LIFE IN THE SHADOW OF THE ATLANTIKWALL

Designing a reconciliation landscape for The Hague

P5-Presentation February 10 2023

Cynthia Rensman

Today

- Problem field
- Research Methods
- Research Analysis
- Conjoint Design
- Local Interventions
- Reflection

1 PROBLEM FIELD



Motivation

- Appelstraat & Bananenstraat
- Stories for connection
- Invisible & sensitive stories



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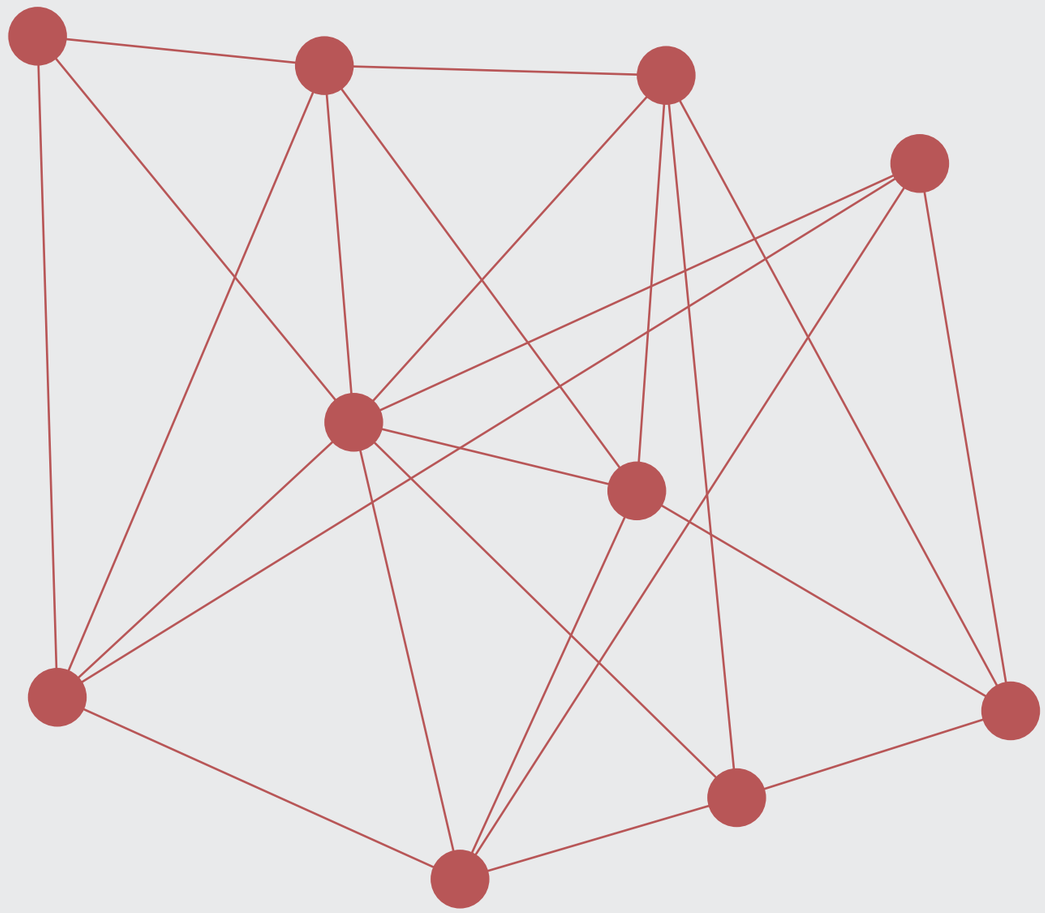
- Appelstraat & Bananenstraat
- **Stories for connection**
- Invisible & sensitive stories



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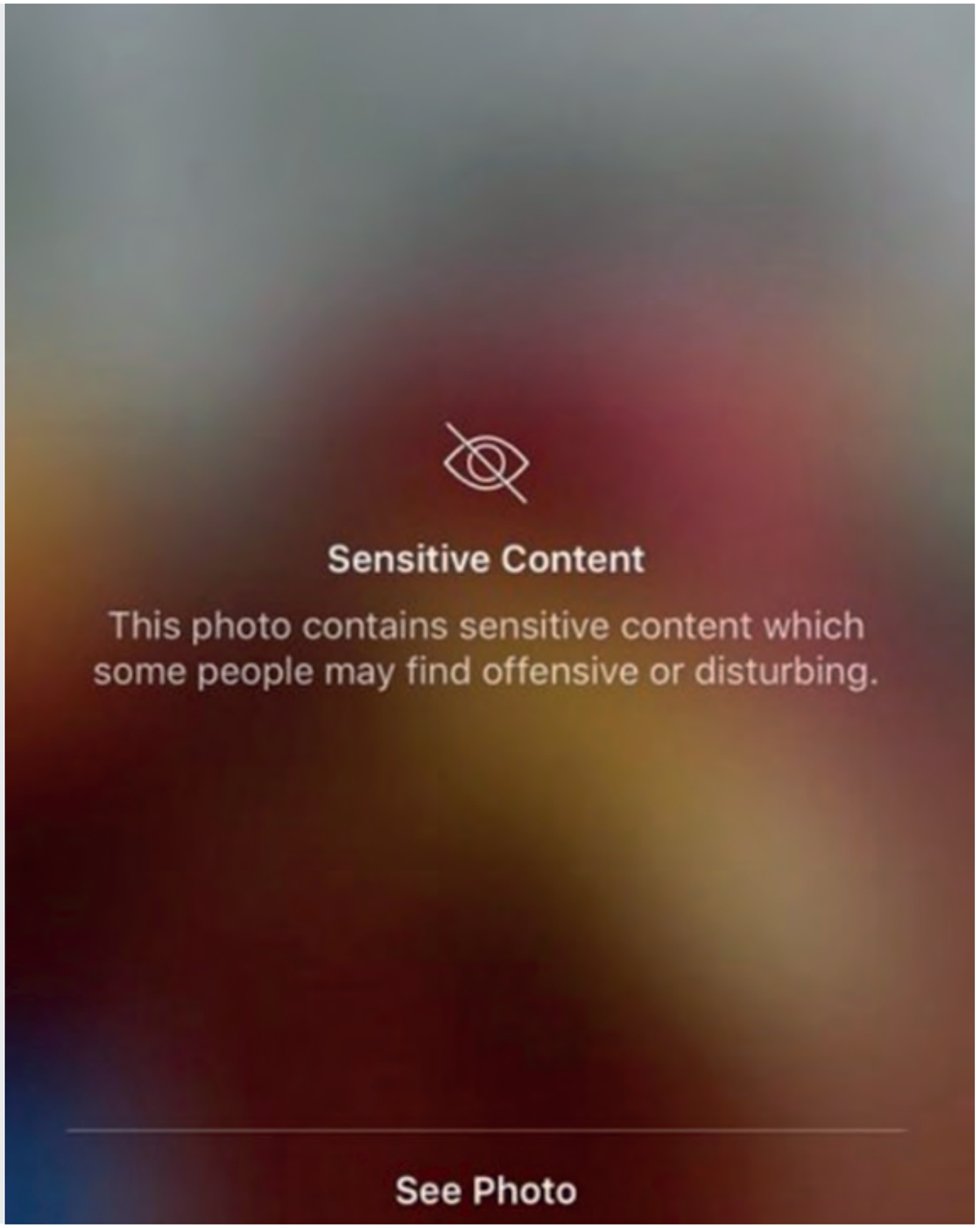

Problem Field



Problem Field

- Sensitive Narrative
- Unknown Narratives
- Invisible Heritage
- No place for connecting stories





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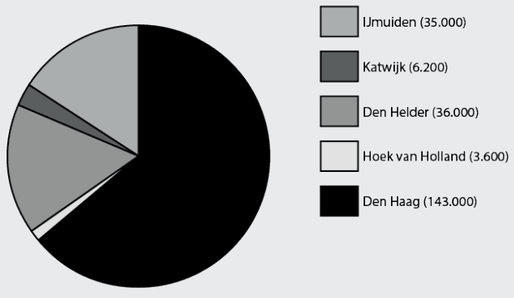
Number of evacuated people (1942-1945), total approximately 350.000

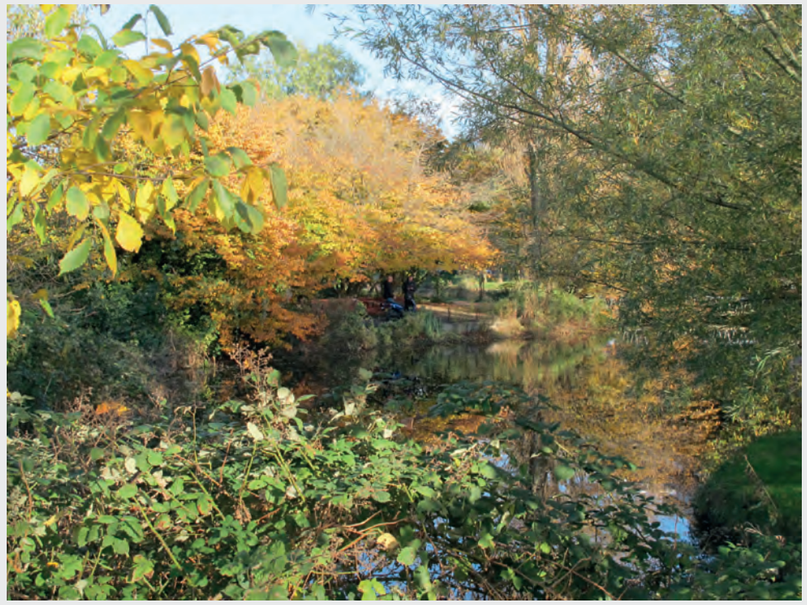


Source: Mellink, Saal & Van Schuppen, 2017



Problem Field

- Sensitive Narrative
- Unknown Narratives
- **Invisible Heritage**
- No place connecting stories





Problem Field

- Sensitive Narrative
- Unknown Narratives
- Invisible Heritage
- No place for connection via stories

Research Question

How can sensitive heritage, such as the Atlantikwall in The Hague, be designed and include the current needs of the urban residents, and highlight the different narratives around the Atlantikwall to facilitate an integrated and reconciling design?

