Landgut 2050. Urleben - new vernacular

COMMUNITY SMART EVOLUTION · **CIRCULAR LAYOUT** — BASIC IDEA
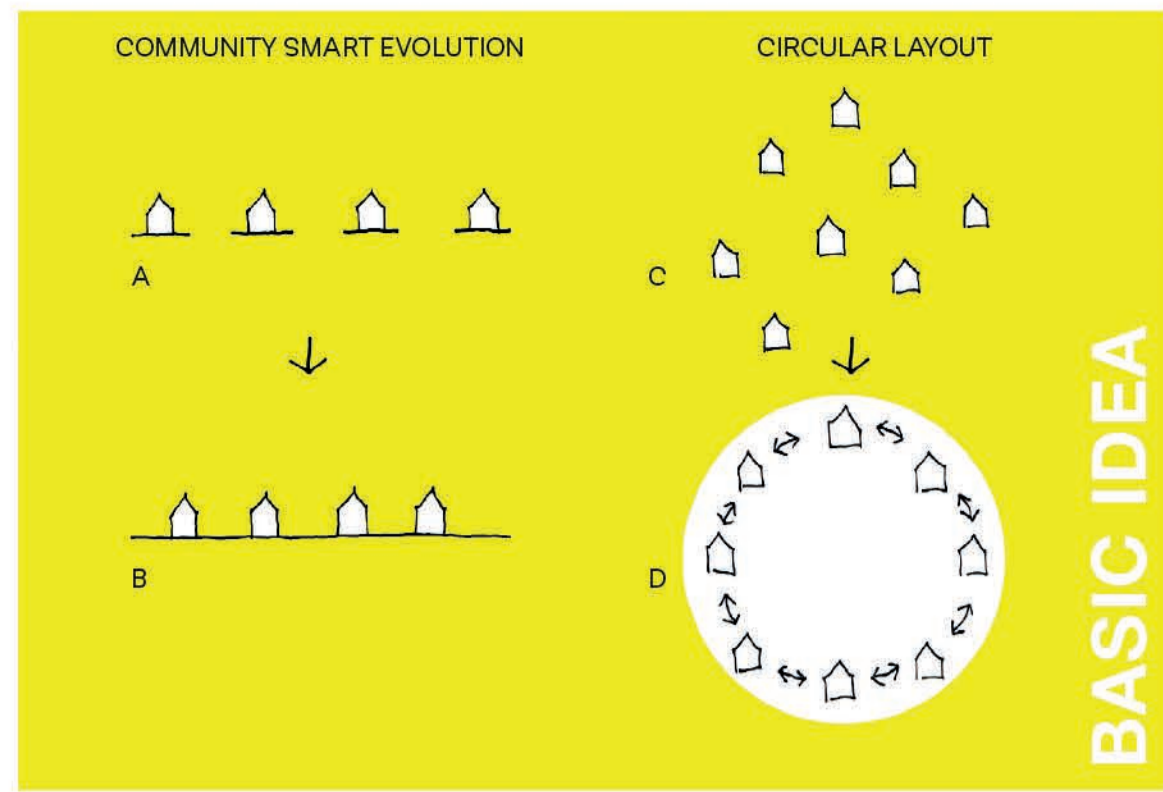
COMMUNITY SMART EVOLUTION

A. Nowadays the village is composed of separate houses. Those houses are final destinations of peoples' movement trajectories in the village, making Urleben look desolated.
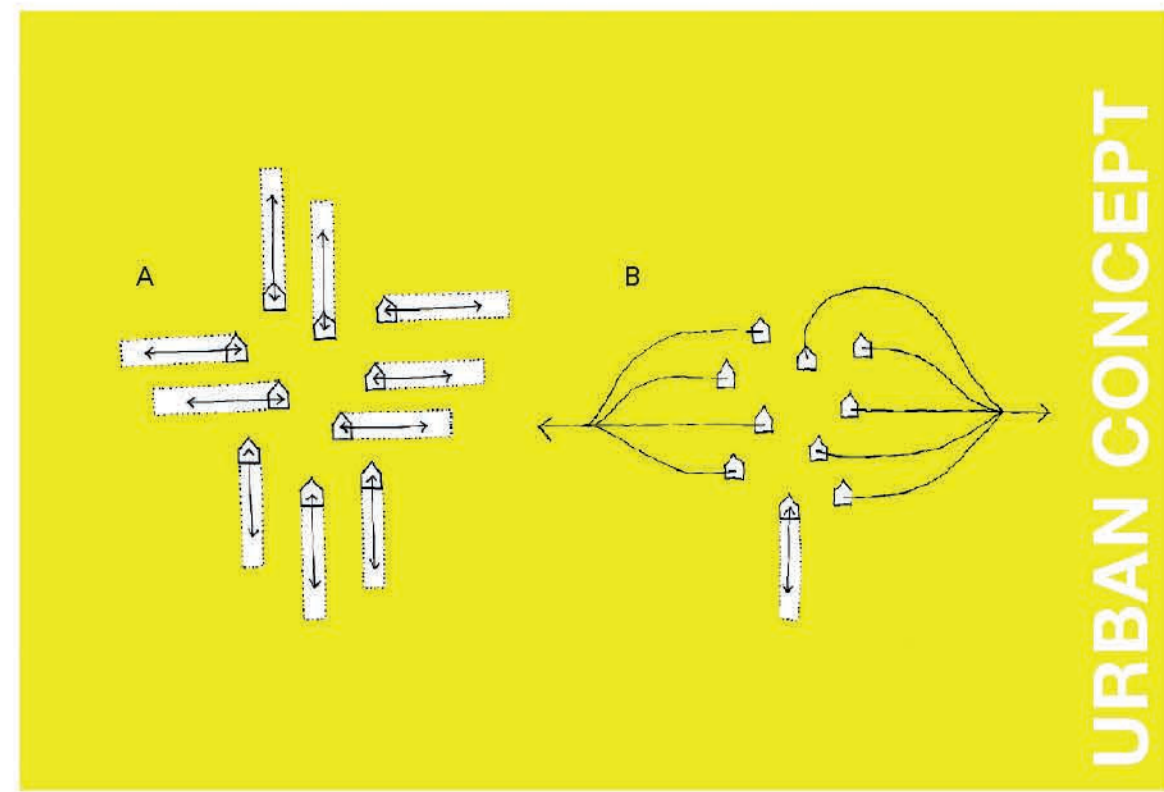
B. We propose creating a network of 'open houses', that would establish an urban common ground. Rather than gravitating towards separate houses, inhabitants would lean towards diverse community spaces. The elderly need socializing to stay active and cared after. Whereas young people are looking for a sense of belonging and want to become members of strong value-oriented local communities. That is why creating a newly rediscovered common ground within a homogeneous tissue of Urleben is crucial for its development.

EVOLUTION OF RESOURCES AND OF FUNCTIONAL LAYOUT

C. Separate multi-generational houses, that used to serve as big-family houses, small farms and factories connected to small agricultural production now create an archipelago of desolated volumes of forgotten potential.
Various functions – related to life and work - are disconnected from each other, creating an unproductive and illogical chain of supply-and-demand, in both social and economical sense.

D. Creating a common ground enables circular economy, productive distribution of resources (time, knowledge, space, real estate etc.) and more efficient functional layout. Establishing new connections between detached buildings and functional clusters provides opportunities to produce a multi-threaded, self-sustaining and solidary urban settlement.
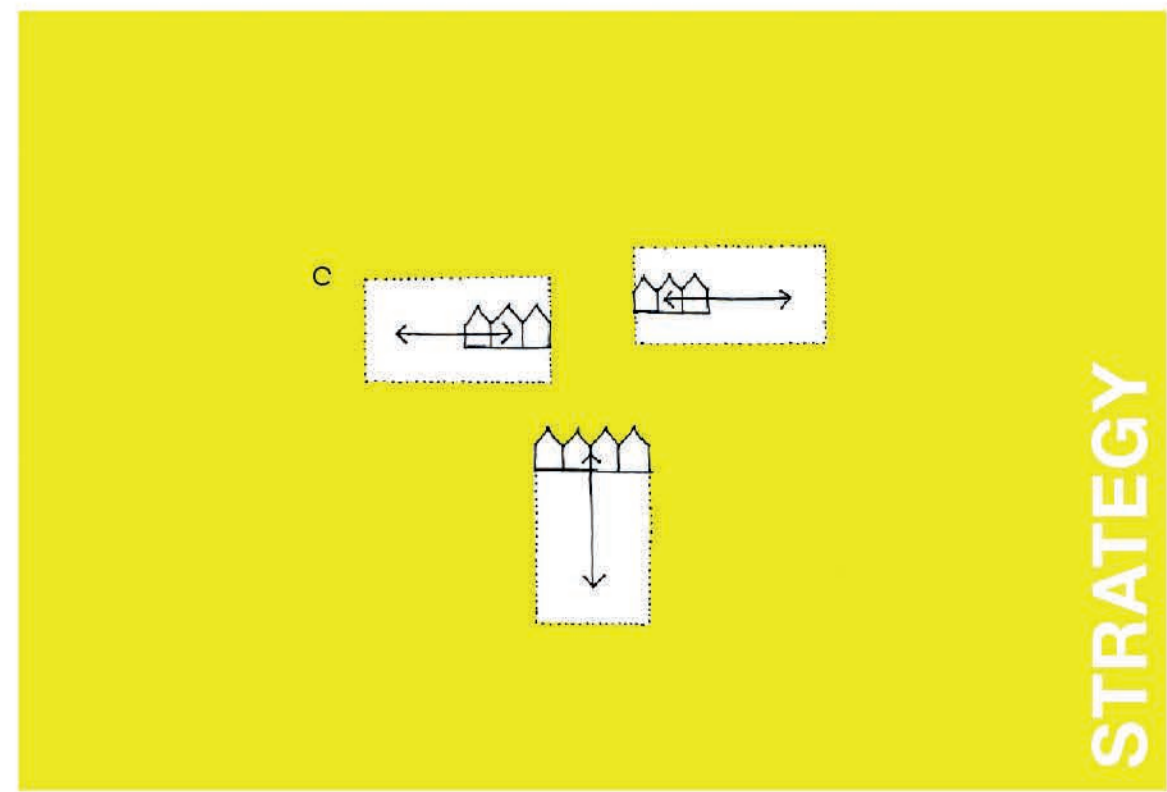
URBAN CONCEPT

CONCEPTUAL APPROACH

Existing urban situation of Urleben is defined as an archipelago of isolated houses enclosed around grand courtyards. Each housing group seems like a fortress, possibly with rich social life and captivating appearance, unfortunately invisible for a passer-by. This urban archipelago does not promote neither social integration or solidarity, nor creating a strong local community. The paradigm shift is needed. New visibility and stronger connections between inhabitants are necessary in Urleben: due to its aging demography the village needs to rethink its system of interconnections between people and functions and make it self-supporting.

Therefore, we propose rediscovering the potential hidden within desolated urban structure and using existing courtyards to make Urleben more permeable. We hope to connect the courtyards into a newly defined network of public and semi-public spaces, where neighbors can meet, strengthen their social bonds, work together or share their knowledge or resources. We call this project a smart evolution rather than revolution, because we efficiently use the existing base to establish more productive – in terms of society structure, space and function – connections.

B. Recently, due to changing demography, technology and work situation most people from Urleben stopped working their fields – going for retirement or choosing other professions. 90 % of the working people from Urleben is traveling to work outside of the village. That made the village 'unproductive', the social bonds broken and public life invisible.
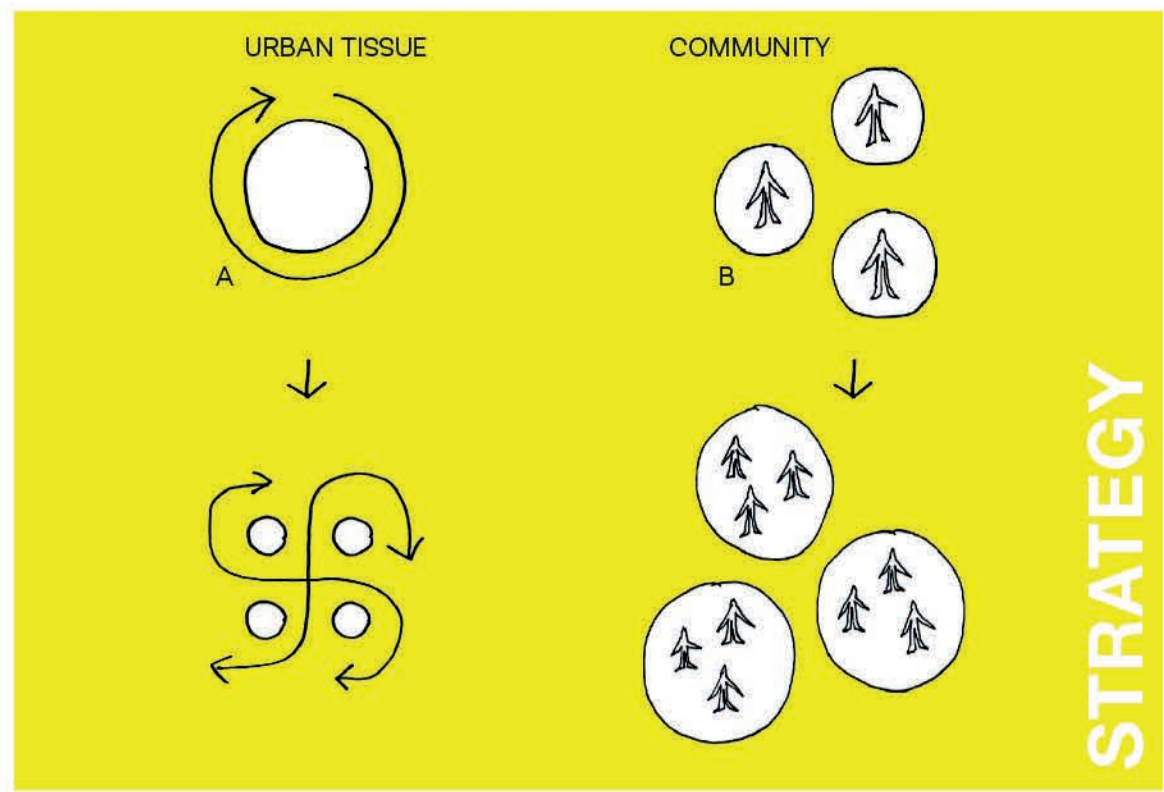
PRODUCTIVE STRATEGY — STRATEGY

The most important aim of Urleben productive strategy is to provide a platform for cooperation, where resources, knowledge and time can be interchanged. We hope to achieve a systematic and lifestyle change, where people from the village work "in situ", building local community through curated businesses that follow the same ethos of sustainability and resilience.

C. The scheme of future productive strategy of Urleben that seeks analogies with the past, but as well enrolling new technologies and guidelines for sustainable lifestyle.

