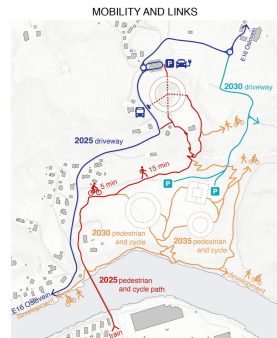


Hjertelia (NO)

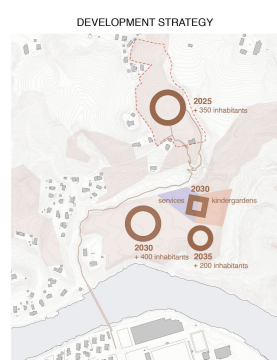
Back to nature

1

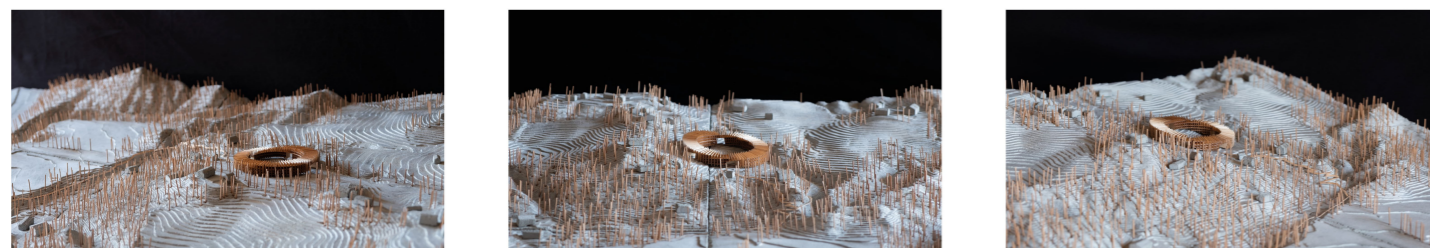
Back to nature is a project that propose to develop a sustainable way of living together.
It is a 16.000 m² mixed-use housing neighbourhood gently set in the landscape of Hjertelia.
The project has the aim of re-reading the landscape where it stands, finding and designing its characteristics and peculiarity. It is a simple shape that reminds an ancient traditional settlement all around the world, a circle that surround an hortus where to live and work together, a circle that follow the inclination of the ground becoming a form designed with nature.
The height of the building, as well as the wood structural facade, is simply obtained in analogy with the tall trees that surround the area, as birch and pines so that will not emerge from vegetation but instead it will be an essential part of it.



