

SPACES FOR DEMOCRACY

A critical reflection on methodologies to explore the role of the urban designer in a democracy

01. Research incentive | **What does this image mean for the way we design our cities?**



Protest of Extinction Rebellion on the A12 highway, The Hague

01. Research incentive | **What does this image mean for the way we design our cities?**



Rode Lijn Protest for Palestina, The Hague, 15-06'25

01. Research incentive | **What does this image mean for the way we design our cities?**

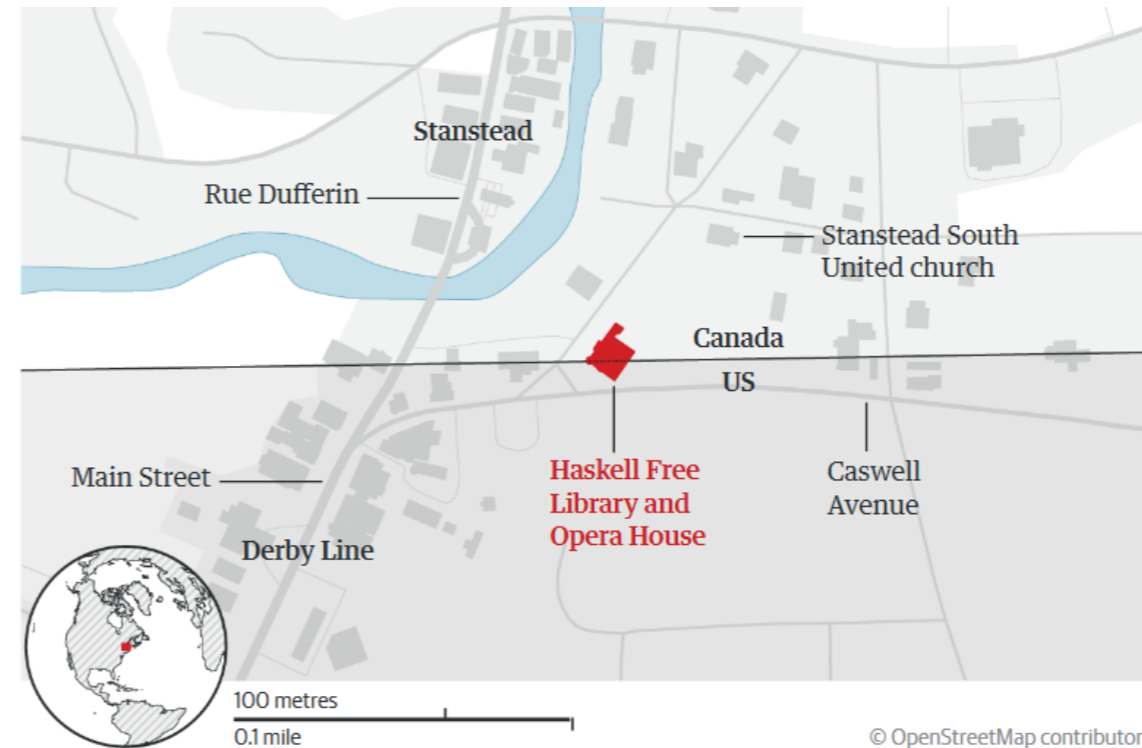


The Grand Park in LA, called 'The Park for Everyone', designed by RIOS Imagines, pink furniture line created during the protests in LA, 14-06-'25, Photo by David Ryder –AFP/Getty Images

01. Research incentive | **What does this image mean for the way we design our cities?**

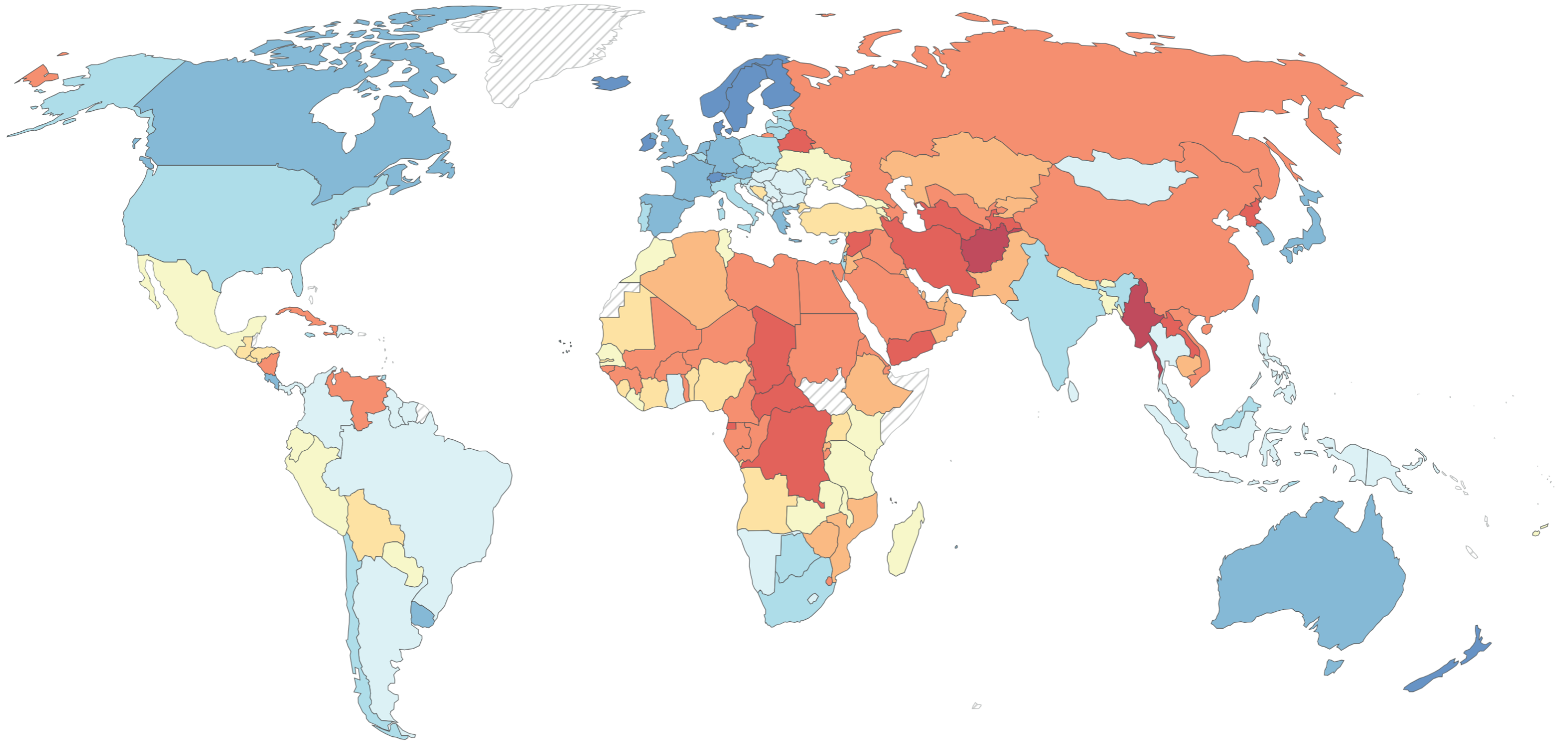
US blocks Canadian access to cross-border library, sparking outcry

US officials claim move was to curb drug trafficking while Quebec town says it 'weakens collaboration' among nations

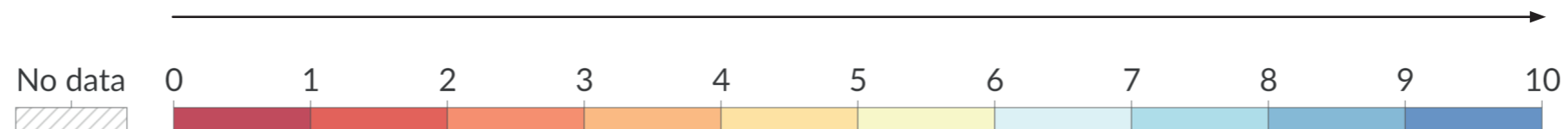


Library on the Canadian-USA border: Canadians cannot access the building via the main entrance any longer due to USA policy on border control, Guardian, 21-03-'25

01. Research incentive | Looks like there are no issues in Western Europe, right?



Least to most democratic



01. Research incentive | **BUT: Democracy in the west is under pressure**

NOS News • Saturday, November 16, 2024, 00:05

Prime Minister Schoof: 'There is no racism in the factions and cabinet'

After hours of consultation with the party leaders of the coalition parties, Prime Minister Schoof gave a press conference in which he emphasized that there is no racism in the cabinet or in the party groups.

Uyghur and Tibetan protesters demonstrated on January 23 against the reception of the Chinese Vice Prime Minister by Prime Minister Schoof in the Catshuis. Photo Olivier Middendorp

RECONSTRUCTION

How critical protesters disappeared from view during Chinese visit to The Hague

Right to Demonstrate During a visit to the Catshuis in January, Chinese Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang was warmly welcomed by a group of Chinese students. Critical demonstrators were positioned out of sight by the municipality of The Hague. How did this come about?

Hanneke Chin-A-Fo en Wilmer Heck
April 29, 2025 • Reading time 16 minutes

NOS News • Wednesday, April 16, 11:46

Citizenship education is lacking in many schools, inspectorate finds

NOS News • Wednesday, April 16, 11:46

Citizenship education is lacking in many schools, inspectorate finds

Schools are struggling with citizenship education, the Education Inspectorate concludes from a sample. Half of the schools surveyed do not meet this legal task.

NOS News • Thursday April 17, 12:00

Council of State: democracy in the Netherlands is under pressure

NOS News • Friday April 4, 22:16

Scientists meet to raise concerns about academic freedom in the Netherlands and the US

Sven Schaap
Climate Editor

How do you maintain your academic freedom as a scientist when one of your most important research partners on the other side of the ocean questions your motives

Dutch democracy is under pressure and needs maintenance, the Council of State (RvS) warns in its 2024 annual report. The system is being eroded "if forces inside and outside the political domain" only use democracy as a means to help the majority into power.

"Democracy is so much more than half plus one," writes the important cabinet advisor. For example, the Council of State points to the importance of science, educational institutions, independent media, advisory bodies and social organizations for the functioning of democracy.

NOS News • Thursday, January 16, 03:11

Biden in farewell speech: tech billionaires a threat to democracy

From Biden to Trump

NOS News • Thursday, January 16, 03:11

Biden in farewell speech: tech billionaires a threat to democracy

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COMMENTARY

The cabinet is too quiet about Hungary, and therefore about the rule of law

Orbán With, among other things, Hungary's withdrawal from the International Criminal Court, Viktor Orbán is also internationally undermining the rule of law. The Hague should address him more about this.

April 10, 2025 • Reading time 2 minutes

Listen Reading list

SECTION DILEMMAS IN THE WORKPLACE

How do you, as a civil servant, deal with policies you do not support?

Civil servants must be loyal to their political leadership, but also serve society. This increasingly clashes with the moral compass of a section of the civil service.

Tan Tunali
March 10, 2025 • Reading time 3 minutes

Listen Reading list

Dilemma

Increasingly, civil servants who cannot support their employer's policy are publicly speaking out. Whether it is the municipal civil servant in The Hague who demonstrates with Extinction Rebellion or the civil servants of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who protest weekly against the Dutch government's support for Israel. What do you do as a civil servant when you cannot support your employer's policy?

Try to give your criticism internally

Kutsal Yesilkagit, professor of public administration at Leiden University, sees that "whenever things get tense" between politics and civil service, the same frame emerges. Namely: "Politicians make decisions and civil servants implement them." But that image is incorrect, says Yesilkagit. "Civil servants do much more than just implement them. They prepare laws for the most part, because they have more time and expertise for that than politicians. In that way, they are actually co-legislators with politics."

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INTERVIEW

Political scientist Amitav Acharya: 'Europe can take the lead in creating a more equal world order'

Amitav Acharya | political scientist The US distancing itself from Europe need not be bad news, argues Indian political scientist Amitav Acharya. "There are opportunities for new connections."

Saskia Konniger from Jakarta
April 17, 2025 • Reading time 6 minutes

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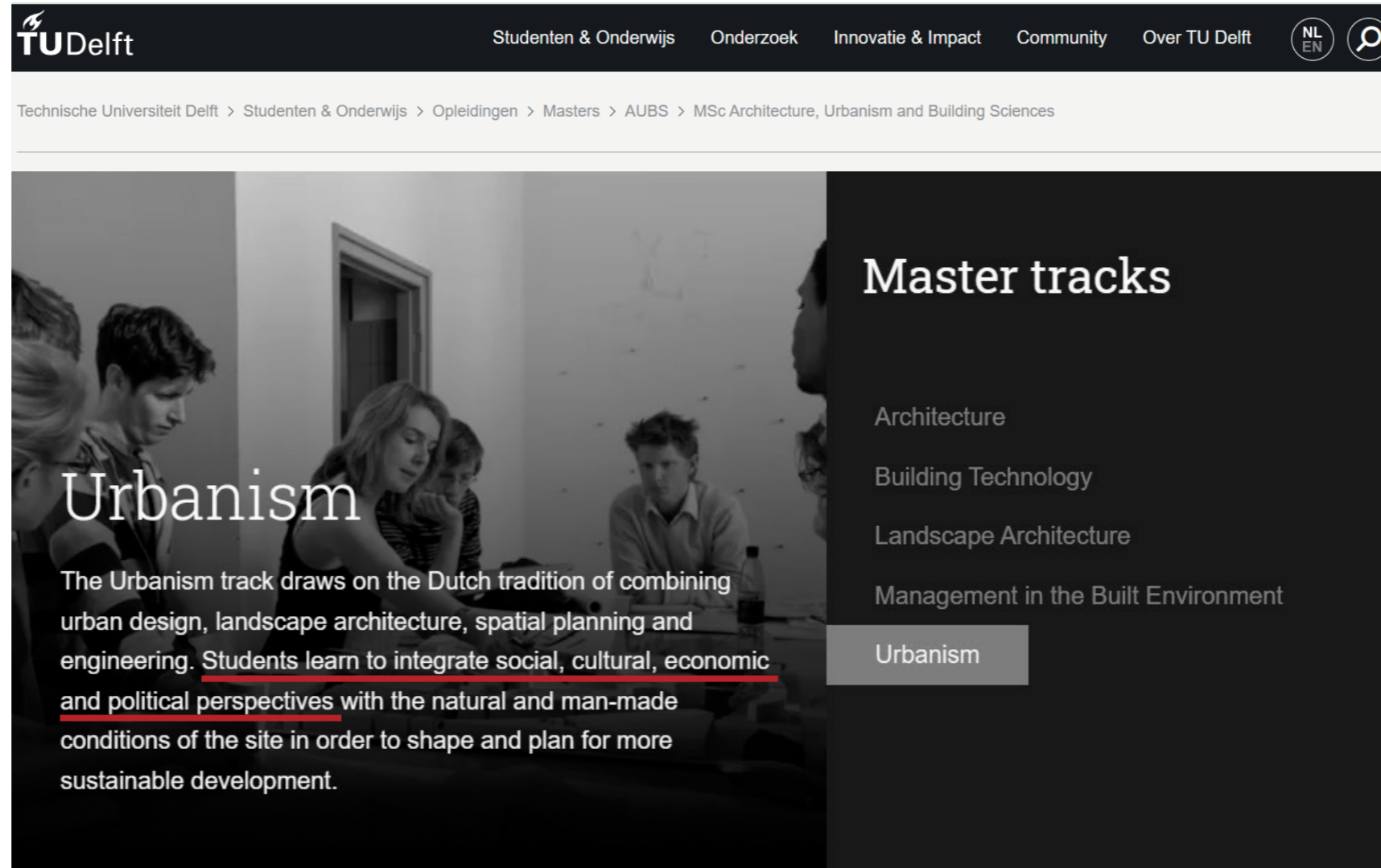
INTERVIEW EUROPE

What if Russia wins? Professor Carlo Masala investigated this scenario. 'In Europe we think that democracy will always remain'

Carlo Masala | professor "Europeans seem to think that their democracy will last forever. That is not the case," says Carlo Masala. The German professor warns of undermining from outside, by Russia, but also from within.

Michel Krielaars en Eva Cukier
April 18, 2025 • Reading time 6 minutes

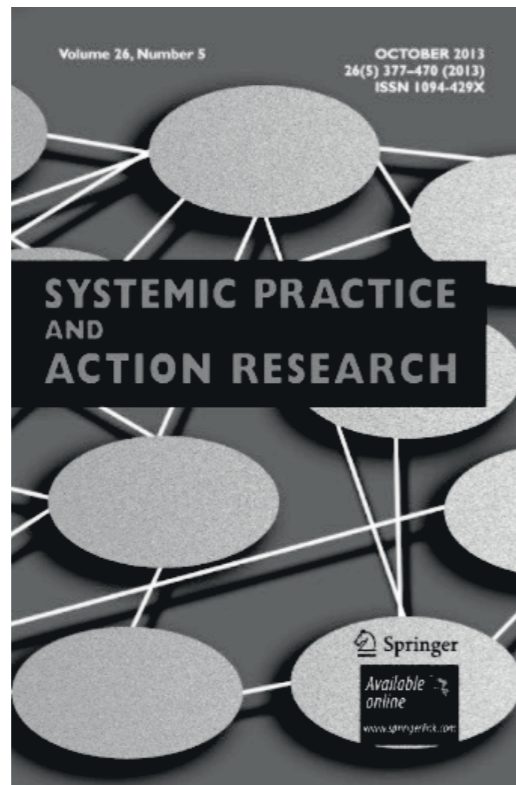
01. Research incentive | **What does this all mean for the way we design our cities?**



What is Urbanism? The TU Delft website explains!

02. Exploring the Fundamentals | **What is the link between urban design & democracy?**

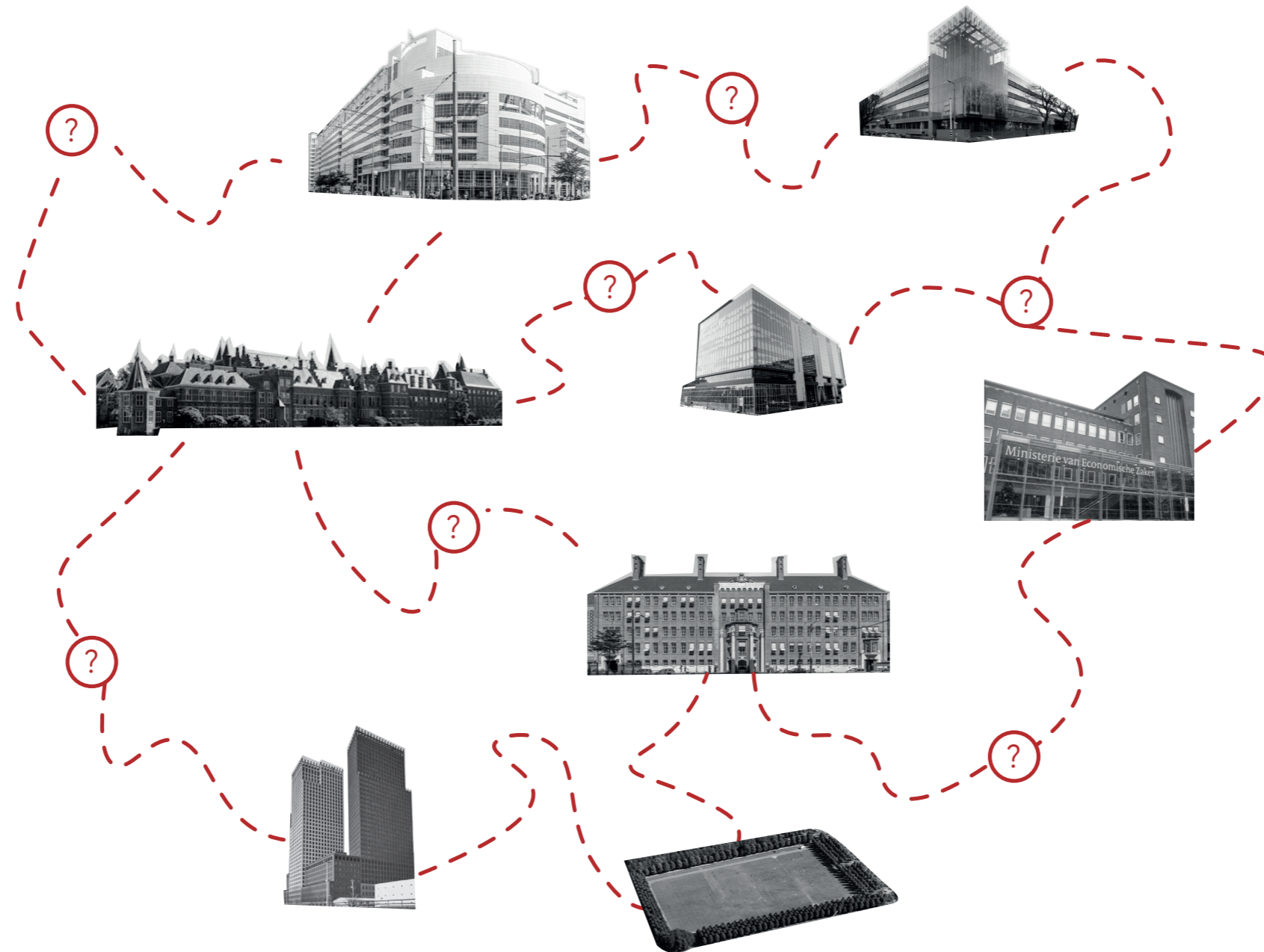
“If we see like a **city the places we inhabit**, the vulnerabilities of our bodies within them, become a source, stake and setting for **democratic politics**. Politics and the **struggle for democracy** begins in the **socio-materiality** of where we live, work, play and rest. It is from these locations of **everyday life** that urbanisation is understood and felt.” – Ross Beveridge & Philippe Koch



“**Geography is a defining feature of social life just as social relations is a defining feature of geographical space.** Relations between people always occur somewhere: in a place, a location, a domain, an arena, a situation. No description of a social circumstance is complete without **a spatial component.**”

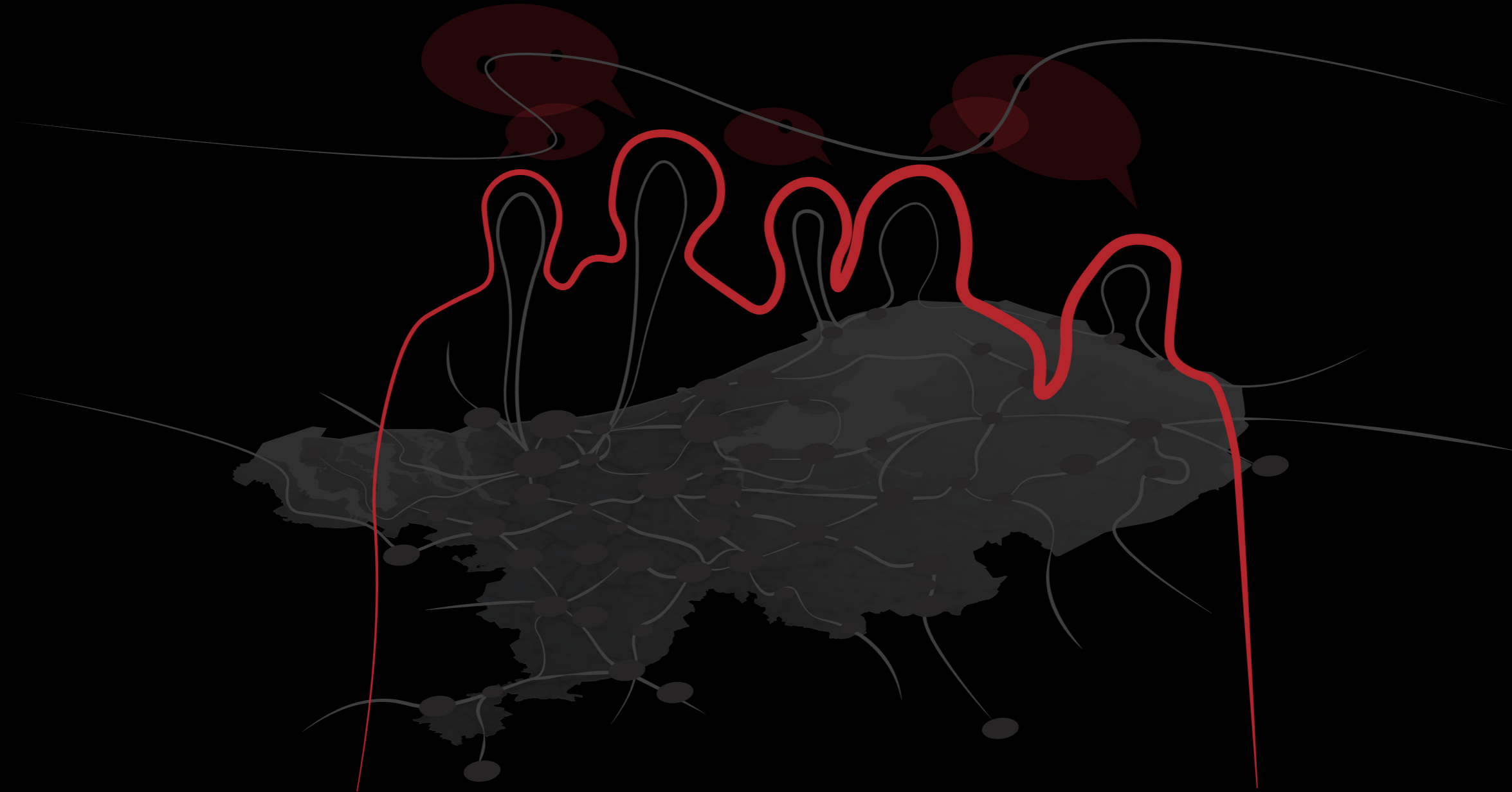
– Patrick M. Jenlink

02. Exploring the Fundamentals | **Introducing the Case: The Hague**



What other spaces can we identify, apart from spaces of protest and governmental buildings?

02. Exploring the Fundamentals| **Introducing the conceptual perspective:
The Radical, Pluralist Democracy Model**



Democracy as a Daily Life Practice, Pluralism is seen as a Base Condition

02. Exploring the Fundamentals | **Introducing the Main Question**

*‘How can spaces for a **radical, pluralist democracy** be identified, designed and used, in the context of **The Hague?**’*

02. Exploring the Fundamentals | **Introducing the Main Question**

METHODOLOGICAL FOCUS

*‘**How** can spaces for a radical, pluralist democracy be **identified, designed and used**, in the context of *The Hague*?’*

BASED ON THE CRITICAL URBAN THEORY
OF PETER MARCUSE

02. Exploring the Fundamentals| **What is Democracy?**

'Demos': Public or People

DEMO-CRACY

'Kratia', means power or rule.

02. Exploring the Fundamentals | **What is Democracy?**

'Demos': Public or People

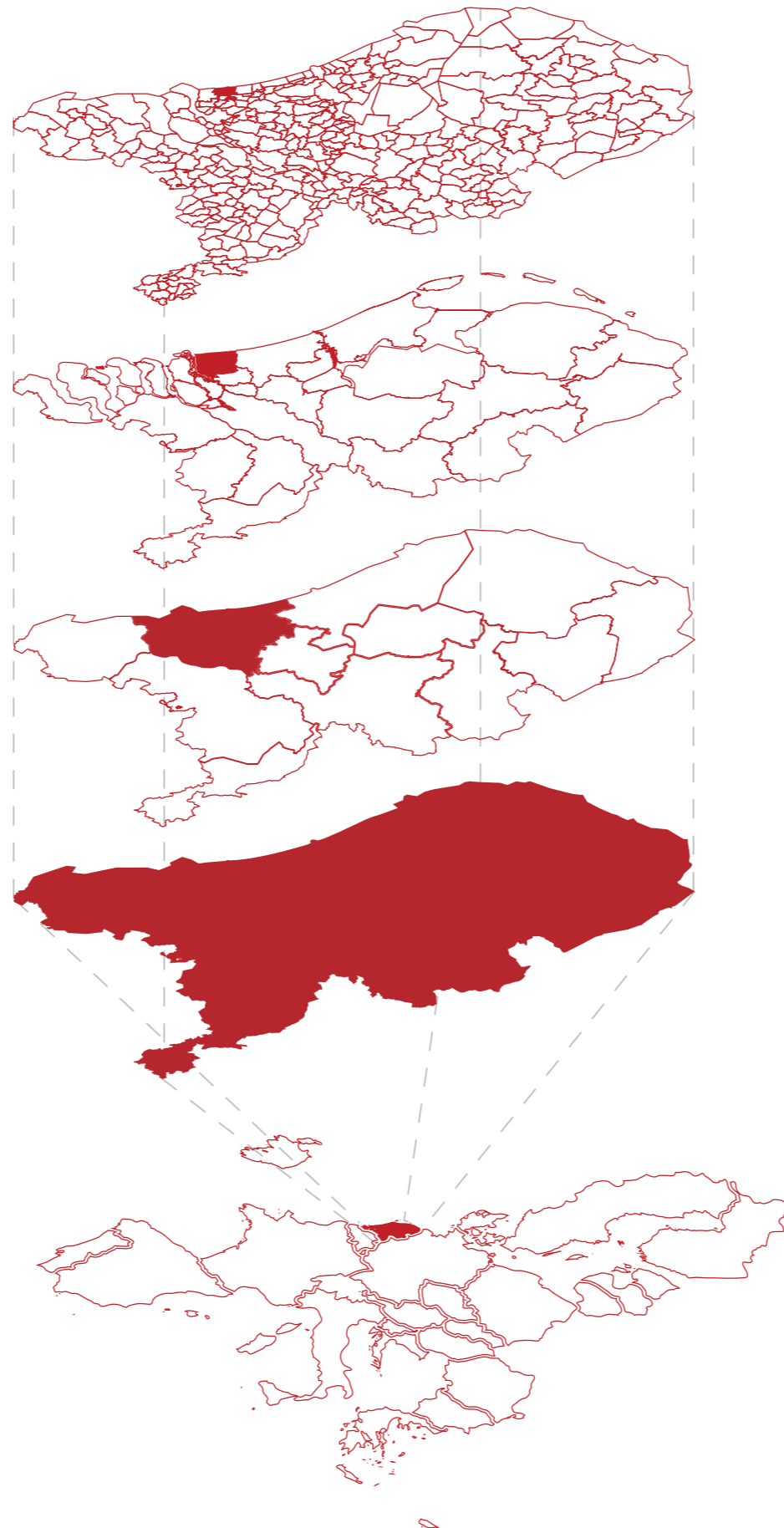
All people are free and equal

DEMO-CRACY

'Kratia', means power or rule.

DEMOCRACY
=
AN IDEAL/CONSTRUCT

02. Exploring the Fundamentals | **Status Quo of the Dutch System**



Municipality | The Hague

Dutch or EU passport, or visa for + 5 years

Water Authorities | Delfland

Dutch or EU passport, or visa for + 5 years

Provinces | Zuid-Holland

Only people with Dutch passport can vote

National | Tweede Kamer (House of Representatives)

Only people with Dutch passport can vote

European Union

Only people with European Citizenship can vote

02. Exploring the Fundamentals | **Welcome to The Hague Central Station!**



The Hague Central Station



New Babylon Shopping Mall and Apartments



Royal Library and Literature museum



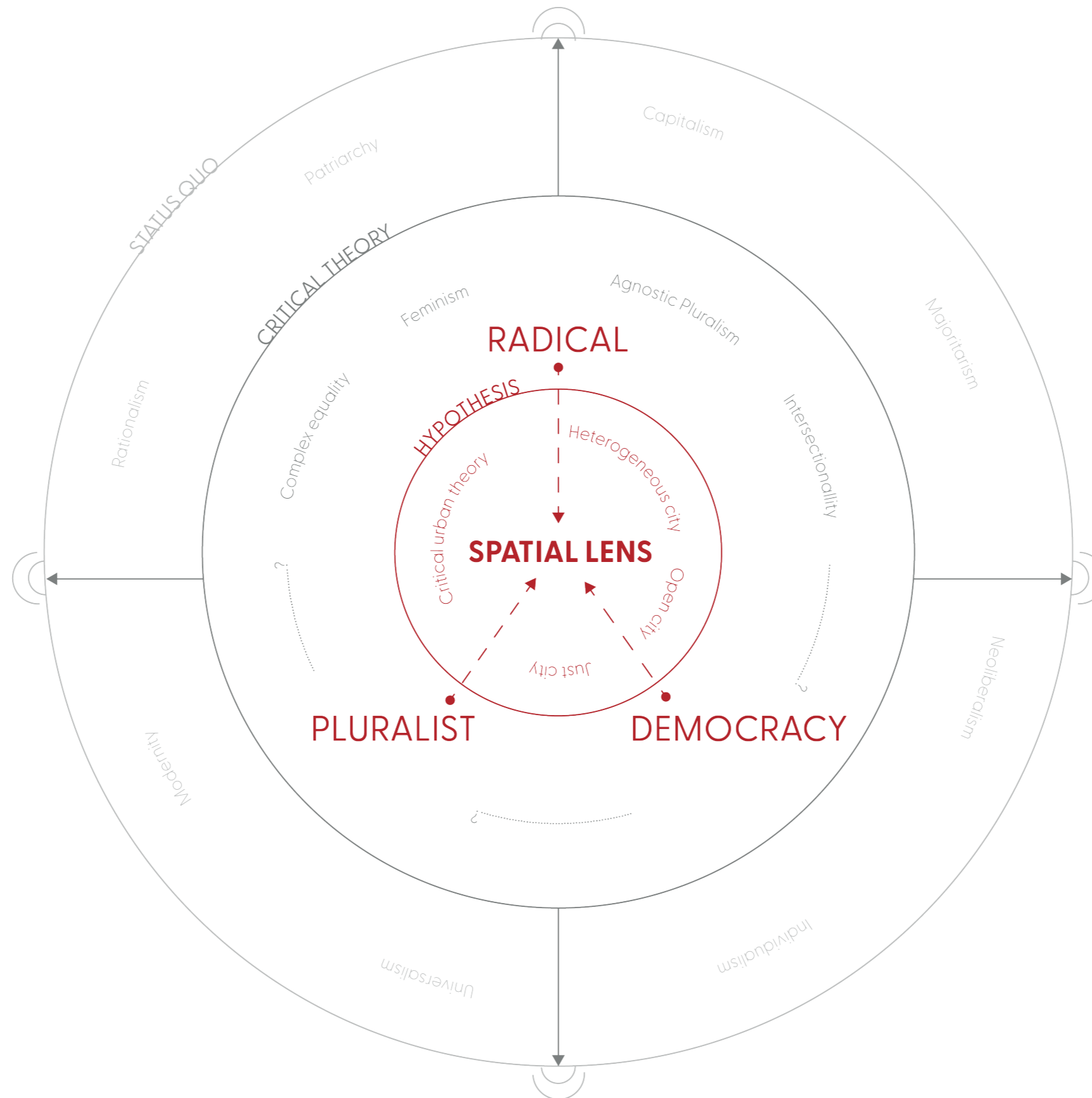
Tweede Kamer



02. Exploring the Fundamentals | **Limitations of this System**



Alfredo Jaar - One Million German Passports behind a Security Wall :
Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich, 2023.



