Designing a module:

I then decided to design a module that would include both public, semi-public and private areas: A module could include the following:

Module includes:
- Apartments
- Areas for growing
- Common living room
- Common kitchen
- Common washing room
- Common terrace
- Stairs
- Elevator

Then I became aware of another kind of Typology, called Mat Buildings. These are buildings that combine both private areas and public areas and also have a huge flexibility. From the book "Le Corbusier’s Venice Hospital", by Hashim Sarkis, I found that:

"The relationship between architecture and its surrounding environment has developed during the twentieth century from the benign contiguity to controlled and determined interaction. As early as 1933, the participants at CIAM 4, replaced the existing urban environment with a conceptual utopian city that would allow its inhabitants to reconnect with the natural environment through building configurations that left ample space for light, air, and transportation. (…) As a challenge to the iconic tall housing block of the modern movement (…) the concept of buildings with interstitial outside spaces was developed to create cities that controlled both the exterior and the interior environments." (Sarkis, H. 2001, Prestel: p. 67)

"Mat Buildings can thus be seen as providing flexible “Shells” to support different activities, in contrast to buildings with function-specific enclosures designed to accommodate predetermined activities.” (Sarkis, H. 2001, Prestel: p. 71)

Flexibility is a KEY word for me, the site will then be able to grow over time, following the module, it can remove parts or add parts at any time. The two first floors are also independent of the two next floors, and they can both change independent of each other.

To determine the size of the module, I looked at the space needed for a bedroom. It seems that 3 meters is enough to have a double bed and space on each side to access the bed, I add 3 more meters so I will have space for other things as well, like bathroom and a small living room. Then the module became 6 x 6 meters.

The module is organized with apartments on each side, facing the outside, and the common areas in the middle. But since both module is 6x6 meters, there will be too much common areas in total. So most of the times, the module is moved a little towards the middle, to create a corridor. That way, both apartments also get a terrace.

Mat Building Typology

Then I became aware of another kind of Typology, called Mat Buildings. These are buildings that combine both private areas and public areas and also have a huge flexibility. From the book "Le Corbusier’s Venice Hospital", by Hashim Sarkis, I found that:

"The relationship between architecture and its surrounding environment has developed during the twentieth century from the benign contiguity to controlled and determined interaction. As early as 1933, the participants at CIAM 4, replaced the existing urban environment with a conceptual utopian city that would allow its inhabitants to reconnect with the natural environment through building configurations that left ample space for light, air, and transportation. (…) As a challenge to the iconic tall housing block of the modern movement (…) the concept of buildings with interstitial outside spaces was developed to create cities that controlled both the exterior and the interior environments." (Sarkis, H. 2001, Prestel: p. 67)

"Mat Buildings can thus be seen as providing flexible “Shells” to support different activities, in contrast to buildings with function-specific enclosures designed to accommodate predetermined activities.” (Sarkis, H. 2001, Prestel: p. 71)

Flexibility is a KEY word for me, the site will then be able to grow over time, following the module, it can remove parts or add parts at any time. The two first floors are also independent of the two next floors, and they can both change independent of each other.

To determine the size of the module, I looked at the space needed for a bedroom. It seems that 3 meters is enough to have a double bed and space on each side to access the bed, I add 3 more meters so I will have space for other things as well, like bathroom and a small living room. Then the module became 6 x 6 meters.

The module is organized with apartments on each side, facing the outside, and the common areas in the middle. But since both module is 6x6 meters, there will be too much common areas in total. So most of the times, the module is moved a little towards the middle, to create a corridor. That way, both apartments also get a terrace.

Mat Building Typology

Then I became aware of another kind of Typology, called Mat Buildings. These are buildings that combine both private areas and public areas and also have a huge flexibility. From the book "Le Corbusier’s Venice Hospital", by Hashim Sarkis, I found that:

"The relationship between architecture and its surrounding environment has developed during the twentieth century from the benign contiguity to controlled and determined interaction. As early as 1933, the participants at CIAM 4, replaced the existing urban environment with a conceptual utopian city that would allow its inhabitants to reconnect with the natural environment through building configurations that left ample space for light, air, and transportation. (…) As a challenge to the iconic tall housing block of the modern movement (…) the concept of buildings with interstitial outside spaces was developed to create cities that controlled both the exterior and the interior environments." (Sarkis, H. 2001, Prestel: p. 67)

"Mat Buildings can thus be seen as providing flexible “Shells” to support different activities, in contrast to buildings with function-specific enclosures designed to accommodate predetermined activities.” (Sarkis, H. 2001, Prestel: p. 71)

Flexibility is a KEY word for me, the site will then be able to grow over time, following the module, it can remove parts or add parts at any time. The two first floors are also independent of the two next floors, and they can both change independent of each other.