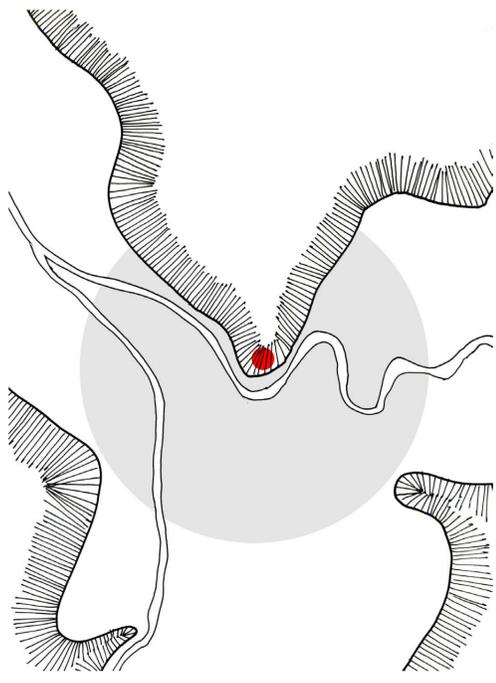


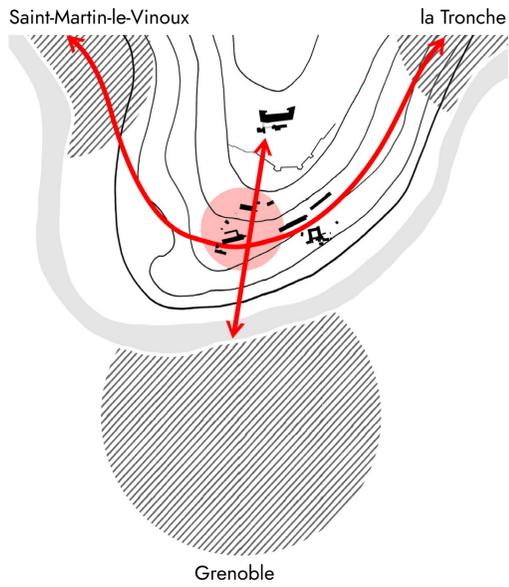
# an urban refuge

geography as a city/nature interface

the Rabot  
urban area  
urban fringes



the urban fringes, an interface city/nature



cross the Rabot to reconnect with the city and geography

Grenoble is a two-faced city. An urbanized area extending into the valley along the Drac and the Isère, protected by a natural mountain setting: its geography shapes a genuine city/nature interface. Between these two landscapes, the city fringes benefit from an extraordinary situation since they are the meeting point between anthropized and natural space. This characteristic place them as true urban refuges, set back from the city, but also as fragile spaces that need to be protected as sanctuaries. The urban fringes of Grenoble become special places where we can develop the symbiotic connection between the city and nature.

In order for these spaces to become living places, they have to be revealed, we have to establish their existence. We either can blend them into the mesh of the city, cross them, or make them physical borders where Man is only an observer. Depending on the situations, these spaces can be activated by developing specific uses. Rather than gradually urbanizing these spaces, these city fringes become selec-

ted places for various activities, sport, leisure or nature reserves where architecture is more punctual and discreet. Crossed and experienced, these borders around Grenoble enable a reconnection with the territory and its geography. Simultaneously sanctuary and place of life, these spaces combine uses and define themselves as urban refuges.

The Rabot, rooted in the fringes of the city, closest to the historic center and on the lower layer of the mountain, can answer these problems. Visible from the entire urban centre but also isolated, it is closed to the paths that climb the Chartreuse massif, away from the ascent to the Bastille and is a barrier to the east-west crossings, from the Tronche to Saint-Martin-le-Vinoux. Impenetrable citadel, the Rabot cuts and turns away from the paths of the mountain.

