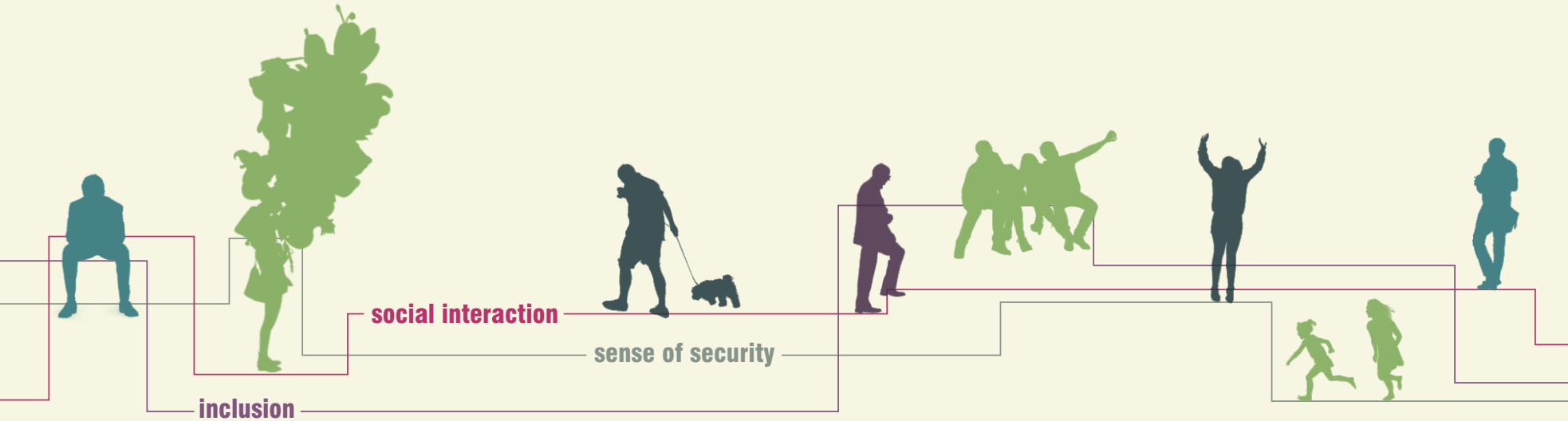
Angeliki Anagnostou

REGAINING PUBLIC SPACE IN MODERN GREECE

THE CASE OF CHANIA



REGAINING PUBLIC SPACE IN MODERN GREECE

The case of Chania

Angeliki Anagnostou _ Master Thesis 2017-18 _ track: Urbanism

To Greek people,

my personal reference and motivation in how they use public spaces in modern Greece.

To those tutors,
who shoot down quiet people.

Quiet people have the loudest minds
Stephen Hawking

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"The best teachers are those who show you where to look, but don't tell you what to see." Alexandra K. Trenfor.

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Contents

Preface ..... p. 4-5
01. Motivation ..... p. 6-7
02. Defining public space ..... p. 10-19
2.1 Introduction
2.2 The clear division between public & private spaces
2.3 The hybridization between public & private spaces
2.4 personal approach for the term public space
03. Project definition ..... p. 22-49
3.1 Introducing the problem field
3.2 General context of Greece
3.3 The case: Chania, Crete
3.4 Problem Statement
3.5 Research & sub-research questions
04. Methodoloy & Timeframe ..... p. 52-56
4.1 Methodology
4.2 Timeframe
05. Socio-scientific relevance ..... p. 57
06. Theoretical framework ..... p. 60-67
07. Approach ..... p. 70-77
08. Spatial Analysis ..... p. 80-107
8.2-5 Visualisation of the term public space
8.7 Catalogue of public spaces
09. Social Analysis ..... p. 110-129
9.1 Interviews
9.2 Observations
10. Liveable Greek examples ..... p. 132-145
11. Introducing the design part ..... p. 148-151
11.1 Summarising the research part
11.2 Main focus of the design
11.3 Vision for the city of Chania
11.4 Concept in the city scale
12. Design Patterns ..... p. 154-183
12.2-5 Sense of security
12.6-7 Social interaction
12.8 Social inclusion
12.9 Indicative example of combined patterns
12.10 Implementation of patterns in practice
13. Design of the testing Locations ..... p. 186-243
13.2 Multicultural Square
13.3 Religion Square
13.4 The square of Sycamore
13.5 The central city square
13.6 Sports square
14. Evaluation ..... p. 246-267
14.1 Board game
14.2 Online survey
15. Conclusions ..... p. 270- 273
16. Reflection ..... p. 276-281
17 References ..... p. 282-284
18. Appendix ..... p. 285-296

PREFACE

Cultures and climates differ all over the world, but people are the same. They'll gather in public if you give them a good place to do it. Jan Gehl

Since the ancient years, public space was an integral part of people's everyday life. But, nowadays the modern way of life and the technological advancement brought upon many changes in the meaning and the appropriation of public space. Although, as Jan Gehl states people are the same and they just need a good place to gather, the present thesis supports that the socio-cultural background of a society plays an important role on what a good place is.

Taking into consideration that ancient Greece is highly correlated to the democratic public space, the aim of the present thesis is to regain public space in modern Greece, by having as a testing location a medium-sized city, Chania. Public space was an important part of Greek people's lives in the different chronological periods of its history. Starting from antiquity, the ancient agora and the Greek polis were considered as prototypes of democratic public spaces. In more modern years, Greece was under the domination of different conquers and during that periods public space constituted a bond between Greek people. Their need to reinforce their communal life, while they were dominated for many years, led to the establishment of the first Greek square, the named *square of Sycamore*. But after the final liberation of the country, (1821) public space started to lose its noteworthy role, as Greek citizens and the responsible authorities wanted to forget their dominated past and link more to the Western world. In this regard, they followed public space's models from other countries, which didn't really fit to their needs and desires. So, the relationship between Greek people and public space was gradually lost.

Nowadays, most Greek people spend their free time in cafeterias and bars, neglecting so public spaces, such as squares, parks etc. Even though it is undeniable that cafeterias , the Greek word for cafes, play an important role in the sociability, liveability and the economic vitality of an area, the way they function in Greece leads to the extreme privatization of public space due to coffee tables, the absence of people in areas where there are no cafes or the occupation of the empty public spaces by marginalized groups.

Summing up, the present thesis is dealing with the general problematic use and the poor quality of public space in the Greek context, and especially in the city of Chania, as a case study. Many of the public spaces are extremely privatized, causing problems of accessibility and walkability, while others are not used at all or used by specific social groups developing urban voids or ghettos in the city. This existing defective Greek reality results in social exclusion and poor social interaction among different demographics, questioning the serving of needs of the different users.

Figure: Cafe de Paris in the medium-sized city, Alexandroupolis. The outdoor space of the cafe occupies the biggest part of the sidewalk. Christmast 2017 | **Source:** photograph by author

01 MOTIVATION

What we see may not be what others see, but rather than blind acceptance, we can try what Nelson termed "our varying abilities to use our eyes", so as to reach "not any particular brand of truth" but to "enhance the possibility of uncovering many layers of meaning." Charles R. Wolfe, Seeing the better city

The "ability to use our eyes" is the starting point for the present graduation project. The motivation for the subject derives from my personal experience in the liveability, usage and experience of Greek public space. After living and studying urbanism for one year in a northern country almost totally different in many aspects to the country that I grew up and lived, Greece, made me wonder why the majority of Greek people don't really use the public space as a resting point and prefer spending most of their time in cafeterias and bars.

Nowadays, most of the Greek people are attracted on the "city life of leisure and consumer society" (Gehl, Gemzøe, Kirknaes, & Søndergaard, 2006, p. 8). Even though the weather conditions are much better than in northern countries and most Greek cities are livable, public space as a staying space is not used in many cases. The coffee and food culture is so popular that more and more Greeks prefer meeting each other in private-owned places, such as cafeterias, bars, taverns etc., neglecting so squares and parks.

However, during the last years of the recession, this habit started to be modified gradually. Many Greek citizens started claiming for their rights to public space by arguing against the extreme cafes' occupation in it. Thus, the intense use of cafes as staying space in Greece in combination with the current citizens' claim for public spaces without coffee tables turned into an interesting question that I wanted to answer. Are the results of the coffee and food culture a matter of Greek mentality, absence of the appropriately designed public spaces or governmental disregard? Is it only a social matter or urban environment can play a role on it? Since there are some successful liveable, even informal, places that are used as resting points in Greek cities and people started progressively to fight for their rights to public space, it raises the question about the role of urbanists to change the established situations in public life of cities. But what if is the culture of Greek people to spend their free time in cafeterias and bars and not in public space. Should I change that and why? Such problematics constitute the basis and the starting point of the present research and design graduation project.

Figure: Informal places are many times more liveable and used than officially defined public spaces. Many residents of Chania use the alleys of the old town as their gardens, where they meet with their neighbors and spend time together. | **Source:** photograph by author

Figure: Thessaloniki: Protest against the coffee tables in the waterfront of Thessaloniki (April 2017) During the last years of recession, many Greek citizens started claiming for their rights in public space | **Source:** http://www.news-it.gr, access: 03/11/2017 (edited by author)

Figure: *Scouting* square in the medium-sized city Alexandroupolis in Greece. The absence of people is prominent here during the whole year (September 2014) | **Source:** photograph by author

Figure: People sitting in stair-steps in Berlin, eating, discussing and relaxing (August 2017) _ Contradiction with Greeks | **Source:** photograph by author

Figure: School yards in Greece constitute a meeting, resting point for many students and young people during afternoon and evening, although most of them are locked | **Source:** http://www.infokids.gr/d-irakleioy-attikis-anoiktes-ayles-sx/, access: 03/11/2017 (edited by author)

Figure: *Potie* pedestrian street in Chania, Greece _ Encroachment of public space due to the coffee tables' expansion. _ Problems of accessibility and walkability for the pedestrians. | **Source:** http://www.zarpanews.gr, access: 26/09/2017 (edited by author)

A city without people is an empty shell. [...] A lively city with bustling activities and lots of people is a drawing card.

Jan Gehl, New city life

02

DEFINING *PUBLIC SPACE*

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Concerning the definition of the term public space, many theorists and researchers from various disciplines and in different chronological periods are incited to investigate what public space constitutes and generally what makes a space to be considered as public. Almost in all historical phases, the concept of public space was regenerated and correlated to the dichotomy between public and private, the ownership and powers. (Harteveld, 2014; Konaklidis, 2011) Most public space's definitions are related to sociological issues, neglecting often spatial determinations. However, it is almost impossible to find a reflection on the term not connected with the city and the urban environment. (Nissen, 2008). Public space contains long and complicated scientific thoughts which cannot be reproduced all in the present thesis. So, a brief reference on specific reflections will be presented, starting the investigation by a quite recent period, the 60's. Apart from the quite modern chronological period of the approaches, (less than 100 years) the choice of the different scholars who represent different schools is based on their reference to the ancient and modern Greece, in a literal or contextual way.

In a chronological order, the definition of the term public space starts with a sociological political approach, expressed in the current thesis by Hannah Arendt and Richard Sennett. This approach correlates literally public space with the ancient Greece and namely with the Greek polis and the ancient agora. Hannah Arendt, who considers as one of the most important political philosophers of the 20th century due to her writings for Jewish affairs and totalitarianism, was born in Germany, in 1906. She came from a Jewish family. Arendt's wartime experiences were a significant factor for motivation and reflection on issues such as political and social rights of humans. In one of her most well-known books, The Human Condition (1958), Arendt referred to the ancient Greek culture and the democracy of the 5th century to make a comparison with the modern word of her era and to criticize it. Specifically, she investigated the human actions of labor, work and action, focusing on these endeavors, which end up in four aspects of life, political, social, private and public. ("Hannah Arendt biography", 2014; "Hannah Arendt American political scientist", n.d.; d' Entreves, Passerin, 2016) In the resume of her book, The Human Condition (1958), it is written that she identified problems of the society, which concern "[...] the diminishing human agency and political freedom, the paradox that

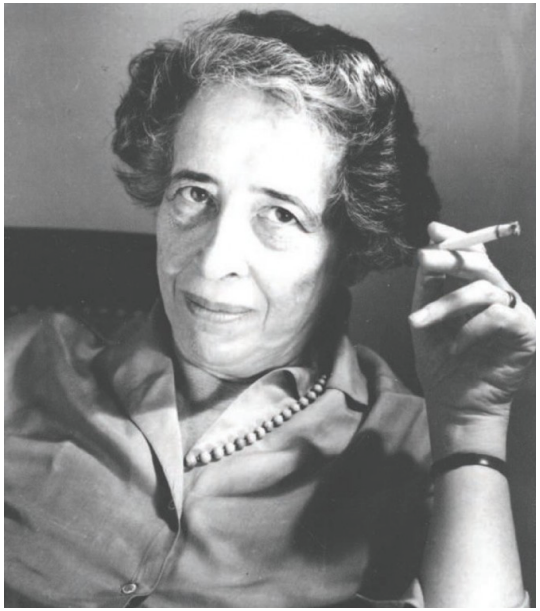


Figure: Hannah Arendt, one of the most importantpolitical philosophers of the 20th century | **Source:** http://www.wikipedeia.com, access: 09/01/2018 (edited by author)

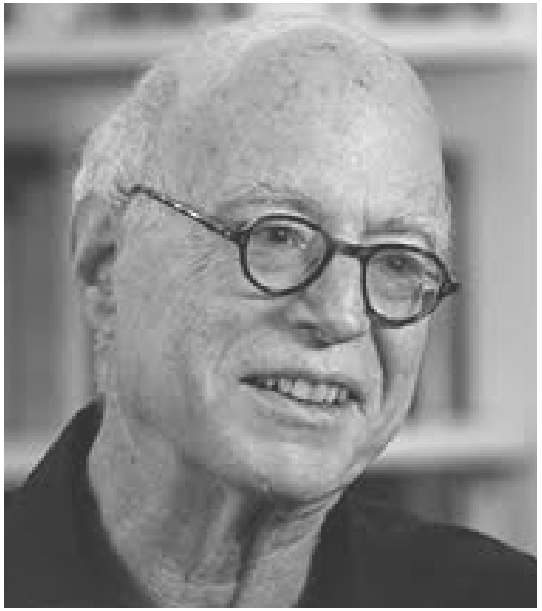


Figure: Richard Sennett, inestigates the development of the cities, the nature of work in modern society and the sociology of culture | **Source:** http://www.wikipedeia.com, access: 09/01/2018 (edited by author)

as human powers increase through technological and humanistic inquiry, we are less equipped to control the consequences of our actions." ("The Human Condition, 2nd Edition", n.d.)

At the same line of thinking and influenced by Hannah Arendt, Richard Sennett approximately 20 years later, "[...] has explored how individuals and groups make social and cultural sense of material facts—about the cities in which they live and about the labor they do. He focuses on how people can become competent interpreters of their own experience, despite the obstacles society may put in their way." (Sennett, 2018) Sennett was born in 1943 in Chicago and so his writings are mainly influenced by the huge changes in the way of living and working in the USA. Generally, he tries to study the development of the cities, the nature of work in modern society and the sociology of culture. Moving from the 18th to the 19th century induced many changes in the modern society and especially in the political life. A decline of involvement in it was observed, causing so a social withdrawal. In this respect, in one of his book, The Fall of the Public Man (1977), he studies the changing nature of public culture and urban society. He supports that the modern society is characterized by an imbalanced relationship between public life and the cult of the individual. (Sennett, 1977) Further, one of his main interests is to make clear the connection that exists between the non-physical categories of human experience and the forms of the cities, as he has done for example with the practice of democracy. In that context, he refers to the ancient Athenian agora. Namely, Robert A. Levit (1999) in the introduction of Sennett's book, The spaces of Democracy, mentions "The physical proximity of citizens in the agora of the democratic Athens [...] suggests an environment in which fractious interests and positions retain their connection to living individuals and groups. The early absence in democratic Athens of spatial hierarchies that would divide people into active and passive or ruling and rules groups offers a picture of exemplary mutuality- even if marred, as it was, by the narrow definition of the citizenship. Amongst Athenians, differences were not apprehended through social abstractions and did not lead to demonization." (Sennett, 1999, p. 8)

By introducing briefly, the context of the two supporters of the first approach, the socio-political point of view, it can be concluded that public space has various meanings depending on the authors of the different disciplines, but also scholars from the same discipline have distinct opinions and ideas, questioning the essence of public space. The questions that many of them tries to answer is: what public space is, how it should be and what makes a space public. As it was mentioned above, there are many different opinions considering what public space is or should be, but as the main focus of the thesis is not the definition of public space, a mention to a totally different trend will be presented as far as urban and political theory are concerned. Continuing with the second approach, the demands and requirements of the new era and society led to the further investigation of the term public space. Starting again from the USA, Ray Oldenburg in 1989 in his book, The Great Good Place, writes about the importance of the informal public gathering spaces. He describes why and how these spaces are important for the community and public life, "[...] arguing that bars, coffee shops, general

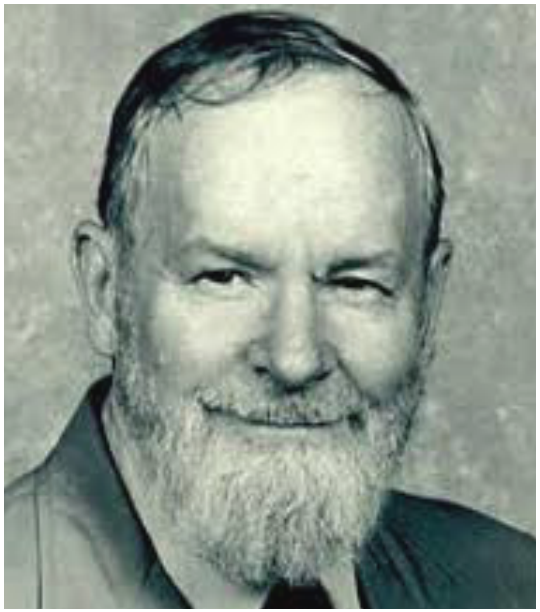


Figure: Ray Oldenburg, the urban sociologists who supported the informal public spaces, which he called *thid places* | **Source:** http://www.wikipedeia.com, access: 09/01/2018 (edited by author)

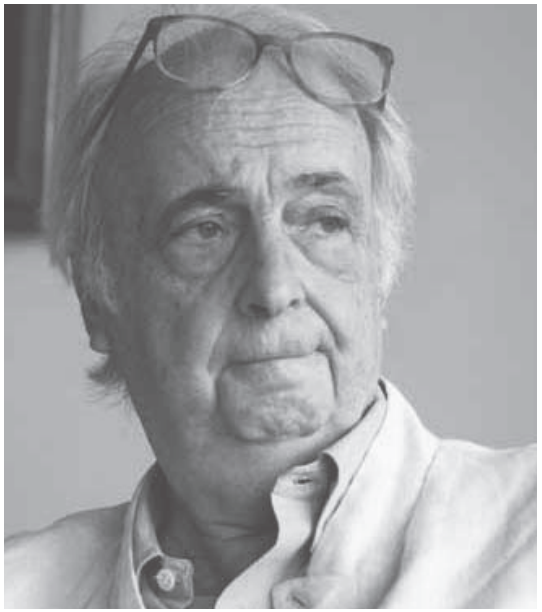


Figure: Manuel de Sola Morales was the first architect who tried to expand the meaning of the pblic space. | **Source:** http://www.wikipedeia.com, access: 09/01/2018 (edited by author)

stores, and other "third places" are central to local democracy and community vitality." (Project for Public Spaces, 2008). In a country, where automobile become more and more essential for people, and people are almost addicted to it, the existence of such kind of public spaces that Oldenburg describes is essential. By using these places, people can gather and interact. In contrast to the first and second places, home and work respectively, the third places make people forget their everyday routine and concerns and enjoy the company and the conversations. Oldenburg refers also to democracy but in a quite different way in comparison to Arendt and Sennett, since his experience in public and social life based on the period he lived is also different. (Oldenburg, 1989) According to him, third places provide "[...] the foundation for a functioning democracy, [...] promote social equality by leveling the status of guests, providing a setting for grassroots politics, creating habits of public association and offering psychological support to individuals and communities." (Project for Public Spaces, 2008).

In this point, it is important to mention that almost all the investigations, the previous and the more current, referred to the USA's way of living, public space and public life. This time though, in 1992 the first try to expand the term public space was attempted by a Spanish architect, Manuel de Sola Morales, considering the Mediterranean context. (Bekkering et al., 2008; Scheerlinck, 2013; team, 1999) In his article, Public and Collective Space: The Urbanization of the Private Domain as new Challenge, being motivated by the main issue in the Western urban thinking, since the late 19th century, the distinction between private and public, "[...] he questioned two fundamental aspects of the traditional definition of public space [...]". (Bekkering et al., 2008, p. 45) He casted doubt on the ownership of the space by questioning if public spaces should be only publicly owned and freely accessible for everyone. As these two issues come to the fore, "[...] he argued that even in the most traditional European cities, much public life was developing elsewhere." (Bekkering et al., 2008, p. 45). Generally, he reconsidered the dichotomy between private and public and the ownership of places, by proposing an expansion of the term public space. Thus, he proposed the widening of the notion by introducing the term "collective spaces". Collective spaces are referred to those meeting places in the city of common interest and choice. Although, many of them are private-owned and hence in some cases exclusionary, they develop scenes for public life and public activities. These urban scenes can include places, such as shopping malls, covered markets, train or metro stations, cafes etc. (Bekkering et al., 2008; Scheerlinck, 2013; team, 1999)

In short, the first one, the sociological -political approach supports the democratic public space, which is free, open and accessible to all by focusing on the clear division between the private and public space. The second, the more modern and urban-oriented aimed at the extension of the traditional meaning of public space by proposing a hybridized interchange between private and public domain, forgetting the dipole between the two. (Chatzisavva, 2011; Harteveld, 2014)

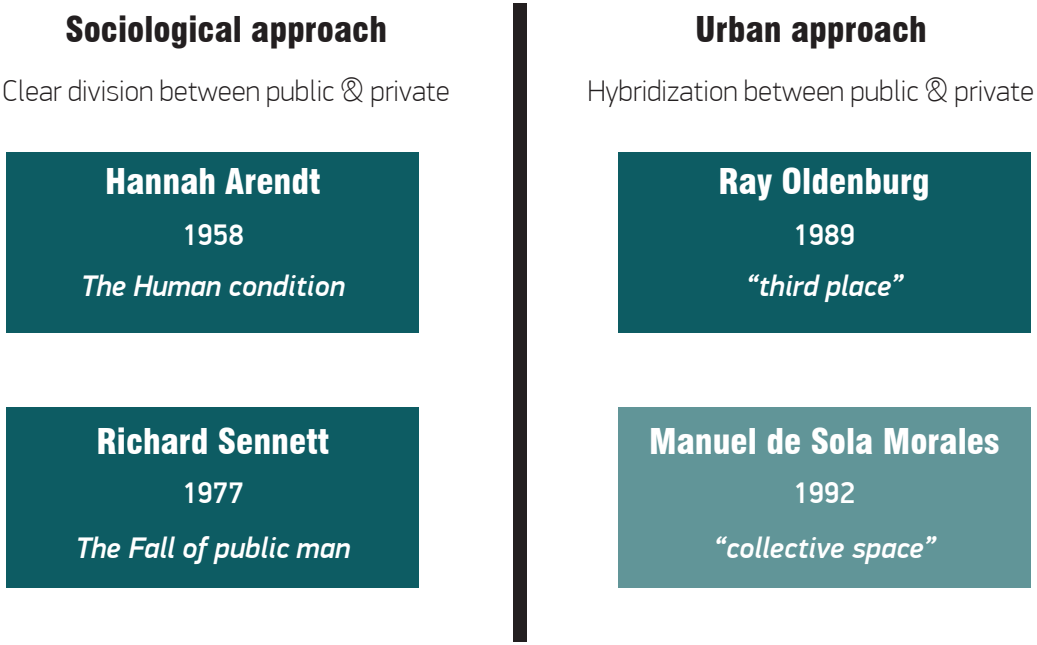


Figure: The two different approaches and their main representatives in a diagrammatic way. The different color in Manuel de Sola Moralew refers to the different reference in the country. (not the USA) | **Source:** made by author

2.2 THE CLEAR DIVISION BETWEEN PUBLIC & PRIVATE SPACE

Starting from the first approach, as it was mentioned in the introduction part, in political theory and philosophy, some important names that are associated with the public space is those of Hannah Arendt and Richard Sennett. They support that the free involvement of different people in open-accessible public spaces contributes to the acceptance of others, the respect for the public good and the interest in urban and political life. According to them, public space and public sphere are viewed as the representation of the democratic ideal and as the opposite of the private. In that context, they investigate the role of democratic public space as an integral parameter, according to which the various social groups can acquire a cohesive identity and settle down in the society. (Chatzisavva, 2011)

Referring to democracy and democratic ideal, they give a mention in the ancient Greek polis and the Athenian agora, as important prototypes of public space. Considering Aristoteles's view about democracy in the Politics, they regard agora as a significant example of democratic public space. "The original form of the agora, like that of the city itself, was very simple. A flat open space with suitable drainage was the first requirement." (Doxiadis, 1964, p. 8)It was almost situated in the center of the city, so as to be easily accessible and quickly reachable by all citizens. As far as its size is concerned, it offered so much open space that the whole population could gather there. 1.12 square meters were the average amount of open space per resident, making the movement of people effortless, even when all the residents of the city visited the agora. (Doxiadis, 1964) Even though, there were some differences in the plan and layout of the agora among the different regions of Greece, generally it constituted a bustling central public space, where a variety of activities were taking place simultaneously, such as philosophical conversations, politics, commerce and casual hanging out. In other words, the agora constituted the heart of the ancient Greek polis in almost all daily and official aspects of everyday life, especially since the 5th century. (Doxiadis, 1964; Sennett, 1999)

As for the Greek polis, C. A. Doxiadis, one of the most enterprising Greek architects and town planners, mentions that the ancient Greek city

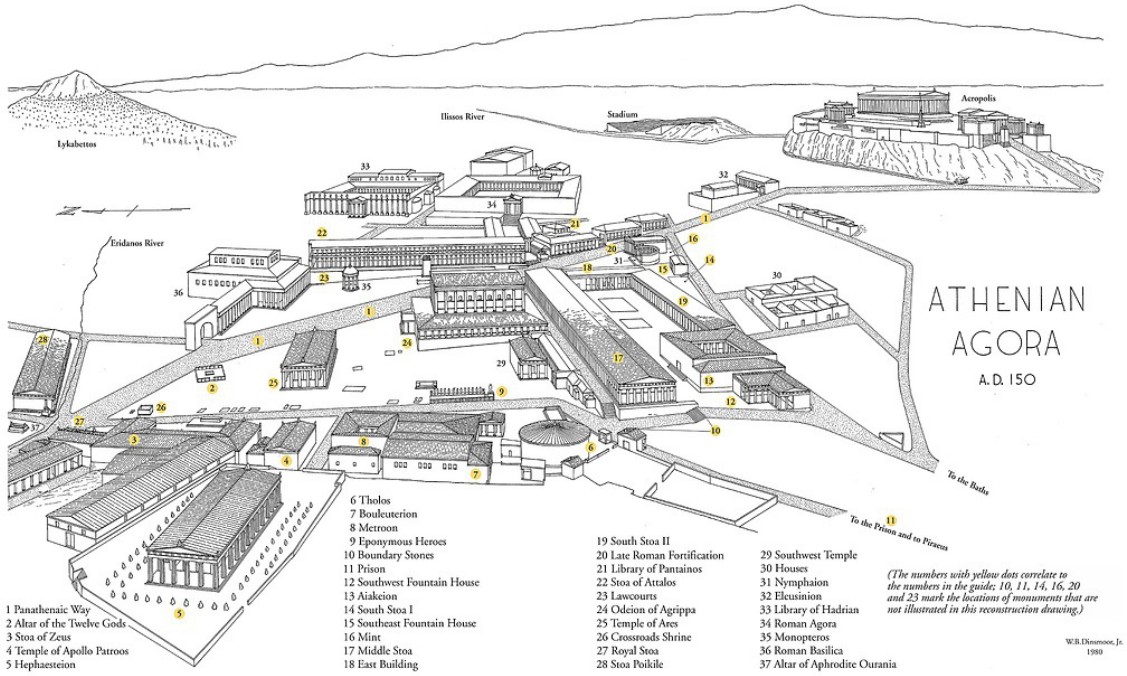


Figure: Plan and restored drawing of the Agora at the height of its development in ca. A.D. 150. Sennett correlates democracy to the architecture composition of the Athenian agora, including mainly two basic "[...] principles of visual design- lack of visual barriers but a welldefined zone of transition between public and private [...]" For him, those two principles are some of the main elements which redound to the characterization of this place as the idealized form of democratic public space. (Sennett, 1999, p. 20) | **Source:** http://www.agathe.gr/guide/, access: 09/01/2018

was built taking into consideration the human scale. The general design and plan of the cities were based on taking advantage of the natural landscape and creating the appropriate private and public spaces "[...] according to rational and functional consideration with man in the center. [...] The synthesis of public places was not determined by artificial geometrical criteria, which may not be directly perceptible, but only by man's own position and movements through these places. Man and his movements were always the measure." (Doxiadis, 1964, pp. 1,8)

In the same line of thinking, about the synthesis of ancient Greek public spaces, Richard Sennett (1999) states: "We would never want to copy the social conditions of Athenian democracy. The majority of people living in the city were slaves, and all women were excluded from politics. But we can learn something from [...]" how ancient Greek people related democracy to architecture. (Sennett, 1999, p. 15) Thus, he describes how the way that the agora was designed, contributed to two different kinds of interaction between people, active and passive engagement. Firstly, the existence of only few visual barriers in the spatial configuration of agora assisted people in watching what happened in the open space of agora and at the same time gave them the ability to participate in the various events. Secondly, except for the open space, agora offered also the stoa, a covered walkway for detachment from the happenings or passive engagement to them. The stoa was a roof -covered space, semi-open, semi-closed, forming so a transition zone between private and public spaces.

Concluding, it can be said that Sennett correlates mainly democracy to the architecture composition of the Athenian agora, including mainly two basic "[...] principles of visual design- lack of visual barriers but a well-defined zone of transition between public and private [...]" For him, those two principles are some of the main elements which redound to the characterization of this place as the idealized form of democratic public space. (Sennett, 1999, p. 20)

Hannah Arendt's opinion though, is not concentrated so much to the physical location and configuration of agora and Greek polis, but on the way that people use and experience them in a democratic way. As an influencer of Richard Sennett and being stimulated by her personal experiences and the consequences of totalitarianism, her initial focus was not to contribute to the term public space in a spatial or urbanistic way, but to criticize this political system. Thus, her input to the term, referred more to a political and philosophical way. Specifically, "To her, public space is the sphere of public action essential to democratic citizenship. It is the realm in which citizens engage in collective deliberation and in joint action on behalf of the public good." (Goodsell, 2003, p. 362) Specifically, she writes (1958):

> *The polis properly speaking, is not the city-state in its physical location; it is the organization of people as it arises out of acting and speaking together, and its true space lies between people living together for this purpose, no matter where they happen to be. (Arendt, 1958, p. 198)*

In contrast to the democratic experience of polis and agora, she counters the family and home. Specifically, she mentions that family and home represent the private sphere, where a strict hierarchy is prominent, giving a sense of inequality between the members. On the other hand, polis represents the public sphere, where the participants perceive a feeling of personal freedom and equality. (Arendt, 1958; Morariu,

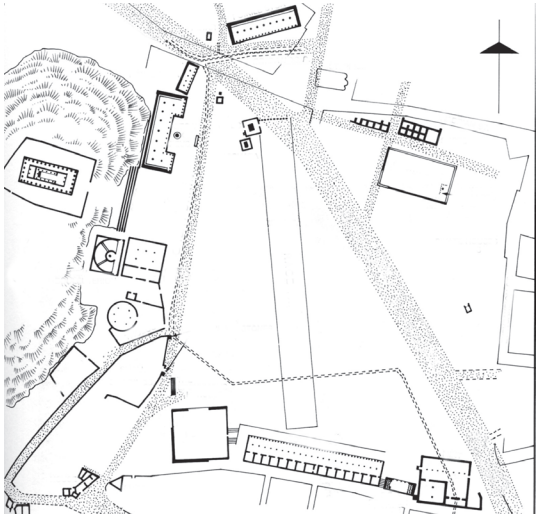


Figure: The architecture composition of the Athenian agora, including mainly two basic principles of visual design , according to Sennet | **Source:** https://nl.pinterest.com/pin/166422148706643096/,access: 29/03/2018

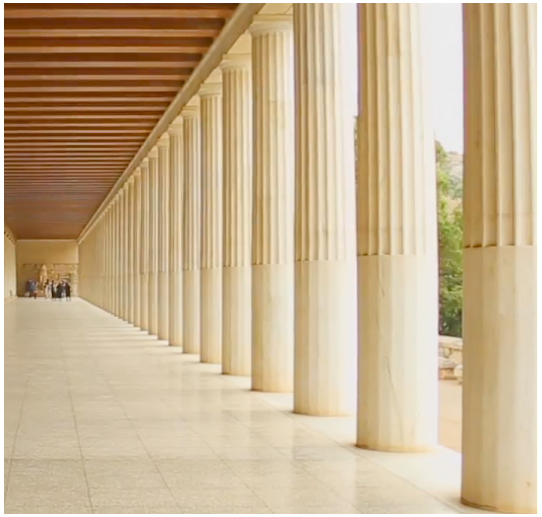


Figure: The stoa, a transition space between public and private space in the Athenian agora, offering possibilities for passive participation | **Source:** https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Stoa_in_Athens.jpg, access: 10/02/2018 (edited by author)

2011) In this regard, it is clear that "The distinction between a private and a public sphere of life corresponds to the household and the political realms, which have existed as distinct, separate entities." (Arendt, 1958, p. 28) Although, Arendt states that the public realm was developed at the expense of the private, she refers that the polis, the representative of public realm didn't violate the private sphere, but there was a balanced and unambiguous separation between them, especially through their clear boundaries. Except for the clear division between public and private, "[...] there was a relationship between these two spheres, [...] the mastering of the necessities of life in the household was the condition for the freedom of the polis." (Arendt, 1958, pp. 30-31)

Summing up, despite Sennett was influenced by the ideas of Arendt, the chronological difference, in which they expressed their ideas constituted an integral part in having a quite different approach about the democratic public space. But generally, they were in favor of some common beliefs. Both authors support that public space should be open and accessible to all people, giving them the ability to act as a bound society, acting for the public good. In order public space to serve in such democratic way, they assert the necessity of clear borderlines between public and private space, mainly in shake of the proper function of public life. By flashing back to the ancient years, especially in Greece and Rome, they write about the appropriate purpose of public space. On the contrast, they refer to the present-day transition of the harmonization between private and public domain, by opposing to the dominance of private life and sphere towards the public. They believe that this supremacy has negative effects not only for the society but also for the individuals and try to investigate what caused this phenomenon. In this regard, Sennett claims that the industrial capitalism and secularism, especially during the 19th century brought a crisis of public life. People were afraid of being presented in front of other people, strangers by turning more on the private sphere and their family, establishing so the "fall of public man". (Sennett, 1977) Arendt follows the same attitude to the prevalence of private towards the public, by stating that mainly the economic forces of modernity pull citizens away from public spaces through a turn to the private world of introspection and economic pursuit. In that way, the distinction between public and private is destroyed. (Goodsell, 2003) "To live an entirely private life means above all to be deprived of things essential to a truly human life: to be deprived of the reality that comes from being seen and heard by others [...]" (Arendt, 1958, p. 58)

2.3 THE HYBRIDIZATION OF PUBLIC & PRIVATE SPACE

"[...] the pursuit of metaphorical conceptions of public space is clearly a worthwhile endeavor [...]", but in many cases much attention is paid to broaden the conception of democracy. So, a risk arises, the concept of democracy to become a single focus. Moreover, "[...] the idea of democracy is either taken as a background assumption not worth exploring or is taken to be something roughly equivalent to freedom." (Parkinson, 2012, pp. 6-7) At this point, the second approach can be introduced, considering though to some extent the ideas expressed by the sociological aspect. As Arendt and Sennett realized there is a current loss of the statutory dynamic and role of public space. This results in complicated and blurred relationships and borders between the private and public. (Chatzisavva, 2011) In this respect, many urban theorists started to discuss, debate and research the publicly-used spaces, forgetting the dipole between private and public. So, now the question is not if a place can be characterized as public space, but what makes it public and how it can be defined. Generally, it can be stated that the appropriation of a space by people at large and the presence of people in a space of common choice make a space to be public. "These spaces are public by their social meaning and value [...]" (Harteveld, 2014, p. 66)

Following the changes of the society and of the way of living in the American context, the urban sociologist, Ray Oldenburg writes about those informal public spaces, the "homes away from home" that are happy gathering places for citizens. (Oldenburg, 1989, p. ix) He names them third places and brings their importance for both individual and society out. "The first and most important function of third places is that of uniting the neighborhood. [...] They serve also as "Ports of Entry" for visitors and as places where newcomers may be introduced [...]." (Oldenburg, 1989, pp. xvii - xviii) Moreover, they function as a connector between the various social groups of a society. Consequently, being in a third place and participate in common activities develops a sense of belonging and bonds the different social groups together. Hence, third place is a term introduced to describe and redefine the notion of public space. The ownership and the division in private and public space do not matter, since the most important element of third places is the participation and the meeting of people in a place of common choice in shake of social interaction. So, beer gardens, main streets, English pubs, cafes, taverns and the classic coffee houses are important third places accord-

Figure: Manuel de Sola Morales is one of the first architects who tried to expand the meaning of the public space, claiming that it should not be comprehended as the space which is publicly-owned and freely accessible. So he introduced the term collective space to characterize the new public spaces. But either they called collective or public or something else, these spaces are important because of their social value to gather people together | **Source:** http://glimpsesnyams.blogspot.nl/2011/07/dwelling-housing-towards-2040.html/, access: 09/01/2018

ing to Ray Oldenburg who introduced the term.

In an analog line of thinking, but for the first time in the Mediterranean context, Manuel de Sola Morales is a Spanish architect who tried to expand the meaning of the public space, claiming that it should not be comprehended as the space which is publicly-owned and freely accessible, without any restriction. The present-day society and lifestyle demand the redefinition of what public space was supposed to be in the past. Following these demands of modern life, he redefines the term public space, by introducing another term, the collective space (Scheerlinck, 2013) and he describes it, as such:

> *The city is the very place where the private domain can be, and often is, a social domain, just as much as or indeed even more than the public domain. Private buildings as public elements, radiating social meaning and value that extend beyond the actual buildings embody their urban character. Collective spaces are not strictly public or private, but both simultaneously. These are public spaces that are used for private activities, or private spaces that allow for collective use, and they include the whole spectrum in between. (de Solà-Morales, 1992, p. 5)*

Consequently, collective spaces are private or public in terms of ownership, but their main characteristics are the participation of people in specific activities and the meeting with others in specific places of choice. So, shopping malls, metro stations, covered markets, cafes and generally spaces of common interest constitute main elements of public life.

In spite of the different terms used to expand the meaning of public space, it can be summarized that the various scholars introduced generally a concept of hybridized space, proposing a cross-breeding between private and public in shake of a social importance. The shifts which occurred between the two spaces can be manifested in built, personal and technical features, generating so the hybridized spaces. These spaces are characterized by a mixing "[...] of private and public structures, different degrees of accessibility, and varying extents of usability." (Nissen, 2008, p. 1139) Their appearance constitute a worldwide phenomenon "[...] that has to varying degrees spreads across continents" and many times it is associated with the term privatization and loss of the democratic public space. (Nissen, 2008, p. 1131) Having this association into mind, Nissen mentions that "The implications of the spread of hybrid forms should not be treated lightly. The changes express a structural transformation of public and private spaces [...]", resulting in the emergence of a new public sphere. (Nissen, 2008, p. 1146)

Concluding, it can be stated that a clear definition for public space is difficult to be given, let alone when the word public has different meanings and is used in dissimilar ways according to the different disciplines. However, in modern sociology and due to the changes and requirements of the contemporary world and society, publicity is a more significant parameter, which is defined by the social behavior, than ownership. The presence of people is considered an important criterion to characterize a space as public. More specifically, being relevant to "the place made a space public before anything else" (Harteveld, 2014, p. 68) Consequently, a publicly used space, even private-owned is much more important for the city and its citizens than an empty publicly-owned space. As Jan Gehl states: "A city without people is an empty shell. [...] A lively city with bustling activities and lots of people is a drawing card." (Gehl et al., 2006)

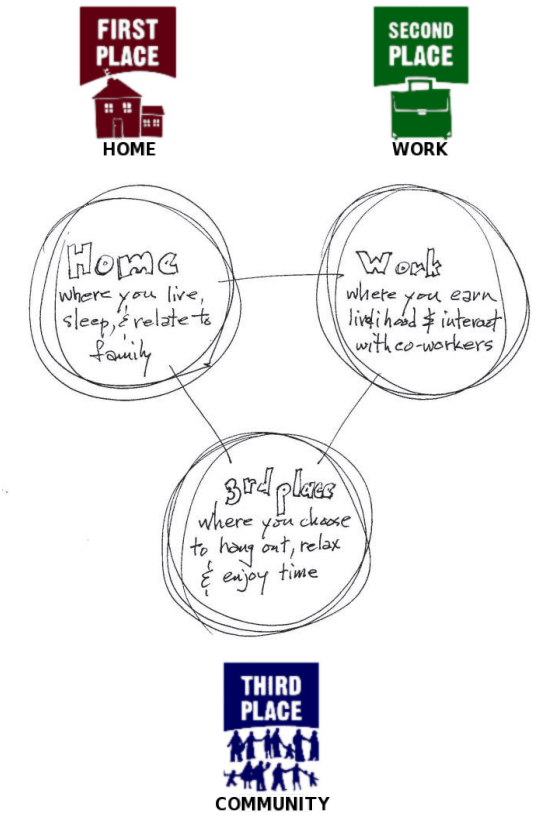


Figure: Ray Oldenburg is another urban theorist who tries to expand the meaning of public space by introducing the term third place. According to him, home constitute the first place, work the second place and third places are those places that link the community. *Third places* are considered "homes away from home". So, being in a third place and participate in common activities develops a sense of belonging and bonds the different social groups together | **Source:** made by author, using icons from the website : http://library.dardanup.wa.gov.au/novel-conversations-december/ and https://gnichol.wordpress.com/2016/03/17/third-place-in-church/, access: 02/04/2018

2.4 PERSONAL APPROACH FOR THE TERM *PUBLIC SPACE*

Different definitions are used for the term public space throughout the literature. Either it is called collective space or third place, or even hybridized space, it is evident how important it is for the city and its citizens. It is obvious that every person has his/her own interpretation of what public space is, but the present thesis will take into consideration more the second approach of defining public space. One reason why is the fact that it makes out possibilities for hybridized interchanges between private and public based on the needs and apprehensions of the modern society. So, it can be said that this kind of public space is flexible and mutative based on the needs of each era. Apart from the serving of the needs though, public space is correlated also to accessibility.

Accessibility is a term that is related many times to the "proper and successful" design of public spaces. That's the reason why, a great number of designers and planners are referred to it. Therefore, Arendt mentioned that public spaces should be accessible so as to be used by all. (Arendt, 1958) According to Placemaking UAE, accessibility as a notion contains three separate types, the demographic, the physical and the symbolic accessibility. "Demographic accessibility refers to the link between the production activities of the space and the output generated to the entity operating it whether it's public or private agency." ("So What is accessibility for public spaces?", n.d.) This kind of accessibility is related also with inclusiveness through the presence and the appropriation of diverse user groups. "Demographic accessibility is important since it allows for various perceptions of the space to surface. In fact, advocates that variables such as age, sex, social class and ethnic identity effect the way urban life is perceived." ("So What is accessibility for public spaces?", n.d.) Physical accessibility is referred to the linkages of the public space with the surrounding area and generally the urban fabric. The features of the networks that offer physical accessibility can function either as linkages or as obstacles "[...] facilitating or preventing exchange processes and therefore the inclusivity as a quality of publicness." ("So What is accessibility for public spaces?", n.d.) In the end, symbolic accessibility can be discriminated by the extent "[...] of the users' engagement with the space in the terms of active/passive engagement. The nature and the scope of activities incorporated in the public spaces can either allow or prevent the emergence of spaces of representation." ("So What is accessibility for public spaces?", n.d.)

Moreover, Stephen Carr argues that accessibility is one of the necessary parameters for a qualitative public space, by mentioning that "The ability to enter spaces is basic to their use." (Carr, Francis, Rivlin, & Stone, 1992, p. 138) According to his view, accessibility can be divided in physical and visual. The physical access is not only correlated to the absence of physical barriers in a place, but also to the direct connection with the street, which constitute the main path of circulation. On the other hand, the visual access is also important because if people cannot see a public space, they will not appropriate it. Visual accessibility is also highly interrelated to safety, since the "Ability to check out these potential threats before entering is a critical requirement." (Carr et al., 1992, p. 145)

Hence, it can be said, that accessibility is a significant term and criterion which influences the presence and appropriation of a space by people. In that context, a question raises about the physically accessible spaces for all: Are all of them, such as parking lots, urban voids, highways etc., used by people? Is social interaction about to happen in these places? In many social and urban studies which concern the term public space, social interaction and public life are also referred and correlated to the term. Thus, in the present thesis public space, either it is public or private, what matters is that this place should not only be physically and easily accessible for people, but also promote an accessibility between them. In other words, people should interact and be open to each other by using the public space.

Even though a definition of the term public space will not be proposed, in order to understand the whole approach of the thesis, a clarification of how public space is perceived in this project is essential. People and their common attendance in spaces of choice regardless the ownership constitute the most significant element to depict a space as public. Therefore, a publicly-used space, even private-owned can be considered as public space. However, this does not mean that the contemporary public space should be a result of commercial transactions, in shake of profit, excluding specific social groups from public life.

Many designers and authorities in their try to follow the current globalized trends and the

quite epidemic economic-orientation of society, forget that public space is for people. Especially, during the millennium, the post-modern society imposed practices of urban competitiveness among the cities of the world. In this context, the urban environments mainly of the Mediterranean, which faced a general marginalization after the Industrial Revolution, started to be redeveloped. Established successful examples of the Northern countries or Western planning models were adopted. (Gospodini & Mperiatos, 2006) As a result, public spaces started to seem alike in different countries all around the world, putting on the frontline the issue of locality.

Hence, public space outdoor or indoor, private or publicly-owned should make people feel welcome, respecting their social-cultural background and mentality. It should offer them the chance to use it and have a passive or/and active engagement with other people. While though, it is a common belief that a good and great public space should include specific qualities and serve specific functions for all people, many scholars support that "[...] no single space should be expected to meet the needs of all users at all times. Indeed, spaces that attempt to do everything well often fail to do anything well." (Németh & Schmidt, 2011, p. 9)

Nemeth and Schmidt mention also that they are not only them who question "[...] whether space can ever be (or has ever been) universally inclusive or unmediated." (Németh & Schmidt, 2011, p. 9) Not everyone shares the same ideas about openness, inclusiveness and public space, but no matter how public space is defined, do all citizens feel free to experience what they desire in public spaces? This freedom forms citizens' spatial rights to use the space in such a way, so as to take from it its resources and satisfy their needs. Evidently, this position seems simpler than it is in fact, as people live and co-exist with other people, obey law, rule systems and are under an overall supervision. Therefore, it is a common belief that what public should offer relates to the different points of view among the distinct social groups. Due to the freedom of using public spaces conflicts among the different users may occur, since every user group demands to satisfy its own needs and desires Usually, intense conflicts are prominent between the dominant group and the others. (Carr et al., 1992)

In the end, it must be clarified that publicly and private owned, outdoor and indoor spaces are regarded as public spaces, if people can gather there, socialize and participate in a way in public life. For the shake of the thesis though, the term public space will be used referring to the officially defined public spaces, such as squares, and park and the private space will be used for private-owned spaces, such as cafes, bars, taverns, houses etc.

Figure: A blind high wall provokes problems of visual accessibility. People can not see what is behind the wall. | **Source:** photograph by tauthor

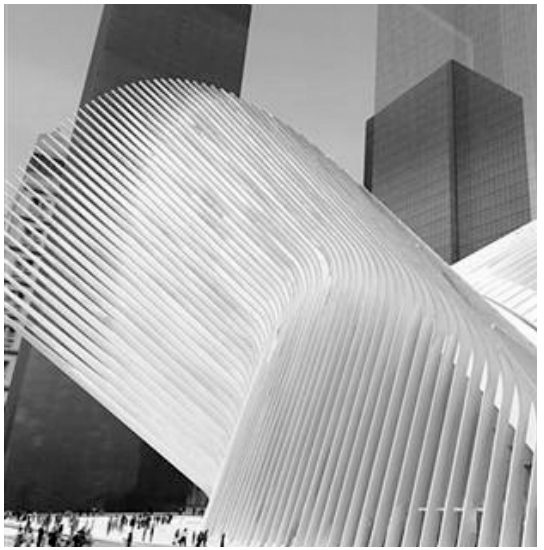


Figure: Public spaces started to seem alike in different countries all around the world, putting on the frontline the issue of locality. Lefti mage: Olympic infrastructure in Athens _ Right image: Station in New York | **Source:** https://www.flickr.com/photos/ava_babili/2723521566, https://www.silversteinproperties.com/commercial-real-estate-media/Photos/120-wall-street, access: 23/03/2018

To this day, even when I hear about problems, as you've probably noticed, I tend to call them challenges. I don't dwell on them, and immediately focus on how I can convert the challenge into an opporunity.

Tony Robbins

03

PROJECT DEFINITION

3.1 INTRODUCING THE PROBLEM FIELD

Considering the meaning and the importance of public space mainly for social purposes, as it was stated in the previous chapter, public space can be considered as the "living room: of the city. Living room is the most publicly-used room of a house, where people meet the other members of their family, relatives, friends and greet strangers. In this regard, public space as the "living room of the city" can contribute to the socialization of the users and promote social interaction not only with relatives, neighbors and acquaintances, but also with unfamiliar persons. public and private experiences. As Carr (1992)

Figure: Urban Living room in Rotterdam | **Source:** http://2014-2015.nclurbandesign.org/tag/urban-living-room/, access: 01/11/17

Human beings are social by their nature and need to socialize, be part of a community and participate in different activities. In this way they obtain a healthy social and public life, achieved by a proper balance between public and private experience. As Carr (1992) reports, public experiences "[...] can bind people together and give their lives meaning and power. [...] When public space is missing from a community, residents can become isolated from each other, less likely to offer mutual help and support."(Carr et al., 1992, pp. 44-45, 25) Despite the bonds between the community and its members, public space can serve also as a connector between the community and its history. It comprises a historic symbol, offering people a sense of belonging. In the past, public space was count as a symbol of culture, as well, being a cultural and identity display of the space, in which it existed.

Another aspect from public space's social value and meanings is its contribution to the improvement of the mental and physical health of people. In people's everyday routine, public staying spaces consist an oasis in the chaotic and many times unfriendly built environment, an escape from the confusion, noise and the crowded urban setting. They form a relief from stress and provide opportunities for relaxation, entertainment and contact with other people.(Carr et al., 1992) What is quite important in this view, is the quality of public space. According to a recent research conducted by CABE the largest percentage of people (85%) believe that the quality of public spaces and the built environment influence directly their lives and how they feel. (CABE, 2004)

Apart from social value, public space has also economic value. As CABE states the economic life of urban centers regardless their size can be affected positively by high-quality public settings. The increasing competitiveness among the cities contribute to the appropriation of public spaces, parks, squares and gardens, as necessary business and marketing tool, for the magnetism of investments. A pleasant, comfortable and well-maintained public space attracts more locals and visitors in the retail areas, rising the economic vitality. Attractive public spaces can also benefit the whole surrounding area by influencing the prices not only of the commercial but also the domestic properties. This increase of domestic and commercial marketing values creates taxes revenue, as well. A characteristic example constitutes

Figure: Attractive public spaces can contrbute to the attractiveness of the surrounding area | **Source:** CABE, 2004, p.4

San Francisco, "[...] proximity to the Golden Gate Park has been known to increase property prices from $500 million to 1 billion, thus generating between $5-10 million for the state in annual property taxes." (CABE, 2004, p. 5)

However, this ongoing economic-driven development of the cities by the burgeoning urbanization, sometimes results in the imbalance between built and unbuilt environment. In spite of this imbalance, a reduction of green spaces and an expansion of hard surfacing is also observed. As a result, temperature rises gradually in the urban areas comparing to the countryside, the known as heat island effect. Taking into account that, the environmental value of public space can be highlighted. Public spaces combined with green can offer cooling of air, shade, reduction of noise, air and water pollution. An example that CABE alludes to vegetation, indicating that the more trees "[...] the lower level of surface water running off into drains -allowing sewers to cope better with water-flow and minimizing flood problems-." (CABE, 2004, p. 17) Besides the climatic and technical reasons for using trees in public spaces and generally in the urban environment, vegetation relates to aesthetic and comfort criteria. According to Whyte's study and observations in public space, it is clarified that "[...] by far the best liked are those affording a good look at the passing scene and the pleasure of being comfortable under a tree while doing so. This provides a satisfying enclosure; people feel cuddled, protected [...]" (Whyte, 1980, p. 46) Further, green spaces provide places not only for human beings, but also for fauna and flora, contributing in an overall ecological diversity.

Concluding, public space plays a noteworthy role mainly on the social, economic and environmental life of a community, but as long as it functions properly. (Worple & Knox, 2007) Its importance is revealed by the fact that as a subject has concerned and still concerns many researchers from different disciplines, social sciences, environmental and design disciplines (architecture, urban and regional planning, even interior design). Stephen Carr (1992) is one of the scholars who supports public spaces' great value by stating that they are dynamic spaces which

> *[...] are an essential counterpart to the more settled places and routines of work and home life, providing the channels for movement, the nodes for communication, and the common grounds for play and relaxation. There are pressing needs that public space can help people to satisfy, significant human rights that it can be shaped to define and protect, and special cultural meanings that it can best convey. (Carr et al., 1992, p. 3)*

The important meaning of public spaces is also proved by going back to the past, investigating the way they function in the first urban settlements. They were the places which provided access and linked the separate functions of the city. Throughout history, public spaces were bustling areas, where various functions and activities took place, providing in the city a best-selling public life. Meeting other people was and still is a significant part of daily life, in which public space plays a crucial role. It constitutes "[...] the framework for people's meetings with society and each other." (Gehl et al., 2006, p. 15) However, nowadays the successful appropriation of public space is quite questionable.

Thus, it is in the urban planners' and designers' hands to reclaim the initial role of public space in the urban environment and public life. At the same time, they should follow the demands of modern society and cover the needs and desires of the different social groups. In this way, equal possibilities for a liveable and healthy living environment are provided to all dissimilar users. Public staying spaces through new design approaches or redevelopments can serve as a connector between different social groups, eliminating social exclusion. But certainly, mixing the various social groups of society in one place is not the solution, as spatial and social conflicts can be developed.

Figure: It is in the urban planners' and designers' hands to reclaim the initial role of public space in the urban environment and public life. They should follow the demands of modern society and cover the needs and desires of the different social groups. | **Source:** https://unhabitat.org/urban-initiatives/initiativesprogrammes/global-public-space-programme,access: 09/01/2017

3.2 GENERAL CONTEXT OF GREECE

The last question of the motivation chapter, "if it is the culture of Greek people to spend their free time in cafeterias and bars and not in public space, why should I change that?" forms the initial stimulation for defining the problem statement and the aim of the present thesis. After reading many Greek media publications, which are considered an important evidence, since they express the feelings and worries of the local population, it was realized that the problem is not that Greek people spend so much time in cafeterias, taverns and bars. The main issue that modern Greek cities confront is overall the problematic current use and quality of public staying spaces. Although the main problem is not the intense use and time that Greek people spend in cafeterias, coffee and food culture influences partly the current questionable use of staying spaces in Greece.

3.2a _ Coffee and food culture in the European context

Nowadays, it is hard to imagine a world without cafes, but once there was a world without them. The story of the coffee-drinking habit began from the Red Sea basin during the 15th century and after its discovery, it grew to a trend of "[...] changing consumers habits that reshaped the early modern world." (Cowan, 2005, p. 1). As it was mentioned in the chapter "Defining public space", although very often cafes are private-owned, they constitute an important form of public space for public meeting of the inhabitants of a city, participating in a specific form of social life.

By flashing back to the history of coffee shops, after the Red Sea region, the Ottoman Empire followed in the 16th century. In the late 17th and early 18th century cafes were expanded in most European countries, establishing so a new mode of social organization. Firstly, Britain and Germany adopted the coffee-drinking habit, while France and Italy followed. As far as France is concerned, is correlated mostly to a specific kind of cafe, the sidewalk cafe, regarded as an essential means of motivating the lost street life and the modern urban culture. (Cowan, 2005; Laurier, A Whyte, & Buckner, 2001; Oldenburg, 1989) "Once established in the cultural center of Western World, the sidewalk café" of France transformed also to the pillar of public life in Latin and Mediterranean countries (Oldenburg, 1989, p. 146), where

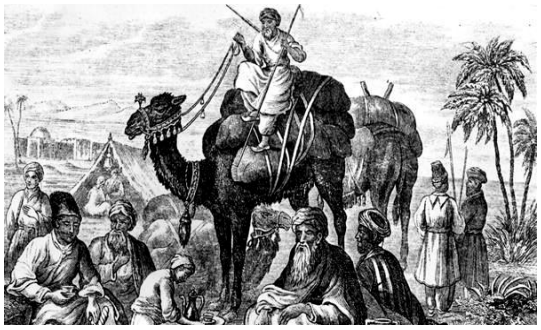


Figure: The islamic roots of coffee | **Source:** http://www.ozy.com/flashback/the-islamic-roots-ofcoffee/32702, access: 09/01/18

people not only are attracted by cafes but also by the evening promenades. (Carr et al., 1992)

Generally, European cafes have a long history not only as social places of meeting but also as attractions for tourists. They are a noteworthy part of the cultural history of Europe and especially of the Mediterranean. Since their appearance in the late 17th and early 18th century, they started serving as a replacement of the streets, the primary space of public life. (Carr et al., 1992; Cleave, 2017; Ferreira, 2017; Laurier et al., 2001) "[...] they offered the opportunity for patrons to meet, socialize and partake in the social and cultural life of a city." (Cleave, 2017, p. 31) Apart from locals, many cafes gained popularity among tourists as attractions and important places to visit. In that way, many cities were benefitted economically by introducing large or small scaled redevelopments including cafes. (Cleave, 2017)

Coffeehouses, cafes, bistros etc., -the different words used in different countries for the places where people drink coffee- appeared as a new forum for face to face discussions and a vital way of democratic participation. Generally, they transformed into an integral part of urban living and especially during 19th century, when they became accessible to a broader middle class and they offered an attractive environment for various social groups and classes. (Cleave, 2017; Cowan, 2005; Oldenburg, 1989) As Ray Oldenburg states "The coffeehouse was democracy at birth, equality incarnate; it was a heady and hearty involve-

ment that prompted one observer to liken it to Noah's Ark in which "every kind of creature" may be found." (Oldenburg, 1989, p. 186)

Bringing to an end, it is a common fact that cafes and coffee shops have influenced the public life of the European countries, since they adapted gradually to the main structure of people's everyday life. They contributed and still contribute significantly to the liveability of cities and the social interaction between various people. These are some reasons why numerous authors started examining the social, cultural and economic dimension of the coffee and food culture. One characteristic example is Laurier, Whyte and Buckner (2001) who by studying the human behavior in cafés, mention that cafés are places where people not only drink coffee but also participate in a specific form of social life , such as social interaction, communication with other people etc.(Laurier et al., 2001) Apart from being sites for sociability and networking, they are also related to the rise of commercially viable spaces, constituting a significant component of cities from a retail perspective. (Ferreira, 2017)

However, a question raises about the impact of cafés as economic entities and factor for vitality in urban spaces, on different urban environments in different countries and for different communities.

Figure: The interior of a London coffeehouse circa 1700 | **Source:** https://www.laphamsquarterly.org/, access: 01/11/2017

3.2b _ Coffee and food culture in the Greek context

Taking into consideration the above-mentioned variations in the meaning of coffee culture in the different countries, the case of Greece will be examined more extensively. Cafes or cafeterias, as they are called in the Greek language, play an important role on the public life of almost all Greek cities and that is one of the reasons why they occupy a large part of them. The fact that cafeterias are really prominent in Greek city scene and Greek people are very well attached to the coffee-drinking habit, has a result the contemporary public life to be highly connected with the use of cafeterias as one of the basic public spaces.

Greek people prefer spending most of their time in cafeterias and bars, neglecting public spaces, such as squares and parks. Besides the personal experience of the author, this assertion is supported also by interviews' results with the local people of Chania, conducted in October 2017. According to that more than the half of the respondents (60%) prefer to spend their free time with family or friends in cafes and bars and not in squares or parks. This preference on its own is not so problematic, but in combination with the current way, in which cafeterias function in Greece, make this phenomenon to be questionable, especially during the recession.

Specifically, many media publications write about the conquered public spaces by coffee tables that leads to extreme privatization and consequently weak accessibility for pedestrians and other users that want to use the space without needing to pay. Because of the weather conditions, an important part of cafeterias in Greece is the outdoor, even in cold days. So, the cafes' owners put many tables in sidewalks and

squares, set out small stoves or braziers near tables or erect glass enclosures to surround them, occupying so a big part of sidewalks or squares. What is interesting though, is that these actions are legalized by the Greek political system.

Moreover, despite the extreme privatization and the trespassing of public space, which are legalized by the Greek governance, the intense growth of coffee and food culture and its strong connection with the Greek public and social life, develops great differences in the liveability of the different parts of the city. Namely, if there are cafes and bars in an area, this region is vibrant all day long, but only a specific user group appropriates the place, due to financial or interest-driven reasons. Conversely, if there are no cafes and bars in an area, this part of the city is not considered a healthy, desired and safe place to be, since two main issues are present there, the absence of people is noticeable or ghettoization by marginalized groups may occur. Consequently, the present performance of public life and its connection to coffee drinking habit contribute to a decaying process of public staying spaces, which are not considered as attractive living environments or competitive areas in the city context.

By referring to the problematic performance of public life, which is correlated with the coffee culture, an egg-chicken dilemma comes up. This dilemma is about whether the coffee and food culture led to the problematic use of public staying places or respectively the neglected and in many cases not designed public space led to the intense use of cafes as one of the main public spaces, in Greece. Many Greek people support that it is the Greek mentality to be in cafes and drink coffee. But how was this mentality developed, since in the past public space played a crucial role on Greeks' life?

Kostas Theologou and Anastasia Veneti support that in Greek society an unusual process of "territorial unification or integration of the modern Greek-state" took place, leading gradually to a specific mentality of Greek citizens, "[...] an idiosyncratic disrespect of all users towards public space, [...] a disrespect on behalf of the user, citizen, businessman or politician." (Kostas Theologou, 2014; Kostas Theologou & Veneti, 2011, p. 83) Specifically, they state that:

> *the perpetual transformation of the country's borderline deconstructed the respect for the public space on behalf of the citizens and also impinged - negatively – on the institutional enhancement and consciousness of the citizenship. The fact is a catalyst for the political system that never abolished its patron-client pattern. (Kostas*

Figure: The contrast between cafes and open spaces _ Concentration of people in cafes and absence of people in squares (Market Square, Chania , October 2017) | **Source:** photograph and edit by author

Theologou & Veneti, 2011, p. 11)

This disrespect is also recognized by the Greek citizens, who blame not only the responsible authorities but also themselves. Therefore, according to the interviews' results the neglect of public space in terms of destroyed facilities and no maintenance by the governance is the most repeated reason, for which the citizens of Chania don't like spending their time in public spaces. A 53- year old woman mentioned concretely the following: *Greek people don't have the proper education to respect the public space. They damage it and in combination with the no maintenance by governance, the modern public spaces are a disaster. We don't have any place to go. But it is also our fault.*

3.2c _ Historic flashback to the Greek public space

By making a historic flashback in the meaning of public space for Greek civilization through the years, it can be stated that its role was quite different than nowadays. It constituted an integral part of inhabitants' everyday life and a reminder of their identity and culture, especially during difficult periods. Notwithstanding "[...] public space has very different meaning in different societies, places and times", (Low & Smith, 2013, p. 4) it raises the question of how an urbanist can regain the important role of public space in the modern years, according to the modern Greek data and the needs of people.

Starting from the **antiquity**, it is generally admitted that public space is a notion that goes hand in hand with ancient Greece, since the ancient agora and the Greek polis are considered as important prototypes of democratic public space. (Low & Smith, 2013)This is supported by many ancient philosophers, as for example Aristoteles. According to his view about democracy in the Politics, agora is a significant example of democratic public space. Usually, it is described a bustling central public space, where a variety of activities were taking place simultaneously, such as philosophical conversations, politics, commerce and casual hanging out. (Sennett, 1999).

During its history though, Greece was deprived of its democracy in various time periods. Beginning with the **Venetian domination**, since the 12th to the end of 17th century, almost all the coastlines and the Greek islands were under their control. As a result, many island cities were developed according to the city models and traditions of these Mediterranean conquers. So, the new character and the form of Greek public spaces reminded features of the Italian cities, but with more simple forms and buildings. Scenes that are still visible in many Greek cities until today. The Venetian domination ended with another one by Ottomans. As a logical outcome, the new invaders started adding their own urban and architectural features in the Greek island cities. (Ananiadou-Tzimopoulou & Karadimou-Gerolimpou, 2009)

However, apart from the islands, **Ottoman victory** was expanded in the rest of Greece, which was under Ottomans control for approximately 400 years. Certainly, being dominated for so many years is insupportable. For that reason, Greek citizens tried to reinforce their communal life by establishing squares for their social actions. Commercial and religious activities, administrative committee, leisure activi-

Figure: Athenian agora, the prototype of public space | **Source:** http://www.athenskey.com, access 09/10/2017 (edited by author)

Figure: Palace of the Grand Master of the Knights of Rhodes. The island of Rhodes is a characteristic example of the Venetian influence in the design of the city and its public spaces | **Source:** http://www.mygola.com/palace-of-the-grand-master-of-the-knights-of-rhodes-p50561, access 09/10/2017 (edited by author)

ties etc. were some of their initial needs. Their first attempts to gain this communal life and satisfy their needs started from small towns and villages. They were expressed spatially in a central open space of the village, named square of Sycamore (πλατεία του Πλατάνου). (Ananiadou-Tzimopoulou & Karadimou-Gerolimpou, 2009)

These gradual endeavors for freedom ended up in the **liberation of Greece in 1821.** After being freed, the development of the independent Greek state through urbanization processes, foundation of new cities and the improvement of private and public urban spaces in the existing cities started. The reformation policies for urban spaces related to an anti-Ottoman ideology, trying so the 400-year domination to be forgotten. At the same time, the modern Greek state tried to connect with its more glorious past periods, such as the Byzantium and ancient years. Generally speaking, this whole-time period is characterized by the need for development of national conscience and completion of the Geek physiognomy. Concurrently, the Greek authorities wanted to be connected with the civilized Europe and cause a breach with the Eastern world, in which they belong for so many years. In this regard, they tried to adopt to the Western urban and planning ideals by introducing two types of squares: the existing open spaces readjusted in the new urban data and the ex nihilo (a Latin phrase means "creation out of nothing") squares in new cities or areas based on the dictates of the Western urban planning. (Ananiadou-Tzimopoulou & Karadimou-Gerolimpou, 2009; Mantouvalou, 1989)

Figure: The square of Sycamore is a characteristic Greek example of public spaces, which is met mainly to traditional villages. As a type of public space was organized during the Ottoman domination. It constituted a way of reinforcement of the communal life of the Greek citizens. | **Source:** http://www.kathimerini.gr/858698/article/ta3idia/sthnellada/naypaktos-kokkina-ayga-kai-prasina-nera, access: 09/10/2017 (edited by author)

Figure: Aristotele's square in Thessaloniki. Thessaloniki embraced urban planning models from the Ecole des Beaux Arts | **Source:** http://www.torhotelgroup.gr/blog/excelsior/aristotelous-square-history/, access 09/10/2017 (edited by author)

This borrowing of urban and planning ideals continued also in the **second decade of the 20th century.** The affected by the war Greek cities embraced urban planning models from the Ecole des Beaux Arts of Paris or the Italian rationalism. The most characteristic example of this practice is the city of Thessaloniki, the second biggest city of Greece. But during the years **1922-23** the planning and design priorities changed abruptly because of the intense urbanization that the arrival of more than one million refugees caused in the Greek cities. The pronounced requirements for housing led the public space to be the leftover open space between the buildings. (Ananiadou-Tzimopoulou & Karadimou-Gerolimpou, 2009)

Almost the same practice was followed, after **World War II and the Civil War (**1940-1949) due to the extreme and without regulations urbanization. At that period, non-remarkable spatial and urban plans were proposed, limiting only in recommendations for a primary street network and neglecting so the design of public space. Simultaneously, the built-up of the cities centers relied mostly on private initiatives and the logic of the maximum appropriation of the land. As a consequence, a disproportion between built and unbuilt environment occurred. Moreover, during that period more and more people moved to the cities creating the need for more houses and workplaces. As the biggest part of the cities was already built, urban sprawl started to pave over countryside, forests etc. This uncontrolled expansion of the most cities caused a secret, unaccountable and indissoluble deal between the users and the responsible authorities. Encroachment, arson of forests and their direct parcellation elaborated as a common belief that the arbitrariness («αυθαιρεσία») at the public space is justified, especially on account of arbitrary buildings' legalization. This kind of procedures in combination with the current legitimization of public space's occupation by private amenities consolidated gradually the monolithic patron-client interdependence between the users and the politicians, bringing about an inevitable and complicated corruption in the country. All these changes that happened during the previous years, were accumulated and became really apparent during the afterwar baby boom (1947-1965). Throughout this period an overall change in the scale was observed, effecting mainly the public space. The aesthetic degradation of the urban environment, the loss of view and perspective, the disappearance of green and the traffic boost converted many public spaces in interchanges. (Ananiadou-Tzimopoulou & Karadimou-Gerolimpou, 2009; Kostas Theologou & Veneti, 2011)

Figure: During 1922-23, the need for housing the refugees led public space to be neglected | **Source:**http://www.efsyn.gr/arthro/anepithymitoi-prosfyges, access 09/10/2017 (edited by author)

Summing up, the historic flashback in the development of Greek public space reveals that it was a significant part of Greek people's life and they were highly connected with it. The Greek public space embodied dynamically the political function, the urban activities and the experiences of the residents. Especially, during difficult periods, such as the Ottoman domination, it helped the communal life to be reinforced and served as a connector of the Greek society. Namely it was the place, where people were attached to other native people, reminding them their identity and developing a sense of belonging. Unfortunately, this relationship between Greek people and public space was gradually lost for

ANTIQUITY

Ancient agora and the Greek polis are considered as important prototypes of democratic public space. (Low & Smith, 2013)

12TH TO THE END OF 17TH CENT. VENETIAN DOMINATION

Almost all the coastlines and the Greek islands were under Venetians' control. As a result, many island cities were developed according to the city models and traditions of these Mediterranean conquers.

END OF 17TH CENTURY TO 1821 OTTOMAN DOMINATION

Apart from the islands, Ottoman victory was expanded in the rest of Greece, which was under Ottomans control for approximately 400 years. For that reason, Greek citizens tried to reinforce their communal life by establishing squares for their social actions.

1821 LIBERATION OF GREECE

The reformation policies for the urban spaces of the Greek independent state related to an anti-Ottoman ideology. Concurrently, the Greek authorities wanted to be connected with the civilized Europe. So, they tried to adopt to the Western urban and planning ideals by introducing two types of squares: the existing open spaces which readjusted in the new urban data and the ex nihilo public spaces.

various reasons, as it was described above. What is not pointed so much though, is that the formation and reformation of the Greek urban environment based on Western ideals, did not take into consideration the needs and the desires of the natives. Consequently, the deficiency of public spaces founded on the socio-cultural background and needs of Greek population may be another reason why Greeks disconnected from the public space and attached more to cafeterias. In the end, the dereliction of designing public spaces, principally in the end of 20th century might lead also this gradual shutdown.

2ND DECADE OF 20TH CENTURY

The affected by the war Greek cities embraced urban planning models from the Ecole des Beaux Arts of Paris or the Italian rationalism. But during the years 1922-23 the planning and design priorities changed abruptly because of the intense urbanization that the arrival of more than one million refugees caused.

WORLD WAR II & THE CIVIL WAR

None remarkable spatial and urban plans were proposed, limiting only in recommendations for a primary street network and neglecting so the design of public space. A disproportion between built and unbuilt environment occurred.

TODAY

AFTERWAR BABY BOOM

An overall change in the scale was observed, effecting mainly the public space. The aesthetic degradation of the urban environment, the loss of view and perspective, the disappearance of green and the traffic boost converted many public spaces in interchanges.

3.2d _ The public space in Greece of today

a] privatization of public space

In view of the disconnection between people and public space, many Greek planners and designers started trying to change the existing situation. Urban redevelopments have already proposed since 80's, but only few were successful. So, the last years the concern about public space came back to the fore in the general context of questioning the improvement of life in the cities. The financial crisis that Greece faces since 2008, becomes worse day by day contributing to the turn of Greek scholars towards the importance of public space. In the first national conference for public space, titled "Seeking for public space", Tasos Kanoklidis (2011), the chair of Technical Chamber of Greece, Department of Central Macedonia mentions:

> *[...] in an urban environment of uncontrollable commercialization, where everything is subjects of stocktaking and negotiation, we are demanding the public free space. [...] In a country, which allows the arbitrariness against public space, preferring to receive fines rather than protect it, we prove how important the organized public space is. (Konaklidis, 2011, p. 1)*

Regarding this, the motivation of the project relates to the current function of political Greek system and how it is dealing with the organization and configuration of public space. Specifically, cafeterias, which occupy intensively a big part of public spaces, such as squares, parks or sidewalks, limit by far the public free space leading to extreme privatization. Except for many Greek researchers being concerned about this kind of privatization, many media publications

Figure: Media publications for the different aspects of the problematic use and quality of the Greek public space | **Source:** various newspaper's websites (edited by author)

point out the encroachment of public spaces by coffee tables. As it was mentioned above, what is noteworthy is the fact that this trespass is legalized by the local authorities to receive fines. In that context, Kostas Theologou and Anastasia Veneti discuss about the negative effects of the patron-client pattern of the Greek political system, which developed gradually the Greek mentality of disrespect towards public space, "[...] disrespect on behalf of the user, citizen, businessman or politician." (Kostas Theologou, 2014; Kostas Theologou & Veneti, 2011, p. 83) As Theologou states, this disrespect of all users results in a

> *unspoken, lawless and clandestine agreement between users and local authorities on encroaching upon public land. [...] the political corruption due to an exchanging and patron-client interdependence for doing business in Greece [...] cultivate the self-interest and the wealth of political bunch and administrators of the public space and the rest of the state's common wealth and goods. (Kostas Theologou, 2014, pp. 84-85)*

Hence, one basic problem that Greece should confront is this extravagant "legal-illegal" privatization of public space mainly by the coffee and food culture retail amenities. The economic-driven strategies to make a city competitive and to attract more investments, tourists and employees, result in the politicians and designers forgetting many times the needs and the desires of local people. "In sake of profit, it is forgotten that the public space belongs to everyone." ("Under the coffee tables, there is a square", 2013)

Last but not least, even though it is undeniable that cafeterias play an important role in the sociability, liveability and the economic vitality of an area, because of their strong existence and the way that they function more and more public spaces are privatized and become greatly commercially-oriented. This situation limits those who may enter the place on the one hand and excludes many others on the other hand. This exclusion does not only refer to economic reasons, but also accessibility and interest-driven ones. As Carr (1992) supports in such cases the access is restricted most of the time owing to the design of the public space or/ and the management policy that modern times obey. (Carr et al., 1992) Concerning modern time and public space, Ray Oldenburg (1989) states:

> *The modern urban environment accommodates people as players of unifunctional roles. It reduces people to clients, customers, workers and commuters, allowing them little opportunity to be human beings. It constricts and constrains. One place allows for one kind of activity and in the name of efficiency (for whom?) it discourages other kind of activities. (Oldenburg, 1989, p. 207)*

b] absence of people

The present-day transformation of people into clients, customers, workers and commuters redound partially to the absence of people in officially defined public spaces, such as squares and parks. More specifically, the high concentration of people in cafeterias, bars and taverns during their free time creates great differences in the liveness of the different parts of the city. Some urban areas are vibrant almost the whole day, even late in the evening, while in others the absence of people is prominent. In most cases, if there are not leisure and commercial uses, public spaces are almost empty during the whole day or just serve as transition points. It can be said that this fact is correlated to the lack of attractiveness. The activity attraction is a significant factor in order a place to be visited, according to the answers of Chania's local people. 9% of them mentioned that the fact that there is any attractor in public spaces is one reason why they don't use them.

Attractiveness is another term which is corelated with the appropriation of public space and not associated only with the land uses, but as many designers believe, an attractive public space is related to aesthetics. Particularly, they believe that the visual identity of public spaces plays an important role for their success. Based on that opinion, they often use globalized successful prototypes of public spaces, forgetting totally the locality and the relevance of the design to a community's certain lifestyle. Designers in collaboration with their clients may focus more on "[...] their desire to make a strong visual statement with good design." (Carr et al., 1992, p. 18) Aesthetics and visual identity though, constitute only a parameter of the qualities that an appropriate urban public design should have. The other parameters that make a place to be good and function properly in shake of people and public good will be described in chapter 6, in the theoretical framework. The too much concentration of Greek designers to visual identity and the adoption of globalized successful examples may be another reason why Greek public spaces are vacant. Therefore, it is a characteristic of Greek history and mentality to use foreign plan models, which do not fit in country's culture and citizens' needs.

The no-serving of Greek people's needs and the no-correlation between the new-designed public spaces and the Greek culture can be justified in part by a survey on the "quality of life in European cities" conducted by TNS Opinion at

Figure: Omonia square in Athens, a characteristic example of unsuccessful design due to government's changes to the initial proposal | **Source:** http://blog.tresorhotels.com/, access: 02/11/2017

the request of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy. The survey took place in 79 European cities and 4 Greater cities, in 32 different European countries and one of the subjects that measures, is the level of citizens' satisfaction with public and green spaces. (TNS opinion,2016)

As far for the Greek context, three of the eighty-three cities are Greek and all of them are in the bottom six position in the public space satisfaction rankings. Athens, the capital of Greece is in the bottom of the list, concentrating the astonishing percentage of 64% of unsatisfied citizens. The Greater Athens area (51%) and Heraklion (50%) are on the fifth and sixth bottom positions respectively. Furthermore, another subject analyzed, is the citizens' satisfaction regarding green spaces – parks, gardens-. Again, the three Greek cities are in the bottom six position in the green spaces satisfaction rankings. Athens masters for another time the last position in the list with a great percentage of 70%. Heraklion (69%) and the Greater Athens area (56%) are on the sixth and third bottom positions respectively. (TNS opinion,2016, p.55-60, p.134-138) Taking this representative sample into consideration, it can be concluded that Greece is probably the European country with the lowest level of satisfaction regarding public and green spaces.

c] ghettoization of public space

The dissatisfaction of Greek citizens regarding public and green spaces according to what was mentioned before can relate to the no serving of Greek people's needs and the no connection between the new-designed public spaces and the Greek socio-cultural background. Besides, the refugee movements that afflict Greece very often, influence people's perception for public space. During these periods, a great majority of public spaces are conquered by refugees. However, apart from the refugees, many media publications highlight that generally many squares are squatted by minor social groups, such as immigrants, homeless, drug dealers etc. Their presence develops emotions of unsafety, fear and exclusion, especially during night. In the case of Chania, even though that more than the half respondents (68%) feel safe in the city, the third outstanding reason for which locals do not want to go to public space is because many marginalized groups are there.

In addition to the field work, the TNS's survey comes to support similar opinions. In particular, Athens and Greater Athens are the main cities, in which citizens believe that the presence of foreigners poses a problem for their city. In both cases 53% of the residents supports this statement, while in Heraklion the situation is quite different. Only 35% of people supports it in 2016, as there has been an increase of 17 points since 2012. An increase was also achieved in Athens and Greater Athens by 15 points since 2012. As far as the integration of foreigners in the city is concerned, people from Athens and Greater Athens believe that foreigners are not integrated in their cities by 75%, while citizens of Heraklion have almost a different opinion, as a percentage of 49% thinks that foreigners are integrated in the city life. (TNS opinion,2016,

p.76-83)

While the refugee movements are not a new phenomenon that Greece should face, extreme events of social and physical exclusion, such as ghettos were never observed. In that point, it must be mentioned that ghettos do not exist in Greece, at least in the sense that they exist in USA, but for reasons of terminology the notions ghetto and ghettoization will be used in the present thesis. In the Greek version, the term ghetto is associated mainly with the neighborhoods where the shacks of Roma exist. There, the living conditions are miserable and the Greek citizens, having gipsy origins are socially and physically excluded by the rest urban setting and people. But generally speaking the ghetto in the Greek context relates mainly to exclusion, social, economic, physical or other. ("The five ghettos of Athens", 2005)

Alike the ghettos of the neighborhoods with Roma shacks, refugee districts which were developed after the destruction of Minor Asia, were representative examples of ghettos in the past. The inadequacy of specific measures to confront such kind of needs that occurred in different chronological periods lead until nowadays to the problematic integration of minor social groups in the Greek society and the urban environment. So, the current arriving and the overall increase of immigrants and refugees, largely from the Eastern countries, all that aside pose a problem in the function of a healthy public life. (Thoma & Makri, 2016) The public life is more influenced by the fact that these groups concentrated in squares and sometimes parks of the cities. Their choice to be gathered in these public spaces, even many times central ones may be correlated to the fact that there are not other people there and obviously to their need to be somewhere. The absence of local people gives them the opportunity to feel more wel-

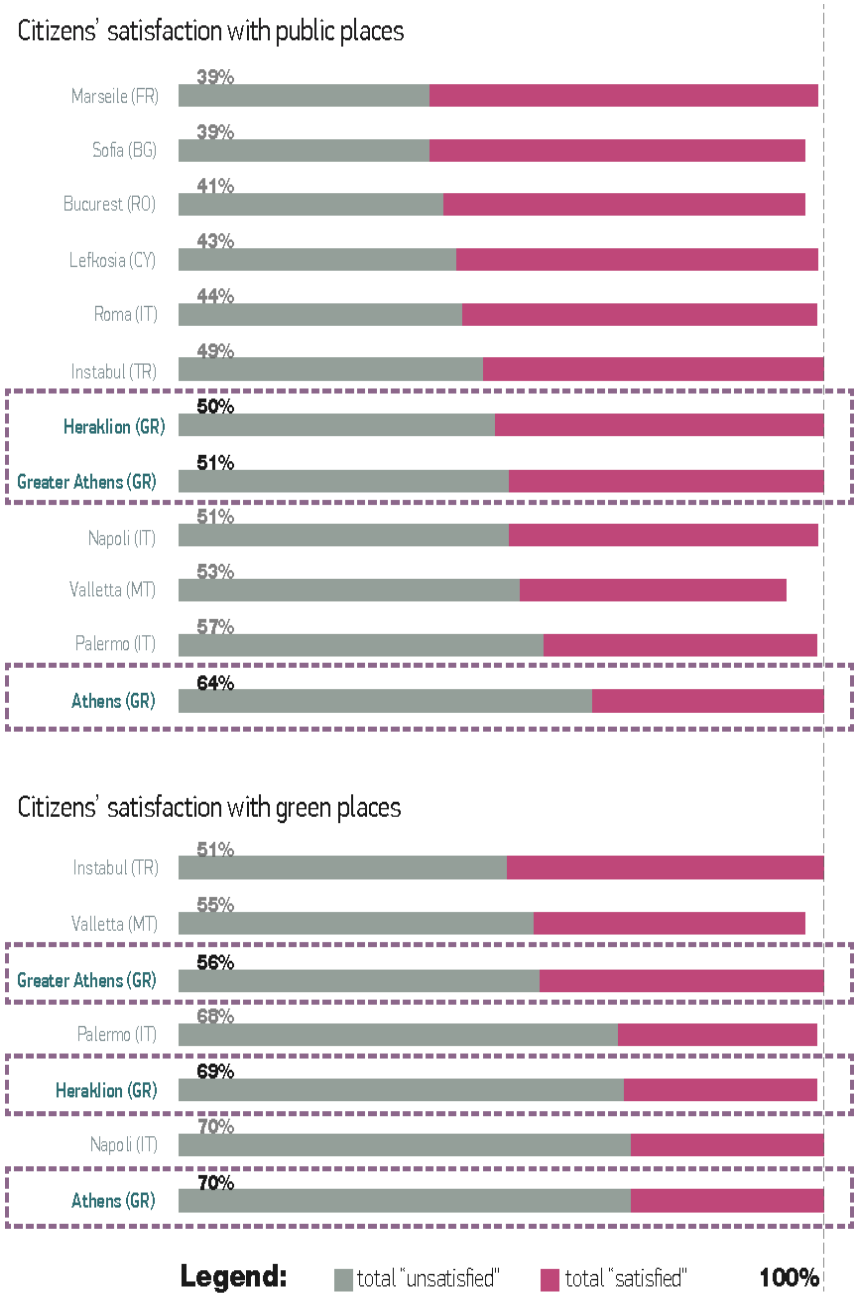


Figure: Survey on the"quality of life in European cities" by TNS | **Source:** TNS, 2016, p. 55-60, p.134-138 (edited by author)

Figure: The word ghetto is not used in Greece with the same meaning as in USA. In the Greek version, the term ghetto is associated mainly with the neighborhoods where the shacks of Roma exist. Generally, ghetto in the Greek context relates mainly to exclusion, social, economic, physical or other | **Source:** https://www.vice.com/gr/article/ypzqww/vice-specials-on-ant1-mora-pros-polisi-2, access: 09/01/2018 (edited by the author)

come and safe to that places, since conflicts are more difficult to be developed.