2 METHODS



Research Methods: Literature

So, what is reconciling design?

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Inclusive approach (feeling seen and heard)

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Research Methods: Literature

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- Environmental: green & blue (stimulation of senses)

Research Methods: Literature

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- Environmental: green & blue (stimulation of senses)

+

Stimulation of (positive) Emotions to Reconcile or Heal

3 ANALYSIS



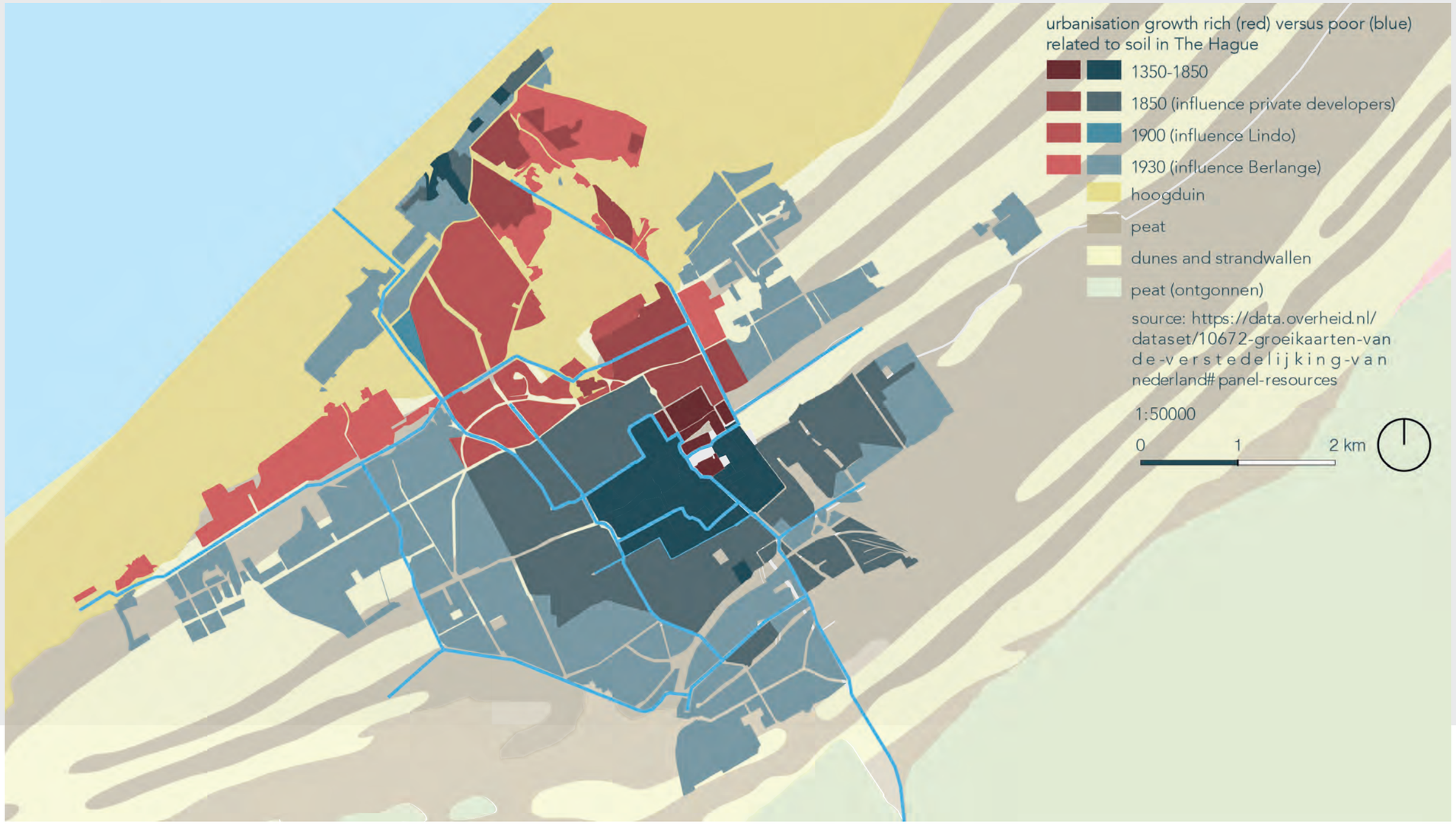
Spatial Analysis

- Project Location
- Function ‘clusters’
- International dominance
- Dudok park and parkway as segregation neighbourhoods



