

**Rethinking perception.**

The way of reconsidering relations  
between urban spaces.



**II**  
photo research



Action x space.

The relations between the different spaces around us can't simply be segregated into public and private areas. Such a division reflects only a small portion of what the spaces are in reality.

The stopmotion animation of Rybczyński gives some idea of how complex space can be, along with showing what kind of qualities someone has to take into consideration in order to fully describe it. Dealing with the redefinition of space in the Nadodrze district, I wanted to discover how the space there can be definitively described.

The photo research is a collection of registrations of the everyday life of the people from Nadodrze. By taking photos they reflected upon the statement *how does space define an action, how do action define space?* and simultaneously they depicted the space around them in everyday situations.

Each of the photographs shows a unique story and is described by an accompanying graph. It is an attempt to label the spaces in the Nadodrze district and to observe what kind of relations the space encapsulates.

The photos are registrations of unique stories that are even more important and beautiful because they represent moments from that area as seen through the eyes of the residents.



Justyna (25)  
iOS Developer

Bartosz(27)  
Lawyer

they live on the edge of the Nadodrze  
District  
in an old tenement house

photos by Justyna and Bartosz

Justyna and Bartosz

**I asked you to refer to the statement *how does space define an action, how do actions define space?* and simultaneously to show the space around you in everyday situations. I'm curious as to what really affected your selection of frames. Why did you decide to show the places that we can see on your photographs?**

We attempted to choose some characteristic places for the Nadodrze and Ołbin districts. In our view, these two districts are distinguished primarily by their well-preserved pre-war architecture (tenements, courtyards). This affects the residents' activities and situations including the economic one. There are many tiny shops and craft workshops which you can't find in other parts of the city. These unique surroundings are visible in the artistic expression of the inhabitants. It is not an accident that Nadodrze is associated with numerous murals on impoverished tenements.

**I noticed that the photos which I received are not a simple registration of some place. Usually they communicate something more. I wonder, was there something particular that you tried to show through your photos?**

Our intention was to capture the atmosphere which results from the specific relationship between a person and the space that envelops them.

**Based on the situations and experiences from your everyday life, can you identify what differentiates intimate space from the exposed one?**

As an intimate space we would consider one which is available for a limited number of people who create the space.

**While taking photos you were moving around Nadodrze a lot. How did the space of the district affect your behavior? How did you feel in these places?**

We were pretty comfortable. We almost live in Nadodrze, and because of that we didn't notice any notable difference between our everyday walks and the ones with the camera.

**What do you think about Nadodrze?**

In our opinion it is the most mysterious and antique district of Wrocław.

