URBAN-THINK TANK

Chair of Architecture & Urban Design

ETH Zürich, D-ARCH

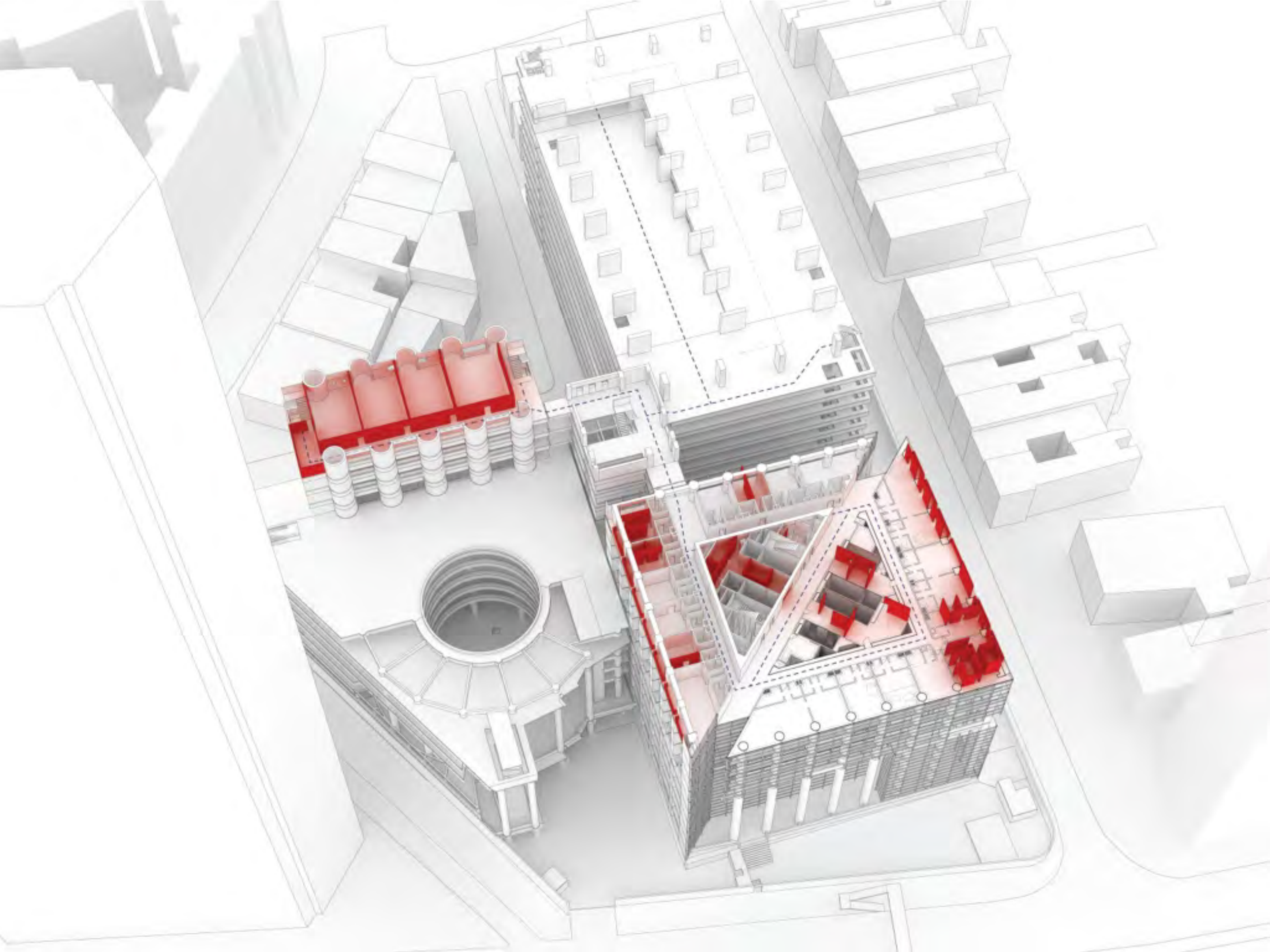
BUILDING INCLUSIVITY

