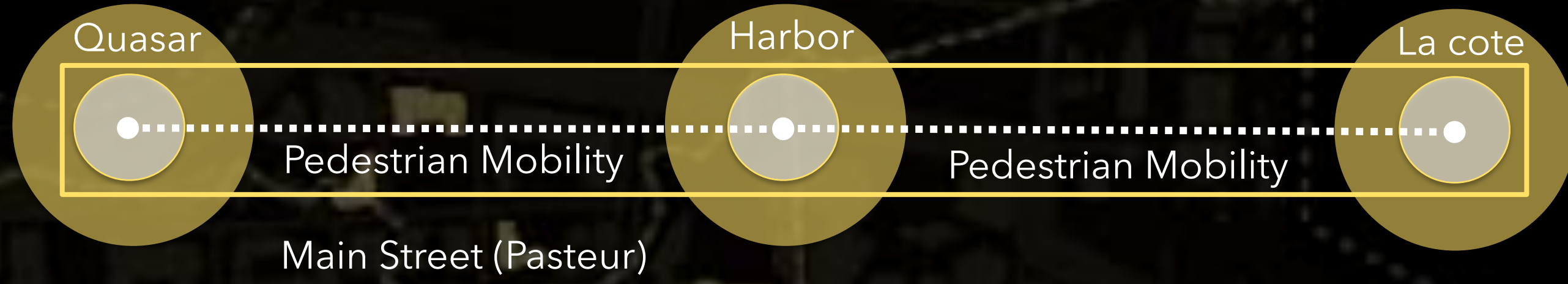


NEO BEIRUT

Work Live Play

Preserving the character of Beirut, Neo-Beirut is a framework for a new vertical city. By respecting the communal aspects of the city while allowing growth, it challenges the frozen and static quality of current tower typologies. Neo Beirut is an experimental architecture proposal examining the necessity to reimagine new uses for the city on the neighborhood level. It explores new ways to generate energy, resources and the possibility to connect the micro-scale of the individual to the macro-scale of the expanding urban territory. It retrofits a segment of the endangered front lining Gemmayzeh area through economic development, urban agriculture and well-being rather than the main street's traditional retail-leisure base.

*3 scales;
One Intervention*



Tower
Context
Main Street/ Neighborhood

Ground Zero

Problematic

In the early 2000s, Gemmayzeh started losing its identity, human scale, and historic activities, to be replaced through gentrification, and then become the mosaic neighborhood it is now. The area has a high vacancy rate topped by the damage received after the blast, its inhabitants are deserting the area and the street is completely owned by the cars.

The studio's project theme is a regeneration of the front-lining towers of the Beirut Blast, into resilient, sustainable and inclusive buildings. In the light of this statement, we chose the following problematic.

Can the chosen parasitic towers be rethought, to break with the traditional multi-storey building trends that isolate the residents, and then transformed into sustainable and community-oriented entities, in which social encounters are privileged?

Synthesis

Neo-Beirut towers must both address the larger issues of identity and the smaller, more personal-scale issues of dwelling, working, and living. The existing typologies where inhabitants are isolated and segregated is contradictory to Beirut's identity and the culture of its people.