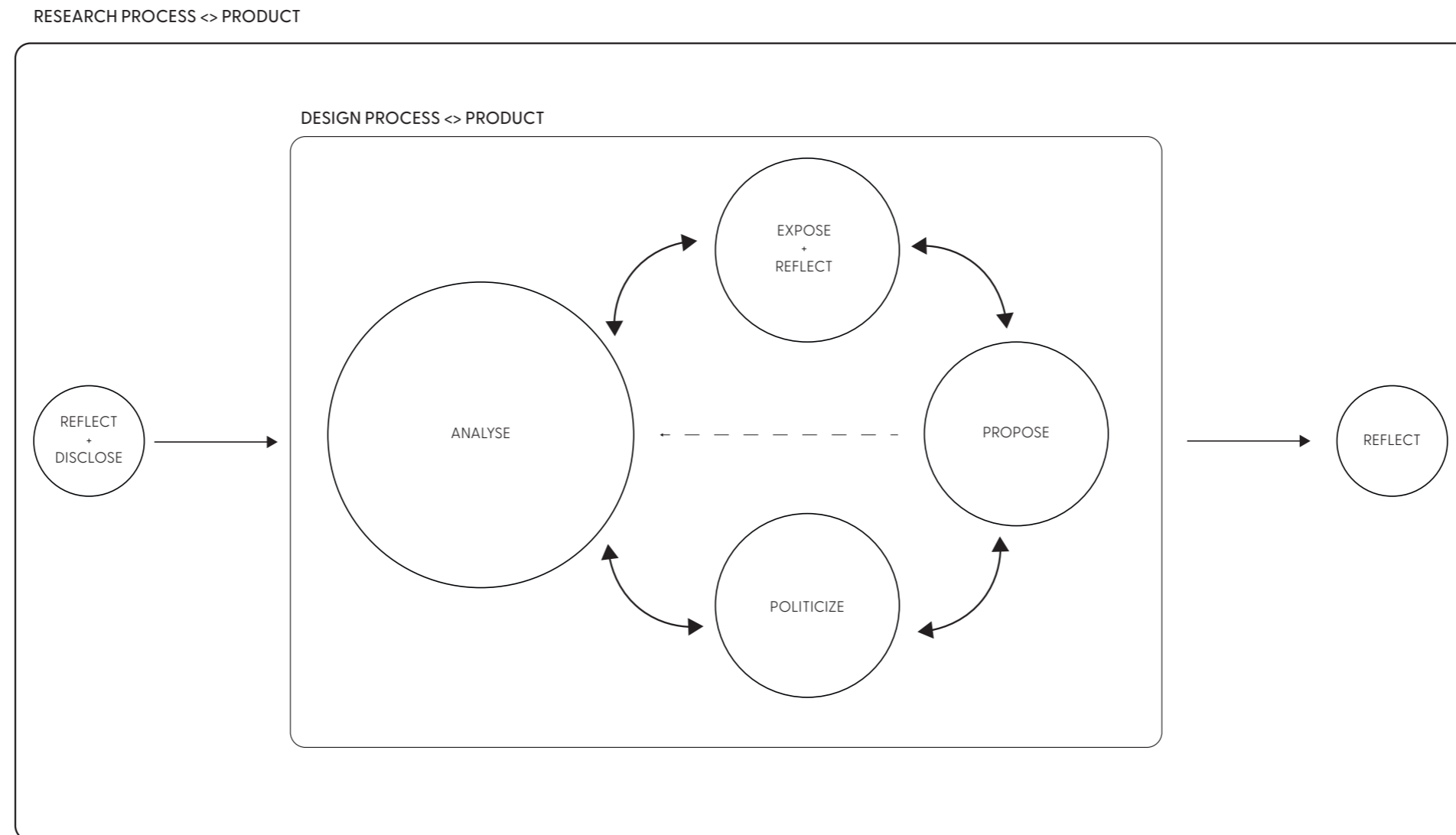
02. Exploring the Fundamentals | **Constructing a 'Lens'; Example 01.**



-TO OUR BELOVED GUESTS-

Please respect
Our beautiful cuisines and
Our skillfull bartenders
**do not consume your own
drinks and food**

03. A Methodological Exploration | **Methodological Framework based on Critical Urban Theory**



03. A Methodological Exploration | **Operationalization of the Critical Urban Theory**

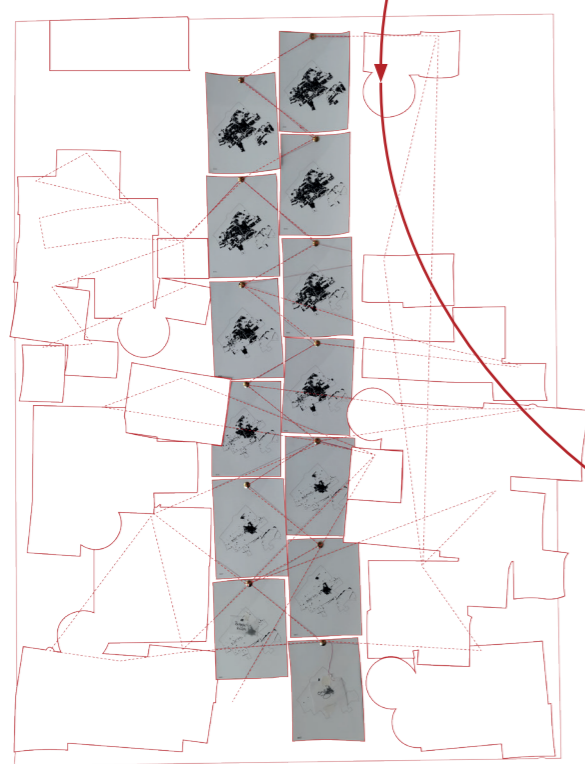


Literary review

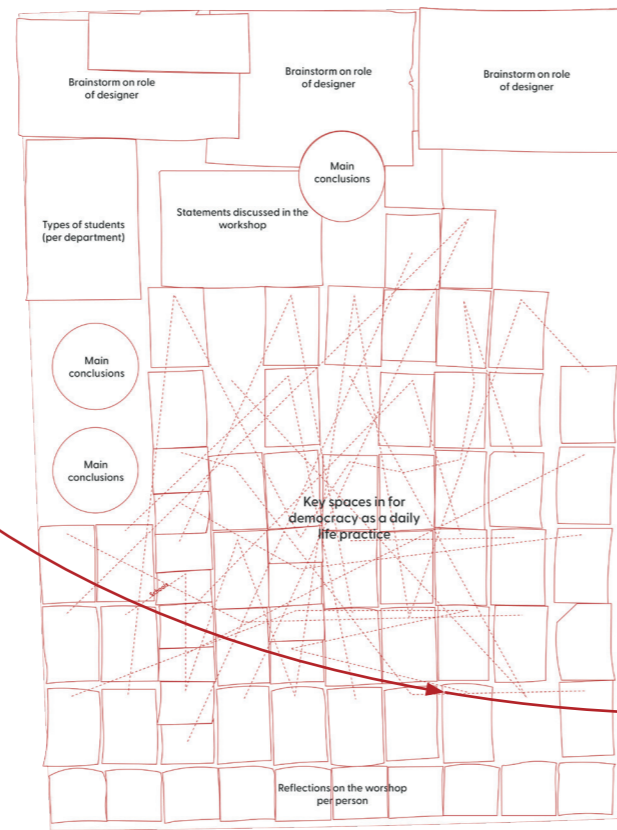
03. A Methodological Exploration | **Operationalization of the Critical Urban Theory**



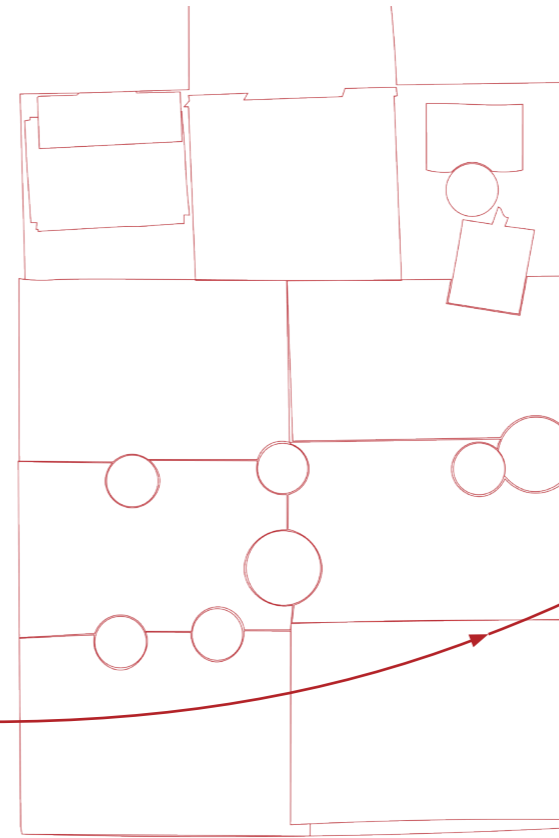
Literary review



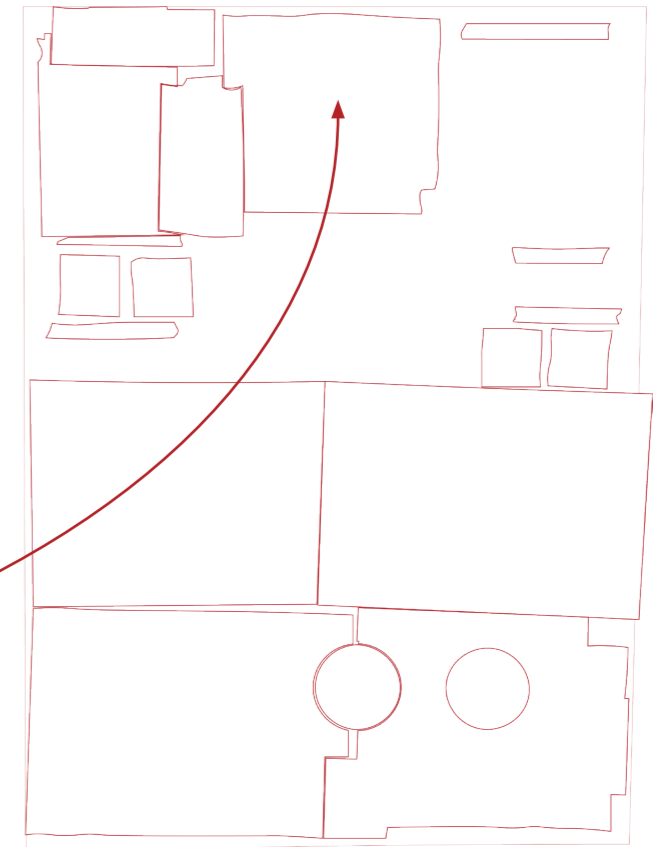
Historical analysis



Workshop on democracy as a daily life practice



Fieldwork and street interviews

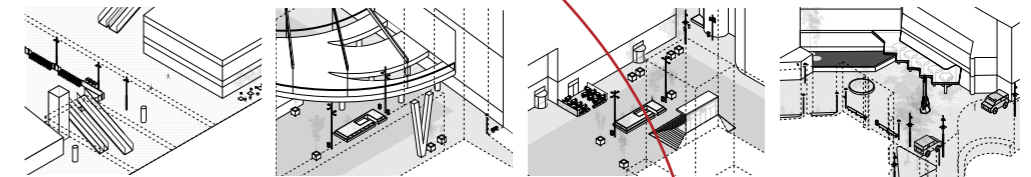
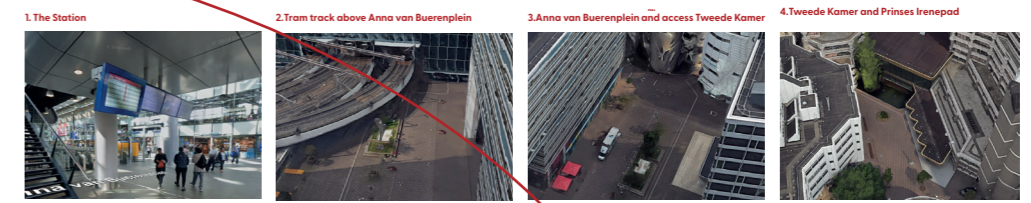
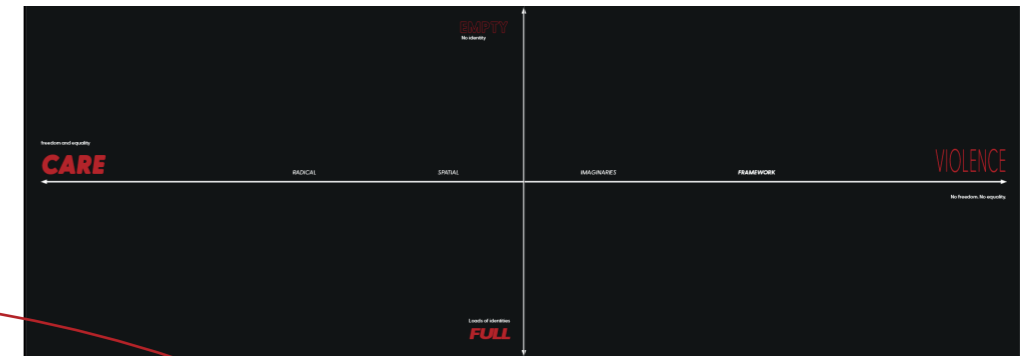


Spatial analysis and research by design

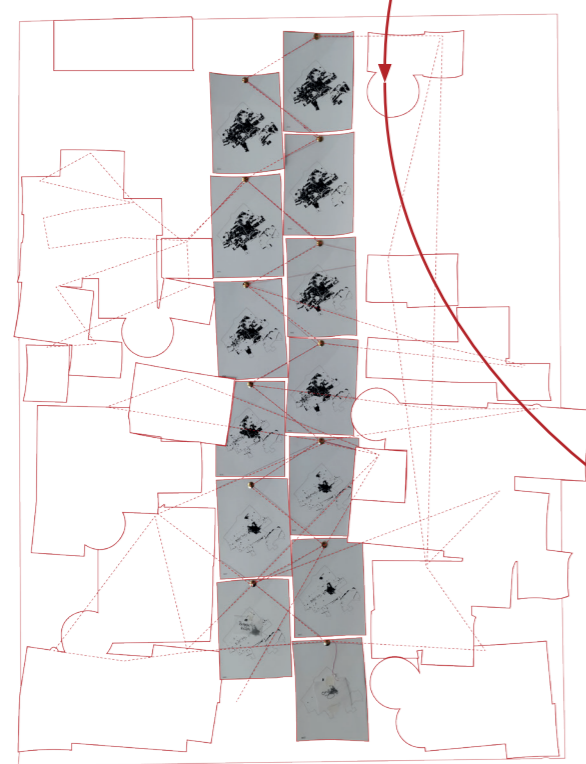
03. A Methodological Exploration | Operationalization of the Critical Urban Theory



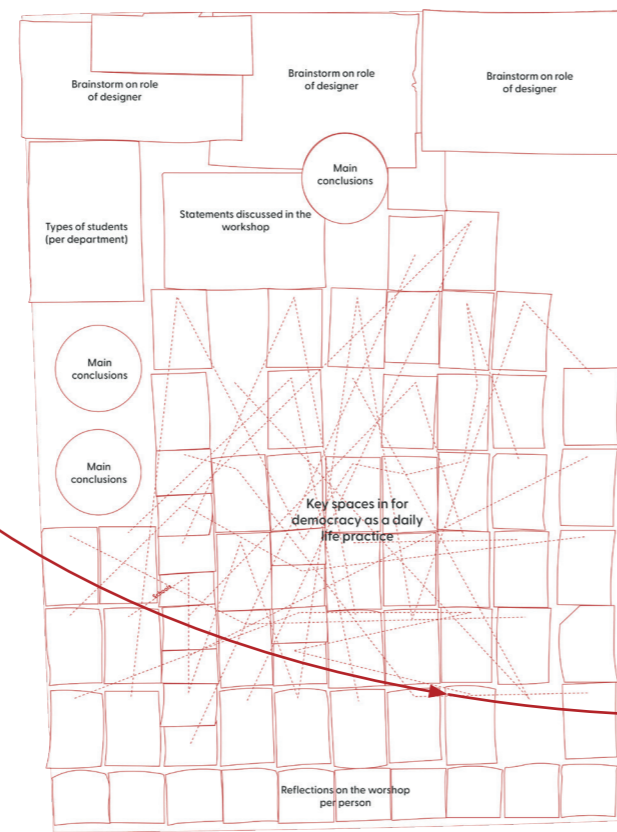
Literary review



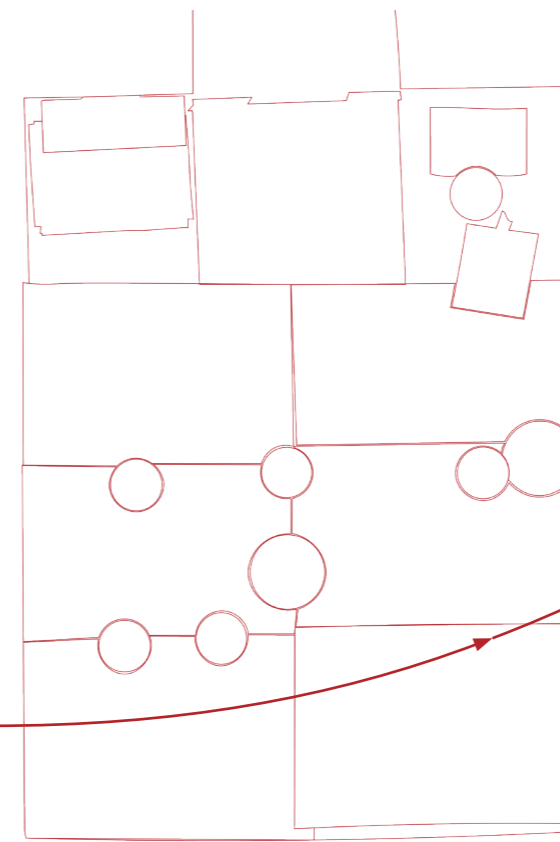
Radical Spatial Imaginaries framework



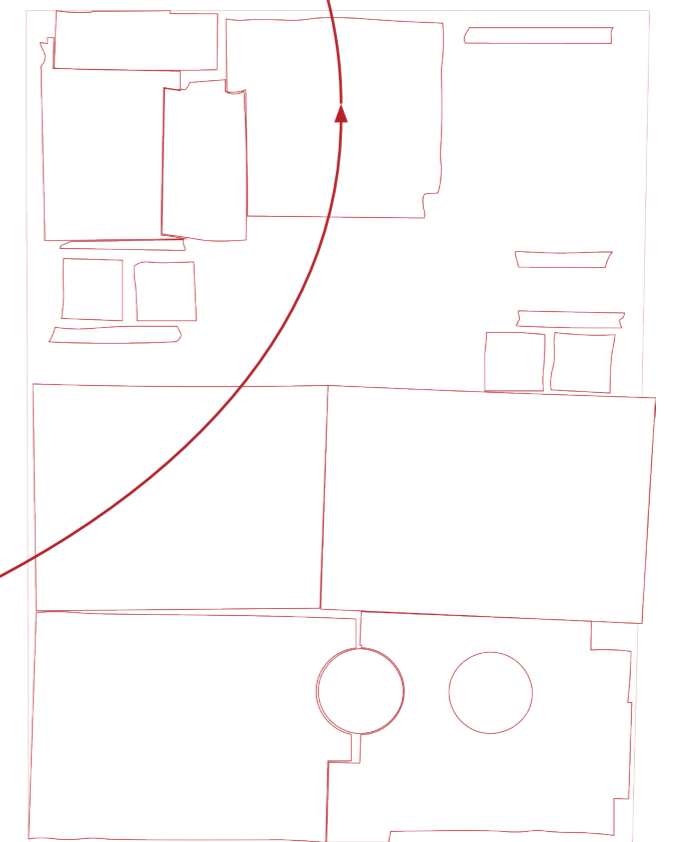
Historical analysis



Workshop on democracy as a daily life practice



Fieldwork and street interviews



Spatial analysis and research by design

- Reflection 01.** *Designers have to show how they make sense of the mess*

- Reflection 02.** *Designing for the radical pluralist democracy is about an attitude*

- Reflection 03.** *The presence of public space is essential to democracy, but its role depends on perspective; spaces are multiple, interconnected, and contested*

- Reflection 04.** *Those who own (private) space, have power over (public) space*

- Reflection 05.** *People should be able to act in space without the interference of insitutions*

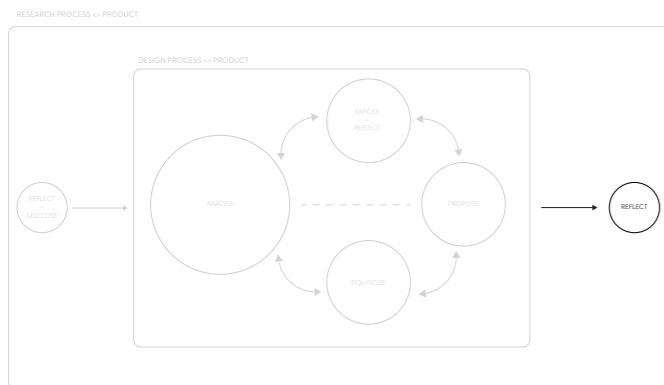
- Reflection 06.** *Identifying spaces for a radical, pluralist democracy requires thinking beyond the object it is about reading space through use, appropriation and affect, rather than fixed functions or forms*

- Reflection 07.** *In a radical, pluralist democracy, public space should be a space for free expression*

- Reflection 08.** *In a radical, pluralist democracy there are spaces for deliberation and discussion*

- Reflection 09.** *Design can be a tool for reflecting on present-day policies that limit the realization of the democratic ideal in today's built environments*

- Reflection 10.** *Designing for democracy is a complex task and should be approached as an ongoing, open-ended dialogue*



04.07. RELATED WORK: DEMOCRACY AND SPACE

The Reflective Practitioner - Donald A. Schön (1983) Schön critiques the Technical Rationalist framework of science, concluding that the framework makes it impossible to comprehend the complexity and 'messiness' of present day questions. He proposes a new model: Reflection-in-action. By acknowledging the intuitive aspect of science, Schön explains, we can gain a more comprehensive understanding of the methods and decisions that are made during research. This understanding is relevant, since it influences the conclusions of research. The method of reflection-in-action can broaden our understanding of the world.

worse than those they had been designed to solve. Just as urban renewal had emerged in the early sixties as a destroyer of neighborhoods, its unexpected consequences attributed by critics like William Alonso to the weakness of its underlying theory, so in fields as diverse as housing, criminal justice, social services, welfare, and transportation, the most promising solutions, painstakingly worked out and advocated by the experts, came to be seen as problematic. They were ineffective, they created new problems, they were derived from theories which had been shown to be fragile and incomplete. To some critics, the public predicaments of the society began to seem less like problems to be solved through expertise than like dilemmas whose resolutions could come about only through moral and political choice.

Advocates for peace and for the civil rights of minorities joined forces and turned against the experts whom they saw as instruments of an all-powerful establishment. Around such issues as environmental pollution, consumer exploitation, the inequity and high cost of medical care, the perpetuation of social injustice, scientists and scientifically trained professionals found themselves in the unfamiliar role of villain.

the professionals themselves, the long-standing professional claim to a monopoly of knowledge and social control is challenged—first, because professionals do not live up to the values and norms which they espouse, and second, because they are ineffective.

Professionals claim to contribute to social well-being, put their clients' needs ahead of their own, and hold themselves accountable to standards of competence and morality. But both popular and scholarly critics accuse the professions of their obligations to public service, and failing to police themselves effectively. As one observer put it, "the more powerful the professions, the more serious the dangers of laxness in concern for public service and zealotry in promoting the practitioners' interests." Surveys of client populations reveal a widespread belief that professionals overcharge for their services, discriminate against the poor and powerless in favor of the rich and powerful, and refuse to make themselves accountable to the public. Among younger professionals

The crisis of confidence in the professions, and perhaps also the decline in professional self-image, seems to be rooted in a growing skepticism about professional effectiveness in the larger sense, a skeptical reassessment of the professions' actual contribution to society's well-being through the delivery of competent services based on special knowledge. Clearly, this skepticism is bound up with the questions of professional self-interest, bureaucratization, and subordination to the interests of business or government. But it also hinges centrally on the question of professional knowledge. Is professional knowledge adequate to fulfill the exposed purposes of the professions? Is it sufficient to meet the societal demands which the professions have helped to create?

The crisis of confidence in the professions may not depend solely on the question of professional knowledge. On the other

PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND REFLECTION-IN-ACTION

hand, even the muckrakers and radical critics, who emphasize professional self-interest and subordination to class-interest, envisage a purification and restructuring of the professions so that society may gain a fuller, more justly distributed access to the benefits of their special knowledge. There remains,

ter of the situations of practice—the complexity, uncertainty, instability, uniqueness, and value conflicts which are increasingly perceived as central to the world of professional practice.

In such fields as medicine, management, and engineering, for example, leading professionals speak of a new awareness of a complexity which resists the skills and techniques of traditional expertise. As subviriens have turned their attention from

labor has become obsolete. Professionals are called upon to perform tasks for which they have not been educated, and "the

4

The Crisis of Confidence in Professional Knowledge

niche no longer fits the education, or the education no longer fits the niche."

managers are not confronted with problems that are independent of each other, but with dynamic situations that consist of complex systems of changing problems that interact with each other. I call such situations messes. Problems are abstractions extracted from messes by analysis; they are to messes as atoms are to space messes.

Ackoff argues that operations research has allowed itself to become identified with techniques, mathematical models, and algorithms, rather than with "the ability to formulate management problems, solve them, and implement and maintain their solutions in turbulent environments." Problems are interconnected, environments are turbulent, and the future is indeterminate just in so far as managers can shape it by their actions. What is called for, under these conditions, is not only the analytic techniques which have been traditional in operations research, but the active, synthetic skill of "designing a desirable future and inventing ways of bringing it about."

In some professions, awareness of uncertainty, complexity, instability, uniqueness, and value conflict has led to the emergence of professional problems. Competing views of professional practice—competing images of the professional role, the central values of the profession, the relevant knowledge and skills—have come into good currency. Leontiev Havers has written about the "bubbling of voices" which confuses practitioners in the field of psychotherapy. Social workers have produced multiple, shifting images of the nature of their practice, as have architects and town planners. Each view of professional practice represents a way of functioning in situations of indeterminacy and value conflict, but the multiplicity of conflicting views poses a predicament for the practitioner who must choose among multiple approaches to practice or devise his own way of combining them.

If it is true that professional practice has at least as much to do with finding the problem as with solving the problem found, it is also true that problem setting is a recognized professional activity. Some physicians reveal skills in finding the prob-

lem with the indeterminacy and value conflicts of practice. If some critics, that they are detailed because they have no satisfactory way of describing or accounting for the actual complexity which practitioners sometimes reveal in what they do. They find it unsettling to be unable to make sense of these processes in terms of the model of professional knowledge which they have largely taken for granted. Complexity, instability, and uncertainty are not removed or resolved by applying specialized knowledge to well-defined tasks. If anything, the effective use of specialized knowledge depends on a prior restructuring of situations that are complex and uncertain. An art

lished techniques to recurrent events. Problem setting has no place in a body of professional knowledge concerned exclusively with problem solving. The task of choosing among competing paradigms of practice is not amenable to professional expertise.

The events which led from the "triumphant professions" of

of systematic, scientific professional knowledge. For Glazer, the development of a scientific knowledge base depends on fixed, unambiguous ends because professional practice is an instrumental activity. If applied science consists in cumulative, empirical knowledge about the means best suited to chosen ends, how can a profession ground itself in science when its ends are confused or unstable?

In the evolution of every profession there emerges the researcher-theoretician whose role is that of scientific investigation and theoretical systematization. In technological professions, a division of labor thereby evolves between the theory-oriented and the practice-oriented person. Without the physician who prefers to attach himself to a medical research center rather than to enter private

practice. The answer to this question lies in the last three hundred years of the history of Western ideas and institutions. Technical Rationality is the heritage of Positivism, the powerful philosophical doctrine that grew up in the nineteenth century as an account of the rise of science and technology and as a social movement aimed at applying the achievements of science and technology to the well-being of mankind. Technical Rationality is the Positivist epistemology of practice. It became institutionalized in the modern university, founded in the late nineteenth century when Positivism was at its height, and in the professional schools which secured their place in the university in the early decades of the twentieth century.

increasingly powerful scientific world-view. As the scientific world-view gained dominance, so did the idea that human progress would be achieved by harnessing science to create technology for the achievement of human ends. This Techno-

triumph of science and technology and to purge mankind of the residues of religion, mysticism, and metaphysics which still prevented scientific thought and technological practice from wholly ruling over the affairs of men. It was in this spirit that, in the first half of the nineteenth century, Auguste Comte first expressed the three principal doctrines of Positivism. First, there was the conviction that empirical science was not just a form of knowledge but the only source of positive knowledge of the world. Second, there was the intention to cleanse men's minds of mysticism, superstition, and other forms of pseudo-knowledge. And finally, there was the program of extending scientific knowledge and technical control to human society; to make technology, as Comte said, "no longer exclusively gross, material, mechanical or chemical, but also and primarily political and moral."

From the perspective of Technical Rationality, professional practice is a process of problem solving. Problems of choice

39

PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND REFLECTION-IN-ACTION

or decision are solved through the selection, from available means, of the one best suited to established ends. But with this emphasis on problem solving, we ignore problem setting, the process by which we define the decision to be made, the ends to be achieved, the means which may be chosen. In real-world practice, problems do not present themselves to the practitioner as givens. They must be constructed from the materials

founder as givens. They must be constructed from the materials of problematic situations which are puzzling, troubling, and uncertain. In order to convert a problematic situation to a problem, a practitioner must do a certain kind of work. He must make sense of an uncertain situation that initially makes no sense. When professionals consider what road to build, for example, they deal usually with a complex and ill-defined situation in which geographic, topological, financial, economic, and political issues are all mixed up together. Once they have somehow decided what road to build and go on to consider how best to build it, they may have a problem they can solve by the application of available techniques; but when the road they have built leads unexpectedly to the destruction of a neighborhood, they may find themselves again in a situation of uncertainty.

the situation needs to be changed. Problem setting is a process in which, interactively, we name the things to which we will attend and frame the context in which we will attend to them.

present itself as an instrumental problem. But when ends are confused and conflicting, there is as yet no "problem" to solve.

There are those who choose the swampy lowlands. They deliberately involve themselves in messy but crucially important problems and, when asked to describe their methods of inquiry, they speak of experience, trial and error, intuition, and muddling through.

Other professionals opt for the high ground. Hungry for technical rigor, devoted to an image of solid professional competence, or fearful of entering a world in which they feel they do not know what they are doing, they choose to confine themselves to a narrow technical practice.

To Schein, the gap lies in the fact that basic and applied sciences are "convergent," whereas practice is "divergent." He believes that some professions have already achieved, and that others will eventually achieve, "a high degree of consensus on the paradigms to be used in the analysis of phenomena and what constitutes the relevant knowledge base for practice." Nevertheless, Schein also believes that the prob-

They may ask themselves, for example, "What features do I notice when I recognize this thing? What are the criteria by which I make this judgment? What procedures am I enacting when I perform this skill? How am I framing the problem that I am trying to solve?" Usually reflection on knowing-in-action goes together with reflection on the stuff at hand. There is some puzzling, or troubling, or interesting phenomenon with which the individual is trying to deal. As he tries to make sense of it, he also reflects on the understandings which have been implicit in his action, understandings which he surfaces, criticizes, restructures, and embodies in further action.

It is this entire process of reflection-in-action which is central to the "art" by which practitioners sometimes deal well with situations of uncertainty, instability, uniqueness, and value conflict.

proved successful," you are noticing, at the very least, that you have been doing something right, and your "feeling" allows you to do that something again. When you "study those win-

nable, the practitioner may surface and criticize his initial understanding of the phenomenon, construct a new description of it, and test the new description by an on-the-spot experiment. Sometimes he arrives at a new theory of the phenomenon. For articulation: a feeling for how about it.

ous in its own right, and links the art of practice in uncertainty and uniqueness to the scientist's art of research. We may

discoveries. And if they are good designers, they will reflect-in-action on the situation's back-talk, shifting stance as they do so from "what if?" to recognition of implications, from involvement in the unit to consideration of the total, and from exploration to commitment.

75

03. A Methodological Exploration | 'Designers don't read'

04.07. RELATED WORK: DEMOCRACY AND SPACE

Designs for the Pluriverse - Arturo Escobar

The main conclusions that followed after reading 'Designs for the Pluriverse', where that in designing for the pluriverse, it is important to shift the attention for the commercial layer of design to the essence of the practice itself, to form, material, structure, ideas. In doing so, it is important to acknowledge design not solely as a practice of rational thinking, but also as a process where feelings, intuition and emotions of the designer, and others, are involved.

Furthermore, it is important to acknowledge difference in the process of designing for the pluriverse, in being explicit on the fact that in a pluriverse, multiple perspectives exist and that in concluding this, a deep attention to social justice is needed.

In designing for the pluriverse, communities have to be enabled to opportunity the appropriate or reappropriate space creatively.

These are the main themes of the book: their cultural, civilizational, and ecological traditions, an ontological approach to design and design for transitions, and the relations among autonomy, design, and the political activation of ecological and communal aspects of the center of the transition. Can design moderate tradition by reorienting from its dependence on the life-stifling dominant ontology of patriarchal capitalist modernity toward relational modes of knowing, being, and doing? Can it be creatively reappropriated by subaltern communities in support of their struggles to strengthen their autonomy and perform their life projects? Can ontologically oriented design play a constructive role in transforming entrenched ways of being and doing toward philosophies of well-being that finally equip humans to live in mutually enhancing ways with each other and with the Earth? Such are the overall questions explored in this book.

To nourish design's potential for the transition, however, requires a significant reorientation of design from the functionalist, rationalistic, and industrial traditions from which it emerged, and within which it will continue with one, toward a type of rationality and set of practices oriented to the relational dimension of life. This is why the approach taken is ontological. Design is ontological in that all designed objects, tools, and even services bring about particular ways of being, knowing, and doing. This ontological dimension of design will be discussed at length in the book. Major reasons for the reorientation of the rationalistic tradition lie within the neoliberal and relational forms of life effectively present among many of the peoples.

does not mean that it is not complex. I find more compelling the description of how design works than, say, that of how Cartesian models explain scientific thinking or allegorically based on logical reasoning, induction and deduction and so forth. This doesn't mean that logical reasoning is not important—but that that reason, feeling, and emotion are often as important. Above all, the "abstract reasoning" account of knowledge leaves out of the picture a highly important feature of knowledge production that design thinking does: the fact that creation is always emergent, in the two registers of emergence: self-organized and other-organized, the latter qualifier meaning that the whole designer also has their elements and makes decisions that enable the self-organizing dynamic to take off and do its thing. As I hope the previous account of my multiple histories shows, my scholarly and political work has evolved in great part through self-organizing emergence over the years, much more than as a result of any conscious research plan.

looking sets off emergent logics that end up in, say, a good book.⁹ The process evolves through composition, in Jacques Attali's (1985) sense of the term—even more, this book has been designed or composed in this way. To put it differently, all creation is collective, emergent, and relational; it involves historically and epistemically situated persons (never autonomous individuals), and this ineluctable relationality is acknowledged now by designers in the age of "design, when everybody designs," in Eric Manzini's (2015) skillful title. I suspect that many scholars would agree with the view just sketched of how intellectual making takes place.

the pluriverse. Today, difference is embodied for me most powerfully in the concept of the pluriverse, a world where many worlds fit, as the Zapatista put it with stunning clarity. This has been the central problem that, largely intuitively, has reverberated throughout my intellectual life. It has also been about "living fearlessly with and within difference," as feminists from the Global South often put it (e.g., Trinh 1989; Milczarek-Desai 2002), that is, about an ethical and political practice of alterity that involves a deep concern for social justice, the radical equality of all beings, and nonhierarchy. It's about the difference that all marginalized and subaltern groups have to live with day in and day out, and that only privileged groups can afford to overlook as they act as if the entire world were, or should be, as they see it.

Feelings + logical thinking

Composition in design and research

Embracing difference; how can it be nourished

can anything be totally disconnected from the hegemony?

how it can be nourished. This concern embraces difference in the biological realm (hence, my interest in biodiversity), epistemic difference (coloniality), cultural difference, and—as one might say today—ontological difference, or the pluriverse. Today, difference is embodied for me most powerfully in the

Effect of the marketplace on the ability of the designer

scholar Brenda Laurel: "When one steps back from the marketplace, things can be seen in a different light. While time passes on the surface, we may dive down to its caves, more fundamental places. There, the urgency of commerce is swept away by the rapture of the deep. Designers working at that depth choose to delve into the essence of design itself. Form, structure, ideas and materials become the object of study" (2003, 13; my emphasis). This "acquired disposition" of the designer is poetically described by Australian design theorist Susan Stewart as "the deep pleasure experienced by the designer, in the blossoming or unfolding of felicitous material conjunctions and effects; in the embodied recognition of what is both transformative and fitting within the material context in question" (2016, 275).

