

# HOUSING IN THE WAKE OF THE LONG SUMMER OF MIGRATION

SUGGESTING AN APPROACH TO BUILT ENVIRONMENTS AND SOCIAL PRACTICES IN EUROPE



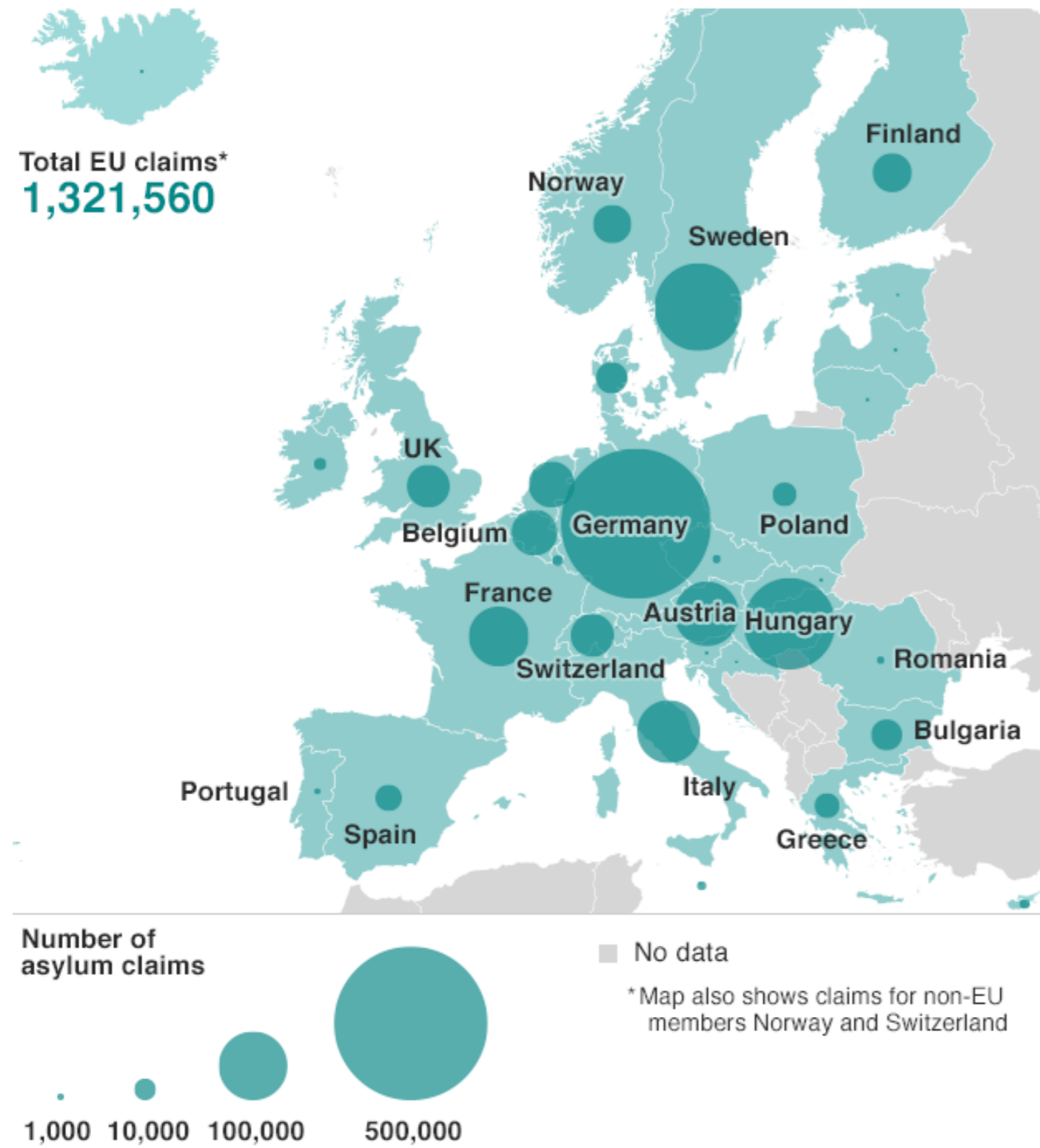
**Housing, crises, and catastrophes | Summaery 2021**

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Asylum claims in Europe, 2015

