Finding Common Grounds

Adapting Heritage Meaning in the Renewal of Socially Diverse Couperusbuurt

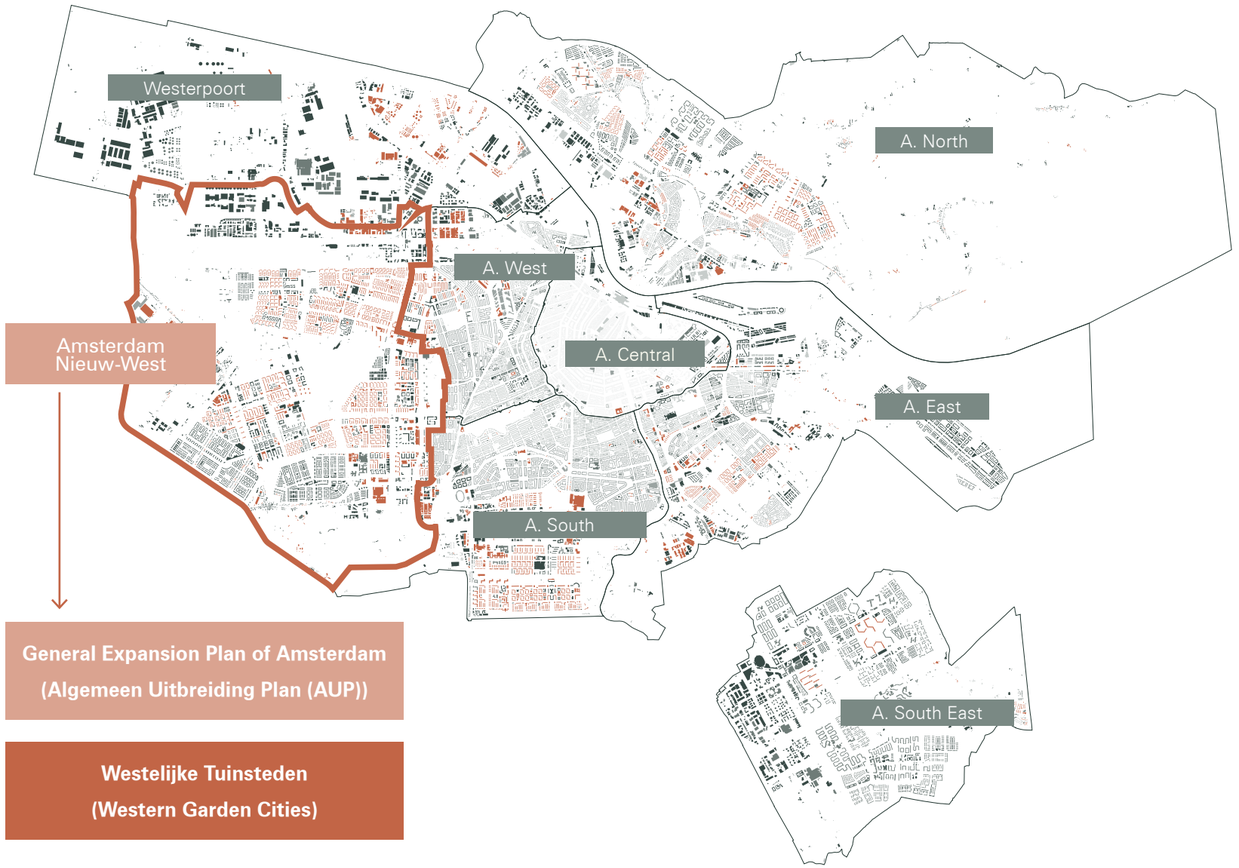
Thesis Public Presentation

Monique Vashti | 4795970

First Mentor: Gerdy Verschuure-Stuip
Second Mentor: Els Bet

Urban Growth of Amsterdam

Urban Growth of Amsterdam



CONTEXT

Press Conference & Presentation of AUP (1962)

(Stadsarchief Amsterdam, 1962)

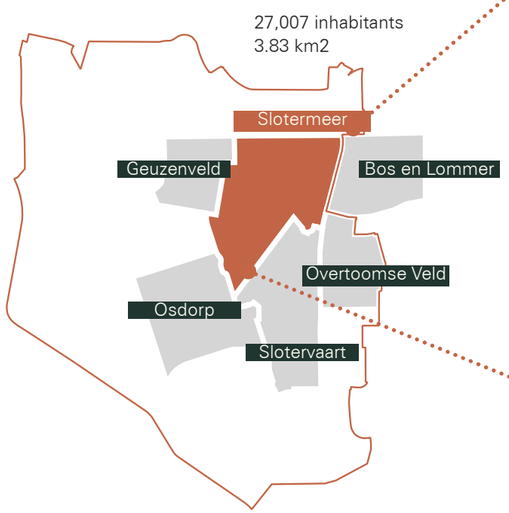
General Expansion Plan of Amsterdam (AUP)

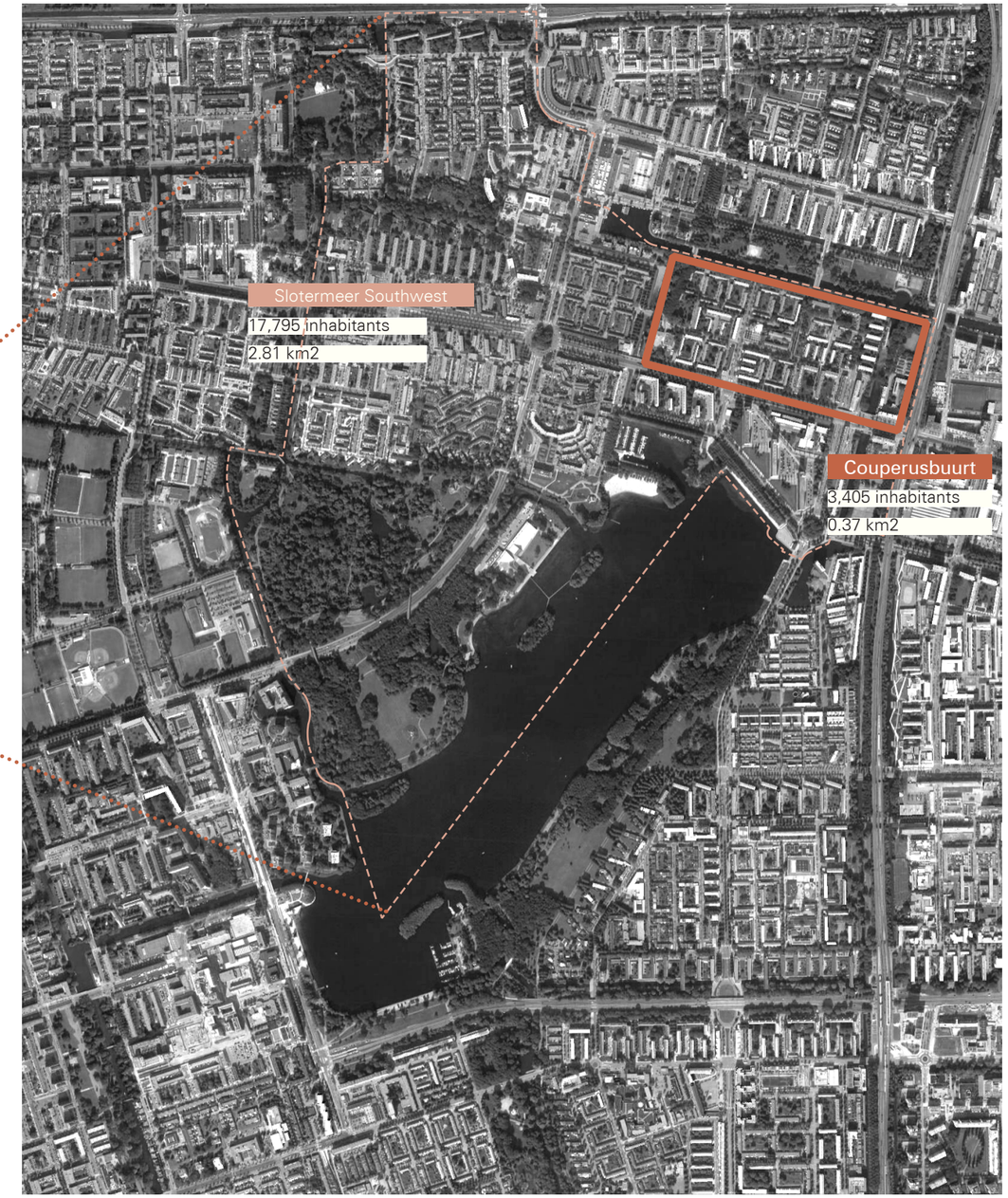
(Van Eesteren Museum, 2021)

Aerial Photo of Western Garden Cities (1974)

(Stadsarchief Amsterdam, 1974)

Westelijke Tuinsteden





In collaboration with:

Gemeente Amsterdam

Stadgenoot

INTRODUCTION

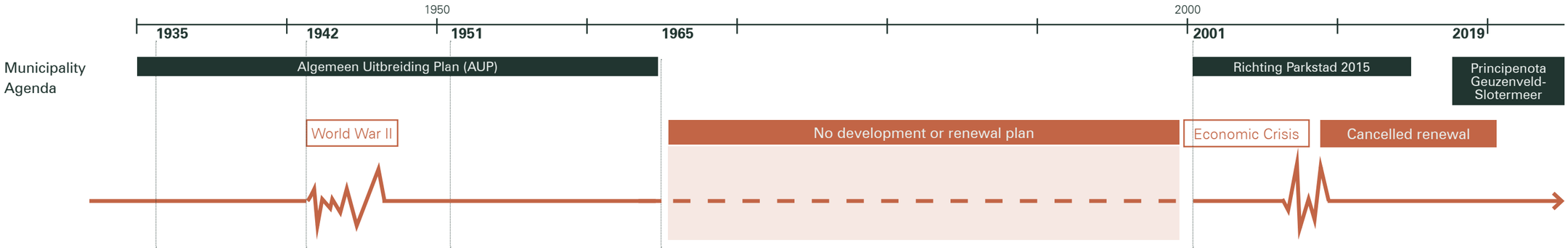
INTRODUCTION

(Stadsarchief Amsterdam, 1962)

INTRODUCTION

Urgent Need For Transformation

(Stadsarchief Amsterdam)



Greenery under pressure due to rapid growth in Amsterdam

Due to the rapid growth of the city, greenery is under pressure. Between 2003 and 2016, the amount of green space within the A10 ring road has decreased by 11 percent.

Bart van Zoelen 11 October 2018 , 12:10

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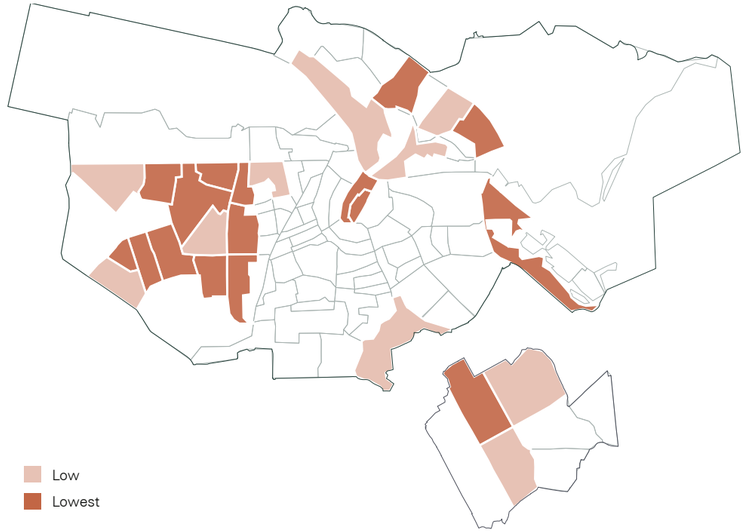

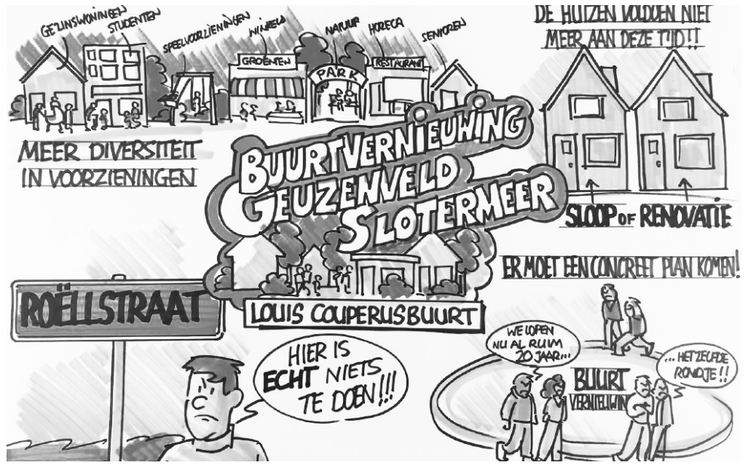

(Gemeente Amsterdam, 2019)

*More diversity in services function
*There is nothing to do here!!!
*There must be a solid plan! The development is going around in circle for 20 years
*The house is not up to date!!

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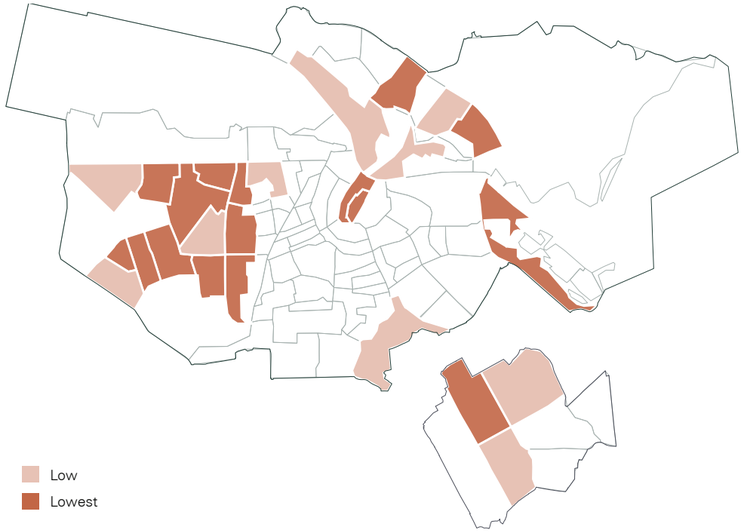

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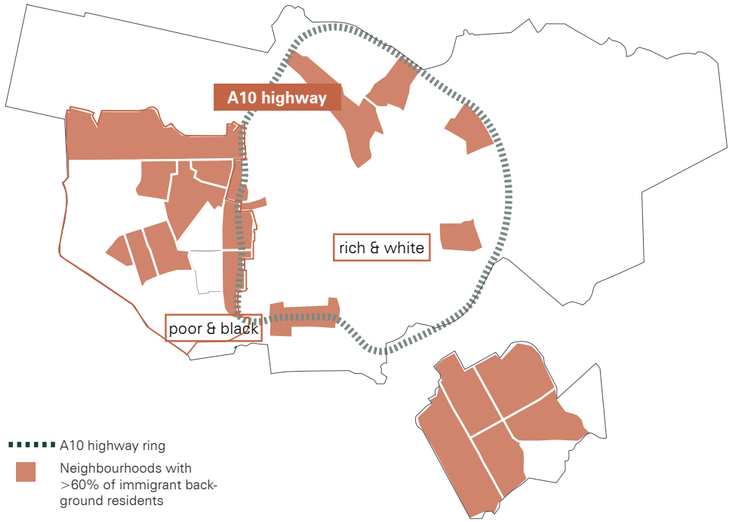


Geography professor: Amsterdam is threatening to become a place for the super rich

The gap between the city's rich and poor is widening, according to Sako Musterd, who is retiring from the University of Amsterdam after decades of research into the subject.

Michiel Couzy en **translation: Het Vertaalcollectief** 11 december 2019, 15:25

AIM

This research aims to **identify the heritage meaning** of Westelijke Tuinsteden,
integrate it with the spatial planning & development of Couperusbuurt and
translate it into possible **design** elements
to achieve **socio-spatial cohesion** and **liveable** Couperusbuurt.

