

The SoHo Living Room

Philosophy

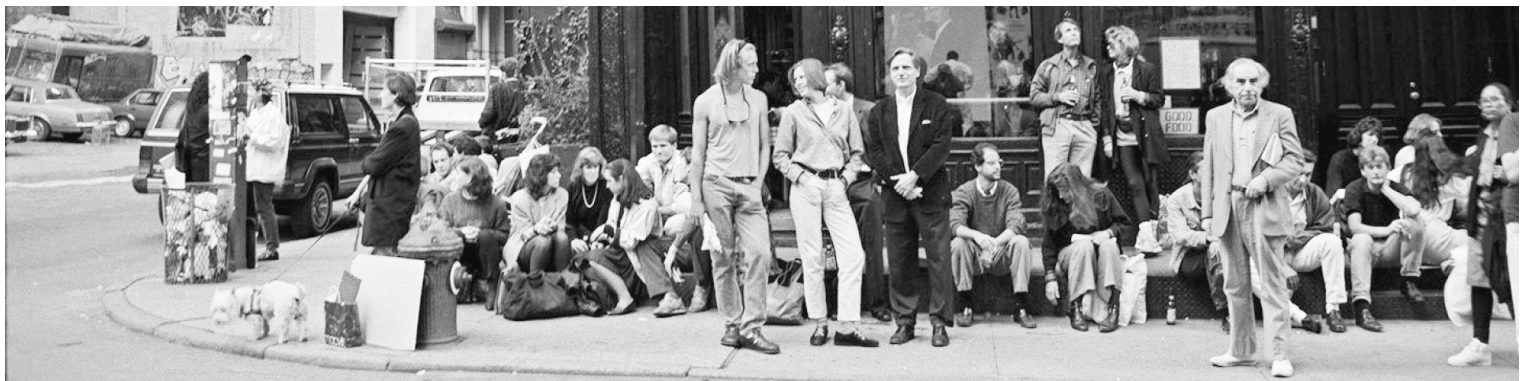


SoHo, the neighborhood mostly known for its galleries, boutiques and many artists that live there, is a district with very special character and history and has changed quite a lot in the last centuries.

It has become a popular tourist destination, which resulted in streets packed with people like never before. Therefore, the streets are not just full of people, but also full of trash on the pavements. Also, the fact that there are not that many green spaces in SoHo, does not help with providing a good quality of life for the residents. The residents, especially the ones that live there for their whole life and overcame all of the changes in the last decades, are not happy with the commercialism that affected local artists and small

businesses. Another aspect is also SoHo's well-known historic architecture and its character, for which people worry that it will be replaced with modern high-rise buildings.

In spite of there being a lot of people that want to preserve SoHo's rich history, the bravest of them is for sure Yukie Ohta, the founder of SoHo Memory Project. By going through the articles of this project, one can learn a lot about SoHo's character and its community in the past century. As it really was a special place to grow up, those people can also describe the neighborhood's charm that was lost somewhere along the way of commercialization. Moreover, the biggest void definitely left the disappearance of SoHo's community.



"When it comes to the absence of a sense community in SoHo, I think one of the reasons why there is little neighborhood cohesion is that there is no place where SoHo residents can meet, gather, interact, and share ideas. In other communities, such a place would be a house of worship or a community center. When SoHo's population was small and less diverse, there were restaurants, cafes, and bars where one would encounter people from various sectors of the community, artists, business owners, workers, families. The disappearance of these places has left a void."

-Yukie Ohta, SoHo Memory Project Founder

Concept

To provide the possibilities for SoHo's people to be able to meet and gather again, we are proposing the concept of **The Living Room**, which will offer locals new spaces to live, work and interact with each other and will stimulate them to get back their sense of community.

The living room should offer the cozy Viennese atmosphere and get residents acquainted with the aspects of the Viennese way of living. The modular and adaptive living room should provide living spaces for different groups of people, such as artists, young people, workers and families and stimulate them to connect with each other.



The Living Room

The Living Room as a proposed modular space is divided into three different groups. The first one is a living room as a shared apartment, which should provide the possibility of different groups of people to live together or a micro apartment for individuals. The second

and meaning of living room is a mixed-use space, such as Viennese café, which offers different possibilities for people to use the space simultaneously, for example café combined with library or coworking or even with a concept store. The third group is the living room as

an outdoor space, offering additional green areas or spaces for new activities, such as urban gardening or different community events.



