

# ZÄME | SPEKULATIVER IDEENWETTBEWERB | STADTHOTEL TRIEMLI

The three concrete towers of TriemliSpital have offered the possibility to host various types of programme addressed to diverse social groups and over the years they have successfully responded to emerging social needs due to the modernist regularity of their floor plan. The aforementioned quality does not change the fact that they are still robust, repetitive and introvert architectural objects.

However, living today correlates to open, flexible and welcoming architectural solutions. Infrastructures that satisfy not only the vital needs of a person but also attempt to facilitate contemporary ways of life. Specifically spaces with negotiable thresholds that allow a multitude of working, eating and living situations, all in close proximity.

It is worth mentioning that the towers in their current form have concentrated most of the elements normally found in the private sphere of the room, such as toilets, showers and kitchens, in their core. As a result the centre of each floor is very dense and surrounded by a long narrow network of dark circulation areas. Despite its density, the idea of grouping together areas of common interest in the core is attractive and with minimal shifts offers a chance to reinterpret the identity of it as a condenser of collective activities.

To achieve that, our proposal inserts a certain modular element connected with shafts in the existing rooms, it replaces concrete walls with glass bricks and big openings and renegotiates the voids taking advantage of the prefabrication of the components of the towers.

Starting with the element in the rooms, a cross-formed module serving as a toilet, a shower, a cloak room, a sink and a fridge, is distributed along the rooms in the existing corridor of the buildings and has a dual role. It both frees up space in the core and allows the rooms to increase in size providing valuable space for potential connection between them. In the south part, a different approach is followed. A similar module is installed in every other room serving as a threshold between private and common but in this case the rooms are alternating from potentially private to semi-private and are linked to each other with sliding doors.

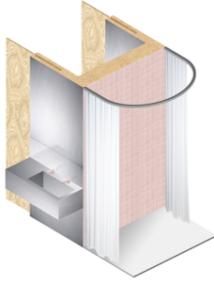
By relocating the toilets, the previously dark and divided core transforms into a generous space that functions not only as circulation but as a staging area as well. On the existing main shaft a common kitchen is attached and the concrete wall of the fire escape in the north is replaced by a glass brick wall allowing light to enter the core. Additionally, the new wall is built at a distance from the staircase to celebrate its sculptural form and enlarge the existing balcony.

The next intervention refers to the extension of the core transversally by creating a three-storey void, one room wide, every three floors. The new core can be read as a cross-formed multilevelled common space, oriented towards the north, the east, the west and the south. Furthermore, the void in the middle acts as a lightwell for each 3-storey unit and manages to orientate the collective space outwards through its generous openings. Borrowing the architectural language of the existing northern balcony, two light-structured cantilevered elements are inserted at the eastern and western end of the cross respectively, offering outdoor space. The new core, sunlit and multilayered becomes an attractive place where people can gather together, cook, read, small-talk, sunbathe or even work.

Finally, on the ground floor a set-back is made creating arcades in order to give the towers a welcoming character. A reception, co-working spaces, laundry-rooms, a cafeteria and a district centre could be possible uses for the ground floors of the new revived Triemli Towers.



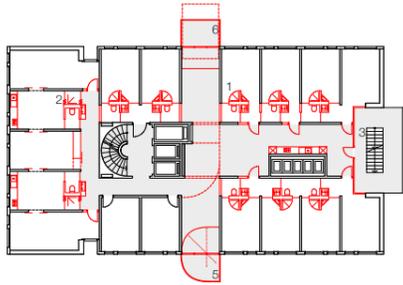
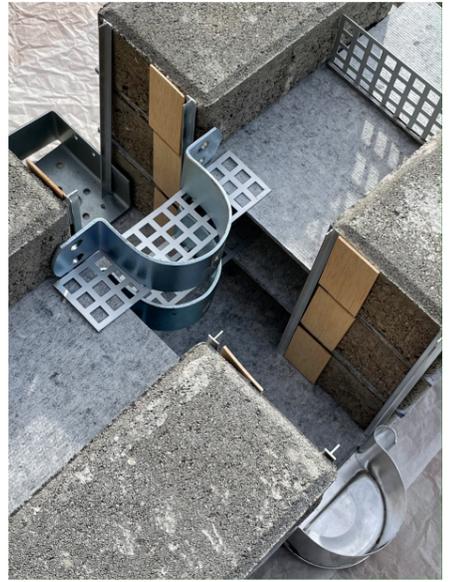
1. Cross-formed Module