Spatial Analysis

Growth rich versus poor The Hague



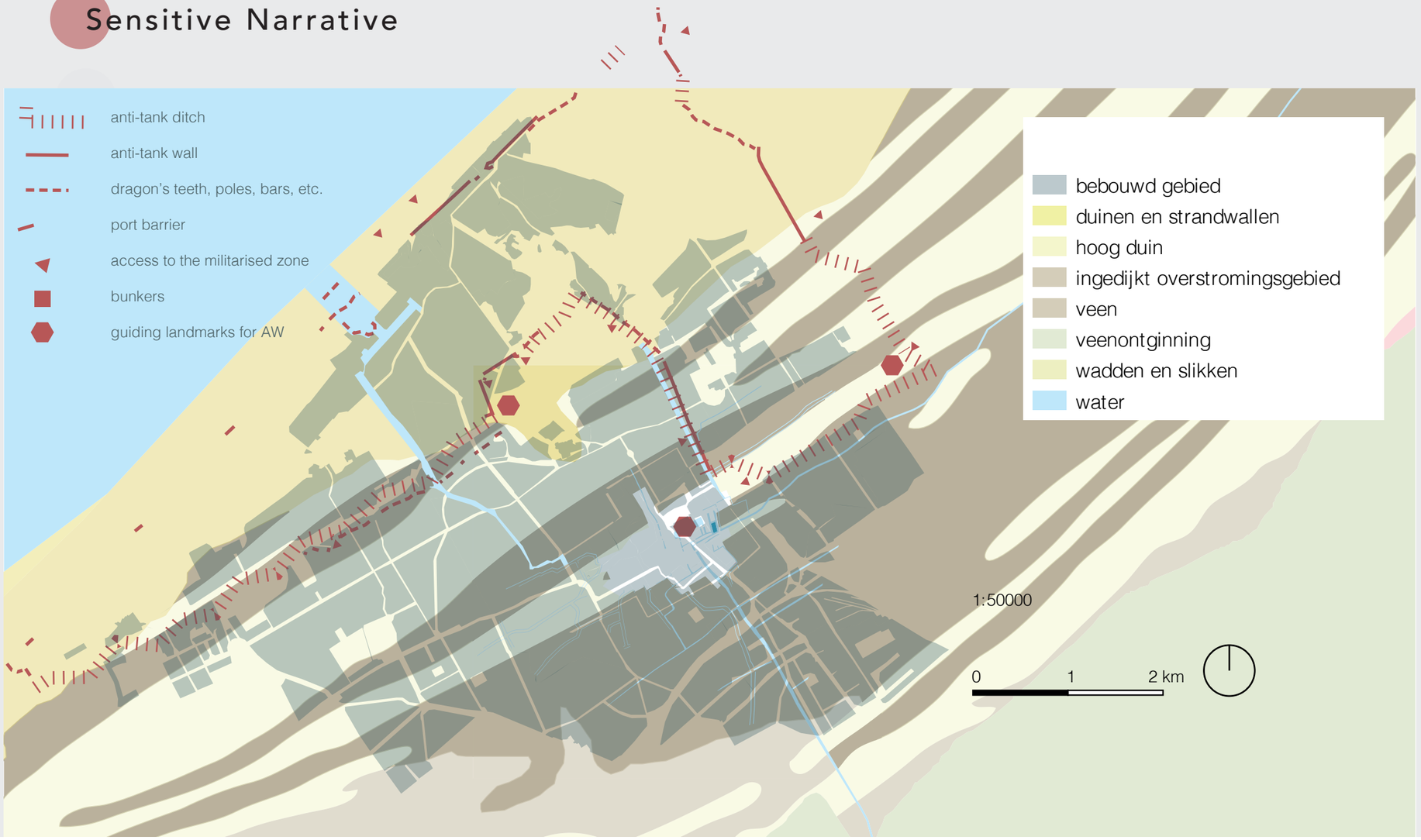
Spatial Analysis

‘Social’ clusters



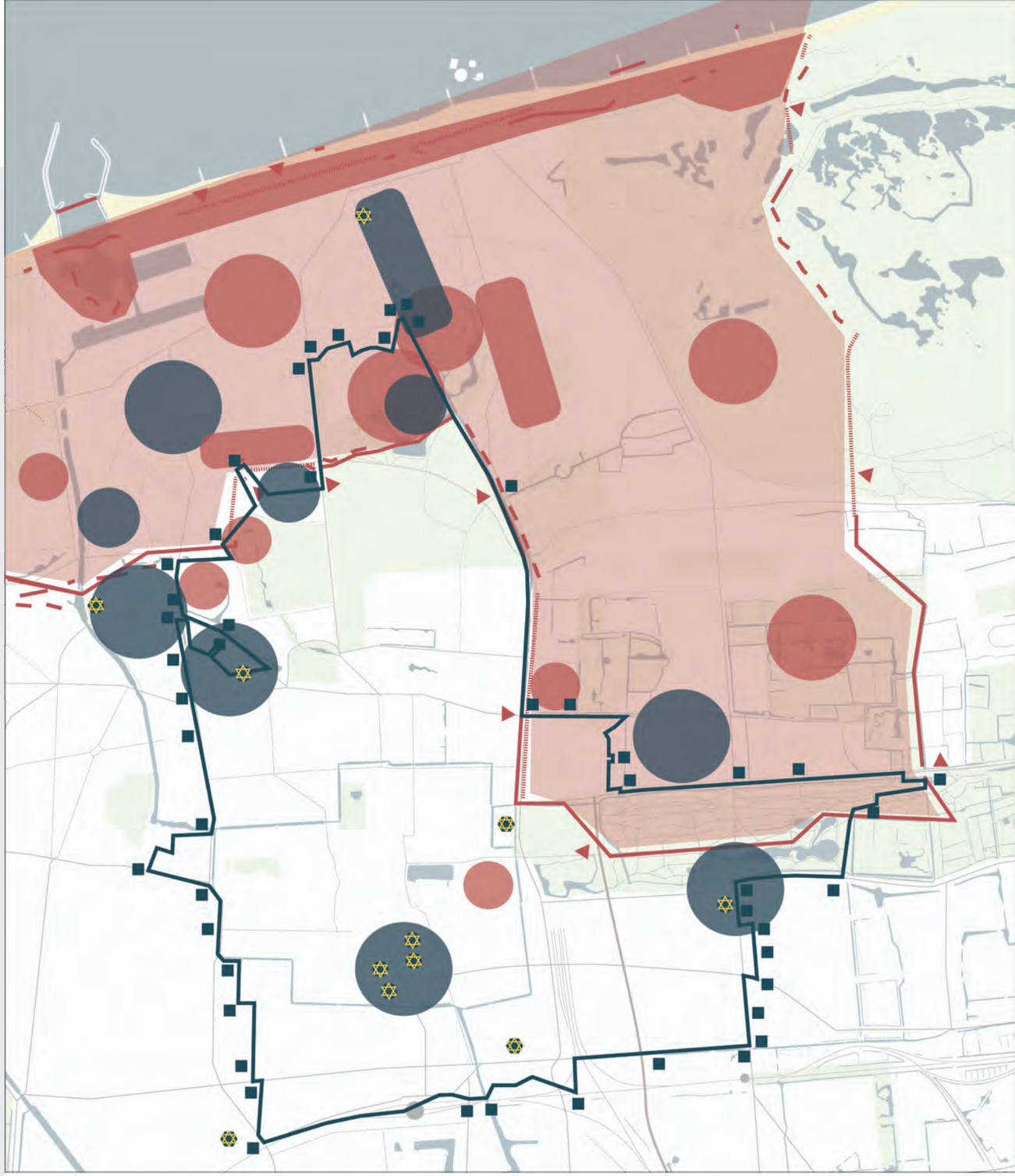
Problem Field

Sensitive Narrative



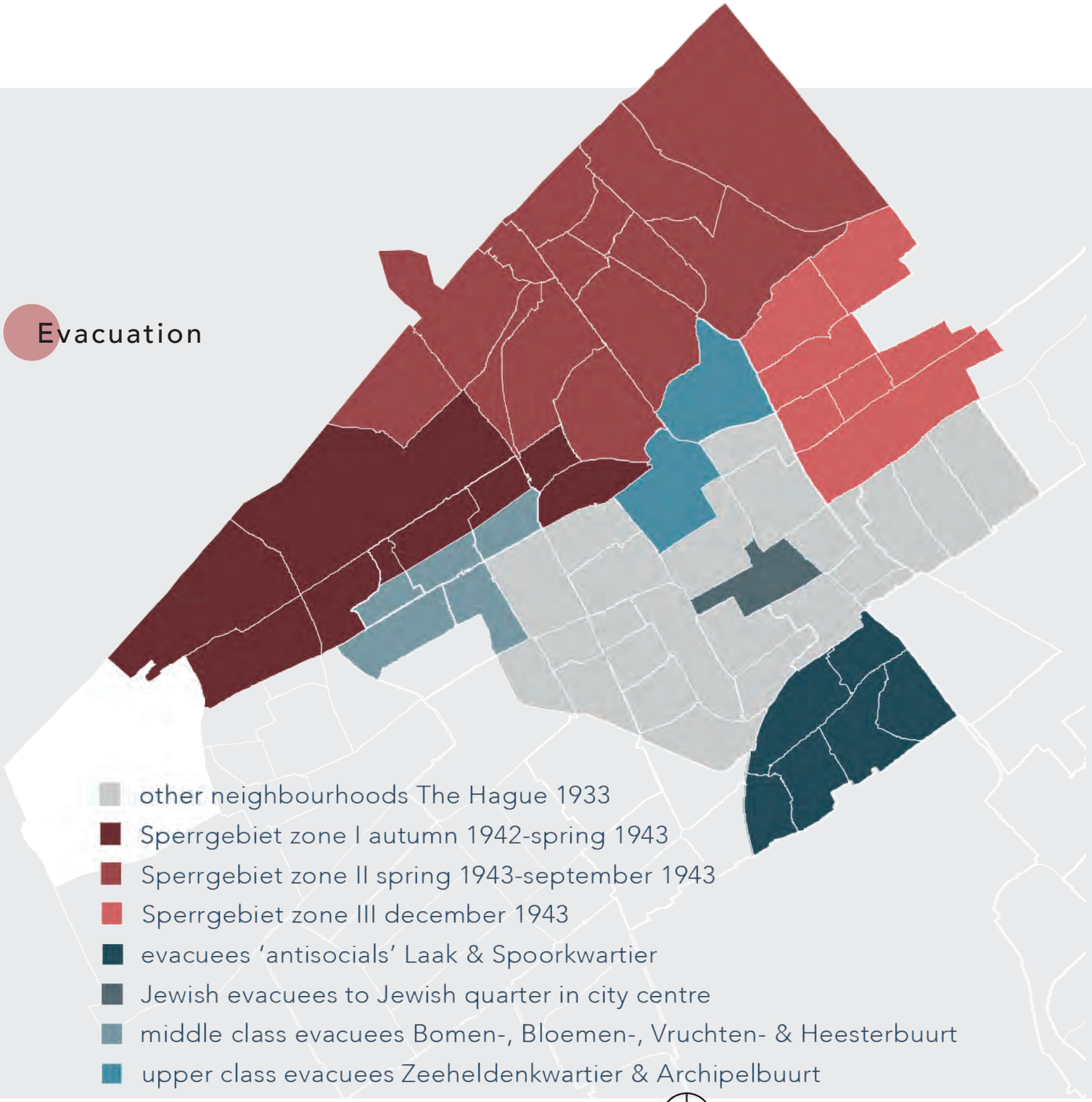
Spatial Analysis

German &
Jewish
concentrations



anti-tank ditch
anti-tank wall
dragon's teeth, poles, bars, etc.
port barrier
access to the militarised zone
Most important Nazi headquarters, Widerstandsnester, Stutzpunkte and Sperrgebiet 'islands'
border draaggebied
shabbat posts
synagogue
concentration of Jewish people

Evacuation


other neighbourhoods The Hague 1933
Sperrgebiet zone I autumn 1942-spring 1943
Sperrgebiet zone II spring 1943-september 1943
Sperrgebiet zone III december 1943
evacuees 'antisocials' Laak & Spoorkwartier
Jewish evacuees to Jewish quarter in city centre
middle class evacuees Bomen-, Bloemen-, Vruchten- & Heesterbuurt
upper class evacuees Zeeheldenkwartier & Archipelbuurt
0
1.25
2.5
5 km