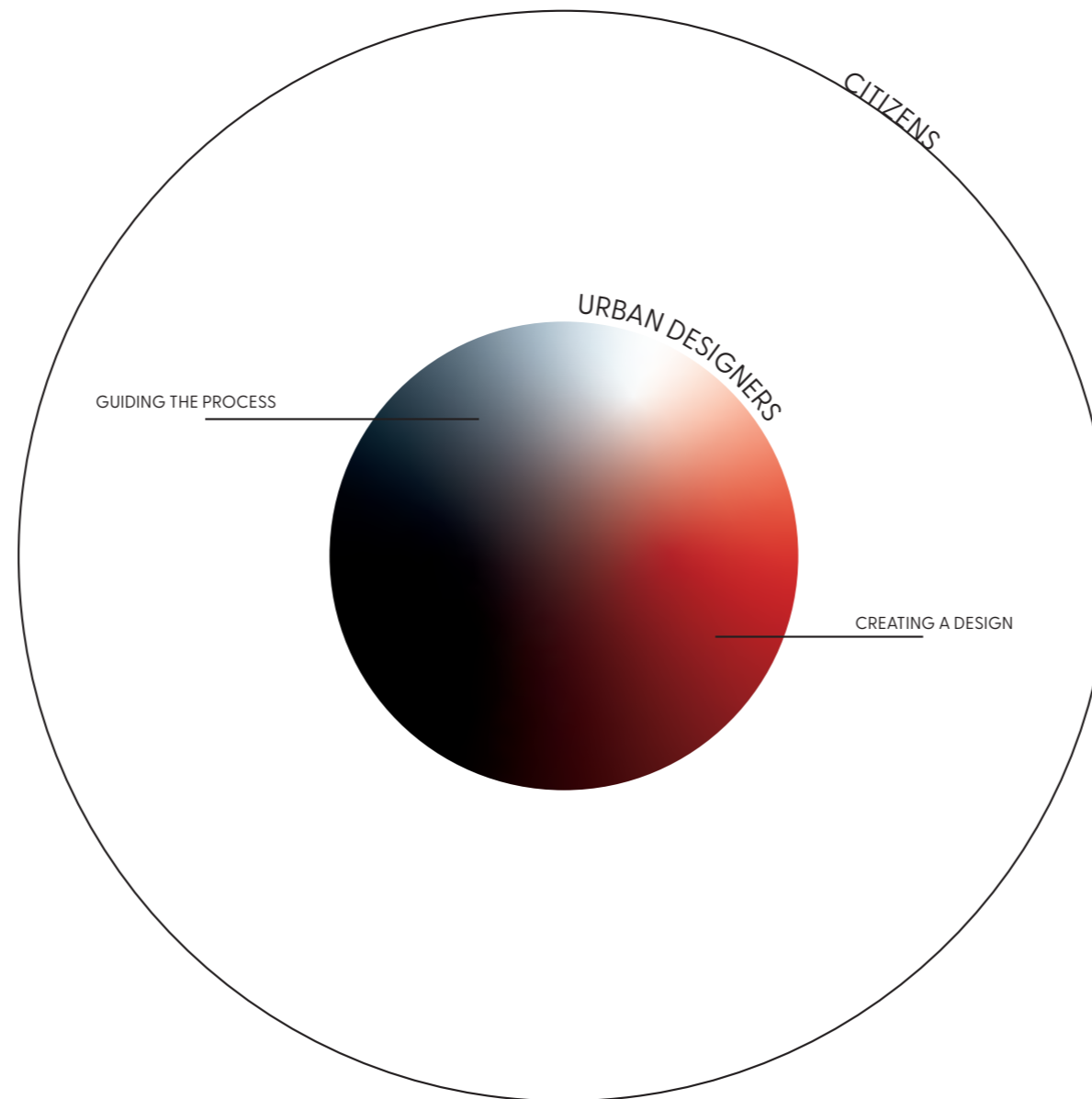
We restate the question: can design be reoriented from its dependence on the marketplace toward creative experimentation with forms, concepts, priorities, and materials, especially when appropriated by subaltern communities struggling to redefine their life projects in a mutually enhancing manner with the Earth?

The role of the designer and its relation to culture

In short, as Tim Brown—a design guru from the famed San Francisco firm IDEO—puts it, design "has become too important to be left to designers" (2009, 8). All of the above is seen as requiring new methods, approaches, and ways of thinking—a novel "design thinking" (T. Brown 2009; Cross 2011), a manner of approaching not only the task at hand but the world that is more ethnographic and relational. Designers discuss the changing status of "the object" (Loicic and Katz 2010) and "things" (Ehn, Nilsson, and Topgaard 2014), echoing current debates in science and technology studies, anthropology, and geography. Finally, as exemplified by Anne Balsamo (2011) for the case of technological innovation, there is an important focus on the relation between design and culture: the fact that design is about creating cultural meanings and practices, about designing culture, experience, and particular ways of living (see also Manzini 2015; Julier 2014; see Laurel 2001; Suchman 2007; and Sparke 2004 for important precedents on this relation). Whether all of this

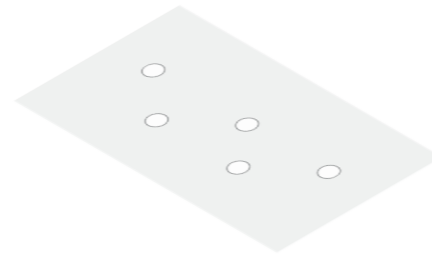
Types of differences

ACTUALISING THE DEMOCRATIC IDEAL

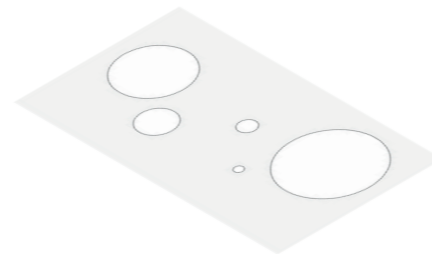


03. A Methodological Exploration | Conclusion after Literature Review; Spatial Dimension

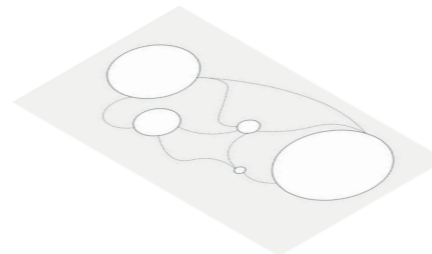
A MULTITUDE OF SPACES



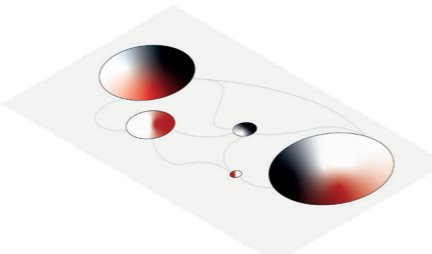
DIFFERENT TYPES AND SCALES



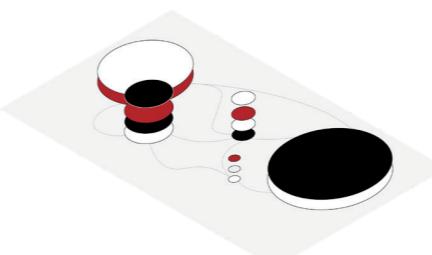
FOCUS ON COMMUNITY,
CREATING NETWORKS

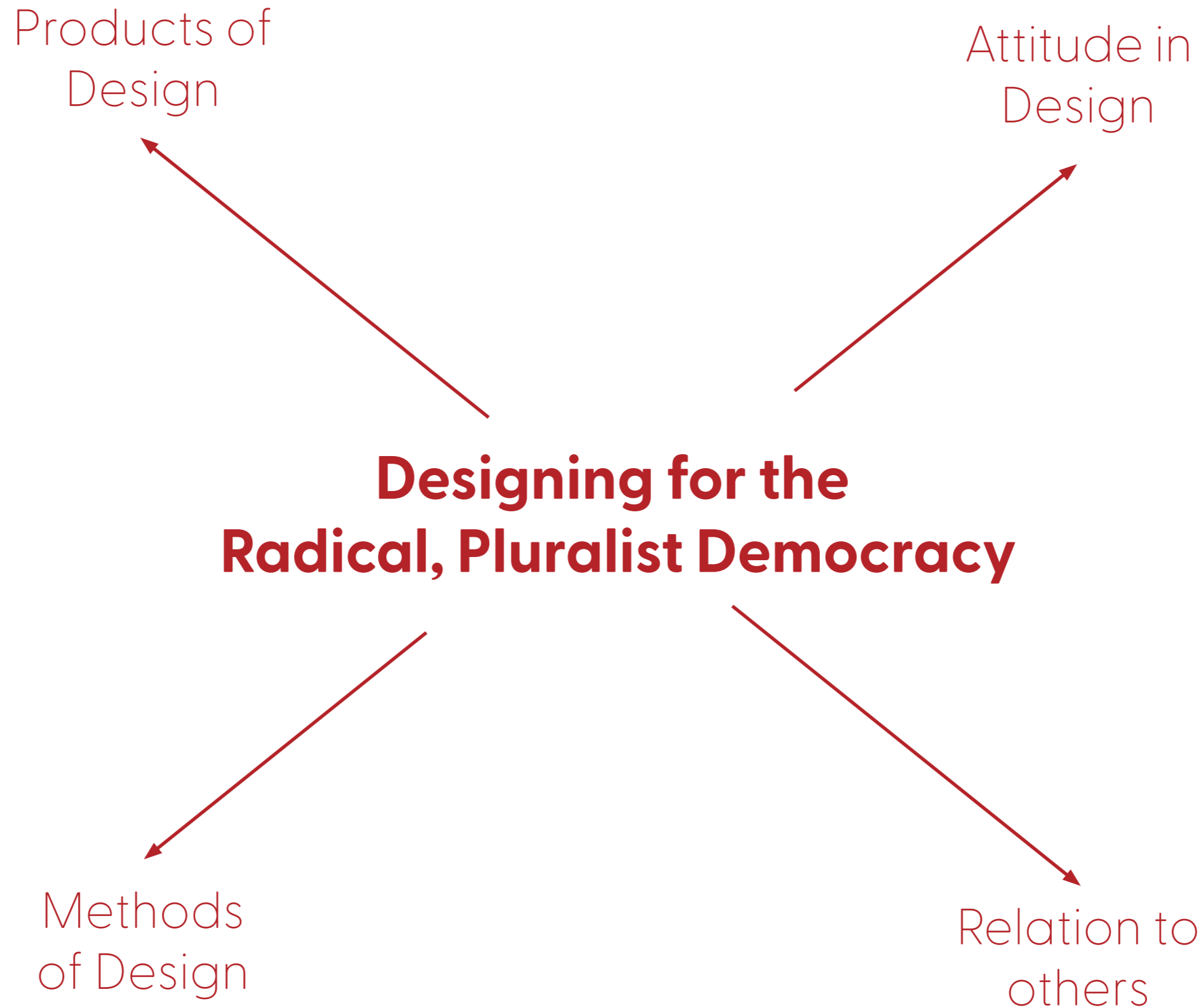


MIXED IN FUNCTION



DYNAMIC:
ADJUSTABLE IN TIME





03. A Methodological Exploration | **This is not solely a rational, technical question**

Or Urban Designers

managers are not confronted with problems that are independent of each other, but with dynamic situations that consist of complex systems of changing problems that interact with each other. I call such situations *messes*. Problems are abstractions extracted from messes by analysis; they are to messes as atoms are to tables and charts . . . Managers do not solve problems: they manage messes.⁴⁰

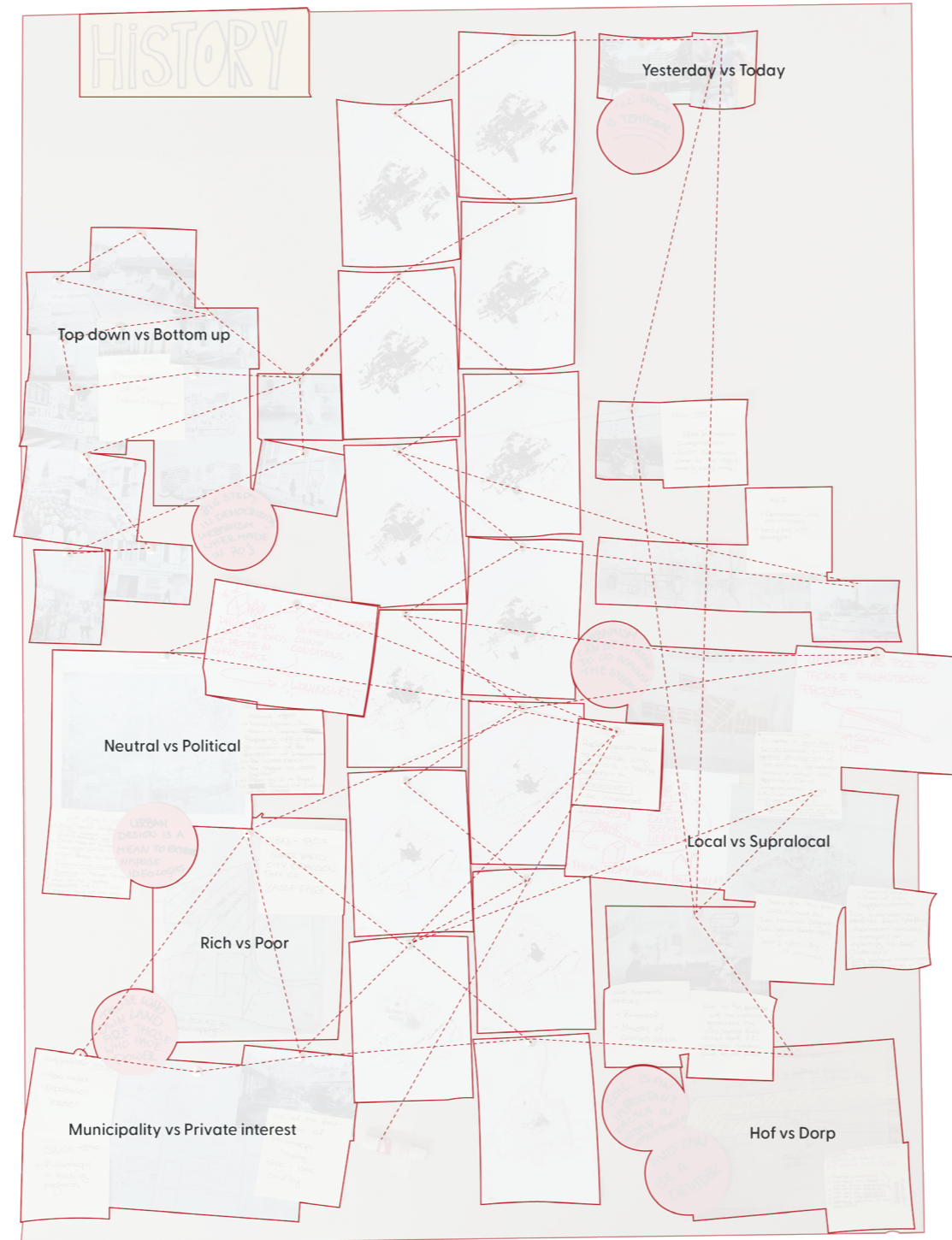
The Reflective Practitioner - Donald A. Schön

If this is not solely a technical question,
but partly a matter of perspective; how
should we approach the next steps?

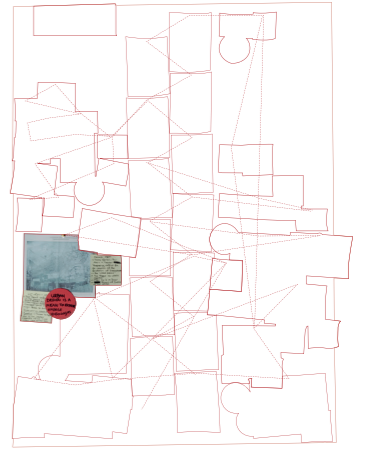
03. A Methodological Exploration | Introducing the 'Panel Strategy'



03. A Methodological Exploration | **Historical Analysis: Overview**



03. A Methodological Exploration | **Role of Powerstructures and Values in Urban Design**



REPORTAGE

Weeks of chaos for a day and a half of meetings. Why does The Hague actually want to host the NATO summit?

NATO summit The Hague bills itself as the 'International City of Peace and Justice'. So you should raise your hand if there is to be a NATO summit. The city council hopes for "hard euros in The Hague's coffers".

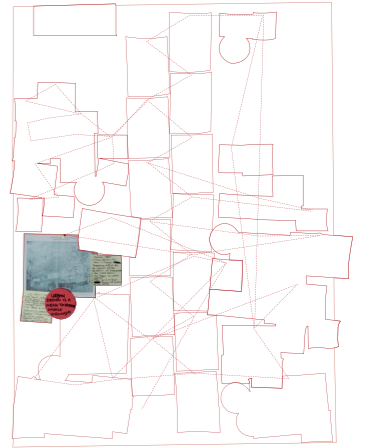
Titia Ketelaar
June 20, 2025 • Reading time 7 minutes

[Listen](#) [Reading list](#)



Ketelaar, T. (2025, June 20). Wekenlange chaos voor anderhalve dag vergaderen. Waarom wil Den Haag eigenlijk gaststad zijn van de NAVO-top? NRC. <https://www.nrc.nl/nieuws/2025/06/20/wekenlange-chaos-voor-anderhalve-dag-vergaderen-waarom-wil-den-haag-eigenlijk-gaststad-zijn-van-de-navo-top-a4897673>

03. A Methodological Exploration | Role of Powerstructures and Values in Urban Design



Around 1900
 → Pieter Eijkman + Paul Hoober → Created
 Preparing office for the creation of the foundation of Internationalism
 → For 'world peace'
 → The Hague as world capital
 → Plan by K. de Bazel
 → Palace of Justice at the center

29th of July in 1907
 → First Peace conference in The Hague → The became permanent 'Hof v
 → Steel magnet Andes Carnegie paid 1.5 miljoen dollar to build International court of Justice → Pickad The Hague due to the 'neutral character' of NL + nice place next to the sea

URBAN DESIGN IS A MEAN TO EXPRESS IMPOSE IDEOLOGIES

Filantropic project

Menu | **nrc** | [Subscribe](#) |

REPORTAGE

Weeks of chaos for a day and a half of meetings. Why does The Hague actually want to host the NATO summit?

NATO summit The Hague bills itself as the 'International City of Peace and Justice'. So you should raise your hand if there is to be a NATO summit. The city council hopes for "hard euros in The Hague's coffers".

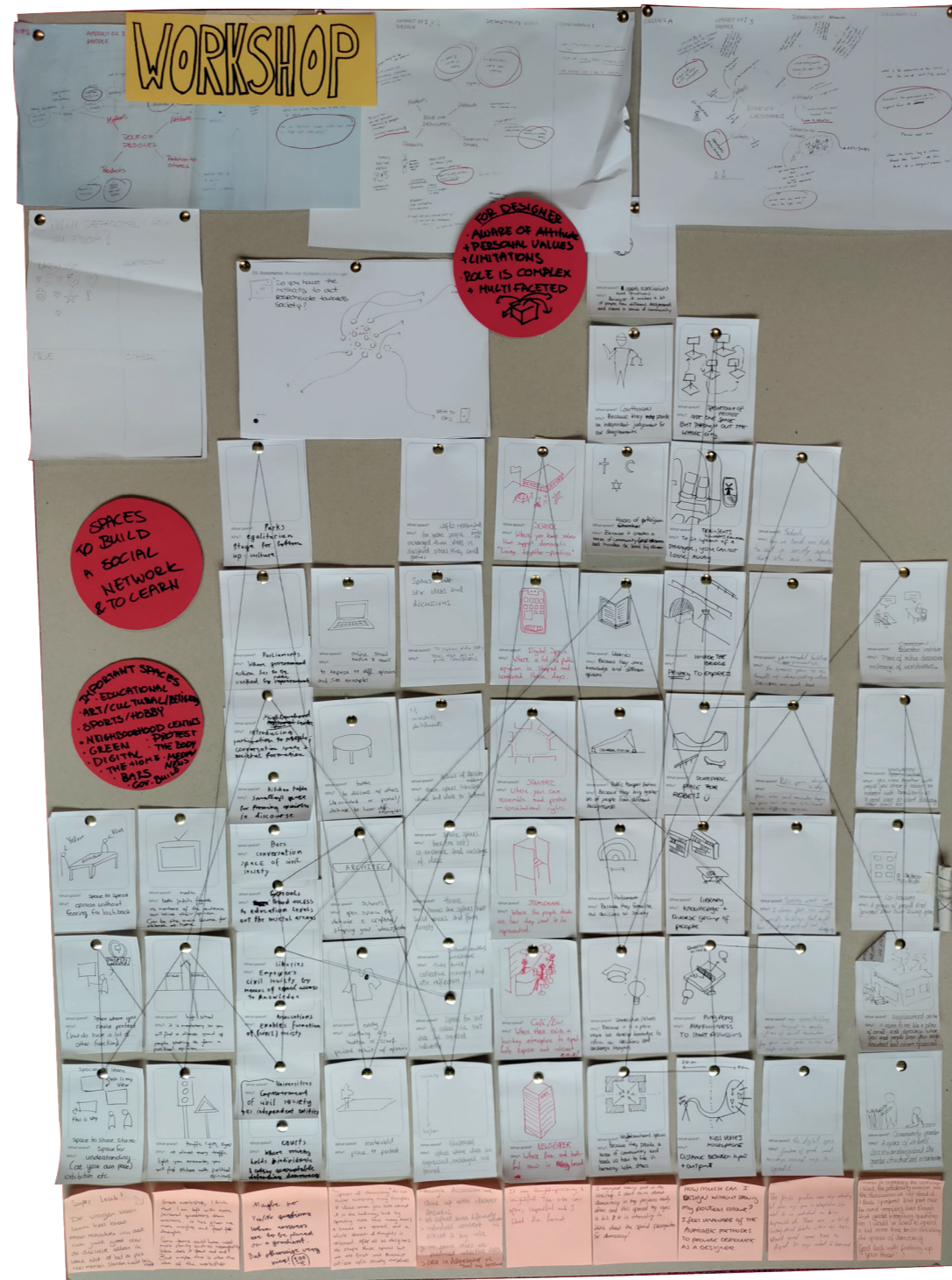
Titia Ketelaar
 June 20, 2025 • Reading time 7 minutes

[Listen](#) [Reading list](#)

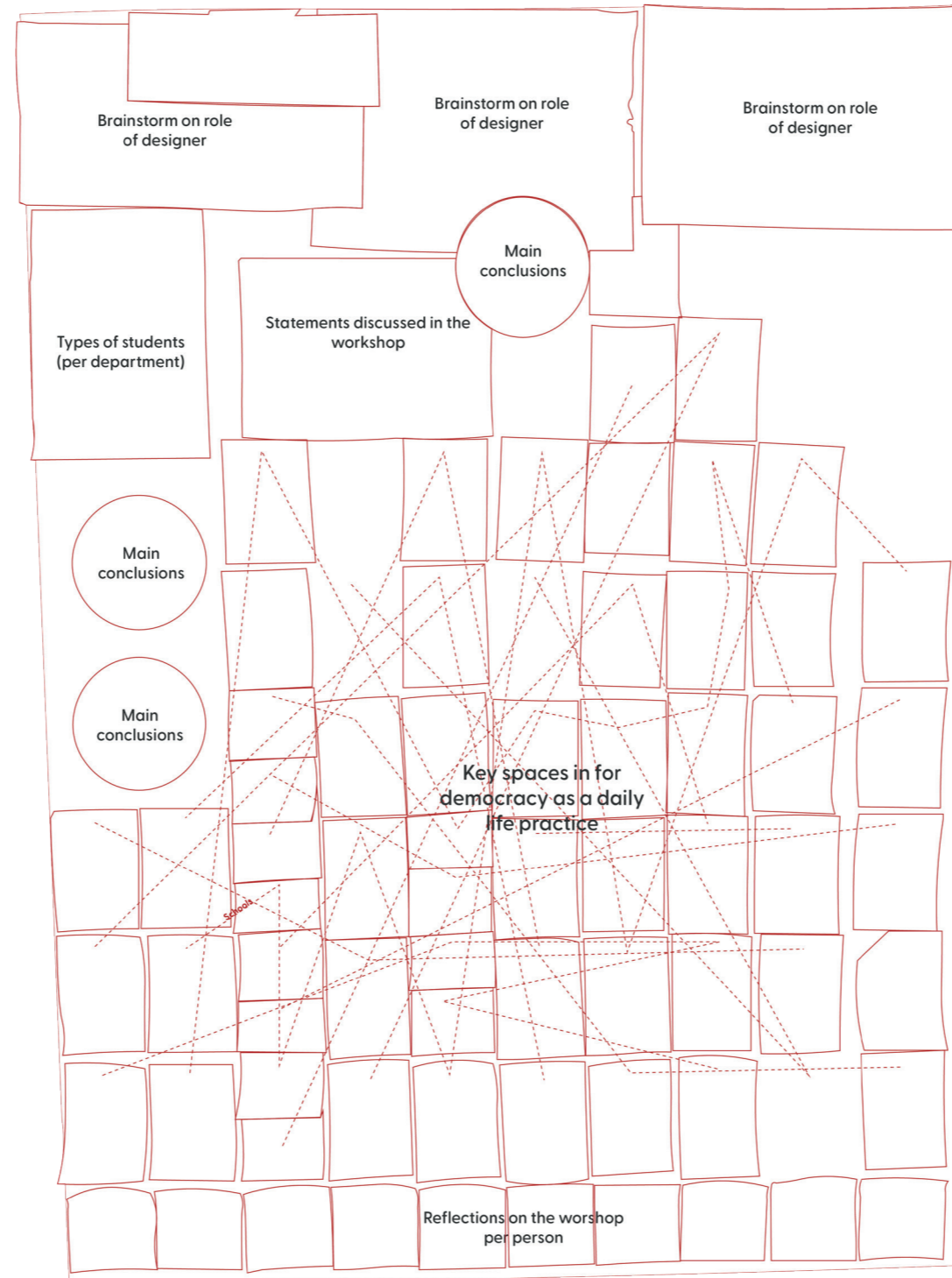


Ketelaar, T. (2025, June 20). Wekentlange chaos voor anderhalve dag vergaderen. Waarom wil Den Haag eigenlijk gaststad zijn van de NAVO-top? NRC. <https://www.nrc.nl/nieuws/2025/06/20/wekentlange-chaos-voor-anderhalve-dag-vergaderen-waarom-wil-den-haag-eigenlijk-gaststad-zijn-van-de-navo-top-a4897673>

03. A Methodological Exploration | Workshop Urban Design & Democracy



03. A Methodological Exploration | **Workshop Urban Design & Democracy; Panel Overview**



03. A Methodological Exploration | Exploring the Spatial Dimension

05.14. SPACES

EDUCATIONAL SPACES

Schools & Universities are important, to exchange and form different ideas, to achieve discussions on different worldviews, to learn 'living together practices', to be able to learn consequences of our decisions, to empower citizens

MENTAL SPACES

Democracy is not only physical, but a mindset. Spaces have to create an atmosphere that allows for safe and open discussion. Also, the body in its form itself and its clothing are forms of expression and opinion.

PUBLIC SPACES

Public spaces, like squares, parks, trainstations, traffic lights even, are important to live free and co-exist, to exchange ideas, to express to assemble, to see strangers, to see different political opinions, for bottom-up cultural practices

NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRES & COMMUNITY SPACES

Neighbourhood centres are important spaces to meet neighbours and share opinions, to engage with participatory practices, to create a sense of community, to make decisions on a small scale with a group of people

CULTURAL SPACES

Cultural spaces, such as spaces for exhibitions, cultural centres, spaces to share stories, museums, art, play are important to start discussion and to have ideas expressed indirectly and to broaden people's understanding

GOVERNMENTAL BUILDINGS

Governmental buildings, such as the parliament building is important, for its symbolic relevance, to make decisions as a society, to translate ideas and values into action, to verify the governmental action by the public

05.14. SPACES

CAFES, RESTAURANTS, BARS

Cafés, restaurants, bars are important to have conversations, to exchange ideas in shelter, to express and interact

THE HOME

To build voices and form society

DIGITAL SPACES & SOCIAL MEDIA

Digital spaces are important spaces to be exposed to different opinions and to see examples, to shape and contest discussions, to spread ideas

COURTHOUSES

To hold people accountable, to defend democracies, to have judgement for (moral) disagreements

TRADITIONAL MEDIA

Traditional media sources, such as TV stations, radio and newspapers are important spaces to voice opinions, for the freedom of speech, to steer ideas and discussions

ASSOCIATIONS

To unite people from different backgrounds over shared interests

SPACES FOR PROTEST

Spaces for protest are important, to speak out

PLACES TO VOTE

To decide how one wants to be represented

LIBRARY

To gain knowledge, to meet a diverse group of people, to store different opinions, to empower society, to have equal access to knowledge

RELIGIOUS SPACES

To create a sense of community, to keep society together

03. A Methodological Exploration | Exploring the Spatial Dimension: Identifying a Growing Urgency

Why Trump is really going after Harvard

David Smith
in Washington

If the US's oldest university bends the knee, the door to authoritarianism opens and democracy fades, experts warn



Smith, D. (2025, June 21). Why Trump is really going after Harvard. The Guardian. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jun/21/trump-harvard-authoritarianism-democracy>

PLACES

Like squares, parks, train stations, squares, open spaces, etc., are important to live free and co-organize ideas, to express to assemble, to see different political opinions, for cultural practices

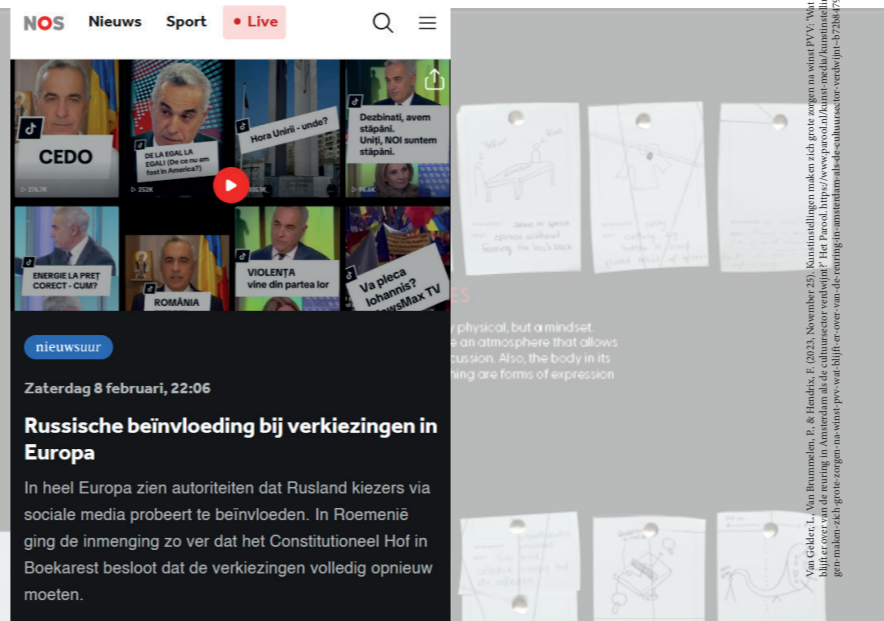


NOS Nieuws Sport • Live

Zaterdag 8 februari, 22:06

Russische beïnvloeding bij verkiezingen in Europa

In heel Europa zien autoriteiten dat Rusland kiezers via sociale media probeert te beïnvloeden. In Roemenië ging de inmenging zo ver dat het Constitutioneel Hof in Boekarest besloot dat de verkiezingen volledig opnieuw moeten.



physical, but a mindset is an atmosphere that allows things to happen. Also, the body in its various forms of expression

Van Gelder, L., van Rossum, P., & Herder, F. (2023, November 25). Konfliktindelingen maken zich grote zorgen na selectie PVV: 'Wat blijft er over van de reuring in Amsterdam als de culturector verdwijnt?' Het Parool. <https://www.parool.nl/amstam-media/kunstinstellingen-maken-zich-grote-zorgen-na-winst-pvv-wat-blijft-er-over-van-de-reuring-in-amsterdam-als-de-cultuursector-verdwijnt-1.7284479>

Het Parool

Kunst & Media Uut in Amsterdam Sport PS

Plus Exclusief

Kunstinstellingen maken zich grote zorgen na winst PVV: 'Wat blijft er over van de reuring in Amsterdam als de cultuursector verdwijnt?'

De winst van de PVV is voor de Amsterdamse kunstsector enorm schrikken. In het partijprogramma van de PVV staat dat alle kunstsubsidies moeten worden afgeschaft. 'In Amsterdam is op zijn minst 10 procent werkzaam in deze sector.'



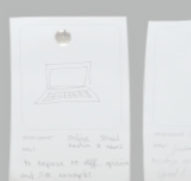
GOVERNMENTAL BUILDINGS

Governmental buildings, such as the parliament building is important, for its symbolic relevance, to make decisions as a society, to translate ideas and values into action, to verify the governmental action by the public

'Roasting' the President - American Media No Longer Dares

Bas Blokker
April 27, 2025 • Reading time 3 minutes

Media Freedom At the annual journalist gala in Washington it became painfully clear how much Trump succeeds in intimidating the media. No one dared to openly attack the president.



DIGITAL SPACES & SCENES

Digital spaces are important, spaces to different opinions and to see and contest discussions, to spread and meet

nrc

Uyghur and Tibetan protesters demonstrated on January 23 against the reception of the Chinese Vice Prime Minister by Prime Minister Schoof in the Catshuis.

Photo Olivier Middendorp

RECONSTRUCTION

How critical protesters disappeared from view during Chinese visit to The Hague

Right to Demonstrate During a visit to the Catshuis in January, Chinese Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang was warmly welcomed by a group of Chinese students. Critical demonstrators were positioned out of sight by the municipality of The Hague. How did this come about?

