

## THE POROUSE OFFICE • THE SENSORY COMMUNITY

### BRIEF POROUSE OFFICE

Workspaces have adjusted to changes that have been affecting and questioning the idea and practice of work. The porous office explore the permeability between inside and outside, physically and virtually. How working places welcome 'residents' and those passing through. The intermittent use of office spaces over 24 hours. How spaces can enhance social interaction. How spaces can be mixed-used, allowing users to share their ideas and experiences. How work shifts from company to community. This future of the workspace was explored through a client and spacial typology selected from a list of options. The intention to arrive at a set of design proposals that explore the future workplace as a complex environments that overlaps not only with our domestic lives, but also with the civic space of the city.

### STIMULATIONS

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The client of the sensory community is **Community health service** working with **The lodge** - the live-work setting, as a typology. From the brief thinking about the importance of the fine lines between public - semi-private and private spaces. And with that the **opportunity to choose** atmosphere that suits you. The office becomes more **adapted** for the people working there, looking at the **needs of the individual** without adapting the design to each occupant, it is rather an overview, allowing the occupants to **inhabit the space how it suits them**, letting them **make the space their own**. With this way of working the office becomes a **living thing**, never static.

The sensory community offers a **halfway home** to **young adults with neurodevelopment disorder** who find the wall between the childhood home and the **future of independence** wide and hard to overcome. By considering **stimulation, decompression, sequence and compartmentalization** the space gives the users **control** of their environment to make that wall more porous while still offering a safe support space. Here the user can find their independence and **take place in the wider community**.

The given building is on 79-83b Charterhouse street, a busy street in Smithfield, London, neighbour with the nightclub fabric and across from Smithfield market. The activity of Smithfield makes the area surrounding 79-83b Charterhouse street an area of **high simulations**. The textures of architectural language gives a **tactile experience** to the street and activity in Farringdon station adds to the **stimulation of sounds** through the people journey through the space and the **noise** of the railway below ground. All of these stimulations of the city was considered and the interior was design to give the inhabitants the option to filter the level of these stimulations.

