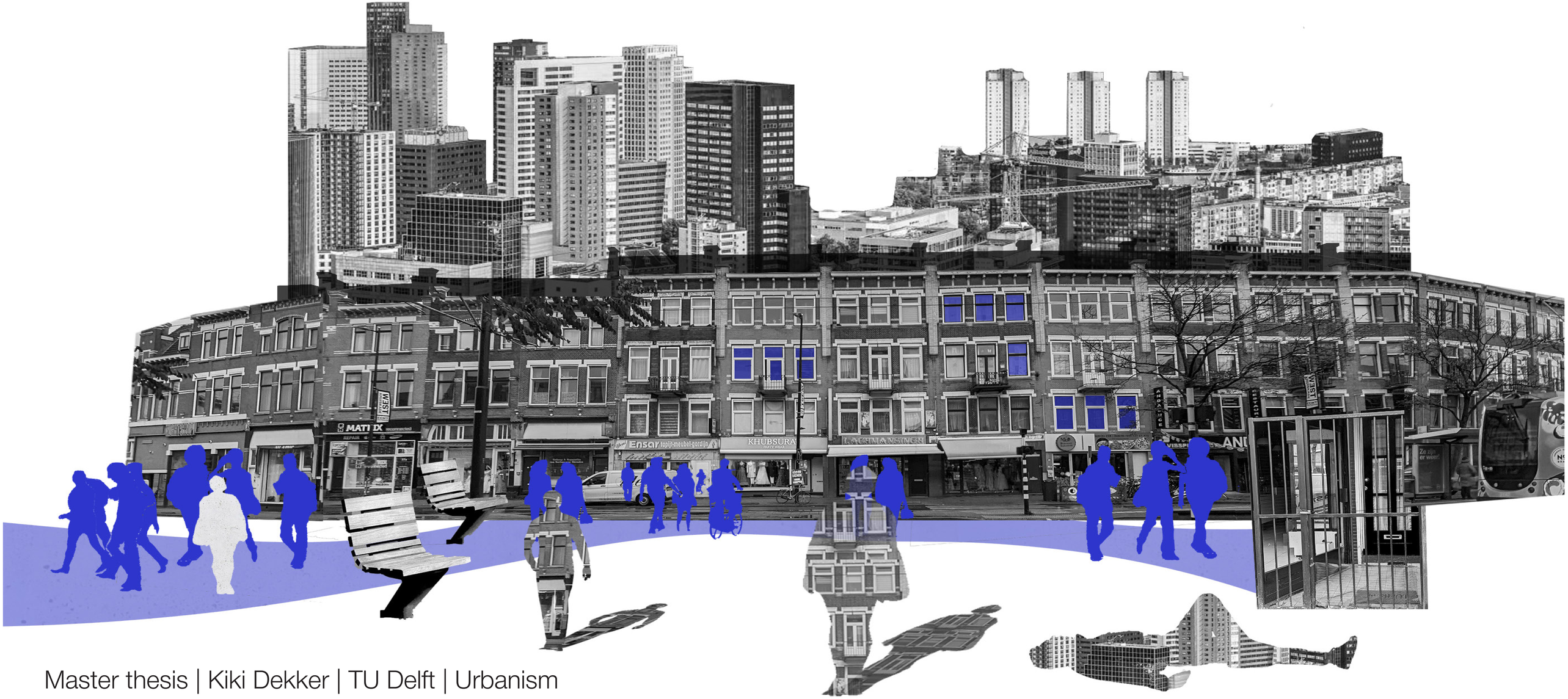
Urban Homelessness



Master thesis | Kiki Dekker | TU Delft | Urbanism

Homelessness

In the Netherlands

Menu | nrc

NEWS

The number of homeless people increased by 15 percent in one year to approximately 30,600

Homelessness The number of homeless people of European origin in particular increased last year, from 5 to 8 percent of the total. Within that group, the number of women and young people also increased.

Casper van der Veen March 26, 2024 Reading time 1 minute

Listen | Reading list

The Salvation Army's night shelter and soup bus.

Photo David van Dam

Image by Gemeente.nu (2024)
News article by van der Veen (2024)

Hans van Rhoon (2023)

Image by Sanne Donders (2021)

Homelessness

In Rotterdam

Left to right: Tenny Tenzer, Peter van Beek (2023).

Homelessness

In Rotterdam

For the third time in a month and a half, a deceased homeless person has been found on the street...

Tue Apr 9, 5:32 pm Overall read 2,260 times

A paradox

Solving vs. repressing

onder de pannen, 2022. Arie Kieviet, 2023.

Spaces of exclusion

Hostile architecture

From left to right: Desire van den Berg (2023), HostileArchitecture (2022), made by friend of author (2024)

Social exclusion

Walter Herfst, 2023

“It is common among the homeless population to be seen and heard, but still ignored”

(Rennels & Purnell, 2015)

Made in the Paulus Church Action Studio by Peter van Beek (2023)

“The more repression, the more aggression”

- Thamar Kemperman (program coordinator social action at the Pauluskerk)

Problem statement

Despite the often visible presence of homeless people in urban landscapes, they are often ignored by the public. In combination with a culture of repression and spatial exclusion they are pushed into social invisibility which only worsens the issue.

MATIX
KHUBSURA
SEEKING
HUMAN
KINDNESS

Homelessness is a critical issue that demands visibility and action in urban design!

Homelessness is a critical issue that demands visibility and action in urban design!

By promoting recognition of the homeless population and creating awareness on their presence and needs

In both research and design

Table of content

01 Methodology

02 Research results

03 Design task

04 Design outcomes

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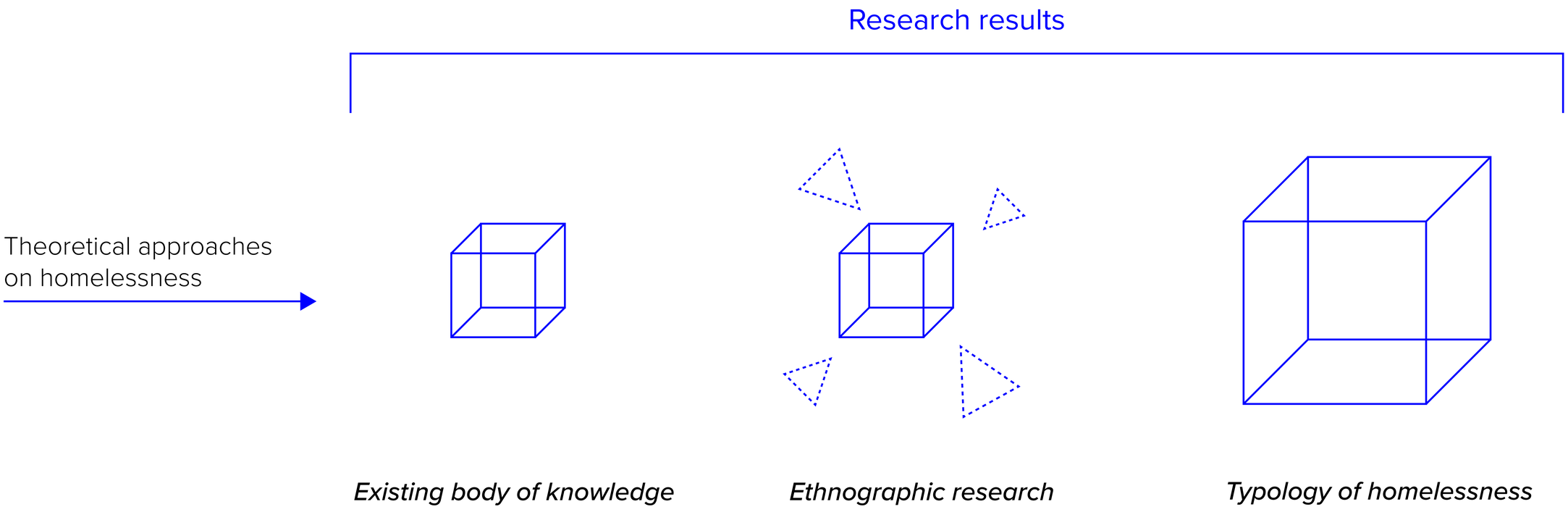
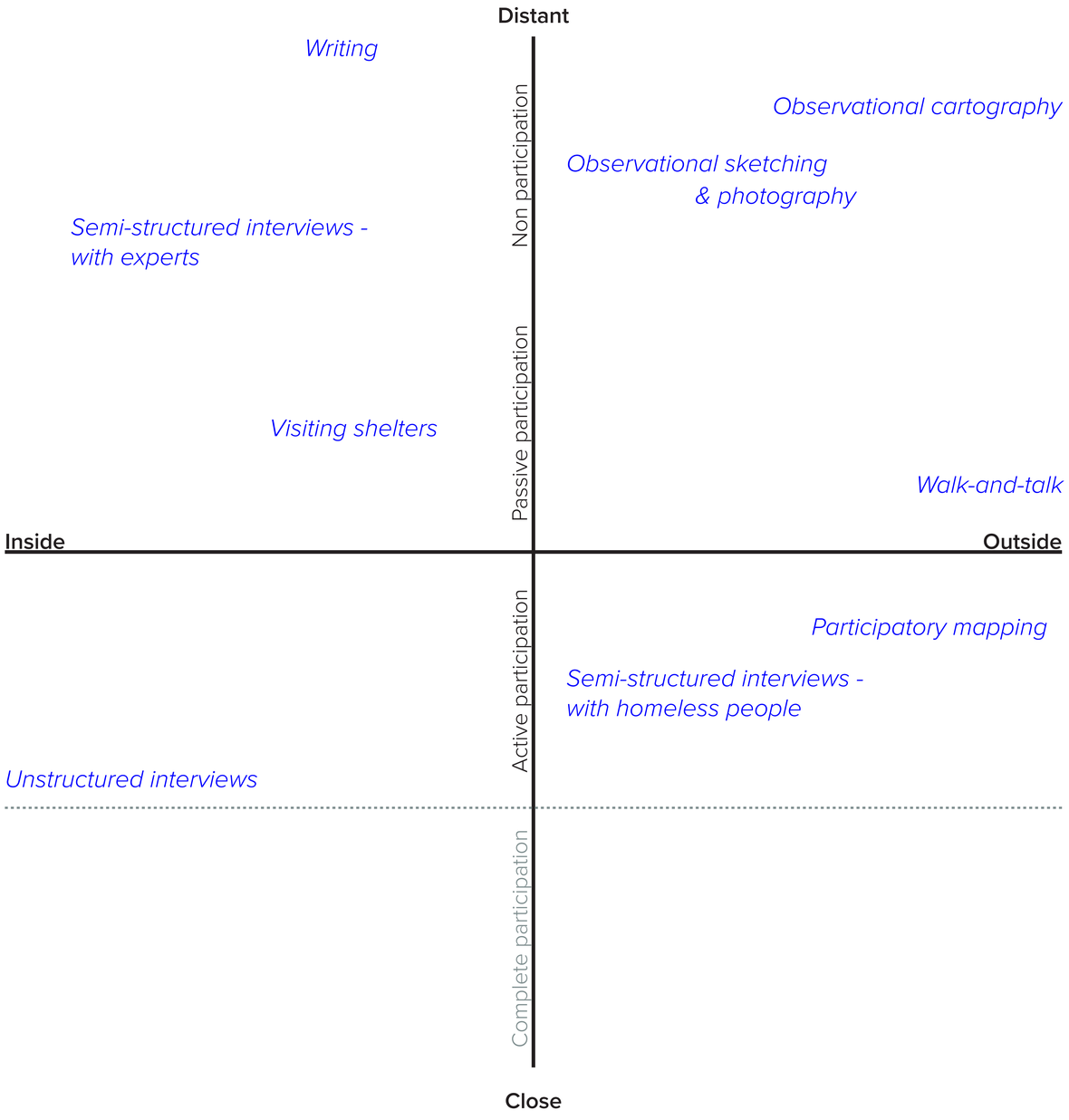
Research

Methodological approach



Ethnography

Human-centred inquiry



Axis diagram from presentation Leeke Reinders December 13, 2023

Definition

Of homelessness

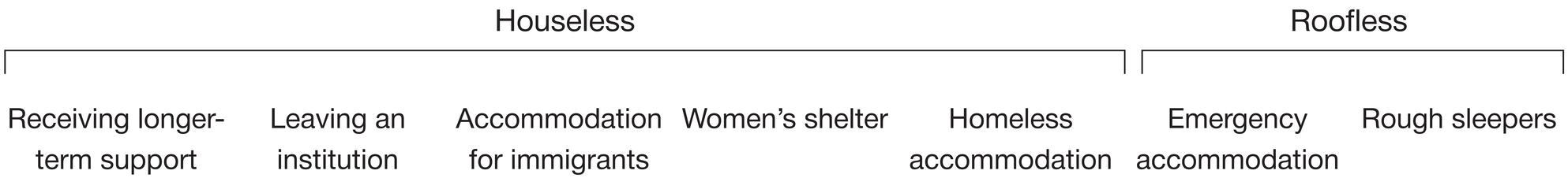


Diagram information from Amore et al. (2011) edited by author

Focus groups

Of homelessness

Houseless

Roofless

Receiving longer-term support

Leaving an institution

Accommodation for immigrants

Women's shelter

Homeless accommodation

Emergency accommodation

Rough sleepers

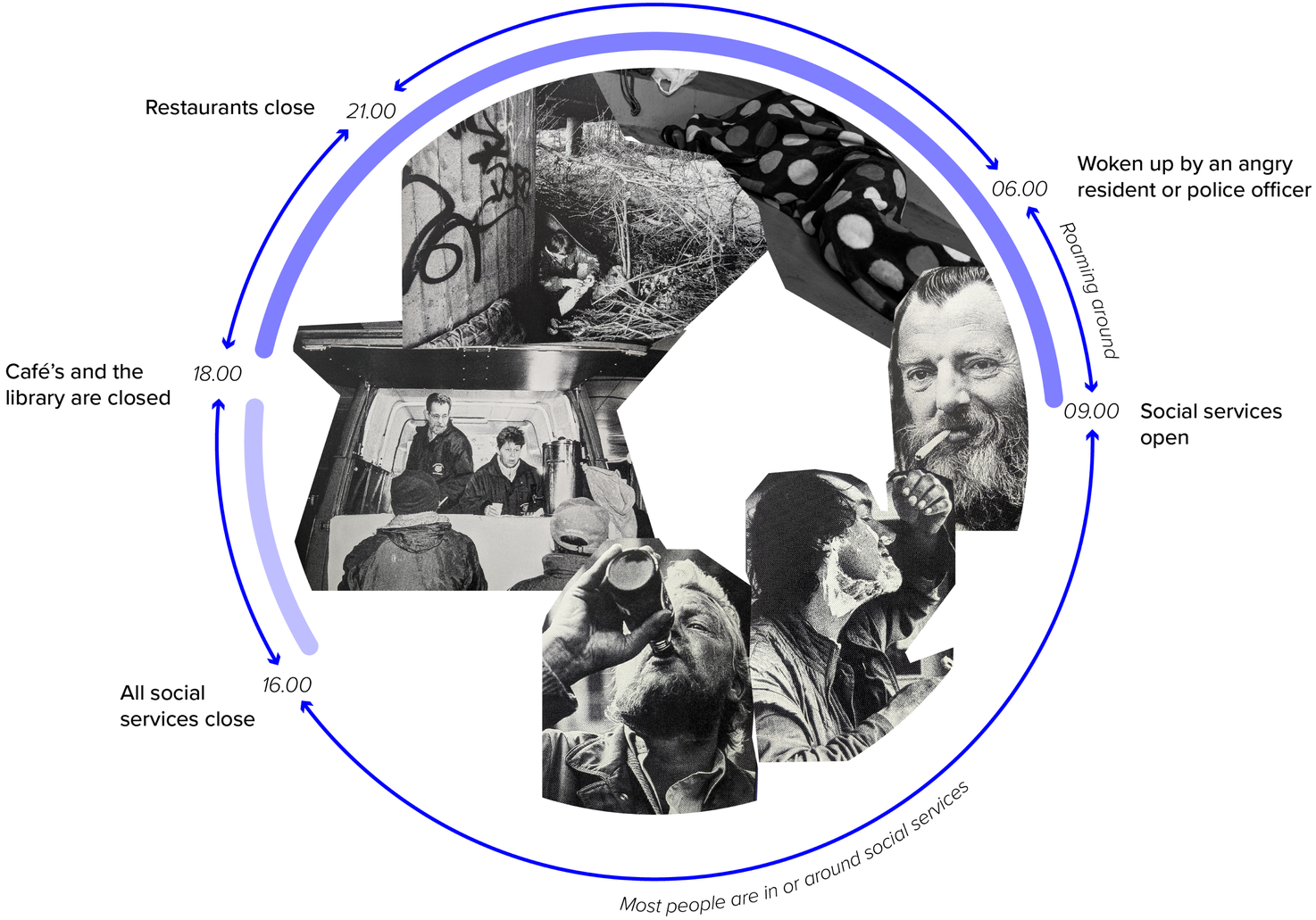
Diagram information from Amore et al. (2011) edited by author
Images from left to right: Mona van den berg (2023), Pauluskerk

People sleeping rough

Made in the Paulus Church Action Studio by Peter van Beek (2023)

A day in a life

of rough sleepers

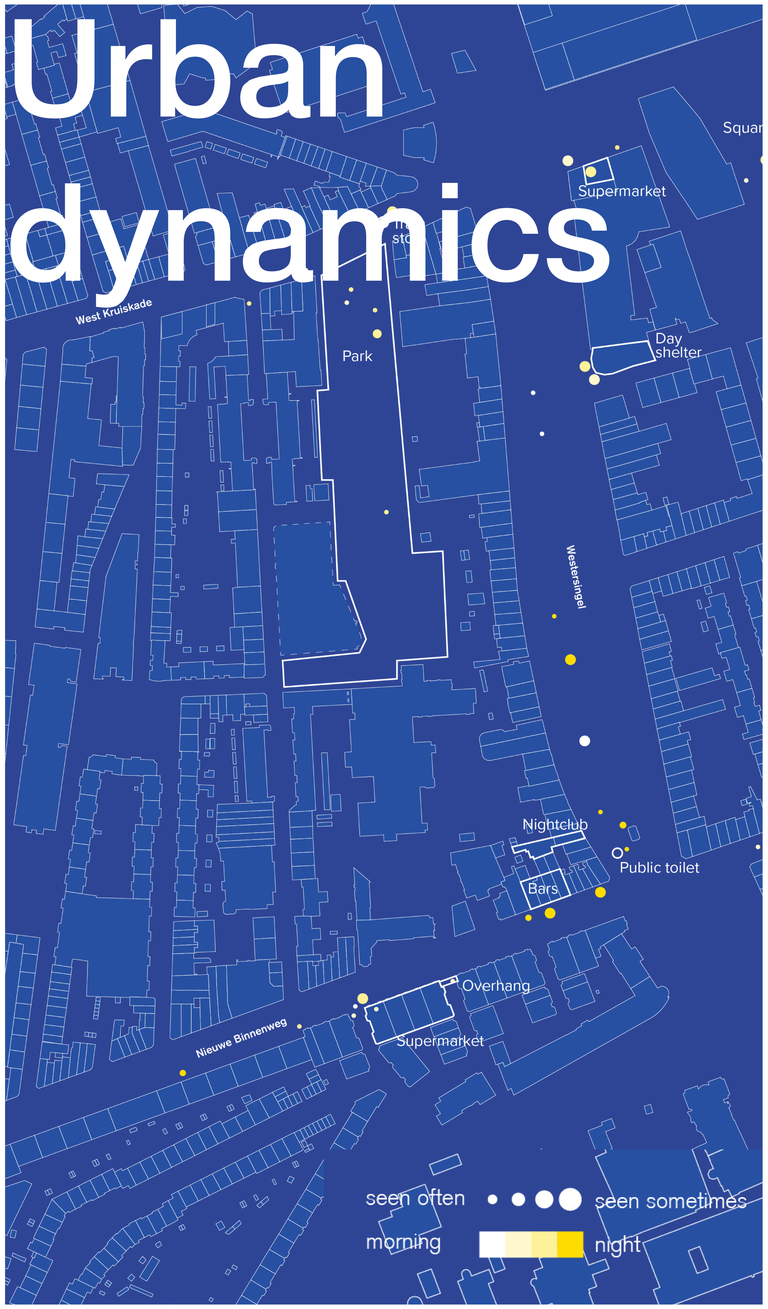


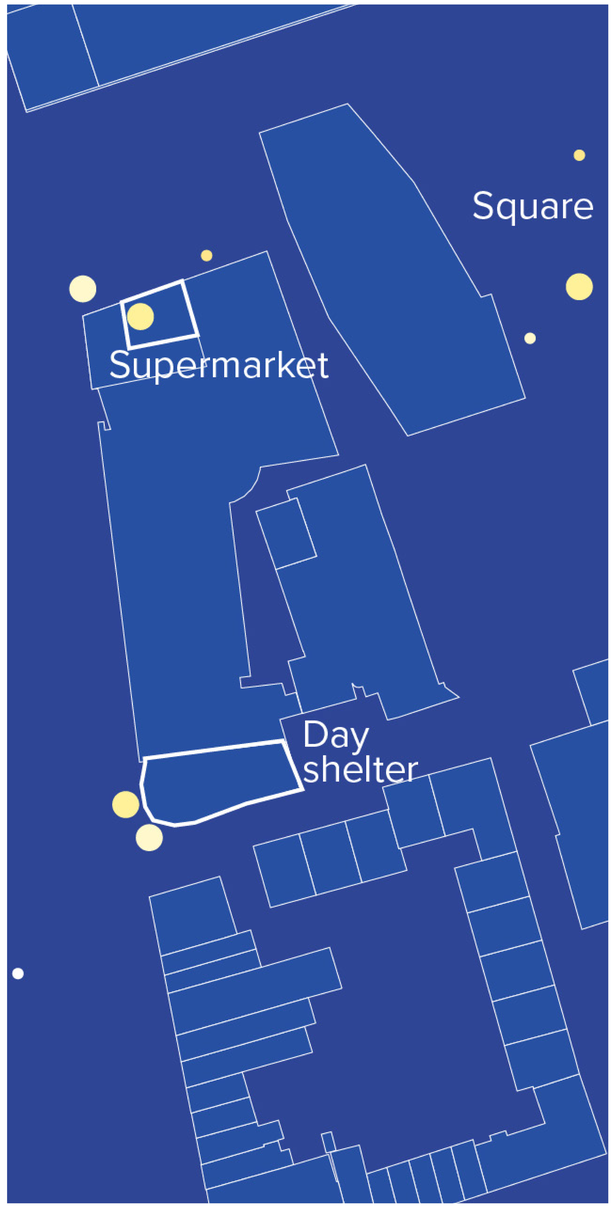
Making use of public space

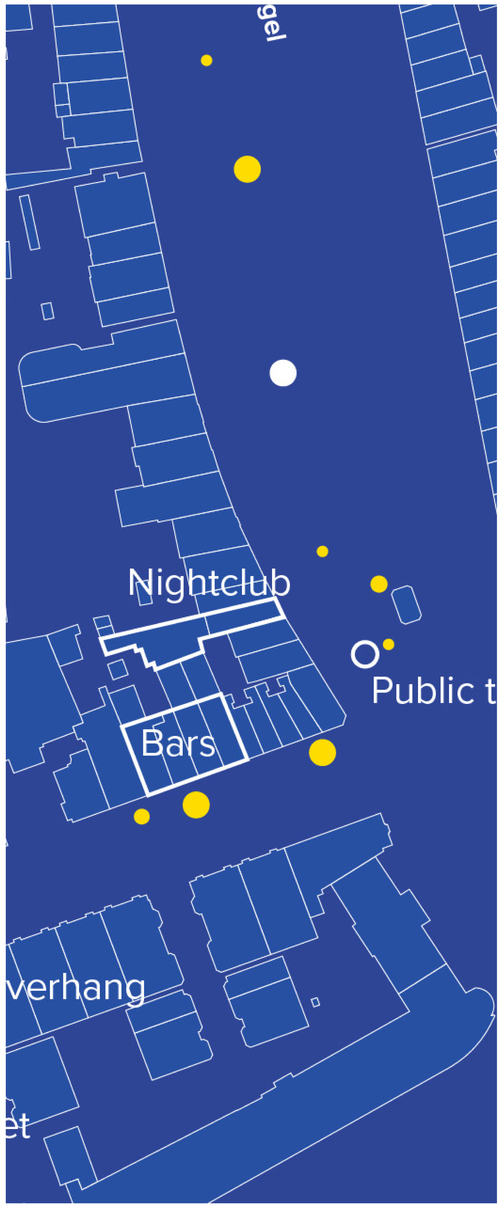
- Some
- Many

Images from Schoone (2001)

