Dioptase Horizons

Envisioning a biophilic blueprint for Zwolle's future

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Introduction

- Deforestation & Land-use changes
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Land Degradation
- Aerosols & Pollution

 Natural Causes (Solar Activity, Volcanic Eruptions, Ocean Currents and Atmospheric Circulation)

Climate change

Economic factors

Environmental factors

Political factors



Population growth

Population shifts

A chain of reaction has started that unfolds globally, but at the same time every country has to face these difficulties in its unique context.



Rapid urbanization

Economic opportunities Social & Cultural Factors

Government Policies & Urban Planning

Technological Advances

Urban Sprawl & Suburbanization Urbanization of Infrastructure &



Nature destruction

Agricultural Practices

Industrialization

Loss of Biodiversity

Overpopulation & Unsustainable Consumption



Housing crisis

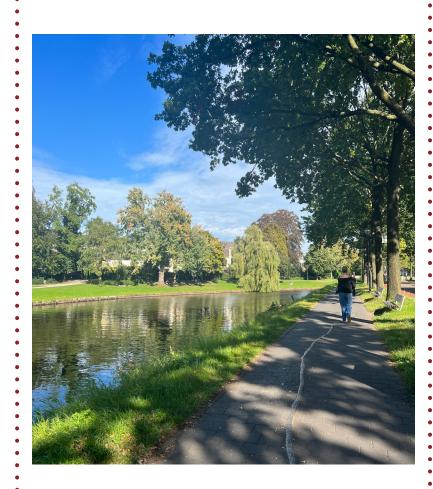
Supply Constraints & Lack of Housing Development

Rising Housing Costs Government Policies

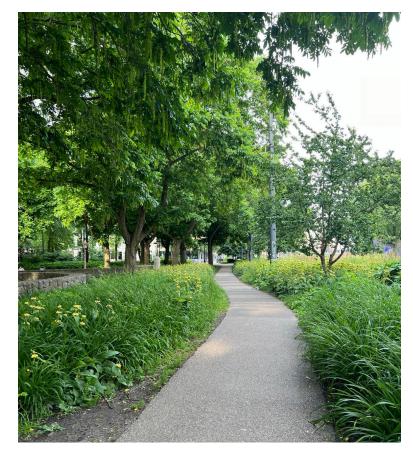
Income Inequality

Demographic Changes

Introduction







711/01/0

Leiden Amsterdam

As Dutch cities continue to grow to accommodate rising populations the pressure to build more homes is immense.

However, the question arises: where is the room for nature in a city that urgently needs more housing?

Despite the growing awareness of these frameworks, the challenge remains: how can we effectively incorporate nature into urban design?

Nature Based Solutions

- Uses natural processes to address societal challenges like climate adaptation and biodiversity preservation.
- Effective for **large-scale** environmental interventions.
- Can be more abstract and less directly relatable to individual urban residents.
- Involve complex planning and investment

Green Infrastructure Framework

- Prioritizes the creation of interconnected natural and semi-natural areas that provide ecosystem sevices like stormwater management and urban cooling.
- Lacks the explicit focus on human well-being that is central to Konijnendijk's rule.
- Emphasizes **broad-scale** connectivity.

Sustainable Development Goals

- Provide a comprehensive, high-level framework for addressing global sustainability challenges
- · Broad and ambitious
- Difficult to translate into practical, local interventions.

Biophilic Design

- Focuses on integrating nature into the built environment to enhance well-being and productivity.
- Often remains focused on aesthetic or experiential aspects.

Problem statement

As Dutch cities continue to grow, the majority of stakeholders involved in the decision making when it comes to changes in the urban fabric, prioritize building over integrating nature, leading to little and fragmented green urban spaces throughout the city.

Urgency

A strategic plan needs to be created that prioritizes the nature-orientated design of the urban fabric, one that recognizes the importance of having more green public spaces and trees, and one that is easily understandable, appliable and transferable.

Design principles











Climate mitigation & adaptation

Preserve biodiversity

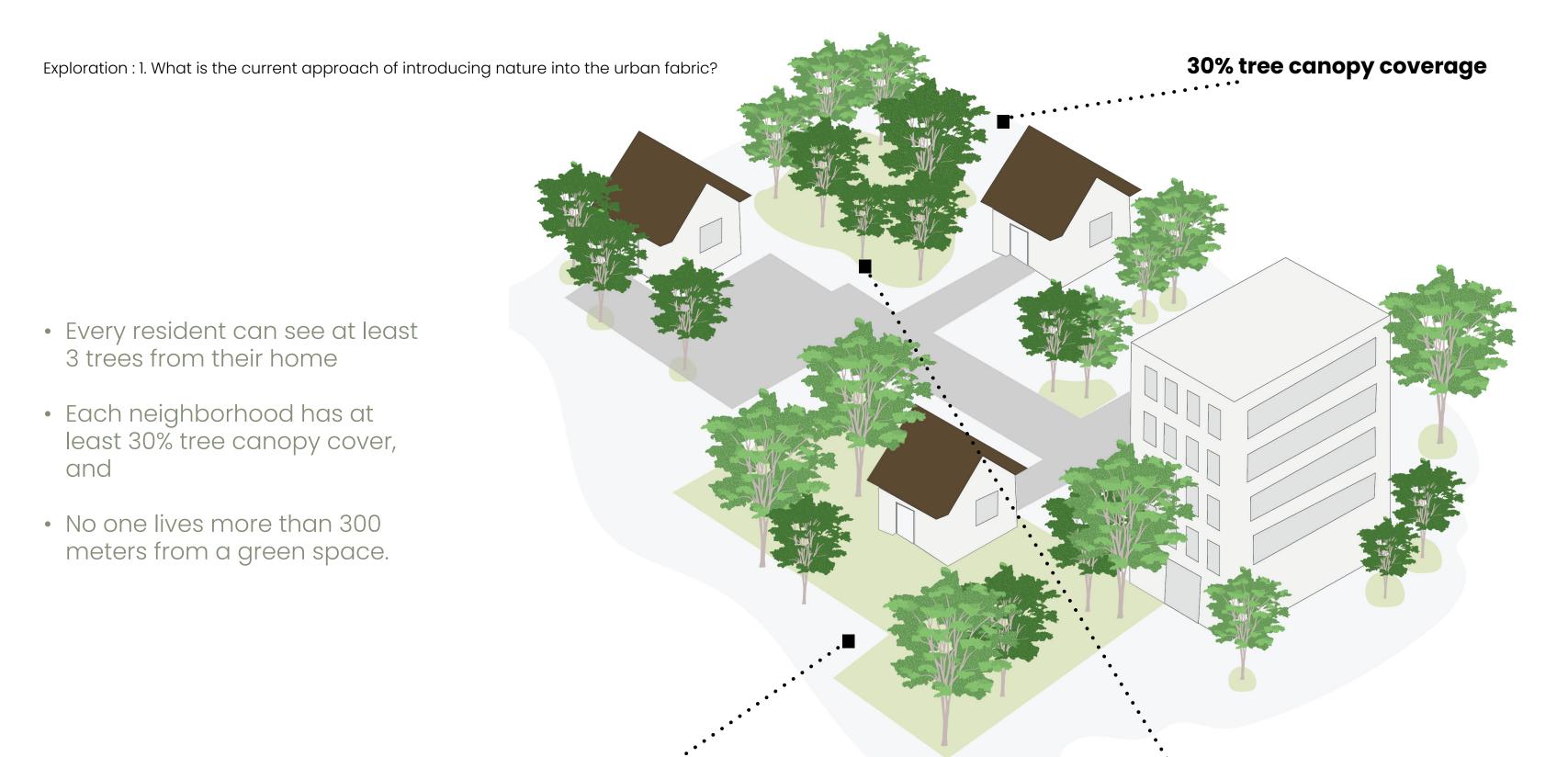
Equall accessibility to urban green spaces

Reclaim the city space from cars, to give back to the nature

Prioritise walking

The rule

3-30-300 by Cecil Konijnendijk's



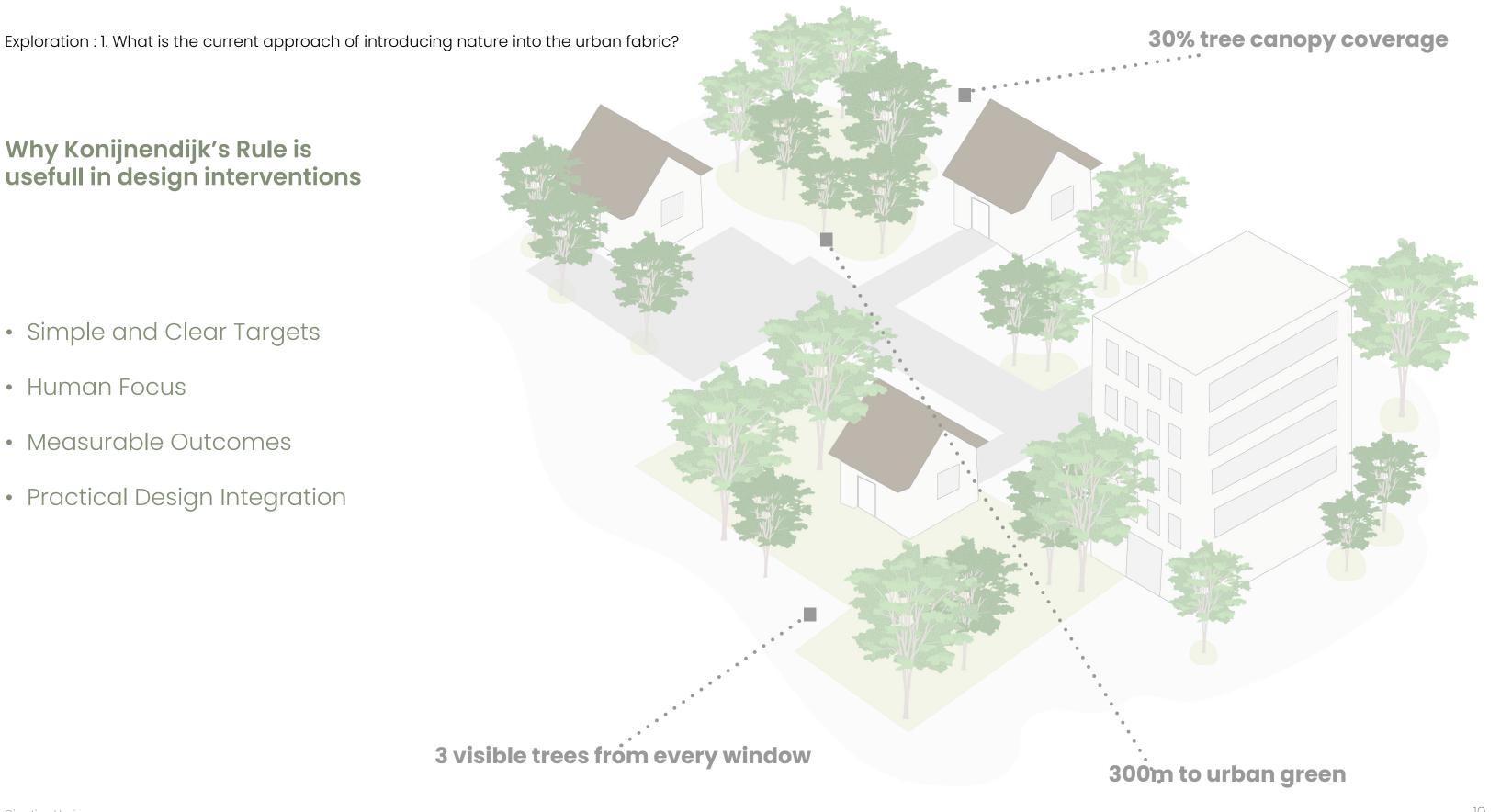
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300m to urban green

3 visible trees from every window

Why Konijnendijk's Rule is usefull in design interventions

- Simple and Clear Targets
- Human Focus
- Measurable Outcomes
- Practical Design Integration



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3-30-300 rule

Focused on the **local** urban **context**.