### VIDEO

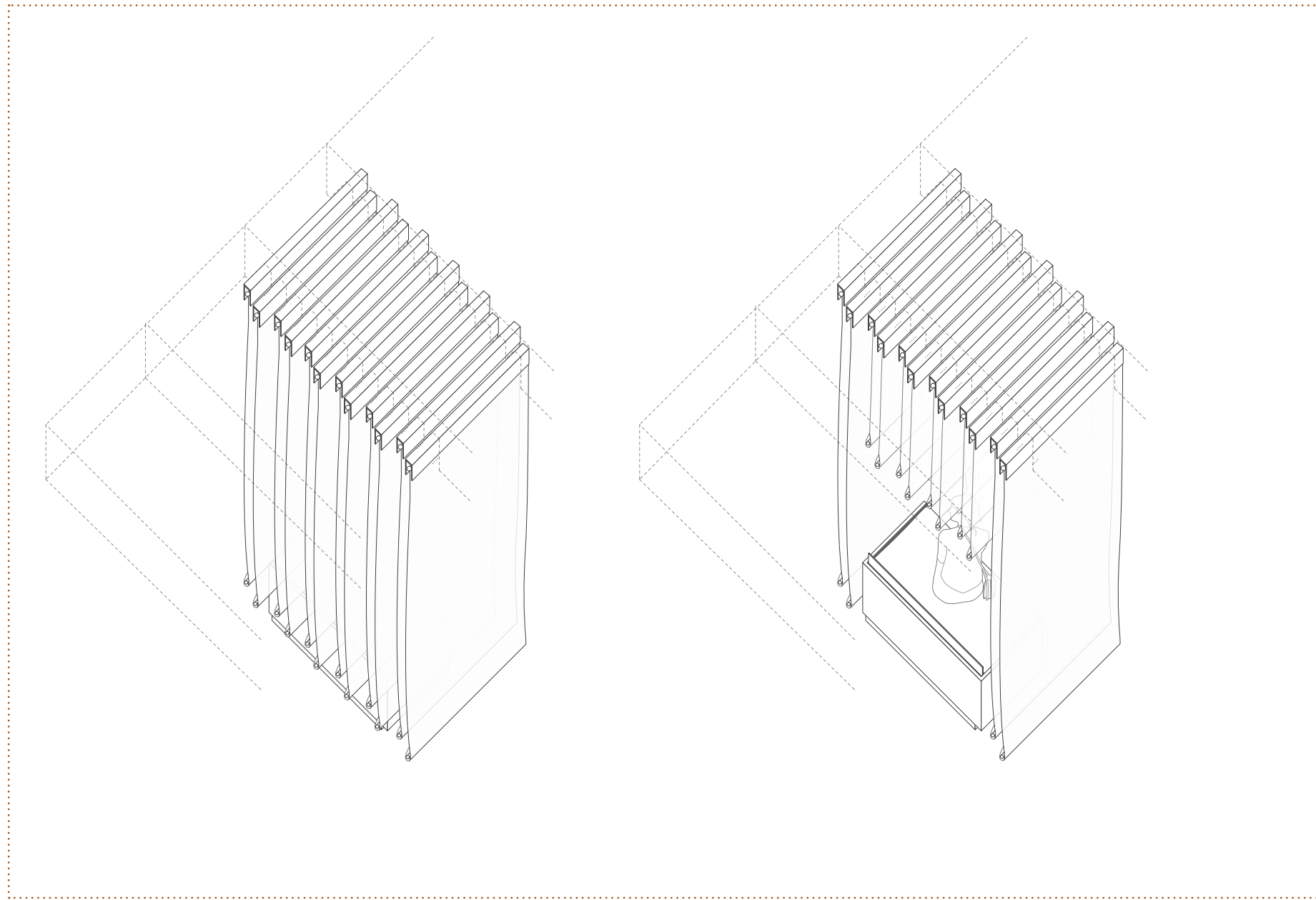


<https://youtu.be/FqXlyiCFzw>

Sensory experience of the stimulations of the sensory community. The stimulations are filtered through the interior and gives the residents control of the atmosphere around them.

