

Towards the Power of Deprived

Urban Transformation by Socio-Economical Empowerment in Rotterdam South Neighborhoods



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1. Introduction to Research

This chapter will present the main components of the thesis; starting with the motivation and a brief introduction, the problem field will be presented by some analysis supporting by theory review which the output of it will be the problem statement and the research question of the thesis. In addition to this, the methods which are going to be used for answering the research question is explained in this chapter, also the relevance of the topic and the time planning is presented in the end of the chapter.

1.1 Introduction

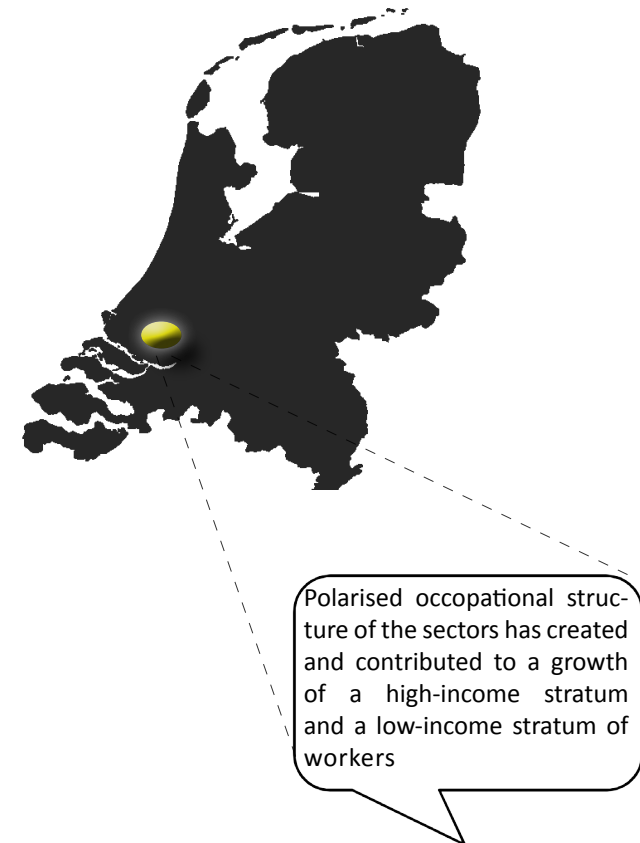
'Over the past decades most of the advanced countries in the world have all gone through a process of economic restructuring that is frequently assumed to be strongly associated with the process of globalisation. Improved technological conditions have led to a growing interconnectedness and internationalisation of firms and economical processes, which are expressed in the in the rapid growth of flows of people, money and goods across the world' (Musterd, 2002, p.3). One of the main characteristics of this restructuring is the increase in the demand for high-skilled jobs and the growth in the number of unemployed and low-skilled or un-skilled people. Overall these changes lead to the increase of socio-economical polarization in the cities, which is about the growth of the distance between the bottom and top end of the social ladder. In other words it makes the increase in the proportion of low-skilled and high-skilled jobs at the same time (Musterd & Ostendorf, 1998).

The concept of social polarisation was raised by Saskia Sassen for the first time (Hamnett, 2001). She argues that the change in the economic structure of global cities, which is mainly about the increase of the business services and decrease of the industrial-based economy, leads to the polarisation of income and occupational distribution of workers which makes a drastic deviation of social classes (Sassen, 1991, p.9; Hamnett, 2001). This phenomena is more complicated because in addition to the social class deviations, other kind of deviations like racial and ethnic polarisation also exist which shows itself in the spatial structures of the cities in a way of segregation patterns (Musterd & Ostendorf, 1998).

Messy and Denton argue that the spatial segregation of the people with different social classes, leads to a situation in which access to jobs, good education and sufficient social relations among people wont be a casual value of the cities any more. spatial deviation of deprived people creates the structural conditions for the developmnt of a kind of counterculture in which a job, good education and strong relations between people are no longer part of the prevailing system of values and norms (Musterd& Ostendorf, 1998).

This phenomena could also be implied to the Netherlands which is facing some of the consequences of the socio-economical polarisation especially in it's big cities. The next chapter is dedicated to this issue and explores the consequences of it in one of the biggest cities of the Netherlands as the introduction for the

problem statement of this thesis.



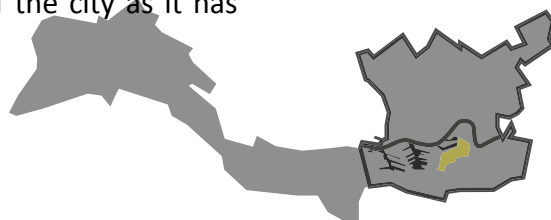
Picture1- Saskia Sassen- Google Images

1.2 Problem Field Introduction

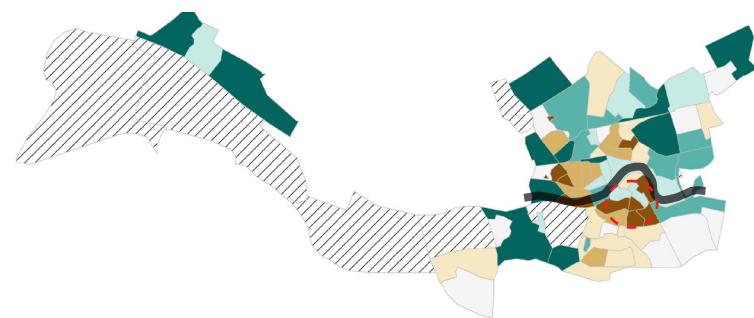
According to the Eurocities-NLAO, Rotterdam is the second largest city of Netherlands after Amsterdam. The population of this city which has been increasing in the recent years is about 617000 and the regional population of it is about 1.2 million. The biggest port in Europe is located in this city which makes it an important international trade spot in Europe. The city has a considerably multicultural population because about 50 percent of the inhabitants have a migrant background. One of the important facts about this city is the high rate of unemployment of it which is %8.3. Most of the unemployed people in in Rotterdam live in the South part of the River. The population of South bank is 20000 which 13000 of them are searching for jobs and a high percentage of people in this part of the city are on low levels of the social ladder which makes them depend on the income support by the government (Eurocities-NLAO, 2011).

The spatial concentration of low-income and unemployed people in this part of the city has a historical reason; the harbor was located in the South part of the river in the 20 th century and as mentioned above it was an important trade centre which attracts a lot of workers for working in the harbor, but after the de-industrialization the harbor provided fewer jobs and it moves westwards, the result was the high number of workers who lost their jobs. At that time the people who could afforded to go to other parts of the city left and only the people who couldn't afford to do so, remained in this part of the city. So Rotterdam South becomes the concentration spot of low-income and disadvantaged groups (Eurocities-NLAO,2012).

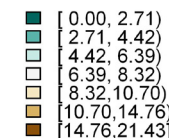
The impact of the concentration of disadvantaged groups, a group which according to Mayer (2003) has very few or no access to different sources including information, jobs, education and capital, could be seen in the drastic distinction between south and the other parts of the city. Studying the economical status of Rotterdam neighborhoods shows a drastic gap between northern part and southern part of the city as it has



Map1- Spatial location of Rotterdam south in the Rotterdam region- By author



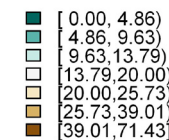
Map2- Unemployment percentage per neighborhood- <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/silva/ineqcities>



shown in map 2, the percentage of unemployment in Rotterdam South neighborhoods is considerably higher than the Rotterdam North ones. Also the percentage of low-educated people is significantly higher in Rotterdam South neighborhoods (map 3).



Map3- Low educational percentage per neighborhood- <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/silva/ineqcities>



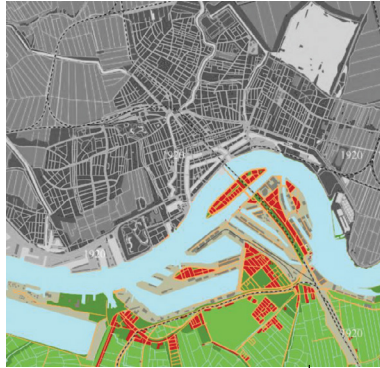
The concentration of disadvantaged groups and the polarisation that come afterwards is not only the consequence of historical changes but also the influence of urban policies and as a direct result of certain processes, like changes in the welfare structure urban planners and managers decisions (Musterd & Ostendorf, 1998). In the next part this problem will be explained more.

Problem Field- Rotterdam South through the history



1907

Further constructions in South Rotterdam for harbour, the dock and industry and factory. Because at that time port of Rotterdam was the main trading spot in Netherlands because due to it's geographical location (<http://www.portofrotterdam.com>)



1920

Further development related to the harbour and a few dwellings .



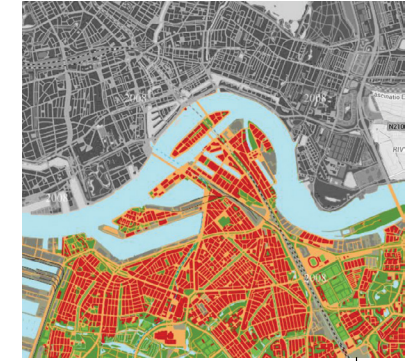
1940

This part of the city was one of the first main priorities for construction during 1940 and 1950. this caused an increase in economic activity in the Southbank area. This resulted in a massive influx of new workers from the Netherlands southern province, so low-cost housing was built to accommodate the new generation of dockworkers (Eurocities, Demographic change in Rotterdam, 2012)



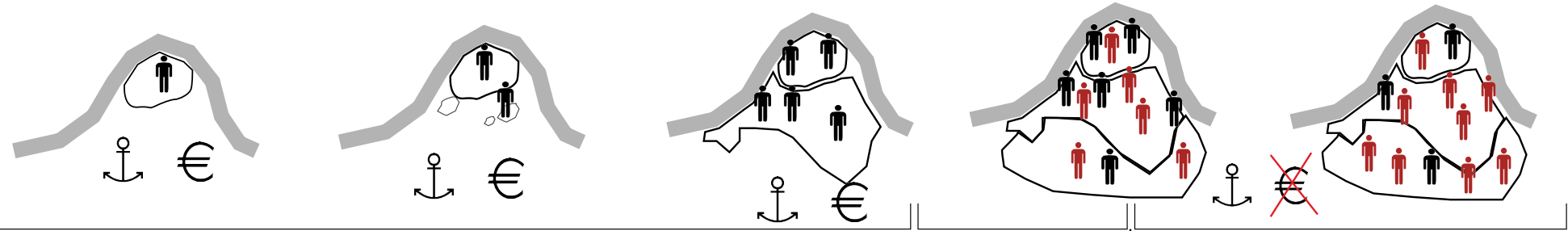
1980

First forces of globalisation make the people from Turkey and Morocco flocking to Rotterdams port to find work, but then the de-industrialisation appears and the harbour was not an economical driven force anymore. because of the low price of the housing immigrants come to this part more and more.



2008

This part becomes the spatial concentration of low-income people and immigrants



Harbour the economical and spatial driven force at this time

Harbour not an economical driven force anymore
Concentration of urban poverty

Map4- Rotterdam south neighborhoods through the history, By Author

Flow of low-income immigrants for working in harbour

De-industrialisation

Problem Field

Spatial concentration of poverty, Causes & Consequences

According to Van Eijk (2010), urban poverty could be defined as a situation in which a special group don't have access to resources, which could be job opportunities, information, health care, leisure,...(Van Eijk, 2010). Greene (1991) argues that the concentration of urban poverty is about the agglomeration of poor people in a particular part of the city instead of the spatial distribution of these groups in the whole city (Orford, 2003).

Poverty concentration is an important urban issue because it has considerable effects which are mainly negative; it leads to the isolation of the disadvantaged groups from the social and economical mainstream which could be followed by social exclusion and segregation. For example people living in the concentration of poverty areas are facing with higher rates of crime in their living area, less opportunities for education and employment and overall they deal with more socio-economical issues that part of it is because of the spatial concentration of the poor (Orford, 2003).

'Spatial concentration of deprived groups has different causes, it could be considered as a product of structural factors in cities and of decisions taken by individual households; In their research for location people choose between places that have different perceived qualities regarding housing, physical and social environment, access to transport, jobs, services, natural beauties, and status and cultural identity' (Andersen, 2004, p.3).

The uneven distribution of the urban qualities in the spatial structure of the city could intensify the gap between good and bad areas which will lead to more segregation because the motivation for house seekers to ignore or choose some areas will increase(Andersen, 2004).

This segregation leads to a considerable decline of some parts of the city which will become no go areas and the middle and high-income classes will refuse to live in these neighborhoods. This phenomena will follow by a downward spiral and a self-perpetuating process for these segregated areas (Andersen, 2004).

This process could be divided to two parts: Interior process which is taking place inside the deprived neighborhood itself and Exterior process :

'The interior process of deprivation in neighborhoods concerns the changes in the conditions inside the estate, where negative social, physical, organizational and financial changes reinforce each other while the exterior process have to

do with how the changes in the image and attraction of the estate influence the relations to the rest of the city. In short negative changes in the qualities and resources of neighborhoods have a negative influence on the flow of capital and the people in and out of the neighborhoods. This result in middle class people will move away and will replace by poor people and the investment in maintenance and services will reduce and this process will repeat in a cycle because the average cost of the estate will decrease drastically and it will attract only low-income people' (Andersen,2004, p.6).

Overall it could be concluded that there is a relation between the spatial concentration of disadvantaged groups and socio-economical polarisation of the city which is simplified in the diagram below; a balanced city (system) included diverse neighborhoods although there is no big gap in terms of the socio-economical between these neighborhoods, but when a part of the city become the spatial concentration of poor people the socio-economical quality decline in that part of the city and this will make polarisation in the city.

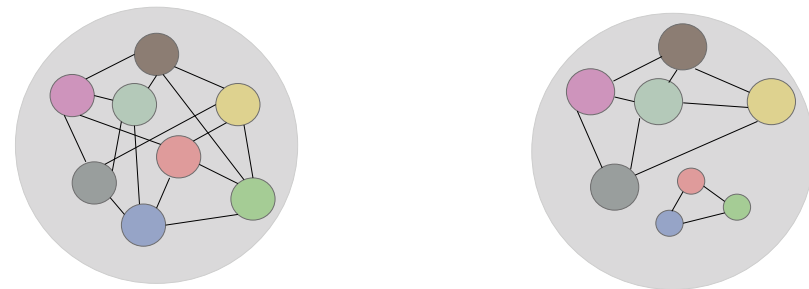


Diagram1- Socio-economical polarisation in the city in relation to deprivation of some neighborhoods- By author

Big circle: Normal neighborhood

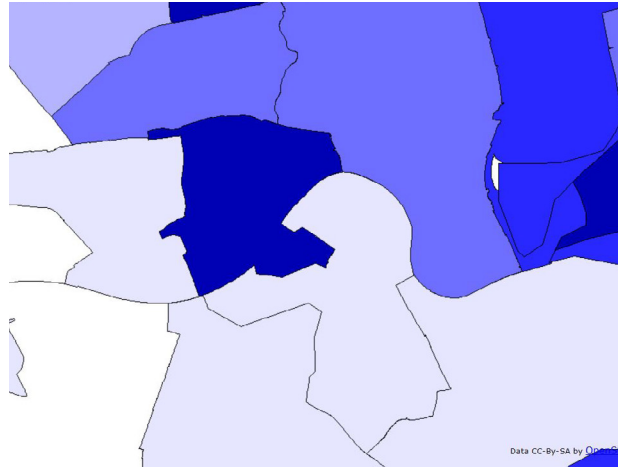
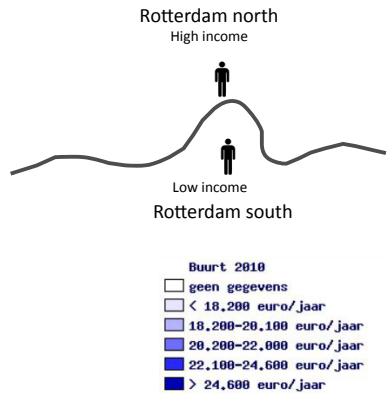
Small circle: Deprived neighborhood

Color of the circle: Characteristic of the neighborhood

Lines: Socio-spatial-economical interaction

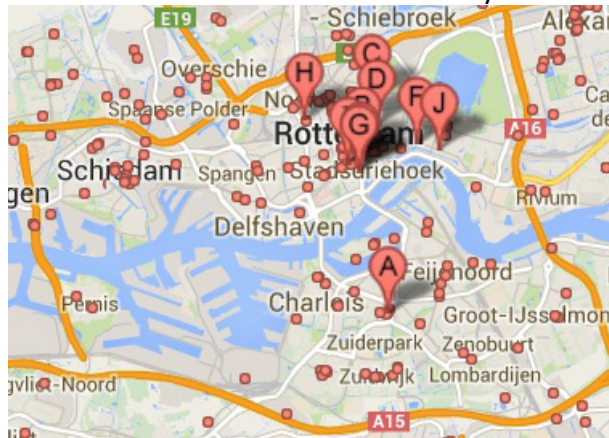
1.2.1 Problem Analysis

Socio-economic polarisation



Map5- Average income per district, comparison between north and south of Rotterdam- www.EduGIS.nl

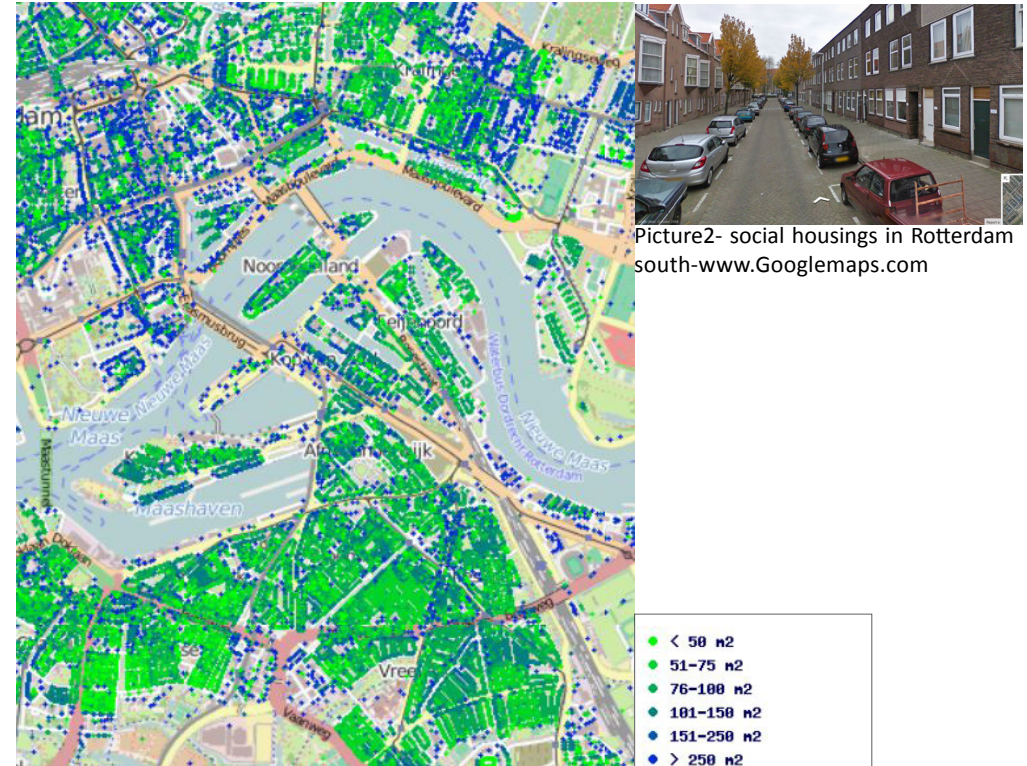
As mentioned in the former page this spatial feature (concentration of poverty) could contribute to some socio-economical weaknesses which will be analysed in the case of Rotterdam South in this part. The map above shows the average income per year for Rotterdam residents in different districts. The lighter blue the district is the lower income is located, there is a drastic gap between northern part of the city and southern part of it; uneven distribution of deprived social classes. This phenomena could have affected the social and economical gap between north and south. In the following other socio-economical aspects has been analysed to see if this distinction does exist in the other layers of the city or not.



Map6- Main shopping spots comparison between north and south of Rotterdam- www.Googlemaps.com

According to the map number 6, the number of shopping centres in Rotterdam North and Rotterdam South are also very different. As Vannes (2012, p.2) mentioned, 'The economic centre of Rotterdam with new offices and shopping centres are located in the city's northern part, while the southern part consists of several

deteriorated neighborhoods and urban centres'.



Map7- Dwelling size comparison between north and south of Rotterdam- <http://kaart.edugis.nl>

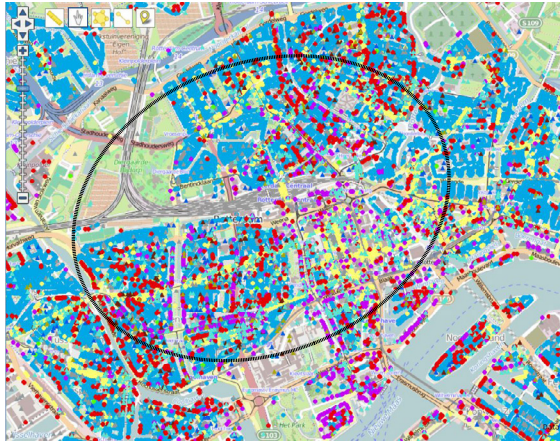
As it has shown in the map above the houses with bigger sizes (which could be the representer of a more wealthy typology of housing) are concentrated in the North bank, Blue dots represent the houses with size of 150-250 m² which are more wealthy houses. This spatial feature is one of the reasons for the concentration of higher income people in the north part and lower income in the southern part. This issue will be explained later. In addition to this homogeneity in the dwellings of Rotterdam south which most of them are pre-war affordable housing is a factor that makes this part of the city the magnet for low-income people, intensifying the polarisation between north and south part of the city.



Picture2- social housings in Rotterdam south-www.Googlemaps.com

1.2.1 Problem Analysis

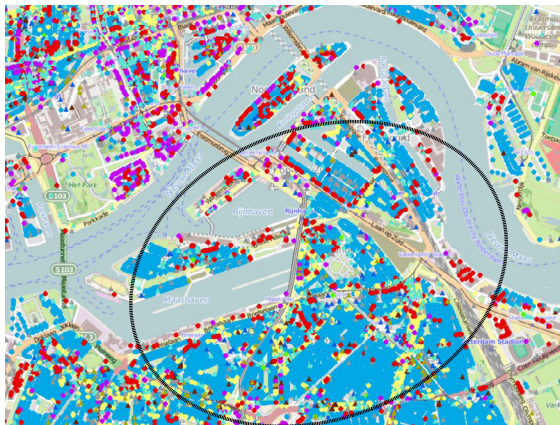
Spatio-Functional Polarisation



Map8- Land-use map of Rotterdam north-<http://kaart.edugis.nl>



Picture3- Mix of functions in Rotterdam north



Map9- Land-use map of Rotterdam south-<http://kaart.edugis.nl>



Picture4- Lack of mix-functionality in Rotterdam south



The uneven distribution of various income groups could also relate to the land-use distribution of Rotterdam. According to the map in the north part of the river high rate of mix-use could be realised while the southern part has less multi-functionality and is more occupied by dwellings. This feature will be not only a tackle for attracting the middle and high-income people to Rotterdam South but also will lead to less socio-economic activity of south part, a fact that could intensify the polarisation.

