

*Rest*

*in*



*Peace?*

# Colofon

REST IN PEACE?

The Death and Life of Urban Cemeteries

Master Graduation Thesis 2025-2026

Pattern Booklet

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*All the visual and photographic material has been produced by the author if not stated otherwise.*

# *Table of Content*

pattern guide	04
strategies	05
working on emotions	06
patterns by theme	07
patterns by scale	08
patterns	09-44
bibliography	45

# pattern guide

Visible icon expresses if the pattern helps:  
bring death in the city      bring life in the cemetery

CODE

Title



*The image is an illustration or association of the pattern*

Pattern synopsis in one sentence

*scale*

S

M

L

*goals*

b	m	c
g	u	p

*emotions*

+

-

+

**ACTION**  
Short description of the pattern, with the reason and how to apply;

**BACK-UP**  
Where this pattern comes from:

Interviews	→	Appendix
Cemeteries	→	Fieldwork journal
Academic sources	→	Bibliography

**WHO?**  
Which party should be responsible for realising this pattern?  
municipality / management / residents / bereaved  
(the spatial designer is commissioned by municipality and management)

**SUPPORTS**  
x

**COUNTERS**  
x

scale of impact  
S = grave / individual  
M = cemetery / community  
L = city

green = which strategies underpin this pattern:

ENVIRONMENTAL	SOCIAL	SPATIAL
biodiversity	multi-functionality	connectivity
urban greening	un-smoothing	proximity

the influence (positive + or negative -) of the pattern on the following emotions:

- 
privacy & security ('geborgenheid')
- 
solidarity & community
- 
flexibility & autonomy

04

# strategies

ENVIRONMENTAL	SOCIAL	SPATIAL
biodiversity	multi-functionality	connectivity
urban greening	un-smoothing	proximity



b	m	c
g	u	p

## Proximity

With the centralisation of cemeteries at the borders of the city, they moved away from daily intercourse. The natural cemetery amplifies this trend because they are located even more rurally, even though more are developed in the vicinity of Dutch cities. Lowering the threshold, higher proximity makes visits easier to do more regularly and spontaneously.

## Biodiversity

Economic and conservative aesthetic reasons move cemeteries to make maintenance decisions which don't benefit the biodiversity of the area. Large parts of grass fields are typical for cemeteries but don't fit with the modern day view on the function of green spaces. By focusing more on establishing biodiversity, the cemetery can add more to the flora and fauna of the region.

## Multi-functionality

Examples of cemeteries where burial is combined with other functions, generally have more daily visitors. From museum Tot Zover at Nieuwe Ooster in Amsterdam, to guided tours at Highgate cemetery in London and a Biergarten at St Jacobi Friedhof in Berlin, these places give people reasons to visit more regularly or extensively and attract new visitors.

## Urban greening

The other way around, urban cemeteries are strong tools to perpetuate green infrastructure in the city centre. Because a cemetery normally does not change function often, the green on the location gets the change to reach maturity and add to cooling the city.

## Un-smoothing

Dutch planning praxis hides the ugly parts of the city, and therefore we hide places where we are unhappy. In his book *The Smooth City* René Boer (2023, p. 149) argues that we need these 'imperfections' and irregularities 'to live life properly'. He talks about places for grief, but also confusion, unpredictability and inconsistency. In the context of this project, un-smoothing is interpreted as the visibility of unhappy emotions and death.

## Connectivity

Cemeteries in Dutch urban context are typically bordered by fences and canals and one or maybe two entrances. The surrounding functions don't interact with the cemetery. Strengthening the physical connection with the neighbourhood and softening the borders will embed the cemetery in the neighbourhood.

# working on emotions

Borrowed from the pattern language made by Stadtlander (2025) about carescapes for young, fluidly housed adults, the pattern cards give information about the influence on three emotion topics. Although emotions will always be subjective and culture-bound, a general estimation of the effect can be made.



## **Privacy & Security (Dutch: geborgenheid)**

This emotion is strongly present in Dutch urban cemeteries in the current form and is extremely valued: it's what distinguishes the space from parks and other public areas. Emotionally, it can oppose the hypothesis of this project to open up the cemetery. Therefore some cards weaken the sense of security, while others focus on keeping the feeling of security.



