

Proposal:

Squares are mainly composed of fixed elements, each time a refurbishment is undertaken these elements have to be removed. Not always they could be reused, which involves a high environmental and financial cost. The plan eliminates the fixed elements, a structural scheming would support the superficial elements of the square, allowing them to be exchanged based of functional modules with its corresponding removable facilities. The structure of beams could be removed generating holes and opening underground spaces, offering the possibility of having a two-level square.

CASE STUDY

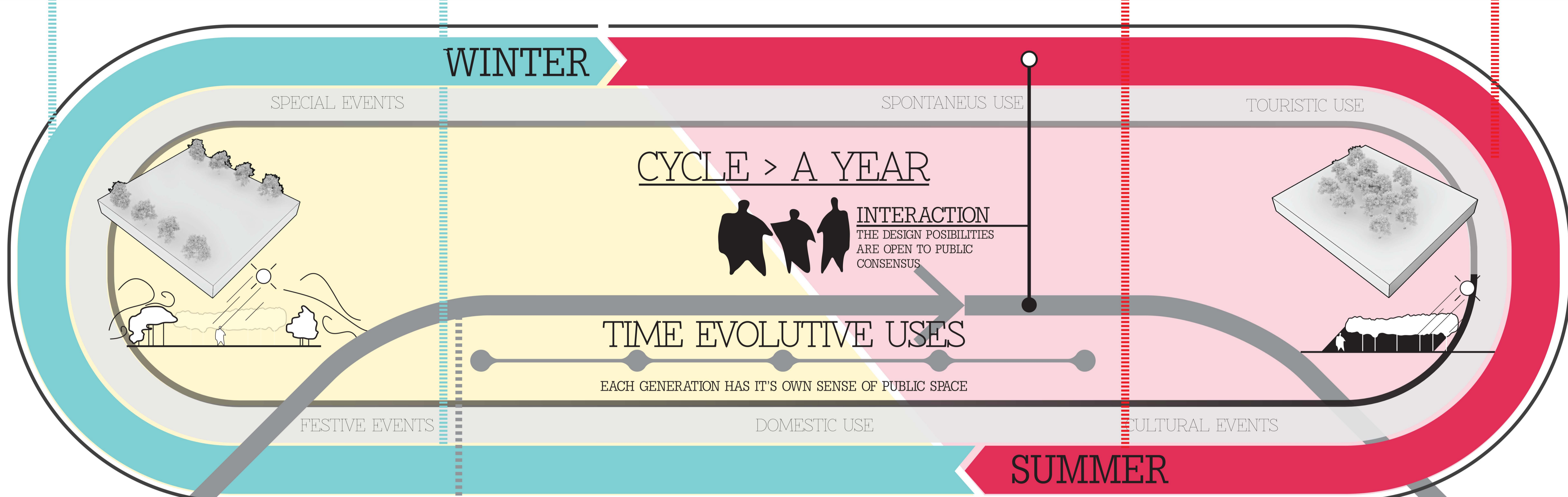
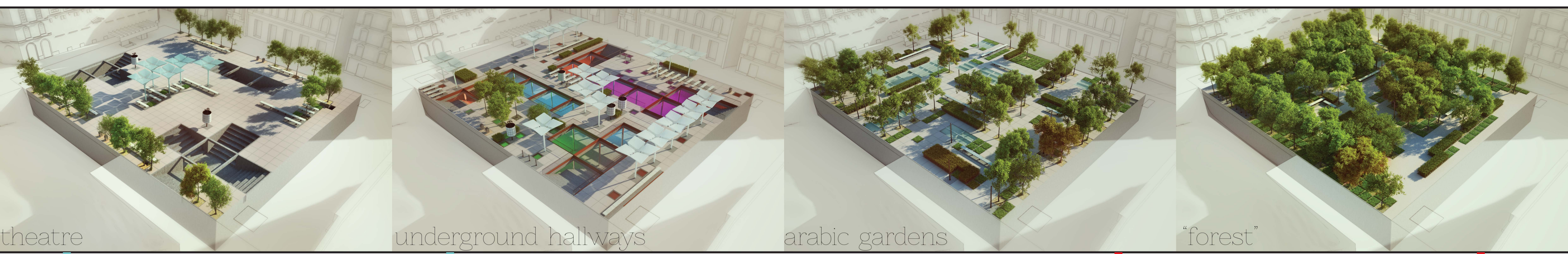


