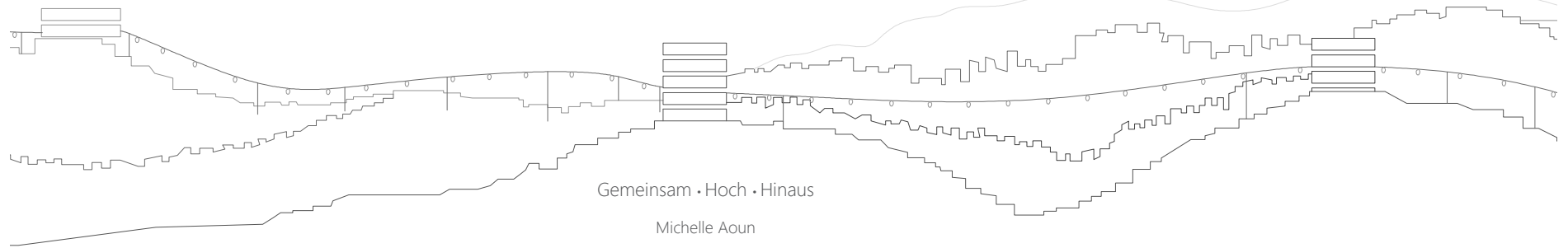


# Bridging • The • Gap



Gemeinsam • Hoch • Hinaus

Michelle Aoun



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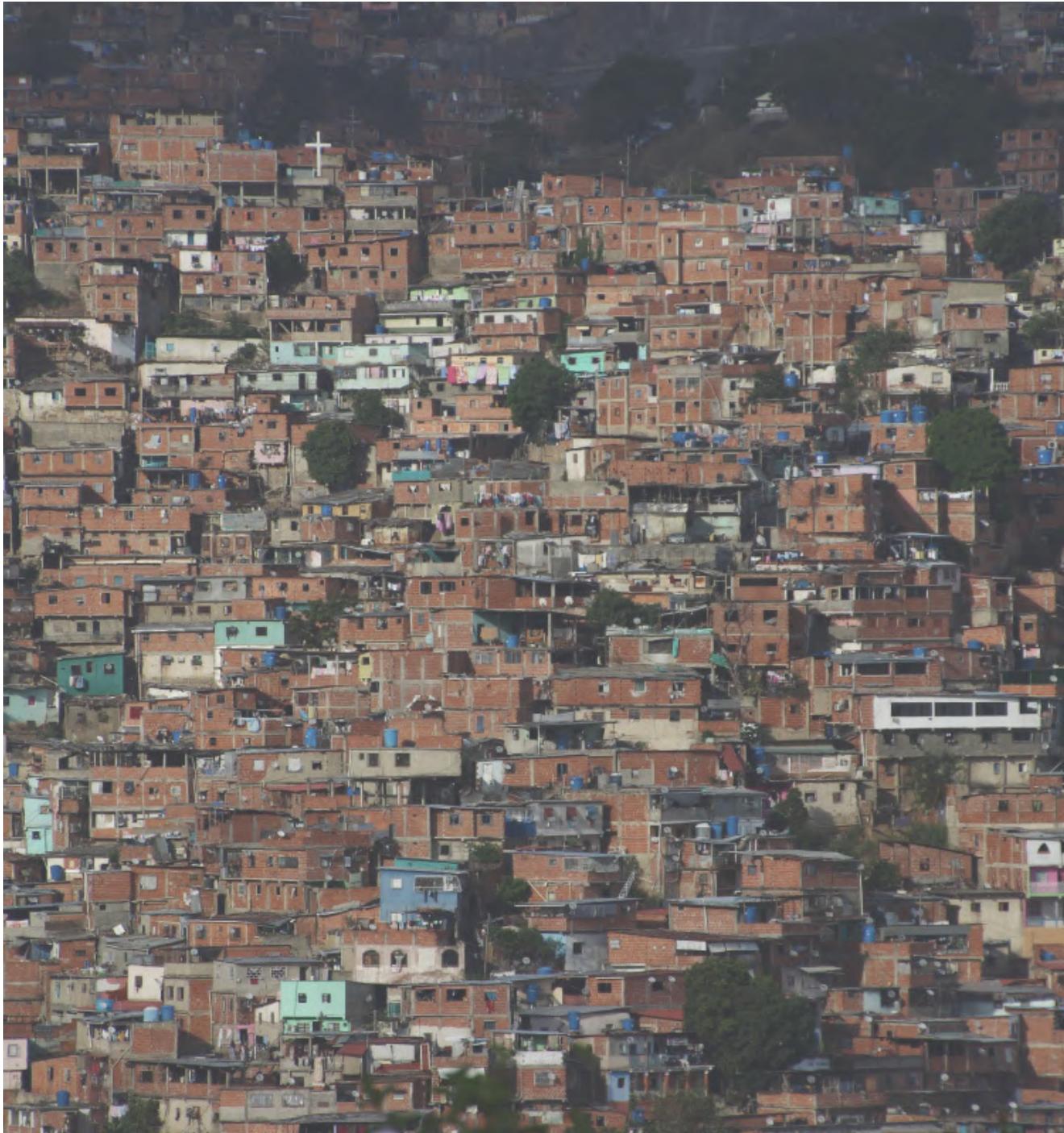


## Caracas

Caracas is Venezuela's capital and the country's primary center of industry, commerce, education, and culture.

Being a valley with an altitude of more than 800 meters, Caracas' climate is very pleasant. Its nickname **City of Eternal Spring** comes from its temperatures ranging between 17°C and 25°C yearlong.

There is a distinct rainy season from May through November and in contrast a dry season, from December through April.



Petare

With approximately 5 million habitants, Caracas is the most populated city of Venezuela. Sadly, due to the serious economic, political and social crisis this country has been facing for more than a decade, about 3.5 million live in **informal settlements**, with little to no standard of living. Caracas has grown to be associated as a city surrounded by many dangerous Favelas, with Petare taking the number one spot.

With an area of 40km<sup>2</sup> and a population of more than 500 thousand, Petare is considered one of the largest and most dangerous Favelas in the world.

## Bridging • The • Gap

Over the past several years there has been much debate about the problems of favelas and how this urban and social dilemma can be solved. Favelas are synonymous with marginalization, social exclusion, poor housing, underprivileged education, dreadful security, alarming health and awful communication routes.

This project, set in the Heart of Petare, seeks solutions. With the involvement and help of the community the goal is to tackle current issues within this favela, with the purpose of improving the quality of life of all its inhabitants, to allow them the opportunity to **bridge** this very extensive **gap** with a fair chance.



## Problems

Security  
Education  
Health  
Poverty  
Transportation  
Infrastructure  
Lack of public and cultural spaces  
Lack of green areas and parks  
Waste management

## Solutions

This Project intends to solve the most crucial issues in Petare without hurting its formal aesthetic and functional integrity. To test this project out, 3 multifunctional buildings will be inserted in certain analyzed sectors of Petare.

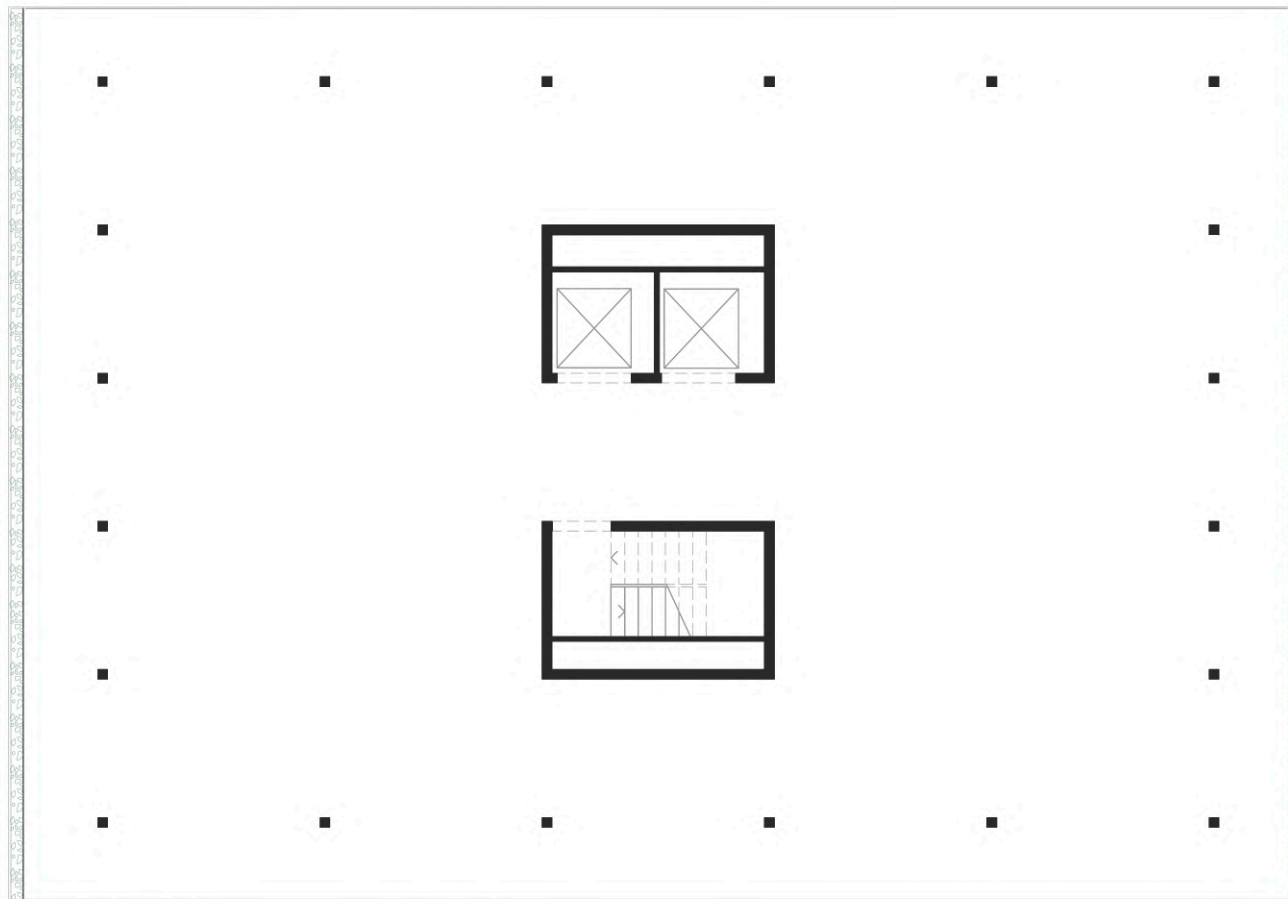
I have done a thorough research and have selected specific organizations and groups, who will each acquire the responsibility of a determined floor, to develop its important function to its full potential. As each building floor has a different function and different representatives it will maintain an interesting variety, not only in function but also in construction and aesthetic.

Nevertheless, three fixed functions will be preserved throughout all buildings:

- Cable car station
- Security
- Green terrace

Each building will be constructed with a basic core but will only be considered finished with the help of the community and organizations. They are the key in completing each floor with its given function.

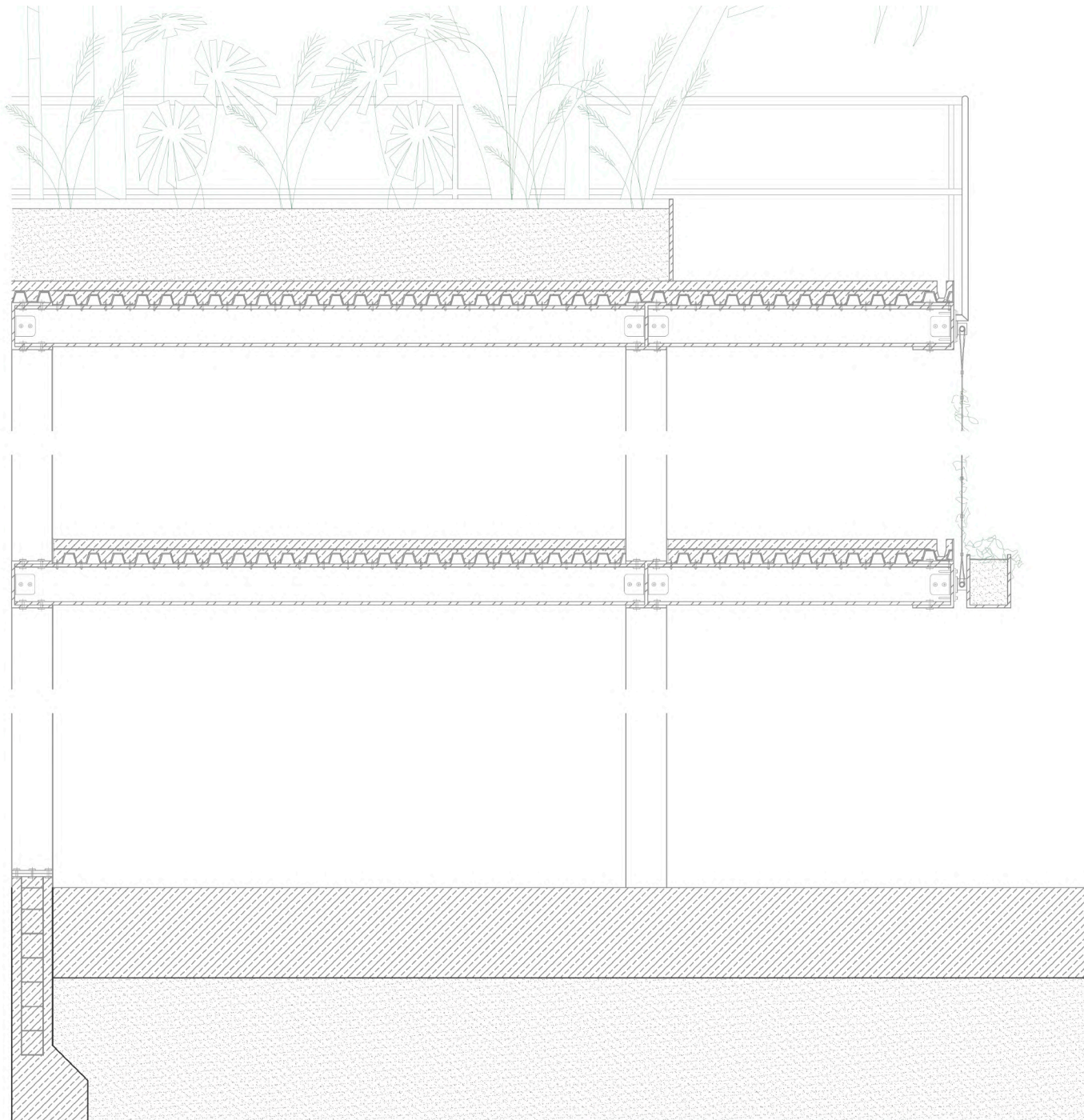
The long-term goal of this proposal is to continue to insert these buildings throughout Petare, as a sort of acupuncture needle, providing solutions and alleviating these aches, so that all inhabitants can be provided with equal opportunities and fair living conditions.



