

RÄMISTRASSE

The main addresses of the institutions lie along the Rämistrasse, the major traffic axis for the right river bank of the limmat, notoriously congested with narrow side walks. Instead of reading the Rämistrasse as a street, I propose to consider it as a loose square from the Spitalpark to the Künstlergasse and apply one single planning strategy to all addresses.



Even though, all of the land is in public hands, fragments of historical land parcels from the baroque times remain within meters of the most representative institution.



While the Stadtkrone has been keeping architects and visionaries busy during the 19th and 20th century, the question relevant today is rather, how to treat terrassed slope to the Zurichberg.



The goal to link the institutions together spacially is applaudable and long overdue. Unfortunately the current planning approaches still lack this long term goal.



In general, the Hochschulquartier needs to be seen as an integer neighborhood of the city, not a campus. Together with its neighbor, the Kreis 1, both halves of the center are low in housing.



The University Hospital is the driver of the current densification plans. A special requirement however needs to be kept in mind: replacing a hospital actually means needing space for two hospitals until the new iteration functions. As hospitals demand short building iterations space needs to be kept for future developments.



A view towards Zurichberg. With the current densification plans, a chance arises to define the back of the Hochschulquartier, integrating the smaller grain into the current plans, respecting the steep topography and the crossing geometries.

STANCE

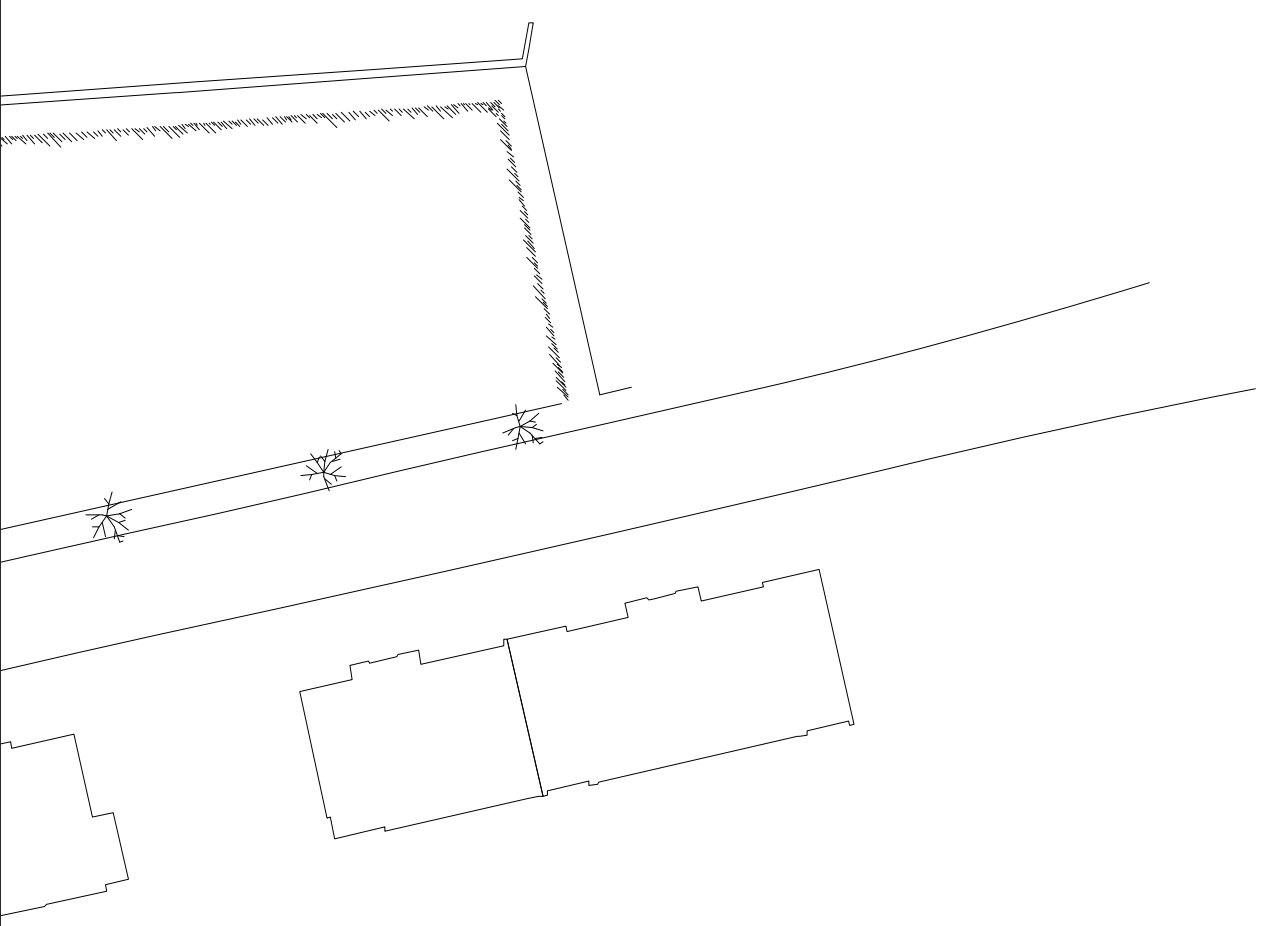
It seems fictitious to try to solve a question that has been worked on for more than a decade in just ten weeks: how can we add a number X of square meters to a certain neighborhood. Instead, I followed a different approach. Strengthening the character of the neighborhood by adding new rooms that then structure the future development.