We envision new Urleben as a settlement, where groups of vernacular buildings form smaller communities (just as individual houses did before). Those new building groups establish new businesses that work within circular economy scheme, where well-being, quality and sustainability are as important as economic profits.

The village groups can interchange knowledge, time and resources so that waste becomes a vital element in produce chain, making Urleben a showcase for "zero waste" strategy in urban scale.
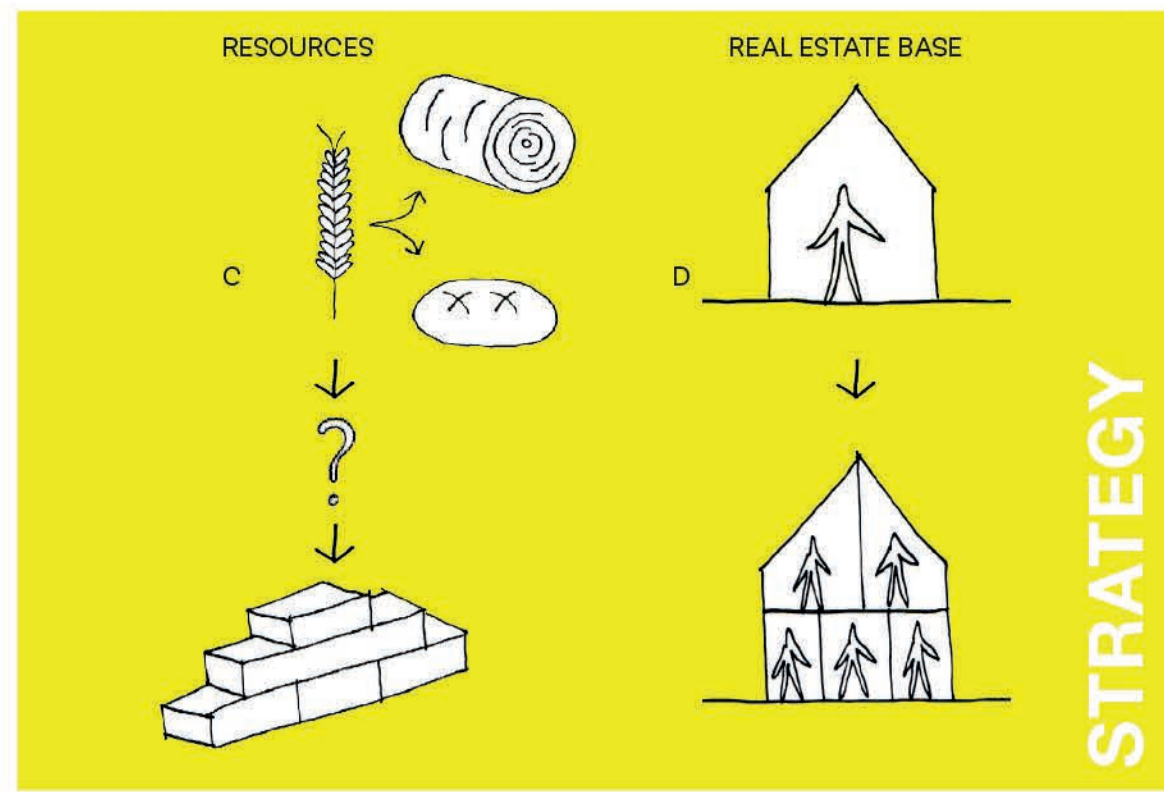
URBAN TISSUE · **COMMUNITY** — STRATEGY

We intend to make Urleben productive in various aspects: urban, communal / social; but also concerning Urleben's resources, its real estate base and attention it gets in the region.

URBAN TISSUE

A. Our strategy for Urleben is productive in terms of urban scale and architectural tissue, because we change a homogeneous 'fortress' into a permeable settlement. By opening courtyards and connecting them to existing outdoor spaces we create a network of diverse public, semi-public and semi-private spaces.

COMMUNITY

B. The strategy is productive in terms of community-making, because it brings people together, bonding them around functions, spaces and values. Sharing an eco-ethos, a new Urleben community is empathetic and solidary with its diverse members. The strategy brings people out of isolation and encourages them to work and live together.

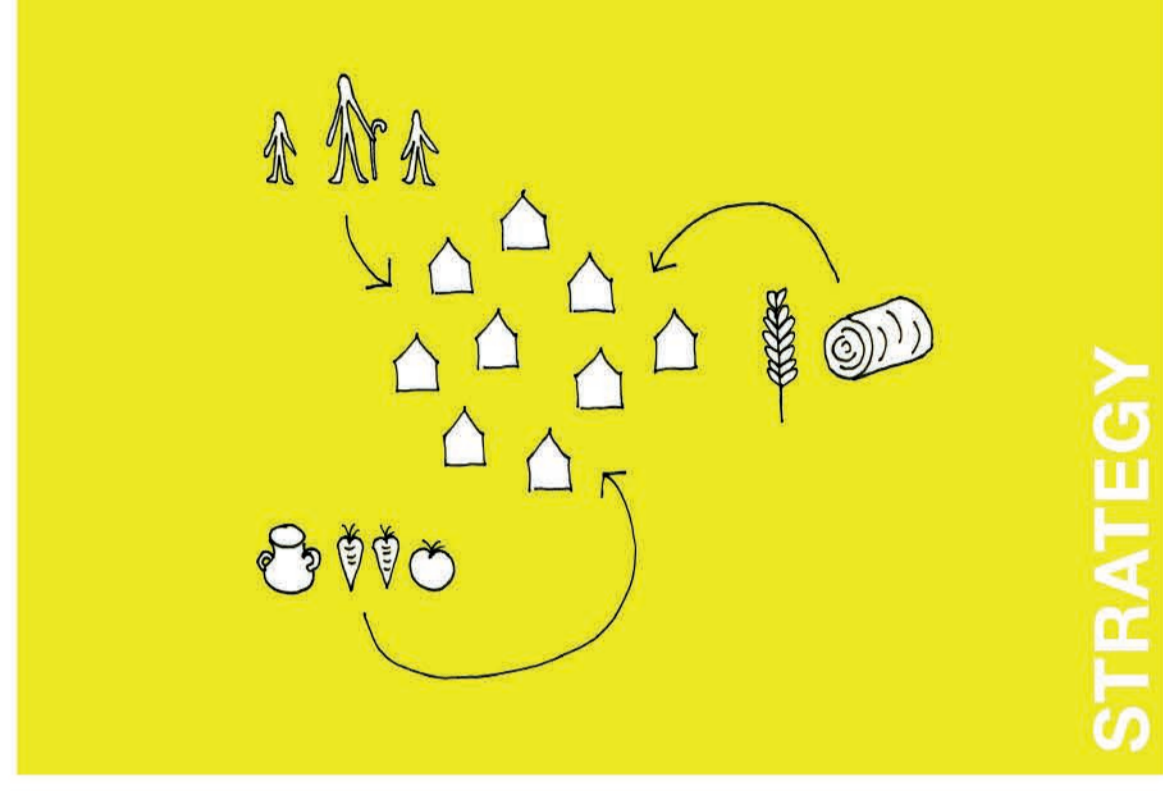**RESOURCES** · **REAL ESTATE BASE** — STRATEGY

RESOURCES

C. The strategy is productive also in terms of its efficient use of local resources. What is now seen as a production 'waste' can be transformed into a produce of another branch of demand-and-supply chain, therefore enclosing the loop of circular economy and zero-waste strategy.

REAL ESTATE BASE

D. Making a local base of real estate productive means effectively managing it. We propose analyzing and mapping potentials of creating co-living structures or houses with new public functions within existing urban tissue. We see that the existing spatial usage could be optimized and easily injected with more inhabitants and functions. By creating co-living communities we could optimize costs of running and managing those structures, possibly adding some added values or pro-public commercial functions working for them.
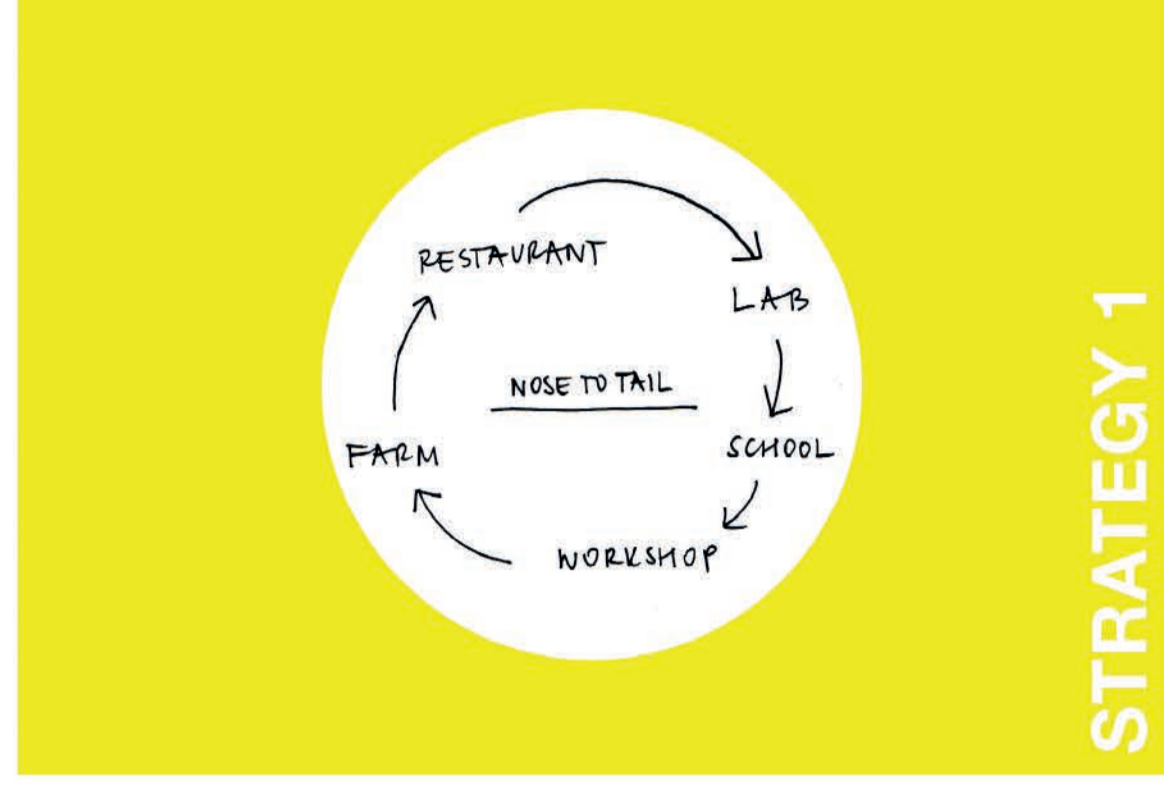
ATTENTION

Instead of tourism-oriented revitalization of Urleben, we propose giving it a specialization in circular sustainability and eco-living within tight-knit community. Creating a complex yet consistent environment should work as an attractor for visitors and investors with similar ethos.

STRATEGY

When working on productivity strategies and supporting business models for Urleben we analysed most notable problems of the village. Diagnosing those in various aspects of the village structure we treated them as challenges. By adding appropriate operators, methods and technologies we made them work in Urleben's favour.

EXEMPLARY PRODUCTIVE STRATEGIES

We propose three sustainable scenarios that enhance local potential and create original and vernacular economic strategies, which could also strengthen local community.

STRATEGY 1

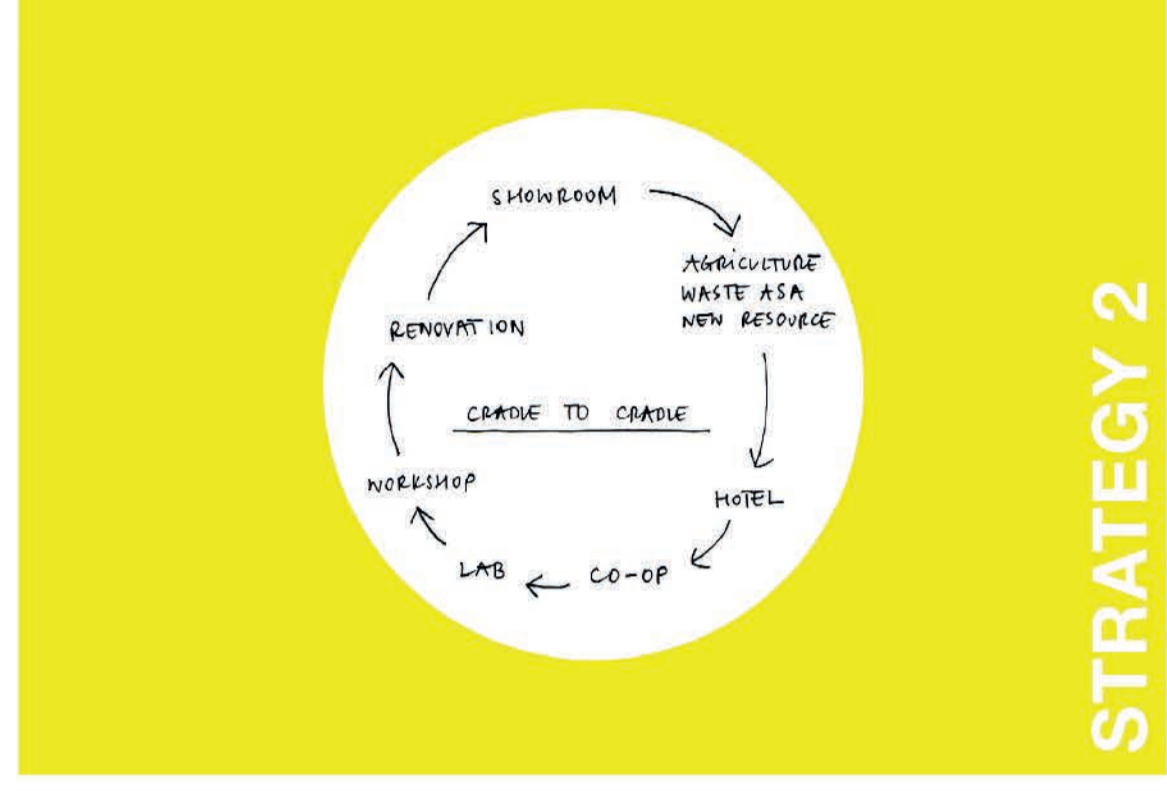RESTAURANT · LAB · SCHOOL · WORKSHOP · FARM · NOSE TO TAIL

STRATEGY 1
CHALLENGE: HOMOGENEOUS, MONOTONOUS FUNCTIONAL LAYOUT
SOLUTION: VERNACULAR RESTAURANT WITH ZERO-WASTE PHILOSOPHY

