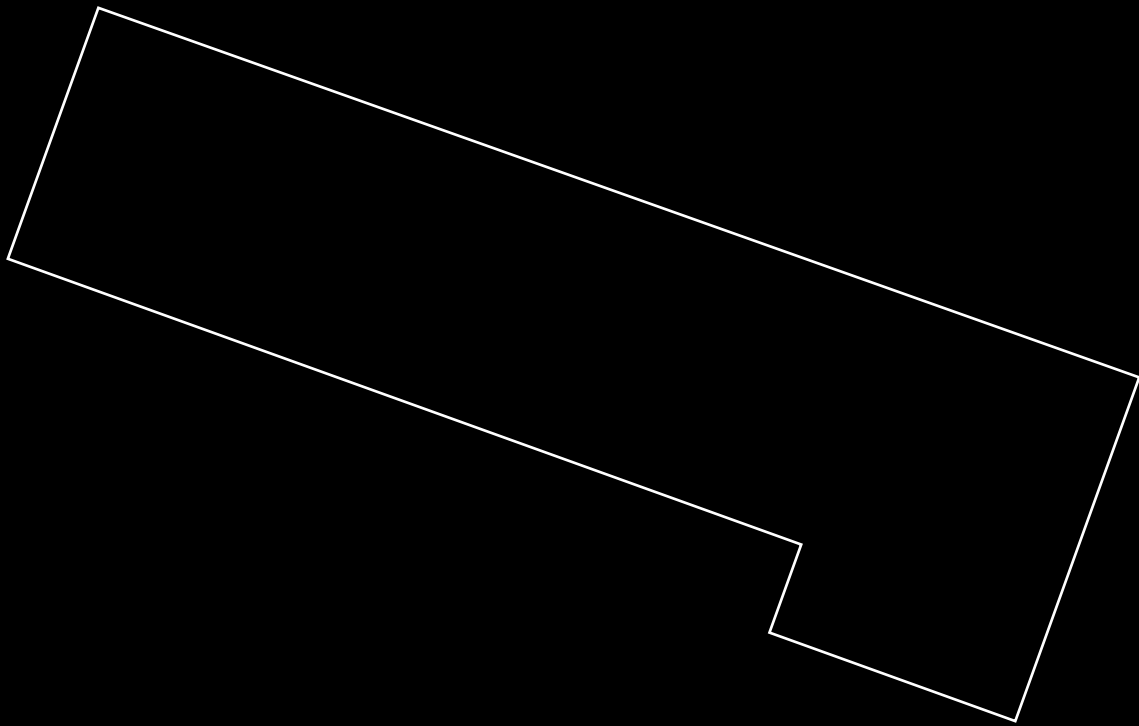


12.2 LA RIBERA

ZELLER & MOYE



ARCHITECTS
Zeller & Moya

CLIENT
Desarrolladora Welt

TEAM
Christoph Zeller (director)
Ingrid Moya (director)
Sohum Bagaria
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Hüseyin Eryigit
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Omar G. Muñoz
Eduardo Palomino

PHOTOGRAPHER
Sergio López

SITE AREA
300m²

AREA
1,200m²

DATE
2015-2022

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING
Ricardo Camacho

LOCATION
Mexico City, Mexico

MEP ENGINEERING
Dimarq Construcción

CONTRACTOR
DIYC Construcción



1. Aerial view, Santa María La Ribera neighbourhood.

A *Vecindad*, a traditional housing typology in Mexico City with simple row houses facing a linear courtyard, is here re-interpreted as a new apartment building for young families. The programme is implemented on a typical narrow but deep plot in the Santa María La Ribera neighbourhood, just a few blocks away from the famous Moorish Pavilion. As a new impulse for its immediate surroundings, the housing development will act as a catalyst for the regeneration of the currently undervalued barrio.

Found as a decaying ruin, parts of the historic 19th-century building were preserved and incorporated into the new structure. The historic façade stands in all its honesty as a fragment of the past, now supported by a contemporary earthquake-resistant structure. The two façades, old and new, create a hybrid that tells the story of the site to passers-by. Inspired by the precedent of the *Vecindad*, a shared courtyard forms the heart of the development as a communal space where neighbours meet and socialise, and children play together outdoors.

Eight apartments are arranged in a row. To avoid inequality between apartments, each is designed as a townhouse, vertically arranged across three floors and a rooftop terrace. Large south-facing windows overlook the green courtyard and allow for panoramic views from the top floor over the rooftops of the neighbourhood. All apartments are accessed from the shared courtyard. With a living area and open-plan kitchen on the ground floor, each apartment becomes progressively more private with each floor. A private staircase at the rear of each apartment connects all floors and the roof. A glazed skylight provides natural light to the staircase below. Individual private terraces on the roof allow for outdoor living, taking advantage of the warm Mexican climate.

The free distribution of windows along the solid concrete façades ensures that each apartment is unique and each room is different, with window positions optimised for specific outdoor views. The large windows provide ample daylight in the living areas, as well as unobstructed views to the courtyard and the city. The construction principles include a structural concrete frame with concrete block walls as infill.

The robust concrete structure is left exposed without any additional finishes. Its exterior is hand-polished, revealing the mixed composition of the white concrete with small stone aggregates, as well as the beauty of local stones in pink and brown tones. The concrete block walls on the inside are painted white, avoiding any additional plaster finish. The block pattern of the

walls remains visible inside the apartments. Terrazzo tiles with local marble stones, traditionally used in market halls, provide a floor that keeps the interior cool and requires little maintenance.

Mexico City's intense heat is mitigated by the building's solid façade and hand-polished white concrete walls with local marble aggregates. The bright façade reflects direct sunlight, keeping the interior spaces cool throughout the day, avoiding the use of mechanical systems. The façade windows, combined with a vertical roof opening, provide natural cross-ventilation throughout the vertical townhouse by creating a chimney effect across all three levels, releasing excess hot air to the roof level. Similarly, all openings provide natural light to the front and rear of all rooms, reducing the need for artificial lighting. The neighbourhood regularly suffers from flooding during rainy seasons, so an additional underground water tank was considered to collect rainwater via an overflow for re-use in irrigation and cleaning.

An existing ahuehuate tree in front of the main façade provides a natural noise buffer between the busy street and the two apartments facing east. The flamboyant tree creates a layer of privacy like a natural curtain, while providing all apartments with an attractive view. A vertical garden along the adjacent wall shields the courtyard from the neighbouring buildings and provides a calm and green backdrop that contrasts with the juggernaut landscape of the Colonia.