## **Solidarity & Community**

Centralised and commercialised cemeteries generally have less community involvement. This is a shame as community could bring a cemetery a lot: help with maintenance, organisation of events and more general visitors. This emotion is related to the goals proximity and multi-functionality.



## **Flexibility & Autonomy**

Reasons for limiting agency can be natural, economic or for aesthetic and differ for cemeteries. You can have a certain amount of agency on the location of the grave, on its orientation, on the grave marker expression and the decoration that is allowed on the grave. Natural cemeteries give freedom to choose a place and location, but the options in expression and decoration are minimal. With a Dutch common grave on a traditional cemetery you can most of the times not choose the location, but the freedom in decoration is very big. Another reason for limiting freedom of grave expression is to preserve visual unity and coherence.

A lack of agency diminishes responsibility and in some cases gets in the way of performing rituals for grief. Too much agency can be overwhelming for dying and/or bereaved and can cause visual fragmentation.

# *patterns by theme*

## **Spatial Structure**

- 01 Connected cemeteries
- 02 Transition zone
- 03 No dead-ends
- 04 Gentle grave stones
- 05 Peek-a-boo
- 06 Stairway to heaven
- 07 Symbolic planting

## **Sustainability**

- 08 From lawn to meadow
- 09 Sustainable disposition
- 10 Wildlife meets afterlife
- 11 Stone cold
- 12 Water buffer

## **Good Grief**

- 13 Acts of remembrance
- 14 Place to stay
- 15 A meal on the cemetery
- 16 Sheltered
- 17 Dead silent
- 18 Outdoor ceremony
- 19 Someone to talk to

## **Diverse Programming**

- 20 Voluntary stewardship
- 21 Food production
- 22 Cemetery café
- 23 Every body has a story
- 24 Child-friendly
- 25 Learning ground
- 26 Lease in peace
- 27 Public toilet

## **New Typologies**

- 28 Scattered graves
- 29 Floating urns
- 30 Memorial lights
- 31 Lifecycle
- 32 Parklet grave
- 33 'Til death doesn't do us part
- 34 Rooftop cemetery
- 35 Circular alignment

# *patterns by scale*

## **S**

- 09 Sustainable disposition
- 13 Acts of remembrance
- 14 Place to stay
- 15 A meal on the cemetery
- 23 Every body has a story
- 32 Parklet grave
- 33 'Til death doesn't do us part
- 35 Circular alignment

## **M**

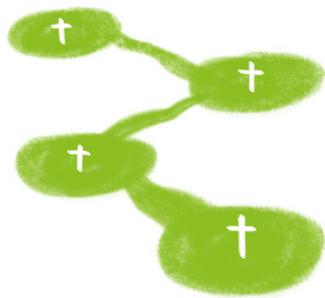
- 02 Transition zone
- 03 No dead-ends
- 04 Gentle grave stones
- 05 Peek-a-boo
- 06 Stairway to heaven
- 07 Symbolic planting
- 08 From lawn to meadow
- 11 Stone cold
- 16 Sheltered
- 17 Dead silent
- 18 Outdoor ceremony
- 19 Someone to talk to
- 20 Voluntary stewardship
- 21 Food production
- 22 Cemetery café
- 24 Child-friendly
- 25 Learning ground
- 26 Lease in peace
- 27 Public toilet
- 29 Floating urns
- 30 Memorial lights
- 31 Lifecycle

## **L**

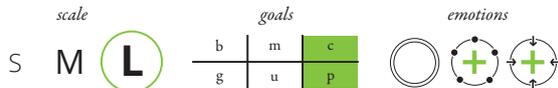
- 01 Connected cemeteries
- 10 Wildlife meets afterlife
- 12 Water buffer
- 28 Scattered graves
- 34 Rooftop cemetery

01

## Connected cemeteries



A network of cemeteries can form a walkable landscape of remembrance.



### ACTION

With many small-scale cemeteries dispersed throughout the city, it becomes possible to walk from one to another as a journey of grief or remembrance. These connections can be shaped and highlighted in different ways: through landscape elements, spaces designed to support mourning, or prompts that invite reflection and conversation about life and loss.

