

Regeneration through creativity

Dynamics of a post-socialist, Eastern European society and the possibilities of a creativity-led regeneration in Budapest

08.07.2020 - 4801407 - Judit Taraba - P5 presentation - Mentors: Claudiu Forgaci, Arie Romein

The content of the presentation

I. Understanding the context of the post-socialist city

II. The creative milieu

III. The design process

IV. Evaluation and reflection

I. Understanding the context

The characteristics of the post-socialist city

Development of the urban fabric



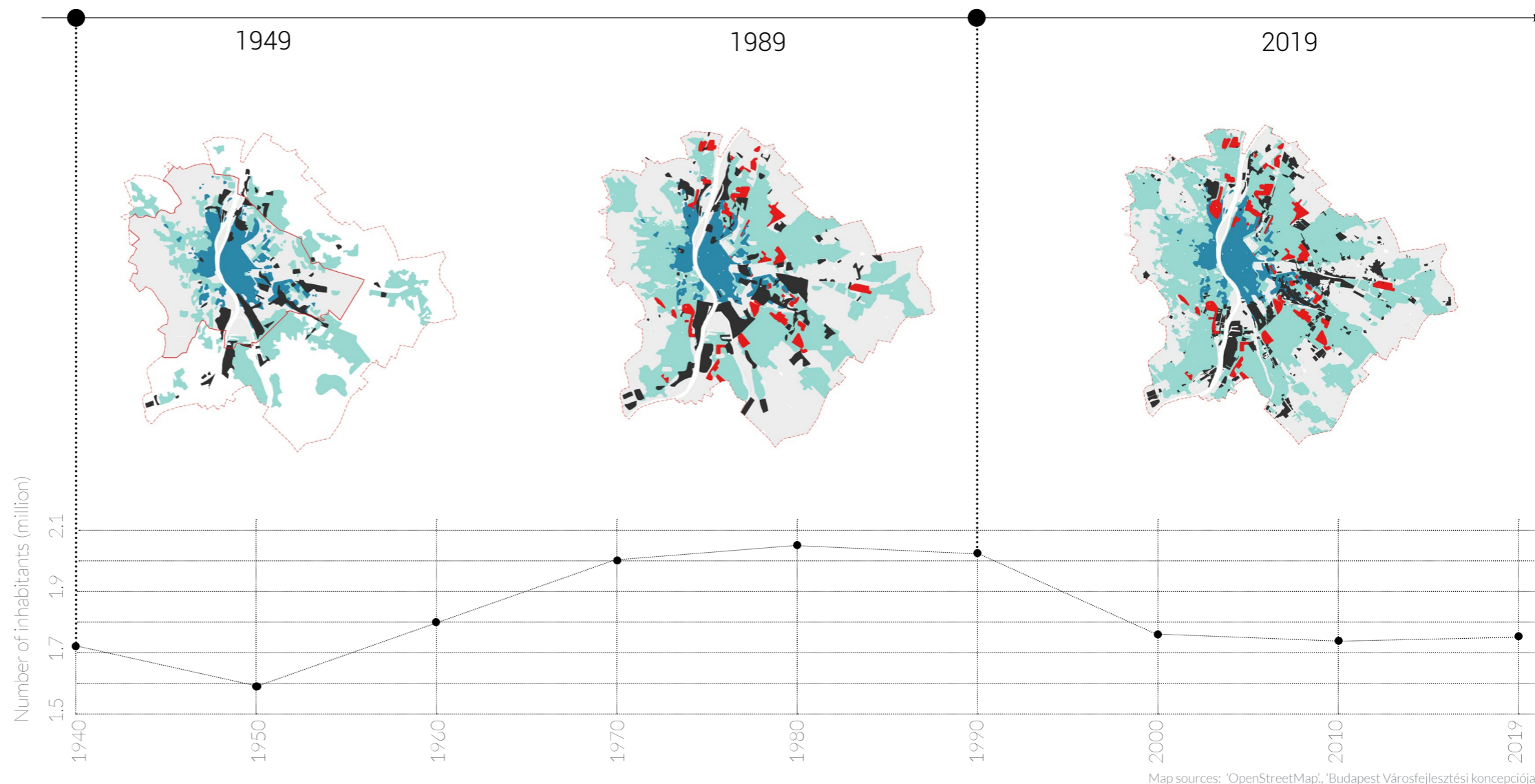
The destroyed Chain Bridge and the Royal Palace, Budapest by the Soviet Red Army



Construction of the new prefabricated housing, Budapest by Stipkovits Fülöp

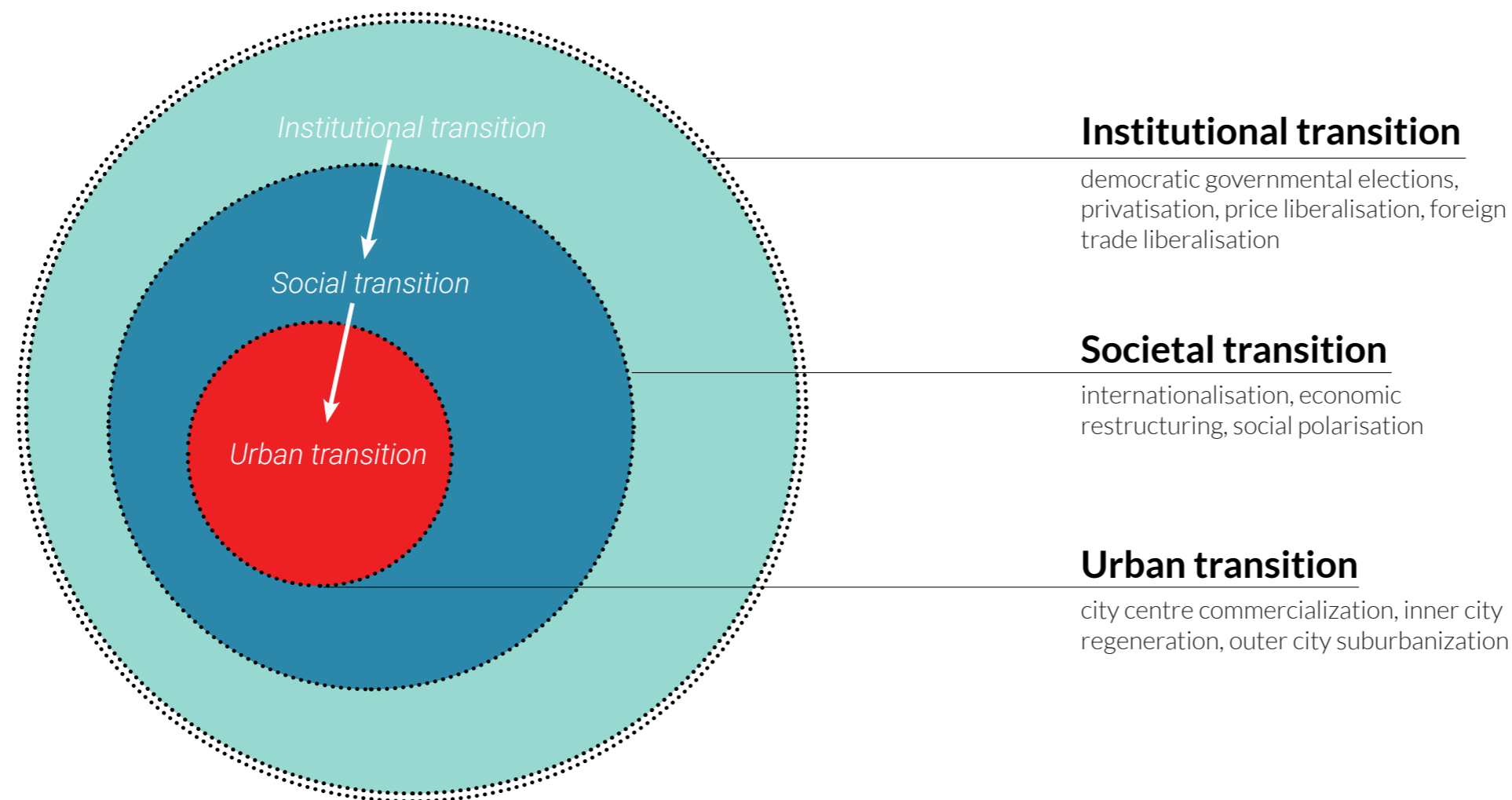


New housing in Halásztelek in the agglomeration of Budapest (Google Maps)

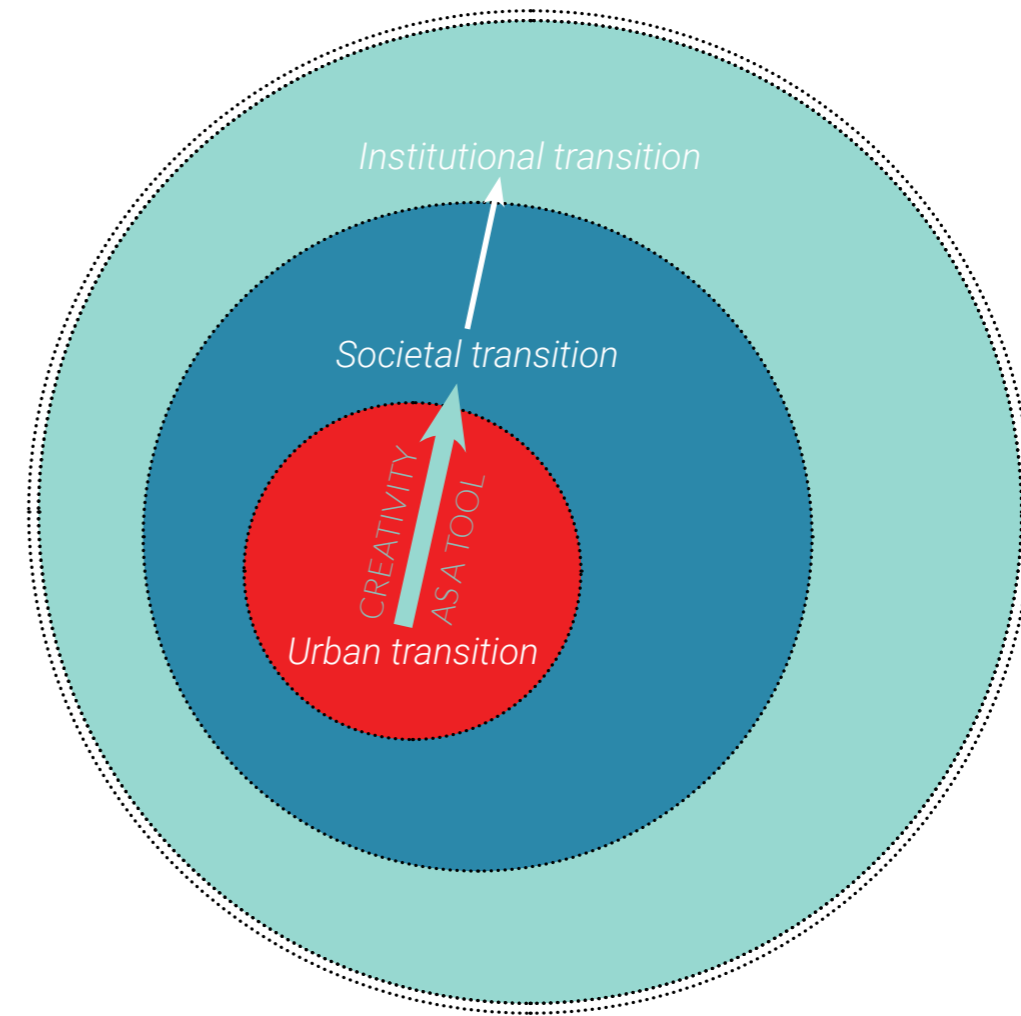
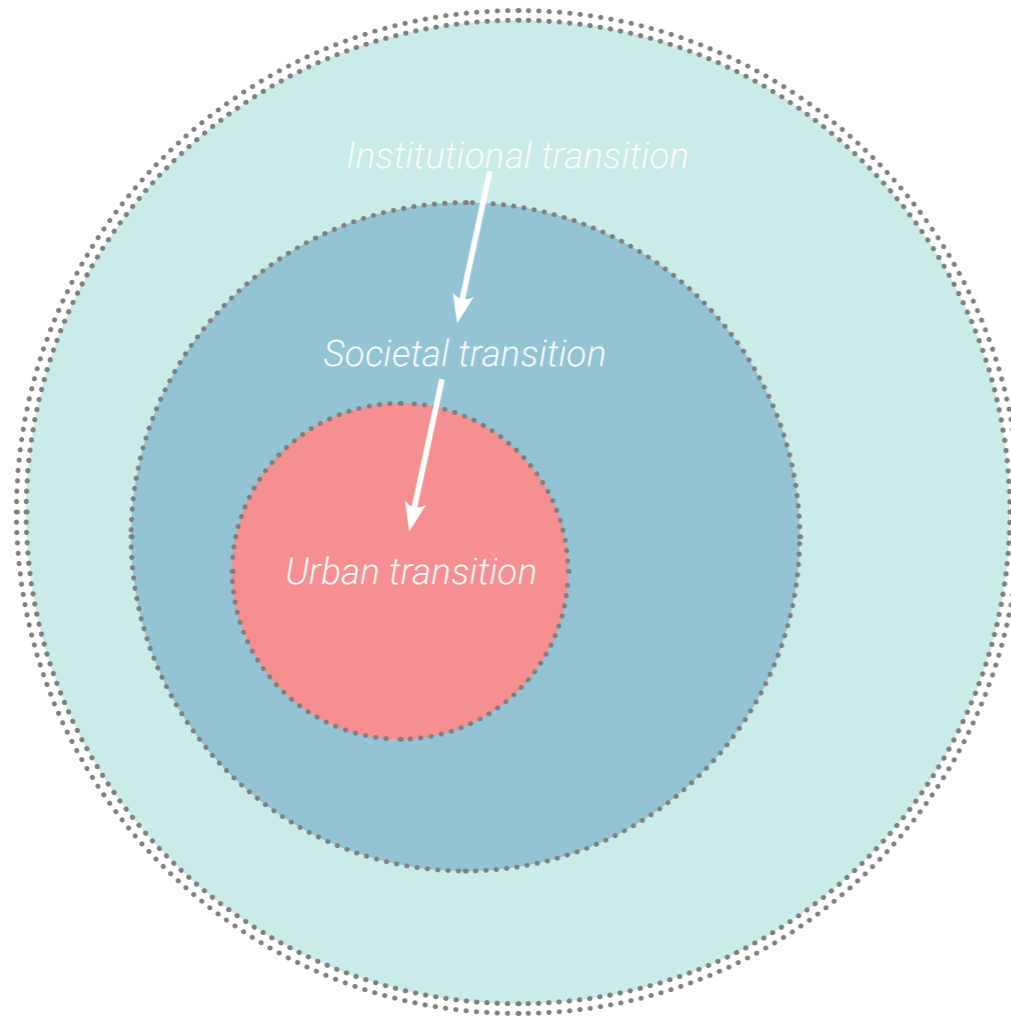


- Municipality border before 1950
- Municipality border after 1950
- Dense urban fabric
- Non-continuous urban fabric
- Socialist prefab housing
- Industrial area
- City area

Framework of the post-socialist transition



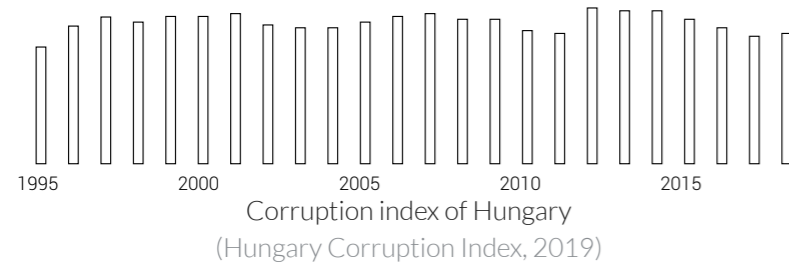
The aim of the regeneration



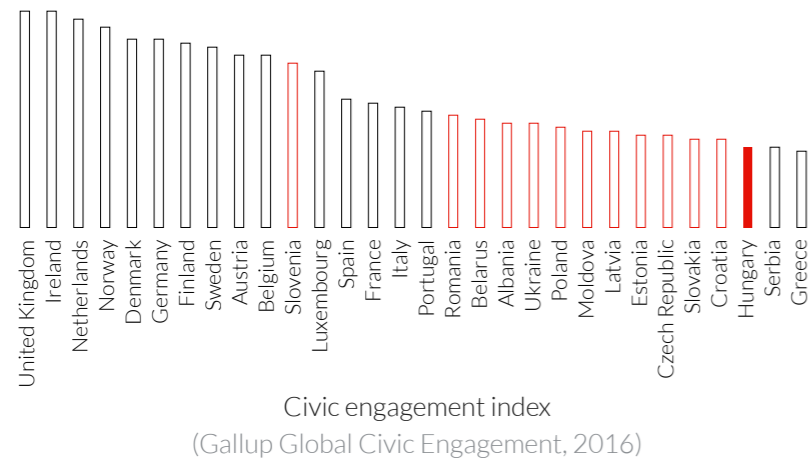
The societal consequences of the post-socialist transition

Societal consequences of the post-socialist transition

- **high level of corruption**

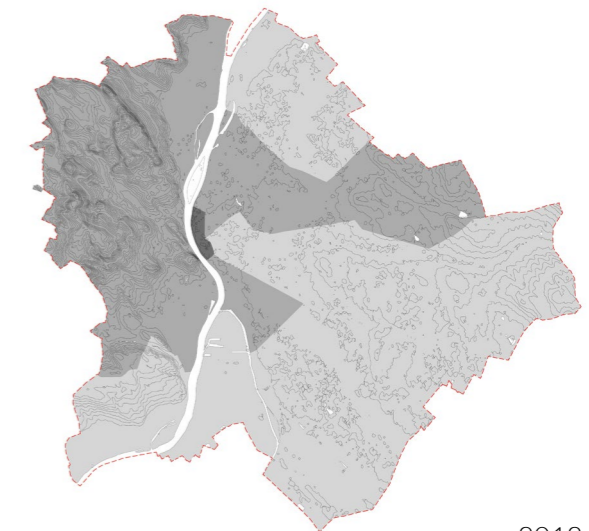


- **low level of civic engagement**, the membership numbers of civil groups are still considerably below the Western European level



- **growing social and economic inequalities**

- lack of confidence in institutions



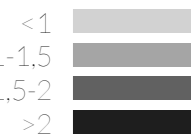
2013



2018

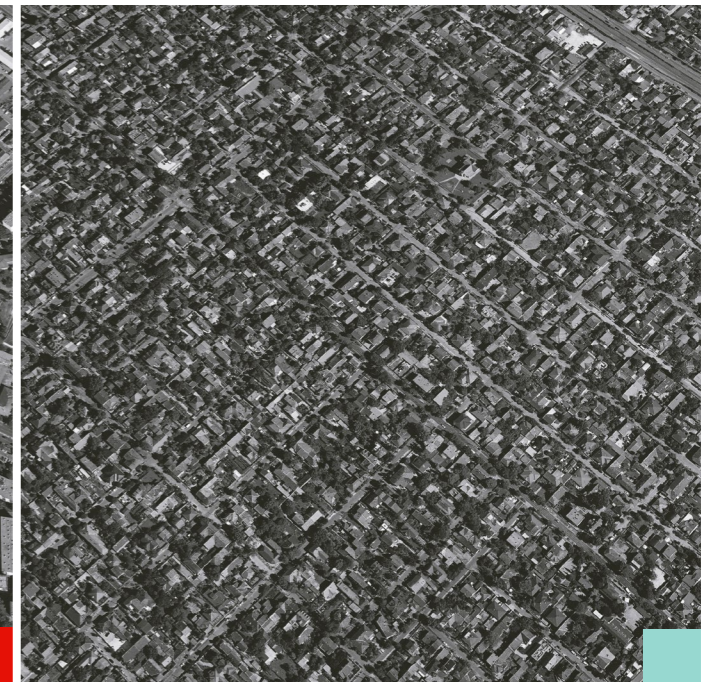
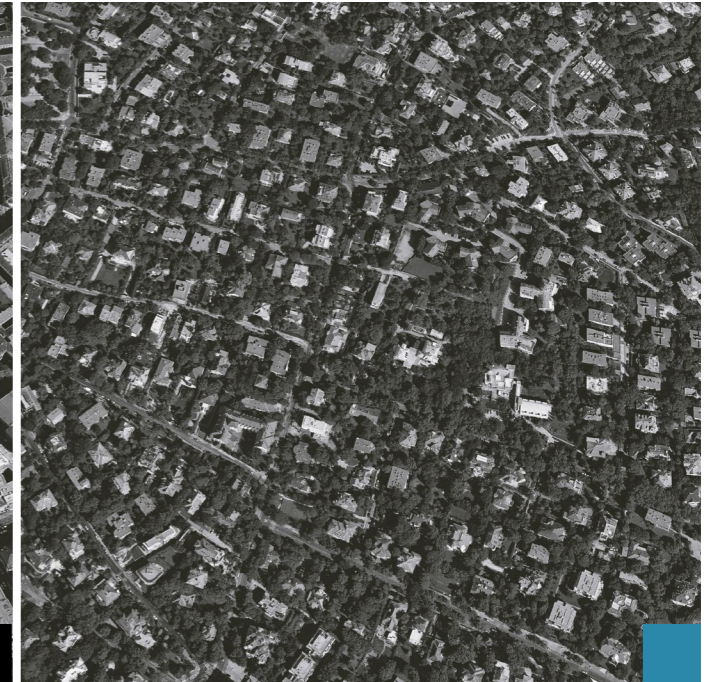
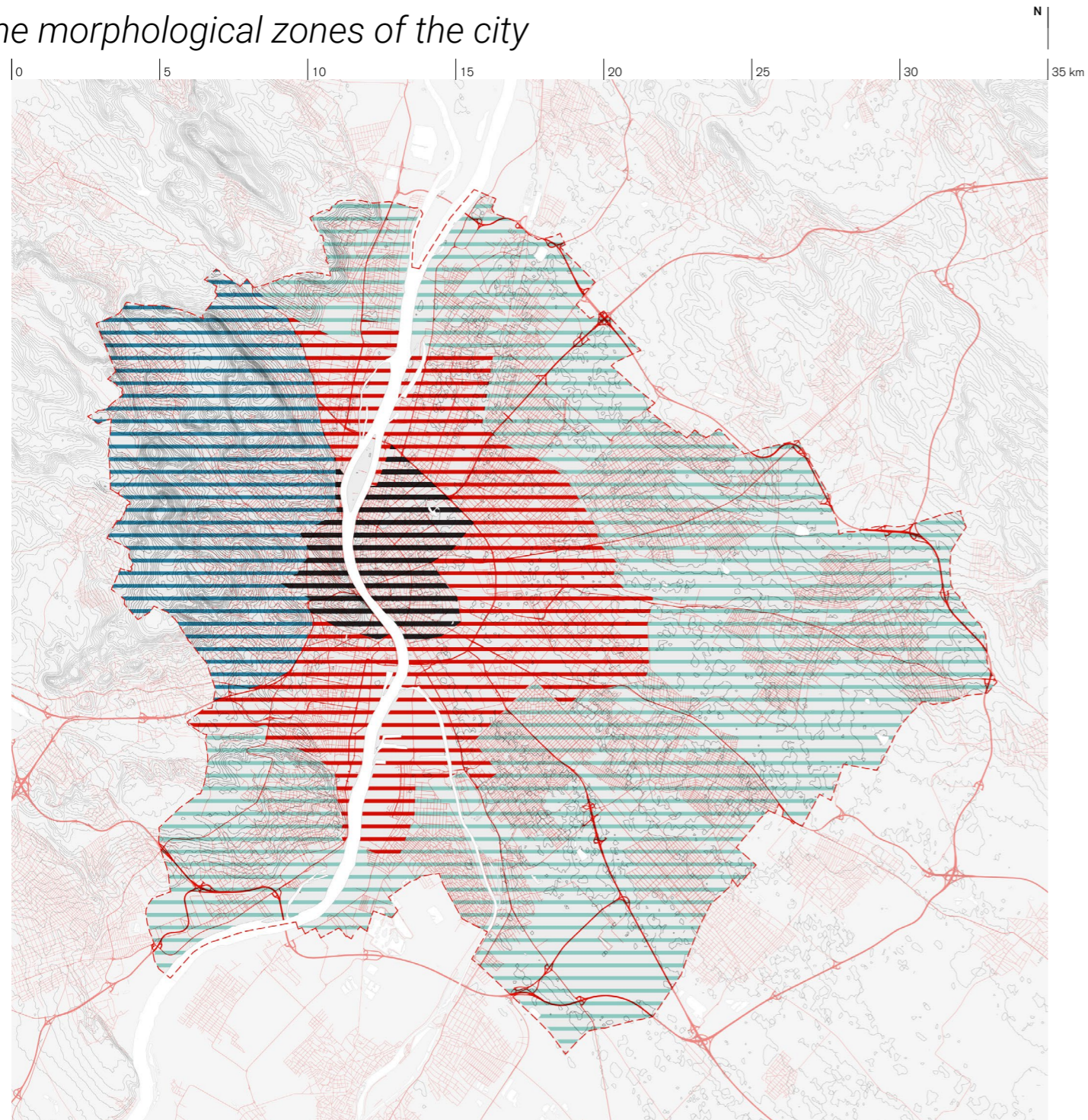
Growing inequality

Average property price/ average net income per month



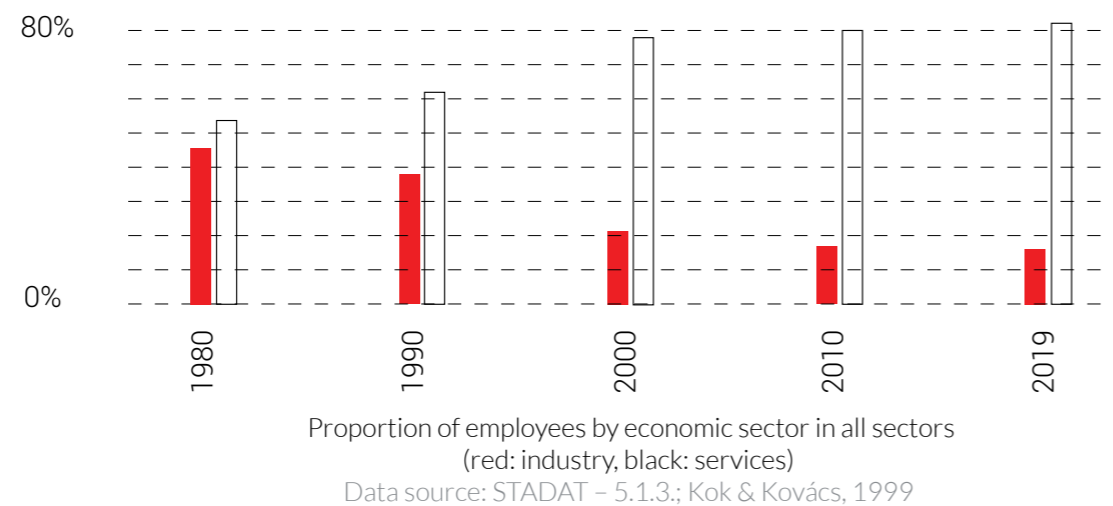
The spatial consequences of the post-socialist transition

The morphological zones of the city



Spatial consequences - transition zone

- this is a **discontinuous** ring around the inner city, which contains large socialist housing blocks and former industrial areas
- after 1989, spontaneous privatisation of the industrial areas > chaotic system emerged > **disjointed ownership pattern** > carrying out large-scale development is difficult
- the unused capacity of the brownfield areas has been recognized by the city, however, there are **no incentives** in place, today these areas cover around **1200 hectares**
- this zone has the **most potential** in the urban fabric of Budapest





The problem analyses and the aim of the project

Problem statement

The negative spatial and societal trends following the post-socialist transition have further strengthened since the era change. These consequences degrade people's right to the city and they need to be specifically addressed to reduce growing segregation, inefficient, polluting and inflexible urban growth. Furthermore, the weak civil society can not fully play its part in the democratic system because low civic engagement undermines the legitimacy of civil groups. Consequently, it is necessary to raise public awareness and increase civic engagement.