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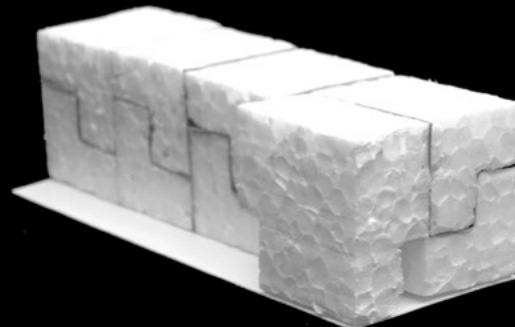
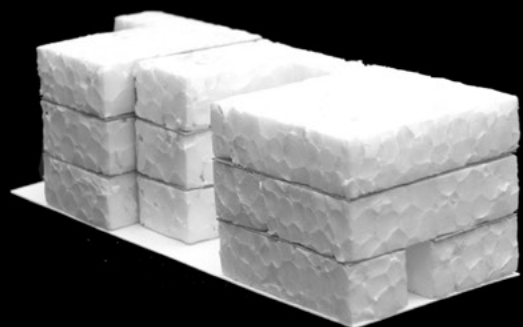
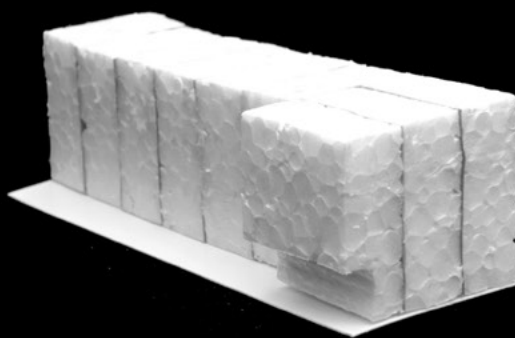
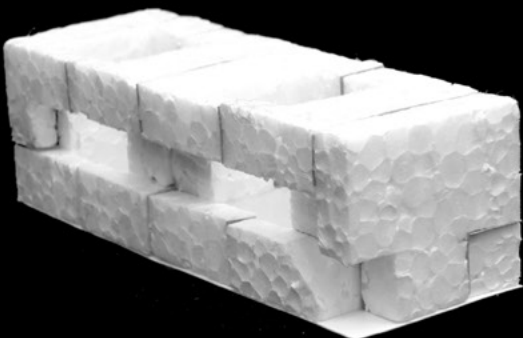
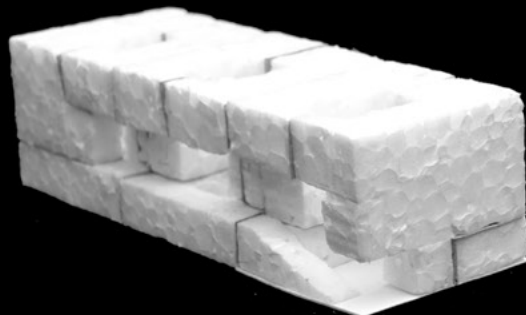
2-3. Traditional *vecindades* from the neighbourhood were an inspiration to the project. Their communal patios provide access to the residences, whilst allowing for surveillance, for neighbours to meet each other, and for children to play together.

4. A section of the façade and of the first room were the only parts that could be rescued from the otherwise vanishing historical building.

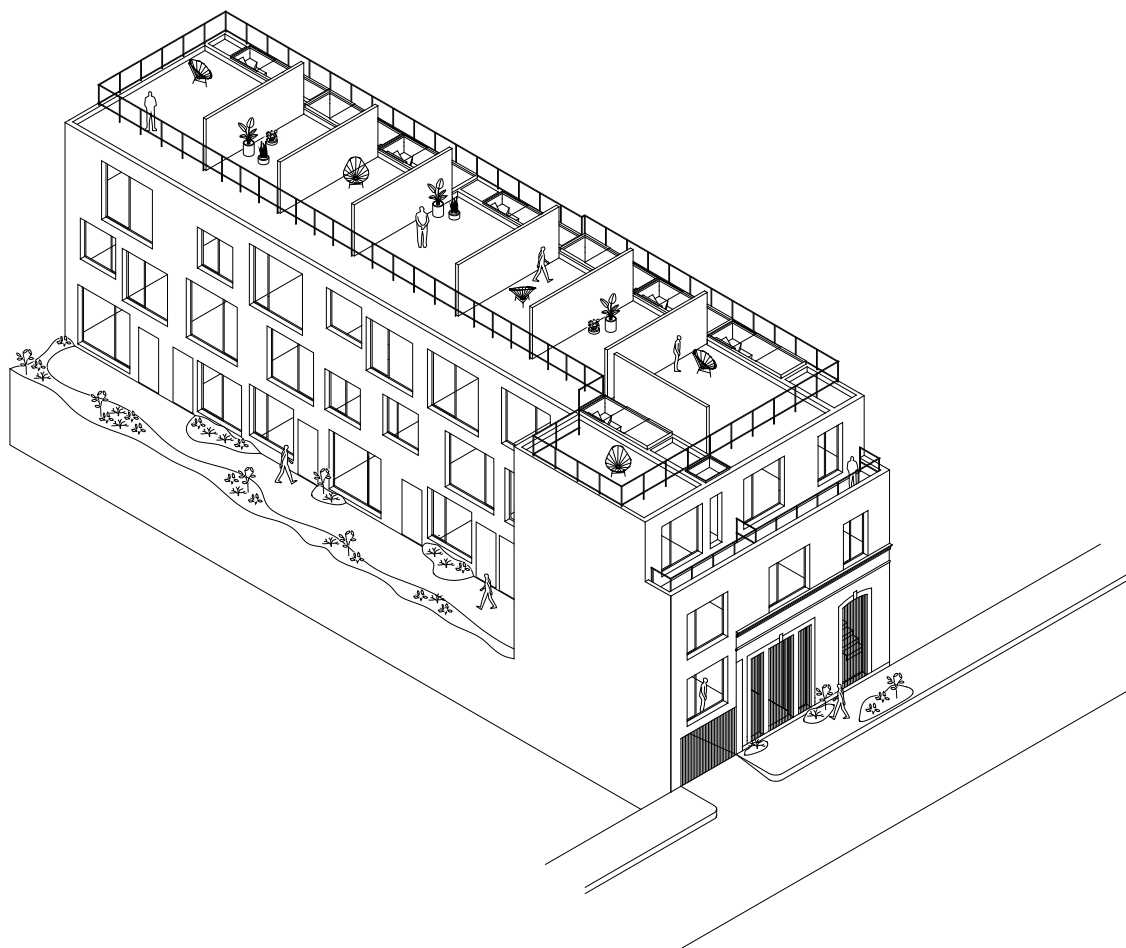
5. Our project contemplated the restoration of the historical façade and first room, expressed as a simple juxtaposition of two periods.



5.