Hanneke Chin-A-Fo en Wilmer Heck
April 29, 2025 • Reading time 16 minutes

nrc

Kort geding Extinction Rebellion om huisbezoeken agenten aan demonstranten

NOS Nieuws • Dinsdag 25 maart, 15:14 • Aangepast dinsdag 25 maart, 18:58

THE HOME

To build voices and form society

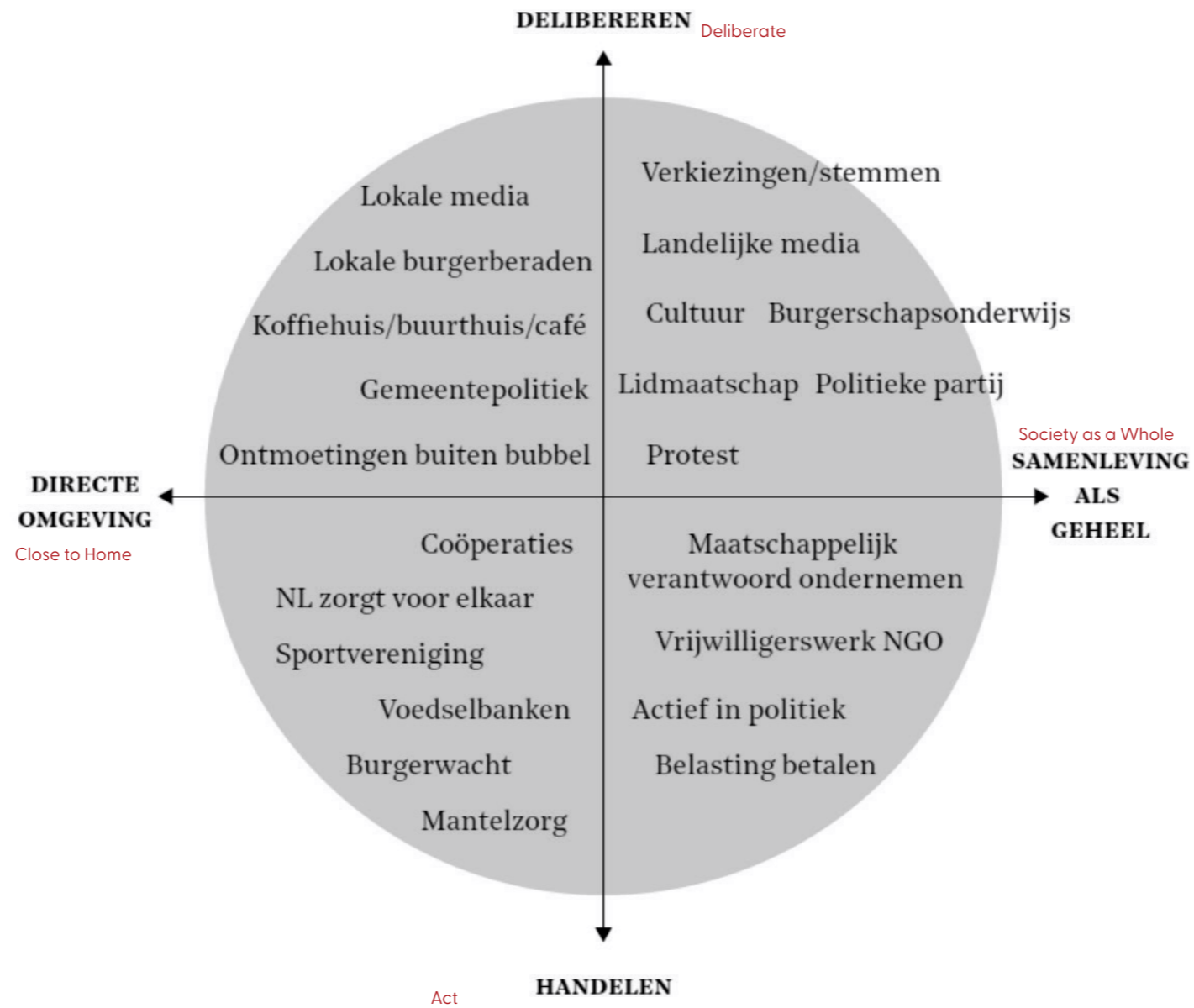
US blocks Canadian access to cross-border library, sparking outcry

US officials claim move was to curb drug trafficking while Quebec town says it 'weakens collaboration' among nations



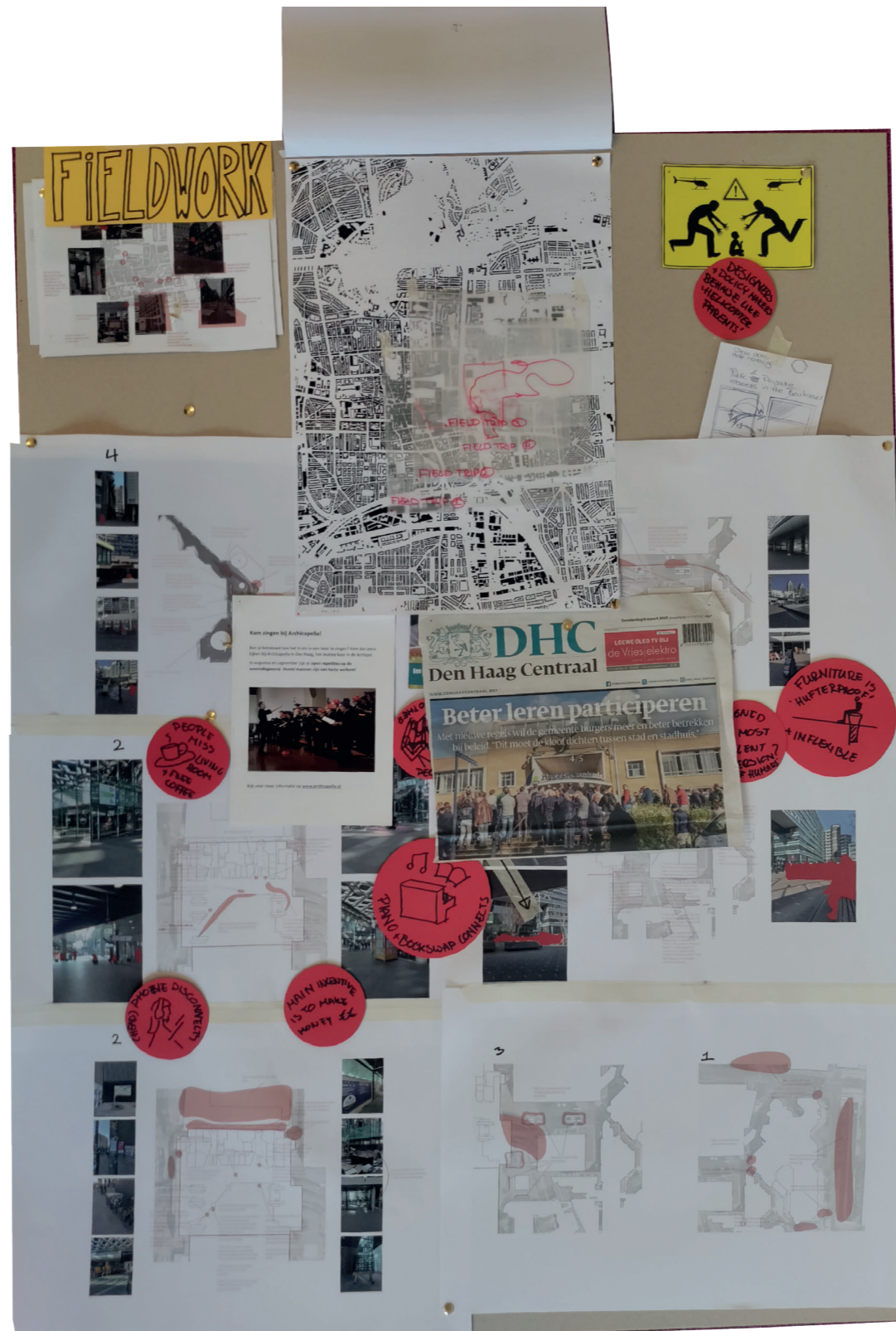
Stacy, D. (2025, April 22). Trump froze funding for Harvard. Money to these universities may also be on the chopping block. Fox News. <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-froze-funding-harvard-money-universities-may-also-chopping-block>'Breathtaking in its audacity': Trump's conflict with judges has escalated to new heights By Timmy Sneed, CNN Published 5:00 AM EDT, Thu April 17, 2025 RELIGIOUS SPACES To create a sense of community, to bring people together AD NIEUWS REGIO SPORT SHOW KJK PODCAST PUZZEL Binnenland Buitenland Politiek Economie Bizar Wetenschap Reizen Opinie Quiz Georgiër prapt stapel stembiljetten in verkiezingsbus 00:44 Waarnemers: Intimidaties bij verkiezingen Georgië, oppositie spreekt van 'gestolen uitslag' UPDATE / MET VIDEO De Organisatie voor Veiligheid en Samenwerking in Europa (OVSE), die de verkiezing van zaterdag in Georgië heeft geobserveerd, stelt dat er 'een gespannen sfeer heerste' tijdens de stembusgang. Volgens de organisatie werden kiezers geïntimideerd en onder druk gezet.

03. A Methodological Exploration | **Linking Conclusions back to Literature Findings**

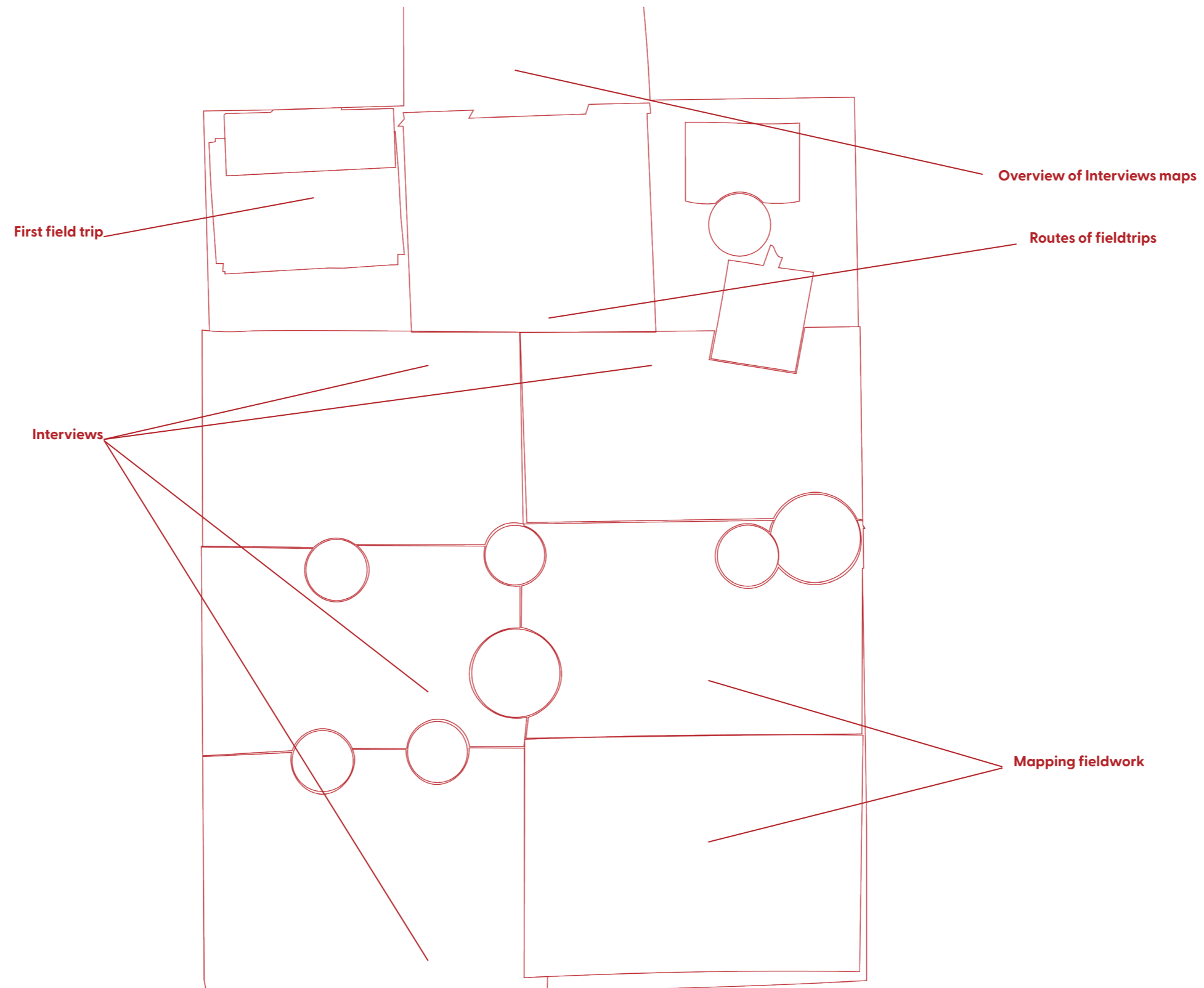


De mensen in het land: Wat burgerschap eigenlijk (nog) is - Marlies Honingh, Henk den Uijl, Teun Toonen & Jessie Samwel, 2025
The Table of Citizenship

03. A Methodological Exploration | Visiting The Hague

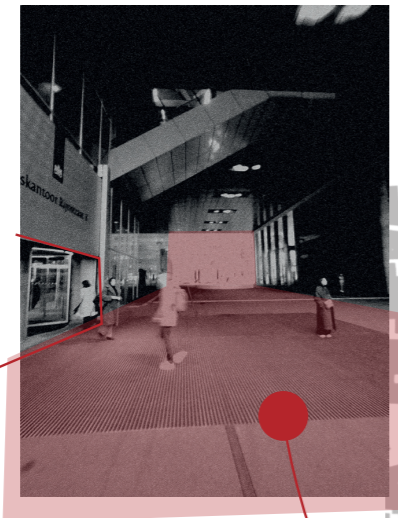


03. A Methodological Exploration | **Visiting The Hague; Panel Overview**



03. A Methodological Exploration | **First Fieldtrip, Looking at the City Through a 'Lens'**

Migration office has super small entry, with a blank public area in front

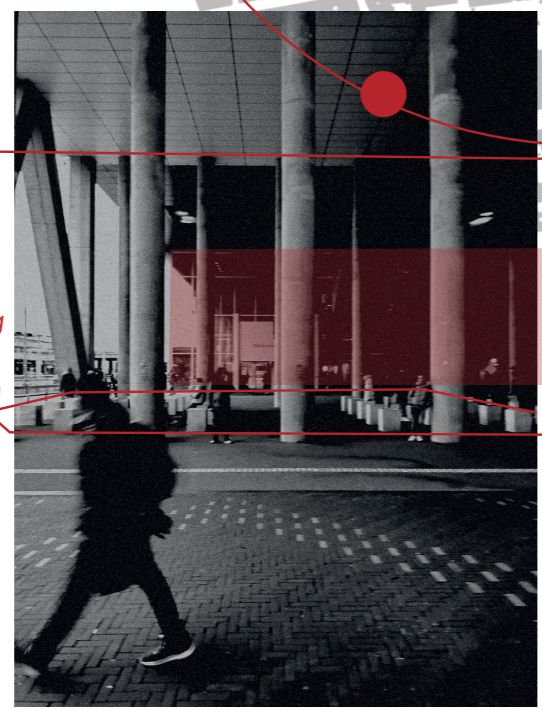


Building has two characters



People are in a rush

Public space is covered by roof and static pillars, creates a very 'in between space' atmosphere



Monument has turned into a seating area, lots of people waiting on their own



Pole full of stickers with political statements in front of station



03. A Methodological Exploration | **Aknowledging my personal biases**

TODAY IT IS 4-3-2025
HERE YOU CAN READ A QUICK SUMMARY OF MY FIELDTRIPS UNTIL NOW. → 3 DIFFERENT ONES

16-12-2024
THIS WAS ON A MONDAY. THE GOAL WAS TO GET A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE STATION → BINNENHOF AREA ON EYELEVEL.

LIBRARY MUNICIPALITY OFFICE
TOWER
LOADS OF FLAGS
INTERNAL AFFAIRS JUSTICE + SAFETY
BIG INTIMIDATING
LOADS OF CAMERA'S
MCDONALDS USES STREET
IND
VOID
STATION
SHOPS CONCRETE SITTING
AREA FEELS
BIG, LOADS OF BOXES

HAD BEEN READING. HOUFFE, LEFEBVRE, ARENDT BEFOREHAND. THIS MADE ME FOCUS ON THE WAY PEOPLE WOULD BE INVITED BY THE SPACES TO INTERACT WITHOUT BUYING ANYTHING.

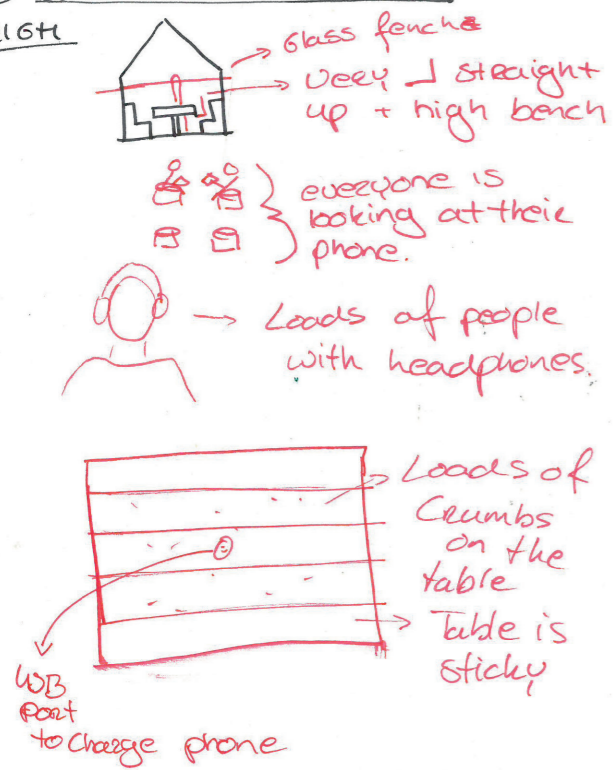
→ Is difficult ^{to find} in this ^{area}

I FELT EXCITED AND A BIT ANXIOUS BEFORE GOING. FELT GOOD AFTERWARDS

03. A Methodological Exploration | Interviews + Biases

06-03-2025

Currently, I AM SITTING ON A BENCH IN 'DEN HAAG CENTRAAL'. I AM ABOUT TO INTERVIEW SOME PEOPLE. IT IS 12:55 AND SUPER BUZZY. I HEAR THE NOISE OF THE TRAIN, THE BLEATING OF THE NS-GATES. I AM A BIT NERVOUS NO ONE SEEMS TO HAVE TIME. THE BENCH IS QUITE UNCOMFORTABLE AND HIGH.



Annotations for train station sketches:

- If the train is delayed, people quickly festerise.
- I feel safe because there are so many people working for NS present.
- I think that a spot that has free coffee could have the quality to bring people together.
- I really like the Stationshuiskamer. It's warmer than Starbucks and doesn't feel like you are sitting in the middle of a train station.
- I surely see the train station mainly as a transit point.
- I actually never really talk to people. I would like some flowers or plants.
- After one conversation they start to play the piano with someone he just met.

I NOTICE AFTER TALKING TO PEOPLE HOW THEY'D LIKE TO MEET OUTSIDE OF THEIR BUBBLE / PEOPLE THAT ARE STRANGERS TO THEM, THAT THE QUESTION DOESN'T LEAD TO VERY DIRECT ANSWERS.

PEOPLE END UP EXPLAINING MAINLY ABOUT WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE THEY ARE ALREADY MEETING: 'I AM MEETING MY FRIENDS / SOMEONE I PLANNED A MEETING WITH.'

PEOPLE ALSO TELL ME THEY VIEW THE STATION AREA MAINLY AS A PLACE TO TRANSIT THROUGH. THEY DO NOT REALLY SEEM TO THINK OF IT AS AN AREA TO STAY.

WHEN I ASK HOW PEOPLE WOULD LIKE TO MEET STRANGERS / PEOPLE OUTSIDE OF THEIR BUBBLE, PEOPLE DO NOT SEEM ENTHUSIASTIC, BUT MOSTLY CONFUSED ON WHY THEY WOULD EVEN WANT TO DO THAT.

HOWEVER, WHEN I INTRODUCE MYSELF, EVERYONE I HAVE ASKED SO FAR WAS WILLING TO TALK TO ME. I START MY INTERVIEWS IN THE FOLLOWING WAY:

'Hi, I am Marieke. I am studying this area for my studies. Would it be okay if I ask you some questions? AND IS DUTCH OKAY?'

ke-me

FIRST, I TALK TO PEOPLE AND TRY TO CREATE AS LITTLE BARRIERE BETWEEN ME AND THE PERSON AS POSSIBLE

THAN, I QUICKLY TYPE OUT THE MOST IMPORTANT STUFF SOMEONE HAS SAID.

1

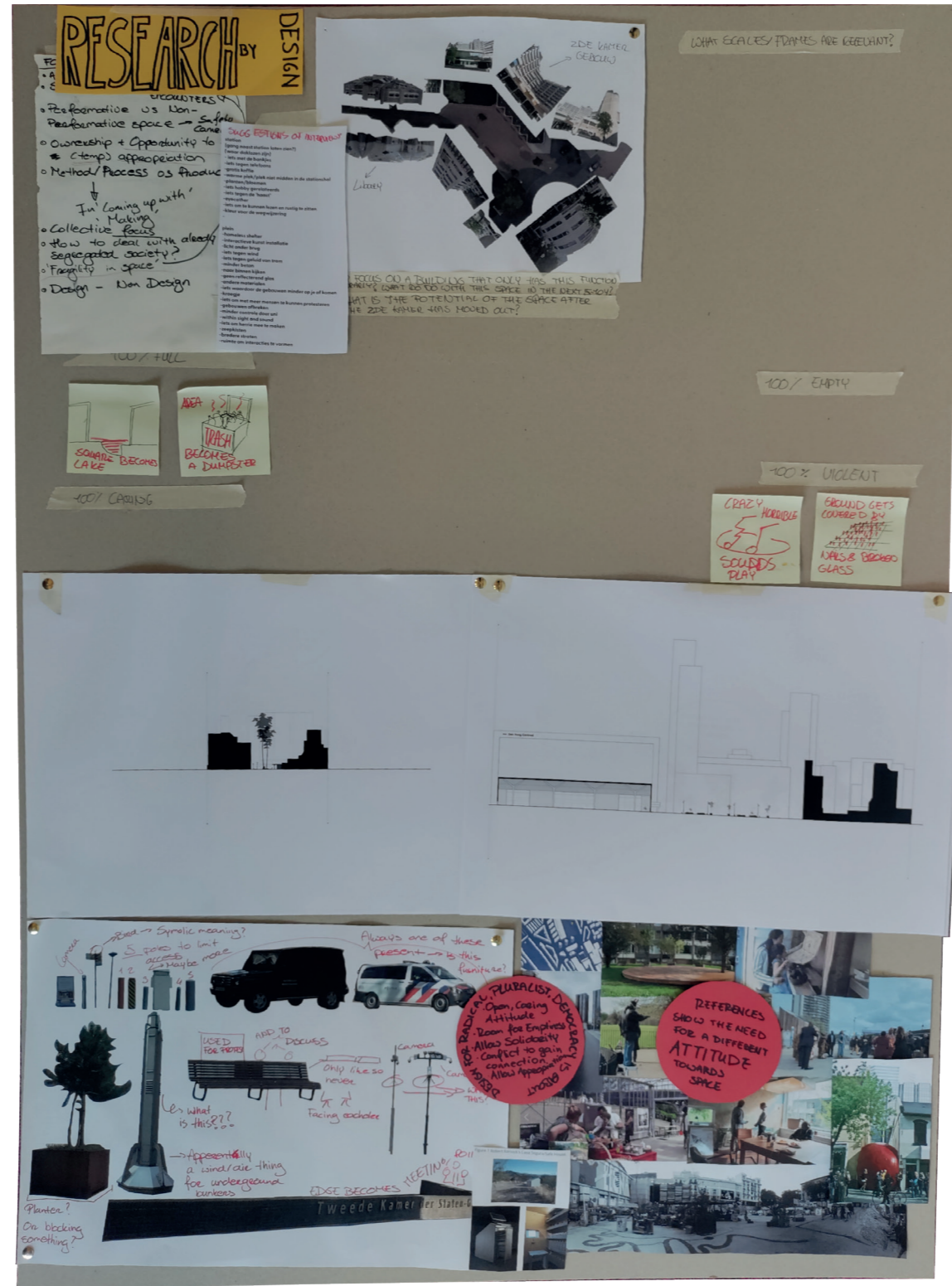
2

I SOMETIMES STRUGGLE TO REMEMBER EXACT WORDS, SO I TRY TO LINK CONVERSATIONS TO CERTAIN OBJECTS IN THE AREA.

AT ONE MOMENT, THE FIRST PERSON THAT CAME UP TO ME WAS A YOUNG WOMAN WHO ASKED ME FOR MONEY FOR FOOD FOR HER AND HER KID. WITH ALL OF THE INTERVIEWS I JUST DID IN MY MIND, I HAD A HARD TIME TO RESPOND. I TOLD HER I DIDN'T HAVE ANY CASH ON ME, BUT WAS STRUGGLING WITH THIS INTERACTION. I WANTED TO ASK HER THINGS BUT IT DIDN'T FEEL RIGHT.

AFTER THIS INTERACTION, I DECIDED TO GO OUTSIDE. THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME I WAS DECLINED AN INTERVIEW. THIS MADE ME STRUGGLE TO APPROACH OTHERS.

03. A Methodological Exploration | Research by Design



03. A Methodological Exploration | **Welcome to back to The Hague Central Station!**



The Hague Central Station



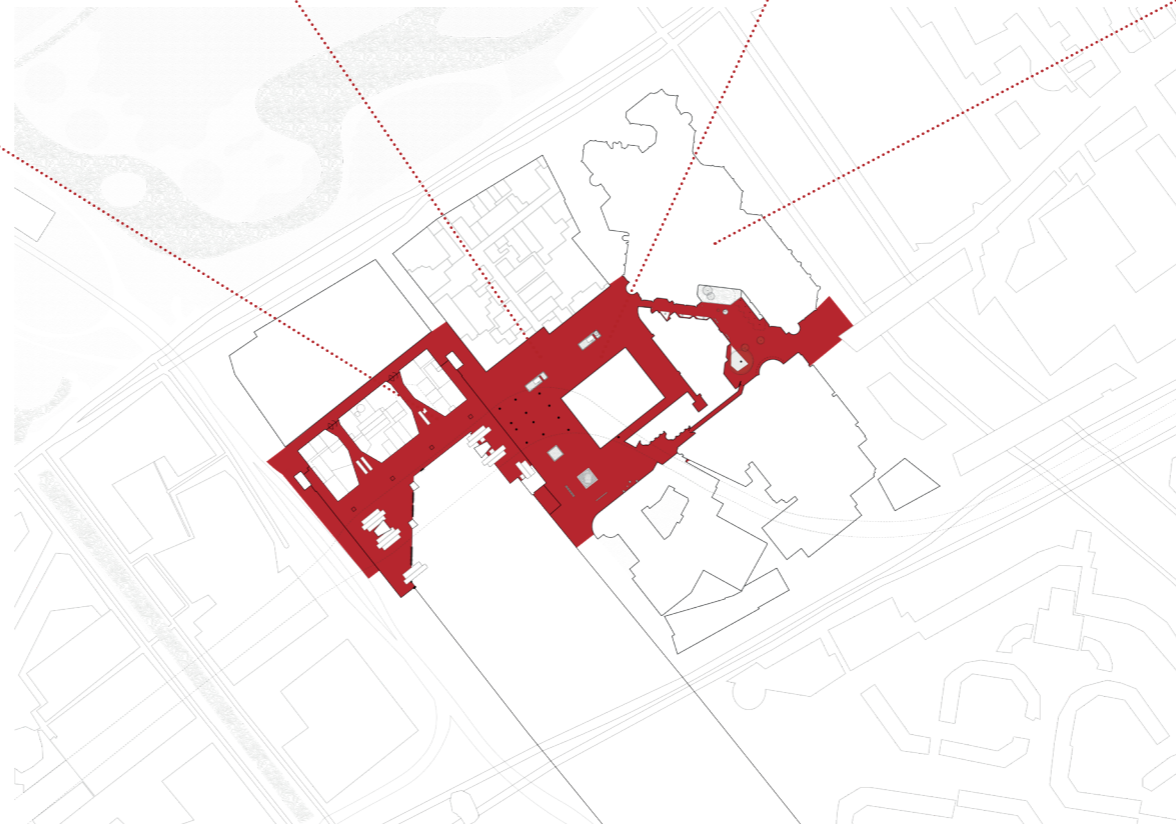
New Babylon Shopping Mall and Apartments



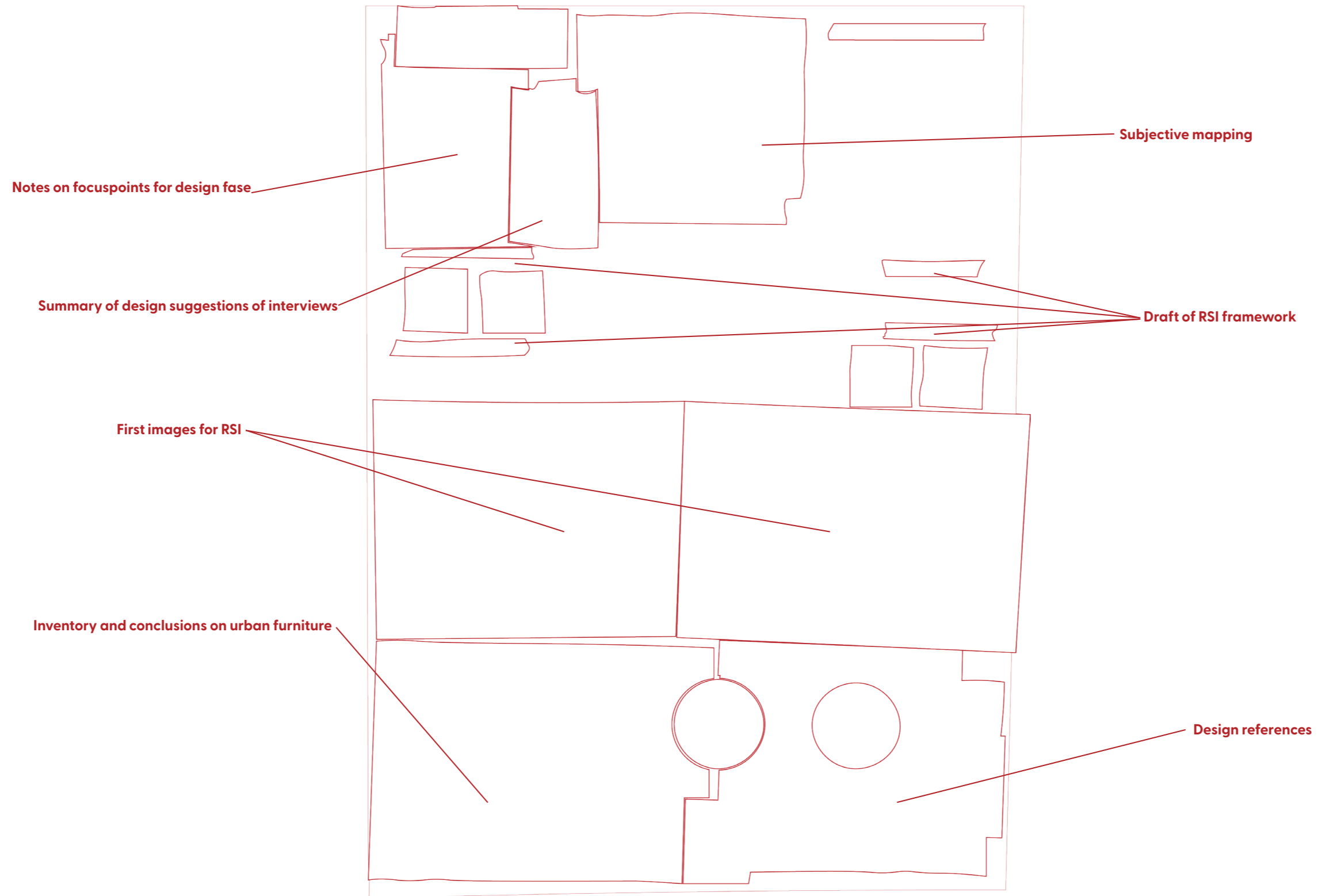
Royal Library and Literature museum



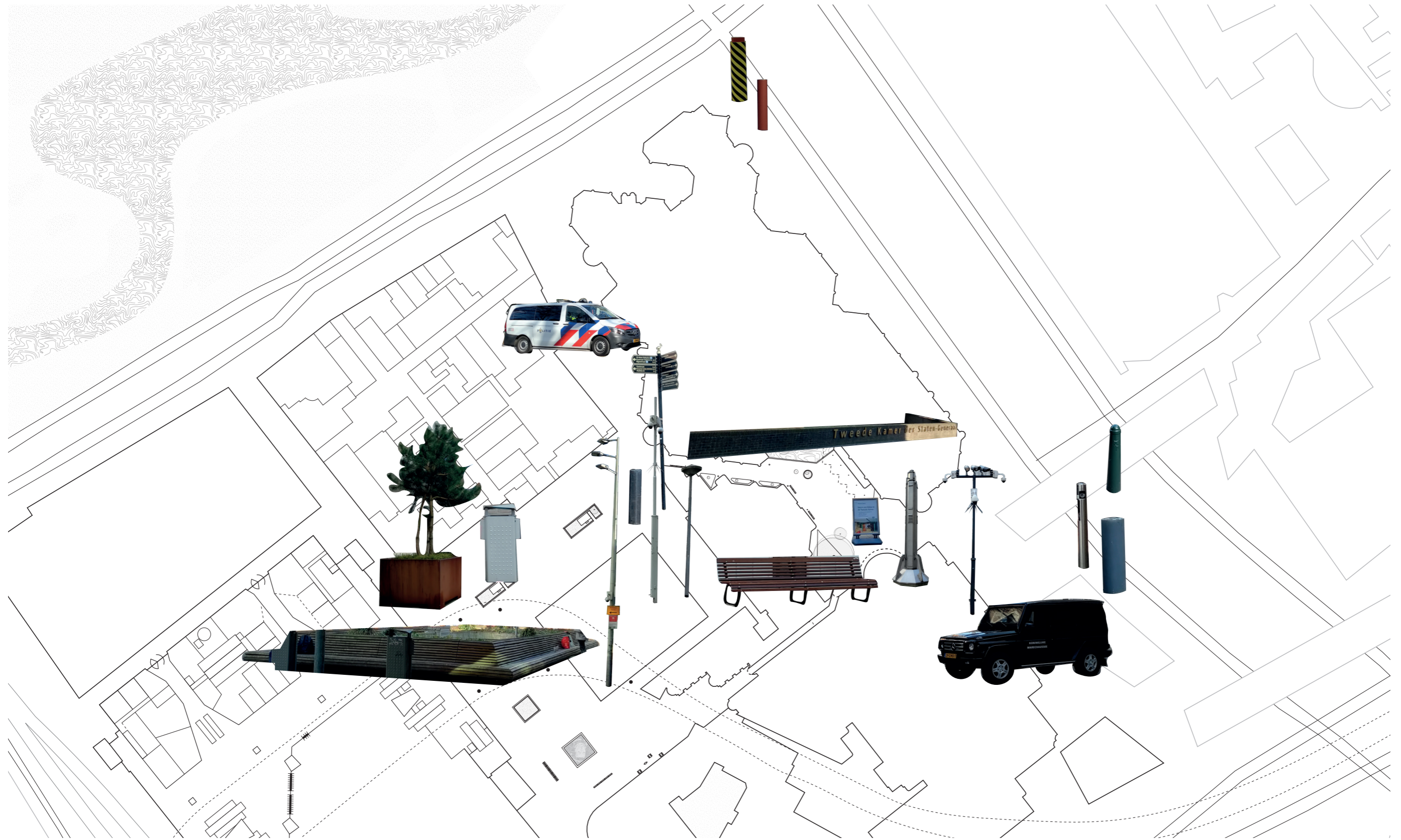
Tweede Kamer



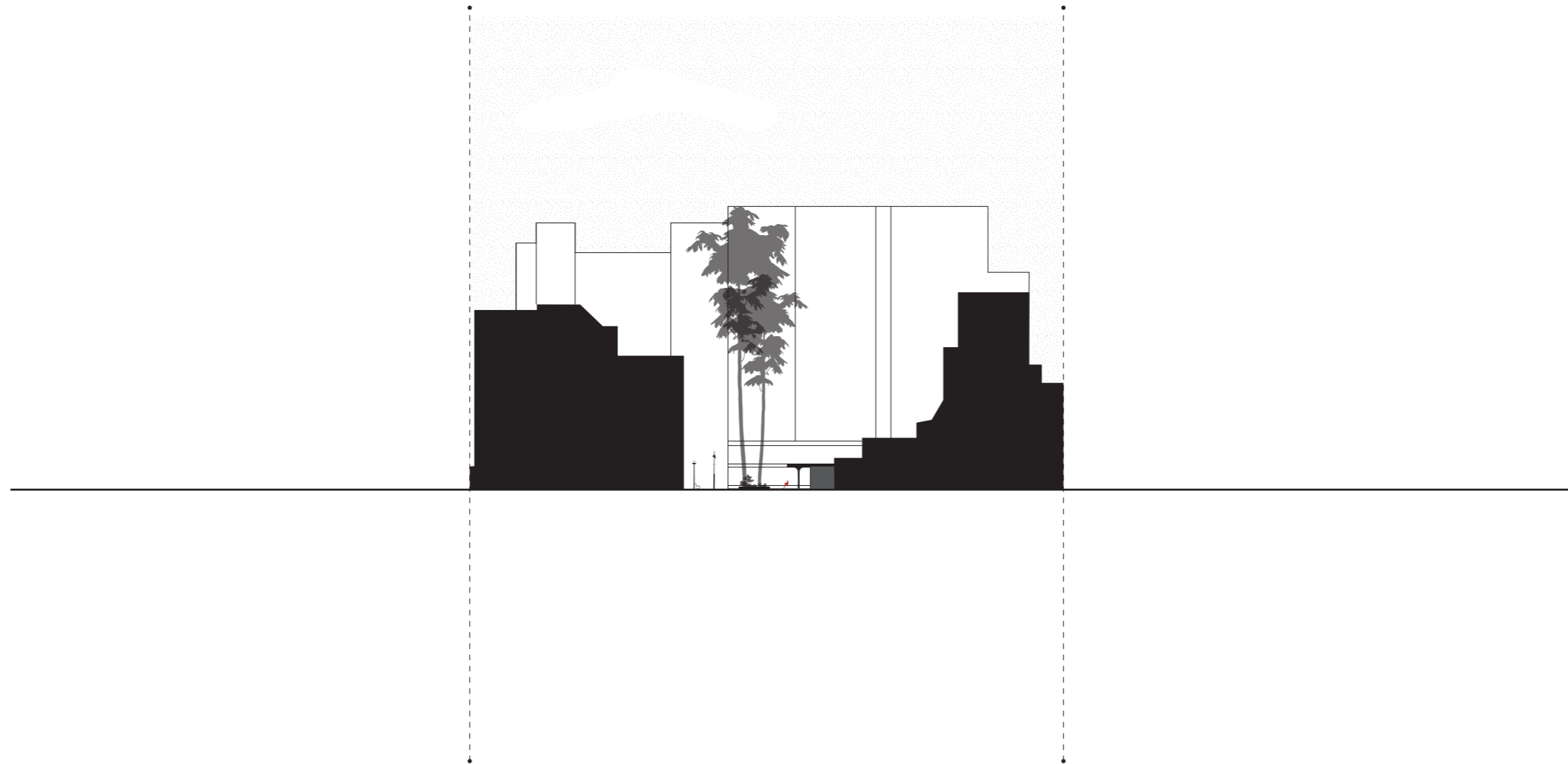
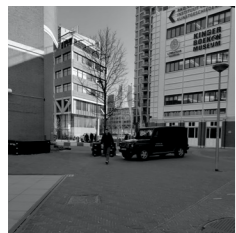
03. A Methodological Exploration | **Research by Design; Panel overview**



