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2024/2025



A CITY IS TO MEET

Enhancing the city as a meeting place through urban design

P5 PRESENTATION

CONTENT



PUBLIC MEETING SPACE IS UNDER PRESSURE

EXPOSE



MEETING IN BOSPOLDER- TUSSENDIJKEN

UNDERSTAND



SPATIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR MEETING

DEVELOP



DESIGN FOR MEETING

PROPOSE



CONCLUSION

REFLECT

PERSONAL MOTIVATION

My daily route home in the inner city center of Rotterdam



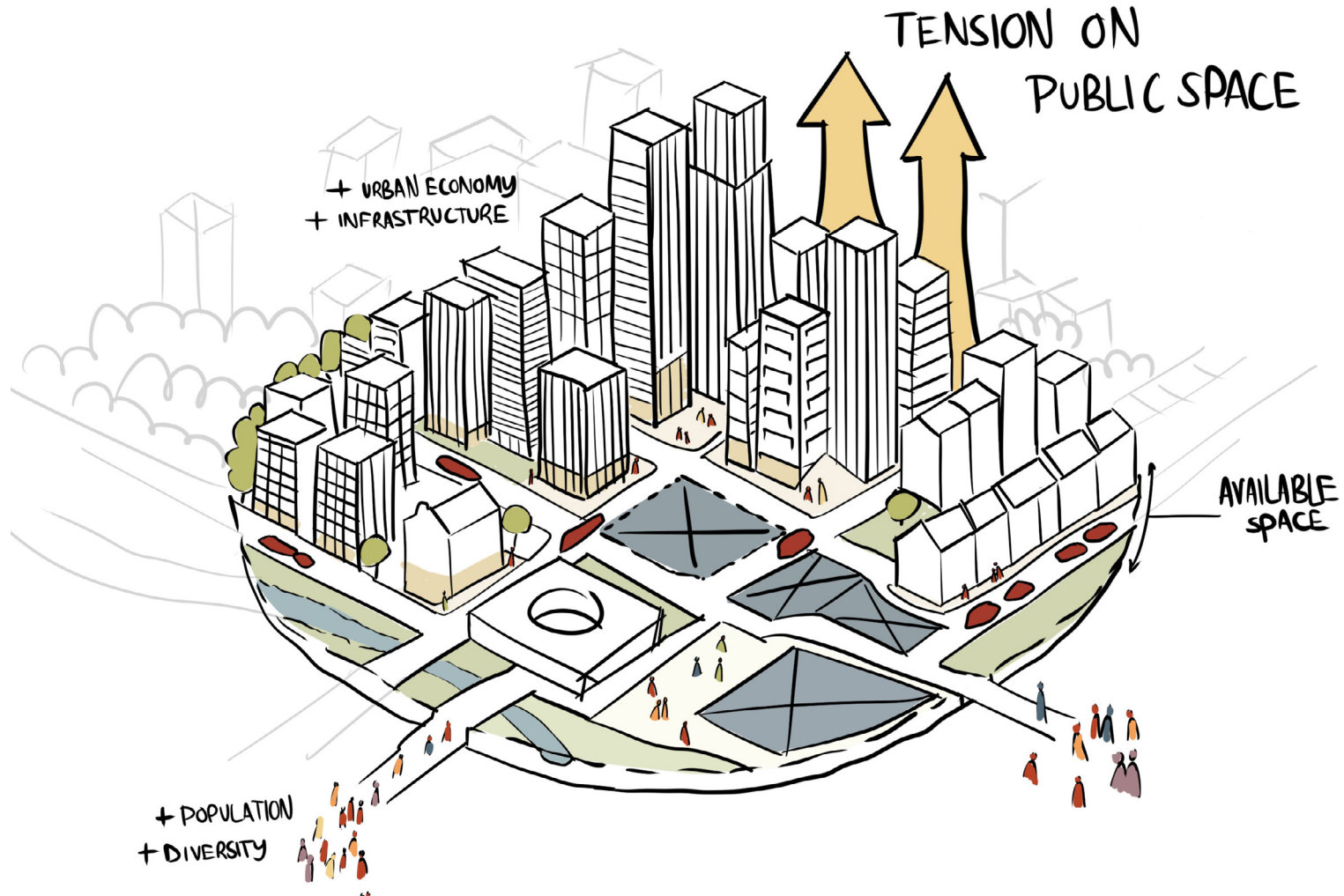
A MEETING PLACE

Where residents meet, exchange and use



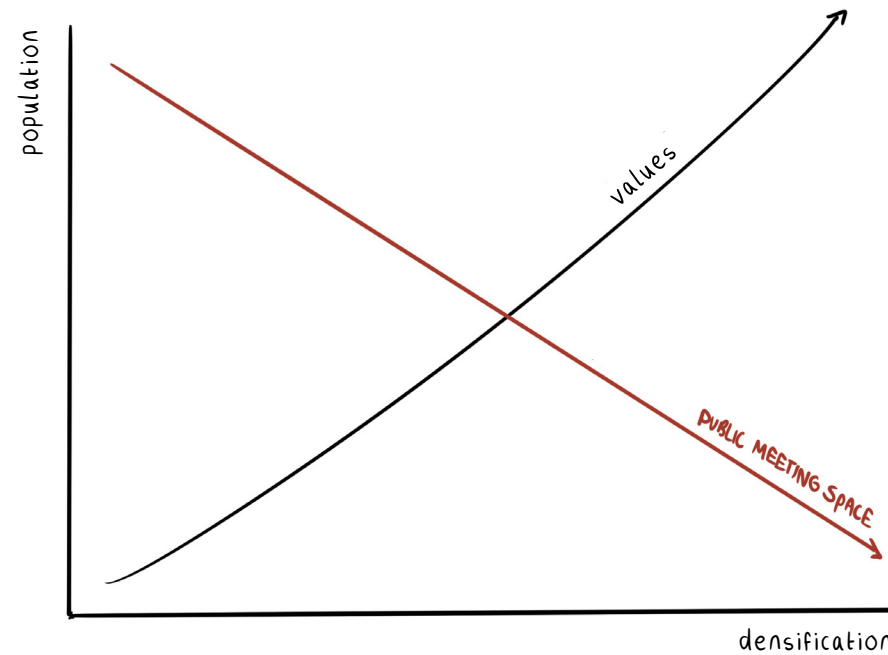
PROBLEM FIELD

Cities becoming more dense



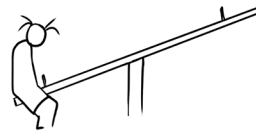
PROBLEM FIELD

Quality of public space becomes more important



WHEN LIVING TOGETHER BECOMES LONELY

Social consequences of lack of meeting space



Loneliness



Distrust



No sense of belonging



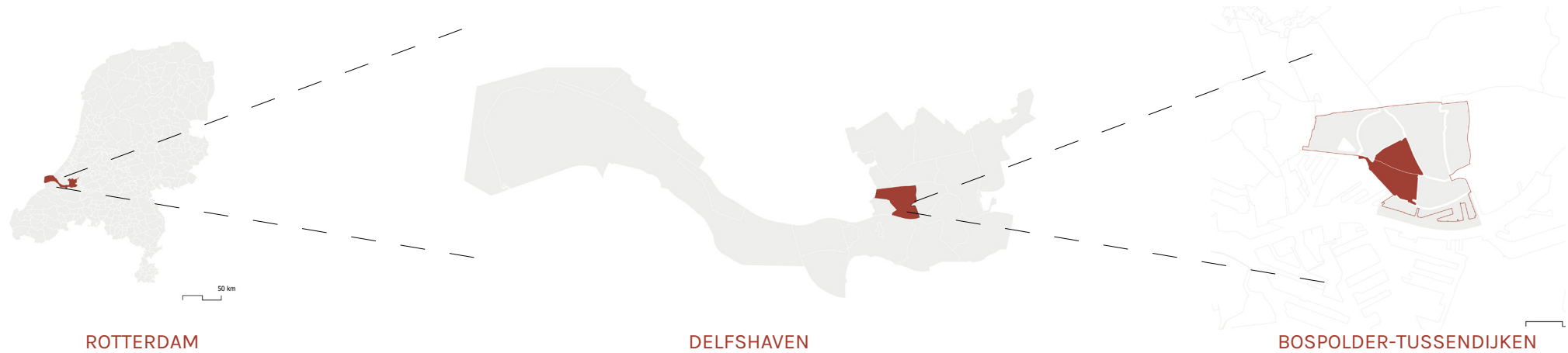
Social group tensions

MAIN RESEARCH QUESTION

HOW CAN URBAN DESIGN ENHANCE THE CITY'S ROLE AS A MEETING
PLACE IN HIGH-DENSITY, DIVERSE NEIGHBORHOODS
LIKE BOSPOLDER-TUSSENDIJKEN?

CASE STUDY SELECTION

Bospolder-Tussendijk



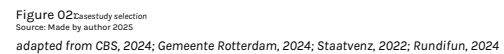
CASE STUDY SELECTION

WHERE DENSITY



Figure 01: Case study selection
Source: Made by author 2025
adapted from CBS, 2024; Gemeente Rotterdam, 2024; Staatvenz, 2022; Rundifun, 2024

WHERE DENSITY AND DIVERSITY MEET



CASE STUDY SELECTION

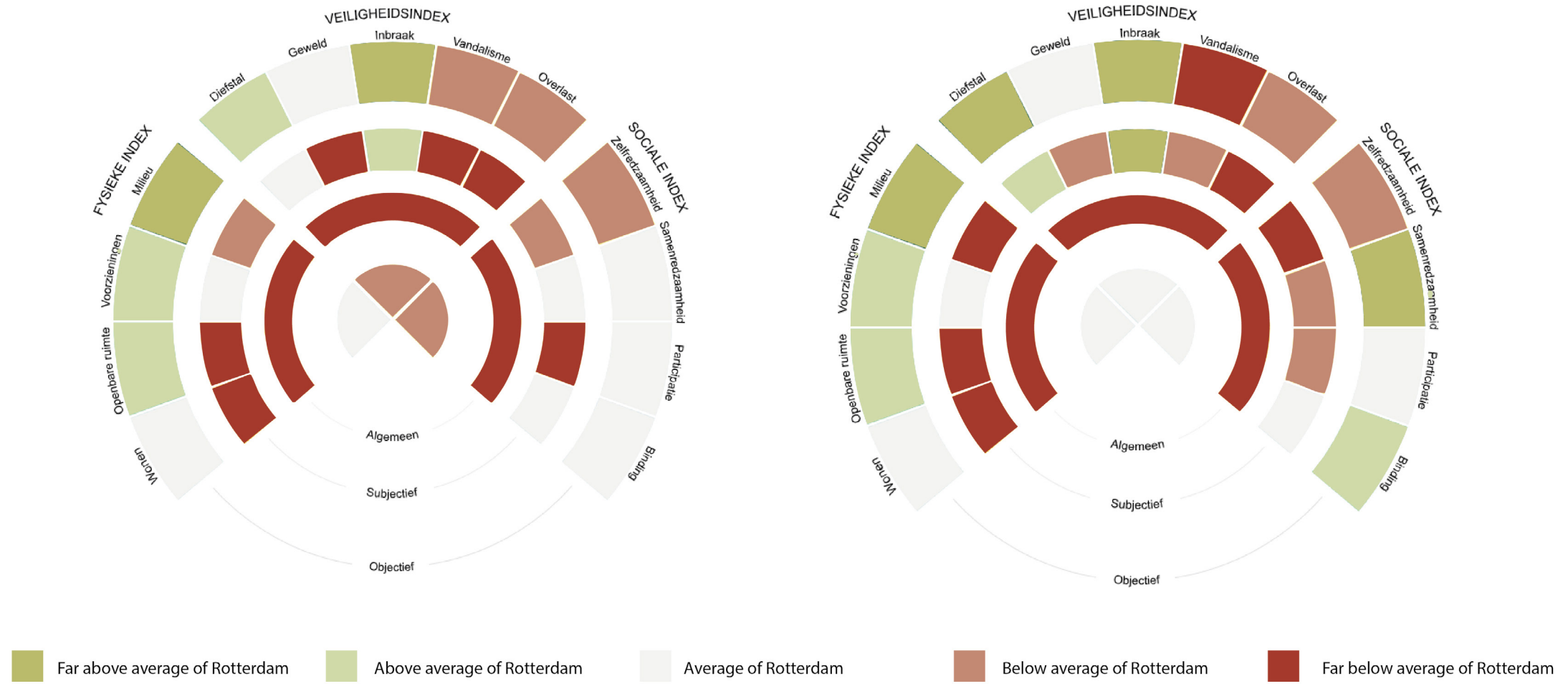
WHERE DENSITY AND DIVERSITY MEETS SOCIAL RISKS: LONELINESS



Figure 03 Case study selection
Source: Made by author 2025
adapted from CBS, 2024; Gemeente Rotterdam, 2024; Staatvenz, 2022; Rundifun, 2024

DISTRICT PROFILE

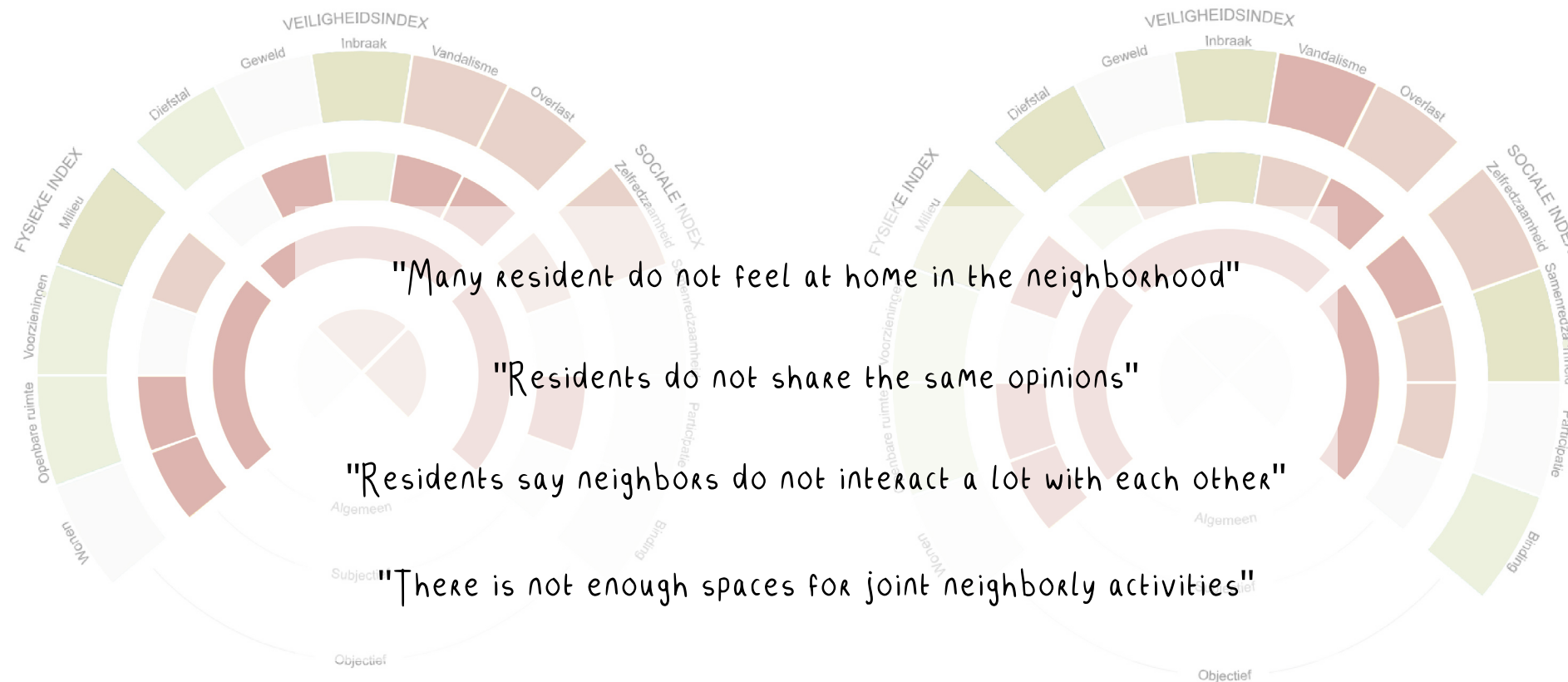
Social vulnerable neighborhoods



adapted from Gemeente Rotterdam, 2024

SOCIAL INDEX

Social vulnerable neighborhoods - quotes



adapted from Gemeente Rotterdam, 2024



MEETING IN BOSPOLDER-TUSSENDIJKEN

UNDERSTAND

SUB QUESTION 2

To what extent does the public space in Bospolder-Tussendijken facilitate meeting?



PUBLIC MEETING SPACE IS UNDER PRESSURE



MEETING IN BOSPOLDER-TUSSENDIJKEN



SPATIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR MEETING



DESIGN FOR MEETING



CONCLUSION

THE SOCIAL FUNCTION OF PUBLIC SPACE

"PUBLIC SPACE IS DEFINED AS A DOMAIN FOR EVERYDAY ACTIVITY AND IS THE CONNECTIVE TISSUE THAT BINDS DAILY LIVES TOGETHER."

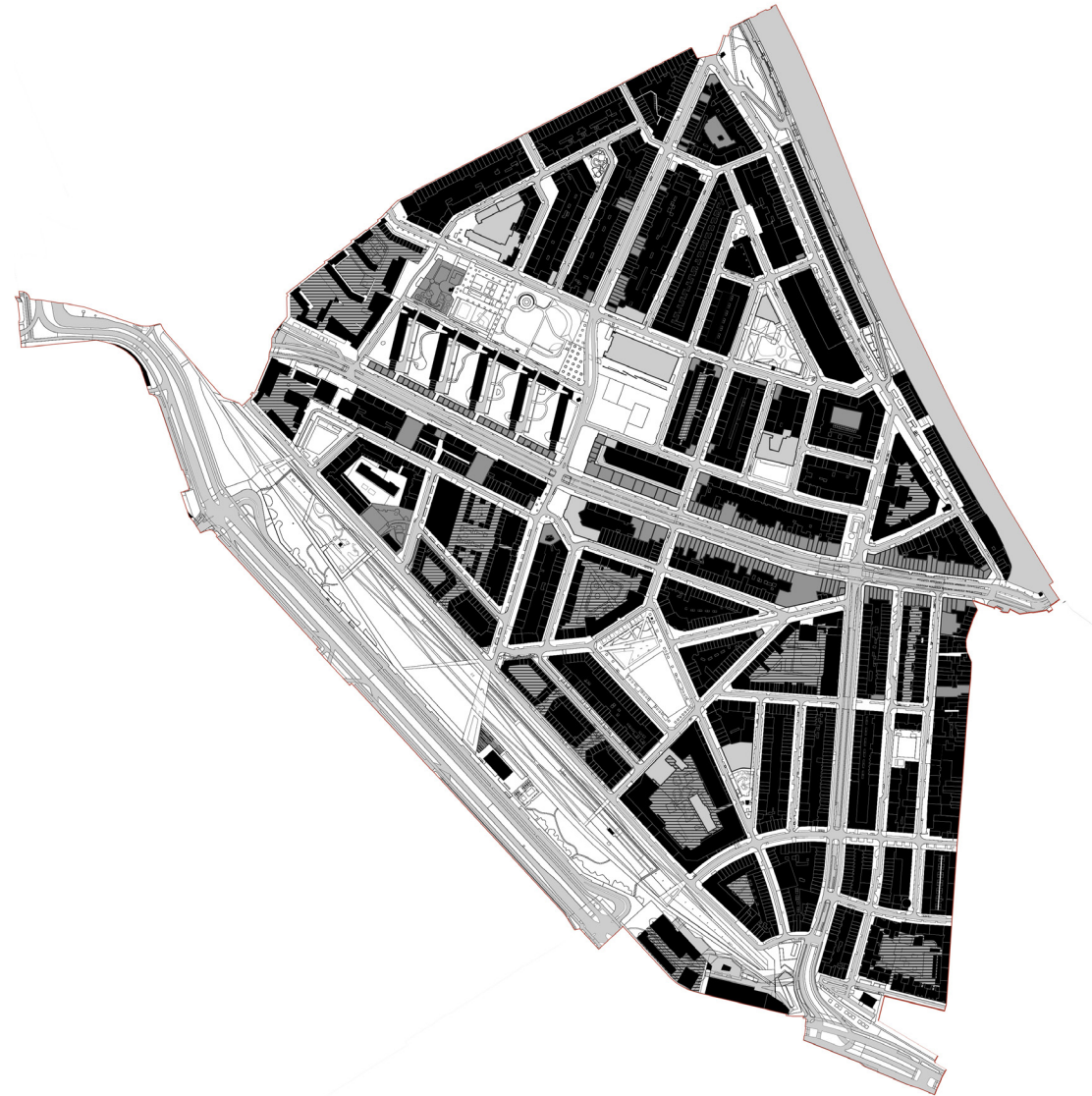
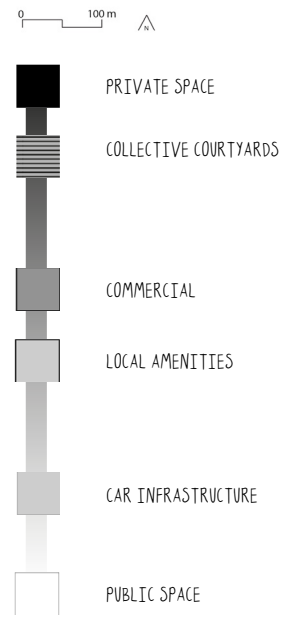


Figure 04: Noll map of Bospolder-Tussendijken
Source: Made by author 2025
Source: Crawford, 2008; Ji & Ding, 2021

THREE TYPES OF MEETING



ANONYMOUS



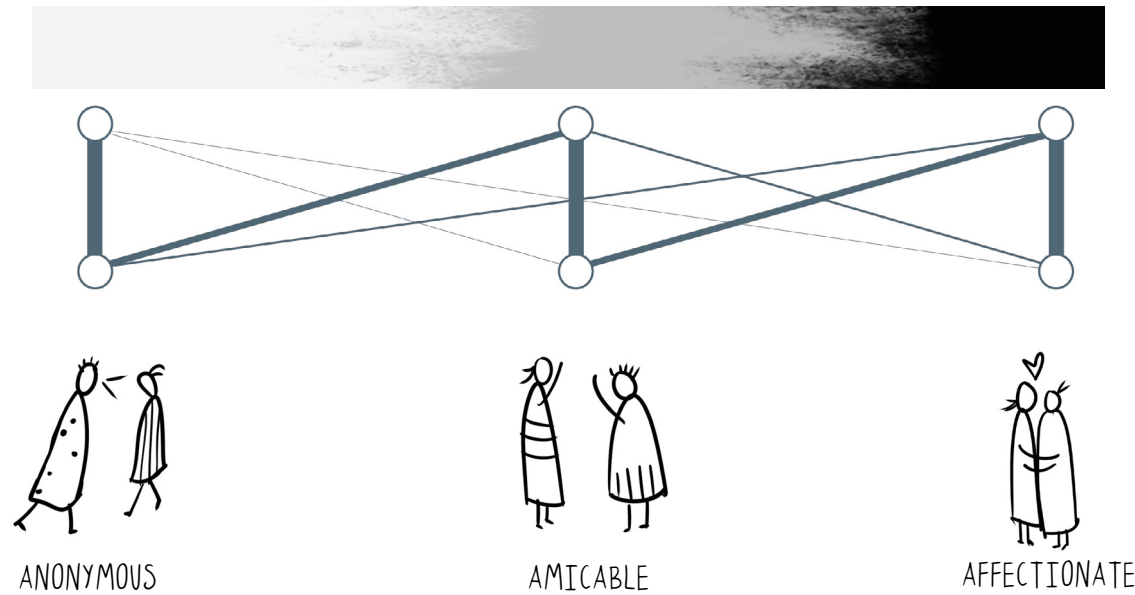
AMICABLE



AFFECTIONATE

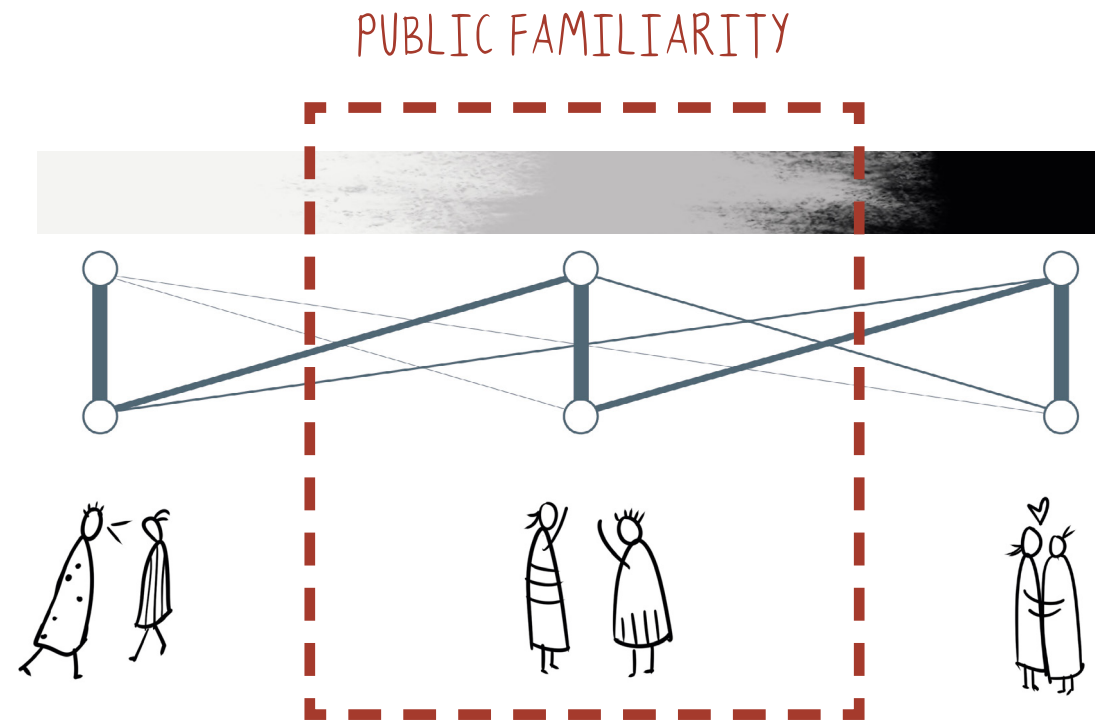
THREE TYPES OF MEETING

Corelation to levels of publicness



DESIRED LEVEL OF INTERACTION AMONG NEIGHBORS

Amicable meetings in parochial spaces

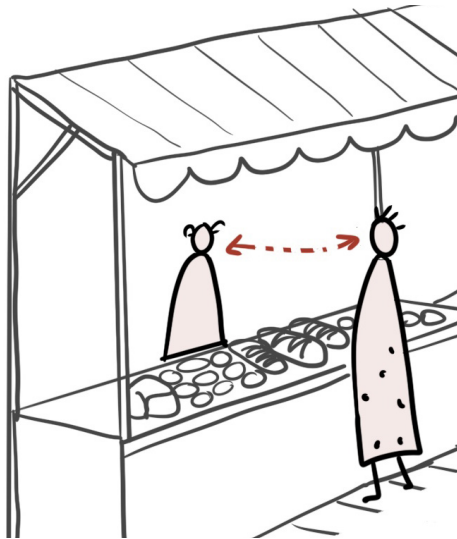


Recurring meeting --> Recognition --> Familiarity

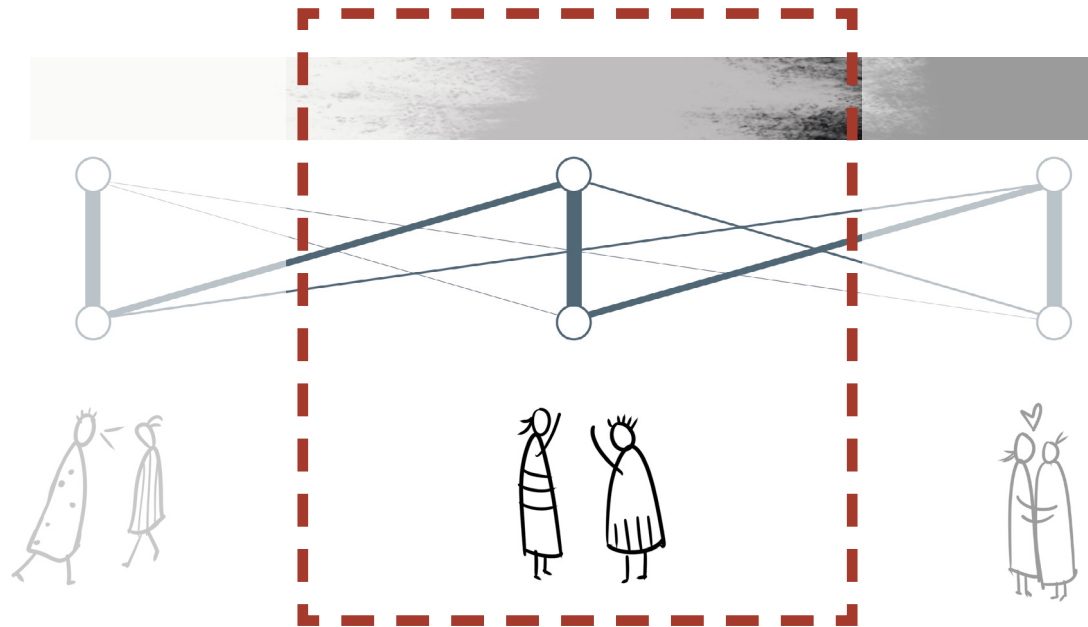
DESIRED LEVEL OF INTERACTION AMONG NEIGHBORS

Amicable meetings in semi private spaces

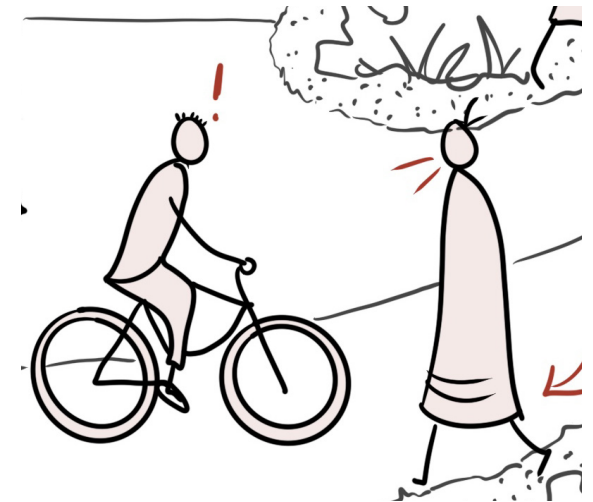
Recognizing the cashier of the supermarket



PUBLIC FAMILIARITY



Spontaneously seeing your neighbor biking away from home, when you are coming home



Recurring meeting --> Recognition --> Familiarity

THE SOCIAL FUNCTION OF PUBLIC SPACE

"PUBLIC SPACE IS DEFINED AS A DOMAIN FOR EVERYDAY ACTIVITY AND IS THE CONNECTIVE TISSUE THAT BINDS DAILY LIVES TOGETHER."