6. Study models, street view.



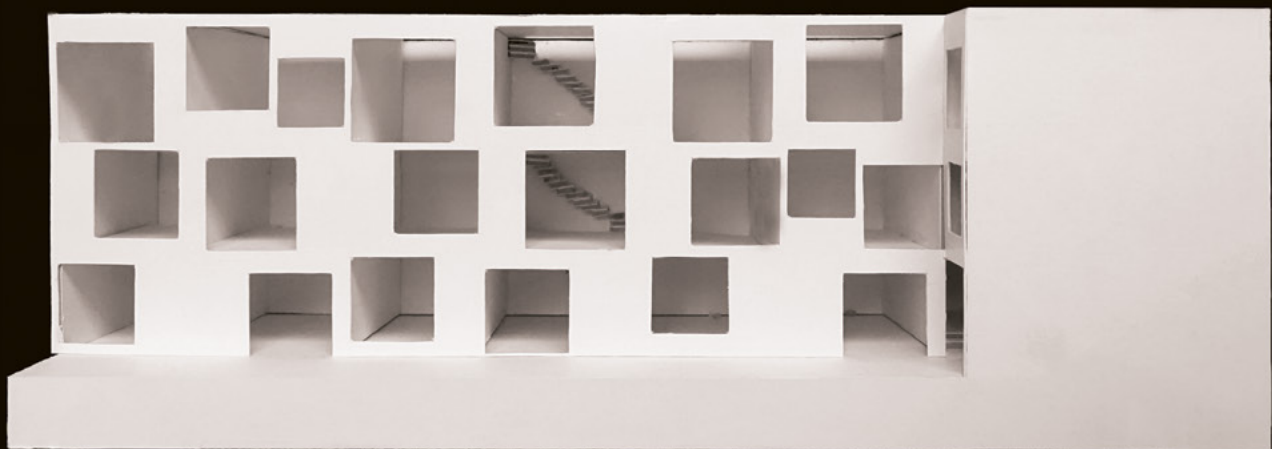
7. Isometric, street view.



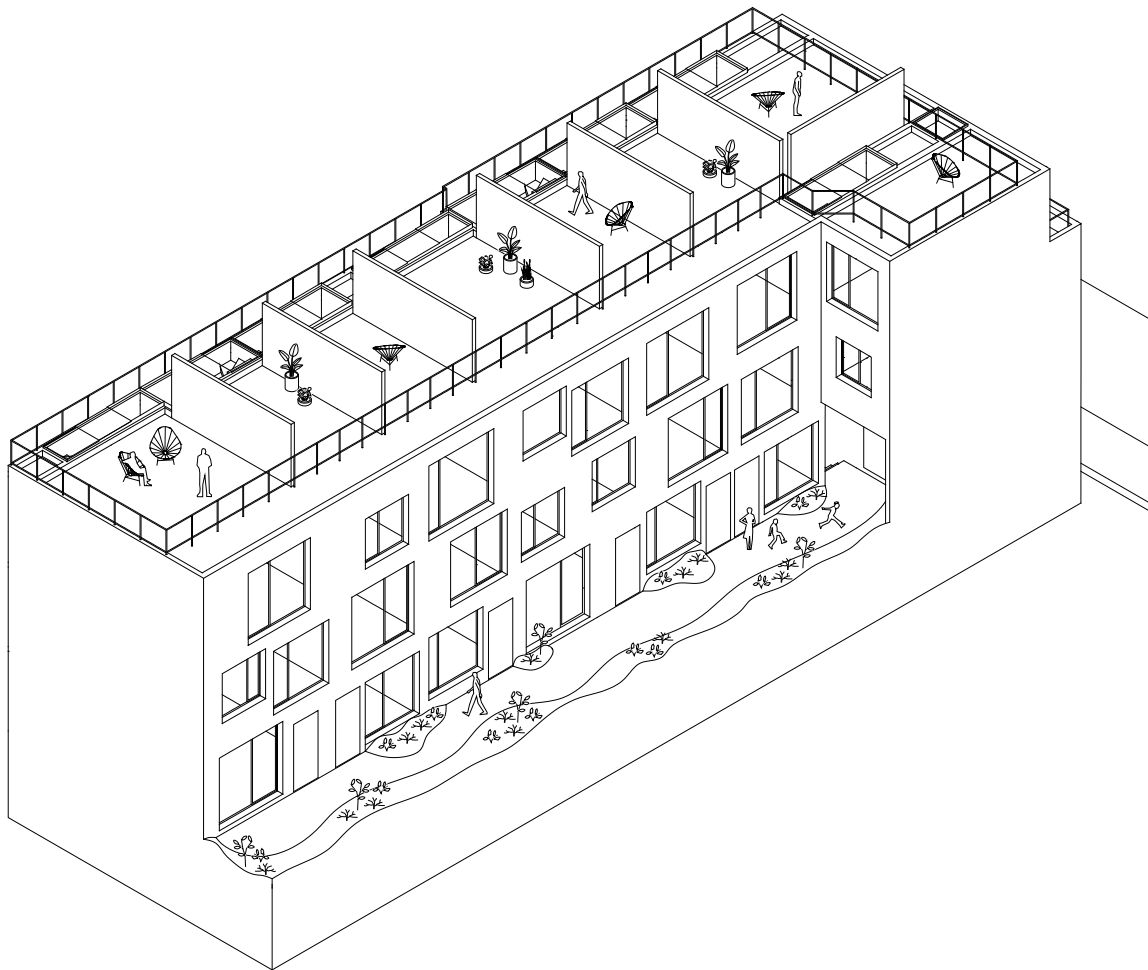
8. External view, communal patio with access to all flats.



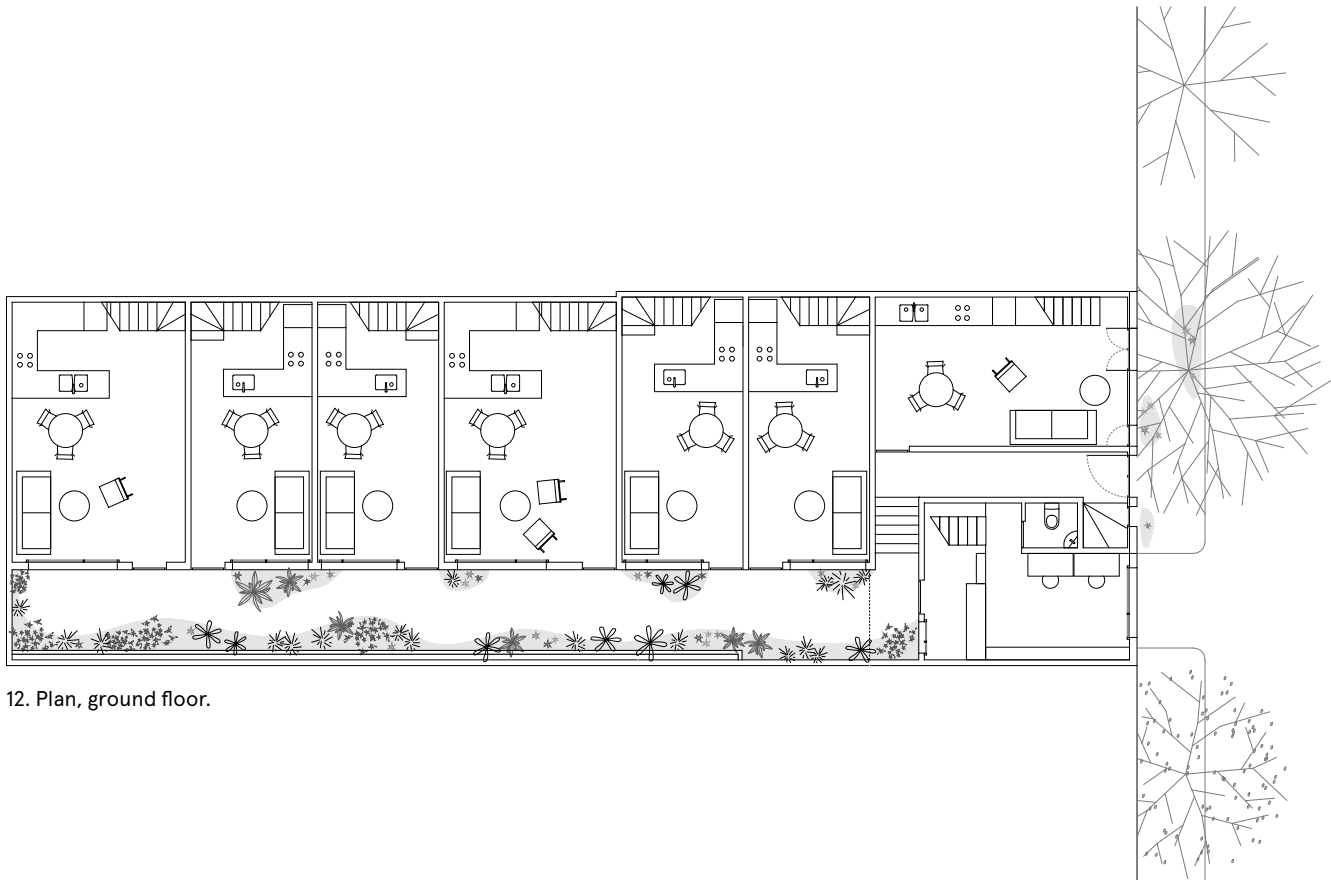
9. Interior view from the living room of a flat at the ground floor.



