

CARESCAPES

toward a careful imagination for the liveability of young fluidly housed adults in Brussels

motivation



motivation

Brussels nonprofits help city's homeless cope with the heat

Homeless person in Brussels stabbed to death

'Homelessness knows no temperature': What happens after Brussels Extreme Cold plan?

Sunday, 20 October 2024 By The Brussels Times with Belga Friday, 19 January 2024 By Maïthé Chini



Monday, 24 June 2019

Brussels NGOs have launched initiatives to help the city's hotemperatures. Credit: © Belga

charitable organisations in Brussels have announced measures to help the city's homeless population cope with the heat and have better access to

As temperatures across Belgium begin their steep rise on Monday,

sanitary services and drinking water.

One homeless person was stabbed to death in Brussels city centre last night. The suspected perpetrator has not yet been identified or arrested.



Homelessness is a problem clear to see in Brussels all year round, but one that becomes all the more pressing when temperatures hit freezing. The Brussels authorities have now activated the 'Extreme Cold' plan, but what happens after that?

Dozens to return to the streets as emergency homeless shelter closes

Thursday, 27 February 2025

By The Brussels Times with Belga



Winter shelter. Credit: Belga/Benoit Doppagne

As the winter emergency centre in Schaerbeek prepares to close its doors at the end of the month, dozens of men are set to return to living on the streets, the Red Cross warned on Thursday. By the end of March, a similar issue will be faced by families with children.

Homelessness in Brussels surges again despite 'unprecedented investment'

Sunday, 20 April 2025 By Maïthé Chini



December 2024. Credit: Belga / Hatim Kaghat

Despite ongoing and unprecedented efforts to tackle rising homelessness in the Brussels-Capital Region, a recent count confirmed the "worrying reality" that the number of people on the city's streets is on the rise.

Nearly 10,000 homeless in **Brussels**

Wednesday, 16 April 2025

By The Brussels Times with Belga



In the Brussels-Capital Region, 9,777 people are homeless, with 992 of them living on the streets, according to reports from Le Soir and De Standaard $\,$ on Wednesday, based on the latest count by the research centre Bruss'Help.

> Newsarticles from The Brussels Times 2019-2025

3/60 soft story methodology unlearning conclusion and reflection positionality

focus on youth homelessness

Complicated pathways: One in five homeless people is a young adult

Monday 10 October 2022 By Lauren Walker



he Bernadettewijk, in Ghent, where houseless people, among other, occupy dozens of houses. Credit: Belga/ Jonas D'Hollander

Children and young people suffering from lack of specialised crisis assistance

Tuesday 11 October 2022



'Hidden homelessness' in the Brussels Region exposed in new report

Thursday 21 September 2023 By The Brussels Times with Belga



Credit: Belga

At least 400,000 homeless minors in the EU, associations say

Monday 23 September 2024 y The Brussels Times with Belga



A woman playing with homeless refugee children living inside Brussels-North station. Credit: Belga

One in five EU adults in their early 30s still live with their parents

Monday 3 June 2024 By Maïthé Chini



Credit: Canva

'No housing solution': When a squat closes down, where do its inhabitants go?

Tuesday 2 July 2024 By Ciara Carolan



Credit: Belga / Justin Namur

Newsarticles from The Brussels Times 2019-2025

an invitation to listen

The world is a complex and difficult place. Humans come with their own histories, traumas, and egos—often unintentionally shaping the lives of others.

When you listen closely, you can start to understand their struggles on an intellectual level but unless you have lived these struggles, you can never truly feel them.

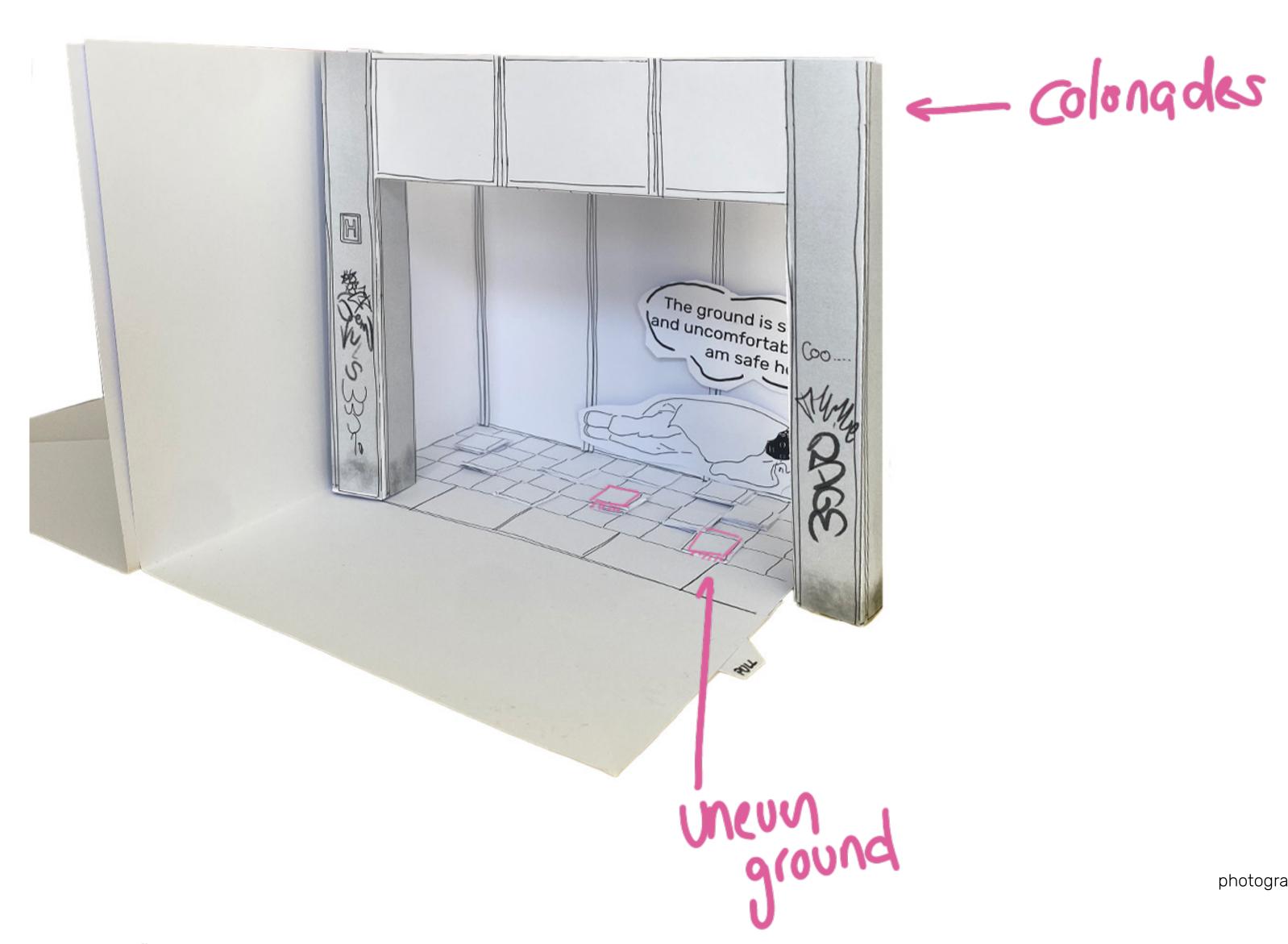
Correspondence with Tigist Kassahun Temesgen after the Gender-in-Space PhD Seminar

Hi, my name is Awa, I am 25 years old and live in Brussels





photograph of booklet ,patterns of fluid housing', own work

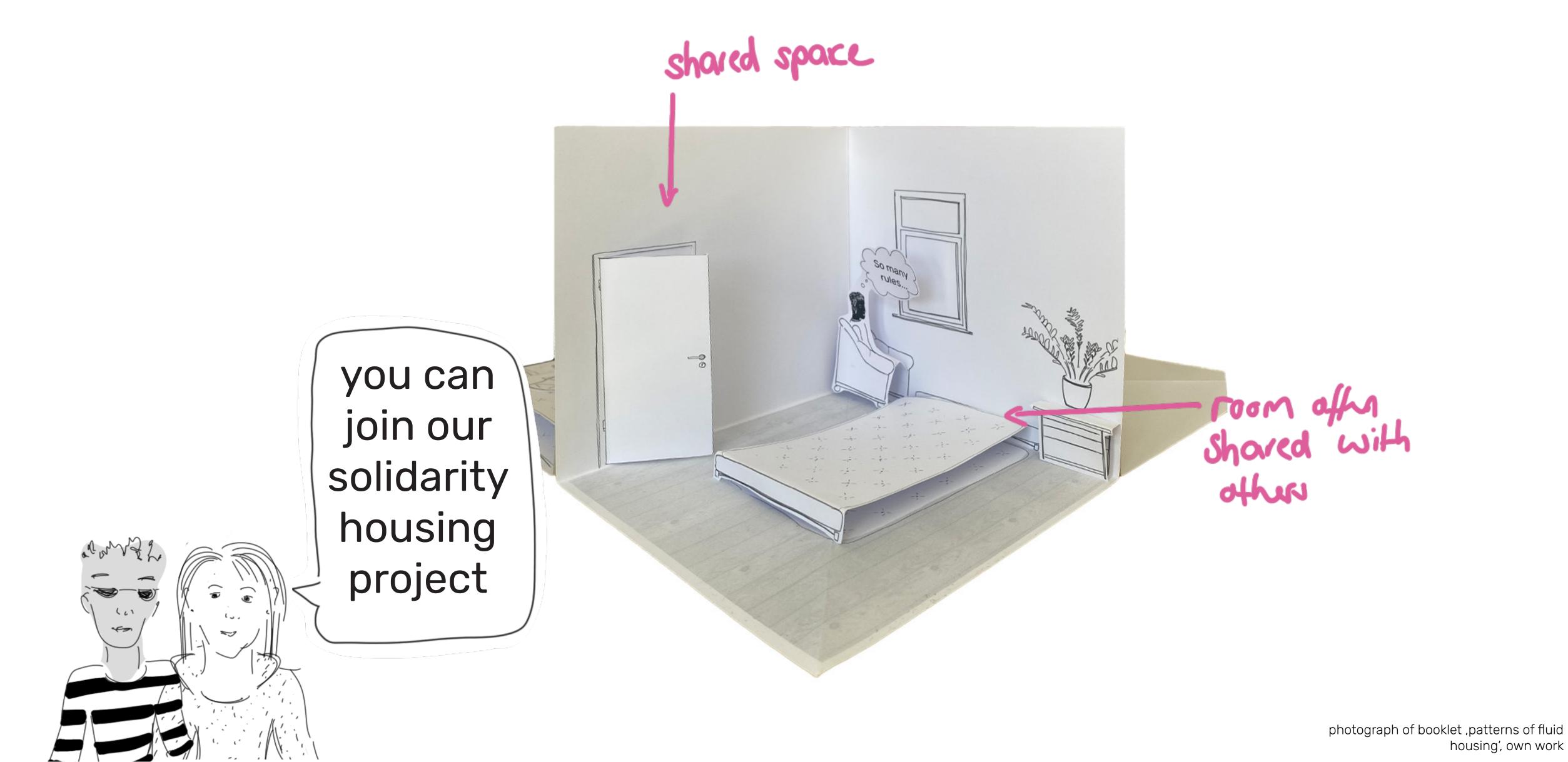


photograph of booklet ,patterns of fluid housing', own work



photograph of booklet ,patterns of fluid housing', own work

9/60



This way of living isn't ideal but at least I'm not homeless



homeless youth?



sketches of real stories with fictional faces, own work

the stigma

homeless

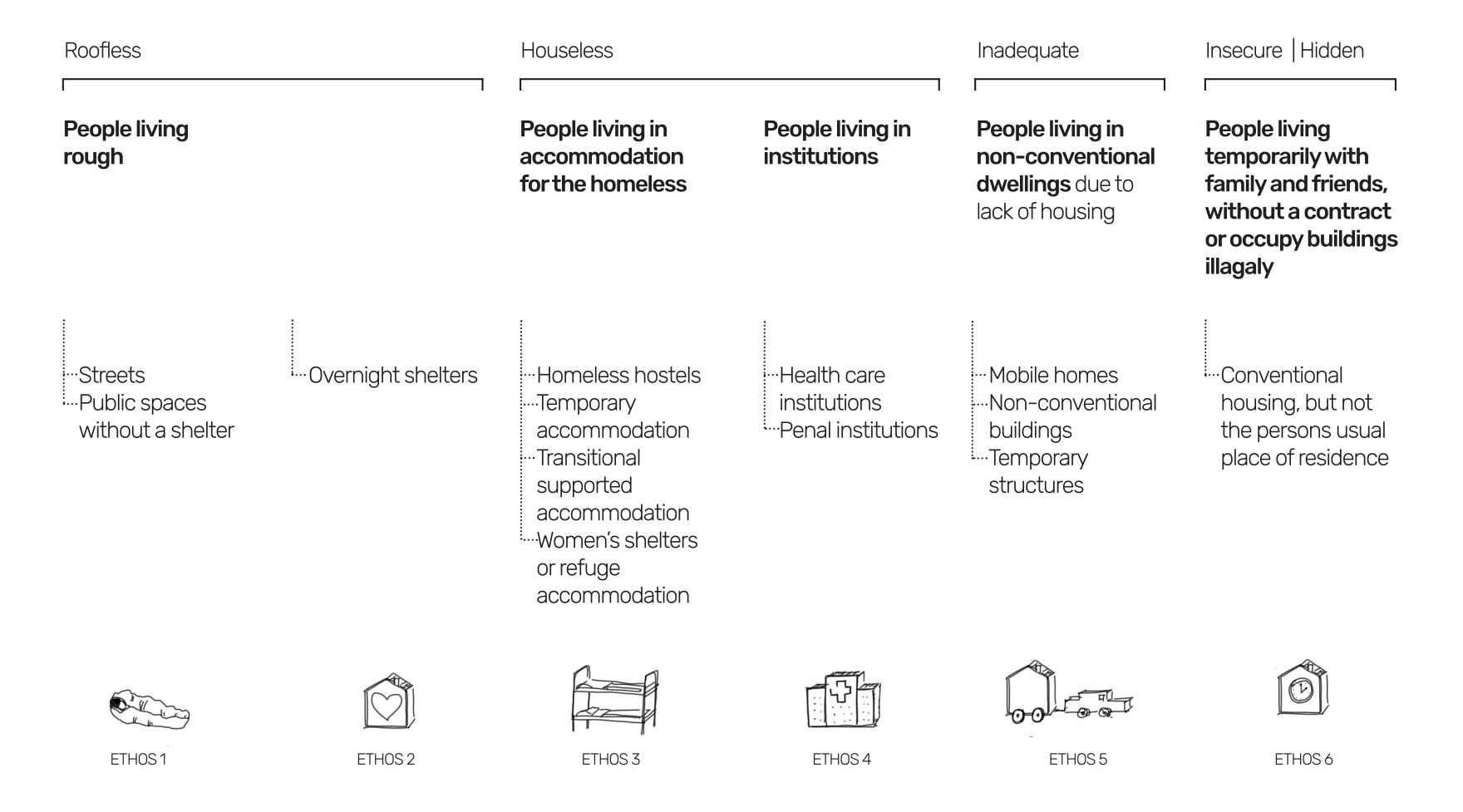
/ˈhəʊmləs/

adjective (of a person) without a home, and therefore typically living on the streets.