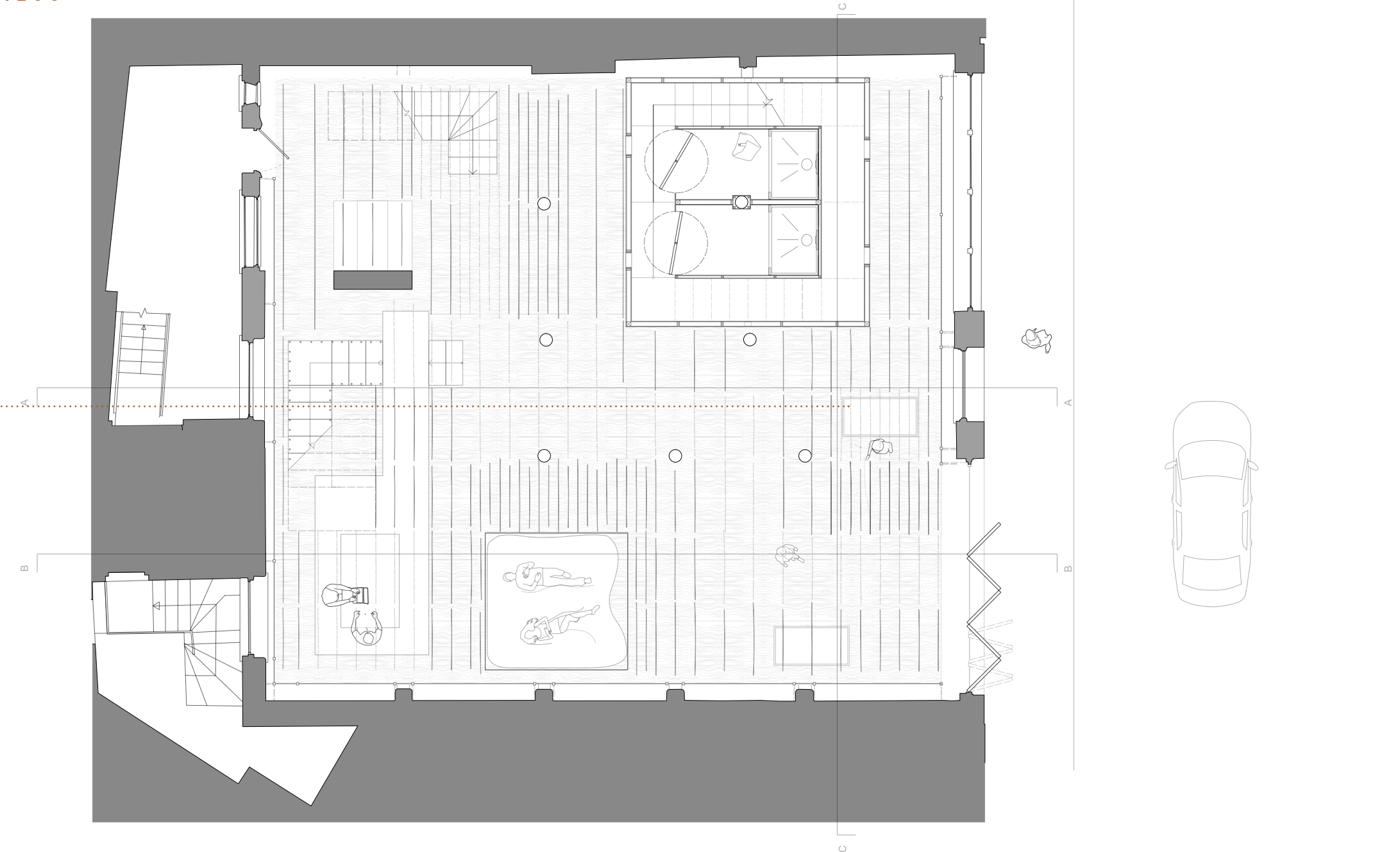






The sensory stimulations of the city and the community inside the building is **filtered** through the design. The **users control** the level of filtration through a sequence of curtains. The curtains fill the space and are raised up to create spaces to inhabit. Throughout the building the sensory zones change and bring the users closer and further away from the city and the people in the community around them. Here the curtains are raised like blinds to leave room for a bench close to the threshold out towards the street. The residents step into the space for a moment of pause and adjust to the new stimulations of the street.

## GROUND FLOOR 1:100



The porous connection between the neurodiverse residents and the community is achieved through a mentoring program. Each resident is assigned a mentor and gets a chance to see the inside of their profession and work experience. The staff works in the background supporting that connection and also support the residents in all the challenges of independent living not related to the workspace.

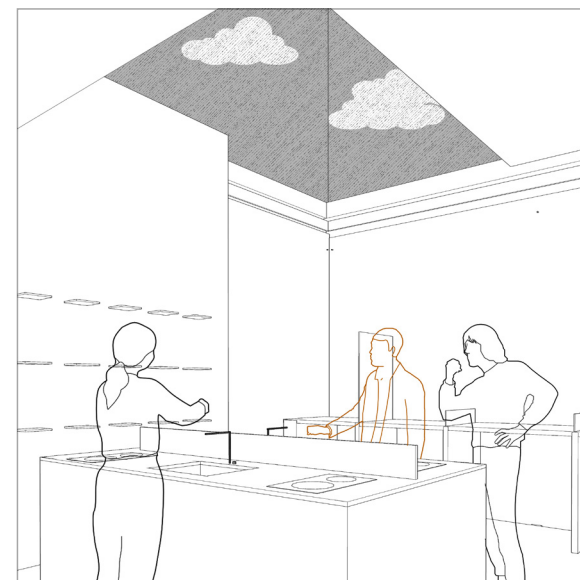
### The mentoring program

The user is assigned to a mentor with focus on one profession and follows this mentor for a number of weeks.

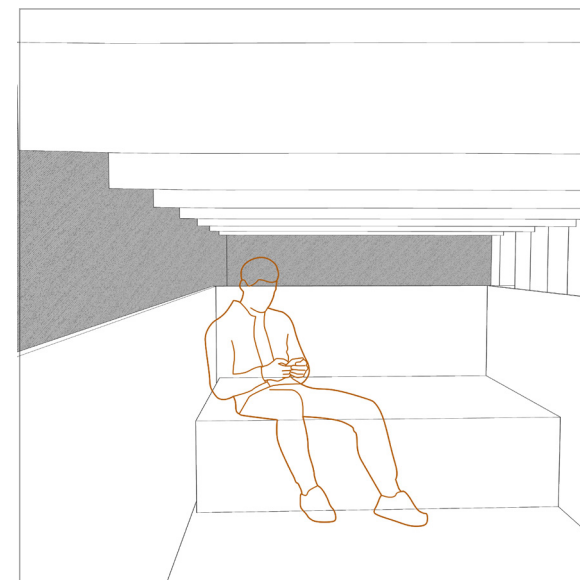
At the start the mentor comes into the building and they work together here. At the end the users join the mentor at their place of work.

The workspace becomes a space of learning, a space for the individual to evolve. In school the tasks are often general, here the tasks are adapted to the residents' fixations or interests. The residents get a specialist mind to learn from and to pick up information, working with their strengths to evolve in an industry that might hold future opportunity for them.

## A DAY WITH THE MENTOR



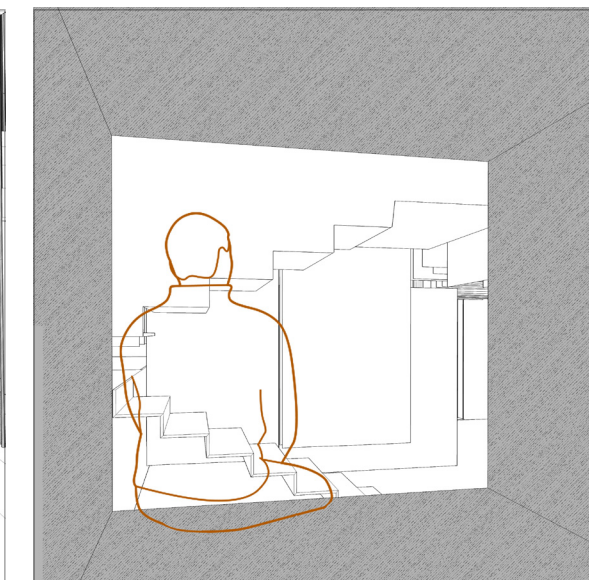
Starting the day with the staff and other residents. Preparing breakfast and eating together.