Spatial Analysis

Social: play

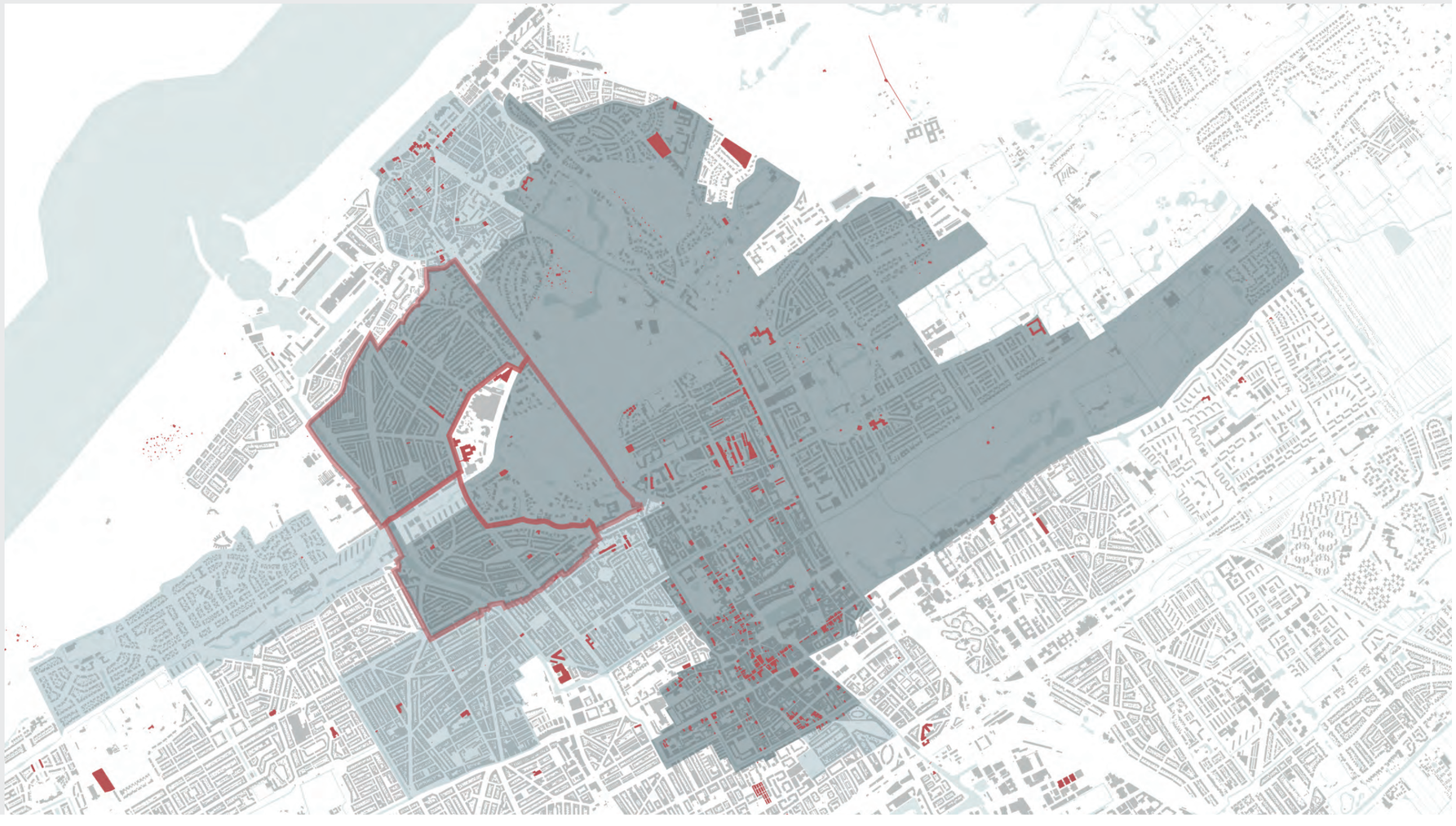




'Dudok' play less used same day as 'Fred'

Spatial Analysis

Abundance heritage, no AW



Spatial Analysis

Social: sense of community





places of anonymity

Spatial Analysis

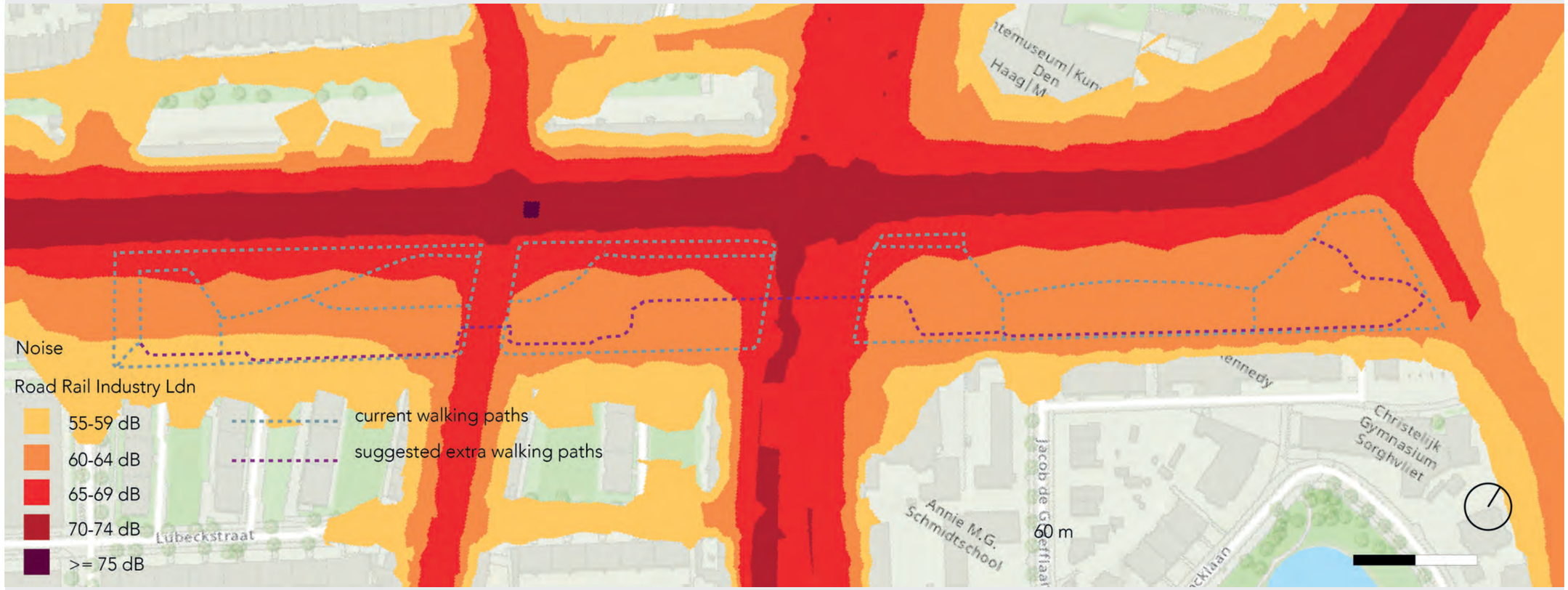
Environmental: 50 shades of Green



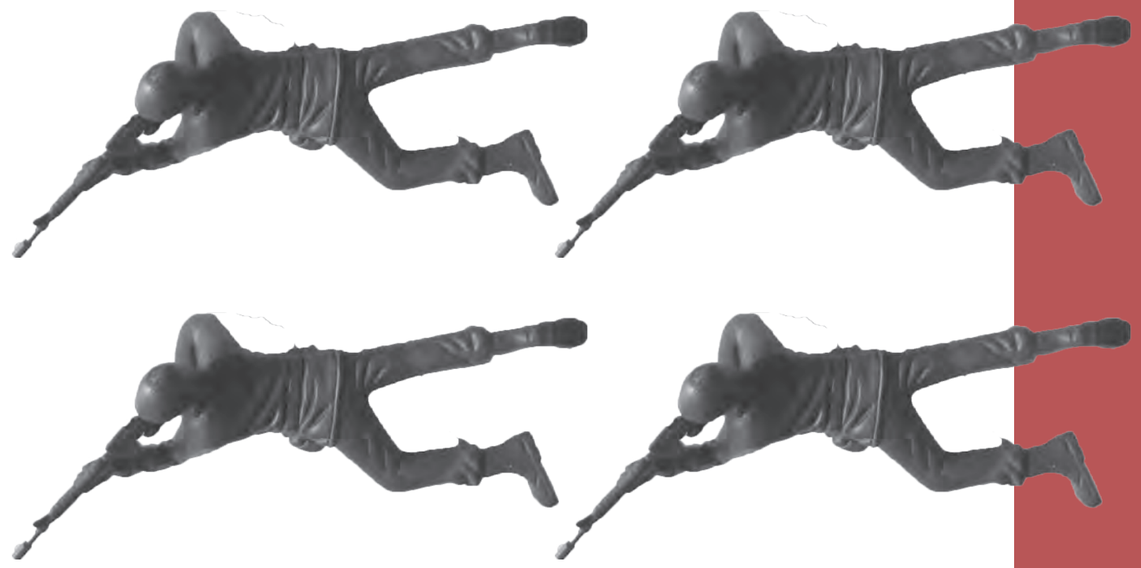


Spatial Analysis

Environmental: noise walking paths



4 CONJOINT DESIGN



Research Methods: Conjoint Analysis

- Inclusive approach to feel seen and heard
- But how?

Spatial Attributes

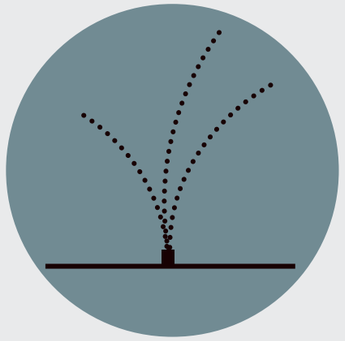
Social:
Play & Community





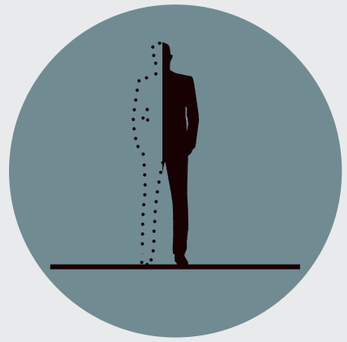
Environment:
Green, Blue & Paths

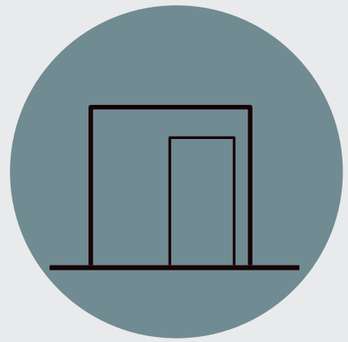






Cultural:
Narrative & Heritage





Representation Public Space Conjoint Analysis

Set 1-4









Representation Public Space Conjoint Analysis

Set 5-8









Representation Public Space Conjoint Analysis

Set 9-12









Representation Public Space Conjoint Analysis

Set 13-16









Representation Public Space Conjoint Analysis

Which space do you prefer?



