

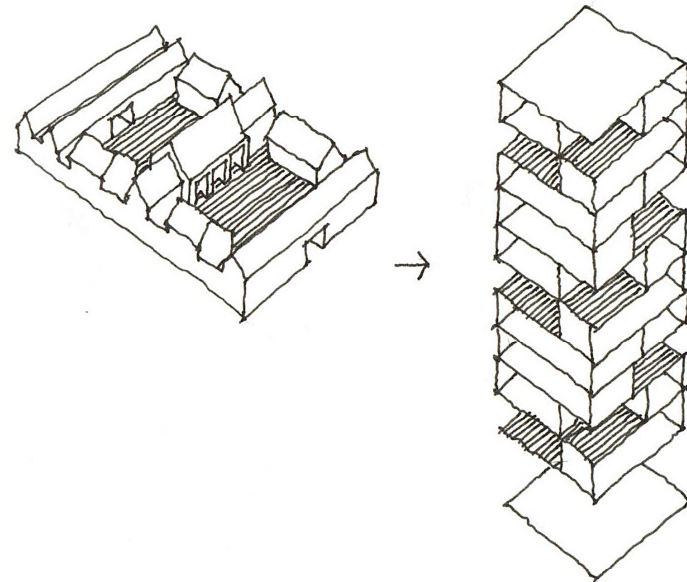
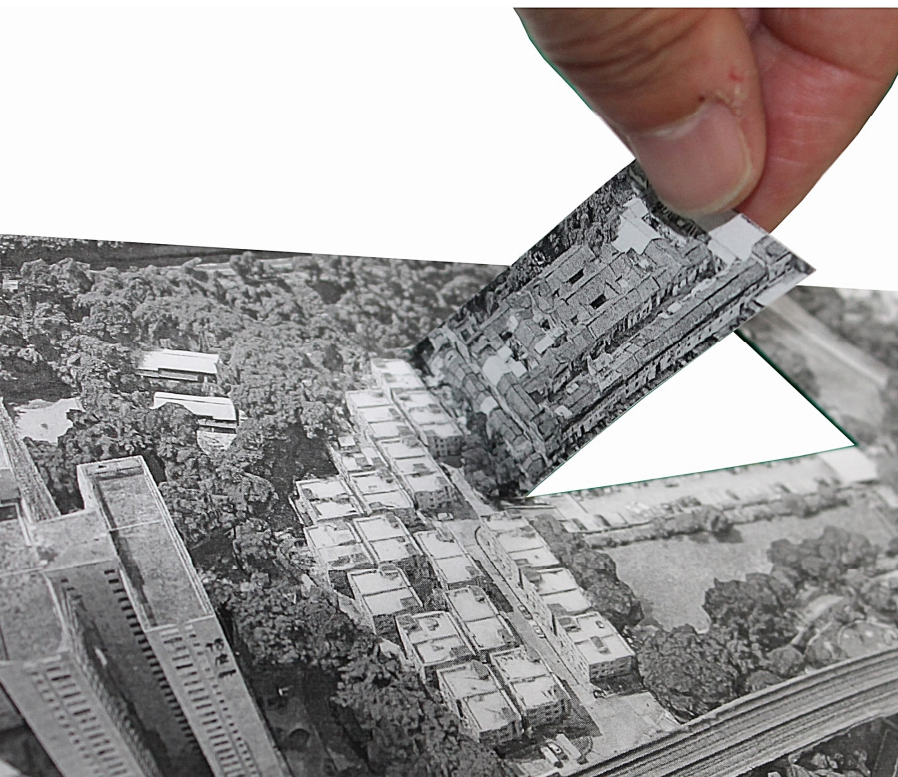
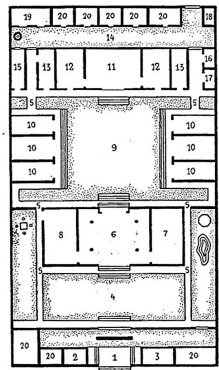
Cūnzhūang Tǎ

Village Tower

In the continuing search for sustainable and social forms of living together in the compact city, new social structures, paradigms for individual and communal life, are often said to be necessary. Perhaps re-learning old ones can be as instructive.

