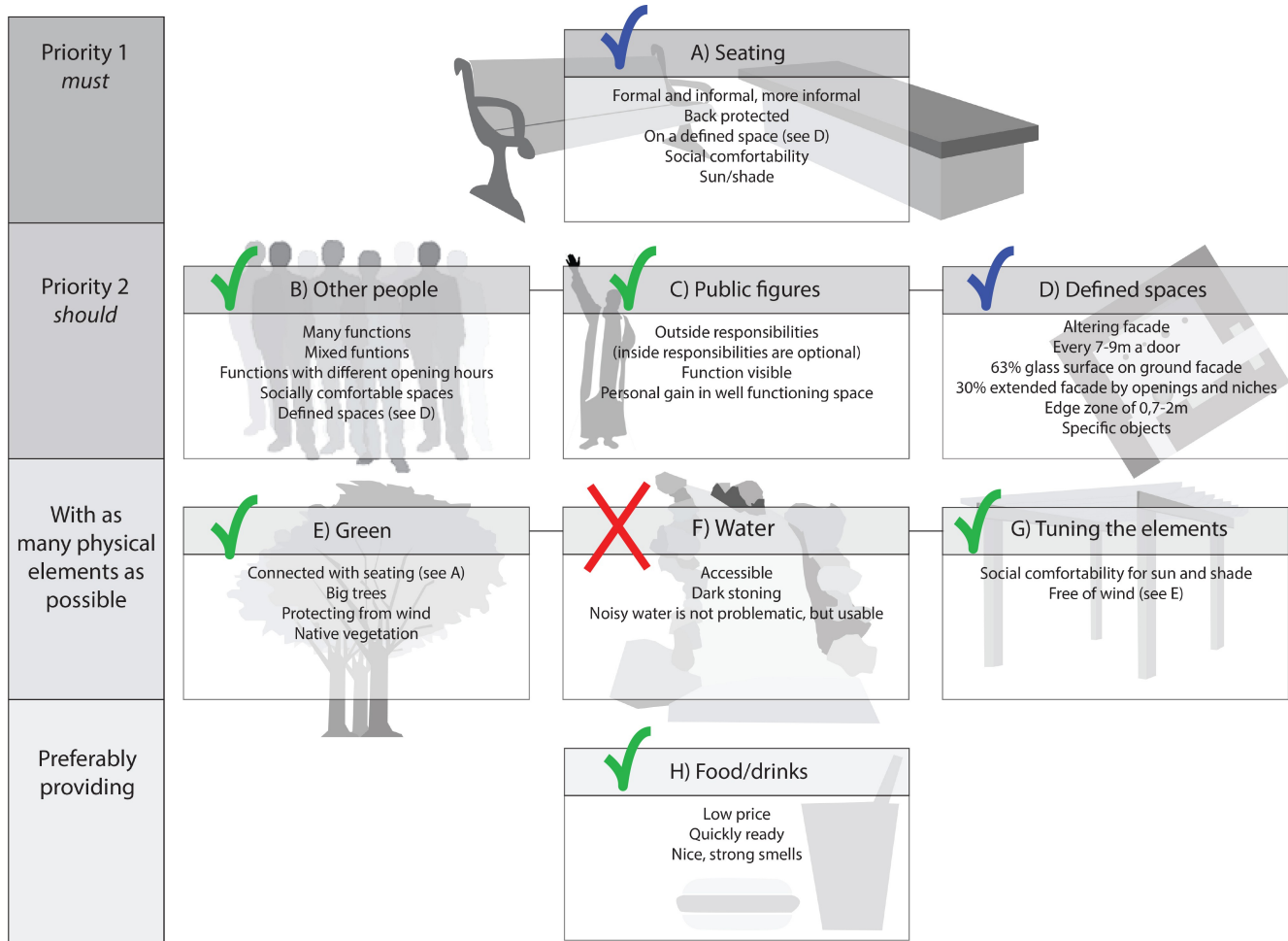


# Reflection

P3-Presentation | Martinus van Uden | 1 April 2016

During the research period a toolbox was developed to use during the design. The toolbox contains three parts. The first is a list of elements to be used during the design to gather people in public. The second is a set of conditions where the whole of the design must live up to. The last part is a set of elements to create conversation in public.



## 1. Elements for gathering

The number one priority of this design is seating. Seating has become the dominant element of the design. The stairs with their blocks for sitting are scattered across the plan. These are all informal seating elements. The next step is to add formal seating. When this properly done, some benches will contain a back, where some won't, creating social comfortability.

The element of other people is not really checkable without building the building. Nevertheless, there are several aspects covered to assume that the building will be used throughout the day by a diversity of people. This can be found in the variety of functions, as well as the fact that traffic is been taken care of underground, thus creating a pedestrian paradise.