A

Visible Atlantikwall
Abundance green
Anti-tank ditch water line
Narrative represented in sculpture
Community garden

Path follows Atlantikwall line



B

Subtle Atlantikwall presentation
Abundance Green

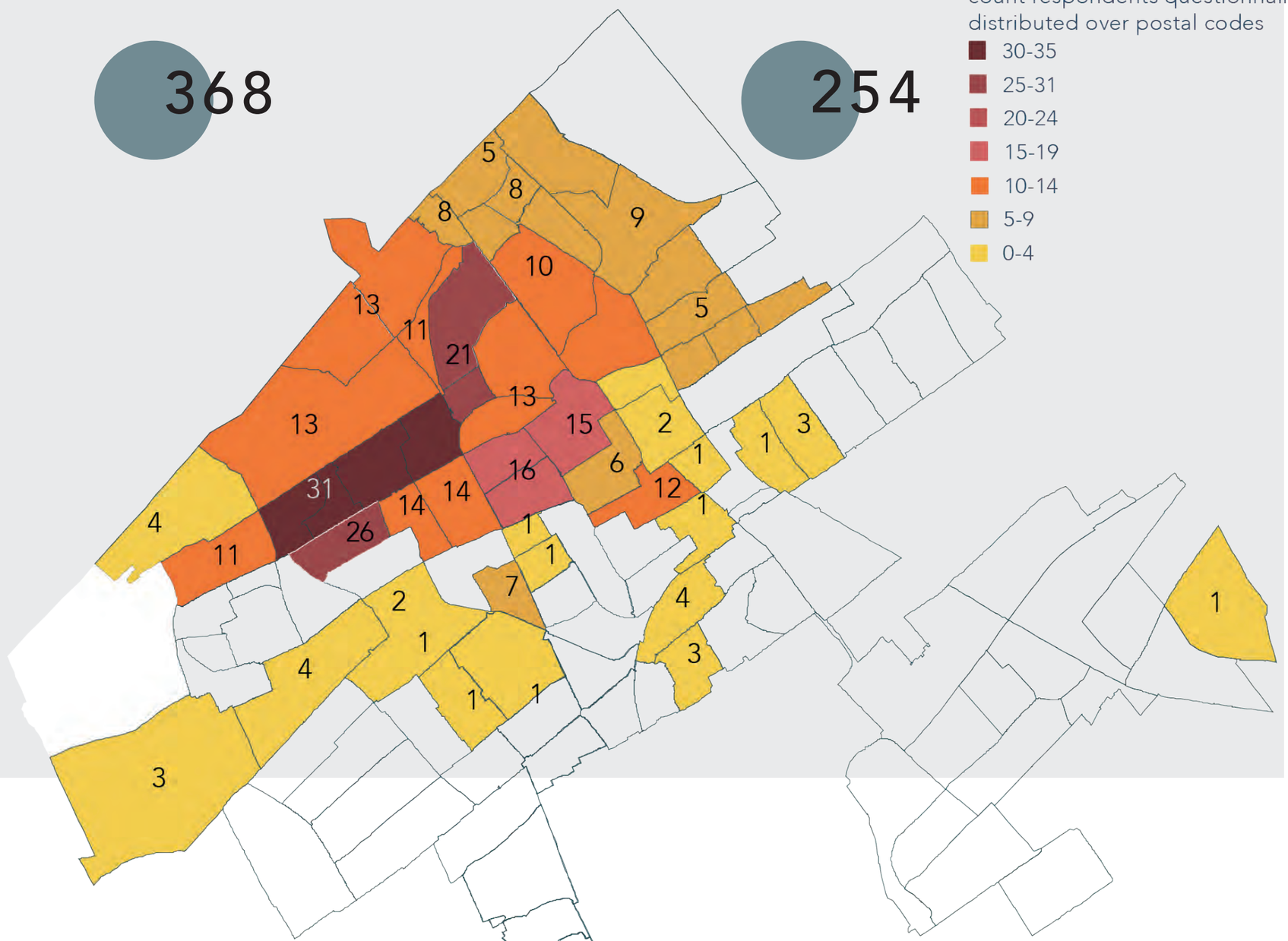
Narrative as wall art
Benches
Play instruments in Atlantikwall shape
Path follows Atlantikwall line

Representation Public Space Conjoint Analysis

Who responded?

368

254



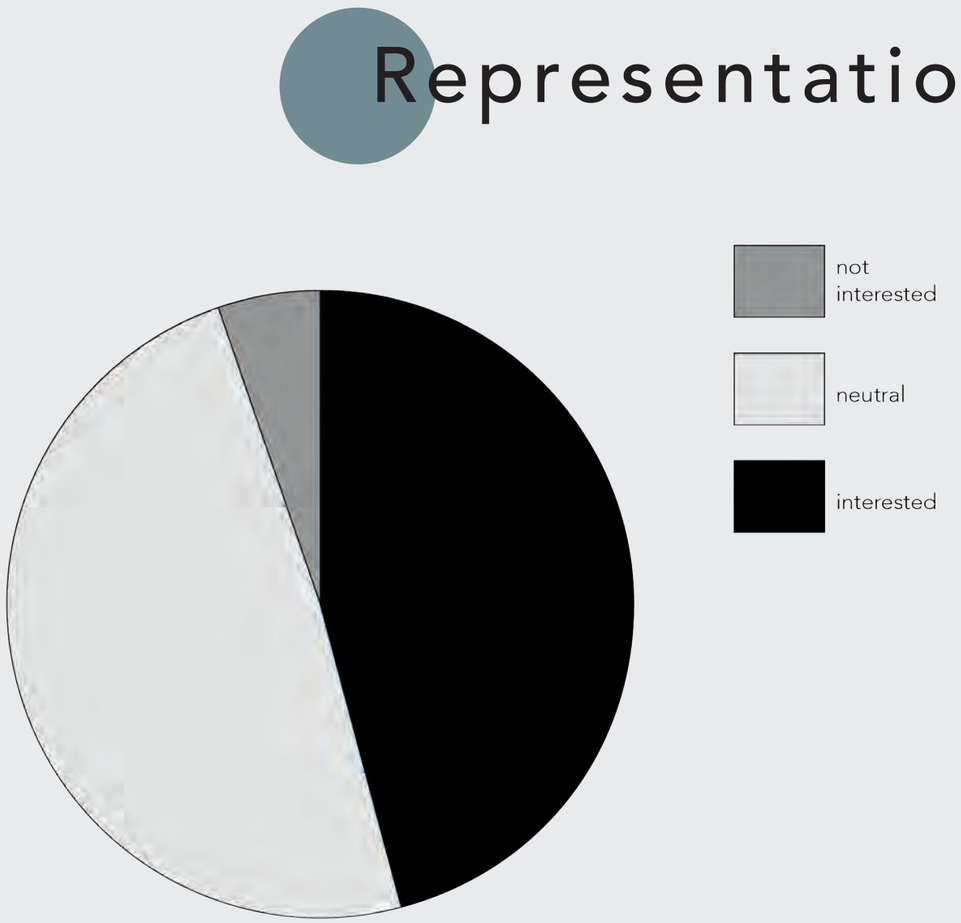
Representation Public Space Conjoint Analysis