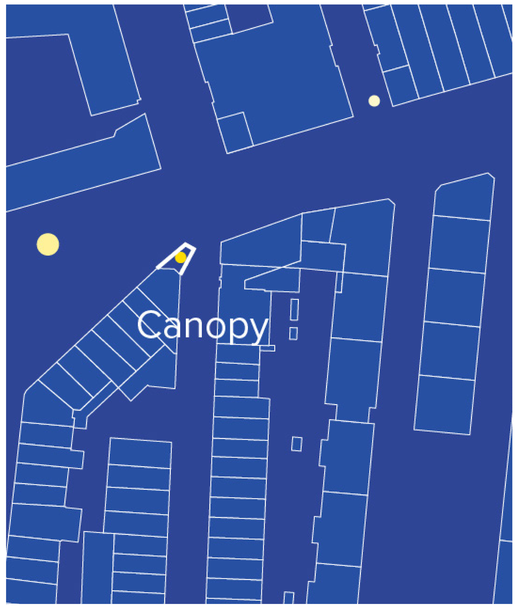
Urban dynamics

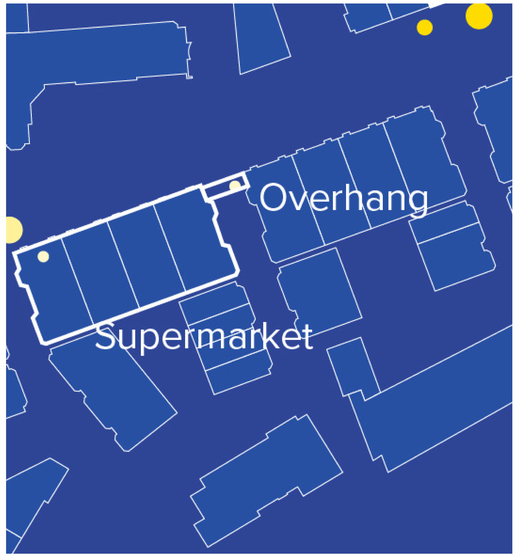






Cluster around interior functions





Architectural edges

Participation

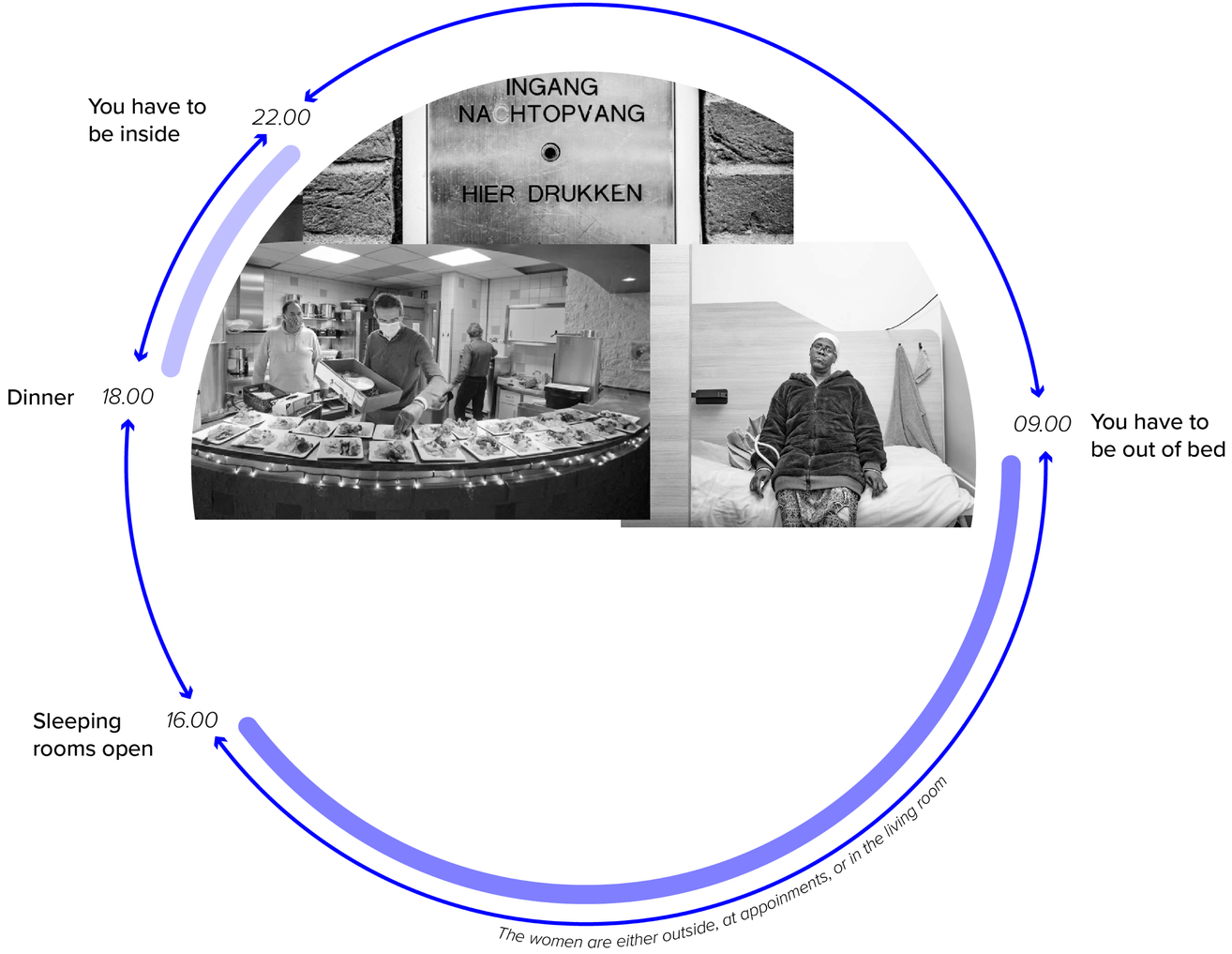
At manifestations

Women living in the shelter

Image by Mona van den berg (2024)

A day in a life

Of women living in the shelter



Making use of public space

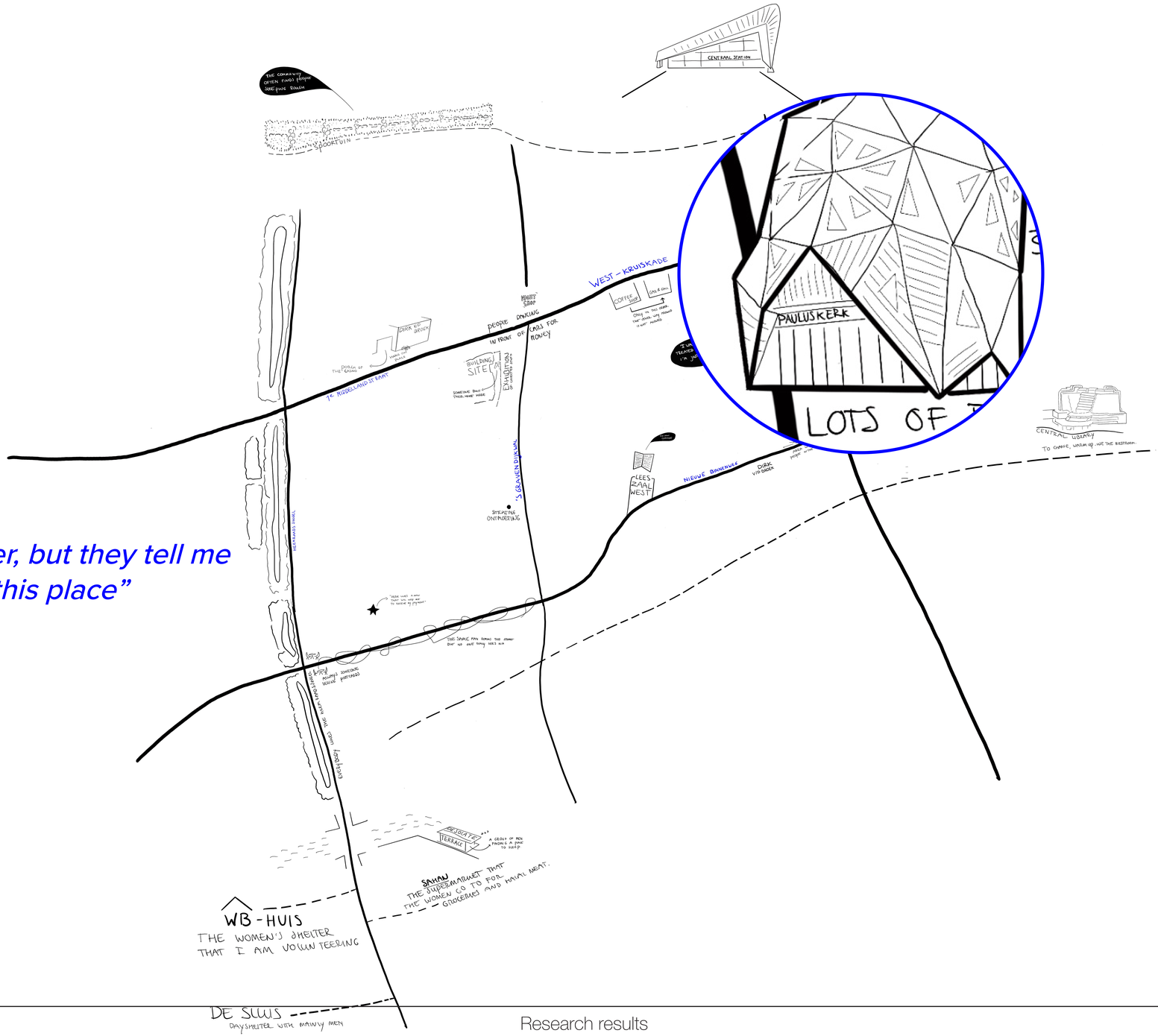
- Some
- Many

Photos by Mona van den Berg (2024) and Karin Koolen (2014)

DIERENHO

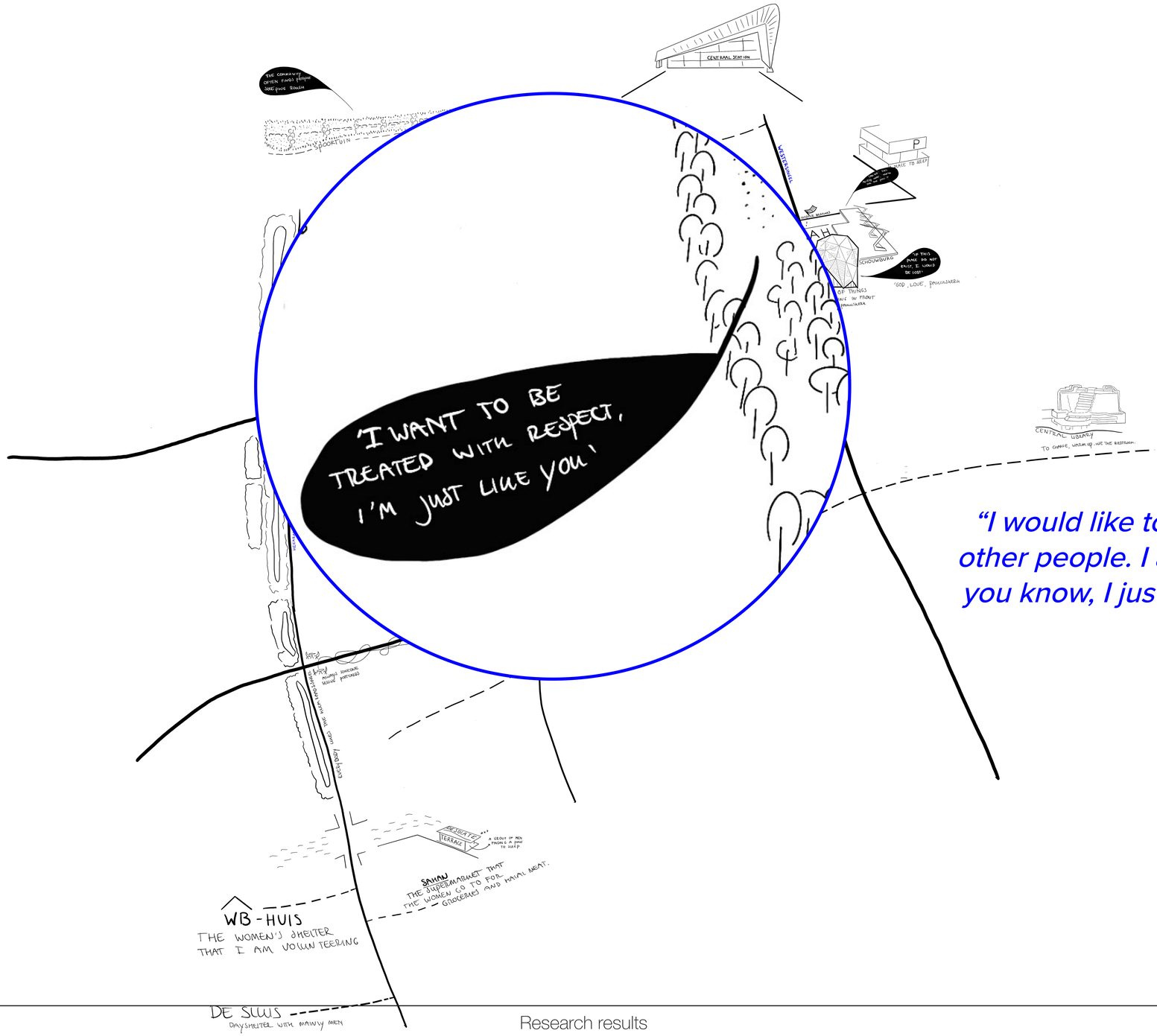
Combining stories, places, experiences from both groups.

Finding similarities



"I would like to meet other, but they tell me I shouldn't go to this place"

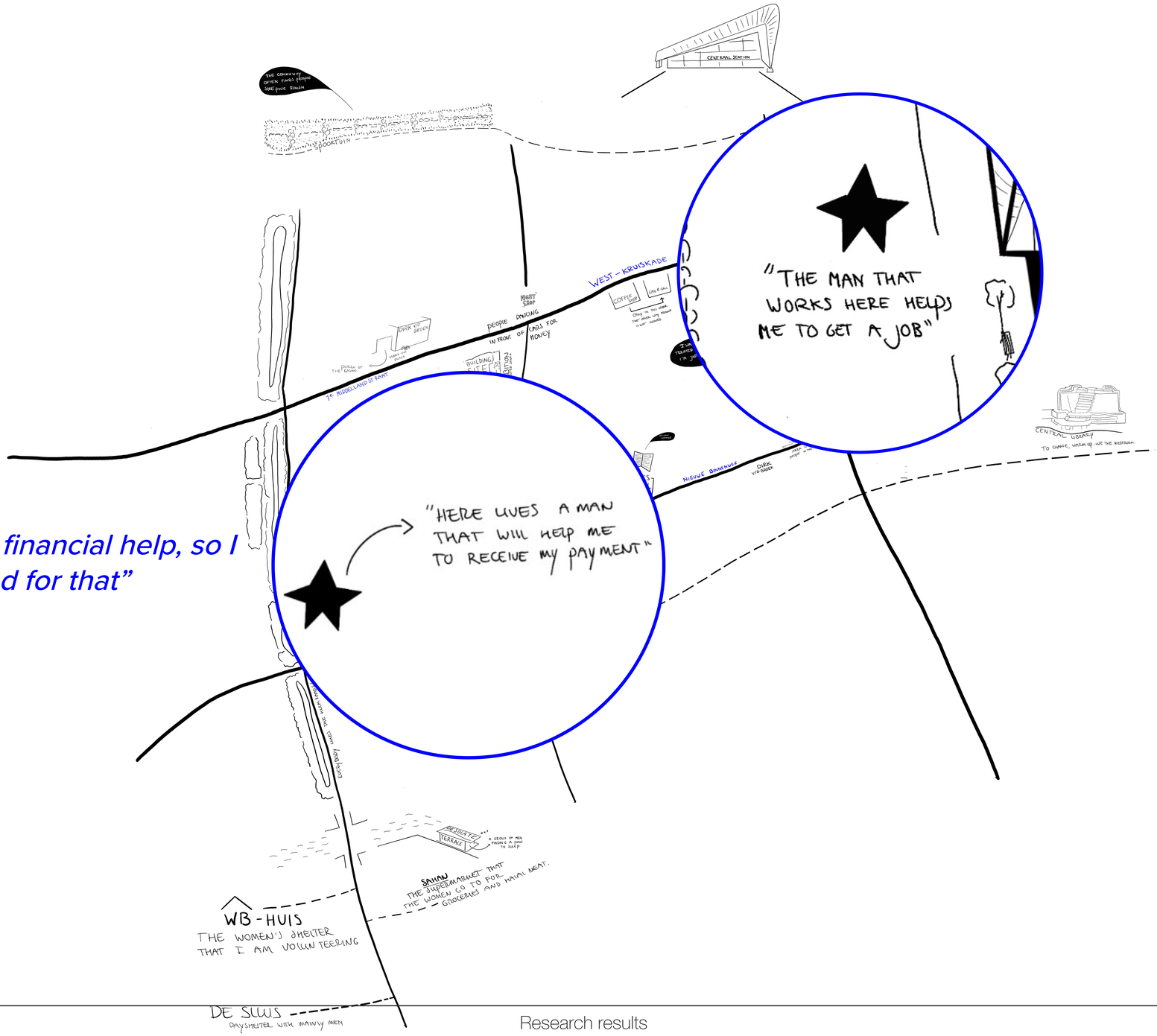
Need for connection



"I would like to do things with other people. I am just like them you know, I just have no home"

Wish for belonging

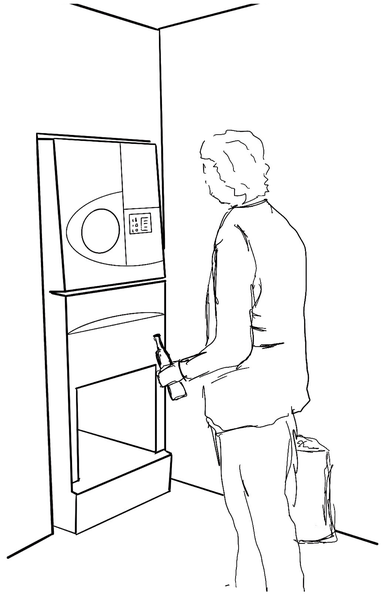
“No adress means no financial help, so I need my friend for that”



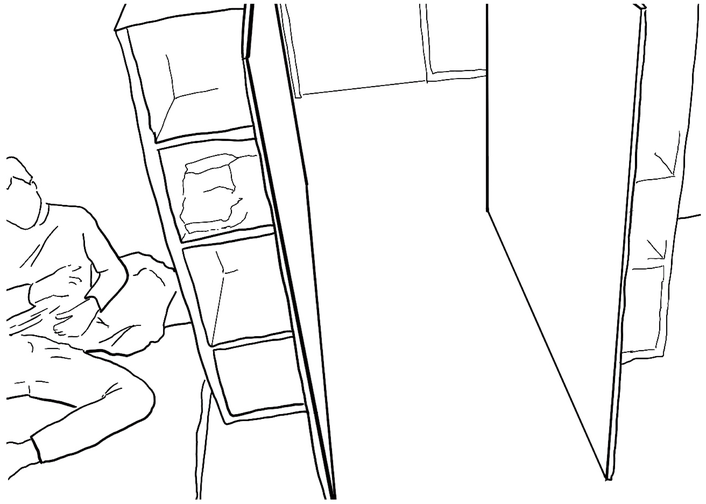
Help from residents

Urban refuge

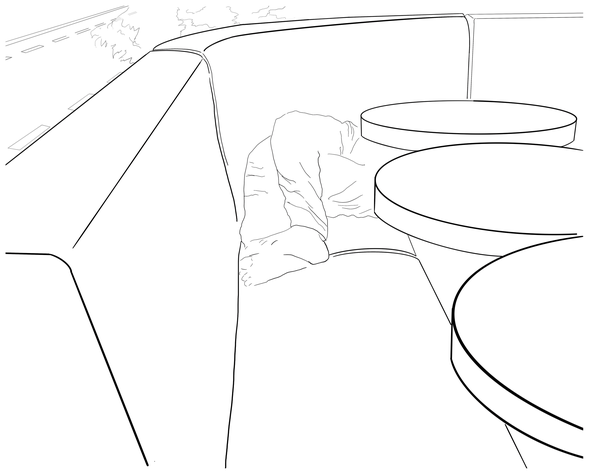
(Un)intended uses of the city



Inside the supermarket

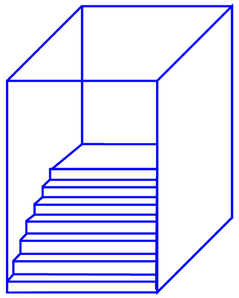


Shelters

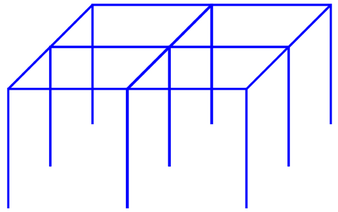


Closed terraces

The unintended



An entrance
or
A place to sit down, protected
from the weather



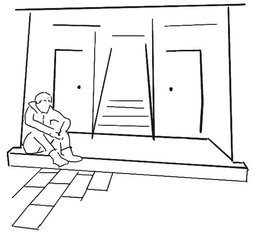
A burned down building
or
Something very close to a home

Typology

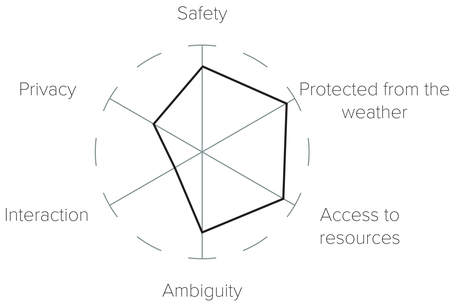
Of homelessness

Porch

Activity:	Temporal / rough sleeping
Source:	Observation & news
Users:	Rough sleepers
Scale	Edge

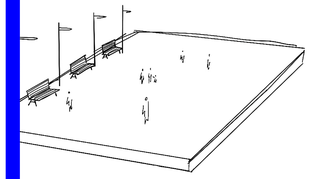


Porches (“portieken” in Dutch) can hold significance for homeless individuals within an urban environment. Porches, being transitional zones between public and private spaces, may lack a clear ownership. Porches also offer protection from weather conditions such as rain and wind.