3.2e _ Problem's triptych conclusions

In conclusion, despite it seems that the modern Greek public space has to confront three or even more problems, the privatization, the absence of people and ghettoization are matters that are interrelated to each other. They are not three separate problems, but they compose the triptych of privatization, desolation and ghettoization, which is highly associated with the current problematic function of Greek public space. Although every aspect of the triptych effect in a way or another the other aspects, what all have in common is that they cause some kind of exclusion.

In a society where concepts such as democracy, social interaction, cohesion, and safety are regarded important, the fact that not all the inhabitants of cities benefit from the existing public spaces is open to dispute. There are social groups with limited access to them, regarding physical, economical or interest-driven exclusion. Especially, during the recession the economic weakness of more and more citizens and the damage of the living environment due to lack of financial means for its maintenance result in the degradation of city and public life. The last decades notably, many parts of the city are considered inapproachable, undesirable and unsafe, contributing to social exclusion, poor social interaction, moderate level of safety and low quality of public or/ and private amenities.

3.3 THE CASE: CHANIA, CRETE

Figure: Medium sized cities are more defective as for the use and quality of their public space. Chania as a meidum sized city will be used as the case study of the current thesis | **Source:** made by author

3.3a _ Reasons for case study choice

The situation described in the general context affects more or less all the cities of Greece, but medium-sized ones are more defective, since not so much attention is paid for their imageability and promotion in the globalized world in comparison to Athens and other big Greek cities.

Chania, as a medium-sized city is appropriate as case study. Since every city has its special features, Chania can be characterized as one of the most touristic cities in Greece with a great historical background. As the climate of the island of Crete is mild with average temperatures to range from 11°C in January to 26°C in July and August, the touristic period lasts approximately six months. It starts from March and ends in October.

The city is a formation of different time periods by different conquers. This fact fits to what was mentioned before about the majority of Greek public spaces, which were not designed according to the socio-cultural background and needs of local people. Further, the touristic side of the city impacts on its orientation towards the attractiveness of tourists and not so much of locals. Chania's authorities try to be competitive and attract more visitors, as the other cities of the island are also touristic. So, they investigate more in private retail amenities, especially cafes, bars, taverns and restaurants than in public space. This economic-driven policy has as a result quite a lot of the public spaces of the city to be more for tourists or be neglected.

Apart from the above-mentioned reasons, the selection of this city is also a personal motivation, as I have studied and lived there for five years. I believe that Chania have the ideal features and qualities to be transformed in an attractive city for tourists, its inhabitants and the immigrants who live there.

Figure: The island of Crete, the biggest island of Greece and the five main cities along the north part of the coastline. Starting from the west side, the cities namely are: Chania, Rethymnon, Heraklion , Agios Nikolaos and Sitia | **Source:** http://www.josstravel.net/index3d.html, access: 29/03/2018 (edited by author)

Figure: Map of the city of Chania| **Source:** google earth (edited by author)

3.3b _ Introduction

Chania is an important waterfront city in the north-west side of Crete, the biggest island of Greece. It is the second biggest city of the island and the capital of the regional unit of Chania. The city of Chania (municipal unit) is inhabited by around 50.000 residents, while the municipality has approximately 109.000 inhabitants, according to the 2011 census. (Hellenic Statistical Authority,2011). As far as its touristic identity is concerned, since 2013 it is visited by approximately 950.000 tourists every year. ("Chania's record of tourists' arrivals – Which local products do they buy?", 2017) It allocates two main gates: the airport in Akrotiri and the port of Souda, the biggest natural harbor of Mediterranean. As for its historical background, Chania has a long history, as a crossroad of civilizations and a mixture result of different architecture's influences due to various conquers. (Municipality of Chania, n.d.)

3.3c _ Historical development of the city

Beginning with the **prehistoric times** (3rd - 2nd millennium BC), it is known that the ancient city was built in the slope of Castelli, but there is not enough information for this period. During the **1st Byzantium period** (3rd century AC – 823 AC), the slope of Castelli continued to have a dominant place in the city. At the same time though, the city started to expand to the coast because of trading with other cities. During this period, the Byzantium wall was also erected around Castelli. Afterwards, the **Arabs arrived in the city** (823-961 AC), but there are not sufficient archaeological clues for their domination. During the **2nd Byzantium period** (961-1252 AC), a try towards population reinforcement,

administrative reorganization and construction of fort projects accomplished. (Andrianakis, 1997)

The **Venetian domination** followed (1252-1645), constituting the most important historical era of the city, since during this period many changes in the urban fabric of the city, still visible today, occurred. Progressively, the city started to expand out of the Byzantium wall, developing housing areas for the lower social classes. The inner city was inhabited mainly by Catholics, while the countryside by Orthodox, proving that there were national and religious conflicts between them. Moreover, this period was characterized by many architectural and urban projects. Specifically, the construction of new fortresses had as a consequence the reformation of the city street plan of the districts out of the slope of Castelli. The new wall's form was rectangular, following parallelly the rocky coastline and ending up in the port sea wall with the lighthouse. The whole wall construction was surrounded by trench. Additionally, more projects were developed, such as the improvement of the city port, in terms of purification, deepening and reinforcement of the port sea wall, the construction of seventeen old arsenals, improvement of the network of water system and the repair and extension of the underground water reservoir in Splantzia. (Andrianakis, 1997)

At some point during the Venetian domination, **Ottomans expressed their desire to conquer the island of Crete**, due to its leading position for the control of the Mediterranean. Thus, in 1645 they invade the city (1645-1850), provoking new changes in Chania. Initially, most of the Christian temples converted into mosques and most Ottomans live in Castelli and Splantzia, areas that constituted their administrative and religious base. The only Christian district was

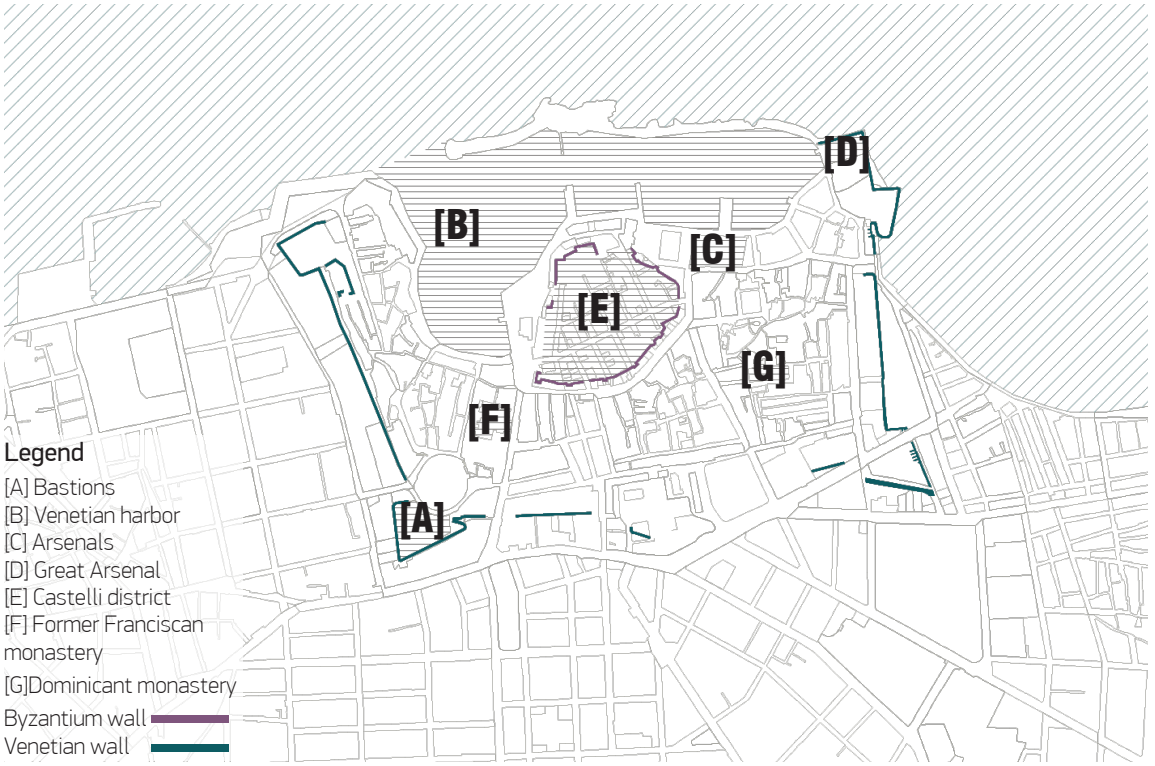


Figure: The visible parts of the walls of the Byzantium period and the Venetian domination in the modern city. Some important buidlings and areas based o the Venetian map of 1625 by G. Comer | **Source:** made by author

Topanas, in the west of the city, and a small part of Splantzia. After some years of domination, mosques, hammams and public fonts were constructed. Some remain in the modern city, as for example the Mosque of Janissaries (now exhibition hall), the minaret of Splantzia, a minaret in the street Chatzimichali Ntaliani and some hammams and public fonts, as well. Generally, during the Ottoman domination a few new buildings were raised, but a tendency towards the change of use of the existing ones was observed. Throughout the first period of Ottoman domination, the city limited inside the Venetian walls, whilst afterwards it expanded in Chalepa. (Andrianakis, 1997)

In **1878**, the agreement of Chalepa was signed and Christians gained more privileges than before. This is the **period of Cretan State**, when diplomatic offices and troops from Europe established in Chania. For that reason, the city needed an expansion. So, it expanded out of the walls along the axis of the street Nearchou. Chalepa and Lentariana were the two main districts that developed and constituted signs of prestige in the city. As for the architecture, the buildings of this period were characterized by a neoclassical tendency and a revival of Venetian architectural elements. In general, attempts towards the modernization of the city were made, by demolishing old wooden buildings, widen-

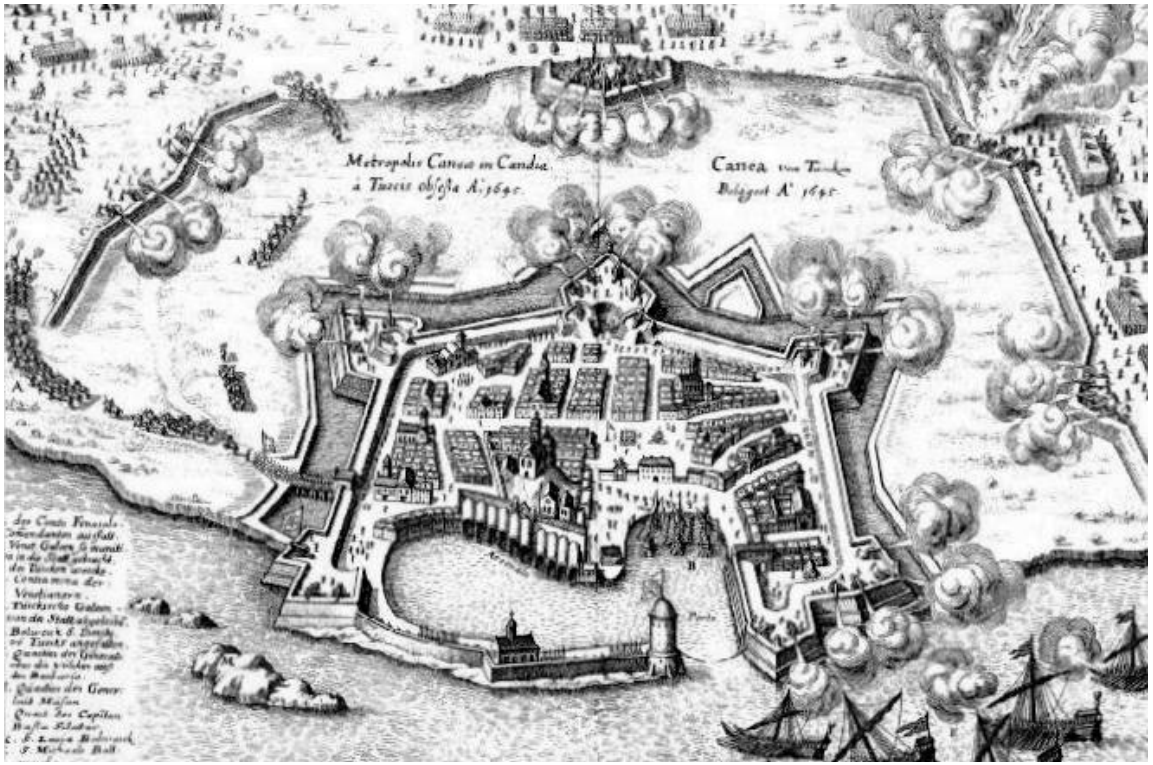


Figure: Chania under the Ottoman siege in 1645, Matthaeus Merian from the edition Theatrum Europaeum 1670 | **Source:** http://mavrogeni.blogspot.nl/, access: 03/11/2017

ing and modernizing squares and tearing down parts of the historic walls to construct streets. Following these guidelines, the breastworks and the main gate of the walls were also demolished, so as the Municipal Market and more open public spaces to be constructed. (Andrianakis, 1997)

The **last invaders** of the city were the **Germans**, who invaded the city in 1941. Of all the conquers, it was those who destroyed the city in a high degree. For example, Splantzia and Castelli was two areas that were almost totally ruing, as the major public and administrative Ottoman and Venetian buildings where there. Mainly due to these disasters, a new city street plan was required to cover the needs of Germans. This plan aimed to demolish a great number of monuments and houses and it was disastrous for the areas, in which it was applied. (Andrianakis, 1997)

All these changes and demolishment led **in 1965 to the recognition of the old town of Chania as a monument.** Another Cretan city, Heraklion was characterized as monument. Since then, the first attempts started to preserve and highlight the old town based on its history, a difficult task because Germans eradicated a great part of it. (Andreadaki- Vlazaki, 2010) Specifically, with the designation of the old town of Chania and Heraklion as historical preserved monuments, the Ministry of Culture has begun a number of redevelopment projects and actions. Even though, in Heraklion the projects started almost immediately since 1970, in Chania the actions remained further behind. The reason why is the costly tries of the Ministry of Culture to regain the public space from private individuals, who trespassed on it. (Andrianakis, 2013)

Figure: The old harbor and generally the old town of Chania are recognized as heritage monuments of the city. | **Source:** photograph by author

PREHISTORIC TIMES

The ancient city was built in the slope of Castelli, but there is not enough information for this period

3D CENTURY AC- 823 AC
1ST BYZANTIUM PERIOD

The slope of Castelli continued to have a dominant place in the city. At the same time though, the city started to expand to the coast because of trading with other cities.

961 - 1252 AC
2ND BYZANTIUM PERIOD

A try towards population reinforcement, administrative reorganization and construction of fort projects accomplished.

1252 - 1645
VENETIAN DOMINATION

Many changes in the urban fabric of the city, still visible today, occurred. Progressively, the city started to expand out of the Byzantium wall, developing housing areas for the lower social classes. The inner city was inhabited mainly by Catholics, while the countryside by Orthodox.

1645 - 1850

OTTOMAN DOMINATION

Most of the Christian temples converted into mosques and most Ottomans live in Castelli and Splantzia, areas that constituted their administrative and religious base. The only Christian district was Topanas, in the west of the city, and a small part of Splantzia.

1878

CRETAN STATE PERIOD

Diplomatic offices and troops from Europe established in Chania. For that reason, the city needed an expansion. So, it expanded out of the walls along the axis of the street Nearchou. Chalepa and Lentariana. the buildings of this period were characterized by a neoclassical tendency and a revival of Venetian architectural elements.

1941

GERMAN INVADERS

Germans destroyed the city in a high degree. For example, Splantzia and Castelli was two areas that were almost totally ruing, as the major public and administrative Ottoman and Venetian buildings where there. Mainly due to these disasters, a new city street plan was required to cover the needs of Germans.

TODAY

3.3d _ The city of Chania nowadays

Since 1965, the old town of Chania or old harbor as it is called is the main focus of the Municipality's plans in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture. Their main goal is the historic part of the city to be integrated to the UNESCO's monuments. (Andrianakis, 2013) In the same breath, old town is the primmest touristic attraction of the whole city. In that sense, a big part of it is turned towards leisure and commercial uses, such as cafes, restaurants, hotels and souvenir shops. This spatial dominance of these specific amenities has as a result not only the impingement of public space due to their extension to the outdoor space, but also makes some local people not feel welcome in very touristic-oriented areas. According to the opinion of a 23-year-old university student: *in Chania, there are many nice public places to spend time with your friends, but unfortunately, they are mostly for tourists. So, there is no place for us to go.* On the contrary, a 64-year old woman mentioned: *Chania has many places to go and various sceneries to see. It is really a beautiful city to live. Almost every day, I walk from my home to the waterfront. I sit here to take delight in the sea. Generally, I avoid walking alone during night, but when tourists are in the city I feel safer and I stay outside longer.*

Regarding the impacts on public space, the touristic-driven organization of the city due to the Municipality's and the shopkeepers' goals combined with the Greek habit of spending much time in cafes resulting in the intense prolongation of cafes and restaurants in public space. It is reasonable so that many local newspapers draw attention to the intense privatization of public spaces in Chania. Particularly, in a local blog it is mentioned: *In Chania, the occupation of the public space by coffee tables,*

Figure: Different opinions about tourists by the interviewees. A university student supports that almost all the public spaces are for tourists and they don't have a place to go, while a 64-year old woman says that because of tourists, she feels safer in the city during night. **| Source:** made by author

counters, etc. is a huge problem. The sidewalks, the squares, the parks belong to the citizens and they are not the fiefdom of any mayor, shopkeeper or businessman. The Municipality of Chania is in charge. That's enough. The public space belongs to everyone.

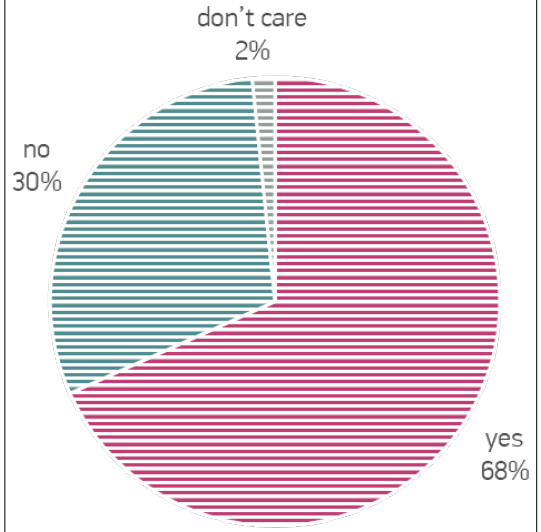
But except for the uncontrolled expansion of coffee tables in public space, the list of reasons why residents believe that public spaces in Chania are problematic, is really long. According to interviews' results, more than the half respondents (68%) believe that the existing public spaces in their city is highly flawed, referring twelve different explanations. These reasons namely are: 1) neglect of public space, 2) dirt, 3) marginalized groups, 4) not organized or not designed public spaces, 5) no activity attraction in public spaces, 6) privatization due to leisure and commercial uses, 7) lack of facilities, mentioning mainly benches and lighting, 8) lack of green spaces, 9) unsuitable spaces for children, 10) bad quality of the sidewalks in the city, 11) crowded public spaces by tourists and 12) neglect of monuments in public spaces. Most of the reasons pose a percentage between 9% and 3%. Four are the main reasons why local people find public spaces problematic in Chania, while only one is the most outstanding. Specifically, 10% of the respondents believe that public spaces are not well designed or organized. Further, 10% of them find existing public spaces problematic due to the presence of marginalized groups. 19% referred to the fact of dirt mentioning mainly the dog feces, while the highest percentage, 28% stated that the neglect of public space mainly due to the destroyed facilities and the deficient maintenance by the responsible authorities make public spaces in Chania be defective.

In this regard, these are some main reasons that local people of Chania prefer spending

Figure: Media publications about the problematic use of public space in Chania, privatization of public space and weak accessibility due to coffee tables | **Source:** various newspapers' websites (edited by author)

most of their time in private spaces (63%) than in public (37%). As for the adequacy of public spaces in the city, many respondents (29%) believe that there are a few public spaces in their city. 24% of them stated that there none or almost none, probably being critical in the quality and not the quantity of the existing public spaces. even though 35% supports that the city allocates a sufficient amount of public spaces. Besides, a percentage of 15% and 17% believes that the city allocates sufficient and many public spaces for its inhabitants respectively. More data about the interviews and observations considering the way Greek people use and experience public space will be presented in the chapter of Social Analysis.

Is public space problematic in Chania?
According to respondents



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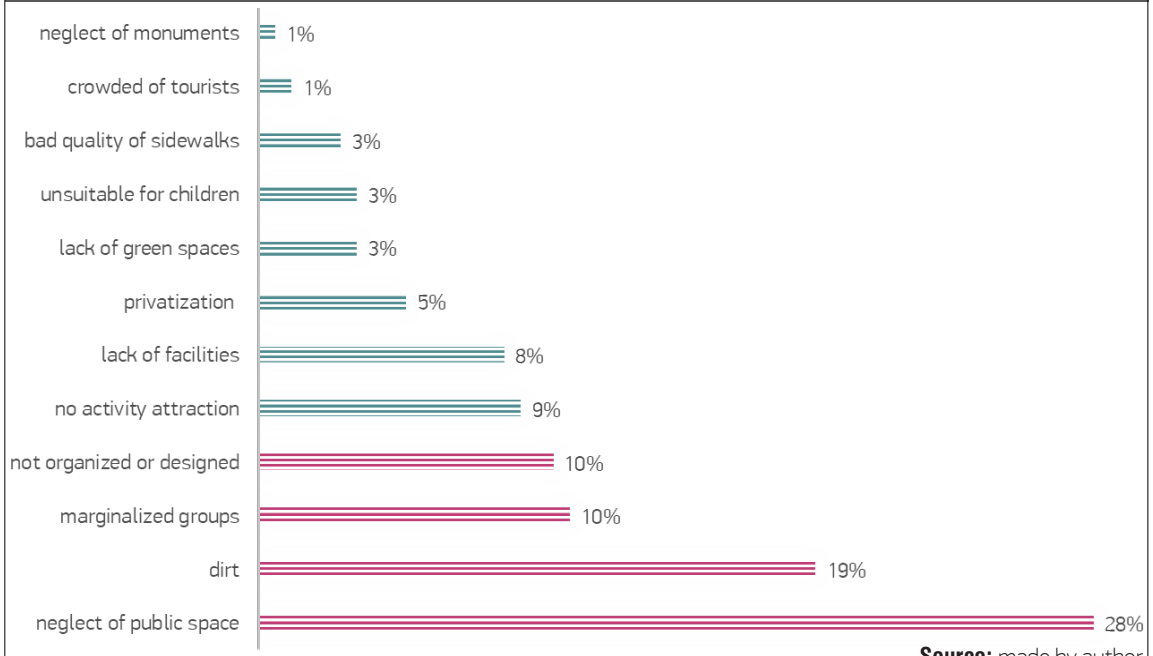
Reasons why local people consider public spaces problematic in the city of Chania



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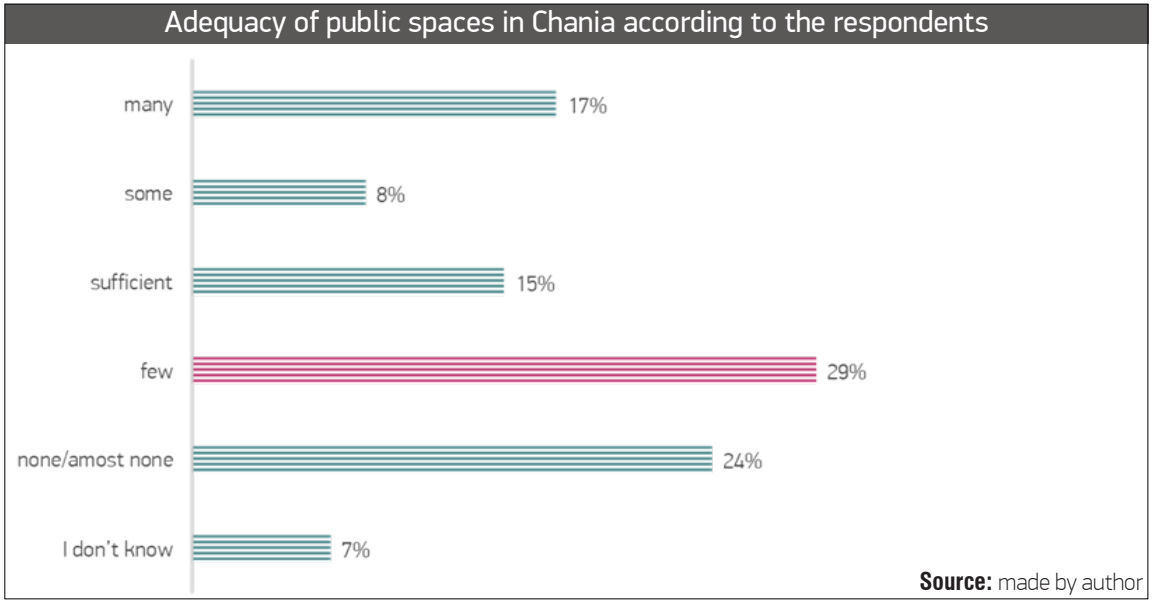
Adequacy of public spaces in Chania according to the respondents



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3.4 PROBLEM STATEMENT

Now that the general context of Greece and particularly Chania has been introduced based on the information obtained regarding public spaces, this thesis identifies the general problem and offers an analysis. The gist of the issue covered is the deficient function and the use of the Greek public spaces as resting points.

In case of Chania, in spite of the sufficient amount of public spaces it seems that the relationship between the physical environment and its users is not well-developed. Most spaces create the impression that they do not welcome all the user groups, while at the same time a lack of social interaction occur. This is a consequence of the limited program and opportunities that public spaces offer, since they are not planned to cover the special needs of the various social and user groups. Apart from the inappropriate design of public spaces, their current use is correlated with the extravagant privatization of public space, especially by the retail amenities of the coffee and food culture, the absence of people in existing officially defined public spaces or/and the ghettoization of certain places.

Hence, the general problem this thesis is dealing with is the problematic use and poor quality of the existing public staying spaces in Chania. Many of them are extreme privatized, causing problems of accessibility and walkability, while others are not used at all or used by specific social groups developing urban voids or ghettos in the city. This existing defective Greek reality results in social exclusion and poor social interaction among different demographics, questioning the serving of needs of the different users.

Privatization of public space

Absence of people in public space

Ghettoization of public space

3.6 RESEARCH & SUB-RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Main research question

Relying on the previous chapters and mostly in the problem statement, the main research question this graduation thesis will answer through research and design is the following:

Which spatial interventions can improve the quality and reinforce the appropriation of public staying spaces, including the different user groups in Chania, based on their socio-cultural background and needs?

Sub research questions

In order to answer the main research question, a set of sub-research questions are needed. The sub-research questions which are going to be answered are the following:

a. How is the term public space defined in the present thesis?

b. Which parameters can influence the appropriation and the quality of public space in the Greek context? How can these parameters be converted into urban form?

c. Which user groups does the present thesis take into consideration? What are the needs of the different user groups in correlation to the use of public space?

d. Which parts of the public network of Chania are publicly-used? Which of them serve the needs of a given group and which of them can be improved?

e. Which are the spatial characteristics and patterns that can translate the needs and desires of the various user groups into an inclusive and attractive urban environment?

f. How can the socio-cultural background of Greek people be related to the physical form of public space and influence its design?

In the end, it must be mentioned that the sub-research questions are divided in two types which correlated to each other. From a to d the questions are more research-oriented, whilst the second part of the question b and the questions e and f are more design-oriented.

I think you can have a ridiculously enormous and complex data set, but if you have the right tools and methodology then it's not a problem.

Aaron Koblin

04

METHODOLOGY & TIMEFRAME

4.1 METHODOLOGY

This section includes and explains all the different methods which have been selected for the research of the present thesis. These methods are also translated into a diagrammatic scheme, explaining at the same time the order and interrelation among them.

Introduction

In order the main research question and sub -research questions to be answered several methods will be used and combined. Namely, a) literature review, b) interviews, c) observations, d) mapping, e) successful Greek examples f) online survey, probably g) a workshop and in the end h) the patterns. The different methods alone or in combination will be the guidelines to the whole process, leading in conclusions which will be catalysts for the design proposal.

a] Literature review

Literature review constitutes an important part of the research and relates to almost all the sub-research questions. Specifically, all the sub-research questions apart from the 4th and 6th are based mainly on literature review. The way in which the term public space is defined in the present thesis derives from different disciplines, such as sociology, politics and urbanism (sub-research question a). The investigation of the parameters that influence the appropriation and the quality of public space are analyzed according to three separate literature studies. In a chronological order, the first one is the study of William Whyte, the second by Stephen Carr and the third by a non-profit organization named Project for Public Space (PPS). (sub-research question b) As far as the needs of users in public space are concerned, various references in different books and papers are taken into consideration. (sub-research question c). Literature review is also noteworthy for the design part of the thesis. Based on the Pattern Language of Christopher Alexander, a translation of the needs and desires of the different users for an inclusive and attractive public space into form and spatial features is considered as appropriate. (sub-research question e)

b] Interviews

Interviews are an essential and interesting research method, so as to gain a better understanding of the residents' needs and opinions. Literature review is helpful, but not all of what is written fits the present-day situation and the different countries and cultures. Most of literature is referred to USA and Northern countries, while not so much investigation has been made for the Mediterranean and especially the Balkan countries. For example, in Greece, any try was never accomplished professionally and officially on observing and recording people's behavior in public space and generally in the urban environment.

In this regard, 132 people were interviewed in the city of Chania between 16th and 19th of October 2017. Specifically, 123 of them were locals, 6 of them were those who often are called as the "undesirables" such as homeless, drug-addicted, drunk people etc., 2 of them immigrants and only 1 of them, an American tourist. The initial goal of the interviews was to talk only with local people from different ages, including also the "undesirables" and immigrants. However, due to particular limitations, the initial aim was readjusted, since there were communication problems with the immigrants (most of them couldn't speak Greek, not even English) and issues of safety with the "undesirables". As for the results of the interviews, the statistical analysis for proportion reasons will take into consideration the 123 local people, without leaving aside the opinions of the rest.

Generally, seated people in public spaces were approached. Semi-structured questionnaires were used for answering specific questions and discussing further according to respondents' willingness to do so. The first question was about the places that they prefer to spend time with friends and/or relatives to see if the personal observation and experience about the attractiveness of Greek people in cafes is right or not and simultaneously to understand why they prefer each space. Further, they were asked about their opinion for the amount of their city's public spaces to visit, if they consider them problematic and why if so. Another question was about safety.

Concerning some kind of reflection in the questions, it can be stated that the question "Do you believe that public space in Chania is problematic?" probably guided the respondents unconsciously towards the statement that public space is problematic, but at the same time it gave stimulus for many people to talk about the way that public space functions in Greece. On the contrary of this question, another question was asked, "Which public spaces in Chania do you believe is the most success-

ful and you would like to spend time with your friends there?". This question was also helpful and served as a guideline to visit and observe places, which were not supposed to be included in the research from the beginning.

c] Personal observations

Observations, even though their meaning is a matter of subjective interpretation, constitute also an interesting research method to understand people's behavior in a specific area. This method put additional information to the interview's results. It helps to understand how people use the place and why some places are more successful than others. In combination with the literature review, the needs of the different user groups are revealed. (sub-research question c) What is important to be referred is how people use public space and behavior in it depend on the season, time and day, something that unfortunately it is not included to the current research, due to the distance from the case study, Chania and time's restrictions.

d] Mapping

Mapping is a tool and method which can be used to visualize the methods mentioned above (e.g. observations, literature etc.) and make them more understandable. It is also a way to organize yourself, as you go into the process of deciding what you need to map to support your subject. Via mapping you can also correlate different layers together, isolate layers, resulting in the reveal of interesting points that need to be researched further. For example, the sub-research question d is answered mainly through mapping by visualizing the observations, showing the different kind of public spaces, their success according to people's view etc. Further, the definition of the term public space can be also visualized and show the differences between the all accessible open spaces, the officially defined and the publicly-used.

e] Liveable Greek examples

Liveable Greek examples can be used in critical points during the process of design for inspiration, since the Greek examples can reveal existing successful solutions which can fit to the project and have a positive impact for the case of Chania. Moreover, by observing the spatial characteristics of each square, ideas for the design patterns can come up. As the focus of the design is based on the needs and the socio-cultural background mainly of Greek people, the examples will be derived only from Greek reality. Although, the center of attention is the Greek mentality and culture, this does not mean that other users, such as immigrants and tourists will be excluded. Ways to make Greek people use the public space and co-exist with other users will be investigated, as well. Further, another important criterion for the choice, is the size of the city, where they are, as the thesis focuses on medium-sized cities, or even small.

f] Online survey

After studying literature about the criteria for an attractive and qualitive public space and analyzing three different approaches, some of them were correlated to each other and combined. In that way, a personal approach of criteria/parameters was defined, including 16, divided in 4 main categories, comfort, accessibility, engagement and image/identity. Namely, 1) space to rest and relax 2) relief or access to sun, 3) natural elements, 4) sense of security, 5) interpersonal distance, 6) easily accessible, 7) walkable, 8) connected in a network, 9) legible, 10) sociability, 11) participation in activities, 12) triangulation, 13) observation, 14) land uses' program, 15) unique characteristics, 16) discovery/change. As the literature base was mainly for the USA, it was necessary to examine the 16 criteria according to the Greek mentality and culture. So, an online survey was conducted, asking in the first part for evaluation from 1 to 10 for the 16 parameters.

In the second part, after conducting some testing surveys and asking for feedback, for reasons of time consuming and interest's maintenance of the respondents, it was decided to combine some of the 16 criteria. The merger of some of them into one was made according to the author's personal interpretation based on the similarity of the context of these criteria. Thus, the respondents had to evaluate 10 of the 16 criteria in the four of the five testing locations. This part was focused more on the context of the square and not so much of the park. So, the four squares (Splantzia square, Market square, 1866 square and Metropolis square) were presented via a picture, excluding the testing location Alkistis Agorastaki's park. Besides, afterwards by reconsidering all the analysis and data, it was decided a focus only on the public space's type of squares. As a result, an evaluation for the existing situation of the 5th new testing location, Talos Square was missing

Based on the presenting image of each square, 10 parameters for each image were evaluated again from 1 to 10. Namely, 1) space to rest and relax, 2) natural elements (combined with the relief or access to sun of the category physical comfort), 3) sense of security (combined with the interpersonal distance of the category psychological comfort), 4) easily accessible (combined with the walkable and connected in a network of the category physical accessibility) 5) unique characteristics (combined with the legible), 6) social interaction, 7) participation in activities, 8) observation of other people (combined with triangulation of the category active/

passive engagement), 9) land uses' program and 10) possibility of discovery or change. The respondents were not only residents of Chania, but generally Greek people of different cities and mainly by medium-sized. The forwarding of the survey was accomplished by posting in the author's Facebook account and reposting by 10 friends, as well. Further, the survey was posted in two Facebook pages for the city of Chania, Χανιά: Ασχήμια ΠΟΥ ΕΓΙΝΕ συνήθεια (Chania: the ugliness which became a habit) and p_public.

g] Patterns

Although patterns belong as a method more to the design part, they constitute the bridge between research and design. The way in which they are defined in the present thesis is a result from literature review on pattern language in combination with the personal criteria for an inclusive and attractive public space. In this regard, the online survey plays a significant role on their definition and the conclusions from the study of successful Greek examples, as well. Patterns are a useful tool that offer the guidelines for the design, giving simultaneously the chance for alternative possibilities of design. In other words, patterns capture a main idea and make it applicable. However, patterns alone can not offer a solution to a problem, a combination of them is needed. A framework of patterns that can function in various combinations and in different scales is eventually a methodological link between the research and design.

g] Evaluation

In the end, after the overall process of research and design, evaluation and reflection on the results is needed. In this regard, two different evaluation methods were used: h1) a board game and h2) an online survey.

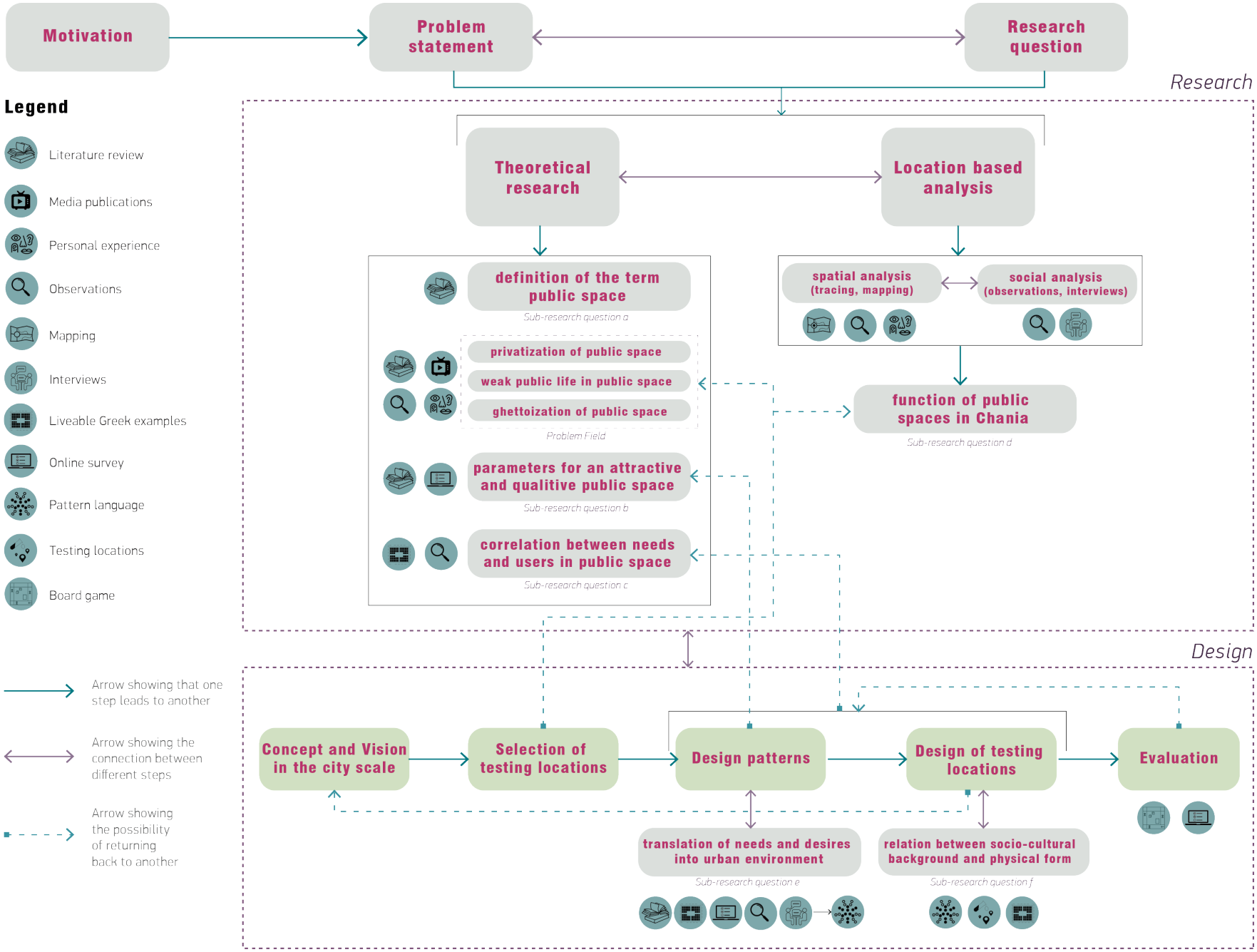
Starting with the board game, despite the fact it was used initially as a method for assessment of the design patterns and the possible design outcomes of the testing locations by people who are not specialists, it was proved also as a way of personal reflection during the process of construction of the game. More specifically, the board game has as an aim, the players to choose a specific number of patterns and answer also to questions regarding the design of the testing locations. In this regard, an evaluation of the most important patterns will be revealed and opinions about the designs will be heard. However, apart from their opinions, a person reflection on the design patterns were made in the attempt to reduce them for the better understanding by the players. This process of reducing and combining patterns was made in steps during the design and construction of the game and with some try-outs for checking its feasibility. Further, to come up with questions about the design of testing locations constituted another way of reflection of the designs. Concluding, the board game offered in an interactive and playful way a personal reflection and evaluation by other people, who are not specialist. While the first goal of this method was to play it with Greek people as representatives of locals and internationals as representatives of tourists, due to time limitations and the construction process, which lasted longer than expected, the results of the game focused only on Greek people.

As for the second method, an online survey was conducted again, asking Greek people for evaluation of the 10 criteria that they had to assess in the first survey for the existing situation of 4 squares (Splantzia square, Market square, 1866 square and Metropolis square). In this survey, using the same 1-10 rating scale, they had to evaluate the existing situation of the 5th testing location, Talos Square (added as a testing location after the first online survey) and the proposals of the five testing locations through an image-collage. By analyzing and comparing the results between the existing and proposing situation, it can be seen if there are improvements or aggravations in the 10 criteria for each testing location.

Explaining the methodology

After mentioning all the methods, which will be used a brief explanation of the organization and usage of the methods should be also described. Having as starting point the motivation of the project, the overall problem statement and the main research question were defined. Therefore, problem statement and the research question are two parts of the thesis that are highly interrelated to each other. In order to answer the main research question, the sub-research questions are divided in those of the research and those of the design. For both parts, the methodology is consisted of two principal parts, the literature review and the location-based analysis or location-based solutions.

As for the location-based analysis is divided also in two parts, the spatial analysis – tracing, mapping, personal experience- and the social analysis – interviews, observations, online survey -. The spatial analysis will provide information about the existing built environment: the land uses, the physical form and organization of the existing defined public spaces, their qualities and problems. The social analysis on the other hand will present the social features around the defined public spaces: the user groups, their needs, when and in which way they use the space and the opinions of local people about public space.



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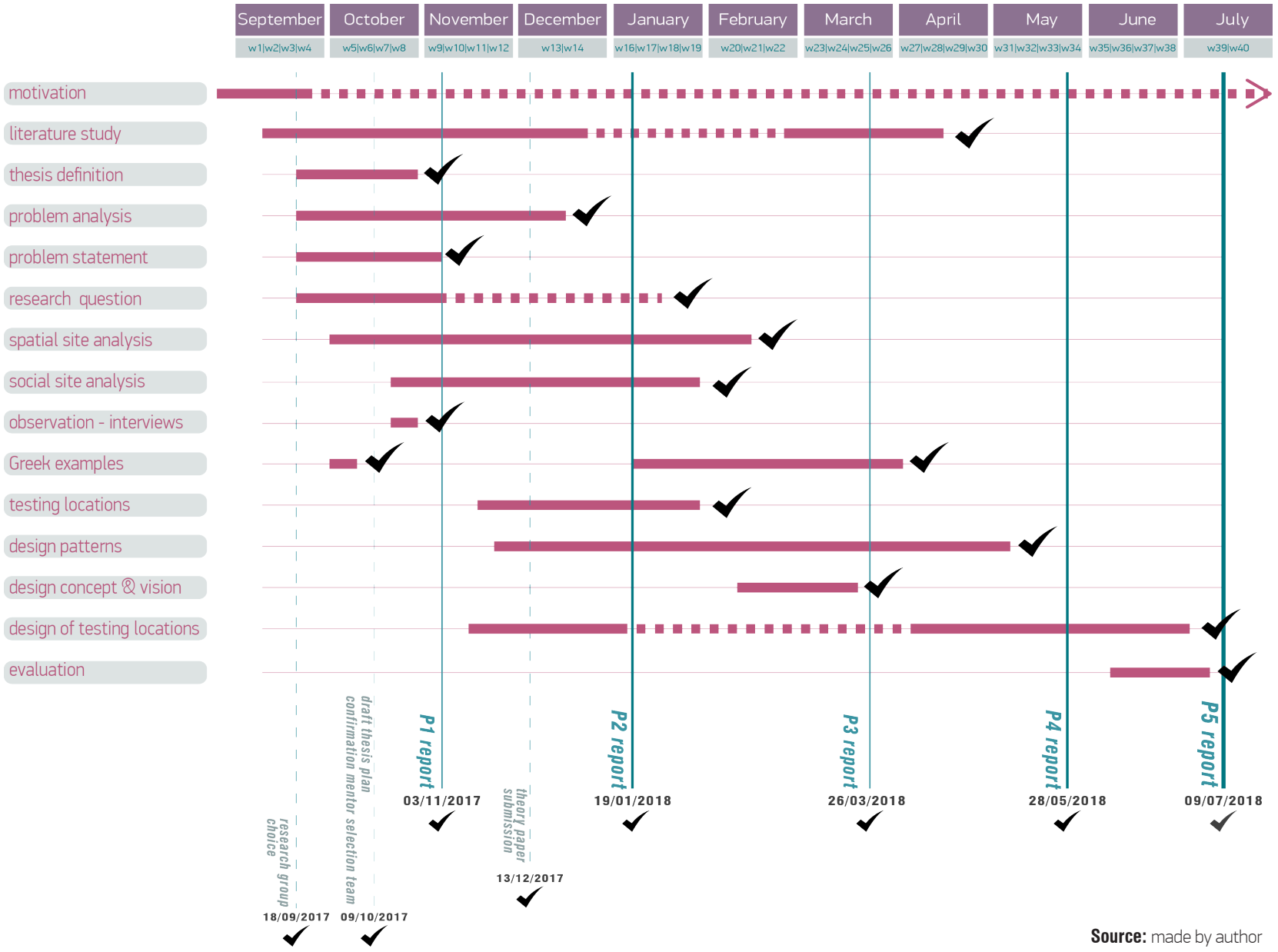
4.2 TIMEFRAME



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05 SOCIO-SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

Public space and public life are subjects that have concerned and still concern many researchers from different disciplines, since the value of public space in the everyday life of the inhabitants is really important. According to the research project commissioned under the Joseph Rowntree Foundation's Public Spaces Programme, "Public spaces play a vital role in the social and economic life of communities" In that context, the gradual degradation of public spaces can affect both the urban environment and the social life of citizens.

Nowadays and especially during a recession period not all the inhabitants of cities benefit from the existing public spaces. There are social groups with limited access to them, regarding physical, economical or interest-oriented dimension. Many parts of the city are considered inapproachable, undesirable and unsafe, contributing to social exclusion, poor social interaction, stigmatization, moderate level of safety and low quality of public or/ and private amenities. In that sense, although urbanism is a discipline which cannot touch deeply economic and social issues, it can provide alternatives and solutions for improvements based on social, cultural and economic notions. It is in urbanists' hands to reveal new approaches for public life no matter how difficult and complex some subjects maybe.

Especially in Greece, which first established the notion of democratic public space with the ancient agora and Greek polis to be significant prototypes of public space, the underutilization of public spaces does not only affect the social and economic life of cities and their citizens, but also the cultural and historical identity of the country. Greece is a country that was under the domination of many different invaders for many years and its citizens tried to reinforce their communal life and social cohesion through public spaces. So, public space was always an integral part of Greek people's life. Via the use of public space Greek people bind with each other, with their culture and history in difficult time periods, a fact that is in danger of becoming extinct due to the modern conditions of public space in Greece.

Although, some attempts towards the activation of public space started the last decades, especially in big cities, the problematic use of it is still present. Thus, a new more exact research on the topic may shed some light on the issue. Exploring the social and spatial reinforcement of public space in relation to the socio-cultural background and needs of Greek people, taking into consideration existing conflicts between public and private space, can contribute to Greek cities regaining their democratic public space in terms of the modern society.

Theory is splendid but until put into practice,
it is valueless.

James Cash Penney

06

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

6.1 CRITERIA FOR ATTRACTIVE & QUALITATIVE PUBLIC SPACES

Public space is an important part of people's every day life, even though optional nowadays. It constitutes the living room of the city, where different activities can happen, people can socialize and interact with each other. As it was mentioned above, it is characterized by three different values, the social, economic and environmental. (CABE, 2004; Carr et al., 1992; Gehl et al., 2006) But what makes a public space to be successful or feckless? Different authors and organizations try to investigate the parameters which influence the appropriation and the quality of a public space. In the current thesis, although three different sources will be used, they are correlated to each other and the more modern are influenced by the first approach. Namely, starting from the more modern one, the three approaches are the following: the approach of the Project for Public Spaces (PPS) organization, Stephen Carr's approach in his book Public space and William Whyte's observations in his book The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces.

William Whyte's approach

Starting from the first attempt to define the criteria that make some public spaces to work and others not, a reference to William Whyte's approach is made. Whyte's project lasted more than 25 years and through observations, surveys, interviews and workshops, he tried to find out the elements that make a public space flourishing and liveable. "Whyte describes how small urban spaces work and don't work. That is, what gives them life or kills them. What draws people. What keeps them out. [...] The sun is important. So are trees and water and food and, most of all seats." (Whyte, 1980, p. 7)

Firstly, Whyte make a mention to the life of plazas and after many interviews and observations, he concludes that the way that people experience and use the space can show if it is a good example or not. In that context, the best-used squares concentrate a higher percentage of couples than the less-used, the presence of people in groups is also an indicator of selectivity, the attendance of many women also proves that a place is successful. "Women are more discriminating than men as to where they will sit, more sensitive to annoyances." (Whyte, 1980, p. 18) Further, he supports that time plays also a significant role in the liveability of a place. For instance, "In the morning hours, patronages will be sporadic. [...] Things will start to liven up. Around noon the main clientele begins to arrive. [...] In mid and late afternoon, use is again sporadic." (Whyte, 1980, p. 18)Only if there is an exceptional event, the liveliness of the public space will last longer. Another factor that influences the vitality of place is the weather. But "what attracts people most, [...] is other people", although many of them states that they need a place to feel relaxed and away from chaos. They say that they want an escape from the city life, but their behavior shows exactly the opposite. (Whyte, 1980, p. 19) About the parameters that make a public place to work properly, it can be stated that in the beginning of the study many various factors were examined, so as to end up in eight basic ones.

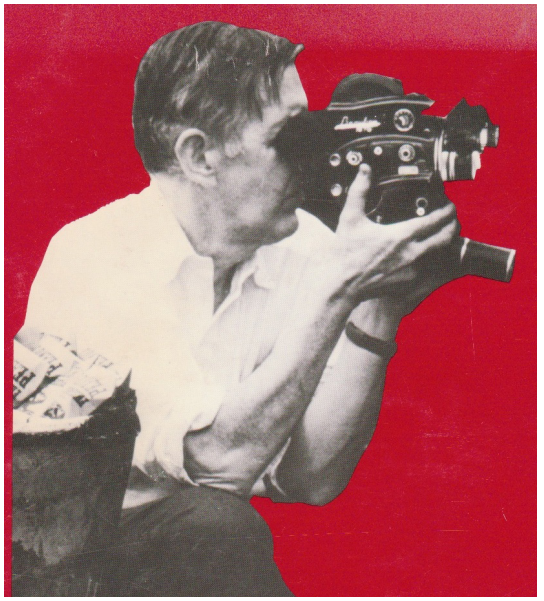


Figure: William Whyte through observations, surveys, interviews and workshops, he tried to find out the elements that make a public space flourishing and liveable. | **Source :** http://www.outwalking.net/religion/, access: 10/01/18

Sitting space

In the project of Whyte, before the first factor being clearly marked, parameters such as the buildings' design around the squares, the shape and the size of the square were examined. Although some hypotheses about these parameters were true, some specific observations

appeared to frustrate them. Then the amount of sittable space was tested. In this factor the correlation between the popularity in public space's use and the amount of sitting space was the same for all the observed plazas. After trying to associate other variables to the sitting space, the researchers concluded that "People tend to sit most where there are places to sit." Despite the existence of places to sit, sitting should be physically and socially comfortable. (Whyte, 1980, p. 28) Moreover, it must be also mentioned that sitting space does not only include conventional elements, such as chairs and benches, but also other components, such as ledges, fountains, parts of buildings, steps etc. What is important though, is their design in order to be sittable. Extra room to sit is critical, because users are able to choose and feel more comfortable. In the end, the relation between the amount of sitting place to the size of the square is another requirement. "The exact ratio is not as important, however, as the necessity considering the matter." (Whyte, 1980, p. 39)

Sun

Another method that was used by the research team was time lapse records. Based on this method, they observed something interesting. People sitting patterns change according to the moves of the sunlight. As Whyte writes, "Where there was sun, they sat; where there was none, they didn't." (Whyte, 1980, p. 40) But when a variation in the temperature happened, even not in a high degree, this correlation was lost. Although there is not a direct relationship between sun and where people prefer to sit, sun is also a factor which influences the quality of experiencing the public space. It is not only its light but also its warmth that make people go outside. As it was observed "One of the peak sitting days is the first warm day in spring, even though the same temperature later would be felt too cool for sitting." (Whyte, 1980, p. 44) Nevertheless, a sustainable public space should offer various possibilities regarding the sun. Users should have the choice of sun, shade or in-between. (Whyte, 1980)

Trees

In the choice of shade, trees are the main elements that can offer it. The most important

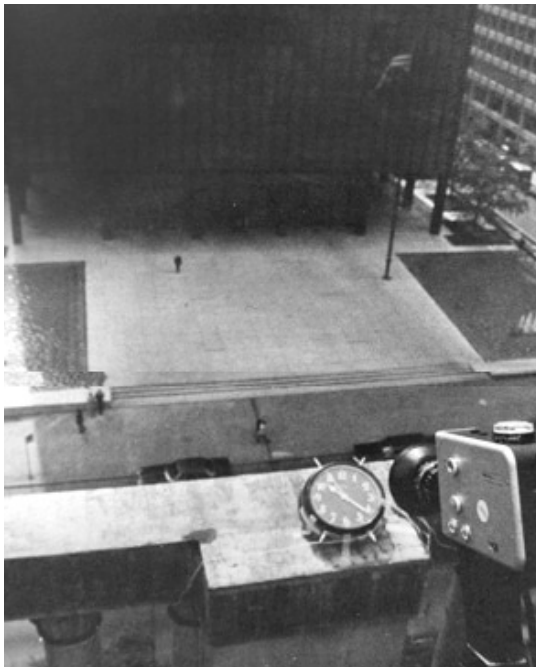


Figure 6.2: "People tend to sit most where there are places to sit." Despite the existence of places to sit, sitting should be physically and socially comfortable. | **Source :** http://writingcities.com/2015/06/02/the-social-life-of-small-urban-places-or-things-planners-should-know-but-still-dont/, access: 10/01/18 (edited by author)

reason why public spaces should have trees though is their noteworthy contribution to climate, as it was explained in the environmental value of public spaces. Trees can contribute also to the pleasure and comfort of people. According to the study, "by far the best liked are those" spaces "affording a good look at the passing scene and the pleasure of being comfortable under a tree while doing so." (Whyte, 1980, p. 46) The way that trees are planted in the urban environment and their relation to sitting spaces determine their functionality.

Wind

The absence of wind in a public space is as important as the presence of sun. In this regard, it was observed that small public spaces which were "[...] enclosed on three sides, function well. Physically and psychologically, they feel comfortable, and this is one of the reason why their carrying capacity is so high." (Whyte, 1980, p. 44) By taking care of parameters such as wind and sun, the designers can "[...] lengthen the effective season of outdoor spaces." (Whyte, 1980, p. 45)

Food

Another important factor that helps a public space to have a lively social life is food. Food vendors are those who bring life to a place, when restaurant amenities are missing. It is mentioned characteristically that when a food vendor is driven away, "A lot of the life of the space goes with him." (Whyte, 1980, p. 51) After an experiment in a plaza, it is concluded that "Food attracts people who attract more people." (Whyte, 1980, p. 52) In such situations, the visual influence that a lively place has, is terrific. But according to the survey, a coverage of 20% of the total space by coffee and food amenities is enough for a public space to be vibrant. (Whyte, 1980)

Figure: Another important factor that helps a public space to have a lively social life is food. Food vendors are those who bring life to a place, when restaurant amenities are missing. | **Source:** https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Street_food/, access: 10/01/18 (edited by author)

Street

The key space for a public space is the street. "The relationship to the street is integral, and it is far and away the critical design factor. [...] Ideally, the transition should be such that it's hard to tell where one ends, and the other begins." (Whyte, 1980, pp. 54,57) Steps are also important elements of a public space. Their height plays a crucial role in their success though. If they are low and easy, "They add a nice ambiguity to tour movement." (Whyte, 1980, p. 57) But different level of a plaza or a park from the street level can impact negatively its success. "Sightlines are important. If people do not see a space, they will not use it" (Whyte, 1980, p. 58) In this context, the street is correlated with the accessibility, physical or visual, but another characteristic of street is its liveliness through the land uses. Retail stores "[...] windows with displays, signs to attract your attention, doorways, people going in and out of them" (Whyte, 1980, p. 57) are prominent elements that contribute to the liveability of a street and consequently to the surrounding area.

The "Undesirables"

The presence of marginalized groups in public spaces is another factor that contribute to its liveability. However, it is not the as they called

"undesirables" the problem. It is the manners that authorities, designers and other people use to drive them away. For example, many businessmen believe that the attractiveness of a place make them come and, in this regard, they try to convert to unattractive one. Authorities believe also that by putting fences and gates in public spaces they will manage to kick out drug dealers, homeless, alcoholics and other marginalized users. But what they succeed is exactly the opposite, to attract more these users and make other people don't feel safe or welcome in these places anymore. As Whyte states "The best way to handle the problem of undesirables is to make a place attractive to everyone else." (Whyte, 1980)

Triangulation

There is one more factor that make a space liveable. This is as Whyte called it the triangulation. Using this term, he means "[...] that process by which some external stimulus provides a linkage between people and prompts strangers to talk to each other as though they were not." (Whyte, 1980, p. 94) The stimulus can be a performer, a physical object or a sight. Musicians or entertainers can gather people around them and make them communicate discussing about the show. Sculpture is proved to have a strong social effect, since people stop to observe it, to touch it and talk about it. It does not matter the performance or the art to be excellent, the important thing is their impact on people. These kinds of actions bring people together and make them communicate. "When people form a crowd around an entertainer-it happens very quickly, in 40 or 50 seconds- [...]."(Whyte, 1980, p. 97)

Figure: There is one more factor that make a space liveable. This is as Whyte called it the triangulation. Using this term, he means "[...] that process by which some external stimulus provides a linkage between people and prompts strangers to talk to each other as though they were not." | **Source :** http://www.studiobasar.ro/?p=5675&lang=en, access: 10/01/18 (edited by author)

Figure: Even though live performances in public space are considered as the most significant action of triangulation, public art can play also this role, by giving stimulus social interaction. | **Source:** https://queenbeeedit.com/no-mention-of-human-overpopulation-in-paris-at-the-u-n-climate-conference/, access: 10/01/18 (edited by author)

Stephen Carr's approach

Stephen Carr, in his book Public space founded on Whyte and many other researchers and theorists, referred to two different categories that are associated with the appropriation of public space. The one is the needs of people in public space and the other the criteria that define the quality of public space. Starting from the needs of people in public space, he mentions a) the physical and psychological comfort, b) relaxation, c) passive engagement, d) active engagement and e) discovery.

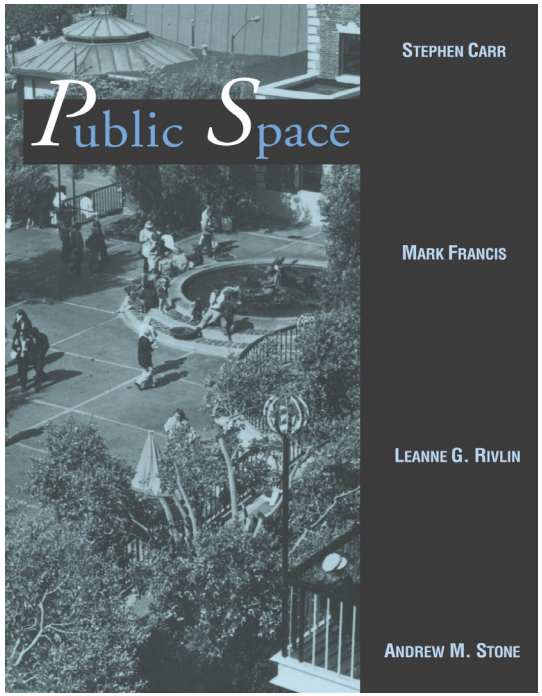


Figure: Stephen Carr, in his book Public space founded on Whyte and many other researchers and theorists, referred to two different categories that are associated with the appropriation of public space. The one is the needs of people in public space and the other the criteria that define the quality of public space. | **Source:** https://www.amazon.com/Public-Space-Cambridge-Environment-Behavior/dp/0521359600, access: 10/01/18

Physical and Psychological comfort

"Comfort is a basic need. The need for food, drink, shelter from the elements or a place to rest when tired all require some degree of comfort to be satisfied." (Carr et al., 1992, p. 92) In this respect, comfort is a critical factor for a place to be visitable and liveable. Comfort divided in two different types that sometime can correlated to each other, the physical comfort and the psychological. In a concise way a list of different aspects that affect the two different types of comfort can give an insight of what it concerns.

Physical comfort

- Relief from sun or access to sun
- Comfortable and sufficient seating. In this aspect different indexes are influential, such as orientation of the seating, proximity to areas of access, the ability to have movable seating, sitting places for both individuals and groups and seating that enables other activities, as well.

Psychological comfort

- Length of time that people feel comfortable to stay in a site.
- Sense of security. Safety is an important index of social and psychological comfort. The feeling of not being in danger and that one person's possessions are not vulnerable are crucial.

Relaxation

It is believed that relaxation is linked with a pause from the busy life of a city's resident, yet it is proved almost the opposite. Relaxation is the search of people for other people, for liveable places and "[...] some form of engagement with the life of the city, rather than retreat from it." (Carr et al., 1992, p. 98) Relaxation is a "brief pause from the routines and the demands of city life." (Carr et al., 1992, p. 99) But which are the parameters that contribute to the achievement of relaxation? Natural elements, such as trees and water are notable for people to feel relaxed. Further, the separation from the vehicular traffic leads to a more relaxing public space.

Passive engagement

"Passive engagement with the environment could lead to a sense of relaxation but it differs in that it involves the need for an encounter with the setting, albeit without becoming passively involved." (Carr et al., 1992, p. 105) Passive engagement as it may be obvious involves mainly looking and not doing. More specifically, it contains watching the passing scene, either it is a daily scene or something more special. Performances, formal organized activities, programmed outdoor events, game or sports events are some attractors for people-observers. Additionally, physical features in public space can contribute to the passive engagement, as lots of people are attracted by them. For instance, many fountains are such kind of elements. Viewing public art, public monuments, statues etc. or even a compelling landscape or nice views constitute parts of what passive engagement includes.

Active engagement

Active engagement comprises mainly social meaning in the public space. It offers mostly linkage and bonds among the different users through different ways. Some means of active engagement are the communication among strangers, the socialization between friends, relatives and in some cases strangers. Moreover, it covers recreational needs and "[...] promote vigorous energetic use of human body." (Carr et al., 1992, p. 124) Festivals, ceremonies,

ritual and general celebrations are elements that promote the active engagement of people and at the same time "[...] are qualities that people seek in urban public spaces." (Carr et al., 1992, p. 128)

Discovery

Discovery "[...] represents the desire for stimulation and the delight we all have in new, pleasurable experiences." (Carr et al., 1992, p. 134) In urban public spaces, discovery is connected with the diversity in the physical design and the alteration in vistas.

Continuing now to the quality of public space, Carr makes a reference of four criteria that are critical for the characterization of a public space as a qualitive. These are a) the accessibility, b) freedom of action c) claim and d) change

Accessibility

"The ability to enter spaces is basic to their use." (Carr et al., 1992, p. 138) Accessibility can be divided in physical and visual. The physical access is not only correlated to the absence of physical barriers in a place, but also to the direct connection with the street, which constitute the main path of circulation. On the other hand, the visual access is also important because if people can not see a public space, they will not appropriate it. It is also critical, as make people " [...] feel free to enter a space." (Carr et al., 1992, p. 144) Visual accessibility is highly interrelated to safety. The "Ability to check out these potential threats before entering is a critical requirement." (Carr et al., 1992, p. 145)

Freedom of action

The freedom of action is highly correlated with people's wishes to carry out desirable activities in public space. But the different needs and desires of the different users many times create spatial and social conflicts among the users. So, a balance of users and their activities is needed in the appropriation of public space. It is in urbanists and planners' hands to propose such kind of designs so as to offer compatible diversity. Although it is a big challenge to design such public spaces, "It is possible to encourage diverse activities so that no one group dominates a space to the exclusion of others." (Carr et al., 1992, p. 166)

Claim

"Claim to a space goes beyond access and freedom of action in stating a proprietary interest over space." (Carr et al., 1992, p. 166) It can be stated that claim implies a degree of spatial control by any individual but more often by specific user groups. But claiming a space so as a group to fulfill its own desires and needs sometimes means that other users lose their freedom of action in this place. (Carr et al., 1992)

Change

"Change is an important dimension of successful public spaces. The ability of a place to evolve and change over time is an important quality of good environments." (Carr et al., 1992, p. 169) Change has various meanings, as it can be happened in different ways and by different persons. As a notion is divided in temporary and permanent change. Examples of temporary change is usually the use of residents' objects in public spaces which are removed when they leave the place (chairs, sun umbrellas etc.), while more permanent changes constitute the graffiti or changes by the responsible authorities. Two important variables considering the change of a place is its capability of being manipulated and the easement of altering. (Carr et al., 1992)

Figure: Students gather to claim public space. "Protesters gathered outside of Twin Towers East over their right to use the space in front of the dorm." | **Source :** https://marshallparthenon.com/6581/news/students-gather-to-claim-public-space/, access: 10/01/18

PPS's approach

"Project for Public Spaces (PPS) is a nonprofit planning, design and educational organization dedicated to helping people create and sustain public spaces that build stronger communities." (Project for Public Spaces website, n.d.) It set up in 1975 as a way to fill out the research of Whiliam Whyte and make it into practice. As an organization, they use a quite innovative Placemaking strategy, intending to facilitate "[...] citizens transform their public spaces into vital places that highlight local assets, spur rejuvenation and serve common needs." (Project for Public Spaces website, n.d.)

As the organization is a continuation of Whyte's project, it used analog methods to define the criteria that make some public spaces to succeed, while others to fail. So, after studying and evaluating thousands public spaces in different countries, the research team concluded in four major criteria: a) accessibility, b) activities, c) comfort and d) sociability. By using these criteria, they also constructed a diagram, based on which not only designers but also residents of a city can evaluate a public space for its success. (Project for Public Spaces website, n.d.)

Accessibility

The accessibility is a term which refers to the visual and physical connection of the public space with its surroundings. It is crucial for the users to go there and depart from the place easily. It should be also visible from a distance and as someone goes up to it. Its edges play a significant role for its liveness, more specifically the land uses and the design of the buildings. As it is supported by PPS "[...] a row of shops along a street is more interesting and generally safer to walk by than a blank wall or empty lot." (Project for Public Spaces website, n.d.)

Activities

It is considered that activity is the key feature of attracting people in a public space. If people have something to do in a place, they will find a reason to visit it not only once but many times. On the contrary, when there is nothing to do there, the chances the public space to be empty are high. Moreover, the kind od activities are critical, so as to attract different users at different times of the day. A healthy balance between female and male persons, individuals and groups in public space is notable. (Project for Public Spaces website, n.d.)

Comfort

Comfort is associated with concepts such as safety, cleanliness and sitting areas. If a public space has these three, has also a good image. Therefore, a good impression is a factor that can attract more people in a space. As for safety, it includes the feeling of not being vulnerable due to dangerous behaviors and vehicles. (Project for Public Spaces website, n.d.)

Sociability

Sociability is the hardest parameter to be achieved, but once it is accomplished it becomes a noteworthy characteristic of great public spaces. When a place is the meeting place of friends and relatives, a place that offers possibility of social interaction with strangers and generally promote a successful social and public life, it is undeniable that it will fail. Through this kind of sociability, citizens start to feel "[...] a stronger sense of place or attachment to their community." (Project for Public Spaces website, n.d.)

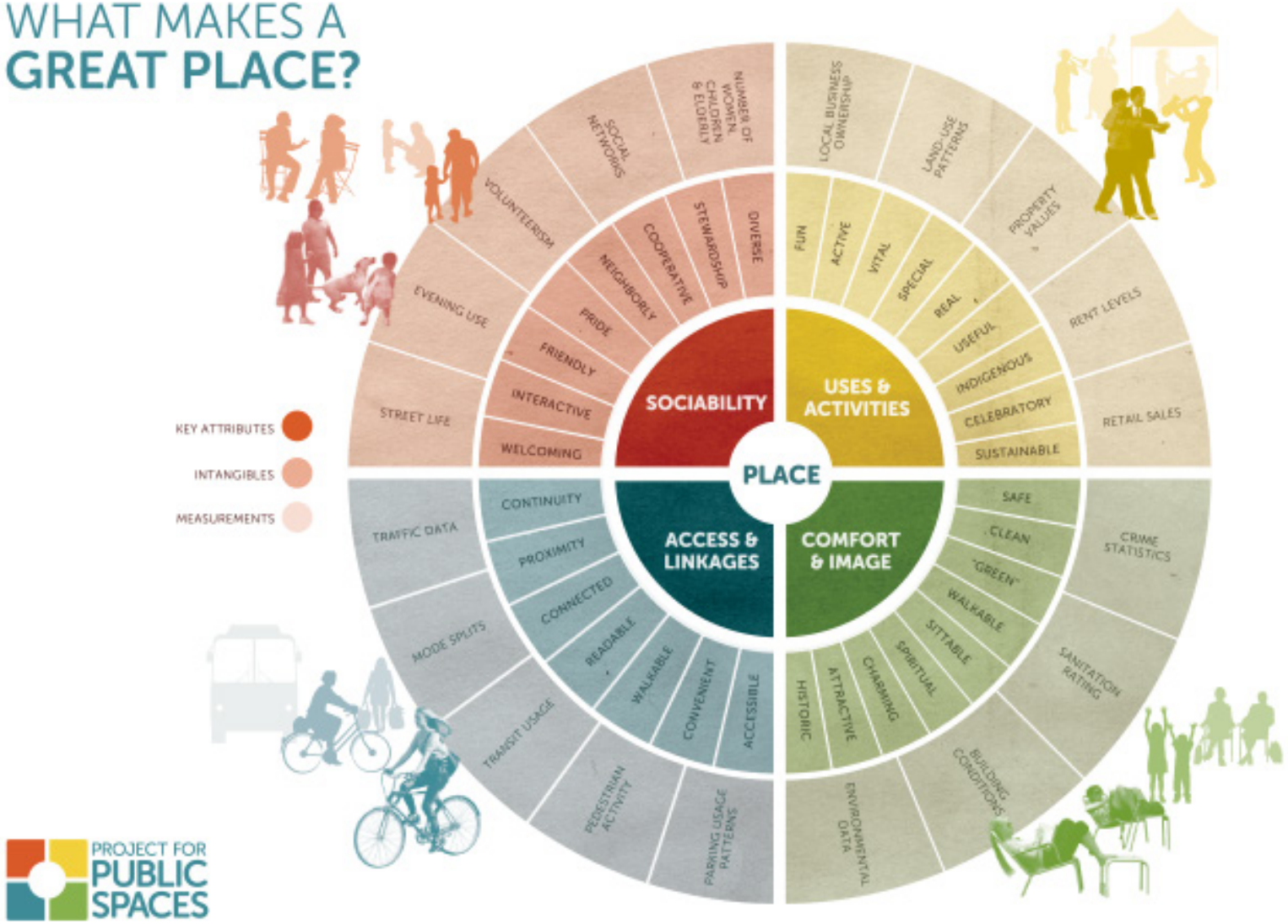


Figure: In evaluating thousands of public spaces around the world, PPS has found that to be successful, they generally share the following four qualities: they are accessible; people are engaged in activities there; the space is comfortable and has a good image; and finally, it is a sociable place: one where people meet each other and take people when they come to visit. PPS developed The Place Diagram as a tool to help people in judging any place, good or bad. Imagine that the center circle on the diagram is a specific place that you know: a street corner, a playground, a plaza outside a building. You can evaluate that place according to four criteria in the orange ring. In the ring outside these main criteria are a number of intuitive or qualitative aspects by which to judge a place; the next outer ring shows the quantitative aspects that can be measured by statistics or research. | **Source :** https://www.pps.org/article/grplacefeat, access: 10/01/18

You must change your approach in order to change your results

Jim Rohn

07
APPROACH

7.1 REDEFINING THE CRITERIA FOR AN ATTRACTIVE & QUALITATIVE PUBLIC SPACE

This chapter includes the approach of the present thesis, as far as the conclusions of the theoretical framework are concerned. Based on literature review and after studying three different approaches about the criteria that make a public space to work properly and be qualitative, an attempt to correlate, link and combine them is made. As it was mentioned in the theoretical framework, the three approaches are interrelated to each other, since the starting point for all was the observations and the general investigation of William Whyte. According to his work, the next two approaches were structured, extending some ideas or adding new ones. As the three approaches are related some parameters may repeat, as for example comfort and accessibility. In many cases, different terminology refers to almost the similar concepts, as well. Thus, a connection between the same criteria or those which referred to the same concepts is attempted.

So, in the right image, it is illustrated in a diagrammatical way the logic of approaching the various criteria/concepts of the theoretical framework in order to make conclusions and to answer the sub research question b (Which parameters can influence the appropriation and the quality of public space in the Greek context?). Initially, as it was mentioned also before, the three different approaches for the appropriation of public space are examined, referring briefly the criteria that each scholar considers as the most determining. After recording and analyzing these criteria, a correlation and link

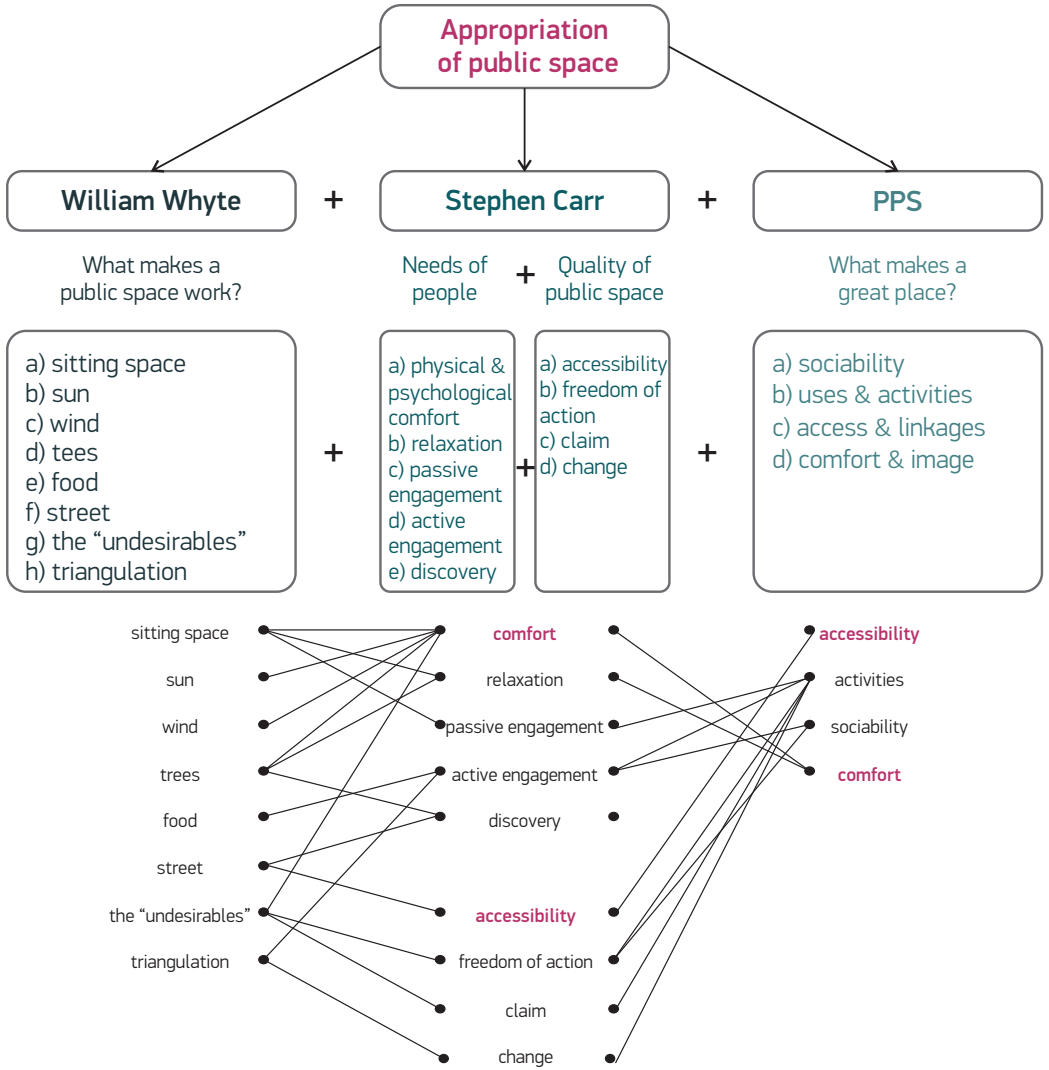


Figure: Diagram presenting concisely the logic of approaching the theoretical framework in order to make conclusions | **Source:** made by author

between them are attempted according to author's personal interpretation. The aim of this connection/combination is to define the approach of the thesis, by redefining new criteria regarding the literature review.

As far as the new set of parameters is concerned, after the study and analysis of the different parameters, 16 redefined criteria are marked. They are divided in 4 main categories, comfort, accessibility, engagement and image/identity, as it shown in the scheme at the right. The criteria namely are the following: 1) space to rest and relax 2) relief or access to sun, 3) natural elements, 4) sense of security, 5) interpersonal distance, 6) easily accessible, 7) walkable, 8) connected in a network, 9) legible, 10) sociability, 11) participation in activities, 12) triangulation, 13) observation, 14) land uses' program, 15) unique characteristics, 16) discovery/change.

However, as the literature base was mainly for the USA, it was necessary to examine the 16 criteria according to the Greek mentality and culture. So, an online survey was conducted, asking in the first part for evaluation from 1 to 10 for each criterion. There was not a specific target group, but generally Greek people and especially those living in medium-sized cities. The forwarding of the survey was accomplished by posting in the author's Facebook account for first time on 30 Dec. 2017 and reposting by 10 friends, as well. Further, the survey was posted in two Facebook pages for the city of Chania, Χανιά: Ασχήμια ΠΟΥ ΕΓΙΝΕ συνήθεια (Chania: the ugliness which became a habit) and p_public. After reaching 103 respondents until the 16th of February, it was decided that this would be the final portion for the analysis.

