



Rethinking the Absorption Capacity of Urban Space

How to better organise migration in the city?

Lena Knappers
P5 presentation
9 November 2017

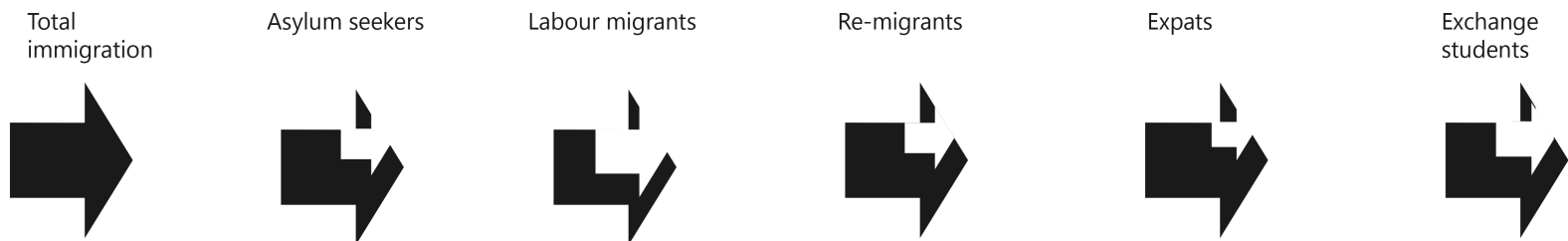


Starting Point: Migration as Subject Matter

- My engagement with the topic...
- Why: migration is a complex and pressing spatial urban challenge
- that has to be (re)considered in its political atmosphere



Facts & Figures



First Research Phase

- **Collecting theories**
 - Leo Lucassen (Historical perspective)
 - Richard Sennett (Sociological perspective)
 - Doug Saunders (Utopian (?) perspective)
 - et al...
- **Collecting data on migration in general**
 - newspaper articles
 - reports
 - individuals stories of migrants
 - interviews

'One of the year's most engaging and important works of non-fiction'

Independent

'Persuasive and highly readable'

Financial Times

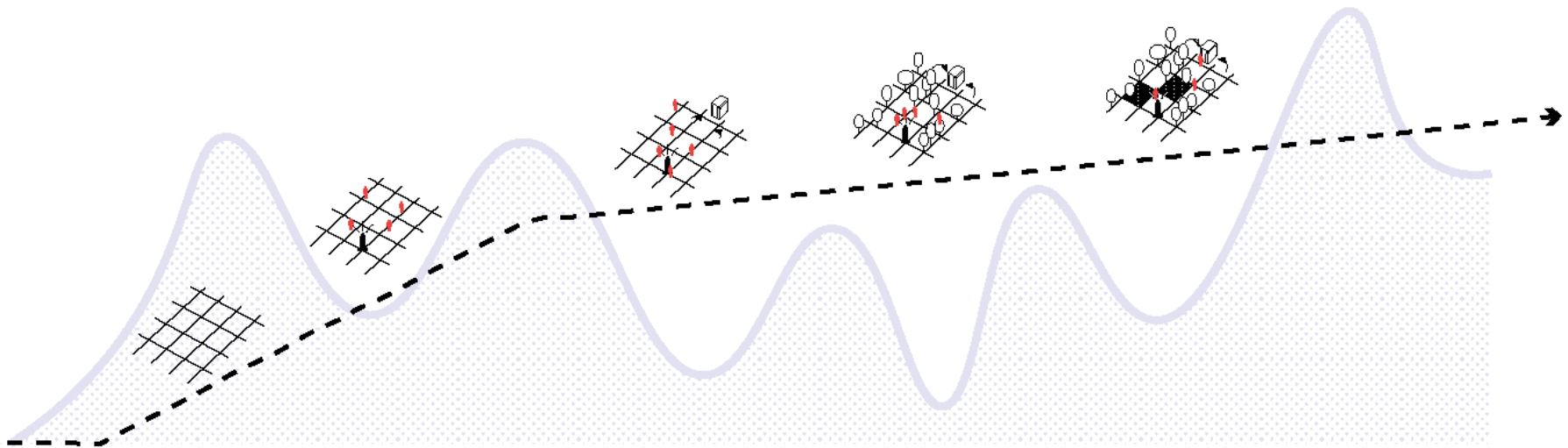


HOW THE LARGEST MIGRATION IN HISTORY IS RESHAPING OUR WORLD

DOUG SAUNDERS

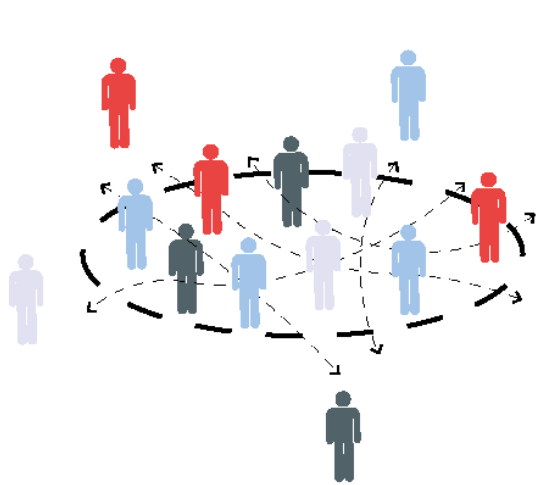
Historical perspective

- Migration has been used historically as an instrument to build up flexible and diverse cities (Lucassen et al, 2015).

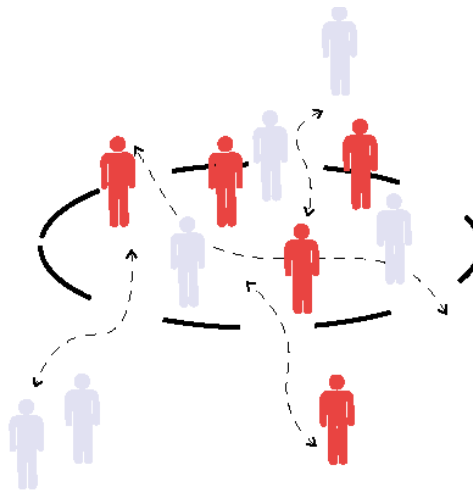


Sociological perspective

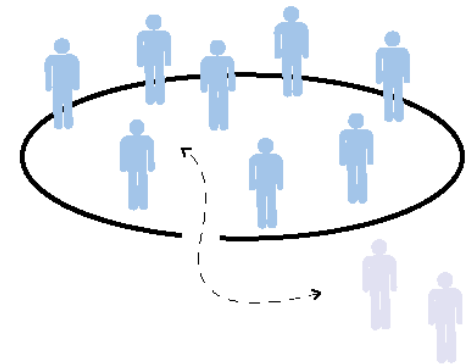
- Public spaces are needed in the global European city where temporary inhabitants and more permanent citizens can share space, can interrelate and can be exposed to each other (Sennett, 2016).



DIMINISH DIFFERENCES

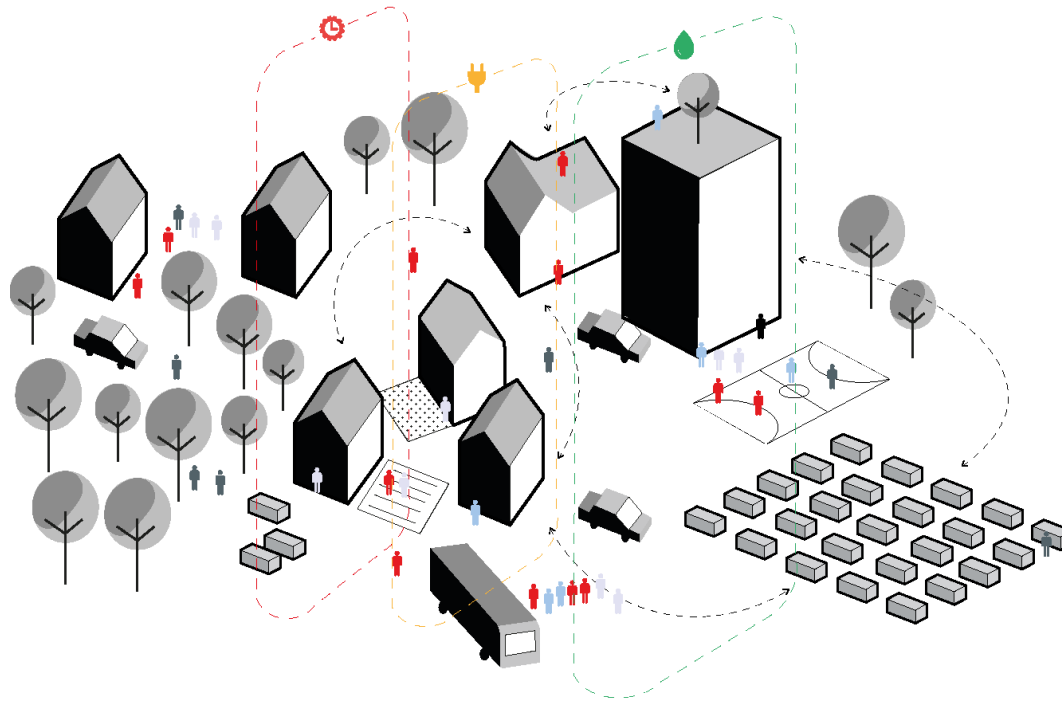


EXPOSURE TO DIFFERENCES



Utopian perspective

- Parts of the city can work as an emancipation machine and play an important role in the integration of newcomers into society, but also vice versa (Saunders, 2011).