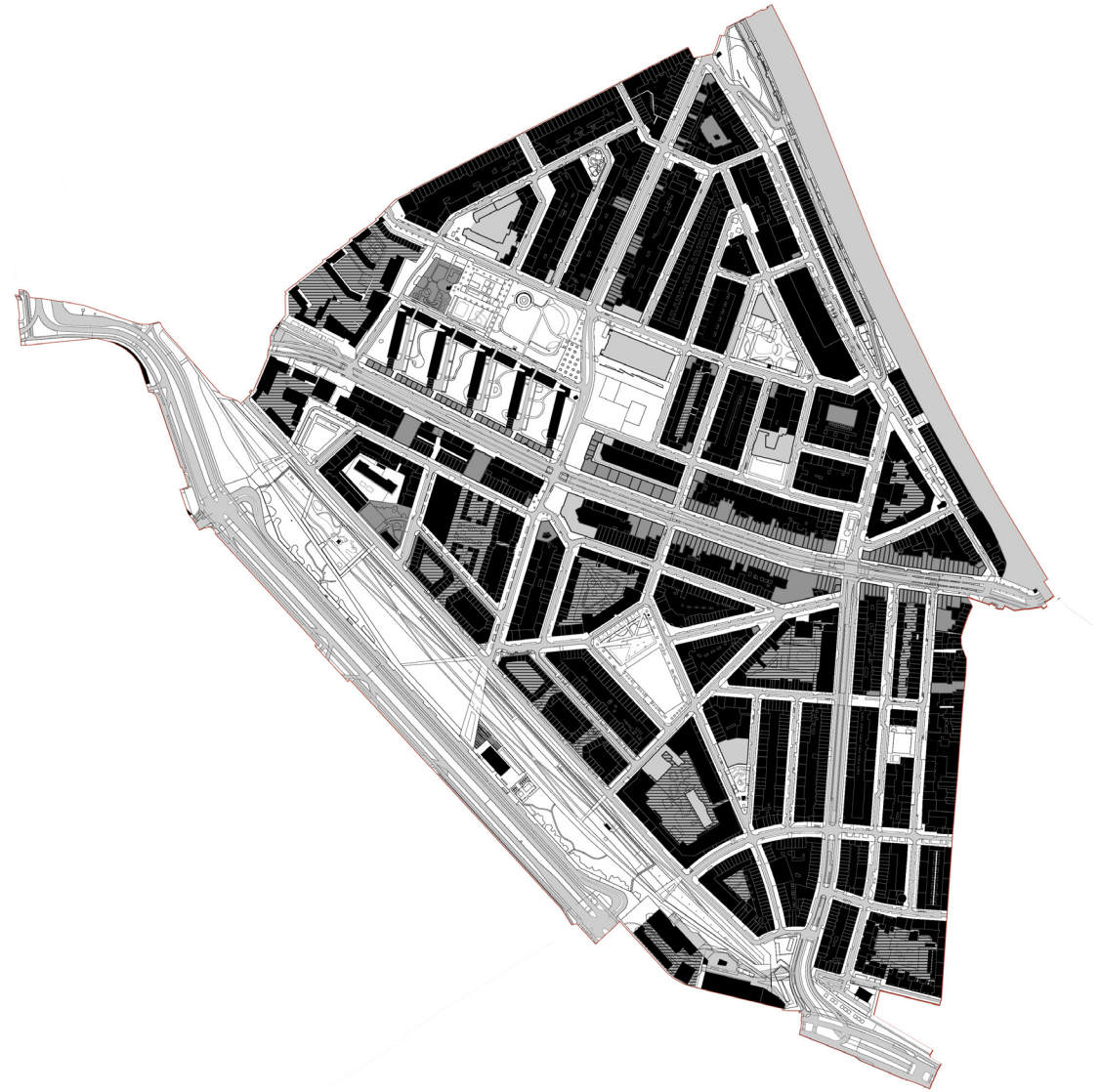
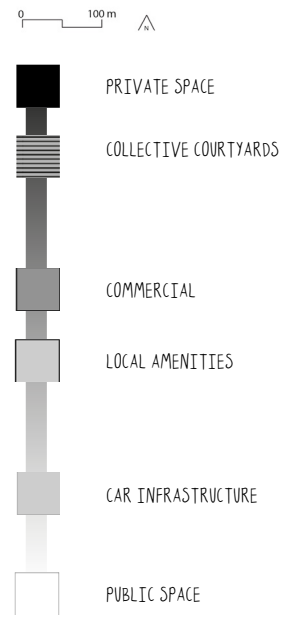


Figure 05: Noll map of Bospolder-Tussendijken
Source: Made by author 2025
Source: Crawford, 2008; Ji & Ding, 2021

THE SOCIAL FUNCTION OF PUBLIC SPACE

"PUBLIC SPACE IS DEFINED AS A DOMAIN FOR EVERYDAY ACTIVITY AND IS THE CONNECTIVE TISSUE THAT BINDS DAILY LIVES TOGETHER."

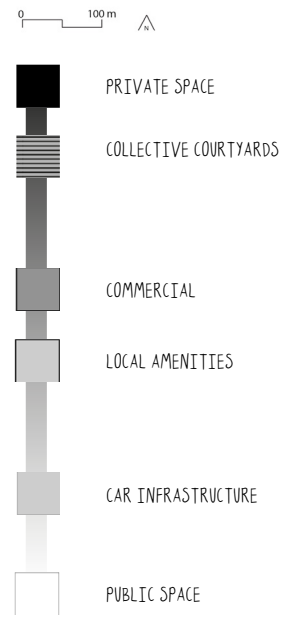


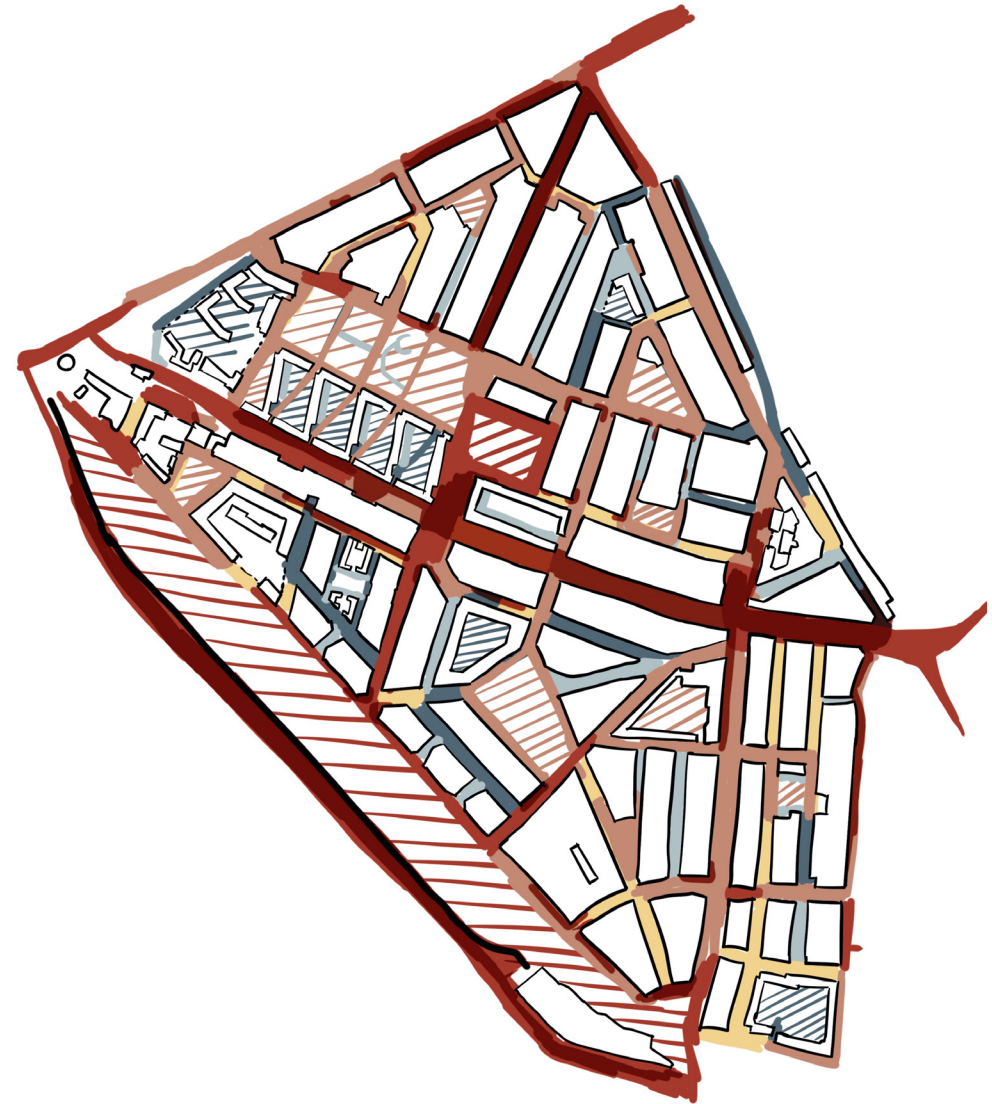
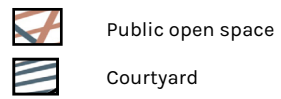
Figure 06: Nolli map of Bospolder-Tussendijken
Source: Made by author 2025
Source: Crawford, 2008; Ji & Ding, 2021



THE PERCEIVED PUBLICNESS

Heat map

0 100 m



LAYERS OF CREATING THE HEATMAP

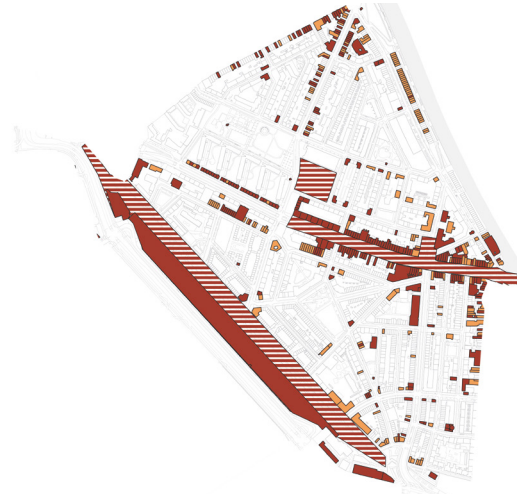
Likelihood of..

taking a certain route when walking



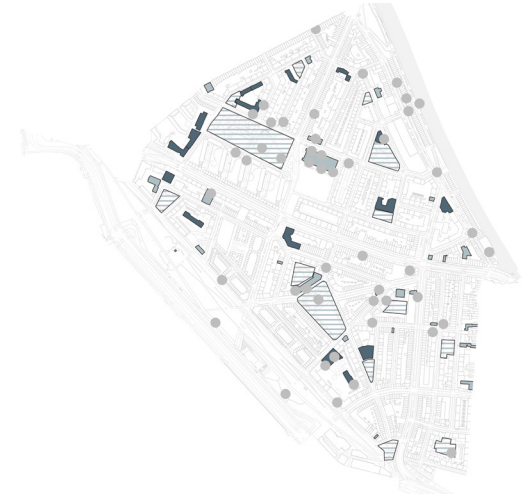
SPACE SYNTAX

attraction of strangers to an area



PUBLIC FUNCTIONS

attraction of neighbors to an area

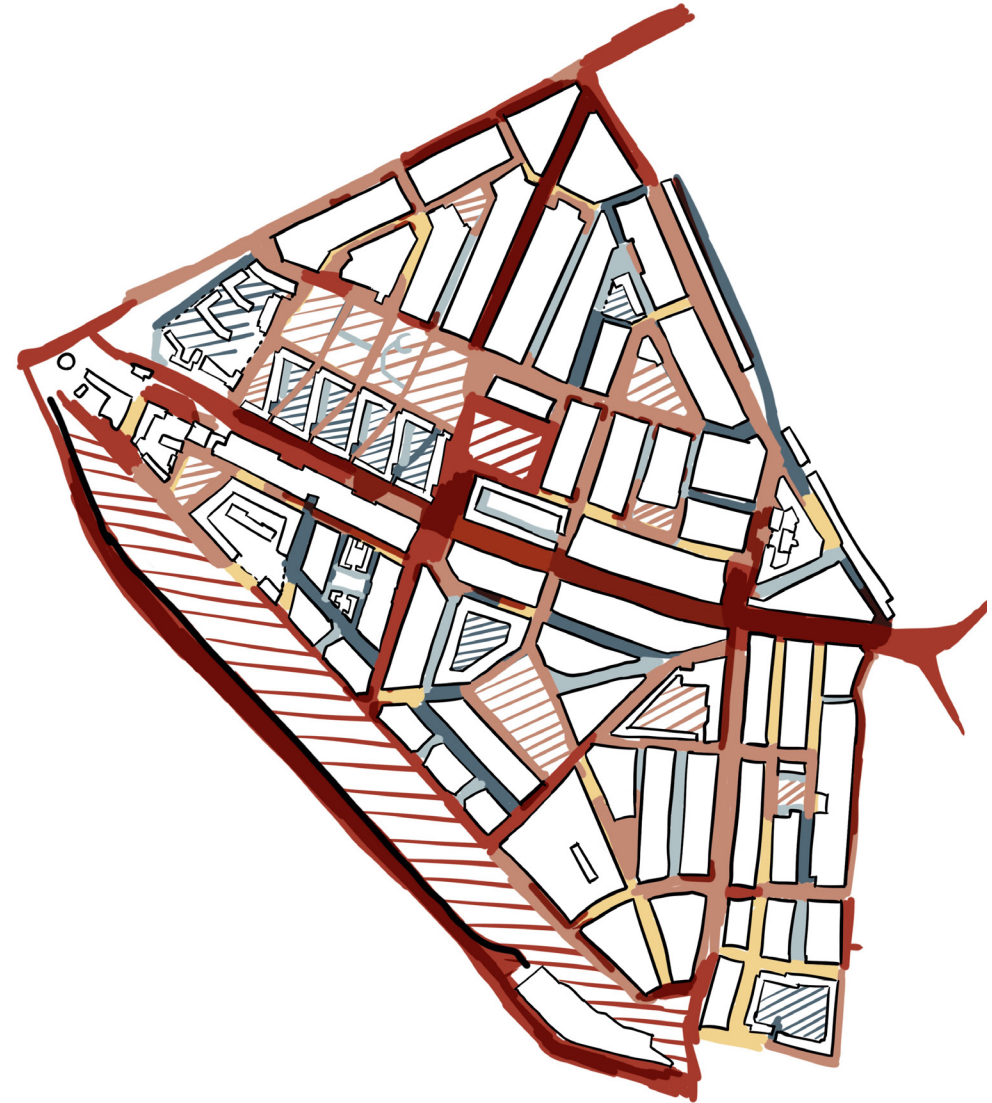
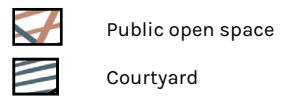


NEIGHBORHOOD FUNCTIONS

THE PERCEIVED PUBLICNESS

Heat map

0 100 m



SCHIEDAMSEWEG

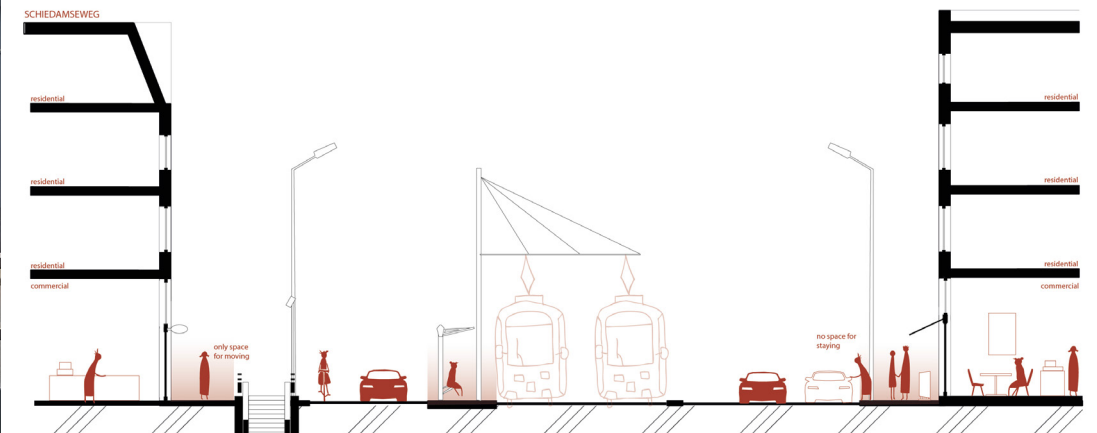
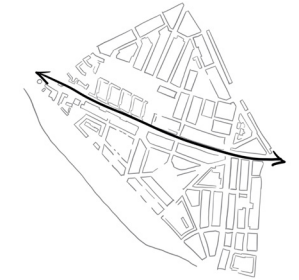
Very public, but not social



LITTLE SPACE FOR PEDESTRIANS

NO PLACE FOR OBSERVING

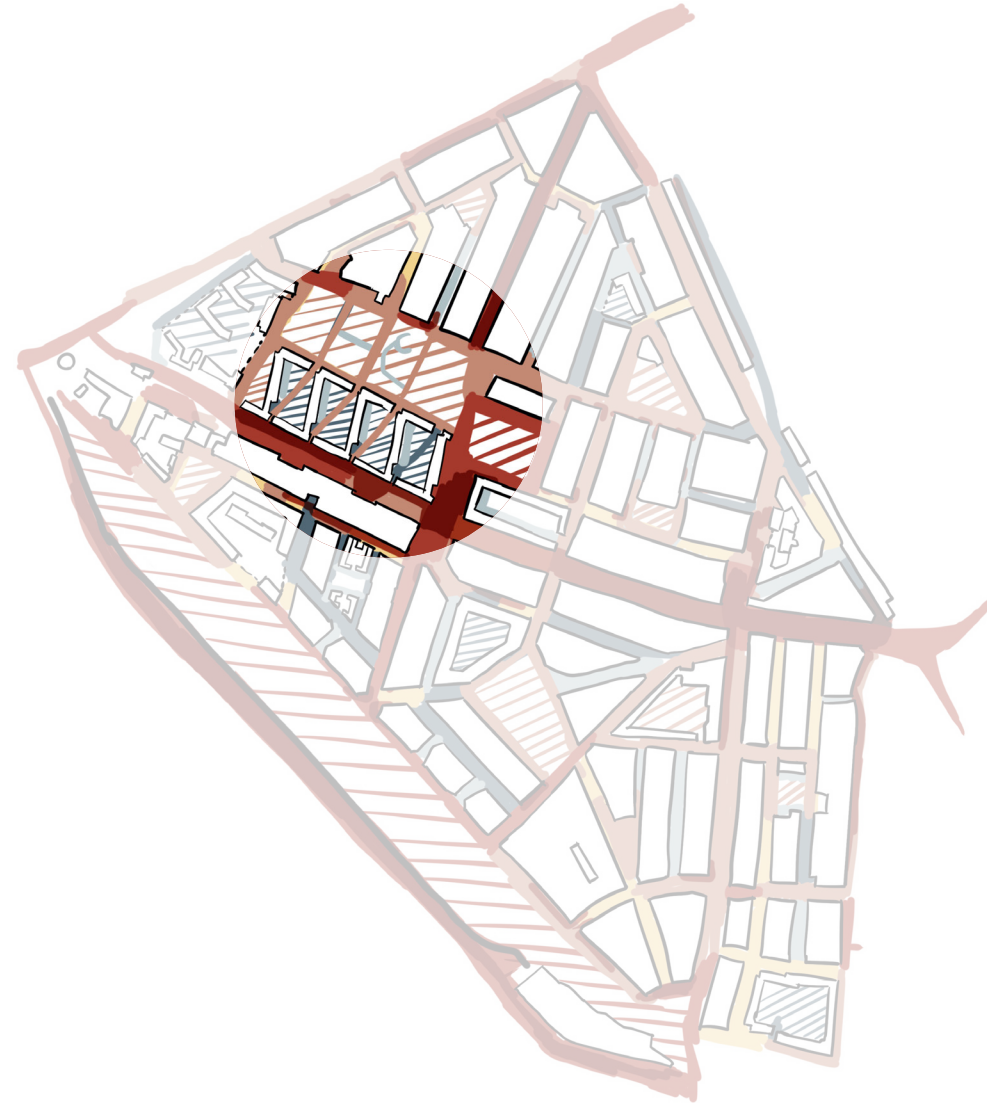
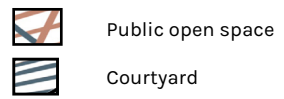
NO STAYING QUALITY



WHERE THE URBAN FABRIC LACKS URBAN DEPTH

Intervention site selection

0 100 m

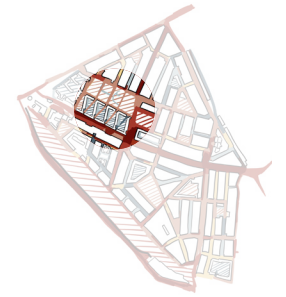


THE EXISTING URBAN FABRIC

Its challenges for facilitating meeting



Source: Made by author 2025, adapted from GIS

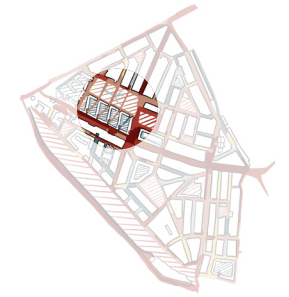


THE EXISTING URBAN FABRIC

Its challenges for facilitating meeting: Visserijplein



Source: Made by author 2025, adapted from GIS



VISSERIJPLEIN

The weekly market

WEEKLY ACTIVITY

RECURRING MEETING

ATTRACTS RESIDENTS



VISSERIJPLEIN

An empty paved space most of the week

NO INTERACTIONS

NO ACTIVITIES



INSIDE PUBLIC SPACES

The community center and the library

NOT VISIBLE

LACK OF INTERACTION
INSIDE-OUTSIDE

NOT INVITING



THE EXCISTING URBAN FABRIC

Its challenges for facilitating meeting: Park 1943



Source: Made by author 2025, adapted from GIS

PARK 1943

Lack of quality

UNINVITING TO STAY

UNDER USED



PARK 1943

Disconnected to surrounding urban fabric

LACK OF SOCIAL CONTROL

NO SENSE OF OWNERSHIP

ANONYMOUS ISLAND



THE EXISTING URBAN FABRIC

Its challenges for facilitating meeting: Gijsinglaanflats



Source: Made by author 2025, adapted from GIS

THE GIJSINGLAAN FLATS

Underused courtyards

UNDERUSED

LACK OF OWNERSHIP

TO PUBLIC, YET PRIVATE

NO SPATIAL DIVERSITY



THE GIJSINGLAAN FLATS

Disconnected edge

NO DIRECT ACCESS

NO SOFT TRANSITION FROM
PUBLIC TO PRIVATE

LACK OF OWNERSHIP



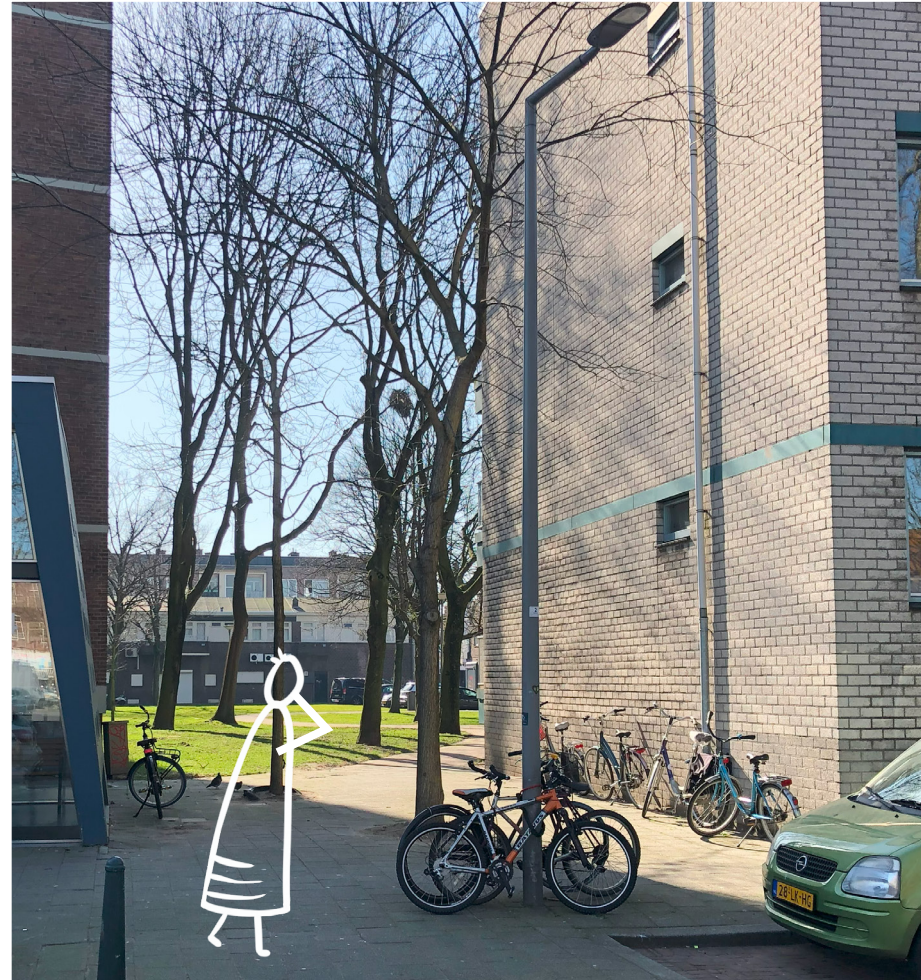
GIJSINGLAAN FLATS

No clear hierarchy in routes

UNCLEAR ROUTES

NO SPATIAL HIERARCHY

PERCEIVED MORE PUBLIC



THE GIJSINGLAAN FLATS

Too public, yet too private

UNDERUSED

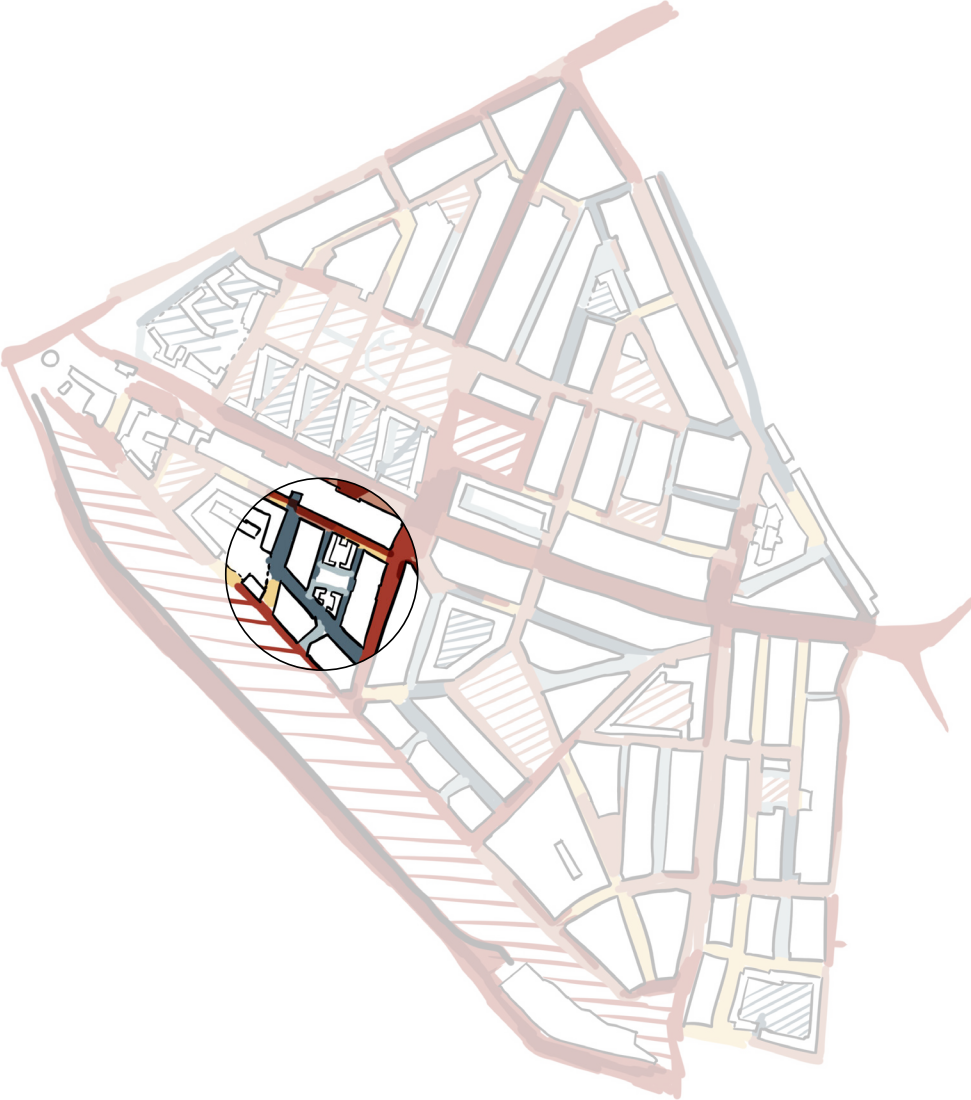
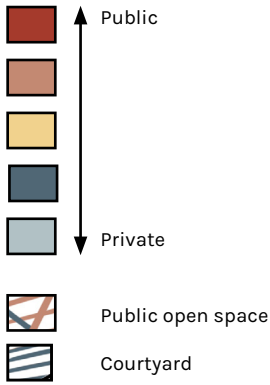
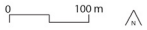
LACK OF OWNERSHIP