Offers simpler, communitylevel interventions that can be more easily adopted by neighborhoods or cities with limited resources.

Provides more **tangible**, human-centered **targets**.

Relatable and easier to implement in urban planning at the community level.

Beyond **aesthetics** and provides a **functional approach** to integrating green infrastructure at the neighborhood and city level, with specific, measurable targets that impact entire urban ecosystems, not just individual buildings or spaces.

Case study

Zwolle, Overijssel



Understanding the tool and using it in a city specific context, whilst underpinning the importance of creating vibrant and greener spaces throughout the city has led to the development of the main research question of this project:

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"What if the biophilic design strategy of Dr. Cecil Konijnendijk would be implemented in the streetscape of Zwolle to improve the existing public space by 2100?".

Main research question

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"What if the biophilic design strategy of Dr. Cecil Konijnendijk would be implemented in the streetscape of Zwolle to improve the existing public space by 2100?".

1. What is the current approach of introducing nature into the urban fabric?

2. What is the status quo of Zwolle's green spaces and their impact on the citizen's life?

3. How can the "3-30-300 rule" be applied to Zwolle's context in order to integrate more nature in the city's urban fabric?

4. How can the options, developed with the use of the 3-30-300 rule, be evaluated?

The rule

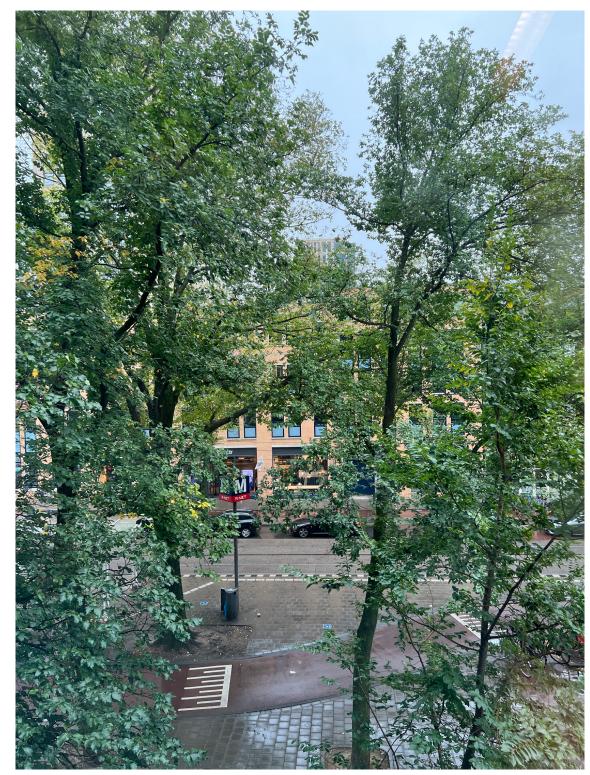
Unpacking the 3 - 30 - 300 rule

3 quality trees visible from every window



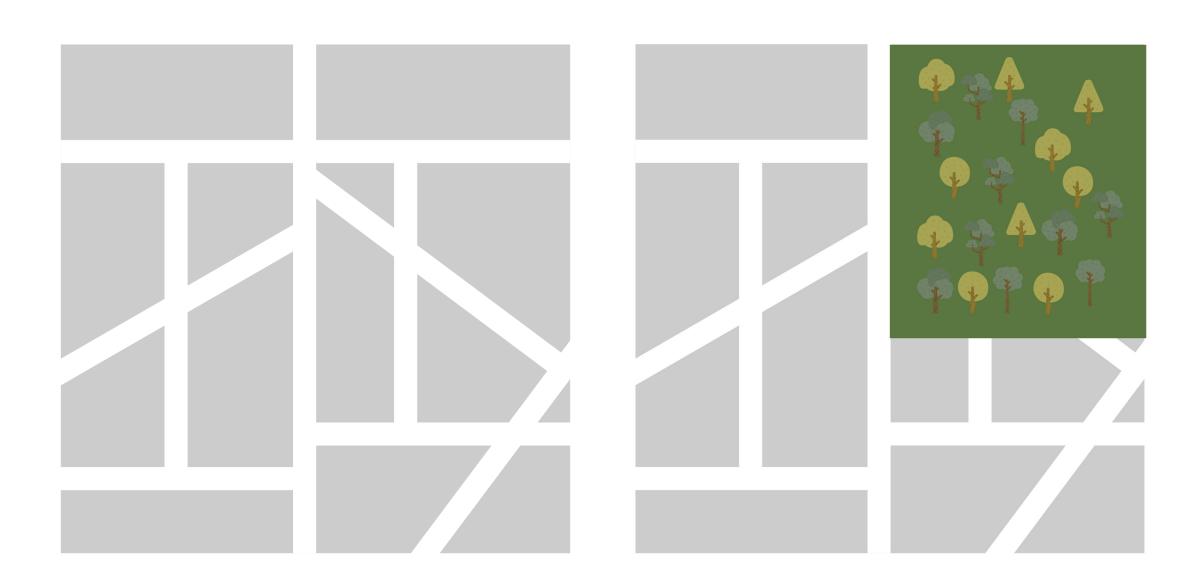


3 quality trees visible from every window





30% tree canopy cover within the neighbourhood



30% tree canopy cover within the neighbourhood



rce: Google Maps Source: https://thedatalabbe/330300/index.html?lar

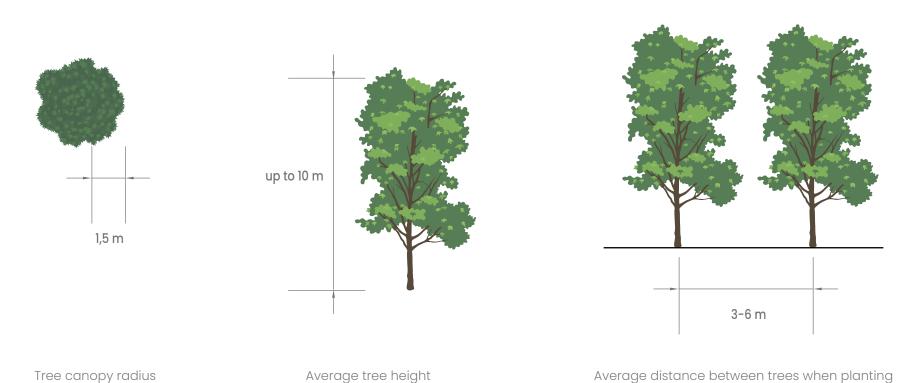
A public green space > 1ha within 300 meters of every home