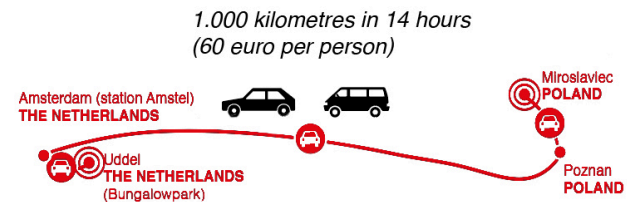
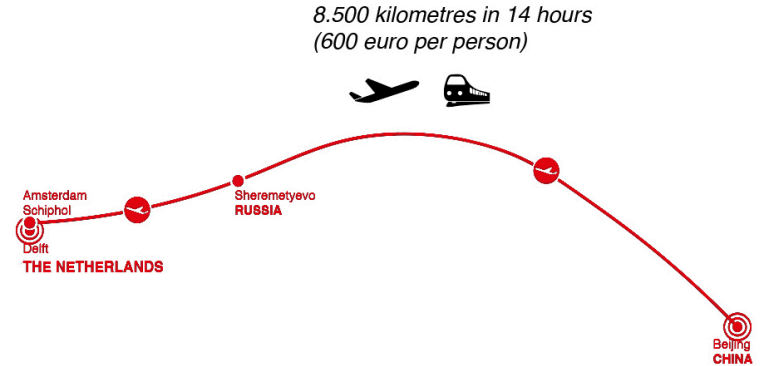
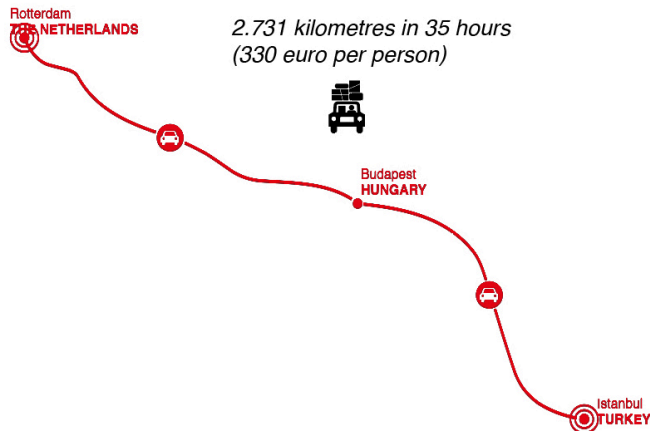
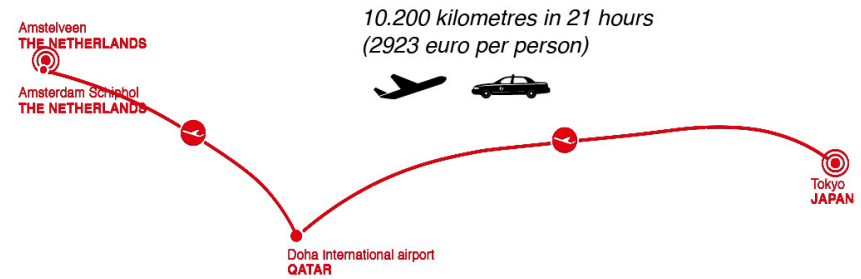
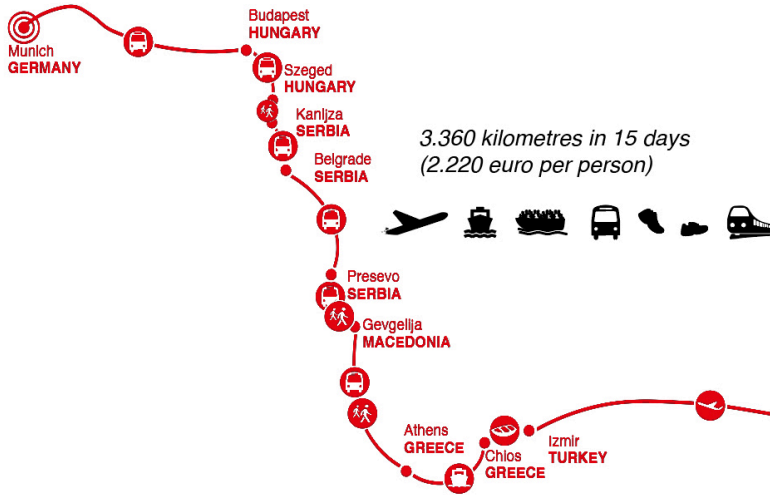
THE CITY AS AN EMANCIPATION MACHINE

1st Observation: Dynamic Nature of Migration



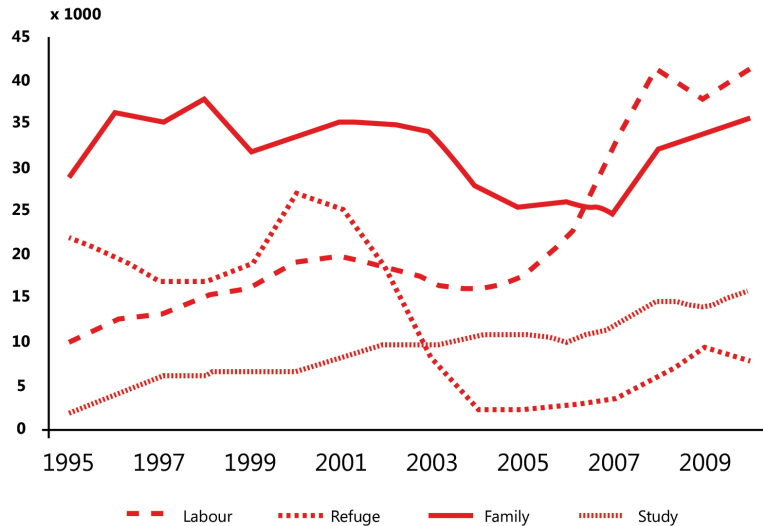
Example: diversity of routes of migrants

some are more time consuming than others...



2nd Observation:

Migration is a Constant Phenomenon in the Contemporary City



▲ The in- and efflux of people to and from the Netherlands can fluctuate strongly within a couple of years. In this figure, immigration of people to Holland can be seen according to their sole motivation to migrate – refugee, study, employment or family. Source: CBS.

NO RISE IN GLOBAL MIGRATION

Share of migrants in the global population
(Source: Hein de Haas)



▲ No rise in global migration, share of migrants in global population (percentage). Source: Hein de Haas.

Dutch law: 12 rigid & strict migrant categories

NEWCOMERS AND TEMPORARY INHABITANTS CATEGORIES OF MIGRANTS ACCORDING TO DUTCH LAW LEGISLATION

| | REPRESENTATION IN CULTURE & MEDIA | LEGISLATION | SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHICS | AVERAGE INCOME * per person | SOCIAL RELATIONS WORK |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| ASYLUM SEEKERS REFUGEES | | discourage refugees | • a slight majority are men • 50% single, 50 % has a family often between 18-30 years old • all educational levels | € 0 euro per month | • it is not allowed to have a job during the stay in the AZC offer a traditional division of roles |
| LABOUR MIGRANTS FROM THE EU | | free movement within EU | • a slight majority are men • the majority is single • often between 20-40 years old • all educational levels • the majority is from Poland | € 1.000 - 1.500 euro per month | • short-stay and mid-stay migrants are especially working in sectors where agriculture, horticulture, engineering and manufacturing are strongly represented • individualistic • housing on licensed people |
| LABOUR MIGRANTS FROM OUTSIDE OF EU | | restrictive admission policy | • not that much information available, often illegal in NL • often less educated | € 1.500 - 2.000 euro per month | • au Pairs from Philippines and South Africa • travelers from Moldova, Ukraine and Macedonia • individualistic |
| EXPATS | | welcome expats | • the majority are men • a third of this group is single • between 18-50 years old • higher educated | €€€€ > 5.000 euro per month | • working for an international company, expats are often employed in business services, trade and health care • 'helicopter' • housing on licensed people |
| INTERNATIONAL POSTGRADUATES AND ACADEMIC STAFF | | welcome for the duration of the students programme | • average age is 30+ • higher educated | €€ 2.000 - 2.500 euro per month | |
| CREATIVE MIGRANTS | | no official policy | • between 20-40 years old • higher educated | €€ min 2.225 per month | • working in sectors where architecture/design, music, art fashion are highly represented • has an intensive social life, regularly visits cultural facilities, such as festivals and museums |
| INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS | | welcome students | • between 20-30 years old • higher educated • the majority is coming from Germany and China | € 1000 euro per month | |
| DUTCH STUDENTS | | welcome students | • between 18-26 years old • higher educated | € 785- 1000 euro per month (a loan that must be repaid) | |
| YOUNG GRADUATED | | | • between 25-33 years old | €€ 1.200 - 3.000 euro per month | |
| DIGITAL NOMADS THIRD CULTURAL INDIVIDUALS | | no official policy | • between 20-35 years old | €€ 1.200 - 3.500 euro per month | • self employed remote workers • independent • individualistic |

NEWCOMERS AND TEMPORARY INHABITANTS CATEGORIES OF MIGRANTS ACCORDING TO DUTCH LAW HOUSING REGIMES

| | DURATION OF STAY | TYPOLGY | LIVING SPACE PER PERSON | COLLECTIVE SPACE/ PRIVATE SPACE | PREFERRED AMENITIES SHARED FACILITIES COLLECTIVE SPACES |
|---|---|--|-------------------------|--|--|
| ASYLUM SEEKERS REFUGEES | max. 1 year in asylum seeker center | room in asylum seeker center, thereafter apartment with shared facilities - families prefer to live together in a house or maisonnette | S 10-30m² | private room preferred, shared facilities, amenities and social interaction are important | shared kitchen, music room, sports center, space for recreation, library |
| LABOUR MIGRANTS FROM THE EU | short stay: 4-6 months (40 %) mid stay: 6 months-3 years (40 %) long stay: more than 3 years (20 %) | shared apartment - a cheap rent is more important than privacy or quality of living | S 10-30m² | minimal private space for short-term occupancy, emphasis is placed on collective space and shared amenities - cheap rent is more important than quality of living | laundry, shared kitchen, shared bathroom, space for recreation and nearby supermarket |
| LABOUR MIGRANTS FROM OUTSIDE OF EU | 1 - 3 years | no information available, this group is often illegally housed | S 10-30m² | | |
| EXPATS | 3 - 8 years | furnished suburban house or furnished apartment | L 30m² | emphasis is placed on private space - city center amenities and shared facilities have to be neatly - quality of living is more important than a cheap rent | city-center amenities such as parks, restaurants, museums and cinema's |
| INTERNATIONAL POSTGRADUATES AND ACADEMIC STAFF | approximately 5 years | furnished room (approximately 1 year) or unfurnished apartment or studio | S 10-30m² | private room preferred, shared facilities, amenities and social interaction are important | city-center amenities such as parks, restaurants, museums and cinema's |
| CREATIVE MIGRANTS | approximately 5 years | private apartment | S 10-30m² | private room preferred, shared facilities, amenities and social interaction are important | city-center amenities such as parks, restaurants, museums and cinema's |
| INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS | 3 months - 4 years | studio or shared student house | S 10-30m² | minimal private space for short-term occupancy, emphasis is placed on collective space and shared amenities - cheap rent is more important than quality of living | sports center, cultural amenities, supermarket, bicycle repair shop, cafe, laundry, shared kitchen |
| DUTCH STUDENTS | 1 - 7 years | private apartment, a studio or shared student house | S 10-30m² | private bedroom preferred, shared facilities, amenities and social interaction are important | sports center, cultural amenities, supermarket, bicycle repair shop, cafe, laundry |
| YOUNG GRADUATED | months - several years | | M 30-40m² | private 'basic facilities' such as bathroom, kitchen, toilet, other amenities - shared facilities have to be nearby | |
| DIGITAL NOMADS THIRD CULTURAL INDIVIDUALS TOURISTS | 3 weeks - 1 year | no permanent home address, well and facilities are more important than privacy | S 10-30m² | minimal private space for short-term occupancy, emphasis is placed on collective space and shared amenities | "home is where a strong wifi connection is" |