TOO PUBLIC, YET PRIVATE

NO SPATIAL DIVERSITY



PUBLIC SPACE THAT FACILITATES MEETINGS



PUBLIC SPACE THAT FACILITATES MEETINGS

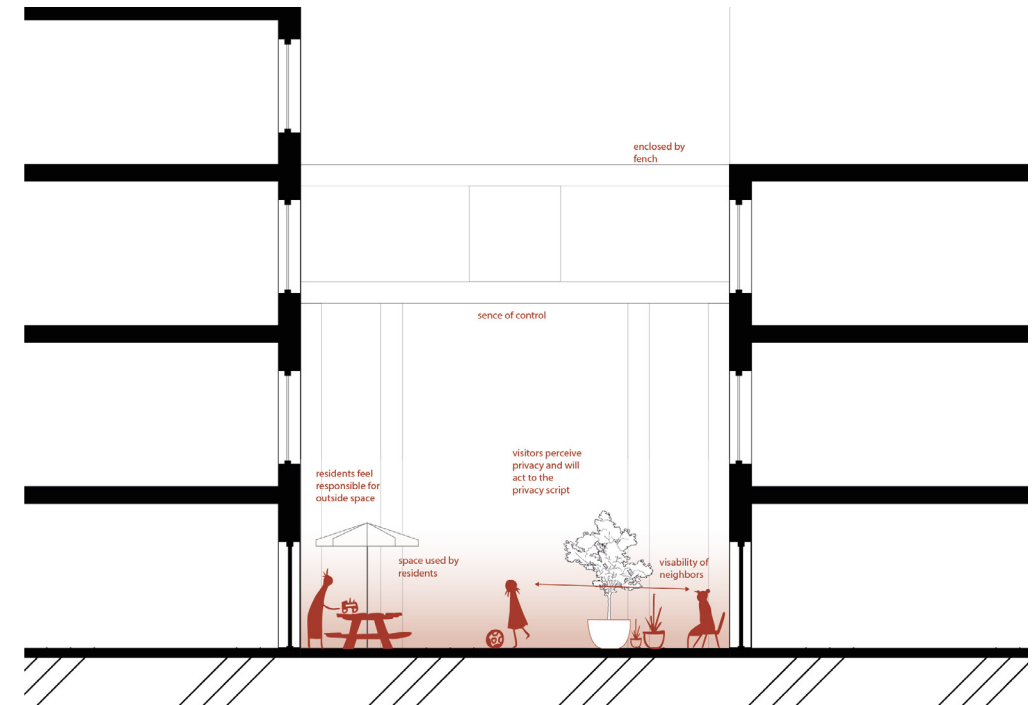
Le Medi: semi private , but very social



STAYING QUALITY

VISIBILITY OF NEIGHBORS

USE OF SPACE



DESIGN OF PUBLIC SPACE MATTERS

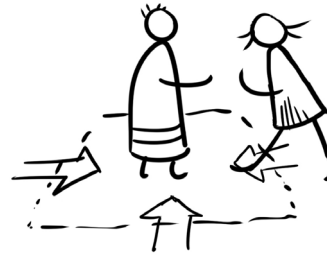
The design of public space determines use and facilitates meetings



Le Medi



Gijsinglaan flats



SPATIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR MEETING

DEVELOP

SUB QUESTION 3

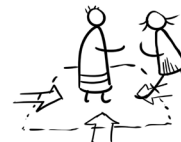
What are spatial interventions that enable meetings between residents of a neighborhood?



PUBLIC MEETING SPACE IS UNDER PRESSURE



MEETING IN BOSPOLDER-TUSSENDIJKEN



SPATIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR MEETING



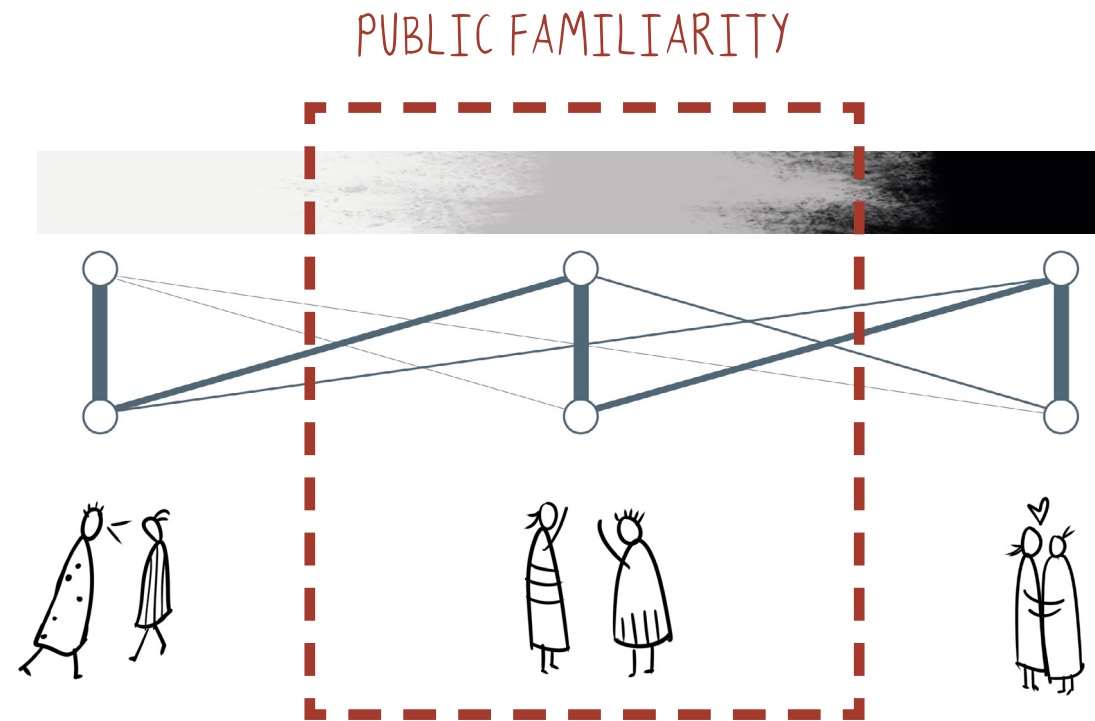
DESIGN FOR MEETING



CONCLUSION

DESIRED LEVEL OF INTERACTION AMONG NEIGHBORS

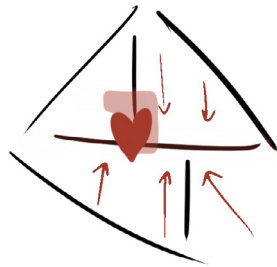
Amicable meetings in parochial spaces



Recurring meeting --> Recognition --> Familiarity

THREE STRATEGIES

Lenses for facilitating meetings



NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER



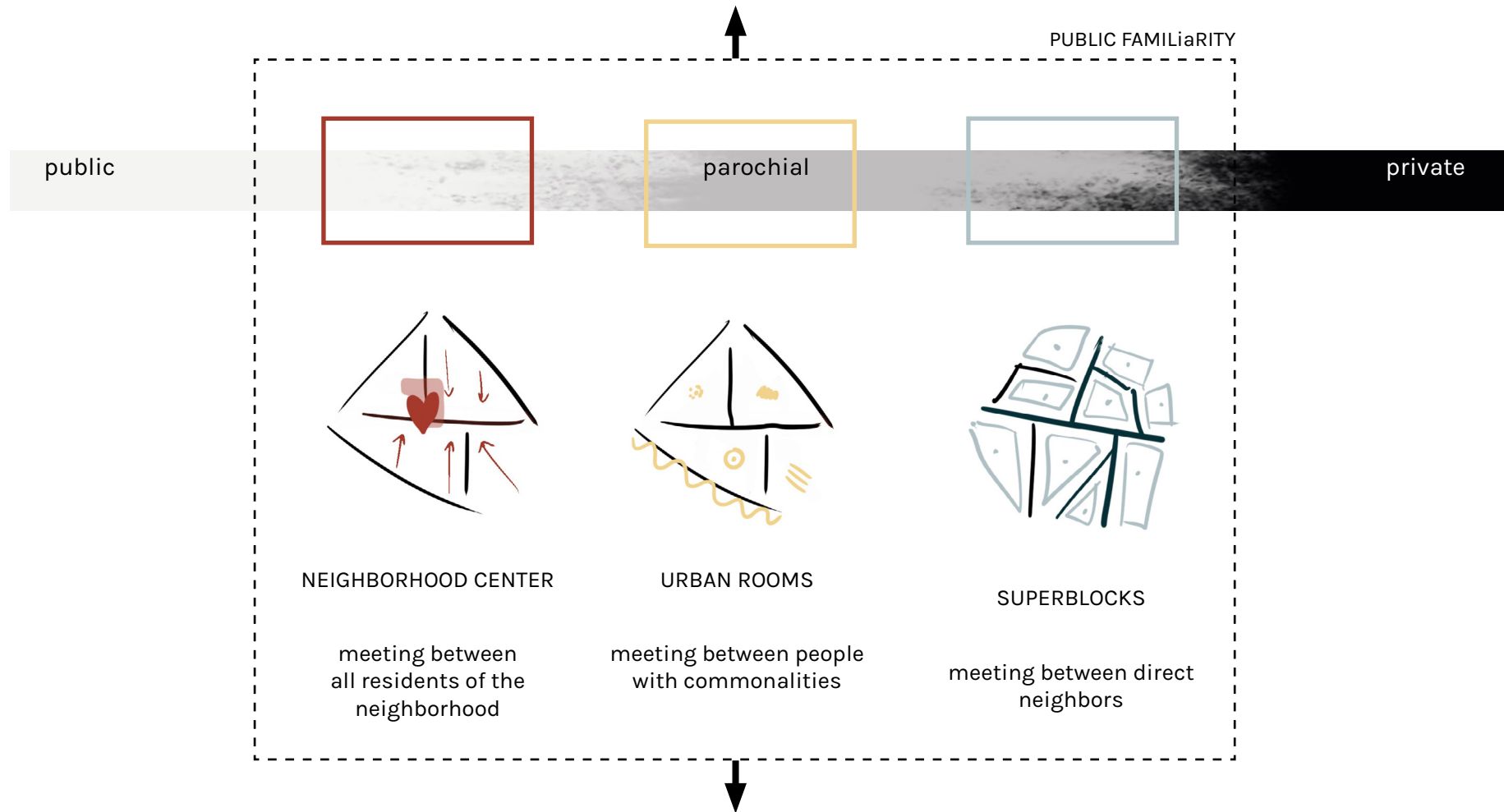
URBAN ROOMS



SUPERBLOCKS

THREE STRATEGIES

Connecting space, types of meetings and levels of publicness

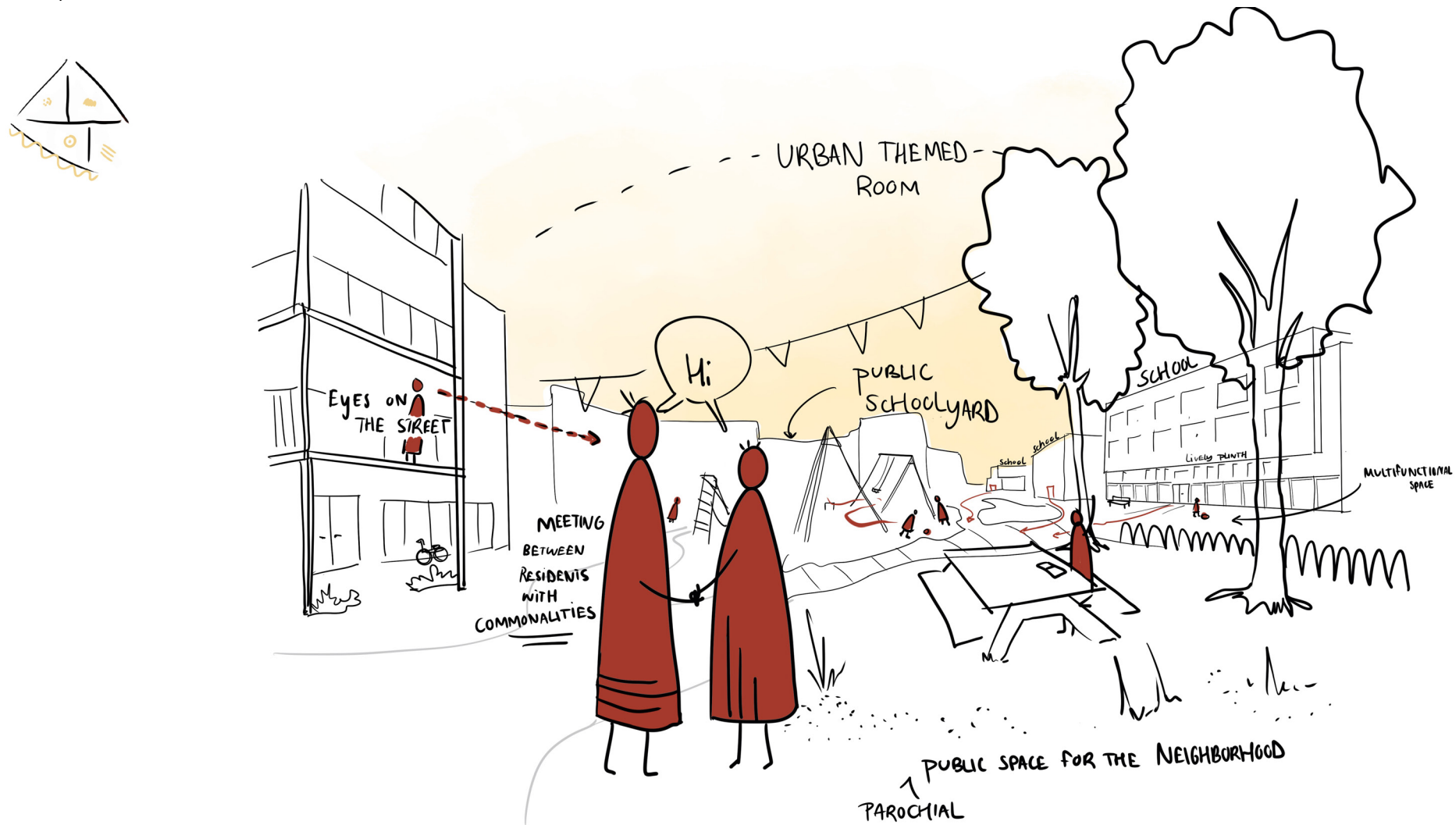


PUBLIC - MEETING BETWEEN ALL RESIDENTS



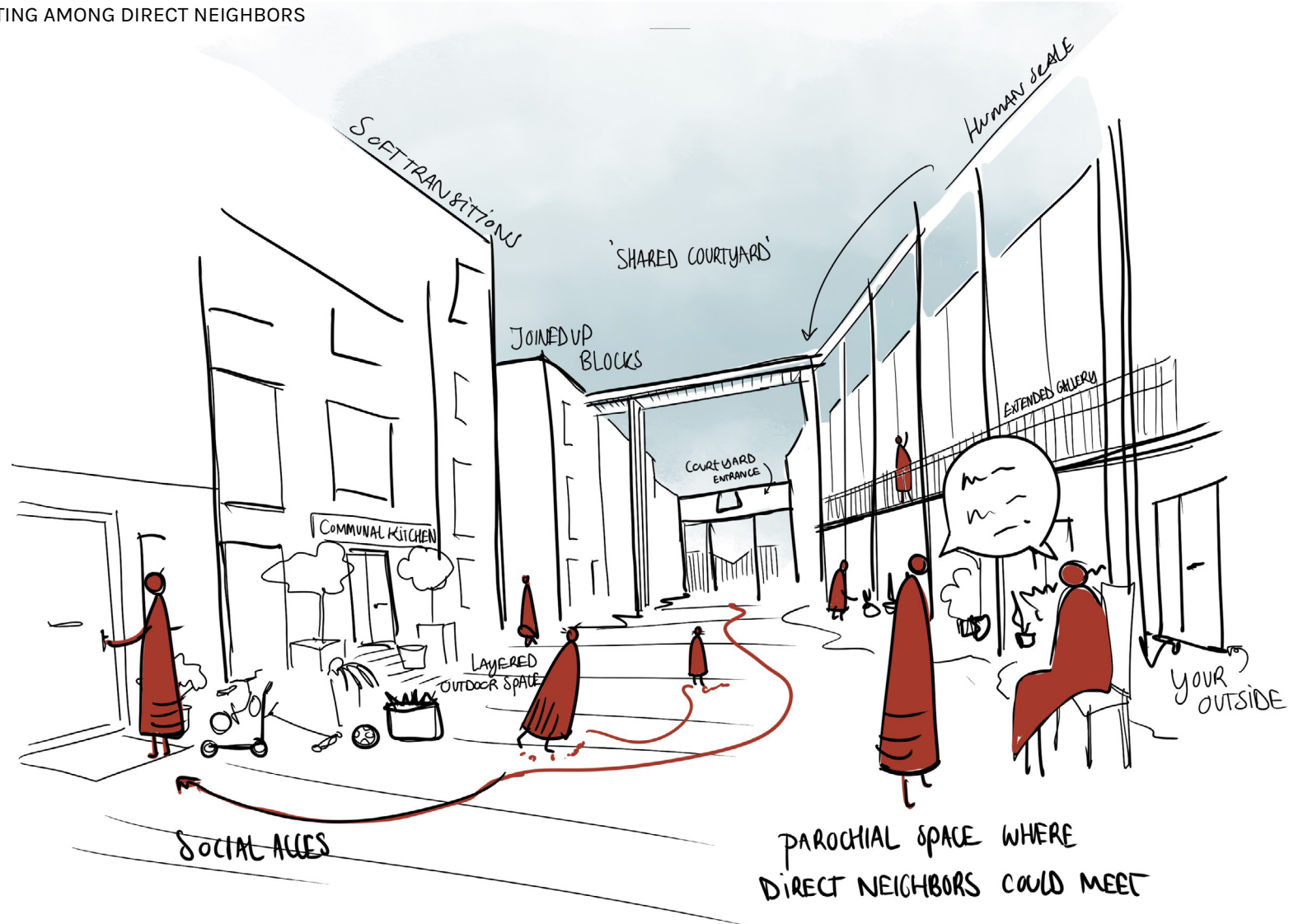
URBAN ROOM

Semi public - MEETING BETWEEN COMMONALITIES



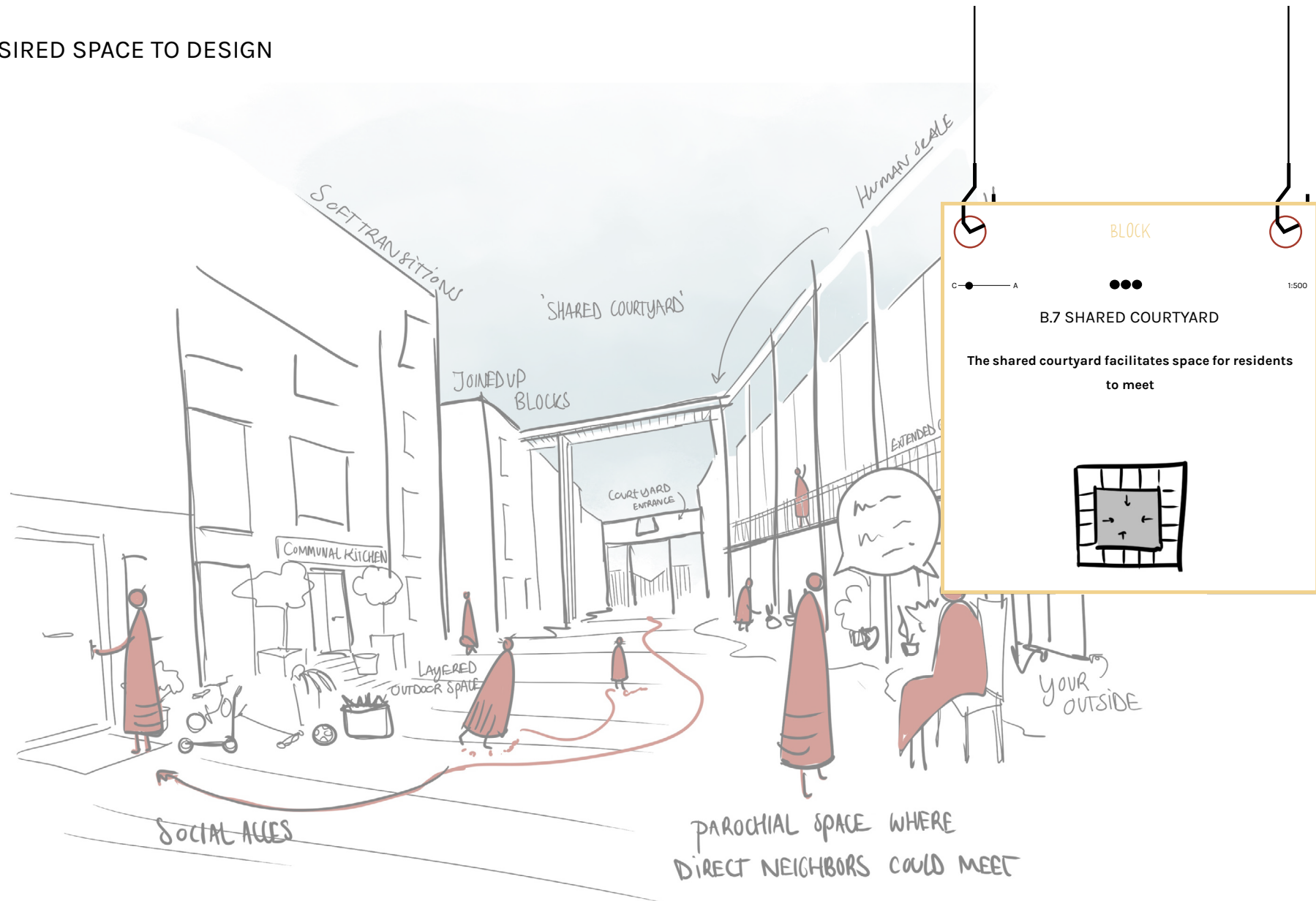
SUPERBLOCK

SEMI PRIVATE - MEETING AMONG DIRECT NEIGHBORS



TRANSLATING DESIRED SPACE TO DESIGN

Pattern language



PATTERNS GROUND DESIGN WITH RESEARCH

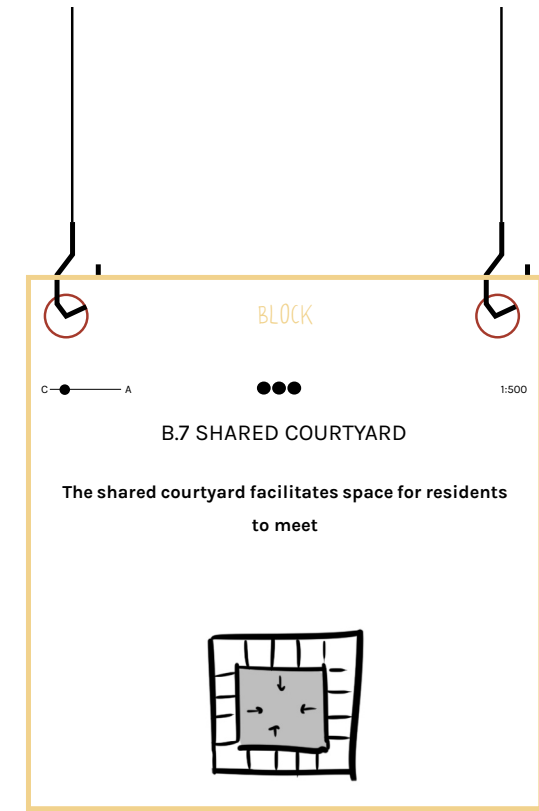
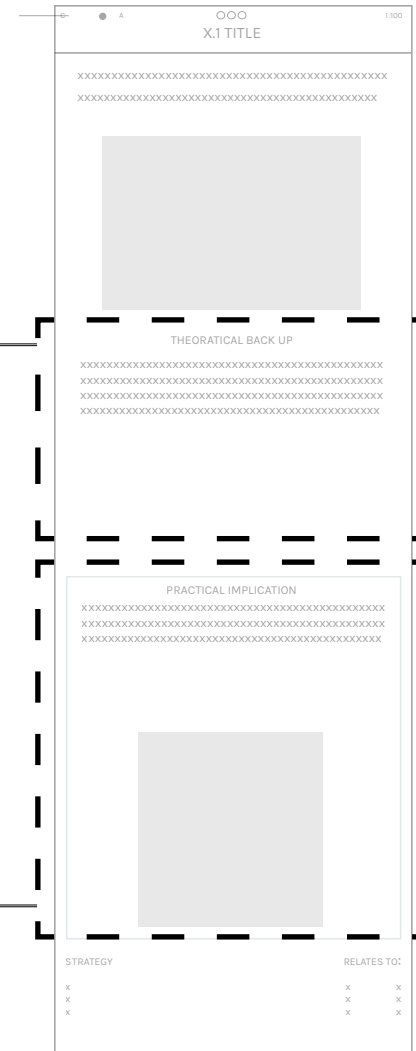
Example pattern: Courtyard

Protected space, visually and physically,
which makes it suitable for use as extension
of the life inside the surrounding houses.
- Sim 2019

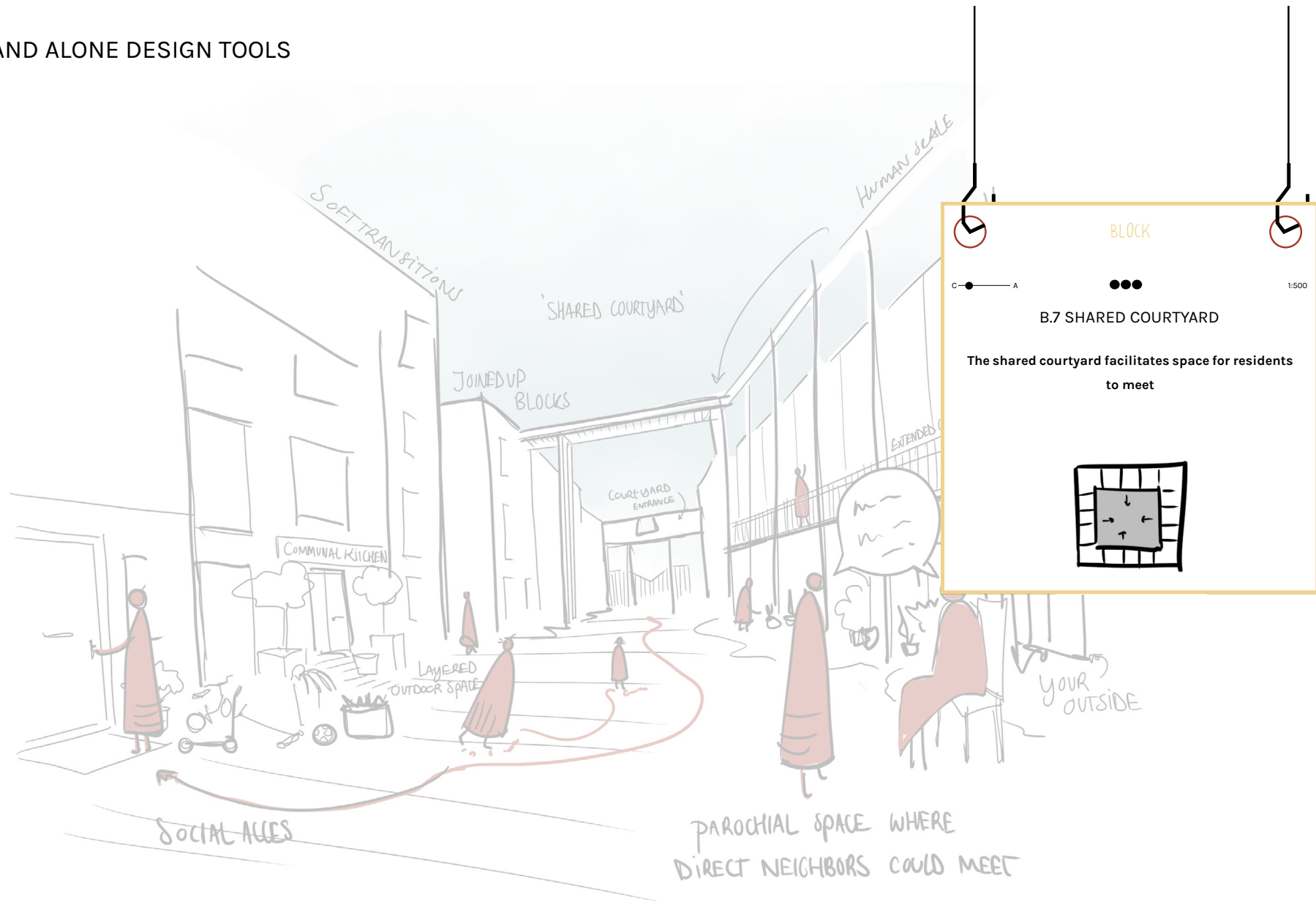


RESEARCH

DESIGN



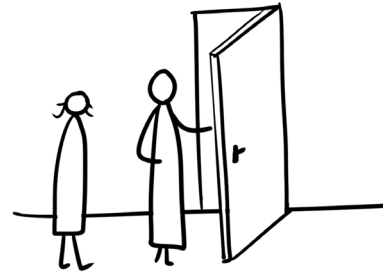
PATTERN NOT STAND ALONE DESIGN TOOLS



PATTERNS ARE CONNECTED

Their full potential is realized when they are implemented together





DESIGN FOR MEETING

PROPOSE

SUB QUESTION 4

What urban design can enhance the role of a city as a meeting place, within the dense and diverse neighborhood of Bospolder-Tussendijken?