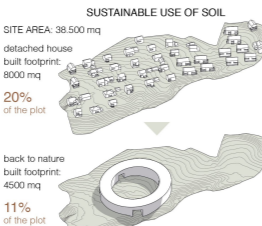
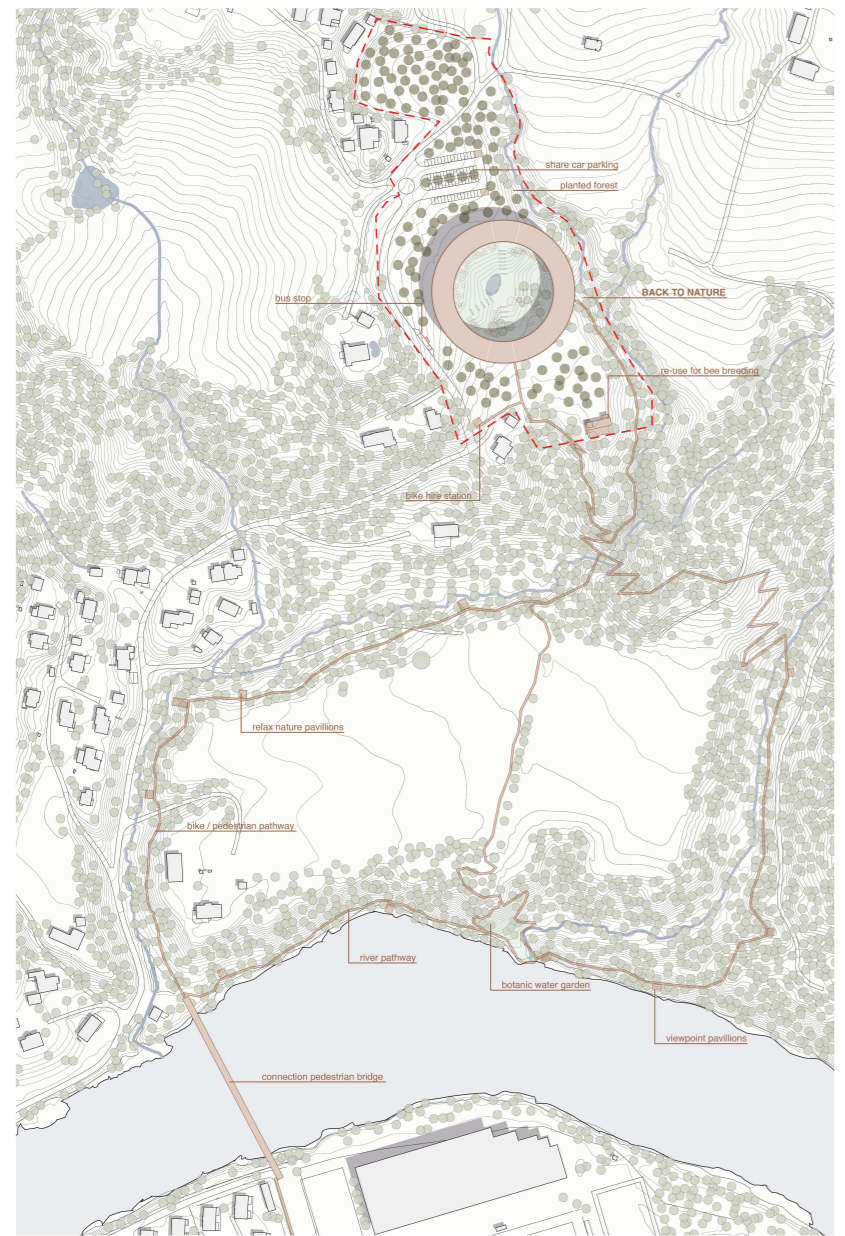
Cycle and pedestrian paths are always clearly separated from the driveways in order to guarantee safety and functionality. Driveways are based on the existing road network, in order to maintain the existing landscape balance. The only change introduced concerns the moving of a small portion of the road at the border of the site project in order to get all the site available for the new building and divided the residential area from the streets.
In the later stages (2005-2008) road connections are guaranteed by extending the existing roads linking the future interventions. Public transport is strongly encouraged by electric bus and shuttles adding a bus stop directly connected to the building. A zone dedicated for a car park is designed also as an exchange area for shared electric cars available to the residents in order to promote a mainly cycle-pedestrian mobility.
The cycle pedestrian viability is favored by the addition of a new bridge and a shared pedestrian pathway through the forest, with view-point, bird watching and meditation pavilions along the way.



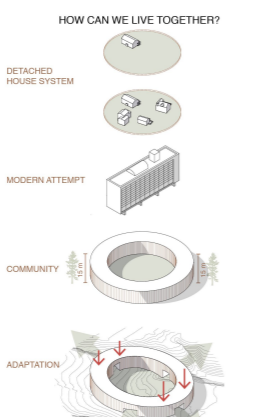
Hjertelia desires a development that is not limited to an isolated intervention to the new building alone. It seems clear that, following the future expansion dedicated to residential areas, many clusters (rural conclusion) must be arranged around an area dedicated to services. All the interventions will be designed balancing green and built, nature and artificial.



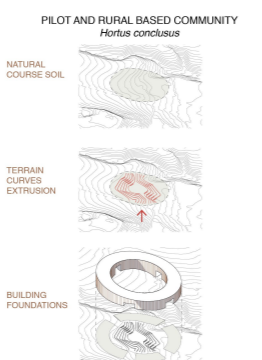
model photography - format 100x70cm



In our time it appear clear the precociousness of our planet. The semi-detached house system would consume a lot of soil being the quality effort of nature and with a bad impact on the system. A unique volume can solve the problem creating a strong sense of community where to live and work together.



A lot of ancient and traditional examples all over the world show us that there is a way of living together in a sharing system. The project has the will to become a pilot way of living that can be adapted to every situation. Adaptation is fundamental especially for a diverse landscape as Hjertelia offers.

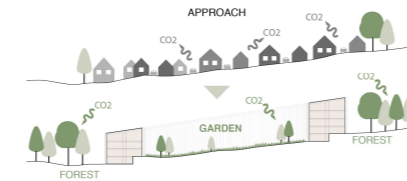


The garden is an enclosed space protected by the wooden structure. The building clearly refers to the Hortus conclusus of the medieval gardens. The boundaries becomes the living spaces that protect the agricultural garden.
Following this concept the original soil conformation is adapted and deformed in order to get agricultural terraces enhancing the seasonal agricultural vegetation of the area.