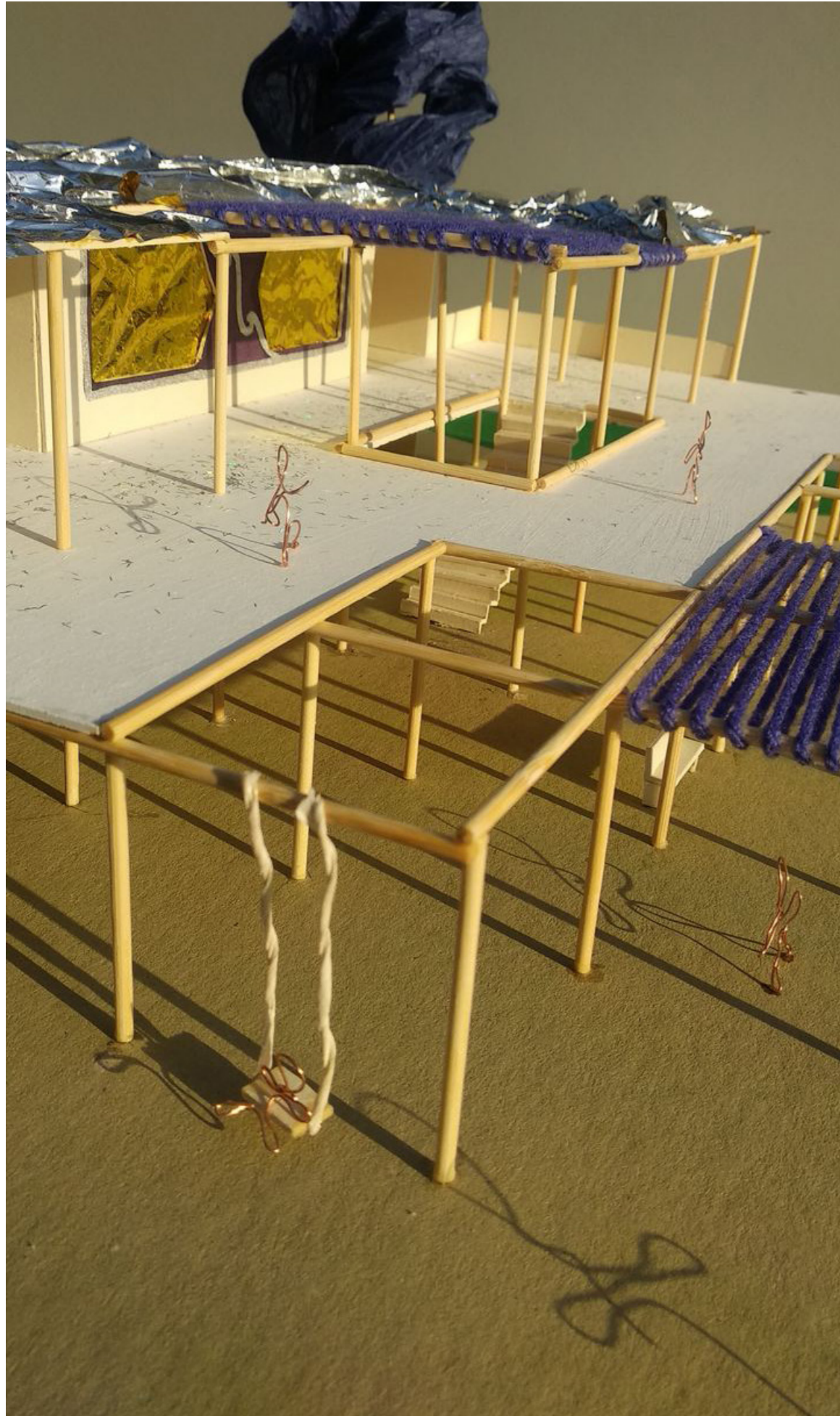


Source: Eurostat



Housing is a key factor for successful integration into a new society. Through housing and a sense of home and belonging, many levels of integration can be achieved; without it, refugees stand without a safety net and a place to call home. Yet, in many European cities, refugees are facing an array of obstacles when it comes to access to affordable quality housing.

Based on different case studies, we are proposing a collaborative refugee housing model which is based on self-management and community-building between locally established and newly arrived populations. This mixes local populations of specific demographic groups with the refugee population. Our digital project consists of a booklet based on a physical model depicting an, in our opinion, utopian housing project in an arrival society.



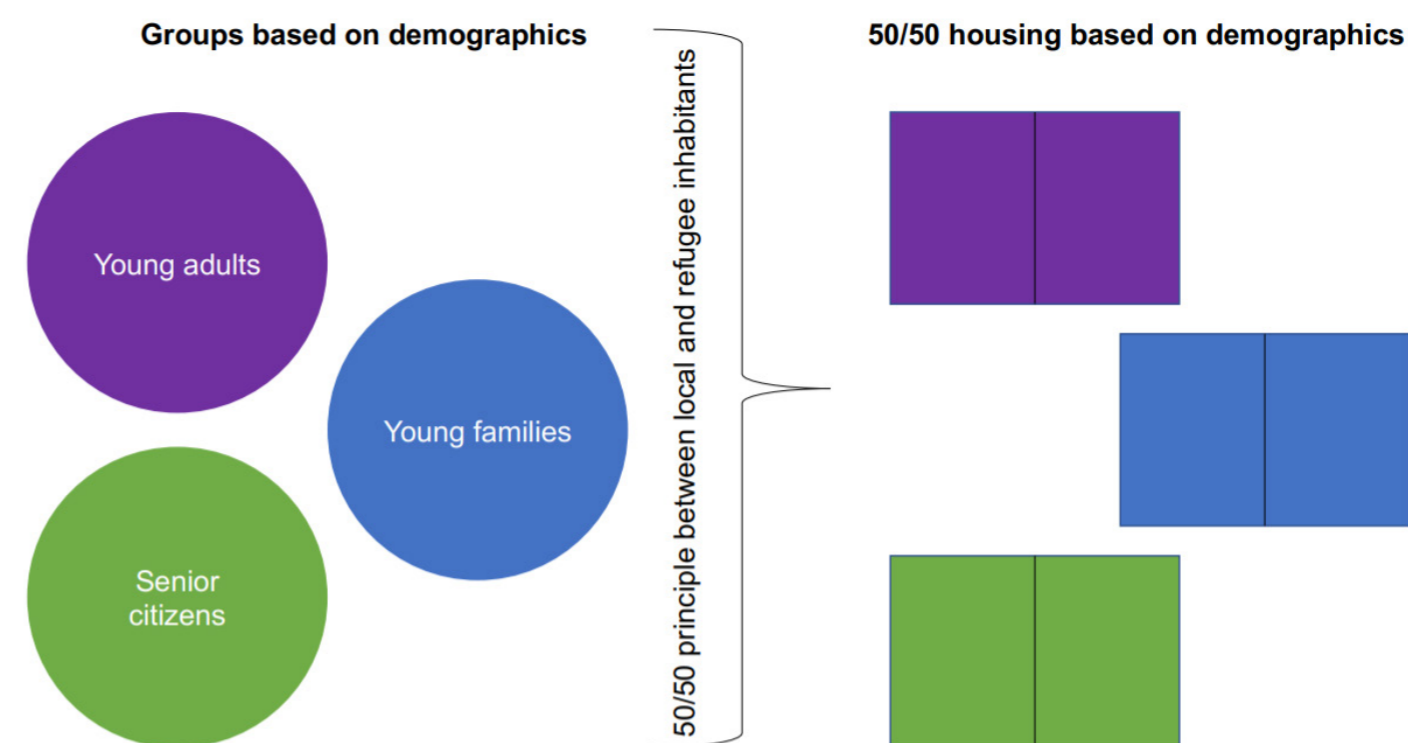
The structures are flexible, module-based, cost-efficient and adaptable, as the modules can be added or removed as needed. Different needs of different inhabitants can thus be met through appropriating the semi-open spaces, and if the community grows or shrinks, if their needs change, the structures can be updated accordingly.