Oxford Languages, 2025

homeless people are only those sleeping on the street

an academic definition



European Typology of Homelessness and Housing Exclusion, ETHOS light, own graphic based on Feantsa, 2024

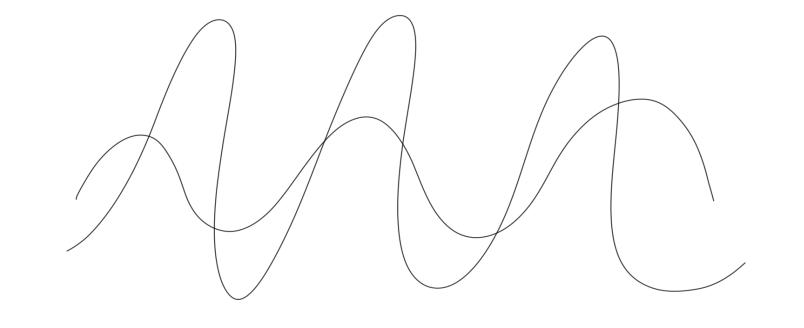
homelessness is one form of living

live rough

ETHOS 1

live and sleep outdoors as a consequence of having no proper home.

(feantsa, 2024)



sheltered with family/ friends

ETHOS 6

having a place to sleep, often in conditions of overcrowding and poverty

more accurate term

fluidly housed

ETHOS 1-6

individual experiencing fluctuating conditions of homelessness - sometimes being sheltered in occupied buildings, sometimes staying with friends, and at times enduring periods of rough living

Also: Being at home in changing accommodations within the same city.

own definition

Young people are adaptable—they can handle fluid housing

Adolescence movie is a wake-up call to fathers

22-04-2025 Christian Life





Jaimie and his father in a still from the movie Adolescence. Photo Netflix

adolescence

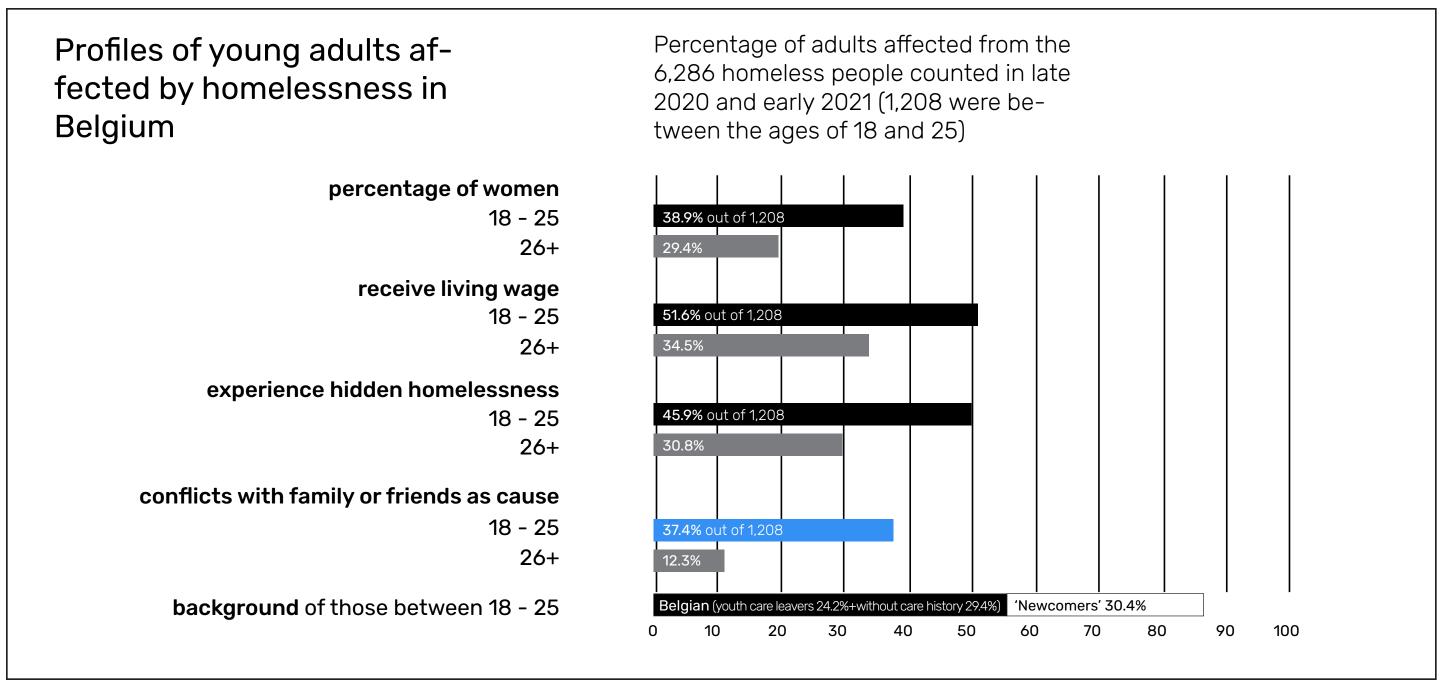
/adə'lesns/

the period of psychological and social development accompanying the physical transition of puberty during which a young person develops from a child into an adult.

(Oxford Languages, 2024; unacademy, 2024)

cne.news, 2025

missing support network



Statistics of youth homelessness in Belgium, graphic own work based on Van Noppen, 2022.

of fluidly hawed lack of awareness leads to lack of agency

of fluidly hawed lack of awareness leads to lack of agency

lack of agency leads to unmet needs

both short + long tum

food, watv, solidarity

shift in political mindset

shift in political mindset

institutional strategies are too slow to address urgency of crisis —> youth homelessness

research question

shift in political mindset

institutional strategies are too slow to address urgency of crisis

How can urban design become a tool to hack systems of marginalization—quickly improving the lives of young fluidly housed adults while creating lasting spaces of solidarity?

research question

shift in political mindset

institutional strategies are too slow to address urgency of crisis

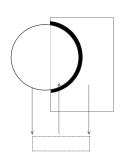
spaces that exclude —

How can urban design become a tool to hack systems of marginalization-quickly improving the lives of young fluidly housed adults while creating tasting spaces of solidarity?

— that can't be revoked easily

that can be used in different ways

lens of care



care

"everything we do to maintain, continue, and repair our 'world' so that we can live in it as well as possible."

(Tronto & Fisher in Tronto, 2019)

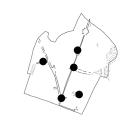
careful imagination understanding needs

bad. When the landlord

sells the place, I have

1 month to find a new





Informal Conversations

ily emergency and the

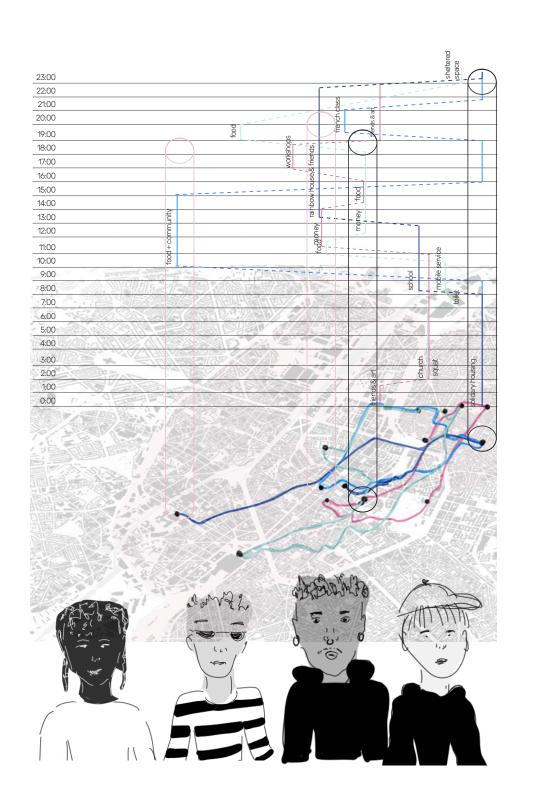
little brother moved in.



get kicked out, I go

somewhere new'

4 Personas Time-Space Geography



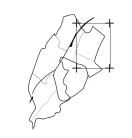
needs of fluidly housed young adults

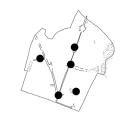
autonomy/agency sense of belonging security/health

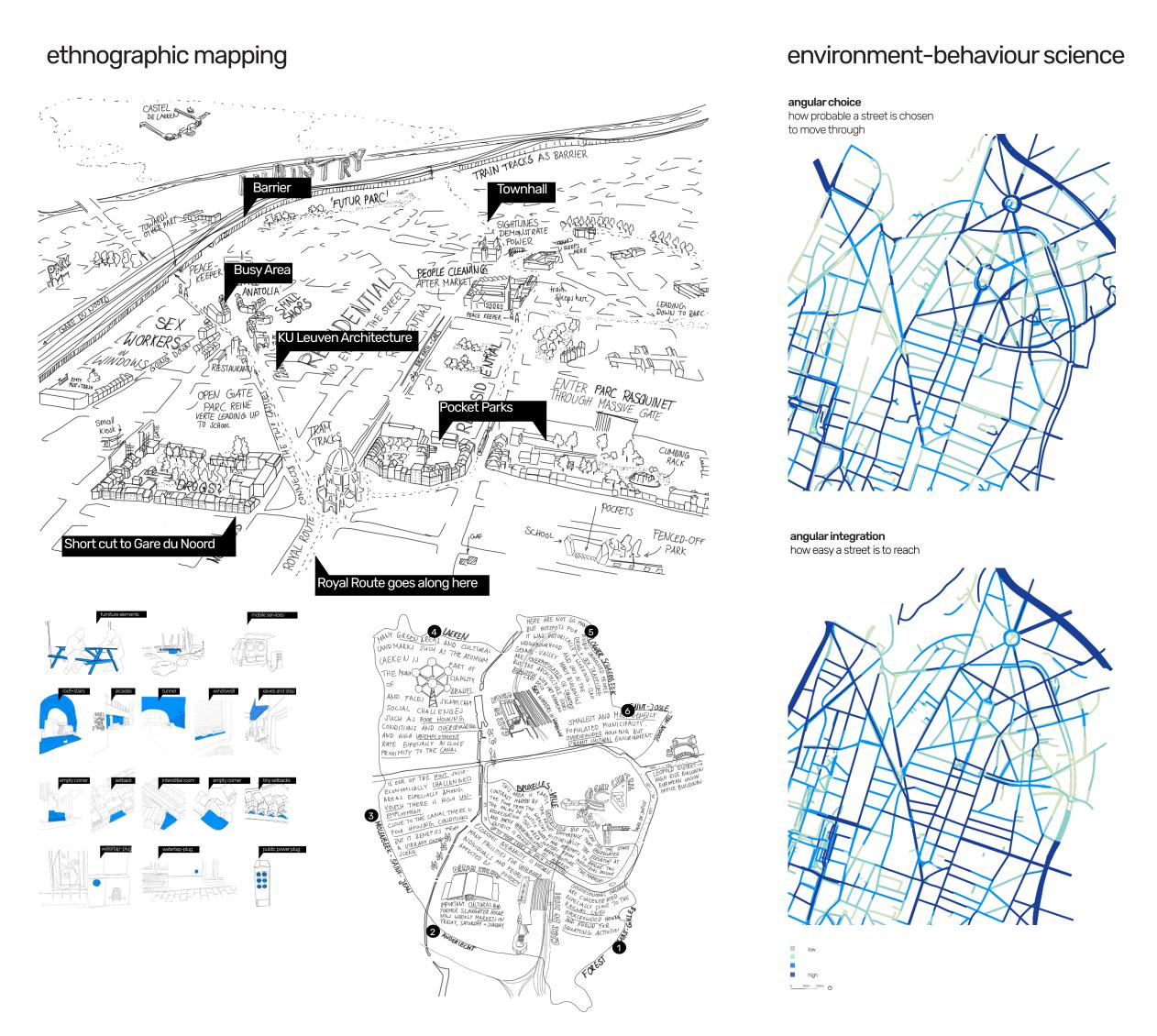
(Literature Review, Structured Interviews, Informal Conversations; Ethnographic Mapping, Personas, Time-Geography, Max-Neef, 1992; Boccagni & Duyvendak, 2021)

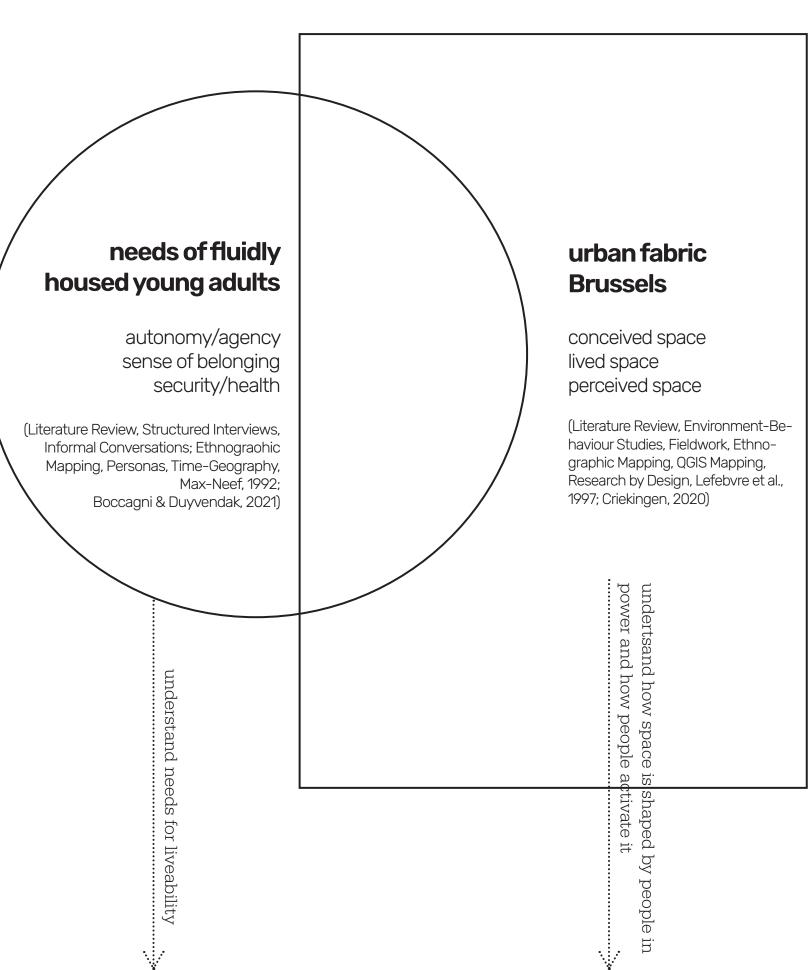
conceptual framework own work 26/60 positionality soft story methodology unlearning conclusion and reflection

