Pattern booklet | Femke Snel

Pattern Language

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This pattern language has been formulated for the thesis project titled "Everyone's Safety." The purpose of this guidebook is to synthesize observations, interviews, literature reviews, and mental mapping exercises into design principles aimed at improving the perceived safety in the Oud Mathenesse. The patterns presented in this booklet are tailored to the specific characteristics of the neighbourhood Oud Mathenesse, and as such, most patterns are context-specific. Nevertheless, the proposed patterns can offer valuable insights for future studies on perceived safety and urban design in various environments.

Content

The pattern language

The pattern language is a tool that can help to understand complexity in urban design. These patterns offer design solutions for the physical environment, which in turn can enhance the social environment. The main goal of this pattern language is to deepen our understanding of how urban designers can enhance perceived safety through thoughtful urban design interventions. Each pattern presents a solution, and when combined with others, they reinforce one another, enabling the establishment of a neighbourhood perceived as safe.

This method was created by Cristopher Alexander (1978), an architect that published the theory of the pattern language in his book A pattern language (Alexander, Ishikawa, et al., 1977). A pattern identifies a problem in our environment and outlines a solutions that can be applied repeatedly, with each implementation being unique (Alexander, Ishikawa, et al., 1977). The collection of the patterns creates a pattern language, this is an organized and coherent set of patterns, each pattern describes a problem linked to a solution that can be used in many ways within a specific context. Patterns can be in confliction with each other or complement each other, this can be made clear in a pattern field.

In this research, residents of Oud Mathenesse have specific needs and behaviour for particular spaces. The interpretation of these needs varies significantly, influence by personal, cultural, social, historical, economic, and contextual backgrounds. Consequently, needs are subjectively explained and interpreted, introducing potential ambiguity in design processes. Shifting from the notion of needs to understanding what people are inclined to do (tendencies) implies assuming that they will engage in those activities whenever possible. As urban designers we have to make sure that people can do what they are trying to do by making sure the

environments allows for it (Alexander & Poyner, 1966). However, conflicts may arise under certain conditions where tendencies clash. In such conflicting situations, relying solely on tendencies is insufficient. Design intervention becomes necessary to rearrange the environment and alleviate conflicting tendencies (Alexander & Poyner, 1966).

Patterns share a consistent layout, describing recurring problems within society or cities along with their core solutions. Alexander asserts that these solutions can be applied countless times, each time with unique implementation (1977). The key benefit of the pattern language for this research lies in its ability to structure theoretical findings and provide practical design principles. Patterns are depicted in a specific format, including a picture, introduction to the pattern's context, a statement describing the pattern, empirical background of the problem, a statement outlining the solution, a diagram illustrating the solution, and the relationship of the pattern with others. Additionally, this thesis research examines the four principles outlined by Luten (2008) in relation to each pattern, assessing if the pattern addresses these guidelines. Moreover, the formulated user groups exhibit specific relationships with certain problems and solutions, which will also be reflected in the patterns.

The pattern format

Patterns are depicted in a specific format, including a picture, introduction to the pattern's context, a statement describing the pattern, empirical background of the problem, a statement outlining the solution, a diagram illustrating the solution, and the relationship of the pattern with others. Additionally, this thesis research examines the four principles outlined by Luten (2008) in relation to each pattern, assessing if the pattern addresses these principles. Moreover, the formulated user groups exhibit specific relationships with certain problems and solutions, which will also be reflected in the patterns. Some patterns will be more related with improving public life, while others strongly with public space. The public life patterns are blue coloured and the public space patterns are white coloured.

User groups
During the ethnographic research in Oud Mathenesse, various user groups were identified through observations, interviews, and interactions. This groups often share similar lifestyles, despite differences in ethnic backgrounds and ages. Each group experiences safety and the environment differently, leading to diverse needs and behaviours. These user groups provide distinct lenses through which you can view a situation. In the research, these user groups will be utilized to examine situations and locations from multiple lenses.

To comprehend how different groups differ but are also similar to each other, four groups have been established for this research. This can help to generate specific design principles for Oud Mathenesse and understand the different perspectives of the residents.

Public space and public life
Public space and public life are connected concepts, however, they do refer to different aspects of communal interaction and urban environments. The public space is related to the physical environment that is open accessible for everyone and refers to places such as parks, squares, sidewalks and streets. Public life, refers to the social activity and interactions that occur within public spaces. This is about how people engage with each other and with their environment and other activities and events that take place in public spaces.

In this patterns booklet some patterns are related mostly to the public space and focus on direct design implications, this patterns have as goal to improve public life but the implication is clearly public space related. The public life patterns are abstract and more intangible, they focus more specifically on the human experience and how the physical environment influences this experience and social dynamics, cultural activities, gatherings and daily routines.

C.1 Format (titel)

Statement on space and behaviour

Connected to: relation to other patterns

Practical implications
Explanation how a pattern can be put to practice. What is necessary to make it happen.

Theoratical back-up
Theoretical back-up or back-up from observations and interviews.

Conflict
Sometimes there may be conflict between patterns or by implementing this pattern, this will be highlighted here.

Usergroup

User group that is related to the pattern

The user groups are formed through research. Some user groups have different perceptions of the physical and social environments and are more related with specific patterns.

Related safety theme

Theme for save design that is related to the pattern

This are the four principles formulated by Luten (2008). The patterns will be evaluated of the help by improving these themes.