**Can you describe Nadodrze by one word?**

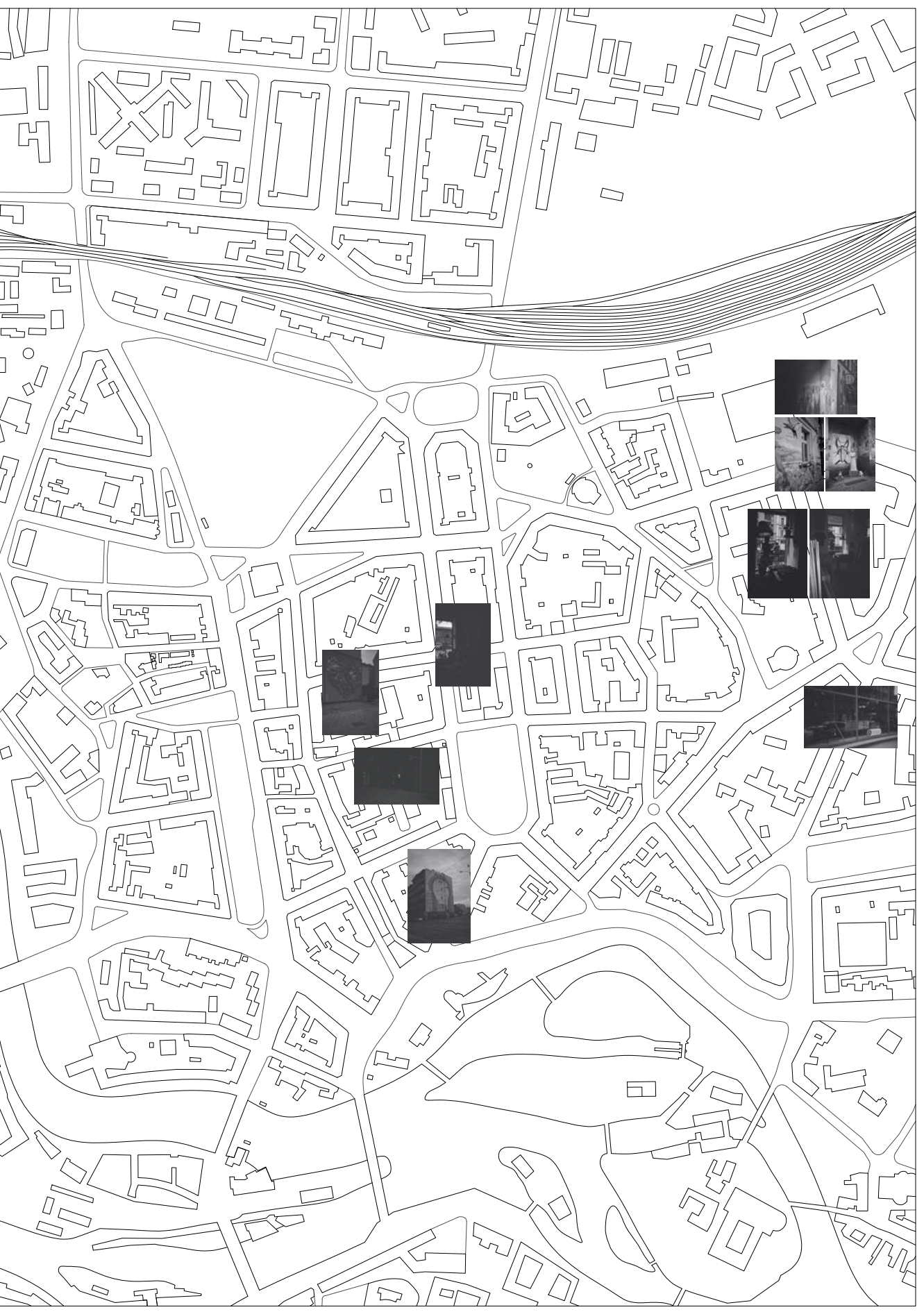
Tenement houses

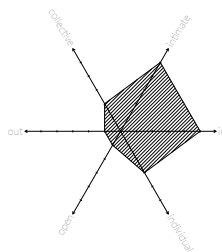
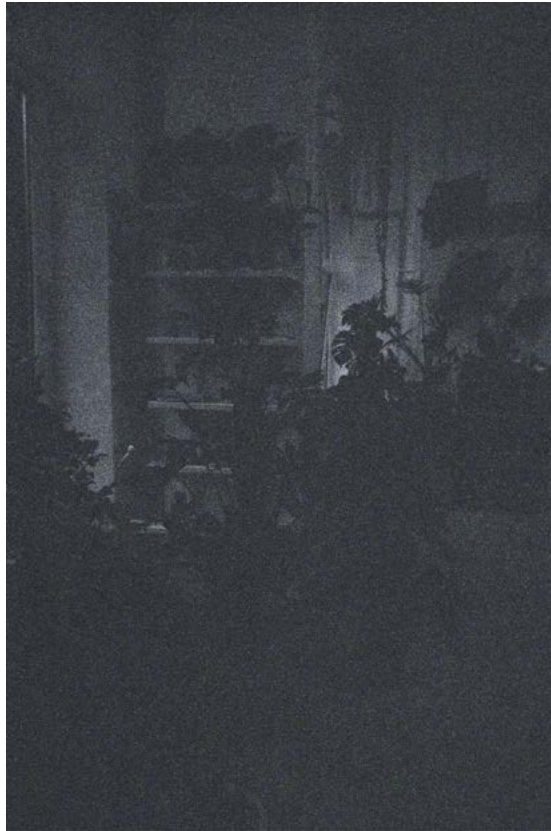


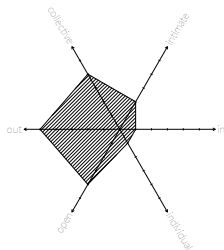
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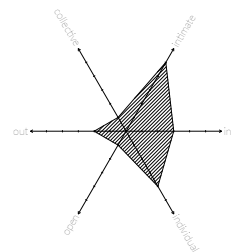


