



# INHABITING THE VOID

# IMPRINT

Historical traces and memorial infrastructure

The past is a laboratory of solutions, and Harju Street teaches us that urban wounds can be transformed into vital resources. This project **rejects a mimetic reconstruction** in favor of a "green lung"—a park designed specifically for the citizens of Tallinn.

While the 1944 bombings left a persistent sense of absence, **this proposal inhabits that void** by creating a social and recreational anchor that counters the Old Town's transformation into a tourist theme park.

 Project areas

 Unused buildings

 1944 buildings



0 10 20

50

100m

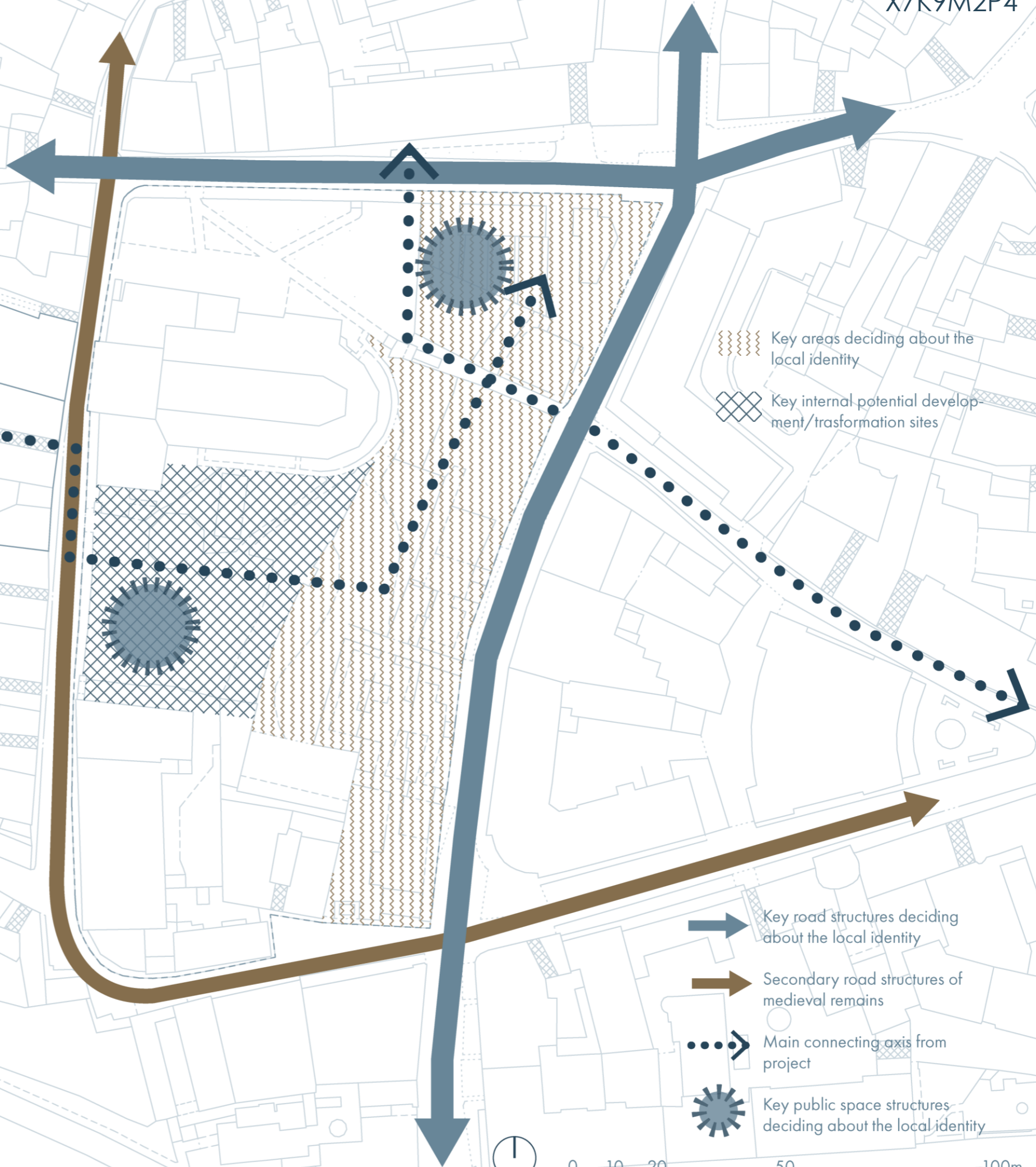
# TRANSITION

## Urban reconnection

This strategy acts as an urban suture to **reconnect the medieval core** with Tallinn's modern districts.

