

# **CABINATION**

SKI HOTEL IN HEMSEDAL, NORWAY.

INVESTIGATIONS  
PROCESS  
PROPOSAL

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MASTER THESIS IN ARCHITECTURE

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# INVESTIGATIONS

## background

Hemsedal is a ski resort and people go there primary to ski. Even if the main activity is skiing, a holiday in the mountains should also contain an overall experience.

More and more people choose an active vacation, but at the same time many require comfort and all the facilities close at hand and a unique and different environment close to nature.

Hemsedal skiresort is growing and is in need of another hotel which can handle new visitors and preferably offer a different experience from the rest of the hotels.

I chose to combine the hotel rooms with a spa, restaurant, café to fulfill the skiers needs in one building.

A new main chair lift is planned right next to the hotel plot and makes it a perfect ski in ski out situation. The building I am going to design is intended to interact with the active part of the site and take advantage of the terrain and direct access to the lift and the slopes.

Hemsedal skiresort is investing a lot to increase the international amount of tourists. The tourist industry is very important in the norwegian mountains because it constitutes a large part of the population's employment

## definition of the project

I will design a spa, swimming pool, restaurant, cafe etc in the ski resort of Hemsedal.

To maximize the use of the building it will be flexible and contain rooms with multiple uses and divisions for the common areas.

The hotel rooms have a more private character with their own exit on each floor directly to the slopes.

A major challenge in this project is first and foremost to get all the different functions to interact with each other. Enclosures shall be elastic and open up different functions simultaneously as they should have their own character and experience. Everything should be in balance ; function, experience and atmosphere.

All visitors have one thing in common : they want to ski and enjoy being outside in the nature. They want to get away from the city and change the urban environment to the mountains, and hence a different type of architecture.

I have chosen to do this project because I wanted to challenge myself to investigate a larger scale and make the appearance and impression of it more on a human level.

It is also interesting to work with projects that can interact with the landscape and give a nature experience.

issue

The Norwegian mountains receive many tourists each year, both in winter and summer, and it gets more and more popular as a holiday destination.

Tourism is a very important industry in Norway. This will eventually result in an expansion of places to take care of the growing tourism. It is then

important to develop buildings in a sustainable manner to preserve the mountain area. Meanwhile, the resort has to attract more visitors, where architecture plays an important role.

Tourism and travel are among the most area demanding industry. The mountain destinations will soon face the same problems as in the city, where one is forced to condense in the already built area. This will be a challenge in the mountains when the sentence of the stay is just nature. It is a sensitive landscape and the character and experience will disappear if the wrong kind of built environment is starting to dominate.

The norwegian cabin is a deep rooted culture and where norwegians feel most comfortable on their vacation.

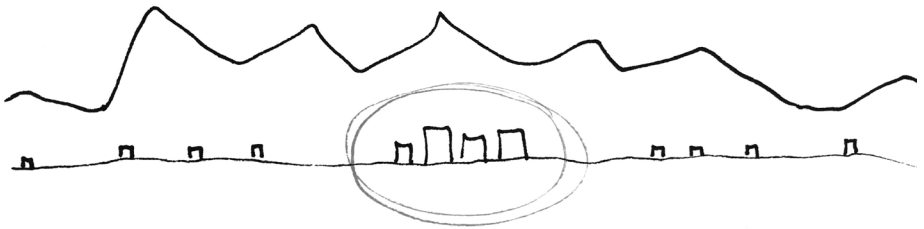
Hotel complex has a negative connotation and should not necessarily be perceived as violent big and intrusive on the environment.

**How densify in the mountain resorts and at the same time retain the experience and closeness to nature?**

# intention

I want to create a more private atmosphere for the hotel rooms. For the common areas I want to investigate how spaces can share different functions to be more flexible and decrease the scale without cutting down on quality.

The buildings should be adapted to a particular type of users and their needs; skier on holiday.



## **DEFINITION OF THE PROJECT**

Hotel with guestrooms, apartments, spa, reastaurant, café etc in the ski resort Hemsedal, Norway.

## **ISSUE**

How densify in the mountain resorts and at the same time retain the experience and closeness to nature?

## **INTENTION**

Experience. A cabin feeling in a hotel.

## **HIERARCY**

1. Experience
2. Place adaptation
3. Densification

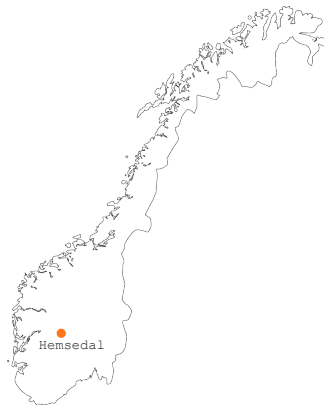
## situation

Hemsedal is located in Buskerud, Norway. It is in the middle of the two biggest cities; Oslo and Bergen.

Hemsedal is one of the most popular ski destinations in Norway and receives many tourists even in summer.

The ski resort is 625 - 1920 meters above sea level.

Because the slopes and the whole resort is facing north Hemsedal has good snow conditions and a long ski season that lasts from november to may.





the site

The site is situated in the middle of the alpin center in Hemsedal.

The site is defined by a road and a natural reserve in the north, a river in the west, the planned chair lift and Hemsedal Alpin Lodge in the east and the ski slope in the north.

There is also a cross country ski trail south from the site that follows the river and continues towards the nature reserve on the other side of the road.

The terrain on the plot has an incline upwards about 20% towards the ski slope. It is therefore possible to ski down right to the site.



## TODAY'S USE

The lower part of the plot is currently paved and used as parking space. The rest of the plot towards the slopes is a kids ski slope with a smaller button lift.

## TRAFFIC

The plot is easily accessible by car as it limits to the road. The main road is a short walk north across the river. A bus will take you to the village center or all the way to Oslo or Bergen.

## TOPOGRAPHY

Hemsedal is located in a valley with northern direction.

The land is relatively smooth but rises slightly south towards the slopes and lifts. The southern part has an incline of approximately 20 degrees.

## CLIMATE

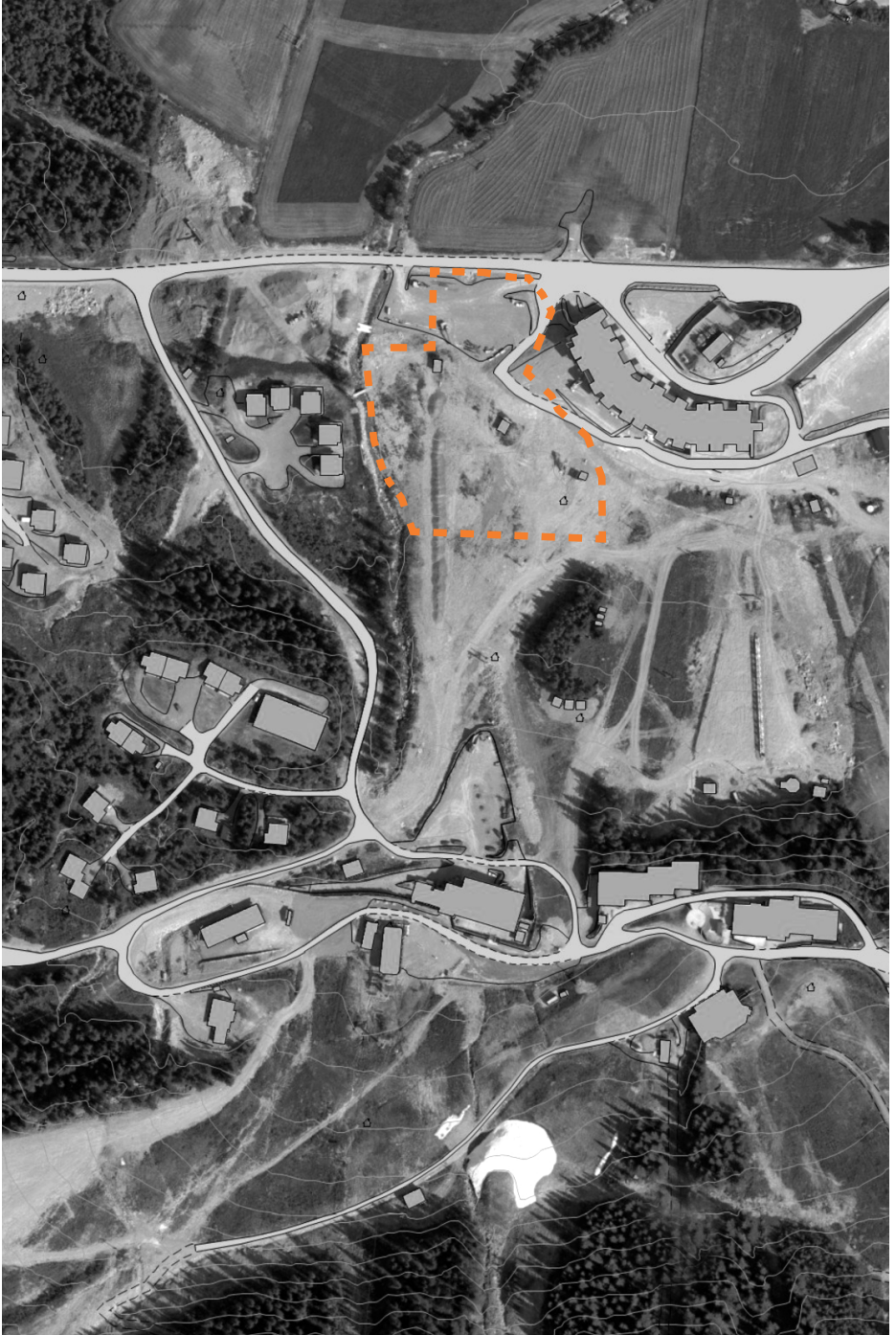
The western wind coming in from the sea is quite strong.