- Accessibility
- Visibility
- Legibility
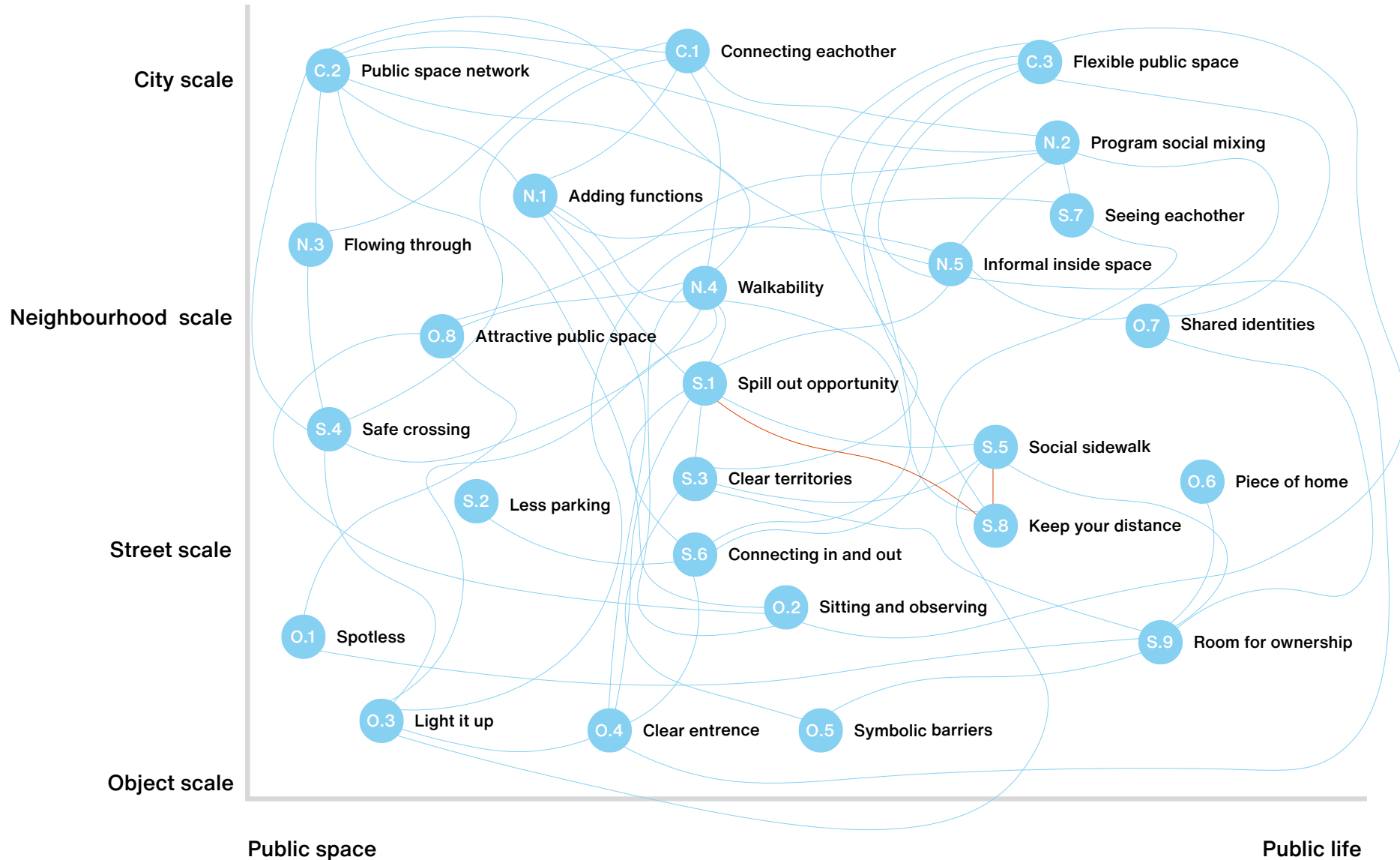- Attractivity

The pattern field

Patterns together will strengthen each other and enable and establish a higher goal. The relations between the patterns will make their impact greater. To illustrate these connections and depict the effects of patterns, a pattern field is created. This framework serves to show the interactions and dependencies among patterns.

An important expansion of Alexander's (1977) patterns is provided by Salingaros (2000), who introduces the concept of pattern network. In his work The structure of Pattern Languages, he emphasizes the connectivity of patterns as a crucial aspect. Salingaros (2000) asserts that all patterns are interconnected, with varying degrees of significance. These connections may arise from generalizations on a larger scale or from offering alternative yet equally valid solutions to the same problem. It is these interconnections between patterns that give the language its structure, enabling the approach to complex problems. Salingaros (2000) further contends that patterns serve as the essential groundwork for any design solution to engage with human beings, as they facilitate links between social and spatial patterns.

The significance of pattern language structure and connectivity is paramount in this thesis research due to the interrelation and dependence between social and spatial patterns for effective solutions. For instance, maintaining personal distance to ensure safety and control over personal space necessitates sidewalks capable of accommodating such distances. Simultaneously, social interactions, like casual chats or encounters, occur on sidewalks. It is imperative that both social situations coexist harmoniously on the street and sidewalks, with design considerations accommodating these needs.

The pattern field in this context spans from the city to the object scale on one axis, and from public space to public life on the other

The pattern field

City scale

C.2 Public space network

C.1 Connecting eachother

C.3 Flexible public space

N.2 Program social mixing

N.1 Adding functions

S.7 Seeing eachother

N.3 Flowing through

N.5 Informal inside space

Neighbourhood scale

N.4 Walkability

O.8 Attractive public space

O.7 Shared identities

S.1 Spill out opportunity

S.4 Safe crossing

S.5 Social sidewalk

O.6 Piece of home

S.3 Clear territories

S.2 Less parking

S.8 Keep your distance

Street scale

S.6 Connecting in and out

O.2 Sitting and observing

O.1 Spotless

S.9 Room for ownership

O.3 Light it up

O.4 Clear entrence

O.5 Symbolic barriers

Object scale

Public space

Public life

Overview of patterns

C.1 Connecting eachother
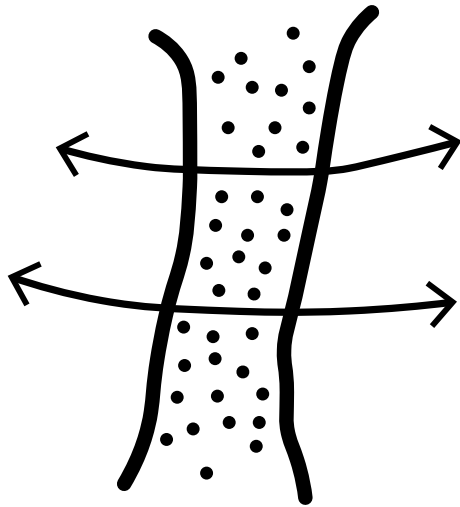
Porose boundaries create better urban connectivity and social surveillance making people feel safer.

Connected to | **N.1 | N.2 | N.3 | N.4 | S.4**

Practical implications
Through fieldwork and interviews, specific locations within the area have been pinpointed for potential enhancements in terms of accessibility and connectivity. Franselaan, for instance, could serve as a more efficient link between Landenbuurt and Schepenbuurt. This can be done by improving the cross roads (S.4), better walkability (N.4) and adding new functions that will attract different people at different time during the day (N.1). The identity of the borders can be improved by improving the walkability, adding green and creating better sidewalks. With the future in mind especially the dike will be an important barrier to improve to connect Oud Mathenesse with the Merwehaven.

Theoretical back-up
Richard Sennet talked about the open city where instead of hard borders there must be porose boundaries (2018), This porous boundaries allow for interaction and exchange between different social groups and individuals. This porose boundaries are open for movement and interaction and create more dynamic spaces. During fieldwork and interviews with residents borders were identified. They mentioned mostly the dike and the Franselaan as borders. As mentioned as one of the guidelines by Luten the accessibility or the connectivity is imported for the social safety (Luten, 2008).
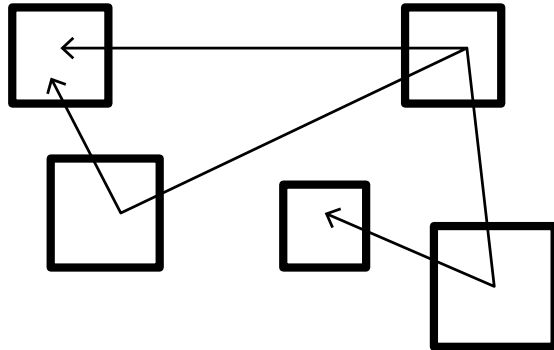
Usergroups

Related safety themes

🔵 **Accessibility**

🟠 **Visibility**

🟢 **Legibility**

Public space network

Practical implications

By creating a better network between public spaces by improving walkability (N.4), they will be used more frequently and the route between places will be more used as well. By creating a diversity of public places this will accommodate places for a diverse range of people.