## Construction

The supporting construction consists of a variable grid of 3m x 4.5m columns and an access core with stairs and elevators in addition to ducts for installation purposes. In addition, the east and West façade, being the sides with the most sun exposure, will have an integrated mesh and flower bed, for plants to grow, providing sun protection.

The rest of the building, including height and distribution of the space, is completely flexible in terms of the acquired function. This construction system gives the community and organizations the possibility to engage as a group and finish the result.

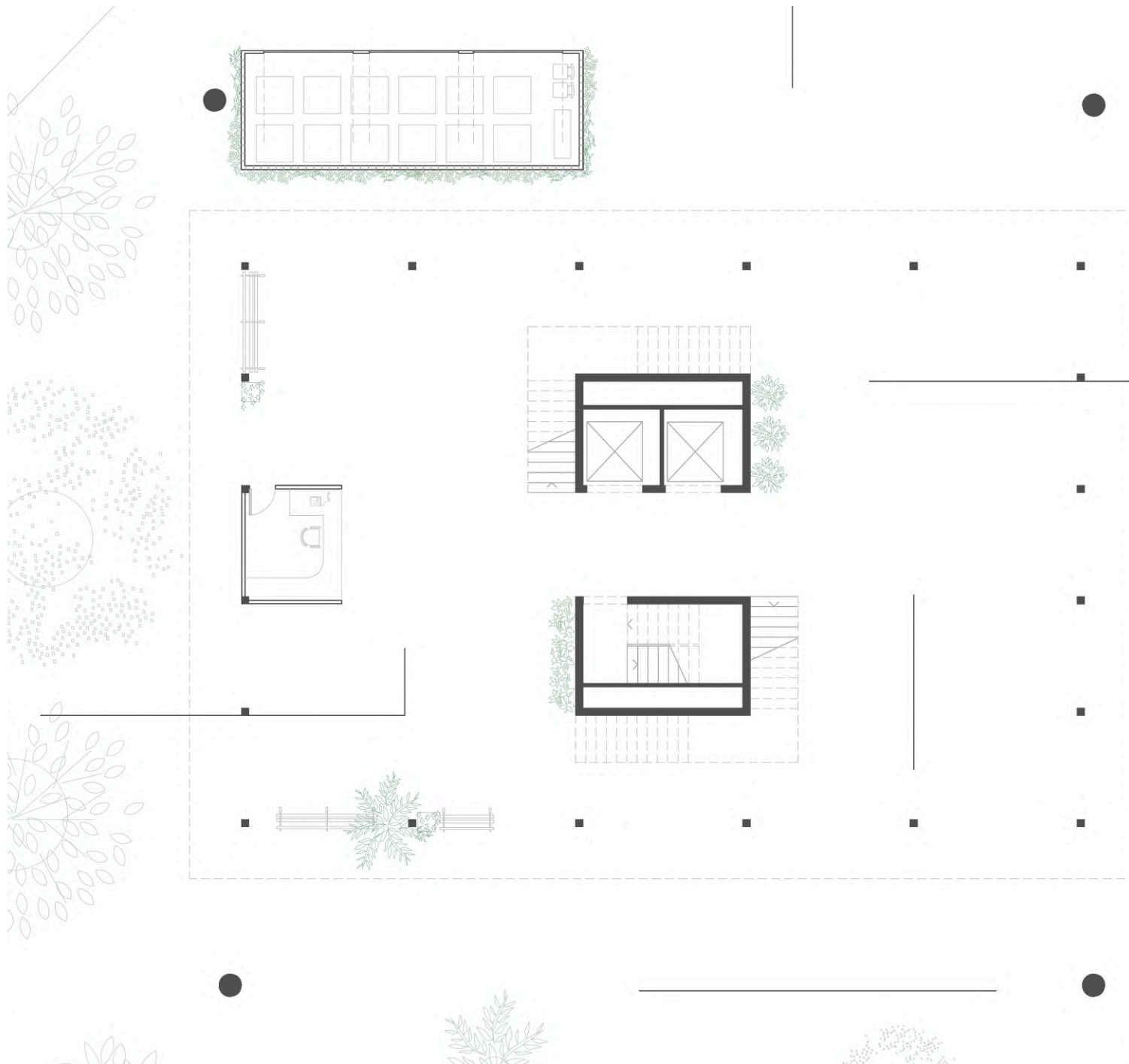






## In • tro • duc • tion

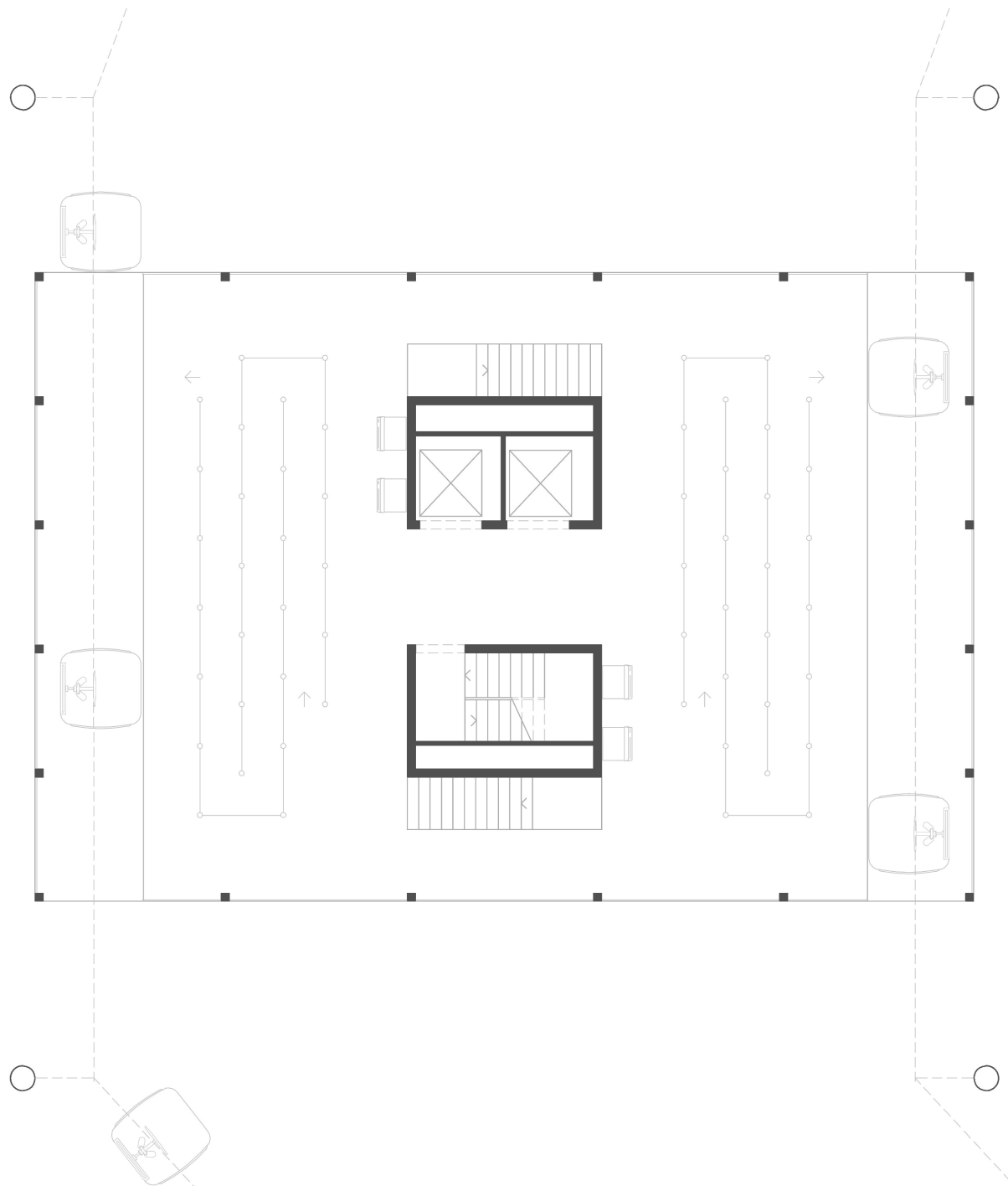
This building is the beginning of the Network.  
It is very well located, next to the *Petare* metro station. With this location it manages to connect the favela with the metro very well.  
Inhabitants will be able to reach their homes in a matter of minutes, compared to journeys where some needed hours.  
Being a very busy building, it does not have a specific function dedicated to a single group of people, rather tries to fulfill general needs.



Ground Floor

Petare Bárbaro Rivas  
Museum of Popular Art  
Art | Culture

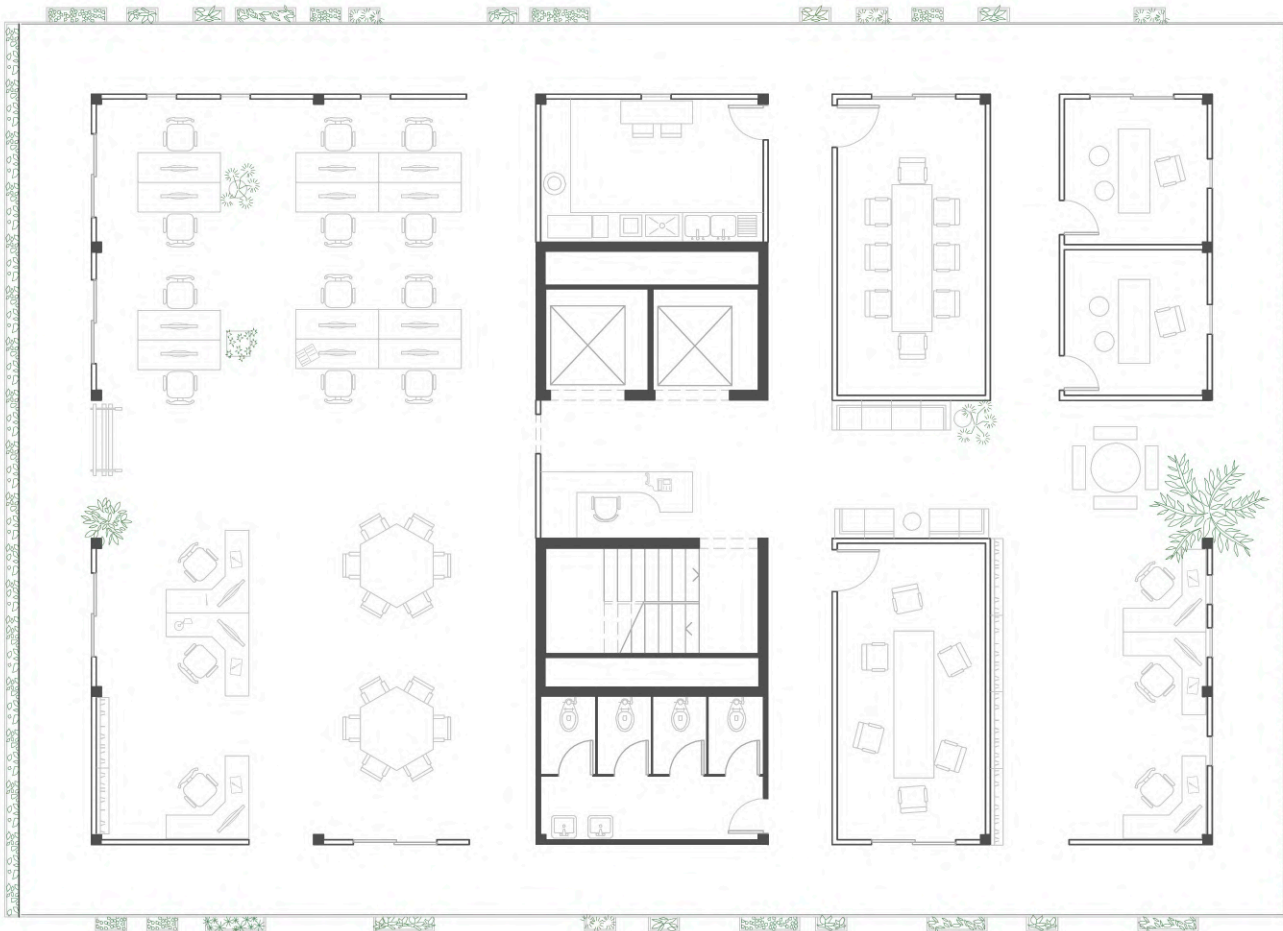
Located in the colonial area of Petare, with 30 years of institutional experience, this Museum, dedicated to Popular Art, has made more than 200 exhibitions, enhancing the talent of artists residing in Petare. This floor is dedicated to culture and art and will be an extension of this museum. Temporary walls will be built and used to exhibit artists' vision for a determined period of time. Thus achieving a continuous change, variety and equal opportunity for every artist in the spotlight.



1<sup>st</sup> Floor

### MetroCable Caracas Cable Car Station

The *MetroCable de Caracas* is a gondola lift system integrated with the city's public transport network. This system will provide quick and safe transportation for all those who live in the mountainous regions of Petare.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

### MetroCable Caracas Security | Surveillance | Support

This floor is dedicated to security, surveillance and support.

The insertion of cable cars in petare will not only help with transportation, but also serve as eyes in the sky, providing video surveillance in cabins and an overview of the Favela.



### 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

#### Banco de Venezuela Bank

Unfortunately, the vast majority of people living in Petare do not have access to banks, which brings them many financial and personal consequences, especially living in a country with one of the highest inflation rates in the world.

This state bank has proven to be one of the most open in terms of opportunities for low-income people.

This headquarters in the heart of Petare will open the doors to many people in need, making their lives a little easier.