Conclusion

As Hillier suggests 'the city is essentially two things: a physical sub-system, made up of buildings linked by streets, roads and infrastructure; and a human sub-system made up of movement, interaction and activity - the physical city and the social city' (Charalambous, 2011, p.2). The spatial aspect and socio-economical aspect are related to each other.

The relation between social aspect of the city and the spatial aspect of it should be recognized as a two-sided one; the spatial patterns could provide opportunities or barriers for societal actions and on the other hand the spatial patterns are affected by different actors in the society (Abu-Lughod, 1999; Buck and Gordon, 2004; Cassier & Kesteloot, 2012). The way in which spatial inequalities reinforce social unevenness has been researched at different levels (Cassier & Kesteloot, 2012). The one which is more applicable to this thesis is the one which is more concerned about this issue in the neighborhood scale; The spatial concentration of people with the same (low) social profile in Rotterdam South neighborhoods reduces the chances for the people living their to promote their social level and as it has shown by brief analysis in this part, this poverty concentration will also make a decline in the spatial and functional quality of the neighborhoods. Overall in Rotterdam South a spatial phenomena which is the concentration of deprived peoples is followed by socio-economical phenomena which is the polarisation of north and south part of the city. So for making a change in this situation we have to consider this phenomena as an interaction between spatio-functional and socio-economical forces.

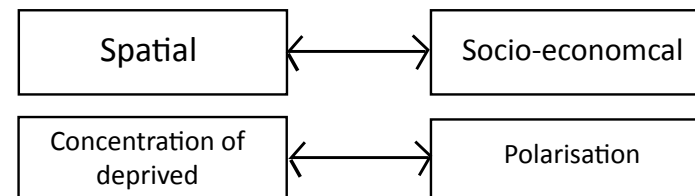


Diagram2- Interaction between spatial and socio-economical layer-By author

1.3 Problem Statement

Spatial concentration of deprived groups in Rotterdam south neighborhoods intensifies the socio-economical polarisation of the city.

Socio-economical polarisation in the cities has a spatial dimension; the concentration of disadvantaged groups in certain geographical areas is a fundamental part of socio-economical decay which will increase the deprivation of a part of the city. This deprivation leads to decrease in the price of housing and socio capital in these areas and attracts more excluded social groups which will lead to a downward spiral increasing the distinction of the area from the other parts of the city (Andersen, 2004). In Rotterdam south this spatial concentration could be seen as a result of mono-functionality of this area in the last decades; as it has mentioned in the problem field this part of Rotterdam was constructed for accomodation of dock workers but as the port activities gradually moved westwards and with changes in the work of the port such as the advent of containers, the docks offered fewer employment opportunities for South bank residents : The port was no longer an employer, so this part becomes the concentration of low-income or unemployed people, as a result the authorities focused on other areas (specially north bank) as centers of urban economic growth , with more attractive housing and a better urban environment than south bank which intensified the non-multi functionality and socio-economical descent of this part of the city. This problem could be confronted in two different ways: one will focus on the concentration of the disadvantaged groups which will follow by de-concentration of this group as a solution for decreasing the negative effects of their centralization while the other will focus on the **disadvantaged groups** concentration and will focus on **empowering** them in order to enhance their socio-economical situation. In my thesis I will focus on the second one which could be a driven force for changing the socio-economical situation of these disadvantaged groups.

1.3.1 Research Question

Which spatio-functional strategies will contribute to the socio-economical transformation leading to the empowerment of deprived groups in Rotterdam South neighborhoods?

As it explained in the previous parts, there is an interaction between the socio-economical layer of the city and the spatio-functional layer of it. So these two could influence each other. In this thesis the main focus will be on finding a strategy which could improve the social and economical status of the low-income or unemployed residents of Rotterdam South neighborhoods and this strategy will mainly use spatial and functional interventions for making this change. In other words the main tool for the empowerment of people in these deprived neighborhoods will be the spatial and functional (programmatic) changes. The sub-research questions which will help me to achieve the answer to the main research question, step by step, is explained in the next page.



1.3.2 Sub-Research and Design Questions

1. What are the socio-economical and spatio-functional characteristics related to deprivation of Rotterdam South neighborhoods?

Methodology:

Answering to this sub-research question will be done by **mapping** different spatial and functional features of the four neighborhoods of study in Rotterdam South, like public transport accessibility, building typology of the neighborhoods, quality and quantity of the public spaces and the land-use map of the neighborhoods. This analysis will combine with reviewing the social and economical **statistics** like rate of unemployment, housing value, percentage of immigrant and other social indicators. In addition to this, some **literature review** will be done in this part which is explained in the theoretical framework and **observation** of the area of study and **taking pictures** from the spatial features of the area will be another method for achieving a holistic understanding of the characteristics of the

2. How the socio-economical deprivation of Rotterdam South does relate to the Spatio-functional features of the area.

Methodology:

Answering to this question will be done mainly by **literature review** about the neighborhood effects of the concentrated poverty for understanding the features of deprived neighborhoods and the relation between socio-economical and spatio-functional characteristics of deprived areas. In addition to this **mapping** the spatio functional analysis of the neighborhoods of study in Rotterdam South will be done in more details, for example, the number of small businesses, offices, ... will be explored to understand if they are affected by the deprivation of the neighborhood. In this part of the thesis, spatio-functional problems and potential will be explored by a **SWOT** analysis which will help to understanding the necessary areas of focus in the proposal Design.

3. Which strategies will facilitate the transformation of deprived neighborhoods leading to the socio-economic empowerment of the people?/ by special focus on spatio-functional strategies.

Methodology:

For achieving a holistic answer to this sub-research question, a **review of the strategies** for the neighborhood transformation of Dutch deprived neighborhoods will be done to understand different approaches and the main areas of focus in this kind of interventions. In addition to this the **reference projects** about the neighborhood empowerment will be reviewed. In addition to this **interview** for understanding the needs and demands of the inhabitants will be another method for achieving the answer to this sub-research question. The other method is **reviewing literature** about the ways of empowerment of deprived groups mainly by spatial and functional (programmatic) changes.

Key Words

- Deprived Concentration
- Rotterdam south neighborhoods
- Socio-Economic transformation
- Empowerment
- Spatio-functional interventions

1.4 Theoretical Framework

Theoretical framework in this project is based on three main pillars which will lead me step by step towards a proposal strategy for the socio-economical transformation of the neighborhoods of study by spatio-functional interventions. In the following these three parts are explained:

1. Spatial Concentration of Deprived groups

The main focus of this part will be on the causes and consequences (negative and positive effects) of the concentration of disadvantaged groups in residential neighborhoods which will be done by reading literature mainly by Ronald van Kempen and Gideon Bolt. The main focus in this part will be on the social and economical aspects of the concentrated poverty. In addition to this a part of this research will focus on the multiculturalism of these deprived people.

As a result, a holistic understanding of the problems and potentials in Rotterdam South neighborhoods of study will be achieved which will lead me in the next part of literature review which is explained below.

2. Deprived Neighborhood transformation

This part of the theory will review the different strategies for the transformation of deprived neighborhoods in the Netherlands from the middle of 20th century till the last decades. The aim of this part is to gain a holistic overview of different areas of focus and approaches for making a socio-economical transformation in concentrated areas of poverty neighborhoods.

The result of this part will be a proposal approach for tackling the problems in concentrated areas of poverty neighborhoods and it will explain why the socio-economical empowerment will be a sufficient tool for making the transformation of these areas. It should be mentioned that the main authors that are being considered in this part are Paul Stouten and Rendon.

3. Neighborhood Empowerment

This part of literature review will first provide a clear definition of empowerment, and then it will focus on different kinds of empowerment in a neighborhood.

In addition to this the role which empowerment can play in the transformation

of deprived neighborhoods will be explored. This part will be followed by introducing different ways of socio-economical empowerment of deprived groups which will provide a basis for the proposal strategy and the areas of focus in the design part. In the diagram below the main pillars of the theoretical framework in relation to the main authors is shown.

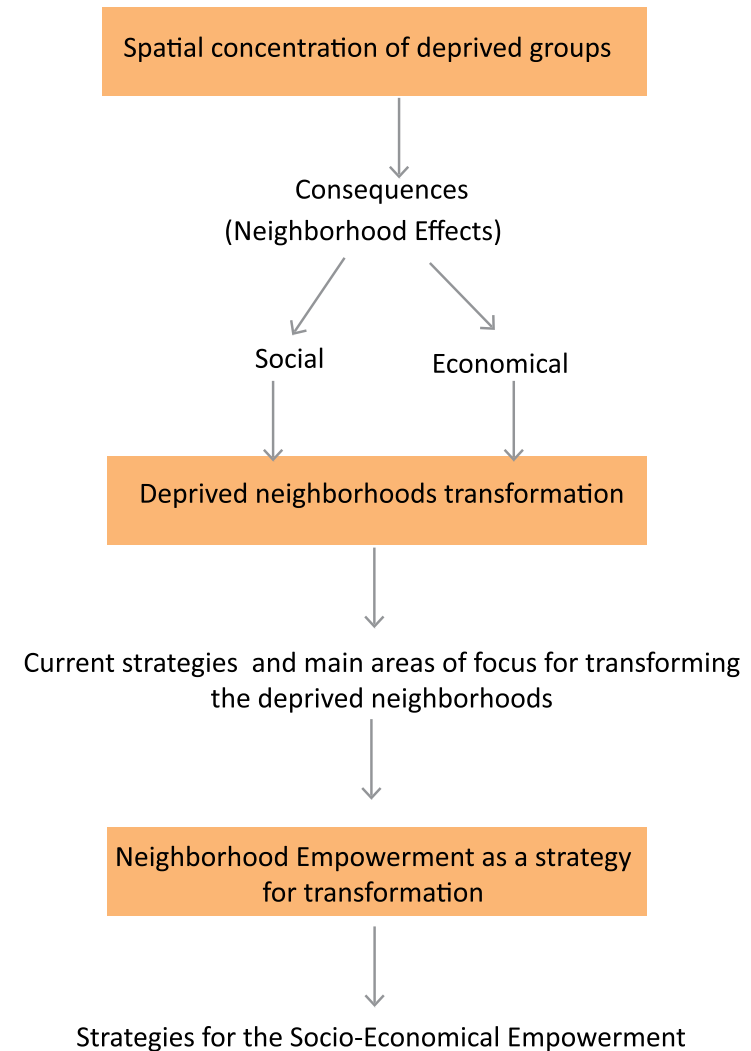
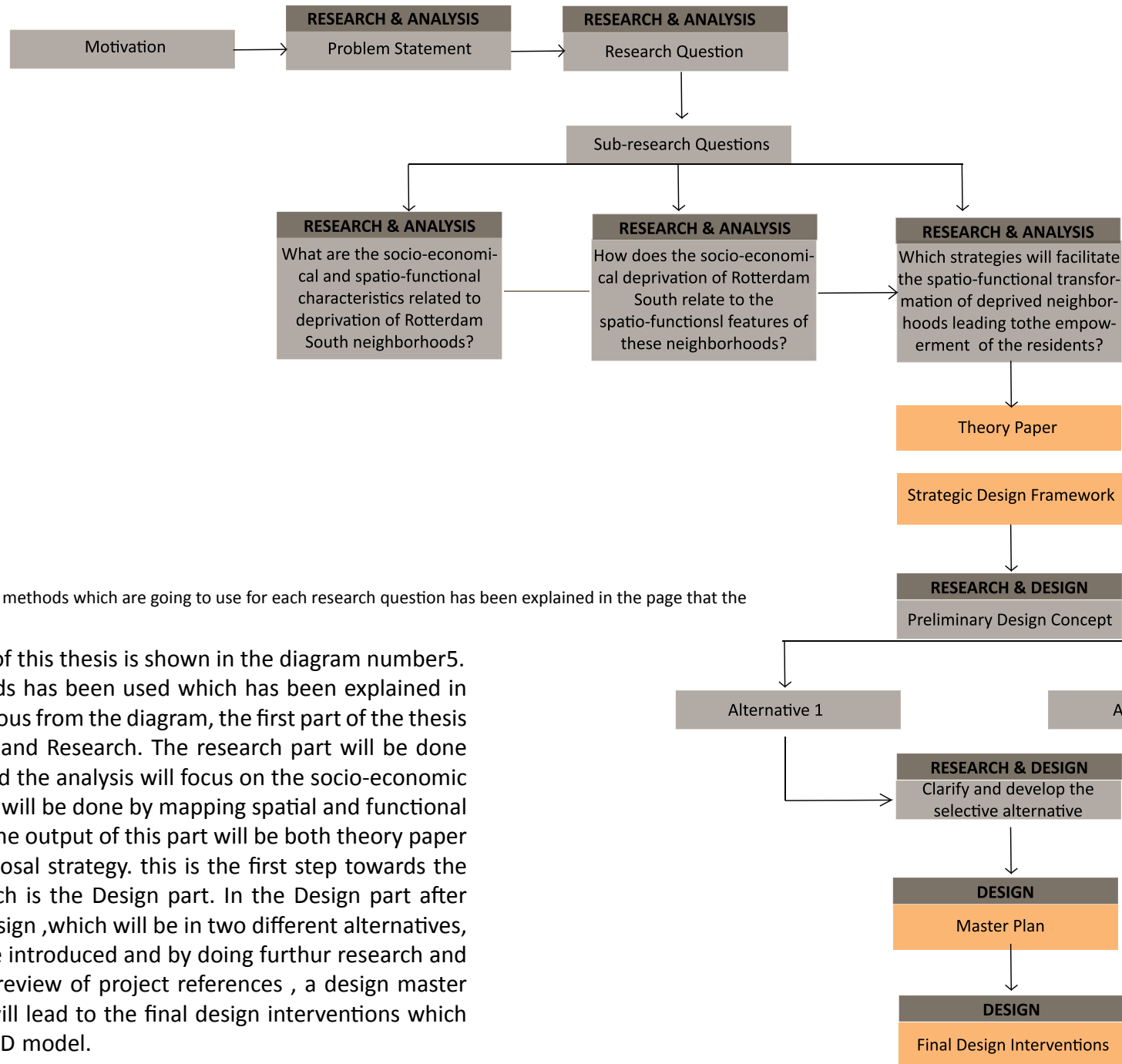


Diagram 4- Conceptual diagram for the Theoretical Framework, By Author



1.5 Methodology

*It is necessary to mention that the exact methods which are going to use for each research question has been explained in the page that the sub-research questions introduced.

The methodological structure of this thesis is shown in the diagram number 5. For each part different methods has been used which has been explained in the previous pages. As it is obvious from the diagram, the first part of the thesis will be done by both Analysis and Research. The research part will be done mainly by reading literature and the analysis will focus on the socio-economic statistic while the analysis part will be done by mapping spatial and functional features of the area of study. The output of this part will be both theory paper and a Framework for the proposal strategy. this is the first step towards the second part of the thesis which is the Design part. In the Design part after proposing a concept for the design ,which will be in two different alternatives, the selective alternative will be introduced and by doing furthur research and design which will include the review of project references , a design master plan will be proposed which will lead to the final design interventions which will be presented by a digital 3D model.

Diagram 5- Proposal Methodology and steps of the thesis, By Author

1.6 Outputs of the project

This thesis plan will be a combination of planning and design and the outputs of the project will be in three different stages, as it has explained in the following:

Strategy

A proposal strategy for the socio-economical empowerment of the deprived groups in the areas of study, which will be focus on the spatial interventions and functional interventions. this will be the first step towards the design part of the thesis

Master plan

A proposal master plan which will help to transfer the strategy to the design. It will contain long-term, mid-term and short term interventions.

Design

The design proposal which is a transformation of the master plan to more detailed designs will be the final output if this thesis.

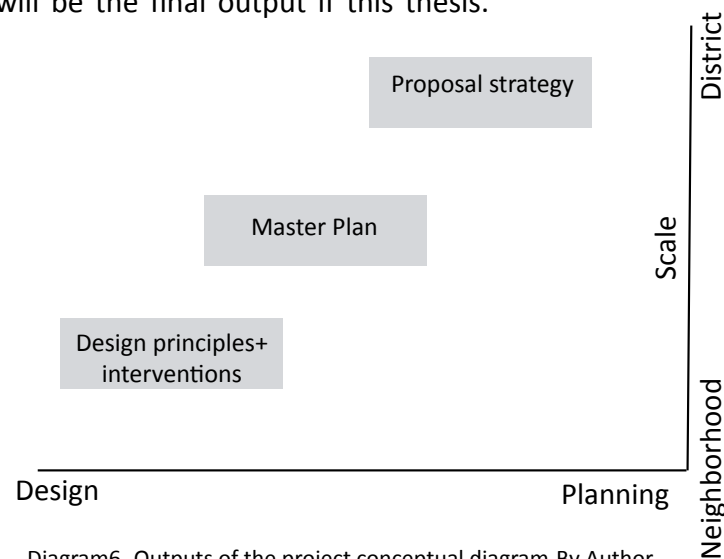


Diagram6- Outputs of the project conceptual diagram-By Author

1.7 Design Goal

This thesis will be done in 2 main chapters; one is the theory chapter which the framework of it has been explained in the previous pages and the other part will be the design which is about transforming the proposal strategy to a spatial context. The main goal of the design will be translating the proposal strategy for the socio-economical empowerment of the people living in deprived neighborhoods to spatio-functional proposal interventions. This part will consider different spatial elements in different scales, like buildings, blocks, streets, public spaces, ... as a context for economical and social activities which will be done by exploring the interaction between the spatial and socio-economic layer in the neighborhoods of study.

In addition to this in the design part some principles will be proposed which could be applied and implemented to other Dutch problematic neighborhoods because the deprived neighborhoods in the Netherlands have more or less the same spatial and socio-economic features like the concentration of pre-war housing typologies, high rate of immigrants, low rate of private-owned houses, high rate of low-income people, So the design principles could be trasformed to other areas as well.

1.8 Relevance

1.8.1 Societal relevance

Rotterdam South neighborhoods has gain a lot of attention both from the government and the municipality of Rotterdam because of the existing social and economical problems in these areas. Improvement of these neighborhoods both in the socio-economic and the spatial aspect becomes one of the VIP projects of Rotterdam municipality for the vision of 2030.

The municipality of Rotteram with the help of Veldacademie has invested on the transformation of these areas and a national programme is defined for Rotterdam South. There are different reasons for the focus on this issue . One of them is the serious social and economical problems that these areas are facing like high rate of crime, unemployment, school drop outs, .. and the other reason is because the city of Rotterdams vision is based on two main pillars: First: making balance in the housing composition and second: being attractive for the creative (middle) class (StadVisie Rotterdam for 2030, 2008). So the areas like Rotterdam South which are known as stigmas needs to be promoted according to the plans of the municipality and housing associations so that the whole city will be attractive for the middle class.

All of these factors are reflectors of the importance of working on these neighborhoods which could provide a better living environment for all of the people from different social classes, living in the second largest city of the Netherlands.

1.8.2 Academic relevance

Providing a better living environment for the people is the main goal of all the urban planner and designers both in the practice and the academic environment. This thesis, as explained before, is mainly focused on providing a better socio-economic situation for the deprived people and facilitating a better life for this special group. In other words it is gonig to find out how the physical built environmnet with the function of it (programme of the building, street, public space, ...) could contribute to the socio-economic empowerment. This is in the same direction of the goal of the Urban Design Fabric group in TuDelft which is trying to propose spatial solutions towards a better quality of life in our cities. In addition to this from a more general academic point of view, reviewing the litrature and research about the socio-economic empowerment

of the deprived could be in the same direction of serious issues of not only Urbanism, but also the Social science, Economic science and even politics.



Picture 5- The importance of Rotterdam South in the vision of Rotterdam 2030

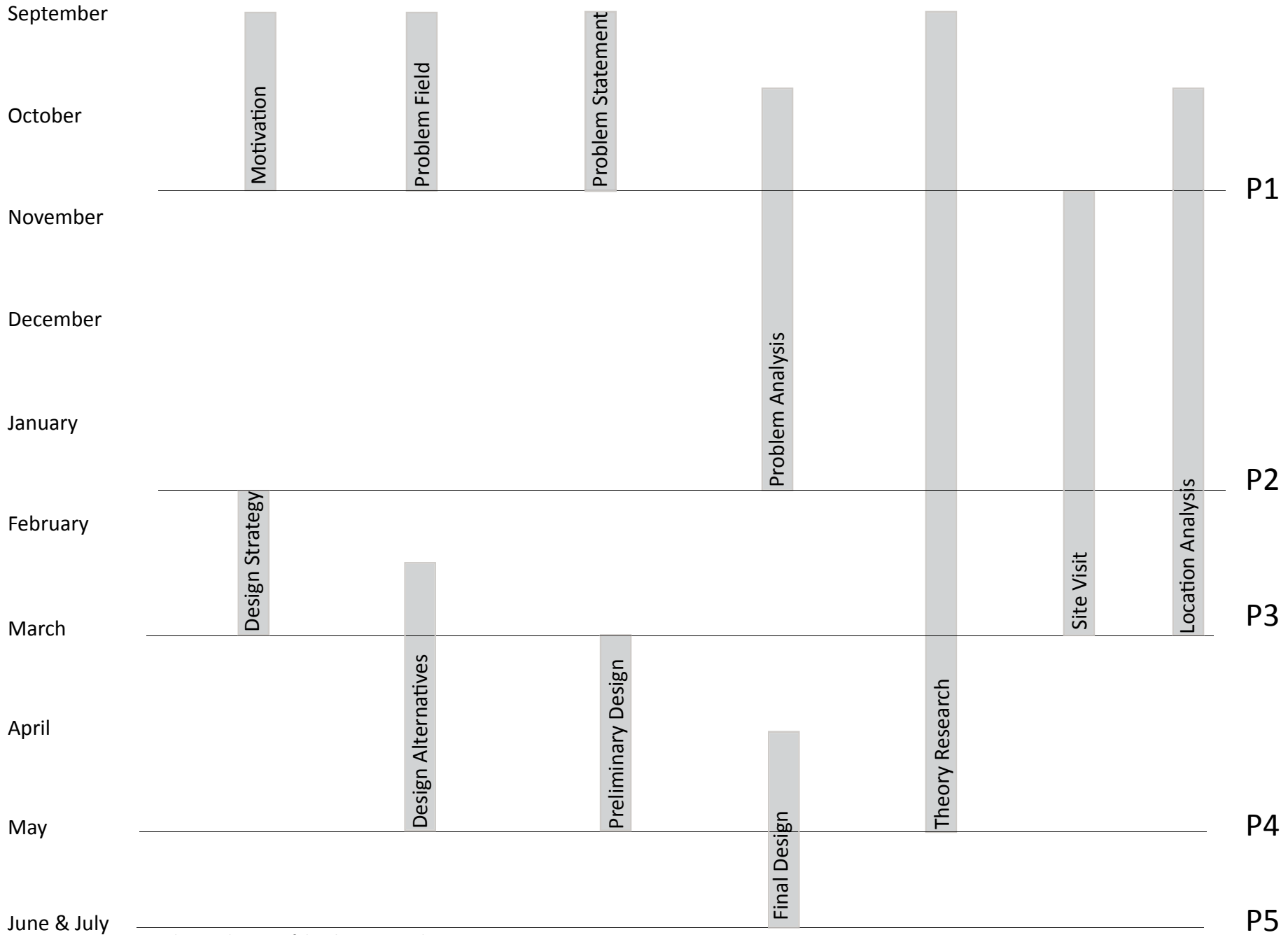
1.8.3 Graduation Orientation

The topic of this graduation thesis is related to both Spatial Planning theme and the urban Design Fabric because the main goal of it is to make a socio-economical transformation in some of the deprived neighborhoods of Rotterdam South which could be realized only if the issue will consider in both the planning and design scale. In other words for achieving a proper strategy for facilitating the social and economical empowerment, which is the main goal of the transformation mentioned above, in one hand it is necessary to understand the problems and potentials of the deprived neighborhoods of study from a more planning point of view which the output of it will be some proposal change in the policies while the other level will be proposing some spatial and functional instruments which leads to the socio-economical empowerment of deprived groups. From the point of view of the author of this thesis there is no strict border between the planning and design in urbanism field so it is not right to say that this thesis is 100 percent fits to this graduation theme or the other one, but I do picked the Urban Design fabric because my main issue is to find out how the physical built environment with the function of it (program of the buildings, street, public space, ...) could contribute to the socio-economic empowerment. This is in the same direction of the goal of the Urban Design Fabric group in TuDelft which is trying to propose spatial solutions towards a better quality of life in our cities. In addition to this the sub-research questions that are proposed which will help me towards answering the main research question have both planning and design contexts but the main step or the main issue in these sub-research questions has a more spatial context and is more related to the urban fabric. In the following this will be clarified by explaining the sub-research questions and the way they are related to the urban design fabric issues:

The references used for answering these sub-research questions are gathered in a way to consider the attitude of both planners and designers, it starts from Saskia Sassen, a pure planning theorist in order to clarify the main phenomena and the general issues related to the social and economical polarization and then for understanding the problems and potential in the area of study, the references have been picked from the writers who have more urban design way of thinking. These different categories of references could be the complementary of each other and they will provide a holistic understanding of

the possible design solutions for the socio-economical empowerment of the deprived groups of Rotterdam South.