1 **INVESTIGATION**
of heritage value

2 **INTEGRATION**
with planning strategy

3 **ELABORATION**
of design explorations

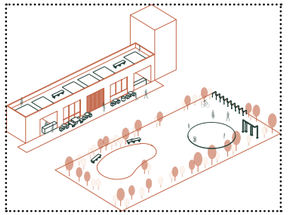
4 **REFLECTION**
conclusion & transferability

1

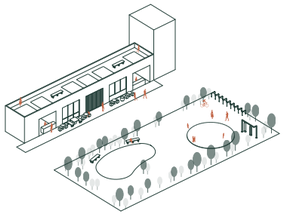
INVESTIGATION

of heritage value

URBAN FORM



URBAN RESIDENTS



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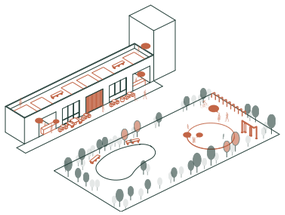

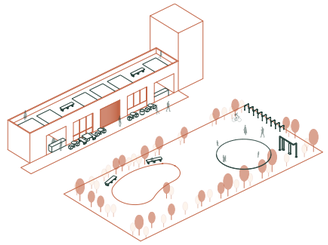

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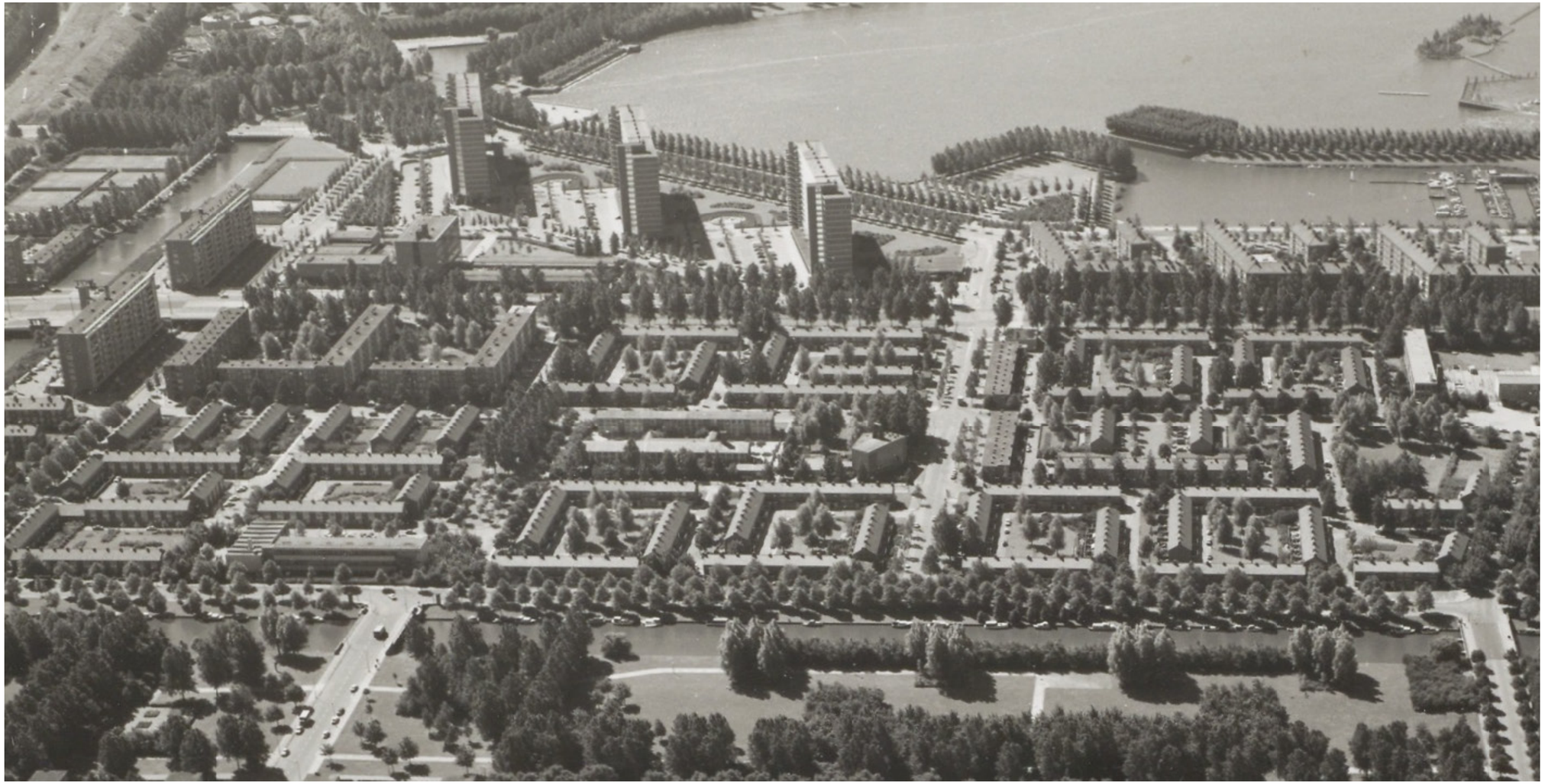
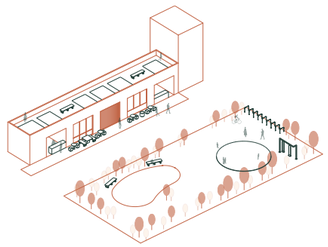




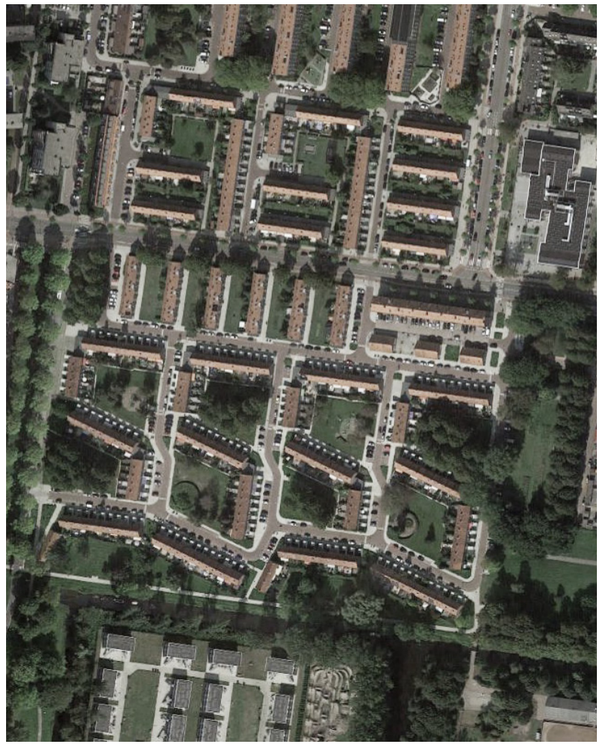
URBAN FORM

Wijkgedachte
(Neighbourhood unit)

(Gemeente Amsterdam, 2017)

decentralisation concept with family
as its core

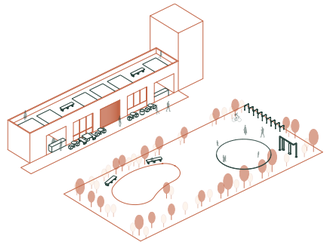
Lucht, licht, ruimte
(Air, light, space)



(Google Earth, 2020)

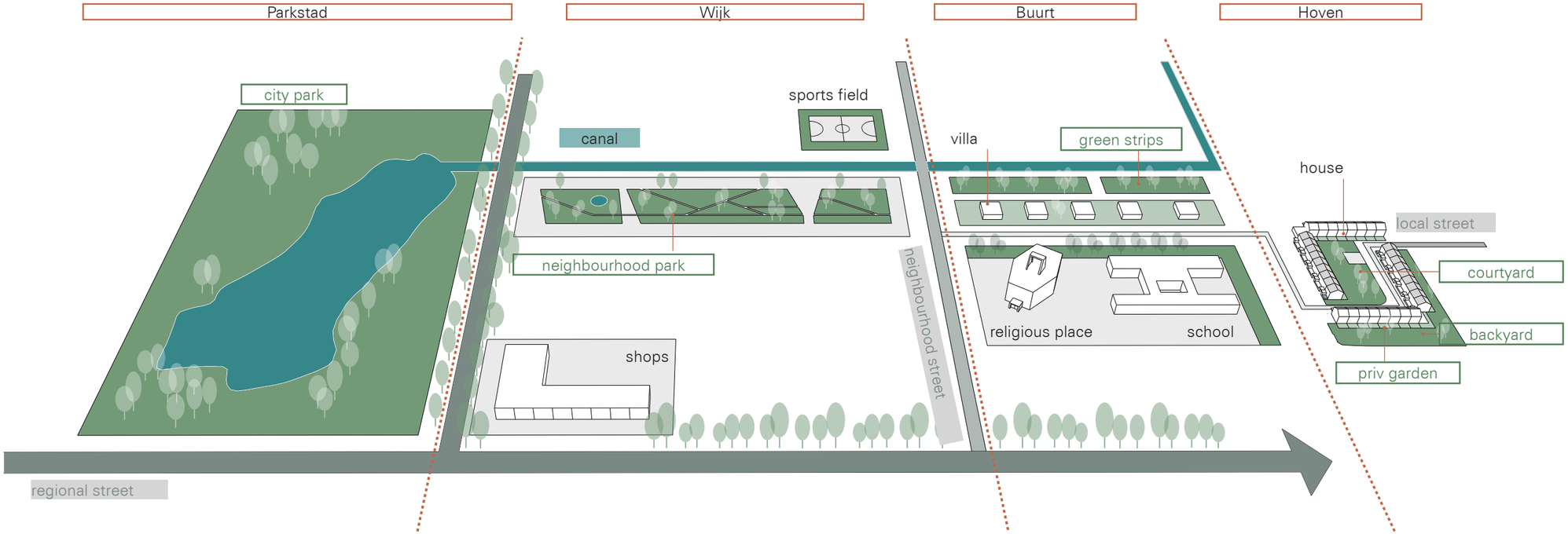
open building blocks

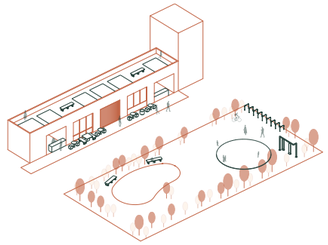
(Howard, 1902)



URBAN FORM

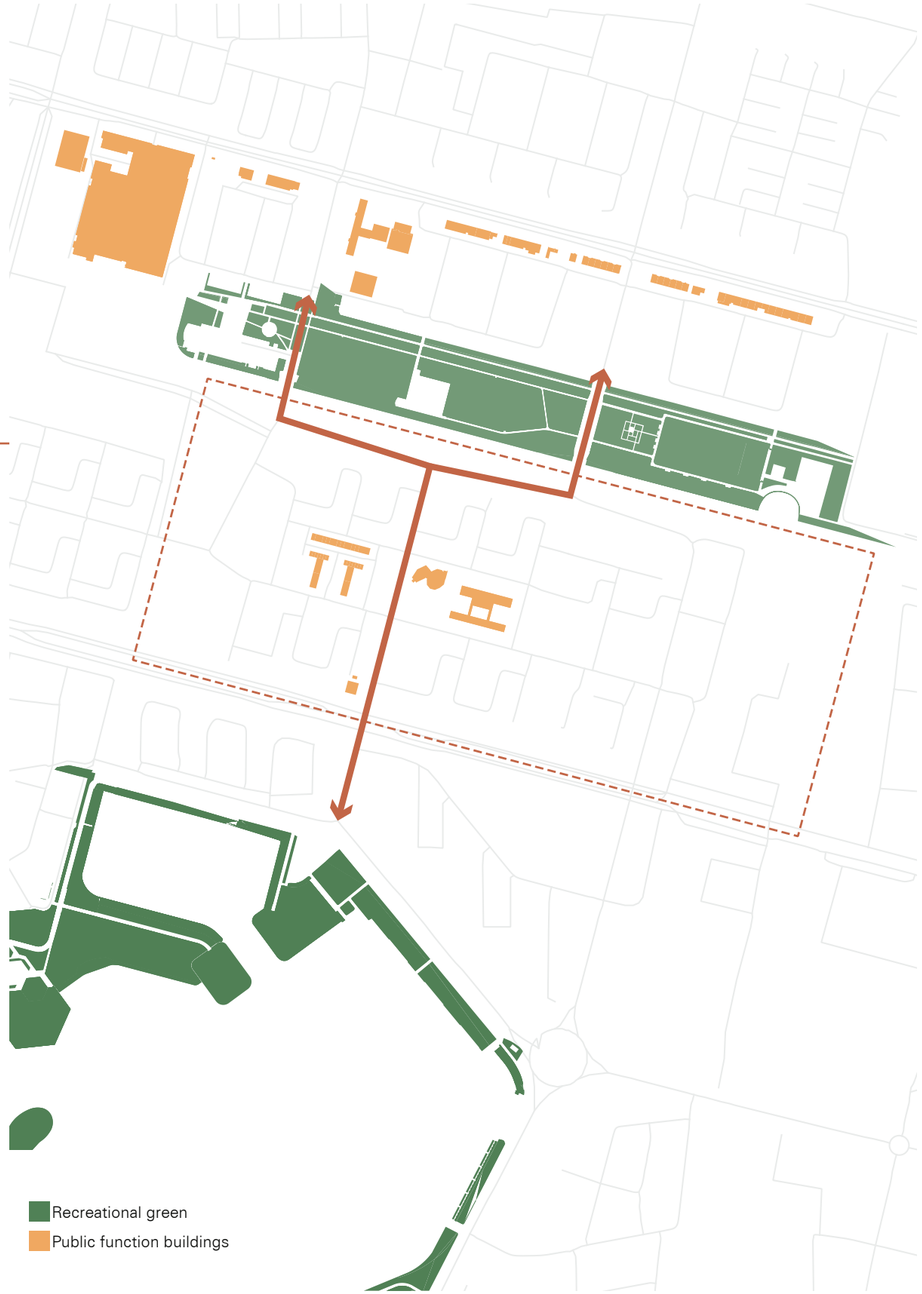
Segregation of function



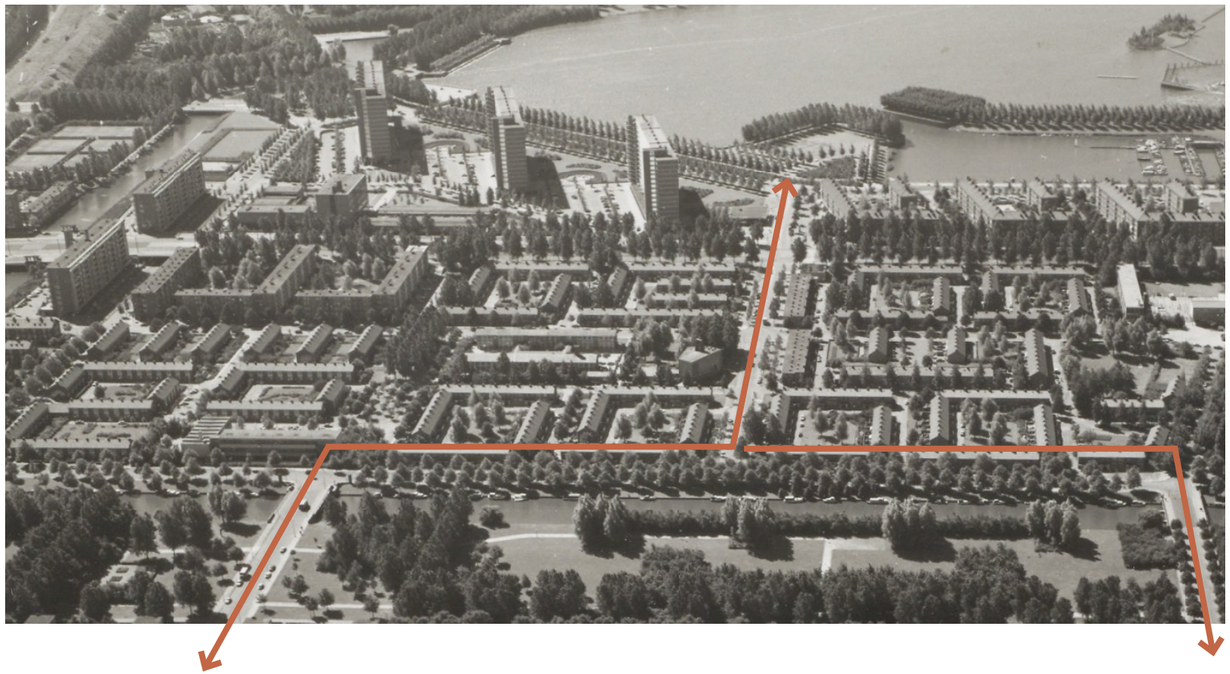


URBAN FORM

Vital axis to Sloterplas

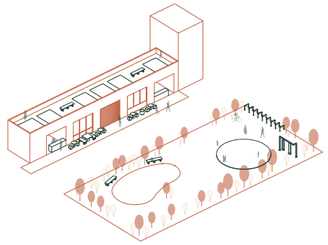


Important connecting axis



(Steenhuis, et al., 2017)

IDENTIFICATION | Urban Form



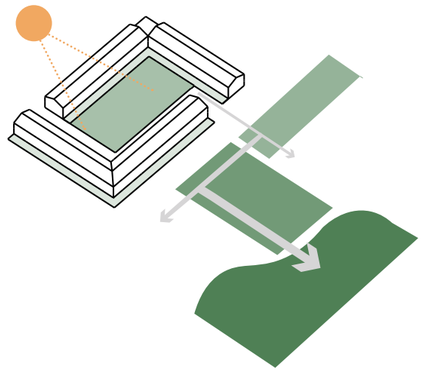
URBAN FORM

Vital axis to Sloterplas

Open building blocks

Visual value

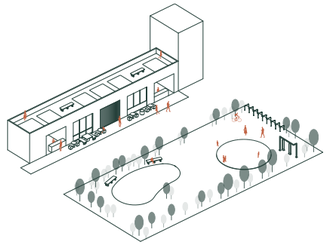
Environmental value



Promote outdoor activities

(Stadsarchief Amsterdam)

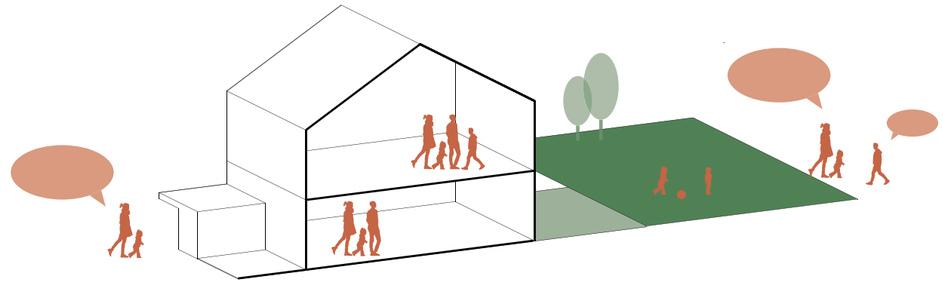
IDENTIFICATION | Urban Residents



URBAN RESIDENTS

Diversed group of residents

YEAR	RESIDENTS	SPATIAL IMPACT
1960	Local residents (Dutch)	
1970		
1980		
1990		
2000		
2010		
2020		



family-friendly neighbourhood with “living in a village” vibes

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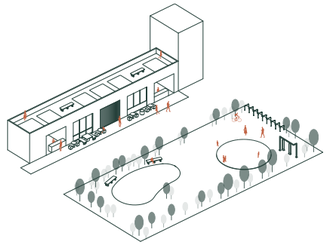