careful imagination understanding how they are met in space







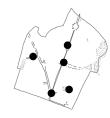


conceptual framework own work

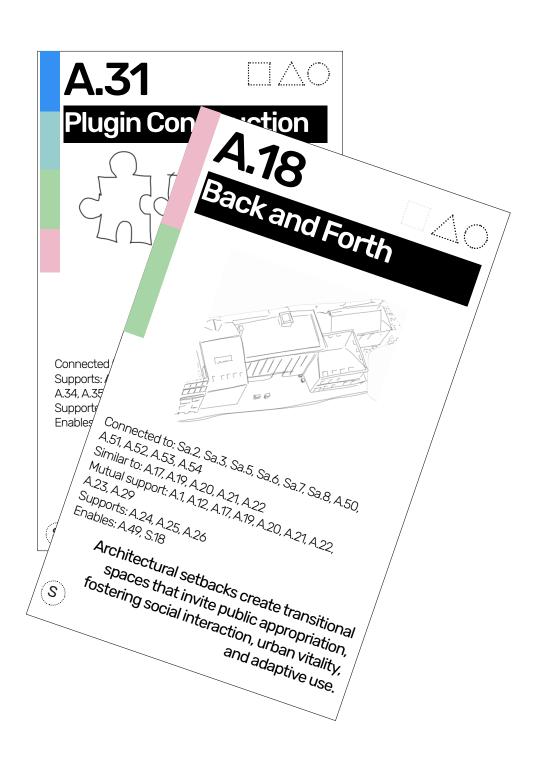
27/60

careful imagination combining this information

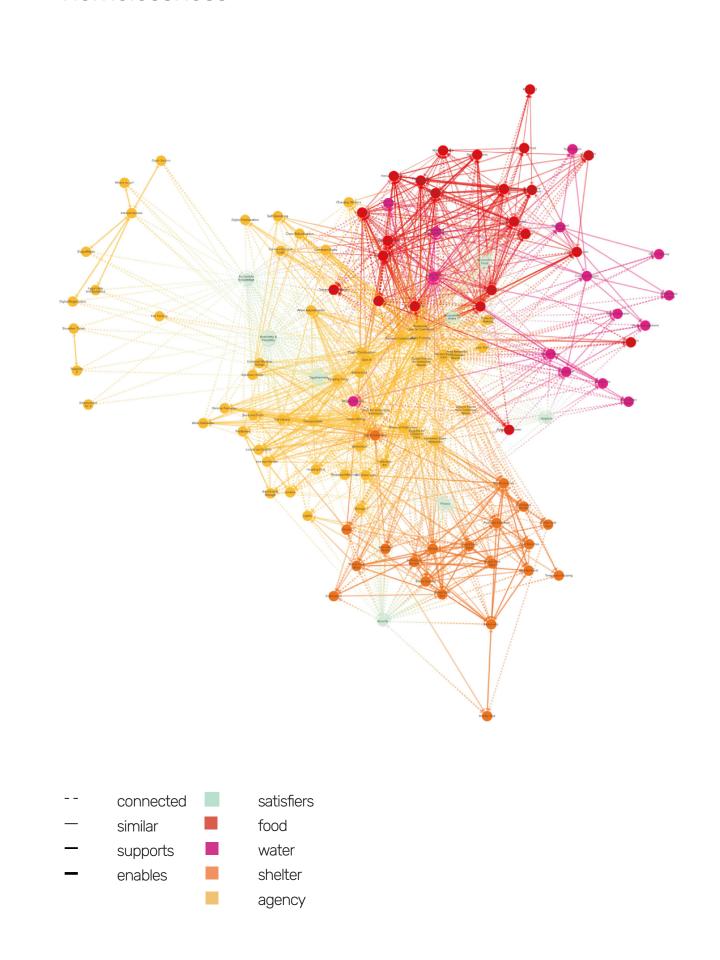




patterns - how needs are met in space



pattern language - larger system of homelessness



needs of fluidly housed young adults

autonomy/agency sense of belonging security/health

(Literature Review, Structured Interviews, Informal Conversations; Ethnograohic Mapping, Personas, Time-Geography, Max-Neef, 1992; Boccagni & Duyvendak, 2021)

urban fabric Brussels

conceived space lived space perceived space

(Literature Review, Environment-Behaviour Studies, Fieldwork, Ethnographic Mapping, QGIS Mapping, Research by Design, Lefebvre et al., 1997; Criekingen, 2020)

nd how people activate it

Pattern Language

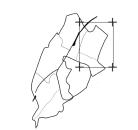
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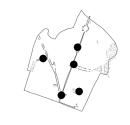
Combine socio-spatial patterns in a transparent way (Bridging Needs and Space, Small scale and large Networks, Research and Design, Salingaros, 2000; Fezer, 2022)

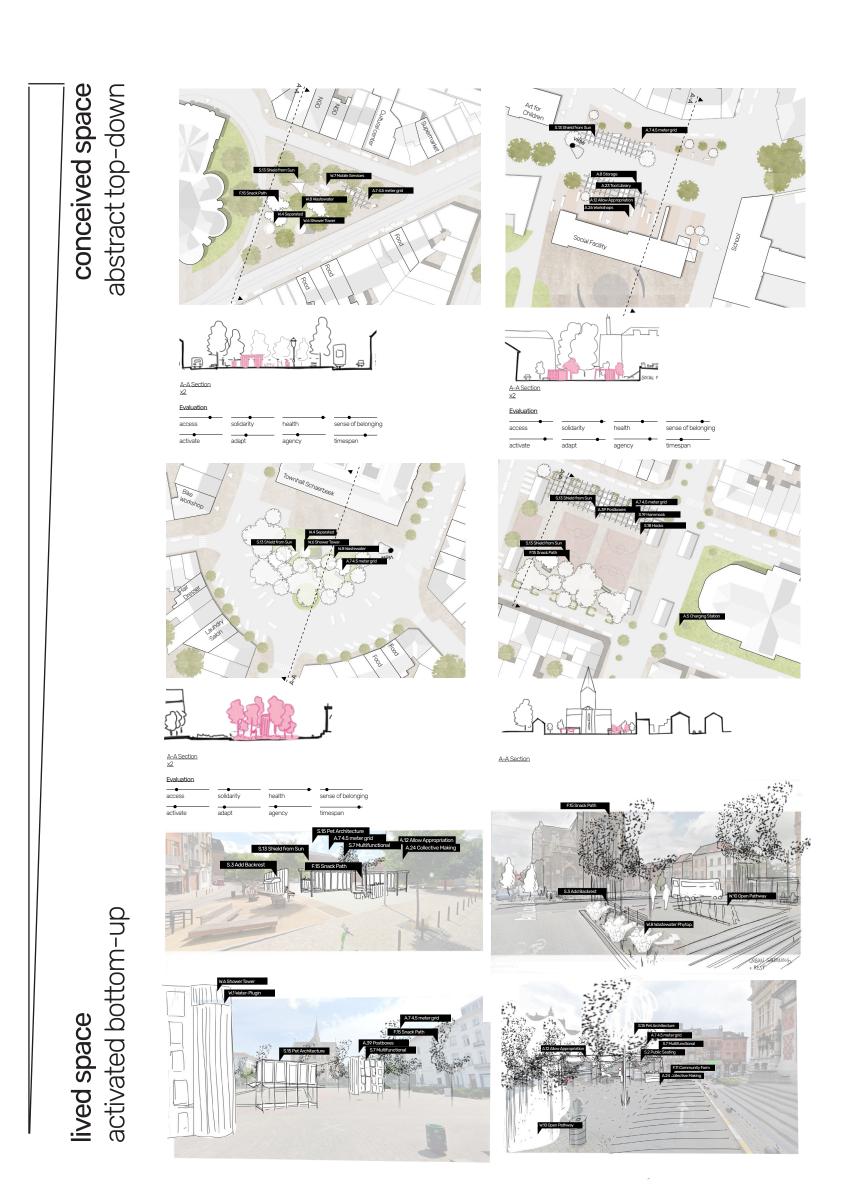
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conceptual framework own work

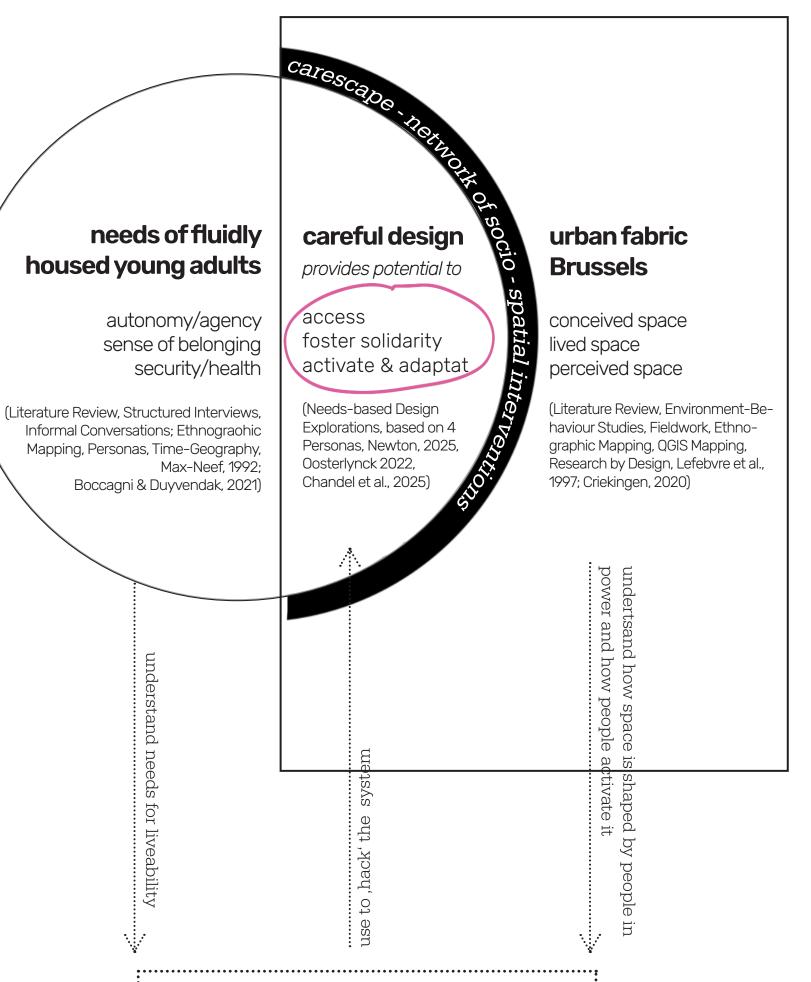
careful imagination using careful design to hack the system











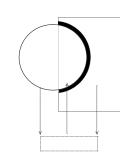
Pattern Language

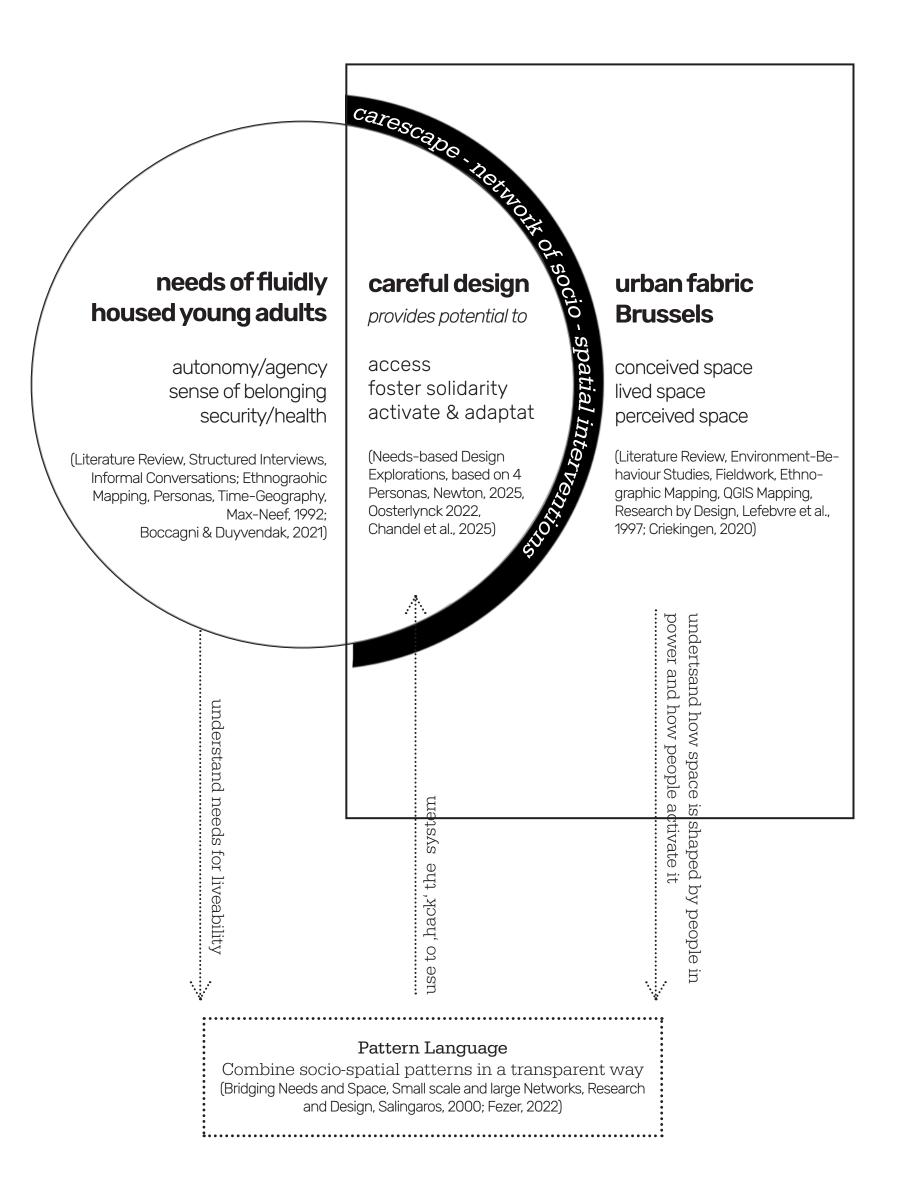
Combine socio-spatial patterns in a transparent way
(Bridging Needs and Space, Small scale and large Networks, Research
and Design, Salingaros, 2000; Fezer, 2022)

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conceptual framework own work

radical spatial imagination





conceptual framework radical spatial imagination, own work

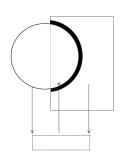
an invitation to unlearn

unlearning

to make an effort to forget your usual way of doing something so that you can learn a new and sometimes better way'

Cambridge Dictionary, 2025

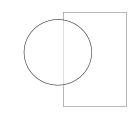


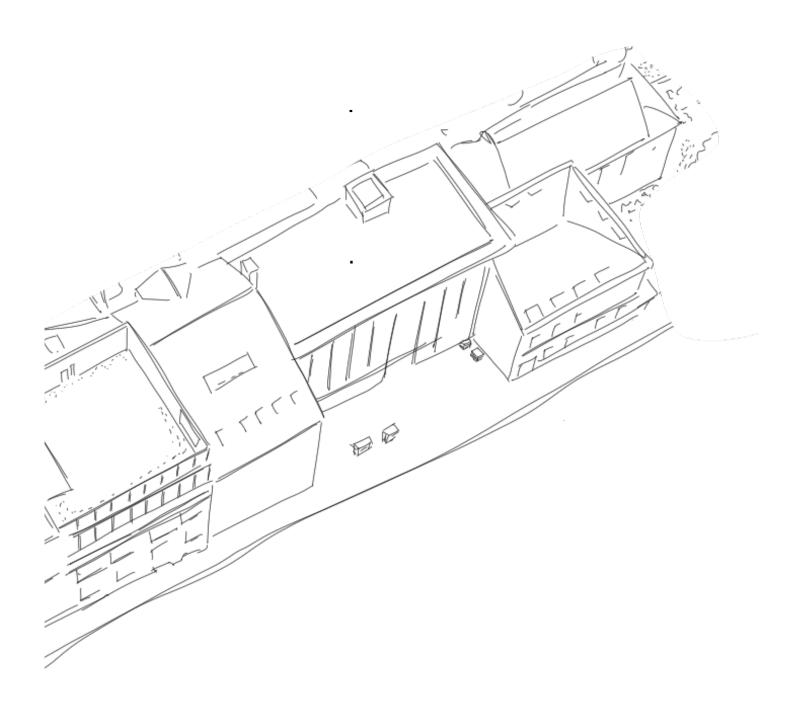


Shaped by and shaping shaping

space is neutral

what are patterns?