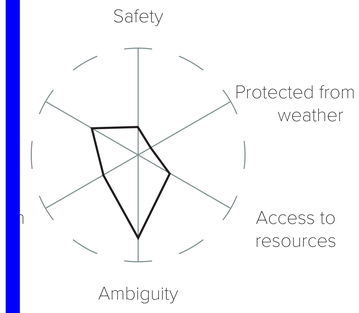


e

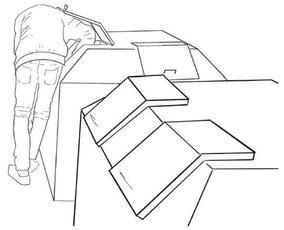
	Temporal stay
	Observation & interviews
	All types of homeless people
	Place



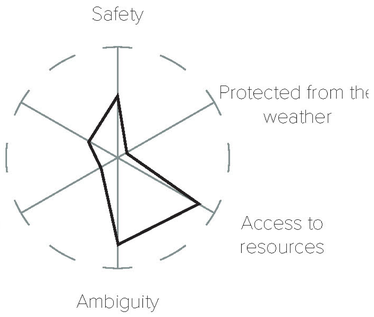
s, such as Schouwburgplein, are bus
by the public for various activities
sure, and events. However, it is obse
individuals sometimes find refuge in t
egating there for shelter and commu

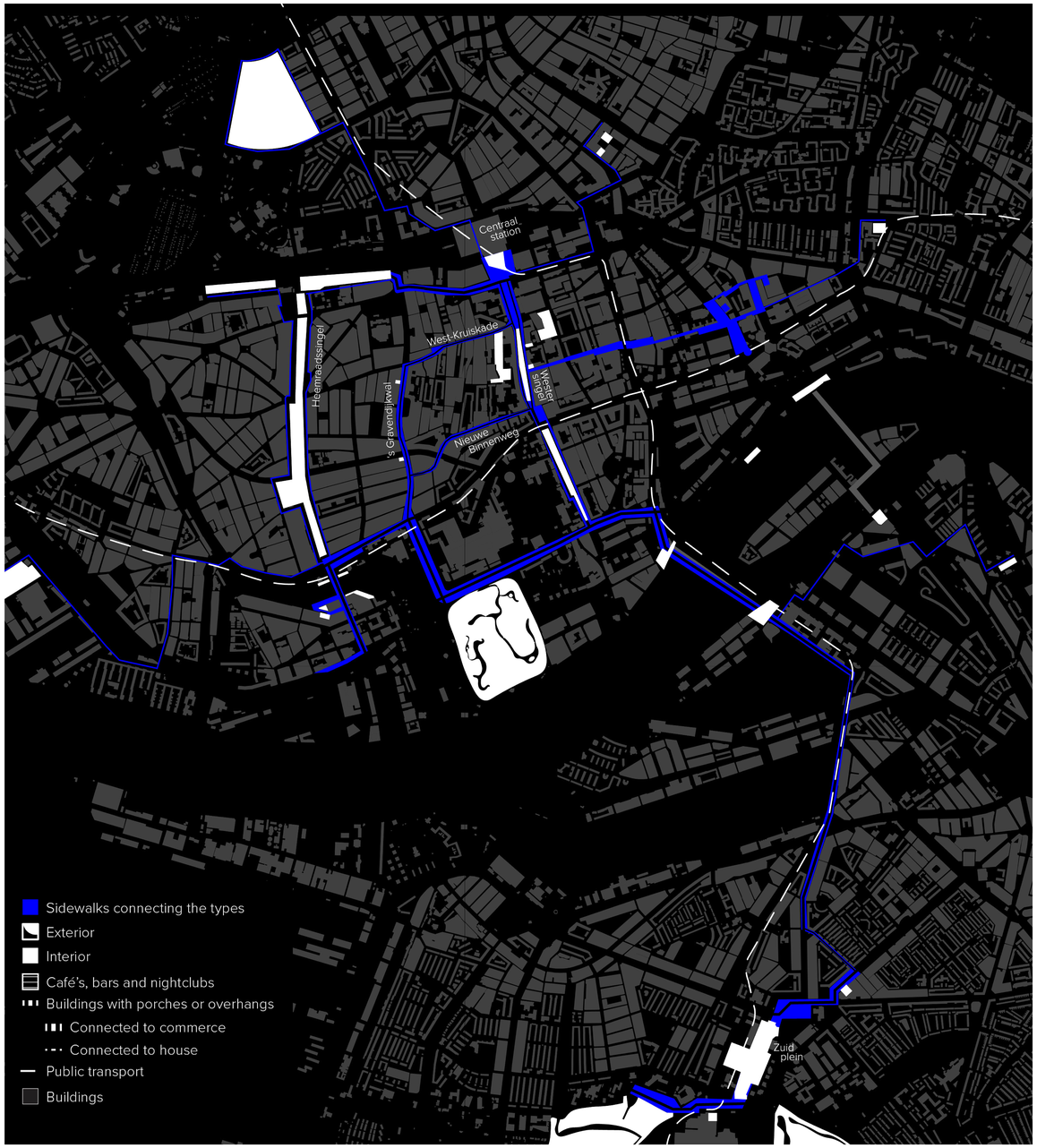


	Economic
	Observation
	Homeless people without job
	Object

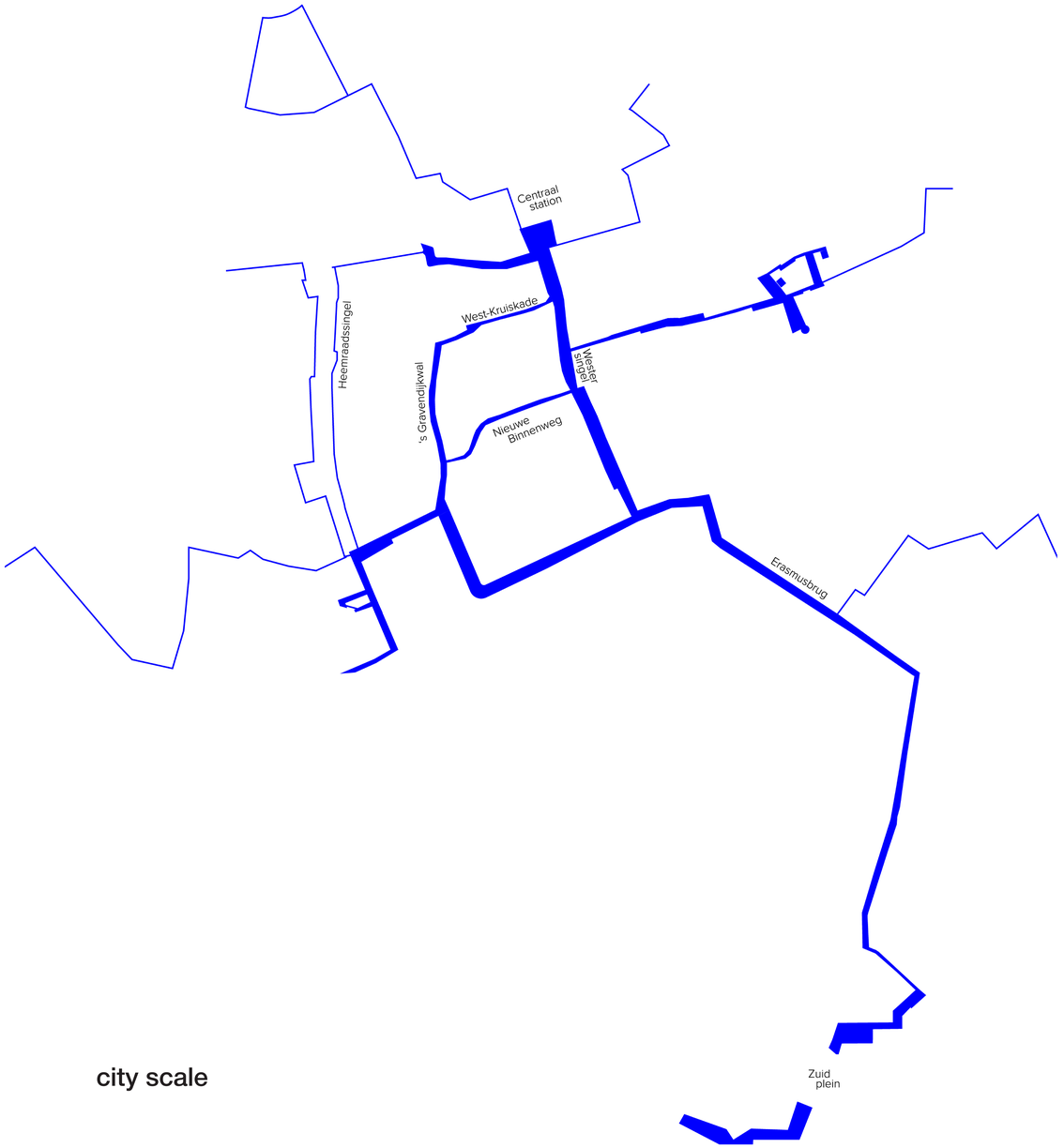


in bins are food or bottles. Since o
also serves as a informal economy wh
les made you earn money.

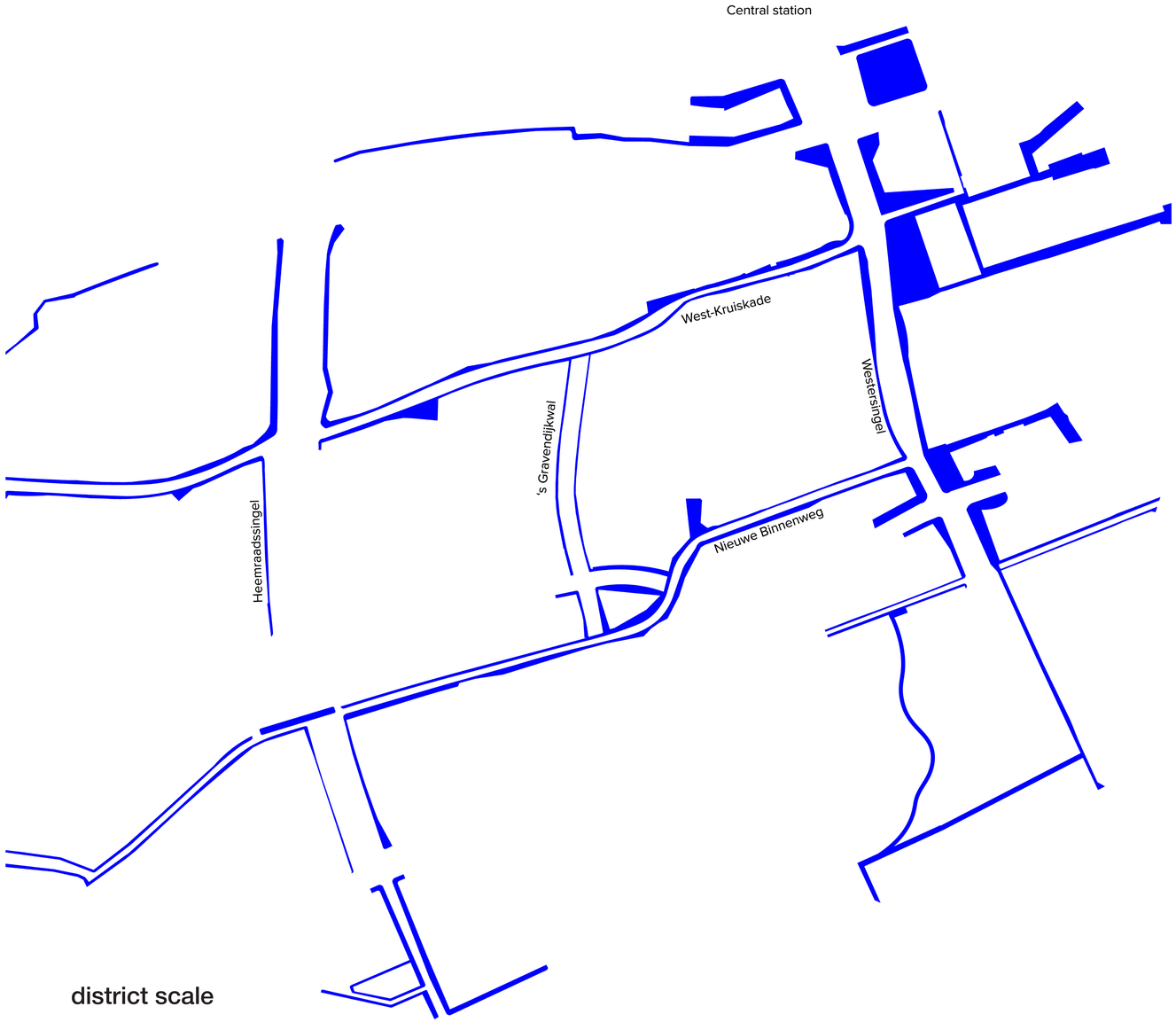



Centraal station
West-Kruiskade
Heemraadssingel
's Gravendijkwal
Westersingel
Nieuwe Binnenweg
Zuid plein
Sidewalks connecting the types
Exterior
Interior
Café's, bars and nightclubs
Buildings with porches or overhangs
Connected to commerce
Connected to house
Public transport
Buildings

Central station
West-Kruiskade
Westersingel
's Gravendijkwal
Heemraadssingel
Nieuwe Binnenweg



city scale

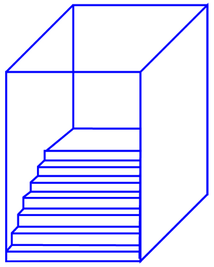


district scale

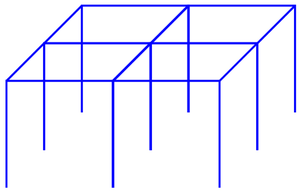
Design task

Acknowledge their needs

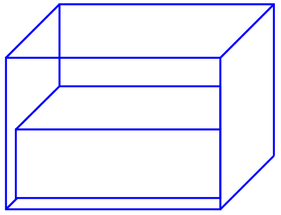
Informal uses of urban spaces



An entrance
or
A place to sit down, protected from the weather

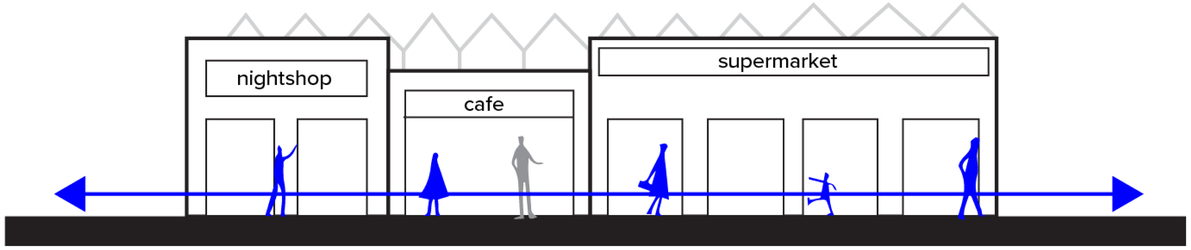


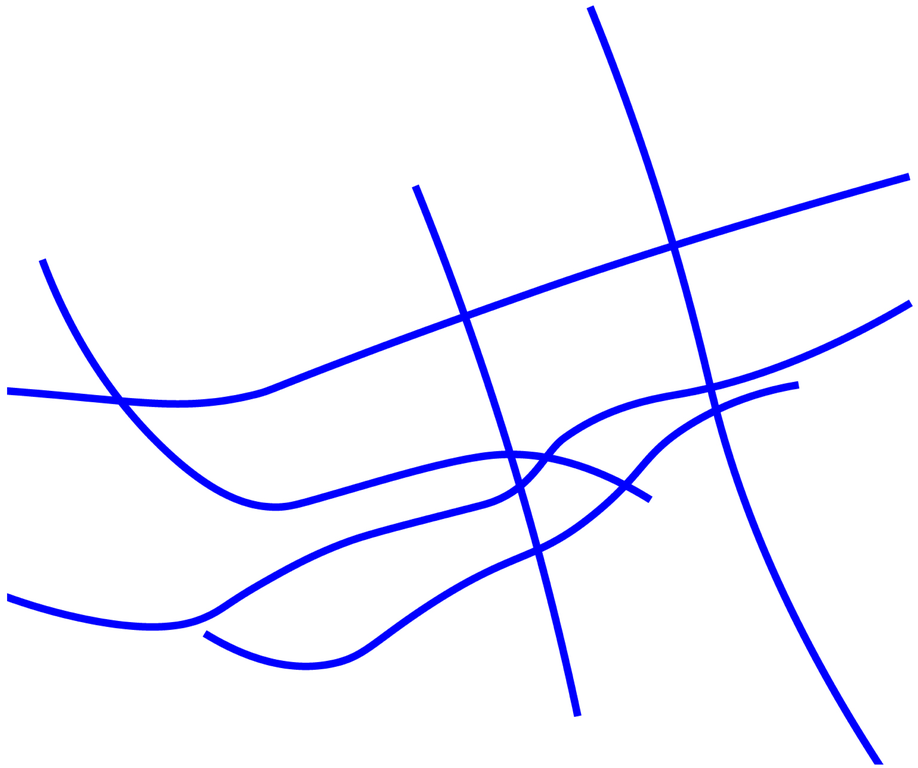
A burned down building
or
Something very close to a home



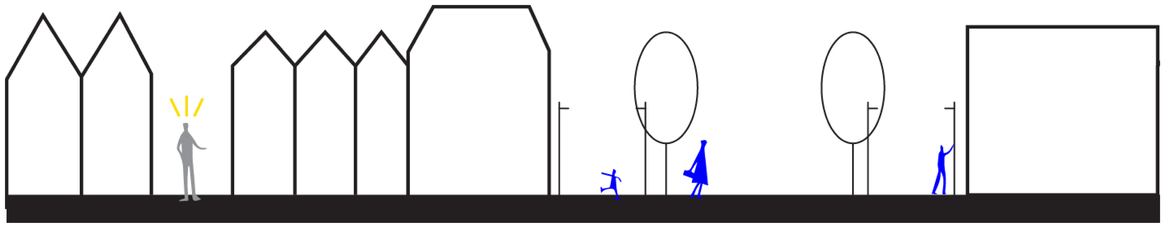
A place to take a private nap, protected from the weather

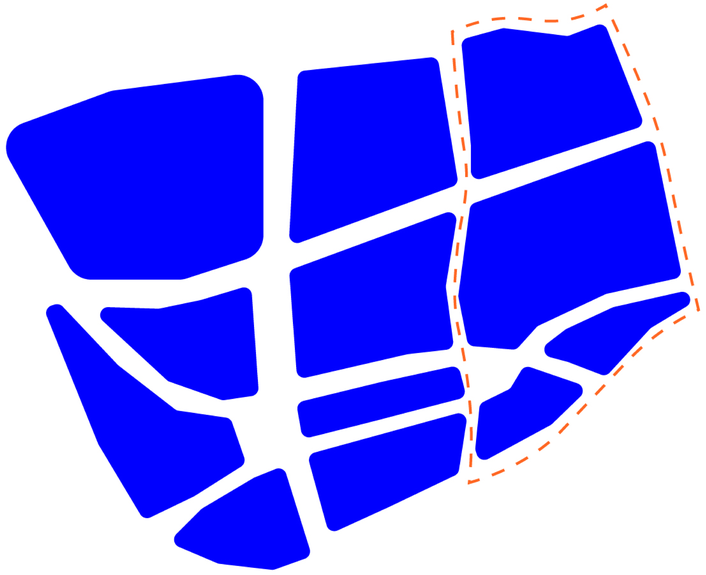
Along the anonymous lines





On the intricate scale





Closer to your home

Design task

Promoting recognition and awareness by strategically exposing their needs and presence within the neighbourhood scale.