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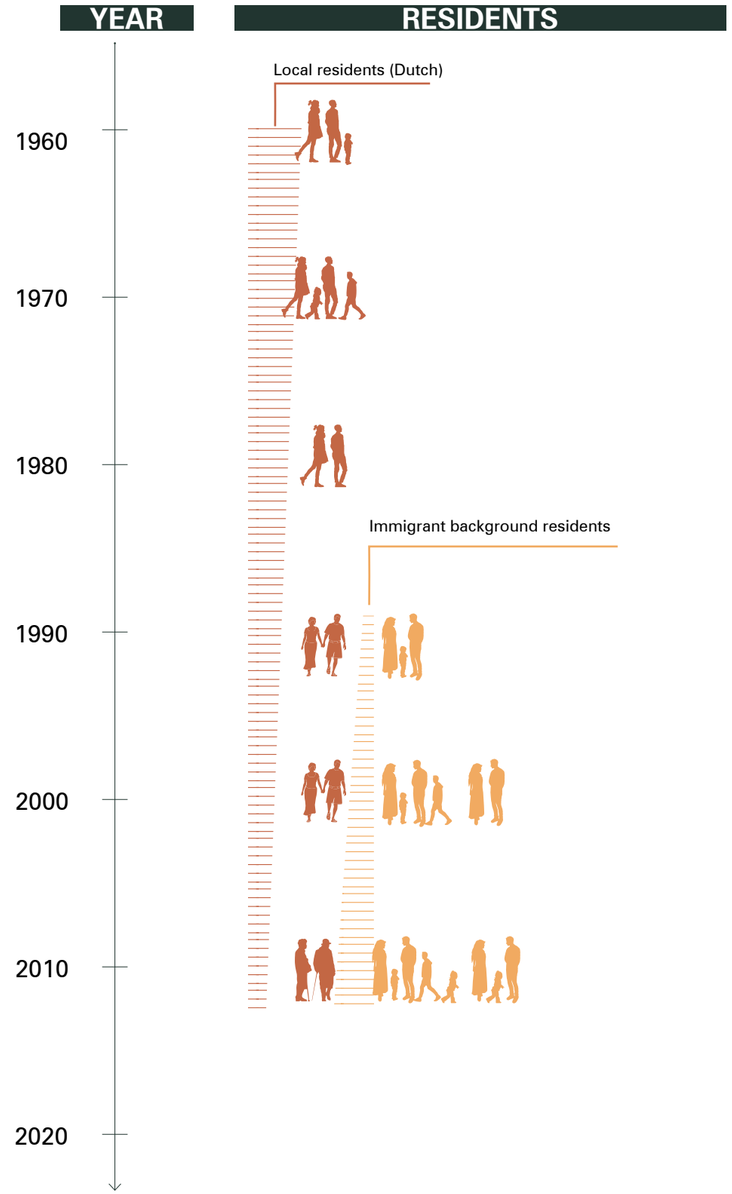
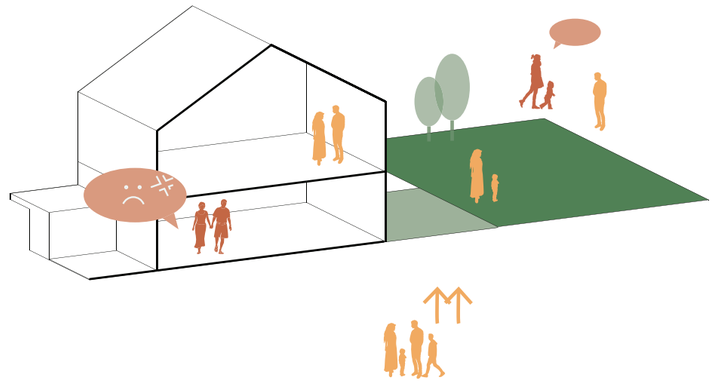


SPATIAL IMPACT



increase of immigrant background residents, which causes overcrowding with the family of newcomers

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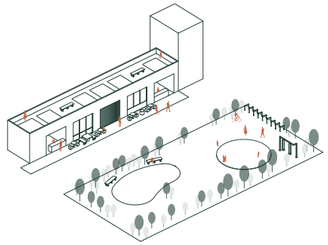

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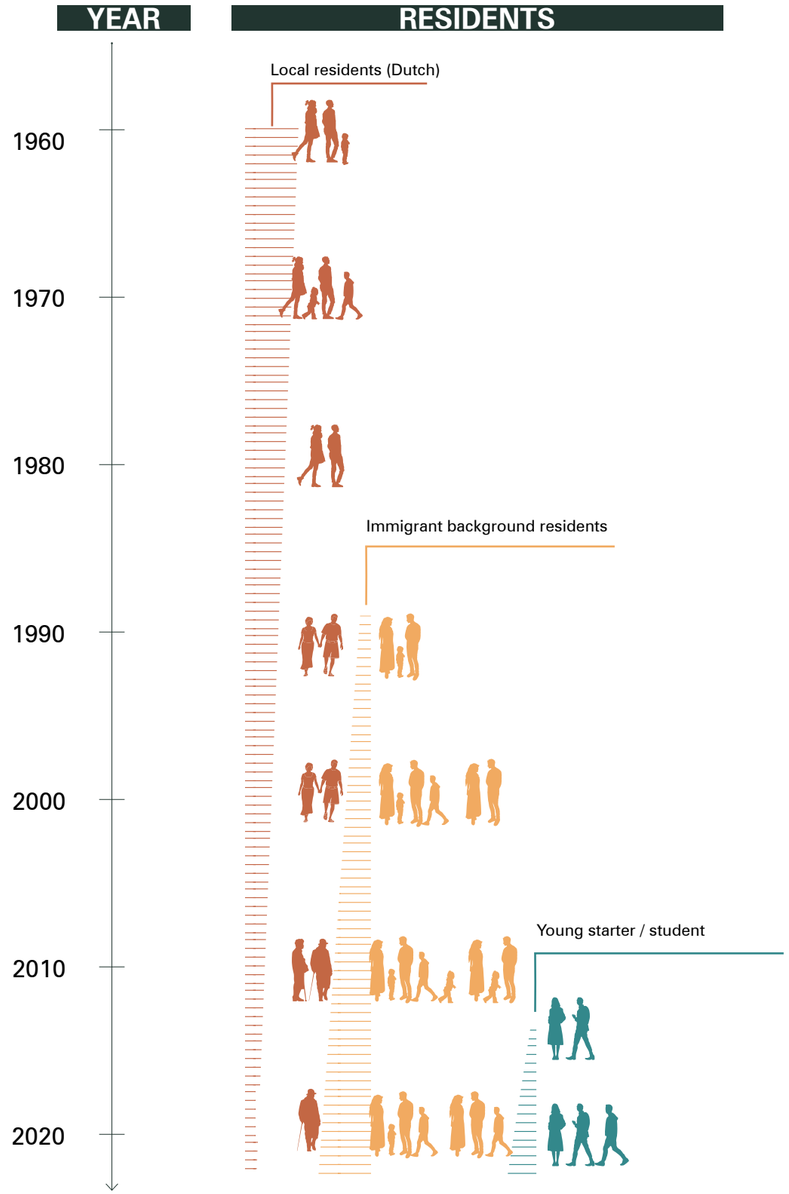
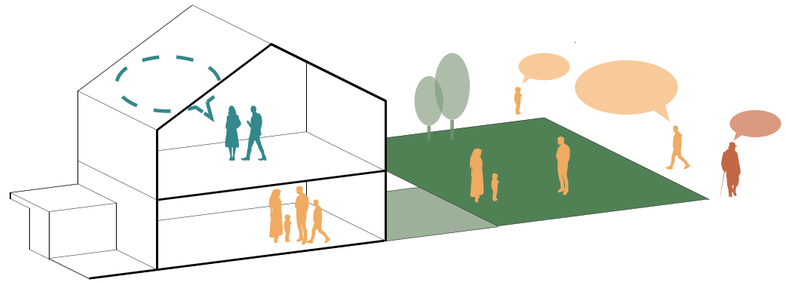
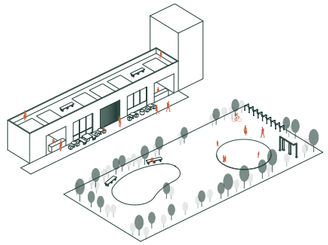


SPATIAL IMPACT



young starters as new tenants to control overcrowding issues, but less interest in social interaction

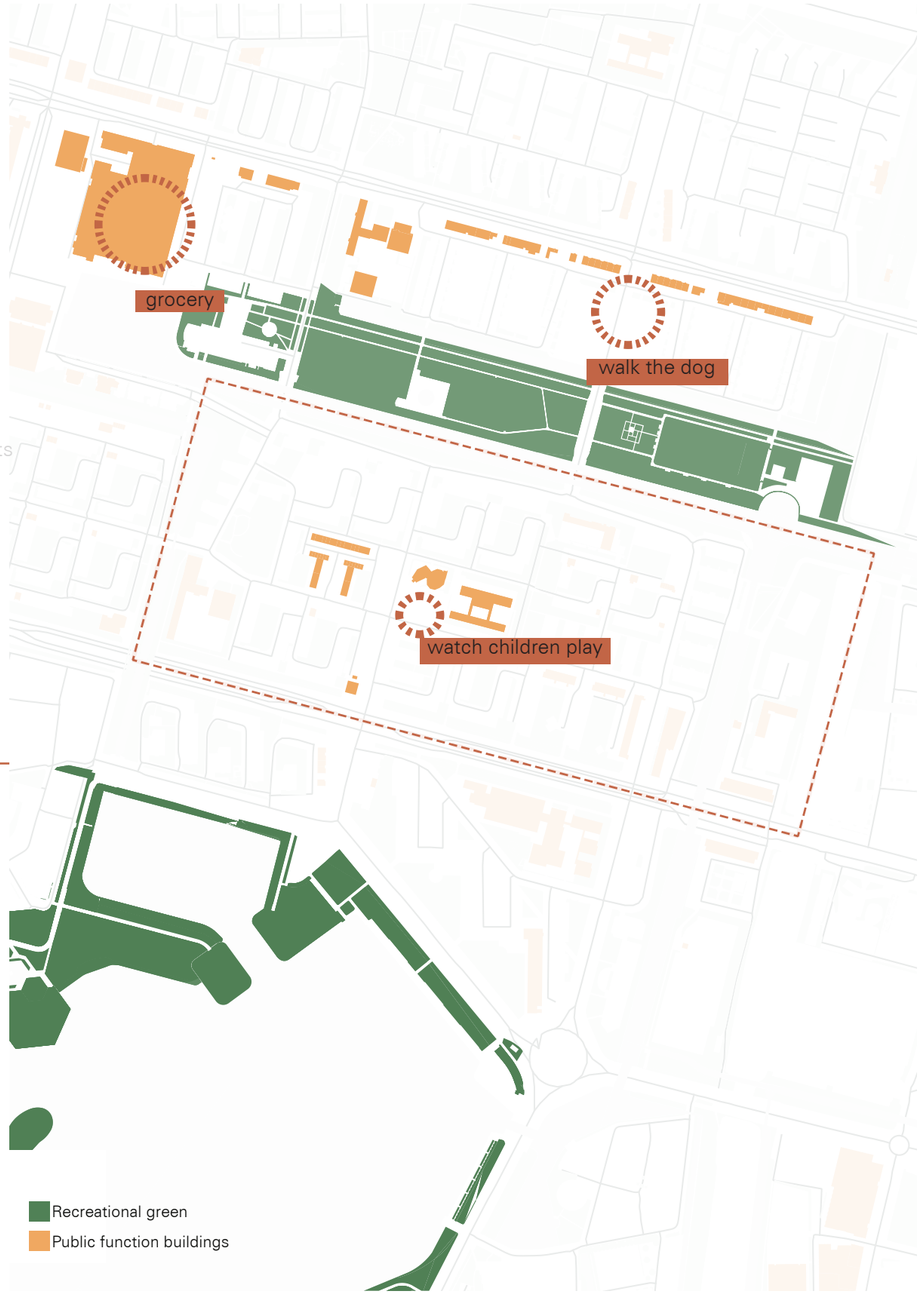
IDENTIFICATION | Urban Residents

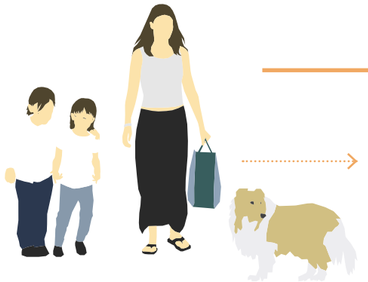


URBAN RESIDENTS

Diversed group of residents

Activities of Residents





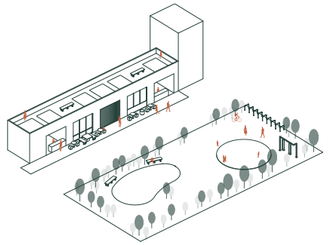
Sofia is a mother of two who lives in the first floor of the duplexhouses

She oftens walk her dog around Coupe-rusbuurt and find most of the courtyards and plaza lack of diversity of functions...

As there are no playground nearby where her children could play, Sofia puts her own on the shared courtyard.

Adapted from Nio et al (2021) and personal observation

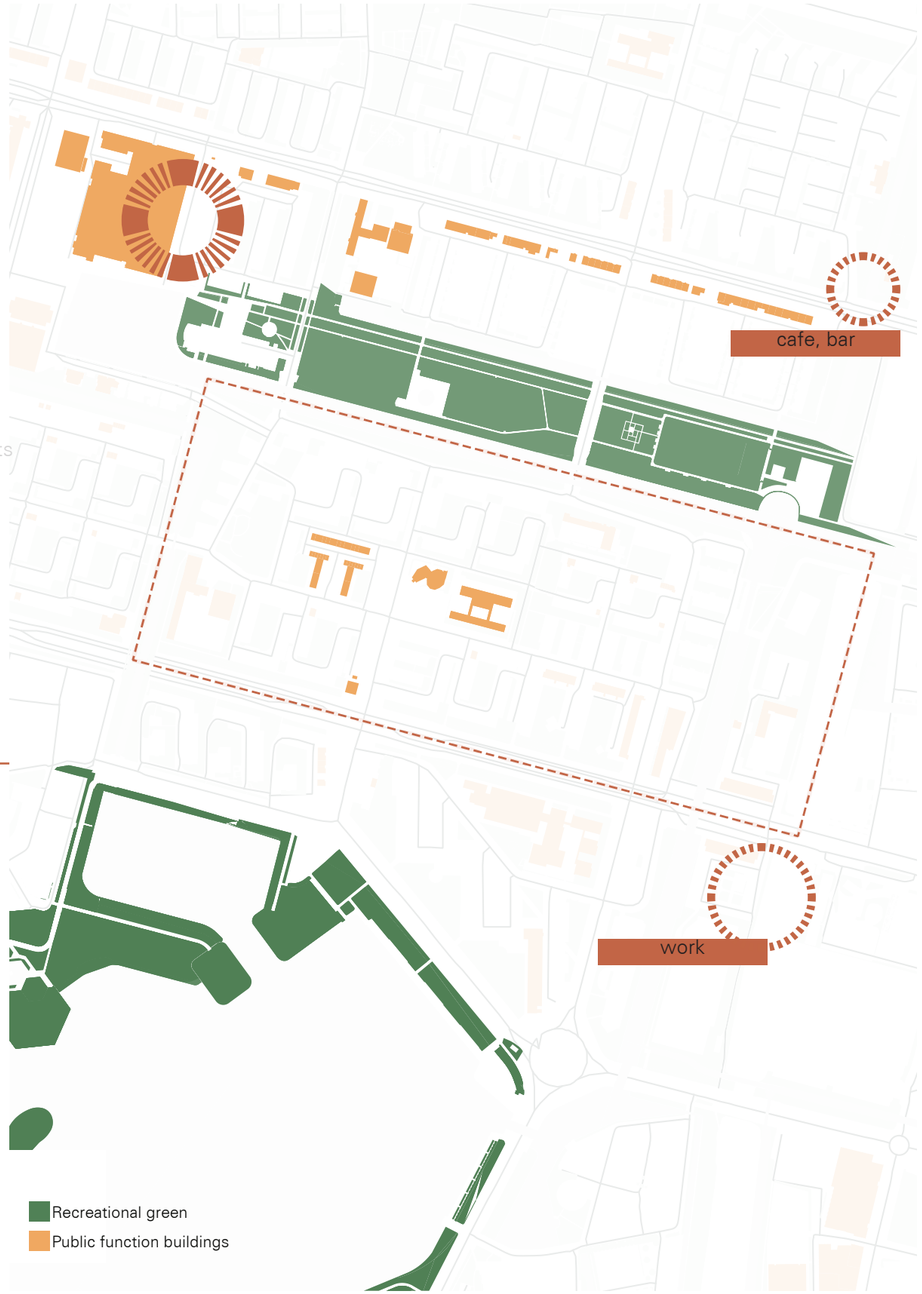
IDENTIFICATION | Urban Residents



URBAN RESIDENTS

Diversed group of residents

Activities of Residents



Peter is a 30 year old man who lives in the first floof of the duplexhouses with his mother

He has lived all his life in Couperusbuurt and value the greenery there highly, though there are plenty of maintenance needed too!

There are some negatives area in Couperusbuurt that he thinks are not that safe...