Truly local restaurant is established by: local experts, knowing the surrounding context, its resources and culinary traditions; emerging chefs, who come to Urleben to learn, experiment and test the definitions of locality in culinary world; investor or investment fund, who is interested in creating a new itinerary that is driven by specific eco-ethos. The restaurant would be accompanied by a lab for professionals, permanent culinary school and space for short-term workshops and a smart farm, all established to promote nose-to-tail approach in regional cuisine of Turingen. Locating restaurant in one of the courtyard buildings would give it very authentic and welcoming feel – as if somebody would invite us to his/her own home.
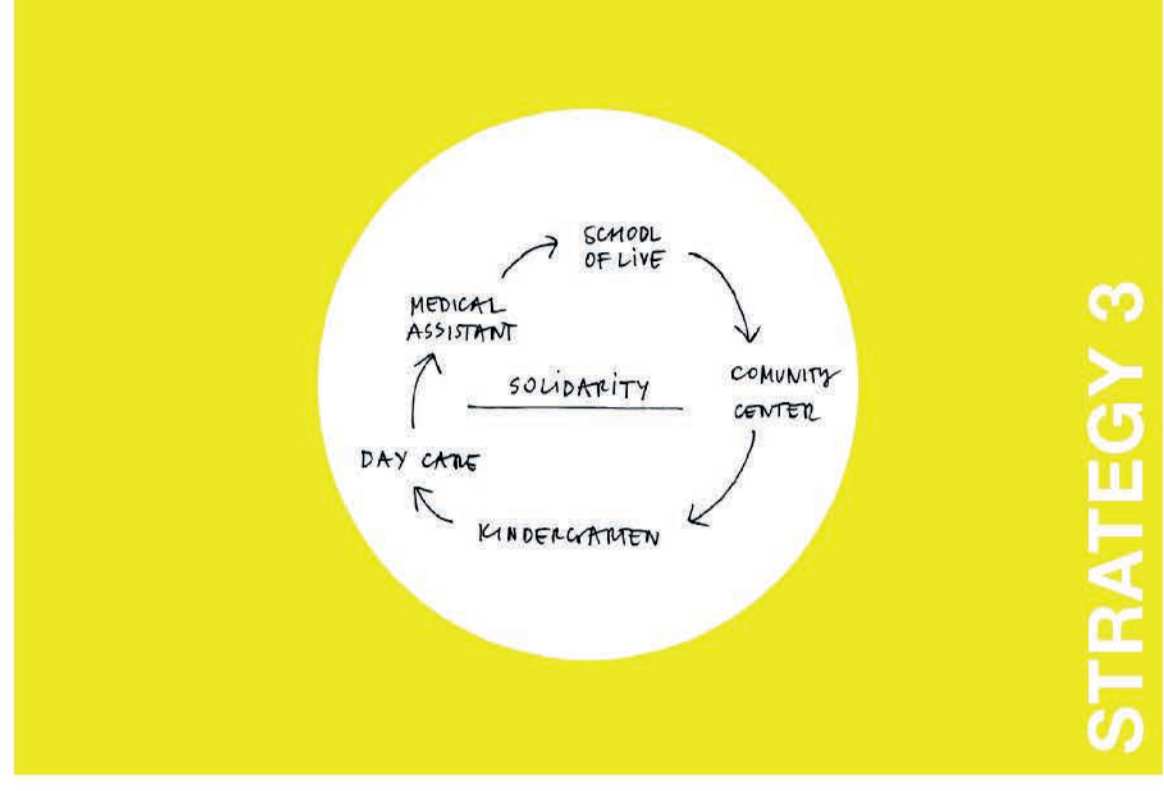
Turistically-wise, Urleben cannot compete with nearby Bad Langensalza, but by establishing a new eco-ethos for the whole village we can create a sustainable and appealing microcosmos. New tourism is also connected to specific knowledge or sector of interests and that is why we believe introducing diverse eco-strategies into Urleben urban tissue and functional layout can make it noticeable.

STRATEGY 2

SHOWROOM · AGRICULTURE · WASTE AS A NEW RESOURCE · RENOVATION · CRADLE TO CRADLE · HOTEL · WORKSHOP · LAB · CO-OP

STRATEGY 2
CHALLENGE: DETERIORATING URBAN TISSUE
SOLUTION: VERNACULAR ECO-MATERIALITY WORKSHOP WITH ITS TESTING GROUND

We propose using straw, hemp and mushrooms (locally sourced crops) to experiment with new building materials and techniques and use them to renovate deteriorating buildings of the village, creating an urban 'showroom' of conscious innovation. The workshop is established by: local producers of the material – the material used is often perceived as a production waste from other agricultural processes, that is why there is no need for new producers of the materials; specialized tutor or partner from close-by university, who is willing to experiment and research characteristics of new eco-materials; local curator, who is managing the cooperation process and surveilling the eco-renovation of Urleben. The workshop would also need an outside investor or a group forming a co-op. The whole company, due to its ecology and innovation oriented profile, could use the transparent and just structure of co-op to market itself as a truly sustainable and fair organization. The co-op would be an innovation in a market of conscious renovation and construction. Besides finding new ways to use agricultural waste in building sector and closing the loop of circular economy scheme of the region, the aim of eco-materiality workshop is to find the most efficient new material that can be used in local context to renovate Urleben buildings. Newly renovated buildings would create an XXL eco-showroom where philosophy of circular economy is applied. We also propose to build a small guesthouse from the newly sourced materials, so that people interested in applying the technique outside of Urleben can test and experience how it is to live in a building constructed from eco-materials. Besides the eco-guesthouse Urleben could run a small experimental workshop field, where schoolchildren could learn about ecology in the making.
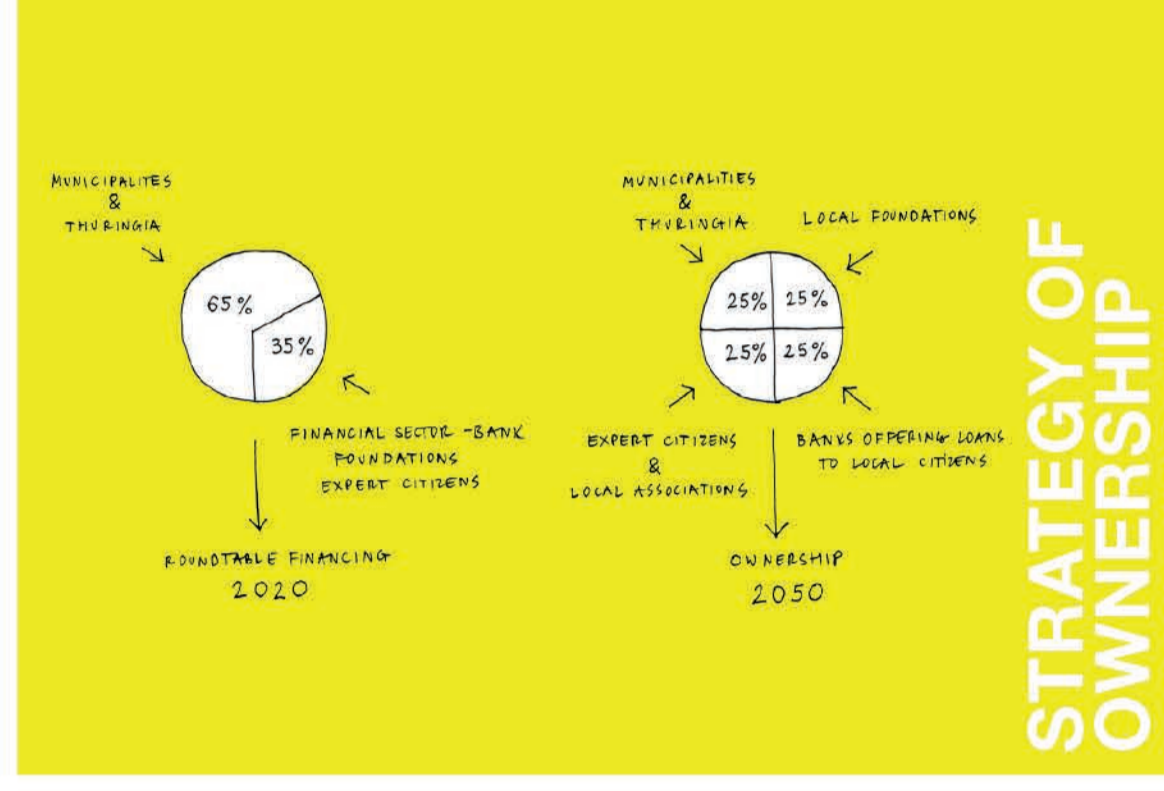
STRATEGY 3

SCHOOL OF LIFE · MEDICAL ASSISTANT · SOLIDARITY · COMMUNITY CENTER · DAY CARE · KINDERGARTEN

STRATEGY 3
CHALLENGE: DIMINISHING DEMOGRAPHICS AND AGING COMMUNITY OF URLEBEN
SOLUTION: SOLIDARITY HOME – MUTUAL DAYCARE CENTER FOR ELDERLY AND CHILDREN

To attract younger people to Urleben the village must ensure housing base and attractive local landscape (that it already has) and daycare for small children (that it is lacking). Even if the workplace is outside of the village, basic functions – such as daycare – should be within the walking distance. After analyzing Urleben situation we also see the need of providing the elderly with healthcare assistance and social activity stimulation.

That is why we propose to join those functions together into a mutual daycare center. The solidarity house is thought as a local center where active elderly people can look after the local children (while their parents are working), all provided with professional support and healthcare assistance. This would activate the elderly to spend time with younger generations, sharing their time and knowledge. In return, the elderly would be provided with the medical assistance they need or may need in foreseeable future. The solidarity home, besides smartly helping the local economical situation by making a daycare center feasible, would strengthen community bonds, recreating multi-generational structure of the village.

The Solidarity home could be located in one of the abandoned courtyard buildings - conveniently enclosed (therefore safe and surveilled), complex and integrated into vernacular urban tissue.
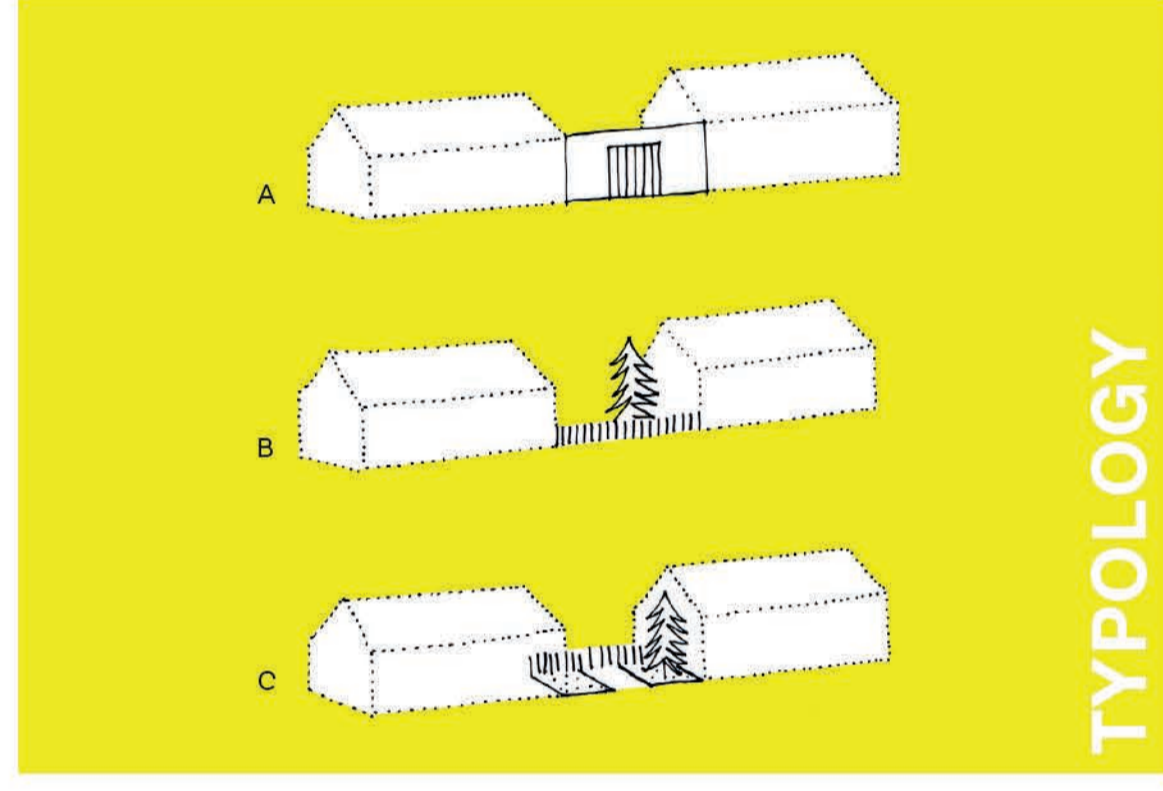
STRATEGY OF OWNERSHIP

FINANCING & OWNERSHIP STRATEGY

A round table should be set up to bring together players from the financial sector, municipalities, foundations and expert citizens. The financing sector should be represented by banks that have already realized that the future lies in glocalisation, sustainability and resilience. Municipalities should be eager to support and promote green use-based projects in their realm. Foundations could facilitate local revaluation of mind-changing businesses or redesign landscapes by establishing sustainable benchmarks. Expert citizens could bring their expertise as consultants directly on site instead of having to travel far to earn their money.

Starting from the roundtable, cooperation on various participation models could develop - all with the goal of a sustainable and resilient society and keeping money local.