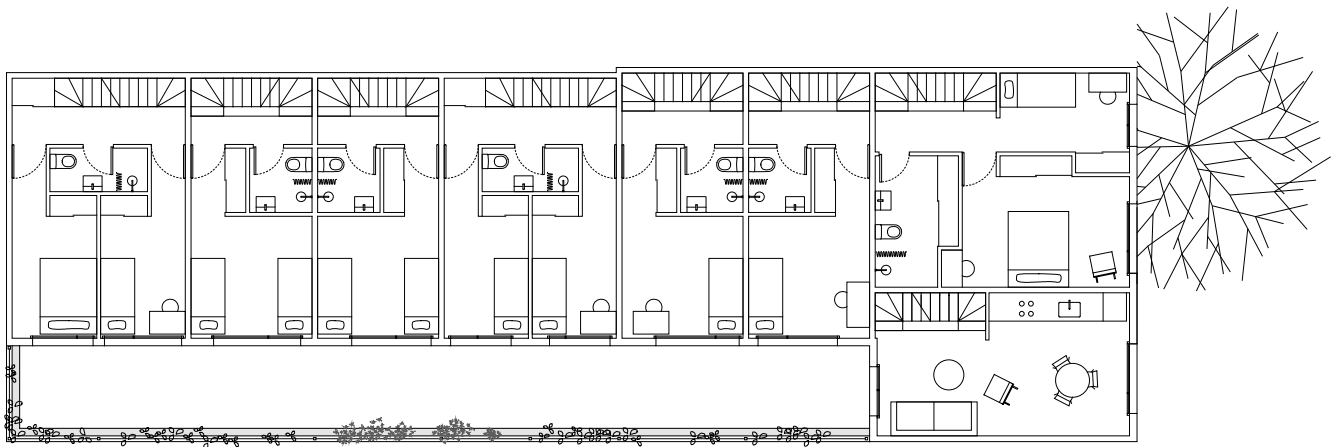
10. Study models, façade and patio view.



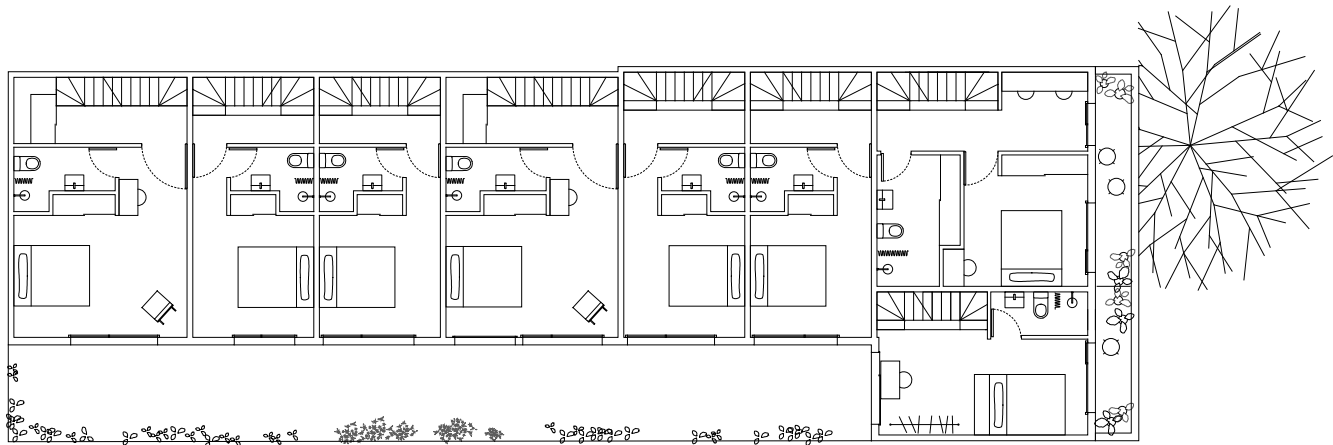
11. Isometric, patio view.



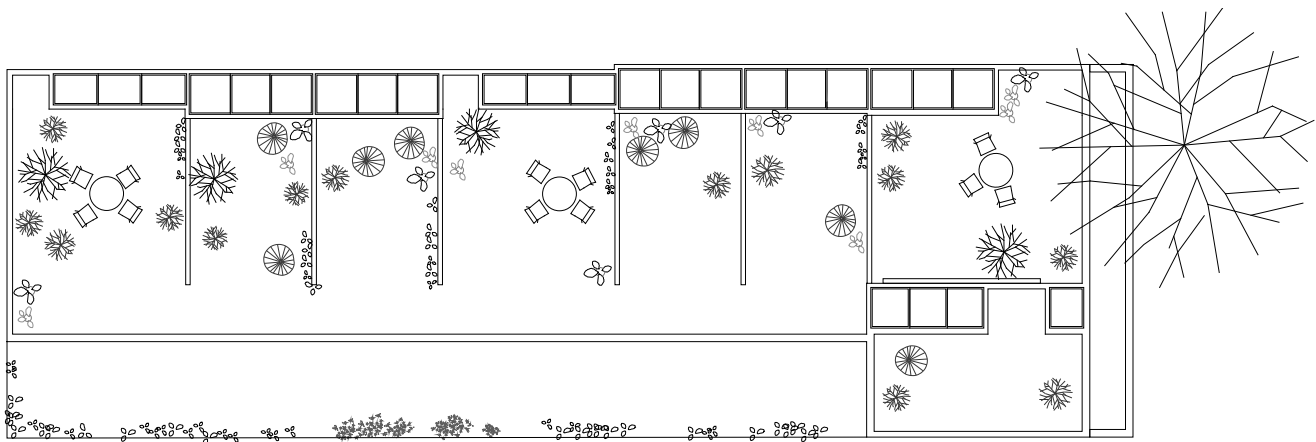
12. Plan, ground floor.