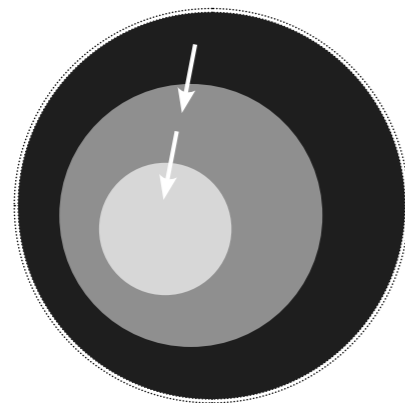
Creativity-led regeneration

Creativity-led regeneration is capable of addressing both the social and the spatial consequences of the post-socialist transition at the same time.

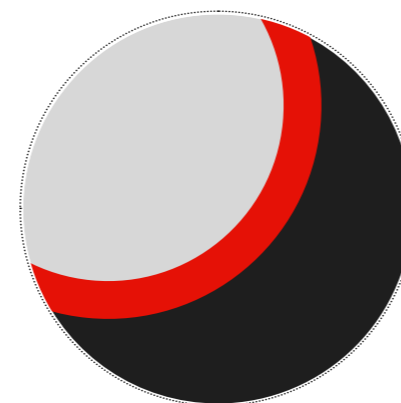


Research question

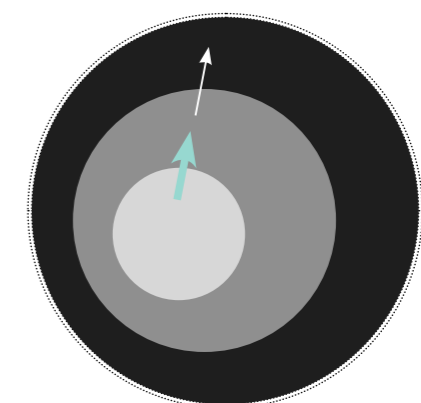
How can the negative spatial and societal consequences of the post-socialist transition be mitigated through creativity-led urban regeneration?



Post-socialist city



Socio-spatial dynamics



Creativity-led regeneration

| Post-socialist transitional consequences | | Main objectives of the regeneration |
|---|-------|--|
| difficult to achieve large-scale transformations | ————— | small-scale transformation |
| weak civil society | ————— | increased civic engagement |
| increasing social and economic inequalities | ————— | equal access to jobs and possibilities |
| suburbanisation | ————— | new and affordable housing, new lifestyle, which can be desirable to several people |
| gentrified inner city areas | ————— | development of the least 'desirable' parts of the city |
| monocentric centre of employment | ————— | mixed use areas , which can create new sub-centers of employment |
| rising level of car ownership, pollution and car traffic | ————— | reuse of space first in strategic locations to public transport |
| non-continuous ring of large socialist housing and underused industrial areas | ————— | connecting the inner city and the suburbs in the transition zone the by regeneration of these areas |
| disjointed ownership pattern of industrial areas | ————— | small-scale developments through co-creation to involve the owners in decision-making |
| no incentives in place to regenerate brownfield areas | ————— | regeneration through local initiatives |

Main objectives of the regeneration

small-scale transformation

increased civic engagement

equal access to jobs and possibilities

new and affordable housing, new lifestyle, which can be desirable to several people

development of the least 'desirable' parts of the city

mixed use areas, which can create **new sub-centers of employment**

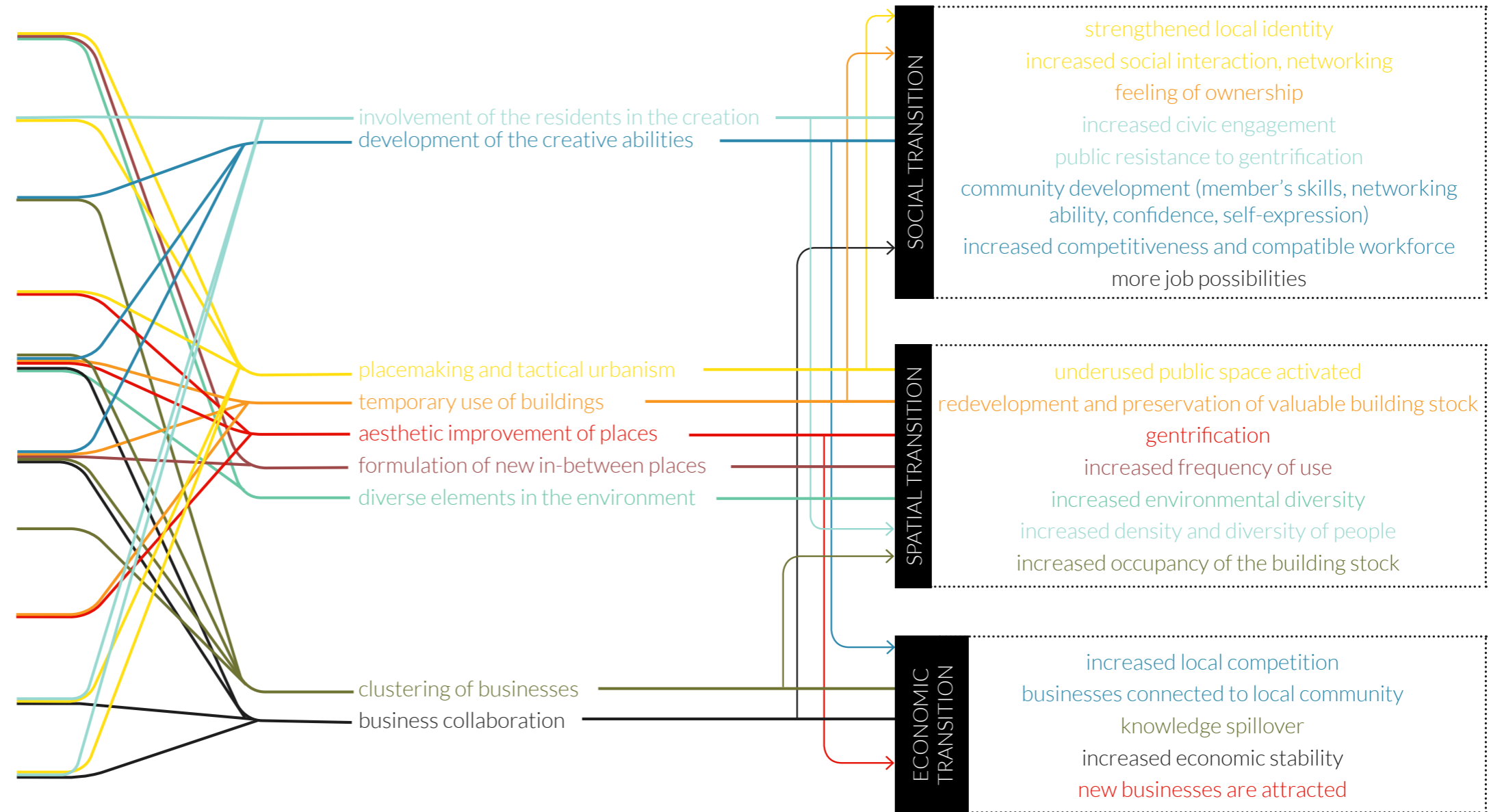
reuse of space first in strategic locations to public transport

connecting the inner city and the suburbs **in the transition zone** the by regeneration of these areas

small-scale developments through **co-creation to involve the owners in decision-making**

regeneration **through local initiatives**

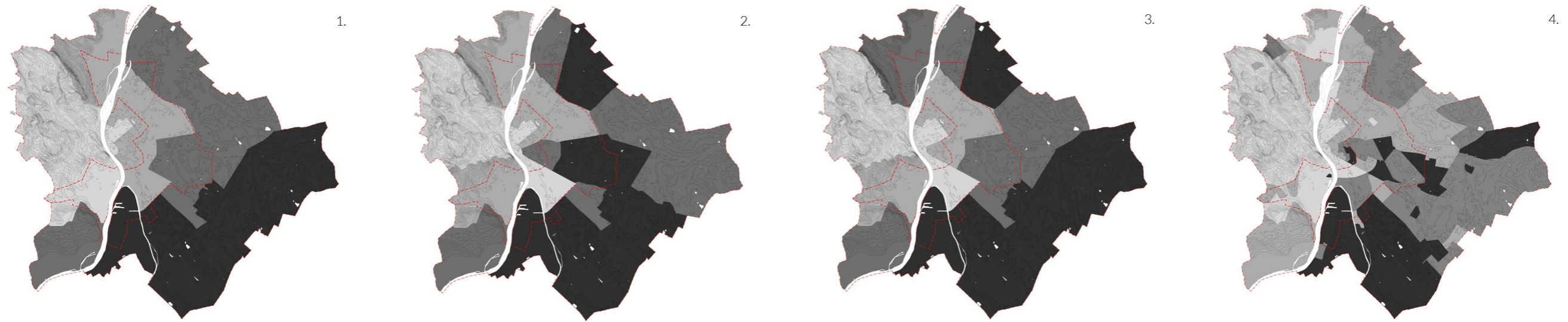
Tools of creativity-led regeneration



Location choice

The location was chosen to potentially serve as an example to other projects in the future

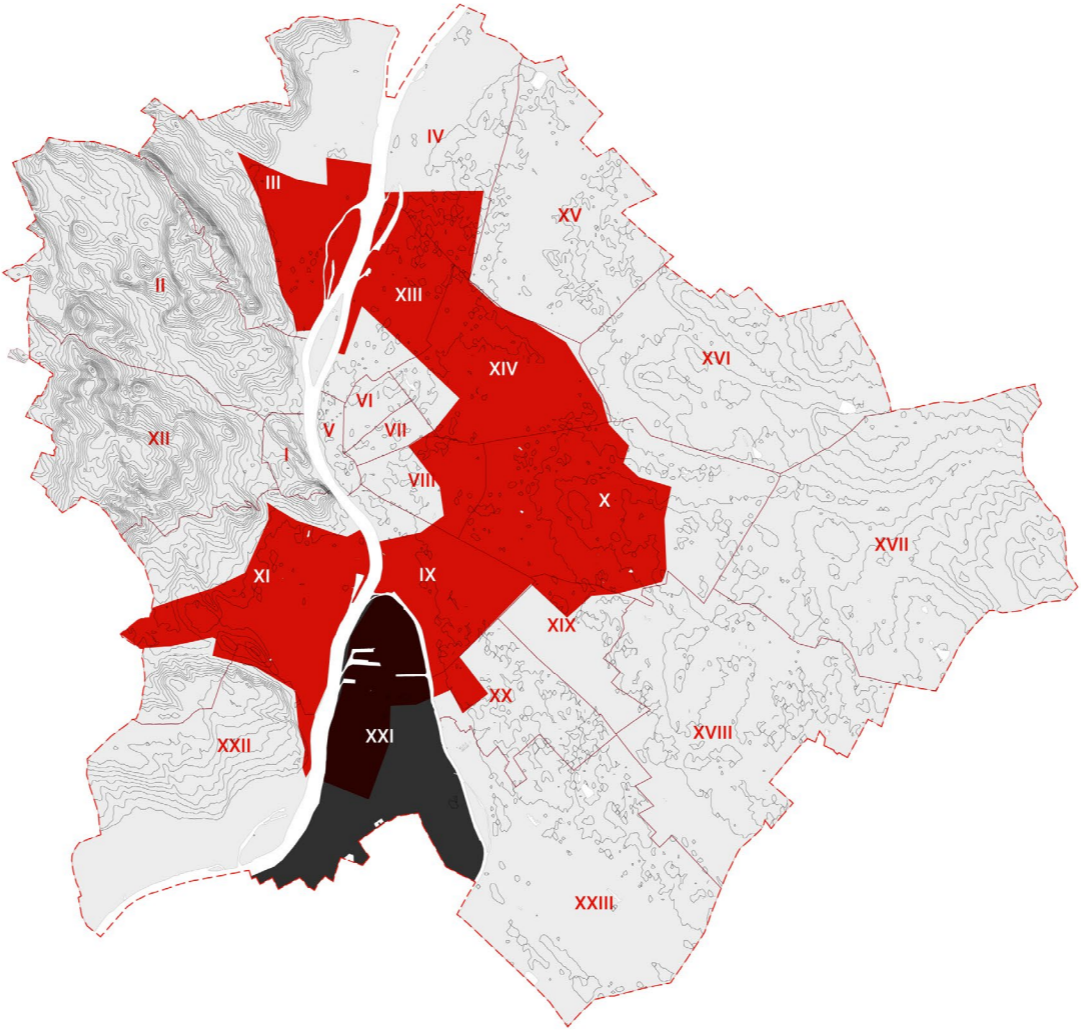
Socio-spatial dynamics



1. average property prices (Budapest ingatlanok statisztikája)
2. average proportion of people with higher education (Központi Statisztikai Hivatal)
3. life quality index (Hol jó ma élni?)
4. average income (Net Income Map of Budapest - 2016 - » GeoIndex)



Location choice

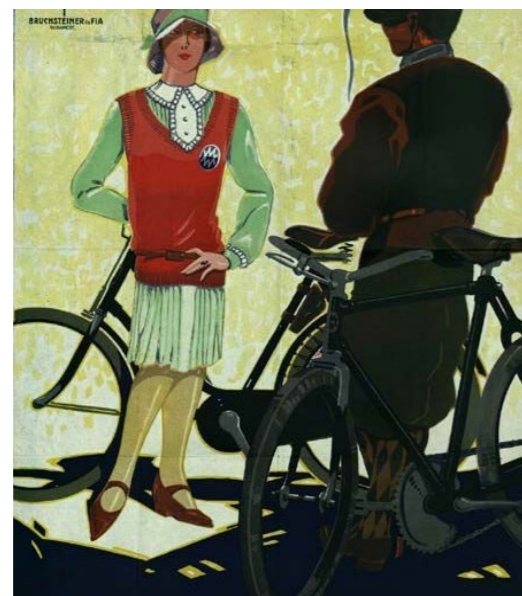


The area of the transition zone
The XX1st district

Csepel Works



Figure: Photograph about the Weiss Manfréd Works in Csepel Island in 1901





Csepel, Budapest, Hungary



Delft, the Netherlands

II. The creative milieu

What makes a creative milieu? - The people

- **Density and diversity of people**

because creative ideas are the outcomes of expansive and diverse social networks (Thomas et al., 2015)

- **Involvement of the residents in the creation** of the creative environment is necessary to increase diversity



Types of engagement



Figure: The favela painting project (Koolhaas, n.d.)

Changing the physical environment through the tools of creative placemaking and tactical urbanism.

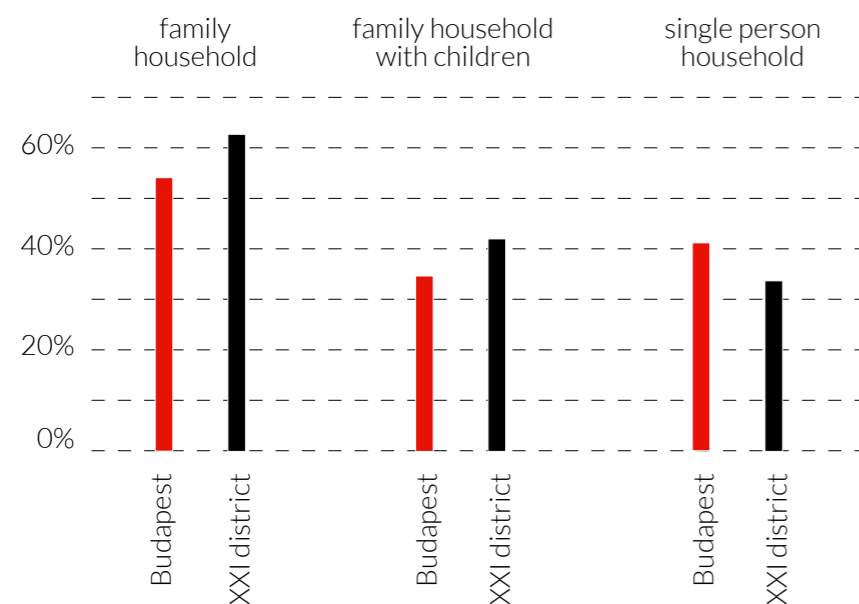


Figure: Creative artisans district, Lima

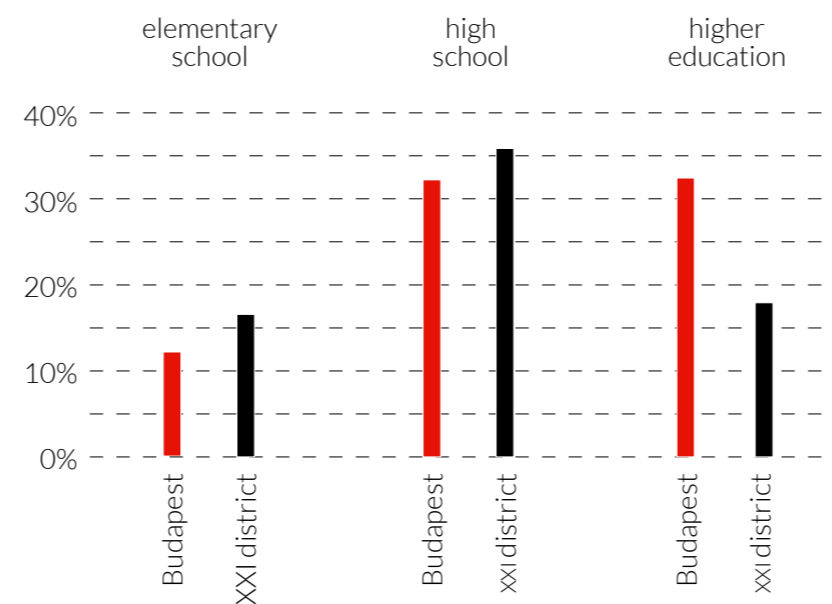
Involving the **members of the community to develop their creative abilities.**

The people of Csepel

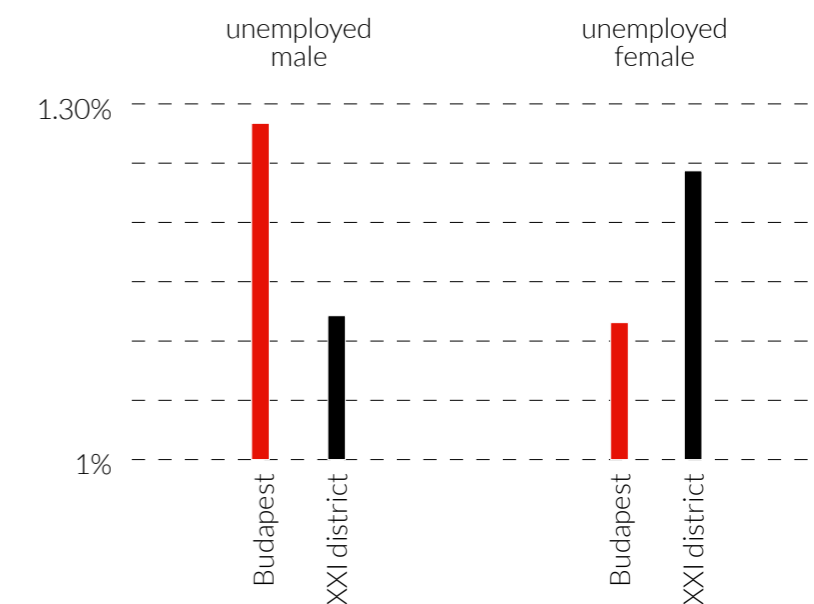
Composition of households in 2011

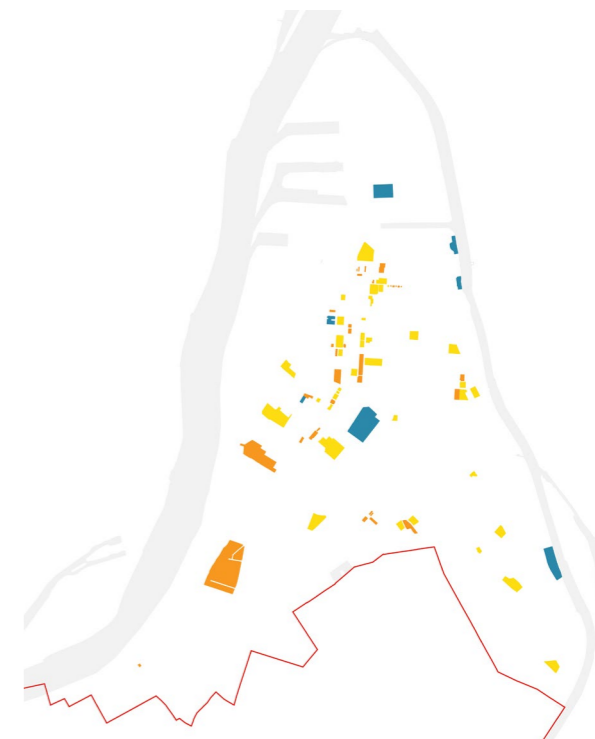
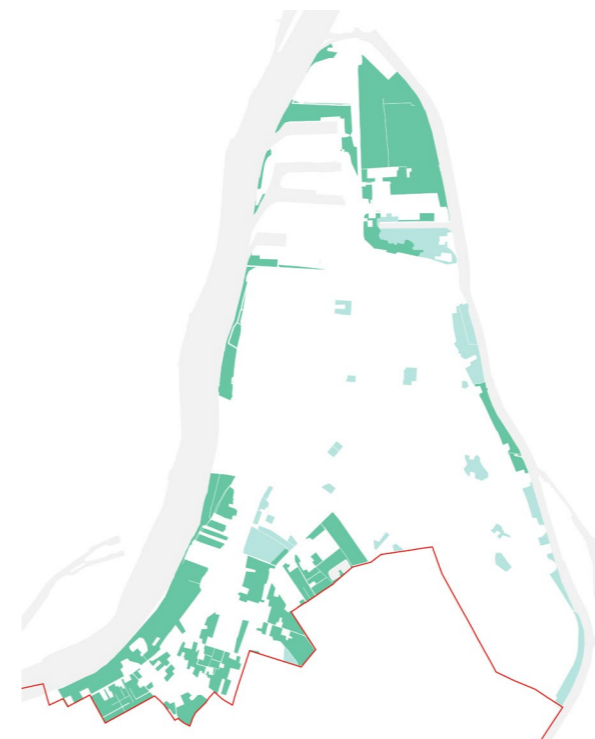