On the policy level, we believe that the municipal level is best suited to initiate projects which are adapted to the local needs. In one of the projects which we have used as a basis for this suggestion, Startblok in Amsterdam (Czischke & Huisman 2018), the municipality also used the project to relieve the housing market for young Dutch inhabitants.

This leads us to the market dynamics we are aiming to tackle simultaneously.

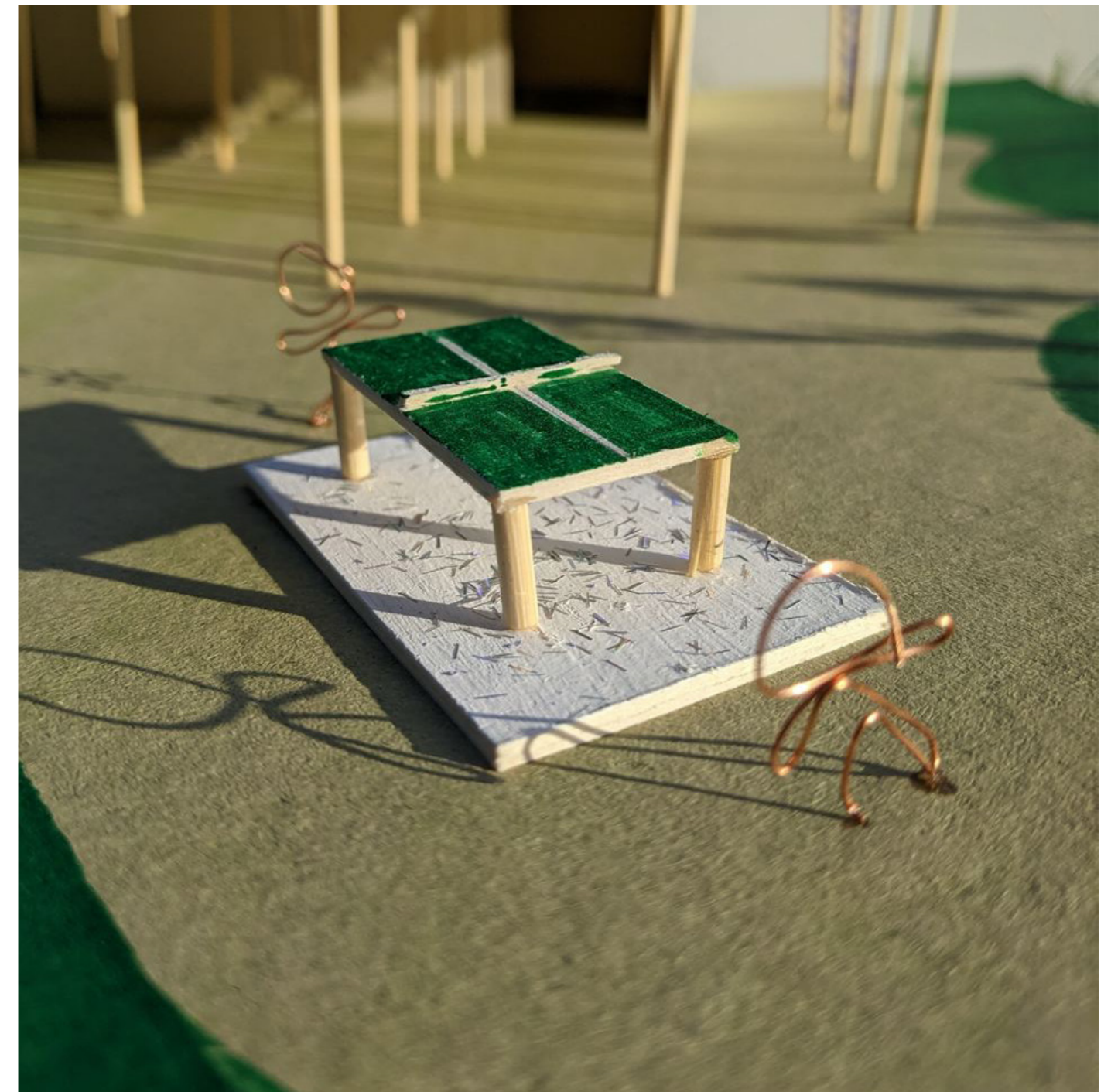
Neoliberal forces cover more and more urban ground worldwide, and it has become the rule rather than the exception that especially urban housing stock becomes monetised, financialised, and speculated in. Most of the European metropolitan regions are seeing rents skyrocketing and a combination of touristification, gentrification and financialisation in and of the housing market further enhancing capitalist predatory developments. As these phenomena further intensifies, vulnerable groups face increasing obstacles upon entering the housing market (ACRHC, European Action Coalition for the Right to Housing and to the City 2019).