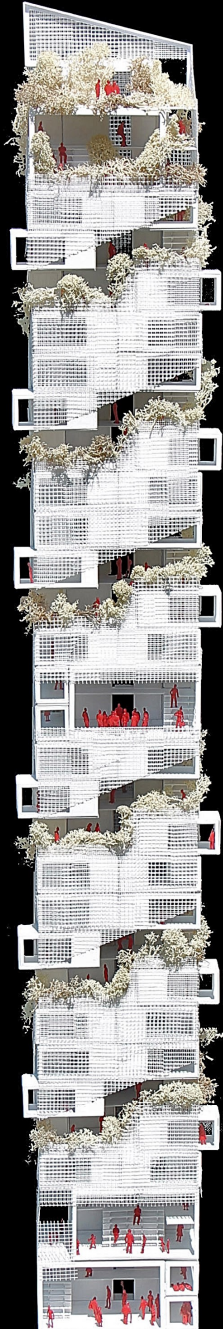
The walled village and temple of Tsang Tai Uk, in the Sha Tin district of the New Territories, was built in the mid 19th century. A typical Hakka walled village of the region, it is a rectangular block with parallel rows of multi-family houses separated by narrow lanes and courtyards. There are three arched entrances in the northern wall, the main or ceremonial entrance is in the middle and leads to the central ancestral hall where meetings and ceremonies took place. It parallels the traditional courtyard model of minimal private personal space plus a shared collective space, all specifically organised according to family hierarchy. It establishes a model for high density living in an urban context. In the traditional Chinese house, public and private space overlaps, clues to a way of living benefitting from proximity to neighbours and areas of collective use. The neighbourhood with narrow shared space becomes a place for informal encounters.

In urban terms then, this project can be characterised as a vertical walled village, a local, historically evolved urbanism, reviving a particular culture of a region and its environment.