Theoretical back-up

A well-designed network of public spaces fosters both physical and social connections. By strategically locating services along these pathways and linking them, people are encouraged to move about, increasing opportunities for social interactions. When these public spaces are diverse and adaptable, they can cater to various users throughout the day.

Usergroups

Related safety themes

- 🔵 Accessibility
- 🟢 Legibility
- 🟡 Attractivity

By creating a diversity of public spaces at strategic locations this spots can function as a network within a city.

Connected to | C.1 | N.1 | N.2 | N.3 | N.4 | N.5 | S.4 | O.2 |

C.3 Flexible public places

Public places need to be flexible in order to respond to different degrees of privacy needs and different behavior styles of visitors.

Connected to | N.5 | S.3 | S.6 | S.8 | O.2 |

Practical implications
A public place can accommodate places for groups to gather but also some quiet seating spot for a couple to have a conversation. This two activities require different spatial organisations. There can be zones more group orientated and more for individuals or couples. In this way the different groups or individuals can keep their desired distance. In order to keep this distances the zones or territories within this space must be clear (S.9). Incorporating activities throughout both the day and evening will foster social life, thereby enhancing social surveillance.

Theoretical back-up
Not everyone wants to use the public space the same and feels the same in public space. This is depending on you as individual, you in a group or from a specific social group. Therefore the public space must be flexible to provide this different needs (Altman, 1975). When you as an individual can not maintain this distance you feel less in control over your privacy and personal space and therefore also more unsafe. When a public space is designed in a flexible way this will create spaces for different people and can accommodate a place for everyone or at different times, different groups can appropriate a space. This can create places where people build public familiarity. During ethnographic mapping it became clear that the public spaces are often used only by one user group instead of variety of groups as a result some groups feels excluded from this spaces.
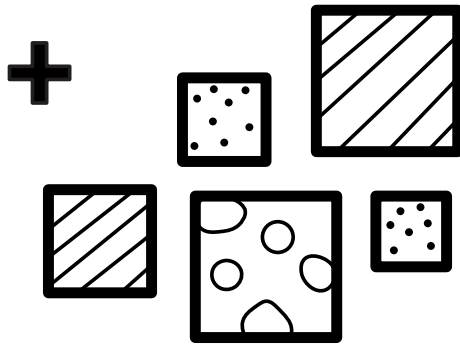
Usergroups

Related safety themes

● Accessibility
● Visibility
● Legibility
● Attractivity

Adding functions

When there are a lot of functions in an area this will increase public life, activate a place and make it less desolated and therefore create higher percieved safety.

Connected to | C.1 | C.2 | N.4 | N.5 | S.1 | O.4 |

Practical implications
The municipality can stimulate more economic activities in the neigh-bourhood. Also adding cultural functions such as sport facilities, music building, library or cultural community centre for classes can create more diversity in functions. Besides adding functions, making sure certain functions can not be there can improve the perceived safety as well. Currently there are multiple liquor stores in the area which attract specific group of people.

Theoretical back-up
By adding multiple functions such as shops, sport, libraries, housing etc. there will be more movement and attraction to this functions. This will create more people on the street (Kopinsky et al., 1987). The as-pect of visibility will increase because more people are on the street thus more social surveillance (Lute, 2008). During interviews almost all the resident mentioned the lack of functions in the area, when there will be more functions in the area the residents will perceive their environment as more vibrant and perceive it more positively.
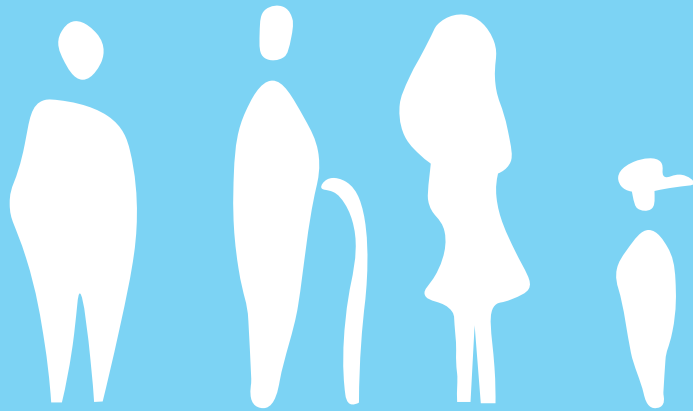
User groups

Related safety themes

● Attractivity
● Visibility

N.2 Program social mixing

There must be functions for a mix of social groups, this will improve the familiarity and make people trust each other more.

Connected to | C.1 | C.2 | N.5 | S.7 |

Practical implications
By introducing more programs into the neighborhood where social interactions can occur and strategically locating these initiatives, we can strengthen the community through shared facilities. These spaces will provide a common area for residents to meet and connect.

Theoretical back-up
By adding programs that promote social interaction, we can create spaces where people from different social groups can come together and engage with one another. This will enhance the sense of community and public familiarity. These spaces will also encourage conversations about neighborhood issues and motivate residents to take action.
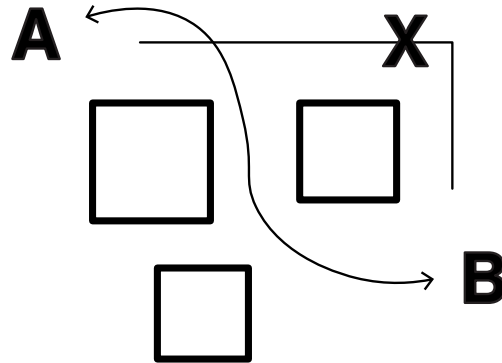
Usergroups

Related safety themes

- Legibility
- Attractivity

Flowing through

A X

B

Passing though roads will promote a bigger flow of traffic though streets and neighborhoods and will increase social surveillance.

Connected to | C.1 | C.2 | S.4 |

Practical implications
Establish additional roadways to foster connectivity between various areas and neighbourhoods. By strategically positioning key public amenities, such as schools, to encourage pedestrian traffic flow, facilitating movement for children to and from these locations. Additionally, implement a cohesive network of bicycle lanes and sidewalks that extends throughout the area. These newly established routes should prioritize slow-moving traffic to make interaction possible among residents.

Theoretical back-up
When a road network is well connected and within a neighbourhood this will create a flow of traffic (walking, cycling or cars). This flow of people passing through an area will create more public life and therefore make people feel more safe (Kopinsky et al., 1987). Observations and research from Gehl have shown that when people walk or cycle, they tend to linger longer in public spaces, engage with their surroundings, and interact with others. This can foster a sense of belonging and community, as people become more connected to their neighbourhood and the people.