Education rate in 2011



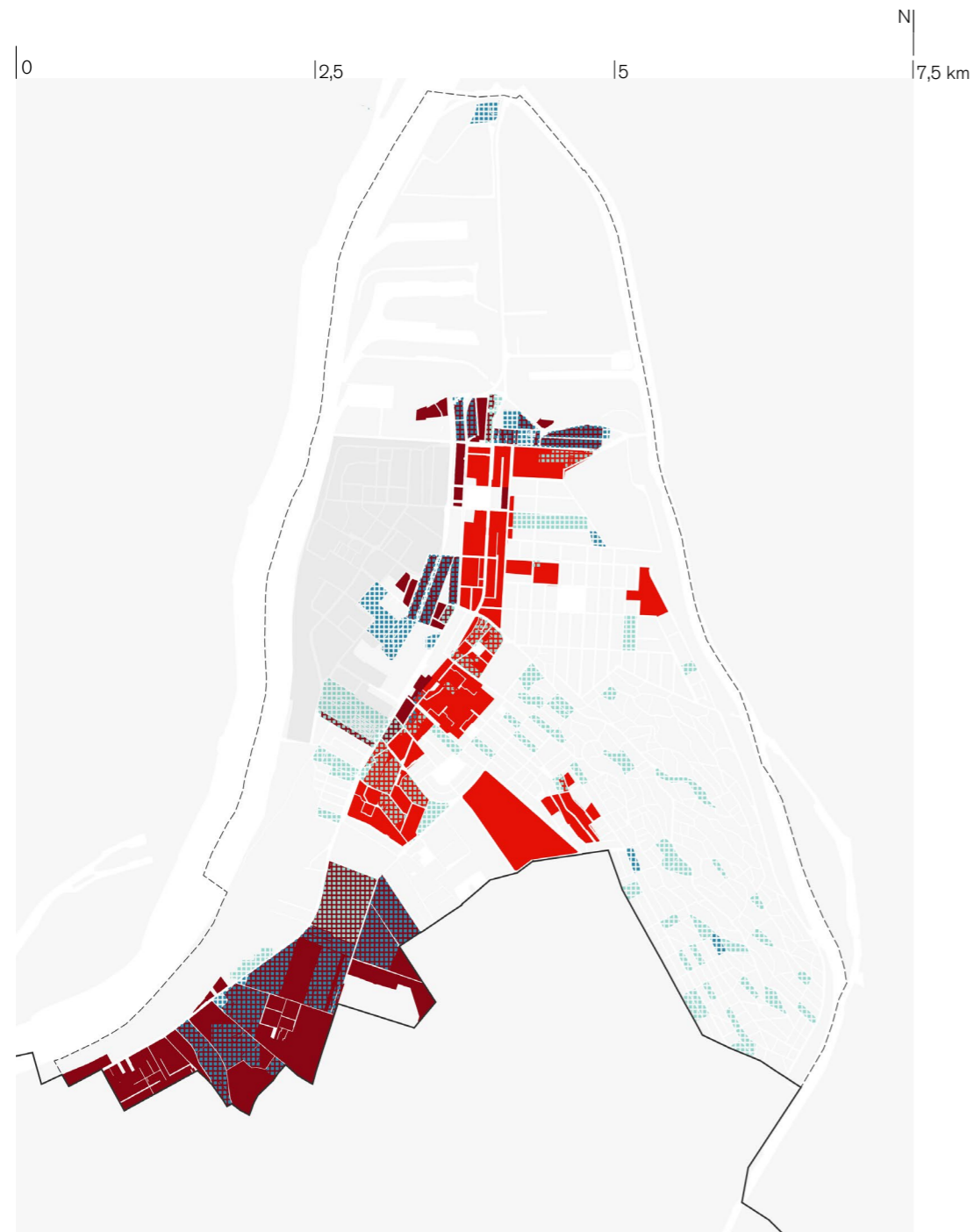
Unemployment rate in 2011





Land use

- Residential - prefabricated socialist housing
- Residential - peripheral
- Residential - suburban
- Sport facilities
- Public facilities (for example schools)
- Supermarkets
- Industry
- Port area
- Other commercial
- Grassland and forest
- Green urban areas



Map source: Krízisterületek lehatárolása, 2014; Hegedüs et al., 2015

- The socio-economic situation of those who moved to Csepel later than 2000 are worse than those who moved in before the 1990s (Hegedüs et al., 2015).
- According to a questionnaire conducted by the municipality the biggest problem is the lack of local workplaces (Hegedüs et al., 2015).

Critical residential areas of the districts

- at least 15% of people with at most elementary education
- at least 12,8% of people are unemployed from the active population
 - the maximum amount of people with higher education is 14,8%
 - the proportion of overpopulated houses are higher than 25,9%
 - the proportion of substandard housing is minimum 7,7%
 - the proportion of social housing is minimum 15,6%

If more than 4 of these indicators are present the area is considered critical. If only 2 or 3 are present it is at risk.

Areas at risk
Critical areas
Residential - prefabricated
Residential - peripheral



What makes a creative milieu? - Production

● **Density of creative businesses**, because proximity of the members of the creative industry increases the chance of innovation through knowledge spillovers (Knudsen, Florida, Gates, & Stolarick, 2007)

● **The accessibility** of the area is important to attract creative businesses

● **Morphological structure** of a creative environment has great importance, because the **density of streets** shows a correlation with an increase in innovation (Roche, 2019)

● **The presence of in-between places** where people can meet

● **Affordability**, warehouses are often favoured because they are affordable and are suitable for any unusual needs



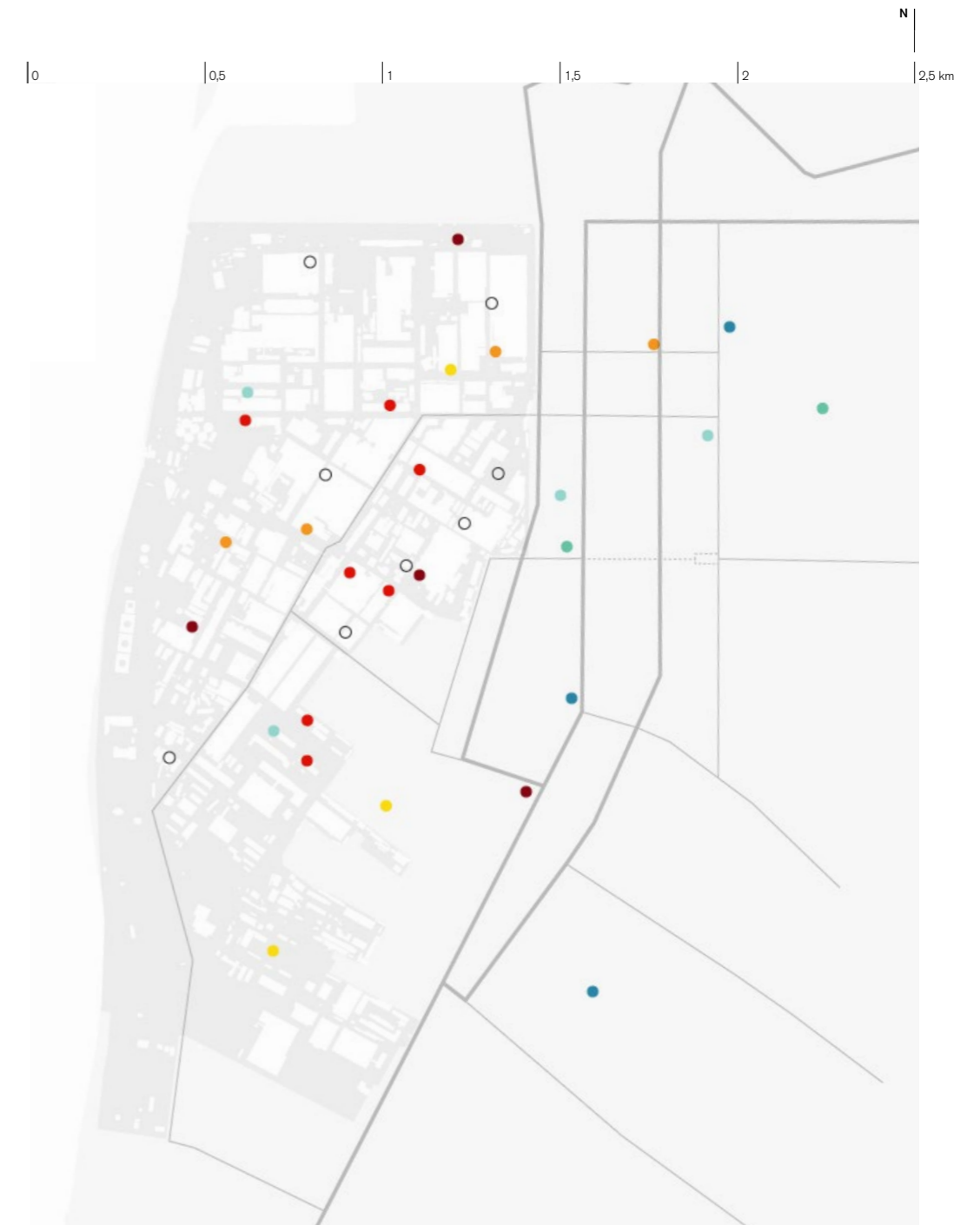
Production in Csepel



Figure: Art installation in the area of Csepel Works

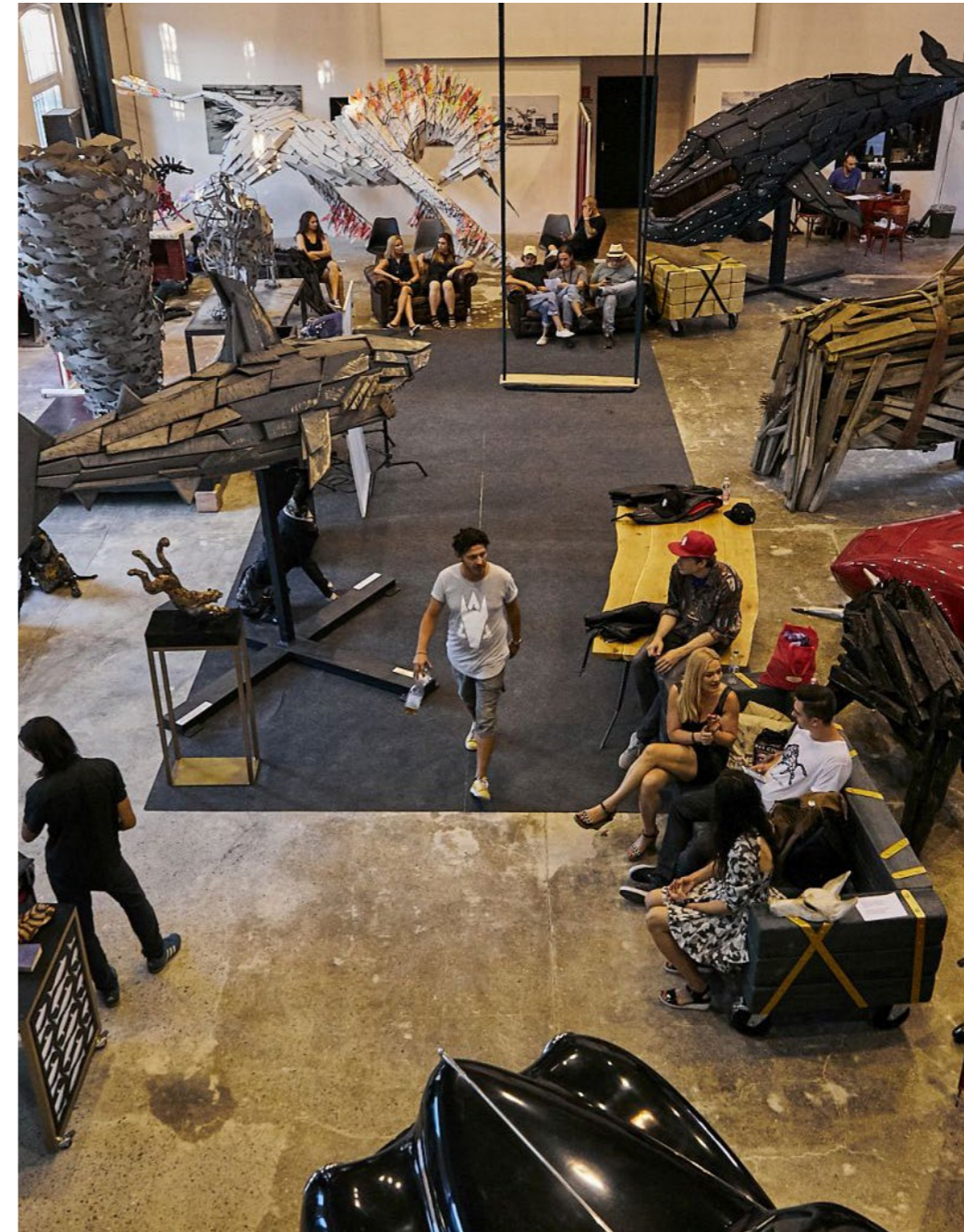
Creative industries

- Traditional metal production
- Publishing
- Art
- Performing art
- Crafts
- Advertisement
- Design
- Music





Figures: Example of the traditional metal factory work in Csepel by László Mudra



Figures: An example of the new economy- the studio of an artist in the area (2019)



Figure: the zoning plan of the district, here the area of Csepel Works is fully allocated to industries.
source: Google Earth Pro, 2019

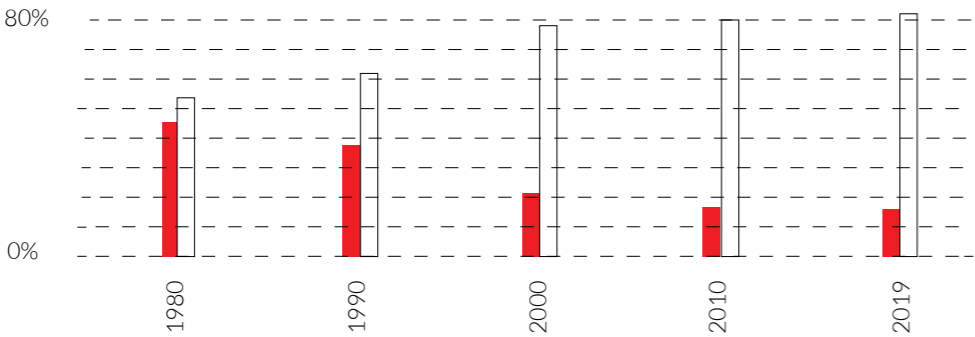
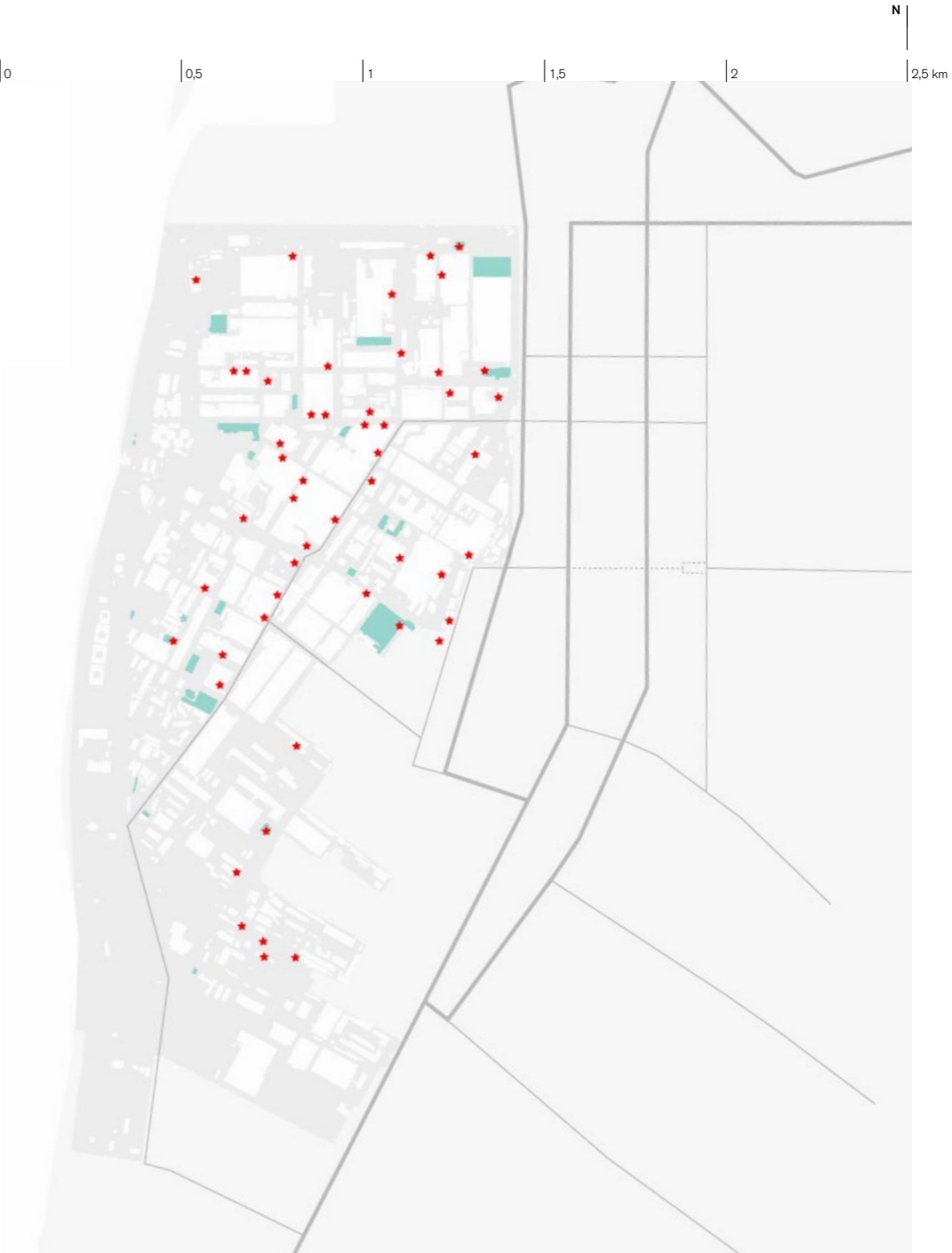


Figure: Proportion of employees by economic sector in all sectors (red: industry, black: services)
(STADAT – 5.1.3.; Kok & Kovács, 1999)



Data source: Jeczkó et al., 2019; OpenStreetMap

Map of vacancy

- ★ Building to rent or to sell
- Empty buildings

What makes a creative milieu? - Environmental quality

The **architectural atmosphere** (empty warehouses and old industrial buildings are often considered more authentic)

- Presence of **diverse elements** to **encourage the formulation of new combinations** of ideas and to enhance experimentation

- The **aesthetic of in-between places** is very important (often accumulate in strategic locations with favourable views and atmospheric architecture)

- The **transparency of the ground floor façades** and **frequency of use of streets**



Environmental quality in Csepel



Figures: Photo of a building and the water tower (Illyés, 2015); details of a facade in the Csepel Works (Balla-Schottner)

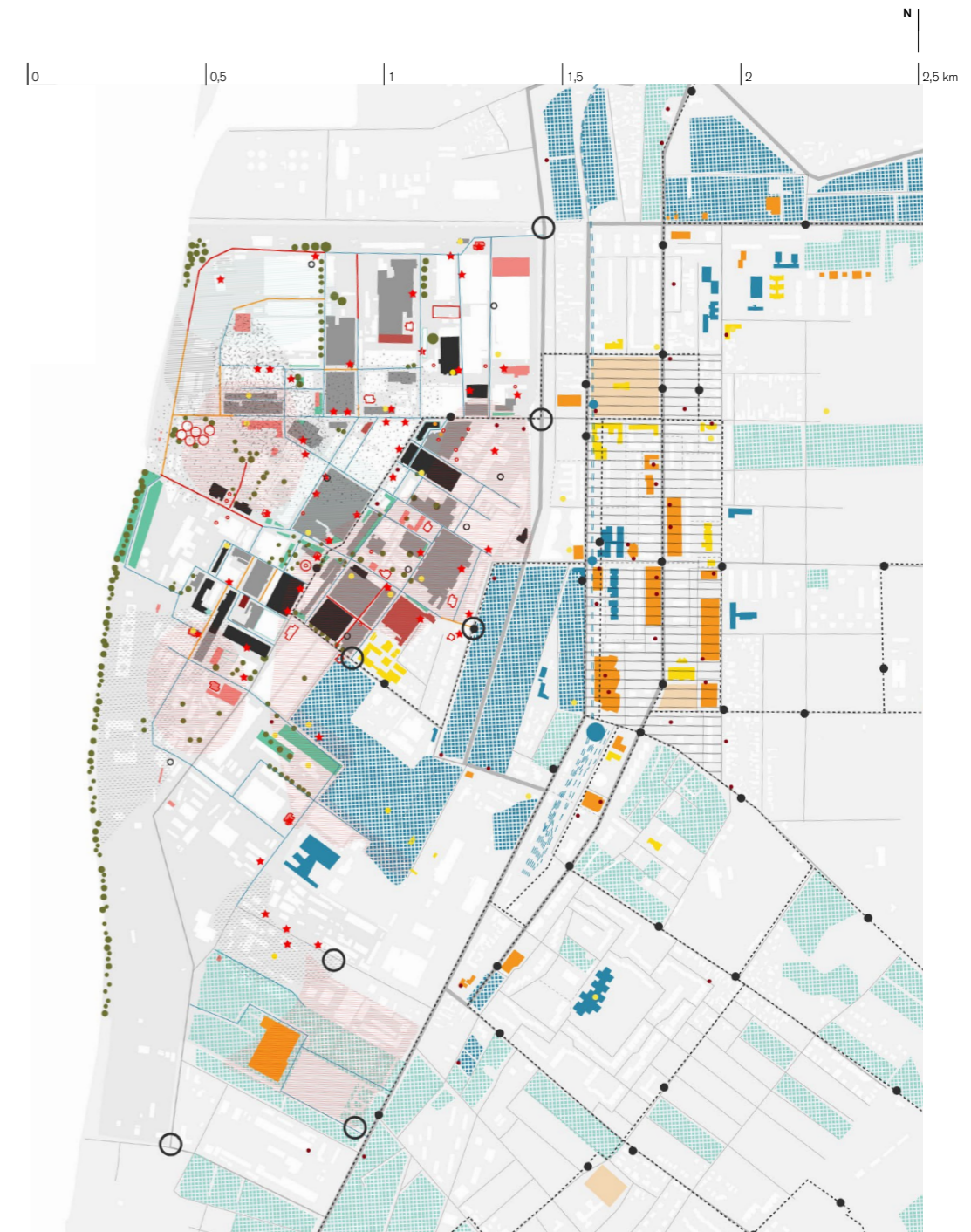
Summary of analyses

STRENGTH:

- great location with a good connection to the centre of the city
- growing number of creative businesses
- existing collaborations between businesses
- valuable building stock and several characteristic industrial elements

WEAKNESSES:

- lack of in-between places
- lack of green
- polluted soil
- lack of diversity in functions
- the poor condition of some of the valuable buildings
- the difficult ownership structure
- the low porosity
- facades are often closed with non-transparent materials



The design principles

These are derived from the description of the creative milieu and the analyses of the location and are adjusted to the post-socialist design objectives to achieve a creative environment which addresses spatial and social goals at the same time.