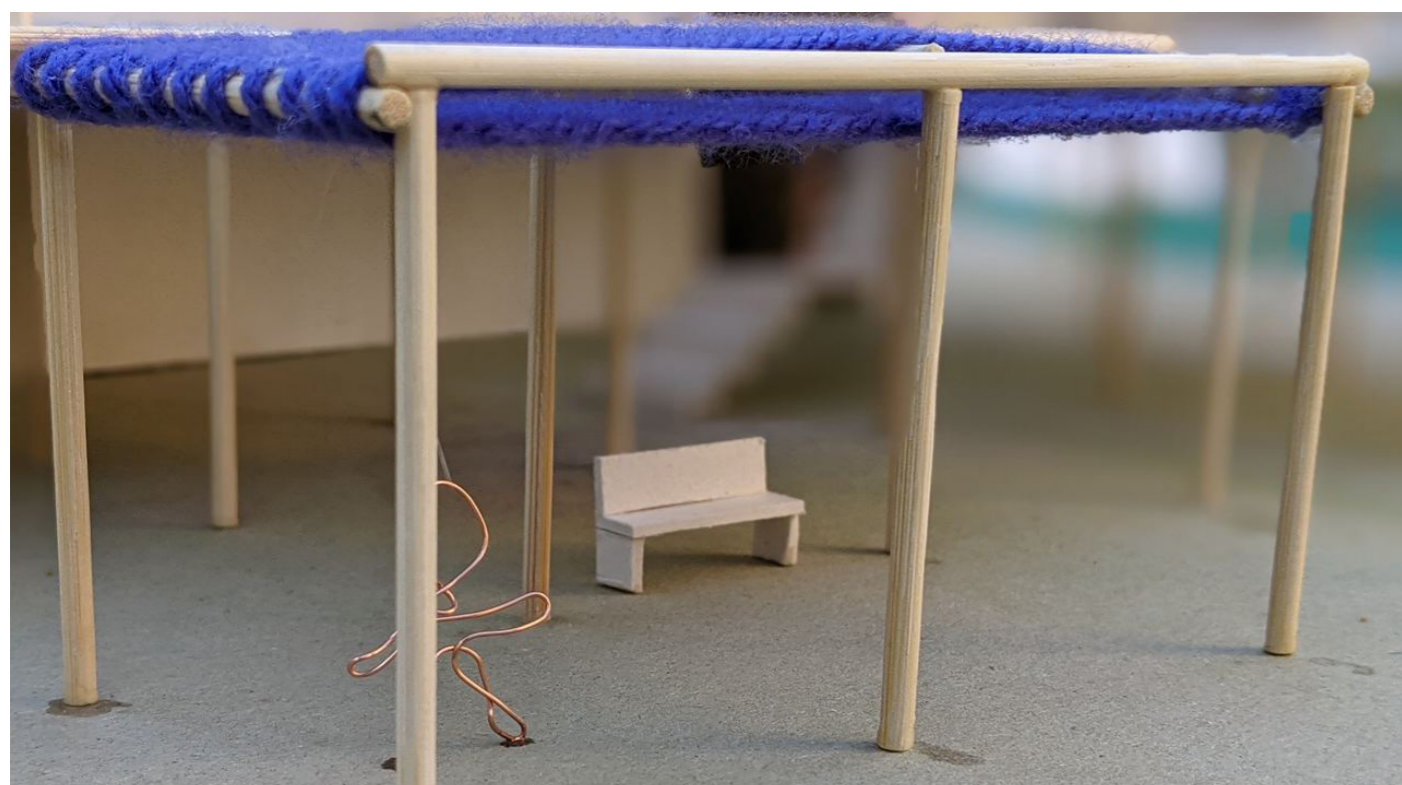


Through proposing a 50/50 model for different demographic groups, including but not limited to 1) young adults, 2) young families, and 3) senior citizens, we are supporting refugee integration while also providing affordable high-quality housing to these groups which often have troubles finding suitable housing on the free market.

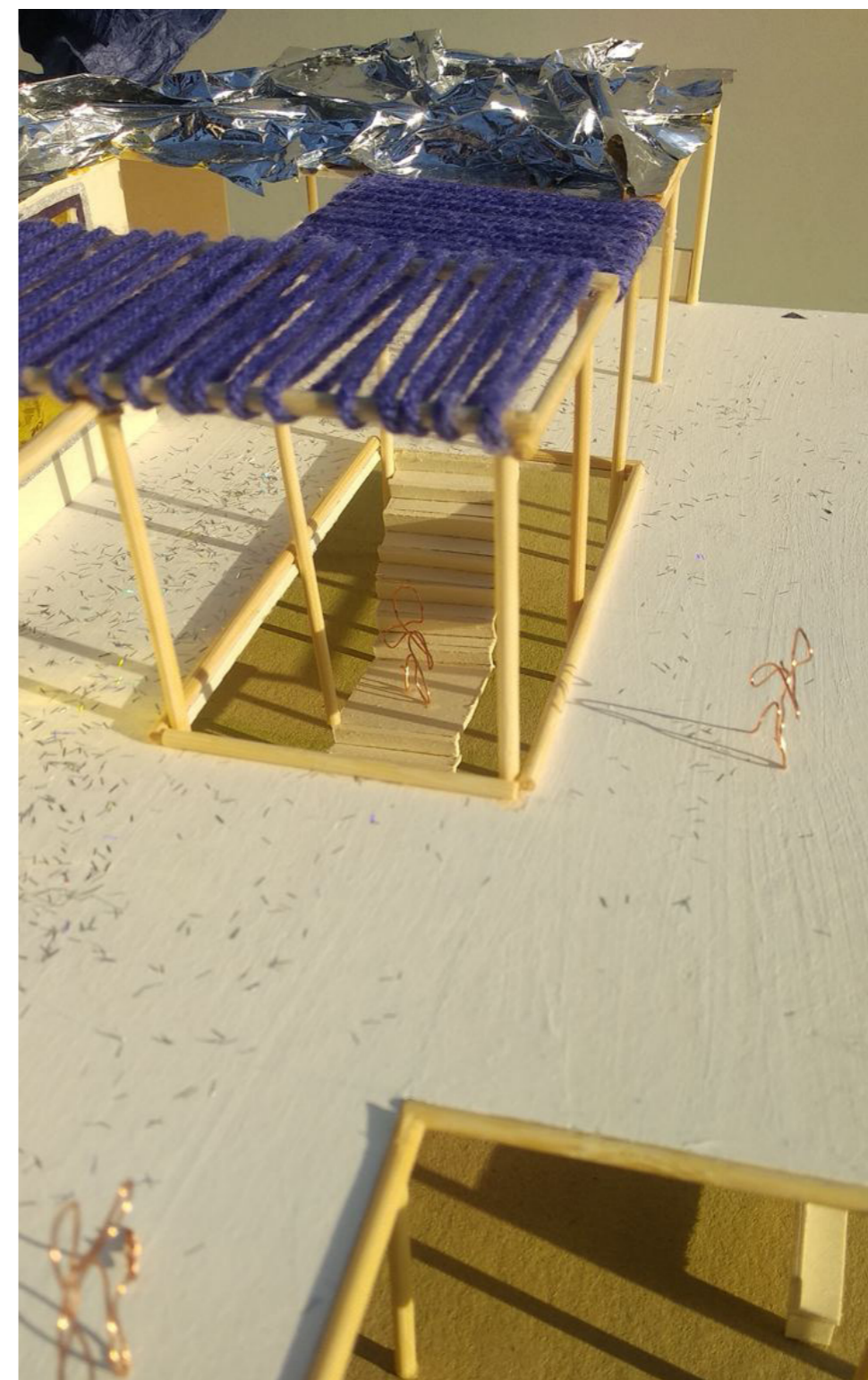


The housing can thus be intergenerational but sectionally divided, so that social bonds within groups can be established based on demographics while bounds between groups also have a space: for example support in babysitting or support for elderly by younger population.





