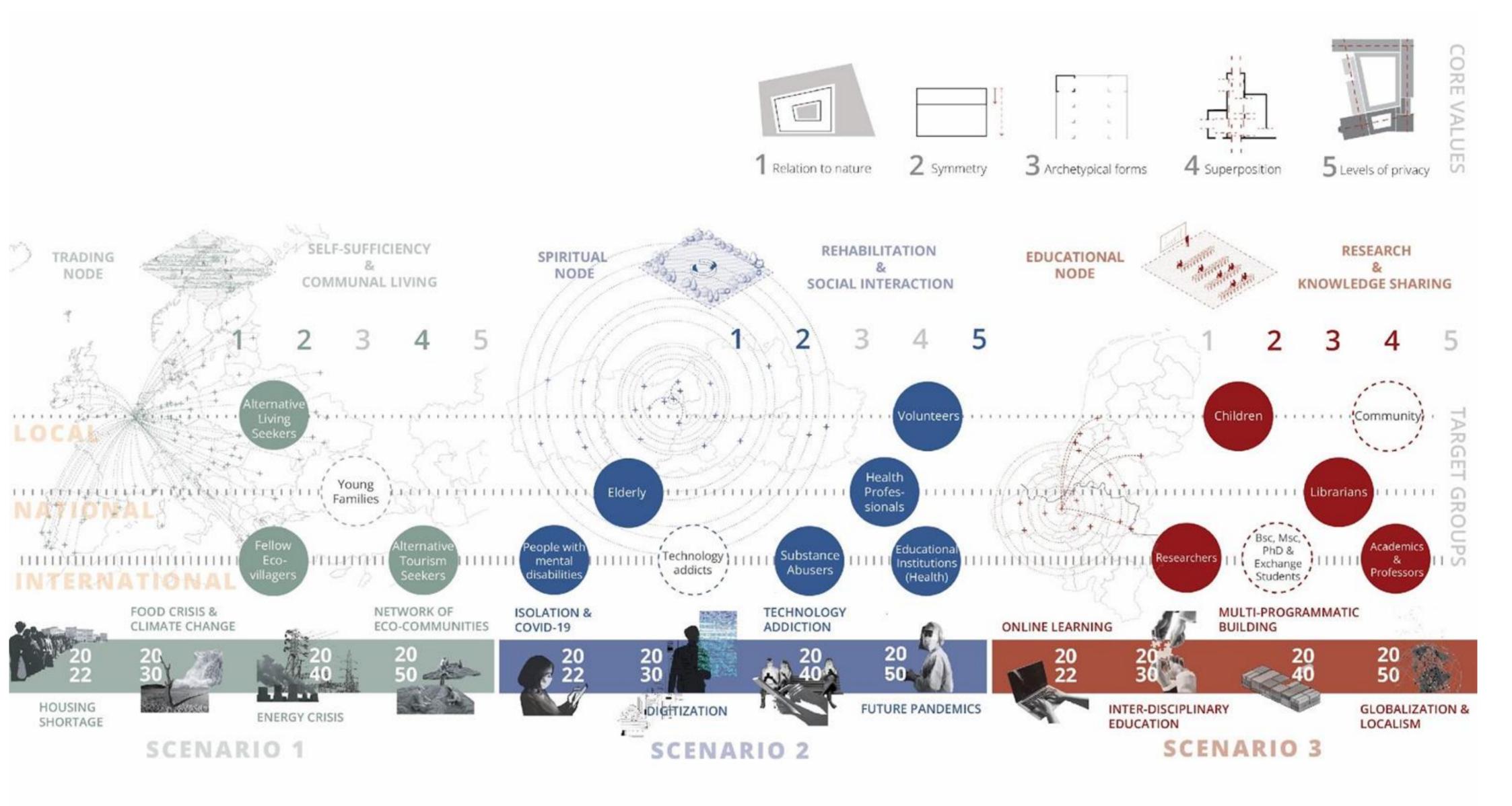
A hub for the mind

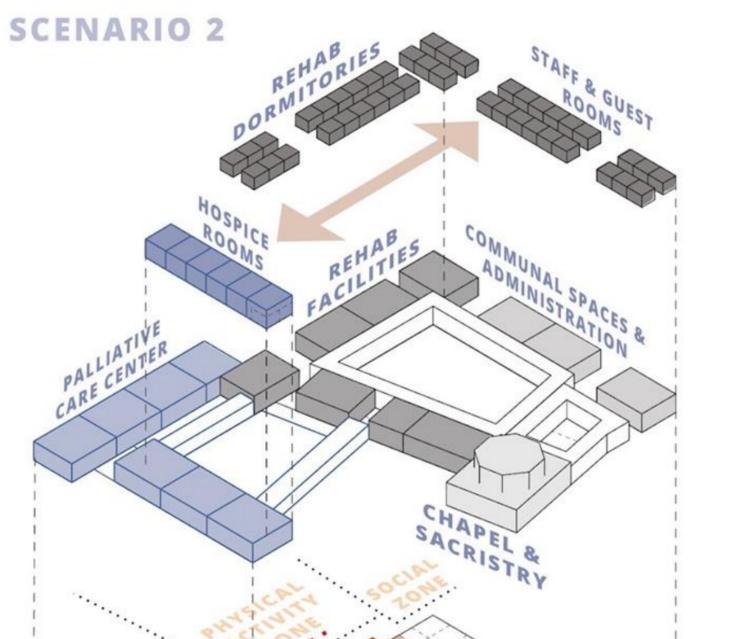
Re-interpreting the role of religious heritage

