

ARRIVING HOME

Toolbox for increasing place attachment in arrival cities

Introduction

Immigration a process of all times. This is certainly visible a city such as Rotterdam. Nowadays, Rotterdam is one of the largest harbour cities in Europe, with a strong and prosperous harbor industry. On the other hand the city is also a place of contrasts. A key characteristic of port cities is the wide range of nationalities and cultures. People whose families once arrived in the city hoping to build a future for generations after them regard their living environment as an area with poor living quality and poor perspectives. Previous research has pointed out that it is hard for non-native inhabitants in Rotterdam to feel connected to their living environment.

The project aims to develop toolbox on how to transform the existing immigrant neighbourhoods into

places in which these groups of people feel home, welcome, and able to take their position in the city (thus increasing place attachment). It includes the work of Doug Saunders 'The Arrival City' (Saunders, 2018), which elaborates on possible scenarios for areas in order to create perspective, attraction, and a vibrant living place for its existing and new inhabitants with a migration background.

The 'Arrival City' is a book written by an American journalist, and is written from a more sociological point of view. In this thesis, this phenomenon is connected with the current challenges of place attachment, and the actual wishes and needs of people in Rotterdam South. By doing so, the outcome of the thesis is a toolbox on

how to transform an immigrant neighbourhood into an Arrival City neighbourhood in a Dutch context, at the same time increasing place attachment among people with a migration background. This thesis describes an approach on how to translate the sociological ideas into a toolbox for urban designers. Because of the challenges European cities face nowadays with regard to immigration, this toolbox is also useful for other, international, Arrival cities.

The research question of the thesis is: **How can the Arrival City concept be translated into a design toolbox that increases place attachment within immigrant neighbourhoods within harbour cities?**

In order to answer this research question, several methods were used. The most important methods

for this thesis were mapping (analysis), interviews and observation (for getting a grip on the actual patterns and behaviour of people in Rotterdam South, and literature review (in order to transform the Arrival City theory into a design toolbox that increases place attachment in immigrant neighbourhoods).

These methods were the underpinning and the foundation of the later stages in the process, in which a vision was made for Rotterdam South. Out of this vision, the toolbox was generated. The toolbox contains several design principles and policies. The tools are all based on either literature, analysis, or reference projects.

Vision

Spatial

Increasing place attachment is one of the key elements of the project. Place attachment (or 'sense of belonging') has a positive effect on stress and the well-being of immigrants (Choenarom et al. 2005). The public space in Charlois will be transformed in order to generate activity, interaction and place attachment.

Economic

According to Saunders (2018), a city should encourage local entrepreneurship by immigrants. By focussing the spatial design for Charlois around the local shops (mostly owned by people with a migration background), the role of immigrants in the end result will be very important and effective for Charlois as a whole.

Historical Traces

The cultural identity relates to the common history of a place (Assmann, 2011). The common history of all these different types of immigrants (170 nationalities) is embedded in the space of Rotterdam South. Strengthening its historical traces should have a positive effect on to what extent immigrants feel attached to the place.

Services for immigrants

Being in a new living environment can result in stress and a decrease of well-being of immigrants (Jasinskaja-Lahti, Liebkind, Jaakkola and Reuter, 2006). As a result, immigrants have a chance to close off from society and are less able to participate in a society (Barnes, 2001; Korac, 2003). In order to help the immigrants to become attached to their new living environments, services with regard to coaching and training are of huge importance.