PUBLIC MEETING SPACE IS UNDER PRESSURE



MEETING IN BOSPOLDER-TUSSENDIJKEN



SPATIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR MEETING

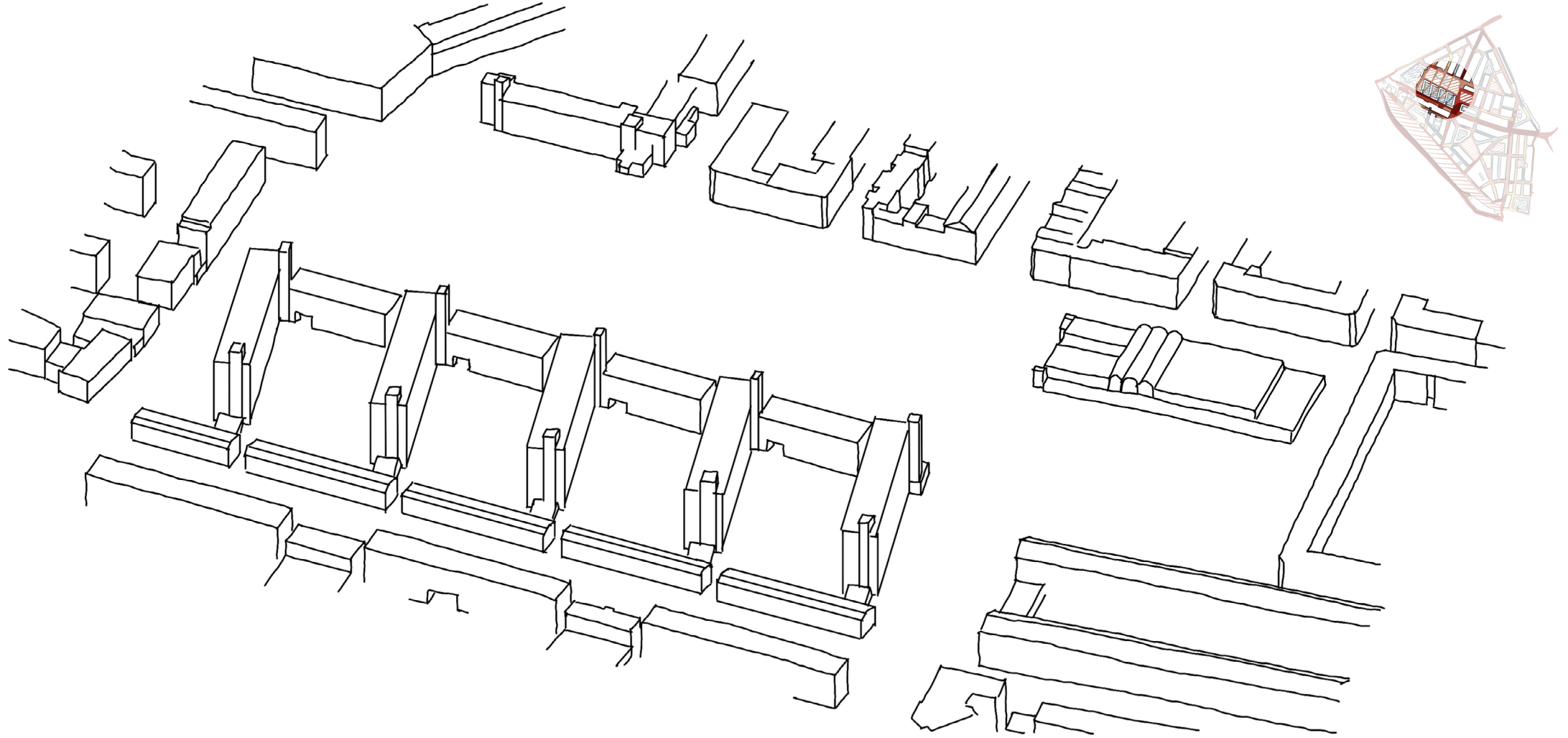


DESIGN FOR MEETING

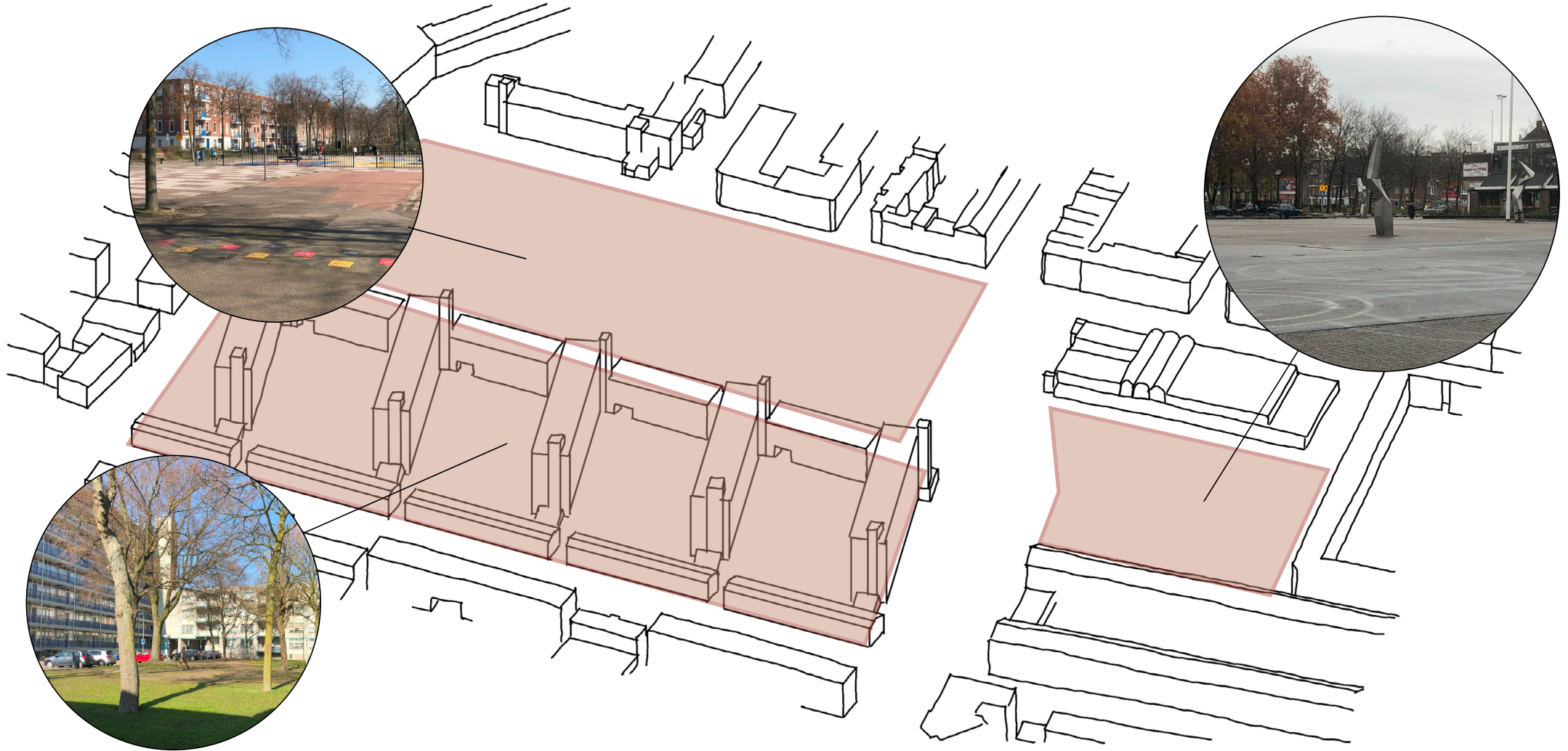


CONCLUSION

EXISTING URBAN FABRIC



MAIN FOCUS AREAS



THREE STRATEGIES IMPLEMENTED



URBAN ROOM

More intimate spaces
connected to other urban
fabric



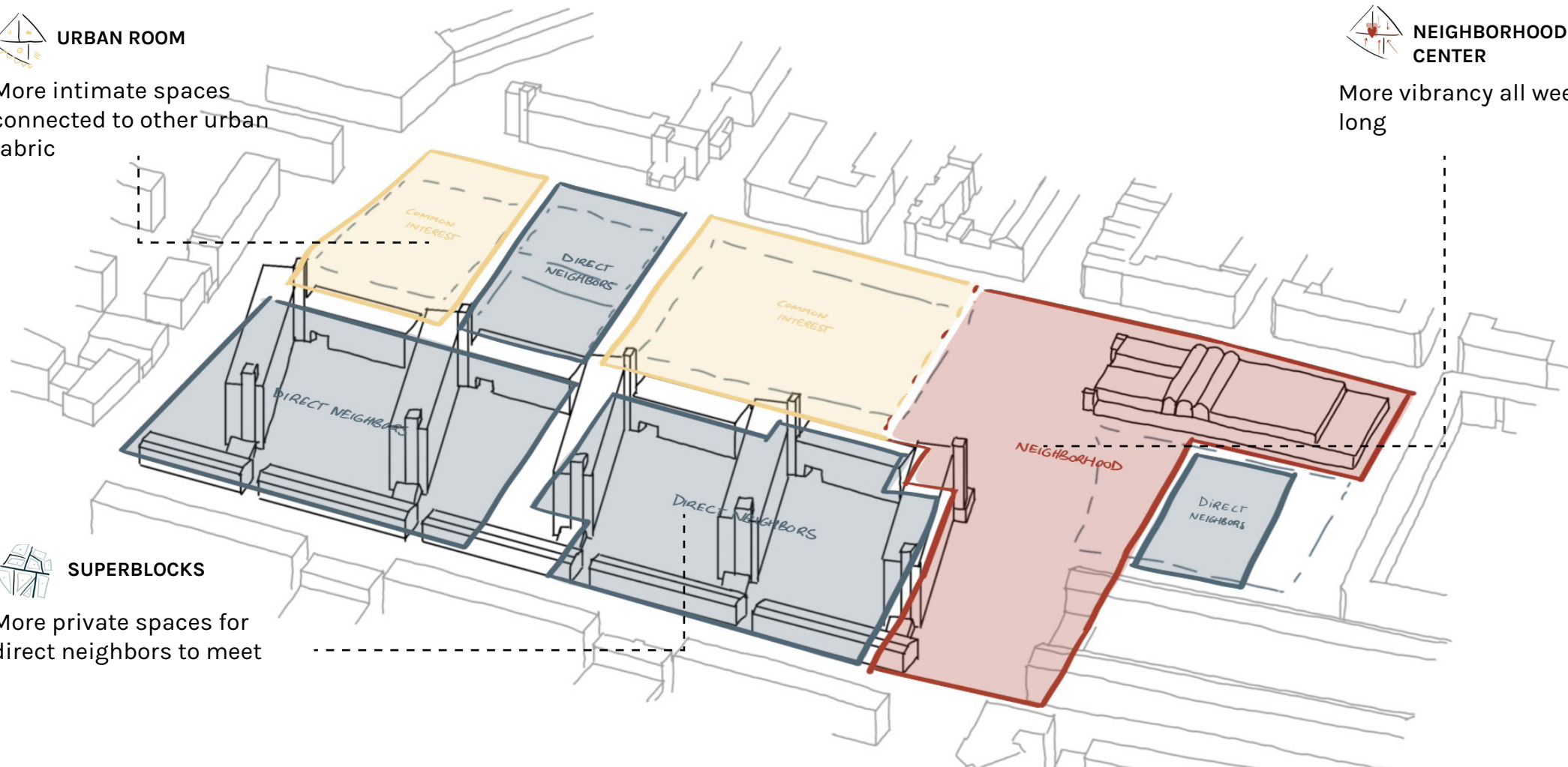
NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

More vibrancy all week
long

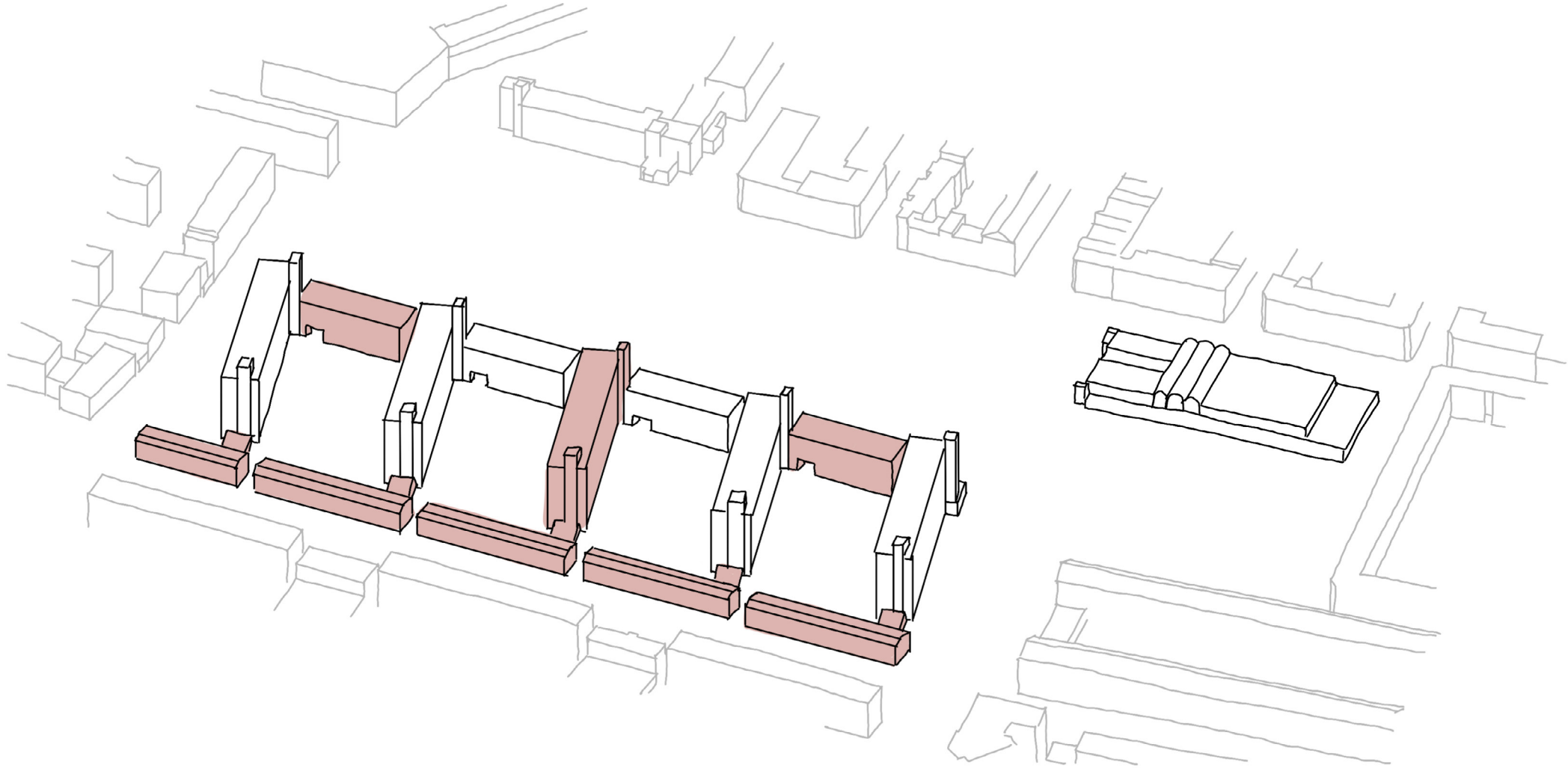


SUPERBLOCKS

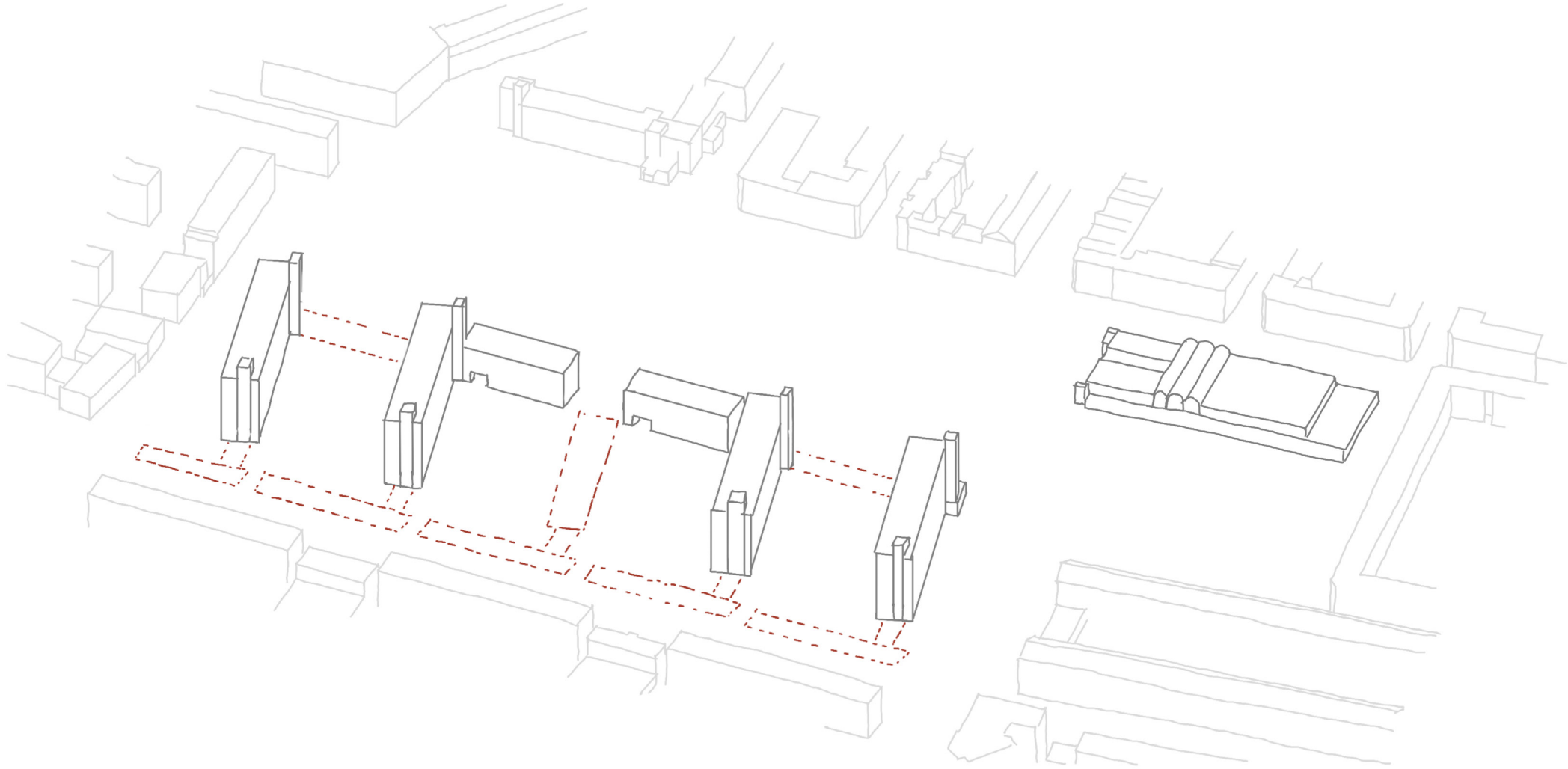
More private spaces for
direct neighbors to meet