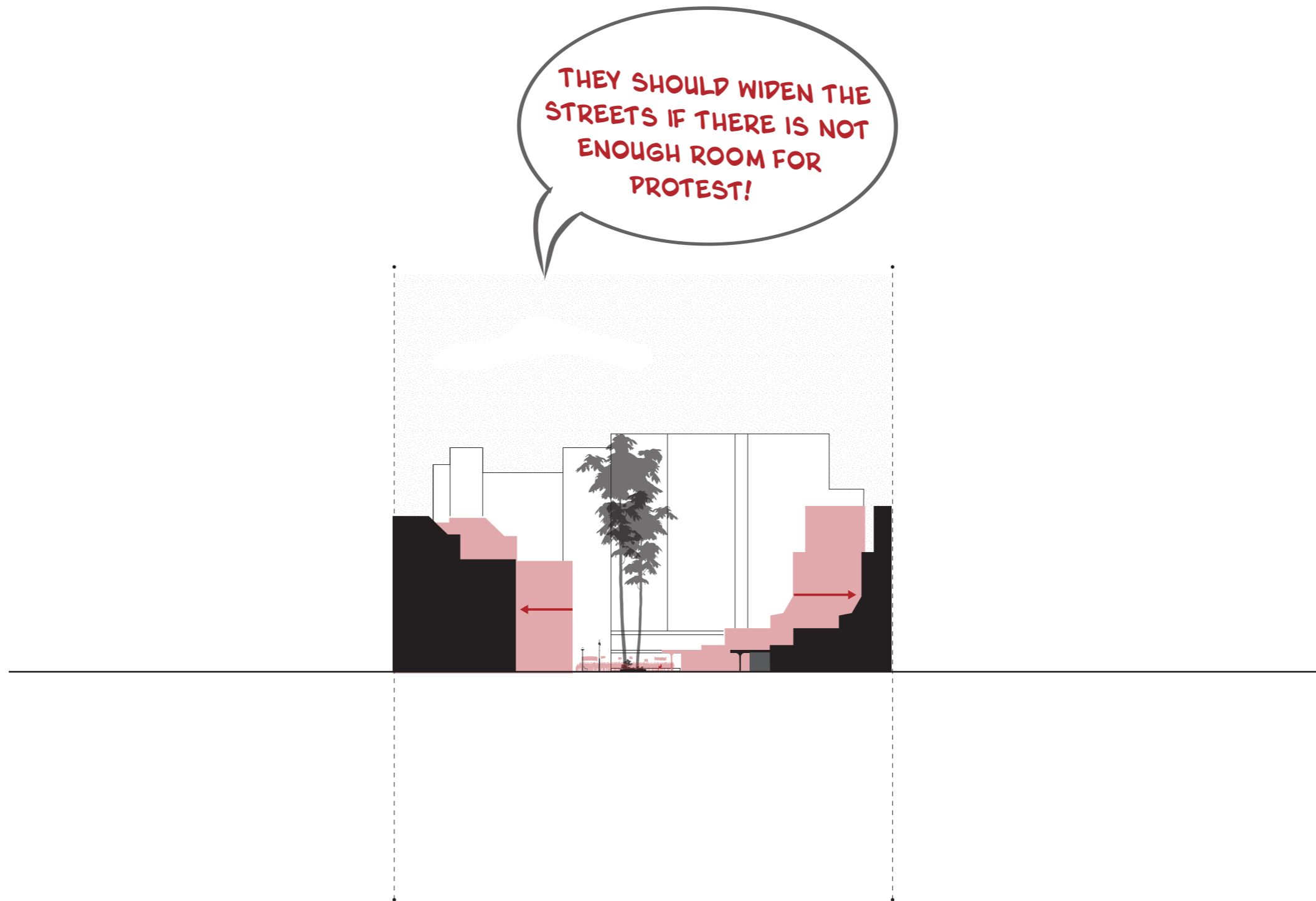
03. A Methodological Exploration | **Understanding the Values Involved: Hufferproof Design**



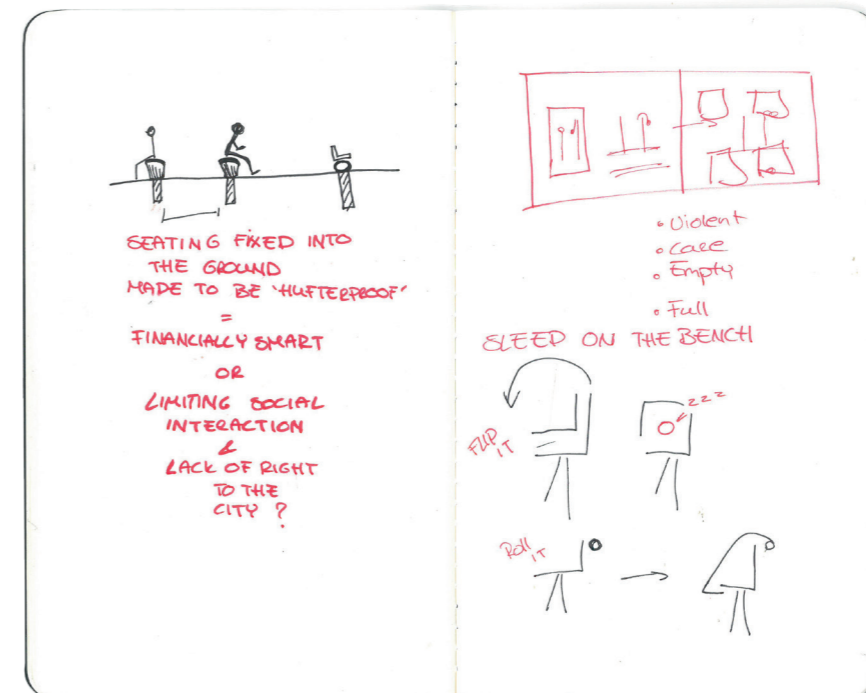
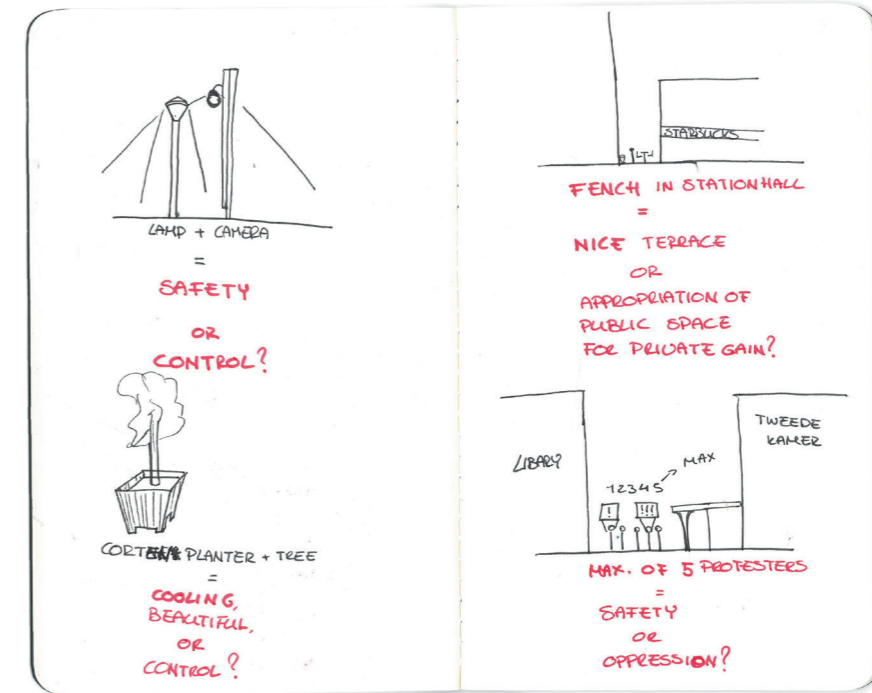
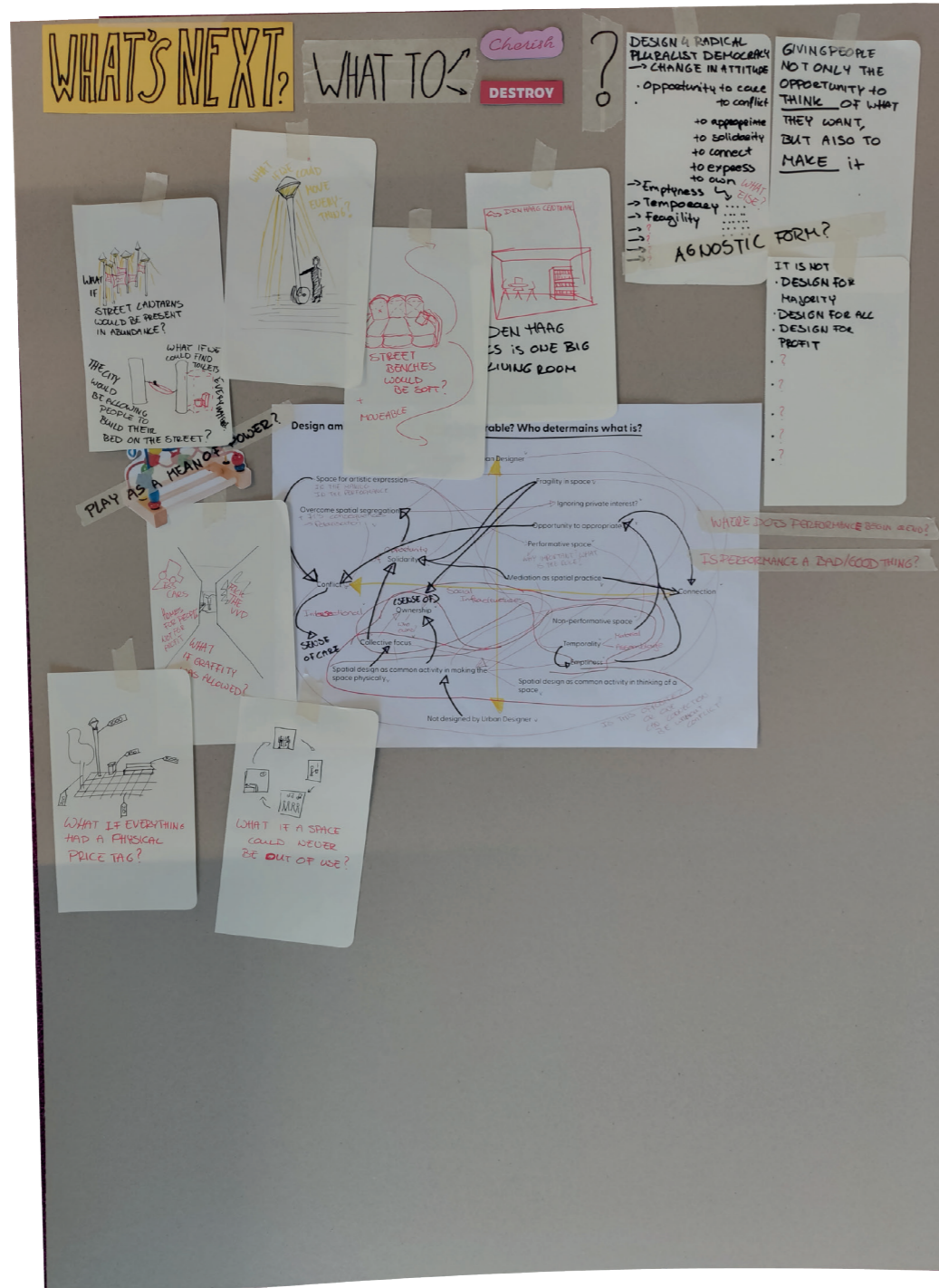
03. A Methodological Exploration | **Mapping the Interviews through Design Explorations**



03. A Methodological Exploration | **Introducing the concept of Radical Spatial Imaginaries**



03. A Methodological Exploration | Introducing the concept of Radical Spatial Imaginaries



03. A Methodological Exploration | **Introducing the concept of Radical Spatial Imaginaries**

What if we would use design as a way to explore our findings through a spatial lens, instead of as a problem-solving tool?

What if we would use design as a way to explore our findings through a spatial lens, instead of as a problem-solving tool?



Implementing the concept of the
Radical Spatial Imaginaries

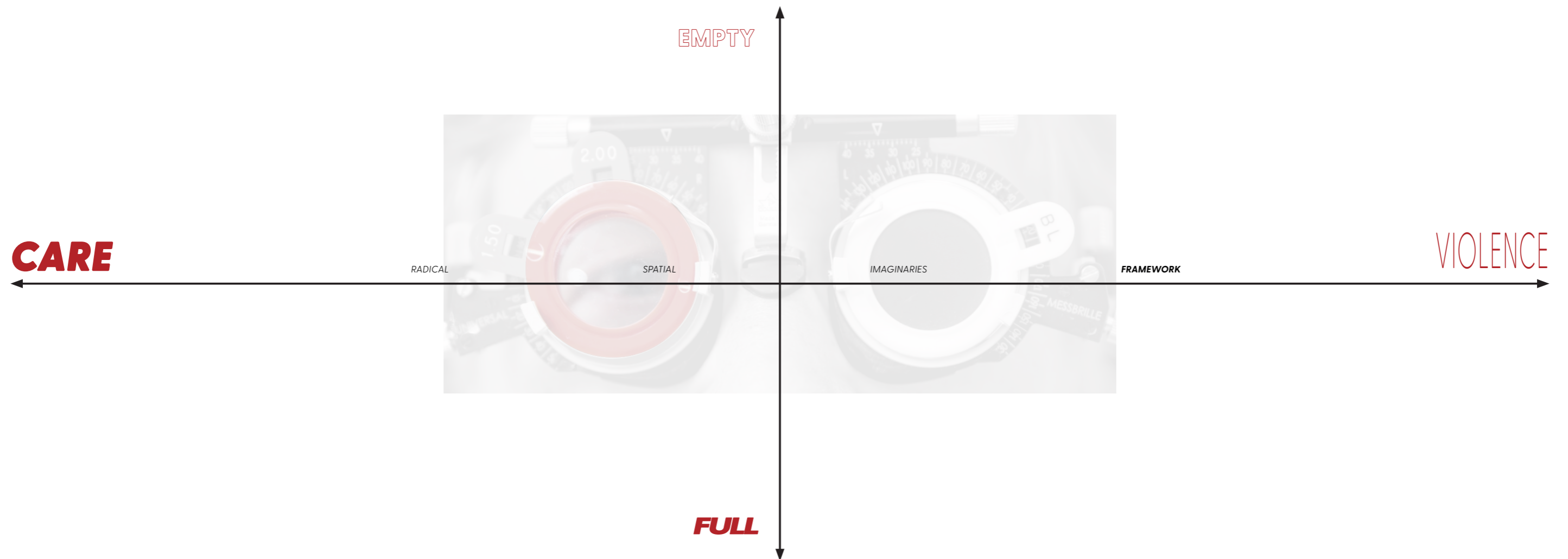


- Reflection 01.** *Designers have to show how they make sense of the mess*
- Reflection 02.** *Designing for the radical pluralist democracy is about an attitude*
- Reflection 03.** *The presence of public space is essential to democracy, but its role depends on perspective; spaces are multiple, interconnected, and contested*
- Reflection 04.** *Those who own (private) space, have power over (public) space*
- Reflection 05.** *People should be able to act in space without the interference of institutions*
- Reflection 06.** *Identifying spaces for a radical, pluralist democracy requires thinking beyond the object it is about reading space through use, appropriation and affect, rather than fixed functions or forms*
- Reflection 07.** *In a radical, pluralist democracy, public space should be a space for free expression*
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- Reflection 09.** *Design can be a tool for reflecting on present-day policies that limit the realization of the democratic ideal in today's built environments*
- Reflection 10.** *Designing for democracy is a complex task and should be approached as an ongoing, open-ended dialogue*

04. A gaze through the constructed lens | **Operationalizing the 'Lens' into a Design Framework**



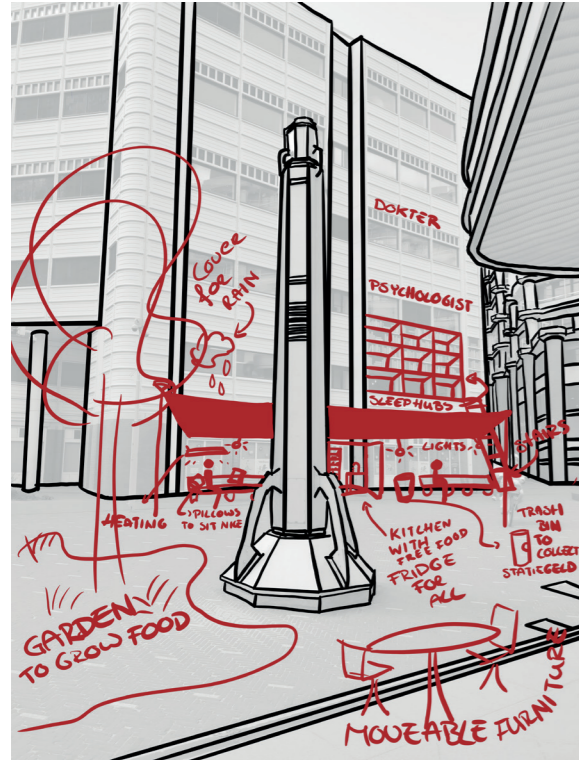
04. A gaze through the constructed lens | **Operationalizing the 'Lens' into a Design Framework**



04. A gaze through the constructed lens | **First Sketches**



04. A gaze through the constructed lens | **First Sketches**



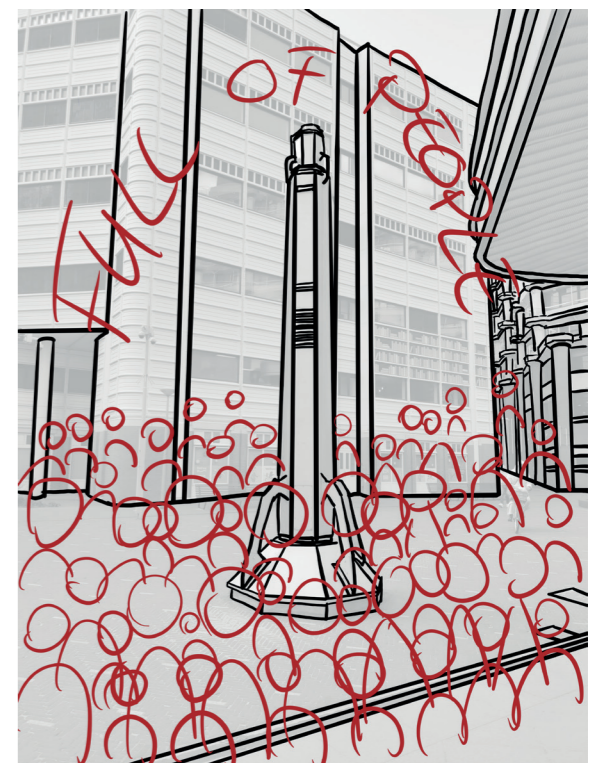
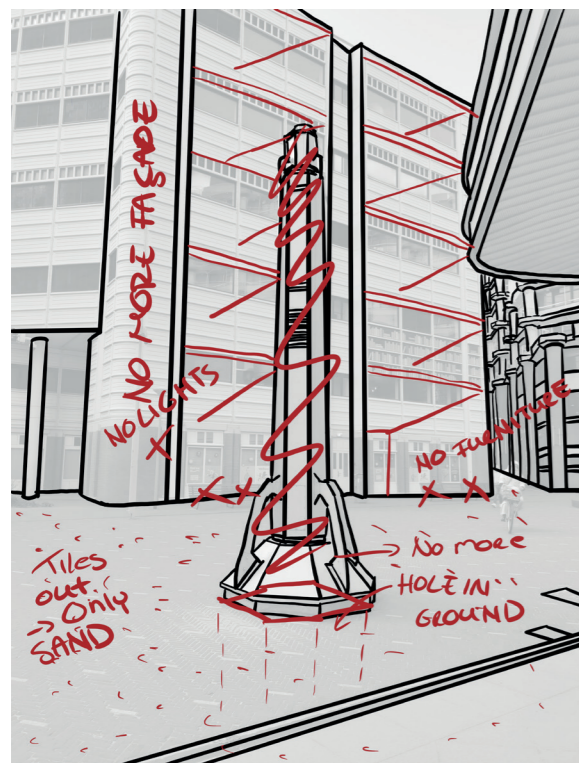
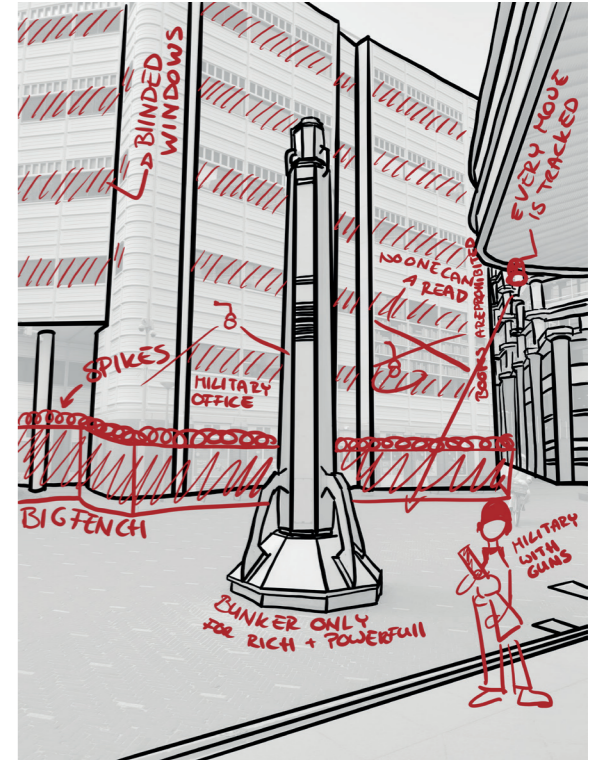
CARE

VIOLENCE



EMPTY

FULL

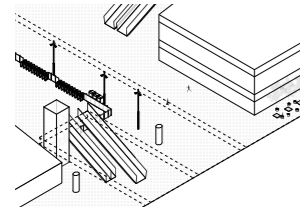


04. A gaze through the constructed lens | **A walk through the Framework, 10 reflections**

1. The Station



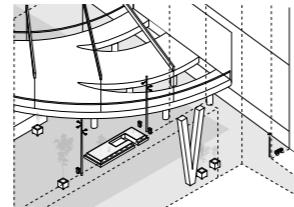
Retrieved from Google Earth



2. Tram track above Anna van Buerenplein



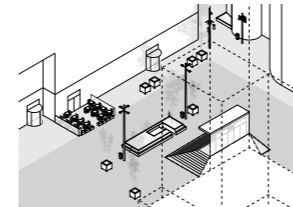
Retrieved from Google Earth



3. Anna van Buerenplein and access Tweede Kamer



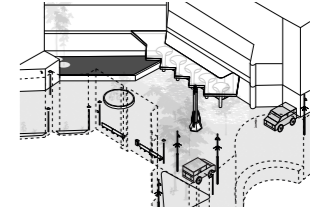
Retrieved from Google Earth



4. Tweede Kamer and Prinses Ireneplein



Retrieved from Google Earth



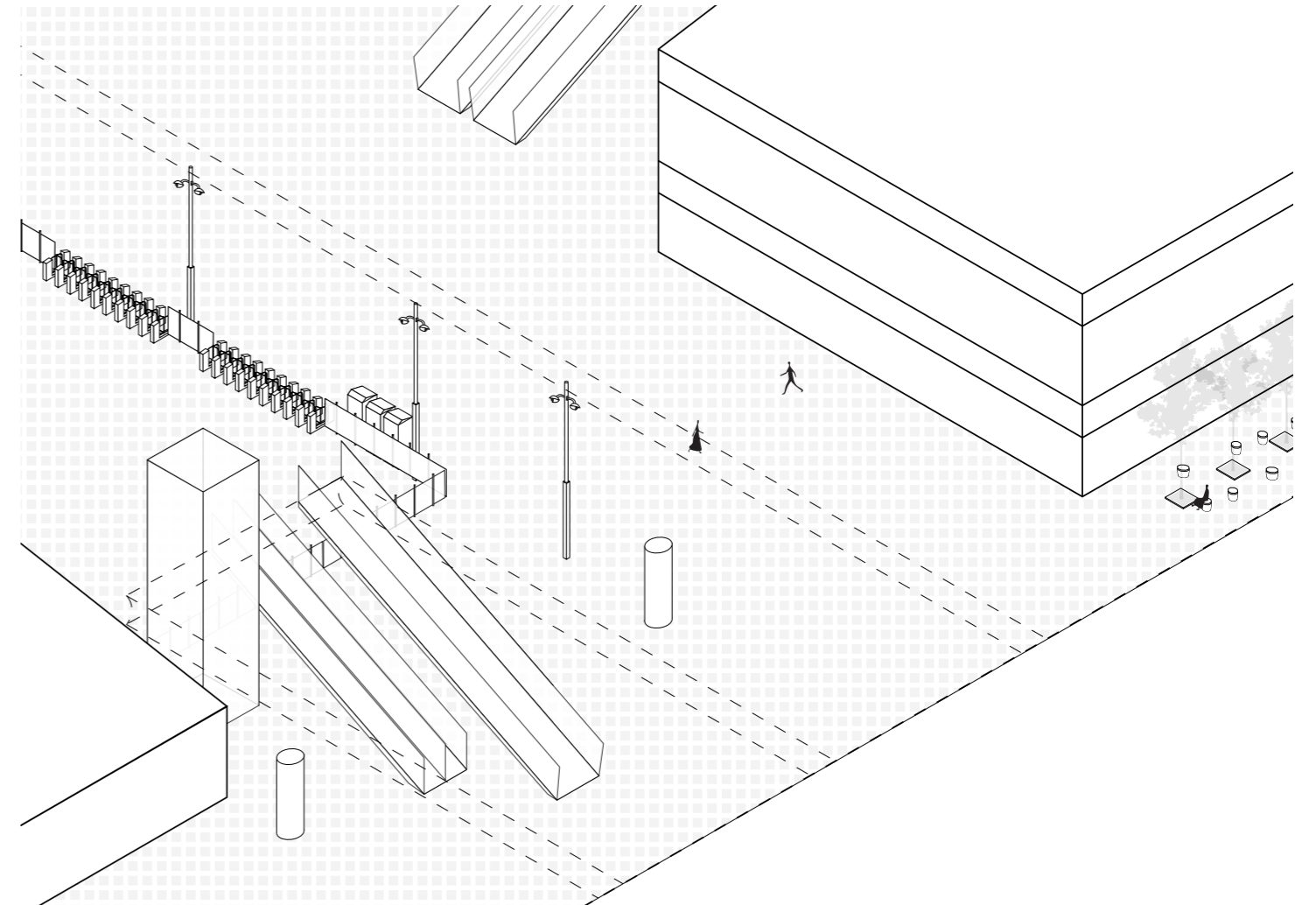
ROUTE FROM STATION TO TWEEDE KAMER



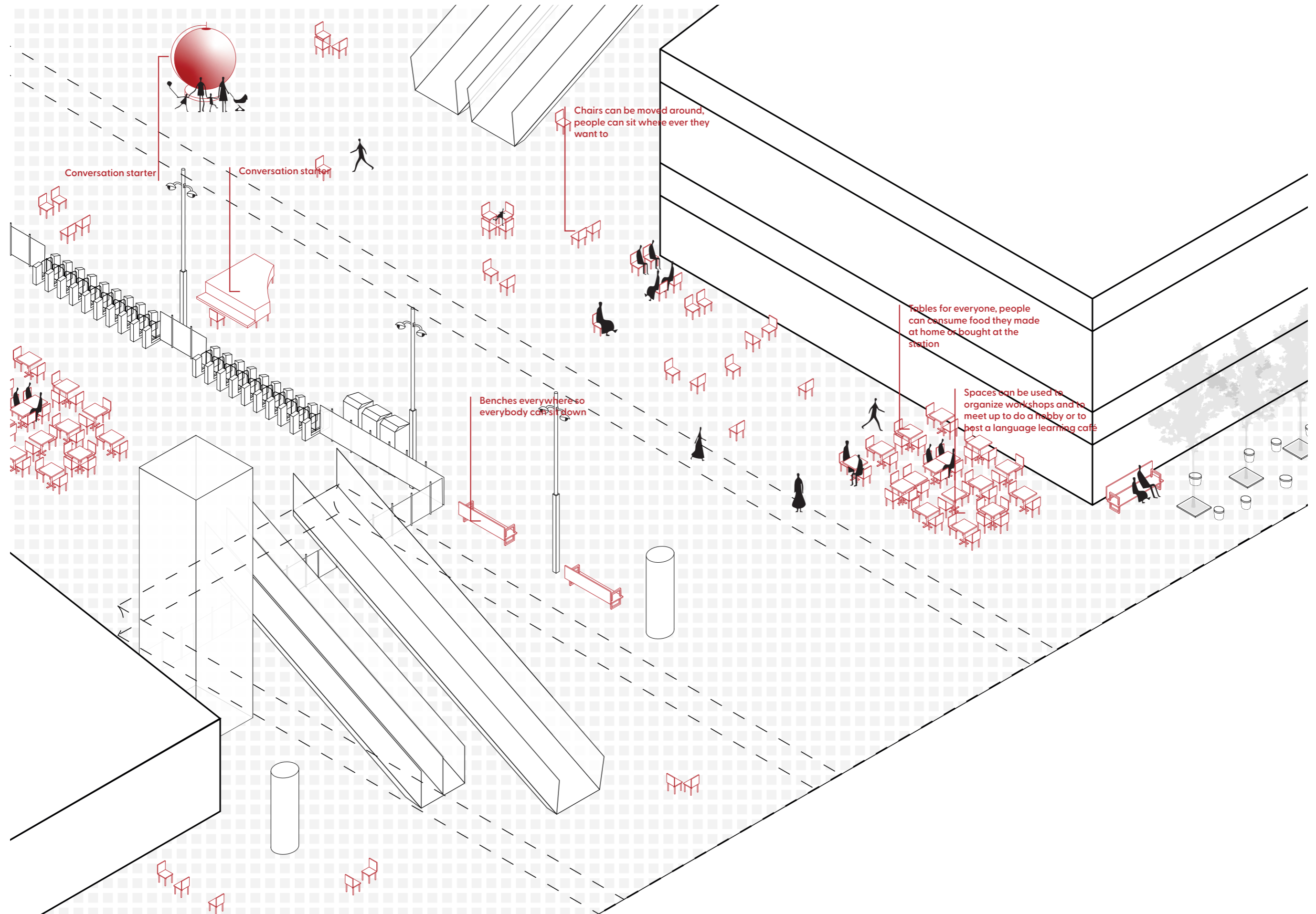
04. A gaze through the constructed lens | **Inside the Train Station**



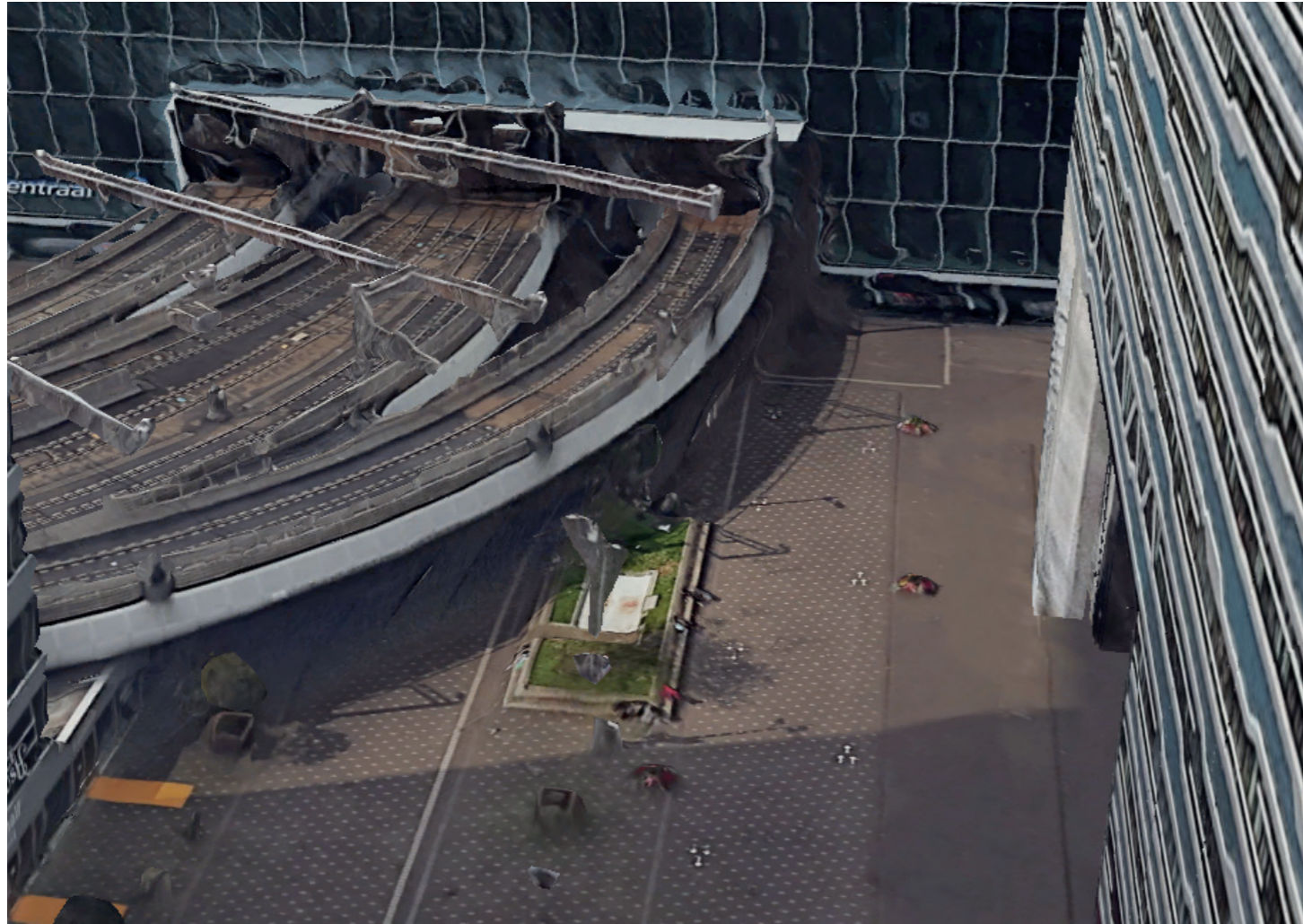
Retrieved from Google Earth



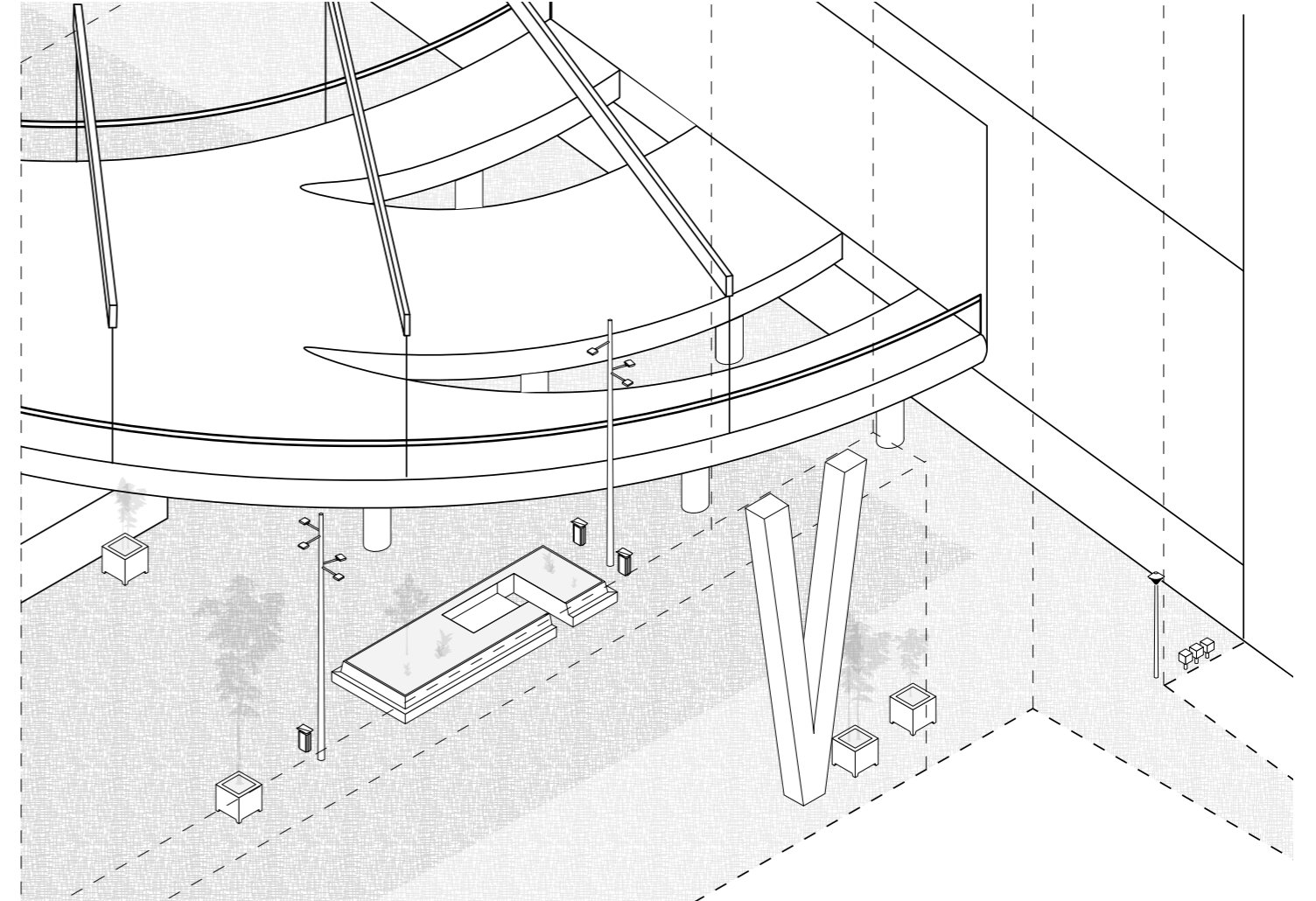
Reflection 03. *The presence of public space is essential to democracy, but its role depends on perspective; spaces are multiple, interconnected, and contested*