In providing a variety of communal multi-use spaces, a lively atmosphere allows inhabitants to create social bonds. Inhabitants are assigned the living space based on a 50/50 principle, where refugee populations are mixed with locals of the same demographic group. This allows for communities to form both within and between the groups, and age-related bonding takes place.



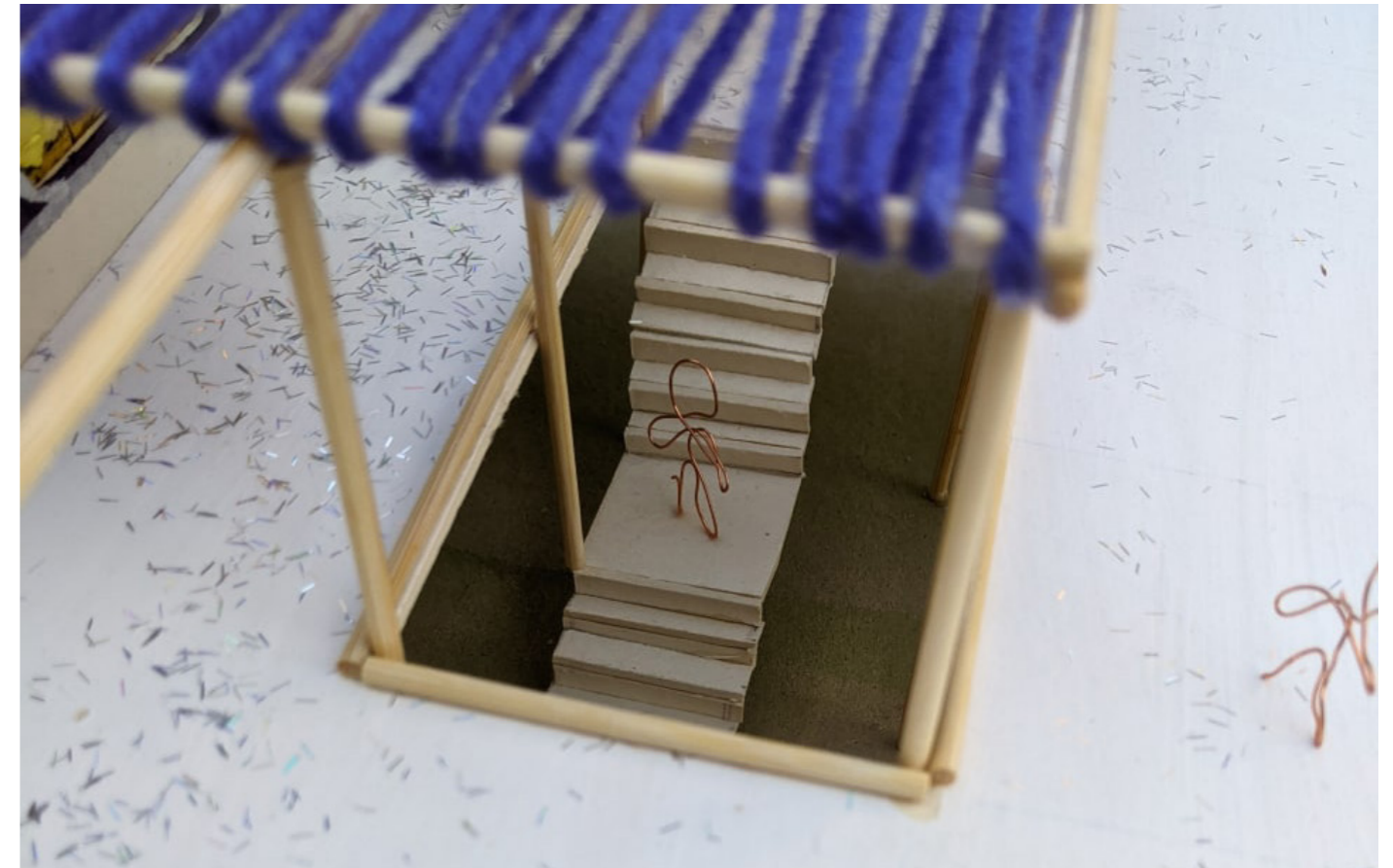
Inhabitants take over management and organisational roles within the project, which allows refugee populations to gain first professional experiences. The continued collaboration between locals and refugees in this matter creates a mutual learning experience where one can benefit from the knowledge of the other.

Democratic structures will naturally be the decision-making structure through which the community is structured. In different working groups and plenary sessions the decisions concerning the project will be made collectively. Inspired by 'networks of solidarity' (Dadusc, Grazzoli & Martínez 2019), the idea is that there is a possibility to challenge humanitarian border regimes with racist and xenophobic structures through acts of citizenship and through creating social bonds across ethnic groups.



Although the focus is on communal structures, each inhabitant is also provided with relative autonomy through access to their own private space, including bedroom and bathroom.