### BACK-UP

Research by design  
Pepijnpad grief path in Amsterdam (Stoker, 2025)

### RESPONSIBILITY

municipality / management / residents / bereaved

### SUPPORTS

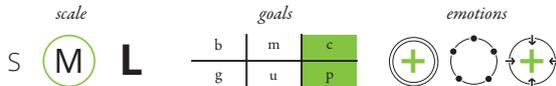
03 No dead-ends  
28 Scattered cemeteries

02

## Transition zone



Designing thresholds for transition, not for seclusion.



### **ACTION**

People want to be aware when they are entering a cemetery, so they can prepare themselves mentally. Spatial elements can support this transition. Rather than isolating and hiding the cemetery, these elements should mark a gradual shift in atmosphere and experience.

### **BACK-UP**

Jaffa Cemetery Delft,  
Kok (2021)

### **RESPONSIBILITY**

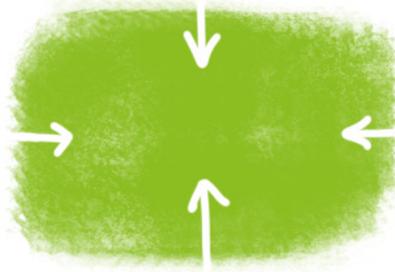
municipality / management / residents / bereaved

### **SUPPORTS**

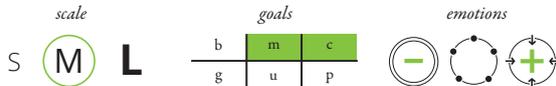
01 Connected cemeteries  
05 Peek-a-boo

03

## No dead-ends



The cemetery as part of the daily commute, stroll or run by cut-through routes.



### **ACTION**

Multiple entrances make it easier to add a cemetery to a daily stroll or longer hike, attracting more people to the place. Make the entrances on meaningful connections with the urban fabric.

### **BACK-UP**

Assistens Copenhagen,  
Skogskyrkogården Stockholm,  
interview Sander Klaassen (appendix A5)

### **RESPONSIBILITY**

municipality / management / residents / bereaved

### **SUPPORTS**

01 Connected cemeteries

04

## Gentle grave stones



Subtle grave markers to maintain a harmonious, park-like character in the cemetery.



### **ACTION**

Subtle grave markers prevent a landscape crowded with mixed hardstone and reduce the “in-your-face” feel of a traditional cemetery. This controlled expression preserves the woodland’s openness, creating a serene, uncluttered, park-like environment that remains inviting and harmonious over time.

### **BACK-UP**

Skogskyrkogården Stockholm,  
Kok (2021)

### **RESPONSIBILITY**

municipality / management / residents / bereaved

### **SUPPORTS**

x

05

## Peek-a-boo



Opening the cemetery border to offer a peek into the place reduces the mystery.



### **ACTION**

Generally, Dutch cemeteries are bordered by closed walls or hedges, closing the place off from lines of sight. The edge of a cemetery should offer a look inside, so people are prepared for what they can find inside and there is more social control.

### **BACK-UP**

Highgate London,  
Kok (2021)

### **RESPONSIBILITY**

municipality management / residents / bereaved

### **SUPPORTS**

02 Transition zone



07

## Symbolic planting



Thoughtful plant selection enriches a cemetery's meaning and image.



### ACTION

When designing planting schemes for a cemetery, it's a missed opportunity not to consider symbolism. Many plants carry associations with death and grief, such as weeping tree varieties. Piet Oudolf's year-round gardens also show how plant species can remain visually compelling even in dormant or dead state.

### BACK-UP

'A plant is only worth growing if it looks nice when it's dead.' - Piet Oudolf

### RESPONSIBILITY

municipality / management, residents, bereaved

### SUPPORTS

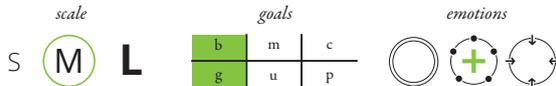
02 Transition zone

08

## From lawn to meadow



Transforming underused cemetery lawns into diverse planted landscapes for biodiversity.



### ACTION

Vacant or open areas in cemeteries are often just clipped lawns: a monotonous landscape with little variety. By transforming these spaces into richer, more diverse plantings, the cemetery can significantly contribute to local biodiversity.

