

/Thinking the transition 1.

– After all, we do not design the physical and aesthetically settings of life alone, we create frames and horizons of experiencing our existence and daily life as well as of understanding and developing ourselves. – (Pallasmaa, 2009)

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#1

Leiden

Personal
Observation

|

*“The mental
memory as
base”*

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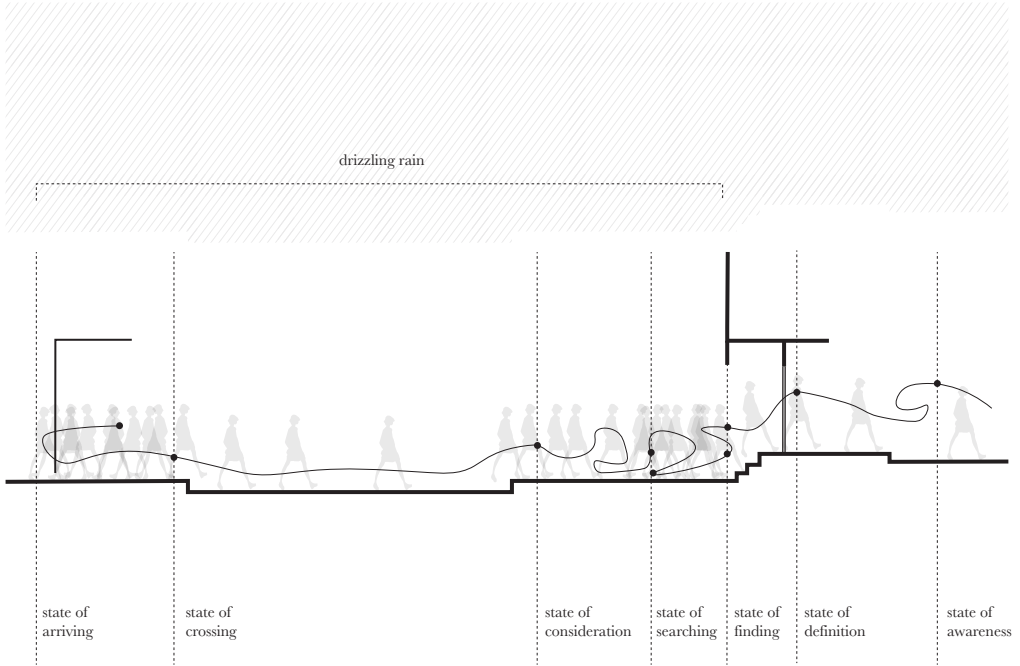
/Thinking the transition 1.

“The mental memory as base”

The first transition site developed during one of the first weeks, when discussing about transition spaces and the importance of the architectural elements that speak through their form, materialization and scale. By using this architectural compositions and conditions, we move ourselves to our destinations. As well we use the composition of architectural elements as recognition points and make relations with previous situations form our memory. For example the main entrance is most of the time situated at the front of the building, which can be recognized by the bigger road or pedestrian path.

The first transition site is situated in the city centre of Leiden, where I was supposed to have dinner with a friend on an evening in September. This location is chosen because it remained in my memory as an unpleasant experience. Not being able to define the entrance of the restaurant also made it emotionally feel longer. The external condition, drizzling rain, caused frustration. The location is based in the most urban area of Leiden, where many stores and restaurants are located. This shop streets are interspersed with stately historical buildings.

For this experiment I used my own perception to analyse the transition by using the memory. This allows me to draw the elements and situations which are remembered most. This creates a broader understanding of the transition and the importance of the external conditions and the conditions of the these architectural elements. This first transition site as well is used to get grip on the research process and the potential of the subject in daily life architecture. Moving from one place to the other is applied on different scales and keeps us busy the whole day. We leave home to go to work, in our work environment we go to the coffee machine and at home we move from one space to the other. Transition is part of the daily routine, we are unaware of it and take this places for granted. By using the memory, your automatically name the elements which are different than in the ordinary situation.

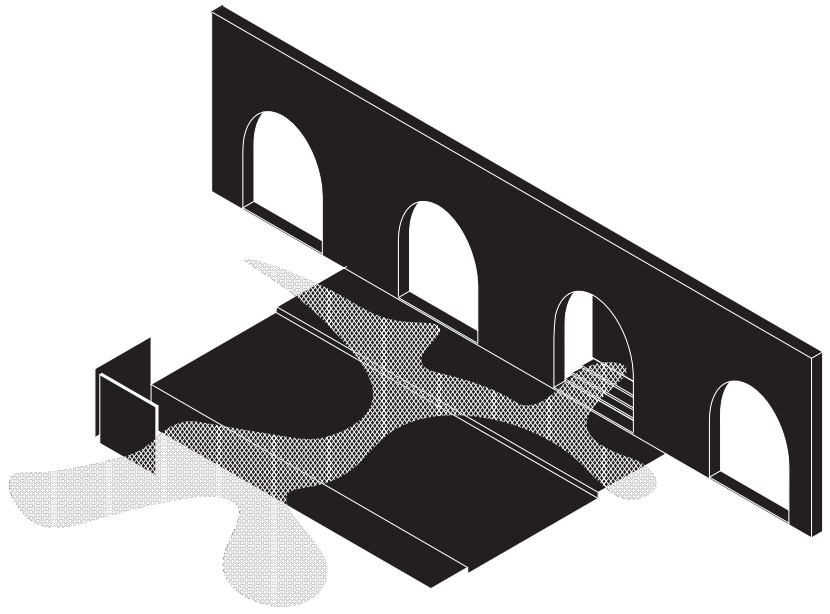


Visual Method of intervention | Drawing by author | Defining the states

/Abstraction of memory

For this intervention I tried to go back to the transition site and drew down the architectural elements and the external conditions to activate my memory. The drizzling rain was not a nuisance and was muted by the street lighting. While getting of the bus with around 12 other passengers, it was chaotic for the first seconds. After getting of the bus, we crossed the street, which had a different pavement than the pedestrian path along both sides. While arriving at the other side of the street, the façade had a repetitive dark appearance. This results in the intractability of the entrance

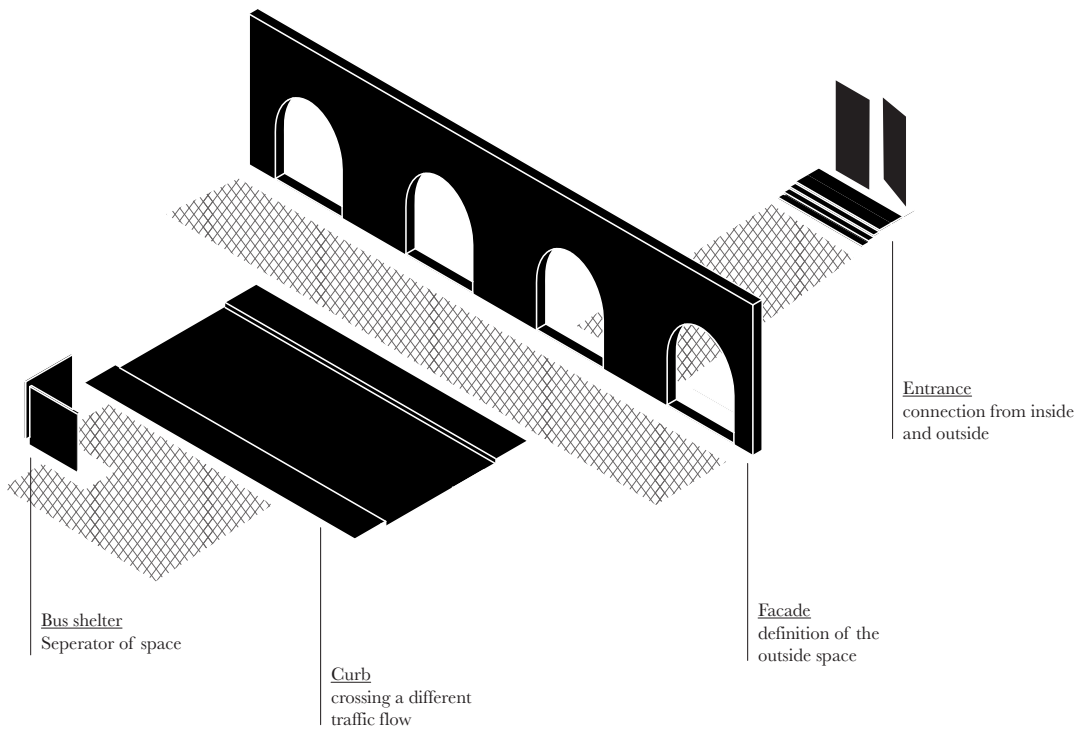
The organic layer in the drawing represents the surface of movement during the transition. This is an abstraction of the reality and drawn by the memory.



Abstract representation of the thinking site | Drawing by author

/Emotional distance

The drawing shows, beside the transition situation, as well the separation of the architectural elements. First elements on the route is the bus stop, which is defined as a waiting area and a shelter during several weather circumstances. Secondly the curbs, which are really important because of its stretched form. It allows the user to cross whenever it feels comfortable. Unfortunately, the zebra crossing is where the user is expected to cross over. This ensures more safety during the transition, but the individual has as well the opportunity to cross whenever they want. The third element is the façade of the building along the pedestrian path, which felt even more longer by its repetition. Finally found, the stairs and the glass door the entrance of the restaurant.