The following must be avoided: depleting public funds extensively with undesirable effects, scaling back European cooperation and continue as before according to the motto: everything still went well.
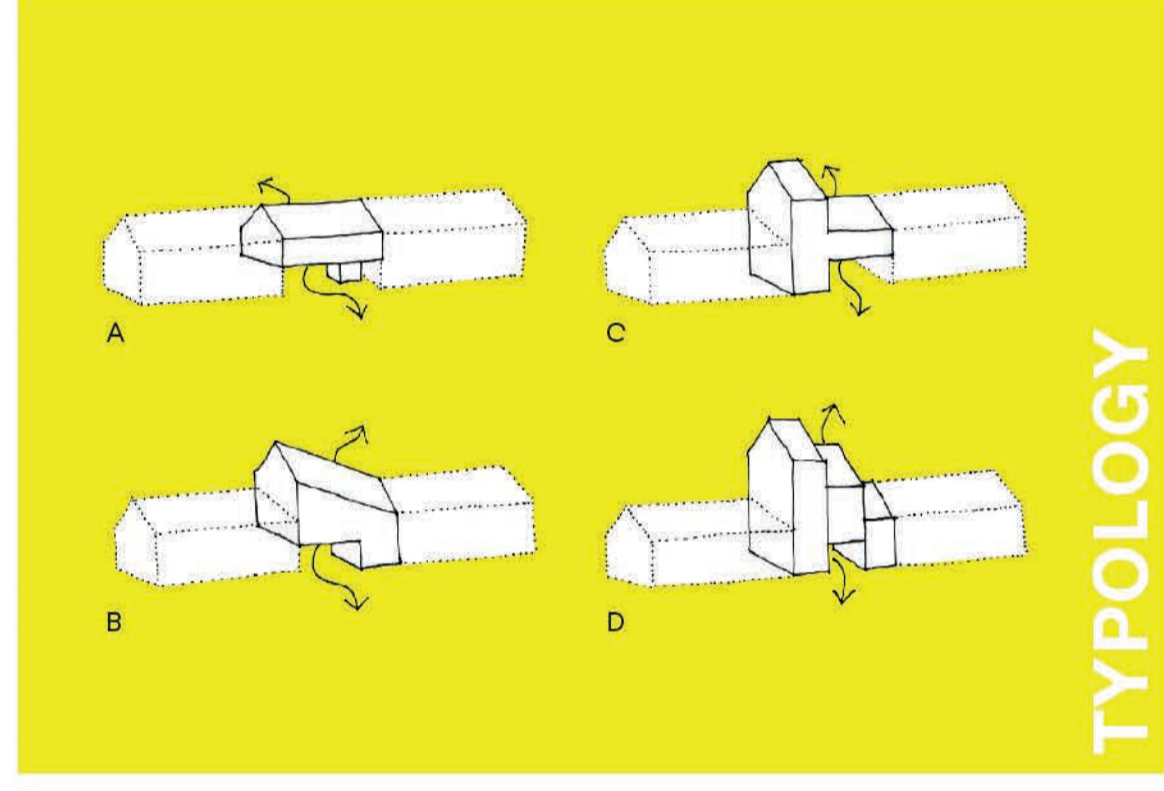

TYPOLOGY

APPROACHES TO DEALING WITH EXISTING STRUCTURES

A. Existing situation: currently the gap between existing buildings is closed with a very high gate - almost a wall, leaving interior courtyard life invisible for passers-by. We propose getting rid of the high gates to establish longer perspectives and visible connections with courtyard interiors.

B. High wall could be changed into a lower and more openwork fence that shows what is behind it. Then the gap between buildings can host a lush greenery zone, a small orchard or a permaculture garden.

C. To create a pocket public square it is possible to push the lower fence back into the housing site and use the front zone for common good. We propose adding greenery or street furniture that would enable neighbors to meet and socialize in pleasant outdoor conditions. This spatial gesture creates semi-public space, easily incorporated in the new common network of Urleben, but also maintained and controlled by closest inhabitants.
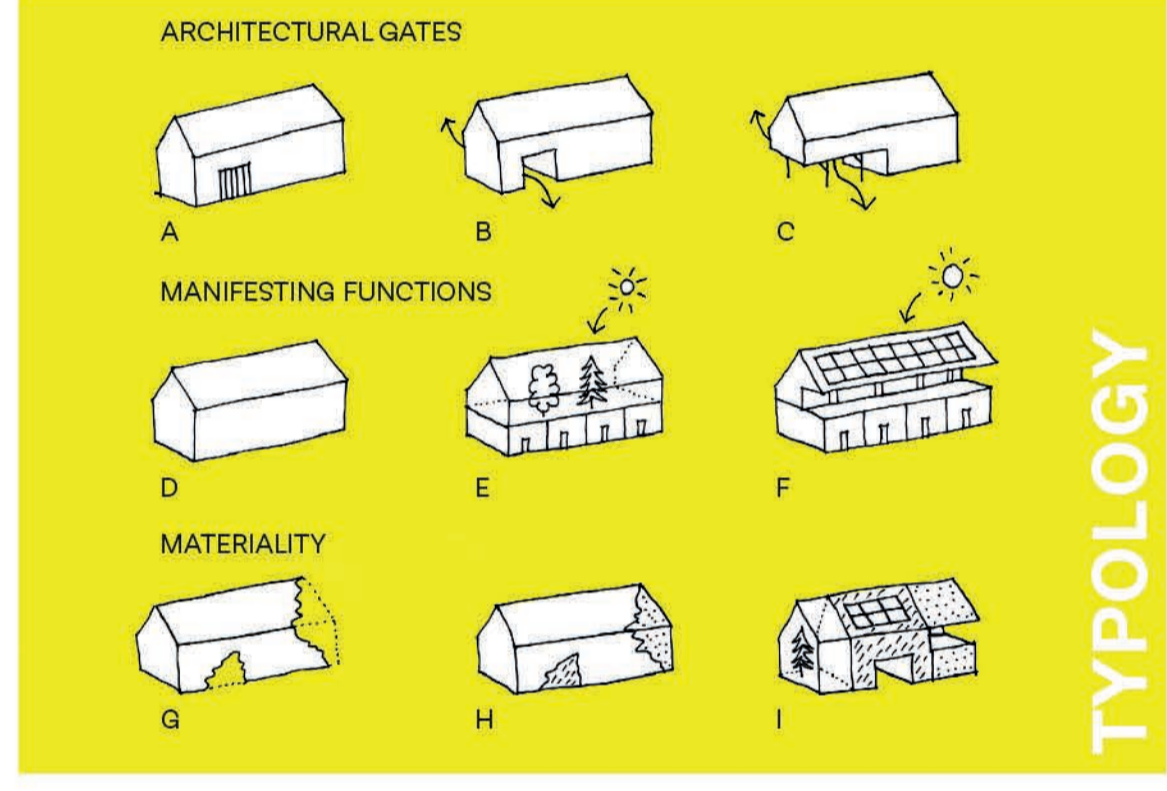
TYPOLOGY

APPROACHES TO DEALING WITH EXISTING BUILDINGS AND EXISTING STRUCTURES: FILL-IN FORMS

A. We can also introduce architectural volumes in gaps between buildings. But instead of then forming an impermeable wall, the added architecture should create a bridge or an extruded gate. The new volume can be a simple extrude of surrounding buildings with cut-out ground floor left for unobstructed entrance to the courtyard.

B. Another version of 'the bridge' building is playing with a typical shape of the house, providing more living space and vistas from the first floor.

C. 'The living bridge' could also compose of volumes of different heights, providing more living space and therefore being appropriate for families with more members.

D. The last version of 'the living bridge' is bigger, but with a small arcade that lets visitors inside the courtyard. Nevertheless, it provides visual contact between inside and outside of the building block.

TYPOLOGY

APPROACHES TO HOUSING FORMS

ARCHITECTURAL GATES

A. Existing building with a big gate - reminder of agricultural past.
B. To let the public domain into courtyards, we transform gates into outdoor corridors.
C. The new gate can also take form of a cut-out in urban tissue. This option is most transparent.

MANIFESTING FUNCTIONS

D. Existing situation: most popular building's volume in Urleben.
E. Housing units are on the ground floor with greenhouse or workshop on top. We try to find places for public functions also within architectural tissue and manifest those with added value.
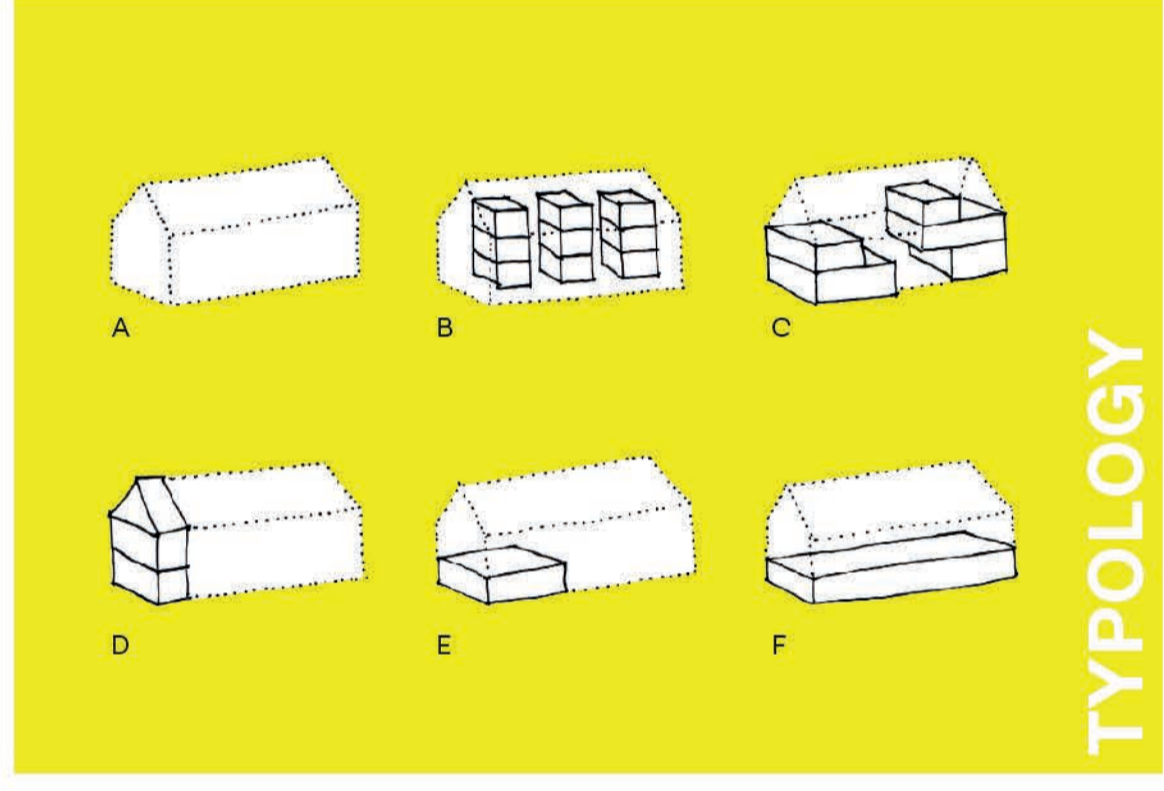F. Housing units for the elderly are on the ground floor. Additional units for younger people are on the first floor and are accessed from the gallery. The tilted roof is equipped with solar panels.

MATERIALITY

G. Existing situation: abandoned building that needs repairing.
H. The repairs are done with new eco-materials that are produced within Urleben innovative workshop. The contrast of materials creates contemporary bricolage.
I. The building could be composed of parts made of different materials. One could be a greenhouse, the other made with straw-bale technique or other eco-material, all of them filling harmoniously and efficiently with existing tissue.

TYPOLOGY

HOUSING STRUCTURAL TYPOLOGIES

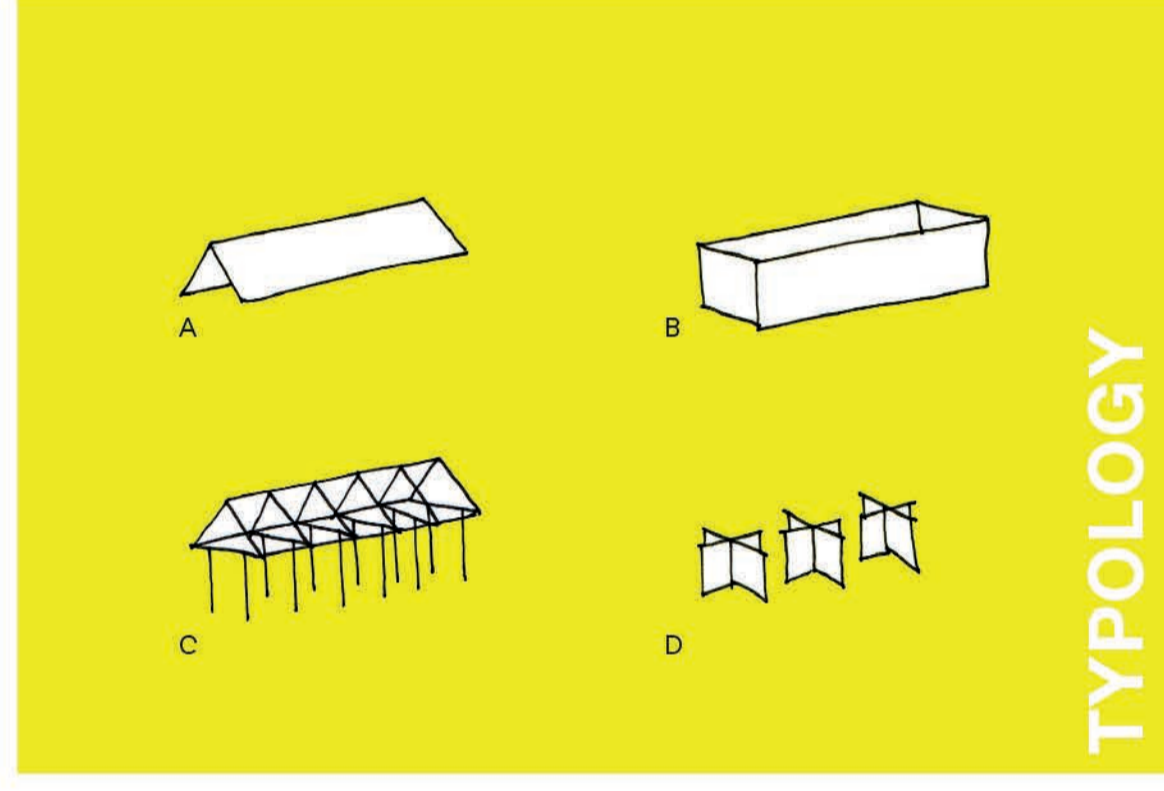A. Typical architectural volume of building in Urleben.

B. New volumes could be introduced into existing barns as stacked towers of contemporary functions and qualities.

C. New volumes are arranged inside the existing outline in a structural way, creating a common space in the middle of the building. The common space is designed on many levels, creating palindom of various intensities and diverse functions.

D. Rearranging housing structure within a traditional building volume of Urleben can happen in many ways. One of them can be dividing an existing volume into narrow and multi-story townhouses. This solution is good for young families, because it can create efficient spatial narrative on limited square footage.

E. Another option is proposing a classic division of the living space – separate apartments on the ground and first floor of the building, possibly with individual outside entrances to the top floor's flats. Here the ground floor units would be dedicated to the elderly / handicapped people because of an easy access to the street and strong visual connection with the context.