Remarkably consistent solutions for very diverse groups of migrants

WENCKEHOF



1000
1-5 years
STUDENTS

ZUIDERZEEWEG



335
1-5 years
STUDENTS

OTTO WORKFORCE



150
1-3 years
LABOUR
MIGRANTS

HOTEL WESTERDOK



288
1day - 6 months
CREATIVE CLASS

BERGWIJKDREEF



500
1-5 years
STUDENTS

ELEMENT HOTEL



160
1 day - 6 months
EXPATS

AZC ISAAC BAARTHAVEN



600
3 months
REFUGEES

NDSM WERF



380
1-5 years
STUDENTS

RIEKERHAVEN



500
1-5 years
STUDENTS
REFUGEES

BIJLMERBAJES



1000
12 months
REFUGEES

SPINOZA CAMPUS



700
1-5 years
STUDENTS

HOTEL JANSEN



166
1 day - 6 months
CREATIVE CLASS

OUDE HAAGSEWEG



70
3 months
LABOUR
MIGRANTS

BERNARDUS AMSTERDAM



168
1-5 years
ELDERLY

BIJLMER



230
1-5 years
STUDENTS

AMSTERDAMSE BOS



5 months
LABOUR
MIGRANTS

RAVEL RESIDENCE



800
1-5 years
STUDENTS

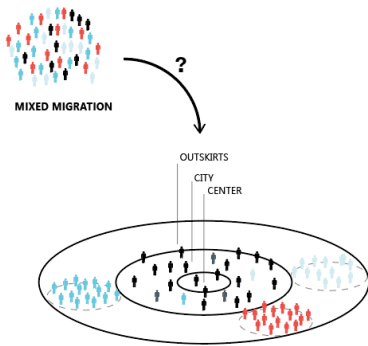
AZC HOUTHAVENS



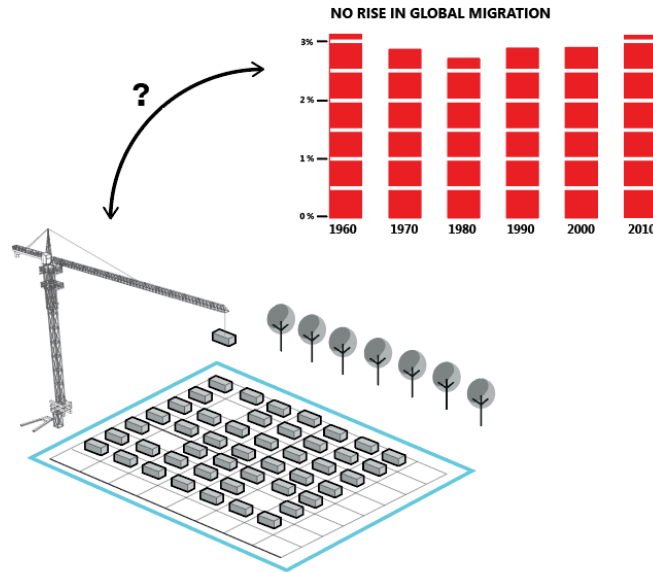
500
1 year
REFUGEES

3rd Observation:

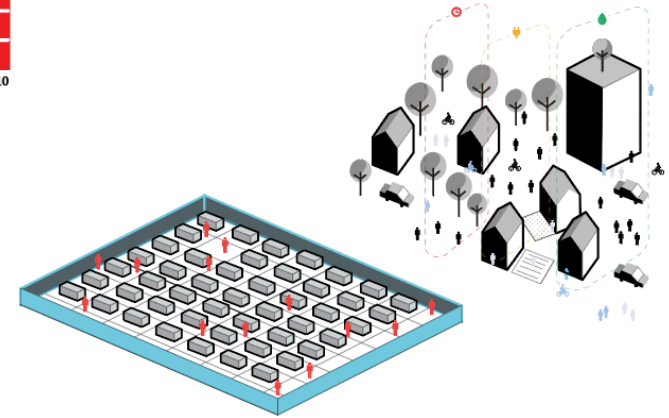
Government Policies Focus on Zoning, Temporariness & Exclusion



**'WALL OFF' DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN PEOPLE**



TEMPORARY QUICK-FIX SOLUTIONS



EXCLUSION FROM SOCIETY

Consequence of Policies: Monoculture



Alternative for Monoculture: Mixed Use Worlds



'Chaotic Storage System'

Systematisation of Mixed Use Worlds



Outcomes of 1st Research Phase

- There is a tension between the dynamic nature of migration and static institutional and governmental solutions
- There is a tension between migration as a constant phenomenon in the city and temporary, quick-fix housing solutions developed for migrants
 - We need to rethink the absorption capacity of urban space

These preparatory activities lead to the Project Aim

- To develop a diverse, long-term approach to better organise migration in urban space
- To propose guidelines for an alternative strategy that can build up a porous and resilient urban space
- To carve out an arrival space for migrants at a concrete location in Amsterdam, spurring interaction between temporary inhabitants and more permanent citizens

Case Study Amsterdam

Former Prison Complex and Area

**Student, migrants,
industrial wasteland...**



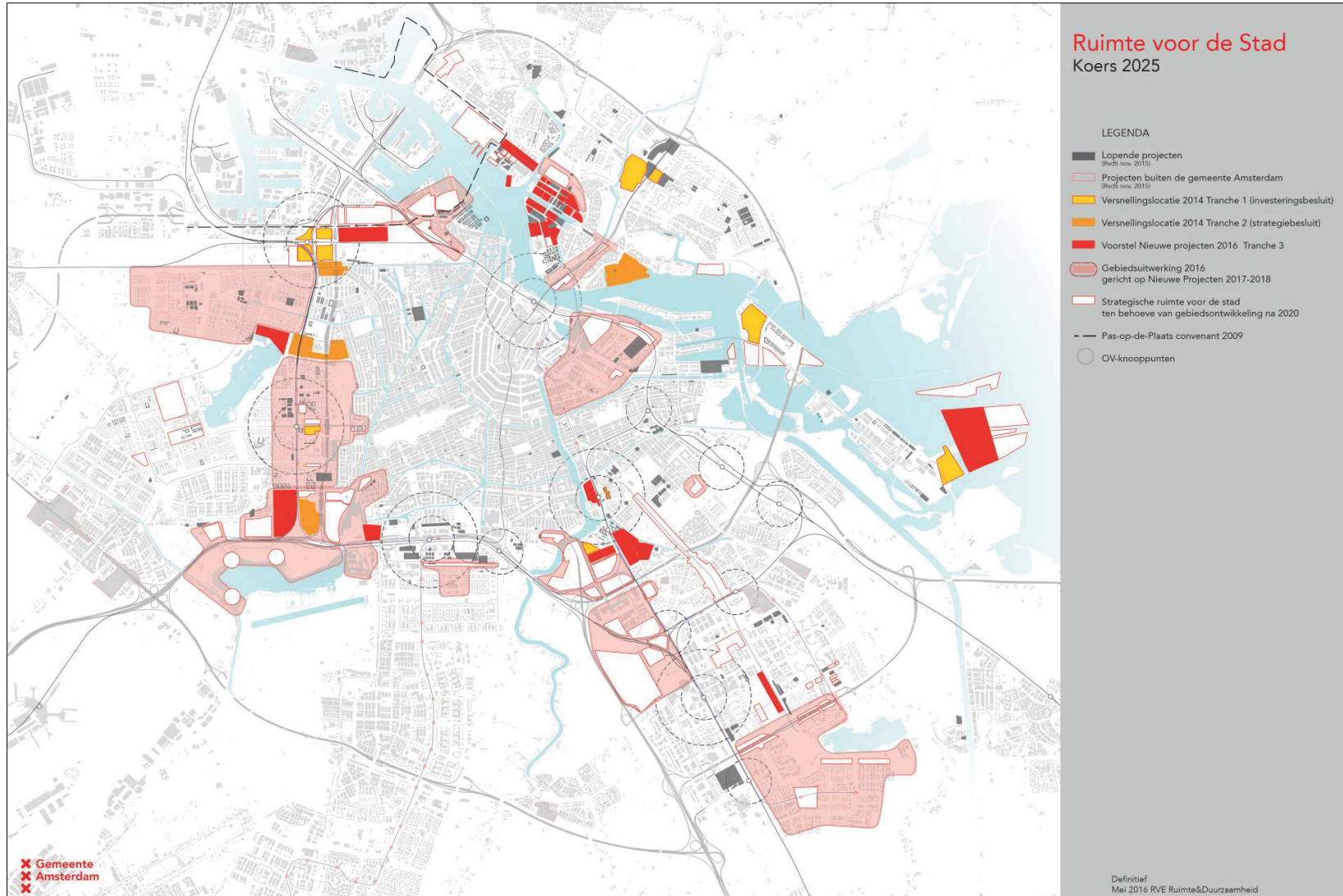
Analysis 1:

Closed Area of Exclusion and Segregation



Analysis 2:

Place for Change, Densification and Experiment Along Ring Road A10



Analysis 3:

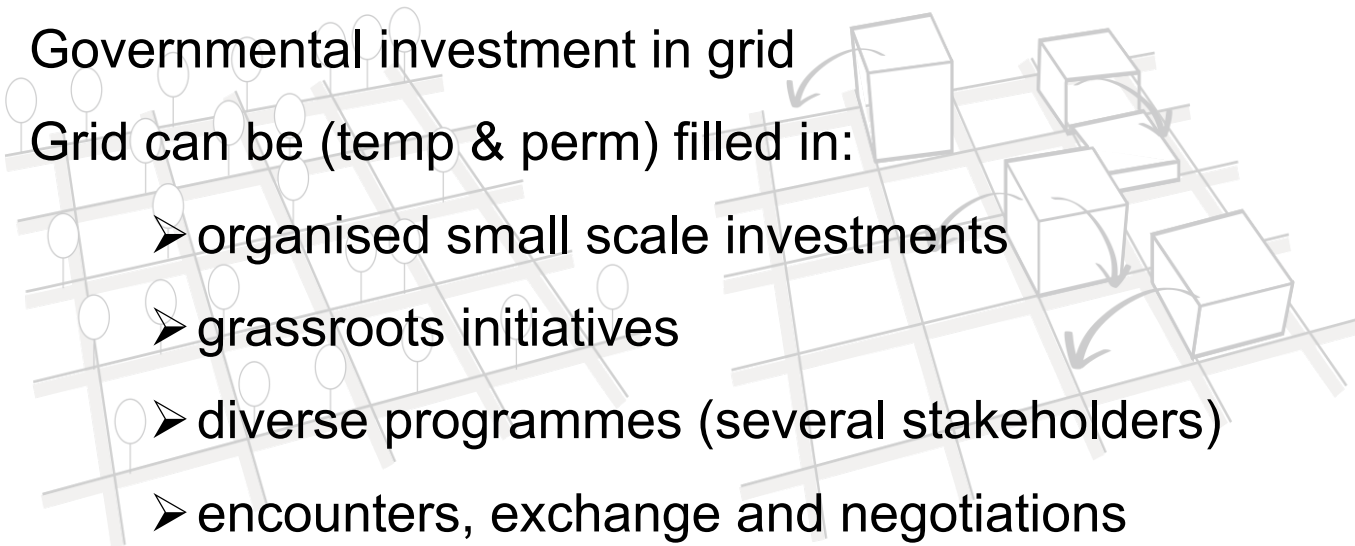
As the city grows and homogenises, Amsterdam needs people with diverse backgrounds and talents