### BACK-UP

Clayden et al. (2018)

### RESPONSIBILITY

municipality / management / residents / bereaved

### SUPPORTS

10 Wildlife meets afterlife

11 Water buffer

09

## Sustainable disposition



Promoting and regulating sustainable burial practices, to reduce environmental harm.



### **ACTION**

Traditional burial and cremation are hurtful for the environment and soil. Sustainable alternatives can minimise the impact of death on the environment, even to a level of giving back instead of taking more. Cemetery management should provide information on sustainable decisions and draw up regulations on what can be buried and what can be done with ashes.

### **BACK-UP**

Zomerlanden natural cemetery/Interview Marina Fidder (appendix A4)

### **RESPONSIBILITY**

municipality / management / residents / bereaved

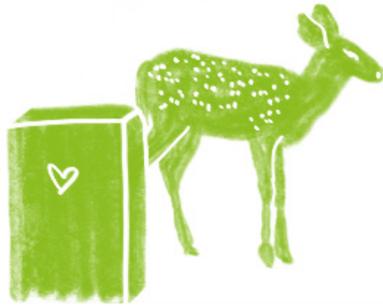
### **SUPPORTS**

10 Wildlife meets afterlife

30 Memorial lights

10

## Wildlife meets afterlife



Cemeteries can serve as vital green refuges that support wildlife.



### **ACTION**

In urbanizing areas, it becomes harder for animals and insects to find a home, while they are important to have around. Cemeteries are green islands in cities or are part of a larger green structure, therefore they can host different species. Besides, nature elements on cemeteries bring comforting experiences for visitors.

### **BACK-UP**

Highgate cemetery London  
Straka et. all (2022)

### **RESPONSIBILITY**

municipality / management / residents / bereaved

### **SUPPORTS**

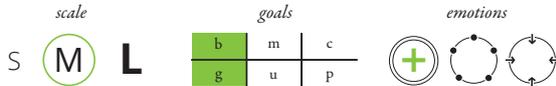
08 From lawn to meadow

11

## Stone cold



The cemetery as place to cool down during hot Summer days.



### **ACTION**

In large urban areas, heat stress is getting stronger every year so it is important to have places nearby to cool down. Old historical cemeteries are proven to be better at cooling the surrounding area than city parks due to the age of the trees. Protect this characteristic and be open to visitors in need of cooling.

### **BACK-UP**

Stumpe et all. (2024)

### **RESPONSIBILITY**

municipality / management / residents / bereaved

### **SUPPORTS**

14 Place to stay

17 Dead silent

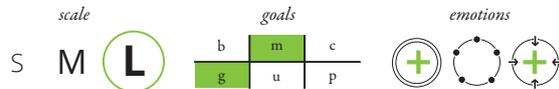
28 Scattered graves

12

## Water buffer



Storing water on-site in urban small-scale cemeteries.



### **ACTION**

Starting a cemetery within urban context, one way to look at the cemetery is the benefit of greening the area. One of the benefits is better water retention on location, relieving pressure from the sewer and lowering the chance of flooding.

### **BACK-UP**

x

### **RESPONSIBILITY**

municipality / management / residents / bereaved

### **SUPPORTS**

08 From lawn to meadow

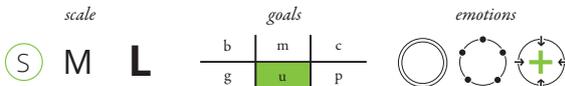
29 Floating urns

# 13

## Acts of remembrance



Rethinking how remembrance is expressed, to offer meaningful alternatives to traditional grave decorations.



### **ACTION**

Visitors often want to do something for the person they're remembering—typically cleaning the grave, planting or watering flowers, and adding decorations. However, this can create clutter, and in natural cemeteries exotic plants may harm the ecosystem. New, alternative forms of remembrance should be explored, possibly drawing inspiration from other cultures.

### **BACK-UP**

Nieuwe Ooster Amsterdam, interview Marina Fidder (appendix A4), interview Bart Brands (appendix A7), informal conversations (appendix B)

### **RESPONSIBILITY**

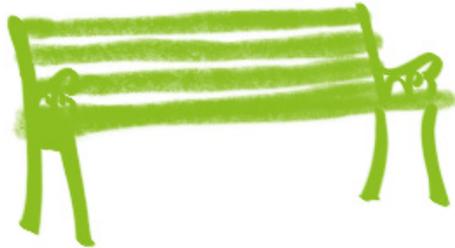
municipality / management / residents / bereaved

### **SUPPORTS**

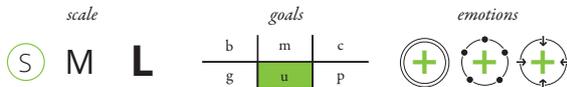
23 Every body has a story

14

## Place to stay



Being able to sit down and take a moment, wherever you need it.