Emotional abstraction of the thinking site | Drawing by author

/Abstraction of the transition element

The bus shelter is an urban object, which can be seen as a separator of space, or a creator of space. Mostly the bus stop is placed in an area of transition, by placing this element in space there is created a stop, a moment of non-movement. Delimited space in the city by using 2 transparent walls, a small roof, or in some cases only a sign. Besides creating a stop in de city, it can also be seen as a visual obstruction in the streets, as well as a point of recognition.

The curb comes in different shapes, pavements and sizes. It is mostly related to a difference of height, where the user goes down, and up while passing the streets. But pavement plays an important role and can replace the curb, by having a variation in pavement. Crossing the street has affordances which we learned from our environment. You always have to look if there is other traffic arriving from the sides. Crossing the streets can therefore be seen as crossing a space, with the condition of safety. Unconsciously we find ourselves in an enclosed space, where we are only focused on crossing safely to the other side (moving ourselves).

A façade can define space and is a confirmation of being outside, and in most cases allows you to have a look inside the function. The façade can be deployed as invitation for the function. A repetition of the same form can cause confusion, as in this case. This can be due to the repetition of the same form, so that no clear entrance is visible, this cause confusing. Day light or interior lighting can compliment this, thus creating clarity of the entrance. In this case, the excellent steps created a moment of recognition. The alteration of the façade created a recognition and a affording the possibility to go inside.

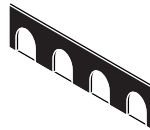
As mentioned above, the stairs where in this case the invitation for getting inside and use the curiosity. The follow-up of the glasses was the confirmation of arriving. The condition of the door, was in this case a crucial addition to find the entrance.



Bus shelter
Seperator of space



Curb
crossing a different
traffic flow



Facade
definition of the
outside space

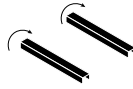


Entrance
connection from inside
and outside

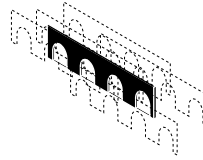
feeling



| obstructing the
field of vision



|



| confusing repetition

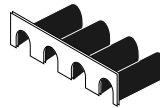


| moment of
recognition

observation



| focused on
crossing



| uninviting dark
arcades



| destination recognition
by line of sight

The elements of the transition | Drawing by Author

/Dialogue during transition

Without the conscious of moving from one of the other you get lead by the architectural elements around. During the transition between two different events/situations you get influenced by different conditions. The dialogue can be one of them, while talking with company you are unaware of where you are. In between this conversation, there are several interventions of awareness.

“Do we need to cross the street here”?

“Should this be the entrance”?

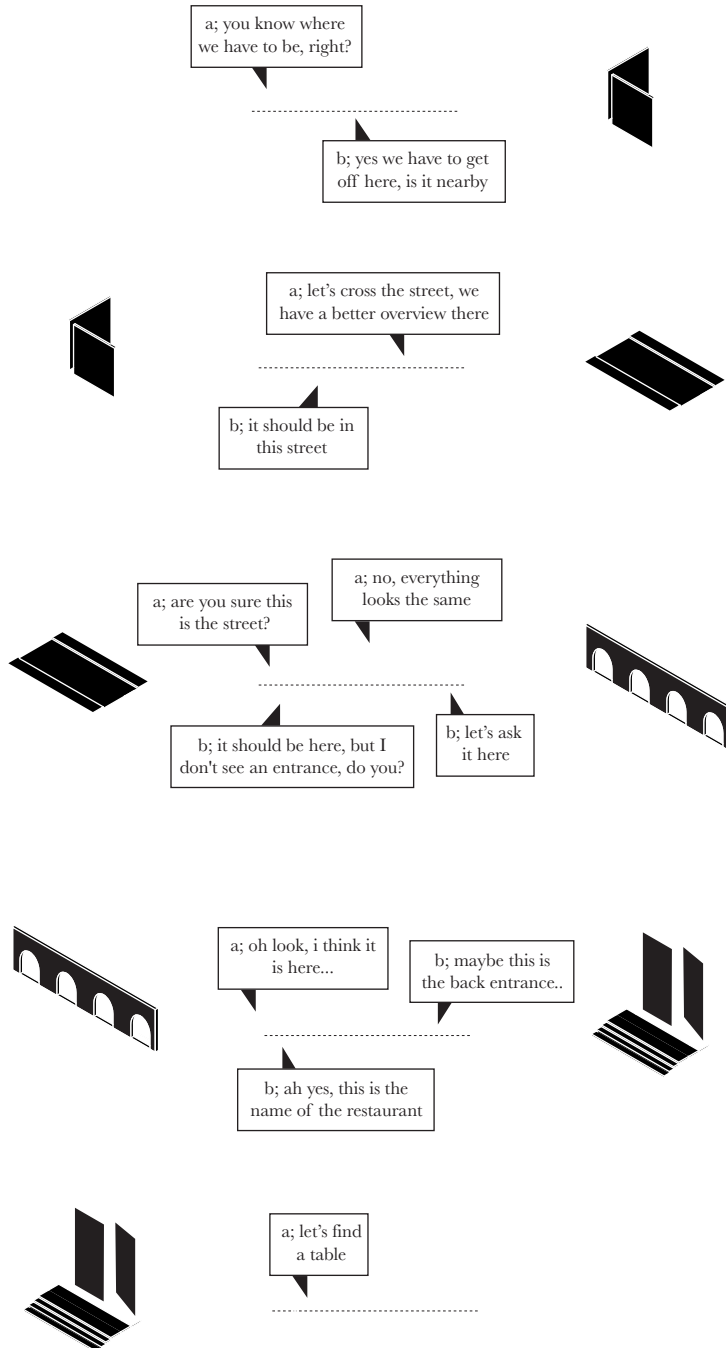
“Do we need to get off the bus”?

“Can we park our bikes here”?

“The toilet is at the end of the hallway,
behind the wall”

This small talks, in between a bigger conversation are influenced by your environment. you recognize elements which make you think about where to go and how to get there. We use different references of hour environment to explain where we are of where we go.

Unconsciously we give elements names and relate them to specific actions and situations. This dialogue at the right, shows as well the importance of recognition of elements in the discussion.



Dialogue of the transition | Drawing by Author

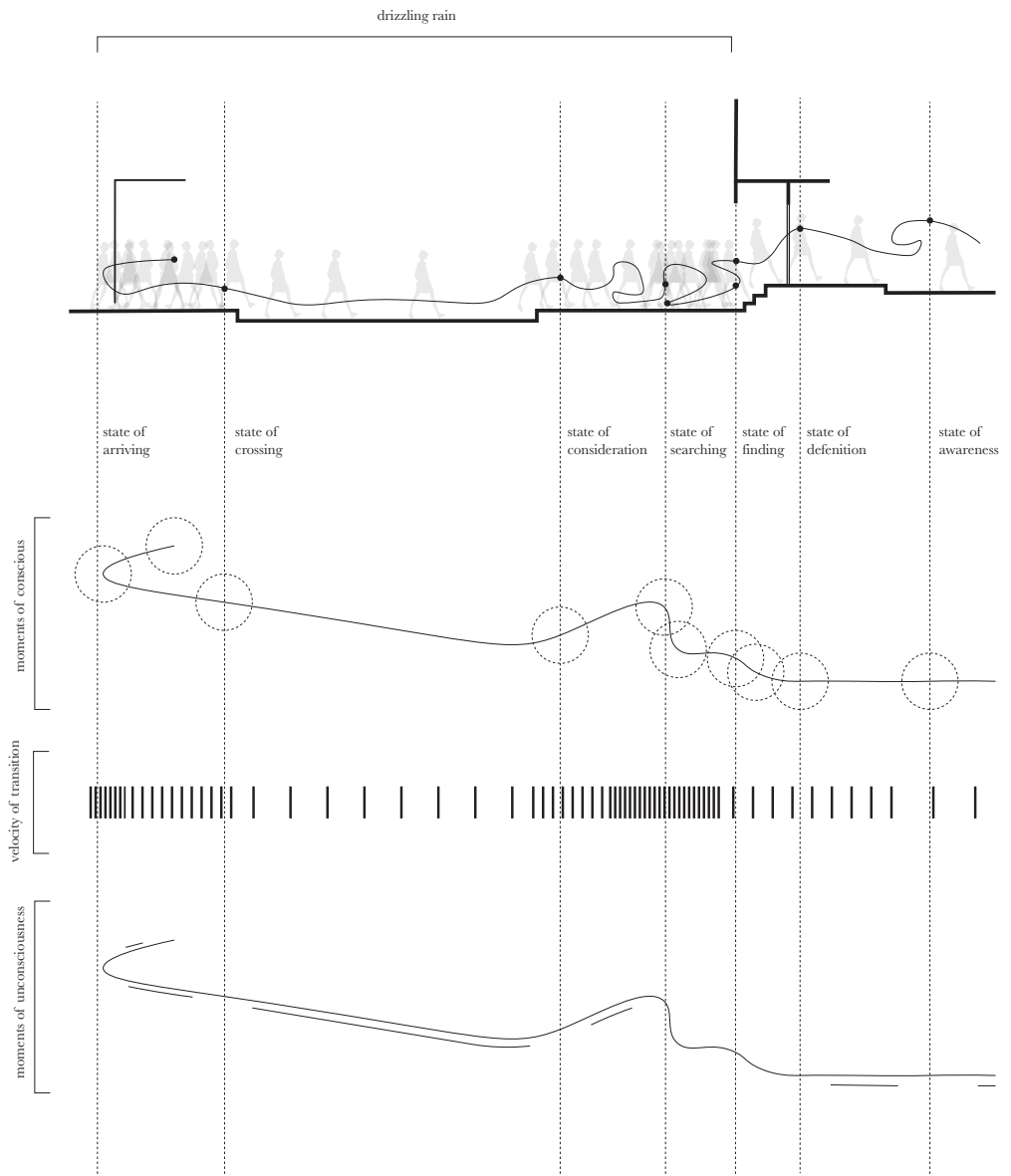
/Physical response

Moment of consciousness; During the transition we positioning ourselves in different states. We get of the bus and feel arrived at the bus station, from that point we go into a new “rite of passage” on our way to the next static. On our way, we make decision based on the conditions and our direct environment. Each object or individual can influence our behaviour and it will never experienced the same. It is all related to the situation and the conditions.