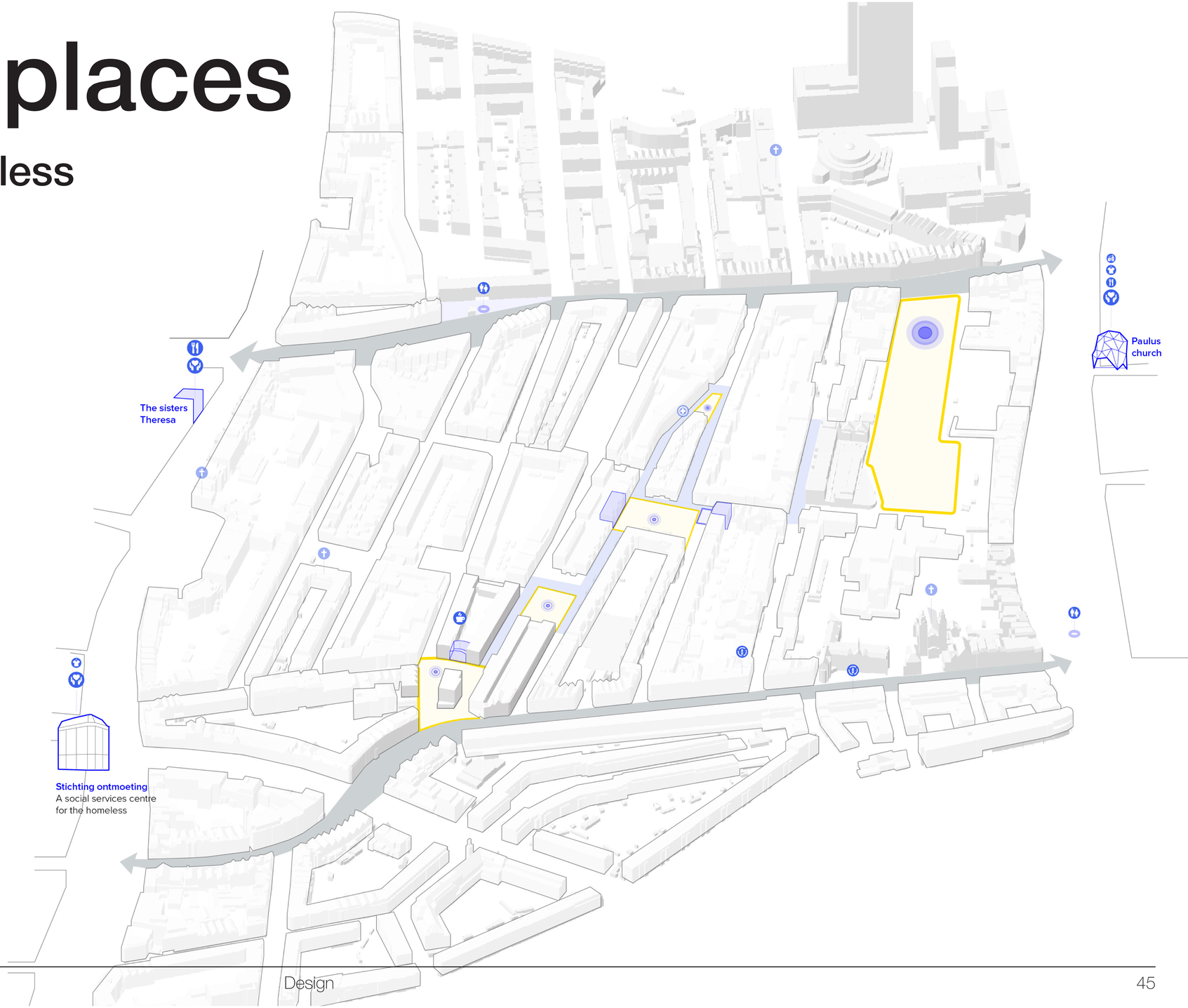
Oude Westen

Struggles and solidarity

Ossip van Duivenbode, Immaterieel erfgoed (2023) Wijkkrant Aktiegroep oude westen (2024)

A network of places

Designing places for the homeless within the Oude Westen



Legend

- Network of places for the homeless
- Places of solidarity
- Streets connecting the squares
- Shelter
- Food
- Drinking water
- Health care
- Public toilets
- Hygiene
- Clothes
- (Social) care
- Return bottles
- Hot beverages
- Belief

The wijkpark

On the edge of city and neighbourhood

Legend

- Network of places for the homeless
- Places of solidarity
- Streets connecting the squares
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- Health care
- Public toilets
- Hygiene
- Clothes
- (Social) care
- Return bottles
- Hot beverages
- Belief

Nuisance and unsafey

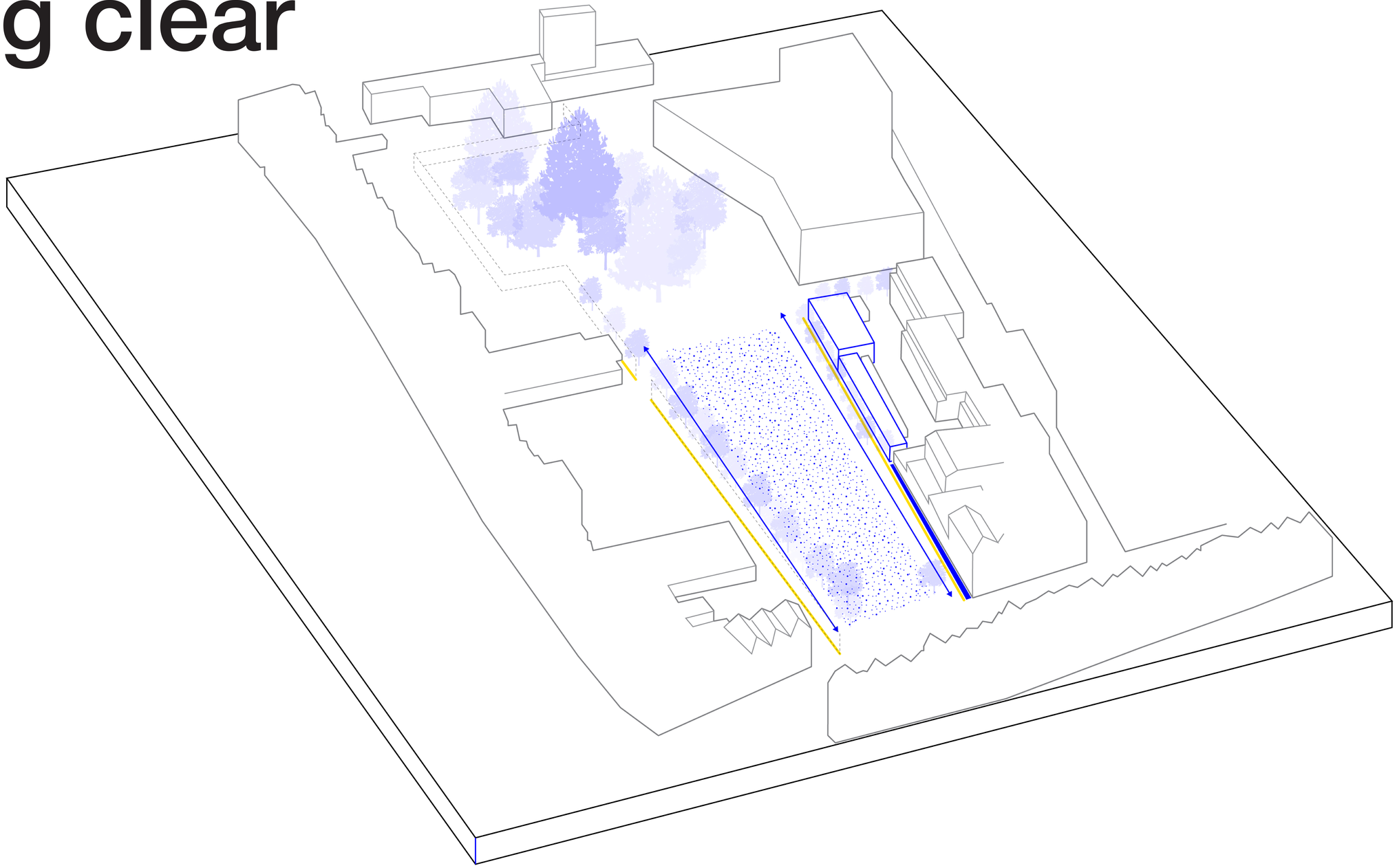
Arie Kievit (2023)

Current state

- Vague edges
- Intimate south side
- Focus on the noth side

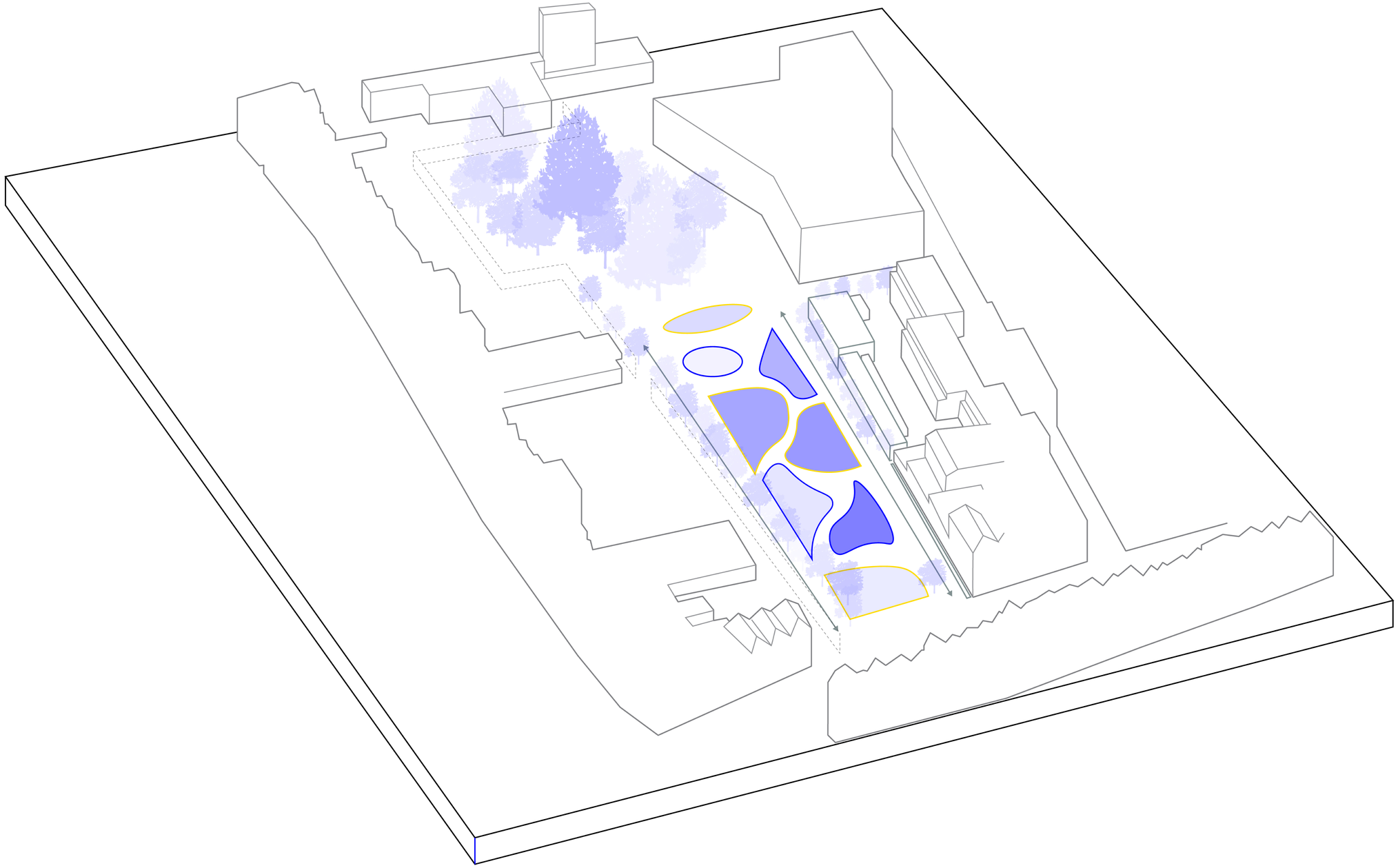
Creating clear edges

And pathways

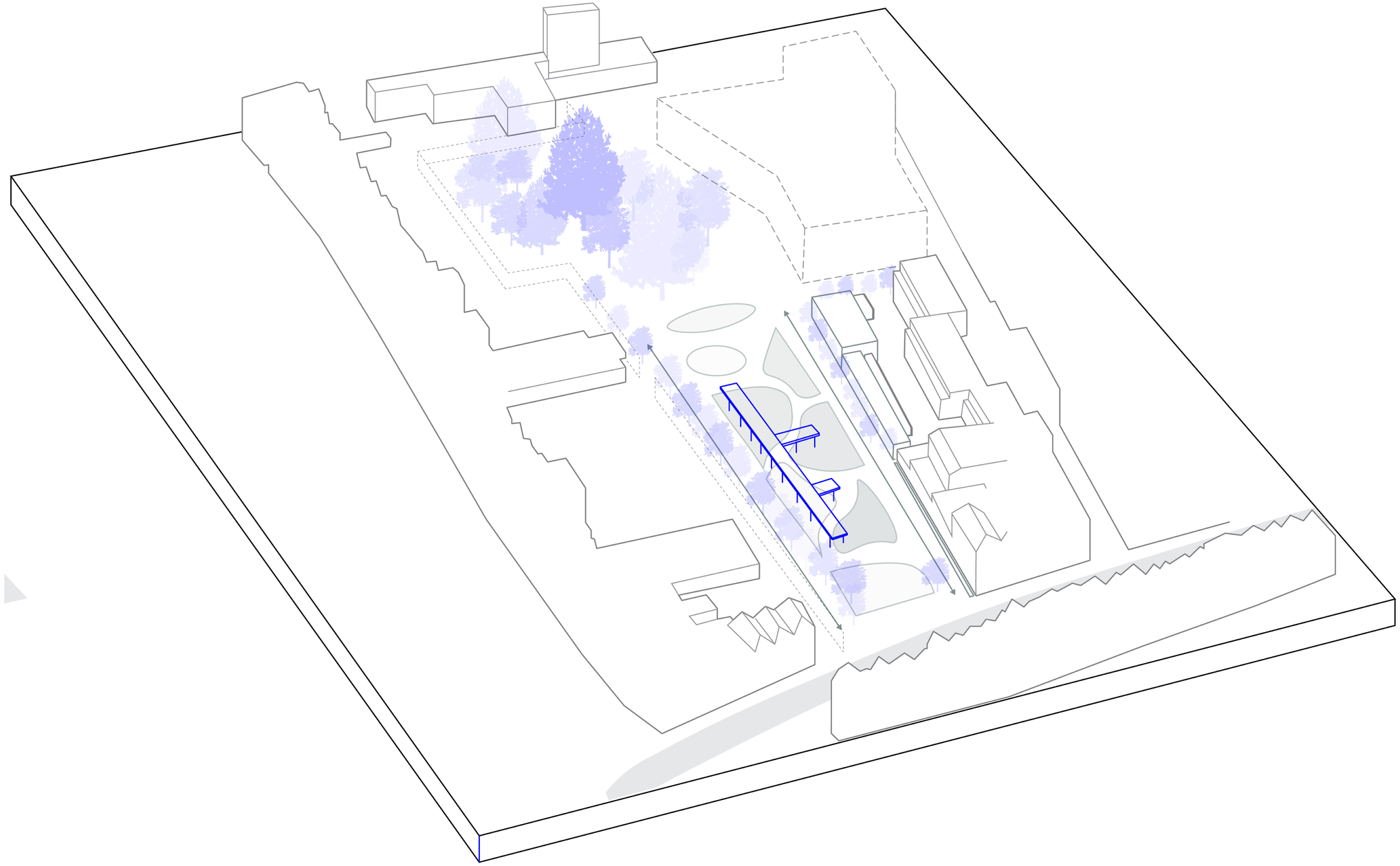


Zoning

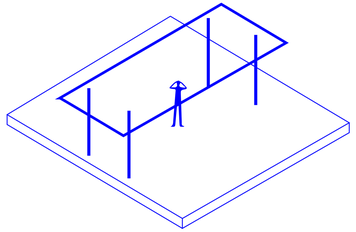
Of functions for both residents and the homeless

