

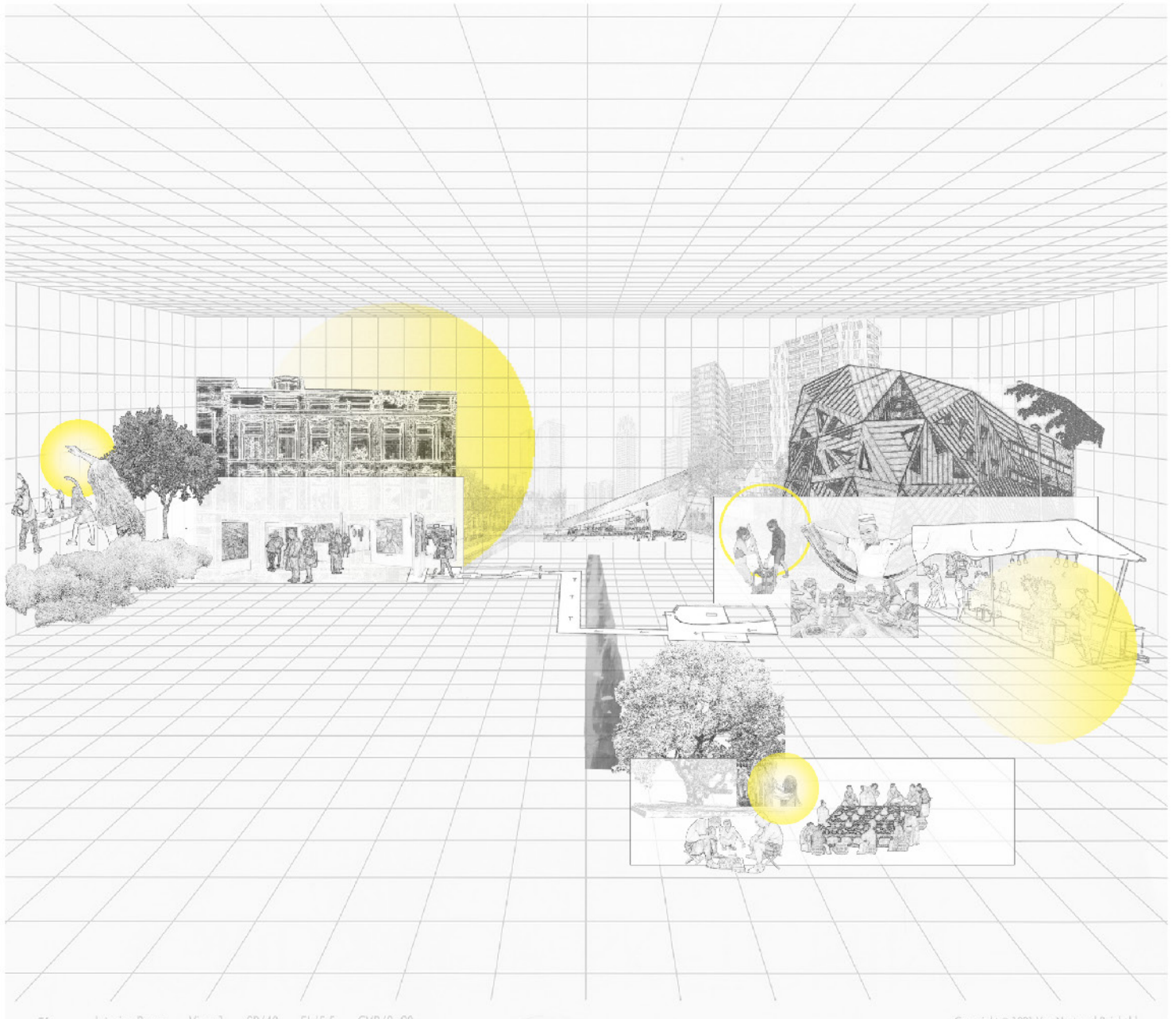
Next, Chinatown

Community Design for Transforming Rotterdam Chinatown

Master thesis

XU Ziqi

June 2023



COLOPHON

Next, Chinatown

Community Design for Transforming Rotterdam Chinatown

Master Thesis

June 2023

Technische Universiteit Delft

Faculty of Architecture

MSc Architecture, Urbanism and Building Sciences

MSc track Urbanism

Graduation studio of Urban Design: Design of the Urban Fabric

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Abstract

This report investigates the role of urban designers in multicultural societies, particularly in contexts where spatial design intersects with diverse cultural layers. By focusing on Rotterdam Chinatown as a case study, the report presents an experimental community design methodology that integrates top-down and bottom-up decision-making processes. Emphasizing the significance of cultural communities as essential units for engaging with complex urban environments, the study explores the intersection of spatial design and community development methodologies. The methodology utilizes open spaces as a medium to stimulate communication and resource links within the Chinese community in the context of globalization.

The research follows a comprehensive approach, starting with a preliminary background study and proceeds to develop a set of customized pattern languages as communication, learning, and design tools. These tools aim to actively engage the Rotterdam Chinatown community and the Chinese community in Rotterdam. The methodology's effectiveness is evaluated through a live event held in public spaces of Rotterdam Chinatown, functioning as a performance to assess the co-created vision among stakeholders.

The study contributes to a refined understanding of the requirements and aspirations of the Chinese community in Rotterdam. The final outcome presents a revised pattern language and scenario design, specifically tailored to the unique conditions and needs of Rotterdam Chinatown. The participatory design methodology showcased in this research fosters a sense of ownership and empowerment among community members, encouraging active participation in shaping the future of the community through a bottom-up approach.

Keywords: Urban design, community development, multiculturalism, participatory design, bottom-up approach, Rotterdam Chinatown, public space

Acknowledgement

I am often grateful for these two precious years in my life that have brought me closer to a goal I once felt was out of my reach. Thanks to this program, I have been able to feel more authentically genuine, kind and beautiful occurrences.

First of all I would like to thank TU Delft for providing me with such an inclusive ground and unconditional moral and material support for my development as an individual. Instead of being treated weakly, I was encouraged to find my own uniqueness as the only non-design background student in this program. I was thus able to find my own position and place in the profession with such confidence. I am especially grateful to Maurice and Suzana, my mentors, for always supporting my ideas unconditionally, inspiring me with their wisdom, and supporting me with all their resources. I am grateful for the spiritual connection that comes from the knowledge I have gained in every meeting. I am grateful for their enthusiasm and sincerity each time, allowing me to be the key motivation to produce this project. They have also given me the freedom to think, to keep my options open, and to always be on my side to guide me forward. Secondly, I would like to thank Marco, who, although not a nominal mentor, was the one who listened carefully to my questions about my major in the summer of 2022 and recommended the topic for me, taking into account my background. He also kept an eye on the development of the project during the year of practice and helped me to organize the workshop in a more organized way. I would also like to thank my studio, design of the urban fabric, and the studio's coordinator Birgit, for effectively providing us with tools and linking each student to the resources they needed.

Secondly, I am very grateful to all the community members and platforms I have met during the process of building this community, and I thank them for their unconditional trust. I am grateful to the Goethe Institut for agreeing to fully support me when I had only a research proposal, for allowing me to use Goethe's space freely, and for providing full support, both human and non-human, when I organized events. The Goethe Institut was the most important part of the success or failure of the whole project. Thank you, Lucas and David, for sharing your stories so openly with me and for retaining your precious respect and kindness for me to learn about the precious history of the Chinese in the Netherlands. Thank you Nico and Arjan for doing all you can to introduce me to all the people who might help, without them I would not have been able to develop my link to Chinatown. Thanks to Chaxart, Spring Onion Atlier and GrowthU for their personal trust and attention to the project, and for the valuable work they have put into the project, together they have achieved a cross-border link and cooperation that the Dutch Chinese community has never achieved before. The way we worked and communicated together and gave our all was very moving, thank you for making this happen. I would also like to thank Lysander for his willingness to design, produce and assemble the materials for this project on a pro bono basis, even though we had never met before. I am always impressed by Lysander's enthusiasm and optimism about design, and it was a great experience to work with him. I would also like to thank all my volunteers, graphic designers and my

dear friend and media operator Angos, for your wisdom and love of the project, which ensured the quality of the community output and gave me a lot of strength.

I would also like to thank Liu Yuelai, Zhang Tang, and Zhao Hui that may not be directly related to the project, but did inspire me. The conversations with them and the specific case studies not only spurred me on, but also made me believe more strongly in the good.

Very importantly, I am especially grateful for the companionship of my dear family and friends, who accompanied me and encouraged me during so many difficult and torturous days, when I was in self-doubt and confusion. It made me choose more firmly to pick up and put down. Thanks to the understanding of my friends, who always stand by my side when I need space for myself. And when I need help, they immediately pull me in.

Finally I would also like to thank myself for my willingness to spend time my stubbornness, my loneliness to get along well, for cherishing myself, for never giving up on myself, and for my goodwill and belief in the world.

This project cannot be replicated a second time because each moment is unique.






663

Identification Certificate

CONSULATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA
AT THE PORT OF NEW YORK
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



I hereby certify that:

Name Zee Chin Sen in Chinese: 徐吉才

Age: 26, Date of Birth: 15th day of 1st Moon
in the 20th year of Kwang Su (1894).

Place of Birth: Village Chong Wong Miao (冲王庙), District,
Tsin Noi (镇海), Province Chekiang (浙江), China.

Whose photograph is hereto attached and whose personal description is as follows:

Height: 5 feet: 7 inches. Color: Yellow Eyes: Dark

Personal peculiarities:

Is known to me to be a Citizen of the REPUBLIC OF CHINA and I hereby
recognize him as such.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Consulate
at the City of New York on this Seventeenth
day of Ninth month in the Ninth
Year of the Republic of China. (Sept. 17th, 1920.)

[Signature]
CHINESE CONSUL AT NEW YORK

Certificate No. A 9/2204.

SEAMAN

About 100 years ago, the first group of Chinese traveled to the Netherlands at Katendrecht, Rotterdam. They moved to a strange country with totally different cultural and living environment. They missed the everything from hometown, and had been trying to build up their connection with the motherland on the other side of the planet.

The first Chinese restaurant opened, followed by a pawnshop and travel agency. A cluster of Chinese gathering at an area at the port of Katendrecht thus called Chinatown. It was the biggest Chinatown in the whole of Europe at tht time.



Katendrecht in 1930s



mixed-blood family picture
(photo provided by David Zee family)



The first Chinese entrepreneurs' group in Netherlands
(photo provided by David Zee family)

David Zee's grandfather was one of the earliest Chinese community arriving in the Netherlands since 1990s. The first group was all sailors originally from the coastal area of mainland china.

They had a enclosed community. People knew each other. Men who chose to stay married Dutch women. Therefore, all the second-generation Chinese at that time were half Dutch and Half Chinese with mixed-blood look. They all experienced racism and discrimination, and have been struggling to figure out their identities in this exotic land.

CHONG KOK LOW

茶樓

菜晏常便
時款餅食

中國

晨早茗茶
鮮明飽點

中國樓

CHONG KOK LOW

VERLOF
YUEN WAH
KITCHEN

15

VERLOF A

15

15

SE

Content

Introduction

Chapter 1 Background 16

Chinese Community in Rotterdam
Theory study

Chapter 2 Research Framework 38

Problem Statement
Conceptual framework
Research Aim & research question
Methodology

Chapter 3 Perspective from Current Chinatown in Rotterdam 44

Qualitative research of Chinatown entrepreneurs
Perspective from young generation Chinese in Rotterdam
Policy analysis
On-site analysis

Chapter 4 Pattern Language Design & Participatory Workshop 70

Pattern Language Design
Stakeholder Workshop
Visions from Chinese community
Visions from NGOs and municipality Rotterdam
Big vision map
Conclusion

Chapter 5 Spot Spatial Analysis 98

Function Analysis
Connectness

Chapter 6 Concept Production 104

- Concept production
- Reasons of holding a public event
- Site selection
- Spatial translation
- Conclusion

Chapter 7 Vision Day Construction & Performance 116

- Project direction
- Event curation
- Event content
- Feedbacks from visitors

Chapter 8 Scenario Imagination 144

- Scenario imagination
- Pattern language for Chinatown
- Connect neighborhood with Chinatown
- Connect Rotterdam centrum with Chinatown
- Scenario design of consistency
- Values of patterns
- Policy recommendation

Chapter 9 Conclusion and Reflection 158

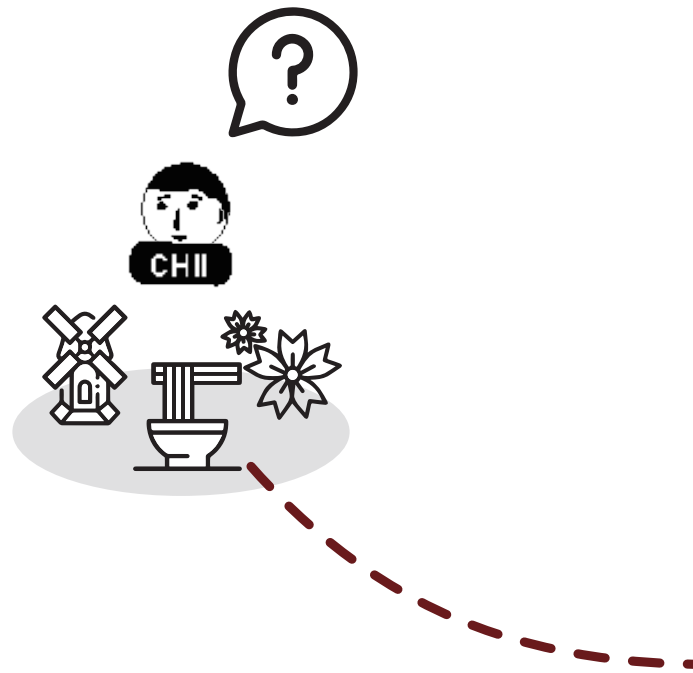
- Findings
- Implication and limitation
- Conclusion statement

Reference List

Appendix







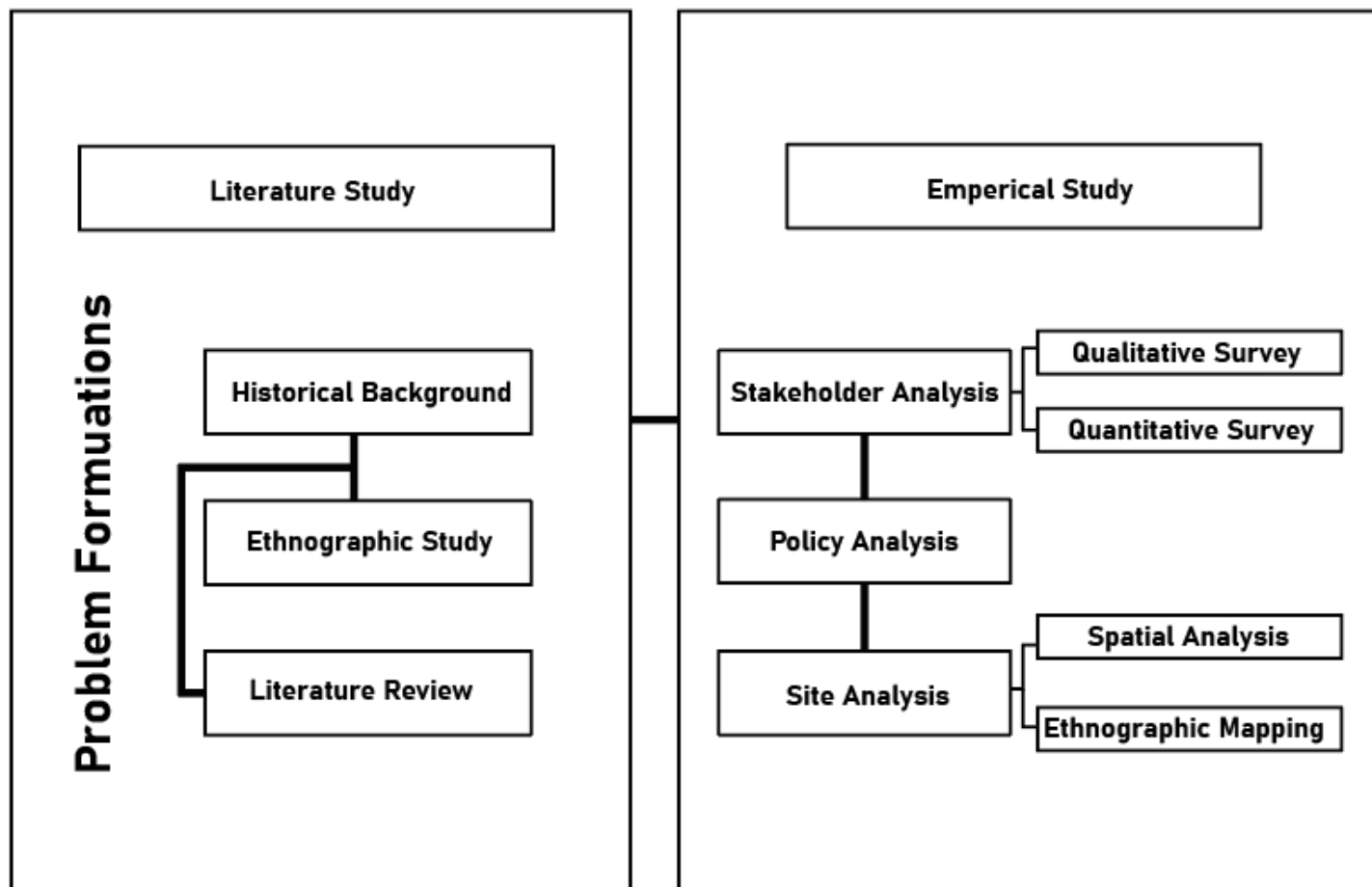
Motivation

For my graduation project, I want to further understand the communication and the semiotics of communal spaces. I want to utilize design as a tool to experiment with the interaction between people and place attachment, under the context of cultural-crossing community.

My experience crossing with western and eastern cultures gives me the insight to observe the urban landscape as an outsider as well as a local. Therefore, through the graduation project, I want to explore more **relationships between communal cultural identities with spatial elements**. Then, I want to create a communal space that is genuinely welcomed by the local community and enhances their local identities from a bottom-up approach.



Research framework

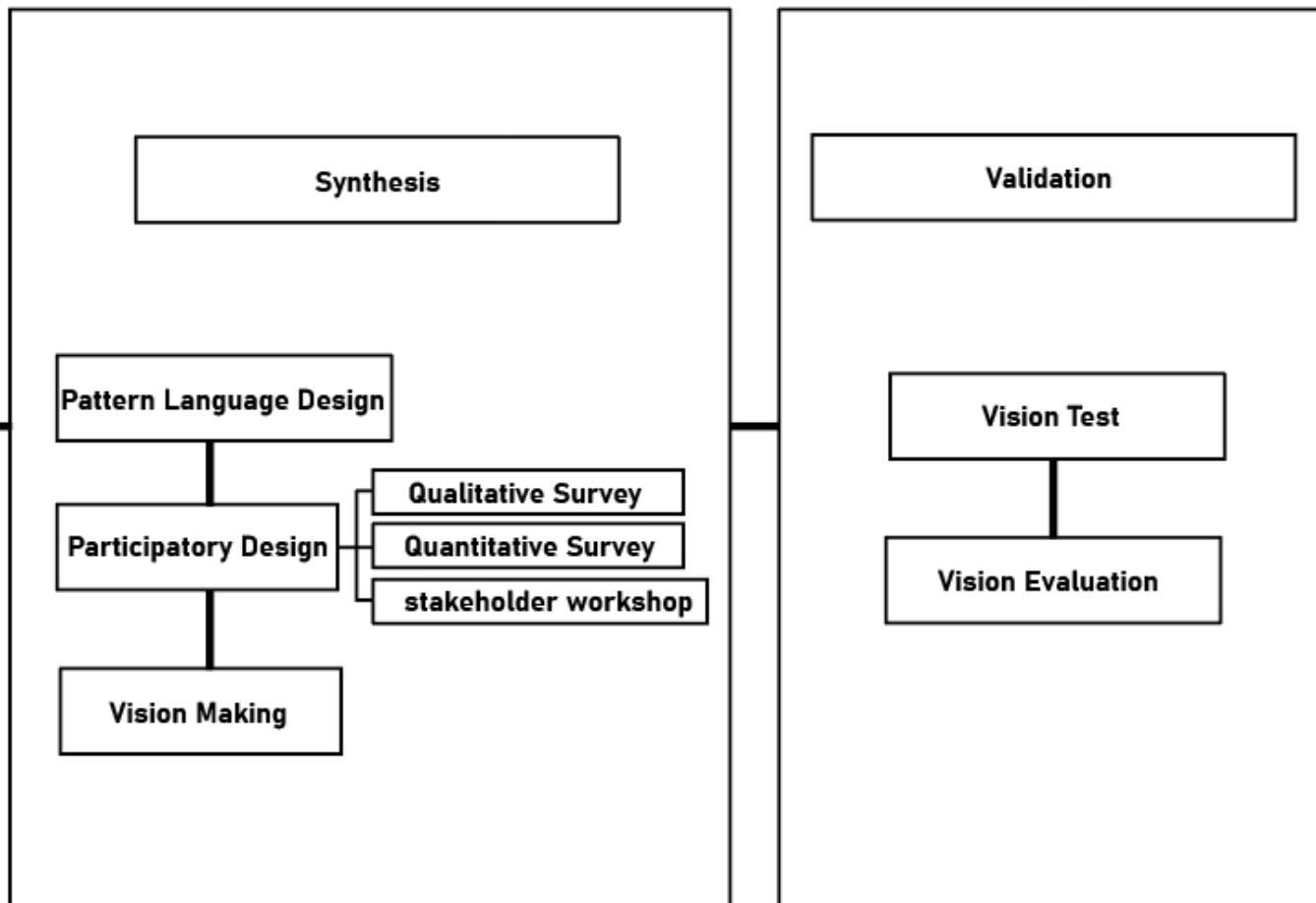


Societal relevance

This project examines the societal relevance of urban design by investigating how cultural communities adapt and evolve within new cultural contexts in an era of globalization. Focusing on the relationship between the Chinese community and Rotterdam's Chinatown, the study serves as a case study to analyze the dynamics of diversity within immigrant communities, the evolution of community development, and the significance of local community building.

In a multicultural society where cultural communities are fundamental building blocks of the city, the project explores how the design of physical spaces can effectively support the development of these communities and foster their autonomy. By understanding the unique needs, aspirations, and challenges faced by cultural communities, the research aims to identify strategies and approaches in urban design that can facilitate community growth, inclusivity, and empowerment.

By delving into the complexities of community dynamics and the transformation of cultural identities, the project contributes to a broader societal understanding of how urban design can be a catalyst for social cohesion, cultural exchange, and the nurturing of vibrant multicultural neighborhoods. The findings and insights derived from this study hold relevance for urban planners, policymakers, and designers seeking to create inclusive and sustainable cities that celebrate cultural diversity and promote community well-being.



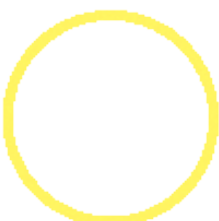
Scientific relevance

This project contributes to the scientific relevance of urban design by pushing the boundaries of the discipline. It challenges the notion that urban design is solely concerned with the design of physical spaces and facilities. Instead, it highlights the interdisciplinary nature of urban design, emphasizing the importance of community design and its role in serving communities and cultures.

By incorporating community design into the framework of urban design, the project recognizes the need for coordination and collaboration with various urban sectors. It acknowledges that urban design should not operate in isolation but should actively engage with other stakeholders, integrating bottom-up thinking and actively listening to the voices of citizens.

The project advocates for a holistic approach to community design within urban design, rejecting the fragmentation of labor divisions. It emphasizes the role of a community designer as a facilitator and enabler, accompanying the growth and development of communities in a comprehensive manner.

By addressing these aspects, the project contributes to the scientific understanding of urban design by expanding its scope beyond traditional spatial design. It recognizes the interdisciplinary nature of the field, the importance of community engagement, and the need for collaborative efforts to create inclusive and sustainable urban environments.



Chapter 1

Background



Chinese community have been resided in Netherlands over a hundred years. The footprint they had have been grown up with Rotterdam city together.

Chinese community in Rotterdam

Landing of Chinese in Netherlands

Katendrecht was once a working-class meeting point. In 1911, the Rotterdam city council banned all brothels from the city (Shipyards, 2020). All brothels were moved to Katendrecht, which was then a suburb (Shipyards, 2020).

At the beginning of the 20th century, during the First World War, the conflict between the working class and the bourgeoisie was intensified by the communist ideology and the second industrial revolution (Shipyards, 2020). Strikes became common (Shipyards, 2020).

In 1911, The Rotterdam branch Lloyds brought Chinese workers to the Netherlands for the first time as labor substitutes in order to quell one of the stokers' strikes (Shipyards, 2020). These Chinese workers were cheap and hard-working (Shipyards, 2020). For the next few years, the Chinese were a big hit with employers (Shipyards, 2020). The Chinese continued to arrive in the Netherlands and settled in Katendrecht, mainly working on the decks and docks (Shipyards, 2020).



Figure1-1. Katendrecht, Rotterdam in 1925

photo owned by KLM Aerocarto

retrieved from: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Maashaven_Rotterdam_1925_-_NL-RtSA_4029_PBK-4388-01.jpg



Figure1-2. Crowd living conditions in the boarding house

unknown photography

retrieved from: <https://rjb.x-cago.com/GARJB//2009/12/20091231/GARJB-20091231-0263/story.pdf>

Chinatown at Kendrecht

Katendrecht is a long, slender peninsula that is difficult to reach by land transport. The dock workers' residence is centrally located and completely surrounded by loading and unloading areas, storage space and a railroad for cargo supply (Vervloesem, 2009). The workers who remain ashore are accommodated in boarding houses, which are managed by the shipowner or the landlord of the boarding house. Workers are not free to choose their own accommodation. A boarding house is more like a group home. The interior is cramped and crowded, so you cannot have private space. Chinese people are not allowed to buy property and can only rent.

Chinese community in Rotterdam

Diversity of Chinese community

The immigration history of Chinese in the Netherlands has been roughly divided into four waves and three generations. The majority of Chinese immigrants came to the Netherlands in four waves of immigration.

The first wave occurred in the early 1900s when young Chinese sailors stayed in the port of Katendrecht as cheap labor (Gijsberts & Huijnk, 2011). The second wave was released at the end of World War II, when Chinese from former Dutch colonies came to the Netherlands, such as Indonesia and Suriname. The third wave took place around the 1970s and 80s, when they came to the Netherlands to do business, usually as a family or hometown unit (Gijsberts & Huijnk, 2011). Most of them came from Chinese coastal cities or Hong Kong (Lei, 2018). The fourth wave occurred in the 21st century and most of the Chinese immigrants to the Netherlands were intellectual and technical people (Gijsberts & Huijnk, 2011). Each wave of Chinese immigrants has a distinctive background and characteristics of the time and a different social class.

The three generations refer to the early immigrants who came before the 21st century, the Chinese who grew up in the Netherlands and the new immigrants of the 21st century (Lei, 2018).

1911 The end of second industrial revolution

CHINESE ARRIVED NETHERLANDS 1911



In 1911, the first group of Chinese arrived Netherlands at Katendrecht, Rotterdam. They were cheap labors working for shipping industries brought from the United Kingdom.

Chinese from



FIRST CHINESE ORGANIZATION ESTABLISHED

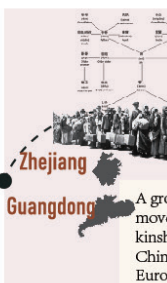


Because of the Dutch colonial history, Indonesian were one of the earliest immigrants brought to the Netherlands. Peranakan students, a group of Indonesian Chinese organized **Chung Hwa Hui**, and started Chinese school in the Netherlands

Overseas Chinese



Other Chinese



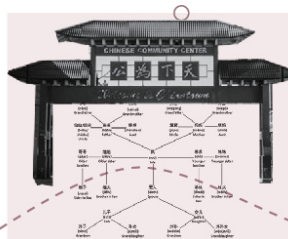
1929 The Great Depression

1949 The end of World War II

1978 Reform and Opening of China



These Chinese labors were living in board house, managed by shipkeepers. Such houses living dorms on first and second floor, while run stores, such as restaurants and laundry room in the ground floor. The area of high concentration of Chinese formed the initial Chinatown.

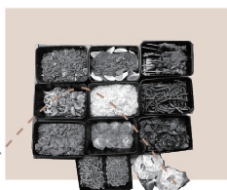


More kinship and people from the same villages of sailors migrated to help and run business with existed Chinese immigrants. Chiantown boomed.

Many sailors were laid off in economic crisis in at the end of 1920s. To combat with it, they started to sell peanut cake on the streets. That was Chinese group firstly largely exposed to the Dutch society.



PEANUT CAKE BUSINESS



Because of the low prices and mixed tastes, Indonesian Chinese food are favoured by Dutch society. Indonesian Chinese restaurants had largely increased.

ECONOMIC CRISIS 1929



In the great Depression, student committee of Chung Hwa Hui provide assist to needy Chinese.



Chung Hwa hui were cleaned up in 1962



up of Zhejiang and Guangdong people d to Netherlands at the end 1910s with up and fellow villagers. They brought ese material to sell and run business in the oe.



Zhejiang and Guangdong business men joined the peanut cake business as well



1970-80 CHINATOWN BOOM

Grouo of Suriname Chinese and Vietnam Chinese arrived Netherlands and between 1975 and 1982. Most of them spok Hakka or Cantonese. More Chinese societies were established such as De Vriendschap, Hua Yi Xie Shang Hui, and Lian Yi Hui

Chinese community in Rotterdam

Chinese community from mainland coast

In 1911, the first group of Chinese arrived the Netherlands at Katendrecht, Rotterdam. They were cheap labors working for shipping industries brought from the United Kingdom. Till 1922, there had been around 400 Chinese living in Katendrecht located at the port of Rotterdam. They are brought from the United Kingdom, as a substitution for local cheap labor in 1911. They are usually young unmarried men working as stokers and coal traffickers for maritime industries. In 1927 There has been 3200 Chinese formed the initial Chinatown at Katendrecht, Rotterdam.

Because of the Ban Policy, the Chinese were not allowed to own lands, while they are can have the right to use the houses. Therefore, the Chinese rented houses from Dutch and share them with them. To make full use of the space, such boarding houses usually have four entrances in one building, the ground entrances separating shops and residential areas, and the first floor entrances separating different residents.

Chinese ship owners play the role to organize such businesses connecting with Dutch house owners and Chinese sailors. Chinese network got integrated with Dutch society and developed within the community in such a way.

Facing the economic crisis in 1929, a large number of Chinese sailors were laid off. To combat it, they started to sell peanut cakes on the streets with carrying in the tin tray. Till the end of the 1920s, the Chinese sailors' group has grown into a complete living community at Katendrecht. The small-scale enterprises touched upon restaurants, barber shops, shipping agencies, laundry rooms, housing rentals, etc.

Figure 1-3. Chinese shops in 1930 at Katendrecht
drawings made by Els Vervloesem, data available in the SAR



Chinese community from Indo

Till 2010, there were at least 14,000 Chinese in the Netherlands. A large number of Chinese immigrants came from the Dutch East Indies, and they ran a plantation economy. A large number of them moved to the Netherlands after the war, independent from the Dutch colonial system. Indonesian Chinese accepted higher education and the local dialect of Fujian province) and formed the Chinese community in the Netherlands (Chinese Club)"(Sybesma, 2017).

This Chinese community was a student community, consisting of students studying in Leiden (Gijzen, 1997). They were active in big cities in the Netherlands, such as Amsterdam. They aimed to connect with the Dutch culture regardless of origins (Gijzen, 1997). After the Great Depression at the end of the 1920s, the assistance center to help homeless people, food and medical care. This symbolized the integration of Chinese big community in the Netherlands crisis (Gijzen, 1997; Huijnk & Vogels, 2017).

Figure 1-4. Board of directors of Chong Hwa Hui 1932-1933
unknown photograph. Retrieved from:
<https://tankianhong.nl/studentenjaren-in-leiden-2/>



Indonesian

Chinese immigrants from Indonesia. Immigrants were from Fujian Province and there (Rijkschroeff et al. 2010). A Netherlands and Suriname in 1949, many (Rijkschroeff et al. 2010). Most had education and speak in Hakka (the language they were able to establish the first Chinese community called "Chung Hwa Hui (Chinese

Independent association created by a group of immigrants (Gijssberts, Huijnk& Vogels, 2011). They were in the Netherlands such as Rotterdam and Amsterdam. Chinese communities and Chinese immigrants (Gijssberts, Huijnk& Vogels, 2011). During the year of 1920, Chung Hwa Hui organized a meeting for homeless or unemployed Chinese with the goal that this was the first time Chinese community together to combat with social issues (Gijssberts, Huijnk& Vogels, 2011).

Chinese community after World War II

Right after World War II, and the establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949, Chinese emigration to the Netherlands became difficult (Sybesma, 2017). The business running in the Netherlands has needed to rely on people from Suriname, Indonesia, and Hongkong to fill in the labor (Sybesma, 2017). At the time, Hongkong culture became a dominant position in the Chinese community in the Netherlands (Sybesma, 2017).

However, since 1979, starting from the economic revolution of China, mainland China reopened the gate to the world, and the coastline cities such as Zhejiang and Guangdong became the pilot provinces (Sybesma, 2017). A large number of Chinese people poured into the Netherlands. Because of the popularity of Chinese food in the Netherlands. Most of them succeed in the food and restaurant business. Such business requires low professional skills and was friendly to family business mode, which caters to the characteristics of these immigrants (Gijssberts, Huijnk& Vogels, 2011).

The following diagram shows the timeline of Chinese sub-groups development in the Netherlands, and the big events happening within this diverse community.

Figure 1-5. De Chinese Boat in Rotterdam
Image owned by De Chinese Boat. Retrieved from: <https://www.dechineseboot.nl/>



SEGREGATION

...s, upper
Dutch
OWNERS MANIPULATED
HOUSEOWNER

...sed to
**DUTCH SO-
CIETY**

ETS
TCAKE
SS
FIRST IMAGE OF
CHINESE

PINDA
MAN
SEEN AS
BEGGER

Chinese are banned
by lands
EMPLOYMENT
MPETITION
WEAK ECONOMIC
PRODUCTION

**ACSIM BY DUTCH
OCITY**
DEPORTATION
**DISCRIMINATION
FROM AUTHORITY**

1929 THE GREAT
DEPRESSION



**HONGKONG PEOPLE
JOINED THE RESTURANT
BUSINESS**

**RESATURANT DOMINATE
CHINESE COMMUNITY**

**CHINESE CHAIN
NETWORK EXPAND**

FAMILY UNIT KINSHIP & FELLOW CHINESE
FROM MIANLAND CHINA

**INDNISIAN-CHINESE
RESTUARNT BOOM**

affordable price after
war in Dutch socity
no competitors

CHINESE MARRIED
WITH DUTCH

**SECOND GENERATION
STARTED HERE**

EXPLORE IDENTITIES
NOT WORK FOR FAMILY
BUSINESS

1949 END OF WWII

1978 REFORM AND
OPENING OF CHINA

Chinese community in Rotterdam

Chinese population in the Rotterdam

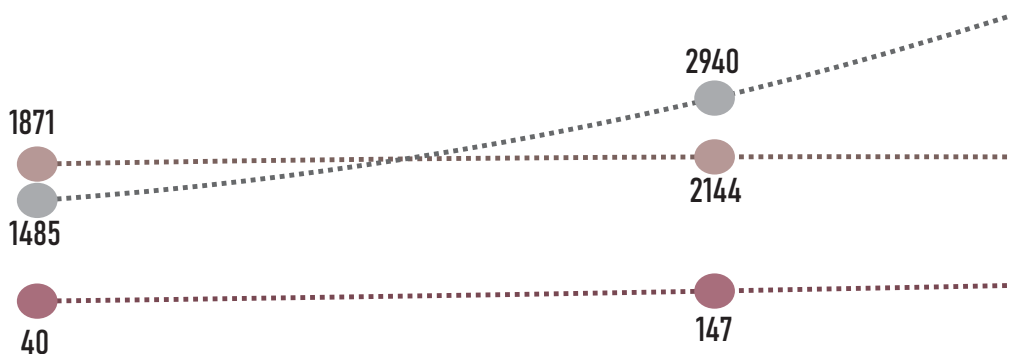
From the report of spatial patterns of the Chinese immigrant in Rotterdam Immigrants from mainland china (Lei, 2018), Chinese immigrants in Rotterdam have experienced a great increase after 2000. Especially the ones from mainland China. Most population of the new generation are knowledge immigrants. They come here for higher education or well-paid jobs(Gijsberts, Huijn& Vogels, 2011).

The residential patterns of the Chinese gradually moved out from the concentrated Katendrecht to the north of Rotterdam and reveals a scattered typology(Lei, 2018). The north part of Rotterdam has more developed public infrastructures, international education institutes, and commercial centers (Lei, 2018).

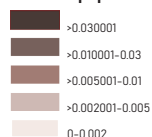
Population number

Hongkong
Mainland China

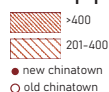
Taiwan



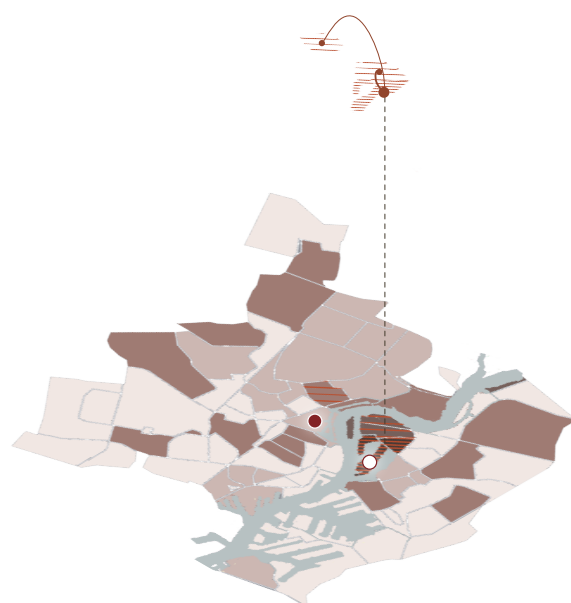
Dissimilarity index of Chinese population



Settlement distribution of Chinese population

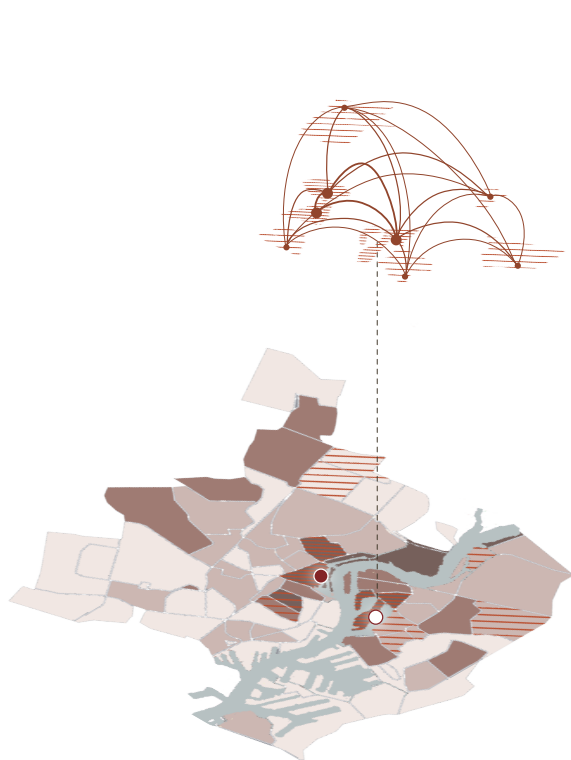
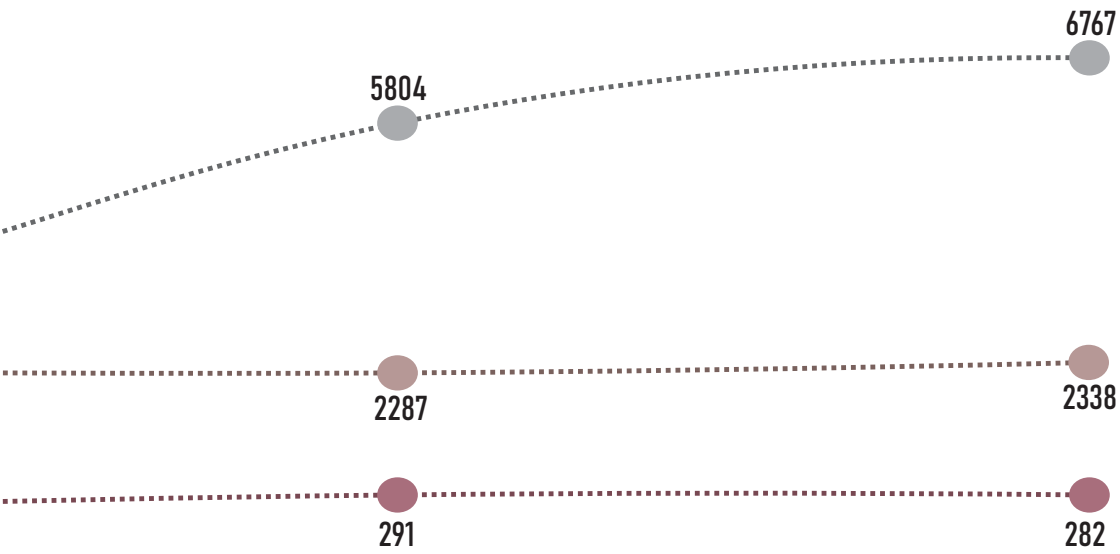


1990

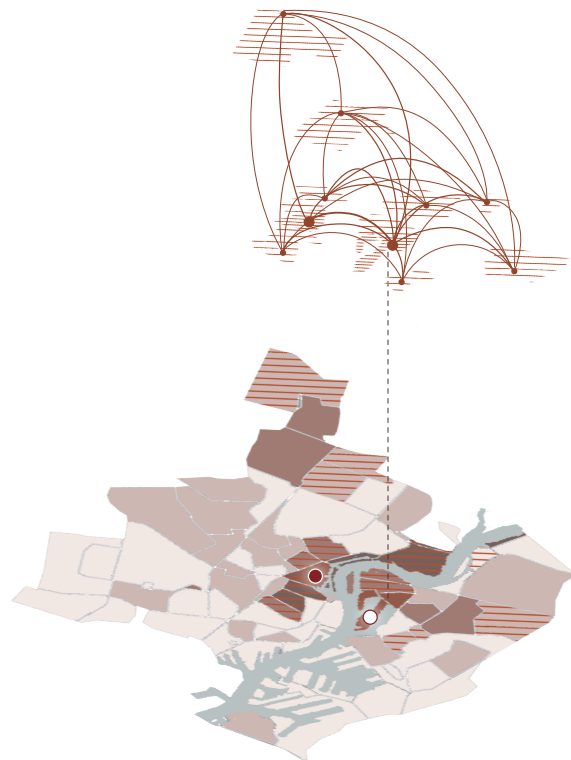


2000

DATA SOURCE: Lei, J. (2018). Spatial patterns of Chinese immigrants in Rotterdam (Master's thesis, University of Twente).



2010



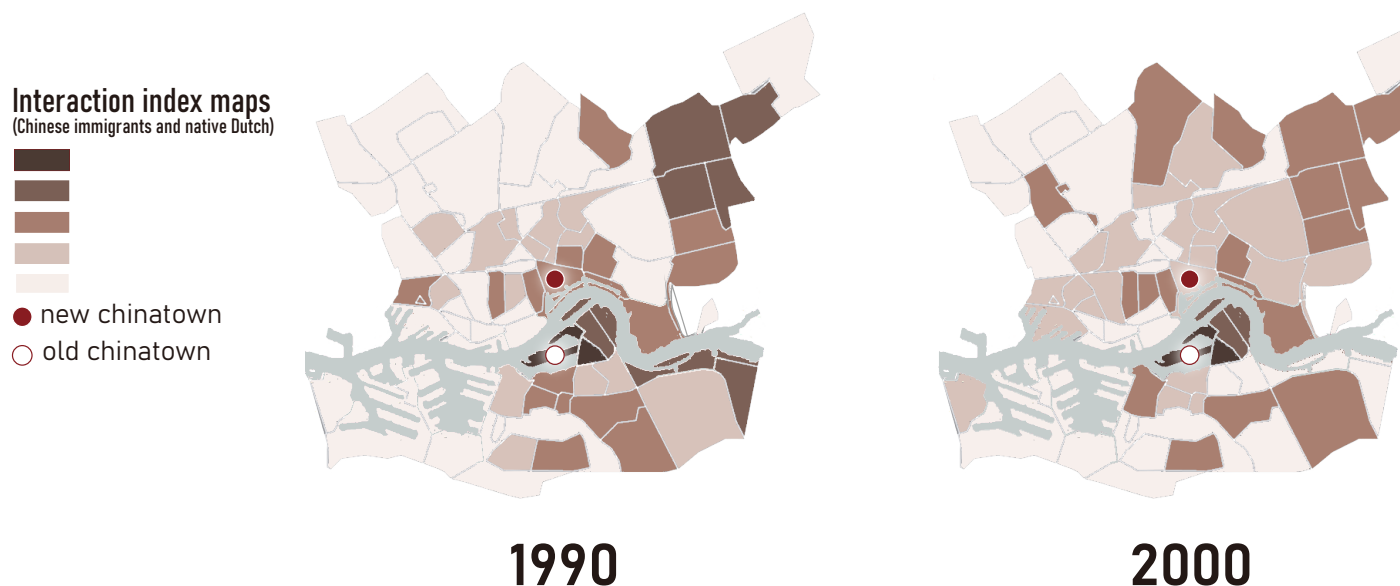
2015

Chinese community in Rotterdam

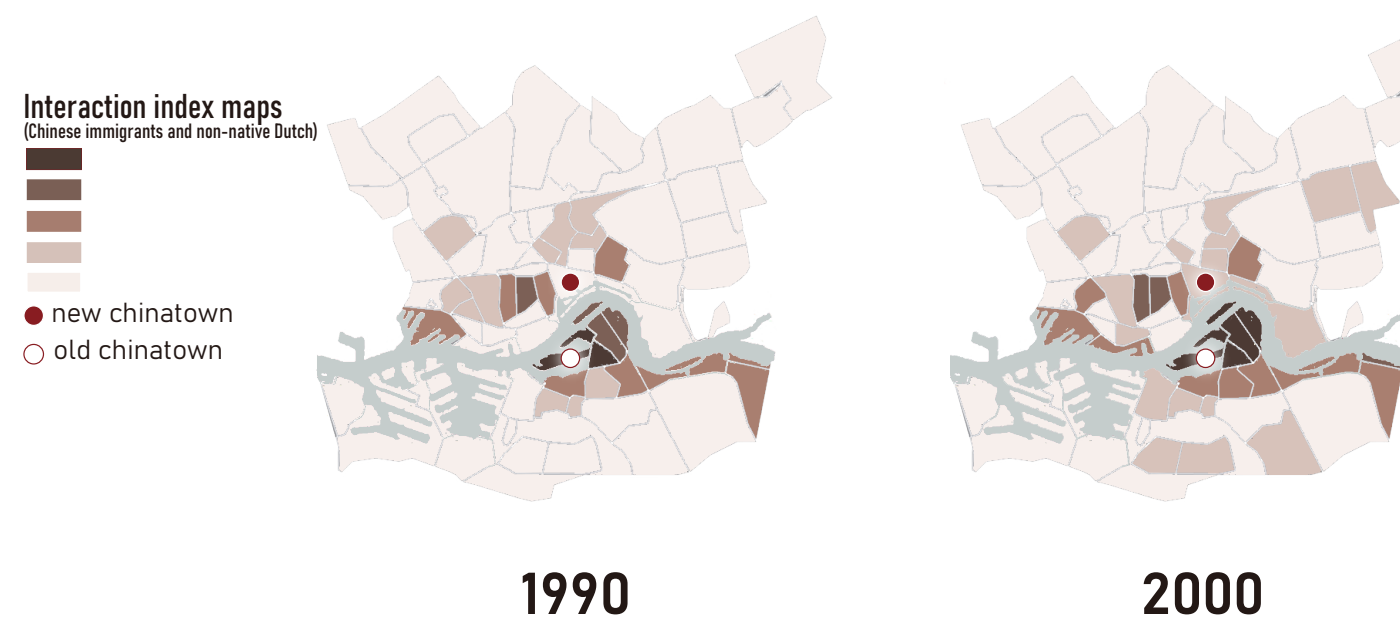
Adaption of Chinese community in Rotterdam

With growth of Chines in Rotterdam, it has been interated with Dutch society and other ethnic groups. In last century, the active Chinese activity mainly happend in the south of Rotterdam sourrounding Katendrecht, the old Chinatown. However, starting from 21st centurt, a move toward northeastern side is seen. Integration with Dutch society scattered evenly comparing to interatcton with other enthic societies. The integration between Chinese ethnic societies mainly concentrated in city center and South Rotterdam.

PERFORMANCE OF CHINESE INTEGRATIN WITH DUTCH SOCIETY(1990-2015)



PERFORMANCE OF CHINESE INTEGRATIN WITH OTHER ETHNIC SOCIETIES(1990-2015)



DATA SOURCE: Lei, J. (2018). Spatial patterns of Chinese immigrants in Rotterdam (Master's thesis, University of Twente).



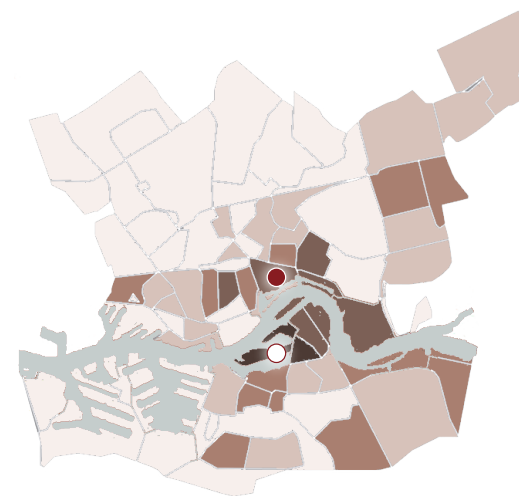
2010



2015



2010



2015

Theory study

Significance of Community Development and community design

Because of tax shortages and the individualistic nature of daily life, cities cannot be run by government departments that are able to take care of their citizens in every way. Community design is about exploring how to manage "just the right connections" and create productive lives (Yamazaki, 2015). It is not enough to have a lot of money and goods to live an abundant life. Having the right connections is also a key to a productive life. Abundant interpersonal connections refer to the harmony and trust that all people in a community or society can have (Yamazaki, 2015).