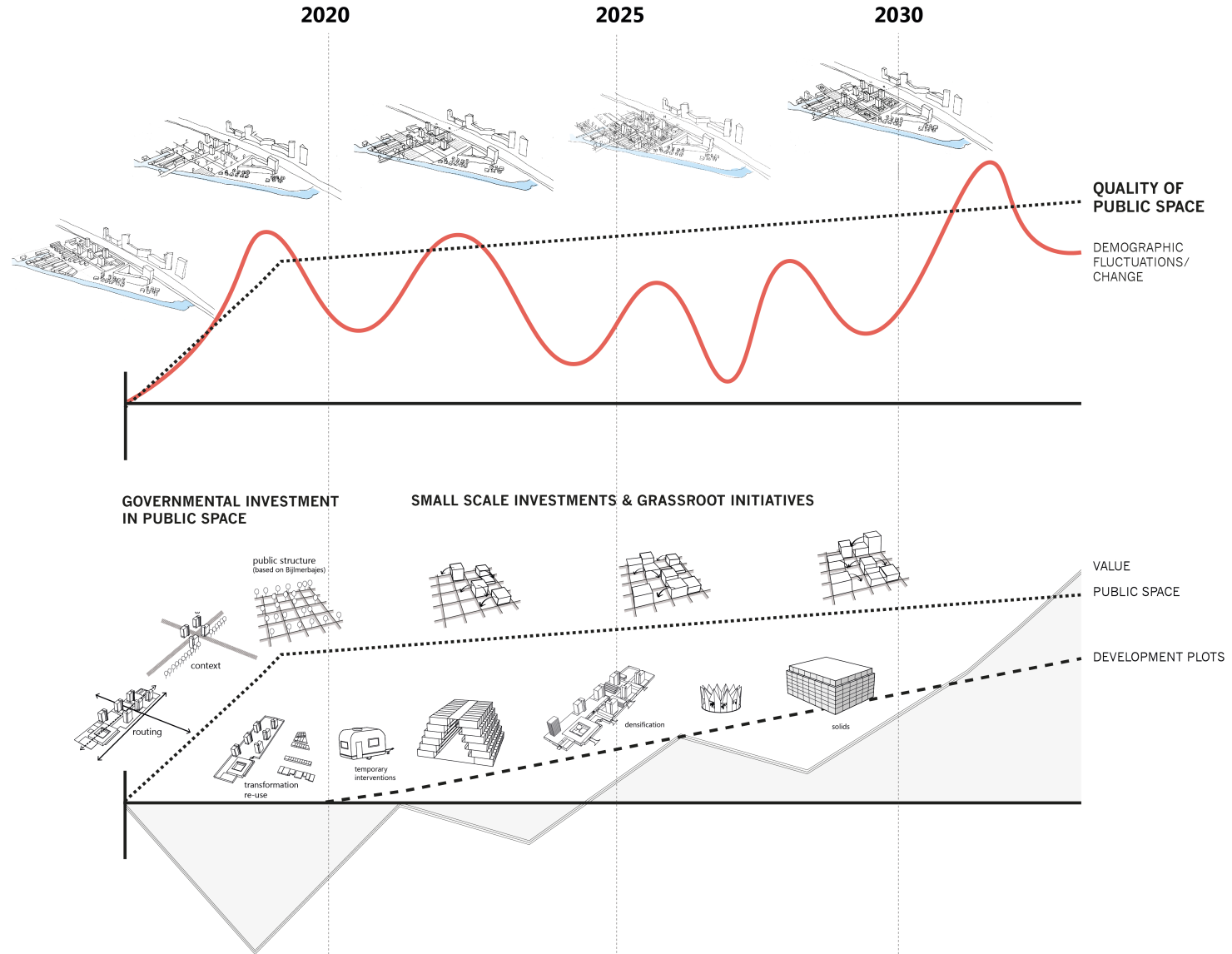
My Alternative: Organised Public Space

Development Strategy for WPM area

- Governmental investment in grid
- Grid can be (temp & perm) filled in:
 - organised small scale investments
 - grassroots initiatives
 - diverse programmes (several stakeholders)
 - encounters, exchange and negotiations

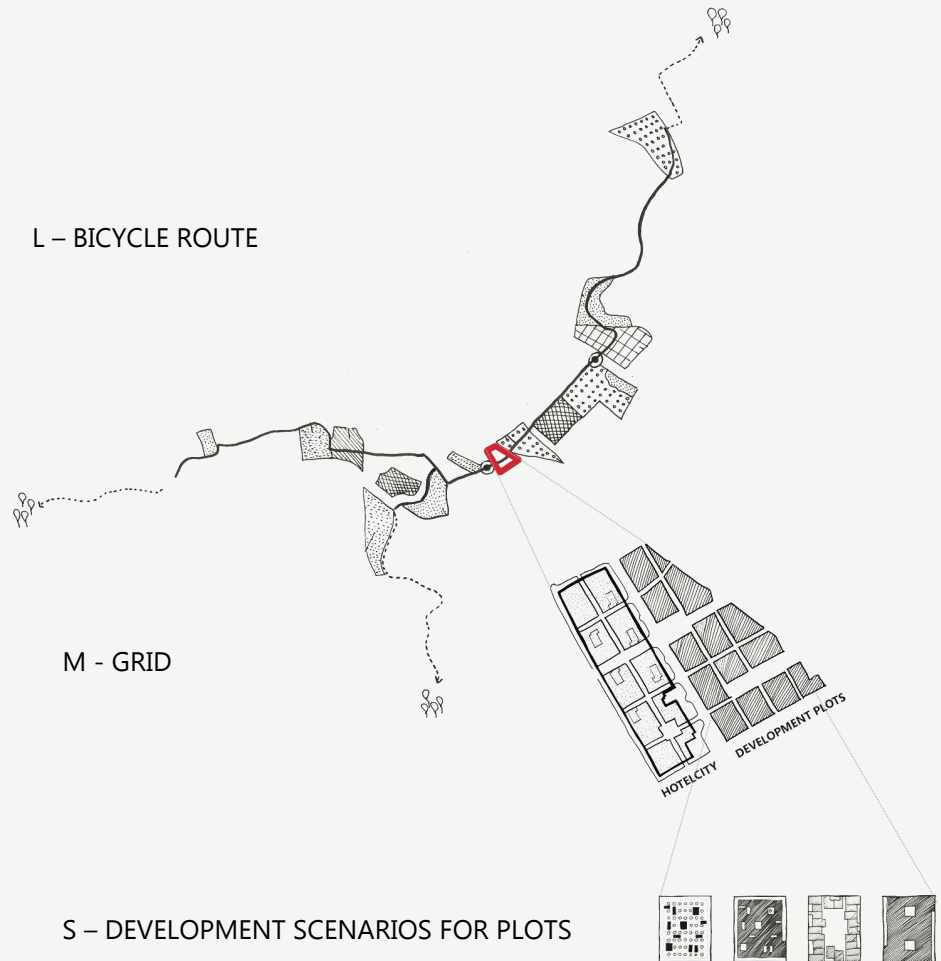


Process Motivated Grid

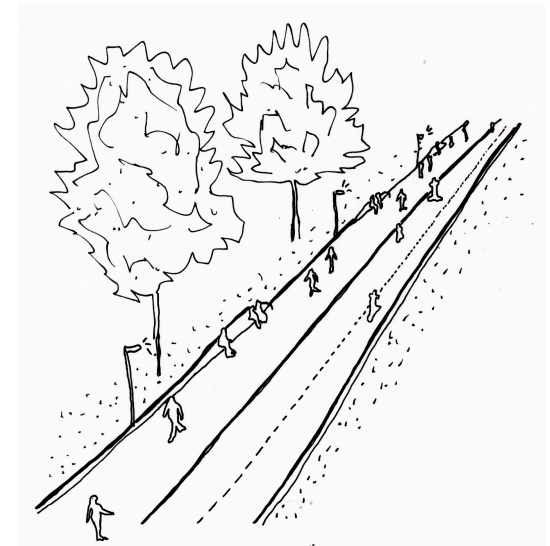
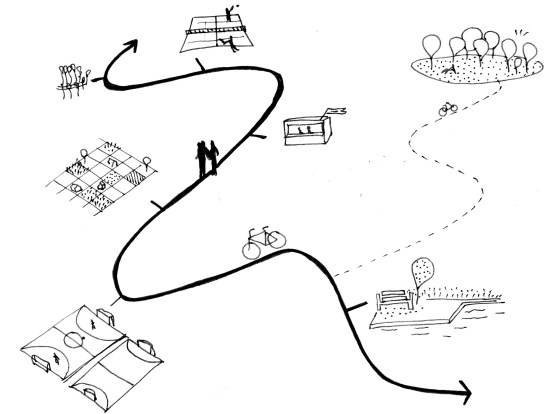
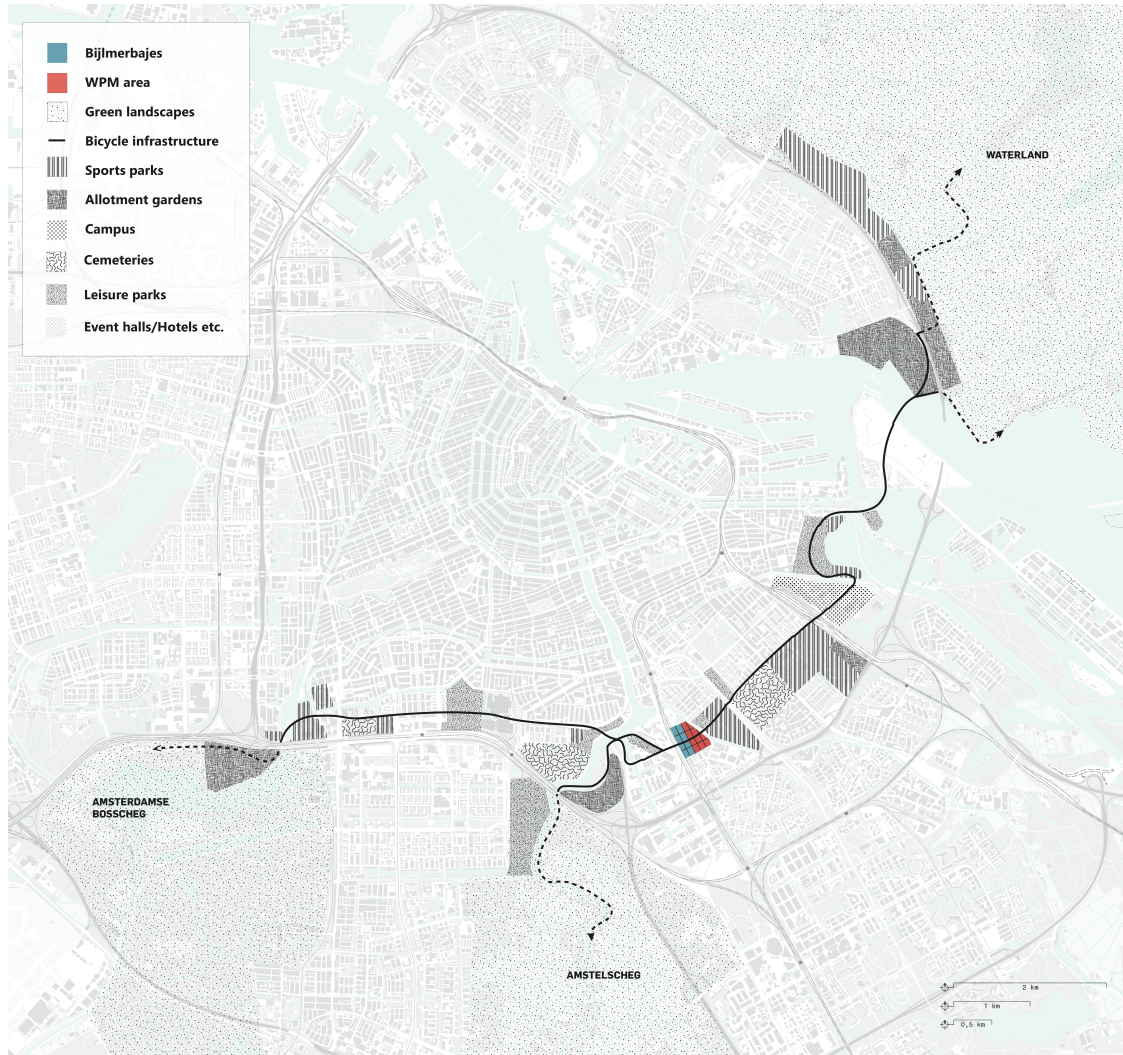