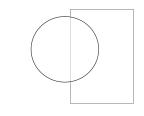


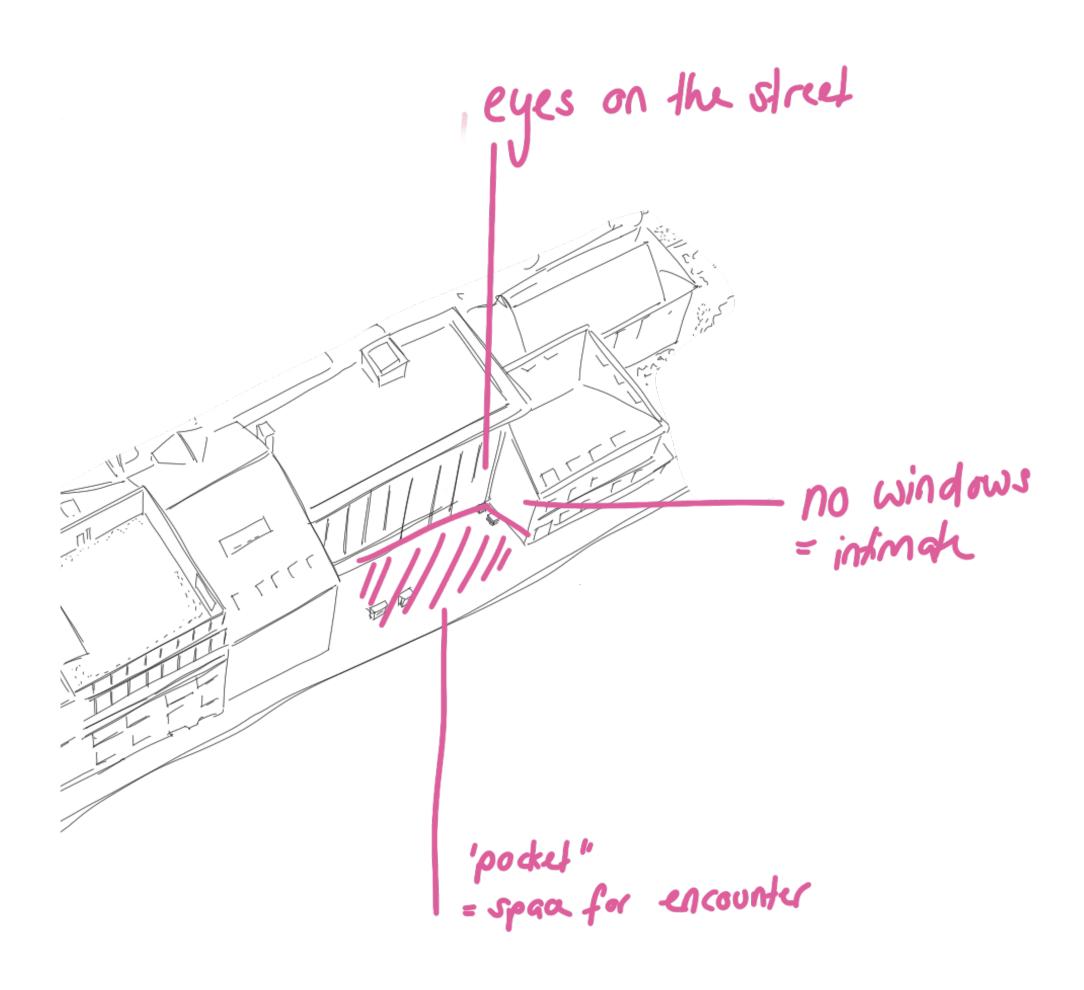


central patterns and patetrns to activate them, own work

what are patterns?

spaces that provide potentials for young fluidly housed adults to interact with space or with each other through space

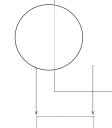




central patterns and patetrns to activate them, own work

organizing patterns

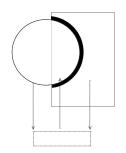
Spacial Community



Source Literature Fieldwork **Related Emotions** Research by Design privacy & security System solidarity & community Food flexibility & autonomy Water Shelter Agency **A.18** Satisfiers Scales Quantity materials Theoretical Backup - why? Number of cards in each type of pattern furniture **Back and Forth** buildings In Brussels, many of these spaces encourage public apsquares gives a first overview of the theme of propriation by providing room for gathering, lingering, and streets, networks and city each pattern informal activities. This fosters social interaction, enhances Principles for Careful Design urban vitality, and allows for adaptive uses such as seating Access areas, and cultural events. Foster Solidarity Activate Adapt social implication **Image** Social implication - how? makes the pattern accessible to people describes measures with which this pattern and invite them to get involved can be implemented and naming a respon-Municipal regulations mandate setbacks to create semisible care-taker public spaces. Governments offer tax benefits or increased floor-area ratios for projects incorporating accessible setbacks. Cities integrate setback requirements into master plans to promote interactive streetscapes. Local groups repurpose setback spaces with temporary furniture, art, or greenery. Connected to: Sa.2, Sa.3, Sa.5, Sa.6, Sa.7, Sa.8, A.50, Neighborhood associations advocate for inclusive, user-A.51, A.52, A.53, A.54 friendly setback designs. Links Similar to: A.17, A.19, A.20, A.21, A.22 Different patterns can be linked within and Mutual support: A.1, A.12, A.17, A.19, A.20, A.21, A.22, Spatial implication - where? spatial implication across the pattern fields. The ones that A.23, A.29 complement each other or solve the same describes suitable locations on where this problem are linked. The other connections Supports: A.24, A.25, A.26 commercial streets pattern can be implemented will be displayed in the pattern field. Public squares Enables: A.49, S.18 plazas Hypothesis Architectural setbacks create transitional Semi-Public Spaces explains the socio-spatial connection University campuses spaces that invite public appropriation, of each pattern Library and museum forecourts fostering social interaction, urban vitality, Inner courtyards of mixed-use buildings S and adaptive use. Policy

examplary pattern, own work

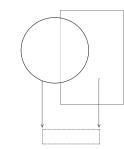


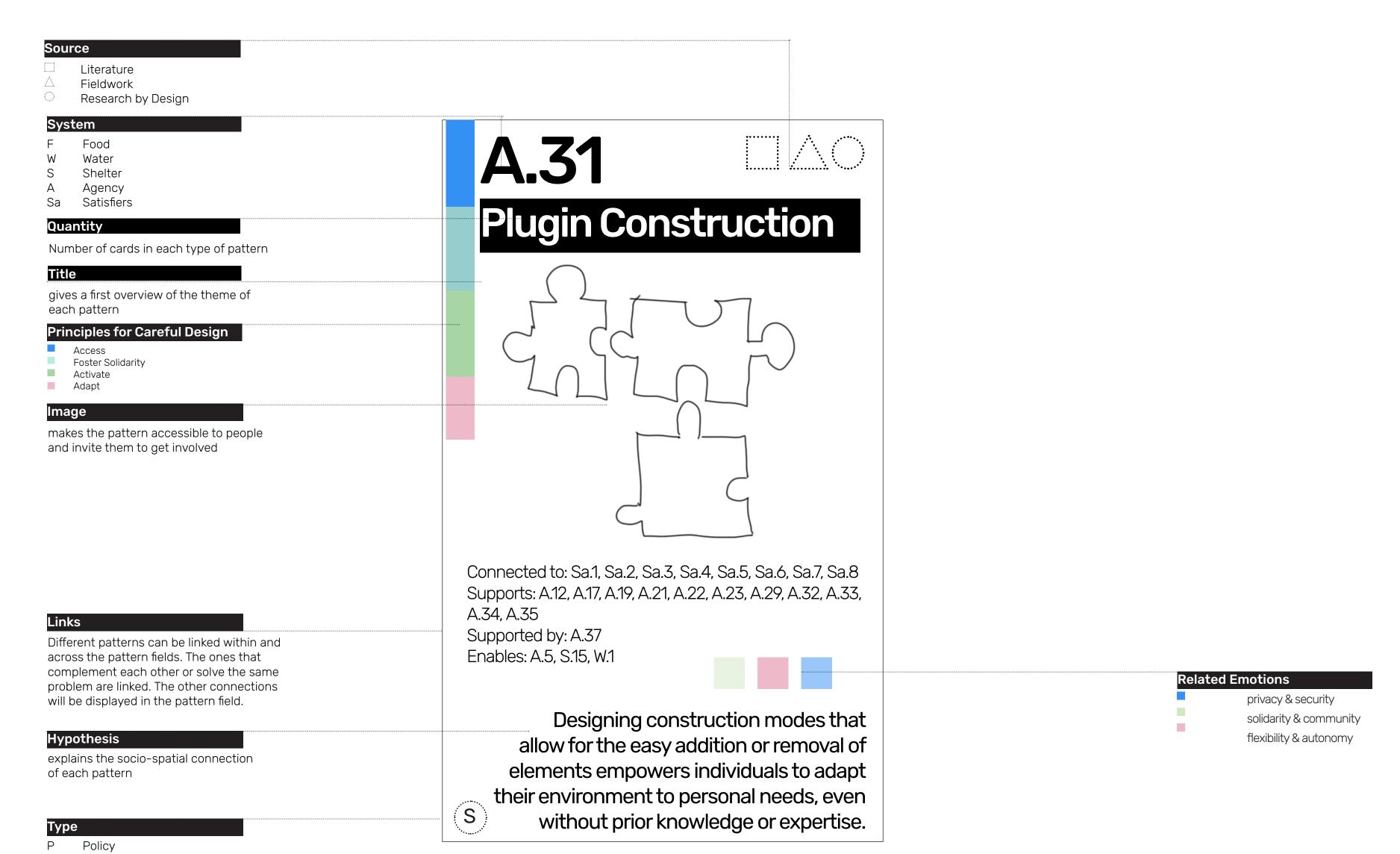


by providing the patential to be activated to activated teadapted to shifting needs

change happens top-down

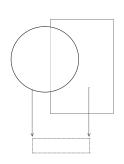
Spacial Community

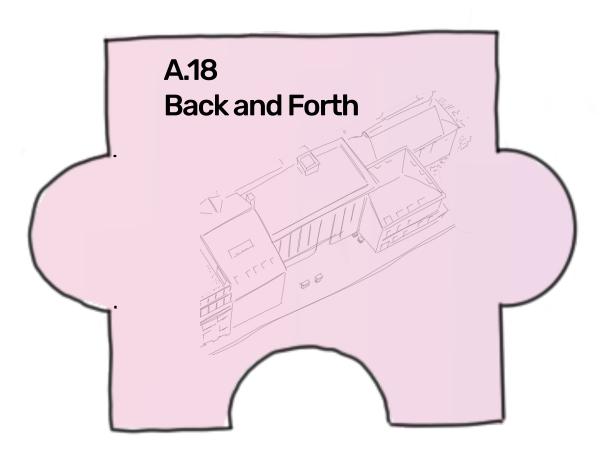




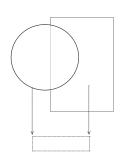
examplary pattern, own work

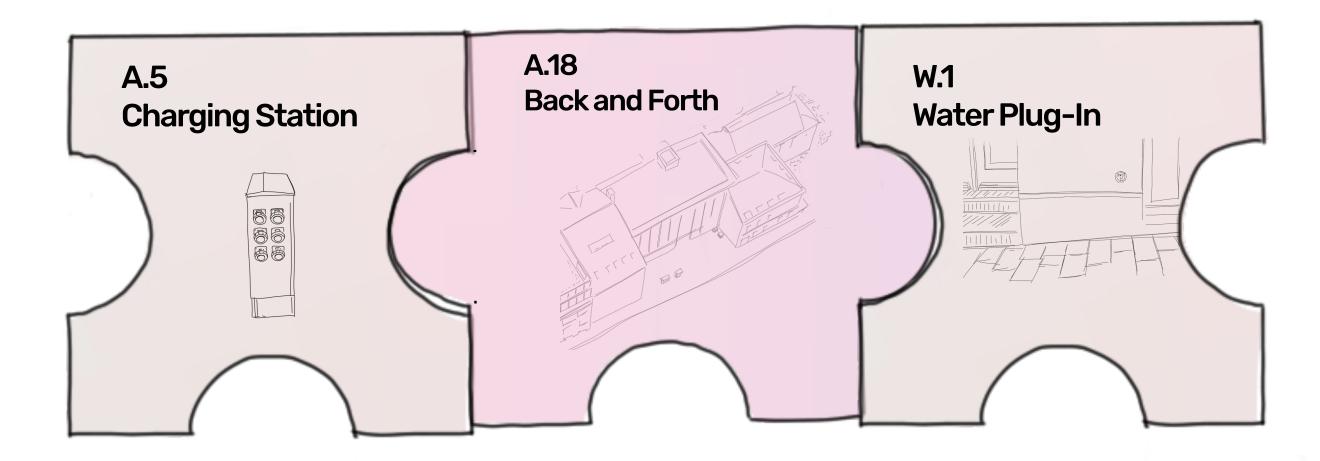
positionality soft story methodology unlearning conclusion and reflection 37/60



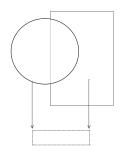


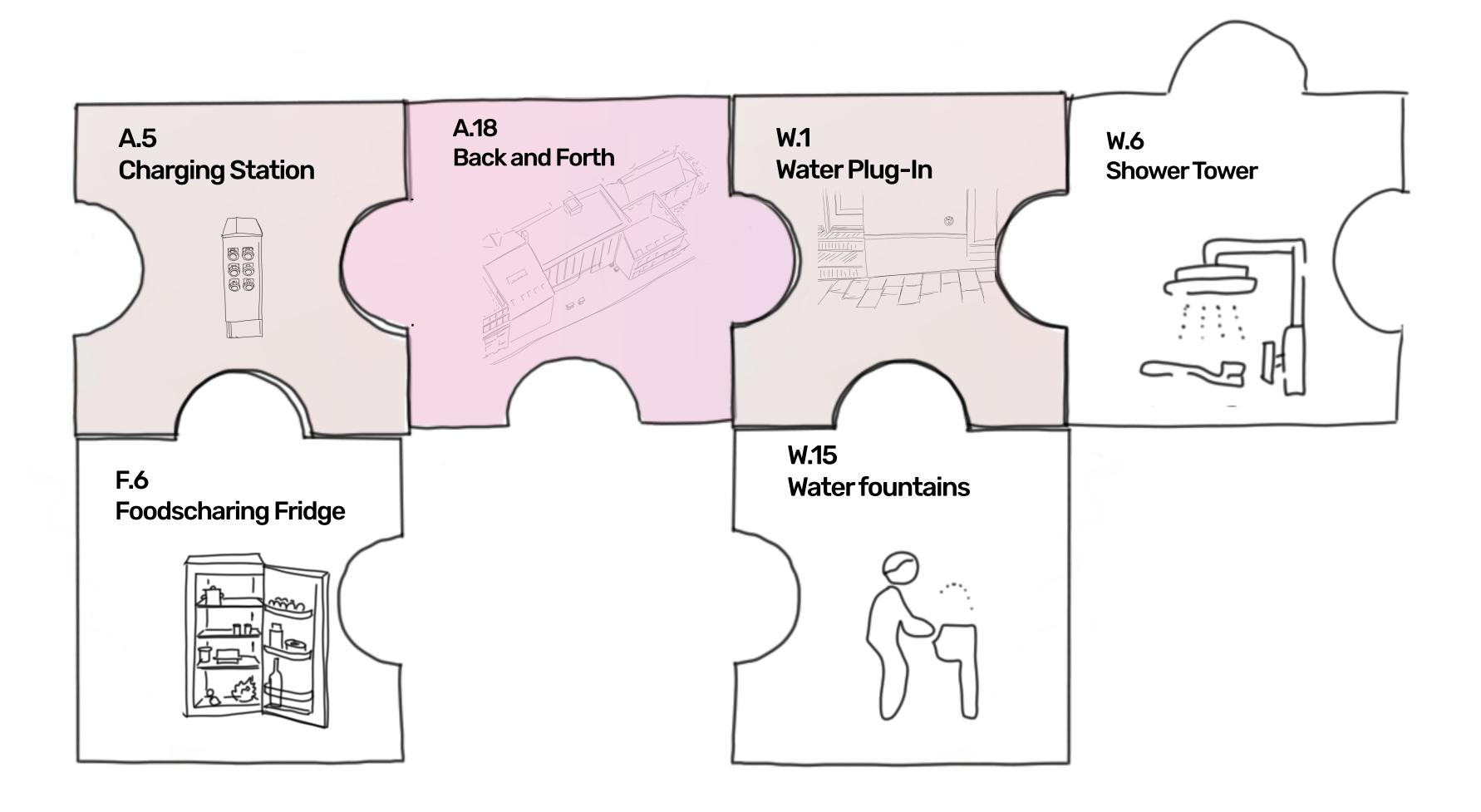
central patterns and patetrns to activate them, own work