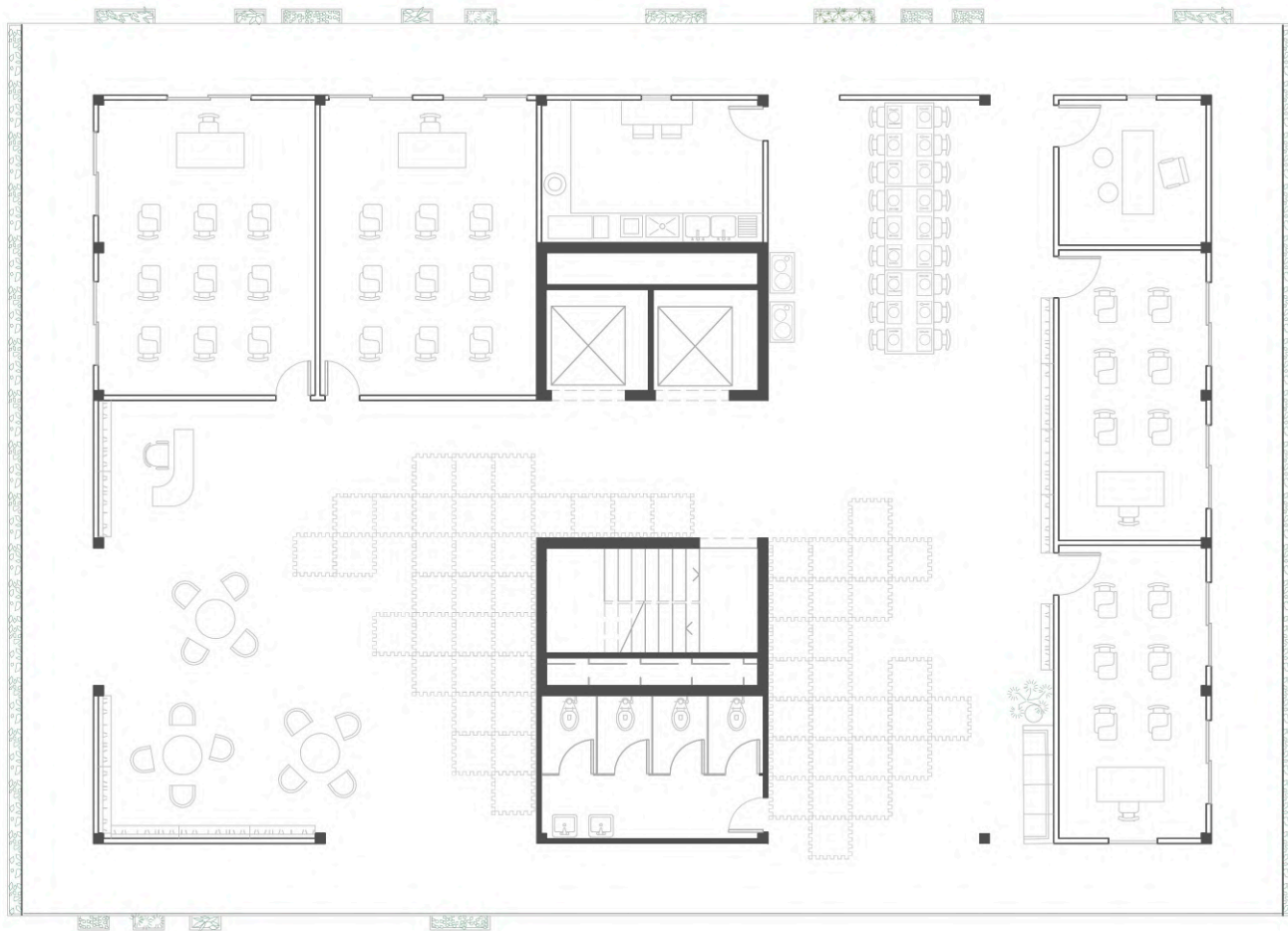


#### 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

Pico Colectivo  
Architecture | Customer Service | Advice

This architecture studio is already considered an expert in transforming *danger zones* into *peace zones*.

With already loads of knowledge building projects in Venezuelan slums, they will have the necessary experience to continue creating new projects, in addition to providing people with the help, support and guidance necessary for them to take the next steps to improve their own housing conditions.



## 5<sup>th</sup> Floor

Alimenta la solidaridad  
Education | Daycare

### *Nourish the solidarity*

An initiative created in 2016 to mitigate child malnutrition, expanded in sectors of low resources throughout Venezuela. This organization has managed to grow and now not only seeks to solve nutritional problems, but also to promote education and health, through the help of empowered women.



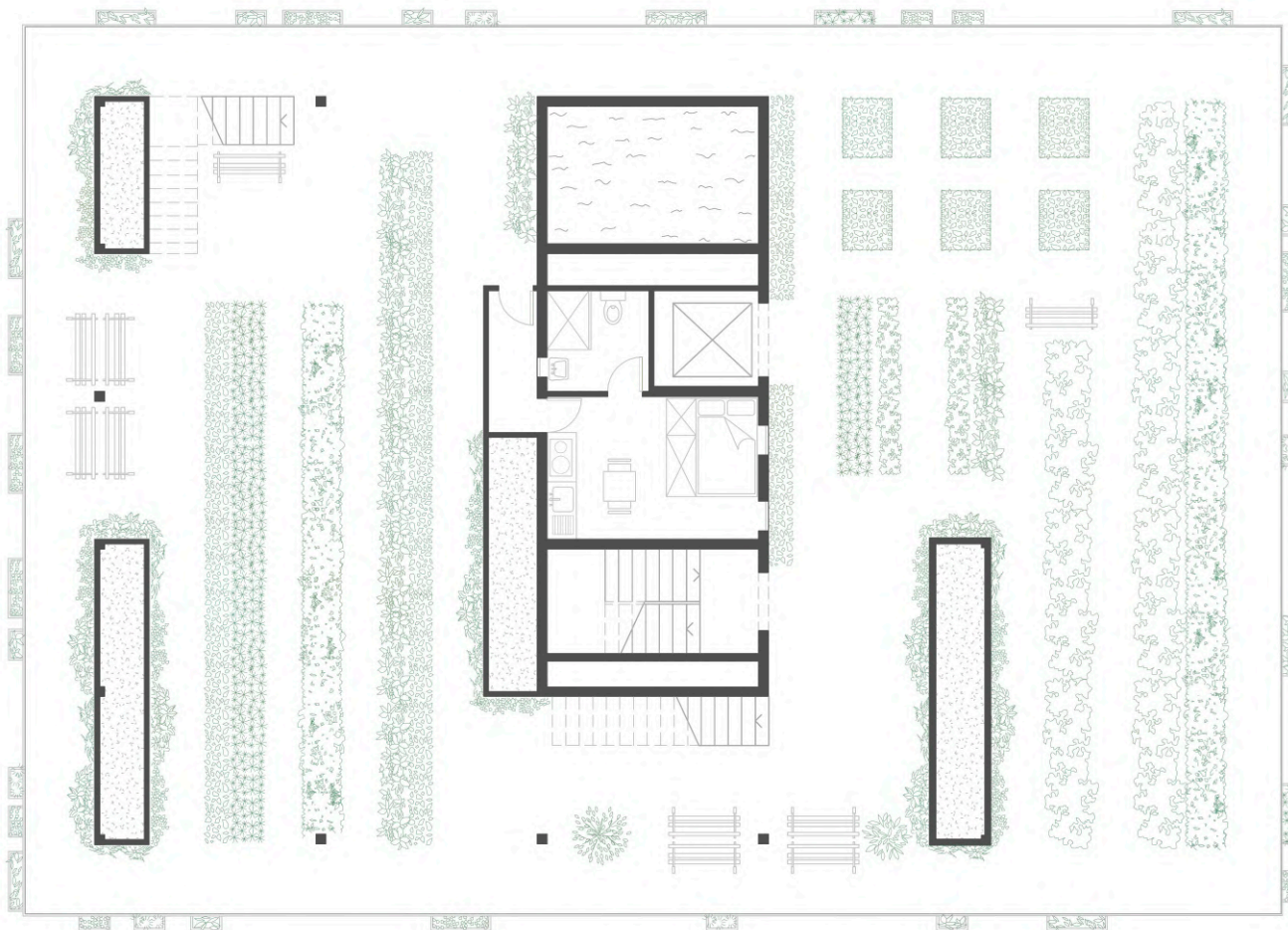
## 6<sup>th</sup> Floor

### Universidad Central de Venezuela Dentistry | Health | Psychology

The Central University of Venezuela is the institution of many doctors and dentists in training.

It is known for requiring its students to conduct community services, providing free support and medical consultations to those in need. Unfortunately, a fixed place where these procedures can occur is yet to exist. There is no specific venue, in which these undergraduates can provide their services.

This floor will fill this space vacancy, forming a Center for the benefit of all.



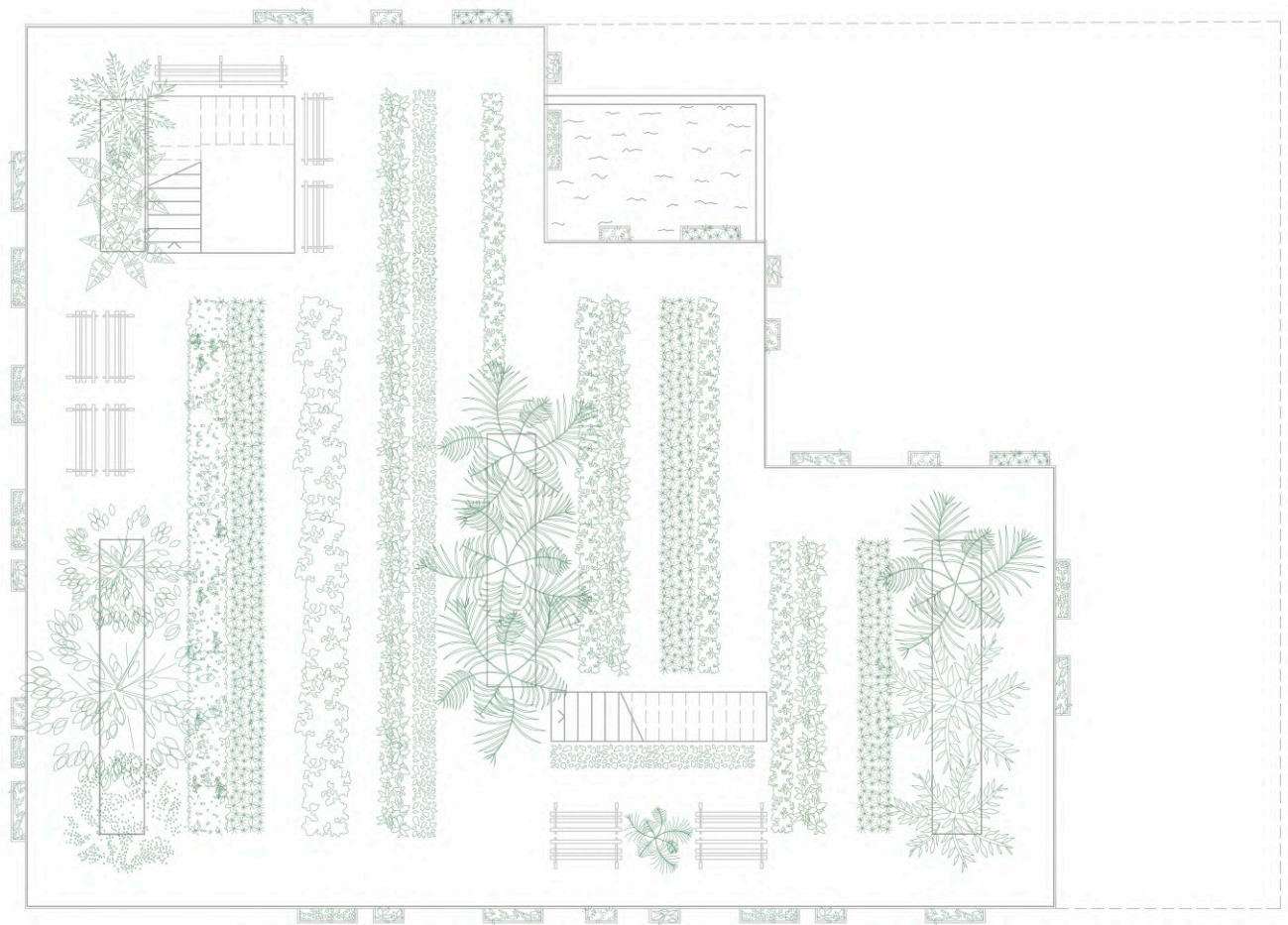
## 7<sup>th</sup> Floor

### Agroca Garden | Agriculture | Water

Agroca is a company dedicated to the agricultural sector. They promote and stimulate Venezuelans to get involved with the country's organic farming process.

This floor is completely dedicated to agriculture. Flower beds are integrated from this story to the one above, serving as the basis to allow the possibility to plant trees of great magnitude.