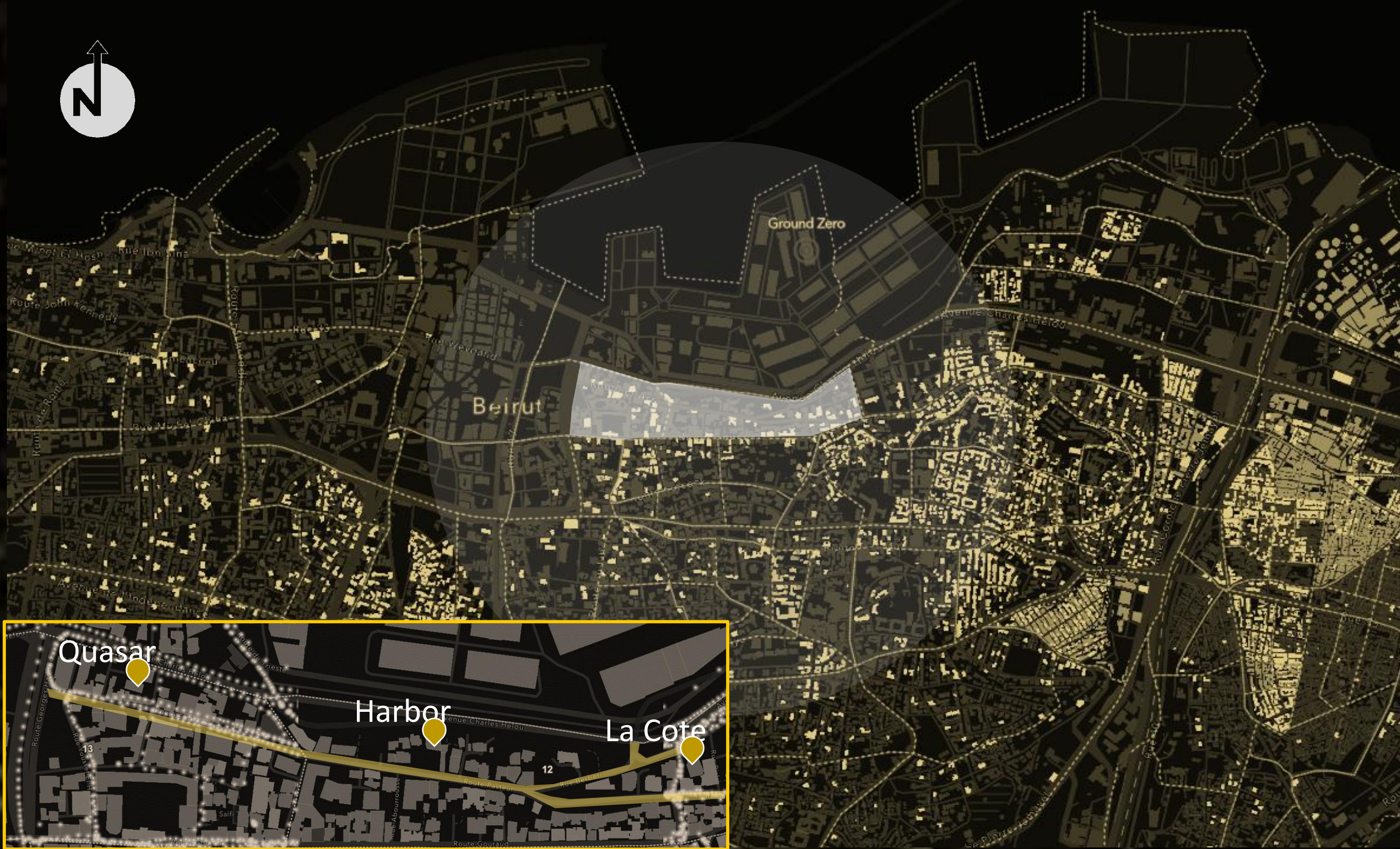
MANIFESTO

We believe that this phase is the DATUM POINT in the new history of Beirut. It represents a new era, the last chance for the city to develop into a truly contemporary, inclusive and sustainable city.

Just like resilient ecosystems are based on robustness and connectedness, we believe it is of vital importance that interventions in building projects should be part of an integral approach. This approach is based on several themes, including biodiversity, food production, health, experience, social cohesion and interaction, contemplation and energy.