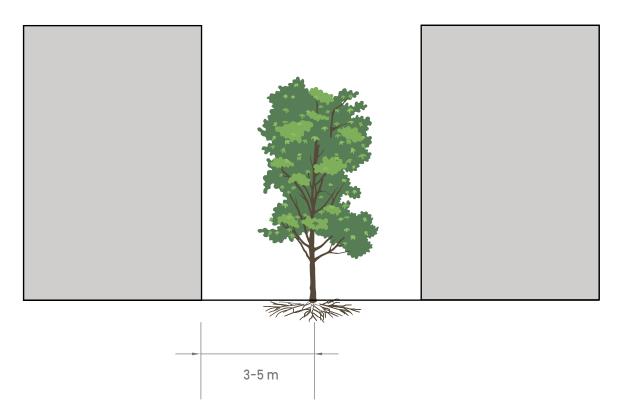




Understanding the trees

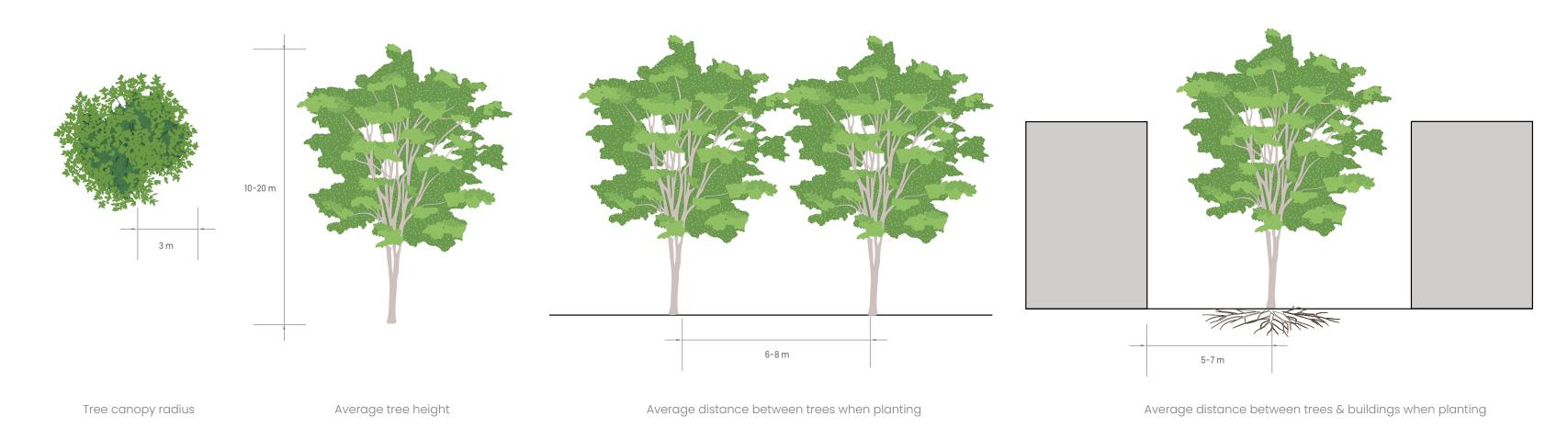
The 3 trees - the S(mall) tree





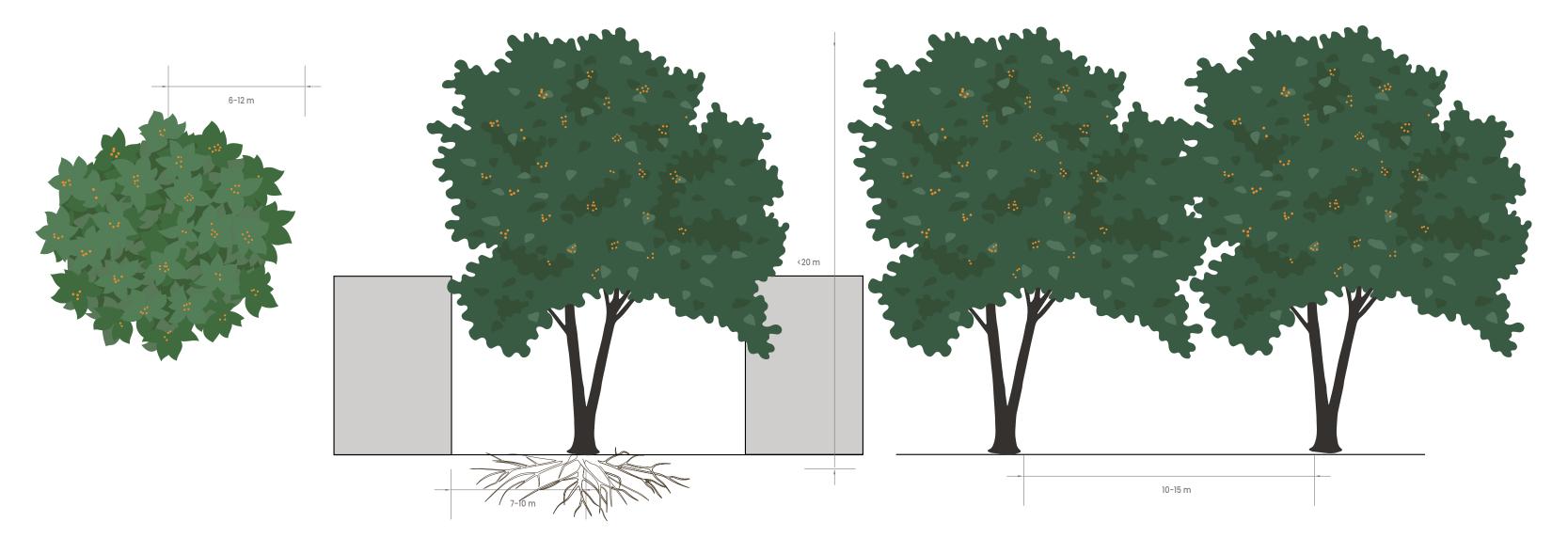
Average distance between trees & buildings when planting

The 3 trees - the M(edium) tree



Tree canopy radius

The 3 trees - the L(arge) tree



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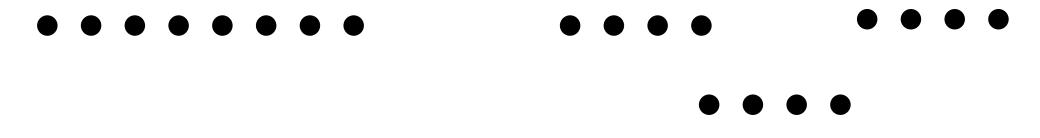
Average tree height

Average distance between trees & buildings when planting

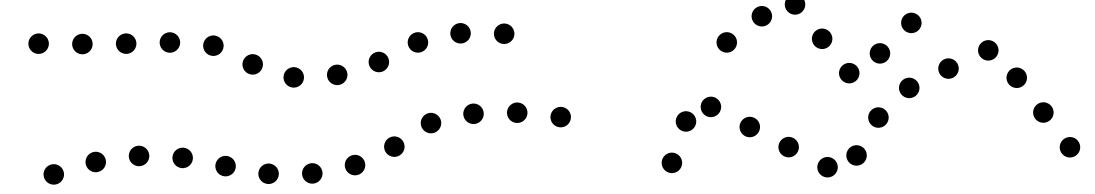
Average distance between trees when planting

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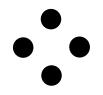
Rythmic



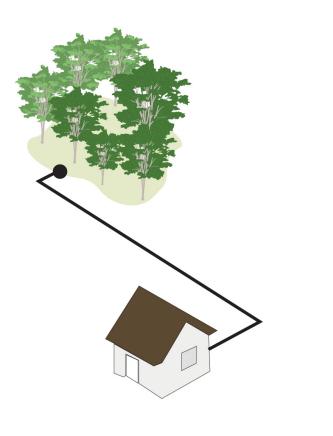
Non-rythmic



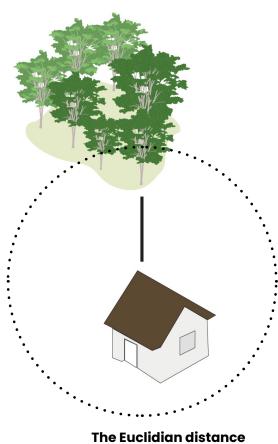
Clusters

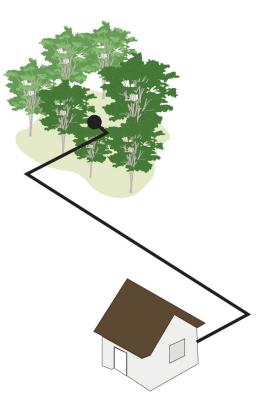


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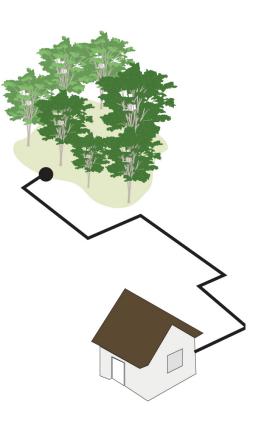


Distance from home to urban green space acess point





Distance from home to urban green space's centroid



Along road netoworks

As a designer, how do you actually use this rule?

The 3 - 30 rule



Historic streets/Alleys



Commercial shared



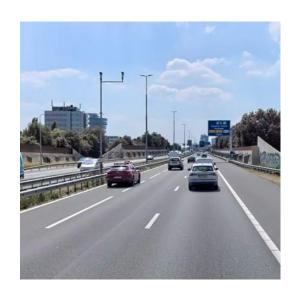
Pedestrian only



Residential



Neighbourhood main street



Grand streets



Central one-way



Central two-way



Waterfront



Industrial



Historic streets/Alleys



Commercial shared



Pedestrian only



Residential



Neighbourhood main street



Grand streets



Central one-way



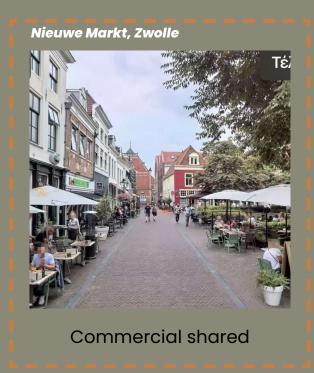
Central two-way



Waterfront



Industrial



Characteristics

Width: 10 - 18m wide

Function: Mixed-use

Pedestrian & Bicycle friendly

Limited access to cars

Dense & compact





Characteristics

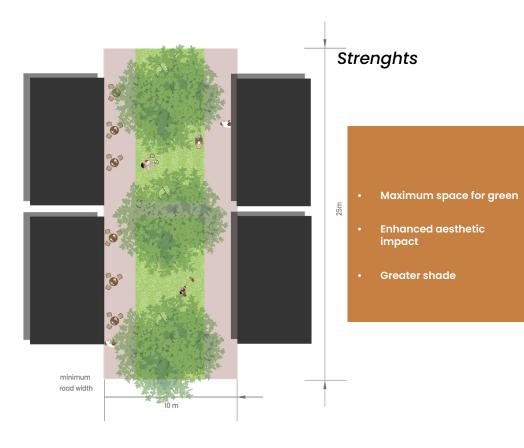
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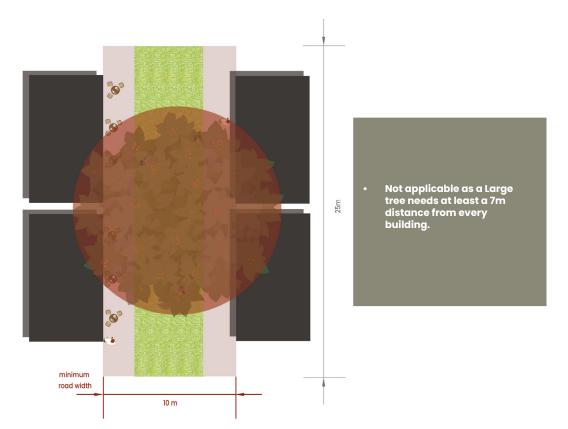
Weaknesses

- Space restrains for people's movement
- Higher possibility of damage to underground infrastructure
- No space for logistics

Opportunities

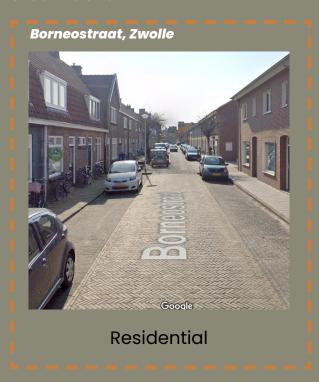
Threats

- Climate mitigation
- Increased property value
- Space for children to play
- High maintenance costs
- Risk of damage to the infrastructure



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Characteristics

Width: 8-10m

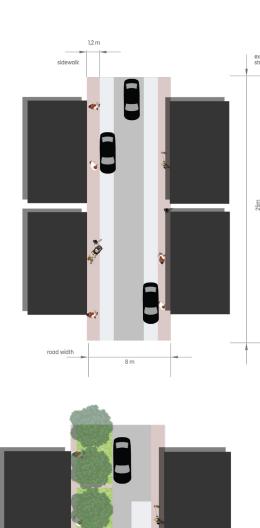
Function: Residential

Shared street for both cars and bicycles, if no bicycle lane

Car-oriantated

Parking space on one or both sides of the road

Narrow sidewalks



Strenghts

- Maximum space for cars
- Low maintenance cost

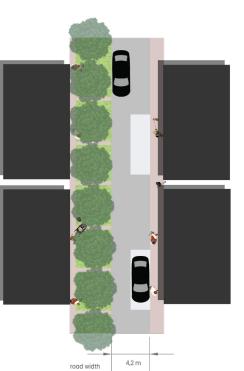
Weaknesses

- No shade
- Lack of aesthetic appeal

Opportunities

Threats

- Reduces quality of life with no green
- Urban Heat Island Effect
- Poor air quality



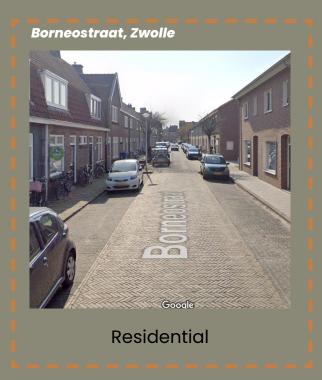
- Aesthetically appealing
- Shade & cooling
- Improved air quality