Velocity of transition; Recognizing the follow-up elements and the view towards the final destination, we will move faster. In the drawing this is good visible while crossing the road, the action is clear the transition is also accelerated.

When asking; is this the main entrance, there is a uncertainty. This uncertainty translates into delaying and awaiting situation.

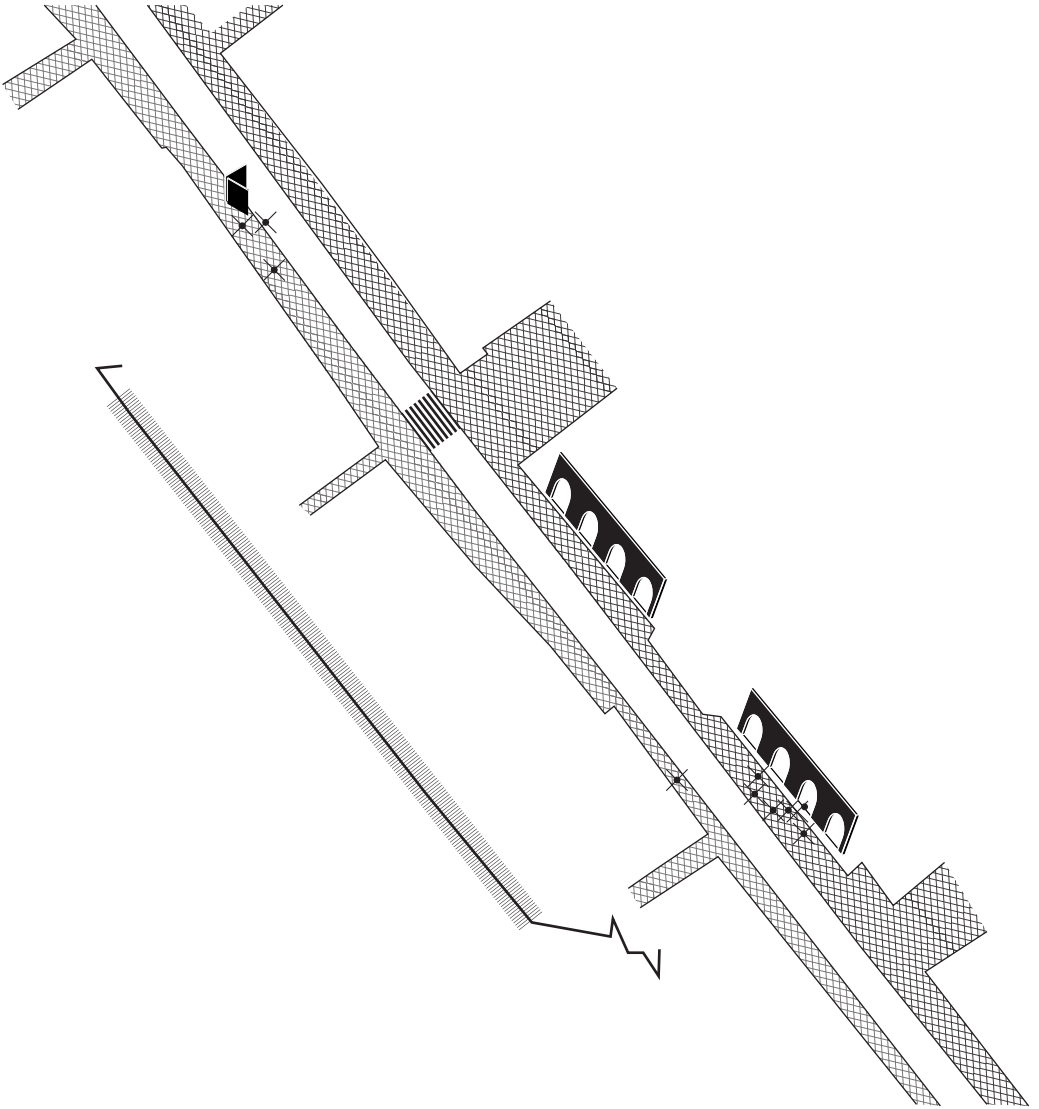
These moments of unconsciousness; we moving around without thinking, of where we are going, because of already knowing it. It is getting used to us by repetition, so we know how to move along.; In this way we are unconsciously aware of our environment



The physical response | Drawing by Author

/Objective rite of passage

The drawing on the right shows an abstraction of the actual route of intervention, which is not based on the memory. The elements from the memory are used to show to indicate how far apart they are, in comparison with the memory. What is striking here is that the bus stop in reality is placed a lot further away than indicated. As well as the distance from the bus stop, until the entrance is spread out over a larger part of the city. Reflecting to the objects that influence this distance, the repetition of the same object or the sequence of the same is leading in this situations. Time as well has a big influence on the awareness of our surroundings, knowing where to go reflects the fact that we are in this moments unaware. When we don't know where to go we rely on the elements which are related to functions and directions.



The objective rite | Drawing by Author

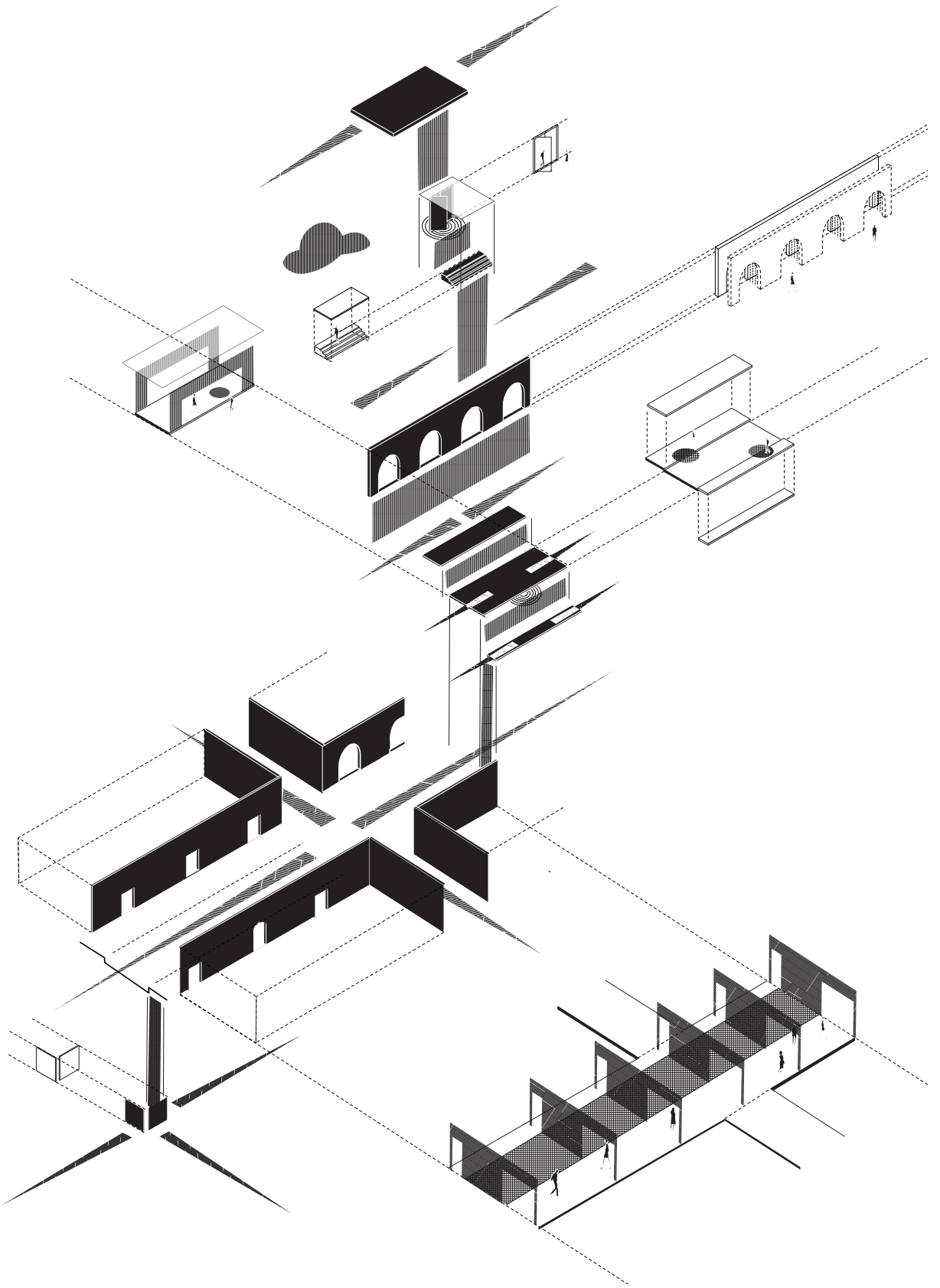
/Stratification of the ordinary

This first thinking the transition, which is based on the memory. Consist of several interesting moments. Starting in the urban scale, when walking on the side walk gives the feeling of being in a long extended corridor, with on the right side entrances for several shops. This also has to do with the difference of building height, the frames your view to the more open side.

