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FIELDWORK LOGBOOK

COLOPHON

FIELDWORK LOGBOOK

A Female Practice | Re-designing opportunity structures for young professional women in Almere

Part of Master Thesis, A3 report

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Designing With Feminist Values

MSc Architecture, Urbanism and Building Sciences,
Track Urbanism

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INTRODUCTION

A3 Report
2025/26

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This logbook documents the fieldwork conducted as part of 'A Female Practice', combining site visits, walk-along interviews and mental mapping with young professional women living in Almere. It brings together images, spatial observations and personal narratives to explore how the urban design of Almere shapes women's daily lives, routines and opportunities.

The logbook corresponds to the third research question of this thesis:

How do existing urban design paradigms in Almere impact young professional women's access to social, economic and spatial opportunities?

The focus locations are Stedenwijk, Almere Stad Centre and Filmwijk, whose selection is discussed in depth in the main report.

Anouck

FIELDWORK LOGBOOK

A Female Practice | Re-designing opportunity structures for young professional women in Almere



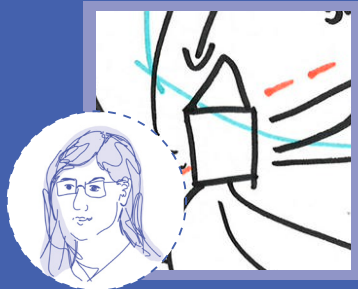
LARA
Filmwijk



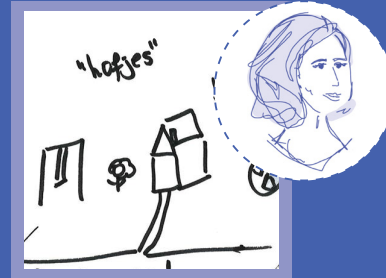
FEMKE
Almere Stad



EMMA
Kruidenwijk

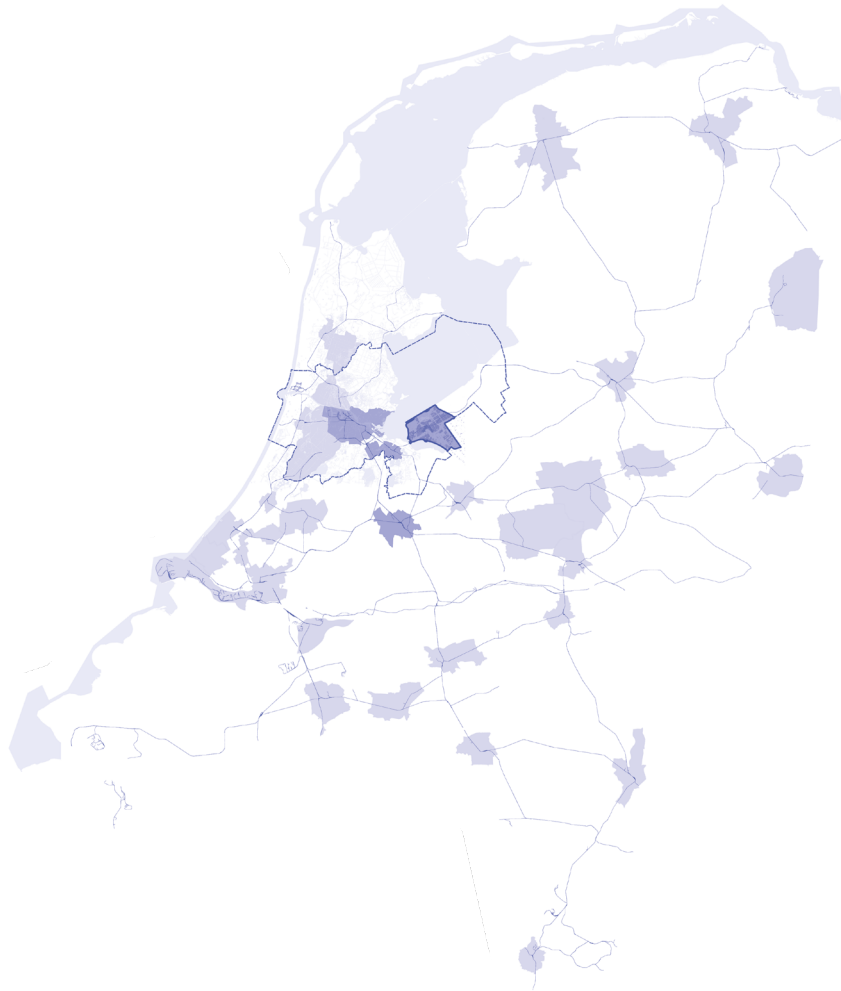


SOFIA
Almere Stad



MILA
Muziekwijk

Almere is located in the province of Flevoland, built on land reclaimed from the IJsselmeer in the 1970s. Geographically positioned at the heart of the Netherlands, it is one of the country's youngest and fastest-growing cities.

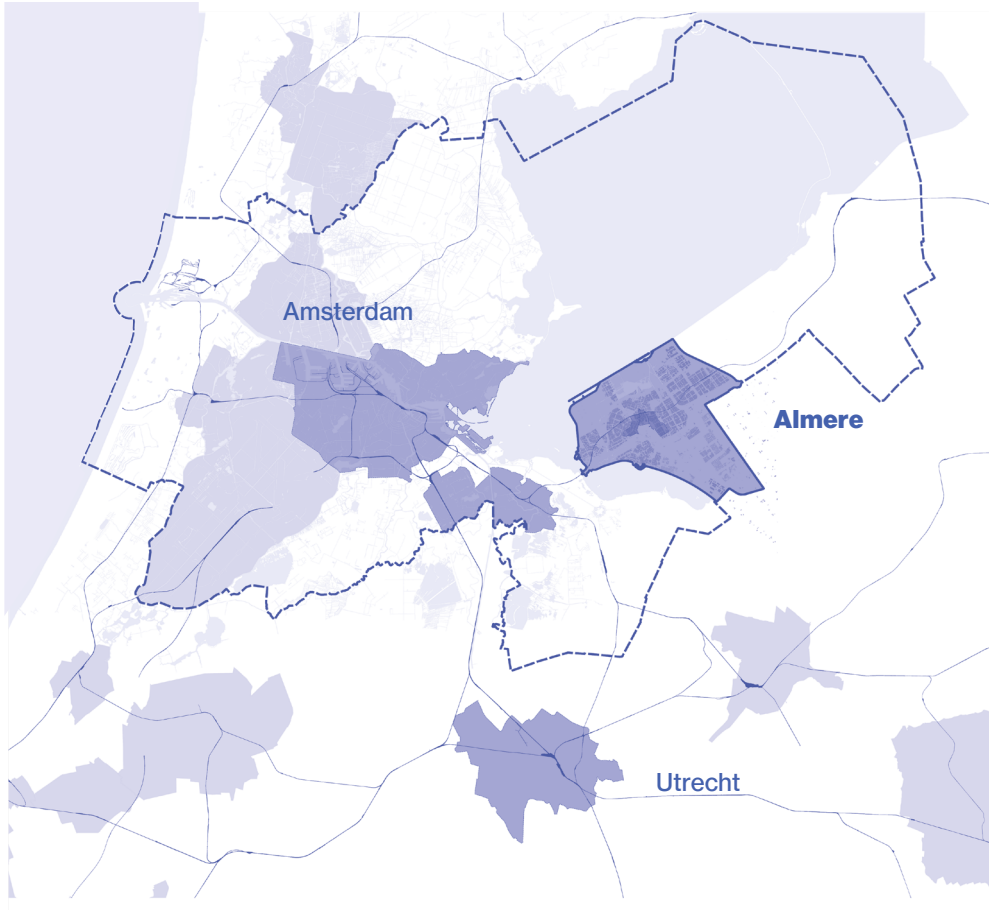


Almere in The Netherlands

- Boundaries of the MRA
- Municipality of Amsterdam and Utrecht
- Municipalities with + 100 000 inh
- Municipality of Almere
- Traintracks
- Built environment
- Water

1:1 000 000 ⓘ

Figure 01 (OSM, 2026)



Within the Metropoolregio Amsterdam, Almere functions as a commuter city. It is closely connected to Amsterdam and Utrecht by rail, yet spatially and socially distinct from them.

Almere in the MRA

- Boundaries of the MRA
- Municipality of Amsterdam and Utrecht
- Municipalities with + 100 000 inh
- Municipality of Almere
- Traintracks
- Built environment
- Water

1:300 000



Figure 02 (OSM, 2026)

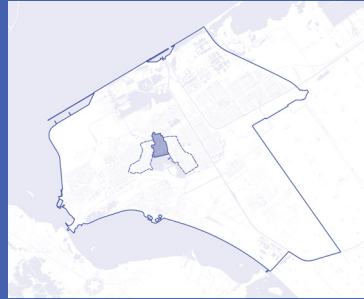
Almere is composed of distinct neighbourhoods, each designed at different times and by different designers, reflecting the shifting planning ideologies of the past fifty years. This research focuses on Stedenwijk, Filmwijk and the city centre. The selection of these three neighbourhoods is discussed in depth in the main report (chapter 03: The Lived)



Figure 03 (OSM, 2026)



STEDENWIJK



ALMERE STAD
CENTRE



FILMWIJK

CONTENT

THREE LOCATIONS

CATALOGUE | How is the city experienced by a visitor?

Almere Stad centre

Stedenwijk

Filmwijk

WALK ALONG | How is the city lived & experienced by females?