- Limitations in space for
- Possible damage to underground infrastructure

- Contribiution towards climate resilience strategies

- Maintenance
- Damage to infrastructure

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Characteristics

Width: 8-10m

Function: Residential

Shared street for both cars and bicycles, if no bicycle lane

Car-oriantated

Parking space on one or both sides of the road

Narrow sidewalks

rood width 8 m minimum tree plonting distance 5 m minimum tree plonting distance 5 m minimum green required for M tree planting

- Significant shade & cooling

Strenghts

Characteristic aesthetic

Shade & cooling

Improved air quality

• Improved air quality

Weaknesses

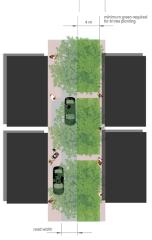
- Uneven shade patterns
- Non-rythmic planting can lead to disorderly feeling of the street

Opportunities

- Engaging streetscape due to creative design
- This planting option supports diversity microhabitats

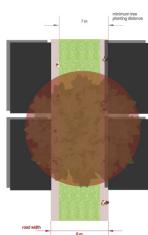
Threats

- High maintenance & complexity
- Space inefficiency
- Possible lack of space for emergency vehicles

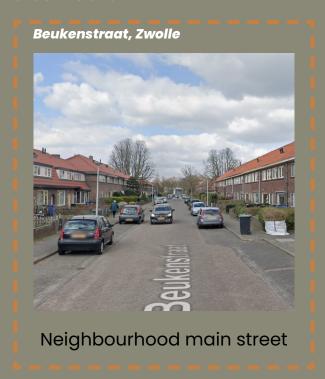


- Aesthetic enhancement
- Limitations in space for cars & parking
- Possible damage to underground infrastructure

- Climate mitigation
- Community engagement opportunities
- High maintenance costs
- Damage to infrastructure
- Possible lack of space for emergency vehicles



 Not applicable as a Large tree needs at least a 7m distance from every building.



Characteristics

Width: 10-20m

Function: Residential

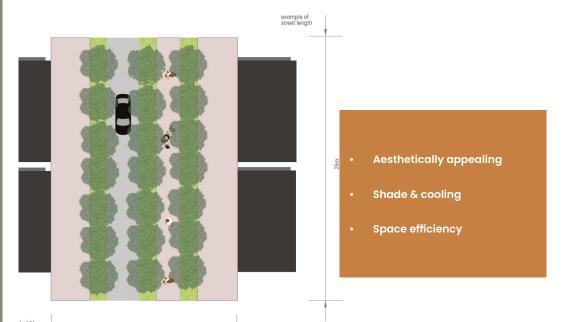
Shared street for both cars and bicycles, if no bicycle lane

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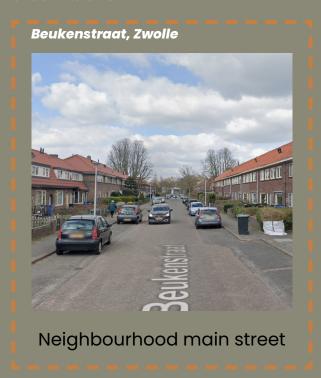
Narrow sidewalks





- Limited Canopy Coverage
- Lower Biodiversity Impact
- Improved Livability
- Flexibility

- Maintenance
- Vulnerability to Weather



Characteristics

Width: 10-20m

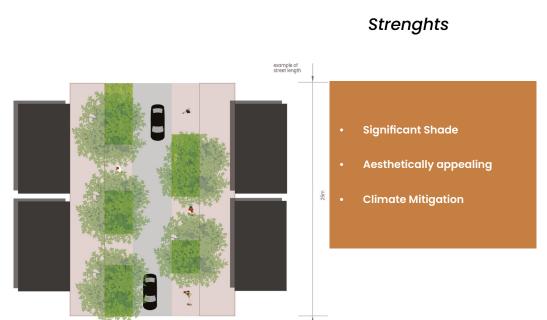
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Shared street for both cars and bicycles, if no bicycle lane

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Narrow sidewalks

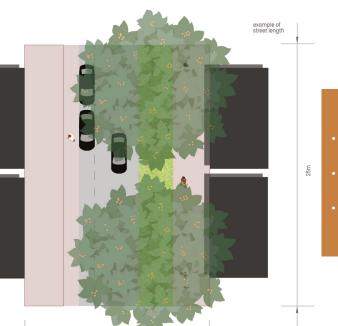


Weaknesses

- Space Constraints
- Potential Infrastructure
 Interference

- Opportunities
 - liversity support
- Increased property value

- Threats
- Higher Maintenance Needs
- Risk of Damage



- Extensive shade
- Strong visual presence
- Environmental benefits

- Space restrictions
- Infrastructure risk

- Urban coolina
- Increased property value
- Biodiversity support

- Higher Maintenance
 Needs
- Risk of Damage

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3. How can the "3-30-300 rule" be applied to Zwolle's context in order to integrate more nature in the city's urban fabric?



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Quality public spaces are a necessary extension of the 3-30-300 rule, addressing the interconnected goals of urban resilience, social cohesion, and public health.

Case study: Zwolle

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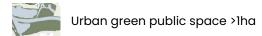
The 300m rule

2. What is the status quo of Zwolle's green spaces and their impact on the citizen's life?









Green public space > 1 ha



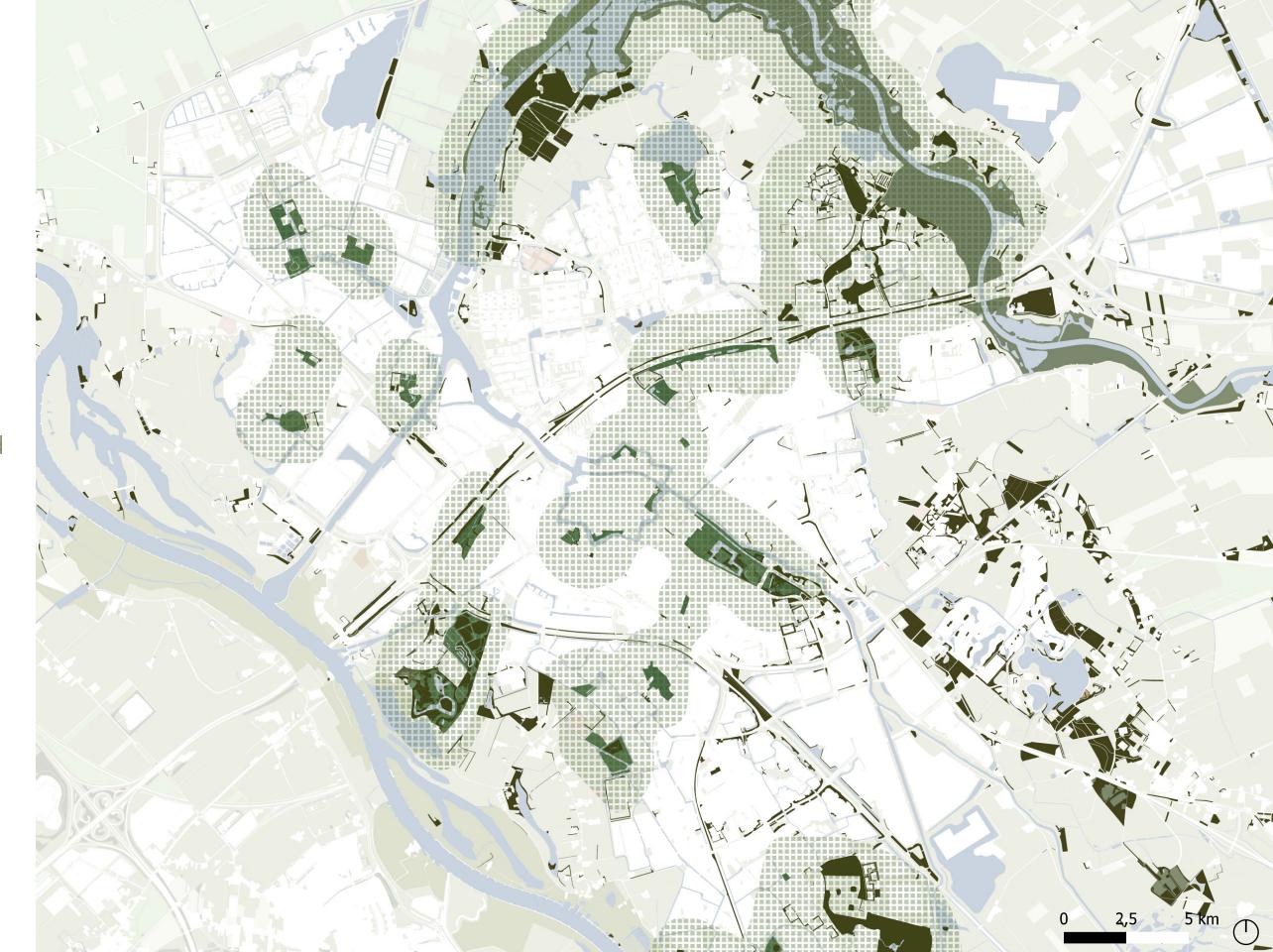


Urban green public space >1ha



300m radius of influence of the urban green public space >1ha

Green public space > 1 ha and the 300m radius of "influence"





