

**.DUET.**

Wernigerode (DE)

### **Study site.**

The study site consists of a residential area embedded in a larger industrial one whose edges are defined by infrastructure, the railway to the south and the main access roads to the city on the other three sides. Towards its interior the neighborhood is characterized by a constellation of single-family houses and their private gardens which draw the urban image. Thus, the area is configured as a potential green hinge between the river and the Bürgerpark (a necklace of water basins and green scrubs), as well as a bridge to the old town of Werningrode.

Starting from this, the project aims to strengthen the urban potential of the area throughout the implementation of a new micro-infrastructure. First step is the definition of pedestrian and cycle paths along the edges of the strategic site (towards the railway and Veckenstedter Weg). Then, a network of internal ways is derived from the reclamation of interstitial areas. A second phase (not binding for the general strategy) involves the shrinkage of private land by acquisition of thin strips between properties, creating an improved porosity for the neighbourhood and bringing it closer to the idea of a park. The new circulation system is then connected to the roads that pass throughout it which, converted to regulated traffic zones (30km/h), facilitate alternative mobility. At the points of main intersection of the internal paths, a series of infrastructure platforms and pavilions are organized. Open to several configurations, this civic devices are composed of modular elements and mainly made of wood (local material), assembled with simple joints in order to be modifiable and implementable over time, as well as self-built by the community. On the roofs of the pavilions three energy elements could be arranged.



Herman Hertzberger. Elderly housing. Hoven



Roberto Gabetti e Aimaro Oreglia d'Isola con Luciano Re. Unità residenziale Ovest. Ivrea

## **Project Site.**

The two left corners of the study site are intended for a housing densification (60 new units in total). Therefore, the project proposes two buildings different in morphology and typology but similar in language and construction (to facilitate the realization and to optimize costs). The proposal develops the northern corner with an extroverted attitude and an high-density ration. A commercial base and a large public space opens towards Bürgerpark. Differently, the southern area is intended as a more introverted organism defining a courtyard garden linked to the open spaces of the kindergarten and the green dune in the vicinity.

### *. morphology and insertion in the context*

Both the new buildings consist of two volumes rotated to form about an L, turned once in one direction and once in the opposite. The building to the south, in front of the railway, sits along the road embracing a courtyard garden behind it. The building to the north, on the other hand, ideally marks an entrance to the city and in relation to the natural system of green and water, it leaves a generous public space in front, allowing the ground floor to host commercial spaces.

### *. typology and program*

Generally speaking, both buildings are composed of the same elements. The monotonous repetition of servant blocks, between which the rooms of the various apartments are freely arranged, define both spatial organisation and building appearance. The simple and rhythmic structure allows a greater flexibility in the organization of the accommodation and in the use of its spaces.

The southern body is organized according to the typology of the terraced house, in which each apartment has its own private access to the ground and its own portion of land. Along the perimeter at the edge of the road are placed the required parking spaces. The courtyard is intended a space of sharing and gathering.

In height, the building is divided in two parts: the ground floor, which shelters 10 one-bedroom apartments, and the two floors above, where mixed apartment are organized in vertical.

The norther body, on the contrary, is organizes according to a different idea of collective living. From the access balcony - which widens into a semi private veranda - apartments are entered directly via an eat-in kitchen facing the yard. The level of privacy increases in the direction of the adjoining living area and bedrooms towards the park. In height, the building is composed of three parts: a basement welcoming sever commercial spaces; a body organizing 27 apartments of two or more rooms, and two top floors in which are arranged 12 duplexes. The volume is slightly detached from the ground in order to naturally ventilate the basement, arranged to relocate the parking spaces currently in the area and those required, as well as to leave a large public space on the surface.

### *. language and materials*

Both buildings work with a clear set of constructive tools. The norther body rests on an in situ concrete basement and is built with AAC blocks and CLT panels. The duplex crowning is wrapped in a modular openable skin of fiberglass. A large sail of solar panels energetically supports the building. The southern building works with the same idea of technological hybridization and consist of a CLT panels body crowning a mineral basement. Chosen in relation to their efficiency, both constructive (allowing mostly prefabricated elements) and economic (affordability and performativity), all the materials of construction express themselves.