DANIEL SCHWARTZ

Grenchner Wohntage

November 6. 2014

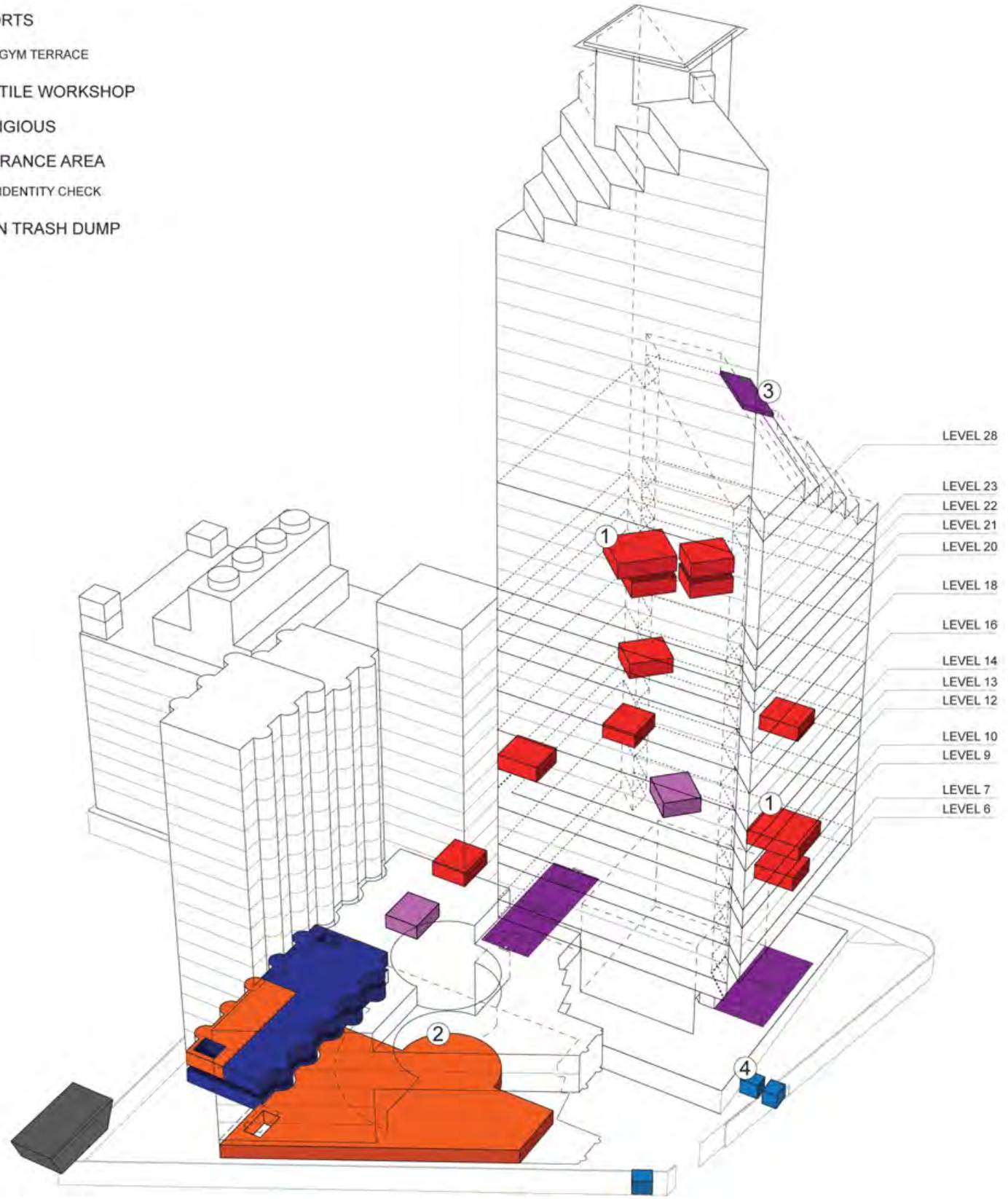
All Photos by Iwan Baan and Daniel Schwartz