F. Existing volumes could also fit co-living structures, where inhabitants share common facilities, but maintain their separate private space.
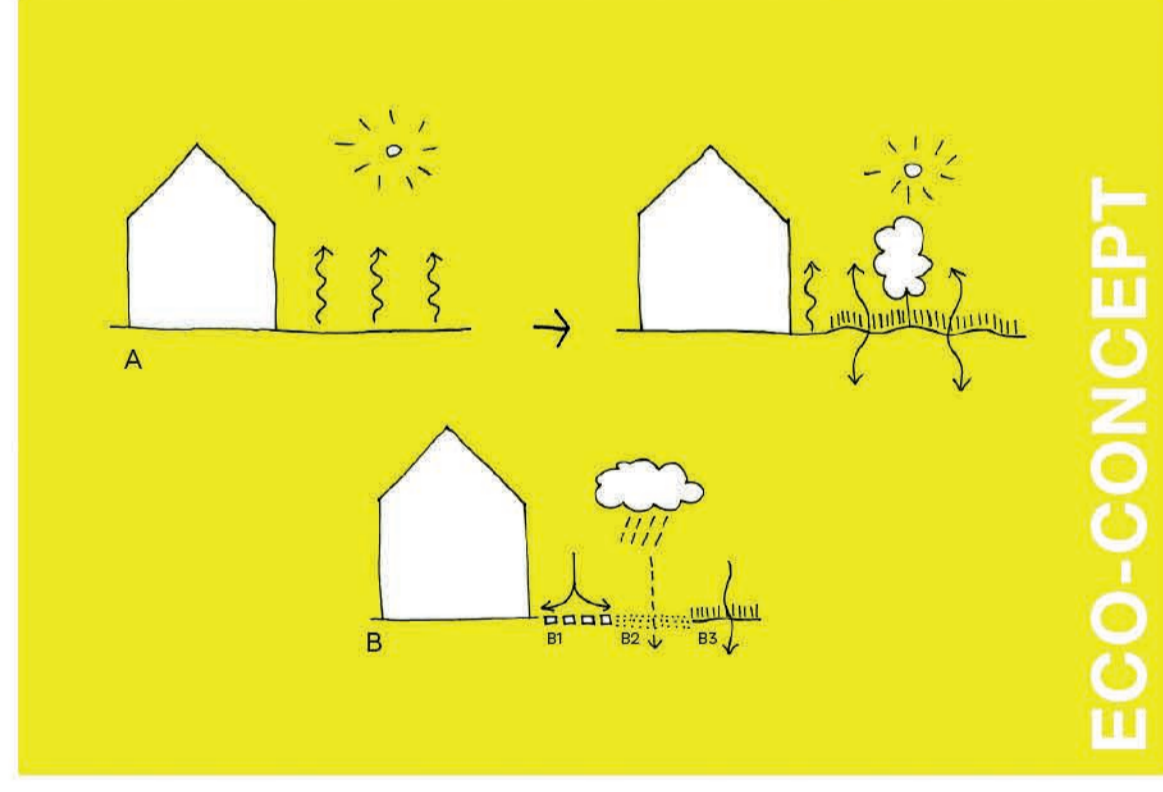
TYPOLOGY

NEW VERNACULAR BUILDING'S PRINCIPLES

A. A pitched roof as a device for harvesting rain water and energy from solar panels. A traditional form, equipped with sustainable technologies, can reduce building's footprint and make it more sustainable.

B. Light wooden framework – typical for local architecture – can be applied also in new buildings, making them easily rearrangeable and therefore resilient.

C. Infill of the framework could become a testing ground for new eco-technologies. By adding more diverse public biotope we create new ecosystem of Urleben, but also make it more insulating and finishing the building for example with straw bale bricks and clay. By using those eco-techniques in building sector Urleben could become a showroom of sustainable green innovation.

D. Lightweight inside divisions of rooms make the new buildings in Urleben resilient and feasible to adapt. We believe the new buildings should be designed in a way that is possible to adapt to changing social and economical conditions.

ECO-CONCEPT
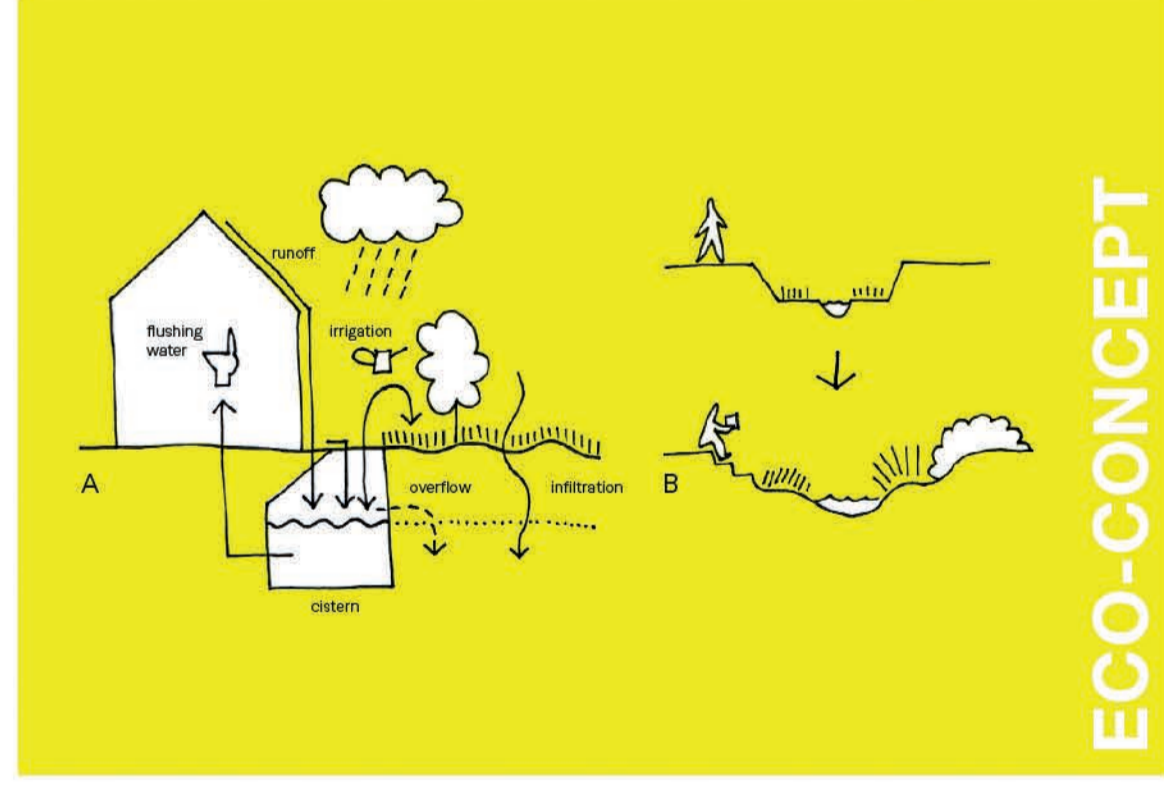
STRATEGIES FOR LOCAL ECOLOGIES

UNSEALING THE VILLAGE FOR COOLING EFFECT

A. In the case of newly created recreational and movement areas, attention should be paid to reducing the amount of sealing - for example, by seepage-capable joints of reused paving stones, gravel areas or an increase in the proportion of green areas.

INTRODUCING PERMEABLE SURFACES

We propose various levels of permeability when dealing with Urleben's surfaces. All of them are necessary to provide functional trajectories, natural connectivity and weather resiliency.

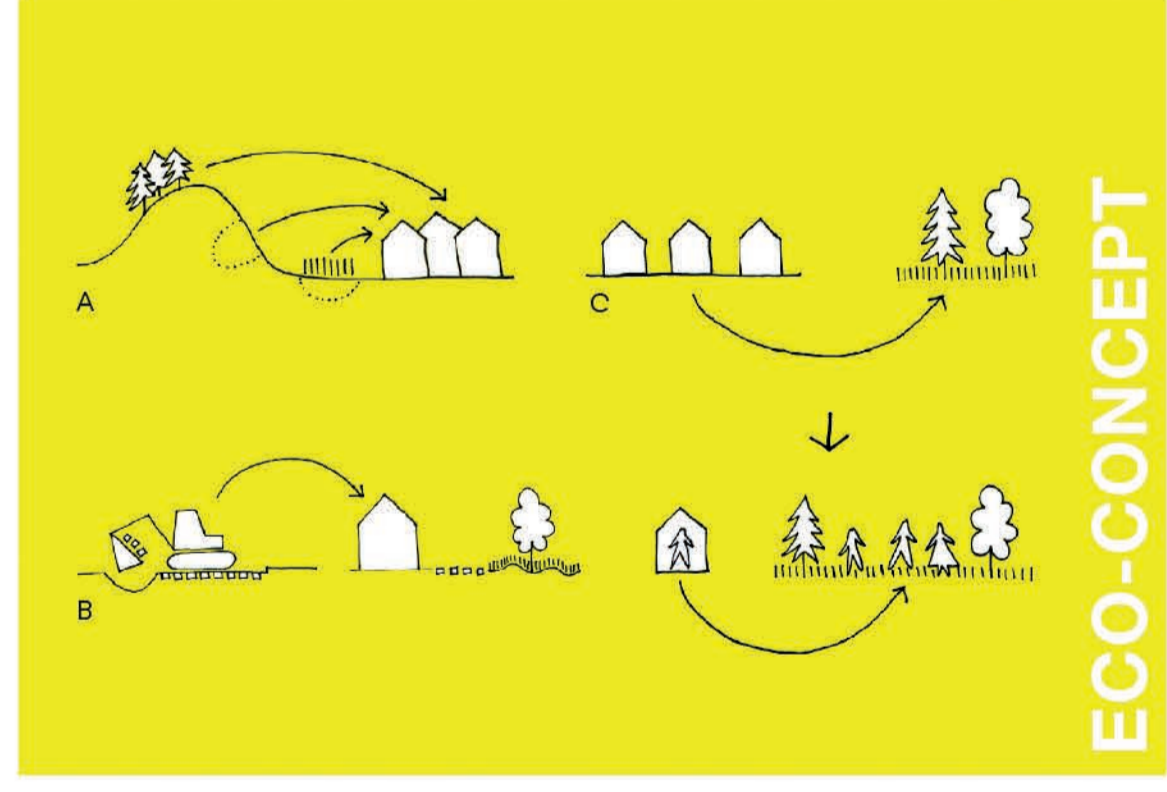B1. paving
B2. gravel
B3. green

ECO-CONCEPT

UNSEALED SURFACE AND INTEGRATION RAINWATER USAGE

A. Rainwater runoff from sealed surfaces and roofs should be consistently collected and used. The aim is to achieve 100% management of the precipitation water on site. Excess runoff should be throttled and transferred to the natural runoff.

Ecological handling of rainwater can reduce heating effects and contribute to general well-being. Heavy rainfall events are buffered and increase the load capacity of the existing infrastructure. Rainwater that is collected in cisterns is made directly accessible to the residents for further use as service water.

The integration of rainwater collection and management into existing landscape and technical structures enables a multi-functional implementation adapted to local conditions, which creates added value for the residents in terms of design and function.

B. Revitalizing the ditches can also make better use of rainwater. By reshaping the land and making it more permeable we can create attractive and eco-efficient water gardens, where Urleben inhabitants can meet or relax in lush nature.

ECO-CONCEPT

REINFORCING LOCALITY BY REUSING LOCAL RESOURCES

A. Local resources of various kinds are used to build and maintain the village life. For example, we use wood structures to build new volumes, crops' waste to make eco-insulation and alternative energy sources to use it within the local grid.
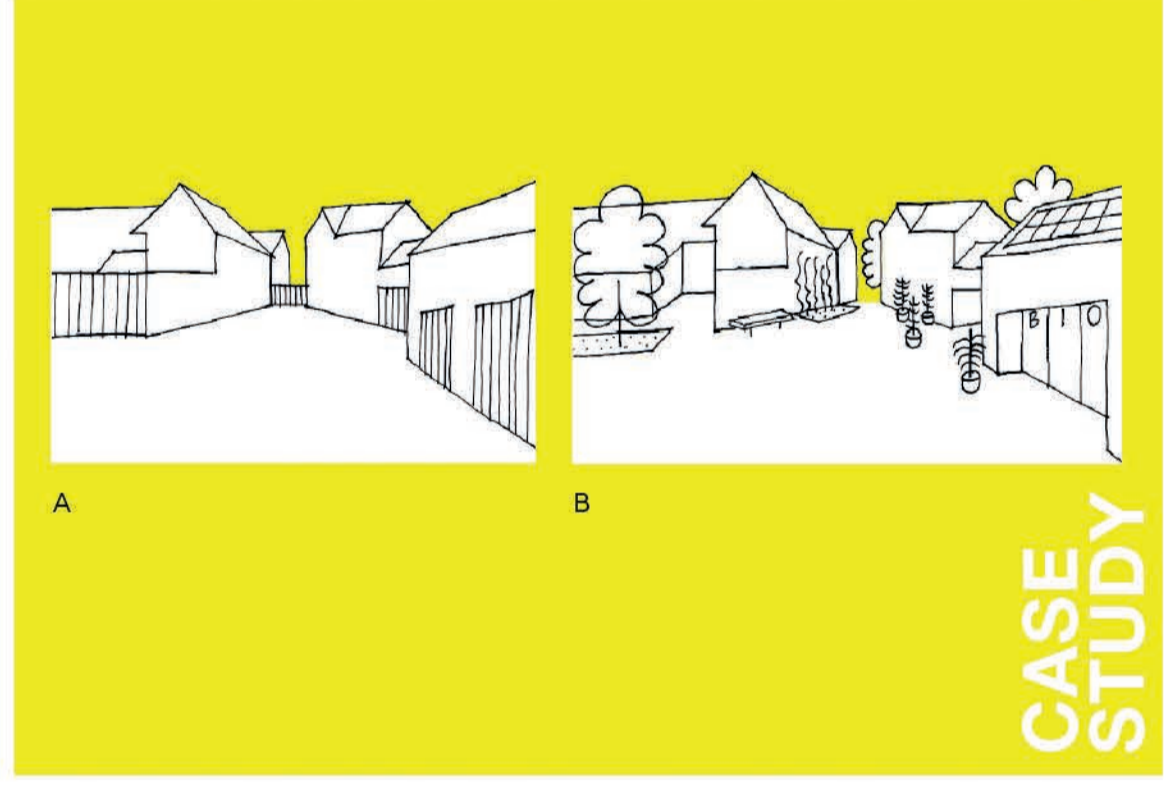
REUSE OF LOCAL MATERIAL FOR PAVING

B. Surface pavements should preferably be made of recycled paving materials (natural, slag, concrete blocks) of local origin, which can be made available through reconstruction or upgrading measures.

The reused material will be supplemented by the use of local and regional materials that score points in terms of life cycle and transport routes – such as deposits in the Bad Langensalza area for new, higher-value areas.