Design is based on 3 leading scales

- **Bicycle infrastructure**
opening the closed area
of exclusion
- **Grid structure**
based on the
Bijlmerbajes pattern
- **Plot structure**
seemingly impenetrable
structure that may allow
new encounters to take
place



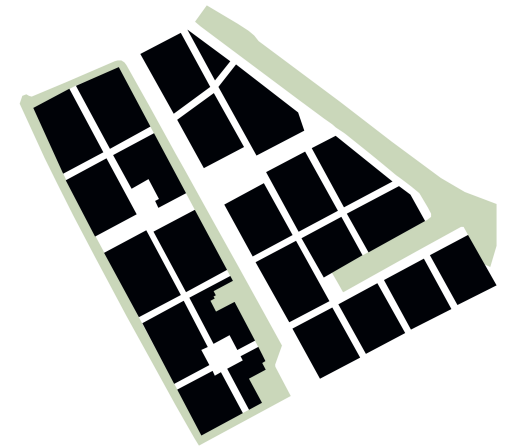
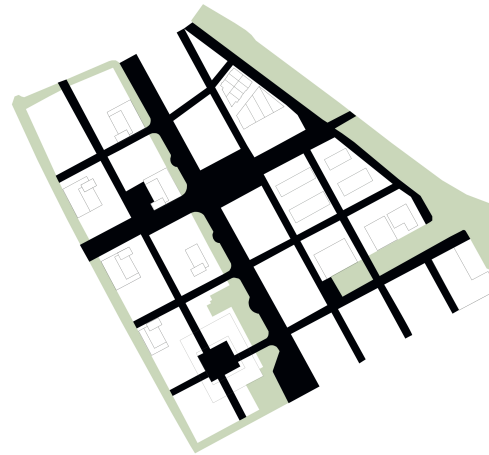
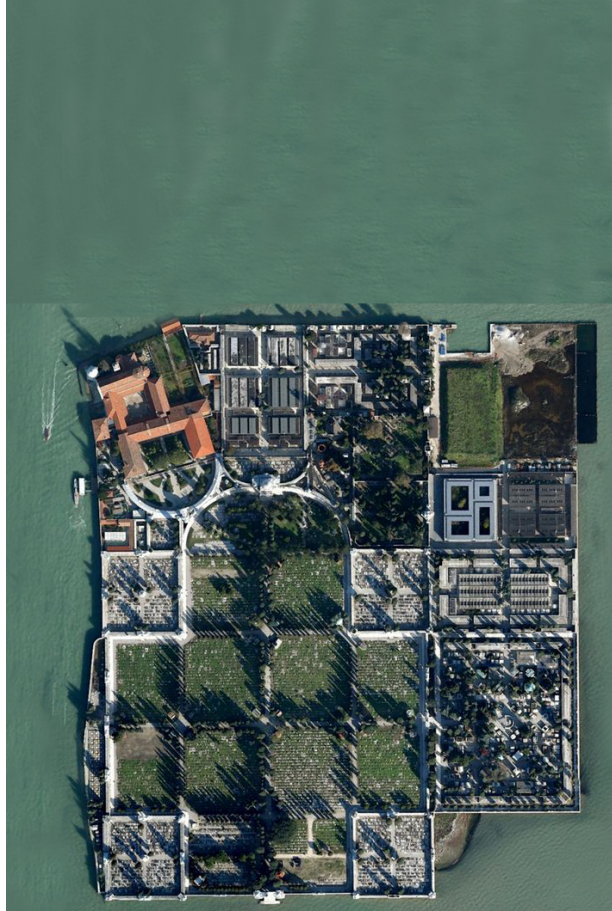
Bicycle infrastructure related to the grid



Cycling as Freedom

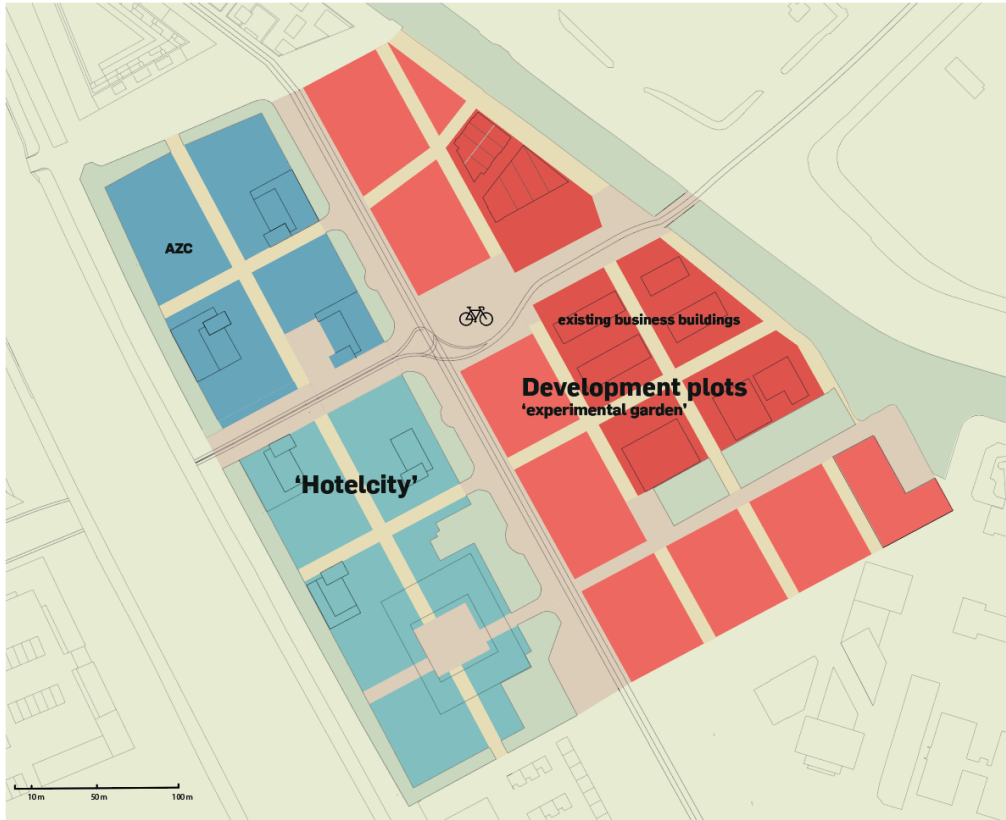


Main intervention: Grid as Durable Public Space



Grid is strong structure, but in separate plots
contingency, creativity and community

Inspiration: Back to the female (?) ideal of Bijlmerbajes



Koos Pot-Keestra

How to get things started...

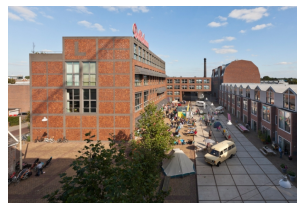


Financial investment in grid



Funding

- UIA – Urban Innovation Action (European subsidy for integration of migrants in European cities)
- AMIF – European Asylum Migration Integration Fund
- Funding from the Dutch central government for experiments in order to increase social cohesion and public familiarity in neighbourhoods (WRR & VROM)



Investment in Green: Life Quality

various species (form, age, colour, costs, flexibility)



Populus canadensis



Populus canadensis



Populus canadensis



Populus canadensis



Populus canadensis



Alnus glutinosa
Laciniata



Alnus glutinosa
Laciniata



Alnus glutinosa
Laciniata



Alnus glutinosa
Laciniata



Alnus glutinosa
Laciniata



Betula Nigra



Betula Nigra



Betula Nigra



Betula Nigra



Betula Nigra



Betula Utilis



Betula Utilis



Betula Utilis



Betula Utilis



Betula Utilis



Crataegus persimilis
Splendens



Malus
'Eremus'



Gleditsia triacanthos
'Spartan'



Malus
'Eremus'



Magnolia decurata



Abies julibrissis



Abies julibrissis
Umbrella



Tilia tomentosa
var. *subglabra*



Tamarix latifolia



Prunus avium



Prunus yedoensis



Catalpa bignonioides



Rubus ps.
'Semperflorens'



Psuedotsia tomentosa



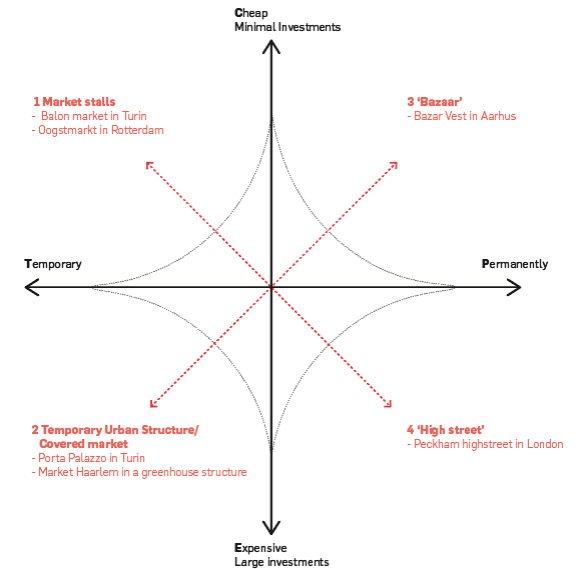
Prunus Cerasifera
'Nigra' or
'Virens'