Conflict
The introduction of a new network within an area may stimulate undesired flows of traffic, potentially leading to negative impact on an area or create more nuisance in a street. Hence, clear territories (S.3) and ownership (S.8) becomes crucial. This facilitates social monitoring within the area, empowering residents to address and discourage undesirable behaviour effectively.

Usergroups

Related safety themes
🔵 Accessibility

🟠 Visibility

Walkability

If the walkability in a neighbourhood is good there will be more movement in the streets and more social surveillance.

Connected to | C.1 | C.2 | S.1 | S.4 | S.8 | O.2 | O.3 | O.4 |

Practical implications

Effective sidewalks and a well-connected street network in a neighbourhood should be visually appealing and user-friendly. It's essential that services are conveniently located nearby. Additionally, there should be a sufficient number of strategically placed safe crosswalks. Enough benches can help for a pleasant walk environment and amenities and appealing facades can make a walk more enjoyable.

Theoretical back-up

The pathways between homes and essential services, as well as the walking routes around neighbourhood amenities and the timing of these walks, significantly impact public life within a community. Thus, a neighbourhood's walkability directly correlates with the vibrancy of its public life, contingent upon a well-designed public space network. Without a diverse mix of functions within an area, residents may lack compelling reasons to engage in walking activities. It's noteworthy that people typically walk at an average speed of 5 km per hour, allowing them to notice and appreciate various details along their route (Sim, 2019). The perceived length of a walk can be influenced by the quality of facades and public spaces encountered. During interviews, concerns were raised about the accessibility challenges for the elderly along the dike, the poor quality of sidewalks, the unappealing nature of walking along Franselaan, and the lack of attractiveness and pedestrian accessibility along the path beside the dike.

Usergroups

Related safety themes

● Accessibility
● Attractivity

N.5 Informal inside space

Community centre

When a neighbourhood has more informal inside space, people can use this as meeting space for social activities and create better community.

Connected to | C.2 | C.3 | N.1 | N.2 | S.1 | O.4 |

Practical implications

Informal indoor spaces must be strategically situated within the neighbourhood, ensuring visibility and accessibility for all. These spaces, such as libraries or community centres, serve as vital communal hubs. Implementing spill-out options (S.1) enhances the visibility and appeal of these locations, clearly indicating ongoing activities.

Theoretical back-up

These informal indoor spaces have the potential to attract diverse audiences, fostering interactions among people. Some semi-public spaces may exhibit a more open and neutral character, while others may lean towards a place primarily centred around familiar individuals or topics relevant to the immediate environment (Lofland, 1989). It's crucial to have both types available in the area, as some locations may have barriers to entry, while others facilitate deeper connections than more public and formal spaces. Informal indoor spaces can include libraries, community centres, schoolyards, corner shops, cafes, and sports clubs. During conversations, the absence of community centres was noted. Given the dense living conditions, an additional indoor public space could provide residents with extra room outside their own apartments.

Conflict

These spaces should be flexible (C.3) and welcoming to a diverse range of people, rather than accommodating a space exclusively to a particular social group (N.2).
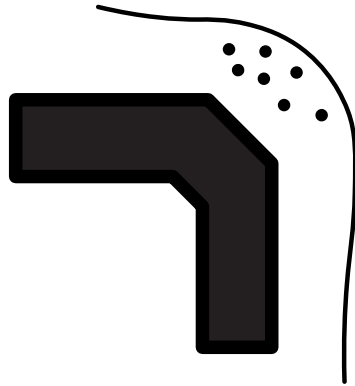
User groups

Related safety themes

- 🔵 Accessibility
- 🟠 Visibility
- 🟡 Attractivity

Spill out opportunity

When there is room for spill out, this will make public spaces more visible, more inviting and accessible to visit and therefore activates public spaces.

Connected to | N.1 | N.4 | N.5 | S.3 | S.5 | S.6 | O.4 |

Practical implications
Designing sidewalks to allow for potential extensions of indoor spaces or the addition of terraces signals activity within a building. This enhances visibility, accessibility, and makes the interior inviting. Therefore the plinth should be open and transparent. The connection between the building and the sidewalk contributes to a sense of safety as passersby can observe and comprehend the surroundings, fostering a greater understanding of ongoing activities. However the sidewalk needs to be able to let people keep their distance (S.9) by making the territories clear.

Theoretical back-up
Active generator can indicate that certain functions are happening somewhere and make this clear to people what is happening there (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design guidelines for queensland, 2007). This spill out zones can functions as a social place to have a conversation without standing other people in the way. During ethnographic mapping, areas known as spill-out zones are identified, which are either underutilized or lack clarity for individuals, hindering others. For instance, the Polish supermarket attracted men who congregated and conversed in front of the store, inadvertently obstructing the sidewalk and impeding pedestrian flow.
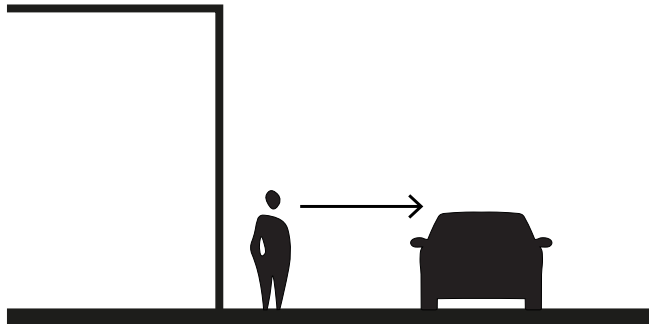
Usergroups

Related safety themes

- 🔵 Accessibility
- 🟠 Visibility
- 🟢 Legibility
- 🟡 Attractivity

S.2 Less parking

Fewer cars on the street or strategically placed parking spaces will improve visibility and, consequently, enhance the perception of safety.

Connected to | S.6 |

Practical implications
By locating the parking spots more strategically this will help to improve visibility in the streets but also from within the street.

Theoretical back-up
Visibility and attractivity are important for creating safe environments (Luten, 2008). Cars can influence the visibility on the street towards other parts of the streets and also from inside the building towards the street. Not only do cars influence the visibility also the attractivity is influenced. In the neighbourhood there are a lot of people who work in construction and have big vans, reducing parking spaces will be hard. Yet people do complain about wrong parked cars.
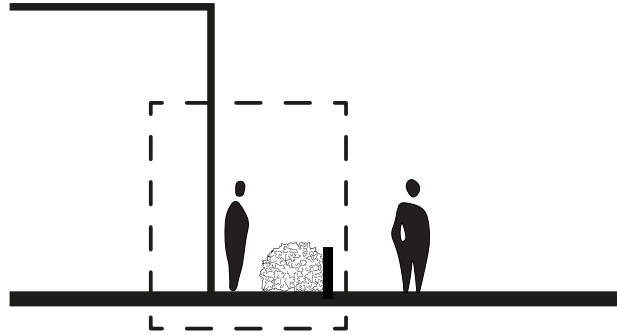
Usergroups

Related safety themes

- 🔵 Accessibility
- 🟠 Visibility
- 🟡 Attractivity

Clear territory

Well-defined spatial territories create clarity about maintenance and social rules about space.