1.9 Timetable



2.Theoretical Background

1. Deprived Neighborhoods

2. Urban Transformation

3. Empowerment



2.1 Spatial concentration of poverty - Deprived neighborhoods

This part of the literature review will provide a clear understanding of the effects of spatial concentration of deprived groups in neighborhood level. The advantages and disadvantages of this concentration, mainly focus on the social and economical neighborhood effects will be explored. The result of this part will be a holistic understanding of the socio-economical problems and potential in deprived neighborhoods which will help me to understand the necessary areas of focus for empowering these neighborhoods which will be done in the second part of the theory chapter.



2.1.1 Introduction

According to Gross & Eggers (1991) 'Structural conditions are features of the metropolitan environment that are beyond the control of individuals; they operate at the aggregate level to influence the fate of large numbers of people who share the same structural position' (Harry Goulbourne, 2001, p.82). One of these structure indicators is the poverty rate of some groups in the society and the spatial segregation that is related to it. Group poverty is resulted from the cities market forces which prescribes the spatial location, availability and jobs pensions in the metropolitan labour market (Gross & Eggers, 1991; Harry Goulbourne, 2001). As Wilson (1987) mentioned poverty rates are the result of the structural transformation of urban economy during the 1970 and 1980 which leads to a drastic change in the employment customs, reduction of manufacturing jobs and the expansion of low-paying service occupations contributed to a sharp rise of poverty in most of the big cities in Western Europe (Wilson, 1987; Harry Goulbourne, 2001).

This phenomenon makes spatial changes in the cities like increase in spatial segregation of poor and rich which intensifies the social isolation of specific groups from the mainstream of the society (Musterd & Ostendorf, 1998). As Commission of the European Communities (1993) emphasized:

'Social exclusion is now on the structural nature of a process which excludes part of the population from economic and social opportunities. The problem is not only one of disparities between the top and the bottom of the social scale, but also between those who have a place in society and those who are excluded' (Commission of the European Communities 1993; Musterd & Ostendorf, 1998, p.94).

The commission (1993) further noted that the exclusion has effects both on the individuals and the social groups who are segregated from the mainstream society in different aspects. This exclusion could have different reasons like the change in economical structure, change in family structure or the emergence of new migration forms (Musterd & Ostendorf, 1998).

This exclusion will have spatial consequences which one of the examples of it is the appearance of deprived neighborhoods, the spatial concentration of deprived and excluded people (Andersen, 2004). As pointed out by Vaughan and Arbacci (2011), 'the spatial concentration of special group of people in

part of a city is, historically, an undeniable urban reality because cities by their nature bring together heterogeneous people and activities' (Charalambous, 2011, p.3). This spatial concentration brings some problems which this chapter is dedicated to.

Reviewing the literature shows that a lot of different attitudes exist about the cause, consequences and the main problems in deprived neighborhoods which are even sometimes in contrast with each other, however the dominant view in European context is that the deprivation of neighborhoods are related to the segregation and social exclusion in the city (Andersen, 2004). In the following deprived neighborhoods has been explored from the point of view of different theorists.

2.1.2 Relation between segregation and deprived neighborhoods

According to Andersen (2004) and as mentioned in the introduction, the existence of deprived neighborhoods is because of the social segregation which is a trend that makes the concentration of people from lower levels of the social ladder in special parts of the cities with lower qualities (Andersen, 2004). An important factor that affects this spatial segregation is that in the search for location, people consider the accessibility to jobs, public transport, education, the social environment, which makes driving away of the poor people to deprived parts of the city (Andersen, 2004).

In other words 'urban decay is a result of the interaction between social, economic and physical changes in the cities' (Andersen, 2004, p.4).

'Segregation is the reflection of social structure on a spatial context , in other words segregation is related to class differences in terms of, for example, socio-economic position, education, housing and political representation' (Smet & Salman, 2008; Cassier & Kesteloot, 2012, p.1912). For understanding this issue better, it is necessary to take a look at the particular processes which shapes the spatial structure of our cities (Cassier & Kesteloot, 2012).

Van Kampen and Marcuse (1997) detected 'three forces through which societal processes are reflected in the spatial order:

- 1- Variations in the capital accumulation regime and capital flows which cause a shift in location strategies.
- 2- Demographic changes, as work opportunities make people migrate
- 3- The changing role of the public sector that forces people to rely more on market strategies for access to housing, which exacerbate segregation' (Cassiers & Kesteloot, 2012, p.1912).

In the case of Rotterdam South, all of these factors played a role in making this part of the city to be the concentration of deprivation, as explained in the first chapter the change of working structure (de-industrialization) makes a shift in flow of capital in the city and changed the location strategies from harbour and industrial spots to another parts of the city, mainly to the Northern part of the river. In addition to this the flow of low-income migrations and settling down near the harbour makes the south part concentration place of low-income and in the end as it will be mentioned later the change of responsibility of social housings from government to housing association and private sector was another important factor which intensifies the spatial concentration of

low-income people and deprivation in this part of the city.

For understanding the issue better it is necessary to understand the socio-spatial demographics of Rotterdam South in order to get a better understanding of deprivation in this part of the city and to check if a socio-economical segregation (leading to deprivation) exists in this part of the city or not. So in the following some socio-economical datas has been presented.

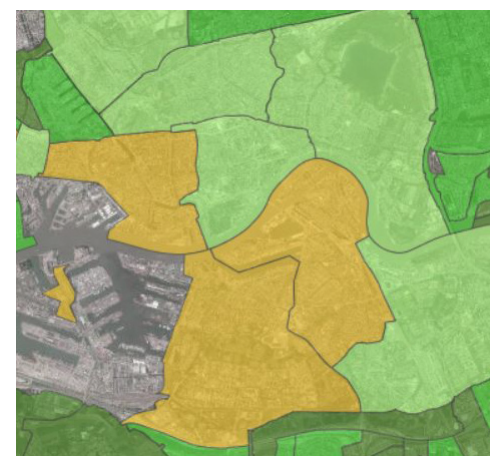
Socio-economical deprivation Rotterdam South neighborhoods

Many of the social problems faced by Rotterdam's Southbank are particularly concentrated in seven disadvantaged neighborhoods which four of them are in the study area of this thesis. As mentioned before about 8.8% of the inhabitants of Rotterdam South are unemployed which is slightly higher than the local average for Rotterdam which is 8.3%, this rate arises to 11.3% for the seven most disadvantaged neighborhoods in this area (Euro cities, Demographic change and active inclusion in Rotterdam South, 2012, p.4)

Many people ,living in this part, with a job are low-paid or they have part-time work. Also only 46% of the residents have completed their middle education compared with 62% for Rotterdam as a whole, and 72% nationally (Eurocities, Demographic change and active inclusion in Rotterdam South, 2012, p.4).

The table number - provides a general picture of the demographic and socio-economic situation of Rotterdam's Southbank, compared with the average of Rotterdam.

According to the demographics , Southbank neighborhoods have lower average household income; a higher percentage of households identified as being in poverty; a higher percentage of primary school children who have parents



with low or no qualifications and a higher proportion of pupils who drop out of school. In addition the security index across this area is far lower than for Rotterdam as a whole (Eurocities, Demographic change and active inclusion in Rotterdam South, 2012, p.5).

Map10- Neighborhood liveability, <http://www.leefbaarometer.nl/leefbaarheidskaarten>

The result of these features could be seen in the map number 10 which shows the degree of livability in the neighborhoods which is in average moderate for Rotterdam South. In the following this issue has been explained particularly for the four study neighborhoods.

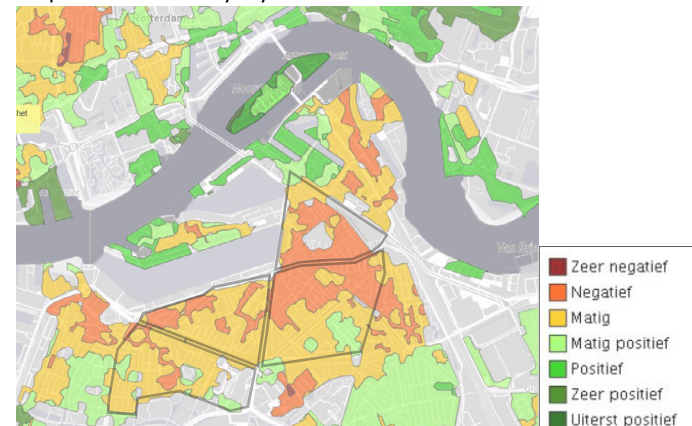
	Rotterdam			Pact op Zuid		
	Settlers	Leavers	Stayers	Settlers	Leavers	Stayers
Household income (*)						
Low	59	42	61	64	53	73
Middle	24	27	24	22	27	20
High	17	31	16	14	20	8
Education level (**)						
Low	15	18	26	22	27	39
Middle	41	33	32	42	38	38
High	44	49	42	36	36	24
Number of workers in household						
Dual-earner	23	39	25	25	33	22
One-earner	42	32	39	44	35	38
No earner	35	29	36	31	33	40
Income Source						
Paid job	66	74	63	69	65	57
Pension	4	7	9	3	8	12
Allowance	6	6	11	11	10	15
Student	19	8	9	11	10	6
Other / none	4	3	4	4	5	5
Unknown	2	2	4	3	3	6
Age						
-24	39	28	27	35	28	26
25-34	35	36	31	34	33	27
35-44	12	17	14	14	15	15
45-54	6	7	10	10	11	10
55+	8	12	18	7	14	22
Ethnicity						
native	55	60	46	41	48	39
immigrant	45	40	54	59	52	61
Dutch	55	60	46	41	48	39
Western non-Dutch	7	6	9	8	7	7
Non-western	38	35	45	51	45	54

Table1- Selective Migration process of Rotterdam, For Rotterdam as a whole and three Rotterdam South bank Districts, COS Rotterdam, adaption by Rene Keijzer, Demographic change and active inclusion in Rotterdam: 2012

Some of the socio-economical indicators has been surveyed for Rotterdam south neighborhoods by the Centre of Research and Statistics (COS) of the municipality of Rotterdam, they developed a model which has scored these neighborhoods in four values; safety, income, social and house value. The scores are set in relation to the average of Rotterdam (Waaier van Wijken, Trends in Rotterdam, 2010). These models are presented for the four neighborhoods of study (check diagram 8) . As it is obvious there is a considerable difference between these indicators for these four neighborhoods and the average rate (compare the area of the rectangle with green line and the blue line). Specially for neighborhoods of Carnisse and Afrikaanderwijk the difference is high which could be translated to deprivation of these neighborhoods in the socio-economical aspect.

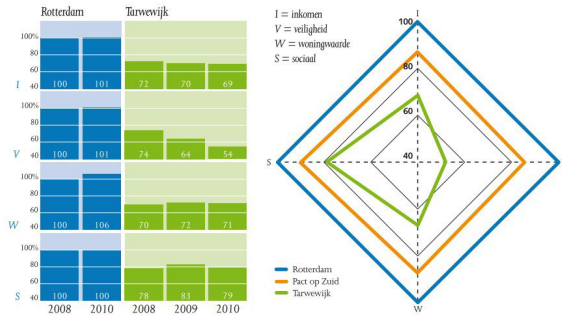


Map 11- Area of study- By Author

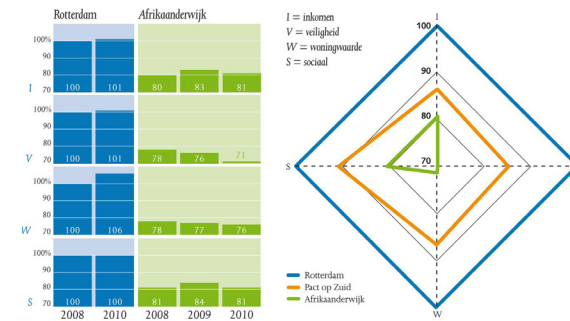


Map 12- Neighborhood liveability, <http://www.leefbaarometer.nl/leefbaarheidskaarten>

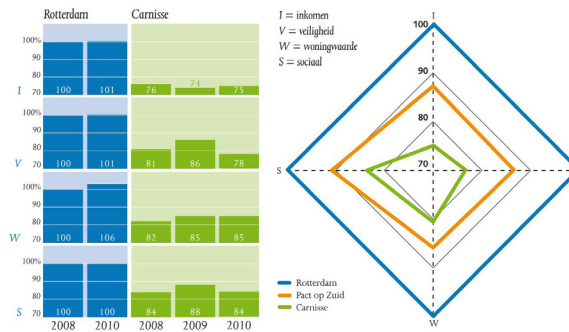
Tarwewijk



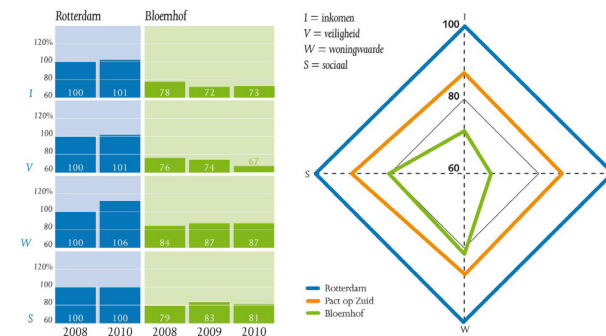
Afrikaanderwijk



Carnisse



Bloemhof



I=Income
W=Housing Value
V=Safety
S=Social

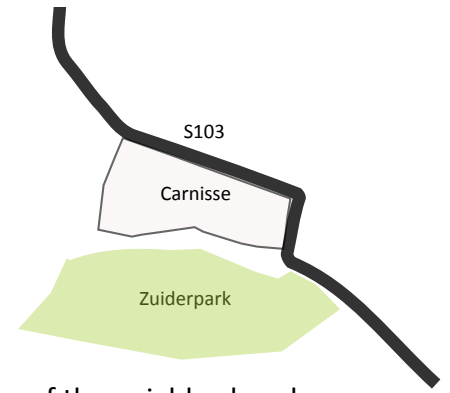
Diagram 8- Socio-economic indicators comparison between Rotterdam South and Rotterdam in average, COS 2010

Overall according to the descriptions in the previous page and the diagram above, a socio-economical deprivation and socio-economical segregation exists in Rotterdam South neighborhoods. This deprivation could be recognized mainly in the high number of unemployment, low housing value and the low degree of education.

Another factor that is needed to be explored is the spatial factor. In the following some analysis is done to understand if there is any spatial segregation of these neighborhoods in terms of connectivity and accessibility by the public transport or not. This is crucial for understanding the factors that are the reason or are intensifying the deprivation of this part of the city.



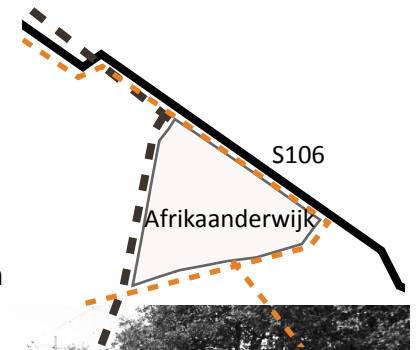
Map 13- Accessibility by public transport, Illustration by Author



Spatial segregation of the neighborhood



Picture6- Route S103, Google Maps Images



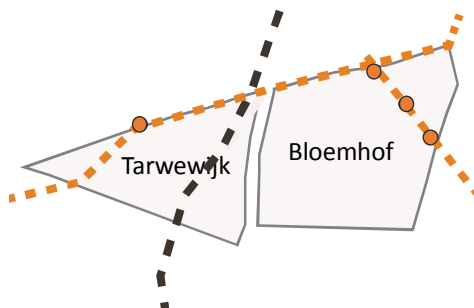
No Spatial segregation



Picture7- Route S106, Google Maps Images

Spatial Segregation

As it is obvious from the maps, a special spatial segregation in terms of public connectivity or accessibility to public transport can not be recognized because the neighborhoods of study and overall the Rotterdam South is quite well connected to the other side of the river and the center of Rotterdam by bus, tram, metro,.... So a segregation in a large scale does not exist but in a smaller scale some level of segregation could be seen for example for the neighborhood of Carnisse because it is in between a big-scale green area, ZuidPark, and the route S103 which is the regional route.



Picture8- High Line Metro in Tarwewijk, Google Maps Images

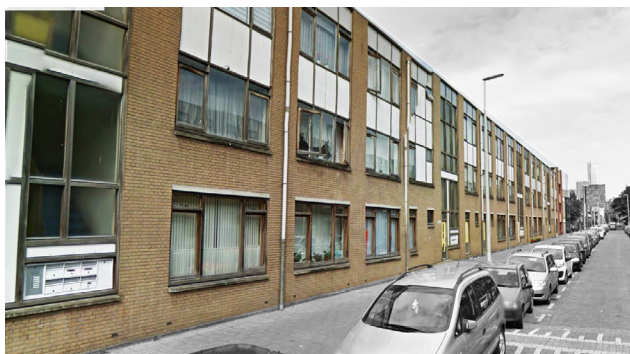


Imagery ©2014 Aerodata International

Map 14- Connectivity of the areas of study in a large scale, By Author

Spatial factors related to segregation

One of the spatial factors that intensifies the socio-economical segregation of the neighborhoods of study, is the high number of social housing that exist in this part of the city, as it mentioned before because this part of the city was planned and built for the harbour workers, the quality of the dwellings are low, so the price of the rent is also low which is the main reason of the attractiveness of these neighborhoods for the low-income people. The housing typology of an area has a direct relation with the socio-economical class of the inhabitants of that area (see diagram 9). Another fact about the housing of Rotterdam South neighborhoods is the low rate of private ownership and high rate of Rent corporation which is again a reflector of the concentration of low-income people and deprived classes in these neighborhoods.



Picture9-Few number of detached houses for middle-income people in the neighborhoods of study, Google Maps Images



Picture10- Social Housing is the dominant typology of the dwellings in the neighborhoods of study, Google Maps Images

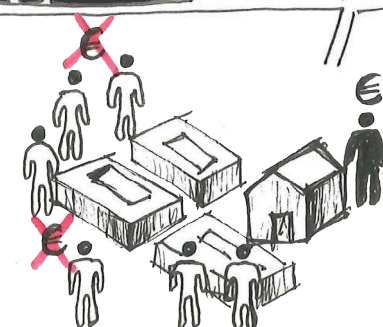
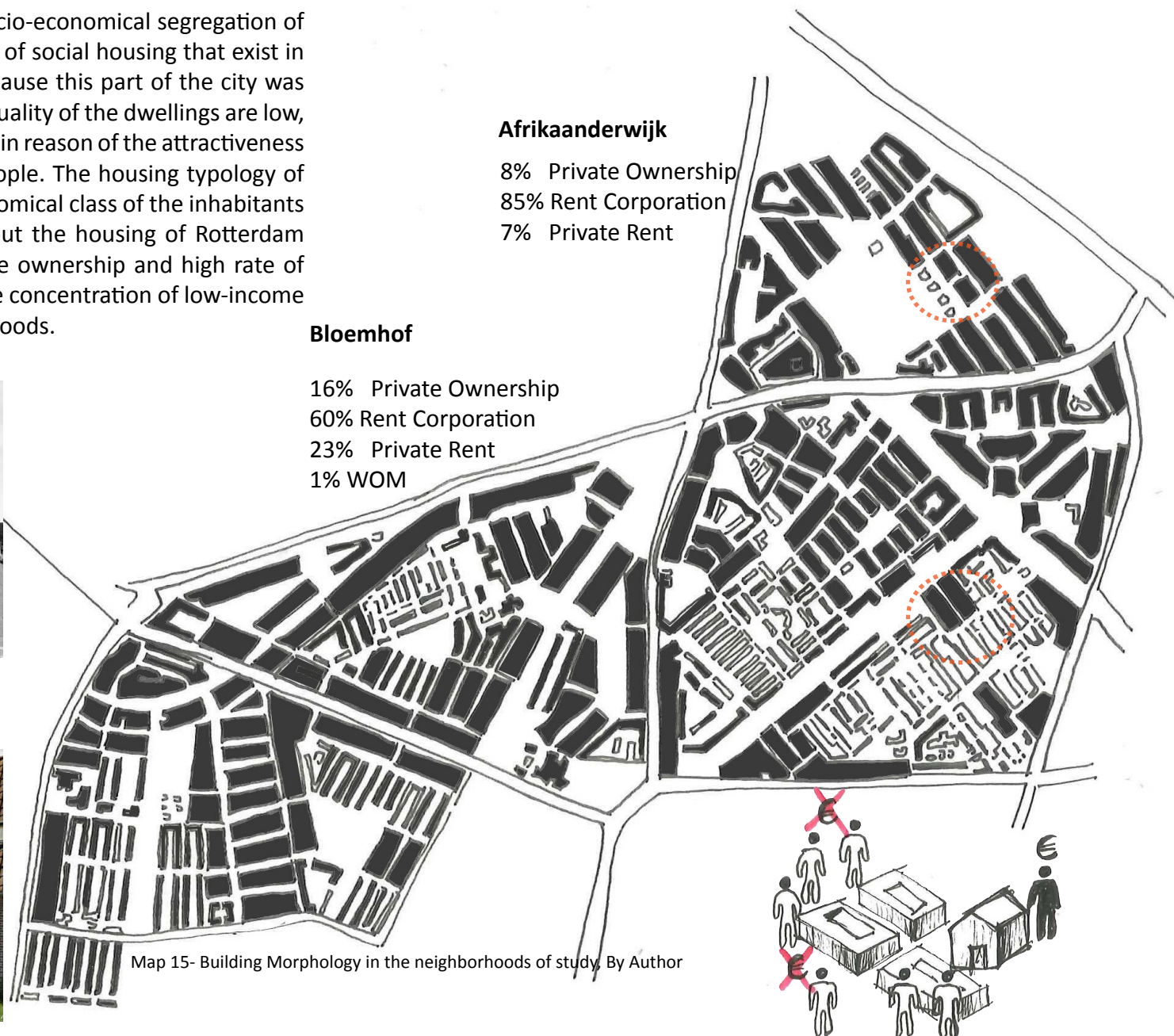


diagram9- Relation between housing typology and social classes

After understanding what deprivation means for Rotterdam South and the reflectors of socio- economic deprivation in one hand and the spatial features (mainly about the existence of segregation in neighborhood level), it is necessary to gain a better understanding of the process of neighborhood deprivation which is explained in the following.