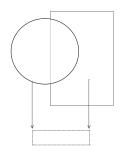


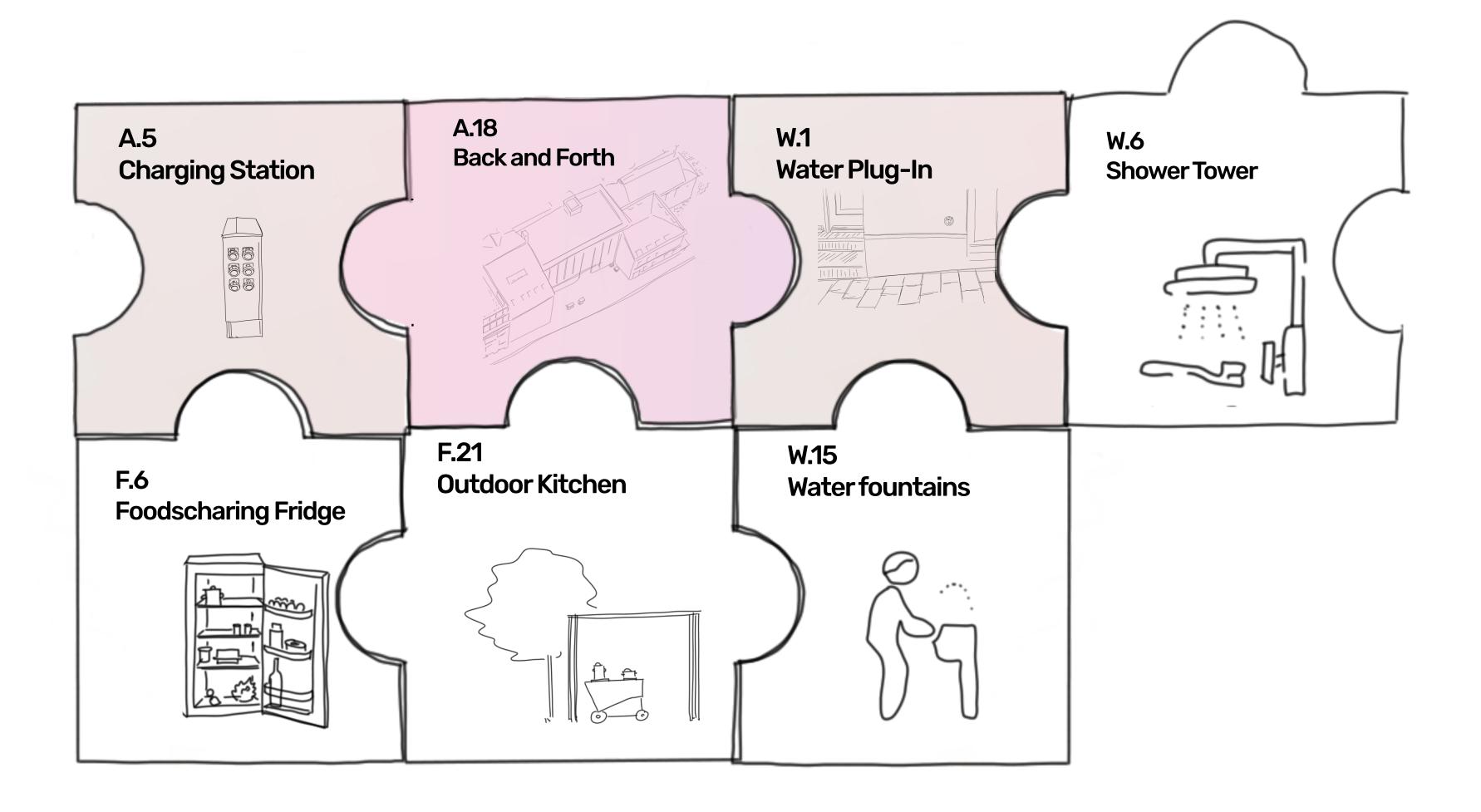
central patterns and patetrns to activate them, own work





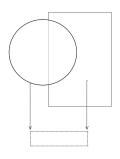
central patterns and patetrns to activate them, own work





central patterns and patetrns to activate them, own work

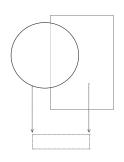
positionality soft story methodology unlearning conclusion and reflection 41/60

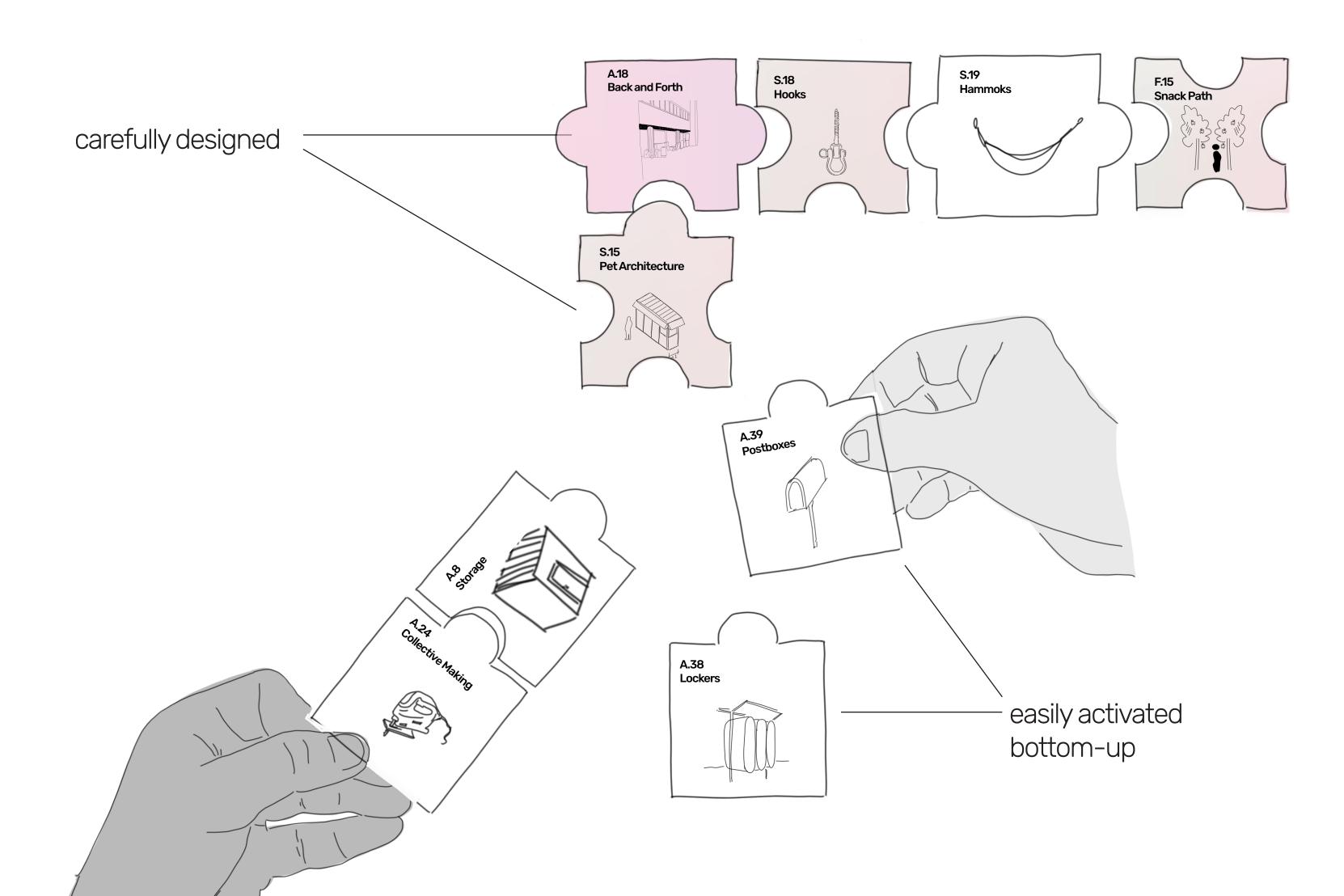


conceived space abstract top-down

A.18 Back and Forth A.18 Back and Forth **Public Spaces** Spatial Potential Back and Forth Back and Forth Plug-In Networks S.18 Hooks F.15 Snack Path **Charging Station** Pet Architecture Water Plug-In S.19 Hammoks A.24 Collective Making A.39 **Postboxes** Lockers Plug-In Elements F.21 Outdoor Kitchen Foodscharing Fridge Separated Water fountains

lived sp activat





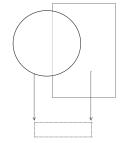
possibilities to plug-in interventions, own work