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## 8<sup>th</sup> Floor

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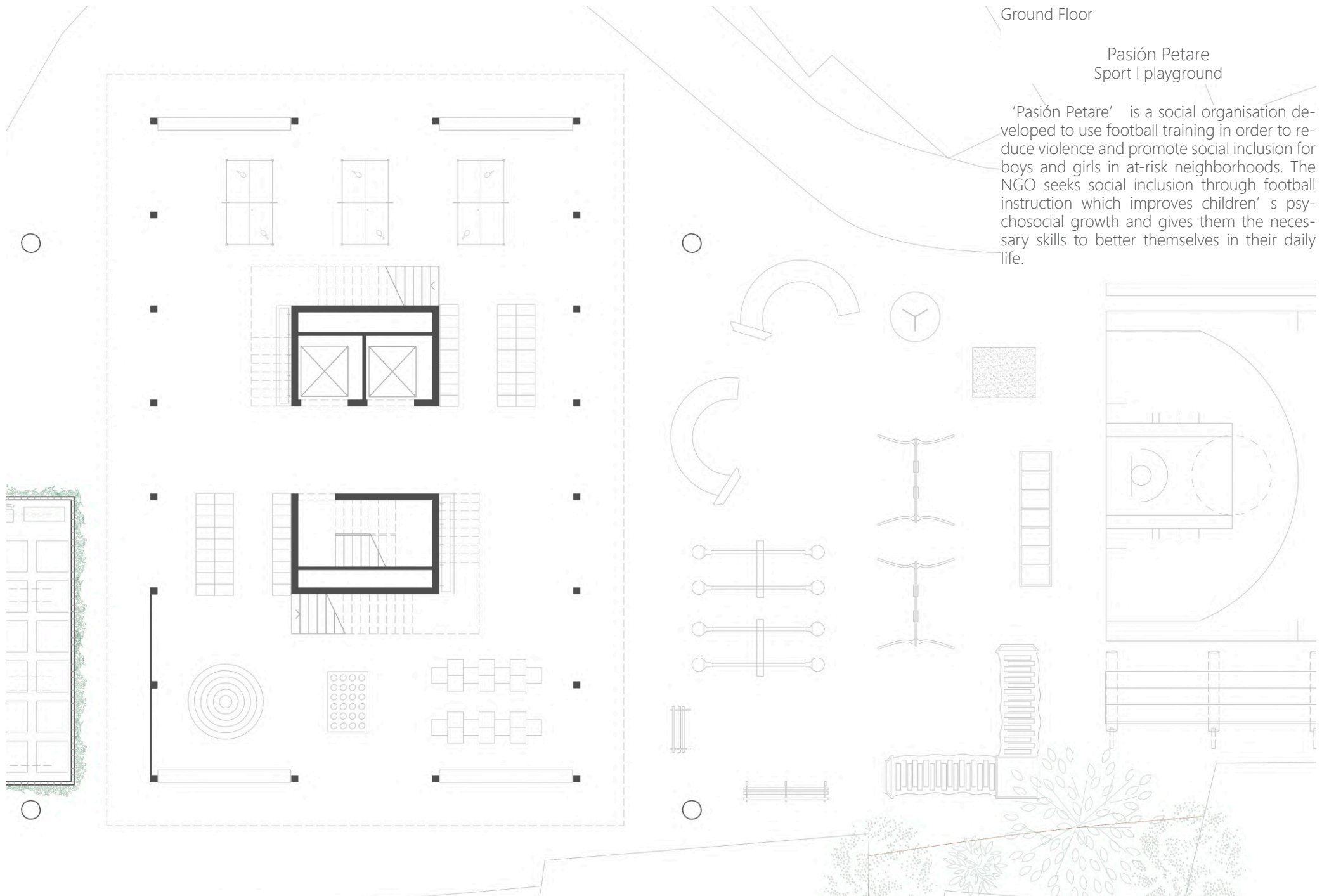
Here the goal was to achieve a kind of oasis, giving people a place of peace, in a place of such chaos.

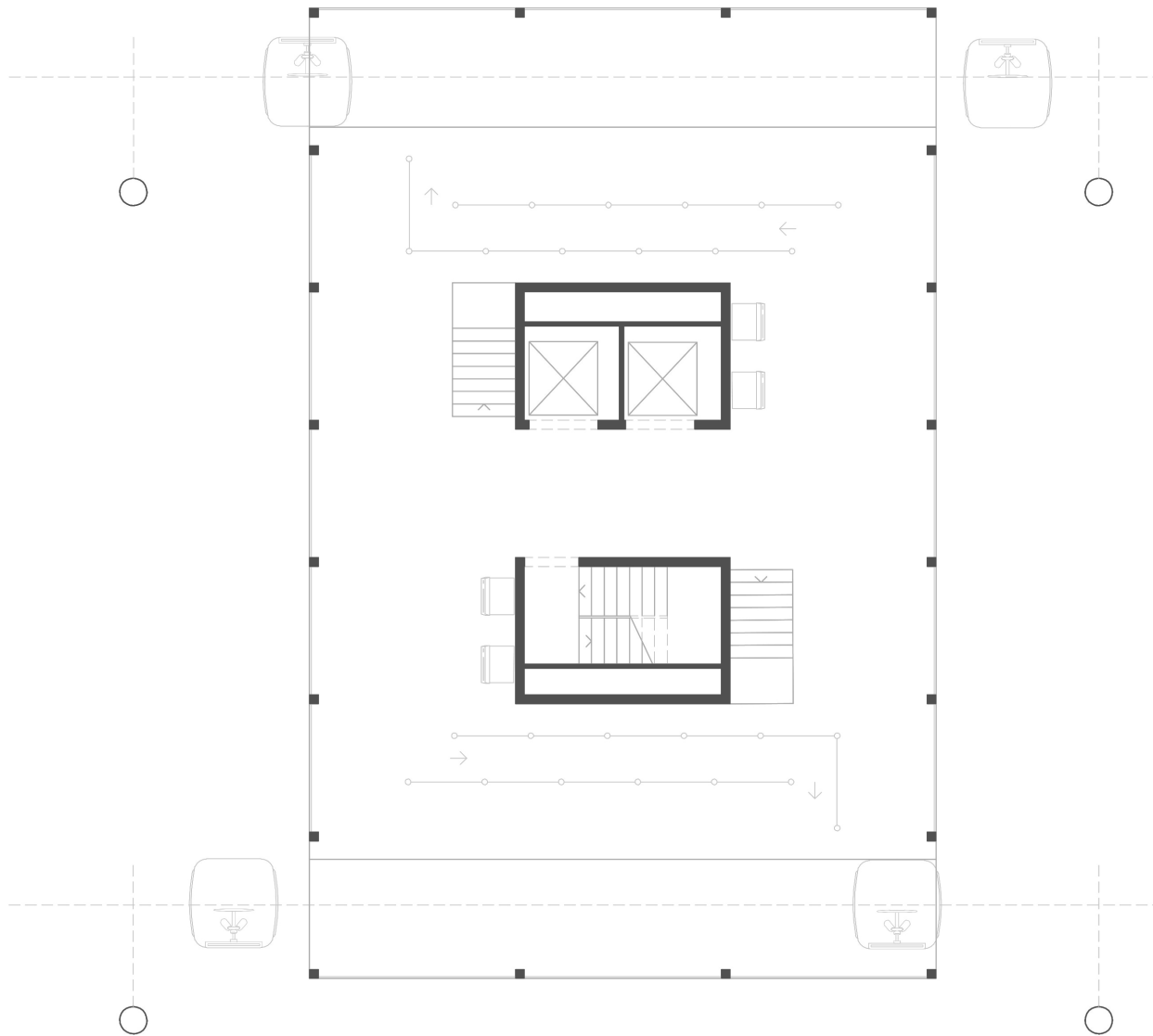
2

Chil • dren

This second building dives in a little bit more into the personal range and is completely dedicated to the **children**.

Having a school nearby, this location is perfectly suitable to complement extracurricular activities, to provide kids with the little extra help they need to achieve great things.

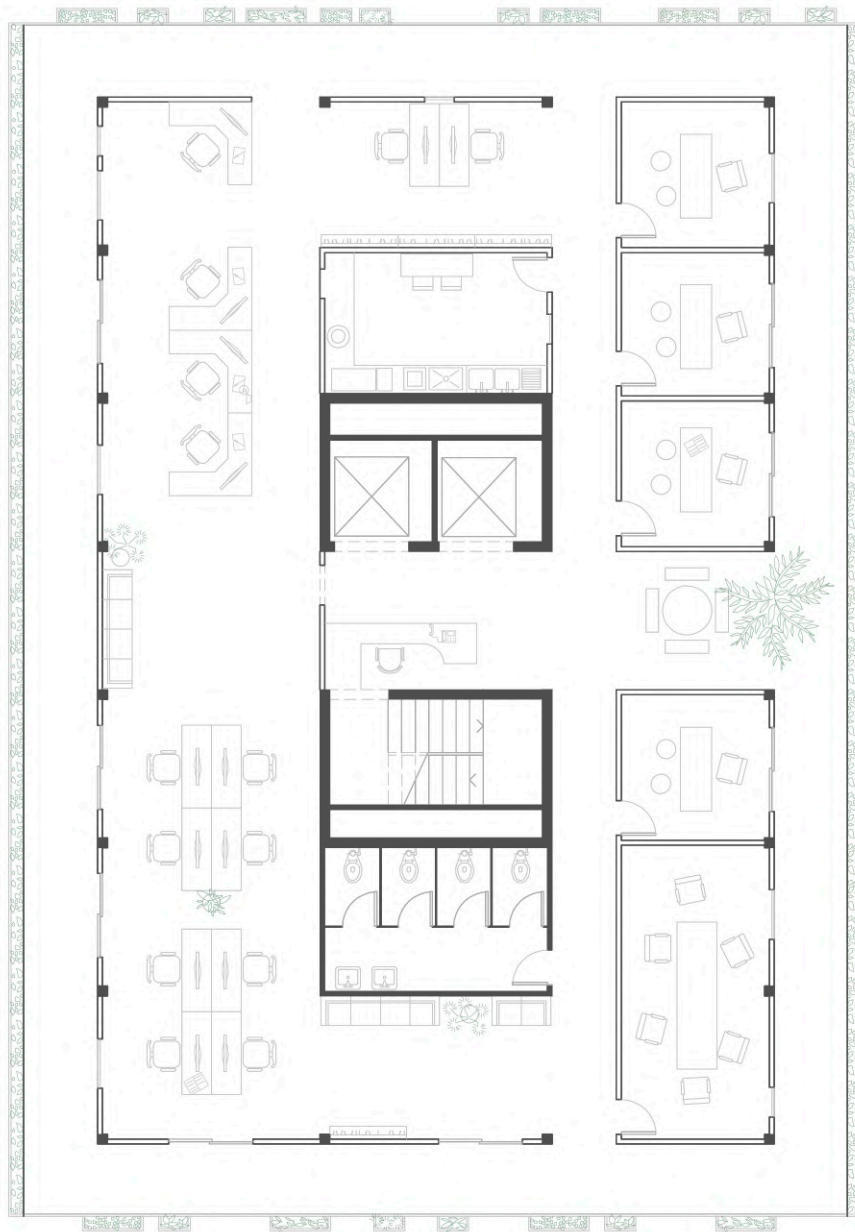




1<sup>st</sup> Floor

### MetroCable Caracas Cable Car Station

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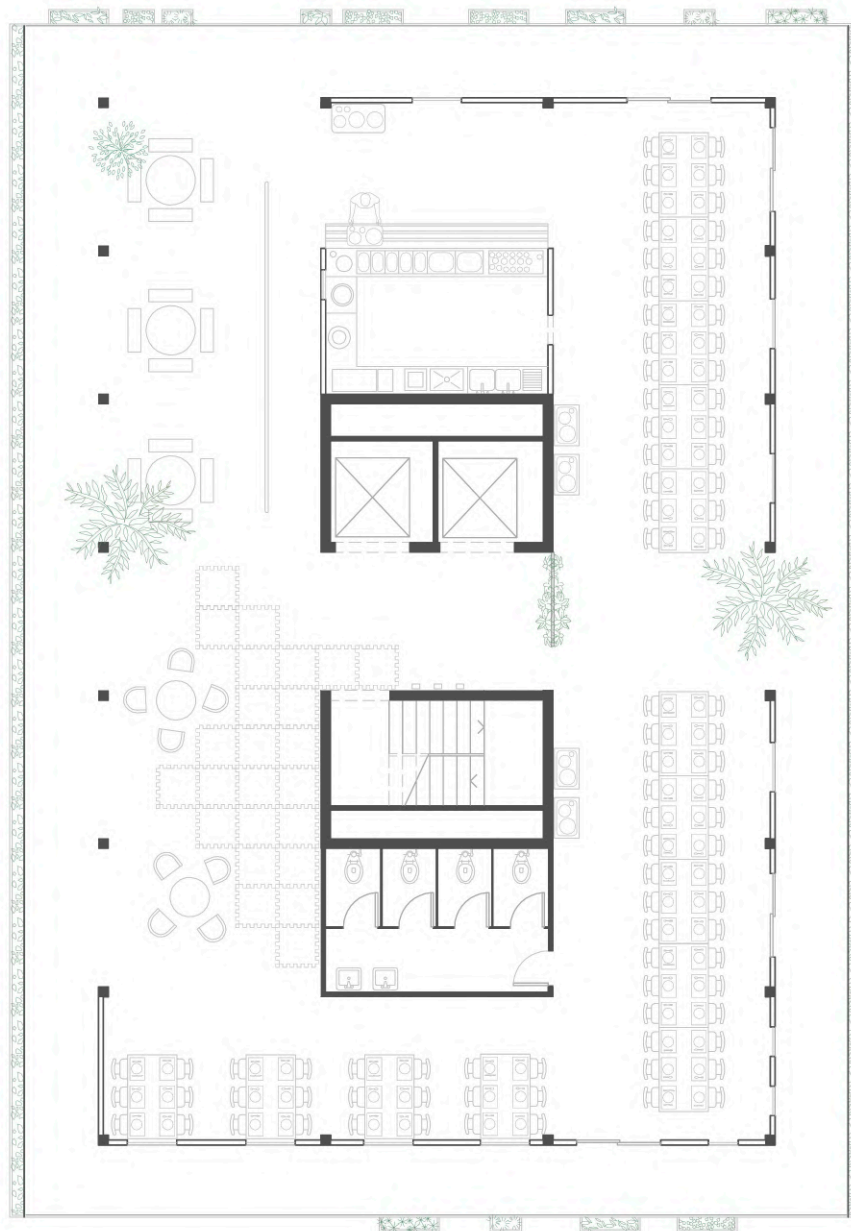