THOUGHTFULLY DEMOLISH BUILDINGS

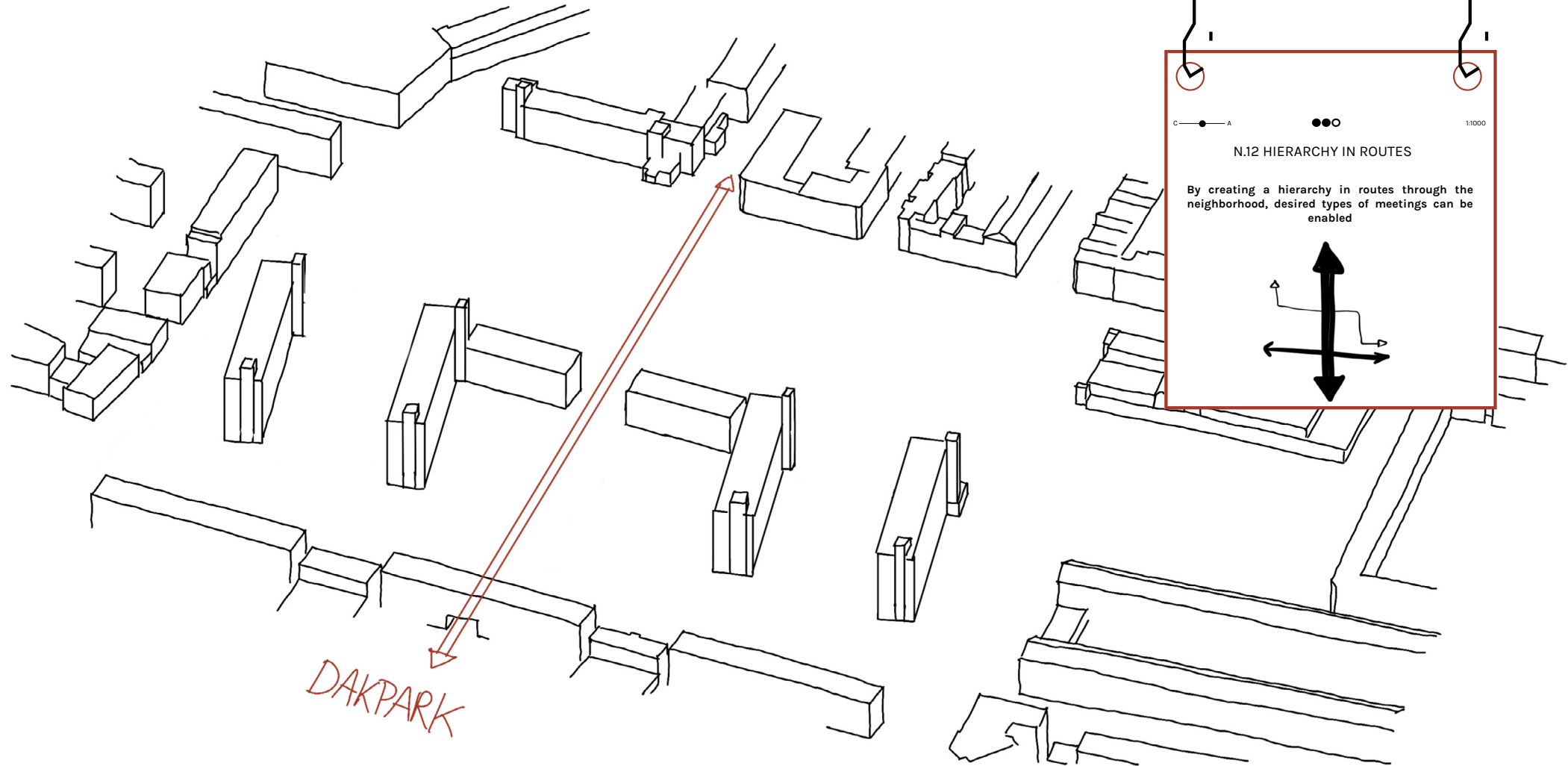


CLEAR SPACE



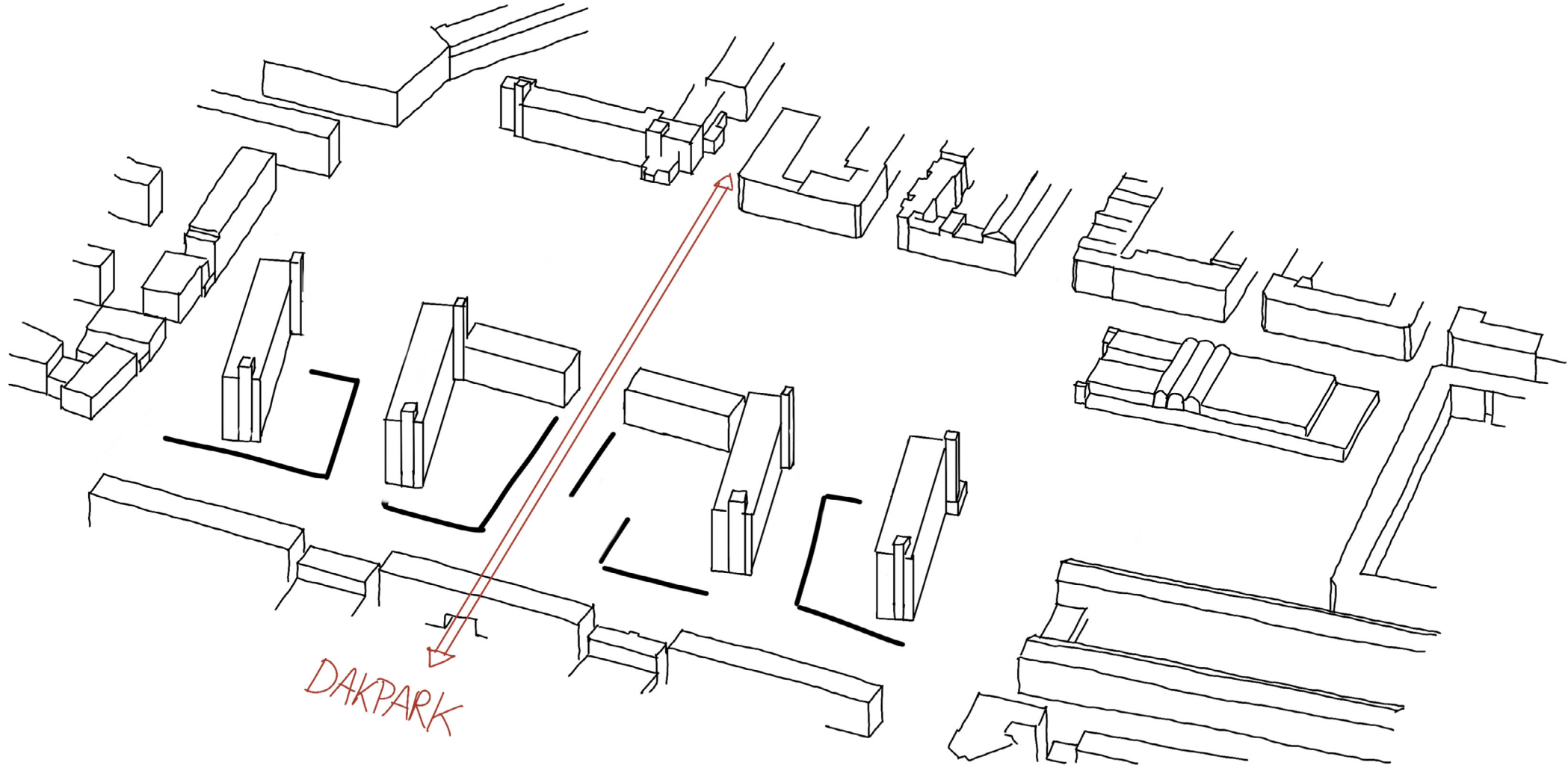
CREATE PLACE; HIERARCHY IN ROUTES

Remake long line from Dakpark to Park 1943



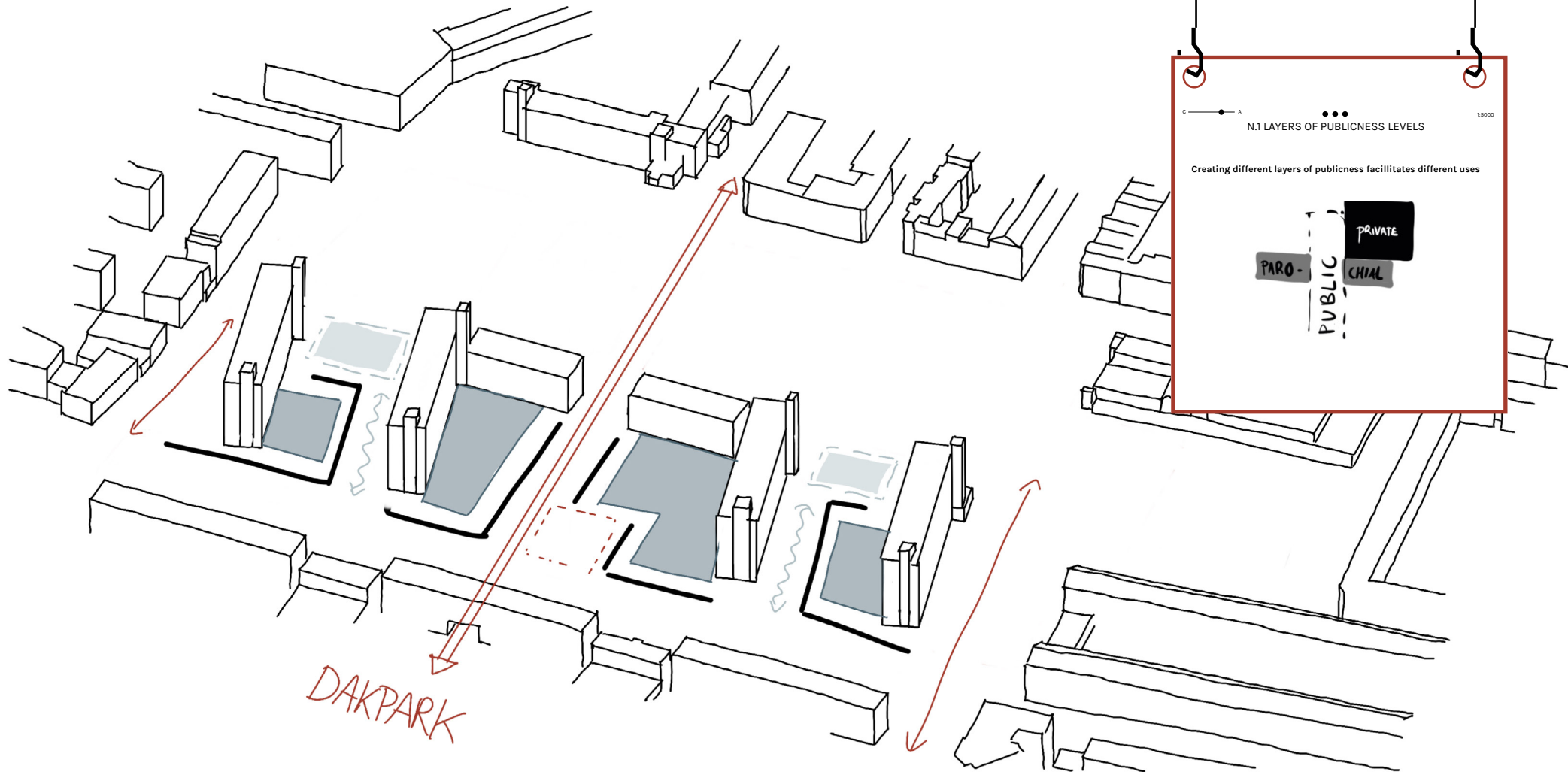
CREATE PLACE: COURTYARDS

By adding buildings



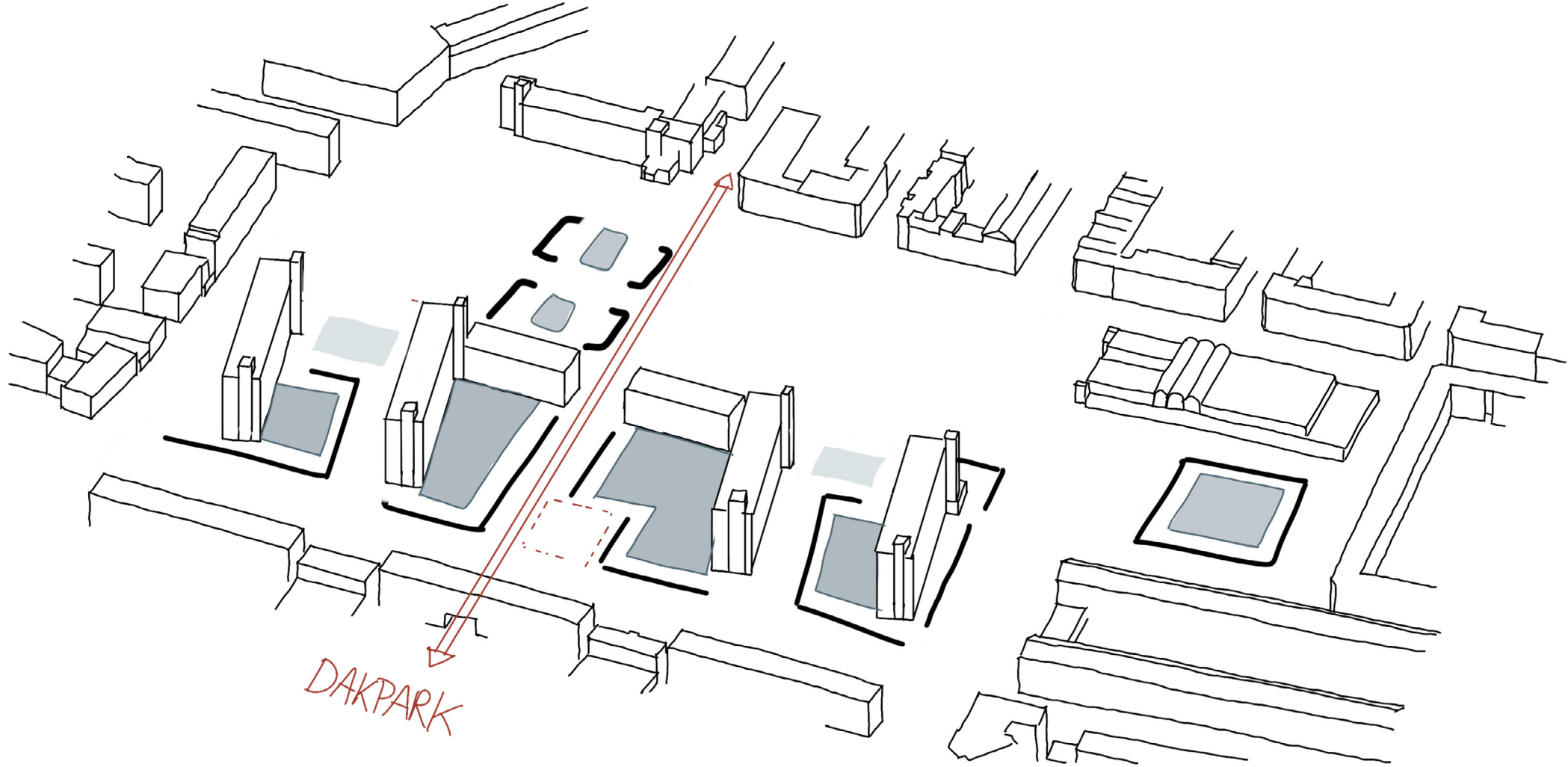
CREATES A DIVERSITY IN SPACES

Which facilitates different uses



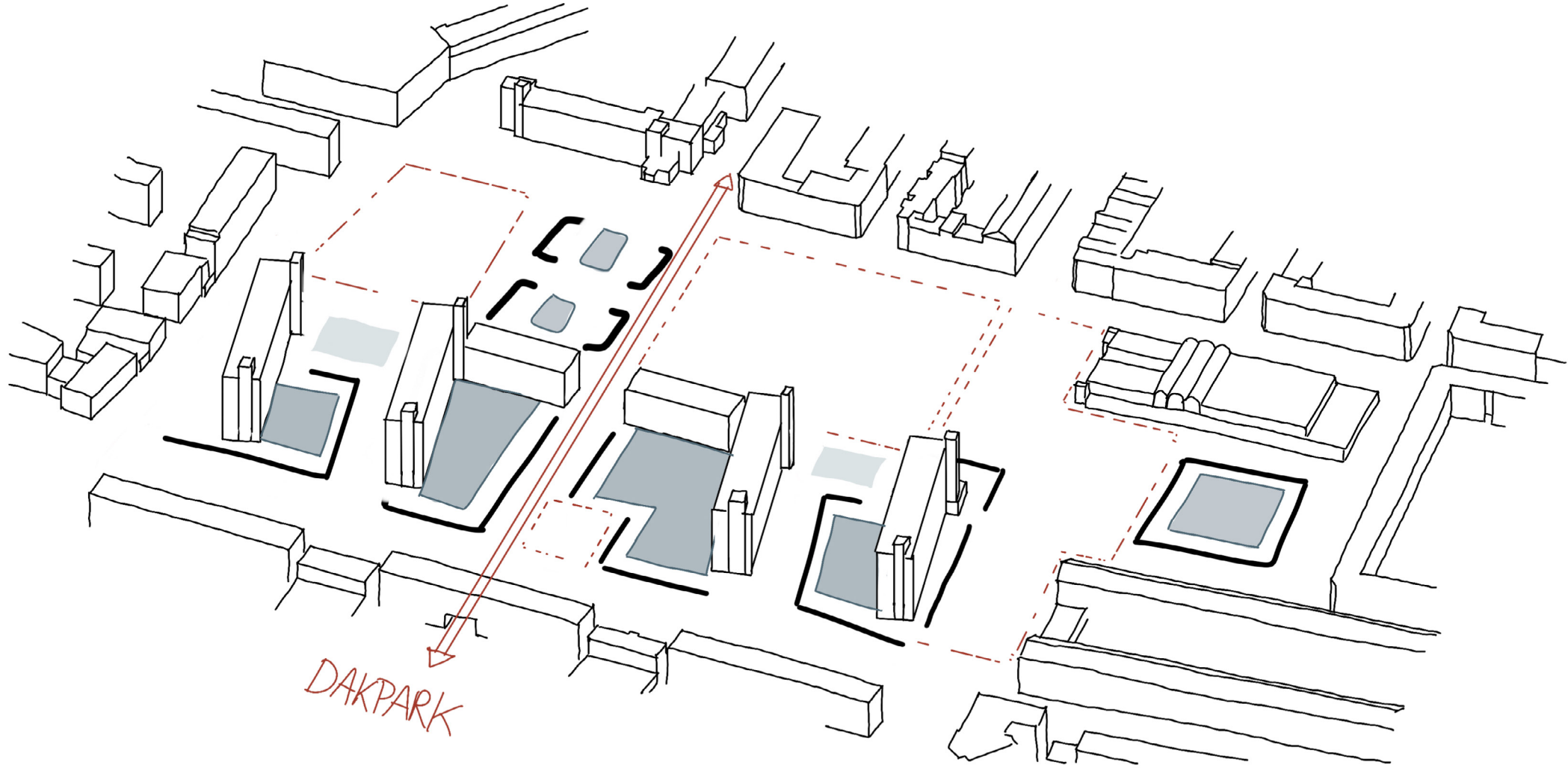
DEFINE BOUNDARIES OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACES

By introducing new buildings



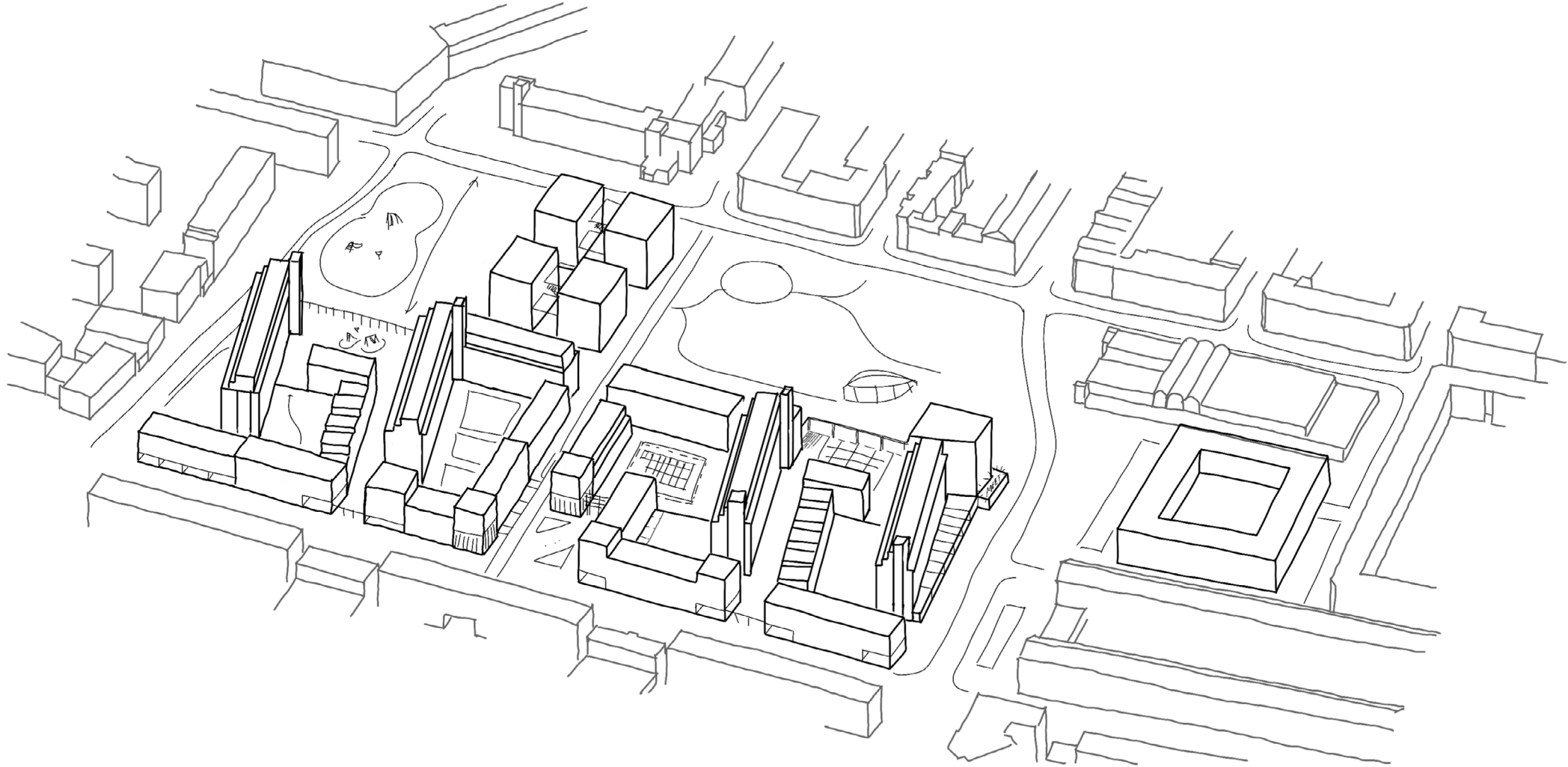
DEFINE BOUNDARIES OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACES

Making spaces more intimate



URBAN FABRIC THAT FACILITATES A DIVERSITY IN USE AND MEETINGS

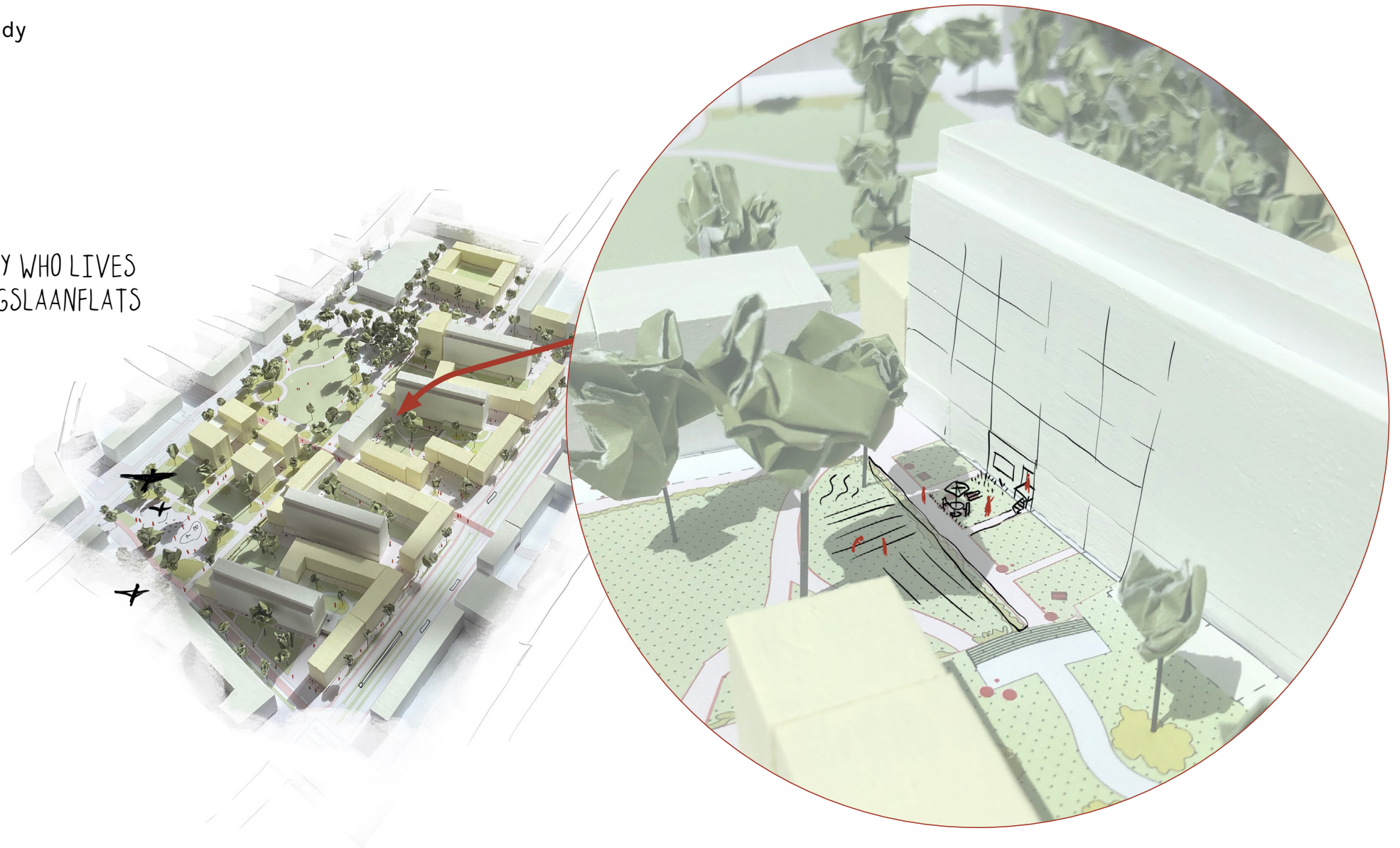
Where the play of daily life can enhance familiarity