Connected to | C.3 | S.1 | S.5 | S.9 | O.5 |

Practical implications

The sidewalk, front garden, or stairways of buildings offer intriguing opportunities to establish distinct territorial boundaries. In neighbourhoods where numerous spaces are shared, this can often blur territorial lines. This phenomenon is closely tied to the concept of ownership (S.8). When a collective feels a shared responsibility for a space, they are more likely to upkeep it and reinforce its territorial definition.

Theoretical back-up

Legibility, particularly in terms of territoriality, significantly influences perceived safety (Luten, 2008). Unclear boundaries can lead to undesirable behaviour and unwanted contact with others. People may seek to maintain personal space or avoid particular social groups (Altman, 1975). Clear territories aid in understanding the environment. Moreover, specific territories can be utilized by distinct groups, allowing them to claim and uphold these spaces (Van Dorst, 2005).
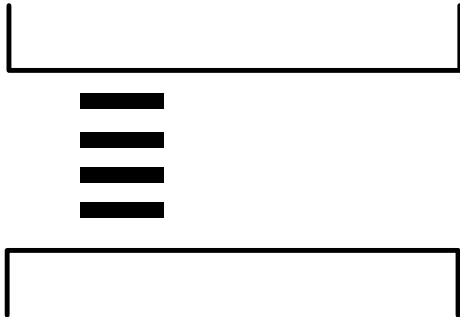
Usergroups

Related safety themes

- 🔵 Accessibility
- 🟠 Visibility
- 🟢 Legibility
- 🟡 Attractivity

Safe crossing

When a street has more safe crossings this will lower the speed and make the street more user friendly and perceived as save.

Connected to | C.1 | C.2 | N.3 | N.4 | O.3 |

Practical implications
Increasing the number of safe crossing points along Franselaan will enhance its user-friendliness. Additional crossings throughout the area contribute to improved accessibility, attractiveness, and overall user-friendliness of the neighbourhood (N.4). It's essential that these crossroads align with the pedestrian network (C.2) and nearby public spaces. Clear markings and proper maintenance are crucial for ensuring safety and quality for both pedestrians and vehicles at these crossings.

Theoretical back-up
Safe crossings play a vital role in enhancing the accessibility of locations, with their effectiveness depending on the connectivity (C.1) and walkability of the area (N.4). Concerns have been raised about speeding along the Franselaan and the disregard of crosswalks. Additionally, complaints have been voiced regarding the difficulty of crossing the dike, particularly due to steep and poorly maintained stairs, which pose challenges for the elderly.
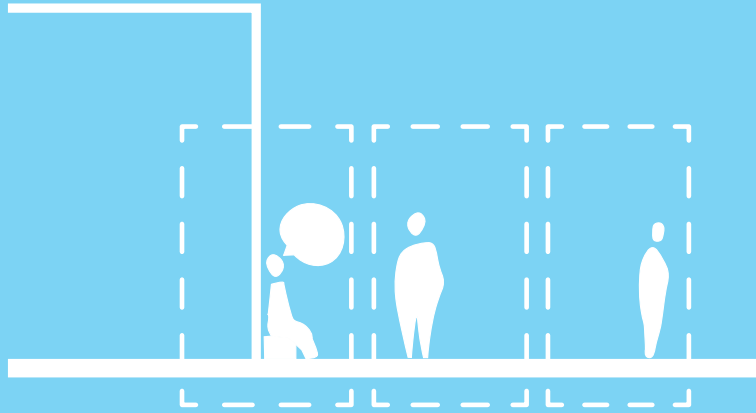
Usergroups

Related safety themes

● Accessibility
● Attractivity

S.5　Social sidewalk

The sidewalk can function as a encounter place for neighbours where people can have a interaction.

Connected to | S.1 | S.3 | S.9 | O.3 |

Practical implications
The sidewalk can be structured to accommodate various activities through the creation of transition zones. For instance, an area dedicated to placemaking can feature small chairs or seating arrangements. Open and unobstructed facades are crucial for fostering interaction between indoor and outdoor spaces (S.6). Additionally, delineating zones for walking and encounter moments allows individuals to maintain personal space and distance (S.9). Safety considerations entail ensuring adequate lighting along the sidewalk (O.3). Furthermore, the choice of materials and integration of greenery can enhance the quality and attractiveness of the sidewalk, while also delineating different territories effectively.

Theoretical back-up
Jane Jacobs argues that a well-designed sidewalk can enhance public life and promote surveillance of the street (Jacobs, 2016). Providing space for casual encounters fosters public familiarity among residents, strengthening community bonds (Blokland, 2008). Territories situated in front of residences or stores serve as transition zones between private and public realms, clarifying their respective functions (Van Dorst, 2005).

Conflict
Establishing clearly defined zones and designated areas is essential (S.3) to prevent ambiguity in territories, which can potentially lead to undesirable behaviour. Certain residents prefer to avoid excessive social gatherings on the sidewalks, a preference influenced by the level of public activity at the specific location within the neighbourhood.
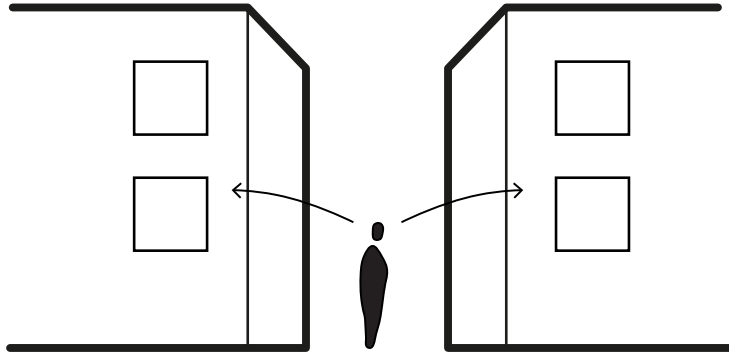
Usergroups

Related safety themes

- Accessibility
- Visibility
- Legibility
- Attractivity

Connecting in and out

A good visual connection between building and street will create more visibility on the street and increase the feeling of presence of people.

Connected to | C.3 | S.1 | S.2 | S.7 | O.4 |

Practical implications
Achieving this involves humanizing the scale of the environment, ensuring an optimal distance between buildings and public spaces, strategically positioning trees, and eliminating parking spots that obstruct views (S.2). Additionally, on a building scale, factors such as the height of the ground floor, spacing between front doors, and the placement of balconies or windows play crucial roles. Ensuring seamless physical access between indoor and outdoor spaces is also essential.