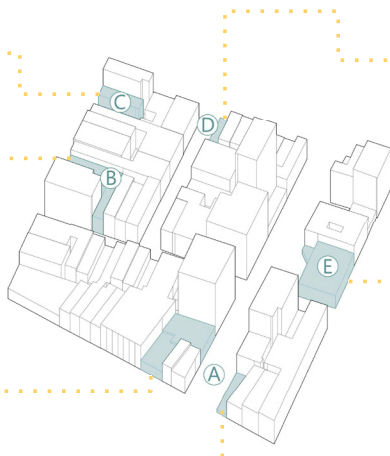
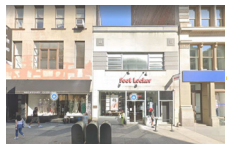
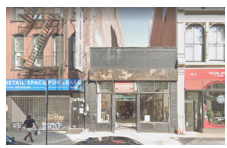
Housing



Mixed-Use Space



Outdoor



Project Sites

Five different sites were chosen for the project, which are to be found in each one of the five proposed blocks. As the aim of the selected sites was to include as different situations and conditions as possible, the project strives to offer diverse new spaces in the ground floor area as well as on the upper levels and rooftops. Individual parcels, such as sites A, B and C are to be completely replaced with new particular usages on different levels. Site A also includes an open space on the other side of the street that is to be connected with the new structure. Site D consists of the rooftop that should offer a new accessible open area for the residents. Finally, site E should become a connecting space for all the different groups of people to gather together and is therefore to be designed as an icon in the neighborhood.

Site A

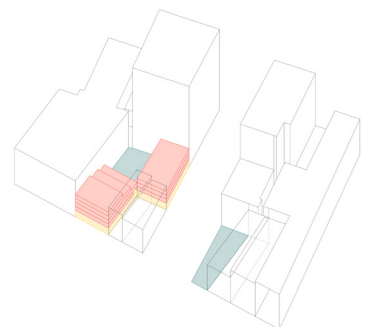
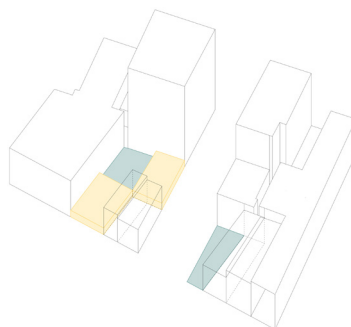
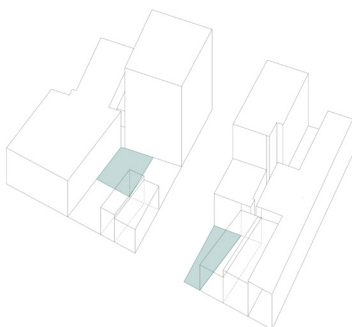
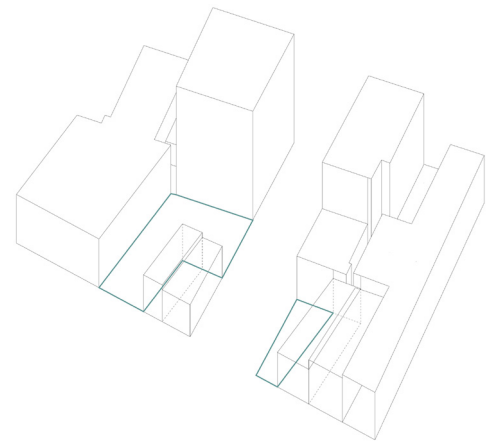
Site A includes a parcel that connects Canal Street with Lafayette Street as well as an empty parcel on the other side of Lafayette Street. A building complex that is to be improved with a new structure, is just 2-3 storeys high and regarding design and usage not connected to the neighboring buildings.