Urban green public space >1ha

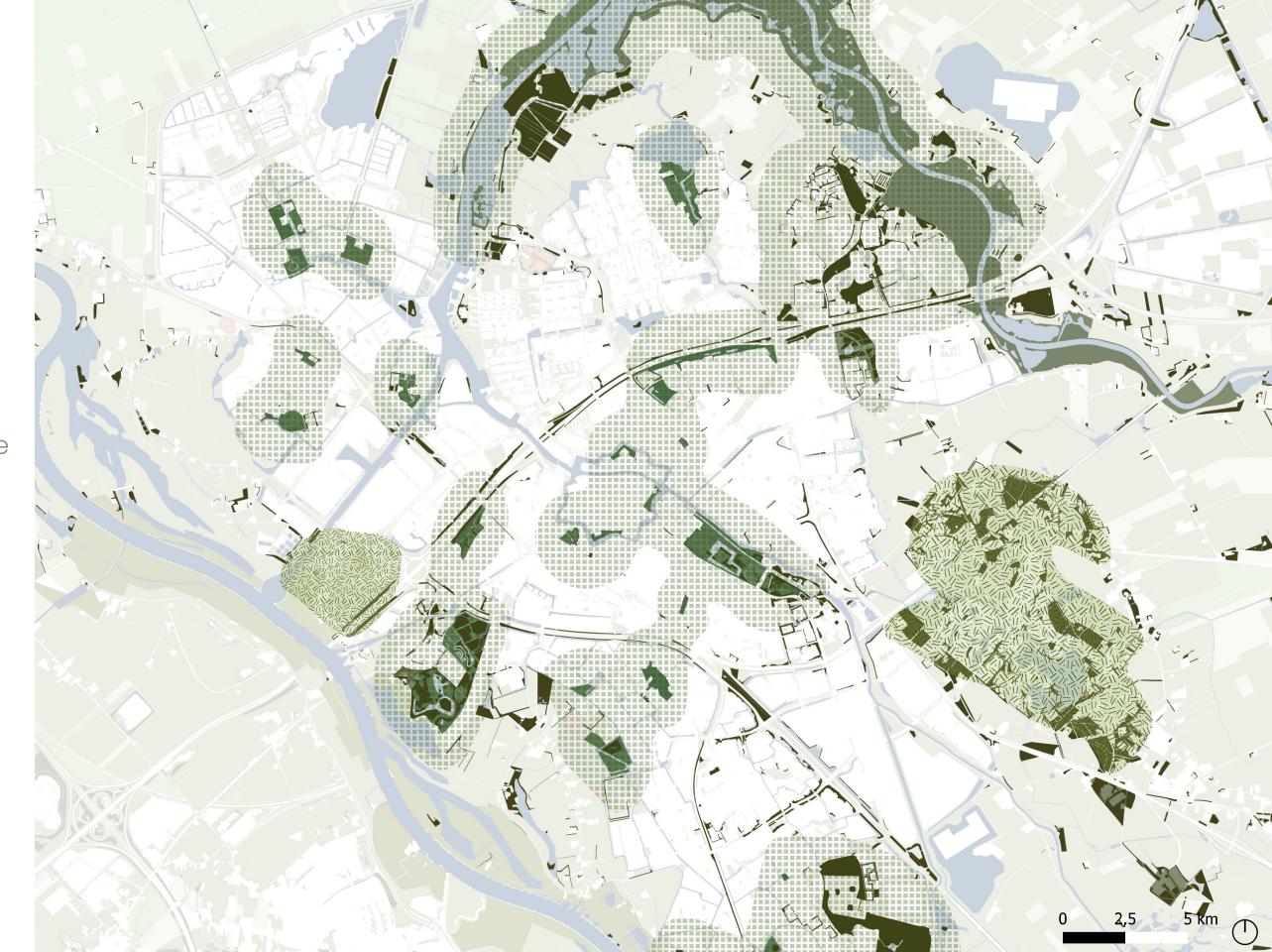


300m radius of influence of the urban green public space >1ha



Areas on the outscirts of possible ecological value

Green space > 1 ha outside the city, of quality





Urban green public space >1ha



300m radius of influence of the urban green public space >1ha

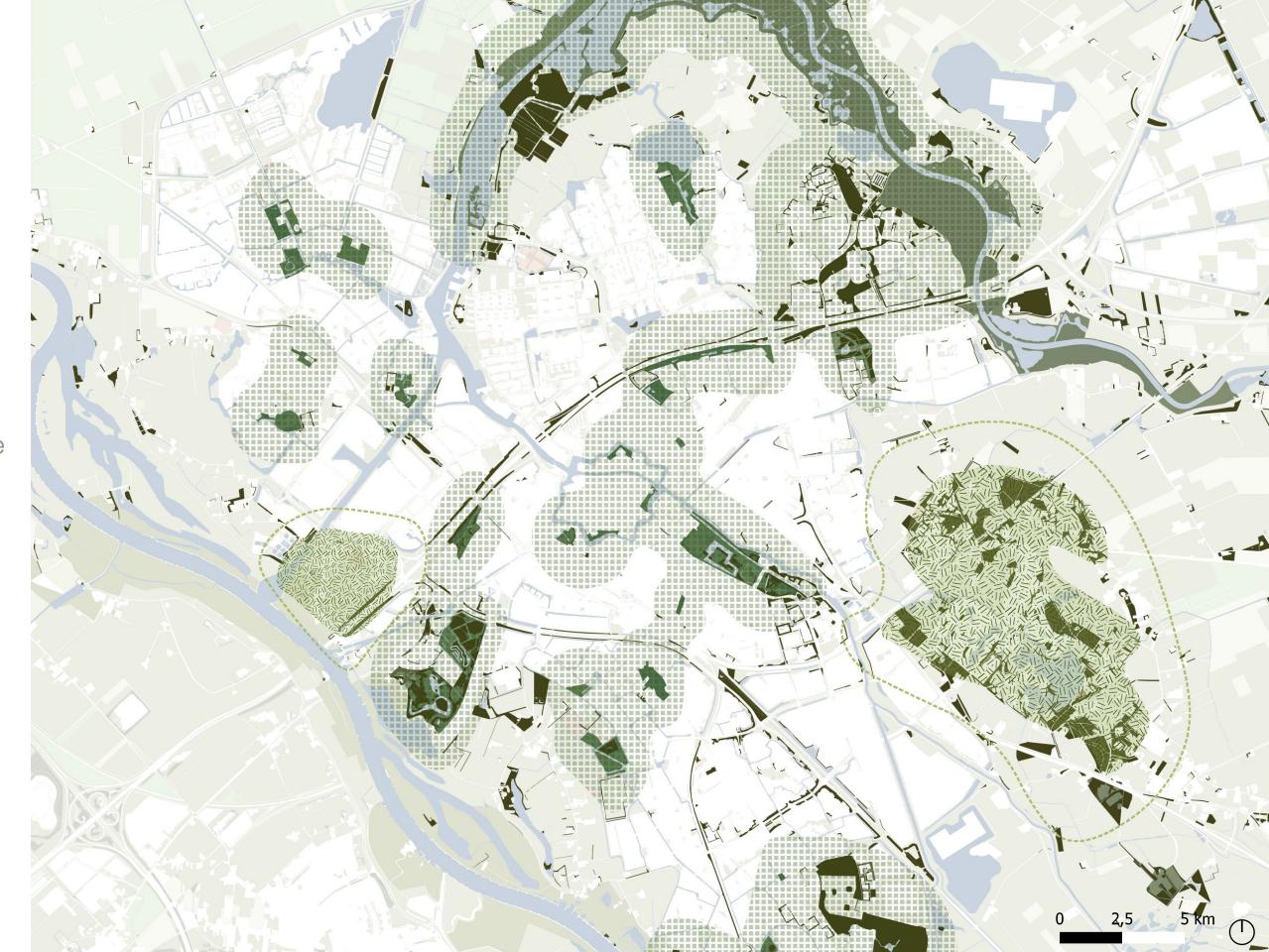


Areas on the outscirts of possible ecological value



300m radius of influence of the areas on the outscirts of possible ecological value

Green space > 1 ha outside the city, of quality and the 300m radius of "influence"





Urban green public space >1ha



300m radius of influence of the urban green public space >1ha



Areas on the outscirts of possible ecological value



300m radius of influence of the areas on the outscirts of possible ecological value



Areas outside of the 300m influence

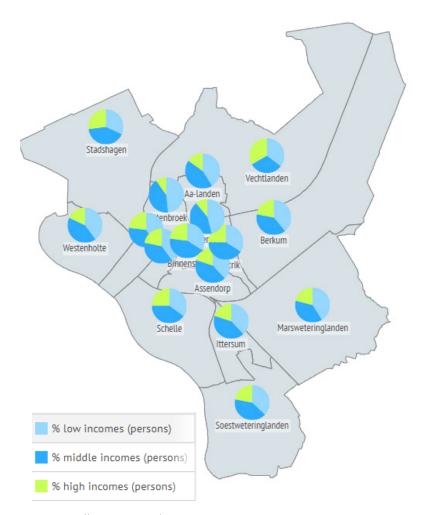
Spaces without a > 1 ha green public space