1 Lara

2 Femke

3 Emma

4 Sofia

5 Mila

Conclusion lived experience soft-summary map

APPENDIX

Fieldwork Almere Buiten

THREE LOCATIONS

STEDENWIJK

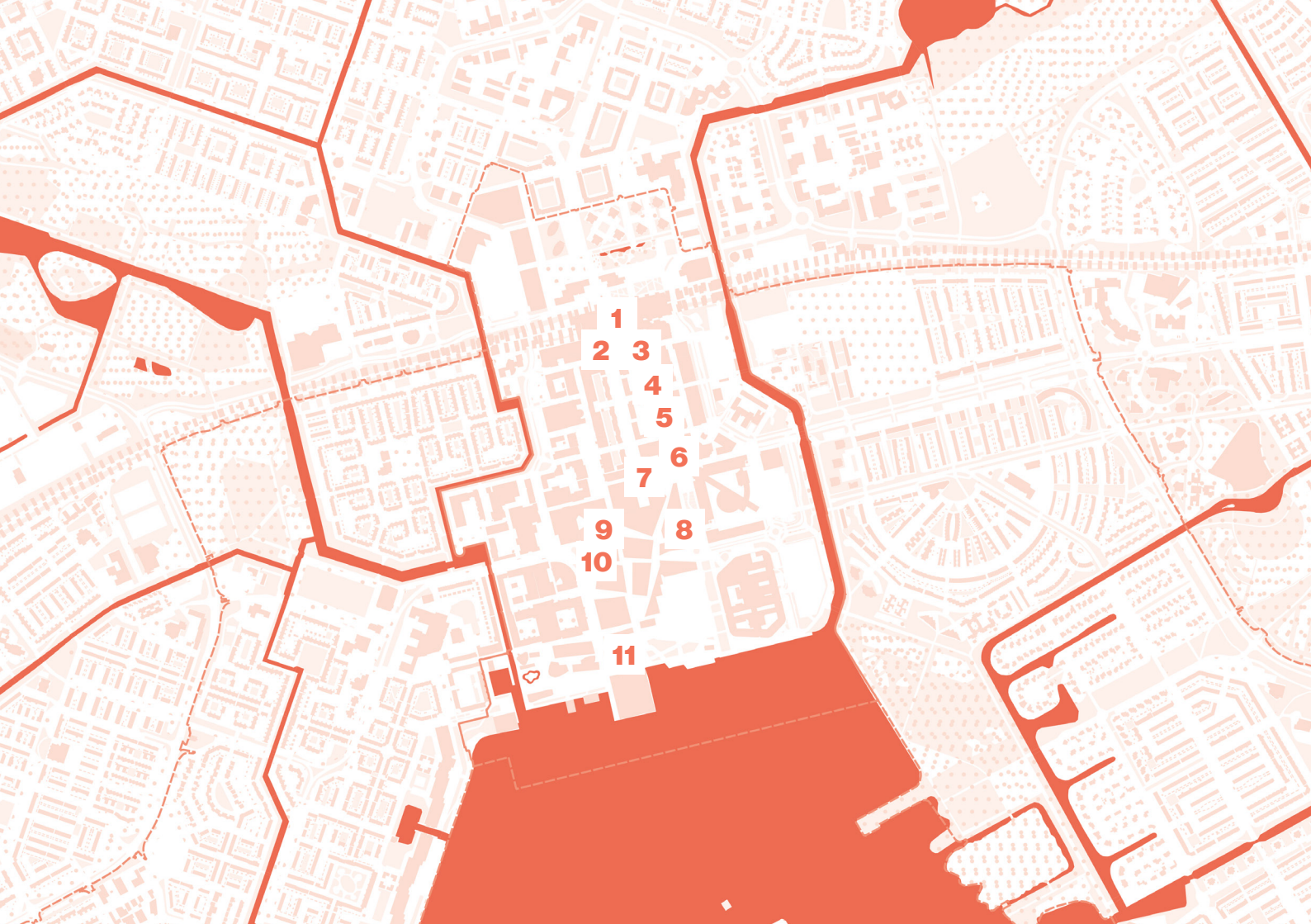
ALMERE STAD
CENTRE

FILMWIJK



CATALOGUE

This chapter explores the city within the three locations. The images and descriptions reflect my own experience as a visitor to Almere and are made in the period of December 2025 until May 2026.



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11



Almere Stad Centre is the commercial and civic heart of the city, concentrating the highest density of amenities, employment and public transport connections within the municipality.

Typologies:

High rise

'Bloemkoolwijk'

Businesses

Movement: Slow (walking, sitting, standing)

CATALOGUE Categories:

0 Built Environment

0.0 What is found in the built environment

ALMERE STAD CENTRE



Entering the city by train



First steps outside



The street lay-out guides visitors towards the shopping street



Poles keeping vehicles out of certain routes



From a wide street towards a small shopping street



Promotion and residential space on top of the shops

5.1



Automatic underground garbage system, no maintenance workers needed



A small street crosses the main street



Market on Wednesdays and Saturdays, leaves space for pedestrian flows



Tapwater station at the marketsquare
"Kraanwater - graag"



On other weekdays, the square is empty, except for 1 foodtruck



The library is located at the same square. A good place to go to the toilet during fieldwork, study or grab a coffee.



Did you lose your keys? Check the board at city hall



The walls of the concrete Municipal building are turned into art pieces.



Elevated street with sight on Weerwater and the parkinglot



Seating in shopping street combined with greenery



Seating towards parking combined with trees



Covered parking stairway with a metal seating element



Rainbow stairs with an built-in escalator and elevator



Empty foodsquares during the mornings

9.1



Glass plates keeping out the noise and sight of the traffic behind



Cars behind the glass plates



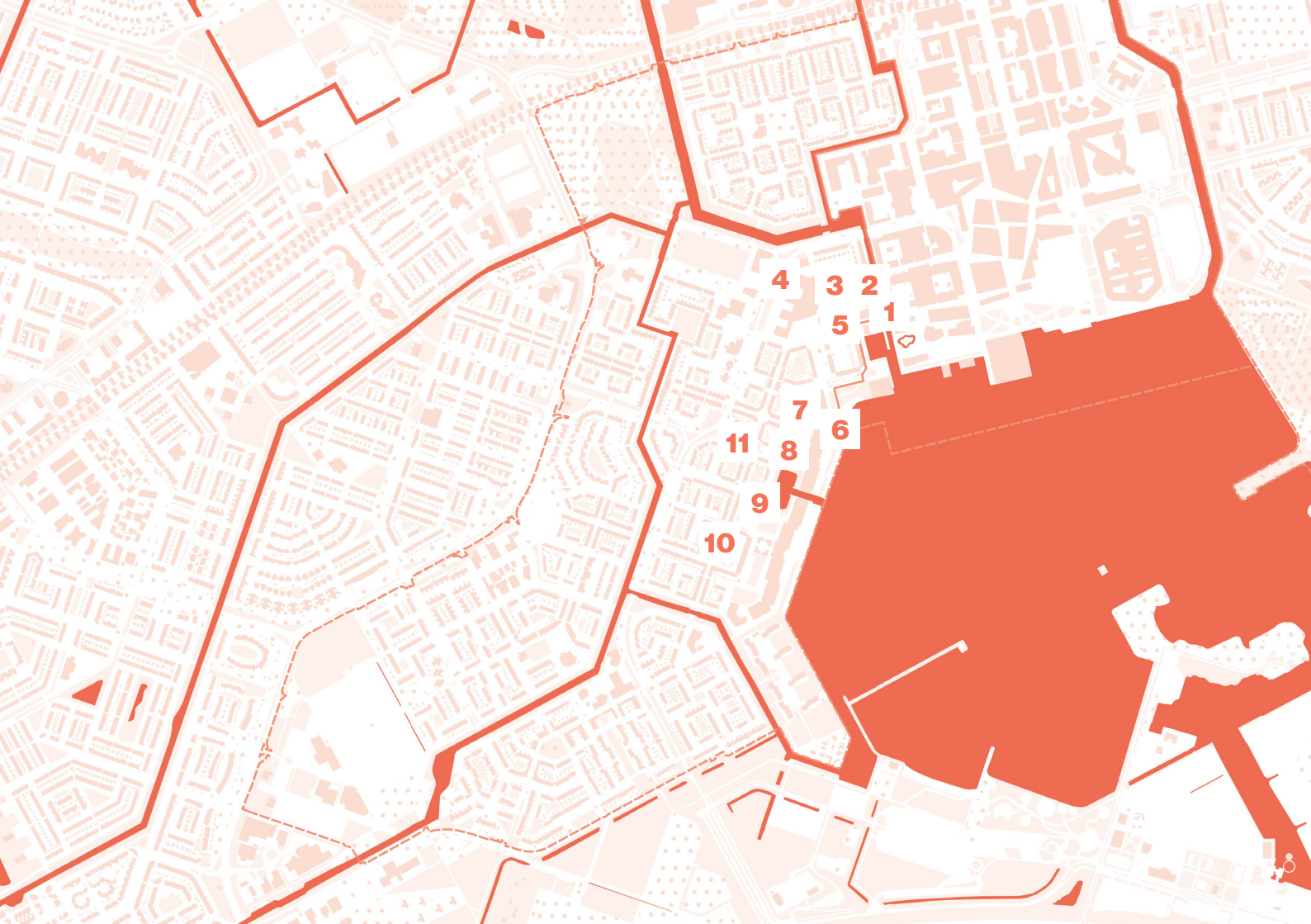
The main car road towards underground parking and the bypass to cross the city center



*Esplanade with large grass fields and concrete flooring,
facing Weerwater*



Seating facility and water element with view on Weerwater





Stedenwijk is a residential neighbourhood directly next to the city centre, characterised by low-density housing and limited ground-floor activity, representing the spatial conditions this research seeks to reconfigure.

Typologies:

'Bloemkoolwijk'

Greenery

Movement: Slow (walking, sitting, standing)

CATALOGUE Categories:

0 Built Environment

0.0 What is found in the built environment

STEDENWIJK



Olstgracht, view towards Weerwater. Centre towards Stedenwijk.



Peak-through street with double stairs towards Lentehof in Stedenwijk



Closed facades, fences and garages in the small back alley

3.1



Keep Almere clean - "Houd Almere schoon"



Is it garbage day?



Connection of the neighbourhood, bicycle lane and fast bus network



*Entering Stedenwijk, when coming from the city center,
biking along the terraces*



Almere's high density terraced blocks look over Weewater



Large bird paintings mark the entrances of the apartment blocks



The small building blocks give space to small scale businesses, the bicycle path crosses them facing Weerwater



The small port is a quality you do not expect in this street



Low density housing is mixed with even lower (one-story) housing



Another unexpected find is this closed-off/built in square



It is largely programmed with playgrounds for young children



Some front gardens are focused on the square, others prefer a higher level of privacy



Just around the corner, someone painted a seemingly Spanish bird



The bicycle network connects the whole area of Stedenwijk



In 'hofjes' these small playgrounds can be found



And frequent garbage dumps lying around the streets

11.3



I do not know what happened, but it did not make me feel any safer



A lot of people try to give their home and the street a bit of their own identity



A lot of people try to give their home and the street a bit of their own identity part two



Some small businesses were making use of the ground floor, like this bicycle workplace



8

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Filmwijk is a low-density residential neighbourhood situated east of the Weerwater, offering direct access to the waterfront while sharing the suburban spatial characteristics.

Typologies:

'Vinex-wijk'

Villa neighbourhood

Greenery

Movement: Slow (walking, sitting, standing)

CATALOGUE Categories:

0 Built Environment

0.0 What is found in the built environment

FILMWIJK



The built and the park are splitted by the vehicle road and parking



Playgrounds for small children are not used, the local small kids grew up



Another garbage day?



The buslane crosses the neighbourhood from north to south



Leaving a small elephant path as there are little pedestrian crossings



The amenities are well connected by car infrastructure



Stairs keep the bike parking semi-dry



Panna-field is often used by young ones



Weerwater is in clear view when coming from the amenity cluster



The route along Weerwater has a pedestrian and bicycle route with frequent benches



Also including ramps for people that are not able to use the stairs, or do not want to



Lumiere strand and the connecting bridge are facilitated with a public toilet



The view from Filmwijk when facing the city center (in spring)



All different kinds of low-rise typologies are found in Filmwijk-north



A crossing of the buslane next to a school

CATALOGUE

These site visits were part of the fieldwork methodology, involving walking the streets, observing daily rhythms, and noting what felt welcoming or was missing. They provided an essential initial understanding of the area, which informed the following walk-alongs and interviews. Experiencing the quietness of the residential streets, the activity around amenities and the quality of the Weerwater route first-hand helped me to formulate more specific questions for the women I later interviewed.