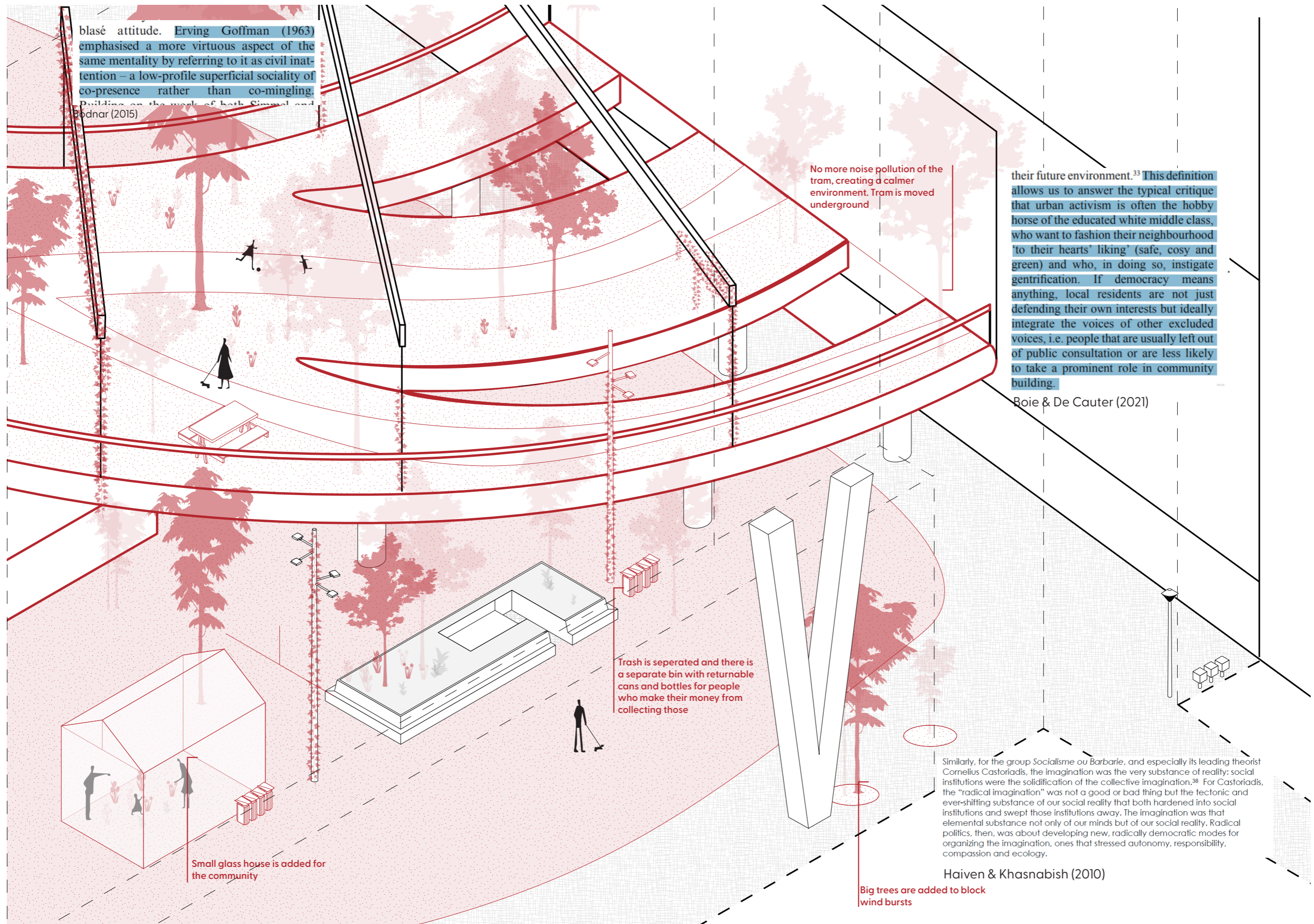
04. A gaze through the constructed lens | **Walking outside, a Tram Viaduct**



Retrieved from Google Earth



Reflection 10. *Designing for democracy is a complex task and should be approached as an ongoing, open-ended dialogue*



blasé attitude. Erving Goffman (1963) emphasised a more virtuous aspect of the same mentality by referring to it as civil inattention – a low-profile superficial sociality of co-presence rather than co-mingling. Building on the work of both Simmel and Bodnar (2015)

No more noise pollution of the tram, creating a calmer environment. Tram is moved underground

their future environment.³³ This definition allows us to answer the typical critique that urban activism is often the hobby horse of the educated white middle class, who want to fashion their neighbourhood 'to their hearts' liking' (safe, cosy and green) and who, in doing so, instigate gentrification. If democracy means anything, local residents are not just defending their own interests but ideally integrate the voices of other excluded voices, i.e. people that are usually left out of public consultation or are less likely to take a prominent role in community building.

Boie & De Cauter (2021)

Trash is separated and there is a separate bin with returnable cans and bottles for people who make their money from collecting those

Small glass house is added for the community

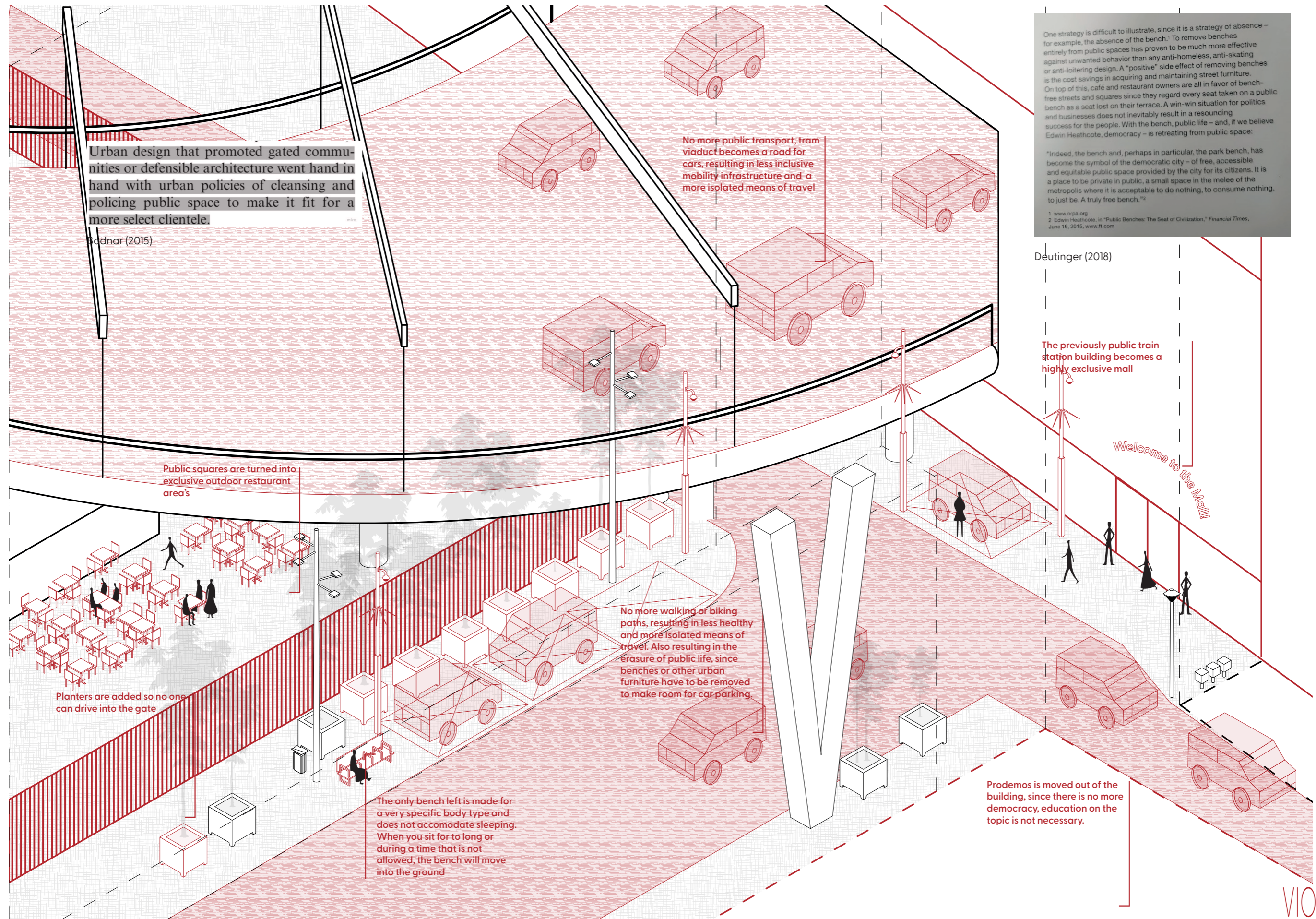
Similarly, for the group *Socialisme ou Barbarie*, and especially its leading theorist Cornelius Castoriadis, the imagination was the very substance of reality: social institutions were the solidification of the collective imagination.³⁸ For Castoriadis, the "radical imagination" was not a good or bad thing but the tectonic and ever-shifting substance of our social reality that both hardened into social institutions and swept those institutions away. The imagination was that elemental substance not only of our minds but of our social reality. Radical politics, then, was about developing new, radically democratic modes for organizing the imagination, ones that stressed autonomy, responsibility, compassion and ecology.

Haiven & Khasnabish (2010)

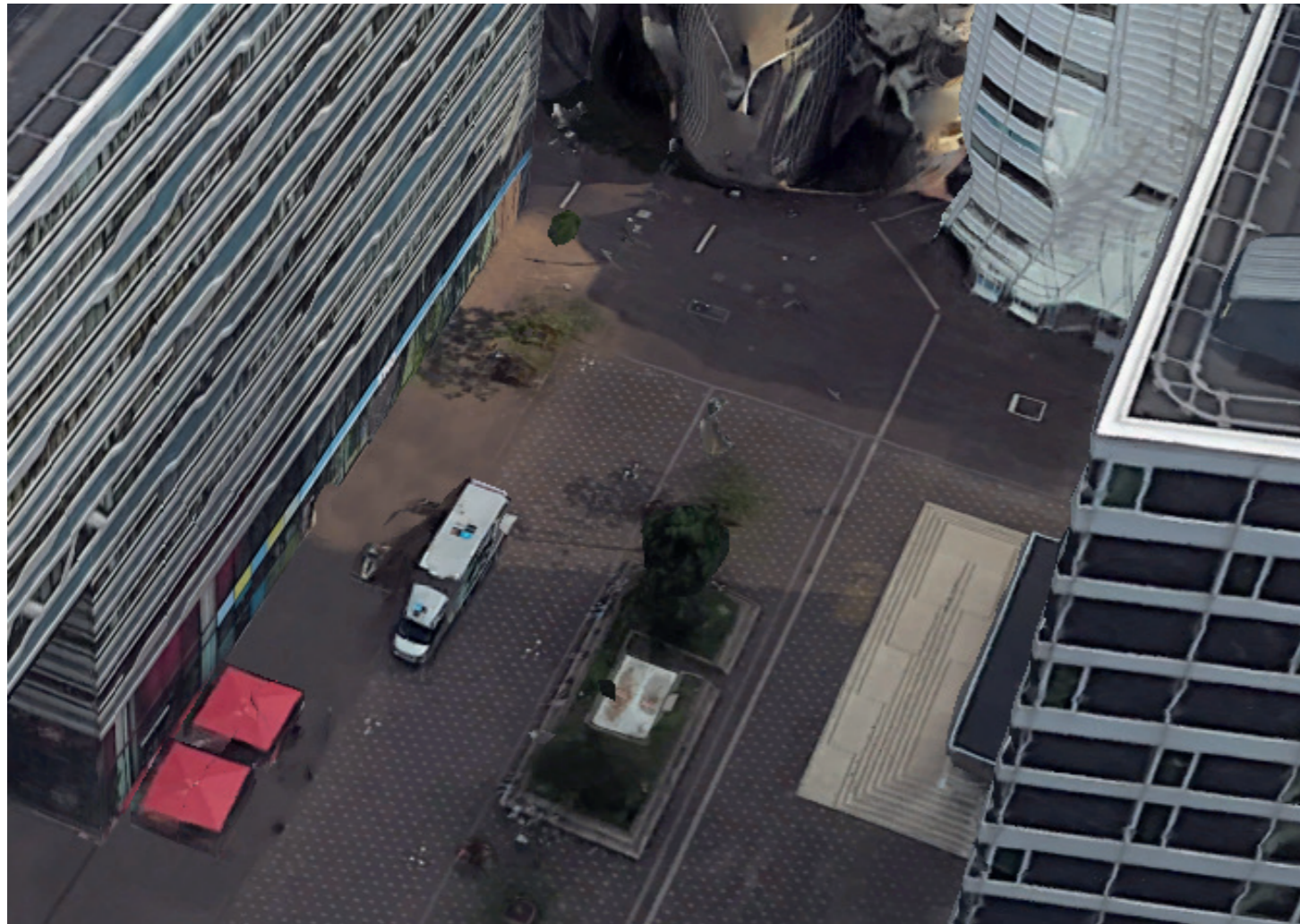
Big trees are added to block wind bursts

FULL

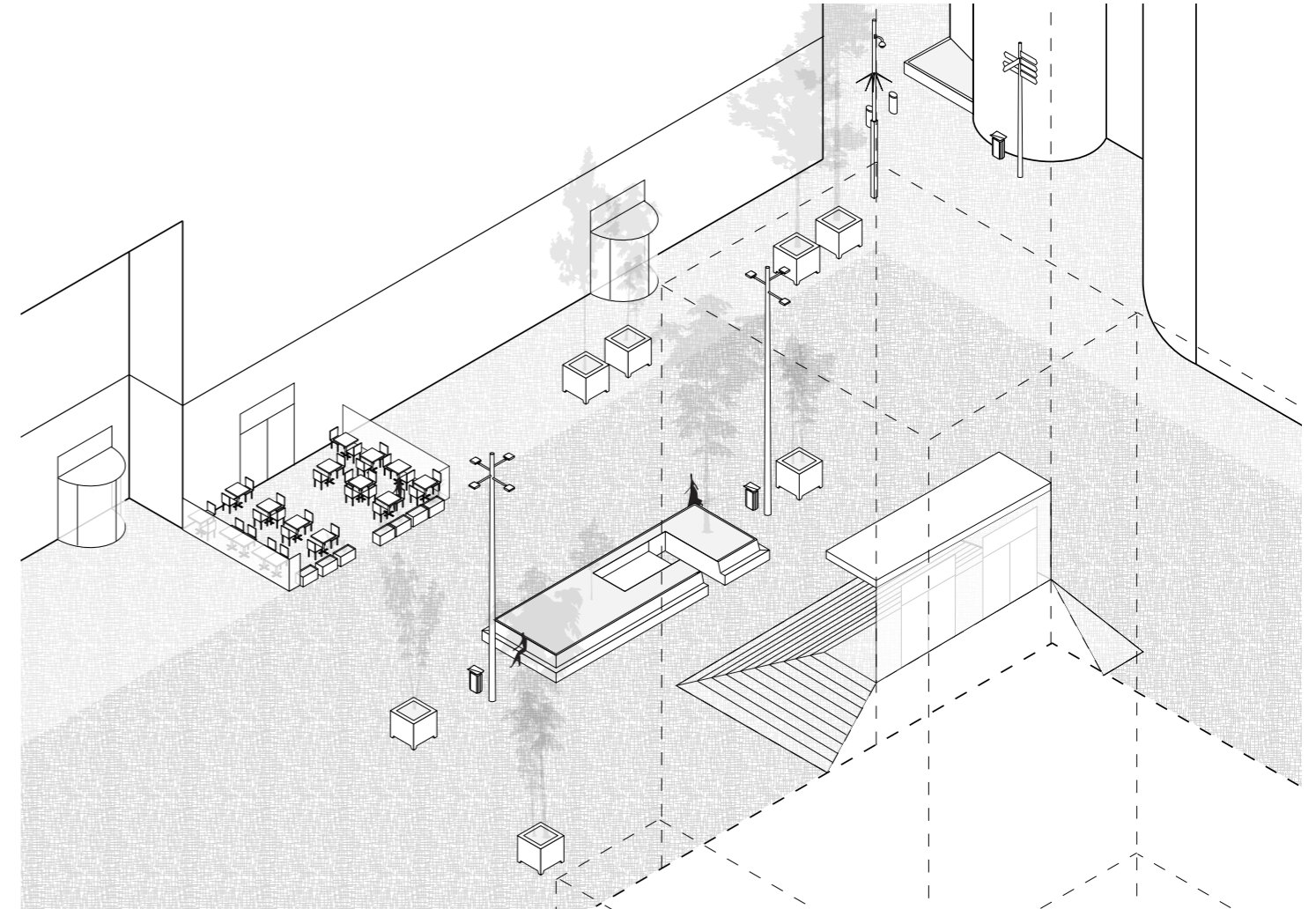
Reflection 04. Those who own (private) space, have power over (public) space



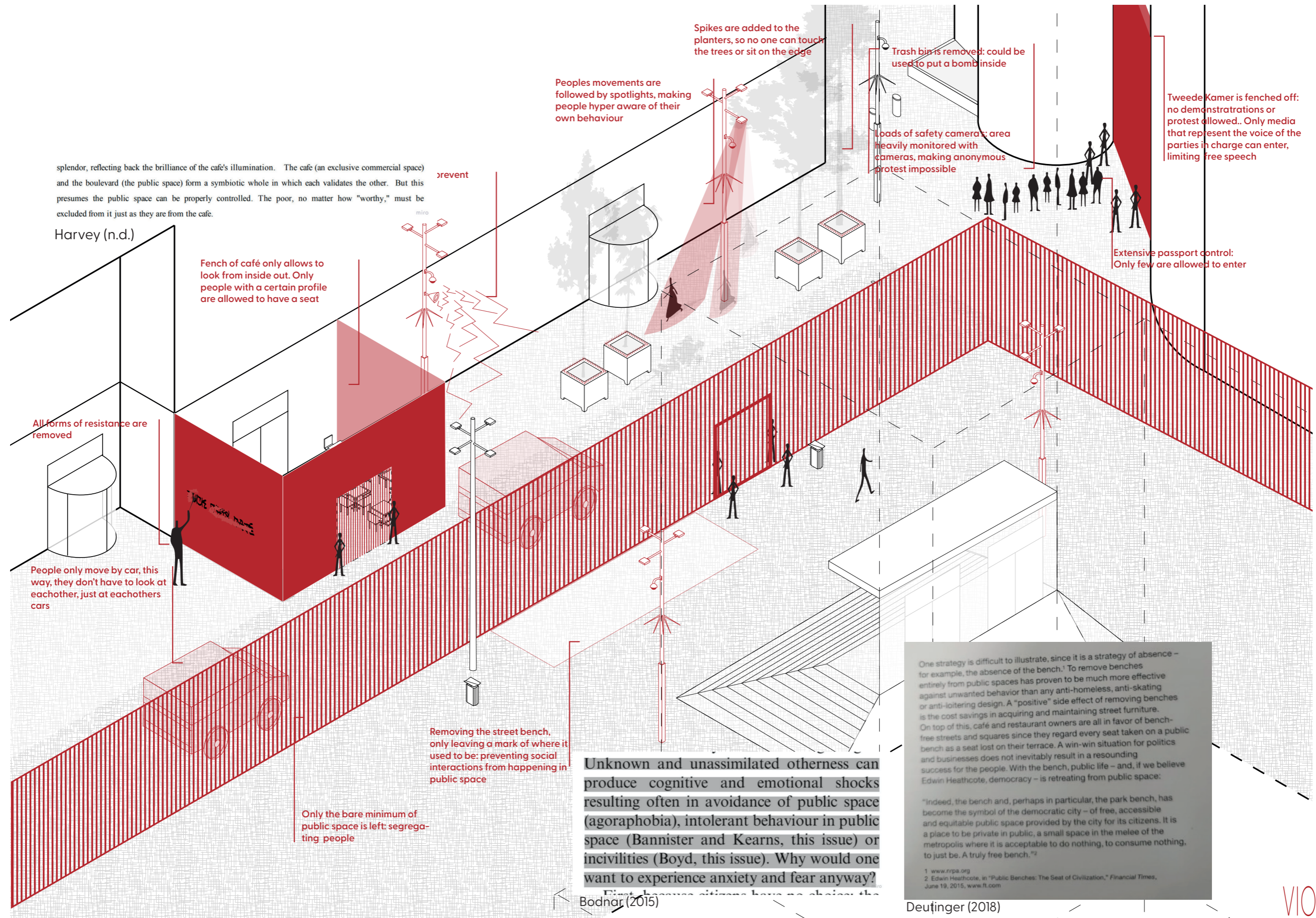
04. A gaze through the constructed lens | **Walking outside, a Shopping Mall and Leiden University**



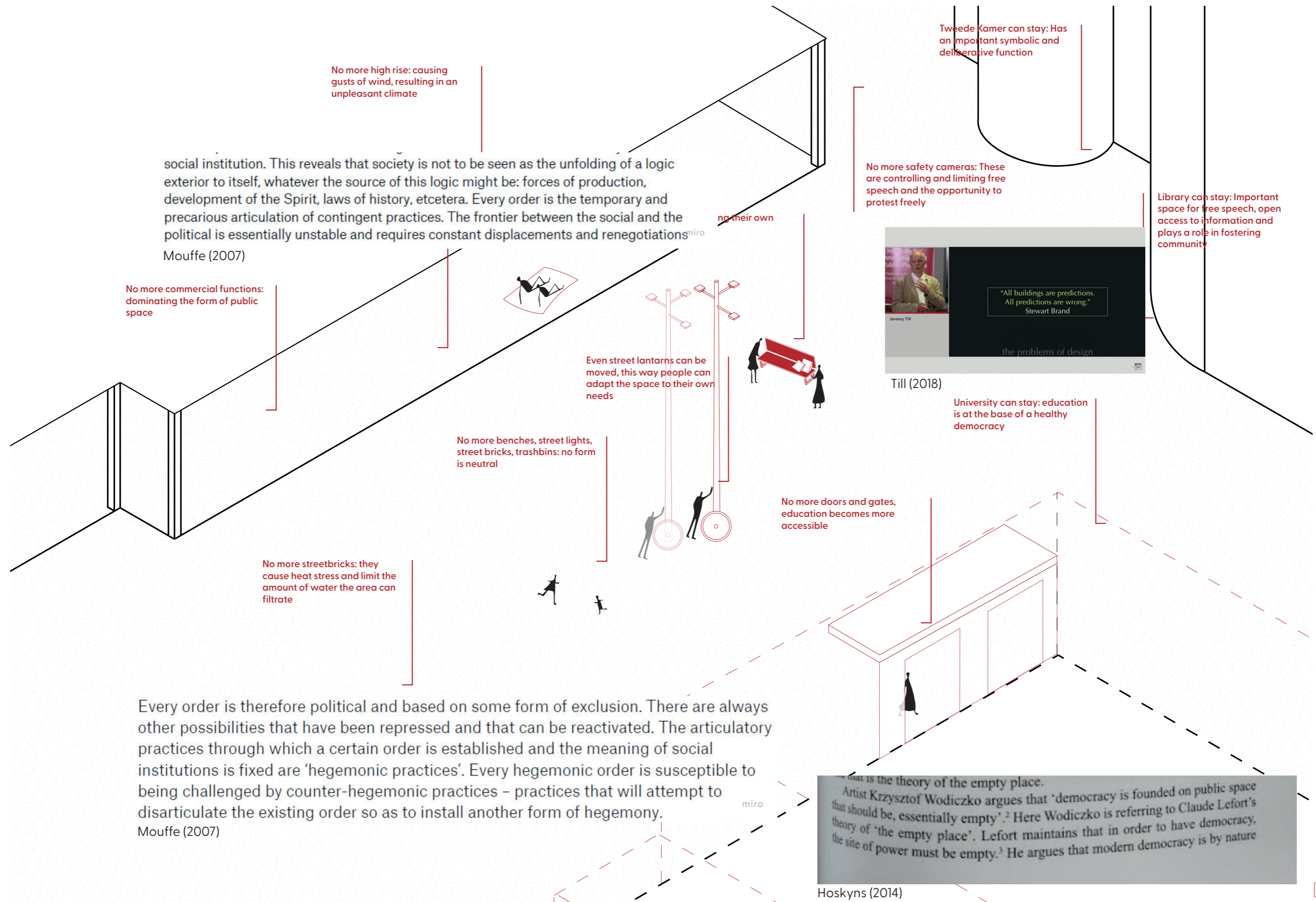
Retrieved from Google Earth

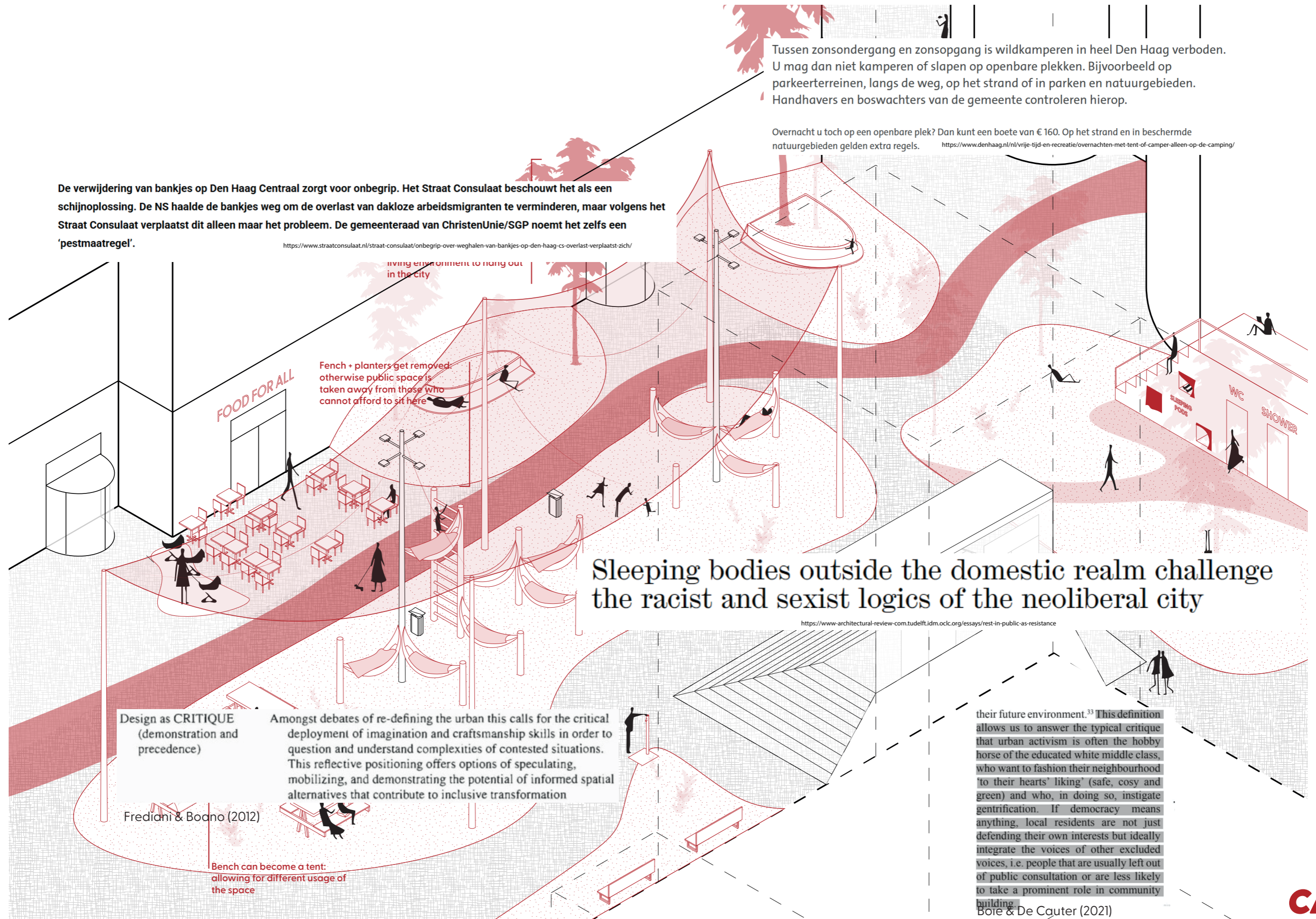


Reflection 04. Those who own (private) space, have power over (public) space



Reflection 01. Designers have to show how they make sense of the mess





De verwijdering van bankjes op Den Haag Centraal zorgt voor onbegrip. Het Straat Consulaat beschouwt het als een schijnoplossing. De NS haalde de bankjes weg om de overlast van dakloze arbeidsmigranten te verminderen, maar volgens het Straat Consulaat verplaatst dit alleen maar het probleem. De gemeenteraad van ChristenUnie/SGP noemt het zelfs een 'pestmaatregel'.

<https://www.straatconsulaat.nl/straat-consulaat/onbegrip-over-weghalen-van-bankjes-op-den-haag-cs-overlast-verplaatst-zich/>

Tussen zonsondergang en zonsopgang is wildkamperen in heel Den Haag verboden. U mag dan niet kamperen of slapen op openbare plekken. Bijvoorbeeld op parkeerterreinen, langs de weg, op het strand of in parken en natuurgebieden. Handhavers en boswachters van de gemeente controleren hierop.

Overnacht u toch op een openbare plek? Dan kunt een boete van € 160. Op het strand en in beschermde natuurgebieden gelden extra regels. <https://www.denhaag.nl/nl/vrije-tijd-en-recreatie/overnachten-met-tent-of-camper-alleen-op-de-camping/>

Sleeping bodies outside the domestic realm challenge the racist and sexist logics of the neoliberal city

<https://www.architectural-review.com.tudelft.idm.oclc.org/essays/rest-in-public-as-resistance>

Design as CRITIQUE (demonstration and precedence)

Amongst debates of re-defining the urban this calls for the critical deployment of imagination and craftsmanship skills in order to question and understand complexities of contested situations. This reflective positioning offers options of speculating, mobilizing, and demonstrating the potential of informed spatial alternatives that contribute to inclusive transformation

Frediani & Bodno (2012)

Bench can become a tent: allowing for different usage of the space

their future environment.³³ This definition allows us to answer the typical critique that urban activism is often the hobby horse of the educated white middle class, who want to fashion their neighbourhood 'to their hearts' liking' (safe, cosy and green) and who, in doing so, instigate gentrification. If democracy means anything, local residents are not just defending their own interests but ideally integrate the voices of other excluded voices, i.e. people that are usually left out of public consultation or are less likely to take a prominent role in community building.