Theoretical back-up
Visibility, as outlined by Luten (2005), is a key factor in enhancing the perception of safety. Designing streets and public spaces to be visible from buildings increases surveillance, thereby boosting social safety. Additionally, this improved visibility fosters a sense of security, as individuals feel more confident about seeking assistance if needed (Kopinsky et al., 1987). Furthermore, incorporating hybrid spaces that blur the boundaries between indoor and outdoor areas, along with ensuring seamless physical access between them, contributes to overall safety (Sim, 2019).
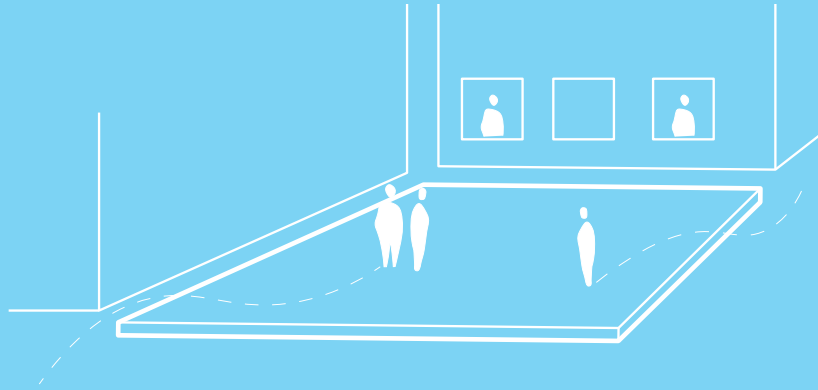
Usergroups

Related safety themes

● Visibility
● Legibility
● Attractivity

S.7   Seeing eachother

The public space must be clear and transparent for everyone in order to orientate yourself within the public space and feel safe.

Connected to | N.2 | S.6 | O.3 |

Practical implications
Public space must be open and readable for everyone. Public amenities (N.5) can stimulate place where interaction happen and create social control.

Theoretical back-up
When you are in public place you orientate yourself from others and you can have a protective or careful reaction when you are not able to read the space (Altman, 1975). Also seeing other you are not familiar with can help building up public familiarity. Informal surveillance, conducted by residents and passersby, plays a vital role in ensuring social safety within a neighbourhood. Familiar strangers, individuals who may not be personally acquainted but are recognizable due to shared daily routines or paths, contribute to this informal surveillance. This concept of public familiarity, as described by Blokland, fosters social surveillance and a sense of security within communities (Blokland, 2008). During conversations with residents of the apartments with inner gardens, they expressed a preference for the open design of the gardens. This design allowed them to maintain control and oversee the garden, ensuring that there were no random individuals sleeping in secluded corners.
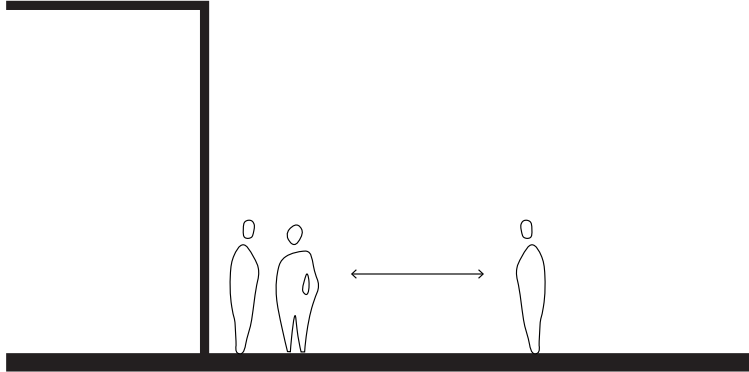
Usergroups

Related safety themes

● Visibility

S.8 Keep your distance

Individuals seek to preserve their personal space in public settings to manage their environment and maintain a sense of security, thereby asserting control over their surrounding.

Connected to | N.4 | C.3 |

Practical implications
By making public spaces and sidewalk with clear zones that relate to the desired distance for personal space or social space, people can maintain their desired distance. By making the sidewalk wide enough to maintain the right distance. Creating social space around places where this is desired.

Theoretical back-up
Altman's theory of privacy, particularly his definition of privacy as the selective control of access to oneself or one's group, significantly influences perceived safety (Altman, 1975). Recognizing the importance of regulating privacy is crucial for safeguarding individual freedom of choice. Several individuals mentioned during the conversation that they dislike the group of men socializing on the street, forcing them to alter their walking route. While encountering this situation occasionally may be tolerable, experiencing it repeatedly in one's own neighborhood can lead to a sense of discomfort within one's own domain.
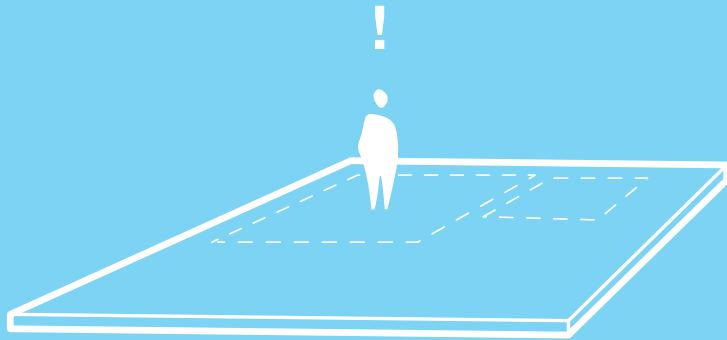
Usergroups

Related safety themes

- 🔵 Accessibility
- 🟠 Visibility
- 🟢 Legibility
- 🟡 Attractivity

Room for ownership

When people have a feeling of ownership this will lead to caring for spaces and create responsibility.

Connected to | S.3 | S.5 | O.1 | O.5 |

Practical implications
The design of a public or community space plays a pivotal role in encouraging appropriation and fostering a sense of ownership. This can be achieved through distinct zoning (S.3) and prominent features where individuals can exert control. When these spaces possess a recognizable identity or elements that resonate with people (O.7), it enhances the likelihood of their appropriation.

Theoretical back-up
When individuals appropriate and assert ownership over a space, they establish a sense of connection and can express their identity within it, fostering a feeling of belonging and empowerment (Van Dorst, 2005). Facilitating a sense of ownership aids in defining and comprehending territories. According to Minoura's research (2016), ownership is seen as a type of appropriation, wherein appropriation is seen as usage patterns and interactions with spaces, indicating a relationship between the space's user and the built environment itself. Places that are unappropriated do not invite such engagement and are a different sort of territory (Minoura, 2016).

Conflict
Ambiguity regarding territorial boundaries can lead to confusion regarding ownership and usage rights, influencing people's behaviour within a space. Consequently, areas with unclear territoriality may become devoid of meaning for residents, neglected, underutilized, or prone to undesirable social behaviour, ultimately resulting in a lack of social control or disorder (Minoura, 2016). Therefore, the establishment of clear territories is essential.
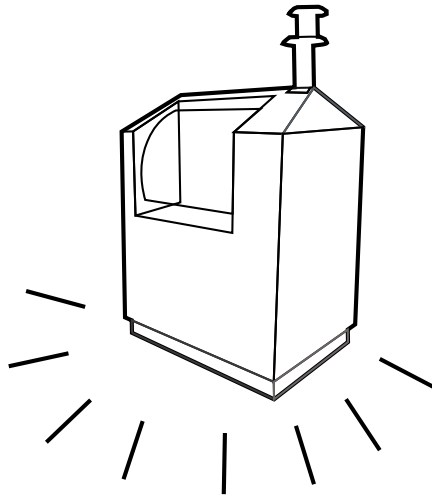
Usergroups

Related safety themes

🔵 Accessibility
🟢 Legibility

Spotless

A public space that is clean and well-maintained improves the feeling of safety.