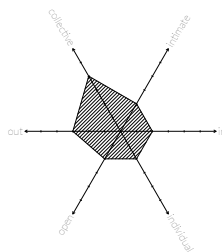




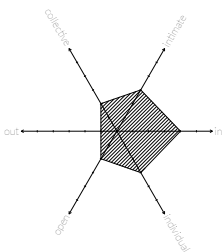






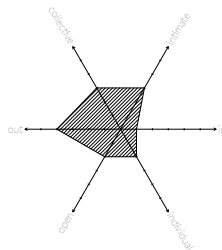




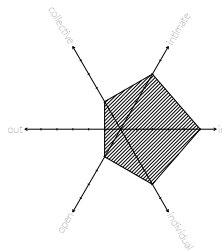


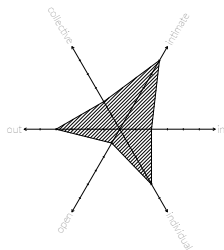




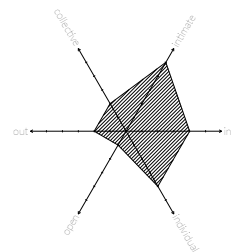














Marta (26)  
architect

Macio (25)  
architect

they live on the east edge  
of Nadodrze District  
in an old town house

everyday commute to work in the city  
center using public transportation  
or scooter

photos by Marta and Maciej



Marta and Macio

**I asked you to refer to the statement *how does space define an action, how do actions define space?* and simultaneously to show the space around you in everyday situations. I'm curious as to what really affected your selection of frames. Why did you decide to show the places that we can see on your photographs?**

Marta: At that time (frankly it is always similar) my activities were equal to going to work and back. It was mostly defined by being in a rush. The choice of frames wasn't accidental - because my road to work is the same each day, I was thinking about them before. Although their mood was dependend on moment that I found myself.

Macio: Smilary to Marta I had quite busy time and in the end I took one photo being outside. The photo is the frame from my everyday road to work and I was thinking about it earlier. I chose this one because it represents chaning surroundings.

**I noticed that the photos which I received are not a simple registration of some place. Usually they communicate something more. I wonder, was there something particular that you tried to show through your photos?**

Marta: Most of the photographs gives an impression of mentioned before rush. Except one that is entarely static, becuase it was taken at home. It joins the space with the city in the same time paints within the frame of the silent intereior.

Macio: Like above, I wanted to illustrate chaning environment.

**What do you think best describes a space?**

Macio: I presume that elements which describe the space in the best way are all kind of events and activieites happening in a certain time. I mean here, both events iniciated by people (getherings in small or bigger group, walks, artistic installations, happenings or concerts) and changing weather or sunlight. All of it shape the sapce evenly, we perceive it in this or different way. It is one feeling of being alone in the middle of the empty square while raining, and totally different when exploring the space of the square during foodtruck festival in full sun.



**Based on the situations and experiences from your everyday life, can you identify what differentiates intimate space from the exposed one?**

Marta: In my opinion, relation of vertical elements, from small furniture, walls to the whole buildings and urbanistic structures - they create layers and perspectives. I found space in a very physical way.

Macio: This what differentiate an intimate space from exposed one is the expected way of behaving. Our behavior is different in safe space of our flat and of course it will be different when having a walk on a busy street.

Let's return to previous question for a moment. I don't want the previous answer to sound like a negation of the answer for this question. I think that events, overall, are one of the main elements which describe a space, but *pool* of the behaviors are restricted by a society's social norms to some extent. One would also say that a society defines behavior, and a behavior defines both intimacy/openness of some space and the space itself. Although, I realise that it is a simplification to a certain extent.

**Do your everyday actions affect the space, or the perception of said space, around you?**

Marta: As an individual, I don't have huge impact on more public space in the city, which surrounds me. Only when some bigger group of people starts behaving in a certain way in a certain place, some impact can be created. The situation is different when it comes to private spaces.

Macio: I agree and I've already mentioned that.

**While taking photos you were moving around Nadodrze a lot. How did the space of the district affect your behavior? How did you feel in these places?**

Marta: Like at home. This, which might frighten away or scare one, is not anything special for me. After years of living in the area, I feel safe. I am not a stranger.

**What do you think about Nadodrze?**

Marta: A bit Kreuzberg, a bit Praga Północ. Shabby, but also regenerating area. It's happening both thanks to the entrepreneurs/local craft artists and the residents (Nadodrze's murals)

Macio: I have this feeling that the area is still a bit underrated. Due to very center focused operating of Wrocław, Nadodrze is still a bit aside, despite of huge potential of the area. In spite of a lot of bottom-up initiatives and events it isn't an initiative generate point on map of Wrocław, like already mentioned Kreuzberg for Berlin.