The basic information that concerns the 103 participants is that they are from 18 different cities of Greece, with a percentage of 70% to

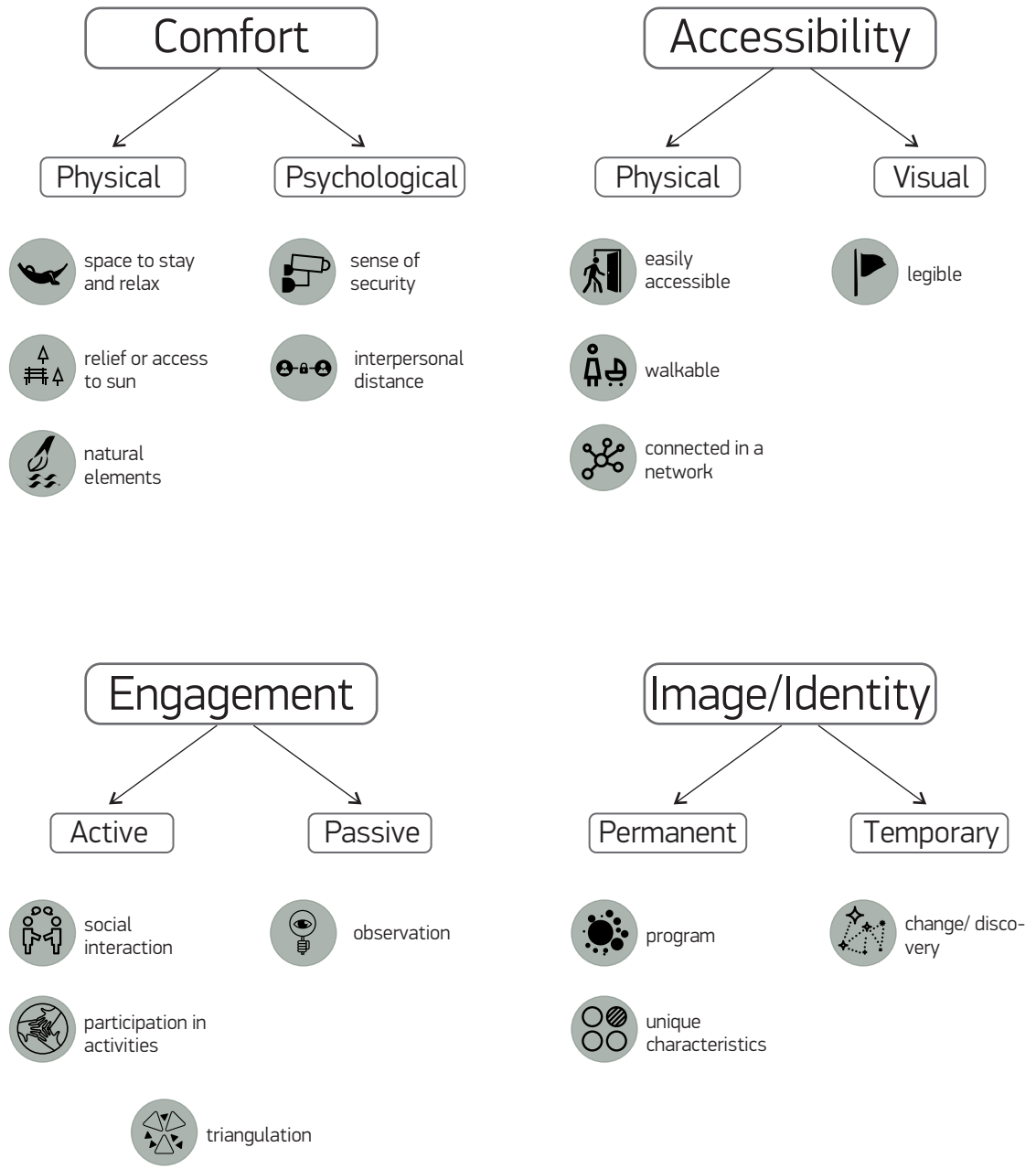


Figure: The 16 redefined criteria for an attractive and qualitative public space, divided in four main categories: comfort, accessibility, engagement and image/identy| **Source:** made by author using icons from the website thenounproject.com

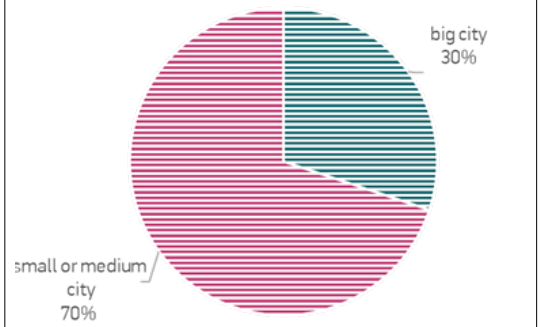
live in a medium or small city, while 30% lives in big cities, such as Athens, Thessaloniki, Ioannina, Volos and Heraklion. As for their gender, female respondents are 17 more than males. More than the half (52%) belongs to the age group 26-40, 29% to the age group 41-65 and 17% to the age group 16-25. There is no one who is older than 65 years old and only one person who is between 0-15. The majority of them has graduated from the university (72%).

Regarding the relationship of the participants with the city of Chania, the question "Have you ever lived or visited the city of Chania" was asked, giving four possible answers: a) I have lived, b) I live, c) I have visited it and d) none of these. This discrimination was made in order to see if there are differences in the evaluation of the 10 criteria for the four squares, if someone is a resident of Chania or just a visitor. So, for the second part of the survey, which will be presented analytically in the chapter "Spatial Analysis, the respondents were divided into two main categories, the residents (including those who answered I have lived and live) and the visitors and not (including those who answered I have visited it and none of these). Unfortunately, the distribution between the two categories is not so equal, since the residents are 40 and the visitors and not are 63.

Apart from inquiring the basic data for each respondent, as they were described above, the questions about the 16 criteria were based on a 10-point rating system. As the terminology of the criteria might be not so understandable by all people, in some cases they were quite explanatory, as for example in the case of the triangulation. So, the questions are as follows:

1. To what extend do you believe that a public space is attractive if it allocates space to rest and relax. **[space to rest and relax]**

Size of city of living of respondents



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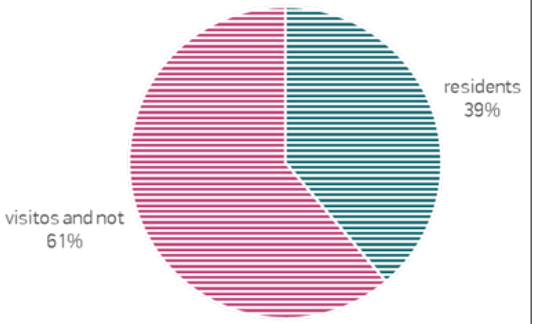
Relationship to the city of Chania



Source: made by author

2. To what extend do you believe that a public space is attractive if it allocates natural elements (e.g. trees, water etc.) **[relief or access to sun]**
3. To what extend do you believe that a public space is attractive if it offers access to sun but also relief from it. **[natural elements]**
4. To what extend do you believe that a public space is attractive if you feel safe when you are there. **[sense of security]**
5. To what extend do you believe that a public space is attractive if it offers possibilities of co-existence with other people, but at the same time interpersonal distances are kept offering so psychological comfort. **[interpersonal distance]**
6. To what extend do you believe that a public space is attractive if it is easily accessible. **[easily accessible]**
7. To what extend do you believe that a public space is attractive if there are the appropriate infrastructures to reach it (e.g. pedestrian- friendly streets, wide sidewalks etc.) **[walkable]**
8. To what extend do you believe that a public space is attractive if it belongs to a network of public spaces. **[connected in a network]**
9. To what extend do you believe that a public space is attractive if it is easily recognizable not only by distance but also physically close (visual accessibility) **[legible]**
10. To what extend do you believe that a public space is attractive if it promotes social interaction between different people. **[sociability]**
11. To what extend do you believe that a public space is attractive if it gives the chance of participating in various activities. **[participation in activities]**
12. To what extend do you believe that a public space is attractive if it offers the possibility of watching public art or performances (e.g. errant musicians, magicians etc.) **[triangulation]**
13. To what extend do you believe that a public space is attractive if it offers the possibility to observe other people doing things (e.g. observing children who are playing, observing other users that are in the place etc.) **[obser-**

vation]

14. To what extend do you believe that a public space is attractive based on the land uses that surrounded it. **[land uses' program]**

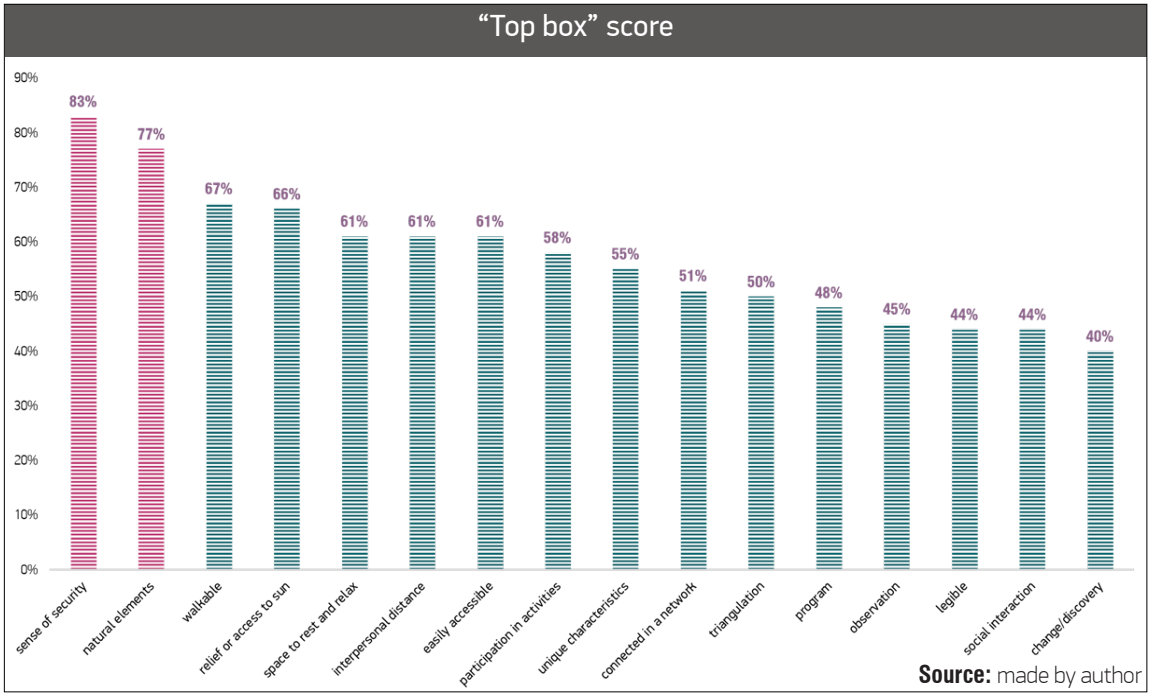
15. To what extend do you believe that a public space is attractive if it allocates a specific unique characteristic which makes it to distinguish among other public spaces. **[unique characteristics]**

16. To what extend do you believe that a public space is attractive if it offers the chance of discovery and change. **[change/discovery]**

As far as the method of rating is concerned, it must be mentioned that there are different opinions about the success of each rating scale method. The three most common are the a] 1-5, b] 1-7 and c] 1-10. Even though, the 1-10 method can have more fluctuation to the respondents' answers in comparison with the others, which may lead to problems for the conclusions, it has also some benefits that make it ideal. A 10-point system provides more room to respondents to express differentiation than a 5-point system. Moreover, by using the 10-point system the "top box" and "bottom box" calculations will be more noteworthy. In this system, as "top box" is considered the values 9 and 10, while in the 5-point system the values 4 and 5. "This means even though a 4 rating is just above average (3), it's counted as an "exceptional" rating, stripping the power of top box calculations." ("The Magic in a 0-10 Rating Scale, 2017)

Some brief results about the first part of the survey is that in 7 of the 16 criteria, the respondents' answers were fluctuated between 8-10 with a percentage higher than 10% for each answer. Specifically, these criteria are: a) space to rest and relax, b) relief or access to sun, c) natural elements, d) sense of security, e) interpersonal distance, f) easily accessible and g) walkable. Other 7 criteria and namely h) connected in a network, i) legible, j) participation in activities, k) triangulation, l) observation, m) unique characteristics and n) change/ discovery are arranged between 7-10 with a percentage higher than 10% for each answer. As for the last remained two parameters, o) social interaction and p) program, they are fluctuated between 6-10 with a percentage higher than 10% for each answer. Although these fluctuations give a first impression about the importance of each criterion according to the Greek mentality, it is also important to be mentioned that in all the criteria, the value of 10 poses the highest percentage,

In this regard, it was necessary to find a method in order to put the set of criteria in a hierarchical order according to their high-priority for Greek people. For more accurate results, three different methods of descriptive statistics were used. The first one was the calculation of the "top box" scores for each criterion, which means the percentage of people who gave as a rate both 10 and 9. The second one, was the calculation of the median, which is considered the most appropriate method for the type of data, that the survey included. "The median is the value separating the higher half of a data sample [...] from the lower half." Its basic advantage "[...] in describing data compared to the mean (often simply described as the "average") is that it is not skewed so much by extremely large or small values and so it may give a better idea of a typical value." ("Median", n.d.) However, as the median gave only three different values, 10, 9 and 8, with the majority of the criteria to possess a 9, it was decided that the mean will be calculated, as well. And after combining and



Source: made by author

interrelating the three different approaches, the hierarchy of the criteria will be more precise.

Starting from the "top box" scores approach, it can be seen that 10 of the 16 parameters has a top box score more than 50%. However, only two of them poses a high percentage, more than 75%, the sense of security (83%) and the natural elements (78%). The two criteria with the lowest percentage are the one named legible (43%) and the other called change/discovery (41%). As for the median approach, the two criteria that have median 10 is again those with the highest "top box" scores, the sense of security and the natural elements, while the lowest median, 8, belongs to 5 different criteria, the social interaction, triangulation, observation, legible and change/discovery. In the end, by using the mean or average approach, the two criteria with the highest and lowest mean respectively are the same based on the "top box" scores and the mean approach. Generally, by comparing the rates among the three approaches, it can be concluded that the sequence coincides on the most cases. The determined factor for the hierarchy of the criteria is firstly the "top box" scores, but wherever there is a similarity in the percentage, the mean is used in order to define the sequence. For example, regarding the "top box" scores, interpersonal distance, space to rest and relax and easily accessible posses 62%. In this case, the average value will define their hierarchical sequence.

So, taking into account this process, the hierarchy of the importance of the 16 criteria according to the Greek mentality and culture can be revealed. So, the list from the most important to the less is formed in such a way, as it is presented in the right figure.

CRITERIA	sense of security	natural elements	relief or access to sun	walkable	space to sit and relax	easily accessible	interpersonal distance	participation in activities	unique characteristics	land uses' program	connecting in a network	social interaction	triangulation	observation	legible	change/discovery
MEAN	9.3	9.2	8.8	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.6	8.3	8.3	8.1	8	8	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.6
MEDIAN	10	10	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	8	8	8	8	8	8	8

Figure: Table with the mean and the median for each of the 16 criteria | **Source:** made by author

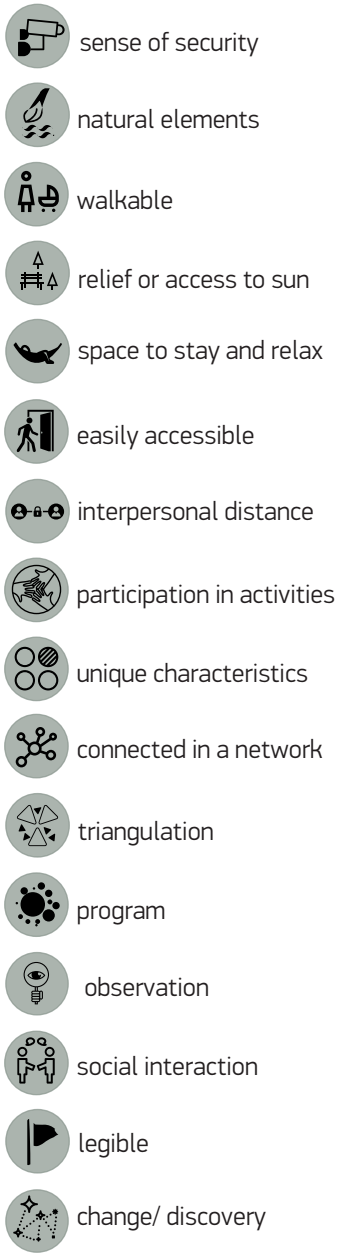
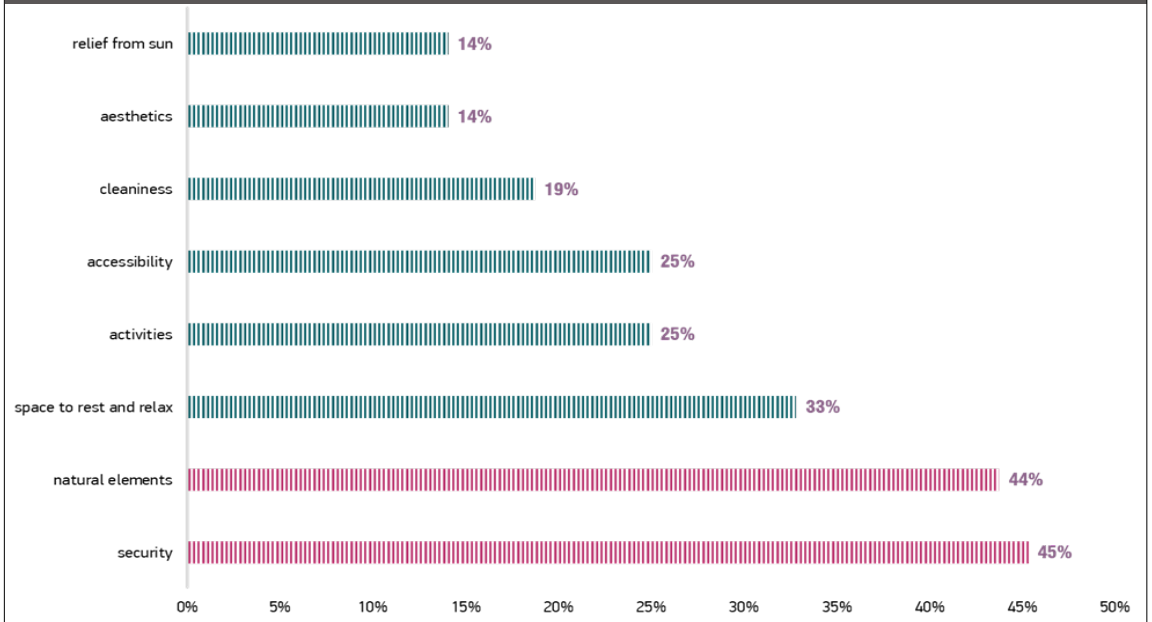


Figure: Hierarchy of the redefined criteria based on the "top box" scores | **Source:** made by author using icons from the website thenounproject.com

Apart from the structured evaluating questions, an optional question was: "Which factors do you consider as important in order to use a public space?" This question was answered by 66 persons, bringing to light some repeating answers which are correlated to the hierarchical list of the criteria and simultaneously adding new ideas. More specifically, sense of security (45%) and natural elements (44%) are the most repeating answers. So, it is easily concluded that the two most important parameters for a qualitative and attractive public space for Greek people are the sense of security and natural elements. Regarding the sense of security, some of the participants referred to the marginalized groups, such as homeless, drug addicted and alcoholics, others to their need for protection of cars and traffic, others to the lack of lighting especially during night, which can be connected with the low liveability of an area, especially during night. Most of them just pointed out the word safety. On the other hand, the natural elements were a criterion, which either was mentioned as green spaces or was combined with other elements. For instance, many respondents stated that the presence of trees in combination with space to stay and relax is important. Further, they identified the necessity of trees for protection of the sun and their correlation to the aesthetics and pleasure of place.

Other answers, which were mentioned quite a few times are: space to rest and relax (33%), the presence of activities to attract users' interest (25%), to be easily accessible (25%) and relief from the weather conditions and especially from sun (14%). Those answers were referred to the defined criteria that participants were asked to evaluate, but two of the repeating answers were not included in the list. Those are the need of people to be in a clean public space (19%) and some of them mentioned the aesthetics of a public space (14%), as well.

Repeating answers for an attractive & qualitative public space in the optional question



Source: made by author

As for the cleanliness of public space, although it may be an obvious factor for a qualitative public space, the quality of the Greek public spaces makes it a significant parameter for the attraction of people. Except for its mention to the optional question of the online survey, dirt was the second major reason by 19% why people in Chania find the public spaces of their city problematic. So, combining the two different methods (online survey and interviews), it can be concluded that cleanliness could be another important factor for the use of public space by Greek people. Generally, this criterion can be considered as an element of comfort, not only physically but also psychologically.

The majority of the respondents, who answered the optional question, adduced briefly some factors that they find important in order to use the public space, most of which were the same with the criteria, which they were asked to evaluate. Four of them though, expressed their opinions about how public space should be and function in Greece. Specifically, a young woman between 16 and 25 years old mentioned: *For me it is important the public space to offer the possibility of walking and moving safely, in a clean and attractive environment, so as to be able to use the available services. Some of these services could be the installation of info portals and terminals for buying tickets. It is also necessary, the city to offer parking spots for the bicycles and seating spaces under shelters for protection.*

A man between 26 and 40 years old stated: *In my opinion, public spaces should have enough free and open space for free use. Every citizen*

Figure: Wordcloud regarding the answers of the participants in the optional question of the online survey. | **Source:** made by author using the website https://www.jasondavies.com/wordcloud/

has the right to go there and express himself/herself freely. Unfortunately, in Greece the majority of the squares which I have visited, the biggest part of them is covered by coffee tables. But there are many people who are not interested in sitting in a café drinking coffee for hours. Public space should be an oasis and express a freedom of action for every citizen.

A man between 41 and 65 and resident of Chania described how he imagines the suitable Greek public space, by saying that: *The great public space would be if a pedestrian street with trees in both sides led to it. As long as there is no need for cars to cross this part of the city, it would be also really pleasant to be trees also in the middle of the pedestrian street. Further, the placement of benches for rest and relax under these trees would be nice. In this case, people would have the ability to sit and relax by observing other people walking. In the surrounding area, cafes and coffee shops with outdoor space and also an organized playground for children would make the whole area more livable. For example, the Metropolis square is the appropriate place for such kind of intervention. The main street that leads to it to be as described above and the two sides of the square to have cafes, trees and some places for children to play. In this way, the square would be suitable for families.*

In the end, a woman between 26 and 40 in a briefer way supported that: *A great public space should offer the criterion of change and discovery, so as to be different spatial qualities. These different spatial qualities can be achieved by suitable spaces not only for seating but also for moving, with changes in the materials, and namely with the green and paved surfaces. The uses in the surrounding area are also important, but they should be introduced in a such way, so a balance between them and the public space to exist. The land uses should respect the public space. Further, a great public space should offer to its users the possibility for isolation, but at the same time for social interaction. Finally, public space should give the chance for temporary "inhabiting" of the place either in groups or individually.*

Figure: The views of the four respondents, who expressed their opinions about how public space should be and function in Greece in the optional question of the online survey. | **Source:** made by author using the websites https://www.mrcutout.com, http://skalgubbar.se/ and http://www.escalalatina.com/todos/

We don't want a plan based on land uses. We want a plan based on experiences. Who visits downtown to see land uses?

Mitchell Silver

08

SPATIAL ANALYSIS

8.1 INTRODUCTION

In the spatial analysis part, initially a connection between the literature study of the term public space and the spaces of Chania is attempted. This achieved by a series of maps, where the different approaches regarding the term public space are represented. So, the first map visualizes all the open and accessible spaces in the city of Chania, including parks, squares, waterfronts, parking lots, streets, voids, empty open lots etc. This map is a spatial visualization based on Arendt's and Sennett's opinions, who support all accessible spaces in the city context, which are open and free for all people. But are all these open and accessible public spaces appropriate for using by people? Taking into consideration that cars influence in many cases negatively the physical accessibility of officially established public spaces and put users into danger, a map without the traffic streets is traced in the second stage. This map represents again the open and accessible spaces in the city of Chania, but those ones which are pedestrian oriented or friendly. However, in this case some of these accessible spaces are parking lots, empty allotments etc., totally not used by people, as well. So, the third map shows the officially defined public spaces, such as parks and squares, although not all of them are used by people, as the interviews and the observations revealed. Further, by comparing the pedestrian friendly public spaces with the officially defined ones, it is observed a great difference between them.

In the end, considering the second approach for the term public space, the last map visualizes apart from the officially defined public spaces, the publicly-used spaces, even those which are private-owned. In this point, it must be mentioned that in the case of Chania, many times the officially defined public spaces accommodate fewer users in comparison to the private-owned, such as cafes, bars and taverns. Except for the coffee and food culture's uses, commercial stores, churches, sport fields, and museums are considered important publicly-used spaces, regarding their social meaning and value as points of gathering people together. What is characteristic in the city of Chania, is the small alleys in the old town. They are broadly used by the inhabitants of that area and especially by the old people. It is a really common picture in the city, old women to put their own chairs in front of their homes' entrances, sitting there and discuss with their neighbors.

In the second part of the spatial analysis a categorization of the officially defined public spaces in the city of Chania is made. These places are divided in three main categories, a) green spaces, b) squares and c) waterfronts. The green spaces consist of two sub-categories, a1) the parks and a2) the playgrounds, whilst the squares are classified into b1) squares and b2) memorial squares. Apart from the categorization in the city scale, in each of these categories and sub-categories the location and an image of each public space in the city context are shown. In this way, a general idea of almost all the officially defined public spaces in Chania can be given.

As for the third part, a catalogue of central public spaces is constructed. More information for this catalog will be given below in the 8.7 section.

Figure: Chairs and table in the small alleys of Chania, September 2014 | **Source:** photograph by author

8.2 OPEN & ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC SPACES

Scale : 1:15000

Source: made by author

8.3 PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLY, OPEN & ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC SPACES

Scale : 1:15000

Source: made by author

8.4 OFFICIALLY DEFINED PUBLIC SPACES

Scale : 1:15000

Source: made by author

8.5 PUBLICLY-USED SPACES

Scale : 1:15000

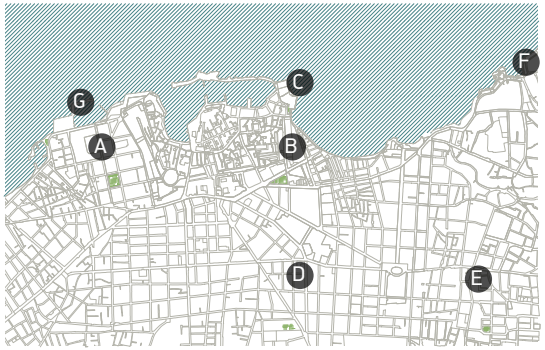
Source: made by author

8.6 TYPES OF OFFICIALLY DEFINED PUBLIC SPACES

Source: made by author

8.6a PARKS & GREEN SPACES

8.6b PLAYGROUNDS



8.6c SQUARES

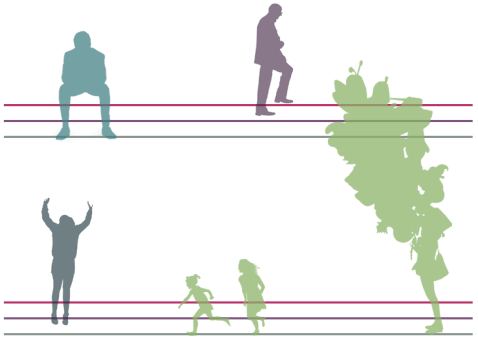
8.6d MEMORIAL SQUARES

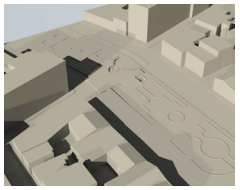
8.6e WATERFRONTS

8.7 CATALOGUE OF CENTRAL PUBLIC SPACES

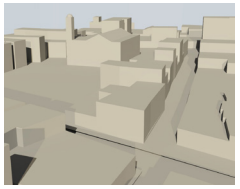
In the "spatial analysis" chapter apart from the visualization of the term public space in the city scale, according to the literature review and the types of public spaces in the city of Chania, a catalogue of the main public spaces of Chania was developed. The catalogue includes seven different public spaces in the city center. Four of them are squares, while three of them are parks. All of them were visited and observed during the first field work in October 2017 and in all of them, interviews took place. Namely, those places are: a)1866 square, b) Metropolis square, c) Market square, d) Splantzia square, e) Alkistis Agorastaki's park, f) Municipal Garden and g) Peace & Friendship Park. As for the observation's part, it must be underlined that the observations of the Alkistis Agorastaki's park were not recorded, as the times, when it was visited only two or three people were there. So, it is a characteristic example of public space, where the absence of people is prominent.

As one of the main goal of the current thesis is to make the existing public spaces of Chania attractive for different users, it is important to know how they are and function before the interventions. Knowing the existing situation and the way these spaces are correlated to the different users can help to understand where the main focus of the intervention should be and what it should be improved. Thus, in the catalogue of the existing main public spaces, basic information about these places are presented. Initially, again a visualization of the term public space but in a smaller scale is attempted, making a comparison between private and public in terms of ownership (first approach) and appropriation (second approach). As for the basic information, a characteristic image and a 3d representation of each place is introduced, its location in the city scale, the total area that occupies, the land uses in the surrounding area, the paved vs green surfaces and the sufficiency and insufficiency of some specific facilities (trees, seating places-benches, lights, bins, fountain, places for children to play -playgrounds, statues and monuments). More social information is also given based on the interviews results and data from the Greek statistical Authority. Specifically, the percentage of interviewees' preference and their preference per age group and the amount of people living in a radius distance of 500m.

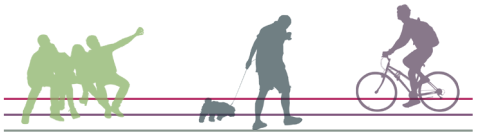


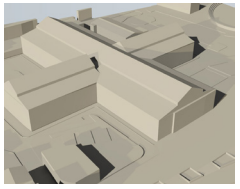


1. 1866 Square

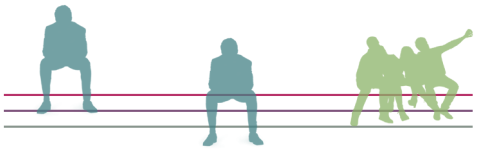


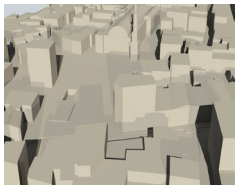
2. Metropolis Square



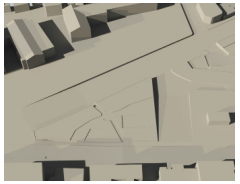


3. Market Square

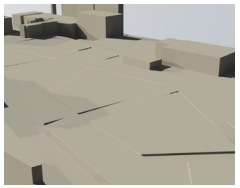


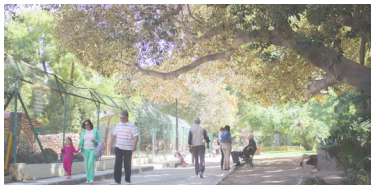


4. Splantzia Square

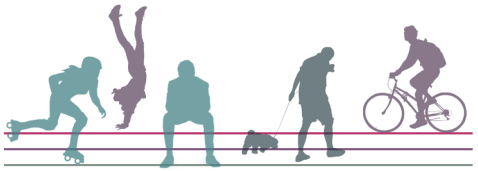


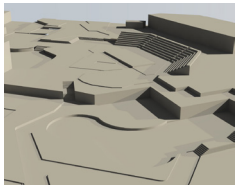
5.Alkistis Agorastaki's Park





6. Municipal Garden





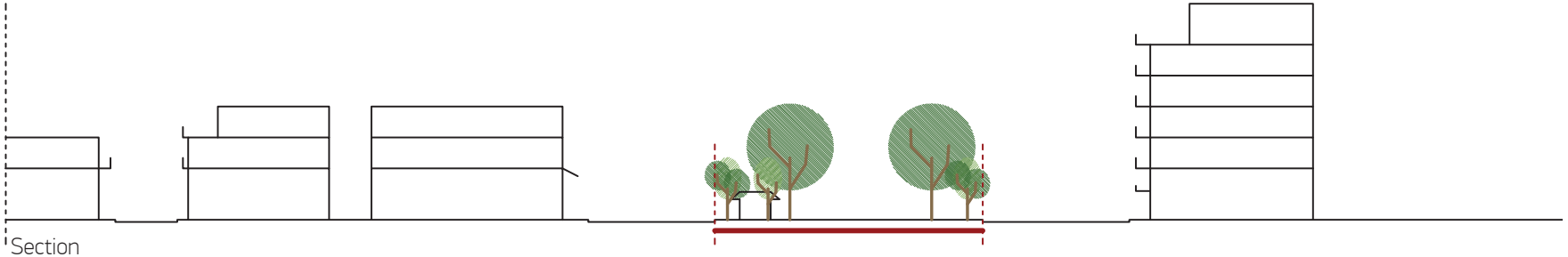
7. Peace & Friendship Park

1866 SQUARE

Location in the city

Paved surface 71%

Green surface 29%



Section

3.712 m²

1.675 people

0%

sufficient

sufficient

insufficient

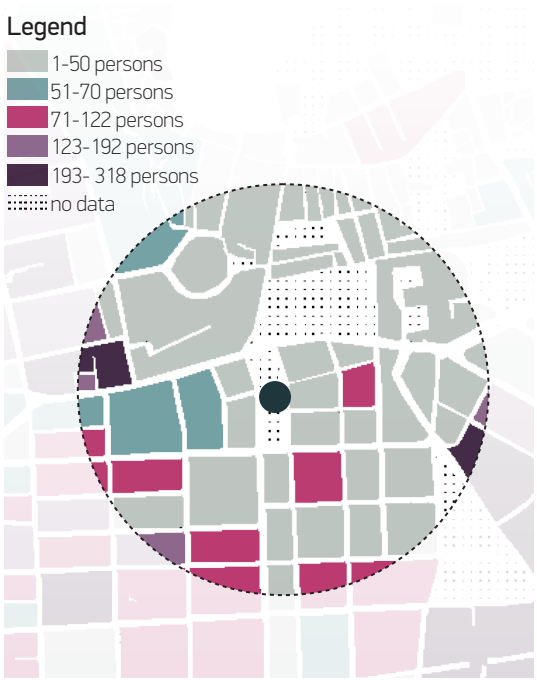
sufficient

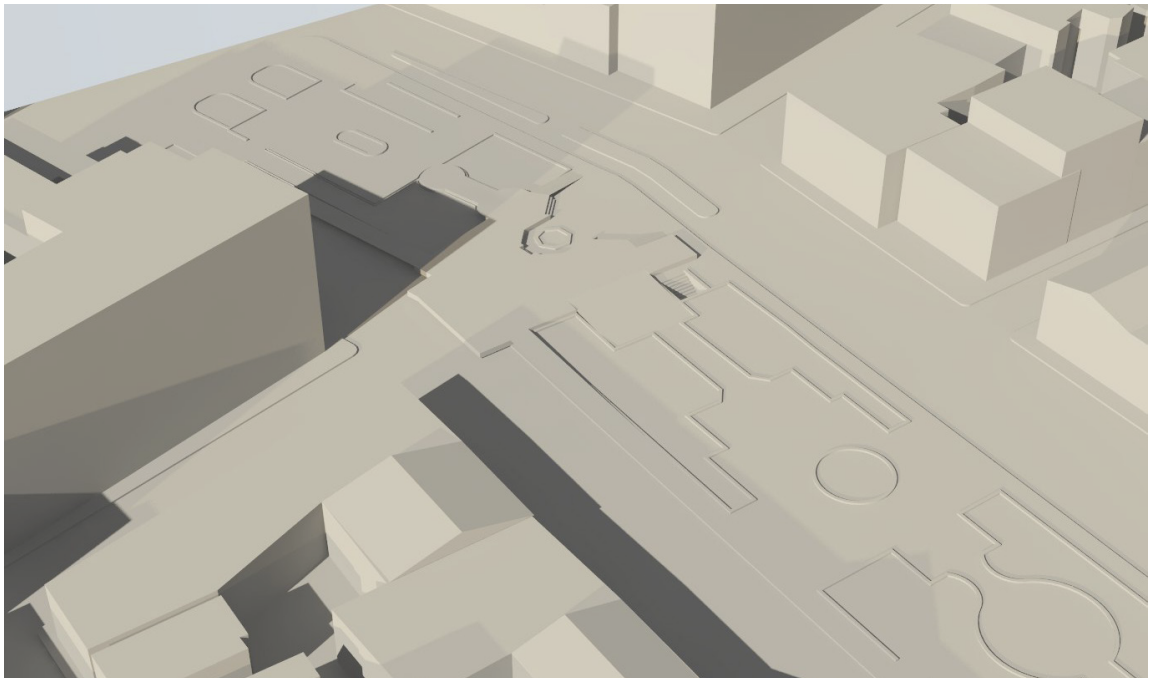
high value

none

sufficient

none





Public Vs Private (Ownership)

Public Vs Private (Appropriation)

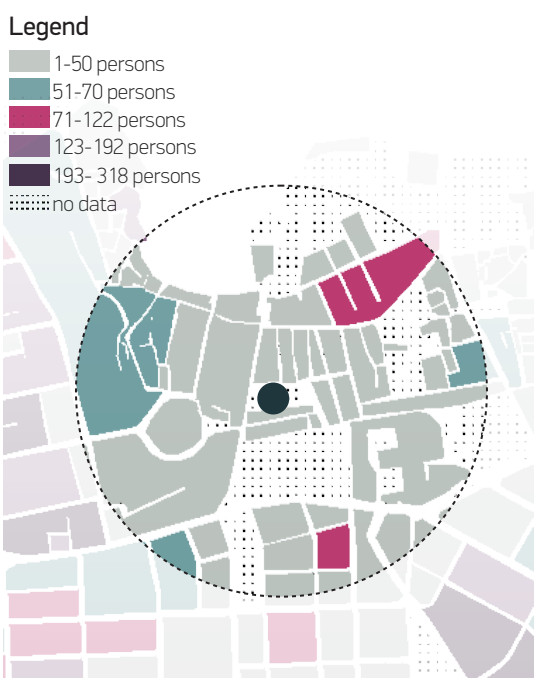
METROPOLIS SQUARE

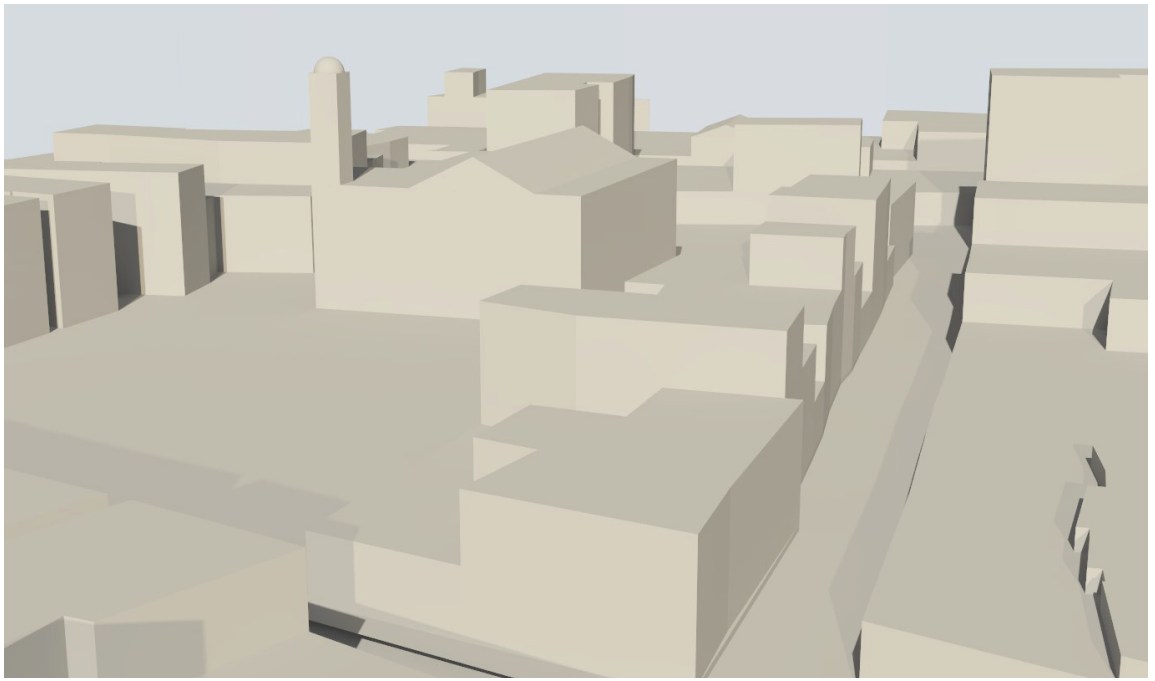
Location in the city

Paved surface 99.2%

Section

1.305 m²	915 people	2%	insufficient	insufficient	insufficient	insufficient	none	**high value**	**sufficient**	none





Public Vs Private (Ownership)

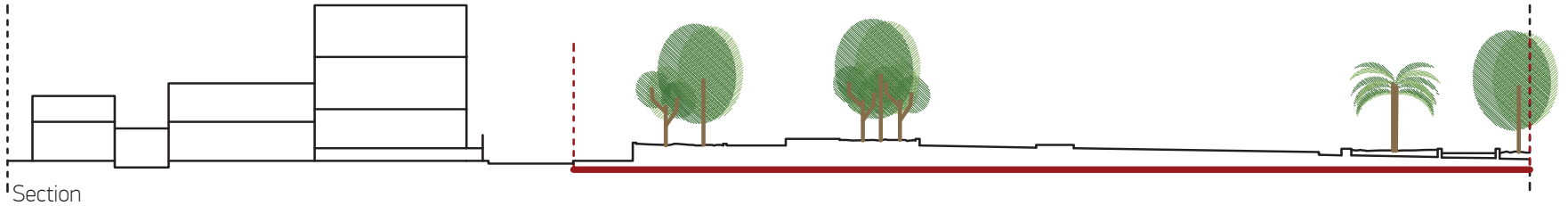
Public Vs Private (Appropriation)

MARKET SQUARE

Location in the city

Paved surface 67%

Green surface 32%



Section

4.575 m²

1.583 people

6%

sufficient

sufficient

insufficient

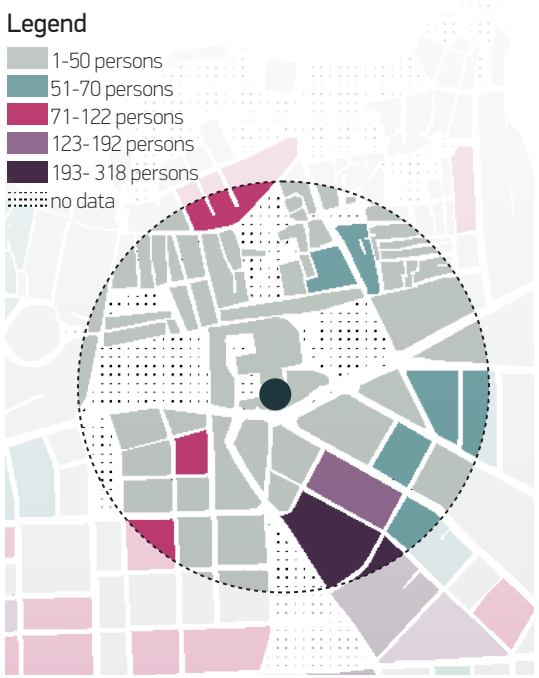
insufficient

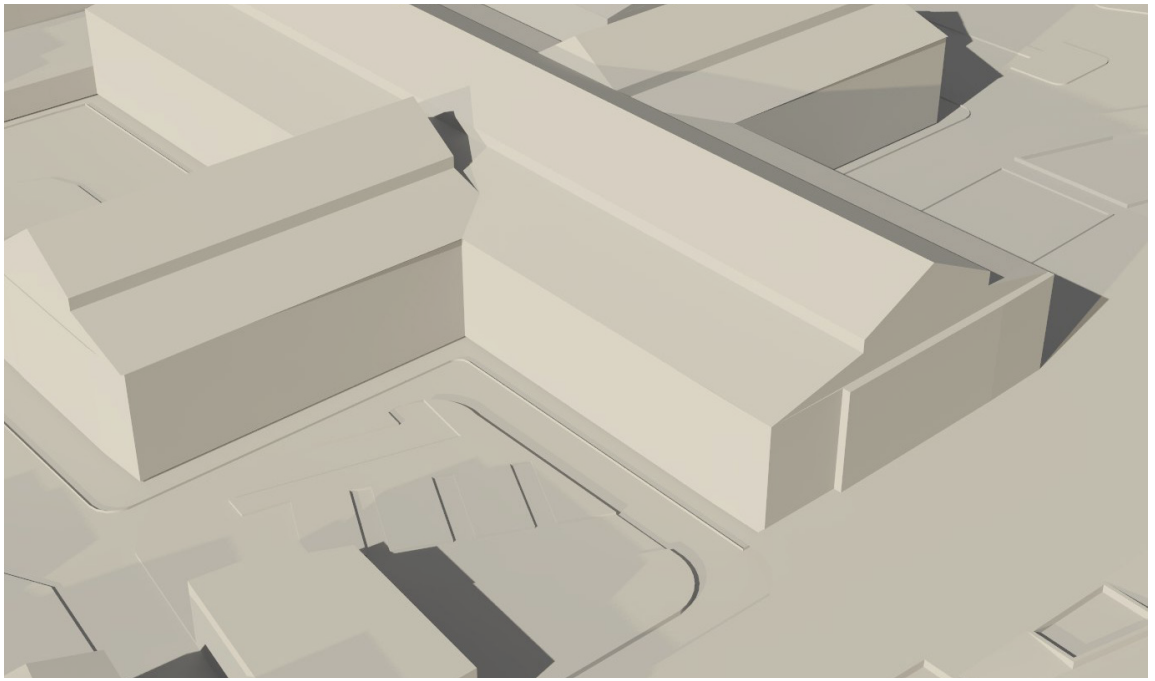
none

high value

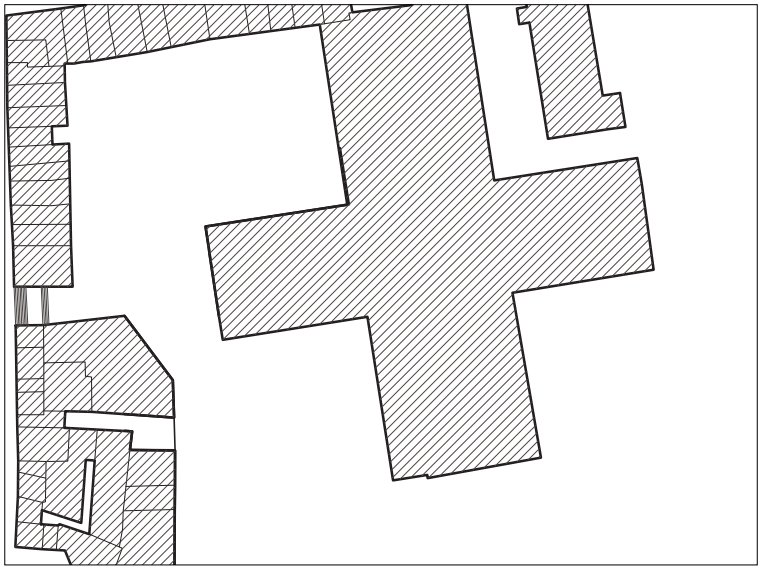
none

none

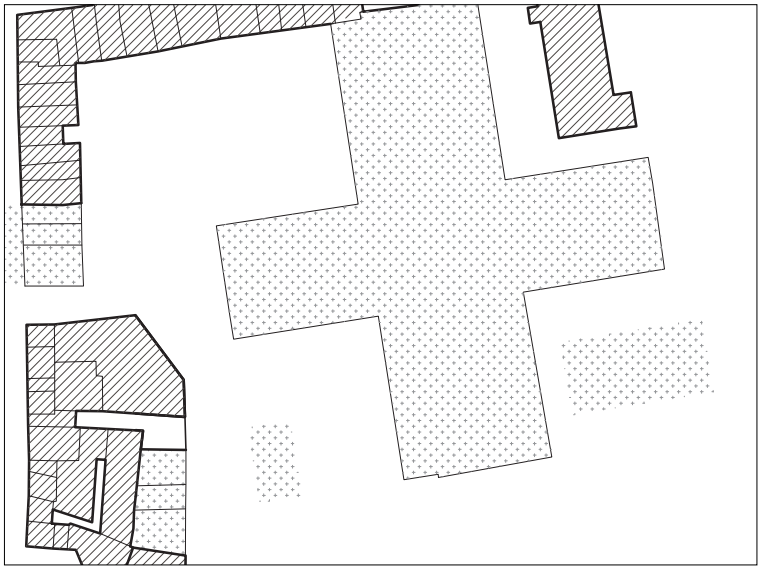




Public Vs Private (Ownership)



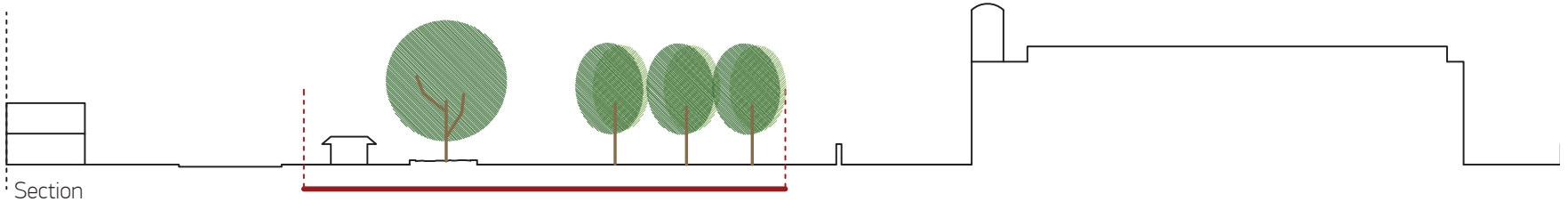
Public Vs Private (Appropriation)



SPLANTZIA SQUARE

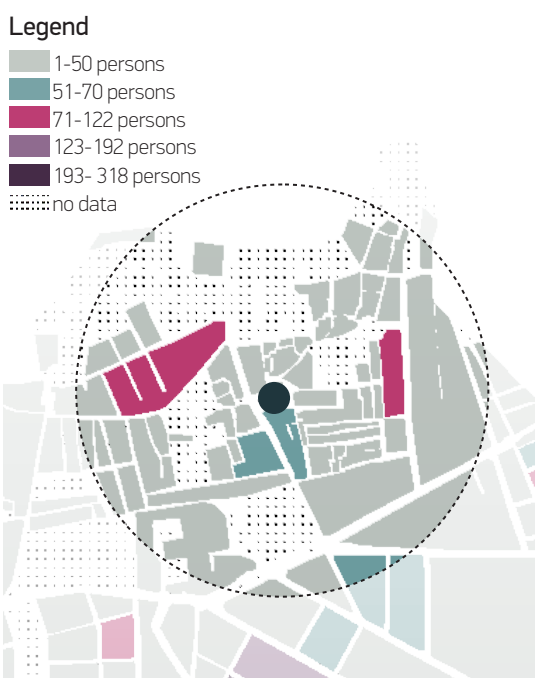
Location in the city

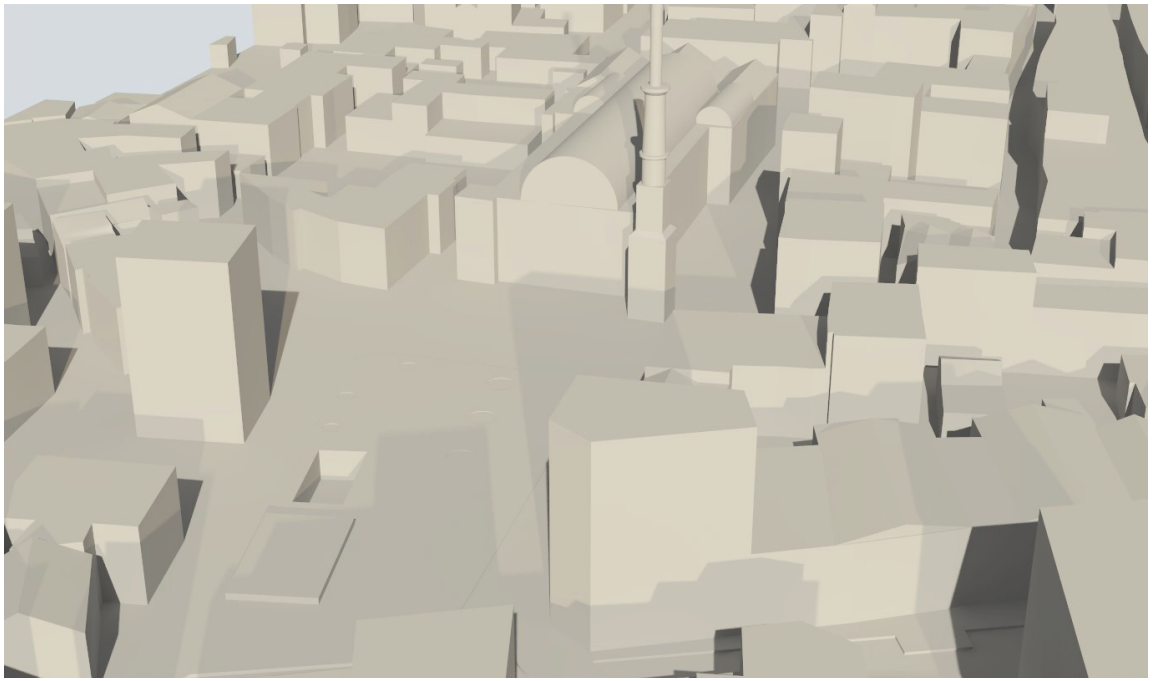
Paved surface 95% | 5%



Section

838 m²	1.142 people	2%	sufficient	insufficient	sufficient	insufficient	none	medium value	none	none





Public Vs Private (Ownership)

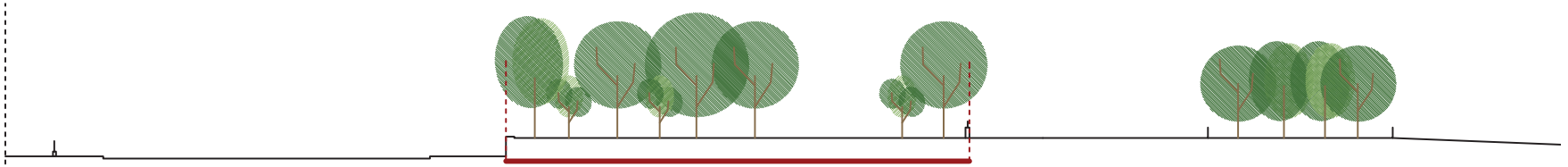
Public Vs Private (Appropriation)

ALKISTIS AGORASTAKI'S PARK

Location in the city

Paved surface 28%

Green surface 72%



Section

1.531 m²

1.382 people

2%

sufficient

insufficient

insufficient

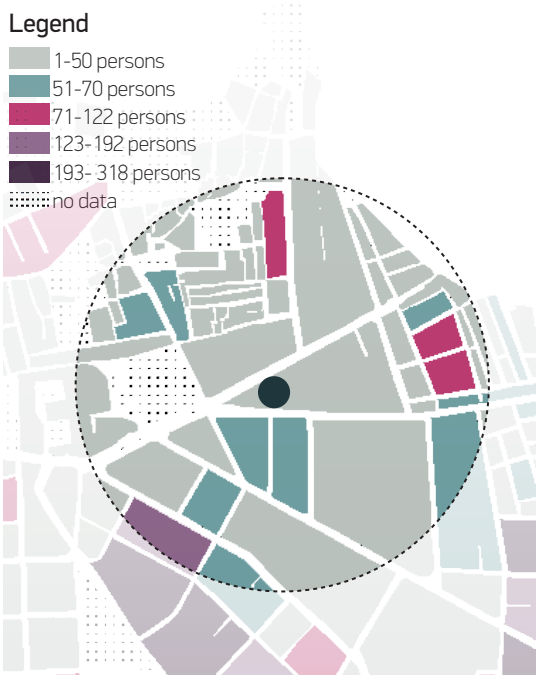
insufficient

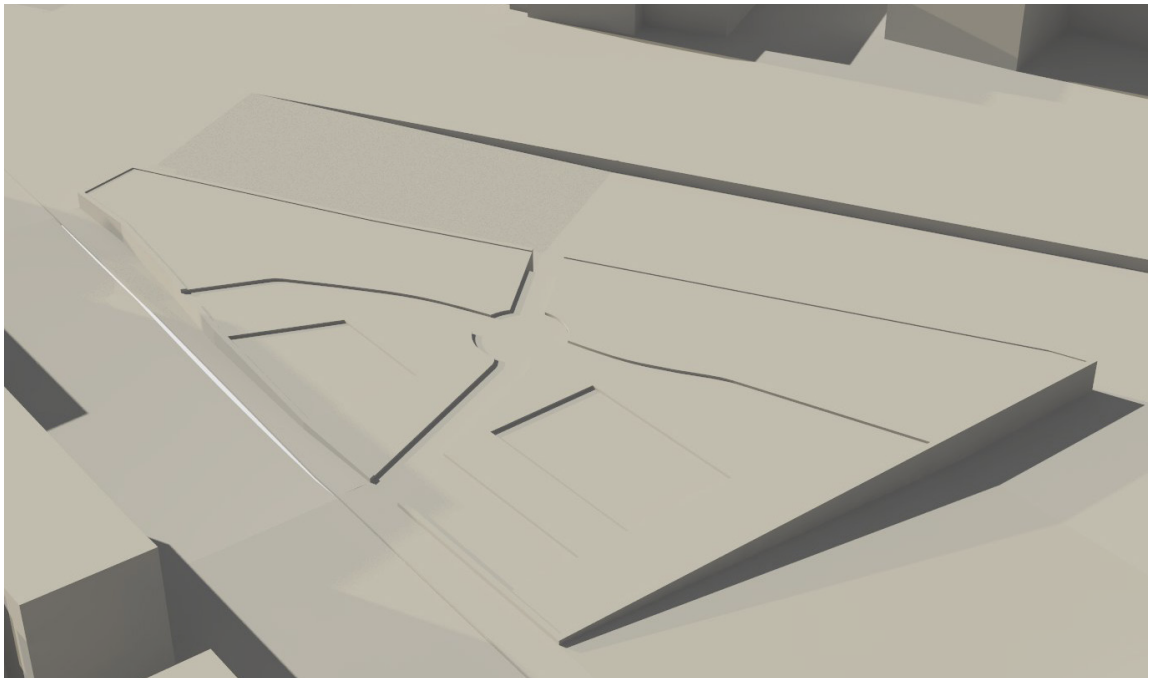
none

none

none

sufficient





Public Vs Private (Ownership)

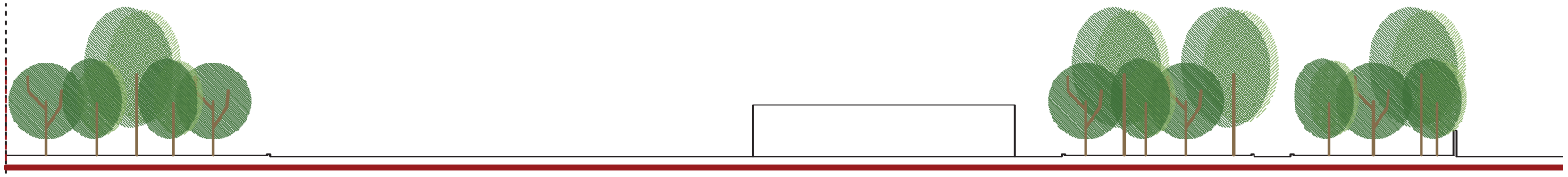
Public Vs Private (Appropriation)

MUNICIPAL GARDEN

Location in the city

Paved surface 44%

Green surface 56%



Section

16.730 m²

500m

1.703 people

32%

sufficient

sufficient

insufficient

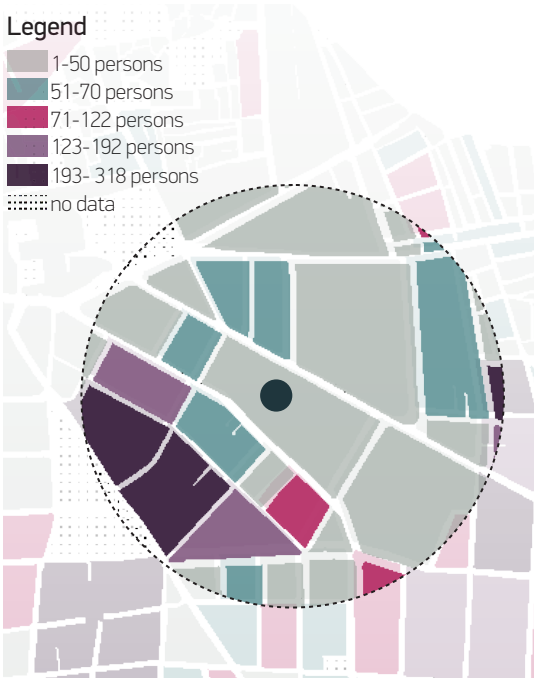
insufficient

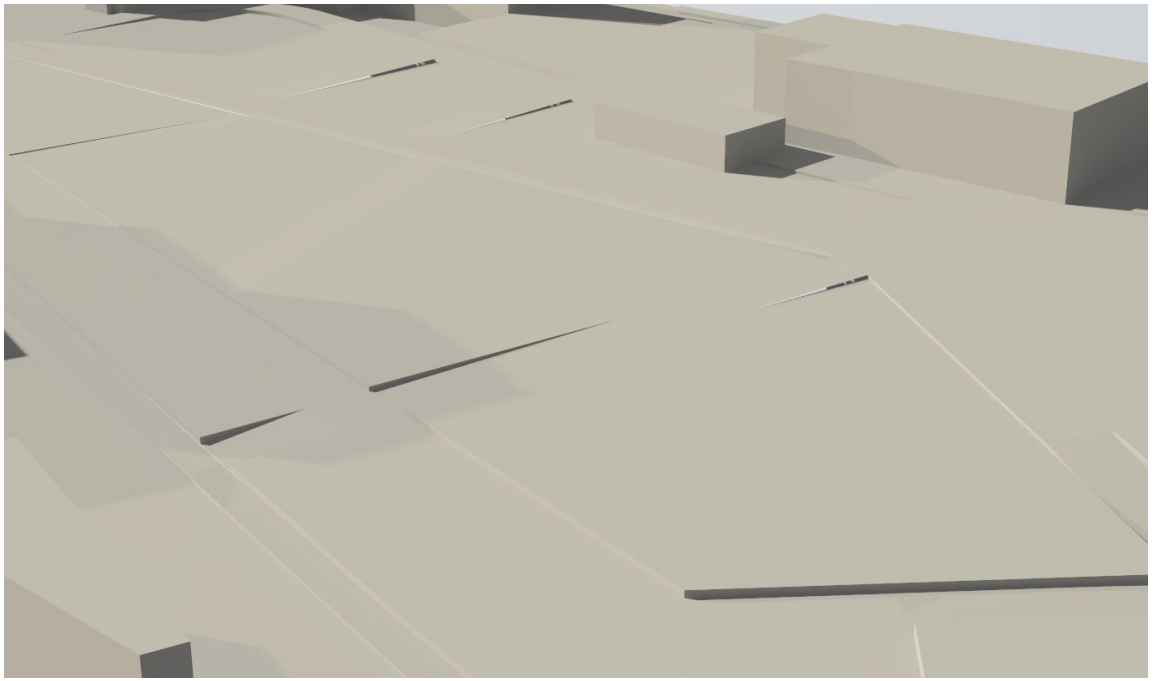
none

low value

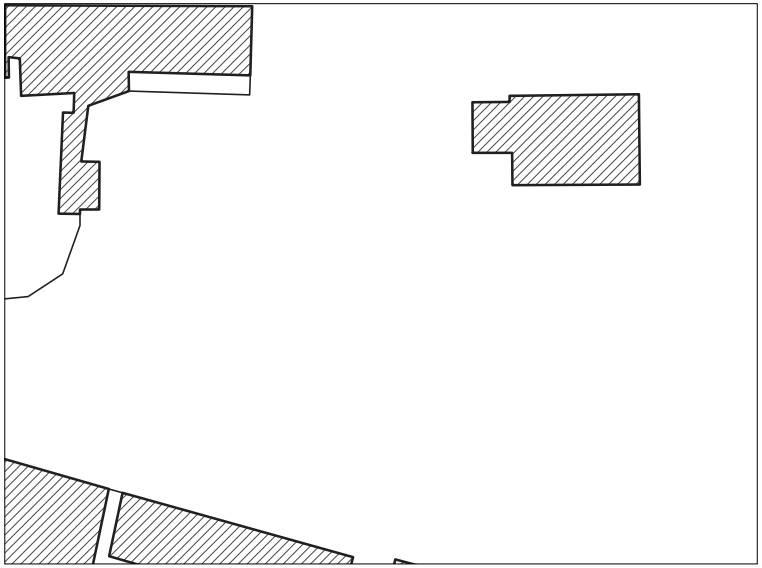
none

sufficient

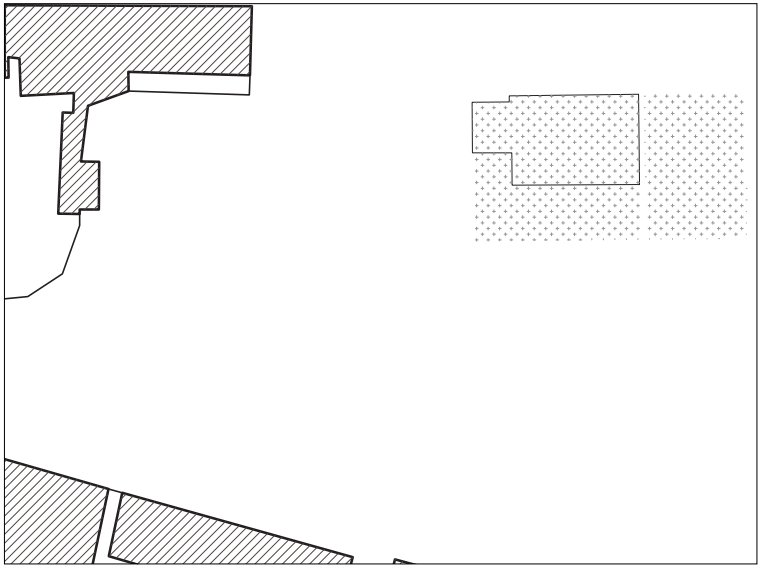




Public Vs Private (Ownership)



Public Vs Private (Appropriation)

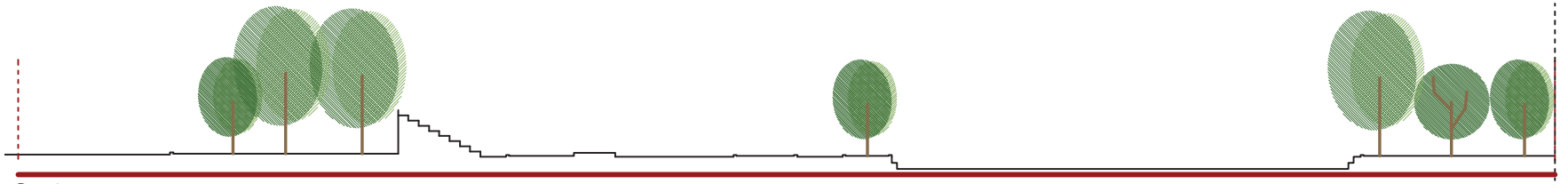


PEACE & FRIENDSHIP PARK

Location in the city

Paved surface 45%

Green surface 55%



Section

15.609 m²

2.637 people

10%

sufficient

sufficient

insufficient

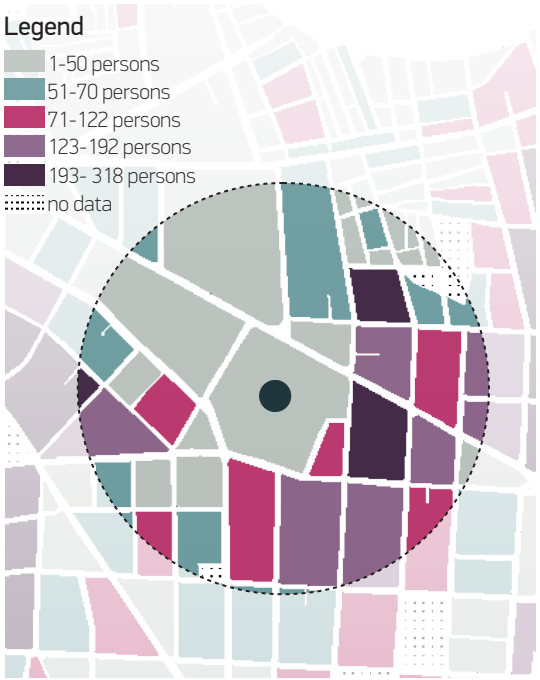
insufficient

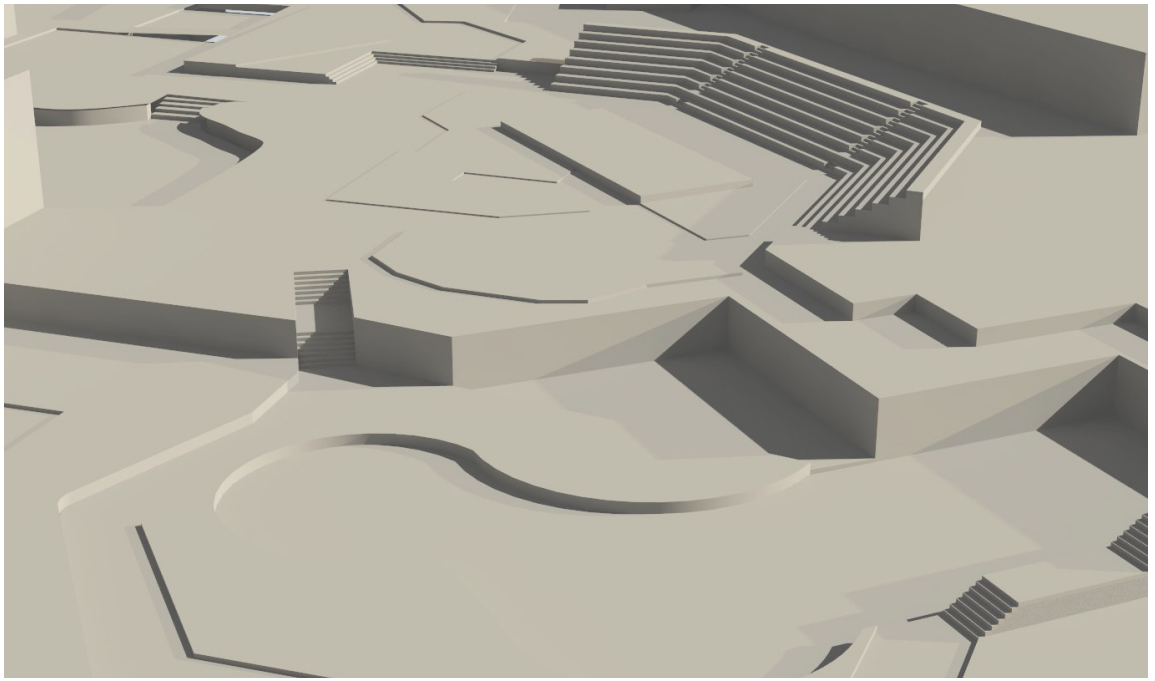
low value

none

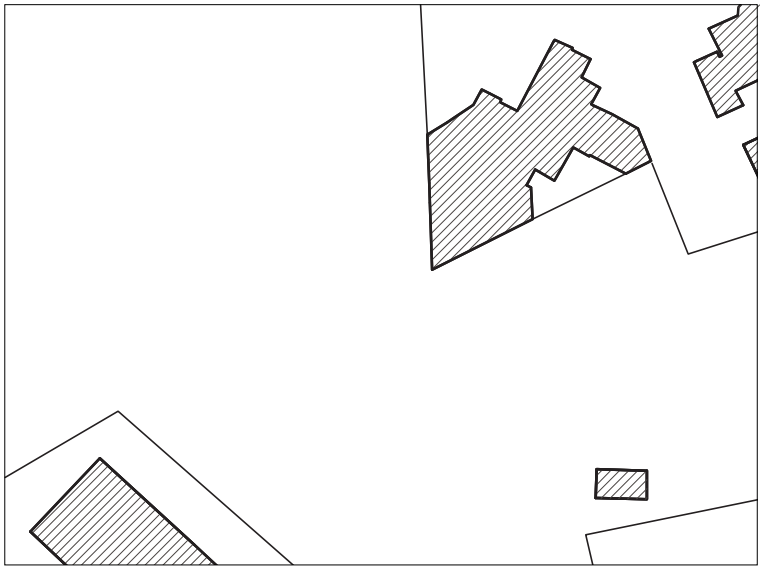
none

sufficient

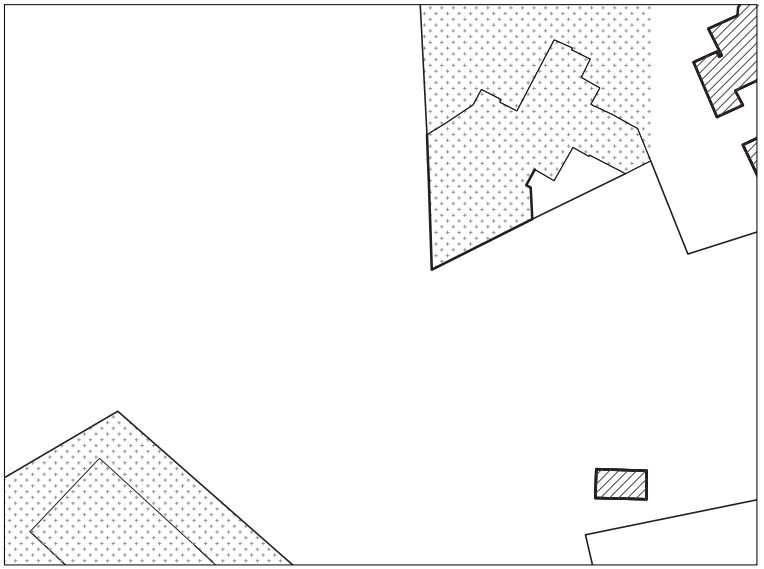




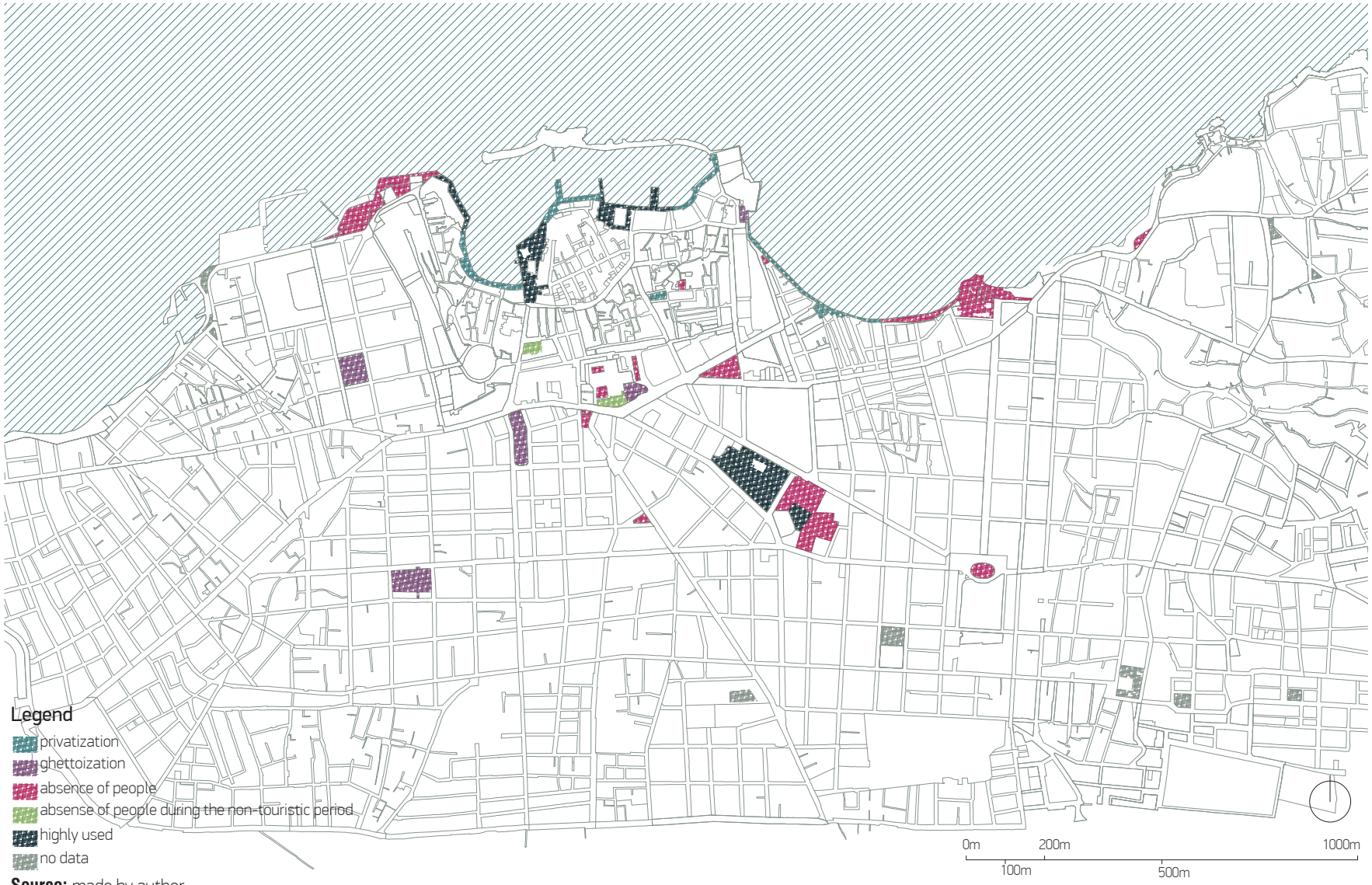
Public Vs Private (Ownership)



Public Vs Private (Appropriation)



8.8 CHARACTERIZATION ACCORDING TO THE PROBLEM TRIPTYCH



Source: made by author

Asking for opinions doesn't mean that you're giving up the right to make the final call; it just helps you make a better decision.

Liz Ryan

09

SOCIAL ANALYSIS

9.1 INTERVIEWS

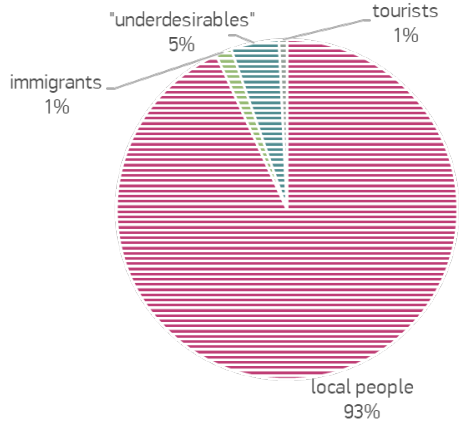
Interviews are an essential and interesting research method, so as to gain a better understanding of the residents' needs and opinions. Literature review is helpful, but not all of what is written fits the present-day situation and the different countries and cultures. In this regard, interviews have been undertaken in the present thesis to find out the preferences of local people in Chania regarding the places, where they spent their free time with friends and family and why.

132 people were interviewed in the city of Chania between 16th and 19th of October 2017. Specifically, 123 of them were locals, 6 of them were those who often are called as the "undesirables" such as homeless, drug-addicted, drunk people etc., 2 of them immigrants and only 1 of them, an American tourist. The initial goal of the interviews was to talk only with local people from different ages, including also the "undesirables" and immigrants. However, due to limitations, the initial aim was readjusted, since there were communication problems with the immigrants (most of them couldn't speak Greek, not even English) and issues of safety with the "undesirables". As for the results of the interviews, the statistical analysis for proportion reasons will take into consideration the 123 local people, without leaving aside the opinions of the rest.

The basic data of the respondents, such as gender and age were attempted to be equally distributed as much as possible. The respondents were mainly people, who were sitting in central defined public spaces or at benches along different streets of the city center. The method used for the interviews was based on semi-structrred questionnaires. According to interviewee's willingness a discussion about public space was made except for just answering the questions of the semi-structrred questionnaire. For that reason, the questionnaires were not in a printed edition, giving multiple choice answers. Using the method of multiple choice answer, the researcher may lead the respondent to a specific direction and does not take into consideration answers, which might not have thought about.

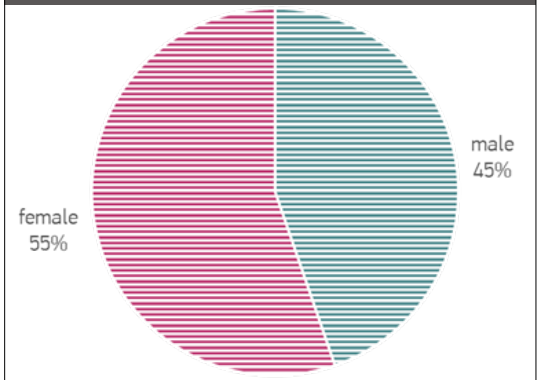
During the interviews, the first concern was to be informed about the places, in which people spend time with friends and family and why they prefer them. This question was used as a way of examining if the hypothesis of the motivation of this project is valid. In other words, to investigate if the attractiveness of Greek people in cafes and not so much in public space is right or not. Simultaneously, it was important to understand why they prefer cafes, if it

Composition of interviewees



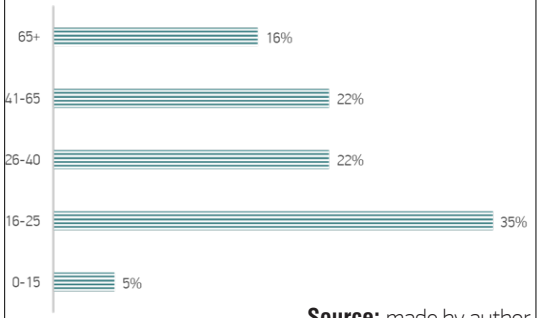
Source: made by author

Gender of interviewees



Source: made by author

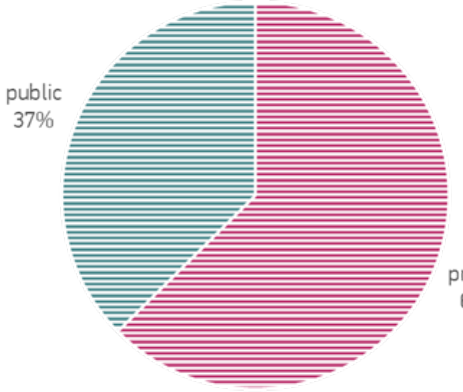
Age group of interviewees



Source: made by author

is so. Further, they were asked if they believe that their city has public spaces to go, if they consider them problematic and in which way, if they feel safe and if not, why. However, in order to not guide them unconsciously towards the statement that public space is problematic, they were asked which public space in Chania they consider as successful. This question was also helpful to visit other places which were repeating by many respondents and were not supposed to be visited in the beginning of the research.