Density and diversity of people



Mix of functions



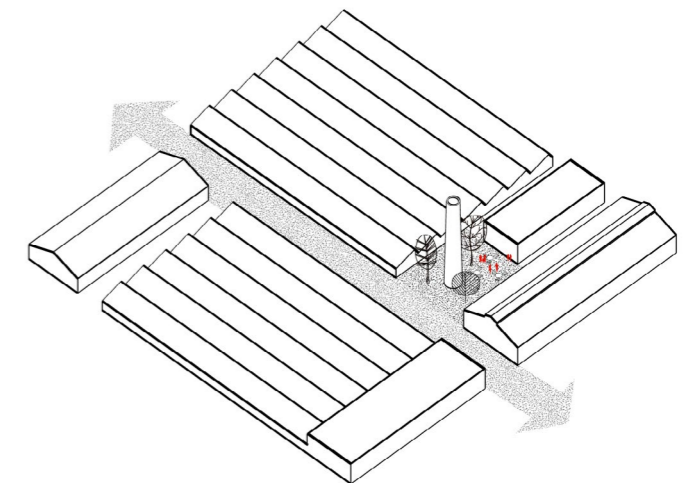
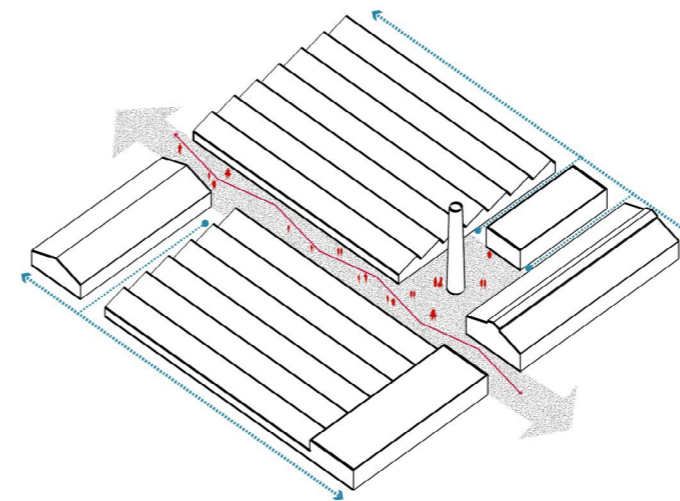
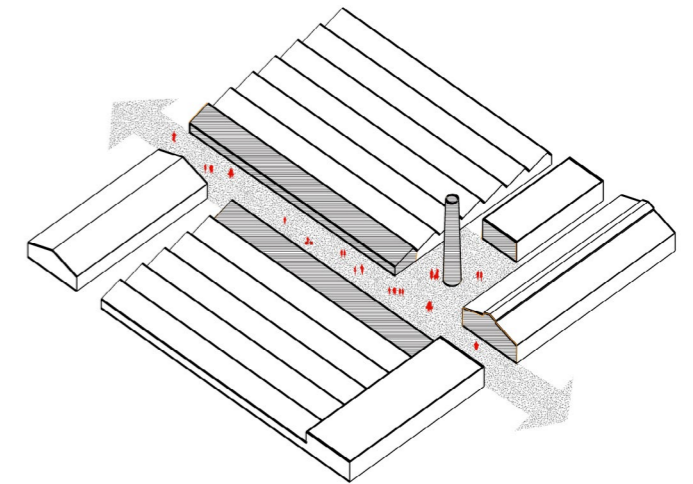
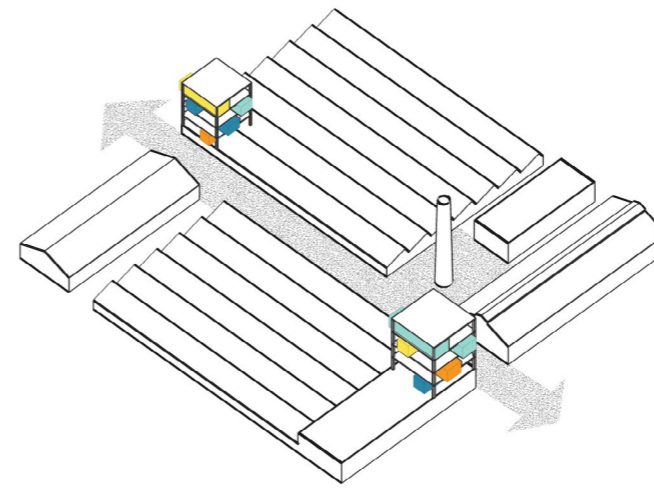
Streets with a higher frequency of use are created



Heavy traffic is separated



In-between places are formed



Connectivity on the economic level



A collective formed between local companies



Unused buildings are divided into smaller and flexible places



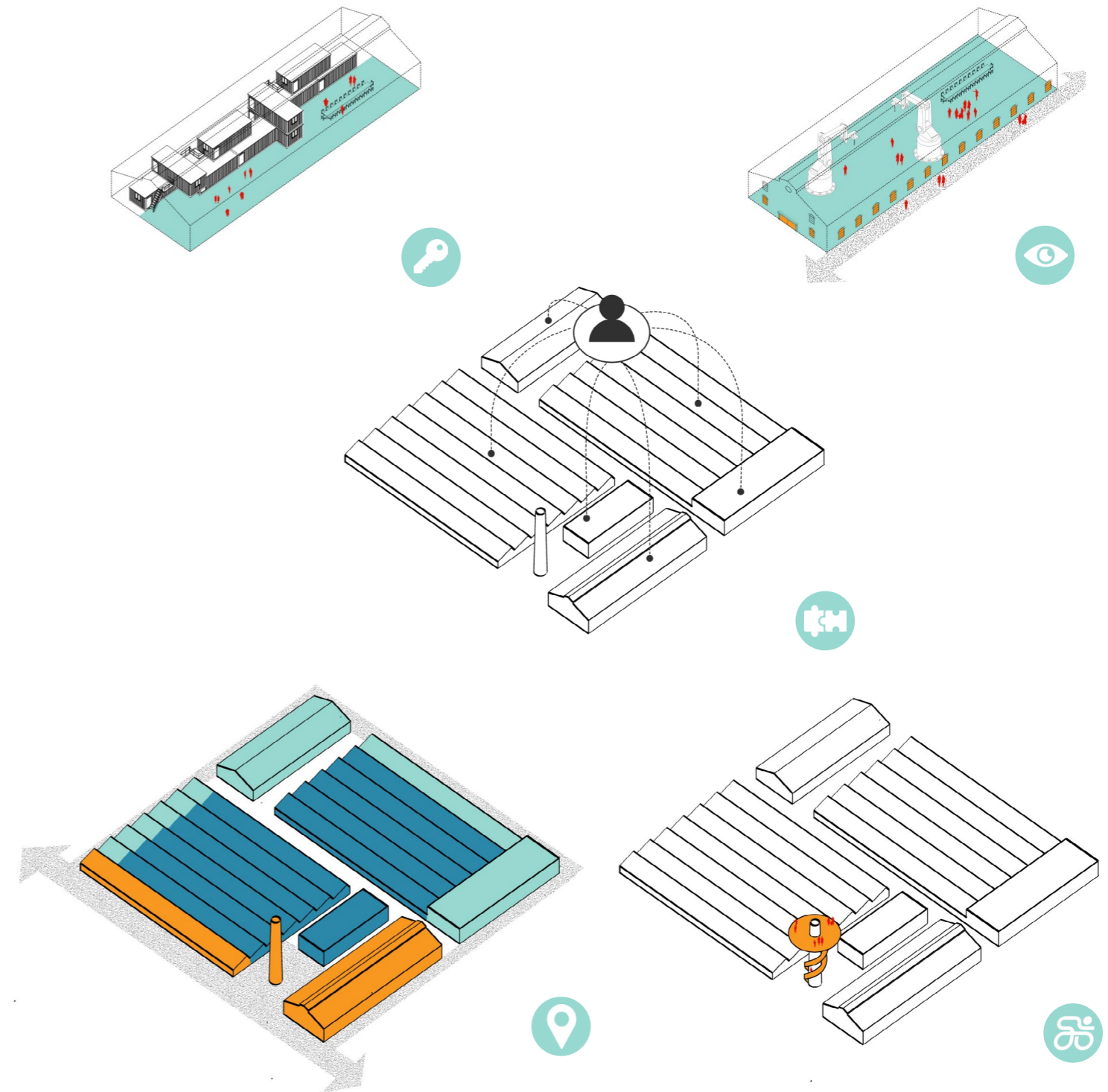
Businesses are clustered according to their need to be discoverable



Unified representation of businesses and collective tours and events to promote the brand Csepel



Architectural elements of the old traditional production are kept and strengthened by new creative forms of use



Connectivity on the human level



Residents are involved in the regeneration process through workshops and placemaking initiatives



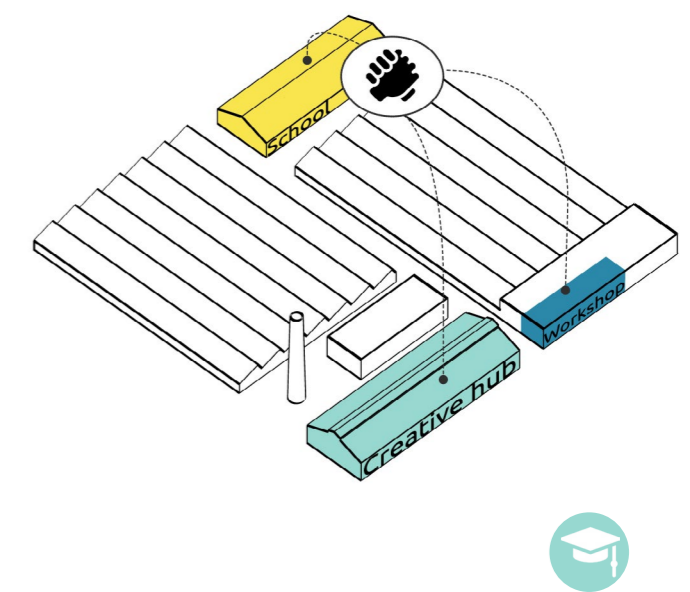
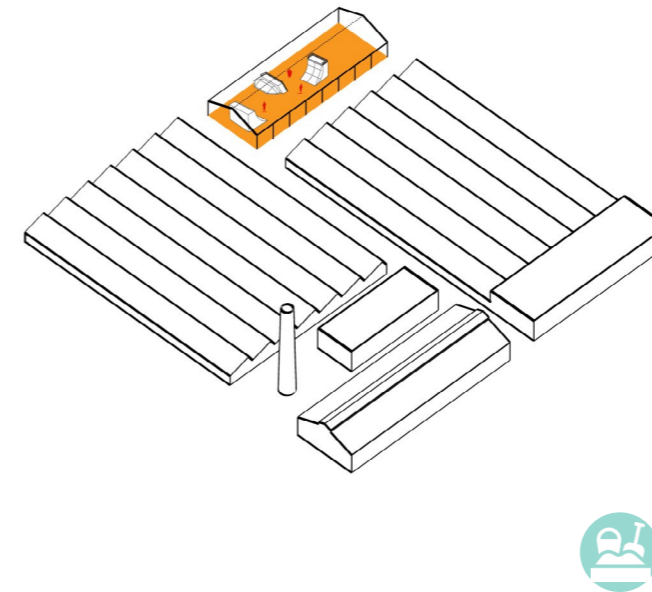
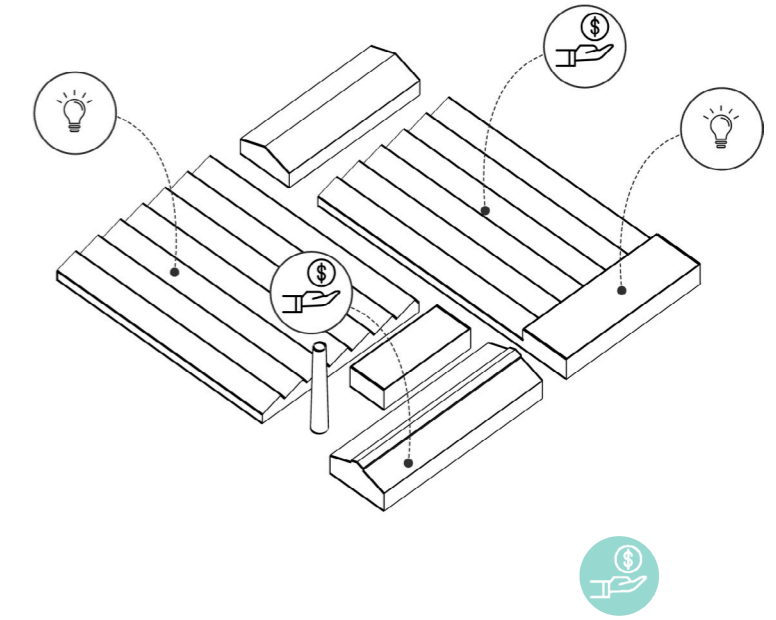
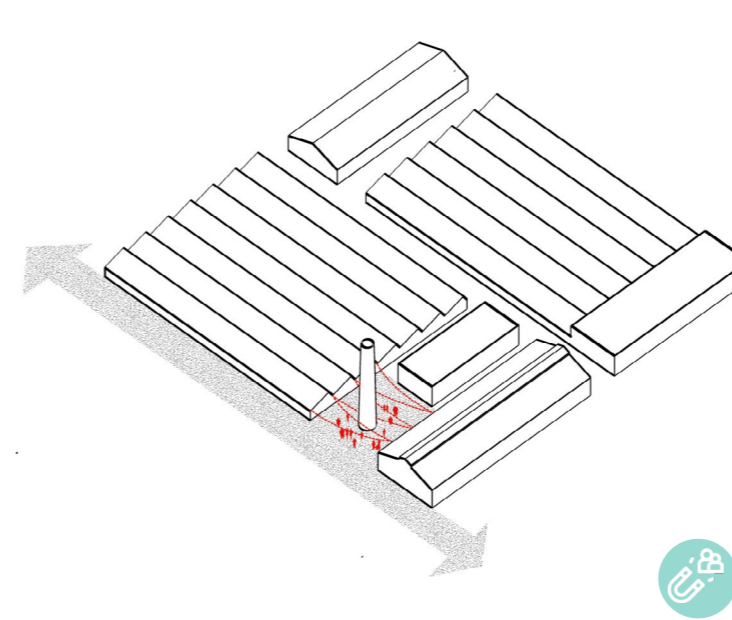
Entrepreneurial and creative activities are stimulated through several smaller projects



Improved connection between local education and businesses



Temporary use of empty buildings and land



Connectivity on the physical level



Closed streets are opened and new crossings are added through buildings



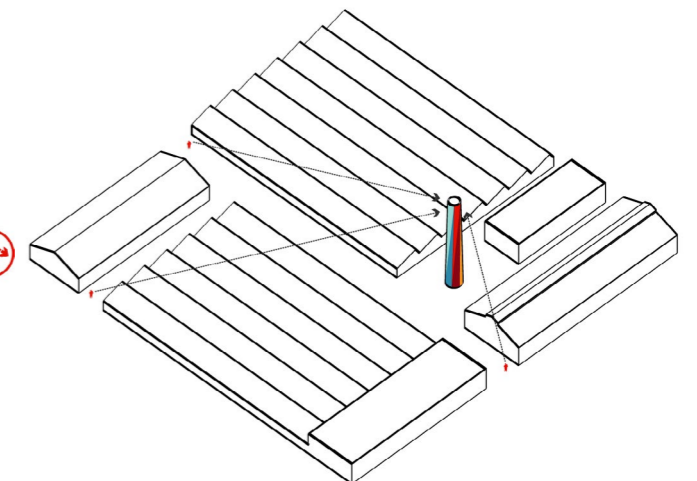
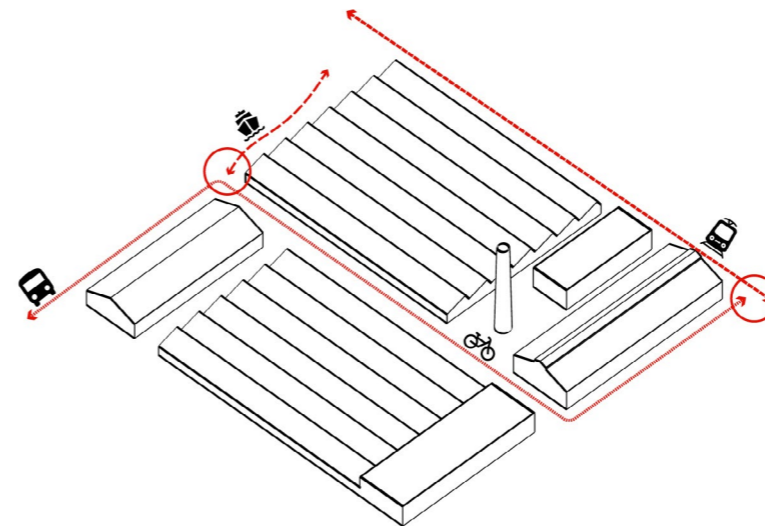
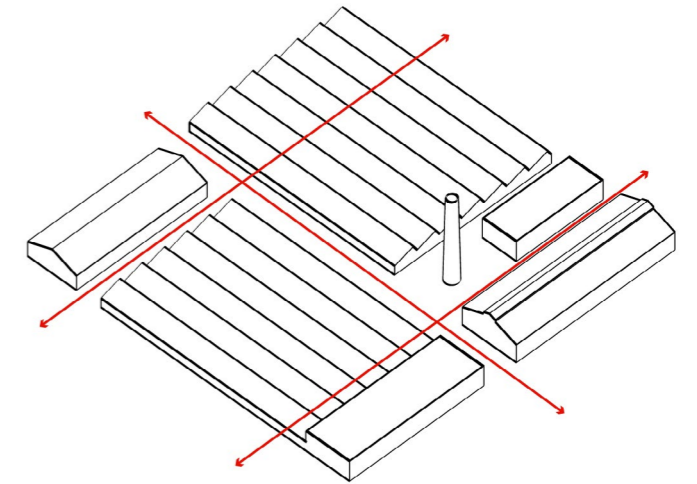
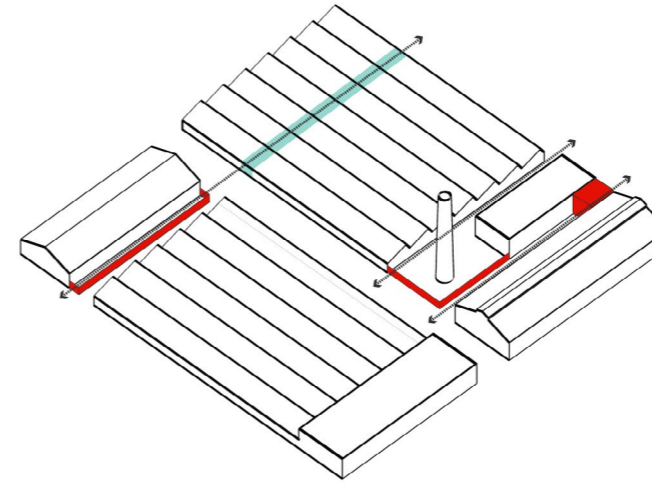
Improved connection with the rest of the urban fabric



Improved and diversified transport possibilities



Improved orientation



Environmental quality



Protecting and renovating valuable and monumental buildings and other characteristic architectural elements



The architecture of new buildings harmonically fit



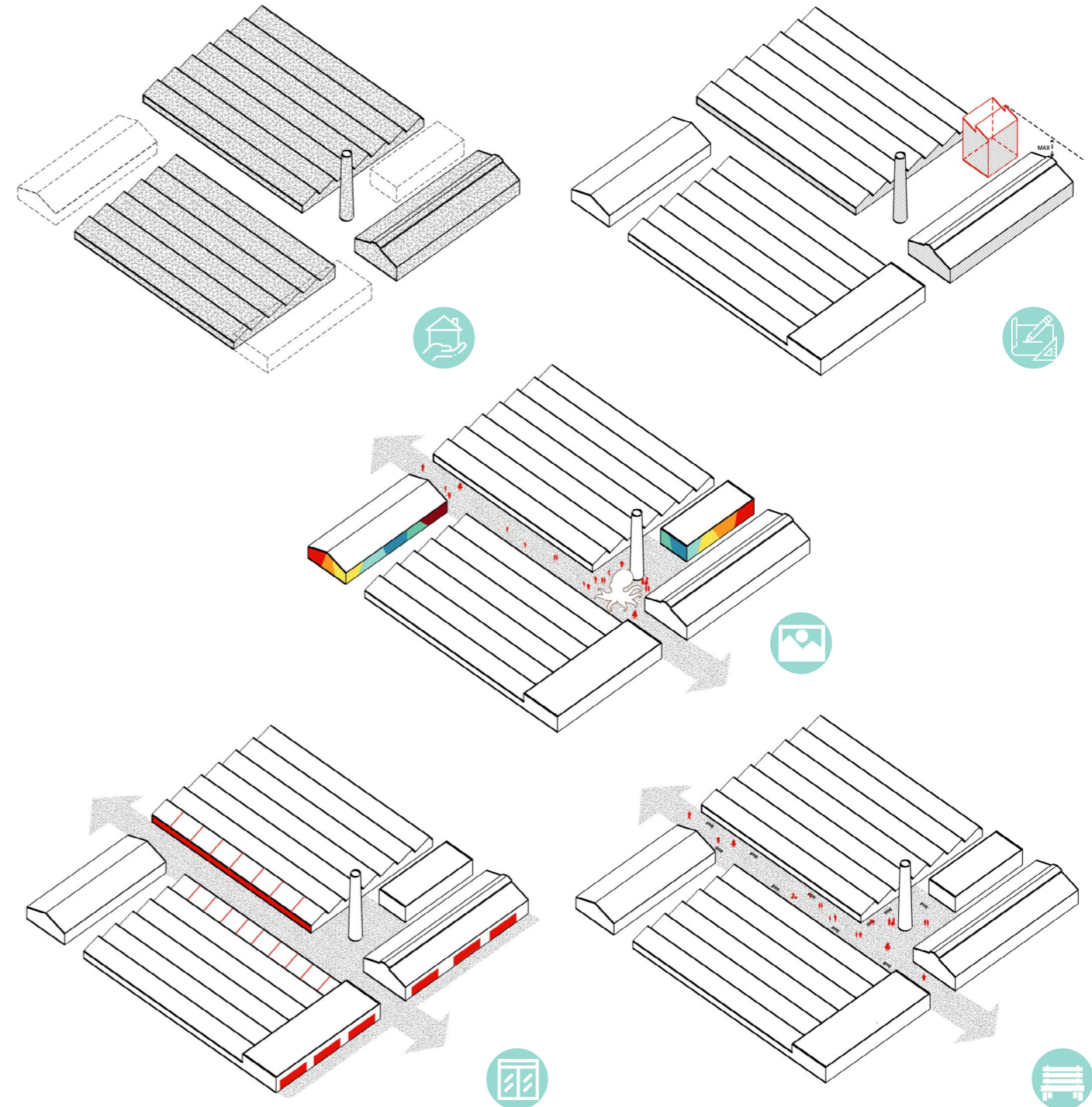
Interactive art installations or other playful elements are presented on public spaces



Façades form a continuous row and have open plinths along high streets and transit streets