As Hemsedal ski centre is located in the north, the whole area including the plot has a lack of direct sun. The sun does not reach down the valley until around 1 mars due to the mountain screens to the sun. This means, however, that Hemsedal has good snow conditions and a longer skiing season from nov - may.

## SURROUNDING AREA

A shorter lift near the plot takes you up to the existing chairlifts and the heart of the ski center. On the shelf in the slope you will find all the main lifts that goes all the way up the mountain and also the after ski bars and restaurants.

The area around the planned chairlift on the eastern side of the plot will be more populated in the future. This must be taken into account in the design of the building as well of the advantage to ski right down to the main lift.





the site from the chair lift from south





sun study





1 march 09.00

1 march 13.00

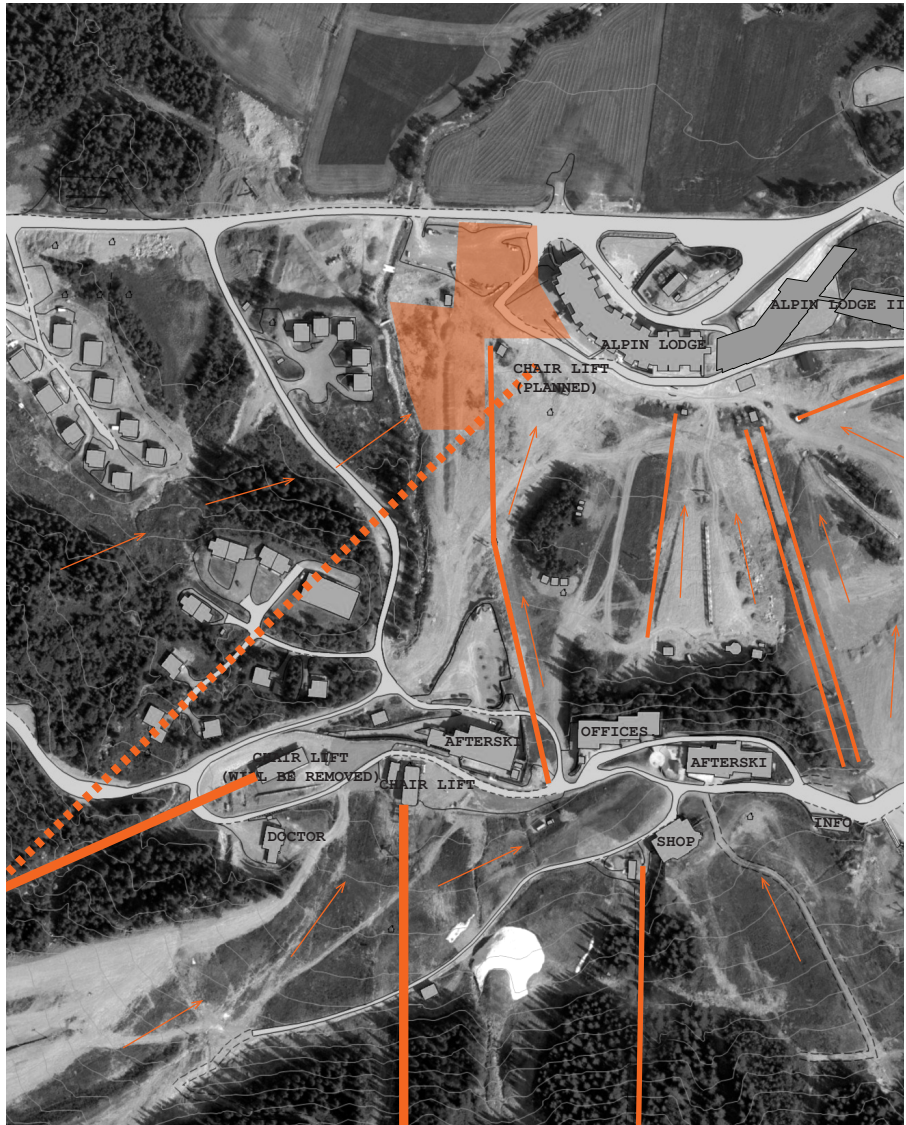
(First direct sunlight of the year)



Shadow from the mountain

1 march 17.00

lift system



## program

The program is mostly formed from an analysis of reference projects. It is a result of all specific needs of tourism in the mountains. I have also discussed with representatives from similar activities.

The program for public spaces is based on that they can be shared and adapted to different situations. This helps the hotel to not get big empty spaces and will be experienced smaller and friendlier.

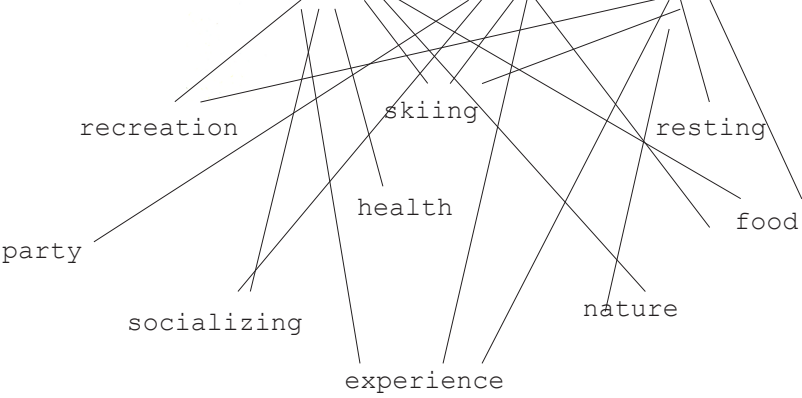
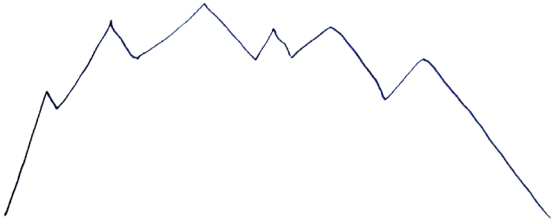
One risk is that the rooms feel impersonal and lose their character but I hope this can instead create unexpected situations and thus make the rooms exciting.