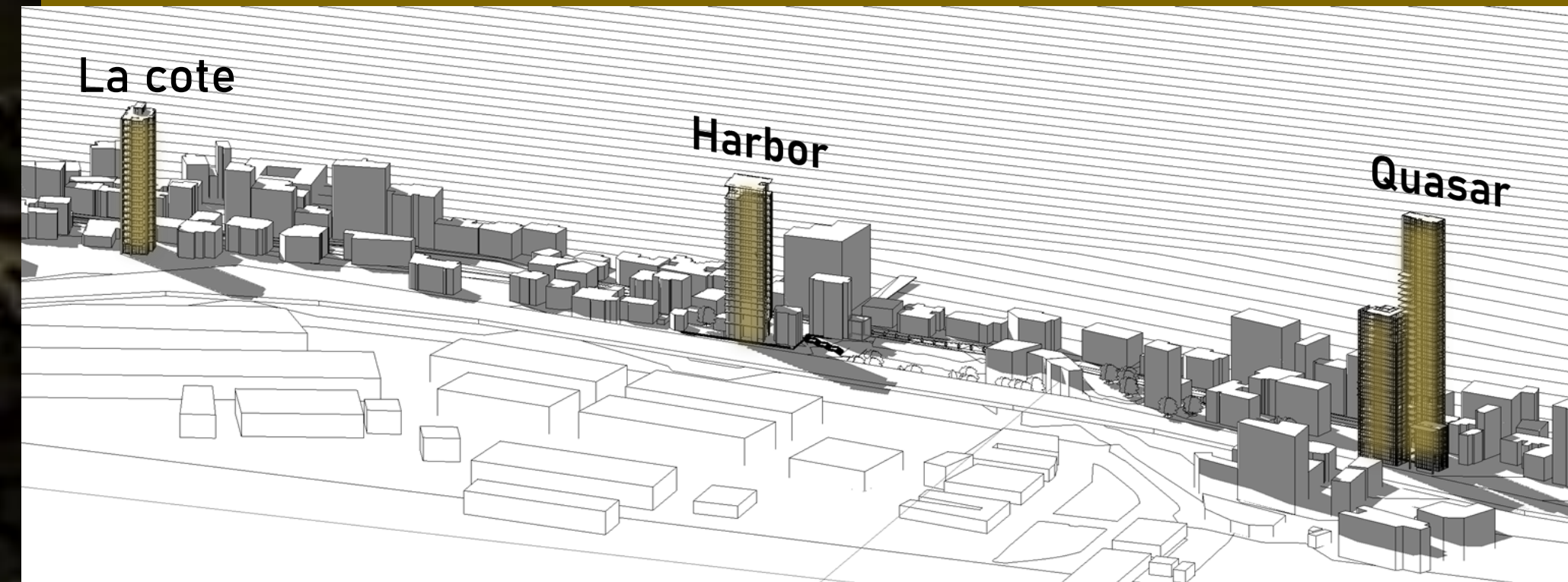
Our goal is to structure a new and resilient identity for the neighborhood rooted in a mixed-use working and living environment anchored by inclusivity, sustainability, and culture.

LOCATION



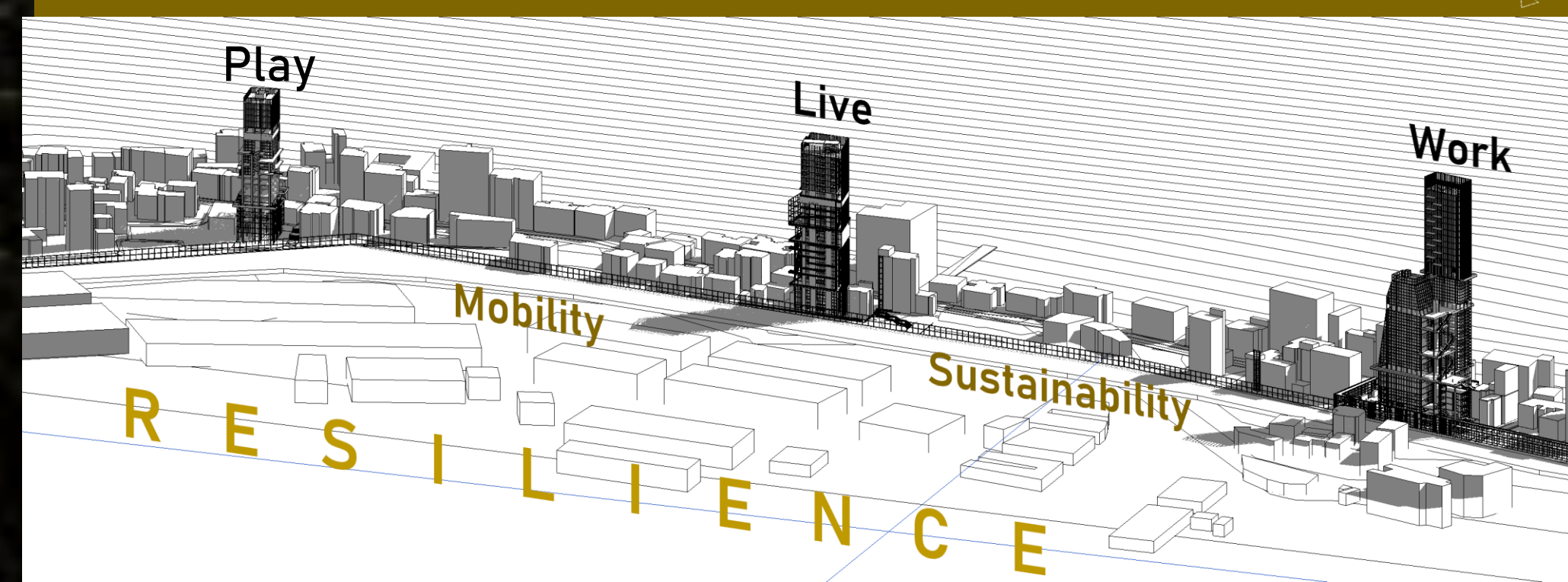
It was first decided not to over-plan the proposal and to give primary importance to public areas, as they are a deficient resource in the area.