### **ACTION**

A bench (and table) in the right location can serve for a good conversation, shared meal or contemplation. It can be a first step towards a new ritual.

### **BACK-UP**

Assistens Copenhagen,  
Järva cemetery,  
informal conversations (appendix B),  
interview Bart Brands (appendix A7)

### **RESPONSIBILITY**

municipality / management / residents / bereaved

### **SUPPORTS**

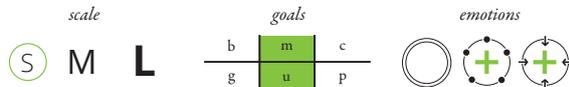
15 A meal on the cemetery  
16 Sheltered

15

## *A meal on the cemetery*



Places for having a meal as a vital medium through which grief, memory, and connection are expressed.



### **ACTION**

Across many cultures, food plays an important role in rituals of mourning. Providing picnic tables within the cemetery allows individuals and families to share a meal near the grave, to eat together with the person who is missed. These places can take different forms: secluded and intimate, openly public, or flexible and movable depending on the situation.

### **BACK-UP**

Interview Bart Brands

Día de los Muertos (Mexican celebration day)

Radonitsa (Russian gravesite feast)

### **RESPONSIBILITY**

municipality / management / residents / bereaved

### **SUPPORTS**

14 Place to stay

21 Food production

22 Cemetery café

16

## Sheltered



Care for cemetery visitors by providing shelter for extreme weather scenarios.



### ACTION

Rain or storms don't diminish the need to visit a grave; if anything, they can make the experience more cathartic. Providing shelters from rain, snow, wind, or sun shows care for visitors. These can range from mature tree canopies, which take time to grow, to small roofs, tents, or huts.

### BACK-UP

Skogskyrkogården Stockholm, interpretation of New Death Movement (Westendorp & Gould, 2021)

### RESPONSIBILITY

municipality / management / residents / bereaved

### SUPPORTS

14 Place to stay

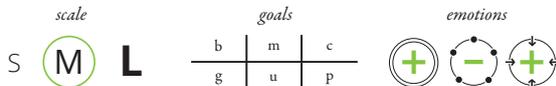
17 Dead silent

17

## Dead silent



Balancing public areas with private refuge allows cemeteries to support many forms of grief.



### **ACTION**

Everyone grieves differently and requires different conditions within a cemetery. As cemeteries become more public, it becomes increasingly important to preserve spaces for privacy, where individuals can withdraw from view and be alone with their thoughts.

### **BACK-UP**

Järva begravningsplats Stockholm,  
Zuiderbegraafplaats Rotterdam

### **RESPONSIBILITY**

municipality / management / residents / bereaved

### **SUPPORTS**

14 Place to stay

16 Sheltered

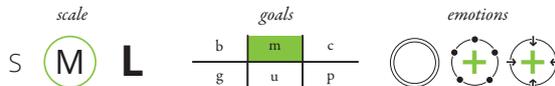


19

## Someone to talk to



Spaces for conversation and shared reflection, cemeteries can take on a meaningful social role within the city.



### **ACTION**

For people in grief, talking helps. This can be in the form of someone who listens and doesn't judge, or in conversation with people going through the same experience. Organising a place or moment for this, gives the cemetery a social function in the city.

### **BACK-UP**

Bosdrift Hilversum/interview Anita van Loon (appendix , informal conversations (appendix B)

### **RESPONSIBILITY**

municipality management / residents / bereaved

### **SUPPORTS**

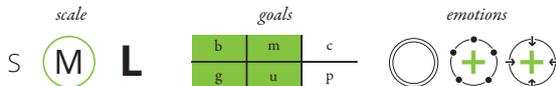
20 Voluntary stewardship  
22 Cemetery café

20

## Voluntary stewardship



Actively involving volunteers in both the care and programming of a cemetery strengthens its community role.