Place to spend time with friends or family



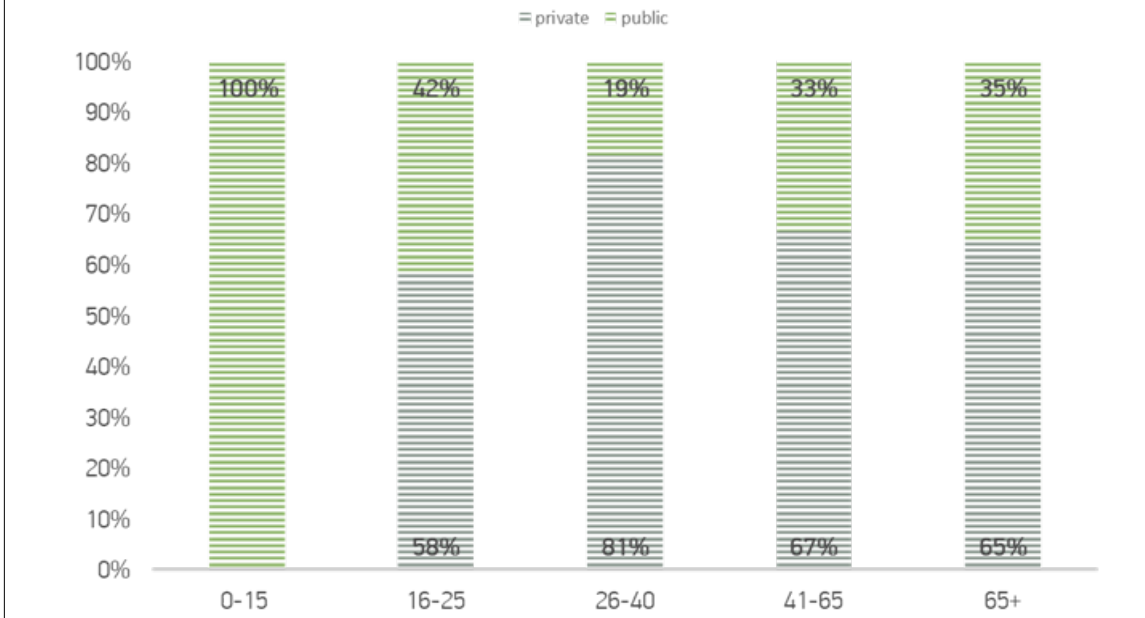
Source: made by author

Apart from the interviews in the public spaces, time was spent to make observations on how the different users appropriate each space. These findings will be presented more analytically in the second part of this chapter. As far as the semi-structure questionnaires are concerned, the questions are the following without being given in a hard copy to the participants (the interviews were oral):

Basic data:

- Gender
- Age
- Interview's place
- Day, time
- Reason for being in that public space

Place to spend time with friends or family per age group



Source: made by author

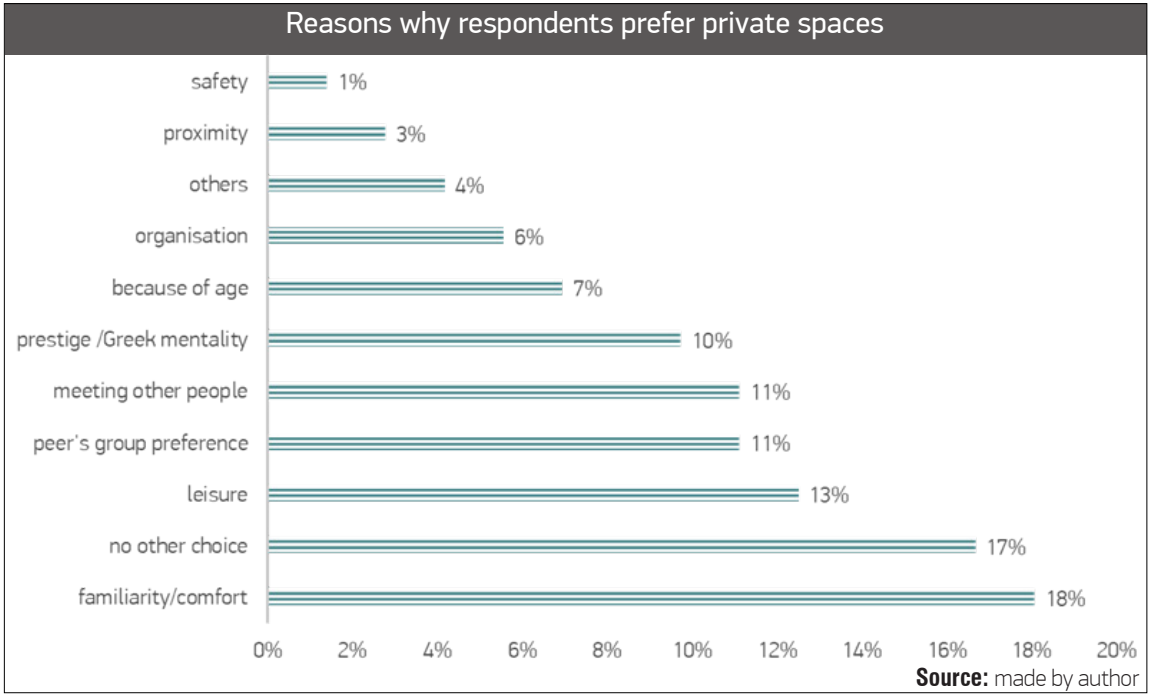
Questions:

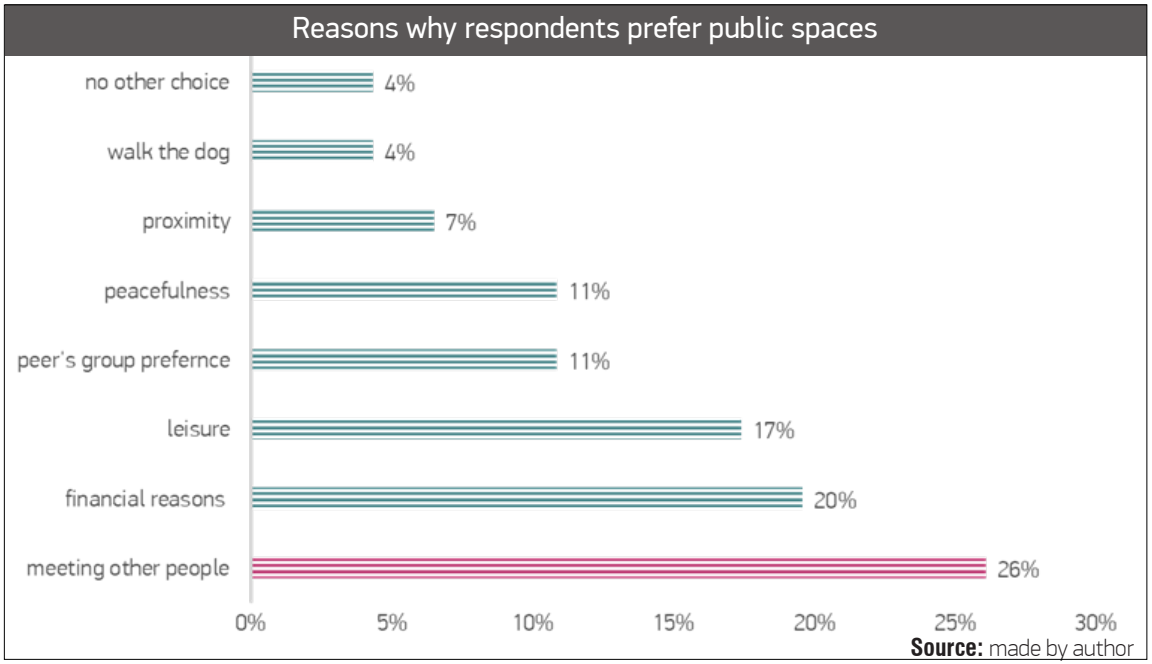
-Where do you spend time with your friends or family? (Q1)
-Why do you prefer this specific place? (Q2)
-How often do you go in that place to meet your friends? (Q3)
-Do you believe that Chania has enough public spaces? (Q4)
-Which public space in Chania do you believe is the most successful and you would like to spend time with your friends there? (Q5)
-Do you believe that public spaces in Chania are problematic? (Q6)
-Why do you believe that? (Q7)
-Do you feel safe in Chania? (Q8)
-Why don't you feel safe? (Q9)

The results of some of the questions are presented as graphs, revealing some important information about the existing situation in the city of Chania regarding the locals' opinions. By combining some of the different data together and having in mind the motivation and the analysis of the problem field, necessary conclusions for the design will be brought to light.

By starting to analyze the data of the interviews, it can be said that the initial hypothesis of the present thesis is validated, since more than half of the respondents (63%) prefer to spend their time with family or friends in private spaces, such as cafes, bars and taverns. Especially,

the age group between 26-40 prefer by 81% private spaces instead of public spaces, such as squares or parks. However, it is important to know why Greek people prefer private to public spaces. So, based on the question 2, there are two different list of reasons why Greek people prefer private and public spaces. Starting from the private spaces, there is not an outstanding reason why local people in Chania prefer them.
So, based on the question 2, there are two different list of reasons why Greek people prefer private and public spaces. Starting from the private spaces, there is not an outstanding reason why local people in Chania prefer them. Specifically, five answers are almost equally distributed with a percentage between 18% and 11%. Namely, beginning from the reason with highest percentage, the five main reason why people in Chania prefer private spaces are: the feeling of familiarity/comfort in those places (18%), the fact that there is no other choice for them to spend their free time (17%), for leisure reasons (13%), peer's group preference, mentioning that their friends want to go there, so they follow for the company (11%) and the last one meeting other people (11%). The fact that there is not such a clear reason why they prefer cafes and bars, it was evident also during the interviews, since most of them were thinking for a while why they prefer private spaces and especially cafes.
On the other hand, the reason why people prefer public spaces is clearer. It is their need to meet new people, as literature review reveals, as well. Meeting other people poses a percentage of 26%. Financial reasons, which are correlated with the crisis of the last years has also a high percentage of 20%. Therefore, it is the last years of the recession in Greece that people started to return to public space and claim for their right in it. Especially, by arguing





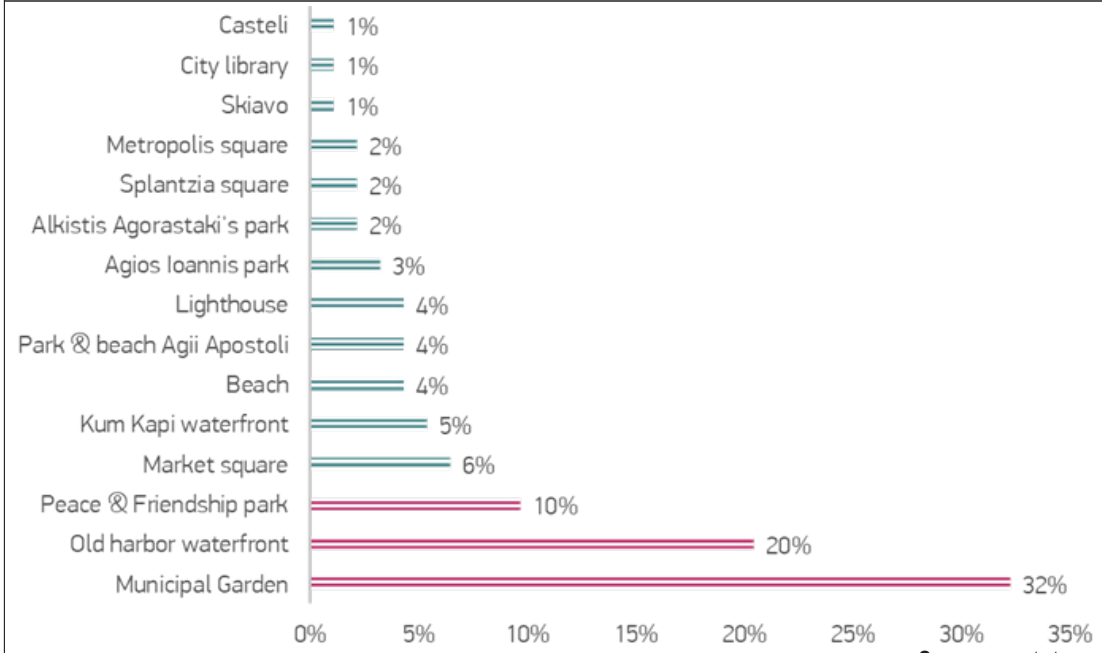
against the extreme extension of coffee tables in squares, parks or parts of waterfronts.

In the question 5, *Which public space in Chania do you believe is the most successful and you would like to spend time with your friends there*, a great preference towards the Municipal Garden (32%) is marked. This preference can be also confirmed by the observations there. The two-following successful public spaces is the waterfront of the old harbor (20%) and the Peace & Friendship Park (10%). Apart from these three public spaces that pose the highest percentages, many other referred by the respondents. As for example, the Market square, the waterfront of Kum Kapi, the beach generally and a specific one, called Agii Apostoli, a little bit remoted from the city context. Some people mentioned also places in the city, which are not officially defined as public spaces, such as Skiavo, the lighthouse and the archaeological site of Casteli.

Municipal Garden apart from being the most successful public space according to the respondents, it is also the place where different social and age groups are concentrated. Even though, in the graph "the five successful public spaces per age group of the interviewees", the age group 0-15 is not present in Municipal Garden, many children play in its playground almost every day, especially after school. The graph does not contain this age group, because the age group of 0-15 constitutes only the 5% of the total respondents. The presence and coexistence of the various age groups in this place are confirmed not only by their preference for it in their interview's answers, but also by the observations. Further, old harbor is another place, where various users are concentrated, including tourists.

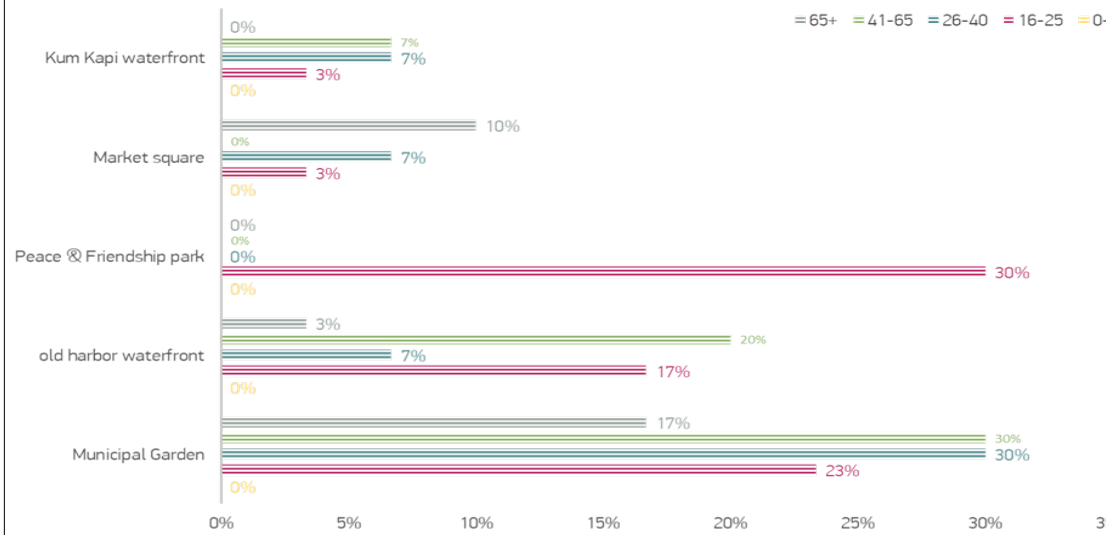
From the observations, it can be stated also that The Peace & Friendship Park is also

Successful public spaces in Chania according to the interviewees



Source: made by author

The five successful public spaces in Chania per age group of the interviewees



Source: made by author

Successful public spaces in Chania according to the interviewees

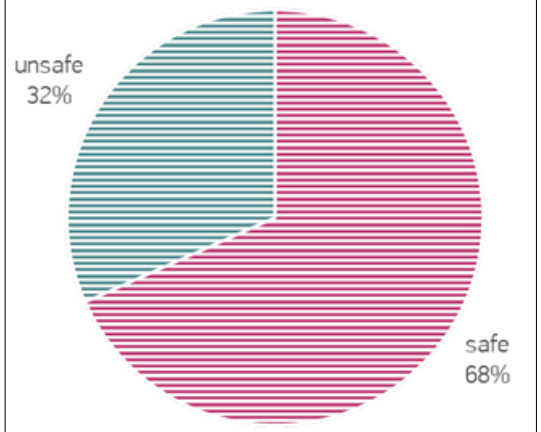
Scale : 1:15000

Source: made by author

a public space, where different users from different ages are concentrated. Specifically, many people from various ages walk their dogs there. Moreover, young people gather there to do their favorite activities, such as skate or bmx biking. Although, this park allocates also a playground, no child was observed the day of observation. But, generally, it can be said that the most prominent users are young people between 16-25. Most of them though, during the interviews, stated that although they like the park and the fact that they meet new people there, they feel unsafe many times during night, due to the presence of "underdesirables" and especially drug-addicted people.

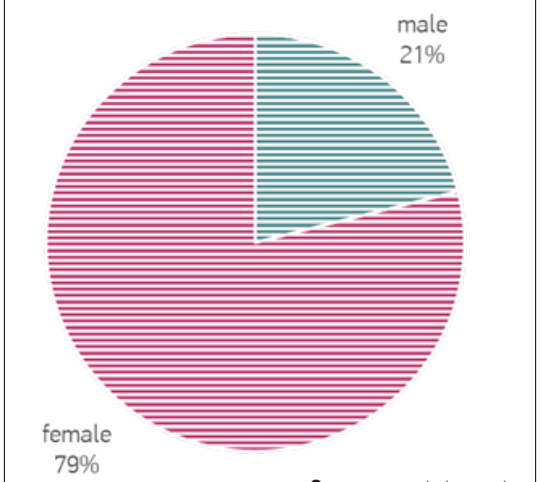
In this point, the issue of safety will be analyzed. Particularly, according to the answers of the local people, a percentage of 68% feel safe in the city of Chania. For the people who don't feel safe (32%), as expected, women possess the greatest percentage in comparison to men, 79% and 21% respectively.

Feeling of safety according to respondents



Source: made by author

Feeling of unsafety based on gender

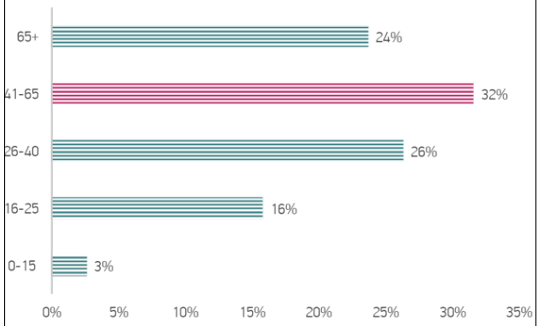


Source: made by author

What is interesting, though is the age group, which feel more unsafe. Although, it was expected old people or really young people to feel more unsafe in the city, mainly because of their age and its consequences, people between 41-65 are those who feel great unsafety (32%). Probably, this is correlated with the fact that many of them are parents or even grandparents. Particularly, a lot of them mentioned during the interviews that they are really concerned about their children's safety. During the interviews, there were many parents who mentioned that they are afraid to go outside with their children because there is a lack of proper sidewalks. As a result, they should walk in the streets and they afraid of the car drivers.

Referring on the reasons why respondents feel unsafe in the city, three are the reasons which were reported. The presence of marginalized groups, such as immigrants, homeless, drug addicted etc., in specific places possesses a percentage of 46%, The same percentage has the answer "during night", without the interviewees stating a specific reason. This answer can be referred either to the lack of proper and sufficient lighting in specific areas of the city or in the absence of people or it can be a combination of them. The third answer with a percentage of 8%, is "cars", concerning mostly the opinions of parents, which were mentioned above.

Feeling of unsafety per age group



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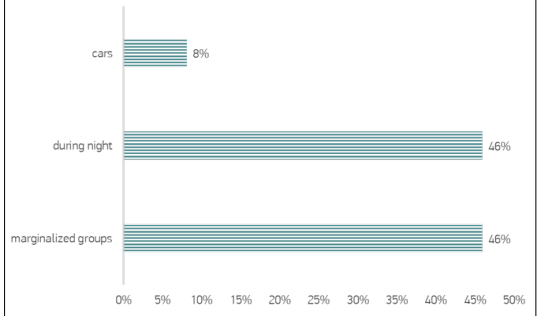
Reasons of unsafety



Source: made by author

9.2 OBSERVATIONS

Apart from the interviews, the method of observations was used, as many times what people say does not fit to what they are doing. A characteristic example of this practice is mentioned by Whyte, who stated that people's "[...] responses to questionnaires can be so misleading. How many people would say they like to sit in the middle of a crowd? Instead, they speak of getting away from it all [...]." (Whyte, 1980, p. 19) However, what people do shows a different priority, as people attract people. (Whyte, 1980)

As might be expected, the meaning and the translation of observations is a matter of subjective interpretation, without that meaning that they do not constitute an interesting research method to understand people's behavior. This method combined with the interviews put additional information to the research process. It helps to understand how people use the place and why some places are more successful than others. It helps also to understand how the different user groups appropriate a place according to their desires and needs. Thus, in the current thesis, in combination with the literature review, observations are used as a method so as the needs of the different user groups to be revealed. (sub-research question c)

What is important to be mentioned is that how people use public space and behavior in it depend on the season, time and day, something that unfortunately it is not included to the current research, due to the distance from the case study, Chania and time's restrictions. Specifically, in the field trip due to lack of time and because of being in Chania since Monday afternoon until Thursday evening, these observations are not so suitable to make clear conclusions. They serve as a way of having a general idea of how these places function combined with the personal experience of the author. Besides, public life is totally different during the weekends, for instance because many people don't work or work less hours. Moreover, children are free from school. Weather conditions and seasonality also matter in such cases.

In the case of Chania, although, the observations took place during the end of the touristic season (mid of October), the number of tourists was unexpectable high, making the whole city liveable all day long. Hopefully, it is easy to recognize who are tourists, locals and immigrants, without influencing the observations.

As far as the observations are concerned, seven officially defined public spaces were observed in total. These places are close to each other, giving the opportunity to go from one to another quite fast. The maximum walking distance from the remote ones is 10 minutes on foot.

In the beginning, the focus of the observations and the interviews were the central public spaces in the city center, in the old town of Chania and just outside the borders of it. However, during the interviews, it was noticed that Municipal Garden and Peace & Friendship Park were a repeating answer in the question about the successful public spaces in Chania. Hence, it was considered necessary to visit also those two and make observations and interviews there.

In the end, it must be mentioned that the places which were observed are the following: a) 1866 square, b) Metropolis square, c) Market square, d) Splantzia square, e) Alkistis Agorastaki's park, f) Municipal Garden and g) Peace & Friendship Park. However, it must be underlined that the observations of the Alkistis Agorastaki's park were not recorded, as the times, when it was visited only two or three people were there. So, it can be concluded that it constitutes a characteristic example of public space, where the absence of people is prominent.

In the next page, a table with the days and the times of each observation is presented and a map with the locations of the observed public spaces in the city context. Additionally, below is the legend that explains the symbols that are used in the observations' visualizations.

Legend of symbols in observations

day/hours	10.00-11.00	11.15-12.00	12.15-13.00	13.15-13.45	14.00-14.30	18.00-18.30	18.45-19.15	19.30-20.00	20.15-21.00	21.15-21.45	22.00-22.30
Monday 16/10						Splantzia	Market	1866	Mitropoli		Market
Tuesday 17/10	Splantzia	Market	1866		Mitropoli		Mitropoli				
Wednesday 18/10						Mitropoli		Market			
Thursday 19/10			Municipal Garden	Peace & Friendship park	Municipal Garden	Municipal Garden	Peace & Friendship park			Splantzia	

Figure: Time table with the time and the days of observation in each of the observed public spaces| **Source:** made by author

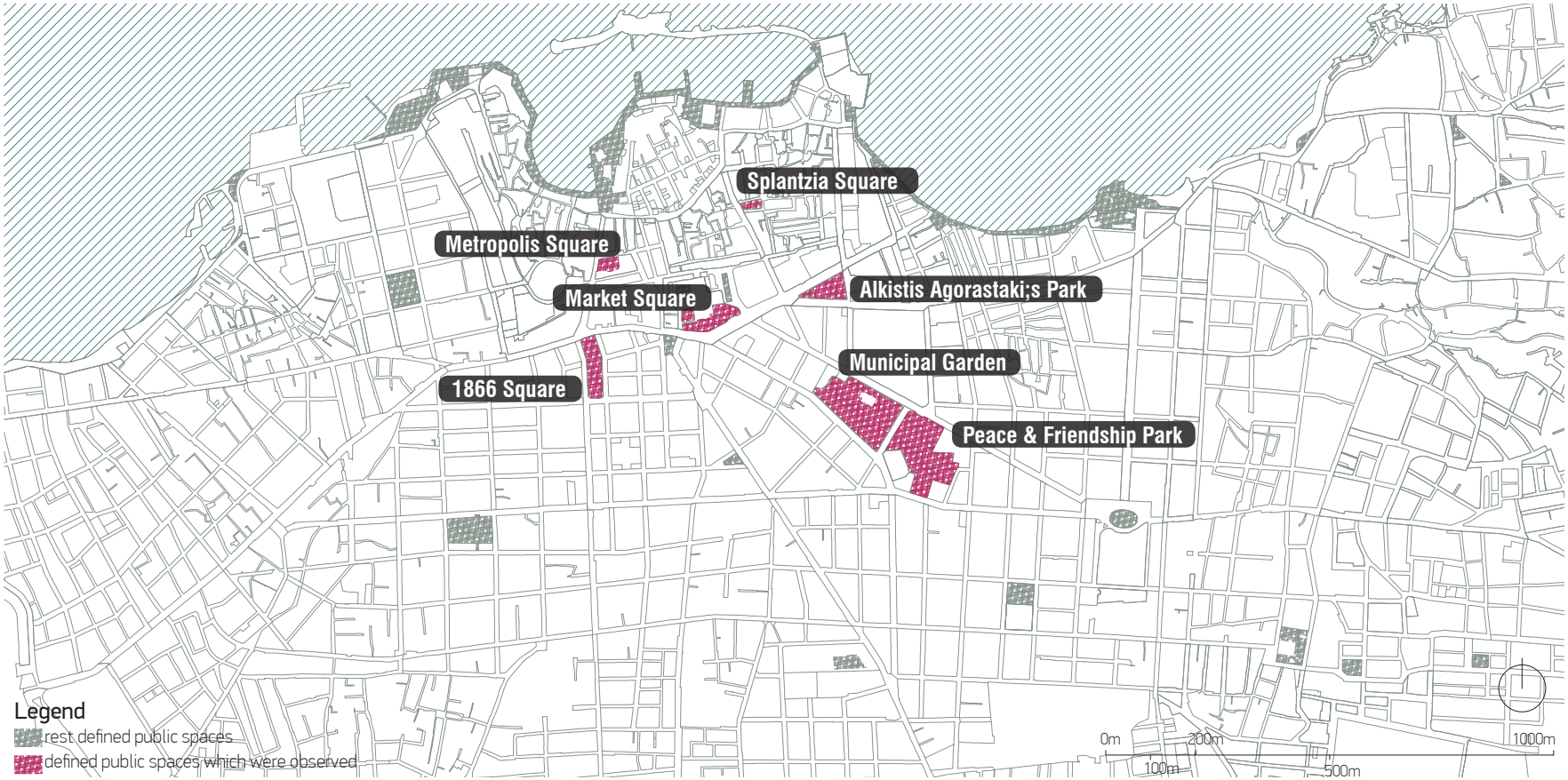
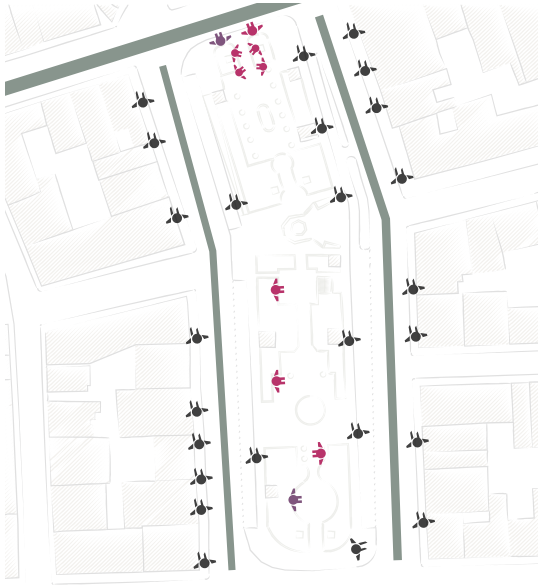


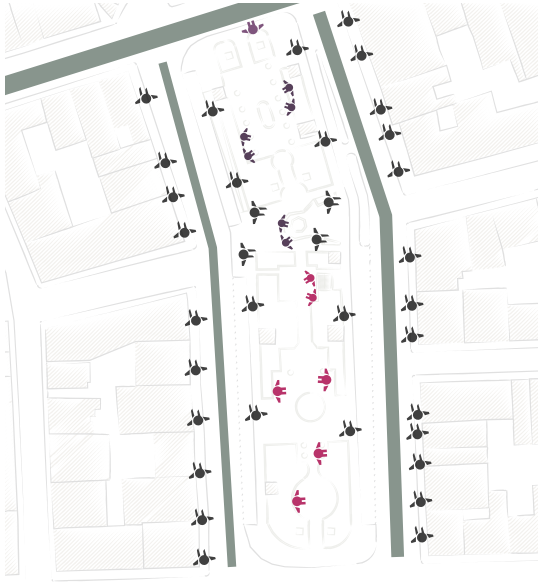
Figure: The public spaces which were observed during the field trip in Chania, in October. Names and location in the city context | **Source:** made by author

1866 SQUARE



Monday 16/10/2017, 19.30-20.00

During Monday evening, only immigrants were observed to use the square. Most them was concentrated in the north part of the square, sitting in the bars, as it is appeared in the right picture. They seemed like being a big company discussing with each other. There were also other immigrants, who were sitting alone in inner separated parts of the square. In the surrounding area around the square, some of the commercial shops were open at that time, so some people were walking in the sidewalks along the shops. No one was crossing the square at that time, but only a few persons were walking along its edges.



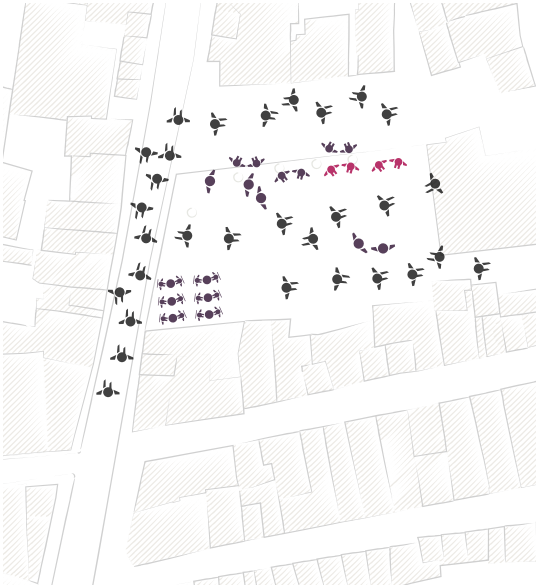
Tuesday 17/10/2017, 12.15-13.00

During Tuesday morning, the square was more liveable, because of the presence of tourists. During that time, it seemed that the square is divided in two main parts. In the north part, tourists were sitting in companies, while the south part was used by immigrants and some drunk people. The commercial uses in the surrounding area attracts many people, who walked along the shops in the sidewalks. What is different in comparison to the night use, apart from the amount of people in the square and those who walked along its edges, is that some crossed it. But only in a specific point, in the center, where the Ottoman fountain is, and a continuation of a street is interrupted because of the square.

METROPOLIS SQUARE

Monday 16/10/2017, 20.15-21.00

Metropolis square, as its name indicates allocates the most important church of the city, which constitutes not only an important religious part of locals' life, but also a touristic attraction. During Monday evening, some tourists were sitting at the few benches in the north edge of the square and some standing in front of the church taking photos. Some immigrants were sitting under a shelter and their children playing with Greek children, who were sitting in the stairs of the church. Even though, tourists left after some minutes, the company of children stayed there discussing and playing the whole time of observation.



Tuesday 17/10/2017, 14.00-14.30

During Tuesday noon, when Greek people are about to stop working, the square is full of tourists, who were visiting the church, standing out of it taking photos, sitting in the cafes in the south edge of the square and in the few benches in its north edge. Some immigrants were sitting again under the same shelter as on Monday evening. The square was really liveable at that time, but especially because of the presence of tourists. From the observations and the author's experience in the city life of Chania, it raises the question: What happened when the tourist season ends? How does Metropolis square look like?

METROPOLIS SQUARE

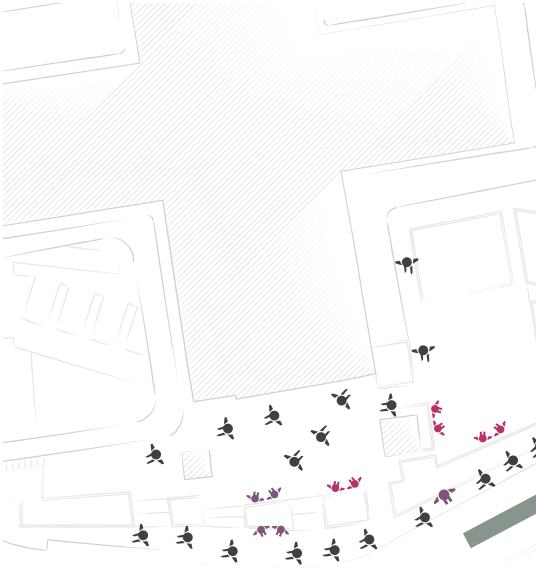
Tuesday 17/10/2017, 18.45-19.15

On Tuesday afternoon, again the presence of tourists was quite prominent. Most of them were standing out of the church taking photos and some visiting it. In comparison to the noon of the same day, they were fewer, Local people were observed sitting alone at the benches of the north edge, without interacting. A young woman was watching over her little child running along the square. A 68-year-old woman sitting at a bench mentioned that she comes in the square often. She prefers this place because Holy Mary protects her, showing so the connection of some Greek people with their religion and the symbolic meaning of this square for them.

Wedenesday 18/10/2017, 18.00-18.30

On Wednesday late afternoon, it was the first day that young people were observed sitting in a public space. Two university students were sitting at a bench in the north part of the square, drinking their beers and discussing. The same children as Monday evening were sitting and playing mainly in front of the church. This day and time the square was used foremost by local people. Only one tourist was sitting alone in the bench observing the children playing. After having a small conversation with him, he mentioned that he comes from USA and visits Chania quite often. This period of his vacation lived in the old town, so he comes every evening in this square to watch children playing, as this scenery offers him peacefulness.

MARKET SQUARE



Monday 16/10/2017, 18.45-19.15

On Monday evenings, the Municipal Market is closed. But that time the pharmacy was open, resulting in many people to cross the central part of the Market square to go to the pharmacy. Some students were sitting in the benches waiting the time to go to their extracurricular lessons. The east side of the square is quite hidden due to the foliage's of the trees. Many immigrants and drunk people were concentrated there. Quite a few people were walking in the sidewalk in front of the square along the main street, Venizelou. They were mainly those going out of the buses since there are two bus stops in the corners of the square.

Monday 16/10/2017, 22.00-22.30

During Monday night, two companies of young people were sitting in the central part of the square. Two of them were eating and the other two discussing while they were waiting for the bus to come. In the sidewalk in front of the square a man was waiting to meet his friends and other people were sitting there, as well. In the east side, immigrants were sitting, having conflicts which other, provoking so the reactions of the kiosk's owner, who wanted to call the police. At that time, the pharmacy is closed, but the two kiosks in the central part of the square attracted people for a while.

MARKET SQUARE

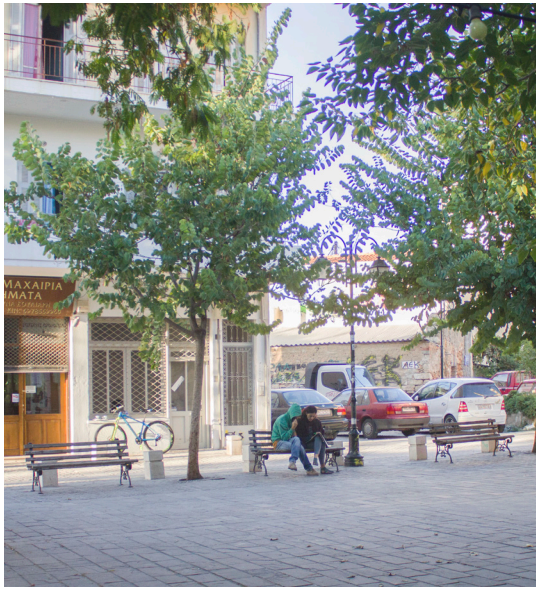
Tuesday 17/10/2017, 11.15-12.00

On Tuesday morning, an activity in the center of square took place. It was about teaching people how to offer the first aids. So, apart from people participating in the learning process, many were standing or sitting at the benches, watching the procedures. Tourists were also attracted by this event. In the east side, except for tourists, tourists were sitting at the benches. Further, a café was open at that time in this part, concentrating lots of people, but mainly tourists. The Municipal Market was open, as well. So, local people and mainly tourists were visiting the building. As for the benches in the outside edge of the square along the street Venizelou were full of old people who come often in this area to meet their friends and discuss.

Wednesday 18/10/2017, 19.30-20.00

On Wednesday evening, many young people were concentrated in the square. Some of them were standing in companies and discussing, some of them sitting at the benches and the rest sitting in the ledges because there were not enough benches for all of them. Many of them were sitting at the benches and standing in the sidewalk in front of the central part of the square. The reason of their concentration there, was because Market square constituted their starting point for a demonstration regarding problems with their university. Again, some immigrants were sitting in their standard spot, in the east side of the square, the most isolated part, both physically and visually.

SPLANTZIA SQUARE



Monday 16/10/2017, 18.00-18.30

Splantzia square was the first public space which was observed during Monday late afternoon. The square was quite silent, even though a lot of people were sitting in the cafes. Old people were sitting in the tables along the paved street close to the coffee shops, having conversations with each other and the owner. More young people were sitting in the central tables of the square. A couple was sitting in one of the three benches of the square, searching for a new home. As for the walking people, most of them were returning home by using the paved streets in the sides of the square, while only a few crossed the square and especially old men.

Tuesday 17/10/2017, 10.00-11.00

During morning time, the cafes' patrons were concentrating mainly in the west part of the square. What is interesting though, is that during that time the part of people's concentration is close to the street Daskalogianni, which is quite busy by cars, motorbikes and trucks. The continuous pass of various vehicles results in noise, destroying the calm and relaxing atmosphere of this traditional square. Probably, their choice is correlated with the facilities of the bakery there, as except for drinking coffee, patrons can eat breakfast. During daytime old people are scattered in the different coffee shops along the paved streets and they do not gather all together to the oldest and most traditional café of the square.

SPLANTZIA SQUARE

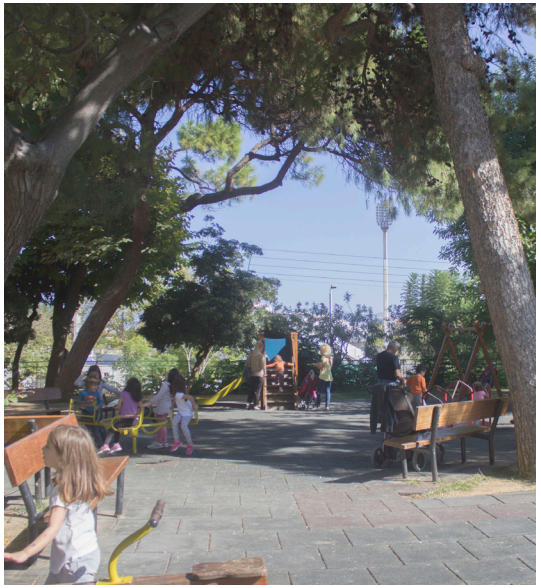
Thursday 19/10/2017, 21.15-21.45

During Thursday night, the majority of the users in the square eating and drinking alcohol and not coffee. As on Monday late afternoon, most clients were concentrated in the most traditional coffee shop in the east side of the square. Almost all the users are young people between 20-26 years old, there are some middle-aged people between 30-40 and a few old people. Café owners due to the high concentration of people added more tables in the square in comparison to the other days of observations. So, coffee tables were covered almost all the open space of the square. The whole atmosphere there was so vibrant that reminded summer. As for the walking people, almost none was observed during that time.

Although Splantzia is a traditional square, characteristic example of the Greek type "square of Sycamore", it is one of the most privatized squares in Chania due to cafes, especially during summer period. As a 21 year- old man mentioned during the interviews, this space is only for people who go to the cafes and the taverns. Specifically, he stated: *Sometimes we don't have choices for where to sit in public space. One time we were sitting in Splantzia square and some pedestrians make complaints to us that they couldn't pass by and not due to the coffee tables which are everywhere. This is really outrageous.*

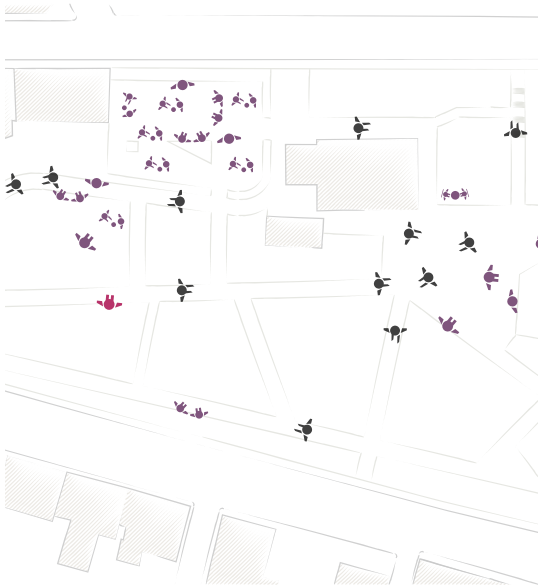
Moreover, a young pedestrian around 27 years old who watched me observing how people behave in this public space, approavhed me and after asking me what Iam doing, she expressed approximately the same opinion with the 21-year-old man. After a small discussion with her, she revealed me that she lives close by to the square, so she passes every day from that space. Namely, she mentioned: *I really enjoy the square at that period of time, because it is not so crowded. The cafes have reduced the expansion of their coffee tables in the whole square. Further, the closing of Klidi (one of the cafes) for the winter season makes the square to seem more like an open space and not a floor for coffee tables.* Because of my weakness to be there during weekend I asked her for the situation in the square and she described it briefly as following: *In Sunday mornings, many people, especially families and elderly are concentrated in Splantzia after church service. Parents sit in the cafes and children play in the free space among the coffee tables. During weekend, some children from the neighborhood come here to play football, as well. But all of these happened before cafes occupied the whole area of the square for the summer period.*

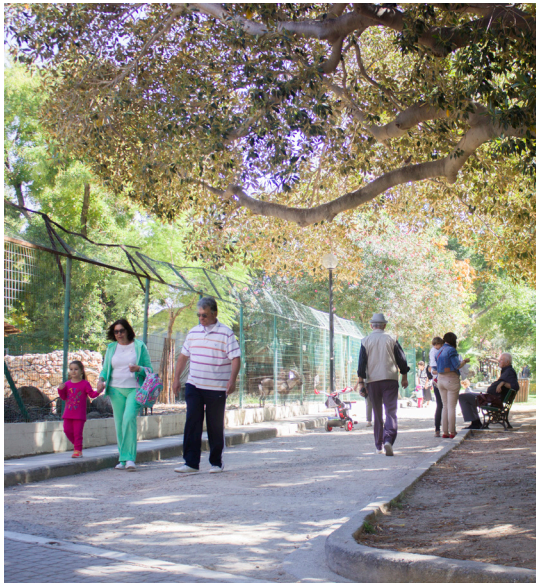
MUNICIPAL GARDEN



Thursday 19/10/2017, 12.15-13.00

On Thursday late morning, the Municipal Garden was full of people from different age groups. Each age group was placed in specific areas in the park. Many children between 5-6 years old were playing in the playground, as they were there for a daily trip with their school. In the central open space of the park, all the benches were occupied by old men who were sitting with their friends, discussed and observed other people who passed by. Some other people of various ages were sitting in duos in the benches along the routes of the park. As the park allocates a small zoo, some people where standing in front of the cages observing the animals. The café of the park was also full of people but especially from the age group 26-40 and 41-65.





Thursday 19/10/2017, 14.00-14.30

At noon, while the other public spaces were almost empty, the Municipal Garden was again full of people, but especially by children and their parents or grandparents. Most of them were concentrated in the playground and quite a lot in the west side of the park, where there is a small zoo. Parents were observed to feed the animals with their children. Specifically, one 40-year old man mentioned: *We prefer Municipal Garden because of the zoo, in order my child to come in contact with animals. The playground is not so safe here. So, we prefer this part of the park. Generally, the public spaces in Greece are really problematic. They are not safe to be used by children. They don't use the proper materials. If you see around, you can understand.*

MUNICIPAL GARDEN

Thursday 19/10/2017, 18.00-18.30

In the early evening, Municipal Garden was not so full as late morning and noon. The only places that had people were the playground and the café. This time of the day, the users were only little children and their parents watching over them. Many parents were sitting also in the café. The playground of the park is always full of people, because as many interviewees stated it is the only place that they can go with their children. As they mentioned it is not the most successful example of a playground, but it is most easily-accessible and the most well-maintained in the city.

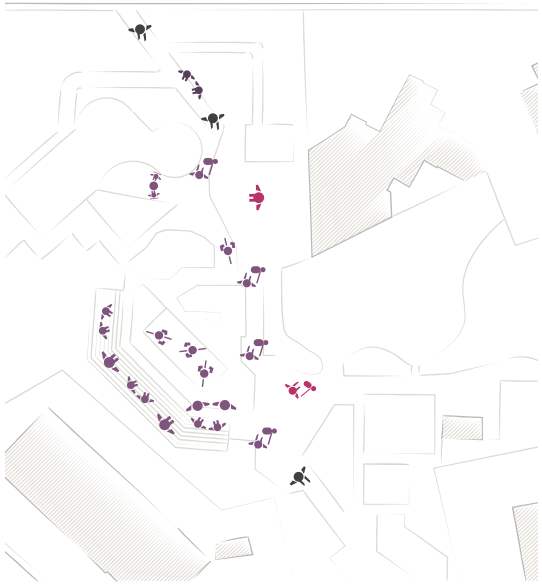
As for the accessibility of the park, it can be said that generally it is not visual accessible since it is surrounded by high walls. That may be the reason why, mainly local people visit this place. In addition, as for its physical accessibility, its location in the city center and its proximity to the stadium of the city and schools make it really visitable, especially at the end of the school day at 13.00 or 14.00 o'clock. It constitutes a relaxing solution for parents and children after the school day.

In this case, some opinions of local people about the Municipal Garden are expressed, as well. Specifically, a 43-year old woman said: There is a general absence of public spaces in our city. Of course, there are some, but they are really neglected. Municipal Garden is not so good, but it is the best choice in comparison with others. There is an overall apathy about public spaces by the citizens of Chania. A 50-year old man stated also: We need playgrounds for our grandchildren, but there are not enough in the city and the existing ones are really problematic. Municipal Garden is the most successful. Look at it and imagine how the others are.

PEACE & FRIENDSHIP PARK

Thursday 19/10/2018, 13.15-13.45

Although, many people referred to the Peace and Friendship Park during the interviews, the situation was quite different, comparing to the Municipal Garden which is close by. The main user groups were students around 16 years old, who were sitting with their friends and discussing. Two of them were sitting in the amphitheater of the park, while three of them in a bench under the shade of a tree. In the café of the park only two companies were drinking coffee. In the entrance of the park an immigrant was reading a book and two old men were alone in different parts of the park. Two young persons around 30 were sitting in an isolated bench drinking their take away coffee and discussing.



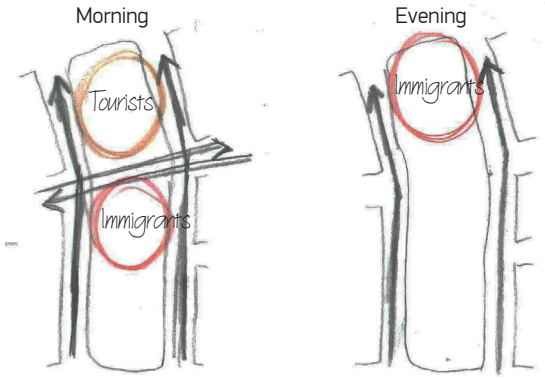
Thursday 19/10/2017, 18.45-19.15

In the late afternoon, more people were concentrated in the park in comparison to the Municipal Garden. But mainly in the area around the amphitheater. Many young people were sitting in the amphitheater discussing with each other and watching other young people biking bmx. The main age group gathered there was 17-25. But apart from these users, many people walked their dogs there from different ages and as they mentioned they use this park for that reason every day. Due to this daily habit they met new people in the park. Although many use the park for different reasons, all of them mentioned that they are afraid during night because all of the lights are broken, and many drug addicted persons come here.

9.2b CONCLUSIONS FROM OBSERVATIONS

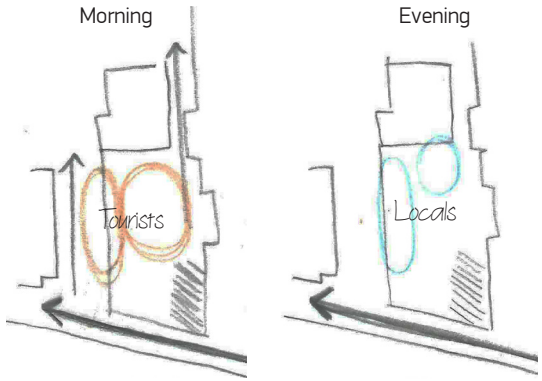
1866 square

Immigrants occupy a different part of the square based on the presence of other users, and specifically tourists, because local people don't use this square. Particularly, according to the observations, tourists were present in the square during morning and afternoon, while during late afternoon and evening only immigrants and "underdesirables" were present in the square. Thus, during evening immigrants occupied the northern part of the square, whilst during morning, tourist occupied that part, so immigrants moved to the southern part. As for walking people, most walked in the sidewalks opposite of the square, because of the land uses in the ground floor. Some of them walked also just in the edges of the square and only during morning, just a few crossed the square in its central part, where the Ottoman fountain is. The walking patterns may correlated to issues of safety in the inner part of the square, due to the unsuitable lighting and the presecense of "underdesirables".



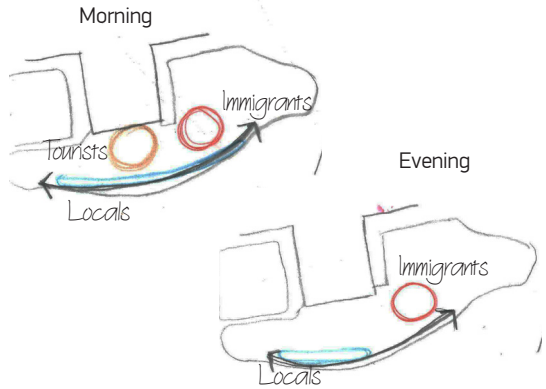
Metrpolis square

In Metropolis square touristic seasonality matters. During the touristic period the square is full of people mainly tourists, while during the non-touristic is totally empty. Based on the observations, during morning and afternoon the square was full of tourists, occupying the central part and sitting at the benches in the edges, as well. During late afternoon and evening, local people were sitting at the benches in the edge of the square. Children also were sitting in the stairs of the church and playing mainly in the part in front of the church. At that time, some tourists were present in the square, as well, occupying its central open part. They were watching the church, taking photos of it or visiting it if it is open. As for the walking people, all the different users walked along the Chalidon street, which is the main street which leads to the old harbor of the city. Some of them used the paved streets parallel to square's borderlines.



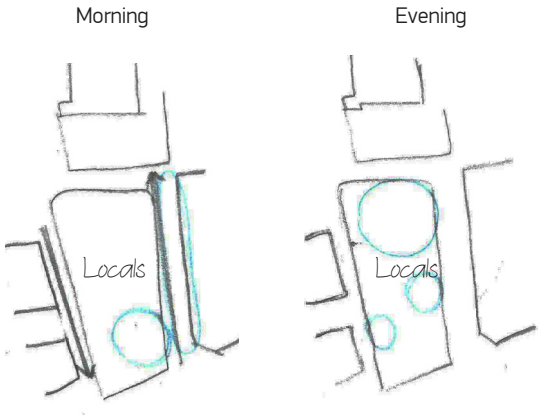
Market square

In Market square touristic seasonality also matters, especially for the part in front of the building of the Market. During the touristic period there are tourists who are going in and out the building and tanding in front of it, while during the non-touristic period, the central part is occupied by people only because of the organization of an activity, the Christmas tree or a demonstration. Regarding the observations, local people were sitting in the edges of the square along the main street, Venizelou. Especially during morning times, all the benches were full of old people sitting there with their friends. They use this place as a meeting point because of its proximity to their homes. During late afternoon, the benches along the central part's edges were used by locals as a meeting-transition point. The east part was occupied mainly by immigrants and "underdesirables" all day long. However, in the morning this part was used by tourists and some locals, who were sitting in the coffee tables of that part.



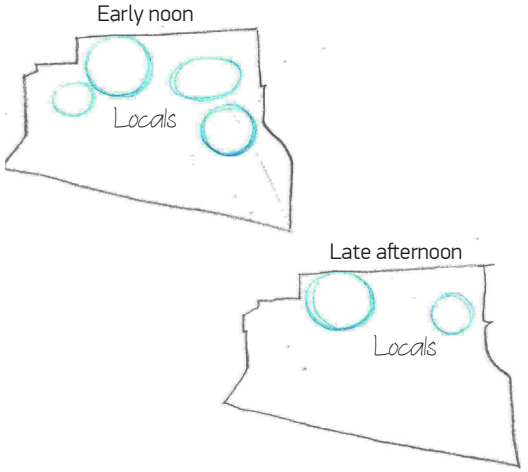
Splantzia square

Splantzia square, even though it belongs to the traditional type of the "square of Sycamore" is full of coffee tables, without having seating places and open space for other users apart from the clients of the coffee shops and the cafes, especially during summer. The users in this square are mainly locals, with small exceptions of some immigrants and tourists. As for the places that they occupy, it seems that there is a difference between morning and evening. In the morning, users were present mainly along the edges of the coffee shops and in the west part of the square. As for the age of the users, it was observed that they were mainly old people or middle-aged. But, during night the users were young people and most of them were concentrated mainly in the east part of the square. Some of them were having drinks in the north part and in the central part, as it is shown in the diagrams. As for the walking people, almost none crossed the square and most of them could be seen foremost in the morning in the paved streets along the edges of the square.



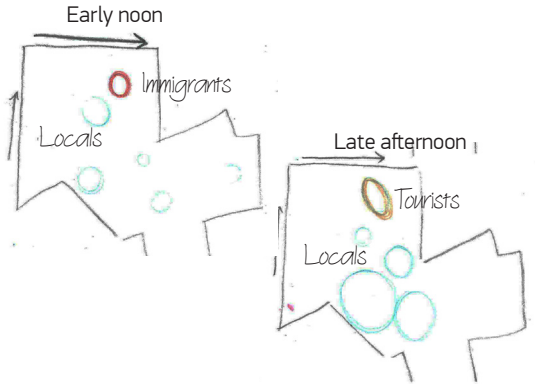
Municipal Garden

Municipal Garden from the interviewees' answers and the observations seems as one of the most successful public spaces in Chania, where different users are present there, as far as the age differentiation is concerned. During noon and late noon, when the school ended, the playground of the Garden was full of children, parents and grandparents. A small portion of them were sitting or standing in the zoo area. Many people from different ages were drinking coffee in the central café of the park, while mainly old people were sitting in an open place in the east of the garden, as it is shown in the diagram. During late afternoon, the main parts of the garden that were used are the playground, where children and their parents were, and the café, which was occupied by quite a lot of clients. Tourists and immigrants did not visit so often that place, probably because is quite hidden by walls. As for the walking people, only a few crossed the park and mainly during late noon.



Peace & Friendship Park

From the interviewees' answers, it seems also that the Peace and Friendship Park is quite visitable. However, from the observations it seems that is not as popular as Municipal Garden. More users were observed during late afternoon and evening in comparison to the noon. During noon, a few people were present there but really isolated in separated parts of the park. But, during late afternoon, the area with the amphitheater was full of people of different ages. Young people were sitting in the steps of the amphitheater watching other young people with bmx bikes. Close to the area of the amphitheater separated in two different parts people were walking and playing with their dogs. In the north part of the park, where an entrance is, some tourists were sitting. The café of the park may be not so popular as only a few users were there during noon and late afternoon. Immigrants or "undesirables" were not observed, but many of the users there referred to them, as the main reason of being afraid to visit the place during night. As for the walking people, apart from the dog owners, almost none crossed the park. Walking people could be seen in the sidewalks along the park, as it is shown in the diagram.



A city's environment is shaped not only by people who have an important influence, but by everyone who lives or works there.

Robert Cowan

10

GREEK LIVEABLE EXAMPLES

10.1 INTRODUCTION

In this part, nine different liveable Greek squares' examples will be presented briefly through photographs and some small descriptions. The nine examples are in nine different towns in different parts of Greece. Starting from the northern city and moving to the south, the cities are namely: Orestiada, Komotini, Xanthi, Kozani, Katerini, Lamia, Nafplio, Kalamata and Rethimno. In order these examples to be found, internet research was made, regarding author's own experience in different medium-sized cities and by asking friends, who live in different cities of Greece, if they believe that there is a liveable square in their city. Some of them mentioned as liveable examples parks, which in case of Greece are considered as more successful than squares. This statement will be stated again in the choice of the type of the testing locations in the city of Chania.

This research method can be used in critical points during the process of design for inspiration, since the Greek examples can reveal existing successful solutions which can fit to the project and have a positive impact for the case of Chania. Moreover, by observing the spatial characteristics of each square, ideas for the design patterns can come up. As the focus of the design is based on the needs and the socio-cultural background mainly of Greek people, the examples will be derived only from Greek reality. Although, the center of attention is the Greek mentality and culture, this does not mean that other users, such as immigrants and tourists will be excluded. Ways to make Greek people use the public space and co-exist with other users will be investigated, as well.

Further, another important criterion for the choice of the examples, is the size of the city, where they are, as the thesis focuses on medium-sized cities, or even small. The reason why the current project is focused on the medium sized or small towns and cities was referred in the chapter 3, "Project definition". But by observing three different squares in three different cities of different size via online live cameras the period between 7/11/2017 and 29/12/2017, the difference in the use of public space based on the size of the city can be revealed. The first intention of this kind of observation was to make print screens every hour daily for as long as possible. But, as it is logical this was impossible to be done by one person, due to time limitations and other responsibilities apart from observing all day long daily three different squares.

During the almost two months period of this kind of observations, it was attempted different times of different days to be observed. Thus, there are 80 print screens for each square with the earliest time of observation to be at 08.10 in the morning (Greek time) and the latest 22.40 in the evening (Greek time). These observations were presented in three different videos at the P2 presentation. In the report, some of the screenshots will be presented in order the difference in the appropriation of the squares based on the size of the city to become clear.

Figure: Locations of the different medium or small sized cities in Greece, where the liveable Greek examples were found and observations via live online cameras were made. In deep purple are the cities where the liveable Greek examples are, while in rasberry are the three cities, which were observed via online live cameras. | **Source:** made by author

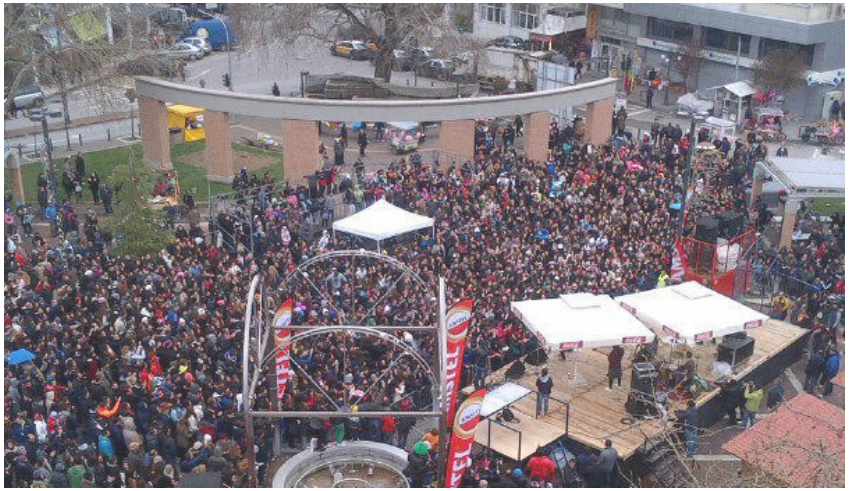
CENTRAL SQUARE IN ORESTIADA

Orestiada is a town on the northern part of Greece, populated by approximately 18.500 people. The central square of Orestiada is the one and only square in the town. It was redeveloped the last few years and since then it is really liveable, especially during summer. In its north and south edges there are cafes and bars, which expand their space outdoors in an organized way under two anopies and umbrellas. There are small height differences between the different parts of the square. Colorful lights and steps-stairs are a characteristic of the square. As for the green places of the square, residents participated in the planting procedures.

“PEACE SQUARE” IN KOMOTINI

Komotini is also a town in the north Greece, populated by about 51.000 people, many of those are Islamism’s origin. The “Peace Square” is the central square of the city, which is considered as the “heart of the city”. It is the concentration point of the nightlife, as it is surrounded by cafes and bars in a quite organized way in its borderlines. The square has a curvy shape and it is divided in different parts with different elements, such as fountains, playgrounds etc. Different activities are organized there at distinct times, as for example during Christmas or national celebrations.

“DEMOCARCY SQUARE” IN XANTHI

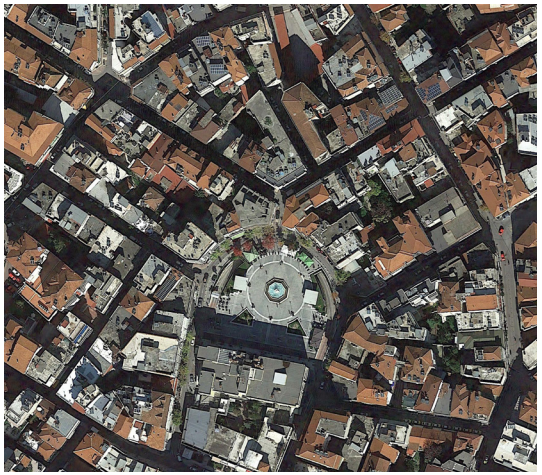


Xanthi is another north city, inhabited by approximately 56.000 people. The “Democracy Square” is the central square of the city. It was designed in 1870, and since then many interventions were made. This square is also surrounded by cafes and bars, which they expand their space outdoors in canopies or umbrellas in a quite organized way, leaving the central part of the square free for use. The height difference between parts of the square is observed here, as well. In this square, the city hall is located, a big church and a unique characteristic, the Clock tower since 1859. Different festivals are organized in the huge open place of the square at different periods.

“NIKIS (VICTORY) SQUARE” IN KOZANI

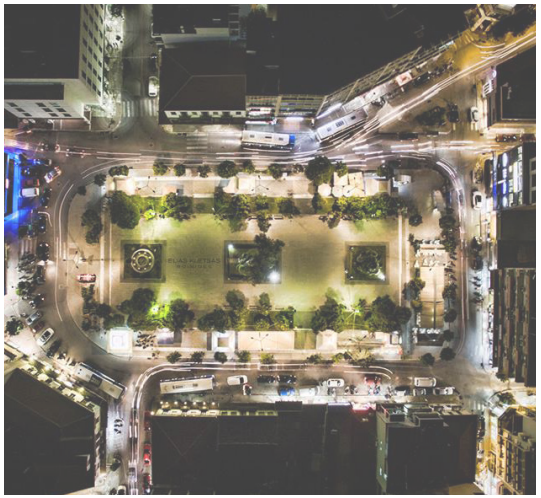
Kozani is inhabited by about 42.000 residents. “Nikis Square” is the central square of the city, where the Metropolis Church of Saint Nicolas and the City Hall are. Between these two buildings, there is the symbol of the city, the Bell Tower of Saint Nikolas, constructed in 1855. The square was redeveloped in 2016 based on an architectural competition of 2014. The morphology of the square with the northeastern elevated parts offers protection from the noise and intense climatic changes while at the same time highlights the monuments surrounding the square. Most of the cultural and sport events of the city took place in this square.

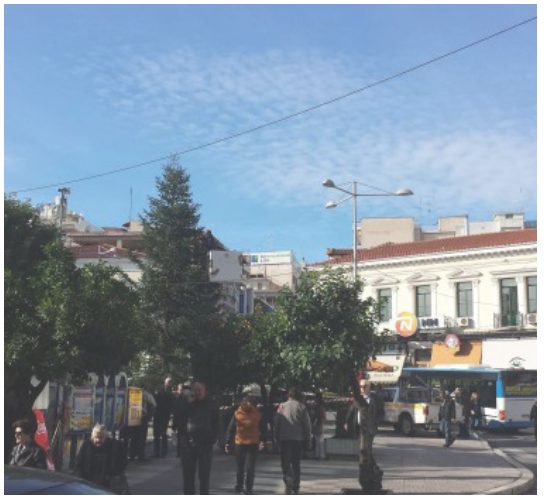
CITY HALL'S SQUARE IN KATERINI



Katerini is close to the coastline, inhabited by approximately 56.000 people. Its city center is pedestrianized and allocates quite a few different public spaces, such as squares and parks. One of the most liveable squares in the city, is the City Hall's Square, in front of the city hall as its name indicates. The shape of the square is almost circular with a fountain in the center of it. Apart from the city hall, around the edges of the square there are many cafes which put their coffee tables in the edges of the square under umbrellas. Many cultural events took place in this square of the city and participatory design process, such as the new painted benches.

“PARK’S SQUARE” IN LAMIA





Lamia is ocated in the hillsides of the mountain Othris and close to the river Sperxios, inhabited by approximately 52.000. “Park’s Square” is considered as the most commercial and leisure square in the city, due to the land uses which surround it. In its west and east sides along the edges of the square, cafes expand their coffee tables under umbrellas. The central part of the square is divided by the coffee tables’ areas through green parterres and trees, protecting so the square from the extreme privatization of the coffee and food culture’s amenities. The square allocates also an important statue, this of Greek Soldier (Tsolia) since 1964.

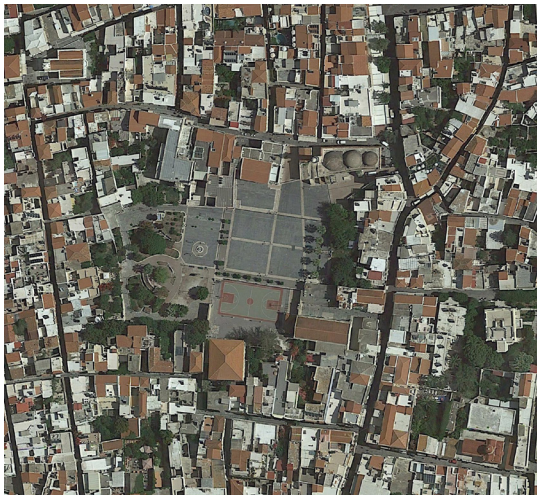
“SYNTAGMA (CONSTITUTION) SQUARE” IN NAFPLIO

Nafplio is a waterfront city and the most important harbor of east Peloponisos. It is inhabited by approximately 14.200 residents “Syntagma Square” situated at the historic center of Nafplio and constitute a representative square of a neoclassic rectangular square. Since 1980, both citizens and municipality agreed and decided to pedestrianize the surrounding area of the square. This square is a vital center for the city, a strong part of local identity and also the focus of political, religious, cultural and social activities. As in almost every Greek square, there are cafes which expand their coffee tables in the sides of the square under umbrellas.

CENTRAL SQUARE IN KALAMATA

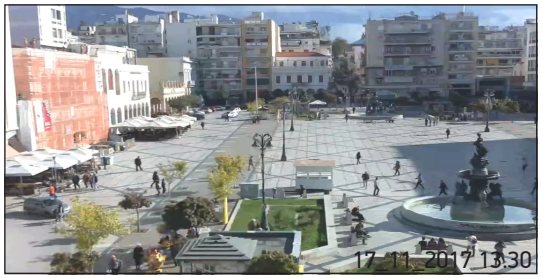
Kalamata is another waterfront city in southwest of Peloponisos, inhabited by about 54.100 residents. The central square constitutes one of the most characteristic areas in the city, as many people are gathered there. It is a significant social and commercial meeting point with a long history. In comparison to the previous squares, this one is highly rectangular. Commercial and leisure land uses surround the square and cafes put their coffee tables in its edges under umbrellas. In this square, the fountain is highly used. Many cultural and national events or festivals took place in this square of the city. The square is also used as a promenade for walking.

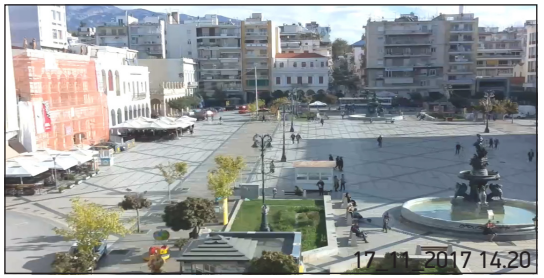
“SQUARE OF ASIAN MINORS” IN RETHYMNO



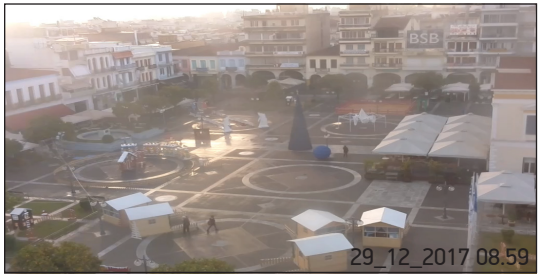
Rethimno is a waterfront city in the island of Crete, inhabited by approximately 32.500 people. The city allocates quite a few squares, but one of its more vibrant, is the “Square of the Asian Minors”. This square has large dimensions and is located in the “heart of the old town.” After the sunset especially in summer many people from different ages gather there. The square is divided in different parts, sport fields, playgrounds, green areas etc. Small height differences are also observed among different parts. The proximity of the square to the Cultural Center of the city constitutes the square the outdoor place for the organization of many cultural activities.

10.2 PATRA'S SQUARE SCREENSHOTS (BIG CITY)

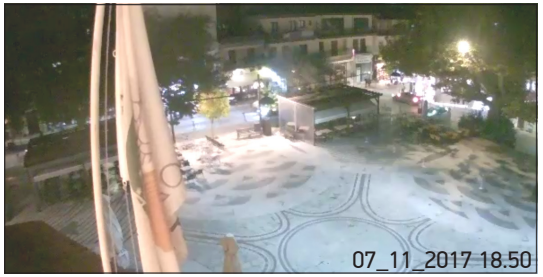


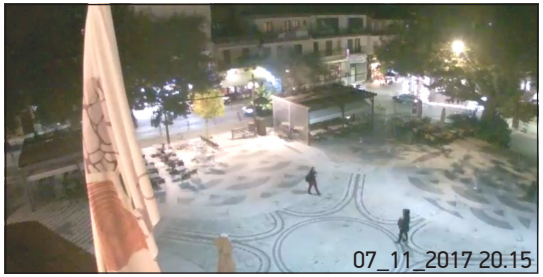


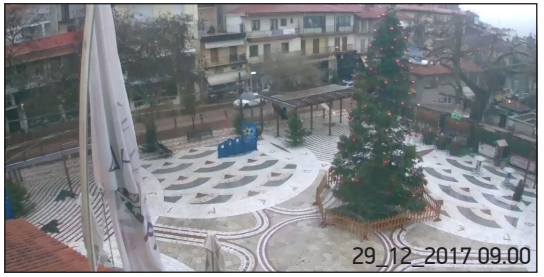
10.3 SPARTA'S SQUARE SCREENSHOTS (MEDIUM CITY)

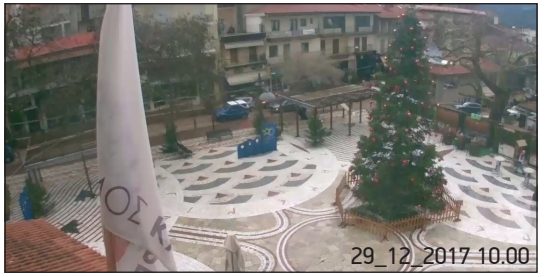


10.4 KARPENISI'S SQUARE SCREENSHOTS (SMALL TOWN)









10.5 CONCLUSIONS

Starting from the Greek liveable examples, as it was mentioned in the introduction can constitute inspiration reference for the possible outcome of the design of the testing locations in Chania and for the definition of the design patterns. Thus, after observing different pictures of the nine examples and reading different descriptions in blogs, architectural sites or even the sites of each city, some common features in many of the cases were noticed.

• **Curvy shapes.** Many of the examples presented have a curvy shape, or curvy parts or even urban furniture in a curvy or circular shape. This shape reminds somehow the ancient Greek Amphitheatre, another symbol of democracy. People were sitting in the stair-steps having as their focus point the central part of the theater, the stage.

• **Height differences.** In almost all the examples small or bigger height differences were observed, dividing so the square in different parts. In most cases, the height difference is arranged by stair-steps, where many people sit.

• **Fountains.** In many cases, there is a central or more remote fountain either modern construction or remained since the past years. Fountains are important elements of Greek squares and a hallmark of Greek public spaces. What is important though to attract people is to be well-maintained and function properly.

• **Colors.** Colors are attractive for Greek people and mainly for young and children. In Greek examples, the usage of colors can be observed in colorful lights during night, in Graffiti in empty walls of the surrounding area or in urban furniture, which were painted by people in an organized way.

• **Canopies.** Different types of canopies are observed in the examples, mainly along the edges of the squares, used many times by the cafes of the surrounding area.

• **Food and Coffee culture.** Almost in all cases the long edges of the squares are covered in a well-organized way by coffee tables under canopies or umbrellas. The organization of the outdoor expansion of cafes, bars and taverns along the edges, leave open and free for use the central part of each square.

• **Organization of events.** Almost in all cases, different events or festivals take place in the central square of each city. These organizations are one of the most important factors in order Greek people to go to public space. A fact that is proved by the photos of the Greek liveable examples and from the observations through live cameras.

• **Pedestrian streets.** In the cases, where the square is surrounded by pedestrian and not vehicle streets, the appropriation of the public space is much better, and parents let their children to play more comfortably.

• **Green spaces.** Green elements are not missing from the Greek examples. As all the examples are squares the ratio between paved and green surfaces inclines more towards paved surfaces. These examples offer people trees to be protected by the intense sun during summer, but at the same time they are so many, to not block the views from and to the square (visual accessibility).

• **Unique characteristics.** Another important element that these examples have is the presence of a unique characteristic on them, which most of the times is a monument or just a symbol for the city. As for example, the Clock Tower in Xanthi, the Bell Tower in Kozani, the Minaret in Rethimno etc.

As for the observations of the three squares via live cameras, it is obvious that in the city of Patra, one of the largest cities in Greece, inhabited by approximately 167.500 people, the central square is more used in comparison to the other ones. In the city of Sparta (16.240 people) a medium-sized city, the central square is used only by a few people, who mainly just cross by the square. In the town of Karpenisi (8.775 people), almost none uses the square. Just a few people were observed to cross by the square or just meet there in order to go somewhere else. By, this method it can be supported, as well that the appropriation of public spaces in small or medium sized cities in Greece is more problematic than in bigger ones. What is interesting though, in the cases of the last two cases (Sparta and Karpenisi) is what a difference a Christmas tree can make in the usage of public space. The organization of an event, the feeling of sharing something can make Greek people go to public space and interact with other people.

Great design is not just a solution, it is the elimination of the problem.

M. Cobanli

11

INTRODUCING THE DESIGN

11.1 SUMMARISING THE RESEARCH PART

Since the ancient years, public space played an important role in the life of city and its citizens. It was an integral part of people's everyday life. It was the place which provided access and linked the separate functions of the city, providing so a meeting place. The first significant public space which is considered as a prototype of democratic public space was the ancient Greek agora.

Based on different research methods, used in the present thesis, it is concluded that even though ancient Greece offered a prototype of democratic public space, which many scholars have investigated, the modern Greek public spaces are quite questionable. This can be accounted for the weakness of the Greek state to confront unexpected phenomena that influenced the urban environment and the city. An example is the arrival of more than one million refugees in 1922-23, leaving aside urban issues, such as the design of public space. Apart from the lack of design proposals for public space, a disrespect towards public space was cultivated in Greek people. As Kostas Theologou states the "[...] idiosyncratic disrespect of all users towards public space, [...] a disrespect on behalf of the user, citizen, businessman or politician." (Kostas Theologou, 2014) led to the current problematic use and quality of Greek public spaces.

Further, in a more general context and especially after the Industrial Revolution, a widespread marginalization of the Mediterranean countries and a focus of the economy on the ports of the Northern countries and the small industries of the West was observed. In this regard, the attention of the European development towards the Mediterranean was turned away, leading to a spontaneous urbanization of most Mediterranean cities, including Greece. (Gospodini & Mperiatos, 2006)This kind of urbanization had as a result the public space to be a leftover between the buildings.

During the millennium, though the post-modern society-imposed practices of urban competitiveness among the cities of the world. In this context, the urban environments of the Mediterranean started to be redeveloped, according to established successful examples of the Northern countries. Some architects and architecture offices undertook and still undertake urban projects globally, as a result public spaces started to seem alike in different countries. (Gospodini & Mperiatos, 2006) Thus, the similarities among public spaces all around the world, put on the frontline the issue of locality and the socio-cultural background of the people of each country, as important parameters for the design of a qualitive and attractive public space.

In the case of Greece, these practices of successful public space models were followed mainly in the big cities, whilst the medium and small ones have to confront other problems. Thus, the main problems that this thesis is dealing with mainly in medium Greek cities is: a) the privatization of public space especially due to coffee tables, provoking problems of accessibility and walkability, b) the absence of people in public spaces, developing voids in the city and problems of liveability, leading to a limited sense of security and c) the ghettoization of public space, developing ghettos in the city, influencing many times the sense of safety in an area. This problem triptych has as a consequence the modern Greek public space to promote social exclusion and poor social interaction between the different demographics, questioning so the serving of their needs in public space.

As might be expected, mixing all the different social groups and users in a place at the same time is not a solution, even though it sounds democratic. This mixing can cause conflicts between the different users, who claim the space in different ways. Therefore, even in ancient Greece, where the democracy was a special characteristic of the 5th century B.C., women and slaves were excluded. Hence, although the aim of the current thesis is to regain the democratic public space in modern Greece, it can be stated that the satisfaction of the needs of all the users in public space is almost impossible. Three are the main groups that this project takes into consideration, the local people of Chania, the immigrants and the tourists, paying more attention to the ways, which can attract local people in existing public spaces and make them coexist and interact with other users, such as immigrants and tourists. Through the redevelopment of the existing public spaces, it is not only important to make people use the public realm, but to extend their stay there.

11.2 MAIN FOCUS OF THE DESIGN

After summarizing the research part, the main points of it which determine the main focus of the design will be presented briefly. Initially, based on the project definition and the main problem statement, the main aim of the current thesis is the improvement of use and quality of the existing staying public spaces in Chania according to the socio-cultural background of the Greek people and the different needs of the different users. Through this improvement, solutions to the matters of the main problem triptych will be given, by enhancing the social interaction and inclusion of the different demographics. Further, except for encouraging social interaction and inclusion through the design interventions, sense of security should be achieved in the public space. Regarding the research method of the online survey for the evaluation of the criteria for an attractive and qualitative public space, sense of security is the most important parameter for Greek people to visit and stay in a public space. Besides, a safe area or generally a safe city is the minimum necessity for a high quality urban life.

In this point, it must be mentioned that the crisis of Greece has as a result more people to be turned towards the use of public space and claim their rights for it. However, at the same time it influenced the perceived and experienced safety in public spaces and streets. This may be the reason why so many Greek people consider safety the most important parameter for an attractive and qualitative public space. Many of them (at the interviews or at the optional question of the online survey) referred that the presence of drug addicted, homeless and alcoholics in public spaces make them feel unsafe due to their unexpected reactions. The poor economic condition of immigrants and their coexistence with the above-mentioned groups in public spaces, make local people also feel unsafe also towards them, developing feelings of xenophobia.

Moreover, many parents are afraid of visiting specific spaces because they are conscious of their children's safety due to these kinds of groups. Parents mentioned also the bad quality or lack of proper sidewalks which constitute one of the problems in order to visit a public space in their city. (walkability and physical accessibility

Summing up, it is concluded that through the design the main goals to be achieved are: safety, social interaction and inclusion. These three concepts are highly interrelated to each other. For example, by achieving a safe public space, more people will gather there and stay for longer, offering opportunities for social interaction. In the end, in an attractive safe public space, where social interaction between people is observed, it is easier social inclusion to be achieved. On the other way around, if a place makes different people feel welcome to visit and use it, social interaction is more possible to happen among different demographics. Consequently, when a diversity of users is concentrated in a place, this place is considered safe due to the presence of people in it.

As for the scale of the interventions, in the case of Greece, starting the design proposals in the scale of the public space fits better than starting from the city scale. Small interventions can serve as triggers for other redevelopments and this tactic gradually leads to larger scale proposals in the city context. This doesn't mean that there is not a general vision and a concept for the city scale.

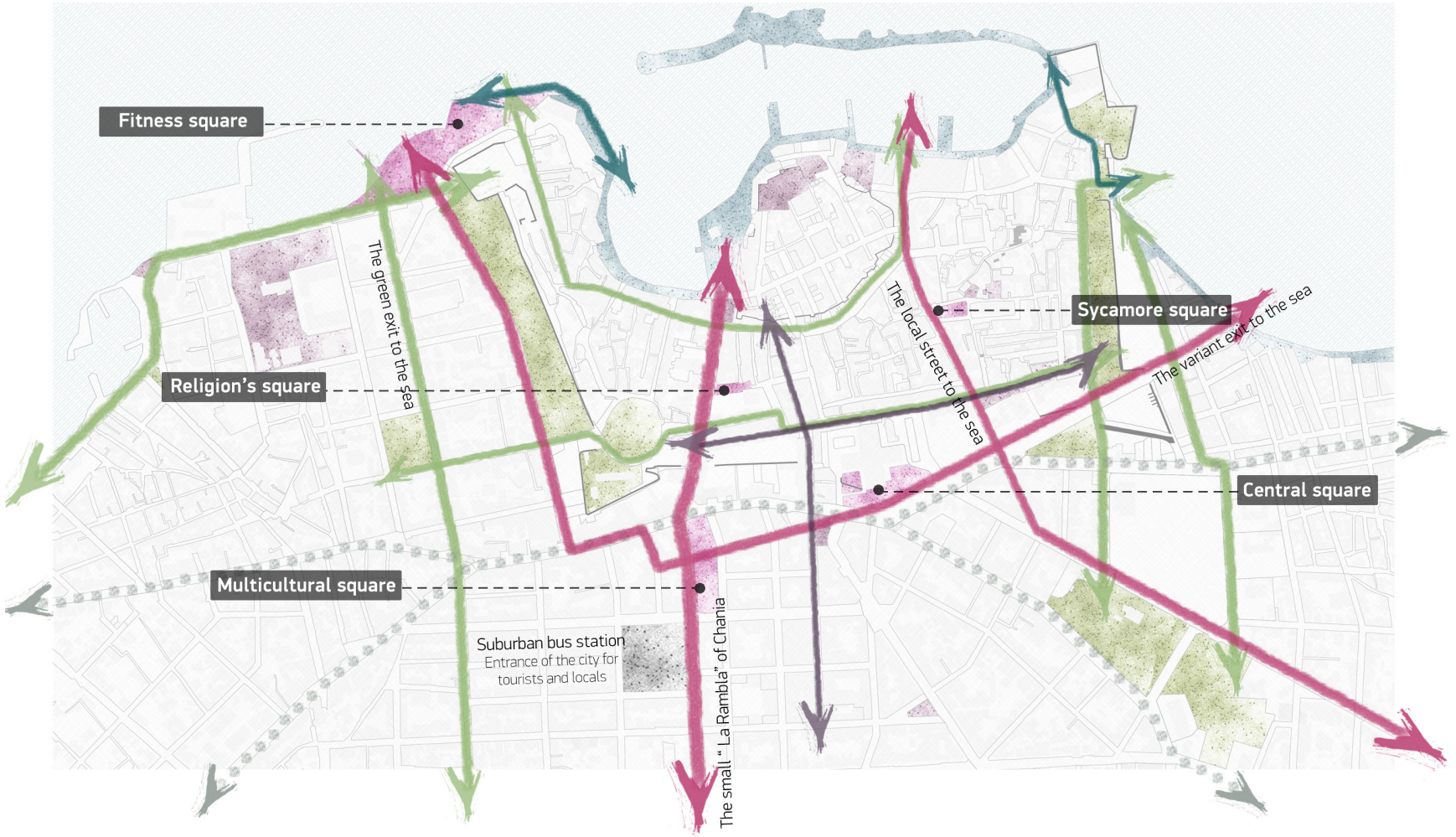
The vision of this thesis proposed a socio-cultural based approach for the improvement of the existing public spaces of Chania, focusing on the enhancement of safety, social interaction and inclusion.