Communities can be divided into geo-communities and thematic communities. "Geopolitical communities" are communities that are based on local ties, such as neighborhood councils and women's associations. However, as the geo-community gradually decreases, the use of public space in the city or community decreases. In order to activate the use of community spaces, thematic communities need to be added to replace geo-based communities (Yamazaki, 2015). Thematic communities will require less physical space and will take the form of clubs, associations, NPOs/NGOs, etc. The focus needs to be on establishing mechanisms that allow people to make good use of the city's public spaces (Yamazaki, 2015). To do this, the public space needs to be clearly signposted, and information needs to be circulated and transparent so that people can easily access it. By increasing the value of public space, the value of the area as a whole can be enhanced. Ryo Yamazaki (2015) said, "Community design is not only about creating new spaces, but also about exploring the multiplier effect of combining space and community, and thinking about how the public space of the city should be integrated with the geopolitical community."

Designers are generally considered to be people who create things, but they cannot solve all social problems by making objects (Yamazaki, 2015). The design of soft objects still needs to be greatly advanced. Therefore community designers are designers who do not make things (Yamazaki, 2015). The most important thing in practicing community design is to see how different generations and groups react to the words "community" and "sharing" in the process (Yamazaki, 2015). Community design emphasizes the importance of collaboration and learning between designers and other stakeholders in participatory design and pursues egalitarianism (Comercio, 1984). If space design can be done in parallel with community design, the finished space will have an active community at the same time. If we can take the existence of community as a prerequisite, it should change urban design significantly (Yamazaki, 2015).



Figure 1-6 Community design happened in Uwajima, Japan. Image owned by Studio L. Retrieved from: <https://studio.l.org/>

Theory study

Origins of Community Design

Community design originated in the Harlem area of the United States in the 1960s (Comercio, 1984). It promotes a participatory approach to design in urban design and planning. It began as a service to low-income Neighborhoods to combat elitism in the city (Comercio, 1984). When the expertise of architecture and planning could not fully address social issues, community design served as a complement to public morality and politics. In particular, it emphasizes that every citizen has the right to participate in the planning of the living environment and that the public's wishes should be given maximum feedback. In a 1973 landmark paper "Dilemmas in the General Theory of Planning" by Horst Rittel and Melvin Webber, it was noted that during the first half of the 20th century, urban planning and architecture professionals were able to address a wide range of definable issues. professionals could solve a wide range of definable technical problems, but not a wide range of social problems. As a result, Rittel and Webber argued that planning and design problems would be best solved in a process that recognizes The idea is that design is a public discourse that welcomes public debate in order to externalize and extend knowledge about the problem because no one has the sole expertise to determine a resolution (Rittel & Webber, 1973).

In deference to emerging ideas on grassroots initiatives, community ownership, and economic development, the underlying values of community design were gradually transformed from a political ideology to a social practice, and from a process orientation to a product orientation. economic development, the underlying values of community design regarding justice and empowerment, and the motivation helps people gain control of their own resources (Comercio, 1984).

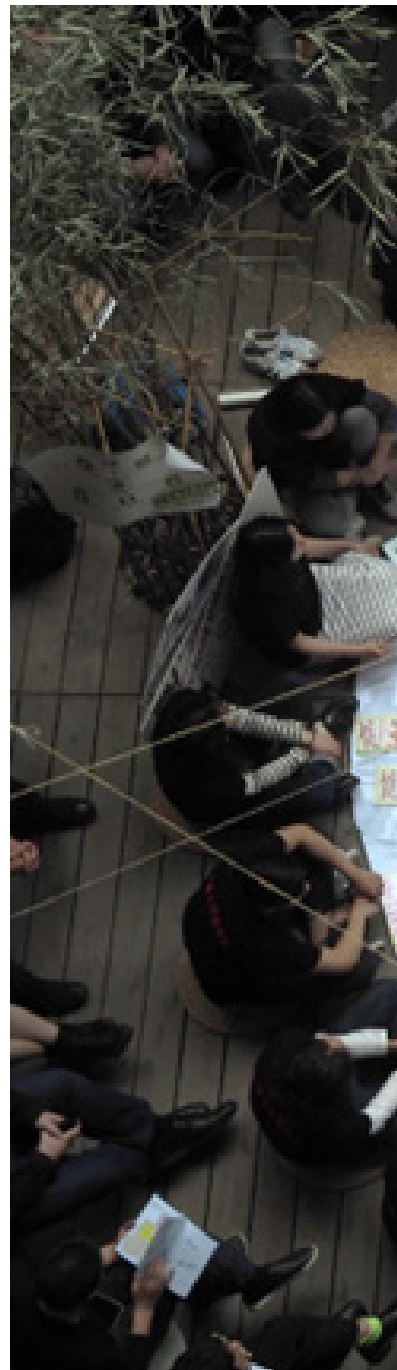




Figure 1-7. Community design happened in Shanghai, China. Image provided by Yuelai Liu

Theory study

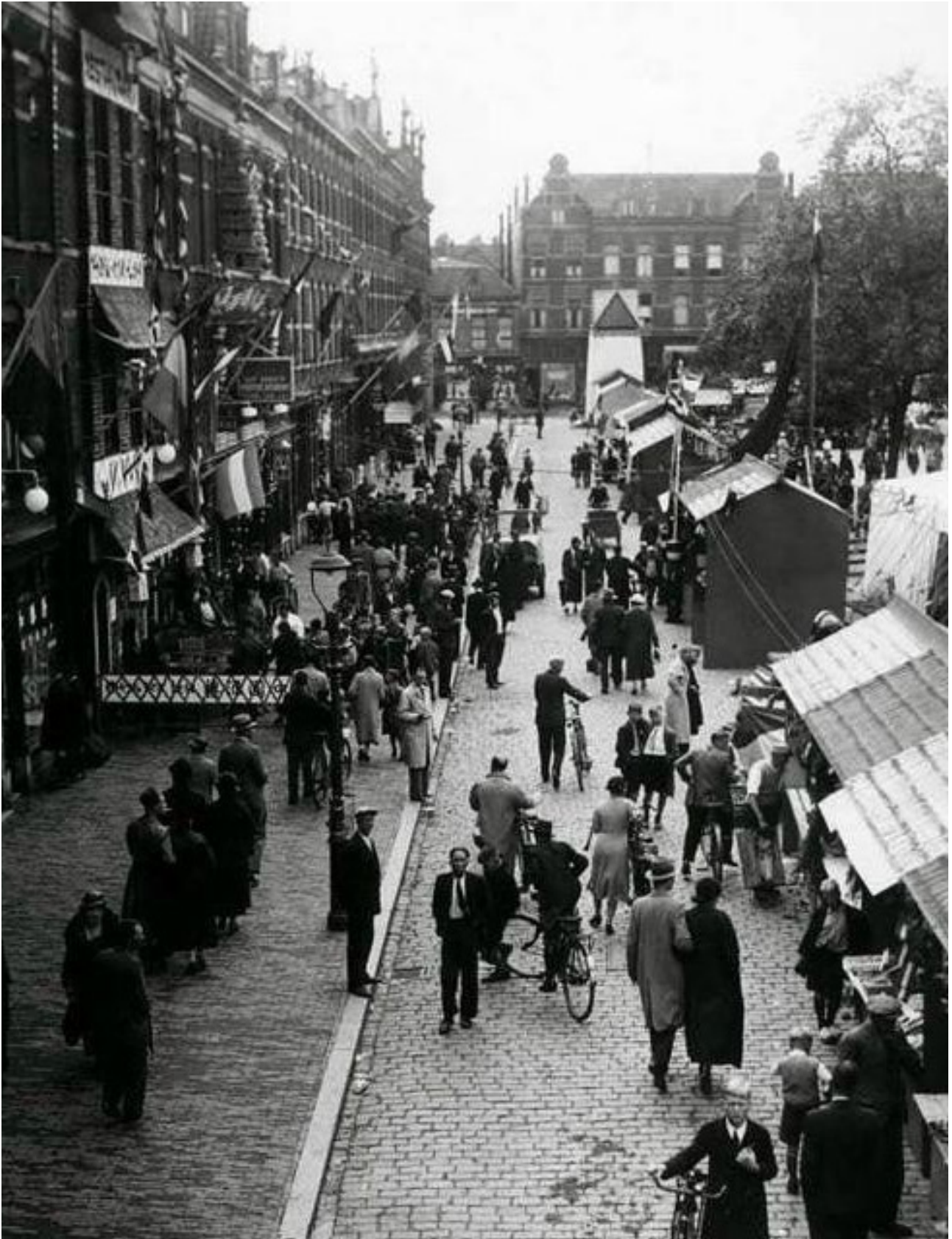
Public life, public space and local community

Living in urban areas, city dwellers frequently switch roles between independent individuals and members from groups and communities. Under a collective group, people have chances to temporarily shift daily grind away, and get engaged in communities, observe and interact with others (Carr et al., 1992). Public life provides people a supportive component to relax, entertain themselves, as well as encountering other individuals, and learn from each other in the social life (Carr et al., 1992). Public space, forming the backdrop for public life, contains commercial transaction, social exchange, contemplation and entertainment. It defines the structure of the urban system and sets of frameworks that indicate dynamics of public life, therefore being a primary factor in defining urban vitality and quality of life. It is a space where it is open to all the people regardless of their social classes, ethics, ages and genders. People also tend to feel comfortable and relaxed when they access and use it. Public spaces can take many forms such as playground, plazas; contain dynamic amenities such as benches, fountains; and carry out different functions and activities that bind communities together (OPDM, 2004).

There are at least three culture forces served by public spaces. The first one is that it shapes multi-purposes public activities. Public space is always highly valued as places to indicate the status of civic inculcation and democratic participation in an area (Amin, 2008). People freely claim their rights, deliver their thoughts and opinions, and resolve social formation in public spaces, such as central squares, civic centers. Secondly, public spaces satisfy the basic needs of society of people, providing shelters, getting food for households and gathering group members who seek for the protections (Carr et al, 1992). Thirdly, the public places allow physical settings and rituals to occur in public life. Such as different events and festival celebrations representing different religious and national meanings. When people get involved in themselves in a larger group in public space, the feel of existence in a community can be confirmed, which enables them to feel in an active manner.

Public life and public space have very close relationships to each other. They are interconnected and mutual-benefited. Public space is the form to carry and represent public life, and in return, public life facilitates the development of public spaces.

Figure 1-8. Chinese market at Katendrecht, Rotterdam, 1935.
Unknown photography
retrieved from: <https://rjb.x-cago.com/GARJB//2009/12/20091231/GARJB-20091231-0263/story.pdf>



Theory study

Public notion of Chinese and its reflection on the Rotterdam Chinatown

In Chinese, gong "public" (public) is a compound of the opposite of si "private" (private). The gong and si constitute the first binary relation resembling public and private in the ancient Chinese political system. Influenced by Confucianism, the public is superior to the private in terms of public morality. By invoking this idea, politicians further blurred the boundary between public and private, equating the public with the ruling class. As previously mentioned, the Chinese conception of the 'public' involves only the aspects of morality and rite, yet not a sense of domain; this, according to Chen's study (2005), explains why the public and the private properties in the physical world have remained ambiguous in Chinese society.

Influenced by Western thought, a critique of Confucianism emerged in early twentieth-century China, questioning the public-private order and advocating the idea of equal belts for all. related relationships or relationships between rulers and subordinates, while the relation with strangers, which is considered the essence of the public realm in the West, has been left out (Chen, 2005).

From a Chinese philosophical and cultural perspective, there are three levels of collective realms in Chinese cities: the relational circle, the realm of strangers, and the market space. relational circle refers to the commonalities include kinship, same geographical origin, working in the same Influenced by Confucianism, Chinese people have a sense of a relational circle. They have a sense of responsibility and a mission to take care of each other. For example, the courtyard is a very good response to the idea of a neighborly living form. The atrium space in the courtyard is a public space in Chinese culture. Everyone will consciously take care of this shared space, which is used by several families together (Sun, 2023). The realm of strangers mentioned in the second layer of meaning is the opposite space outside the relational circle. The intensive valuing of the relational circle and the absence of care for strangers in Chinese culture have resulted in a rigid separation of some spaces, such as streets or transportation hubs, for which people do not have a sense of responsibility or merit (Sun, 2023). The intensive valuing of the relational circle and the absence of care for

strangers in Chinese culture have resulted in a rigid separation of some spaces from others in the city, both physically and socially (Sun, 2023).

According to Wenwen Sun (2023), "In contrast with the relational circle conceived as the social space, the realm of strangers roughly represents the public As such, regarding the public domain as the realm of strangers has led to spatial consequences, such as the As such, regarding the public domain as the realm of strangers has led to spatial consequences, such as the ubiquity of barriers and space appropriation, manifesting a simultaneously enhanced and dissolved boundary between the public and the private spaces. " The third meaning of marketplace is a compositional element.

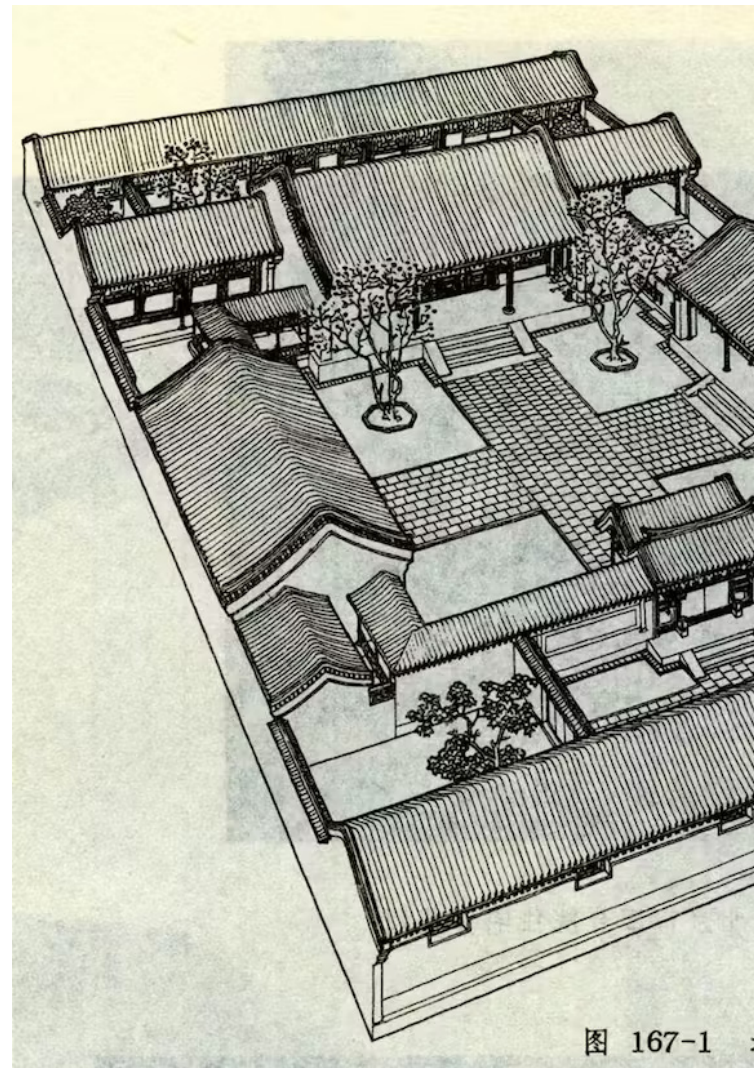


图 167-1

Reflect on Chinatown, when the Dutch authorities, as rulers of power, decided to evacuate the residents of Rotterdam's Katendrecht on the premise of spatial planning. The Chinese community acquiesced to the authorities' right to encroach on the private sphere in this way, and instead of breaking out into a mass protest, they complied with the decision and were assigned to integrate into the rest of the Rotterdam community.

This explains why the Chinese in Dutch society always give the impression of being enclosed. There is even a lack of relational ties between generations, and even if they are Chinese, there is not much intersection between different communities.

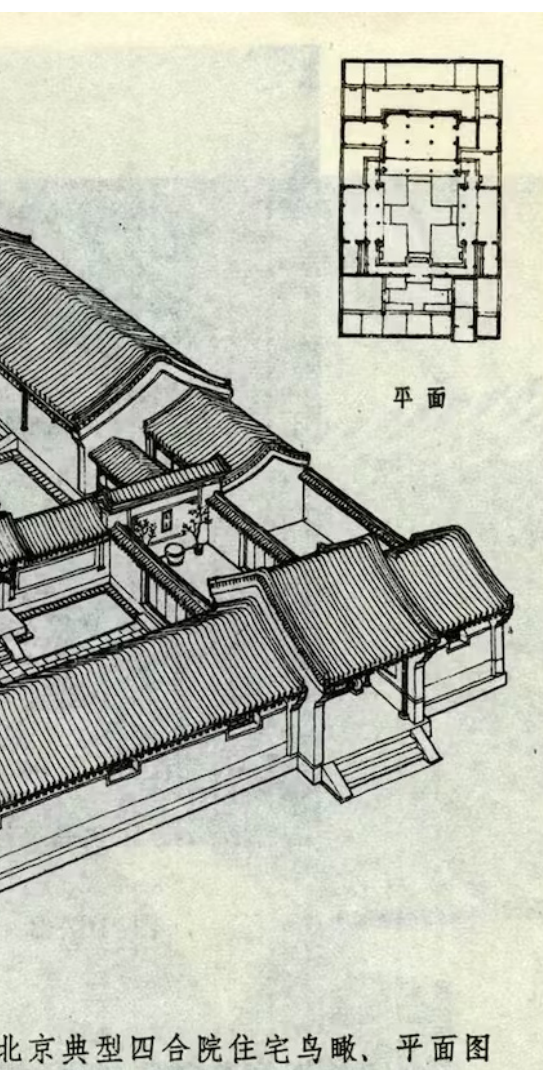
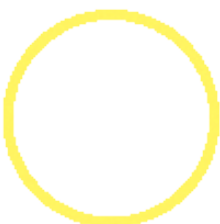
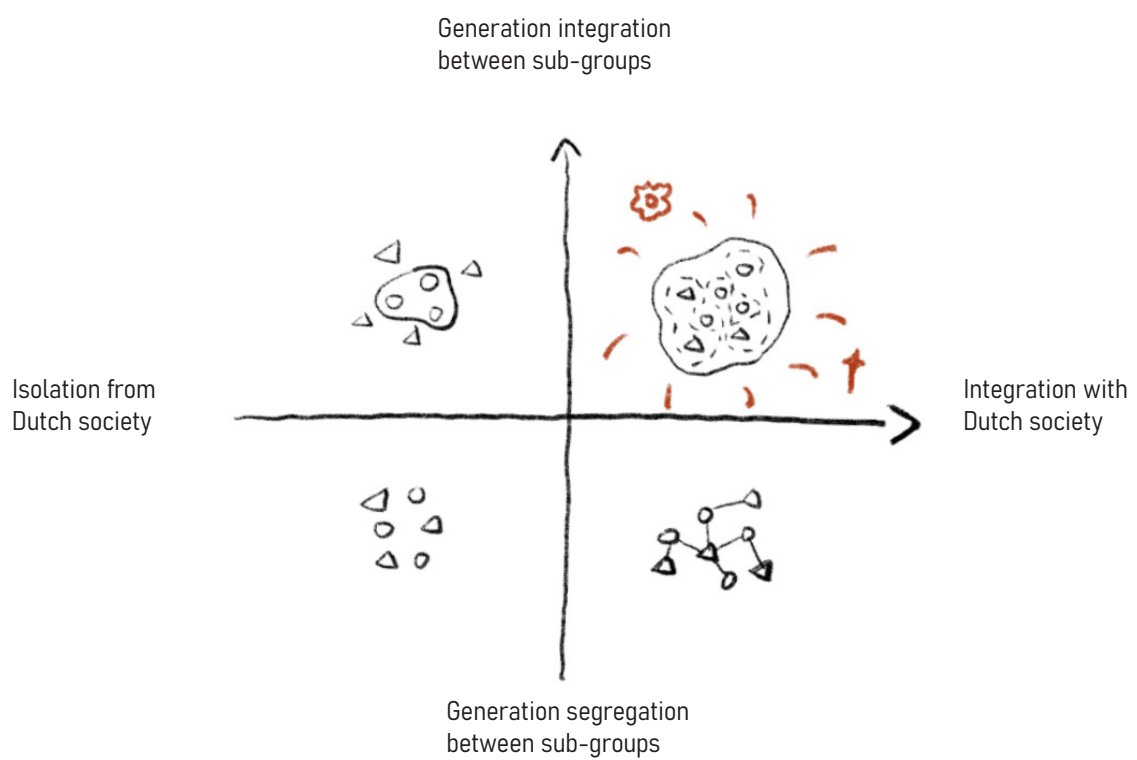


Figure 1-9. Typical courtyard house (Siheyuan) in Beijing China, which reveals the shape of the communal space for Chinese.
Image provided by Xing Ruan. Retrieved from: <https://theconversation.com/friday-essay-why-a-building-and-its-rooms-should-have-a-human-character-54952>



Chapter 2

Research Framework

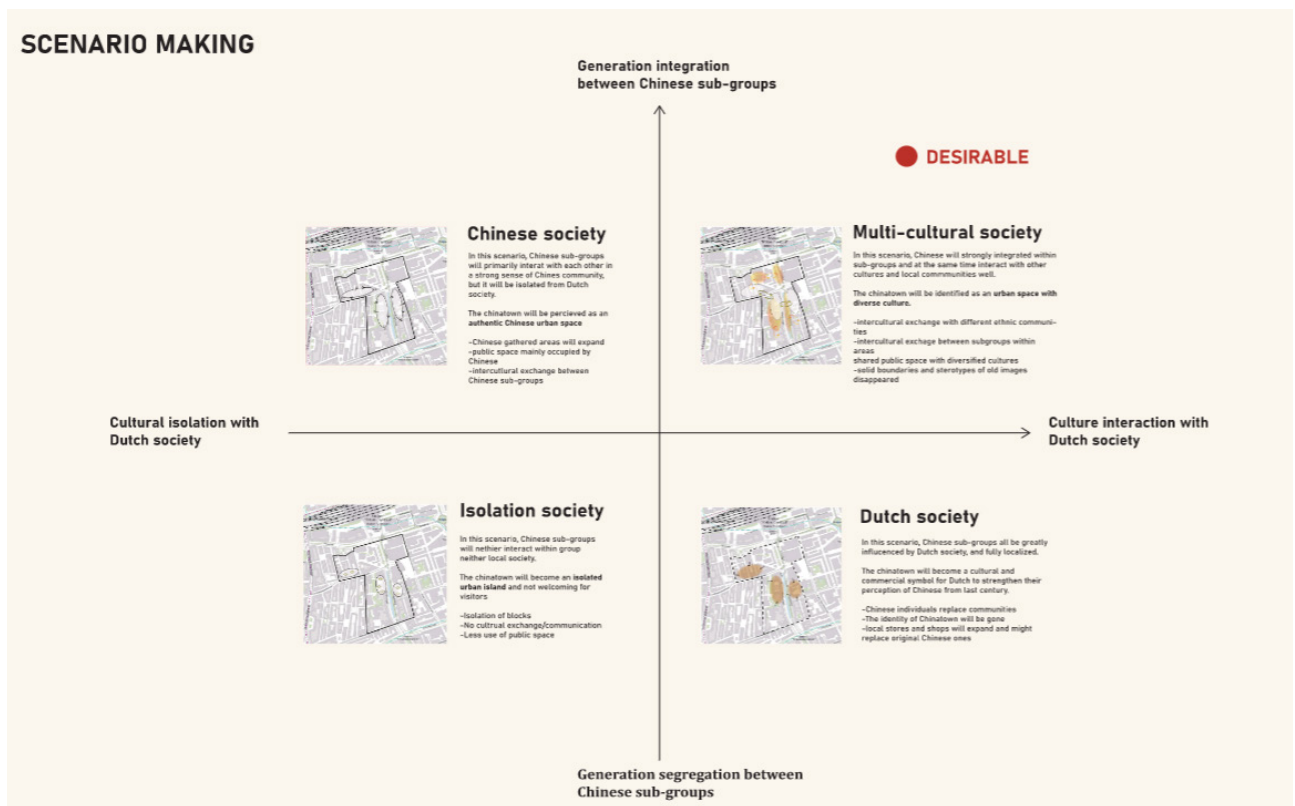


Problem statement

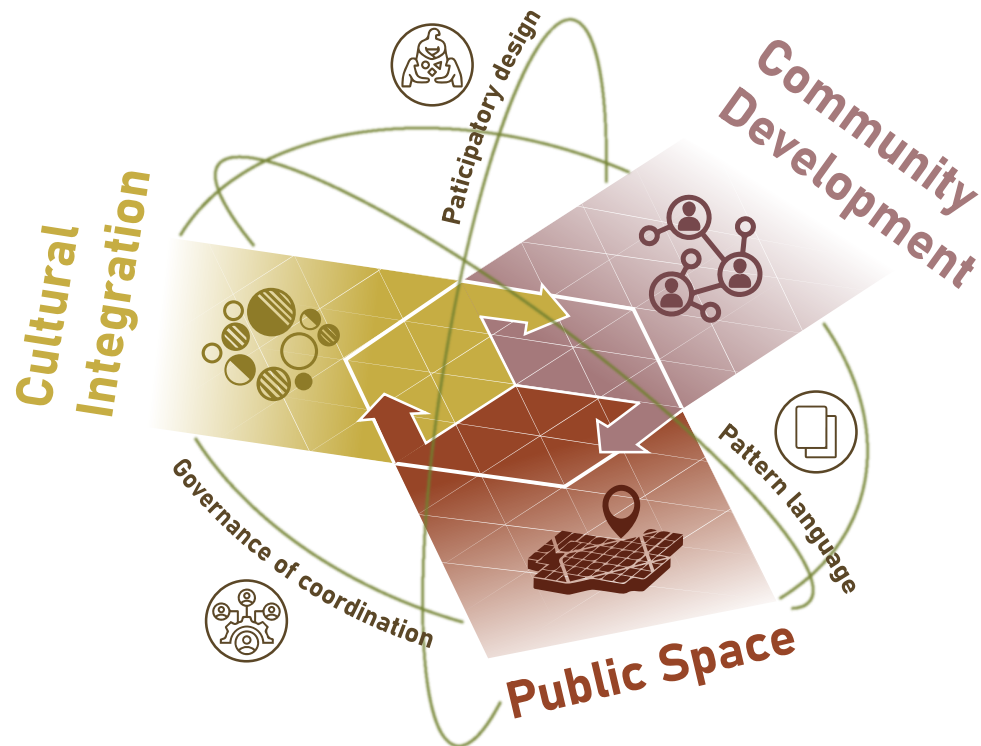
There is a gap between the need of transforming the Chinese immigrant community in Rotterdam and the functions provided by current Rotterdam Chinatown. Chinese traveled to Rotterdam from different backgrounds and times. They have different social and cultural needs. Chinatown is identified as a symbol for overseas Chinese to seek a sense of belonging as well as these needs. However, Rotterdam Chinatown currently is dominated by second-generation Chinese born between the 1970s and 1980s. The functions that they provide remain the same as 100 years ago, succeeding the business run by the first generation of Chinese immigrants. However, there is a large number of knowledge immigrants arriving in Rotterdam in the past 20 years, and this number will increase. The newly-come Chinese require more, but there has not yet come up an allied platform for different Chinese groups to communicate their ideas. The current Chinatown has not yet adapted to this transformation.

Rotterdam Chinatown has a central location in Rotterdam, where it concentrates dynamic immigrants from different ethnicities at the same time. The area plays the role of the cultural center and urban green axis for Rotterdam city. Therefore, Chinatown not only serves for Chinese community but also other local cultures and city visitors. The transformation of Chinatown demands cultural diversification and inclusiveness at the same time.

The challenge of Rotterdam Chinatown is that it requires a space quality enabling the Chinese community to connect within transforming sub-groups and localize themselves in the Rotterdam city context.



Conceptual framework



The conceptual framework shows the complementary relationship between the three key areas of the project and the means used to activate them. This closed loop demonstrates that **public space** can help **cultural integration**; cultural integration can facilitate **community development**, and community development in turn can activate the use of public space and revitalize urban space. This project promotes a sustainable cycle of overlapping cultural and spatial layers in the urban living environment.

To achieve this goal, a bottom-up methodology is necessary. Following the wishes of the urban experience and community, using **participatory design** methods, and using the **pattern language** as a means of learning, communication and design to jointly participate in building community and realizing a civic city is the main concept of this project. In addition, the community designer plays a role in combining the top-down **coordination mechanism** to make the bottom-up system work more effectively and the resources can be deployed more rationally.

RESEARCH AIM

This research argues for the need for community cohesion and localization within the Rotterdam context for the Chinese community. It takes public space as the approach for community development and cultural integration.

- The research aims to reach the balance between bottom-up and top-down governance with this community development which empowers the Chinese community and at the same time follows the development guidance by Rotterdam city.
- The research focuses on improving the quality of public space in Rotterdam Chinatown to activate public life for both the Chinese community and its interaction with local communities.

RESEARCH QUESTION

How to empower Rotterdam Chinese by improving cohesion and at the same time localization with the neighborhood community at Rotterdam Chinatown in an approach of public space activation?

Sub question 1

How the Rotterdam Chinatown adapt to the transforming Chinese immigration community in Rotterdam?

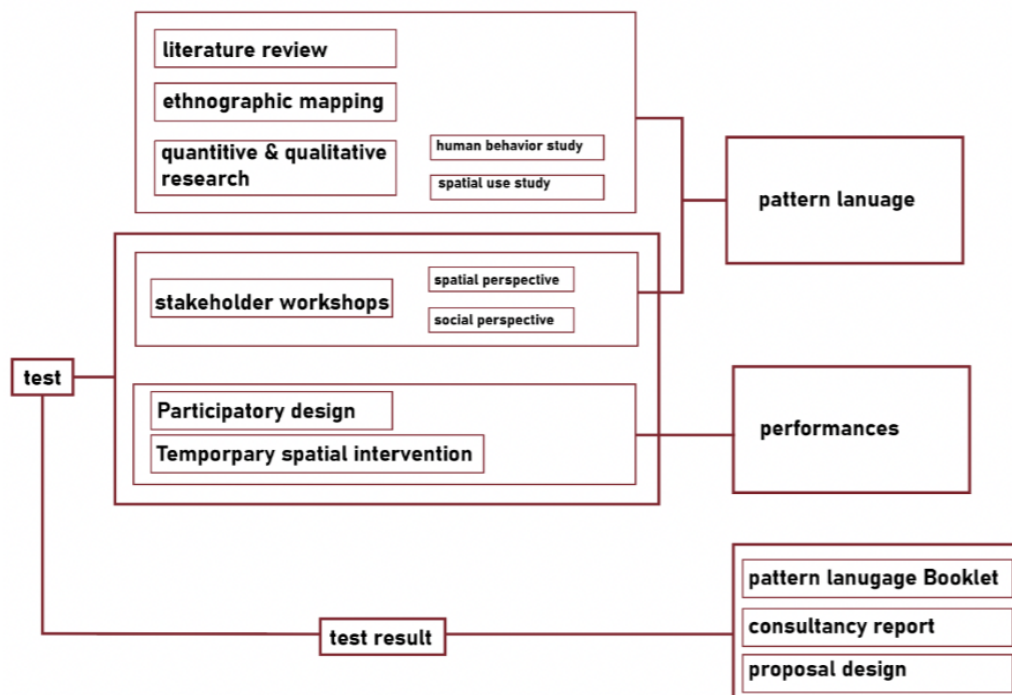
Sub question 2

How can public space become a tool to empower the Chinese community and integrate with other local communities in Rotterdam Chinatown?

Sub question 3

How does this community development action adapt to the Rotterdam city context?

Methodology



This research starts with understanding the historical backgrounds of the Chinese community in Rotterdam. The scope of seeing the Chinese community development helps us learn about the transformation of these social groups as well as explore the reason hiding behind the urban performances of current Rotterdam Chinatown.

At the same time, a literature study of the relationship between urban performances, and economic and social activities reveals the essential connection between cultural communities and urban fabrics. In this study, the literature proceeds to research to analyze the current Chinese community and Rotterdam Chinatown urban spaces, as well as predict the community transformation and future Chinatown space use by the group.

With the knowledge mentioned above, the author conducted qualitative and quantitative research to build up the database of the Rotterdam Chinese community for this project. This set up a stepping stone for the following participatory phases. Both types of research aim to understand responses' connection with the Chinese community, their opinion's toward current Chinatown use, and future development in terms of social and spatial perspectives.

The qualitative research mainly targeted on-site stakeholders such as Chinatown entrepreneurs and on-site NGOs. They understand well the daily use of Chinatown as well as have a big potential to lead to the transformation of the Chinatown community. The author conducted face-to-face semi-structured interviews with every involved stakeholder in person, and translate the results into maps.

The quantitative research is conducted with an online survey with a prepared questionnaire. The questions raised from the literature study and previous analysis. The survey targeted the young generation of Chinese who come here for education and jobs.

Based on all the background collection, the author extracted the stakeholder's opinions and translate them into pattern languages. Pattern language referred to in the book "A Pattern Language: Towns, Buildings, Construction" written by Alexander(1977), is the dominant communication and design tool in this research.

This pattern tool is used in the stakeholder workshop for multiple stakeholders to make spatial and social vision designs for future Rotterdam Chinatown to communicate with the same design language.

With the results of the workshop, a proposed plan will be designed. The design will include participatory design and temporary spatial intervention. The proposal will be tested with practice on an event day.

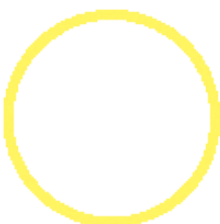
From the reflections of the performances of visitors on event day, an evaluation and consultancy report will become the outcome to testify to the effectiveness of this proposal planning and pattern language for this project.

Pattern Language

A Pattern Language: Towns, Buildings, Construction is a 1977 book on architecture, urban design, and community livability. It was authored by Christopher Alexander, Sara Ishikawa, and Murray Silverstein. Patterns describe a problem and then offer a solution from the macro to the micro-scale. In doing so the authors intend to give the public, not only professionals, a way to work with their neighbors to improve a community.

According to the review of Helene, Tom, and Sayfan (2015), Alexander's intention was to help reproduce in replicable and scalable ways the morphological and moral coherence that makes such environments nurturing for human beings. He sought to create a process that people could use in a self-directed way, adapted to their time- and place-specific needs, and apply in ways that become self-generating after the fashion of organic processes in living systems.

Each pattern describes a hypothesis with supported illustrations, drawings, or descriptions. It can focus on materials and user experiences. It could be the communication, learning, and design tools in community design. Pattern languages as originally formulated, therefore, were vehicles seeking to convey a holistic purpose, to direct designed objects and processes towards a specific quality; hence, instruments for sense-making and purposive design. They aimed to support self-generated societal thriving by articulating fundamental design principles to guide holistic and life-serving applications within a given domain (Helene, Tom& Sayfan, 2015).



Chapter 3

Perspective from current Chinatown in Rotterdam



The current Chinatown moved here in the 1980s along West-Kruiskade. The Chinese entrepreneurs here are mixing. Some of them succeed family business of sail time; some of them took over the business starting from Hongkong time; some of them just joined this community 5 years ago. They all make a living here to welcome visitors who are interested in Chinese culture.

Qualitative research of Chinatown entrepreneurs

The author conducted qualitative research with the most representative Chinese entrepreneurs in current Chinatown. She had deep interviews with 6 of them for 90 minutes on average. The interview mainly concerns the history of their business background, how they connect with the current Chinese community and Chinatown, and how they see community development and public space use in the future.

Wah Nam Hong One of the first Asian supermarkets in Chinatown, Wah Nan Hong started as a family business and is now run by the founder's sons and daughters. 1964 saw the founder come from Hong Kong to the Netherlands to do business and open a restaurant in Amsterdam, and in 1986 he accepted the Chinese supermarket where Wah Nan Hong is now located, but transformed to a modern approach from the décor to the sales model. Over the next 20 years additional branches were opened in Rotterdam's city center and in The Hague.

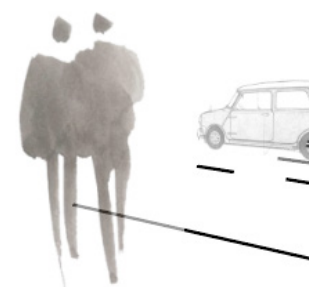
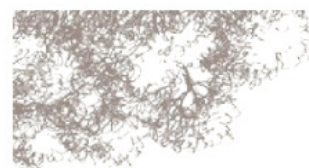
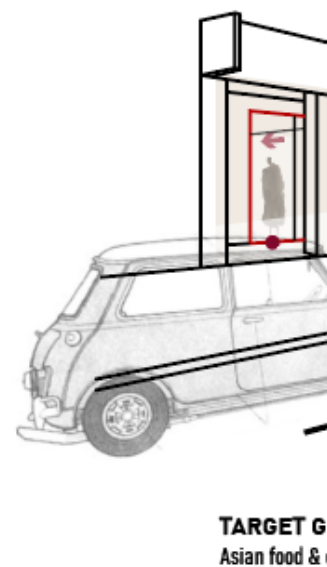
Now a chain of Asian supermarkets, the owner of South China House values its Chinese image as a brand, but also wants to expand the market more to all Dutch customers rather than just Chinese.

In connection with Chinatown, South China House has also purchased the surrounding properties and is acting as a landlord to collect rent from the stores or tenants. At the same time they maintain a close connection to the surrounding Chinese restaurants and provide goods for them. In addition to the annual Chinatown New Year event in Rotterdam, South China House is also the main sponsor and sponsor.

QQ bakery is a small bakery located near ChinaTown Dim-Sum. It is a small workshop. The shop owner is from Fujian. She came to the Netherlands in the 1980s and worked in a Dutch chain Chinese bakery for 15 years. After that, she opens QQ bakery and sell Cantonese cakes and bread.

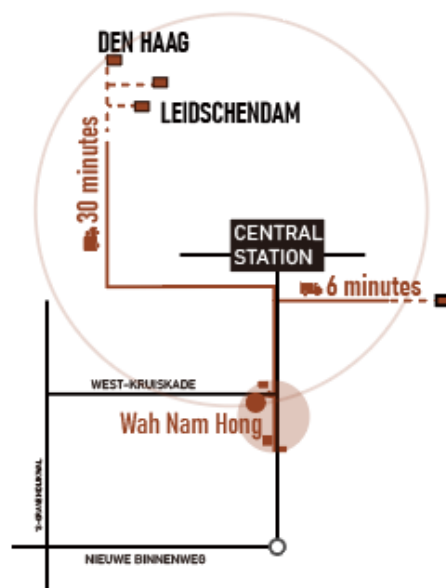
They particularly focus on the diversification and quality of food products, instead of networking with surrounding shops. Their guests include the Chinese elderly house, Chinese students, Malaysian, Surinamse, people who like Hongkong or Cantonese desserts, and general Dutch.

The shop only provides takeaway services and runs the store from 10 am till 5 pm every day.



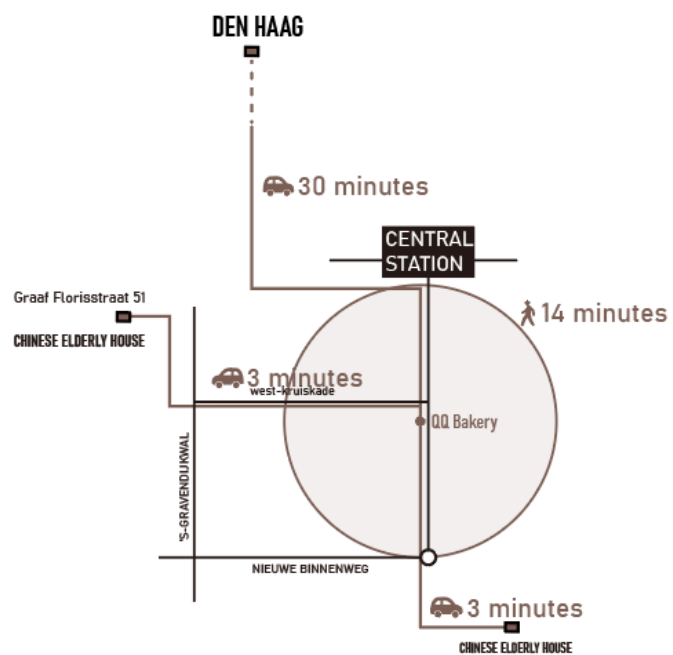
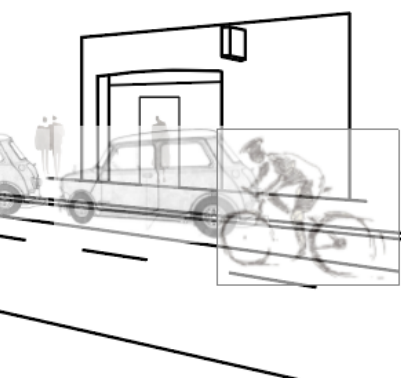


GROUP: all people who interested in commodities



NETWORK CONNECTION: RCNY(Rotterdam Chinese New Year), West-Kruiskade 4,6,8,10

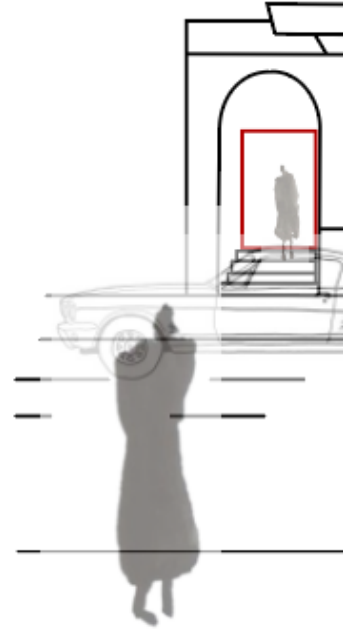
NEEDS: More international clients



Qualitative research of Chinatown entrepreneurs

Hongkong restaurant is one of the earliest restaurants opened in current Chinatown in 1963, in which most Chinese concentrated at Katendrecht at that time? The first shop owner is from Hongkong and arrived in Rotterdam in the 1940s. The Hongkong restaurant witnesses the grow-up of Rotterdam Chinatown, from Katendrecht to Nieuwe Binnenweg to West-Kruiskade.

It remains the mode of family business till nowadays and mainly serves decent Cantonese cuisines for local Dutch. It locates in the middle of Westersingel, not connected to other Chinese shops.

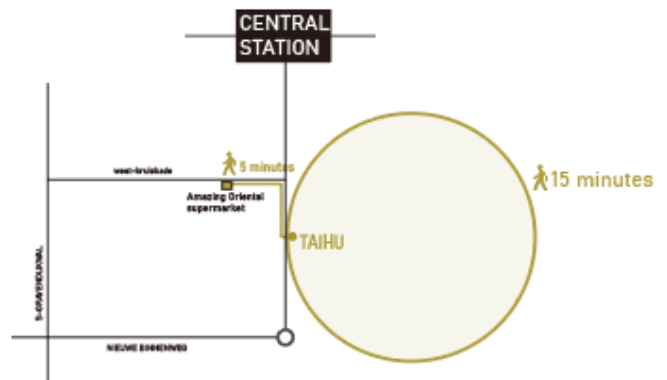
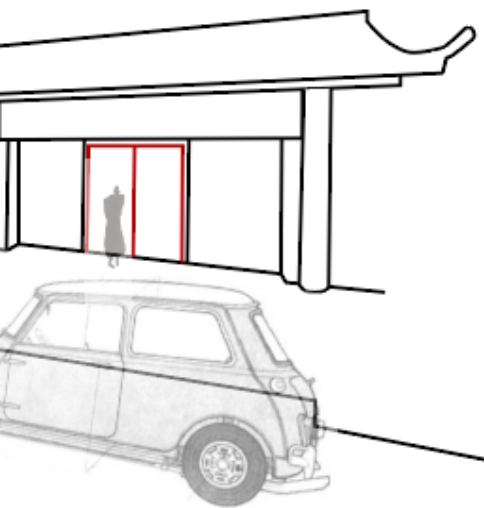
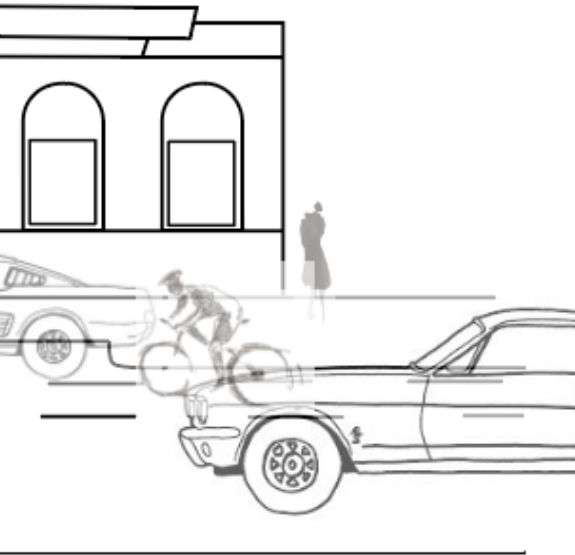


Taiwu Restaurant starting by a family from Hongkong 25 years ago. It serves Cantonise cuisines and dim-sum. It welcomes starting with a family from Hongkong 25 years ago. It serves Cantonese cuisines and dim-sum. It welcomes fast-paced dining as well as event dining. The purchases part of the raw food for cooking from the Chinese supermarket in Chinatown.

But the first shop owner submitted the restaurant to a couple from Fujian 4 years ago. The original chef and servers stay and retain the same interior decoration and food tastes. But the new shop owners do not connect with other shop entrepreneurs in Chinatown.

The clients of Taiwu restaurant are international. The ratio of Chinese and international clients is 1:9. Monday and Tuesday they are busy with second-generation Chinese who are on day-off, while on weekends, there are a lot of Chinese students. International clients usually come here after shopping in the city center.





Qualitative research of Chinatown entrepreneurs

China Town Dim-Sum started their business at West-Kruiskade in 2013 with Chinese fast food. They took over the current restaurant location in 2016 and turned it into a Cantonese restaurant. The current location is at the entrance of Chinatown.

In the following years, they expanded their business map in Chinatown. They diversify the cuisine type, such as Japanese food and Thai food, to adapt to the preferences of nowadays clients. They hold the biggest Chinese business network with the restaurant chain in current Chinatown.

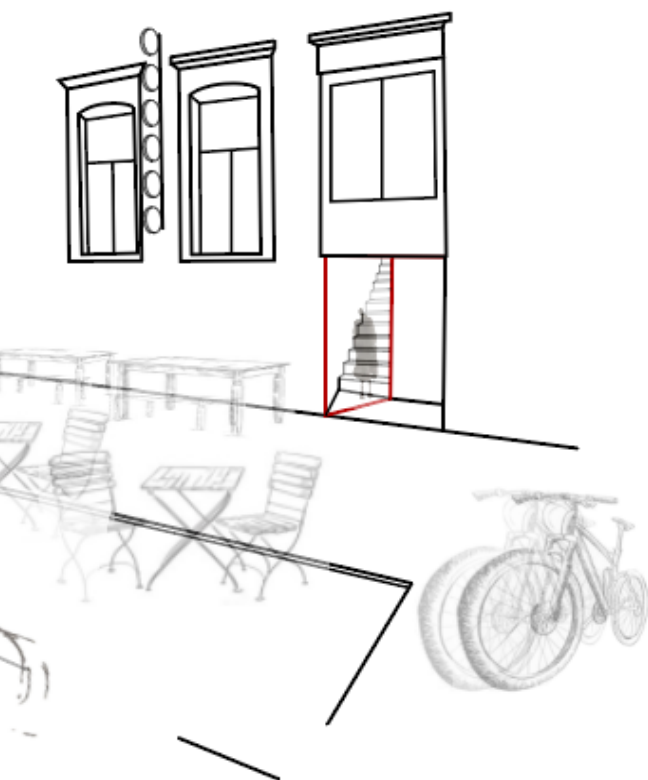
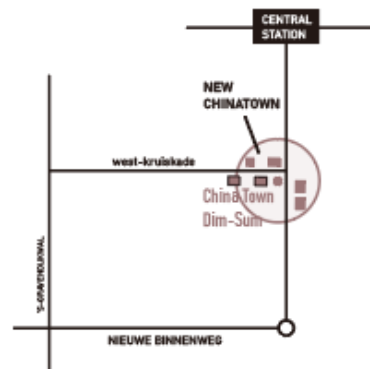
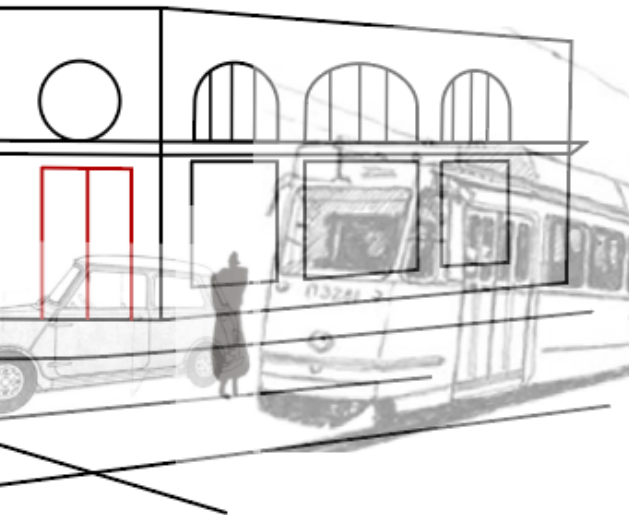
At the same time, they also have a personal connection with the older generation of Chinese, and they will help with the Chinese community development and organizations.



Yellow River Lanzhou Noodle, as the newest Chinese restaurant in Chinatown, is very different from other Hong Kong-style restaurants in terms of cuisine and business model. Yellow River Lanzhou Noodle is no longer adjacent to the open street, but opened on the second floor. They are the only Chinese restaurant that has copied the mode of Dutch restaurants and opened outdoor seatings. Its business runs fast-food model, fair price, and fast eat.