As Andersen (2004) argues, ‘Deprived neighbourhoods are mainly understood as just spatial concentrations of poor people - “pockets of poverty” ‘(Andersen, 2004, p.1). ‘As a consequence of this understanding area based initiatives to reduce deprivation of neighbourhoods often are regarded as just efforts to combat social exclusion at a local level’ (Andersen, 2004, p.1).

In addition to this Andersen (2002) mentioned that deprived neighborhoods could be recognized also as places contributed to the interaction between socio-economic status and spatial order, as he argues such urban areas should be seen as self-perpetuating negative social, economic and physical processes take place that makes a decline in the quality of living environment in some parts of the city (Andersen, 2004). ‘These places can be seen as magnetic poles that attract poverty and social problems, and repel people and economic resources in a way that have an influence on other parts of the urban space ‘(Andersen, 2004, p.3).(see diagram number 3).

Overall there is an two-way relation between the deprivation of a neighborhood and its socio-economical or spatial segregation.

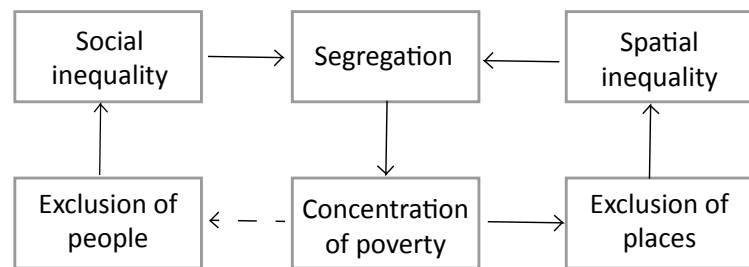


Diagram 10- Interaction between segregation and deprivation, Andersen, 2002

2.1.3 Self-perpetuating processes of deprivation and decay

According to Kirkegard (1985), deprived neighborhoods are places where a process of self-perpetuation happens as a negative output of physical, social and economical interactions (Andersen, 2004). Different writers have written about this issues, like Taylor (1998) who pointed to ‘the cycle of labelling and exclusion’, Gibb et al (1999) who mentioned the ‘independent neighborhood effects to do with cumulative decline’ and Hall (1997) who talked about the ‘downward spirals and dynamics in deprived neighborhoods (Andersen, 2004). All these statements refer to a process of deprivation and urban decay which is created by the interaction of inside and outside forces of deprived neighborhoods (Andersen, 2004) which has explained in the following.

2.1.3.1 Interior processes of neighborhood deprivation

The interior process of deprivation is about the negative social, economical and spatial changes that take place inside the deprived area which could be seen as a process which is affected by social norms and behaviors that impacts the physical and socio-economical status of a neighborhood (Andersen, 2004).

2.1.3.2 Exterior processes of neighborhood deprivation

The exterior process of deprivation points to the interaction between the deprived neighborhood and the city. As Andersen (2004) argues, the interior deprivation of a neighborhood makes a negative image of it which makes the decrease in the flow of capital, like private and public investment, and flow of people to these areas. As a result middle-income and high-income people won’t choose these areas for living because of the stigma and the low attractiveness of them. In this way these areas face with more decline and will attract only poor people (Andersen, 2004). In addition to this according to Van Kampen (1998), the other factor that could make a negative impression of deprived neighborhoods is the missing or the low number of public facilities like shops, banks, cafes, cinemas,... in the deprived neighborhoods which could make these areas less attractive for the outsiders (Andersen, 2004).

Overall it could be concluded that the common notion that explains the deprivation of a neighborhood as a consequence of segregation is not complete (Andersen, 2004). It is more logical to see this phenomenon as a two-way interaction between segregation and deprivation, so the social and spatial segregation intensifies the deprivation and vice versa. The diagram below provides a better understanding of this process.

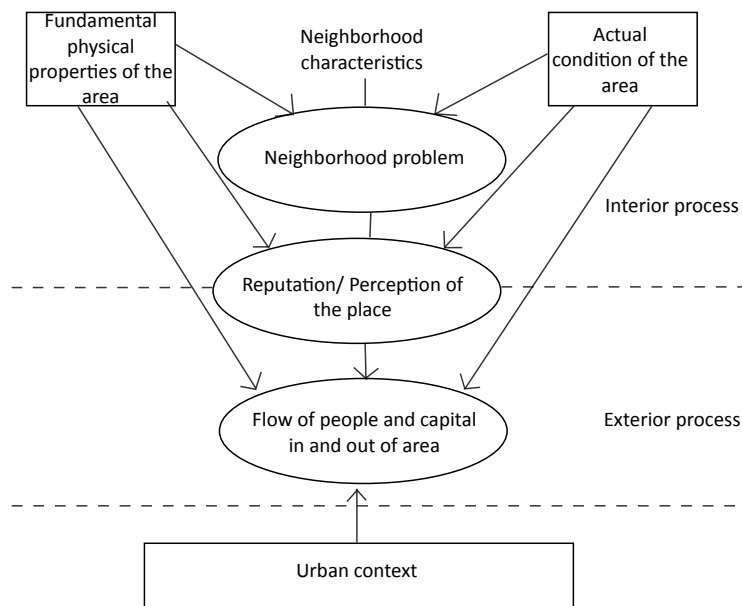


Diagram 11- Process of neighborhood deprivation, Andersen, 2004

After achieving a holistic understanding of deprivation and the process of it, it is necessary to explore the effects of deprivation on the residents of a neighborhood from different aspect; social, economical and even the effect of deprivation on the physical environment. The next part of literature review will help to understand the main negative and positive consequences of the spatial concentration of deprived groups in a neighborhood.

2.1.4 Neighborhood effects of concentration of deprived

In the following the literature will focus on the effects of concentrated poverty in the neighborhood level. Most of the research on poor neighborhoods deals with the size and nature of neighborhood effects and they are mainly focused on the negative effects of such concentration (Kleinhans, van der Land & Doff, 2010). The main concern about such effects is about the social networks and social capital related to the neighborhood that one is living in (Kleinhans, van der Land & Doff, 2010). The context of poor neighborhoods very likely affects the nature and strength of social interactions like residents attachments. "Concentrated poverty, crime, perceived disorder and social heterogeneity often hamper residents emotional bonds to their local environment " (Kleinhans, van der Land and Doff, 2010, p.384).

Lots of researchs have been done about this topic and most outcomes insist that a relation exist between the neighbourhood and individual outcomes (Manley, Ham, & Doherty, 2011). Wilson (1987, 1991) is generally regarding as the starting point of the neighborhood effects debate, he developed his notion of negative neighborhood effects within the context of the labour market and the problem of long-term unemployment (Bridge, Butler & Lees, 2011, p.153). He suggested that concentration of individuals experiencing long-term unemployment in certain neighborhoods could lead to outcomes that include "negative social dispositions, limited aspirations and casual work habits"(Wilson, 1991, p.642; Bridge, et al, 2011, p.154). Another example of such research is a study done by Overman (2002) who concluded that neighbourhood characteristics influenced the individual results of kids in schools.

In the following these neighborhood effects has been discussed both the negative ones and the positive ones, which will help to understand the problems and potentials in deprived neighborhoods.

Concentration of deprived groups in a neighborhood intensifies lack of access to information, jobs and social interaction.

2.1.4.1 Disadvantages of concentration of deprived groups

Economic disadvantage

Morris (1987) suggests that the spatial concentration of poverty in a neighborhood may have negative effects on the social relation of the residents which directly influences their chances for finding a job because of the limited access to the information resulted by poor social networks (cf. Hughes and Madden, 1991; Bolt et al, 1998). In addition to this the concentration of low-income groups might also lead to fewer opportunities for informal economic activities. For example in a mix class of income neighborhood, high-income households can generate demand for services that low-income individuals can supply, jobs like childcare, house cleaning, housekeeping, ..., but when there is a homogeneity this applies to housekeeping, odd jobs, cleaning and child care in particular (Bolt et al, 1998).

As Bolt et al (1998) argue, 'the critical issues here is that a high degree of concentration of low income people will not allow the contact between those who offer this kind of work and those who can perform it'. According to Gronovetter (1973), 'the "weak ties", so relevant in terms of offering information about labor market opportunities, are missing in these neighborhoods' (Bolt et al, 1998, p.86). This issue will be analysed and more explained about the neighborhoods of study in the next chapter. Also in the table below a comparison between some of the economic indicators like unemployment, households in poverty, ... for the Rotterdam South is introduced.

Subject	National	Rotterdam	Southbank	7QL
Residents	16,654,000	610,412	193,982	76,728
Average household income per year	34,300	29,200	25,700	24,000
Unemployed	6.3	8.3	8.8	11.3
Household in poverty	7	13	14	19
Estimated tax value private owned houses	233	163,8	128,9	106,7

Table 2- Economical Indicators comparison of Rotterdam and Rotterdam South, EuroCities NLAO, 2012

Norms and Values

The agglomeration of socially deprived groups could intensify the isolation of this group because of the weak situation that they have in the society, for example dependency to the welfare state (Bolt et al, 1998).

According to Engbersen and Snel (1996), the deviant norms towards work is more common in the neighborhoods with high rate of unemployed people (Bolt et al, 1998). In addition, alternative "survival strategies", like the informal and criminal activities are more common in these neighborhoods which is because of the lack of social cohesion which could be intensified by the morphological structure of the neighborhood as well (Bolt et al, 1998).

There are some evidence as confirmation of these hypothesis; Musterd (1996), for example, found that 'the social participation of the people in neighborhoods with an over-representation of unemployed and low-educated people is lower than the social participation of people outside these areas or in a deprived neighborhood of a small Dutch city, Terpstra (1996) found that the willingness to accept a job was very small, and living on unemployment benefits was accepted as a normal way of life' (Bolt et al, 1998, p.86).

Amenities and the neighborhood

Concentration of poverty effects the quality and quantity of the public facilities specially commercial services in a neighborhood, because when a high degree of segregation in terms of income exists, the service structure in low income districts will feel the effects much more acutely than in the event of a low degree of segregation by income (Sarkissian, 1976; Messy and Denton, 1993). A concentration of poverty can have negative effects on the presence of non-commercial facilities as well. This happens specially when the residents of the area are not affordable enough to demand for public facilities and standing up for themselves (Bolt et al, 1998).

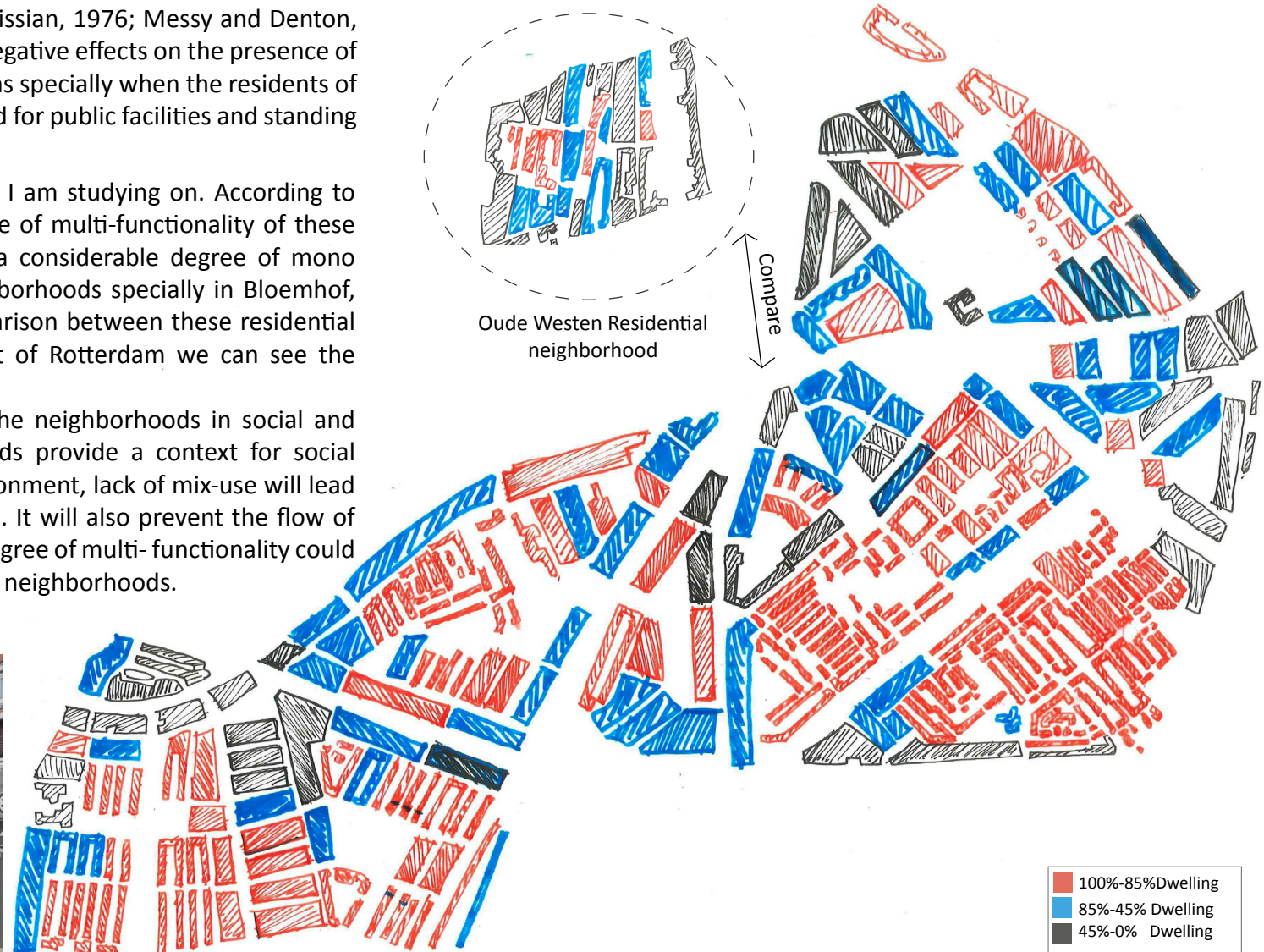
This is true for the four neighborhoods that I am studying on. According to the map number 16 which shows the degree of multi-functionality of these neighborhoods it is obvious that there is a considerable degree of mono functionality (the red blocks) in these neighborhoods specially in Bloemhof, Carnisse and Tarwewijk. If we make a comparison between these residential blocks and a residential block in other part of Rotterdam we can see the difference more explicit.

This feature could have consequences for the neighborhoods in social and economical terms; as mix-use neighborhoods provide a context for social interactions and a vital socio-economic environment, lack of mix-use will lead to a non-vital socio-economical environment. It will also prevent the flow of capital in these neighborhoods. overall low degree of multi- functionality could decrease the socio-economic vitality of the neighborhoods.



Picture 12- Mono functionality in Bloemhof, By Author

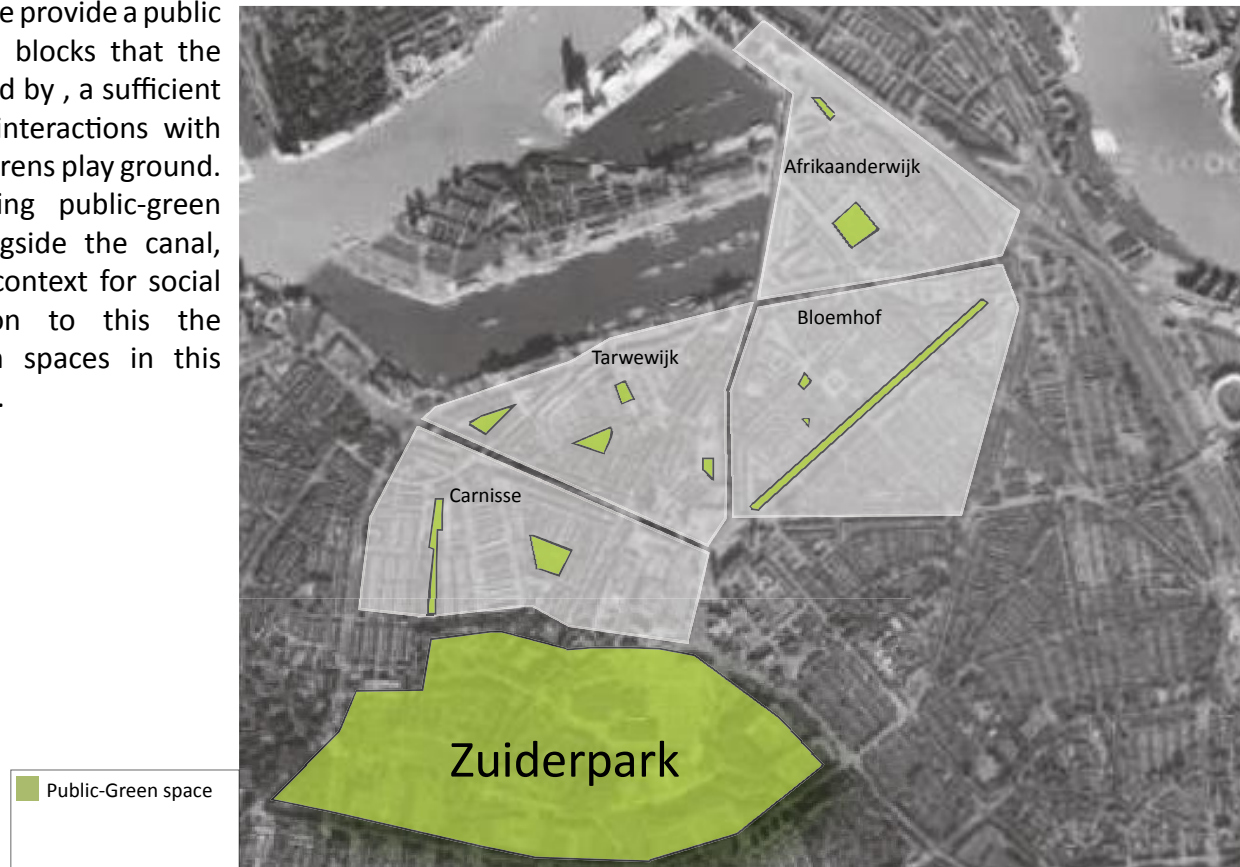
**Concentration of poverty erode
the economic base for commercial
services.**



Map 16- Multi-functionality and Mono-functionality of the Blocks in the neighborhoods of study, By Author

In addition to the commercial services, one of the other public facilities that could be affected by deprivation of a neighborhood and concentration of poverty is the public space. In the map below public-green spaces are explored in the neighborhoods of study. This is more about the quantity and spatial distribution of green spaces in each neighborhood.

As it is obvious from the map below, there is a big green space in the centre of Afrikaanderwijk which makes it a good spot for being a local centre; providing social interactions between the residents. The only weakness in relation to green space in this neighborhood is the lack of semi-public spaces, spaces for 3 or 4 blocks which is less public than this central green space. In contrary in Tarwewijk there are considerable number of small-scale green spaces which have a sufficient spatial distribution in the neighborhood, this feature provide a public space mainly for 3 or 4 blocks that the green space is surrounded by, a sufficient place for having social interactions with the neighbors or the childrens play ground. In Bloemhof the existing public-green spaces are linear alongside the canal, which hardly provide a context for social interactions. In addition to this the number of public-green spaces in this neighborhood are few.



Map17- Public-Green Spaces in the neighborhoods of study, By Author



Large green space in the centre of neighborhood



Lack of green public space in this neighborhood specially in the southern part of it



small scale distributed green spaces makes a good opportunity for social interactions





Picture 13- Afrikaanderplein, Big green space in the centre of the neighborhood, By Author

After the site visit it becomes clear for me that some of the existing public-green spaces in these four neighborhoods are not working well because of the low quality of them; some of these spots are just open spaces and not public places. In other words they don't have the features that a public space should have for being vital like various furniture's for different kind of uses, variety of amenities, Overall most of the public spaces are not gathering spots for the local people. Especially in Tarwewijk and Bloemhof this issue is worse. In addition to this most of these public spaces are surrounded only by dwellings and there are no facilities like cafes, retails, near them which is another reason that prevents the vitality of these public spaces. In general these neighborhoods are suffering from lack of vital public spaces. This issue will be addressed more in the following chapters.



Picture 14- Bloemhof, low quality of public spaces , By Author



Picture 15- Tarwewijk, low quality of the childrens playground , By Author

Furthermore poverty concentration neighborhoods typically have access to fewer private, non-profit, or public institutions and organizations that work to improve the quality of life and opportunities (National poverty centre paper, 2006). This concentration also affects the condition of the living environment mainly the dwellings; homeowners may have no money to invest on their dwelling and landlords may not take care of their properties. This could make a cycle of decay because fewer people will find it necessary to invest in the dwelling which makes more and more decline of the quality of houses and over all the living environment (Massy and Denton, 1993).

Development of stereotypes

Segregation and concentration of deprived could have another effect; As Wacquant (1996) suggests 'Such areas become isolated territories viewed by both outsiders and insiders as social purgatories, urban hellholes where only the refuse of society would accept to dwell' (Wacquant, 1996, p.125; Bolt et al, 1998, p.88). This attitude makes these neighborhoods non attractive areas for the middle or high income classes because of the relative low rate of safety and high rate of social problems in them. In this way they decline in their position in the housing market (Bolt et al, 1998).

Social Isolation

'Many studies on poverty in neighborhoods and its (potential) negative effects focus on the question of 'social isolation'' (Wilson, 1996; van Eijk, 2010, p.89). According to Small (2007), 'the question of social isolation in poor neighborhoods is, at heart, an issue of how people develop networks which is the main challenge of the social isolation theory related to deprivation' (Small, 2007, p.181). Villa suggests the social capital in a neighborhood could be affected by concentration of poor people (Small, 2007).