"Hotel rooms" have a more private character and each floor have its own entrance directly to the slopes without having to pass through the reception.

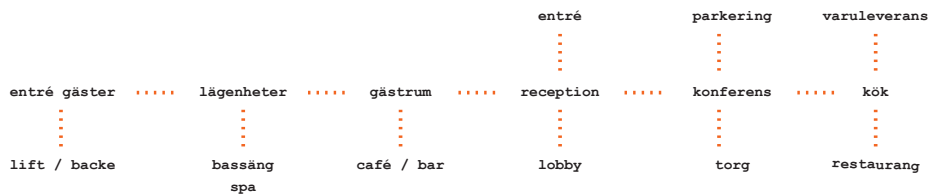
To shape the program I have defined the different main types of visitors:

- Families approximately 50-70 m<sup>2</sup>
- Groups of friends 50-70 m<sup>2</sup>
- Conference rooms - 20-50-70 m<sup>2</sup>
- Couples - 20 m<sup>2</sup>

These people will also be at different time points on the year.

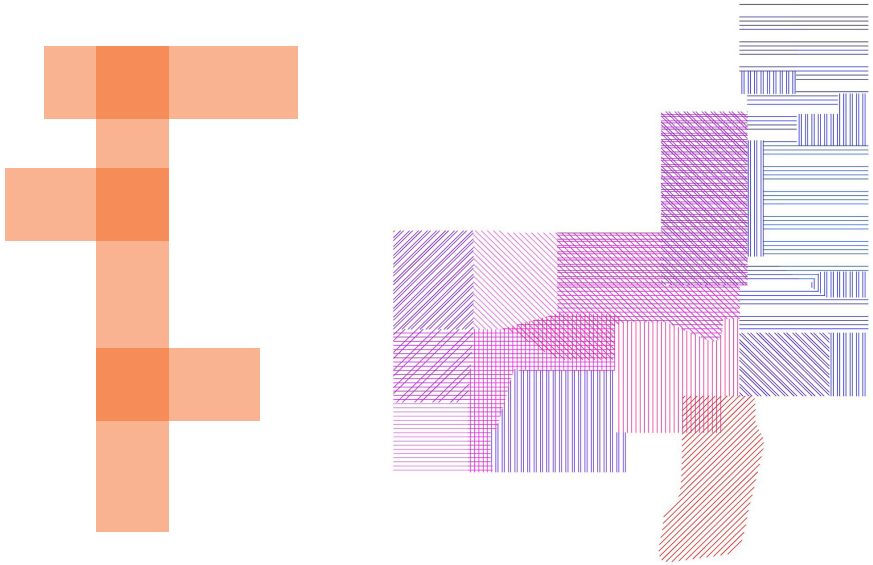


# room connections

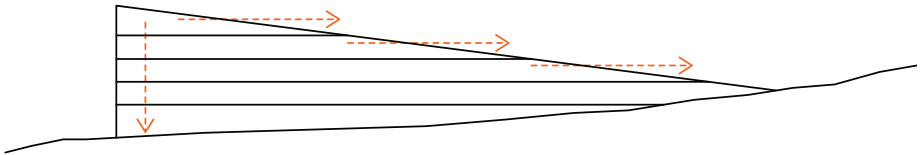


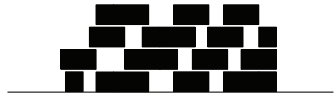
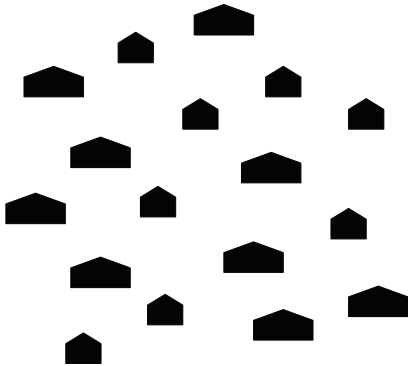
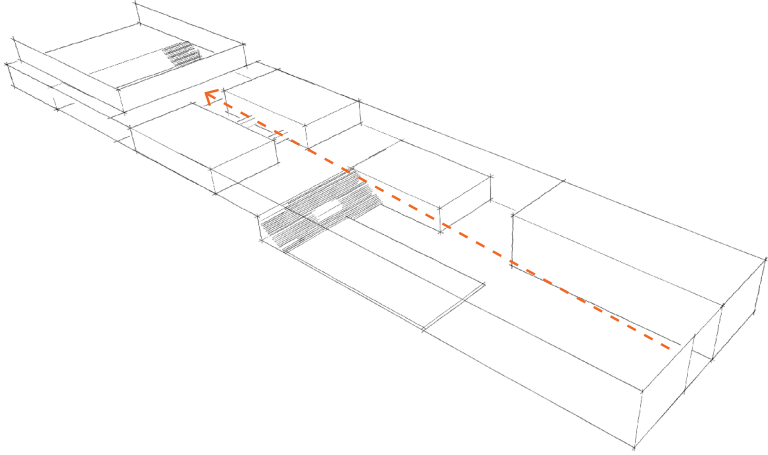
PROCESS

early concepts



overlapping spaces







## volume studies

I decided early that the building would interact with the terrain, enhance the view of the mountains and give the guests private rooms and a special experience.

Because the plot is so central the building plays an important role and should be different, but without standing out and taking over the nature.

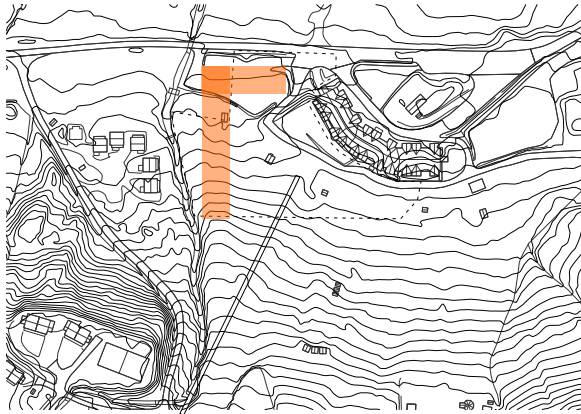
I wanted to avoid the classic monotonous hotel corridors and create a hotel with a more intimate and private feeling.

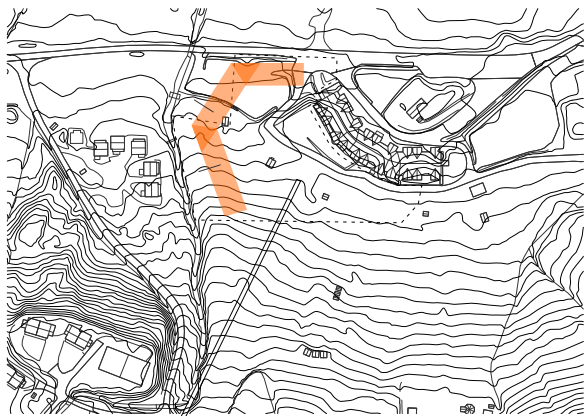
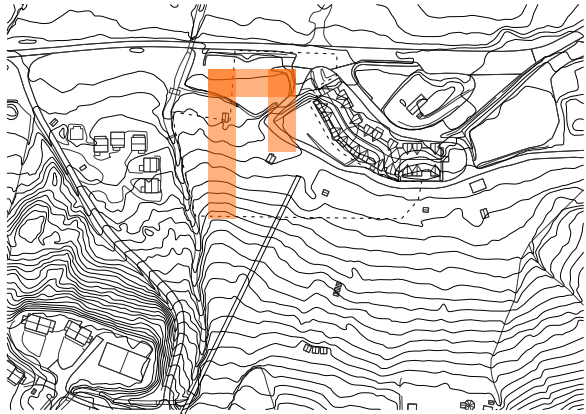
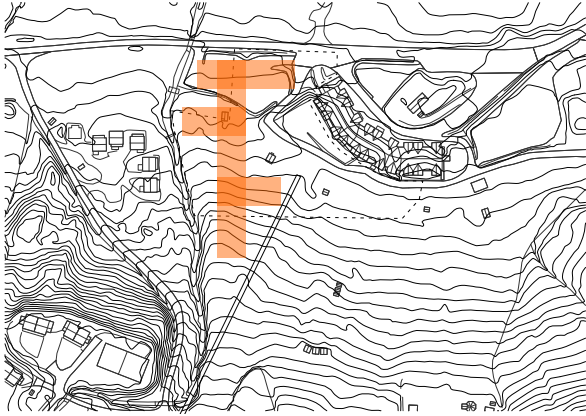
The main entrance is via the reception area with a lift and stairs. The shape of the building is intended to help each floor to get an entry directly to the ski slopes without having to use the elevator or walk through reception .