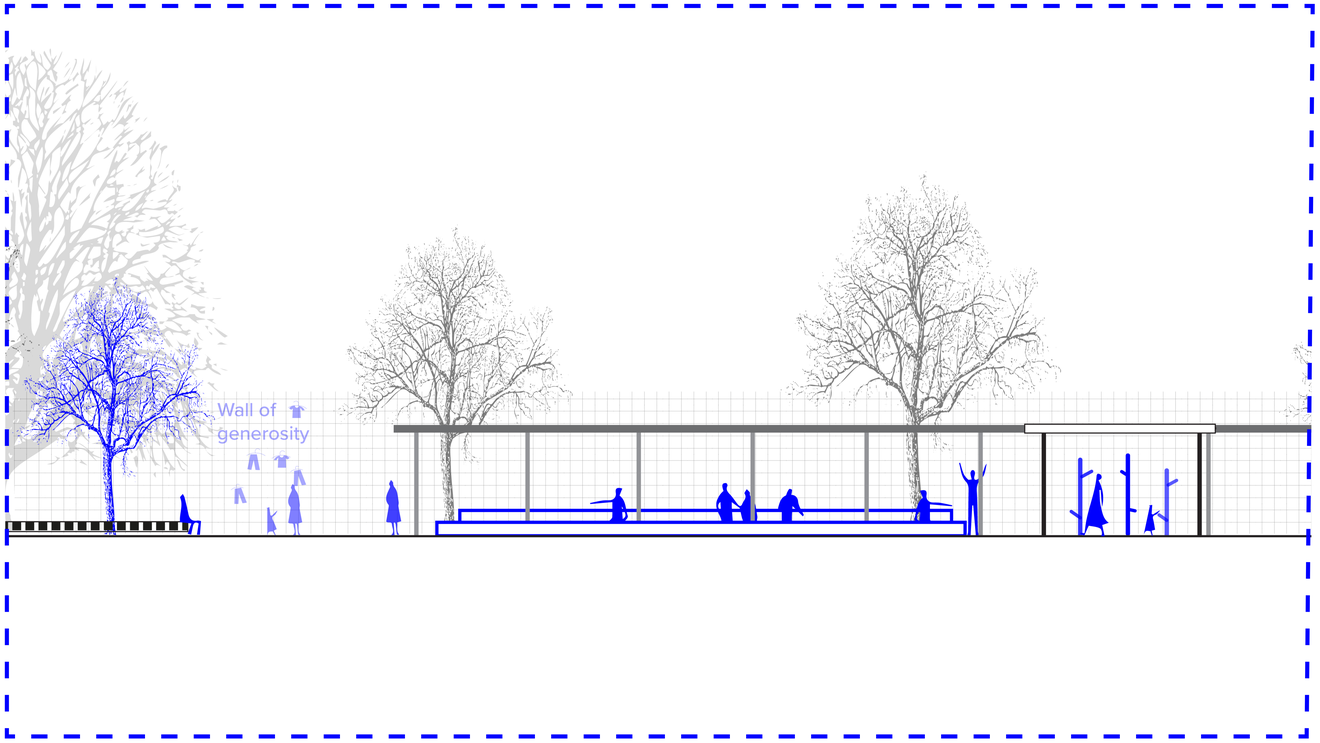


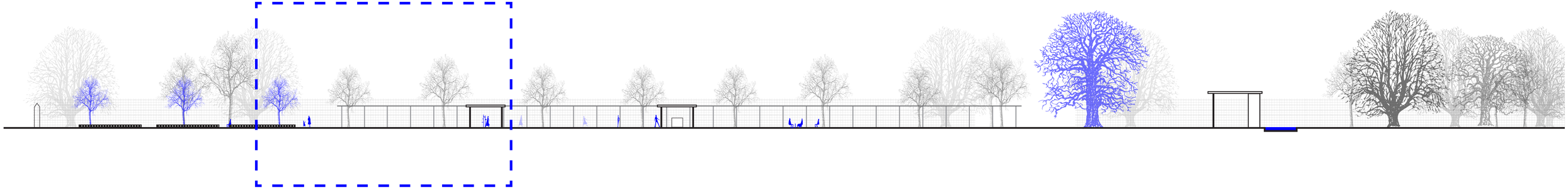
Urban shelter



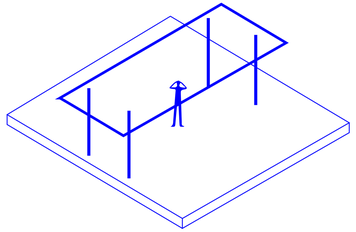
The canopy



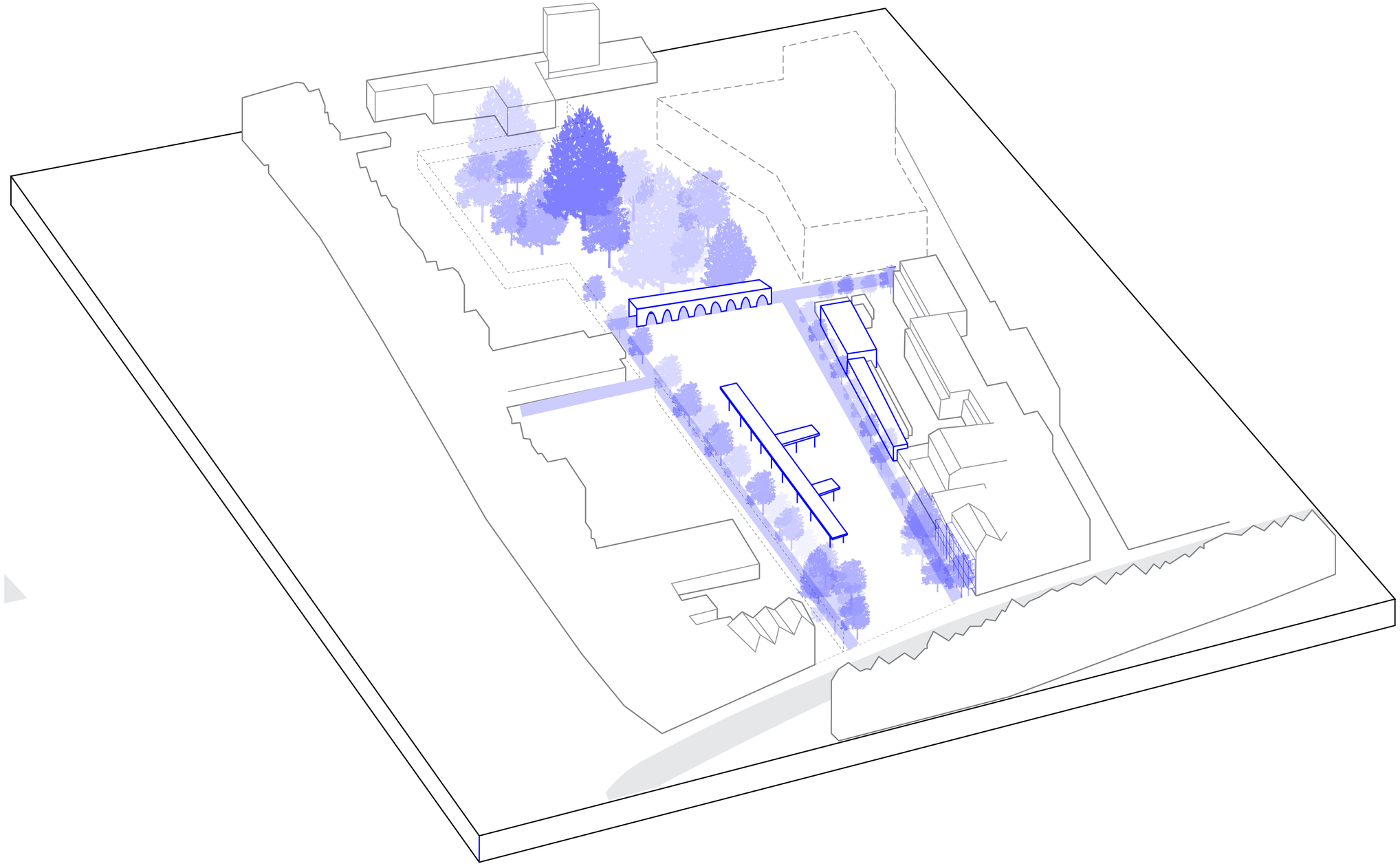




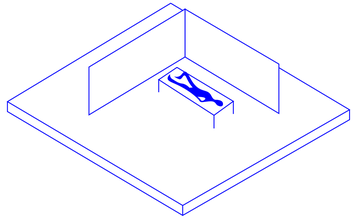
The canopy

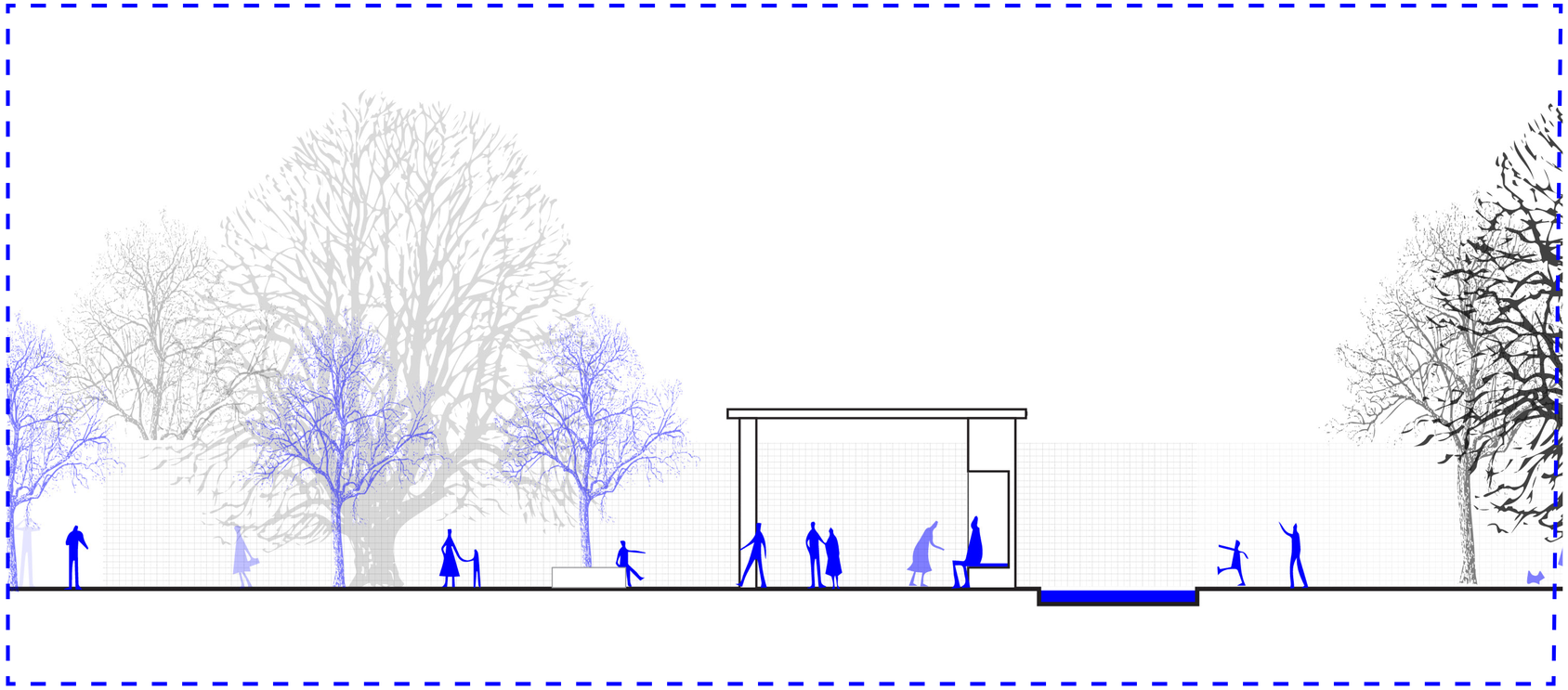


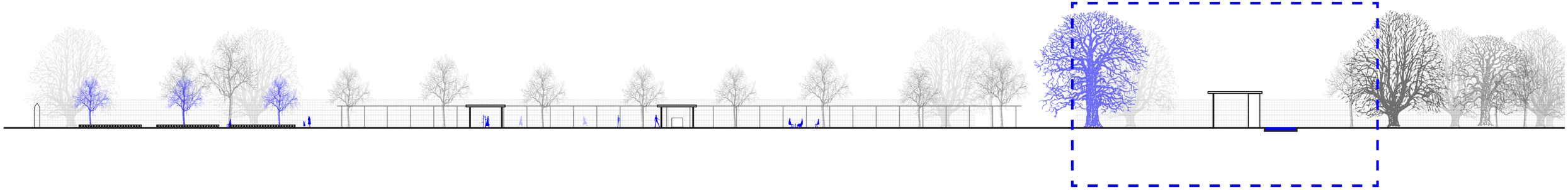
Urban shelter



Sleeping







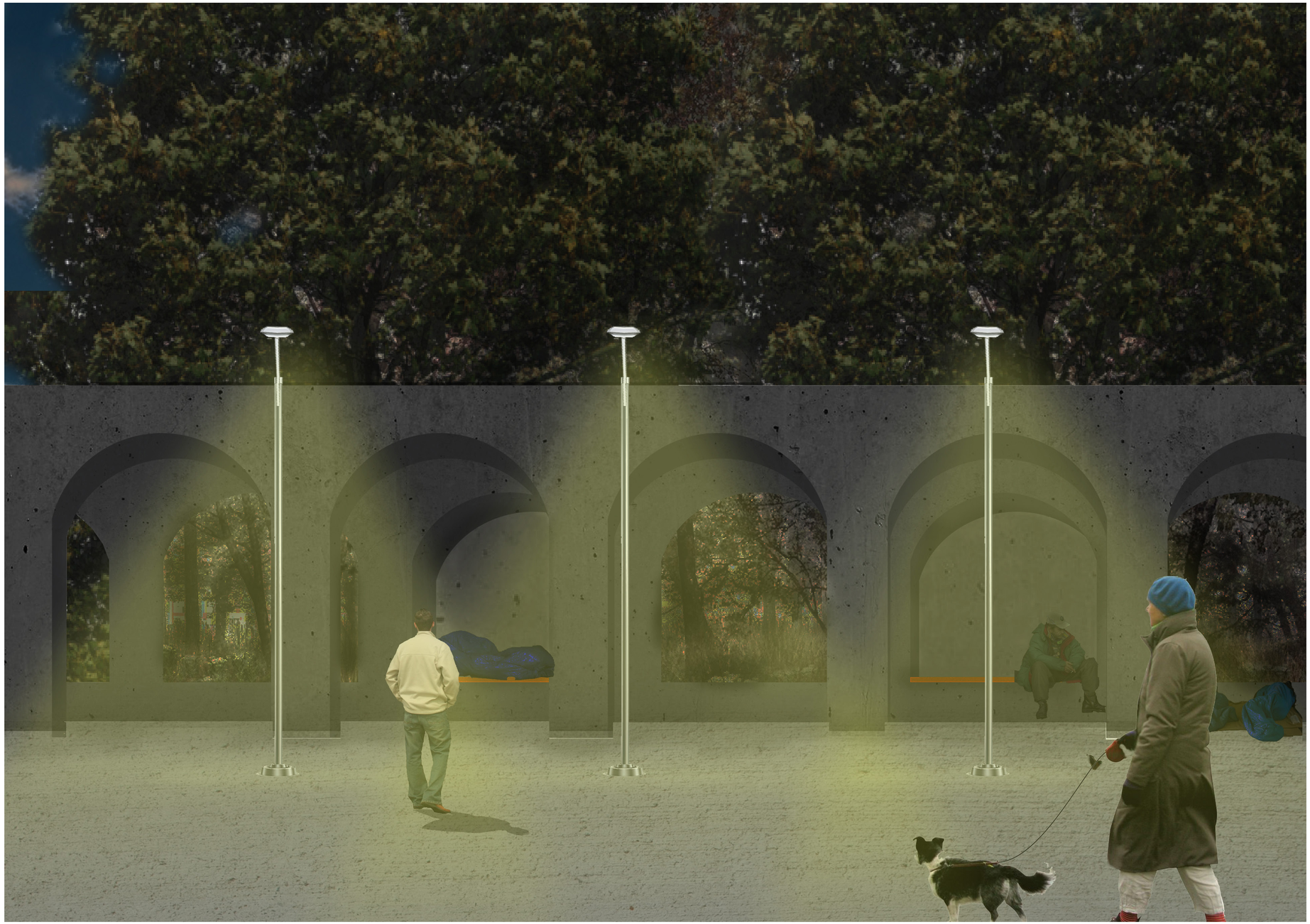
During the day

In classical, political forms and shapes.

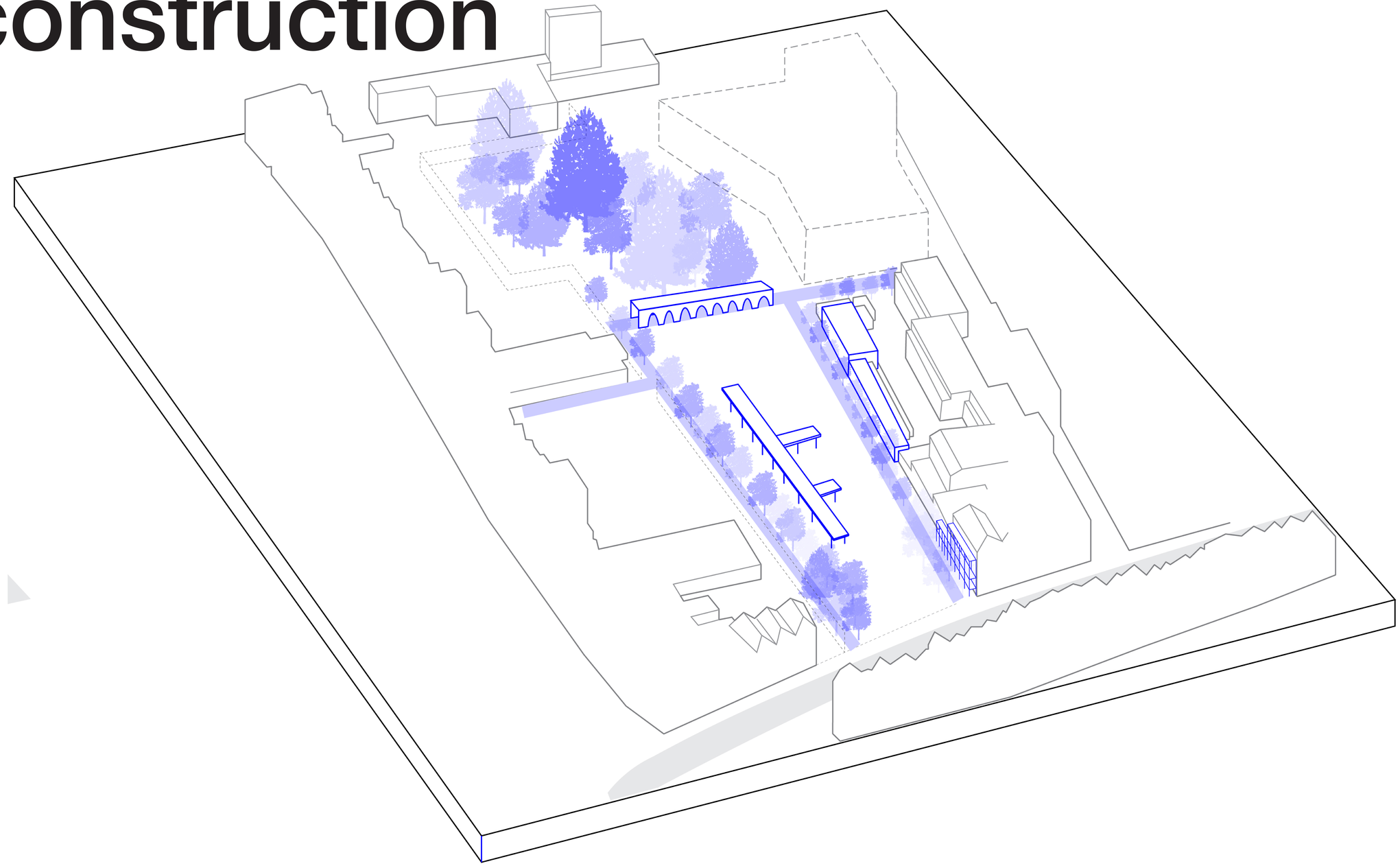
Dignified

At night

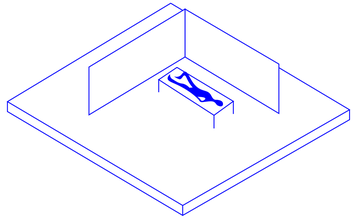
Privacy



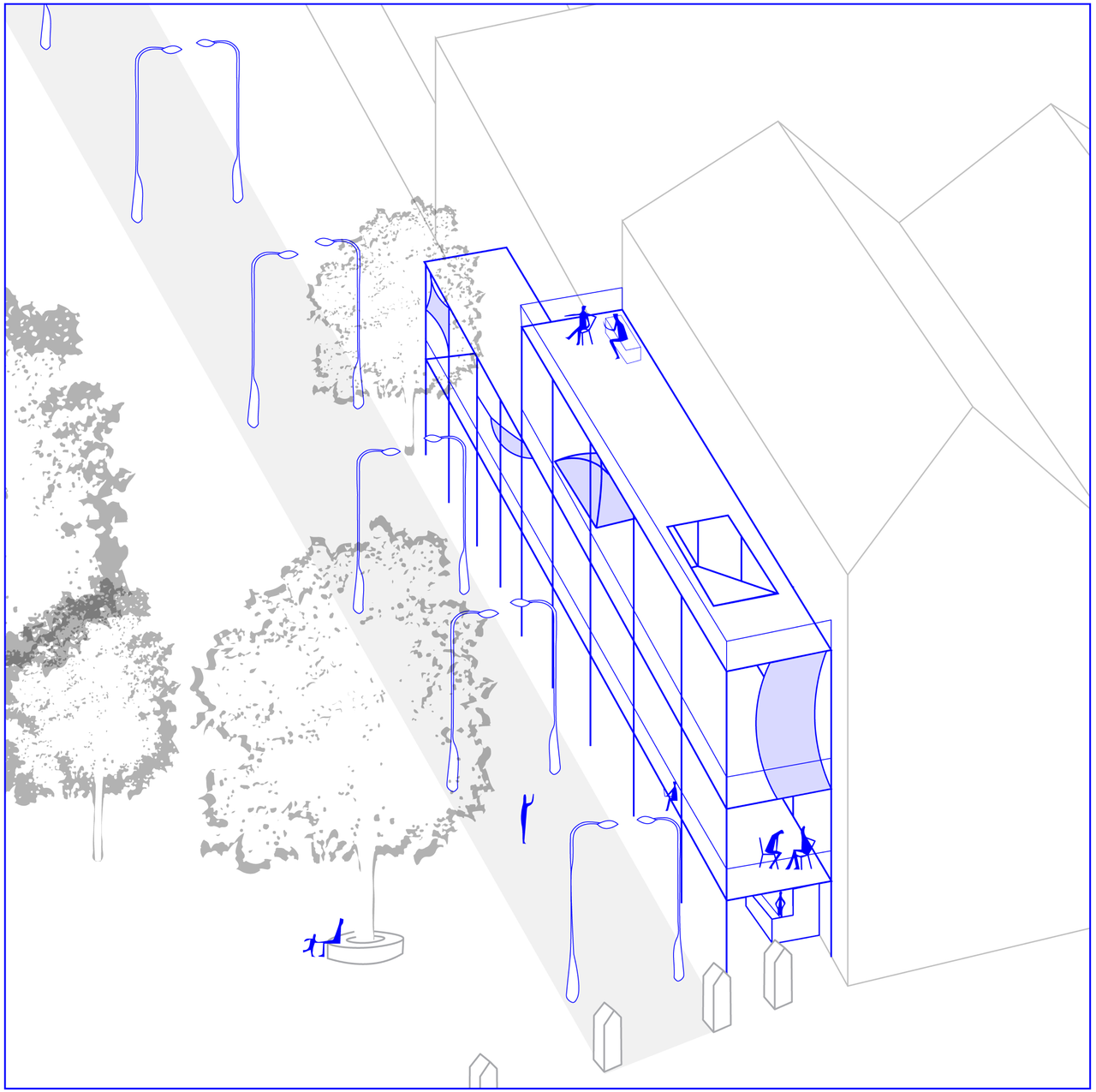
Open construction



Sleeping



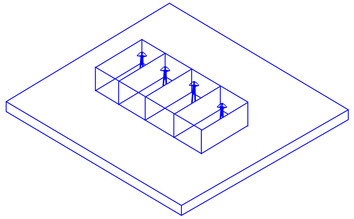
In a modular, appropriated and open construction.