WALK ALONG

This chapter explores the lived experience of Almere from the perspective of five female residents aged 18–35. We discussed their daily routines, the places they often visit and why, the places they might avoid, and their wishes for their surroundings and Almere. We explored these topics by letting them make a mental map of their neighbourhood, through conversation and a walk-along interview. The findings are synthesised in a soft-summary map.



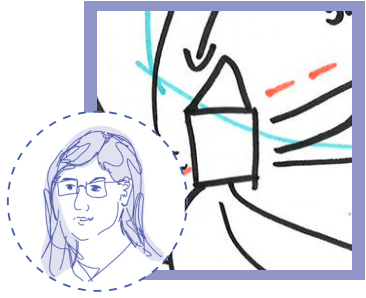
LARA
Filmwijk



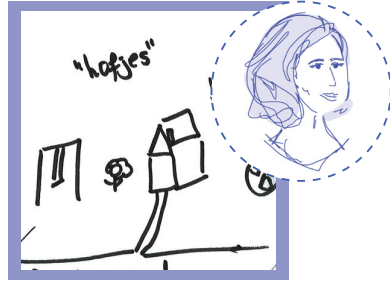
FEMKE
Almere Stad



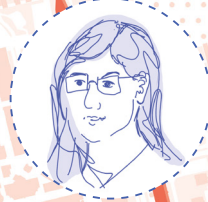
EMMA
Kruidenwijk



SOFIA
Almere Stad



MILA
Muziekwijk



ALMERE STAD
CENTRE

FILMWIJK



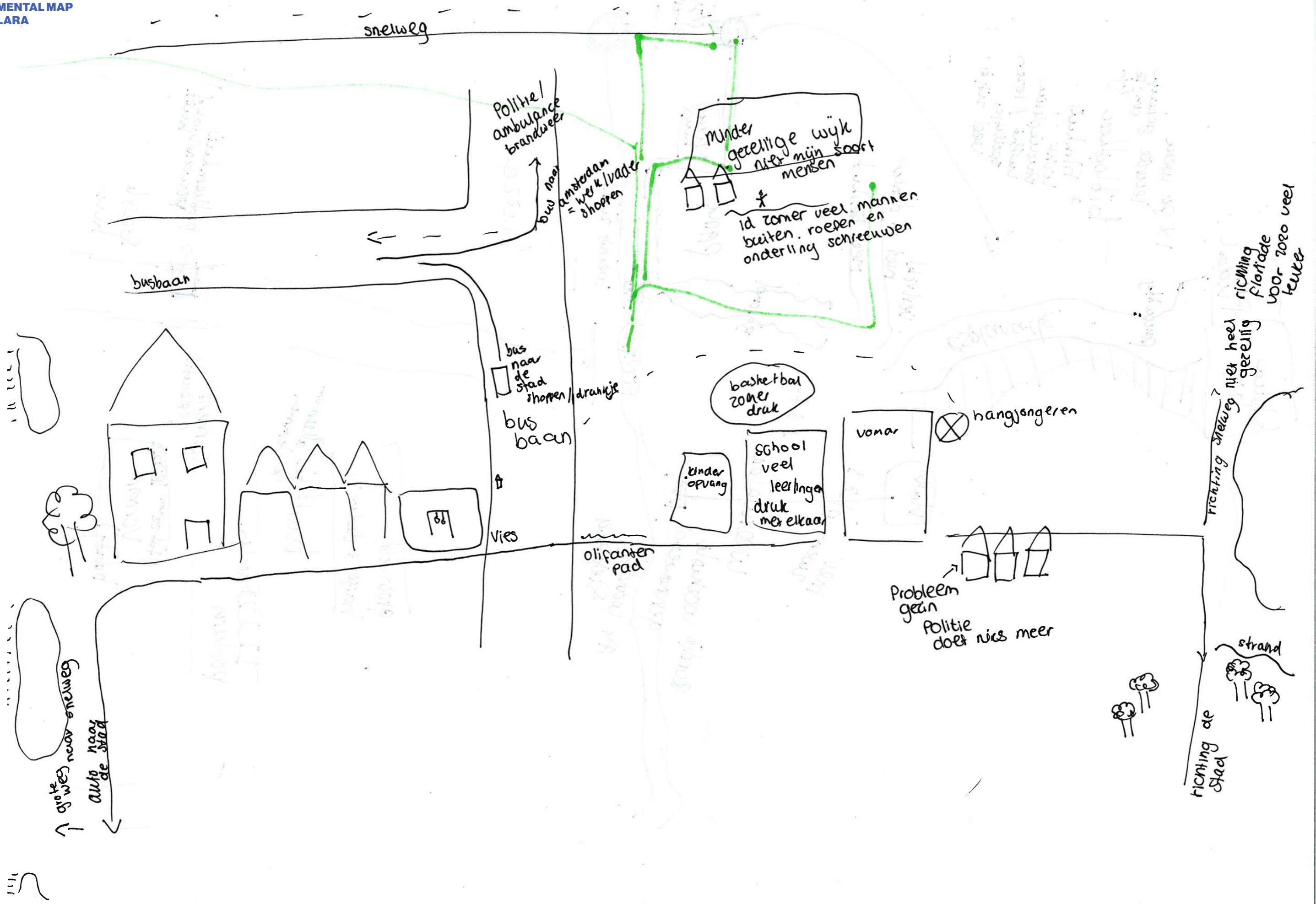
STEDENWIJK





LARA
Filmwijk

Age	26 years
Connection to Almere	Lived in Almere all her life
Housing situation	Semi-detached house, with her mother and brother, wishes to live on her own.
Area	Filmwijk
Studies Job	Studied at the university in Amsterdam Currently job searching.
Meaningfull places	Her home with her mother and brother; the restaurant above the Vomar; the Weerwater and its walking trails; Lumierepark; the functional shopping area in the centre; and the Grote Markt for drinks.
Safety	The buslane is a mental and spatial boundary, her side of the neighbourhood feels safer; she takes a different route towards the supermarket, based on childhood experiences; harassment has been reduced somewhat; the city centre feels empty after opening hours and she prefers cycling after dark.
Wish for Almere	She would love a good neighbourhood cafe, to casually chill out of the house; better nightlife options for her age-category; more ambiance and vibrancy in the city and more greenery in the city,



ROUTE IN FRAMES

During the walk-along interview we walked from her home towards the city centre. Telling me about her lived experiences and why she visits certain places or takes certain routes.



Her home is light, focused on the backgarden and is slightly higher than the street.

LARA
Filmwijk



We only visit park on the east when we are dogsitting.



I suspect drugdealings outside of supermarkt opening hours on the parking place.



This is the place youth hangs and shouted at me when I were young. I take the route on the left now.



It is a really lovely quality to have the lake Weerwater and its surrounding route so closeby, I often walk here with my mom.



The route has just been renovated and I often take this route towards the centre.



It is nice that the municipality tries to make something of the Esplanade, but it is still not what it could be.



The Esplanade has been getting better, but it would be great to have more vibrancy, cafés and terraces.



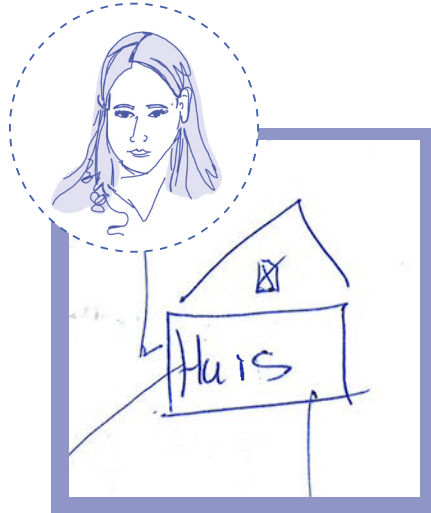
Every Wednesday and Saturday there is a market, other than that, there is nothing happening in this square.



There is one terrace I visit with friends, but it would be lovely to have more options. Often we meet in Amsterdam or Utrecht.

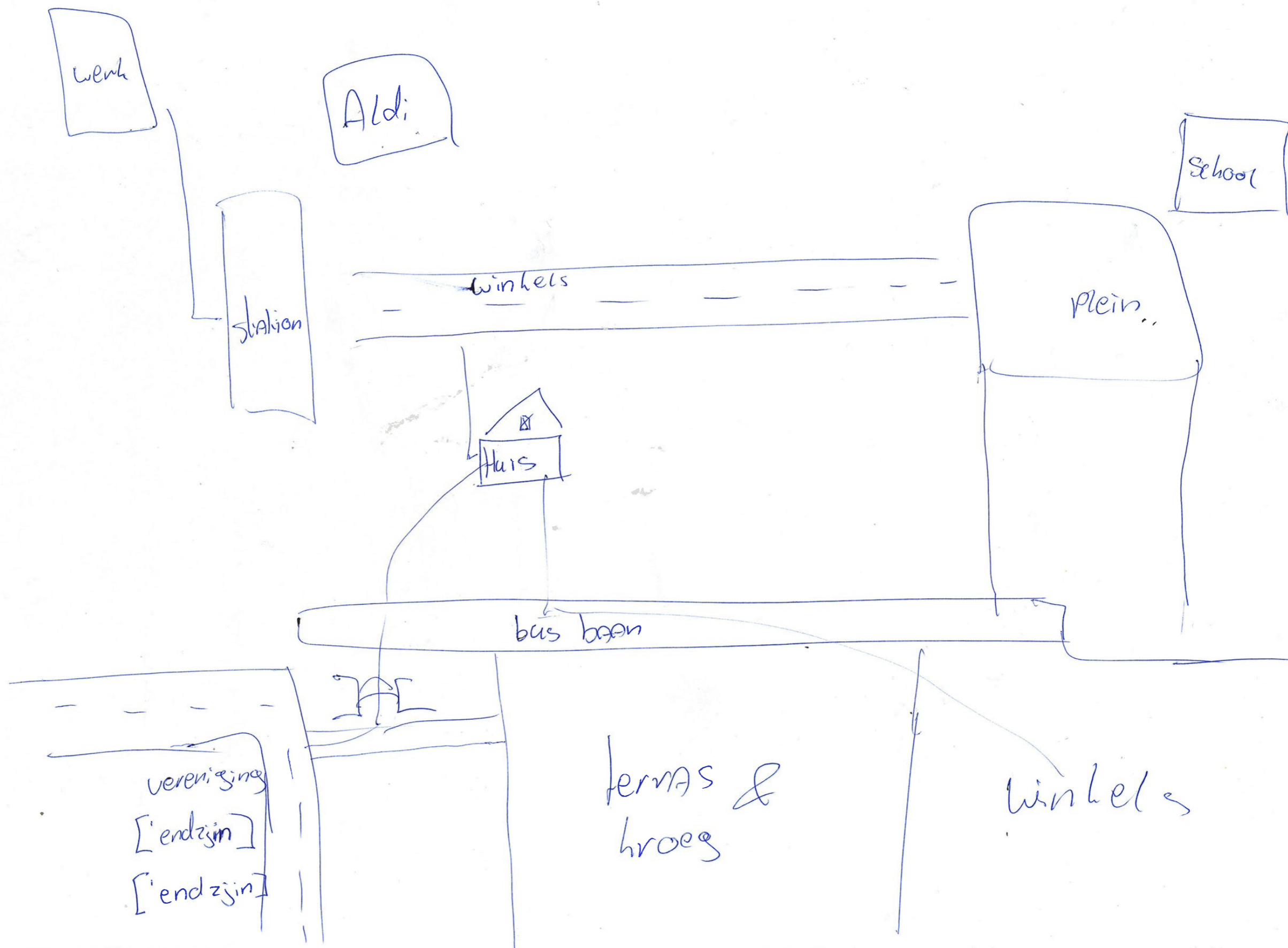


The library is a vibrant place, people come here to read, for the cafe, play a game or a chat with a friend.