The restaurant was opened in 2019 by a couple. The husband is a Pakistani who grew up in the Netherlands and the wife is Chinese, and they share the Muslim faith and opened this halal noodle restaurant. The restaurant is now popular with the younger generation of Chinese.

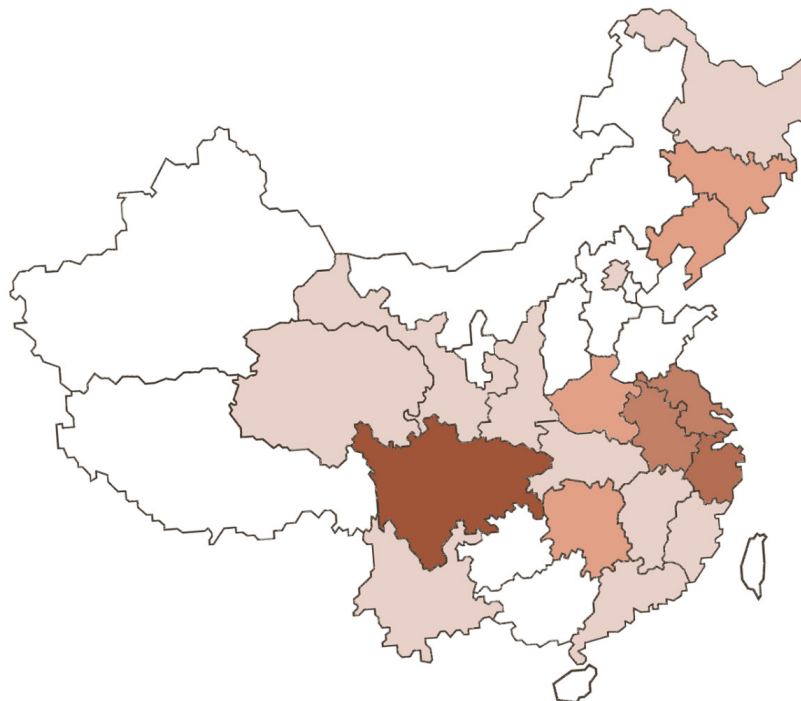






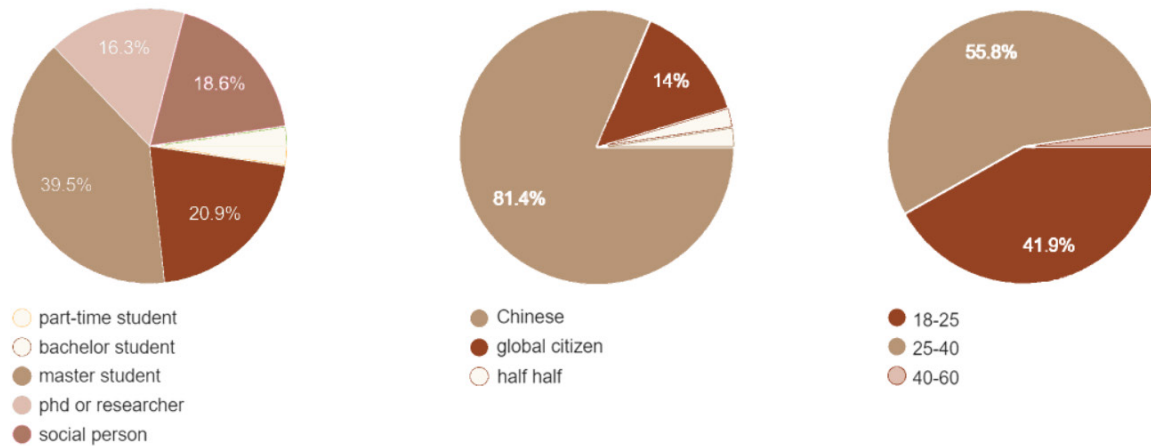
Results from quantative research of young generation Chinese in Rotterdam

From December 30th, 2022 till January 10th, there are 43 responses in total collected by online survey. The survey was spread through Chinese social media Weixin and Whatsapp, and filled with platform Google questionnaire. The targeted group mainly focuses on students or people who work in Rotterdam. It aims to understand the perspective of the young generation Chinese. Therefore, The questionnaire mainly focuses on the cultural background of the audience; their identities of Chinese; and their opinions toward current Rotterdam Chinatown and future expectations of it in terms of both social and spatial functions.



From this data collection, all the samples are from mainland China. But from the statistics, it can be told that most samples are from the further developed provinces/cities where it concentrates high-quality educational resources. A quarter of the data is from Chongqing and Sichuan, followed by Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Shanghai, and Anhui. It can be seen that the hometowns of new generations spread the all over Chinese mainland. This is unlikely for first and second-generation immigrants most of them are from less-developed towns alone in coastline areas. This will lead to differences in living habitats, such as food preferences and consumption behaviors.

Results from quantative research of young generation Chinese in Rotterdam



From the responses, it can be told that most of them are in good education in universities (master students take almost 40 percent), and they are in their young 20s (less than 5% of people are over 40 years old). Around 80 percent of responses identify themselves as pure Chinese, while one-fifth of people has been transforming their identities as global citizens or in-between, in which they are more open-minded to their cultural identities.

Their socialization



Erasmus University, as an academic university with a good reputation, attracts a large number of international students. The daily socialization areas among young Chinese are all located on the north side of Rotterdam.

The red dots are used to show the favorite Chinese shops chosen by the young generation. It is interesting to find out that the ones located in the popular areas are scattered separately, however, the ones in Chinatown are highly dense.

The highlighted area shows the most popular hang-out districts by the new generation regardless of cultural factors. Black is the most popular area, chosen by 18 responses, followed by Beurs and centrum areas (11 responses). The third popular is the Erasmus University campus (5 responses). While Chinatown only got 2 responses as a daily socialization area. The most popular areas are the commercial center area of Rotterdam City, highly concentrated shopping centers, and entertainment services.

The size of red dots varies with how popular it is. The rank 1st is Asian supermarket, followed by Lanzhou Noodle and CoCo Milktea. The first one is the fast-food type of Chinese authentic noodles, and CoCo Milktea is a famous chain of Milktea store which runs their brands around the whole world. Therefore, it can be inferred that the consumption behaviors of the young generation prefer affordable and fast modes, particularly food and brands that are already under their recognition.

How do you think of China Town ?

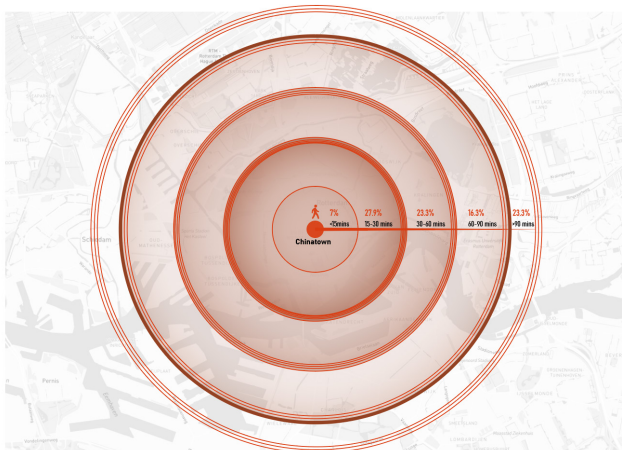


When they are asked the reason for this grade, the common answers include safety concerns, out-dated and dirty street atmosphere, and boring functions and services...

"It's not a good neighborhood despite its central location. I feel unsafe there."

This survey raised questions about the current use of Chinatown and the evaluation of current "Chinatown".

In terms of the impressions and experiences of current Rotterdam Chinatown, most feedbacks are negative. When thinking of the atmosphere of Chinatown, more than half of the responses (24 responses) agreed that it is old-fashioned and ugly. A quarter of responses (11 responses) did not realize it is Chinatown. When they are asked to rate Chinatown from 1 to 5, 30 out of 43 respondents rated it under 4.



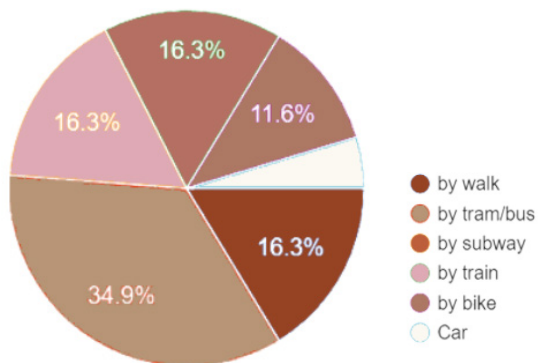
To evaluate the accessibility of current Rotterdam Chinatown, time spent walking to Chinatown becomes evaluation standards. 27.9% of responses live in the circle range between 15 to 30 minutes, which is along the boundary of the Rotterdam centrum, followed by 30 to 60 walking minutes and more than 90 minutes. Only 7% of people live near Chinatown within 15 walking distance.

According to D' Acci (2013), 15 minutes is the proximity of walkability. Therefore, larger quantities of Chinatown visitors will come by transportation.

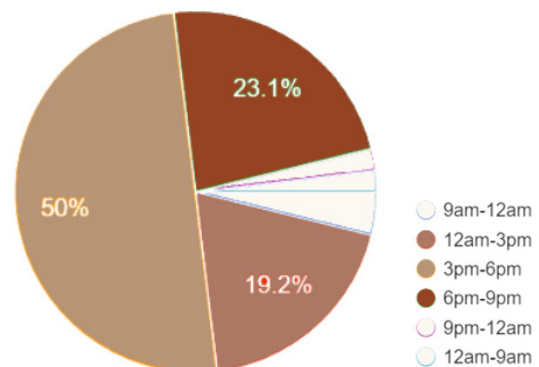
Concerning the encouragement of a sustainable city, improving the accessibility of Chinatown by public transportation, and restricting the private mobility approach are important.

D' Acci, L. (2013). Simulating future societies in Isobenefit Cities: social isobenefit scenarios. *Futures*, 54, 3-18.

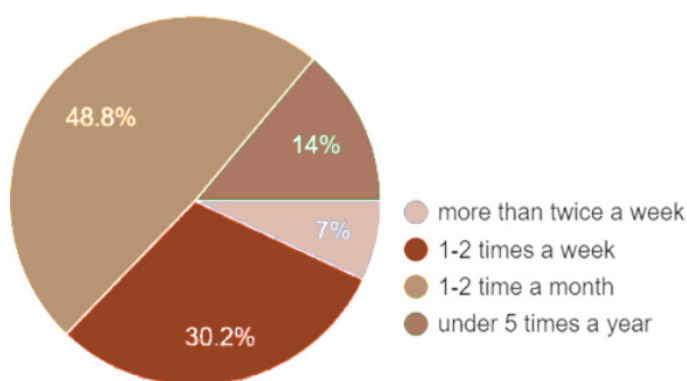
Results from quantative research of young generation Chinese in Rotterdam



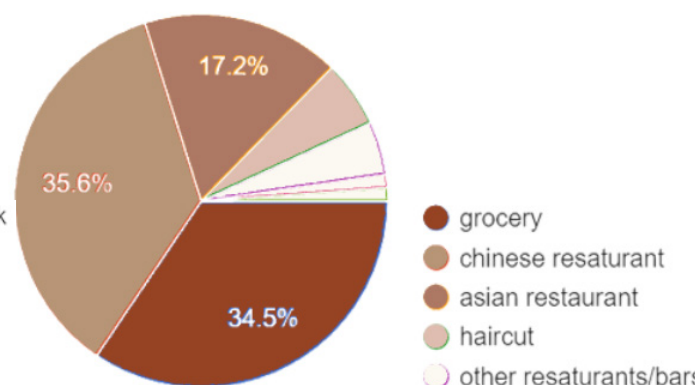
Observed from the results, around 80% of young Chinese arriving Chinatown by public transportation (by tram/bus, by train, and by subway). Tram and bus took dominant place, which is the travel way within Rotterdam city. Less than 5 % arrive in Chinatown by private car.



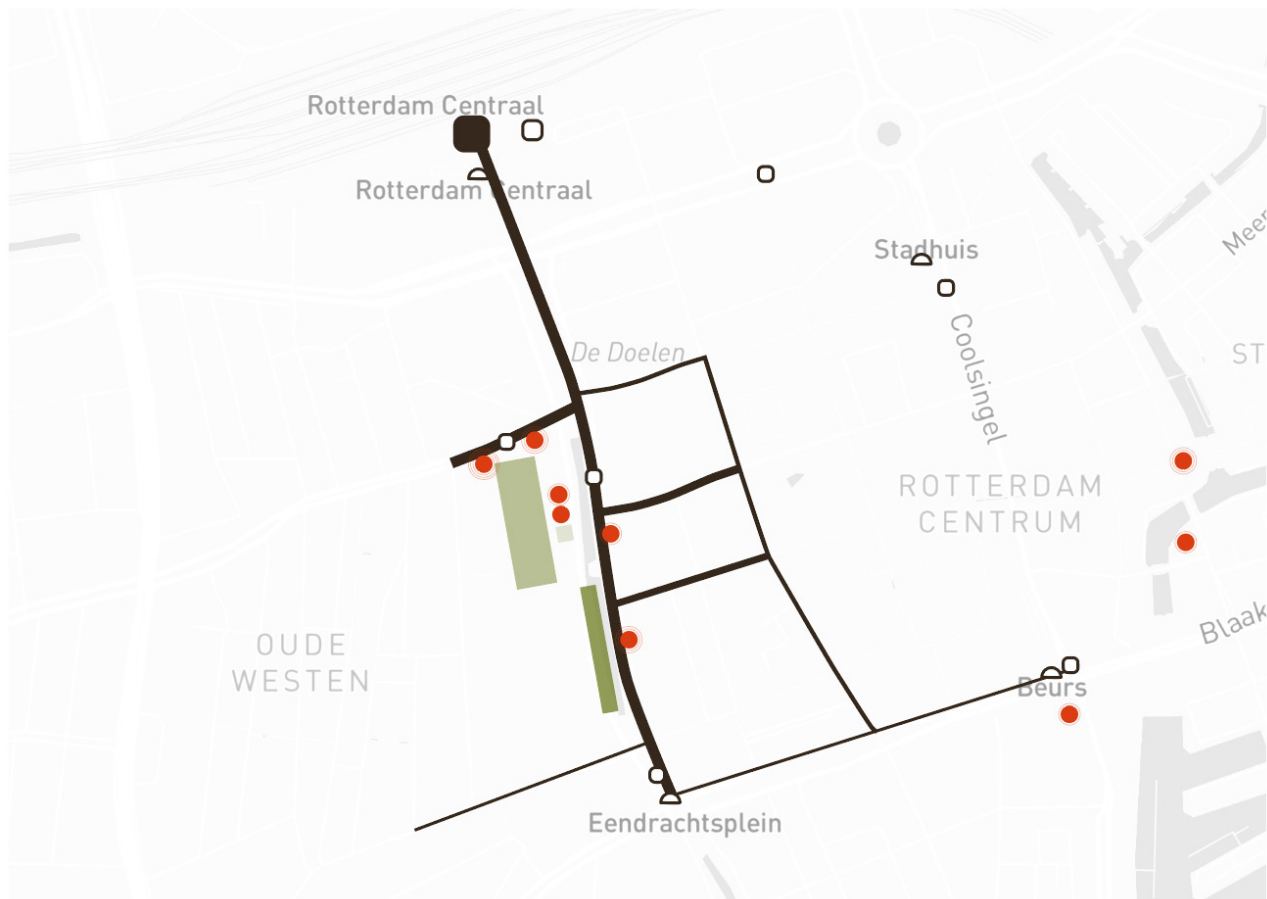
Most respondents chose to come to Chinatown before 6 pm. People prefer to shop or have meals at this time. Few people chose to come after 9 because of security concerns...



From the feedback, going to Chinatown is part of the daily routine of most responders. Around 80 percent of people will visit Rotterdam Chinatown at least 1 or 2 times every month. It is a widely recognized urban area.



The purposes people going to Chinatown are mainly for groceries and Chinese food, which are the daily necessities for Chinese to supplement Chinese special products or find hometown tastes.



"Only the first 50m of West-kruiskade gives the feeling like a so-called Chinatown."

The map shows the responses usually visiting routes of Chinatown, and its relation with the favored Chinese shops and public spaces.

The most frequent route is from Rotterdam central station till the end of Mauritsweg, followed by the way of walking through West-Kruiskade. Along Mauritsweg and West-Kruiskade, there are popular Chinese shops mentioned above, such as Chinese supermarkets and Chinese restaurants.

On the other hand, some visitors visiting Chinatown are with going to Rotterdam centrum at the same time. The pedestrians, such as Karel Doormanstraat, Mauritsplaats, and Van Oldenbarneveltstraat are the common choices for young Chinese to cross with.

In addition, as a result of high use of public transportation, the locations of tram and subway stations also affect people's direction of visiting

Chinatown. Beurs station and Rotterdam central station are the primary city sites.

However, the two obvious public space Oude Western Park and Westersingel sculpture park are underused.

In the questions asking about the future expectations of Chinatown, people would like to have more welcoming public spaces and diverse shop functions and services on the site. Most importantly, they hope the security of the site is improved, especially at night.

Policy Analysis



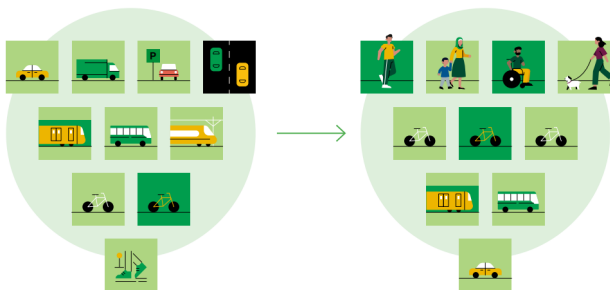
The major national legislative amendment "The Environment Act" was published in 2022. This requires each city municipality to develop an environmental vision. Rotterdam municipality chose 5 focuses to respond to this amendment, which are the commitment to a pleasant life in the delta; promoting urbanization and urban connection; community development; sustainable transformation of energy and raw materials; upgradation of economic capacity.

Mobility

Rotterdam is facing population increase and urban densification, which attracts a lot of work and living in this region. It is particularly favored by students, knowledge workers, and companies.

An increasingly urban population means growing mobility requirements. The increasing private mobility may be beyond the current mobility capacity such as roads and parking lots. Rotterdam encourages space-efficient, clean, and flexible forms of mobility. The recently established "Rotterdam Mobility Approach", and "City Lounge" which is a public space making resulted in more cyclists and pedestrians getting positive responses.

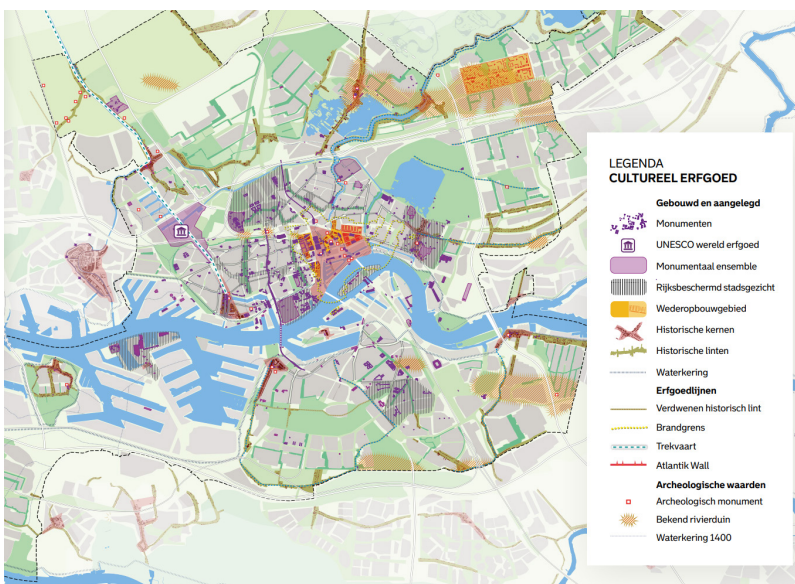
In the city center, Rotterdam is projecting to provide more cycling paths, walking streets, and public transport, while the car will become the guest. Cars will be accommodated up to the edge of residential areas. Keeping the road safe to sustain entrepreneurs for the busy car-free area in the center.



Cultural diversity and community needs

The cultural diversity of Rotterdam society is growing, and at the same time, individualization continues. However, among young and elderly people, urban loneliness grows at the same time, in which people are seeking connection.

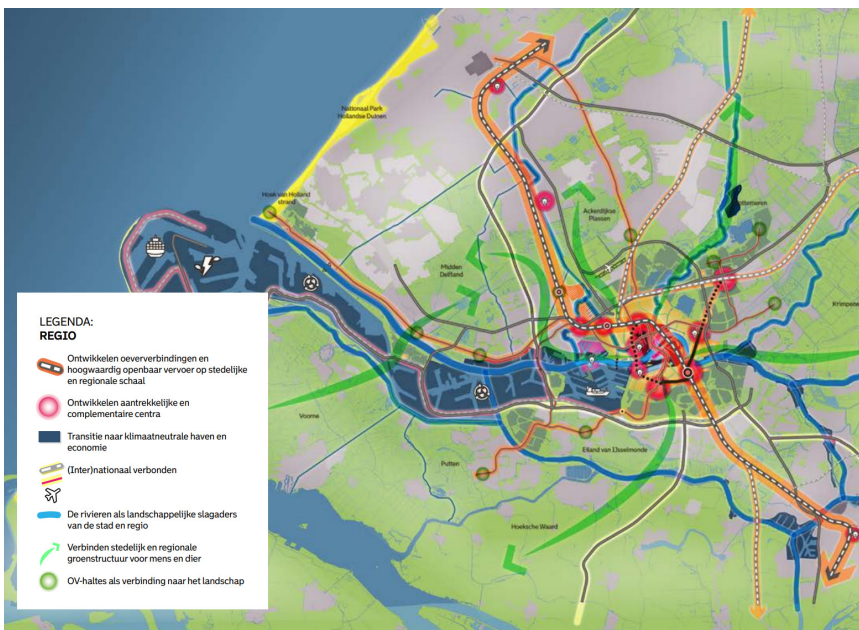
More meeting places and connecting activities in the city and neighborhood are required. People have the weak economic capacity, socially vulnerable groups, and immigrants are easier to feel lonely. More and more spontaneous social networking aiming for common visions is emerging.



Policy Analysis

Attractive city

Rotterdam has attached importance to outdoor public space making and has made a considerable investment. It makes the city center more attractive. It provides residents and visitors to socialize and get entertained. In addition, it provides a more appealing business environment attracting more employment positions and entrepreneurs, as well as festival spaces.



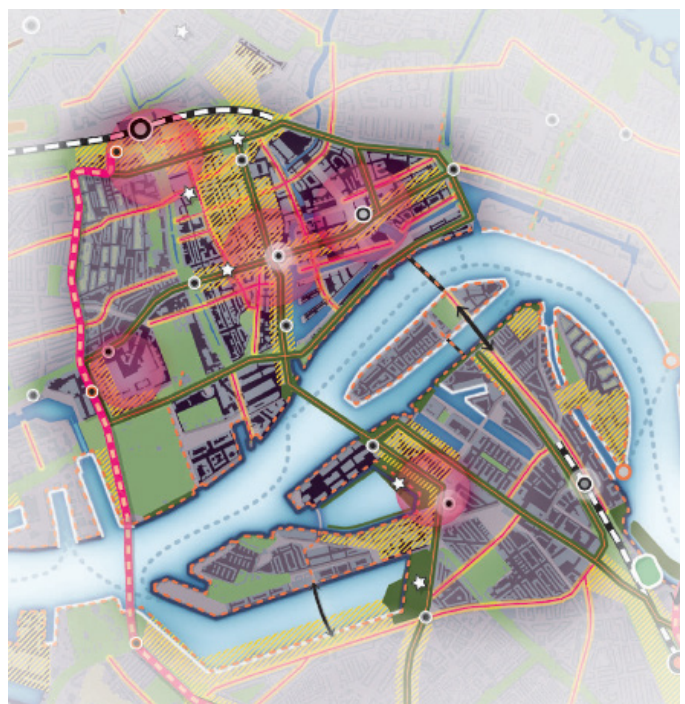
Centrum positioning

The future vision of the centrum will remain the livability for residents, entrepreneurs, and tourists. It is the inclusive metropolitan center where global meets local.

The city center is strongly focusing on the mobility transition before the public and partial transportation and walking streets. The mobility transition plays a crucial role in carrying the strategy of a compact and healthy city.

In addition, the densifying center asks for high-quality public space for intensive use, management, and maintenance.

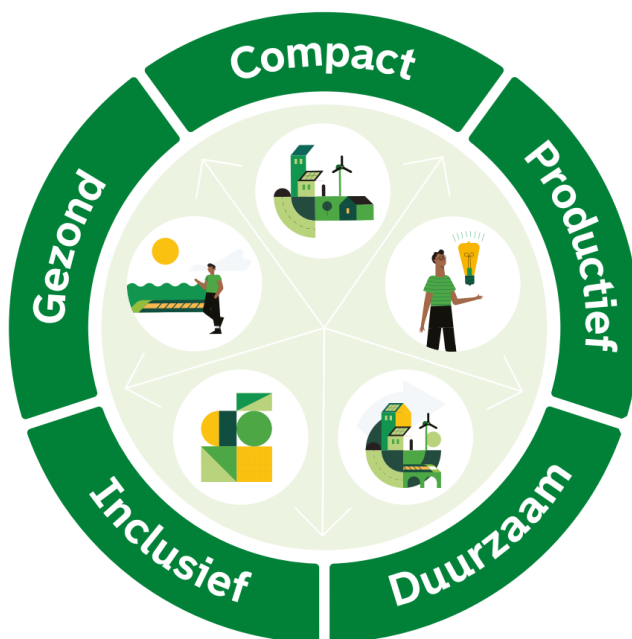
Making open streets, boulevards, and rivers more appealing is the starting point for future urban development. The future densification mainly takes place along the boulevards and near public transport nodes.



Cities for people

For urban transformation, Rotterdam invites citizens to participate in the city making. Rotterdam has a lively city-making practice: small-scale private urban development, initiatives by residents, and entrepreneurs in collaboration with housing associations, developers, and the municipality. This typical Rotterdam urban development mode involves the local tradition of entrepreneurship, private-public urban development, and citizen participation. Rotterdam city envisions 5 perspectives, which are: compact city, inclusive city, sustainable city, healthy city, and productive city.

Rotterdam respects the history and cultural heritage and has put efforts to preserve them. It is important to define the city's characteristics and identities.



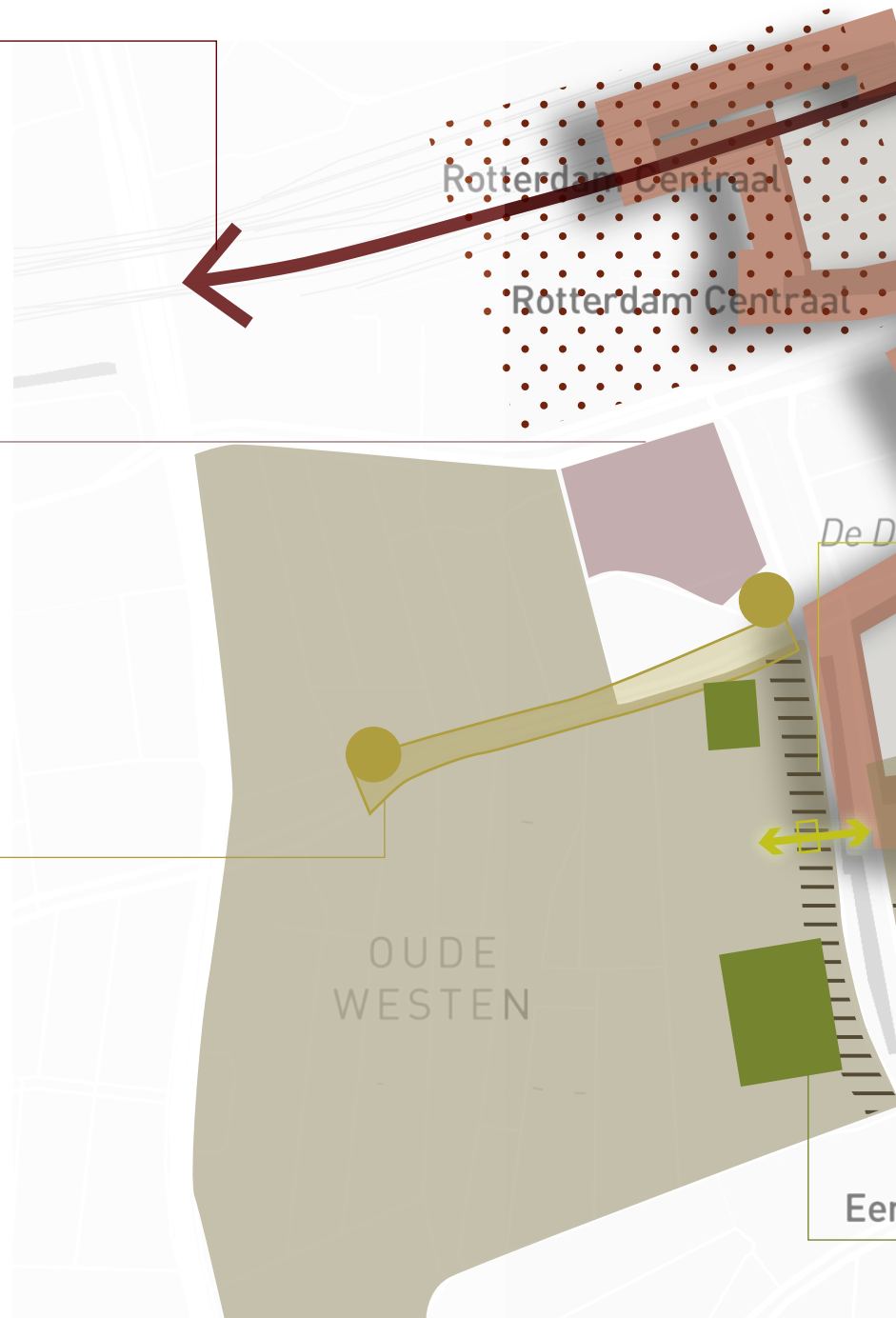
On-site Analysis

The renovation of international high-speed lines, which aims to connect with the rest of Europe, finished by 2014. This development has been drawn as a stepping stone to attract international tourists to Rotterdam, and Chinatown become a cultural namecard stepping into Rotterdam center.

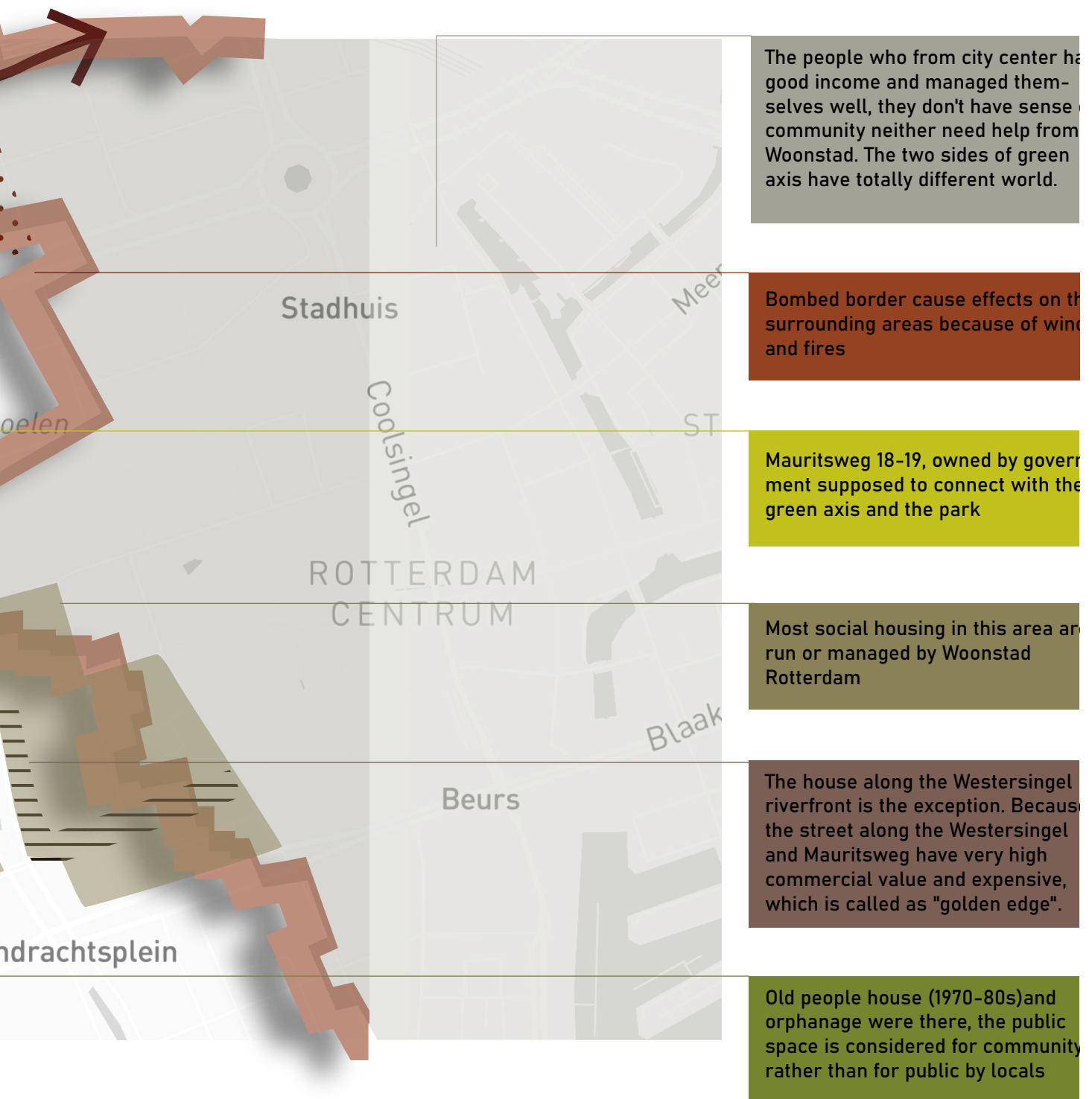
Before the area was developed, employees built the Rotterdam zoo here (1819-1940). Right after Bombardment of Rotterdam, due to the chaotic situation, a lot of wild animals were released to the street. Zebras walking on the road, sealions swimming in the Westsingel canal became a memory for local residents.

West-Kruiskade was renovated since 2010 till 2016, and firstly starts with the development of square at the entrances of two sides.

Before there were a lot of furniture stores, shabby cafe with drug dealing, Turkish tailor shop, Surinamese snack shop. The atmosphere is very introverted and not well-used of public space.



From 2010 to 2017, Woonstad renovated the street of West-Kruiskade because it was paid less attention by the municipality after the Rotterdam Bombing and the low living quality of the area, such as drug-related crime. The renovation project of Netherlands train lines connecting with the rest of Europe finished by 2014. As West-Kruiskade is located in a central location, it should be ready for the large increasing tourists which could be foreseen. The government decided to cooperate with Woonstad to intervene in the street development of West-Kruiskade which functioned as a stepping stone to the city center. Therefore, this street renovation project was not only for the residents on a neighborhood scale but also as an urban development strategy on a city scale.



This plan not only targeted for Chinese community but involved all the immigrants there and tried to avoid gentrification. The strategy is to remove the illegal and unsafe elements but keep what is good there such as diverse cultures.

The residents connected with the community committee. But it is hard to approach to the Chinese community, they don't really want to build connections with local people.

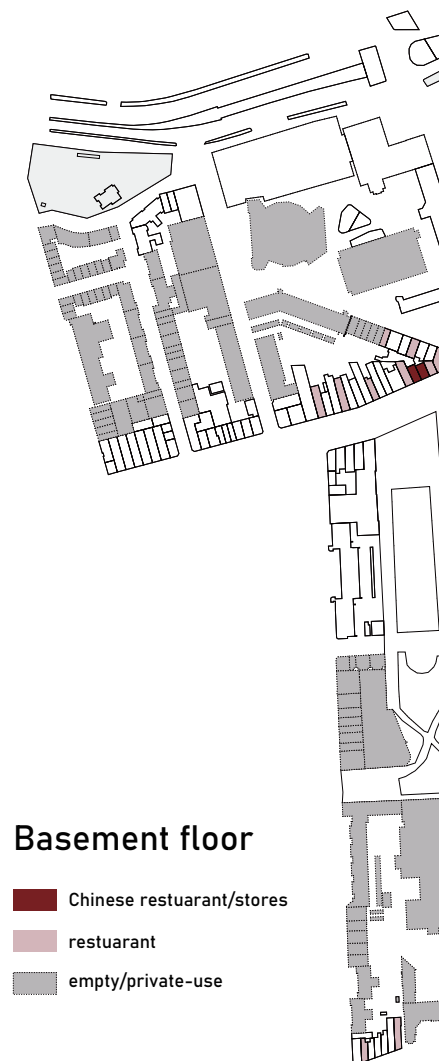
Spatial Analysis

Current Chinatown basement use and mobility system

The diagram on the left presents a visualization of stores in Rotterdam's Chinatown obtained from Google Maps, highlighting those directly associated with "Chinese community," such as restaurants or supermarkets. Commercial stores are represented in white, while grey represents companies or private residences inaccessible to the public. Conversely, the map on the right depicts the public green spaces, public rail transit, and pedestrian system within the area.

Upon analyzing this grouping, it becomes apparent that Chinese community-oriented stores are predominantly concentrated at open street level, particularly near intersections. Furthermore, the Westersingel acts as a discernible dividing line, with the western section primarily catering to residential communities and offering more private services. In contrast, the eastern area is characterized by a vibrant, fast-paced, and commercial environment.

This analysis provides valuable insights into the spatial distribution and orientation of Chinese-oriented businesses in Rotterdam's Chinatown, highlighting the interplay between commercial activity, public spaces, and transit infrastructure in the area.

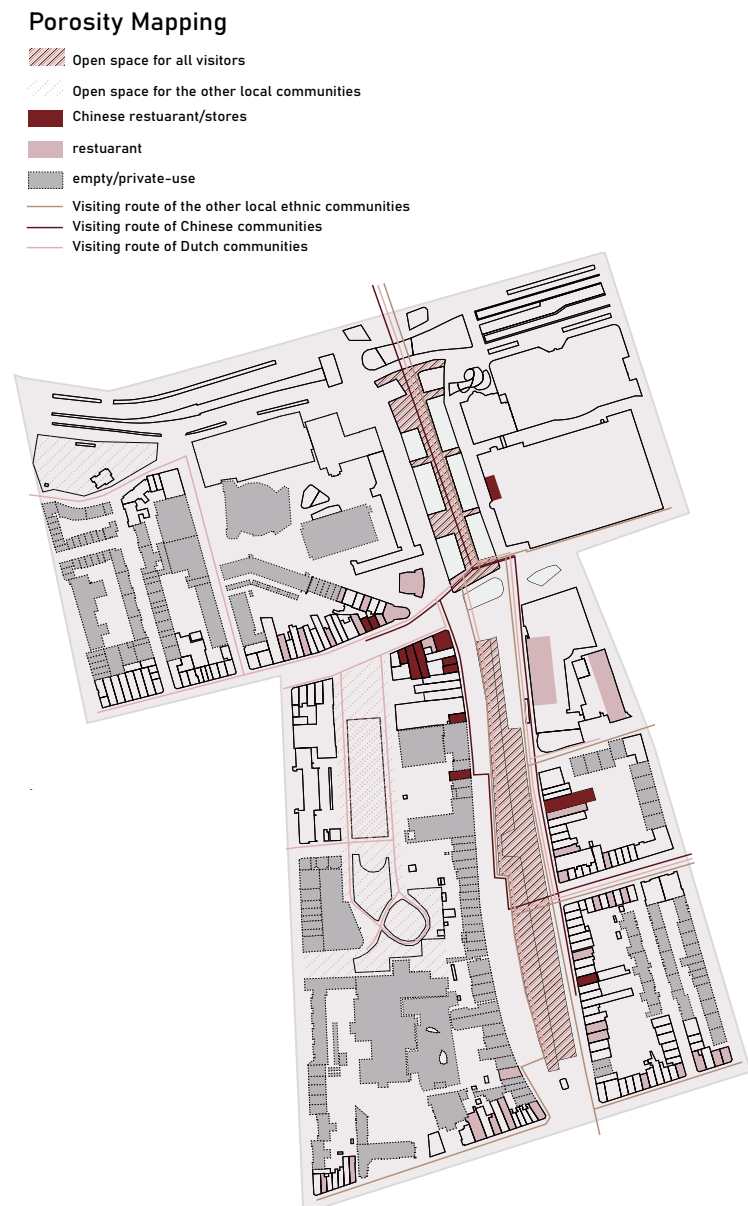


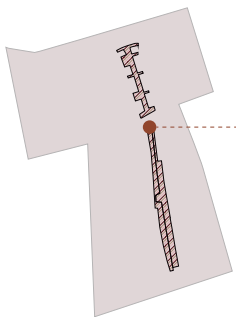
Spatial Analysis

Potential public space use with culture layers

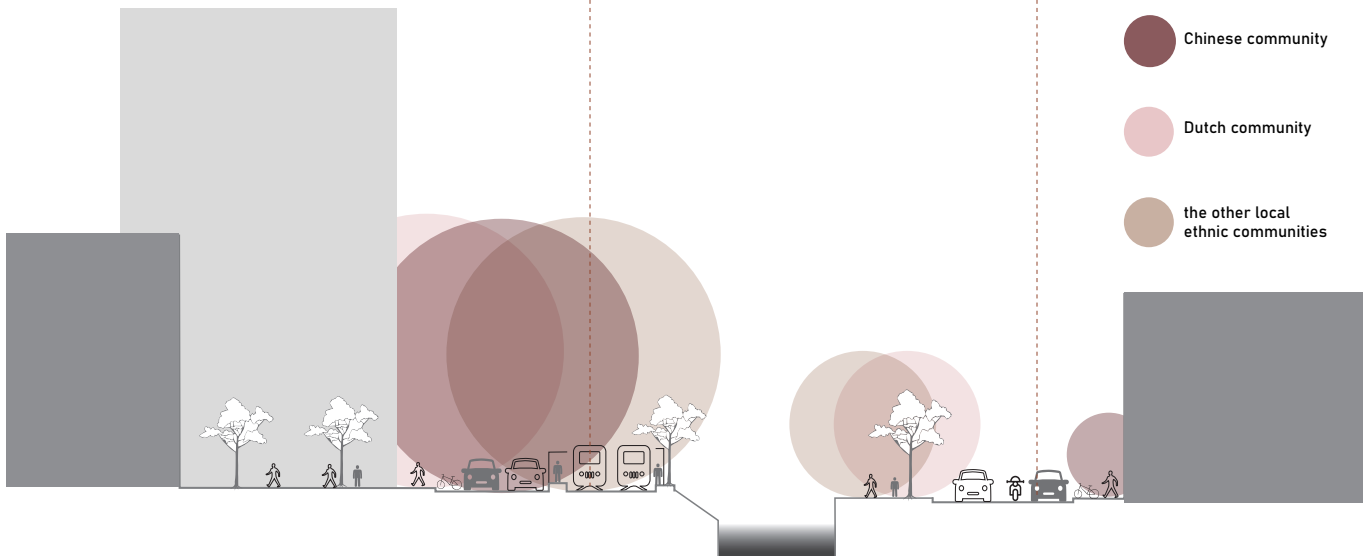
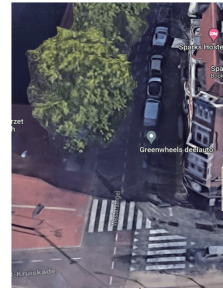
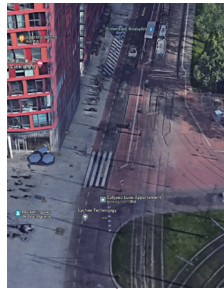
This diagram illustrates the utilization of urban public space by various racial groups within the immigrant community. It becomes evident that open spaces, such as boulevards, public green areas, and restaurants, serve as inclusive environments where individuals from different ethnic backgrounds, including Chinese, Dutch, and other ethnicities, coexist and share spaces harmoniously. On the left side of the road, there is a greater mix of profiles, whereas the right side is divided by carriageways and boulevards. The Chinese community tends to favor the streets adjacent to Chinese stores, while the wider population prefers the boulevards.

This analysis highlights the significance of public spaces in fostering cultural inclusion and integration within the community. It provides a compelling argument for selecting appropriate sites that can further enhance these aspects and facilitate interaction among diverse cultural groups.





"GATE" TO CHINATOWN



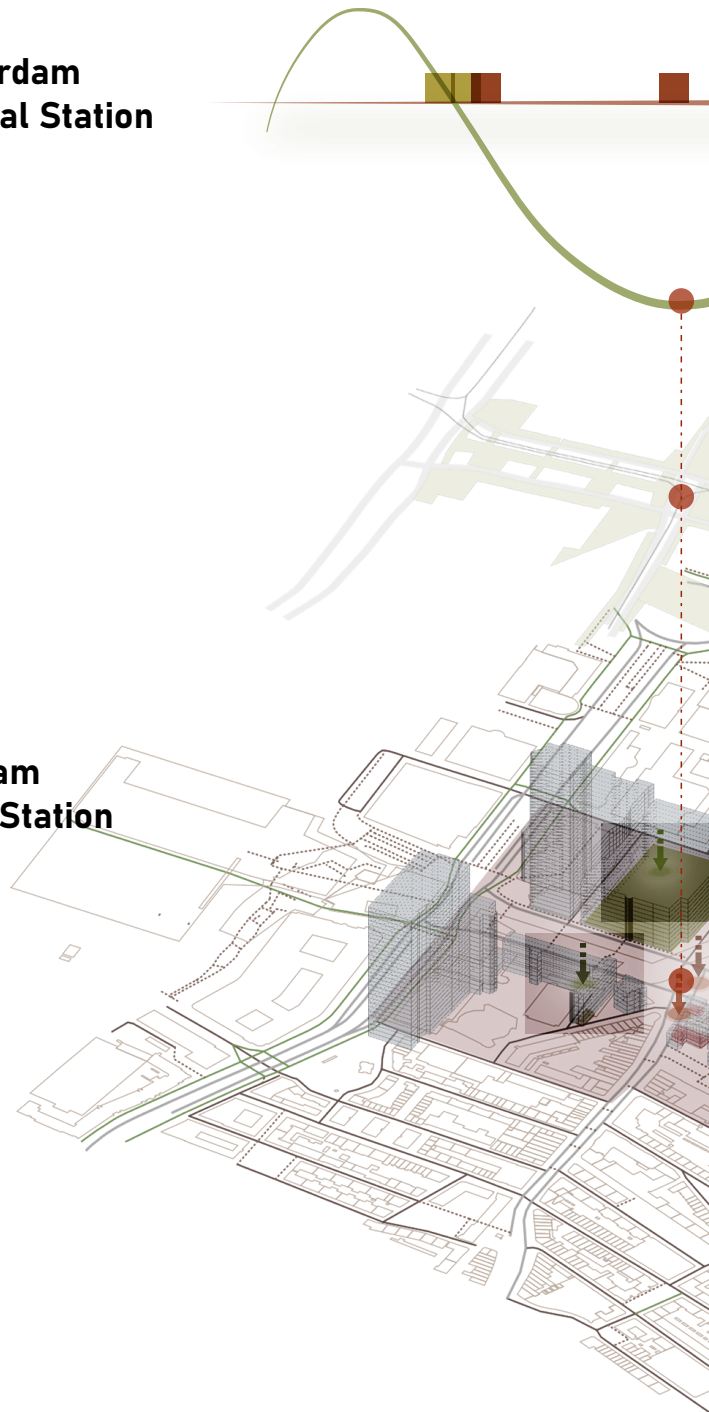
Spatial Analysis

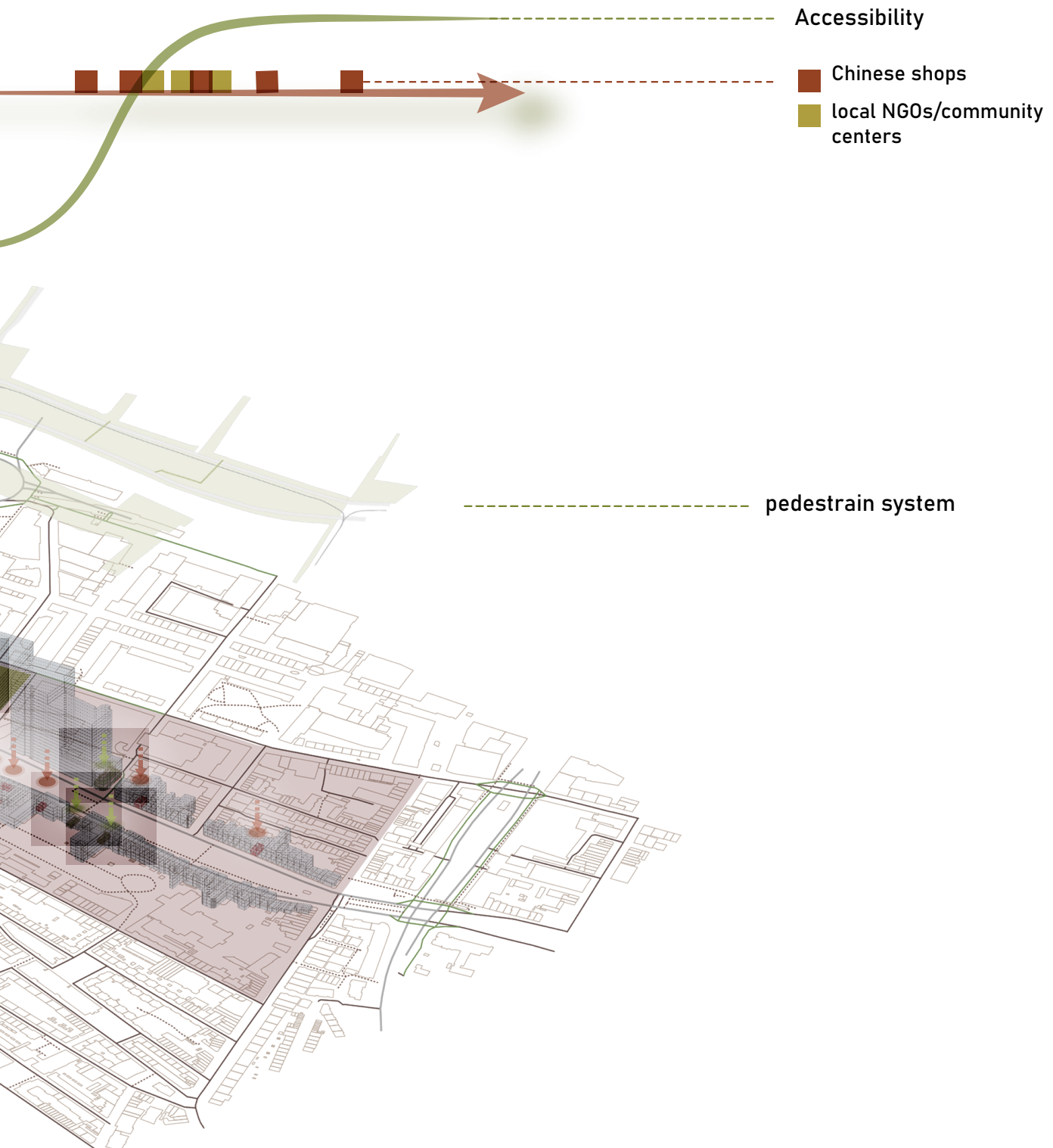
Walkability of Chinatown

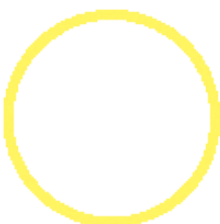
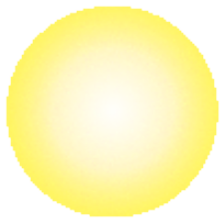
This final analysis zooms in on the Chinese communities and their interaction with public spaces, specifically examining spatial accessibility, walkability, and the existing barriers. The study delves into how easily individuals can access these spaces on foot and identifies any obstacles or challenges that may hinder their movement.