spatial



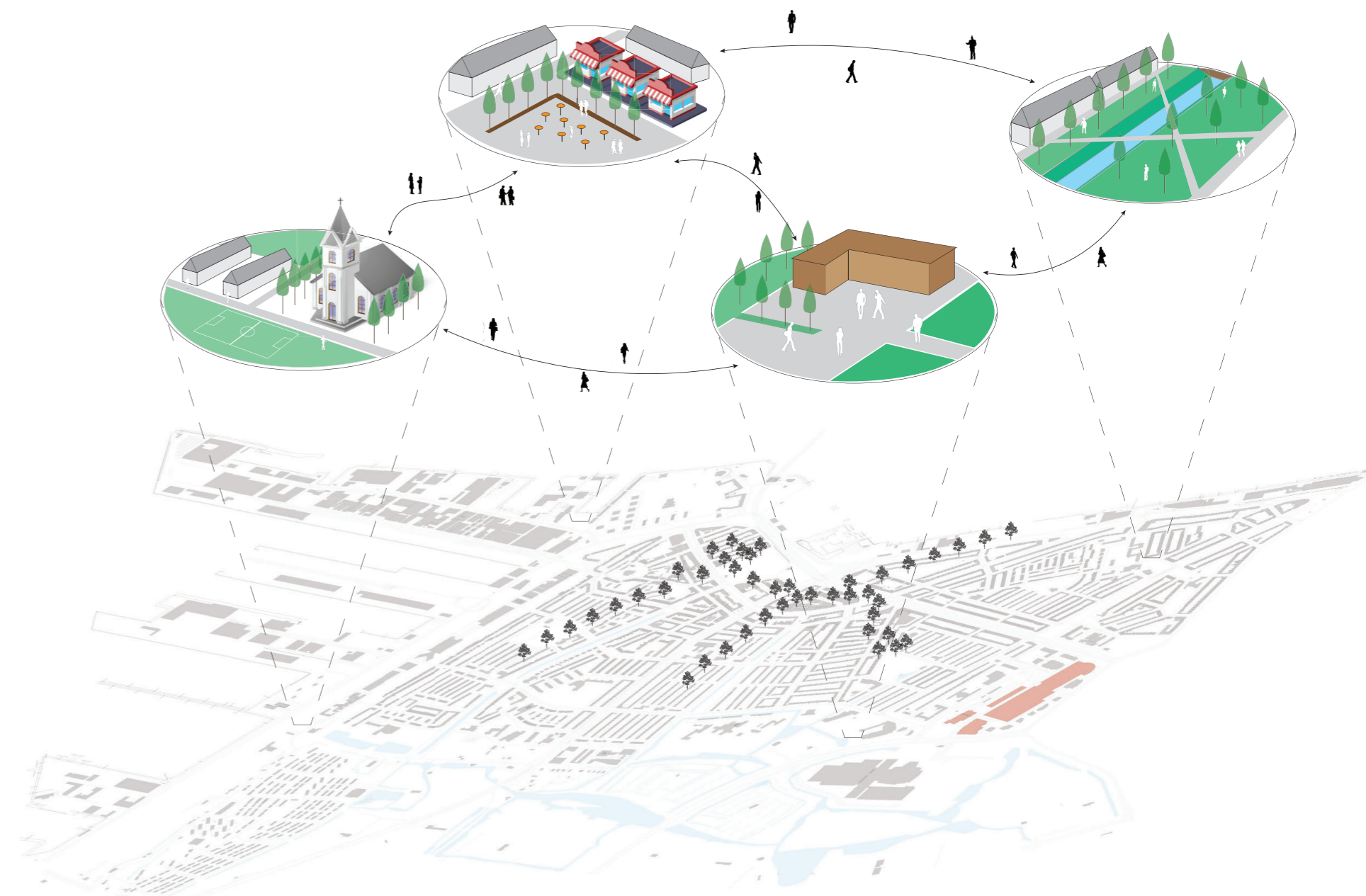
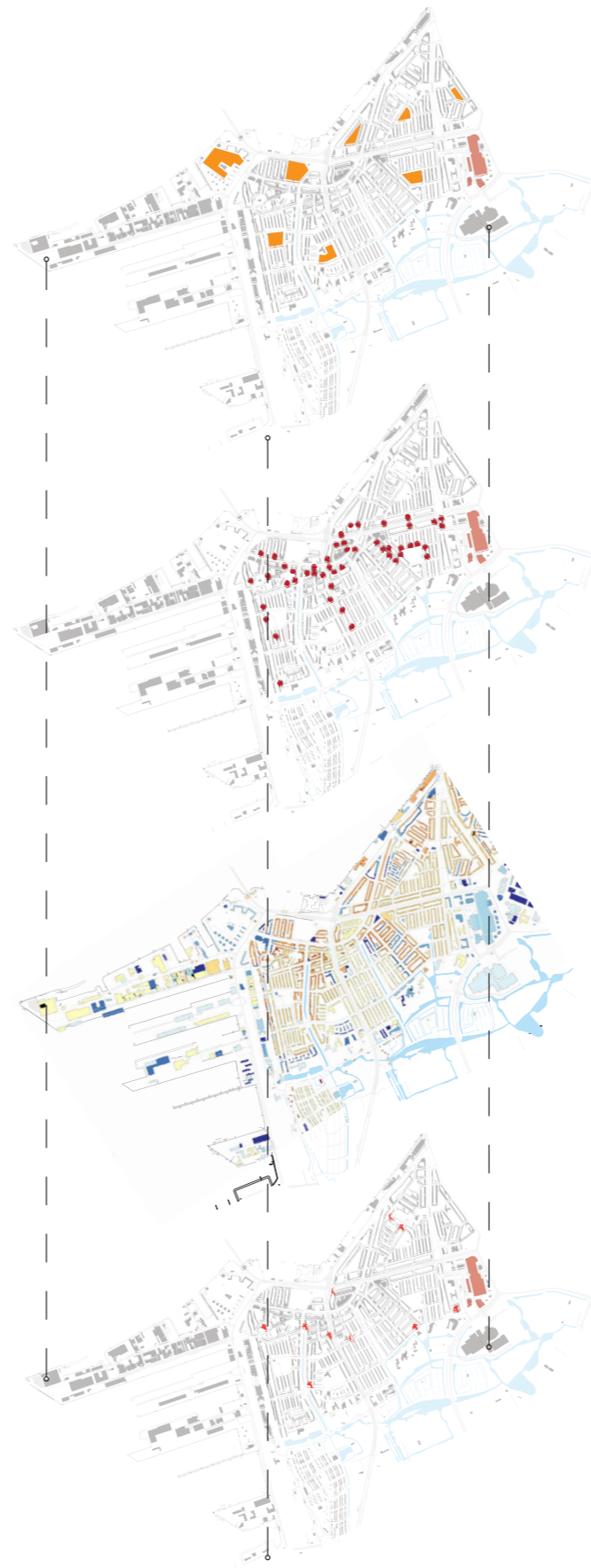
economic