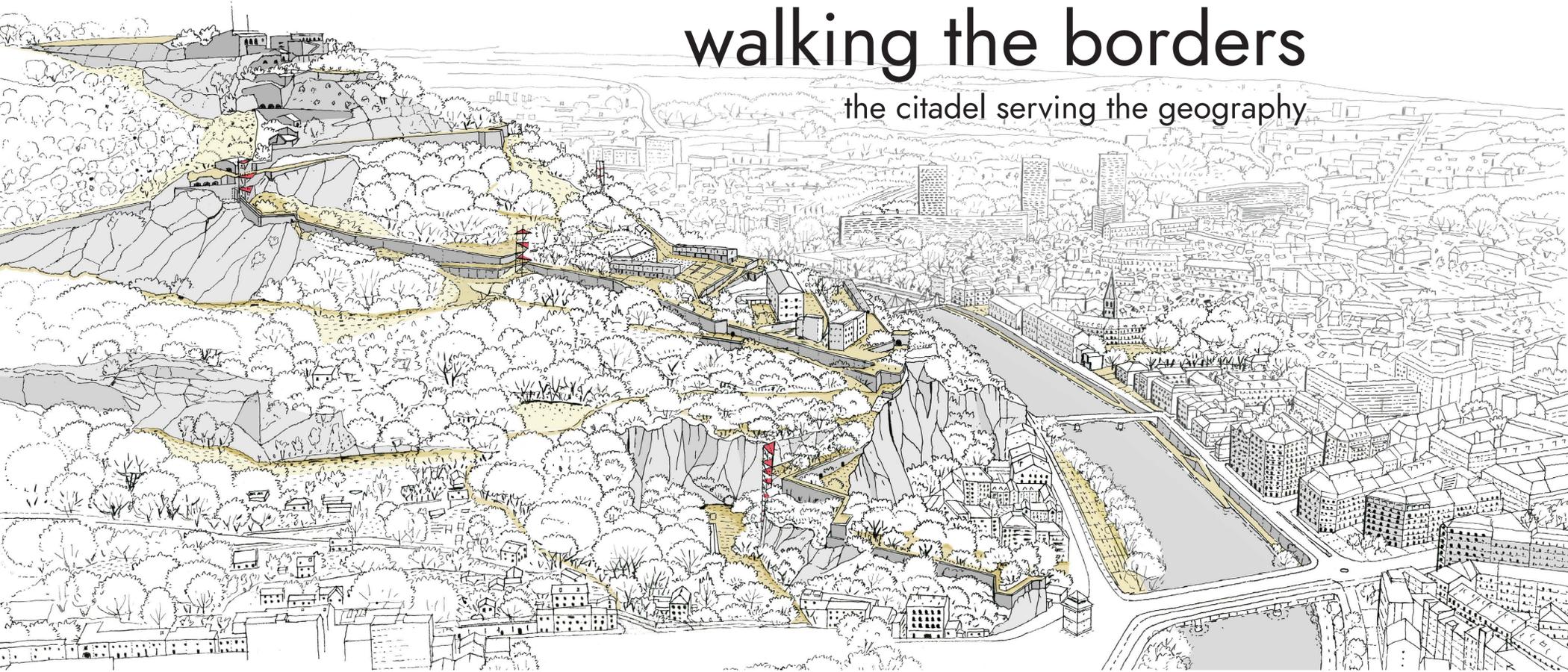
Architectural patrimony, sanctuary away from the city and paths, the Rabot as an urban refuge must be crossed to reconnect with the city and geography, valleys and mountains.

trainstation    Sacré-coeur basilica    new footbridge    the France gate    Dauphin's garden    the Rabot, a crossroad refuge    the Bastille    Dauphinois' museum    Dauphiné's parliament    Grenoble's archeology and art museums



# walking the borders

the citadel serving the geography



The citadel whose walls are today opposed to the crossings must become central, open on all paths flowing on the mountain.

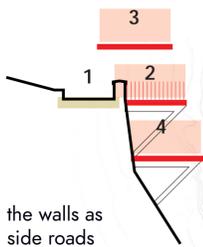
The walls, which extend up to the Bastille and are inscribed in the slope, are openings that connect all the layers of the mountain and can play the role of crossroads.

Like a round road, the walls become the new links that connect the valley to the Bastille. They are arranged, consolidated, revealed by grafts that allow crossings on or against the walls, or even to rise and create lookouts.