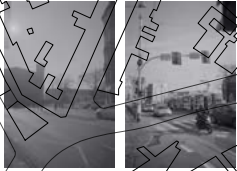
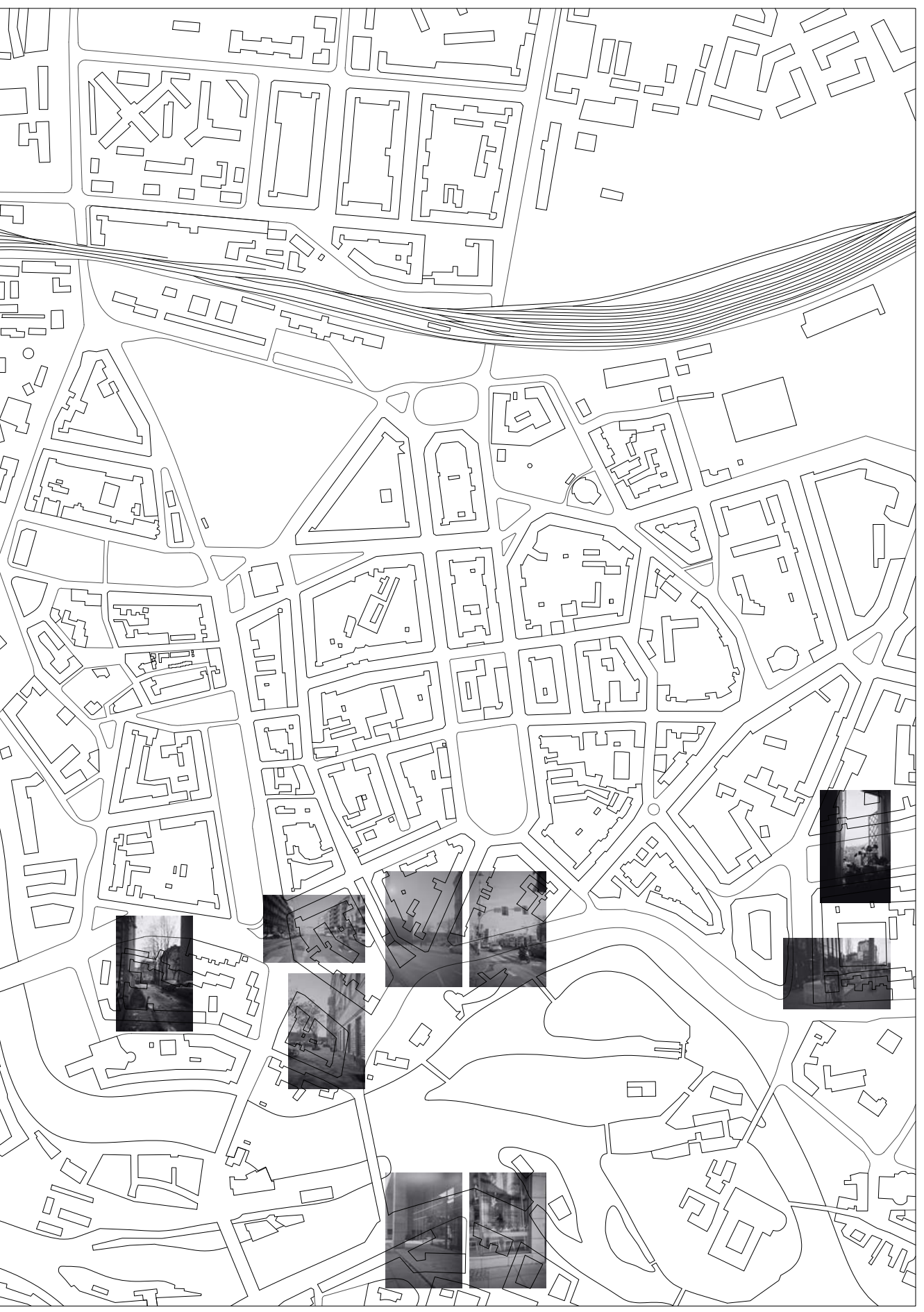
**Can you described Nadodrze by one word?**

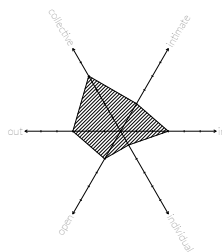
Marta: Paradox.

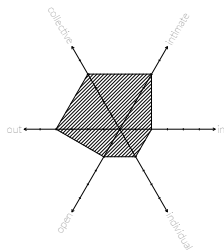
Macio: Potential.