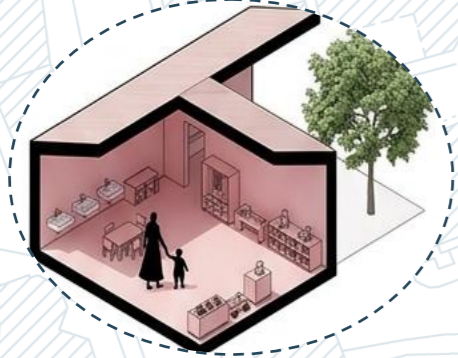
By redesigning the streetscape and integrating the 'bastion belt', the proposal overcomes the current isolation caused by heavy traffic infrastructure.

The use of **local paving materials** and the restoration of historical pedestrian axes ensure a seamless physical transition, transforming a contested site into a connective landscape that prioritizes social accessibility over car-centric dominance.

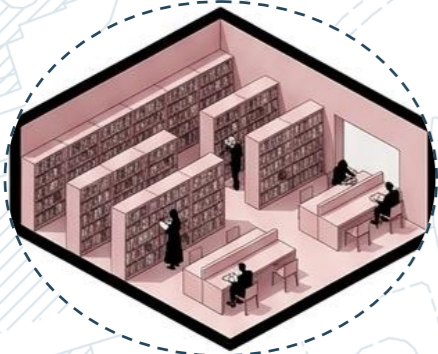


# VALUE

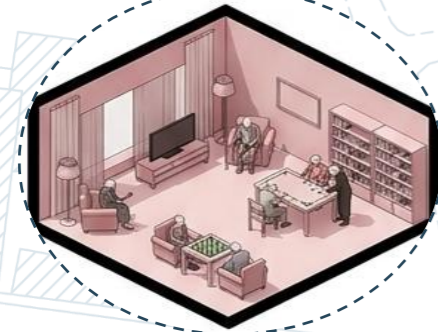
Social accessibility and community programs