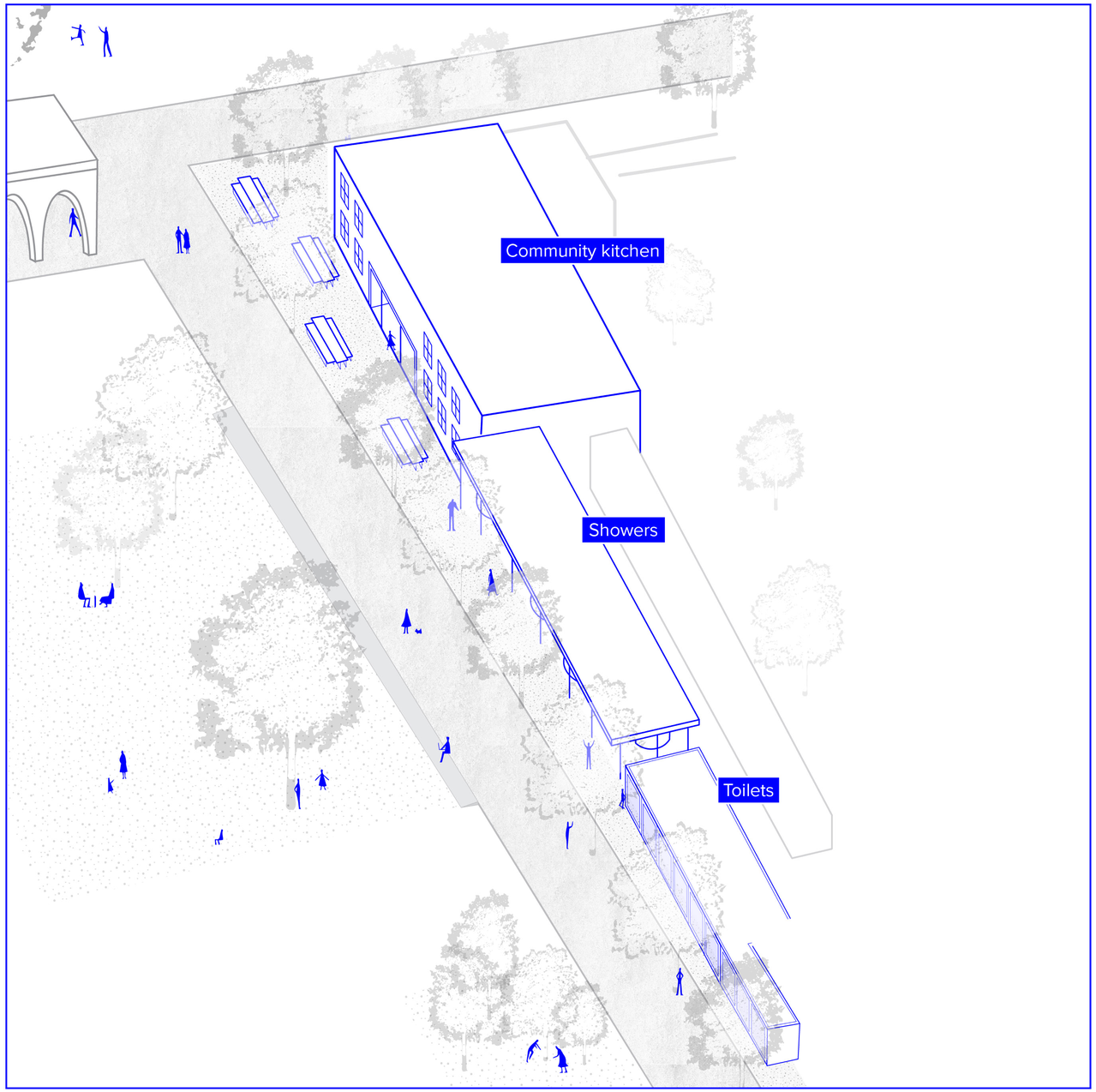


During the day

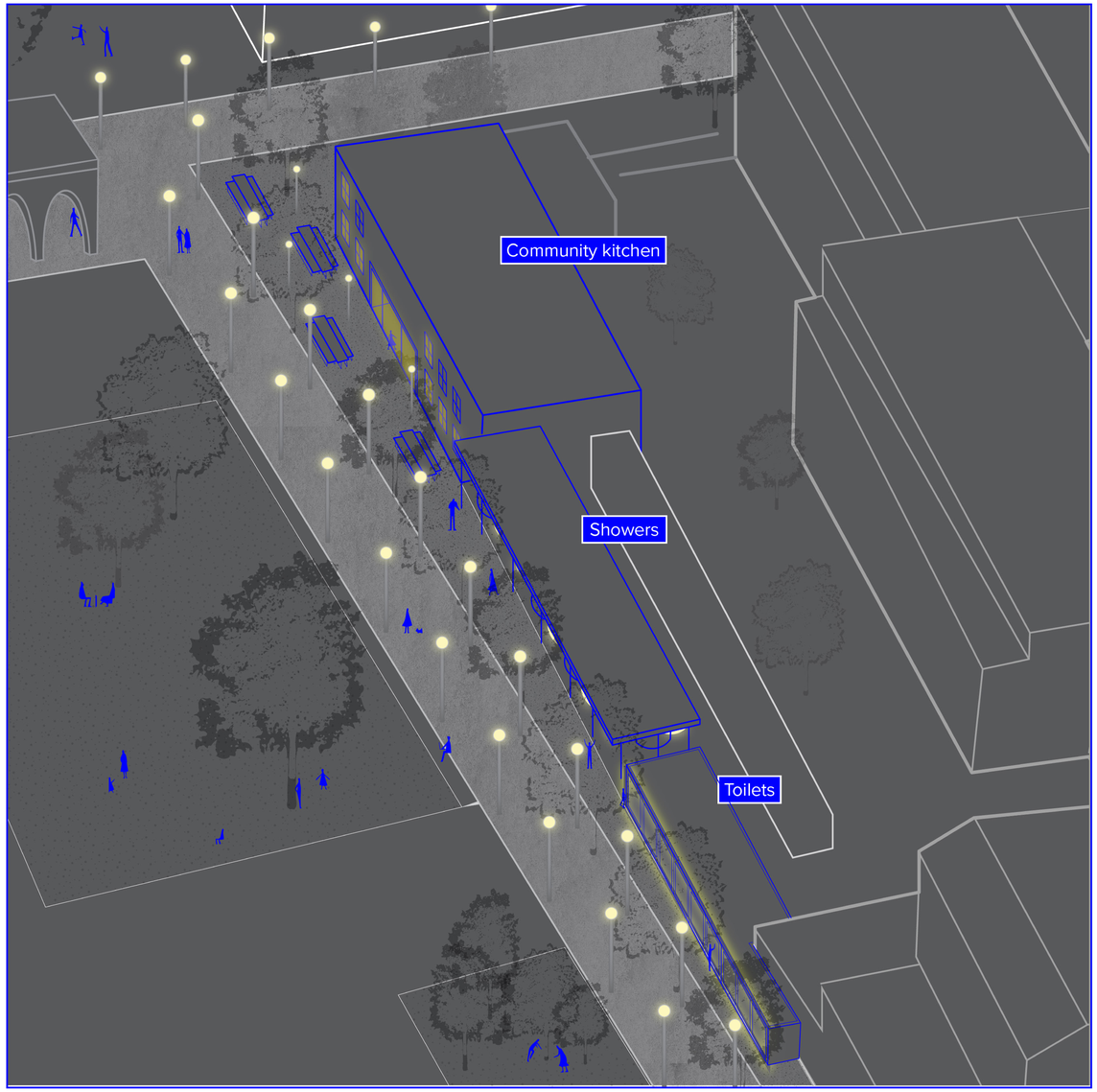
At night

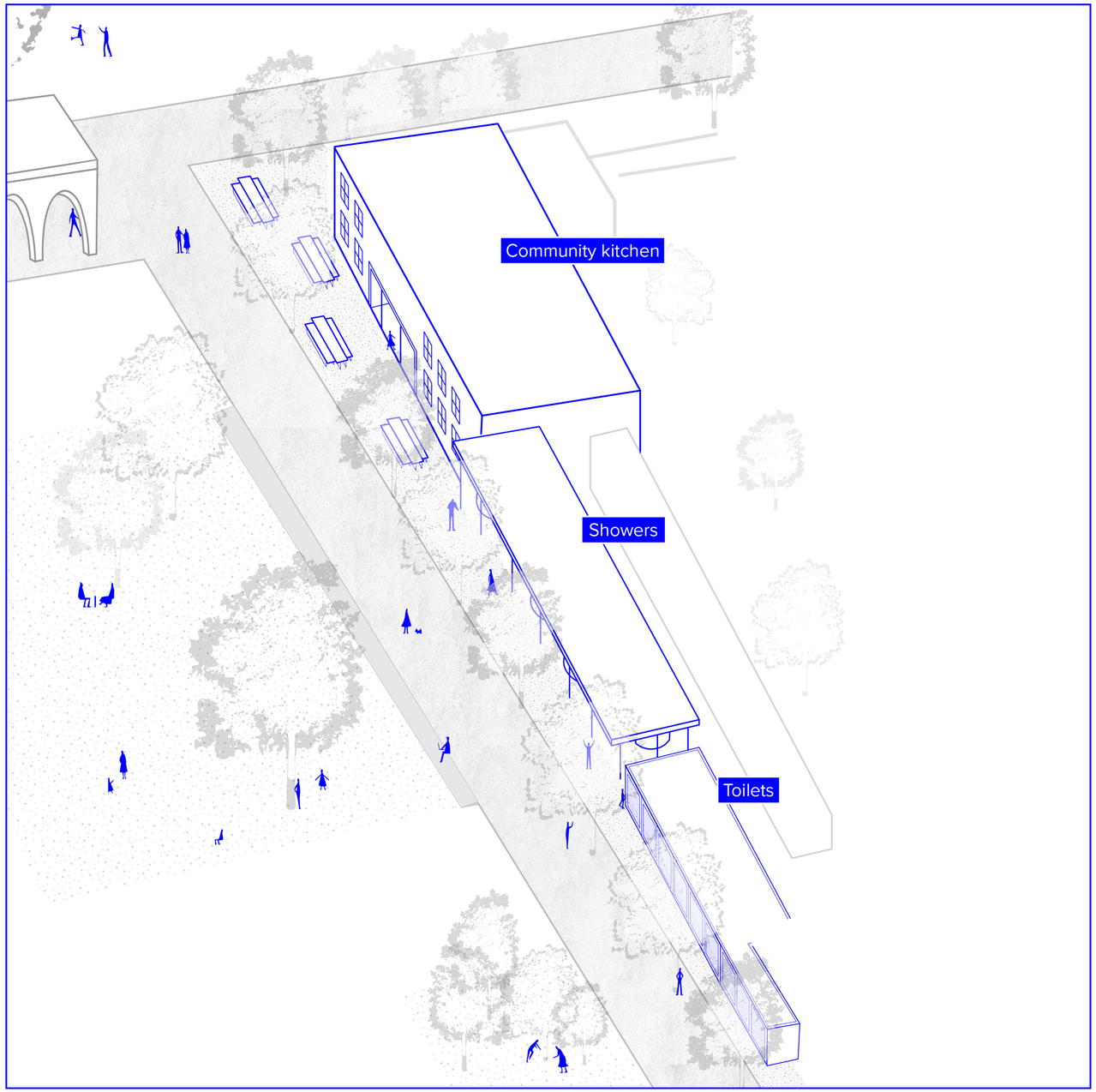
Personal hygiene





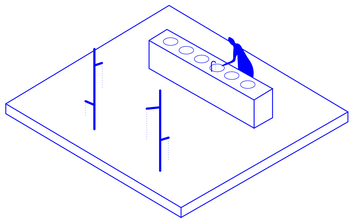
Personal hygiene

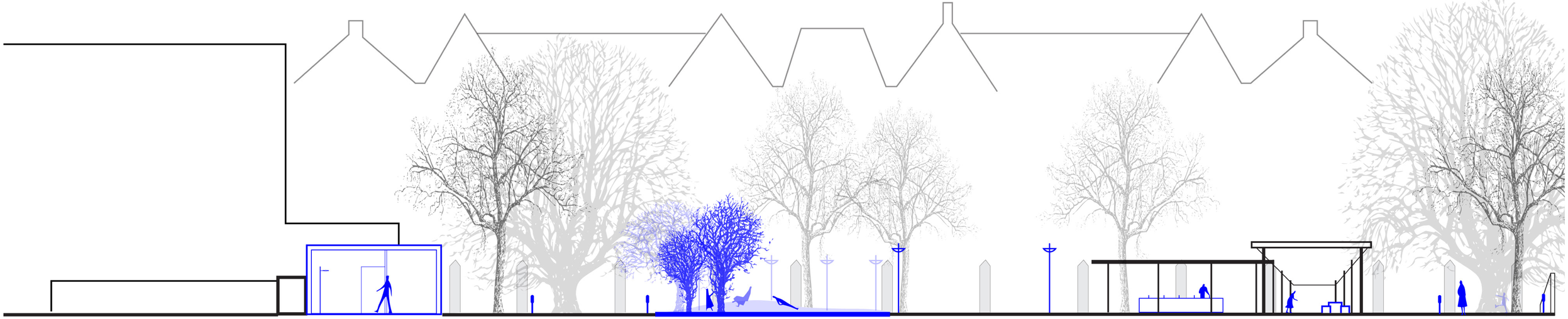




Personal hygiene

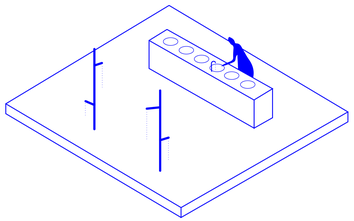
In public space



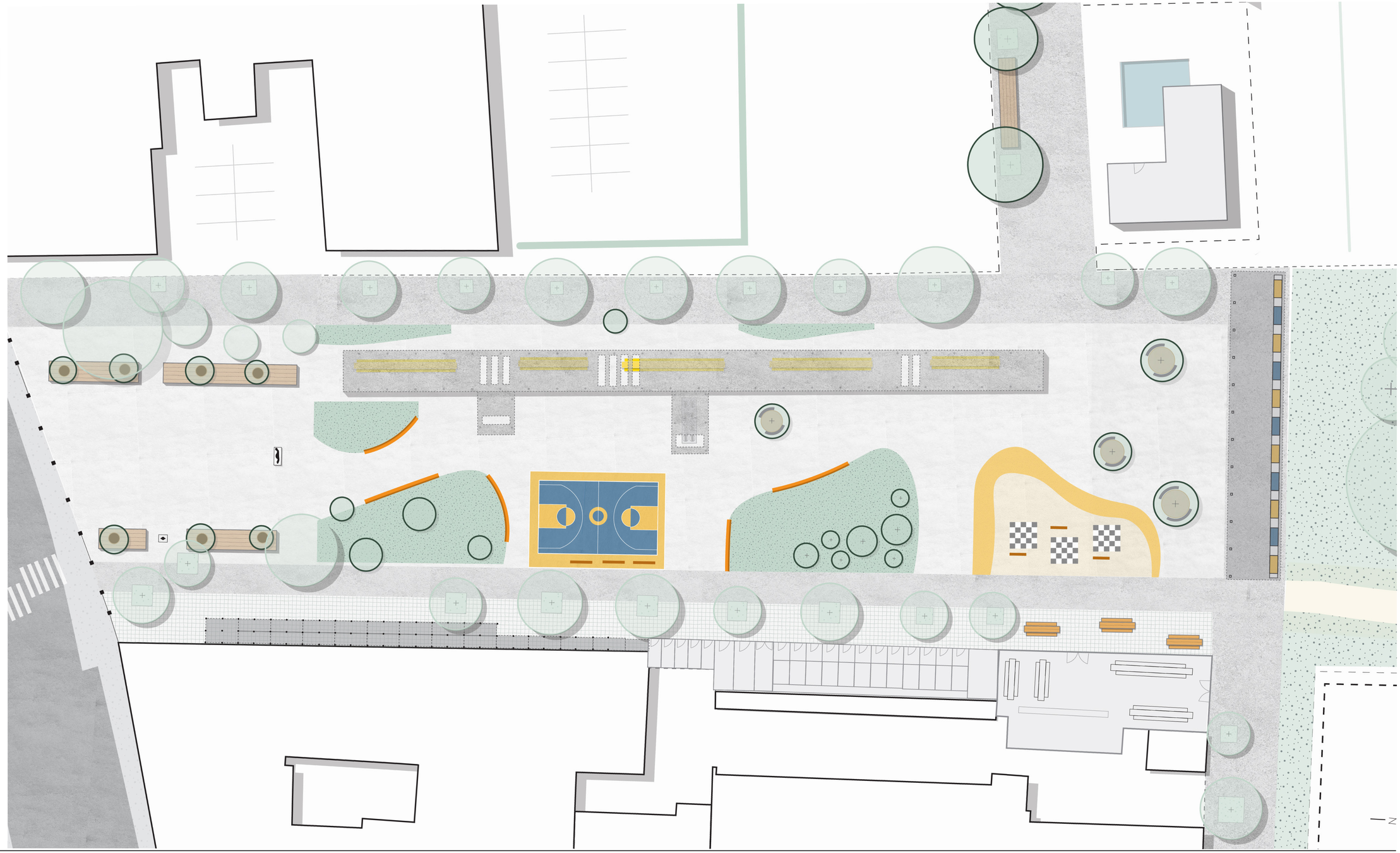


Personal hygiene

In public space



Plan



Legend

Material

- Granite tiles big
- Granite tiles small
- Sand coloured rubber flooring
- Yellow rubber flooring
- Blue rubber flooring
- Grass
- Concrete roof