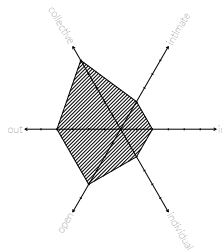


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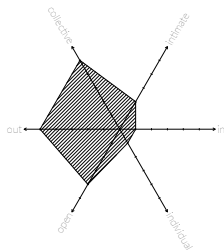


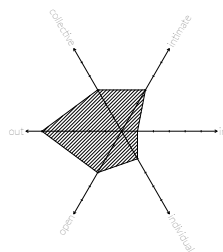


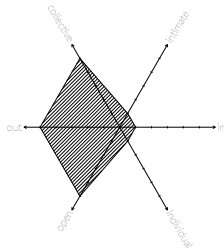


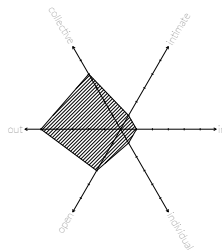


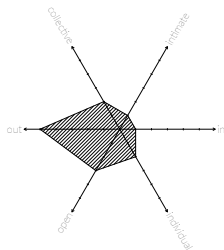




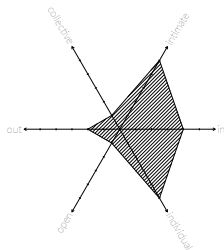














Patrycja (26)  
architect

Rafał (26)  
architect

they live on Henryka Pobożnego street  
Nadodrze District  
in an old town house

everyday commute to work in the  
city center using public transportation  
or bikes

photos by Patrycja and Rafał



Patrycja and Rafał

**I asked you to refer to the statement *how does space define an action, how do actions define space?* and simultaneously to show the space around you in everyday situations. I'm curious as to what really affected your selection of frames. Why did you decide to show the places that we can see on your photographs?**

Patrycja: This task gave us the opportunity to discover some interesting places in Nadodrze. I rarely walk around the city - more often than not I do stuff by just moving from point A to point B. In this case we wanted to show both our everyday activities as well as beautiful places, which depict the atmosphere of the district.

Rafał: We wanted to show the everyday life of the residents of the district.

**I noticed that the photos which I received are not a simple registration of some place. Usually they communicate something more. I wonder, was there something particular that you tried to show through your photos?**

P: Mainly we focused on other people. We tried to register as many different people as possible and their various kinds of activities.

R: The particular ambiance of the district and the activities that you can notice here.

P: We also tried to imagine how we can use objects from urban space along with utilizing the space itself.

**What do you think best describes a space?**

P: Maybe the atmosphere...Being in some place we smell, hear sounds, see elements of the space and react with them through different actions - all of these create the overall feeling of a given space. The atmosphere of a place often dictates whether we want to be in that space or not.

R: For me would it be the infrastructure, greenery and walls.

**Based on the situations and experiences from your everyday life, can you identify what differentiates intimate space from the exposed one?**

P: Immediately, I associate intimate space with my flat. It is a place where I can sing and I know that no one is going to hear me. In my place I am pretty hidden, enclosed inside the walls, but simultaneously I can observe the outside space and what is taking place there. On the other hand, a balcony would be an exposed space - here I have this feeling that I am being observed or heard by my neighbours.

R: The number of observers.

**Do your everyday actions affect the space, or the perception of said space, around you?**

P: I think that each individual action influences space in some way. I, myself, am an element of space and so I create it to some extent. The way in which I traverse affects my perception of a place - moving around at different speeds allows me to notice more (or less) elements around me. I'm an observer and at the same time a participant of the space. I wonder what is the point of view of the person walking on the opposite side of the street is.

R: Yes, for sure it affects the perception. Because I usually cycle, I can say that cars which are parked in a dense, messy way or old, cobbled roads have a negative impact on the ride. There are many diverse services offered on the ground floors which creates the feeling of being in one huge shopping street. This makes the space of Nadodrze very people friendly. It gives us the opportunity to walk around, for example to do groceries there, instead of going to one of the shopping malls. A wide variety of small shops, services and craft workshops makes a walk much nicer and more interesting, it persuades one to discover new places.

**While taking photos you were moving around Nadodrze a lot. How did the space of the district affect your behavior? How did you feel in these places?**

P: Finally, we had a walk and we discovered incredible and interesting places. It was nice when one compares it to everyday work. One of the most calm spaces was the Park. It was interesting to observe others. We chose the places because we always wanted to go there. We knew that the spaces there are attractive.

R: The built environment of Nadodrze seems to be dense. There are not many places from where you can see a panoramic view. There is also not so much greenery outside parks, like trees or some plants. All the things really focus your attention on the streets, chaotic cars, places, facades and the people. As a whole the district depicts itself as a greyish picture, even though more and more townhouses are in a better condition. I have this feeling that I am a part of this intimate atmosphere of Nadodrze, and I am good with that..