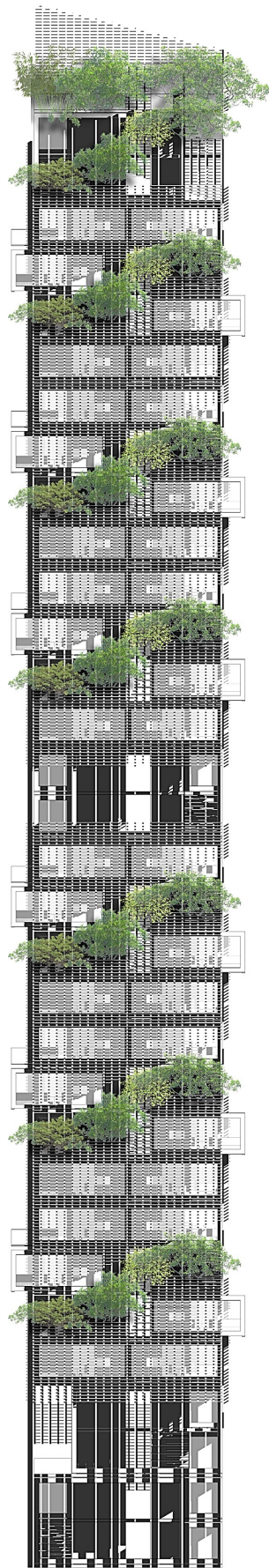


Typological derivation

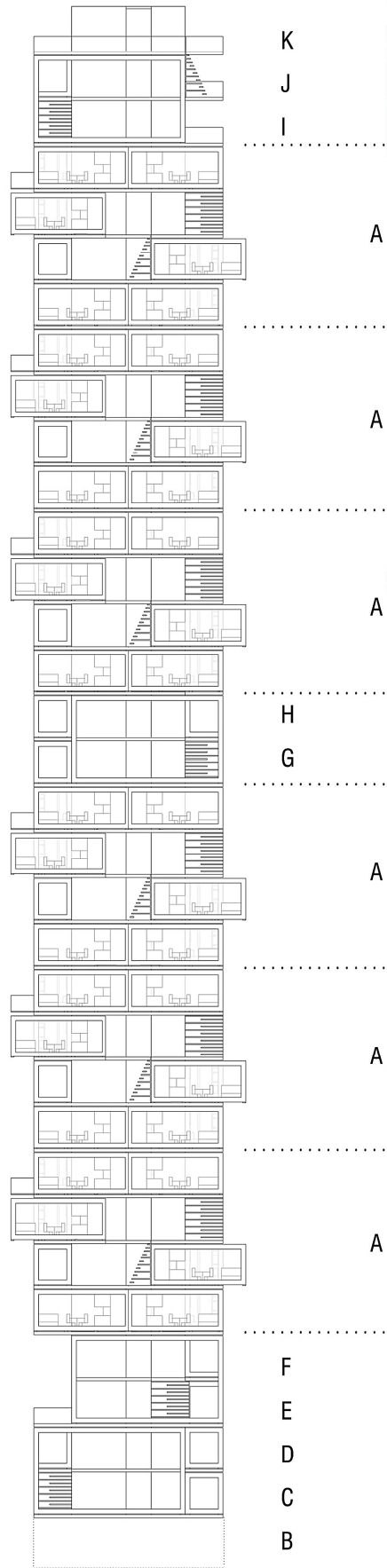




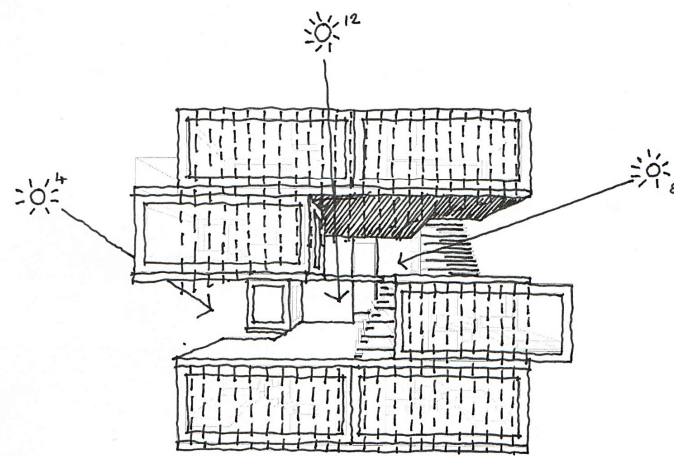
S Elevation Model



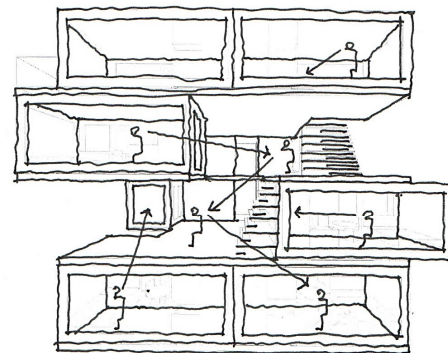
S Elevation 1:300@A2



S Elevation Diagram



Sunlight penetration deep into the floorplate at different times of day, with shading to facades to block harsh summer sun.