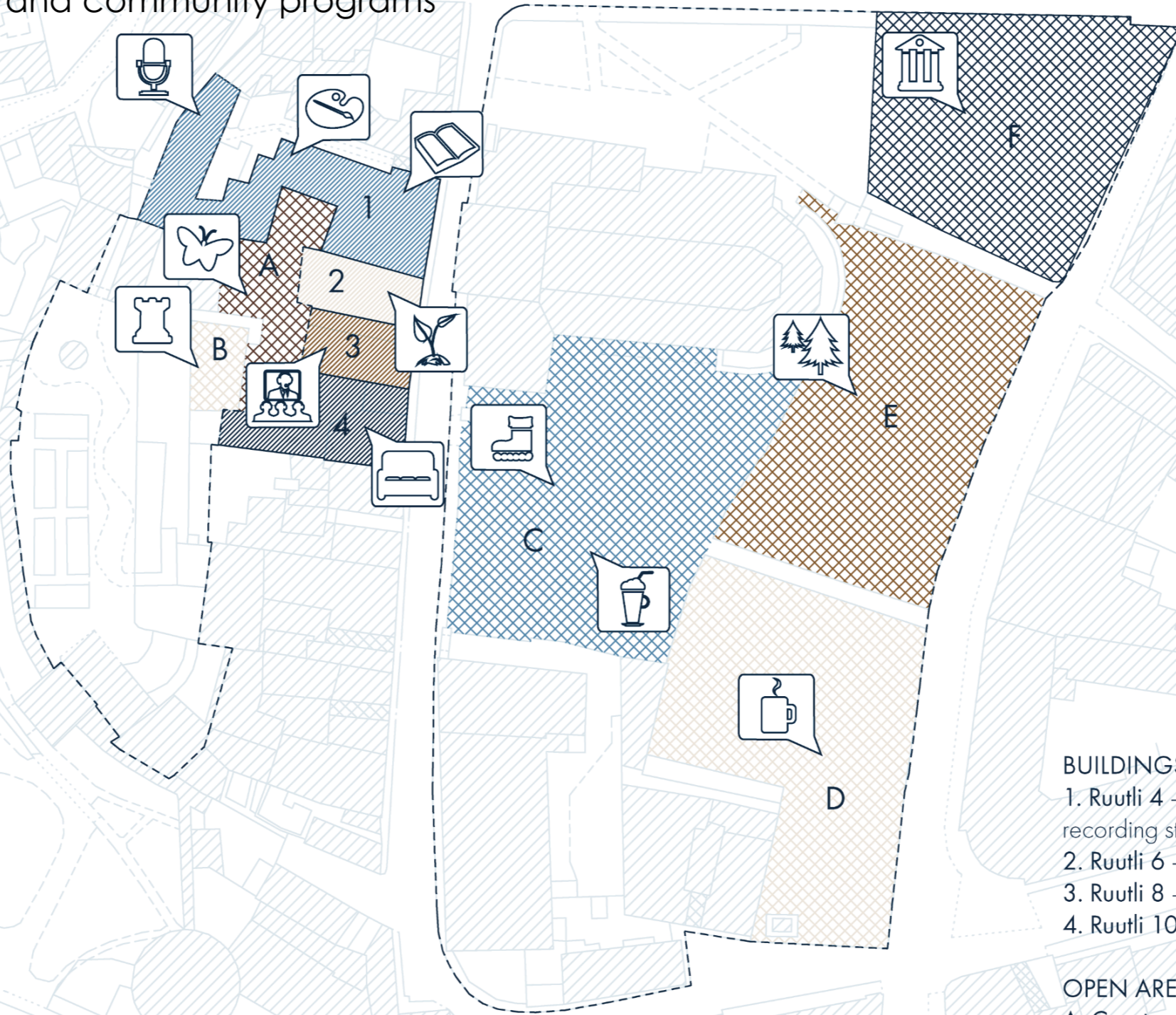
Spaces for children



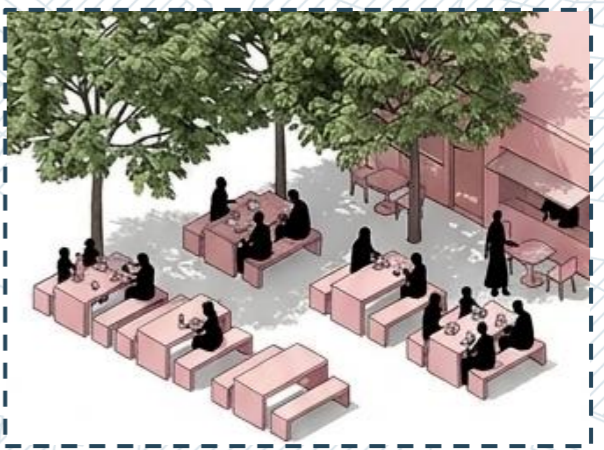
Spaces for young adults



Spaces for the elderly



This green infrastructure acts as a social lung, reclaiming the historic core for local residents and providing the 'slow life' environment that contemporary Tallinn needs to remain a lived-in city.



### BUILDINGS

- 1. Ruutli 4 - Public library, art laboratories and music recording studios, cultural center afterschool
- 2. Ruutli 6 - Kindergarten and playroom
- 3. Ruutli 8 - Conference room
- 4. Ruutli 10 - Recreation center for the elderly

### OPEN AREAS

- A. Courtyard 1 - Secret gardens
- B. Courtyard 2 - Playground terrace
- C. Events area with light structures
- D. Restaurant and temporary structures
- E. Urban Park
- F. Monumental square with water mirror

To transform the 'urban void' into '**civic value**', the project introduces a diverse program designed to reclaim the Old Town for its residents. The goal is to make this UNESCO-protected **environment physically and socially accessible** once again, to **all ages**.