SPROUTING COMMUNITY

C. Some of the houses in the urban tissue of Urleben do not have their own gardens and some of the people who live alone do not have many opportunities to build social connections. We propose introducing community gardens, where people can actively and collectively spend time revitalizing their village.
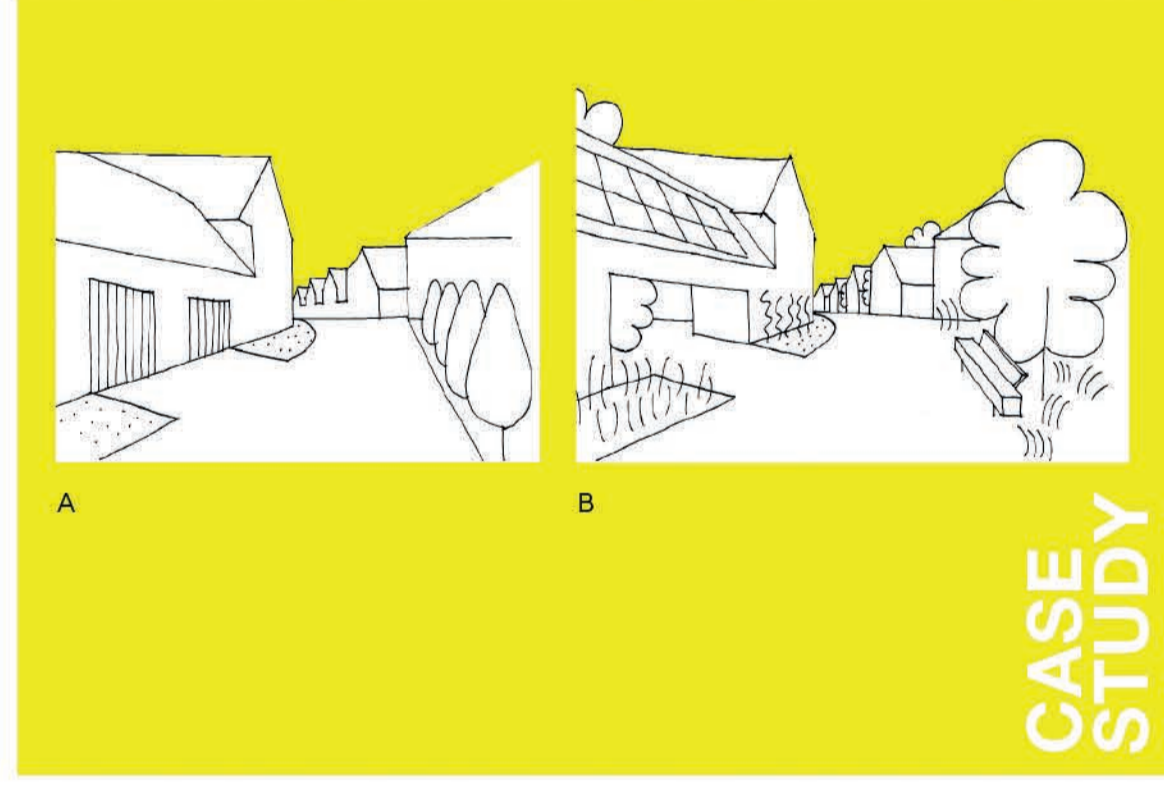
CASE STUDY

We propose simple means of revitalizing existing structures. All of them aim to make Urleben more open, sustainable and complex (and therefore attractive to live in).

CASE STUDY 1

A. Existing situation with enclosed buildings and courtyards invisible from street-level. The paving is impermeable. There is no greenery or street furniture creating public spots or engaging spatial narratives.

B. Revitalization proposal: the gates are opened or dismounted, with courtyards transformed into community-oriented spaces plugged into a new network of public spaces.The facades of houses are transformed so they form arcades or external patios for public functions, while roofs are covered with solar panels. The paving is made permeable with greenery pockets and seating zones. Trees are planted to compose multi-plan perspectives.
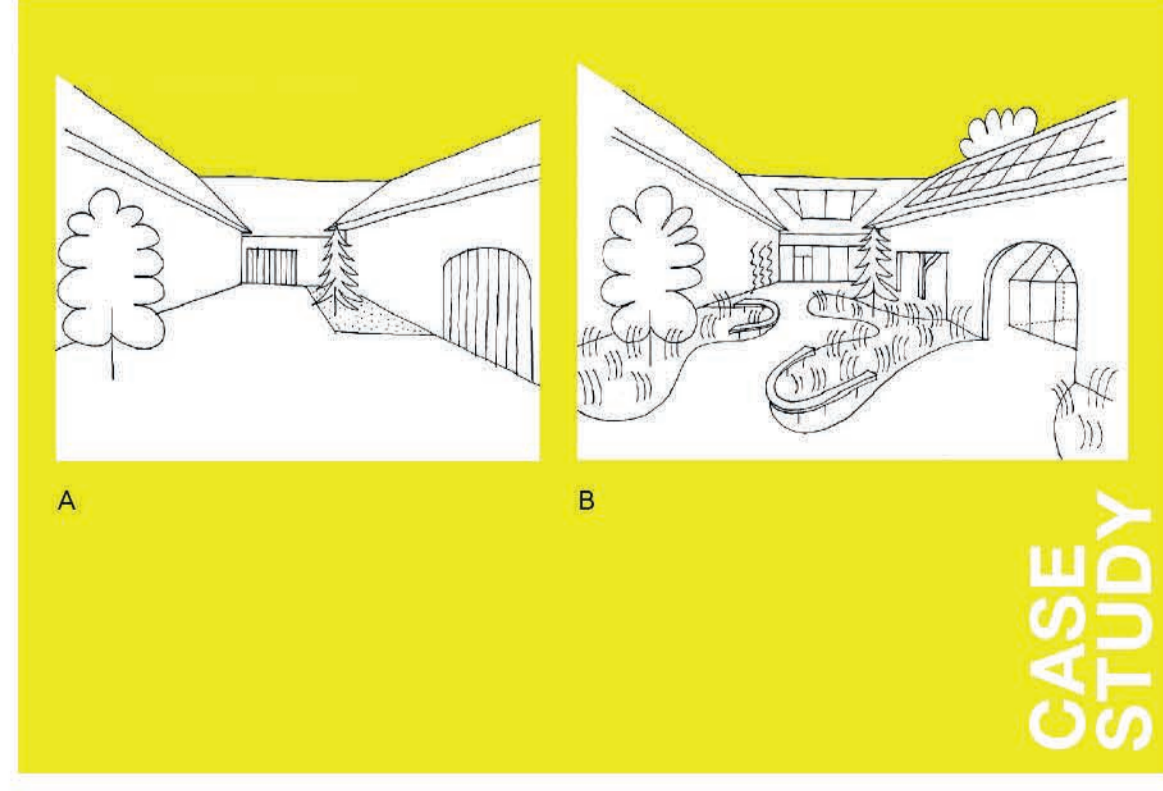
CASE STUDY

CASE STUDY 2

A. Street of 'hostile' appearance and standardized greenery.

B. A revitalized street with opened gates and alternated house facades enabling public life. Solar panels are located on roofs, providing energy for public areas and facilities. Greenery is densified and diversified. Street furniture is added along the way, creating convenient pit-stops for the elderly.

We aim to use the potential of existing situation and rediscover the charm of human-scale village. By adding more diverse public biotope we create new ecosystem of Urleben, but also make it more permeable and therefore resilient to drought and floods. New greenery also adds some picturesque qualities to the image of the village.

Simple street furniture could be located in those reclaimed green zones. Benches, wooden stools and stoops would let people rest in public space, cherish social life or contemplate views.
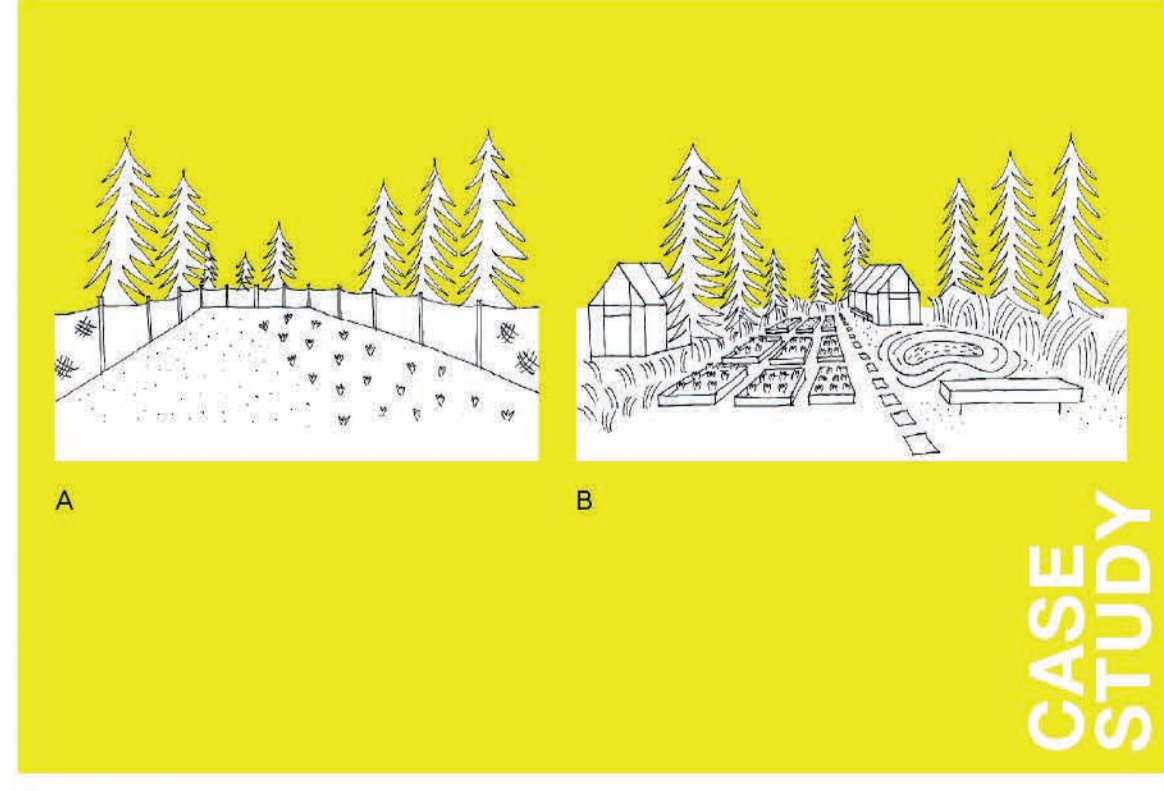

CASE STUDY

CASE STUDY 3

A. Current state of typical courtyard of an abandoned, municipality-owned house.

B. Revitalized courtyard with new perimeter public functions. Existing buildings are revitalized and transformed into a set of welcoming, permeable spaces, probably with pro-public businesses on the ground floor. The roofs are furnished with solar panels, skylights or built-in terraces. Lush green arrangement of the courtyard complements eco-efficient functions around.

The new courtyard is a public space within a privatized urban tissue. It is maintained by people that live and work in the surrounding buildings, but it is animated by the whole community of Urleben.
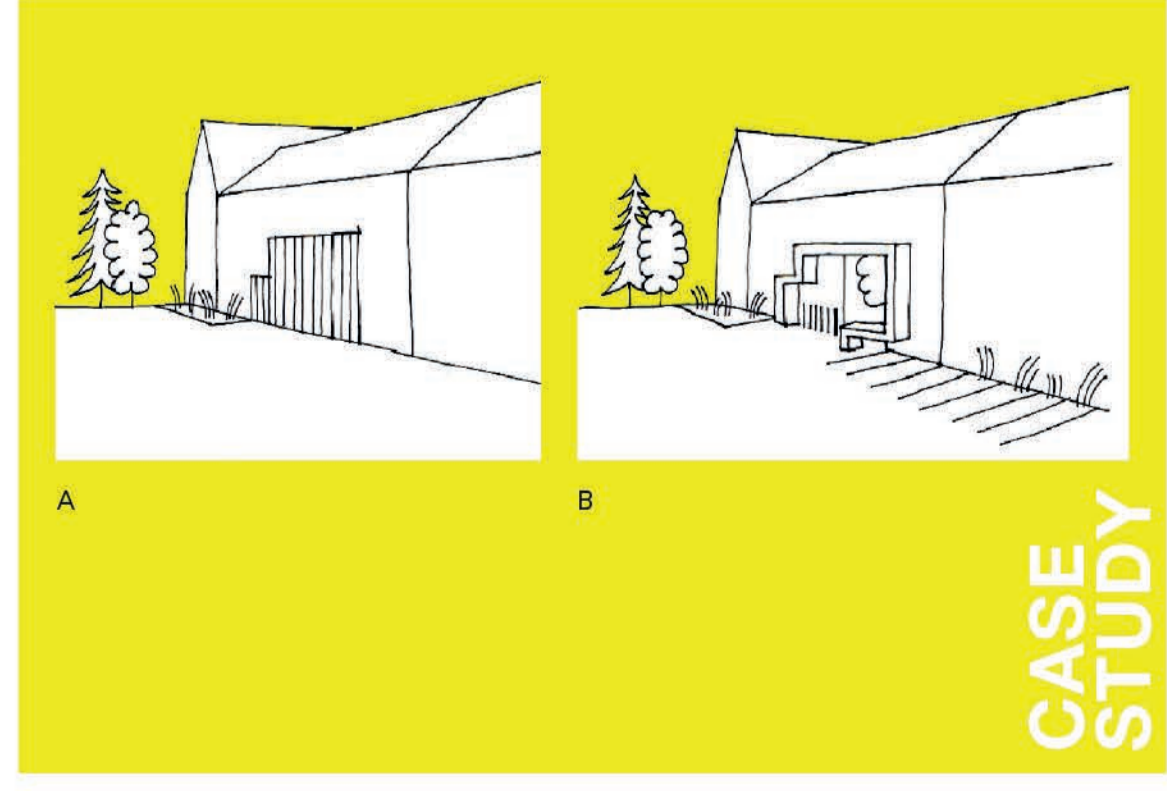
CASE STUDY

CASE STUDY 3

A. Existing state of green area on the periphery of the settlement – fenced and homogeneous.

B. Newly structuralized arrangement of productive landscape and supporting infrastructure, which can also serve as educational facility. There is no fence – greenery arrangement provides optical divisions of plots. Various methods and techniques of land and crop cultivating are presented here, so that visitors can see various options, similarities and differences between them.

The new agricultural arrangement forms an original public space, which besides being picturesque is also productive and educational.

CASE STUDY

CASE STUDY 4

A. Current street situation with closed gate.

B. The gate's contour is extruded to create a welcoming street furniture: a seat with small roof. To maintain a certain level of privacy we propose making lower fences instead of gates and pushing them inside the building volume, therefore creating a semi-public porch.

Permeability of Urleben is increased by adding more biotope spaces – here in form of a longitudinal, hardened but green walking path.