positionality soft story methodology

/unlearning

h and reflection

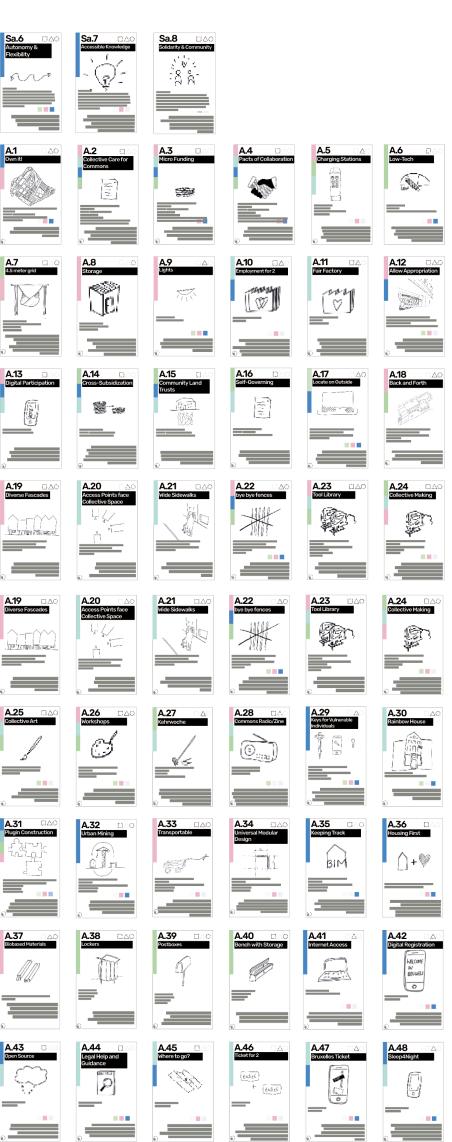
adaptable method for careful design





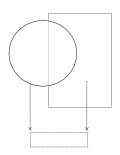






overview patterns, own work

centered around human needs



Accessible Food

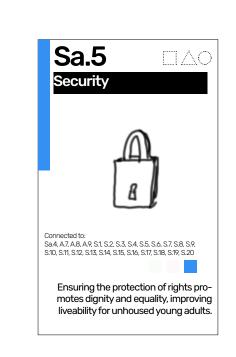


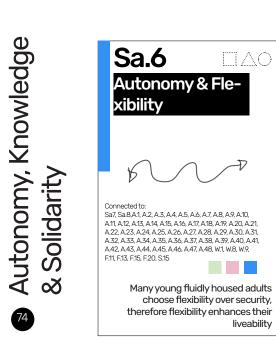


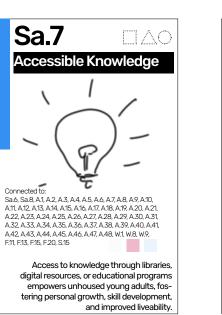














identified satisfiers and systems, own work

positionality soft story methodology unlearning conclusion and reflection 45/60

systemic method that forms the pattern language

satisfiers

food

water

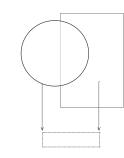
shelter

agency

similar

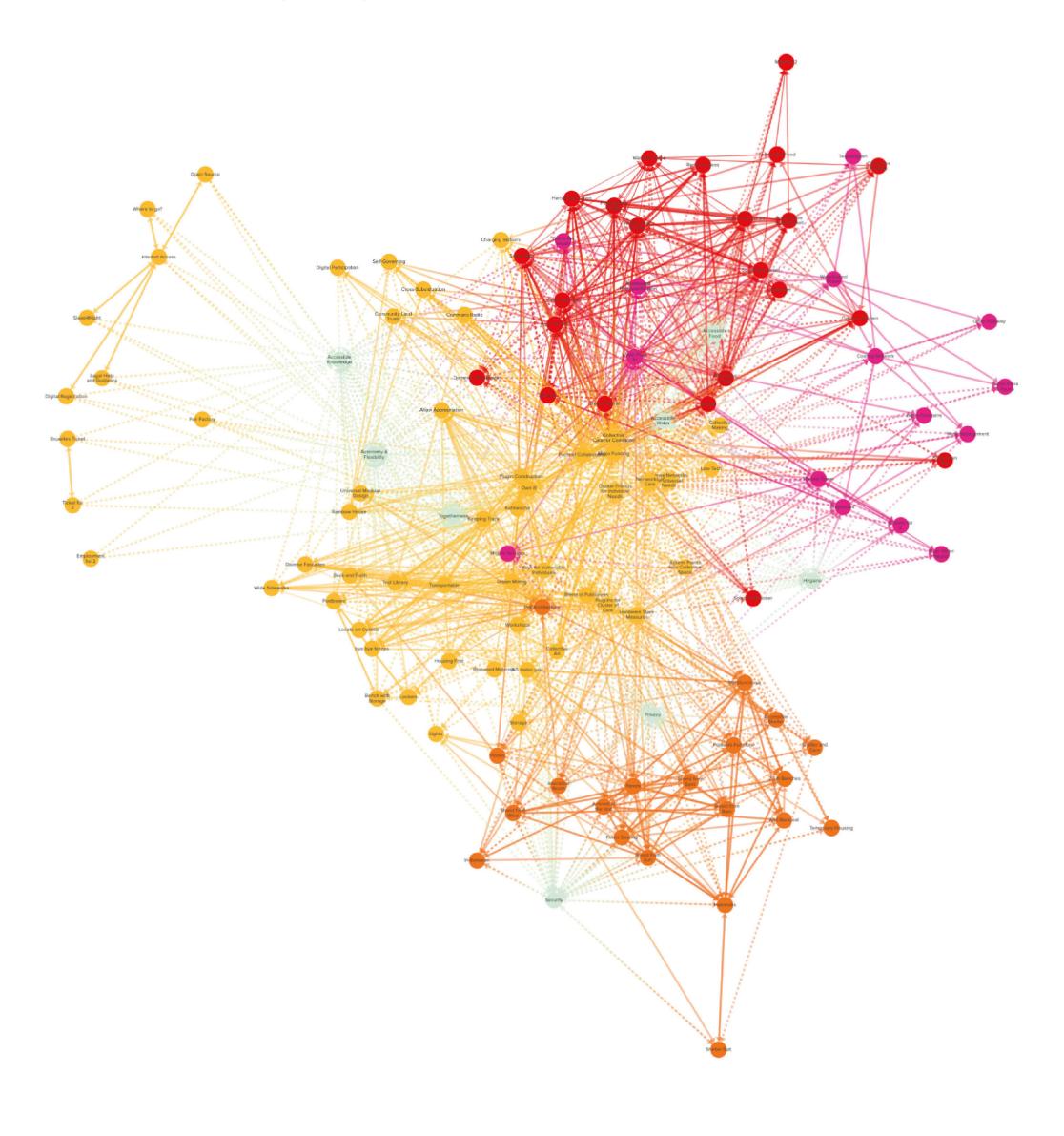
supports

enables



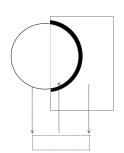
pattern field visualized with kumu.io,

own work



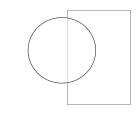
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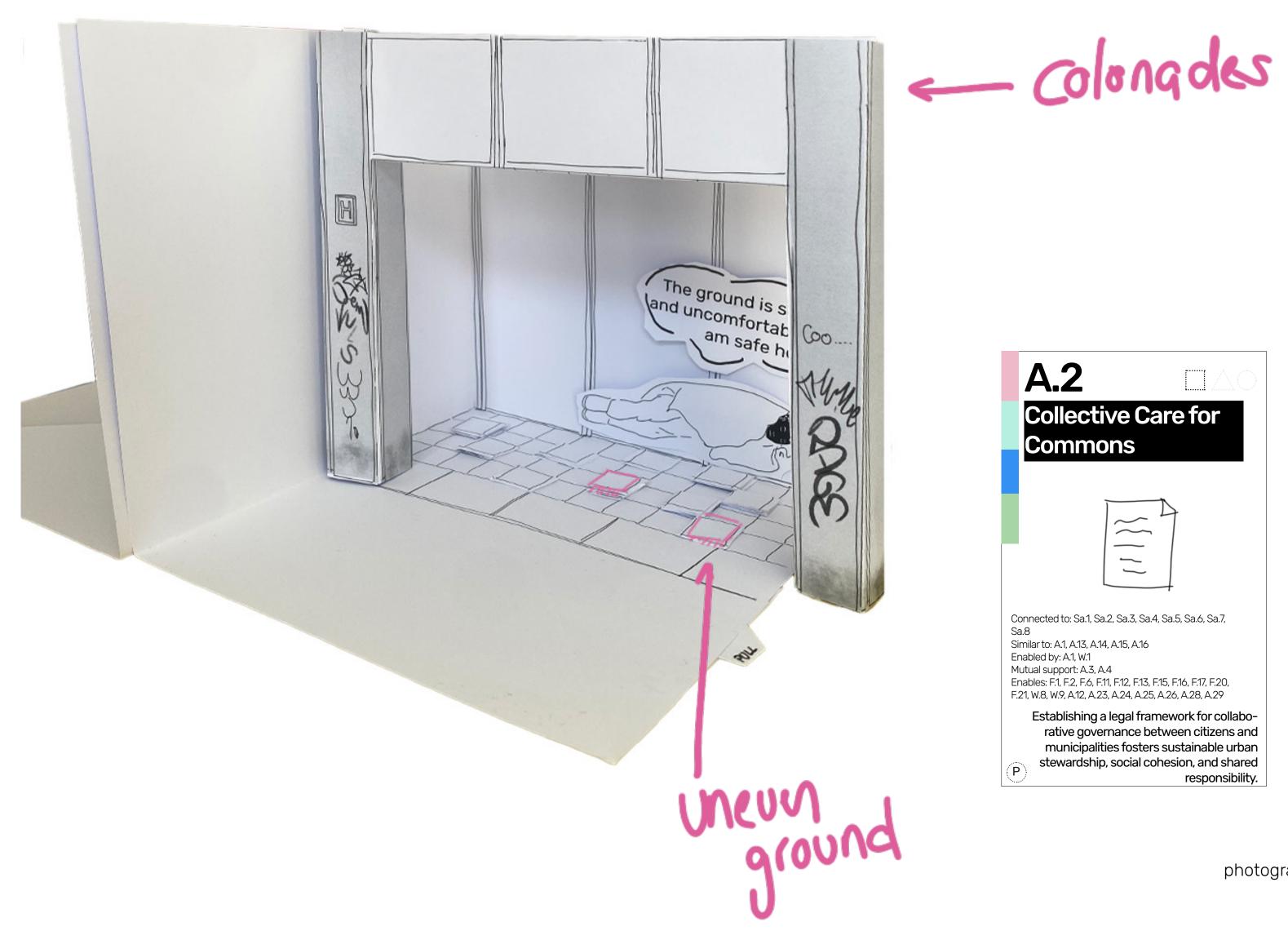


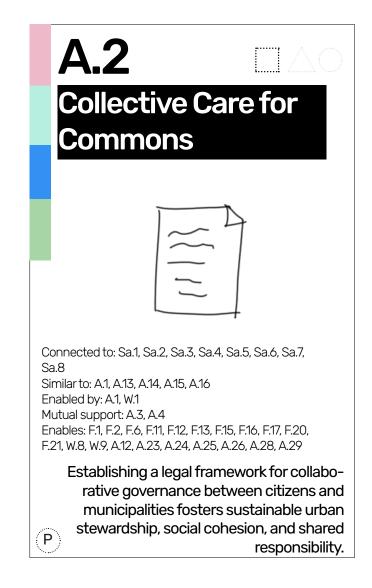


a political act of care and resistance design is neutral

positionality soft story methodology unlearning conclusion and reflection 47/60

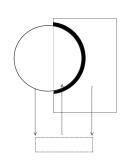


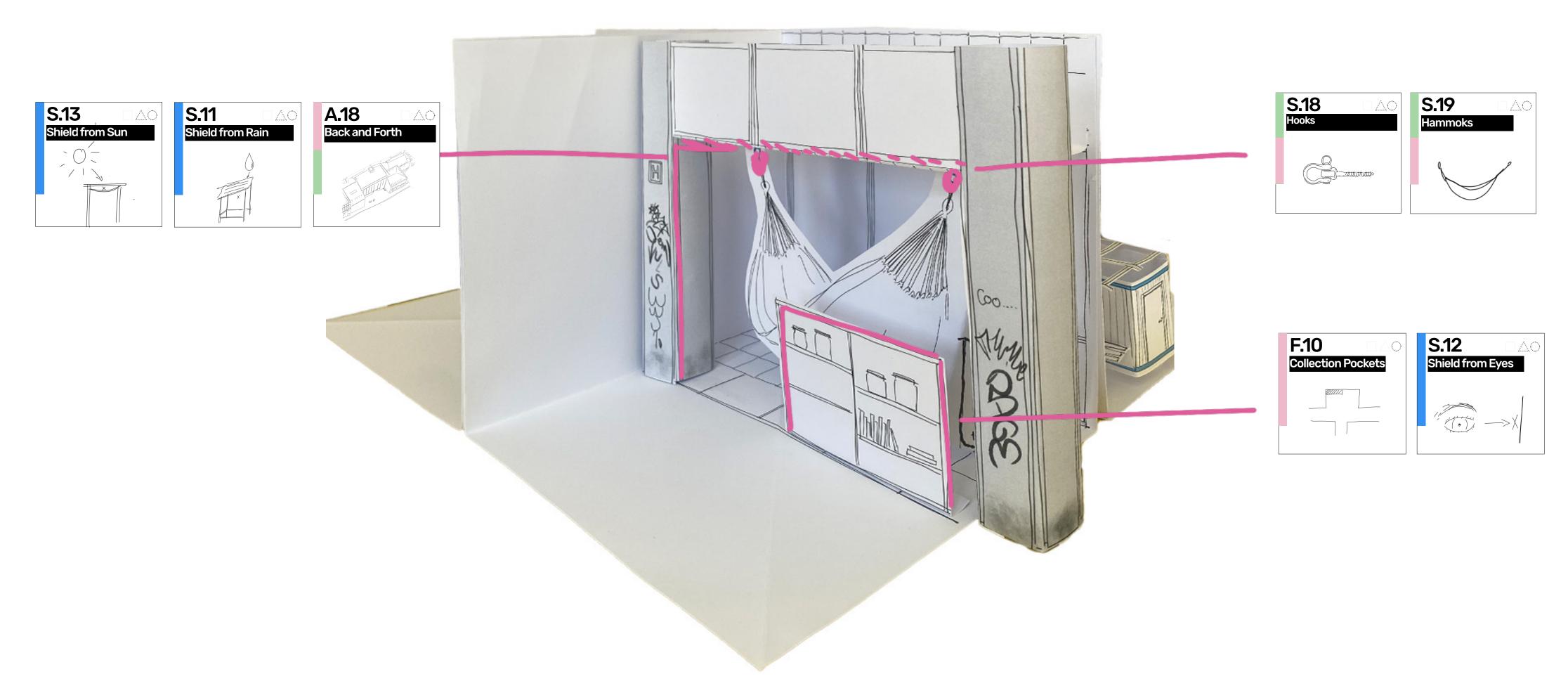




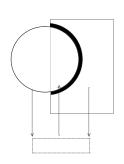
photograph of booklet ,patterns of fluid housing', own work

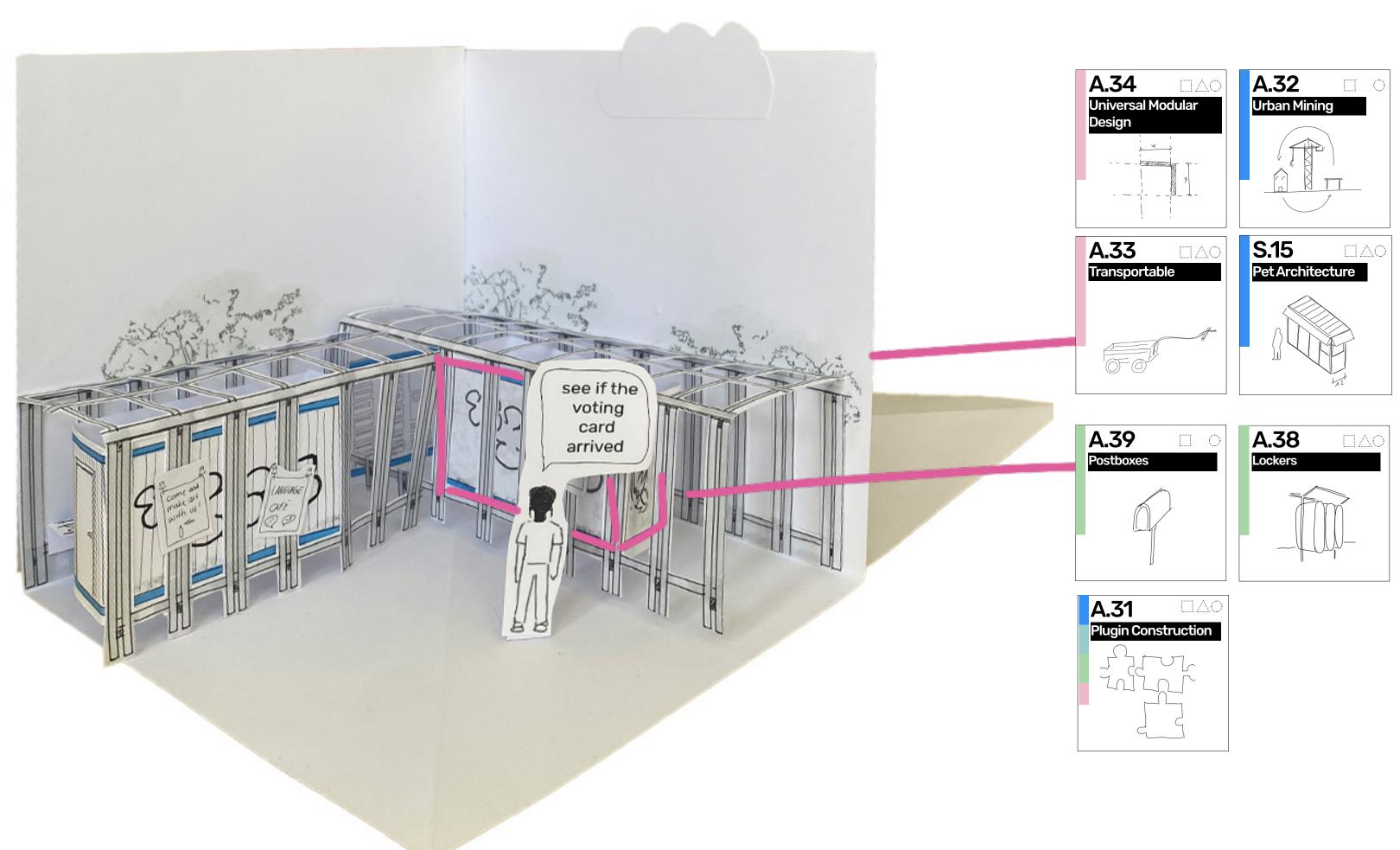
48/60 soft story methodology unlearning conclusion and reflection