To cross over to the other side of the street, the external effect of safety is very important for the way we perceive and behave. Unconsciously you look left and right, before crossing, for that moment you are concentrated on only one activity; crossing.

Once crossed, searching for the entrance, which must be around that point. The facade, with its dark openings, is not allowing you to look inside, those are uninviting. The protrude elements of the stairs get the attention, which are leading you to the main entrance of the restaurant. The transparent condition of the door, invite you inside.

This first experiment, shows that the architectural elements are very important for how we use the city and building. Just like the conditions that have been added to these elements, in combination they can guide the user and create this in-between moments of rest



/Thinking the transition 2

– Perspectives on the daily rite of
passage,

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BK city

Inquiry

|

*“The
incorporation
of arriving”*

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/Thinking the transition 2.

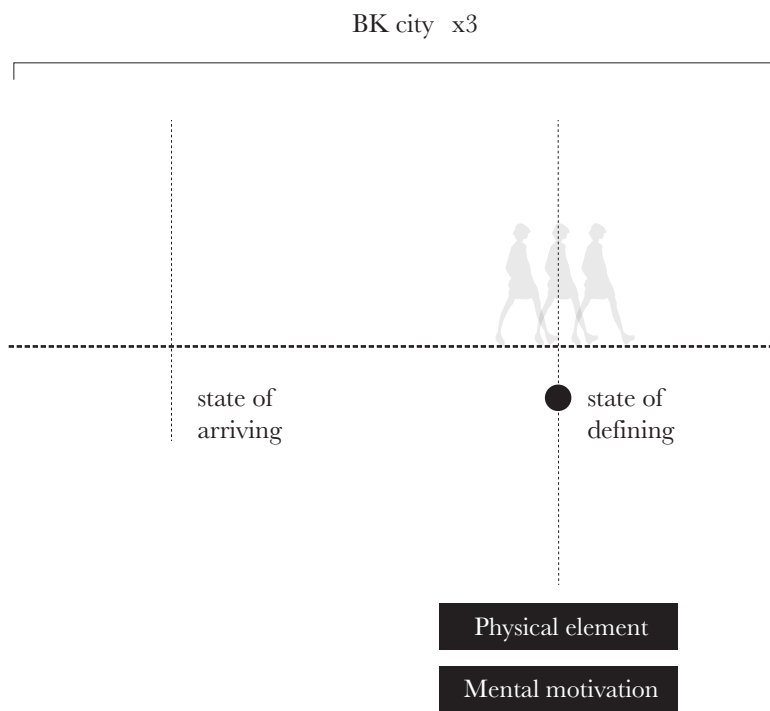
The second transition site evolved while walking with a critical eye through the faculty, since I started my graduation project. I was wondering how people experiment their transition into the faculty, how do they approach this different possibilities and which architectural elements are substantiate these thoughts.

The faculty of architecture offers different possibilities to enter, Mainly is used the front, east and west entrances. The front entrance is seen as the main entrance, because of its characteristic architectural elements and the big square in front of it. The east entrance, is allowing people who are arriving by car to enter the building from the side, as well to go easily into the coffee bar and the other way around towards the Bouwpub. On the west side of the building, logistics is based, and allows bigger elements to enter the building, besides visitors and users. All entrances have their own characteristics and can be perceived in different ways.

For this experiment besides using my own perspective on this architectural elements offering us to possibilities for transition, it is important to have different perspective. This allows me to get a brother understanding of how the architectural elements or compositions translates the transition, physically and mentally.

Plans of the entrances where made to give an abstract overview of the current situations. These plans where allowing the participant to draw there point of arriving and what elements represents this turning point to this new “state of arriving”. The participants where approached in the building, which asked them to fell back on their memories. These mental memories are important, because the route is taken so often, that we use it unconsciously.

Van Gennep (1960) illustrated that the rite of passage (moment of transition) is divided in three different states; Rite of separation, rite of transition and the rite of incorporation. The goal of this research is to understand this differences, by using an already existing situation, which is used by each participants almost every day.

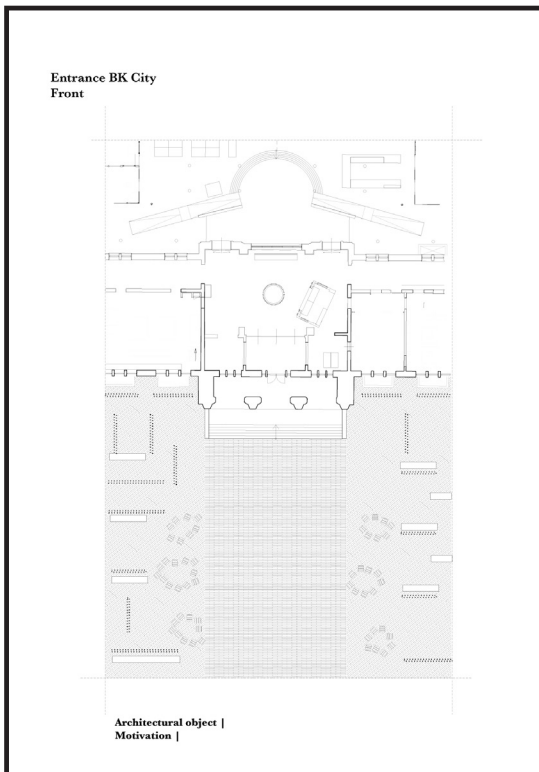


Visual Method of intervention | Drawing by author

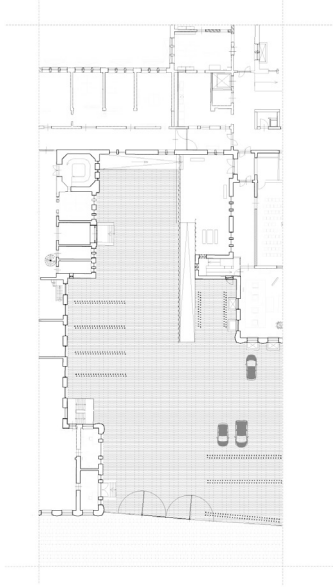
/Entrances and their context

For the floor-plan drawings is chosen on purpose to not define the element to leave things open for interpretation. In this way the participant is not influenced prior, by leaving the inside and outside as a question for the participants. This has been chosen because in many cases the wall is regarded as a separation between inside and outside, to not define this situation the experiment let you think more about the movement and the mental feeling.

Firstly the results will be discussed and reflected independently and finally compared and visualized in a final drawing. As a result the architectural elements and it's different conditions will be extracted and used in the elements studies.