Thoughts Atlantikwall

Aware AW



Representation

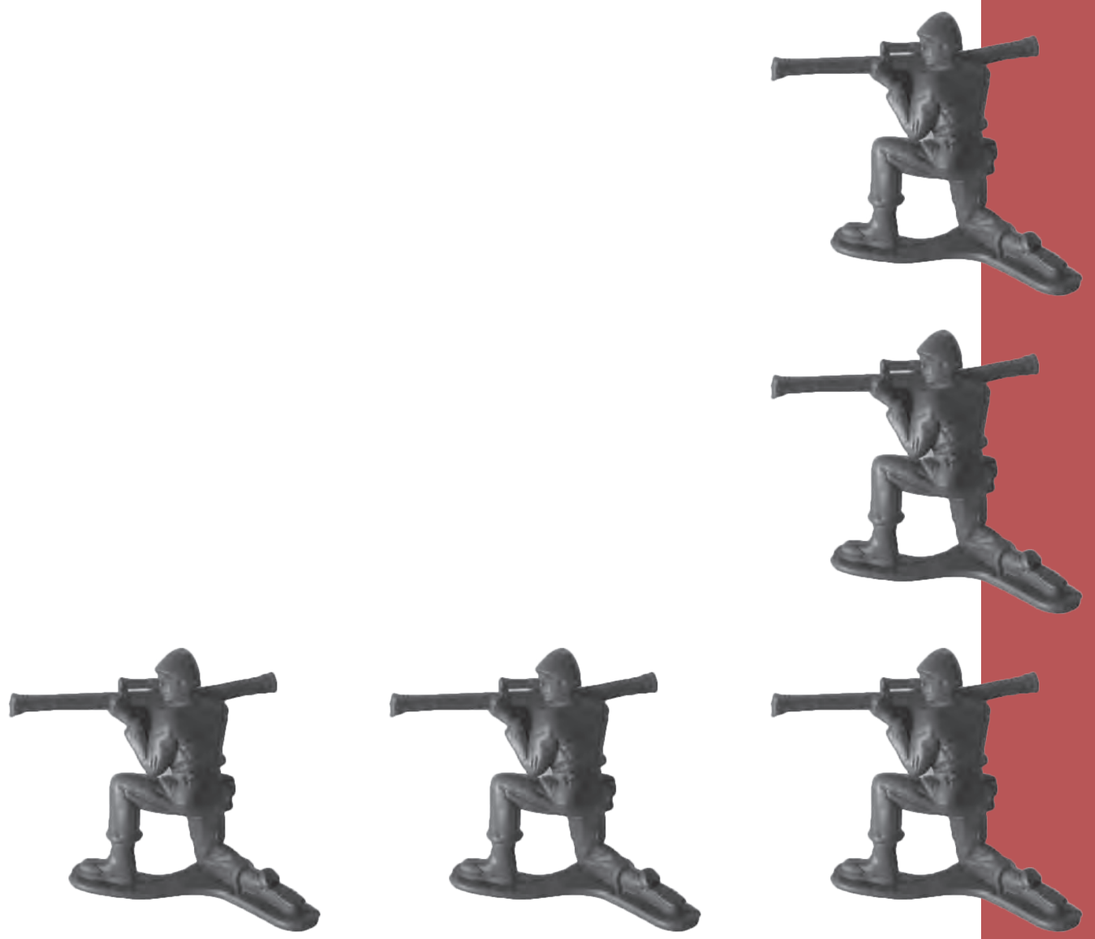


Chosen Set

#4



5 LOCAL INTERVENTIONS



Design: Case Stadhoudersplantsoen, Den Haag

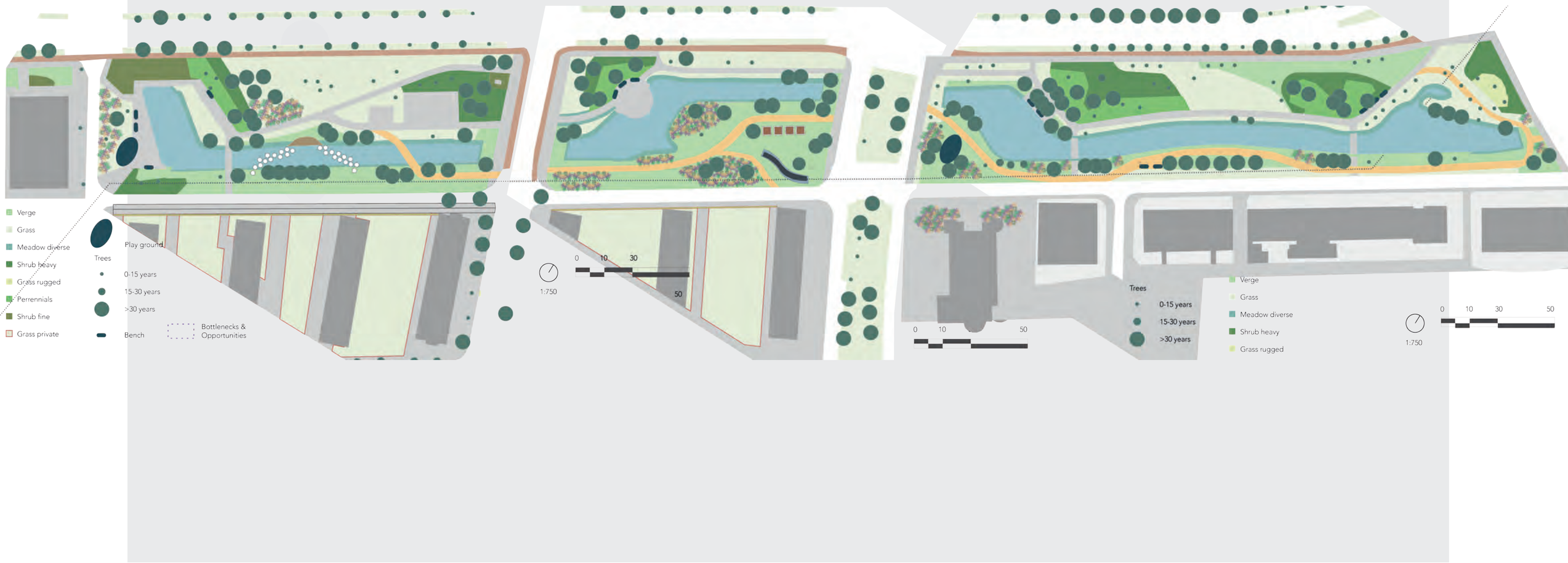
Section selections goals:



- Decrease nuisance road
- Increase opportunity reconciling
- Increase connection spaces
- Decrease visual blockages cars
- Decrease visual ‘grey’ spaces

Design

Stadhoudersplantsoen I Plan current situation



Design

Water Basin

STADHOUDERSPLANTSOEN PLANTS

Wet Habitat

Dry Habitat

nuphar lutea



nymphaea marliacea alba



pontederia cordata



iris pseudacorus



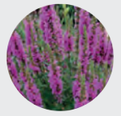
caltha palustris



lysimachia nummularia



lythrum salicaria



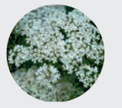
valeriana officinalis



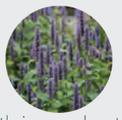
persicaria bistorta



anthriscus sylvestris



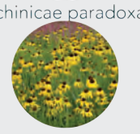
agastache foeniculum

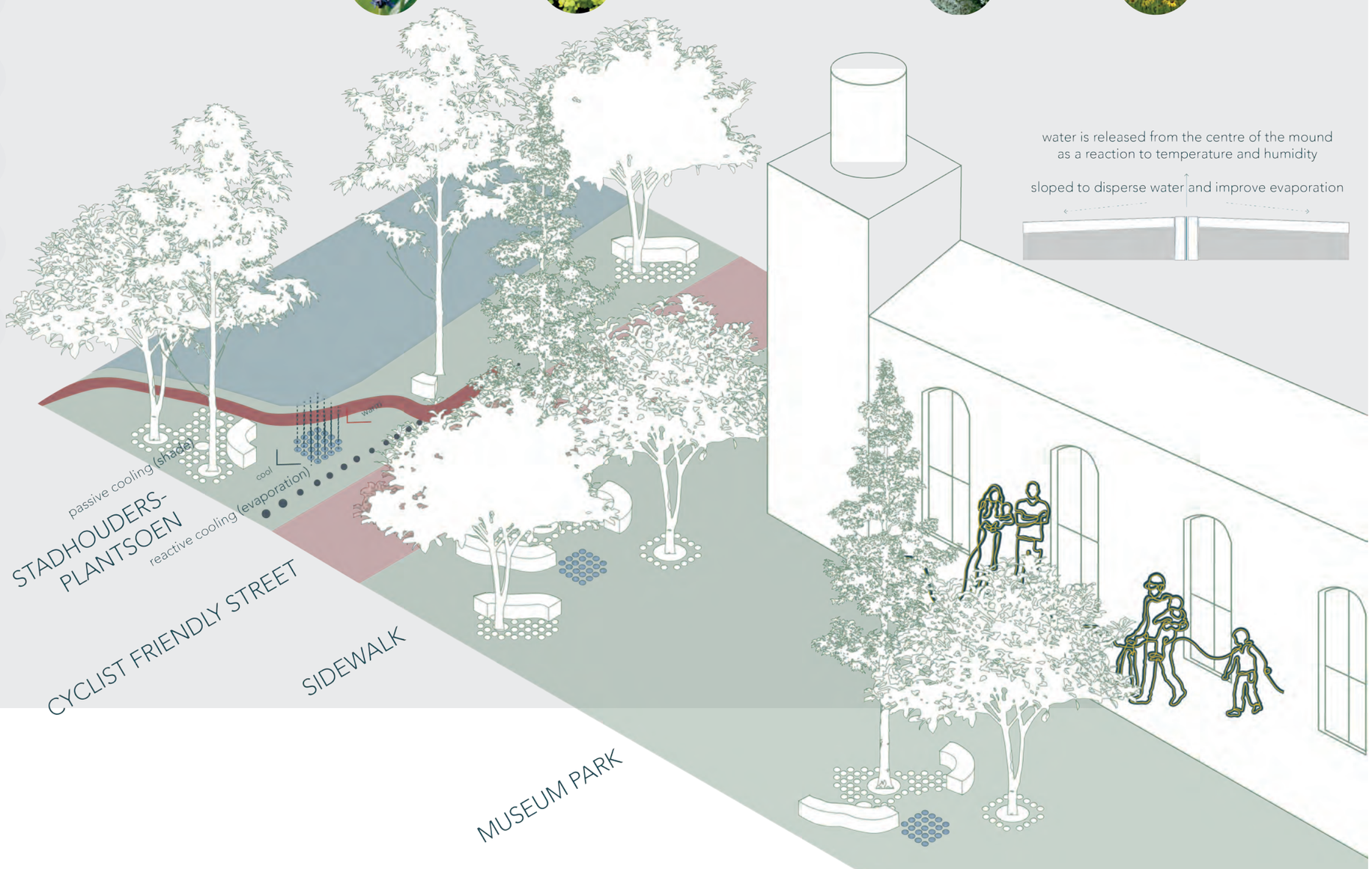


anthriscus sylvestris



echinicae paradoxa





water is released from the centre of the mound
as a reaction to temperature and humidity

sloped to disperse water and improve evaporation

TREES

cornus mas



sorbus dodong



quercus (Robur)