**What do you think about Nadodrze?**

P: I often hear about various pathologies here in the Nadodrze district, but frankly I've never experienced any. I feel pretty safe here. I always stop by the ceramic workshop on the Henryk Pobożny street, I smell the aroma coming from ZŁOTO NADODRZA bakery and I drop by the KOLOR ZIELONY to explore some new eco stuff. We meet all together with friends in GRRamyBAR to play some board games and then end up in the POCIĄG DO WINA for a glass of wine. In my opinion, activities are mainly created through different services. Moreover, the Nadodrze district has this specific, great vibe - historical architecture, cute food points and craft workshops - all of this creates a unique, nice character. On the other hand, it is difficult to bike here as the quality of the roads is not the best.

R: Nadodrze seems to separate itself from the rest of the structure of the city. It appears that Nadodrze is a self-sufficient, autonomous organism, in which people, streets or buildings play a significant role in.

**Can you describe Nadodrze by one word?**

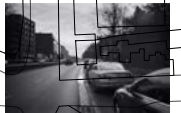
P: Interesting.

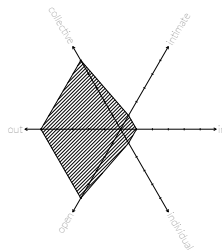
R: Autonomous.

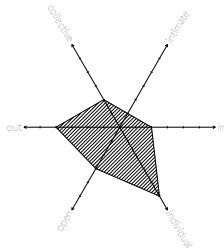


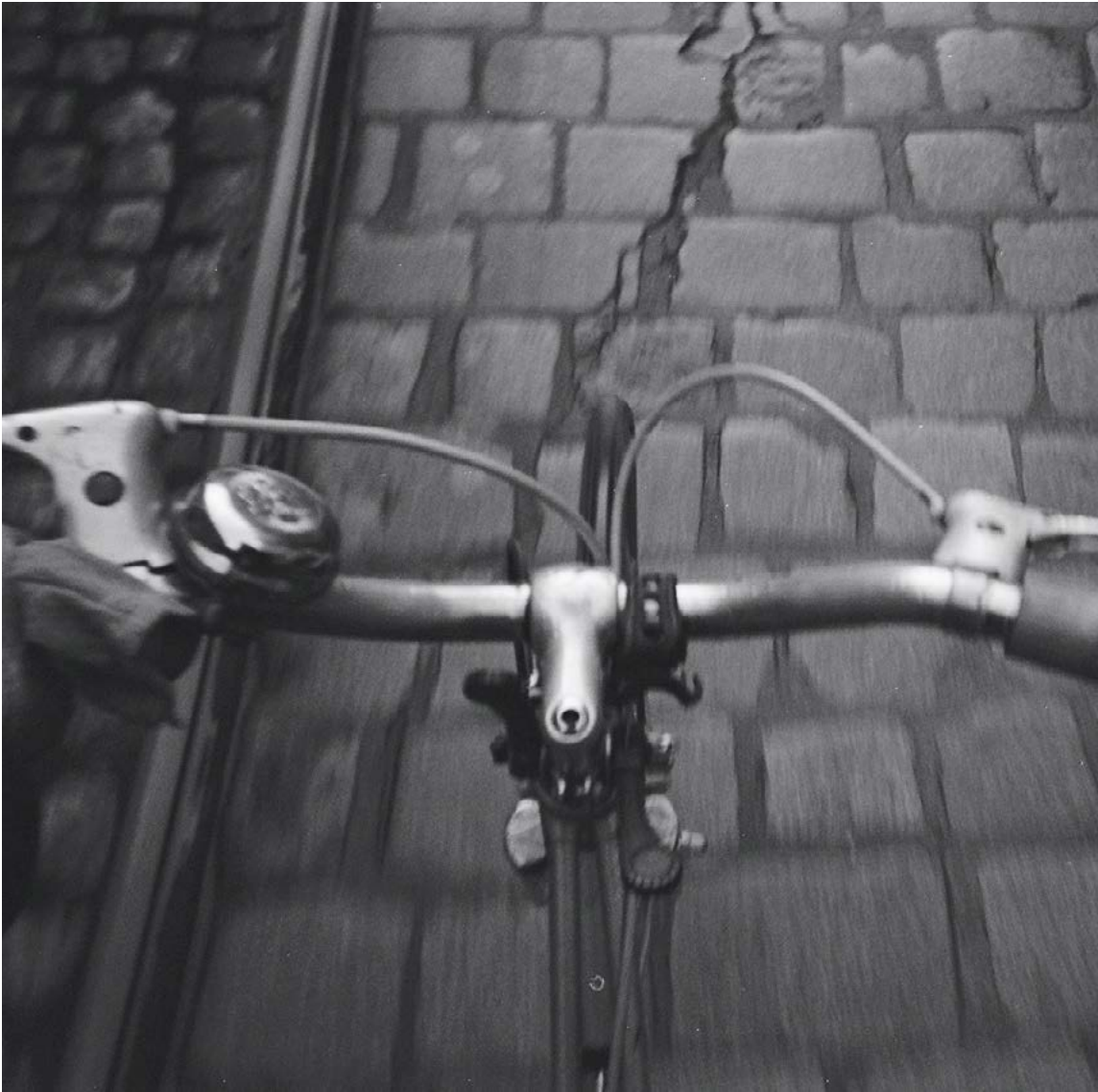
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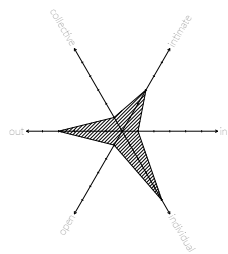