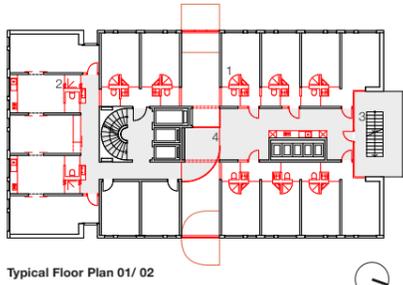
2. Module Variation



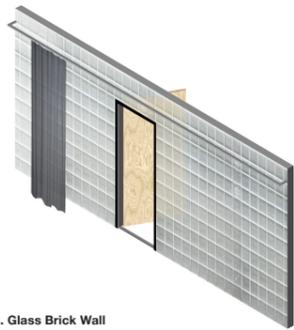
5. Cantilevered Element



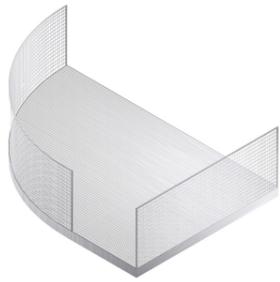
Typical Floor Plan 00  
1:200



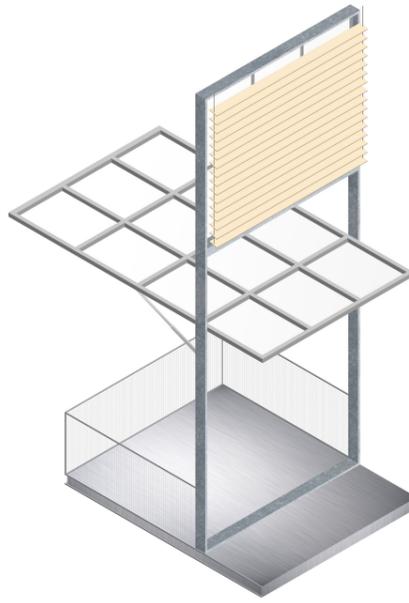
Typical Floor Plan 01/ 02  
1:200



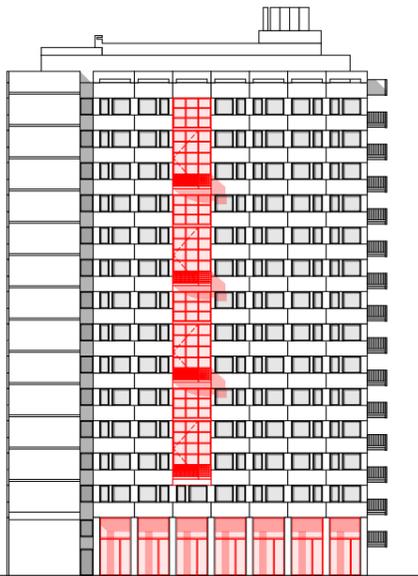
3. Glass Brick Wall



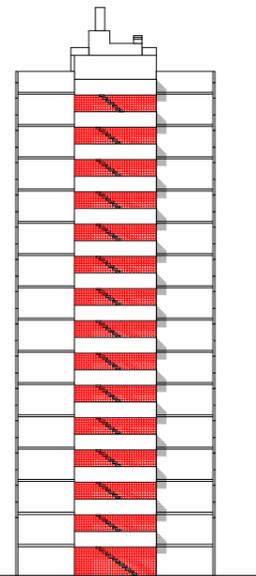
4. Light-structured Bridge



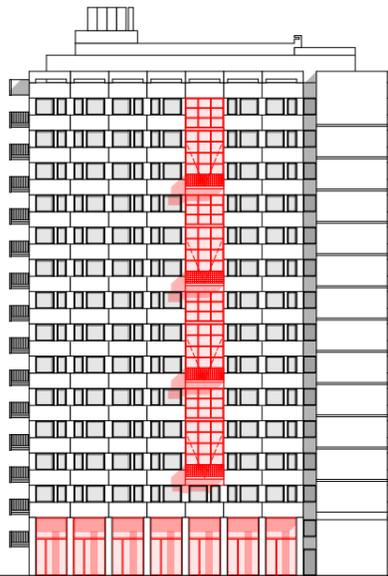
6. Cantilevered Element



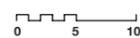
East Elevation  
1:200



North Elevation  
1:200



West Elevation  
1:200



Concept Model of  
the Cross-formed Multilevelled Core

