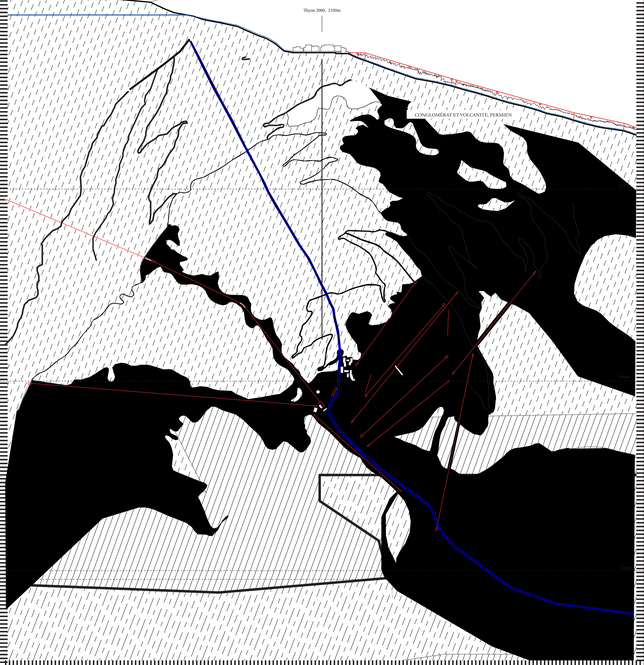
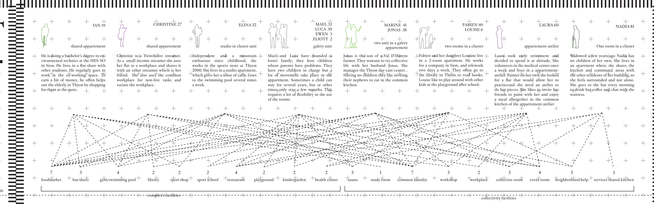
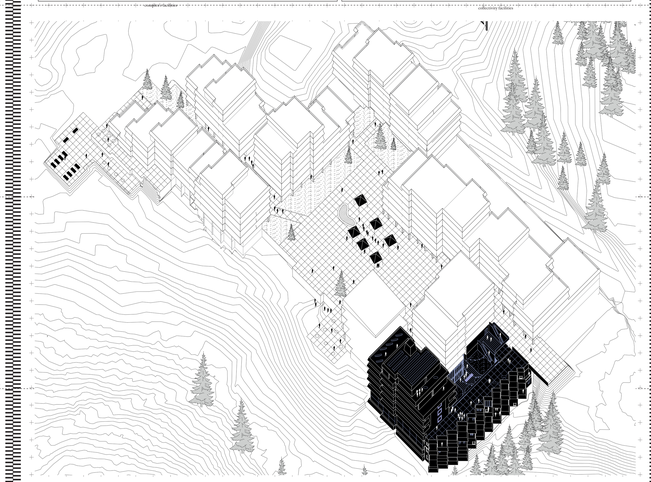
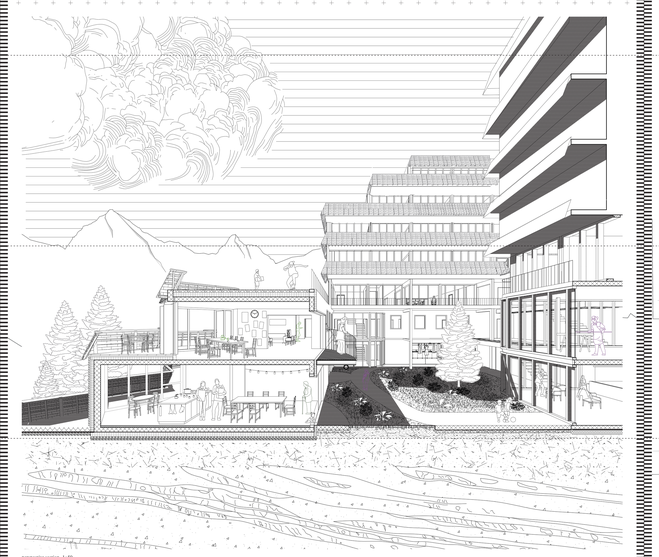
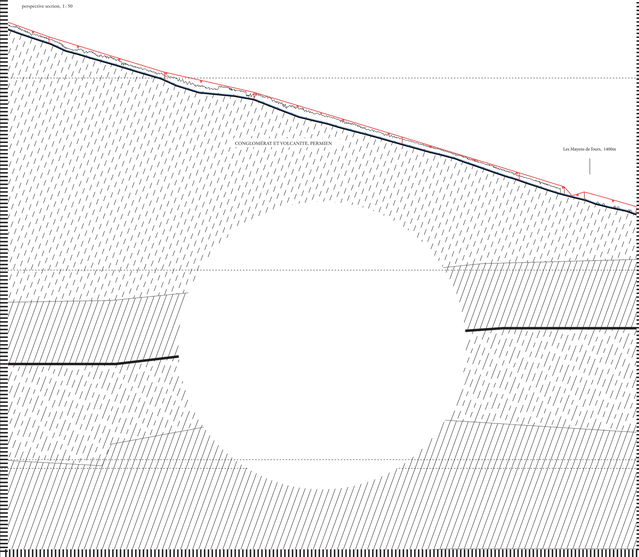
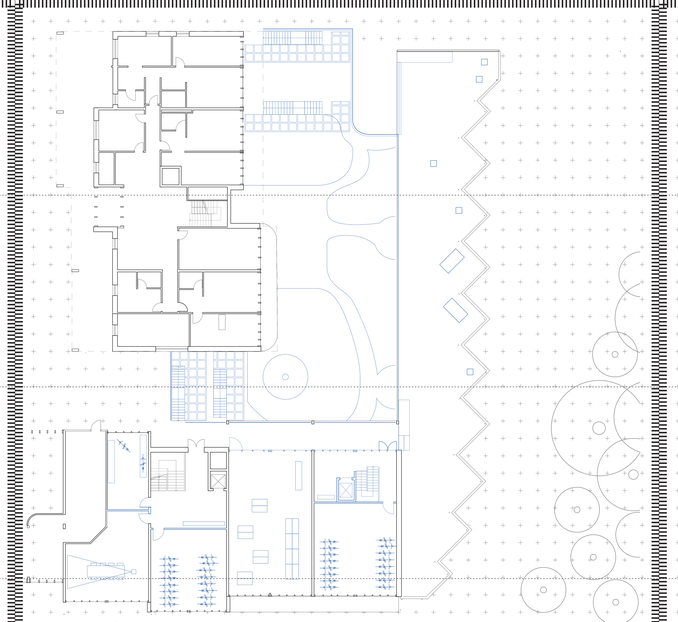
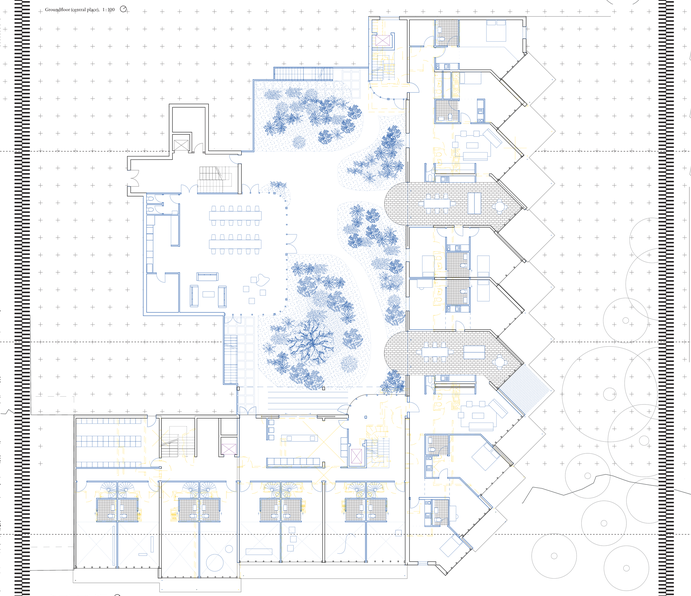
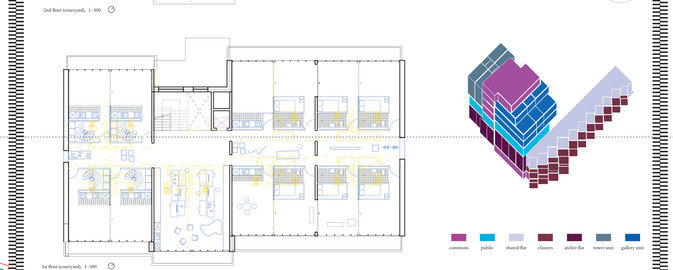
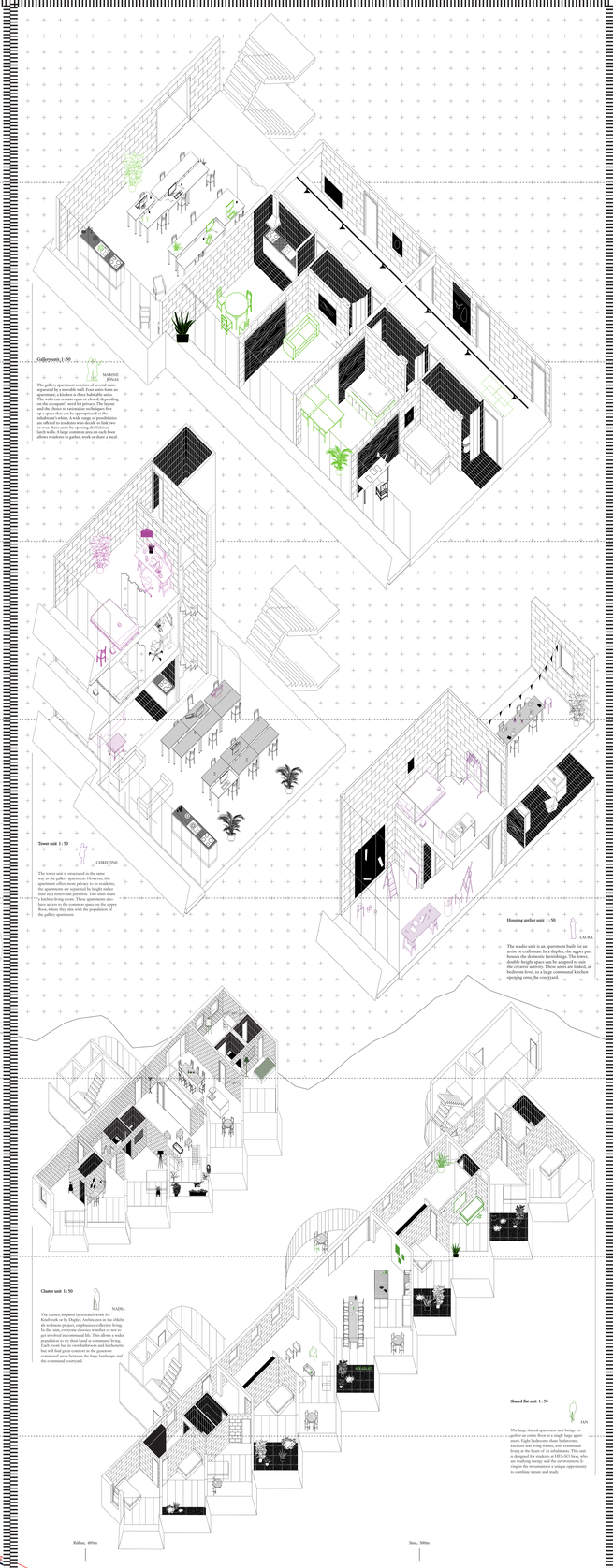
YEAR-ROUND LIVING IN A SKI RESORT

Converting tourist accommodation into collective housing

With the development of ski resorts, a new form of housing emerged: leisure accommodation. Cherished by many lowlanders, mountain chalets or flats are often a way of feeling closer to nature. However, these residences, also refer-red to as "cold beds," are occupied for an average of six weeks a year, according to the Swiss Federal Office for Spatial Development.

In the Swiss Alps, many such beds were built on a plateau at an altitude of 2,000 meters. Structured like a hotel, leisure accommodation rules the architecture in the mountain complex of Thyon 2000. The typological diversity leaves little room for long stays, human appropriation, and collective life. The "Gruyeron" and "Sulliez" buildings reflect most intensely the hotel nature of the typologies offered.

This transformation project brings the two buildings together into one large house, offering a new collective typology. The project proposes a mixed-use program, including housing, tourist accommodation, commercial spaces, and shops and the existing infrastructure. The new typology bring greater inclusivity and generational mix, allowing the housing units to evolve with the inhabitants. Existing terraces are extended into the interior, creating semi-outdoor spaces, and technical facilities and storage are integrated into common spaces, a collective life takes shape. While all-seasonn remains central to the development of mountain regions, this project offers an architectural response for a sustainable, reconnected development of ski resorts' housing.