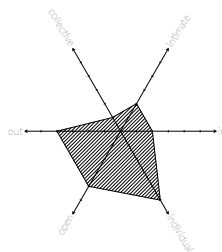


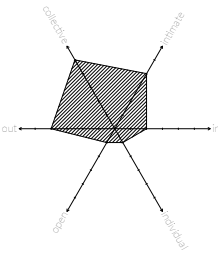


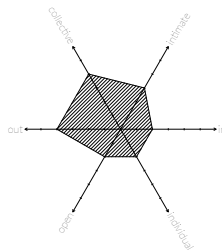


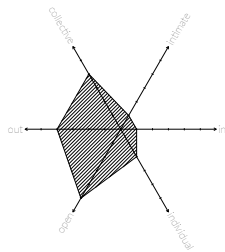




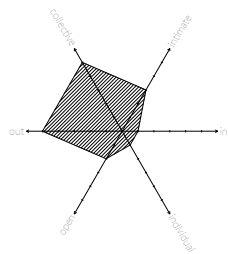






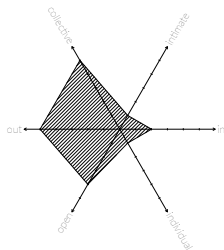














Asia (30-40 yo)  
shop assistant in a local bakery

she lives in the Nadodrze District  
in an old town house

she walks to work everyday

Asia

She refused to answer any questions or to show her face.

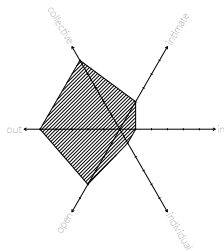


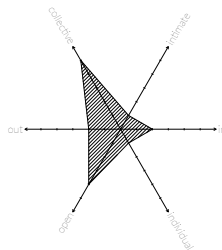
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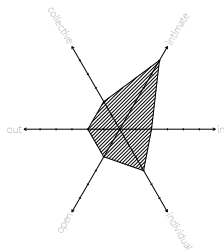
















Paulina (26)  
architect

Hubert (27)  
architect

they live on Kaszubska street  
in Nadodrze District  
in a new building

everyday commute to work in the city  
center using public transportation

photos by Paulina and Hubert

Paulina and Hubert

**I asked you to refer to the statement *how does space define an action, how do actions define space?* and simultaneously to show the space around you in everyday situations. I'm curious as to what really affected your selection of frames. Why did you decide to show the places that we can see on your photographs?**

Paulina: Humans. We wanted to show places, which are points of numerous meetings or the total opposite - generally they seem to be attractive but unfortunately they are not user friendly.

Hubert: Spontaneity

**I noticed that the photos which I received are not a simple registration of some place. Usually they communicate something more. I wonder, was there something particular that you tried to show through your photos?**

P: The behavior of people in a space.

H: Atmosphere, behavior of people, textures, also just how we spend our free time.

**What do you think best describes a space?**

P: The atmosphere.

H: People OR nature - it depends on localization. Often there are conflicts. The best it would be to describe: people AND nature.

**Based on the situations and experiences from your everyday life, can you identify what differentiates intimate space from the exposed one?**

P: The feeling of space, the ability of a particular place to create an impression of comfort and individual character.

H: For sure size of the space. The smaller the more *intimate* one.



**Do your everyday actions affect the space, or the perception of said space, around you?**

P: The character of an action affects space, and in particular the persons perception of the place as an individual or social one.