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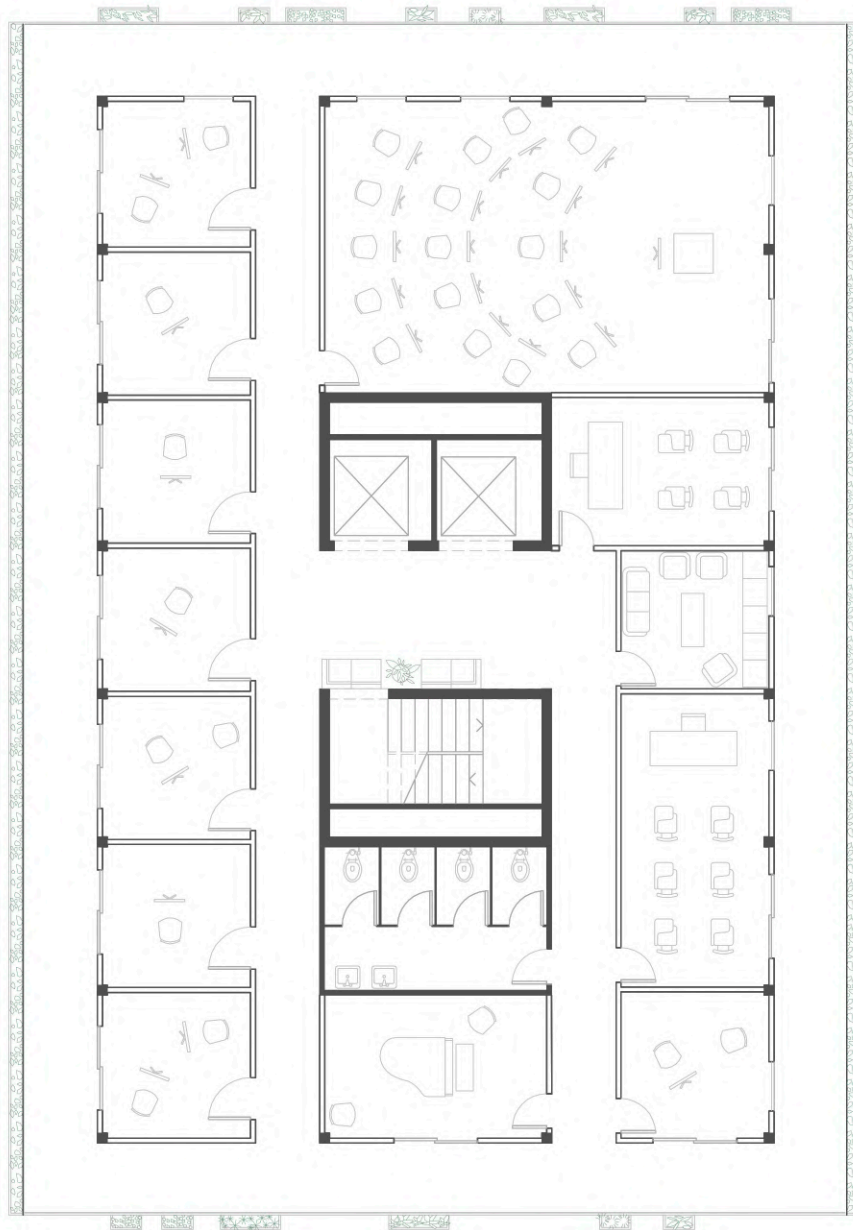


3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Alimenta la solidaridad  
Canteen

*Nourish the solidarity*

This organization aims to mobilize the most vulnerable communities and work together to alleviate child malnutrition in Venezuela. Their set up cafeterias provide children with lunch from Monday to Friday with the necessary nutrients for a healthy meal.



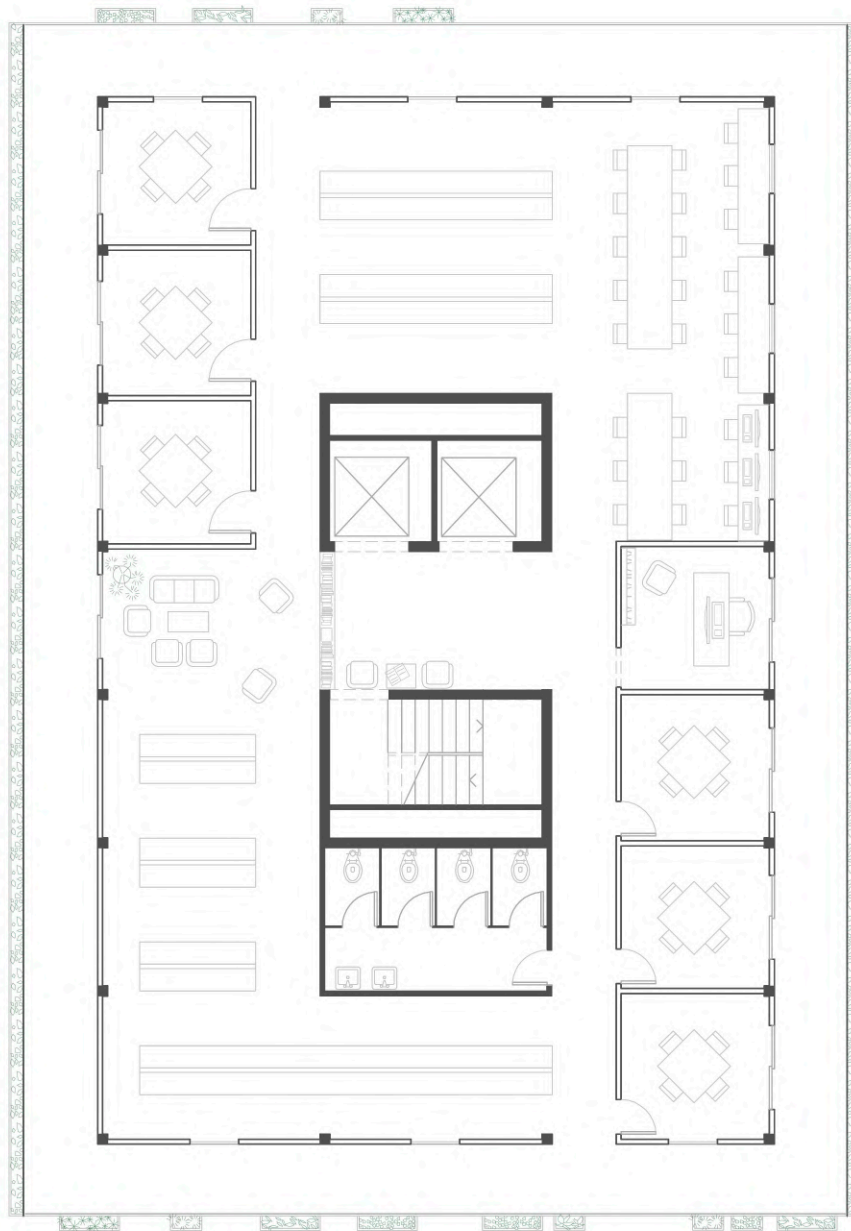
4<sup>th</sup> Floor

### El Sistema Music Center

*The Sistem* is a publicly financed, voluntary sector, music-education program, founded in Venezuela in 1975.

It later adopted the motto *Music for Social Change*.

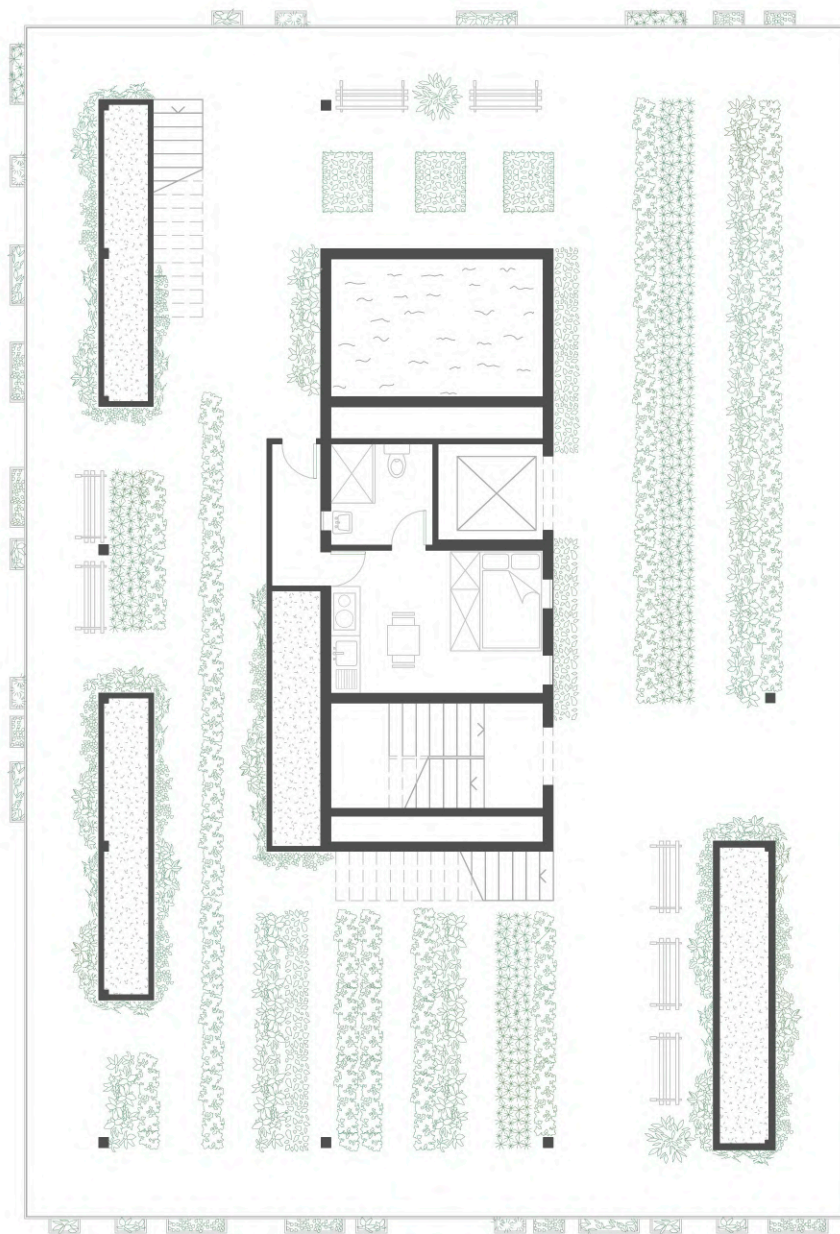
It provides free classical music education that promotes opportunities and development for impoverished children. It involves four after-school hours of musical training and rehearsal each week, plus additional work on the weekends, as well as free use of an instrument. More than 400 music centers and 700,000 young musicians benefit from this system today.



5<sup>th</sup> Floor

### Armando Reveron School Library | Study Rooms

A library is very difficult to find in a favela. Gladly, with the help of the Armando Reveron School, located at less than 100 m away, the opening of this library, and study rooms will be a place filled with very busy students in search of a better future.



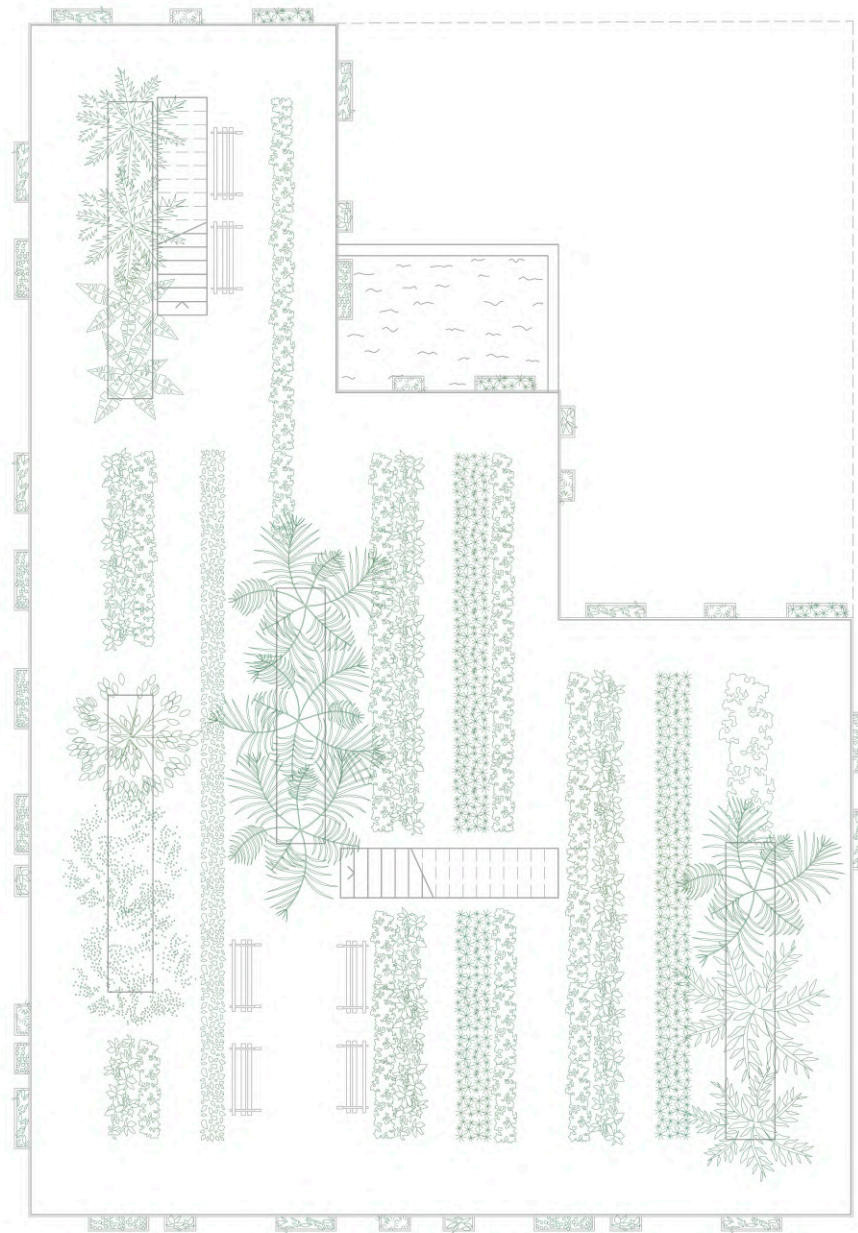
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3

A • gri • cul • ture

My 3rd and last Building is dedicated to **agriculture** and personal growth.