THE USER PERSPECTIVE

Persona A: elder lady

AN ELDERLY LADY WHO LIVES
IN THE GIJSSINGSLAANFLATS
ALREADY



BEFORE

Part of two underused courtyards



INFORMAL PATH



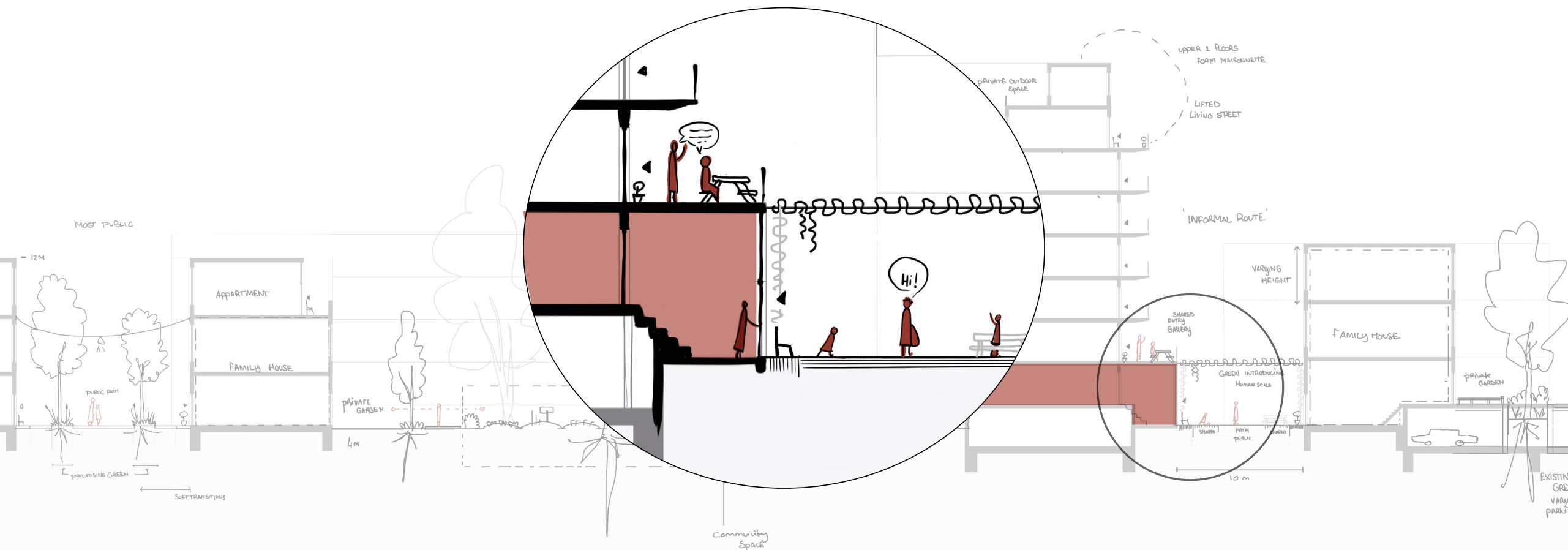
EMBRACING FRONTS AND BACKS

Formal use of front - more public

PUBLIC PATH

SHARED GARDEN

INFORMAL PATH



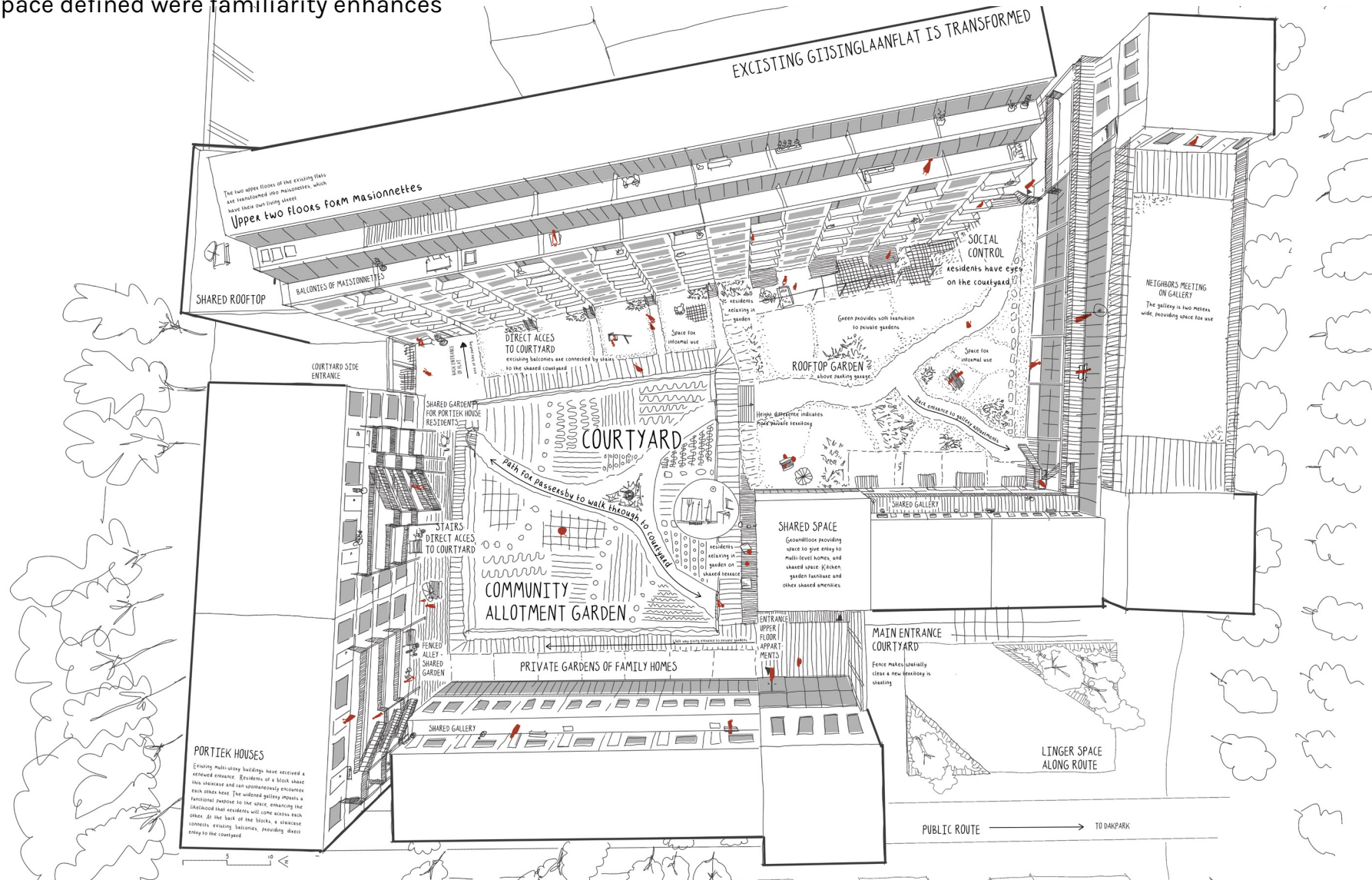
BEFORE

No direct access to outside space



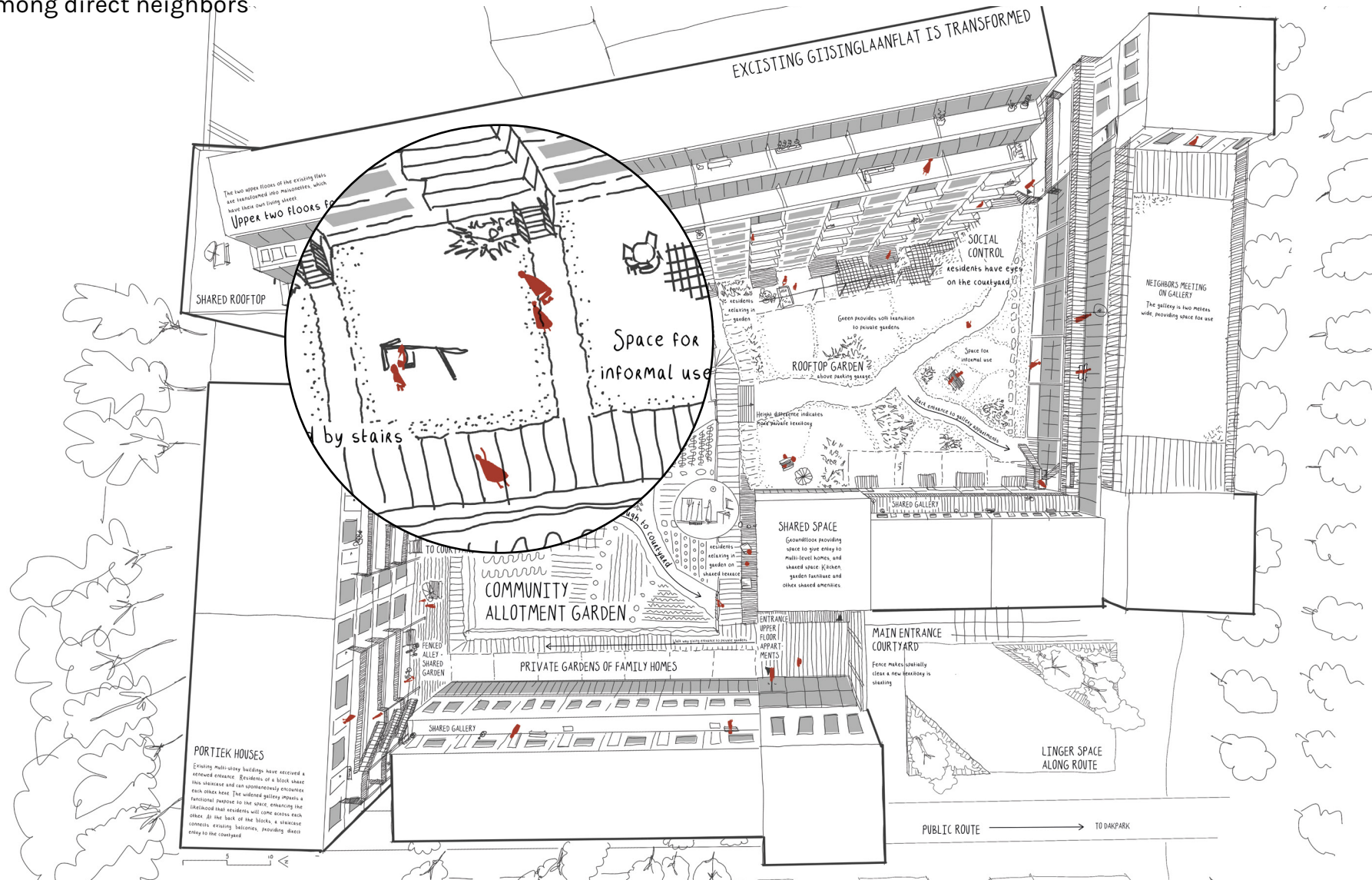
COURTYARD

Semi private space defined were familiarity enhances



COURTYARD

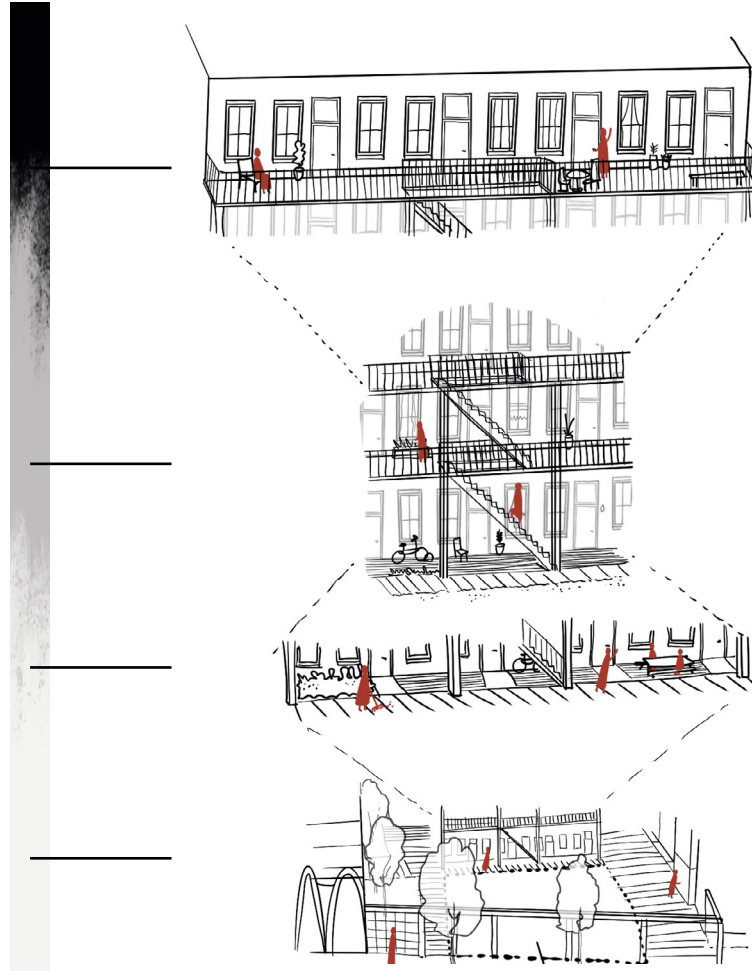
Recognition among direct neighbors



SOCIAL ROUTE

Meeting opportunities daily supermarket walk

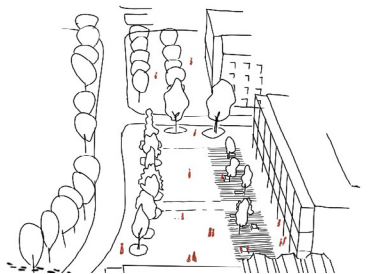
PRIVATE



PUBLIC



COMMUNITY CENTER

NEIGHBORHOOD SQUARE
VISSERIJPLEIN

BEFORE

An uninviting square

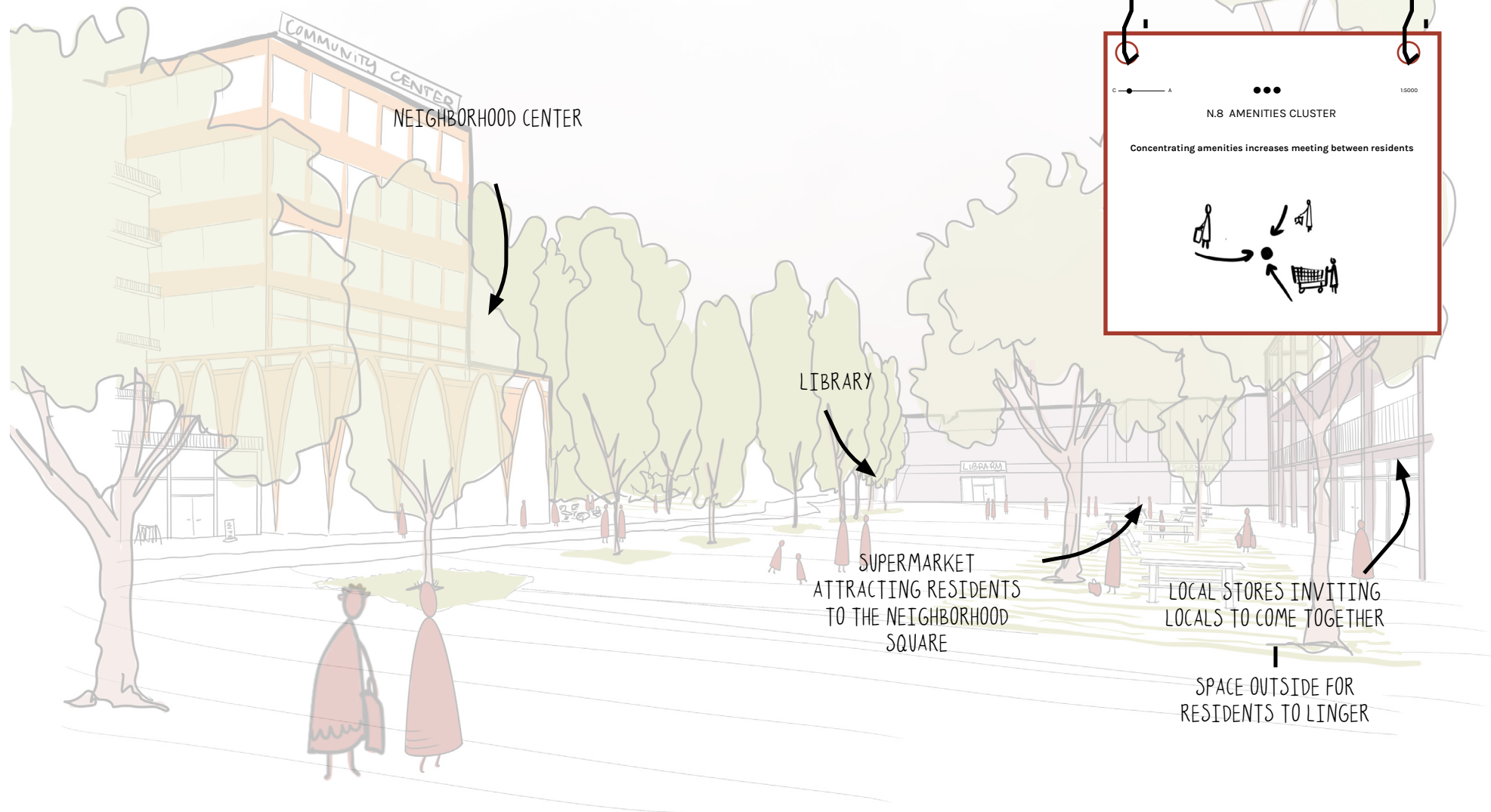


A VIBRANT NEIGHBORHOOD SQUARE



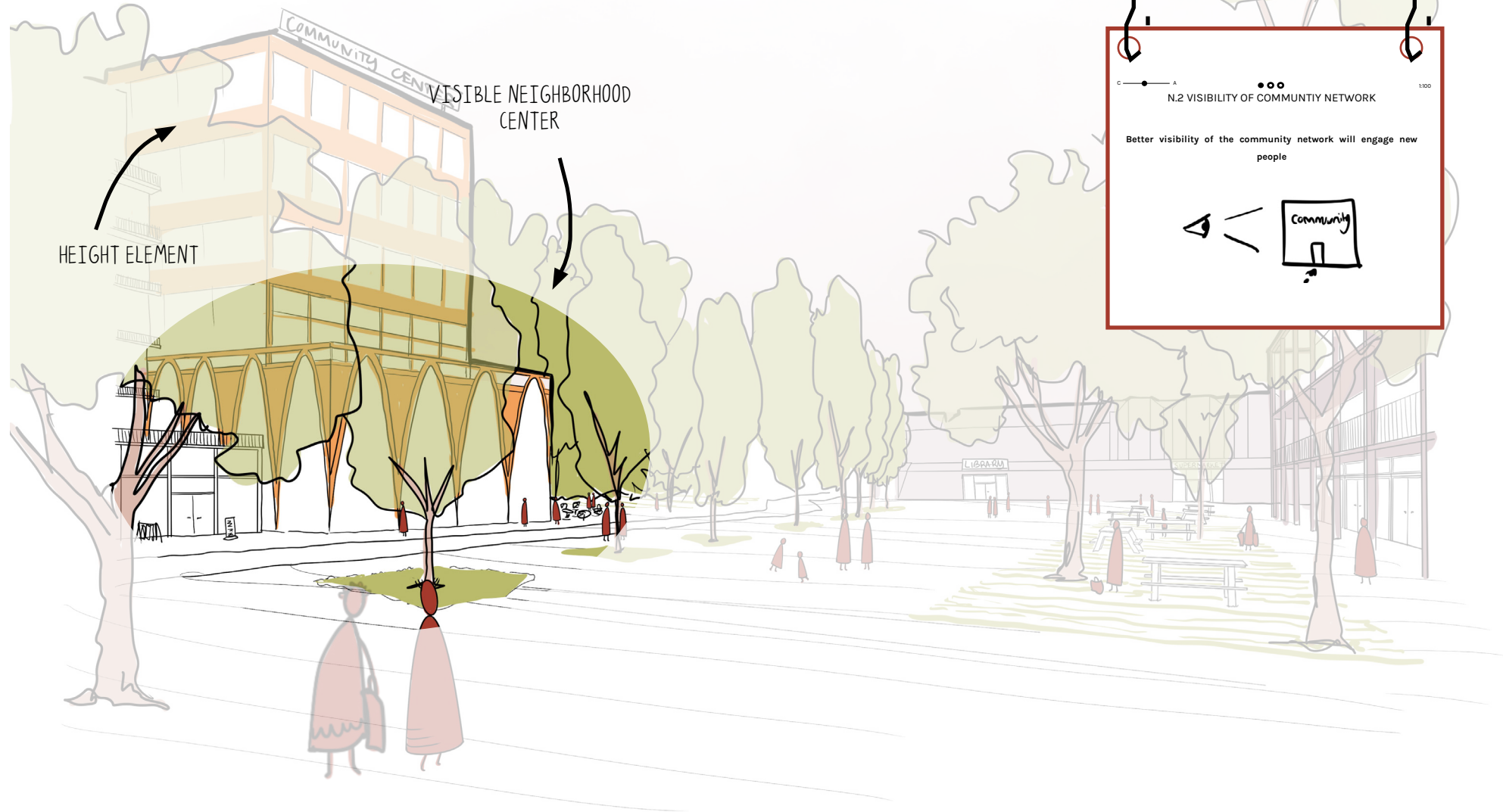
NEIGHBORHOOD SQUARE

Amenities cluster attracting residents



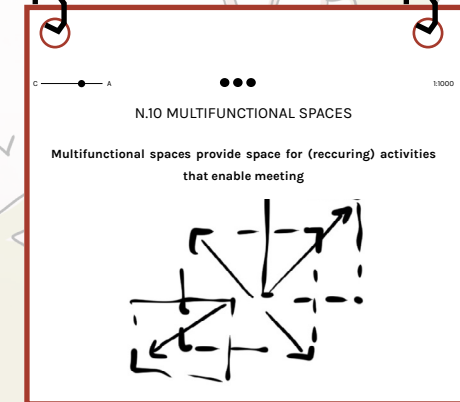
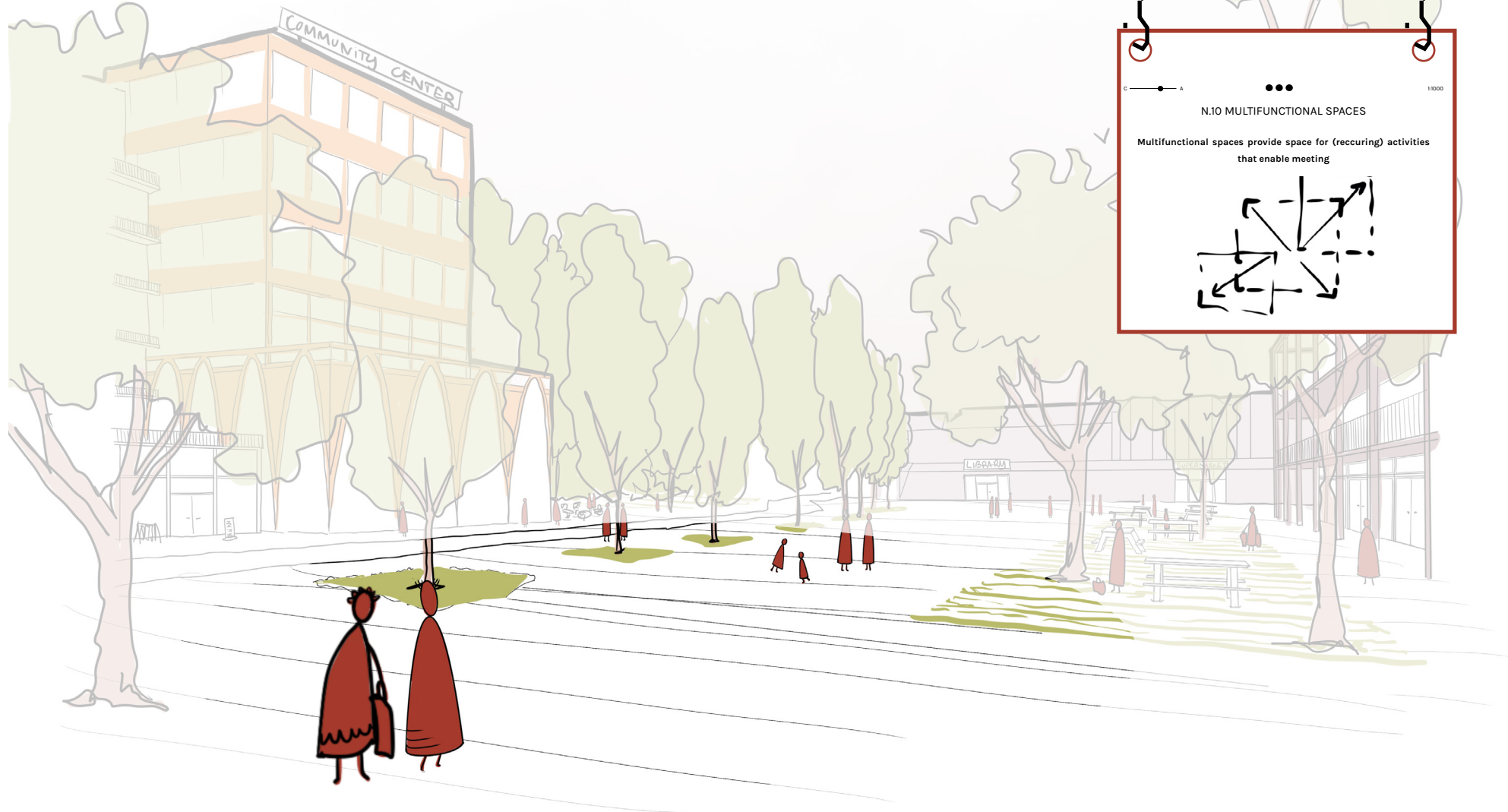
NEIGHBORHOOD SQUARE

An inviting community center



NEIGHBORHOOD SQUARE

Multifunctional space for neighborhood events



NEIGHBORHOOD SQUARE

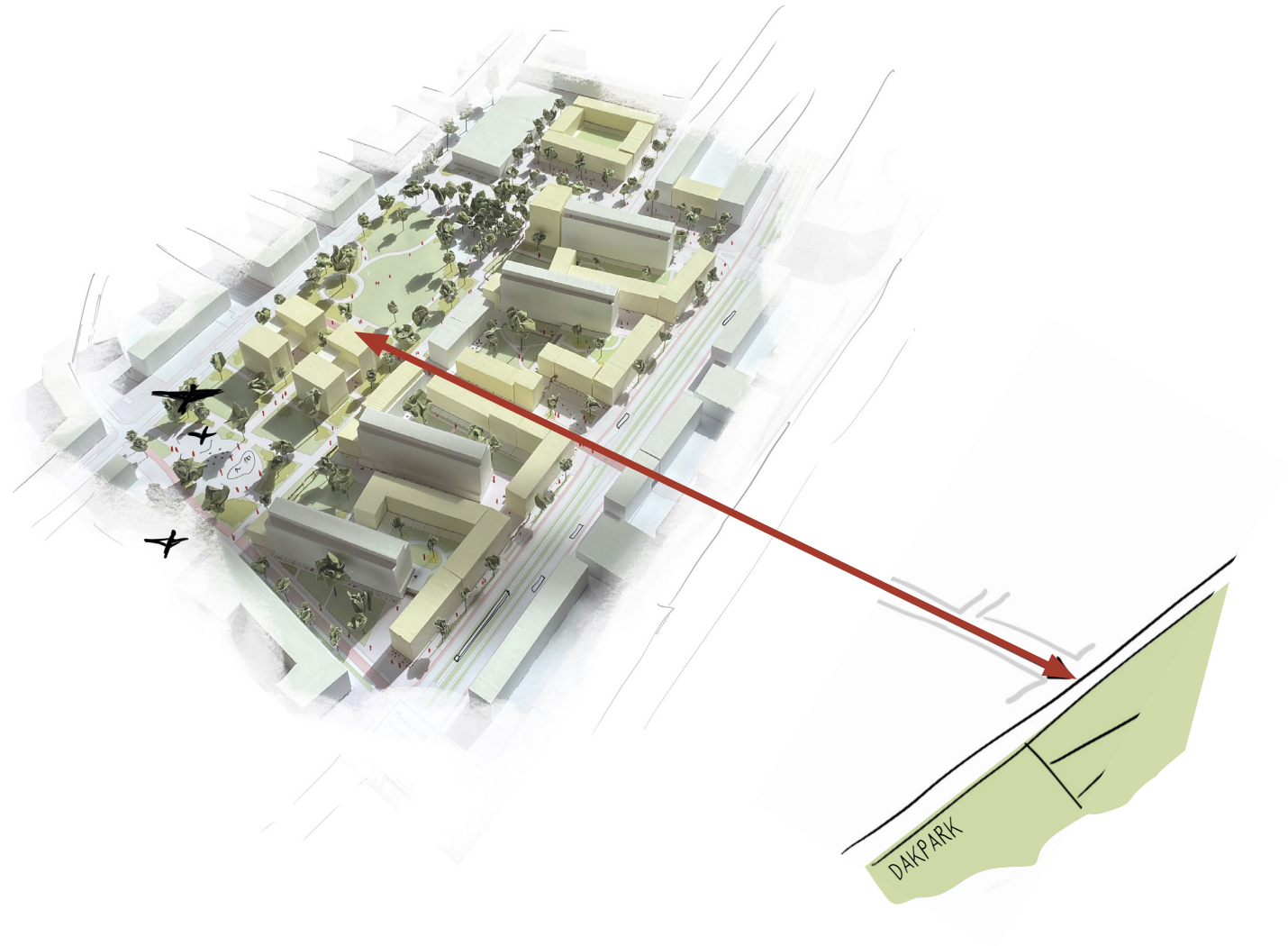
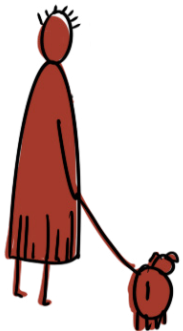
During market days



USER PERSPECTIVE

Persona B: Passer-by with dog

A PASSERBY WITH A DOG IS
VISITING THE PARK COMING
FROM DAKPARK



BEFORE

Unclear hierarchy in routes



PUBLIC ROUTE



PUBLIC ROUTE

Readable spaces



PUBLIC ROUTE

Meeting opportunities along the way

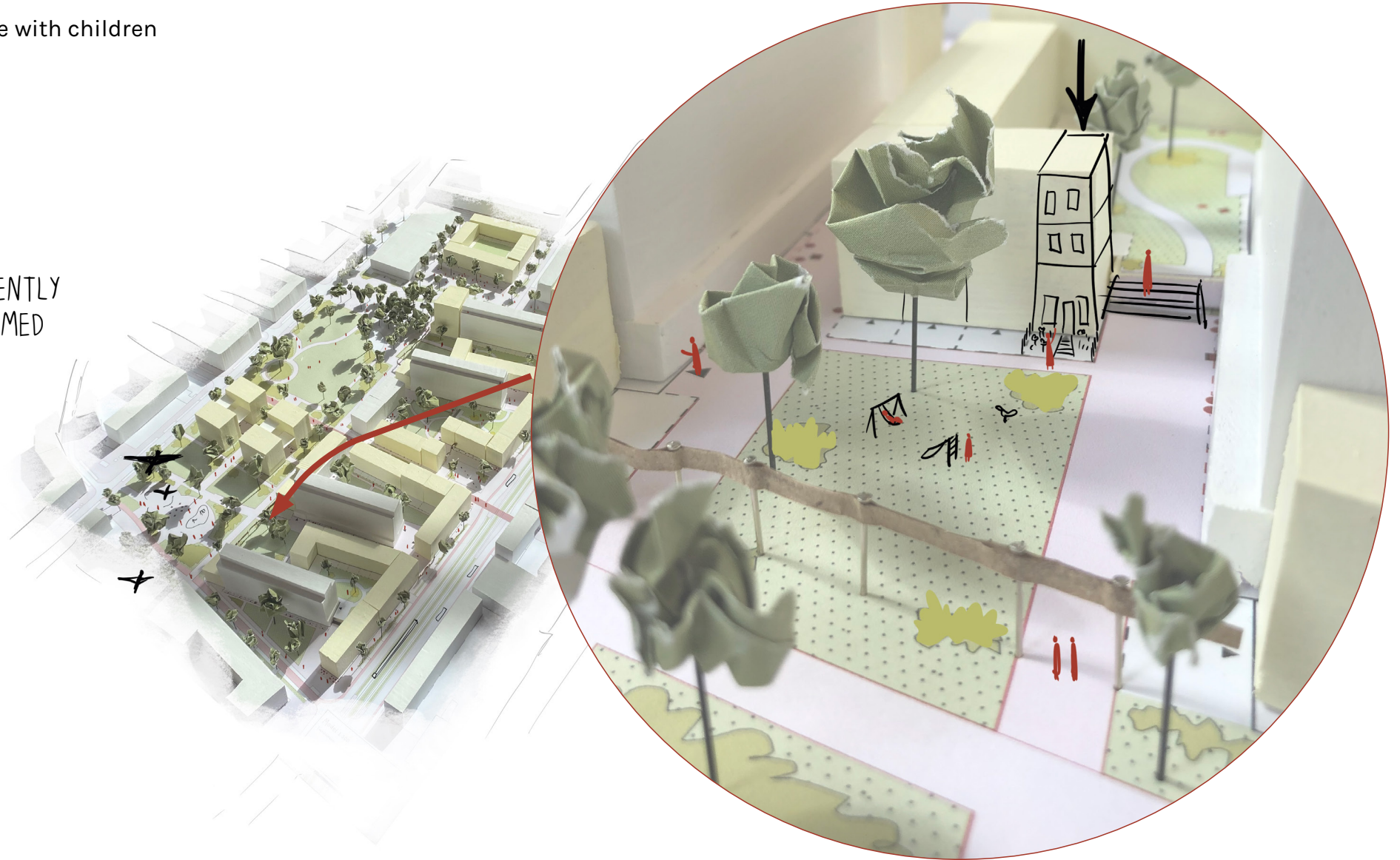


OPENING IN THE URBAN FABRIC WHERE RESIDENTS CAN
LINGER WHILE MOVING THROUGH THE NEIGHBORHOOD

USER PERSPECTIVE

Persona C: Young couple with children

A YOUNG COUPLE WHO RECENTLY
MOVED TO THE TRANSFORMED
NEIGHBORHOOD.



BEFORE

Disconnected edge



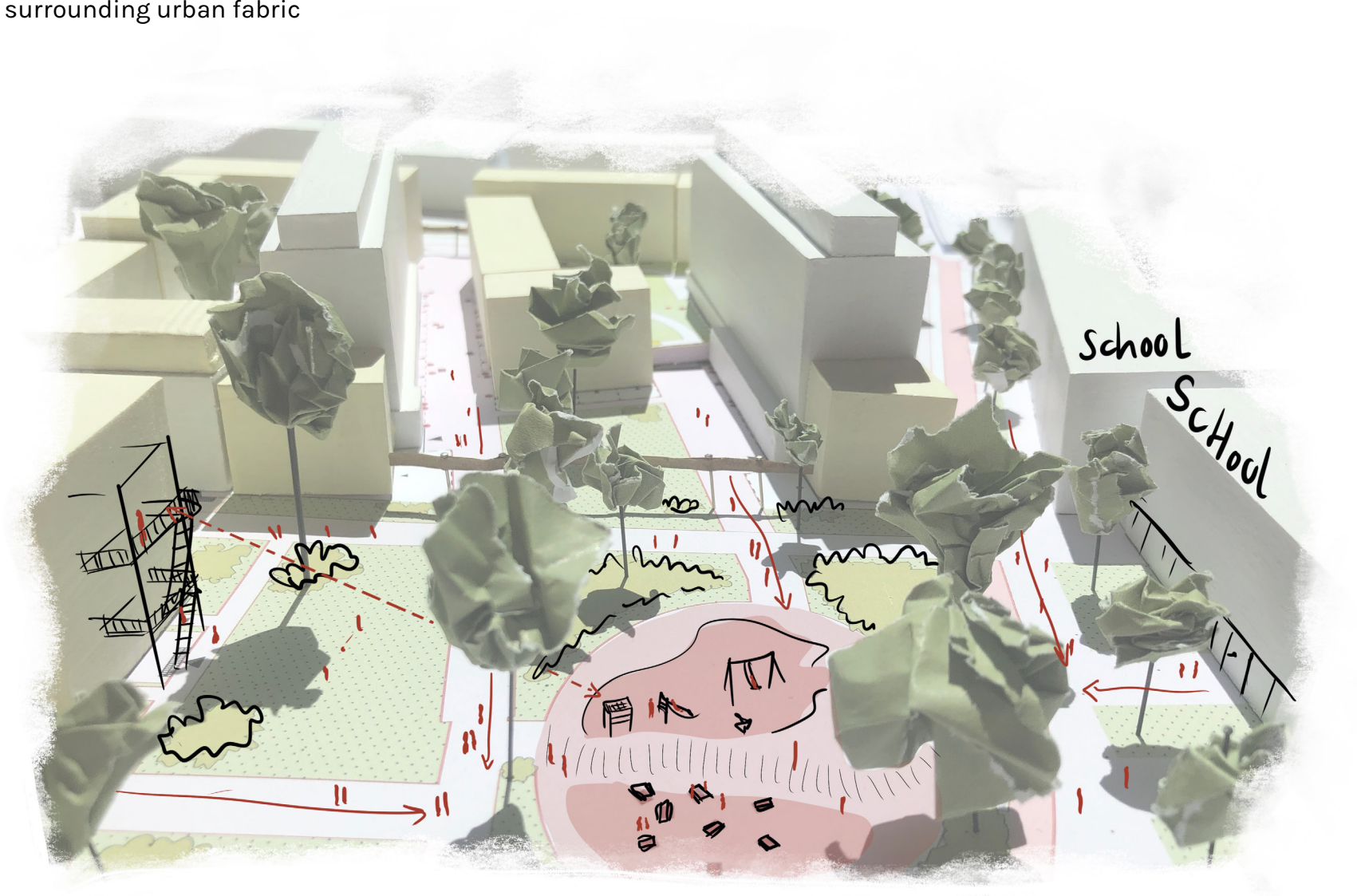
ENTRY GARDEN

Shared entrance space



URBAN ROOM

Connected to surrounding urban fabric



URBAN ROOM

An intimate public schoolyard



PLAN 1:1000



A GRADIENT NETWORK OF PUBLICNESS



DEFINE PUBLIC STRUCTURES ON A LARGER SCALE



TRANSFERABILITY OF THE CONCEPT



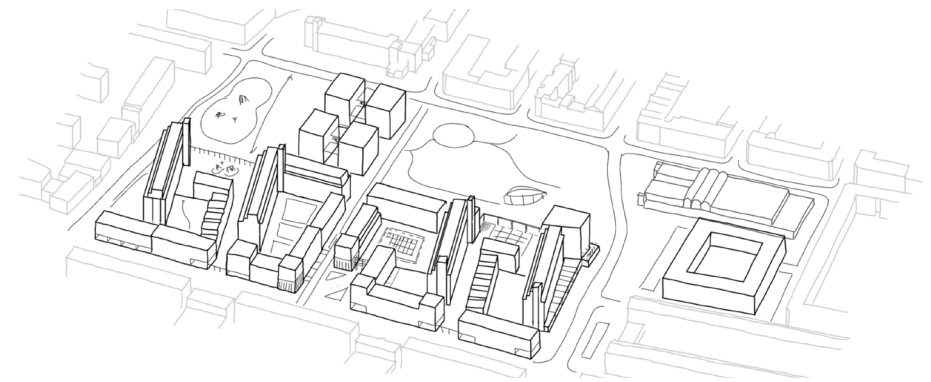
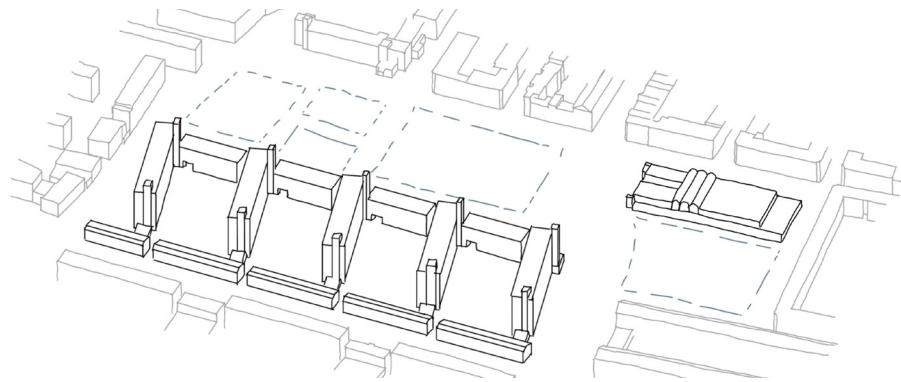
CONCLUSION

MAIN RESEARCH QUESTION

HOW CAN URBAN DESIGN ENHANCE THE CITY'S ROLE AS A MEETING
PLACE IN HIGH-DENSITY, DIVERSE NEIGHBORHOODS LIKE
BOSPOLDER-TUSSENDIJKEN?