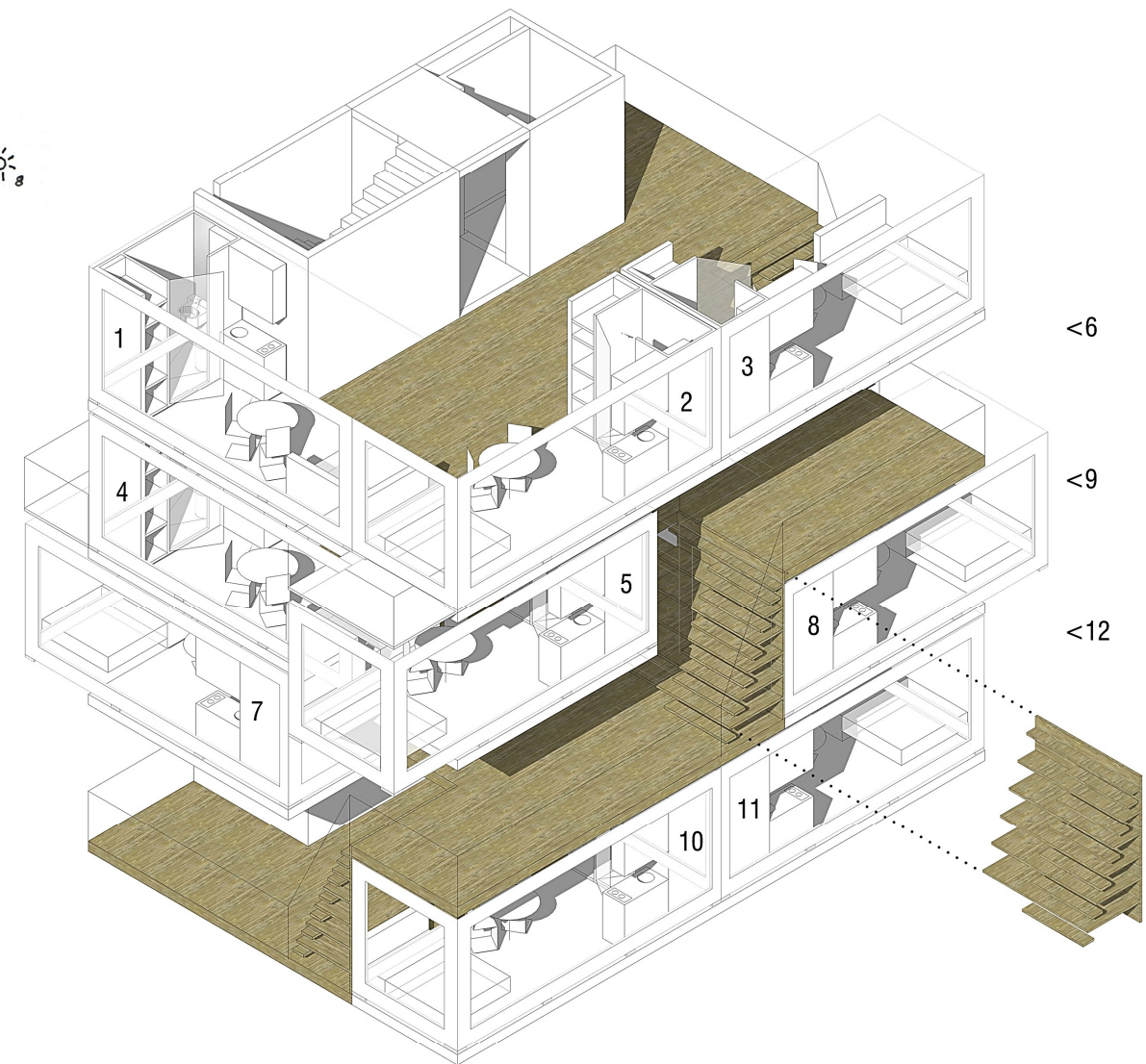


Surgical incisions give visual connections and permeability

Courtyard Connections

Key to Elevation Diagram

- A 12- apartment linked courtyard module over 4 storeys
- B Basement Laundry, FM Store and Bike Store
- C Entrance Lobby, Reception and Post Room
- D Fitness Gym and Changing Rooms
- E Daycare provision: Creche, double height Playroom, Toilets and Outdoor Play Area
- F Upper part of Creche with Staff Office
- G Prayer Space and Community Meeting Room
- H Upper part of community programme with Offices and Toilets
- I Winter Garden for fruit cultivation
- J Upper part of Winter Garden with Stores
- K Rooftop Garden with extended facade screen as wind shelter, and fabulous views over the city



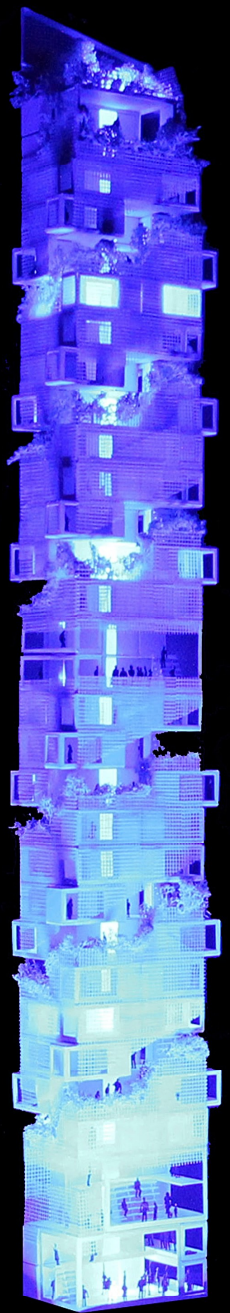
A 12- Apartment Courtyard Module

Courtyard stairs are steep but wide, affording opportunities for social occasions and also ad-hoc storage; a piece of joinery to be specifically crafted and adapted.