In addition to this the social isolation thesis claims that the absence of resource-rich people in high-poverty neighborhoods makes it difficult for resource-poor people form relationships with resource-rich people and this affects their options to improve their societal and economic status (van Eijk, 2010, p.90). Wilson's analysis thus indicates that the neighborhood is a crucial cause of network inequality (van Eijk, 2010, p.90).

As explained, the spatial concentration of deprived groups could have several negative neighbourhood effects. Besides these disadvantages it is crucial to find out if this concentration could have advantages or not. So the following literature is about the positive effects of concentration of poor people, mainly immigrants, in the Dutch deprived neighbourhoods.

2.1.4.2 Advantages of concentration of deprived groups

Social and cultural advantages

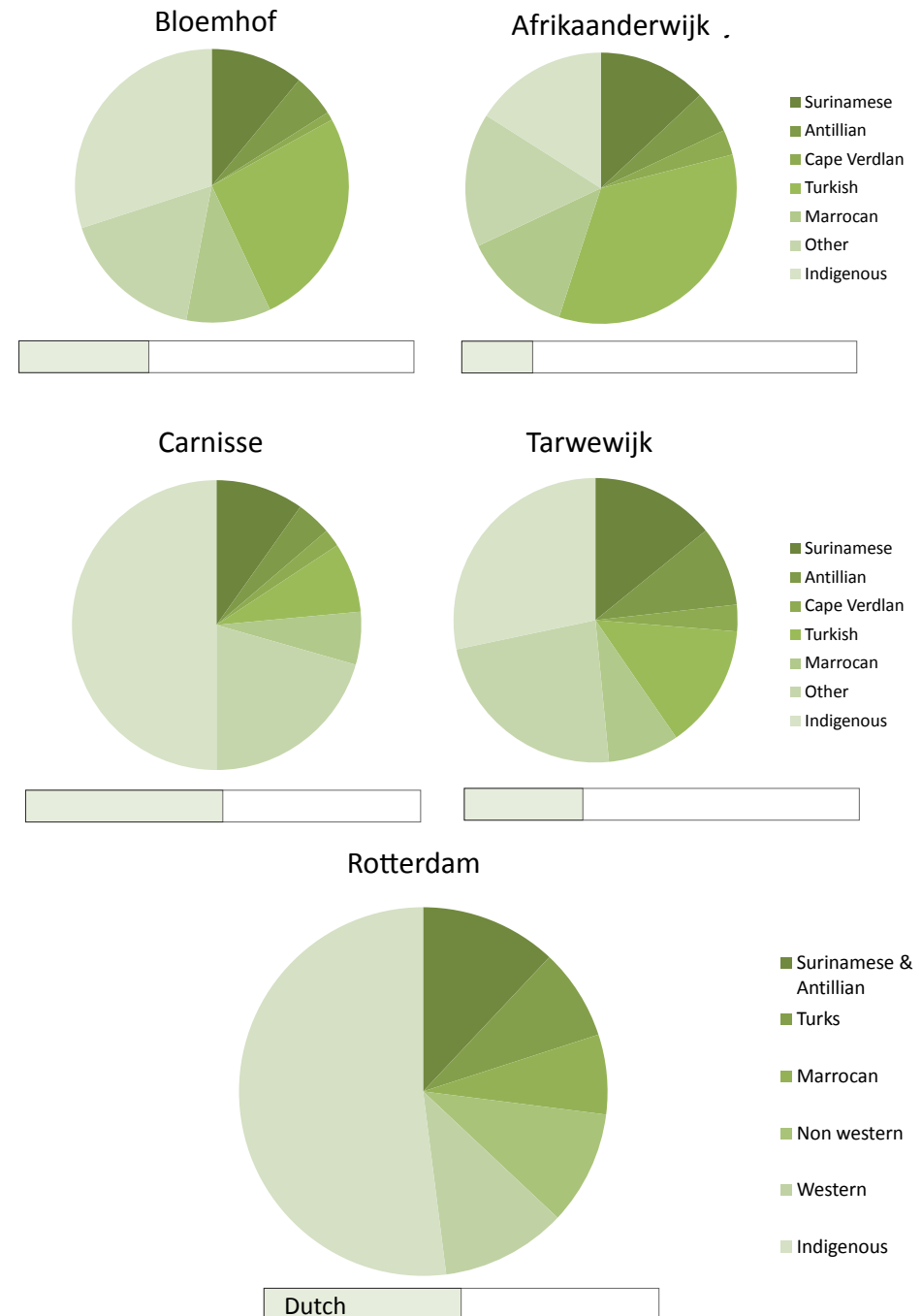
The existence of the homogeneous people who have the same features in terms of social class or ethnic could be seen as one of the positive aspects of spatial segregation and concentration. Social contacts in these areas can lead to the emergence and preservation of a culture that is totally different from the culture of the mainstream society (Bolt et al, 1998). The effort to maintain a minority culture could also spread in the commercial environment like creating of specific retails, clubs and religious institutions (Bolt et al, 1998). This social difference could provide an economical basis for some entrepreneurs which is explained in the next part.

Economic advantages

Concentration of ethnic groups which is one of the features of the deprived neighborhoods in the Netherlands, could provide a basis for special kind of businesses; small ethnic enterprises which are related to the demands of migrants. This is an important opportunity for these kind of neighborhoods not only for the economical improvement of them but also for enhancing the social networks among the inhabitants of these neighborhoods (Bolt et al, 1998).

In the Netherlands the relationship between minority ethnic enterprises and urban renewal shows a number of characteristics that are important to Dutch cities. Minority ethnic enterprises were mainly set up in urban renewal areas. This concentration was the result of developments causing immigrant groups to be assigned accommodation in those areas. Some areas developed an ethnic infrastructure consisting of a network of businesses, retailers, services and religious and welfare services. Unemployment stands out as one of the main reasons for starting a business. From 1986 to 1992 the number of minority ethnic entrepreneurs in the Netherlands more than doubled, increasing from 9400 to 19000. In recent years immigrant entrepreneur have been more often active in businesses such as the provision of commercial services. Another important characteristic of immigrant business sector is that it involves business or shops that rely on cheap and loyal labour supplied by family and relatives (Stouten, 2010, p.89).

This feature could be considered as one of the potentials in economical aspect in the deprived multi-cultural neighborhoods of Rotterdam South. As it has shown in the charts, there is a considerable number of ethnic groups living in these four neighborhoods specially in Bloemhof and Tarwewijk. This characteristics could provide a basis for ethnic enterprises and local businesses which is one of the main focuses of this graduation thesis.



Picture 16- Multicultural Neighborhood, Google Images

Diagram 11- Percentage of Minority Ethnic groups in the neighborhoods of study, statistics from CBS, Illustration by Author

2.1.5 Conclusion

According to what mentioned in this part, the spatial concentration of deprived people could have both negative and positive effects which is also true for the Rotterdam South neighbourhoods. These negative and positive effects will be considered in the next chapters for proposing a strategy which is going to use the positive effects as potentials and will try to tackle the negative effects. But before doing this, it is necessary to have an overview of the strategies which have been implemented to these areas in the recent years.

In the recent years a lot of effort has been done by the government and the municipality of Rotterdam for solving the problems of deprived neighborhoods which is more focused on the negative effects of this concentration of poverty. Different strategies and policies has been taken in this relation specially after the end of the 1960s. This is what the next chapter is dedicated to which will provide an overview of the past and current trends and strategies for transforming these neighborhoods.

2.2 Urban transformation- Deprived neighborhoods

This chapter will explain different approaches for the urban transformation of problematic deprived neighborhoods in the Netherlands by special focus on Rotterdam. Different strategies for urban transformation will be explored from 1970s till the recent years and in the end the approach that is going to be used in this thesis will be clarified in relation and in comparison with the other approaches.



Urban regeneration of deprived neighborhoods in Netherlands-Rotterdam

Urban renewal and restructuring in low-income neighborhoods which most of the time includes a high population of ethnic minority has always been a great concern for the government and municipalities in the Netherlands and the other western European countries (Rendon, 2012). Specially since the 1970s when a number of urban renewal policies have tried to respond to the effects of socio-economic and political shifts which not only increased the number of low-income or unemployed people but also the degree of multiculturalism of the society (Rendon, 2012).

In this part a brief review of regeneration policies for problematic neighborhoods mainly in Rotterdam has been done which explores different strategies from around 1970s till the last decade.

2.2.1 Urban Renewal before 1974- Housing improvement through massive demolition

In the Netherlands the policies of urban renewal dates back to the end of 1960s, when focus on Housing was the main concern of these policies (Stouten, 2010). This was also true for Rotterdam low-income neighborhoods where demolitions for new constructions of dwellings and roads, which was intended to improve the physical and economical situation, were the main strategy for the renewal. The weakness of this strategy was that it did not consider the



Picture17- Demolition as a strategy for Urban transformation, Google Images

needs and interests of the weak groups of the society in residential neighborhoods, so these actions provoked tenants protest, claiming different housing rehabilitation and development approaches in a context of strong political agitation in Europe and the rest of the world (Rendon, 2011).

2.2.2 Urban Renewal from 1974 to 1993- Building for the neighborhood vs. Building for the market

'In the 1975 policy document on urban renewal, the new mayor and city councillors laid down the basic principles of urban renewal .Special attention was paid to the lowest paid and to individuals who could be considered vulnerable members of society' (Stouten, 2010, p.111).

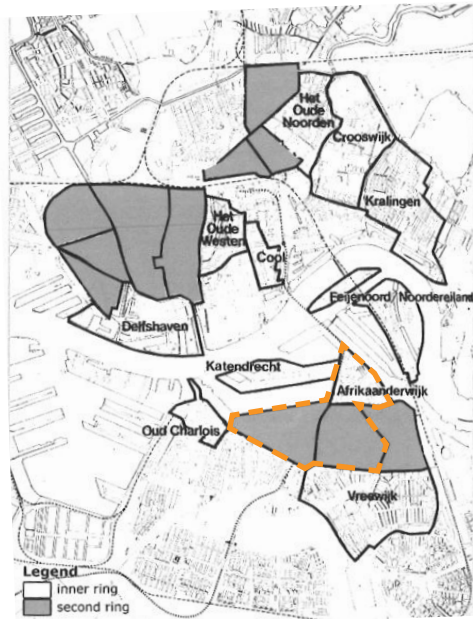
This was the consequence of the oppositions of residents, from the mid 1970s autocratic mainstream programmes which were mainly based on demolition and reconstruction replaced by new policies based on the socialisation and democratisation of housing and neighborhoods (Rendon,2012).



Picture 18- Demonstration of Inhabitants of Rotterdam in opposition to urban renewal policies, Stouten, 2010

The residents participation in the Urban planning process becomes important

At this time "Building for the neighborhood" was the slogan of the urban renewal policy (Stouten, 2010). 'It was oriented towards building and renewing affordable housing through shifting private rental to social housing. The policy was mainly for inner city areas and low-income households. It addressed active participation of tenants without changing the social composition of the neighborhood' (Hulsbergen and Stouten, 2001; Rendon, 2011, p.35).According to Stouten (1995) 'The approach was based on a coalition between residents, local authorities, organisations and housing associations, with a high degree of government intervention' (Stouten, 1995; Rendon, 2011, p.35).



Picture 19- Areas of focus for Urban Renewal in Rotterdam, Stouten, 2010

As Stouten (2010) mentioned at that time the principles for urban renewal were based on three main pillars:

- **Building for the neighborhood**, which was mainly about considering the needs and requirements of the residents living in the areas under renewal.
- **Decentralization and democratization**, which was about changing the structure of decision making and the municipality was not the only decision maker anymore, but people were also involved and had the opportunity to talk about their needs in their residential neighborhood.
- **Socialisation of the housing provision**, According to the city council, landlord were the main responsible of housing decay in problematic neighborhoods because they didn't invest for maintaining the houses, so the new idea tried to make the housing associations involve in the maintenance of housing and bring these properties to the social sector (Stouten, 2010).

The main goal of this strategy was to facilitate the incorporation of the residents in the process of decision making for their neighborhoods. The strategy leads to a considerable change in the urban planning process (Stouten, 2010). This policy lasted about two decades, but in the beginning of 1990, urban renewal programmes changed their focus from building for the neighborhood to building for the city (Stouten, 2010; Rendon, 2012).

During the 1980s because of the political and economical changes a drastic shift took place in the urban renewal policies in Rotterdam which is explained above:

- According to the newly elected local government, financial resources had to be spent in the other urban areas and focus on other issues.
- The state's economy forced local authorities to find new ways for continuing urban regeneration which was about working with private investors on the projects mainly focused on building for new categories of residents.
- Opposition to cooperating with the market in the provision of housing, some of which came from members of the labour party, was gradually disappearing, even among social democrats which has a great influence on the urban renewal projects (Stouten, 2010, p.123).

Around 1980 Building for the neighborhood was the main slogan for the Urban Renewal which active participation of tenants was a main part of it



Picture 20- Inhabitants Participation in the decision making process as a policy of Urban Renewal, Google Images



Bloemhof- 1981



Bloemhof- 1990

At the same time socio-economic inequality increased, with more employment for the higher educated and less work for the low-educated people which leads to the increase of informal economic activities (Stouten, 2010). At this time also the policy on housing constraints changed, the house-buildings programme which were led by the central government before, replaced by market-oriented leadership and housing associations began to achieve a considerable degree of independence (Stouten, 2010).

In the 1990s both national and local governments coincided with the opinion that 'in a number of urban districts there was too great concentration of ethnic minorities, low-income groups and unemployed and that a re-differentiation of the housing stock was necessary' (Priemus, 2004; Rendon, 2011, p.37). By the end of the 1990s the outcome of market oriented strategies of urbanisation materialised in spatial and social segregation (Rendon, 2012, p.50). 'Neighborhood decline was manifested heavily in low-income and minority areas' (Rendon, 2012, p.50). 'At this time in an attempt to develop a complete consensus between all the parties involved, participation models were developed, which were based on co-operation between public and private sector. Differentiation of the residential environment became one objective of a policy aimed at achieving revitalisation (Stouten, 2010, p.128). 'Both social and physical components were ascribed to the residential environment' (Mayor and Alderman of Rotterdam, 1988; Stouten, 2010, p.128).

The city tried to make differentiation in the housing typology to attract middle-income and high-income people to Rotterdam for achieving a socially undivided city. At this time restrictions for building in urban renewal areas led to the assignment of locations for commercial development and landlords (Stouten, 2010).

From that time till now future plans of Rotterdam are aiming for providing an attractive living and working environment for the 'creative class' to attract new business and middle and high-income residents (Gemeente Rotterdam, 2007; Rendon, 2012). The current policies related to this trend is explained in the next paragraphs.

2.2.3 Recent Urban Renewal policy in low-income neighborhoods and approaches of implementation addressing citizen participation

'According to the recent concerns in deprived neighborhoods, the urban policies in the Netherlands for these areas are based on these key features:

- A coordination and integration of economic, social and urban policies
- An increase of area-based approaches addressing urban renewal
- A shift from government to governance
- Realisation and encouragement of residents involvement in urban renewal and regeneration processes at the local level' (Andersen & Kempen, 2003; Lupton & Turok, 2004; Rendon, 2011, p.38).

Each of these underlying policy tendencies implies local and community action in different levels of planning, decision making and implementation, for making urban change (Rendon, 2011, p.38). In the following the way these policies have been taken into practice is explained.

Integrated and area-based approaches

In the last two decades the urban policies in deprived neighborhoods has been emphasized on the interventions both on the spatial aspect and the socio-economic aspects. These approaches most of the time intend to change the nature of the place and in the process to involve the resident community and other interest with a stake in its future (Lupton & Turok, 2004; Rendon, 2011). In addition to this according to the problems and potentials of the area, plans of social, economical and spatial regeneration will be included in the responsibilities of the government (Rendon, 2011).

Governance and decision making structure

In the deprived neighborhoods in the Netherlands and specifically Rotterdam local urban politics are increasingly organised in partnership with an extended range of non-governmental actors holding relevant resources of their own.

‘Such a trend reflects a shift from government to governance, where the involvement of the state becomes less hierarchial and more facilitating and moderating’ (Rendon, 2011, p.43).

But there are few evidences that these policies have been successful in the practice, as Harvey (2005) argues even when these forms of governance promise the inclusion and empowerment of the deprived groups in the decision making, they may lead in the direction of greater autocratic governance and limited participation of these groups (Harvey, 2005; Rendon, 2011).

In the next chapter the precise explanation about empowerment as an urban transformation strategy is explained.

2.2.4 Conclusion

It could be concluded that there have been lots of changes in strategies over time for tackling problematic deprived neighborhoods. As explained in the text, in Rotterdam deprived neighborhoods the main focus has almost always been on housing , in different ways like reconstruction of the housing, integrating different kind of housing typology, ... (check table number3 for more details). But for solving the problems in these kind of neighborhoods a multi-layer approach is needed because the problem is rooted from spatial, social and economical aspect, so these layers should be recognized all together, a trend which has been reaching in the recent years as you can see in the table number3 . In the next page a comparison with these strategies and the strategy that I am going to follow has been shown in a multi-layer kind of approach. The main strategy that is going to be focused on as mentioned in the research question explanation is the empowerment of these deprived neighborhoods.

Time Period	Urban intervention	Key feautres	Issue of Focus
End of 1960	Urban Renewal	- Housing re-construction and demolition	Spatial
1974-1993	Urban Renewal	- Socialisation and democratisation	Socio- Spatial
1993- till now	Urban Regeneration	- Change of government to governance	Socio- Spatial-Economical

Residents Participation as a way of Empowerment

Table3- Urban Intervention in deprived neighborhoods of Rotterdam through the history, By Author, Based on the litrature of this chapter

My approach to deprived neighborhoods in comparison with the other urban -regeneratoion trends

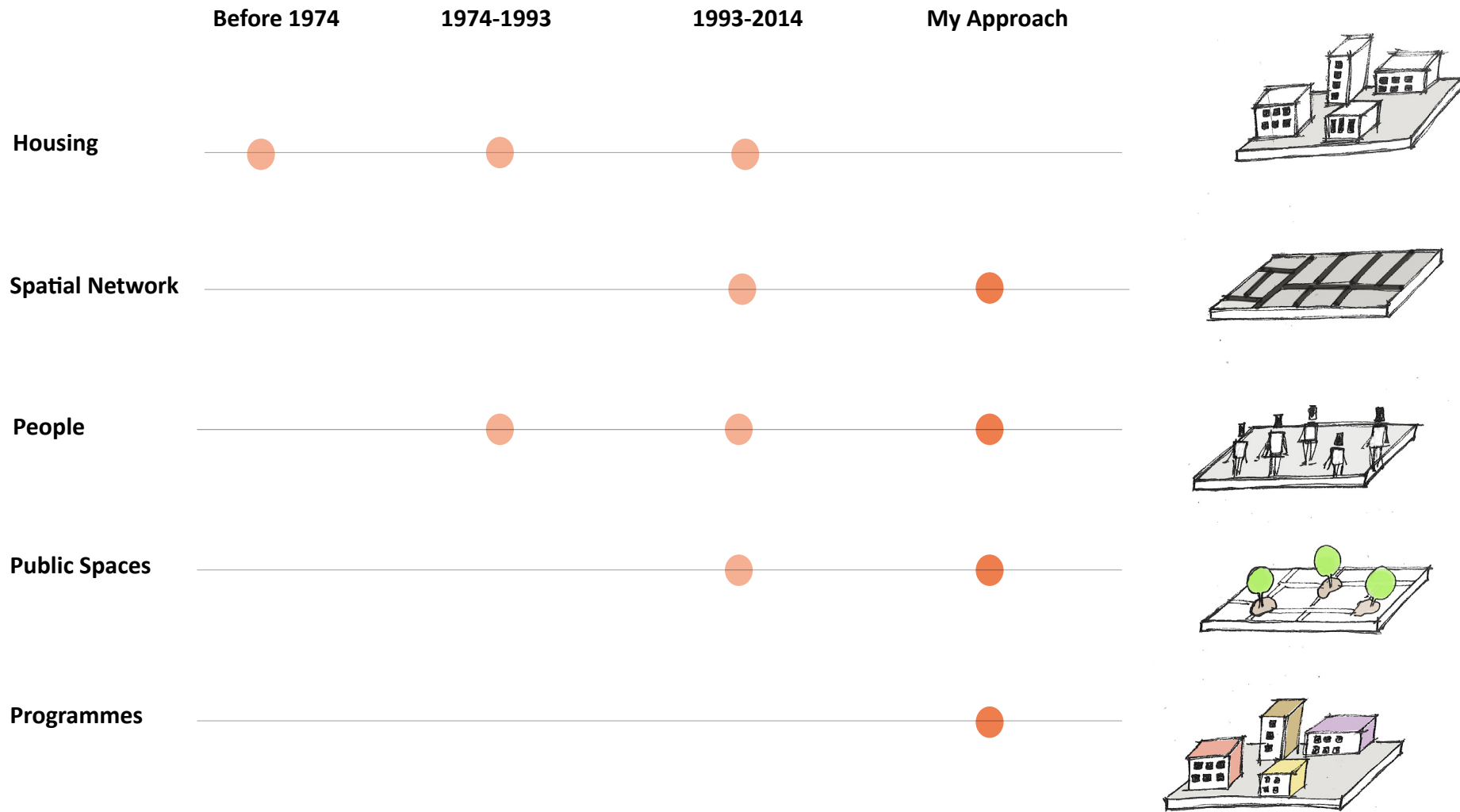


Diagram 12- My approach for transformation of Deprived neighborhoods of Rotterdam South in comparison with other Urban Renewal approaches of Rotterdam, Illustration by Author

2.3 Neighborhood Empowerment

This chapter will provide a holistic understanding of different attitudes about Empowerment; different types and levels of empowerment will be explored briefly and then the main focus will be on community empowerment on a spatial basis which is a neighborhood in the case of this thesis. Different strategies for neighborhood empowerment will be explained and as a result the strategy which is going to be the main pillar of this thesis will be clarified. In the second part of this chapter, the literature review will focus on economical empowerment of deprived neighborhoods. In this part problems and potentials of the economy of deprived neighborhoods will be studied to gain a better understanding of the current socio-economical situation of these neighborhoods. The result of this part will be a proposal design strategy which will help to go further in the next chapters which are more related to the design.



Picture21- Afrikaanderwijk, By Author

Empowerment Definition 2.3.1

'Empowerment is related to the word power. In English, the concept leans on its origin meaning of investment with legal power_ permission to act for some specific goal or purpose' (Rappaport, 1987; Sadan, 1997, p.73).

Empowerment could be explained as giving the people the power to have control over their lives and this should be recognized both as an outcome and a process (Staples, 1990; Sadan, 1997). In other words empowerment is a process that obtain the capacity for acting on issues in individual life, a community or the whole society (Czuba, 1999; Kasmel, 2002).

Different attitudes exist about the empowerment and the exact definition of it from the point of view of social scientists, urban planners and the other fields of study (Sadan, 1997). In the following, an overview of these different attitudes has been explained briefly which is about three of the most fundamental writers in relation to this topic.