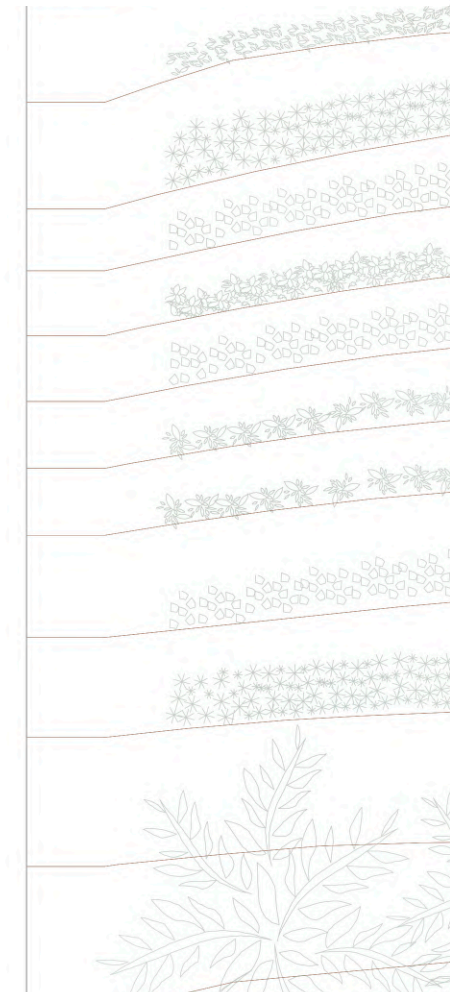
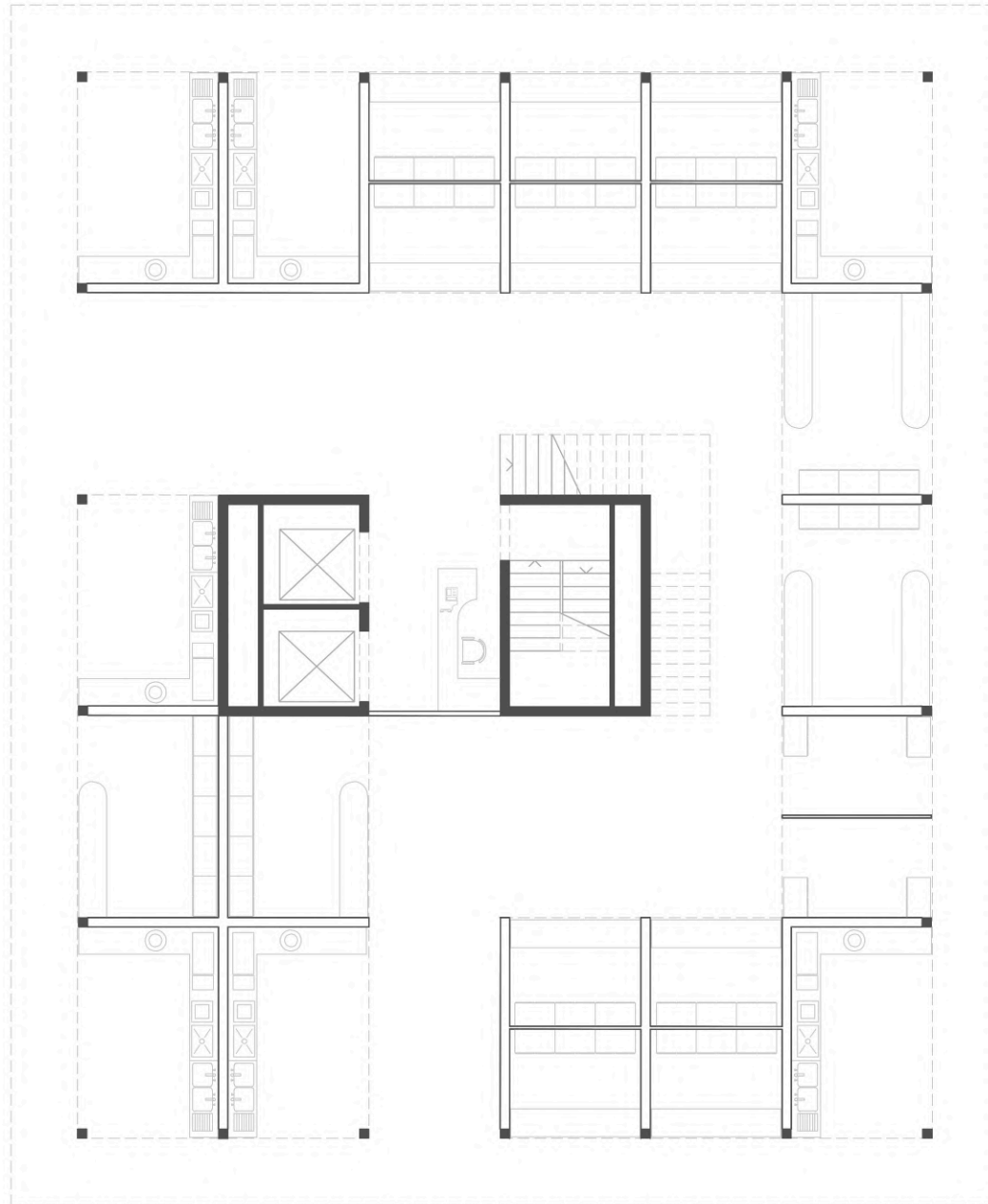
In these difficult times my country is going through, it is very important to maintain a healthy body and mindset. Venezuelans are not necessarily known for their healthy eating, and nowadays with the extreme prices and inflation some families have had to do without 1 or 2 meals a day.

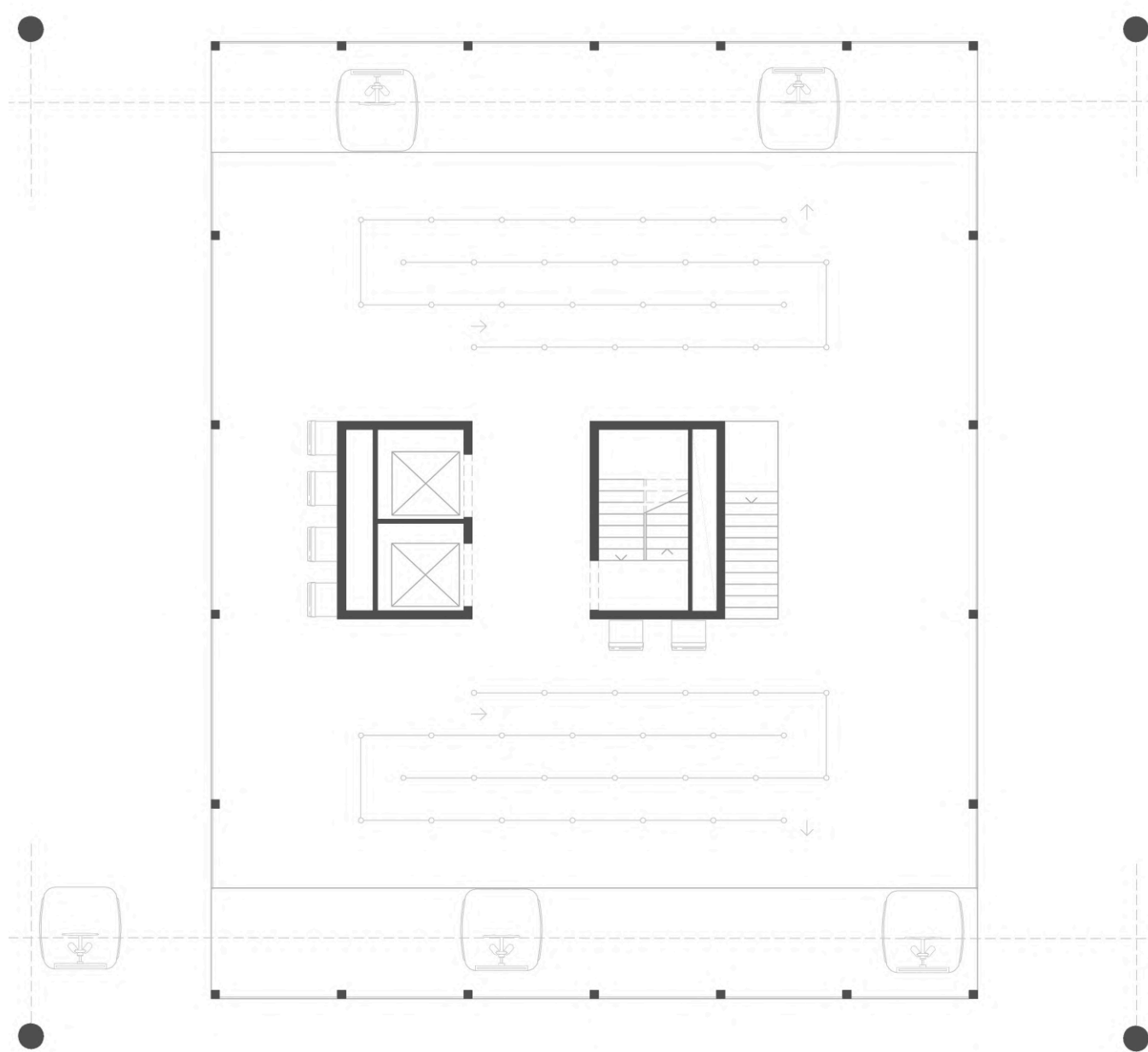
The purpose of this building is to encourage people to start their own vegetable garden and educate them on how to live healthy lives.

## Ground Floor

### Agroca Market | Trade

With the mindset of stimulating Venezuelans to get involved with the country's organic farming process, this ground floor transformed into a Market place encourages everyday people or farmers to sell their produce and serve as a meeting point for the community.

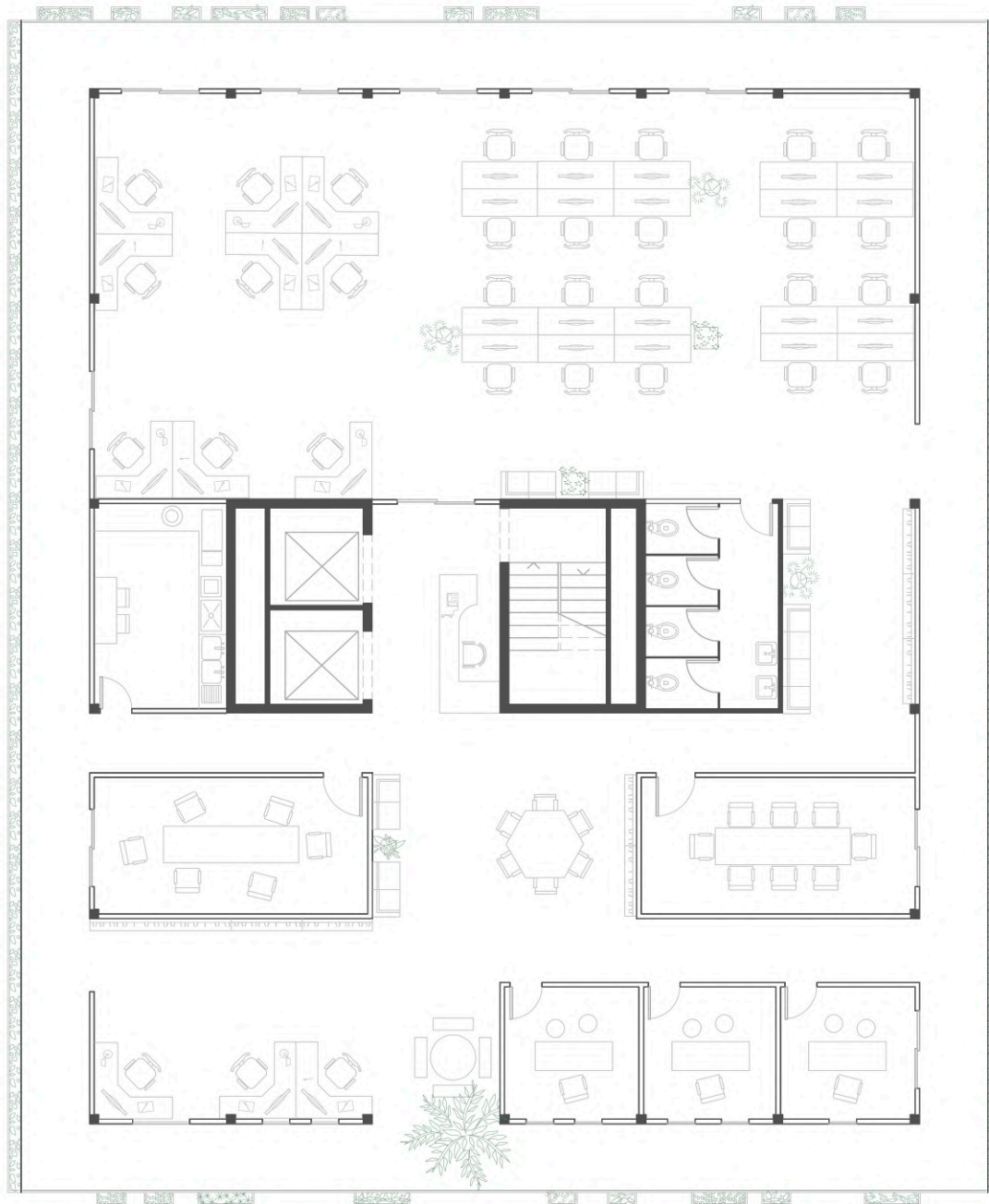




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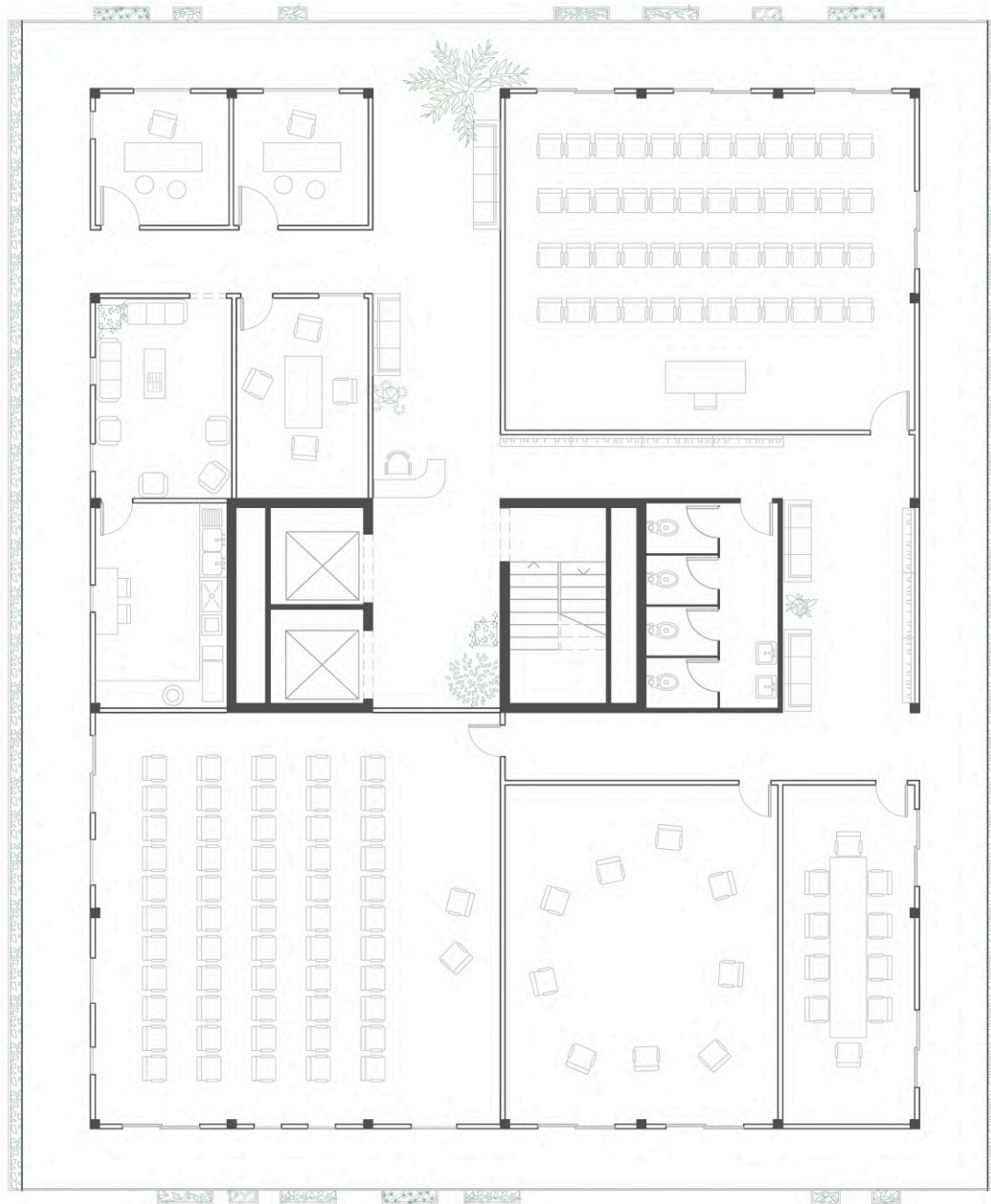