Birches in all unused & empty spaces

small, relatively short life-span, easy to relocate or remove



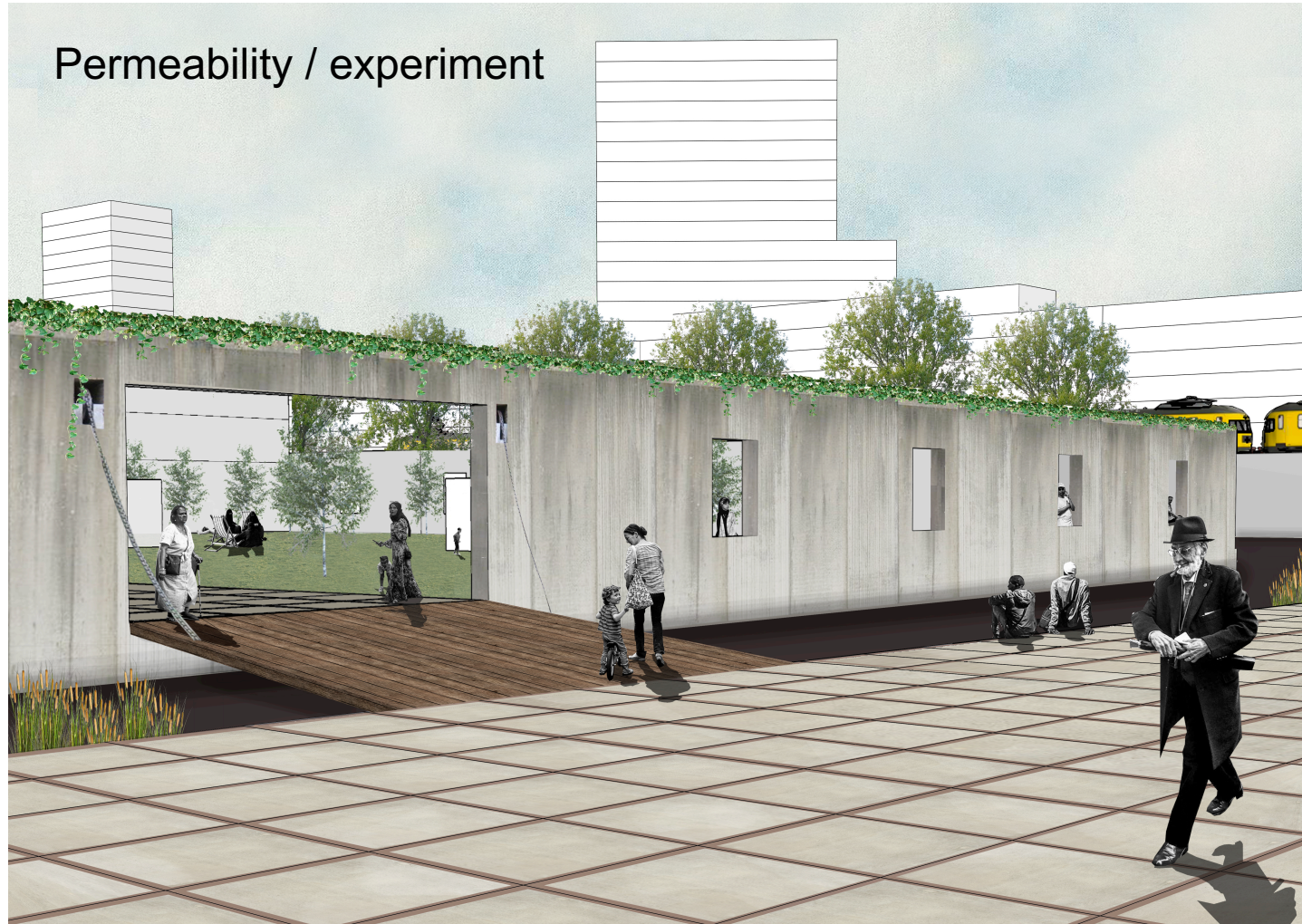
Investment in social venturing



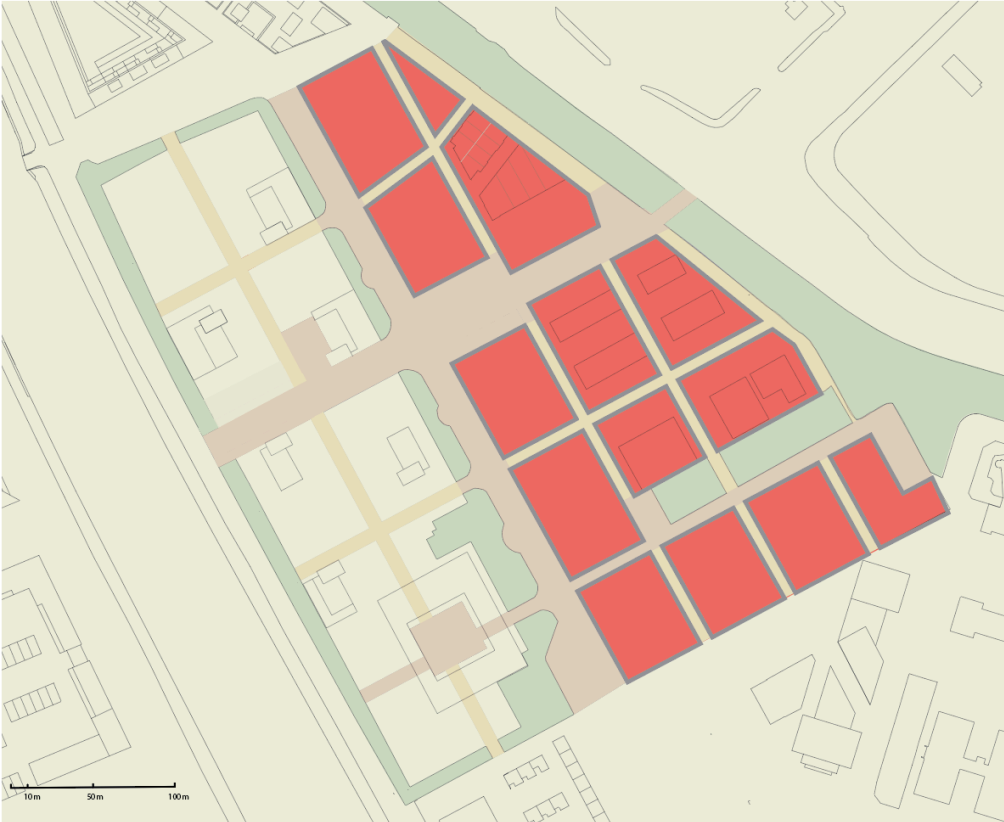
Central public space



Investment in transformation Bijlmerbajes

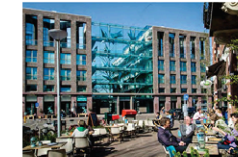
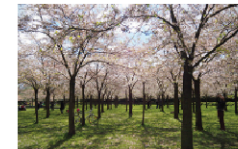
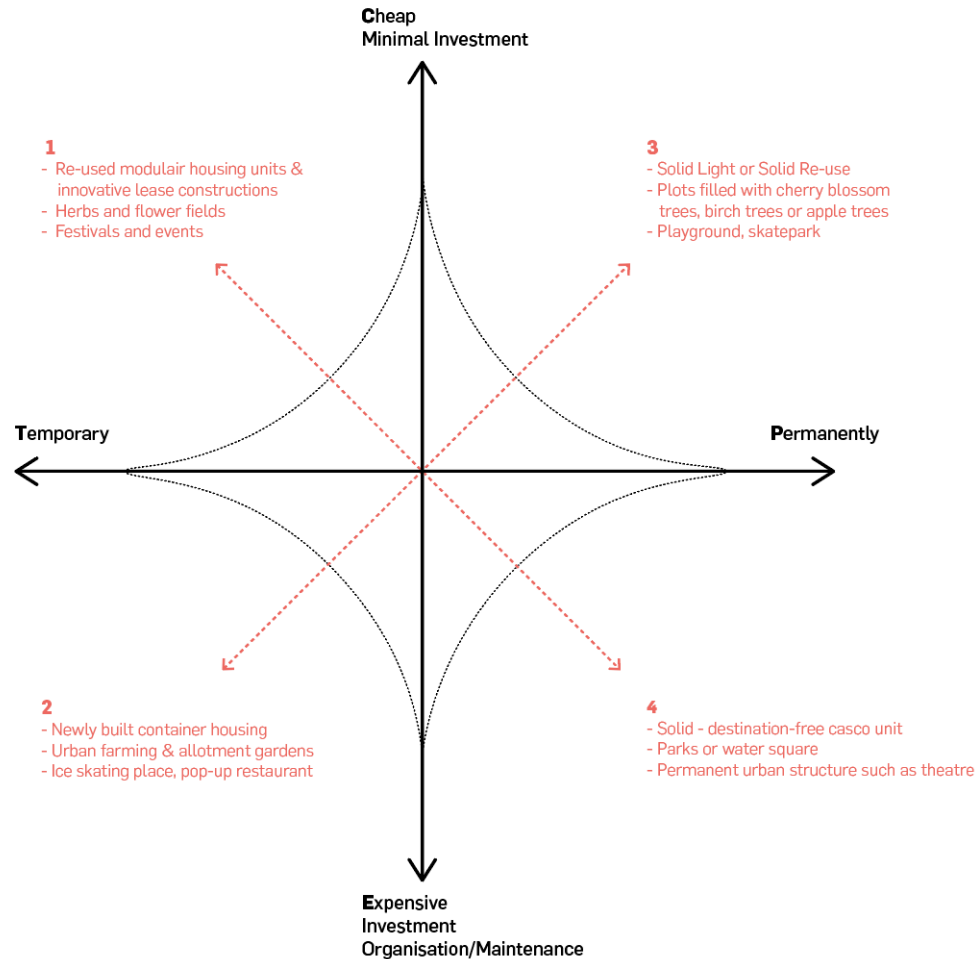
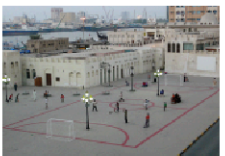


Follow up – plots are free & conditional



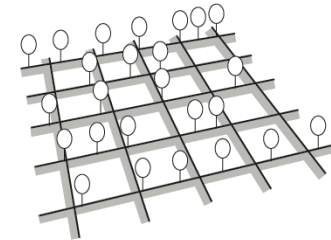
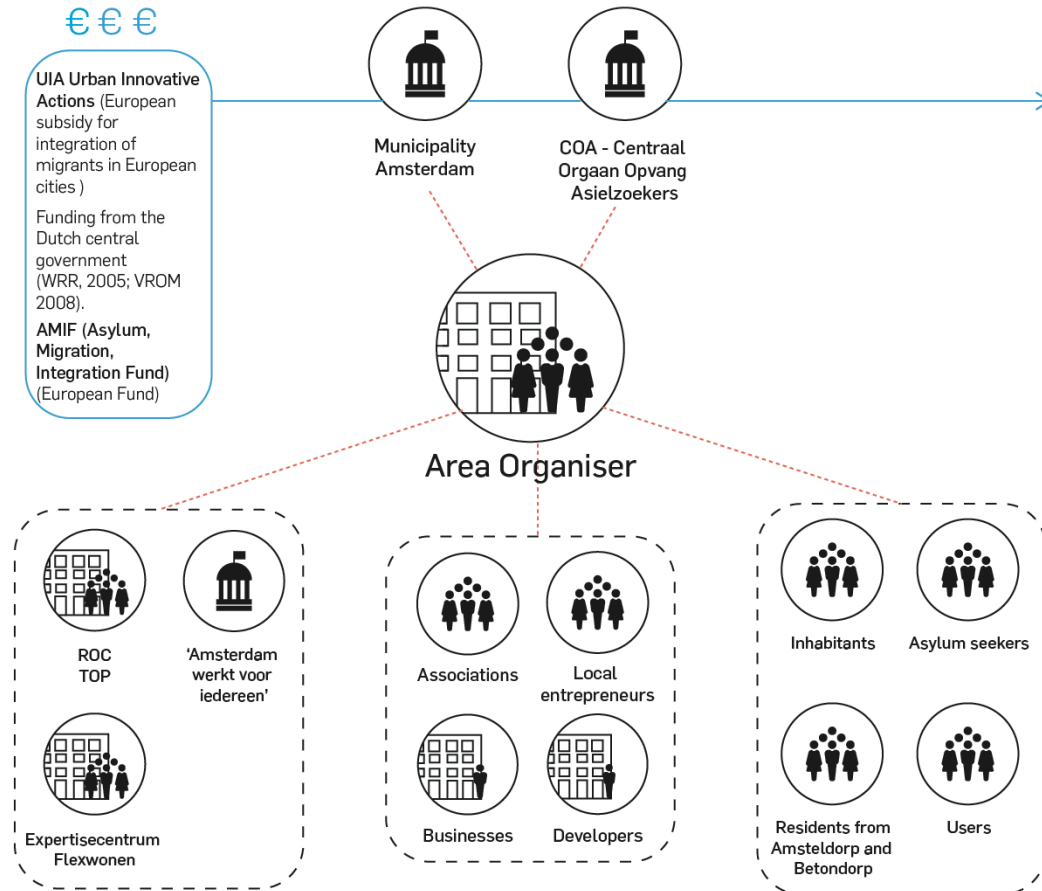
- Freedom in plots – diverse programmes and developments can be facilitated...
- However, there must be a certain balance between temporary, permanent, cheap and more expensive programmes. An 'area organiser' will take care of this.