As Peter Berger and Richard Neuhaus (1997) argued, empowerment is a strategy for promoting the welfare services by the help of social institutions (Sadan, 1997). On the other hand, Julian Rappaport (1981) developed the concept theoretically and presented it as 'a world-view that includes a social policy and an approach to the solution of social problems stemming from powerlessness' (Sadan, 1997, p.73).

According to Friedman (1992), 'the notion of empowerment consists of eight bases of social power, which enable poorer households to get out of the circle of absolute poverty', which could be described as follows:

1- '**Defensible life space** refers to the territorial base of the HHE (Household Economy) in which the households members do their daily non- market oriented activities; this includes personal space and wider neighborhood space where socialization take place.

2- Surplus time, refer to the extra time available outside of those needed for subsistence activities. It includes time needed for to travel to work, obtaining-basic consumption item, rest, doing domestic activities and so forth.

3- **Knowledge and skills**, refer to training or education that could be use to improve future long-term economic prospect.

4- Appropriate information referes to amy kind of information that could be useful for gaining work opportunity, obtaining public services,.. .

5- Social organization, refers to any kind of organization that the household belong to that could serve as a source of information and support, such as religious organization, micro bank, support group and so forth.

6- **Social Network**, includes network that enables hoshould to survive ..

7- **Instruments of work and production**, include tools and space that is need-ed for hoshould production.

8- Financial resources, includes hoshould dorect income and also any form of formal or informal credit arrangments' (Friedman, 1992 ; Tunas, 2008, p.46).

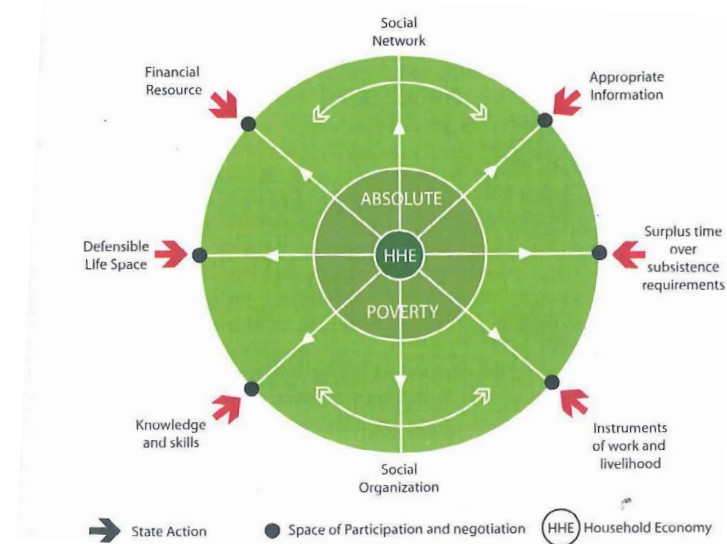


Diagram 13- The Bases of social power, Friedmann, Empowerment Oxford, 1992

Friedman's explanation of empowerment could be summarized in the world bank's definition of empowerment which is one of the most precise and more

relevant to this thesis; According to the world bank (2002) 'Empowerment means increasing one's authority and control over the resources and decisions that affect one's life. As people exercise real choice, they gain increased control over their lives. Poor peoples choice is extremely limited, both by their lack of assets and by their powelessness to negotiate better terms for themselves with a range of institutions, both formal and informal' (World Bank, 2002, p.6). According to these definitions, in the case of this thesis empowerment could be seen as increasing the deprived residents of Rotterdam South neighborhoods control and access to resources mainly social and economical resources which according to the explanations in the previous chapter (negative neighborhood effects), is the main issue in these neighborhoods.

For understanding the empowerment process better it is good to take a look at different levels and types of empowerment which is explained below.

2.3.2 Levels of Empowerment

Empowerment could be cathegorized in three different levels: Individual empowerment which focuses on what happens in the personal level in the individuals life, community empowerment which emphasize the collective processes and the social change and empowerment as a professional practice which sees empowerment as a means of professional intervention for the solution of social problems (Sadan, 1997).

The **community empowerment** is more relevent to the issues that this thesis is facing with, because this thesis is going to tackle with the socio-economical deprivation of a special group of people (a community) and trying to find solutions for decreasing this deprivation.

So the following litrature will provide a clear understanding of community empowerment by presenting the definition of it and different approaches (strategies) for achieving this kind of empowerment.

Empowerment is a tool for communities to resolve inequalities and to make an even distribution of resources in their communities (Rappaport, 1981).

2.3.3 Community Empowerment

For understanding community Empowerment it is necessary to define the "Community" first.

Napier (2002) defined 'community as a term associated with existing formal and informal community networks and local community organizations'(Napier, 2002; Kasmel, 2002, p.7).

Nutbeam (1986) argued that community is 'a specific group of people living in a region, who are arranged in a social structure and exhibit some awareness of their identity as a group' (Kasmel, 2002, p.7).

According to Laverack (2003) 'the concept of "community" includes several key characteristics:

- 1) a spatial dimension, that is, a place or locale,
- 2) interests, issues or identities that involve people who otherwise make up heterogeneous and disparate groups,
- 3) social interactions that are dynamic and bind people into relationships with one another,
- 4) identification of shared needs and concerns that can be achieved through a process of collective action' (Kasmel,2002, p.7). ok

This last definition is more related to this thesis because here the community is going to refer to the people who live in the same spatial context; A neighborhood and have more or less the same socio-economical feautures which according to the former explanations is being low-income and deprived. So the following litrature will focus on the empowerment considering both the spatial and the social dimension according to the definition above.

2.3.3.1 Community Empowerment on a Spatial Basis; A Neighborhood

The discussion of community empowerment on a geographical (spatial) basis is mostly recognized as neighborhood empowerment which has different perceptions in different professional disciplines, e.g.,: community psychology, community work, urban studies and planning (Sadan, 1997).

One of the dominant attitudes about the neighborhood empowerment is about providing a proper context for the residents to be involved in the neighborhood affairs which will become practical when the power given to the residents for participating in the process of decision making. This will lead to more control on the neighborhood affairs by the inhabitants (Biegel, 1984, Sadan, 1997).

So According to Sadan (1997) 'the test of community empowerment is the active participation of the people themselves in the process of decision making that affect the community, starting from the stage of formulating the goals, through the stage of evaluating the outcomes of the effort' (Sadan, 1997, p.90). This perception of neighborhood empowerment is the one that has been considered as one of the policies for combat the problems of deprived neighborhoods in the Netherlands from 1974 to 1993 (refer to urban transformation chapter).

which was trying to help the people increase their voice and provides a context for the residents involvement in solving the problems of their living area.



Picture22- Residents Participation in Neighborhood decision making as a way of Empowerment, www.Neighborhood.com/Images

But another way of looking at empowerment exists which is more relevant to the goal of this thesis which is explained in the following.

John Friedman (1992) proposed another attitude about community empowerment, he claims that 'community empowerment is the creation of access to social and economic resources. Poverty, then, results from lack of access to essential resources, not only economic but also political and social resources ' (Sadan, 1997, p.7). This way of considering neighborhood empowerment is the one that is going to be emphasized on in this thesis.

The neighborhood empowerment strategy related to Friedman's definition is a development which is trying to increase the physical and economical situation of a neighborhood. This strategy could be considered in different ways like reconstruction of the housing or creating jobs and enterprise opportunities for the residents of the neighborhood (Tunas, 2008). It could be also considered as community-based improvement which could be done by job training, parenting skills, housing counseling, ...; the things which are known as "human capital". (Dreier, 1996; Tunas, 2008).

Community Empowerment in a neighborhood is about providing access to social and economical resources.

Overall we can recognize two main strategies about neighborhood empowerment (see diagram number14); one is more focused on bringing the community into the process of decision making and making them involve in the affairs of their neighborhood and the other is increasing their power by providing better socio-economical situations for them. In other words its about socio-economical empowerment of the neighborhood.

This thesis will mainly focus on the second strategy for making a change in the socio- economical deprivation of Rotterdam South neighborhoods according to the problem field an the main research question of this thesis. For understanding the best strategy for socio-economical empowerment of the deprived groups of Rotterdam South, it is necessary to gain a holistic understanding of the problems and potentials in the socio-economic aspect in these neighborhoods which some of them addressed in the previous chapters (about the negative and positive effects of the concentration of deprived). So the next chapter is dedicated to this issue which will guide the thesis towards the first step of the design strategy.

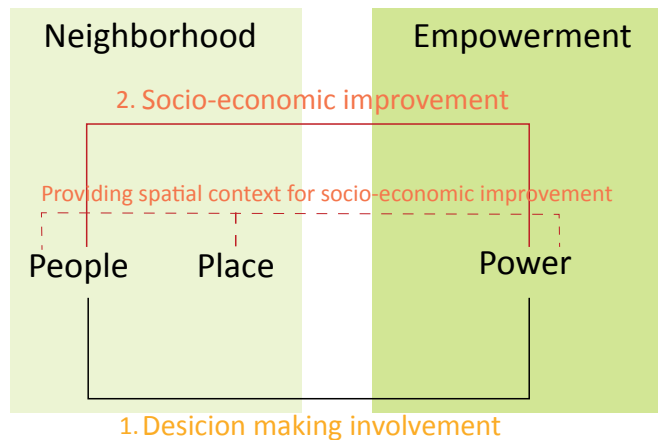


Diagram14- Different strategies for Neighborhood Empowerment, By Author



Picture 23- Deprived people of deprived neighborhoods

2.3.4 Economy of deprived neighborhoods

Achieving a strategy for the economical empowerment of the neighborhoods of study needs a study about the characteristics of the economy in these neighborhoods. For achieving a holistic understanding of the economy of deprived neighborhoods, it is necessary to understand in one hand the kind of economies that exist in these neighborhoods which could be developed and supported, on the other hand the type of economies that are missing or there is a shortage of them. This needs to be done by considering the demands and features of deprived neighborhoods. In other words for achieving the best strategy for economic empowerment of these neighborhoods we have to understand the economical problems and potentials in these neighborhoods which is explained in the following.

2.3.4.1 Problems

The Economy of deprived neighborhoods is different from the economy of other neighborhoods mainly because of the high level of unemployment, low rate of economic activity and low level of skills and education (North & Syrett, 2006). In the previous pages, the demographs shows how low are all these indicators for Rotterdam South neighborhoods (refer to page23).

In addition to this, the number of small businesses and entrepreneurships are lower in comparison to the other neighborhoods while the informal economic activity becomes more important for these areas (North & Syrett, 2006).

The private investment is also low in deprived neighborhoods because in one hand there is a few demand for that and on the other hand the appearance and the social and the physical environment which is one of the important factors for attracting the private sector is not proper in these areas. Overall in these neighborhoods the financial and physical capital is lower and investment, specially private investment, rarely happens (North & Syrett, 2006).

Furthermore the quality of public sector services in deprived neighborhoods is quite low because of the characteristics of the population living there. The quality of public sector provisions is important economically because it is

about attractiveness of the physical environment to residents and businesses. it is also about the ability of residents to gain and retain employment, the effectiveness of public services directly related to employment and economic development (North & Syrett,2006).

As mentioned above the investment of private sector is also low and the disappearance of private sector services from deprived neighborhoods happens in a reinforcing cycle, involving the decline of quality of the local environment, declining the levels of demand and active area discrimination (North & Syrett, 2006, p.28).

Problems

Low skills
Unemployed
Low-Income

Low private investment
Low public services

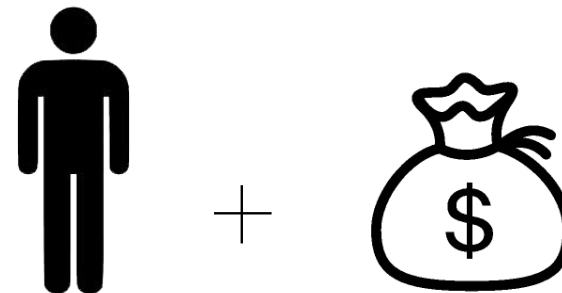


Diagram15- Economical problems of deprived neighborhoods, By Author

The diagram above is summarized the main economical problems in deprived neighborhoods which is in one hand affected by the deprived people living in these neighborhoods, on the other hand by the low investment in these places. In the following another aspect of the economic feature of deprived neighborhoods, which most of the time is considered as a problem but could be an opportunity from the view of author, is explained.

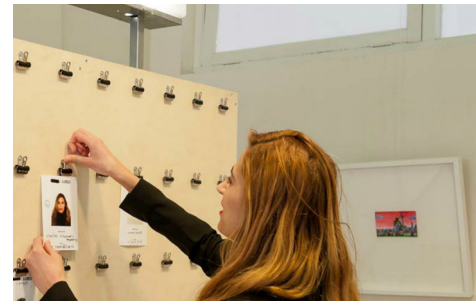
Informal Economy

Another aspect in the analysis of the deprived neighborhoods economy which is invisible but needs to be considered, is the Informal Economy.

The studies from the Department for Communities and local Government of London (2006) which is about the economy of deprived neighborhoods, argues that 'while most of the policy attention is focused on *formal* economic activity, it is also necessary to understand the role of *informal* economic activity' (North et al, 2006, p.14). For understanding this, it is necessary to first define what informal economy means exactly. According to Kloosterman & Rath (2001) 'informal activities, is about mean 'activities aimed at producing a positive effect on income , for which the terms of legislation and regulations (planning requirements, social security legislation, collective labour agreements,..) applicable to the activities are not being met' (Kloosterman & Rath, 2001, p.27).

According to the Department of communities and local government of London (2006) three categories of informal economy could be distinguished: informal paid work, informal unpaid work and illegal activities. In other words as Tunas (2008, p.31) argues the different informal economies are:

- 1- Household Economy; activities that produce goods or services for the member of the household without financial payment.
- 2-The Communal Economy; activities that produce goods or services for member of community or society as a whole .
- 3- The Underground Economy; activities that produce goods or services for financial benefit that evade taxes or other regulation.



Picture24- Social machine, a tool for creating a kind of informal activity based on exchange , <http://en.nai.nl/platform>

Informal Economy as a potential...

Most of the informal economic activities are not acceptable because it is illegal and against the rules of the economic activity. The only type of informal economic activity that could be acceptable is the community economy only if it is based on exchanging goods or services. This could be considered as an opportunity for the people living in deprived neighborhoods, because it could help the people living in these areas to use there abilities and skills (in the production of sth or doing sth) in one hand and to benefit from the others abilities as well. In addition to this, this type of economic activity could be a solution for increasing the social interaction in the deprived neighborhoods of Rotterdam, because as mentioned before weakness in the social interactions and social ties is one of the considerable problems in these neighborhoods. This type of informal economic activity needs appropriating space for production and exchange. For example facilitating some public or semi-public spaces as a place for exchanging goods and some buildings as places for exchanging services. The role of social network in important in this relation to help the people facilitate their exchange interactions. Spatio-functional interventions could help to create or increase this network. For example one of the recent proposals which has been done in this relation in Tarwewijk neighborhood is a social machine which is explained in the following.

**Facilitating a kind of Informal Economy
which is based on exchange of goods or
services**

This social machine is designed by Thomas Lomme in the Economat project. It visualizes and maps micro-economical activities within a local community. A re-converted photo booth installation invites all inhabitants to capture, describe and locate their personal 'demands' or 'supplies' in a playful manner. All these messages can then be directly published on a wall or scanned and uploaded on a simple website. The Economat has been envisioned to complement and enrich existing local venues, such as library reading rooms, supermarket coffee corners or bakery diners, with a social function ([www. en.nai.nl/platform](http://www.en.nai.nl/platform)).

In this way people can know what kind of service or good is offered by their local community and they can exchange what they have by themselves with the others. In this way the people living in a neighborhood will not only benefit from the others services but also the social relations will improve which is one of the main goals of the socio-economic empowerment of the deprived groups so it could be a great potential for these areas.

In the following other potentials for improving the socio-economical situation of the deprived neighborhoods of Rotterdam South is explained which is driven from the features of these neighborhoods.

2.3.4.2 Local Enterprises as a potential...

According to the Local Government of London, deprived neighbourhoods are generally characterised by low rates of business start-up and survival, low levels of self-employment and high rates of unemployment. Attracting inward investment can help to increase employment options for residents, but in times and places where the flow of investment is limited, stimulating business starts and supporting small business growth is a sufficient way to promote the economical situation of the people. This requires more people to understand enterprise and the self-employment option and be supported in setting up businesses.

By considering the previous analysis and literature in this thesis, two specific kind of enterprises is considered as potentials for the socio-economic empowerment of deprived groups in the neighborhoods of study; one is the ethnic enterprises because of the high rate of multiculturality of these neighborhoods (which could provide a proper basis for the demand of ethnic enterprises) and the other is the social enterprise.

The main reason for focusing on social enterprises is the effect that this kind of enterprise could have both on social and economical promotions. It will be explained later how this type of enterprise is aiming for the social and economical empowerment of deprived people not only the individuals but also the community all together and this is what Rotterdam South neighborhoods need for tackling some of the main socio-economic problems of it.

In the following these two kind of enterprises, their definitions and impacts are explained:

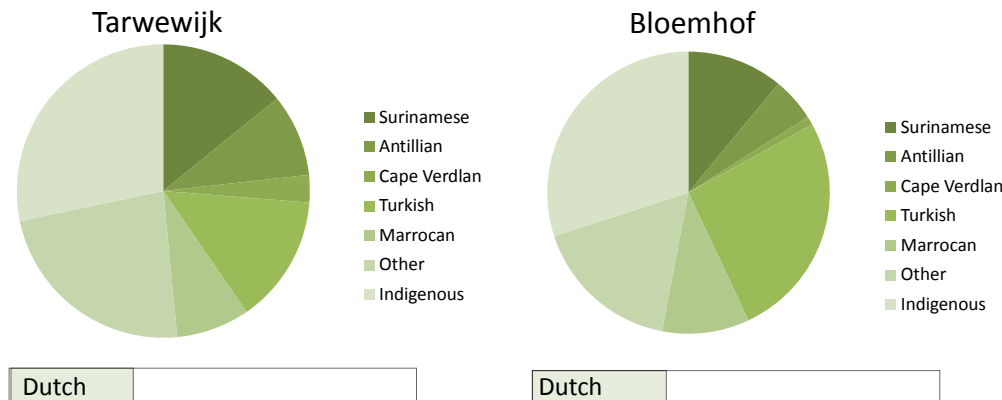


Diagram16- High rate of minor ethnicity concentration, by CBS, illustration by author

2.3.4.2.1 Ethnic Enterprise

As it explained in the former chapters (neighborhood effects of concentration of poverty, page 35), one of the advantages of the concentration of low-income ,which in the case of Dutch deprived neighborhoods are mainly immigrants, is the opportunity that it could bring for special kind of local businesses like ethnic enterprises because of the demand that exists in these kind of neighborhoods caused by the concentration of a spatial ethnic minority. This could provide an extra opportunity for these deprived neighborhoods for improving the local enterprises. In the following this will be explored in a broader context to find out how this feature could be a potential for socio-economical empowerment of Rotterdam South neighborhoods.

According to Rath & Kloosterman (1997), the percentage of small entrepreneurs is growing in the advanced economies and the immigrant entrepreneurs have a significant role in this rise. Ethnic enterprises is a great opportunity for the immigrants to start their own business and the access to it is more easy for them than the formal labour market (Kloosterman & Van Der Leun, 2010).

The spatial concentration of minority ethnic groups has always been an advantage for the immigrant businesses. For example immigrant districts in the 19 th century in paris as well as some ethnic minority neighborhoods in this century in the United States provided a good opportunity for special kind of businesses (Kloosterman & Van Der Leun, 2010). This spatial concentration will provide supply and demand simultaneously. Furthermore coffee houses, local shops and other services run by immigrants may provide the taste and smell of their country of origin, a place where ethnic groups could broaden. These places could become the hot spots of information which is crucial for finding a job, a house or a partner (Kloosterman & Van Der Leun, 2010).

As an example the China Town neighborhood in Den Haag could be recognized which has a lot of chinese related enterprises in part of the city centre because of the concentration of chinese people in the streets surrounding.



Picture25- Concentration of ethnic minority in a neighborhood provides a basis for ethnic enterprises, Den Haag china town, Google Images

‘Such social networks offer ways of obtaining (starting) capital outside the usual channels and are a chip and accessible source of information in finding both business properties and seeking staff. Social networks are also an important framework for relationships built on trust, which are the basis of any successful informal economic activities’ (Kloosterman & Van Der Leun, 2010, p.665).

In addition to this, the physical proximity which is a result of spatial concentration of immigrants will lead to supply advantages. It could be beneficial for close-knit social networks which may in turn help to keep business transaction costs down (Potes & Sensenbrenner, 1993; Kloosterman & Van Der Leun, 2010).

All of these factors could make a neighborhood with a high share of immigrants an attractive business setting for ethnic enterprises. Most of these enterprises start from home and the private realms and then spread in a more public realm if a basis exists for that, both from the social and spatial aspect.

The rise of ethnic businesses could provide an opportunity for immigrant employment, specially by considering the fact that ethnic neighborhoods has a high rate of unemployment and welfare dependency also low rate of education and skills, so these businesses will help to tackle these problems.

Overall immigrant enterprises creates a win-win situation for the neighborhoods concerned by strengthening the economic base and by creating employment for the people who live there (Kloosterman & Van Der Leun, 2010). But launching local enterprises are not as easy as it seems, because the deprivation of a neighborhood provides serious tackles for it. This is the issue which is addressed in the following.

Focusing on ethnic enterprises is one of the most recent policies for tackling the problems of deprived neighborhoods in advanced European countries especially the UK. Although there is a considerable insist on “enterprising the communities” as a strategy for the economical empowerment in deprived neighborhoods, there is still a lot of things unknown about the real impact of these policies in practice (Lyon, Sepulveda & Syrett, 2007).

Considering this confusion, Lyon et al (2007) did a survey for identifying the impacts of ethnic enterprises in deprived neighborhoods. This survey is about the effect of these enterprises on the owner managers, the employees and the local community.

Impacts on Owner-managers

The research found that the major impact of ethnic enterprises is on the owners themselves in terms of livelihood and building skills. 88% of the entrepreneurs interviewed stated that their income level had improved ‘substantially’ as a result of becoming entrepreneur. These income streams were specially important for women entrepreneurs with childcare responsibilities as they had very few other sources of income. 52.5% responded that their skills had increased significantly. The only group that did not recognise any improvement in their skills were professional qualifications that were not recognized within the UK, who felt degraded by their unwanted move to self-employment (Lyon et al, 2007, p.367).

Impacts on Employees

The study found out that ethnic businesses had contributed to building the skills of their employees, through 'informal' on-the-job training. Almost 34% of the entrepreneurs highlighted that they had personally trained their employees in issues such as customer services and other specific aspects related to the trade. Entrepreneurs highlighted that informal training not only improved the development of skills but also encouraged an entrepreneurial attitude amongst the youngest employees (Lyon et al, 2007, p.367).

Impacts on the local community

Local communities living in the local areas benefited from the 'specialised' and/or 'cheap' supply of products and services offered by ethnic businesses. These included specialised services such as translation to/from ethnic minority languages and legal services for businesses and individuals. As one female entrepreneur explained:

'I wanted to do something that the Somali community needed and now I am the only one in my community providing a one-stop wedding shop service. Most of my customers are muslim women and they travel far when it comes to do their hair because they don't want their hair to be seen by men. Here they have privacy and whatever they need I'll do it for them' (Lyon et al, 2007, p.368).