**Rotterdam
Central Station**

**Rotterdam
Central Station**







Chapter 4

Pattern Language Design & stakeholder workshop



Rotterdam Chinatown Transformation



INTRO

As time change, the Chinese immigrants are experiencing glocalization in Netherlands. Rotterdam Chinatown is a good site example. With the diverse composition, the challenge of the integration within the generations, sub-groups and with other ethnic groups is waiting to be addressed...

The research question of this study is "how can Rotterdam Chinatown become an encave to empower the community development for transformed Chinese immigration communities?"

This pattern booklet is a communication tool to understand the opinions from involved stakeholders, and a learning tool to test and evaluate the efficiency of these patterns, and give implication to give researchers who have the interest in open space making, community development and cultural transformation.

ROTTERDAM CHINATOWN TRANSFORMATION 鹿特丹唐人街更新

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP 社區工作坊



INVITATION

誠邀

Time: January 17th, 2023 9.30-11.30(GMT+1)

Location: GOETHE INSTITUT, Rotterdam

Online link: <https://bit.ly/3t1687j>

Pattern language design

The methods of this pattern language design are inspired by book "A Pattern Language" by Alexander published in 1977. The pattern language in this project will be used as a communication tool and design tool in the stakeholder workshop to understand the opinions of involved stakeholders (interpret in the following chapter). At the same time, this pattern is a learning tool for scholars who are also interested in researchers who have interested in open space making, community development, and cultural transformation.

All the patterns are designed based on all the analyses above. There are 28 patterns designed in total for Chinatown. They are categorized into three columns which are community development, cultural integration, and open space use. This aims to echo the research questions.

CD	Community development
CD1	Develop online-services
CD2	Establish community fund
CD3	Build website for Chinatown
CD4	System visual design for Chinatown
CD5	Build landmarks for Chinatown
CD6	Chinese shop alliance with whole Rotterdam
CD7	Products for Chinatown
CD8	Povide job opportunities for the communities

OS Open space use

OS1	add water elements
OS2	Children-oriented facilities
OS3	Renovate street façade
OS4	Improve the space quality at night
OS5	Activate use along open streets
OS6	Restrict smoking area
OS7	Increase the entertainment of the public space
OS8	Activate Ouden Western park for public use
OS9	Connect centrum area with Chinatown
OS10	Re-plan the mobility route
OS11	Walkable streets promot
OS12	Empty house activation

CI Cultural Integration

CI1	Increase the number community center
CI2	Provide rest spots near community centers
CI3	Community gardens for co-maintenance
CI4	Theme activities
CI5	Facilities with culture elements
CI6	Regularly conduct of cultural activities
CI7	Empower local NGOs
CI8	Diversify shop function& services

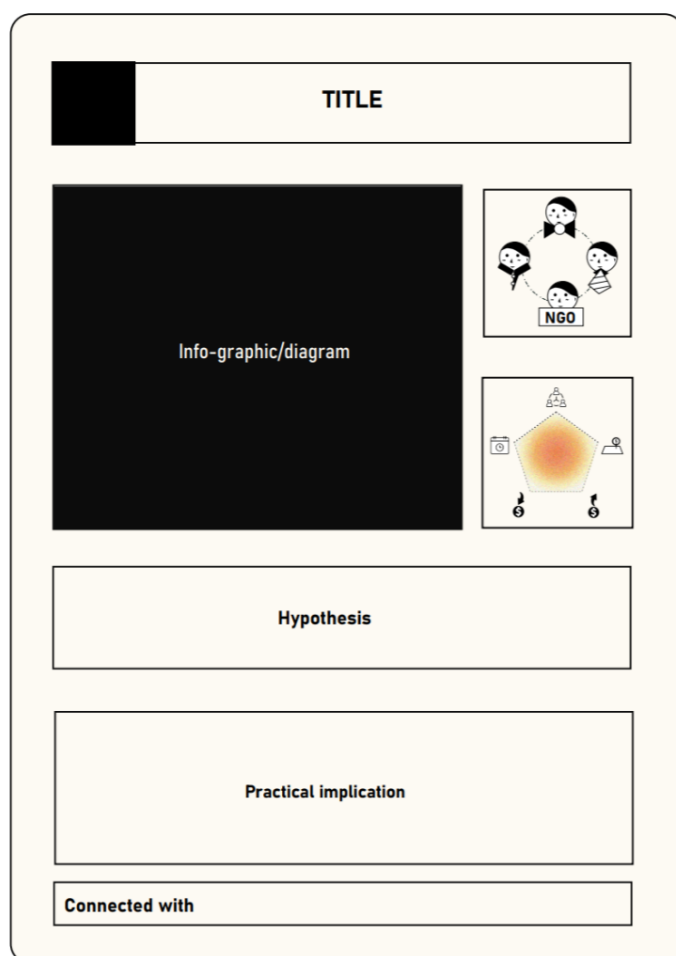
Pattern language design

The layout of the design of each pattern language includes the specific goal under the big category, the evaluation criteria, and connectedness with other patterns.

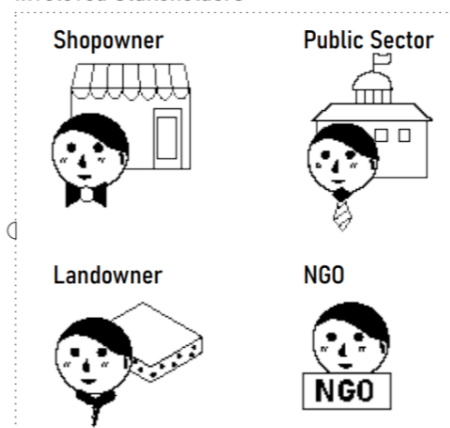
The interpretation of the specific goal includes one reference image, a sentence of hypothesis, and examples of practical implications.

The evaluation criteria at the right of the card were mainly as a reference for card readers. The involvedw stakeholders show who would be the main actors or organizers for this objective. The value assessment is from an economic perspective to evaluate the added value or the cost for this pattern.

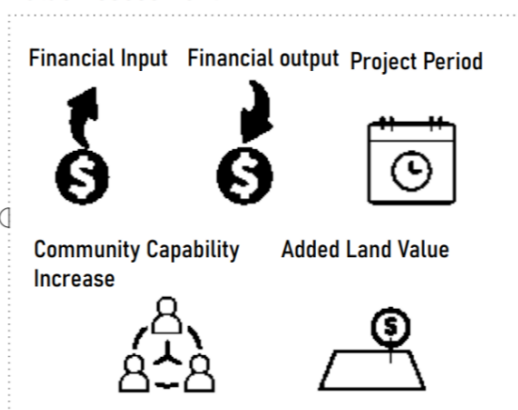
The connectedness at the bottom of the cards demonstrates that this card could be aligned with other patterns together. This helps to create a complete vision system and network.



Involved Stakeholders

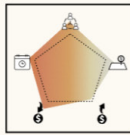


Value Assessment



OS1

Add water elements



Hypothesis

People love to get close with water and interact with it. Therefore, increase the entertainment of water elements in public space.

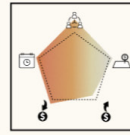
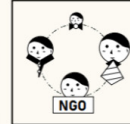
Practical implication

- Water fountain in the public park
- Water pond that visitors can have fun with

Connected with: OS2, OS7, OS8, OS11, CD5, CI5

OS2

Children-oriented facilities



Hypothesis

Increase the public facilities for Children to make the area more welcoming for families and more lively

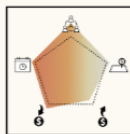
Practical implication

- Add interactive children's facilities at Ouden Western park and West-ersingel
- Improve the security supervision for the site

Connected with: OS1, OS7, OS8, CI3, CI6, CI4

OS3

Renovate street façade



Hypothesis

Renew the street façade to make it more attractive, and make people be aware of this is Chinatown and with diverse cultures

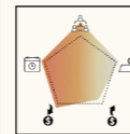
Practical implication

- Draw beautiful graffiti
- Improve the sense of the wall
- Make the look of the façade in Chinatown streets in the same style

Connected with: OS5, OS7, OS9, OS11, OS12, CD4, CD5, CI5

OS4

Improve the space quality at night



Hypothesis

Secure the safety of the streets and public parks to improve the space quality at night

Practical implication

- Extend the opening hours of shops
- provide sufficient street lightning at night
- Add patrol policemen at night

Connected with: OS5, OS6, OS7, OS9, OS10, OS11, OS12, CI2, CI4, CI6, CI8

Pattern language design

OS5

Activate use along open streets



Hypothesis

Activating the open space along the streets, and connecting with shops, will improve the lively and safe atmosphere of the districts

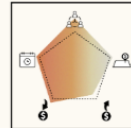
Practical implication

- Encourage restaurants, bars cafes to set more seating places outside
- Diversify the forms of seats, such as stand bar, light table, chairs, etc

Connected with: OS4, OS5, OS6, OS9, OS10, OS11, C12, C13, C18

OS6

Restrict smoking area



Hypothesis

Restrict smoking in public spaces and streets to improve the safety and quality of Chinatown

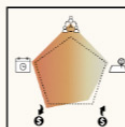
Practical implication

- Provide small smoking circles with seats, rather than standing in a cluster along streets
- Ban smoking in the most open streets and public space

Connected with: OS4, OS6, OS8, C12

OS7

Increase the entertainment of the public space



Hypothesis

Add playful facilities in the park, along the water, or open streets, to make the area more interesting and attractive

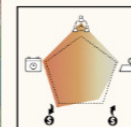
Practical implication

- Interactive art sculpture
- Cultural behavior showing in public spaces like noodle hand-pulling, tea making, Dim-sum making, etc

Connected with: OS1, OS2, OS3, OS4, OS8, OS9, OS11, CD4, CD5, C13, C16

OS8

Activate Ouden Western park for public use



Hypothesis

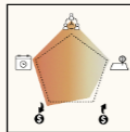
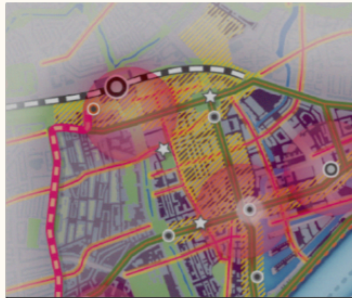
Open the Ouden Western park for the public, instead just for community use; welcome all visitors

Practical implication

- Make the entrance of the Ouden Western park bigger
- Hold public activities regularly to welcome all visitors
- Add more public entertainment and cultural facilities
- Improve the quality of green space and public infrastructures

Connected with: OS1, OS2, OS4, OS6, OS7, CD5, C13, C15, C16

OS9 Connect centrum area with Chinatown



Hypothesis

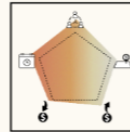
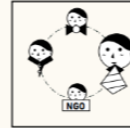
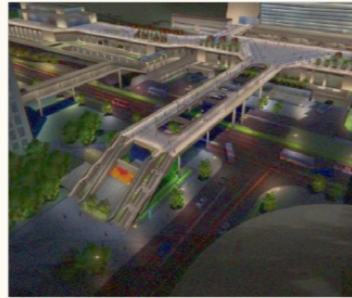
Expand the border of Chinatown, better connect with Central areas, such as Beurs, Blaak etc.

Practical implication

- Intensify the shops along the streets toward centrum
- Maintain the street quality and safety of public space
- Broaden the walkable streets and cycling path between Chinatown and Centrum area

Connected with: OS3, OS5, OS7, OS9, OS11, CD1, CD6, CI1, CI8

OS10 re-plan the mobility route



Hypothesis

Re-plan the mobility of the Chinatown area, and make it more comfortable for people walking

Practical implication

- Ease the traffic congestion at the entrance of Chinatown
- Narrow the roads of two-way streets
- Erase the parking space on the road surface

Connected with: OS4, OS5, OS9, OS11,

OS11 walkable streets promot



Hypothesis

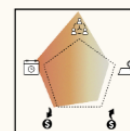
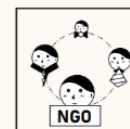
Promot slow-pace area only with walkable streets and cycling path

Practical implication

- Broaden and prior to the used pedestrians, and control the use of the driveway.
- Encourage shops and restaurants along the street to use the open spaces or set more outdoor seats.
- Landscape redesign along the waterfront to increase the visual appeal of Westersingel streets.

Connected with: OS3, OS4, OS5, OS6, OS7, OS8, OS9, OS10, CI8

OS12 Empty house activation



Hypothesis

Activating the empty houses, rent it for temporary use as public services or cultural centers

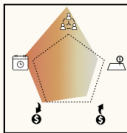
Practical implication

- make the transparency of the ownership of the empty house, convenient for people applying for open use
- Open call for the management of these empty houses for short term
- Rent places for needed people to have food and rests
- Artists to rent the place for public exhibition relates to cultural themes

Connected with: OS3, OS4, CD2, CD7, CI1, CI4, CI6, CI8

Pattern language design

CD1 Develop online-services



Hypothesis

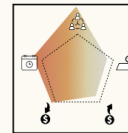
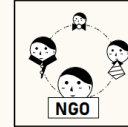
Developing online services in order to adapt to the consumer habit of new Chinese generation, and flexibly serve surrounding offices and residents.

Practical implication

- online shopping Chinatown products
- Local shops and restaurants cooperate with delivery platform or develop their own system
- Create a fast deliver system in cater to the needs of young generations

Connected with: CD3, CD6, CD7, CD8, OS9, CI3, CI8

CD2 Establish community fund



Hypothesis

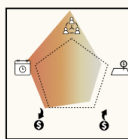
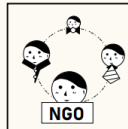
Ask the public and the community to financial support to increase empower the community, and increase people's awareness of community building

Practical implication

- Open the public channel for money-donation.
- Hold second-hand market for the community to share

Connected with: CD3, CD4, CD7, CI1, CI3, CI4, CI7

CD5 Build landmarks for Chinatown



Hypothesis

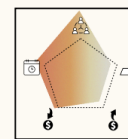
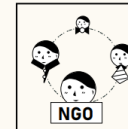
Build landmarks for Chinatown, which helps visitors identify the neighborhood, while increasing the community's self-identity

Practical implication

- Add cultural landmarks at the entrance of Chinatown
- Add cultural elements at the community center or rest spots in Chinatown

Connected with: CD4, OS1, OS3, OS7, OS8, CI5

CD6 Chinese shop alliance with whole City



Hypothesis

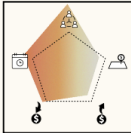
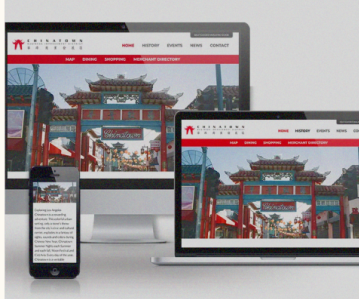
Expand the Chinese shop alliance to adapt to the transformation of the expansion of Rotterdam Chinatown

Practical implication

- Facilitate communication between Chinese shops and surrounding neighborhood
- Regularly conduct alliance workshop to update information

Connected with: CD1, CD3, OS9, CI4, CI8

CD3 Build website for Chinatown



Hypothesis

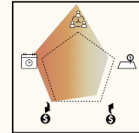
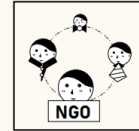
Establish a website platform to facilitate community to integrate information, and facilitate tourists to understand the community

Practical implication

- Website order for Chinese restaurant
- Website information for Chinatown product selling
- Website for Chinatown shops of hiring people
- Website for the history of Chinese community and other culture groups

Connected with: CD1, CD2, CD4, CD6, CD7, CD8, CI3, CI4, CI6, CI8

CD4 System visual design for Chinatown



Hypothesis

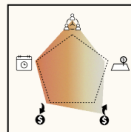
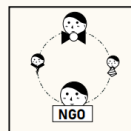
Create a visual language for Chinatown, which helps visitors identify the neighborhood, while increasing the community's self-identity

Practical implication

- visual design showing on the website, maps, street signs.
- visual design printed on the products, gifts sent to tourists and visitors..

Connected with: CD1, CD2, CD3, CD5, CD7, CD6, OS3, OS7, CI5

CD7 Products for Chinatown



Hypothesis

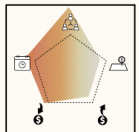
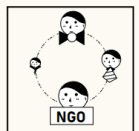
Design souvenir products based on Chinatown. This helps Chinatown to build an impression for visitors, and enhance place's attachment to locals

Practical implication

- Design products, combining with the history of Chinatown
- Put the visual language of Chinatown on the products

Connected with: CD1, CD4, CI3, CI4, CI8

CD8 Provide job opportunities for the community



Hypothesis

A good way to empower community is that, the business in Chinatown can provide job opportunities for the community

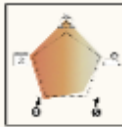
Practical implication

- Create online platform for Chinatown shops or restaurants to post recruitment information, and people who are seeking for job
- Put up recruitment information at community center in Chinatown

Connected with: CD1, CD3, CI1, CI3, CI4, CI6

Pattern language design

CI1 Increase the number community center



Hypothesis

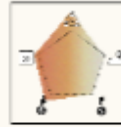
Increase and diverse the type of community center in Chinatown, to provide spaces for the community to meet each other, and satisfy different needs of people

Practical implication

- Divide the people flow clustered in one community center
- Provide community centers with different themes and space sizes
- Provide flexible community hubs that can easily switch to other functions

Connected with: CI2, CI3, CI4, CI6, CI7, OS4, CD2, CD8, OS12

CI2 provide rest spots near community centers



Hypothesis

Set rest spots near the cultural/community center, along the street/nearby the park. It helps to improve security and activate open spaces.

Practical implication

- provide organized space for people waiting in line or smoking
- be convenient for people to build connections in public space
- Introduce community centers from the neighborhood to the public

Connected with: CI1, CI3, CI5, OS4, OS5, OS6

CI7 Empower local NGOs



Hypothesis

Support cultural service centers with money, and participate in activities held by them. This help builds the cohesion of the community.

Practical implication

- Participate the art and cultural activities such as exhibitions, and use the lounge and library of GOETHE Institute often.
- Help Pauluskirk with the management of the public center, and share the food of local restaurants for charity use.
- Invest money in local cultural service centers for them to conduct activities for the community.

Connected with: CI1, CI2, CI3, CI4, CI6, CD2, CD3

CI8 Diversify shop function& services



Hypothesis

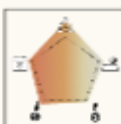
To adapt to the change of Chinese consumers, provide diversify functions and dense shops of Chinatown

Practical implication

- Increase the flavour of Chinese restaurants, such as Sichuan Food, Yunnan food, etc.
- Increase the entertainment function cater to young generation, such as Karaoke, board game house, pop-up stores etc.
- Increase intensification of commercial shops along Chinatown

Connected with: OS4, OS5, OS9, OS11, OS12, CD1, CD3, CD6, CD7

CI3 Community gardens for co-maintenance



Hypothesis

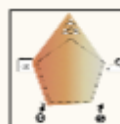
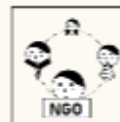
Set gardens/farming that be taken care of by the whole community

Practical implication

- Educational corners for the community children
- Self-sufficient ingredients/farmings for Chinatown restaurants/bars
- Co-create the park/garden to attract visitors

Connected with: CI1, CI2, CI4, CI6, OS2, OS5, OS7, OS8

CI4 Theme activities



Hypothesis

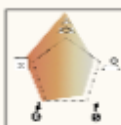
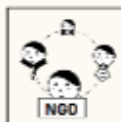
Organize theme activities with Chinatown entrepreneurs and community centers to attract public visitors with the same interests.

Practical implication

- Regularly conduct theme activities both inside and outside at public spaces
- Conduct them activities friendly to children and family. It could be a type of cultural education

Connected with: CI1, CI3, OS2, OS4, OS7, OS8, OS12, OD2, OD3, OD4, OD7, OD8

CI5 Facilities with culture elements



Hypothesis

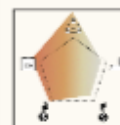
Increase cultural facilities on public space in Chinatown

Practical implication

- Cultural sculptures in Park
- Cultural spaces

Connected with: CI2, OS1, OS3, OS8, OD4, OD5

CI6 Regularly conduct of cultural activities



Hypothesis

Increase the frequency of holding cultural activities, and make it on agenda.

Practical implication

- Use the park and public space for monthly cultural markets
- Put the cultural festivals on the agenda

Connected with: CI4, CI7, CI8, OS2, OS4, OS7, OS8, OS12, OD3,

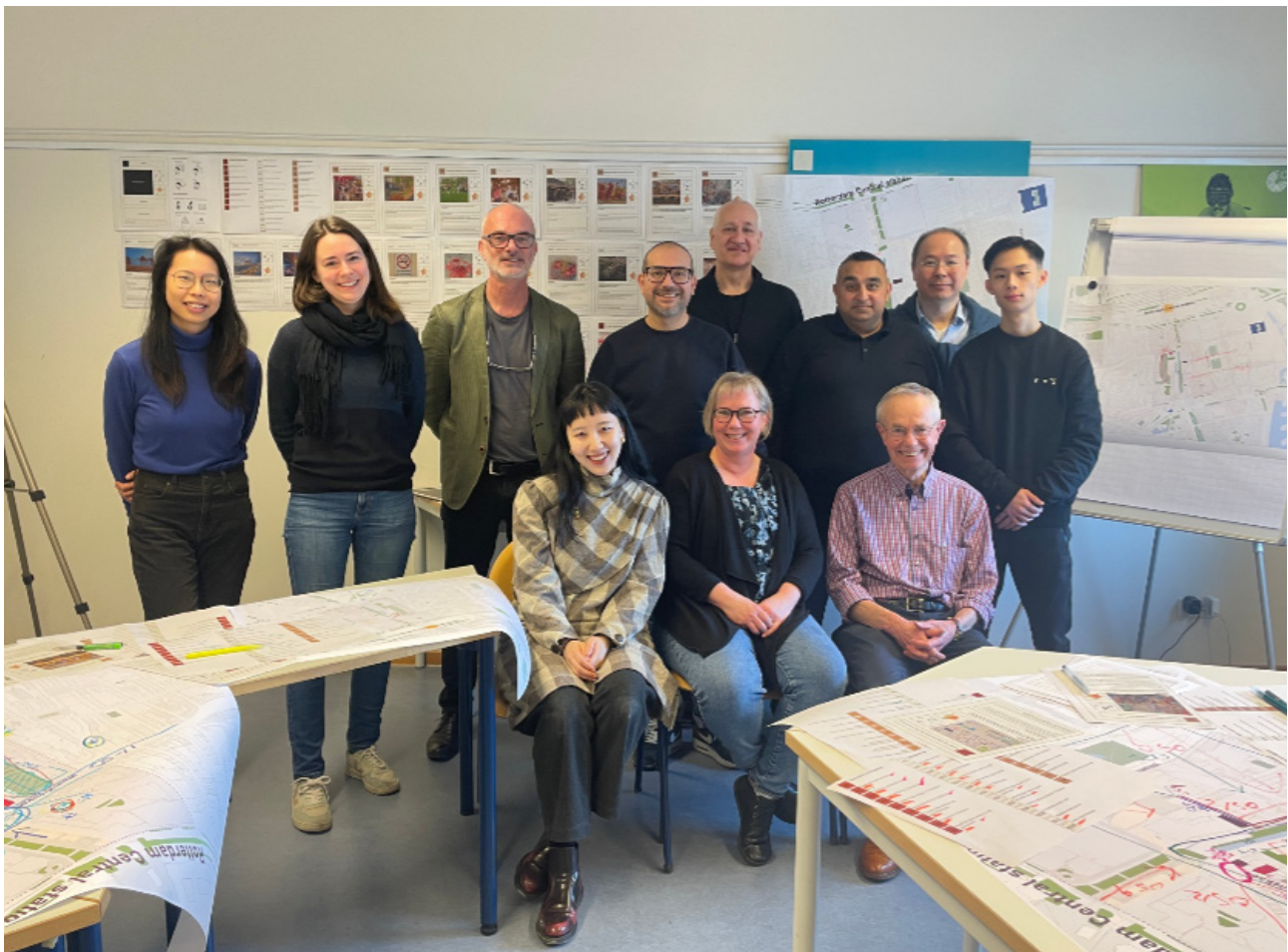
Stakeholder workshop

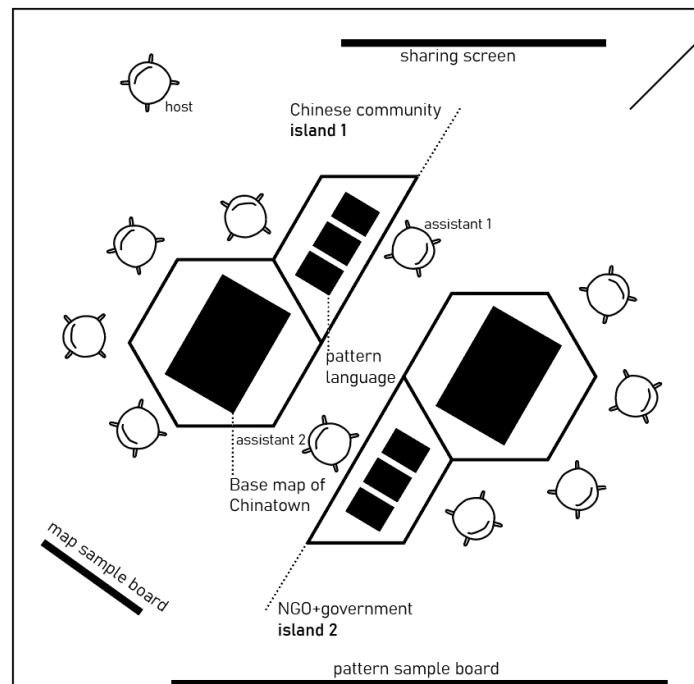
The first stakeholder workshop was held at Goethe Institute Rotterdam from 9.30 am to 12 pm on January 17th. Goethe Institute is a cultural institute located in Chinatown. It holds the position of the third party opening to all cultures and a community center.

There were 11 participants in total. Three NGOs, three Chinese shop managers, one representative of the elder Chinese generation, one representative of Rotterdam municipality, two assistants, and one host.

The stakeholder workshop involves participatory urban design for Chinatown with pattern language, policy introduction of Rotterdam city toward Chinatown area, and the history storytelling from the representative of the elder Chinese representative.

At the end of this workshop, each participant was given an evaluation sheet for this workshop. Everyone's feedback was positive and they would like to be continuously involved in such a community development project.





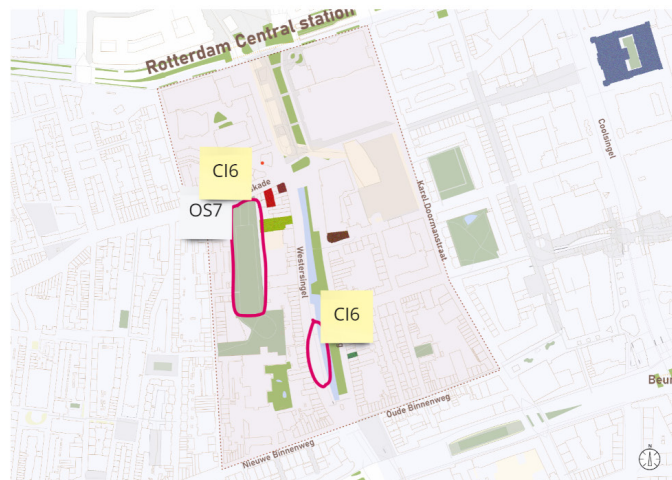
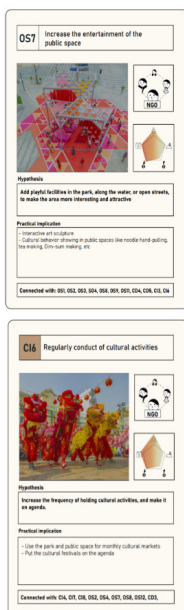
The participant has separated into two group island. group one is the Chinese community island where there are Chinese shop managers, Chinatown Chinese landowners, and representatives of the elderly Chinese generation. They second group is the public sector and civil society island, where there are Paulusker, Goethe Insitute, representatives of Chinatown social housing, and representatives of the municipality.

Each island is asked to finish its design tasks within the group independently standing on its groud. The assistant translates their design drawings to the Miro board at the same time to overlap their ideas together. This aims to figure out the most controversial spots. And these spots were openly discussed by both groups to explore a common vision together.

Stakeholder workshop



1. choose the patterns you want to use
2. Circle/ point the area with your color pen
3. write the number of the pattern beside your circle/point areas



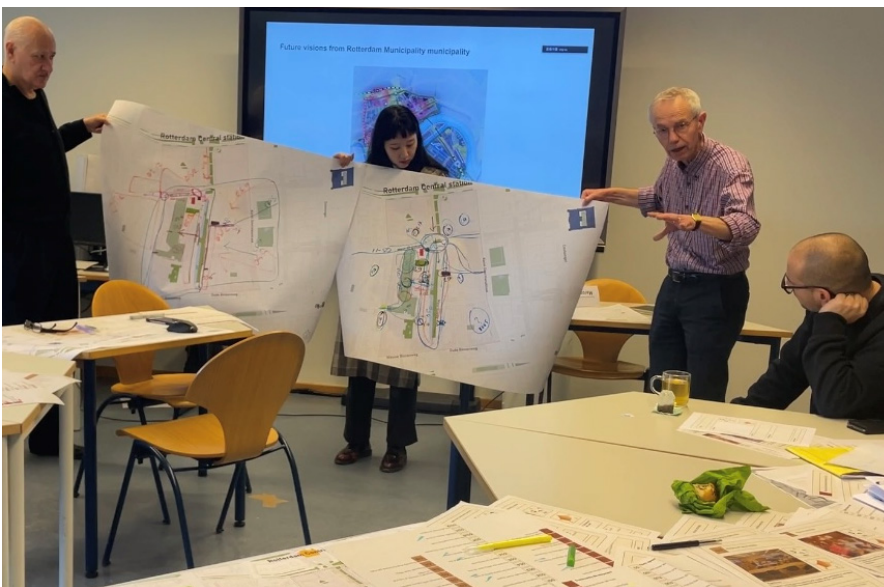
There were two gaming rounds in total. The first round was with social and economic context, the second round was with spatial context. All the patterns can be used in both game rounds. And it can be used more than one time. The participants first could think of one ideal image for Chinatown and played the pattern card to reach this ideal scene (the following image gave the example).

Secondly, they were required to put this ideal scene in a concrete location in Chinatown. They either circled the area or pointed out the specific location. Each participant was given different colors and for each round, they were given pens with a different texture.

They need to communicate within the island group to align with one ideal scene in Chinatown, and they will decide to send one representative of one group to present their results. This was already the process of community development.



Different representative parties will be given different color pens. They would consult with the group and, once they knew each other's opinions and there was no conflict of opinion, they used the color pens to outline the areas where they wanted to execute the pattern cards. Based on the maps they drew, the areas of interest were highly overlapping.

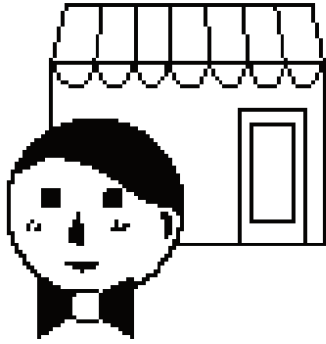


After each of the two groups has completed their maps, there will be an open sharing and discussion of the strategies that each group has finally developed. The two groups, representing the Chinese community and the local community, will understand that the needs of the urban space are different but can be agreed upon through communication, when interpreted from the perspective of different social actors.

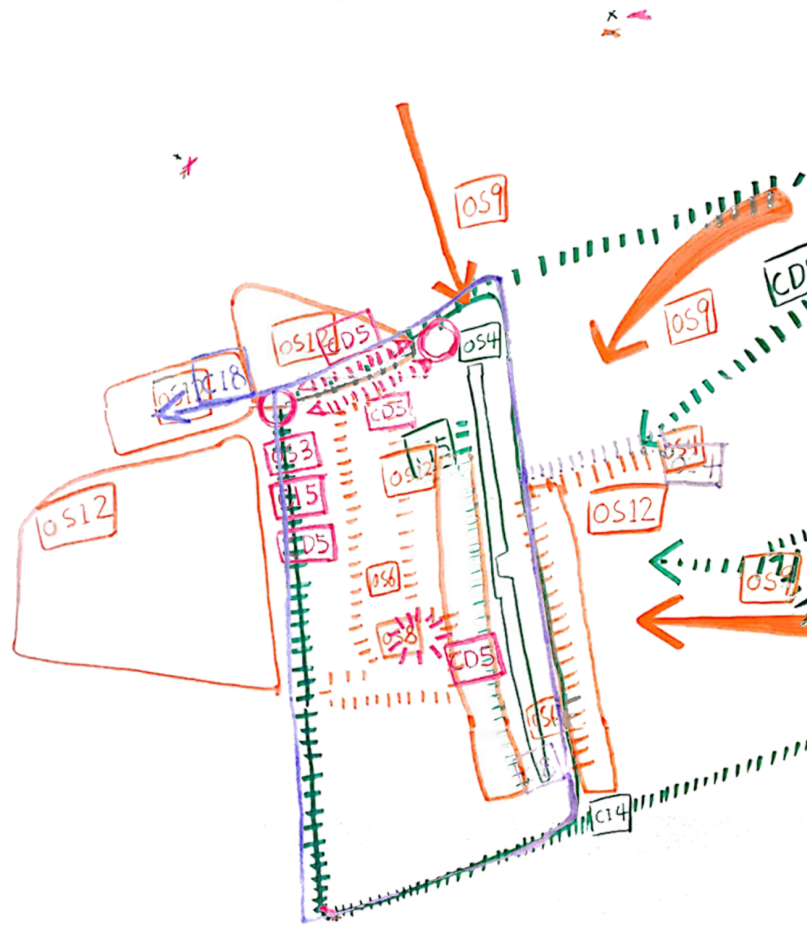
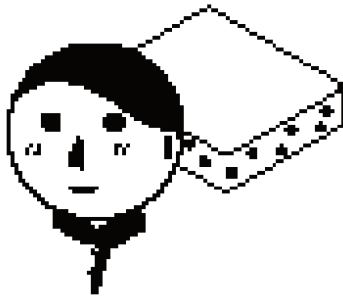


In addition, the author invited the representative of the first-generation Chinese to share his personal family stories of living in the Netherlands. Government representatives were invited to share the impact of urban planning on Chinatown. On the follow-up feedback, participants found such sharing meaningful.

Shopowner

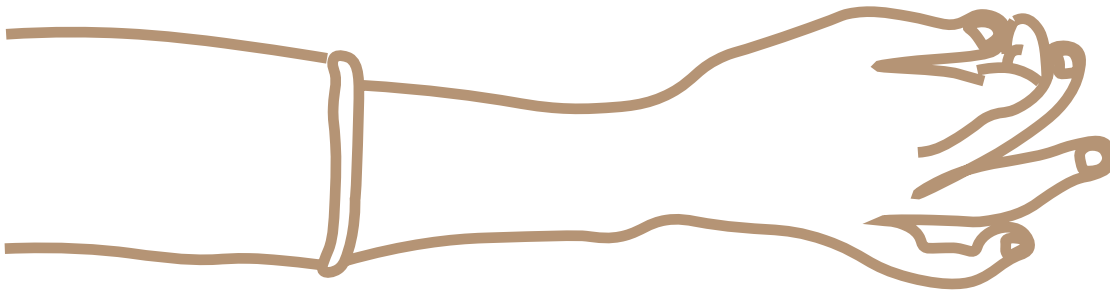


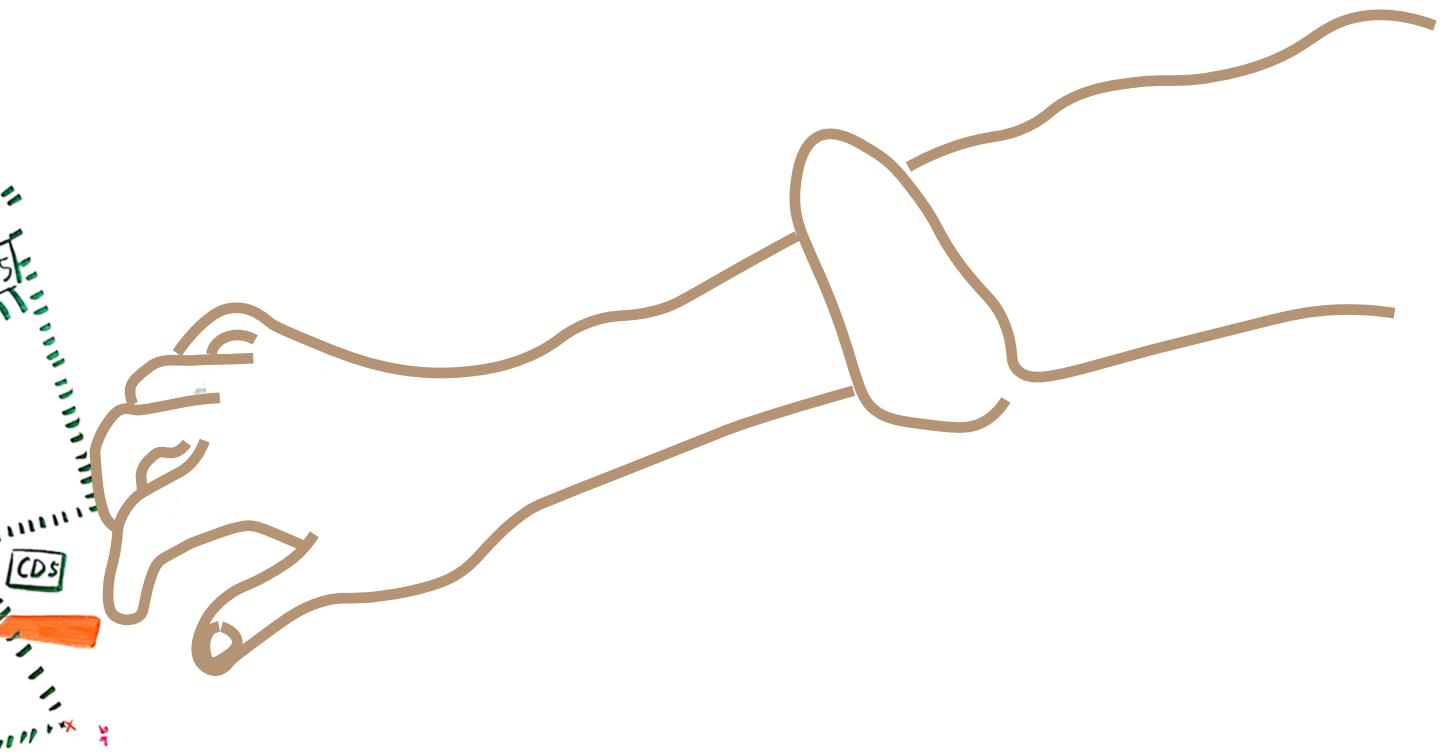
Landowner



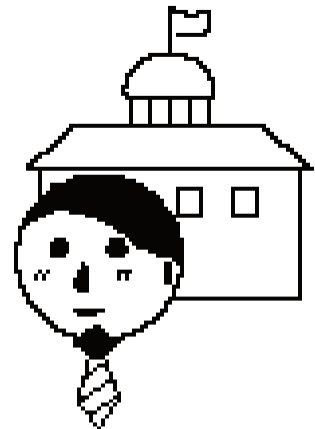
Drawings from Workshop

These are the hand-drawing translation from involved stakeholders in the workshop. The solid lines represent social and economic vision, and the dotted lines represent spatial vision. The upper map was drawn by the Chinese community and the other one was drawn by local NGOs and the municipality of Rotterdam.





Public Sector



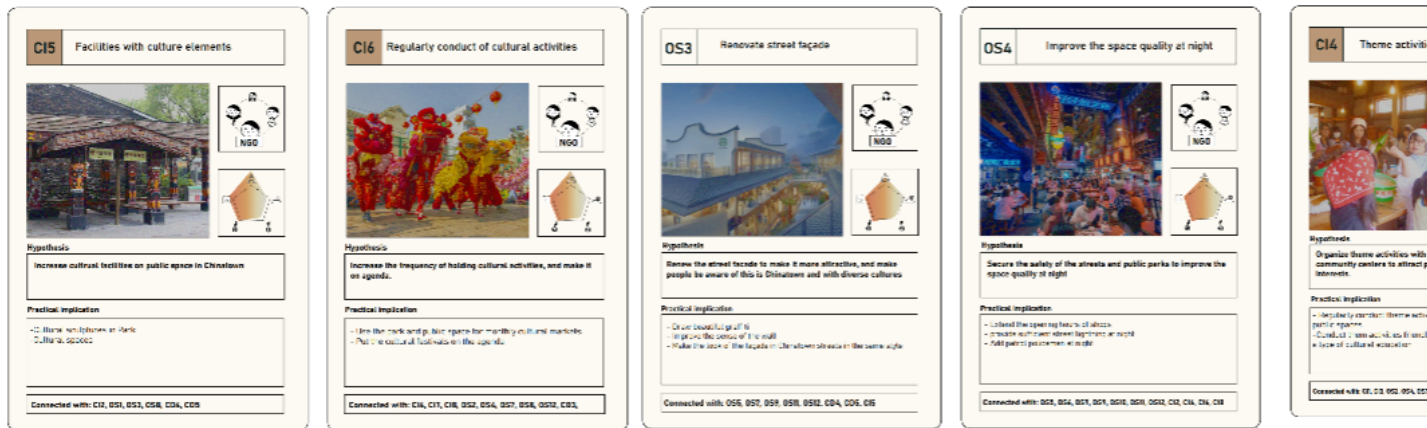
NGO







Visions from Chinese community



Cultural elements

Cultural elements wish to be added at the start and the end of West-Kruiskade, and at oude Westen Park to strengthen the symbolization of Chiantwon.

Function and service diversification

Diversifying functions and services of the underused space, and activating facade of the streets will be an necessary action to attract more Chinatown visitors.

Space quality improvement

Restricting drug-taking or smoking to improve the space quality for public is important to increase the security of Chinatown, especially at night. The focus area should be Oude-Westen Park and streets near Pauluskerk.

Empty House Activation

The active use of empty house for holding cultural or theme activities along the open streets and of Westersingel and West-Kruiskade is required

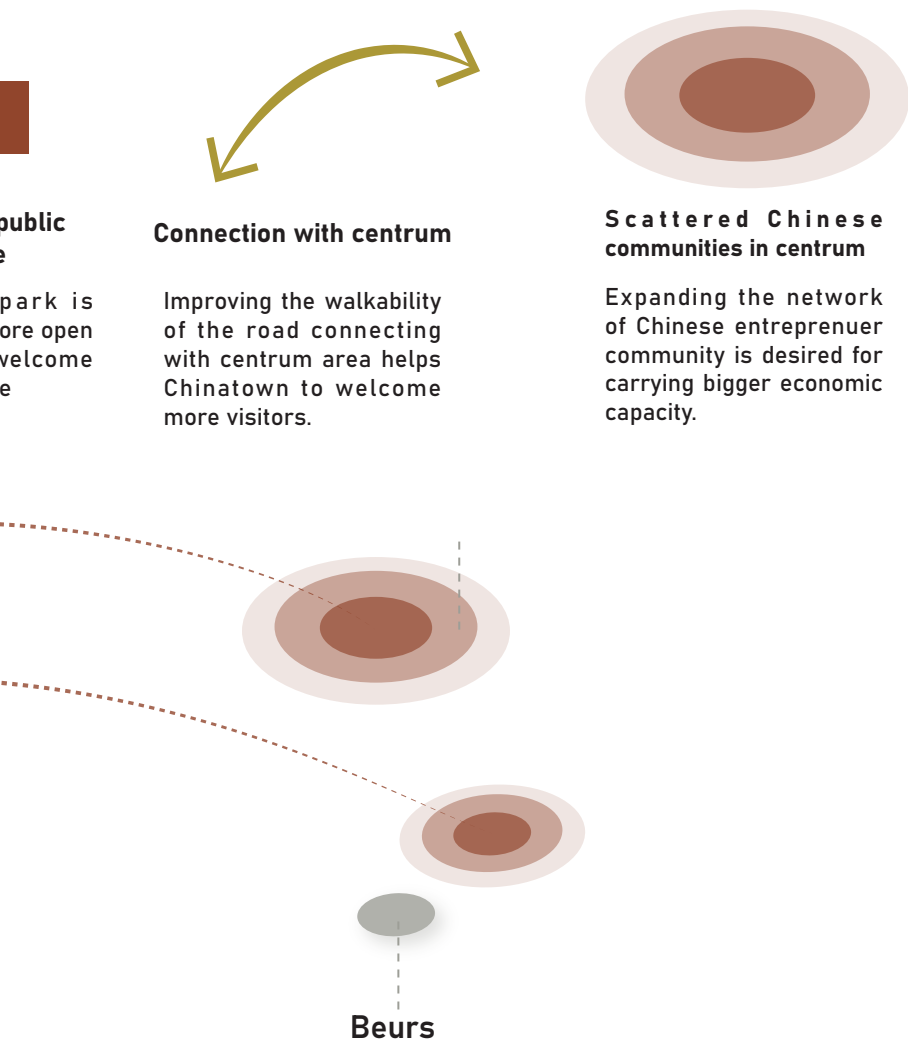
Activation for public space use

Oude western expected to be more for public and visitors for all-culture use

Rotterdam Central Station

Ouden Wester Park

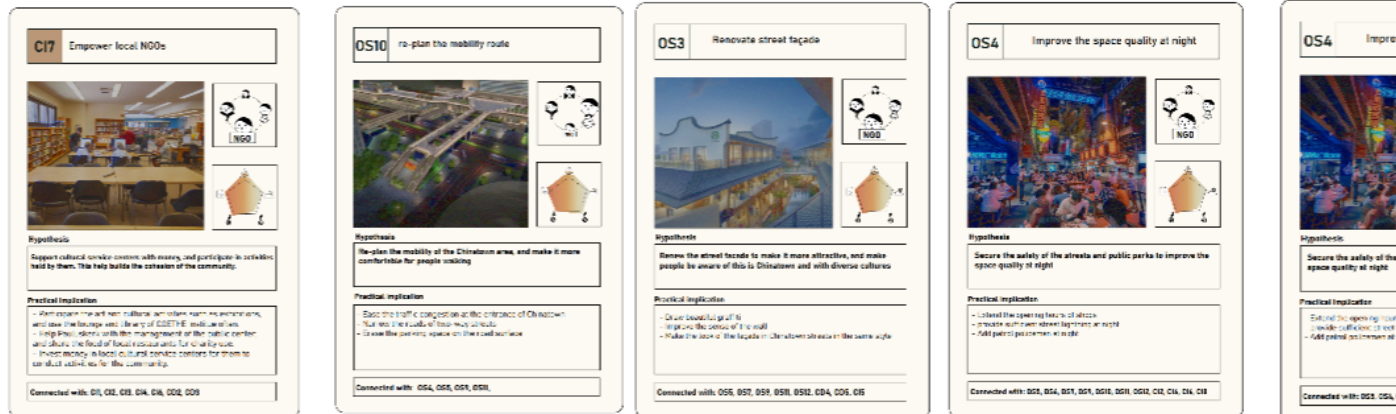
Westersingel



CONCLUSION

From Chinese community design results, it demonstrates a clear signal to enhance the Chinese community in Chinatown. They want to activate public space for cultural use and connection with centrum to draw public attention toward the Chinese community. It not only strengthens the cultural identity as well as adds value for Chinese entrepreneurs.

Visions from NGOs and municipality Rotterdam



Street quality improvement

Improve the street quality of the West-Kruiskade till the area of Pauluskerk. This aims to improve the walkability of the street and make a all-people friendly district.

Slow mobility

Echoing with the master plan of municipality Rotterdam, to make the area more comfortable and easy for walking, the speed of the cars will be limited and pedestrians use will be promoted.

space renovation

Renovating the space quality with improve the building facade or public infrastructure in order to improve the security and atmosphere of the area and welcome more visitors.

NGOs empowerment

NGOs in or surround Chinatown, especially cultural and community-based ones are expected to be empowered and present more in public life.

Rotterdam Central Station

Ouden Wester Park

Westersingel



Activation for public space use

The space quality of Oude westen park and Westersingel are paid particularly attention. They are supposed to be used more frequently.