Outdoor furniture is placed on public places



Environmental quality



Low-cost and DIY solutions via recycling of materials are encouraged



Regulated parking to increase walkability



Existing FSI of plots can not be increased



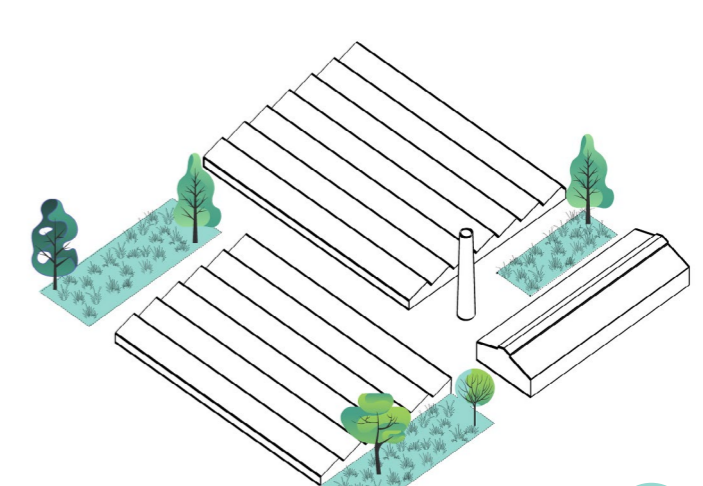
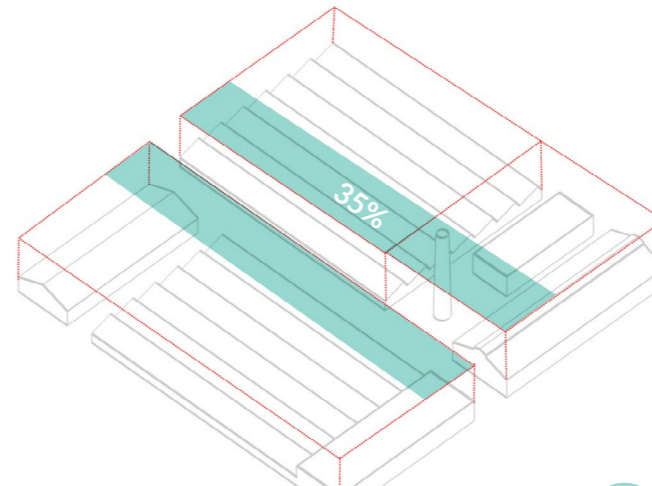
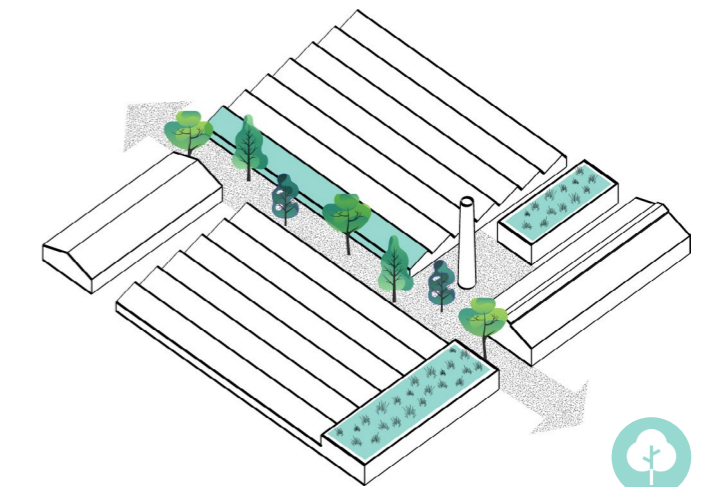
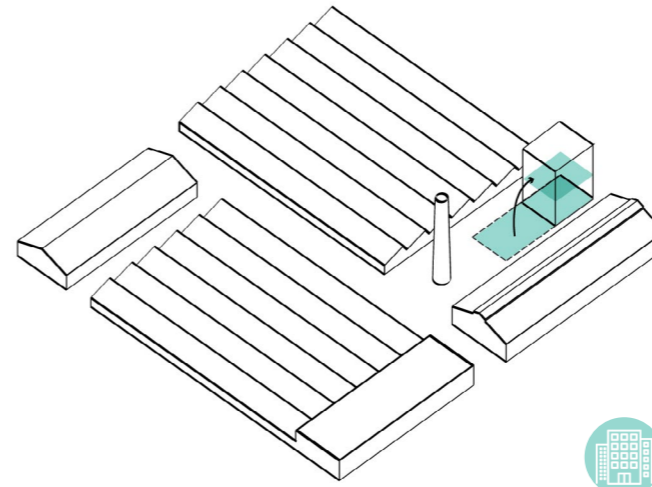
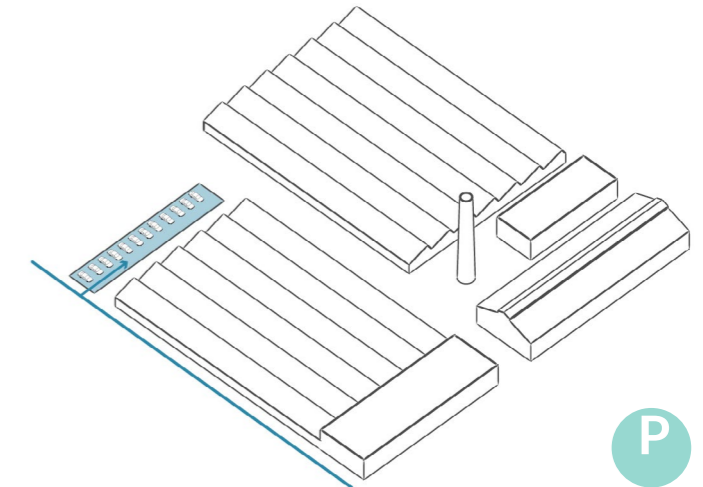
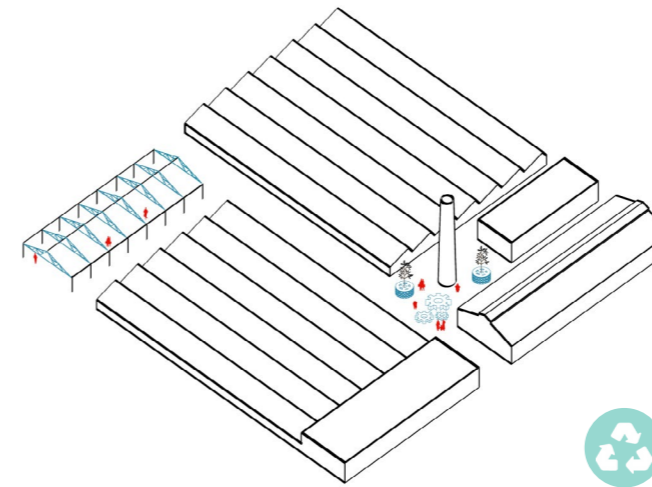
An increased amount of green along streets with a higher frequency of use



With new developments, plots should have at least 35% openly accessible green areas towards the interior of the blocks,

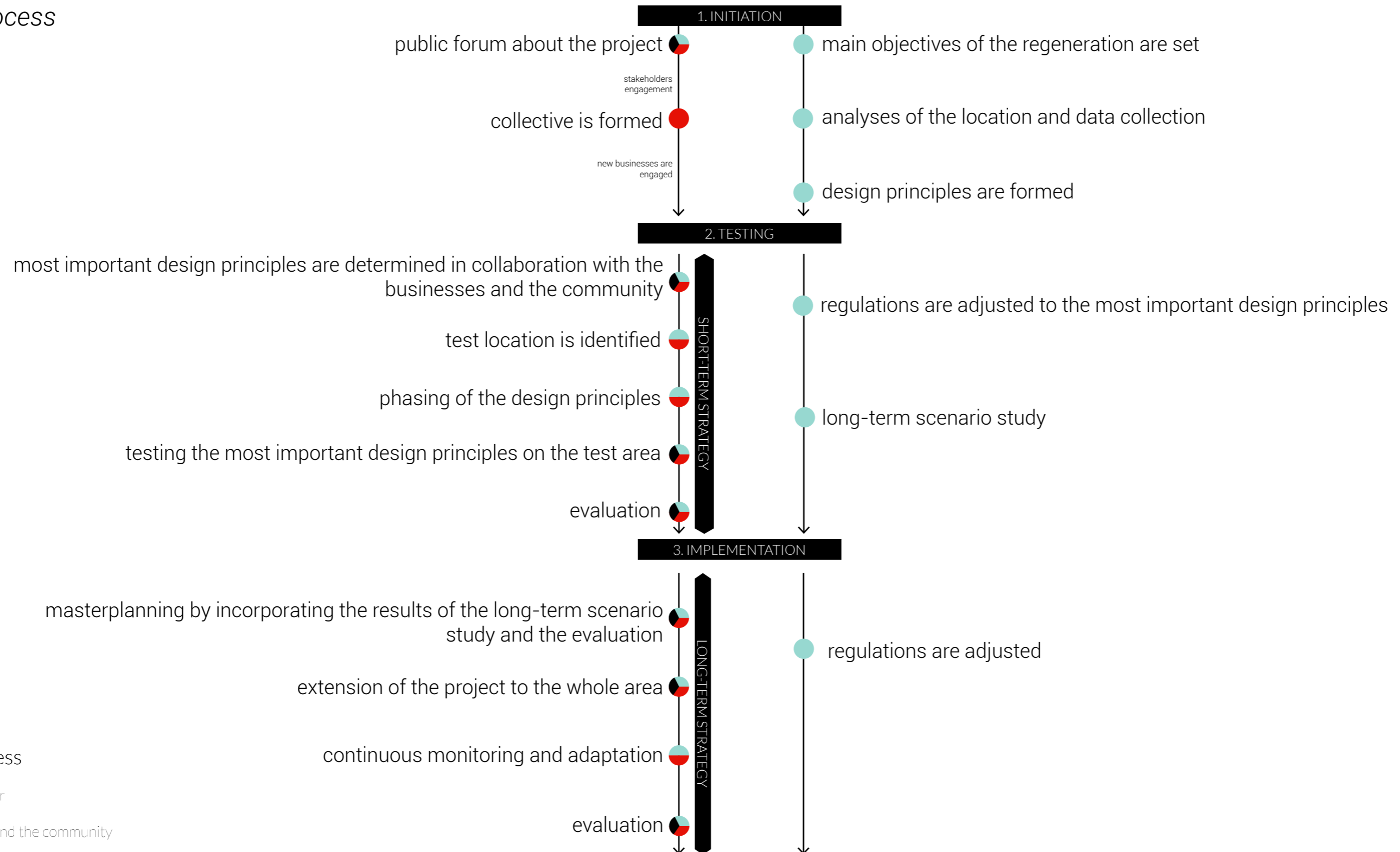


Cleaning of the soil by Phytoremediation and alternative use of the land during this time