11.3 VISION FOR THE CITY OF CHANIA

The vision of this thesis proposes **a socio-cultural based approach** for the improvement of the existing public spaces of Chania, focusing on the enhancement of **safety, social interaction and inclusion.**

It is envisioned **a democratic city**, which tries to **reclaim the democratic public space** of ancient Greece in Greece of today. **An open and inclusive city** which takes into consideration that **mixing all the different social groups and users in a place at the same time is not a solution**, even though it sounds democratic. **A well-connected city**, where public spaces are **easily accessible** and offer the chance to the users to extend their stay there. **A diverse but symbiotic city**, where different users can find an indoor or outdoor public space, which can offer possibilities for gathering and interaction. A city, which **respects its locality, the mentality and the social cultural background of its residents**, without excluding immigrants and tourists. A Greek city where you can **drink your coffee comfortably and in a delightful way!**

11.4 CONCEPT IN THE CITY SCALE



As for the concept in the city context, the main idea is to **redesign the five testing locations** by **keeping some of their existing characteristics** and transforming their **weaknesses into strengths.** To give a **distinct character in each of them based on their existing features and quality** in order different users to be attracted in different squares and in different areas of each square. **A system of routes with different characters** could facilitate the promotion of these public spaces and connect them in a network, with other existing public spaces of the city. An emphasis will be given in the **design of three different exits to the sea**, along to which some of the testing locations are. So, there is a) **the main exit to the sea,** called the small "La Rambla of Chania", which refers to all the user groups that this thesis is taking into consideration (locals, immigrants and tourists), b) the more **local exit to the sea,** which refers mainly to local people and c) the **variant exit to the Kum Kapi waterfront.**

The best designers will use many design patterns that dovetail and intertwine to produce a greater whole

Erick Gamma

12

DESIGN PATTERNS

12.1 INTRODUCING THE DESIGN PATTERNS

What is interesting, is that the three goals to be achieved are more social than spatial-related. In this regard, it raises the question: How can these concepts be translated into physical form and space? Design patterns and the implementation of them in testing locations can be considered as an appropriate way to transform these concepts into spatial form. The clear definition of the design patterns is a useful and significant tool, which allows different possibilities of design and alternative solutions regarding the main problem which should be confronted. Design patterns are also a way to bridge the research with the design part, by capturing main theoretical ideas and transforming into form and space.

In this point, it must be described the structure of the design patterns in the present thesis and how the generic solutions will be avoided. The design patterns are divided in three main categories, which are the goals to be achieved: I) safety, II) social interaction and III) inclusion. Each main category has some sub-categories, which are the so called general patterns. The general patterns of the first two categories are defined mainly by research (literature review), while the third one, the inclusion is defined mainly by design due to lack of literature on how to achieve social inclusion through the urban design. Thus, not only design patterns are set based on the literature, but also by starting the design of the testing locations in an early stage. Generally, it can be said that the definition of the design patterns in the present thesis is a forth and backwards procedure between the research and the design part. It mainly starts with the definition of design patterns from the literature review and testing by implementing them in the testing locations. The research may be considered more abstract, while the design gives specific solutions in specific locations.

As for the patterns themselves, in the current thesis, there are in total 13 general patterns, which are the sub-categories which contribute to the achievement of each main category. Five (5) general patterns fro the category sense of security, two (2) for social interaction and six (6) for inclusion. For each general pattern, there are guidelines for solutions, the so called sub-patterns. Each general pattern is composed by different sections. In the beginning, it is given the name and the logo of the general pattern, which describe and visualize briefly the goal of each pattern, respectively. Secondly, as Christopher Alexander (1977) stated, "Each pattern describes a problem which occurs over and over again in our environment." (Alexander, Ishikawa, & Silverstein, 1977, p. x). Then, there is a general principle for each general pattern, where different guidelines are set, in a descriptive way. For each of these guidelines, different possible design solutions (sub-patterns) are proposed, considered necessary for the city context or the testing location itself. These solutions are the sub patterns with their own logos and names. Each solution can be implemented to the different parts of the different testing locations, based on the needs and their possibilities to be applied there. Further, for the implementation of each sub- pattern, there are specific structural rules of how they can be used in each part of the testing locations. As it was mentioned again, the three main categories are highly interrelated to each other. For that reason, although an attempt to not have repeating patterns was made, in some cases this was inevitable, though. Specifically, the general pattern "together but apart" (for the achievement of interpersonal distance) from the main category sense of security has the same guidelines with the general pattern "see and be seen" (for the achievement of passive/indirect interaction) from the main category social interaction. In the latter general pattern, two more guidelines are added for passive interaction between people and the environment.

In the end, it must be mentioned that "[...] each pattern represents our current best guess as to what arrangement of the physical environment will work to solve the problem presented."(Alexander et al., 1977, p. xv) Additionally,

> No pattern is an isolated entity. Each pattern can exist in the world, only to the extent that is supported by other patterns. [...] when you build a thing, you cannot merely build that thing in isolation, but must also repair the world around it. (Alexander et al., 1977, p. xiii)

MAIN CATEGORIES

SUB-CATEGORIES GENERAL PATTERNS

Each sub category includes: Name of the General pattern _ Logo _ Problem _ General Principle _ Guidelines

sense of security

People over cars

Light lab

24/7 safe

Gathering outdoor spaces

Together but apart

social interaction

Conversation exchange

See and be seen

social inclusion

Build up together

Colorful is the new pink

Fitness for all

Multicultural glue

Alternative playgrounds

Learning History

GUIDELINES

Each Guideline includes: Brief discription _ Sub-patterns
The category of "Social inclusion" does not include guidelines

21 guidelines in total

People over cars	6 guidelines
Light lab	3 guidelines
24/7 safe	2 guidelines
Gathering outdoor spaces	6 guidelines
Together but apart	4 guidelines

11 guidelines in total

Conversation exchange	5 guidelines
See and be seen	6 guidelines

no guidelines

SUB-PATTERNS

Each sub-pattern includes: Name _ Logo _ Rules of Implementation
Each main category and what includes have a specific color, as it is shown in the diagram. Repeating sub-patterns are blue.

82 sub-patterns in total

33 sub-patterns in total

23 sub-patterns in total

Figure: Diagram showing the structure of definition of the general patterns, their guidelines and subpatterns | **Source:** made by author

Based on this last statement of Christopher Alexander, this is the point where the method of implementing the sub-patterns in the testing locations must be explained. Firstly, we have the individual sub-patterns and their own instructions and rules, then in a second step different combination of these sub-patterns are made in order to achieve the best result. Besides, regarding Alexander's statement a pattern alone cannot solve a problem, but a good combination of them can contribute better to the elimination of the problem. In the end, these different combinations of sub-patterns, which can be certainly uncountable are applied in the masterplan of the testing location.

For the application of the combinations of the sub-patterns in the testing locations, there is a division in the way that patterns are applied in the space. So, there are patterns which are more general and can be applied in the whole area. For instance, the sub-patterns of the guideline walkable, including proper ratio between vehicle and pedestrian streets, best choice of materials and lack of barriers along public spaces or sidewalks. Apart from these general implementation, the sub-patterns can be applied in areas, in buildings, along lines and in specific spots.

Thus, for every testing location there is a general abstract masterplan, showing the different ways of implementation of the sub-patterns and all the patterns that are used in the specific location. Then, for a better and more clear understanding the masterplan is divided into two sections. The first section shows the patterns which are applied in different areas of the testing location and in buildings. The second section shows the patterns that applied along lines and in specific spots of the area.

After this abstract and methodological approach of implementing the sub-patterns in the testing location and based on it, a possible outcome (design proposal) is presented in a masterplan, sections and the atmosphere of the different areas through collages. Additionally, for each proposal some possible ways of appropriation of each square are represented, showing the interaction among the different users of the place and between the users and the environment, as well.

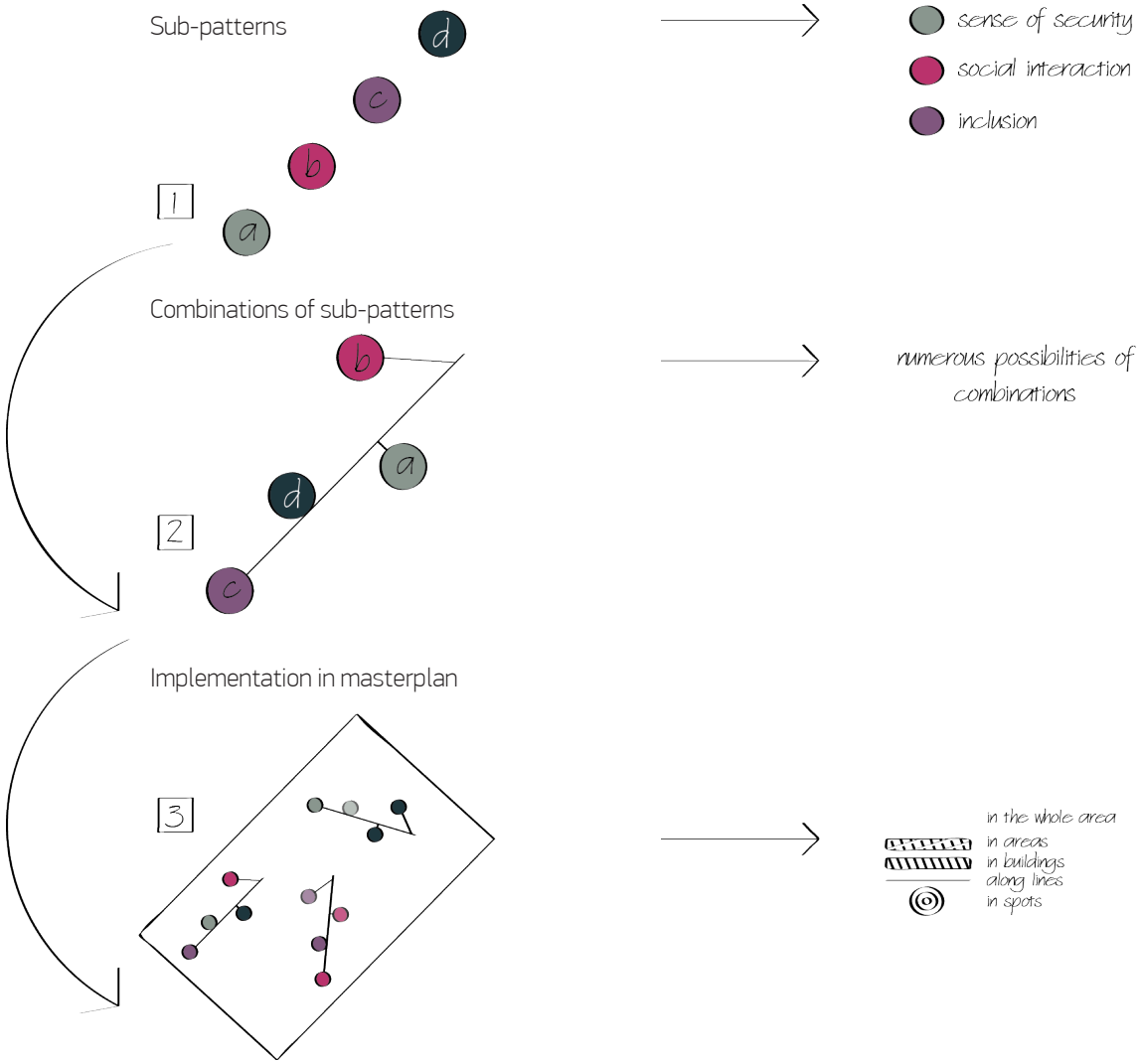


Figure: Diagram of method of implementation of sub-patterns in the testing locations | **Source:** made by author

12.2 SENSE OF SECURITY _ PROTECTION FROM CARS

Design pattern name:
People over cars

Problem: *Our streets cry out for change. Though they comprise one-third of the total land in cities, the major portion of this area is set aside for automobile use. The pedestrian-now more than ever in revolt over urban congestion and environmental degradation- increasingly demands that this imbalance be ended. (Breines & Dean, 1974)*

Specifically, in the Greek context, the last decades more and more people rely on the use of cars, even those who live in small or medium cities, where the distances are quite short. Thus, the proportion between streets and sidewalks is quite problematic. Many local people during the interviews mentioned that they don't feel safe for themselves and especially for their children because of the improper sidewalks or their bad quality. Moreover, parking lots is one of the greatest problems in the Greek cities. Greek drivers park in all streets of the city and many times go beyond the borderlines of the sidewalks. There are cases, where they park in public spaces, as well. The countless parking cars in all areas of the city except for problems of physical and visual accessibility to certain public spaces and the proper movement of pedestrians in sidewalks develop unpleasant sceneries in the city.

General principle: Streets are an important element of the city. They "[...] provide every city with its main public places and major movement system." (Breines & Dean, 1974, p. 11)As Jane Jacobs mentions: "If a city's streets look interesting, the city looks interesting; if they look dull, the city looks dull" (Jacobs, 1961). So, by improving the arrangement and the quality of the streets of a city, the everyday life of the residents will be affected in an advantageous way. (Breines & Dean, 1974) Based on the described problems for the category protection of cars, six different possible guidelines which lead to distinct or combined solutions are given. These guidelines are the following:

• Different types of streets. A city with different types of streets and with a hierarchical system of them offer more possibilities of appropriation not only by cars but also by pedestrians. Additionally, the differentiation of streets in various ways make them more legible.

• Proper width of the sidewalks. The appropriate analogy between sidewalks and vehicle streets helps the conflicts between pedestrians and cars to be reduced. Pedestrians feel also safer and more comfortable when they move to the city. The change in the ratio of the traffic street can contribute also to the reduction of the parking cars to all the streets of the city.

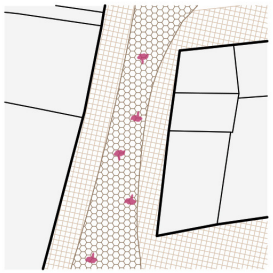
• Clear borders between vehicle and pedestrian streets. By creating segregated vehicle and pedestrian streets, conflicts between cars, bikes and pedestrians can be avoided. However, in some cases the strict segregation can lead to lack of shared spaces. So, clear borderlines between the different users' movement can be achieved in different ways according to the requirements of each testing location for a segregated or a shared movement space.

• Blocking parking cars along specific sidewalks. In Greece, most of the car drivers don't respect the sidewalks and park on them. So, ways to prevent this habit must be applied. Apart from the change in the ratio of the streets, different elements, such as seating spaces, natural elements etc. should be introduced along the edges of the sidewalks. Each separate solution should be applied in different parts of the different testing locations combined with other sub-patterns, following the requirements and needs of the existing situation.

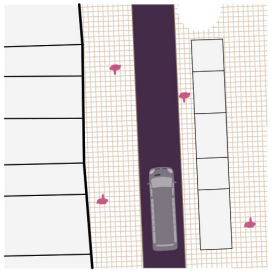
• Organized parking lots or areas. To reduce the parking cars along the sidewalks and on them can offer better accessibility and aesthetics in the city context. But where will all these parking cars go? Organized parking lots or areas can offer as much as possible parking places in an organized way in specific parts of the city.

• Hiding parking lots. In the end, this guideline can be used in combination with the previous one. Hiding the parking cars can contribute to the aesthetics of the urban environment, while at the same time offer possibilities for other uses such as seating space.

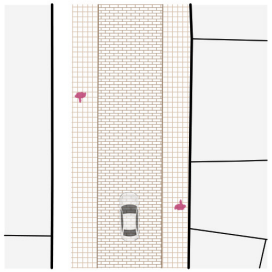
Different types of streets



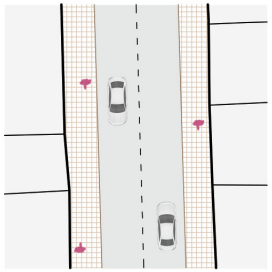
Pedestrian friendly street



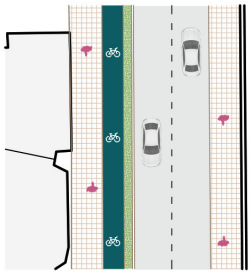
Bus lane street



Local street

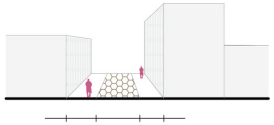


Main traffic street

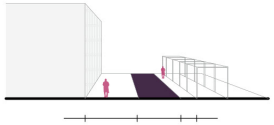


Street with bike lane

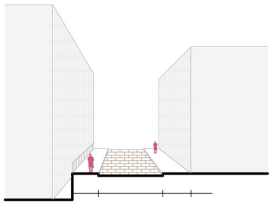
Proper width of sidewalks



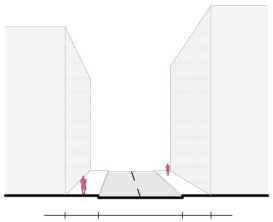
Pedestrian friendly street



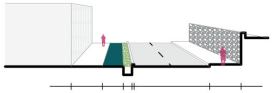
Along bus lane street



Along local street

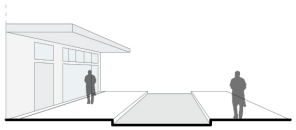


Along main traffic street

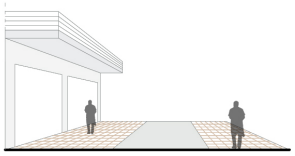


Along street with bike lane

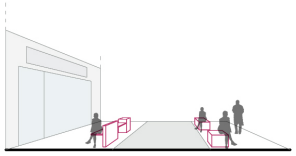
Clear borders



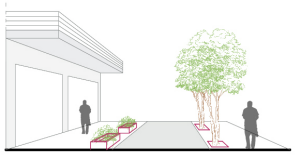
Differentiation in height



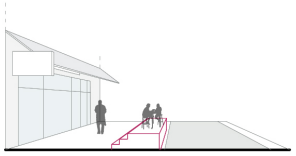
Differentiation in materials



Seating places along the borderlines



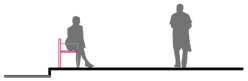
Trees along the borderlines



Elevated decks for coffee tables

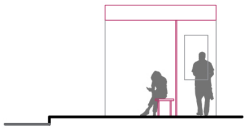
Blocking parking cars along & on specific sidewalks

Natural elements

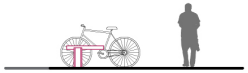


Seating places

Elevated decks



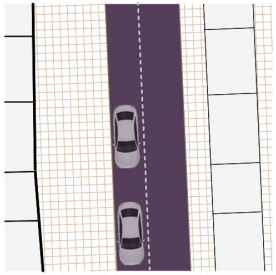
Bus stops



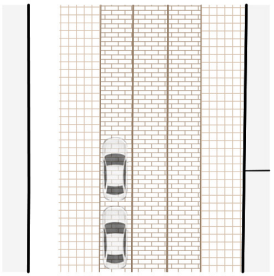
Bicycle parking poles

Multi-usable movable modular box

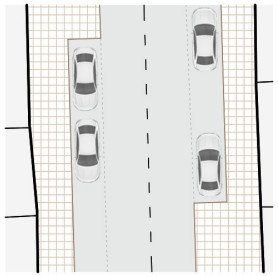
Organized parking lots/areas



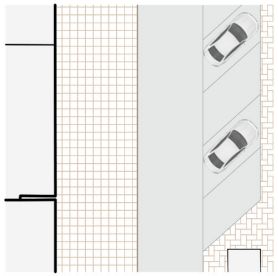
Along the one side of the bus lane



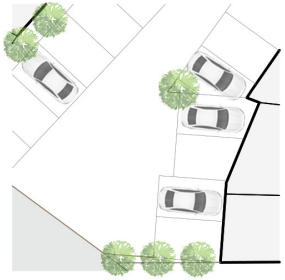
Along the local street



Along sidewalks



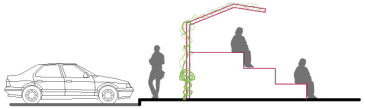
Along squares



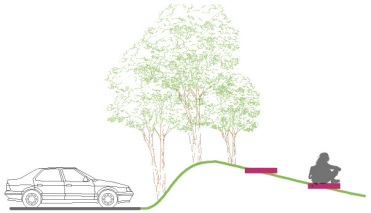
In residential areas

Hiding parking cars

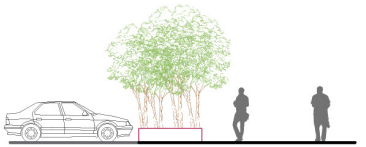
Exhibition canopies



Green wall-bleachers



Green slopes



Natural elements

12.3 SENSE OF SECURITY _ PROPER LIGHTING DURING NIGHT

Design pattern name:
Lighting lab

Problem: Although a rather small percentage of local people in Chania feel unsafe in the city (32%), for people who don't feel safe the two most repeating answers were the presence of marginalized groups and during night with a percentage of 46% respectively. The latter can be referred either to the lack of proper and sufficient lighting in specific areas of the city or in the absence of people or it can be a combination of them. Besides, in the optional question of the online survey, many people mentioned proper lighting as an important criterion to visit a public space in Greece. The OSRAM lighting company states that safety in public space is becoming more and more important nowadays and lights are a way to improve safety in the urban environment. In the Greek context, the choice of the type of light is not the proper one for the needs and demands of the area and, in many cases, the luminaires are destroyed. Further, especially in public spaces such as squares and parks not so much attention is paid by the local authorities for the maintenance of the urban facilities, such as lighting.

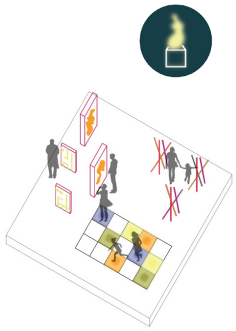
General principle: "Good lighting can contribute [...] to homogeneous light distribution, reduced dark zones and therefore a better perception of the surroundings. Luminaires themselves also support guidance and the luminaire becomes visible itself due to reflection of the light to provide spatial orientation." ("The role of light for safety in public spaces", n.d.) However, every space in the city needs a different management in lighting, as the demands and the needs are different. For instance, the demands for lighting between a park, a square, a commercial street and a residential street are almost distinct. That's the reason why there are plenty different types of lights. The direction of illuminance also matters. "Good horizontal illuminance achieves uniform illumination of planes and therefore an improved perception of the surroundings. Good vertical illuminance reduces shadowing, thereby leading to better recognition of faces among other factors." ("The role of light for safety in public spaces", n.d.). In the end, it must be also mentioned that "[...] too much lighting can be just as bad as too little lighting." ("Lighting Use & Design", 2008) Thus, regarding what was mentioned above, three are the main guidelines for the category proper lighting during night.

• Different types of luminaires. As it was mentioned in the general principle, every space in the urban environment has different demands and needs as far as the lighting management is concerned. Thus, urban design should take into consideration that different types of luminaires should be used in commercial streets, in residential streets, in a park or a square. Apart from the character of the street, the users (pedestrians or car-drivers), the width of the street and sidewalk, the number and placement of trees etc. matter for the choice of type, height and the distances among the luminaires. ("Lighting Use & Design", 2008)

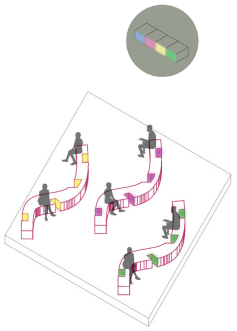
• Color of lights. As it was observed in the chapter of "Greek liveable examples" color is important for Greek people and in many cases, colors were used in different lighting sources. According to researches, colorful lights in the urban spaces except for sense of security, offer visual quality, as well. Further, the interaction between color and lighting functions as an attractor for people, especially during night. ("Color and light design in a public urban space", n.d.)

• Active functions facing the street. In the end, apart for the establishment of different types of luminaires or lighting sources, another way to contribute to the safety of an area is through the illuminated and transparent windows of the shops in the ground floor, during night. Except for their contribution to the safety of the area, they encourage window shopping, as well. Residential and other vibrant uses in the upper floors can offer also more life in the street since the lights on their windows give the sense of occupied spaces.

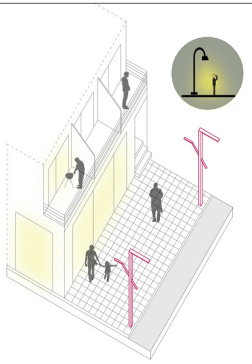
Different types of lights



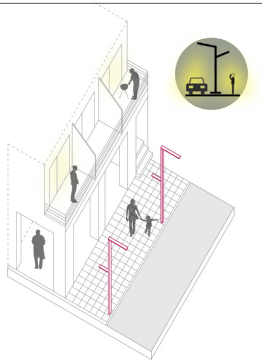
Interactive “art-sculpture” lighting



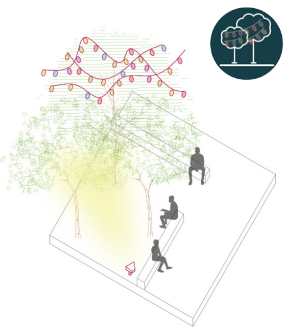
Lighting benches



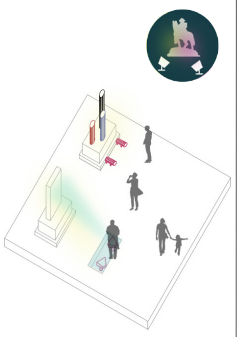
Lights in commercial streets



Lights in residential streets

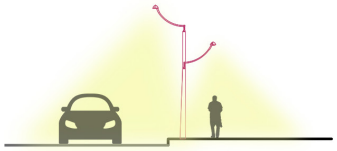


Lights in green areas

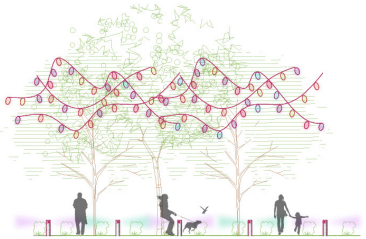


(High)Lighting monuments

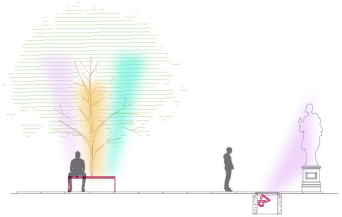
Different colors of lights



Typical/normal color



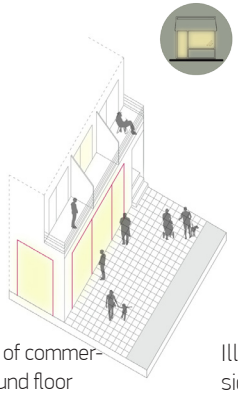
Colorful lights in green areas



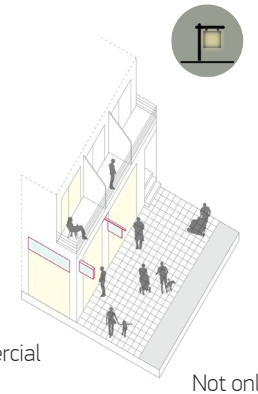
Colorful lights in urban facilities

Illuminated bike lane

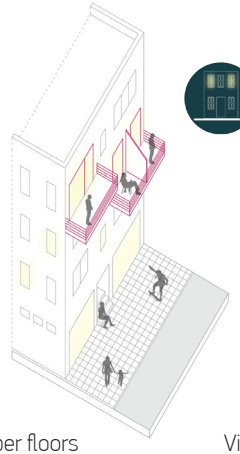
Active functions facing the street



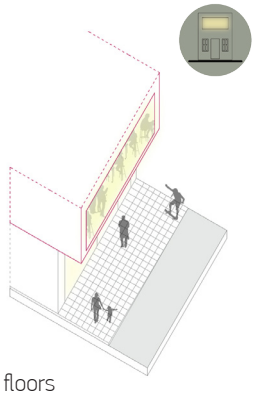
Illuminated windows of commercial shops in the ground floor



Illuminated commercial signs of the shops



Not only offices in upper floors



Vibrant uses in upper floors

12.4 SENSE OF SECURITY _ ABSENCE OF THE "UNDESIRABLES"

Design pattern name:
24/7 safe

Design pattern name:
Gathering outdoor spaces

Problem: Although a rather small percentage of local people in Chania feel unsafe in the city (32%), for people who don't feel safe the two most repeating answers were the presence of marginalized groups and during night with a percentage of 46% respectively. Many people and especially women referred to the presence of drug addicted, homeless, drunk people and immigrants in specific parts of the city or in specific areas of a public space. The so called "undesirables" make them feel fear of being there, especially when they are alone and during night due to their unexpected reactions. Especially, because of the recession more and more people are in bad financial situation in Greece, leading to the boost of these types of users in public spaces. Moreover, as it is known Greece is a country-attractor for immigrants and refugees. The poor economic condition of those people and their coexistence with the "undesirables" in public space, make local people feel unsafe also towards them, developing feelings of xenophobia. In this way, a lot Greek public spaces are transformed into ghettos, used only by marginalized groups.

General principle: A democratic and inclusive city should offer places for all, but the coexistence of the "ordinary" with the "undesirables" is a difficult challenge that this thesis does not take into consideration. What is important, though is how to offer local people safe public spaces and make them coexist with immigrants, overtaking the feelings of xenophobia. In order the real and perceived sense of security to be achieved in public spaces and the so called "undesirables" to be reduced, two different ways should be followed. The first concerns the concept that Jane Jacobs introduced "eyes on the streets", referring to the various informal ways of surveillance of the urban environment. The second one refers to the presence of "ordinary people" in outdoor public spaces. As Whyte mentions: "The best way to handle the problem of undesirables is to make a place attractive to everyone else." (Whyte, 1980, p. 63) In particular, there are two main guidelines for the concept "eyes on the street" and six guidelines for the attraction of "ordinary" people in public spaces.

"Eyes on the streets"

• Architecture with nothing to hide. The reduction of the amount of "undesirables" has not only to do with the design of the public space but also with the buildings that surround it. So, the proper design of the buildings can contribute to the sense of security, by introducing more transparency not only in retail uses but also in residential. However, simultaneously residents should feel comfortable at their homes and not be over -exposed.

• Active and diverse land uses facing the street. Except for the design of the buildings, another parameter that contributes to the concept "eyes on the street" is the program, density and diversity. Active and different functions on the ground floor allow people look into the shop and vice versa. But also, the upper floors play an important role in the activation of an area especially during night. A visual connection is created, offering so a sense of security.

Presence of people in outdoor spaces

• Walkable. Some local people during the interviews referred to the lack of proper sidewalks. If people cannot have access to the public spaces, how are they going to visit and use them? Further, based on the online survey walkability is the third important parameter for a good public space for Greek people. (68%)The proper ratio between pedestrian and vehicle streets matters. Further, the good condition, the accurate choice of materials and the lack of physical barriers along the sidewalks are issues that should be improved in the Greek context, based on the existing situation of the sidewalks in the Greek cities.

• Physical and visual accessible public spaces. Accessibility is a term that concerns many designers. In order public spaces to be appropriated by people they should be both visual and physical accessible. The physical accessibility correlates partly to walkability and the lack of physical barriers along the entrances of public spaces. But, as Carr mentions physical accessibility has to do also with the direct connection to the street. (Carr et al., 1992) Visual accessibility has to do with the recognition of a space not only when you reached it but also by distance. It is also critical to make people " [...] feel free to enter a space." (Carr et al., 1992, p. 144) Visual accessibility is highly interrelated to safety. (Carr et al., 1992)

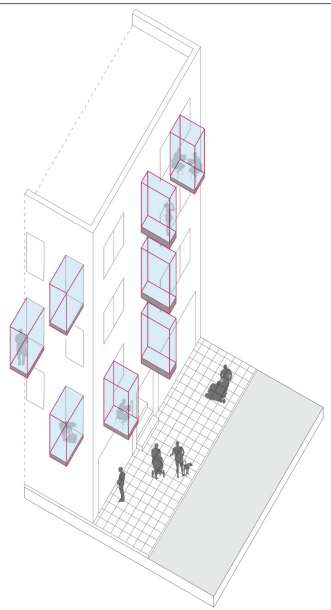
• Opportunity to experience positive aspects of climate. Relief or access to sun, protection from the rain and wind are some aspects of climate. Specifically, in Greece, relief from sun during summer is another important criterion for Greek people (68%) to visit and stay in a public space. The opportunity users to experience positive aspects of climate in outdoor spaces makes them feel physically and psychologically comfortable. (Carr et al., 1992; Whyte, 1980) Natural elements, which are highly important for Greeks (78%) is one of the most suitable solutions. There are also others, more artificial.

• Organized gathering points. The design of organized gathering points/areas which serve specific functions in the city life can gather different people together and contribute to social interaction, as well. One characteristic example constitutes the bus stations in the city. In many cases in Greece, the bus station is just a sign without offering possibilities for seating or gathering. Moreover, a place that offer an active interaction with people (activity-oriented), such as playgrounds can serve as an important gathering area in the city.

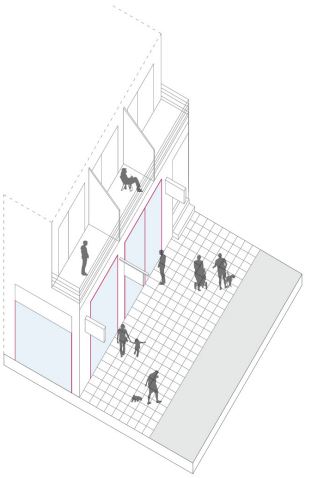
• Highlight of unique characteristics. The presence of a unique characteristic in a public space, either this is a monument, a building, a sculpture, a fountain etc. can attract more people in a place. Unique characteristics contribute not only to the connection of local people with their history, locality and identity, but also attract many tourists. Besides, many of the Greek liveable examples allocate a unique characteristic, such as an important church, the city hall, a tower etc.

• Organization of festival and events. As the Greek liveable examples and the observations of the squares via online cameras proved, the organization of an event or a festival make Greek people to go in outdoor public spaces and transform them from empty urban voids into liveable places. Besides, according to the PPS it is considered that activity is the key feature of attracting people in a public space. If people have something to do in a place, they will find a reason to visit it. ((Project for Public Spaces website, n.d.) But, of course you can not have everyday an event in every square of the city. Th organization of various activities in specific days would be a convenient solution, which can attract different users in different places and days regarding their interests.

Architecture with nothing to hide



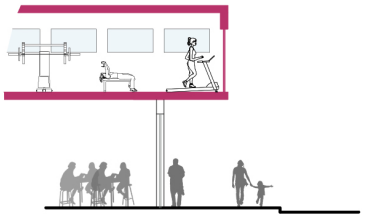
Glass boxes



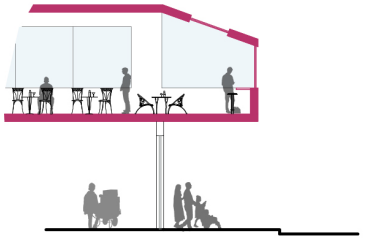
Retail transparency

Maximum residential transparency

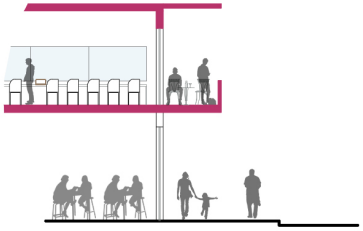
Active & diverse program along the street



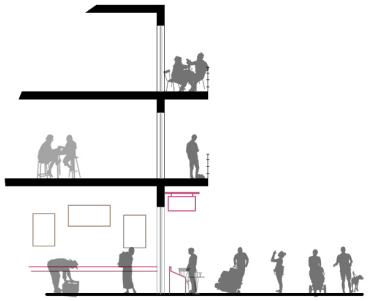
24/7 gym



Coffee & Food culture amenities

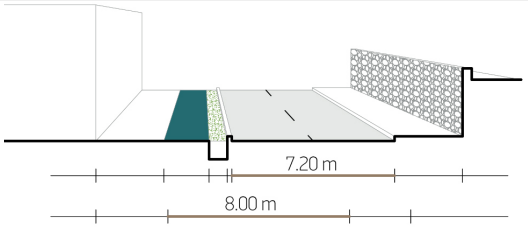


Working/Studying lab

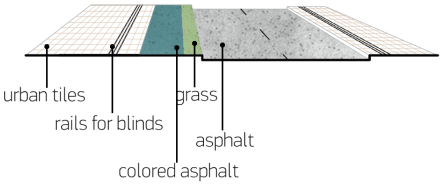


Multicultural shops

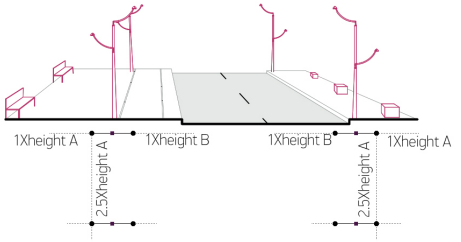
Walkable



Proper ratio between vehicle and pedestrian steets

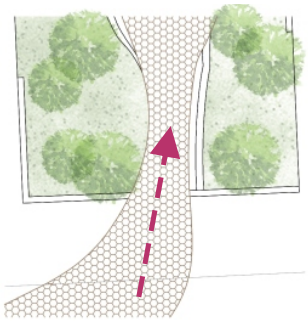


Materiality

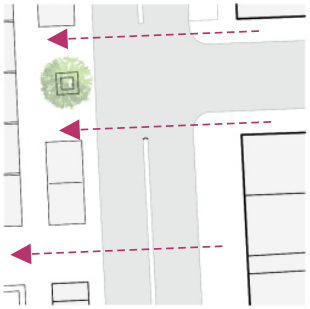


Lack of barriers along sidewalks

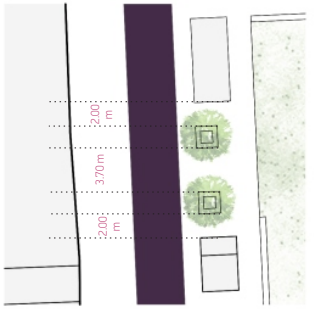
Physical & visual accessible



Clear main entrance



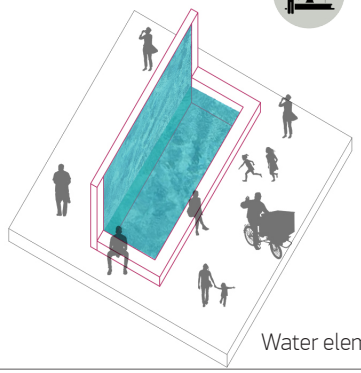
Different possibilities to enter it



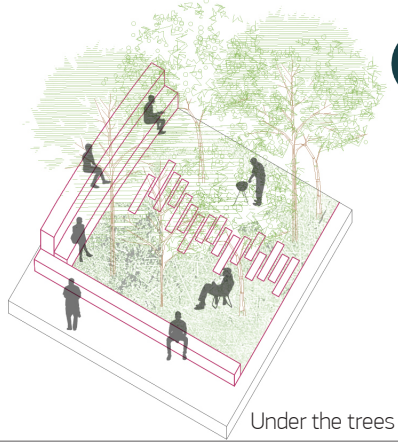
Lack of barriers

Opportunity to experience positive aspects of climate

Canopies

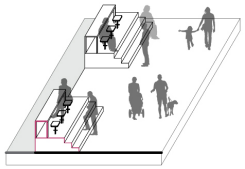


Water element

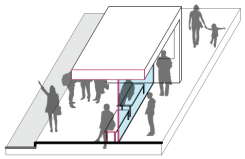


Under the trees

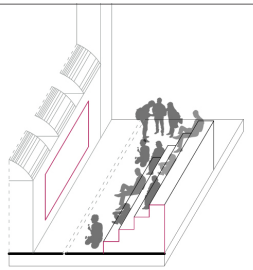
Organized gathering points



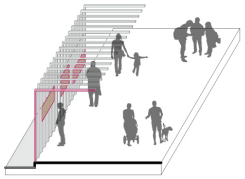
Outdoor coffee culture amenities



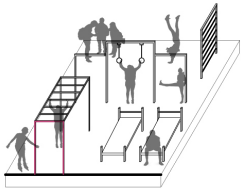
Bus stops



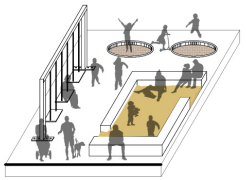
Open air cinema



Exhibition canopies



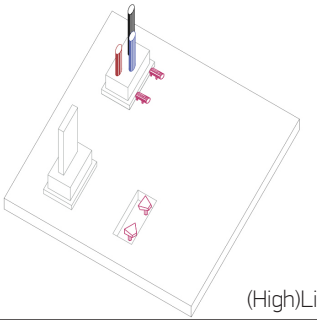
Outdoor gym facilities



Playground facilities

Highlight of unique characteristics

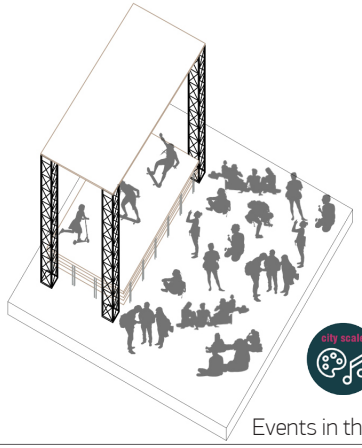
Keep it open and clear



(High)Lighting monuments

Organization of festivals/events

Events in the neighborhood scale



Events in the city scale

12.5 SENSE OF SECURITY _ INTERPERSONAL DISTANCE

Design pattern name:
Together but apart

Problem: A shared space and social interaction are important for human beings, but everyone has a personal space, which claims as its own. Making a parallelism, it can be said that every person is enclosed by a "bubble" and tends to be stressed when other people invade it. However, as researches have already proved the boundaries of the personal space differ from country to country. The gender and the age are also factors that influence these boundaries. (Hall, 1990; Sorokowska et al., 2017) According to the online survey conducted in the thesis, interpersonal distance is in the first positions of the important criteria for an attractive and qualitative public space for Greek people (62%). If the design of the urban environment does not protect the personal comfort zone of users, they feel uncomfortable in the place and not welcome to use it. When users' bubble is not protected due to the design of the urban environment, the sense of security is also influenced negatively.

General principle: Interpersonal distance is an important criterion for sense of security. It protects the personal space of the individual, while talking to strangers. It contributes so to the social interaction, as well. Concerning Hall's proxemic theory (1966) interpersonal distance is divided into four main categories: public distance, social distance, personal distance and intimate distance, which one of those has a range of distance's dimensions. So, by knowing the appropriate distances for the different social interactions, the urban designers can offer different possibilities in the design of public space. In this way, sense of security and comfort can be achieved, while simultaneously users can interact with each other actively or passively. Thus, taking into consideration what was mentioned above, the principles of this pattern concerns mainly the division of a square into different areas (without being totally fragmented) and the handling of seating places. More specifically there are four main guidelines to keep a suitable interpersonal distance in public space:

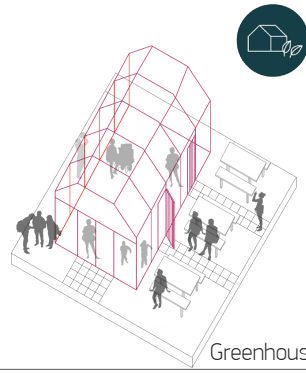
• Division of the public space into smaller spaces. The division of a space into different parts/rooms, without converting it in a fragmented space without connectivity, is a characteristic which was observed in the Greek liveable examples. The division of a space into smaller spaces develops not only shared but also segregated spaces. Different people can be in different places of a square based on the needs that they want to cover there. Further, the separation of a place into small spaces can protect the comfort zone of people who feel more comfortable if their "bubble" is protected.

• Rooms for isolation with nothing to hide. The presence of protected or covered areas in a public space can protect again people who don't want their personal "bubble" to be invaded by other people. What is important in these rooms in order users to feel safe and comfortable, is visual accessibility. In other words, to see and be seen without being disturbed. At the same time, these rooms can offer protection from the weather conditions.

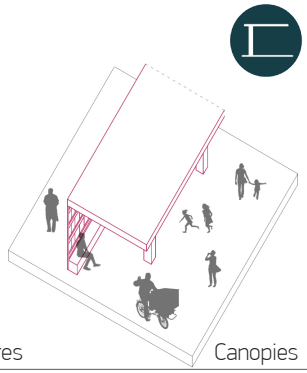
• Movable seating. The placement of a seating place according to the willingness of the user can have various impacts in the sense of security, comfort and social interaction between people. Having the ability to move your own chair in a public space, can make you feel more welcome and comfortable, Flexibility also matters for the dynamic change of the public space. The changes are a contribution of users who decide for the placement of the seating spaces.

• Seating places with possibilities to sit together and apart. The design of the seating places or the benches can be quite adaptable and flexible. So, users can have the possibility to sit together with strangers if they feel comfortable to do so or share the same bench but by protecting their own "bubble" from the other people sitting there. The proper design of bench can contribute to the protection of the interpersonal distance and promote social interaction as well. Its placement in the space is important, as well.

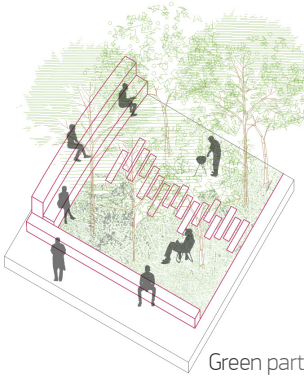
Rooms for isolation with nothing to hide



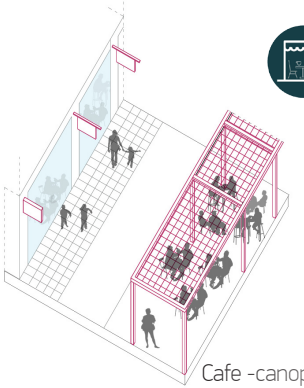
Greenhouse structures



Canopies

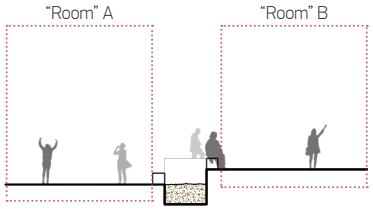


Green parterres

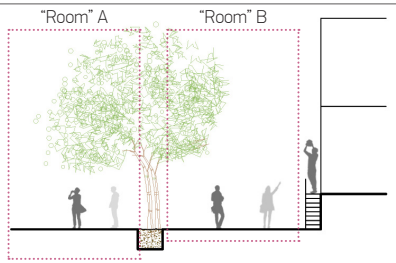


Cafe -canopies

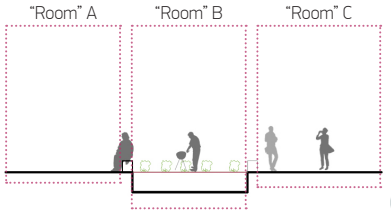
Division into smaller spaces



Height difference

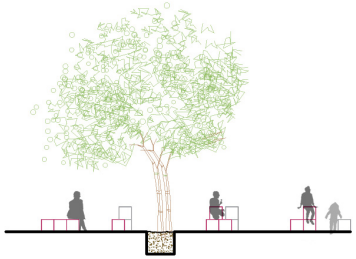


Natural element



Ledges

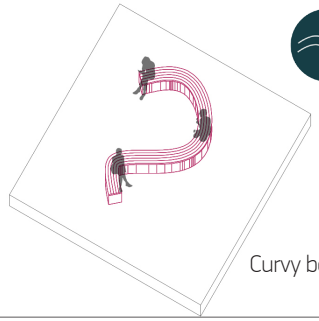
Movable seating



Movable modular box for seating

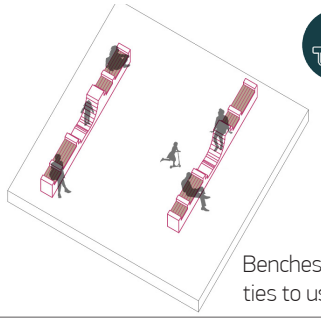
Chairs

Seating places to sit together and apart



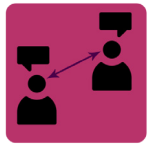
Curvy bench

Benches with a wide seating area



Benches with different possibilities to use it

12.6 SOCIAL INTERACTION _ ACTIVE/DIRECT



Design pattern name:
Conversation exchange

Problem: The defective Greek reality as far as the function and appropriation of public spaces are concerned, among others results in poor social interaction among different demographics. More specifically, the problematic use and poor quality of the existing public staying spaces in Chania, with many of them to be extreme privatized (due to coffee tables), while others not used at all or used by specific social groups (mainly marginalized) do not offer opportunities for active or passive engagement among different users. Direct social interaction apart from an essential need of human beings, who are social by their nature and need to socialize, is an important part of city life. So, if social interaction does not occur in public space, people are not only isolated by each other, but they also lose their bonds with the community and their history. In other words, citizens become strangers in the same city, losing so their sense of belonging and their attachment to the place and their community. (Project for Public Spaces website, n.d.;Carr et al., 1992)

General principle: Only the name of this concept reveals that it is more social related than spatial. As PPS states sociability is one of the most difficult features that a good public space can offer to its users, but once it is accomplished it becomes a noteworthy characteristic of great public spaces. (Project for Public spaces website, n.d.) Social interaction in public space was a noteworthy feature of the past relationship between Greek people and public space. The Greek public space embodied dynamically the political function, the urban activities and the experiences of the residents. Especially, during difficult periods, served as a connector of the Greek society. In this regard, an active engagement and sociability occurred in the Greek public spaces of the past, characteristics that are now lost. So, to reclaim again this active engagement and direct interaction between people in Greece, five are the main guidelines which are followed:

• Opportunities to sit and relax. If there are seating places in a public space, the possibility people stay longer there, is higher. The proper design of a bench, giving different possibilities of usage, in combination with other elements can contribute both to active and passive social interaction between people. It depends on the choice of the users.

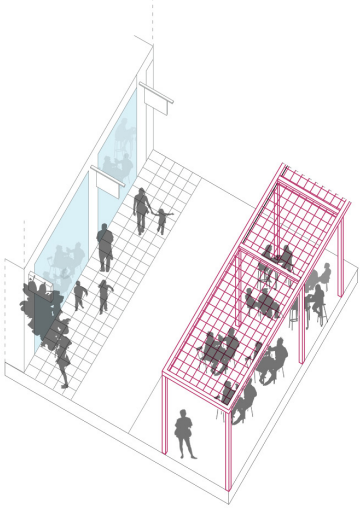
• Organization of festivals/events. As it can be seen from the Greek liveable examples the organization of small or bigger events in Greek public spaces is a main reason for people to gather there. As Carr states festivals, ceremonies, ritual and general celebrations are elements that promote the active engagement of people and at the same time "[...] are qualities that people seek in urban public spaces." (Carr et al., 1992, p. 128)

• Public art/exhibitions. Periodical public exhibitions in Greek public spaces, would be another reason for people to gather there. Moreover, they can cause what Whyte called triangulation. In other words, art can serve as a trigger for different users to bond and talk with each other, as thought they were not. Art offer a strong social effect, as people stop to watch it and talk about it. (Whyte, 1980)

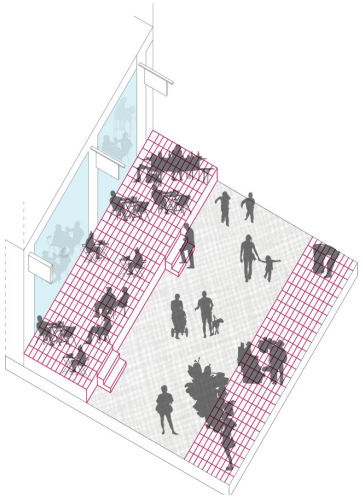
• Activity areas. Regarding interviews, a reaso why local people find public spaces in Chania problematic and do not visit them is lack of activity attraction (9%), especially for specific target groups. Moreover, the online survey showed that participation in activities is a necessary criterion for attractive public spaces (58% in "top box" scores and 25% in the optional question) So, areas, which give the opportunity to participate in various activities based on the age or the interest can bring strangers with common interest together and make them communicate.

• Organized expansion of indoor activities outdoors. Cafes are the most important public space for Greeks and in all cases café owners expand their indoor space outdoors. This tactic can help the sociability between people, but if it is in a more organized way since the overexpansion develops problem of accessibility and social inclusion. Hence, the organized transition of indoor spaces outdoors can have important social effects.

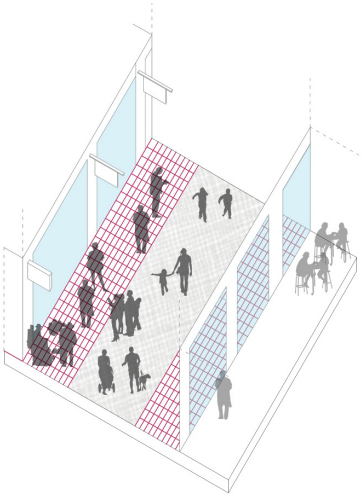
Transit of inoor activities outdoors



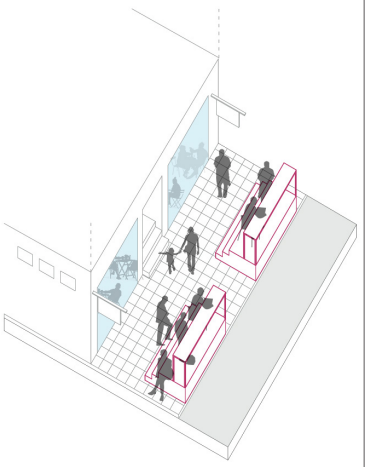
Cafe canopies



Paved areas in front of coffee and food culture amenities



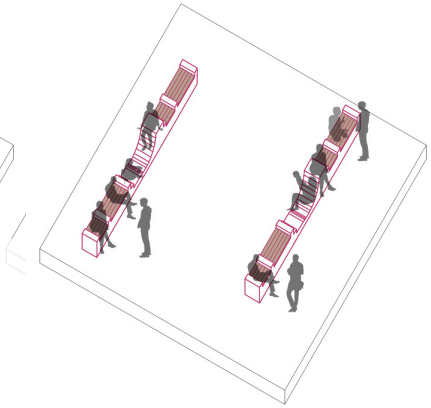
Paved areas in front of touristic shops



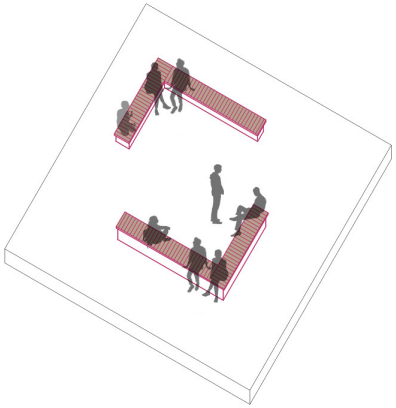
Elevated decks for coffee tables

Opportunities to sit and relax

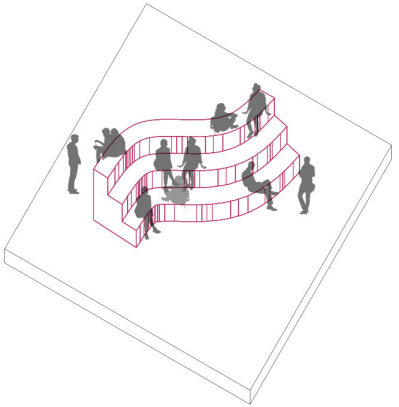
Curvy bench



Benches with different possibilities to usi it

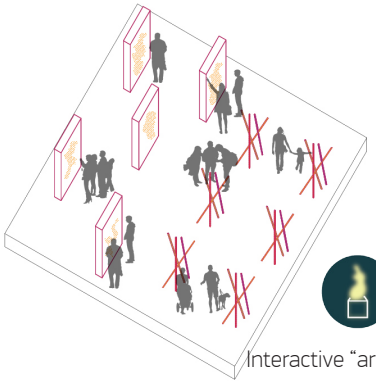


Corner seating areas

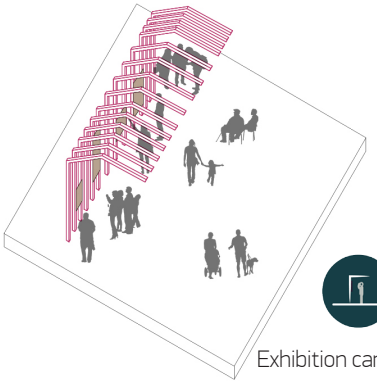


Bleachers

Public art/exhibitions



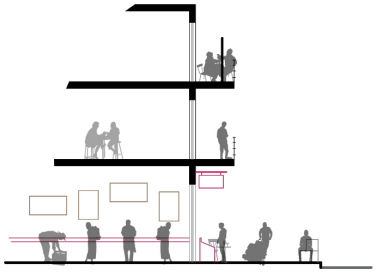
Interactive “art-sculpture”ligh



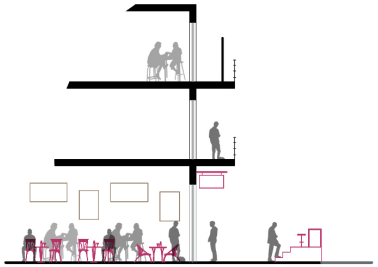
Exhibition canopies

Movable exhibition stands

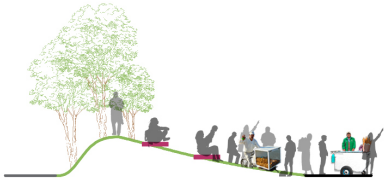
Active land uses on ground floors



Multicultural shops



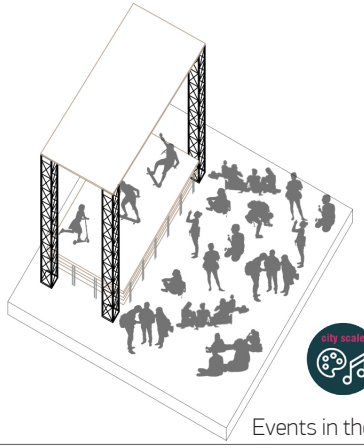
Cafe-bars on the ground floor



Food vendors

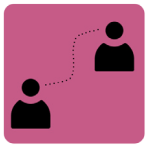
Organization of festival /events

Events in the neighborhood scale



Events in the city scale

12.7 SOCIAL INTERACTION _ PASSIVE/INDIRECT



Design pattern name:
See and be seen

Problem: The fact that some of Greek public spaces are totally empty has as a result not even passive interaction between people to occur. Apart from active social interaction, passive interaction has also positive effects on people and city life. But passive interaction is not only referred to the interaction among users, who may observe each other, but also to the interaction with the urban environment. In this context, the poor quality of Greek staying public spaces in Chania contributes to the corresponding poor passive interaction between users and the space. Besides, (a) neglect of public space in terms of bad maintenance and destroyed facilities, and (b) dirt were the first and second reasons respectively, why local people in Chania find public spaces problematic, in their city. A not satisfying urban landscape with blocked views, not well-maintained facilities and absence of unique characteristics cannot give opportunities for passive interaction among people, and between users and the environment.

General principle: Passive engagement with other people and the environment is also an important parameter for a great public space, even though Greek people on the online survey considered" observation of other people" as one of the lowest-rated criteria for an attractive and qualitative public space. Generally, the passive interaction among people can be correlated with the interpersonal distance and particularly with the public distance, resulting in the identification between the general patterns "together and apart" and "see and be seen". (Hall, 1966). On the other hand, the good image of a public space and the views from it play an important role in the passive engagement with the environment. As Stephen Carr mentions "[...] passive engagement with the environment could lead to a sense of relaxation." (Carr et al., 1992, p. 105) In this regard, the guidelines for the two different indirect interactions concern two different types (passive interaction among users and passive interaction between users and environment). Starting with the same guidelines with the interpersonal distance, there are:

• Division of the public space into smaller spaces. The division of a space into smaller spaces develops not only shared but also segregated spaces. Different people can be in different places of a square, observing other people and simultaneously be observed.

• Rooms for isolation with nothing to hide. The presence of protected or covered areas in a public space can give the possibility to users to observe people from a safe distance, without being totally hidden. Visual accessibility is a necessary element in the design of these rooms. At the same time, these rooms can offer protection from the weather conditions.

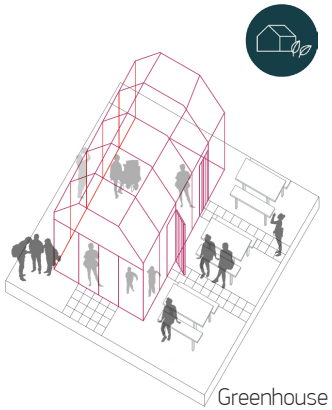
• Seating places with possibilities to sit together and apart. The design of the seating places or the benches can be quite adaptable and flexible to give different possibilities of usage. Their placement into the space can also contribute to the passive or active engagement with other people or even the environment, offering for example a nice frame of the view.

• Movable seating. The placement of a seating place according to the willingness of the user can have various impacts in the, comfort and social interaction between people. Having the ability to move your own chair in a public space, offers you the ability to interact passively with other users keeping the willing distances and by changing the image of the space to interact in a dynamic way with the environment.

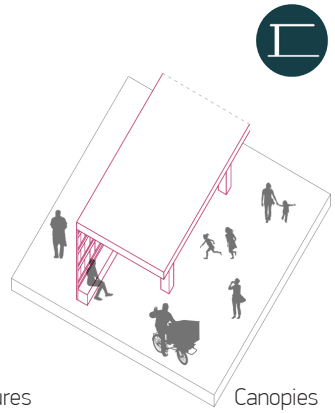
• Unique characteristics. A distinctive element, such as a historic building, a monument or even a fountain is proved by the Greek liveable examples that can gather people together in a place. However, at the same time, as Carr mentioned physical features which attract people in public space can contribute to the passive engagement of users with the urban environment.(Carr et al., 1992)

• Landscape elements. Compelling landscape and generally natural elements, which are important for Greek people, especially in the urban environment of a city can lead to passive engagement with the environment, offering a sense of relaxation to the users. (Carr et al., 1992)

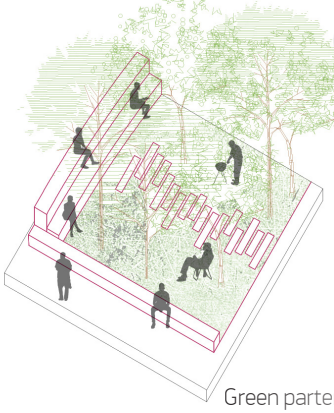
Rooms for isolation with nothing to hide



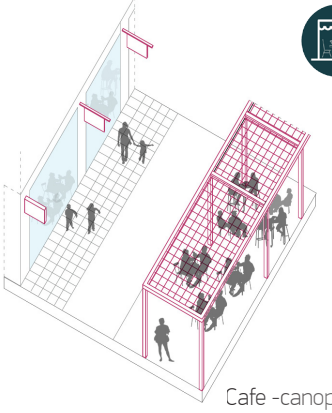
Greenhouse structures



Canopies

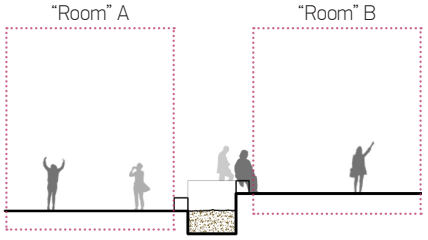


Green parterres

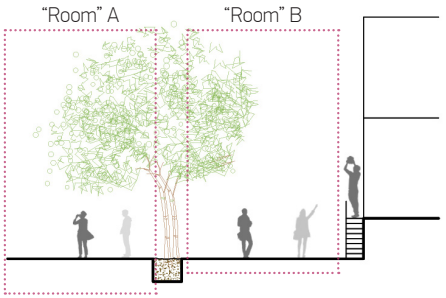


Cafe -canopies

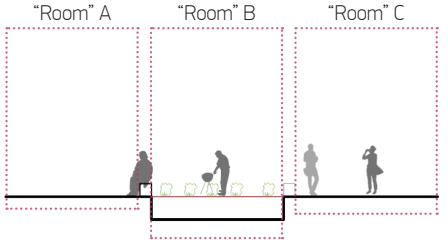
Division into smaller spaces



Height difference

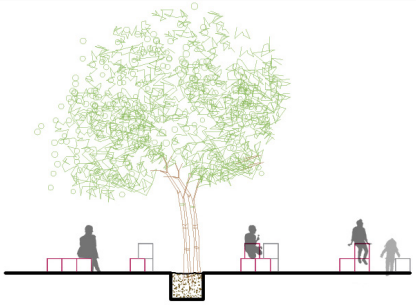


Natural elements



Ledges

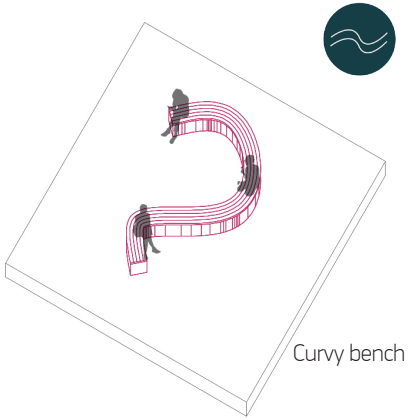
Movable seating



Movable modular box for seating

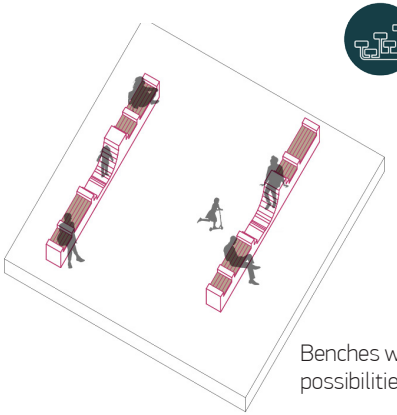
Chairs

Seating places to sit together and apart



Curvy bench

Benches with a wide seating area



Benches with different possibilities to use it

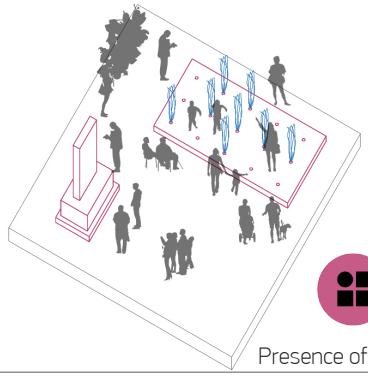
Landscape elements

Green slopes

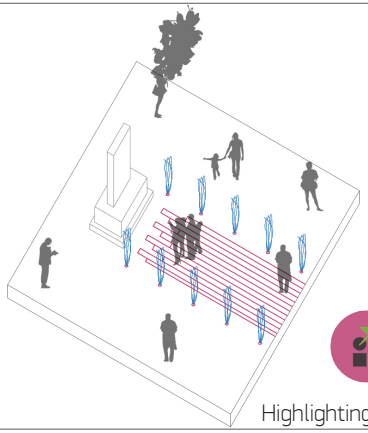
Green parterres

Gardens

Unique characteristics



Presence of unique characteristics



Highlighting unique characteristics

12.8 SOCIAL INCLUSION

In the category "Social inclusion", due to incapacity of finding the appropriate literature for transforming the social-related concept of social inclusion into physical form and space, the patterns are defined mainly based on a design approach and the study of Greek examples. Through some first design ideas since the P2 phase for the different testing locations, inspiration for patterns came up.

In this category, there are general patterns and sub-patterns without guidelines. Further, the problem and the general principle are mentioned for the whole concept of inclusion and not for each general pattern itself. It must be clarified also that some of the general patterns in this category are referred to actions, which are correlated to a specific space, while others are again spatial interventions. As for the general-patterns themselves, apart from their name and logo, they contain a brief principle description and the sub-patterns.

Problem: The current function of the Greek public spaces and the focus of the current thesis in the problem triptych of privatization of public space, absence of people in it and the ghettoization of it, leads in general to social exclusion and poor social interaction between the different demographics. The current poor quality and problematic use of most Greek public spaces put into dispute the serving of needs of the seperate users and question the possibility of all people to appropriate a place in the city. Because of the extreme privatization of public spaces due to the coffee tables and the ghettoization of other places mainly by marginalized groups, there are social groups with limited access to them, regarding physical, economic or interest-driven exclusion. Especially, during the crisis of Greece, more and more people confront financial issues. So, they are excluded from enjoying the coffee and food culture of the Greek city life. Further, the lack of financial means of the local authorities to maintain the public spaces, results in the neglect of the public facilities, preventing people to use them. In the end, according to the interviews, quite a lot people and especially mid-aged and old mentioned that there are not public spaces for them, but only for children (age exclusion). In a few words, the function and the quality of Greek public spaces can lead to different kinds of exclusion, such as social, age, economic, physical or interest-driven.

General Principle: Ancient Greece, where the Greek polis and the Athenian agora were developed, is highly connected with the term democratic public space. Thus, an attempt modern Greece to reclaim its democratic public space should be made. Modern Greece should offer its citizens open and inclusive cities, considering though that mixing all the different social or age groups together in a place at the same time is not a solution, even though it sounds democratic. Besides, in the democracy of the 5th century, women and slaves were excluded. A try towards diverse but symbiotic cities, where different users can find an indoor or outdoor public space, which can offer possibilities for gathering and interaction, should be a priority. It is important also Greek cities to respect their locality, the mentality and the socio-cultural background of their residents, without excluding immigrants and tourists. In order all these to be achieved, different actions and interventions should be done, alluding to the following general patterns and being more specific in the sub-patterns.

Design pattern name:
Build up together

General principle: *Build up together* pattern includes different small actions in the neighborhood scale or the public space scale to bring together different people of the surrounding area. By constructing something together or participating in an activity of the neighborhood, the neighbors can meet each other socialize and develop a sense of belonging for their nearby public spaces. Community and team spirit to improve your own place can make people bond with other people from different ages and countries. In addition, when people apply effort by themselves for a place, they probably respect it more and feel more welcome to use it. These actions except for the bonding of the local people of the neighborhood can contribute to the

better interaction between locals and immigrants, so as feelings of exclusion and xenophobia to be reduced.

Design pattern name:
Colorful is the new pink

General principle: *Colorful is the new pink* pattern contains different actions where people again can bond together and participate in different actions but with main focus the transformation of the often-boring concrete reality of the city into a colorful context, without being extravagant and tacky.
"Color is much more than an aesthetic; it is part of a life-giving and life-preserving process. It is part of the terms and conditions under which human live and experience" (Meerwein, Rodeck, & Mahnke, 2007, p. 45). From the study of the Greek liveable examples, it was concluded that colors are quite significant for Greek people and especially through specific ways, such as lighting, graffiti etc. Colors can have different functions in the urban setting. For example, "Color is considered as a basic element in city beautification-color as an Aesthetics and decorative element. [...] It can attract also the eye to features consider worthy of attention-color detachment." (Behbudi, Idid, & Torabi, 2012, pp. 6,7)

Design pattern name:
Fitness for all

General principle: Fitness for all pattern embodies interventions in the city context mainly but also in the scale of public space, in order the sedentary lifestyle of the modern city-dwellers to be confronted through the urban-fitness. This kind of activity becomes more and more popular in many countries of the world. In Greece, many people walking or running in the city and just a few cities allocates outdoor public gym facilities. Thus, the establishment of the appropriate facilities for urban-fitness in the city context but also in specific public spaces can give chances to different users to appropriate this kind of places, developing inclusive public spaces, where outdoor fitness and the improvement of physical and psychological health can serve as a social connector.

Design pattern name:
Multicultural glue

General principle: Immigrants and refugees are a specific feature that characterizes many Greek cities, but in many cases the integration of locals with the foreigners does not exist, developing social exclusion and feelings of xenophobia. The different beliefs, the different ways that the various people from different countries experience the space and the distinct personal territorial space, make social inclusion and exchange hard to happen. The organization of temporary and permanent events with a focus in the different culture can contribute to the mixing of immigrants and locals. In Chania, already every year an anti-racist festival is organized in the Peace & Friendship Park. Further, the understanding of other cultures through urban interventions can bring people closer to each other, including also tourists. The diversity of cultures in a city can be an attractor for tourists, as well.

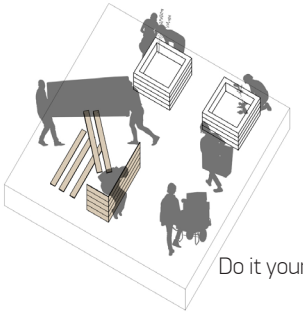
Design pattern name:
Alternative playgrounds

General principle: After the coffee and culture amenities, playgrounds especially placed in parks probably are the most attractive public spaces in Greece. But, many parents during the interviews complained that they do not have something to do in playgrounds apart from watching over their children. So, alternative playgrounds can give solutions for playgrounds for different ages, where also adults can use some facilities, or combine playgrounds with other land uses, such as cafes. Further, interactive and more technology-oriented playgrounds can be an attractor for different users. Giant board games are another aspect of alternative playgrounds, quite famous in Greece many years ago.

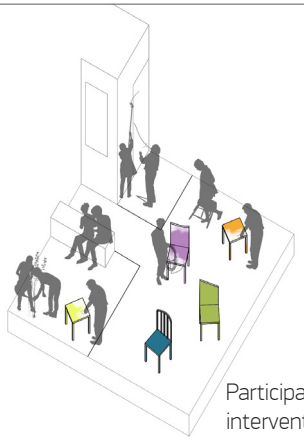
Design pattern name:
Learning history

General principle: History can be a bond between the different residents of a city. By learning the history of their city, inhabitants can develop a better sense of belonging and be part of a community that shares common history experiences. History sometimes seems boring for children, so through interactive ways or organizations of activities children, teenagers, young and old people can learn the history of their locus, without any of them be excluded by this process. History of a topos is also a significant parameter for visitors and tourists. So, learning history actions and urban interventions can mix tourists and locals together.

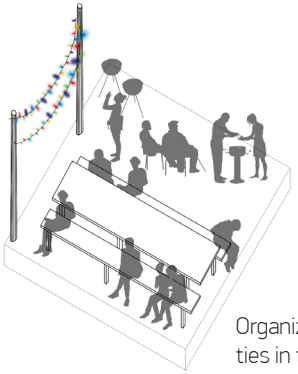
Build up together



Do it yourself constructions



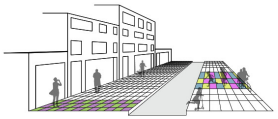
Participatory small design interventionss



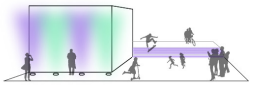
Organization of events/activities in the neighborhood scale

Colorful is the new pink

Graffiti in empty blind walls of buildings



Painting of the existing pavements

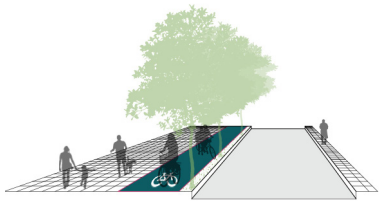


Colorful lights.

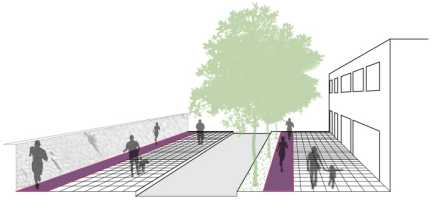
Trees are not only green

Yarn bombs around the trees

Fitness for all

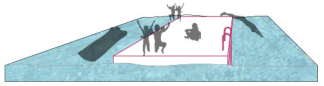


Cycling routes



Running routes

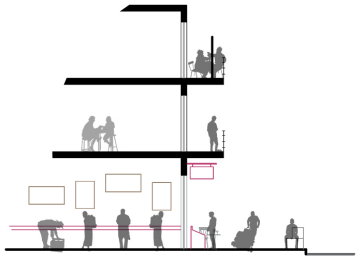
Public outdoor gym



Floating platforms

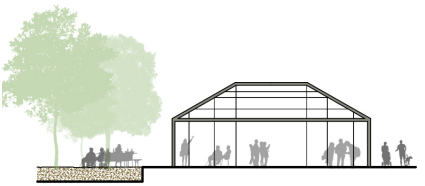
Multicultural glue

Communal gardens



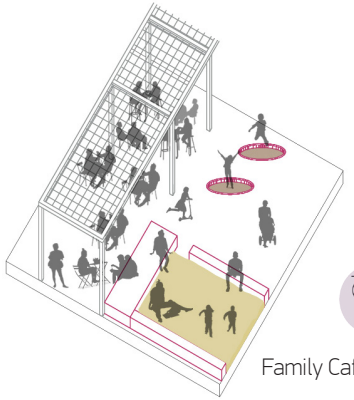
Multicultural shops

Cultural festivals

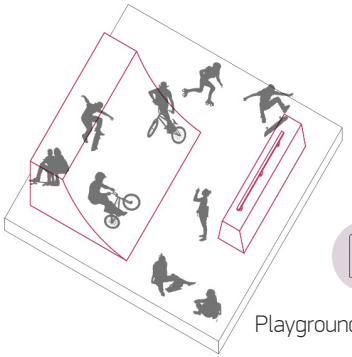


Multicultural market-kitchen lab

Alternative playgrounds



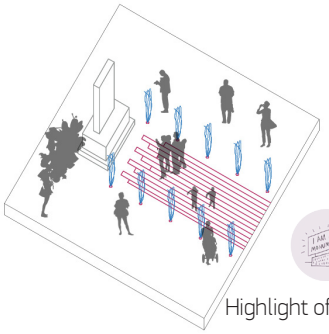
Family Café-playgrounds



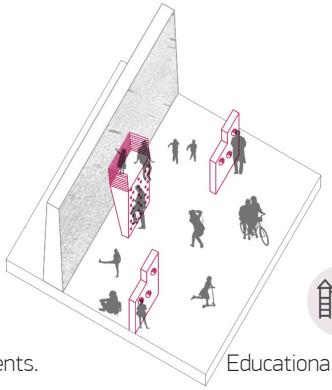
Playgrounds for teenagers

Giant game boards.

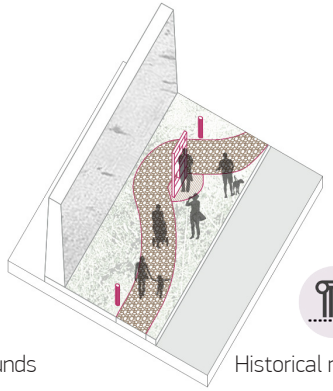
Learning History



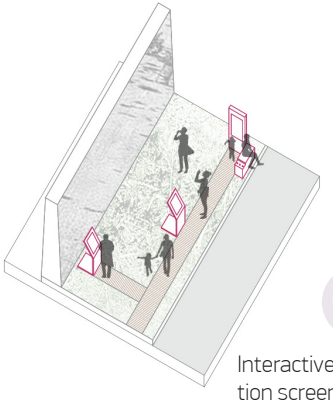
Highlight of monuments.



Educational playgrounds

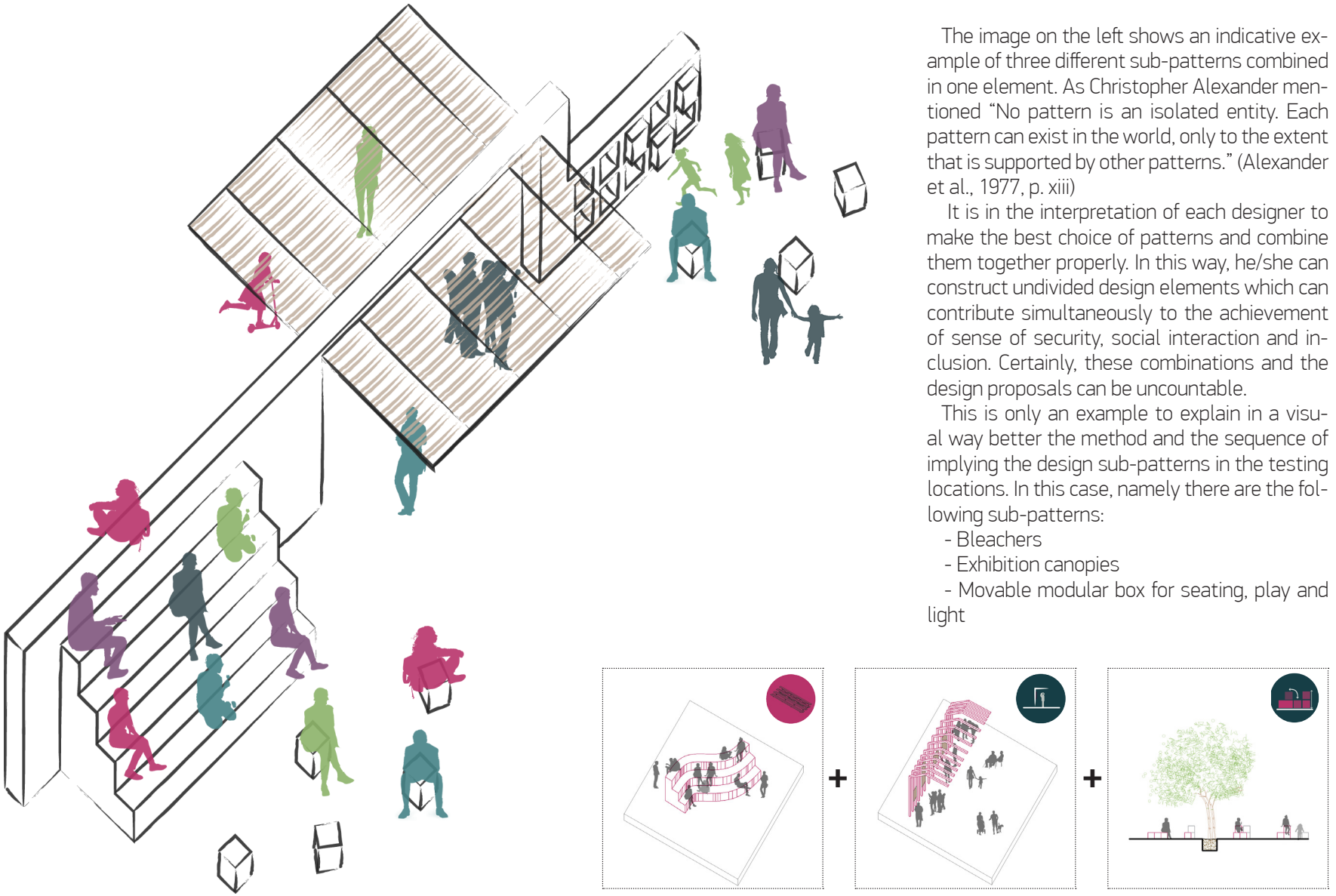


Historical routes



Interactive information screens

12.9 INDICATIVE EXAMPLE OF COMBINED PATTERNS



The image on the left shows an indicative example of three different sub-patterns combined in one element. As Christopher Alexander mentioned "No pattern is an isolated entity. Each pattern can exist in the world, only to the extent that is supported by other patterns." (Alexander et al., 1977, p. xiii)

It is in the interpretation of each designer to make the best choice of patterns and combine them together properly. In this way, he/she can construct undivided design elements which can contribute simultaneously to the achievement of sense of security, social interaction and inclusion. Certainly, these combinations and the design proposals can be uncountable.