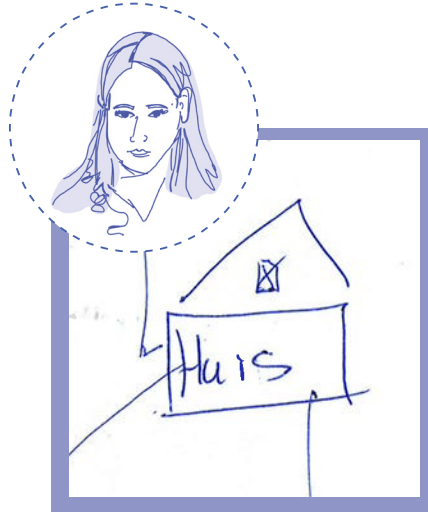
FEMKE
Almere Stad

Age	18 years
Connection to Almere	Moved here 1 year ago to experience the studentlife.
Housing situation	Studenthouse, with 2 roommates, in a rental home complex.
Area	Almere Stad Centre
Studies Job	Studies for 2 years now at Windesheim Works part-time in customer service
Meaningfull places	Dichterhof, as home and meeting place for friends; Enzjin, her student association, Windesheim for studying together with the library; her work; the Grote Markt for drinks and going out with friends; Almere Underground for spontaneous activities; the shopping street; Aldi and the Dirk for groceries and the befriended butcher for the discounted sandwich 'Endzjin'.
Safety	There are a lot of beggars in the centre and around the station, they appear after 19h; the underpass towards the association, now police camera's are placed here; De Passage is a shady place, so is the Blowboat; the station is percieved as safe.
Wish for Almere	She would appreciate more student and starter accomodation, friends have a hard time to find something if they have to move out of their student home; more promotion of student life by the council by actions and words; more green spaces in the centre; more restaurants, bars and nightlife for her age category.



ROUTE IN FRAMES

During the walk-along interview we walked from her home around in the city center.



Her home is relatively dark and full of paintings and drawings related to the association. It is connected to a gallery.

FEMKE
Almere Stad



There are also others from our association living in this complex.
We often chill on the gallery together or hop by each others houses.



Our place is so close to the main shopping street.



I walk daily through the shopping street towards and back from work and school or for a quick shop.



Our association has a collaboration with this Butcher - 'Sandwich Endzjin'.



The station is an OK place, I feel comfortable here. Homeless are not able to hang around, due to surveillance and uncomfortable seating.



On my way back from work, I take this route, but after dark, I walk through the station.



When I need to study, I usually go to Windesheim school. I used to study at the library, but it is often full of students.



This is our association bar, every Tuesday and Thursday evening, this is where I'll be.



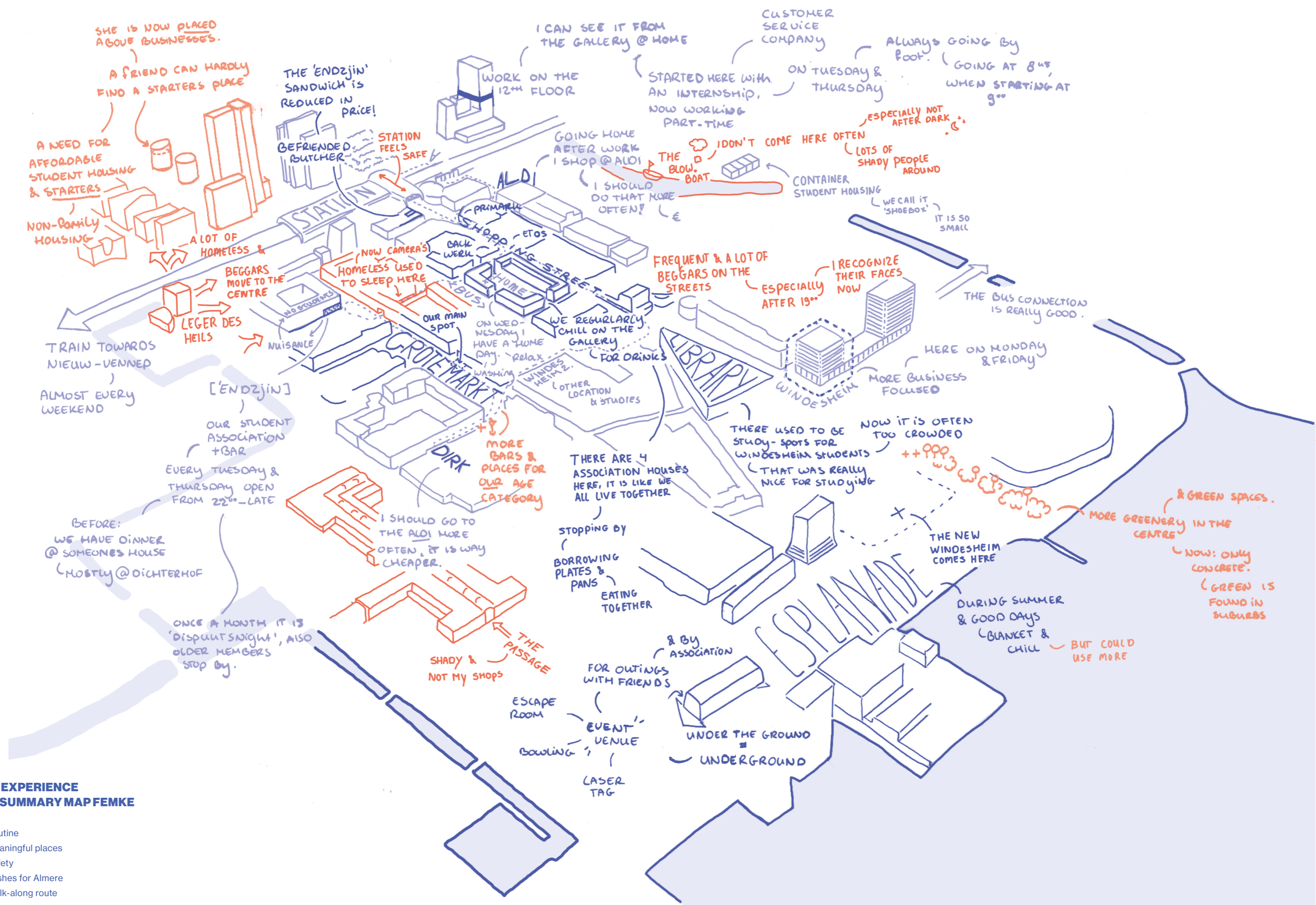
After the opening hours of the student bar we visit the Grote Markt, but also on other days!



After drinks, this is my way home. But homeless frequently sleep or chill here, so I often ask someone to walk with me.



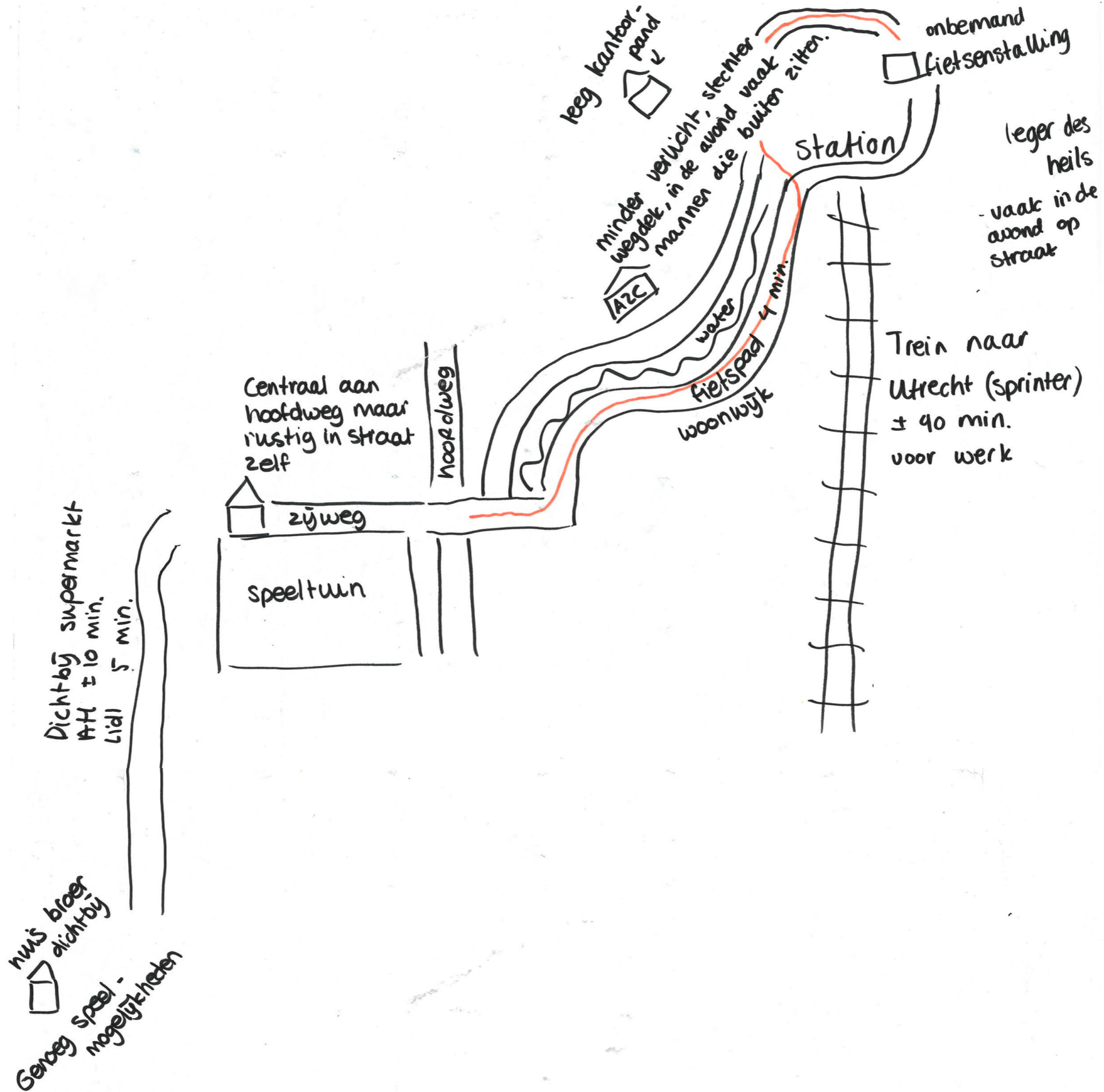
The police placed this temporary camera, now there is no more homeless people around.