SHOPS
ADMINISTRATION / MEETING
APARTMENTS
SPORTS
RELIGIOUS
ENTRANCE

BUILDING PROGRAM

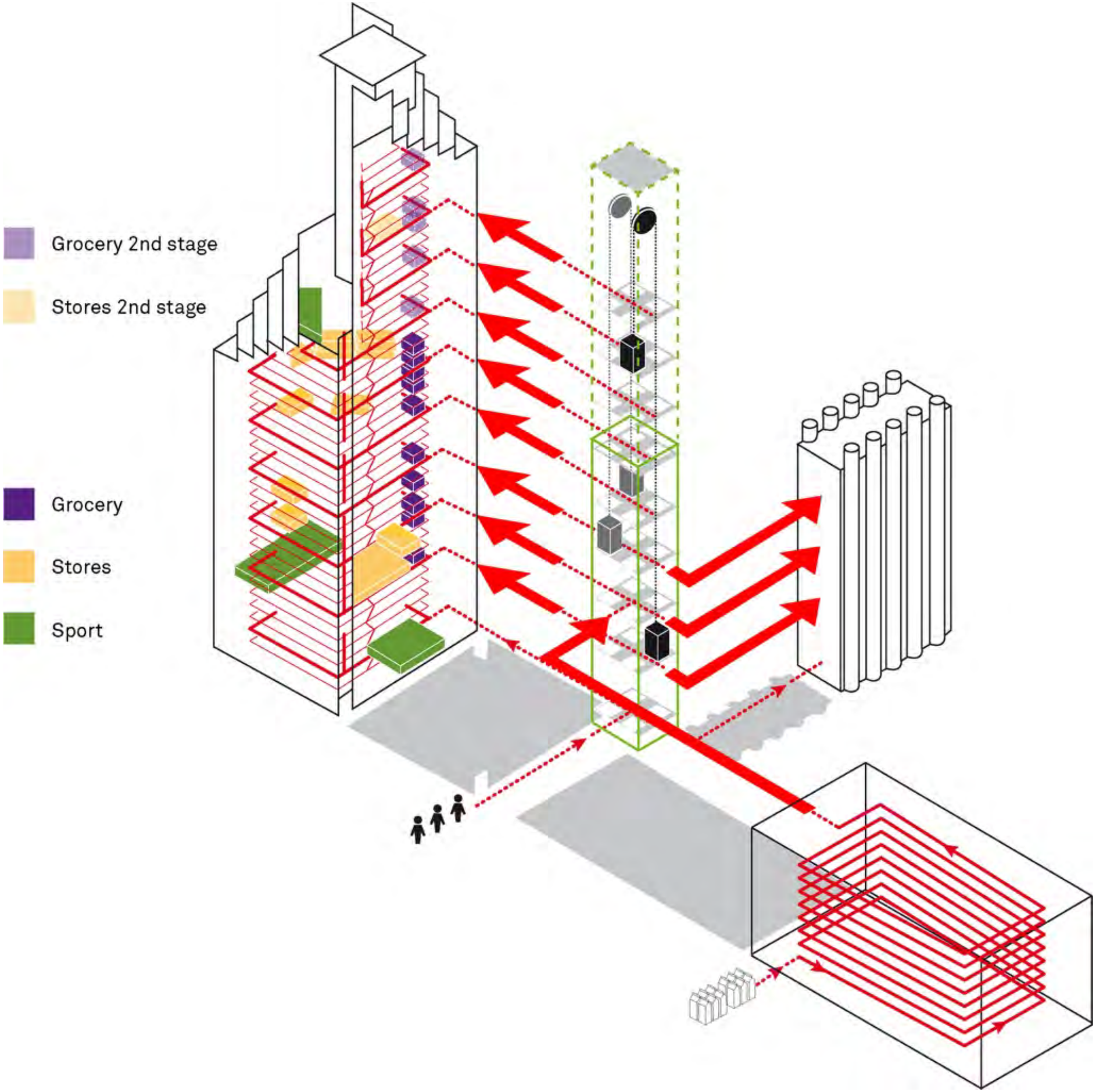
- SHOPS
  - (1) LARGE GROCERY STORES
- ADMINISTRATION
  - (2) COORDINATORS' ASSEMBLY SPACE
- SPORTS
  - (3) GYM TERRACE
- TEXTILE WORKSHOP
- RELIGIOUS
- ENTRANCE AREA
  - (4) IDENTITY CHECK
- MAIN TRASH DUMP