The courtyard is a space to carry out household tasks or a place to relax; a place for leisure, conversation and meditation. A refuge from the outside world and shared space for the family. The courtyard is the traditional basis for home design also more complex structures, the setting for communal dinners and events. It is the room that performs an essential function and is used jointly. Clutter is positively encouraged.

A traditional hutong neighbourhood complex with diverse functions evolves. Technically community levels are large upscaled versions of housing levels. The stair/lift core is to the north, whilst apartments and front door entrance faces south, as traditional houses have since antiquity.

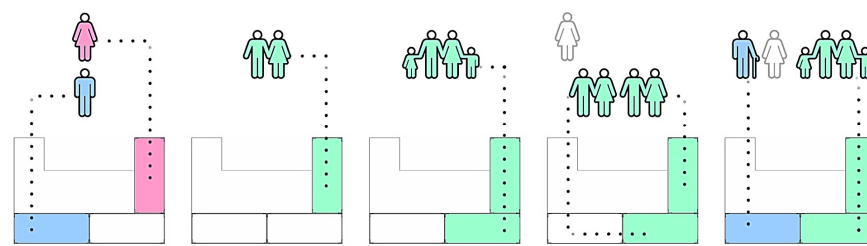




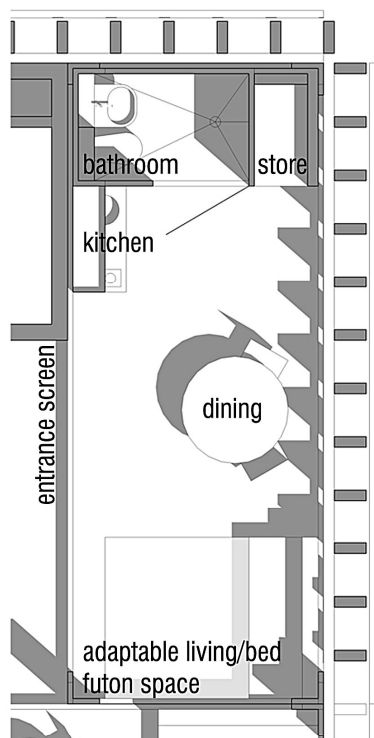
Night Model



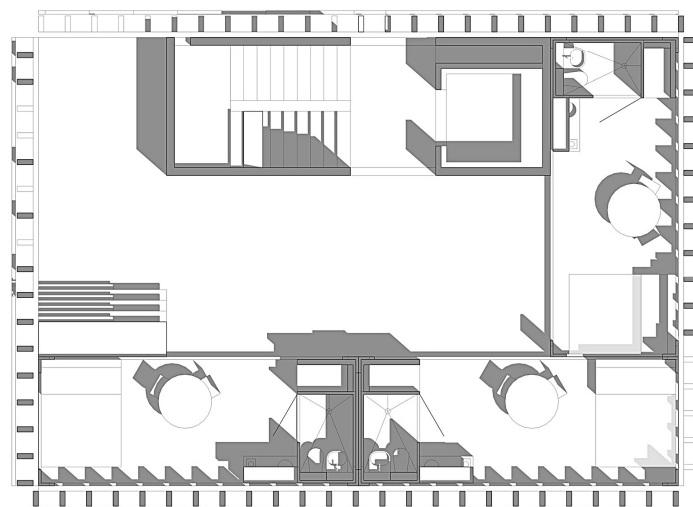
E Elevation 1:300@A2



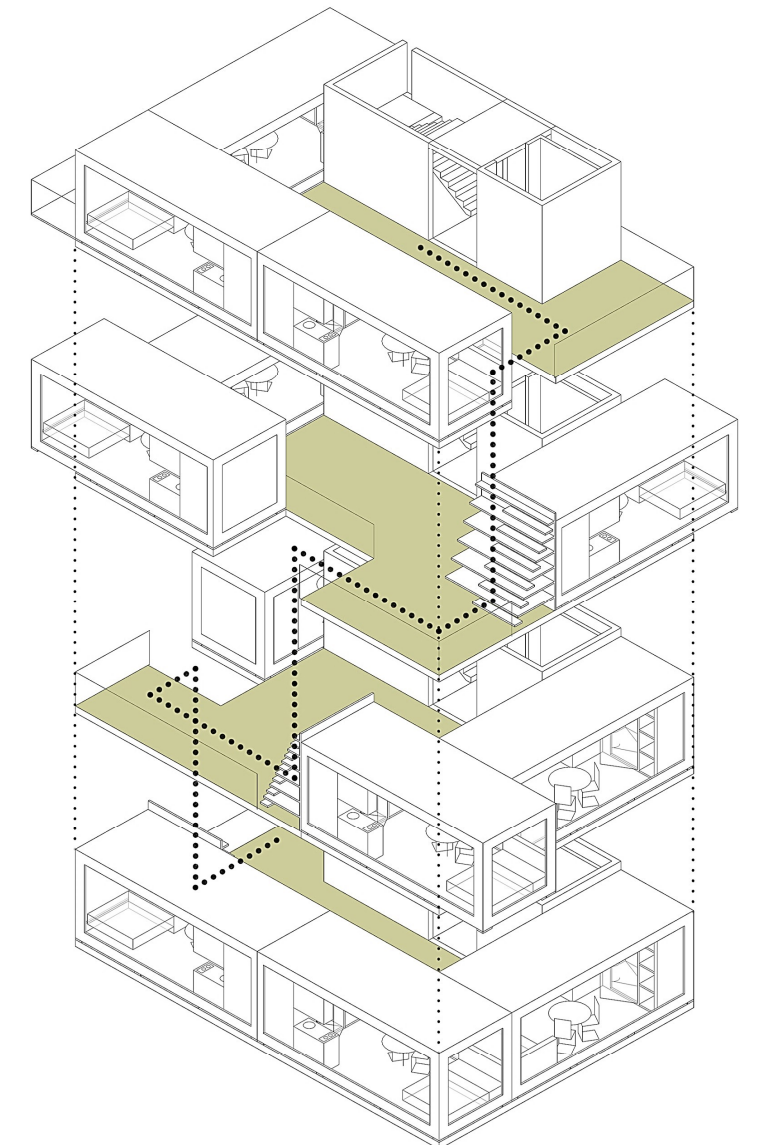
Apartments are arranged in Tatami Mat configuration around the courtyard. They can be occupied singly or by a small family. As the family grows or other variables enter over the generations, multi-unit combinations can be occupied. Connection makes possible the flexible assembly of units to suit different needs.