EMMA
Kruidenwijk

Age	30 years
Connection to Almere	Has lived 7 years in the city centre in student housing, now 2 years in Kruidenwijk.
Housing situation	Rowhousing with a garden, together with her partner.
Area	Kruidenwijk
Studies Job	Did her Bachelor and Master at Windesheim Secretary of a female driven consultancy office in Utrecht.
Meaningful places	Her own home, wich is quiet, compact and has a small communal background; Almere station, for going to work and visiting friends; Grote Markt, as the heart of the social life; Enzjin association, holds a lot of good memories of her studentlife; Dichterhof, is where she used to live; Beatrixpark for a nice walk in summer; Lidl and Albert Heijn for groceries; Almere Poort is where her best friend lives; Esplanade fro major events and the house of her brother-in-law.
Safety	The cycle path alongside the asylum, groups of men hang around after dark; The area around Leger Des Heils; Bicycle parking at the station, frequent hanging around of homeless; Abandoned office area, few people on the streets; Women and safety was a large theme in the municipality, now there are a lot of camera's; Quick response time of the police.
Wish for Almere	An intercity between Almere and Utrecht would save around 20 mins; More supervision on her station bicycleparking; Better lighting and maintenance of the cycle part along the asylum; Tackle vacancy in the office area.



ROUTE IN FRAMES

During the walk-along interview we walked from her home in Kruidenwijk towards the city center.



Her home is cosy, a place where she likes to stay and spend the day. It has a backgarden and along a quiet street.

EMMA
Kruidenwijk



I prefer to bike along this neighbourhood, it has more eyes on the street and liveliness than the other side of the water, next to the asylum seeker centre.



This office has been broken down, now it is a pool and nothing has changed in the past few years.



If there is little wind, there is a lot of wind here because of the high buildings.



That is the other road I can take to the station, but I rather not because of the proximity of Leger Des Heils.



In bad weather homeless can hang around outside and inside the bicycle parking, they should get more surveillanced parking



This used to be my association, I spent a lot of time here. I met a lot of my current close friends here.



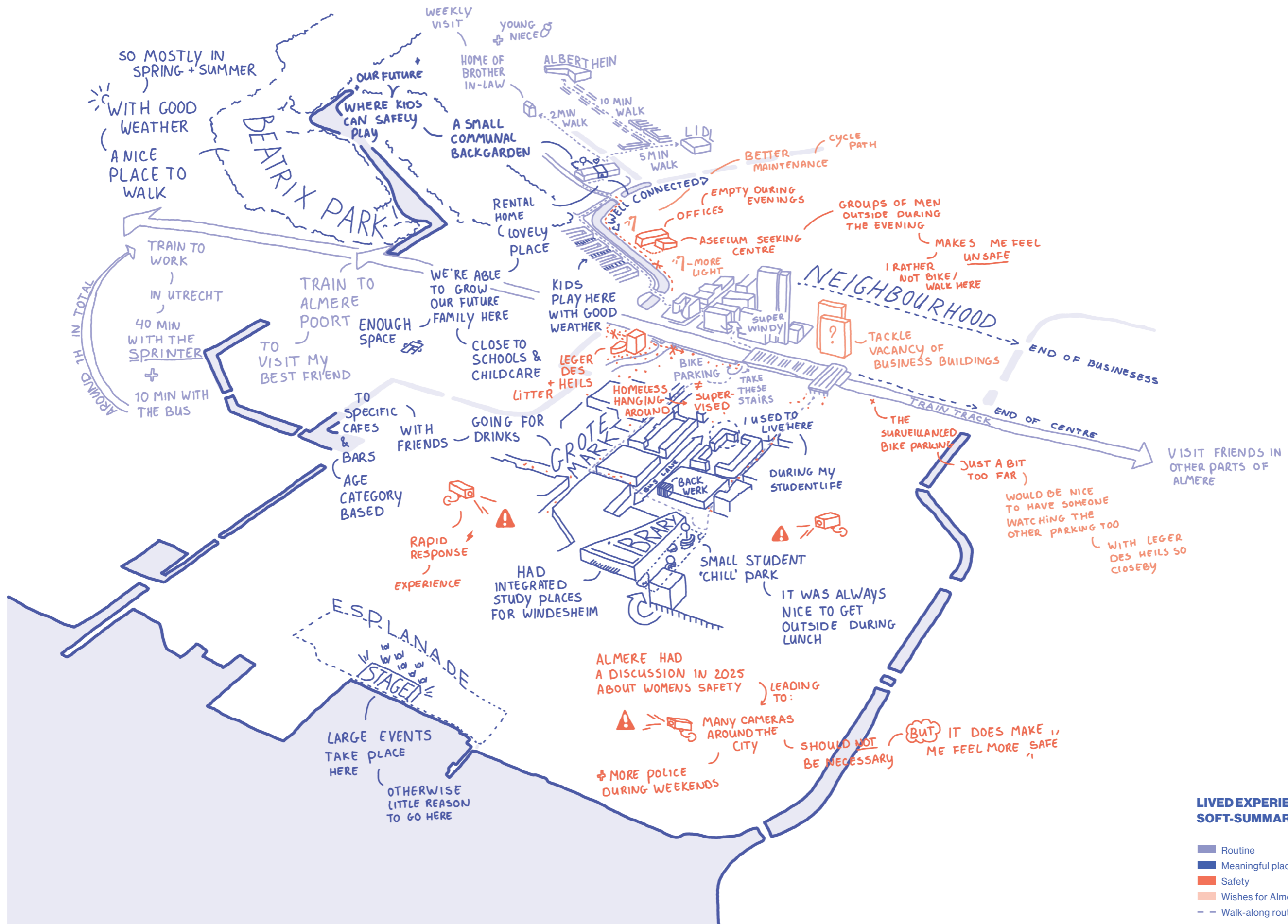
The Grote Markt is the place I go for drinks with friends, but you can't go dancing in a bar for our own age category.



During lunch time, this small strip is filled with students. It is nice to get outside during study days.

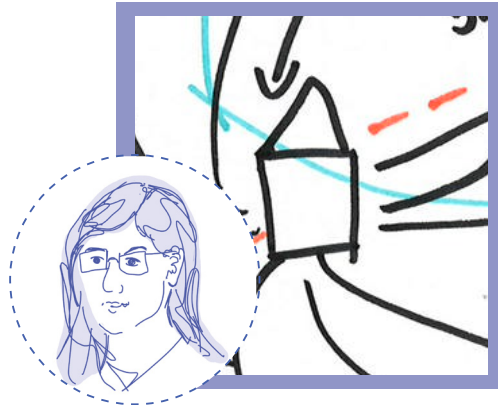


I used to live at Dichterhof, this was so much fun! Hopping in- and out each others house and located in the middle of everything!



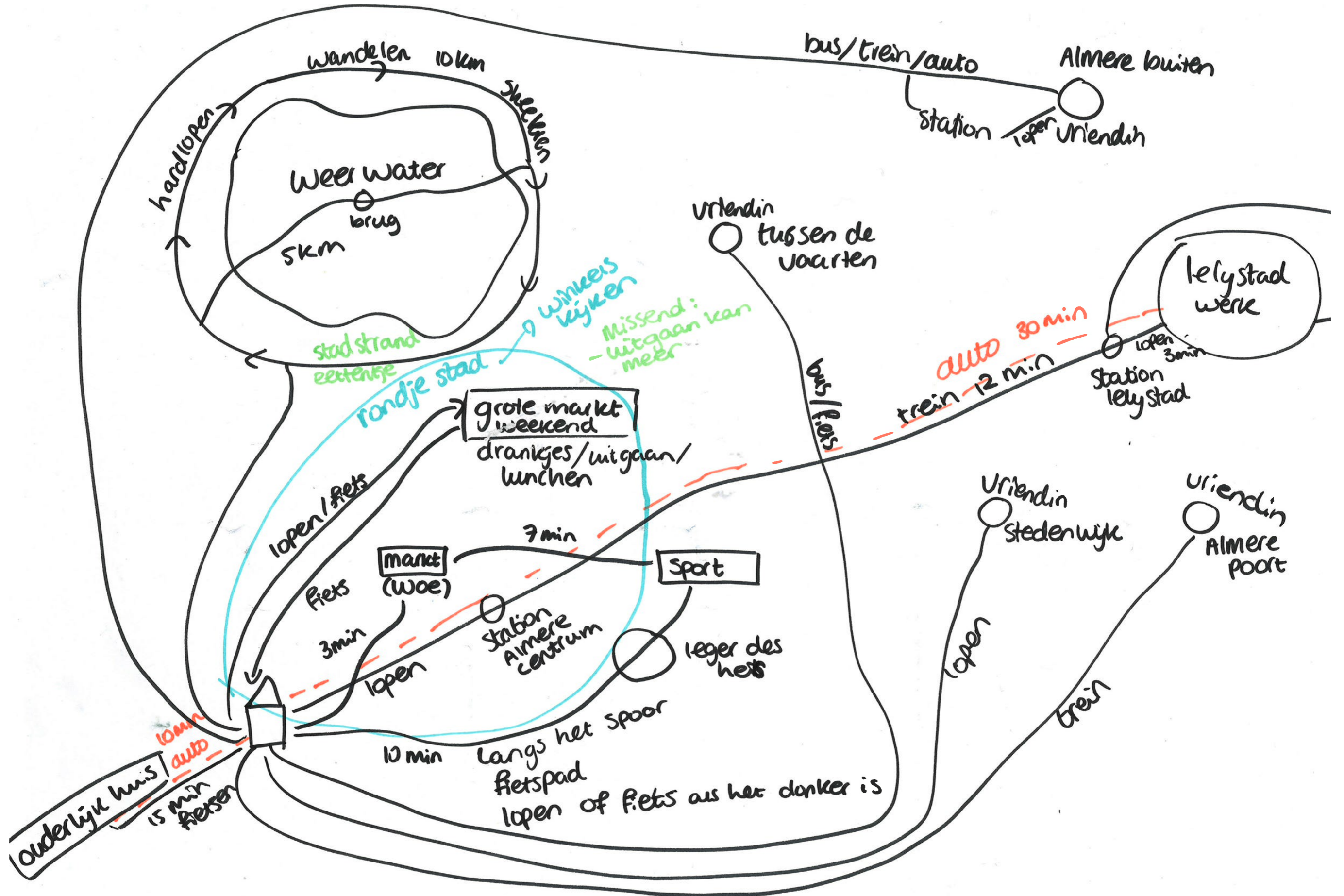
**LIVED EXPERIENCE
SOFT-SUMMARY MAP EMMA**

- Routine
- Meaningful places
- Safety
- Wishes for Almere
- Walk-along route



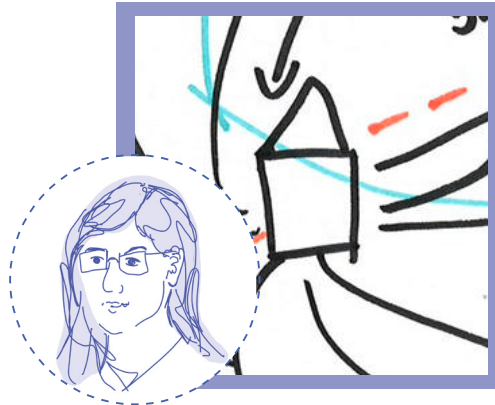
SOFIA
Almere Stad

Age	25 years
Connection to Almere	Grew up in Kruidenwijk, started her studies in Almere and moved out into a student home after and is now living on her own.
Housing situation	Appartment studio in a flat
Area	Almere Stad centre
Studies Job	Bachelors in Almere and masters in Rotterdam Provincial house of Flevoland in Lelystad.
Meaningfull places	Her apartment, the Grote Markt (Market on Wednesdays and Saturdays), the station, Club Pelicaan, Esplanade/Strand 22, Dichterhof, her friends' houses and her mother's house.
Safety	The area around 'Leger Des Heils' is unavoidable on the way to the gym. She prefers to cycle there in the evening rather than walk. There are a lot of police in the city on weekends, and many shops are vacant.
Wish for Almere	She really misses the AH supermarket because the Dirk and Aldi are too crowded and have a limited selection. The Grote Markt could use more vibrancy and nightlife for her age category. The Esplanade would benefit from more dining and drinking options. The new Windesheim complex could help with this. Finally, the city needs time to develop its character.