NGOs network connection

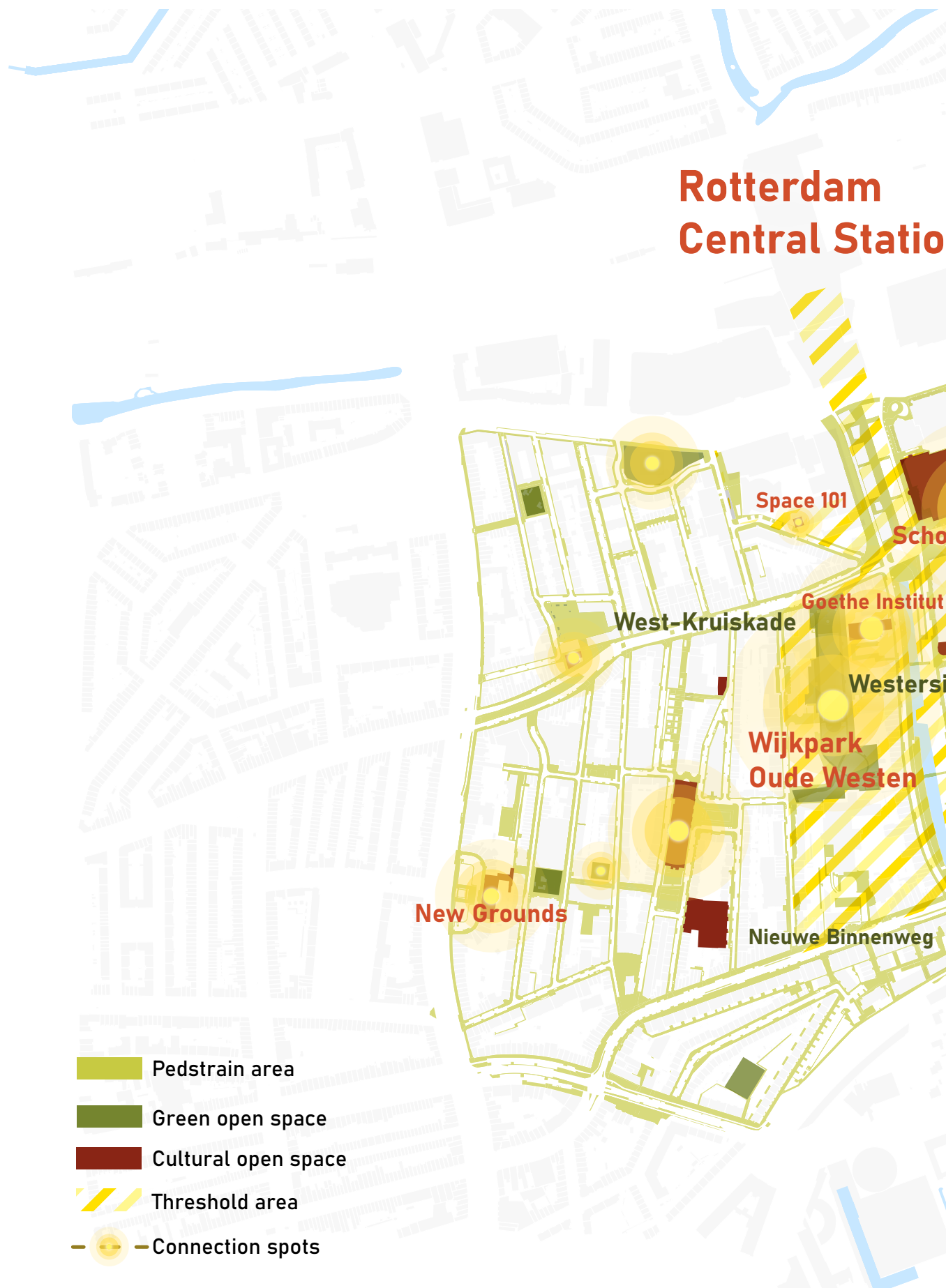
NGOs have a strong desire to align together to build a close network, have more cooperations and contribute more to local community developemtn

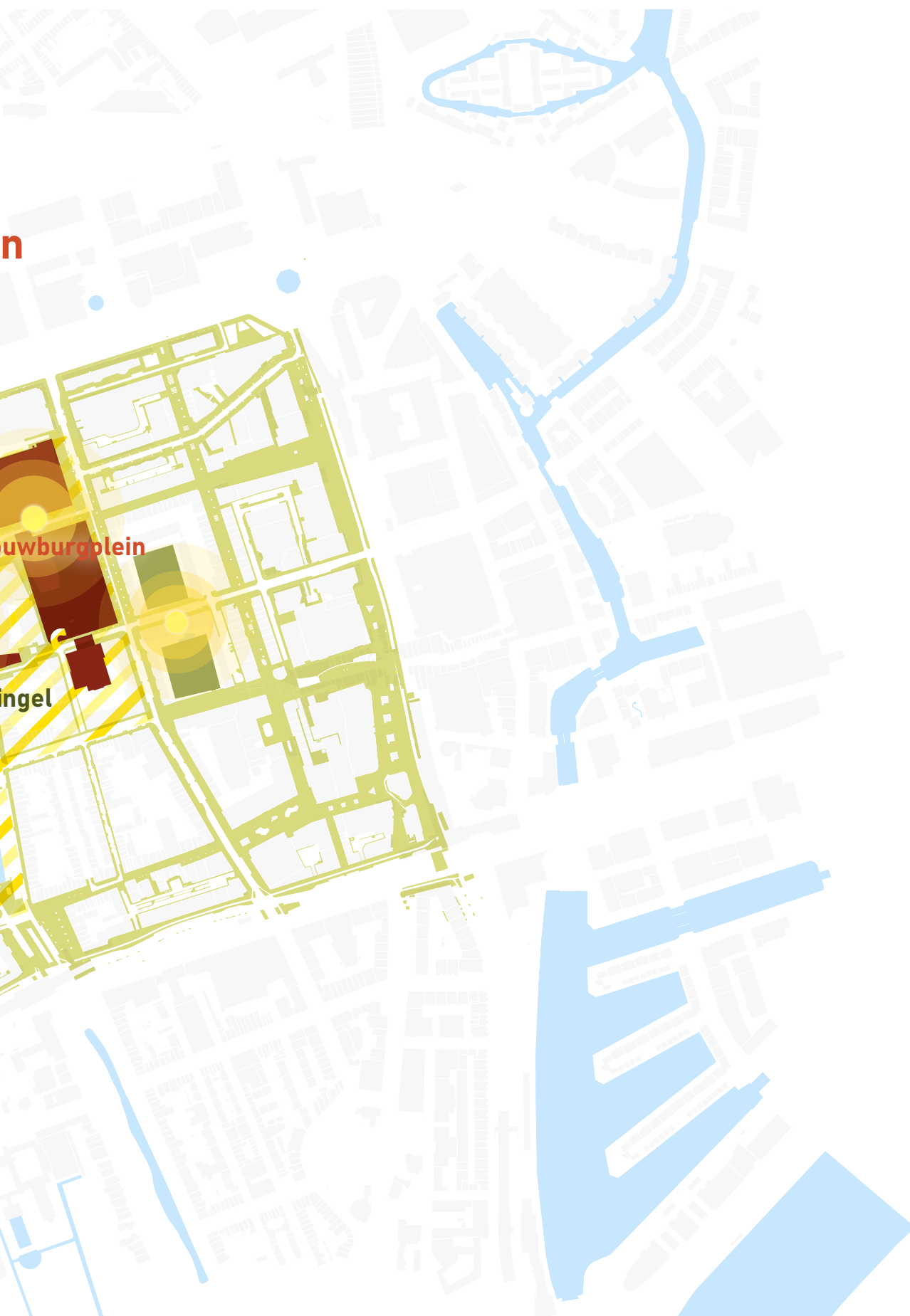


CONCLUSION

The local community's need for Chinatown does not have specific cultural attributes, but is more concerned with links to resources and links between the community and downtown. These non-governmental organizations want local institutions to connect more closely and form community networks. For urban needs, they want to be more walkable.

Big Vision map





Conclusion

In conclusion, this chapter has examined the findings of the preliminary research and the outcomes of the community workshop, shedding light on the two key strategies that require significant attention in the development of Chinatown in Rotterdam: connectivity and the complementarity of physical space and culture. The north-south orientation of the boulevards in the Kruisplein and Westersingel areas, as well as the city center, underscores the need for an east-west urban connection to better integrate Chinatown with the rest of the city.

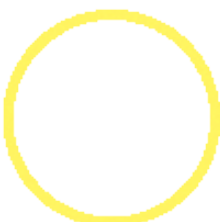
The current site analysis reveals that barriers to the walking experience, such as the motorway in Westsingel and the intersection between Kruisplein and Westersingel, hinder east-west connectivity within the city. Moreover, the prevalence of private office and residential buildings, along with vacant houses along Westersingel, acts as a deterrent, effectively creating a wall and limiting the presence of commercial stores in the Chinatown neighborhood. Consequently, this diminishes the desire of visitors to spend money in the area.

Beyond the lack of east-west spatial connectivity, it is evident that the Chinatown community requires stronger connections with the local Dutch community. The community workshop revealed the Chinese community's desire for increased visibility and visitor engagement. Suggestions were made to incorporate Chinese cultural decorations, symbols, and organize events. Local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) expressed their openness to cultivating a culturally diverse environment and fostering connections with various communities.

Based on the aforementioned results, the proposed vision centers around enhancing the connection between culture and urban space, whereby culture can effectively utilize the urban space to showcase its manifestations, while activating cultural resources and establishing deeper connections with the Chinese community. This strategic approach will be pivotal in guiding the subsequent experimental design

phase. The border area, where Chinatown and the Rotterdam city center converge, will be of particular importance in implementing the spatial interventions.

In conclusion, this chapter has outlined a comprehensive vision for strengthening connectivity and cultural complementarity in Chinatown, Rotterdam. By addressing the lack of east-west spatial connectivity and nurturing connections between the Chinese community and the local Dutch community, the proposed strategy aims to create a more vibrant and inclusive urban environment. The subsequent chapter will delve into the specific spatial implementation strategies, focusing on the border area between Chinatown and the city center, and how these interventions can effectively enhance the desired outcomes of connectivity and cultural complementarity.



Chapter 5

Spot spatial analysis



Historical development

Looking back at the historical development of Rotterdam's Chinatown, it is situated at the border of the downtown area of Rotterdam's inner city, specifically along the dike on Westersingel. Before the events of May 4th, 1940, when the Bombardment of Rotterdam occurred, the area primarily consisted of residential houses.

The Bombardment of Rotterdam was a significant event that completely changed the masterplan of the inner city (Kateryna, 2022). The destruction caused by the bombing led to a reconstruction effort heavily influenced by modernist urban planning principles. The new plan aimed to divide urban blocks into single-functional zones, with a strong emphasis on commercial potential. As a result, the residential areas were relocated to the suburbs, and the focus shifted towards creating a dynamic commercial center.

Following the completion of primary commercial buildings in 1968, the development of cultural services and public infrastructure, such as pedestrian-friendly amenities and green spaces, became a priority to complete the urban system. This phase aimed to enhance the livability and functionality of the city, providing its residents with a comprehensive range of amenities (Kateryna, 2022).

By 2008, the urban structure of Rotterdam had largely taken shape and closely resembled the city's current layout. The focus on commercial development, combined with the establishment of cultural and public facilities, resulted in a more integrated and functional urban environment.

However, throughout this transformation process, the historical location of Chinatown along Westersingel retained its residential character. As the city embraced modernist ideals, the area did not experience significant commercial development, and its potential as a vibrant cultural hub was not fully realized.

In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the importance of cultural diversity and the need to foster connections between communities. This awareness has prompted a reevaluation of the urban development strategies in Rotterdam, including the revitalization and activation of areas such as Chinatown.

Efforts to enhance connectivity, both spatially and culturally, are now being prioritized. Recognizing the historical significance of Chinatown's location and its potential as a cultural hotspot, there is an opportunity to reimagine the area and create a more vibrant and inclusive urban space. By leveraging the existing cultural resources, incorporating Chinese cultural symbols, organizing events, and fostering connections with different communities, Chinatown can become a thriving center that celebrates Rotterdam's multicultural identity.

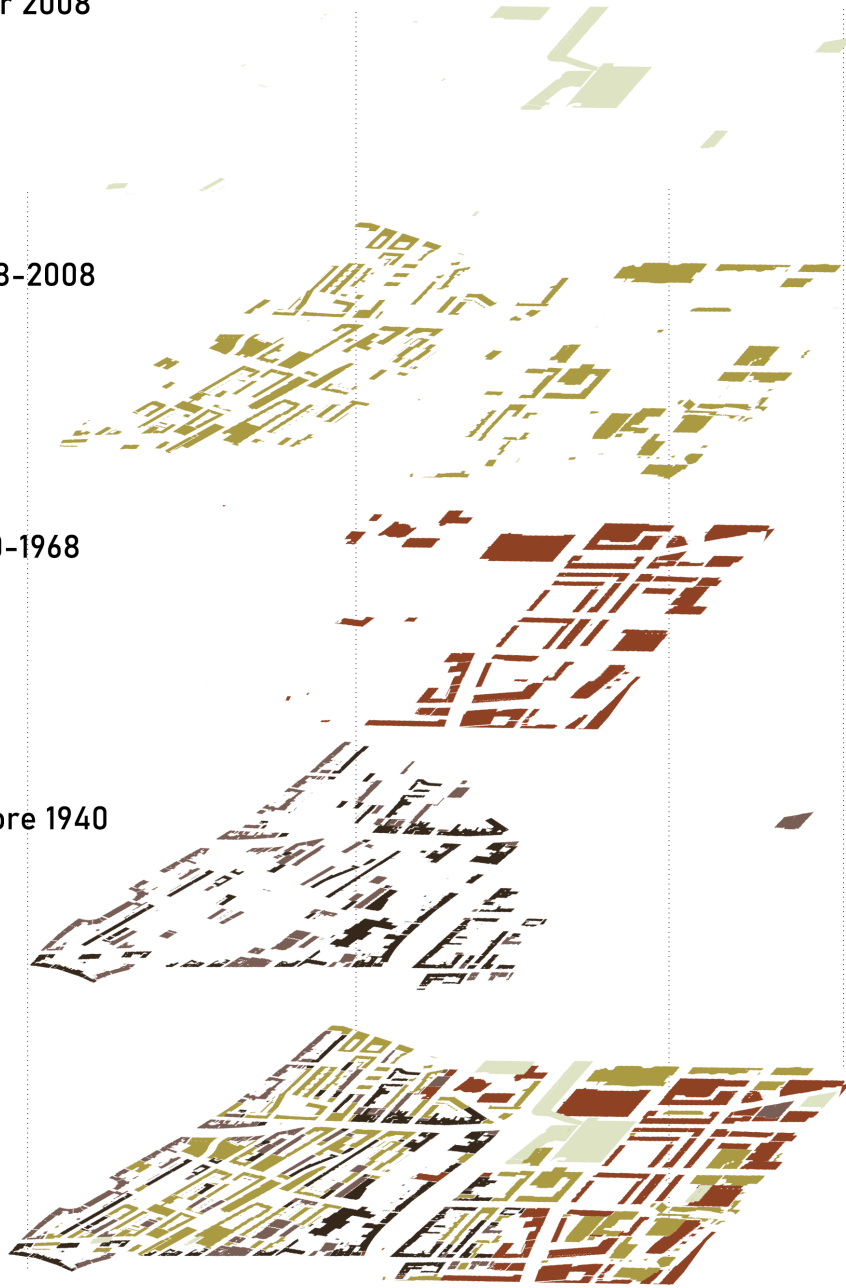
In conclusion, the historical development of Rotterdam's Chinatown has been influenced by the events of the Bombardment of Rotterdam and subsequent urban planning efforts. While the city's urban structure has evolved over time, Chinatown has largely retained its residential character. However, with the renewed focus on connectivity and cultural complementarity, there is an opportunity to transform Chinatown into a vibrant cultural hub that enriches the urban fabric of Rotterdam.

After 2008

1968-2008

1940-1968

Before 1940



Function Analysis

Shops and Offices



Most of the stores and offices are in the center of Rotterdam, along the Westersingel and Nieuwe Binnenweg. They are also well connected by foot, smoothly or in areas where motor vehicles are prohibited.

Public buildings and restaurants



The restaurants and public services are evenly distributed in the main area, even more densely in the West-Kruiskade area. The restaurant and public service spaces are relatively the most open, they do not pick and choose their clientele, they have no position, and they welcome all visitors. They are also the places in Chinatown that have the most potential to be transformed into community spaces.

Residential buildings



The residential area is obviously mostly located on the West-Kruiskade side, and the border area between the commercial and residential areas is along the Westersingel, which is also the main focus of the transforming Chinatown.



Connectness



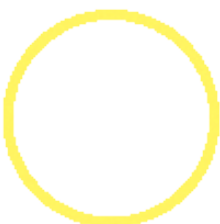
This is the pedestrianized access to the city center of Rotterdam. The darkest is the pedestrian-dominated space, followed by the sidewalk, and the lightest pink is the footpath. the axis starting at Rotterdam Central Station is the most obvious dividing line. The eastern side of Rotterdam city center is almost occupied by pedestrian-dominated spaces and easy access to open spaces. On the west side, West- Kruiskade, which is almost entirely footpath. It is worth mentioning that the pedestrian paths near the public green

areas are also intentionally emphasized. This is not only related to the function of the building but also to the planning and positioning of the area.

In the urban scale plan of Rotterdam, Chinatown is located on the important green axis of Rotterdam, the continuation of Westersingel will be connected to the museum district, and the large urban public green area of Het Park extends to the waterfront. This means that the public space and cultural attributes of the green axis are closely linked and have the potential to serve a public function.

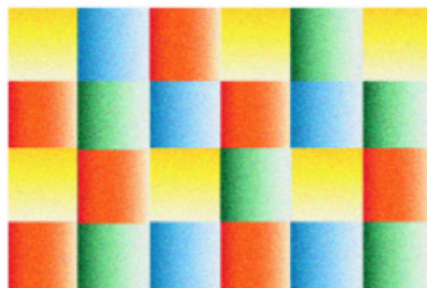
In addition to this, the old Chinatown is located after the crossing bridge, and according to the city's 2040 plan, Katendrecht will also become part of Rotterdam's city center, with the possibility of a connection to the current Chinatown.





Chapter 6

Concept Production



In this project, the city is seen as a large community composing of different communities. The urban space provides the physical realm for the community to produce. Urban design uses space as a medium to build bridges for different communities to communicate and intermingle. In return, the community also allows the city to be better knitted together.

Concept production

In this project, a series of three steps has been defined to achieve the goal of cultural integration, which includes objectively showcasing cultural identities, facilitating communication, promoting cultural interaction, and ultimately fostering culture transformation and integration. Within the context of globalization, this approach has the potential to benefit the international society by enhancing cross-cultural collaborations and creating a more inclusive and harmonious environment.

The first step, objectively showcasing cultural identities, allows different Chinese communities to confidently express their unique cultural heritage. The project emphasizes that cultural integration does not require the Chinese community to conform or cater to the Dutch society. Instead, it encourages the Chinese community to present their cultural identity objectively, attracting those who appreciate and value cultural diversities. The Chinese community encompasses a broad range of differences, including generational gaps and diverse interests. While the first generation of Chinese immigrants focused primarily on basic survival in the 20th century, the current Chinese community is more diverse, encompassing various professions and industries.

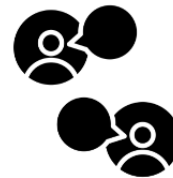
After showcasing and acknowledging the cultural differences within the Chinese community, as well as between the Chinese and local communities, a platform for open and constructive dialogue is needed. This facilitates the exchange of opinions and creates opportunities for mutual understanding. Engaging in conversation allows for the elimination of cultural biases and stereotypes. The presence of a facilitator can further enhance interaction and communication. Tools such as manifestos, interactive installations, and community festivals can serve as mediums to promote dialogue and engagement.

By fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures, cultural biases and stereotypes can be overcome. This enables the transformation of society into a hyper-diverse environment that adapts to cultural changes. Additionally, it contributes to urban regeneration by fostering social cohesion and promoting a sense of shared identity and belonging.

Overall, this project's approach to cultural integration encompasses a series of carefully designed steps that promote objectivity, communication, understanding, and transformation. By embracing and celebrating cultural diversity, societies can navigate the challenges of globalization, fostering collaboration and harmony among different cultural groups.



1. Objective display with different generation



2. Communication between different groups based on territorialized context



3. understanding facilitation, stereotype reduction



4. Culture regeneration

Reasons of holding a public event



The stakeholder workshop resulted in the development of a future Chinatown vision by participants from the local Chinatown community. However, in order to determine the validation of this vision by the broader Chinese community and Dutch society, the author proposes the implementation of a temporary public event as a means to test the viability of the blueprint. This one-day public event will embody the outcomes of the workshop and serve as a dynamic platform to showcase the results, while also fostering connections with the wider Chinese community and Dutch society. The event will be evaluated to assess the effectiveness of this approach.

Named "Next Stop, Chinatown" the public vision day signifies the transformation of the Chinese community and its openness to building connections with society at large.

Drawing upon the insights gathered from the community workshop, "Next Stop, Chinatown" seeks to explore the potential of Chinatown as a cultural symbol. It involves the creation of a customized

Chinatown tour route that reflects the shared design vision derived from the workshop. The objective is to connect Rotterdam's Chinatown with the city center and its neighboring areas. Four key geographical spaces have been selected for this purpose: Mauritsplaats, Westersingel, Goethe Institut, and Wijkpark Oude Westen. By integrating the theme of cultural integration, this Chinatown route aims to establish an east-west connection, promoting cohesion and inclusivity.

Through the realization of the "Next Stop, Chinatown" public event, the project seeks to bridge the gap between the envisioned future landscape of Chinatown and its acceptance by a broader audience. By showcasing the tangible embodiment of the workshop outcomes and actively engaging with the wider Chinese community and Dutch society, the event aims to foster a sense of belonging and facilitate connections among diverse stakeholders. The evaluation process will play a crucial role in assessing the effectiveness of this approach, providing valuable insights for further refinement and improvement.



Site selection

"Next stop, Chinatown" chose the connecting bonds between Rotterdam centrum, Chinatown and West Kruiskade as the experimental route. It will cross through Maritsuweg in front of Pauluskerk, Westersingelbrug, Westersingel, through the ground floor of Goethe Institut Rotterdam till Wijk Park Westen.

Open space in front of Pauluskerk is an important connecting bond between Rotterdam shopping center to Chinatown. It is currently a backstreet and mainly used for bike parking. It is potential to be a rest spot for the audiences of Pauluskerk, as well as activate the connection between two districts.

Westersingelbrug and Westersingel is located at the south-northern green axis of Rotterdam, which is one of the primary public green lands and for leisure use.

The Goethe-Institut is currently a semi-open cultural space. Their ground floor gallery-like space is mainly



used for public use, a meeting room, and open art studios.

The garden at the back currently serves the local community.

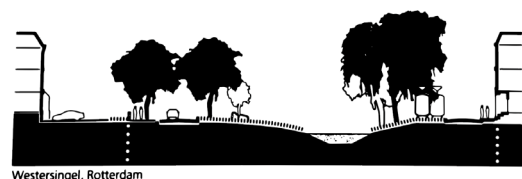
Currently, the community park and Goethe's backstreet are separated by a private backstreet, so there is no direct connection. But this practice tries to lead people to understand the connectivity of these spaces and to influence the perception and use of space.

Westersingel

"The Westersingel in Rotterdam is a meandering watercourse that is part of a linear park-like structure that was constructed around the city of Rotterdam in the nineteenth century. The Dutch word 'singel' is associated with 'msingelen' (to surround or encircle) and was first used for a canal or road around a city, village or stronghold. In many cities, these old canals often crescent-shaped -that began as part of the strongholds were transformed into urban promenades and boulevards in the nineteenth century. The combination of a footpath on the higher earthwork walls, the meandering watercourse of the crescent canal and the view of the surrounding landscape became characteristic of the nineteenth-century singel canal.

The Westersingel is part of the Rotterdam Water Project, a nice example of this. Attempts were made to give the route the same typical features as the transformed crescent canals of the strongholds. The Rotterdam canal has an asymmetric profile on the outside of the meandering drainage canal is a dyke with the roadway and footpath on top. A gently sloping grass bank is characteristic of all these singel canals: it allows them to store a large amount of water in times of extreme rainfall. Over time, the word singel for an urban canal, often crescent-shaped, became increasingly associated with water and greenery and the original meaning of encirclement faded."

page 246, "Urbanism Fundamentals and Prospects" Meyer, Westrik & Hoekstra. (2020).

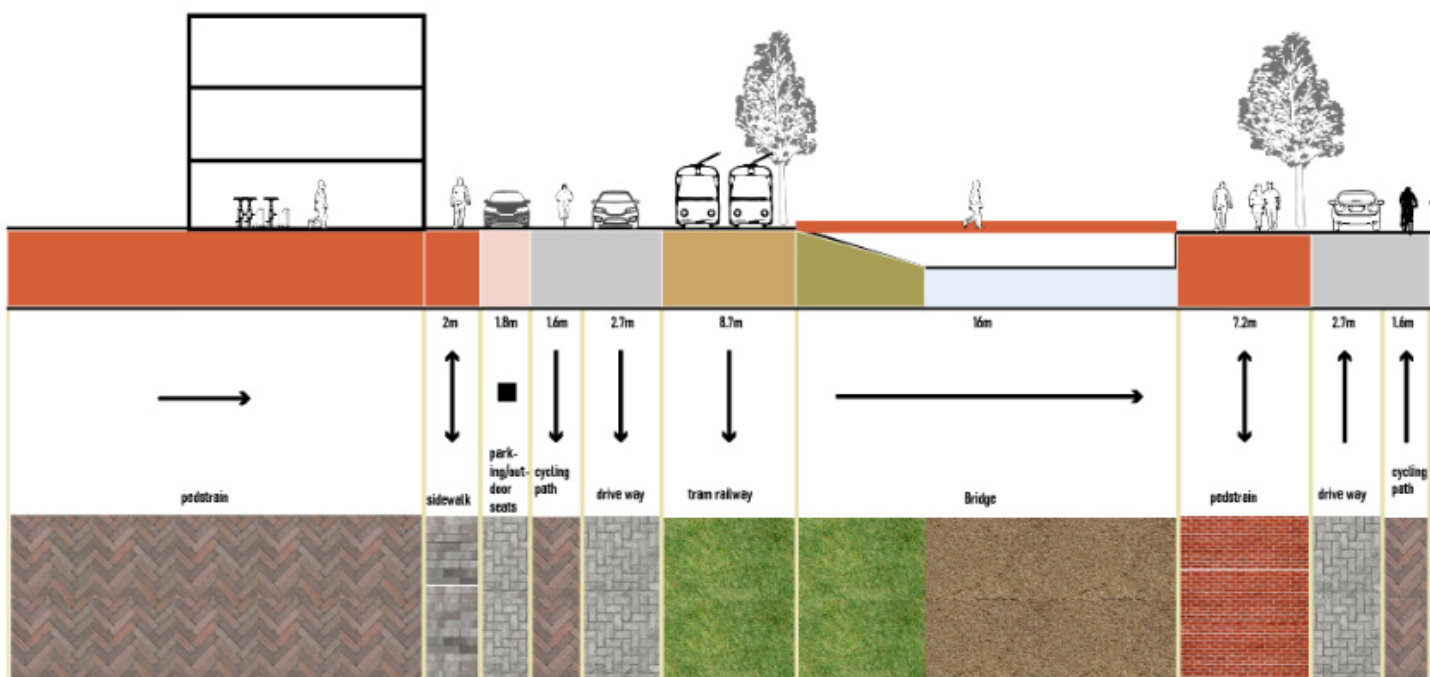


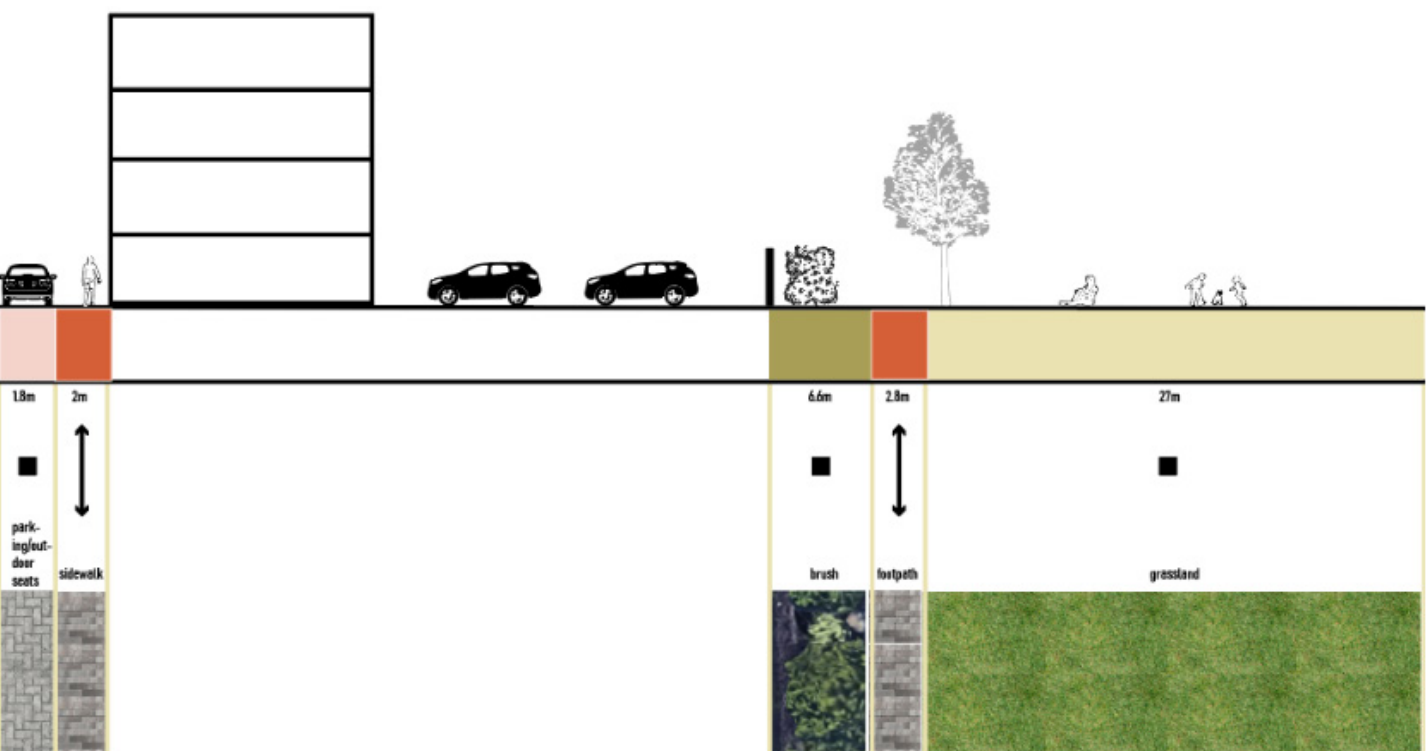
Westersingel, Rotterdam

Image sources: "Urbanism Fundamentals and Prospects" Meyer, Westrik & Hoekstra. (2020).

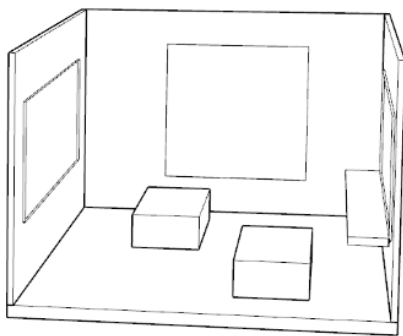
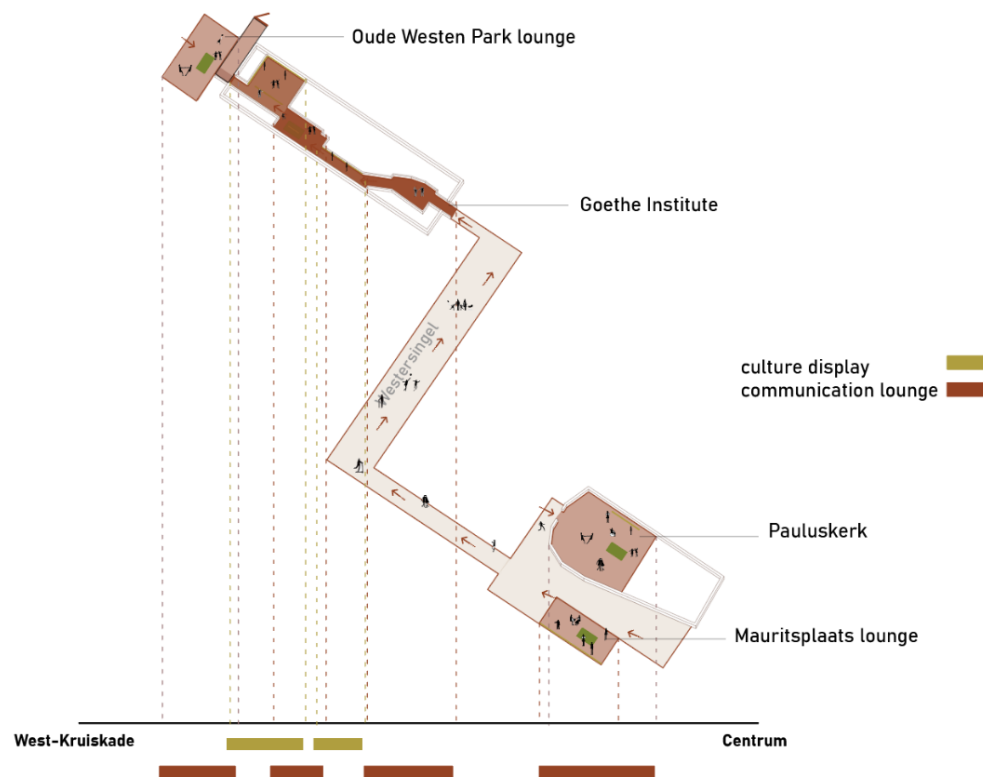
Selected site analysis

This profile explains the spatial relationships and existing ground pavements along the designed routes. The cluttered paving materials, the different directions of traffic flow, and the enclosed ground floor space are the most important factors affecting the coherence of the walking experience.





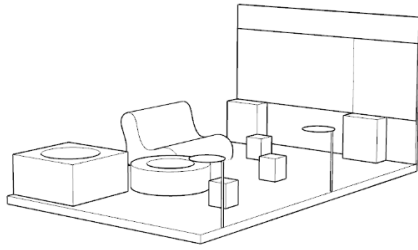
Spatial Translation



Culture Display

The public's perception of Chinatown is often rooted in the 1970s and 1980s, characterized by dominant Chinese symbols and performances associated with the first generation of Chinese immigrants in the Netherlands. However, with the passage of time and the increasing diversity within the Chinese community, it is essential to update this perspective. The Culture Display theme invites three groups of Chinese immigrants from different generations to

share their individual experiences and narratives, offering diverse insights into the evolving identity of the Chinese community in the Netherlands within the context of globalization.

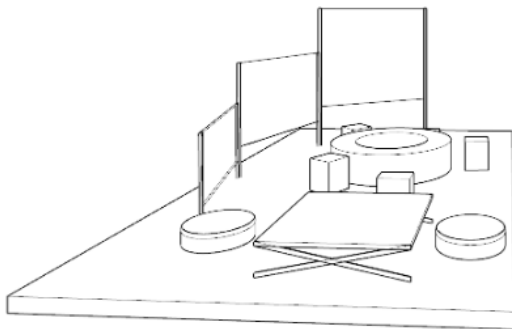


Communication Lounge

Recognizing the richness and complexity of the Chinese community, there is a genuine desire to foster understanding and communication. To facilitate this, the concept of a Communication Lounge is proposed, utilizing the underutilized corners and backstreets within Chinatown. These overlooked spaces possess significant potential for activation and can serve as hubs for community engagement and connection-building. The



Communication Lounge provides opportunities for individuals to come together, exchange ideas, and forge meaningful connections in an informal and relaxed setting



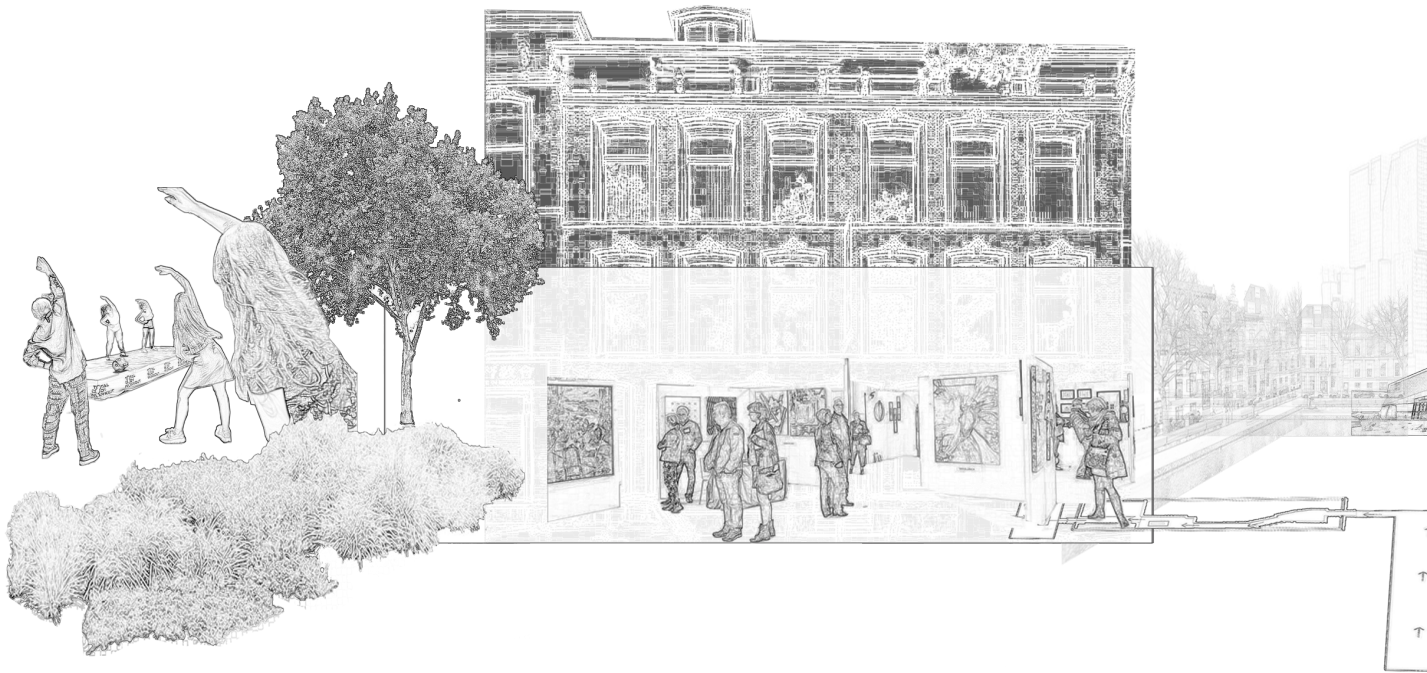
Manifestation Playground

Once mutual understanding has been established, it is crucial to cultivate long-term connections through ongoing interactions. To serve this purpose, the Manifestation Playground theme is introduced. This theme incorporates various forms of media that embody culture and arts, offering enjoyable and engaging experiences for individuals. By providing a platform for shared creative expression and exploration, the Manifestation Playground facilitates

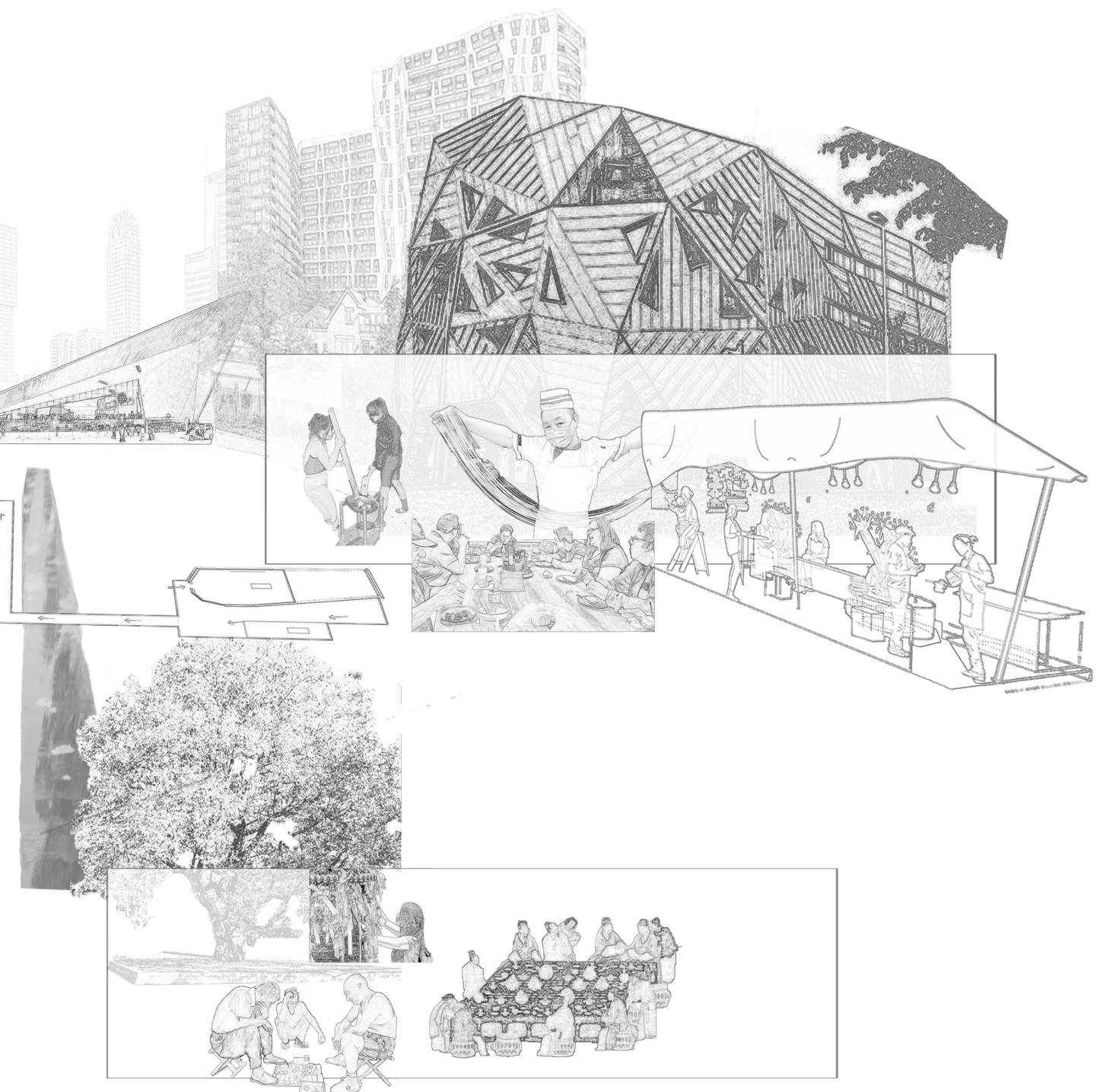


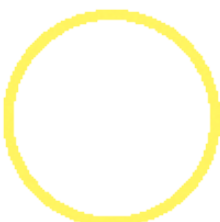
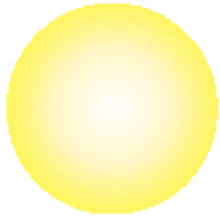
the discovery of common ground among diverse participants, fostering deeper connections and promoting a sense of unity.

Conclusion



This section focuses on the transition from a conceptual project to a grounded experiment by developing a narrative story line. It explores the rationale behind selecting a specific spatial and activity theme based on the local case of Chinatown. Furthermore, it provides a detailed analysis of the current state of the site to enrich the overall experience of the forthcoming field experiment. By enhancing the completeness of the site analysis, this chapter sets the foundation for the subsequent chapters, which delve into the discussion and implementation of the field experiment.





chapter 7

Vision Day Construction & performance



The most critical stage of this project revolves around testing the effectiveness of the participatory design results through real-life experimentation. This approach involves implementing the design proposals generated during the participatory process through a one-day public event. The primary objective of this proposed design is to optimize the utilization of open spaces, strengthen connections along the selected routes, and bolster the cultural functions of the area. These key concepts serve as guiding principles, providing a framework for interested platforms and institutions to collaborate in creating a transformative experience for the selected location.

Project Direction

This course delves into the role of the urban designer as a coordinator, tasked with bridging the collaboration between different stakeholders, including the public sector, private sector, civil societies, and individuals. The project fosters an environment that encourages all these entities to contribute to community building and foster a sense of cohesion. As the coordinator, the project director assumes multiple roles, including that of a manager, curator, designer, operator, and investor.

The preparation for this project encompasses the simultaneous development of five key sectors: team building, curation and design, public relationship building, site reservation, and final implementation. These sectors operate in tandem, with significant overlap in their respective timeframes. The comprehensive timeline for the project spans a total of four months, during which these sectors progress in parallel, ensuring a cohesive and efficient process.

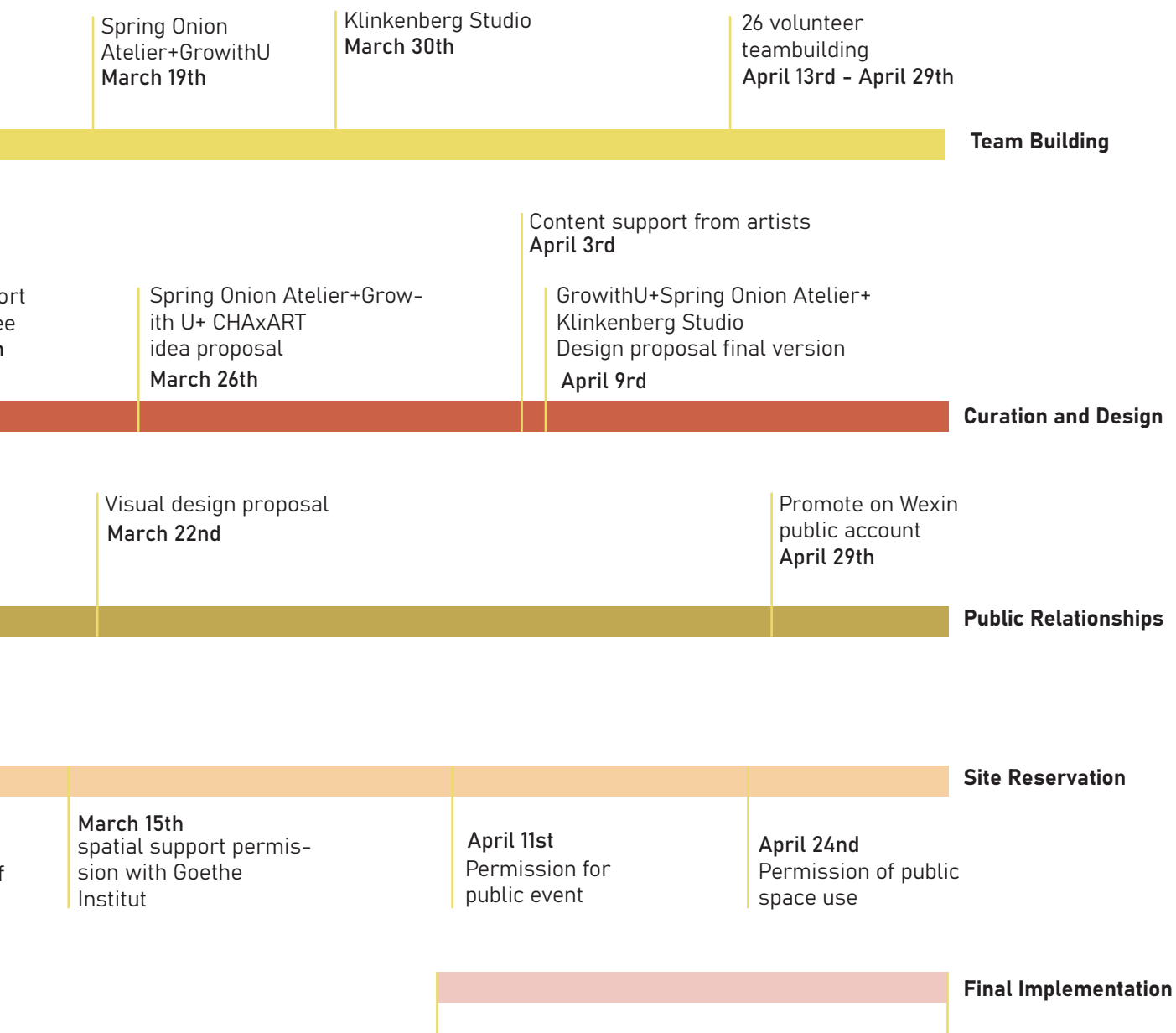
By meticulously planning and implementing these five sectors in a coordinated manner, the project aims to achieve its goals of fostering community engagement, enhancing connectivity, and empowering the cultural functions of the area. Through participatory design and real-life experimentation, the project seeks to create a transformative urban experience that reflects the aspirations and desires of the community while fostering a sense of ownership and pride

CHAxART
January 2nd

Content support
from David Ze
February 26th

open public account
on Instagram
January 14th

February 13rd
Contact the Official o
West-Kruiskade



Project Direction



Figure
Tour guide to the proposed
performance site of
Breytenbachboom at
Chinatown, for sake of
enhancing the place
attachment between
participated creators and
the place.



Figure
Working with the co-creative designer to work on
the exact dimensions of the street furniture

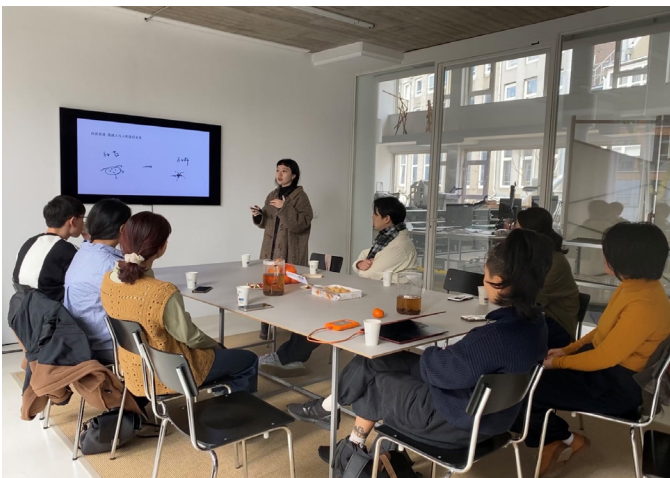


Figure
A project pitch
to the partner
platform, and
promote the
significance
of community
development.