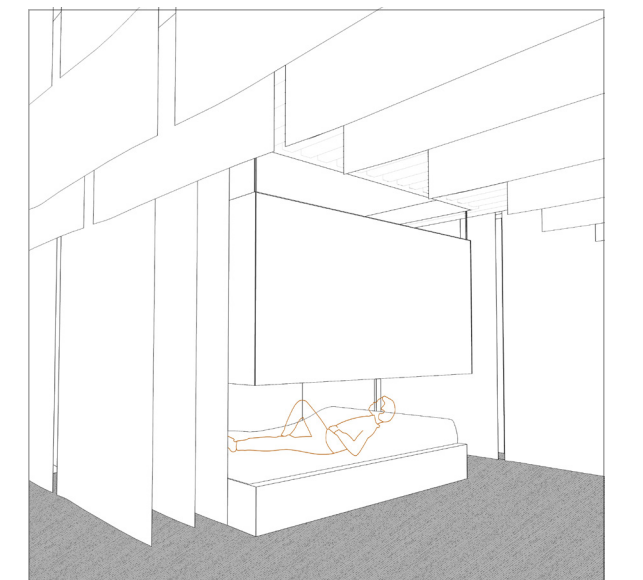
The resident raises the curtains and sits down in a escape space on the way down to meet the mentor.



The resident meets the mentor in a space behind the curtains and they sit down and work together.



The resident steps away and takes a moment of pause in an enclosed space.