# THE MASTERPLAN



1. Monumental square with water mirror
2. Urban park
3. Restaurant and temporary structures
4. Events area
5. Public library, art laboratories and music recording studios, cultural center afterschool
6. Kindergarden and playroom
7. Conference room
8. Recreation center for the elderly
9. Secret gardens
10. Playground terrace

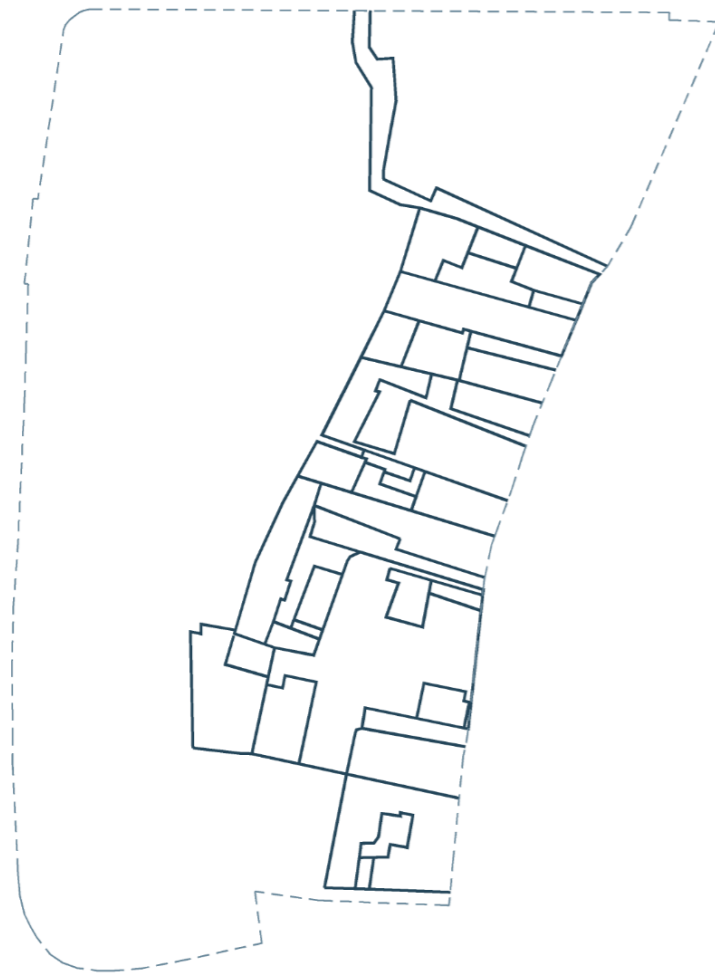
The Masterplan synthesizes a radical spatial strategy that transforms the historic 'void' of Harju Street—a persistent war relic—into **a vital Green Lung** for Tallinn's residents.

By integrating the four core typologies—the **Urban Void**, the **Streetscape**, the **Unused Buildings (Rüütli 4 – 6 - 8 -10)**, and the **Hidden Courtyards**—the project acts as a coherent ensemble that prioritizes social sustainability over commercial pressure.