### ACTION

Involvement of volunteers is crucial if a cemetery wants to do more than burying the deceased. They can help with organising event, maintenance or tours. The other way around, it's important to engage them in all aspects of the cemetery and make it a two-way street.

### BACK-UP

Highgate cemetery London  
St Jacobi Berlin

### RESPONSIBILITY

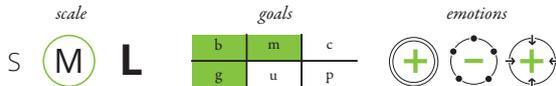
municipality / management residents bereaved

### SUPPORTS

19 Someone to talk to  
21 Food production  
25 Learning ground



Edible planting transforms cemeteries into places that nourish both memory and community.



### ACTION

Vegetation that produces food can transform a cemetery into a place of sustenance as well as remembrance. This can take the form of a food forest with fruit and nut trees, or a shared garden integrated into the burial landscape. Harvested produce can be used on site or sold locally.

### BACK-UP

Krabben (2023),  
St Jacobi Berlin

### RESPONSIBILITY

municipality / management residents bereaved

### SUPPORTS

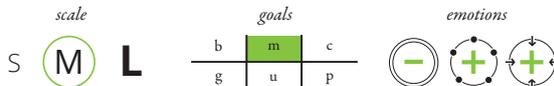
20 Voluntary stewardship  
22 Cemetery cafe

22

## Cemetery café



A café as informal place to stay and have a drink on the cemetery.



### ACTION

A cemetery café can offer a place to pause and stay after a funeral, or organise a ceremony in a more informal setting. The possibility to have a drink can support everyday use by allowing visitors to integrate a cemetery visit into their daily routines, while also attracting people who may not come to visit a grave but who value the characteristics of the cemetery.

### BACK-UP

St Jacobi Berlin  
Informal conversations

### RESPONSIBILITY

municipality / management / residents / bereaved

### SUPPORTS

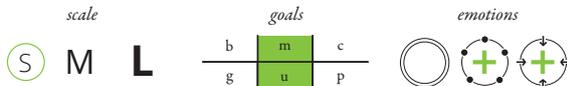
19 Someone to talk to  
21 Food production

23

## Every body has a story



Every life has a story worth telling. The cemetery can be a library of lives.



### **ACTION**

A cemetery is not just a collection of stones, it's a place for memory. Gather information on the people who lie on location or ask relatives. You can use QR-codes linking to a webpage or a Spotify playlist, or organise tours about the cemetery and its 'residents'.

### **BACK-UP**

Highgate Cemetery London,  
Skogskyrkogården Stockholm

### **RESPONSIBILITY**

municipality / management / residents / bereaved

### **SUPPORTS**

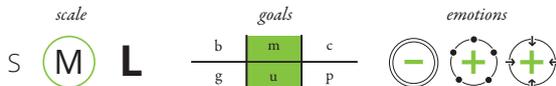
13 Acts of remembrance  
25 Learning ground

24

## Child-friendly



Introducing cemeteries to children through gentle, playful elements.



### **ACTION**

It's important for a child to have a soft introduction with the cemetery and with death. Playful and interactive elements can make a visit more pleasant, resulting in easier visits in the future.

### **BACK-UP**

Ariès (1974, pg 51)  
Zuiderbegraafplaats Rotterdam,  
St Laurentius Rotterdam/interview Theo van  
Werkhoven (appendix A1)

### **RESPONSIBILITY**

municipality / management residents / bereaved

### **SUPPORTS**

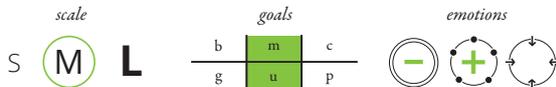
25 Learning ground  
26 Lease in peace

25

## Learning ground



By hosting educational programs, the cemetery becomes a space to share knowledge.



### ACTION

Cemeteries are places shaped by history, natural processes, and social meaning, and therefore they are well suited to educational activities. Whether through an indoor museum or (guided) outdoor (nature-based) tours, education can introduce new functions to the cemetery while deepening visitors' understanding of the site and its themes.