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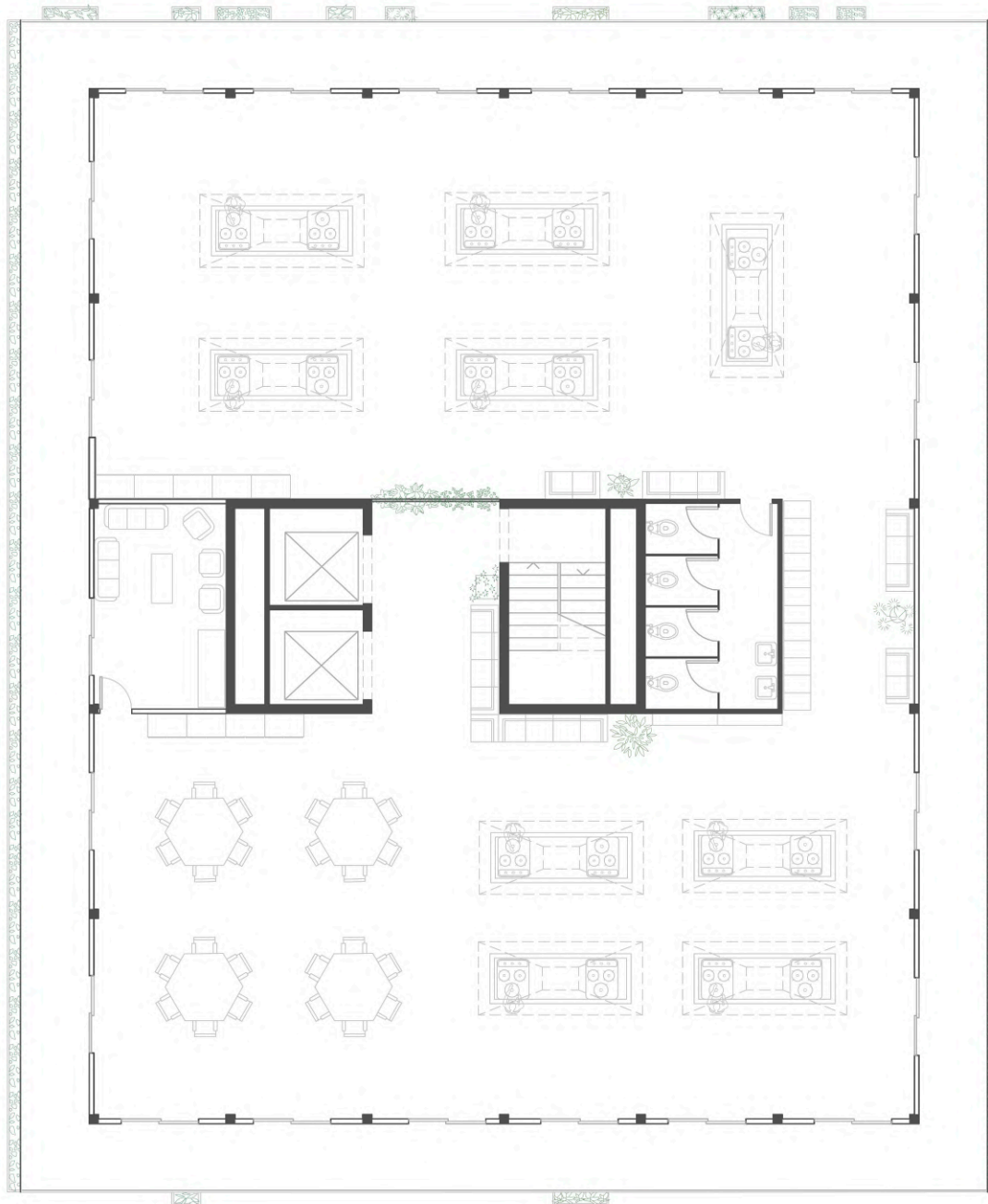
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### 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

#### Agroca Workshops | Seminar Rooms

On this floor all kinds of courses and workshops starting from Agriculture, to self-sufficiency, as also sustainability and even new technologies such as Aquaponics will be taught. Knowledge is power.



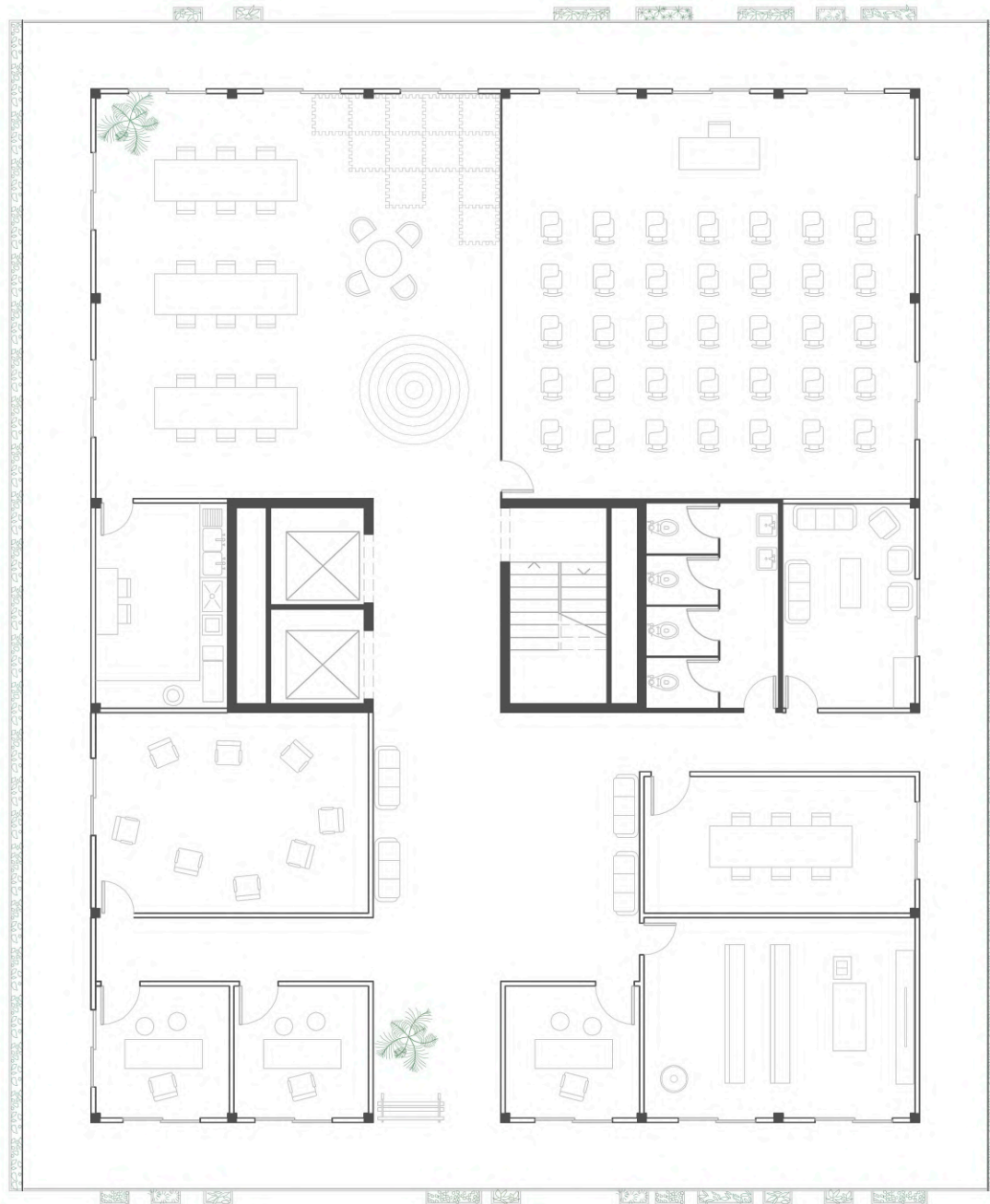
#### 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

##### Ecocinando Kitchen | Cooking Classes

As I mentioned before, Venezuelan food is very tasty, but not necessarily the healthiest. It is important to teach the community how to be able to eat better, but without a proper place to teach them, it would be a very complicated matter.

This floor will hold cooking courses and provide the space for all those people who seek to improve their diet, but do not know where to start.

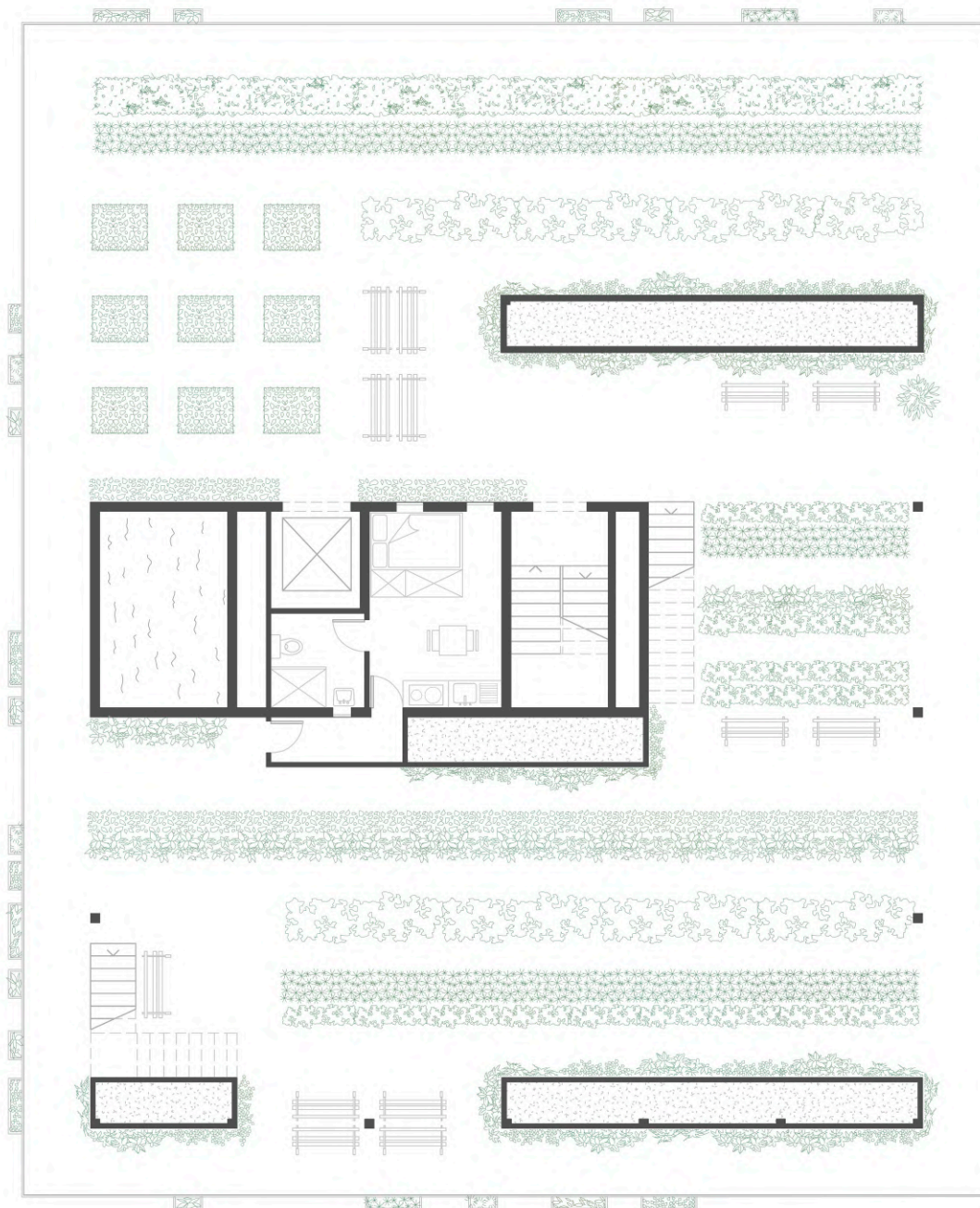
Ecocinando is a company, that focuses on cooking with natural and very healthy products and for this program the main ingredients will come primarily from the building' s crops.



## 5<sup>th</sup> Floor

### Sagrado Corazon de Jesus Religion

For most Venezuelans, religion is a very important aspect of their life and mental health. Unfortunately, given the high density in the population in Petare there is a large demand for a religious space, where people can come together as a community, children can receive classes and overall people can feel in a place of tranquility and peace.