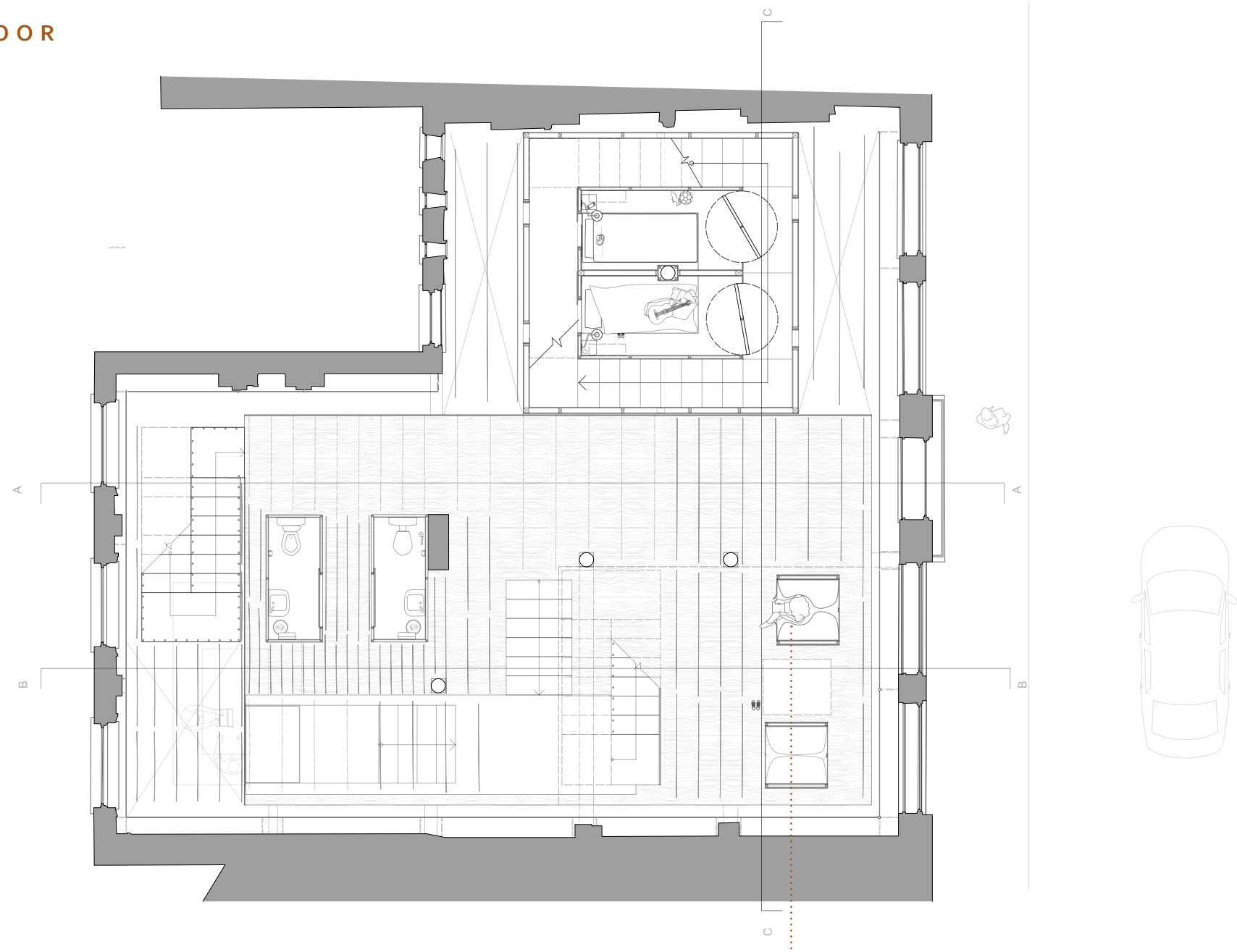


At the end of the day after the mentor leaves the resident takes some time off and watches a movie in the cinema space.

The entire interior becomes a space of transition, with the route controlled by the raising and lowering of the curtains. The spaces follow the transition space in a **spacial sequence**, the transition space leads from one activity to the next, following a **sequence of stimulations**. Each space holds one activity, supporting the users to **compartmentalize**. To help the users the comprehend with the changing levels of stimulations the transition space holds space to decompose within, **a space of escape**.

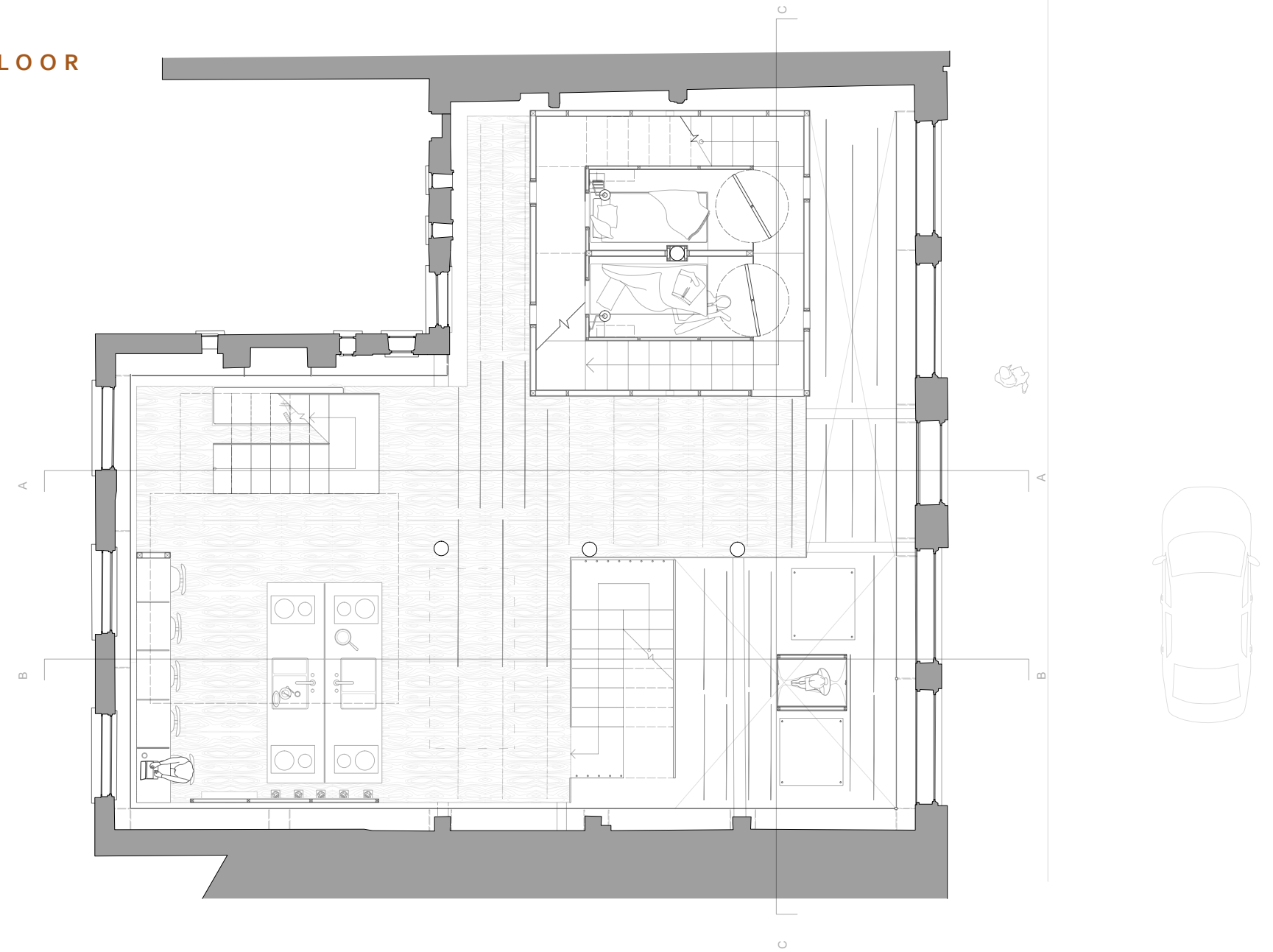
The spaces shared between the residents, staff and mentors are spread out through the building, some spaces holding space to meet with the mentor and some offering a moment of solitude. The residents private living space have its own transition route and each sleeping pod gives the residents a space of privacy.