### BACK-UP

Nieuwe Ooster Amsterdam  
Kok (2021)

### RESPONSIBILITY

municipality / management / residents / bereaved

### SUPPORTS

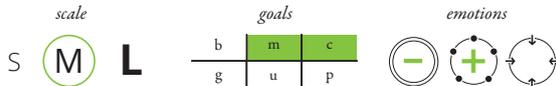
23 Every body has a story  
24 Child-friendly

26

## Lease in peace



Leasing unused cemetery areas to community groups to strengthen local connections.



### **ACTION**

When a cemetery is coping with vacancy, empty sections can be leased out to associations looking for (outdoor) space. This creates stronger community ties with the world outside and generates steady revenue that helps cover the cemetery's general costs.

### **BACK-UP**

Interview Bart Brands about Friedhof Ohlsdorf, Hamburg (appendix A7)

### **RESPONSIBILITY**

municipality / management / residents / bereaved

### **SUPPORTS**

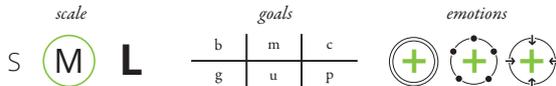
21 Food production

24 Child-friendly

27

*Public toilet*

Integrating public toilets acknowledges the cemetery as a place of care and everyday use.

**ACTION**

As public spaces with an important social function, cemeteries can express care for their visitors by providing accessible public toilets. This supports longer visits and makes the space more welcoming for people with health conditions that require frequent access to facilities.

**BACK-UP**

Crooswijk Cemetery Rotterdam  
Skogskyrkogården Stockholm  
Interpretation of New Death Movement

**RESPONSIBILITY**

municipality / management / residents / bereaved

**SUPPORTS**

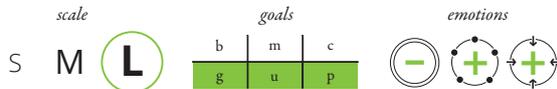
18 Outdoor ceremony

28

## Scattered graves



Breaking down the scale of the cemetery to spread through the city.



### **ACTION**

By breaking down the scale of modern-day cemeteries, the connection between burial ground and local community can be reinstated. This brings cemeteries closer to people's homes, therefore easier to visit and maintain.

### **BACK-UP**

Alexander (1977, p. 354-357)

### **RESPONSIBILITY**

municipality / management / residents / bereaved

### **SUPPORTS**

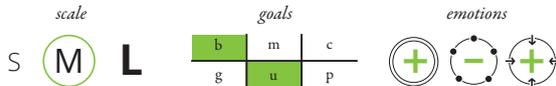
12 Water buffer  
32 Parklet grave  
34 Rooftop cemetery

29

## Floating urns



A floating urn pond offers a dynamic alternative to traditional ash storage.



### ACTION

Around 70% of the Dutch population chooses cremation as form of body disposition. Yet there are few meaningful, public typologies for the placement of ashes beyond the columbarium. A floating urn pond offers an alternative way of commemorating the deceased by allowing urns to drift gently on the surface of a body of water. Instead of being fixed in place, the urns move slowly with wind and current, creating a living and changing memorial landscape.

### BACK-UP

Research by design

### RESPONSIBILITY

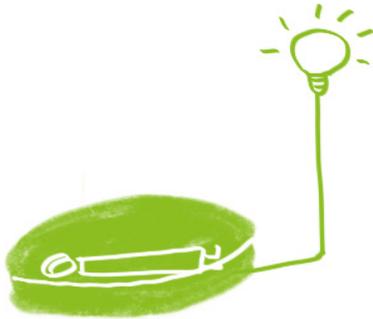
municipality / management / residents / bereaved

### SUPPORTS

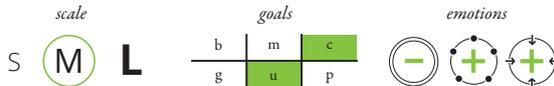
- 10 Wildlife meets afterlife
- 12 Water buffer

30

## Memorial lights



Human composting transforms death into a visible, regenerative process that produces energy to fuel lights.



### ACTION

Human composting offers a new and sustainable form of body disposition, in which the anaerobic process produces organic fertilizer and energy. A concept from Columbia University's DeathLAB, the energy is used to fuel a memorial light (Upmeyer, 2019). This makes the disposal process visible and can be used to light up and give meaning to public space.