'The presence of a positive multiplier effect from ethnic businesses within the deprived areas in which they were located was evident as a result of the close location of work, home and the ethnic community. Most of the entrepreneurs in the survey lived and consumed in the local area and the others lived nearby' (Lyon et al, 2007, p.368).

Despite of all these positive effects of this kind of enterprise, there are some barriers for the growth of entrepreneurship in deprived areas which is addressed in the following.

Barriers of Local (Ethnic) Enterprises in Deprived neighborhoods

In the recent years there has been lots of research about the barriers for launching local entrepreneurial in low-income neighborhoods. The recent researches shows that there are different factors acting as a barrier for local economical activities in deprived neighborhoods (Williams, 2011). As Williams (2011) suggested these factors could be explored in two different categories: one is the direct factors like the lack of self confidence, lack of financial supports and lack of affordable workspaces while the indirect ones are more related to the negative image of deprived neighborhoods and the fear of crime in these places. In addition to this the people who want to begin with a local enterprise in deprived neighborhoods are faced by difficulties in the initial investment which is because of different reasons like lack of collateral for bank loan, lack of role models, the few chances to access sources of funding from friends or families because they are also expected to be low-income,... (Williams, 2011). In the following different factors that are considered as constraints to local enterprise growth is explained more precise.

Finance and investment

According to the research done by Lyon et al (2007) in some of the deprived neighborhoods of UK, finding the initial capital for starting-up a local business was the biggest barrier according to the interviews with the immigrants who wanted to launch their own business. Dependence on personal saving or borrowing money from friends or family were mentioned as the main resource for starting a business in deprived areas (Lyon et al, 2007).

'Access to personal saving source of start-up capital appeared to be gendered, As a Sudanese female entrepreneur explained, 'men are more successful in business because they can work and save money, while women often have to take care of the family' (Lyon et al, 2007, p.369).

Marketing and Business Development

One of the other barriers for starting an ethnic enterprise is the weak knowledge of the people living in deprived areas about the market needs and sufficient strategies which lead to a financial sustainable business. This knowledge is limited because most of the immigrants have weak socio-economical ties

according to what mentioned in the previous chapter (about the negative neighborhood effects, refer to page number?)(Lyon et al, 2007).

Information and advice

Lack of information about the procedure of starting an enterprise, regulations and information about taxes is one of the other barriers for starting up local enterprises. Most of the people living in deprived areas don't know about the existence of business support or funds related to small scale enterprises so most of them rely on families or friend support (Lyon et al, 2007).

Other factors that mentioned in the last page like lack of self confidence, childcare, lack of stability in the neighborhood, ... are the other factors that are considered as the barriers of launching a local enterprise (Lyon et al, 2007). The chart below shows the degree of effect of each factor as a barrier from the point of view of 40 people who wanted to start-up their own business in deprived neighborhoods of London.

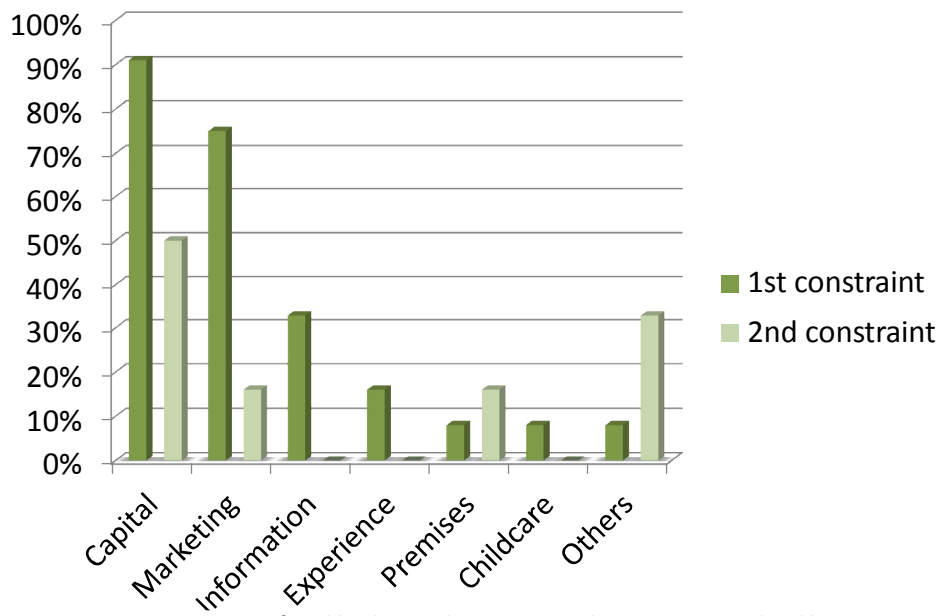


Diagram17- Main constraints faced by deprived immigrants when starting up a local business, Lyon et al, 2007

Conclusion

All the barriers that mentioned can not be solved by direct spatial interventions of course and needs interventions in bigger scales like changing policies. The main problem for starting a local (ethnic enterprise) could be recognized in the financial aspect and the information (about market needs and process of starting up a local business). The first one needs interventions of the government by implementing some encouraging policies for the deprived people who want to start up a business while the other barrier could be solved by functional interventions like creating centres of information in the neighborhoods which give information and services for helping the ones who are trying to start their business. These centres could also affect the social network of these people which could be helpful for starting a business.



Encouraging enterprise start ups by financial support

Policy



Local Centres of Information about the ways of starting a business, market needs, ...

Spatio-functional interventions

As mentioned before in addition to the local ethnic enterprises another potential (or solution) according to the socio-economical problems of Rotterdam South neighborhoods is the social enterprise. The definition of this kind of enterprise and the reason that shows why it could be sufficient for the neighborhoods of study is explained in the following:

2.3.4.2.2 Social Enterprises

In the recent years urban regeneration is exploring the possibilities towards a more social-just and economically sustainable ways of neighborhoods regeneration. One of the concepts that attracted a lot of attention is the idea of 'social enterprise' which could affect the local economy and the social aspect of the deprived neighbourhoods simultaneously (Carpenter, 2013).

Different definitions exist about this term and as OECD noted in 1999, 'there is no universal, commonly- accepted definition of social enterprise' (OECD, 1999, P.9; Carpenter, 2013, p.140). In the following two of the most common definitions of social enterprise is presented:

The recent publication of OECD defined the social enterprise as:

Any activity that has an entrepreneurial base and the main goal of it is not achieving profit, but it is working for the public interest and the aim of it is promoting the socio-economic status of a community. Social enterprise could be considered as providing services for the people who don't have control over their economic life which could be done in different ways like training, providing production tools and spaces, ... OECD, 2010; Carpenter, 2013).

The office for the civil society in UK defines social enterprise as:

A business with primarily social objectives whose surplus are primarily reinvested for that purpose in the business or in the community, rather than being driven by the need to maximize profit for shareholders and owners (Office of the third sector, 2006, p.10; Carpenter, 2013, p.141).

The European research network defines some social and economical criteria's for the social enterprises which is explained in the next page:

Economic

1. A continuous activity producing goods and/or selling services
2. A high degree of autonomy
3. A significant level of economic risk
4. A minimum number of paid workers

Social

1. A decision-making power not based on capital ownership
2. An explicit aim to benefit the community
3. An initiative launched by a group of citizens
4. A participatory nature, which involves the people affected by the activity (Defourny, 2001)

As mentioned before, social enterprise could play a significant role in urban regeneration and the effect of it could be recognized mainly in three aspects:

1. **Economic Development**, by providing opportunities for local businesses and increase the possibilities for economical performances of a community which could be done directly or indirectly by training, work experience,

2. **Social Cohesion**, by providing a community-based economy which leads to increase in local participation and social interactions of the inhabitants in a (deprived) neighborhood, In other words social enterprise will have positive effects on the social capital.

3. **Public service Delivery**, social enterprise could be the compensation of the shortage of public and private services in deprived neighborhoods and it could make the improvement of the quality and efficiency of the service delivery in these kind of neighborhoods (Carpenter, 2013).

According to what mentioned about the goal and impacts of the social enterprises, it could be concluded that it will be a sufficient tool for the socio-economical empowerment of some of the deprived groups of Rotterdam South neighborhoods because it will provide jobs, increase the skills and information of the people and it makes an improve in the public facilities of a neighborhood. As a conclusion for this part, in the diagram in the next page an overview of the proposal tools for the socio-economic empowerment of the neighborhoods of study is shown which is about the type and the target group of the proposal tool.

2.3.5 Conclusion

According to what mentioned in the previous pages, it could be concluded that different problems and potentials for promoting the economic activities exist in the socio-economical deprived neighborhoods. The important thing that should be considered for proposing a strategy is the fact that focusing on one aspect (type) of economical improvement wont be a sufficient solution for empowering the people living in deprived neighborhoods because the level and type of deprivation among these people are different . for example facilitating the local enterprises could be efficient for the ones who have a better economical status and have a minimum of skills and experiences, but the other groups of people who are more deprived in terms of money or skills need to be empowered in other ways. So empowerment in different types of economical activities is needed. This is the main reason that the strategy is proposed different tools for facilitate different kind of economic activities (check diagram 18).

This part will be explained in more details in the Analysis and Design chapter. In addition to the economical aspect the spatial aspect, spaces where the economi activity is gonig to happen there, also needs to be considered which is explained in the following:

For implementing an economical empowerment strategy, it is necessary to consider both area-based approach and people-based approach to improve them simultaneously. In other words a strategy is needed to help the residents of these neighborhoods improve their economical situation and at the same time the physical environment should be improved to provide the basis for economical activities of the residents themselves as well as the investments from outside of the neighborhood, so a brief ananalysis about the economy of the neighborhoods of study from the spatio-functional point of view is done which is mainly focused on the local bussinesses in the neighborhoods of study. This analysis is focusing on both type and the spatial features (like the typology of the building that the business is located, spatial location and integration with the street network,..) of the businesses. It is necessary to mention that because of the large scale of the area of study, this preliminary analysis will focus on two neighborhoods: Tarwewijk and Bloemhof.

From problem to potential

Local Enterprise

Social Enterprise= Improve **skills** and creat job+Improve **social interactions**

Ethnic Enterprise= Create **jobs**+provide **public facilities**

Informal Economy

Exchange of goods and services= Increase **social interactions**+source of **income**

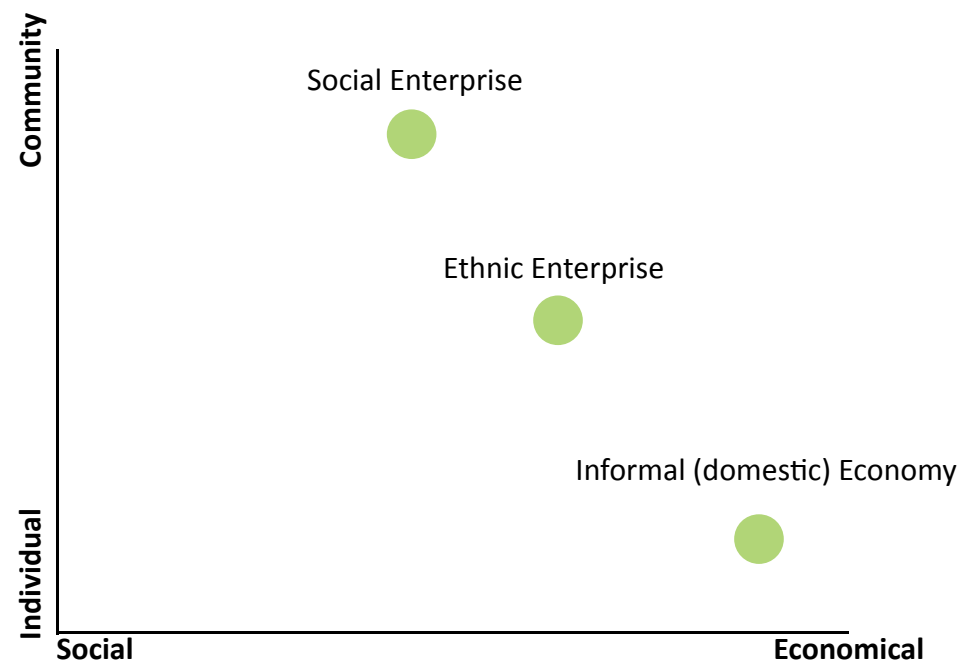
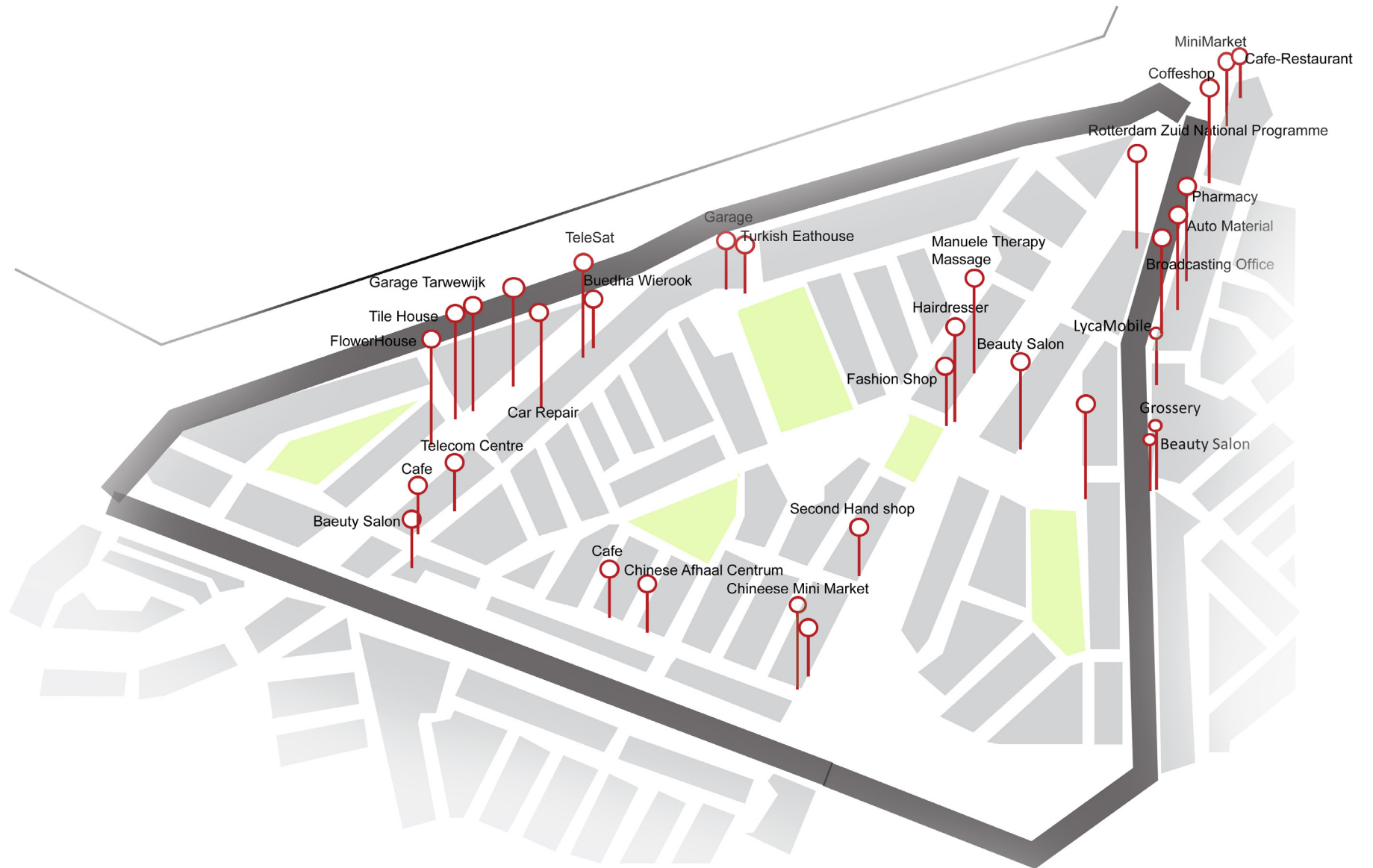


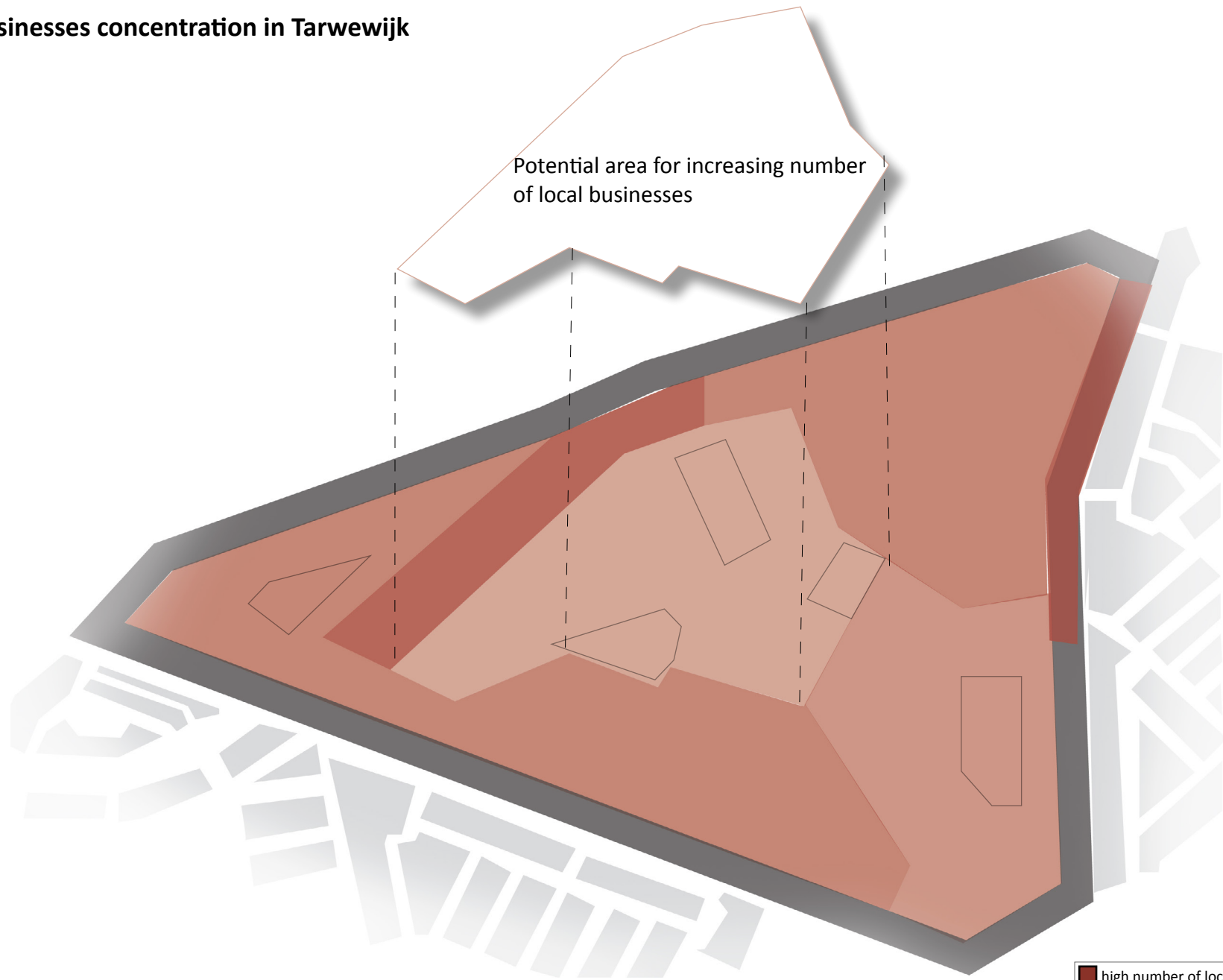
Diagram18- the proposal tools for Socio-Economic Empowerment, By Authur inspired by Teasdale, 2009; Carpenter, 2013

Type and spatial location of local businesses in Tarwewijk



Map 18- Spatial location of local businesses in Tarwewijk, By Author

Degree of local businesses concentration in Tarwewijk

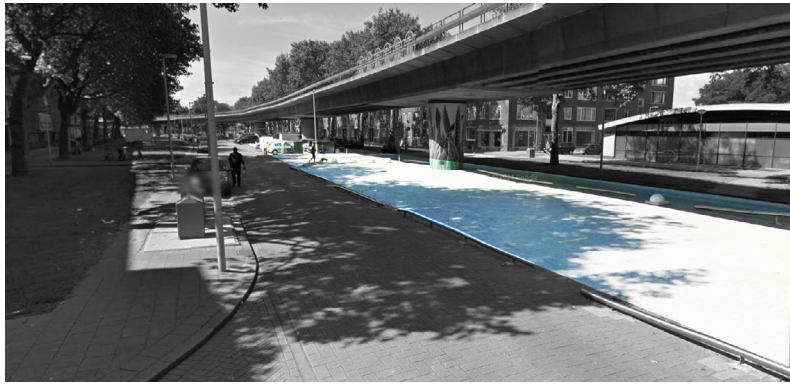


Potential area for increasing number of local businesses

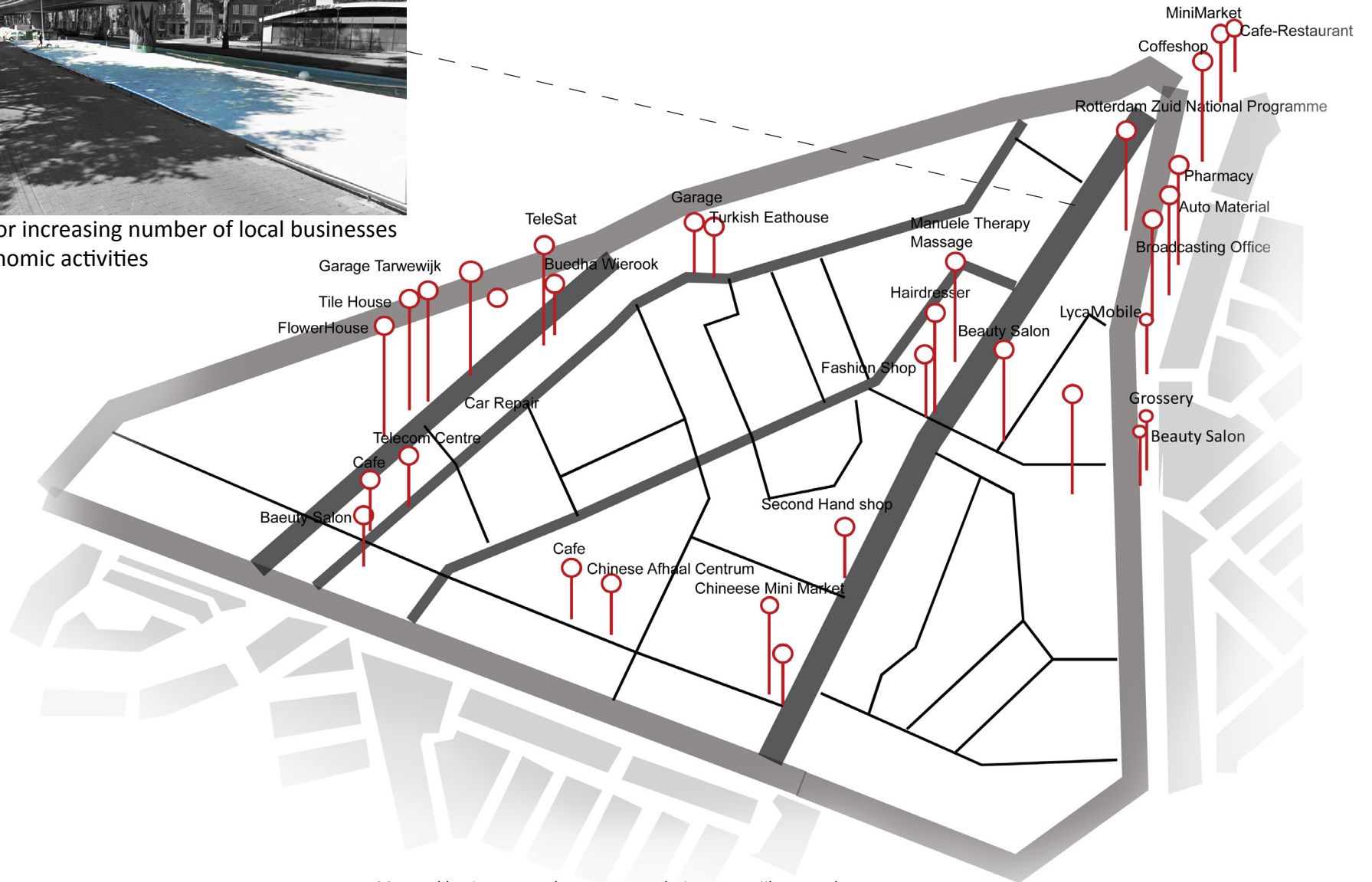
Map 19- Areas of local businesses concentration in Tarwewijk, By Author