This is only an example to explain in a visual way better the method and the sequence of implying the design sub-patterns in the testing locations. In this case, namely there are the following sub-patterns:

- Bleachers
- Exhibition canopies
- Movable modular box for seating, play and light

Figure: Sketch showing an indicative example of sub-patterns' combination| **Source:** made by author

12.10 IMPLEMENTATION OF PATTERNS IN PRACTICE

Introduction

Since the design proposals of the current thesis were attempted to be as realistic as possible, the question about their implementation in practice raised. Thus, a brief reference on the perspective of the actor network in the city's political-institutional reality will be made. As the focus of the present project is not on actors and actors' network, a comprehensive analysis of the actors involved and how they are interrelated within a common action arena will not be carried out.

In this section of the thesis, apart from the concise view of a Greek architect in the city of Chania about the way that the design patterns can be implemented in practice, three different kinds of divisions of the patterns will be presented. In the first one, in a x-y axis system, all the patterns are divided based on the scale of their application (small scale, public space scale, neighborhood scale, city scale) along the y axis. In the x axis, they are put according to how much concrete or abstract they are.

As the project is not limited only to interventions by design in Chania, but more generally in Greek medium-sized cities, the second kind of division classifies the sub-patterns in three main categories: a) patterns in Chania, b) patterns in Greek medium cities and c) universal patterns. In the x axis, they are put again according to how much concrete or abstract they are.

In the last division category, the sub-patterns are distributed regarding the different stakeholders' interest and concern for their implementation. So, different actors and stakeholders can be interested in the same patterns.

View of a Greek architect

Giorgos Kalligeris is a Greek architect in the city of Chania and a member of the non-profit group p_public since 2010. The main objective of the group is to activate unused and / or abandoned public spaces and change the permanent and / or given use, as well as the perception of their users. From November 2011 to October 2015, he was also the President of the Architects' Association of Chania.

Due to distance limitations, Giorgos Kalligeris was asked to express his view as a person from practice about the implementation of the sub-patterns, that the current thesis is dealing with. After sending to him the chapter with the design patterns, he was asked by email which actor or actors are responsible for the application of each pattern. Obviously, it was too much time-consuming to define the actors for every single pattern. However, his answer was related to the view of the author about the implementation of the sub-patterns in practice. Namely, he mentioned: *Generally, the implementation of all these patterns that I saw in the chapter design patterns is based on each individual municipality. The Municipality must be involved obligatory in the implementation of each pattern, because the public spaces belong to it, except for some cases, where the public spaces may belong to other public actors. Unfortunately, in Greece there are scant examples of cooperation with other actors, because of the well-known function of the public actor. When there are proposals even for temporary interventions, like the actions of the p_public group, applications are made to the Municipality and the other responsible stakeholders. If they accept the proposal, then it can take place. When it comes to permanent interventions, the procedures are much more difficult. The study may be carried out by an individual architect, designer or the technical service of the Municipality of generally of the public actor, but the supervision is compulsory to be done by the responsible services. I don't know if participatory processes are allowed in any case by the Greek legislation. I only know the case of "neighborhood injection" in 2011, organized by the p_public group. The group in cooperation with the residents of a neighborhood through participatory actions both for the design and implementation formed a public space, which while was supposed to be a sport space, it was left undersigned. This process followed an unorthodox way, without taking into consideration the existing legislation, because otherwise it would never be accomplished. So, you can understand that it is difficult to categorize the implementation of the different patterns, since there is not a foreseen procedure in Greece.*

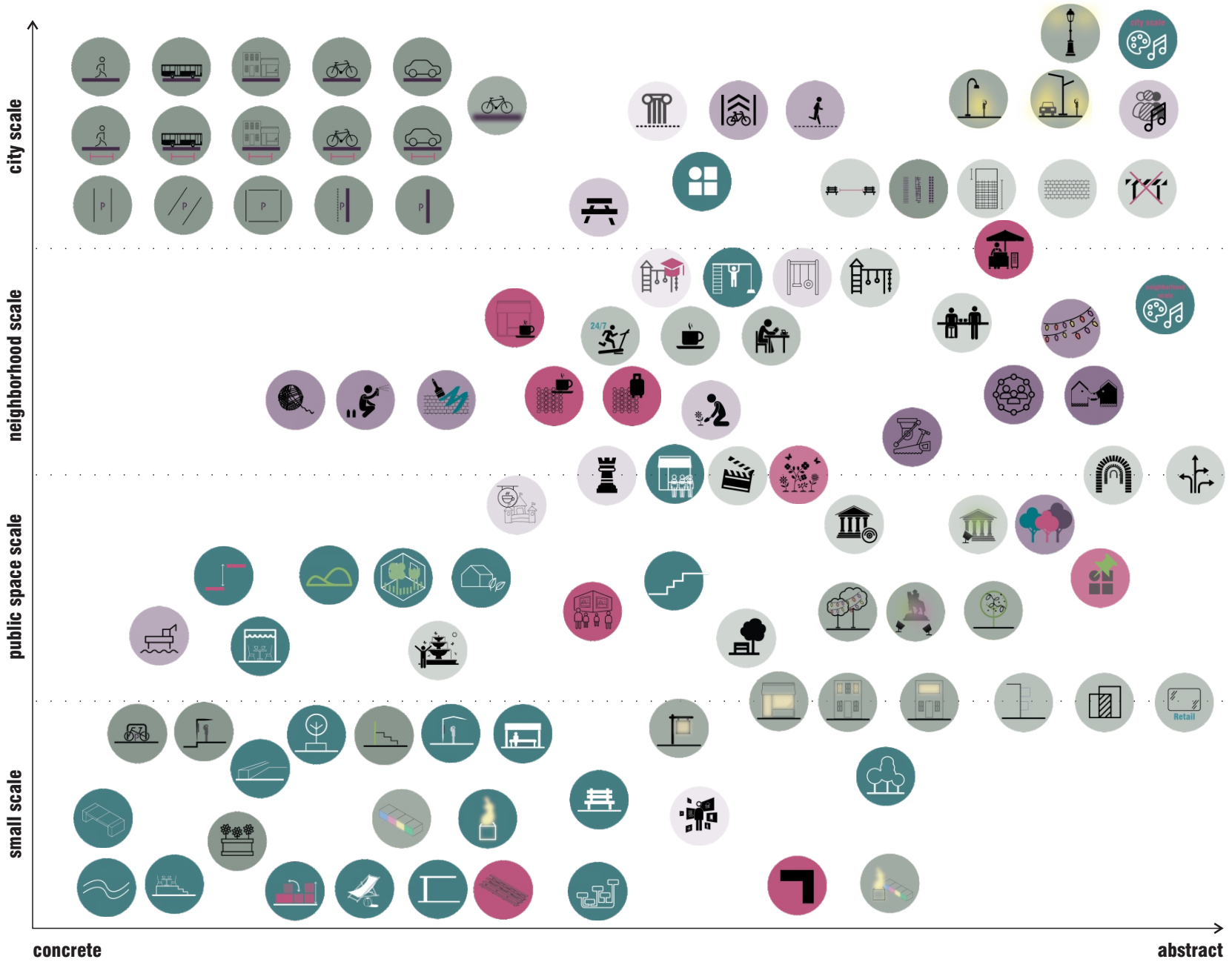


Figure: In the scheme of placement of the patterns based on the scale of intervention and how concrete and abstract there are, there are patterns almost in all the scales and along the axis x (concrete -abstract), as well. Two are mainly the empty-blank spaces. Specifically, there are not so concrete solutions in the neighborhood scale and not abstract design patterns in the really small scale of interventions. | **Source:** made by author

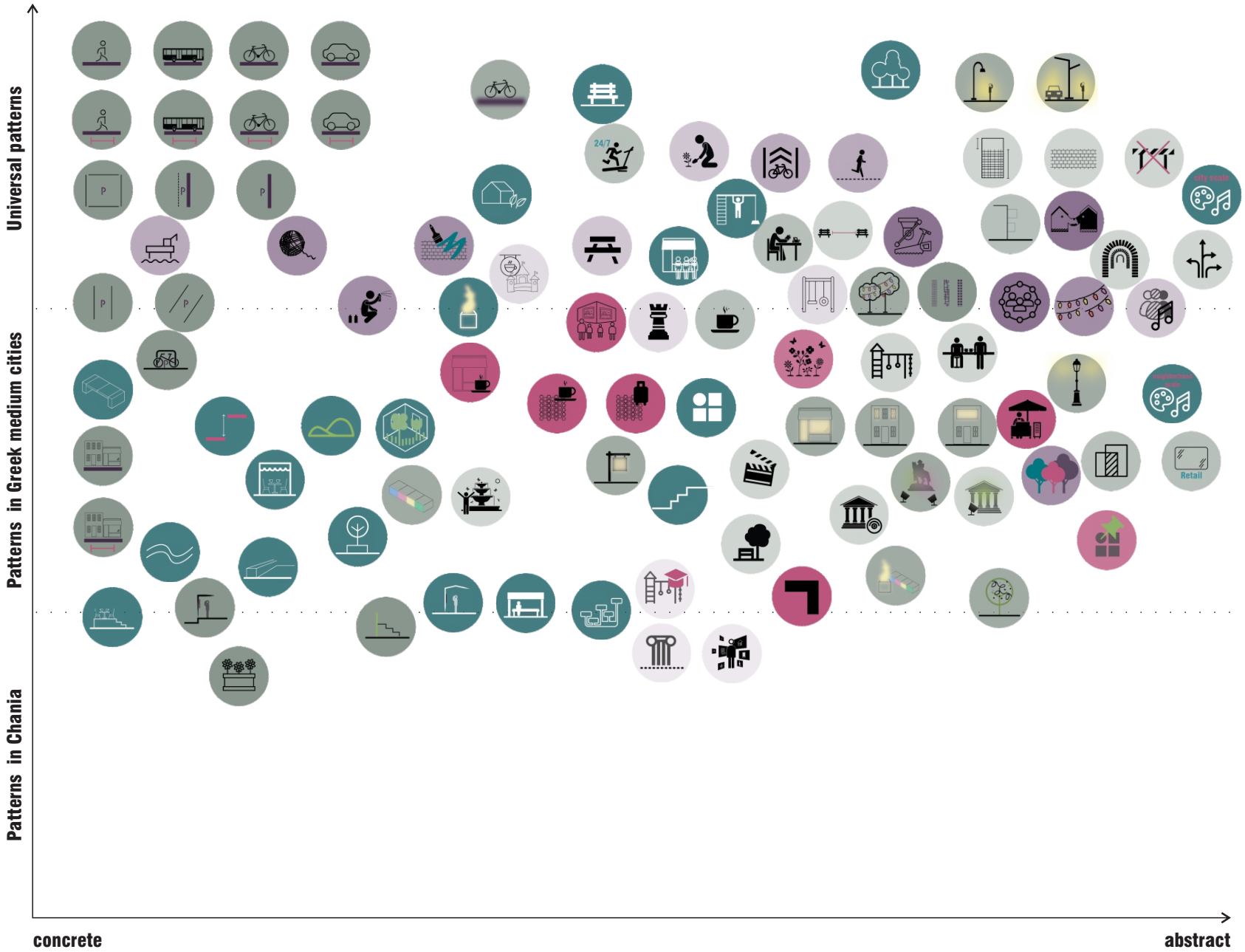


Figure: In the classification scheme of the patterns regarding the region, it can reveal that most of the patterns are distributed between more universal and patterns in Greek medium cities. The existence of almost half of the patterns in more universal, does not mean that all of them are unique characteristics of other countries and do not fit in Greek context. For example, pedestrian streets can not belong only to one country, but the way in which this pattern will be translated into from in the urban environment play a role on the culture of the country. | **Source:** made by author

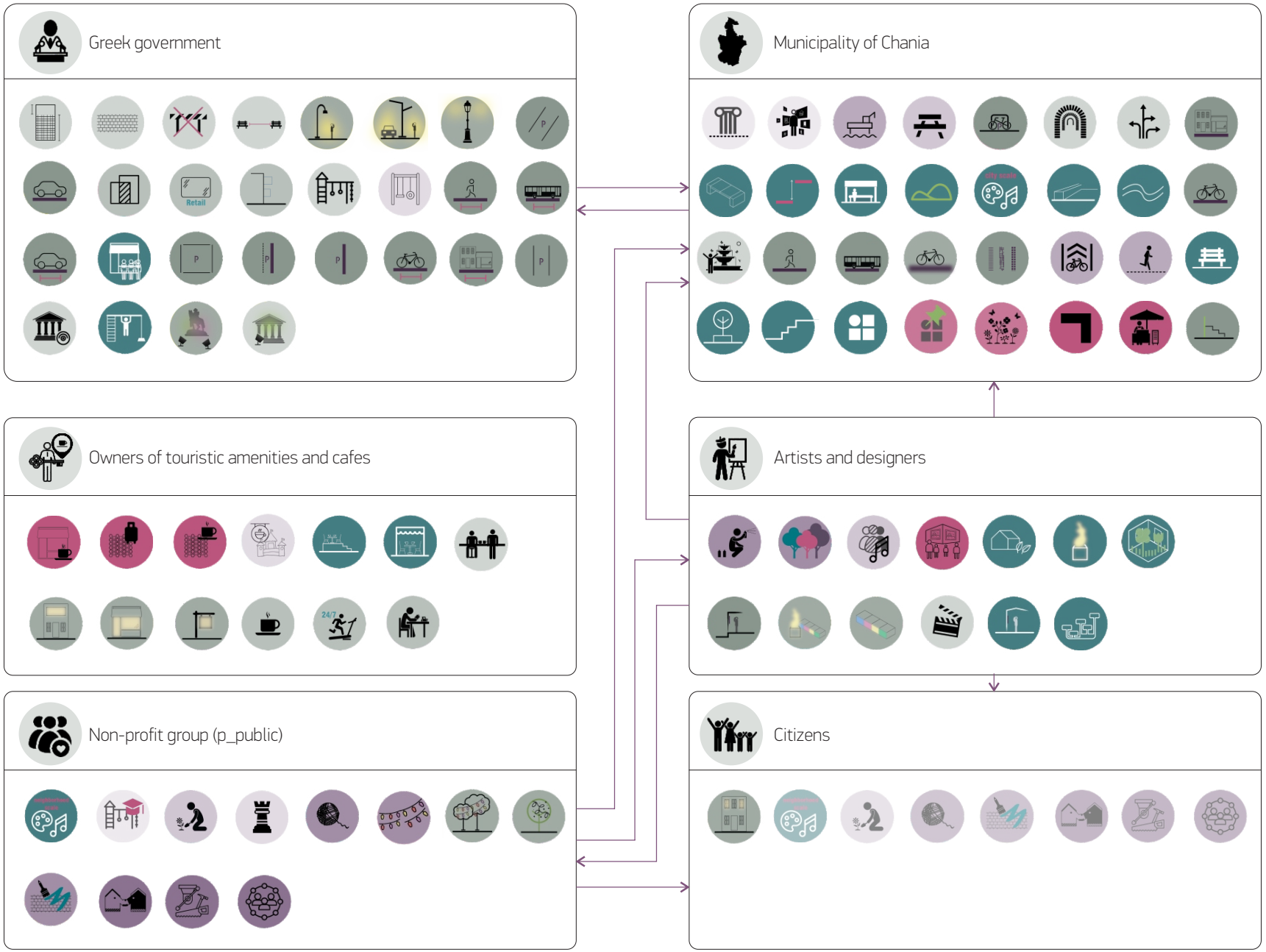


Figure: IMost of patterns belong under the "bubble" of the Greek government and the municipality of each city. These two stakeholders are highly interrelated to each other, with the Government to give general technical guidelines for the application of specific patterns. While there are also other stakeholders for the application of some patterns, all of them have to ask permission from the local municipality to actualize their actions. | **Source:** made by author

A city's environment is shaped not only by people who have an important influence, but by everyone who lives or works there.

Robert Cowan

13

DESIGN OF THE TESTING LOCATIONS

13.1 CHOOSING THE TESTING LOCATIONS

Regarding the online survey about the parameters that are important for Greek people, the two most outstanding criteria for an attractive and qualitative public space are: the sense of security by 83% and the natural elements by 78%. Combining the online survey based on the Greek mentality with the interviews with the local people of Chania and the personal experience and observations of the author in the Greek cities, it can be said that parks are more successful public spaces than Greek squares. Moreover, waterfronts started to become an attractive public space for many Greek waterfront cities.

This statement can be supported by the interviewees' preference about public spaces in the city of Chania. According to the interviews' results, it seems that the two big parks in the city center, the Municipal Garden, the Park of Peace and Friendship and the old harbor (the waterfront in the old town) constitute the three most successful public spaces according to the respondents. Initially taking into consideration the type of the officially defined public spaces (parks & green spaces, squares and waterfront), it was decided that the design proposal will focus on testing locations, which belong to the type of squares. Another factor to decide the testing locations is the characterization of these public spaces according to the problem triptych, privatization, absence of people and ghettoization.

In this regard, by blending together the two different factors, the testing locations are five. Namely, the 1866 square, as the most ghettoized square in the city, the Splanztia square, as one for the most privatized due to the coffee tables and the Talos square, as the absence of people is really prominent there. For the other two testing locations, the Metropolis square and the Market square, there is a quite hybridized characterization as far as the problem triptych is concerned.

Specifically, Metropolis square has two different characters based on the touristic seasonality. During the touristic period, the square is full of people, mainly tourists, who visit, watch and take pictures of the Metropolis church. On the other hand, during the non-touristic period, Metropolis square is one of those public spaces which is characterized by absence of people.

As for the Market square, seasonality is also a factor that influences the amount of people that are present in the square. But generally, this square can be divided in three parts, which function separately. Starting from the west part, it is characterized by absence of people, apart from the place that there are coffee tables. The central part of the square in front of the Municipal Market functions in the same way with the Metropolis square. During the touristic period, the square is full of people, mainly tourists who take pictures of the building of the Market and go in and out of it. During the non-touristic period though, the central part is almost empty with some exceptions, as in this square local people are gathered there for demonstrations, the Christmas Tree or the organization of different activities. In the end the east part is ghettoized by marginalized groups. However, during morning some local people and mainly tourists are sitting in the coffee tables.

For every testing location, there are some pictures of it, a small description for the existing situation and the proposal, a graph with the scores of evaluations of 10 criteria by the 103 respondents of the online survey and an average value. Further, as it was mentioned in the design patterns chapter, there are a general abstract masterplan, showing the different ways of implementation of the sub-patterns and all the patterns that are used in the specific location. Then, the masterplan is divide into two sections, implementation of the sub-patterns (a) in areas and buildings and (b) along lines and in spots.

By applying these patterns in the square, a possible outcome (design proposal) is presented in a masterplan, sections. Additionally, for each proposal some possible ways of appropriation of each square are represented, showing the interaction among the different users of the place and between the users and the environment. In the end, the atmosphere of the different areas is shown through collages.

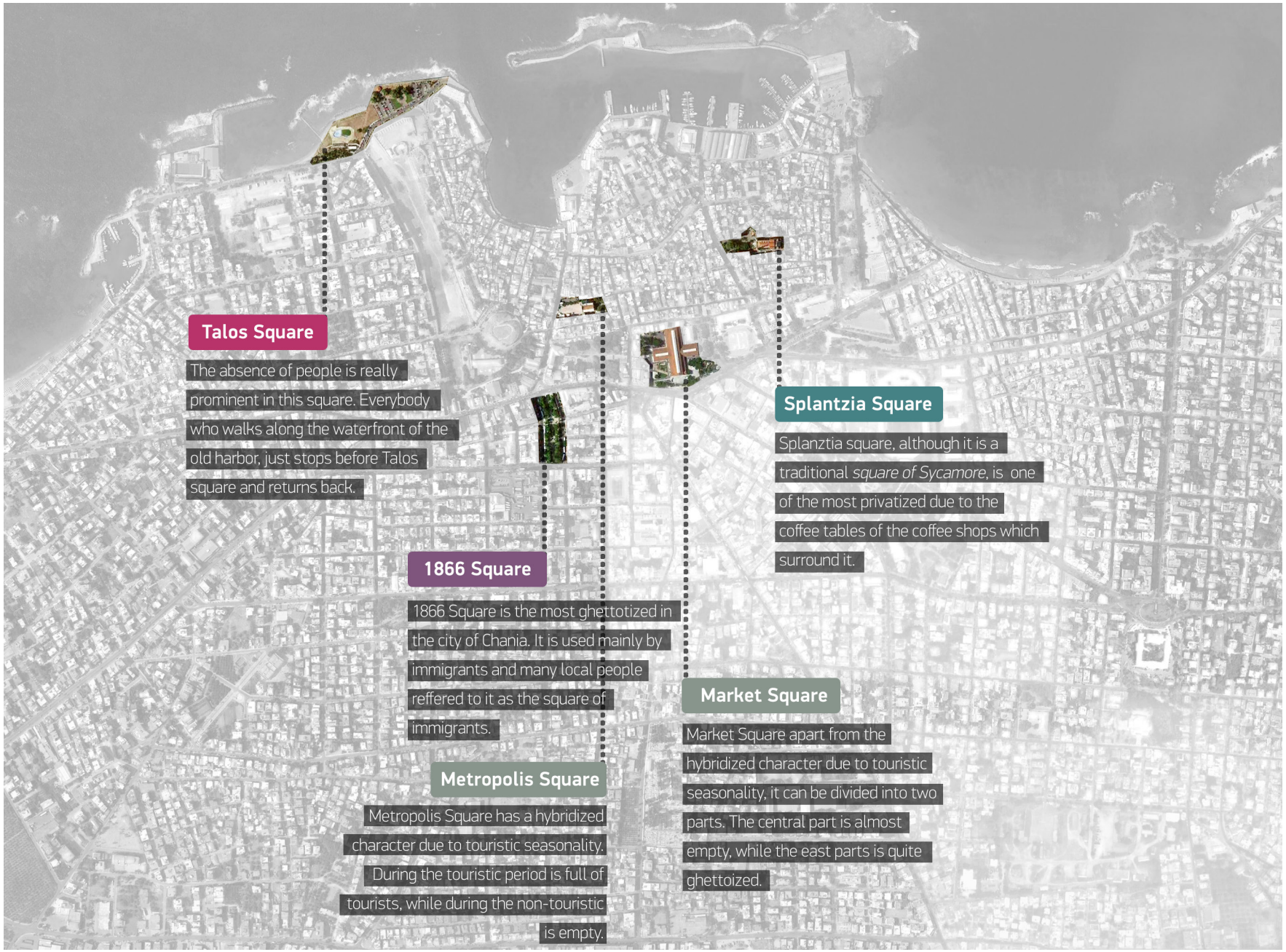
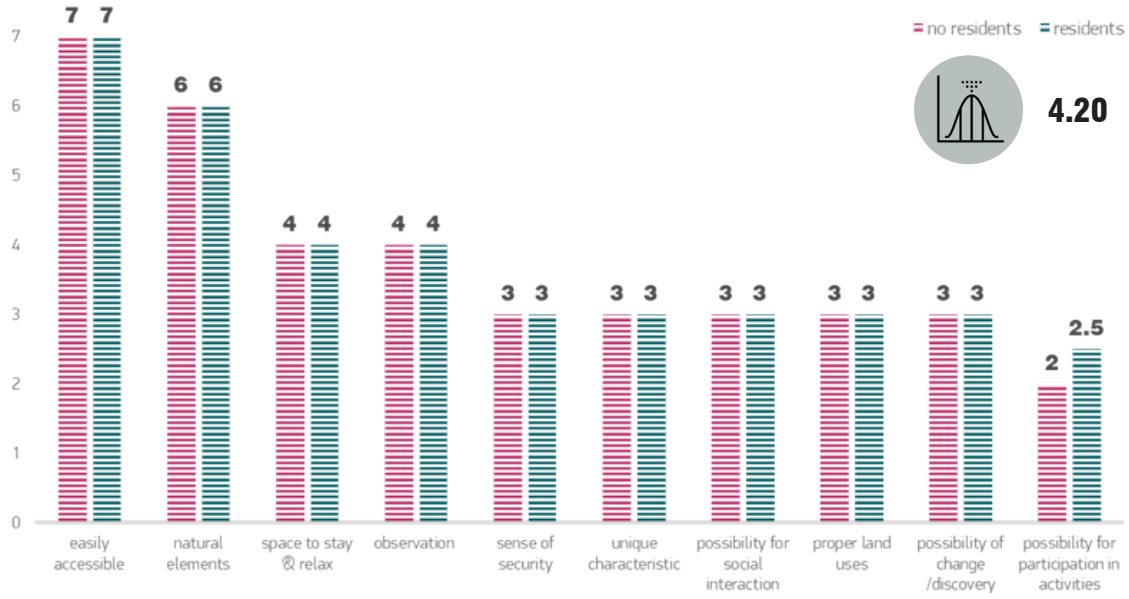


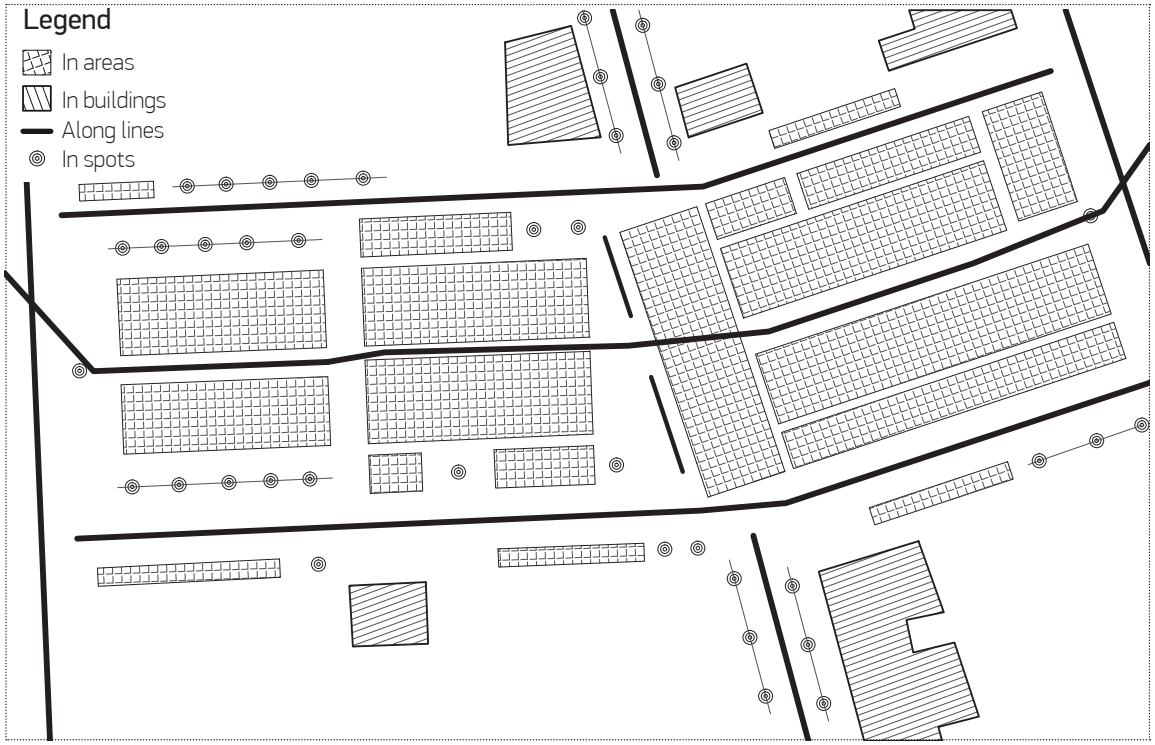
Figure: The five testing locations and their main characteristics , regarding the blending of the maps "type of public space" and "characterization according to the problem triptych" | **Source:** made by author

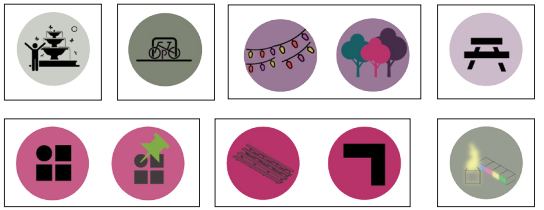
13.2a TESTING LOCATION A: 1866 SQUARE _ “THE MULTICULTURAL SQUARE”

1866 Square took its name in honor of the revolution of Cretans against the Ottomans (1866-1869). It has also an informal name “Square of New Stores”, which indicates the character and the development of its surrounding area when the city started to expand outside the walls. It is located in the borderlines between the old and new town, in the southwestern part of the Venetian walls. (Municipality of Chania, n.d.)
It has a strategic and nodal location in the city, as it constitutes the connecting point between old and new town. It is also nearby to the main entrance of the city, the central sub-urban bus station. Through it all tourists and many residents enter the city. However, despite its centrality and its strategic position in the city, the 1866 square is considered as one of the most distressed public spaces in the city. Since many years, it is occupied and used only by marginalized groups, such as immigrants, homeless and alcoholics. Few tourists sit here during morning in the touristic season.
Further, the general street network around it makes the square to function as a traffic interchange, provoking problems of physical accessibility, even though Greek people evaluate accessibility as the highest-rated parameter in this square. The spatial configuration of the trees in specific places and the parking cars along the borders of the square influence negatively the physical accessibility, as well.
Its average score regarding the online survey is 4.20 (the second lowest value of all the squares) and most of the criteria were evaluated with a value 4 and below. What is interesting is that in almost all cases the values between residents and no residents are the same, although no residents had to evaluate the square based only on one picture.

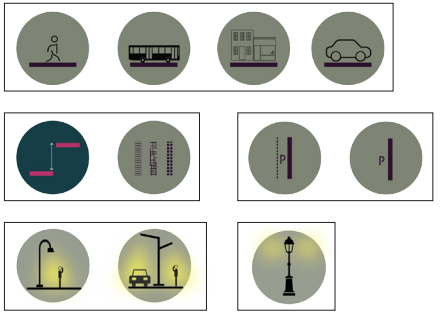


13.2b IMPLEMENTATION OF SUB-PATTERNS IN MASTERPLAN

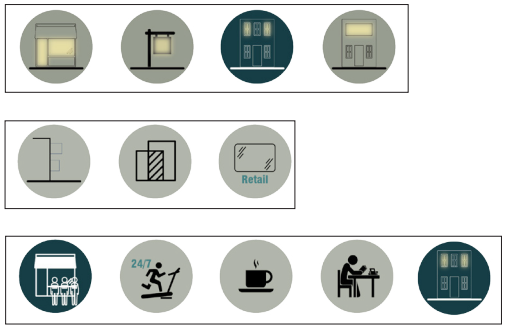




Application of sub-pattens along lines

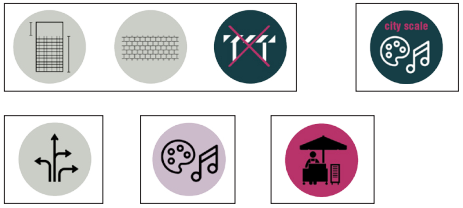


Application of sub-pattens in buildings

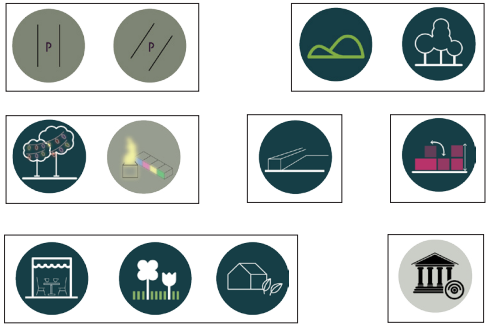


Application of sub-pattens in spots

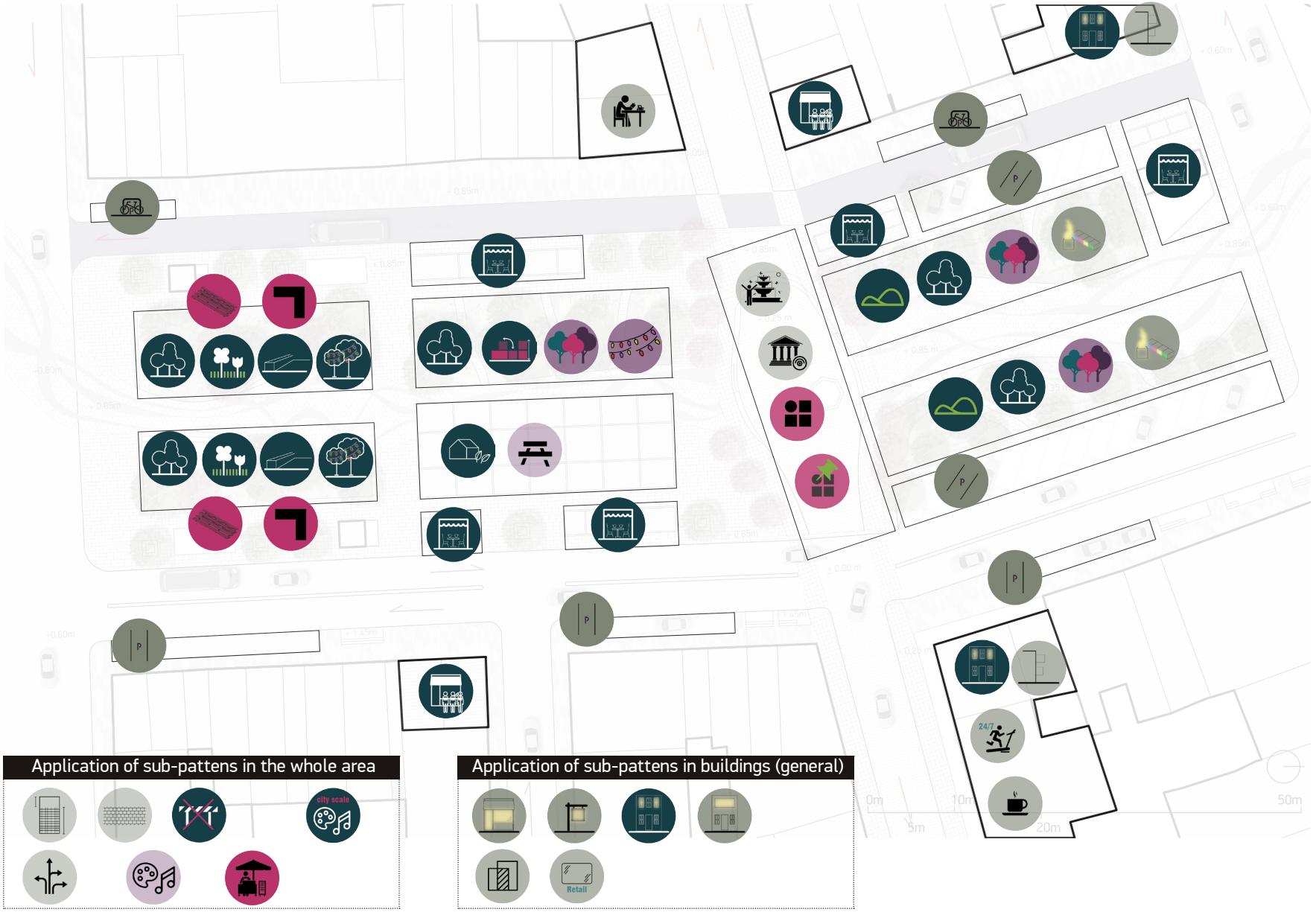
Application of sub-pattens in the whole area



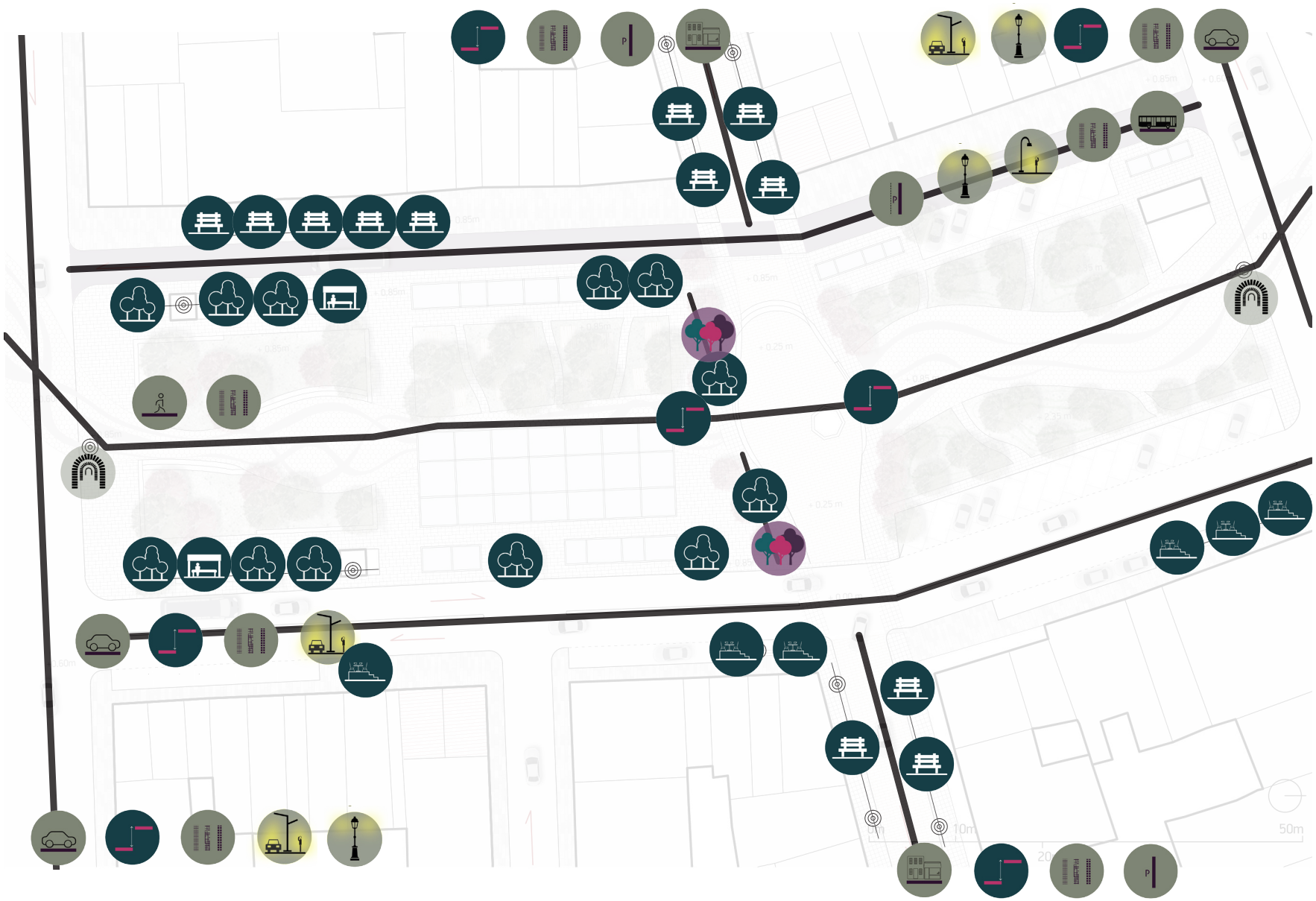
Application of sub-pattens in specific areas



SUB-PATTERNS IN AREAS & BUILDINGS



SUB-PATTERNS ALONG LINES & IN SPOTS



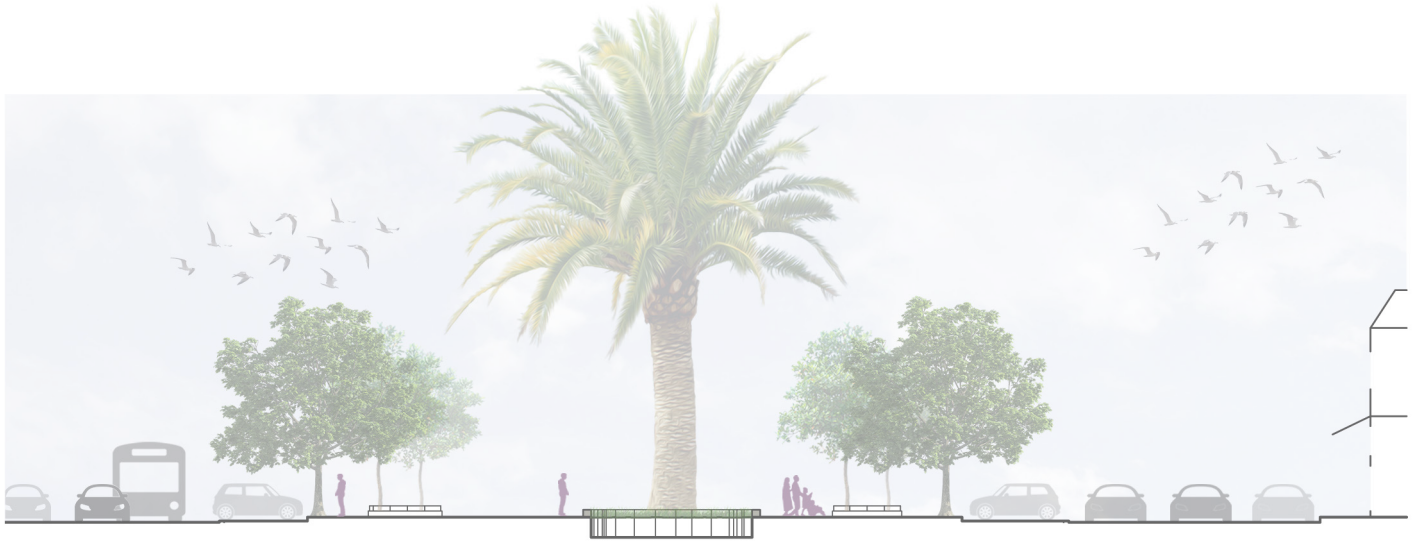
13.2c MASTERPLAN OF “THE MULTICUTURAL SQUARE”

13.2d SECTIONS OF “THE MULTICUTURAL SQUARE”

Existing situation

Proposal

Section A-A’



Existing situation

Proposal

Section B-B’

Existing situation

Proposal

Section C-C’

13.2e EXPERIENCING THE SQUARE (THROUGH COLLAGES)

A sunny day in the Multicultural -Kitchen Lab, where people can buy fresh products from different nations and use the outdoor green space with the tables. There, they can cook and eat all together!

The reactivation of the Ottoman fountain in the center of the "Multicultural square" is an important attractor not only for tourists but also for locals and immigrants. The circular "room of the Ottoman fountain" offers possibilities for seating and relaxation, while people can interact passively or actively with other people or the surrounding environment.

A typical weekday morning in Chania, people are drinking their coffees under the protection of the cafe-canopies. In the meanwhile, they are observing other people, who go to their work or passing from the central Multicultural square.

The new bus stops of the city are not the typical box with a bench in it. They are transparent to develop visual accessibility between the stop and the surrounding environment. They have interactive information screens, access to Wi-fi and plugs. What a technological-oriented society needs.

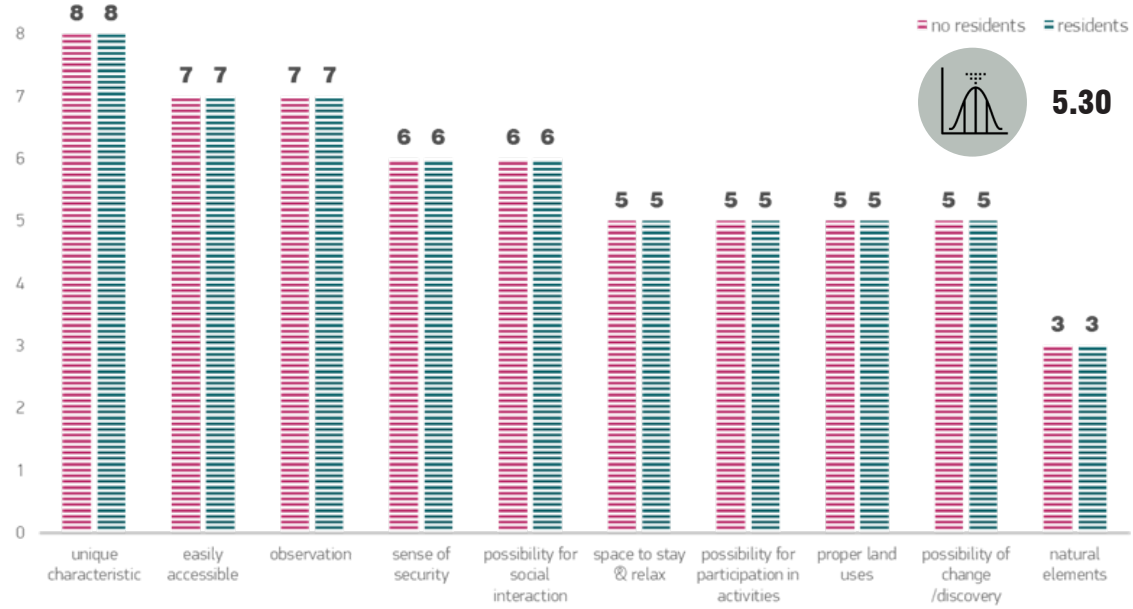
13.3a TESTING LOCATION B: METROPOLIS SQUARE _ “THE RELIGION SQUARE”

The name of the square stems from the existence of the cathedral temple of Chania, the Temple of Eisodion of Theotokos. This temple is the metropolitan cathedral of the city and the protector of it. As a result, it concentrates the religious and generally devotional interest of godly population of Chania. “During the 150 years of its life, the temple has been identified with the fate, the life and the history of the city and has been valorized as one of the most remarkable historical monuments in Crete”. (Municipality of Chania, n.d.)

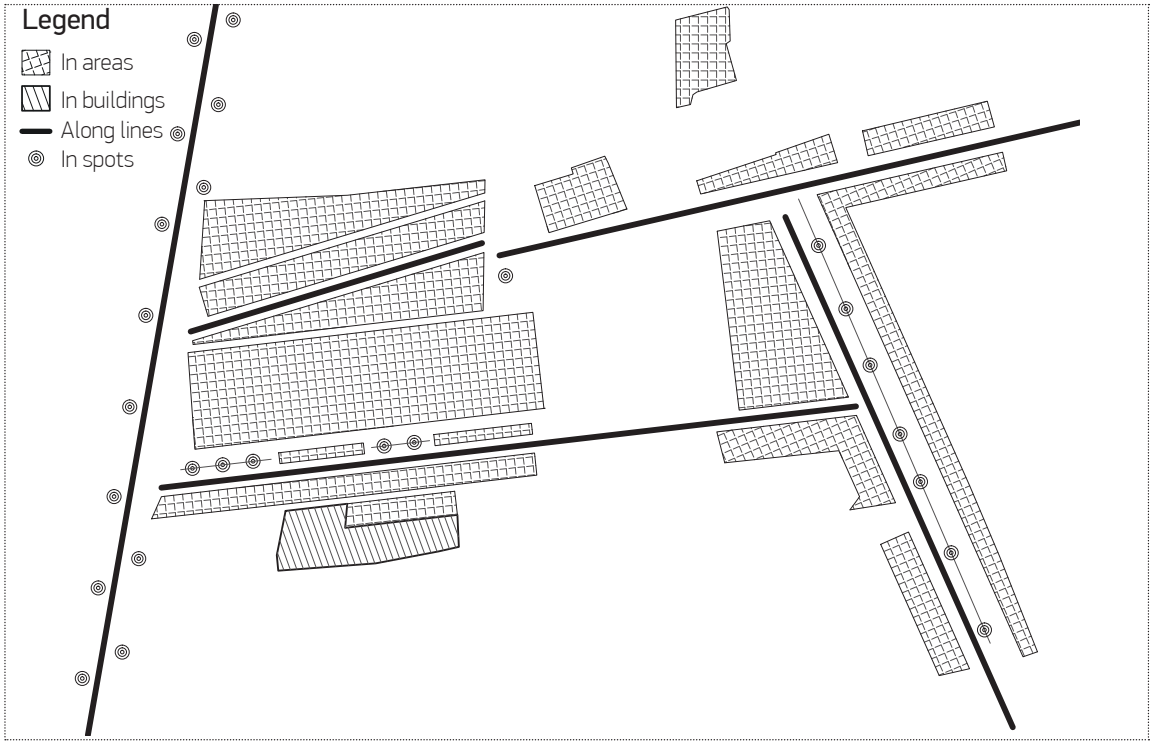
It is located in the west side, in the heart of old town and it is surrounded by commercial, leisure and cultural uses. This part of the old town is one of the most touristic parts of the city. The square is attached along the main exit to the sea, the street Chalidon, which leads to the old harbor of the city (waterfront area). This is the street that most residents and all tourists follow to go to the old harbor.

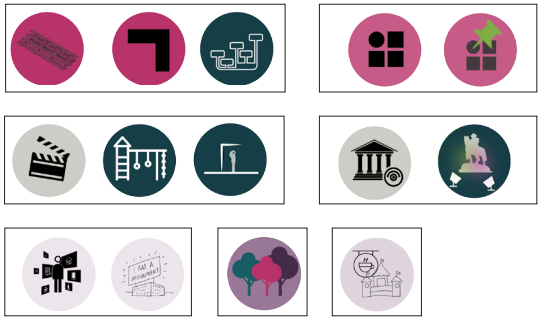
As it was mentioned before, the touristic seasonality is an important parameter for the appropriation of the square. During the touristic period the square is occupied by tourists, while during the non-touristic period, the absence of people is prominent. The lack of urban facilities such as seating places probably is a main reason why. Additionally, the absence of natural elements is another reason why people don’t stay there.

Its average score is 5.30, the second highest among the other squares with a high score in the criteria: unique characteristics (8), referring naturally to the church, accessibility (7), as the whole area surrounded it, is pedestrianized and observation (7). The scores of the other criteria fluctuate between 6 and 5, whilst the natural elements have a value of 3.

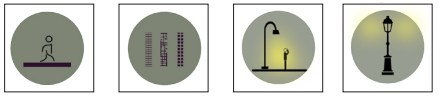


13.3b IMPLEMENTATION OF SUB-PATTERNS IN MASTERPLAN

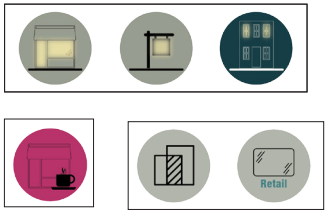




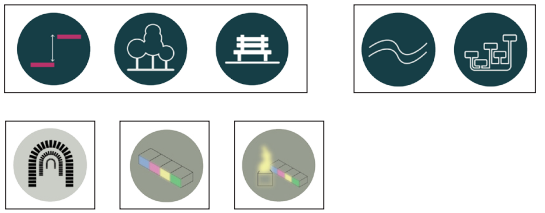
Application of sub-pattens along lines



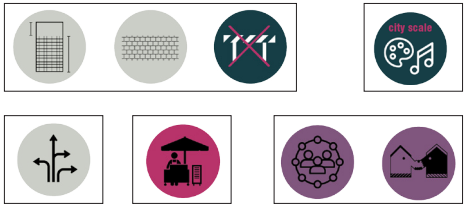
Application of sub-pattens in buildings



Application of sub-pattens in spots

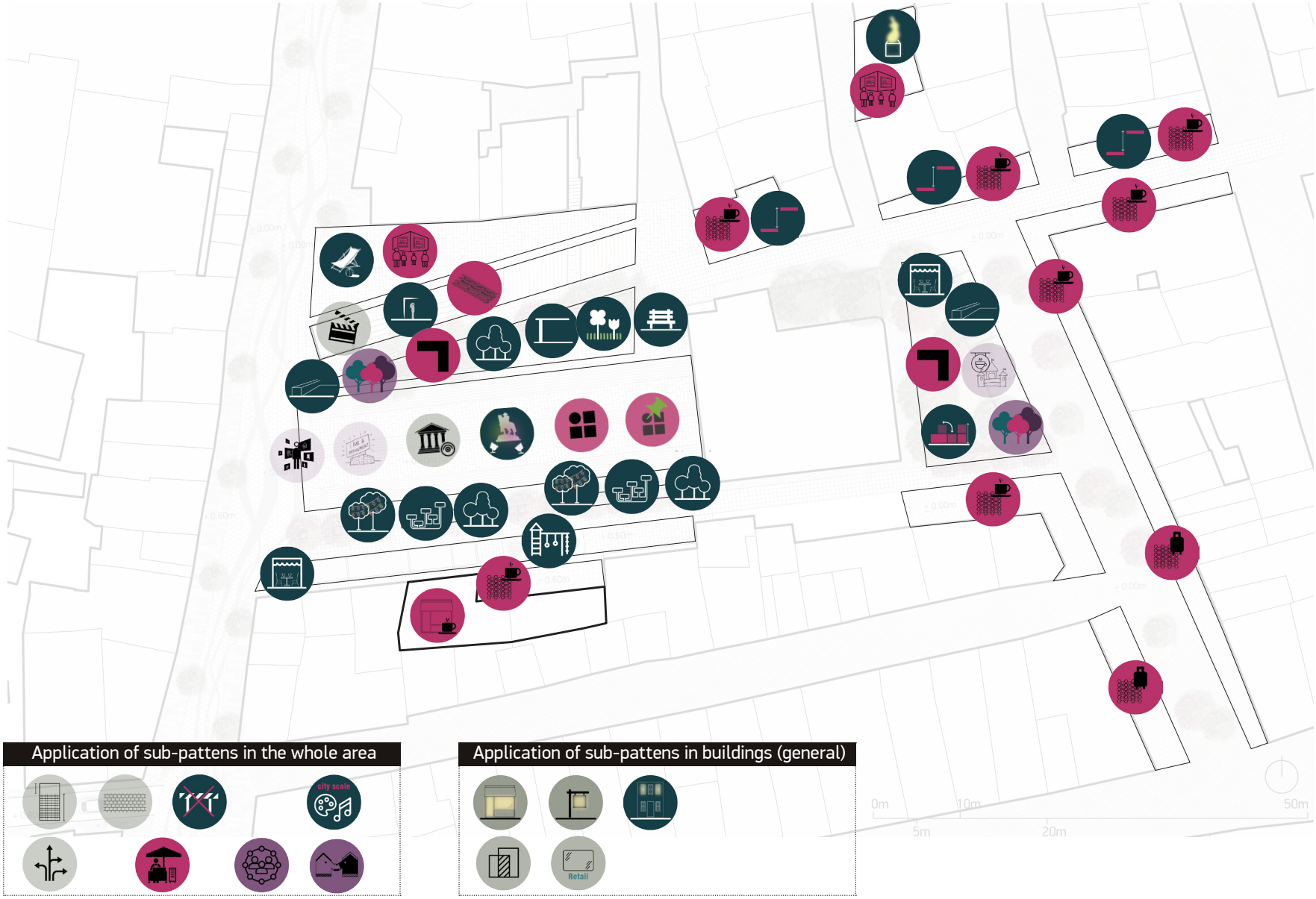


Application of sub-pattens in the whole area



Application of sub-pattens in specific areas

SUB-PATTERNS IN AREAS & BUILDINGS



SUB-PATTERNS ALONG LINES & IN SPOTS

13.3c MASTERPLAN OF “THE RELIGION SQUARE”

13.3d SECTIONS OF “THE RELIGION SQUARE”

Existing situation

Proposal

Section A-A’

Existing situation

Proposal

Section B-B’

13.3e EXPERIENCING THE SQUARE (THROUGH COLLAGES)

Sunday morning and the Metropolis is full of people. After the Orthodox mass, Greek people are going out of the church, seating in the seating areas and discussing with their friends and acquaintances. Little children playing a game called "Avoiding the tourists", as they run among the tourists who are there to visit the most important church of the city

People are waiting to get darker to watch the established movie of the week, in the open-air cinema of the Religion Square. While they are waiting some of them are sitting in the bleachers whilst others watching the temporary painting exhibition of a local artist and talk about him with the tourists.

A typical weekday afternoon, Greek people are drinking their coffee under the cafe-canopies, observing people who are walking in the pedestrianized streets of the old town. They also have a nice view to the Religion Square, where old people and tourists appropriate it during that time.

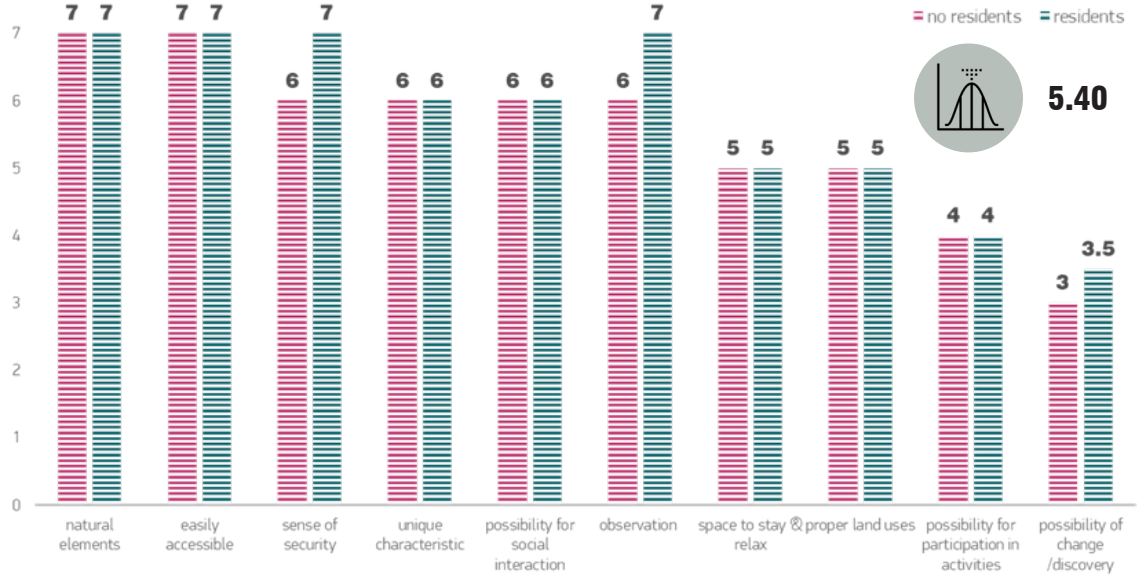
13.4a TESTING LOCATION C: SPLANTZIA SQUARE _ “THE SQUARE OF SYCAMORE”

The Splantzia square took its name from the whole area that surrounds it and called Splantzia since the Ottoman domination. After the Liberation of Greece, it was renamed, and Its official name is 1821 Square, but it is not used by the local people. Its official name is in honor of people who were killed there during the first days of the Greek Revolution for the Liberation from the Ottomans. (Municipality of Chania, n.d.) It constitutes a characteristic example of the Greek type of squares, called “Square of Sycamore” (πλατεία του Πλατάνου), as a big plane tree stands there.

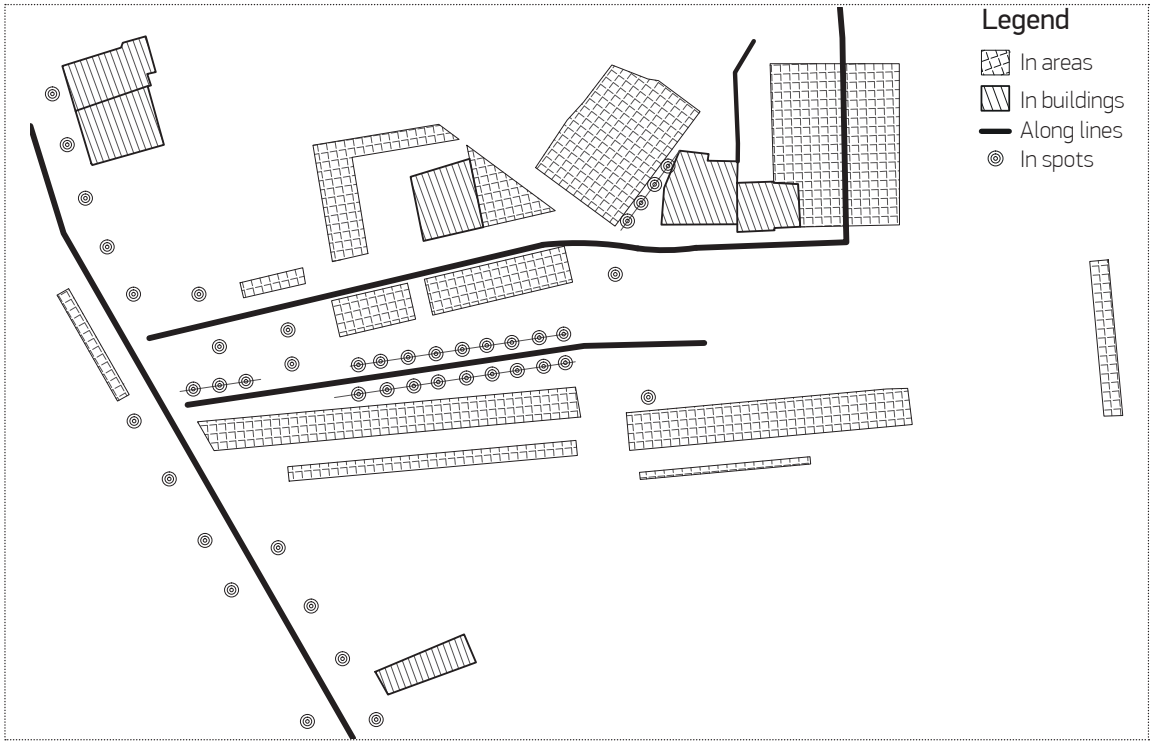
The square is located in the east side of the old town and generally the neighborhood called Splantzia extends south and east of the walled hill Castelli. The neighborhood is mainly residential, with some local commercial shops and food and culture amenities along the main street, called Daskalogianni. The Splantzia square is surrounded by traditional coffee houses and modern cafes, transforming this public space of the neighborhood in the most privatized in the city. The coffee tables cover almost all the area of the square.

Except for the plane tree which is a unique characteristic for this square, the church of Saint Nikolaos is there. It is the only temple in Greece, which has both a bell tower and a minaret. On the northern west side of the square, there is also the Venetian church of San Rocco, which functions as cultural building temporarily. In the end, between the church of Saint Nikolas and the plane tree, there is an underground Ottoman fountain, which is locked. Generally, this area can be characterized as the area that brings together all the different cultures that passed through the historic development of Chania.

Its average score is 5.40, the highest score with most of the criteria to fluctuate between 6 and 7. The lowest value has the parameters possibility to participate in activities (4) and possibility of change and discovery (3).

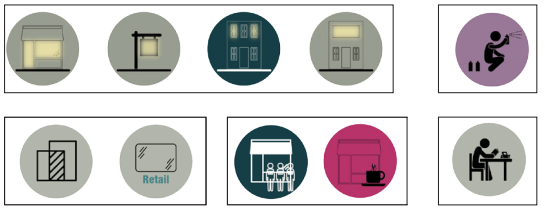


13.4b IMPLEMENTATION OF SUB-PATTERNS IN MASTERPLAN

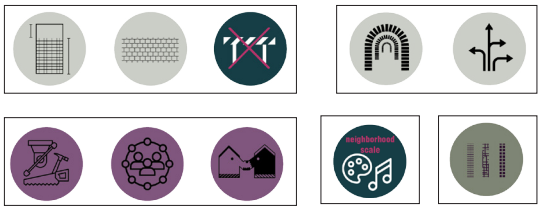


Application of sub-pattens along lines

Application of sub-pattens in buildings

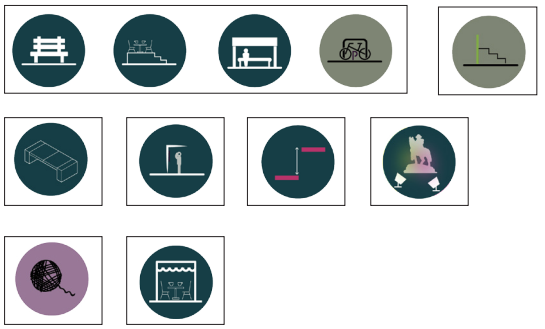


Application of sub-pattens in the whole area

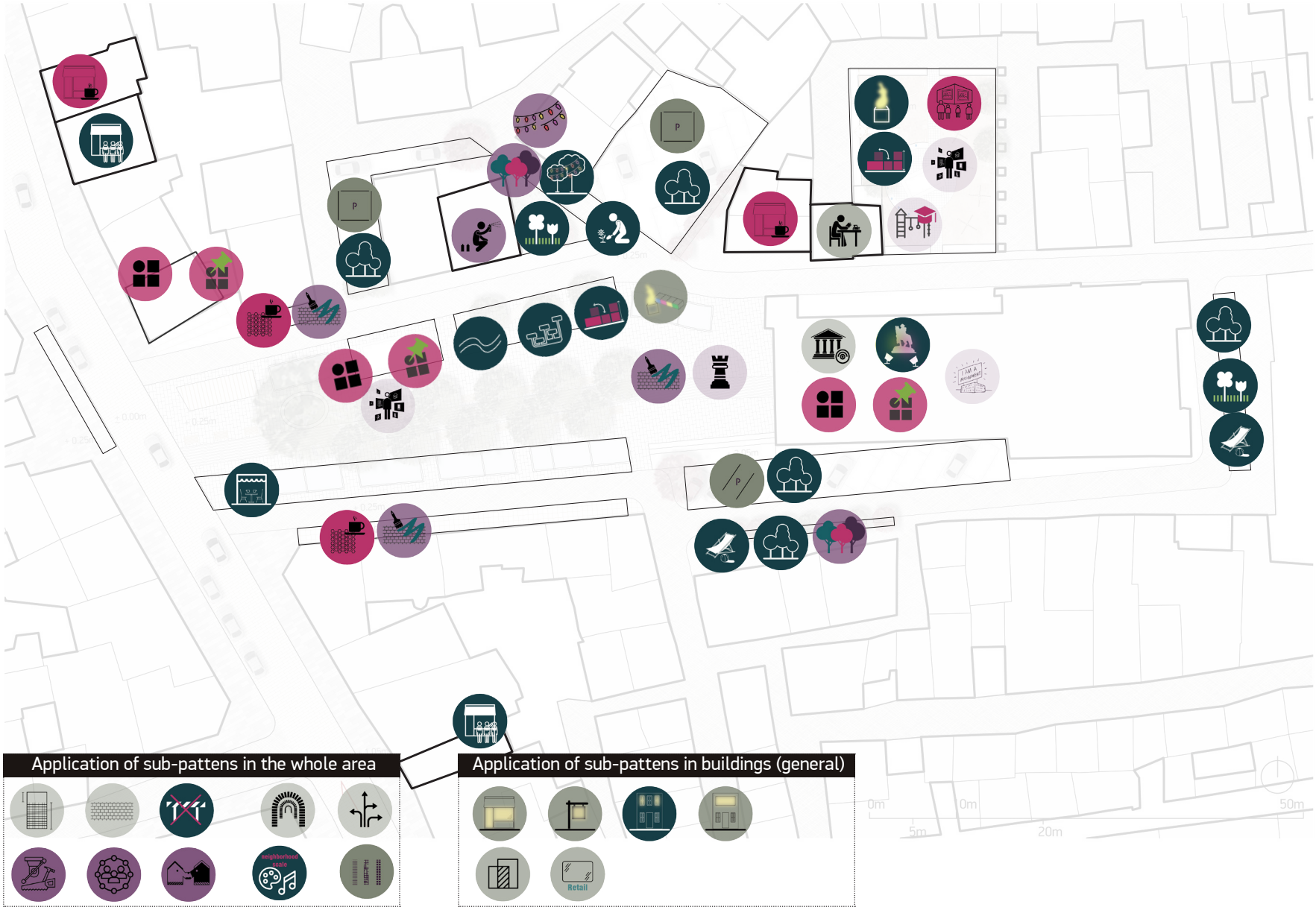


Application of sub-pattens in specific areas

Application of sub-pattens in spots



SUB-PATTERNS IN AREAS & BUILDINGS



SUB-PATTERNS ALONG LINES & IN SPOTS

13.4c MASTERPLAN OF “THE SQUARE OF SYCAMORE”

13.4d SECTIONS OF “THE RELIGION SQUARE”

Existing situation

Proposal

Section A-A’

Existing situation

Proposal

Section B-B’

13.4e EXPERIENCING THE SQUARE (THROUGH COLLAGES)

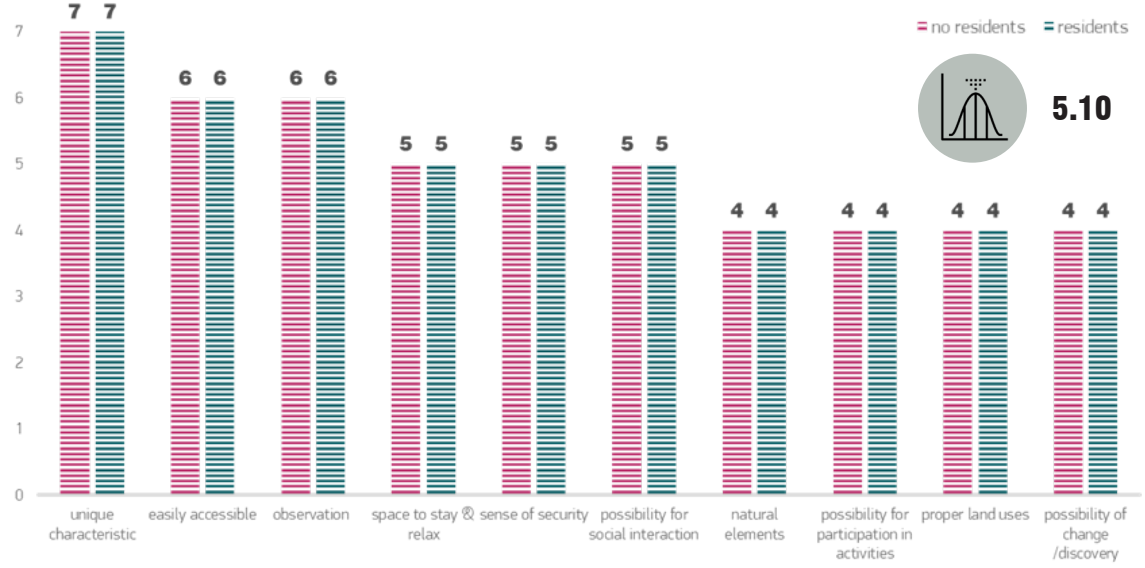
Saturday afternoon, the residents of the surrounding area of the Square of Sycamore are gathered together to plant some trees in their communal Garden. Young people are sitting in the benches and the box-movable modular, whilst children paint the existing pavement of the square to play their favorite game, hopscotch.

The small square of aqueduct close to the Square of Sycamore, hosts often photography exhibitions, attracting so different users in the space. After their walk around the temporary exhibition stands they are sitting in the perimeter ledges and discuss about the photographs, while children are playing in the education playground of the square.

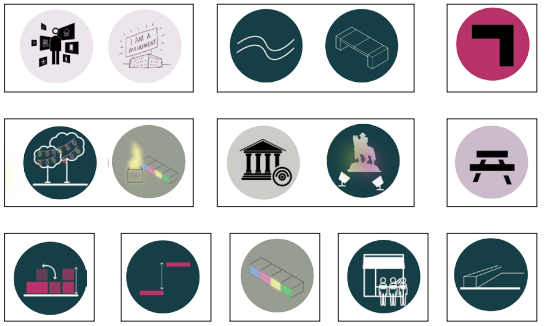
Eventually my favorite square looks like a square again! It is not covered only by coffee tables, but more people feel welcome to use it without drinking a coffee in the cafes. Accessibility and walkability is much better now! Apart from the central plane tree, the church of Saint Nikolaos is highlighted!

13.5a TESTING LOCATION D: MARKET SQUARE _ “THE CENTRAL CITY SQUARE”

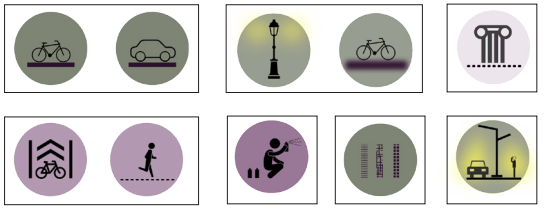
The name of the square stems from the existence of the Building of Municipal Market there. The building of the Municipal Market of 4.000 square meters constitutes the heart of the city, as it is one of the most important modern monuments of the city of Chania. (It is designated by the Ministry of Culture as a preserved monument.) “It was built in 1913 on the bastion Piatta Forma, in the middle of the walls of the Venetian period.” It constituted an attempt to integrate the old and the new town out of the Venetian walls. (“Municipal Market of Chania”, n.d.)
Before the Municipal Market built, until the late 19th century, the area was used by local traders, butchers, fishmongers and vegetable farmers, who located their stores there unofficially. Further, an outdoor flea market was also organized, where villagers brought their products to sell them. (Municipality of Chania, n.d.) As it was mentioned above, the Market was built in the middle of the walls. So, the square is located in the central part of the city between the borders of the new and old town. The two central entrances of the building are in the south part along the pedestrian street, called Tsouderon and in the north part along the main traffic road of the city, called Venizelou. In the north part, the square of the Market extends.
The square is considered quite fragmented. So, it is divided mainly in three parts, the west, the central and the east. In the west part, there is visible a part of the walls and it is not used at all, only an area where there are coffee tables. The central part of the square is used based on touristic seasonality, while the east part is occupied mainly by marginalized groups. The sidewalk along the square is highly used by pedestrians and many people meet in the benches along the edges of the square.The average value of the square is 5.10 with most of the criteria to fluctuate between 5 and 4 and the highest-valued one to be the unique characteristics, referring clearly to the Building of the Municipal Market.



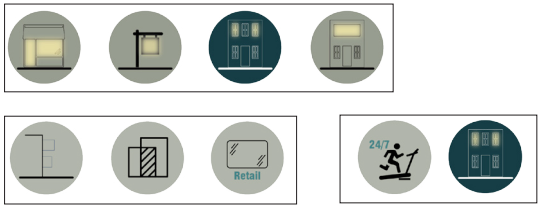
13.5b IMPLEMENTATION OF SUB-PATTERNS IN MASTERPLAN



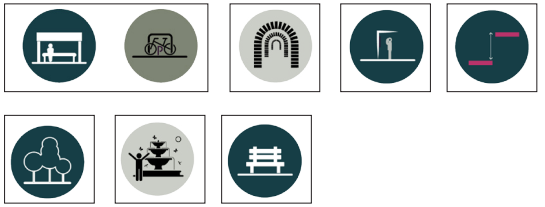
Application of sub-pattens along lines



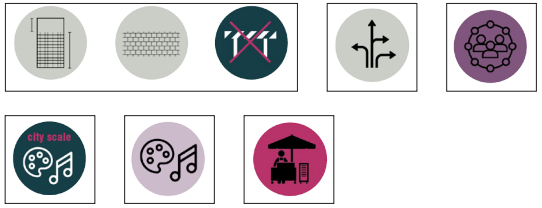
Application of sub-pattens in buildings



Application of sub-pattens in spots

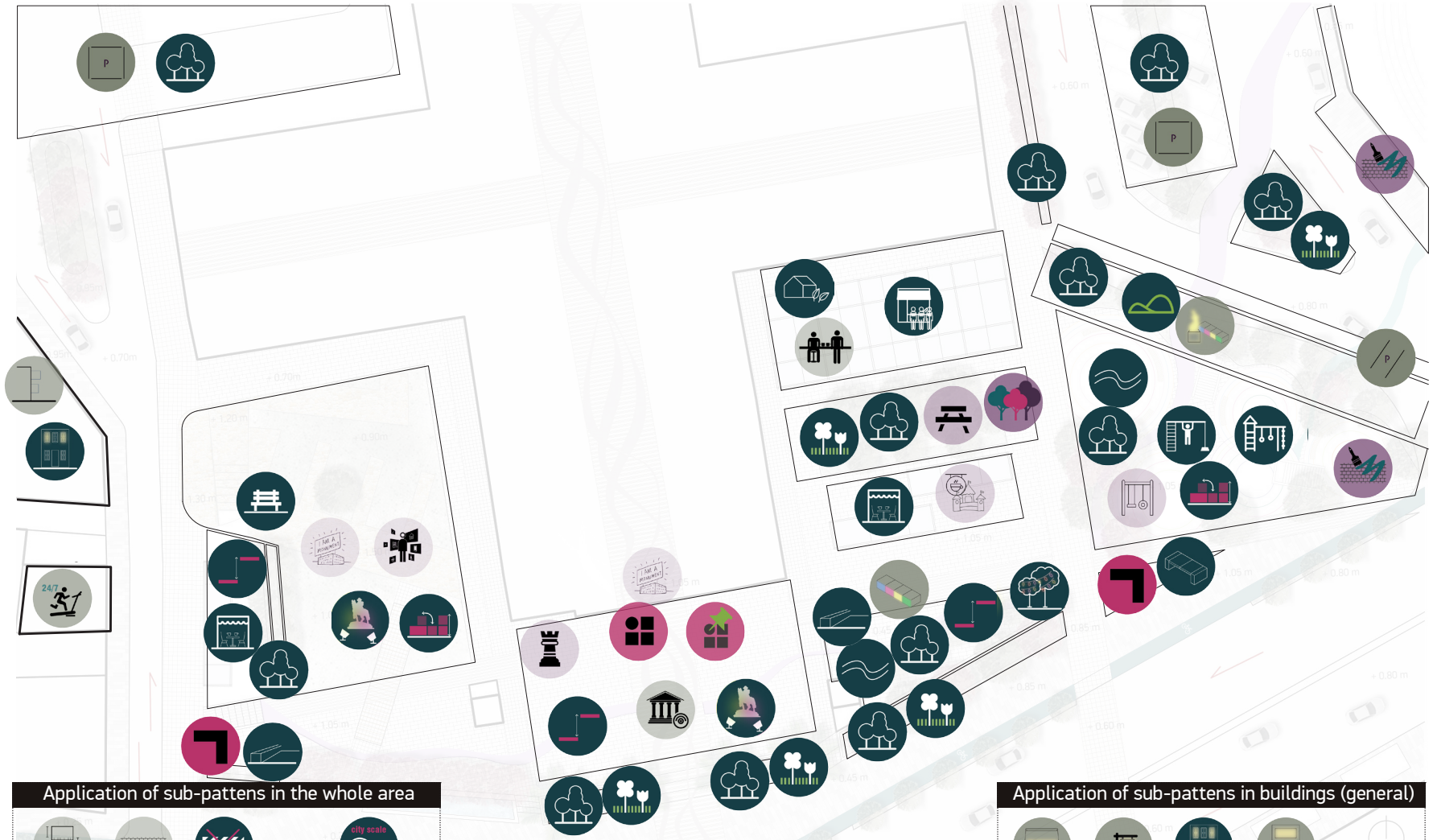


Application of sub-pattens in the whole area

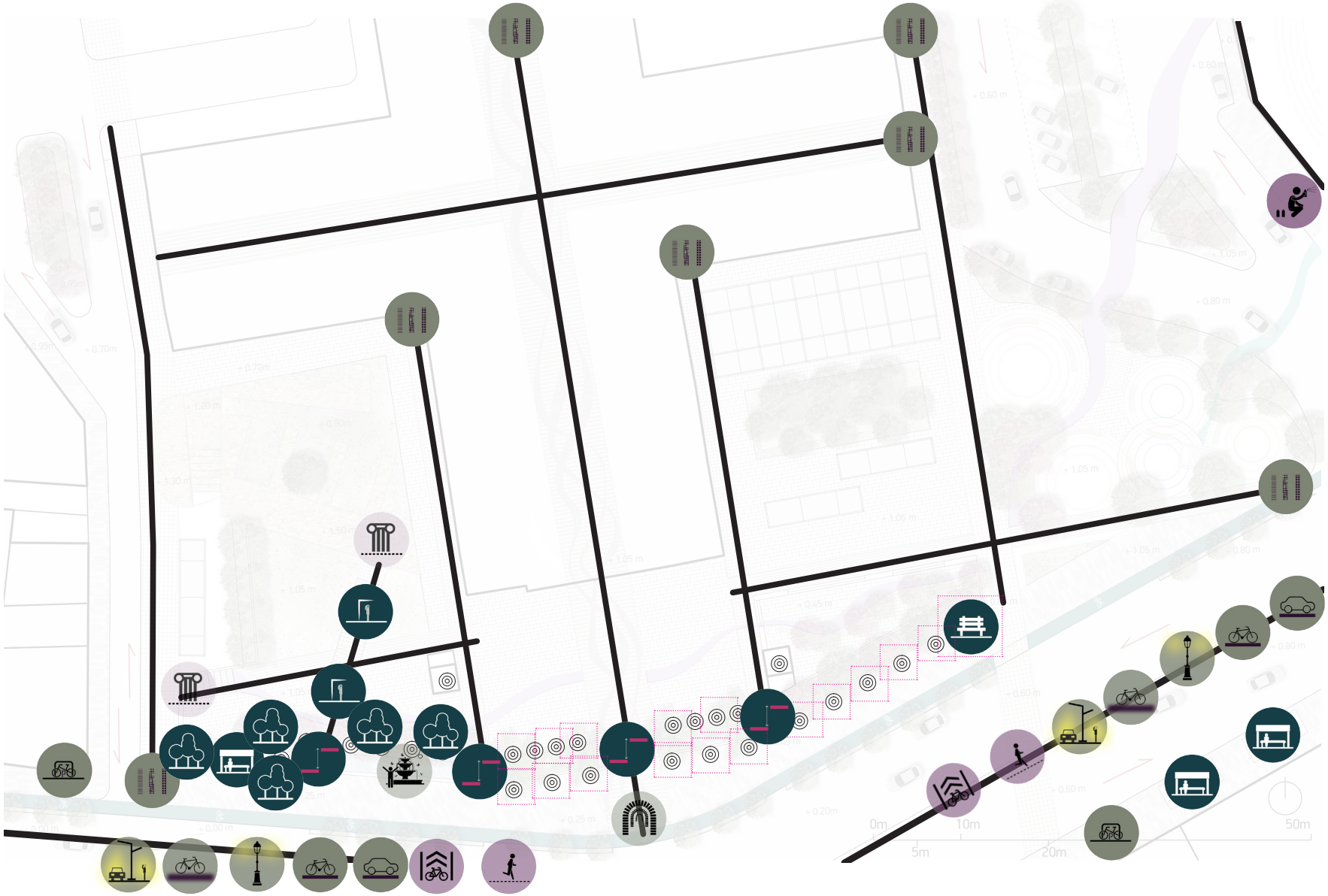


Application of sub-pattens in specific areas

SUB-PATTERNS IN AREAS & BUILDINGS



SUB-PATTERNS ALONG LINES & IN SPOTS



13.5c MASTERPLAN OF “THE CENTRAL CITY SQUARE”

13.5d SECTIONS OF “THE CENTRAL CITY SQUARE”

Existing situation

Proposal

Section A-A’

Existing situation

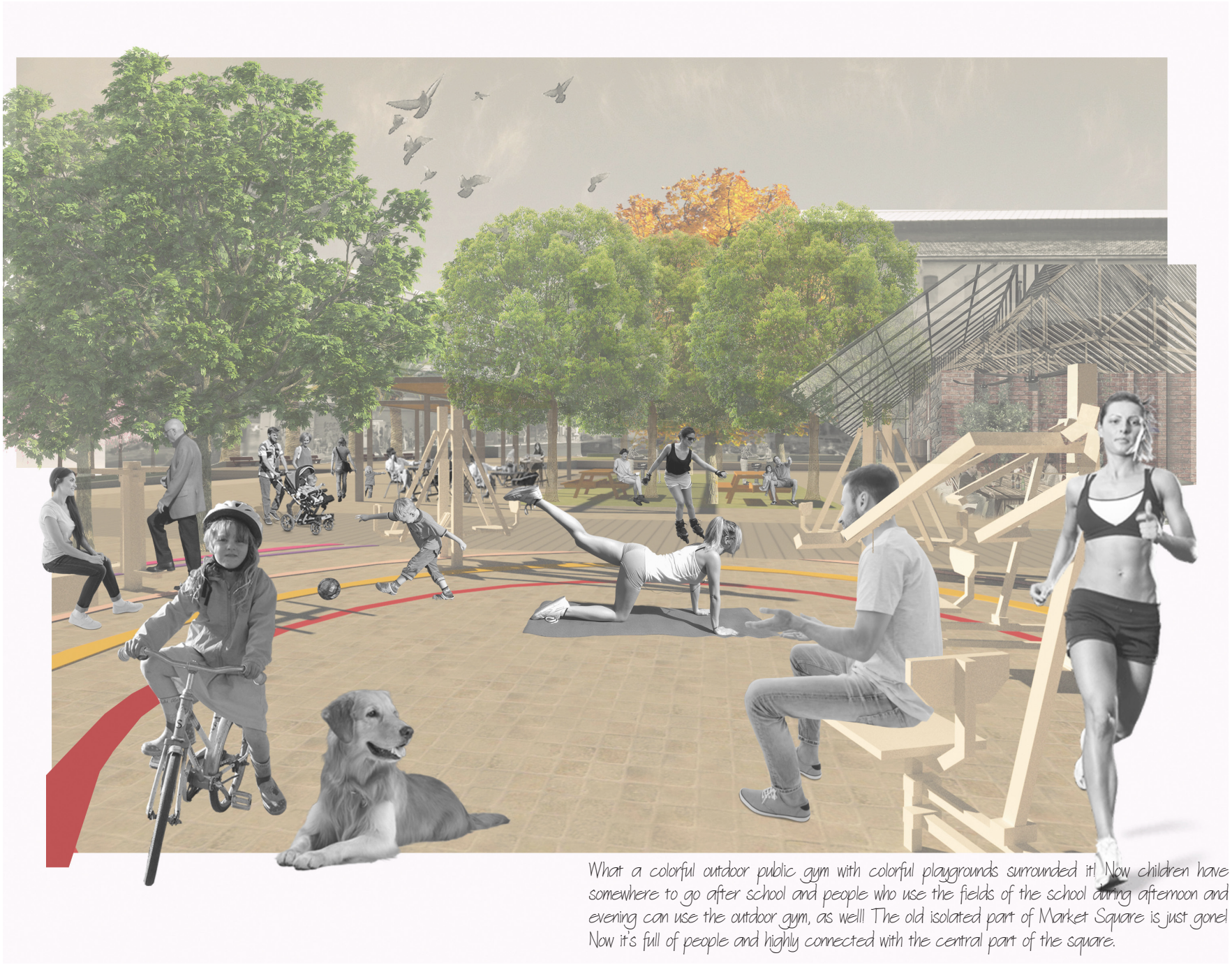
Proposal

Section B-B’

13.5d EXPERIENCING THE SQUARE (THROUGH COLLAGES)

The Central Part of the Market Square is liveable again, although the Market is closed. People are passing through the central to go the other places of the square which offer multiply choices for activities! Outdoor public gym, alternative playgrounds for children and teenagers, educational playgrounds are some of the options here!