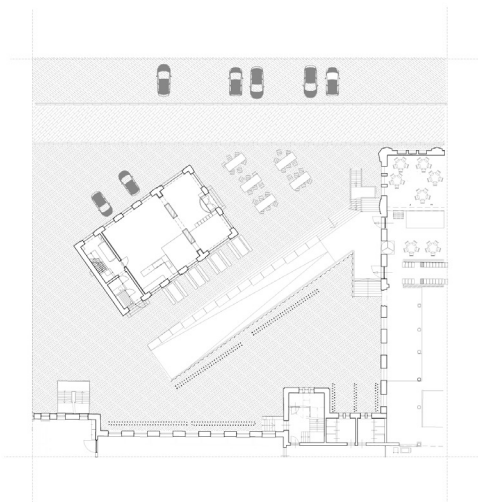


Entrance BK City
West



Architectural object |
Motivation |

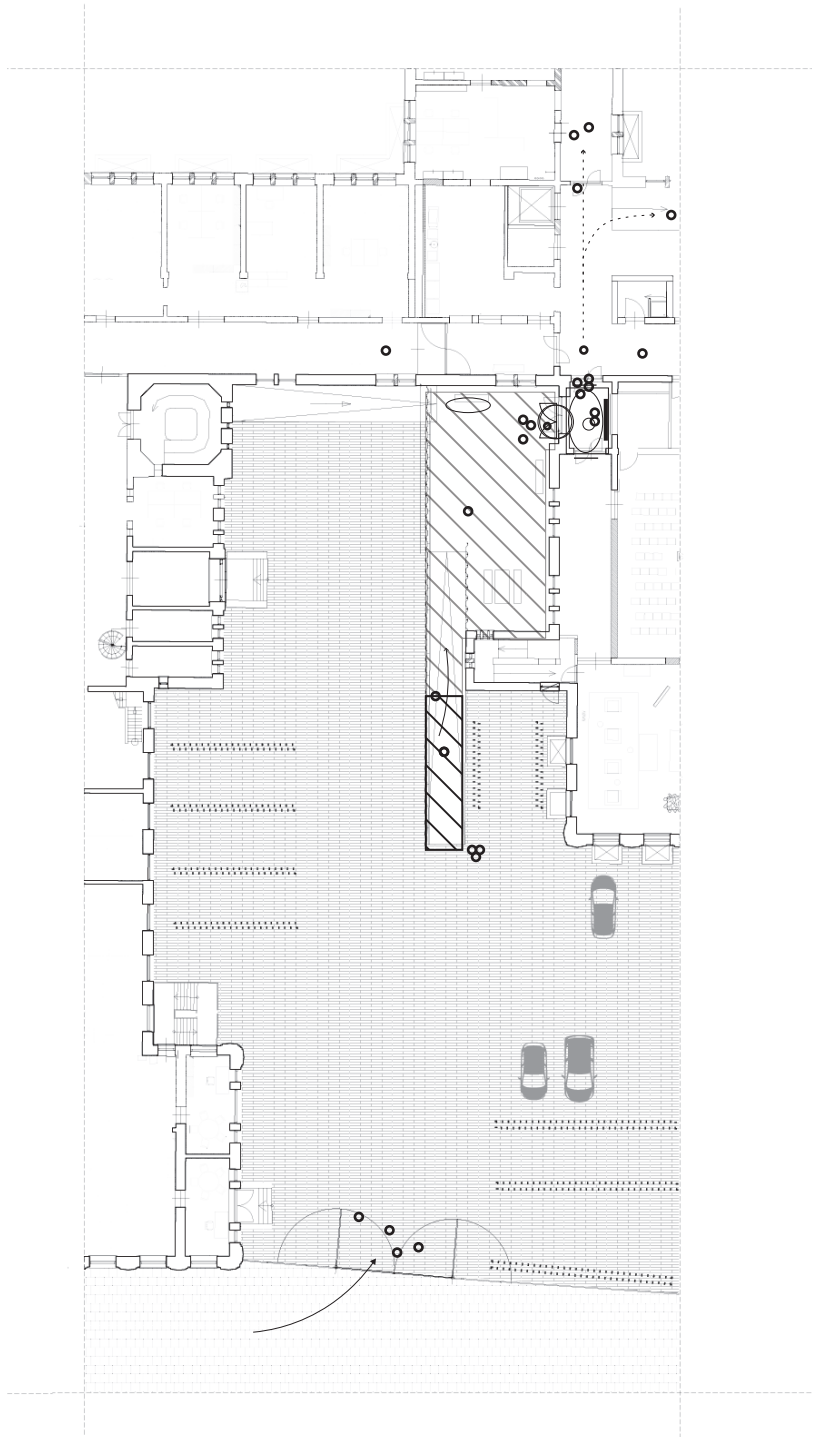
Entrance BK City
East



Architectural object |
Motivation |

/West, BK City

On the right is presented the floor plan of the West entrance of the faculty. At the west entrance there is also a *bus stop* located, which offers people to go directly outside. As well as bike stands and parking places. *The ramp* offers as well pedestrians as people with a disability to enter from this side. While walking on the *ramp*, the *door* comes within sight while entering the *platform*. The *platform* offers the possibility to sit down on one of its *benches*. Before approaching the *door*, the *doormat* affords you to dry and clean your shoes a bit, while having the possibility to look inside the *hallway* of the faculty. Opening the *door* needs a little extra strength because of its *weight*. While opening the *door*, you look behind if you can leave the *door* open for someone else. Walking through the *door*, seeing yourself reflected in the *wall* which is covered with a *mirror*. The enclosed space of *walls, doors and openings* asks you to firstly choose between the Berlage room and the other side of the faculty. When crossing the *arcade* towards the faculty, again there is a moment of decision. Different *walls, doors, stairs* and *corridors* offering you to choose a direction. Including in this walk, most participants feel arrived because of the above mentioned architectural elements and conditions (mental/physical).



The next page (8) shows the substations of the participants, here is named the architectural object and a motivation.

/Architectural element (AO) & Motivation participants (MO)

<p>AO: Arcade after the stairs</p> <p>MO: beyond seeing the stairs, I feel inside</p> <p>1</p>	<p>AO: Door</p> <p>MO: Heavy Door</p> <p>2</p>	<p>AO: second door, inside next to the mirror</p> <p>MO: From this door</p> <p>3</p>
<p>AO: 1. ramp 2. mirror 3. bk street</p> <p>MO: the ramp</p> <p>4</p>	<p>AO: Bench next to the door</p> <p>MO: seeing the bench reminds me of</p> <p>5</p>	<p>AO: 1. Gates 2. Mirror</p> <p>MO: 1. Good start, entering 2. one more</p> <p>6</p>
<p>AO: 1. Wooden door</p> <p>MO: the heaviness of the door gives the feeling of</p> <p>7</p>	<p>AO: 1. The door</p> <p>MO: Always looking behind, for keeping the door open. First</p> <p>8</p>	<p>AO: 1. Mirror</p> <p>MO: Opening the door and seeing yourself in the</p> <p>9</p>
<p>AO: Door</p> <p>MO: Change of temperature in 3 phases</p> <p>10</p>	<p>AO: 1. The bench, 2. The mirror</p> <p>MO: 1. even being outside feels of being</p> <p>11</p>	<p>AO: 1. The gate</p> <p>MO: Me considering being at bk</p> <p>12</p>

AO: 1. The space
between the door and
the arcade, with the
mirror

13

AO: 1. Tree 2. Ramp
3. Bench 4. Door 5.
Bk- street

MO: Following up
14

AO: Gate

MO: This is when I
feel arrived

15

AO: Platform

MO: This is the
moment, the
outdoor space, the

16

AO: Small space
after being inside

MO: The transition
of temprature,

17

AO: hall after the
door and before the
arcade

MO: The mirror

18

AO: Bk-street (line)

MO: Seeing the
printshop and the
stairs, gives me

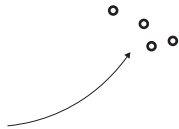
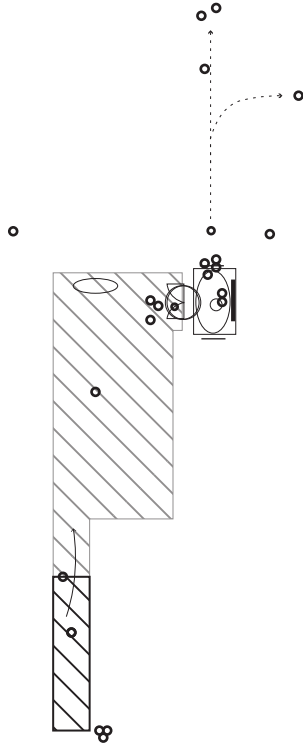
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/One dimensional result participants

West Entrance

Explained before is that this intervention helps to understand how people experience their transition by their memory. To stratify this experiences of the participants this results into a visualization of the similarities and differences. The west entrance consists of lots of architectural elements, which trigger the movement as well as the imagination during the transition. The result shows that after the, as the participants mentioned, the heavy door in combination with the small cold room and it's mirror. Reflects and creates a moment of realization.

As well participants mentioned instead of one specific element, a following up of 2 or three elements. This reflects also the transition of different scales; the urban situation, the building and it's small interior elements. This reflects the importance of the composition of elements, from different scales.