CASE STUDY

A GREEN PLAZA

In the centre of the village there is a revitalized public square with common table. The long table – partially covered with lightweight roof– can serve for community meetings, but also during the local markets and festivals as vendors' table. Upper level of the pocket park is accessible by stairs (and ramp from the other side of the path). We located there an outdoor gym for the elderly, motivating them to exercise in pleasant and discreet environment.
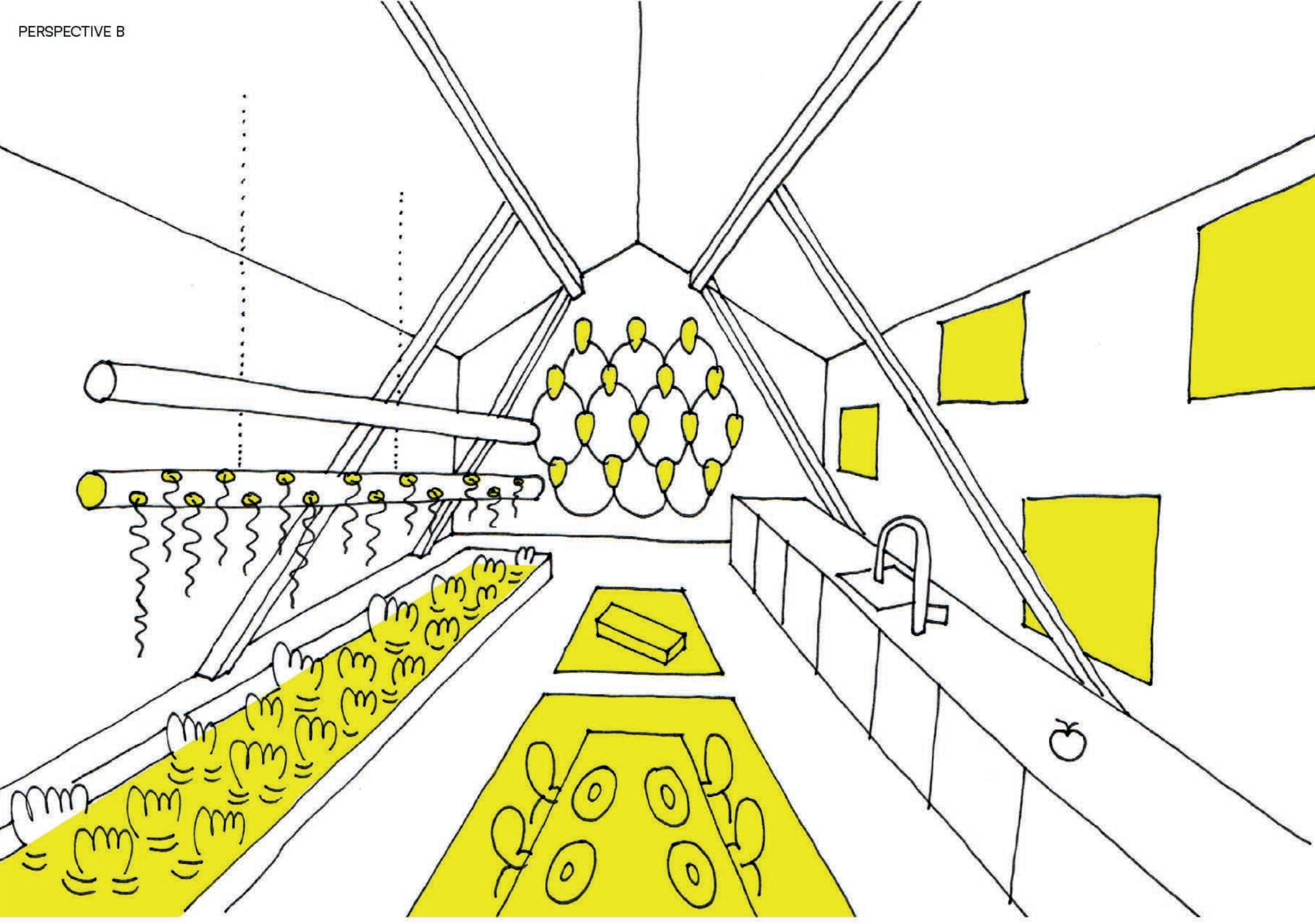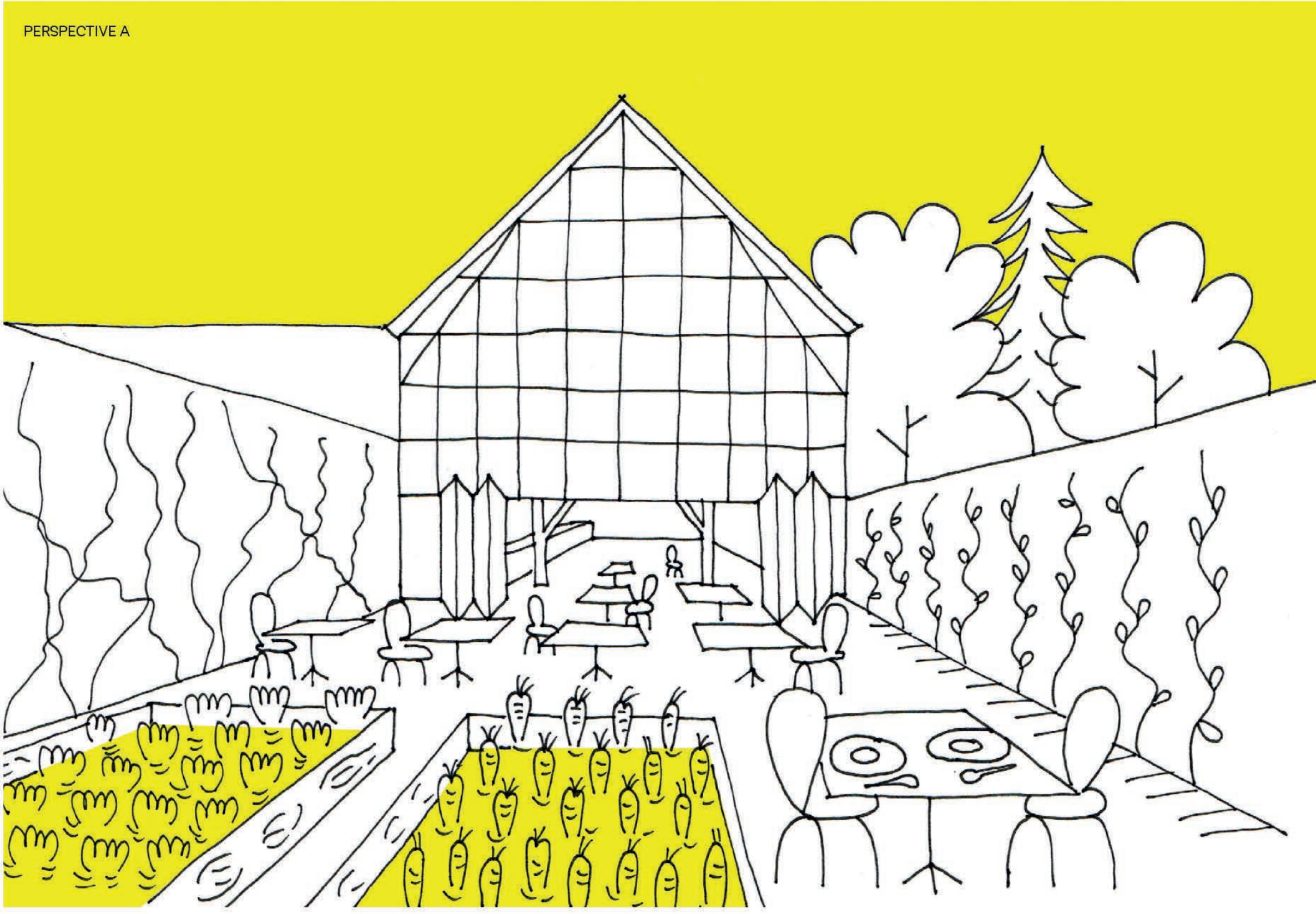
CASE STUDY

COMMON SPACES – NEW BUS STOP

The revitalized square has a bus stop on the other end. The new pavilion is equipped with big comfortable bench and a bike parking with charging station for e-bikes and e-scooters.

NEW MOBILITY

We hope that Urleben engages smart mobility into its running operations. Creating multi-functional bus stops - by furnishing them with diverse urban equipment - can work as mobility hubs. With its expanded functionality, inhabitants could use the bus stop as a meeting pavilion, park + ride spot or e-bikes charger. Promoting sustainable ways of commuting could benefit the whole local community, because it would make Urleben more mobile.

Landgut 2050. Urleben - new vernacular

PERSPECTIVE A

PERSPECTIVE B

STRATEGY 1

CHALLENGE: HOMOGENEOUS, MONOTONOUS FUNCTIONAL LAYOUT
SOLUTION: VERNACULAR RESTAURANT WITH ZERO-WASTE PHILOSOPHY

PERSPECTIVE A. View of the experimental garden that is a part of eco-restaurant initiative. The tables are arranged between various forms of farming methods, emphasizing authenticity of the culinary concept.

PERSPECTIVE B. First floor of a revitalized existing building is transformed into an innovative lab, where students learn about new and traditional food growing and preparing techniques. From the lab - through the glass floor - the culinary students and interns can see their guests and check their reactions on eco-food.
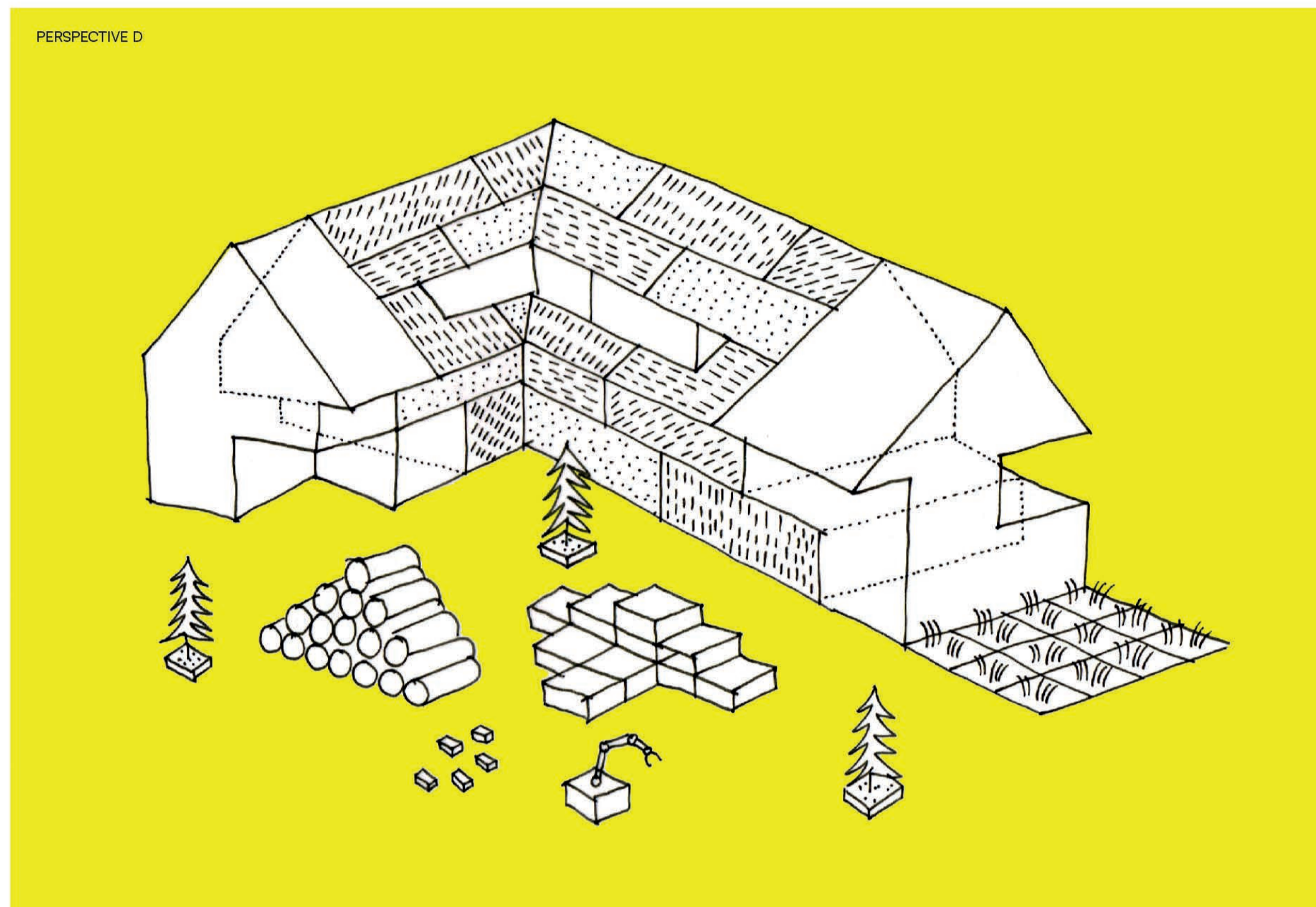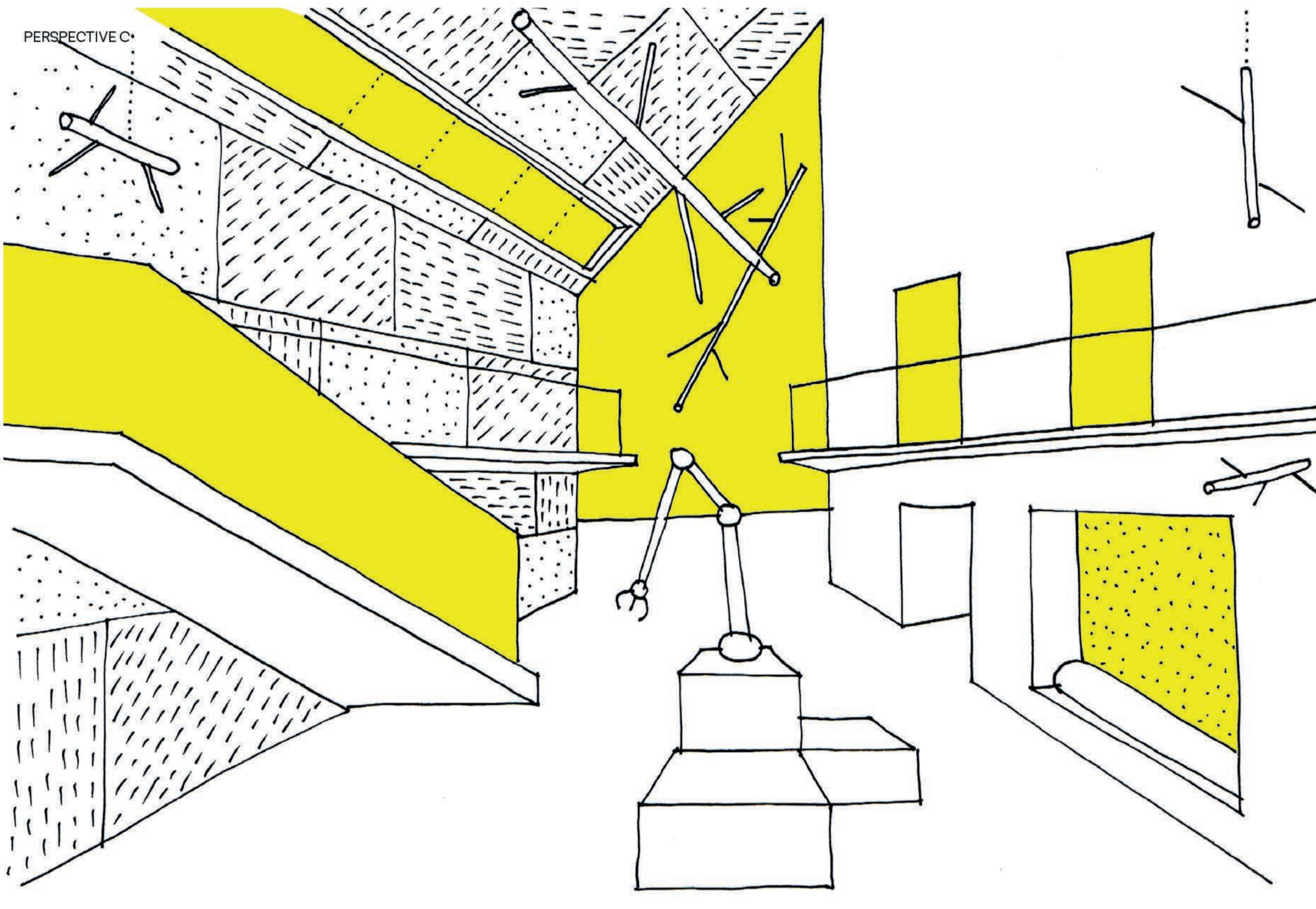
STRATEGY 2