Connected to | **S.9 | O.8** |

Practical implications
Strategically situating bins in convenient locations and providing clear instructions on their use can effectively decrease littering on the streets. Additionally, addressing this issue is inherently social, as community members may hold each other accountable for their behaviour. The concept of ownership (S.8) is intertwined with this pattern, as individuals who feel a sense of ownership over a place are more likely to take responsibility for its upkeep and maintenance.

Theoretical back-up
A well-maintained environment encourages ongoing upkeep (Luten, 2008). The broken window theory suggests that a single broken window can lead to increased littering and deterioration, ultimately creating an environment where no one feels accountable. Through fieldwork and interviews, numerous residents expressed concerns about widespread littering and the dumping of trash in gardens, contributing to a culture of indifference. In this neighbourhood, residents live dense and small shared spaces, sometimes leading to a diminished sense of individual responsibility.
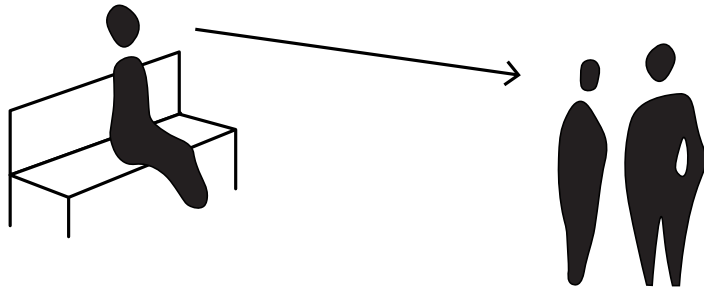
Usergroups

Related safety themes

● Attractivity

O.2 Sitting and observing

A bench or chair in public place must be located at a place where people can observe and socialize this makes people feel more in control of their surrounding and increase social surveillance.

Connected to | C.2 | C.3 | N.4 |

Practical implications
Strategically placing benches in locations where people naturally want to sit and enjoy their surroundings increases the likelihood of these spaces being used by more individuals. Ensuring that the benches are visually attractive, durable, and well-maintained is essential for their effectiveness.

Theoretical back-up
If a bench is positioned to overlook a bustling street or a playground filled with children, it's likely that people will choose to sit there to observe because people like to watch people (Gehl 1980). Conversely, if the bench faces an empty street or a bush, it's less likely to attract occupants. Blokland (2008) emphasizes the importance of providing ample seating for everyone while also maintaining enough distance from others. William H. Whyte was an American urbanist, sociologist, and author best known for his study of urban spaces and human behaviour. In his book The social Life of Small Urban Spaces, he explores the dynamics of public spaces and the aspects that contribute to their success or failure (Whyte, 1980). A key observation regarding seating areas is that individuals tend to gravitate towards places where seating is available. Therefore, merely providing seating options will naturally draw people to utilize these spaces. (Whyte, 1980).

Conflict
It is crucial that seating areas are situated in busy public spaces rather than small neighbourhood streets, as the place may attract youths or specific groups and lead to disturbances. Therefore, these seating areas should be public and accessible to all.
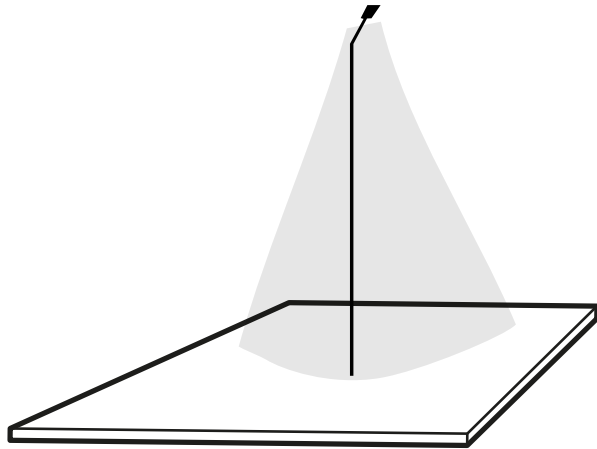
Usergroups

Related safety themes

● Visibility
● Legibility
● Attractivity

O.3 Light it up

Sufficient street lightning ensures a feeling of safety in evening and at night.

Connected to | **N.4 | S.4 | S.5 | S.7 | O.4 |**

Practical implications
The streetlights should not only be positioned along the streets for vehicles but also along the sidewalks for pedestrians and around specific sitting areas.

Theoretical back-up
Lighting plays a crucial role in enhancing visibility (Luten, 2008). People who were interviewed expressed a preference for sidewalk lighting as well, as sidewalks can often be significantly darker compared to the lanes for cars.
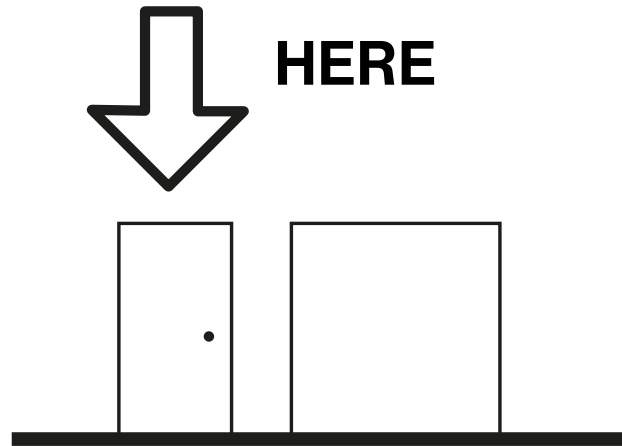
Usergroups

Related safety themes

● Visibility
● Attractivity

Clear entrence

HERE

A strategic and clear entrance will enhance public life and create encounter places.

Connected to | N.1 | N.5 | S.1 | S.6 | O.3 |

Practical implications
Visible signage on facades and clear pathways to entrances will make buildings, especially public ones, more accessible and noticeable.

Theoretical back-up
When a building is not easily visible and accessible, it can impact the perception of safety and reduce public awareness of its presence. A clear entrance communicates the activities inside and whether the public is welcome. In Oud Mathenesse, the entrance of the community center is not easily seen from the street, leading some people to be unaware of its existence.
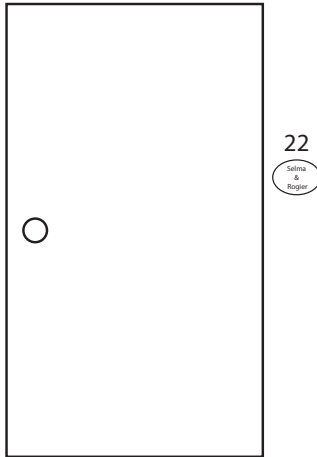
Usergroups

Related safety themes

- Accessibility
- Visibility
- Legibility

O.5 Personalisation

Symbolic barrieres such as nameplates, sights or cleartransition form public to private can create better understanding of territories you are welcome in.