Figure
The weekly meetings
platforms and institute
inspiration for each other

Team Building

This sector focuses on assembling a diverse and capable team comprising professionals from various disciplines such as urban design, architecture, event curation, and environmental psychology. Building a cohesive team is essential for successful project execution.

Curation and Design

This sector involves refining the design process, translating the participatory process, translating their ideas into a form that aligns with the project's objectives and working with stakeholders and experts to develop a cohesive design.

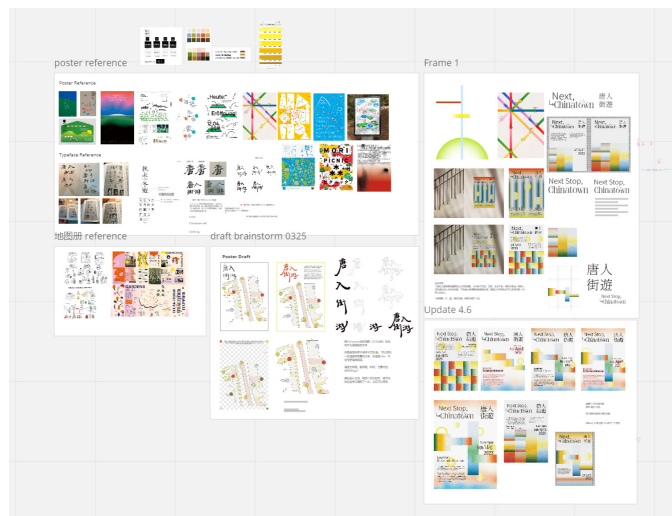


Figure
Work with the graphic designers to design a systematic visual language for the public communication.

ut



bringing together different engaged
es to communicate ideas and create
her

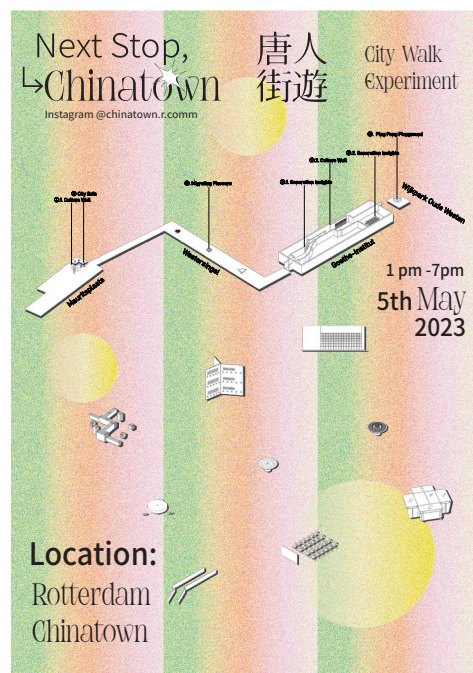


Figure
The final event poster uses gradient elements and light colors to convey the theme of "transformation" and "vitality".

Public Relationship Building

ign proposals generated through the
m into actionable plans, and ensuring
. The design team collaborates closely
op detailed design strategies.

Establishing strong relationships with the public, local communities, NGOs, and other relevant organizations is crucial for garnering support and involvement. This sector focuses on effective communication, community outreach, and stakeholder engagement.

Project Direction

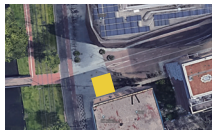


Figure
When applying for a site permit from the regional manager and the government, it was required to provide the exact locations, the dimensions of the intervention installations, the precise time period of the intervention, and reference pictures.



Each board
material: wooden board
length:1200mm
width:12mm
height:2000mm
weight: around 30kg

Overall benches
material: wooden construction
length:5000mm
width: 5000mm
height: less than 600mm
weight: around 270kg

Figure
On April 24, 2023, Next stop Chinatown obtained official government permission documents. These documents provided specific instructions and highlighted important considerations pertaining to rights and responsibilities of holding the public event.

Gemeente Rotterdam

Onderwerp: Vergunning kleine openbare grond

Besluitadres: Wilhelminakade 179
3072 AP Rotterdam
Postadres: Postbus 6579
3002 AN Rotterdam
Internet: rotterdam.nl

Van: Team Overige Vergunningen
Afdeling: Bouw- en Woningtoezicht
Telefoon: 14010
E-mail: bel-overigevergunningen@rotterdam.nl

Ops. kenmerk: 251911-2023
Aantal bijlage: 3
Datum: 24 april 2023

Aan: de heer / mevrouw Z. Xu

Gechte heer / mevrouw Z. Xu

In antwoord op uw verzoek d.d. 13 april 2023, deel ik u mede, dat er ingevolge artikel 2:10 van de Algemene Plaatselijke Verordening van Rotterdam een vergunning verleend wordt voor:

Omschrijving activiteit: Een proefproject voor gemeenschapsontwerp om te verbinden met Rotterdam en Chinatown door tijdelijke micro-interventies.
Datum en tijd(en) activiteit: 5 mei 2023 om 09:30 t/m 19:00
Locatie activiteit: Verschillende locaties in het centrum.

Ik behoud mij te allen tijde het recht voor om op grond van de openbare orde en veiligheid alsnog te besluiten deze vergunning in te trekken c.q. aanvullende voorschriften aan de vergunning te verbinden.

Aan deze vergunning zijn de in de bijlage opgenomen voorschriften verbonden. De in de bijlage opgenomen voorschriften laten verplichtingen van vergunninghouder voortvloeiende uit andere wet- en regelgeving onverlet.

Tevens wijs ik u erop, dat u aansprakelijk bent voor alle schade die door het gebruik van deze vergunning aan eigendommen van de gemeente of van anderen mocht worden toegebracht.

Met deze ontheffing heeft u toestemming gekregen voor uw geplande activiteit. Ten overvloede wordt opgemerkt dat u onder eigen verantwoordelijkheid bij de uitvoering rekening dient te houden met de landelijke richtlijnen van het RIVM over de corona-maatregelen. Zie voor meer informatie: www.rivm.nl. En de noodverordening van de Veiligheidsregio Rotterdam-Rijnmond. Zie voor meer informatie: www.rijnmondveilig.nl.

Het college van burgemeester en wethouders van de gemeente Rotterdam, namens deze, ouderdirecteur Stadsontwikkeling, voor deze,

drs. A.F.C.M. Mulder
afdelingshoofd Bouw- en Woningtoezicht
*Dit document is digitaal opgesteld en daarom niet ondertekend.

Site Reservation

Securing the necessary permits and permissions for utilizing the selected location is paramount. This sector involves liaising with the relevant authorities, negotiating agreements, and acquiring the necessary paperwork to ensure the smooth implementation of the project.



Figure
33 volunteers were recruited
to help set up the exhibit on
the day of the "Next stop,
Chinatown".

Image credit to Fina Zhao



Final Implementation

This sector encompasses the execution of the project plan. It involves logistical coordination, resource allocation, event management, and overseeing the overall implementation process. The project director assumes a pivotal role in ensuring effective collaboration and synchronization among all stakeholders involved.

Social network building

In this project, the Author, XU Ziqi serves as the sole initiator, driving its development by reaching out to various individuals, platforms, and institutes through both in-person and online interactions. This process has led to the formation of new networks directly related to the project, as well as the stimulation of existing personal networks. Ziqi occupies a central position within this social network, as depicted in the graphic, showcasing the complexity of the connections involved.

In the graphic, the size of each square represents the level of engagement and activity exhibited by the respective stakeholders in the project. Larger squares indicate more frequent participation, significant contributions of ideas, or a higher number of social connections facilitated. The color-coding reflects the community to which the participants belong. Green represents the Chinese community based in the Netherlands, pink represents the Rotterdam Chinatown community, and blue represents Dutch society. If a stakeholder belongs to multiple communities, the priority is given to the Chinatown community, followed by the Chinese community, and then the Dutch society.

The right side of the graphic illustrates the connections established during the preparation phase for the stakeholder workshop. These initial connections are primarily formed with NGOs providing public or cultural services, as well as entrepreneurs operating businesses in Rotterdam Chinatown. Solid lines indicate connections developed as a result of this project, while dotted lines represent pre-existing connections that were not influenced by the project. The yellow dashed lines depict newly formed connections that emerged due to the influence of this project.

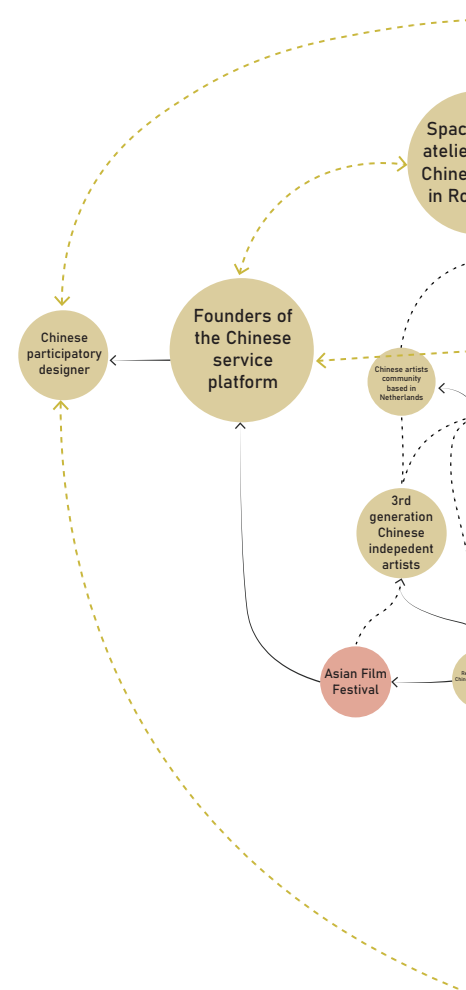
In this context, the Goethe Institute, a German cultural institute located in the heart of Rotterdam Chinatown, emerges as the most active participant throughout the project. The institute plays a significant role by issuing open calls for artists, designers, and researchers, demonstrating their recognition of the cultural and social significance of the project and Ziqi's motivation. They provide spatial support and unconditional promotion through media channels. The Goethe Institute's open-minded approach, neutral stance, and well-equipped physical spaces deeply resonate with Ziqi, leading her to select them as the primary partner for this project.

Wah Nam Hong, a Chinese supermarket in Rotterdam Chinatown, also plays a crucial role during the initial stage of the project. As one of the earliest Chinese entrepreneurs in the current Chinatown area, Wah Nam Hong not only owns local properties but also maintains connections with surrounding Chinese shops and the Dutch society. The area has previously undergone renovation guided by the Rotterdam municipality and the local community. As a result, Wah Nam Hong's manager, who serves as a leader among local Chinese entrepreneurs and landowners, has established connections with government officials and social housing companies. Through their introduction, Ziqi has been able to establish connections with Rotterdam municipality officials, local administrators, and social housing managers.

On the left side of the graphic, the connections were primarily established after the stakeholder workshop in preparation for the public event day, "Next stop, Chinatown." These connections were facilitated through Chii's extensive network within the culture, art, and architecture circles, where she actively engages in her daily life. Chii approached various platforms within these circles, presenting the project along with the research results from the stakeholder workshop and expressing her personal passion for the project.

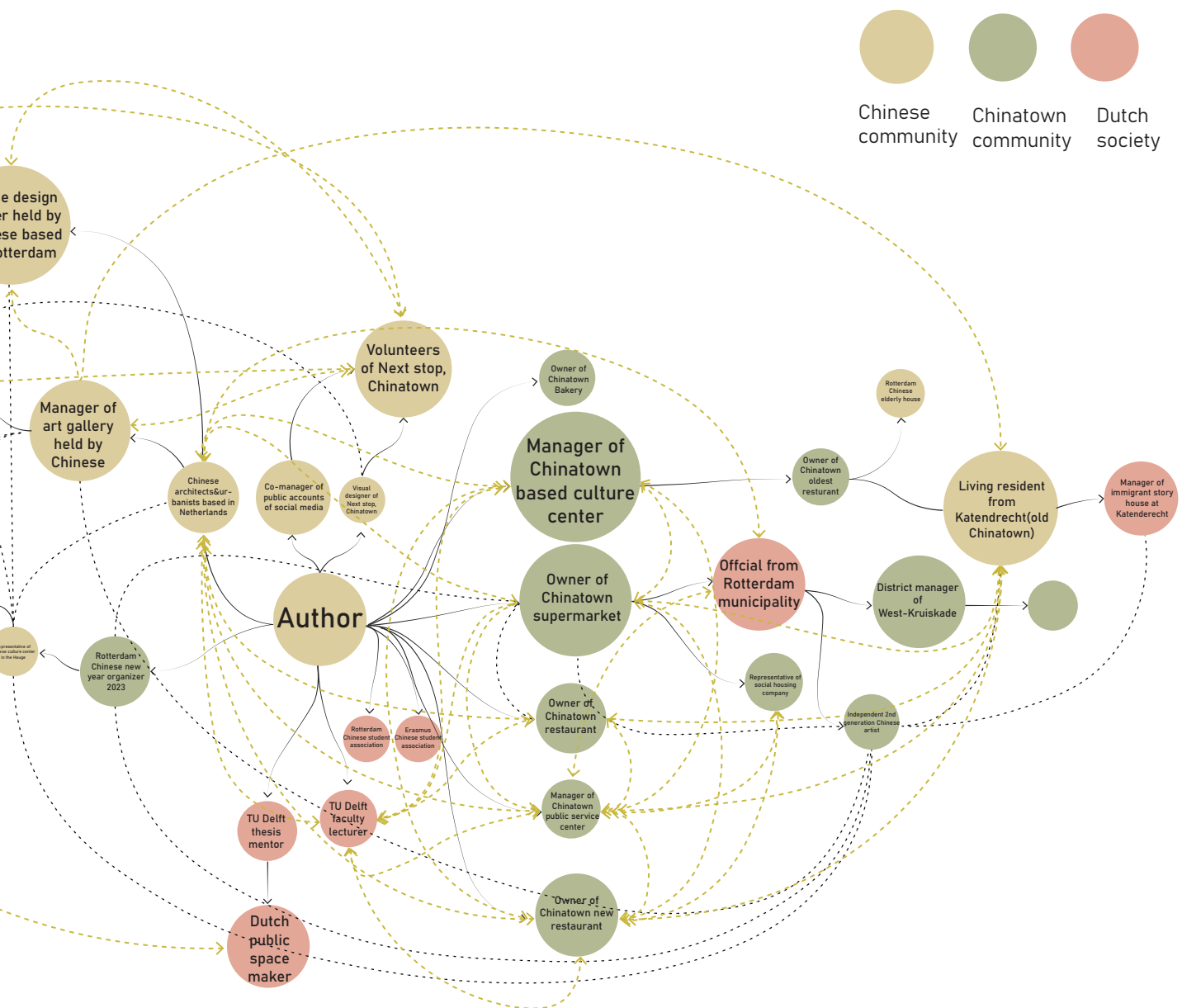
The stakeholders she engaged with the Chinese community who have especially positive response from these platforms during the project. The feedback shared a common theme: the Chinese community with stronger connections, which provides physical space, live culture, and society, served as a particularly attractive platform for institutes. While they provided positive feedback, it was challenging to find a team with the resources for such a non-profit project.

Additionally, there were other network groups for the stakeholder workshop and connections from TU Delft and other organizations invested in community development and the development of overseas Chinese communities.



mainly consisted of individuals from established careers in the Netherlands, services, academia, and architecture. The long the pitch stage was overwhelmingly on desire to see a transformed Chinese . The practical nature of the experiment, cooperation, and exposure within Dutch creative aspect for these platforms and ideas and offered emotional support, with the financial capacity to fully support

works involved apart from the action and event day. These networks included online Chinese communities that are methodologies, urban design, and the communities.



Social network building

The graph beside illustrates the occasions where these connections were first established. The color scheme represents different types of spaces: green represents Chinese dominant/owned spaces, pink represents third-party or cultural spaces without a specified cultural affiliation, such as the Goethe Institute or Film Festival, and blue represents Dutch dominant/owned spaces. In contrast to the first graph, this graph does not indicate a complete separation of conversations based on cultural dominance, where Chinese conversations solely occur in Chinese dominant spaces and Dutch conversations solely occur in Dutch dominant spaces.

The involvement of third-party spaces plays a vital and dynamic role in fostering these connections, aligning with Chii's intentions. When participants find themselves in an unfamiliar environment, they tend to show more respect and pay greater attention. Furthermore, third-party spaces do not impose a strong cultural statement, alleviating any pressure or resistance participants might feel. This aspect is particularly significant when considering the diversity within the Chinese community, where different generations may be sensitive to other groups and establish clear boundaries. Third-party spaces can help blur these boundaries and ease defensiveness.

Overall, the graph demonstrates that third-party spaces serve as catalysts for connection building. By creating an inclusive and neutral environment, these spaces encourage dialogue, mutual understanding, and cooperation among participants from different cultural backgrounds.

Reflection

Upon reflection, it is important to acknowledge that the project has created lasting connections that can continue to thrive even without the central role of Ziqi as a connection hub. These stakeholders have the potential to step forward and become new initiators, fostering additional connections, activating existing ones, and empowering the community. This is in line with the project's ultimate goal, which is to cultivate the self-organizing capability of the Chinese community, enabling them to learn, strengthen their sense of belonging, and foster a stronger community bond.

By nurturing a network of stakeholders who are actively engaged in the project, there is a greater likelihood of sustained collaboration and collective action. These stakeholders, who have been inspired and motivated by the project, possess the capacity to take on leadership roles and drive further community development initiatives. With their newfound connections and shared objectives, they can continue to build bridges, facilitate dialogue, and create a sense of belonging within the Chinese community.

The long-term impact of the project lies in its ability to instill a sense of agency and empowerment within the community. As stakeholders take on active roles as initiators and connectors, they not only contribute to the growth and vitality of the community but also inspire others to participate and take ownership of their cultural identity. This self-organizing capability fosters a stronger sense of belonging, social cohesion, and collective pride.

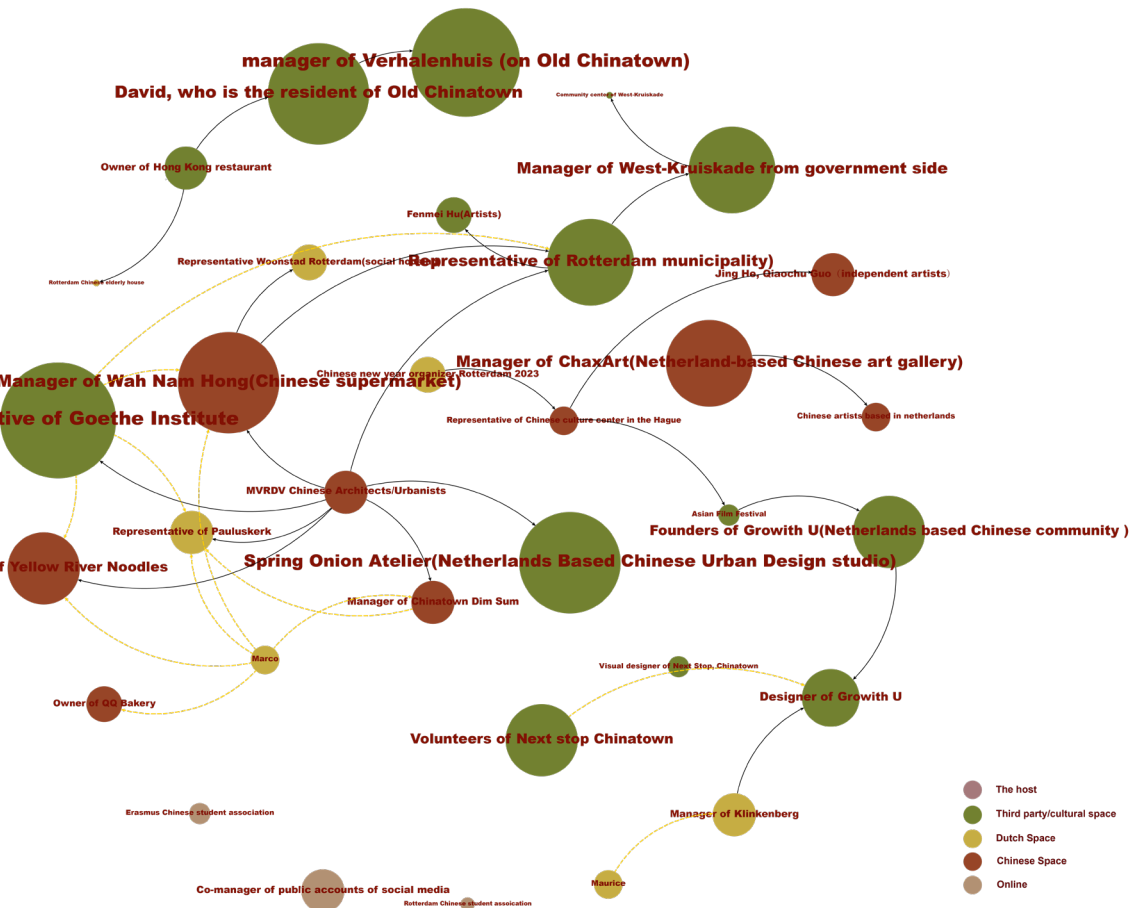
It is through this ripple effect of connections and empowerment that the project can truly leave a lasting impact. By nurturing a network of motivated stakeholders who are passionate about community development, the project can create a self-sustaining cycle of growth, engagement, and cultural integration within the Chinese community and with Dutch society.

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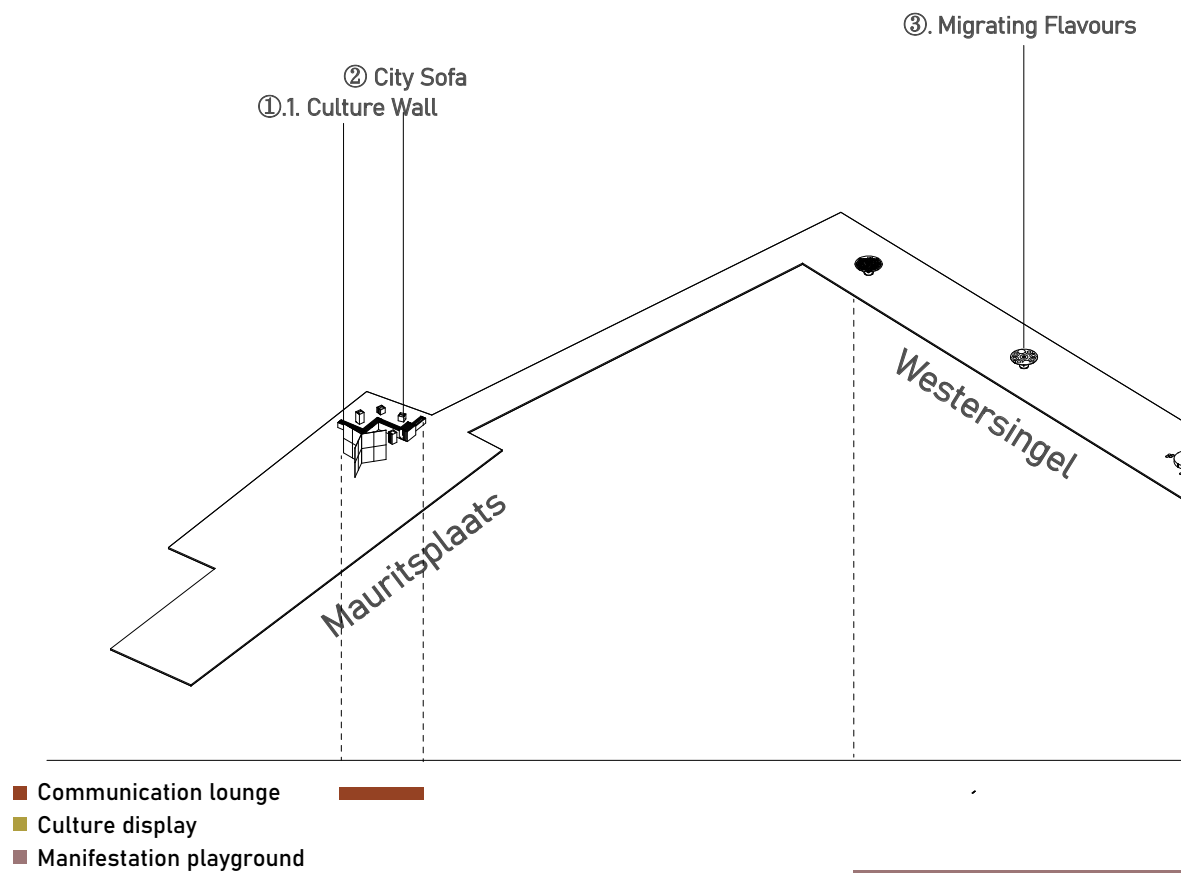
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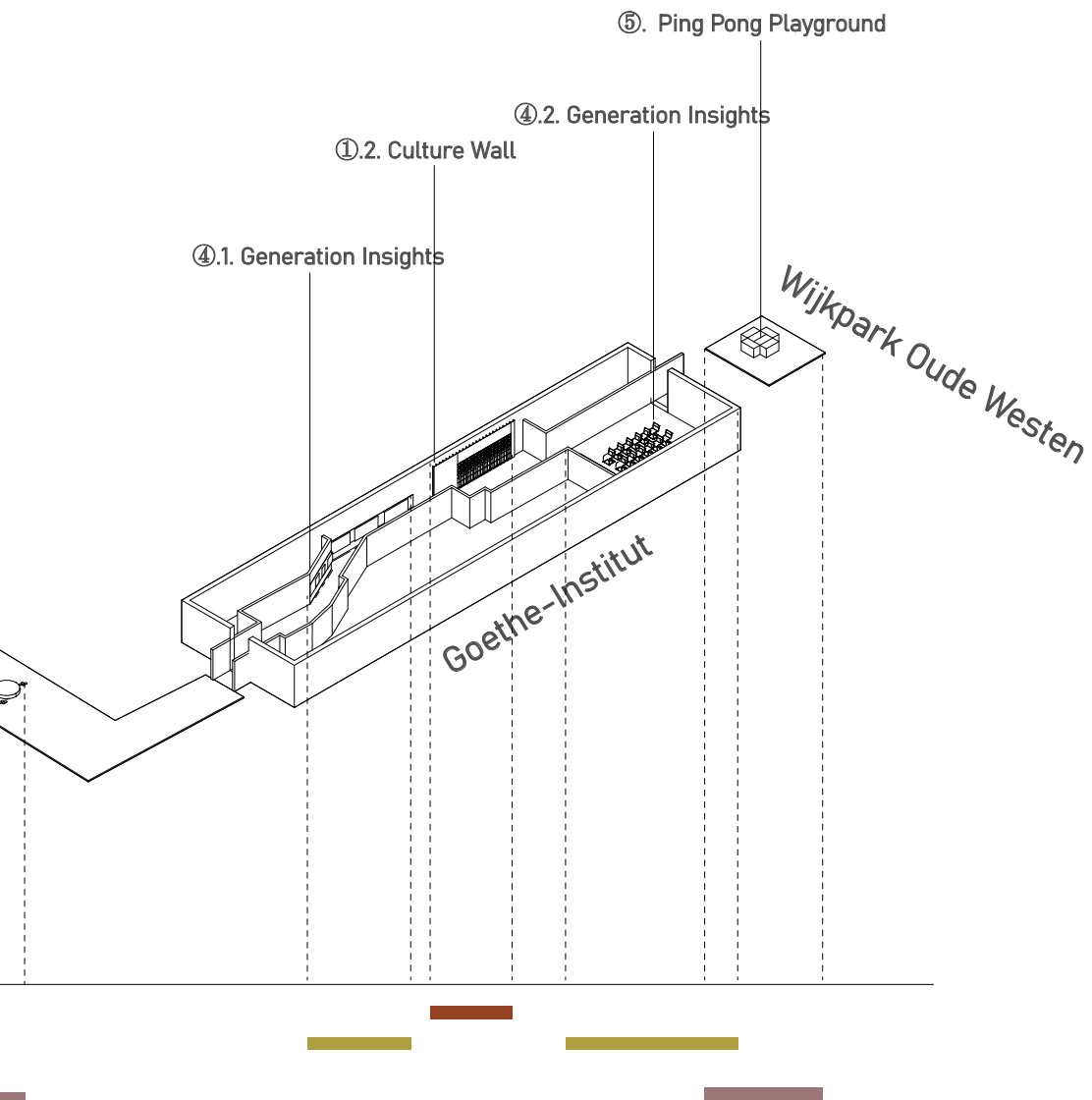
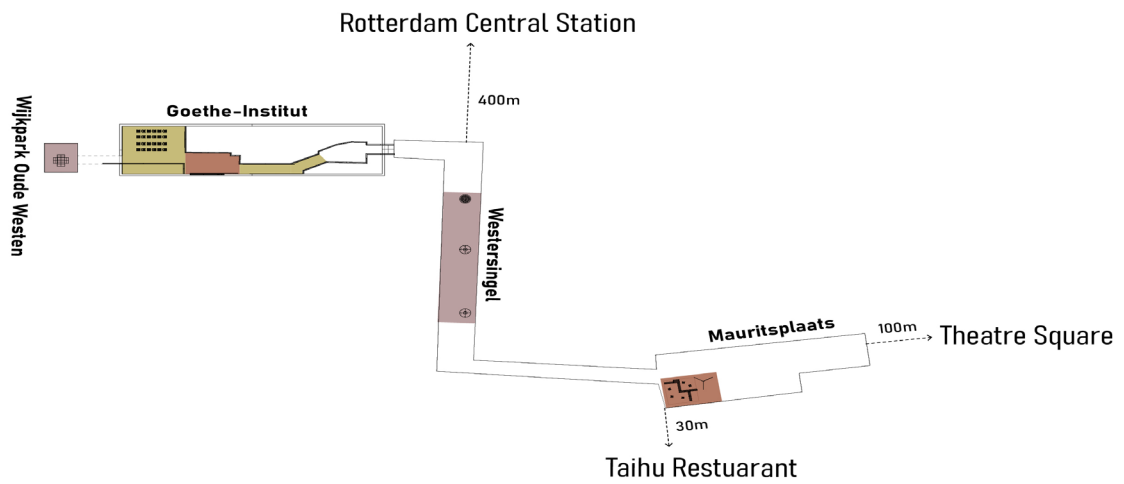
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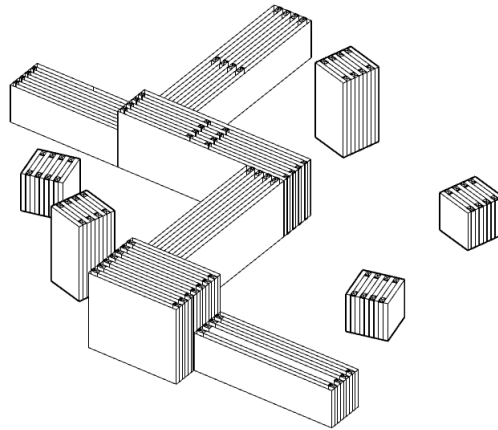
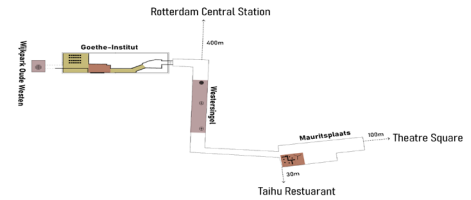
Event Curation

Finally the route cross from Mauritsplaats , through the river bank of Westersingel and ground floor of Goethe Institute, finally reach the Oude Westen Park. The whole route follows 3 theme which are, Culture Display, Community Lounge and Manifestation Playground. 4 spatial spots, 5 units and 7 cultural installations are projected to provide a rich city walk experiences with culture as rhythms for visitors.





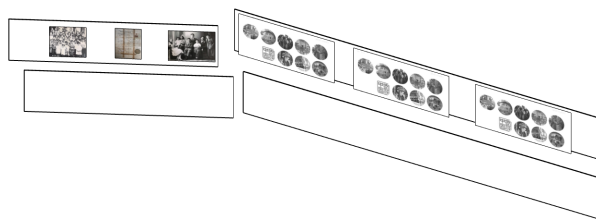
Event Content



The City Sofa was co-designed by Lysander Kinlenberg, an architect who specializes in street furniture and the author. They abstracted the road map of Chinatown tour into the shape of public seating, and deliberately designed it in different heights to facilitate people of different cultural backgrounds and ages to use the space and communicate with people here comfortably. The installation will also be used to test the impact of the public seating design on human behavior in public space.

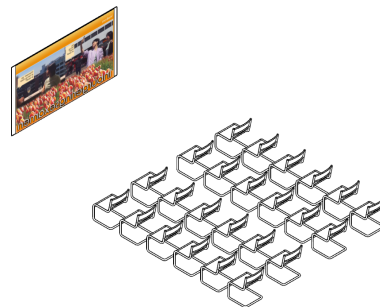
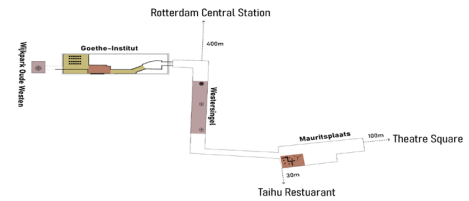


Event Content



David Zee Xu is a second generation immigrant. His grandfather was one of the first seafarers to arrive in Katendrecht's Rotterdam Chinatown. Growing up, David Zee alternately felt confused and certain about his identity. With the decline of Katendrecht and the dissipation of the Chinese community after the war, David Zee began researching the history of Chinese immigrants at the age of 18 and compiled a large collection of family photos, household items used by family members, and documents related to Chinese culture.

Fenmei Hu was born in 1980 in the village of Yuhu, Wenzhou. When she was 9 years old, she immigrated to the Netherlands with her parents. Yuhu Village is a very typical immigrant village in Zhejiang Province, China. During the migration wave around the 1970s and 1980s, many villagers came to Europe to do business. Around 2011, Fenmei Hu returned to Yuhu Village with her photographer and took 12 photographs to document the lives of the people who still live in the immigrant village. The bustling stock exchange in the village, the sewing room where women are always looking up are all snapshots of the migrant wave as Fenmei sees it.

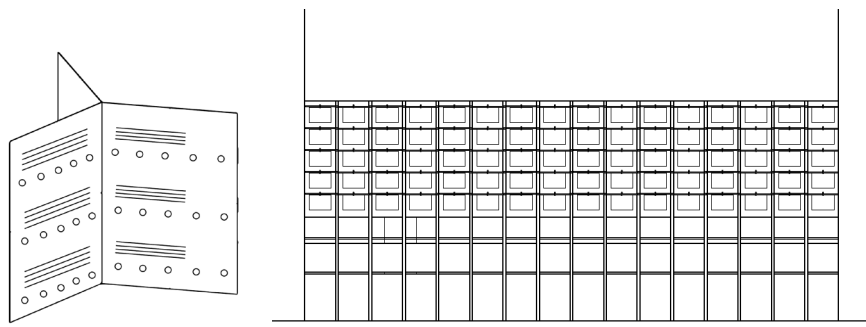
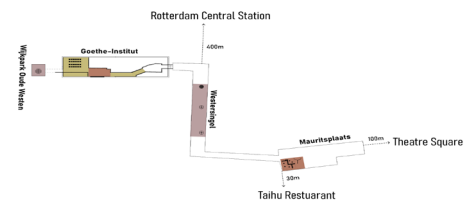


He Jing and Guo Qiaochu are two new generation Chinese artists based in the Netherlands. They use the film to explore and respond to the proposition of "cultural integration". The film draws on real-life stories from 23 contributors and features 10 scenes based on the Dutch civic integration test (Inburgeringsexamen), which alludes to the invisible racial discrimination experienced by Chinese people in everyday life.

The original Dutch civic integration test was designed to give foreigners an understanding of Dutch society and public knowledge and to help them integrate better into the local culture. Although it is an official picture of life, it never includes the complex diabolical situation that immigrants experience in real life: the explicit or implicit racial discrimination and prejudice that we can encounter in the street and in the homes of our friends. The film was screened at the 2023 Cinemasia Film Festival in the Netherlands.



Event Content

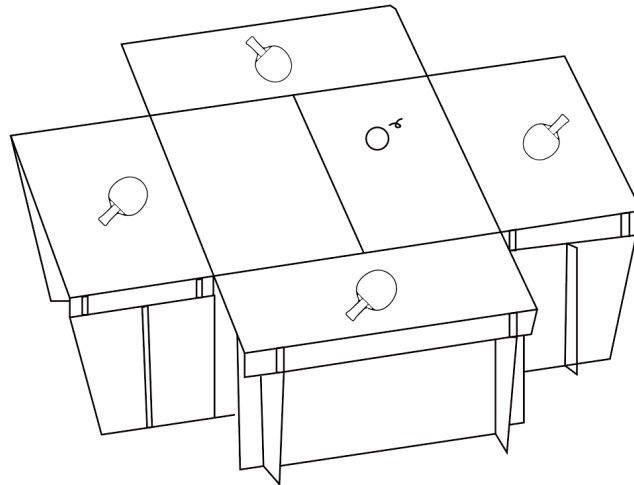
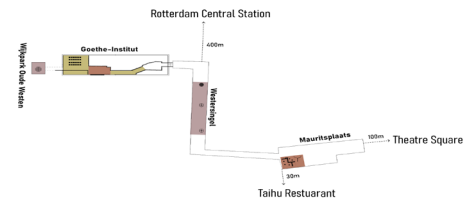


Inspired by Erin Meyer's theory of the Cultural Map, the Culture Wall module provides participants with an opportunity to explore cultural differences and communicate diversity. Participants are given the opportunity to answer questions on the Culture Wall based on their own cultural background and through the use of national flags. The final culture wall will visually represent the diversity of cultural experiences and encourage participants to find commonalities across cultural communities while embracing differences.

The Culture Wall, the "Wall of stereotype", will also be placed in the Goethe-Institut living room. It is a compilation of typical cultural biases in Chinese and Dutch culture, which are presented as "stereotype cards". Participants are invited to think critically about these prejudices and are encouraged to interact with each other to "break" the wall of prejudice by flipping it over based on real experiences. The installation was created by a team with a professional psychology background, "GrowwithU". Its design is based on the principles of social psychology, emphasizing the role of personal experience in shaping cultural perceptions. By experiencing the process of breaking down cultural prejudices, participants will be able to think more positively about cultural diversity and appreciate the importance of mutual understanding.



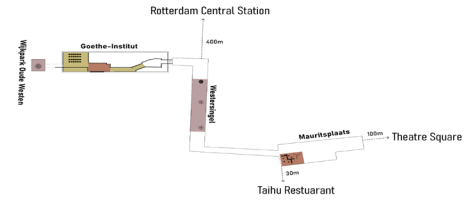
Event Content



The last unit, with the theme of "Ping Pong Playground", will be transformed into a gathering playground to welcome everyone. It hopes that between movements and sports, between east and west, between collaboration and challenge, There is more triggered moments of cross-cultural collision and creation.



Event Content



Food is a cultural medium that is closely related to everyday life. Migrant Flavours uses Chinese round tables to explore the "common ground" of food. In the three tables set up, participants will explore the smells and tastes of various ingredients and dig deeper into the root stories behind the food. Each table represents the globalization of food, the interconnectedness of culinary cultures, and the connection between food and a sense of belonging to a community.

The first roundtable is the "Ingredient Odyssey Food Migration Map". The first roundtable is the "Ingredient Odyssey", which shows the routes that ingredients have taken as humans have migrated and left their mark on the world. Participants can learn about the spread of food and its culture by using ingredients to stamp these routes.

The second roundtable is "Kitchen Remix Kitchen Reverb". In dishes from around the world, it is easy to see that many dishes use similar ingredients. However, different cooking styles bring out completely different flavors of cuisine. This roundtable will present eight groups of similarly sourced dishes, encouraging participants to find opportunities for fusion and exchange in new habitats through food.

The third roundtable, "Roots and Herbs," invites participants to bring their own stories of migration to the table. By exchanging personal stories with ingredients and spices, participants will share their personal experiences and memories of migration. Through the richness and diversity of culinary cultures, Chinatown Tour hopes for a deeper understanding and appreciation of each other among the community.



Feedbacks from the visitors

"It shows me the potential of Goethe institut as a **local cultural portal**"

"Outdoor events is more attractive in sunny days."

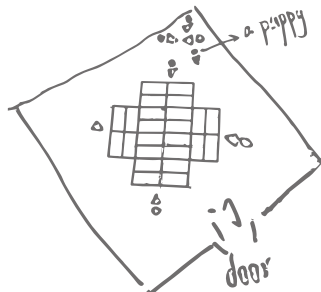
Are you attracted by the public space here today more than normal days?

"Yes. Can meet people through activities friends, **not feeling awkward at all.**"

"For sure, usually I wouldn't even notice it. But this immerssive event **interacted with my curiosity** and brought me to others in this temporary community."

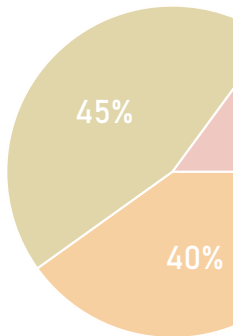
"Sure, I usually do not enter such a space, if the weather is better, and put these things in the middle of the Westersingel, I will also imagine the middle into a very lively park rather than a green partition."

Would you like to support this project in the future?



Documented by volunteer Mingya Zhang

- Money donation
- Volunteer work
- Content creation
- No, I don't want to support this project in the future



"**Pingpong table** is more interactive and easily getting knowing people"

"The food map. Interactive, know the origin of the food is interesting."

Which section/installation do you like the most?

"The **collection** whole idea that of Chinese. I he wanted to read the chance. Now preserving it. At the Chinese cor ship with the pl

"**The film screening**, I think the work was brilliant, very relevant today and also quite **humorous** which is quite rare"

"I like the cultural lounge and the culture wall best because they are really fun to interact with and the form of the installation and the meaning it wanted to convey aligned well. And the message they conveyed stood out clearly."

Would you like more activities like this?

● Yes!
● No

100%



"A cute dog at the pingpong table definitely attracted a lot of visitors and volunteers there."

"I remembered an interesting card hung on the installation writes 'from a 178cm Chinese girl' and 'from a 158cm Dutch girl' to counter the stereotype that Dutch people are tall. It's so fun to see how different visitors interact in this way."

Could you please share any interesting story/observation/connection/inspiration/experience you had on Next stop, Chinatown event day?

"Amazed by overall how space can be activated by events and people."

"Normally if we go to exhibitions we just look around ourselves, but I thought today we got a lot of attention from the organizers/facilitators who kindly guided and explained us."

n from Katendrecht. Also the
trying to tied the different group
ard about Katendrecht and
a bit more about it but never get
w I am very happy to see people
also I am glad that the diversity in
mmunity as well as it's relation-
ace is being presented.."



Documented by volunteer Mingya Zhang



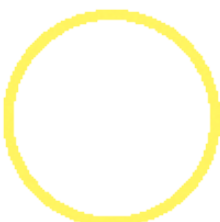
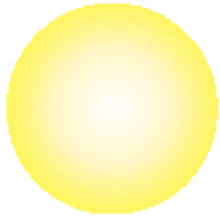
As of May 21, the online campaign has garnered 7,218 views and has attracted 303 followers. On May 5, "Next stop, Chinatown" had a team consisting of 44 executives. Additionally, prior to the event, 96 visitors had already made reservations. On the day of the event, preliminary statistics indicate that there were at least 292 visitors in attendance.



Next Stop, Chinatown 唐人街遊

Instagram: @chinatownhk / chinatownhk.com
微信公眾號: 唐人街遊

Map labels include:
- 101 Queen's Road East
- 101 Queen's Road West
- 101 Queen's Road North
- 101 Queen's Road South
- 101 Queen's Road Central
- 101 Queen's Road East
- 101 Queen's Road West
- 101 Queen's Road North
- 101 Queen's Road South
- 101 Queen's Road Central

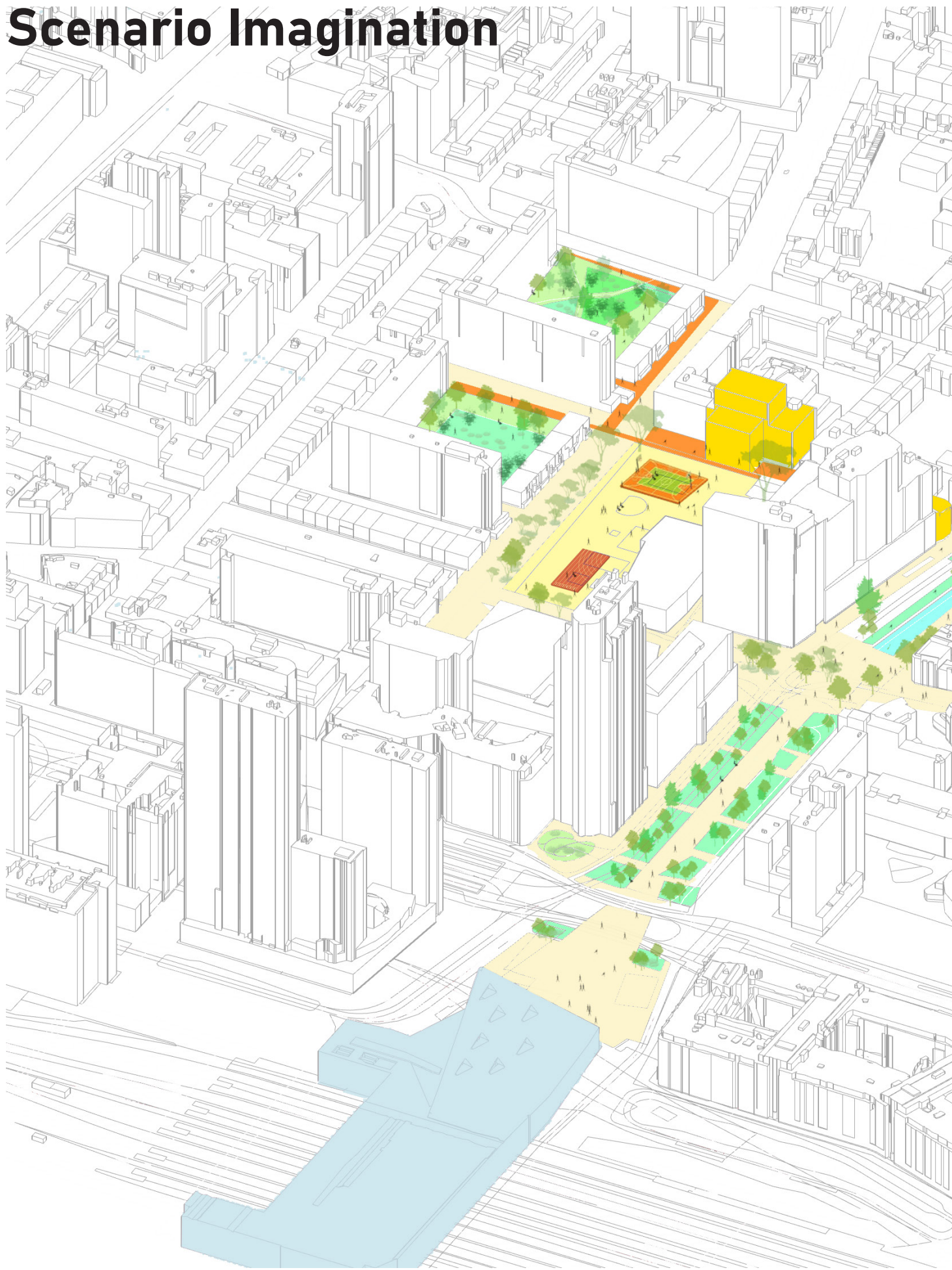


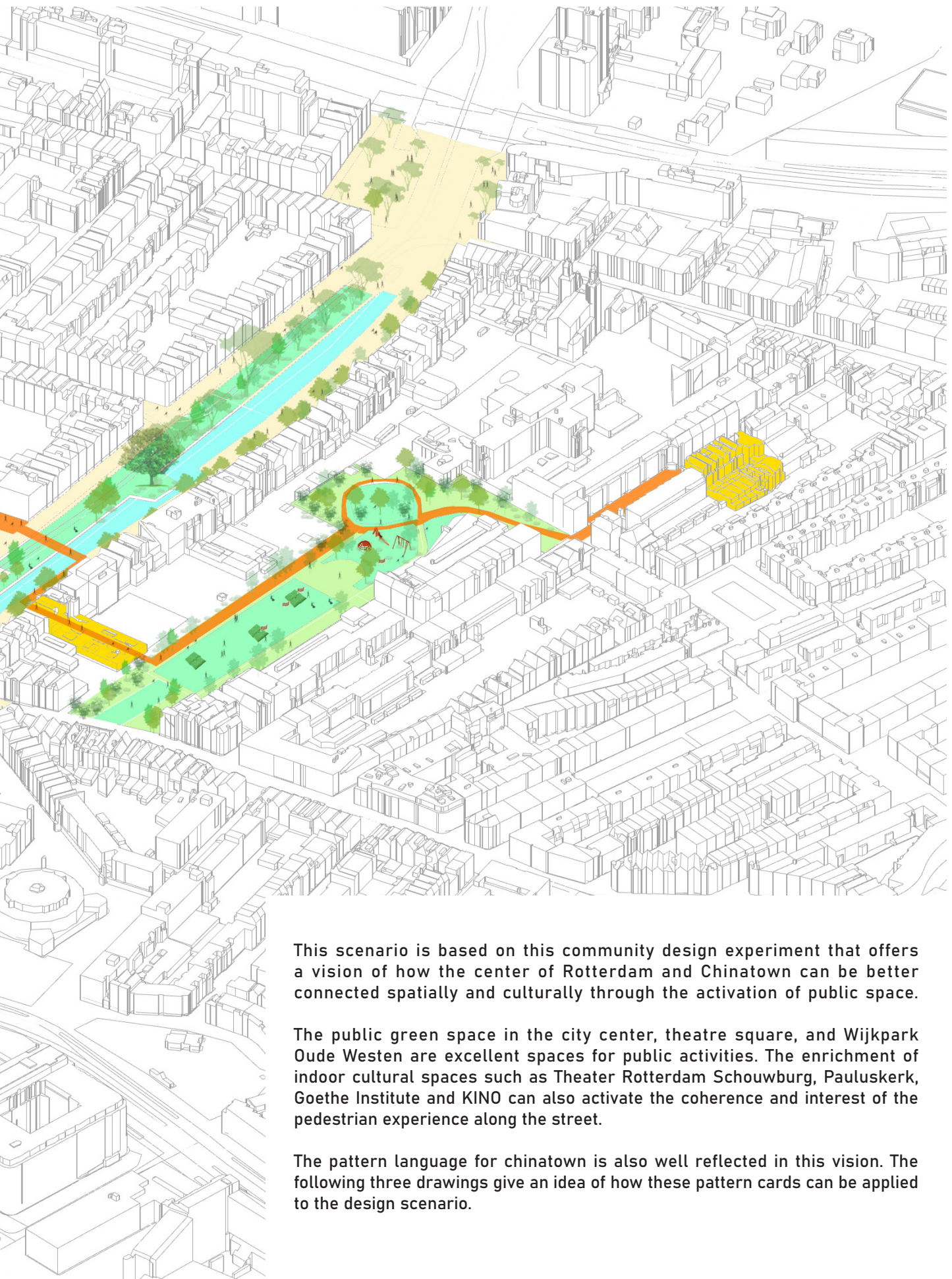
chapter 8

Scenario Imagination



Scenario Imagination





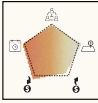
This scenario is based on this community design experiment that offers a vision of how the center of Rotterdam and Chinatown can be better connected spatially and culturally through the activation of public space.