PLAZA CONSTITUCION | CONSTITUTION SQUARE - MÁLAGA / SPAIN

The flexible sketch outlined is adaptable to any square in the world, to every urban context. Our work was focused on carrying out a trial in a specific urban space, The Constitution Square in Malaga City (Spain). This choice has to be with its ideal characteristics that allow us to present it as a case of study: it is the most important square in the historic centre of the city, which is directly connected with the main street, Marquez de Larios Street, known as the centre of commercial, touristic, political and cultural activity. During the year the square is the setting of important celebrations, events, exhibitions, political parades and shows. Besides, it is characterized by the great spontaneous appropriation of the citizens, at every season of the year.

These kinds of squares are identified by being huge free areas, deprived of elements. It is related to the need of receiving large crowds in specific celebration days. However, the problem arises when analyzing the formal aspects during the rest of the year. A couple of days condemned it to various months of urban emptiness, in which its configuration is not related to the so many different kinds of appropriation. It is evident that the problem cannot be solved by leaving empty or open spaces, but, instead, by providing it with the possibility of adaptation and flexibility. Moreover, acquire the ability to translate in the space the events and the flows which go through it, eliminating the rigidity of its components.

SCHEMATICS



SUGGESTED CONFIGURATIONS

CLIMATIC BEHAVIORS

static solution. platform, not solution.

The current public space is nor flexible neither adaptable to the contemporary urban dynamics. During the years, different squares around the world undergo some changes and, consequently, they are regularly redesigned. These changes require tasks that involve long design and build processes or bureaucratic and financial impediments, leaving the space temporarily useless.

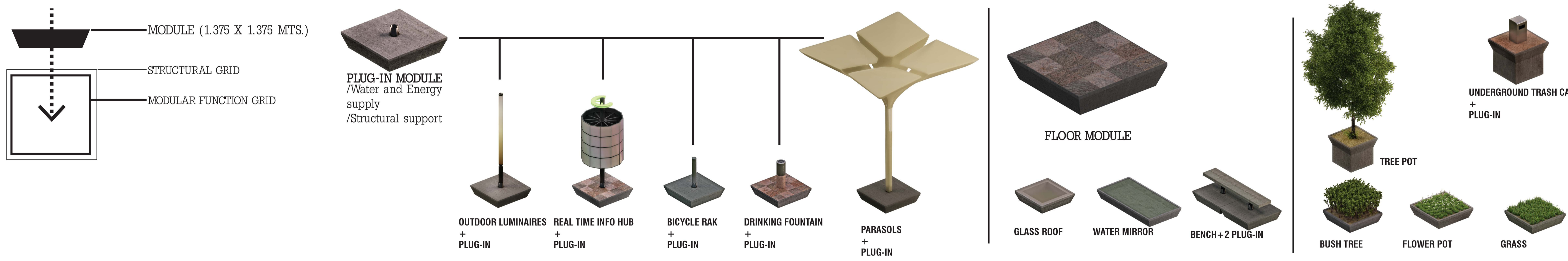
Currently, cities are much more heterogeneous, with more diversity, and therefore, demand more and more functionality. Within a context of vertiginous changes, the public space cannot be considered any longer as something static and worn-out.

The public space is the last bastion of expression and the community freedom in the city. At present, these spaces are planned by the city councils, which take a technocratic attitude. Why public spaces could not be designed according to the needs of their users? Why could not the user be the builder?

