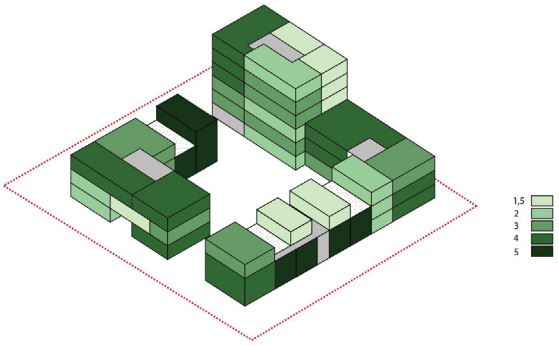
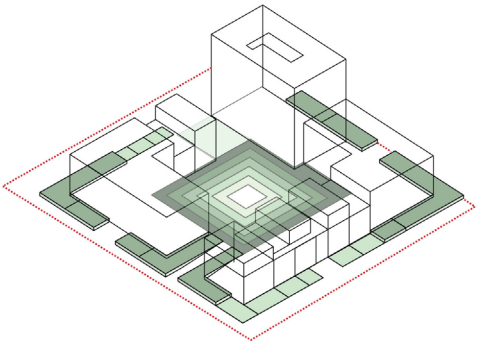
# Open Neighbourhoods

**Direct commission** expert survey for densivication of social housing estates **location** Monheim am Rhein, Germany **area** 5 ha **client** Monheim Municipality **services** urban design **status** completed 2016 **partners** Oliver Seidel, Martin Sobota **team** Markus Ruediger, Kristaps Kleinbergs

This urban design aims to create an attractive living environment for young families and couples, and to give a new impulse to a large social housing estate from the 1960's.
The existing open block structure will be maintained, but is transformed into a structure with semi-private courtyards.
Different typologies - i.e. houses with ground level access, apartments with open floor plans - add variation to the housing supply.
Within the building blocks, elevated courtyards create a safe environment for social interaction between inhabitants, especially young families. Nonwithstanding their open character, these courtyards offer a clear visual and functional border between public and private space.
Between the blocks, a sequence of car-free squares that draw on the surrounding structure contribute to a lively public space.
To keep spaces as car-free as possible, most of the parking is organized in underground garages which are accessible from the edges of the block. By drawing on the existing structure, and by continuing the green belts and the existing rows of trees, the design creates a strong link with its surroundings.



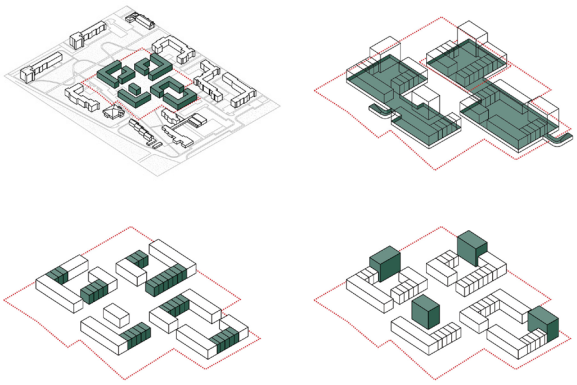

Variety of housing typologies



Shades of public and private outside spaces

Bird's eye view with different housing types and sequence of squares

Public square



Different building typologies within the blocks

floor plan ground floor

Masterplan