Connected to | **S.3 | S.9 |**

Practical implications
Symbolic barriers play a vital role in delineating territories (S.3) and boundaries. These can take the form of front gardens or seating areas in front of a building. Fences and doors are also effective indicators of distinct boundaries between zones. Soft transitions between territories can be achieved through the choice of materials for pavements; varying pavement types can signal a shift in zones. Additionally, furniture or objects such as greenery or benches serve as clear markers between different areas.

Theoretical back-up
Symbolic barriers are essential for delineating the transition from public to private spaces (Kopinsky et al., 1987). It's crucial that these barriers are easily comprehensible to everyone. When individuals have the opportunity to personalize their territory, it signifies ownership and prevents anonymity.
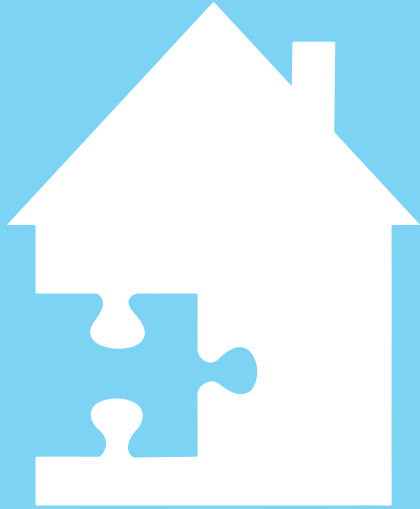
Usergroups

Related safety themes

- 🔵 Accessibility
- 🟠 Visibility
- 🟢 Legibility
- 🟡 Attractivity

A piece of home

Stores, shops, and cafés aligned with the origins or ethnic backgrounds of residents evoke a sense of belonging and recognition, fostering feelings of security and comfort.

Connected to | S.9 |

Practical implications

In Oud Mathenesse, the stores mirror the diverse ethnic backgrounds present in the area, serving as cultural hubs for various groups and representing their identities. However, as new stores catering to different demographics emerge, long-term residents may feel disconnected from these changes. To mitigate potential conflicts between communities, it's essential to implement strategies that preserve shared identities alongside these evolving patterns.

Theoretical back-up

Cultural significance also plays a pivotal role in nurturing a sense of belonging and acknowledgment within communities. When residents can attribute meaning and identity to their surroundings, they are more inclined to integrate it into their sense of self (Van Dorst, 2005). Particularly within a neighbourhood, the interplay between humans and their environment encompasses relationships, values, needs, behaviours, and lifestyles (Sim, 2019). This complexity can lead to conflicts, especially among neighbours sharing a common environment. Therefore, it's essential to acknowledge the diverse needs and aspirations of community groups in both the design and management of the built environment (Sim, 2019).

Conflict

Yet, within a community, significant diversity may occasionally foster anonymity. Research by Van Dorst indicates that rendering these differences visible can enhance social cohesion (Van Dorst, 2005). As long as the neighbourhood can cultivate a shared identity, diverse communities can coexist harmoniously.
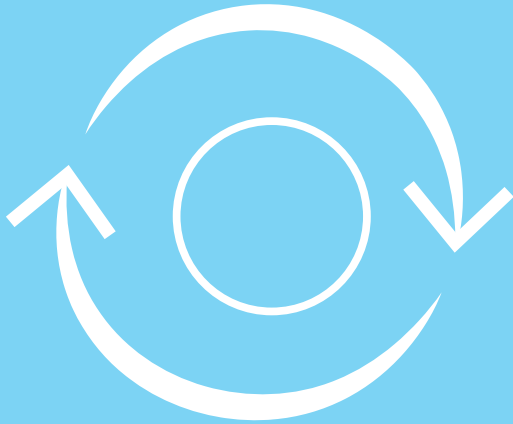
Usergroups

Related safety themes

- 🟠 Visibility
- 🟢 Legibility
- 🟡 Attractivity

0.7 Shared Identities

When the residents will develop have a shared idenitiy with their surroudning it will foster a sense of community.

Connected to | C.3 | N.2 | N.5 | S.9 |

Practical implications
This can be implemented practically by having a type of streetfurniture in the area or a unique type of public space that the neighbourhood can be known for. The poem at the beginning on the neighbourhood from Derek Otte is an example.

Theoretical back-up
This pattern, though more intangible, highlights the importance of shared identities in forming communities. When people share experiences and commonalities, it fosters connection rather than division. During the interviews, people frequently mentioned the divisions between specific groups, evident by their preference for certain cafés or places. However, living in Oud Mathenesse is a common bond they all share. Strengthening the neighborhood's identity can help to reinforce the sense of community and bridge these divides.
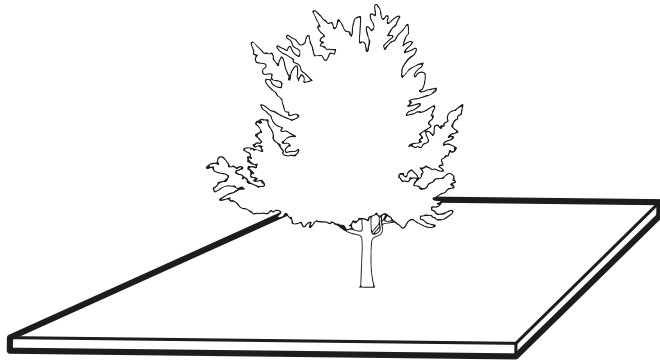
Usergroups

Related safety themes

● Attractivity

O.8 Attractive public space

A public space that is attractive and well-maintained improves the feeling of safety and stimulates out-door activities.

Connected to | N.2 | N.4 | O.1 | O.2 |

Practical implications
Enhancing the appeal of the public places in Oud Mathenesse will elevate their attractiveness and utilization. Achieving this involves establishing well-designed pathways that encourage walking and accessibility (N.4). Introducing a diverse range of vegetation ensures year-round attractive greenery, prioritizing visibility by thoughtfully positioning trees and bushes. Accommodating various functions like playgrounds, sports amenities, community gardens, and spaces for cultural or recreational events will attract diverse groups (N.2). Finally maintenance is crucial to ensure cleanliness and upkeep (O.1). Fostering community involvement fosters a sense of ownership over the public places (S.9).

Theoretical back-up
The appeal of an area significantly impacts perceived safety, as it shapes people's overall perception. Greenery holds universal value, fostering a sense of well-being and positively impacting the climate and overall neighbourhood liveability (Luten, 2008). Elements like green spaces, water features, and sunlight are universally valued in urban design for public spaces.

Usergroups

Related safety themes

- ● Accessibility
- ● Visibility
- ● Legibility
- ● Attractivity

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