13. Plan, first floor.



14. Plan, second floor.



15. Plan, roof terrace.



16. Bathroom with balcony access of a flat.



17. Interior view from the bedroom of a flat.



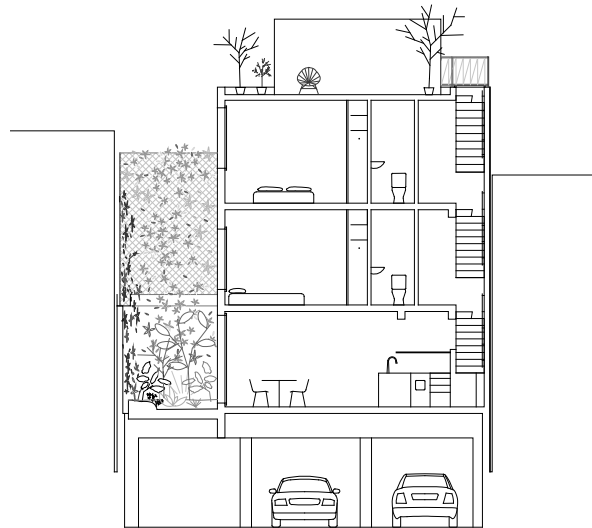
18. Interior view from the kitchen and dining area of a flat.



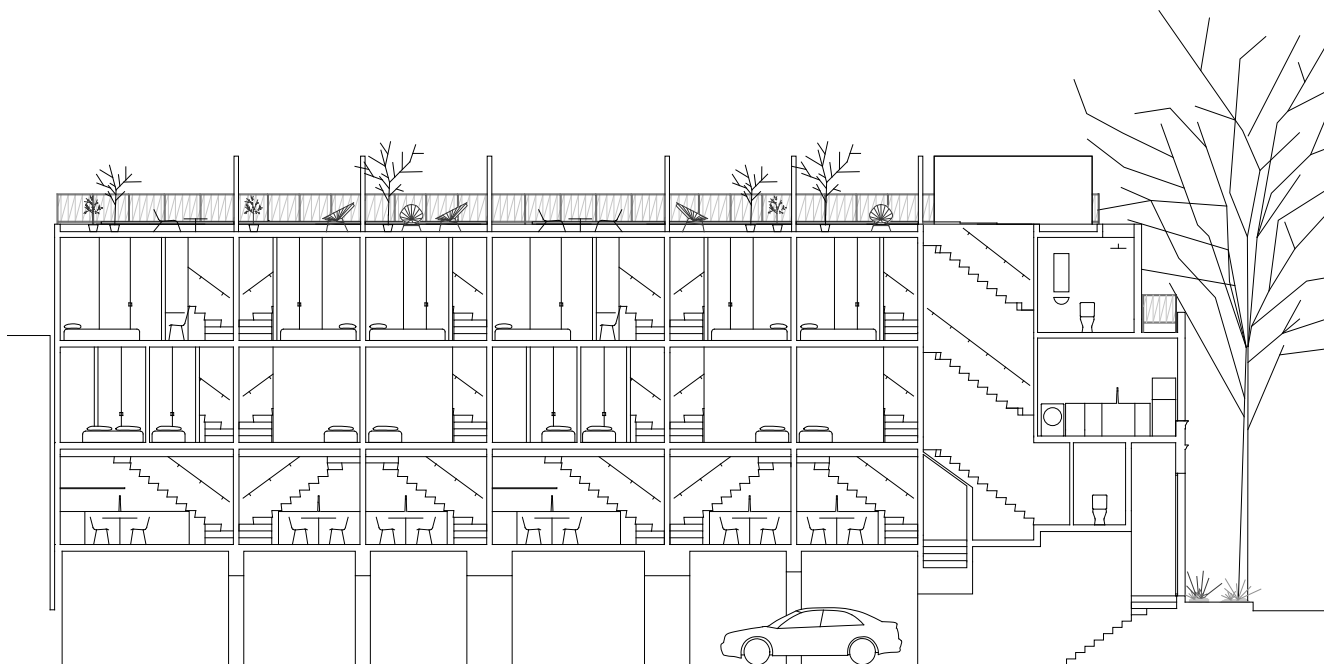
19. Elevation, street façade.



20. Elevation, patio façade.



21. Short section.



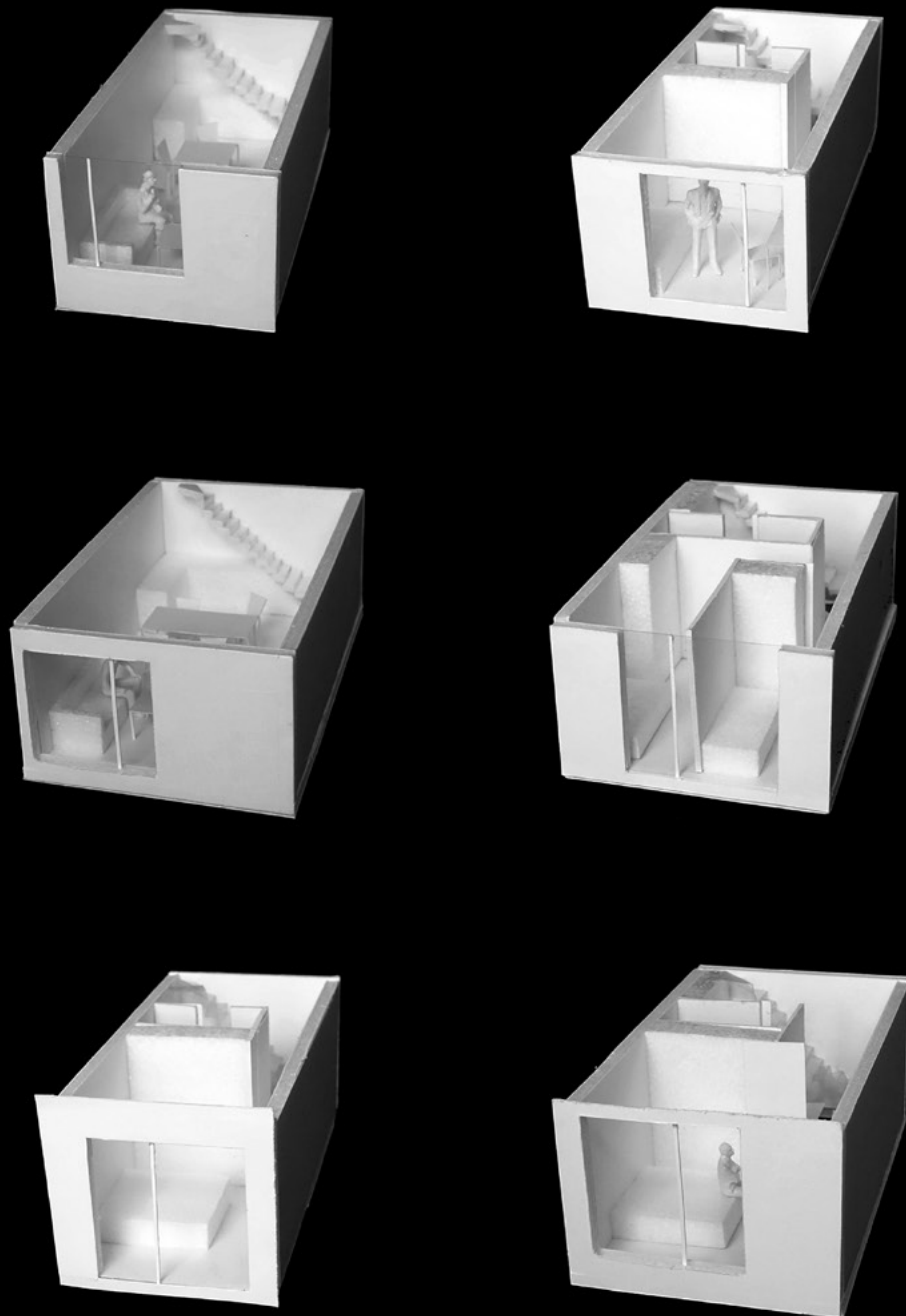
22. Long section.