The corridor is semi heated, and each hotel room is like its own little cottage, but with all amenities close at hand.

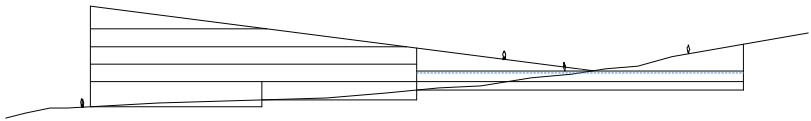
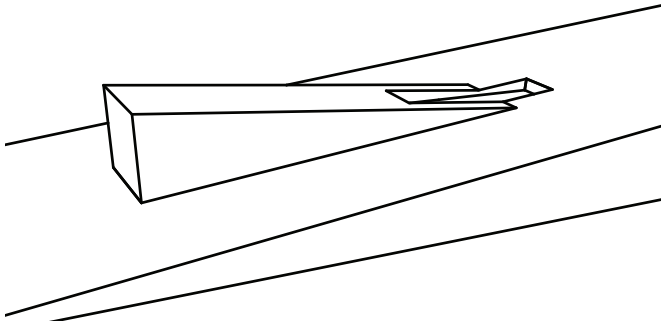
To downplay the scale of the common areas I made the rooms flexible with multiple uses and divisions.

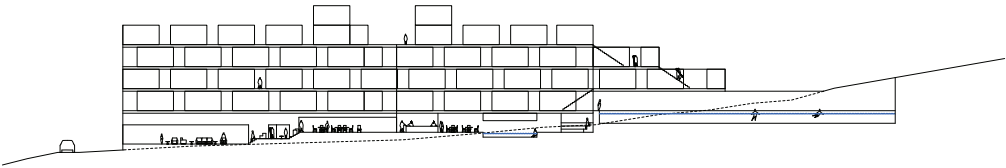
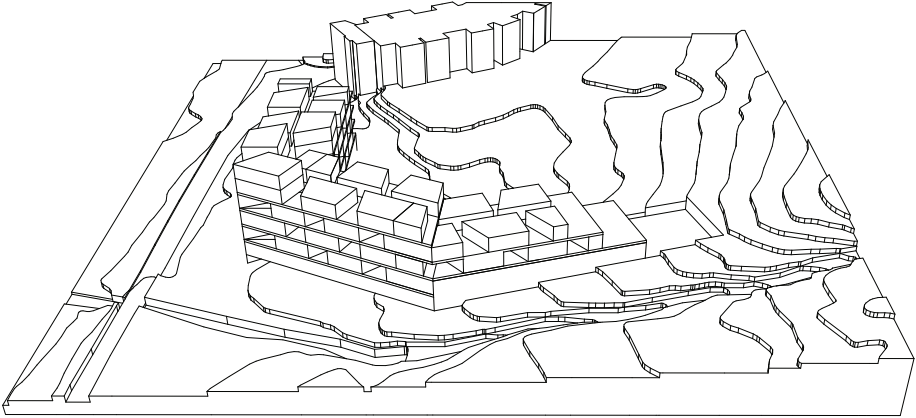
I chose to examine the straight volume closer. It is a simple form to start from and it can be cracked little at length later in the phase of defining different outside areas and make the " corridor " more divided and not perceived as monotonous and very long.





One of the first volumes:

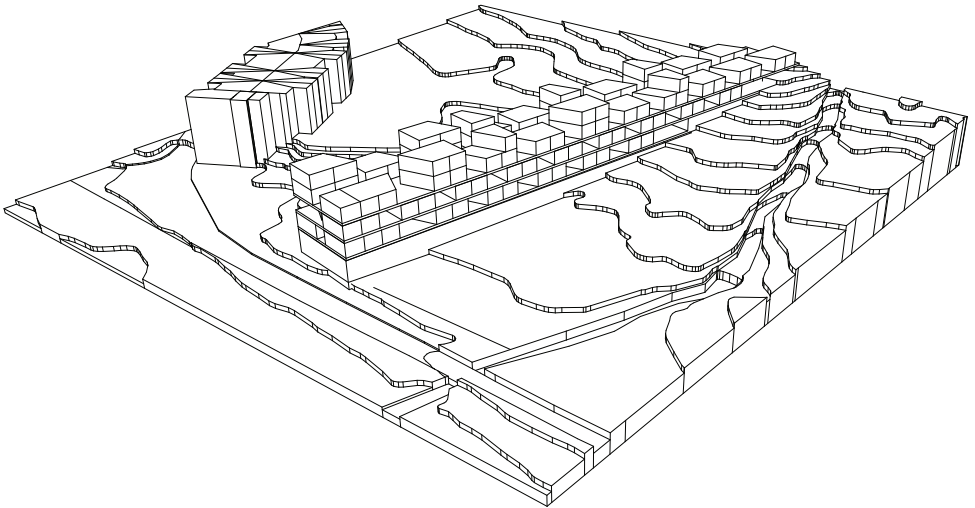






1:400

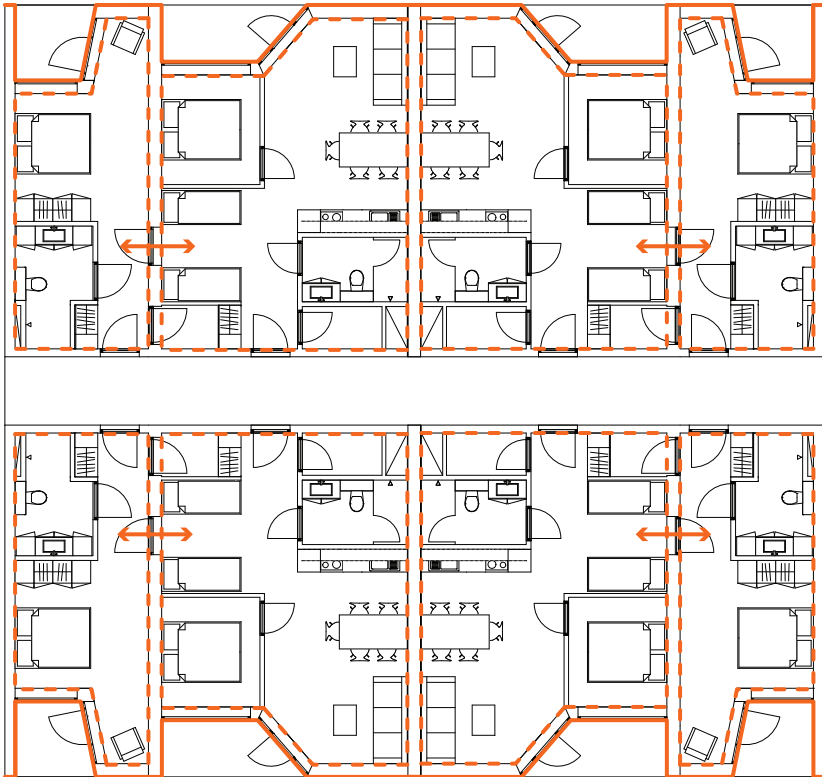
Back to the straight volume after mid term critics:





50 m2

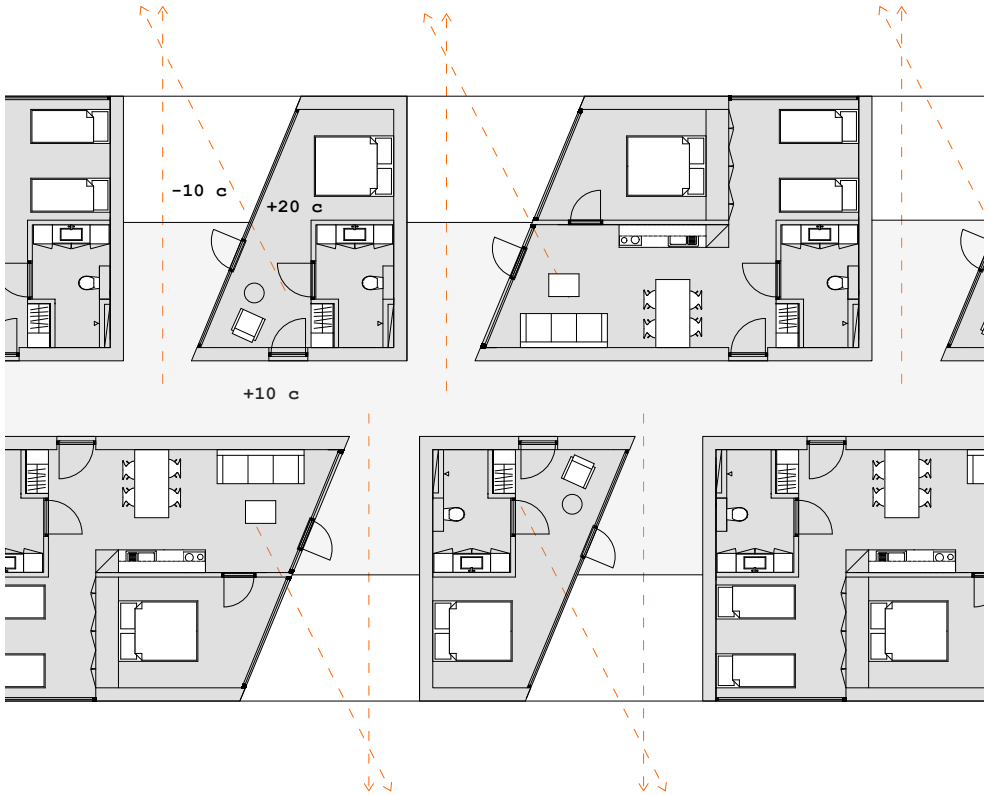
25 m2



1:100



Every room is now free standing like a cabin. The corridors are semi heated and every cabin has their own patio.



Study of a grid bearing system with pipes.

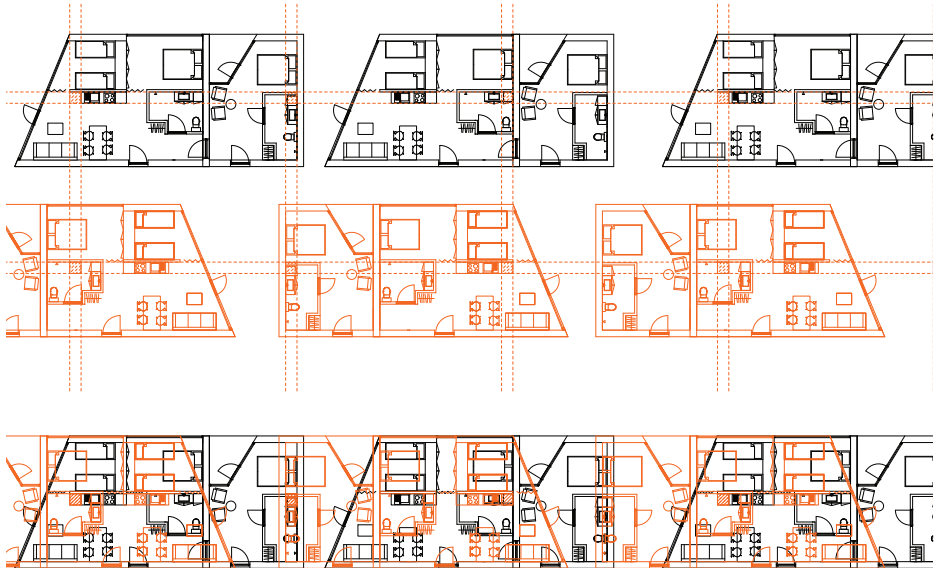


1:200

Connection of two cabins.

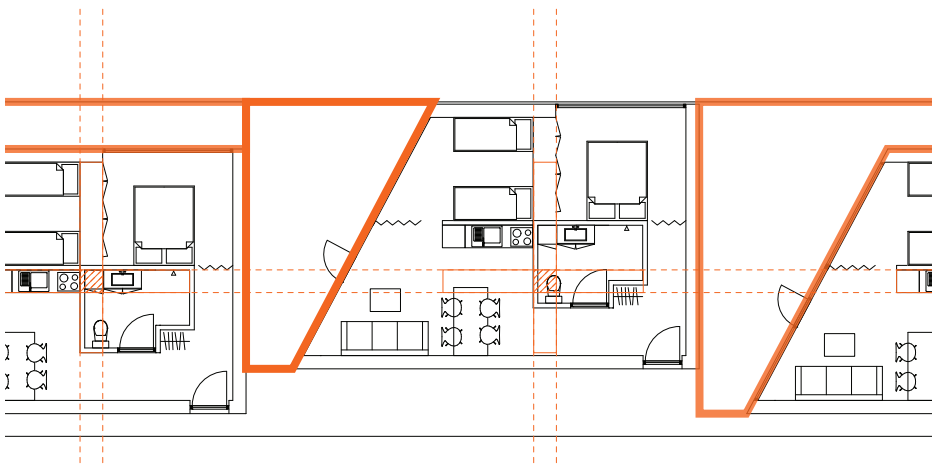
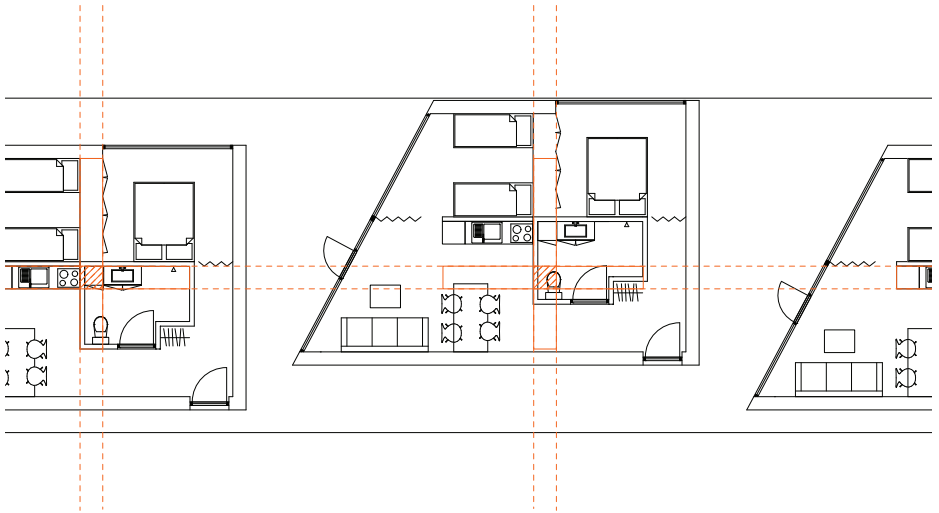
The double room can stand alone or be connected to the apartment.

This solution is more flexible and sustainable.