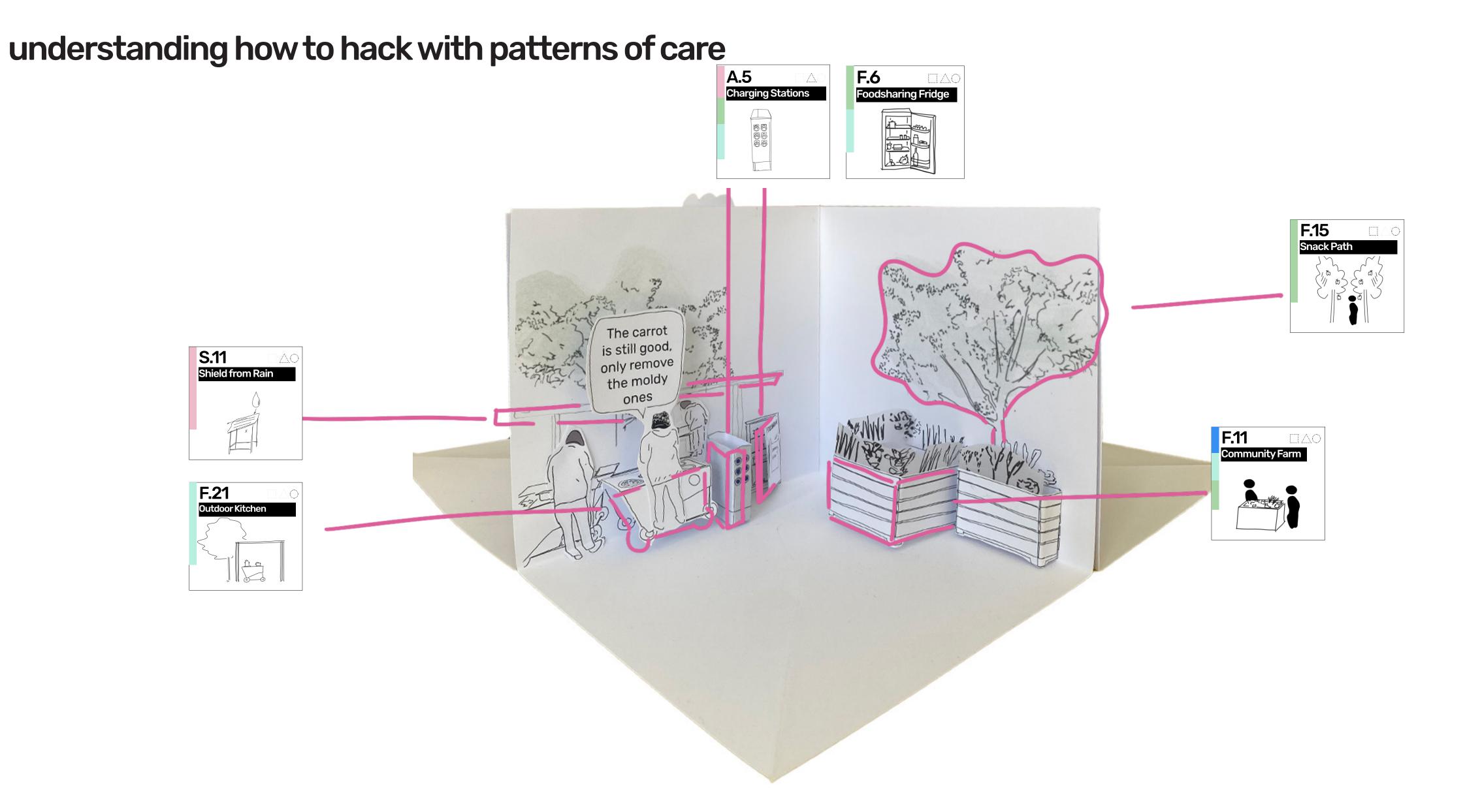


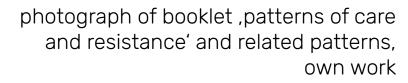
photograph of booklet ,patterns of care and resistance' and related patterns, own work



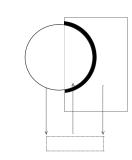


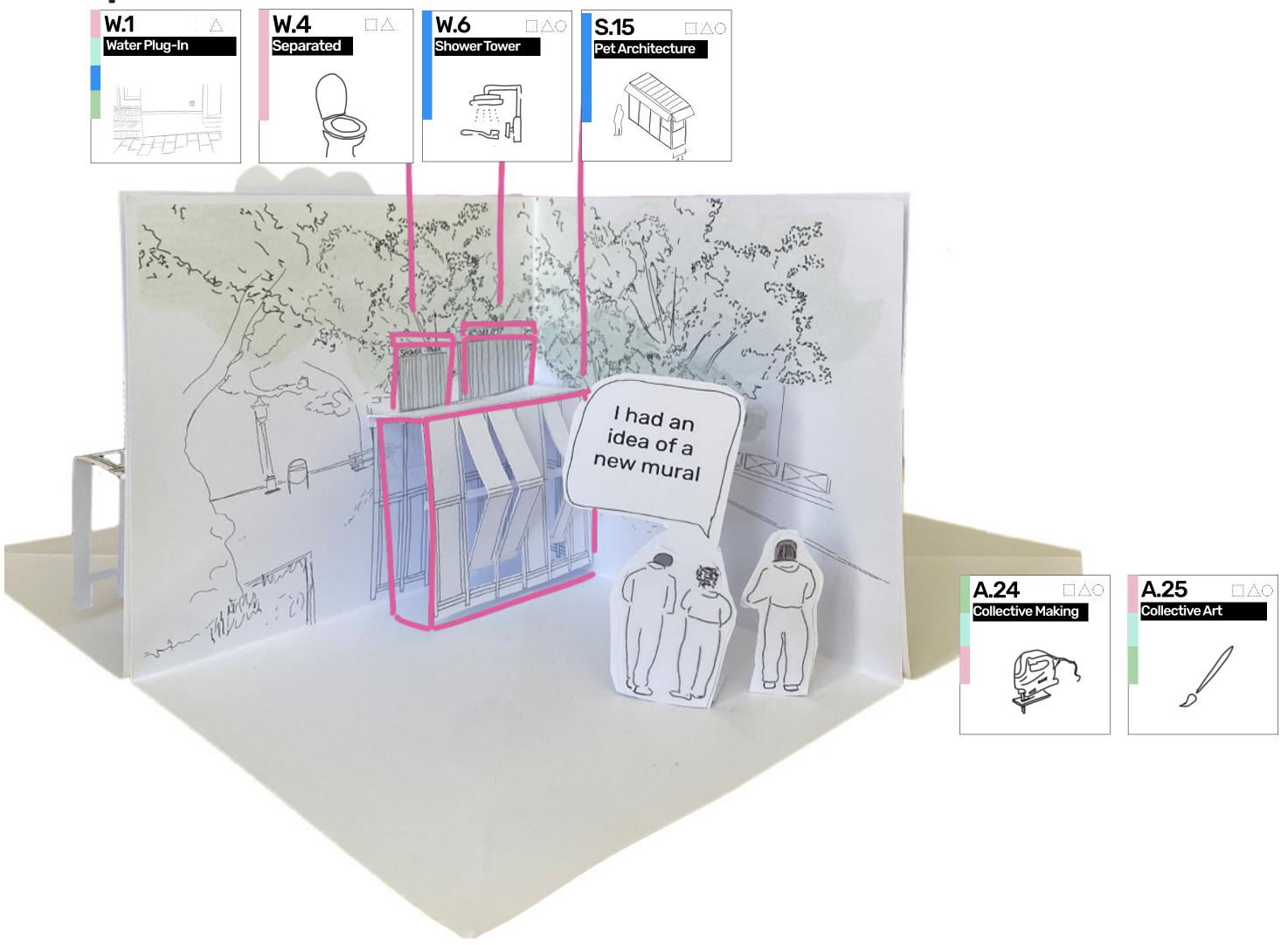
photograph of booklet ,patterns of care and resistance' and related patterns, own work





positionality soft story methodology unlearning conclusion and reflection 51/60





How can urban design become a tool to hack systems of marginalization—quickly improving the lives of young fluidly housed adults while creating lasting spaces of solidarity?

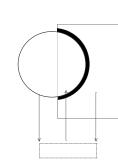


positionality soft story methodology unlearning conclusion and reflection

understanding how to create networks of care







angular choice

how probable a street is chosen to move through



angular integration

0 100m 200m ①

how easy a street is to reach



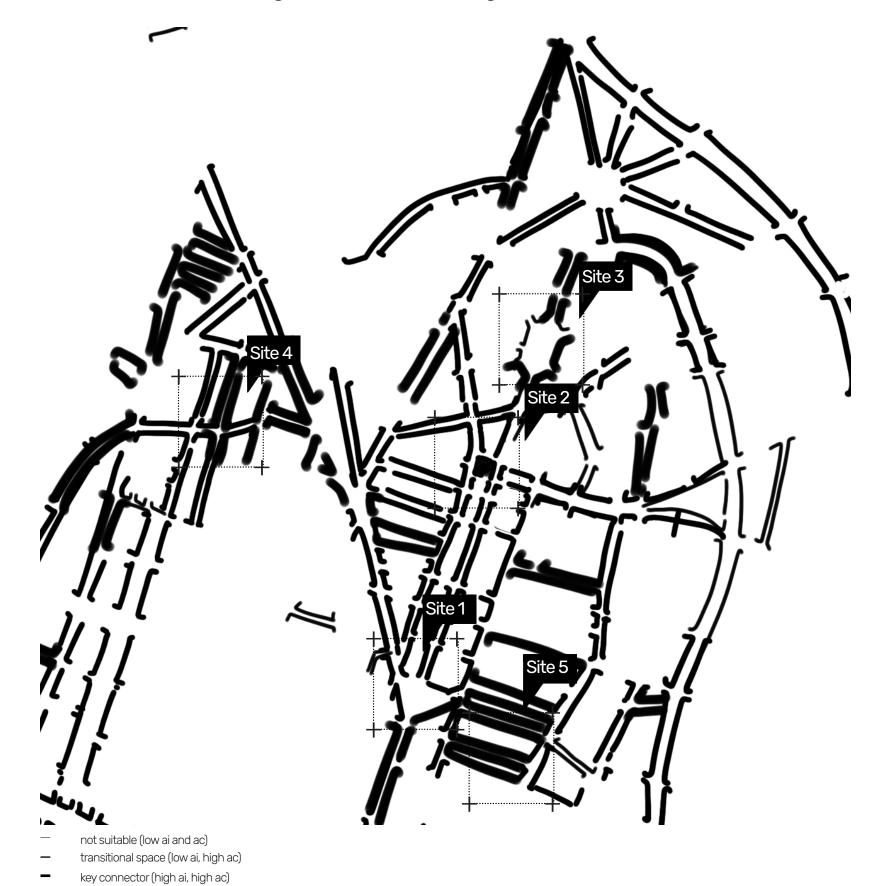
suitable locations

destination (high ai, low ac)

buildingspoverty crescent

0 150m 300m (

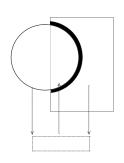
based on overlap of angular choice and integration