## FIRST FLOOR 1:100

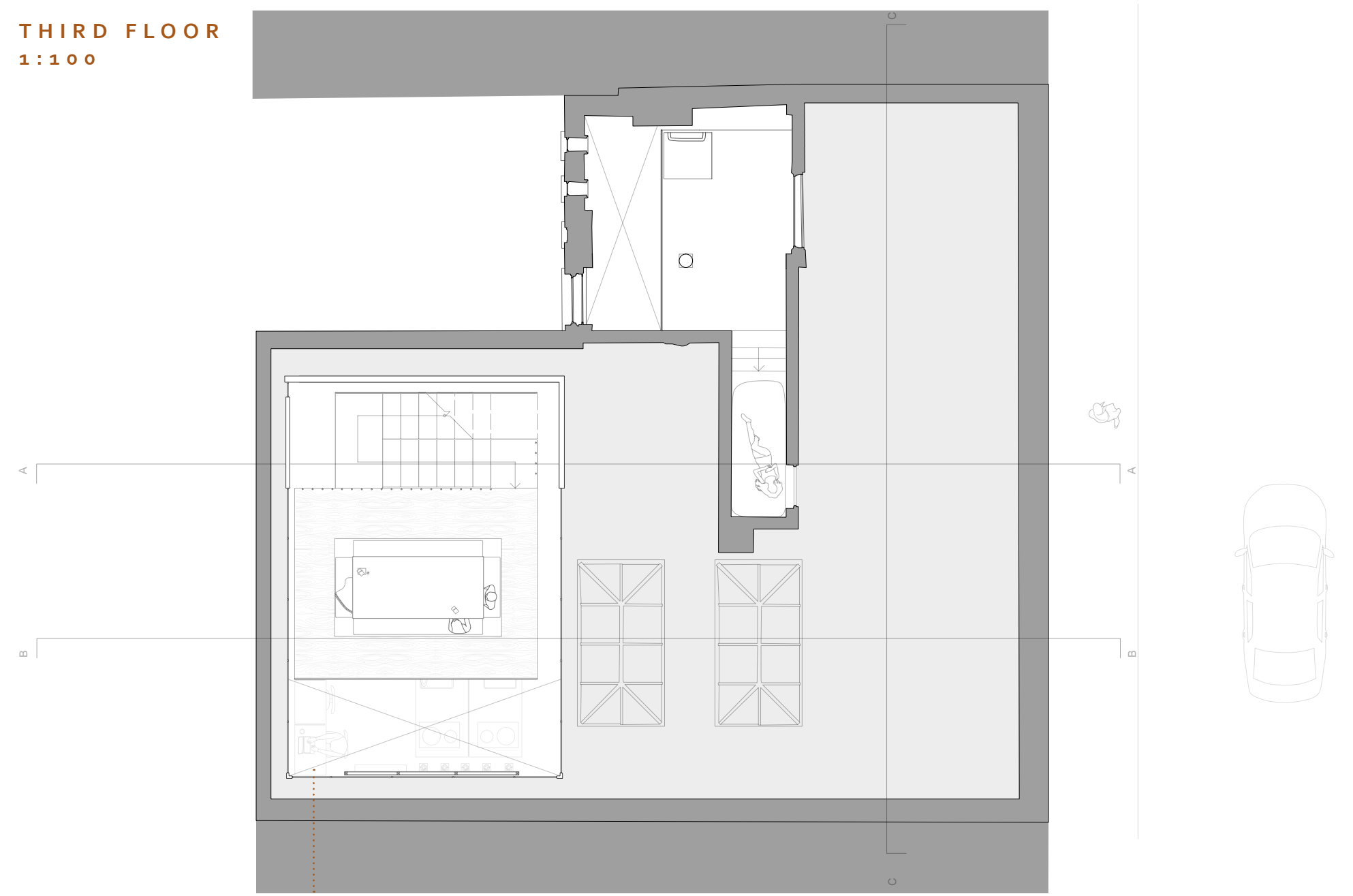


The nooks from the first floor can be raised up from the first floor in the void behind the staircase, immersing the inhabitants in the layer of curtains.