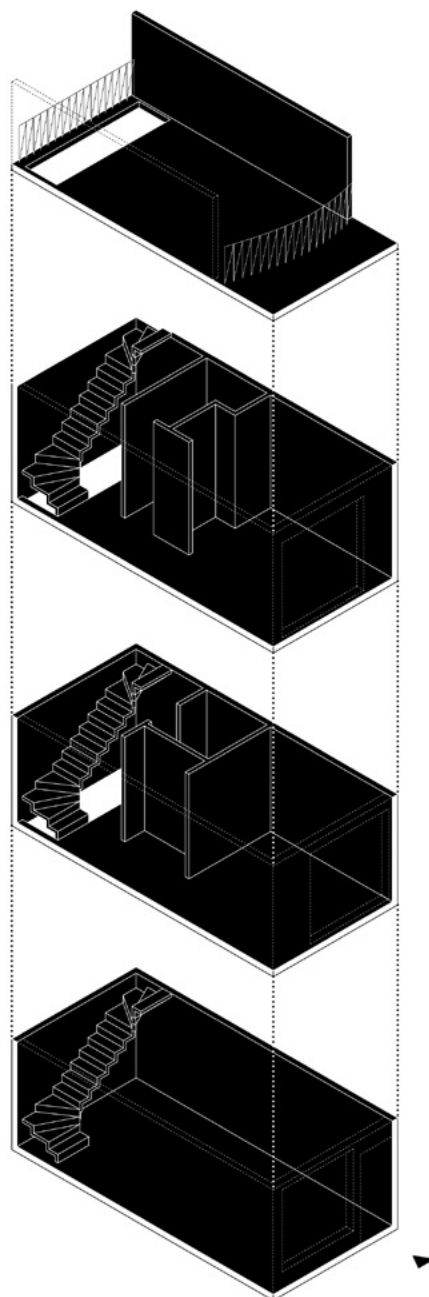
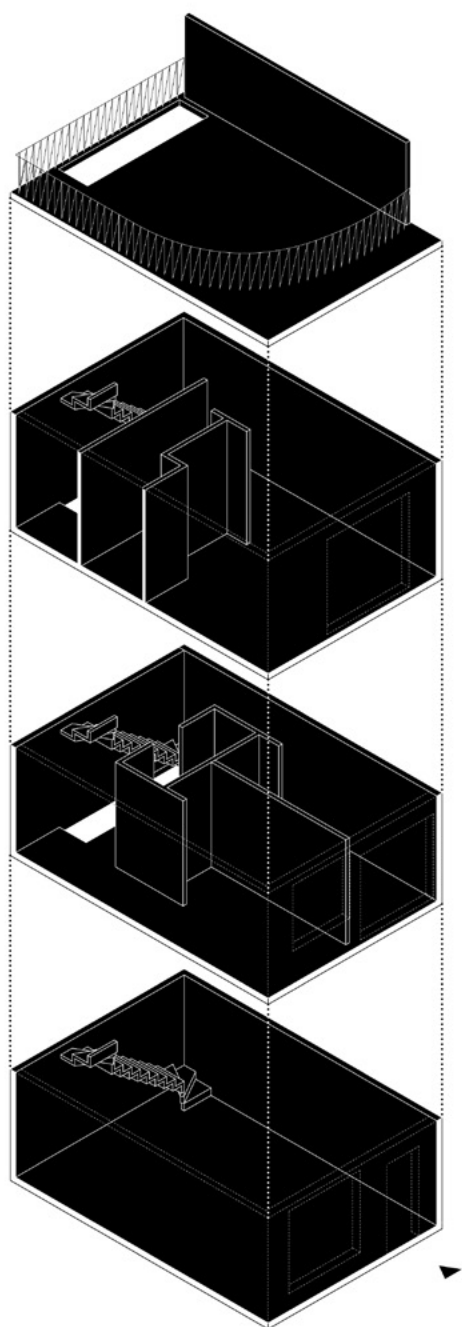
23. Study models for configuration of apartments, side view.



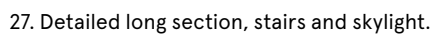
24. Study models for configuration of apartments, front view.