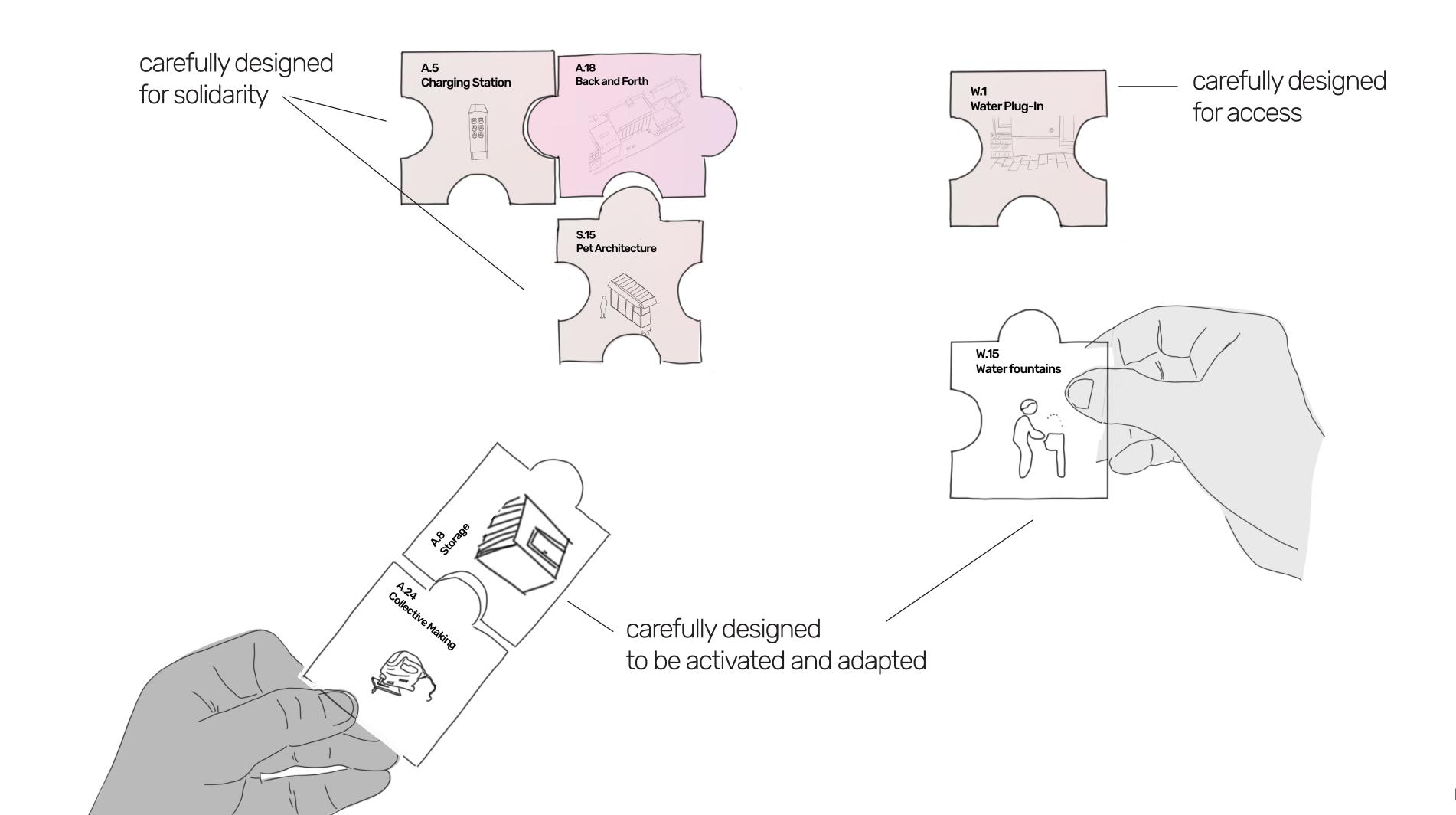


suitbale locations based on environment-behaviour science, own work

understanding how to create networks of care

conclusion and reflection





possibilities to plug-in interventions, own work

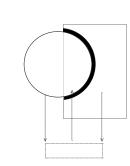
positionality soft story

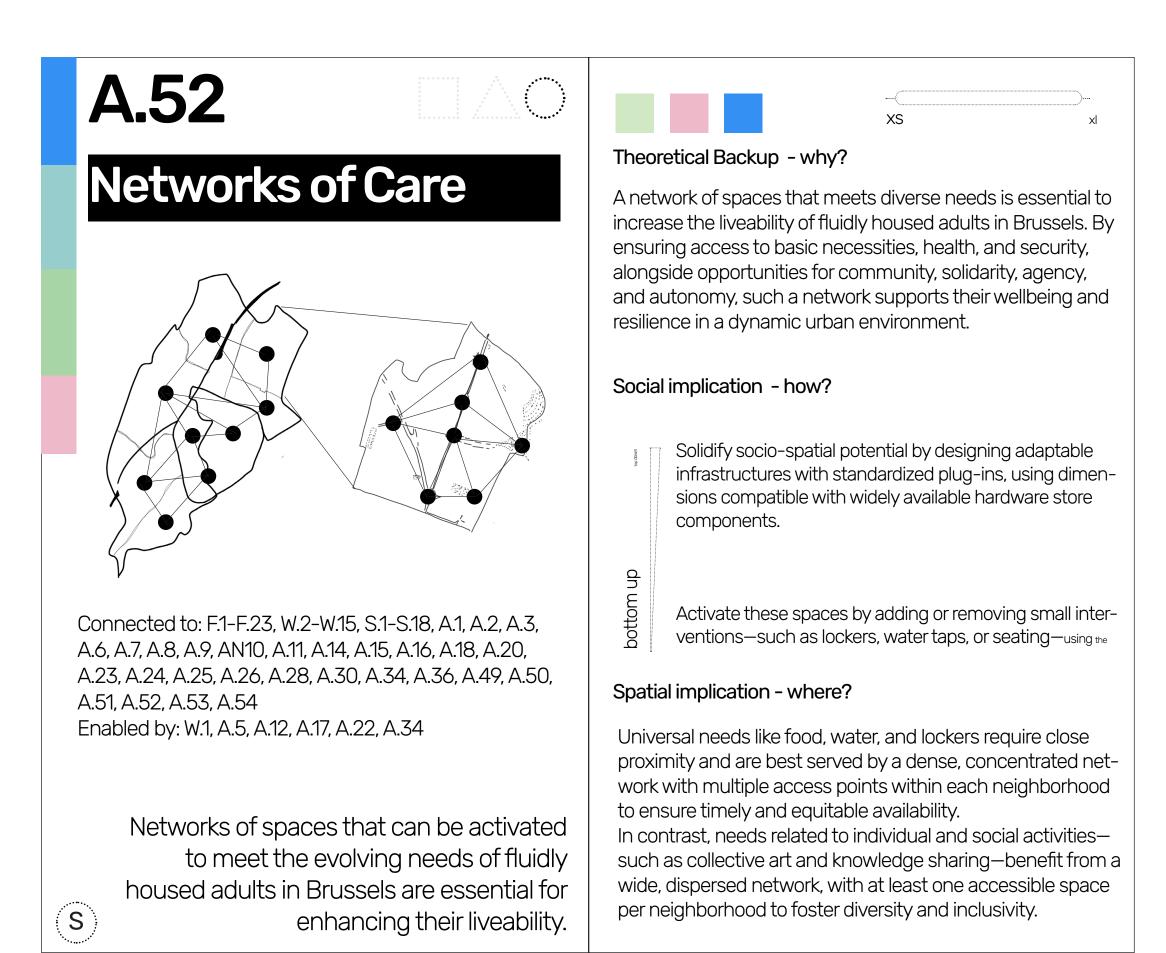
55/60

understanding how to create networks of care





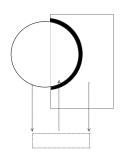




overarching pattern, own work

positionality soft story methodology unlearning conclusion and reflection 56/60

learning to hack with careful design













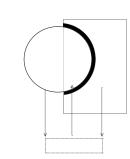


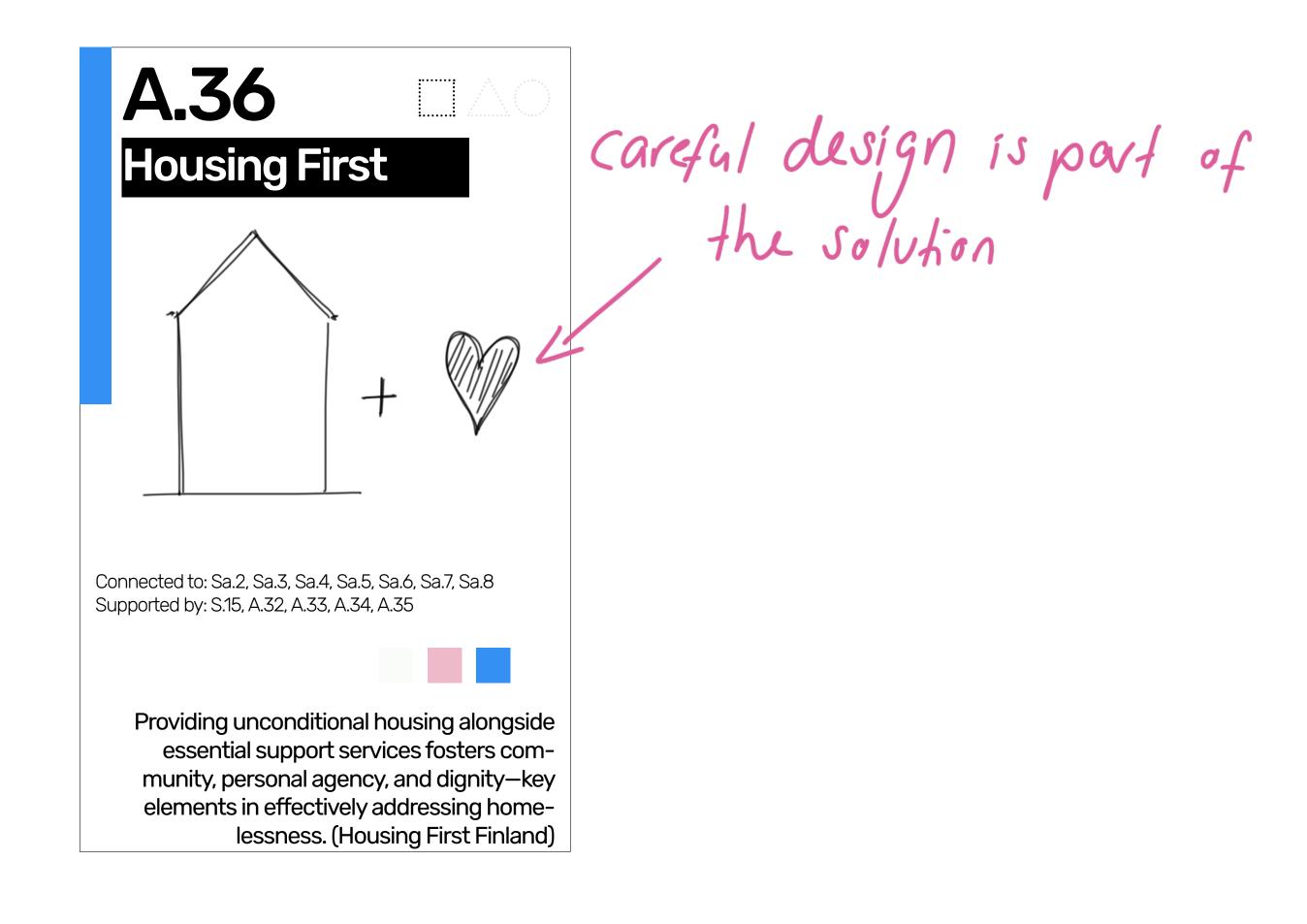


Although we still don't have a stable home, we are now registered and can meet each other.

> personas, own work

learning to hack with careful design





pattern ,housing first', own work

positionality soft story methodology unlearning conclusion and reflection 58/60

Imagining equitable and just futures requires designing in a careful way that

provides access
fosters solidarity
allows for activation & adaptation

positionality soft story methodology unlearning conclusion and reflection 59/6

thank you!



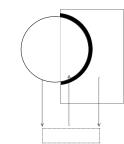
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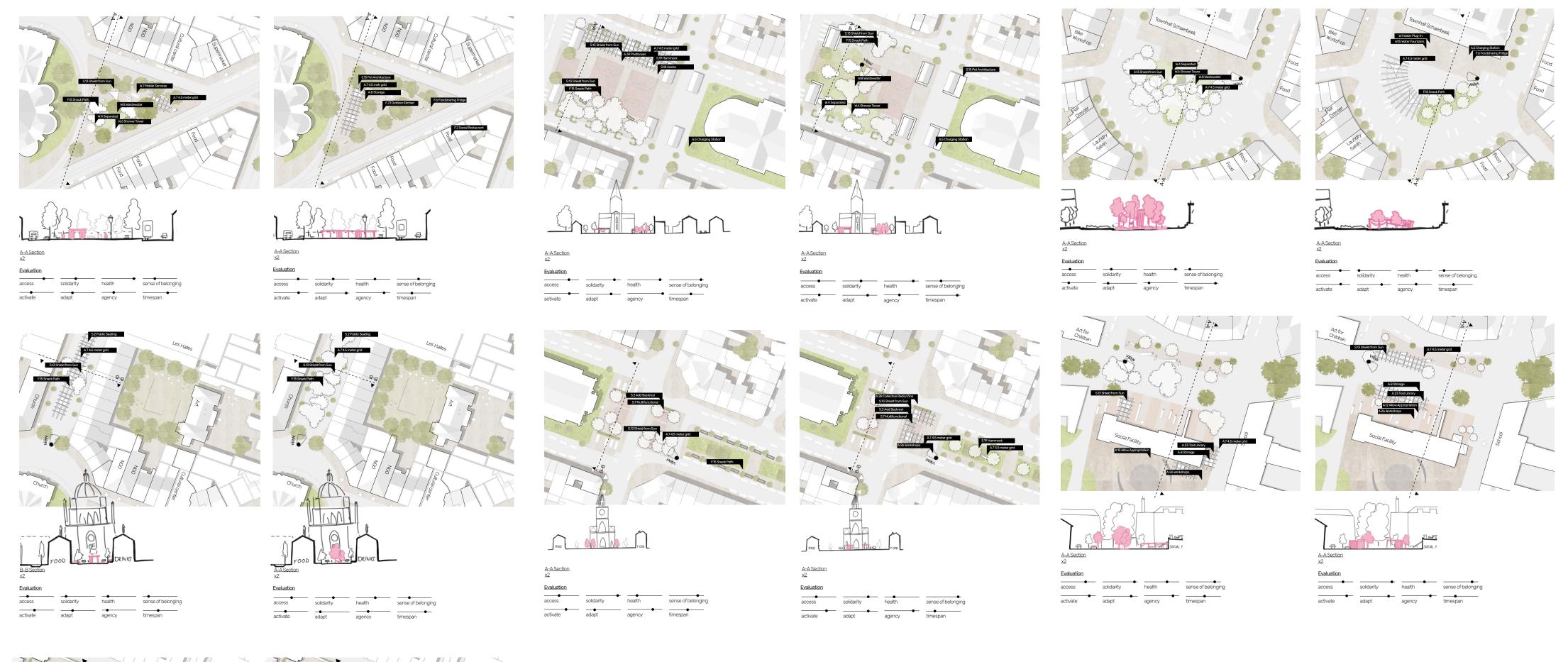
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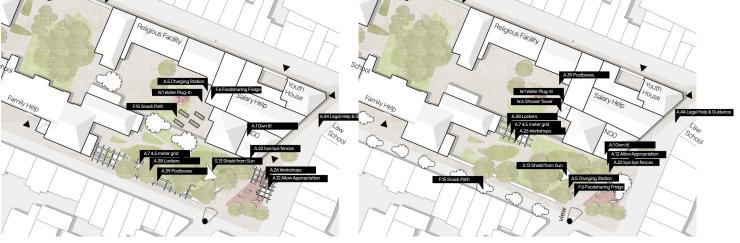
Housing First Europe Hub. (2020). Rock trust housing first for youth polit. https://www.rocktrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/HF4Y-Evaluation-Report-Executive-Summary-July-2020.pdf

Noppen, T. V. (2022). dak- en thuisloze jongeren: Verschillende profielen, ingewikkelde levensloop [Homeless young people: Different profiles, complicated life course]. Koning Boudenwijnstichting. https://kbs-frb.be/nl/dak-en-thuisloze-jongeren-verschillende-profielen-ingewikkelde-levensloop#:~:text=Dak%2D%20en%20thuisloze%20jongeren%3A%20 verschillende%20profielen%2C%20ingewikkelde%20levensloop,-10%2010%20 2022&text=Onder%20de%206.286%20dak%2D%20en,op%20de%20vijf%20dakloze%20 volwassenen.

hacking the system - conceived space abstract, planned dimension of space

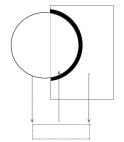


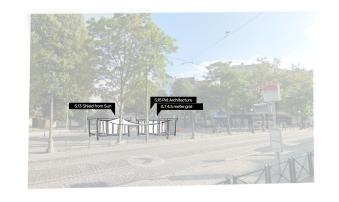


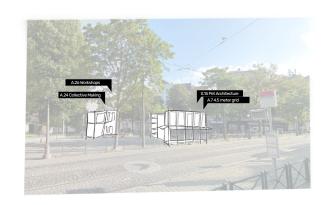


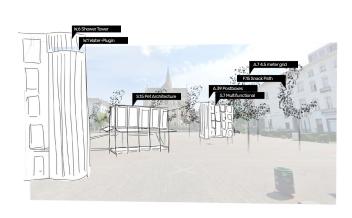
design explorations in five locations, conceived space top-down own work

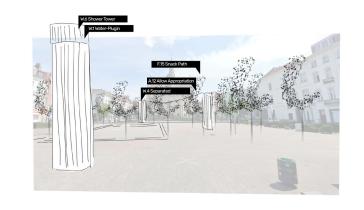
hacking the system - lived space spaces reclaimed and reinterpreted bottom-up

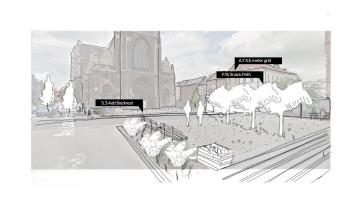


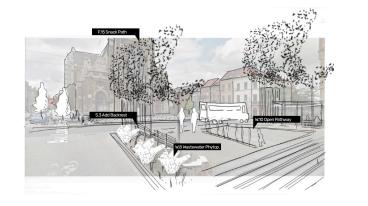


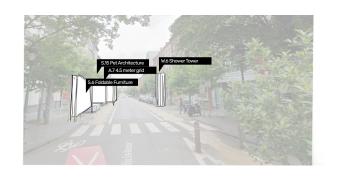




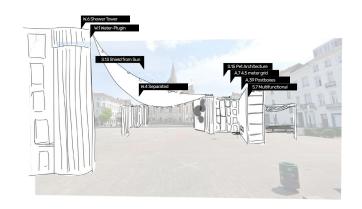


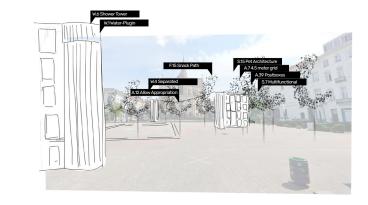


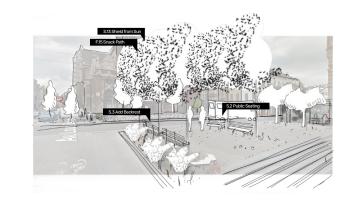


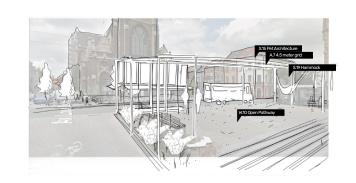




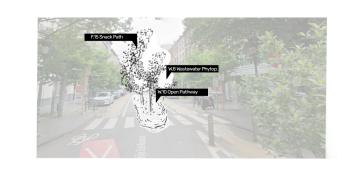




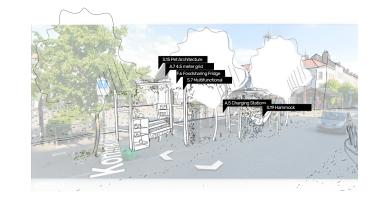




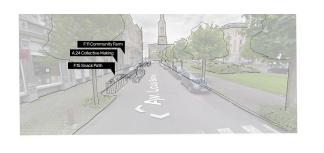


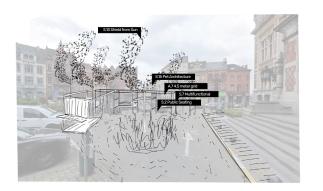








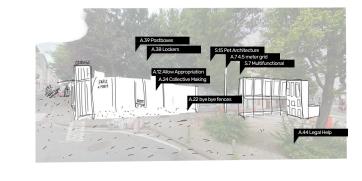








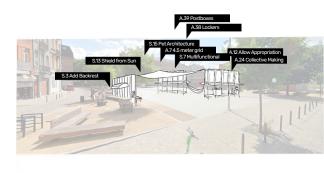


















design explorations in five locations, lived space bottom-up own work