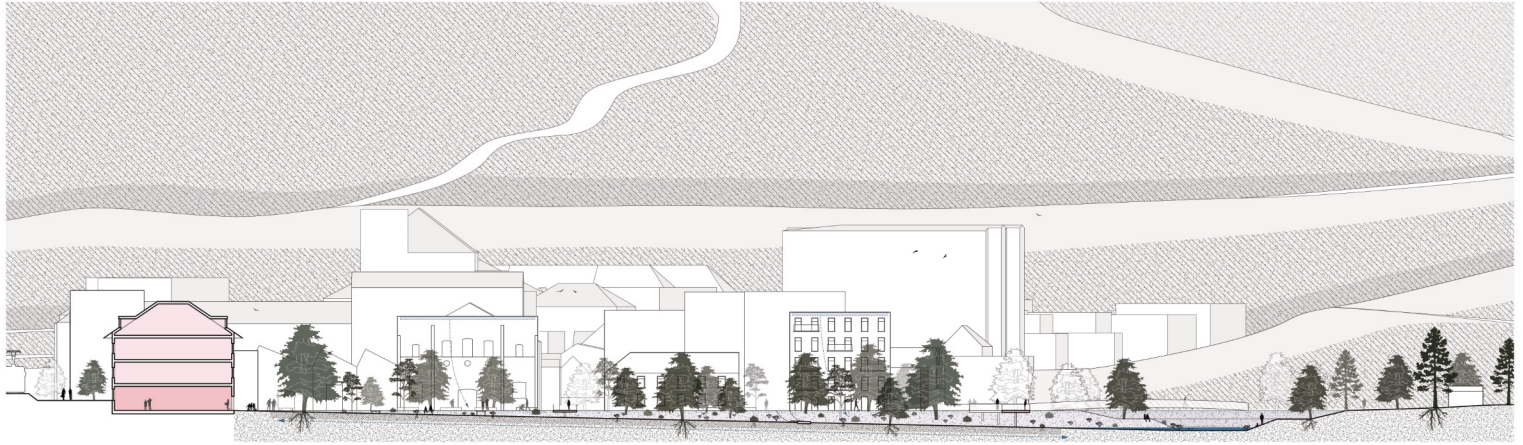


Zoom In - Pocket

5x

Section

1:200

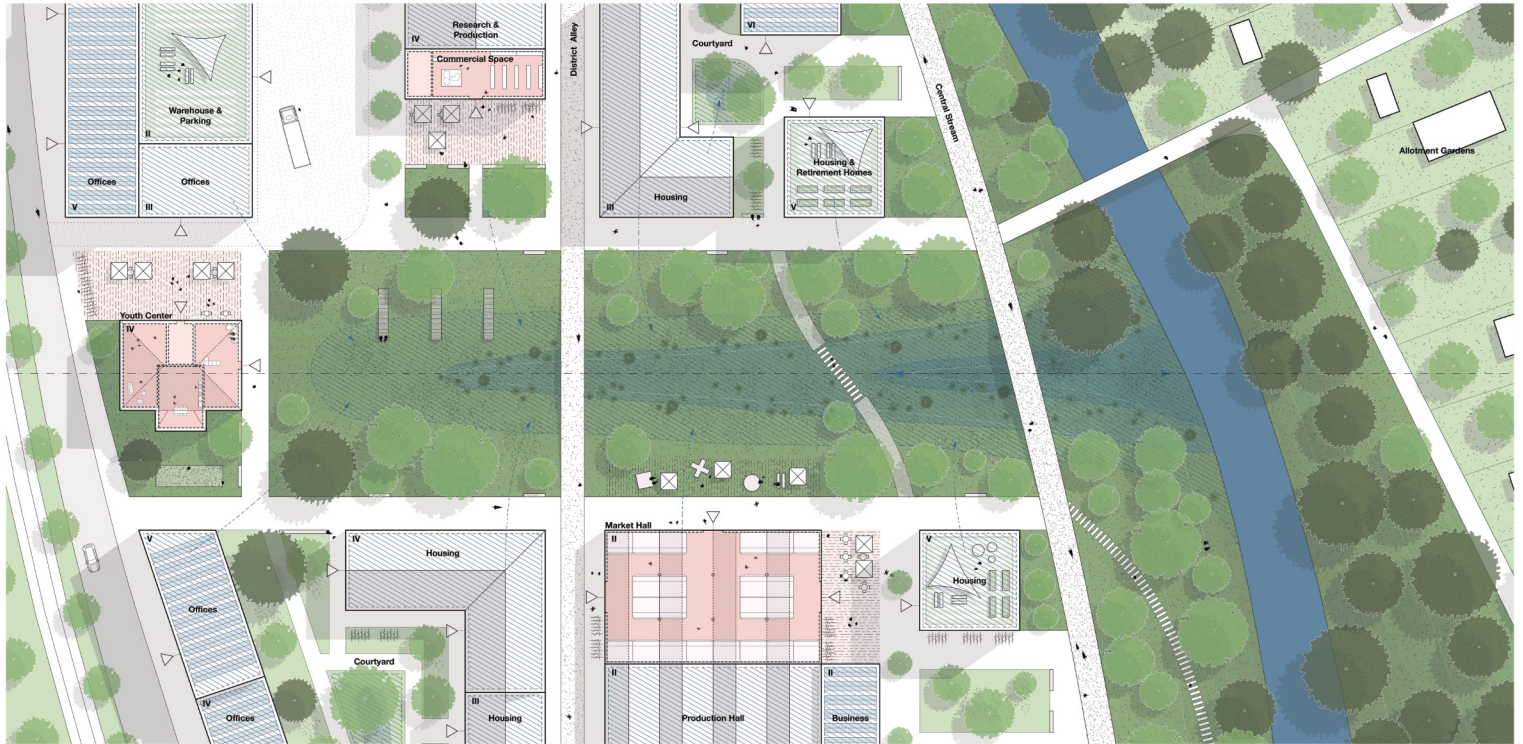


Legend
 ■ Area Of Water ■ Water Drain ■ Water Collection ■ Youth Center

Top View

Roofs and scaled surfaces contribute an average of approximately 25 m³ of water per day to the infiltration basin over the course of a month. The AIB can reach into the southern part of the basin, and flood parts of it.

1:200



Legend
 ■ Area Of Water ■ Water Drain ■ Water Collection ■ Public Function