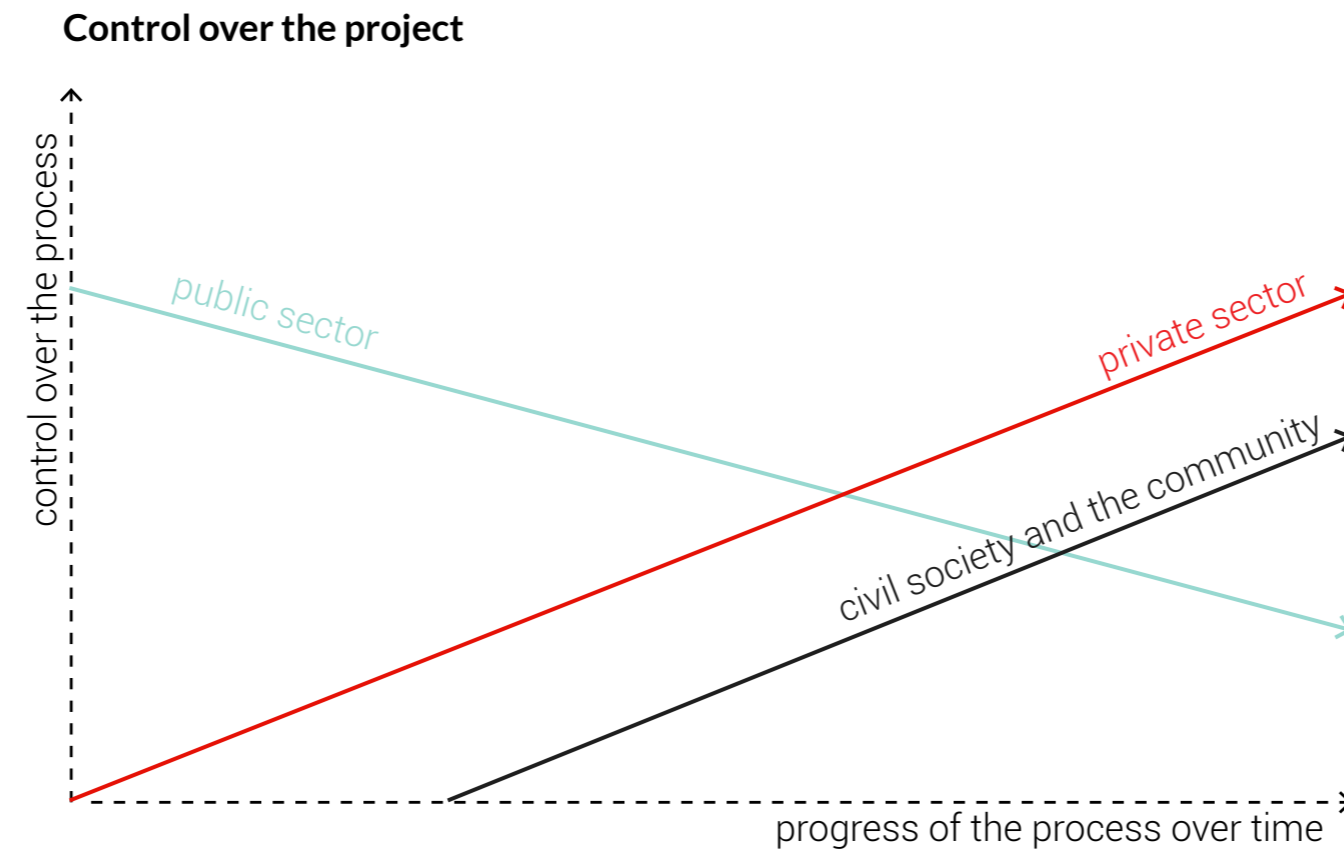
III. The design process

The process



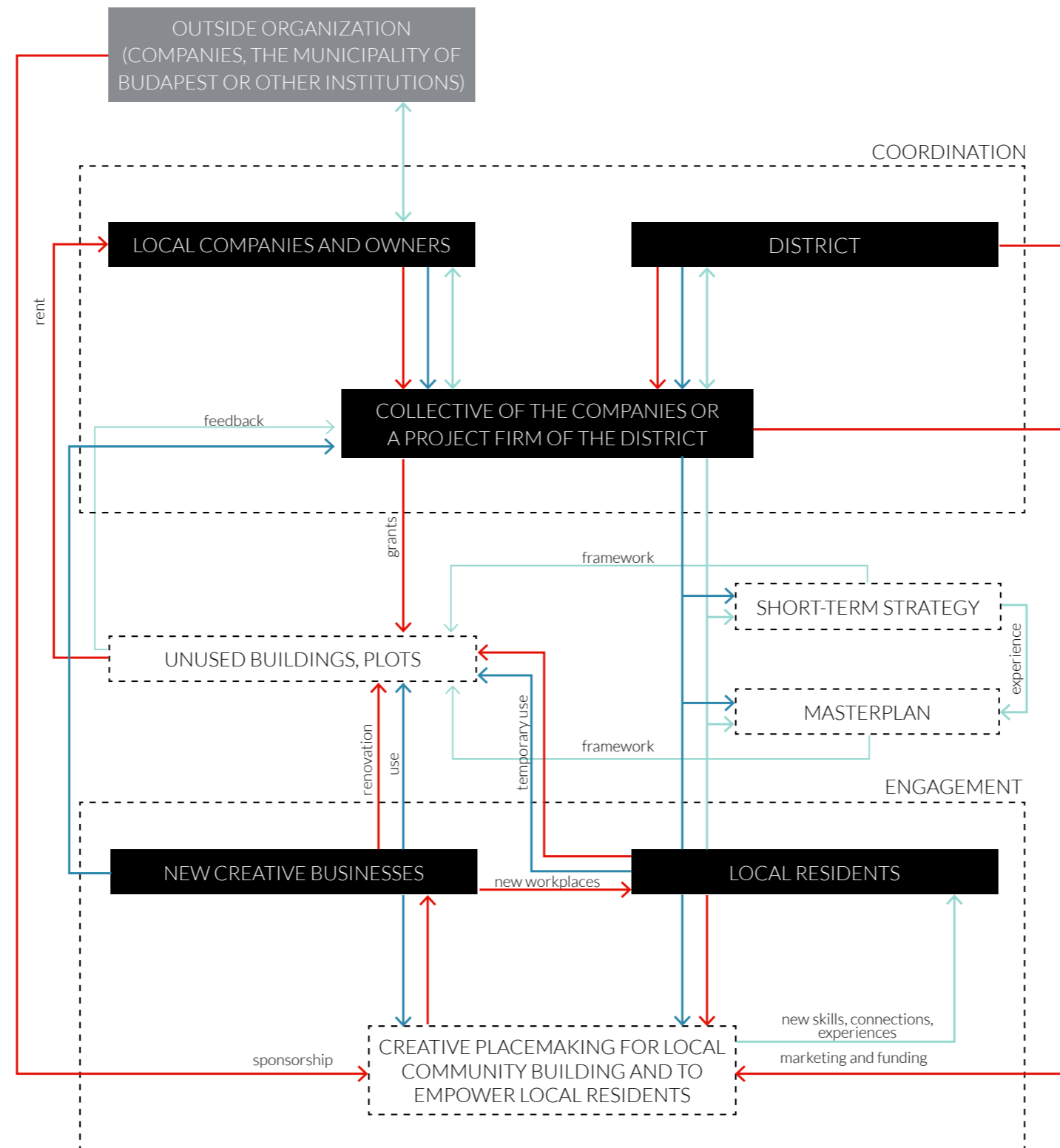
The process

The process





The organisational setup

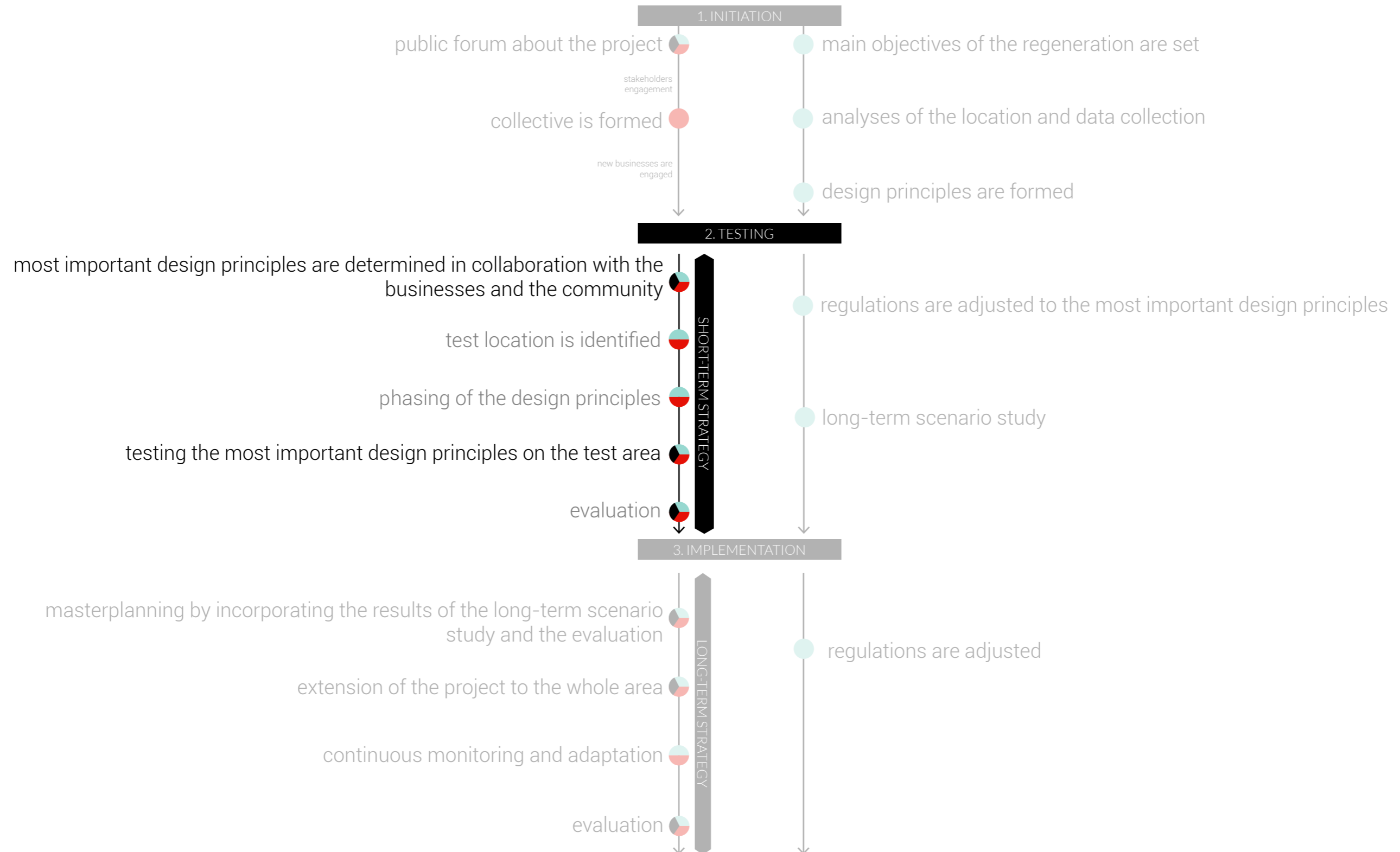


The organisational setup

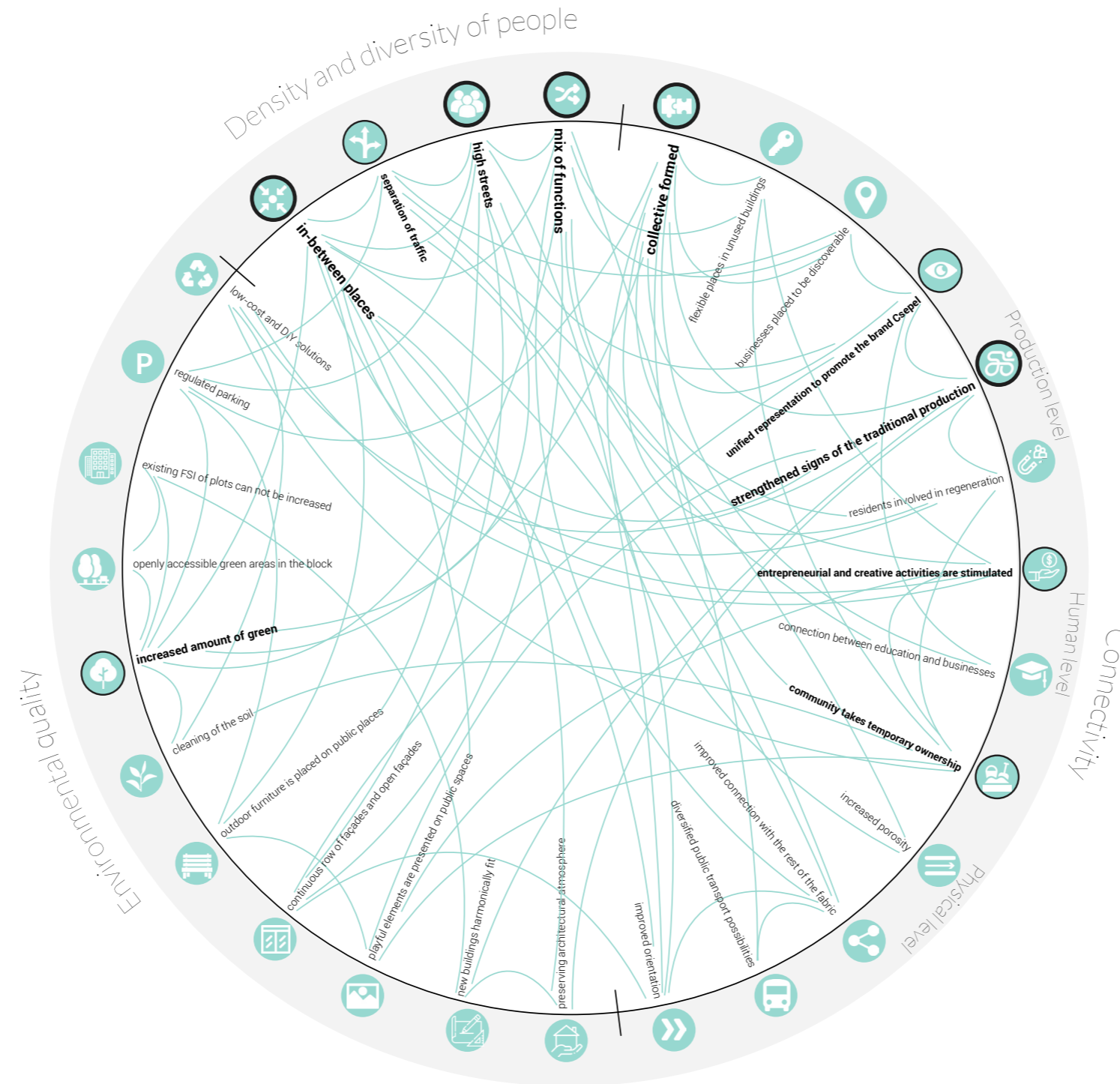


- money
- information
- people

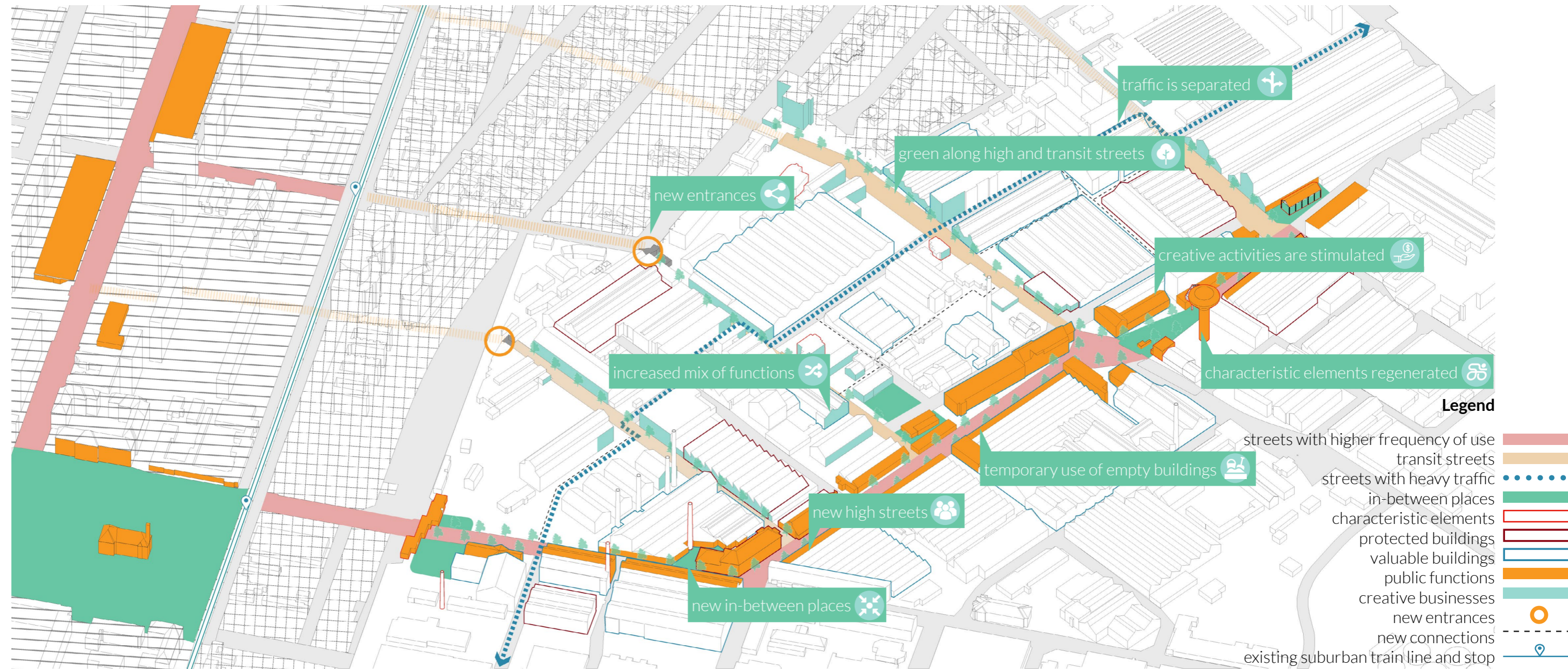
Short-term strategy



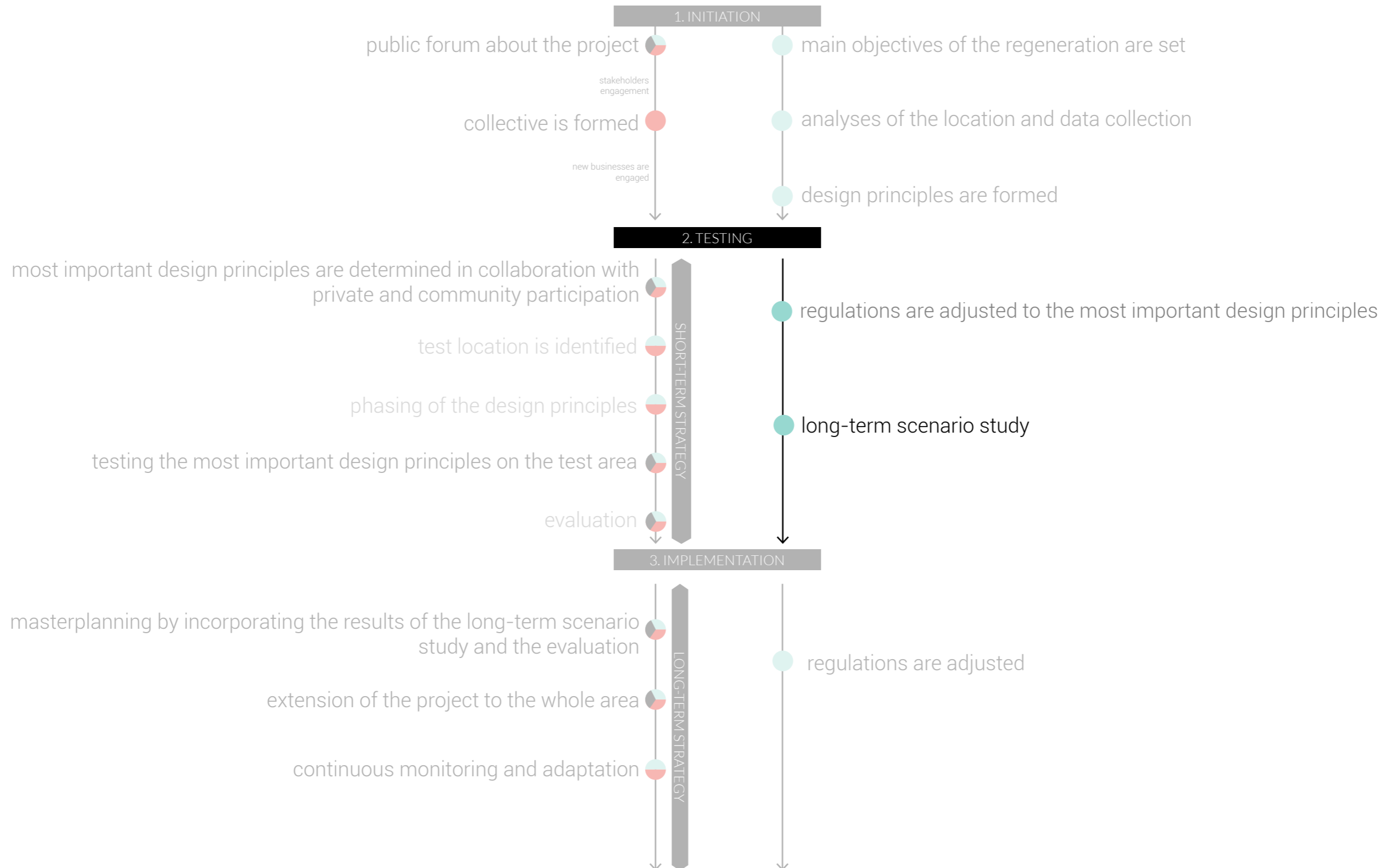
The most important design principles



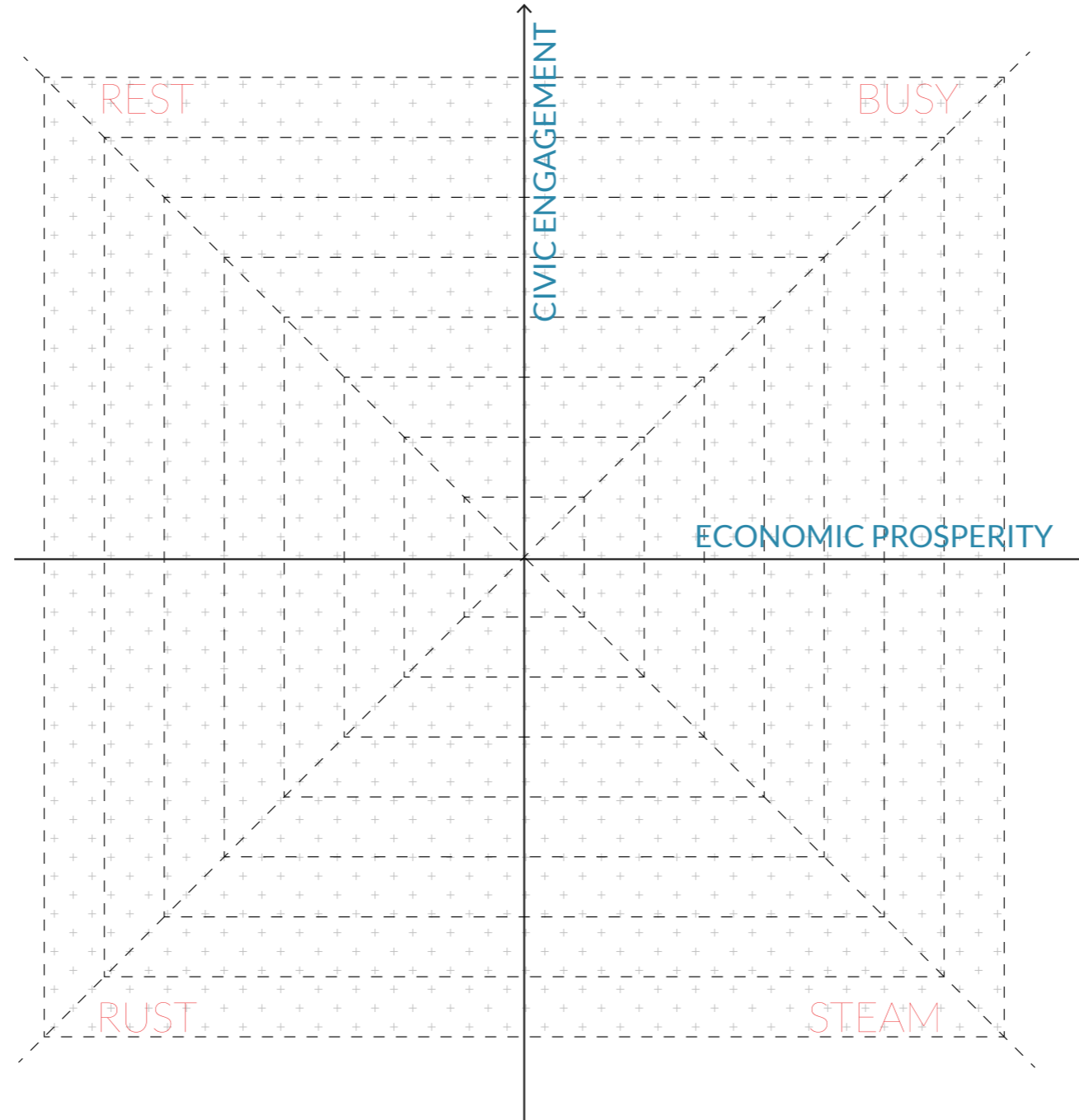
Short-term strategy



Long-term future scenarios



Long-term future scenarios



REST



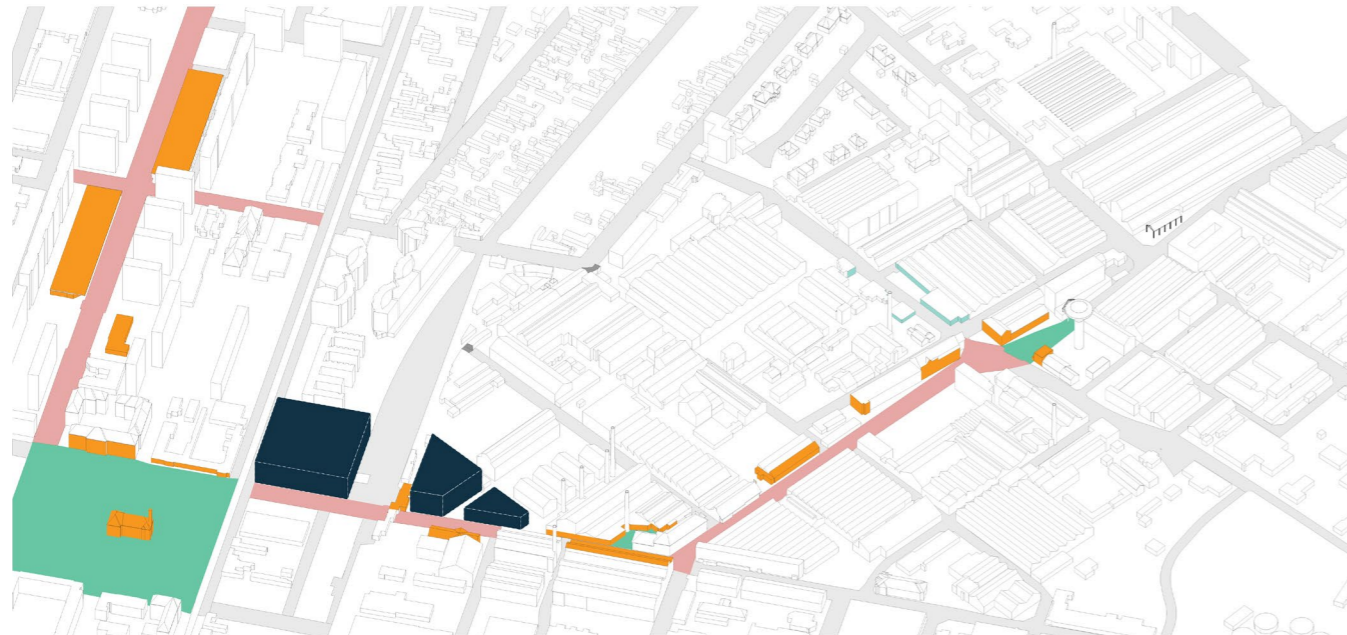
BUSY



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

RUST



STEAM





REST

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY



BUSY



RUST

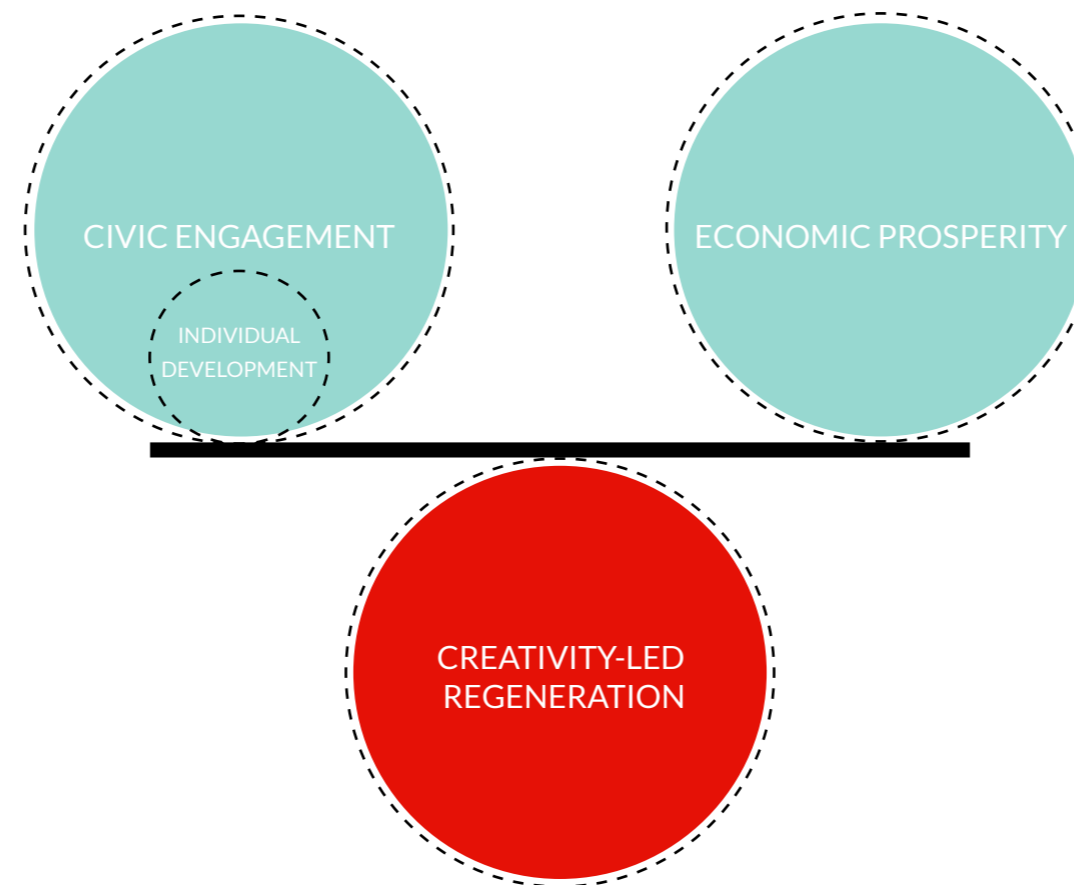


STEAM

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

The relation between civic engagement and economic stability

Increasing **civic engagement** is not only **important to overcome the post-socialist consequences** but it is **also important to create a socially and economically resilient neighbourhood**. There is a **positive correlation** between the physical and economical state of a neighbourhood and its social networks.



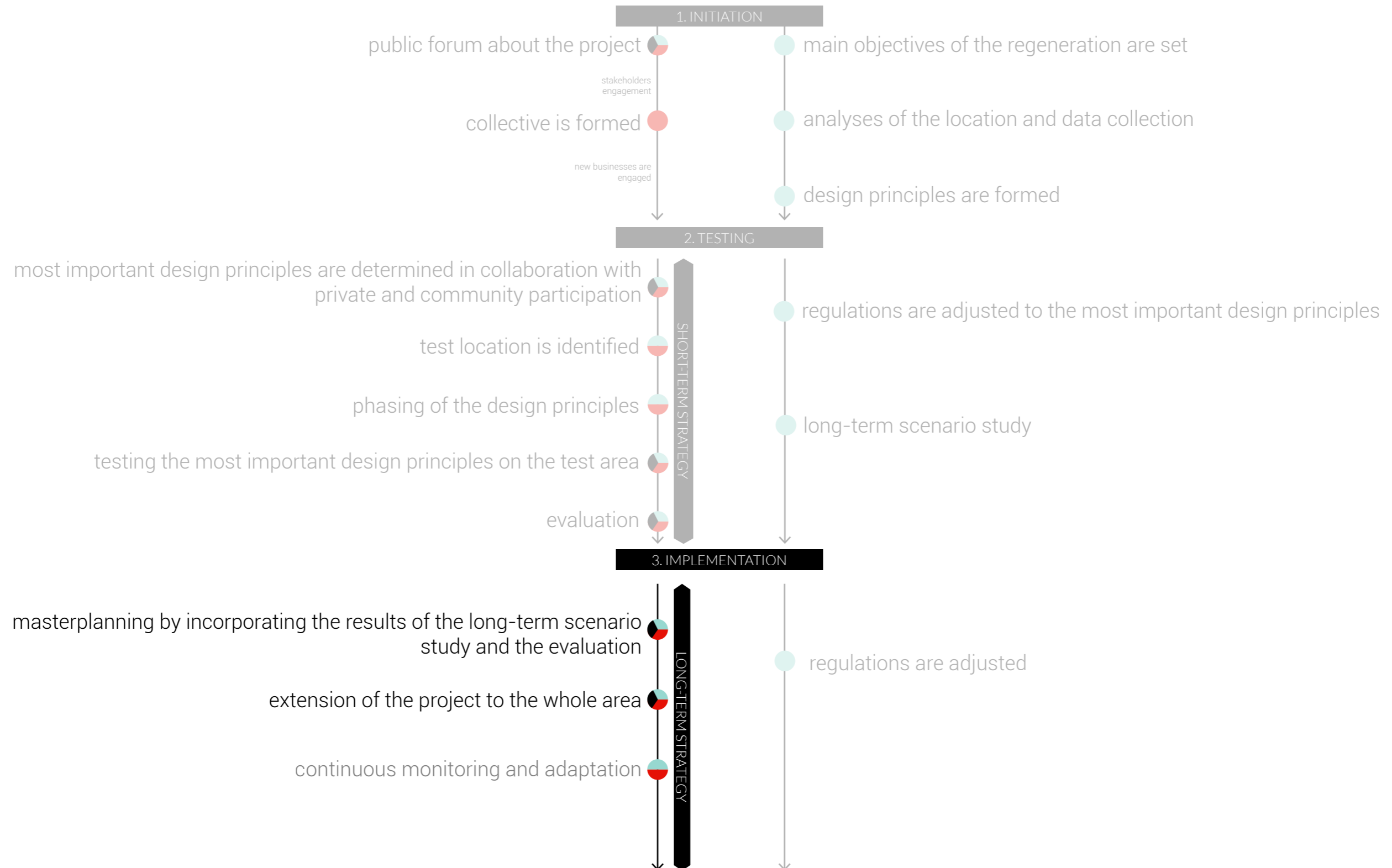
BUSY

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



Long-term strategy





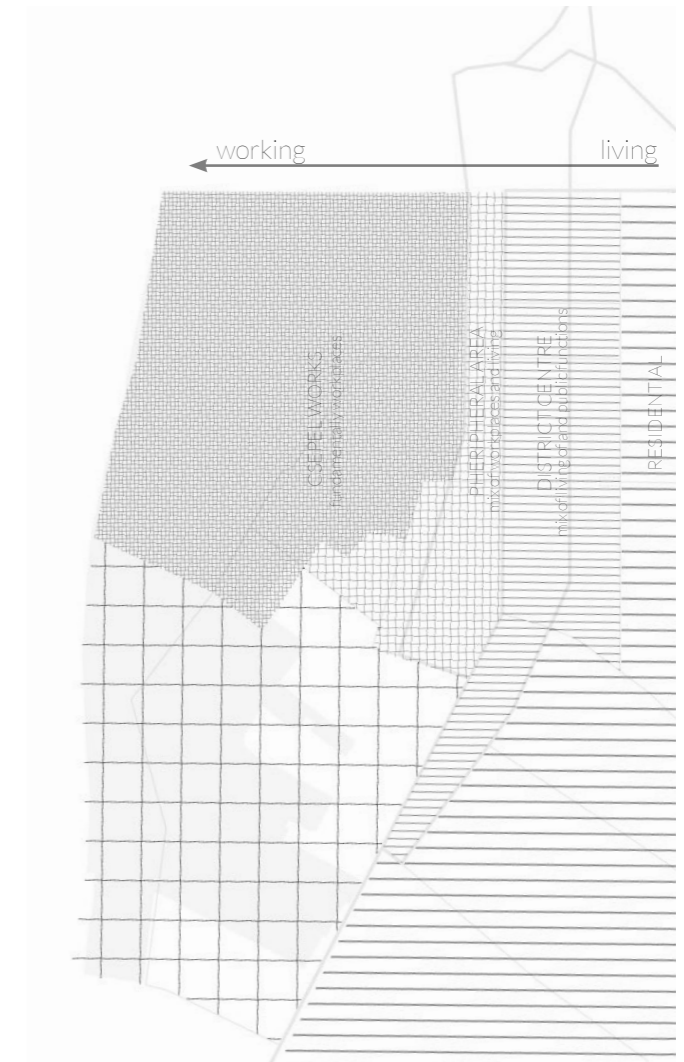
Layers of the long-term strategy



The separation of traffic



In-between places



Mix of functions



measures to improve density and diversity of people

Layers of the long-term strategy



Clustering



Orientation



Porosity



Multimodal public transport



measures to improve the connectivity on the economic and physical level

Layers of the long-term strategy



Bicycle structure



Parking



Green structure



Architectural quality



measures to improve the connectivity on the physical level

measures to improve the environmental quality

Long-term strategy



The details of the design

High-streets

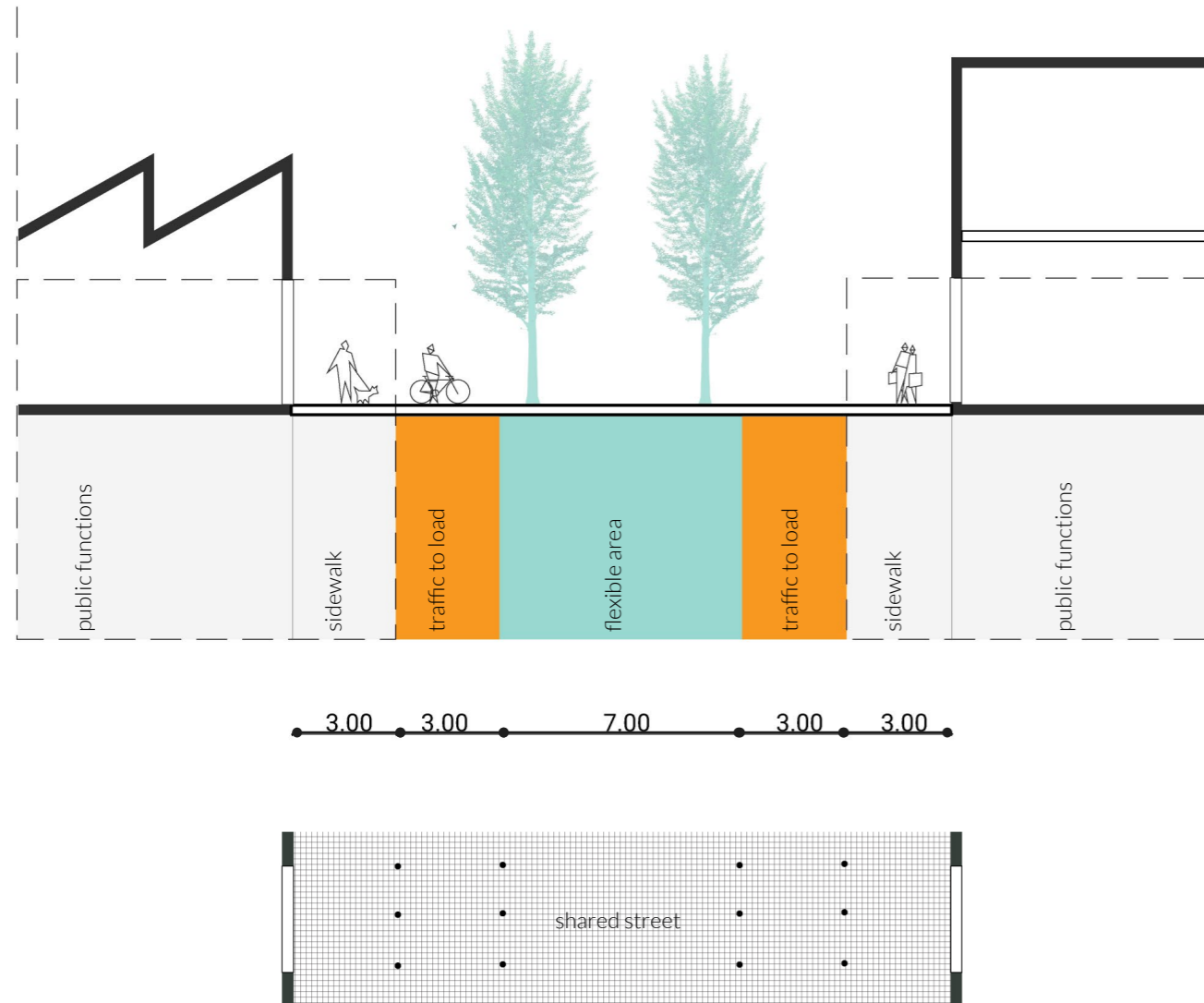
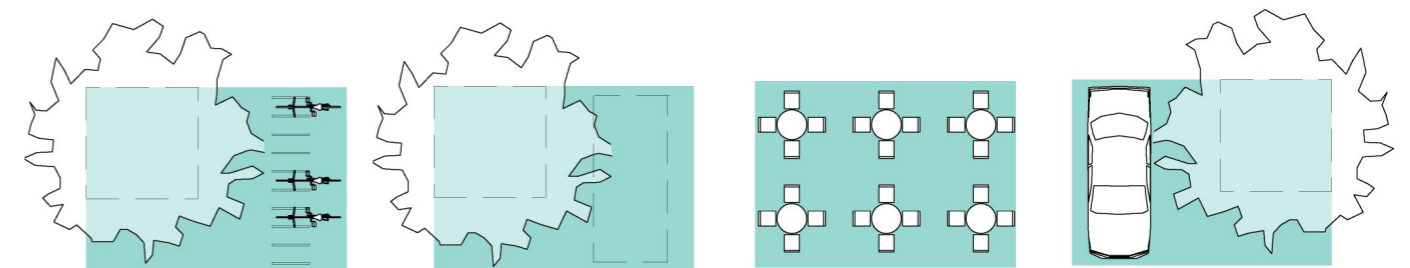