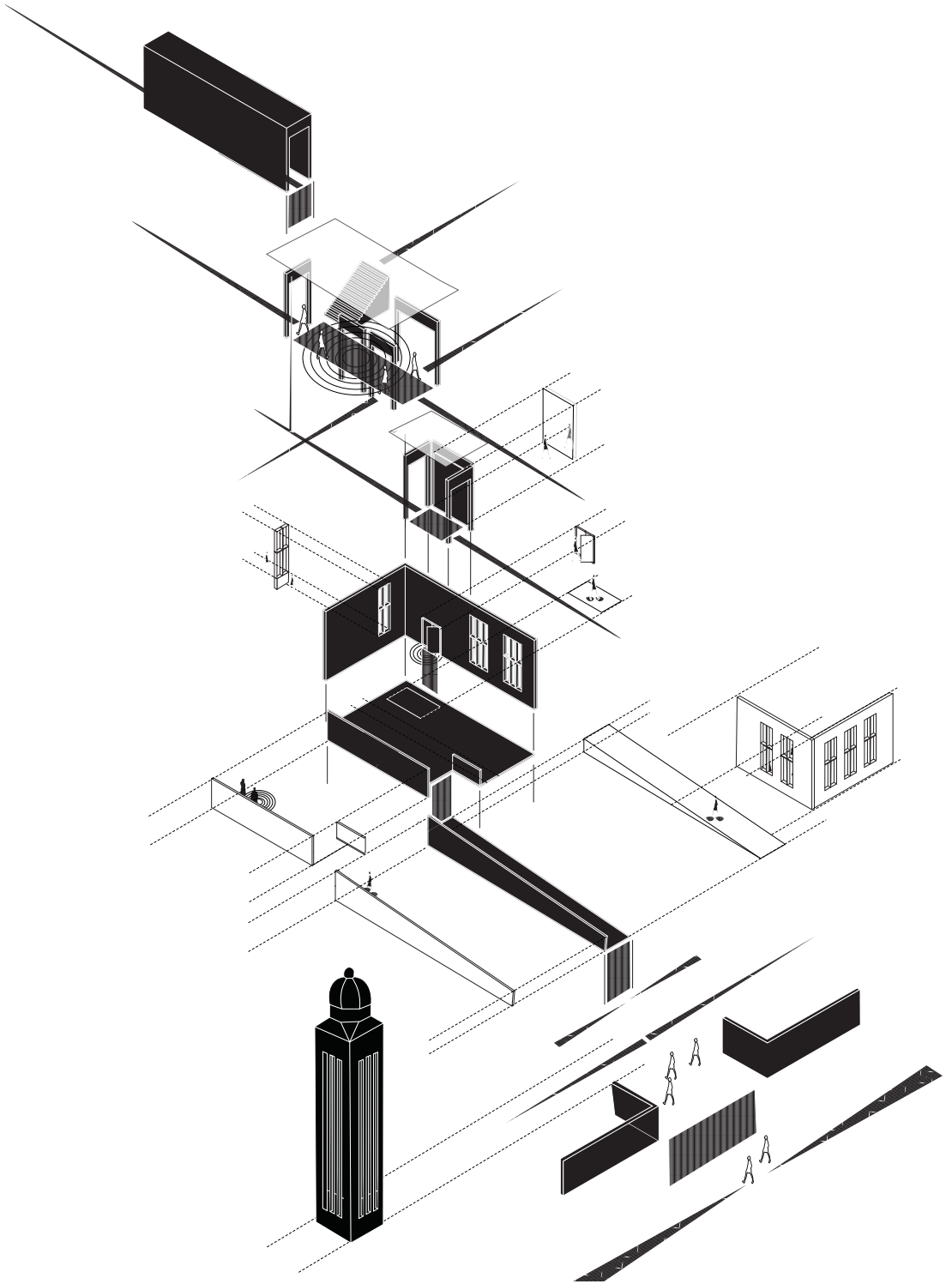
The next page (16) shows the substations of the participants, here is named the architectural object and a motivation.

/Stratification of the ordinary

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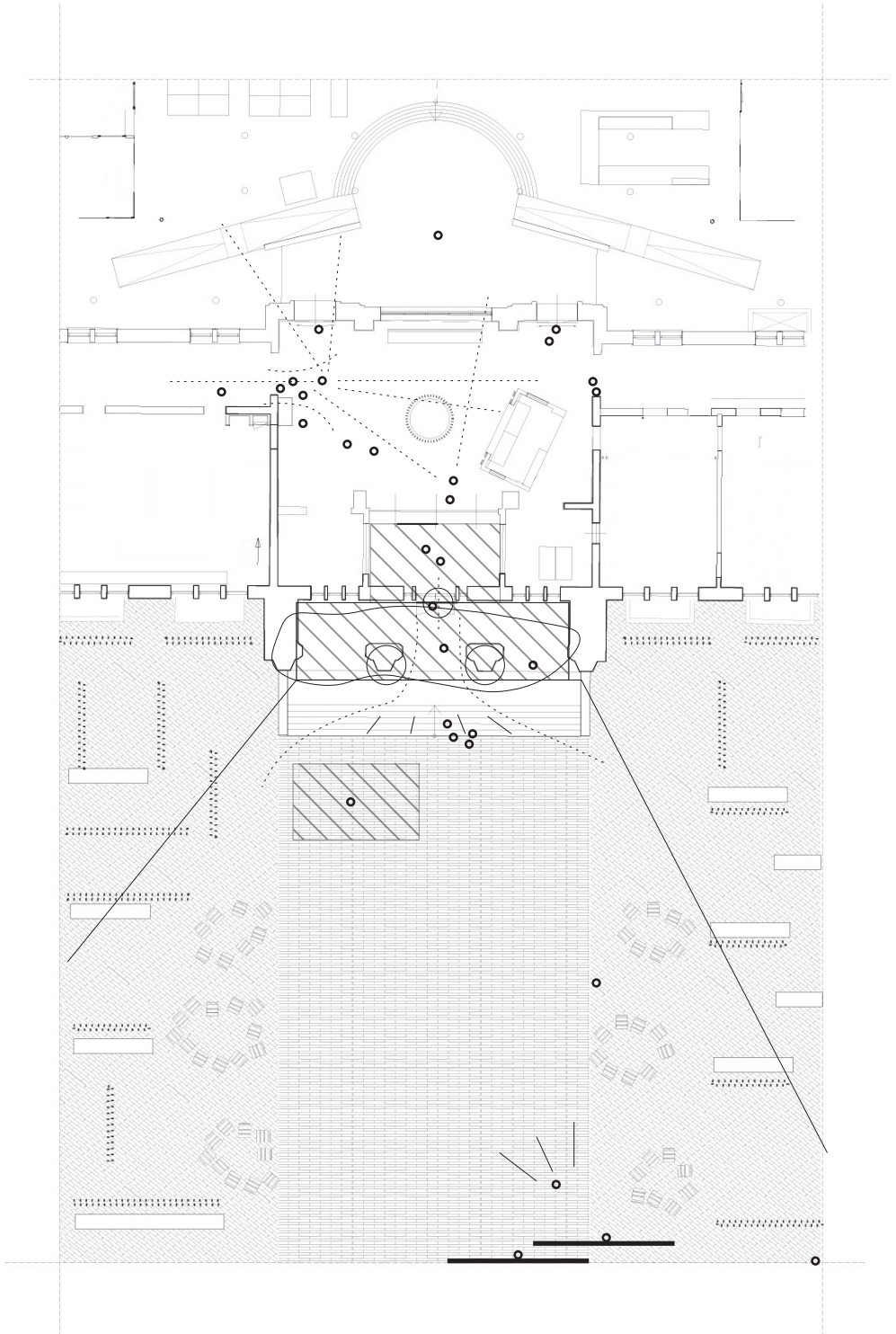
As well participants mentioned instead of one specific element, a following up of 2 or three elements. This reflects also the transition of different scales; the urban situation, the building and it's small interior elements. This reflects the importance of the composition of elements, from different scales.



/Front, BK City

On the right is presented the plan of the front entrance of the faculty of Architecture. The front entrance is seen as the main entrance of the building by most users and visitors. Although the square in front of the building suggests that there is a big entrance path, there is not. Most users arrive by bike from the *right or front road*. The square is half filled with *bicycles sheds*, to provide the high amount of bikes in a structured way. This creates a *square* in the middle to give the main entrance more gesture. With bike or without you always have to cross the *square* to approach the building.

The front entrance is an architectural composition of various element that make the transition possible. The *square* leads you to the wide *steps* of the *stairs*, which brings you first to the *platform* without *roof*, followed by *arcades* which created a dark *corridor* to shelter. This *corridor* has from the left side the possibility to look inside, but on the right the *windows* are covered with window stickers, which block to connection with the function behind. The symmetric *corridor*, offers in the middle an opening, with a heavy wooden *door*. Going through the door brings you in a enclosed spaces, which follows up with three light glass *doors*. While entering there are because of the three *doors*, three possibilities to encounter. Choosing the most right door, brings you in front of the help desk of the building. Taking the most left *door*, offers you to walk fast to your final destination. On this way there is again a moment of choosing; the model hall and Bk *Street*. During this transition, because of the glass *doors* and *windows*, you have the possibility to get a glimpse of the other functions around the welcome *hall*. The welcome *hall* offers you here four possible entrances which can lead to the final destination.



The next page (20) shows the substations of the participants, here is named the architectural object and a motivation.

/Architectural element (AO) & Motivation participants (MO)

Front entrance

<p>AO: Overview (square)</p> <p>MO: Attentional focus towards the</p> <p>1</p>	<p>AO: Visibly of the door/ Choosing moment</p> <p>MO: easy because</p> <p>2</p>	<p>AO: Enclosed space (square in front of the faculty)</p> <p>MO: everyone crisscrossing over</p> <p>3</p>
<p>AO: Bk street</p> <p>MO: Because of the social interactions and the city feeling</p> <p>4</p>	<p>AO: Specific point in the entrance hall</p> <p>MO: where I have an overview of the</p> <p>5</p>	<p>AO: Hall with the wooden material</p> <p>MO: -</p> <p>6</p>
<p>AO: Stairs</p> <p>MO: easy, on the road to go home</p> <p>7</p>	<p>AO: Square</p> <p>MO: when I staled my bike, it feels that I am there</p> <p>8</p>	<p>AO: 1. Square 2.corridor 3. Glass door</p> <p>MO: Feeling of being</p> <p>9</p>
<p>AO: Stairs</p> <p>MO: there is on step, which is not stacked to the</p> <p>10</p>	<p>AO: Bike Stall</p> <p>MO: When putting my bike in the stall, arrived</p> <p>11</p>	<p>AO: Square</p> <p>MO: the overview, gives me the feeling of arriving</p> <p>12</p>

AO: 1. Square 2. In
between the doors

MO: 1. avoiding
elements 2. The

13

AO: 1. corridor
outside 2. Bk street

MO: 1. protection
of rain/sun 2.