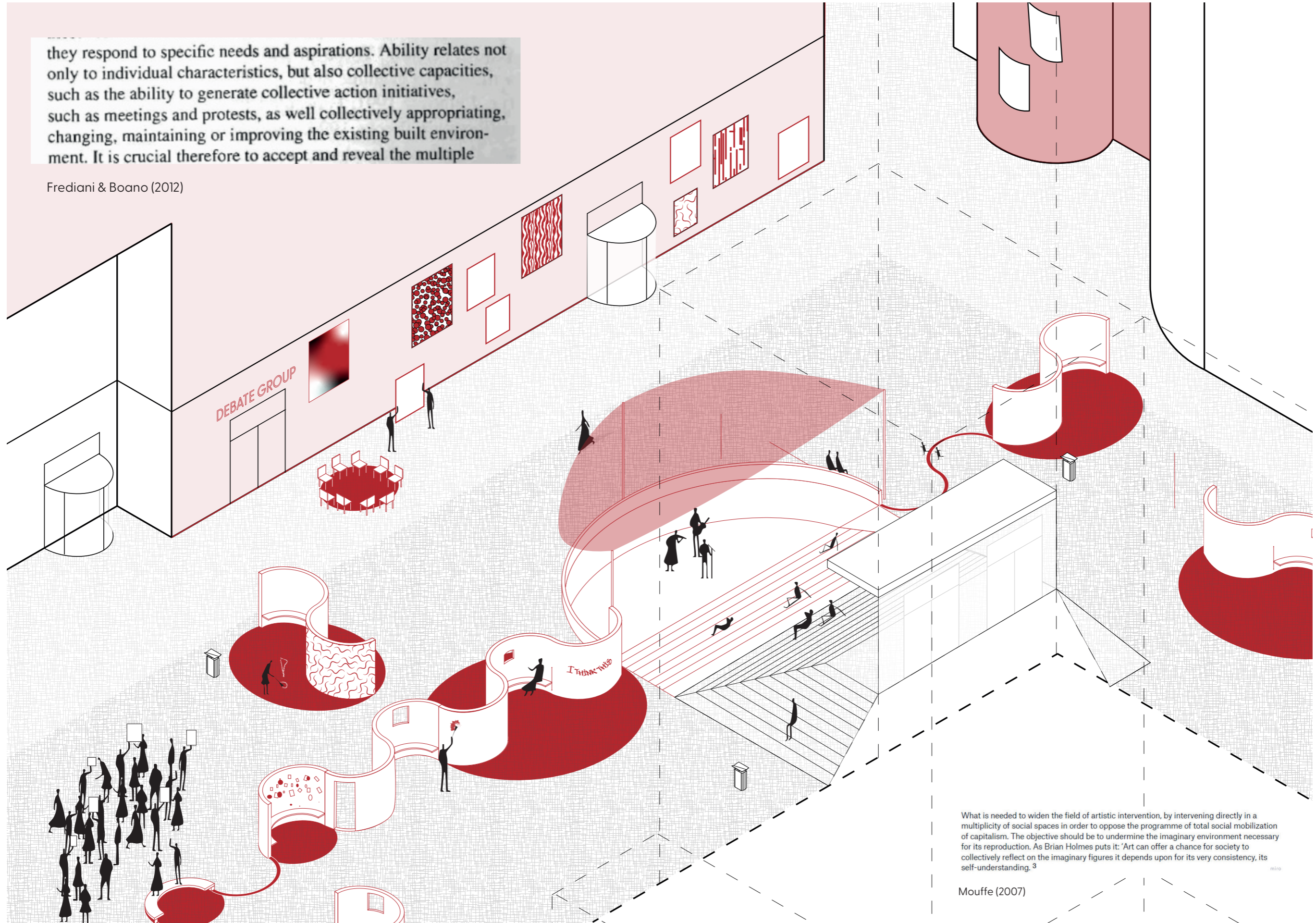
Boie & De Cauter (2021)



Reflection 05. People should be able to act in space without the interference of institutions

they respond to specific needs and aspirations. Ability relates not only to individual characteristics, but also collective capacities, such as the ability to generate collective action initiatives, such as meetings and protests, as well collectively appropriating, changing, maintaining or improving the existing built environment. It is crucial therefore to accept and reveal the multiple

Frediani & Boano (2012)



What is needed to widen the field of artistic intervention, by intervening directly in a multiplicity of social spaces in order to oppose the programme of total social mobilization of capitalism. The objective should be to undermine the imaginary environment necessary for its reproduction. As Brian Holmes puts it: 'Art can offer a chance for society to collectively reflect on the imaginary figures it depends upon for its very consistency, its self-understanding.'³

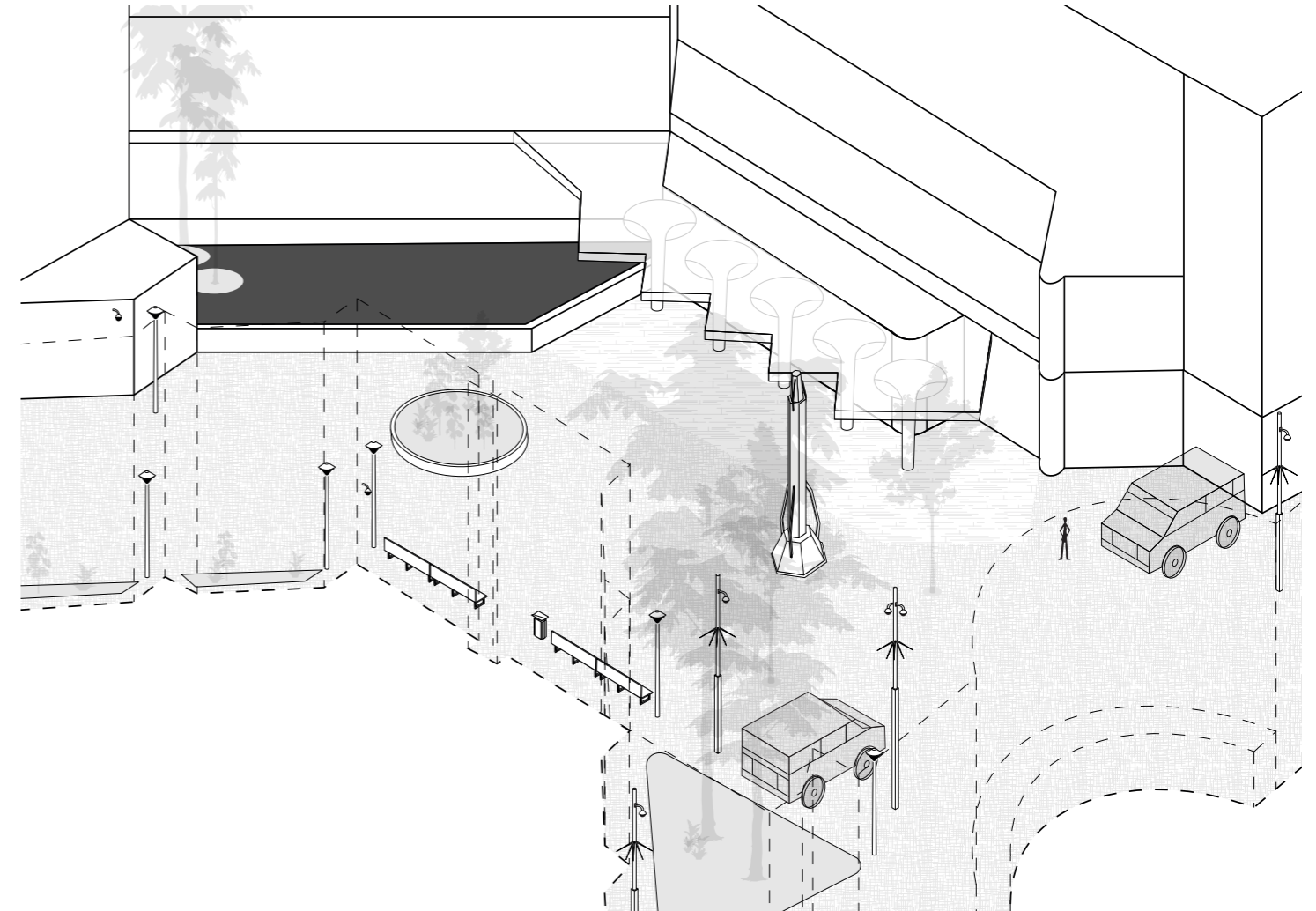
Mouffe (2007)

FULL

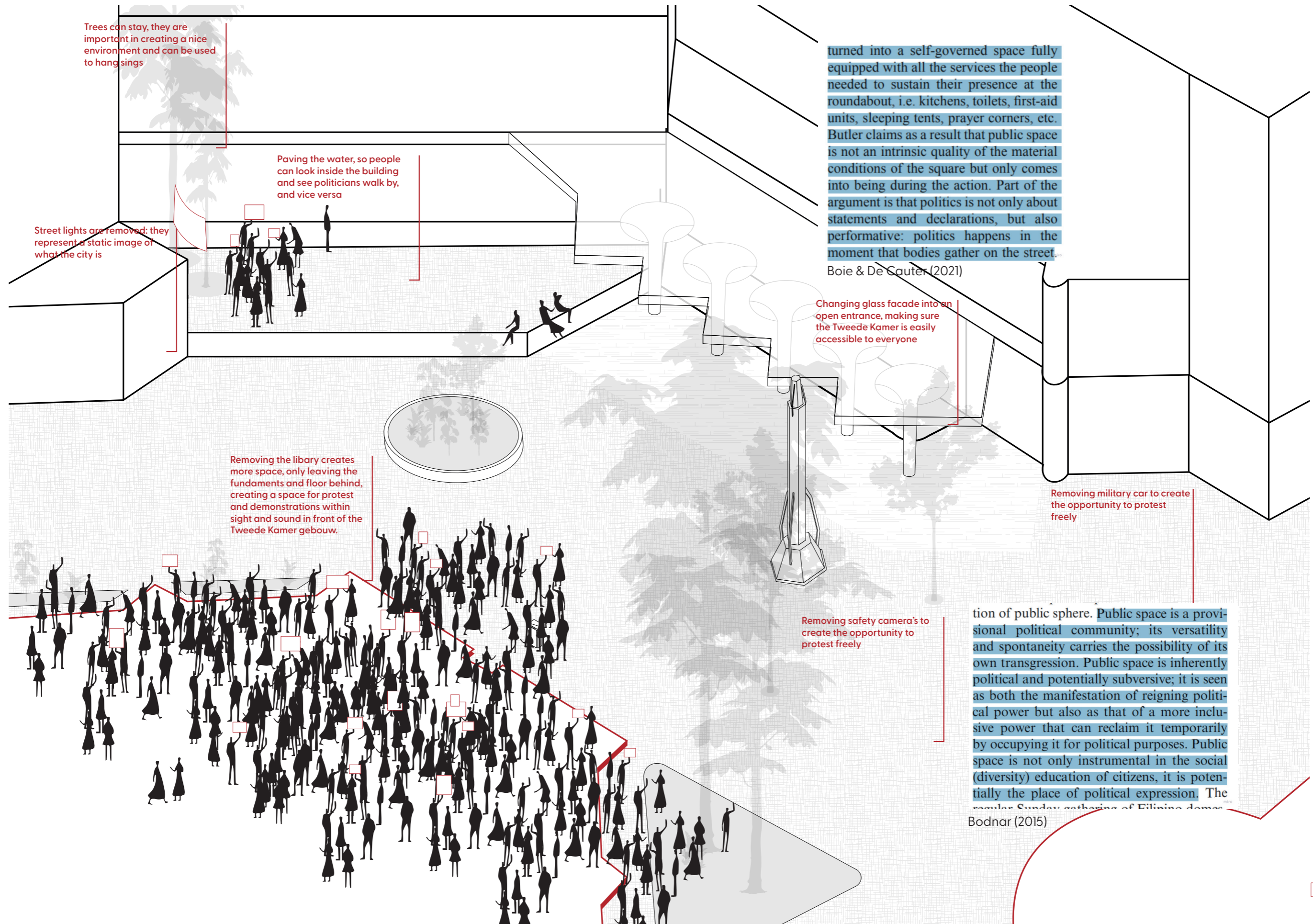
04. A gaze through the constructed lens | Tweede Kamer and Library



Retrieved from Google Earth

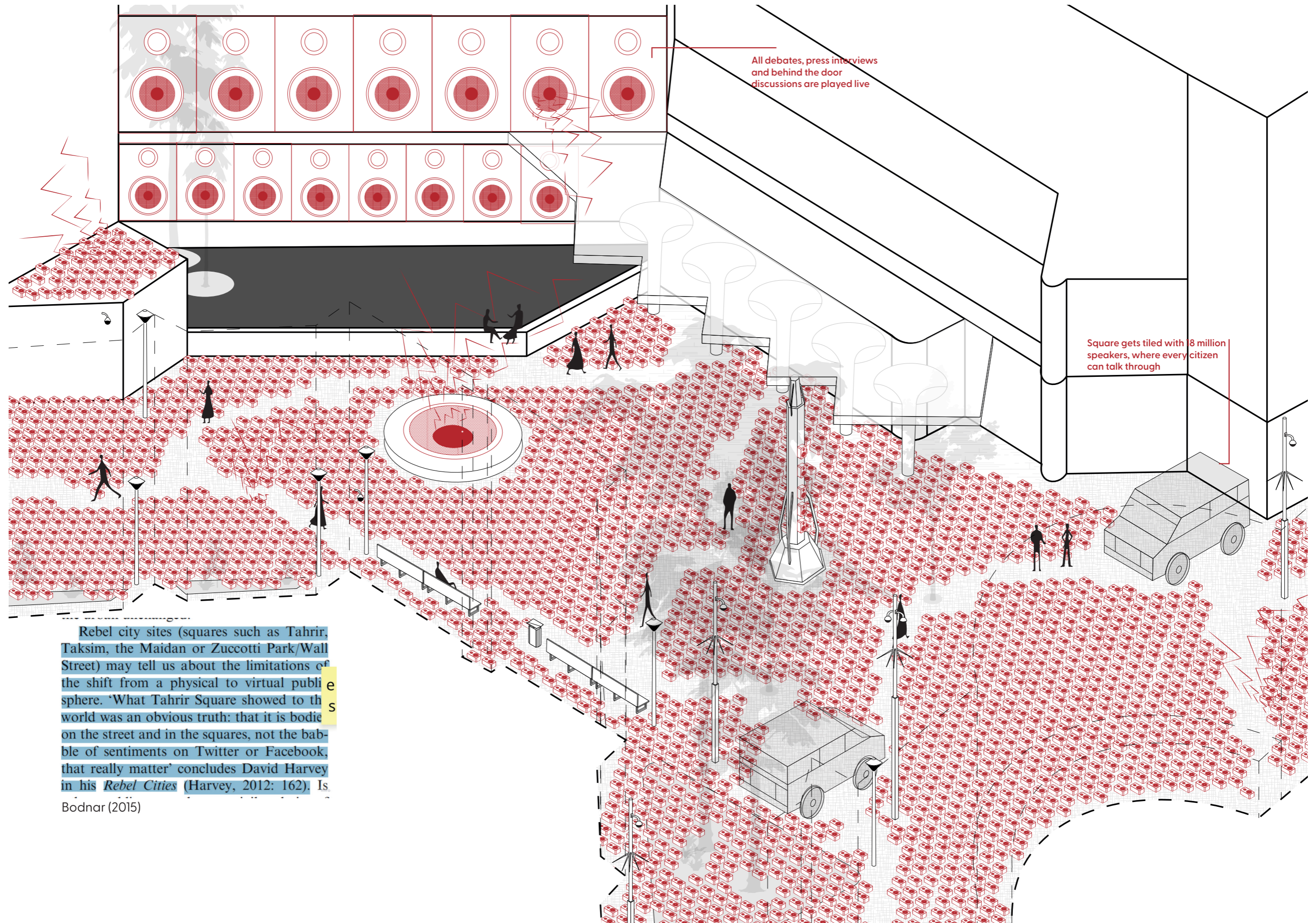


Reflection 06. *Identifying spaces for a radical, pluralist democracy requires thinking beyond the object it is about reading space through use, appropriation and affect, rather than fixed functions or forms*



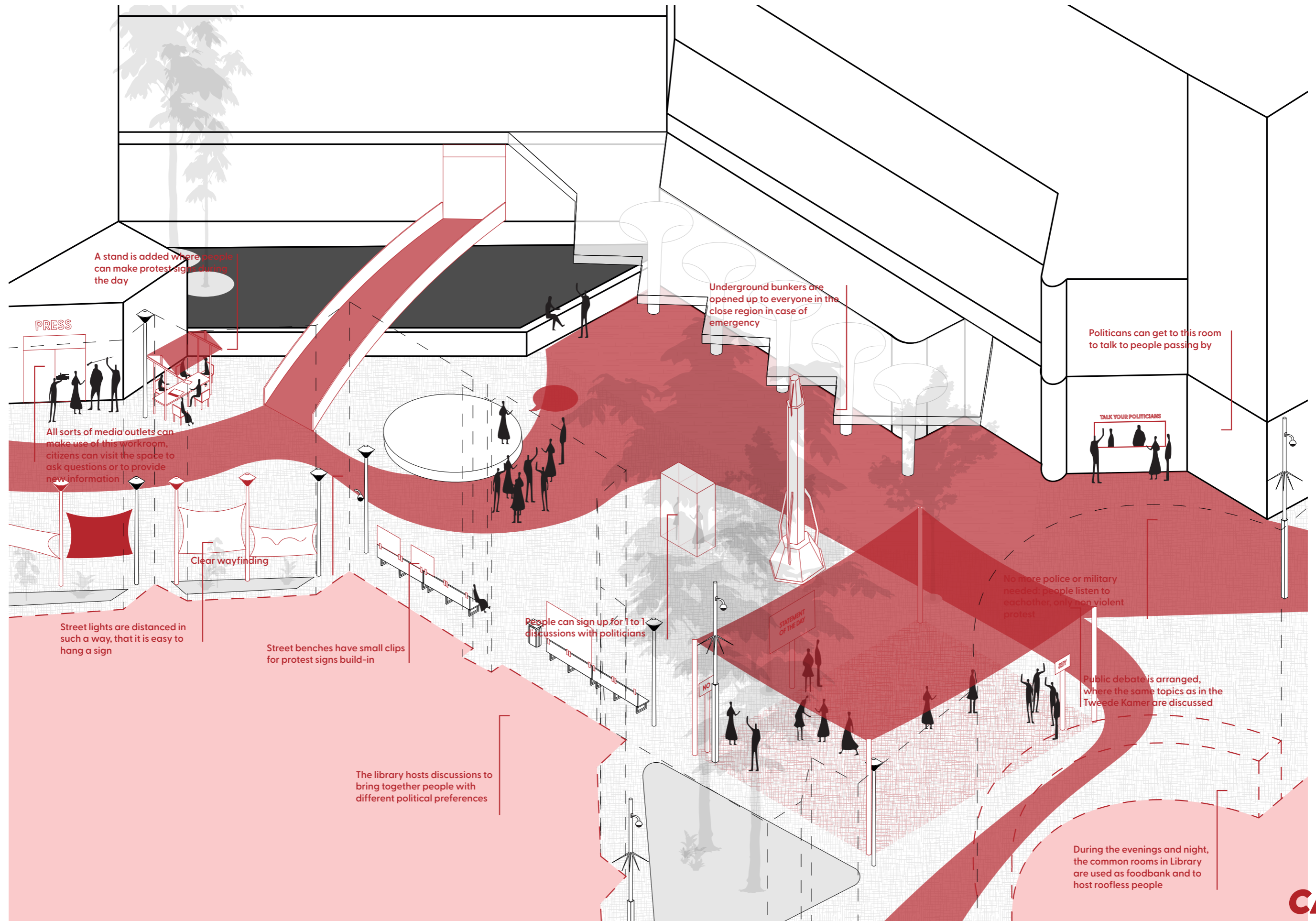
EMPTY

Reflection 07. In a radical, pluralist democracy, public space should be a space for free expression

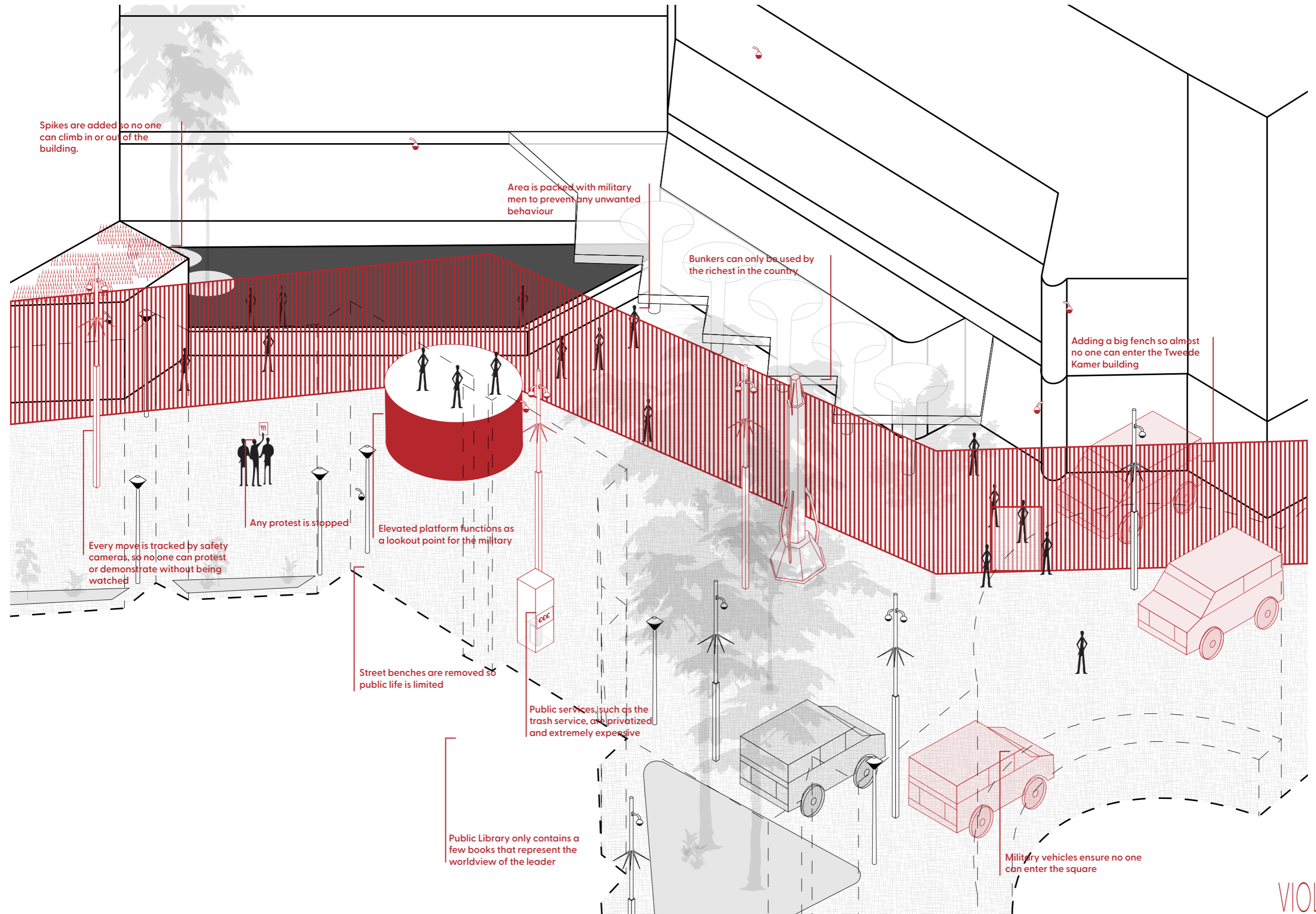


Rebel city sites (squares such as Tahrir, Taksim, the Maidan or Zuccotti Park/Wall Street) may tell us about the limitations of the shift from a physical to virtual public sphere. 'What Tahrir Square showed to the world was an obvious truth: that it is bodies on the street and in the squares, not the babble of sentiments on Twitter or Facebook, that really matter' concludes David Harvey in his *Rebel Cities* (Harvey, 2012: 162). Is Bodnar (2015)

Reflection 08. *In a radical, pluralist democracy there are spaces for deliberation and discussion*

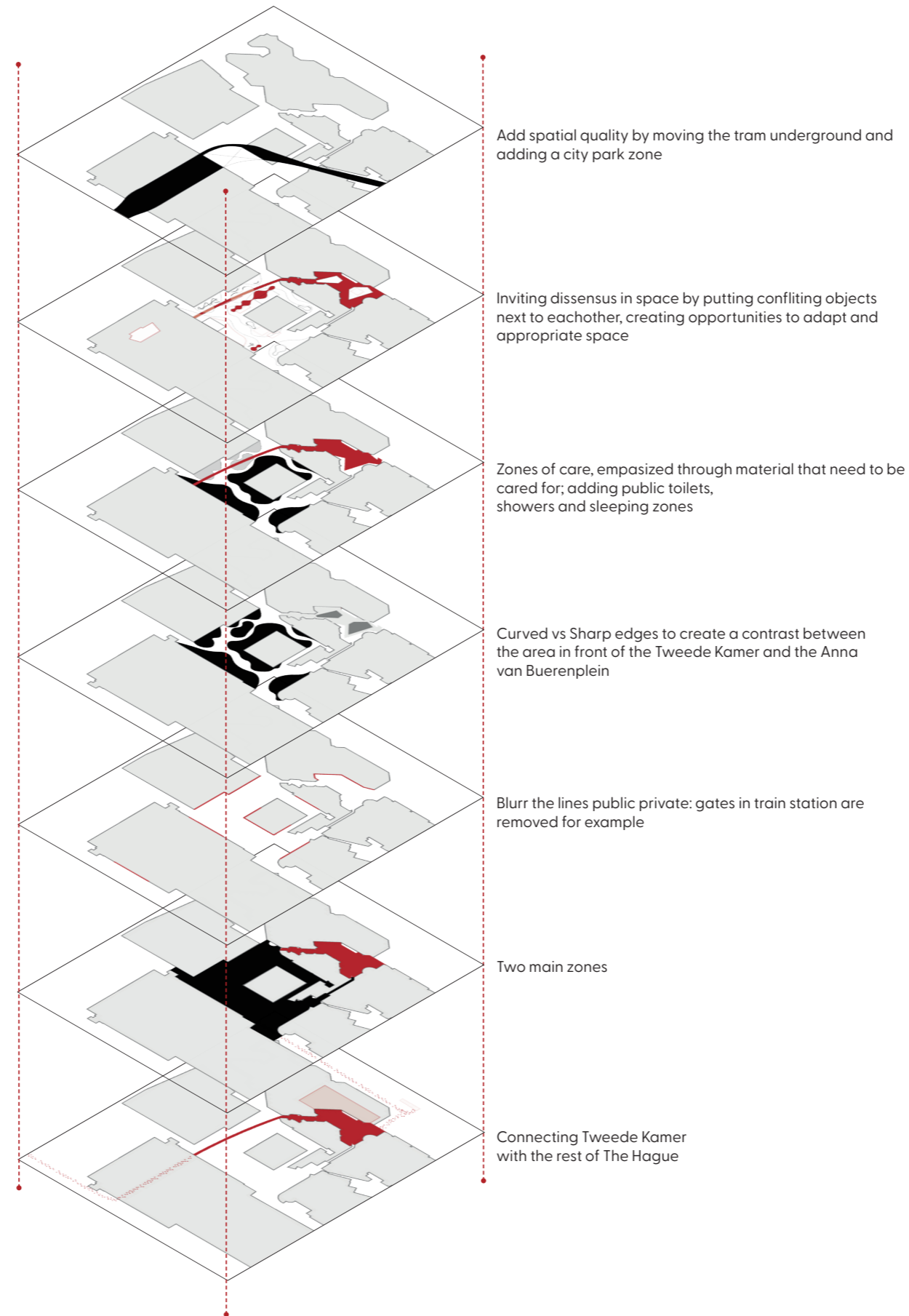


Reflection 09. Design can be a tool for reflecting on present-day policies that limit the realization of the democratic ideal in today's built environments

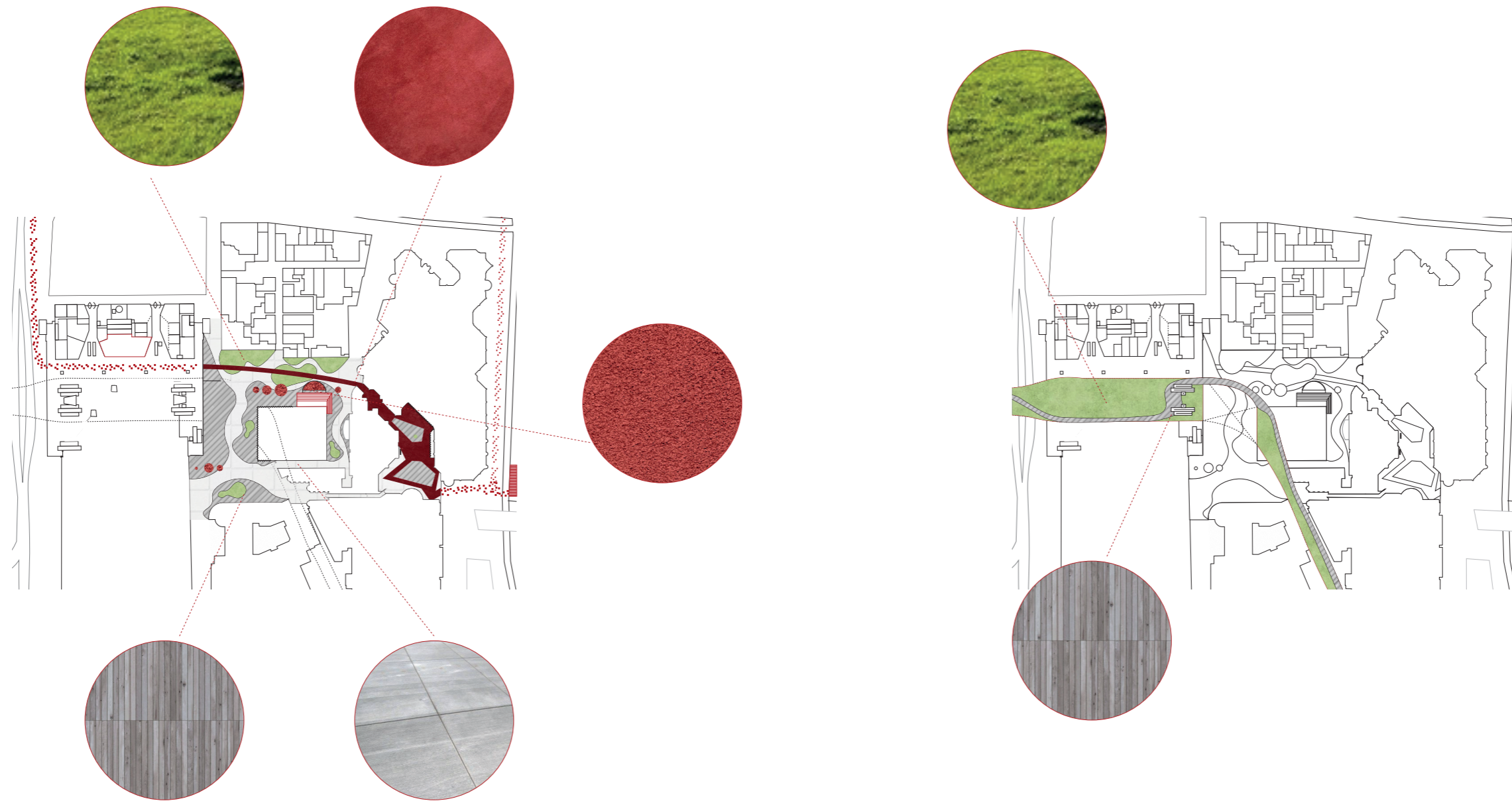


VIOLENCE
FULL CARE
EMPTY

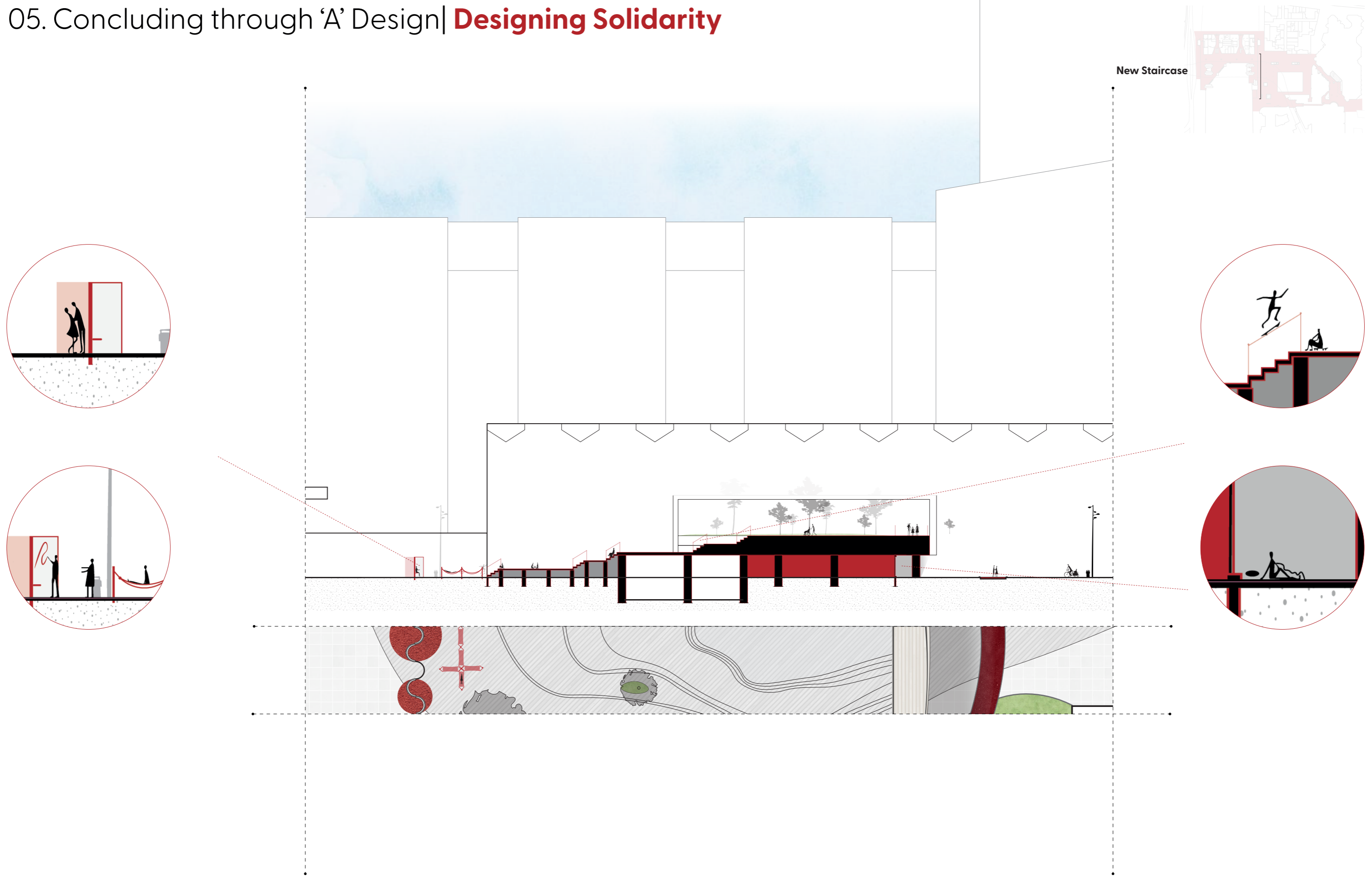
05. Concluding through 'A' Design | **Main Design Principles**



05. Concluding through 'A' Design | **The Principle of Care through Materilization**



05. Concluding through 'A' Design | **Designing Solidarity**



0m 25m

05. Concluding through 'A' Design | **Designing Solidarity**



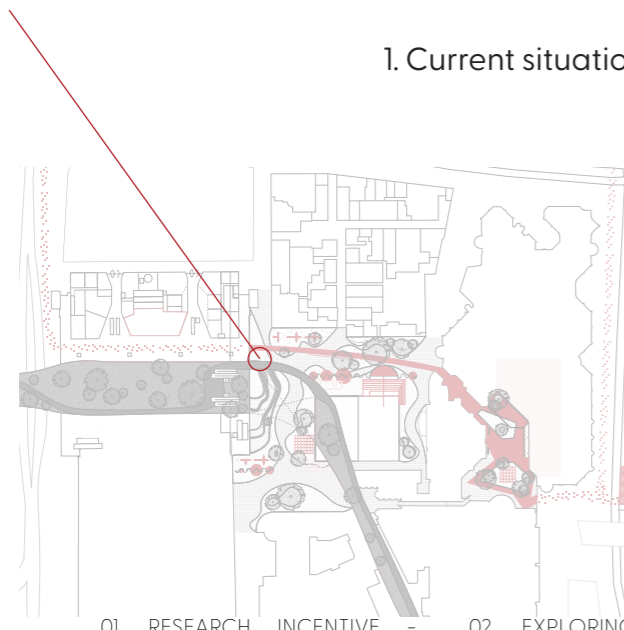
1. Current situation



2. Shower, public toilets, sleeping pods are added possible effect during the day



3. Possible effect at night



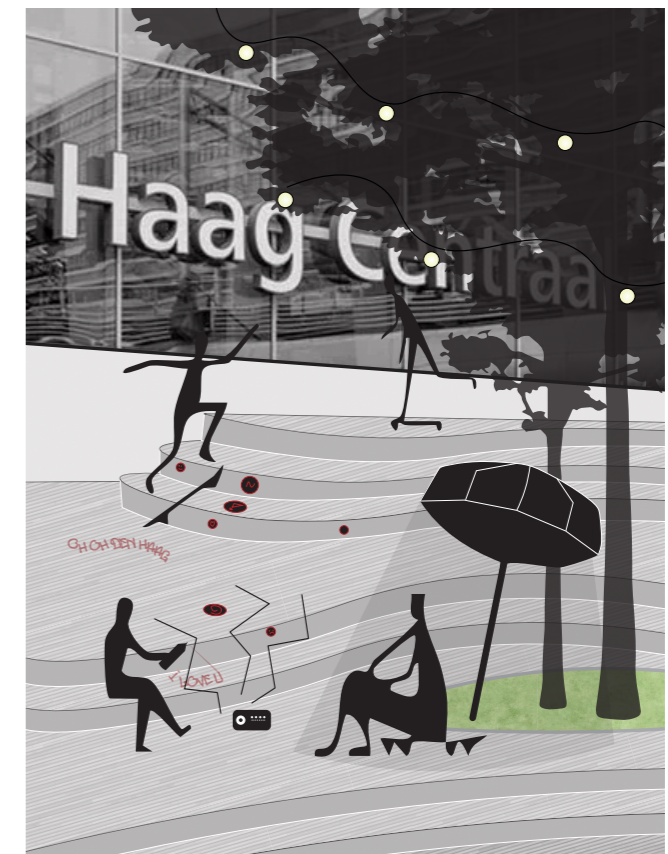
05. Concluding through 'A' Design | **Appropriation**