Adapted from Nio et al (2021) and personal observation

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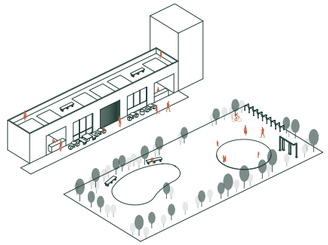

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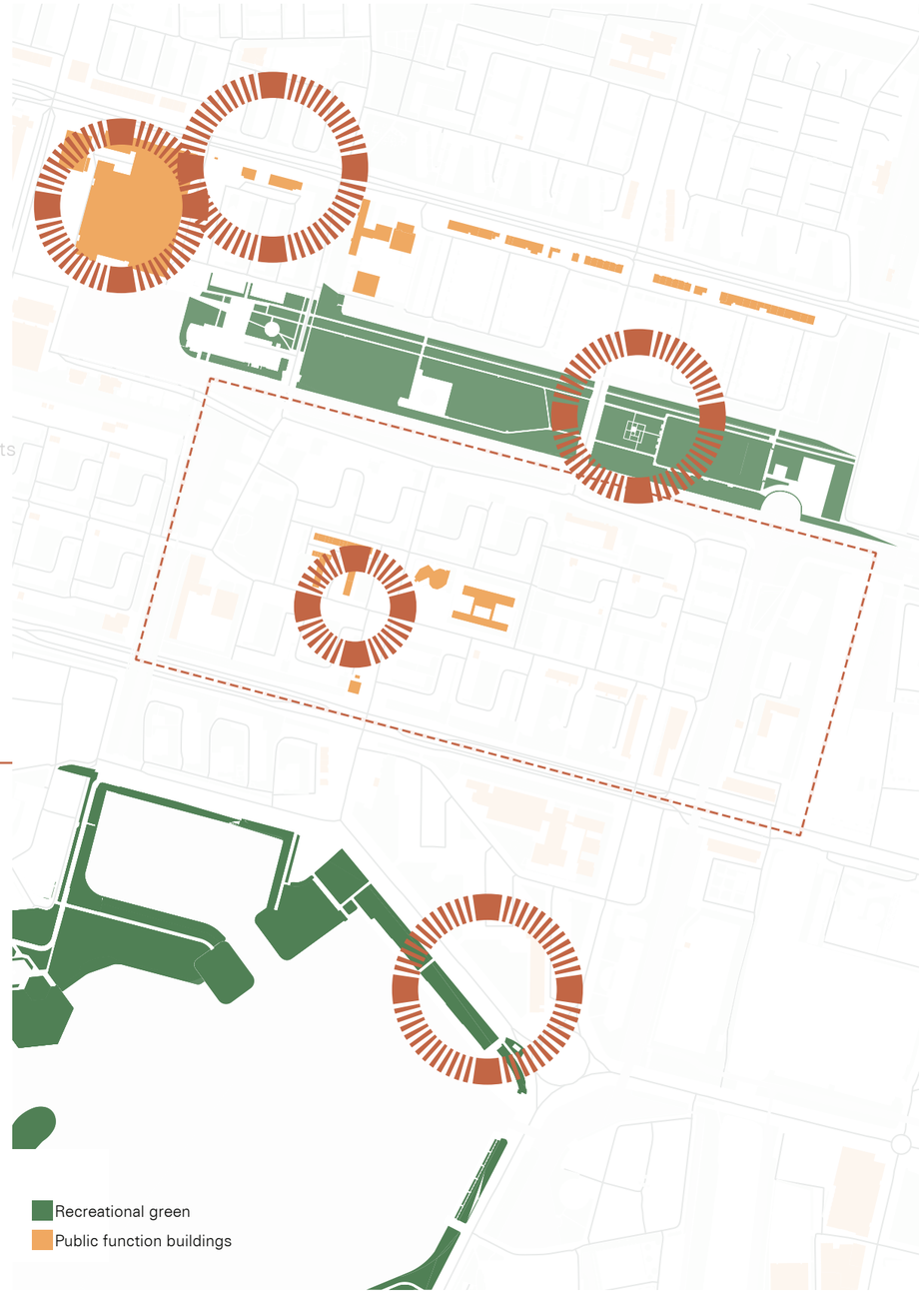
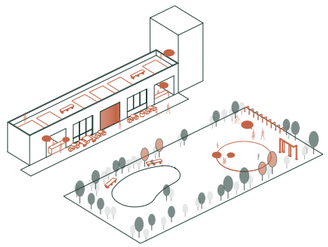
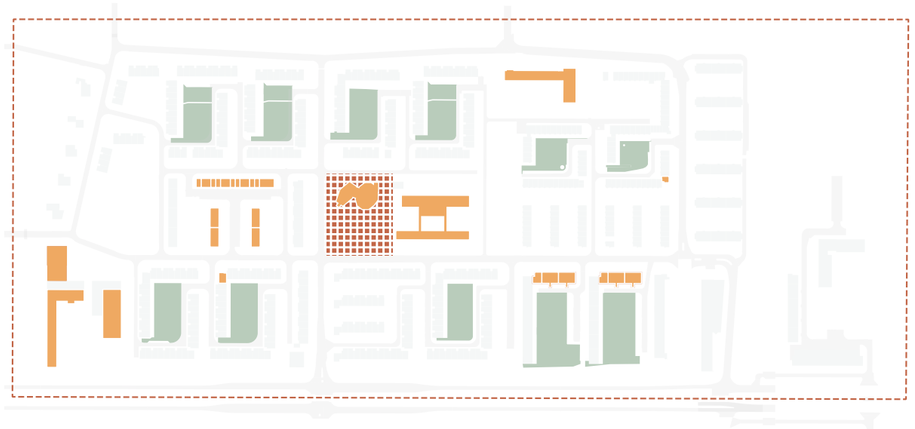


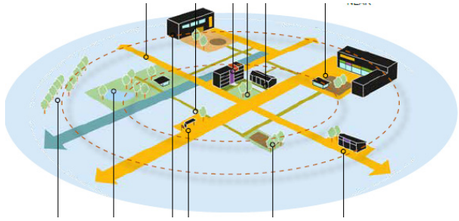
Low active and impromptu social engagement in the neighbourhood due to lack of facilities



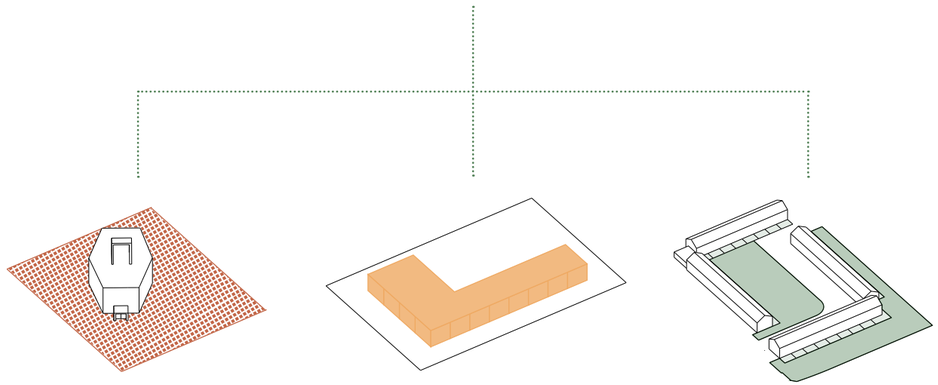
URBAN LIFE

Detected Neighbouhood Bearer in Couperusbuuurt

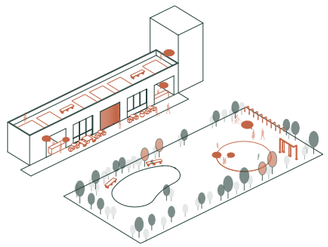




Neighbourhood bearer (Nio, et al., 2020)



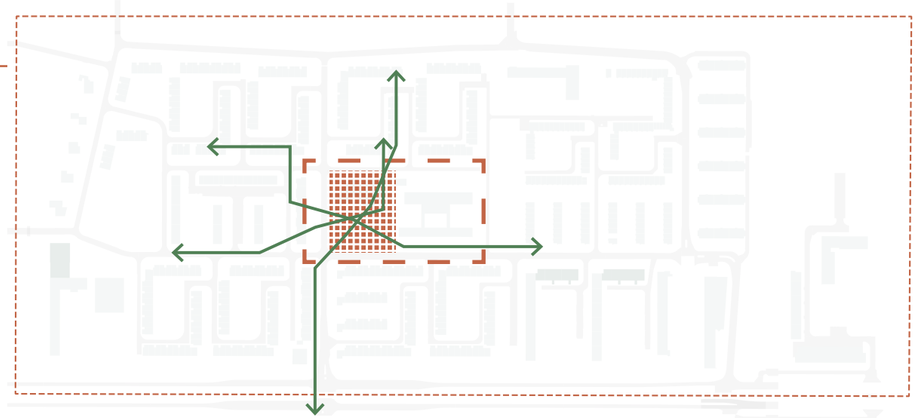
IDENTIFICATION | Urban Life



URBAN LIFE

Open & inviting centre

Centre of Couperusbuurt



0 100 m

— Couperubuurt

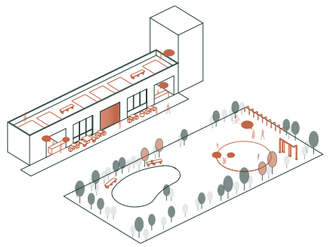
Centre of neighbourhood

THEN

(Stadsarchief Amsterdam)

(Google Earth, 2021)

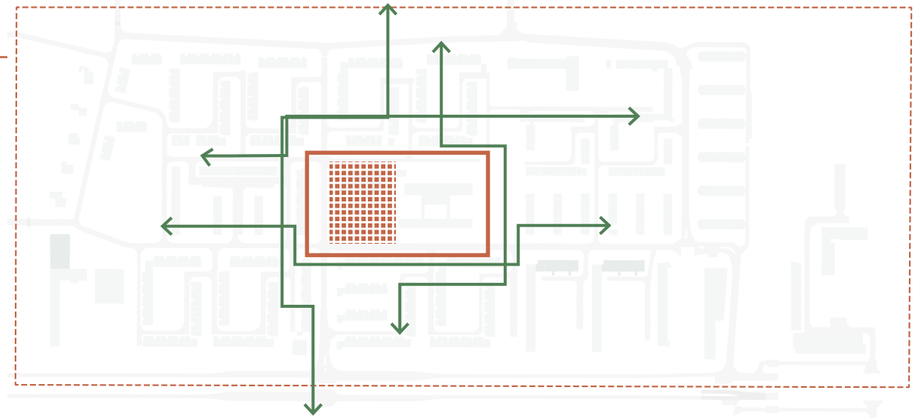
IDENTIFICATION | Urban Life



URBAN LIFE

Exclusive & avoided centre

Centre of Couperusbuurt



0 100 m

— Couperubuurt

Centre of neighbourhood

THEN

(Stadsarchief Amsterdam)

(Google Earth, 2021)

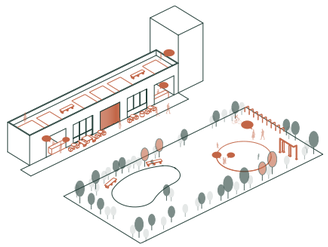
NOW

(Nio et al., 2021)

(Moskee El Hijra, 2021)

(Google Earth, 2021)

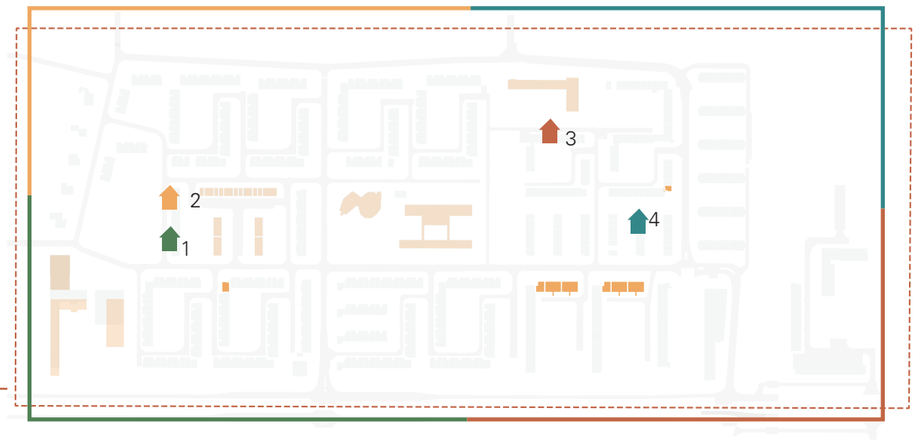
IDENTIFICATION | Urban Life



URBAN LIFE

Sense of neighbourhood

Centre of Couperusbuurt



Public Function

0 100 m

Couperubuurt

Public function

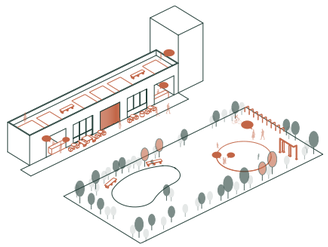
Home location of residents

THEN

(Stadsarchief Amsterdam)

(Stadsarchief Amsterdam)

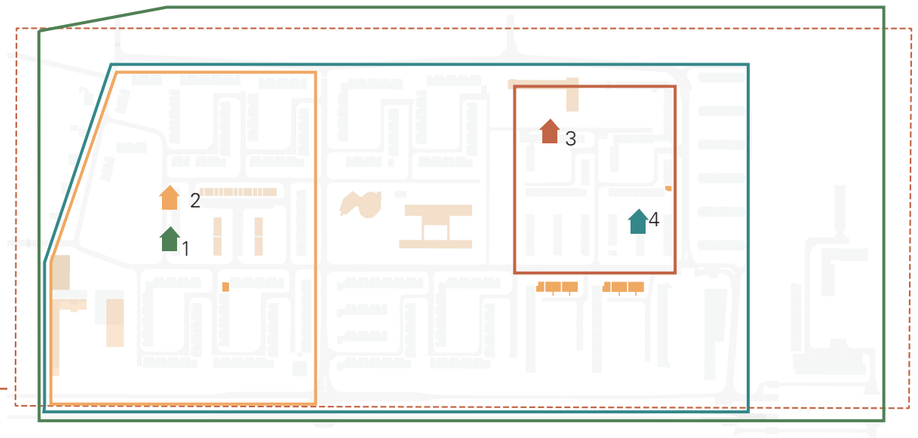
IDENTIFICATION | Urban Life



URBAN LIFE

Divided sense of neighbourhood

Centre of Couperusbuurt



Public Function

0 100 m

Couperubuurt

Public function

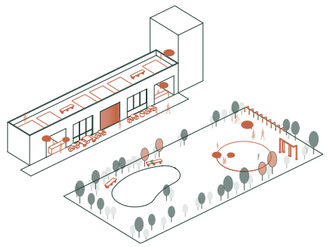
Home location of residents

THEN

(Stadsarchief Amsterdam)

(Stadsarchief Amsterdam)

NOW



URBAN LIFE

Courtyard with active functions

Centre of Couperusbuurt

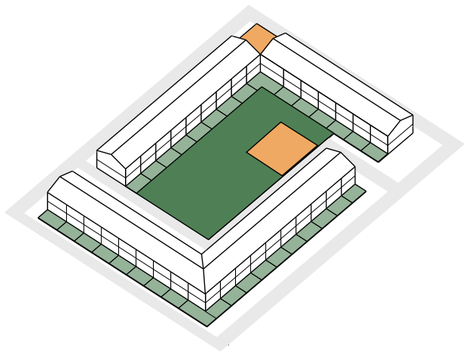
Public Function Buildings

Courtyard

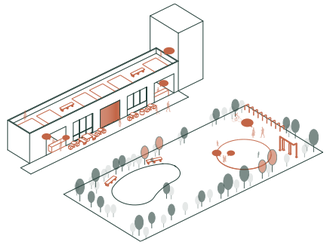
THEN

(Stadsarchief Amsterdam)

(Stadsarchief Amsterdam)



IDENTIFICATION | Urban Life

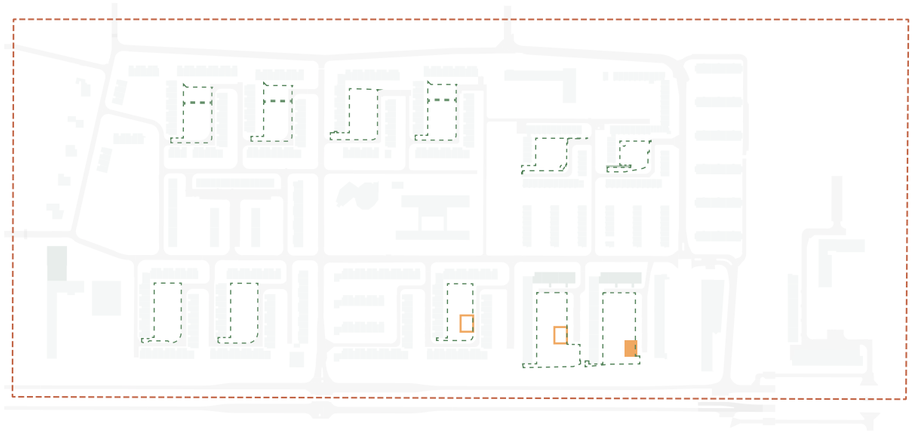


URBAN LIFE

Courtyard with passive functions

Centre of Couperusbuurt

Public Function Buildings



0 100 m

Couperubuurt

Courtyard

Courtyard

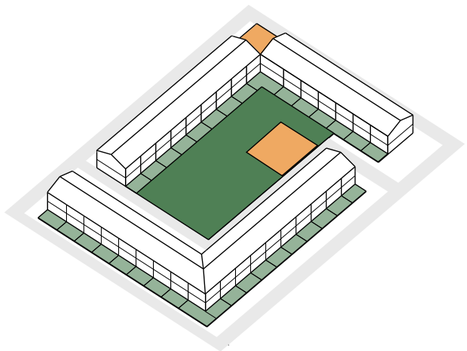
THEN

(Stadsarchief Amsterdam)

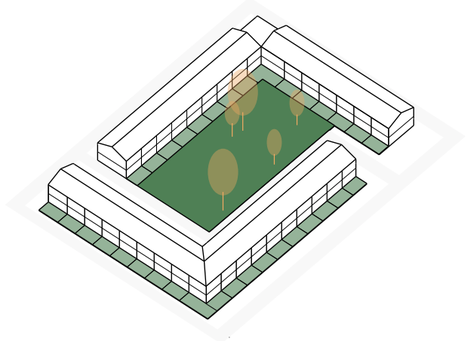
(Stadsarchief Amsterdam)