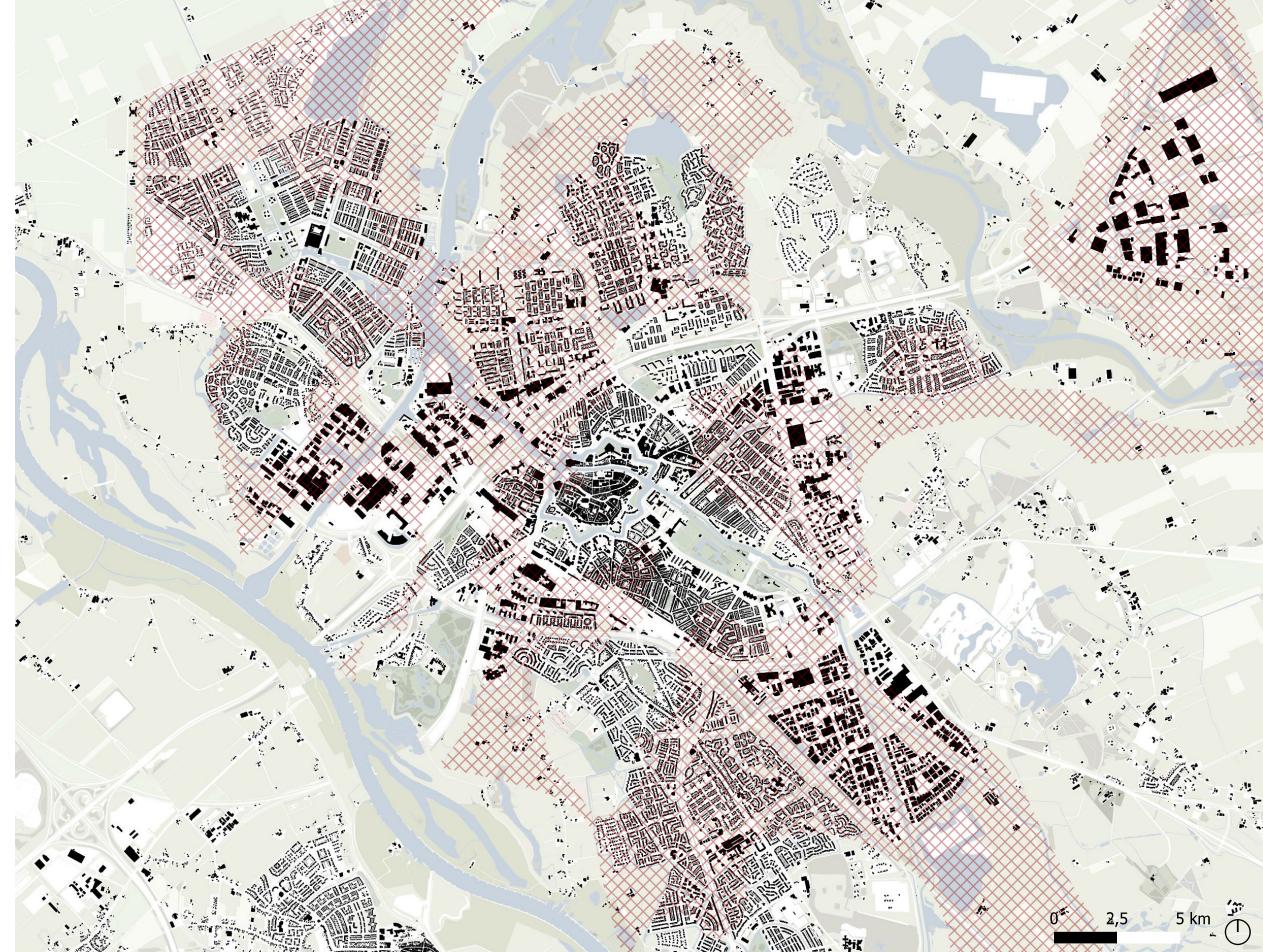




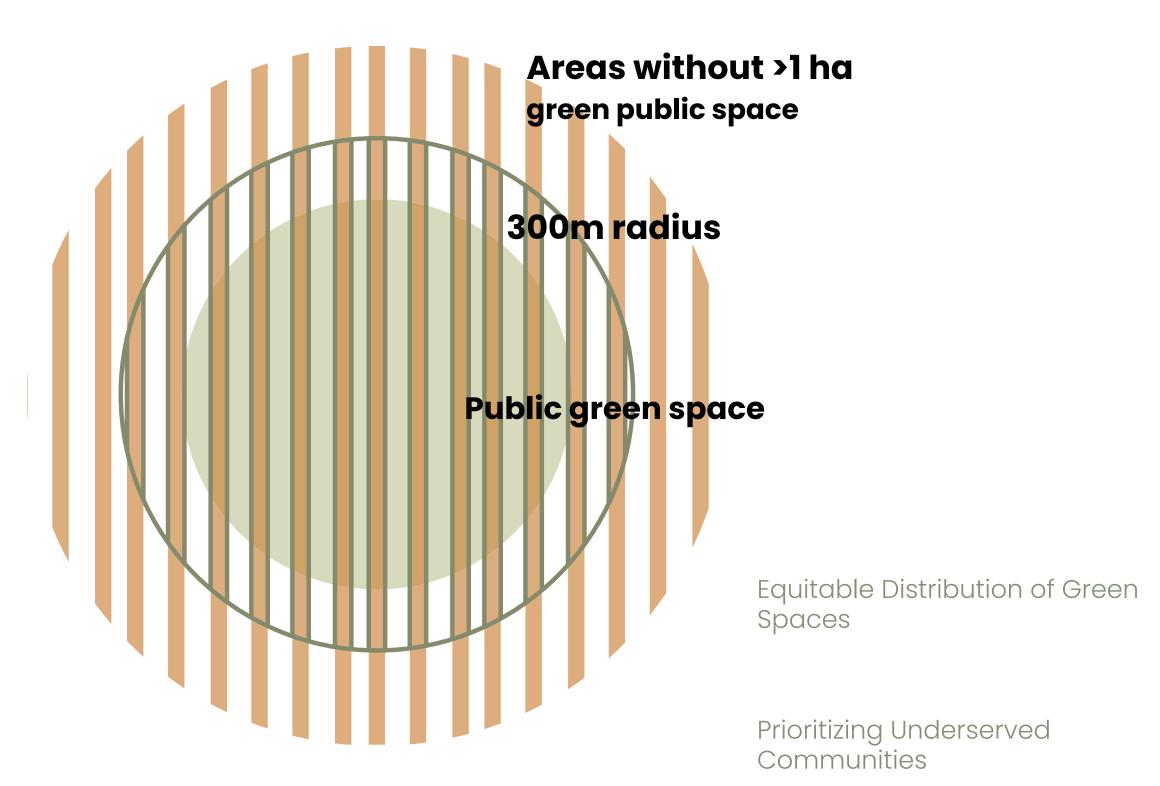


Areas outside of the 300m influence





Unequal distribution of urban greenery across neighborhoods of varying socioeconomic status



Dioptise Horizons 49



Urban Heat Island Effect



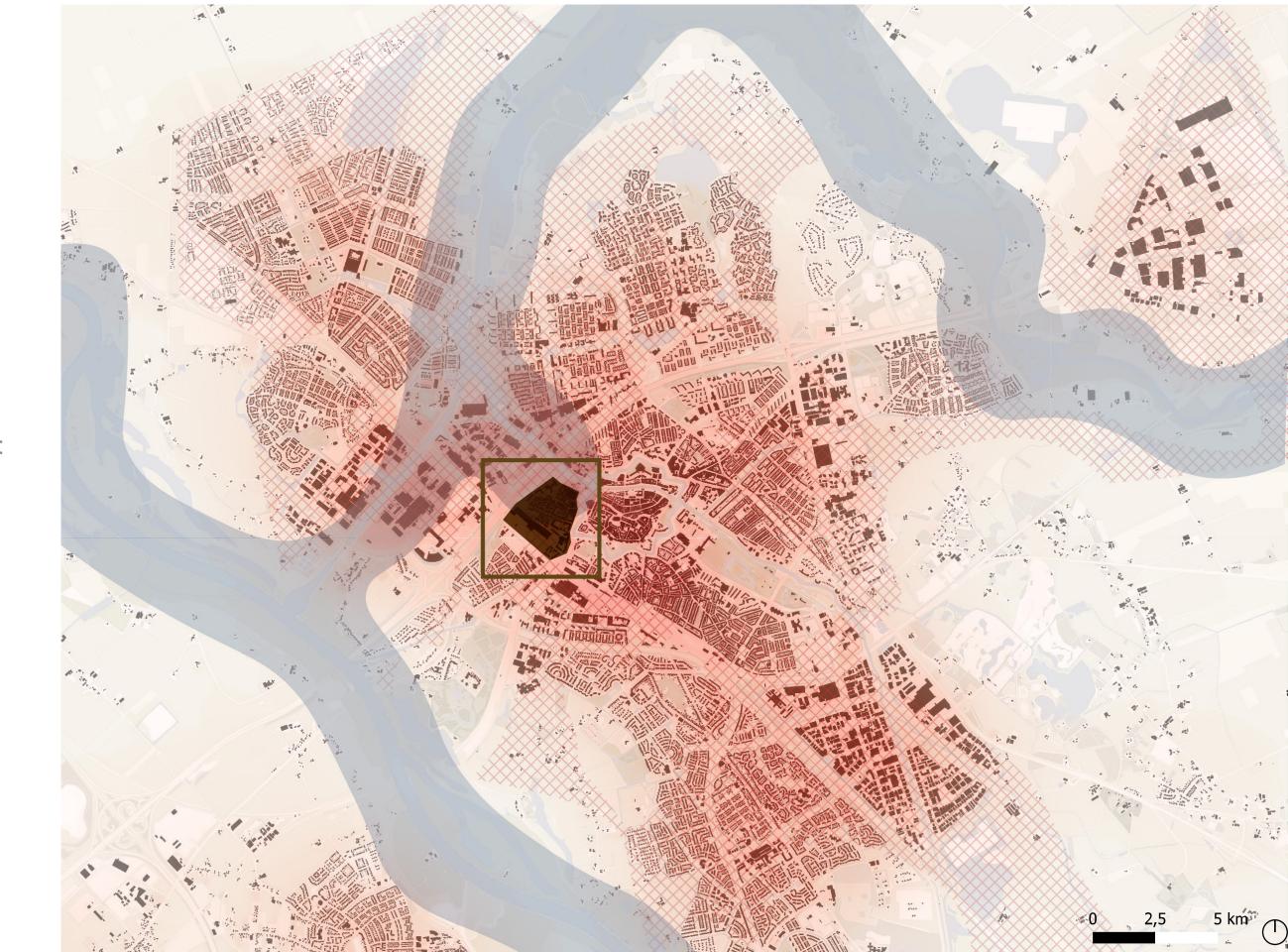
Flooding probability by 2050

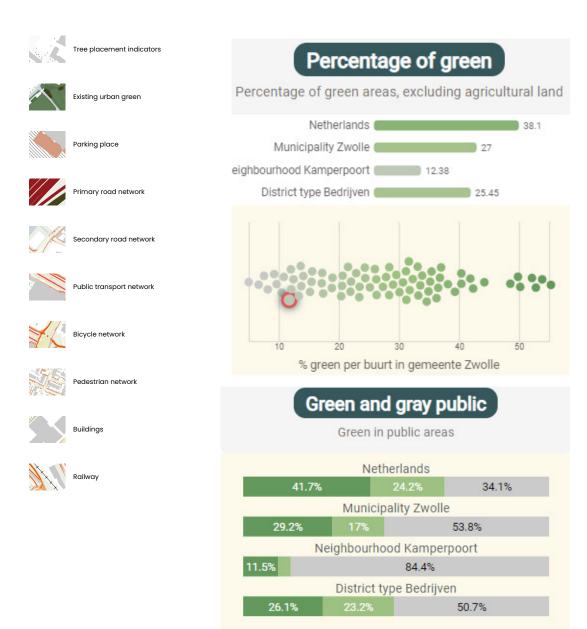




Kamperpoort neighborhood

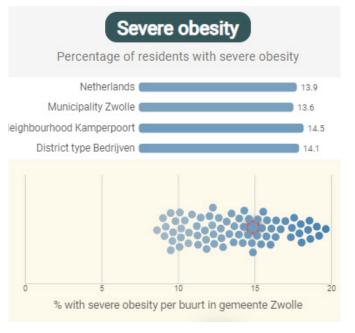
Vulnerable neighbourhoods : The case of Kamperpoort