Permanent-temporary developments in plots

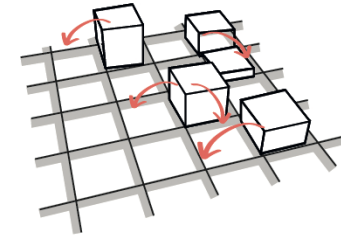


Area Organiser

will orchestrate programmes, initiatives & small-scale investments



Governmental investments in grid of public space



Subsequently, an area organiser will connect the various stakeholders and orchestrate diverse programmes, small-scale investments and initiatives.

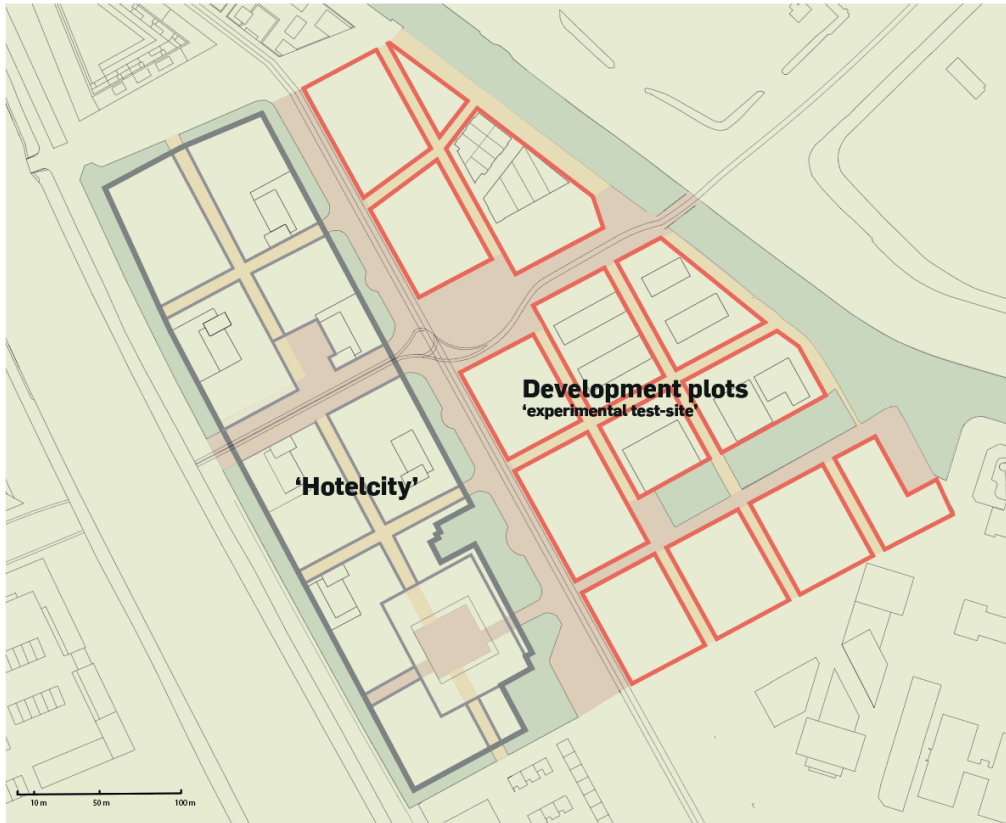
Conditions – all plots support the overall plan



Policy based on UK Section 106 Agreement

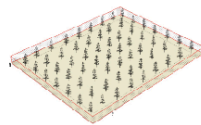
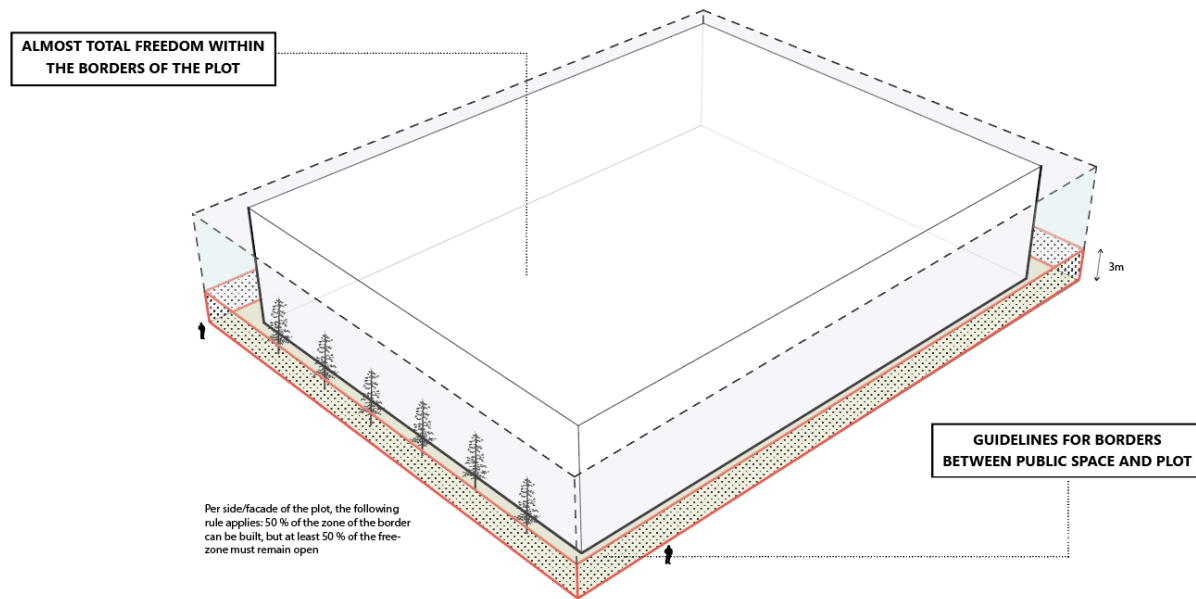
- A planning obligation will guarantee that temporary use or developments in the plots will make a positive contribution to public space
- Users and developers of the plots are obliged to invest (about 15-20% of their investment or rental income) in the framework of public space

All plots need borders to mark the quality of public space

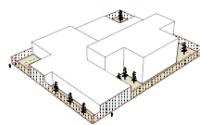


Borders need permeability...

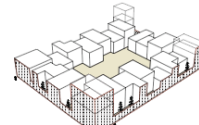
Technical conditions boundaries and in- between zones



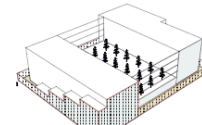
BIRCH TREES + OBJECTS



COMMUNITY SPACE



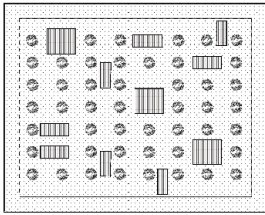
INDIVIDUAL HOUSES



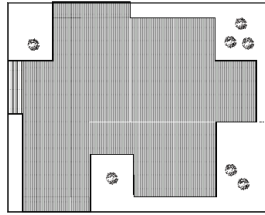
SOLIDS

Development of different scenarios (public/private) depending on various stakeholders

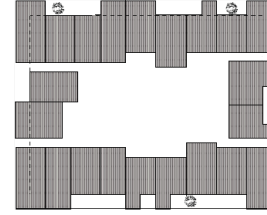
BIRCH TREES + OBJECTS



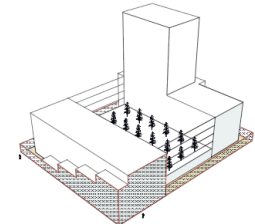
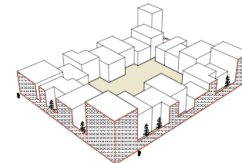
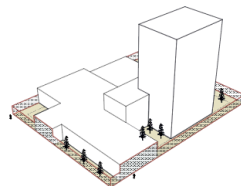
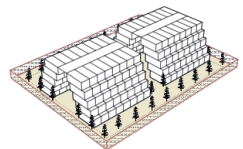
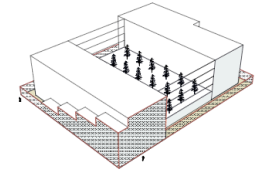
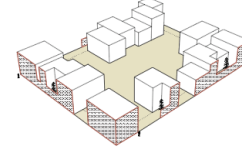
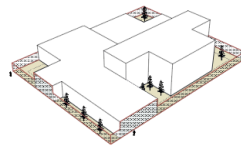
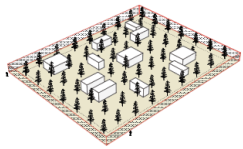
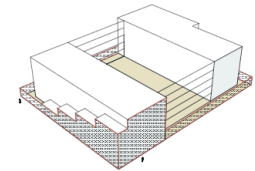
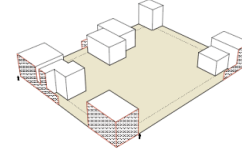
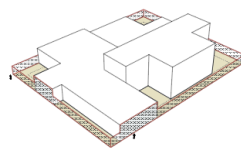
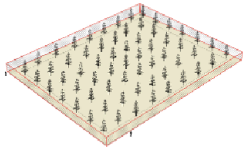
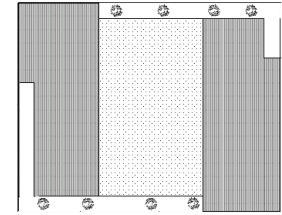
COMMUNITY BLOCK