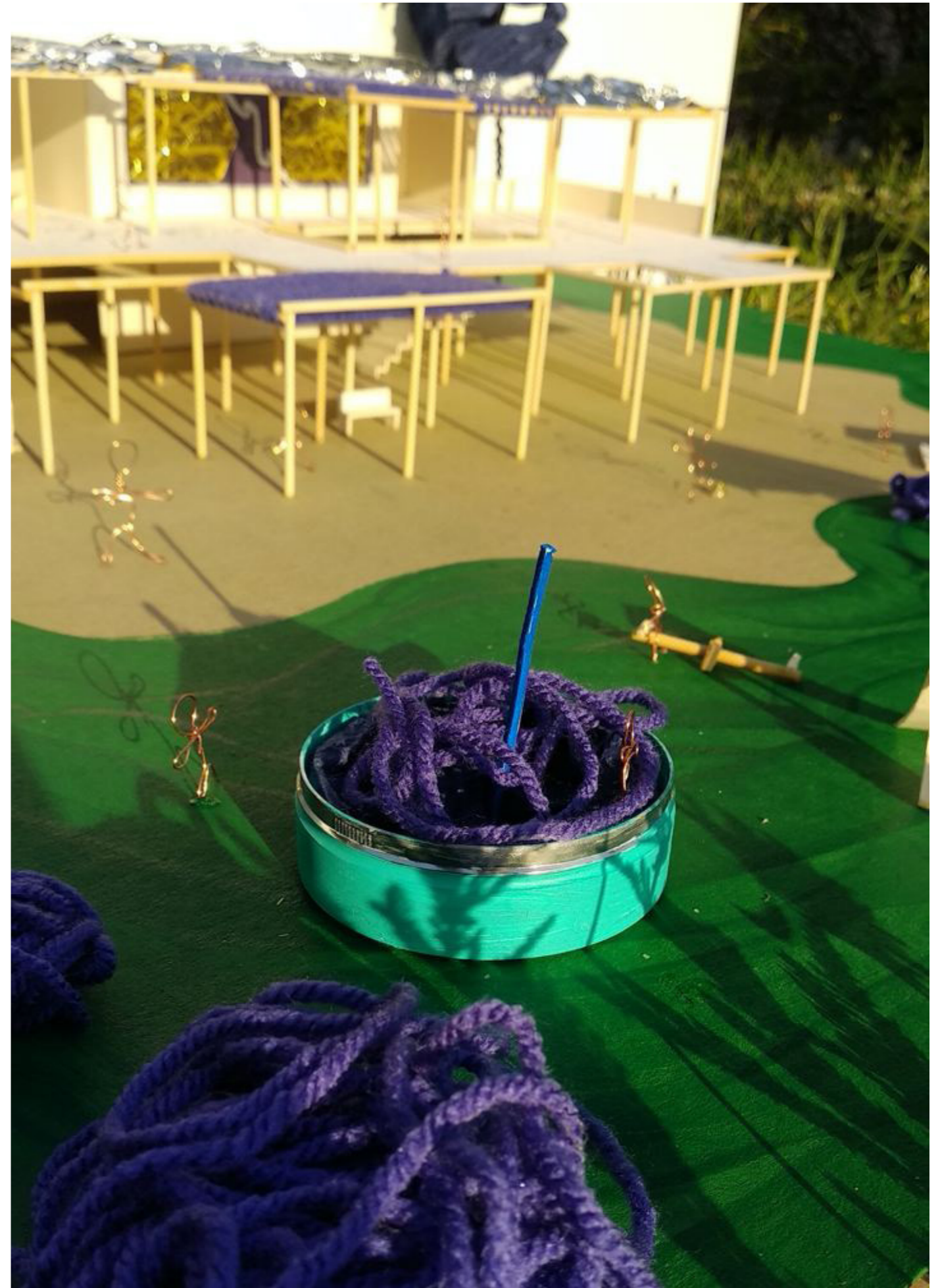
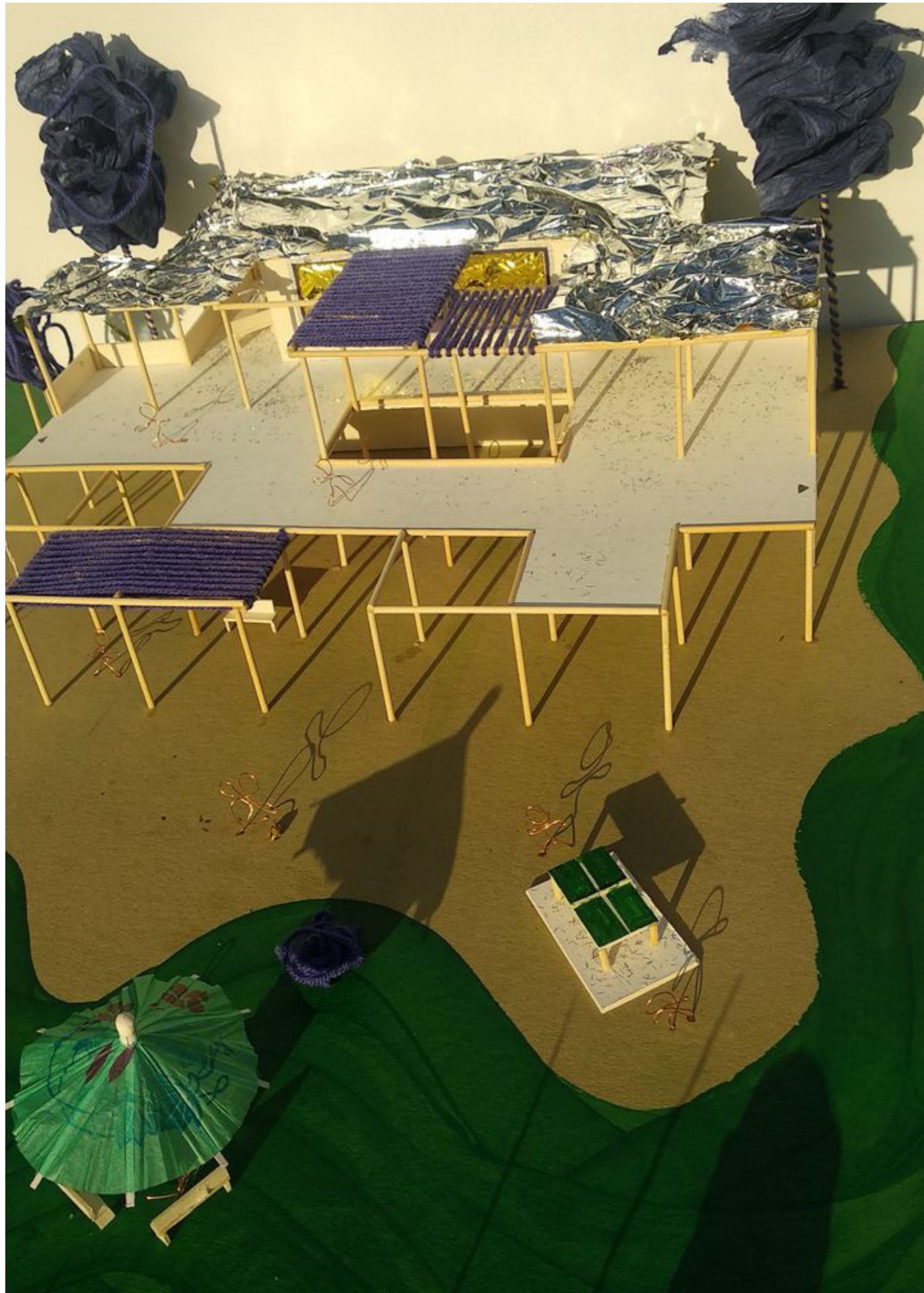
Depending on individual needs, however, the modular structure of the building can also be adapted to other arrangements regarding shared and private spaces.