The public green space in the city center, theatre square, and Wijkpark Oude Westen are excellent spaces for public activities. The enrichment of indoor cultural spaces such as Theater Rotterdam Schouwburg, Pauluskerk, Goethe Institute and KINO can also activate the coherence and interest of the pedestrian experience along the street.

The pattern language for chinatown is also well reflected in this vision. The following three drawings give an idea of how these pattern cards can be applied to the design scenario.

Pattern Language for Chinatown

OS3 Renovate street façade



Hypothesis

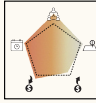
Renew the street façade to make it more attractive, and make people be aware of this is Chinatown and with diverse cultures

Practical implication

- Storytelling about the living history of Chinese community could be the ornamental theme of the façade, which requires a linear corridor or wall facing public streets.
- Façade could be filled in with interactive open-ended questions in community spaces that allow people to meet and interact with each other.

Connected with: CI5, OS8, OS9

OS4 Improve the space quality at night



Hypothesis

Secure the safety of the streets and public parks to improve the space quality at night

Practical implication

- Activating the indoor open spaces at night

Connected with: OS12

OS8 Activate community park for public use



Hypothesis

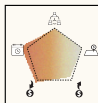
Open the Ouden Western park for the public, instead just for community use; welcome all visitors

Practical implication

- Add sports equipment to get to know new people
- Add interactive installations
- Add comfortable seatings and communication zone
- Add dog/pet friendly spaces

Connected with: CI5, CI6, OS3

CI5 Facilities with culture elements



Hypothesis

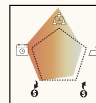
Increase cultural facilities on public space in Chinatown

Practical implication

- Add cultural symbols, such as round table that as a symbology representing food culture fused eastern and western culture.
- Add sharing kitchen in community space, where locals can share cultures.
- Make the culture ornaments assemblable that can involve communities to build it up together.

Connected with: CI4, OS3, OS8

CI6 Regularly conduct of cultural activities



Hypothesis

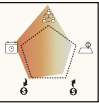
Increase the frequency of holding cultural activities, and make it on agenda.

Practical implication

- Hold bottom-up organized and co-creation activities.
- Set sport equipments which enable to flexibility to hold sports competition and customize the themes and rules.
- Active organizers and casts of such events are necessary.
- Sustainable fund support is fundamental

Connected with: CI4, CI7, OS8

CI4 Theme activities organization for the community



Hypothesis

Organize theme activities with Chinatown entrepreneurs and community centers to attract public visitors with the same interests.




Practical implication

- Regularly conduct theme activities both inside and outside at public spaces.
- Find the embodiment topic that all cultures share the common ground and easy to start discussion, such as food and sports.
- Active activity actors and organizers are important to activate the atmosphere.

Connected with: CI5, CI6, CI7, OS12

OS9

Connect Rotterdam centrum with Chinatown

Hypothesis

Expand the border of Chinatown, better connect with Central areas, such as Beurs, Blaak etc.

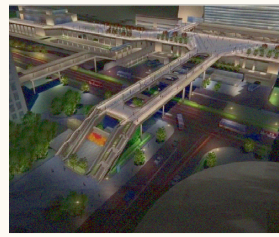
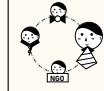
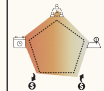
Practical implication

- Activate the green space and culture space along Rotterdam central to West-Kruiskade.
- Systematic visual design guidance along the street is needed
- Promote walkable street and restrict the car speed.

Connected with: OS3, OS10

OS10

re-plan the mobility route

Hypothesis

Re-plan the mobility of the Chinatown area, and make it more comfortable for people walking



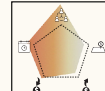
Practical implication

- Reduce the difficulty of public space to indoor space.
- Reduce on-street parking.
- Erase the driving road along Westersingel, and expand the pedestrian area with more green pavement

Connected with: OS9

OS12

Empty house activation

Hypothesis

Activating the empty houses, rent it for temporary use as public services or cultural centers




Practical implication

- Activate the available space in culture space or community space.
- Separate different micro room within these space with diverse theme

Connected with: OS4, C17, C14

C17

Empower NGOs located in Chinatown

Hypothesis

Support cultural service centers with money, and participate in activities held by them. This help builds the cohesion of the community.

Practical implication

- Empower NGOs who have unbiased or neutral grounds, and have open-minded and welcoming quality.
- Empower NGOs with added culture values such as conduct language classes and provide skill courses to remain the operation of such institutes.
- Encourage local NGOs to share network and resources together.

Connected with: C14, C16, OS12

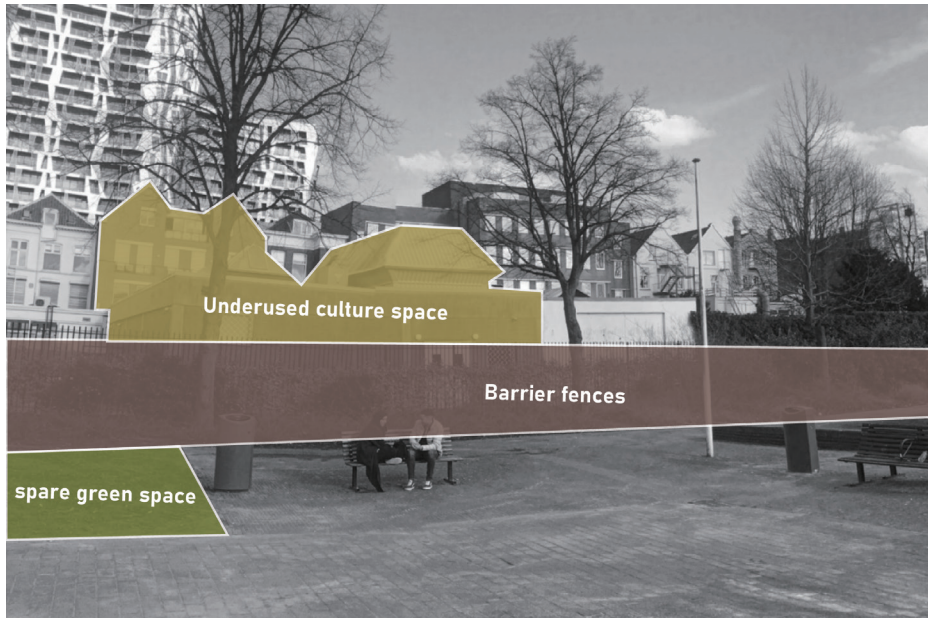
The final selection of patterns for Rotterdam Chinatown is the result of a thorough analysis and practical implications drawn from the event day. Ten patterns have been carefully chosen, comprising six cards dedicated to optimizing open space utilization and four cards focused on enhancing cultural integration. These selected patterns not only address the specific needs of Rotterdam Chinatown but also align with the broader development strategy of the city.

The primary objective of these patterns is to improve the quality of both urban outdoor public spaces and indoor open spaces within Rotterdam Chinatown. By implementing these patterns, the aim is to establish an effective methodology that contributes to community development in the area. It is anticipated that these patterns will not only enhance the physical environment but also foster social cohesion and facilitate cultural exchange among community members.

The significance of this selection lies in its potential to support the long-term growth and prosperity of Rotterdam Chinatown. By actively engaging with the community and involving various stakeholders, the intention is to collaboratively create a vibrant and inclusive neighborhood that thrives on the principles of community development.

Connect Neighborhood with Chinatown

Status quo



If the community park can be activated and made more public, it can effectively link Chinatown and the local community together, enabling the Chinese community and the multicultural community to contact and understand each other. The current Oude Westen Park is mainly built with landscape techniques, not only has no connection with the surrounding environment, but also uses iron railings to demarcate very clear regional boundaries. However, the underuse and neglected vegetation, as well as the inability to effectively connect the adjacent cultural spaces because of the railings, make the current community park function and user population single.

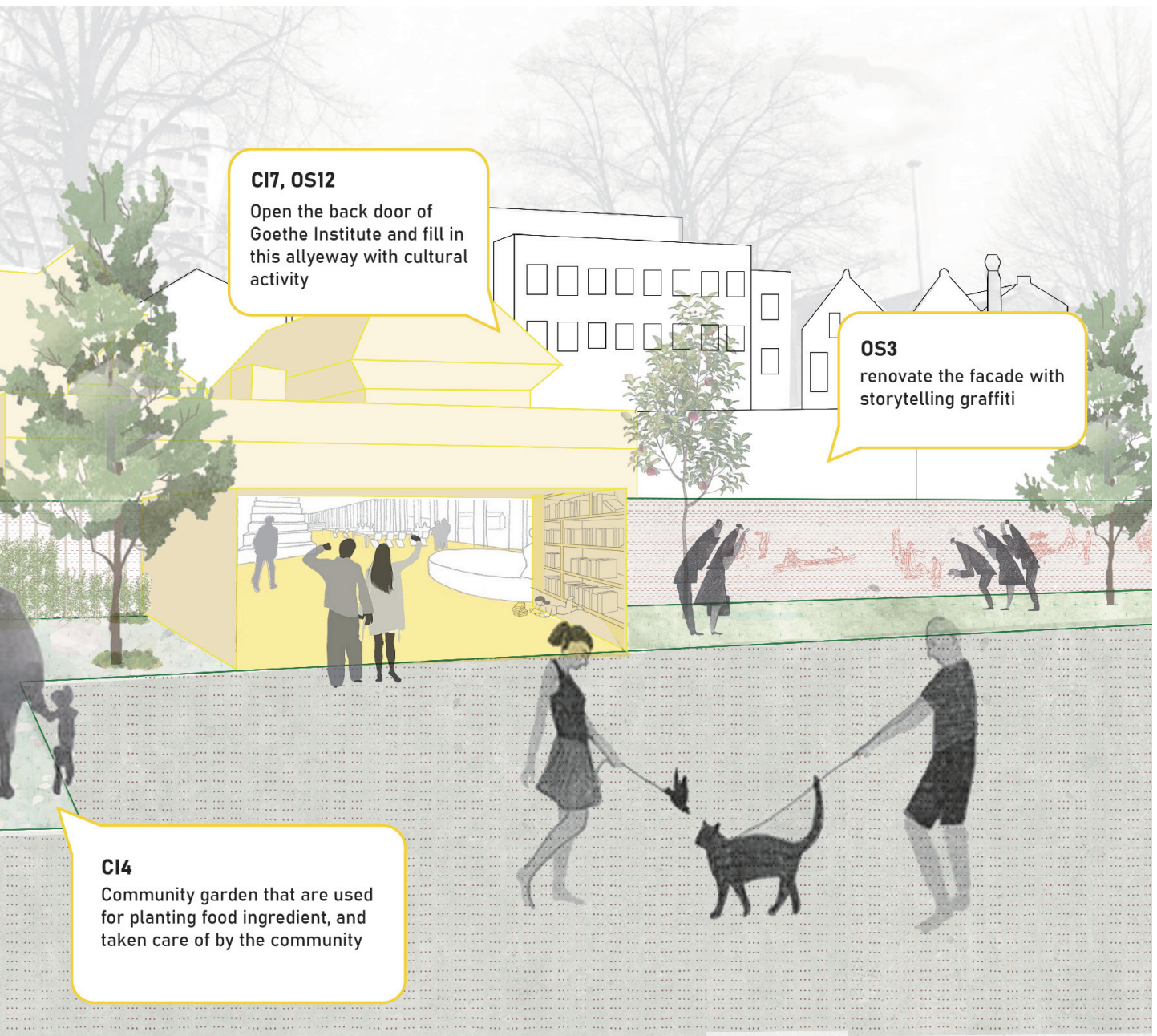
In the design concept, there are three main ideas. If the vegetation can be added to the idea of participatory management, so that the surrounding residents can jointly cultivate community spice gardens and plant them according to their respective cultural backgrounds and habits. It will not only increase everyone's awareness of the maintenance of public spaces, but also make the development of the park more sustainable. At the same time, it will increase the community's attachment to the place. People from different communities and cultural backgrounds can also communicate and understand each other through vegetation as a medium.

The second main idea is inspired by the event of linear wall space. The iron railing, a linear spatial element, can serve as a narrative and interactive device, enhancing the connection with each other. At the same time, a primary space color that was originally used for division can also be effectively softened, making people feel closer.

In addition, the cultural space will be transformed into a connecting corridor, while providing public services and functioning as a community center. Residents can walk through this passage, and at the same time, the spatial content they can experience while walking through can attract people and make the community connect geographically.

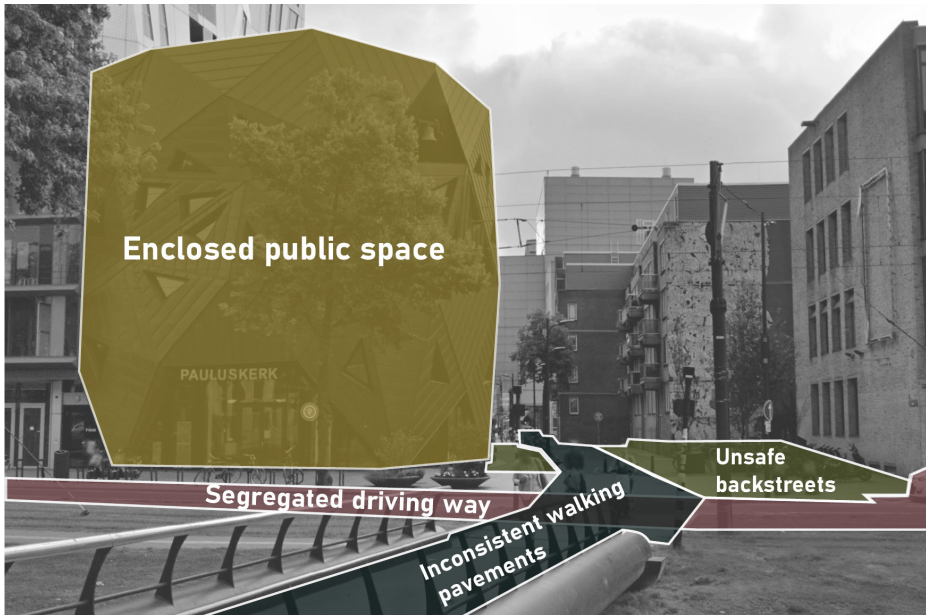
Design scenario





Connect Rotterdam centrum with Chinatown

Status quo

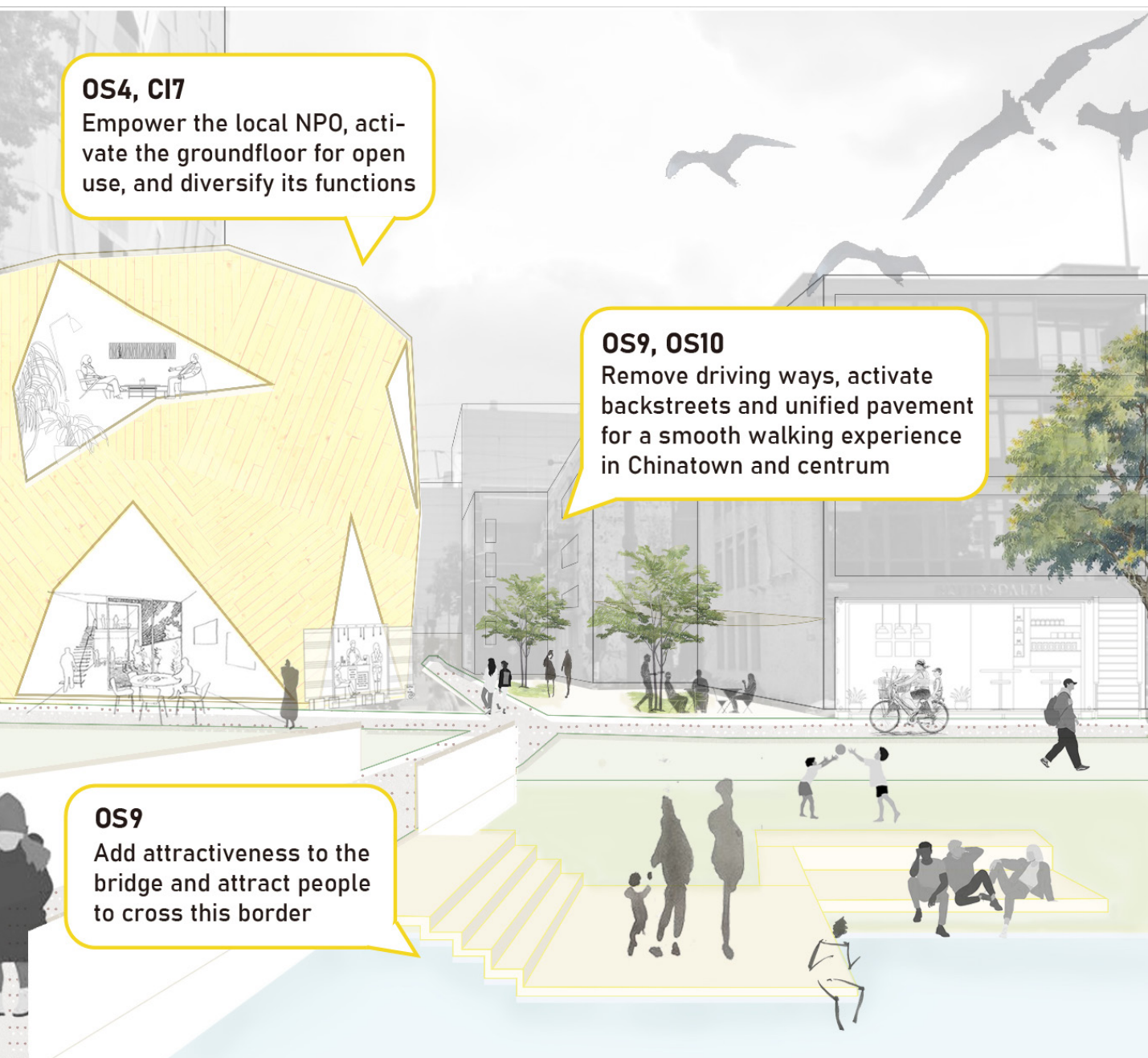


The main problem that currently cuts off Rotterdam's city center from Chinatown is the disjointed and unsafe pedestrian experience. The reason for the discontinuity is the scattered pavement, the driving way that separates the walkway from the bridge. The unsafe elements are mainly due to the underuse of the backstreet, the gathering of vulnerable social group, and the fast traffic flow.

In order to change this situation, based on research and preliminary experiments, increasing the open space area of the ground floor, adding water-friendly facilities, and removing the carriageway can effectively alleviate the above problems. Increasing the open space on the ground floor at the corner, combined with the flexibility and interactivity of indoor and outdoor activities, can attract people flow and make the space more dynamic and open. Removing the concrete driveway and installing grass and uniform walkway paving enhances the pedestrian walking experience and encourages people to explore the neighborhood by walking. The bridge across the river was augmented with a viewing platform to connect with the riverbank. Encourage the use of public space by transforming the dividing line into a connection bond.

Design scenario





OS4, CI7

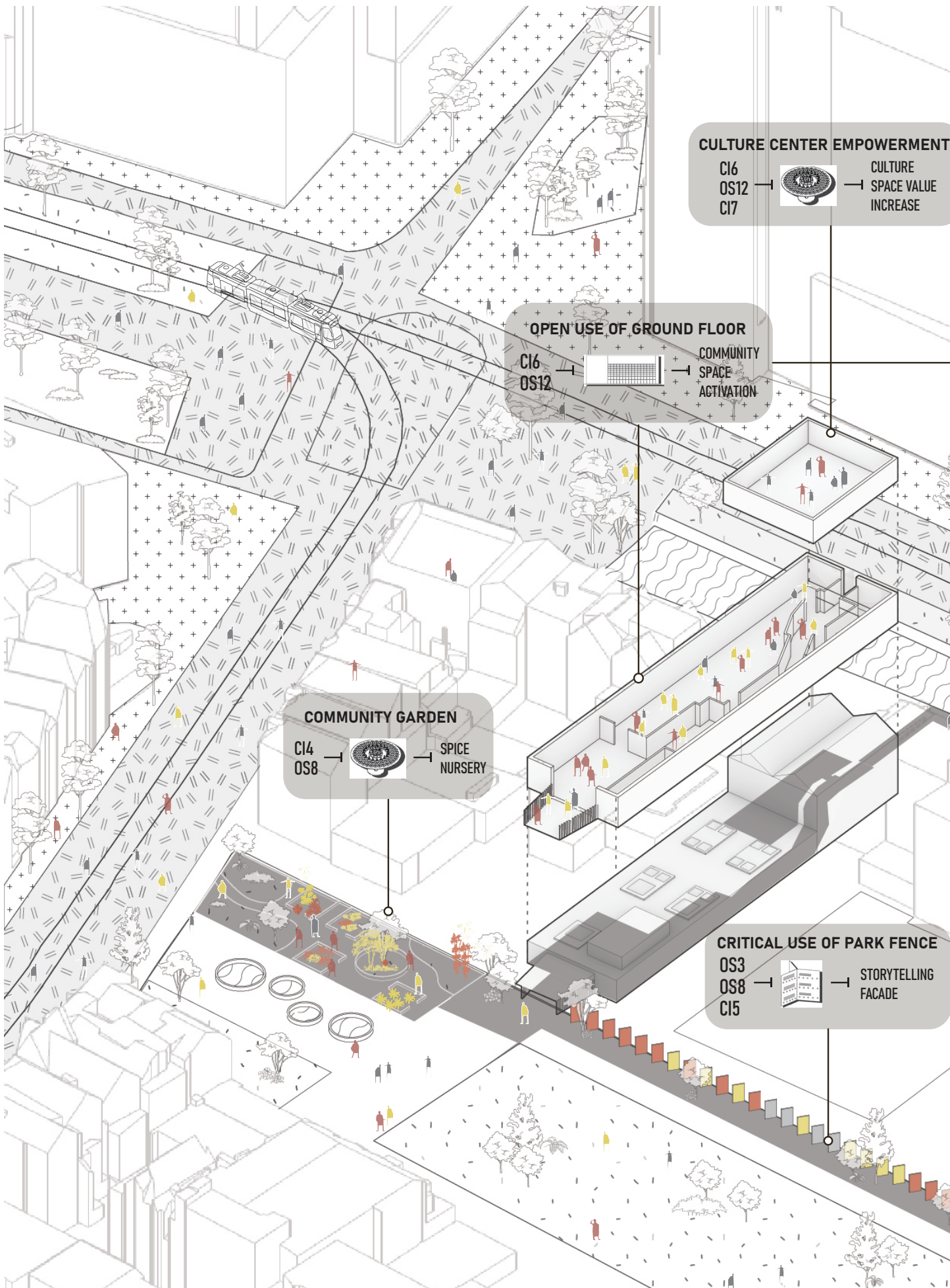
Empower the local NPO, activate the groundfloor for open use, and diversify its functions

OS9, OS10

Remove driving ways, activate backstreets and unified pavement for a smooth walking experience in Chinatown and centrum

OS9

Add attractiveness to the bridge and attract people to cross this border



CULTURE CENTER EMPOWERMENT

C16
OS12
C17



CULTURE
SPACE VALUE
INCREASE

OPEN USE OF GROUND FLOOR

C16
OS12



COMMUNITY
SPACE
ACTIVATION

COMMUNITY GARDEN

C14
OS8



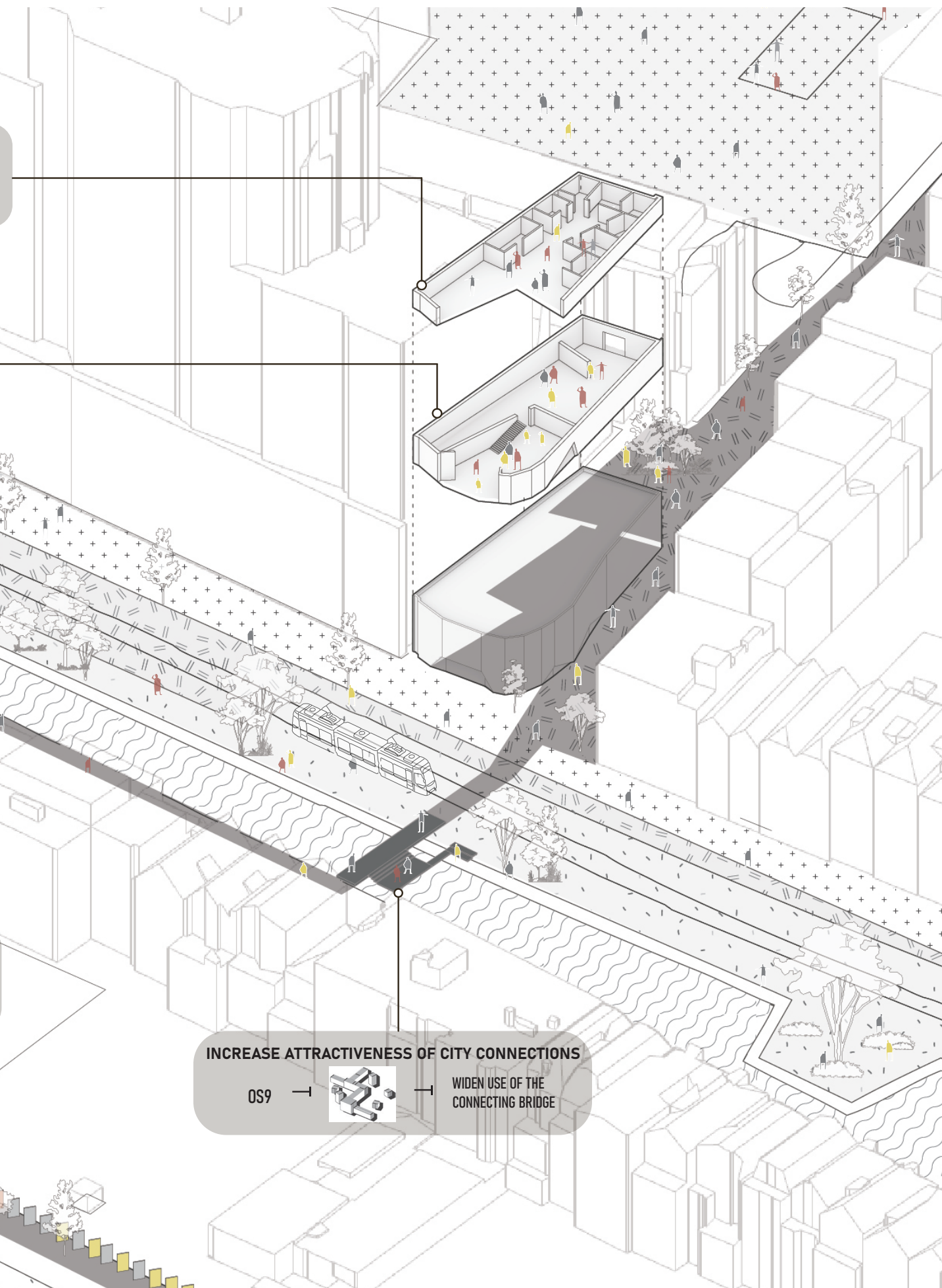
SPICE
NURSERY

CRITICAL USE OF PARK FENCE

OS3
OS8
C15



STORYTELLING
FACADE



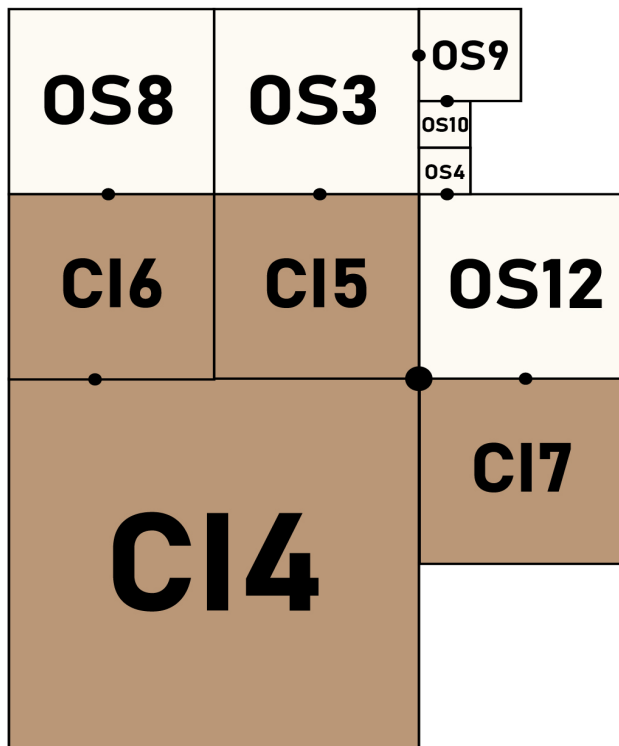
INCREASE ATTRACTIVENESS OF CITY CONNECTIONS

OS9

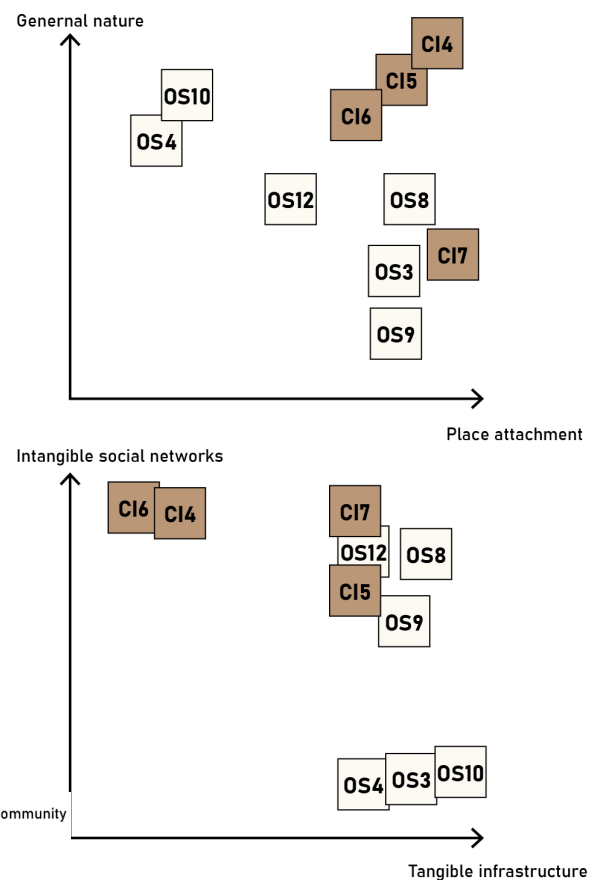


WIDEN USE OF THE
CONNECTING BRIDGE

Values of pattern



- | | |
|---|--|
| OS3 Renovate street façade | CI4 Theme activities organization for the community |
| OS4 Improve space quality at night | CI5 Facilities with culture elements |
| OS8 Activate community park for public use | CI6 Regularly conduct of cultural activities |
| OS9 Connect Rotterdam centrum with Chinatown | CI7 Empower NGOs located in Chiantown |
| OS10 Replan the mobility route | |
| OS12 Empty house activation | |



These pattern fields on the right left show that the connection between different pattern strategies, demonstrating who has the biggest potential to be widely used. The size of each pattern illustrates the times it connects with the other ones. The black point shows that which pattern(s) is(are) directly connected. CI4(Theme activities organization for the community) are great of use. It has a strongly pursuit for space to hold it, as well as the cohesion of community to organize it. It can boost the sense of community as well as place attachment.

The pattern on the right side, providing 4 standards for axis to assess each pattern's positions concerning of its uniqueness for this project and its materiality. Learning from practical experiment, the field above is exploring the reusability of these cards in other areas, or which are exclusively subservient to the project. The beneath pattern field explores, the design results as for a community designer, in terms of effective spatial interventions, and which are more soft infrastructures design.

Policy Recommendations

These policy recommendations are based on the results of the pre-bottom-up strategy design, and top-down policy decisions can effectively help advance the development of the community.

city walkability promotion

In conjunction with the 2022 environmental act policy, the Chinatown community in particular needs to promote a good pedestrian experience. Motorized vehicle use is recommended to be removed from the plan, or to be limited to speed, and to control travel times for necessary vehicles to avoid peak pedestrian traffic. Facilitate the use of bike lanes and public transportation.

In addition to this, it also can engage Local Businesses. Collaborate with local businesses along open streets to promote walkability and community development. Encourage businesses to create outdoor seating, sidewalk cafes, and pop-up markets, transforming open streets into lively commercial areas. Provide guidance and support for businesses to navigate any regulatory requirements or zoning changes.

By combining efforts to promote the walkability of open streets with community development strategies, communities can create vibrant, pedestrian-friendly spaces that facilitate social interaction, economic vitality, and an enhanced quality of life for residents.

Decentralization of Land Use Rights in city parks

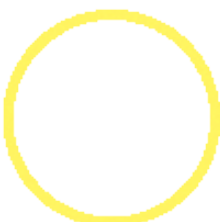
Integrate community gardens and green spaces along open streets to promote a sense of well-being and environmental sustainability. Encourage residents to participate in gardening initiatives and establish community-managed green areas. These spaces can also serve as venues for educational workshops, outdoor fitness classes, and cultural events.

The right to make public land can be claimed by residents. The public green spaces in the city can be cared for and maintained by the local community. Not only will the cultural diversity of the different communities be reflected in the form of gardens, but residents will also feel more attached to the city and take greater care of public property.

Empower cultural spaces

For private or public cultural institutions, they are good neutral spaces in the city. It is a place where people are not dominated by a fixed cultural or ethnic community and where they can express themselves and understand each other more freely and inclusively.

The public sector should support financially, and should open green channels and facilitate their application procedures for public events participated or organized by reformed organizations, and give them financial support to encourage their guided use of public space and ground floor space.



chapter 9

Conclusion and reflection



Findings

1. The Chinese community in the Netherlands has a strong desire for cohesion and actively seeks resources to support their community building efforts.
2. Community building initiatives require the support of physical open spaces to facilitate interactions and engagement among community members.
3. The current Chinese community platforms in the Netherlands are not yet fully developed. While there is an intention to provide services, there is a lack of stable output and physical spaces to support community activities. Empowering these platforms within Dutch society is crucial.
4. The Chinese community in the Netherlands is diverse, spanning across generations, but there is a lack of connection and interaction among community members.
5. The individuals who hold land ownership within the community show a lack of trust and have a low desire for community transformation.
6. There is a need for more neutral grounds that can host community activities and bridge the gap between different stakeholders within the Chinese community.
7. Chinese students in Amsterdam and Rotterdam show a high level of passion and interest in community development, making them valuable resource for driving positive change.

These findings highlight the importance of addressing the gaps and challenges within the Chinese community in the Netherlands, such as providing stable physical spaces, building trust among stakeholders, and creating neutral grounds for community activities. By tapping into the enthusiasm of students and empowering the existing community platforms, it is possible to foster cohesion, connection, and empowerment within the Chinese community, ultimately leading to a stronger and more vibrant community fabric.

Implication and limitation

At the core of this project lies the objective of community development for residents from diverse cultural backgrounds, particularly focusing on the cultural community with exotic heritage. However, the methodology employed in this project can also be extended to other minority cultural groups

seeking community-building initiatives. It opens up exciting possibilities for leveraging urban spaces as a platform to benefit cultural communities through micro-spatial interventions that can have long-lasting impacts.

Nevertheless, it's important to acknowledge the limitations of this project. While it aims to address the needs of the Chinese community, it may not be able to cater to the entire spectrum of diverse Chinese groups. In this process, the younger generation tends to be more actively involved compared to the elder generation. Furthermore, the project has yet to delve into the contextual discussion of a society dominated by capitalism. It is crucial to explore how this community development approach can generate economic outputs to empower the Chinese community within this particular context.

By recognizing these limitations and addressing the need for inclusivity, intergenerational involvement, and economic empowerment, the project can evolve to become a comprehensive community development initiative. Through careful consideration of the cultural community's unique needs, exploring innovative ways to integrate urban spaces, and fostering economic opportunities, we can unlock the true potential of this project and create a thriving, empowered Chinese community.

Conclusion statement

In conclusion, at the end of this project, the research question can be answered. "How to empower Rotterdam Chinese by improving cohesion and localization with the neighborhood community at Rotterdam Chinatown in an approach of public space activation?"

The author explored a methodology of community development, which involves the Rotterdam Chinatown local community and the Chinese community. She invited the stakeholders to co-design the planning vision of the area with pattern language and embody this vision with public events in the public space of Rotterdam Chinatown. This envisions them seeing the possibility of community cooperation, resource activation, and the potential use of the public space they did not be aware of before. At the same time, the community feels a sense of place and community attachment and ownership through this process. In the long term, with the impression and pattern language tools left by this project, there is a bigger potential for the Chinatown community to make use of these tools and to approach and activate the resources of the Chinese community in Rotterdam.

Reflection

In the field of Urbanism, there is a strong emphasis on the interdisciplinary nature of planning and design activities involved in transforming urban development. The objective is to promote social resilience and inclusivity. In my project, I have chosen the Chinese community in the Netherlands as an example to illustrate how a community can serve as a microcosm reflecting societal transformations over time. I have examined the current complexity of this minority cultural community, its ability to adapt to the changes brought about by globalization and the Dutch society, and its efforts to integrate into a heterogeneous urban environment through interventions in urban spaces.

Urban renewal is a process that intertwines the physical and social spheres. By utilizing social studies and urban design as approaches to understand each other, I position myself within this storytelling framework and develop a learning process. To begin the story, I conducted desk research on the growth of the Chinese community in the Netherlands, gained an understanding of the cultural diversity within this community, and explored their current interactions within urban spaces by studying their history. This led me to become curious about the experiences of different groups in the Netherlands and sparked a desire to build connections and observe how they react to each other. As a practical step, I developed a social network and designed a public event to serve as a bridge connecting communities.

Throughout this process, I continuously received feedback and reevaluated the significance and implications of my work. I am grateful to my mentors, Maurice and Suzana, who consistently helped me step outside of my own perspective and view my project as a case study, allowing me to reflect on my role as an urban designer.

Both of my mentors come from spatial design backgrounds, and they consistently emphasize the importance of considering the meaning of urban spaces. However, after designing my project, the results led me to question the necessity of permanent building constructions. All of my designs revolve around flexible forms and functions that can be realized within existing buildings or infrastructures.

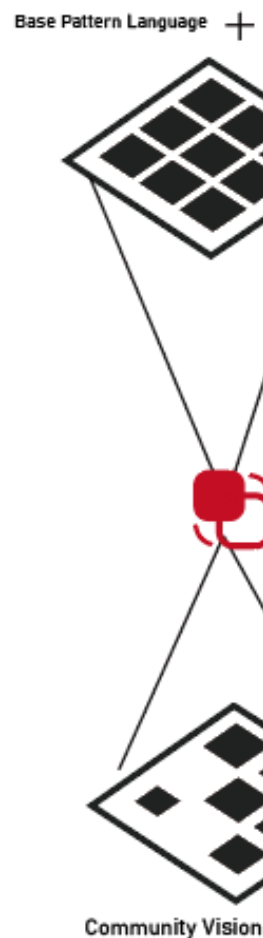
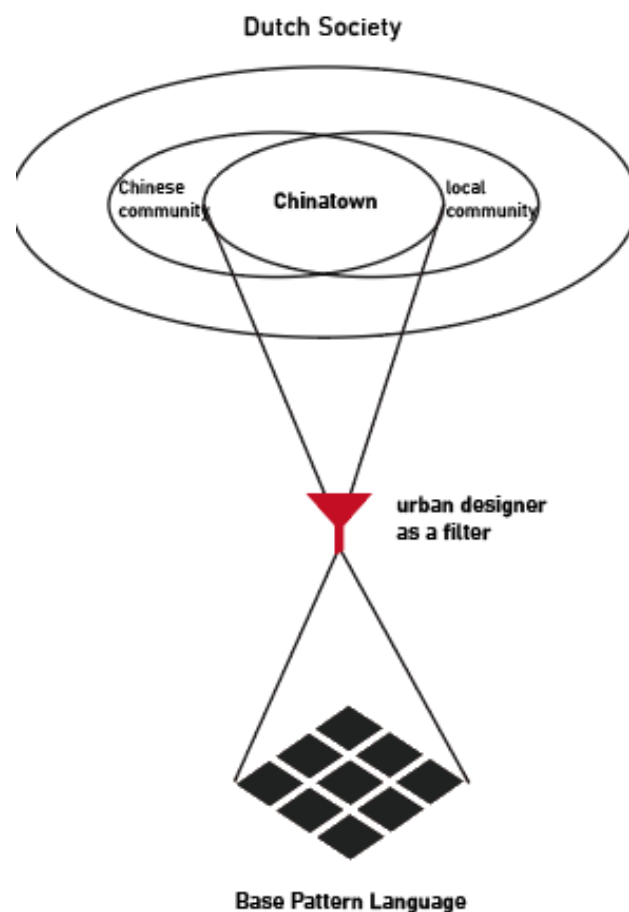
I discovered that I am inclined to leave blank spaces within public areas, treating them as opportunities for community users to imagine the possibilities of bottom-up community building. This is my answer to the concept of bottom-up participatory community design, where I provide a framework and guidance for community design while allowing subjective initiatives to grow freely.

As I position myself as a part of this project's development, I realize that urban designers are not the core of urban development, and they cannot dictate the trajectory of community development. However, they do play a pivotal role as a needle that threads together different actors and communities, efficiently assisting in activating community building through spatial intervention.

Building upon the initial participatory design results, which were based on the perspectives of the Chinatown community, I designed a visiting route to prompt an alternative experience of the city from a Chinese community-focused perspective. I then invited various Chinese platforms and individuals to contribute content for the selected spaces along this route. Throughout this process, I acted as a filter to select appropriate spaces and content, while also serving as a coordinator for all collaborations and interactions. Ultimately, I became a filter again to reflect on the outcomes of this temporary event. These

highlighted and filled spaces became experimental containers to test the effectiveness of this fully bottom-up community building approach.

I am deeply grateful to my mentors for appreciating this innovation as a student of urban design and recognizing it as a new role for urban designers. The field of urban design is in need of the empowerment brought by a bottom-up approach. In this project, I have designed a methodology for community design. I am an urban designer, but one who is closely aligned with the role of a community designer – a designer who does not construct physical buildings.



local community

Manifesto feedbacks + Dutch Society

Community Vision



Community Vision
Evaluation

urban designer
as a hyperlink

urban designer
as a filter

+ Chinese
community



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Appendix

1. Application for Goethe Institute

Next Stop, ↳ Chinatown

Investigation Transforming Chinese Community at Rotterdam Chinatown

"Next Stop, Chinatown" is an urban experiment designed to use open space as a medium for stimulating communication and activating community resources in Rotterdam's Chinatown. This project is part of the larger Rotterdam Chinatown Transformation Urban Design Project, which began in September 2022, with a community workshop held in January 2023.

The community workshop was a collaborative effort that involved local residents, merchants, government officials, and non-government profit-making organizations (NGOs) to develop a shared vision for the future of Rotterdam's Chinatown. The results of the workshop and previous quantitative and qualitative analysis form the basis for the one-day experimental street exploration activity, "Next Stop, Chinatown".

The aim of the tour is to invite individuals and platforms with diverse backgrounds in culture, art, architecture, psychology, and other relevant fields to jointly interpret the vision of the Chinatown community. The public is welcome to participate, experience and give feedback. This inclusive approach ensures that the ideas and perspectives of the wider community are taken into account, creating a truly participatory design process.

Through this project, the team hopes to stimulate communication and cooperation within the community, activate underutilized resources, and generate a renewed sense of community pride and identity. This approach recognizes the power of open spaces and community engagement in promoting social cohesion, inclusivity, and a vibrant urban environment.

Overall, "Next Stop, Chinatown" is an innovative and exciting experiment that demonstrates the potential of participatory design in creating sustainable and thriving urban communities. By engaging with the community and activating their resources, this project provides a model for how cities can be transformed through inclusive, collaborative, and participatory processes.

2. Investigation for Chinese community for Chinatown use

Questionnaire for Chinatown use and Chinese immigrants portraits in Rotterdam

This anonymous questionnaire aims to improve the design of Rotterdam Chinatown and understand the Chinese community in Rotterdam based on a research study. The questionnaire will take around 3-5 minutes, please answer the questions carefully. The answer will only be used on this research. Your opinions are very important to the future development of Rotterdam Chinatown. Thank you very much! If you have any further questions, please contact (z.xu-23@student.tudelft.nl)

这份匿名调查问卷旨在改善鹿特丹唐人街的现有使用，并试图了解鹿特丹的华人群体。这份调查问卷大概会耽误你3-5分钟的时间。这份调查的结果只会用于此研究。你的宝贵意见会对未来鹿特丹唐人街的发展至关重要。非常感谢！如果您有其它问题，欢迎联系邮箱 z.xu-23@student.tudelft.nl

* Indicates required question

1. where are you from? (If you are not from mainland China, please fill in your nationality) *
- 你来自的省份/直辖市/自治区/特别行政区？如果你并非来自中国大陆，请填写你的国籍/地区

2. What is your social identities? *
- 你的社会认同是？

Mark only one oval.

☐ middle school student

☐ college

☐ part-time student

☐ bachelor student

☐ master student

☐ phd or researcher

☐ social person

☐ Other: _____

3. How old are you *

你的年龄是

Mark only one oval.

☐ 0-18

☐ 18-25

☐ 25-40

☐ 40-60

☐ Other: _____

4. How do you define yourself *

你如何定义自己

Mark only one oval.

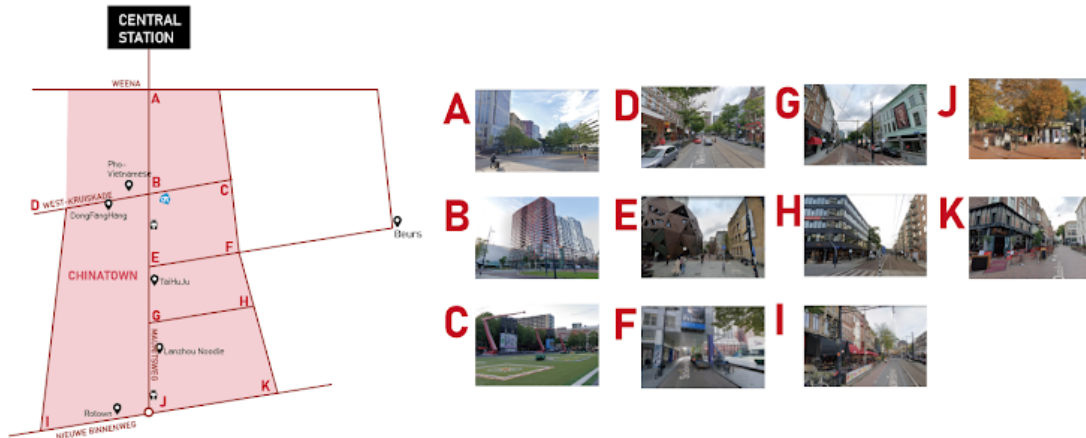
☐ Chinese

☐ global citizen

☐ Dutch

☐ others

5. The route you usually visit Chinatown *
 (please use the letters to order the route(s) that you usually visit Rotterdam
 Chinatown, can be more than route; ex. A-G-H-K)
 请标注你通常游览鹿特丹唐人街的路线。（请用以下给的参考字母标识日常使用唐人街
 的路线。可以标注多于一条的路线，比如：A-G-H-K）



6. How long does it usually take from your home to Rotterdam Chinatown by walking? *
 从你家步行到鹿特丹唐人街大概需要多少时间？

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ less than 15 minutes
☐ 15-30 minutes
☐ 30-60 minutes
☐ 60-90 minutes
☐ more than 90 minutes
☐ Other: _____

7. How do you usually come to Rotterdam Chinatown? *
你通常是如何抵达鹿特丹唐人街?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ by walk
☐ by tram/bus
☐ by subway
☐ by train

8. How often you visit Rotterdam Chinatown? *
你来鹿特丹唐人街的频率

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ more than twice a week
☐ 1-2 times a week
☐ 1-2 time a month
☐ under 5 times a year

9. when time do you usually come to Rotterdam Chinatown during the day *
你通常会在什么时间段会来鹿特丹唐人街

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ 9am-12am
☐ 12am-3pm
☐ 3pm-6pm
☐ 6pm-9pm
☐ 9pm-12am
☐ 12am-9am

10. The reason for going to Rotterdam Chinatown *

通常来鹿特丹唐人街的目的/原因

Tick all that apply.

- ☐ grocery
- ☐ chinese resaturant
- ☐ asian restaurant
- ☐ haircut
- ☐ other resaturants/bars
- ☐ feel the Chinese atomosphere/vibe
- ☐ Other: _____

11. How do you like Rotterdam Chinatown in general? *

总的来说，你给鹿特丹唐人街1-5打几分？

Mark only one oval.

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

12. Why did you give this grade?

你为什么会给这个分数

13. How do you think of the Rotterdam Chinatown *

你觉得鹿特丹唐人街给你什么样的感觉?

Tick all that apply.

- ☐ old fashioned
- ☐ nostalgic
- ☐ ugly
- ☐ impressive/beautiful
- ☐ I did not even realize it is a Chinatown
- ☐ comfortable, chill
- ☐ Other: _____

14. what kind of change do you expect for Rotterdam Chinatown? *

如果可以给鹿特丹唐人街做一些升级改造, 你希望是怎样?