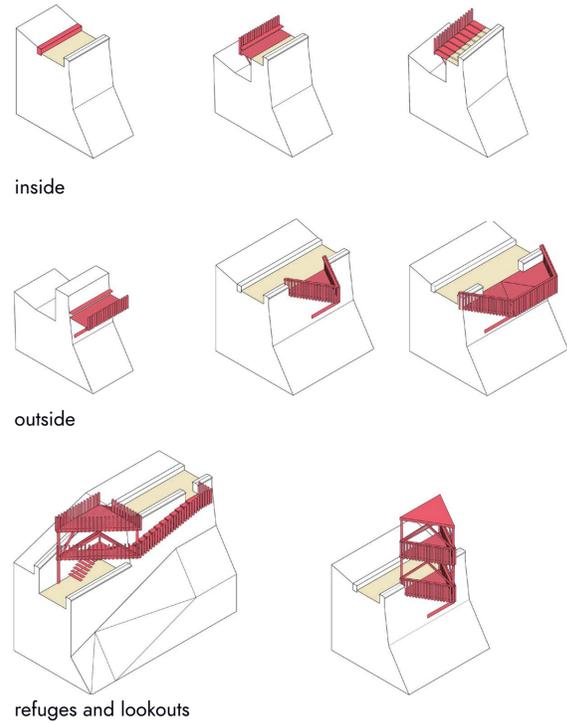
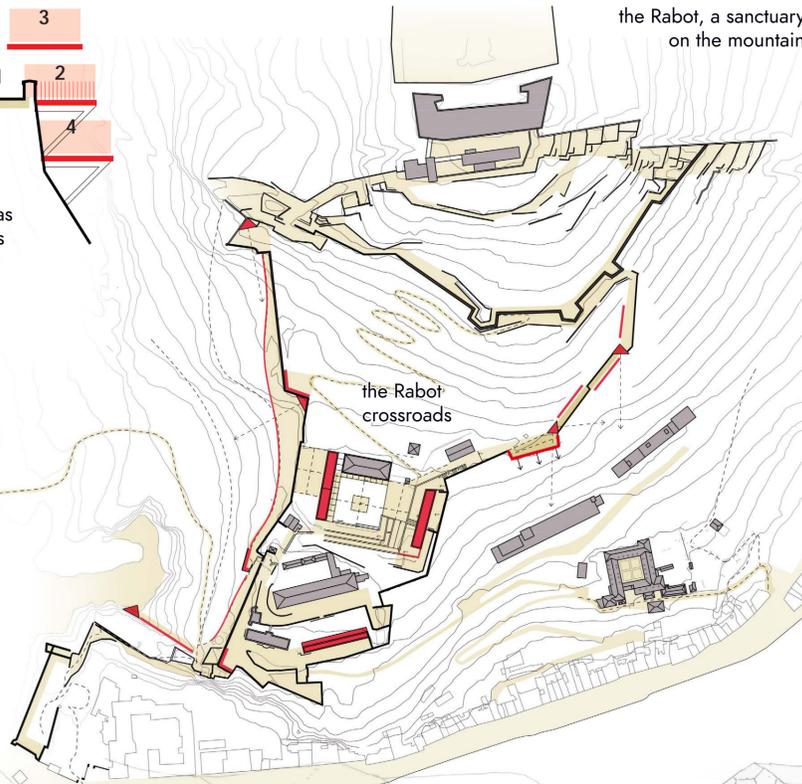
Walk on the walls rather than impact the ground. Thought like architectural walks, the grafts are visible but not impactful.

They play with the existing site and allow to get as close as possible to the walls, to architectural patrimony as well as nature. In addition to being walked, the walls are a protective setting that participates in making the Rabot a sanctuary on the mountain. From the natural, vegetal slopes one sees only man grafts and from the wall and terraces of the Rabot one observes the landscape.

With the opening of the gates of the citadel and the creation of side roads, the Rabot becomes central and is at the crossroads. It becomes a new square of the city, where it is possible to practice leisure, walk, and meet each other. A real urban refuge that reconciles human needs and sanctuarises the mountain.