14

AO: Arcades

MO: Uninvited dark,
you only feel allowed
when you are more

15

AO: arcades

MO: Gives you the
feeling that you
are inside, because

16

AO: Rotonda element

MO: gives you
an overview of
the building,

17

AO: Arcades

MO: difference in
temperature, gradient

18

AO: 1. Square 2.
Door

MO: The contrast
of the park and

19

AO: Stairs

MO: The second
step of the stairs
reminds me of being

20

AO: Arcades

MO: Entering the
building, more
approaching. All the

21

AO: The portal

MO: -

21

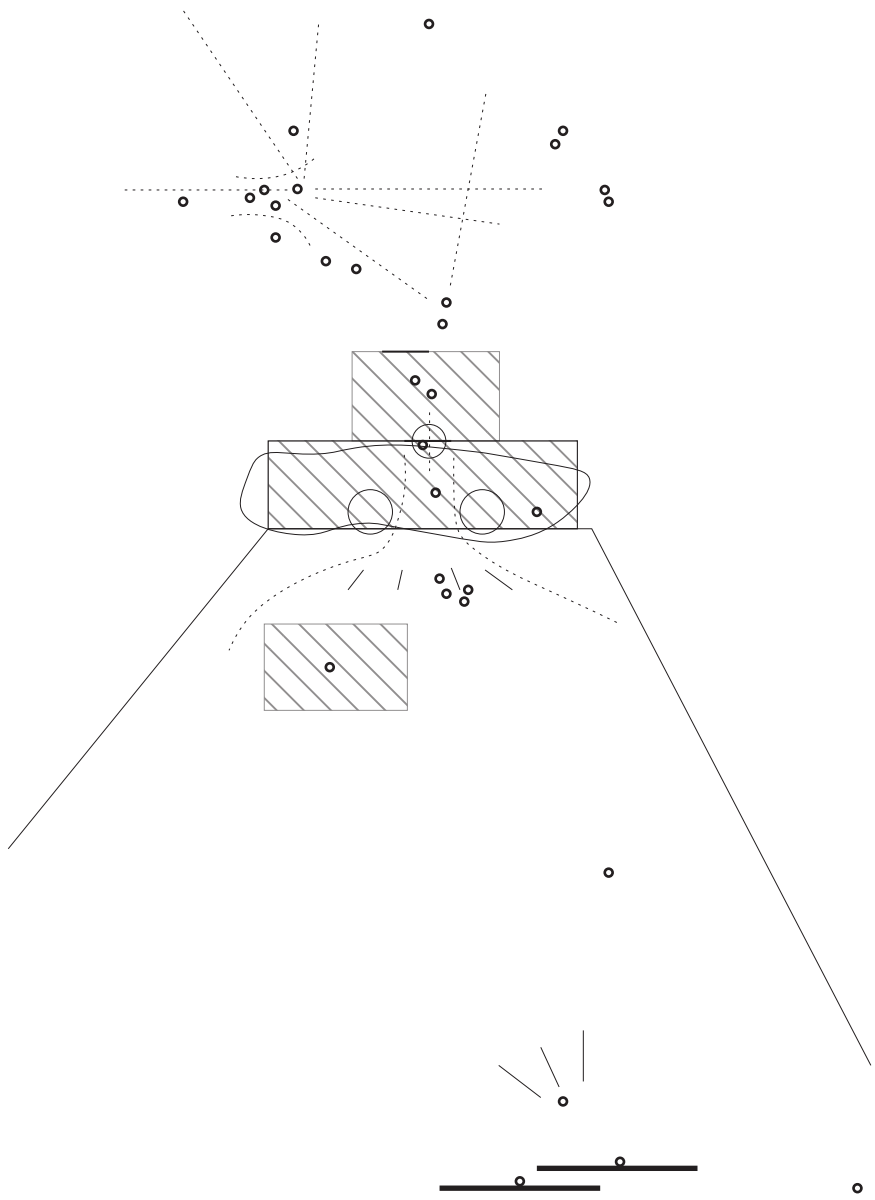
/One dimensional result participants

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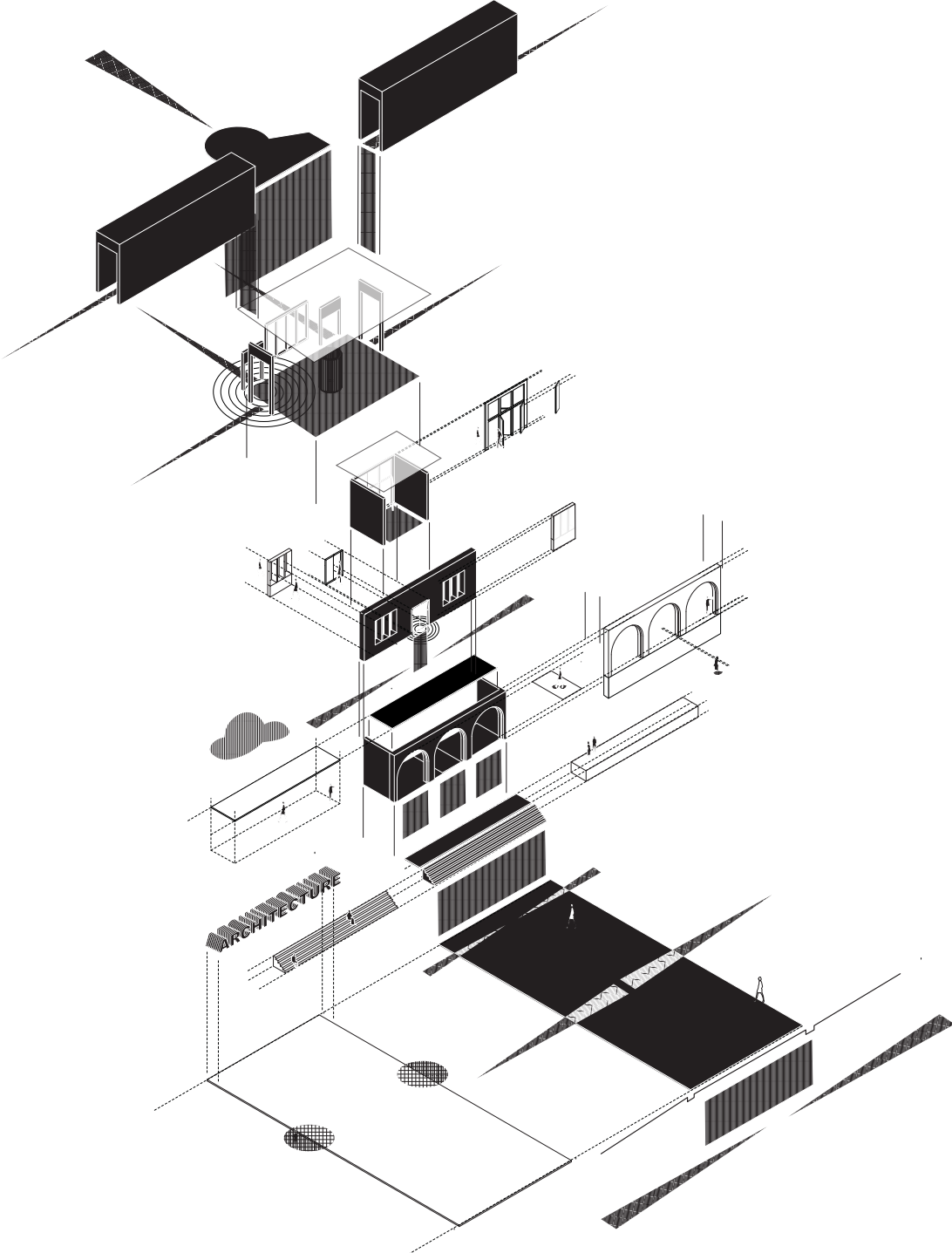
To stratify this experiences of the participants, this inquiry results into a visualization of the similarities and differences.

The front entrance plays an important role for the experience of the city, building and interior scale. The results also shown, that there is a division of participants who feel already inside by entering the square in contradiction with participants who mention seeing the bk street as their arriving point. As well the enclosed space with only doors, where there is a following up of an heavy and light doors. This research shows the importance of building spaces one by the other, to unconsciously experience the gradient of transition.