NOW

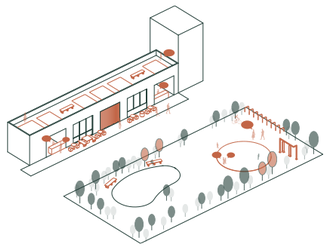
(Google Earth)



public courtyard
private backyard
public function



public courtyard
private backyard



URBAN LIFE

Centre of Couperusbuurt

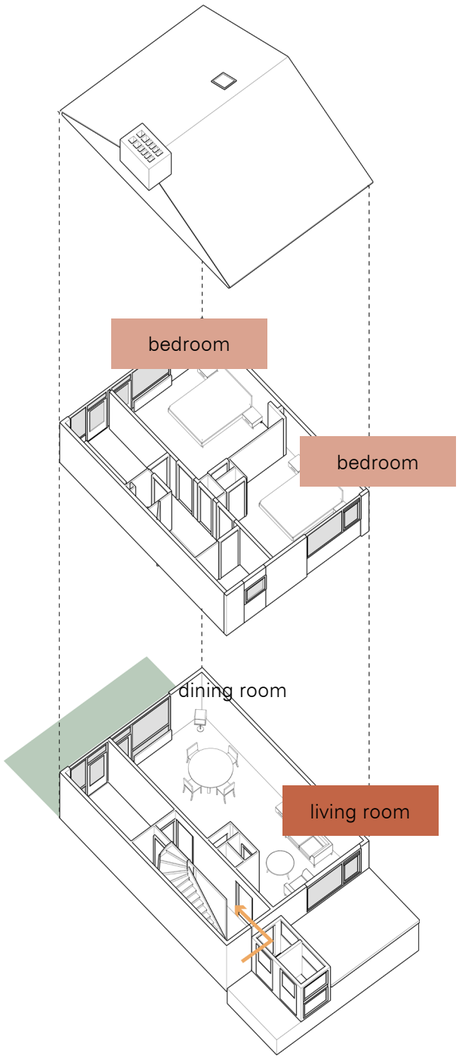
Public Function Buildings

Courtyard

INITIAL PLAN

Tenant

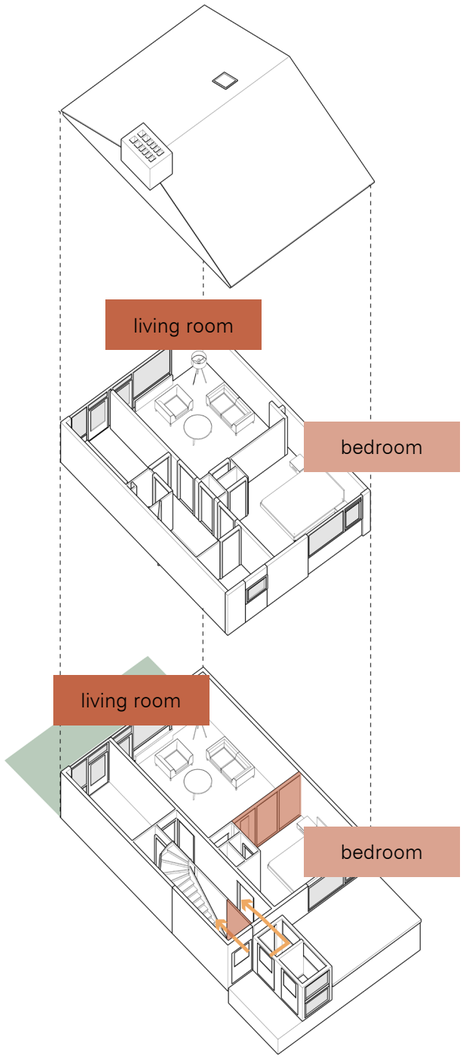
one famiy



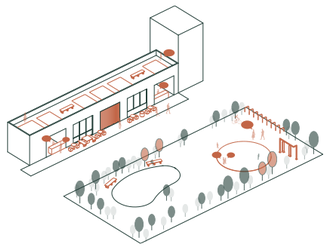
CURRENT CONDITION

Tenant

two household for each floors



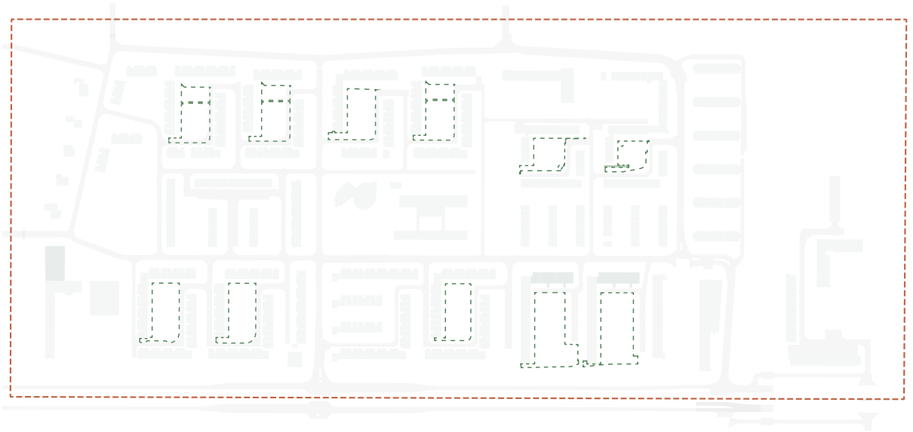
IDENTIFICATION | Urban Life



URBAN LIFE

Courtyard with passive functions

Centre of Couperusbuurt



Public Function Buildings

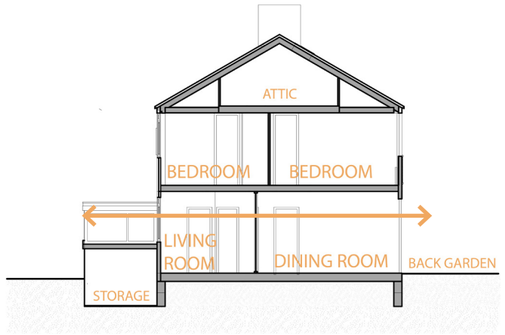
0 100 m

Couperubuurt

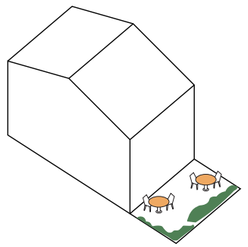
Passive courtyard

Courtyard

THEN

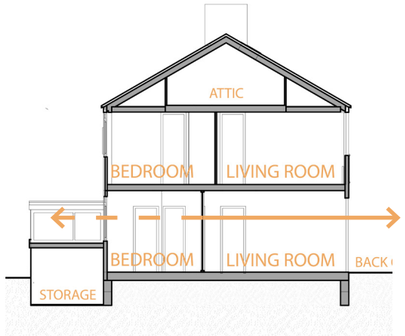


active ground floor

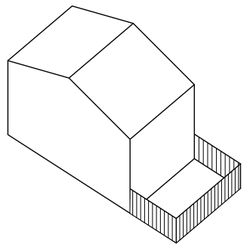


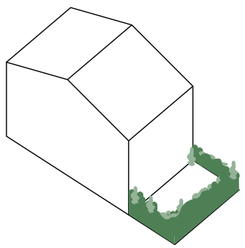
open backyard

NOW

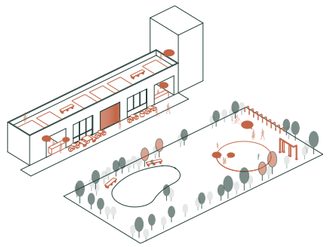


passive ground floor





enclosed backyard



URBAN LIFE

Decreasing neighbourhood bearer

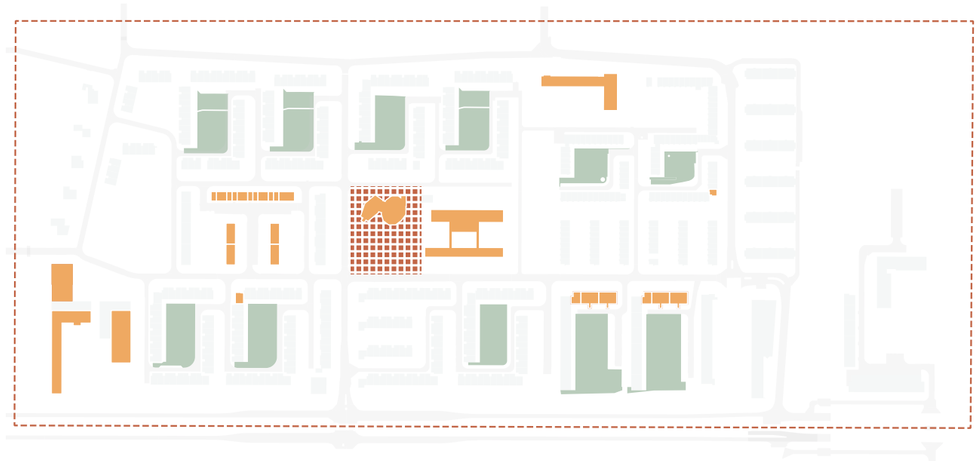
THEN

neighbourhood — building blocks

Religious places
Neighbourhood park
Plaza

Grocery shops
Office

Courtyard
Smaller shops



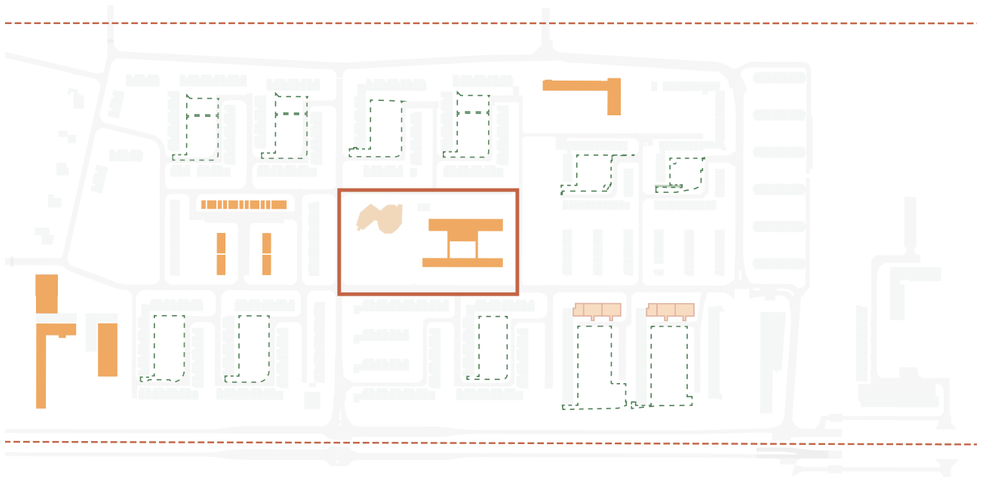
NOW

neighbourhood — building blocks

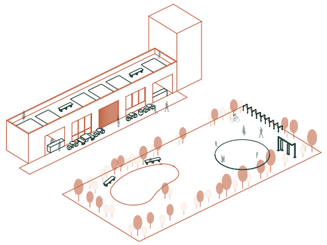
~~Religious places~~
Neighbourhood park
~~Plaza~~

Grocery shops
Office

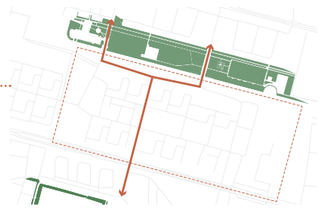
~~Courtyard~~
~~Smaller shops~~

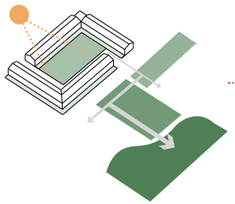


IDENTIFICATION | Conclusion



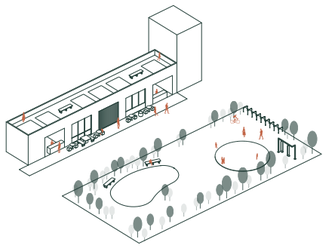
URBAN FORM



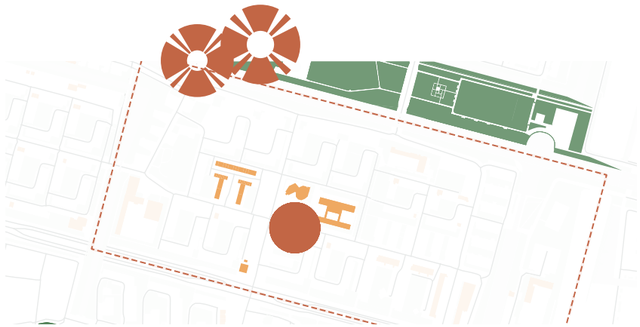


promoted outdoor activities
&
community engagement

establish



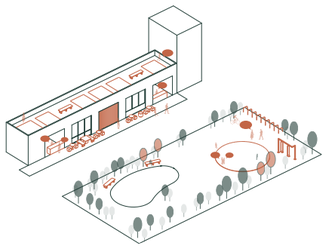
URBAN RESIDENTS



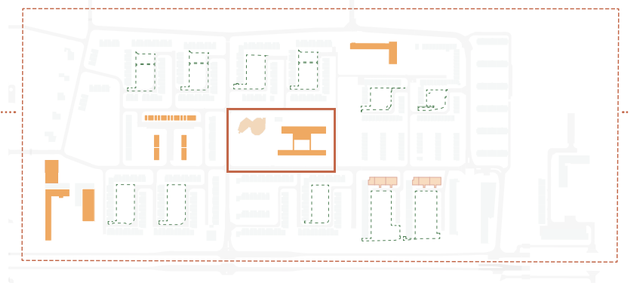
high demand of adequate
public facilities
in neighbourhoood

demand

collectivity through
community



URBAN LIFE



decreasing quality of
neighbourhood bearers

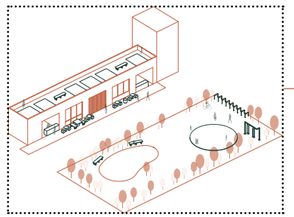
urgency

1

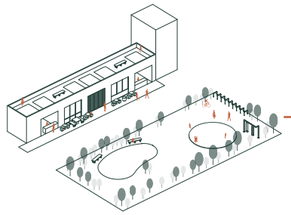
INVESTIGATION

of heritage value

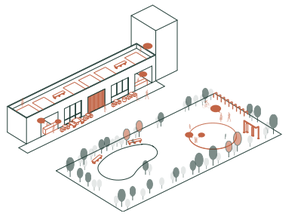
URBAN FORM



URBAN RESIDENTS



URBAN RESIDENTS

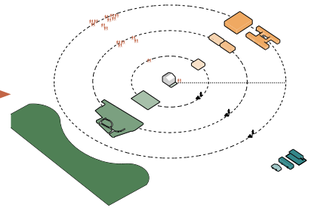


2

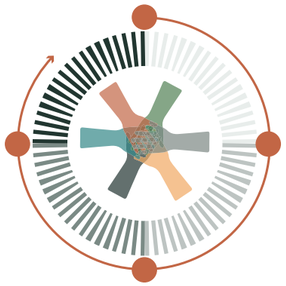
INTEGRATION

with planning strategy

SPATIAL STRATEGY



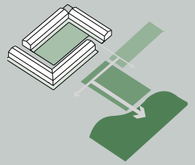
SOCIAL STRATEGY



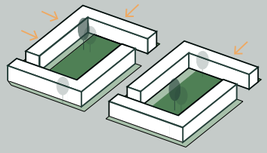
PARADIGM SHIFT| ADAPTATION OF HERITAGE MEANING

IDENTIFIED

COLLECTIVITY in neighbourhood
through organisation of urban form



green infrastructure



open building blocks

promotes outdoor activities
to stimulate social cohesion in one neighbourhood

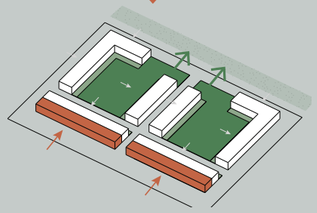
new interpretation of
heritage meaning

WHY?

PROPOSED

COLLECTIVITY as driving factors for renewal of the urban form

priorities communities in diverse group of residents



which defines the urban form in Couperusbuurt
in the context of heritage neighbourhood

built based on tabula rasa (focus on form first)	transforming instead of creating (form comes second)
top down planning	bottom up planning
homogenous residents	diversed residents

STRATEGY | Collectivity as departure point of renewal strategy

COMMUNITY-DRIVEN SPATIAL STRATEGY

transforming instead of creating (less focus on the form)

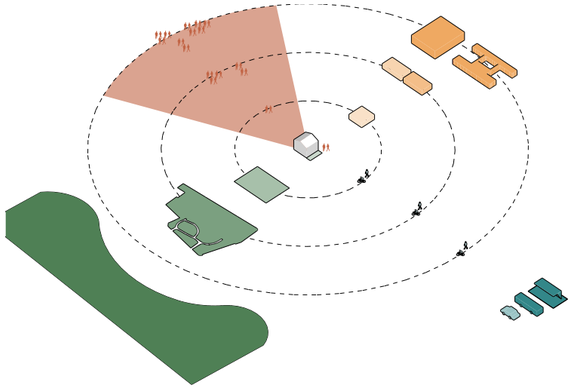
bottom up planning

diversed residents

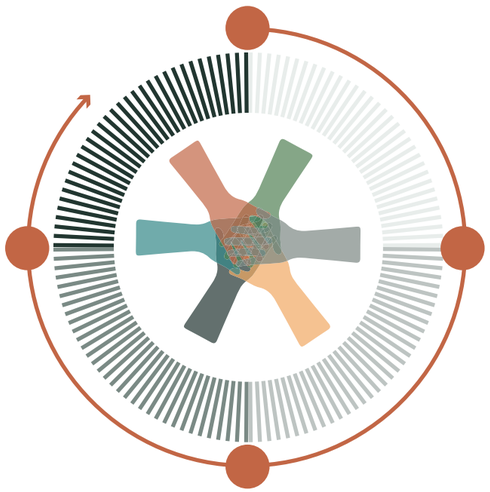
spatially

socially

COMMUNITY-DRIVEN SPATIAL STRATEGY



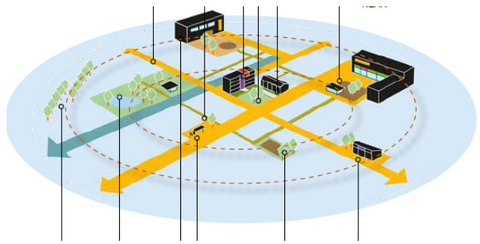
PARTICIPATORY PLANNING



WIJKGEDACHTE

(Gemeente Amsterdam, 2017)