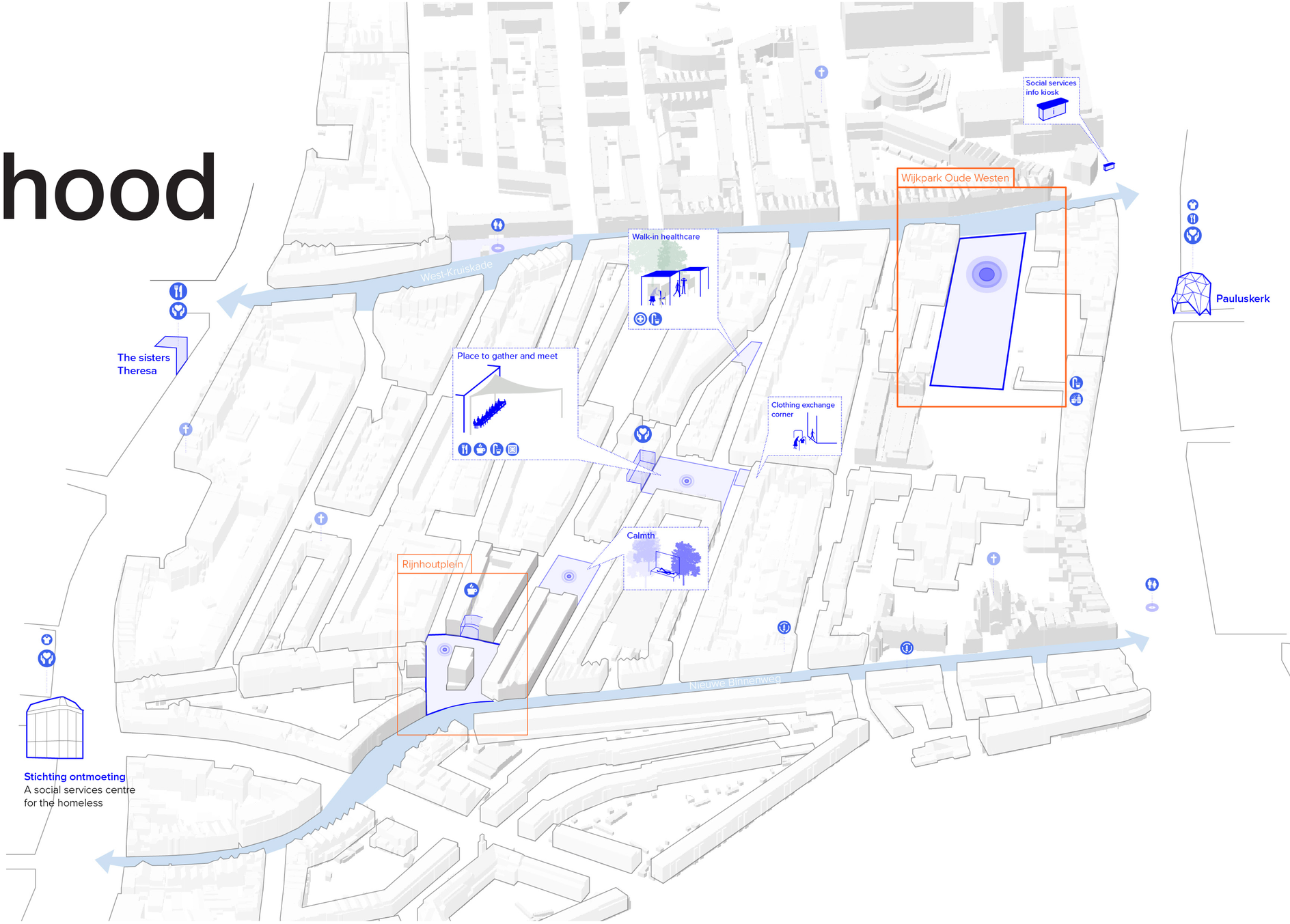
Urban furniture

- Wooden bench
- Rubber seating
- Seating around tree

Natural elements

- Existing trees
- New trees
- Water

A solidary neighbourhood

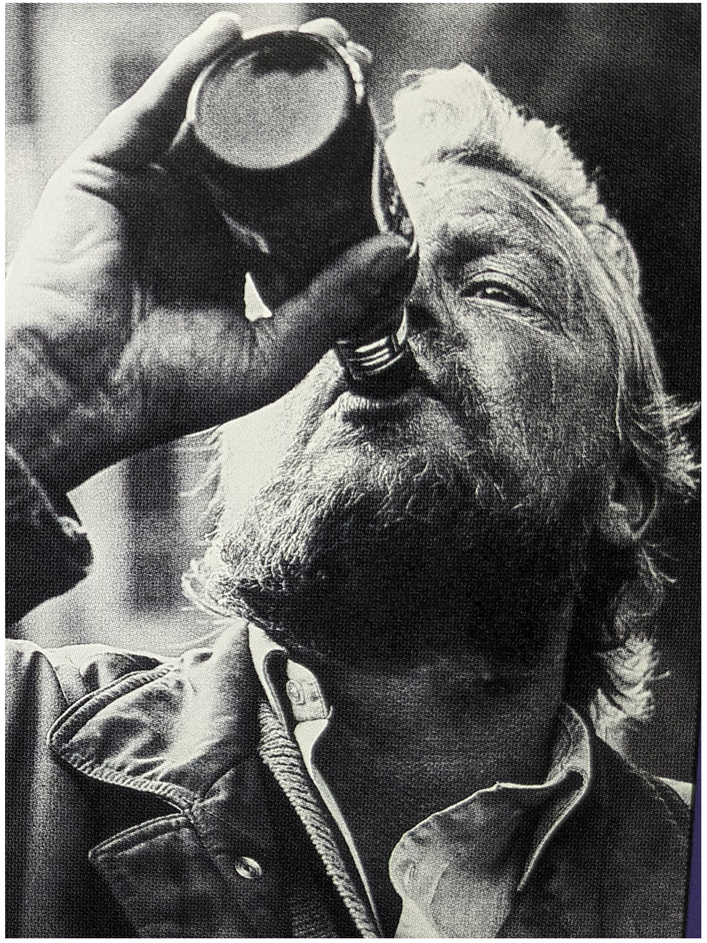


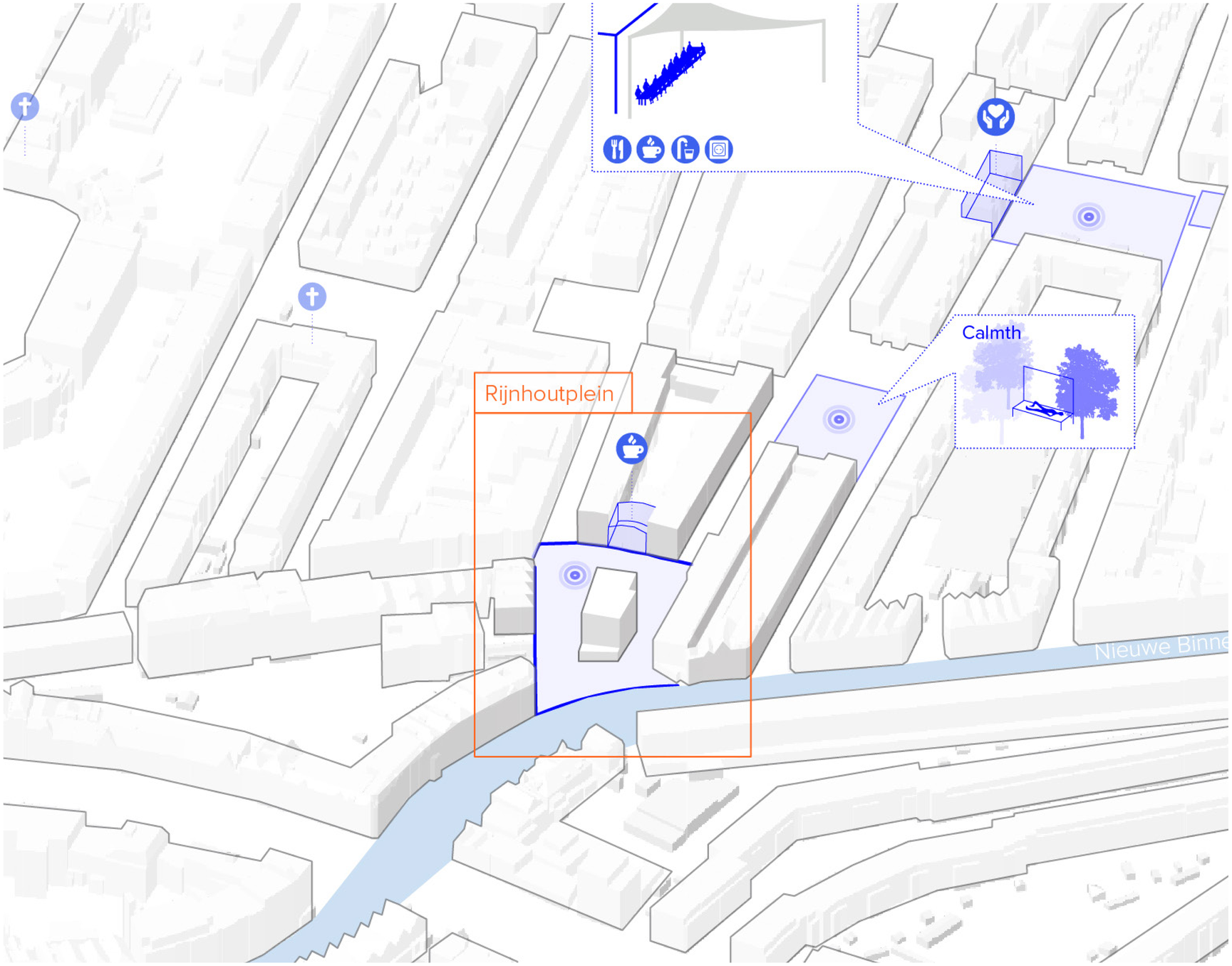
Legend

- Places of solidarity
- Shelter
- Food
- Rest
- Drinking water
- Health care
- Public toilets
- Hygiene
- Clothes
- (Social) care
- Electricity
- Return bottles
- Hot beverages
- Belief
- Lockers

Drinking

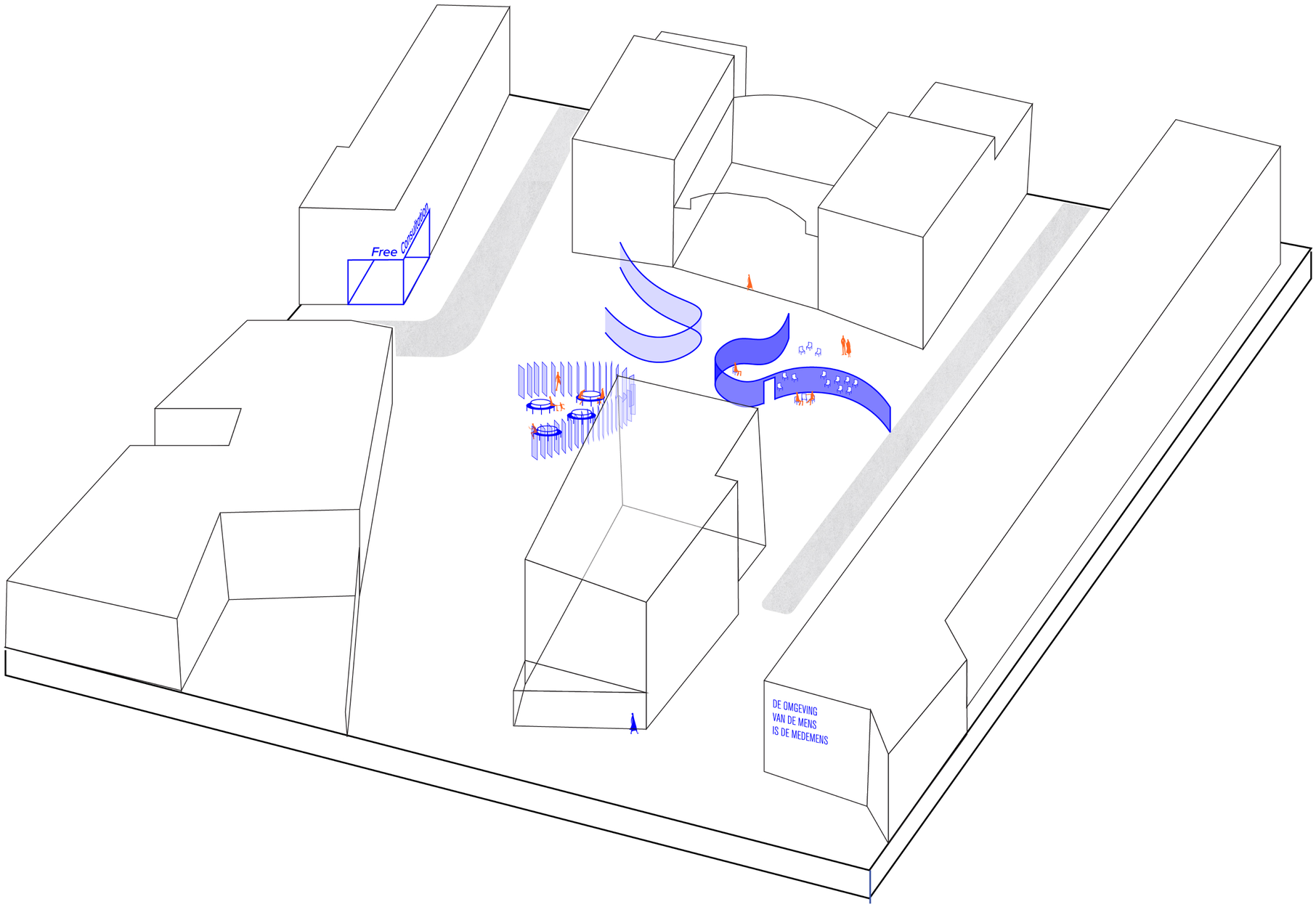
In public space



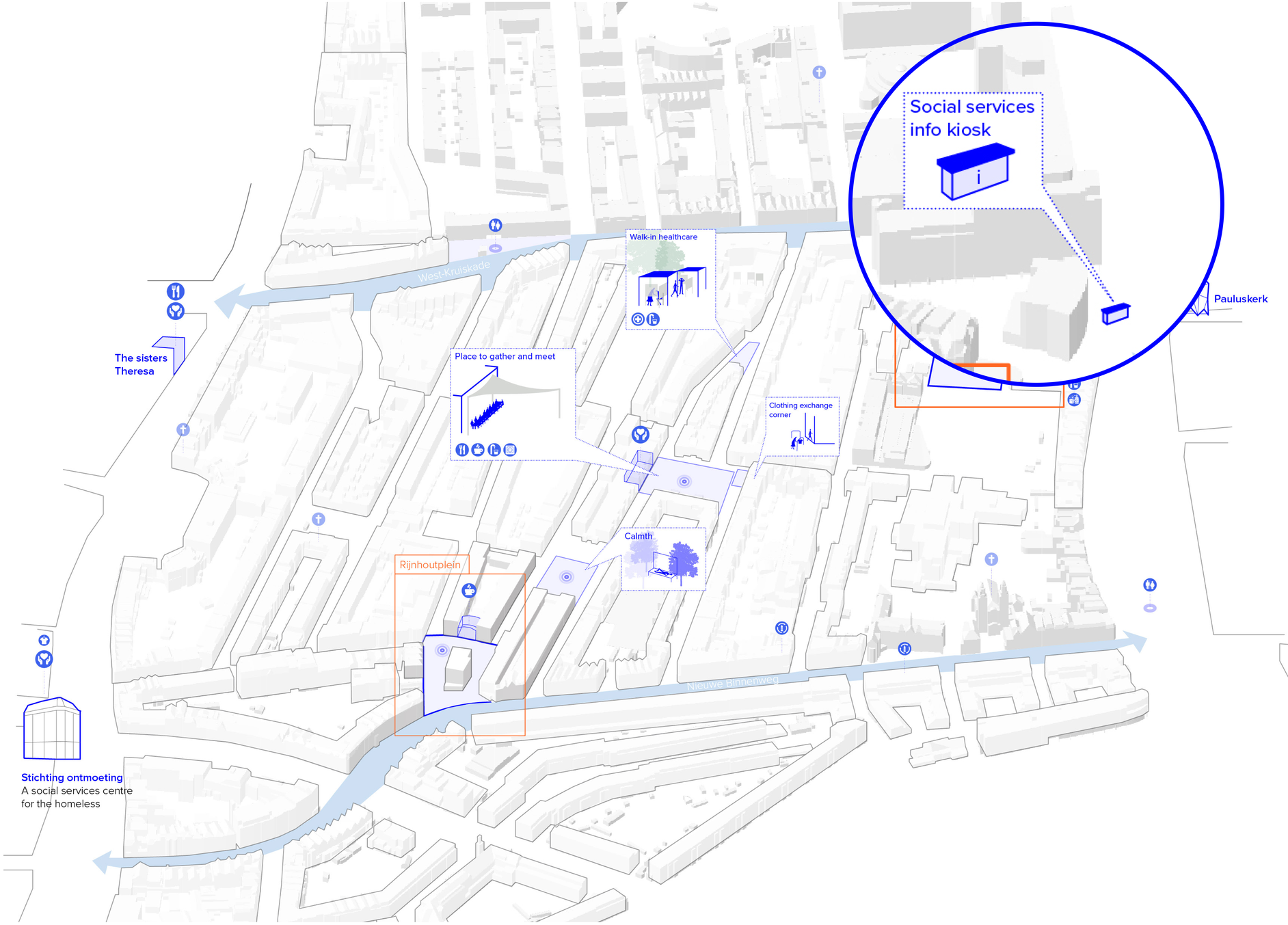


Drinking

In public space



Providing information



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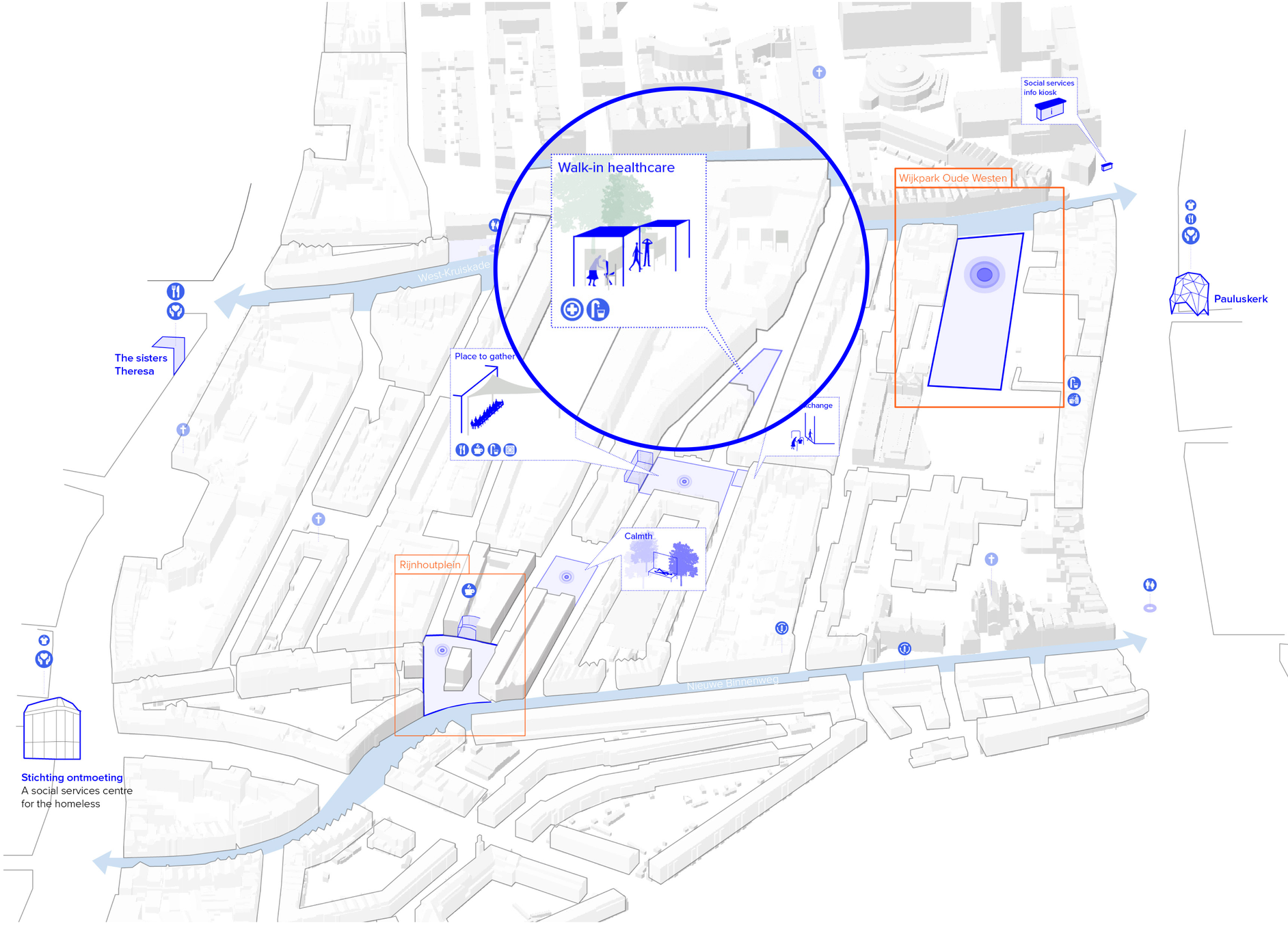
Health care



Legend

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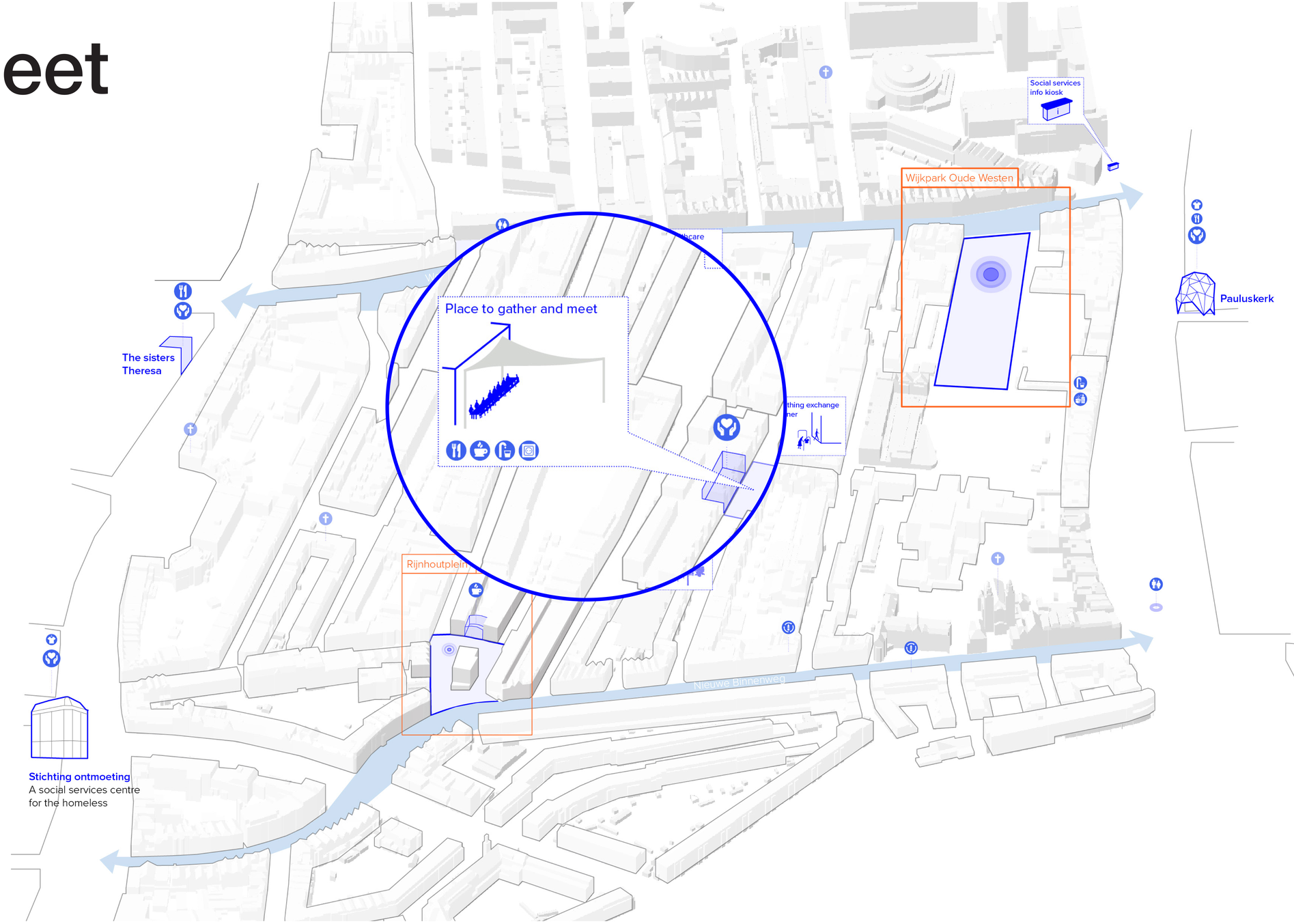
- Lockers

A place to meet others



Legend

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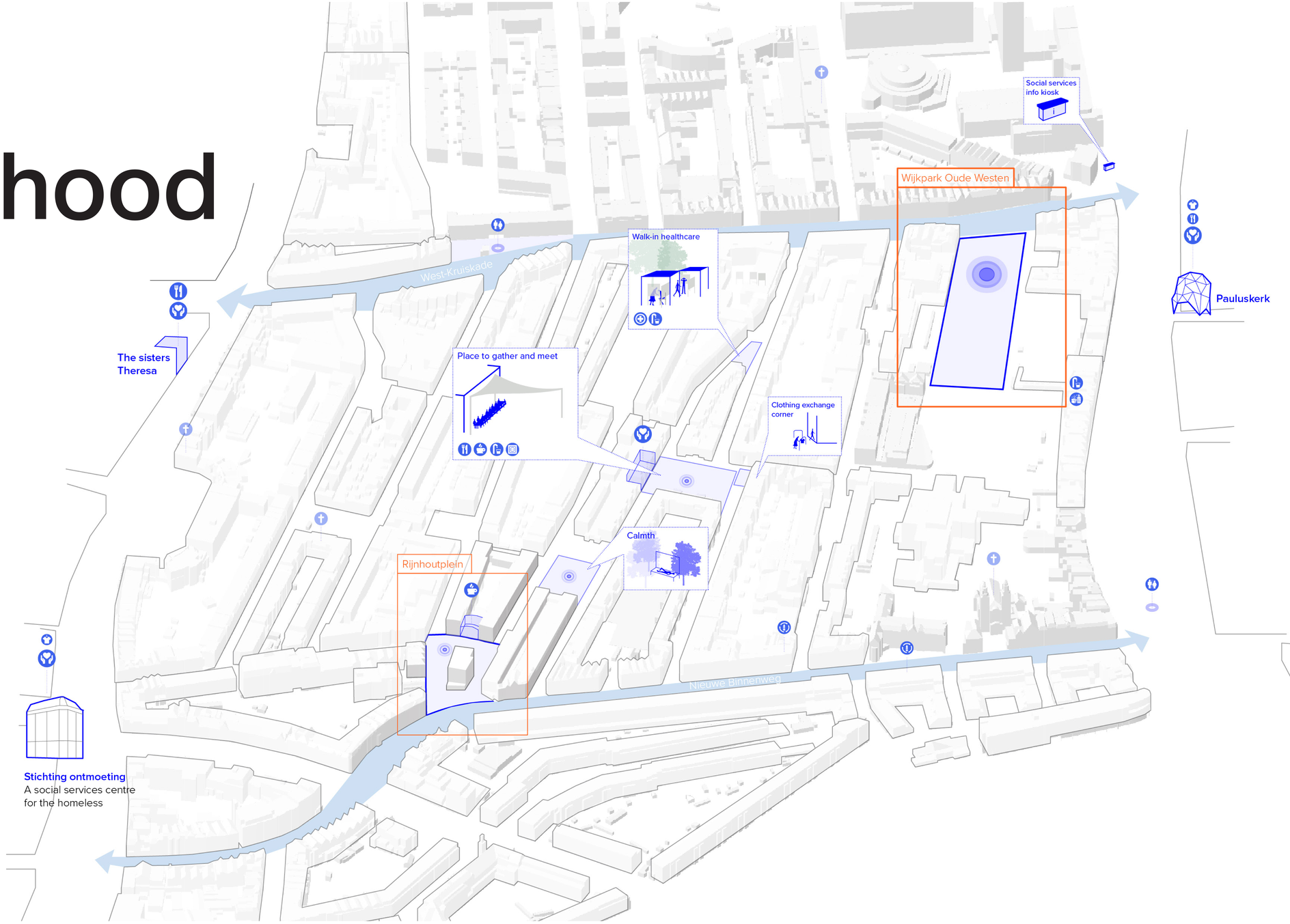
A solidary neighbourhood



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Conclusion

Homelessness is a critical issue that demands visibility and action in urban design!