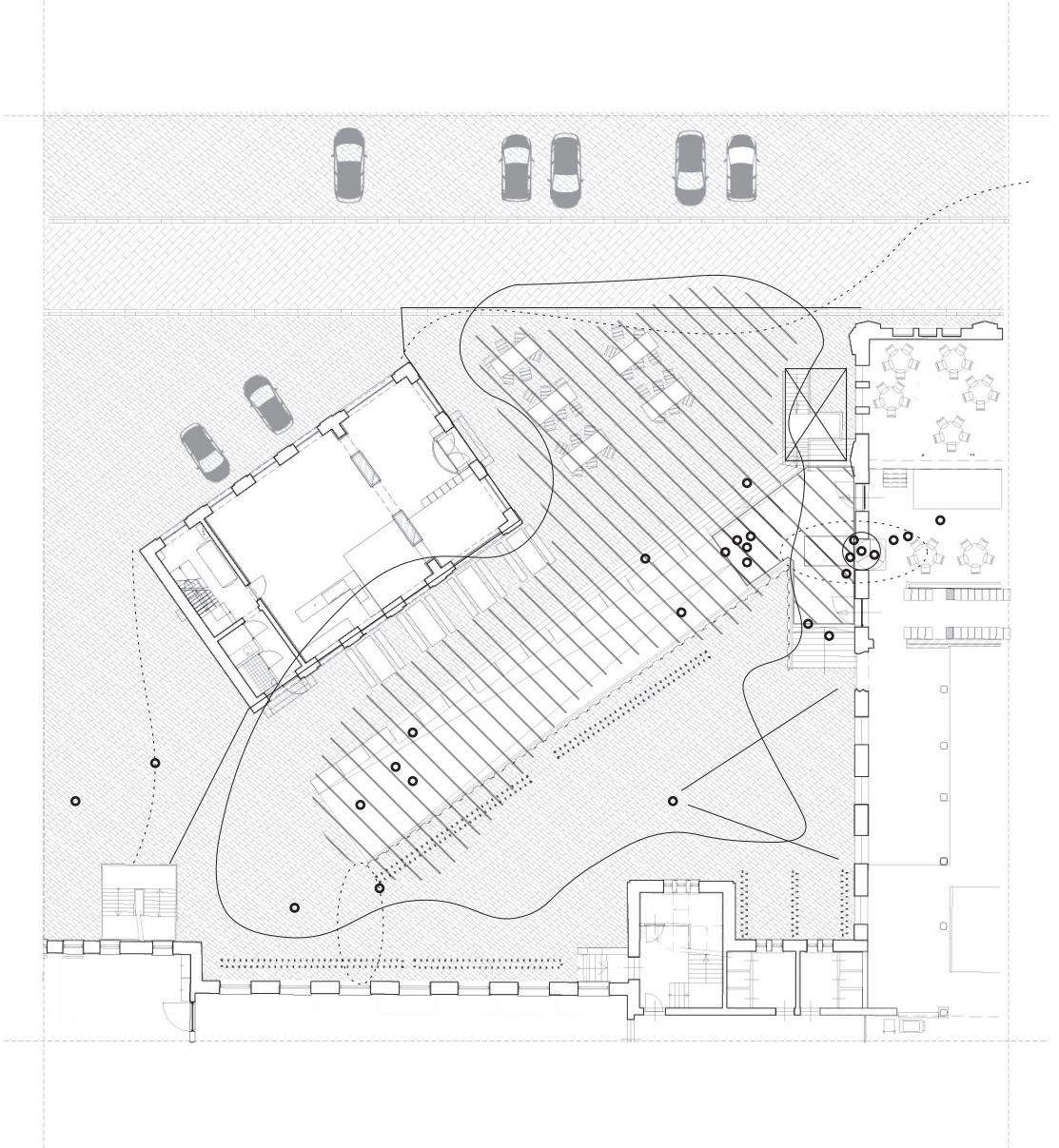
/Stratification of the ordinary

The front entrance plays an important role for the experience in the city, building and interior scale. The results also shows, that there is a division of participants who feel already inside by entering the square in contradiction with participants who mention seeing the bk street as arriving point. As well the enclosed space with only doors, where there is a following up of an heavy and a light door. This drawing shows the importance of building spaces one by the other, to unconsciously experience the gradient of transition.



/East, BK City

On the right is presented the floor plan of the West entrance of the faculty. At the east entrance, the participants can park their bikes and cars and walk by feet or with a wheelchairs towards the entrance. The *ramp* which is placed with a small angle, towards the building ensures that bikes can park in between the building and the *ramp*. On the left side, the *ramp* realizes a difference in heights, where *stairs* have been realized. While using the *ramp* you will arrive on the *platform*, which is as well the place where the users, who parked their bike, enter the platform by using the *stairs* on the side. On the opposite of the *stairs*, there is a *square* created which offers the user a place for lunch or heaving a break. Behind that, a big *parking* place where the users of the building park their cars. This participants mainly use the *stairs* on the side of *ramp* to enter the *platform*. From the *platform*, almost all users during winter will use the *revolving door*, which is divided in three small spaces. By pushing the glassed *revolving door*, the user will arrive in the *coffee corner*. From here the user has many possibilities to continue their transition through the building.



/Architectural element (AO) & Motivation participants (MO)

<p>AO: 1. Bouwpub Square 2. platform</p> <p>MO: . gives the feeling of arriving</p> <p>1</p>	<p>AO: Ramp/stairs</p> <p>MO: Angle of the ramp and the materials, lead you</p> <p>2</p>	<p>AO: 1. Ramp 2. Platform</p> <p>MO: 1. Architectural terrain entrance 2.</p> <p>3</p>
<p>AO: Rotating door</p> <p>MO: It is to slow, but it will always remind you of</p> <p>4</p>	<p>AO: Rotating door</p> <p>MO: Slows down the speed, gives you a moment of realization</p> <p>5</p>	<p>AO: The Ramp</p> <p>MO: Provides nice view on the courtyard, sun</p> <p>6</p>
<p>AO: Platform + Ramp</p> <p>MO: Is an area, where you want</p> <p>7</p>	<p>AO: Rotating door</p> <p>MO: confusing, when you enter the building everything is chaos</p> <p>8</p>	<p>AO: Elevation & Revolving Door</p> <p>MO: From putting away my bike and</p> <p>9</p>
<p>AO: Facade</p> <p>MO: The faculty is a nice building so 'm often happy to see its</p> <p>10</p>	<p>AO: Facade</p> <p>MO: The height of the facade</p> <p>11</p>	<p>AO: Platform</p> <p>MO: Feeling that transition, realization of arriving</p> <p>12</p>

AO: Platform

MO: Overview
and the social
interaction/

13

AO: Revolving Door/
stairs

MO: Physical
transition (sit down,
social aspect)l.

14

AO: Ramp

MO: place of
recognitions
and arriving

15

AO: Revolving door

MO: The moment of
decision

16

AO: Revolving Door

MO: Actively
consciousness
arriving, with in

17

AO: Ramp/stairs

MO: music from
inside, with the sun
in the morning is the

18

AO: Roof (glass)

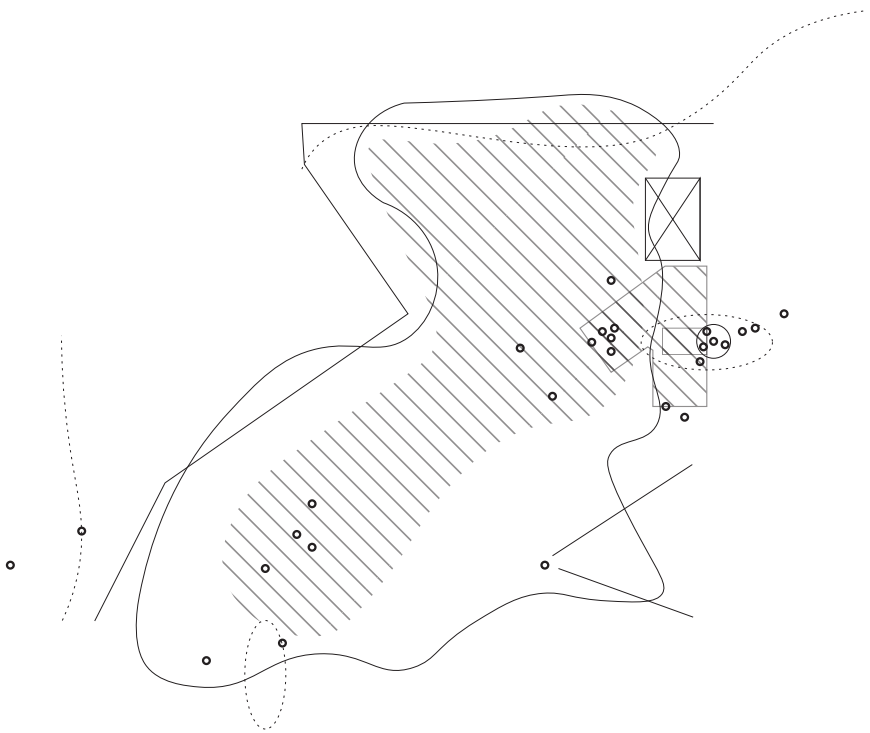
MO: Getting the
feeling of inside

19

/One dimensional result participants

Front Entrance

Explained before is that this intervention helps to understand how people experience their transition by their memory. To stratify this experiences of the participants this results into a visualization of the similarities and differences. The social aspect of the east entrance is really important for the users, the platform in this case offers a moment of interaction as well as overview over the small square in front of the. Participants see the square as part of the faculty, which shows as well the importance of this function and the space in between. The stairs which are during the morning and afternoon mostly use as transition, become during breaks a place to have a seat. As well as the glassed roof above the doormat, offers people during rainy days to still be outside and gather together. The experiment shows that people feel comfortable, because of all the elements afford different activities, which are related to the external conditions, mostly the weather.



/Stratification of the ordinary

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