NEIGHBOURHOOD BEARER

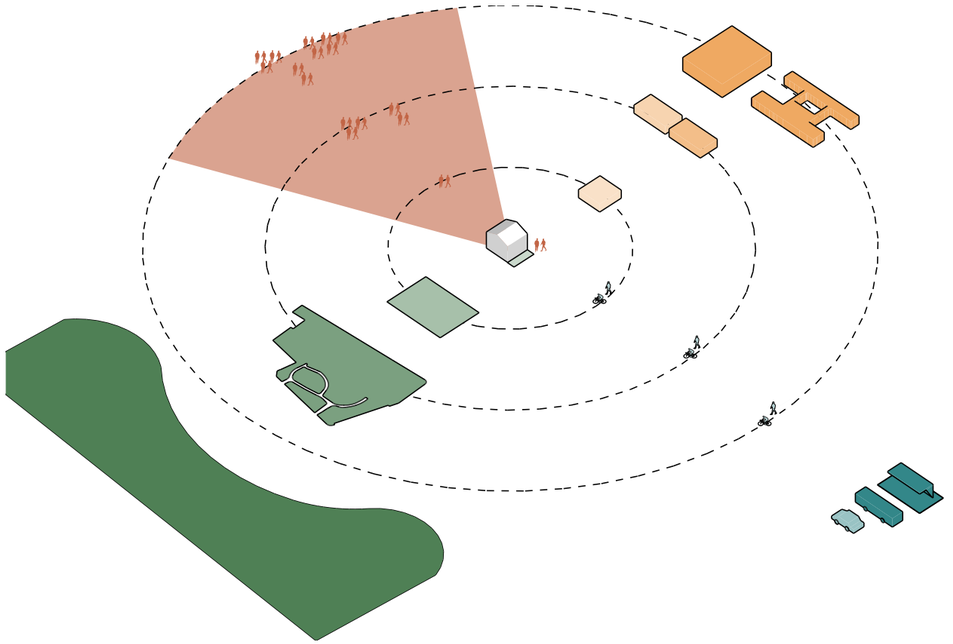


(Nio et al., 2020)

COMMUNITY-DRIVEN SPATIAL STRATEGY

WHO?
COMMUNITY

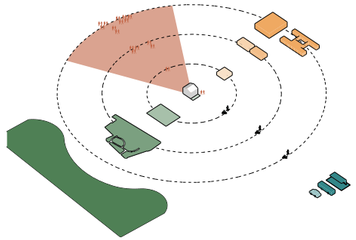
WHAT?
PUBLIC FUNCTION



WHAT?
GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

HOW?
ROUTE / NETWORK

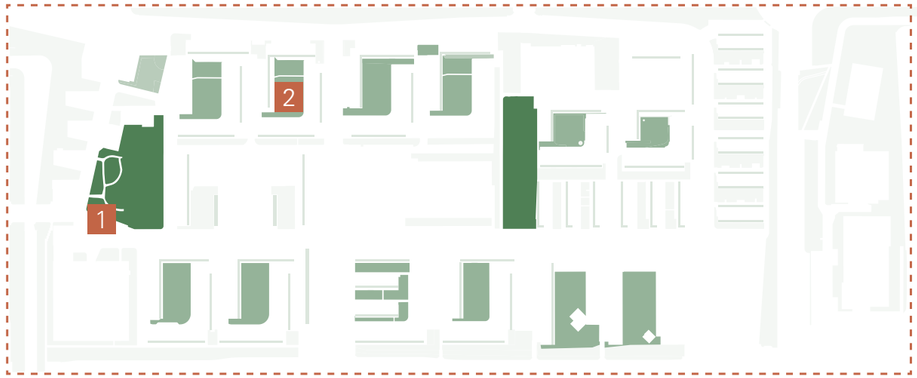
STRATEGY | Community-driven spatial strategy



GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Adding sustainable qualities to the existing greenery

Types of greenery

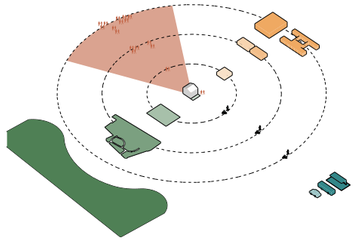


0 100 m

- Neighbourhood park
- Courtyard
- Other greenery

Neighbourhood park

Courtyard



GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Adding sustainable qualities to the existing greenery

Qualities

Present traits:

- Viewing greenery
- Outdoor seating places

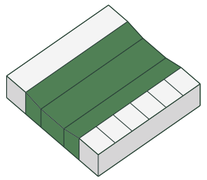
Opportunities:

- Bioswales
- Urban agriculture

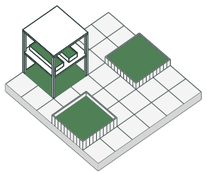
Bioswales / wadi

Urban agriculture

Strategical Toolbox



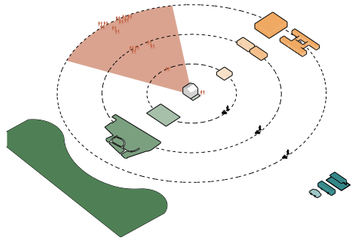
bioswales / wadi



urban agriculture

- Infiltration
- Biodiversity
- Cooling

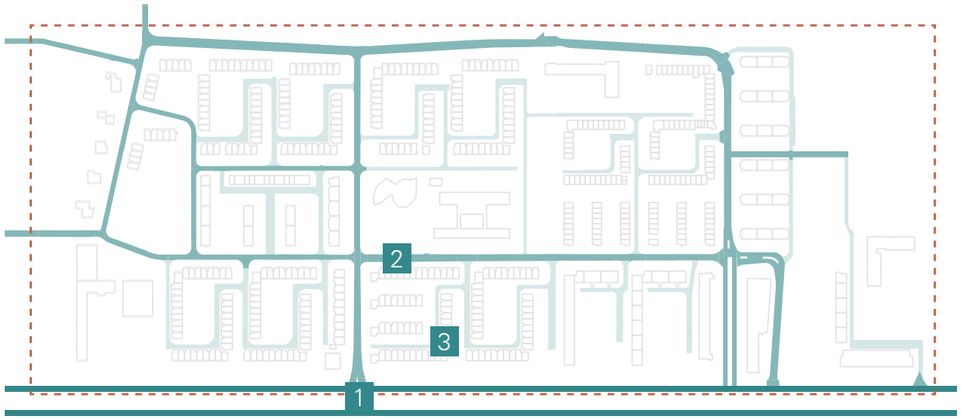
(Potz & Bleuze, 2012)



ROUTE / NETWORK

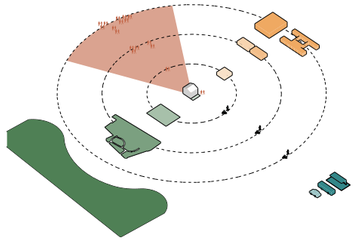
Activate functions along the street

Categories of streets



- Regional street
- Neighbourhood street
- Residential street

INTEGRATION | Community-driven spatial strategy



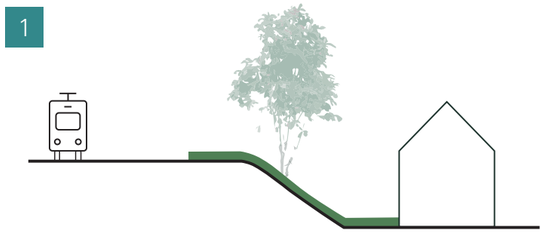
ROUTE / NETWORK

Activate functions along the street

Qualities

Present traits:

1



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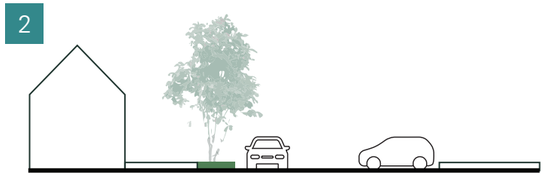

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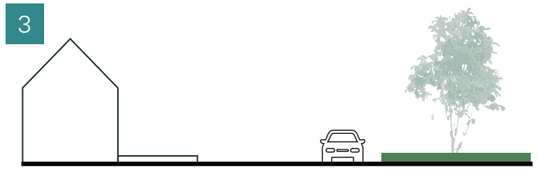
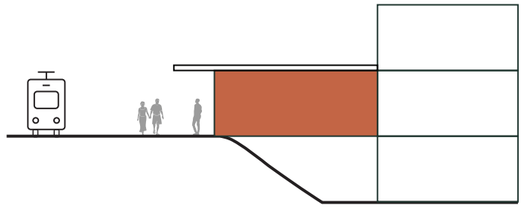
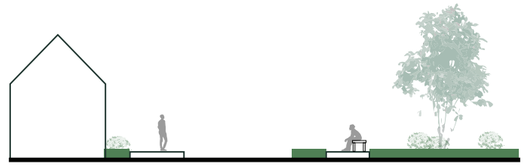


Opportunities





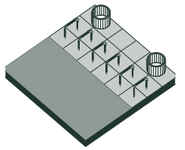
Present traits:

- visual greenery
- car parking
- wide pedestrians

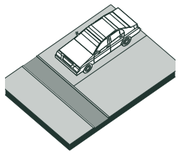
Opportunities

- visual greenery
- active plinth create lively streets
- street as place to stay

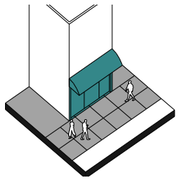
Strategical Toolbox



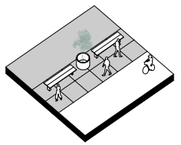
collective bicycle parking



collective car parking

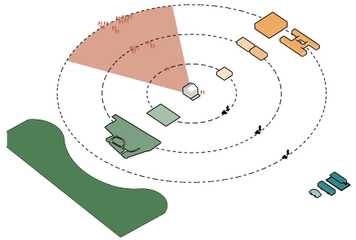


active plinth



as place to meet

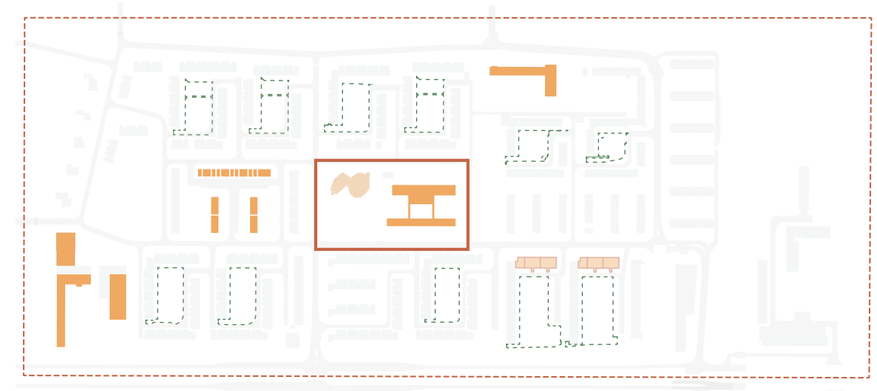
INTEGRATION | Community-driven spatial strategy



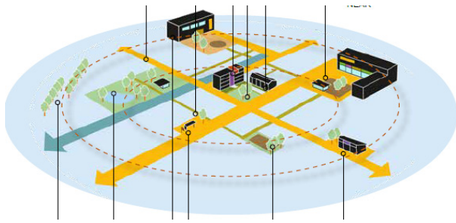
PUBLIC FUNCTION

Improve the quality of neighbourhood bearer

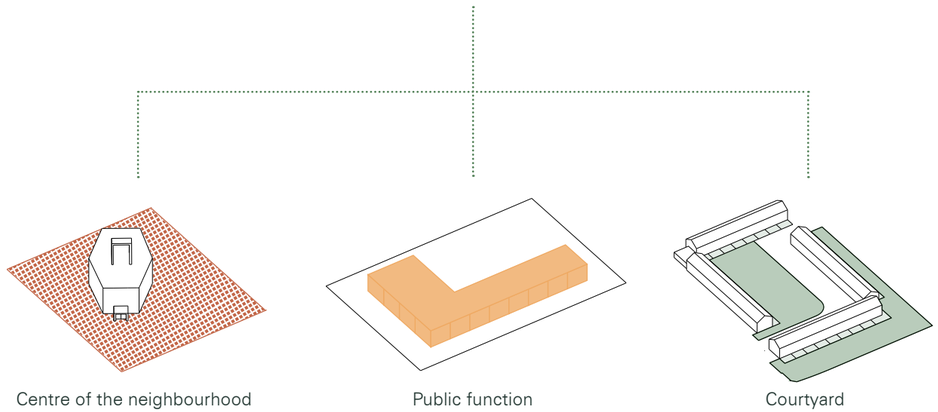
Improved existing neighbourhood bearer



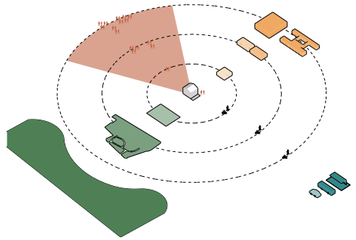
- Passive courtyard
- Uninviting public functions
- Avoided centre



Neighbourhood bearer (Nio, et al., 2020)



INTEGRATION | Community-driven spatial strategy



PUBLIC FUNCTION

Improve the quality of neighbourhood bearer

Type of bonding place (Nio et al., 2020)

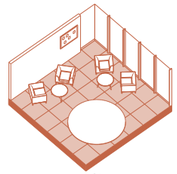
- Functional
- Emotional
- Social
- Political

Category

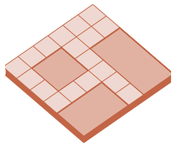
- Live
- Work
- Play
- Meet
- Service

Strategical Toolbox

neighbourhood scale → blocks scale

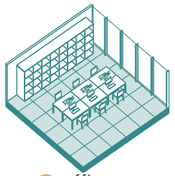


community room

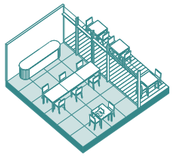


community garden

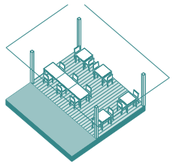
public rooftop



office

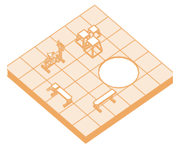


coworking space

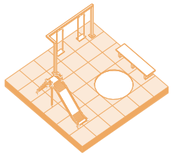


meeting area

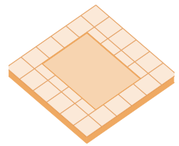
sports field



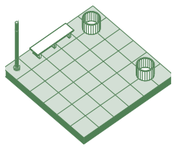
outdoor gym



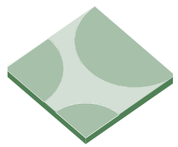
playground



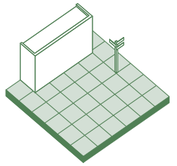
garden



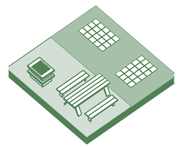
plaza



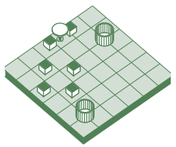
neighbourhood park



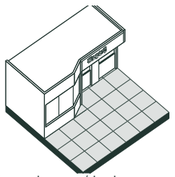
mural / landmark as node for elderly



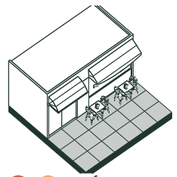
picnic area



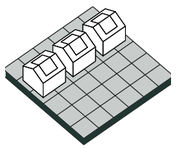
bench



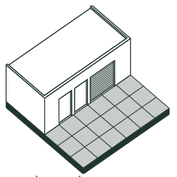
shops / bakery



cafe



collective garbage bin



shared storage

Type of bonding place (Nio et al., 2020)

- Functional
- Emotional
- Social
- Political

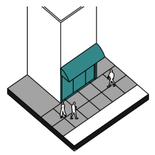
Category

- Live
- Work
- Play
- Meet
- Service

Neighbourhood bearer in Couperusbuurt (Nio et al., 2021)

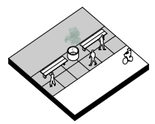
- Courtyard
- Service/ public function
- Place to stay

Toolbox aims to improve current neighbourhood bearer

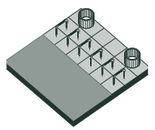


active plinth

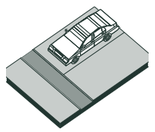
active plinth



as place to meet

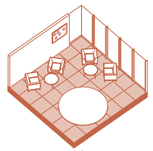


bicycle parking

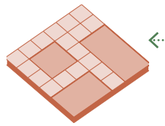


car parking

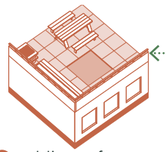
neighbourhood scale — blocks scale



community room

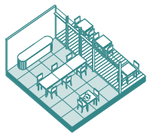


community garden

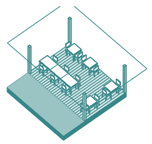


public rooftop

office



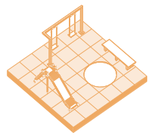
coworking space



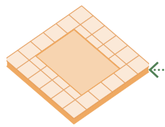
meeting area

sports field

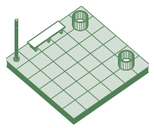
outdoor gym



playground

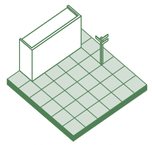


garden

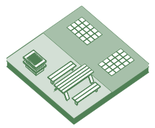


plaza

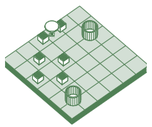
neighbourhood park



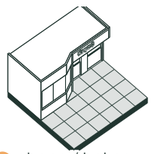
mural / landmark as node for elderly



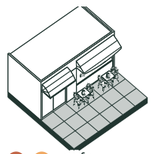
picnic area



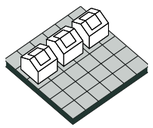
bench



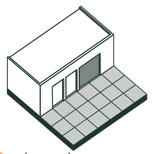
shops / bakery



cafe



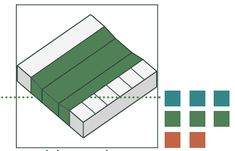
collective garbage bin



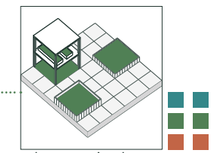
shared storage

Sustainability aims (Potz & Bleuze, 2012)