Public figures is in regard of reflection similar. There are several places where it would be logical to get

public figures (food sale, library organisation), but someone becomes a public figure by the sense of trust. This is not really an architectural matter.

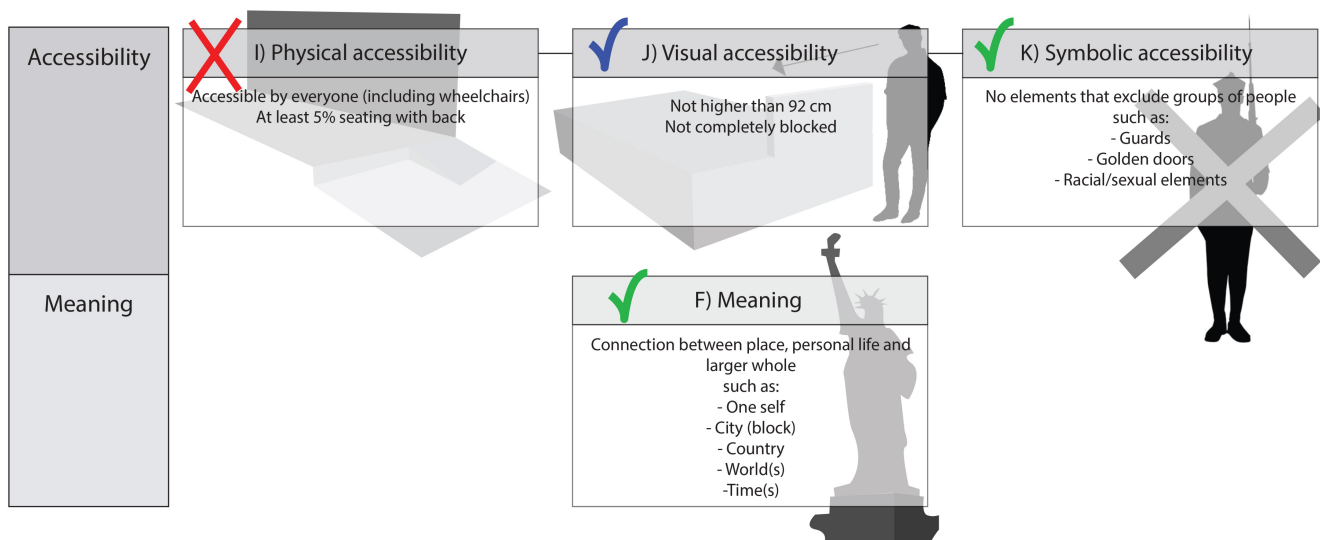
The whole square consists of several individual parts that are flexible to create their own atmosphere. The actual atmosphere should start differing at certain places. This could be done by adding wall paintings, sculptures, bas reliefs on the wall, adding trees, benches... It is simply the next step to really define spaces.

The green is an essential part of the building, one of the main elements. The green could be taken further outside, making it an essential part of the ground floor of the square. Then truly a green route could be formed.

A prominent water element is completely missing. Maybe this could still be added. Maybe climate design will make it logical to add one. At the moment there is not a logical place to put one though.

Tuning the elements is done by offering seating spaces both in the sun and the shade, depending on the moment of the day. The square consists of various tiny squares, that will be probably be free of wind.

Lastly, the gathering element of food and drinks is covered by adding several types of food selling points throughout the building, creating an option for everyone.