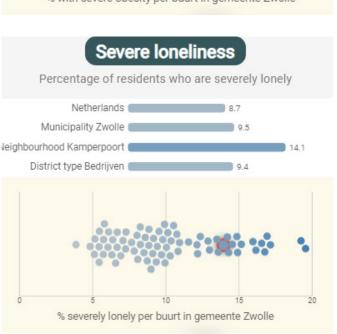


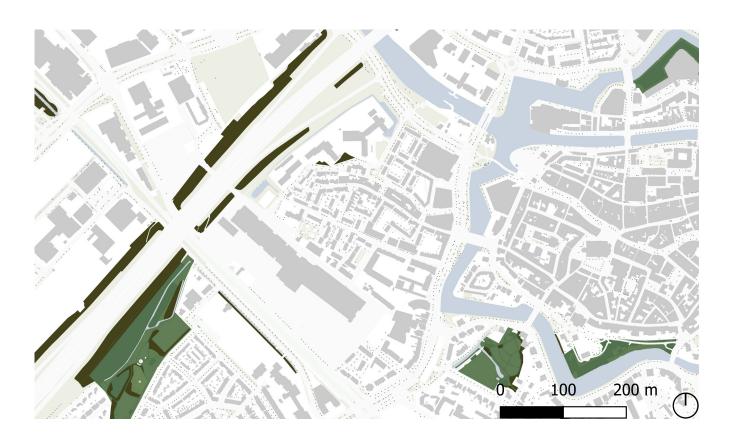


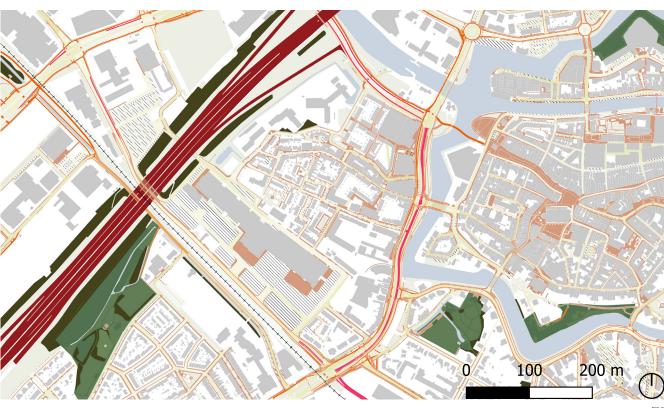
Tree

■ Low Vegetation ■ Gray



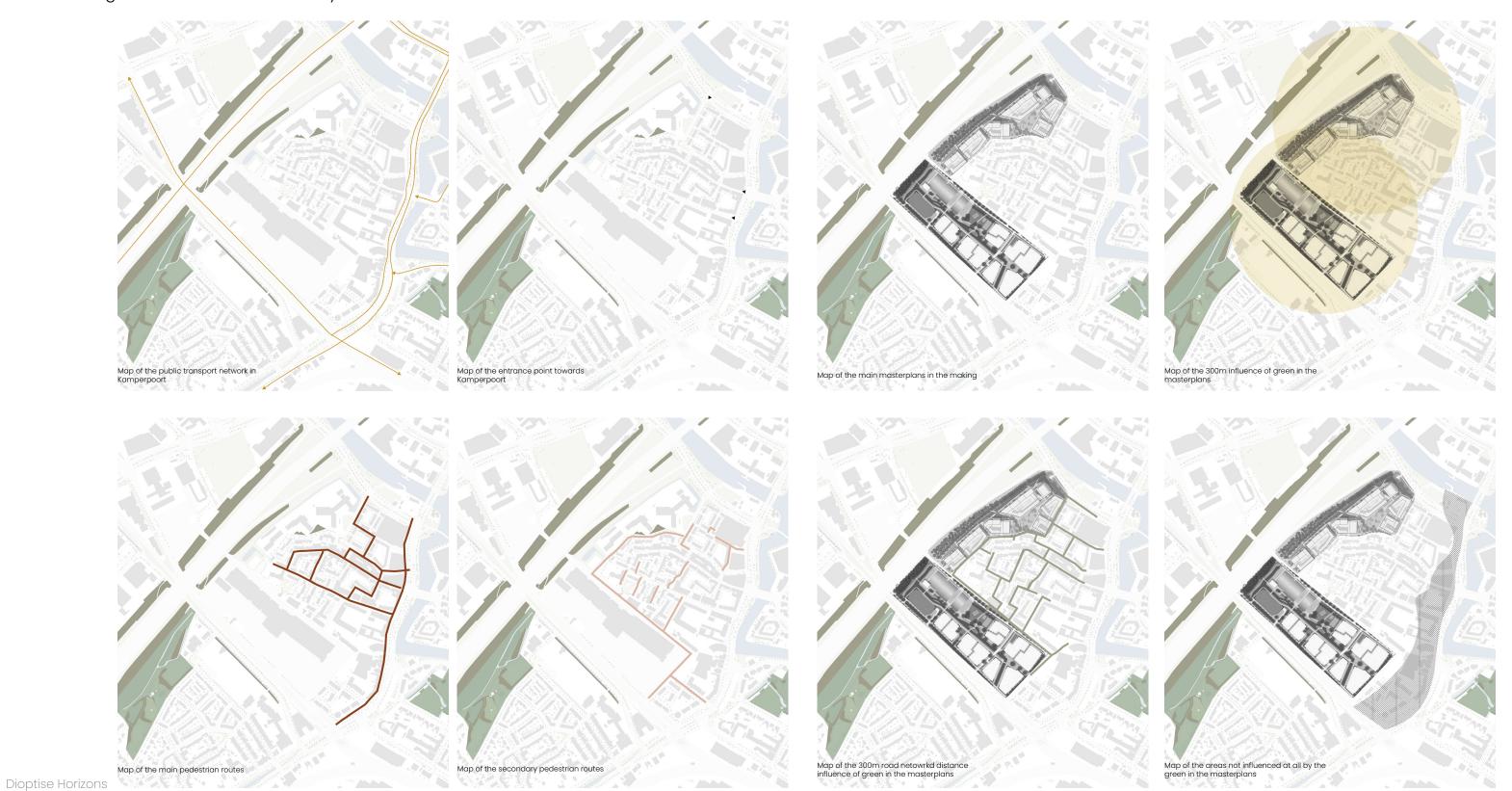


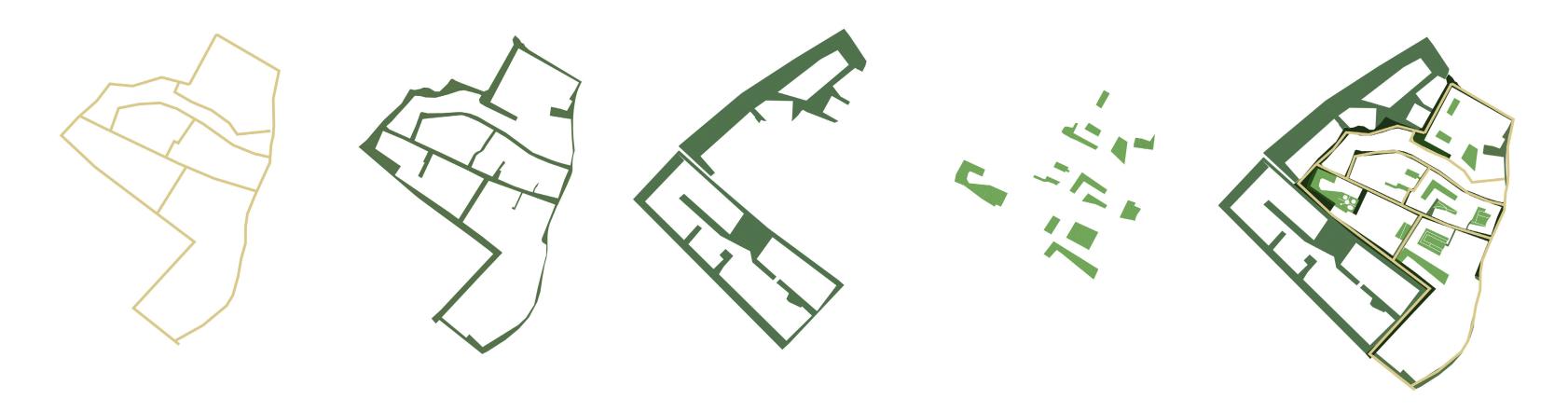




Dioptise Horizons 5

3. How can the "3-30-300 rule" be applied to Zwolle's context in order to integrate more nature in the city's urban fabric?





Green strategy for Kamperpoort





Main pedestrian street, with medium tree planting. It is important that although the car comes last, it still has access to the street.



Main pedestrian street, with small trees only on one side planted. Still room for car to pass, but mainly pedestrian orientated and then the bicycle. Purpose of the street is to feel free in front of your house.



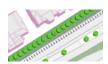
Areas that are currently under development (within masterplans) of the Municipality. These areas are going to contribute for 15-20% of the tree canopy coverage of the neighbourhood.



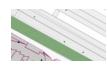
Large trees that are planted according to the parameters introduced in Chapter 5



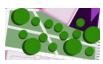
Medium trees that are planted according to the parameters introduced in Chapter 5.



Small trees that are planted according to the parameters introduced in Chapter 5



Areas with just grass, flexible to be used by the citizens according to their needs.



Urban small public green space, functions as a mini plaza.



Playgrounds for children within the urban greenery.



Mobility hubs as a turning point for the usage of private cars. In collaboration with the parking garage and the car rental agency, the mobility hubs can become an economic opportunity for the neighbourhood, and replace the privately owned cars.



The parking garage, as we step into 2100, will be less crowded, as there is a shift happening already towards shared mobility. The parking garage can be used as a shell to accomodate not only private vehicles but also shared mobility vehicles.



The assisted living facilities are an important epicenter of Kamperpoort, because many old people that live there tend to feel lonely or unhappy. It is important to provide also for them an environment where they can interact, feel part of the community and benefit from the urban green.



The outdoor space of the sports association, which is mainly paved, can be used to create a vibrant green urban ennvironment, where children can play and exercise at the same time.



The car rental facility can be used, in collaboration with the parking garage and the municipality to become part of the shared mobility initiative, and slowly help people replace their individual car with a shared one.



The supermarket plays a big role in a neighborhood, as it is a place where people tend to interact daily, and therefore, it should be part of the urban greening strategy.



The retail center, being located on the edge of the neighborhood, is a starting-point for all resident both the neighborhood and the ones comming from the city center. People should be able to sit outside and enjoy their time, while taking a breathe under trees.

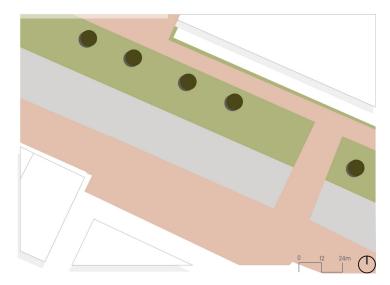


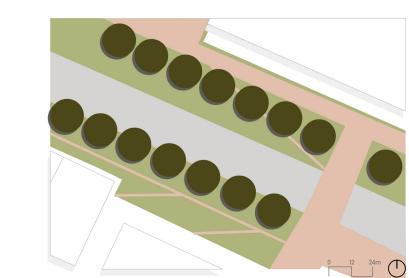
Cortyard urban green, where people can also be part of the preservation of greenery.