ROUTE IN FRAMES

During the walk-along interview we walked from her home in the center through the city center.



Her home is light, but small. She lives in a studio with a balcony. She and her partner can wave at each other while he is at work.

SOFIA
Almere Stad



Finding the front door when being a new visitor, to enter her home building is a challenge.



When I am working from home, I go to the market during my break.



There is no route that avoids Leger Des Heils towards my sports club.



Almost-daily travel by train towards Lelystad, only by car for hockey.



I visit the Grote Markt during weekends with friends, but we're missing a place for our age category.



There is a lot of vacancy of shops, new ones come and go every now and then.



I used to come up there, there is a foodsquare, but it was closed down, but it looks open??



This is where the new Zara will be, it has also been a V&D and a P&C. It is a large plot.



The beach club is a nice place for the summer, I love the view on the waterside.



Leren, wonen en werken - alles stroomt hier samen.

Campus Almere Centrum

Naast hogeschool Windesheim worden studentenwoningen en een nieuwe parkeergarage gebouwd. Blijf op de hoogte van alle centrumontwikkelingen via almere.nl/centrumnieuwsbrief



Hopefully they will add some activity in the ground floor of the new Windesheim building, not like the bar they promised in ours.



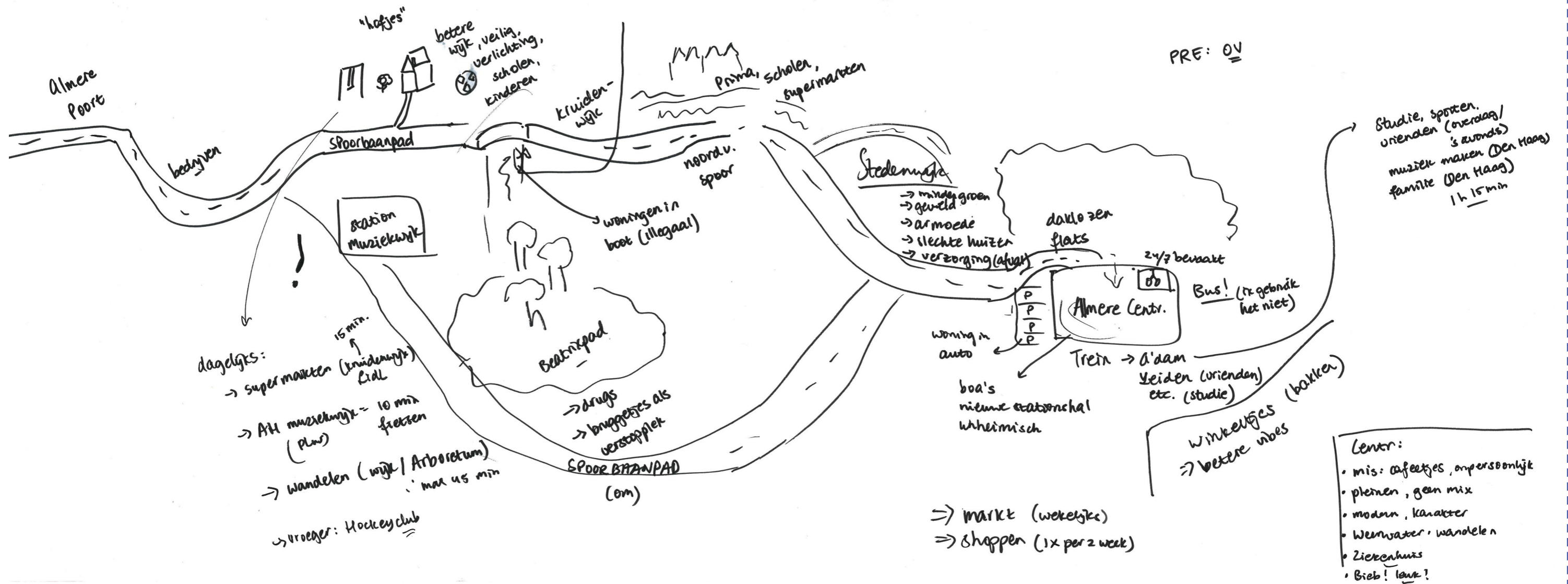
Rondje Weerwater is a great quality, I do make use of it a lot with running, biking or rollerskating.





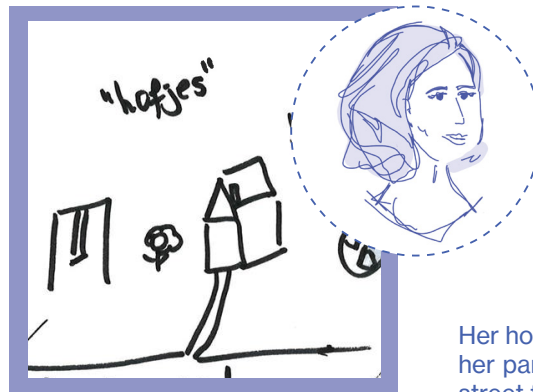
MILA
Muziekwijk

Age	22 years
Connection to Almere	She moved 4 years ago to Almere with her parents and brother.
Housing situation	Living in a detached house with her parents.
Area	Muziekwijk
Studies Job	Philosophy in Amsterdam
Meaningfull places	Their home and neighbourhood, it feels safe, calm and has nice courtyards; Spoorbaanpad as daily bike-route to Almere station; Almere station for going to other cities; The market on Saturday for weekly visits with her father; Lidl in Kruidenwijk for weekly grocery shopping; Weerwater for walking around and relaxation; Aboretum park for regular walks with mom; The central library and other cities like Amsterdam, The Hague and Leiden.
Safety	The neighbourhood is perceived as safe; Beatrixpark is a notorious drug hotspot; Small bridges often function as hideouts for people on the run; Stedenwijk feels unsafe with weekly accidents; Boats are used for permanent living and illegal activity; People are sleeping and living in their cars around the station; The station doesn't feel very safe on its own, there is a lot of surveillance.
Wish for Almere	More vibrancy in the neighbourhoods, with small cafes or others; Better supermarket coverage in the neighbourhoods; more variety in the city of small and large plots, and mixing functions more instead of separating them into 'areas'.



ROUTE IN FRAMES

During the walk-along interview we walked from station Muziekwijk through her neighbourhood.



Her home is light, and cosy with her parents. She lives in a calm street full of elderly.

MILA
Muziekwijk



The Leger Des Heils in Muziekwijk is built in a combination complex with a neighbourhood hub, a small shop and more, it is not bad at all.



There is only a sort of Albert Heijn To Go around here as supermarket, which means it has limited offers and is expensive.



I always go by bike to the central station, Spoorbaanpad is ideal, a sort of highway for bicycles. But you do need to go through Stedenwijk, which feels less safe.



Stedenwijk is not a pleasant neighbourhood. It is often in the news for the wrong reasons, there is visible poverty, and it feels unsafe.



Every Saturday I visit the market in the centre with my dad.



The library is a nice place to visit, it has a cafe and a cinema, I come there every now and then.

Across the five walk-alongs, a consistent picture emerges. The females move primarily by bike and foot, in a city designed for the car. Creating **daily** friction that is functional in distance but uncomfortable in experience. Proximity to amenities is deeply valued where it exists and directly felt where it does not. **Meaningful places** are concentrated in a single central zone, while residential neighbourhoods remain places to sleep and depart from. **Safety** shapes daily movement in concrete ways, as routes, timing and transport modes are adjusted as a matter of routine. What these women **wish** for is not radical transformation, but the kind of ordinary urban life already offered in comparable Dutch cities: neighbourhood-scale places, greenery, affordable housing and atmosphere. The word *sfeerloos* (lacking atmosphere) captures the gap between Almere as a functioning system and Almere as a city worth inhabiting.



**LIVED EXPERIENCE
SOFT-SUMMARY MAP CONCLUSION**

- Routine
- Meaningful places
- Safety
- Wishes for Almere

APPENDIX

This chapter presents the initial analysis and observations of Almere Buiten. Although this area was later excluded from the main research, it is still an important and large part of Almere. It also exhibits characteristics and patterns that are recognised elsewhere in the city.

Almere Buiten Centre and through the neighbourhoods

16/12/2025

#Visit Almere: 2nd

Day: Tuesday

Time: 09:45 - 15:20

Weather: cloudy, small drops of rain (11:45 - 12:10), wind: 8bft,
8-11 degrees celsius

Movement: Slow and medium (walking, standing, sitting)