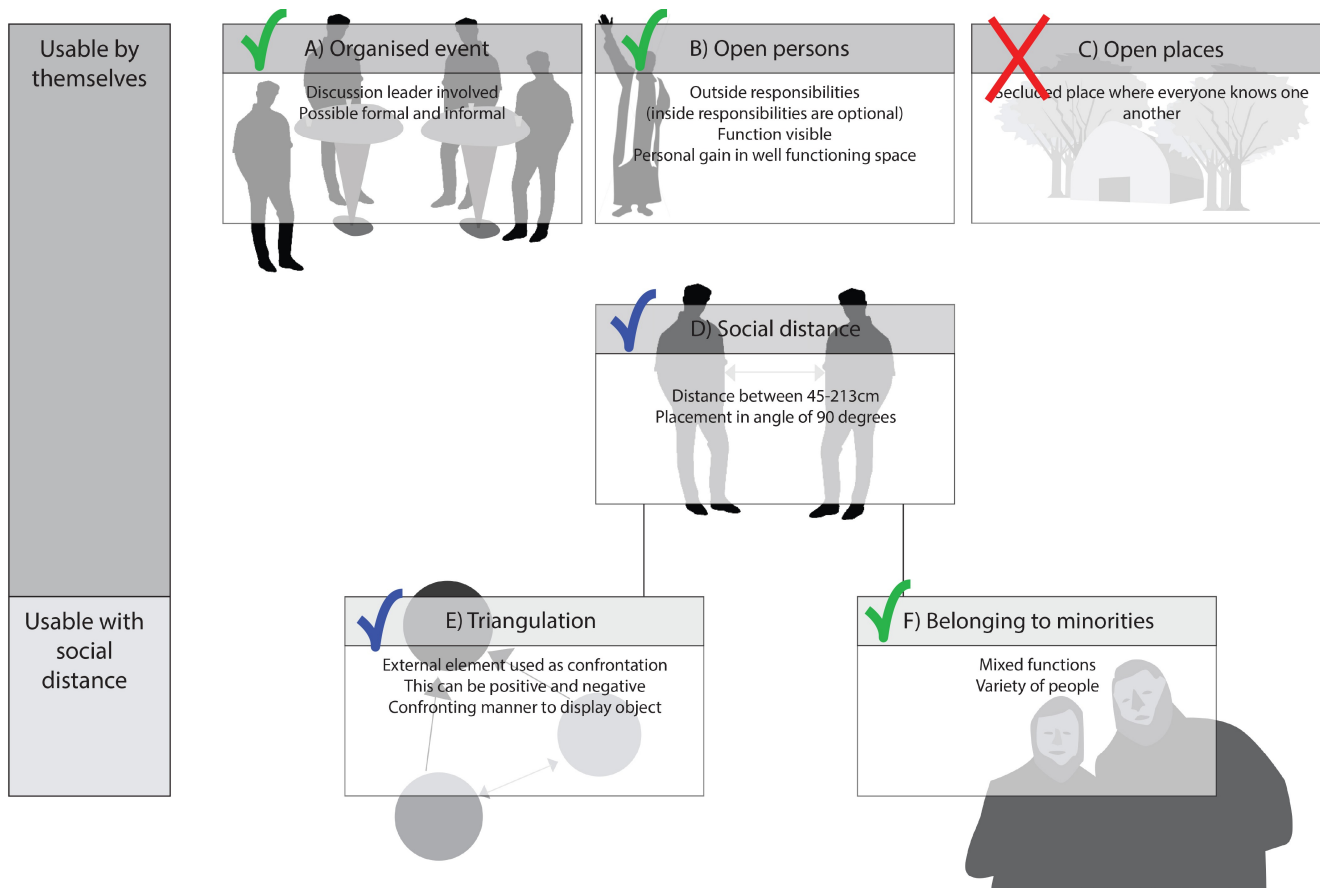
## 2. Design conditions

The element of physical accessibility is quite neglected. Since stairs are one of the main attraction points, wheelchairs will have a hard job going through the building. Prominent elevator shafts need to be added.

The visual accessibility is mostly available from the higher parts to the lower. At the moment it is hard to actually see what is going on on higher levels. This is adaptable without much ado though.

The symbolic accessibility is covered with the continuous flows of material from outside to inside. The exhibition in the west part of the building has no doors at all, making it ultimately symbolically accessible. The fact that the rooftops of the building are an essential part of outside space, creates a huge symbolic accessibility.

Meaning can be found in the fact that the building is responsive to several needs of the public. It can also be sought in the rare element of green in the city, the meaning of public debate in the city, or the worth of the exhibition.



### 3. Conversation stimuli

The element of organised events is covered with the function of the theatre and the big screens that will be used for public debate. If the events will actually be organised is not an architectural question, the setting is created that it can easily be done.

Open persons, or public figures, have good reason to be part of this library, as is explained before. The fact of people becoming open persons, is due to a sense of trust and not an architectural question.

The building is not an open space, nor should it be. Open spaces cause conversation in a place that is not truly public in the Habermasian sense of the word. Since the goal here is to create a truly public space, this element can be neglected in this specific context.

The square is divided into several smaller parts. Every smaller part is still bigger than the ultimate social distance to start conversation. Tactically adding furniture, green or water elements, or benches could solve this.

Triangulation is also a factor that should be worked out further in detail before one could state that it is available. The design does already hold exhibition space, which is good for causing triangulation. If this will actually trigger conversation is mostly due to the way the exhibition is displayed, which needs

to be worked out. What does work is the staging of the scene. One can easily look down on other people a start conversation about them.

The element of belonging to minorities is covered by the fact that the building is located at a truly public location, where people of all different subcultures gather. Apart from that, the mixing of functions stresses that concept.

As a whole one could state that almost all design tools are used in the design or will be easily implemented when designing more in detail. The element of physical accessibility is most important to solve quickly.