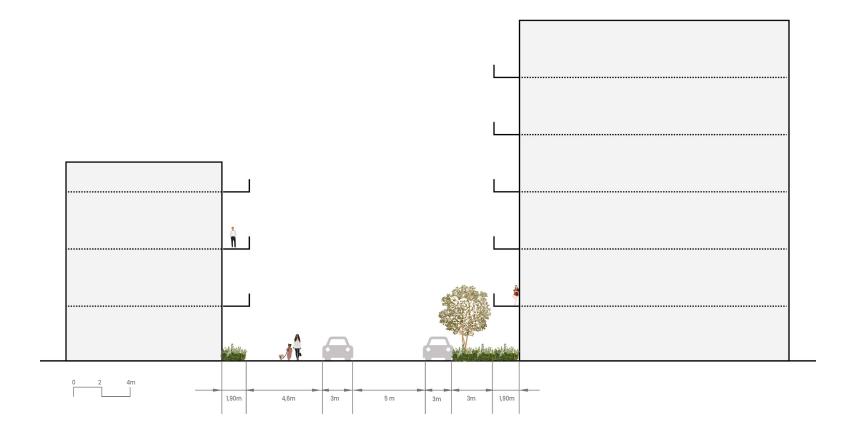
Dioptise Horizons

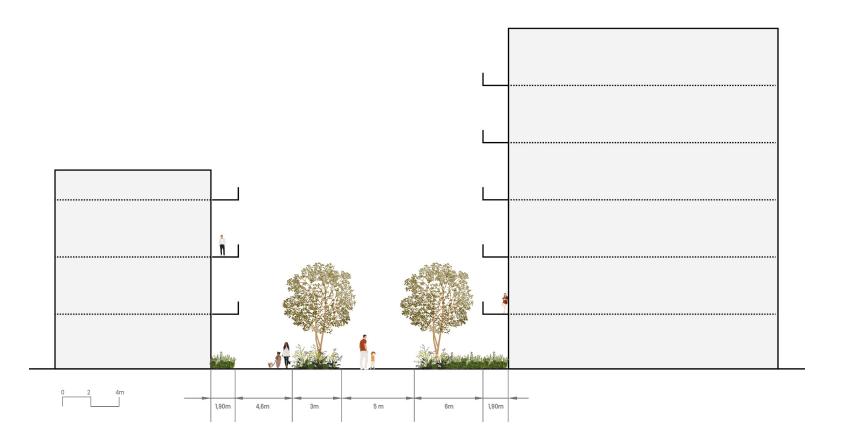


Street design: Lijnbaan



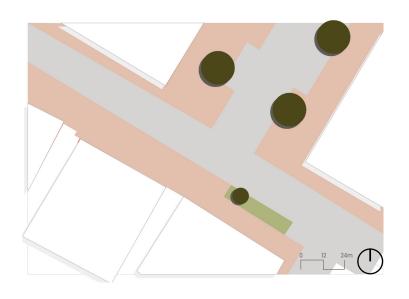


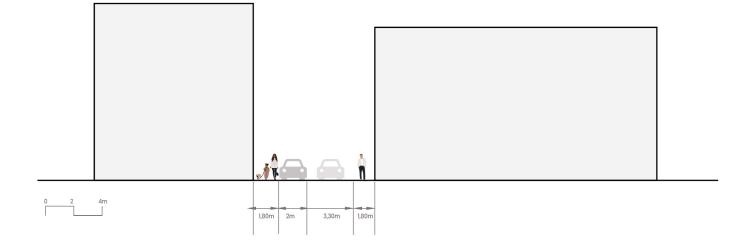


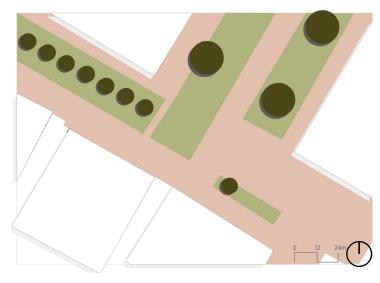


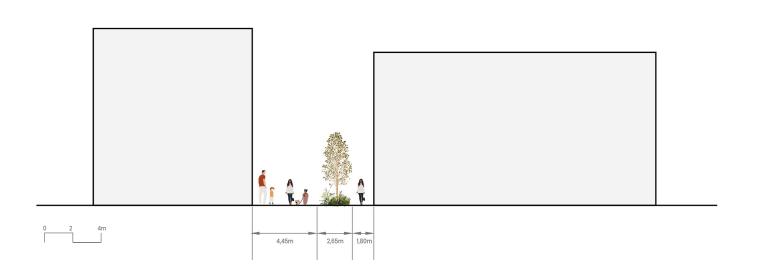


Street design: Hoogstraat







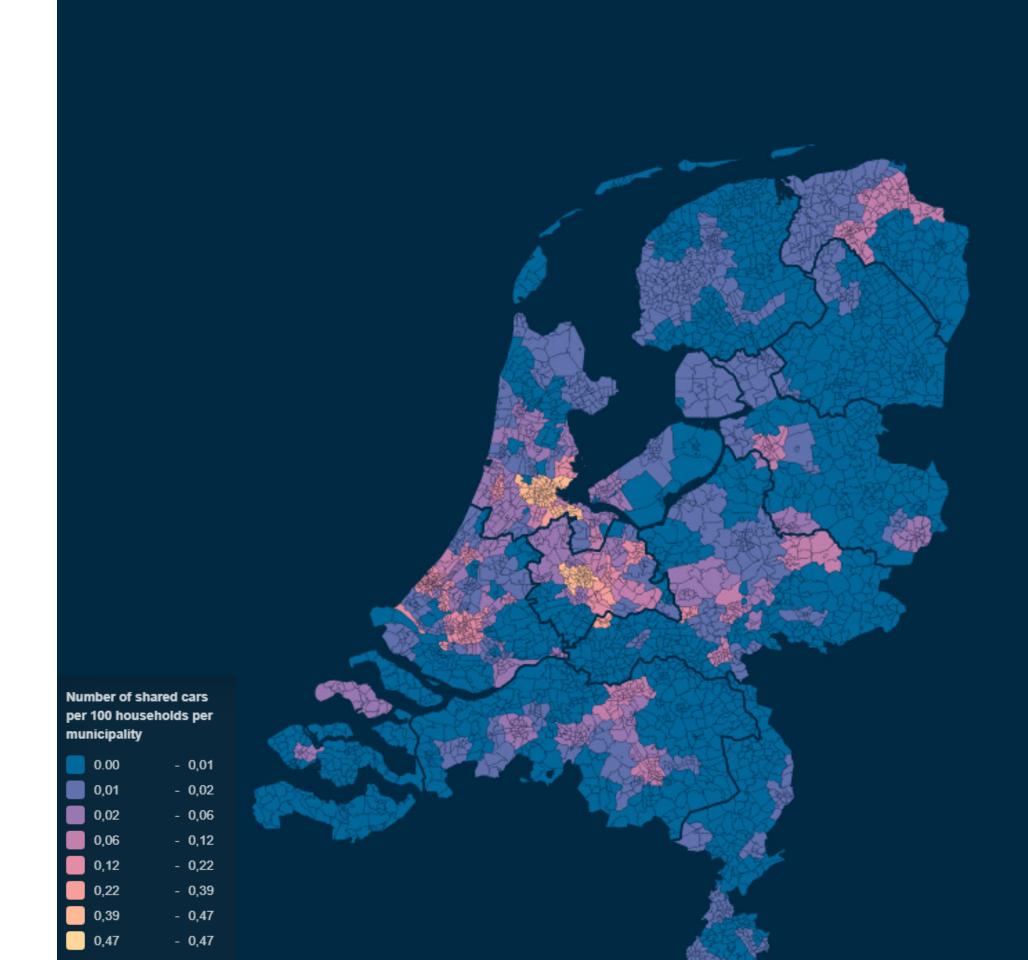




...but where will I park my car?

"As we move towards 2100, society's view on cars needs to change".

- Author



Evaluation

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Design principles Reci the nature **Prioritise walking** adaptation **Preserve biodiversity**

Direct impact on

Criteria

Scoring criteria

	7
laim the c	ity space

Components

Visual access to 3 trees

30% tree canopy

coverage

300m from urban green

from cars, to give back to

Climate mitigation &



Accessibility

Ecological value Helath and Wellbeing

Climate resilience

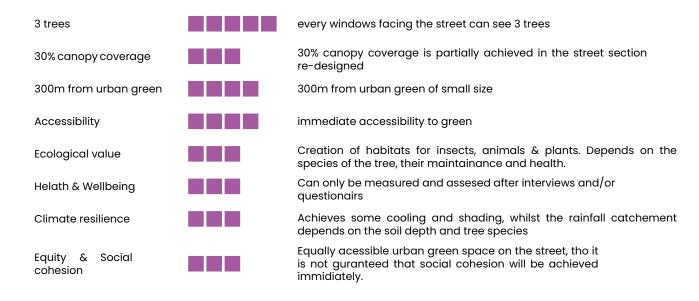
Equity & Social cohesion

- 1. Measuring the 3-30-300 rule to help cities meet nature access thresholds (Browning et al., 2024)
- 2. Urban green spaces and health 2016, (WHO, 2016)
- 3. A global analysis of the impacts of urbanization on bird and plant diversity reveals key anthropogenic drivers, (Aronson et al., 2014)
- 4. Ecosystem Services and valuation of urban forests in China, (Jim & Chen, 2009)
- 5. The health benefits of the Great Outdoors: A systematic review and meta-analysis of greenspace exposure and health outcomes, (Twohig-Bennett & Description of the composition of the com Jones, 2018)
- 6. Adapting cities for climate change: The role of the green infrastructure, (Gill et al., 2007)
- 7. Designing for climate resiliency + adaptation, (FAIA, 2018)
- 8. Who benefits from nature in cities? social inequalities in access to urban green and blue spaces across Europe, (WHO, 2023)
- 9. Social Interactions in urban parks: Stimulating social cohesion?, (Peters et al., 2010)

Score	Explanation
0	No consideration or evidence of the criteria
1	Very minimal or poor considerationof the criteria
2	Some consideration, but significant gaps in the implementation of the criteria
3	Moderate inclusion of the criteria, but with some weaknesses
4	Strong inclusion of the criteria, with minor gaps
5	Excellent and comprehensive inclusion of the criteria

3 trees	every windows facing the street can see 3 trees
30% canopy coverage	30% canopy coverage is achieved in the street section re-designed
300m from urban green	300m from urban green of small size
Accessibility	immediate accessibility to green
Ecological value	Creation of habitats for insects, animals & plants. Depends on the species of the tree, their maintainance and health.
Helath & Wellbeing	Can only be measured and assesed after interviews and/or questionairs
Climate resilience	Achieves some cooling and shading, whilst the rainfall catchement depends on the soil depth and tree species
Equity & Social cohesion	Equally acessible urban green space on the street, tho it is not guranteed that social cohesion will be achieved immidiately.







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Guidelines for future applications of the 3-30-300 rule

- Contextual Adaptation
- Integrating with the existing/future Urban Infrastructure
- Strategies regarding Climate Equity in the distribution of urban greenery
- Tree planting
- Community Involvement
- Long-term Maintenance and Assesment
- Integration with Urban Planning
- **Economic Incentives**
- Cost-Benefit Analysis Resilience

Conclusions

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"What if the biophilic design strategy of Dr. Cecil Konijnendijk would be implemented in the streetscape of Zwolle to improve the existing public space by 2100?".





Reflecting

olioptise Horizons 69

Societal value

Improved Public Health: Access to nature has been shown to reduce stress, enhance mental health, and encourage physical activity, leading to healthier populations.

Stronger Communities: Green spaces foster social interaction and community engagement, helping to build social cohesion.

Environmental Benefits: Trees reduce urban heat islands, improve air quality, and support biodiversity, contributing to sustainability and climate resilience.

Increased Livability: A greener city is more attractive, potentially boosting economic activity and property values.

Trasferability

The 3-30-300 rule is highly **adaptable**, making it relevant to various cities regardless of their size or geographical location.

The principles of integrating green spaces, improving livability, and enhancing sustainability are universal, meaning that other cities facing similar challenges can implement the strategies I developed.

Ethical considerations

Equity and Accessibility: Ensuring that all communities, including marginalized or low-income groups, have equal access to green spaces and nature.

Environmental Justice: Balancing development needs with ecological protection, preventing displacement of ecosystems and local populations.

Sustainability: Making sure that the project supports long-term environmental sustainability without compromising resources for future generations.

Community Involvement: Engaging local residents in the design and planning process to ensure their needs and voices are heard.

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Thank you for your attention.