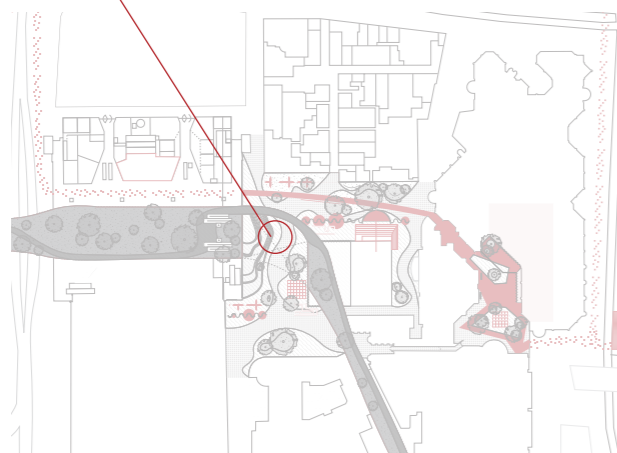
1. Current situation



2. 'Conventional Use':
Stairs as place to hang out



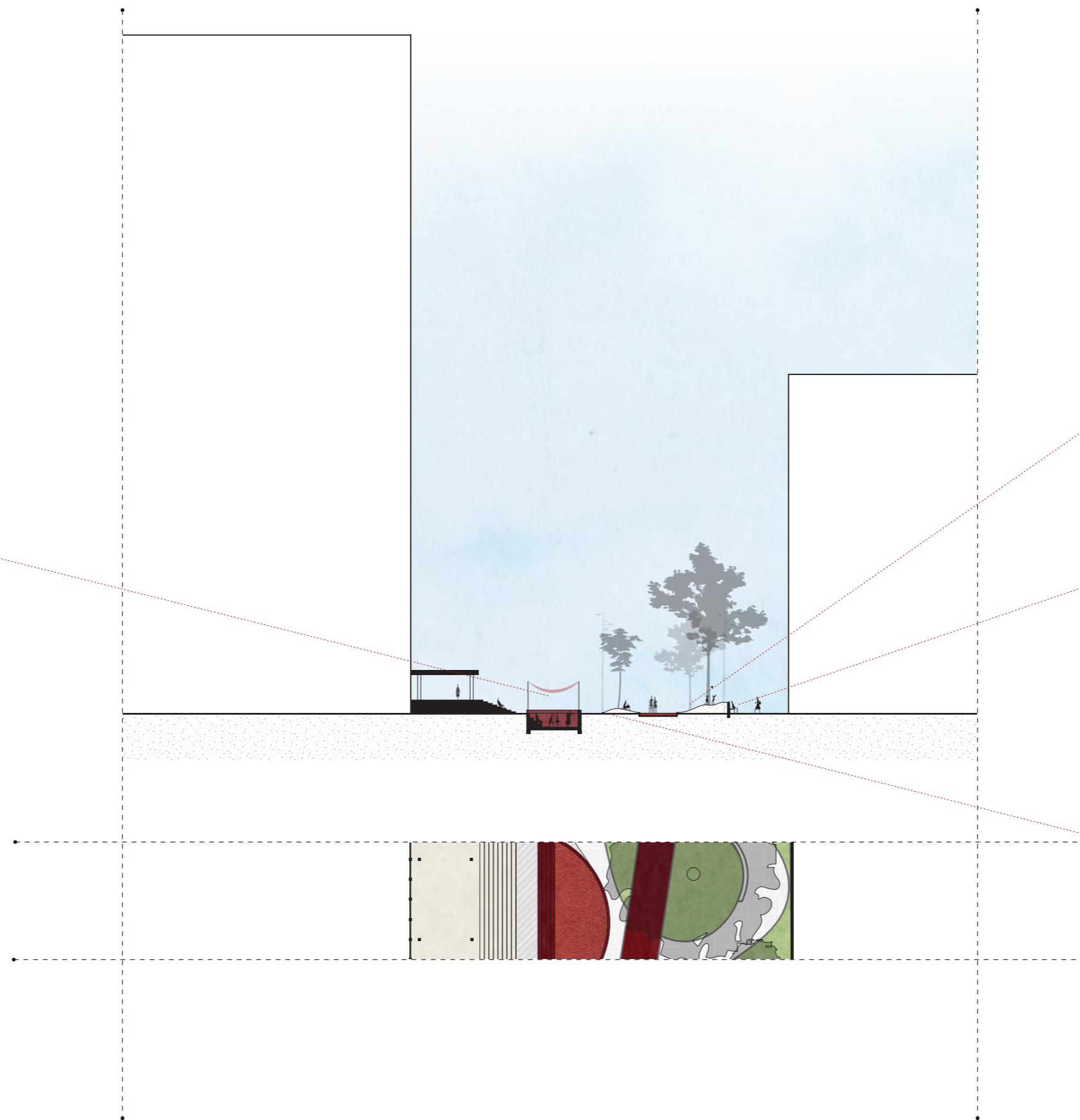
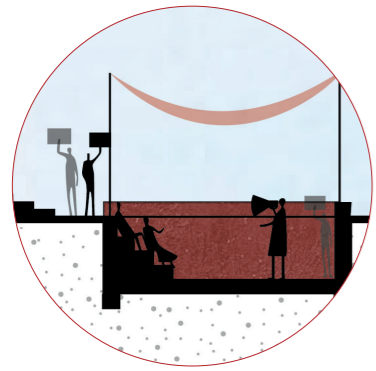
3. Space appropriated by skaters



05. Concluding through 'A' Design | **Free expression**



Section University and New Babylon

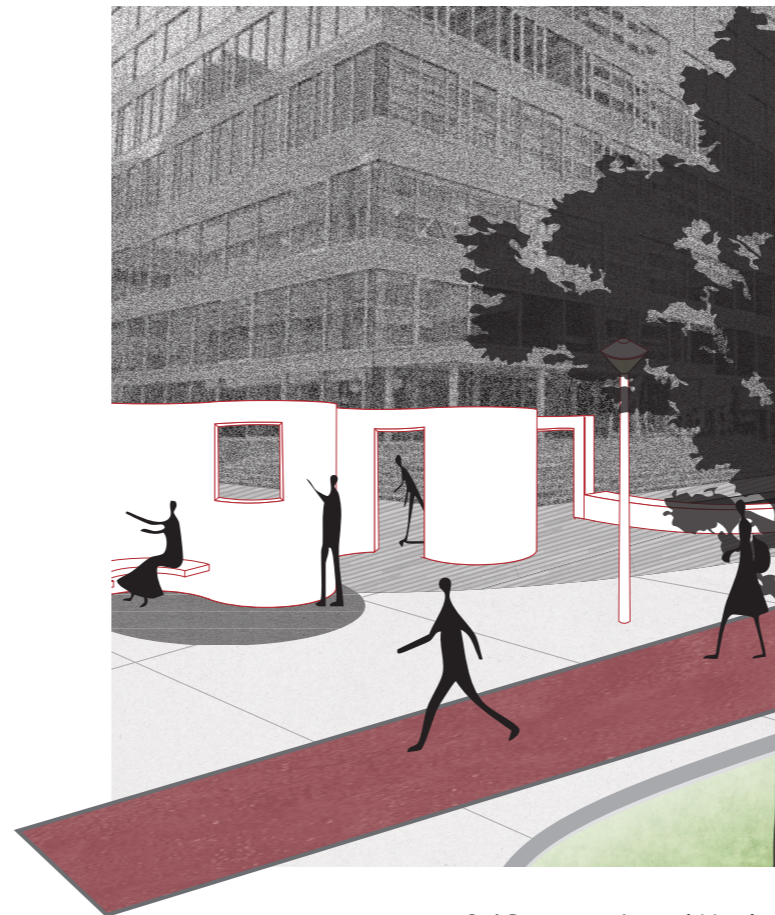


0 m 25 m

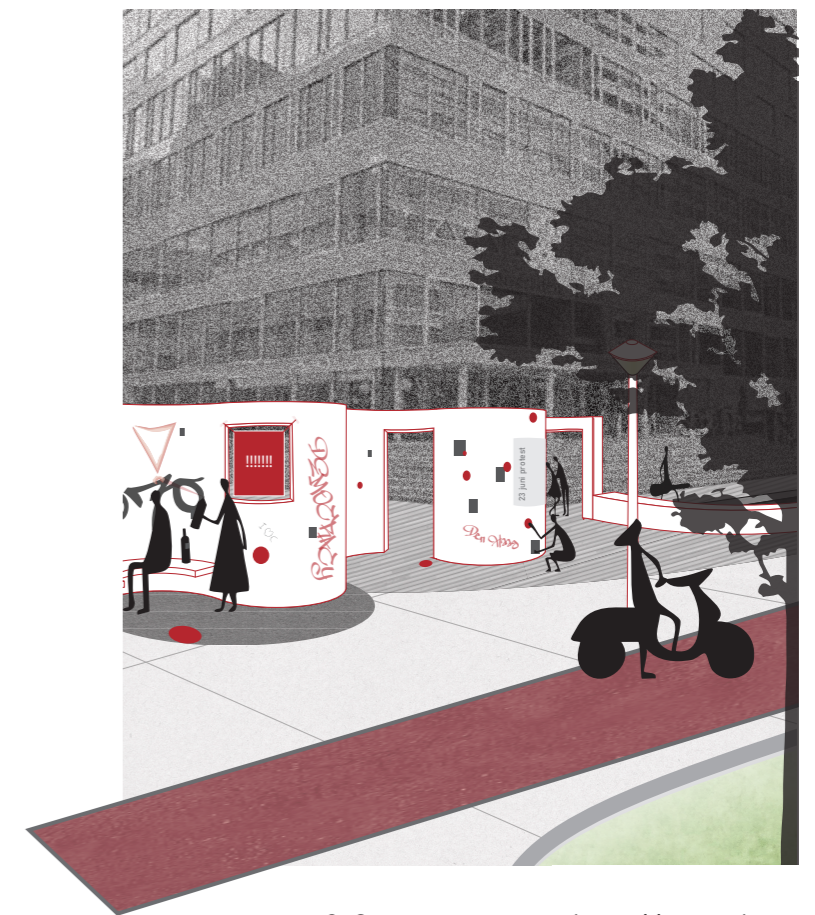
05. Concluding through 'A' Design | Free Expression and Appropriation



1. Current situation



2. 'Conventional Use':
S-shaped objects as a bench



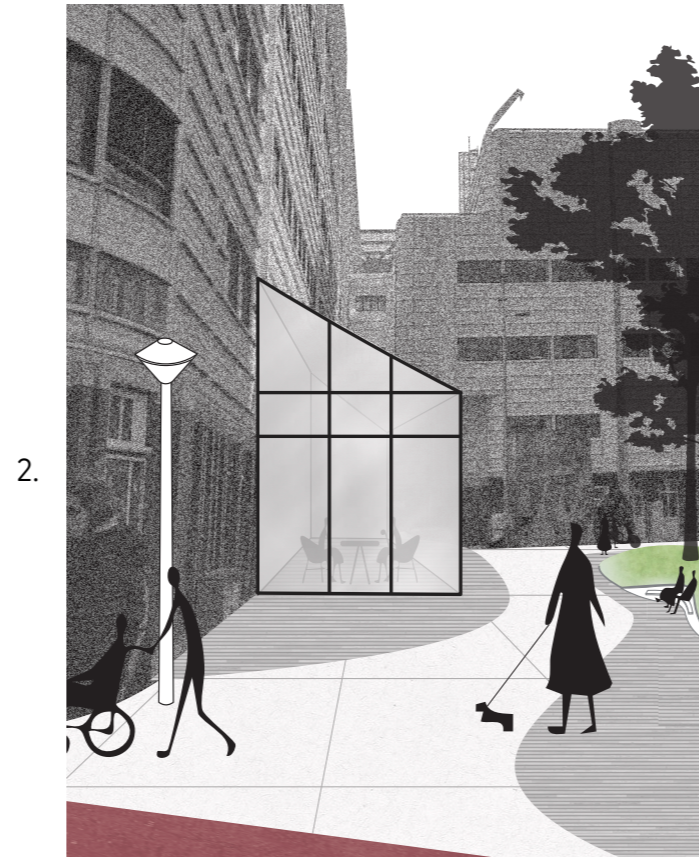
3. Space appropriated by artists



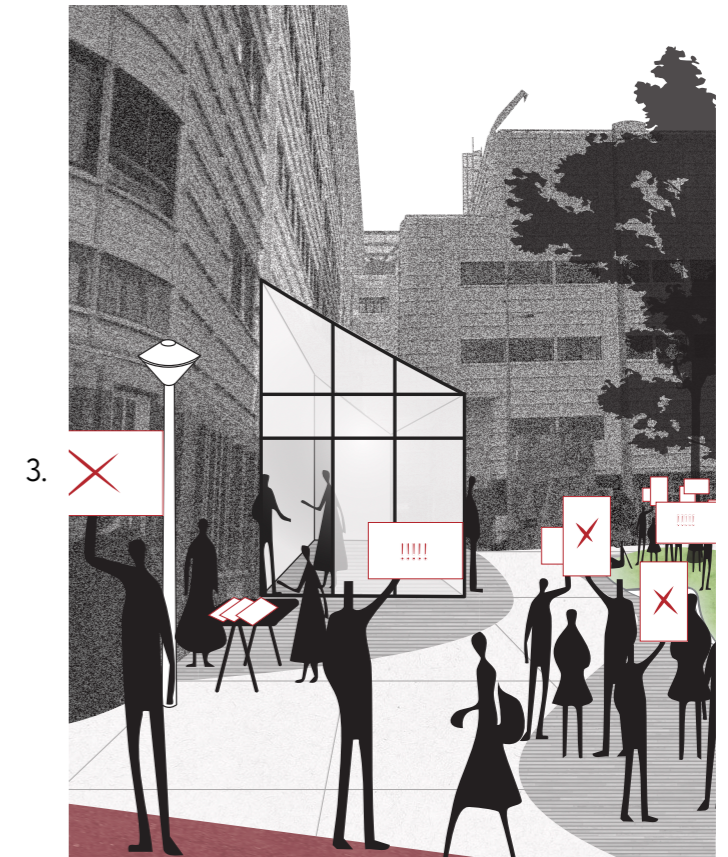
05. Concluding through 'A' Design | **Creating space for Deliberation**



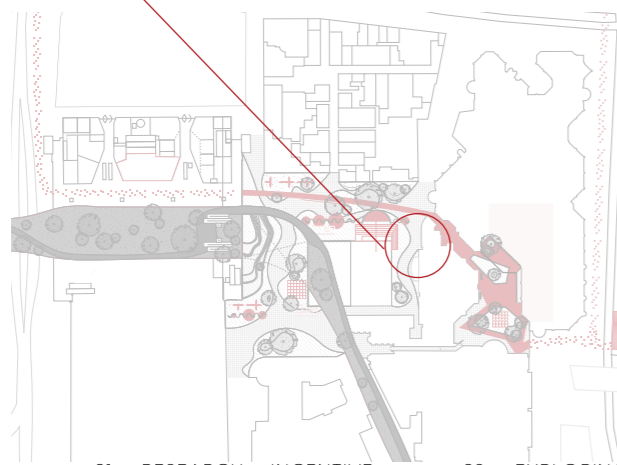
1. Current situation



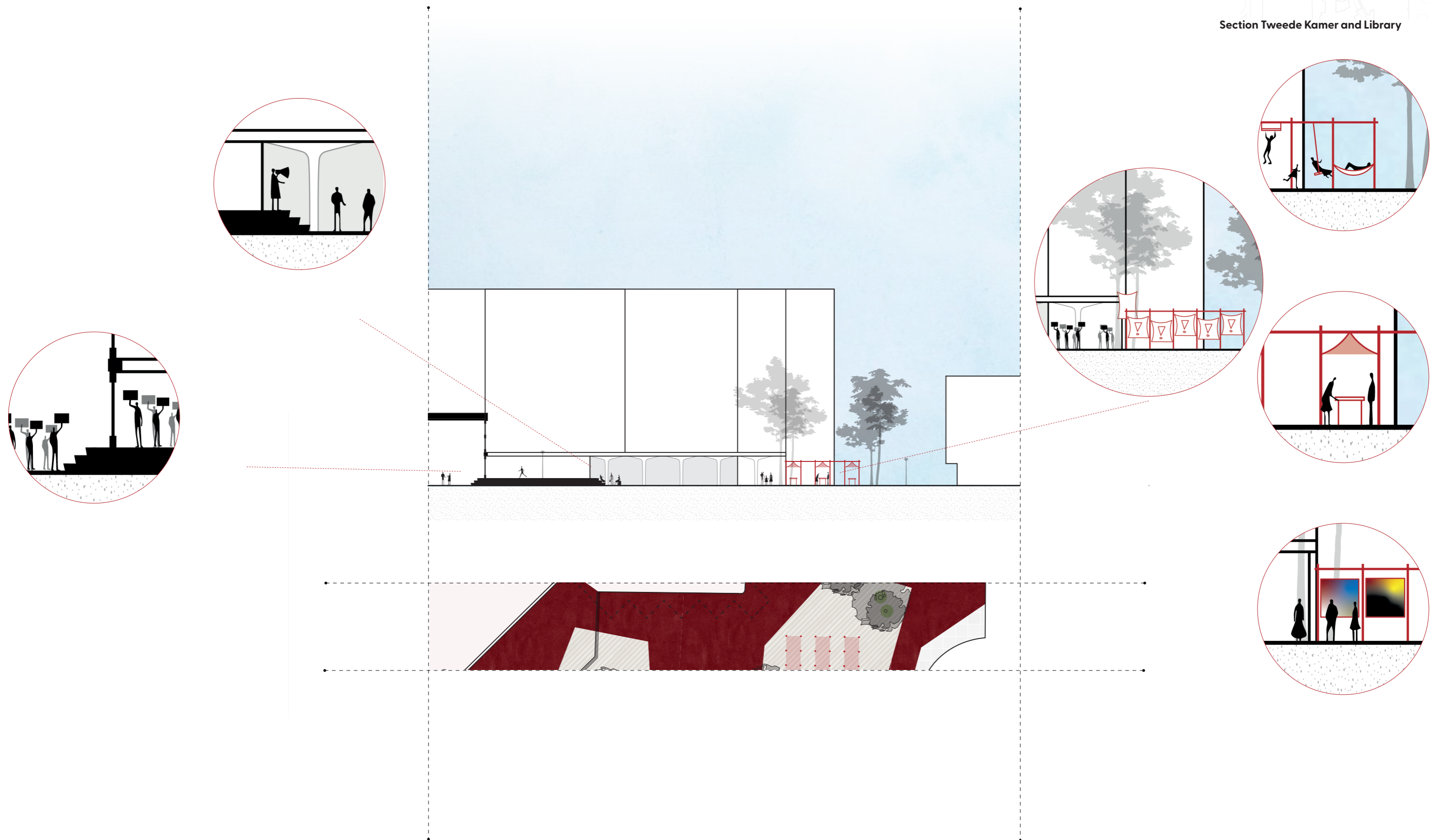
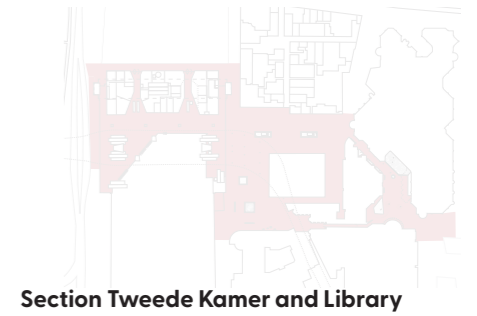
2. Library reading room, for deliberation



3. Space appropriated by activists



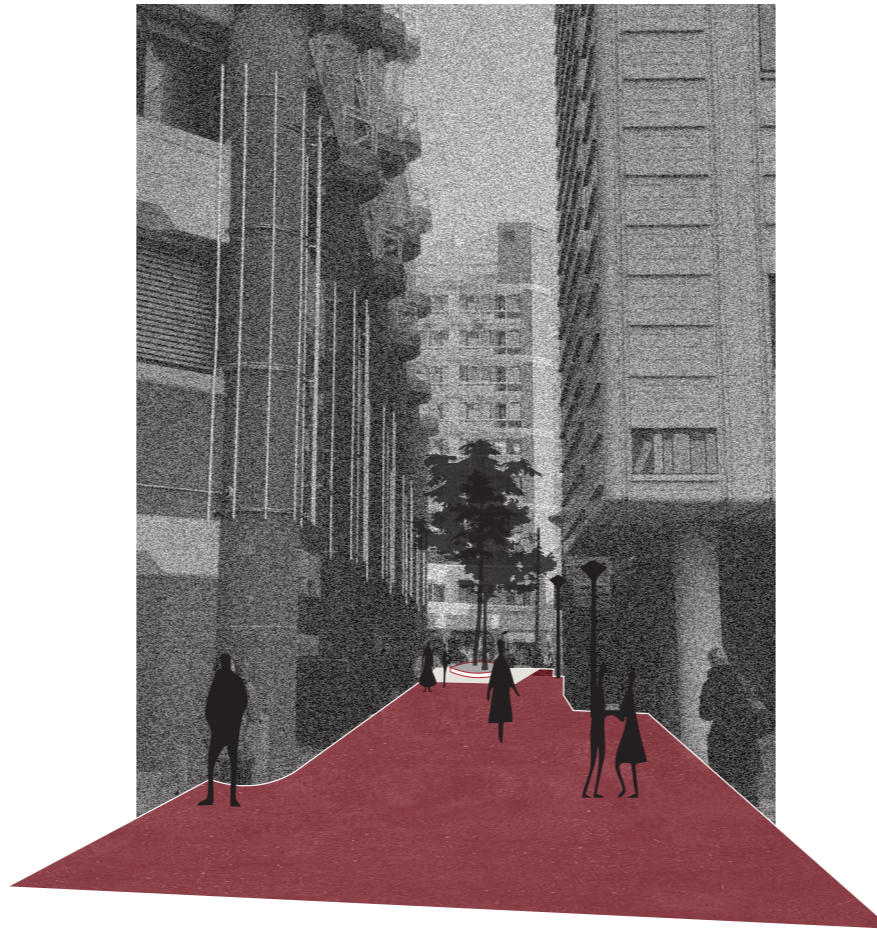
05. Concluding through 'A' Design | **Designing with the principle of Trust and Care**



05. Concluding through 'A' Design | **Creating a clear link between Tweede Kamer and the rest of The Hague**



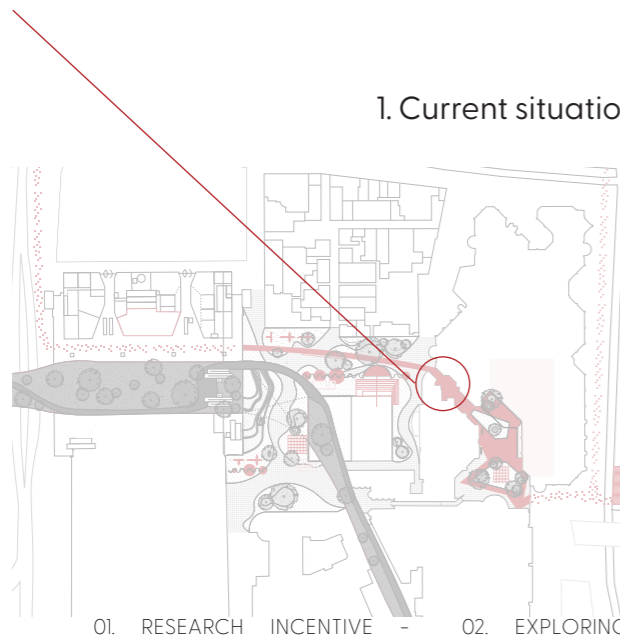
1. Current situation



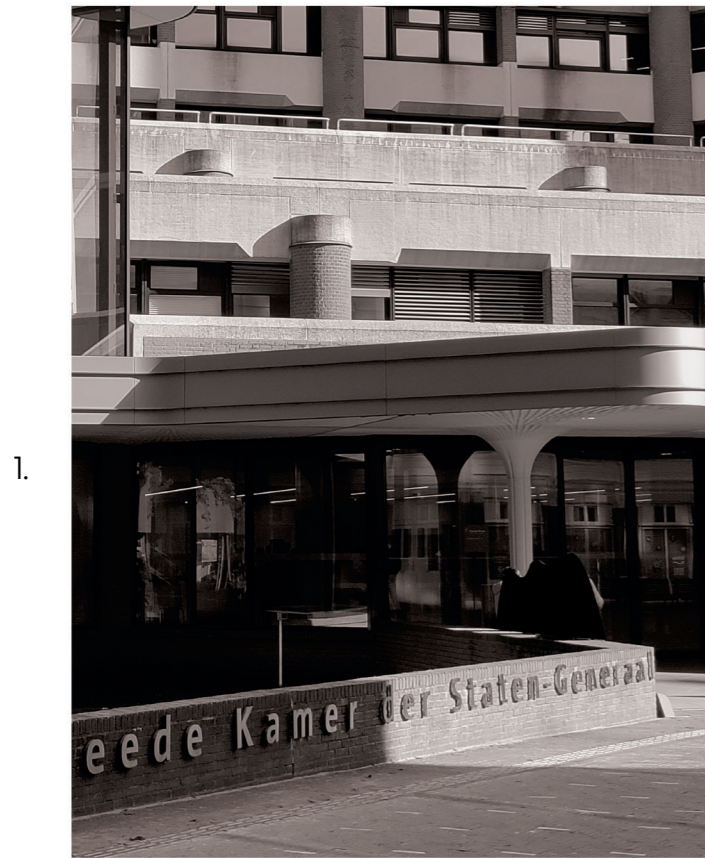
2. Creating a path to link Democracy with the rest of the city



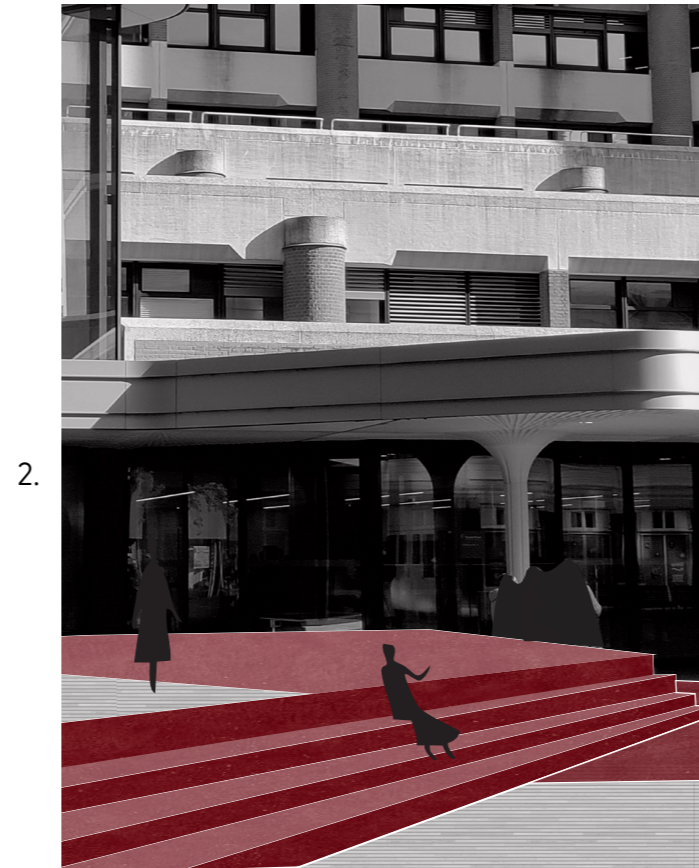
3. Space appropriated by activists



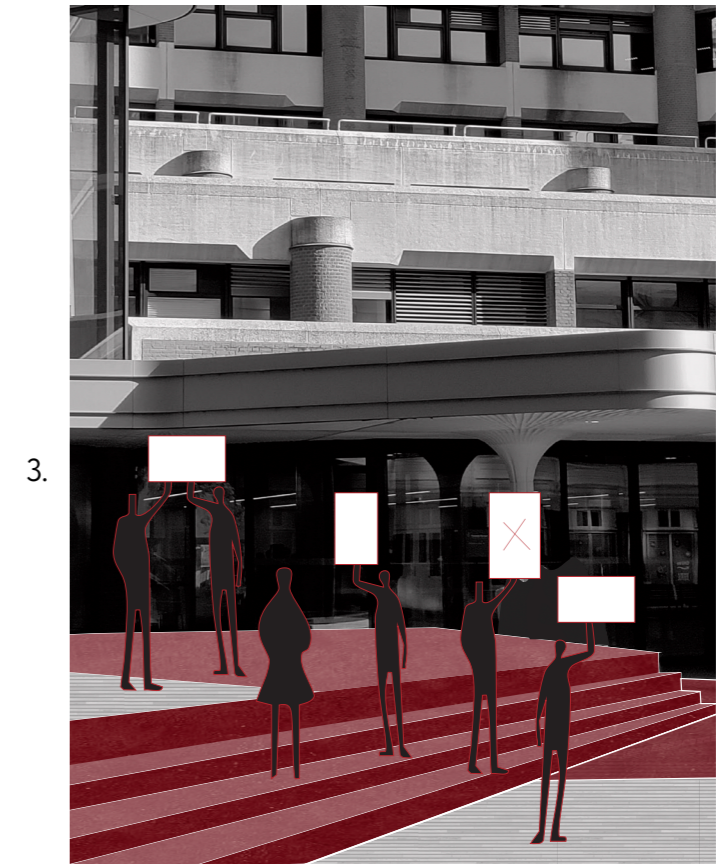
05. Concluding through 'A' Design | **Protest as a non-intrusive act**



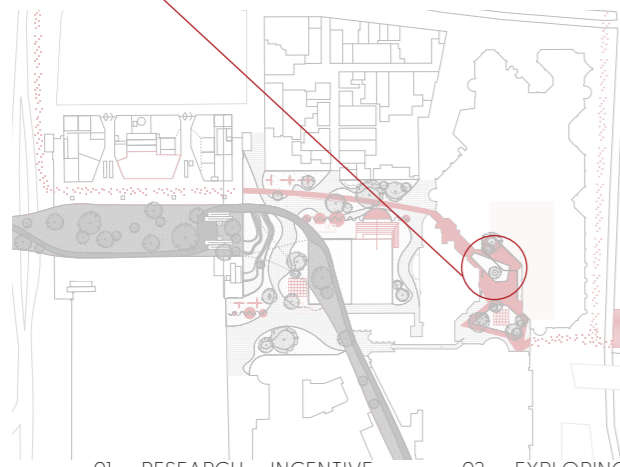
1. Current situation



2. Designing with trust:
Softer Inside-Outside barriers



3. Space appropriated by activists



‘Won’t that attract the wrong kind of people?’



- Reflection 01. *Designers have to show how they make sense of the mess*
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ONE FINAL NOTE OF HOPE



THE END!

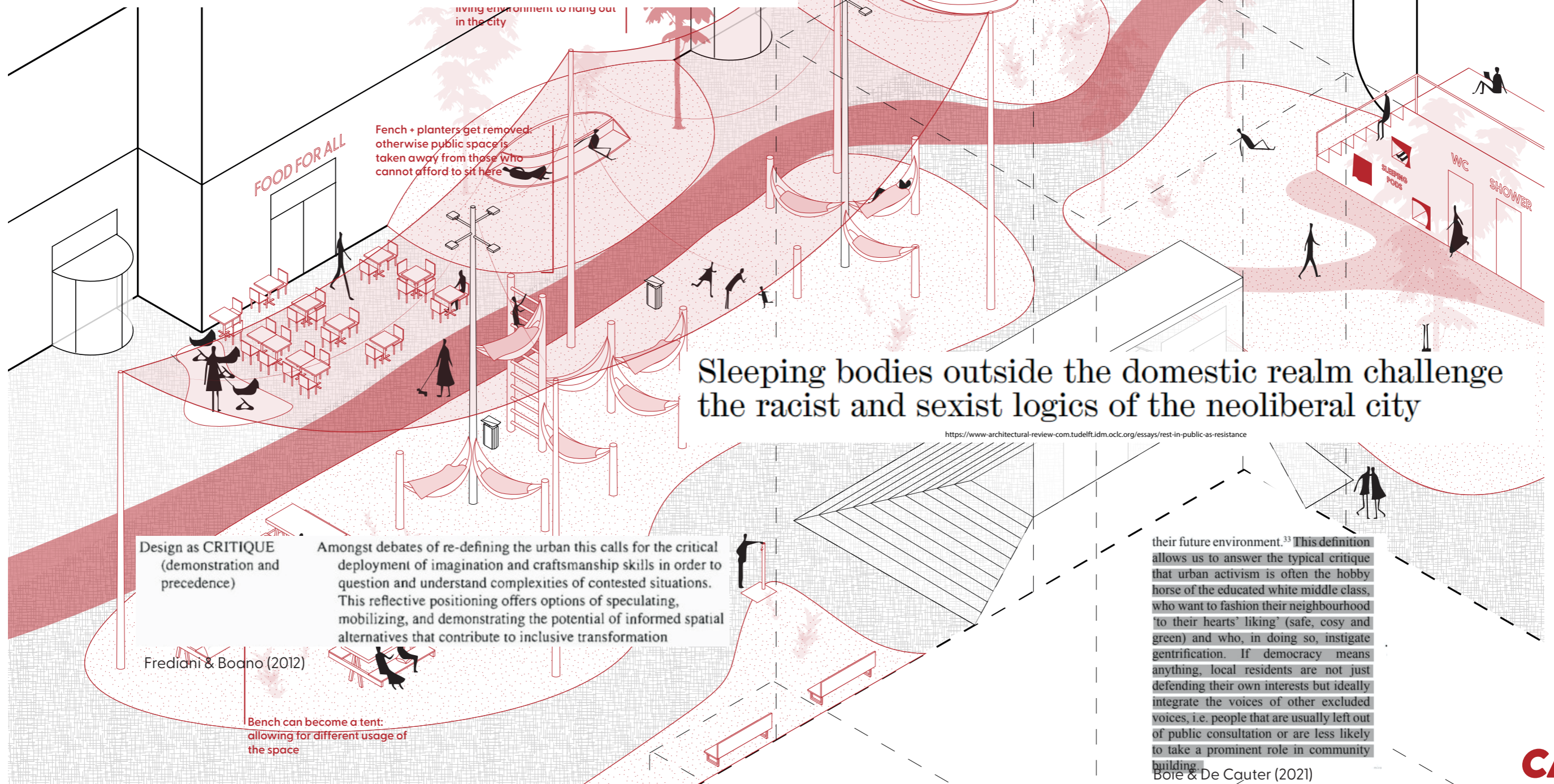
ANY QUESTIONS?

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<https://www.straatconsulaat.nl/straat-consulaat/onbegrip-over-weghalen-van-bankjes-op-den-haag-cs-overlast-verplaatst-zich/>



Sleeping bodies outside the domestic realm challenge the racist and sexist logics of the neoliberal city

<https://www.architectural-review.com/tudelft.idm.oclc.org/essays/rest-in-public-as-resistance>

Design as CRITIQUE
(demonstration and precedence)

Amongst debates of re-defining the urban this calls for the critical deployment of imagination and craftsmanship skills in order to question and understand complexities of contested situations. This reflective positioning offers options of speculating, mobilizing, and demonstrating the potential of informed spatial alternatives that contribute to inclusive transformation

Frediani & Boano (2012)

Bench can become a tent:
allowing for different usage of
the space

their future environment.³³ This definition allows us to answer the typical critique that urban activism is often the hobby horse of the educated white middle class, who want to fashion their neighbourhood 'to their hearts' liking' (safe, cosy and green) and who, in doing so, instigate gentrification. If democracy means anything, local residents are not just defending their own interests but ideally integrate the voices of other excluded voices, i.e. people that are usually left out of public consultation or are less likely to take a prominent role in community building.

Boie & De Cauter (2021)

02. Exploring the Fundamentals| **Democracy as a Daily Life Practice, Pluralism is seen as a Base Condition**

John Dewey's model of democracy (Dewey, 1927) emphasises an inclusive and participatory approach to governance. Democracy should be viewed as a continuous, deliberative process where citizens actively engage in public discourse and decision-making to address societal challenges and promote justice. John

John Dewey

On the eve of the twenty-first century, amid the upheavals the world is witnessing, the task of rethinking democratic politics is more urgent than ever. For those who refuse to see 'really existing' liberal democratic capitalism at the 'end of history', radical democracy is the only alternative. If the Left is to learn from the tragic experiences of totalitarianism it has to adopt a different attitude towards liberal democracy, and recognize its strengths as well as reveal its shortcomings. In other words, the objective of the Left should be the extension and deepening of the democratic revolution initiated two hundred years ago. miro

Chantal Mouffe

03. A Methodological Exploration | Role of Powerstructures and Values in Urban Design



URBANISM CAN BE A MEAN TO GO AGAINST THE STREAM

URBANISM AS TOOL TO TACKLE PHILANTHROPIC PROJECTS

DIAGONAL LINES

PHILANTHROPY LEAD TO LOADS OF PEOPLE IN SMALL SPACE

UNHEALTHY LIVING CONDITIONS

WONINGWET

INDONESIA

DUTCH BECAME VERY RICH

PHILANTHROPY HOUSING → HUGE VILLA'S

WONINGWET

Minister of Colonies

Late nineteenth century

→ Binnenhof

→ Minister of Colonies visible

Due to the presence of the national government, the city cannot fully control itself, F.E. when new ministries have to be build.

Transactable

In order to gain back some power on the spatial development of THE HAGUE, an urbanist 'avant la lettre' was appointed. Dienst Gemeentebestuur werd I.A. Lindo as director

↳ Diagonal lines to break with traditional pattern → Pelote parties

↳ Plumbings this scheme

Around 1910 → Rise of Villa Neighbourhoods

Rich businessman profited from 'slopping cultureheestie' consulted in monopoly on exploiting 'NL-Indie' (Indonesia)

* Rich harbour businessmen from Rotterdam moved to TH

Peace for this people was accorded by 'Den Hollands Betijcke Bouwgrond Maatschappij'

Start: 1865 - Begin of 20th century

Rapid growth lead to terrible living situations in housing projects → the **WONINGWET** was introduced

PHILANTHROPY LEAD TO LOADS OF PEOPLE IN SMALL SPACE

UNHEALTHY LIVING CONDITIONS

WONINGWET

INDONESIA

DUTCH BECAME VERY RICH

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03. A Methodological Exploration | **Understanding the Actors involved**