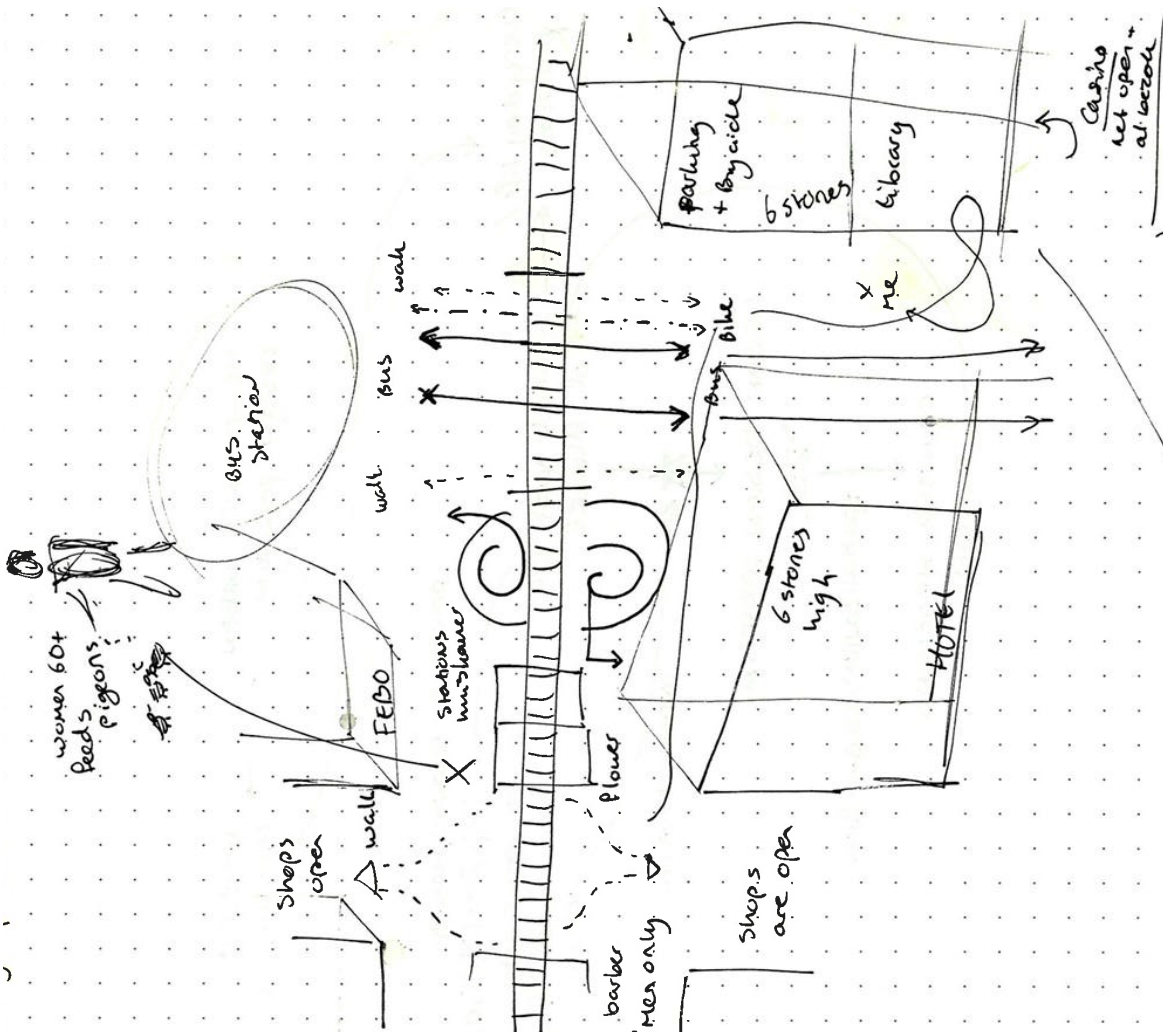
Typologies:

'Bloemkoolwijk'

'VINEX-wijk'

Businesses

Greenery



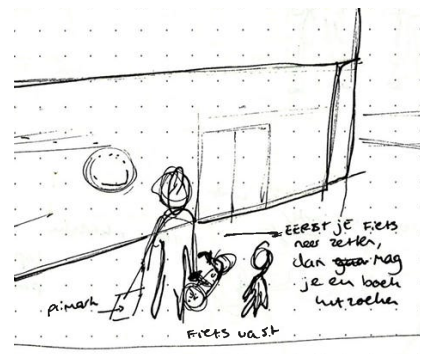
ver. lowth kopprieking?
 best'e mit heed?

I arrived at Almere Buiten by train around 9:45. The first thing I noticed when coming down from the traintrack was the FEBO, already opened.

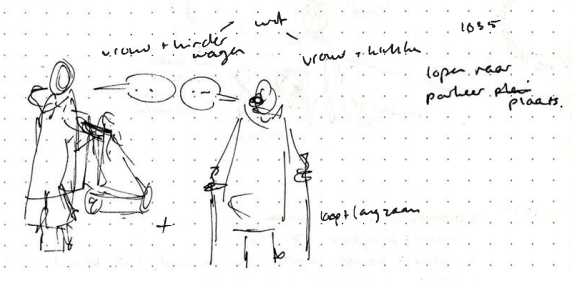
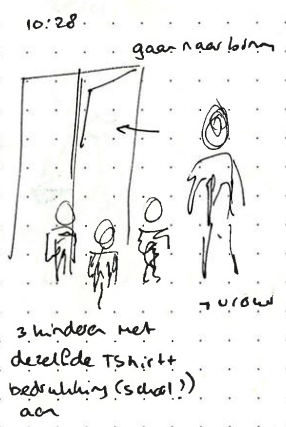
The trainstation immediately connects to the main shopping street.

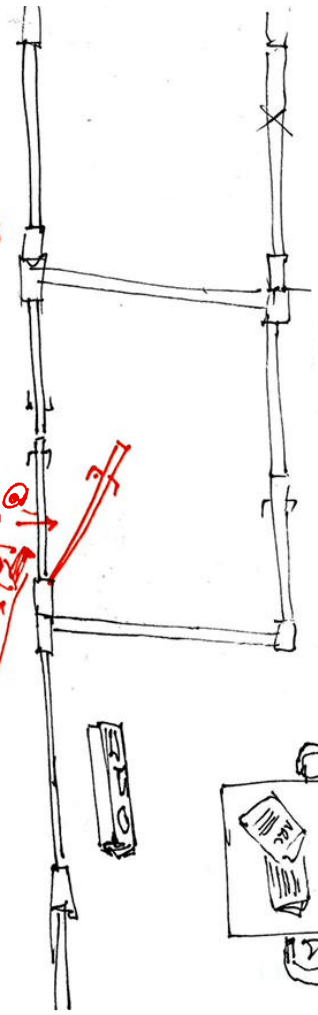
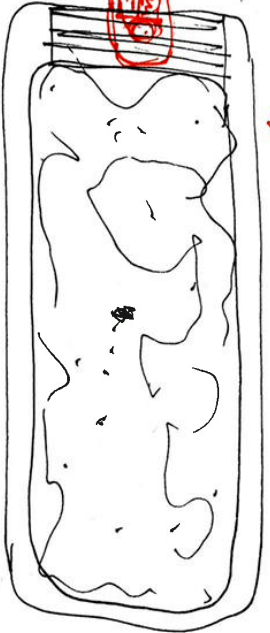
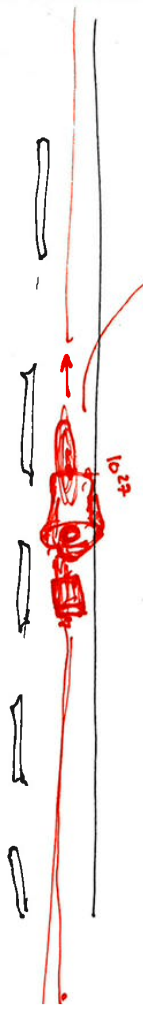
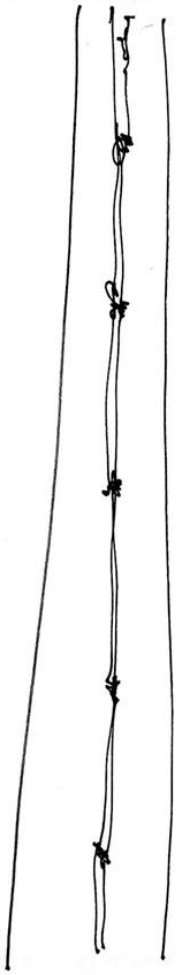
The corridor underneath the traintrack is not as inviting as the street, the flowerist has a closed facade at this side. And the only other shops underneath, were barber-shops for men.

The buildings are 2-3 stories high, except for the newer ones, such as the hotel and the library, these could go up to 4-6 stories.

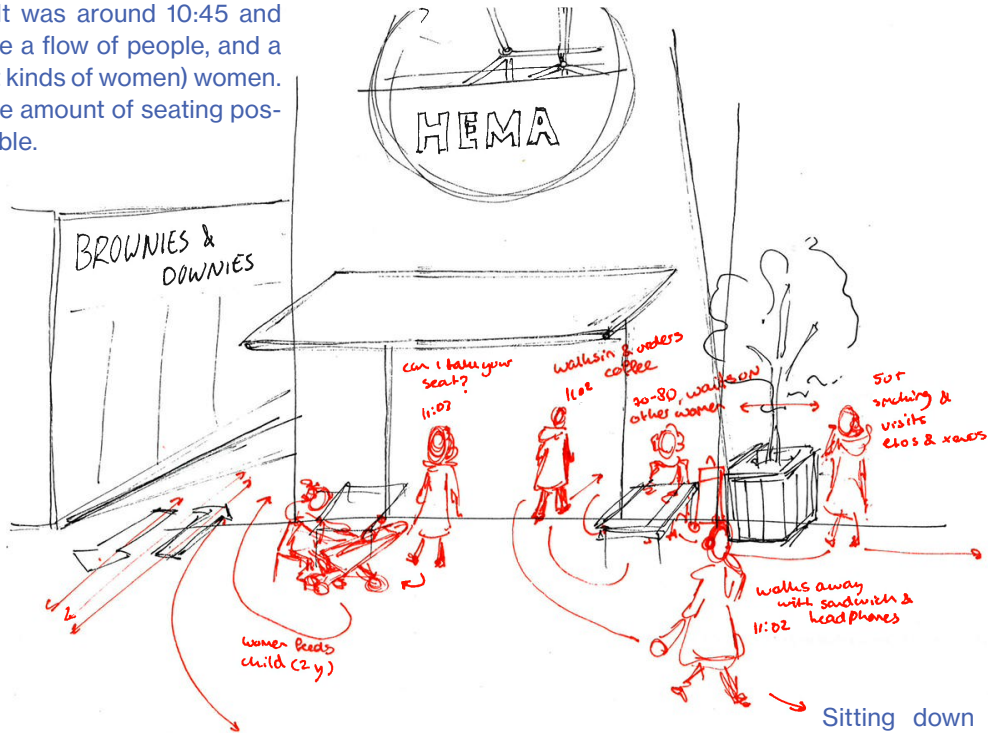


After walking around and making a first impression I went to the library and sat outside for a bit. The building was not in the walking flow of the shopping street, but there were a lot of women walking in, out or coming by. A large amount, most of them accompanied by children.