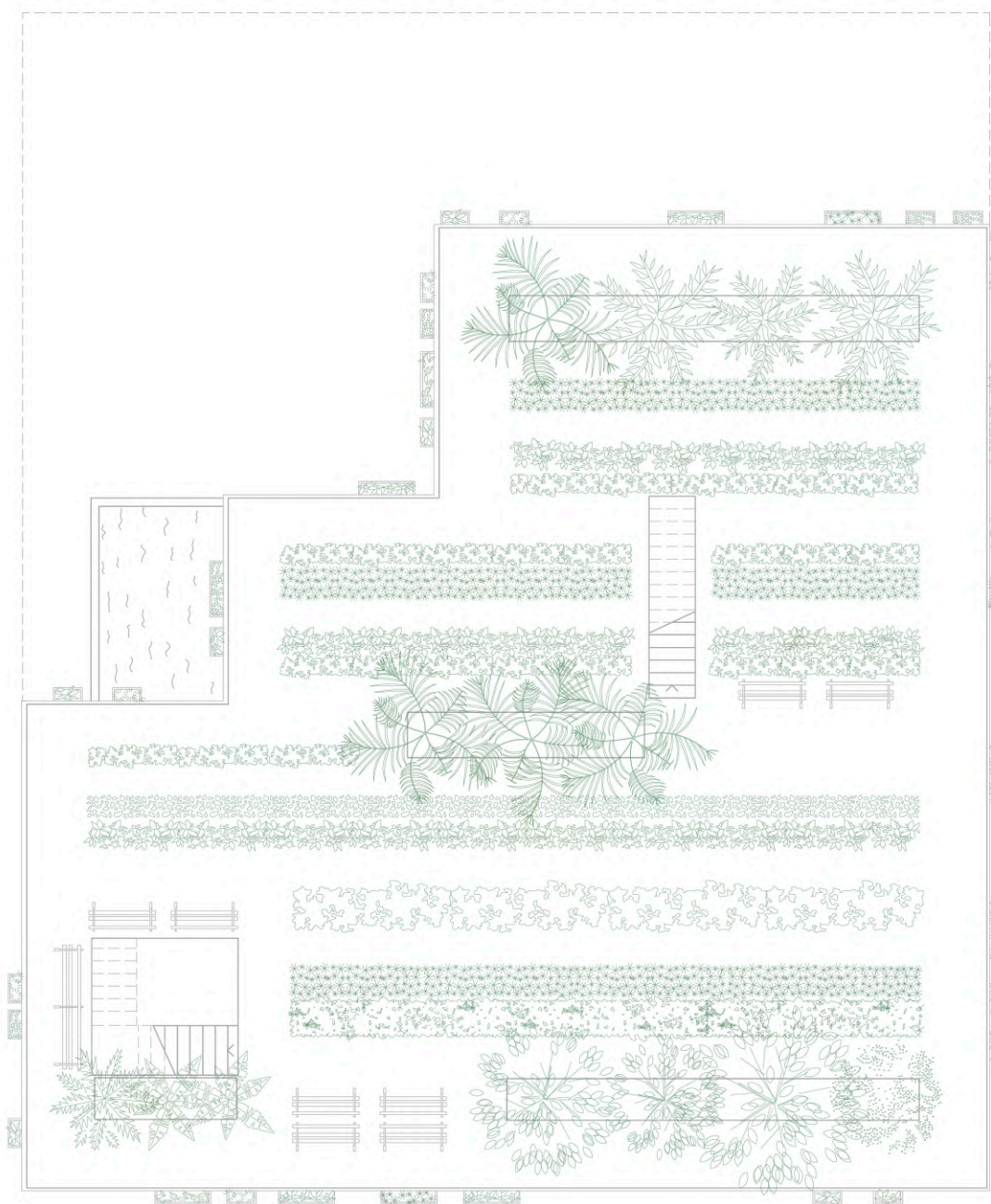
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South Section

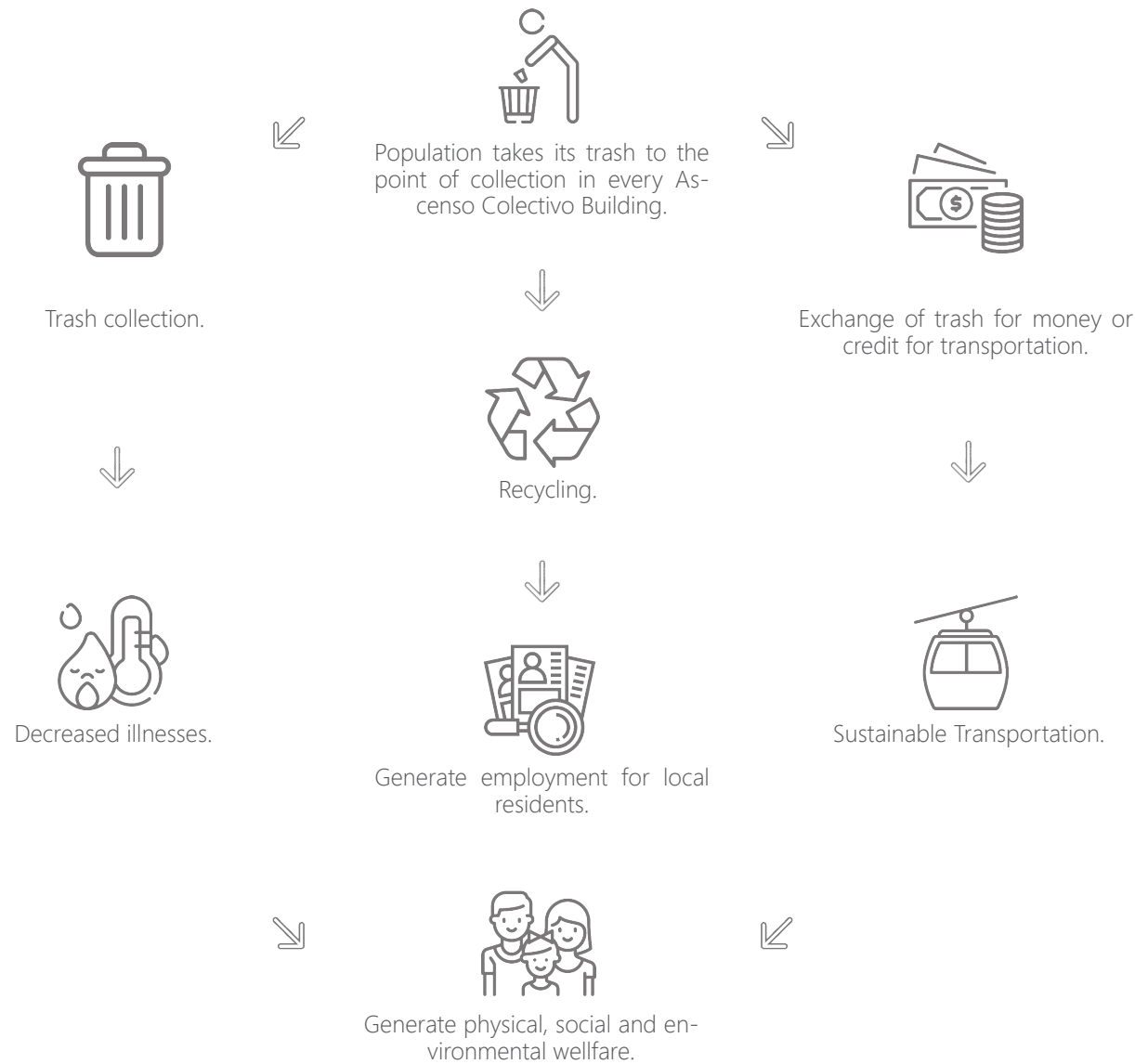


East Section





East Elevation

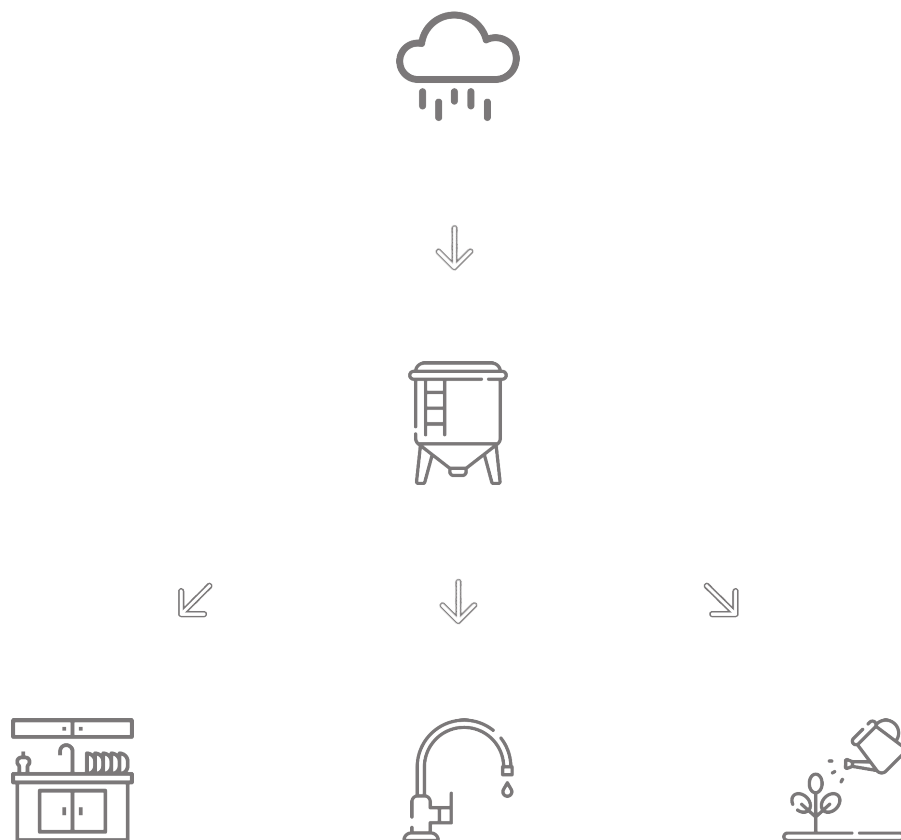


### Trash | Recycling System

On each ground floor there is a garbage and recycling point. Waste management is an aspect of great importance in the steps towards improving one's quality of life.

These recycling areas will open certain days at certain times. Here, the garbage can be collected and in return people will receive benefits such as coupons for free use of the cable car system.

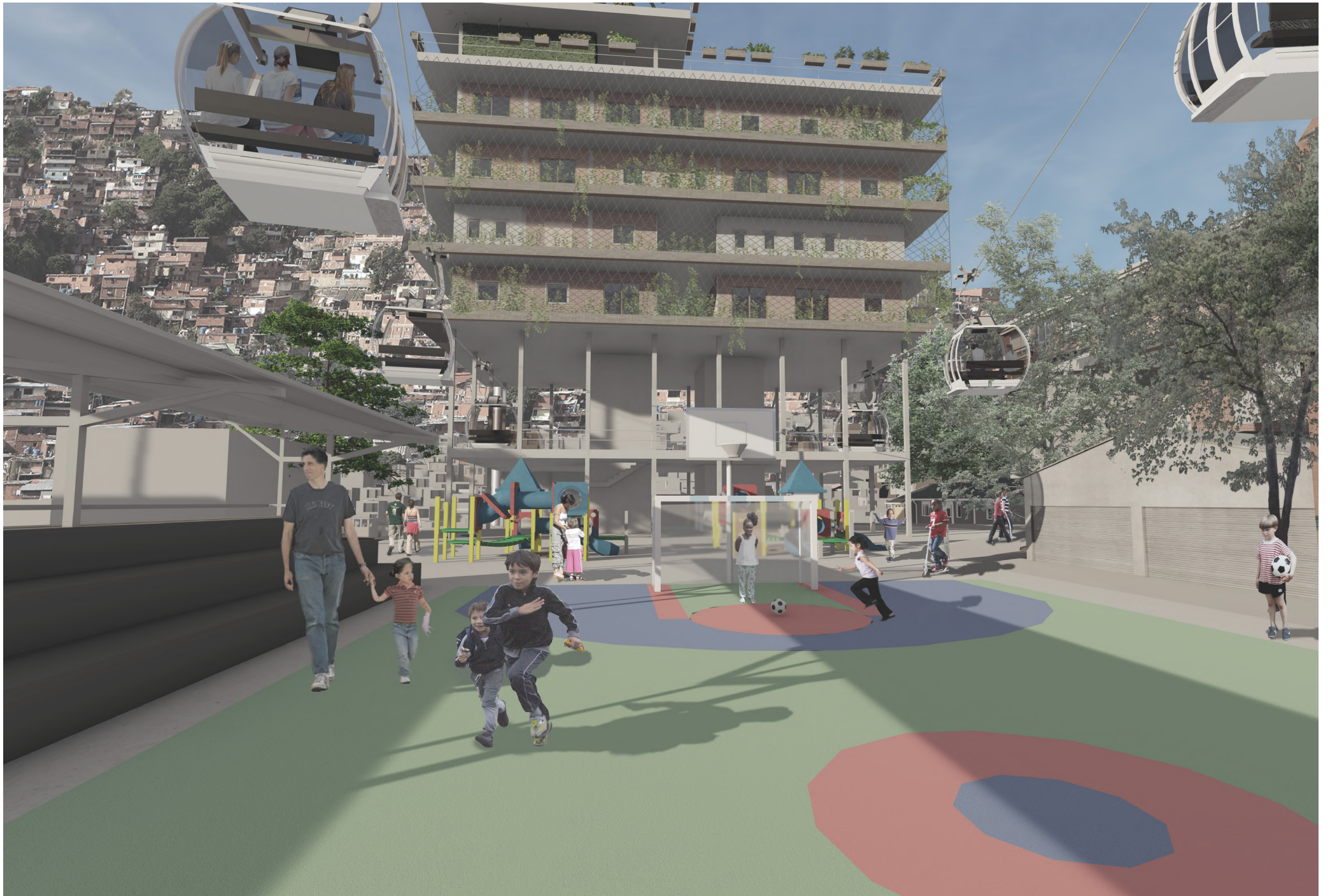
This will gradually achieve to encourage people to have a better environmental awareness, until it reaches a point where it becomes part of their daily routine and no benefits more than living a clean and healthy life are needed.



## Water collection

Rainwater is collected for daily consumption. A tank system located on the terrace of the building allows water to be saved and used throughout the year.

This allows Water consumption to be minimized thanks to its reuse principal.





Cable Car Station