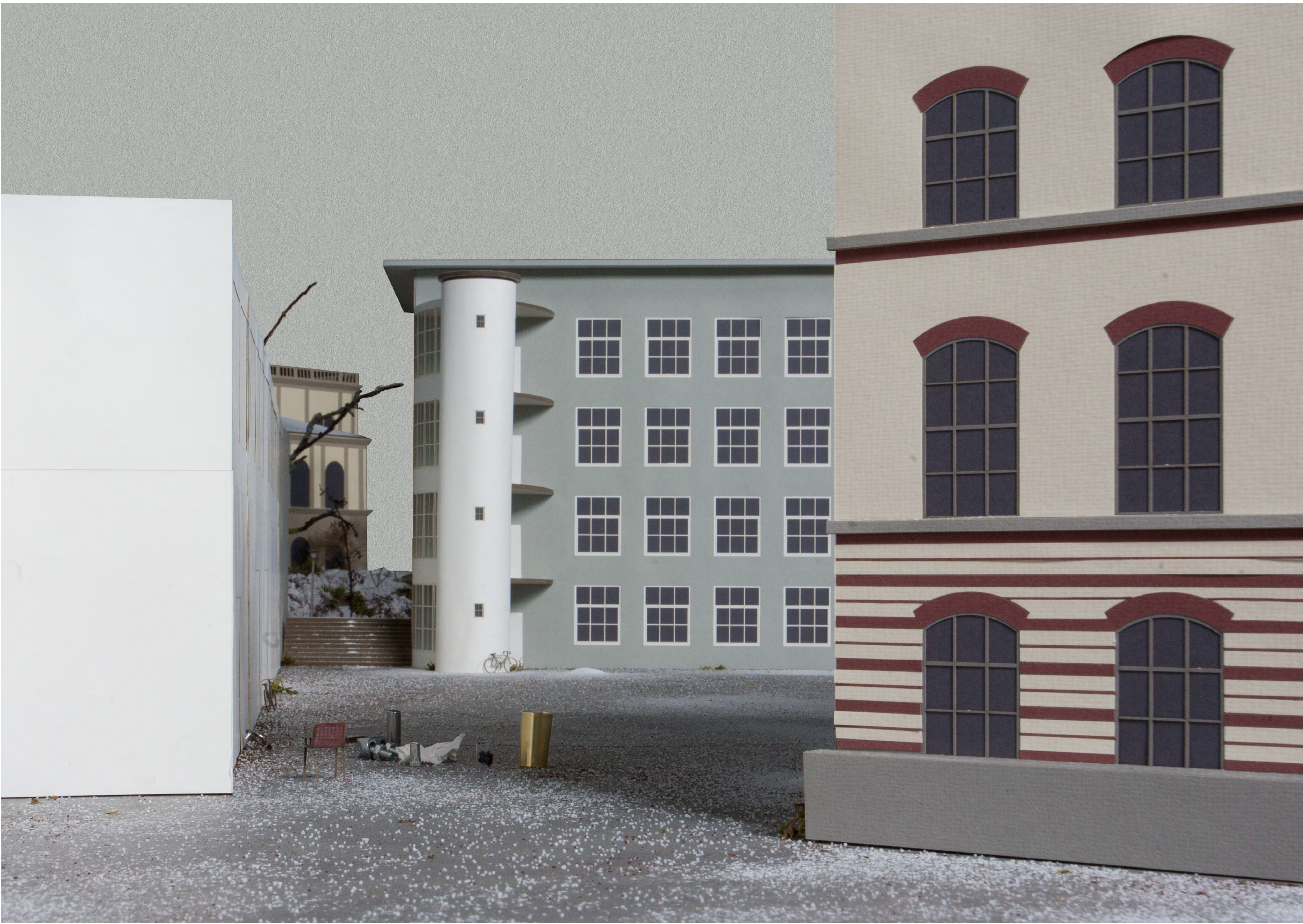




STRUCTURING PUBLIC SPACE

With most of the land owned by a handful of institutions the unique chance of applying a common strategy to structure the plateau becomes possible. The terraced landscape, representation and the neighborhoods garden tradition since the baroque times imply that that not boulevards and streets form this structure, but rather a sequence of gardens, linking the different institutions together with a dense mesh of paths.





CÔTÉ COUR

Most of the institutes in the neighborhood demand a large flow of goods, the lorries requiring complicated systems of ramps to overcome the differences in altitude. A first approach of interacting between institutions could be a joint courtyard functioning as an operations area. The new building replaces the ramps, makes densification possible and simultaneously acts as a base for the future development of the hospital above.



CÔTÉ JARDIN

With the protection of the Hospital and Hospital Garden ensemble and a densification of the neighborhood, the garden will become the central public space behind both institutions. This begs for a better connection to the back. I therefore propose to create a new square instead of the confusing hinge building, recreating the former link between Sternwarte and garden.