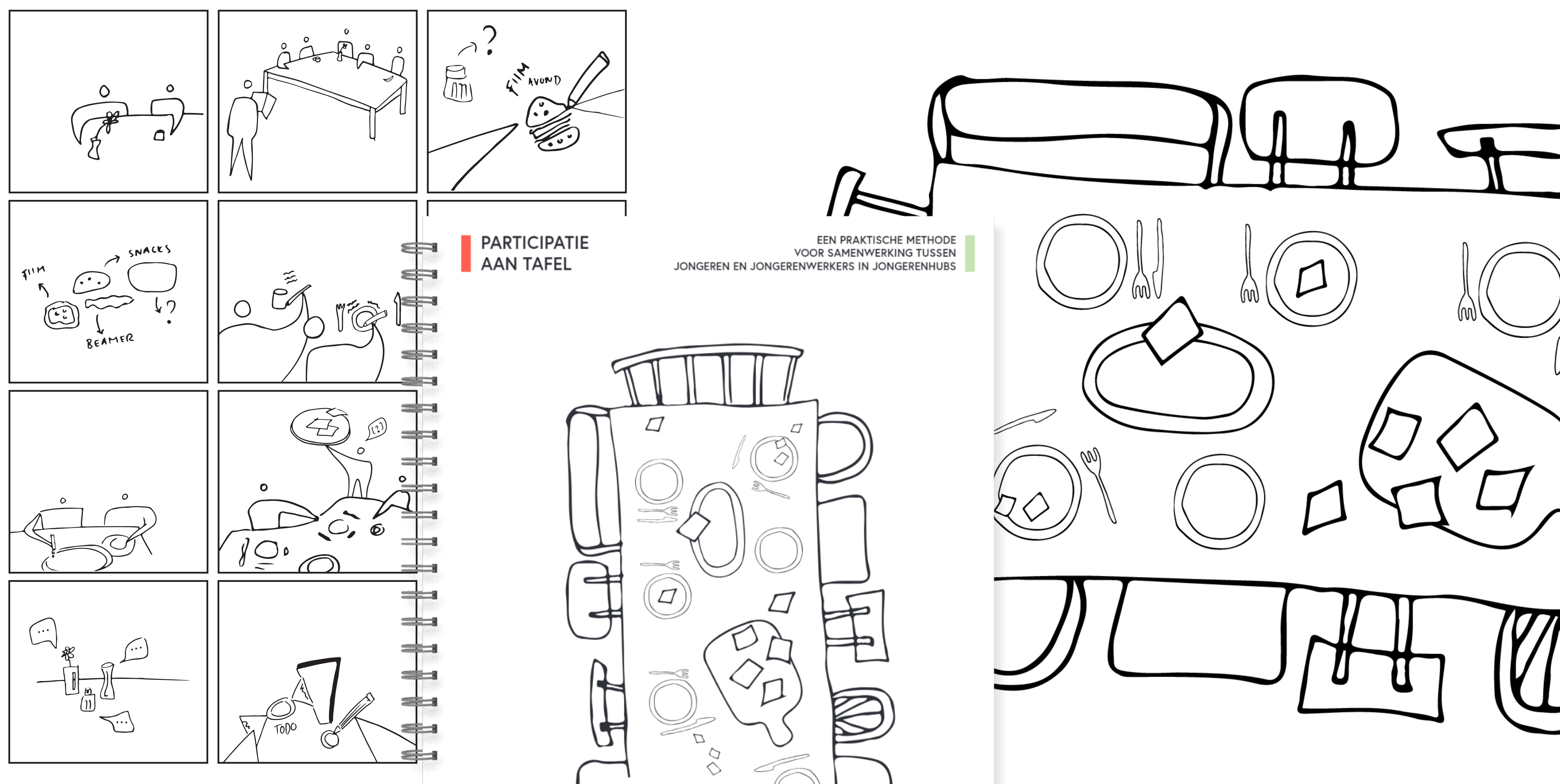# PUTTING PARTICIPATION TO PRACTICE

A PARTICIPATORY APPROACH TO THE DESIGN AND PROGRAMMING OF YOUTH HUBS

BACKGROUND

The municipality of Rotterdam is currently working on opening 33 youth hubs across the city. These hubs are there for young people to meet, develop and grow. Through involving youth in the design and programming the hubs aspire to foster a sense of ownership, promote responsible behavior and work on 'talent development'. While the importance and benefits of youth participation are widely acknowledged, the practical implementation of such participation is often unclear and largely depends on the creative abilities of the youth workers at the hub.

GOAL

This project provides insights into the challenges of embedding participation in youth hubs and offers a method for youth workers to collaborate with young people in the design and programming of these spaces.The method emphasizes collaboration between youth and youth workers, rather than placing full ownership on either group. Through iterative testing involving youth, youth workers, and other key stakeholders it developed a participatory approach that creates an encouraging environment for youth to contribute their ideas and perspectives.

CONCEPT

The Ideediner (or idea dinner) is a method outlined in a guide that enables both youth and youth workers to host a dinner where ideas and thoughts on the youth hub are brought to the table in the form of dishes. It uses the metaphor of dining, where dishes are prepared, missing ingredients are added, the table is set, and the meal is shared and enjoyed together by drawing on a paper tablecloth. The new approach incites youth workers to collaborate and brainstorm with young people at the hubs, enabling them to co-create and design the programming and shared space.

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A participatory approach to the design and programming of youth hubs
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