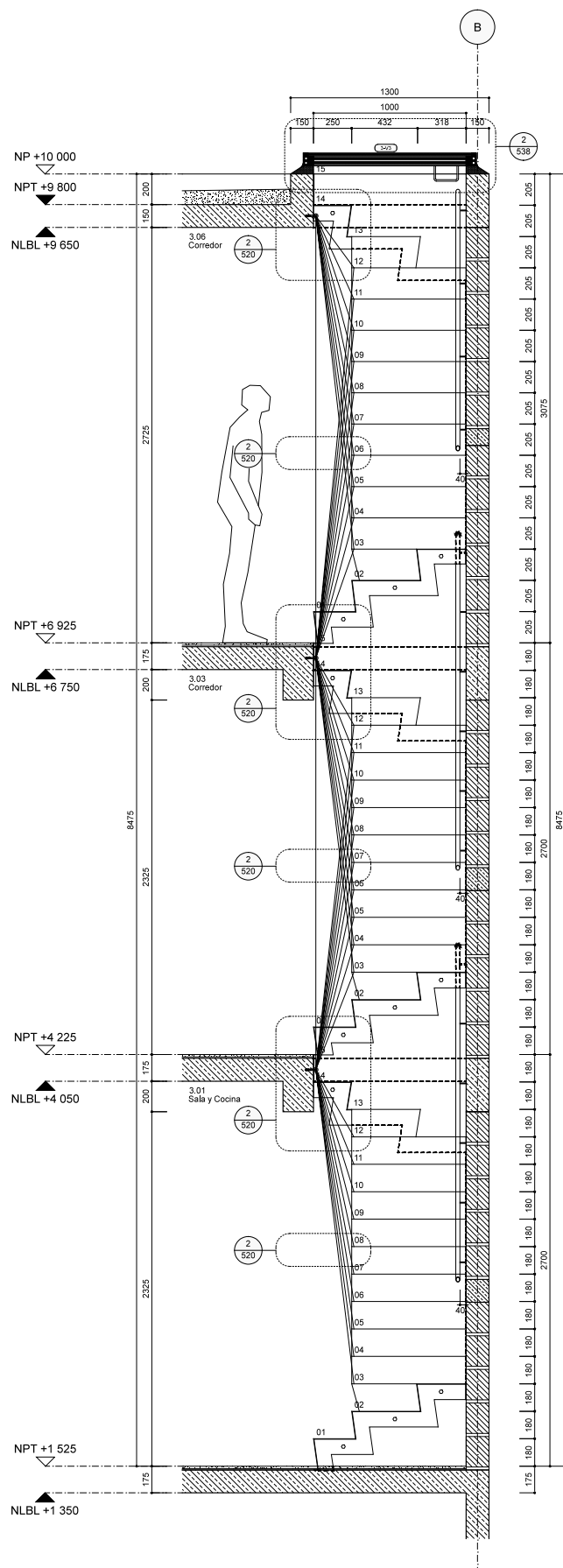


25. Study models for configuration of apartments, side view.



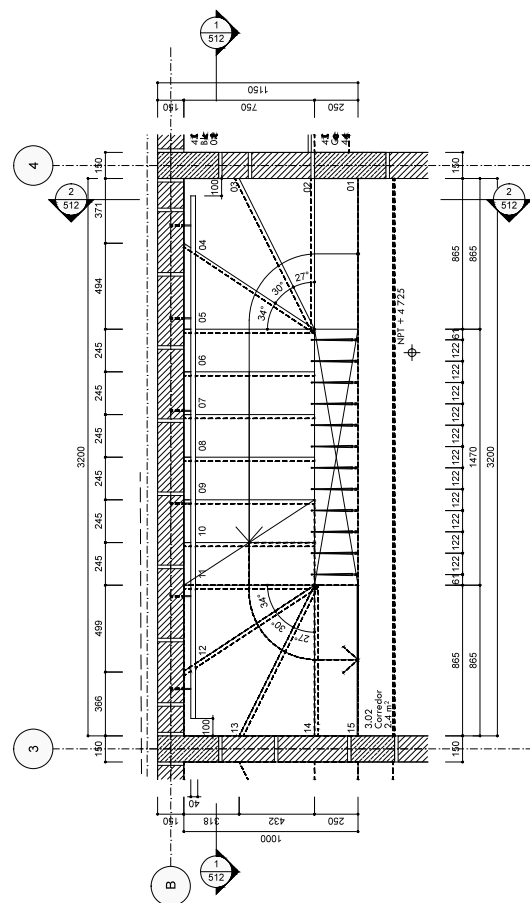
26. Axonometric exploded view, typical flats.





28. Detailed short section and plan, stairs and skylight.

4 Planta Barandales VFM
Escala 1:20





29.

29. As-found informal collective housing, Ingrid Moye with clients at first site visit before demolition.
30. Interior view of staircase with skylight.