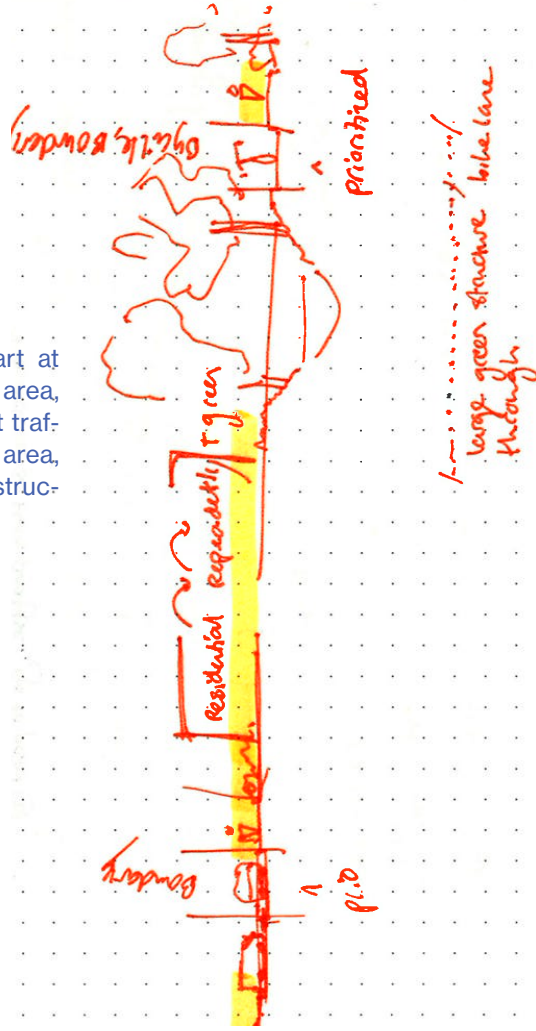


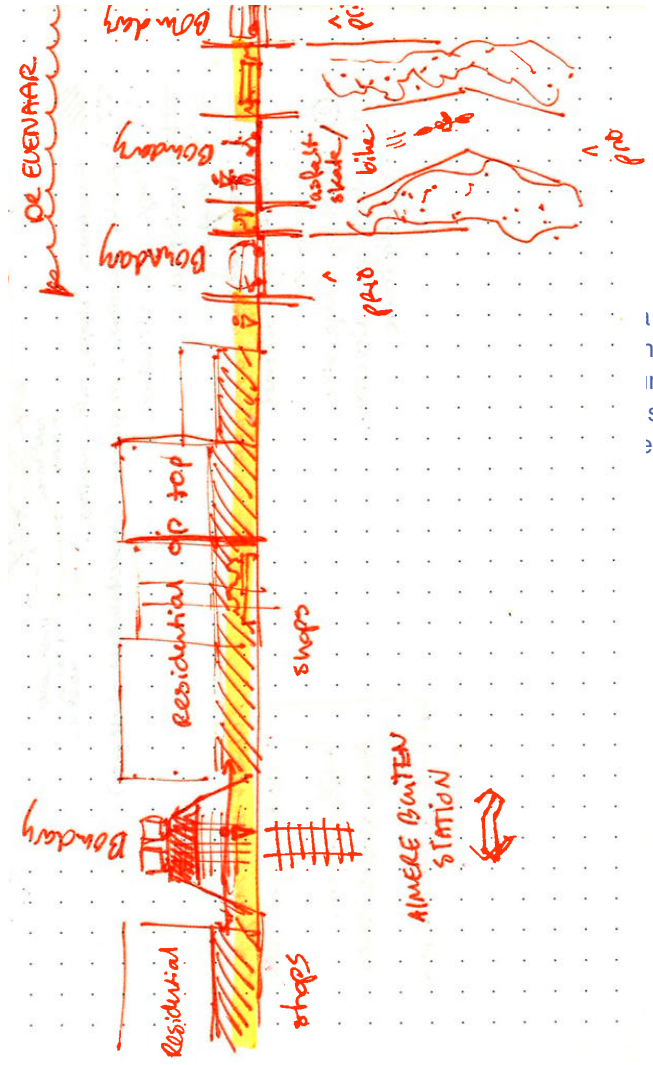
I continued my journey along the shopping street, in the direction of the neighbourhoods. I came across the Nobelenplein square. It was around 10:45 and there was quite a flow of people, and a lot of (different kinds of women) women. There is a large amount of seating possibilities available.



Sitting down in front of the HEMA made a beautiful scene. A lot of women walked in and out, used it as a gathering place, walked by or fed their child.

I made this section from my start at the station, through the shopping area, crossing the 'evenaar' with its fast traffic. Then I entered the residential area, which is split up by a large water structure and the bicycle route.

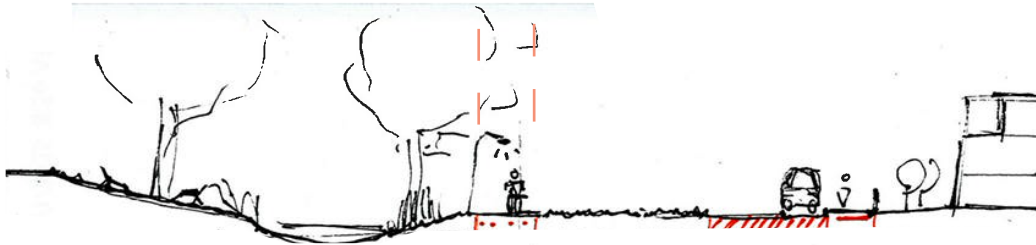




As a pedestrian I experienced a lot of boundaries within this line, especially around the evenaar. There are no zebra crossings for pedestrians, while the cars go at 30-50 km/h.



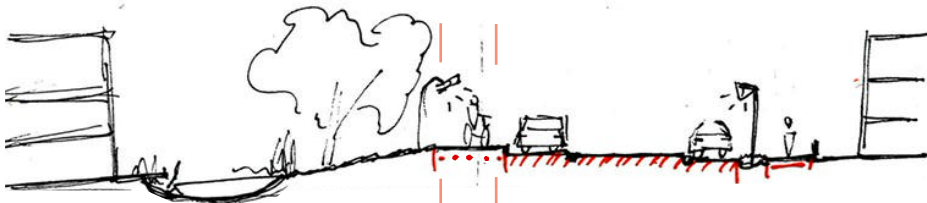
1. Bloemenbuurt



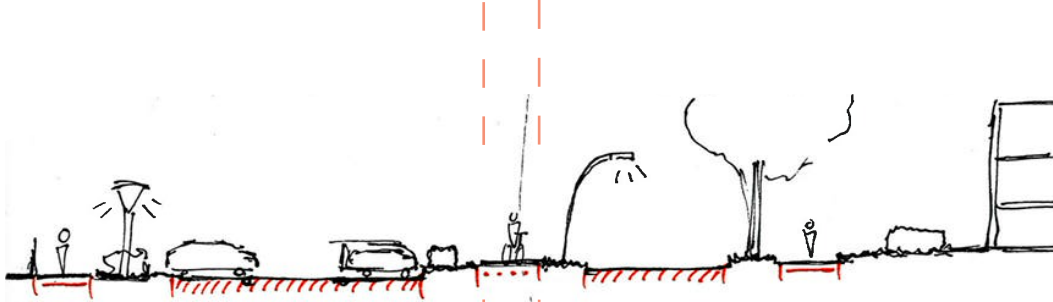
2. Regenboogbuurt



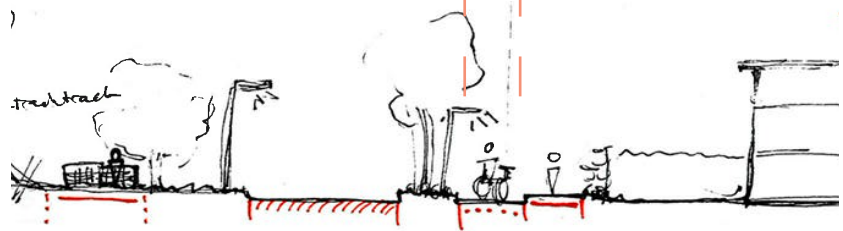
3. Regenboogbuurt



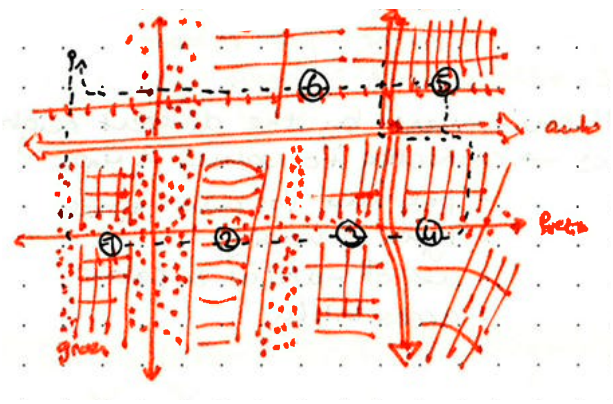
4. Eilandenbuurt



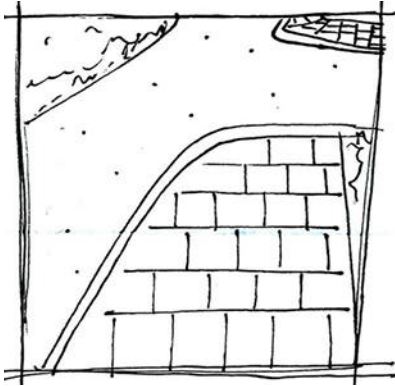
5. Oostvaardersbuurt



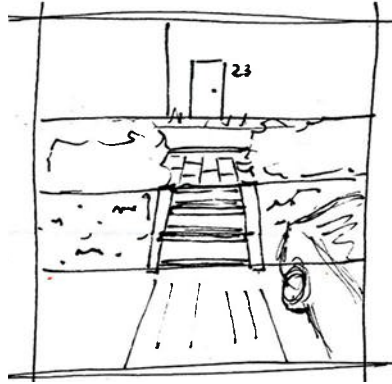
6. Seizoenenbuurt



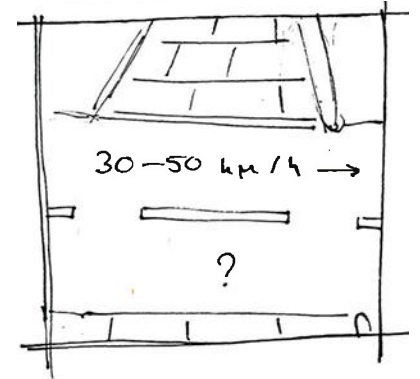
Short explanation about neighbourhood differences and prioritization of bicycle and car



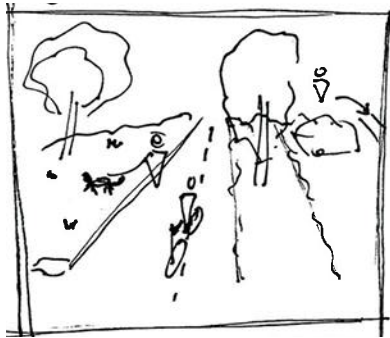
1. In residential fabric



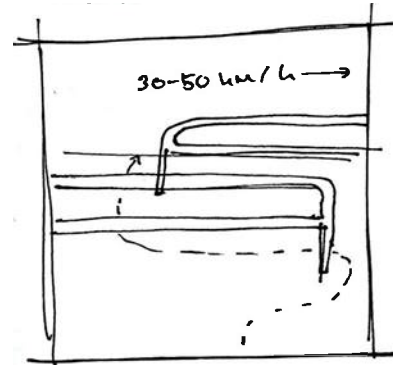
2. In residential fabric



3. Across the Evenaar



4. In residential fabric



5. Across the Evenaar

And concluding my journey with a few limitations I experienced during my journey as a pedestrian in Almere Buiten.

1. The first one is the change in textures of the ground surface. Often leading

2. A change of height from parking towards homes.

3. No zebra crossings at an important road (de Evenaar) from the centre towards the residential fabric.

4. A missing trottoir next to greenery, people with dogs walk on the bicycle road, people with strollers or in wheelchairs do so too.

5. Fences are to slow down medium or slow traffic to prioritize cars.

X