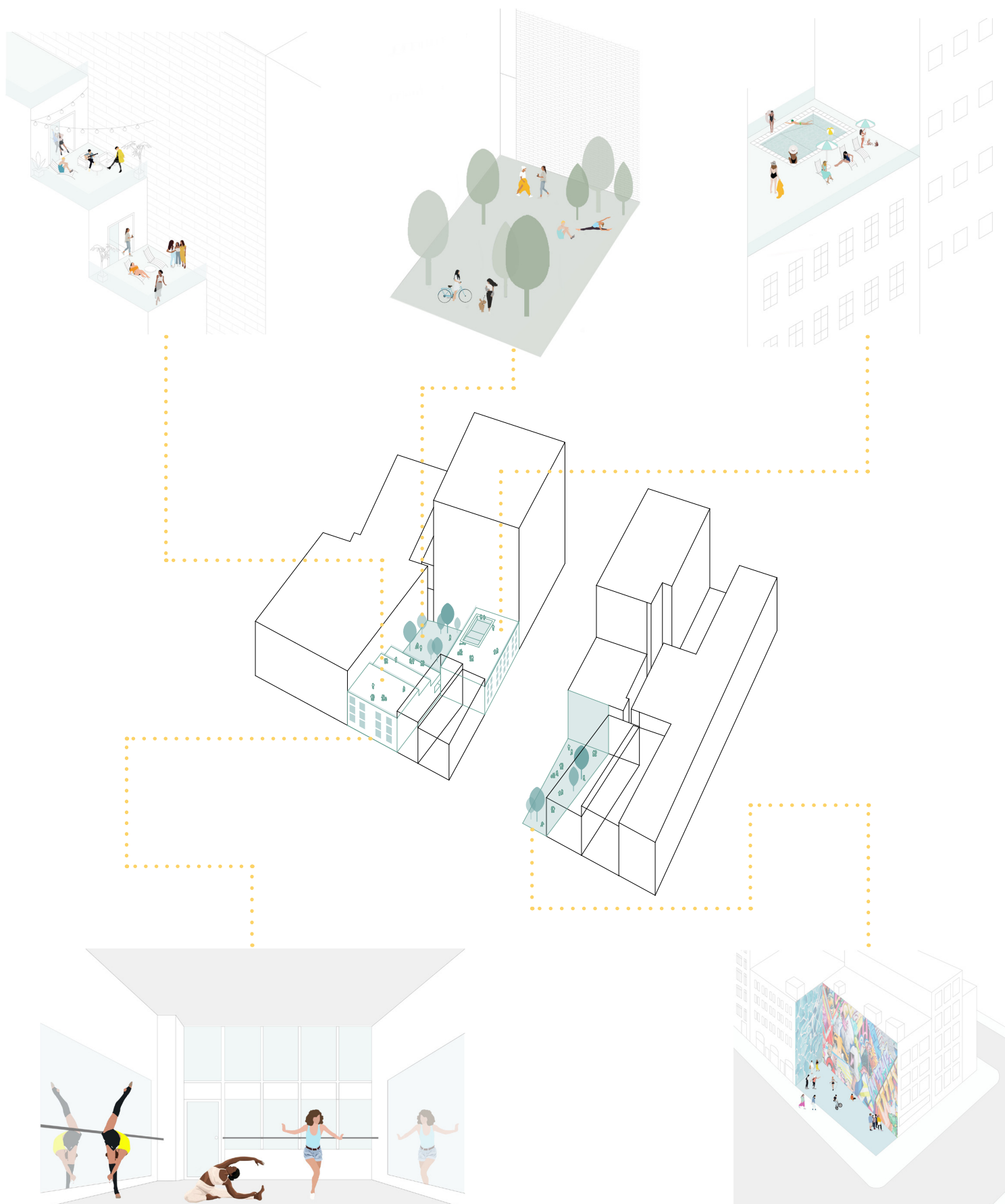
There is a completely new concept planned for this part of the block. It is divided into two separate buildings which create an inner courtyard between them. The new facades should form a harmonious transition with the existing buildings so that a clear unity is created. One of these buildings forms a gradation of the floors towards the inner courtyard, which aims to connect people from both buildings.

In the ground floor zone various spaces for sports activities, such as dance and yoga studios, are planned, as well as other multifunctional spaces for different gatherings. These gatherings can be extended to the open space on the other side of Lafayette Street that forms an additional area and offers new possibilities to meet and interact, not only for residents but also for passers-by.

The remaining floors of both buildings provide shared living units for families, young adults and other groups of people, which offer a view of the courtyard through balconies and loggias. The maisonette apartments create an even more vibrant and dynamic connection of the community in the buildings.

The swimming pool on one of the roofs is intended to create an additional connection between the residents of this building, a meeting point where different groups of people can sit together and enjoy the view.





Sources

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