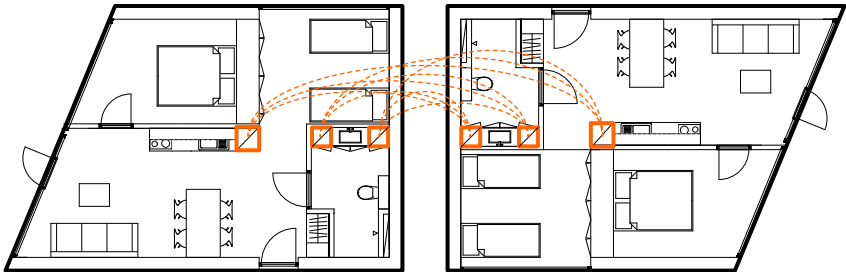
1:200

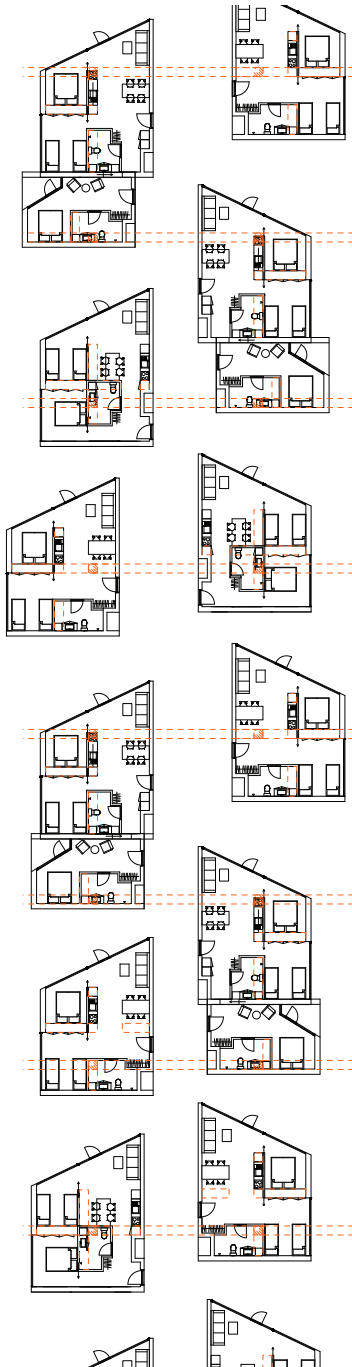
Displacement of the cabins makes various outside areas.



1:100

construction and shafts principle





1:500



Alpin Lodge, Hemsedal



Mountain Lodge, Trysil

study visits



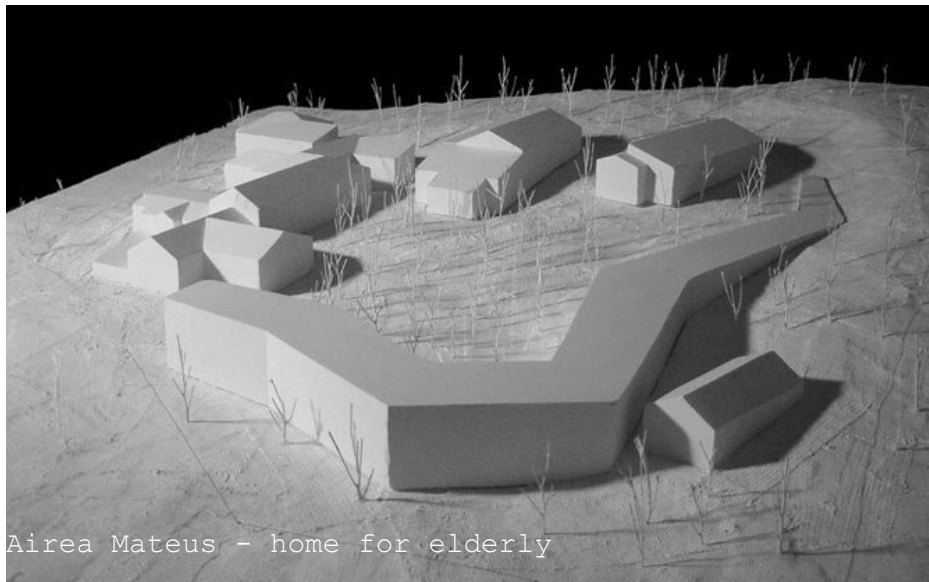
Radisson blu, Trysil



Ski Lodge, Sälen



references



Area Mateus - home for elderly



Joffark - Tappen housing



Bamiyan cultural center

# PROPOSAL

## final design - summary

The building interacts with the ski slope and the living spaces enhance views and give guests private space and a special experience.

It contains a heavy base which is integrated with the landscape. The lighter wooden cabins are stacked on top of the base and on each other. The floor underneath makes terraces for the floor above.

I wanted to avoid the classic monotonous hotel corridors and create a hotel with a more intimate and private feeling. While walking through the corridor you get outlooks and different size of the space, which makes it exciting to travel through.

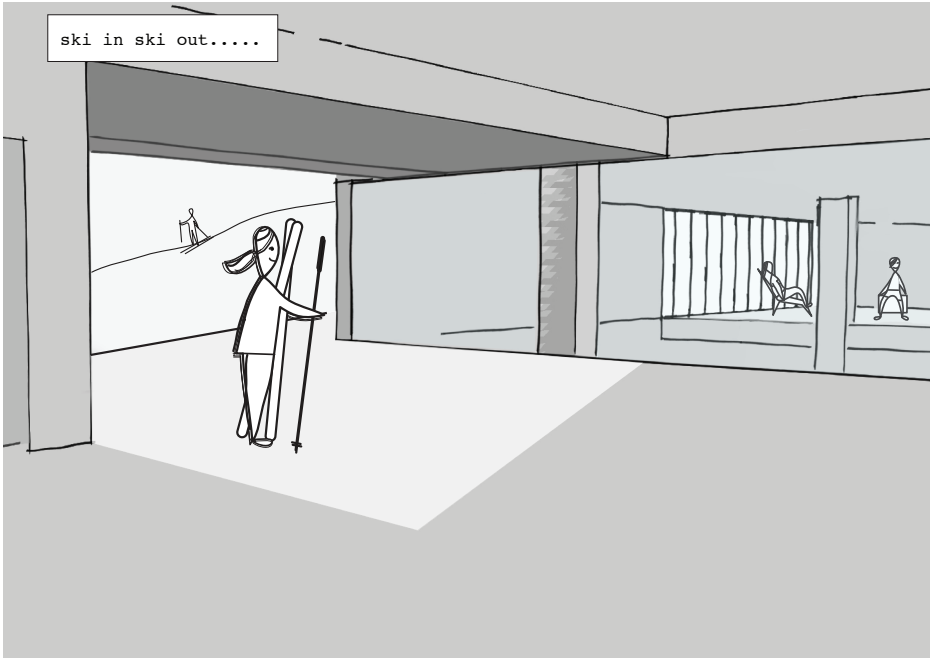
The corridors are semi heated and have an entrances that leads directly to the ski slope or through the reception via elevator and stairs.

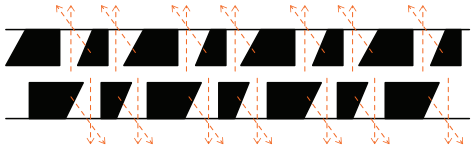
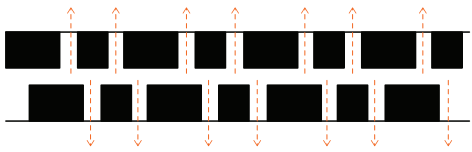
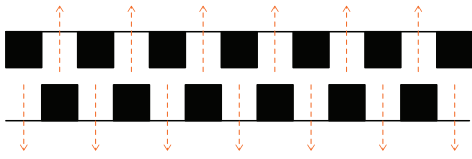
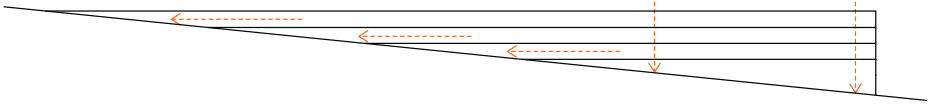
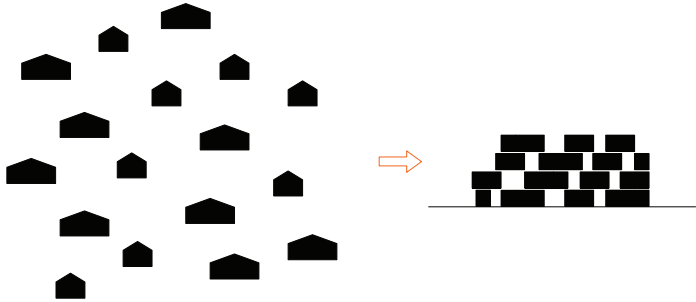
To decrease the scale of the common areas I created flexible and open rooms with multiple uses and divisions.