By promoting recognition of the homeless population and creating awareness on their presence and needs

In both research and design

Design

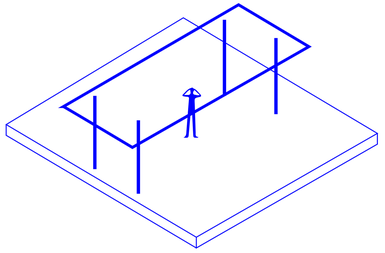
Homelessness is a critical issue that demands visibility and action in urban design!

By designing for their day-to-day needs within the neighbourhood or on the edges of neighbourhood, with mediated exposure of their needs and presence.

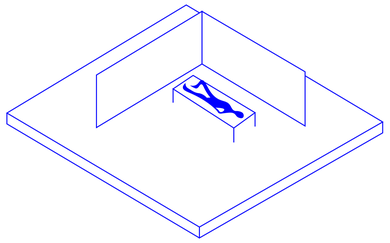
Design

Spatial strategy

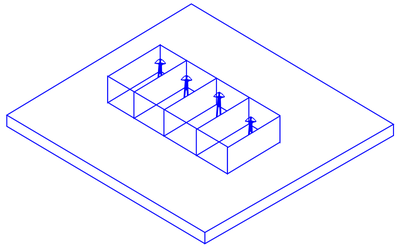
- Both for homeless and residents
- Dignified and clean while allowing for disorder
- Zoning



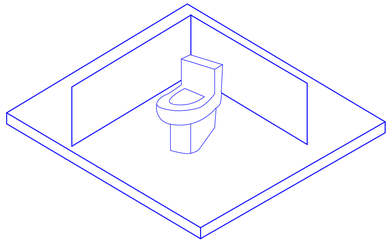
Urban canopy



Sleeping areas



Personal hygiene

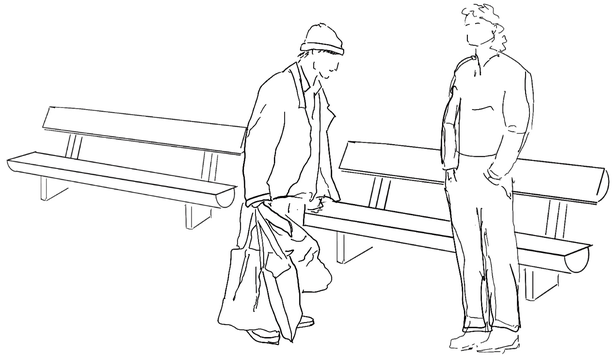


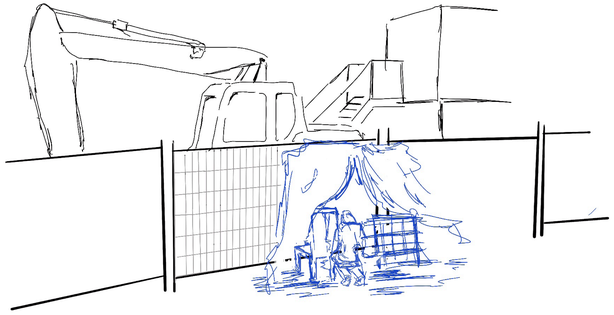
Toilets

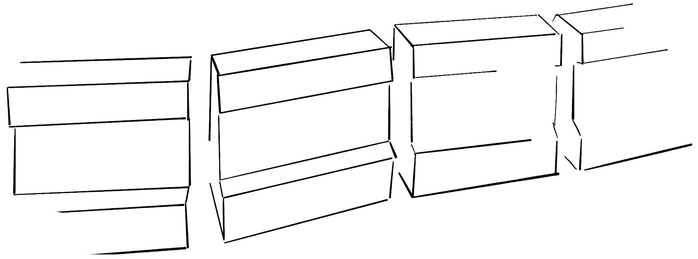
Research

Homelessness is a critical issue that demands visibility and action in urban design!

Instead of continuing the trend of sanitising and homogenising urban landscapes with hostile architecture, it is important to protect the informality and imperfection of the city.

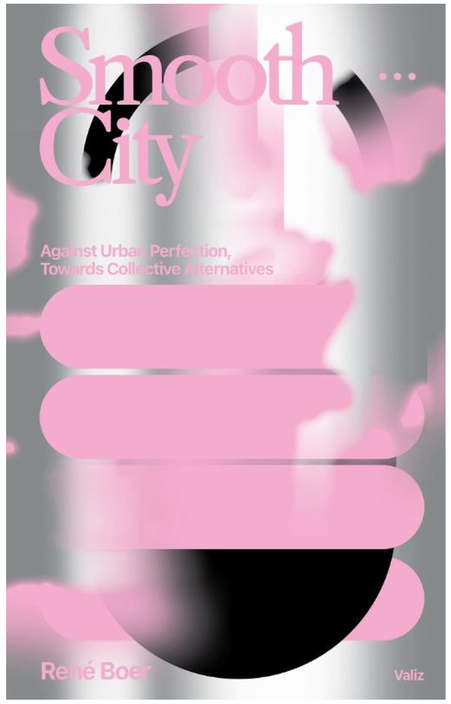






Reflection

Joining in on emerging discussions in urban design and planning



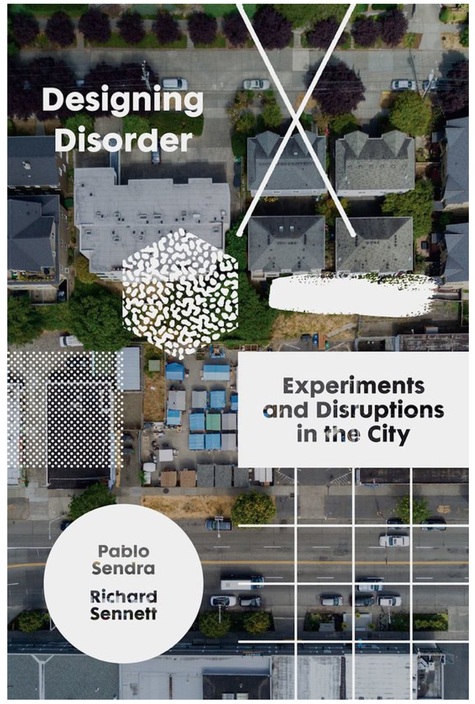


Photo made by author during 3rd manifestation “Right to Rest”

Thank you!

Urban Homelessness

Designing for the needs and recognition of the homeless population of Rotterdam

Master thesis | Kiki Dekker | TU Delft | Urbanism

Title of the slide

subtitle

Theoretical approaches

On homelessness

Theoretical approaches on homelessness →

Analysis

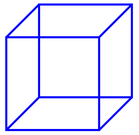
Home	Societal dimensions of homelessness	Homelessness and public space
Home in homeless	The stigma	A sense of place
Sense of home	A sense of belonging	Place identity
	Territories of exclusion	Place attachement

Design

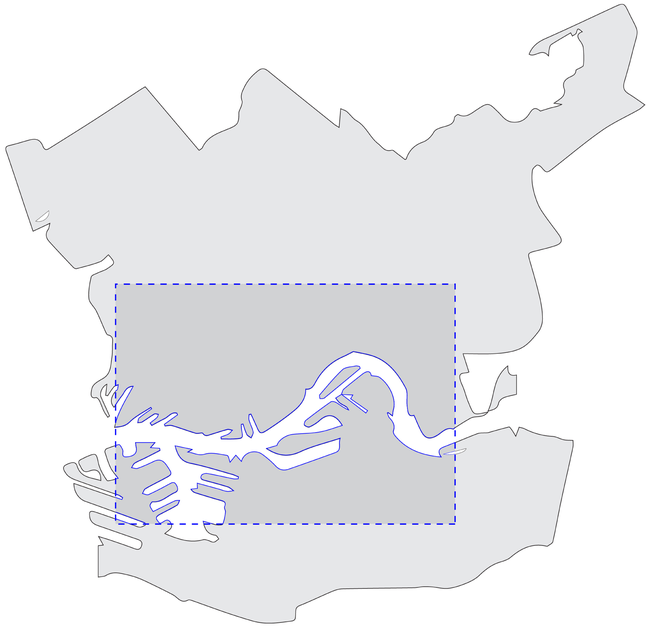
Visibility

Spatial analysis

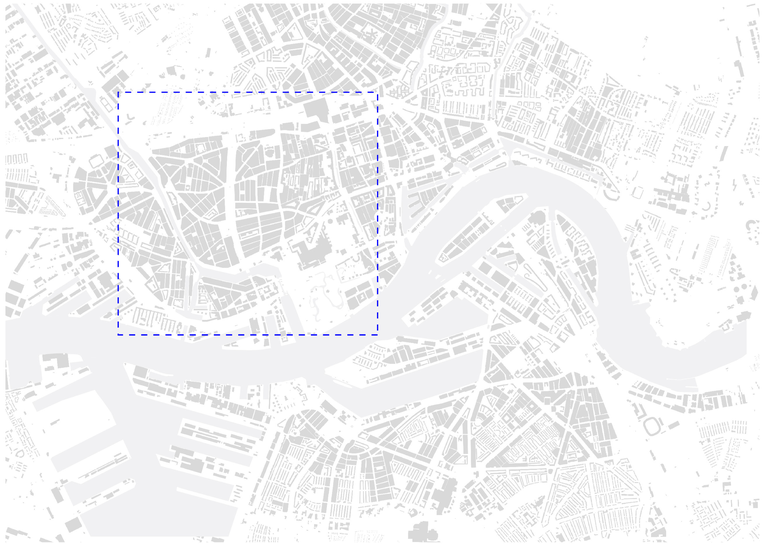
Of existing body of knowledge



Existing body of knowledge



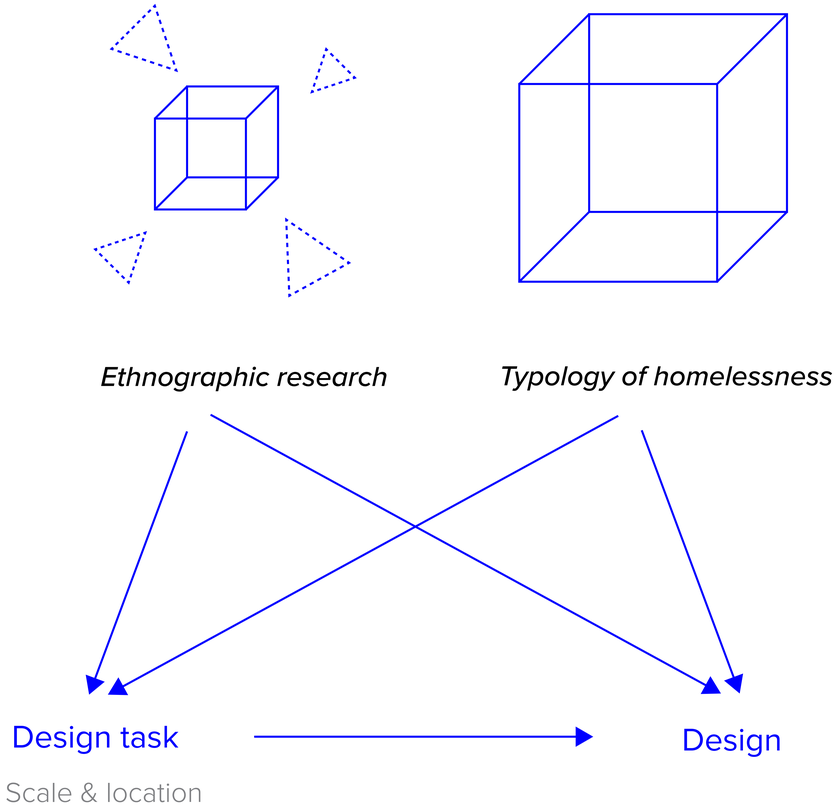
City of Rotterdam



Centre / West district

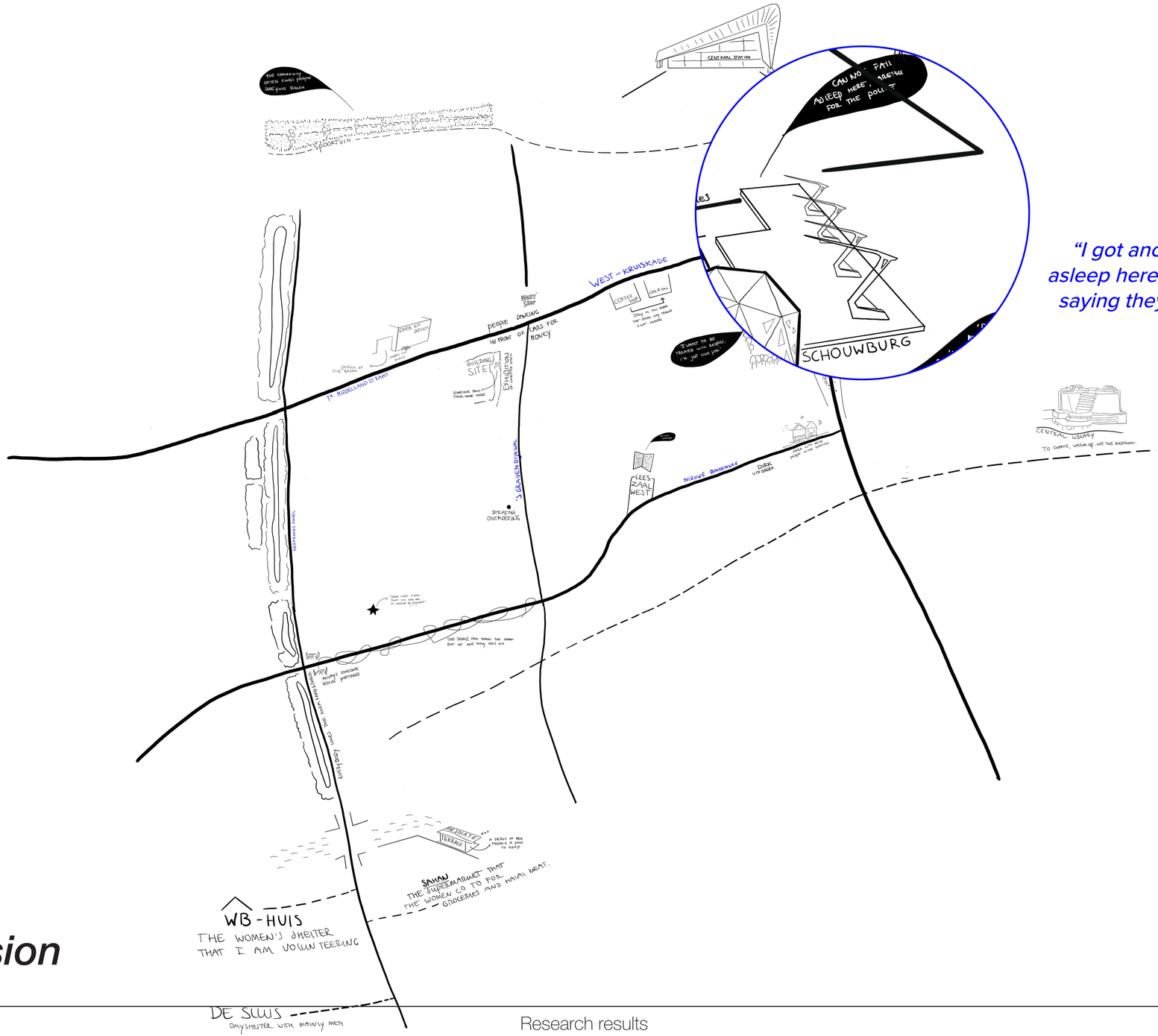
Design

Methodological approach



CENTRAAL STATION
THE COMMUNITY OFTEN FINDS PEOPLE SLEEPING ROUGH
HOMELESS BENCHES
AH
PAULUSKERK
SCHOUWT
WEST-KRUISKADE
PEOPLE DRINKING IN FRONT OF LIQUOR FOR MONEY
COFFEE SHOP
CAFE & BAR
"I WANT TO BE TREATED WITH RESPECT. I'M JUST LIKE YOU."
"IN THAT HERE HELPS A JOB"
LOTS OF THINGS HAPPENING IN FRONT
BUILDING SITE
EXHIBITION
DIRK VAN BROEK
THE PORCH OF THE CASINO
TE NIEUWLAND ST EAST
HEEMRASSERSTREET
'S GRAVENDIJKWAL
SMEERPENG ONTMOETWIG
LEES ZAAL WEST
NIEUWE BINNENWEG
DIRK VAN BROEK
CENTRAAL LIBRARY
TO CHANGE, WARM UP, USE THE RESTROOM.
THE SAME MAN BUMPED THE STREET BOOK UP ONE RAINY NIGHT
BUS STOP
BUS STOP
TERRACE
A GROUP OF MEN FINDING A PLACE TO SLEEP
SAHAN
THE SUPERMARKET THAT THE WOMEN GO TO FOR GROCERIES AND HALAL MEAT.
WB-HUIS
THE WOMEN'S SHELTER THAT I AM VOLUNTEERING
DE SLUIS
DAYSHELTER WITH MANY MEN

PAULUSKERK



"I got another fine for falling asleep here, 2 more and they are saying they will send me back"

Experiences of exclusion

Homelessness

In the Netherlands

Menu | nrc

NEWS

The number of homeless people increased by 15 percent in one year to approximately 30,600

OPINION

Underpaid, spat at and even assaulted – the migrant worker is not seen as a human being

Labor migration *Hassnae Bouazza* spoke with labor migrants for a book . They all told stories of exploitation and misrecognition. And constant uncertainty.

January 5, 2024 • Reading time 4 minutes

Listen | Reading list

REPORT

Sleeping under an overpass at -5°C: even in this cold, not every homeless person wants to go to emergency shelter

NEWS

Cry for help about alarming growth of economic homelessness: people with a job, but no house

HOMELESS PEOPLE

Shelters see a significant increase in homeless people: 'Normally 30, now 80 people inside'

August 10, 2023, 12:19 PM • 4 minutes reading time

For the third time in a month and a half, a deceased homeless person has been found on the street...

Tue Apr 9, 5:32 pm Overall read 2,260 times

Homelessness

In the Netherlands

News articles: van der Veen, 2024. Al Ali, 2024. de Graaf, 2023. Open Rotterdam, 2023. Bouazza, 2024. dehavenloods, 2024.
Image by Sanne Donders (2021)

OPINION

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HOMELESS PEOPLE

Shelters see a significant increase in homeless people: 'Normally 30, now 80 people inside'

August 10, 2023, 12:19 PM • 4 minutes reading time

The Pauluskerk, Centraal Onthaal and Stichting Ontmoeting: all three organizations see an unprecedented number of homeless people. “Normally we have 30 to 40 people inside during the summer period, but this morning (Wednesday, July 19, 2023, ed.) there were as many as 80,” says an employee of the Pauluskerk. An employee of Stichting Ontmoeting, a service

Surprise about more than 1,500 fines for homeless people: 'A bizarre increase, what happened here?'

he in a month and a homeless person has the street...

Urban dynamics

Of both focus groups

Focus areas

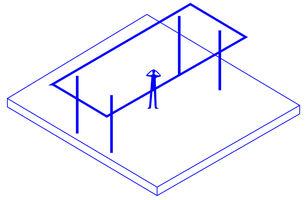
The edges of city and neighbourhood

Wijkpark Oude Westen

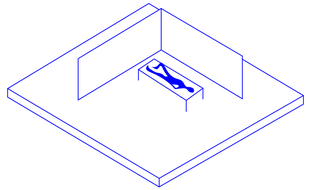
S AND ALCOHOLICS
E
Lees Zaal
Van Speijkstraat

Elements in public space

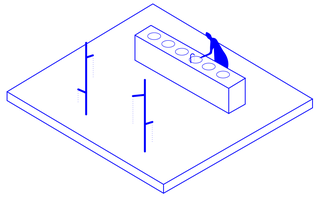
concluding the design: maybe show the tiles. Also conclude / reflect on the strategies used and how it influec-nes them / the community.... (P4 questions)



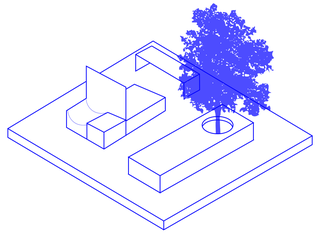
Urban canopy



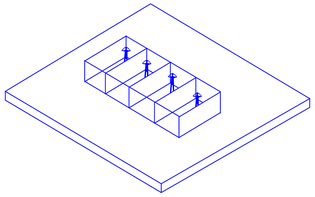
Sleeping areas



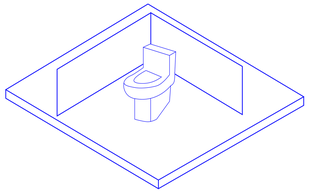
Washing and drinking



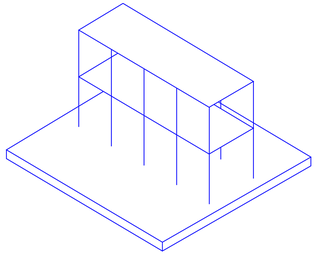
Flexible furniture



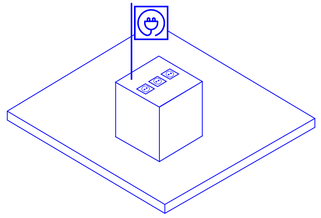
Personal hygiene



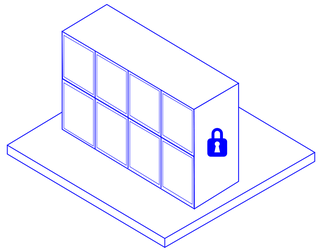
Toilets



Inviting for appropriation



Charging



Protecting (lockers)