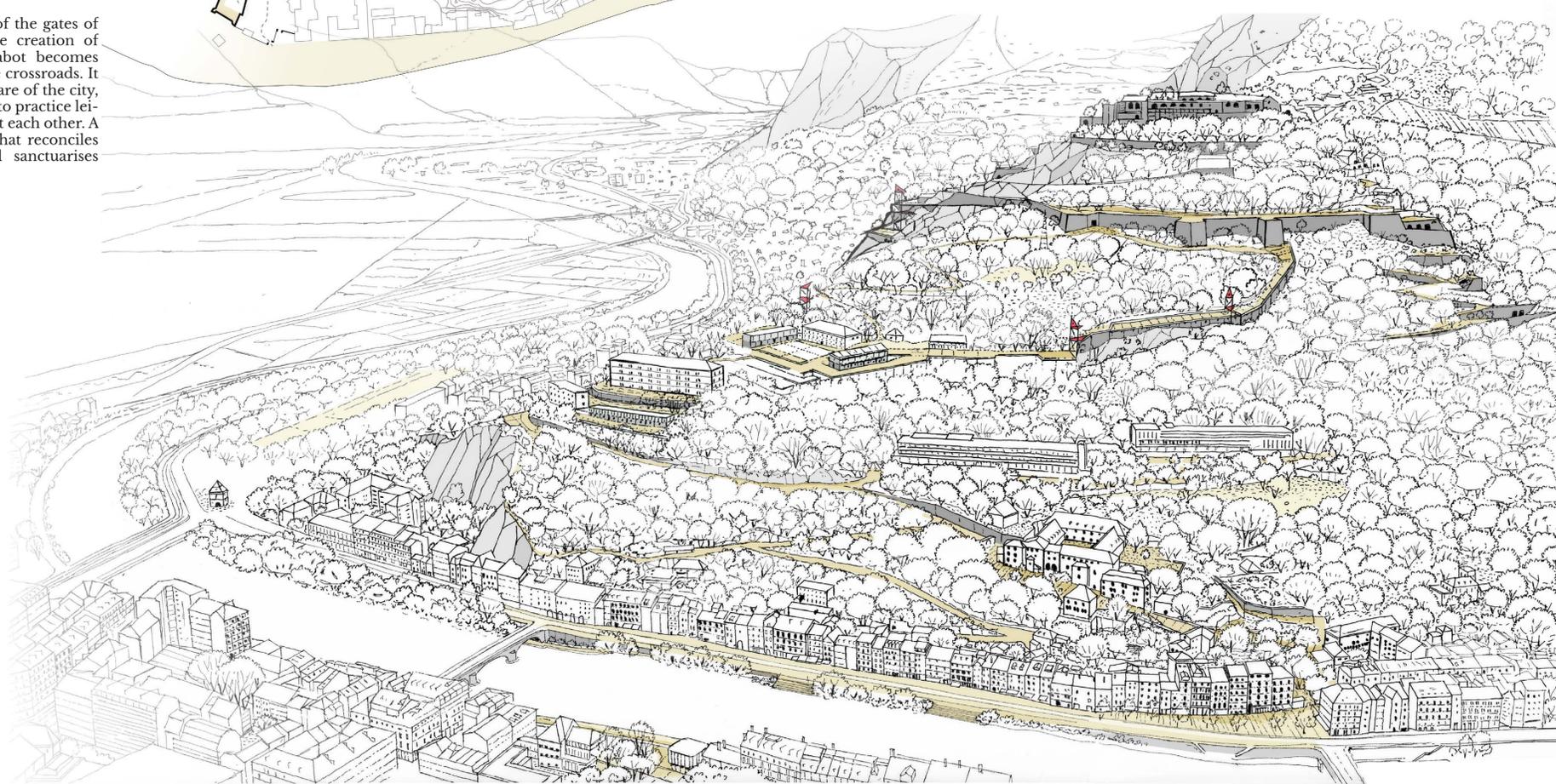
the walls as side roads



inside

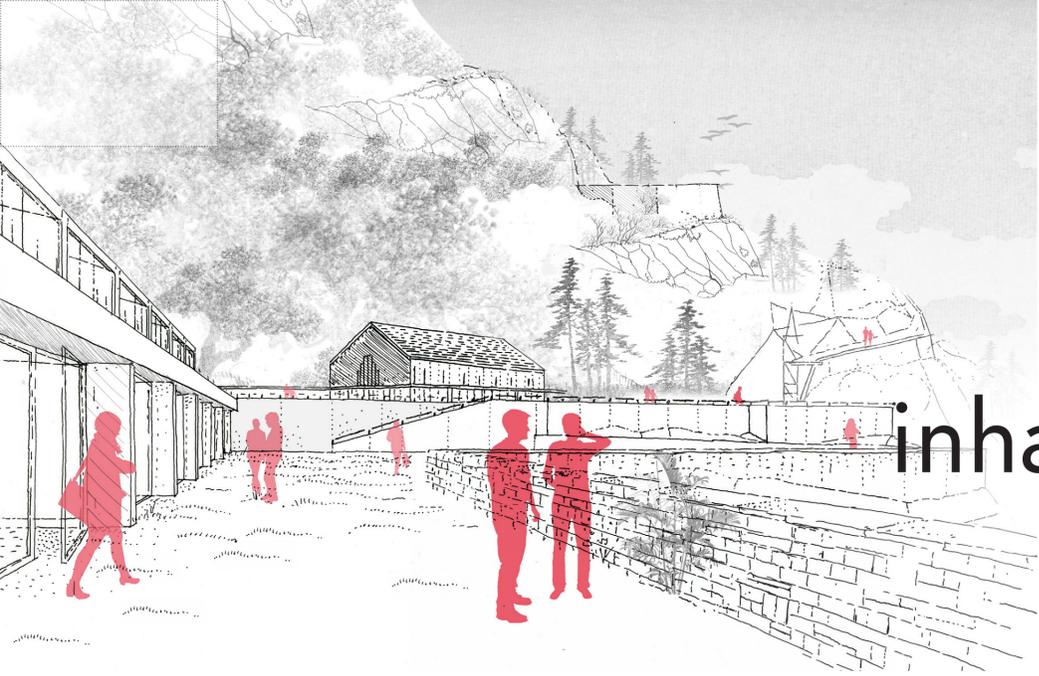
outside

refuges and lookouts



# inhabit the mountain

## the Rabot refuge



The Esclangon Cloister

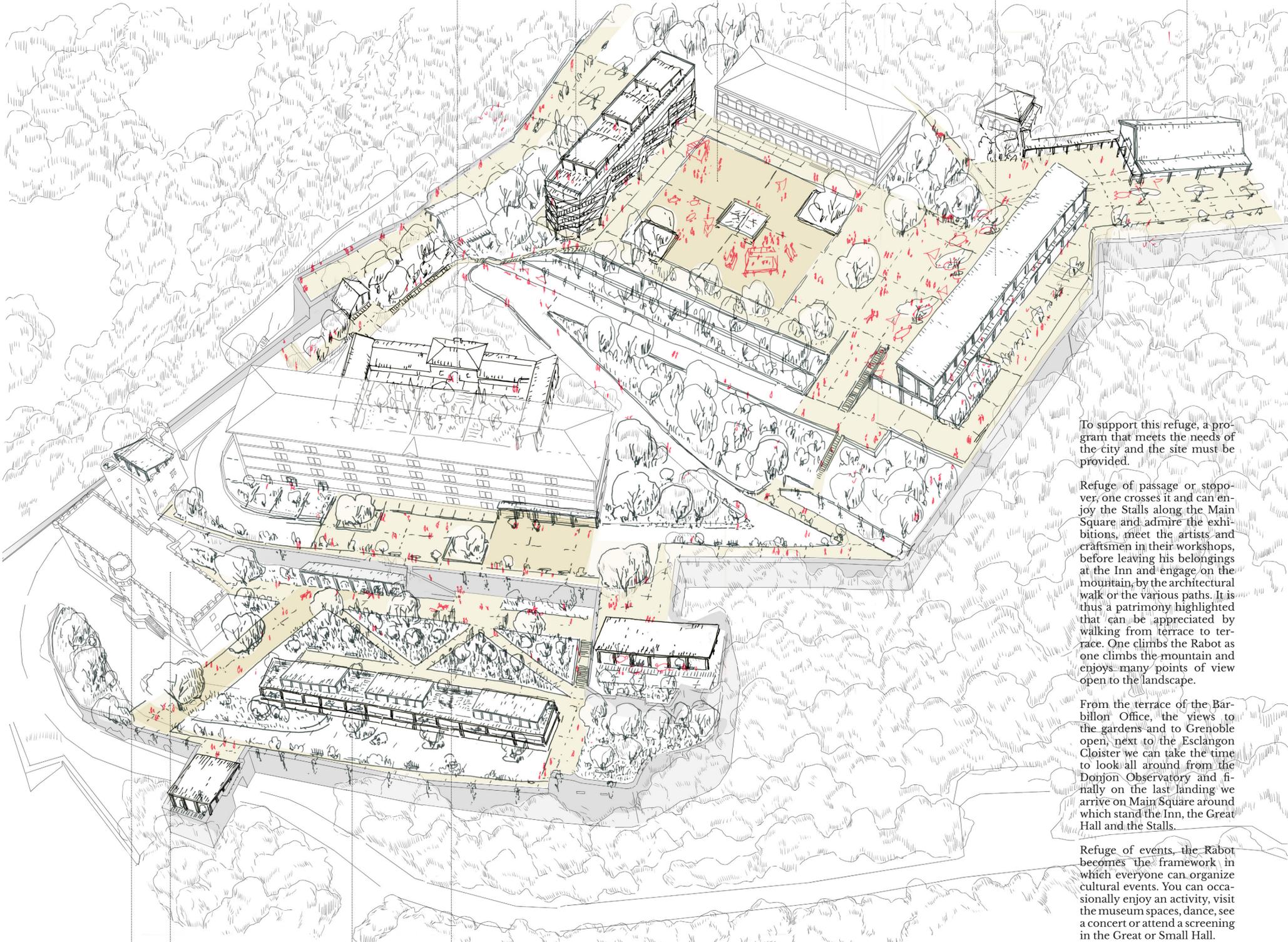
The Inn

the Main Square

The Great Hall

the Stalls

The Small Hall



To support this refuge, a program that meets the needs of the city and the site must be provided.

Refuge of passage or stopover, one crosses it and can enjoy the Stalls along the Main Square and admire the exhibitions, meet the artists and craftsmen in their workshops, before leaving his belongings at the Inn and engage on the mountain, by the architectural walk or the various paths. It is thus a patrimony highlighted that can be appreciated by walking from terrace to terrace. One climbs the Rabot as one climbs the mountain and enjoys many points of view open to the landscape.