historical traces



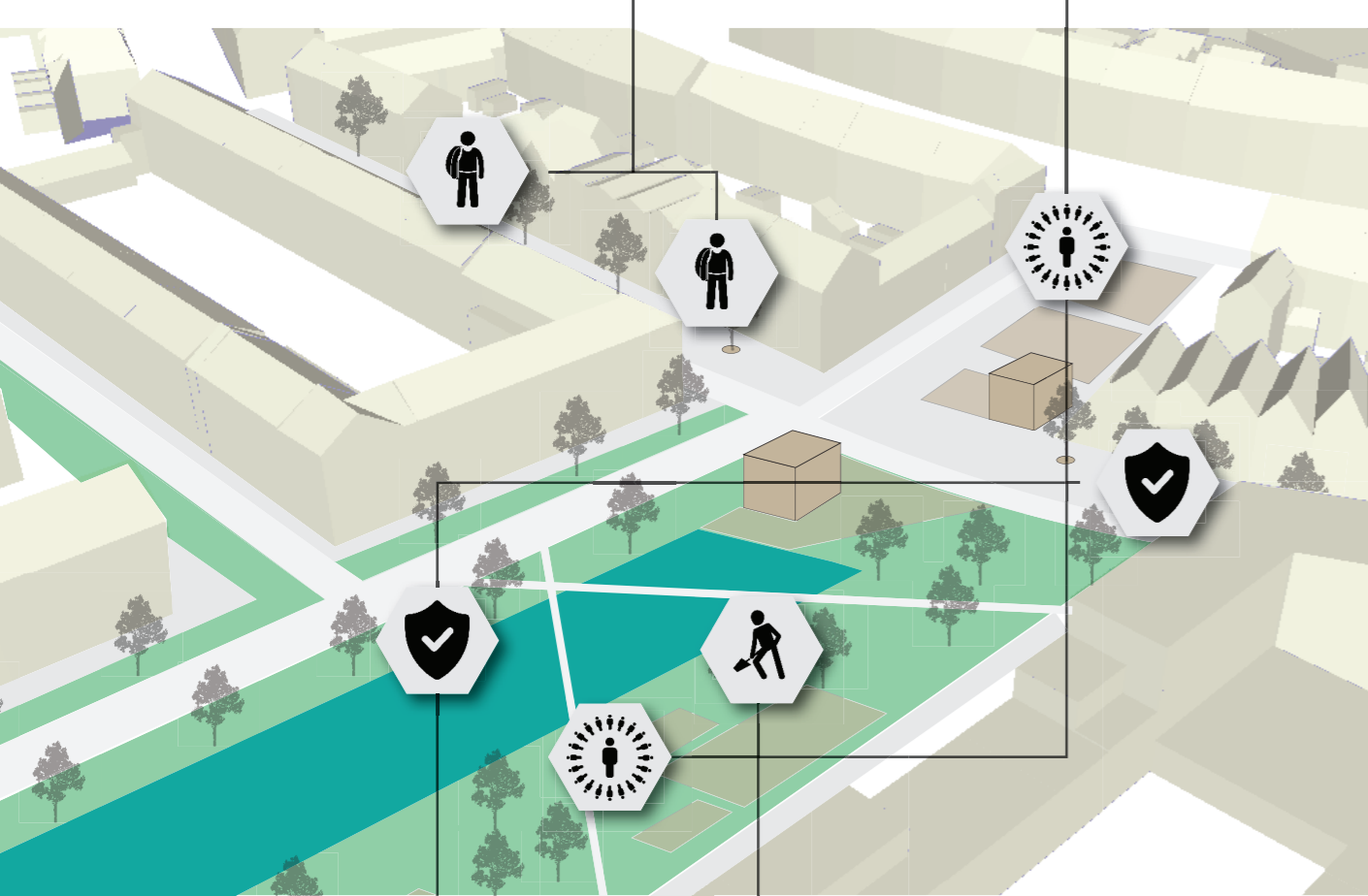
services



Toolbox

Shops owners are responsible for the front of their stores

Inhabitants are responsible for maintaining the public functions

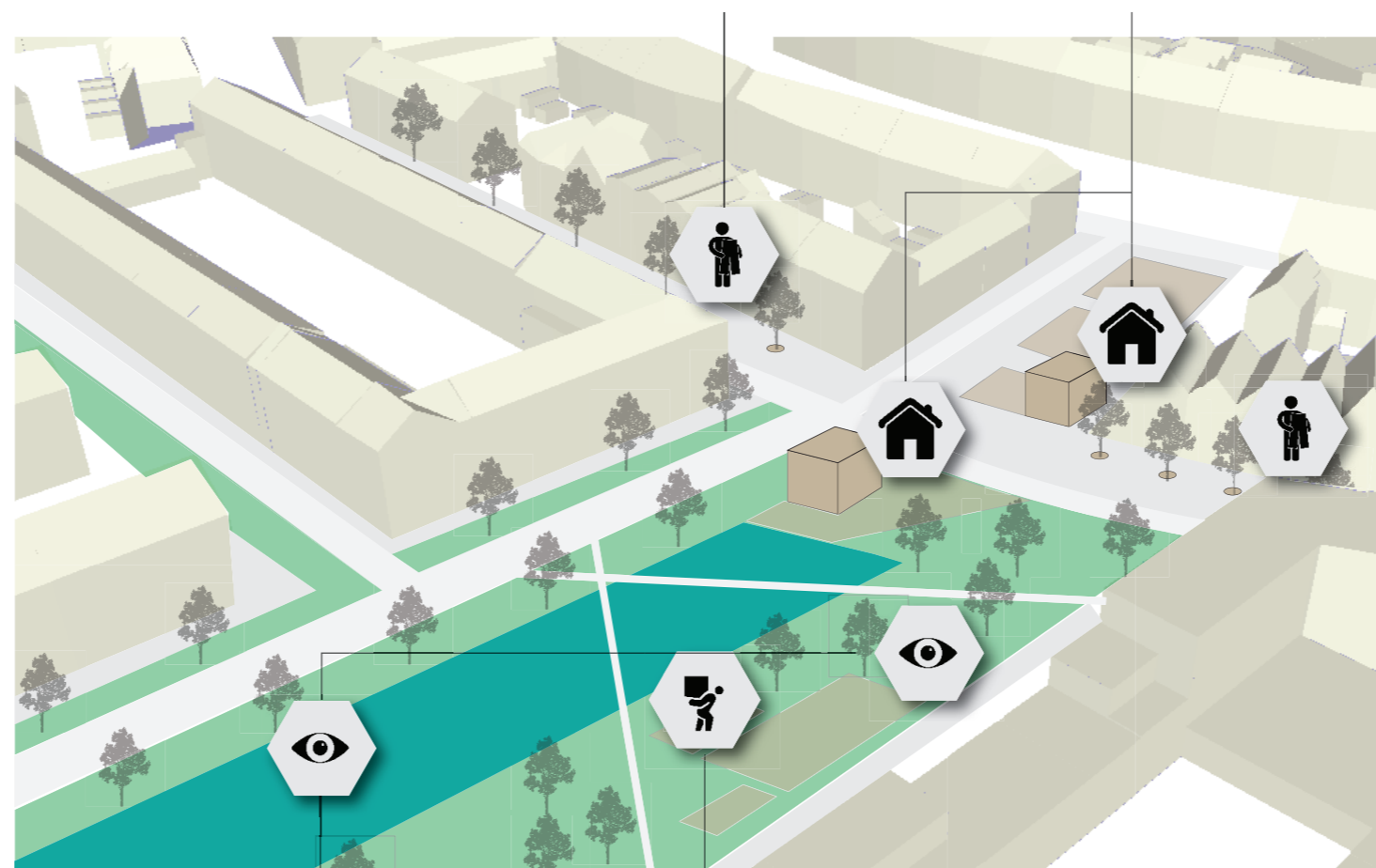


Safety is increased by creating more open spaces and placing light posts