The area around the planned chairlift on the eastern side of the plot will be more populated in the future. This has been taken into account in the design of the building.



ski in ski out.....





# program

6 \* 88 m<sup>2</sup> (6 beds)  
40 \* 58 m<sup>2</sup> (6 beds) → 314 beds  
19 \* 26 m<sup>2</sup> (2 beds)

7 750 m<sup>2</sup>

hotel cabins  
3 350 m<sup>2</sup>

reception, adm., meeting,  
wc, staff room  
400 m<sup>2</sup>

ski lockers  
65 m<sup>2</sup>

bar  
80 m<sup>2</sup>

café  
150 m<sup>2</sup>

spa + bath + changing rooms  
1 040 m<sup>2</sup>

wc + maintenance  
120 m<sup>2</sup>

restaurant  
400 m<sup>2</sup>

lobby  
100 m<sup>2</sup>

technique  
500 m<sup>2</sup>

semi heated space  
1150 m<sup>2</sup>

other space  
385 m<sup>2</sup>

ski lockers  
65 m<sup>2</sup>

semi heated space  
1 150 m<sup>2</sup>

hotel cabins  
3 350 m<sup>2</sup>

other space  
385 m<sup>2</sup>

wc + maintenance  
120 m<sup>2</sup>

café  
ca. 150 m<sup>2</sup>

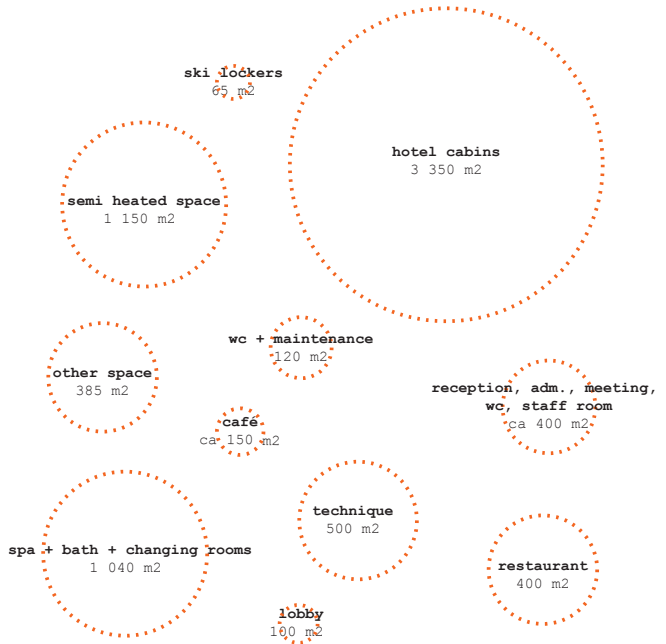
reception, adm., meeting,  
wc, staff room  
ca 400 m<sup>2</sup>

spa + bath + changing rooms  
1 040 m<sup>2</sup>

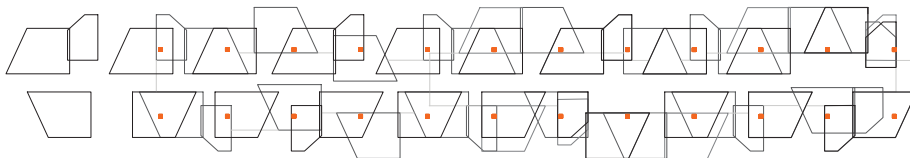
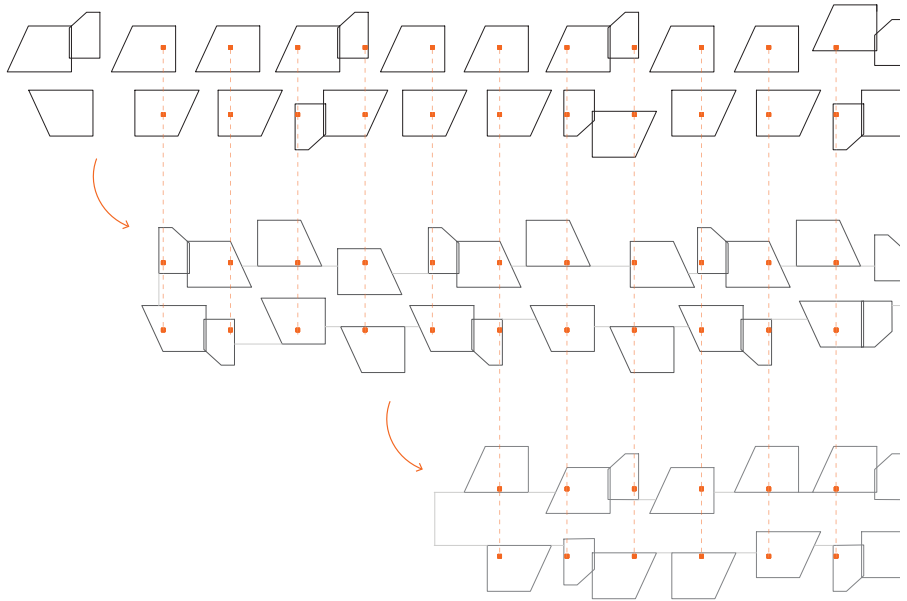
technique  
500 m<sup>2</sup>

restaurant  
400 m<sup>2</sup>

lobby  
100 m<sup>2</sup>



# construction and shafts principle





## the hotel room - a cabin

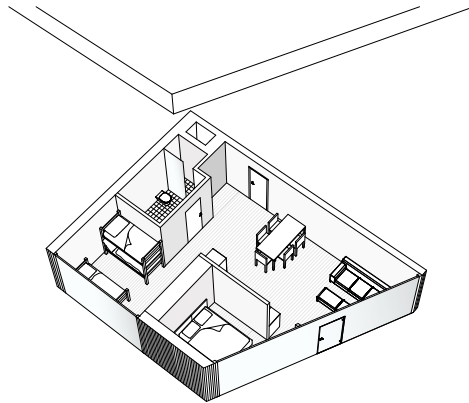
The most important in a hotel is the guest room. Not only because it constitute the majority of the space, but bmost of the hotel stay is spent there.

The impression of these spaces are important for the guests well being and character of the hotel.

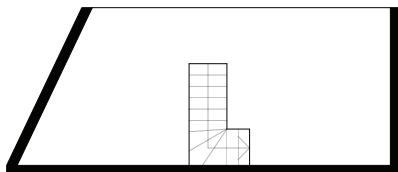
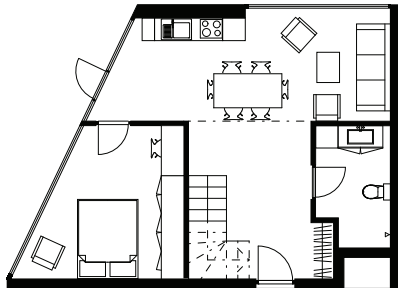
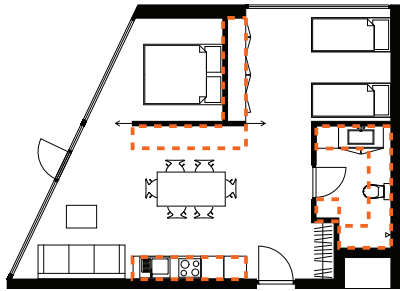
I have studied a concept based on getting gues-rooms perceived as cabins to get a more private feeling than standard hotel rooms.

All cabins have private patios and they are shaped so that they are directed against sunlight and/or views.

The design of the cabins will also help to create an exciting and varied facade.