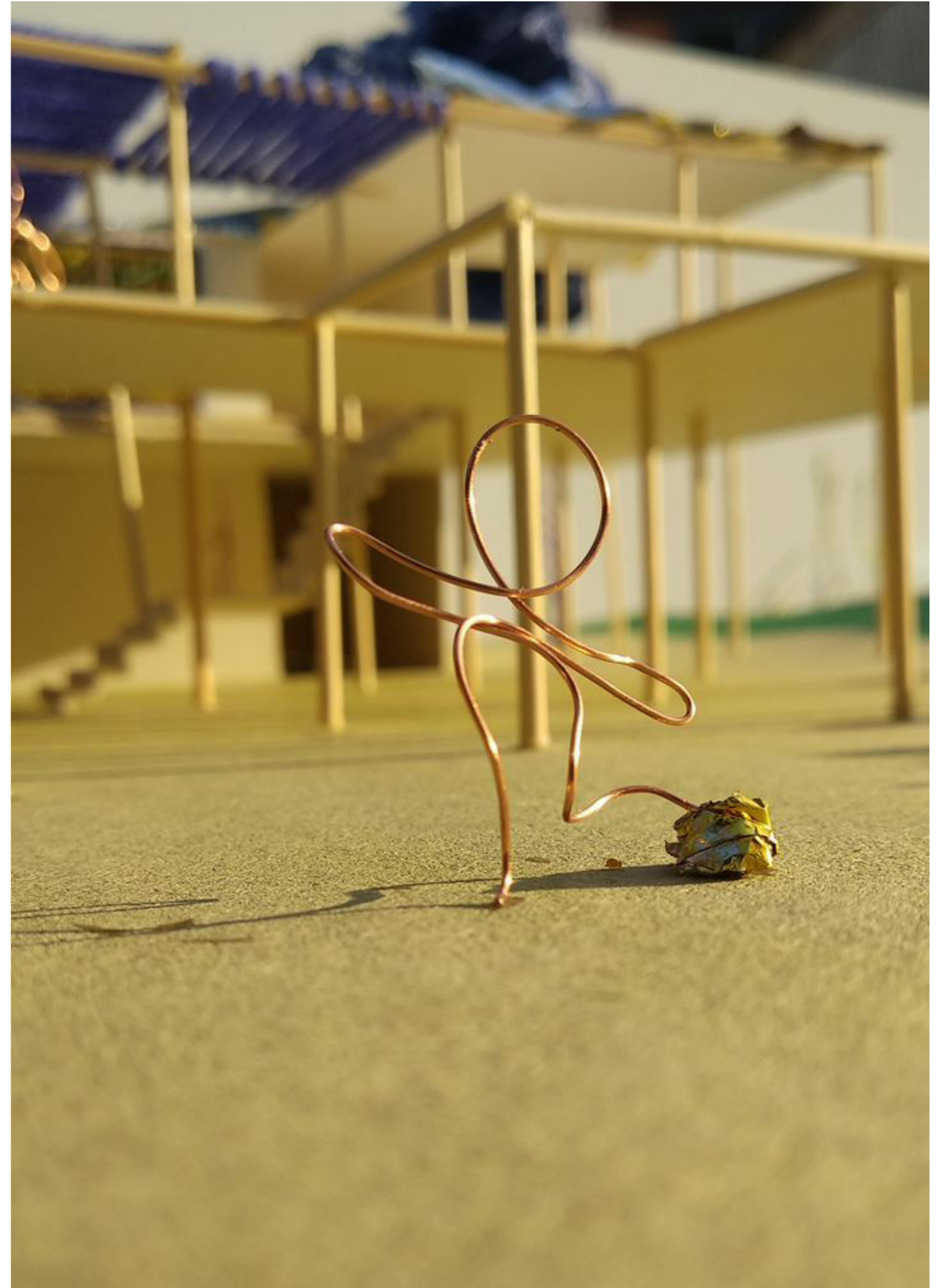
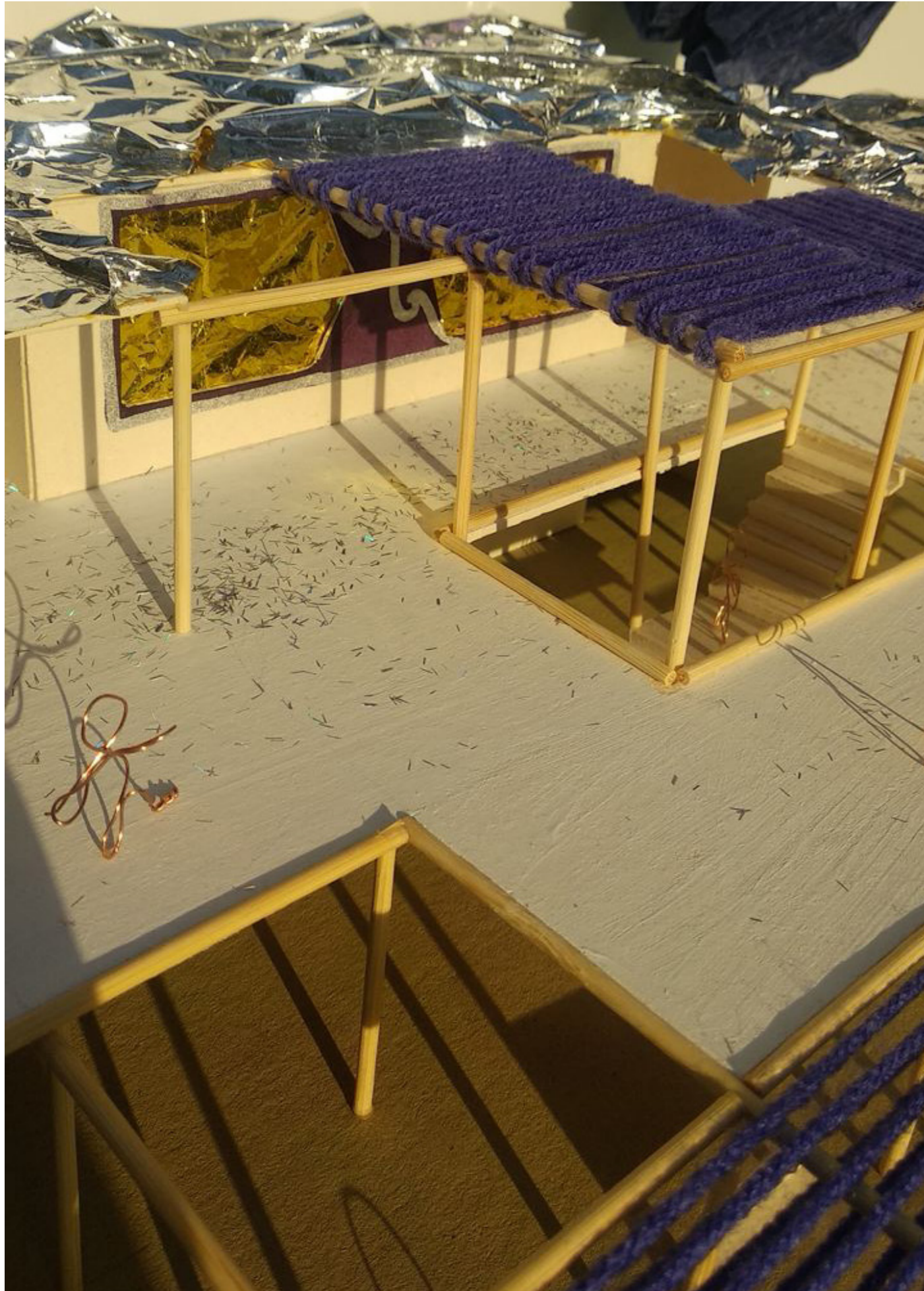