CONCLUSION

High density and a city is to meet can coexist



Existing Gijslinglaanflats
35.845 m²

- 1.445 m²

Within Gijslinglaan block
+19.818 m²

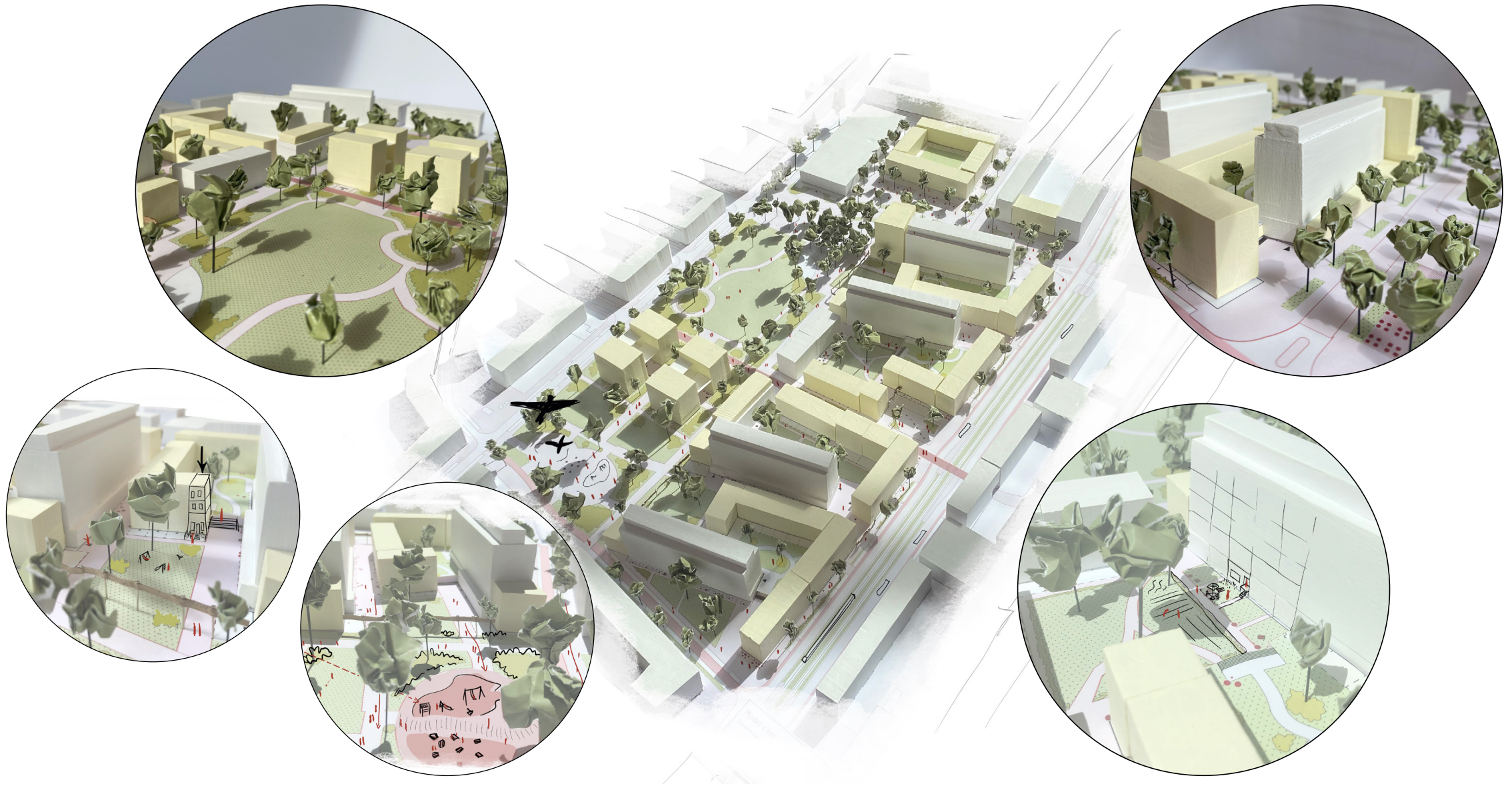
New building blocks
8.970 m²

Total after
transformation
49.908 m²

CONCLUSION

If we shape our public space with care,
strangers may become neighbors





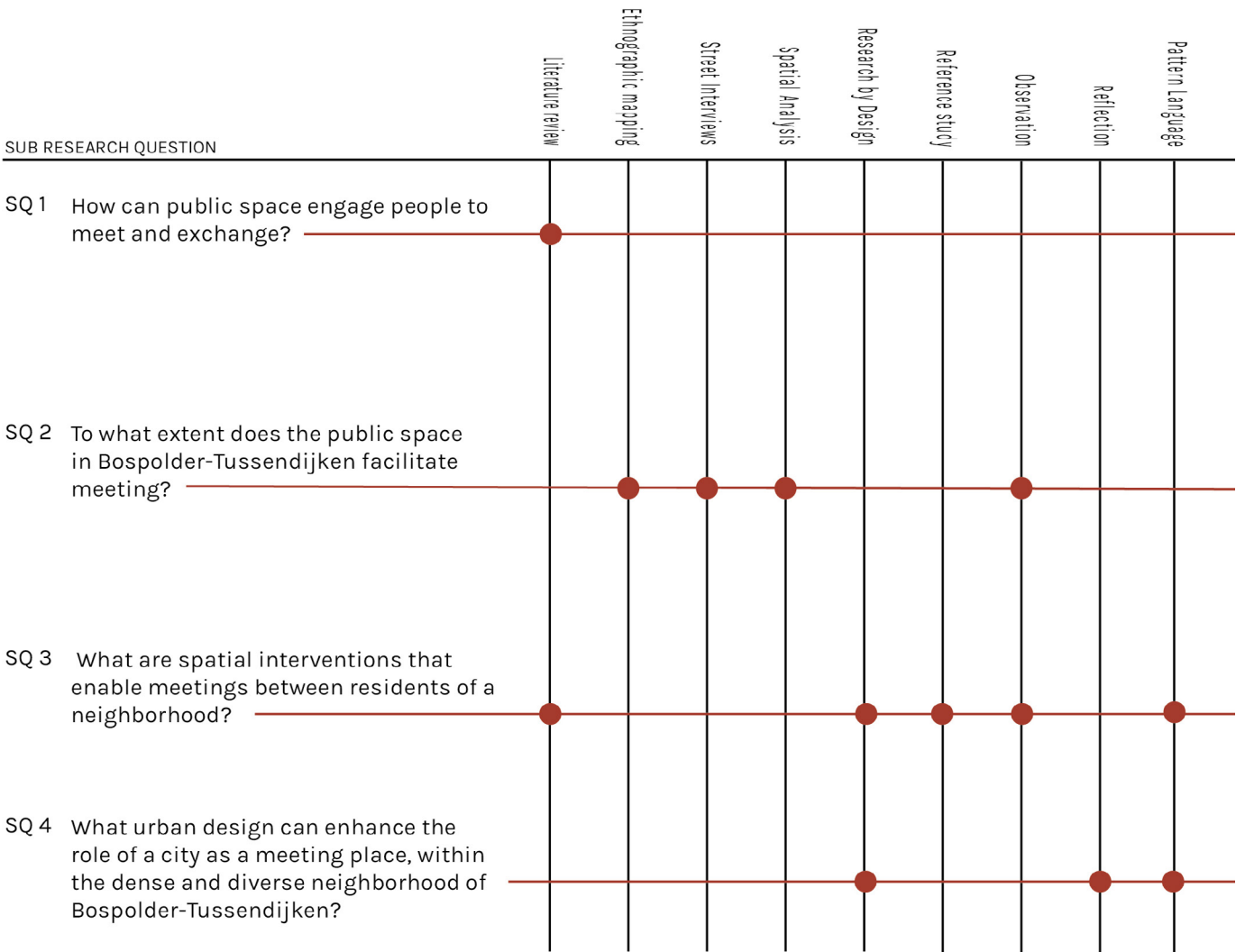
appendix.

SOFT MAP

- Staying space
- Space with feeling of ownership by adjacent residents
- Connection
- Movement
- Grass
- Buildings
- Community spaces
- Shared spaces
- Public function
- Green

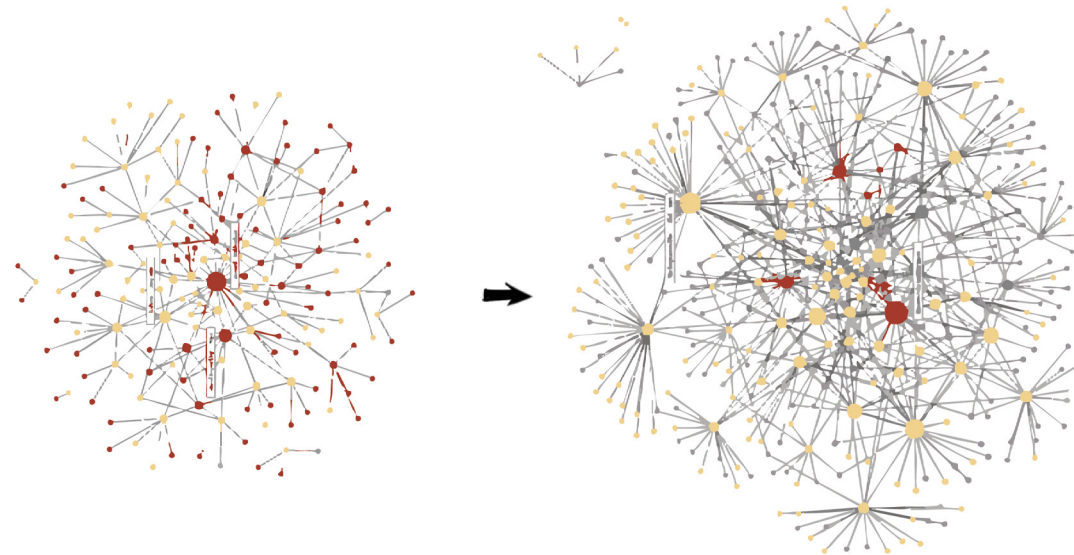


METHODOLOGY





RESILIENT BOTU 2028 MONITOR RESULTS



RESEARCH QUESTIONS

MAIN RESEARCH QUESTION

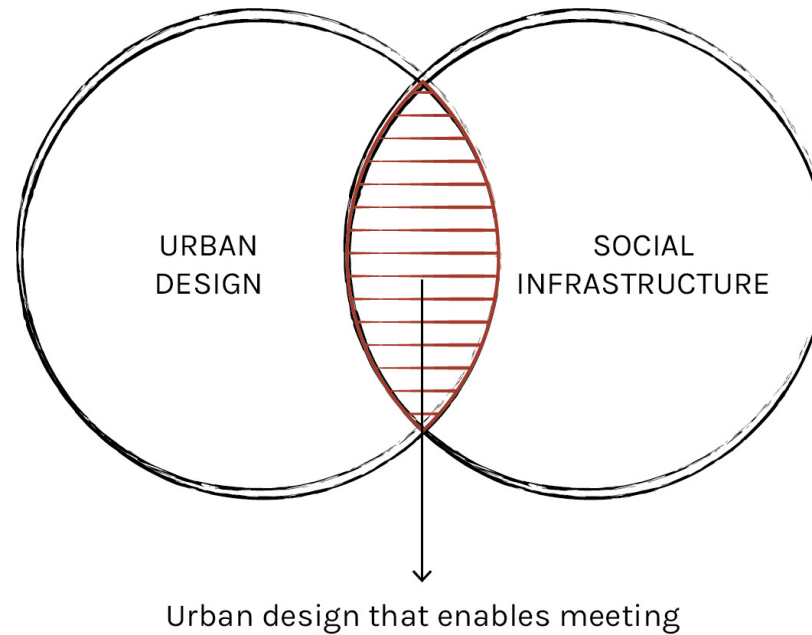
How can urban design enhance the city’s role as a meeting place in high-density, diverse neighborhoods like Bospolder-Tussendijken?

SUB QUESTIONS

- UNDERSTAND
- 1 How do meetings manifest in the public space of a neighborhood?
- 2 To what extent does the public space in Bospolder-Tussendijken facilitate meeting?
- PROPOSE
- 3 What are spatial interventions that enable meetings between residents of a neighborhood?
- 4 What urban design can enhance the role of a city as a meeting place, within the dense and diverse neighborhood of Bospolder-Tussendijken?

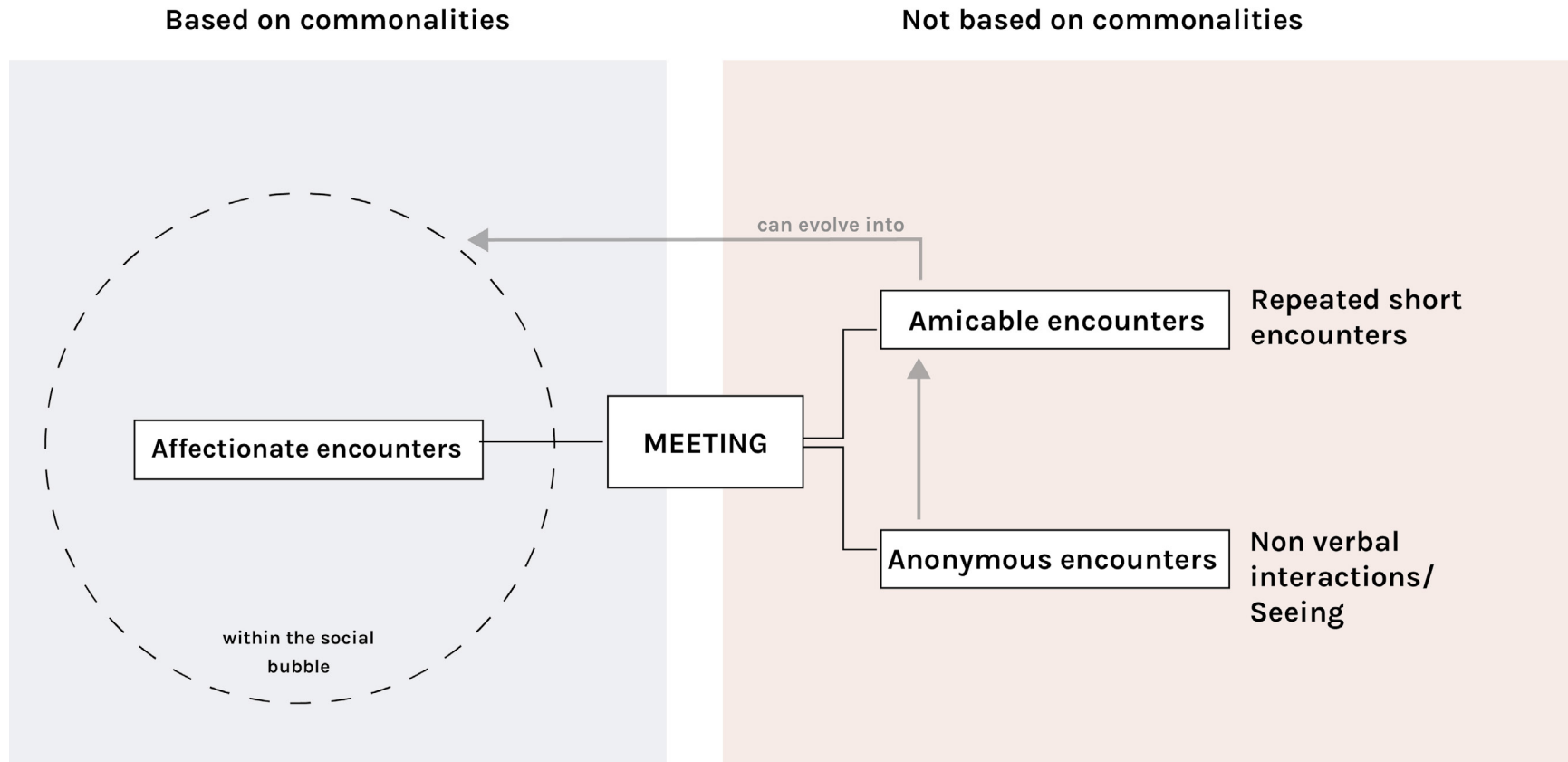
SCOPE

Conceptual framework

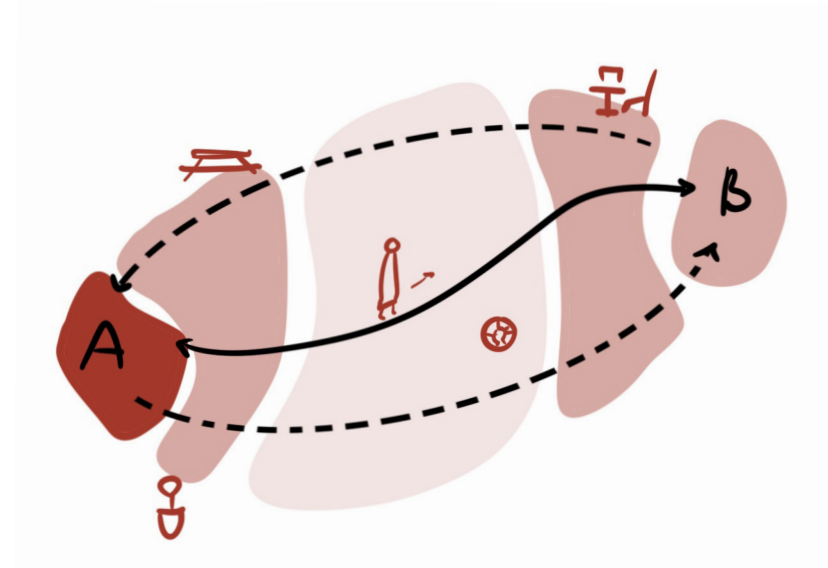
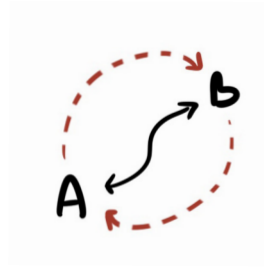
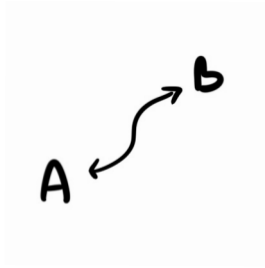


EVOLUTION OF MEETING

enhancing familiarity



WHERE DO WE MEET ?



CHANGED USE OF STREETS

Schiedamseweg

1929



2025



Spanjaardstraat

+/- 1920



2025



SPONTENOUS ENCOUNTERS IN BOTU

'Money is not going to solve the public space. People need to treat the space outside their front door, the public space, better'
- local resident

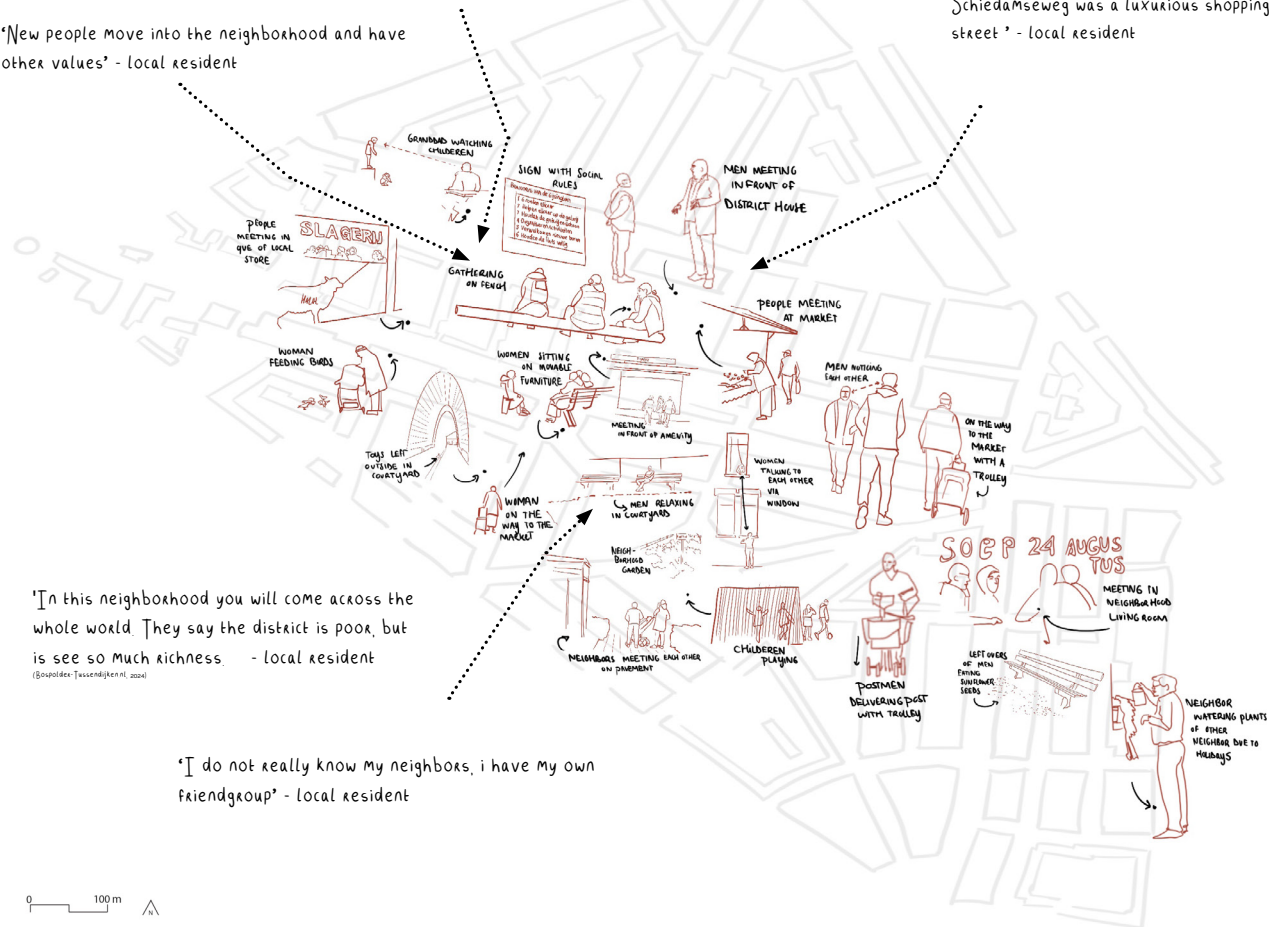
'New people move into the neighborhood and have other values' - local resident

'I have lived in Tussendijken for 70 years. When i just started living here the Schiedamseweg was a luxurious shopping street' - local resident

'In this neighborhood you will come across the whole world. They say the district is poor, but is see so much richness. - local resident

(Goupolides; Tussendijkennl, 2004)

'I do not really know my neighbors, i have my own friendgroup' - local resident



SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE



REFERENCE STUDIES



Figure 15: Woensel west
Source: Made by Author 2024

DETAILS
Eindhoven
The Netherlands

Area: 70.000 m²
5.500 inhabitants
Year: 2007



Figure 16: Le medi
Source: Made by Author 2024

DETAILS
Rotterdam
The Netherlands

Area: 20.000 m²
250 inhabitants
Year: 2008



Figure 17: Vauban
Source: Walkabout, D. (2018, July 6). Vauban, Germany - The worlds first sustainable living suburb - TravelFeed. TravelFeed. <https://travelfeed.com/@izzynoel/vauban-germany-the-worlds-first-sustainable-living-suburb-1530665550>

DETAILS
Freiburg
Germany

Area: 40.000 m²
5000 inhabitants
Year: 2006

THE PATTERNS

Strength

- based on literature in combination with reference and/ or observation
- based on literature or reference studie
- based on observation or research by design

Operating scale

- 1:10

furniture
- 1:100

building
- 1:500

one urban block
- 1:1000

composition of urban blocks
- 1:5000

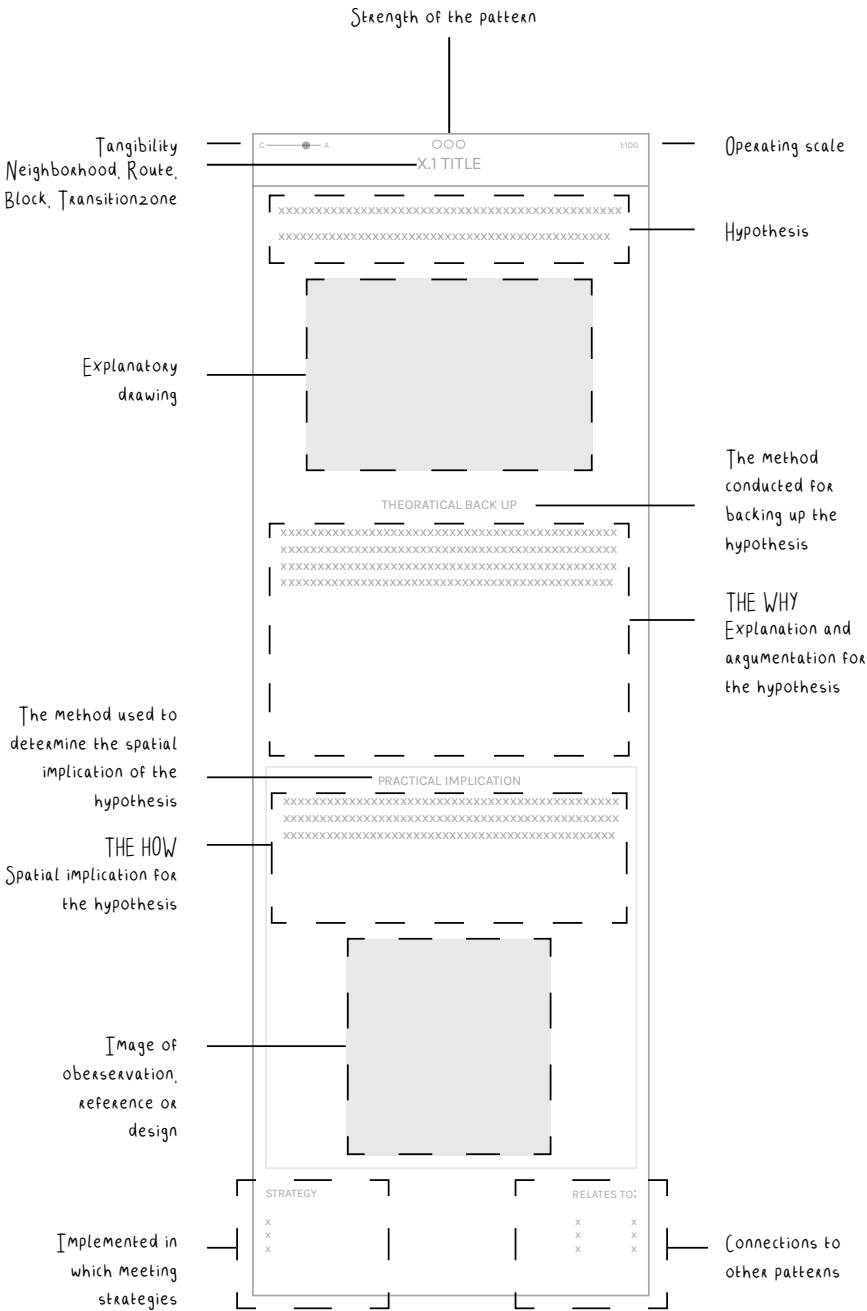
the whole neighborhood

Tangibility

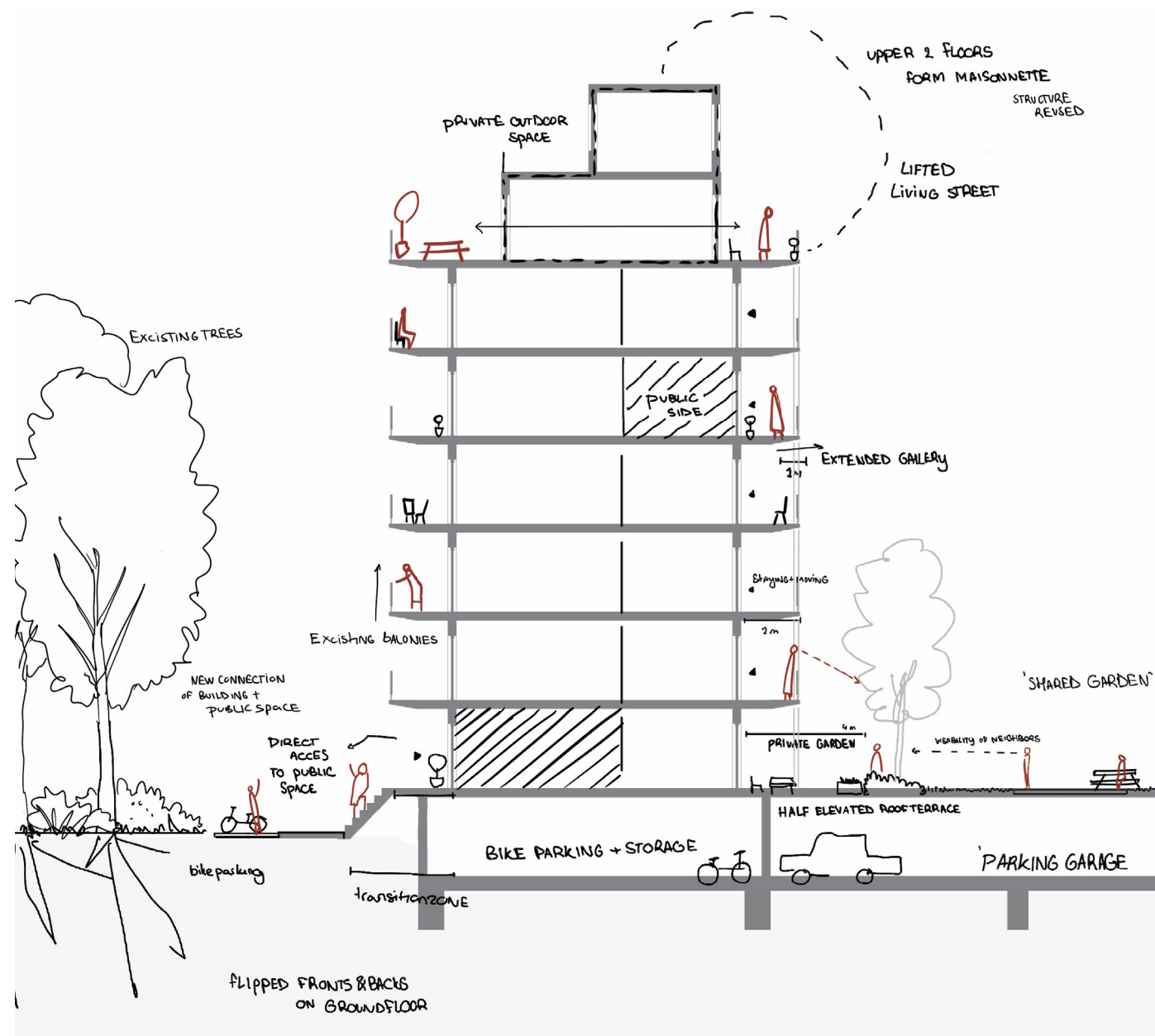
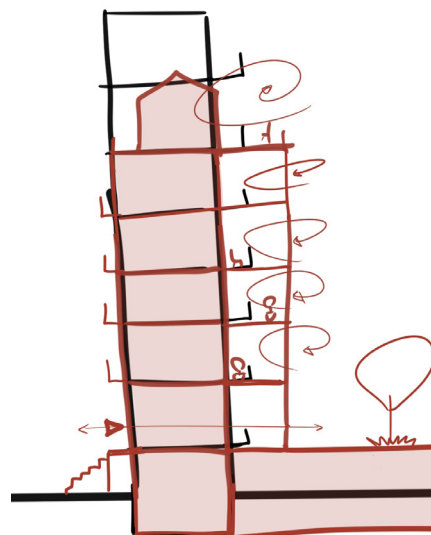