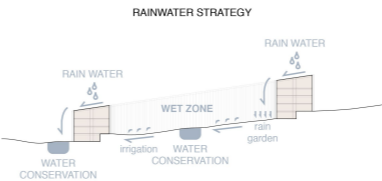
Hjertelia (NO)

Back to nature

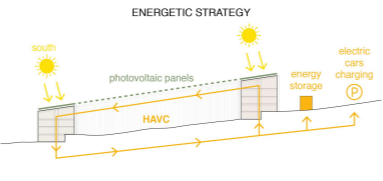
2



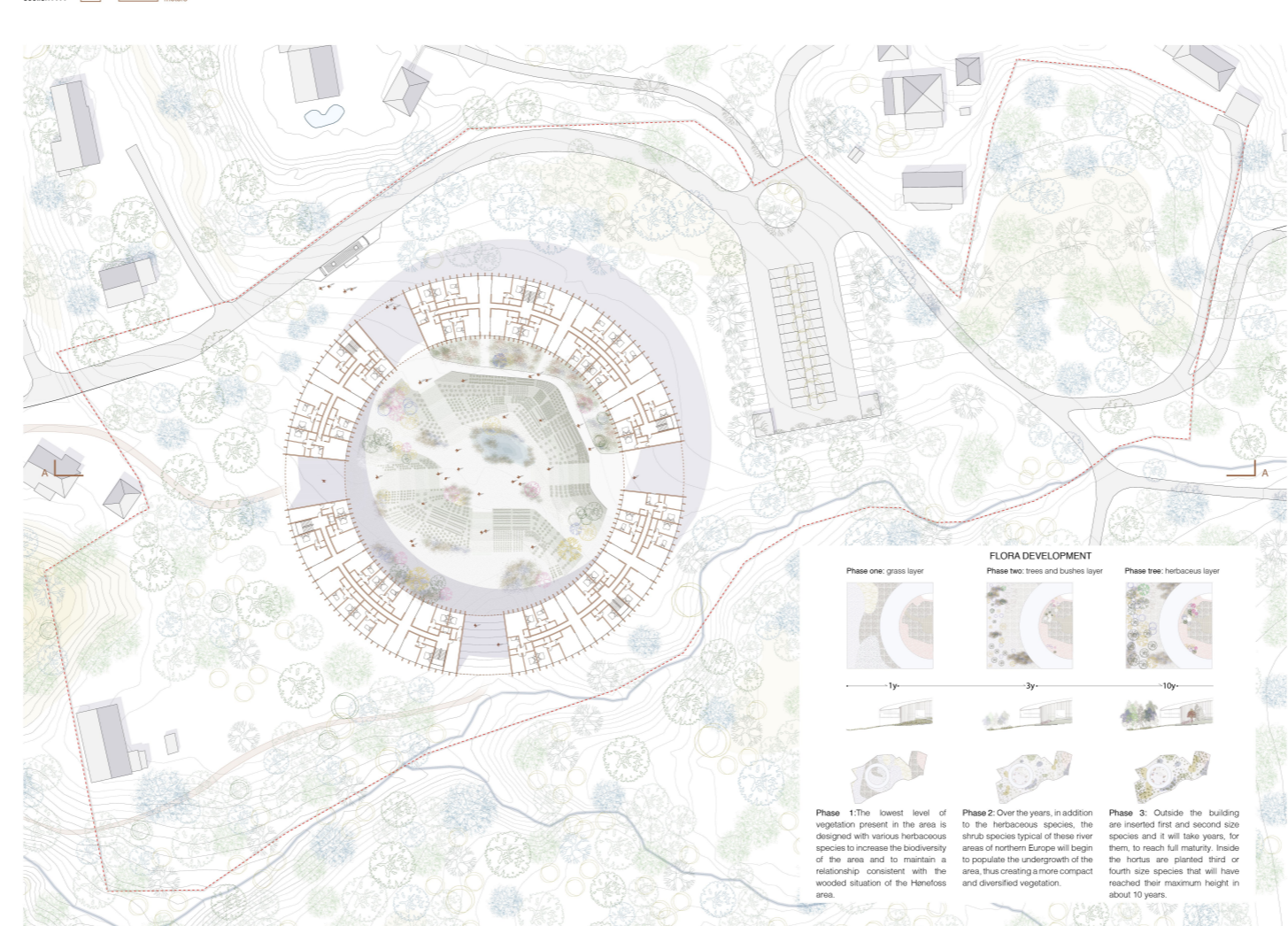
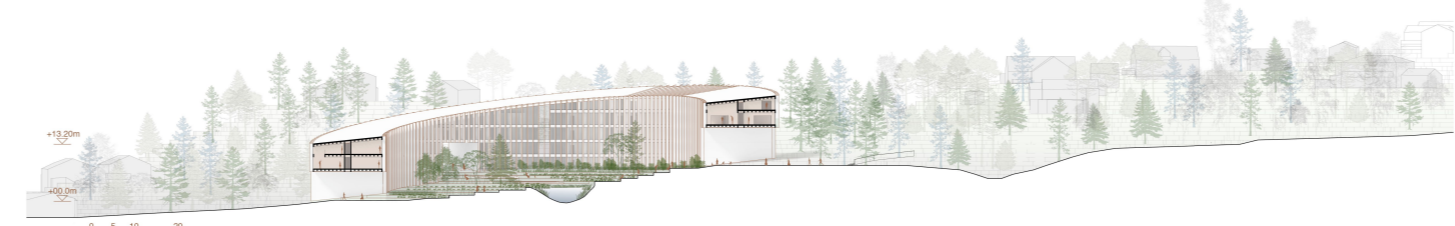
Urban development and ecological restoration must be thought together creating a new way of living. This, combined with afforestation, can be a pilot project for sustainable housing development. The green system is designed in order to have two different scales of nature: bigger outside, smaller inside.