Before



The three redeemed buildings were selected for their volume, location and luxury status, and were intended for three functions that could recreate the public life that characterizes a neighborhood.

After



The goal is to structure a new and resilient identity for the neighborhood through an elevated matrix and living environment anchored by inclusivity, sustainability, and culture.

Interventions

1 Urban Strategy

- "Thickening the edge" of the main street with trees, rain gardens and terraces and creating a safe pedestrian promenade. - A waste to energy plant system applicable to the clusters in the neighborhood.
- An economically sustainable modular aquaponic system intervention.
- Putting the 3 entities in resonance in terms of urban, architectural and aesthetic response. The general organization of the masterplan is also thought of as a closed-loop system of energy and resources.

2 Direct context

- Exploring the lower levels of the towers in the tower, the only elements that touch the ground are the vertical circulation elements (elevators and stairs) and the structure.
- The ground floor plan becomes the link between the tower and its surroundings through an open plan philosophy, where pedestrian mobility is prioritized.
- This strategy makes it possible for nearby potential spaces to be used through the tower, for the cluster to become interconnected in all aspects.

3 The tower

- The towers are rethought to incorporate public functions, new ways of sustainable energy production, organic food production, organic waste processing and rainwater collection.
- The towers are transformed to materialize circularity, accessibility and connectivity into innovative architectural systems.
- Moreover, all of this can be experienced first-hand by the visitors and residents of these entities.

RESEARCH

PARASITIC URBANISM / TOWARD A NEW DIGESTION SYSTEMS

In response to the desire of New York City to reduce the emission of greenhouse gas 80% by 2050, this project is an alternative energy system that reveals and remapping the carbon credit in the city, hence rebuilding the relationships between buildings, people, and nature. The interventions questions how can architecture serve as a mechanism to facilitate energy infrastructure? Extensions are proposed to parasitize the city of New York in three different scales: building, street block, and neighborhood. Unwanted natural resources of the city like: human waste, tree leaves, food waste from the kitchens and restaurants, leftovers in the fridge, will be used as raw materials to generate electricity in the city from these parasitic extensions.



MODULAR AQUAPONICS

Architect: Flanagan Lawrence
Engineer: Useful Simple Trust
Aquaponics: Bristol Fish Project
Aquaponics: Let Us Grow

This project is a research collaboration between Flanagan Lawrence (architects), Useful Simple Trust (engineers), Bristol Fish Project, and Let us Grow (aquaponics specialists), trying to achieve an exemplar economically sustainable modular aquaponic intervention. The design is tailored for high yield, and low material costs. This manifests as a 'modular vertical farming system' wrapping onto south facades of industrial sheds in suburban areas with the aim of 'greening an industrial landscape'. It addresses key aspects of sustainability and the circular economy.