From the terrace of the Barbillon Office, the views to the gardens and to Grenoble open, next to the Esclangon Cloister we can take the time to look all around from the Donjon Observatory and finally on the last landing we arrive on Main Square around which stand the Inn, the Great Hall and the Stalls.

Refuge of events, the Rabot becomes the framework in which everyone can organize cultural events. You can occasionally enjoy an activity, visit the museum spaces, dance, see a concert or attend a screening in the Great or Small Hall. It is an open place where you can get together and simply enjoy the spaces available to escape from the city, have a drink or eat at the Inn. The closed doors of the citadel can, for an evening or a few days, be the setting of festivals.

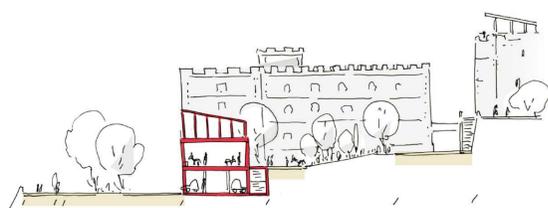
Finally, as a refuge of residence or retirement one can stay there for a longer time and participate in various workshops of biodiversity awareness, discovery. Managed by associations or by the city in the same way as the Rabot events, residents participate in the life, management and life of the place. Thus, the populations in residence cross passers-by, prepare or participate in public activities, present their research, whether artistic, scientific, social. All the temporalities of the Refuge du Rabot allow the place to live, shape and transform itself in the rhythm of the seasons.

The Donjon Observatory

The Barbillon Office

The Stable and car park

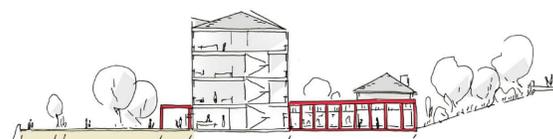
The Rabot Gardens



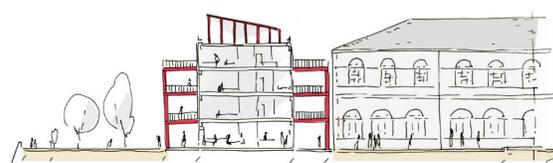
Section cut on the Stable and car park



Section cut on the Stalls and the workshops



Section cut on the Esclangon Cloister



Section cut on the Inn