- Infiltration
- Biodiversity
- Cooling



bioswales

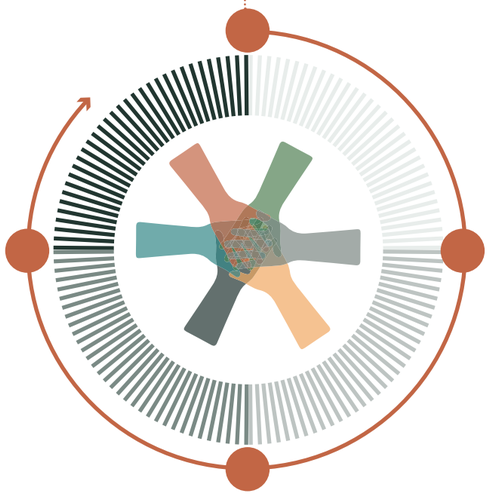


urban agriculture

ROUTE

PUBLIC FUNCTION

GREEN



DIAGNOSE → DESIGN → APPLICATION → MAINTENANCE

designer | designer | designer

researcher | researcher

municipality | municipality | municipality | municipality

housing association | housing association | housing association | housing association

questionnaire | workshop 1 | workshop 2 | feedback

residents | residents | residents | residents

as interviewee | as participants in workshop | as participants in workshop

as a material for discussion and suggestion

SCENARIO

SPATIAL DEMAND

SOCIAL TREND

as a tool for design application

TOOLBOX

active involvement

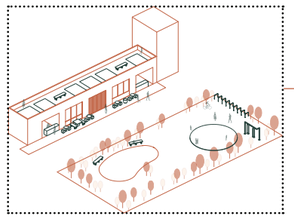
passive involvement

1

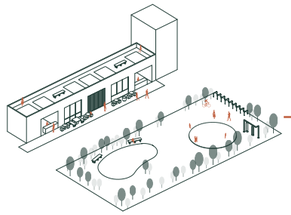
INVESTIGATION

of heritage value

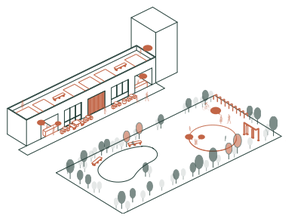
URBAN FORM



URBAN RESIDENTS



URBAN RESIDENTS

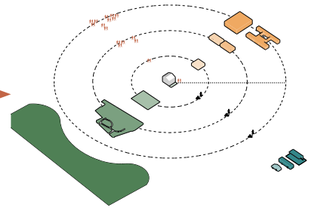


2

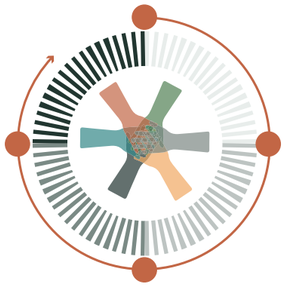
INTEGRATION

with planning strategy

SPATIAL STRATEGY



SOCIAL STRATEGY

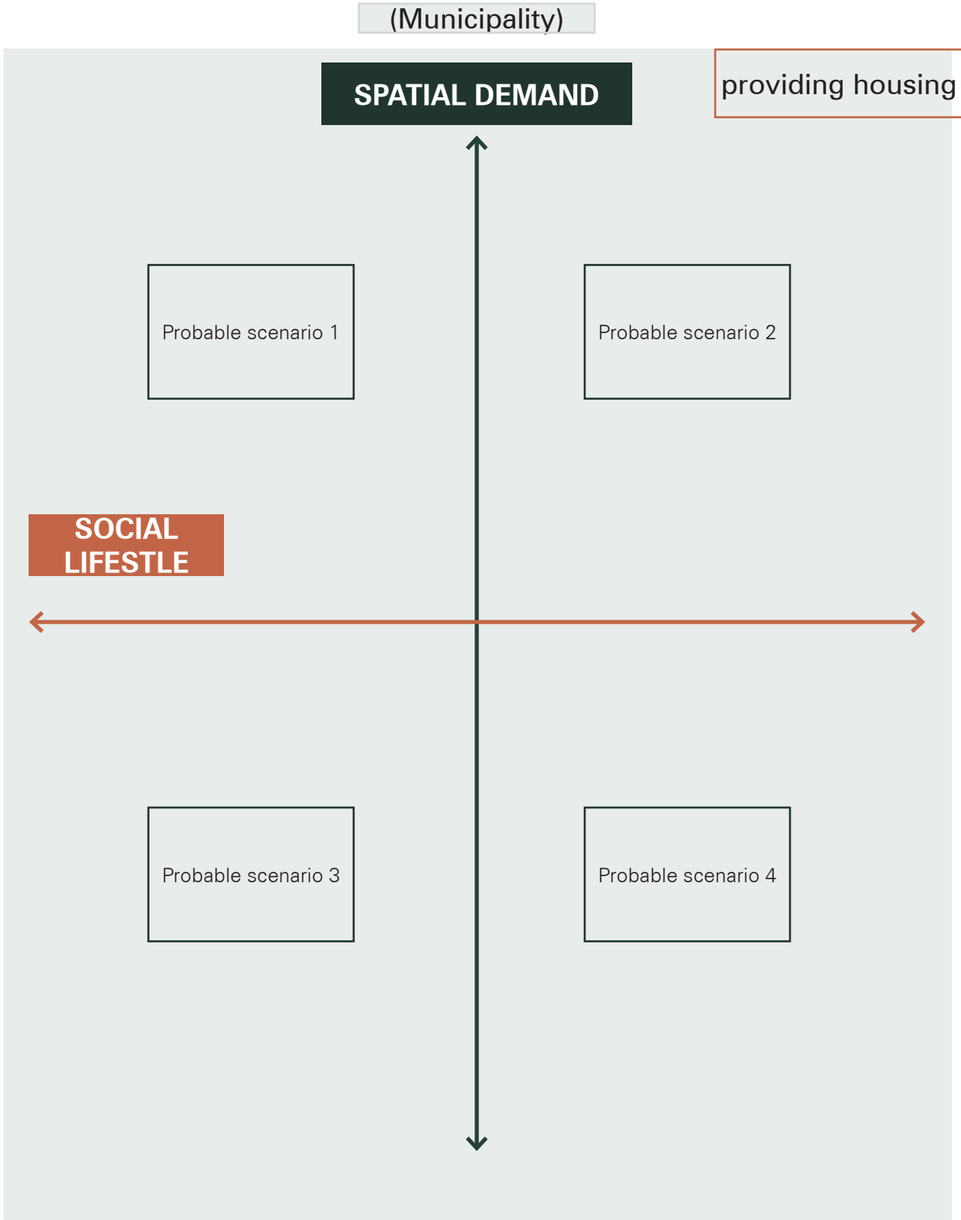


3

ELABORATION

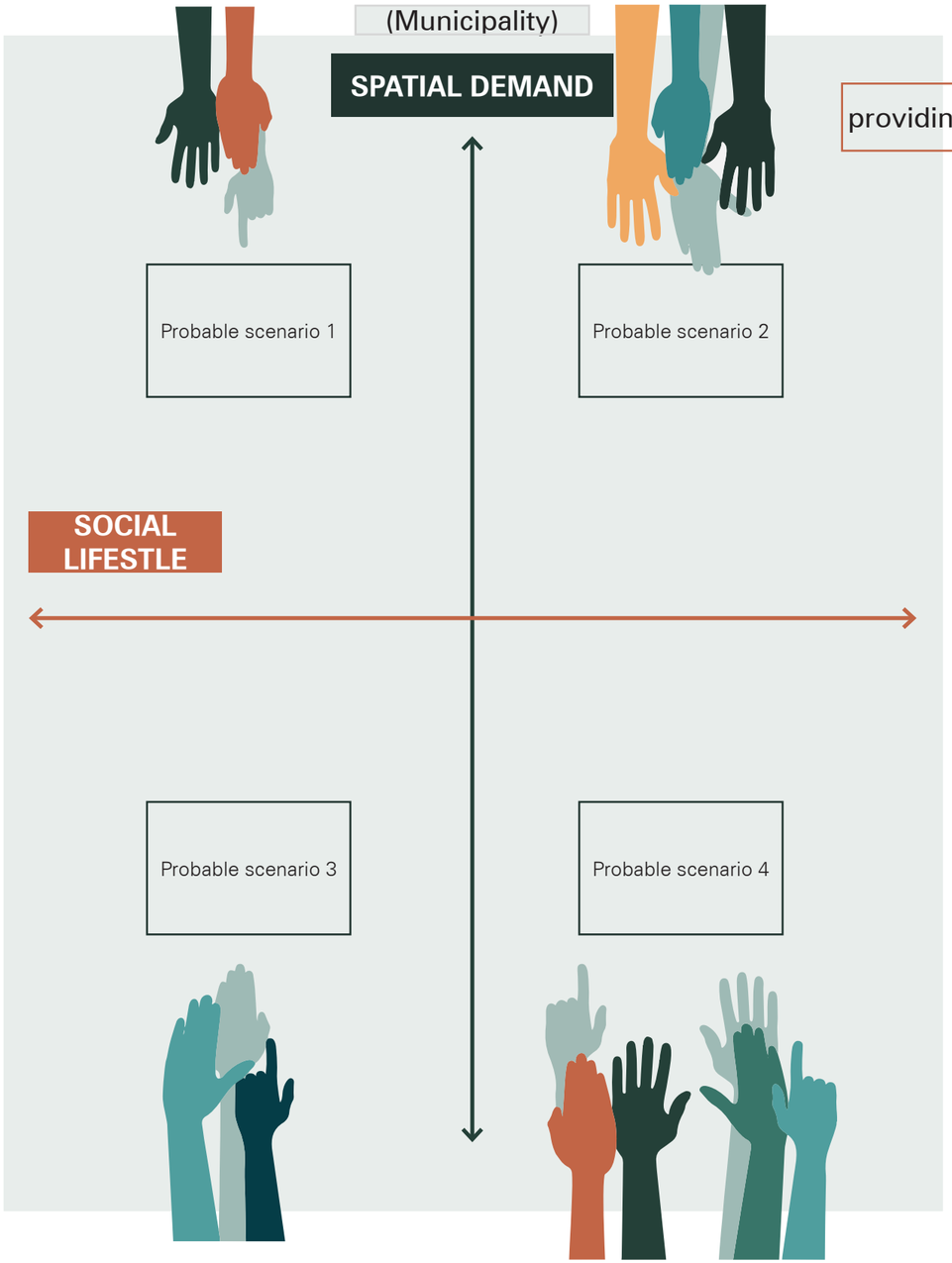
of design explorations

SCENARIO DESIGN



Benefit of design explorations through scenarios:

1. To **visualise extreme design variations** regarding the changing trends.



Benefit of design explorations through scenarios:

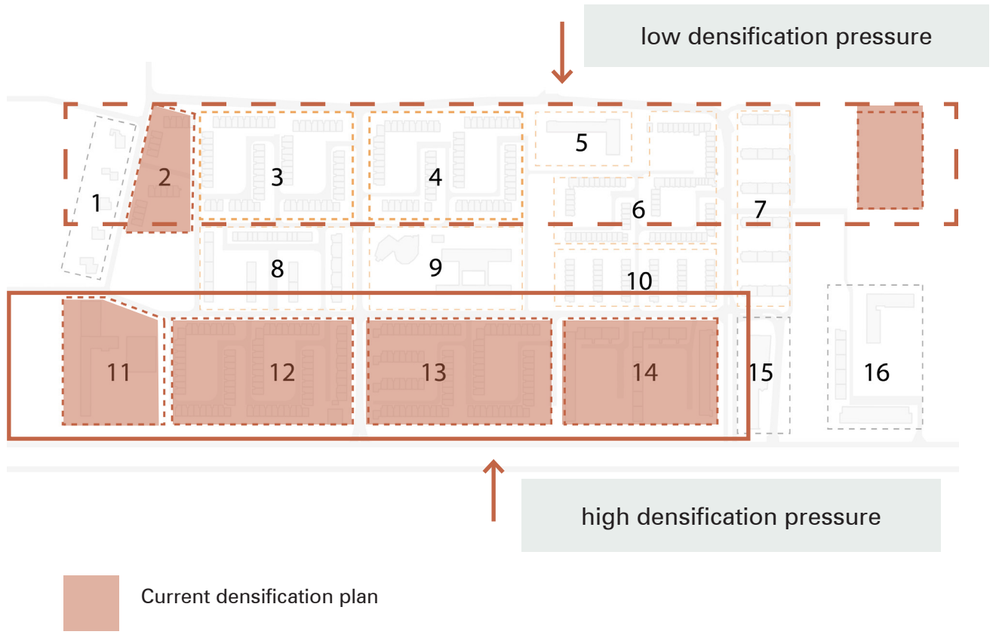
1. To **visualise extreme design variations** regarding the changing trends.
2. **As a tool in participatory process** by publishing the materials as a mean for discussions, workshops, questionaire.

SPATIAL DEMAND

high density

low density

Strategic Densification Plan



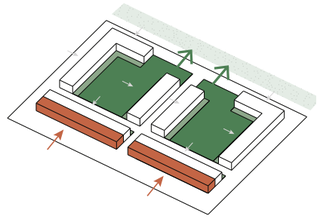
SPATIAL DEMAND

high density

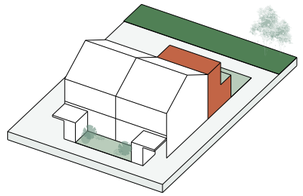
low density

Applied strategy

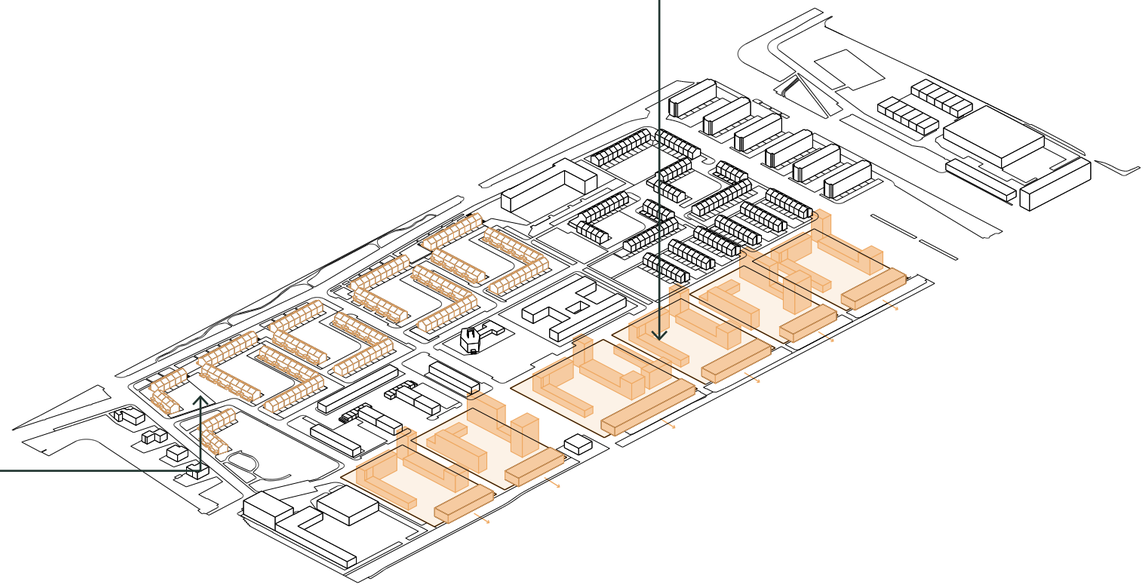
Urban fabric modification



Renovation



Spatial concept



young professionals

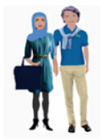
student

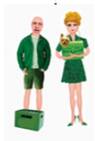
elderly

family

needs:
adequate living spaces
diversity of public functions
value outdoor activities

needs:
adequate living spaces
highly priorities outdoor activities
appreciate public functions





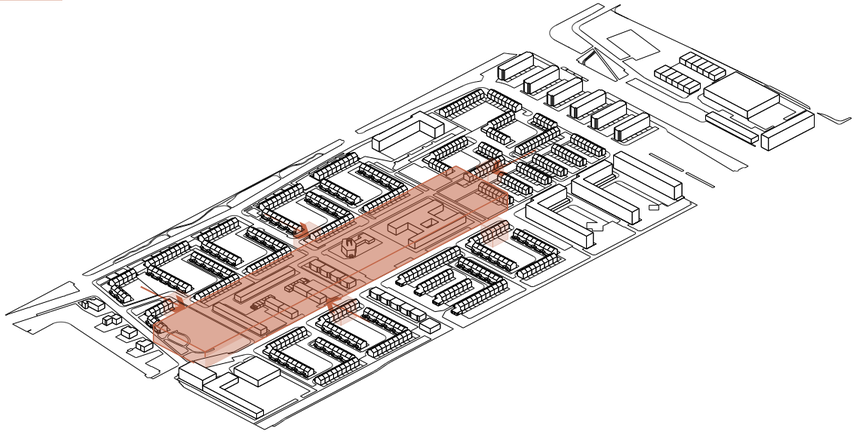
(Springco, 2021)

SOCIAL LIFESTYLE

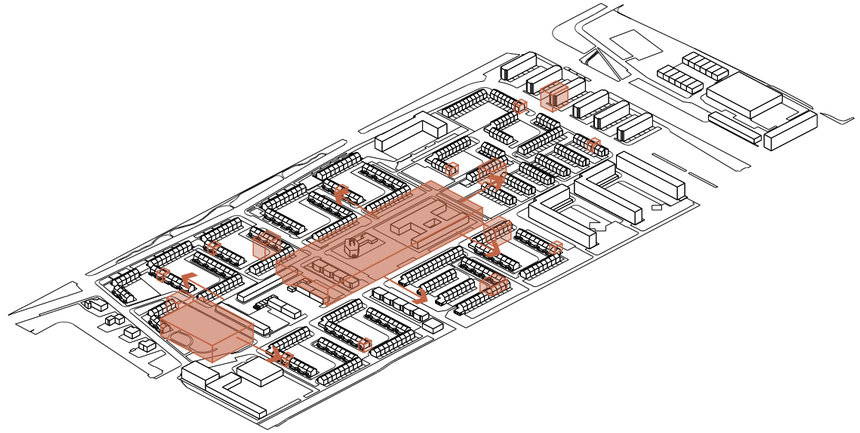
(value privacy)