## SECOND FLOOR 1:100



## THIRD FLOOR 1:100



A new insertion penetrates the roof and becomes a space of high stimulation. Here the inhabitants have a close connection to the city

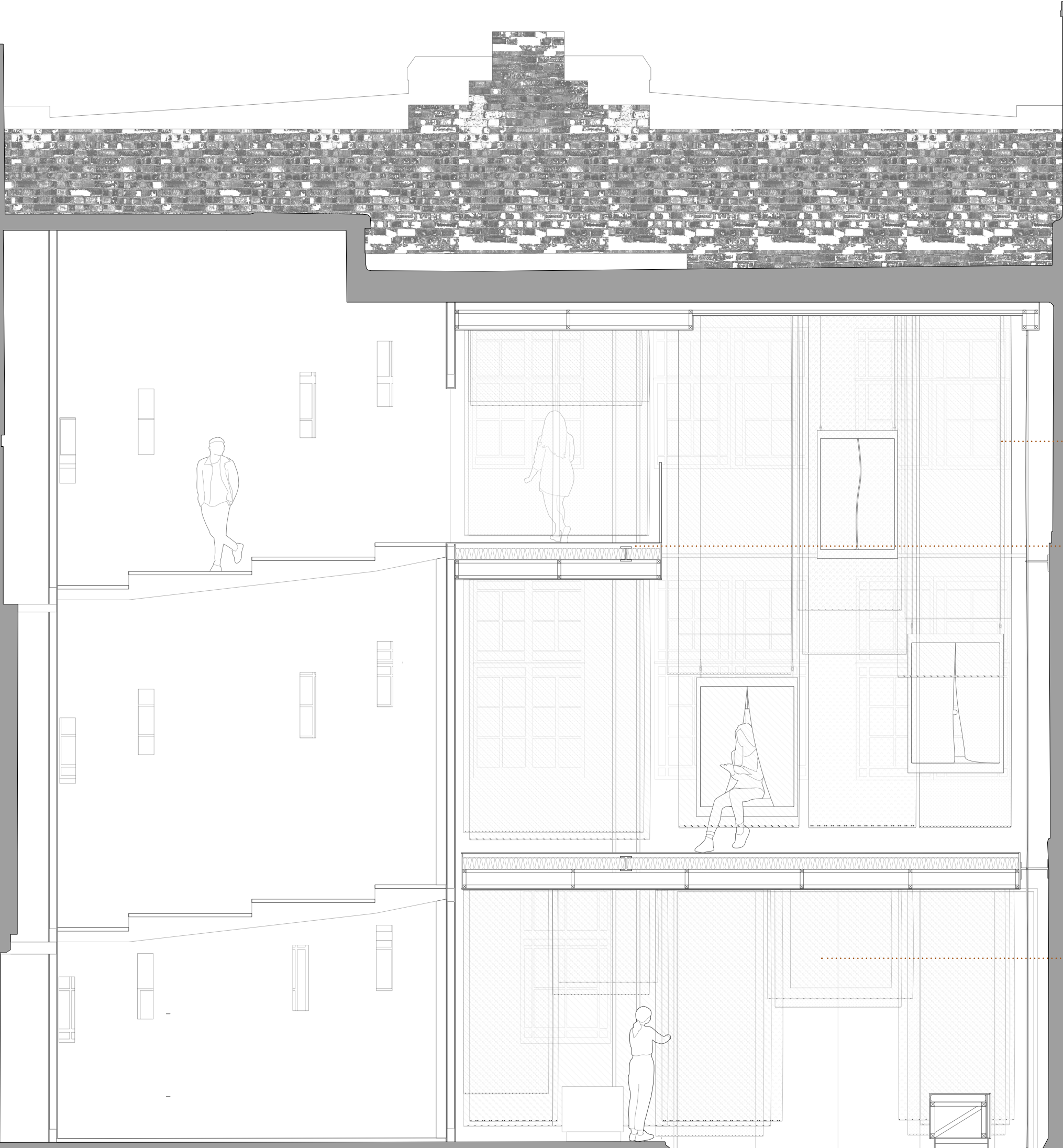
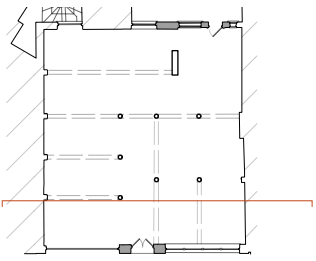