Figure: Sketch about the future situation



examples of use for the flexible zone

Streets with heavy traffic

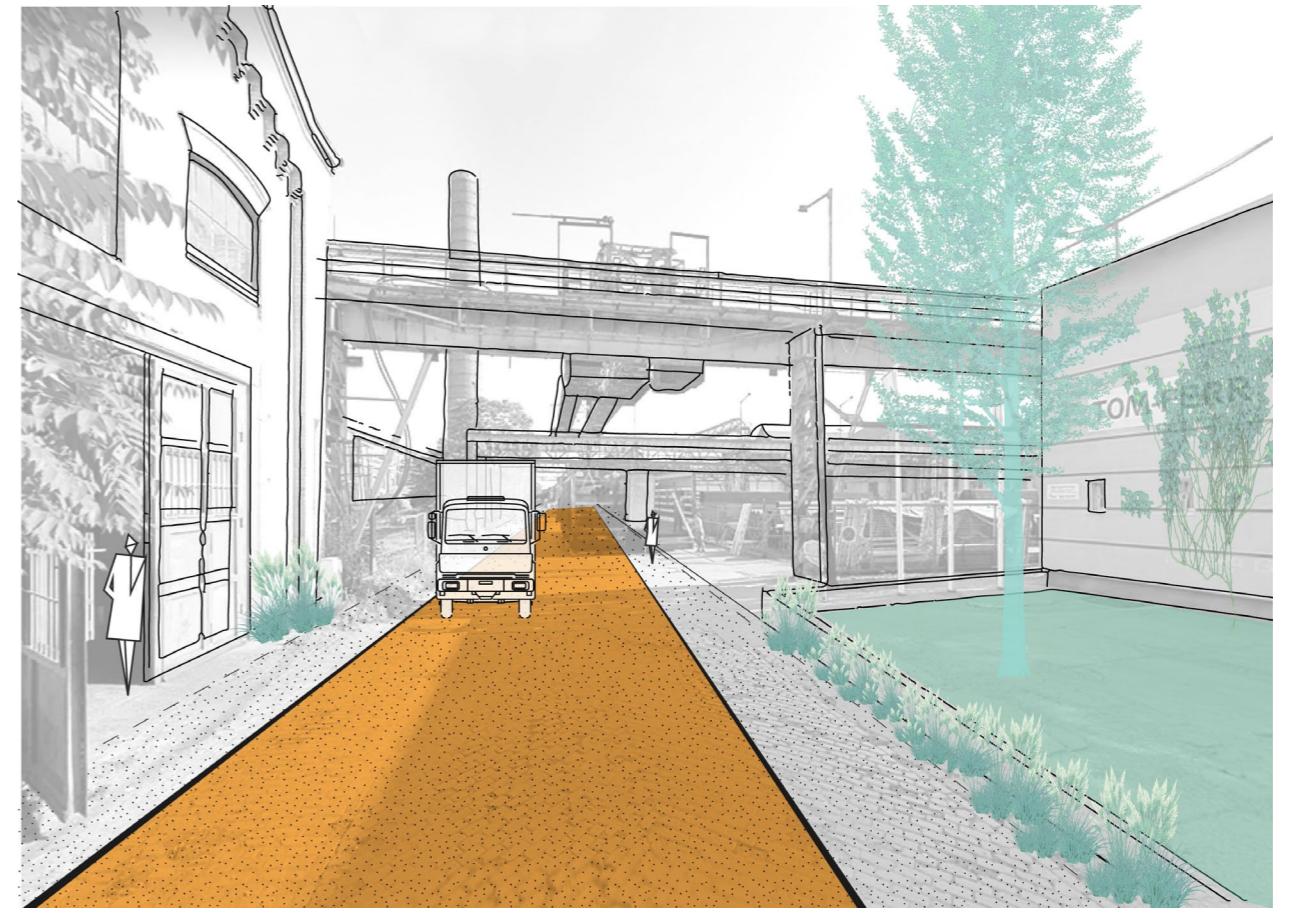
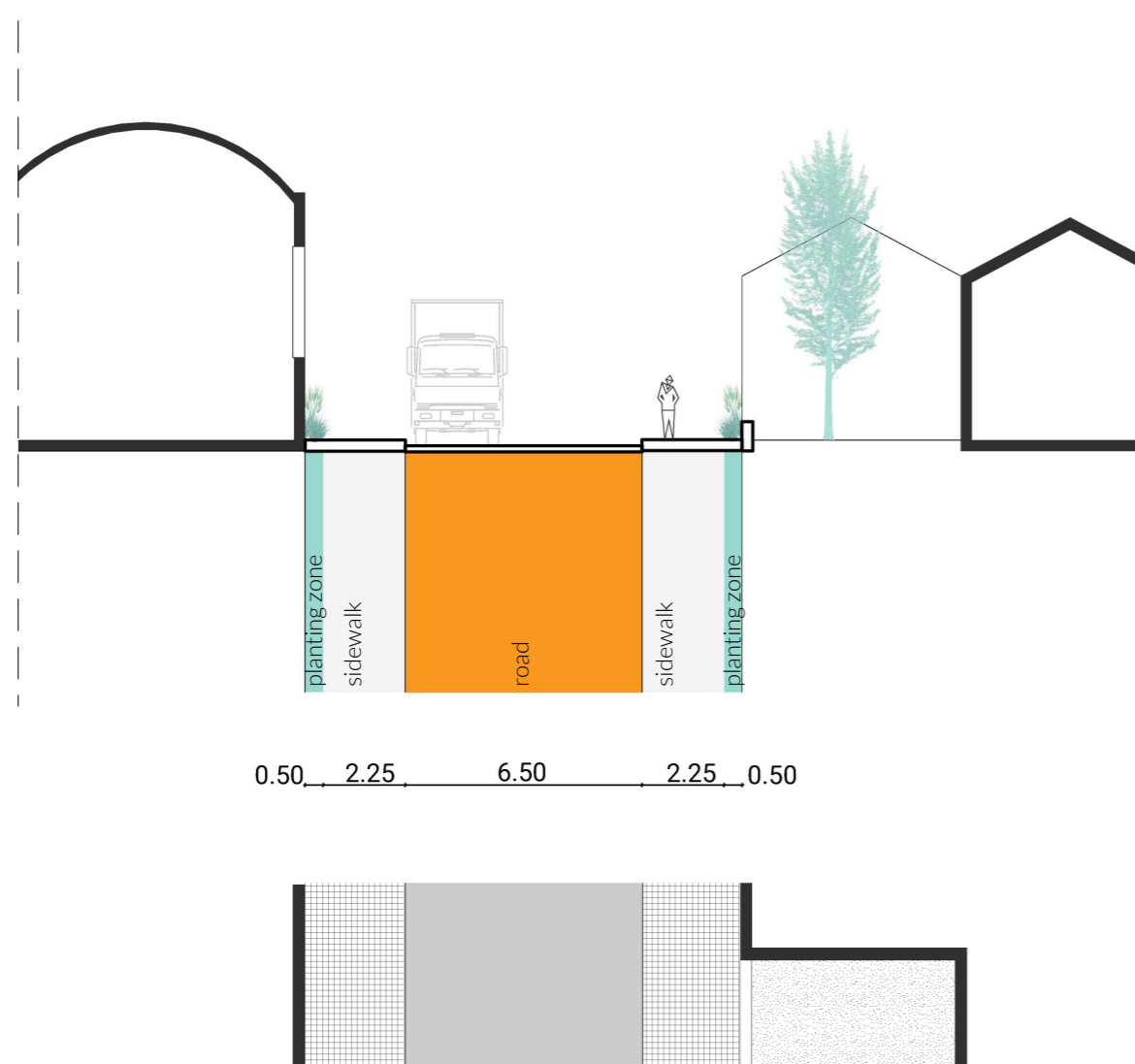
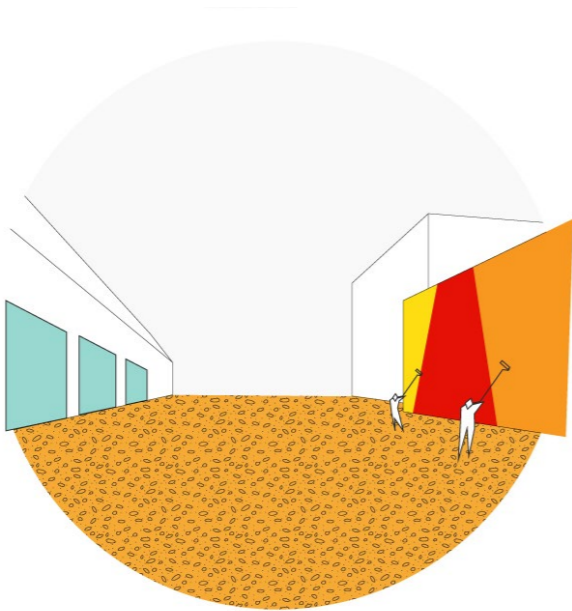
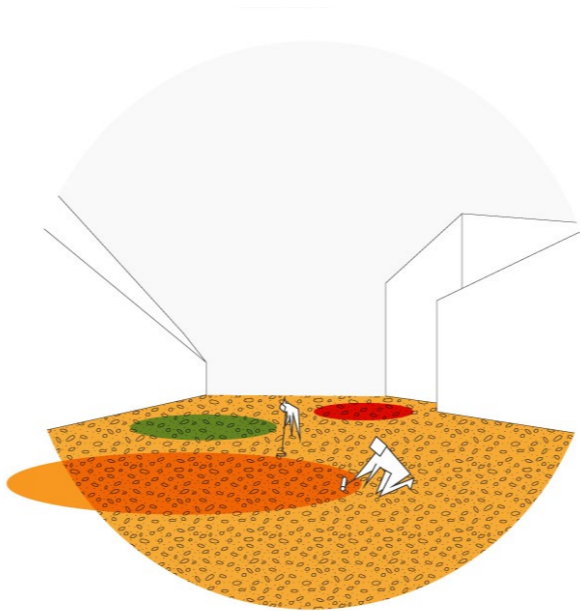


Figure: Sketch about the future situation



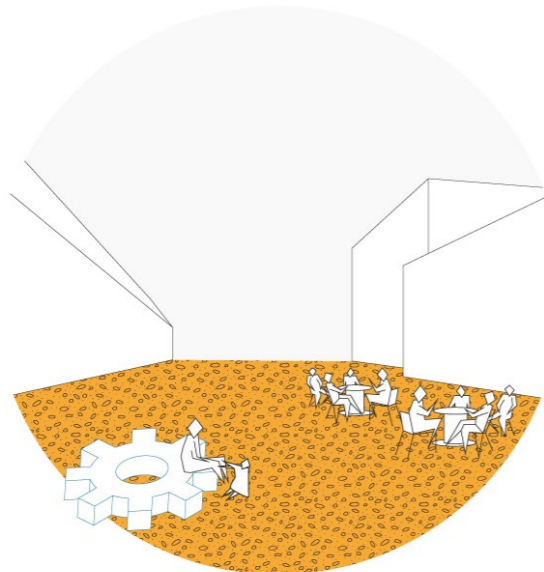
facade decoration



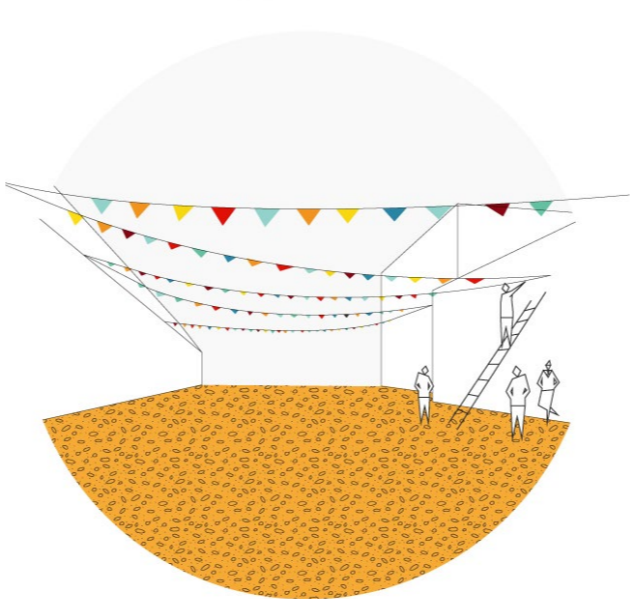
colourful pavement



pop-up green



public seating

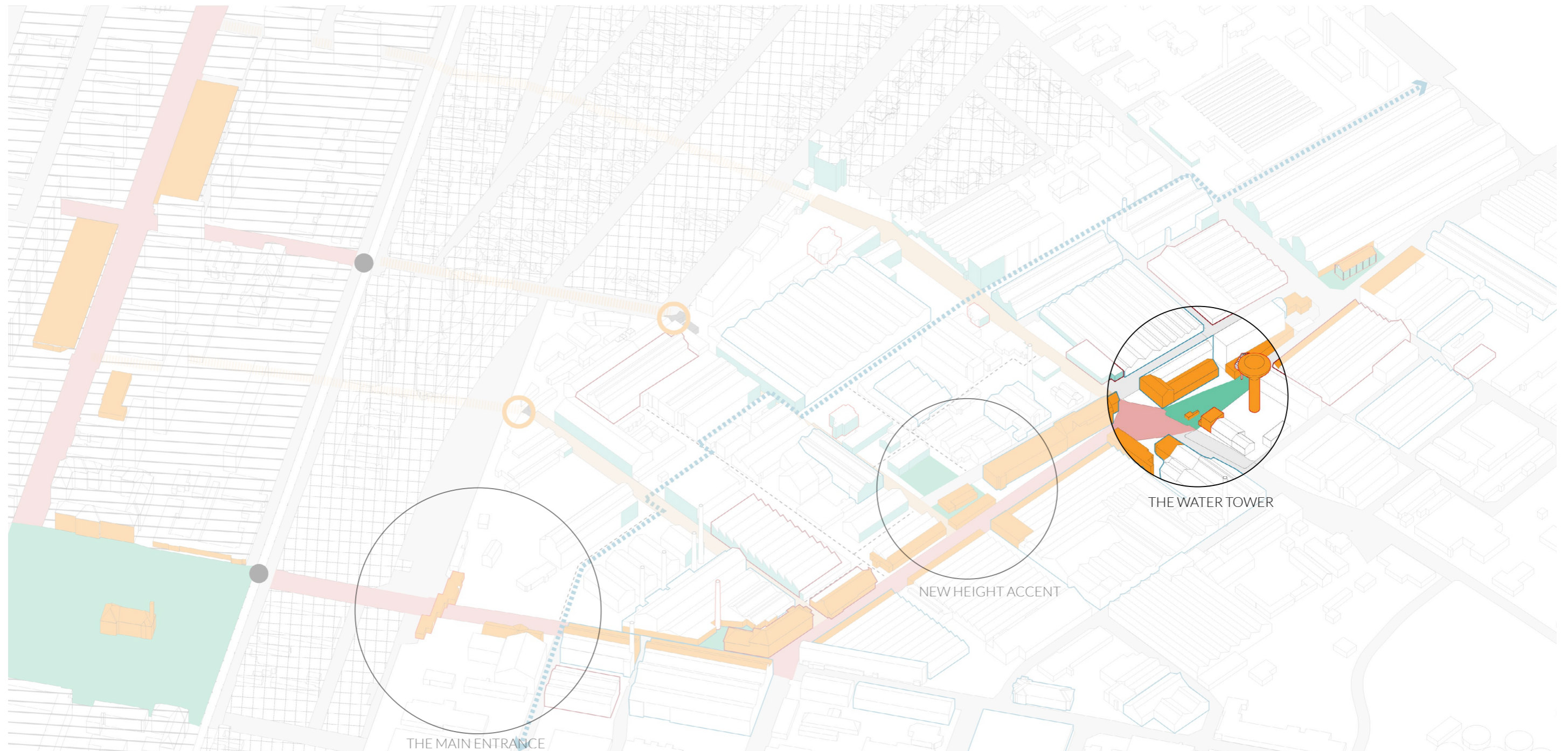


overhead street decoration



public art

The in-between places - The water tower



The water tower

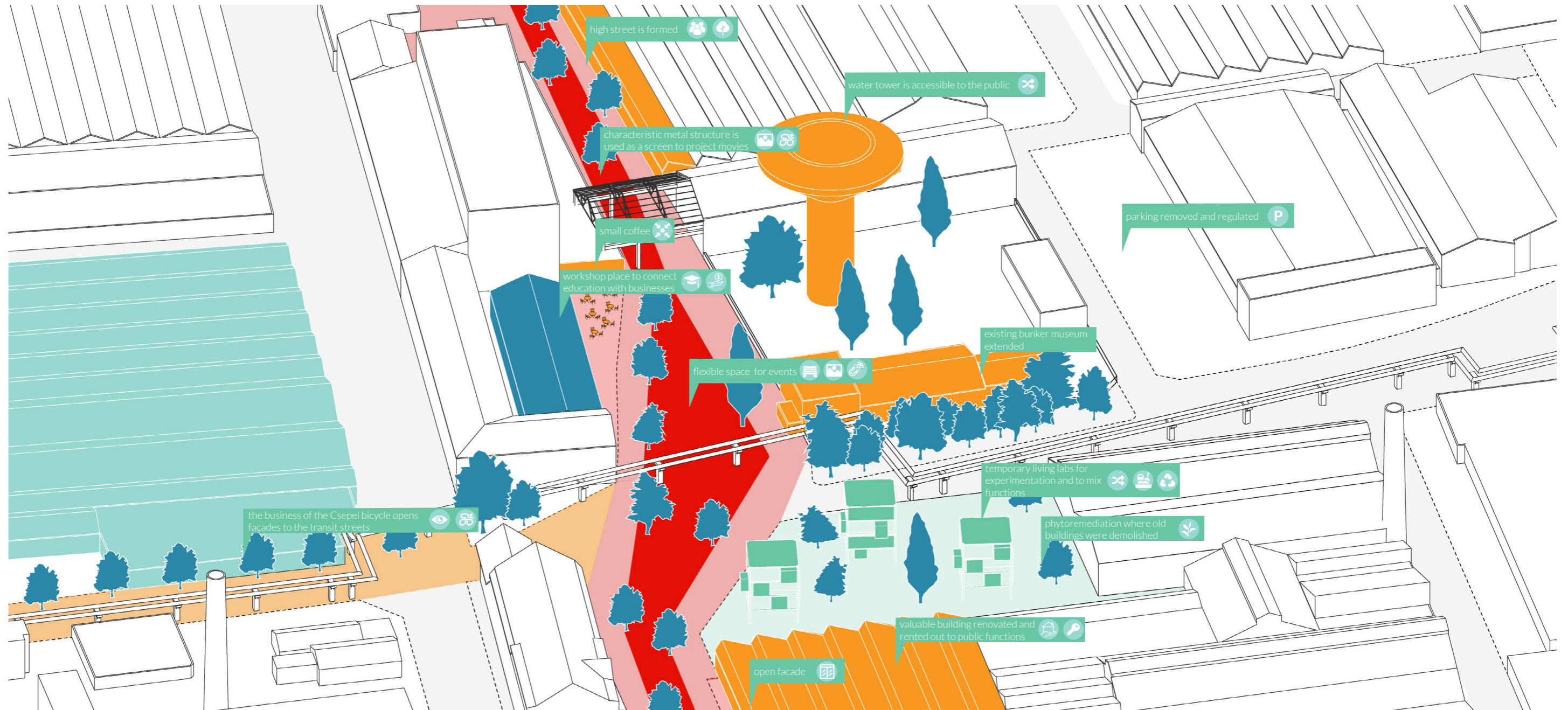


Figures: The existing situation of the area around the water tower
source: Google Earth Pro, 2019