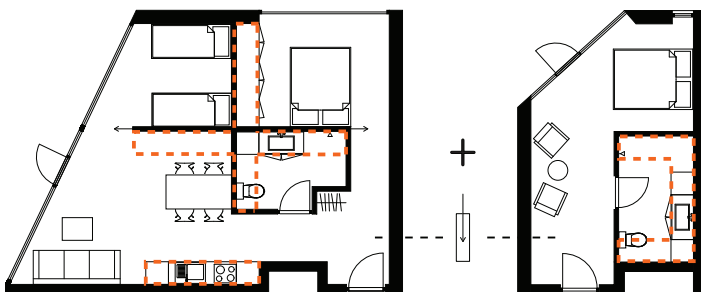
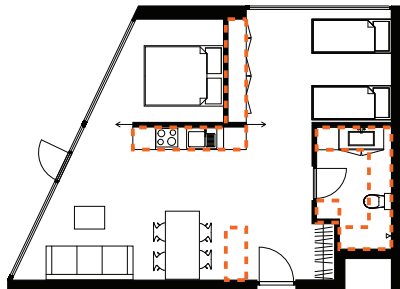


----- Space for pillar

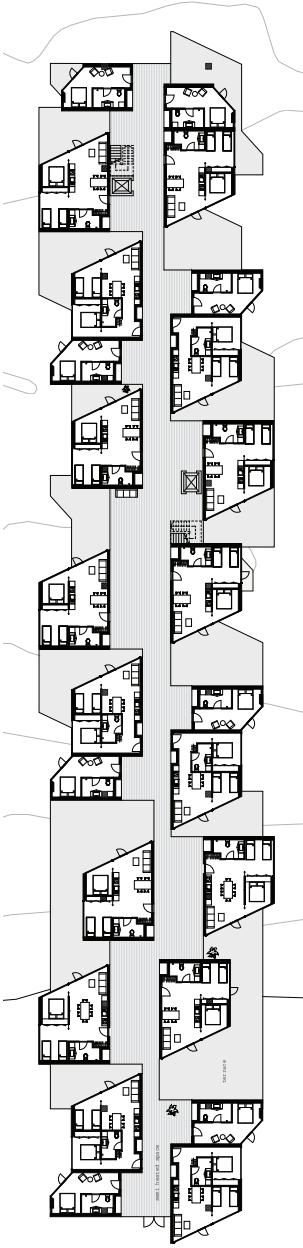


# cabin plans

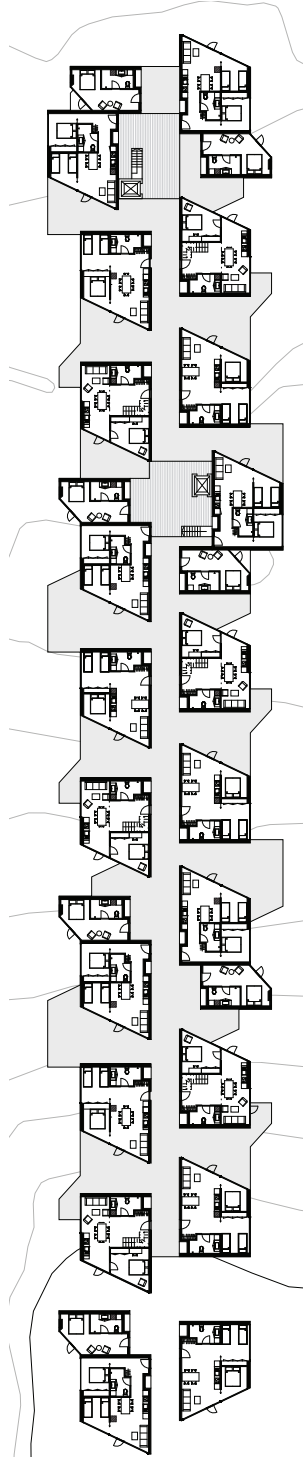
The plans are customized to fit in different positions regarding to the pillars and the situation.



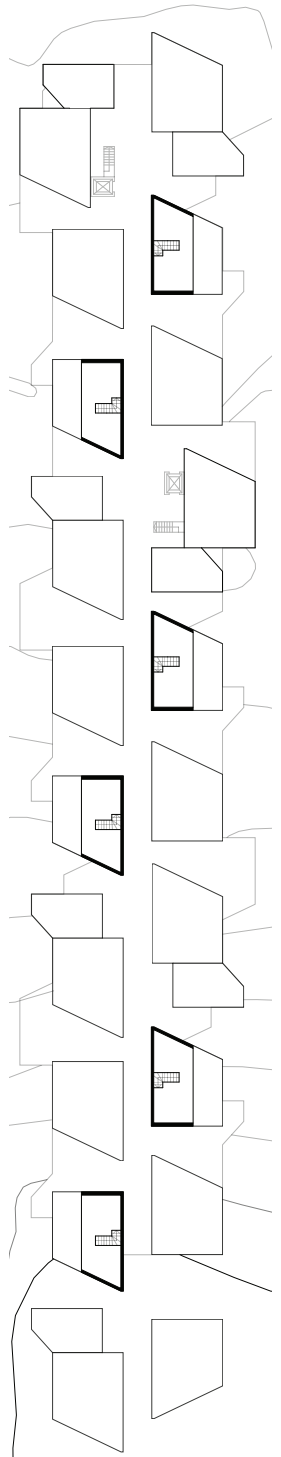
4. floor



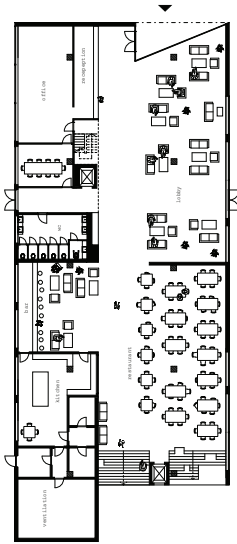
5. floor



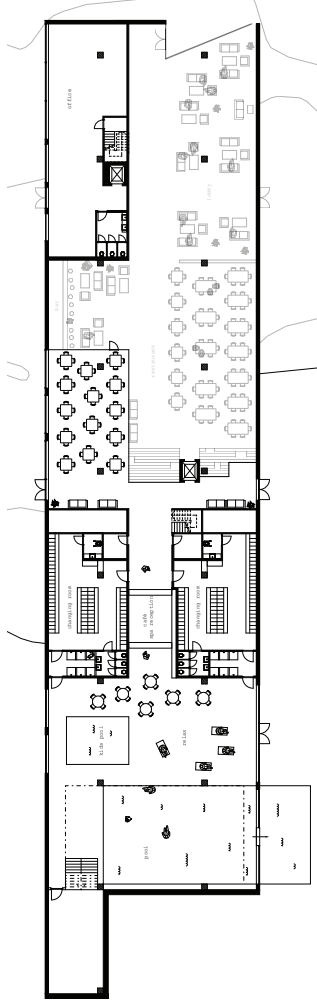
6. floor



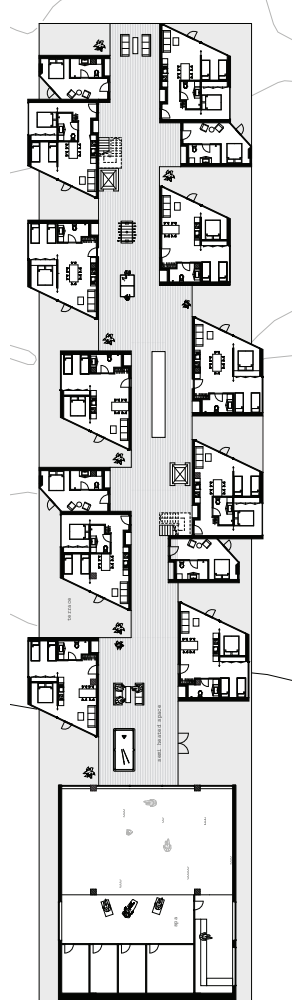
1. floor



2. floor



3. floor









part of section A-A  
1:400