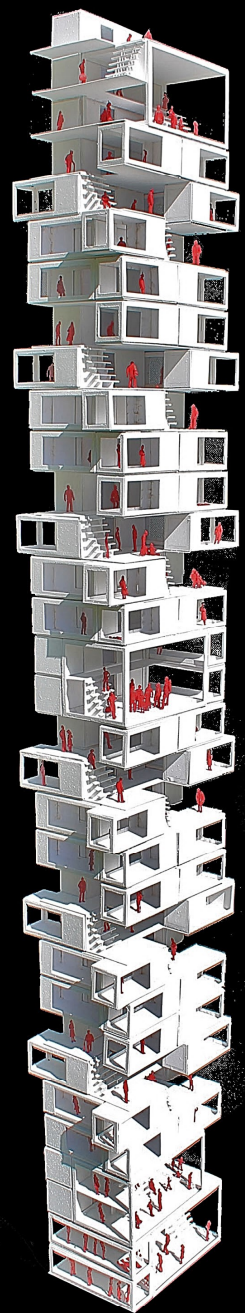
Typical Apartment Floor Plan 1:50@A2



Typical Courtyard Floor Plan 1:100@A2



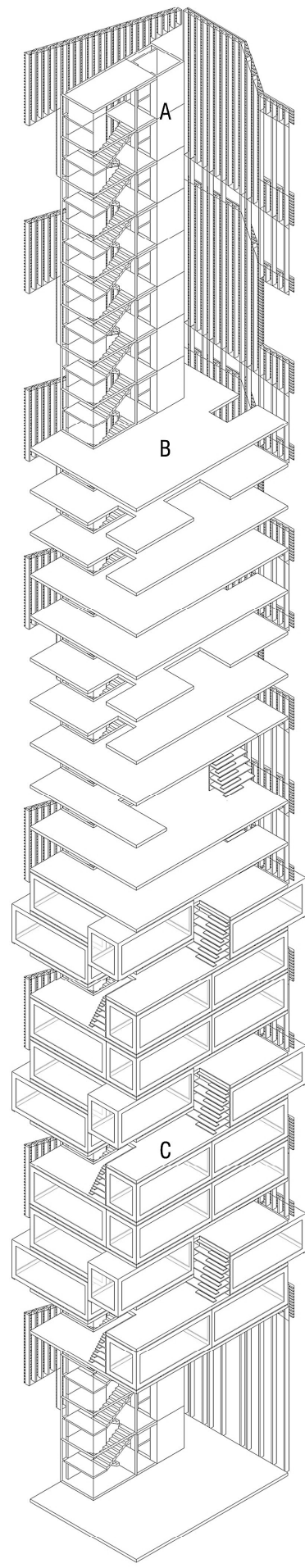
Exploded View of 12- Apartment Courtyard Module - Connectivity



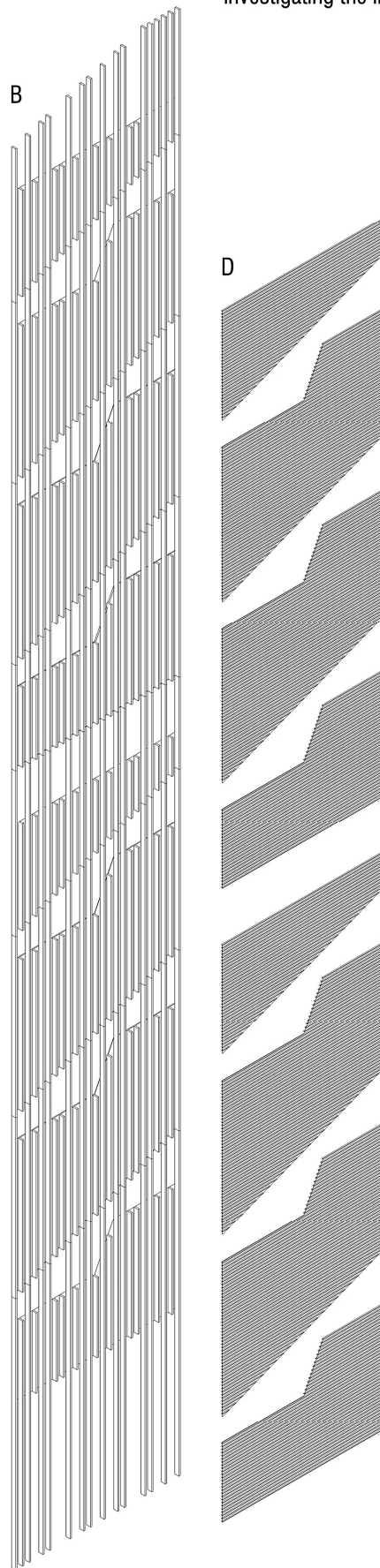
Frame Model



Isometric 1:300@A2



Exploded Isometric 1:300@A2



Key to Exploded Isometric

- A Stair and lift core to North, concrete structure ventilated and cooled at night
- B Vertical and horizontal structure, glued and cross-laminated engineered components
- C Modular volumetric apartments, manufactured to precise tolerances and rapidly assembled.
- D Engineered bamboo solar shading to glazed facades, for privacy, light and ventilation

Siting is illustrated in both the dense central core and in the liminal space between land and sea, a distinctive urban condition in HK. Coincident with the modular elements of the tower itself is the potential for repetitive construction adjacent and elsewhere. The aim is not simply to reinterpret antiquity, but to recover the civic sense of HK, the continuity and differences between the everyday and ritualistic culture of the city. **Cunzhuang Ta** reviews historical and contemporary traditions whilst investigating the imminent typology of residential buildings in the city, that is, urban architecture.