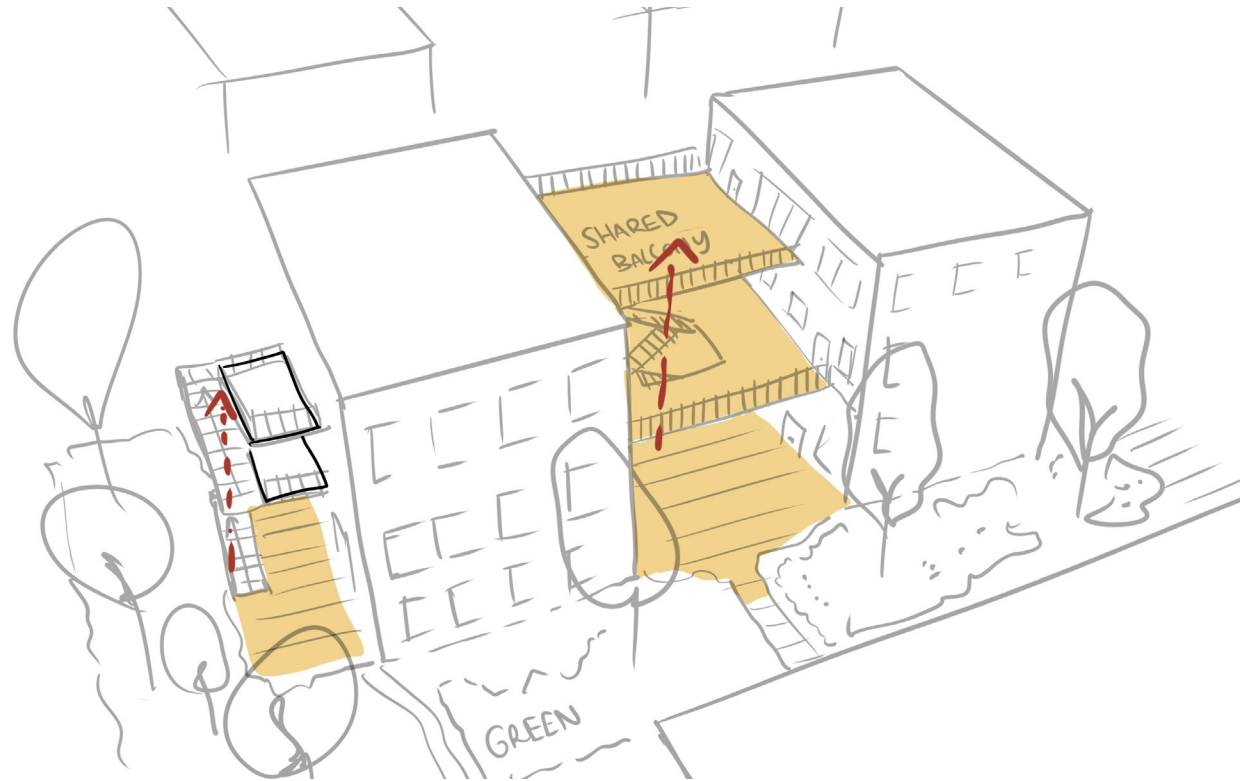
Strategy implemented

- Meeting between direct neighbors
- Meeting between common interest
- Meeting between residents of the neighborhood



TRANSFORMATION OF GIJSINLAANFLATS

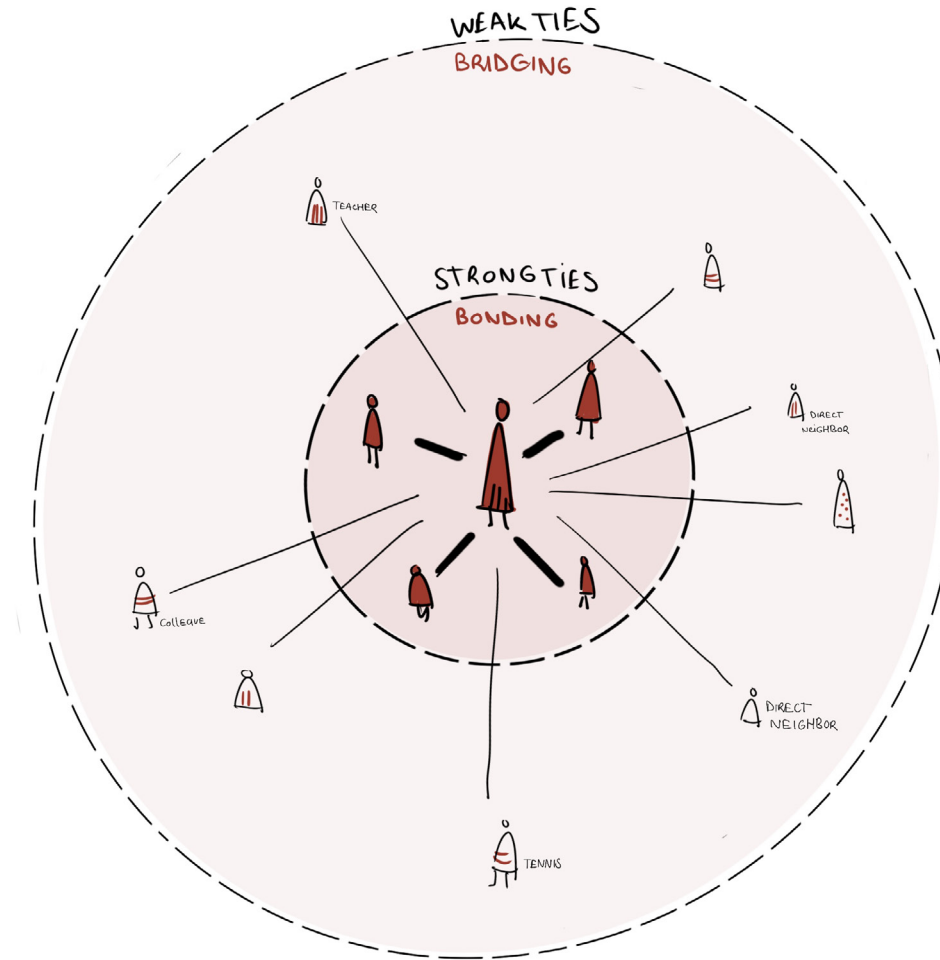


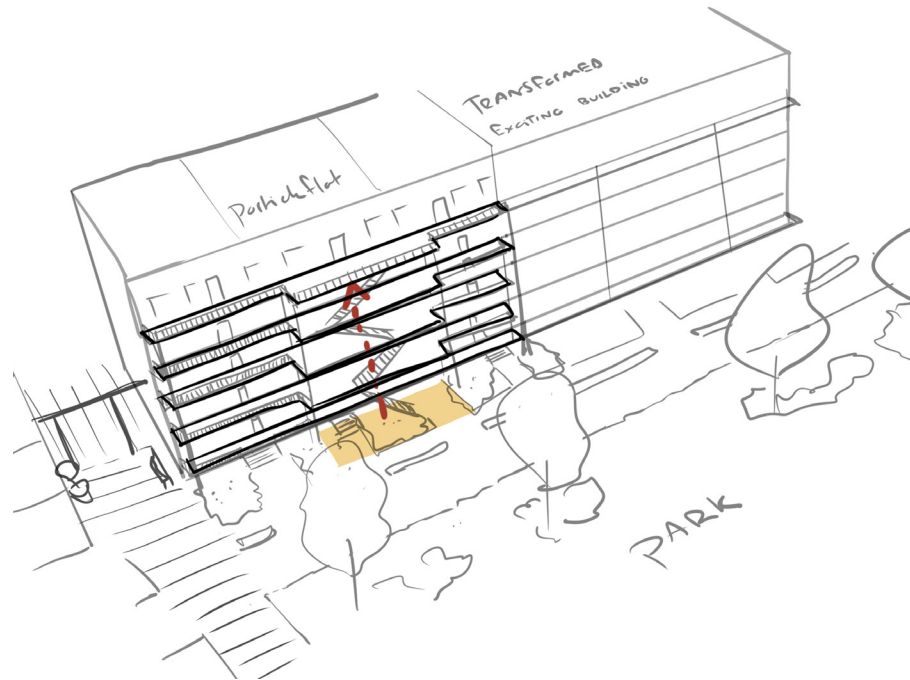


Shared balcony inbetween buildings

Source: Abdel, H. (2025, May 28). 38 Albermarle Street Residential Building / Fieldwork. ArchDaily. <https://www.archdaily.com/1008193/38-albermarle-street-residential-building-fieldwork>

WEAK TIES



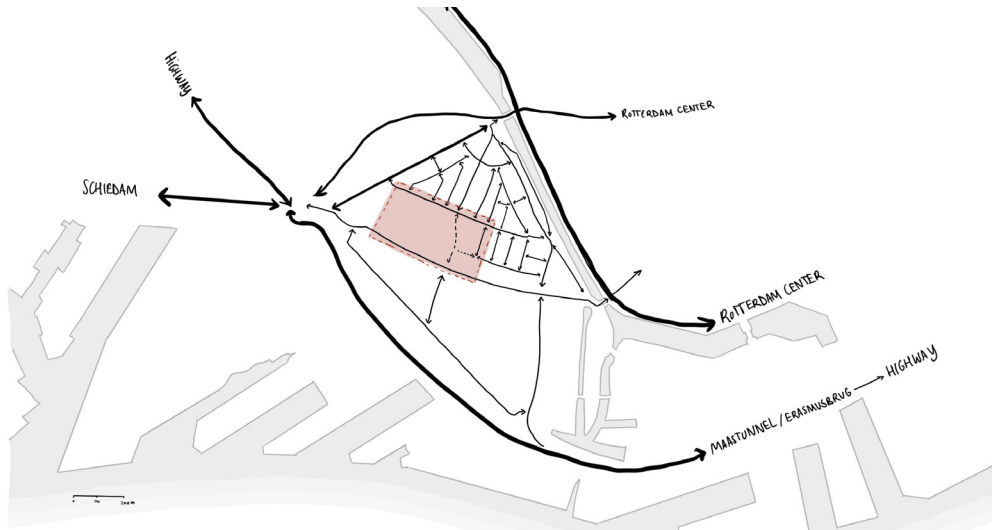


Portiek acces and shared galleries

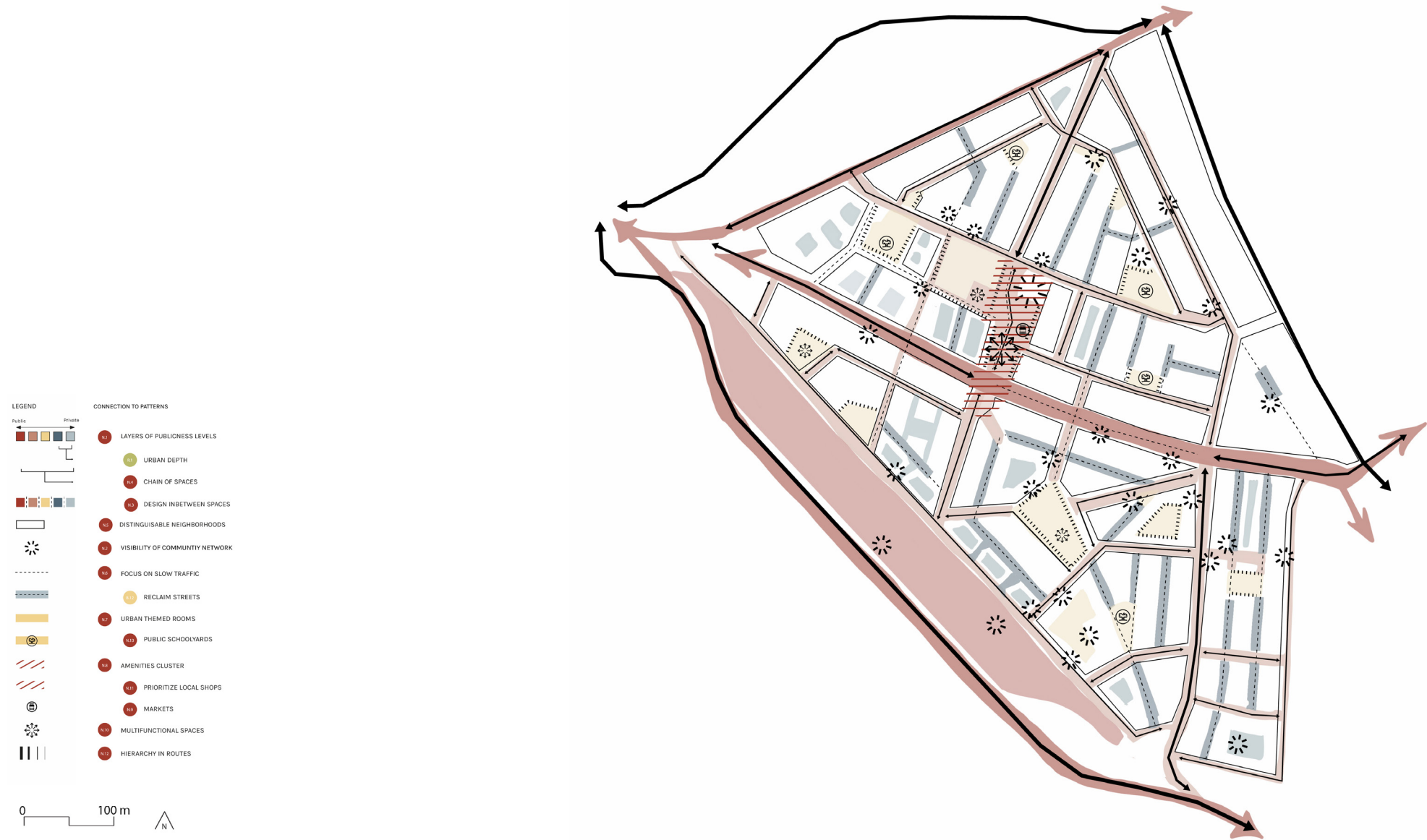
Source: Siedlung Erligatter - Genossenschaft Neubühl, (2022, December 19). Genossenschaft Neubühl. <https://neubuehl.ch/siedlung-erligatter/>

MULTIFUNCTIONAL STREET

Infrastructure following design for meeting



PATTERNS IN BOSPOLDER-TUSSENDIJKEN

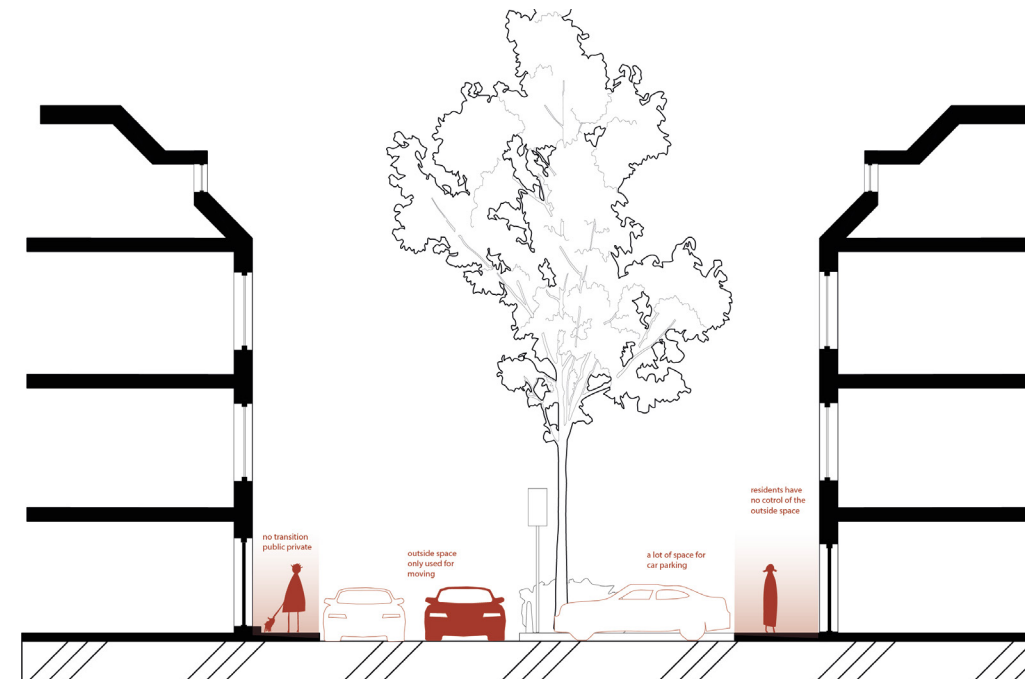


PUBLIC SPACE THAT HINDERS MEETINGS

Watergeusstraat - public

FOCUSED ON MOVING

NO INSIDE OUT CONNECTION

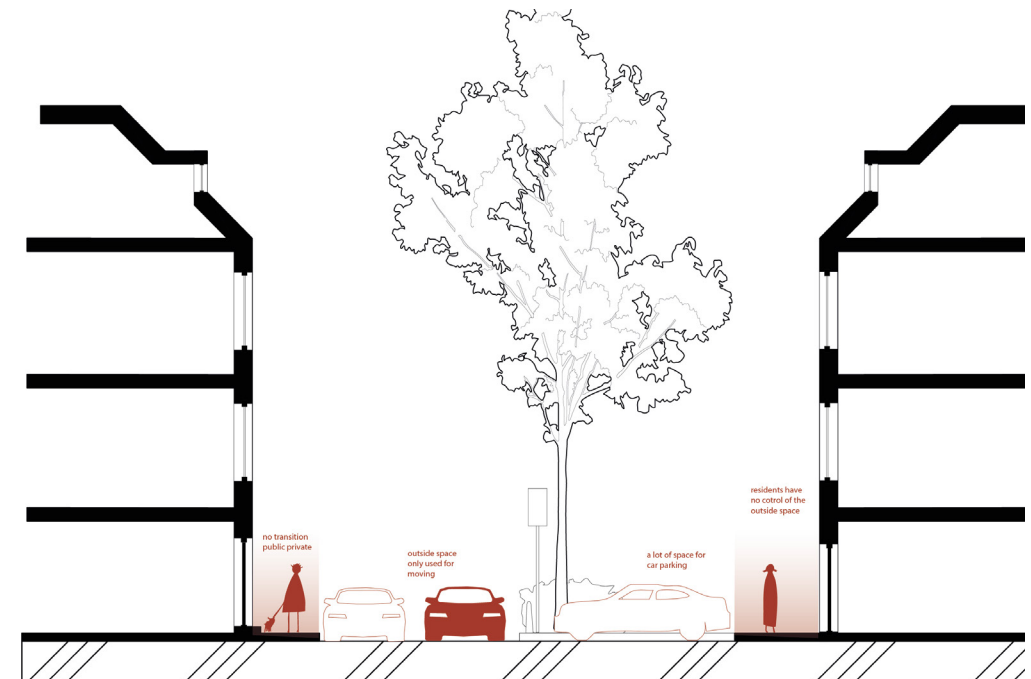


PUBLIC SPACE THAT HINDERS MEETINGS

Watergeusstraat - public

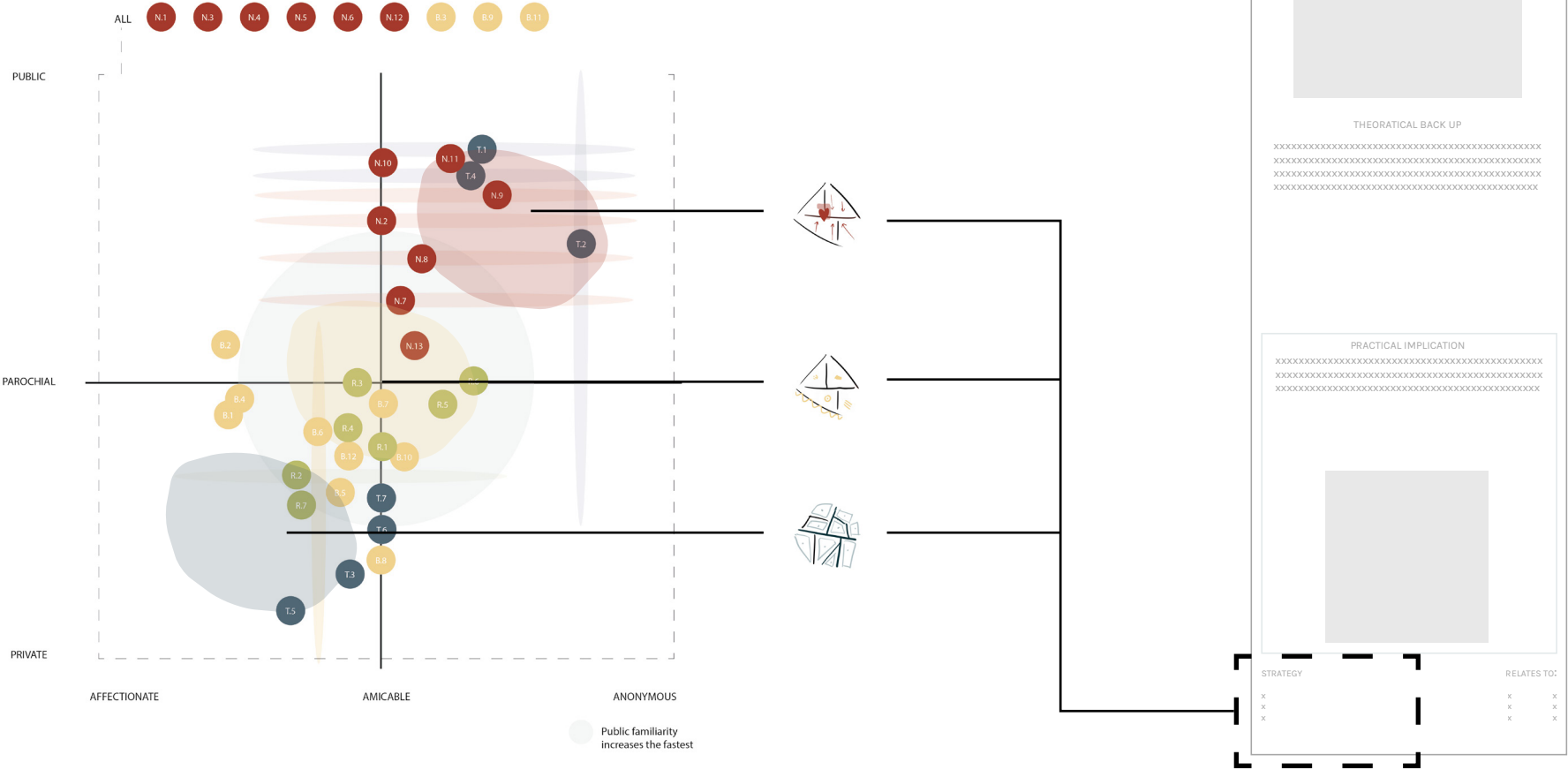
FOCUSED ON MOVING

NO INSIDE OUT CONNECTION



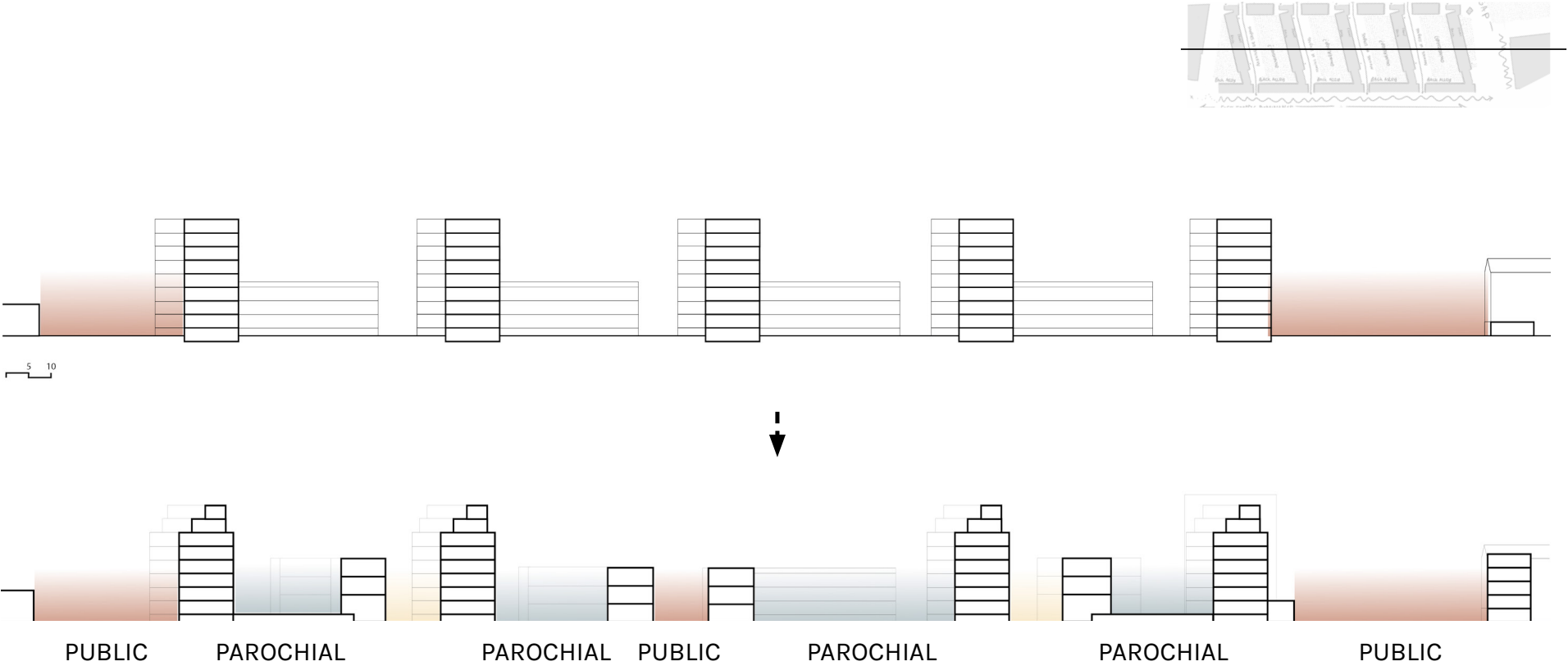
SPATIAL INTERVENTIONS CONNECTED TO THE STRATEGIES

pattern language



TRANSFORMED SECTION

Layered levels of publicness



THE IMPORTANCE OF MEETINGS

Sense of belonging

Create the feeling of being home

Understand each other

Weak ties - resilience