CHALLENGE: DETERIORATING URBAN TISSUE
SOLUTION: VERNACULAR ECO-MATERIALITY WORKSHOP WITH ITS TESTING GROUND

PERSPECTIVE C. Interior view of the eco-workshop with showroom wall made of various eco-materials, such as straw bale, fungi or produce rest - all sourced from local farmlands. The hall can host presentations and workshops regarding Urleben sustainable technologies. The space is also welcoming zone of eco-hotel guests. On the right side there are showrooms of eco-technologies, where interested people can spend a night and check how living in natural habitat feels like.

PERSPECTIVE D. Axonometric view of the new building - eco technologies workshop. It is the eco-technologies showroom with an open workshop, where innovations for building sector are tested and prepared to be implemented in the urban tissue of Urleben. The workshop also hosts a small hotel that lets its visitors to experience living in a sustainable eco-house. We believe the possibility of seeing and (short-term) living in the eco-house would convince people to add sustainable practices in their daily life.

The building is partially made with straw bale technology.

Straw bale construction is a CO2-neutral construction method. The difference to solid construction is approx. 97 t CO2 equivalent. Only about half of the non-renewable primary energy (PENRT) is used for the production of a straw-insulated building. Two construction methods are available for the new building: (1) timber frame construction with straw bales as thermal insulation in the timber construction and (2) load-bearing construction with load-bearing straw walls made of large bales. For old buildings, the renovation as a straw facade is suitable - comparable to a subsequently installed thermal insulation composite system. Walls and ceilings as well as roof and floor slab can be realized in straw construction. For this, the German straw construction guideline is to be applied, which is to be understood as a supplement to the recognized rules of technology. In Lower Saxony Verden a five-story office building in straw construction was already built in 2015. For "building straw" there is an approval of the DIBt as thermal insulation material made of straw bales since 2014. Under licensing law, approval must be obtained in individual cases.
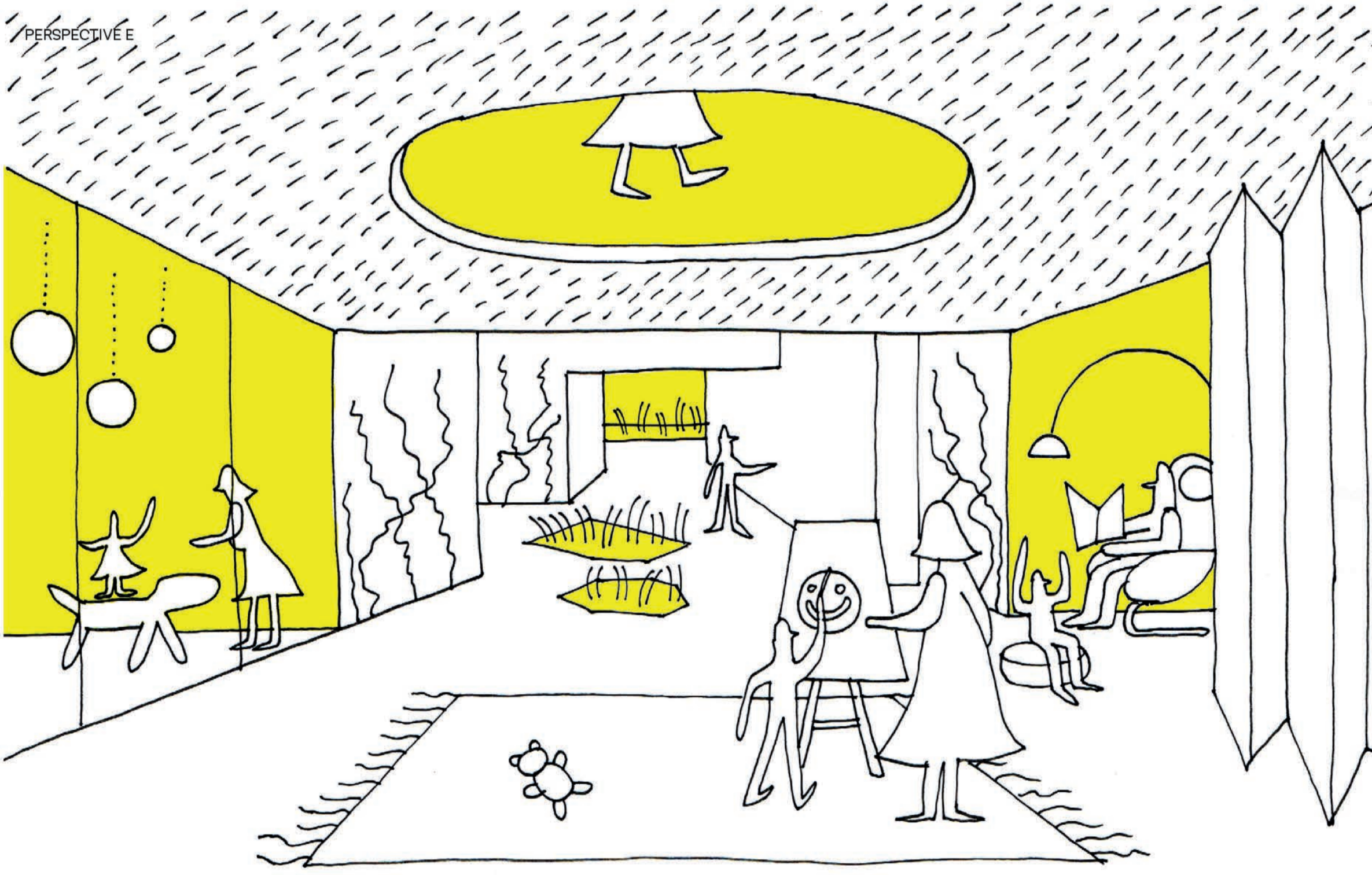
PERSPECTIVE C

PERSPECTIVE D

STRATEGY 3

CHALLENGE: DIMINISHING DEMOGRAPHICS AND AGING COMMUNITY OF URLEBEN
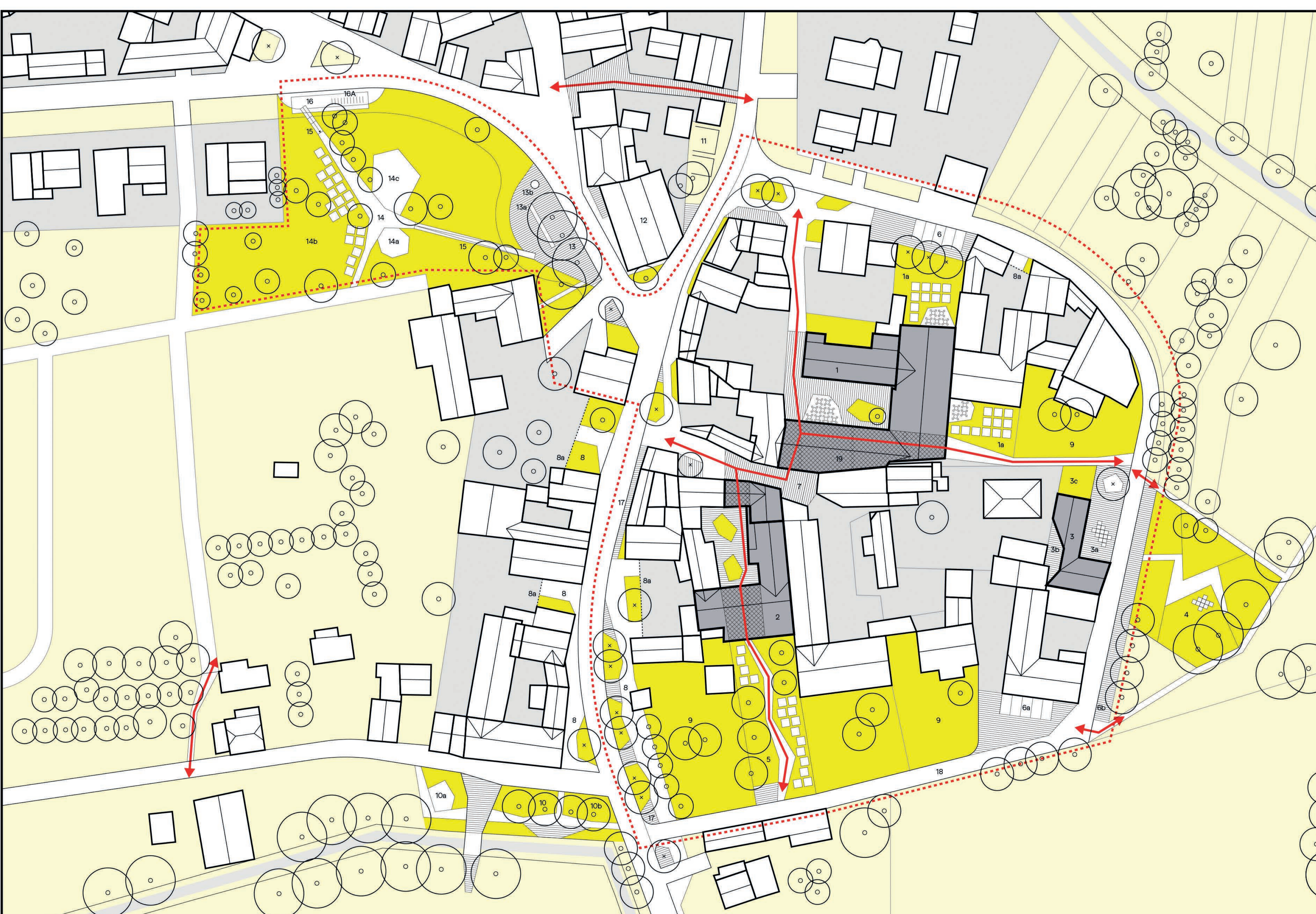SOLUTION: SOLIDARITY HOME - MUTUAL DAYCARE CENTER FOR ELDERLY AND CHILDREN

PERSPECTIVE E. The interior of revitalized solidarity house - a mutual daycare center. The building is designed in a way that it provides longer perspectives and attractive vistas. Covered passages let the people use those transitional spaces as common living-rooms. Here people take care of each other - the elderly look after kids, while the children (with their parents at work) simply spend time with 'foster grandparents'.

PERSPECTIVE F. Revitalized courtyard that now serves the whole community. An informal arrangement of street furniture and greenery makes the space attractive for all the generations of people of Urleben. The elderly can supervise kids while they play or share their knowledge on cultivating plants or other outdoor activities etc. The space is connected within a larger network of public courtyards and green spaces in Urleben.

PERSPECTIVE E

PERSPECTIVE F

MASTERPLAN LEGEND

1. Vacant building turned into an innovative regional restaurant - lab exploring local cultures, agriculture and craft. The striped hatch is where we introduce passages on the ground level through building.
1a. Consumers' patio and urban gardening site
2. Vacant building turned into a mutual daycare center for the elderly and local children. The striped hatch is where we introduce passages on the ground level through building.
3. An empty site turned into an eco-centre, where Urleben researches smart eco-technology of straw and other sustainable building materials produced from local natural resources.
4. An agricultural plot turned into an educational and workshop open-air facility. It serves explaining how sustainable building material are produced.
5. Garden plot turned into a shared garden: new green public space
6. New mobility parking
6a. Parking with charging station
6b. Parking reserve
7. A shortcut through the urban block that is changed into a new public alley. Those new alleys are connected into a network that makes the village tissue more permeable and walkable. We also propose additional greenery planted along those alleys.
8. Spaces in front of Urleben homes are turned into green, semi-public and inviting zones. New permeable surfaces are making Urleben an urban sponge, letting the rainwater infiltrate the grounds and nature to flourish.
8a. A fence that is moved inside the building site, forming a pocket plaza.
9. Existing gardens with no fences that could be used as public spaces
10. A small water park
10a. Water playground for children
10b. Water canals that gather rainwater run-off. The revitalized canals function as linear rain gardens, creating a pleasant leisure route for local inhabitants.
11. Traditional storage facilities are turned into local attractions, probably as part of the regional restaurant activator business
12. Public building as a center of the village. We propose new functions for the revitalized restaurant building serving the now active society of the village. The building should host a local culture center with part of its program decided by public voting. The civic budget could be founded with money from few wind turbines that would be placed next to the village. Urleben inhabitants could sell the surplus energy, transferring income to the local activity center.
13. New public square
13a. A long table serving local community for gatherings but also during market fairs and festival.
13b. Drinking water fountain
14. Green space on top of the small hill revitalized into a pocket park
14a. Natural playground for children
14b. Public orchard
14c. An open-air gym for the elderly
15. The stairs and ramp are part of the exercise program for the elderly
16. New bus stop and smart mobility hub that serve also as a public pavilion
16a. E-bike parking and charging station that is a part of new bike route network. We believe bike routes should serve local inhabitants rather than tourists. Its role and key to popularity would be to get people fast and pleasantly to their workplace.
17. Newly defined edge of the street - monotonous urban silhouettes are changed into narrative spatial sequences. Pocket public zones diversify the village image.
18. Widened yet safe local road with speed limit of 30km per hour
19. Ground-floor-level passages through building that let public life inside seemingly closed urban structures

MASTERPLAN scale 1:500