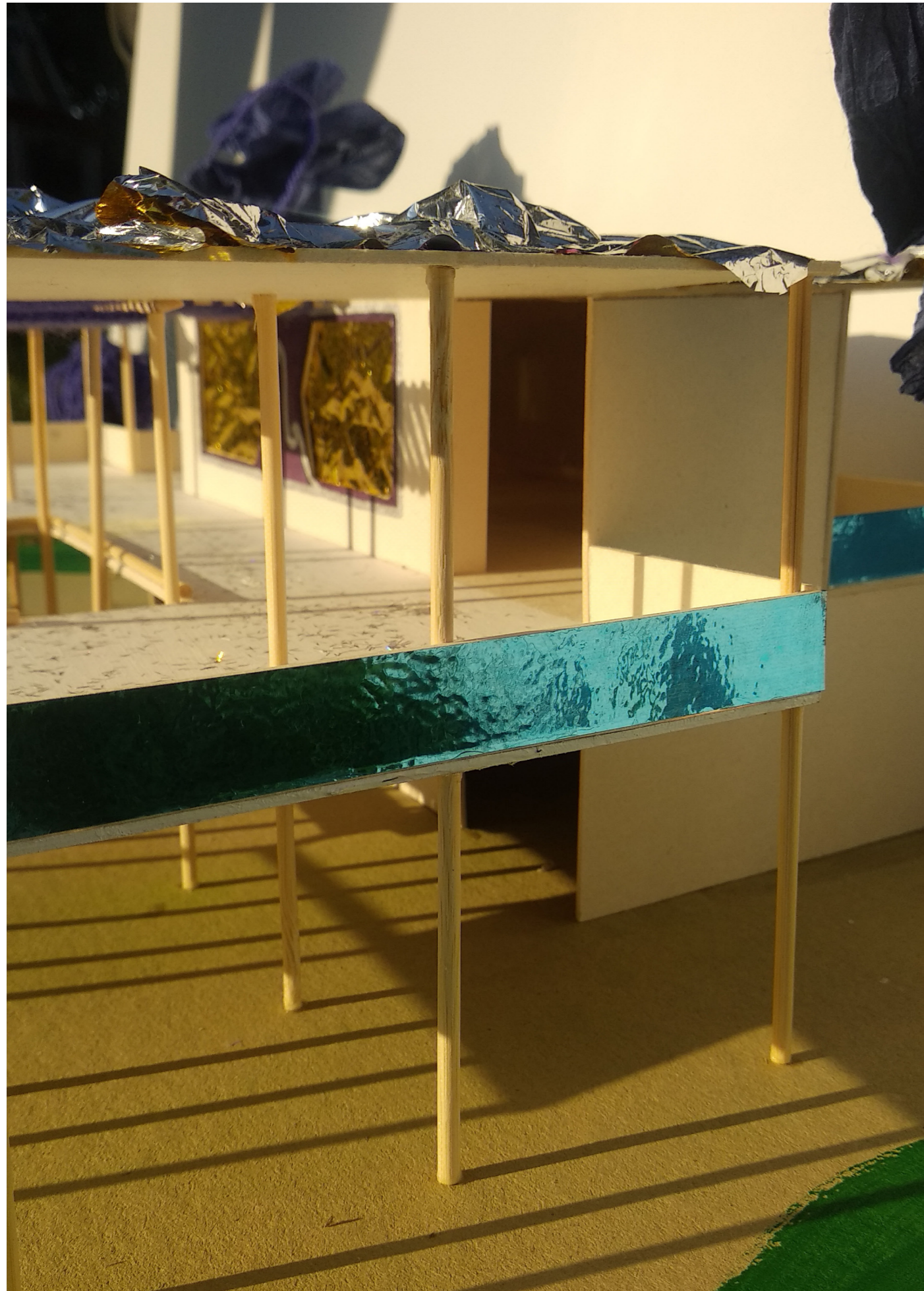














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