Water was an element that was missing from this square! The waterwall attracts many people, especially during hot days. The noise of the falling water balances the noise of the traffic. The natural elements, water and the reddish trees make people forget that they are in the busiest part of the city!

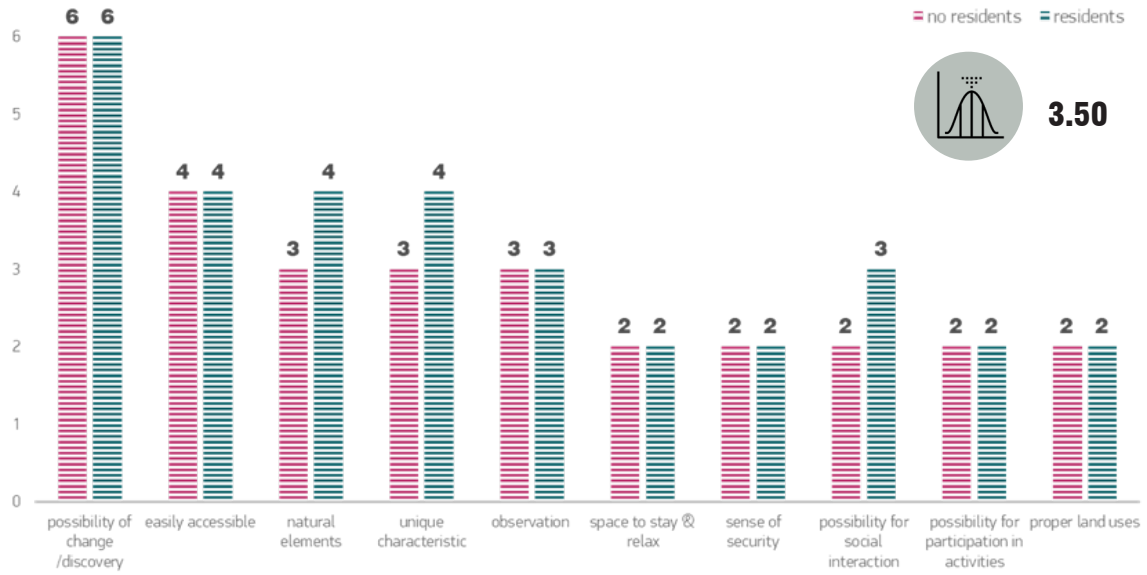


What a colorful outdoor public gym with colorful playgrounds surrounded it! Now children have somewhere to go after school and people who use the fields of the school during afternoon and evening can use the outdoor gym, as well! The old isolated part of Market Square is just gone! Now it's full of people and highly connected with the central part of the square.

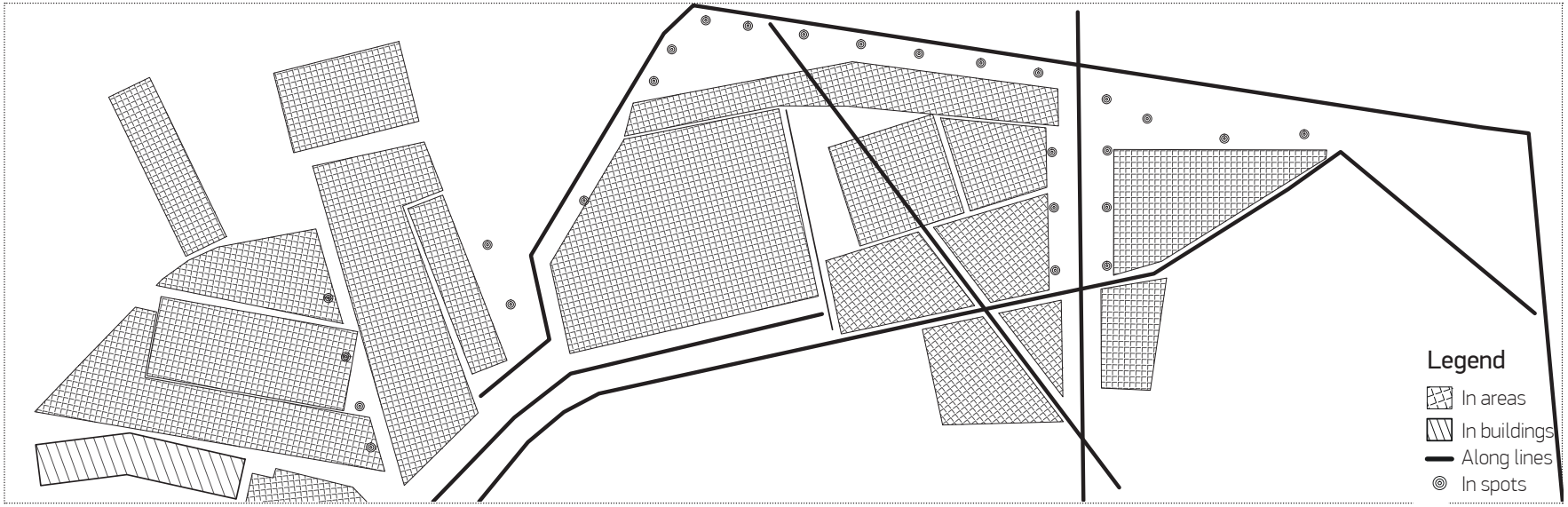
13.6a TESTING LOCATION E: TALOS SQUARE _ “SPORTS SQUARE”

Talos Square took its name from the mythical hero Talos, guardian of Crete. It is located in the west end of the harbor of the old town, under the west trench and the old historical hotel Xenia, which was demolished in 2006. In the square, there is a sculpture-monument for the remembrance of the victims of the shipwreck of the ship “Heraklion” in 1966. However, the placement and the design of a big parking area, destroy the image of the monument and generally of the square. Apart from the monument-sculpture in the center of the square, the whole area is full of important historical monuments, such as the west trench of Venetian wall, the Firka fortress, San Salvatore bastion and some historical museums. People can approach the square by three different ways, by the pedestrian street of the old town, called Theotokopoulou, the street Pireos of the new town and by the old harbor.

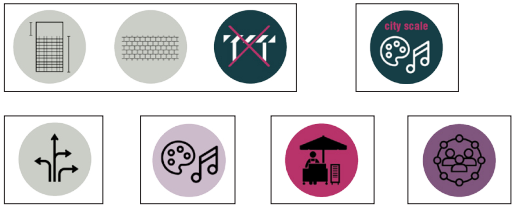
Although the square is located along the waterfront, in the end of the old harbor, most of the pedestrians stop their stroll and retreat upon reaching the vicinity of the square. This has as a result, the square to be almost always empty and the presence of people there to be scant.
In the west edge of the square, the abandoned hotel’s changing-rooms and swimming pool are located in a big unused place in a lower level along the waterfront, Kanari. Its average score according to the online survey is 3.50 (even worse than the most ghettoized square). Most of the criteria has a value between 3 and 2. This is the only case where there are deviations between the assessment of residents and non-residents. Residents, who experience the place gave a higher value to some parameters in comparison to non-residents.



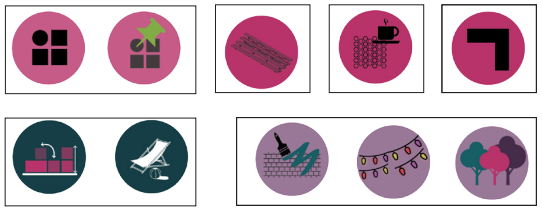
13.6b IMPLEMENTATION OF SUB-PATTERNS IN MASTERPLAN



Application of sub-pattens in the whole area

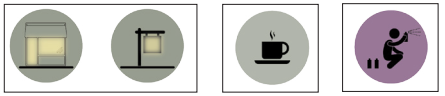


Application of sub-pattens in specific areas



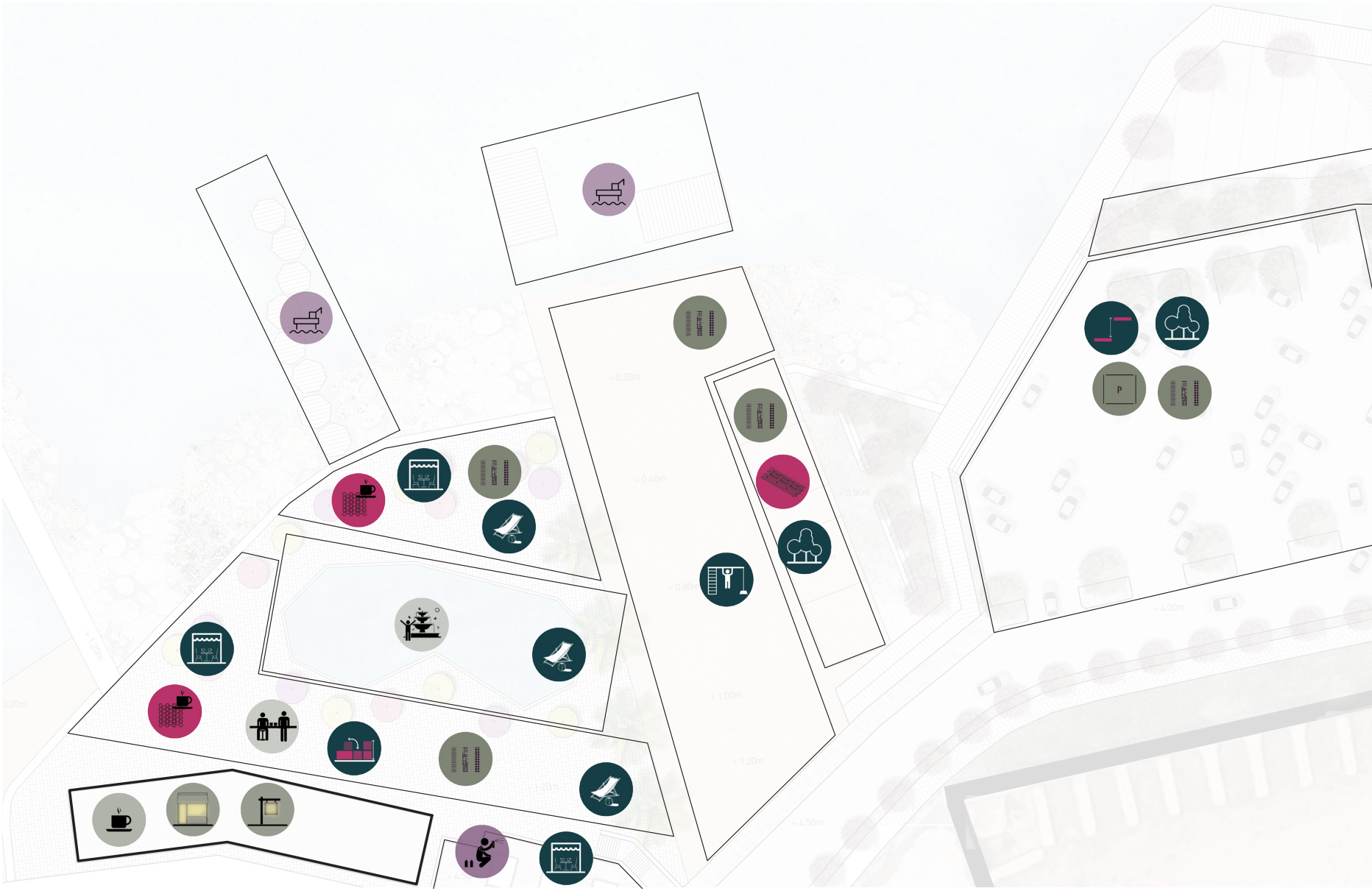
Application of sub-pattens along lines

Application of sub-pattens in buildings



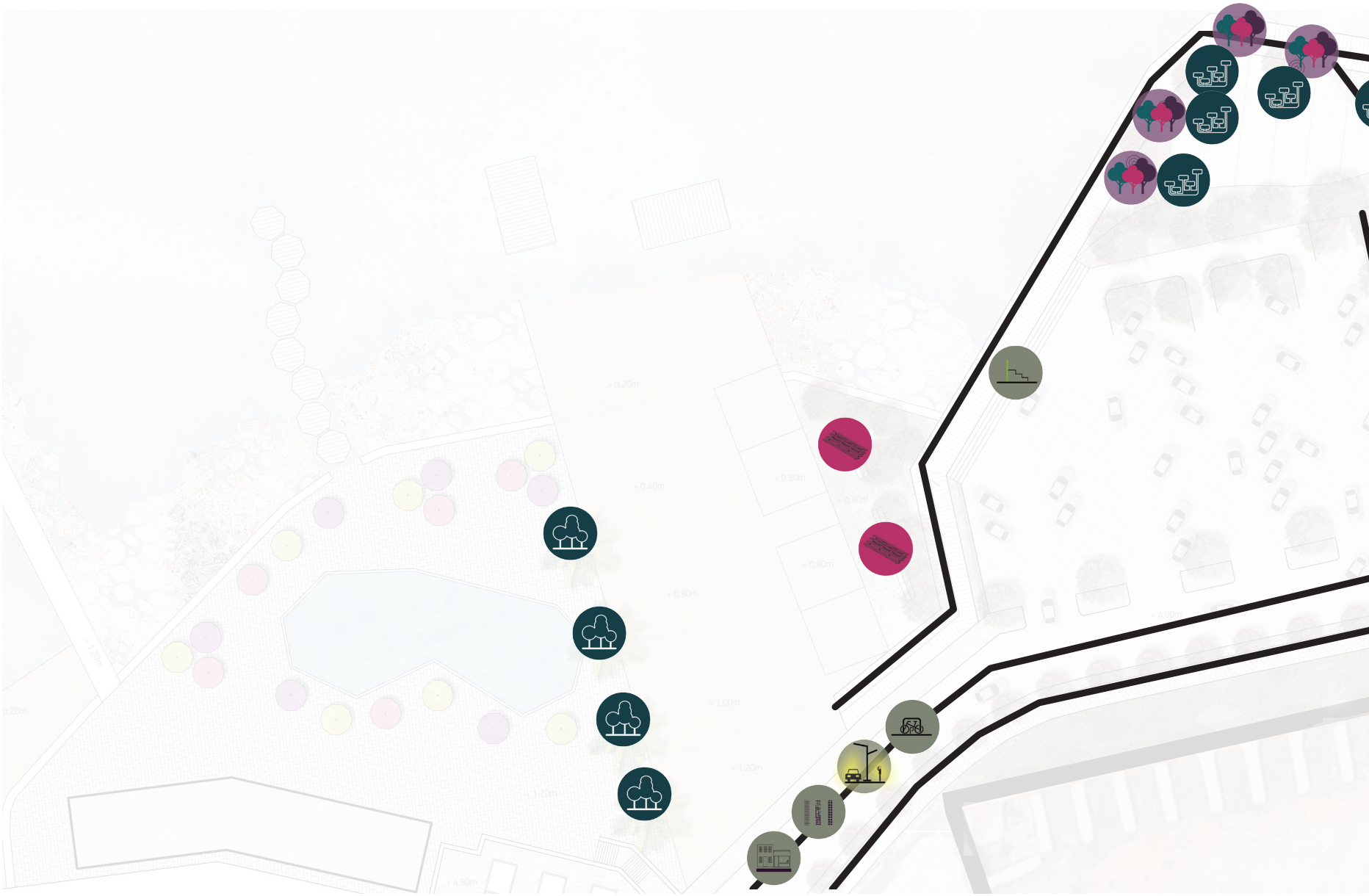
Application of sub-pattens in spots

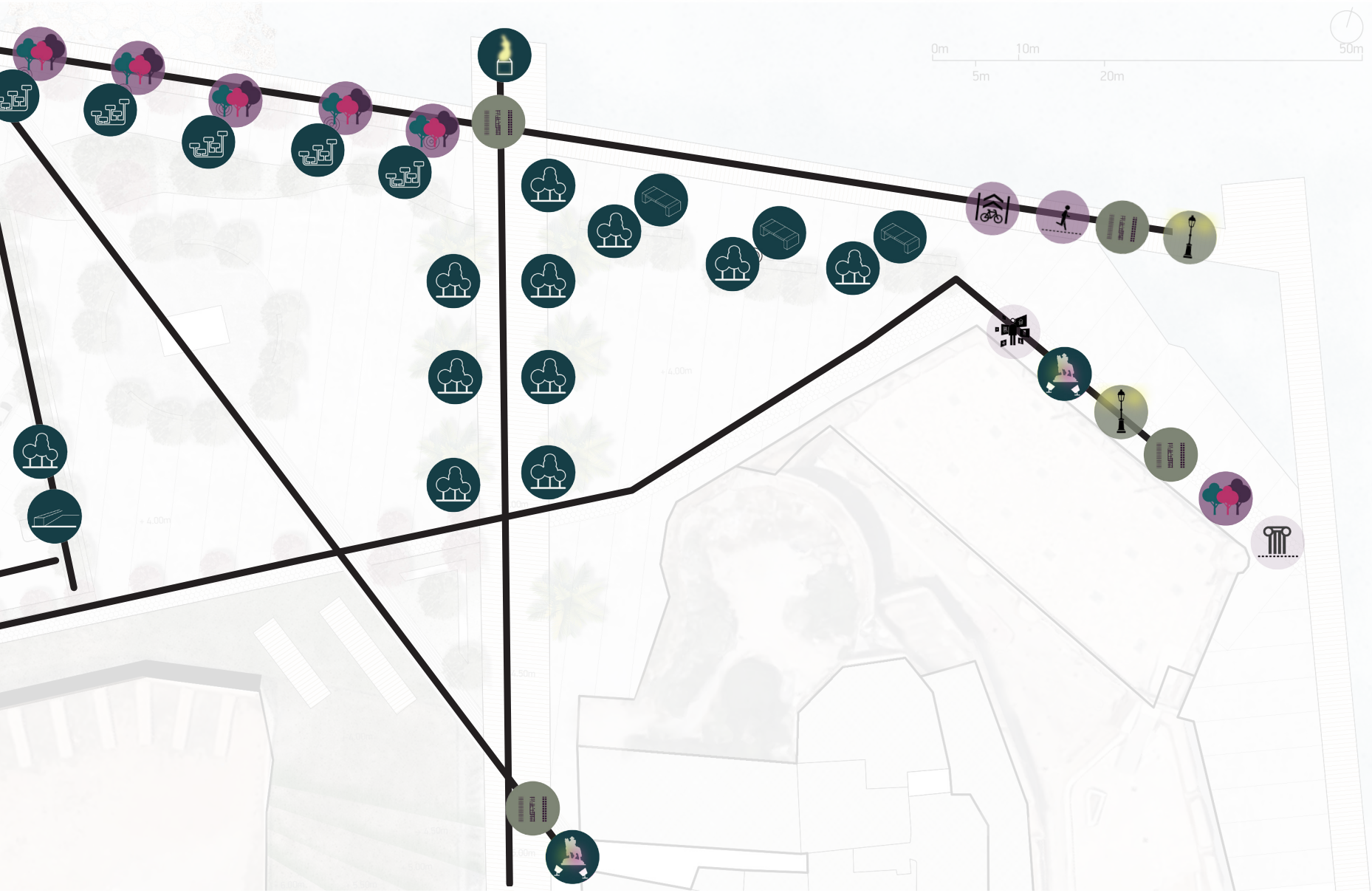
SUB-PATTERNS IN AREAS & BUILDINGS



0m
10m
50m
5m
20m
Application of sub-patterns in the whole area
city scale

SUB-PATTERNS ALONG LINES & IN SPOTS




0m
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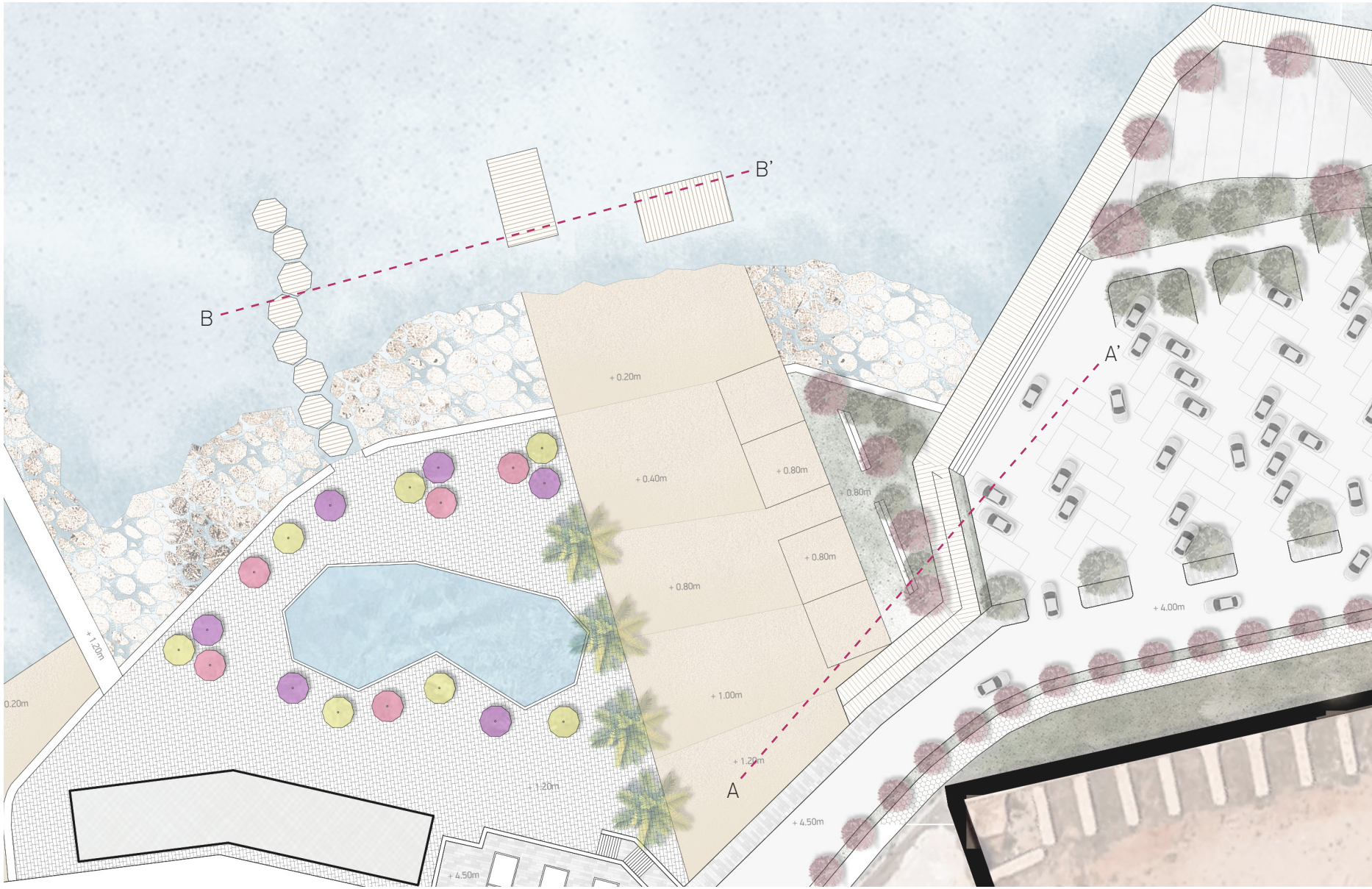
20m

13.6c MASTERPLAN OF “SPORTS SQUARE”



0m
10m
50m
5m
20m
+ 4.00m
+ 4.00m
+ 4.00m
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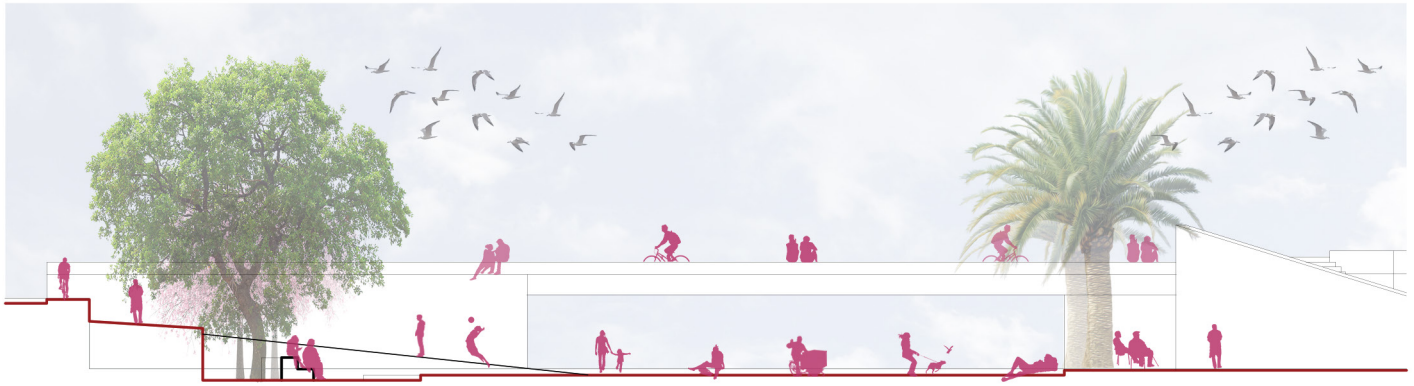
+ 5.50m

13.6d SECTIONS OF “SPORTS SQUARE”

Existing situation



Proposal

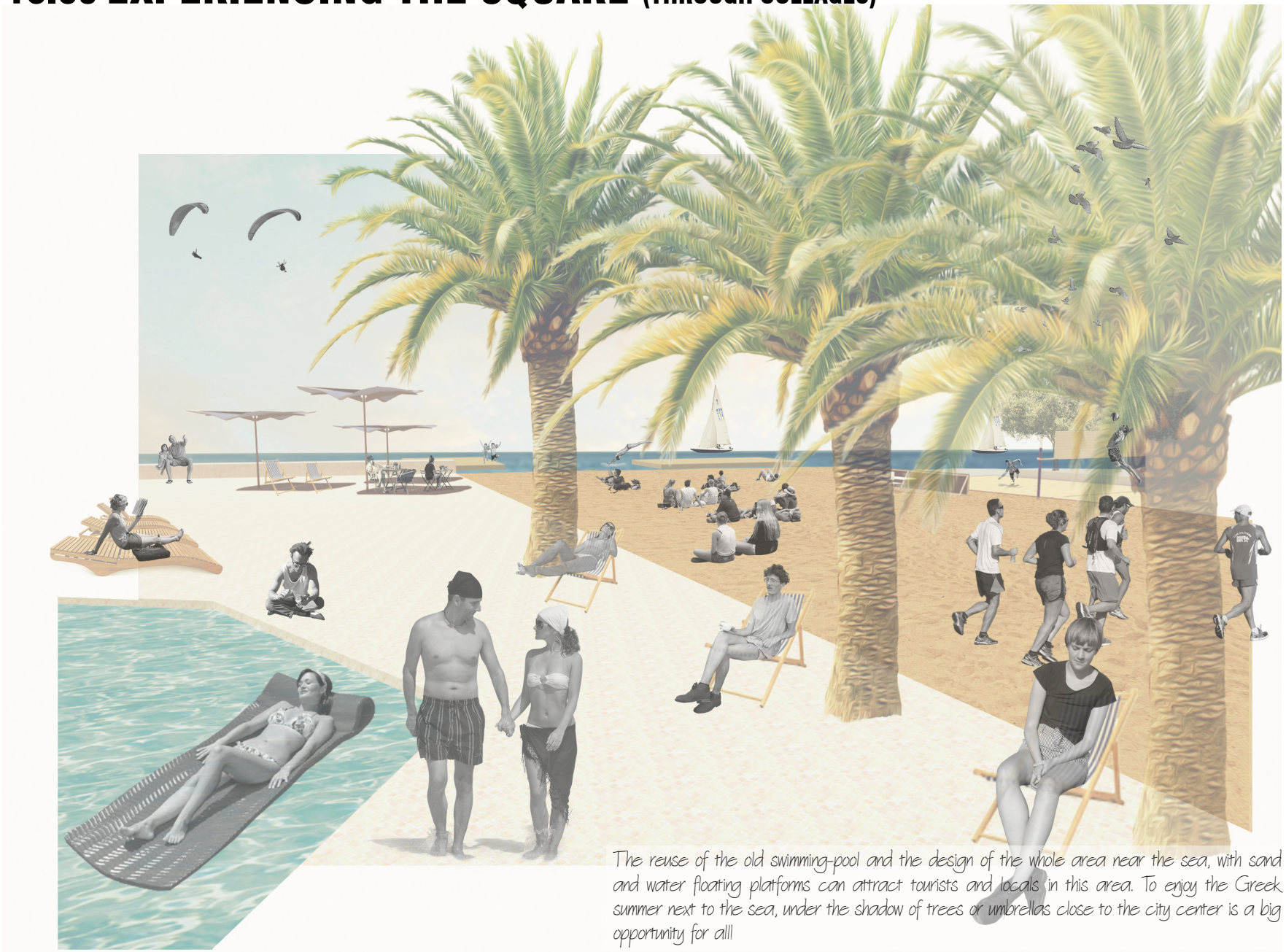
Section A-A’

Existing situation

Proposal

Section B-B’

13.6e EXPERIENCING THE SQUARE (THROUGH COLLAGES)



The reuse of the old swimming-pool and the design of the whole area near the sea, with sand and water floating platforms can attract tourists and locals in this area. To enjoy the Greek summer next to the sea, under the shadow of trees or umbrellas close to the city center is a big opportunity for all!

What a nice weather to spend your free time by walking by the sea with your family! In the Sports Square you can see different people working out, walking, cycling or just sitting in the benches with their friends enjoying the nice view. Outdoor food vendors are around them, offering the users the possibility to eat finger food, while they are relaxing in this beautiful square.

The big parking area of the square is now hidden and the monument for the remembrance of the victims of the shipwreck is highlighted, owing its own room. The circular room that surrounds the monument attracts people to sit in the curved benches under the shade of the trees, interacting with each other but also with the unique characteristic of the square!

Local people walking or jogging in the wooden deck along the sea. Other just sitting in the benches under the olive trees and the youngest just enjoy the sea, sitting in the wooden deck. But, the square is visited also by tourists, who follow the historical route and get informed about the various monuments, such as the fort Firka, the Venetian wall etc. that are allocated nearby.

Evaluation is creation: hear it, you creators! Evaluating is itself the most valuable treasure of all that we value. It is only through evaluation that value exists: and without evaluation the nut of existence would be hollow. Hear it, you creators!

Friedrich Nietzsche

14

EVALUATION

14.1 INTRODUCTION

In the last stage of this project, the evaluation of the design patterns and the possible outcomes of the testing locations are considered important. As it was mentioned in the chapter of design patterns, their definition and the transformation of the three main goals (sense of security, social interaction and inclusion) into space and form were based on all the research methods used. However, the translation of the theoretical concepts and the knowledge gained by the interviews, observations, online survey etc. into spatial form is based on the designer's interpretation. Thus, a way of evaluation was needed to assess and reconsider the design choices and proposals.

Many times, designers are so focused on the continuous association with the same concepts and subject for months that it prevents them from not being objective in their reflection and evaluation of their design proposals. In this regard, the opinions of other people and especially of those who are not specialists are considered necessary to evaluate the design. Besides, it is significant to listen to the opinions of those people for whom public spaces are designed. Also, since the users are not specialists in design and they only have an experiential perception of public spaces; the evaluation method should be easily understandable.

In the current thesis, importance was given such that the evaluation method is not only comprehensible but also playable/entertaining. As a result, the construction of a board game was used as an evaluation method. A game as a method of evaluation can be more interesting and attract more people to participate and be part of the whole process in the design of a public space. As Bories mentions- "Spaces are realized in another way during playing in them. Not just simulation is in the front, also engagement and enthusiasm of the actor and so the examination of the gaming object – the city" (Borries, Böttger, & Walz, 2006, p. 43)

Due to time limitation, the current board game is not in its final version, but it needs more processing. Despite this, the whole procedure of modifying the game design and reconsidering its rules was also a way of evaluation. Listening to the opinions of others not only served as a form of evaluation but also as a personal reflection. Discussing different aspects of the game, including the patterns, the design and the public space was significant. As a result, the whole procedure of constructing the game will be discussed apart from the general conclusion made from playing the game.

However, apart from the board game, an online survey was conducted to be used as an evaluation method for the design of the 5 testing locations. Namely, Greek people by watching an image-collage of each testing location, had to evaluate 10 criteria by using a 1-10 rating scale. The ten criteria were the following: 1) space to rest and relax, 2) natural elements (combined with the relief or access to sun of the category physical comfort), 3) sense of security, 4) easily accessible 5) unique characteristics, 6) social interaction, 7) participation in activities, 8) observation of other people, 9) land uses' program and 10) possibility of discovery or change. The same evaluation method was used for the assessment of the same criteria based on an existing picture of each of the testing locations. Hence, by comparing the evaluation of the parameters for the existing situation and the proposal, it can be seen if there is improvement or engravement in some of them and in which criteria, separately for each testing location.

However, apart from the board game, a more data-oriented method was used as well. An online survey was conducted, asking Greek people to evaluate 10 parameters for the 5 design proposals of the squares, by using a 1-10 rating scale. They had to assess the criteria by watching an image-collage for each square. The results and the conclusions of the survey will be analyzed further, below.

14.2 BOARD GAME

Constructing the board game

It is a common belief that games mostly implicate fun and most of the games were constructed to have an amusement function. However, this does not mean that a board game apart from entertainment cannot include serious aspects and fulfill educational purposes. Having this double character of board games in mind, the initial concern for constructing the game for this thesis, called Publi©ity, was to achieve an educational and evaluating character, without forgetting the entertaining feature of games. As Abt states games should not only be enjoyable, but "[...] they can be used to impart knowledge in a playful way." (C.Abt, 1972, p. 5 ff)

In the first stage, during the brainstorming, the first ideas were about the evaluation of the design of the testing locations. By using a big masterplan of the squares, the players would have to move in the space and place themselves in different positions according to specific questions. At night, a multicultural festival is organized in the Multicultural Square with music and food. Will you go to the event? If yes, which place will you use and why?

Although this way would indicate some interactions between people and environment based on the new design of the proposal, it was ascertained that the design of the testing locations is just a possible outcome of implementing the design patterns. So, it was realized that the evaluation of the design patterns was more important and a way to combine the two assessments (possible outcomes of the testing locations and design patterns) had to be found.

Firstly, the design patterns were put all together in a paper divided in the three main categories: sense of security, social interaction and inclusion. By watching them all together, it was difficult even for the author who designed and divided them into categories to have a clear understanding of all of them. A large number of the patterns (138 in total) were created, which made the scenario of choosing from them chaotic and difficult. So, it was decided to place repeating patterns, those that belong to more than one category and sub-categories, in a single category. This not only reduced the number of patterns (to 107) but also made them more organized.

However, apart from this division in four categories (sense of security, social interaction, inclusion and combination of the preceding two), a first attempt for reduction or combination of similar patterns was made. During this personal evaluation process, the 5 patterns about the proper width of sidewalks were combined with the sub-patterns from the sub-category containing different types of streets. Further, for the sub-category containing organized parking lots or areas, 3 sub-patterns were used instead of 5. Particularly, the sub-patterns for parking lots along one side of the bus lane and the local streets were removed, as it could be contained in the general pattern for parking lots along sidewalks. (Sidewalks along bus lanes, sidewalks along local streets etc.)

Moreover, the two types of lighting i.e., lighting on commercial streets and residential streets were regarded as too specialized. As a result, they were merged into a single pattern called more luminaries. All the patterns from the sub-category of colors of lights were removed, since they were too specific and, in a way, were already included in the different types of lighting.

In the single removal of patterns, those that housed offices and vibrant uses in upper floors were discarded. *Proper width between sidewalk and streets* was also deleted, as rules for this pattern were included in the different types of streets. The sub-pattern for seating places was considered too generic, as there are more specific patterns regarding seating places or areas; leading to them being removed as well. The patterns *keep it open* (in the sub-category highlighting unique characteristics) and *highlighting monuments* (in the general pattern learning history) were believed to be almost the same with the *highlighting unique characteristics*, so they were all combined in the last one. Additionally, the *outdoor coffee and food culture amenities* were excluded, since it was expressed in more specific ways in other patterns such as *café canopies, elevated decks for coffee tables* and *paved areas in front of cafes, bars and taverns.*

In the end, the sub-pattern *trees* were judged to be generic, so this was divided into more specific patterns including trees and generally green natural elements. Specifically, the new patterns are contained in the *green parterres, the public gardens* and *under the trees.* Moreover, during this process of reflection and evaluation, some logos and names of the patterns were changed

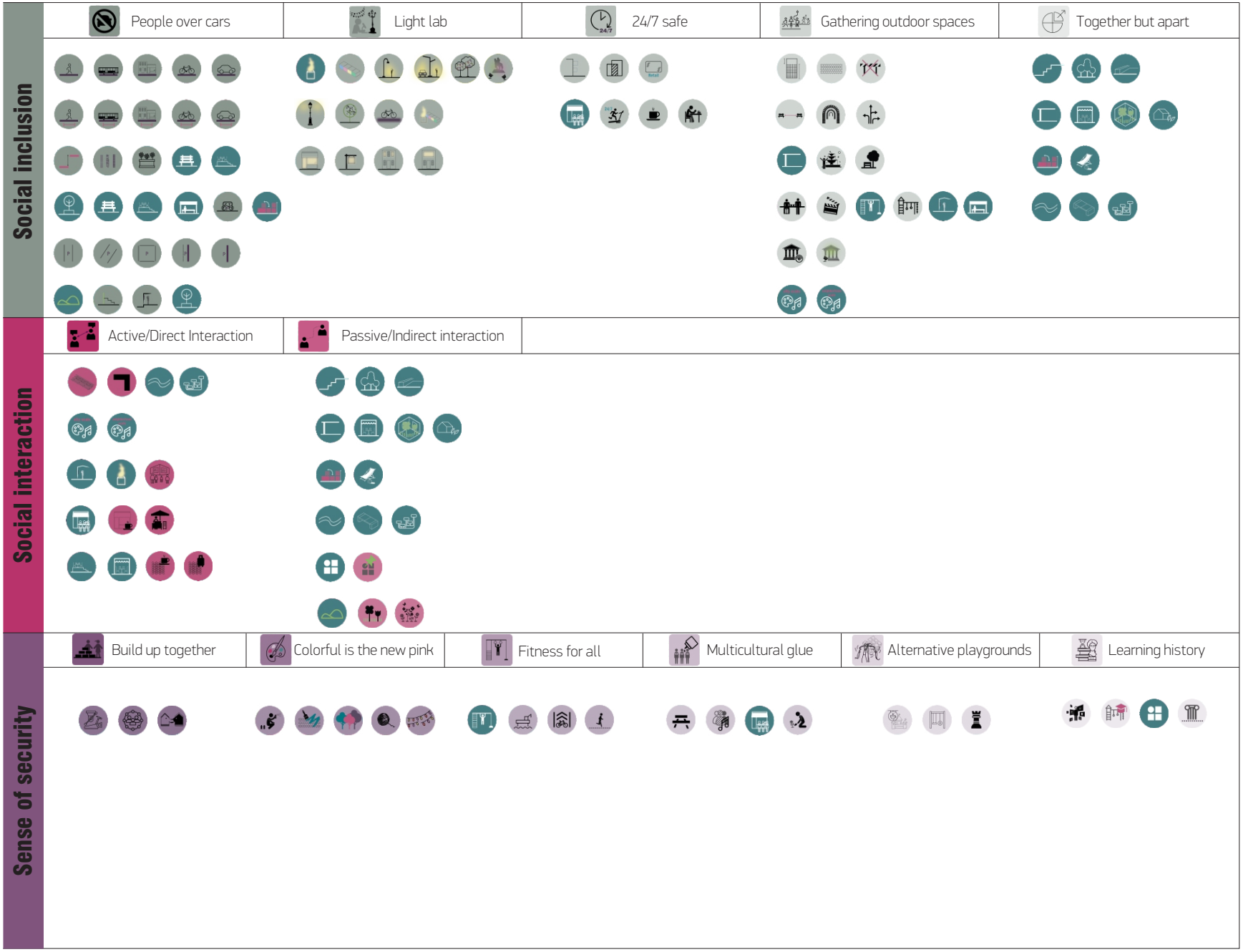


Figure: All the design patterns put all together in a paper divided in the three main categories: sense of security, social interaction and inclusion. | **Source:** made by author

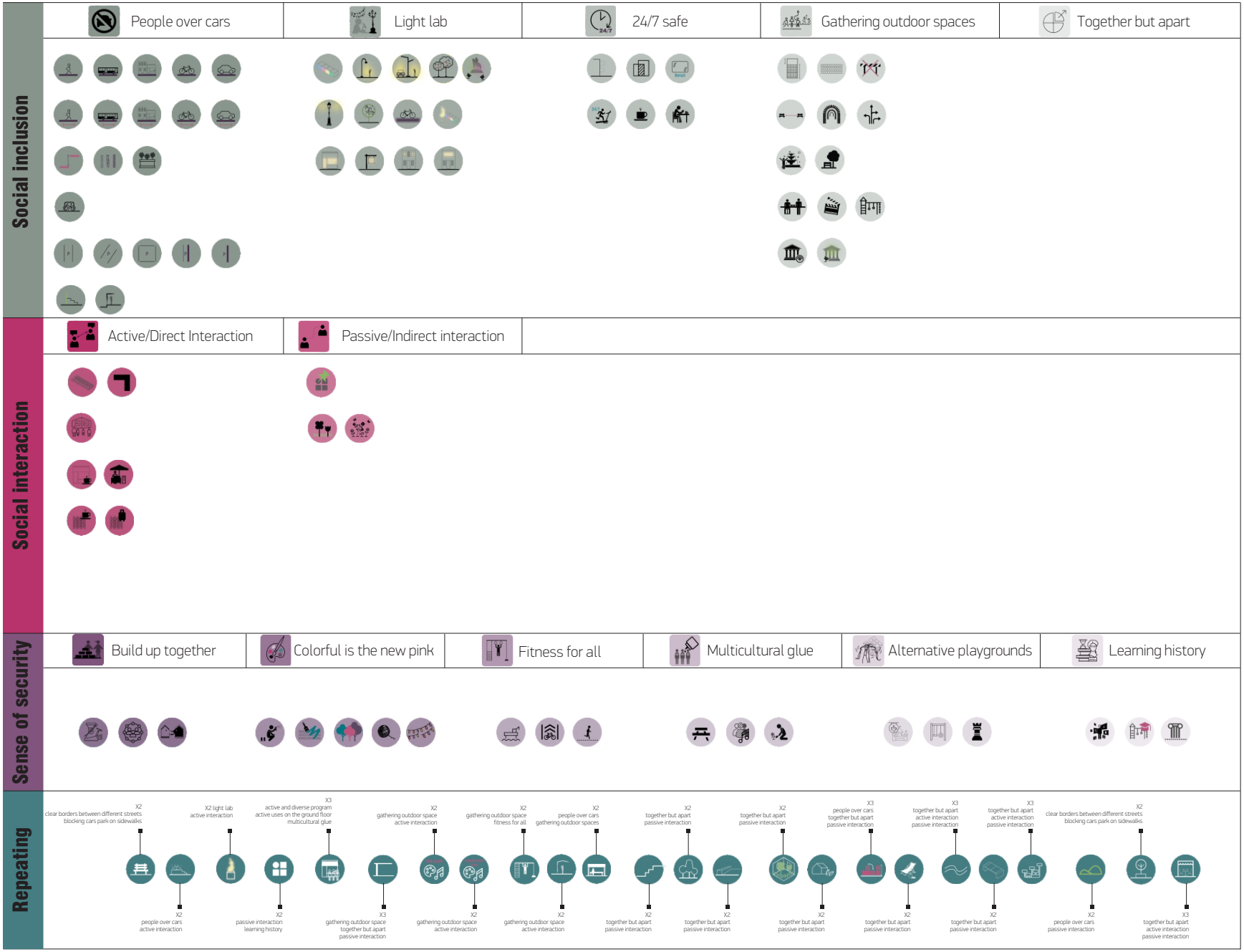


Figure: Placing all the repeating patterns, those that belong to more than one category and sub-categories, in a single category. This action reduced the number of patterns from 138 to 107 and made them to seem more organized.. | **Source:** made by author

to be more explicit. As result, after the first reflection on the patterns for the board game, the players had to choose among 87 patterns in total.

First try out

Now that the number of patterns were reduced, it was deemed important to make concrete rules for the game and play with a group(s) of players. The general concept of the game is that the players take up the role of citizens and a designer, with the goal of designing the five squares of the city of Chania by using some of the existing design patterns and implementing them in different parts of the testing locations. Subsequently, they experience the squares and answer various questions regarding the ways that they will use the different parts of them and how they will interact with other users.

In the first try out of the game, three players participated, two of who were Greeks and the other, Indian. Two of them played the role of citizens and one of them, the designer. In the first try-out, the rules were briefly as following:

There was a narrator (the author and designer of the game) who introduced important data for the city of Chania, such as location, population etc. and the main problems that the city confronts as far as the public spaces are concerned. Then the players had to choose a character card to see if they are citizens or the designer. The designer was responsible to read the information cards for the five squares, where a small description for the existing situation of the squares and some photos were provided. After reading the information for the five testing locations, the citizens together with the designer had to discuss the sequence of intervening in the testing locations. When this was decided, each player had to choose a specific number of design patterns. The citizens had to choose 23 design patterns and the designer, 30.

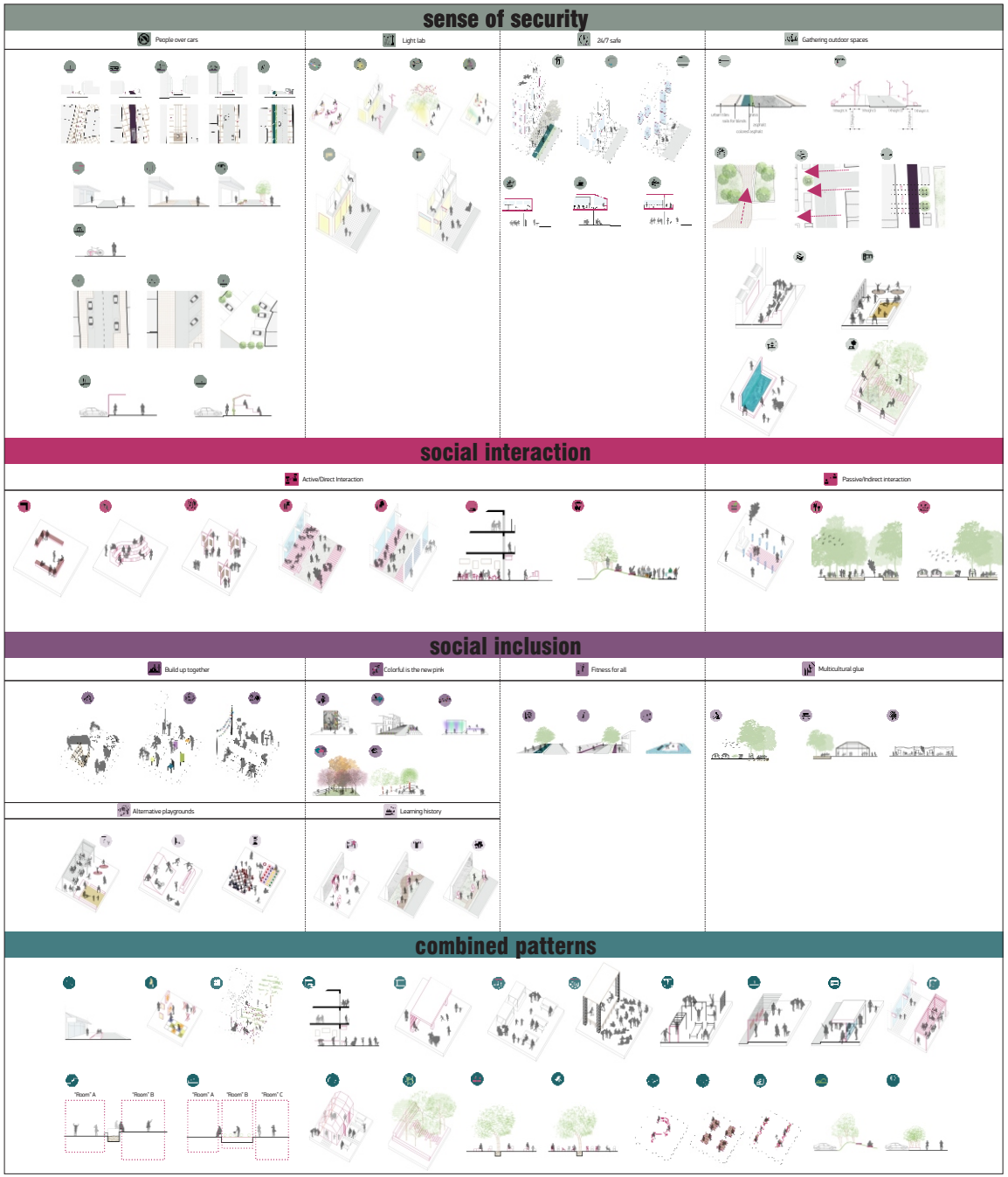


Figure: The reduction of patterns into 87 for the first try-out of the board game. | **Source:** made by author

They had to choose at least 3 of each category and 5 from the repeating ones for the citizens and 7 for the designer. In the end, they had to make a more careful choice by selecting the 5 (8) most important patterns out of the chosen 23 (30) for the citizens (designer). It is expected of the players to choose patterns based on the problems of the square that they work on.

Then, in this second part of the selection they checked if they had similarities with each other. The similarities between the players were translated into points. The points constitute a way to be a winner in the end, since for many people it is necessary to have a winner. Besides, in discussions about the evaluation of the board game, the most common question was who wins.

Generally, the part of selecting the design patterns was quite confusing for the players, since they had many options to choose from and all the patterns were printed in a paper divided in categories, depicted by small logos; which made it difficult to recognize. Another problem was that the game lasted much longer than it was expected. In this regard, their feedback for this part was apart from trying to reduce the options of the sub-patterns and the number of patterns that they must choose, also visualization aspects for the better understanding. So, they proposed the reduction of the chosen patterns to 20 and 25 respectively instead of 23 and 30. Furthermore, they suggested that it would be better, if each category had a separated catalogue, in which the logos of the patterns will be enlarged. In addition to this, it was suggested that the tokens with the logos should be separated in their own categories and not all together, because it was chaotic to find those that they wanted among so many other options.

As for the second part of choice, they mentioned that while they could understand the higher responsibility of the designer and their requirement of needing a wider range of choices, that it was fairer that all the players have the same number of options in the second choice. The system of gaining points was also unfair for the designer. So, they proposed all the players to select 8 patterns in total.

After these two stages of choosing the important patterns for them, they had to randomly pick up a role card, which has different roles such as grandfather, immigrant, 16-year-old student etc. and by using all their chosen design patterns to place them in different parts of the square, according to their role.

After designing, i.e. putting the different chosen patterns in the different implementation categories in the masterplan: areas, buildings, spots and along lines, the players had to support their design and watch for similarities between their proposals. Again, based on similarities, the players gained points. In a second stage of the design process, they had to choose the best option and all together according to their role to claim their rights in public space by adding or removing patterns in the chosen option. The decisions had to be made with discussion among the different stakeholders. The same procedure had to be done for all the testing locations. Since it was the first try out, it had been decided that the procedure would be applied only for one square, the 1866.

Although the procedure of design was made only for the 1866, the process of choosing the design patterns was so time consuming, that the players decided to skip the second stage of the design process, since they were already exhausted despite having to still experience the new squares in the city. As far as the board game is concerned, they use pawns to represent their moves in the city based on the roll of a dice. By following the different routes, the main goal was to visit each and every square in

Figure: Experiencing the five testing locations in the city of Chania, by moving pawns on the board based on the roll of a dice. | **Source:** photograph by author

order to complete the game. Every time that a player visits a square, an answer is to be provided for questions (asked by the narrator) concerning the possible design outcomes of the thesis. The answers are graded with points. Upon completion of the game, the winner is the one in possession of the most number of points.

In the end of the first try-out, apart from the feedback mentioned above, the players also suggested the change of the sequence between the two parts, namely the design part and board part. They proposed to start the game with the board to be more entertaining in the beginning, as it was too much to start with the difficult part of the design.

Taking into consideration, the feedback of the first group of players, the rules of the game were reconsidered, and more attention was paid in the visualization of the catalogues.

After the first try-out

The new rules of the game became more explicit and some of them changed partly or totally, albeit without changing the main goal of the game. It was decided to start the game with the board and then with the design of the square or squares.

Specifically, the aim of the game is initially to experience the city, to get informed about its squares, to visit them and afterwards to decide which square or squares, the players will design individually but also all together. The winner of the game again, is the person who will amass the highest number of points upon completion of the game.

In the beginning, the players choose a character card to see whether they play the role of a citizen or designer and choose a pawn of their choice. The starting point in the board game is the central bus station in Chania. After defining the order in which the rounds will be played, the players take turns to throw the dice. The number on the dice corresponds to the number of grids they cross on the board. The pawn has the freedom to move in all the directions. Initially, the aim is to visit the 5 squares of the city. In order to visit a square, they must be inside its borders. When a player visits for the first time a square, the designer is responsible to read to all the citizens the information card of the specific squares, show them the pictures, the graph and the availability of different facilities in the square. In this way, the players get informed about the existing situation of each square. Further, when a player visits a square earns a point and has to answer to a question, concerning the possible design outcome of this square. In this regard, criticism and assessment in the possible design outcome of each square is achieved. The opinions of people about a design decision or proposal are a good way for reflection on the design and think aspects that have never been thought before.

When a player visits all the squares, the game with the board ends and the players have to discuss how many and which squares they will design. Although in the very beginning, players were supposed to design all the squares, due to the time-consuming process, the players have the freedom to deicide the number of squares they will design. By this selection, conclusions can be made as well. By listening to their arguments and final choices, the significance of the squares can be realized based on the context of the city.

Once a decision is made on which square or squares will be designed along with the sequence of the interventions, each player has to study the flyers with the patterns (small solutions) carefully and use those which he/she considers the most significant to visit a public space. The designer has the right to choose 25 patterns, and the citizens 20 patterns with at least 2 per category. By recording the choices of all the players who will play the game, a statistical analysis can be done to make out if there are some that are chosen more often or others that are not chosen at all. In this way, the importance of some patterns can be revealed.

In a second stage of choice, the designer must read the information card again for the square that they have to design. Based on the existing situation of the square, each player should choose 8 of the already chosen patterns, according to which he/she believes can improve the quality and appropriation of the square. When all the players are ready, they reveal the player cards with the 8 patterns and justify their choice to their fellow citizens. If there are similar choices among the players, they earn a point for every common pattern with another player. By this second choice and the collection of all the choices of the players for each square, it can be observed if there are repeating patterns in specific squares and which patterns are considered more important for exact problems. For example, solutions to privatization, absence of people or presence of marginalized groups. Moreover, the reasoning why they chose these patterns is also an interesting method to see how non-specialists interpret the different patterns.

In the third stage of the design, the players have to put 15 of their chosen patterns in different parts of the square and explain their design briefly. As a result, the way people prefer a space and their perception of this can be inferred. Additionally, a comparison among the players can be made, as well as with the possible design outcome of the thesis.

In the last stage of the design, the players should choose the best proposal and take a role card. Based on their role, they should support their needs and desires in public space. They must claim their right for using public spaces. By this, a small stimulation is made to understand how difficult it is to satisfy all the needs, desires and vested interests of the different users and stakeholders in the design of a public space.

Second try-out

After rearranging the rules, a second try out was again necessary to check if the game can still work properly. The construction of the game this time was semi-draft, as some of its parts were in a draft edition. In the second try-out, five players participated, of whom 3 Greeks, 1 Spanish and 1 Colombian. One of them was again architect. As at that moment there was material only for 3 players, they decided that the four of them they will play in pairs and one alone.

Again, the players listened to a small story about the city of Chania and the situation of the public spaces in the context of Greece and specifically in Chania. Namely, the few words that are read before the beginning of the game in both try-outs is the following:

Let's move to Chania, an important waterfront city in Crete, the biggest island of Greece. Chania, the capital-city of the Chania's administrative district is located in the north-west part of the island/ The city is inhabited by 54.000 people and is visited by approximately 950.000 tourists every year. The touristic identity of the city has as a result its orientation towards the

attractiveness of tourists and not so much of locals, influencing the image and the appropriation of public space. Like in almost every Greek city, the food and coffee culture attracts most of Greeks in cafes and not so much in public spaces, such as parks and squares. Consequently, many Greek public spaces are considered privatized, due to their occupation by tables by cafes or taverns. Others are almost abandoned, without being used at all by people, while some of them are occupied by marginalized groups, such as immigrants, drunk people, homeless etc. The same situation is evident in the city of Chania. Today, as active citizens of the city, inhabitants of Chania who want to change this defective Greek reality, you are called together with an architect/ designer of the city to propose solutions for 1 to 5 squares in the city.

You don't need to invent the wheel. Various patterns (small solutions) divided in 4 categories are given to you. Your duty is to choose which of them you consider important to visit and use the squares of the city. Further, with them you can design the squares of the city.

As it was described above, the players this time started the game with the board and by visiting the five squares, they get informed about their existing situation. However, this part lasted more than the first try-out. When the game with the board ended, they discussed about the squares that they wanted to design and the reasons why. Namely, they chose 1866 square, because they found it the most problematic in the city context in combination with its proximity to the central bus stations. Additionally, Market square was another choice, as they believed that they should improve it, since it is located in a central part of the city. They supported that the central city square must be well-maintained and attractive.

In the second part of the game, where they had to choose the patterns that they consider important in order to visit a public space, although the patterns were divided in four separated flyers and the tokens were also divided by category, the players again found difficulties in choosing them. They mentioned that instead of the logos, it would be helpful to have numbers in every pattern to find them more easily. Moreover, they referred to the fact that some of the patterns were approximately the same with slight differences.

When the citizens chose 20 patterns and the designer 25, they had to choose the 8 most-important in order to solve the problems of the first square that they decided to design, the 1866. This time, the players were asked to explain the reason why they chose these patterns. The argumentation for the choices were really interesting to understand that even not specialists can think in the same way with the designer. Moreover, some of the comments were really helpful to reconsider the use of some patterns and understand that they can contribute also to other aspects of public life and space, which have been taken into consideration.

Then they asked to design individually this square by using 15 of their chosen patterns, but they proposed to design it all together, because they were tired from the whole procedure of choosing the patterns. So, the individual design of the square was skipped. The general masterplan of 1866 square with the implementation areas for patterns was put in the middle of the table. Then, the players were asked to choose a role card and to design the square based on their role, by discussing with the other users and stakeholders. The acting of the players was so realistic, and it was interesting to listen to each one's argumentation to claim for his/her right in the public space. After many conflicts, they took some decisions for what they want to put in the new square. Obviously, this process of roles was time-consuming, as well, and so they decided to not design the second square that they have chosen.

After finishing the game, they started discuss-

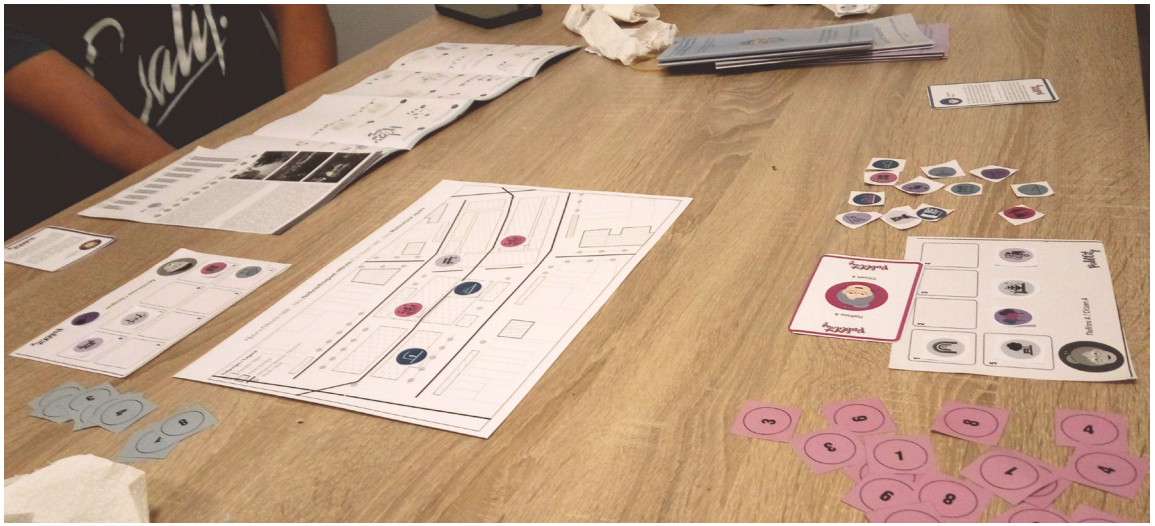


Figure: The general masterplan of 1866 square was put in the middle of the table. The players chose a role card and had to design the square based on their role, by discussing with the other users and stakeholders.| **Source:** photograph by author

ing about public spaces in general and immigrants in public spaces in different countries, by stating that although the game last for a long time, it is intriguing and offer stimulus for discussion.

After the second try-out

Taking into consideration, the feedback of the second players, some changes in the gaining point system were made and numbers in combination with the logos were added in both flyers and tokens. Further, all the design patterns were put together again, and they were under evaluation. It was a continuous procedure, which lasted some days by removing or adding again some patterns in the catalogues. The main way to remove patterns was their relevancy with other patterns. Moreover, some logos and names of the patterns changed to be more explicit. After this personal evaluation, the patterns for the final edition of the game are 77 in total.

Particularly, as for the changes in the patterns, 5 patterns present in the sense of security category were removed. Specifically, the *bike lane* pattern from the sub-category of different types of streets was removed since the same one exists in the category of social inclusion in the general pattern for 'Fitness for all'. Further, the *exhibition canopies along sidewalks* were removed and it was included in the more general pattern of *exhibition canopies*, as their only difference was the detail in the placement of the canopy. Subsequently, the pattern for *coffee and food culture amenities* (from the sub category of active and diverse land uses along the streets) was combined with the more general pattern of the same in the category social interaction. In addition, *lack of barriers along the sidewalks* and *proper distances among elements* were combined in one pattern: *proper distances among urban facilities*. The pattern called *under the trees* was contained in the more general pattern *natural elements (trees)*.

In the category of social interaction, the two patterns for the passive interaction between users and environment were combined in the more general pattern of *green rooms (parterres, gardens)*. In the social inclusion category, the *DIY constructions* and *participatory design interventions* were merged together. The *colorful lights* were deleted, due to the presence of the pattern: *colorful light bees*. Finally, in the combined patterns, the *pattern presence of unique characteristic* was changed into *placement of unique characteristic*. The pattern on *festivals /actions in the neighborhood scale* was deleted, as it is associated with the sub-pattern *events in the neighborhood* from the general pattern 'Build up together'.

In the end, it can be mentioned that the two try-outs except for an interactive feedback in the different parts of the game and the interesting opinions that were expressed for public spaces and the patterns, led also to a personal evaluation of the design patterns. Through this process, a better personal reflection and a reduction of the design patterns were made. It was proved so that by offering people, even not specialist an interactive and playful way of evaluation can help the designer to reconsider her own design choices. By putting oneself in another's position, it can help the designer be more specific in some choices and not repeat solutions with small differences in details.

Playing the game

After these two try-outs in Delft, the "final" edition of the game was constructed. The initial goal was to be played with Greek people in the city of Chania and with internationals in

Figure: The four separated flyers with the reduced patterns, after the two try-outs and the personal reflection on the design patterns in shake of the board game, | **Source:** photograph by author

Delft. The Greek people would be obviously the representatives of locals, while the internationals the view of tourists. Due to time limitations and other reasons, the evaluation board game was played in the home town of the author, Alexandroupolis, which is a waterfront medium-city in the north of Greece. In the end, this choice was proven successful since the game lasts approximately 2.5 -3 hours. In this regard, it would be difficult to persuade pedestrians in the city of Chania to play the game for such a long period. Besides, another criterion for choosing the players was to not be designers or generally preferable to not be designers.

Besides, another criterion for choosing the players was to not be designers or generally preferable to not be designers. So, it was preferred that the game be played with people who are not architects or designers by education or profession since their viewpoints are different from non-specialists.

After the "field trip" in Alexandroupolis, 15 players played the game, of whom 3 didn't manage to complete the game due to time restrictions. As for the statistical data of the players, 8 of the players were between 26-40 years old, 4 of them between 0-15 and 3 between 41-65. None of them was an urban designer or architect and most of them have graduated from university. As for the gender distribution, 2 were males and the rest females. The number of participants is not so sufficient for a statistical analysis, but by observing the choices of the different players the importance of some patterns can be revealed.

The game was played again with the players of the first try-out, namely two Greeks (female and male) and one Indian (male), who belong to the age group 26-40. Because of time limitation to play the game with more international people, the conclusions will focus only on the choices of the Greek players. Specifically, including the choices of the people of second try-out, **18 different Greek choices of patterns** will be presented. Based on these choices the conclusions will be drawn as far as the design patterns' evaluation is concerned. Specifically, it will be observed if there are repeating patterns by people, which are considered important.

As for the choice of the patterns, in the **first stage,** they were asked to choose the 20 and 25 (citizen and a designer respectively) most necessary patterns for them in order to visit a public space. In the **second stage**, based on the cho-

Synthesis of the 18 players

4 from the age group 0-15
11 from the age group 26-40
3 from the age goup 41-65

5 males
13 females

17 Greeks
1 Internanational

Figure: The synthesis of the players of the final edution of the game.| **Source:** made by author

sen square, they had to choose the 8 most important out of the 20 and 25 respectively, so as to improve the problems of this specific square.

As for the evaluation of the possible outcomes, as it was mentioned above, there were different questions for the different squares. Each player had to answer one question when he/she visited the square, giving a critical opinion serving as purpose to appreciate or criticize aspects of the possible design outcome. Besides, the opinions of people about a design decision or proposal are a good way for reflection on the design and believe that these aspects have never been thought of before. However, the whole process of coming up with questions about the 5 testing locations and their design was a personal evaluation by the designer. Issues and choices, which were under dispute, were converted into questions in order other opinions to be heard and a criticism to be done. Furthermore, some design proposals were inspired by the Dutch way of designing parts of the city, such as the separated bus lanes or the non-level difference between different routes and parts. In this respect, it was important to check if these choices fit to Greek reality and if Greek people can accept or ignore them.

Concerning the answers of 18 Greek players and 3 internationals, it can be said that most of the comments were positive with some specific objections in specific design choices, such as the movable chairs, the bus lane in the same level with the sidewalk, the non-level difference between different routes, as well as the public gym.

In 1866 Square, the bus lane is in the same level with the wide sidewalk, do you feel that you are in danger, while you are walking there?

Yes! I feel in danger! There are not clear borders between the street and the sidewalk. I consider it really dangerous, especially if you have children. You never know with the buses...

I feel the same. Let's take as an example Den Haag. There trams, streets, bus lanes and pedestrianized streets in the same level. I find it chaotic and it scares me. I don't feel safe, when I walk there, because sometimes I am absentminded.

The sidewalk with the touristic shops, the-pedestrian street and the square are all in-the same level, but they are separated by different materials. What's your opinion for this design choice?

I don't like everything to be in the same level and if they are, I need poles between the different routes to feel protected by the cars. But, generally, I would prefer to be height difference between the different routes. Especially, a height differentiation between the square and the street is needed. The squares should be in a higher level to be highlighted.

Namely, all the players that answered the question regarding the same level between bus lane and sidewalks, mentioned that they don't like this proposal, as they feel unsafe of the buses, although, they might not pass so often. For the movable chairs, it was stated that they would not survive in Greece, as they would be stolen. One answer that was repeated but unexpected were concerns regarding the facilities of public gym. People mentioned that they don't feel comfortable to work out in central parts and other people observing them.

In Talos and Market squares, there are public gym facilities. Will you use them? How often?

To be honest, I don't like gym facilities. So, I will not use them, at all. But if there was a route for walking, I would visit more often these places.

I don't like at all to work out in such central places, because other people are observing you and I would like to do it more privately.

I agree with the opinion that I prefer to work out more in private space, where not so many people can not observe you. But I think that nowadays, there are many people who use this public outdoor facility.

In Greece, I would not use these kind of facilities, especially if they are so open and public and in proximity with the playground for teenagers. Greek teenagers who would be there will make fun of people working out there, for sure.

In the end, some interesting points will be mentioned by observing the people who played the game. Firstly, it was really encouraging that **most of the design patterns were understandable by all the players**, even the young ones. Furthermore, the way that the players justified their choices was intriguing, since most of the **opinions and reasoning identified with the designer's intentions of introducing the specific patterns.** Some opinions added also an **extra value to some patterns**, as people proposed a different function to some of the patterns that can contribute to other aspects than just to the category, in which they belong.

Generally, all the stages of the game were intriguing and gave a **stimulus for extra thinking** for the observer of the game. For the part with the **questions,** it was pleasant that for most of the time, **players did not only answer the questions, but also started discussing various issues that concerns them**. As for the stage of the design and its explanation, the way that people put patterns in the space, combined them and explained their ideas of how they imagine the place, was stimulating. **Although not specialists, most of the people proposed impressing combinations of patterns and a general masterplan, arguing for its plan in a comprehensive way.** It was also impressive how some players were exited to express their own ideas on how they imagine the "perfect" public space. This can show **how important it is for people to be incorporated in the process of design and their opinions to be listened to.** It is believed that by this way, the appropriation of public space could be improved.

However, it is a common belief that different users have different needs in a public space and their views for an attractive and qualitative public space may differ, resulting in arguments. An enactment of this process was also put on the table of the board game. The players had to vote for the best proposal of the square among their fellow-citizens to put it in the center and by **acting different roles,** such as elderly woman, immigrant, tourist, NGO member etc. to claim their rights in public space. This process was helpful for the observer but also for the players to **understand how difficult it is for a public place to satisfy all the needs of all users at all times.** However, despite the difficulties and the disagreements in a funny and theatrical way, they managed to make compromises and design an open and inclusive public space, in the end.

However, the most **stimulating observation** was **how children perceive the patterns and solutions, referring to things that the designer wants to achieve, although they sound quite utopian**. The way in which children answer was also quite interesting. Two characteristic examples that engaged attention was the answer of two 11-year old girls in two questions for the possible design outcome of Metropolis and Market Square. Generally, this kind of thinking was not expected from such young children. Overall, the difference in thinking between adults and children was found to be impressive.

Immigrants use the bleachers of the open-air cinema in Metropolis square and you arrived earlier than the movie starts, where would you sit until the movie starts?

Where is the problem to sit in the bleachers? Why should I go somewhere else to sit?

The school close to the Market square organizes a graffiti activity for its fence during afternoon. Would you like to participate? Will this action have positive effects for the surrounding area?

Am I allowed to participate? If yes, I would go there". By this action, I think that people can develop relationships with each other and make new friends. By this way, they can use the place often as a meeting point with their new friends

Conclusions for the design patterns

In the end, some general conclusions of playing the game will be mentioned. Firstly, as far as the **decision of which squares or squares will be designed,** although some players had the intention to design more than one, due to the time-consuming process they designed only one. But also, from their discussions to choose the squares, it can be concluded that **1866 square and Talos Square** were the two that **were chosen by all the players**, as they found them to be **the most problematic**. The players supported that 1866 square is the most problematic, because of the marginalized groups there and the low score in almost all the ten criteria. They mentioned as well that due to its central location and the fact that it is the first public space that you see in the city when you enter it from the central bus station, it is important its image to be improved. As for the Talos square, the players supported that its location close to the sea is so important for them and it is such an embarrassment that the local authority does not propose something for the improvement of this place, in order for people start using it and feel safe there. The group of the second try-out was mentioned about Market square, as well, by stating that the central square of the city should be well maintained and have a good image, to attract not only tourists but also locals. Based on the six groups (including the second try-out) that played the game, 3 groups chose the 1866 square and 3 the Talos.

As far as the **possible design outcomes** of the 5 testing locations, as it was mentioned above, **most of the comments were positive.** The only criticism for more improvement concerned the choices of the placement of different routes and public spaces in the same level, the gym facilities of the public gym and the movable chairs.

Continuing with the **choices of the design patterns**, all the choices of the players will be presented in the appendix and the conclusions of their analysis will be presented in this chapter analytically. Focusing on the patterns' choices of the 18 Greek people, it can be said that **8 of the 77 patterns were not chosen at all.** Namely, 6 from the general category for sense of security: 1) local street, 2) main traffic street, 3) organized parking areas along the sidewalks, 4) maximum residential transparency, 5) retail transparency, and 6) glass boxes, and 2 from the category social inclusion, 1) yarn bombs around the trees and 2) communal gardens.

Figure: The 8 patterns which were not chosen at all by Greek people.| **Source:** made by author

The two different type of streets namely, local streets and main traffic streets were not expected to be chosen, as they are more suited to automobiles than pedestrians, thereby provoking problems in the use of public spaces. The organized parking areas along the streets are particularly not favored by the Greek people as they regularly confront parking cars along and above sidewalks, in front of sidewalk-ramps and even on the cycling routes. Besides, organized parking area were chosen by players, out of which 7 of them chose the organized parking areas while 1 opted for parking lots along a part of a square.

The sub-category "Architecture with nothing to hide" has 3 options, out of which the players chose none. The reason might be because residential uses have enough transparency and all the houses have a balcony that can contribute to the safety. Moreover, in many areas in Greek cities, even apart from the city center, house big transparent front stores along the street. For that reason, the retail transparency might not be chosen. As for the glass boxes, it is a design proposal that probably does not fit to the Greek context, as its inspiration came from buildings from other counties.

In the end, the yarn bombs around the trees probably were not so understandable, because it was one of the patterns that many players asked for extra explanations. But, it might also not be considered as important as others in order to visit a public space. Even though people reacted positively during the game to the question about the communal gardens and mentioned that they would participate in such an action, nobody chose this pattern. The reason could be that Greek people are unfamiliar with these kinds of actions, as this pattern was inspired by examples from other counties.

As far as the **chosen patterns** are concerned, by recording the choices of the Greek players, a graph with the times a pattern was chosen is shown, revealing the **importance of some patterns**, which were selected **many times by the players**. In the treemap diagram, the importance and a holistic comparison between the 69 patterns chosen can be seen.

But focusing on those that have a **percentage higher than 50%**, it can be revealed that ***pedestrian streets*** is the most necessary element that Greek people want to visit a public space (72%). As the online survey for the parameters considered important for an attractive and qualitative public space (based on the Greek mentality) revealed, natural elements and particularly both **green and colorful trees allocate one of the first positions** with a percentage of 67% for both patterns, *natural elements -trees* and *trees are not only green.* F**estivals and actions in the city** are also significant for Greek people, for that reason the *festivals/ actions in the city* allocates 50% preference and the more specific **festivals with an orientation towards cultures** were preferred by 61%. As food and coffee is a unique characteristic of Greek people's life style, the ***outdoor food vendors*** were selected by 56%. The same percentage belongs also to the pattern ***benches with different possibilities to use.*** From the eight different options for seating places (lighting benches, bleachers, corner seating areas, movable seating-playing modular box, movable chairs, curved benches, wide benches and benches with different possibilities to use), this kind of bench **was preferred the most**, as it can be used not only for seating but also for other activities.

On the other hand, 8 patterns were selected only once by the players, having a per-

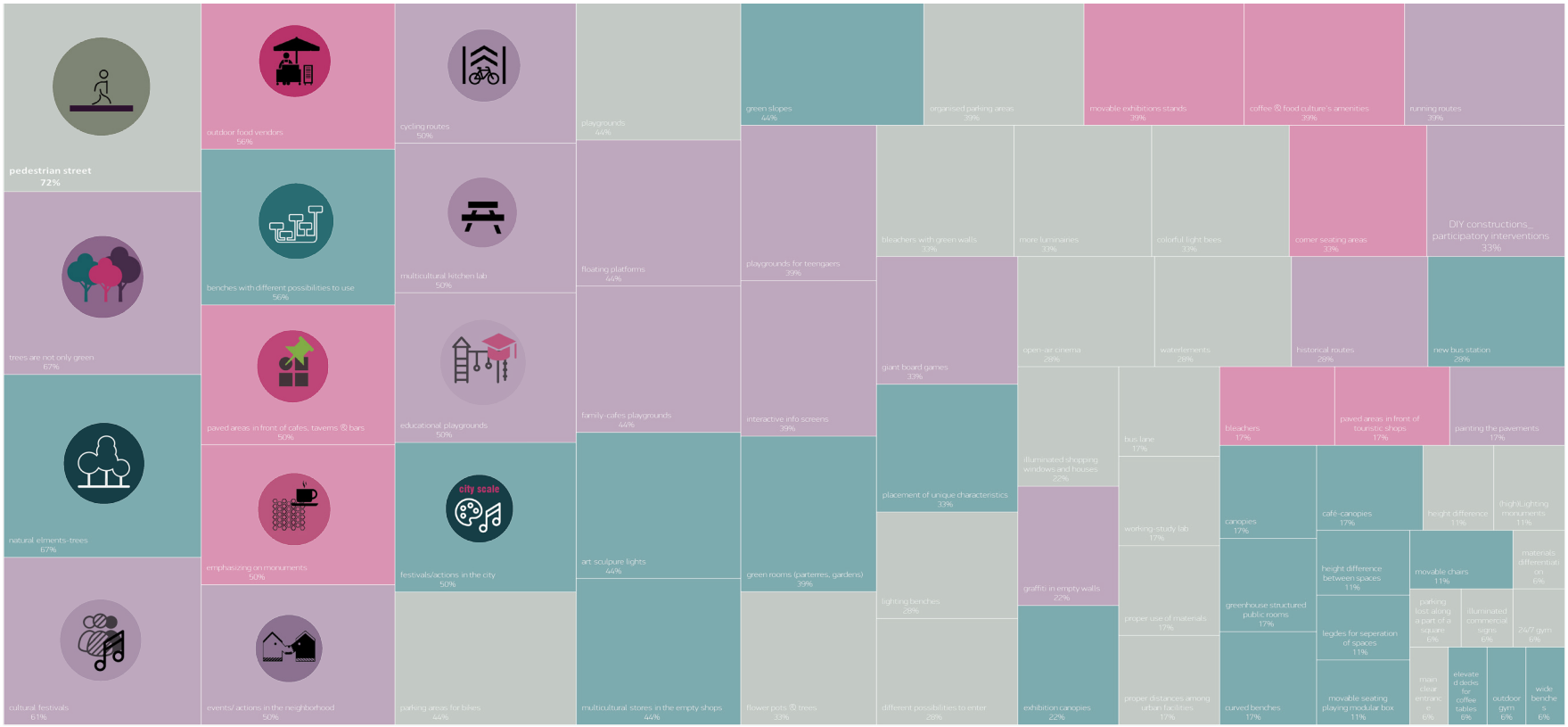


Figure: The treemap diagram, where the importance and a holistic comparison between the 69 patterns chosen can be seen. Patterns that allocate percentage higher than 50% are those which have the logo. | **Source:** made by author

centage of 6%. These include: materials differentiation, parking lots along a part of a square, illuminated commercial signs, 24/7 gym, main clear entrance, elevated decks for coffee tables, outdoor gym, wide benches.