- high number of local businesses
- few number of local businesses
- no businesses
- public spaces

Local businesses and the street networks in Tarwewijk



Potential network for increasing number of local businesses and temporary economic activities

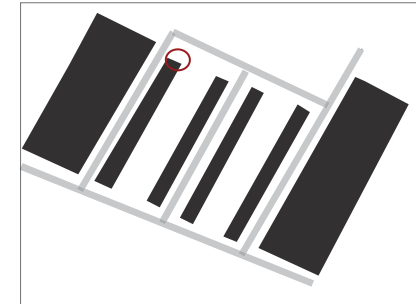


Map 20- Local businesses and street networks in Tarwewijk, By Author

Local businesses and the building typologies in Tarwewijk



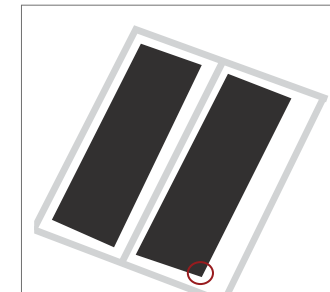
Picture 26- Attached space for commercial activity in Tarwewijk, Google Images



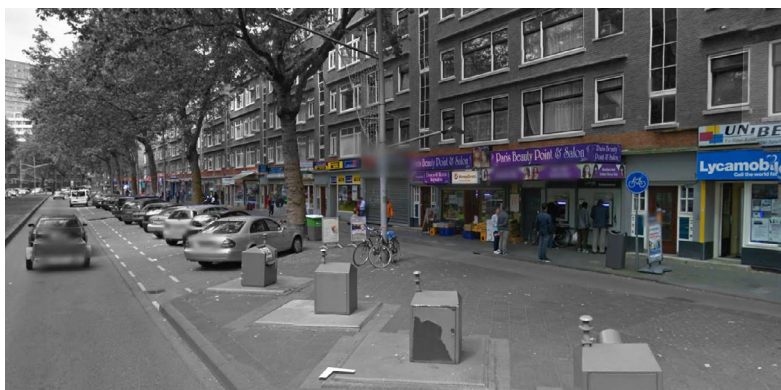
Added space for commercial activity attached to a 3 storey dwelling



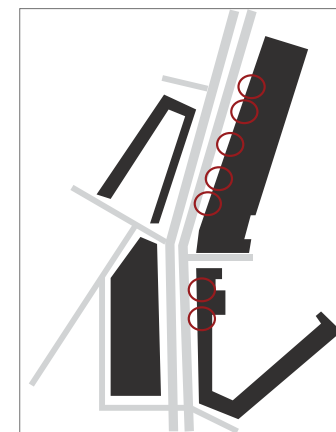
Picture 27- Corner shop, mini ethnic market in Tarwewijk, Google Images



Ethnic enterprise located in the corner of a residential block



Picture 28- Row shops, Tarwewijk, Google Images



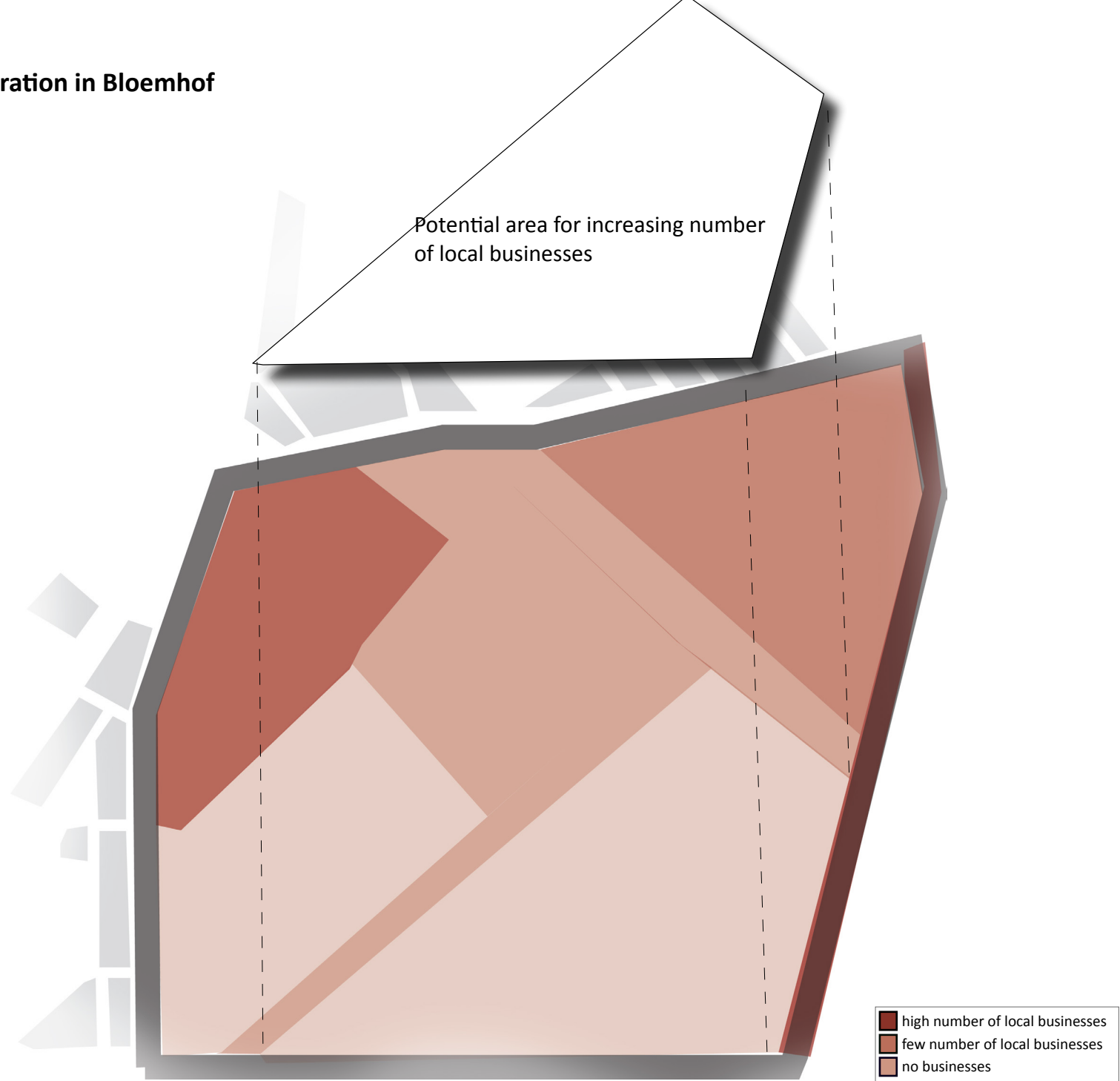
Row shops on the ground floor of a 3 storey dwelling block

Type and spatial location of local businesses in Bloemhof



Map 21- Spatial location of local businesses in Bloemhof, By Author

Degree of local businesses concentration in Bloemhof

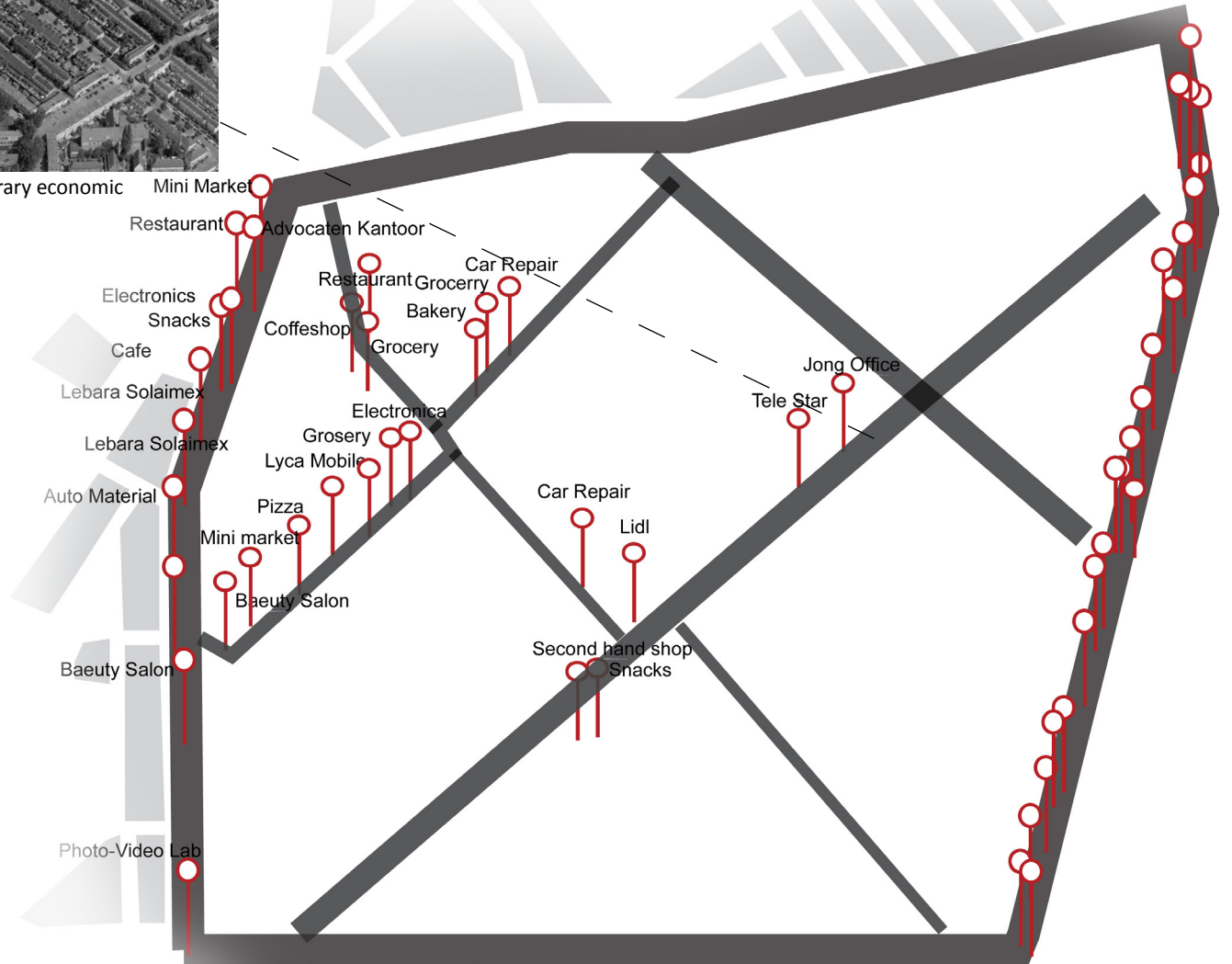


Map 22- Areas of local businesses concentration in Bloemhof, By Author

Local businesses and the street networks in Bloemhof



Potential Network for increasing the number of local businesses and temporary economic activities

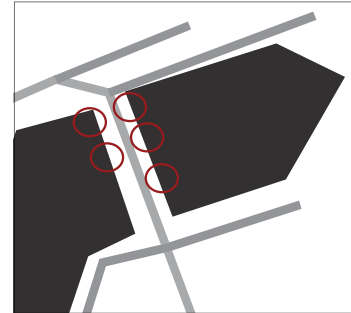


Map 23- Local businesses and street networks in Bloemhof, By Author

Local businesses and the building typologies in Bloemhof



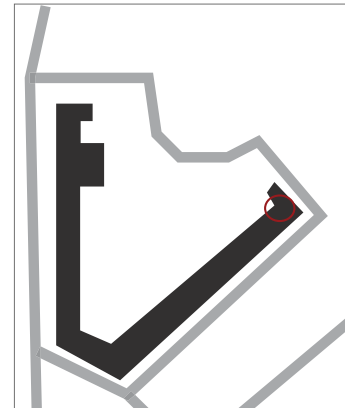
Picture 29- Row shops, Bloemhof, Google Images



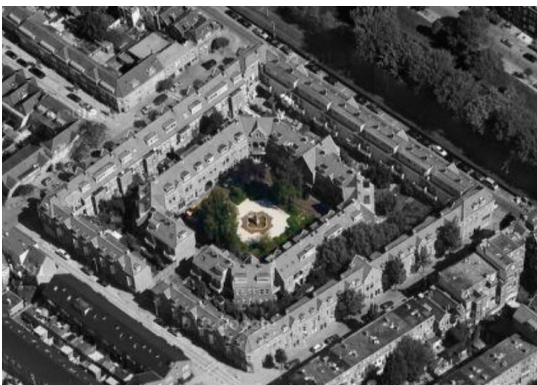
Row shops on the ground floor of a 3 storey dwelling block



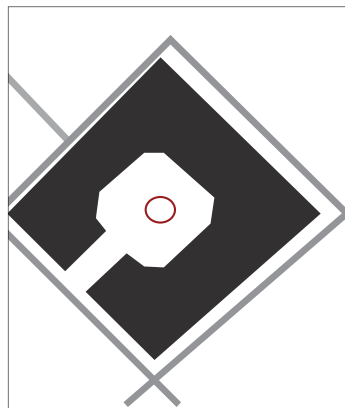
Picture 30- Corner shop, beauty salon, Bloemhof, Google Images



A corner shop



Picture 31- Semi public space as potential area for temporary economic activity, Bloemhof, Google Images



Central semi-public space an opportunity for temporary economic activity

2.3.6 Proposal strategic instruments

According to the literature review and the analysis of the neighborhoods of study, the proposal strategic instruments are presented here which is an output of the integration of spatio-functional and socio-economical features of Rotterdam South neighborhoods by considering the diagrammatic proposal for economic empowerment in the previous page.

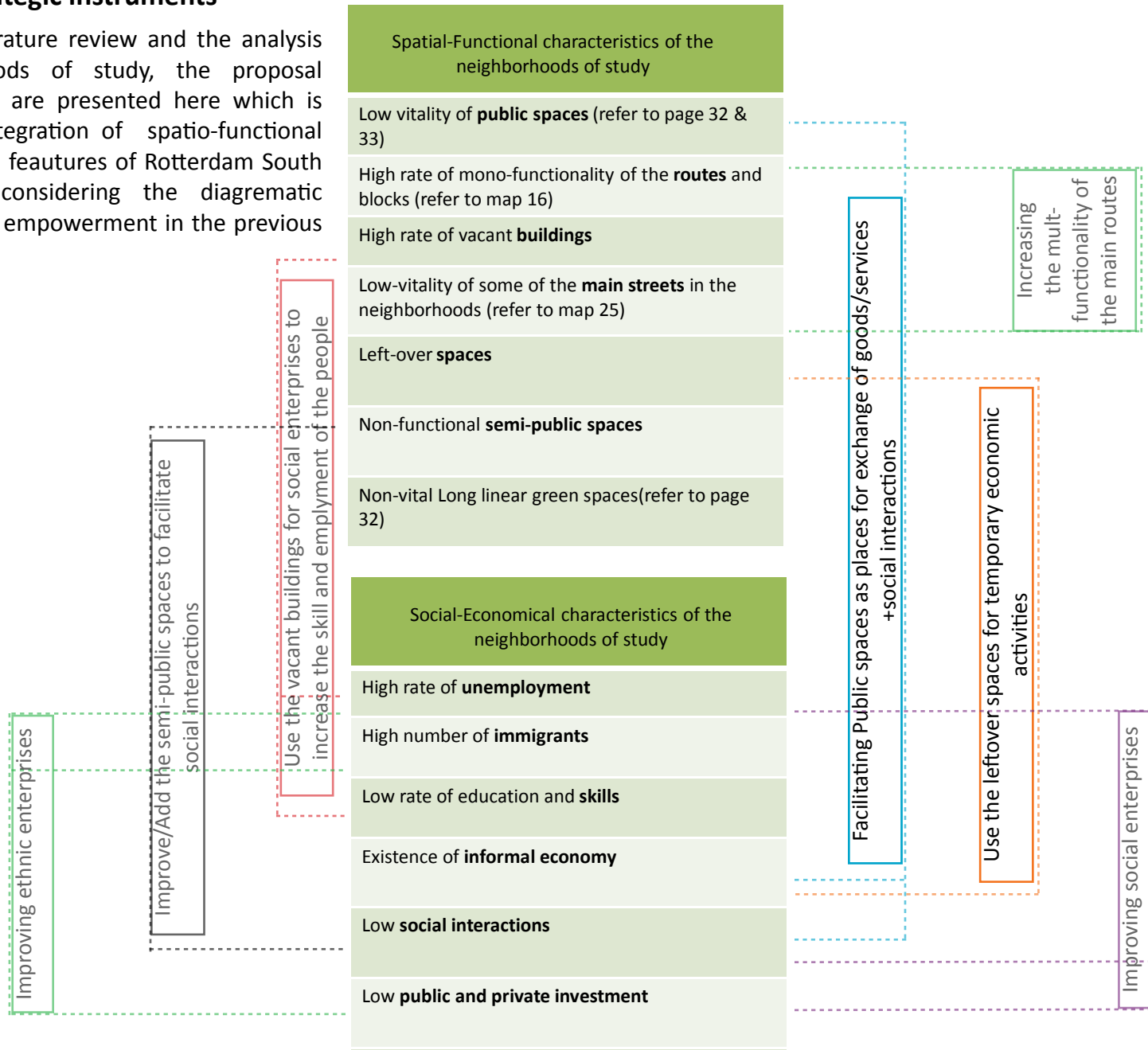
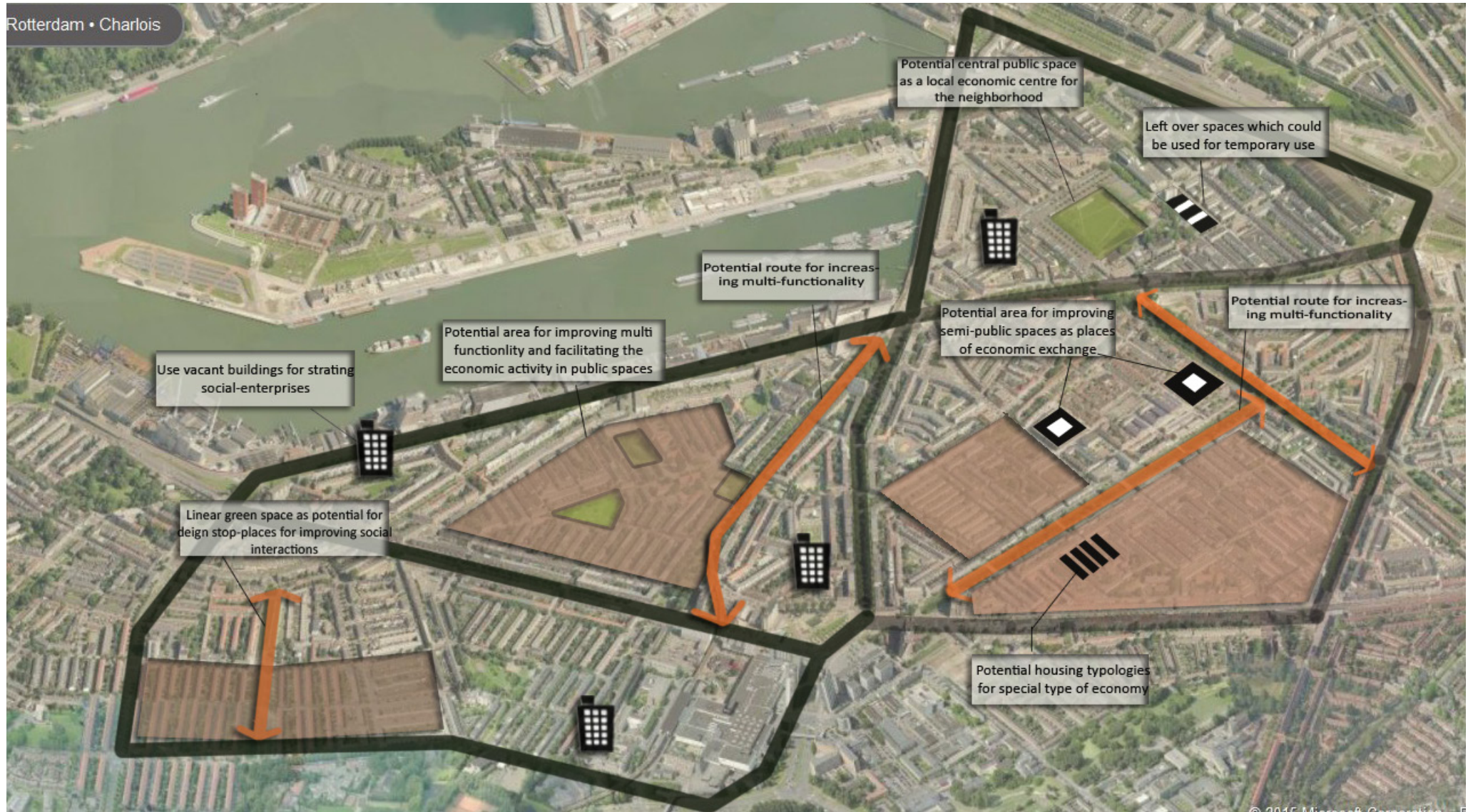


Diagram 19- Proposal strategic instruments for socio-economical empowerment of the neighborhoods of study, By Author

2.3.7 Preliminary Design Proposal



Map 24- preliminary design proposal, By Author

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