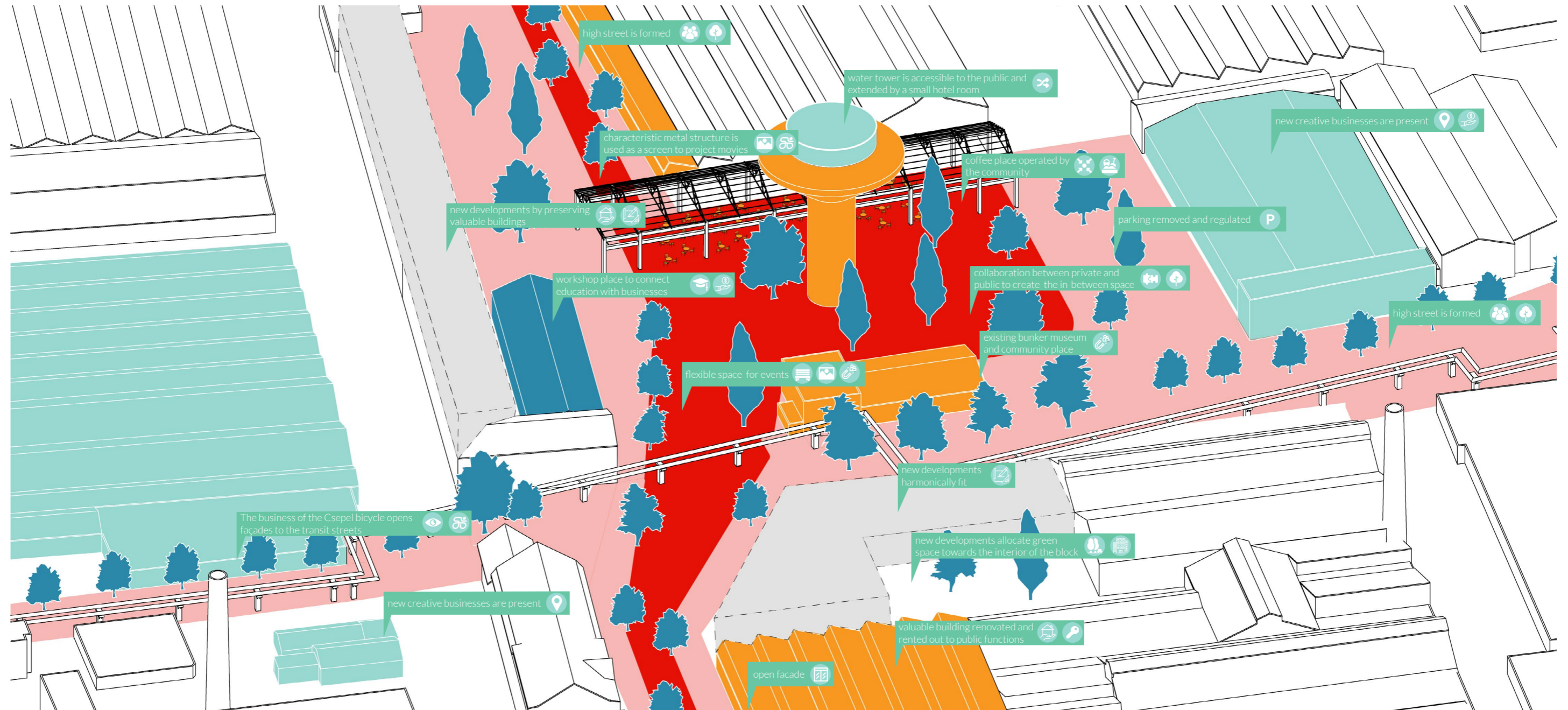
The water tower - existing situation



The water tower - short-term vision



The water tower - long-term vision





short-term vision

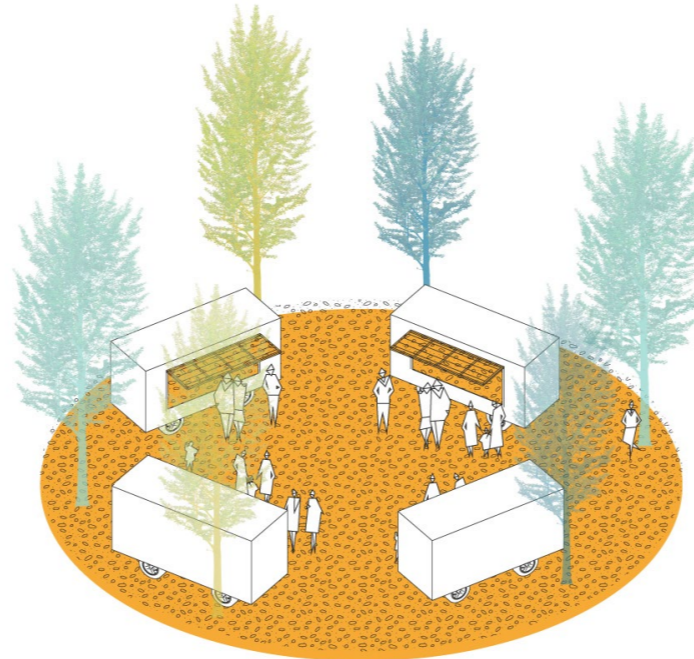


long-term vision

The use of public space



concert



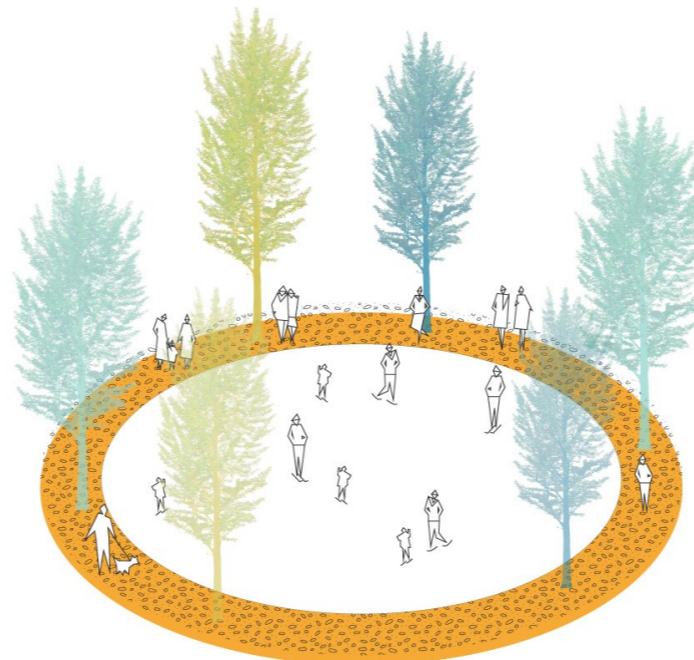
market / food trucks



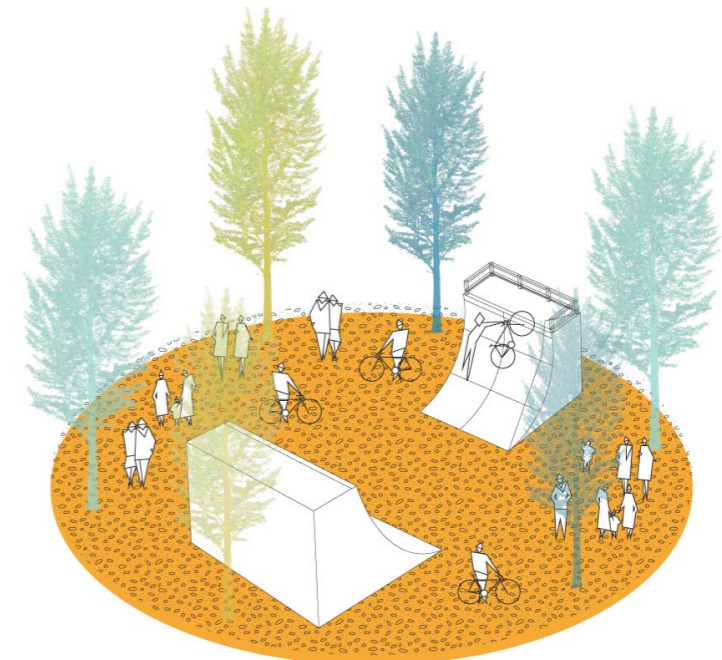
workshop



exhibition

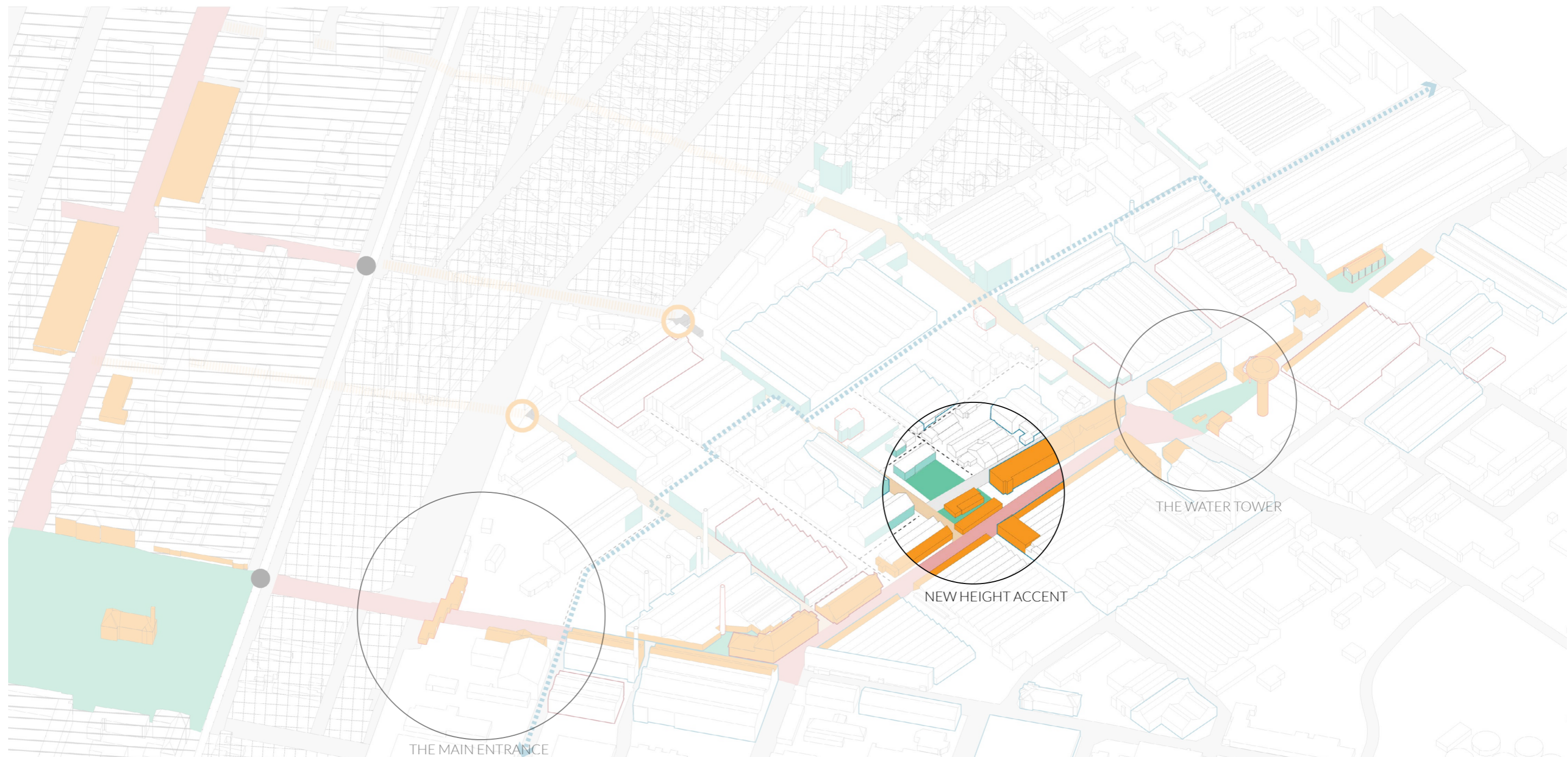


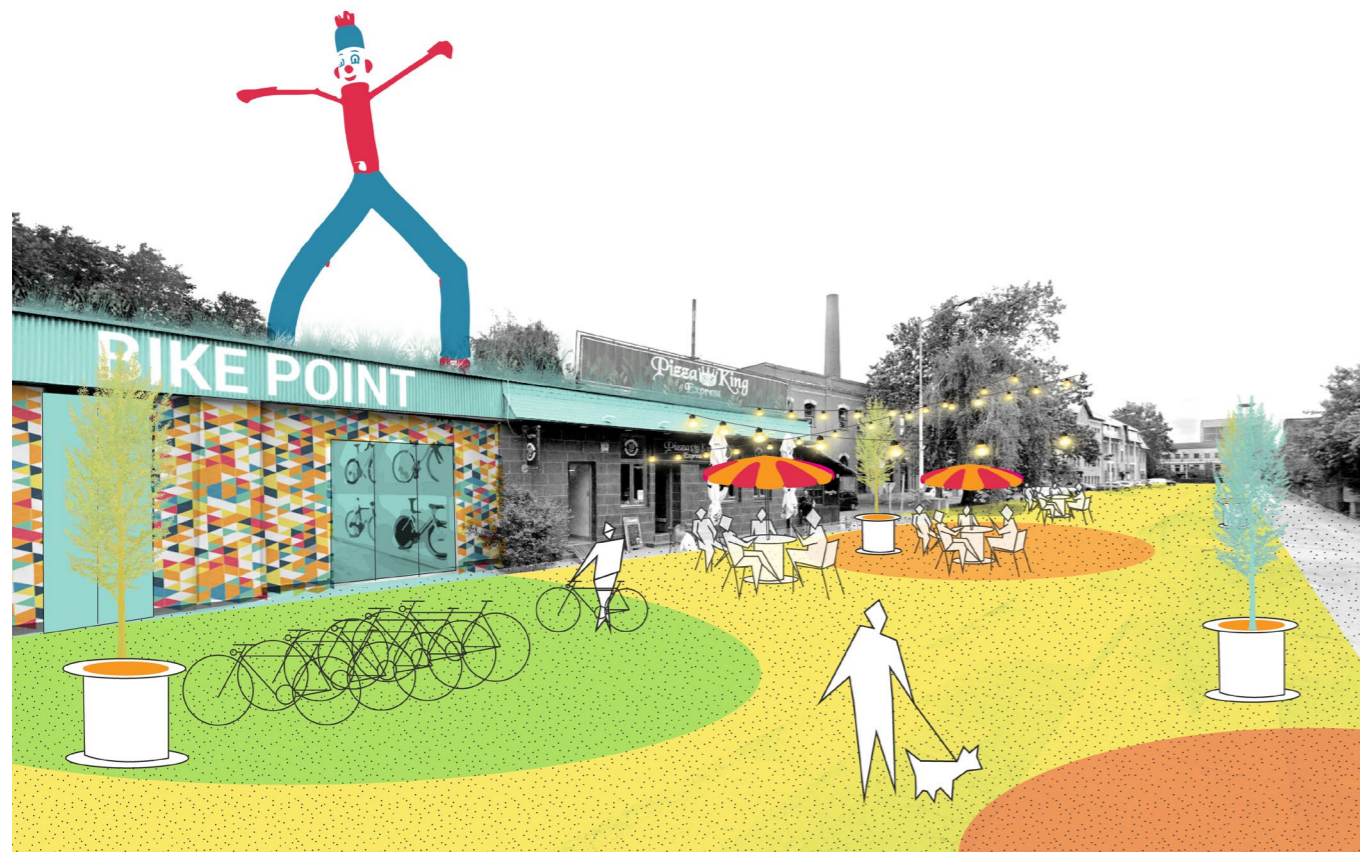
ice rink



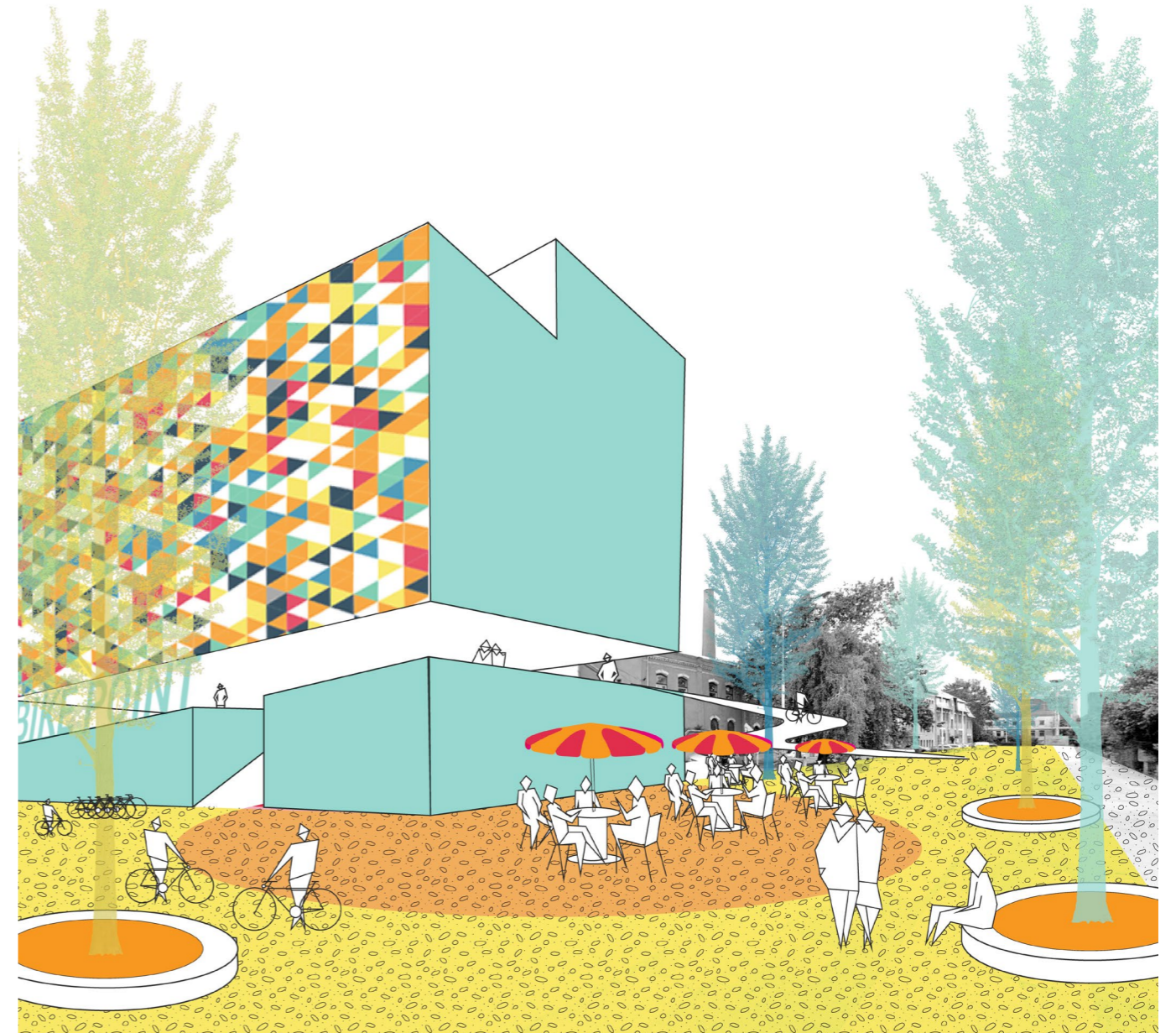
sport event

The in-between places - The new height accent



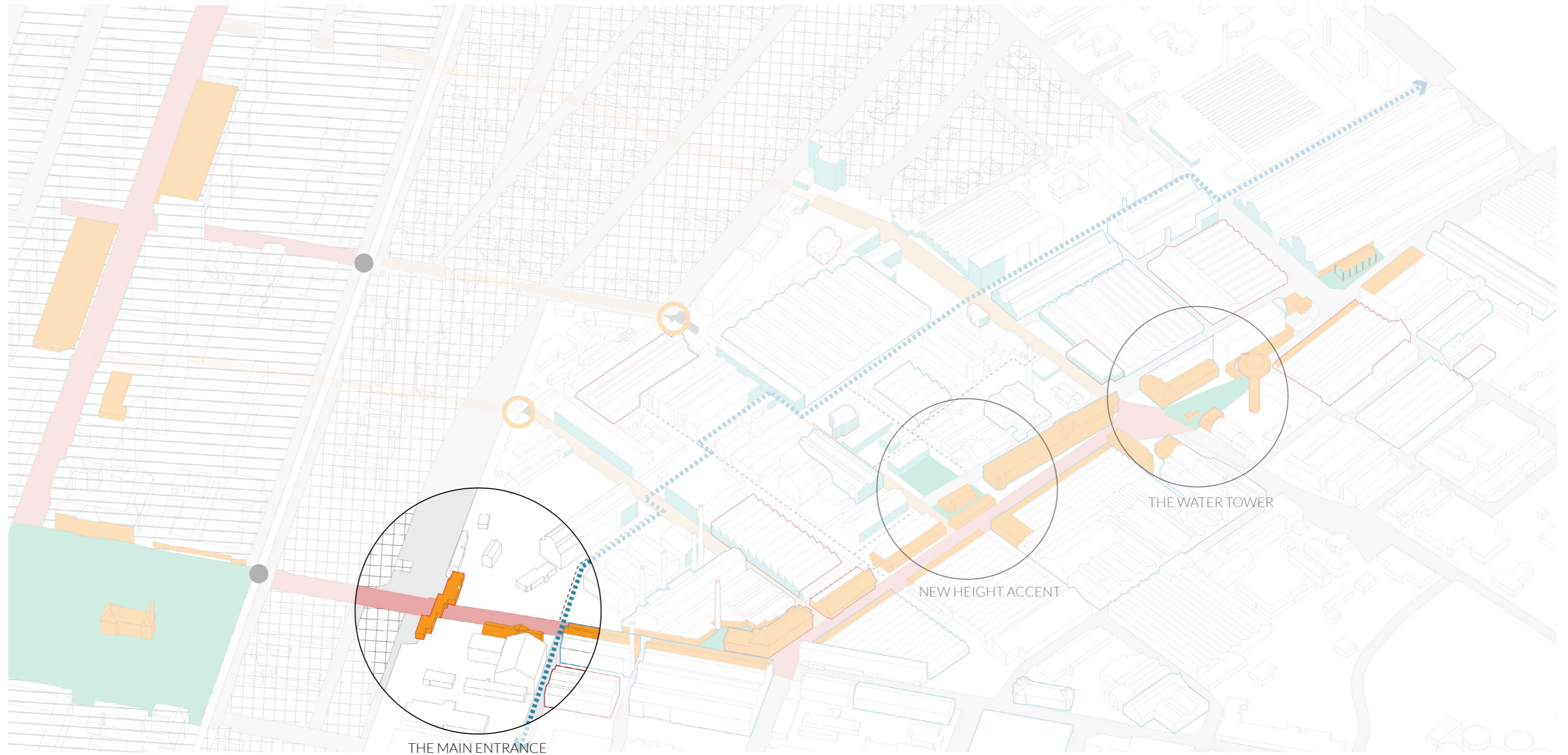


short-term vision



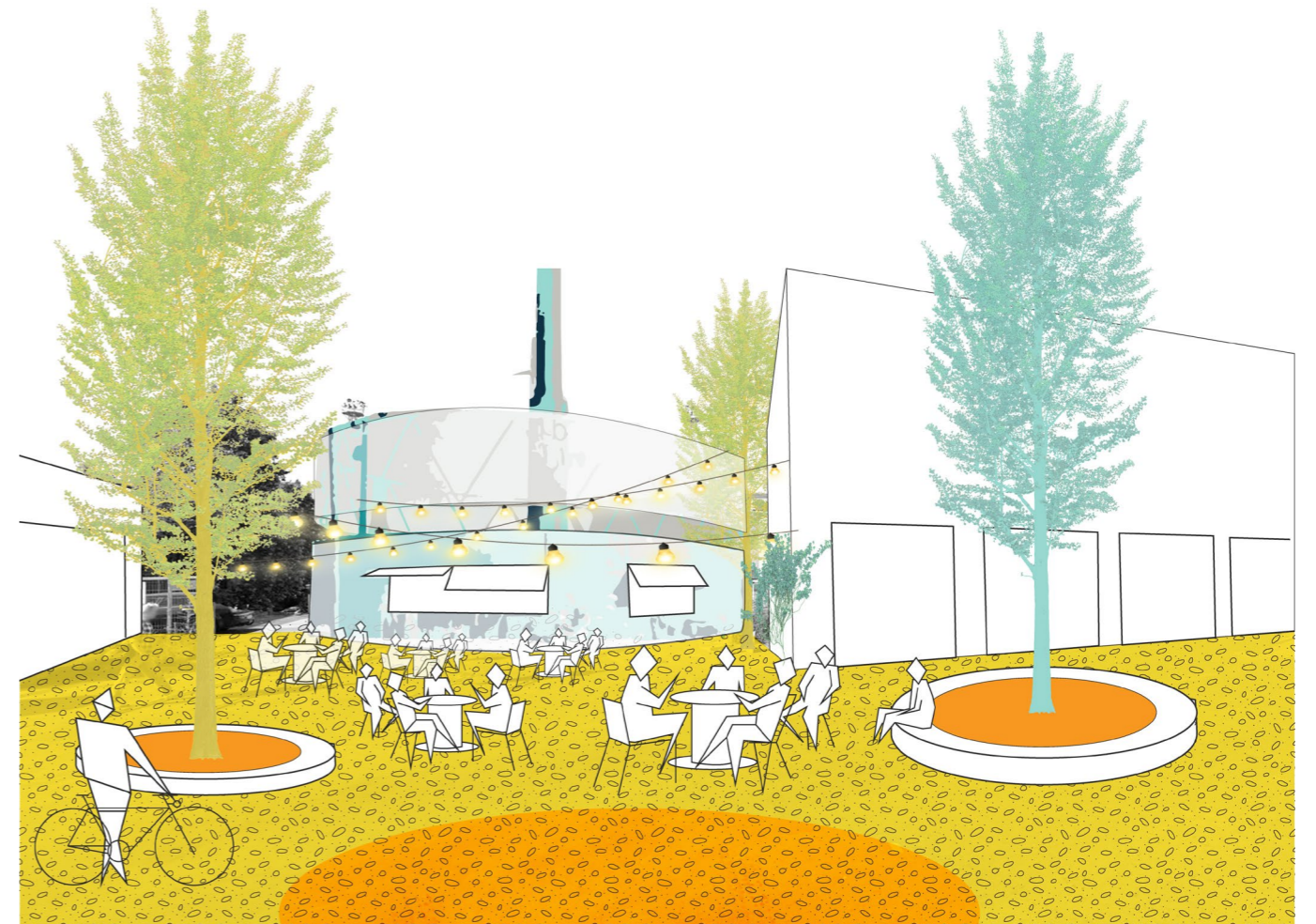
long-term vision

The in-between places - The main entrance





short-term vision



long-term vision

IV. Evaluation

| POST-SOCIALIST TRANSITIONAL CONSEQUENCES | | MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE REGENERATION | | ACHIEVED TRANSFORMATION |
|---|------|--|------|---|
| difficult to achieve large-scale transformations | ———— | small-scale transformation | ———— | achievable |
| weak civil society | ———— | increased civic engagement | ———— | achievable |
| increasing social and economic inequalities | ———— | equal access to jobs and possibilities | ———— | can be improved, but depends on the attitude of the municipality as well |
| suburbanisation | ———— | new and affordable housing, new lifestyle, which can be desirable to several people | ———— | in this test location it is not achievable yet |
| gentrified inner city areas | ———— | development of the least ‘desirable’ parts of the city | ———— | achievable |
| monocentric centre of employment | ———— | mixed use areas , which can create new sub-centers of employment | ———— | achievable |
| rising level of car ownership, pollution and car traffic | ———— | reuse of space first in strategic locations to public transport | ———— | achievable although future development is needed |
| non-continuous ring of large socialist housing and underused industrial areas | ———— | connecting the inner city and the suburbs in the transition zone the by regeneration of these areas | ———— | achievable |
| disjointed ownership pattern of industrial areas | ———— | small-scale developments through co-creation to involve the owners in decision-making | ———— | achievable |
| no incentives in place to regenerate brownfield areas | ———— | regeneration through local initiatives | ———— | achievable |

Reflection - final thoughts

The thesis describes that the consequences of the era change have grown larger since 1989 and although inequalities have grown significantly, the civil society has not improved much. Therefore, the process of degrading the rights of the poor and bypassing the opinions of civil groups and other opposing parties have become increasingly common in the last couple of years. In my opinion, these trends are the direct outcome of the post-socialist societal characteristics.

Under the current circumstances, the answers promoted by the thesis to improve civic engagement and people's right to the city are more important than ever. Because creativity-led regeneration through the involvement of people in the creation and through the development of their abilities, can form people's thinking, making them more open-minded, thus more critical, involved in the community and more aware of their environment.

Furthermore, the thesis discovers that the ideal regeneration process in the post-socialist context has distinct characteristics which are hardly discussed in the academic literature. Therefore, my thesis can contribute to the understanding of the similarities and differences in regeneration processes between post-socialist and other countries.

Thank you!