AREA OF STUDY - 1KM²
PROGRAM

INFORMAL	4.200 INHABITANTS
SLUM	857 INHABITANTS
GOVERMENT	353.8 M²
RELIGIOUS	50.4 M²
HEALTH	101.3 M²
EDUCATION	48.3 M²
CULTURAL	22.3 M²
COMMERCIAL	252.7 M²
BANK	194.000 M²
OFFICE	45.4 M²
HOUSING	15.500 INHABITANTS
PARKING	1101.7 M²
CA METRO	
METROBÚS	

1. SAMBIL COMMERCIAL CENTER
2. BBVA PROVINCIAL BANK
3. GALERÍES AVILA COMMERCIAL CENTER
4. ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT (UAH) UNIVERSITY
5. MERCANTIL BANK
6. DR. J. M. DE LOS RÍOS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
7. C.A. CARACAS ELECTRICITY (EDC)
8. RED CROSS
9. CHURCH OF MARY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS
10. COLLEGE AND ORATORY OF SAN FRANCISCO DE SALES
11. MOSQUE IBRAHIM IBIN ABDUL AZIZ AL-IBRAHIM
12. ST. CHARBEL CHURCH


Grocery 2nd stage
Stores 2nd stage
Grocery
Stores
Sport

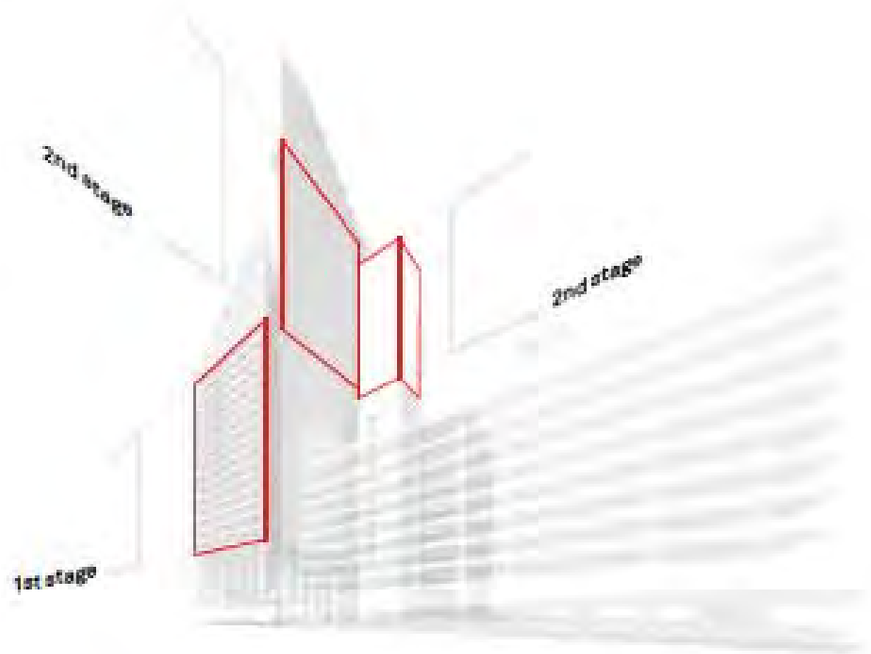


Figure 11: Realization stages.

Figure 12: Intervention at the east and north façade.

Figure 13: Intervention at the main tower façade.

Figure 14: Façade detail of the wind energy system.
Observations and Lessons

Mercantil

TORRE DAVID
INFORMAL VERTICAL COMMUNITIES
URBAN-THINK TANK
CHAIR OF ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN DESIGN
ETH ZÜRICH
PHOTOGRAPHS BY IWAN BAAN
LARS MÜLLER PUBLISHERS
INFORMAL VERTICAL COMMU

Gran Horizonte
Parrillada
Pollo
ABIERTO
24
HORAS
STOP

Ordenar Aquí

Construction by Chan Buruing in the Chinese pavilion in the Arsenale in Venice

Construction and society

Edwin Heathcote on a reflective mood at the Venice Architecture Biennale

The New York Times

By RODERICK CONWAY MORRIS

VENICE "I wanted this to be a show about architecture, not architects," said David Chipperfield, the artistic director of the 13th International Architecture Exhibition of the Venice Biennale.