SECTION CC  
1:50

0 1 2 3 4 5 M

Section CC 1:100  
79-83 Charterhouse street



The curtains creates the layers enclosing the residents

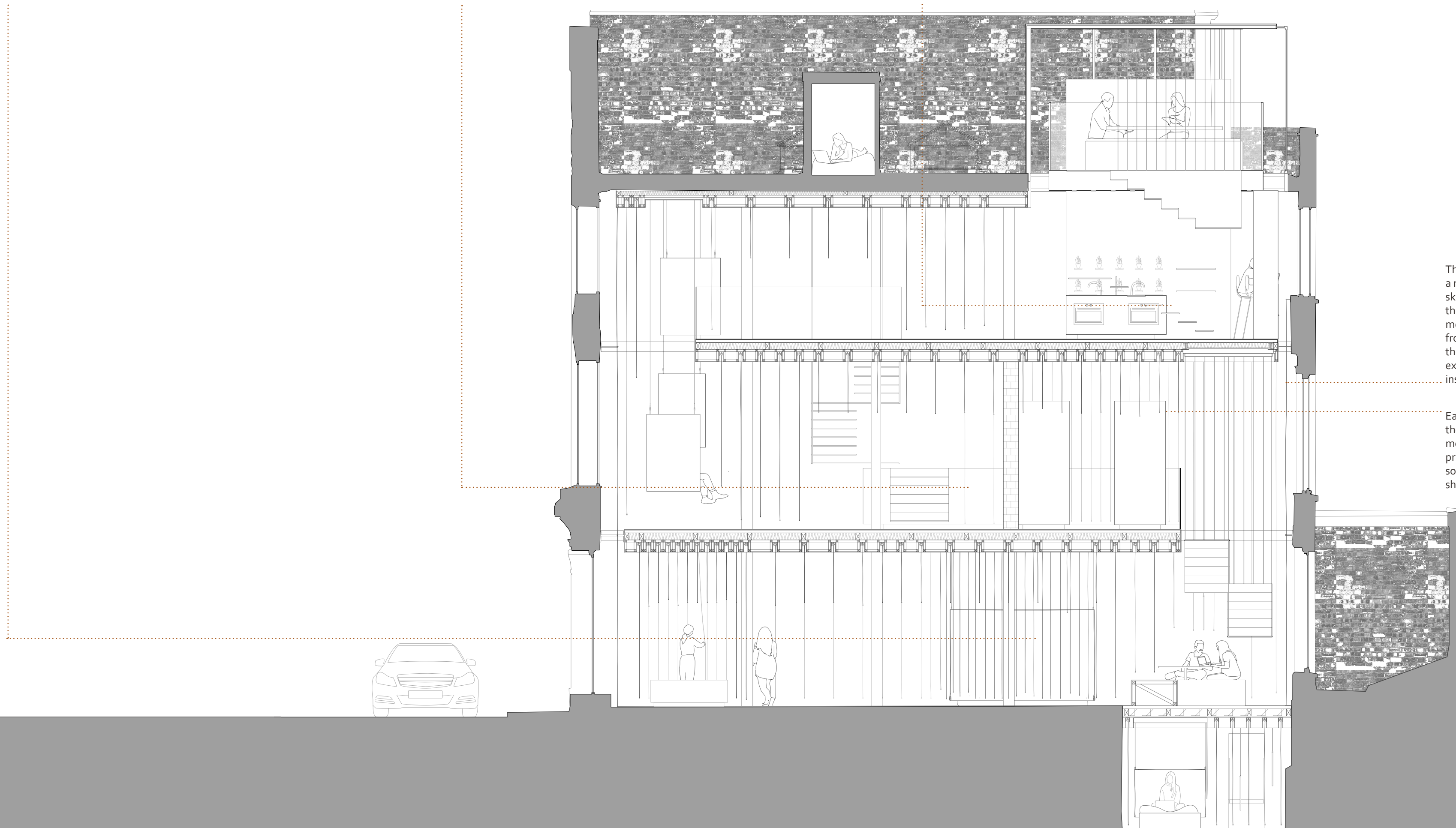
The floor rest on the structural grid of I beams and columns connecting the independent interior with the existing building.

The curtains are raised to create transition space through the building.





The residents inhabit the spaces within the curtains and make it their own. They transition between the spaces in the openings below the rolled up curtains with the activity spaces hidden behind the fabrics. The qualities of the fabrics are adjusted through the building, giving each zone changes in the tactile experience of walking through, translucent curtains gives clues the activities behind the fabrics and the fabrics offer zones with different levels of stimulations from the surroundings.



The interior is enclosed in a membrane. Creating a skin between the inside and the existing building. The membrane is illuminated from behind to highlight the connection between the existing building and the new insertion.

Each activity is enclosed in the layer of curtains. The moments that need more privacy, here the toilets, have solid walls of birch plywood sheets over a timber structure.