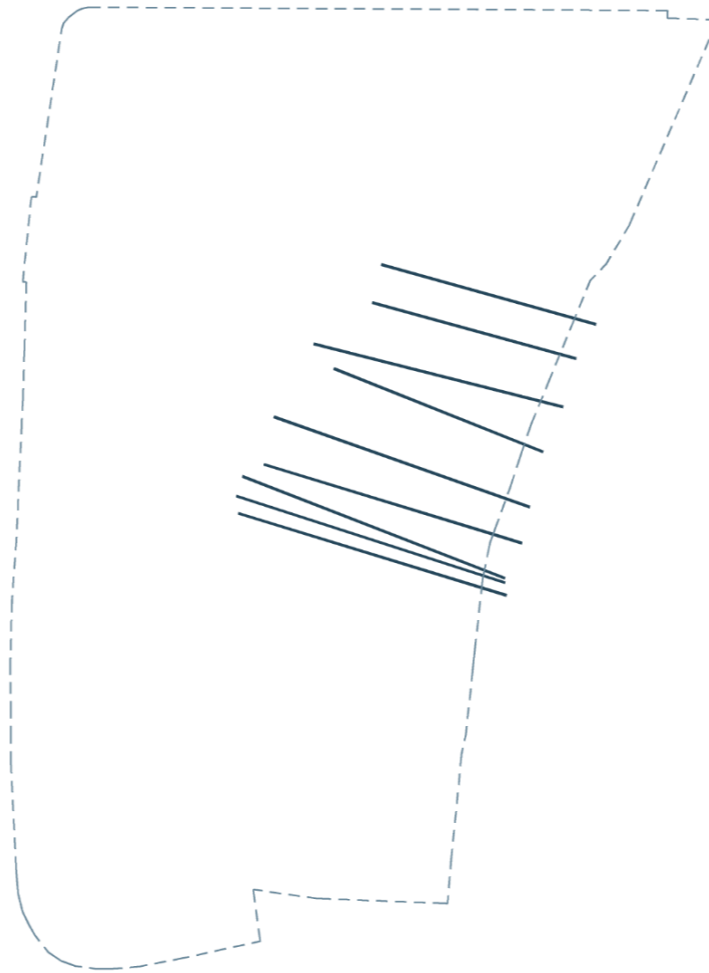
This strategy effectively sutures the urban fabric, reclaiming the UNESCO-protected core from the 'Venice syndrome' of mass tourism and returning it to its 'true makers': **the people.**

# THE URBAN PARK

**Historical Imprint:  
Memory as a Resource**



**Urban Suture:  
Reconnecting the Fabric**



**The Green Lung:  
Social Redemption in the Void**



Concept Evolution: Three fundamental steps define the spatial strategy for the void. First, the "Historical Imprint" traces the 1944 ruins, turning memory into a resource. Second, the "Urban Suture" establishes connective axes to mend the fractured city fabric. Finally, the "Green Lung" integrates these layers, creating an accessible park for social redemption.

# THE URBAN PARK



The Green Lung: The historic void is transformed into an accessible urban park. By outlining the footprints of the 1944 ruins with local flora and pathways, the space becomes a living memorial and a serene refuge for everyday citizens.

# THE URBAN PARK



**Beneficial Parasites:** Lightweight, reversible timber pavilions activate the park with flexible social functions. These ephemeral structures, serving as outdoor cafes and gathering hubs, inject "slow life" into the area without burdening the historical ground.

# THE PUBLIC SPACE



**Fluid Reconnection:** A monumental square with terraced water features acts as a connective tissue. This serene transition zone seamlessly bridges the historical fabric of Harju Street with the contemporary city, fostering an accessible "slow life" environment.

# THE PUBLIC SPACE



Winter Activation: The flexible civic stage embraces local traditions by maintaining the beloved winter ice rink. The temporary wooden pavilions provide integrated services for skaters, demonstrating how the "urban void" can host dynamic seasonal programs for the community.

# THE PUBLIC SPACE



**Summer Adaptability:** Challenging the boundary between permanent and temporary, the same ephemeral architecture seamlessly transforms in warmer months. The space adapts to host outdoor summer concerts and local markets, injecting vibrant cultural "slow life" back into the Old Town

# THE COURTYARDS



**Intimate Refuges:** The hidden courtyards are revitalized as secret gardens for the local community. Abandoning oversized interventions, we introduce comfortable seating and fire pits, creating a serene environment dedicated to "slow life" and contemplation, safely tucked away from the tourist crowds.

# THE COURTYARDS



Therapeutic Gardens: Respecting the historical terraced scale that ascends toward the Danish King's Garden, the spaces are transformed with shaded pergolas and lush urban gardens. These micro-interventions offer a peaceful outdoor extension for the residents and the intergenerational hub.

# THE COURTYARDS



**Intergenerational Recreation:** To foster social interaction among different age groups, the upper terraces integrate playful elements such as a giant chess set. This accessible public space encourages citizens to actively reclaim their historic environment through shared, leisurely activities.