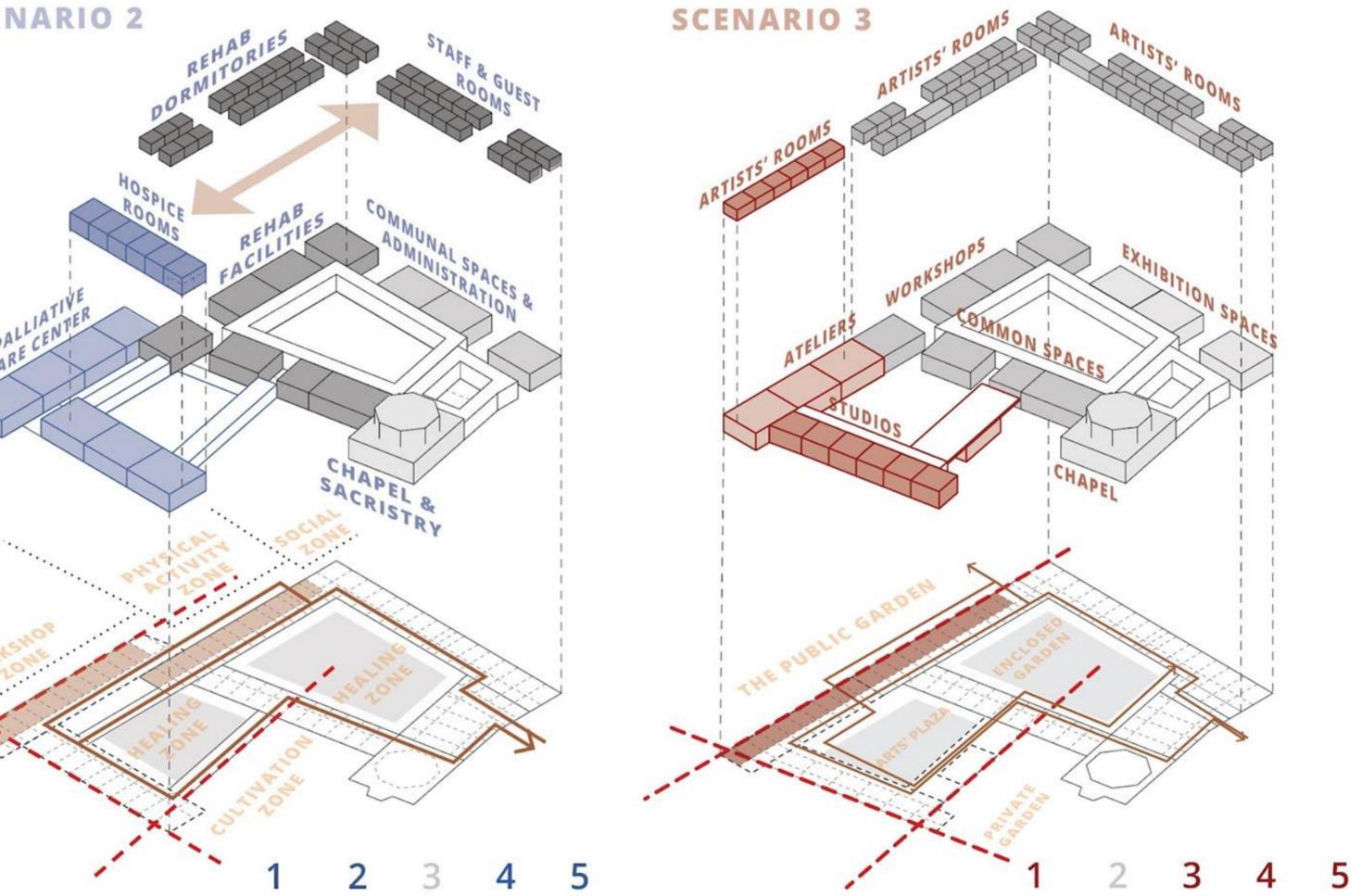
by O.Psarri & P.Spyridonidou



proposed future scenarios aim at The reinterpreting the role of the monastery as a spiritual, trading, and educational node. Focusing on the Bossche School post-war movement in the Netherlands and Flanders, these scenarios were tested in Roosenberg Abbey, designed by Dom van der Laan. Through a process of analysis and valorization, five core values were deduced, referring to the abbey's relation to nature, symmetry, archetypical forms, superposition, and levels of privacy. Each scenario enhances a set of the aforementioned values and addresses diverse target groups on different scales, while promoting sustainability goals. In every case, one aspect is further emphasized; namely, environmental, social, and cultural sustainability through the creation of an ecovillage, a rehabilitation hub, and a research center, respectively.

On a second stage, two scenarios were selected for further experimentation on potential extensions. After identifying and reinterpreting van der Laan's significant design elements, these scenarios were translated spatially. As a compositions result, similar spatial accommodated two distinct functions; a rehabilitation and palliative care center and a co-creation arts hub. The proposed configurations are based on the formation of volumes that reference the existing ones and create a second courtyard. This courtyard activates a circular route inside the building that ensures spatial sequence.





Overall, the exploration of potential futures through the development of heritage scenarios can be employed as a tool to counteract the increasing vacancy of religious buildings without depriving them of their sacral character.

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