*'Especially in today's fractured world, we need reminders of our intertwined lives and our shared obligation, not only to one another, but to the future of the planet.'*

– Karla Rothstein

### BACK-UP

> Rothstein & Staudt (2021)

### RESPONSIBILITY

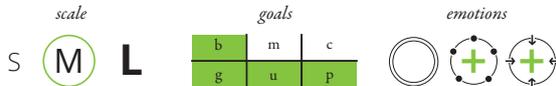
municipality / management / residents / bereaved

### SUPPORTS

09 Sustainable disposition



Human composting reframes death as a contribution to the greening the city.



### ACTION

In cities, vital soil is essential for water infiltration and urban vegetation, but it is a limited resource. Human composting offers a new and sustainable form of body disposition, in which the aerobic process results in a substantial amount of nutrient-rich soil. Though not yet legal in the Netherlands, the American company Recompose states that one body yields approximately 750 liters of usable soil. This material can be used to support urban greening projects or to enrich private gardens.

### BACK-UP

Recompose (n.d.)

### RESPONSIBILITY

municipality / management / residents / bereaved

### RELATED

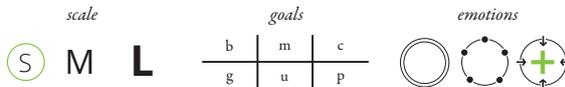
09 Sustainable disposition  
32 Parklet grave



33

*'Til death doesn't do us part*

Joint disposal as a new grave typology to be together forever.

**ACTION**

In the concept version of the new Dutch law on the disposal of human remains (Dutch: *Wet bestemming lichamen van overledenen*), it is proposed that multiple bodies may be disposed of together, provided that none of them has been disposed of previously. If adopted, this change could enable new grave typologies. Legalising joint disposal would give individuals and bereaved families greater agency in decisions surrounding death and burial.

**BACK-UP**

Rijksoverheid (2024)

**RESPONSIBILITY**

municipality / management / residents / bereaved

**SUPPORTS**

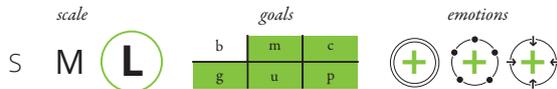
Circular alignment

34

## Rooftop cemetery



Bring underused rooftop to life by adding a cemetery function.



### ACTION

In Dutch cities, open ground-level space is scarce, while rooftop space is abundant. In Rotterdam alone, rooftops cover approximately 18.5 km<sup>2</sup> (Rotterdamse Dakendagen, n.d.). Initiatives demonstrate how these surfaces can be transformed into blue, green, and publicly accessible spaces. Rooftops share a similar semi-public character with many contemporary cemeteries. Introducing a burial function here can bring places of remembrance closer to everyday life.

### BACK-UP

Research by design

### RESPONSIBILITY

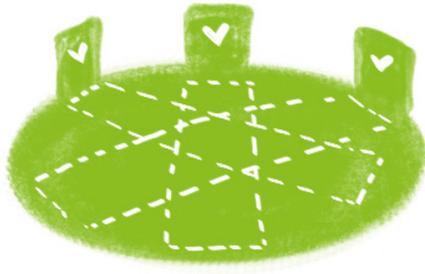
municipality / management / residents / bereaved

### SUPPORTS

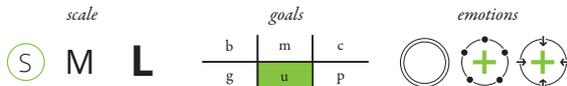
28 Scattered graves

35

## Circular alignment



Replacing rigid rows with a more flexible arrangement that allows personalised orientation.



### ACTION

Rather than arranging graves in rigid rows, a circular grave layout allows for greater flexibility in orientation. This makes it possible to align graves according to spatial qualities, symbolic meanings or religious traditions, while creating a more thoughtful and less utilitarian burial landscape.

### BACK-UP

Inspired by Zomerlanden natural cemetery interactive map (Zomerlanden, n.d.)

### RESPONSIBILITY

municipality / management / residents / bereaved

### SUPPORTS

x

*XX*

*Etcetera!*



**ACTION**

X

**BACK-UP**

X

**RESPONSIBILITY**

X

**SUPPORTS**

X

The pattern language can be expanded infinitely with more cards.



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