"We have made too exhibits over the past 25 years. There has been too much concentration on individual architects and too much on individual buildings," said Mr. Chipperfield in an interview on the terrace of the Biennale's headquarters at Ca' Giustinian on the Grand Canal, on the eve of the opening of the event in late August. The exhibition continues until Nov. 25.

"So for this Biennale I didn't want projects. I wanted the architects that I invited to participate to answer the question: What have you contributed to architecture? And finally to investigate the issue of what we architects for all our differences have in common, hence my overall theme of the exhibition: 'Common Ground.' This factor also raises the question of how architects relate to society, because architecture cannot operate as a vacuum. It is to be concerned at how to operate with society."

The Japanese architect Kazuyo Sejima's shimmering show of two years ago was a difficult act to follow, and Mr. Chipperfield said that there were architects whom he would like to have included but they had already appeared in Ms. Sejima's selection. However, this appears to have had the positive effect of extending the horizons of this edition.

"We have gone for a broad sweep in age, in generations, in geographical terms and in types of architecture," said Mr. Chipperfield.

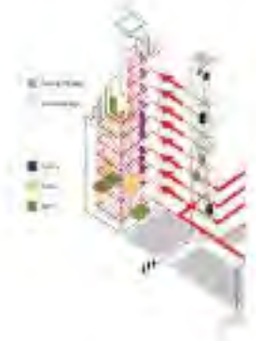
The exhibition of nearly 70 displays and installations by individual architects, groups and architecture fills the spaces of the Central Biennale Pavilion at the Giardini and the Corderie (Rope Walk) at the Arsenale. This is flanked by 55 national pavilions in the gardens and other locations around town. Angola, the Republic of Kosovo, Kuwait and Peru are exhibiting for the first time.

The most flamboyant contribution to the "Common Ground" show is the "Torre David/Gran Horizonte" at the end of the Corderie, created by Justin McGuirk, which won the Golden Lion for the best project in the exhibition. It consists of a recreation of Gran Horizonte, a famous "arepa" restaurant in Caracas, and will be serving arepas — corn cakes with various fillings — and other Venezuelan food and drink throughout the show.

With food, the entry provides common ground for visitors to the Biennale, and it is also an arena for a presentation in photos and films of the Torre David, an unfinished 45-story office tower in Caracas that was abandoned after the death of its developer and the collapse of the economy in 1994. The site is now home to around 750 squatter families and inhabited up to the 28th floor

The Tower of David

Highly unfinished



There are those marvelous times in life when things get turned on their head. In the case of this office tower in Caracas, the ensemble is rather way. A skyscraper built as a financial centre becomes a vertical slum in the cultural cross-section of the city's residents have, expressing all the hustle of human ingenuity and drive. Shops, hairdressers and even a beer garden have sprung up in the tower. The fact that there is no lift in the building doesn't matter. What's more, the habitation has become a community, providing its own security guards.

Salzburger Nachrichten

Spontaneous Urbanism

Torre David and its Informal Environs

In a recent book authored by Urban-Think Tank and Chair of Architecture and Urban Design, ETH Zurich, a remarkable study unravels the amazing Torre David – an incomplete office tower in Caracas informally occupied by people. Iwan Baan's photographs capture the vibrant and surprisingly resourceful life of the residents.

Leben in der Ruine

architect as a political catalyst

A 'SCIENTIFIC' DEFINITION OF SLUM

lack of durable housing structure

lack of primary facilities

lack of access to public transport

lack of safety

no security of tenure

TORRE DAVID

permanent solid sturcture

water, swage and electricy accessible to all

located in heart of Caracas

relatively safe

...

... NO SECURITY OF TENURE

The residents have received no formal recgnition from the owners.

Ultimately the problem of informality in Torre David is reduced to a question of legality rather than one of architecture.