prunus



tilia



salix



betula



SHRUBS

cephalanthus



caryopteris



buddleja davidii



rosa - ramblers



frangula alnus

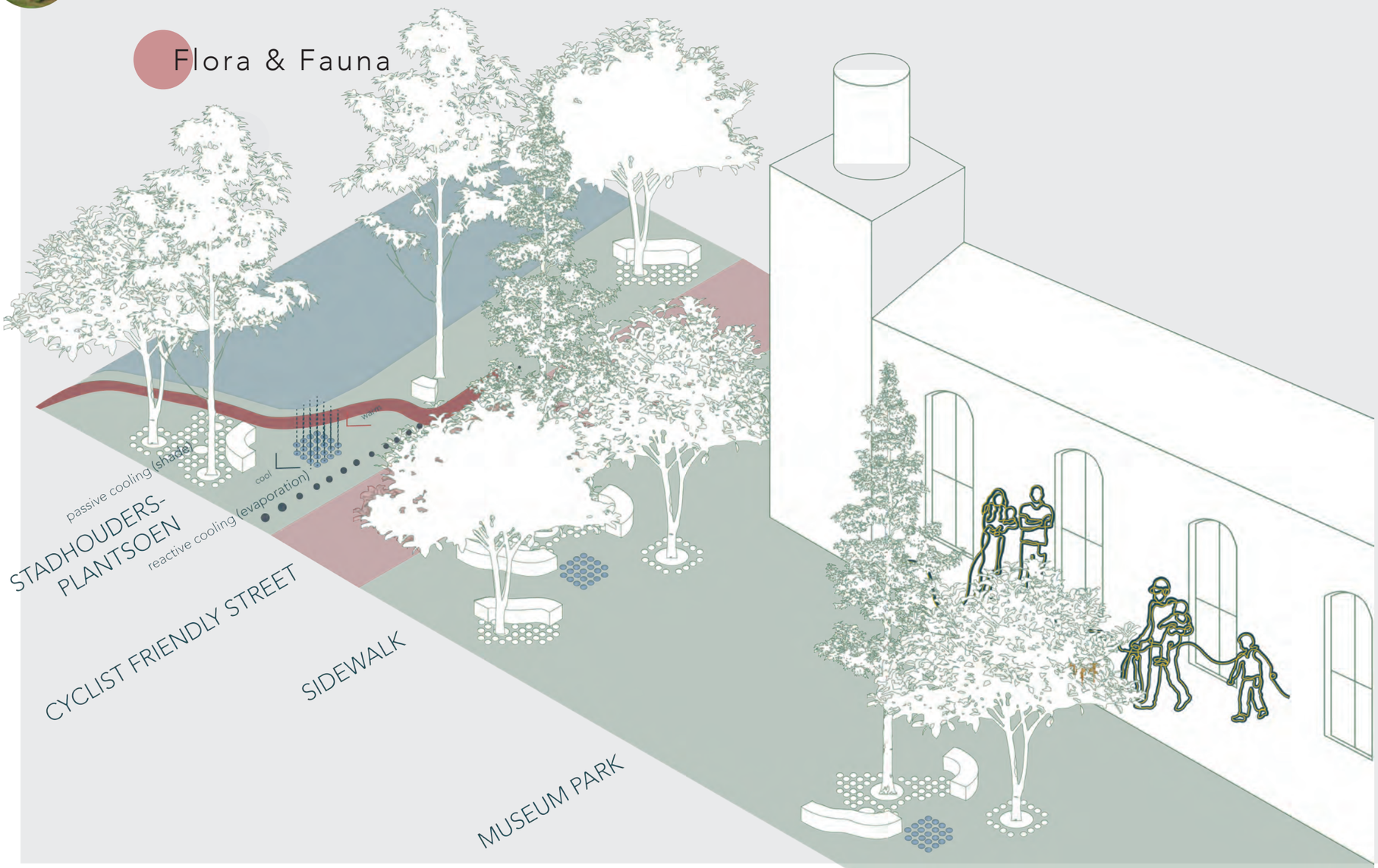


erica



Design

Flora & Fauna



PLANTS MUSEUMPARK

agastache



anchusa



aruncus dioicus



asclepias



aster ageratoides



centranthus ruber



echinacea purpurea



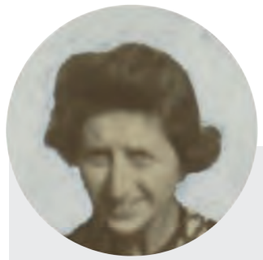
sedum spectabile telephium



verbena bonariensis



Betty de Kadt-van Aalten



George Maduro



Jaap Boekman



Hendrikus Colijn



Dries Riphagen



Anton Kessler (left)