**While taking photos you were moving around Nadodrze a lot. How did the space of the district affect your behavior? How did you feel in these places?**

P: The space of Nadodrze is very atmospheric and comfortable due to the historical architecture and multiplicity of *nooks and crannies* to discover. The height of the buildings and the proportions of the streets contribute to the feeling of human scale in the district.

H: As a person who has been living in the district several years already - normally. I know the places from photos.

**What do you think about Nadodrze?**

P: Nadodrze, because of its vibe and its huge number of small facilities and craftwork spots, it is a quite good place to live in. Having parks and a lot of small shops around the area contributes to the creation of social bonds.

The only problem is still the dubious technical condition of many buildings and the social layer of the district.

H: Craft character. Recently there is a *revitalisation* of Nadodrze. I don't want modernity of architecture and poeple killed the atmosphere of the place. (for example to change the district in a new rich area

**Can you described Nadodrze by one word?**

P: Atmosphere.

H: Sweet - sour.

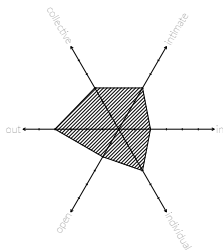


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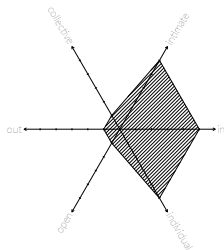






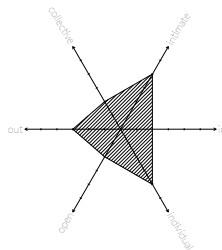




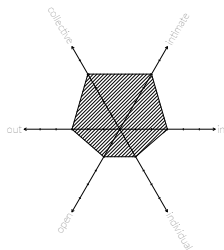


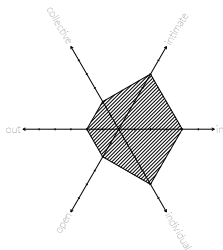




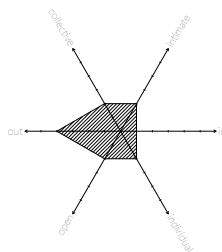


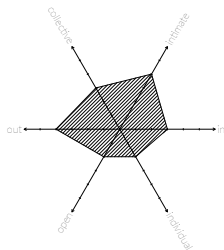


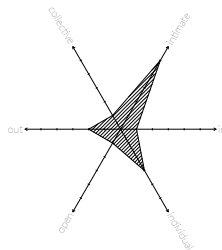


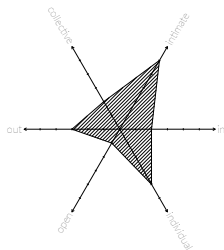


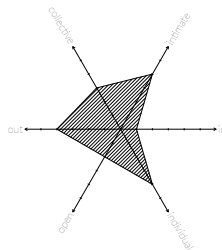






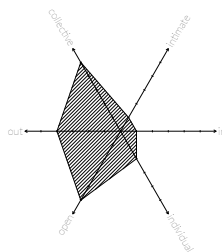




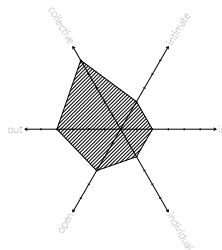


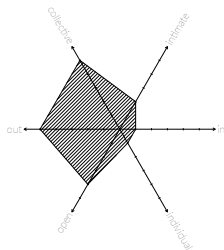




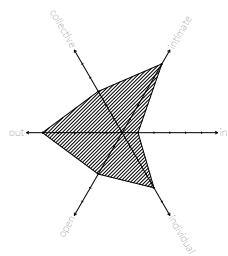
















## **Conclusion.**

Material/ Physical:

1. Framing of space allows to change perception of someone in the space. Some element of architecture such as thick walls or windows allow someone to be an observer but not a participant. It changes space to more intimate an individual, and division on in - out is not so important anymore.
2. Framing gives us a feeling that a space is more individual - we become users of the space. When we observe some part of different place from outside, the space that we are in is more ours and more intimate.
3. In a really open space introduction of massive elements which can enclosed a space visually creates an intimate feeling.
4. Small elements in a space creates the feeling that this space is more custom. For an individual use.

Ephemeral:

1. action might change perception of a place. Let's take an image of two people having conversation in a very open space. It causes that the space seems to be more intimate than it is in real.
2. Light changes immeasurably intimate feeling of a space.
3. Feeling of collectivity might be enhance through multiplication of elements. It creates some feeling that behind each of the element is a physical person. for example: windows on a facade.
4. Collective space might be as much intimate as individual one.



**Nadodrze.**

photo essay































