Inhabitants should keep the public space clean

Expand pedestrian space and give entrepreneurs space for expansion

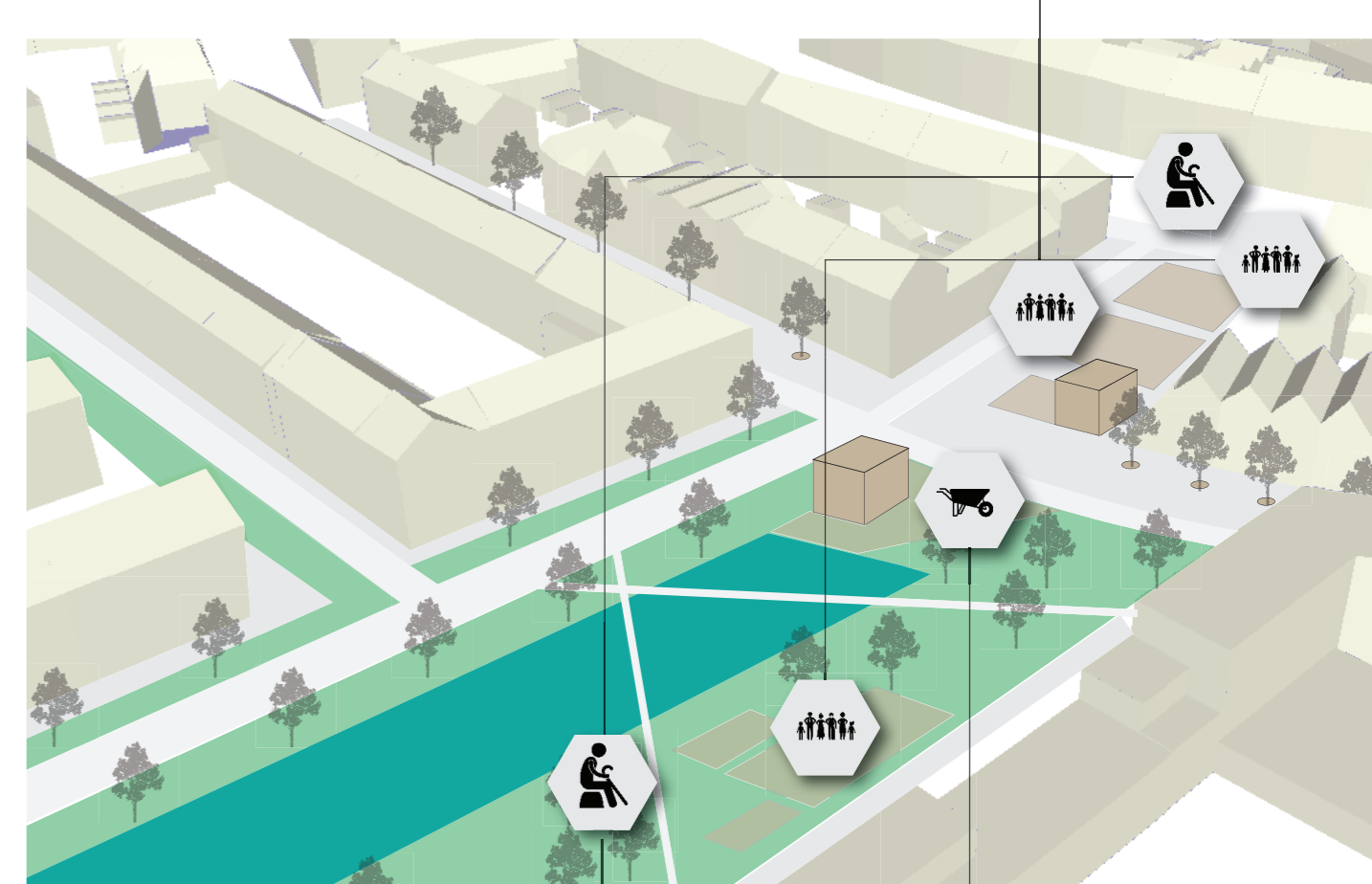
One main community centre, and an internet cafe



Light posts and hidden cameras are placed to enhance safety

Inhabitants are responsible for the created public functions

Public functions: local market, community garden, football cage



Create a variety of public / private places next to functions

Example of material integration: moroccan hexagon tiles

The Arrival City



Place Attachment



Reference Project



Pattern Languages



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2nd mentor: Lei Qu