TS GF-CB 0270502

CARACAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

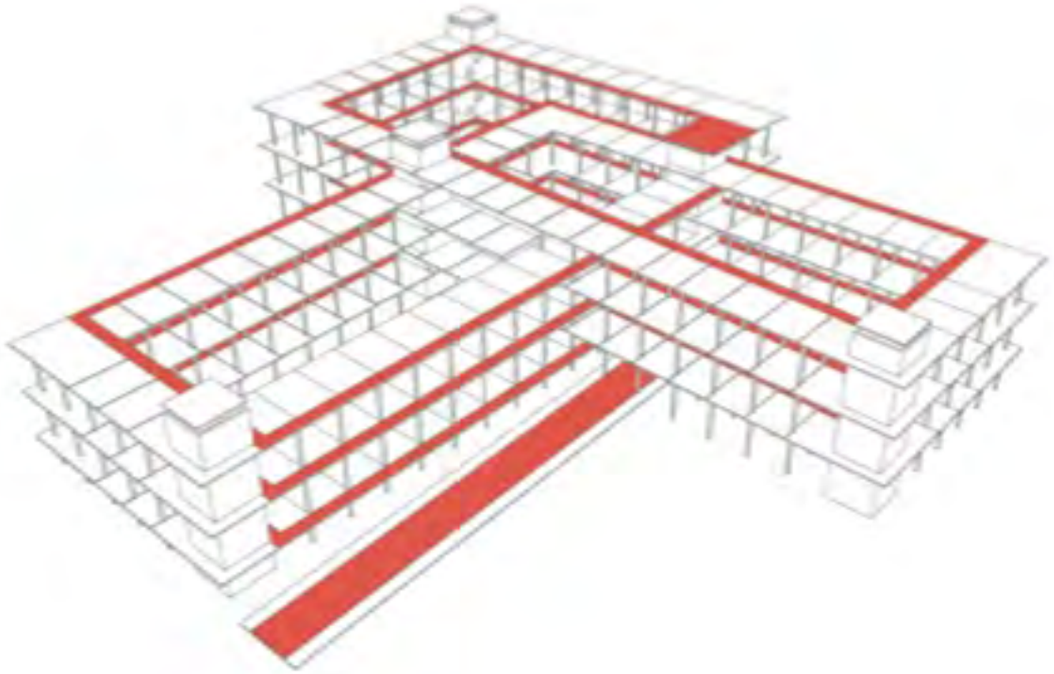
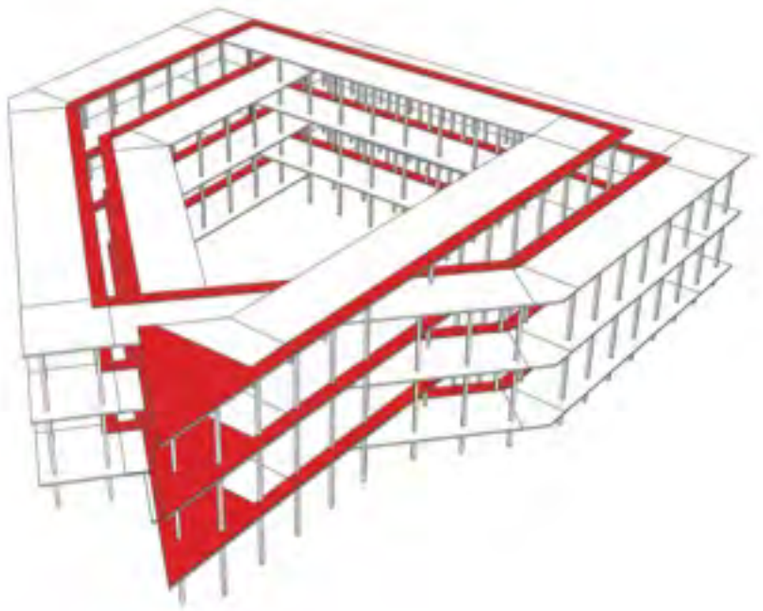
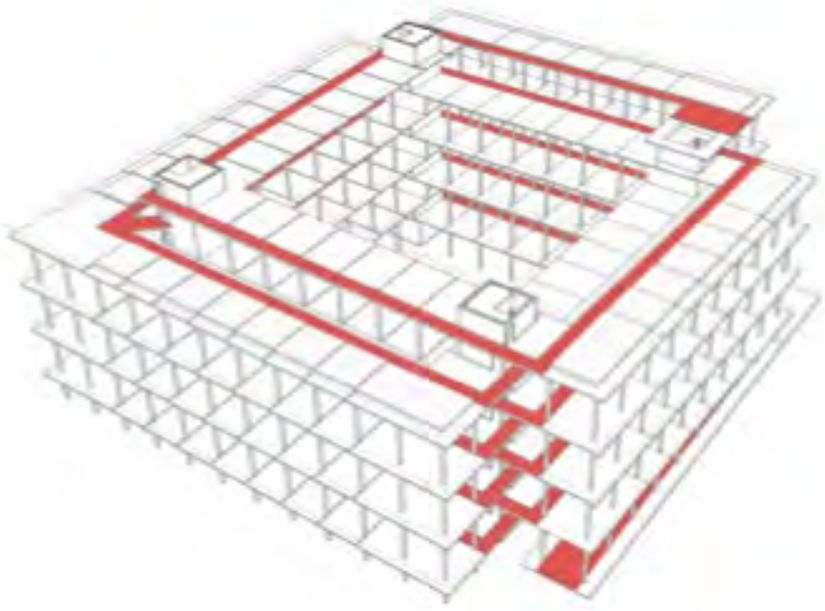
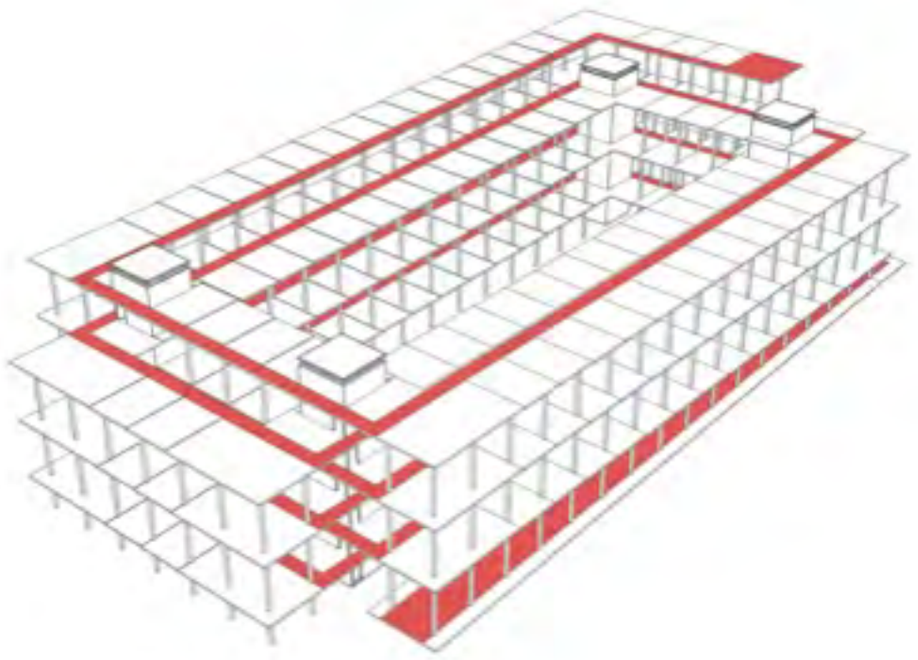
EVICTION NOTICE

We regret to inform you that your home has been taken over for an unknown reason or purpose effective immediately.

If you do not vacate the so-called 'Torre David' right now, we reserve the right to destroy your housing unit. We maintain absolutely no responsibility for anyone remaining inside. As a participant in an illegal occupation, you have no legal right of appeal in this instance. Pursuant to the state's social housing policy, we will attempt to re-house you to a comparable standard. This does not mean, however, that we will take into consideration your important social networks, your future employment opportunities, or any of the elements of the life that you have struggled to build for yourself in Caracas against all odds.

DPS-51 (11-87)

BEYOND TORRE DAVID

THE PARKING LOT TYPOLOGY

Wendy's
SALIDA