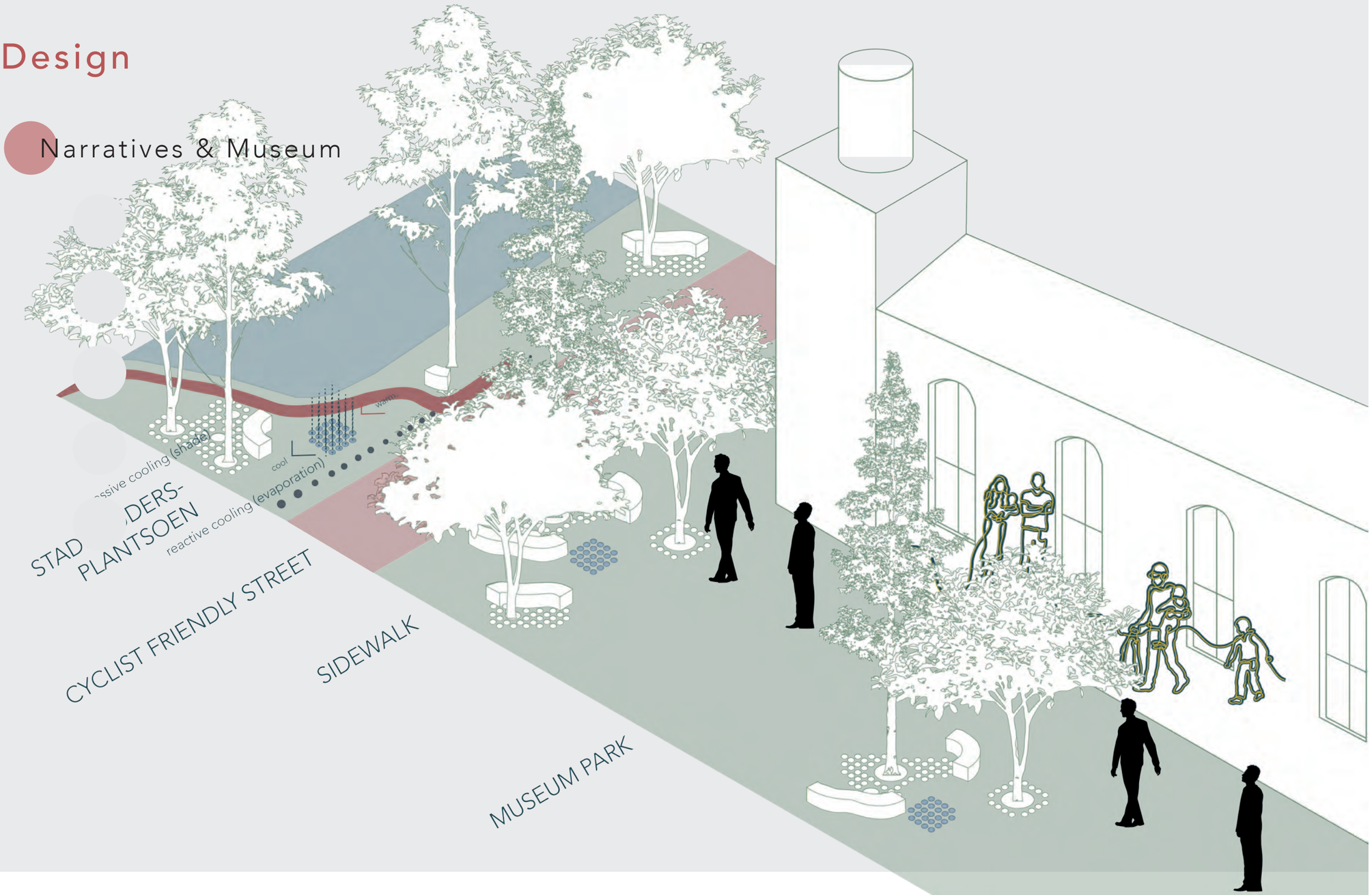


Koos Sprey



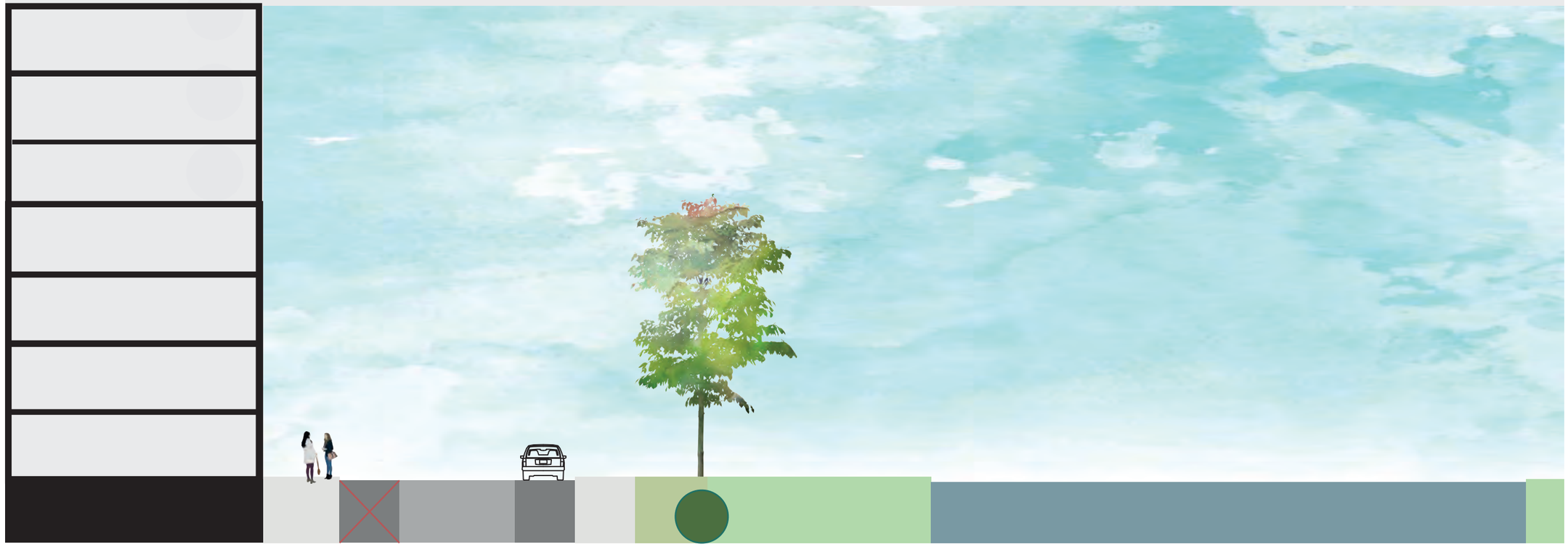
Design

Narratives & Museum



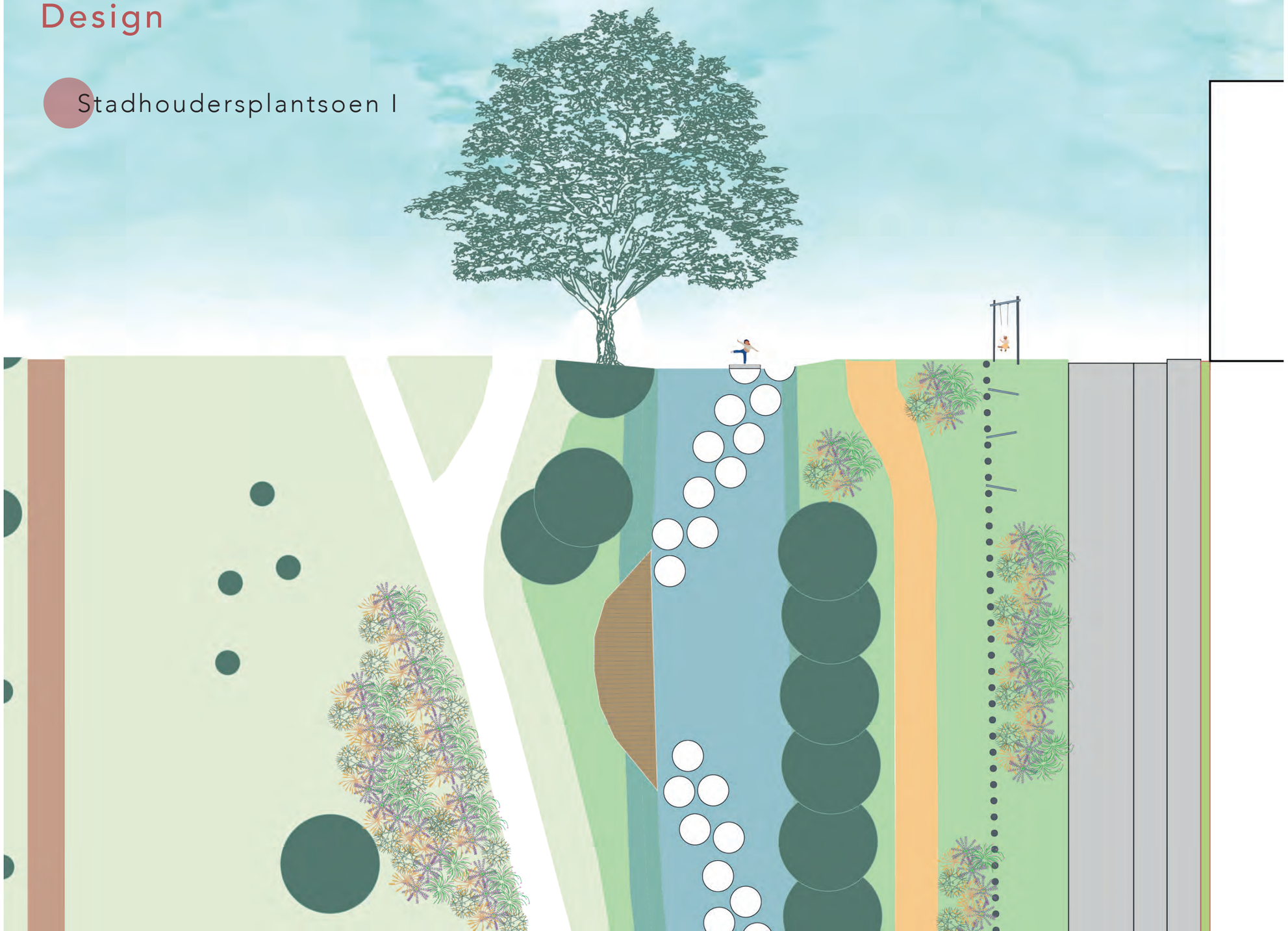
Design

Stadhoudersplantsoen I Plan current situation



Design

Stadhoudersplantsoen I



Design



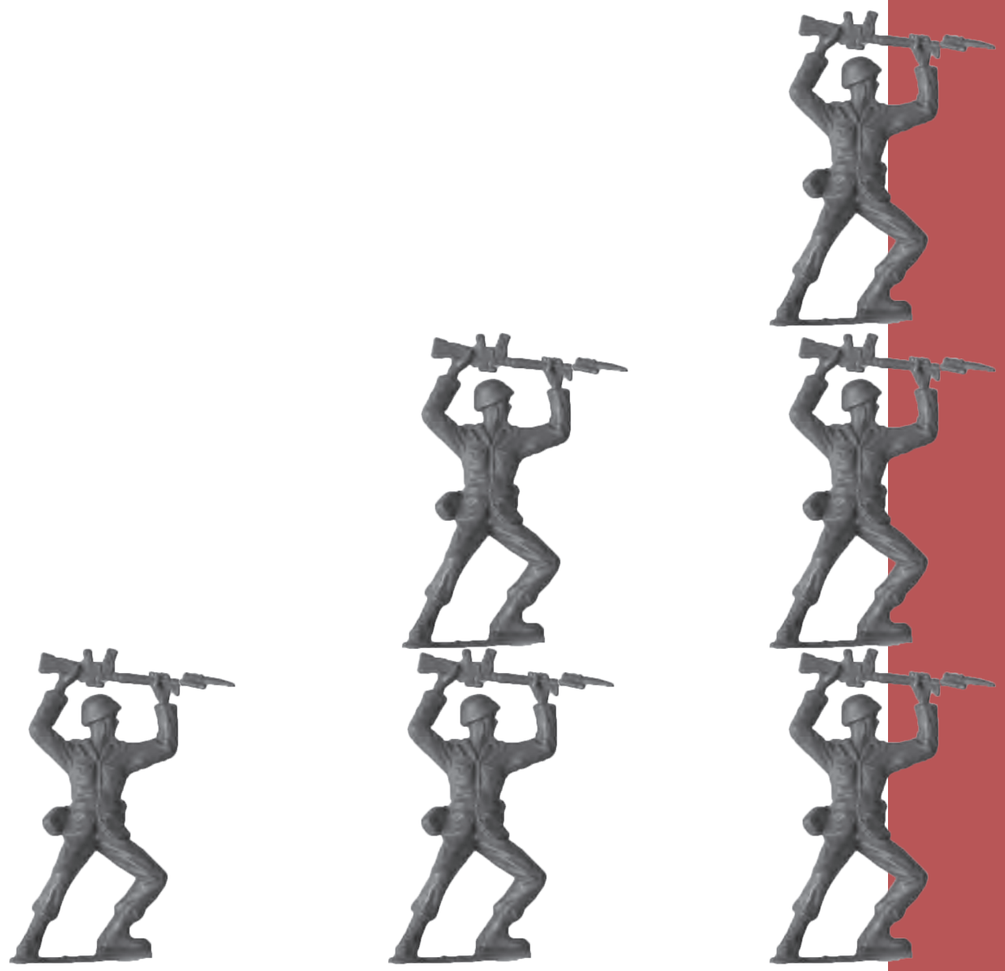
Design

Stadhoudersplantsoen

Impression



6 REFLECTION



Conclusion on Research Question

How can sensitive heritage, such as the Atlantikwall in The Hague, be designed and include the current needs of the urban residents, and highlight the different narratives around the Atlantikwall to facilitate an integrated and reconciling design?

- Transferable Atlantikwall parks (The Hague)
- However, analysis resident's needs case specific
- My interpretation

Reflection

- Conjoint = experimental & challenging
- Conjoint = time consuming
- Conjoint tests, small interventions
- Conjoint ≠ Design, urban designer still in charge!
- Time limited actual design
- But, large population included!