The most important issue, as regards to the management of the internal hortus as a community garden, was that of the conservation and reuse of water. Through the use of a rainwater system and the positioning of rain gardens in the higher areas, the rain is captured and stored and then collected in a humid area in the center of the garden that acts both as a conservation tank and as a new habitat that gives a favorable microclimate for increasing the biodiversity of the area.



The roof inclination allows the positioning of photovoltaic panels that produce sustainable energy for the operation of the entire building. The energy in excess can be stored in specific accumulators which also allow the charging of electric cars in the car sharing area.



Phase 1: The lowest level of vegetation present in the area is designed with various herbaceous species to increase the biodiversity of the area and to maintain a relationship consistent with the wooded situation of the Hjertelia area.
Phase 2: Over the years, in addition to the herbaceous species, the shrub species typical of these river areas of northern Europe will begin to populate the undergrowth of the area, thus creating a more compact and diversified vegetation.
Phase 3: Outside the building are inserted first and second size species and, if not later years, for them, to reach full maturity. Inside the hortus are planted first or fourth size species that will have reached their maximum height in about 10 years.

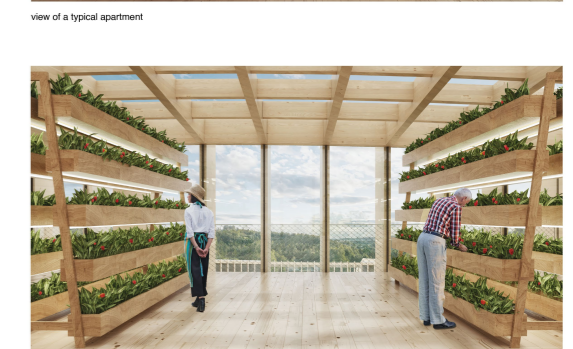
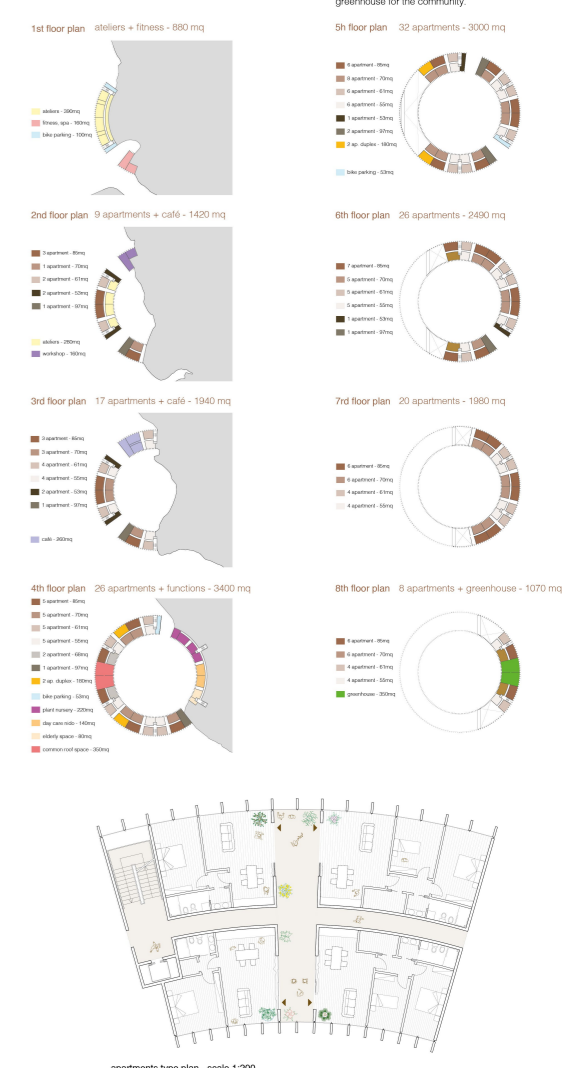
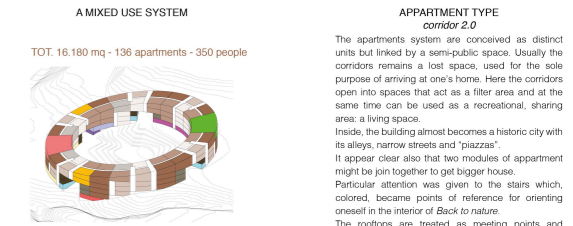
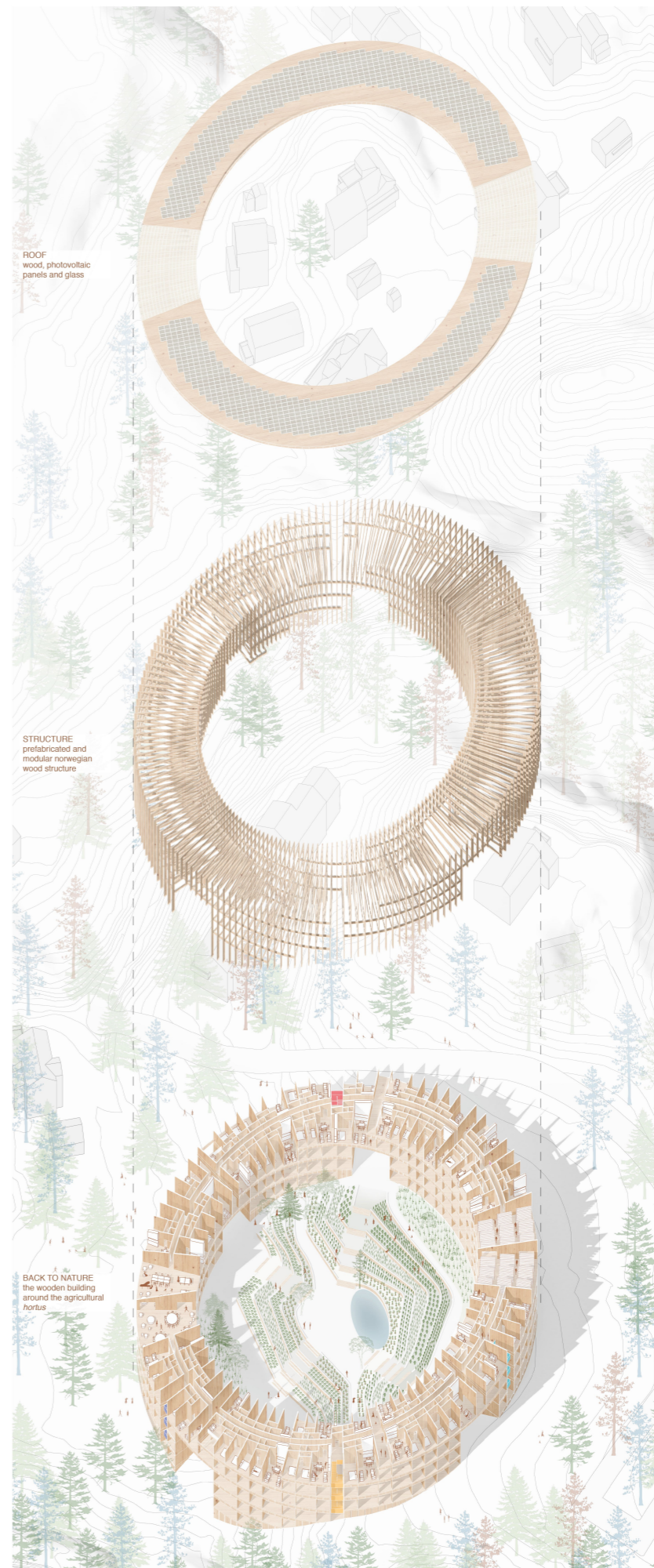


external view of Back to nature | internal view of the building and hortus

Hjertelia (NO)

Back to nature

3



view of a typical apartment | view of the rooftop greenhouse