Tick all that apply.

- ☐ make the open space more beautify (water front/park/open street use...)
- ☐ extend the open hours of shops (till late night/earlier in the morning)
- ☐ diversify the functions of Chinese shops (add massage, clubs, koroake, table game....)
- ☐ better organization of mobility
- ☐ improve the security supervision of the area
- ☐ Other: _____

15. what kind of problems you want to improve for current Rotterdam Chinatown? *

针对鹿特丹唐人街现存的问题, 你希望哪方面得以改善?

Tick all that apply.

- ☐ stronger connection with the local business
- ☐ more opportunities for part time job
- ☐ online information of Chinatown
- ☐ participate activities hold by Chinese community (market/clubbing...)
- ☐ prolong the time of night life
- ☐ better organization of visiting route
- ☐ more welcome open spaces
- ☐ Other: _____

16. How do you like the experience of walking streets in Chinatown? *

给鹿特丹唐人街街头行走的体验打分

Mark only one oval.

1 ☐

2 ☐

3 ☐

4 ☐

5 ☐

17. The reason why you like/dislike the experience walking there

你为什么喜欢/不喜欢在这里的街头游走？

18. the reason you like about the open space (park/open space) there *
关于你喜欢的鹿特丹唐人街公共空间的部分

Tick all that apply.

- ☐ the water fronts
- ☐ lively street atmosphere
- ☐ the night life there
- ☐ the convenient public transportation
- ☐ the benches near river side
- ☐ the snacks bar
- ☐ the trees and grass land
- ☐ a good place to observe public life(passer-by)
- ☐ communication with the on-site people
- ☐ I even didn't notice they are available for using
- ☐ Other: _____

19. how do you aware of the public space on Chinatown? *
(Please fill in other option if you found there is any other public space on Chinatown that is friendly to all-users)

你有注意到哪些鹿特丹唐人街的公共空间（如果你有了解以下提供的选择以外的公共空间，请选择其他选项并填入名称）

Tick all that apply.



☐ Westersingel Sculpture Route



☐ Wijkpark Oude Westen



☐ GOETHE Institute

☐ I did not realize there is public space

☐ Other: _____

20. If you have any other opinions toward Rotterdam Chinatown development or to this questionnaire, please write here or email to z.xu-23@student.tudelft.nl.

Thanks for your time so much!

如果关于鹿特丹唐人街的发展或这份调查问卷还有其他想法，请在这里留言或发送至邮箱z.xu-23@student.tudelft.nl. 非常感谢您给予的宝贵时间！

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Google Forms

3. Application for Rotterdam Municipality

Project leader: Ziqi XU
Email address: z.xu-23@student.tudelft.nl
Contact number: +31 633947933
Instagram account: Chinatown.r.comm

Next Stop, ↳ Chinatown

Next Stop, Chinatown is a pilot community design project that seeks to create temporary micro-interventions to connect Rotterdam City with Chinatown. The project aims to promote cultural integration by encouraging the Chinese community to engage with Dutch society. The initiative is designed with a participatory approach that involves local stakeholders in shaping the community's vision and a team of multidisciplinary professionals to bring the vision to life.

The project's objective is to transform open spaces into efficient connectors, facilitating easy access and movement between the two communities. By creating these connections, the project aims to foster understanding, encourage dialogue and build stronger relationships between the Dutch locals and Chinese communities.

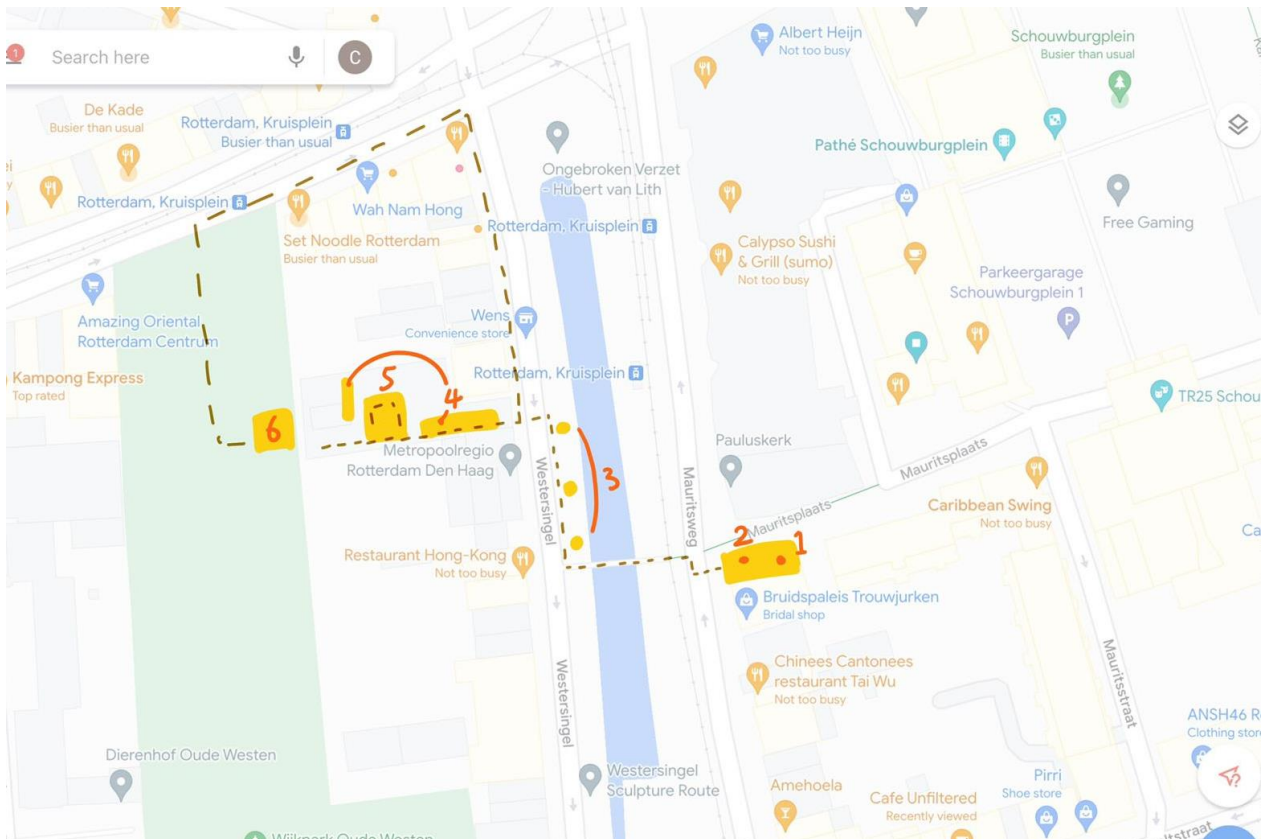
To achieve this, the project team will collaborate with local stakeholders, including residents, Chinese entrepreneurs, and cultural institutions, to co-create and co-design interventions that meet the needs of the community. The team will also work with experts from various disciplines, such as urban design, architecture, art, and social sciences, to ensure that the interventions are effective, sustainable, and respectful of local cultures and traditions.

In summary, *Next Stop, Chinatown* is an innovative community design project that leverages temporary micro-interventions to promote cultural integration between the Dutch and Chinese communities. The project is designed with a participatory approach that involves local stakeholders in shaping the community's vision and a multidisciplinary team of professionals to bring it to life. Through collaborative efforts, the project aims to create a more connected, inclusive, and vibrant community for all.

Project leader: Ziqi XU
Email address: z.xu-23@student.tudelft.nl
Contact number: +31 633947933
Instagram account: Chinatown.r.comm

Location: Rotterdam Chinatown

Date: May 5th, 11 am-4 pm

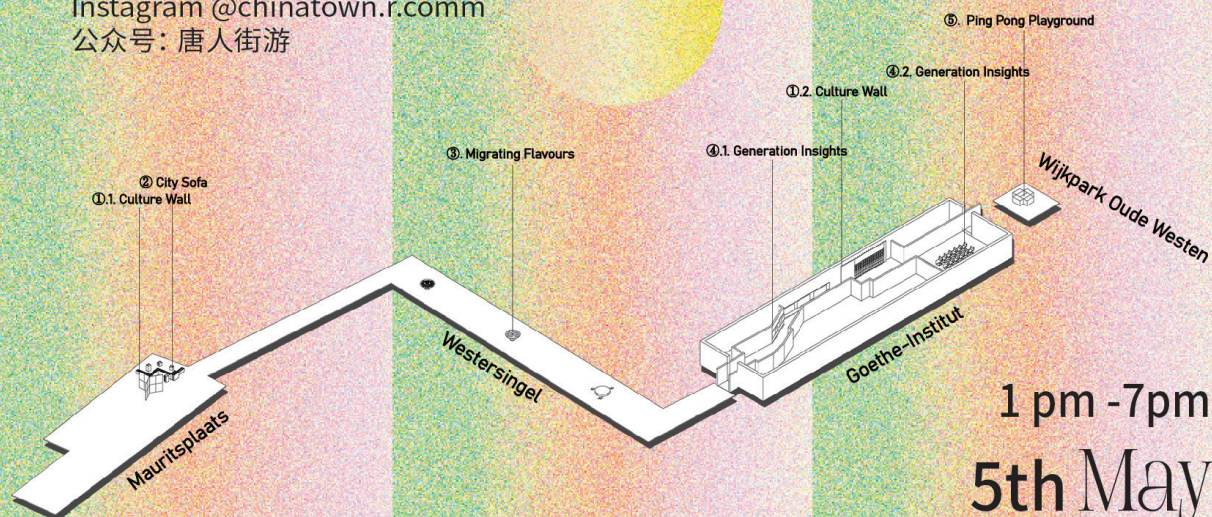


Next Stop, Chinatown

Instagram @chinatown.r.comm
公众号: 唐人街游

唐人街遊

City Walk Experiment



1 pm - 7pm
5th May
2023

Location:
Rotterdam
Chinatown

Directed by Chii Xu 徐子淇
Partners



Supported by



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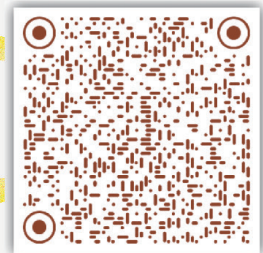
Next Stop, ↳ Chinatown

Instagram @chinatown.r.comm

公众号：唐人街游

唐人街遊

Scan me for visitor pass



1pm-7pm
5th May
2023

Location: Rotterdam Chinatown

It is a pilot community design project to connect Rotterdam City and Chinatown through temporary micro-interventions.

Our participatory approach involves local stakeholders and multidisciplinary professionals to promote cultural integration and create efficient connectors between communities. Let's co-create a more connected and inclusive community!

Directed by Chii Xu 徐子淇
Partners



Supported by



Next Stop, Chinatown 唐人街遊

Instagram@chinatown.r.comm
微信公众号:唐人街游

City Walk Experiment

1 pm - 7pm
5th May
2023

"Next Stop, Chinatown" is an innovative community development project that aims to stimulate communication and resource links within the Chinese community in a globalization context by utilizing open spaces as a medium.

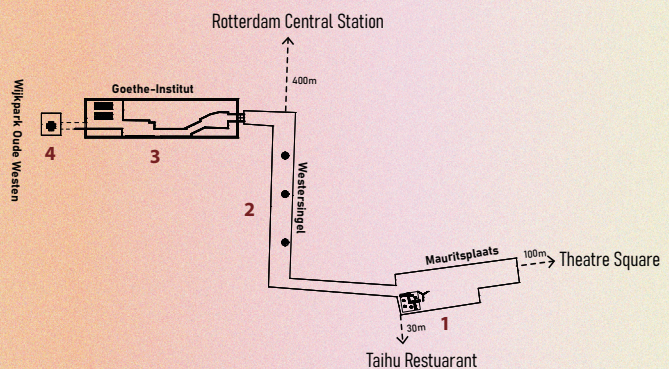
It is one of the key initiatives of the Rotterdam Chinatown Transformation Project, which explores the intersection of urban design and community development methodologies. Rotterdam Chinatown Transformation Project began its research in September 2022 and culminated in a community workshop in January 2023. The workshop engaged local residents, entrepreneurs, government officials, and non-profit organizations to create a shared vision for the future of Rotterdam's Chinatown.

"Next Stop, Chinatown" is a one-day city walk experiment that builds on the participatory design process and the quantitative and qualitative analyses conducted during the pre-study phase.

This experiment invites individuals and platforms with diverse backgrounds in culture, art, architecture, psychology, and other fields to manifest the vision of the Chinatown community.

The public is invited to participate, experience the designed route, and provide feedback. This collaborative approach fosters a sense of ownership and empowerment among the community members and encourages active participation in shaping the future of the community in a pure bottom-up approach.

Location: Rotterdam Chinatown



David Zee徐大为

David Zee 徐大为是一位二代移民。他的祖父是最早抵达 Katendrecht 鹿特丹唐人街的海员之一。因为早期移民到 Katendrecht 的全是男丁，和 David 同时期长大的二代移民几乎全是中荷混血。

因为面貌的不同，以及其社群在荷兰的特殊性。在成长的过程中，David Zee 一直交替感受着对自己身份的迷茫和肯定。随着 Katendrecht 在战后的萎靡和华人社群的消散，David Zee 自 18 岁起开始研究华人移民历史，并整理收集了大量的资料，其中包含家族照片、家族成员使用过的生活用品以及与华人文化相关的文献等。

在大部分关于荷华人历史的媒体报道中，David Zee 总是第一个被邀请来采访的“活博物馆”。他每个周末还会去坐落在老唐人街上的 Verhalenhuis Belvédère 故事屋做讲解员，与到来的客人们分享自己的家族故事。

作为最早参与进本项目的社群工作坊成员，David Zee 非常高兴将私人珍藏分享在唐人街游 Culture Display 单元展出，分享给更多对在荷华人历史感兴趣的人们观看。

David Zee (Xu Dawei) is a second-generation immigrant. His grandfather was one of the first sailors to arrive in Katendrecht Rotterdam's Chinatown. Because the early immigrants to Katendrecht were all men, the second-generation immigrants who grew up at the same time as David were almost all Chinese-Dutch mixed blood.

Because of the difference in appearance and the particularity of its community in the Netherlands. In the process of growing up, David Zee has been alternately feeling confused and affirmed about his identity. With the post-war depression of Katendrecht and the dissipation of the Chinese community, David Zee began to study the history of Chinese immigration at the age of 18, and collected a large amount of information, including family photos, daily necessities used by family members, and relationships with Chinese Culture-related literature, etc.

David Zee is always seen as a "alive museum" to be invited for interviews in most media coverage of the history of the Chinese immigrants in Netherlands. He also goes to the Verhalenhuis Belvédère story house located in the old Chinatown every weekend as a tour guide, sharing his family stories with the visitors.

As one of participants of the community workshop at the start of this project, David Zee is happy to share his private collection with more people who are interested in the history of the Chinese immigrants in Netherlands.

Fenmei Hu

Fenmei Hu 于 1980 年出生在温州市玉壶村。成长到 9 岁时,她随父母移民至荷兰。玉壶村是中国浙江非常典型的移民村。在 20 世纪七八十年代左右的移民大潮中,许多村民先后来欧洲经商。而后在海外的经商富裕起来的家人,则会将资金转给还在国内的亲属。

原先落后穷苦的沿海村庄,以惊人的速度变得繁荣起来。居住在移民村中,即使没有工作,依靠海外的亲属也能有拥有十分优渥的生活。在村里还没有银行的时候,村民也能轻而易举地“紧跟”实时汇率,随时用人民币兑换欧元现金。

在 2011 年前后,Fenmei Hu 带着摄影师回到玉壶村,拍摄了 12 组照片,记录了现在仍生活在移民村的居民生活现状。村子里热闹的证券交易所、抬头皆是女眷的缝纫间.....都是 Fenmei 眼里移民浪潮下的时代缩影。

Fenmei Hu was born in 1980 in Yuhu Village, Wenzhou City. When she was 9 years old, she immigrated to the Netherlands with her parents. Yuhu Village is a very typical immigrant village in Zhejiang, China. During the wave of immigration around the 1970s and 1980s, many villagers came to Europe to do business. Then the family members who become rich in business overseas will transfer the funds to relatives who are still in China.

The formerly backward and poor coastal villages have become prosperous at an astonishing speed. Living in the immigrant village, even if there is no job, relying on overseas relatives can have a very good life. When there was no bank in the village, the villagers could easily "keep up" with the real-time exchange rate and exchange RMB for Euro cash at any time.

Around 2011, Fenmei Hu took the photographer back to Yuhu Village and took 12 sets of photos, recording the living conditions of the residents still living in the immigrant village. The bustling stock exchange in the village, the sewing room full of female relatives are all the epitome of the era under the wave of immigration in Fenmei's eyes.

Jing He 贺晶 & Qiaochu Guo 郭翹楚

贺晶和郭翹楚是两位驻地在荷兰的新生代华人艺术家。他们用影片的形式去探索、回应“文化融入”这一命题。该影片借用 23 位贡献者提供的真实故事素材，以荷兰公民融入考试 (inburgeringsexamen) 为主题制作了 10 个场景，影射了日常生活中华裔不时遭遇的隐形种族歧视。

原本的荷兰公民融入考试的存在旨在让外国人了解荷兰的社会公共知识、帮助其更好地融入当地文化。虽说它是官方展示出的生活图景，但却从未包含移民在现实生活中经历的复杂的令人膈应的处境：我们在大街上、朋友家中都可能遇到的明确的或隐晦的种族歧视及偏见。该片曾在 2023 年的荷兰亚洲电影节 (Cinemasia Film Festival) 上展映。

Jing He and Qiaochu Guo are two new-generation Chinese artists based in the Netherlands. They use the form of film to explore and respond to the proposition of "cultural integration". Borrowing real story material from 23 contributors, the film creates 10 scenes on the theme of the Dutch citizenship integration exam (inburgeringsexamen), alluding to the invisible racism that Chinese people face from time to time in everyday life.

The original Dutch citizenship integration test exists to allow foreigners to understand the social public knowledge of the Netherlands and help them better integrate into the local culture. Although it is an official picture of life, it never captures the complex and disturbing situations that immigrants experience in real life: the explicit or implicit racism we may encounter on the street or in the homes of friends. and prejudice. The film was screened at the Cinemasia Film Festival in the Netherlands in 2023.

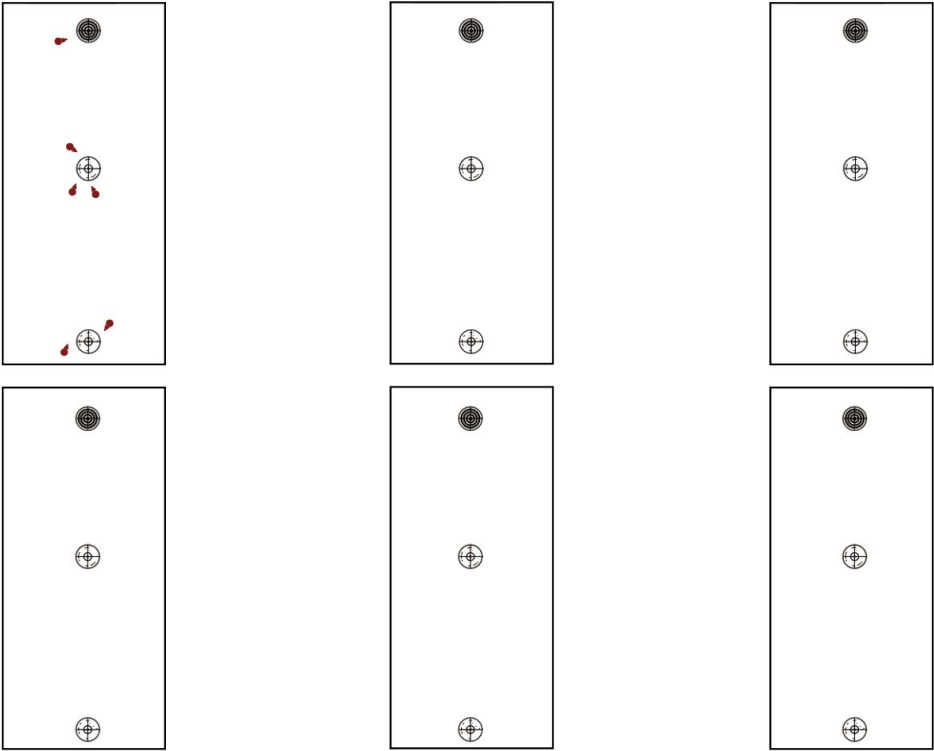
姓名：

工作时间段：上半场 | 下半场

	通过人数	请文字简单描述你对场地感受(可包括你的听觉/视觉/嗅觉/参观者行为你觉得有趣的情况)
1pm-2pm		
2pm-3pm		
3pm-4pm		

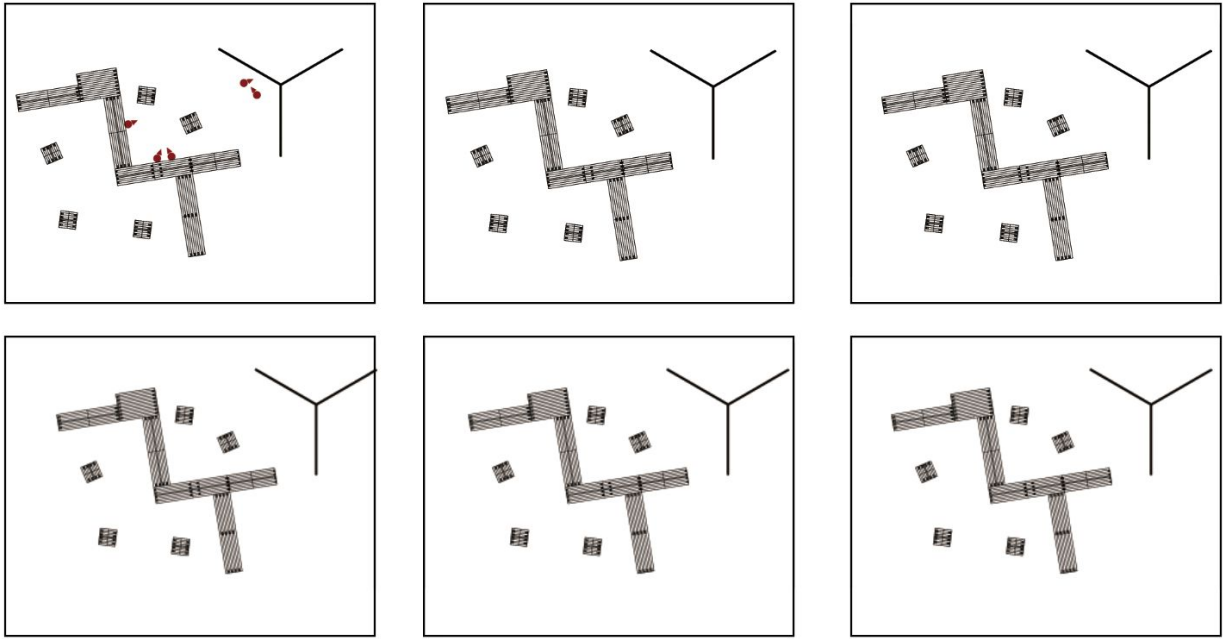
当现场人数超过12人(包含工作人员)，请记录下人流的位置和朝向(尤其是 发生交际、互动、玩耍的情况)，并标明发生时间
Ps: 如有照片或视频，请联通拍摄时间一同发至小唐人儿小助手微信

例：



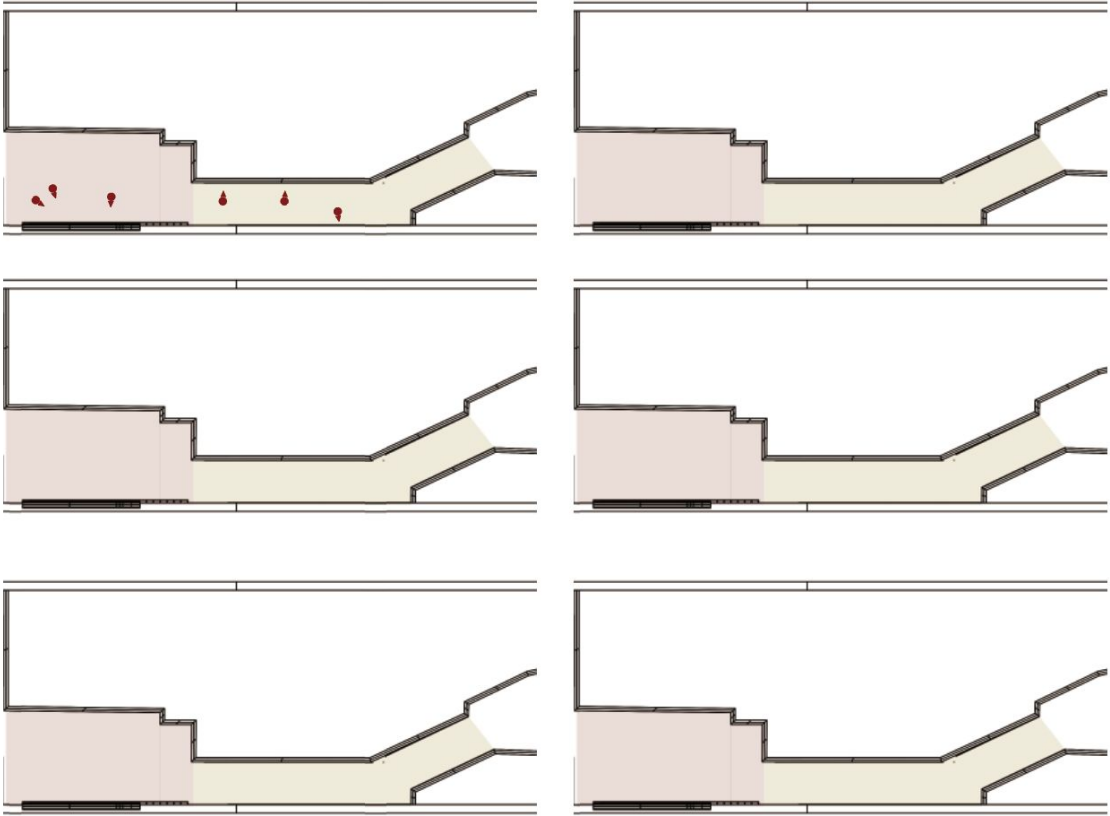
当现场人数超过8人(包含工作人员), 请记录下人流的位置和朝向(尤其是 发生交际、互动、玩耍的情况), 并标明发生时间
Ps: 如有照片或视频, 请联通拍摄时间一同发至小唐人儿小助手微信

例:



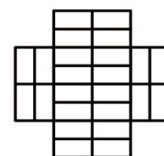
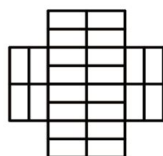
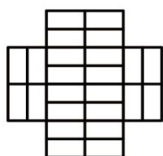
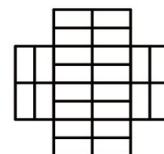
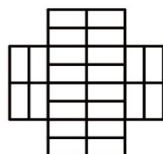
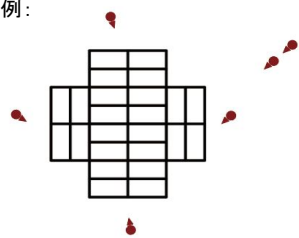
例:

当现场人数超过10人(包含工作人员), 请记录下人流的位置和朝向(尤其是 发生交际、互动、玩耍的情况), 并 标明发生时间
Ps: 如有照片或视频, 请联通拍摄时间一同发至小唐人儿小助手微信



当现场人数超过7人(包含工作人员), 请记录下人流的位置和朝向(尤其是 发生交际、互动、玩耍的情况), 并标明发生时间
Ps: 如有照片或视频, 请联通拍摄时间一同发至小唐人儿小助手微信

例:



Location 1 City lounge

Equipment: public seatings

Goals: This aims to invite city visitors to sit down and talk with each other

Partners: studioklinkenberg <https://studioklinkenberg.nl/contact/>

Referred image:



Location 2&5 Communicate board

Equipment: standing wooden board, postcard

Goal: It aims to explore cultural differences, foster exchange, and shatter stereotypes with engaging psychology-driven activities.

Referred images

Partners: 荷你成长

Special thanks to Goethe Institute



Location 3 Migrating Flavours

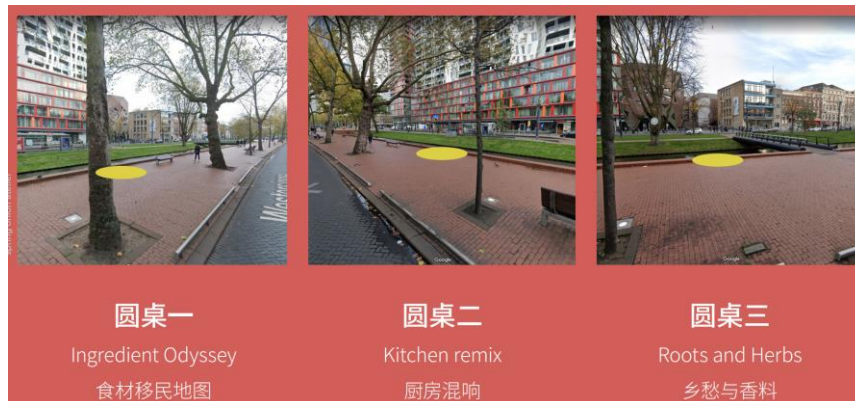
Project leader: Ziqi XU
Email address: z.xu-23@student.tudelft.nl
Contact number: +31 633947933
Instagram account: Chinatown.r.comm

Equipment: 3 round dining tables with design content cover on it.

Goals: It aims to let people understand immigrant culture through food maps, recipes, and seeds.

Partners: spring onion atelier <https://www.springonionatelier.com/>

Referred image:



Location 4 memory retro

Equipment: personal archive, film display

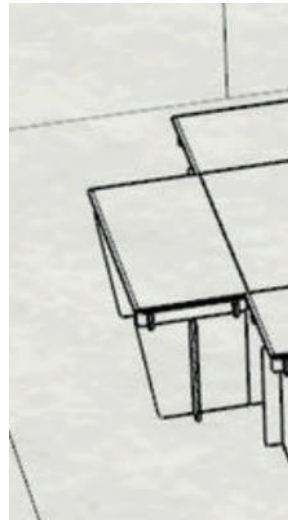
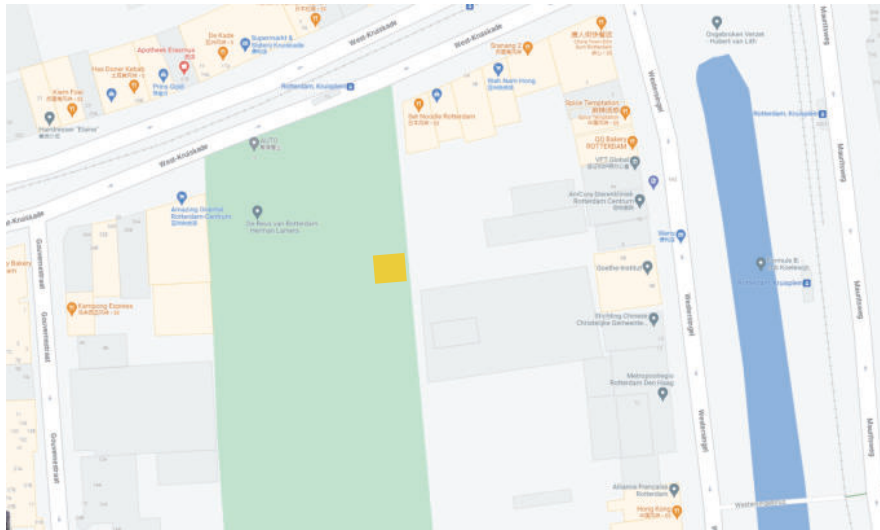
Goal: It chooses 3 series of personal archives to show how different Chinese generations reflect their connection with the Netherlands with different generations and times.

Special thanks to Goethe Institute, David Zee, Fenmei Wu, He Jing, Guo Qiaochu

Referred images:



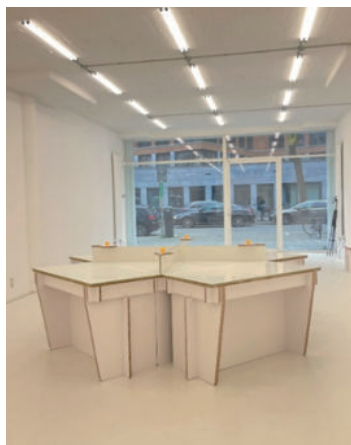
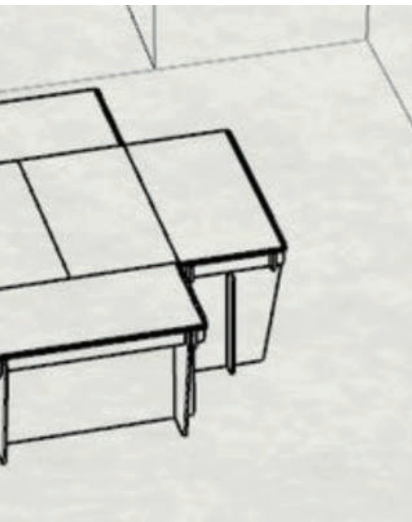
Location 6



real image

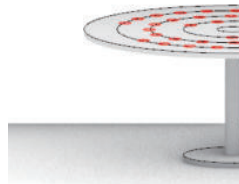
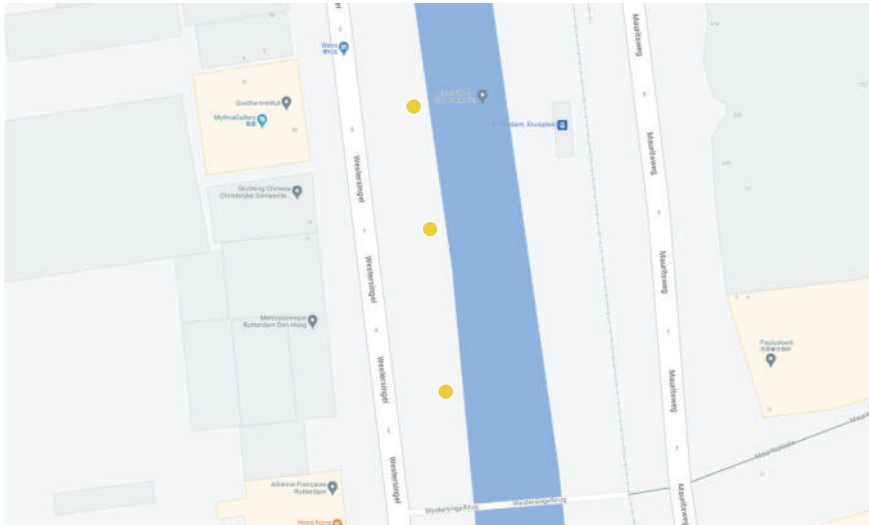


material: paper
length:2400m
width: 2400m
height:750mm
weight: 50kg



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Location 3



reference image

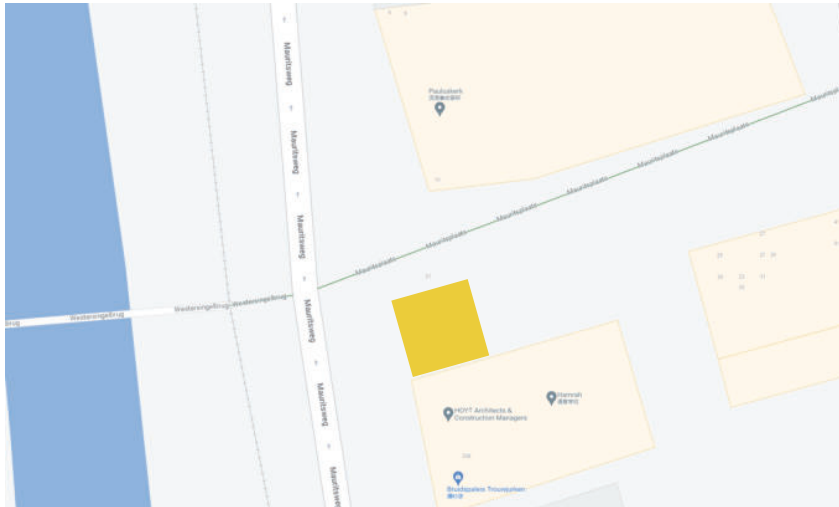


Each table
material: wood
diameter: 180cm
height: 600mm
weight: around 100kg

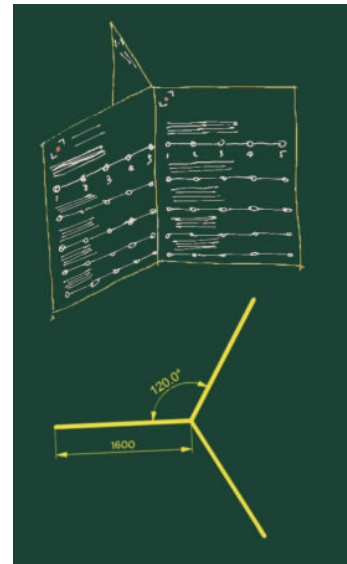


oden made
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 nd 30kg

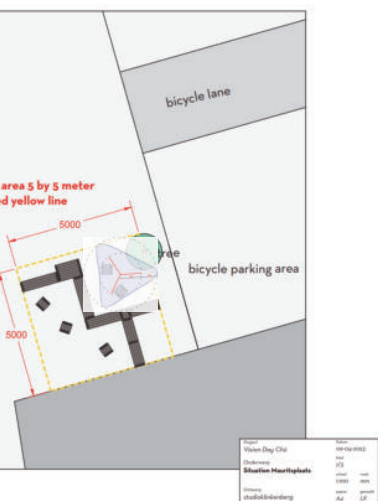
Location 1 & 2



Situation Mauritsplaats
1:100



Location 1
Each board
material: wooden
length:1200mm
width:12mm
height:2000mm
weight: around 30



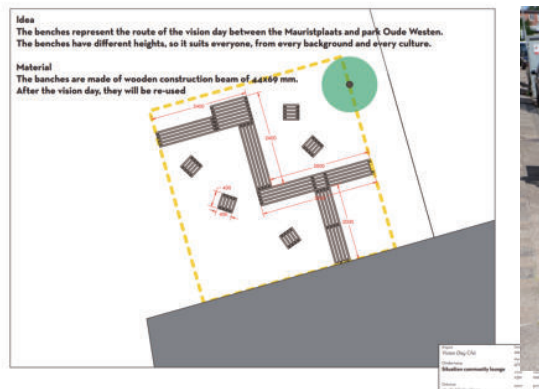
reference image



board

0kg

Community Lounge
150



reference image



Location 2

Overall benches

material: wooden construction

length: 5000mm

width: 5000mm

height: less than 600mm

weight: around 300kg

4. Volunteers online open call

小唐人儿志愿者征集

“Next Stop, Chinatown 唐人街游”是一场城市在地实验，尝试以开放空间作为媒介，去刺激华人群体的交流意愿，激活一个社群的资源链接。更多参与信息，请联系小助手微信：xiaotangrener_

1. 姓名（并备注微信名）

2. 邮箱

3. 电话

4. 生理性别

Mark only one oval.

☐ 男

☐ 女

5. 你的专业领域

6. 你是否住在鹿特丹或代尔夫特？

Mark only one oval.

☐ 是

☐ 否

7. 请简单做一下自我介绍，或为什么愿意参与这个活动？（两三句即可）

8. 你倾向于的工作单元（请选择两项，届时会按实际情况调整工作内容）

Tick all that apply.

- ☐ 行为学观察
- ☐ 心理学
- ☐ 食物文化
- ☐ 参与式公共设计
- ☐ 在荷华人历史
- ☐ 建筑/展览设计
- ☐ 艺术/影像
- ☐ 街道家具/公共设施

9. 你可以参加线下组织的会议吗？日期待定，大概会在4月底（会见到其他志愿者和策展团队）

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ 是
- ☐ 否

10. 在活动当天你倾向于工作的时间段

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ 上午11点-下午3点（包含布展时间）
- ☐ 下午3点-8点（包含撤展时间）

11. 除开活动当天（5月5日）可能会需要提前一天或两天开始布展（花费时间1小时内），你是否有时间呢？

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ 是的 我可以在活动外的时间帮忙
- ☐ 时间不太允许
- ☐ Other: _____

12. 成为志愿者需接受培训（一共三小时左右），许可活动拍摄记录(后续可能会被发布在社交媒体如Instagram和微信公众号)，及接受后续反馈调查

Tick all that apply.

- ☐ 我同意

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Google Forms

Vision Day online Registration form

2023/5/21 20:09

Next stop, Chinatown唐人街游 visitor registration

Next stop, Chinatown唐人街游 visitor registration

It is a pilot community design project to connect Rotterdam City and Chinatown through temporary micro-interventions. Our participatory approach involves local stakeholders and multidisciplinary professionals to promote cultural integration and create efficient connectors between communities. Let's co-create a more connected and inclusive community! Instagram: chinatown.r.comm

* Indicates required question

1. Email *

2. What is your name? *

3. what is your age? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ 0-18
- ☐ 18-25
- ☐ 25-40
- ☐ 40-60

4. Which city do you live? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Rotterdam
- ☐ Delft
- ☐ The Hague
- ☐ Amsterdam
- ☐ other

5. What is your nationality *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Chinese
- ☐ Dutch
- ☐ other

6. How long have you been living in the Netherland *

Mark only one oval.

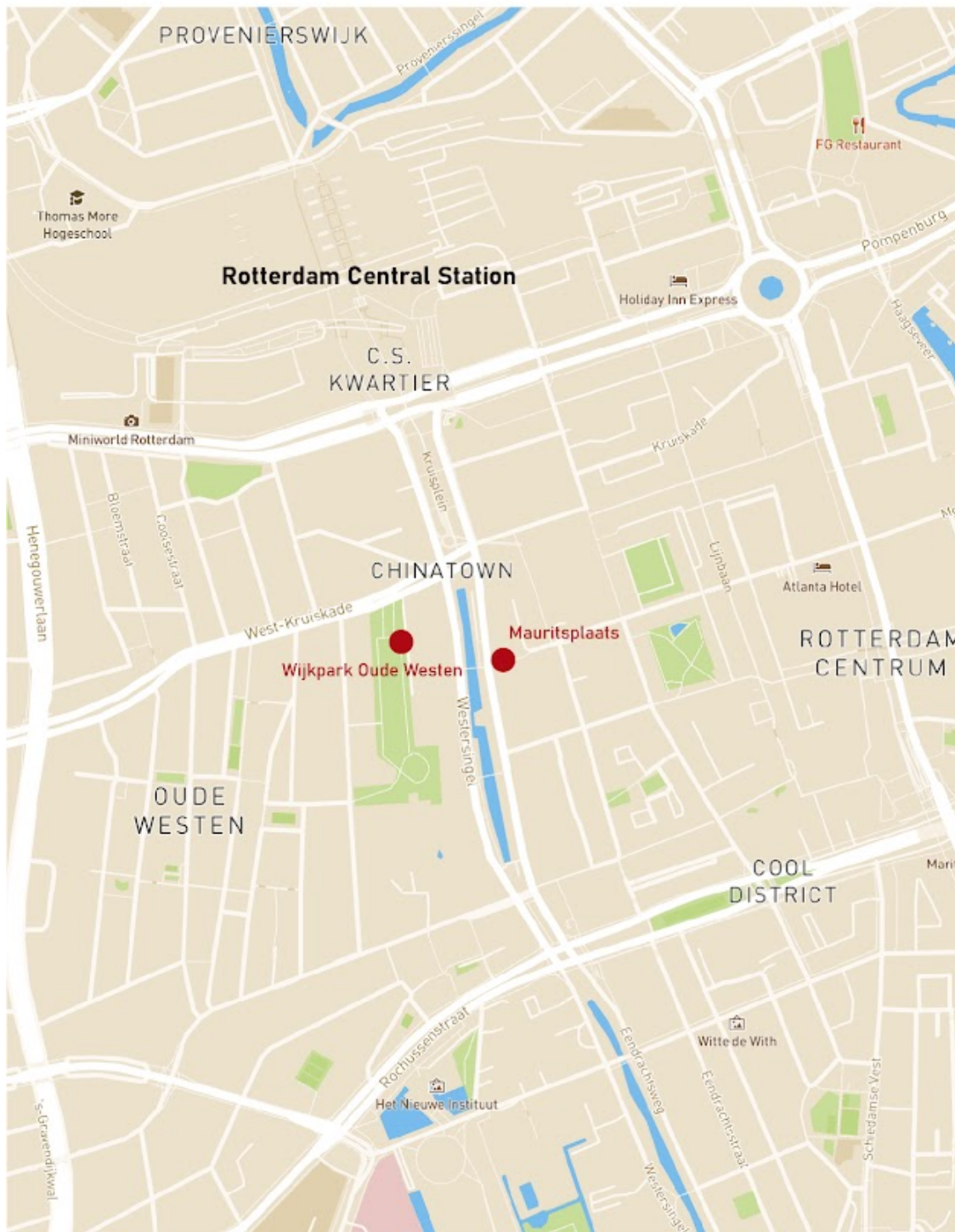
- ☐ less than 5 years
- ☐ 5 -15 years
- ☐ 15-30 years
- ☐ more than 30 years
- ☐ I am born here
- ☐ Other: _____

7. Please choose a time period you would prefer to come *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ 1pm-3.30 pm
- ☐ 3.40pm-7 pm

8. Notice: Please go to Wijkpark Oude Westen or the lounge at Mauritsplaats (in front of ★ Pauluskerk) to find the staff (who wears a yellow balloon) to get your visitor pass. You could enter all the spots with your visitor pass only. Please ask our staff to fill in a evaluation sheet for this activity when you finish your visiting. This will be helpful for the future of Chinatown!



Mark only one oval.

☐ I understand

9. Bonus! Become a part of Next stop, Chinatown!

Leave your stories here, it will become one part of the exhibition.

Please choose at least one question below to answer.

1. Could you write a 50-word story about your favorite cooking ingredient, or an ingredient that holds special meaning for you?

2. Have you experienced a change in your taste preferences after relocating to a different place? If so, could you tell the story and describe the changes?

3. Have you noticed any changes in your eating patterns since before you relocated? If so, what has changed? Have your daily routines or seasonal differences affected your eating habits?

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Google Forms

Event day experience Investigation

event day experience

1. Do you feel the same about the area comparing to normal days?

Mark only one oval.

☐ yes

☐ no

2. If yes, what is the difference?

3. Which section/installation you like about most

4. why do you like the area most?

5. Are you attracted by the public space here today more than normal days?

Mark only one oval.

☐ yes

☐ no

6. Did you feel more connection with people beyond the your daily social circle today?

Mark only one oval.

☐ yes

☐ no

7. Could you please share any interesting story/observation/connection/inspiration/experience you had on Next Chinatown event day?

8. Will you expect there are more activities like this?

Mark only one oval.

☐ yes

☐ No

9. Will you like support this project in the future?

Mark only one oval.

☐ money donation

☐ volunteer work

☐ content creation

☐ no, I dont want to support this project in the future

10. If you would like to support this project for its future development, please leave your email address, thank you!

11. What do you expect for for the next time experiment?

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Google Forms



Gemeente Rotterdam

Subject: Permit to occupy public land

Visiting address: Wilhelminakade 179
3072 AP Rotterdam

Mailing address: PO Box 6575
3002 AN Rotterdam

Internet: rotterdam.nl

By: team Other Permits **Department:**
Building and house supervision

Telephone: 14010

E-mail: bwt-overigetarieven@rotterdam.nl

Our reference: 251911-2023

Amount of attachments: 3

Date: April 24, 2023

To: Mr. / Mrs. Z. Xu

Dear Mr/Mrs Z. Xu ,

In response to your request dated April 13, 2023, I inform you that pursuant to Article 2:10 of the General Local Ordinance of Rotterdam, a license is granted for:

Description activity:	A community design pilot project to connect with Rotterdam and Chinatown through temporary micro-interventions.
Activity date and time(s):	5 May 2023 at 09:30 to 19:00 Various
Activity location:	locations in the city centre.

I reserve the right at all times to decide, on grounds of public order and safety, to revoke this permit or to attach additional conditions to the permit.

This permit is subject to the conditions set out in the appendix. The regulations included in the appendix are without prejudice to the obligations of the permit holder arising from other laws and regulations.

I also point out that you are liable for any damage that may be caused to the property of the municipality or others through the use of this permit.

With this exemption you have received permission for your planned activity. Needless to say, it is your own responsibility to take into account the national guidelines of the RIVM regarding the corona measures. For more information, see: www.rivm.nl. And the emergency ordinance of the Rotterdam-Rijnmond Security Region. For more information, see: www.rijnmondveilig.nl.

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the Municipality of Rotterdam, on its behalf,
Cluster Director Urban
Development, for this,

drs. AFCM Mulder

head of the Building and Housing Supervision department

** This document has been prepared digitally and is therefore not signed.*

INVESTIGATING CHINATOWN COMMUNITY



vr 05-05-2023

🕒 13:00 uur t/m 19:00 uur

📍 Goethe-Institut Rotterdam

Investigating Rotterdam Chinatown Community

Next Stop: Chinatown is an urban design experiment that aims to use open space as a medium to foster communication and activate community resources in Rotterdam's Chinatown. This project is part of the larger Rotterdam Chinatown Transformation Urban Design Project, which started in September 2022.

For one day, exhibitions and interactive installations will be on display in and around the Goethe-Institut.

The public is invited to participate, experience, and give feedback. This inclusive approach ensures that the ideas and perspectives of the wider community are considered, creating a participatory design process.

Through the Rotterdam Chinatown Transformation Urban Design Project, the team hopes to foster communication and collaboration within the Chinese community, activate untapped resources and create a renewed sense of community pride and identity, as well as facilitate a connection with Dutch society under a globalization context. This approach recognizes the power of open spaces and community engagement in promoting social cohesion, inclusivity, and a vibrant urban environment.

The initiator of the project, **Xu Ziqi**, born in 1998, is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Science Architecture, Urbanism, and Built Environment at Delft University of Technology. Previously, she studied Community and Regional Policy Studies at Ritsumeikan University in Japan. She believes in the power of community development as a sustainable way to thrive strong connections between people.

DETAILS

Taal: Engels (taal niet relevant)

Prijs: gratis

☎ +31 10 2092090

✉ cultuur-rotterdam@goethe.de

ADRES

Goethe-Institut Rotterdam
Westersingel 9
Rotterdam