By examining the **choices of the players individually,** it can be observed a tendency towards the **choice of patterns from the category social inclusion** by the majority of players. By dividing their choices in the four main categories, 8 of 18 people chose more patterns from the category social inclusion, 5 of 18 from the category sense of security and 3 from the combined patterns, which belong simultaneously to more than one category. 2 of the players had equal number of choices in some categories.

However, t**he 77 options were not equally distributed in each category**. The category sense of security includes 30 patterns, the social interaction 8, the social inclusion 18 and the combined 21. Thus, taking into consideration these ratios and the choices of people, it can be said that overall, the p**layers preferred mostly patterns from the category of social interaction by 38%, social inclusion by 37%, combined by 27% and sense of security by 19%**. What is interesting in this point is that although sense of security had the most options and almost every option was based on literature review, it was the category with the smallest percentage. Furthermore, it is under dispute why despite Greek people considering sense of security the most important criterion for an attractive and qualitative public space, the patterns of this category were chosen at the very least. Possibly, some of the patterns of this category were more technical and design-oriented and non-specialists cannot really understand them. For instance, the patterns for the proper use of materials, different types of parking areas, proper distances between urban facilities etc. were possibly not understood by them.

14.3 ONLINE SURVEY

Introduction

Continuing with the second method of evaluation, as it was mentioned in the introduction an online survey was conducted. In this survey, Greek people were called to evaluate from 1-10, 10 criteria by watching an image-collage of the proposals of each testing location. Namely, the had to evaluate the same 10 criteria for the 5 testing locations. The parameters that they had to assess were the following: 1) space to rest and relax 2) relief or access to sun, 3) natural elements, 4) sense of security, 5) interpersonal distance, 6) easily accessible, 7) walkable, 8) connected in a network, 9) legible, 10) sociability, 11) participation in activities, 12) triangulation, 13) observation, 14) land uses' program, 15) unique characteristics, 16) discovery/change.

The same method of online survey was used during the P2 phase for the evaluation of the testing locations for the existing situation, though. As Talos square was not considered then as a testing location and it added in a next step, in the evaluation online survey, Greek people were asked to evaluate also the existing situation of Talos square.

By having the assessments of both existing and proposal situation and using the same rating system (1-10 scale), a comparison among all the criteria for each square will be presented. In this way, it can be revealed if the implementation of the patterns in testing locations achieve to improve or even get worse some of the 10 criteria.

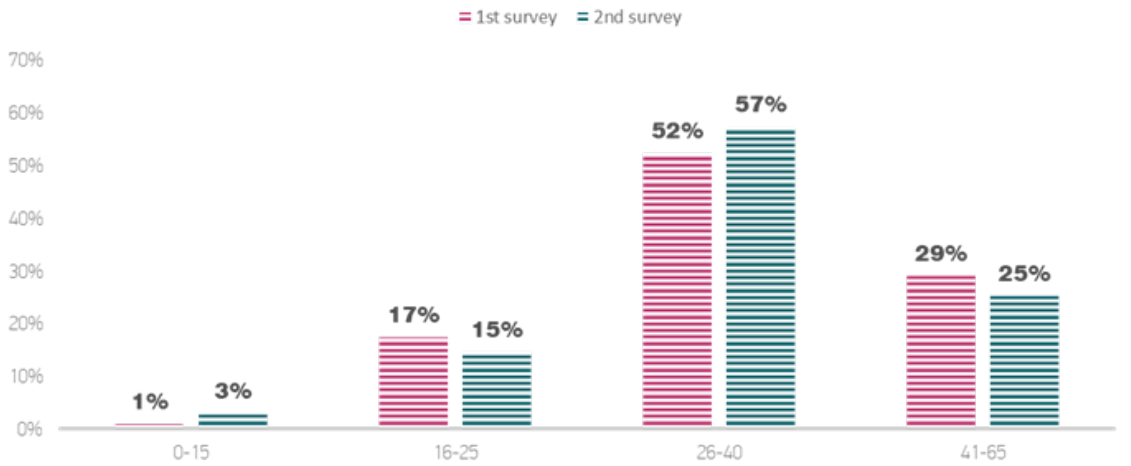
As the participants of the first online survey were 103, a big attempt to have the same sample was made. The survey was posted in different social media, reposted and be sent by many people to other Greek people, resulting in the final sample to be 108 Greek people. As the first intention was to reach 103, for the statistical analysis the first 103 answers will be taken into consideration.

Obviously, the basic data of the respondents, such as gender, age group etc. are different between the two surveys. So, a brief comparative description of them will be introduced.

Basic data of respondents

Staring with the gender of the respondents, in the first survey the two genders were more equally distributed in comparison to the second one. Particularly, in the first survey 58% of the respondents were women, while 42% men. In the second survey, though the percentages were 68% and 32% respectively. As for the age groups of the participants, the results are more comparable, and they can be seen more analytical in the graph. In order the survey to last less than the first one, some questions for the basic data skipped. Namely, the educational level, as it is known that most Greek people have graduated from a university (in the 1st survey 72% of the participants were university graduate). Further, instead of replying to the question of residential city and their relation to the city of Chania (I have lived there, I live, I visited the city, none of them), respondents had to choose if they live in Chania or in another city.

Comparison of the age groups of participants between 1st and 2nd survey



Source: made by author

Regarding their answers, 30% of the respondents are from Chania, while 70% from another city. Although there is a big gap in the percentage between residents of Chania and non, from the 1st survey, it was proved that there are not differences in the values of the parameters by the residents of Chania and the non. In the end, they were asked if they have participated in the previous survey. The 30% of them participated, the 64% not and the 6% did not remember.

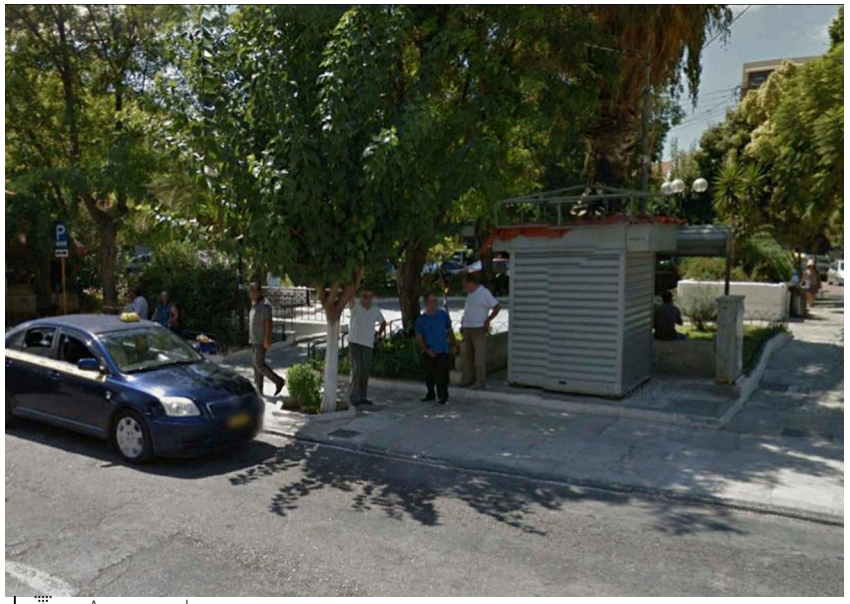
Comparison between existing and proposal situation

In this part, the images, which Greek people had to criticize in both online surveys will be presented, with a statistical graph including the answers of residents and not for both existing and proposal situation. Although, some of the respondents commented that it is difficult to put a value for all the criteria, based on only one an image, it can be seen that there are not differences or at least big deviations among those people who know how the place is (residents) and those who don't know it (non-residents). As for the choices of the images, it was tried a representative image of each square to be given in the first survey. In the second survey, regarding the already presented images of the existing situation, an attempt for showing the same parts of the square after the proposal was made.

By comparing the values between residents and non-residents, there are deviations again only in two cases. In the one there is 0.5 point and the other 1 point. Generally, through the comparison from existing to proposed situation, it is evident that there are improvements in all the criteria of all the testing locations. In almost all squares, the 10 parameters have as value 8. In some cases, there is a value 9, but also a value 7. In the next pages, the different values and their general raise can be seen more analytically for every sing testing location. Further, the increase of the average value of each square is provided, proving so the improvement of the squares after the implementation of patterns in them.

In the end, it must be mentioned an interesting point that can prove that the different research or evaluation methods can lead to same results/ conclusions. When the players played the game, they were provided with the graphs of the existing situation's evaluation for the four squares and not the fifth one, Talos. Through their discussions and choice to design specific squares, 1866 and Talos were the two squares that were chosen for interventions by all the players, indicating their problematic situation comparing to the other three. By examining the results of the second survey, the data for the existing situation of Talos square were gathered, as well. Through the analysis of the data, it is concluded even with numbers that 1866 (ghettoized) and Talos Square (absence of people) are the most questionable. 1866 square has an average value 4.20 and Talos square even worse 3.50.

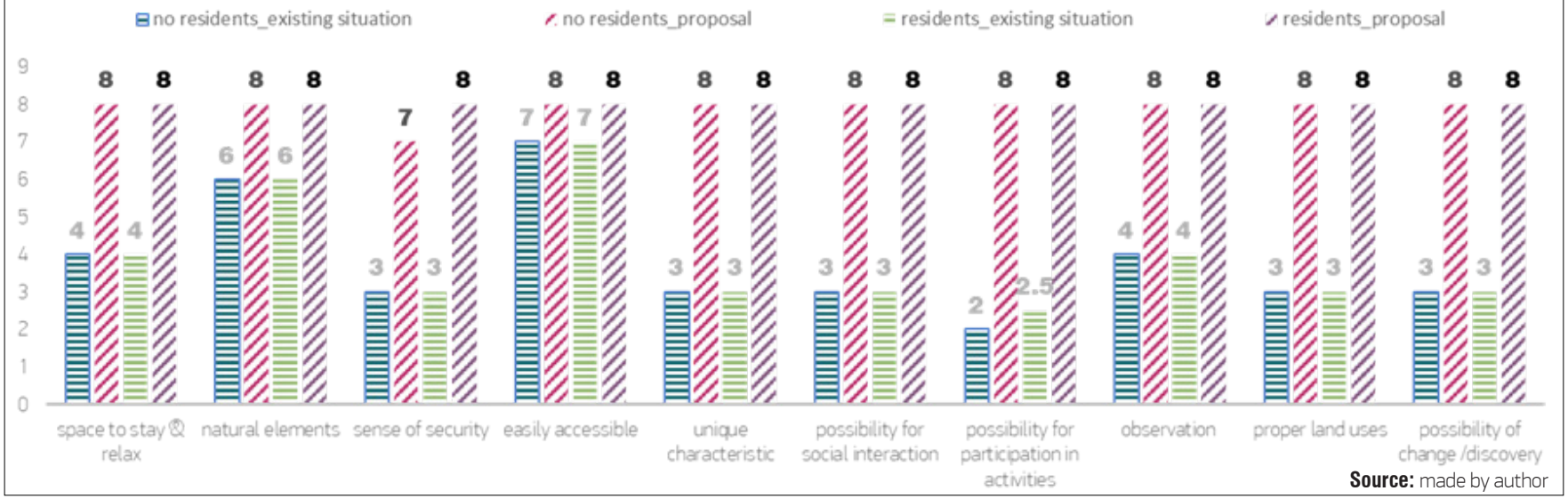
THE 1866 SQUARE TRANSFORMED INTO THE *MULTICULTURAL SQUARE*



Average value
4.20

Average value
7.40

Comparison of the 10 criteria between existing and proposal situation (residents and not)



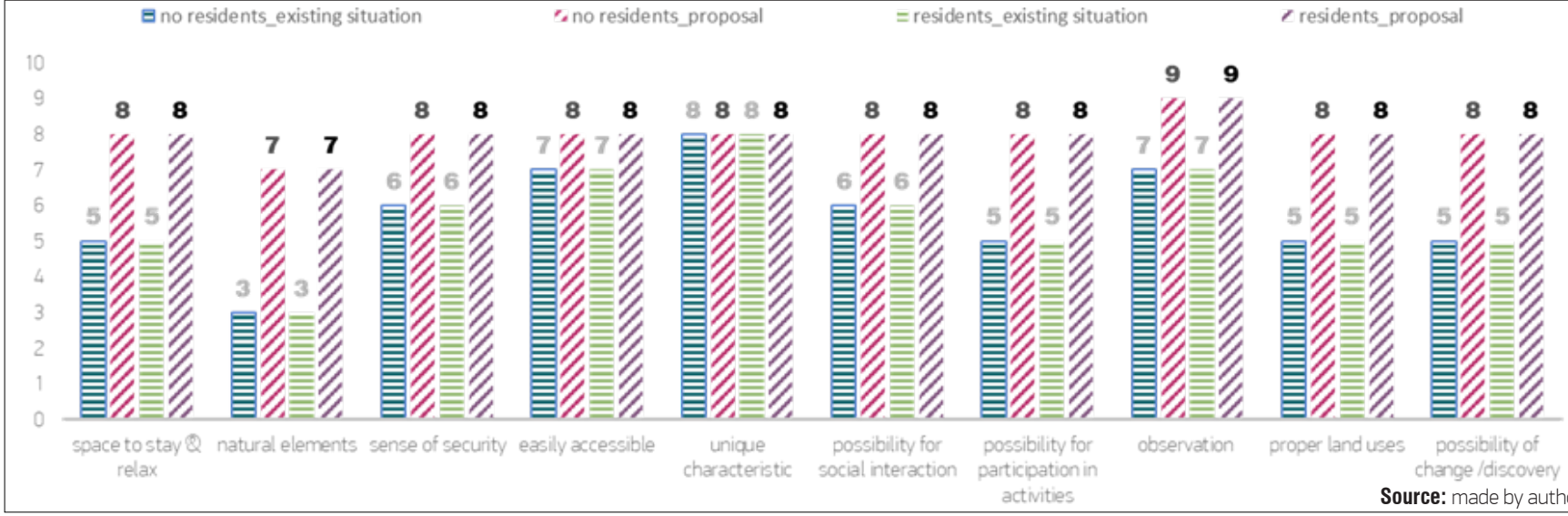
Source: made by author

THE METROPOLIS SQUARE TRANSFORMED INTO THE *RELIGION SQUARE*

Average value
5.30

Average value
7.40

Comparison of the 10 criteria between existing and proposal situation (residents and not)

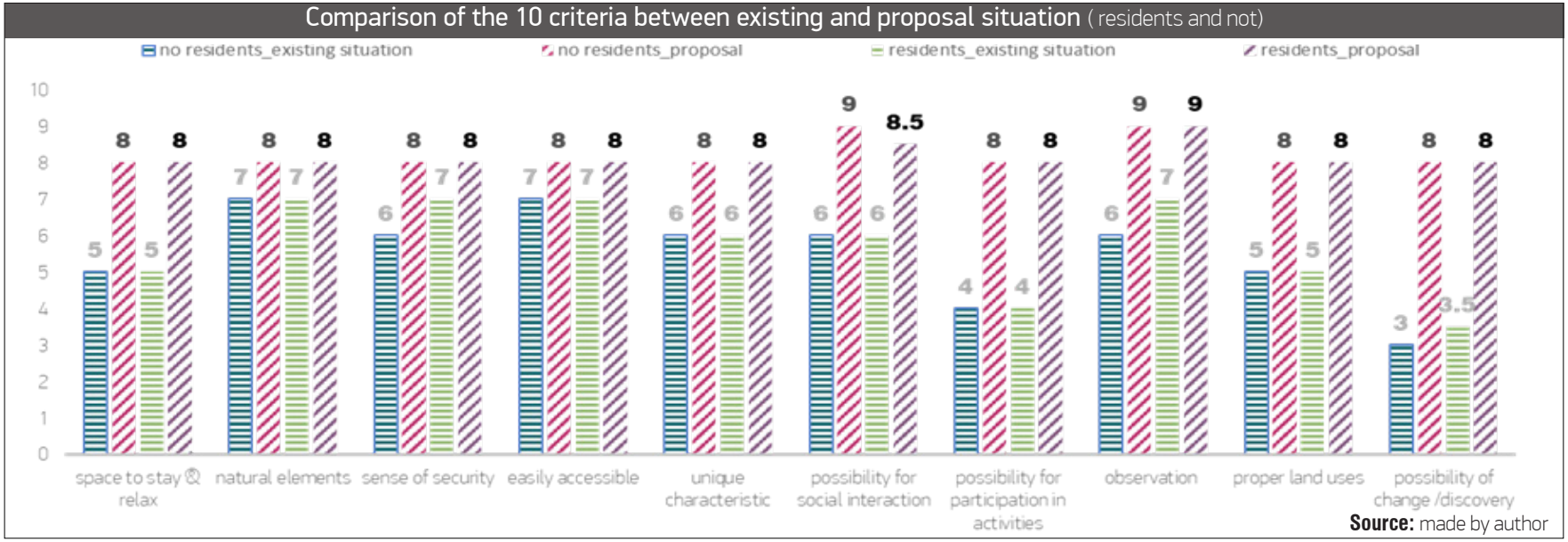


Source: made by author

THE SPLANTZIA SQUARE TRANSFORMED INTO THE *SQUARE OF SYCAMORE*

Average value
5.40

Average value
7.80



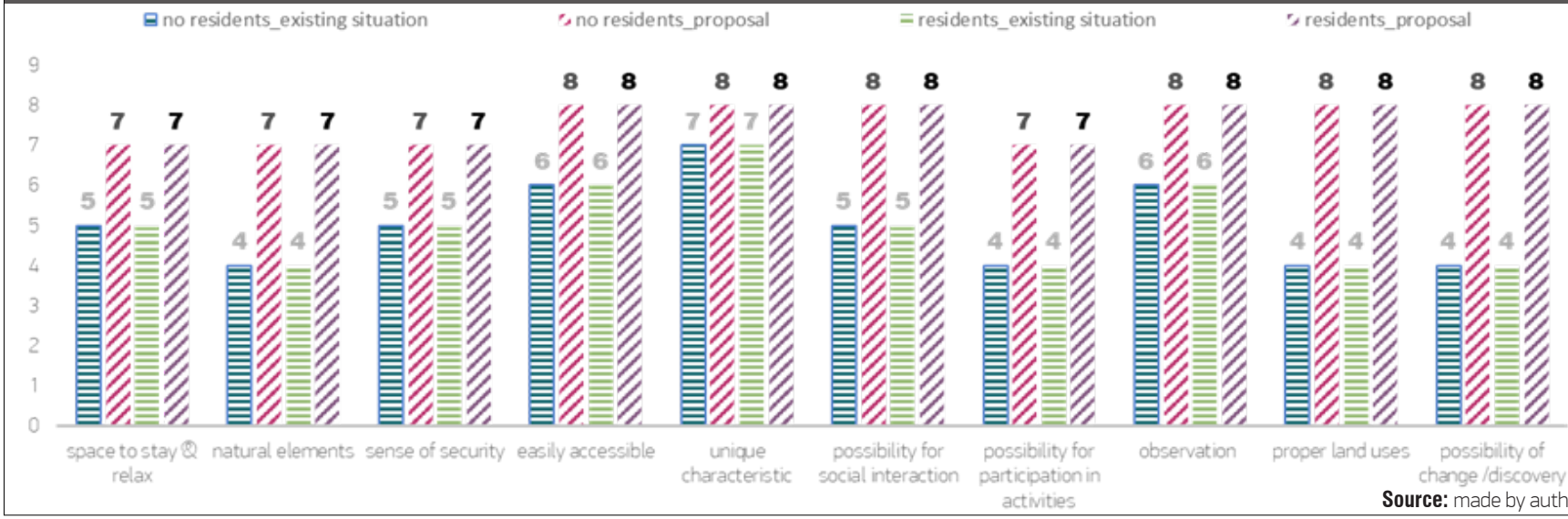
Source: made by author

THE MARKET SQUARE TRANSFORMED INTO THE *CENTRAL CITY SQUARE*

Average value
5.10

Average value
7.30

Comparison of the 10 criteria between existing and proposal situation (residents and not)



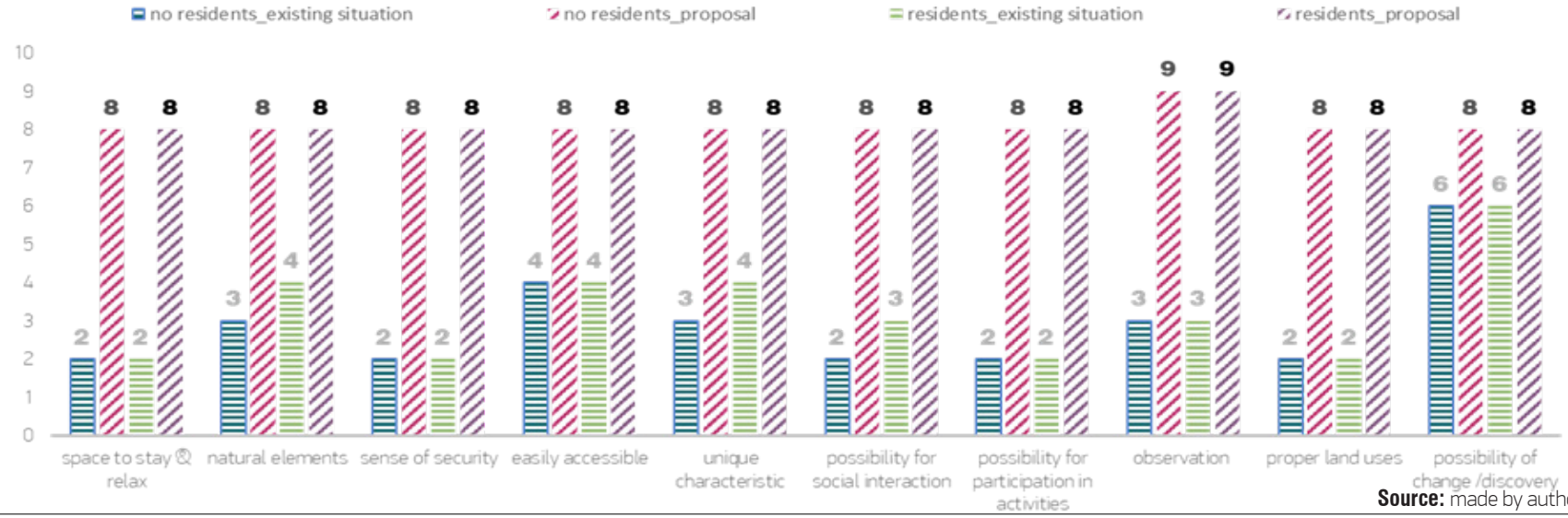
Source: made by author

THE TALOS SQUARE TRANSFORMED INTO THE *SPORTS SQUARE*

Average value
3.50

Average value
7.60

Comparison of the 10 criteria between existing and proposal situation (residents and not)



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Finally, in conslusion, let me say just this!

Peter Sellers

15

CONCLUSIONS

Sub- Research question a: How is the term public space defined in the present thesis?

Concerning the definition of public space, as a term has concerned and still concerns many researchers and theorists from different disciplines. It cannot be proven scientifically in terms of mathematics or physics, so it will be always a controversial issue. The different scholars will always have different opinions about what public space is and what makes a space to be considered as public.

In the current thesis, it is supported that there is **not a clear definition for the term** is not given, but **time, region and culture matter for its meaning.** In this regard, two different approaches concerning the term public space are presented. The **clear division between public and private space** through a **social approach** (expressed mainly in 60's) and the **hybridization between public and private** through a more **urban approach** (expressed mainly in 90's). By studying these two approaches, **the view of the author** for what public space is, **rearranged.**

Particularly, concerning the present times and the modern society, it is believed that **people and their common attendance** in spaces of choice **regardless the ownership** constitutes the most significant element to depict a space as public. Therefore, a **publicly-used space, even private-owned** can be considered as public space. However, this does **not mean** that the contemporary public space should **be only result of commercial transactions,** in shake of profit, excluding specific social groups from public life.

Public space outdoor or indoor, **private or publicly-owned** should make people feel welcome, **respecting their social-cultural background and mentality.** It should offer them the chance to use it and have a passive or/and active engagement with other people. But, clearly "[...] no single space should be expected to meet the needs of all users at all times. Indeed, spaces that attempt to do everything well often fail to do anything well." (Németh & Schmidt, 2011, p. 9)

In the end, it must be mentioned that the current thesis is **more attached to the urban approach**, which supports the **hybridized interchanges between public and private**, the term public space was used referring to officially defined public spaces, such as squares and parks.

Sub- Research question b: Which parameters can influence the appropriation and the quality of public space in the Greek context? How can these parameters be converted into urban form?

The quality and the attractiveness of a public space are subjective terms, based on user's interpretation for a space. However, many attempts in different chronological periods were made in order to define **specific parameters that can contribute to be an attractive and qualitative space,** so as to be used by people. Starting from one of the most well-known approaches, the observations of William Whyte on his book "The social life of small spaces", two more approaches were studied in the current thesis. Having as a reference Whyte's study for definition of criteria that can influence the appropriation of public spaces, Stephen Carr in his book "Public space" and group PPS (Project for Public Space) tried to expand and reconsider the thoughts of Whyte after some years.

However, all the observations, researches and **studies were conducted for the case of the USA.** As the focus of the project is mainly Greek people and specifically in this sub-research question the criteria that make them go and stay in a public space, an online survey conducted to define them. In the survey, **Greek people had to evaluate 16 criteria**, which were defined after studying and analyzing the criteria of the three approaches, mentioned above. The participants had to use **an 1-10 rating scale for their assessment.**

Regarding the statistical analysis of the data, the two most **outstanding parameters** for an attractive and qualitative Greek public space are the **sense of security (83%) and natural elements (77%).** Other necessary criteria that possess a percentage bigger than 60% are the following: walkable (67%), relief or access to sun (66%), space to sit and relax (61%), interpersonal distance (61%) and easily accessible (61%).

Based also on the **problem statement social interaction and inclusion** are other important elements that are missing from the Greek reality due to the current function of public spaces. Hence, it is concluded that t**hree are the main important aspects that can influence the appropriation and the quality of Greek public spaces: (a) sense of security, (b) social interaction and (c) inclusion.**

In these three main categories, the goals to be achieved through the design, the other 15 criteria (not sense of security) are included in the small solutions that are proposed through design-patterns. Thus, more or less, **all the evaluated parameters, according to their importance were included in the three basic criteria** that are necessary for Greek people to visit a place and extend their stay there.

As it was mentioned briefly above the **criteria transformed into design patterns, to answer the second part of the sub-research question regarding the transformation of the criteria into urban form.** Besides, the three main cri-

teria: sense of security, social interaction and inclusion **more social than spatial related**, raising the question of how they can be converted into urban and spatial form. The method of **design patterns** was decided to be used in to **bridge this gap between research and design.** But, to avoid generic solutions, the definition of the patterns was a continuous forth and backwards process between research and design, starting the design of testing locations in an early stage.

Sub- Research question c: Which user groups does the present thesis take into consideration? What are the needs of the different user groups in correlation to the use of public space?

As for the users that this thesis is aimed at, three are the main target groups, l**ocal people (generally Greeks), immigrants in Greece and tourists.** More attention is paid though to the ways, in which **local people can be attracted in the existing Greek public spaces and simultaneously be integrated and interact with other users there**, such as immigrants and tourists.

In order to understand, how Greek people experience public space, which are their desires and needs, different methods were used. Namely, the online survey, which determined the most important elements/ aspects for Greek people, interviews in the city of Chania with local people, who expressed their complaints for the public spaces of their city and some desires of how they would like to be and also observations, which helped to gain knowledge on how different users appropriate different places and generally which are their preferences mainly based on their age or nationality.

Further, the study of liveable Greek examples was another significant method (by practice) in order to understand what spatial elements are important for Greek people to visit and use a public space. Unfortunately, due to time and other limitations the **desires of immigrants and tourists are not defined so extensively in the thesis**, but an attempt to predict some of their needs is made. Besides, the center of attention of the design was to find ways how to integrate the immigrants and tourists with local people and make them coexist and interact.

In the end some of the needs and desires of Greek people will be referred briefly. From the evaluation of the criteria and the optional question "what is important for you to visit a public space?" in the online survey, **safety, natural elements, various activities and seating places** were some important aspects that Greek people need in a public space. Further, **maintenance of public spaces and cleanness** were two other desires expressed both in interviews and online survey. Based on the personal experience of the author, the observations in the city of Chania and the study of the Greek liveable examples, **natural elements (water and green) is a criterion repeated** in these methods, as well. Moreover, **unique characteristics, such as buildings, monuments that constitute part of the Greek history** are considered important. **Colors in different ways**, such as colorful lights, graffiti etc. and the organization of f**estivals, celebrations and events** are some of the needs of Greek people. Completing the list with Greek people's needs and desires, **food and coffee culture's amenities** can not be out.

Sub- Research question d: Which parts of the public network of Chania are publicly-used? Which of them serve the needs of a given group and which of them can be improved?

The **existing function of public spaces** in Chania is presented **through the spatial and social analysis.** In particular, the visualization of the term public space in different maps can present the differences between the officially defined public spaces (parks, squares, waterfronts) and the public-used spaces. Even though **officially defined public spaces** are consider public in terms of ownership and openness to people, it can be seen that they **are not used so much.** On the contrary, **private spaces** or even public but with restrictions in accessibility **are used more** . Concerning so the publicly-used spaces in the network of Chania, it is revealed that **food and coffee culture's amenities are the mostly used spaces.** Moreover, commercial shops, administrative uses and sport facilities are used as gathering points. In the end, **school yards, even locked constituted a meeting and gathering point for young people in the late afternoon.**

Moreover, as far as the officially public spaces are concerned, a **tendency towards parks and waterfronts is observed in comparison to squares.** In the catalogue of the observed public spaces of Chania, it can be seen that the two big parks of the city and the old harbor (waterfront) are the most preferable by local people. Hence, local people are concentrated mainly in these three officially defined public spaces and in food and coffee amenities.

Taking into consideration the map of characterization of the officially defined public spaces, it is observed that almost all the public spaces in the west part of the city, even in the city center (1866 square) are occupied by immigrants and generally "undesirables". As for the tourists, they use mostly the most touristic places, where historical monuments are, such as the Market square, the Metropolis square and Market square.

Apart from the places which are characterized as ghettoized due to their occupation by immigrants and "undesirables", there are also public

spaces characterized as privatized because of the extreme expansion of coffee tables in them, isolated, since the absence of people is prominent. But there are also, the hybridized spaces as far as the problem statement triptych's characterization is concerned. The hybridized spaces may have different function based on touristic seasonality or the different parts of the to be characterized in a different way.

Two characteristic examples of hybridized spaces are those of Metropolis and Market square. Metropolis square is used by people during the touristic period, but mainly by tourists, whine during the non-tourist, the local people don't use it almost at all. The central part of Metropolis square functions in the same way, its west part is not used, and its east part is quite ghettoized.

In the end, regarding the **places which need improvements**, it was decided to focus on the **type of squares considered as more problematic** in comparison to parks and waterfronts. Hence, by **blending** two different maps, the types of officially public spaces and the **map of characterization of public spaces based on the problem statement triptych**, five testing locations were chosen. 1866 square as the **most ghettoized** in the city context, Splantzia square, as it is **covered only by coffee tables,** Talos square, since it is **not used at all**, Metropolis square for its **hybridized character** based on touristic seasonality and Market square having three different problems together.

Sub- Research question e: Which are the spatial characteristics and patterns that can translate the needs and desires of the various user groups into an inclusive and attractive urban environment?

As it was mentioned above in order to t**ransform the three main goals into spatial form**, the method of **design patterns** was used. For their definition, almost all the research methods, such as literature review, online survey, interviews, observations and study of Greek liveable examples were taken into consideration. In this way, **the different needs and desires of Greek people translated into design solutions.**

These solutions divided into four main categories, sense of security, social interaction, social inclusion and combined. By the distribution of the design solutions (sub-patterns) in these categories, spatial interventions are proposed which can contribute to different aspects, such as safety, interaction inclusion. So, **by combining and implementing them, in testing locations, an inclusive and attractive and inclusive urban environment can be created.** Although the user groups are three, t**he translation of the desires and needs into patterns was made, based mainly on Greek.** However, some of them were inspired by other countries and others are considered more universal applicable, including in this way the needs and desires of the other user groups, (immigrants and tourists).

As the **sub-patterns are many in total** (138), it can not be mentioned analytically each one of them to answer this sub-research question accurately. Besides, it is a common fact there are much more solutions and the process of defining patterns, which translate the desires and needs of different users can be endless.

For the shake of this thesis, there are 1**3 general patterns.** These general patterns constitute the sub-categories, in which the sub-patterns belong. They are also **a way of defining the sub patterns and achieving the three main goals:** sense of security, social interaction and inclusion.

Particularly, **sense of security** includes 5 general patterns:

- People over cars which is referred to protection from cars
- Light lab which is referred to proper lighting during night.
- 24/7 safe which is referred to the term that Jane Jacobs introduced "eyes on the street"
- Gathering outdoor spaces which is referred to the presence of people in public space
- And the last one together but apart which is referred to interpersonal distance

Social interaction 2 general patterns:

- The conversation exchange which concerns the active interaction among people and between people and environment and
- The see and be seen, which concerns the passive interaction.

In the end, **social inclusion** contains 6 general patterns:

- Build up together, which includes DIY constructions and participatory interventions
- Colorful is the new pink, which contains interventions with main focus the color
- Fitness for all with different possibilities for work out for different users
- Multicultural glue, which includes actions for integration among immigrants, locals and tourists
- Alternative playgrounds, where even adults can play
- Learning history, with actions focusing on the history of the city

Sub- Research question f: How can the socio-cultural background of Greek people be related to the physical form of public space and influence its design?

The last sub-research question is correlated to the previous one. But in this question, the answer has to do more with the image of a public space and the elements that make a

space to consider as Greek public space. In other words, the socio-cultural background of Greek people is related to the physical form of public space mainly through the visualization of the patterns. Having studied liveable Greek examples and being Greek who has experienced Greek public spaces for many years, the author can reproduce even subconsciously images and elements of Greek public spaces and transform them into spatial solutions.

Further, this Greek unique mentality and culture can be shown in the collages of the five testing locations. By producing some images of the atmosphere, in these transformed Greek public spaces, a way of representing the socio-cultural background of Greeks in form and space is offered. It is quite obvious; these public spaces do not belong to the Netherlands for example. In the collages, many characteristics that define the Greek public space area presented. Traditional Orthodox churches are dominant with an open square in front of them, coffee tables, full of people who enjoy their coffee in a sunny day, specific tree species, such as olive trees and plane trees and the characteristic building type of polykatoikia in the surrounding are. These are some examples that are correlated to socio-cultural background of Greek people, architecture, even landscape and play an important role on the design of the place.

Closing the circle

After answering briefly all the sub-research questions, since the report of the thesis is quite big and different research methods were used, in this point, it is the time to close the circle. In a diagram, it is presented how the bridge between research and design was accomplished by using the design patterns. Specifically, all the design patterns are placed in the different methods that contributed to their definitions. In this way, it can be revealed how the results of every research method was transformed into space, in order research and design to be as highly connected as possible.

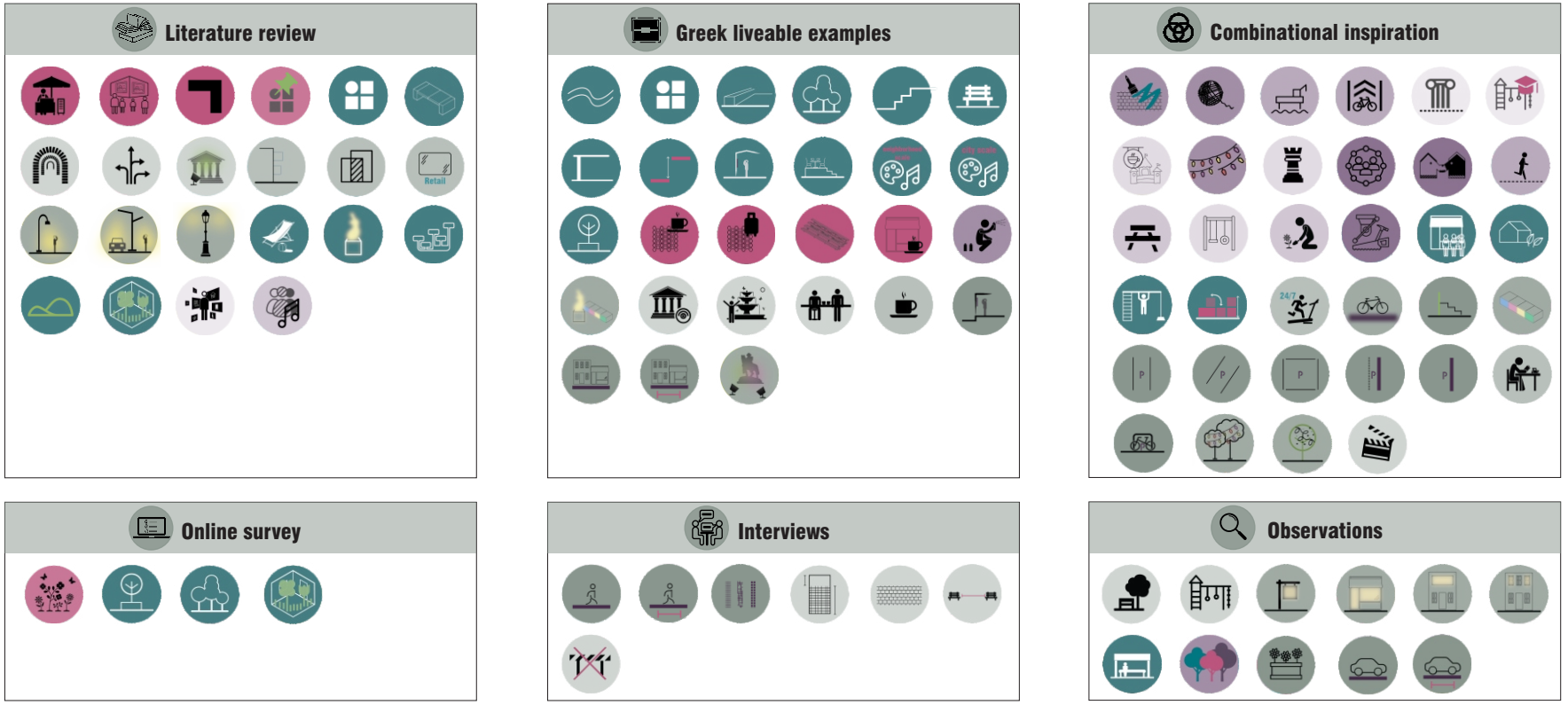

Figure: The division of the design patterns based on the method of inspiration. Obviously, quite a lot patterns belong to more than one method, but for reasons of readability, they were placed only in one. In many cases, combinations of ideas which were came up by different research methods, translated into one design pattern. | **Source:** photograph by author

By three methods we may learn wisdom: First, by reflection, which is noblest; Second by imitation, which is easiest; and third, by experience, which is the biterest.

Confucius

16
REFLECTION

The first part of my reflection will not be so academic, but more personal, leaving aside the mandatory parts that the Graduation Manual asks for the P4 reflection. For me it is more important to express what I have learned during the process of this year in a diary way than following strict restrictions.

18th of April 2018

Today, I was studying as every day because P4 is so close. Time is running so fast, especially when you have so many things to do. I couldn't study anymore, I wanted a break. It was such a sunny day. So, I decided to go for a walk and then I remembered that there is an open space close to my home. Now, I am here and after sitting 15 minutes in a bench, I got inspired to write my reflection for my project. So, this first part of my reflection will be rather a live streaming experience and not such a structured text. Sitting here in that bench, watching so many people to be outside and enjoy the weather, I realized one of my big mistakes that I should change until the end of the project and generally in my future career. I am interested so much in public space and how people experience it, but I am always closed at home to produce and produce. Is that the meaning? Sitting in that bench observing other people around me, I asked myself.: Why do you study and write about public space if you don't experience it? Literature study is important but reality and real life is much more significant. There are so many people here at that moment, mainly immigrants. I think probably I am the only one who is not immigrant and immediately I realize that I am an immigrant too, here. We are so many people here from different ages, different nationalities, but we interact with each other in a visual or physical way. An old woman with a headscarf passed by in front of me and she told me What a warm day in Dutch (Hopefully after 1.5 year here I can understand something) and I smiled to her.

Figure: The public space close to my home in Delft. View to the playground of the place. April 2018 | **Source:** photograph by author

By watching all these people and my personal interaction with them, started wondering what about the design of the place? How can it offer this diversity in users and appropriation? It seems so simple to me without many interventions, but it is so successful. So many questions come on my mind, I want to manage to have at least one such a successful proposal in my design. But how can I know that it will be successful? Is the evaluation board game that I will organize, a good evaluation method to criticize my designs? There are many times that I think that it is in the mentality of Greek people to not use parks and squares. I am so disappointed for that. How can I as an individual change the culture and the mentality of Greek people? Am I able to do that? Should I change it? It seems so difficult to make Greek people visit and stay in a public space apart from cafes. But if you don't try it, you cannot know the results. In this point, one of my favorite quotes, which I usually tell myself, fits. «Η μόνη αποτυχία στη ζωή είναι η αποτυχία να προσπαθήσεις.» (The only failure in life is the failure to try.)

While I was still sitting in my bench and writing my diary-reflection a woman came and I ask me again in Dutch if she can sit in the same bench and I answered, "of course yes". Then I thought how much social interaction a simple wooden bench can offer. But probably its design and its position in the place matter. Sometimes we think more complex than it should and possibly we put barriers in ourselves, since the ego of the designer comes to the surface. Personally, since I started studying architecture, I had the "fear of the vacancy". What I mean is that I find difficult to just put a bench and a tree in my design in order to make an attractive public space or to just leave a huge open space, empty without any element or use on it. However, people maybe need just simple things and they will find the way to appropriate the place if it offers them the essential qualities.

Moreover, during that time of contemplation in the bench, I was thinking that I do not consider myself a

Figure: People are sitting in the grass in groups, while children are playing football in the open area of the public space. Delft, . April 2018 | **Source:** photograph by author

typical Greek person and this personal characteristic struggled me during the whole design process. The reason is because the main focus of my project is how to design public spaces based on the socio-cultural background mainly of Greek people. Hence, during the design part of the thesis I was trying hard to be objective in the Greek mentality, needs and desires according to the opinions expressed during the interviews, observations and the online survey. Although, I tried it hard to be objective to what I have heard and know by Greek people, I think that the final outcome of the design of my testing locations includes also my desire on how a successful Greek public space would be like and a small influence by the design of the Dutch cities. Arguably, it is the ego of the designer which can not be vanished entirely. But, on the other hand, it is designer's responsibility to take into consideration the different opinions of different people and propose an intervention that he or she believes fits the best in what people want.

6th of May 2018

Again, here in the same public space but in different part of it, since the place where I used to sit is occupied. There is something like a festival, as the central part of the public space is full of temporary canopies, people are barbequing, eating, discussing, laughing and loud music is being played in the area. Apart from the central part, different companies of people have brought their own chairs or blankets, siting in the grass and enjoy the nice weather and the festival's atmosphere. Most of the times that I visited this place is appropriated by different users from different ages and in different ways. But would such kind of place function in Greece? Cultural mentality and weather conditions matter for a public space to be great. A characteristic example that I experienced and realized, while I was visiting this place is that here I am searching for the sun and I don't need a tree or canopy to protect me from the sunshine. On the other hand, the same period in Greece, I would search for a shaded space to sit so as to feel comfortable. So, what makes a great public space should differ all around the world, as people and climate differ.

After expressing some thoughts about the current project, its aim and generally me, I should follow again the rules and the instructions of the Graduation Manual regarding the reflection part.

Relationship between research and design

I dare say that even though the research has not a specific end during the progress of the current project, the alleged end of the research part after P2 and the transition to the design, so as to be a cohesive relationship between them was for me the most difficult part of the thesis. The fact that I used so many different research methods and I had so many different data to handle, struggled me a lot. Although the main focus of my thesis was quite clear from the beginning by putting into the table the issue of socio-cultural background as an important factor for the success of public spaces, my try to investigate so many different aspects of this subject and by using different methods, led me in a confusion. I didn't know how to start and from where, where I should pay more attention and where less. During this confused phase, the contribution of my mentors was very helpful. So, following my mentors' advice and feedback, I structured my thoughts quite fast to be on track again for the next phases.

Before the P2 phase, I considered design patterns as the most appropriate method to bridge the research with the design part. Especially, in my case when I realized that my major focus will be: sense of security, social interaction and inclusion, the design patterns seemed even more useful. The three main goals to be

achieved are more social than spatial-related. So, the design patterns were considered again as an appropriate way to transform these concepts into spatial and physical form. As there are many scholars who support that design patterns lead to generic solutions, I waned to avoid that by investigating more to the design even before the P2 phase. So, in my thesis the definition of the design patterns is an endless forth and back process between research and design with many cases starting the definition by literature review. Further, many of the design patterns were defined based on the study of Greek liveable examples and the repeating physical elements or features that make them successful and vibrant.

Reflecting so in the relationship between research and design in my project, I think that the "pressure" of my mentors to be really coherent in my design proposals with what I have mentioned in my research part, helped me a lot to develop a logical connection between them. Obviously, not all the information of the research part is represented in the design solutions, However, I tried to use as many data as possible.

Coming to the end of the project and because of my unfamiliarity with the design patterns and the difficulties that I confront to define them as precise as possible, I am wondering in which other way I could approach the design, so as cohesion between research and design to be achieved. Besides, I think that this approach is quite common, as there are not a few students that use it in their thesis.

Relationship between graduation project, studio topic and master track.

In my view this aspect needed be reflected is quite without reason, since Urbanism track gives you some lot possibilities to develop your interests and in different scales. Thus, I don't believe that in my project, even in any other project of the track there is not a relationship between the graduation topic and the track. So, in this part, I would like to repeat my opinion about Urbanism, which I had before starting my studies in Urbanism Track at Delft Technology University, Master of Science, Architecture, Urbanism and Building Sciences. Personally, I believe that urban design is much different from Architecture Design, as it doesn't be based only on aesthetic criteria and needs of the client but also on critical thought, so as to understand the conditions and the problems of cities and urban regions. I really find proper the procedure of urban design, as it progresses in steps (analysis of the surrounding area, localization of both its advantages and disadvantages, proposal of the solution). It is important to be referred that economic, political, cultural and social factors can also influence the proposal of a component solution through the development of innovative concepts and strategies. Moreover, urban design gives you the opportunity to work in different scales from a regional strategic vision to neighborhood redevelopments, including Architecture Design as well. So, I strongly believe that a master in urbanism, can cover in an adequate way a great part of architecture field.

After studying Urbanism in the Netherlands, my view about urban studies is more or less the same. But I would like to mention that in Greece the courses of Urban Design were focused more in the analysis and the design part, which were structured in consecutive steps. On the other hand, in the Netherlands, I have taught another approach, where more attention is paid to the research and the relationship between research and design, without following steps in a row. However, research and design are two components that work parallel. Further, I think that here not so much emphasis is given in the design outcome, by meaning the physical form, the materiality, the urban connections etc. The methods for the design are the most important part. As Mr Maurice Harteveld told me in one of our meetings, if you break your leg, you will go to the doctor and he will give you the solution by putting you plaster, the color of it does not really matter. It is your own choice which color you will choose to have. The most important element is the structure. Thus, in my graduation project I tried to combine my previous studies with what I have learned here.

As I mentioned above economic, political, cultural and social factors play a significant role in urban design and planning. However, in my current project not so much attention was given to political and economical factors. Moreover, the track demands a multi-scalar approach in the design, which is not present in my project, as well. The fact that my project has to do with Greece and in Greece interventions in small scale work better, led me to be involved only with interventions in the scale of the public space, with a small reference to the scale of the city. This does not mean that during the process I was not thinking about the whole city, because you can not propose public spaces that are totally disconnected from each other or there are not the appropriate infrastructures in the city scale to facilitate them.

As for the relation of my graduation topic with the studio topic, from the beginning I thought that there is not other studio that fits me better. The scale of interventions, the focus on the social and cultural aspects and freedom to choose your own topic in which location you want around the world were the initial factors that made me chose the studio "Design of Urban Fabric" and the main connection of my topic with the studio. Moreover, the fact that the

graduation studio "Design of Urban Fabric" offers the possibility to develop and test research by design was an action that I started before P2 phase.

Elaboration on research method and approach chosen by the student in relation to the graduation studio

The Urban Fabric Research Group as it is open in different urban issues, suggests various methods to approach your own project. In my project, I used several of them. As my topic has more a social dimension, social analysis was an important part of the whole project. For the social analysis, I used interviews and observations. Although, I managed to talk with 132 people in the city of Chania, 123 of them were local people. I think that as one of my target groups is tourists, I would have to interview also them and not concentrate only on locals and immigrants. As for the immigrants and the "undesirables", as it was mentioned in the Methodology chapter, I confronted problems of communication with the first, while with the second group, despite I tried it, my comfort zone somehow was disrupted. So, I did not manage to have an appropriate sample of my initial target groups. As for the observations, unfortunately due to time, distance and financial limitations I visited the city of Chania only once and for 3.5 days. Thus, although the observations were quite helpful to understand how the different users appropriate the different spaces and to have a general idea for the public spaces of Chania, I don't consider it as a totally well-documented method in my project. What I mean is that in order observations to be a more well-argued method, it would be preferable to observe these places not only during weekdays but also weekends. Moreover, probably the day of the week and the weather conditions also matter. As a result, it would be better if I had other people helping me and observe all the places at the same time. In the end, as seasonality is an important factor for the public life of Chania, it would be interesting to have a comparison to the appropriation of these spaces between the touristic and non-touristic season.

Apart from the social-oriented methods, I used other methods, as well. As for example, online survey, study of Greek liveable examples, design patterns and evaluation board game and survey.

As far as the online survey is concerned, I think I didn't really prepare the questions so well. Since, I was unfamiliar to how to conduct an online survey, I had to study more literature on how to conduct an appropriate survey. One example is that although the 0-10 scale system is considered the most successful in rating, I used a scale from 1 to 10, skipping the value 0. Additionally, I had as a feedback from quite a few respondents that the images of the public spaces in the second part were not so clear to evaluate all the criteria, they asked for, especially for those who are not residents of Chania or have never visited the city. However, despite these difficulties, from the results it was proved that there were not deviations between the values of residents and non-residents.

The method of studying the Greek liveable examples was an important guideline for inspiring me about spatial interventions that function properly in Greek reality. Despite some of them were recommendations of friends that experience them, others were based on online research regarding as suitable factor the presence of people in them. So, the approach of the online search might lead me in wrong choices since the organization of an event or a festivity has a result people to be gathered there.

Design patterns are the bridge of research and design, but this bridge was so difficult to be constructed. When I decided to use this approach by seeing other thesis as reference examples, I thought it was an easy method to handle, especially concerning the definition of patterns. As my three main categories, sense of security, social interaction and inclusion are highly interrelated to each other, every time that I had to determine the patterns in each category many of them were repeating again and again. Obviously, a design pattern can not only influence only one of the main categories, but I had to make clear in which category they belong better. Additionally, sense of security and its correlation with design patterns is quite common approach, but in the categories social interaction and especially inclusion was so difficult to fix the appropriate patterns. To transform these two into spatial form is not so well-investigated in literature studies or I did not manage to find the accurate bibliography.

Apart from the various methods, used to define the project and its proposal, it was important for me to find a method to evaluate my design. When you are occupied so many months with the same project, it is difficult to get detached from it and have an objective reflection. In this regard, I came up with the idea of a board game as an evaluation method by people who are not designer. For me just, going out and ask their opinion for my design was not enough. I consider that asking just questions to people, who are not specialists quite questionable as for their answers. Because even if you ask a designer: "Do you like this place? Why yes, why not?", it is difficult to answer, let alone a non-specialist.

I thought that through a more interactive and playful way, it would be easier for people to give feedback and answer in questions in the process of a game session. Due to financial limita-

tions to visit Chania during the touristic period, the board game was played in my home town, Alexandroupolis, a waterfront medium city in the northern Greece. Obviously, to have the opinions of people who live in Chania, it would be a better form for evaluating my design proposals. However, as the main goal of the project is to reclaim public space in modern Greece according to the socio-cultural background and needs of Greek people and Chania was just my case study, generally the opinions of other Greek people matter. In the end, it was proven a good choice to go in my home town, since the game lasted 2.5-3 hours. It would be really difficult to approach strangers in Chania just to play a game that last so long.

Although I was really excited to construct my own game, it was proved that the whole procedure of construction was super time and mental demanding. It was so challenging to construct a board game referred to non-specialist, non-designers to be entertaining and at the same time to help me evaluate not only my design proposals in the testing locations but also the design patterns. During this phase I was writing and writing the rules of the game, I had some try-outs that helped me to rewrite the rules, change things in the visualization of the game etc.

After P4, I was missing the design of a last square and many extra things that I did not expect, were asked to do. The construction of the game lasted much more than I expected, so I don't think that it is in its final edition and I did not manage to play it with the number of people that I had as goal in the beginning. For example, the foreigners who would represent the view of tourists, in order to compare their choices with those of Greeks, as players were skipped, since there was not enough time to play with them.

Despite of the difficulties in constructing the game and the exhausting period, the whole process of construction helped me a lot to make my own evaluation and reflection on my proposals. So, not only the results of the game sessions, but also the procedure of creating the game was an evaluation method.

But as I am that kind of person that "nothing is enough" and I really love what I am doing now (the first project after 8.5 years of studies that I don't want to come to an end), I wanted to have another way of evaluation method more number-oriented. Thus, I conducted again an online survey in the same way with the first one. Greek people had to evaluate the same 10 criteria using again the same rating scale 1-10, based on one image-collage of the proposals, this time.

Although I had into my mind the problems with the scale, which did not include 0 and that only one image can not be comprehensible for the assessment of all the criteria, I used the same methods, as I wanted the results of the two surveys to be comparable. Another concern was the sample. I needed 103 people to have the same sample with the previous one. However, the survey was uploaded for fist time on 21st of June. Due to my intense desire to be comprehensive and thanks to my relatives and friends, the survey in a week was completed by 109 people. (if you want something a lot, with a big attempt you can manage it). Of course, not the same people who filled out the previous survey participated (30% participated in the previous one), but I couldn't control this. So, for the comparison between the existing and proposed situation, the same statistical methods were used taking into account the 103 first answers of the evaluation survey.

Summing up, this project helped me a lot to broaden my horizons, as far as the research methods are concerned. Further, the possibility that track of urbanism gives to use my imagination in my studies in different ways (e.g. collages presented as postcards, the rules of application the design patterns into "playing" cards, the construction of the board game), it was one of the most exciting parts.

Since I was 10 years old, I wanted to be an architect and I was so keen on this field. But after this project and my occupation with so many research methods that I have never used before, I realized that I am passionate for research in urbanism, and specifically in public space.

Elaboration on the relationship between the graduation project and the wider social, professional and scientific framework.

A qualitative and attractive public space, its appropriation and its importance for people are issues that have concerned and still concerns many people from different disciplines. So, the topic of my thesis is another small keystone in the investigations of the social and urban meaning of public space. What is unique in my case is that the center of attention is the Greek people, a country that belongs to Mediterranean but also to Balkans. From the literature studies, it was clear that much attention all these years was paid in the USA and the Northern Countries, with the first investigations in Mediterranean in 1992 by Manuel de Sola Morales. Another academic who dealt with the public space in the area of the Mediterranean, but he is not so well-known, as his work has never translated in English is Bernado Secchi. He studied "[...] the fundamental issue of "comment vivre ensemble" (how to live together)". Further, "[...] he reflected on socio-spatial distance, multicultural existence and social inequalities to what he used to call "the new urban question." (Boano & Astolfo, n.d.) The delayed discovery of him and the language limitations (Italian) made me not include him in my literature review regard-

ing the definition of the term public space.

What is intensely highlighted in my thesis, is that socio-cultural background really matters for what a good public space is and how it can be appropriated. In spite of the great contribution of Gehl in the issues of public life and public space, I disagree with his statement that all people are the same and if you offer them a good place they will use it. Even though, my topic focuses on the Greek context, I think that my view that culture and mentality matter for the successful use of public space can contribute to the wider social and scientific context. Urban designers, planner and architects should take into consideration that locality and people are important, and they should stop reproducing successful models of other countries.

Especially, in Greece during the period of recession more and more people started to claim their rights for public space and turn towards it. So, through this project which is dedicated to Greek people, an attempt for inspiration and activation of Greek public spaces in Greek cities is made. The social and spatial reinforcement of public space in relation to the socio-cultural background and needs of Greek people, taking into consideration existing conflicts between public and private space, can contribute to Greek cities regaining their democratic public space in terms of the modern society.

Concluding, the present thesis makes and attempt and offers the motivation for investigating what Greek public space is. Much attention was paid in the ancient Greek democratic public space. Why not to the public spaces of modern Greece? Its country or region has a different image for what public space is. Besides, as there are approaches for public spaces not for individual countries but for more expanded regions, such as America, Northern countries, Mediterranean, having as a starting point the Greek context, further investigation to Balkan countries with their unique identity can be proposed.

Dilemmas encountered in elaborating the design and potential applications of the results in practice

In comparison to my design graduation project in Greece, in this project I tried to be more realistic in my design proposals, by considering the existing situation of the public spaces in the city and the financial situation of the country. One dilemma that concerned me during the whole process of the design was mentioned above and refers to my design proposals. Did I really respect the Greek mentality and needs, or I design the public spaces that I would like to experience in Greece? Another aspect, which troubled me a lot and especially by watching other final presentations of my studio from previous students is if it is clear the bridge between research and design or there is always a small gap between them. In the end, although I used two different ways of evaluation for my design patterns and proposals for the squares and both had positive results, I am always concerned about my solutions, they seem to me utopian, especially for the case of Greece. Probably, I am not the only one that have these thoughts. In the second online survey, people had to leave an optional comment.

Except for the nice words and congratulations for the proposals, three were the comments which really drew my attention. A woman between 26-40, resident of Chania mentioned: The point is not to stick to simple sketches, graphs or utopian suggestions but to apply then in reality! A man from Chania again between 26-40 years old, stated: The creation of images for how each place would be is really inspired. However, at the same time, it is quite hypothetical and based on the imagination of each individual observer how each place would be in reality. In the end. In the end, a man between 41-65 again from Chania, used some lyrics of a Greek song, showing his disappointment for the Greek reality and there is no hope for changes. Particularly, he wrote: Dreams of Summer Night ... "The penthouses and the cements will eat us (Greek expression meaning briefly will destroy us), we all became robots, barba (Father) Thanasi and our hearts have become cellophane", as the lyrists says...

As for the potential applications of the results in practice, I think that it needs time and redesigns to persuade the local authorities for your design. Many times, local authorities think more with the economical aspect in their minds and not so much with the social, although each of them can influence the other. Moreover, in Greece the acceptance of a plan till its implementation and competition require really a long-time period. This opinion is supported more or less also by a Greek architect in Chania, who was asked about the implementation of the design patterns in practice. However, some of the participatory designs would be nice to be tested and probably it would be a trigger for greater and more organized interventions.

Summing up, I think that the majority of Greek people are disappointed with the existing situation and especially after the crisis even more, since it lasts 10 years now. Public projects are difficult to happen, but even the maintenance of the existing urban facilities and public spaces in general is neglected. The local authorities and the governance of Greece don't pay so much attention to public spaces. So, as me, most Greeks can not believe in change. But probably, if we don't try as individuals, the situation will never change.

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For all the statistical Greek data, such as population of cities, information was retrieved from the Hellenic Statistical Authority.

For the collages, people png files were retrieved from the following websites:
http://skalgubbar.se/
http://www.escalalatina.com/todos/
https://www.mrcutout.com/people-cutouts

The various **icons, vector files** were retrieved from:
https://thenounproject.com/

18 APPENDIX

Before - After image/Collage in the west side of 1866 Square

Before - After image/Collage in the east side of 1866 Square

Here, some first attempts of designing the testing locations before the P2 phase are visible. Design has started in such an early stage in order ideas for the design patterns to come up. The definition of the patterns in the current thesis is based on both research and design to avoid generic solutions. In the next pages, some of the parts of the evaluation will be presented. Namely, the new layout of the sub-patterns after the evaluation through the construction of the board game, including now 77 sub-patterns with some new logos. Moreover, the individual choices of the 20 and 25 sub-patterns respectively (citizen, designer) of the players would be displayed.

Collage of Market square

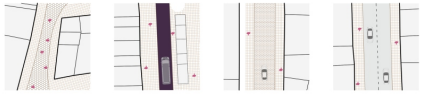
Collage of Alkistis Agorastaki's Park

17.1 FLYER OF THE BOARD GAME FOR *SENSE OF SECURITY*

Πεζοί και όχι αυτοκίνητα / People over cars

1. Διαφορετικοί είδη δρόμων / Different types of streets

1 πεζόδρομος pedestrian street
2 για λεωφορεία bus lane
3 τοπικός δρόμος local street
4 αυτοκινητόδρομος main traffic street



2. Ξεκάθαρα όρια μεταξύ δρόμων και πεζόδρομων / Clear borders between vehicle and pedestrian streets

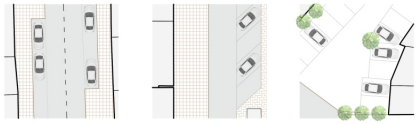
5 υψομετρική διαφορά height differentiation
6 διαφορετικά υλικά δαπέδου materials differentiation
7 γλάστρες & δέντρα flower pots & trees

3. Εμποδίζοντας τα αμάξια να παρκάρουν στα πεζοδρόμια / Blocking cars from parking on sidewalks

8 χώροι στάθμευσης ποδηλάτων parking areas for bikes

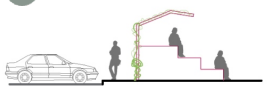
4. Οργανωμένοι χώροι στάθμευσης / Organised parking areas/lots

9 κατά μήκος των πεζοδρομίων along the sidewalks
10 κατά μήκος τμήματος πλατειών along a part of the square
11 οργανωμένοι χώροι στάθμευσης organised parking areas



5. Κρύβοντας τα παρκαρισμένα αυτοκίνητα / Hiding parking cars

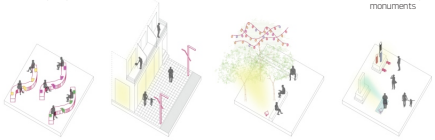
12 κερκίδες με φυτεμένους τοίχους bleachers with green walls



Εργαστήρι φωτεισμού / Light lab

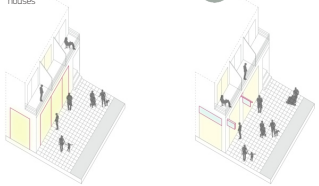
1. Διαφορετικοί είδη φώτων / Different types of lighting

13 παγκάκια με φως lighting benches
14 περισσότερα φωτιστικά more luminaries
15 χρωματιστά φωτάκια colorful light bees
16 φωτισμός στα αξιοθέατα (high)Lighting monuments



2. Ενεργές λειτουργίες μπροστά στο δρόμο / Active functions facing the street

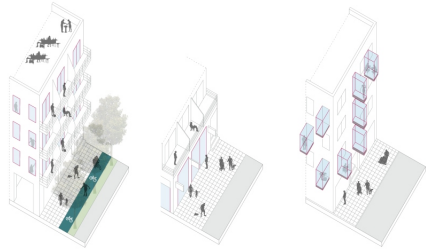
17 φωτεινές βιτρίνες και φώτα από τα σπίτια illuminated shopping windows and houses
18 φωτεινές εμπορικές πινακίδες illuminated commercial signs



24/7 ασφάλεια / 24/7 safe

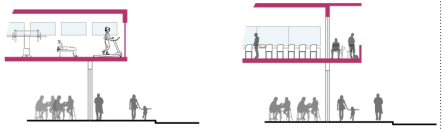
1. Αρχιτεκτονική με τίποτα να κρύψει / Architecture with nothing to hide

19 μέγιστη χρήση γυαλιού σε κατοικίες maximum residential transparency
20 εμπορικές βιτρίνες retail transparency
21 γυάλινοι χώροι glass boxes



2. Ενεργές και διαφορετικές χρήσεις κατά μήκος του δρόμου / Active and diverse land uses along the street

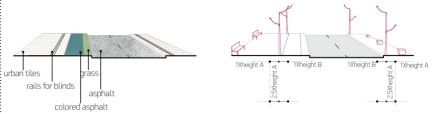
22 γυμναστήριο 24/7 24/7 gym
23 χώρος δουλειάς -διαβάσματος working-studying lab



Εξωτερικοί χώροι συγκέντρωσης / Gathering outdoor spaces

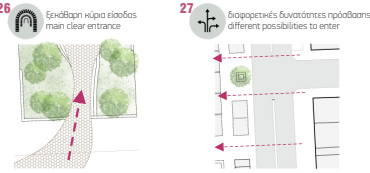
1. Χώροι που μπορείς να τον περπατήσεις εύκολα / Walkable

24 σωστή χρήση υλικών proper use of materials
25 σωστές αποστάσεις μεταξύ αστικού εξοπλισμού proper distances among urban facilities



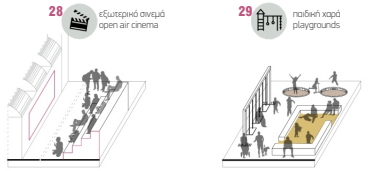
2. Φυσικά και οπτικά προσβάσιμοι χώροι / Physical and visual accessible spaces

26 ξεκάθαρη κύρια είσοδος main clear entrance
27 διαφορετικές δυνατότητες πρόσβασης different possibilities to enter



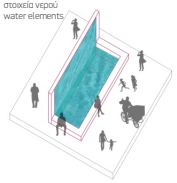
3. Οργανωμένοι χώροι συγκέντρωσης / Organized gathering points

28 εξωτερικό σινεμά open air cinema
29 παιδική χαρά playgrounds

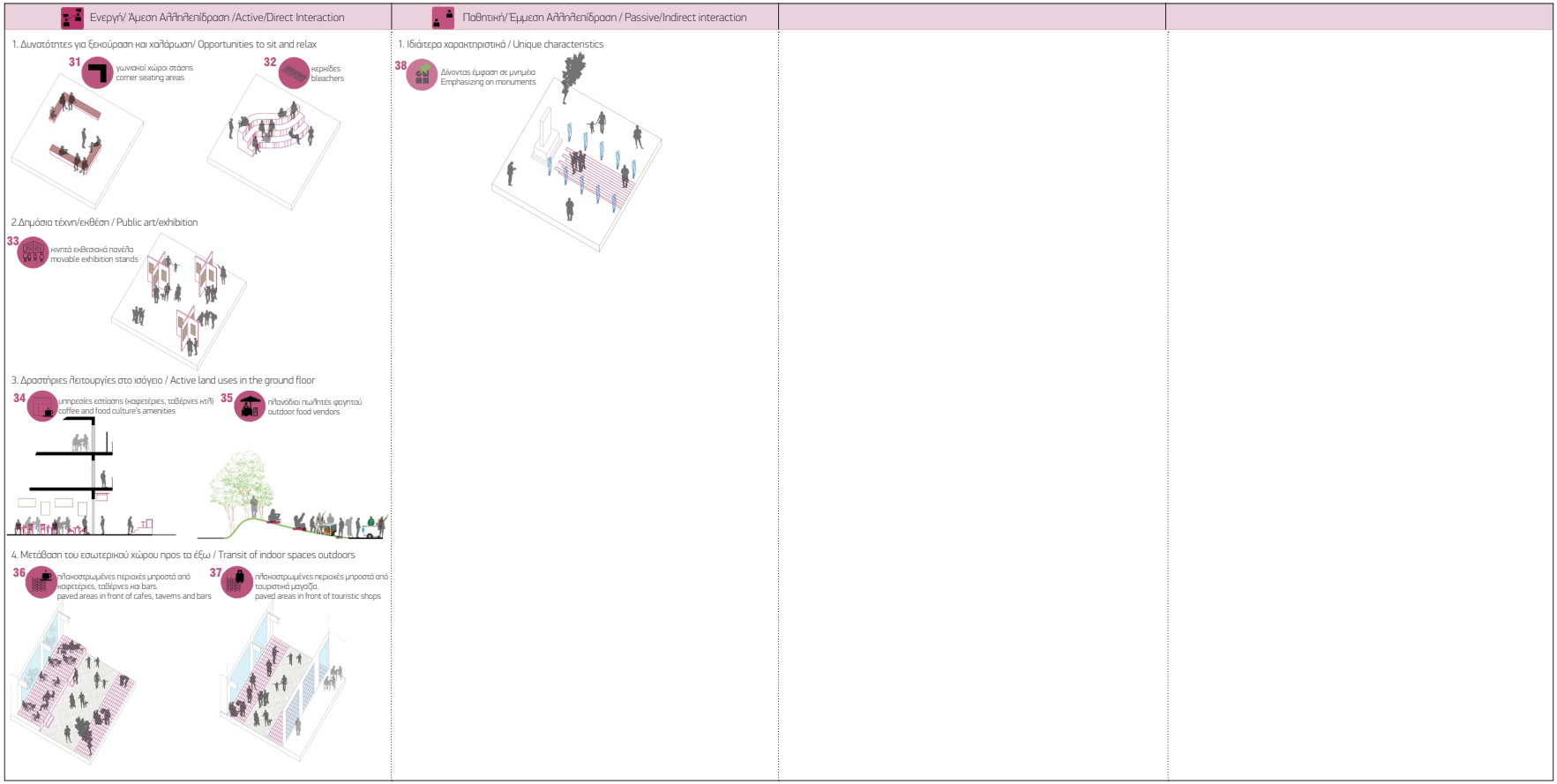


4. Δυνατότητα βίωσης των θετικών πλευρών του καιρού / Opportunity to experience positive aspects of climate

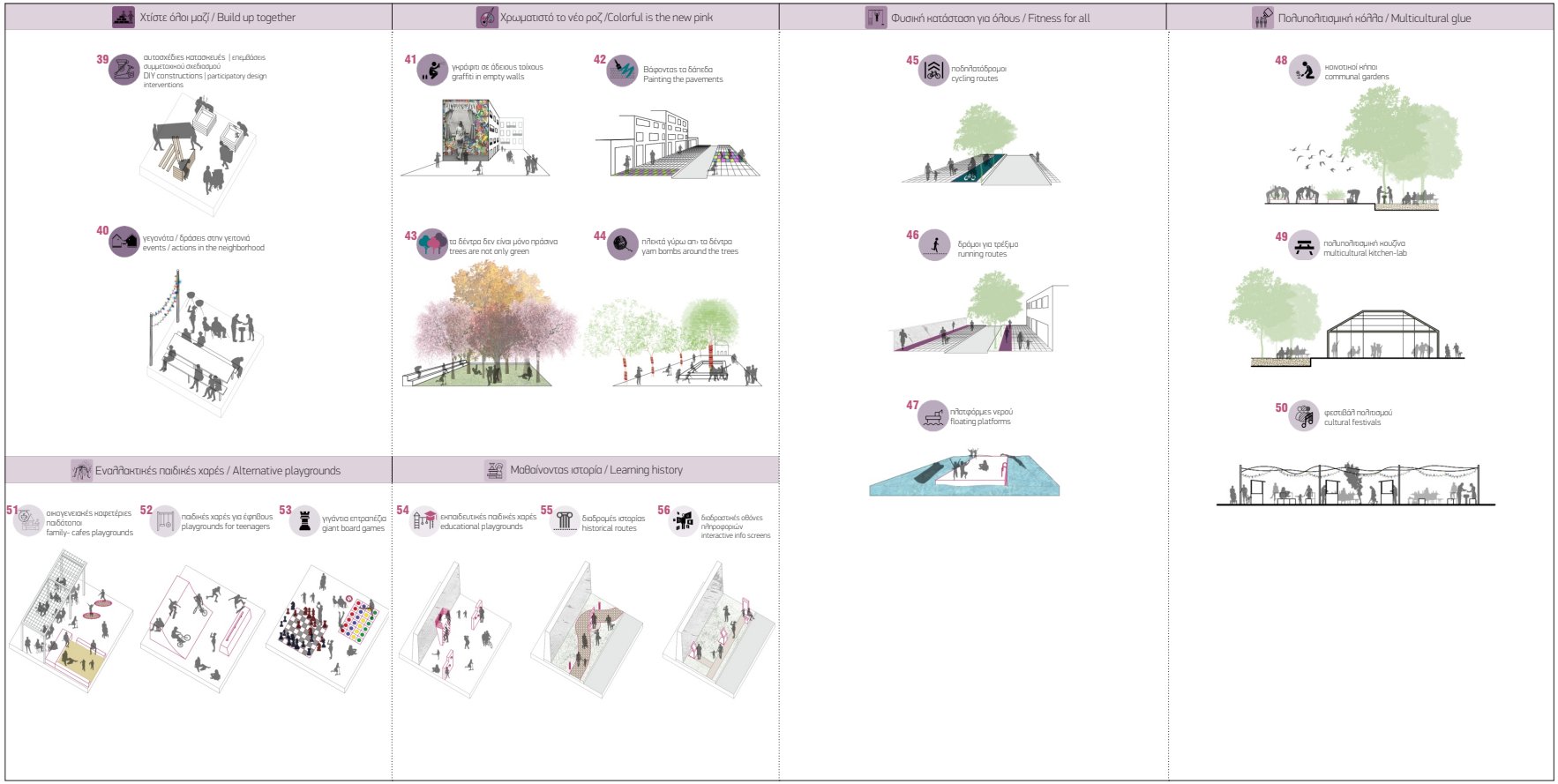
30 στοιχεία νερού water elements



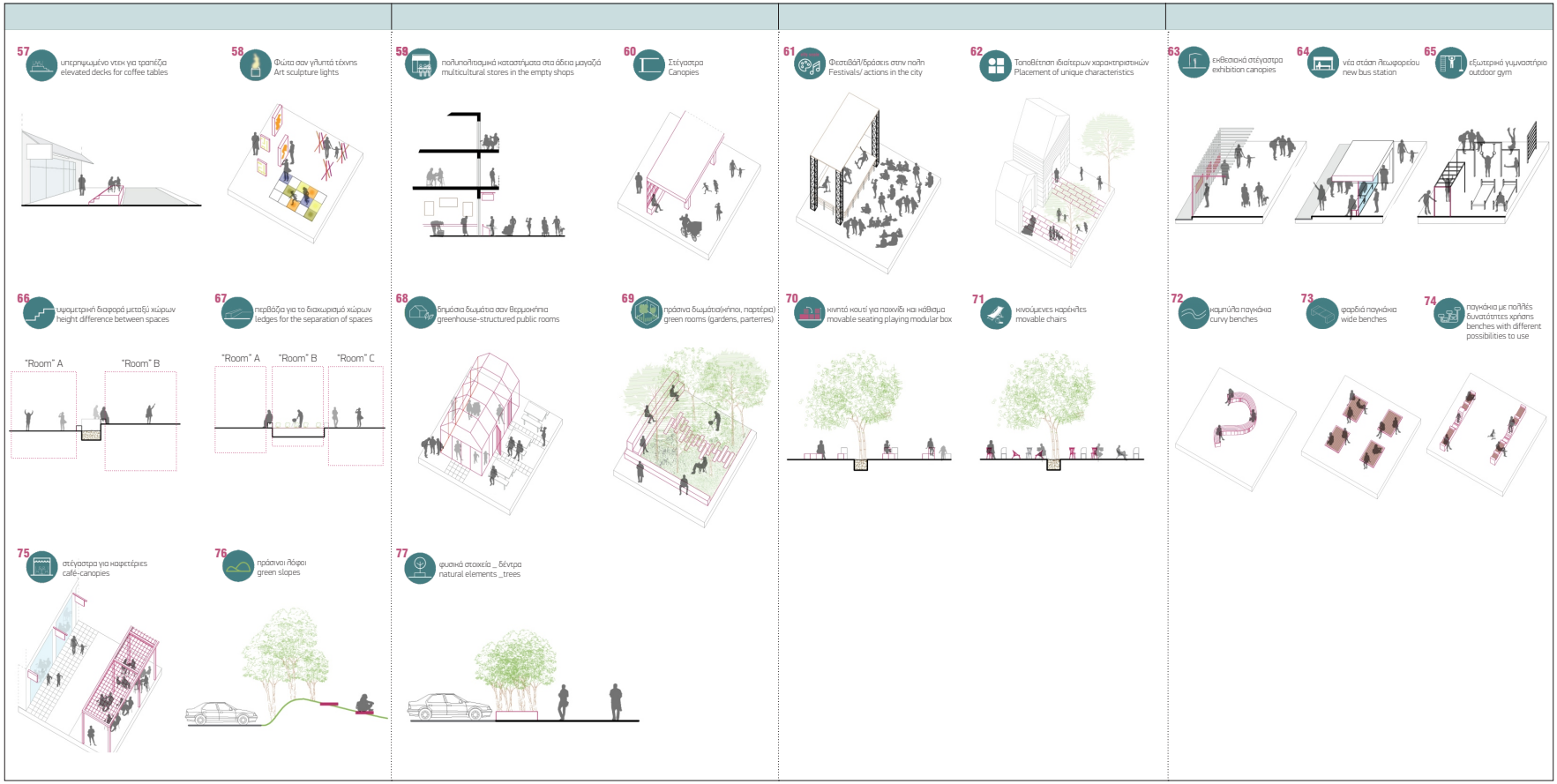
17.2 FLYER OF THE BOARD GAME FOR *SOCIAL INTERACTION*



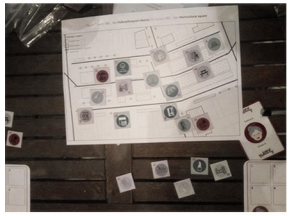
17.3 FLYER OF THE BOARD GAME FOR *SOCIAL INCLUSION*



17.4 FLYER OF THE BOARD GAME FOR *COMBINED PATTERNS*



17.5 PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE GAME SESSIONS



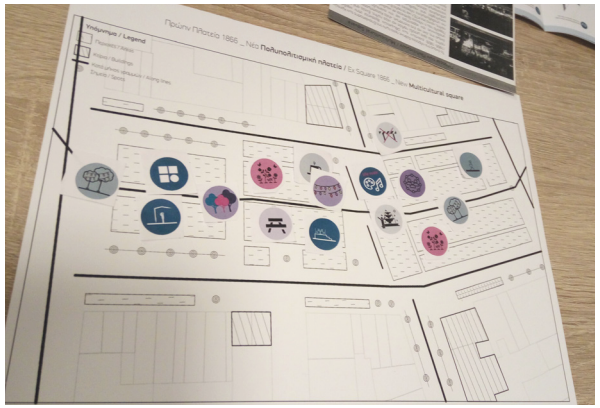
SECOND TRY-OUT

Player 1 _ citizen (Spanish + Greek, 26-40)

Player 2 _ citizen (Greek, 26-40)

Player 3 _ designer (Colombian + Greek, 26-40)

CHOICE OF SQUARE: 1866



GAME SESSION A

Player 1 _ citizen (Greek, 0-15)

Player 2 _ citizen (Greek, 0-15)

CHOICE OF SQUARE: 1866

GAME SESSION B

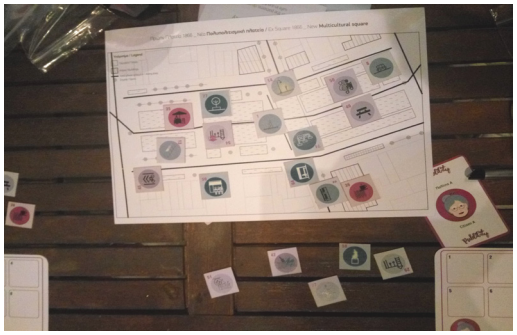
Player 1 _ citizen (Greek, 26-40)

Player 2 _ citizen (Greek, 16-25)

Player 3 _ designer (Greek, 26-40)

Player 4 _ citizen (Greek, 0-15)

CHOICE OF SQUARE: 1866



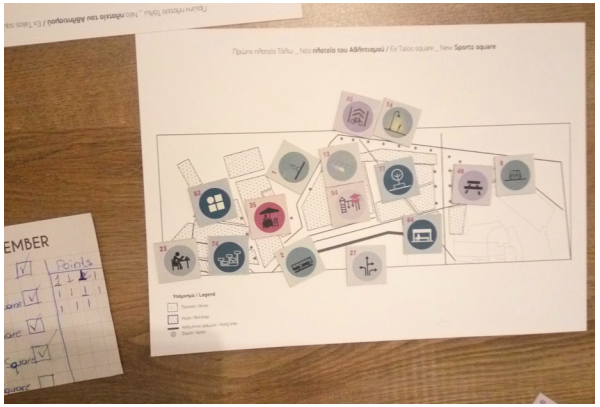
GAME SESSION C

Player 1 _ citizen (Greek, 26-40)

Player 2 _ citizen (Greek, 0-15)

Player 3 _ designer (Greek, 26-40)

CHOICE OF SQUARE: TALOS



GAME SESSION D

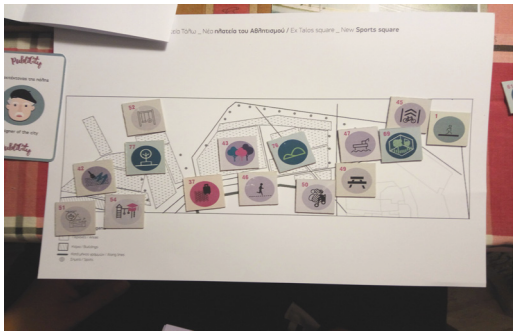
Player 1 _ citizen (Greek, 26-40)

Player 2 _ citizen (Greek, 26-40)

Player 3 _ designer (Greek, 41-65)

Player 4 _ citizen (Greek, 41-65)

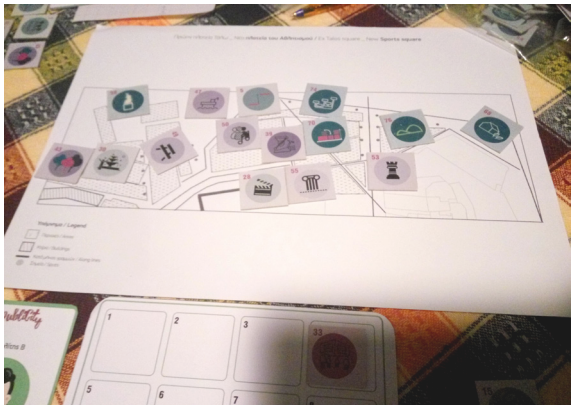
CHOICE OF SQUARE: TALOS



GAME SESSION E

Player 1 _ citizen (Greek, 26-40)

Player 2 _ citizen (Greek, 26-40)

Player 3 _ designer (Indian, 26-40)

CHOICE OF SQUARE: TALOS