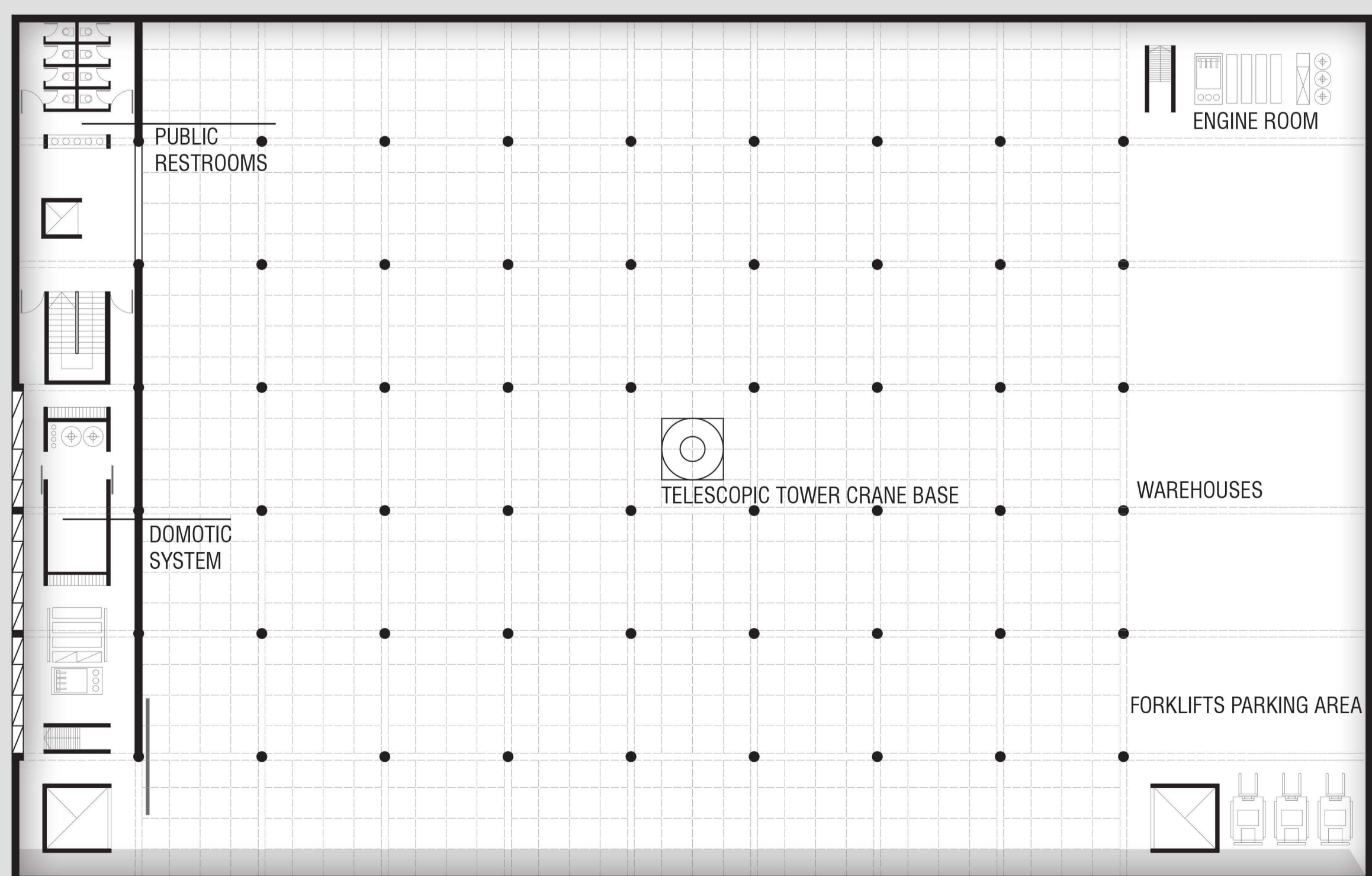
"The public space should be flexible so as to allow the citizens to modify it" — Ane Barrutia, landscape architect.

OPEN DESIGN

SUGGESTED MODULES



DETAILS



FLOOR / STRUCTURAL PLAN ESC 1:200