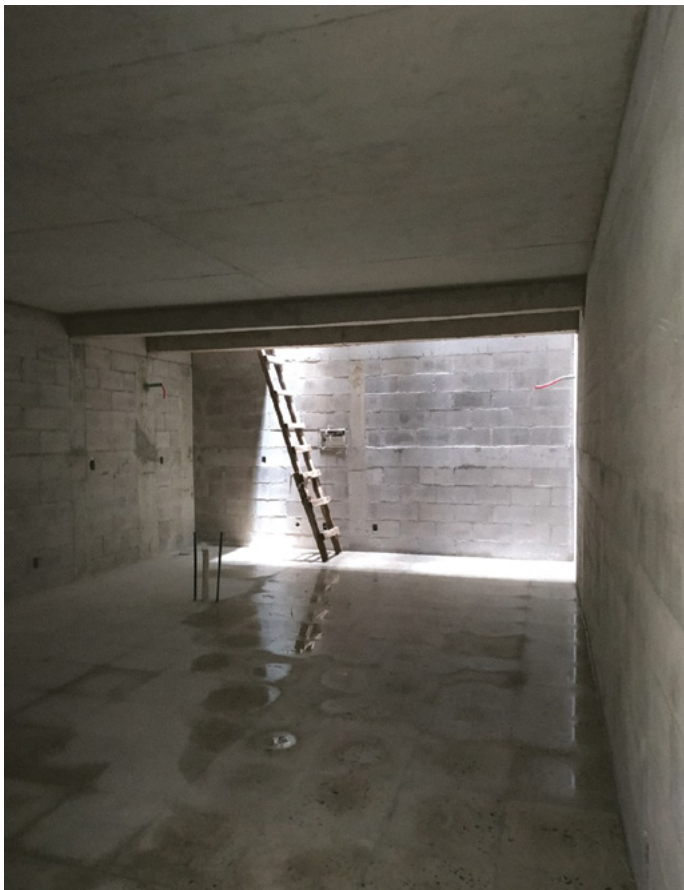




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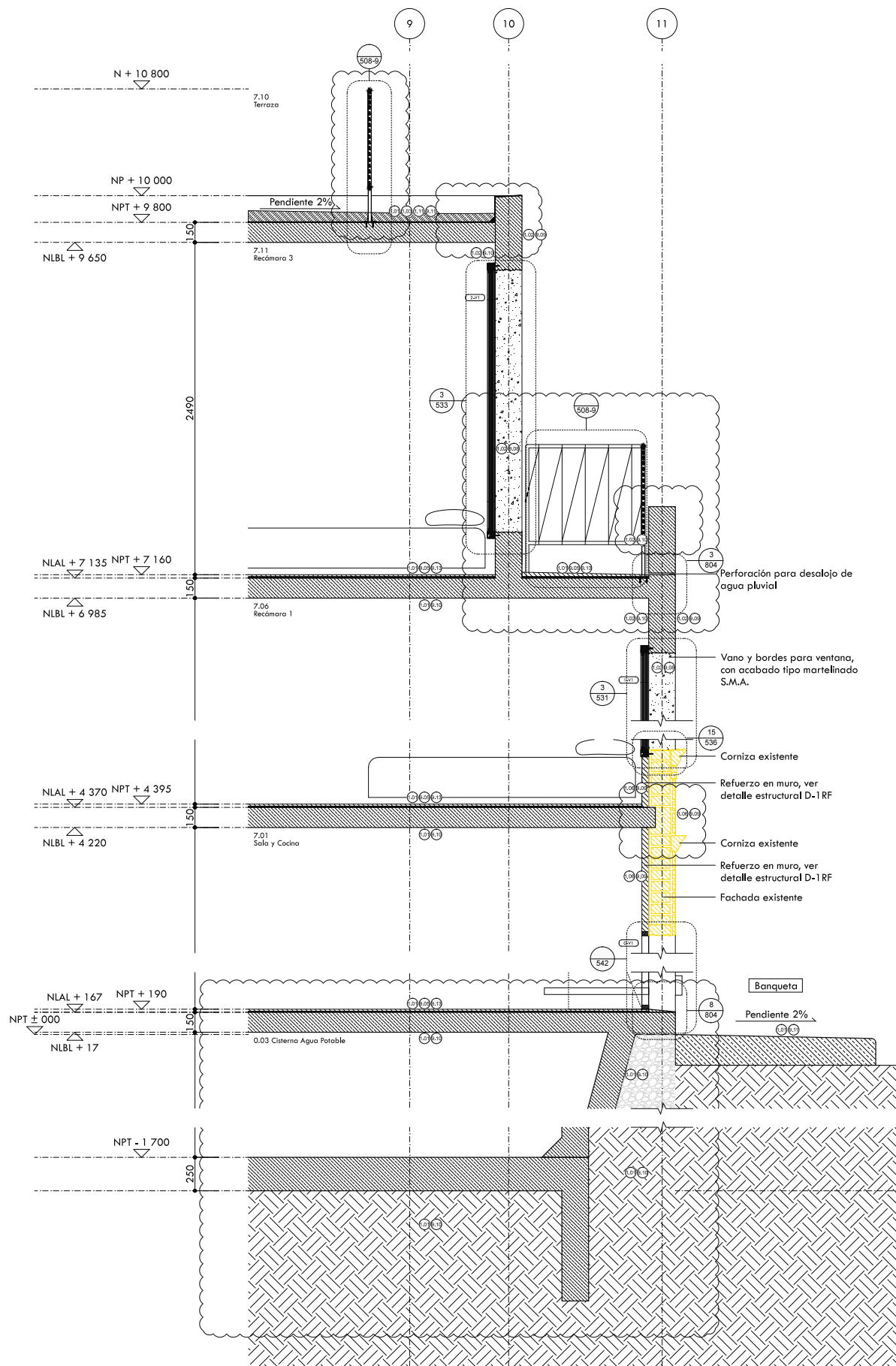


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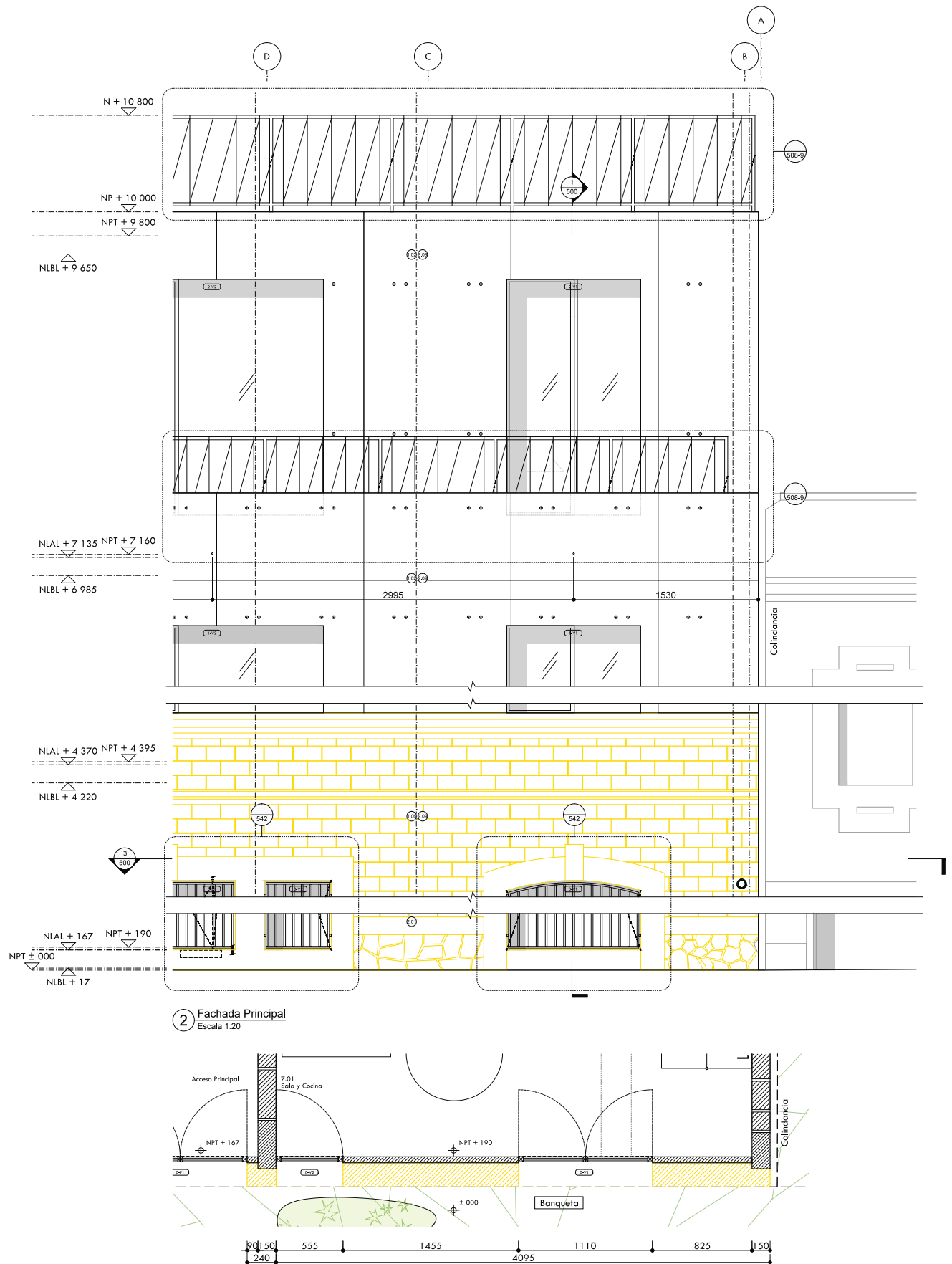


34.

- 31. Interior view of stairwell, during construction phase.
- 32 Exterior view of façade, during construction phase.
- 33. Interior view of a flat at the ground floor, with stairwell and skylight at the back, during construction phase.
- 34. Exterior view of common patio, during construction phase.



35. Detailed façade section, street side.



36. Detailed façade elevation and plan, street side.



37.



38.

- 37. Sample of the façade's polished concrete.
- 38. Exterior view of façade, from communal patio.
- 39. Detailed view of façade windows, smooth and rough finishes of the concrete.



39.



40.



41.

42.



40. Exterior view of street façade, intersection of historical and contemporary façades.

41. Sample of bespoke steel lamp designed for the project by Zeller & Moyer.

42. Interior view of common entrance from the street and basement, with bespoke lamps embedded in the walls.