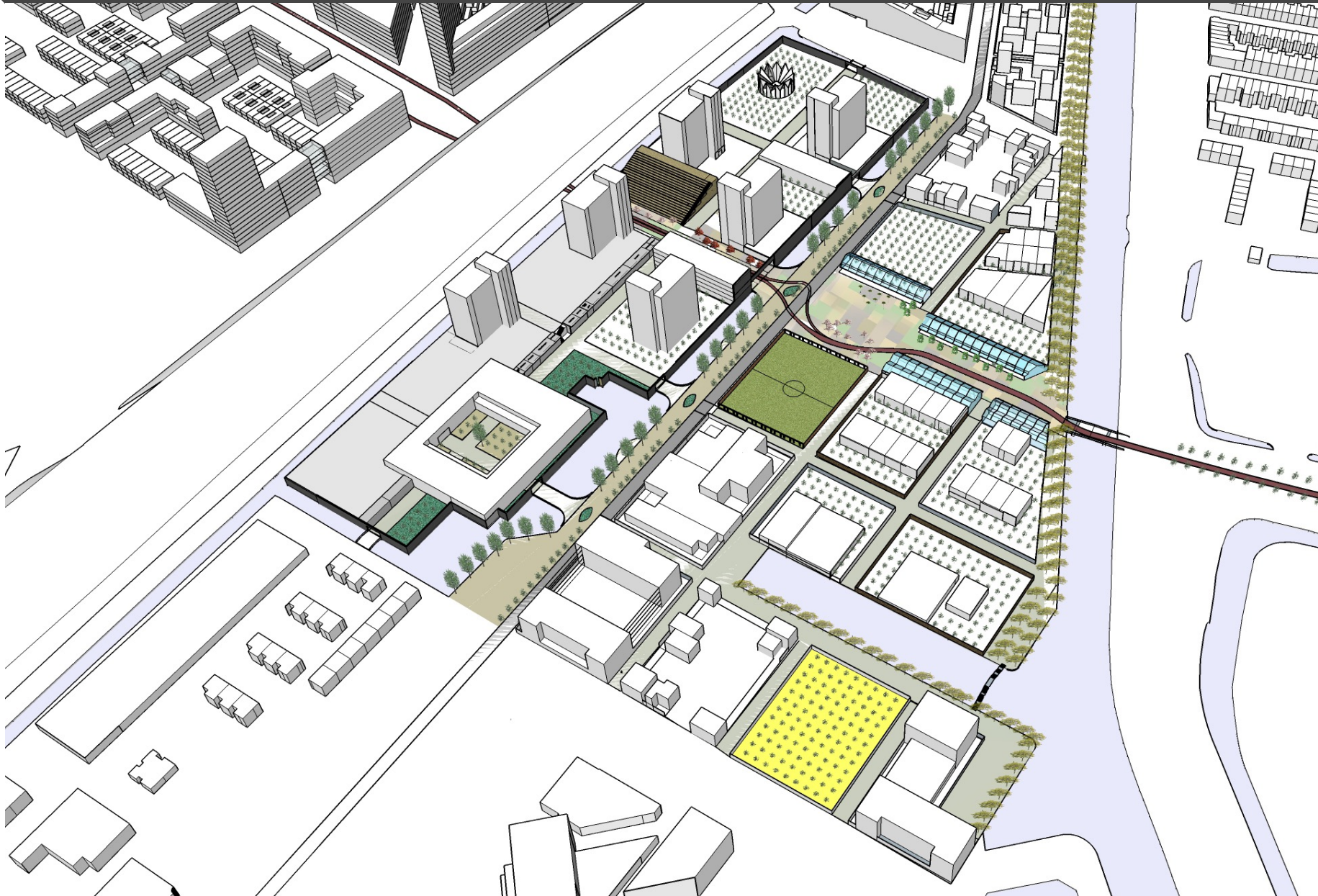
INDIVIDUAL HOUSES



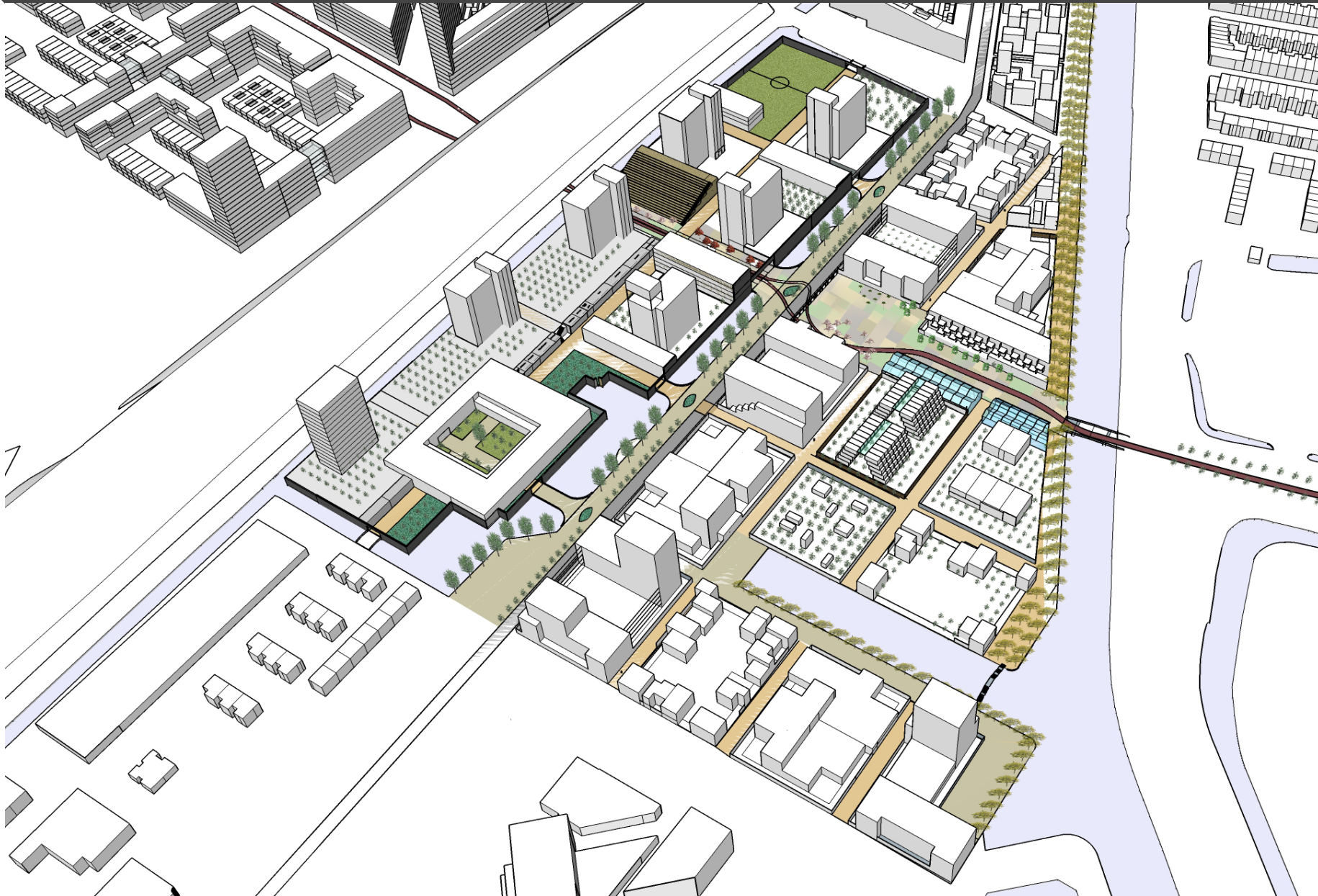
SOLID



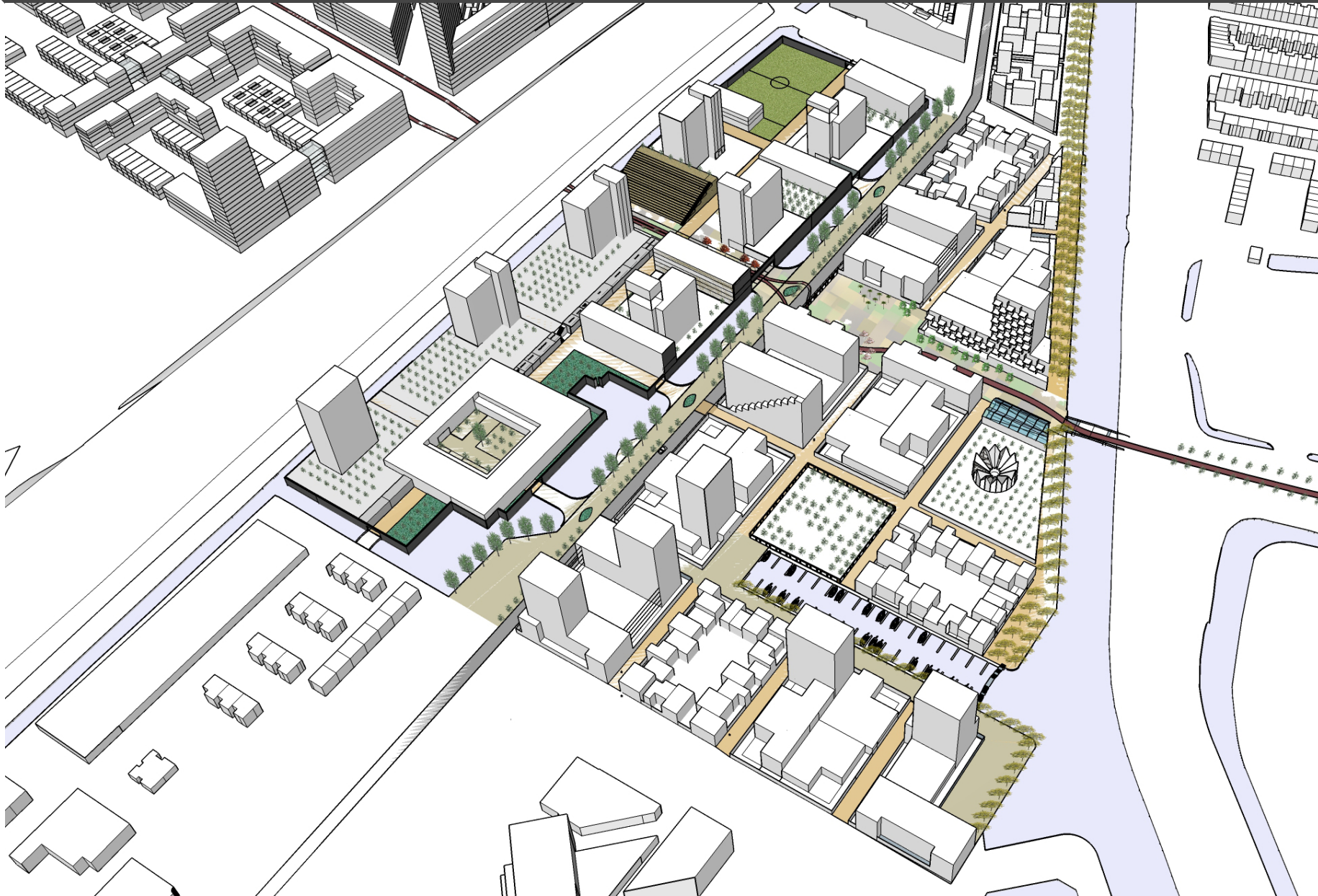
Imaginary scenario of what it will look like



2 years



7 years



Public space needs materiality

durable materials, lighting, trees, permeable boundaries



Public space needs smart economy

entrepreneurialism, flexibility of labour market, access to low-entrance jobs



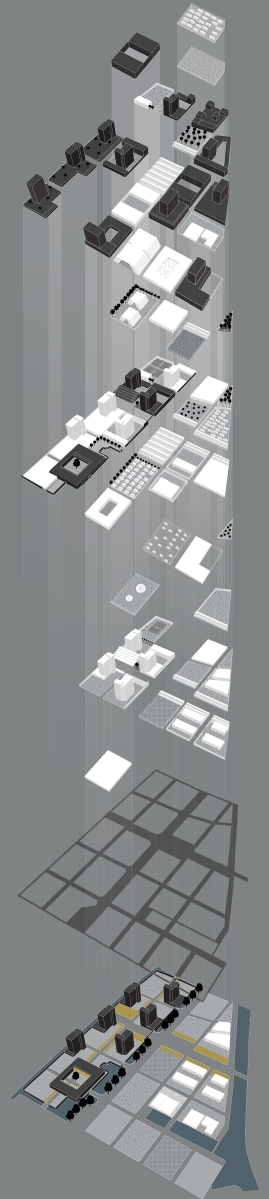
Public space needs smart people/smart living

flexibility, creativity, cosmopolitanism, participation in public life, social cohesion, prosperity



Conclusion

- Visionary project, inspired by the fundamental ideal of the Bijlmerbajes
- A series of *realistic* and *pragmatic* design ideas and suggestions that can be used as a quick-start for debate to reconsider migration in today's political atmosphere
 - Most important insight: temporariness and permanence need an organised public space to manage demographic fluctuations and change. Temporariness presupposes stability, and the other way around.



Acknowledgements

Prof.ir. Rients Dijkstra

Prof.dr. Wouter Vanstiphout

Dr. Michelle Provoost

Dr.ir. Olindo Caso