(value community)

SPATIAL CONCEPT



centre as the focus of
neighbourhood bearer



neighbourhood bearer are
distributed through the area

influx of young
professionals & students

dominated family neighbourhood

SOCIAL LIFESTYLE

(value privacy)

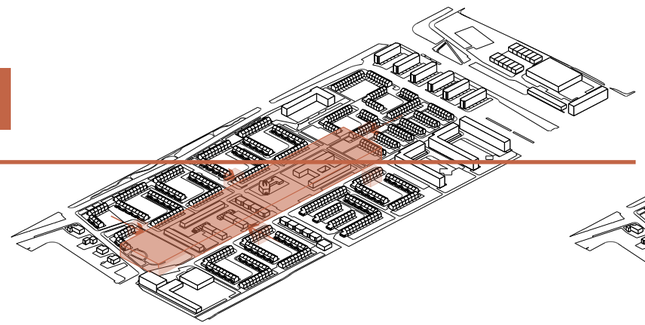
(value
community)

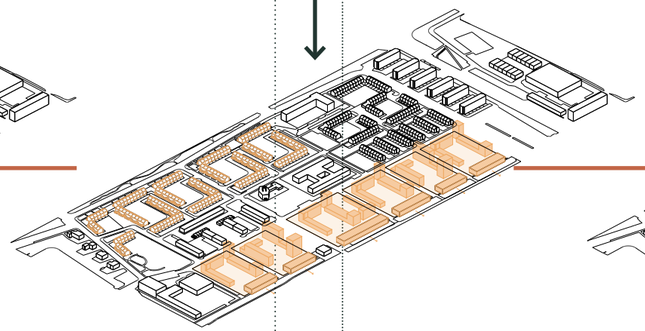
SPATIAL DEMAND

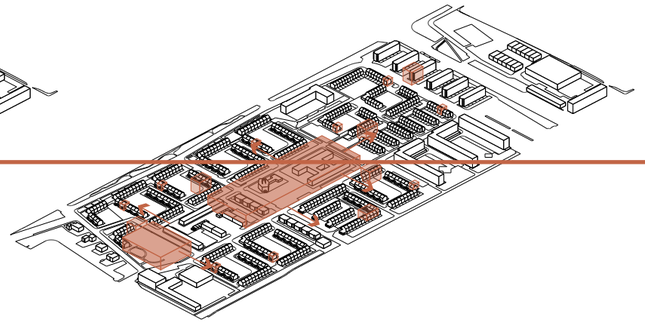
high density

SOCIAL LIFESTYLE

value
privacy
& diversity

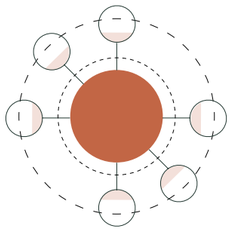




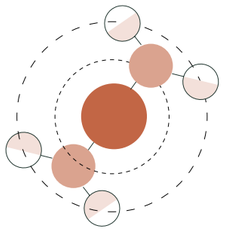


highly sociable &
value community

SCENARIO ONE:
CENTRALISED COLLECTIVITY



SCENARIO TWO:
DISTRIBUTED COLLECTIVITY



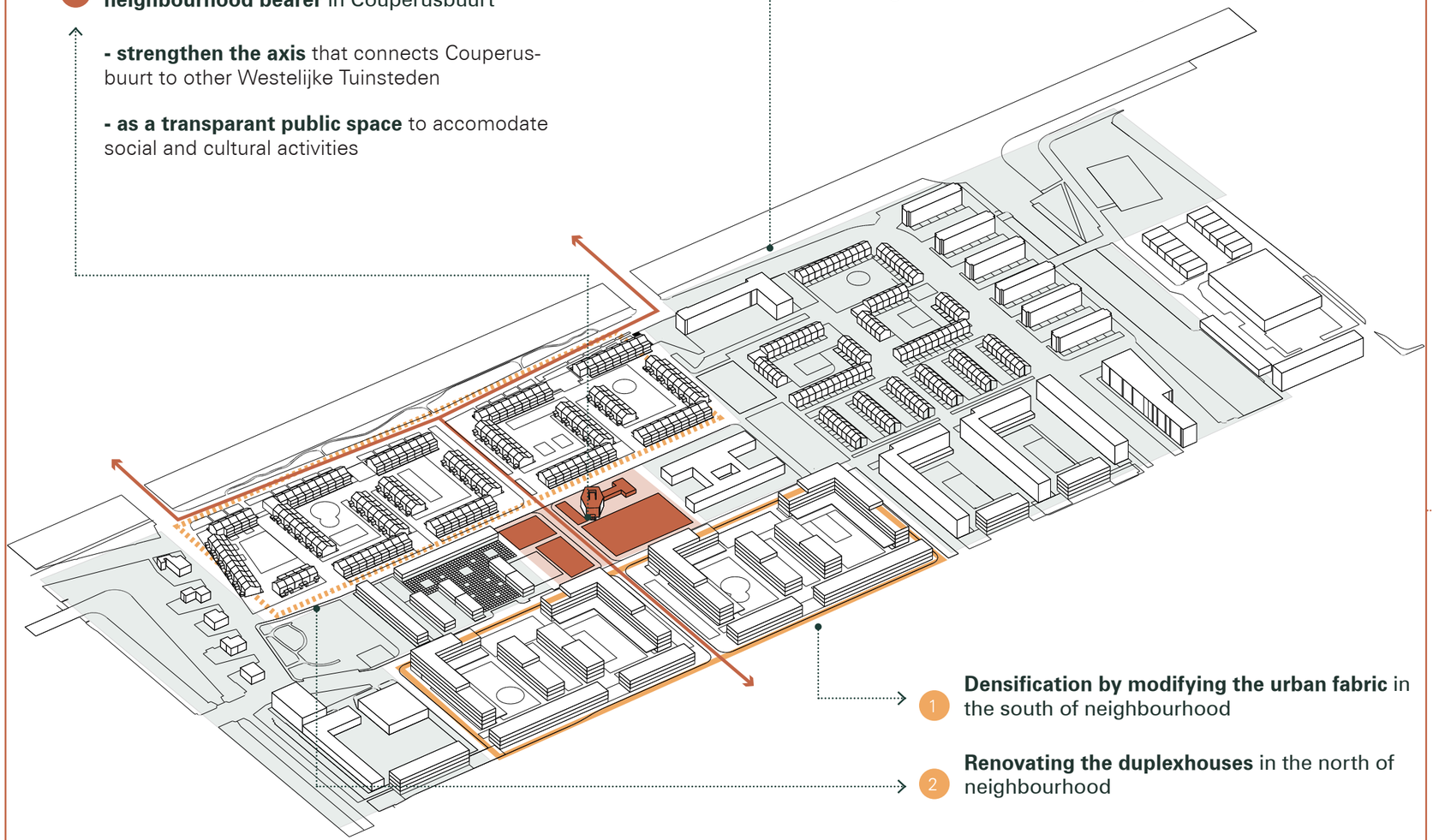
low density

1 **Centre of the neighbourhood as core of neighbourhood bearer** in Couperusbuurt

- strengthen the axis that connects Couperus-buurt to other Westelijke Tuinsteden

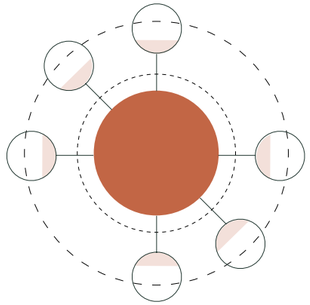
- as a transparant public space to accomodate social and cultural activities

3 **Public space intervention by applying toolbox of neighbourhood bearer** throughout Couperusbuurt

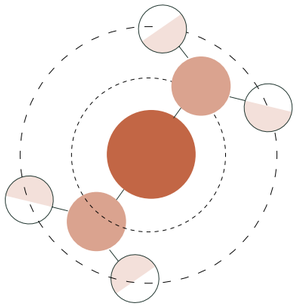


1 **Densification by modifying the urban fabric** in the south of neighbourhood

2 **Renovating the duplexhouses** in the north of neighbourhood

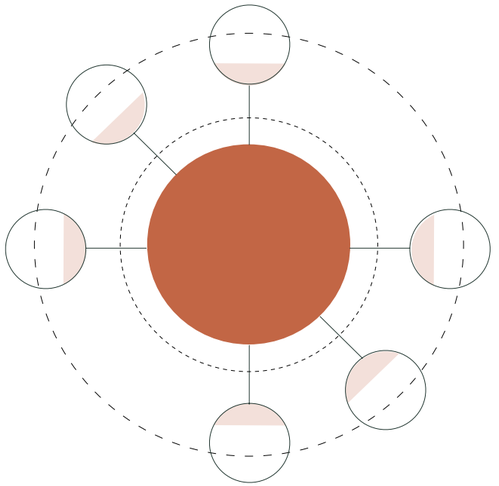


SCENARIO ONE: CENTRALISED COLLECTIVITY

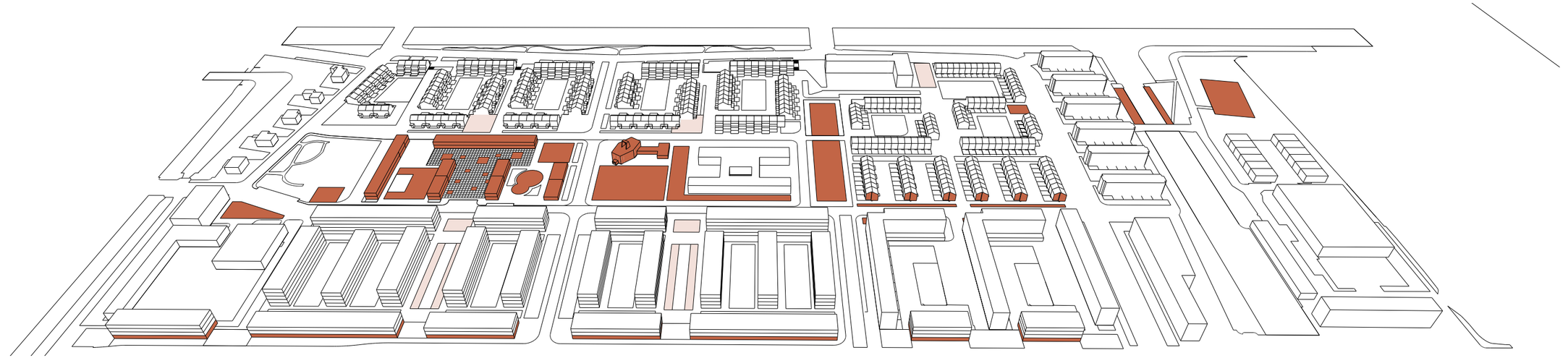


SCENARIO TWO: DISTRIBUTED COLLECTIVITY

Scenario One: Centralised Collectivity



Applied toolbox



neighbourhood scale

blocks scale

coworking space

picnic area

mural / landmark as node for elderly

(no function)

collective garbage bin

meeting area

sports field

neighbourhood park

community room

cafe

bench

car parking

office

outdoor gym

plaza

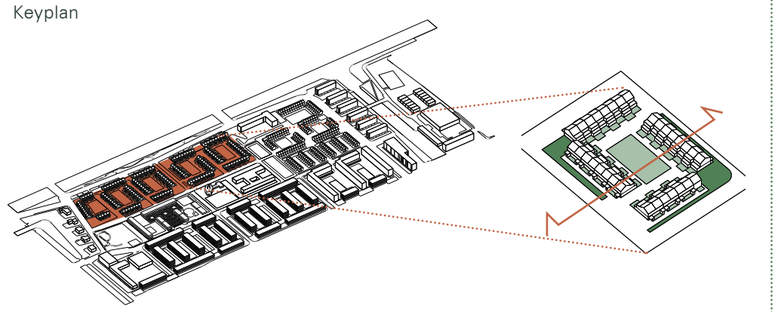
community garden

shops / bakery

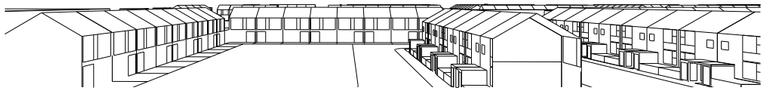
bicycle parking

Renovation of the duplex houses

Keyplan



Current condition

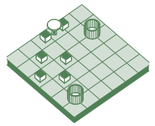


PRIVATE | SEMI PUBLIC | PRIVATE | PUBLIC

neighbourhood zoning

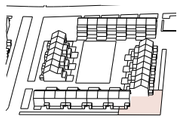
Applied toolbox

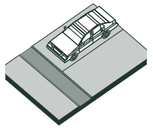
1 **Providing seating** area to accomodate social engagement



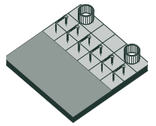
bench

2 **Relocate parking spaces** on the street into one collective parking area **to create direct access to greenery.**

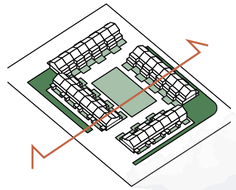




car parking



bicycle parking



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neighbourhood zoning

Improving green quality (sustainability value)

1 Landscape management of green covering to **reduce heat** and **promote biodiversity**

high shading
European beech

animal attractor bushes
Butterfly bush

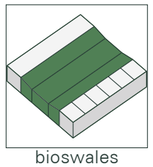
medium shading
Lindens Tilia

bushes/flower for planter
Little linda

2 Integrate bioswales to courtyard as **water catchment** area & promote **biodiversity**

neighbourhood park

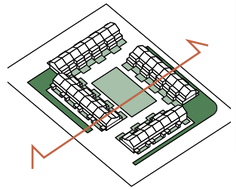
x



bioswales

wet plants
Watermint

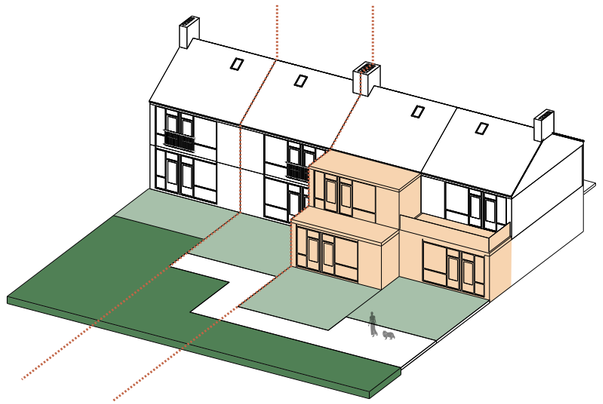
wet plants
European speedwell or Brooklime



PRIVATE | SEMI PUBLIC | PRIVATE | PUBLIC

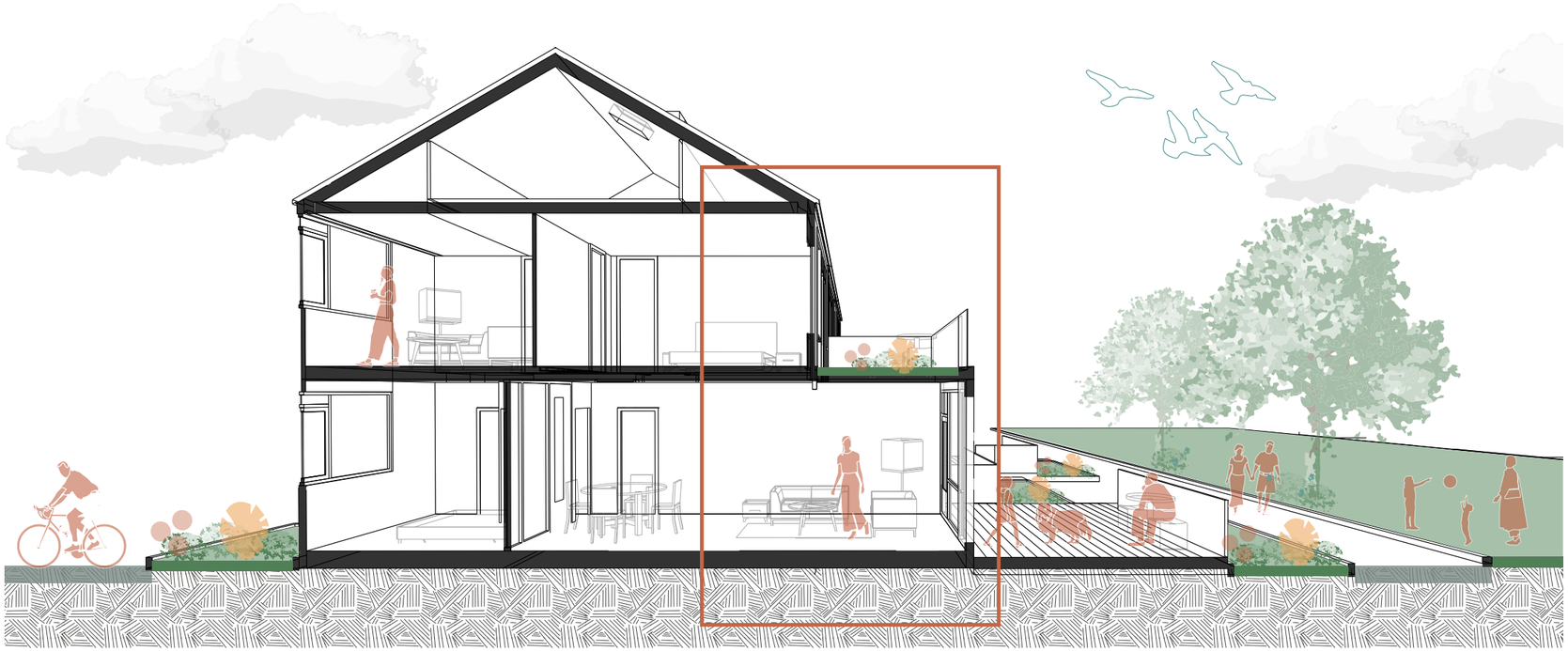
neighbourhood zoning

House Typology



Renovation principle

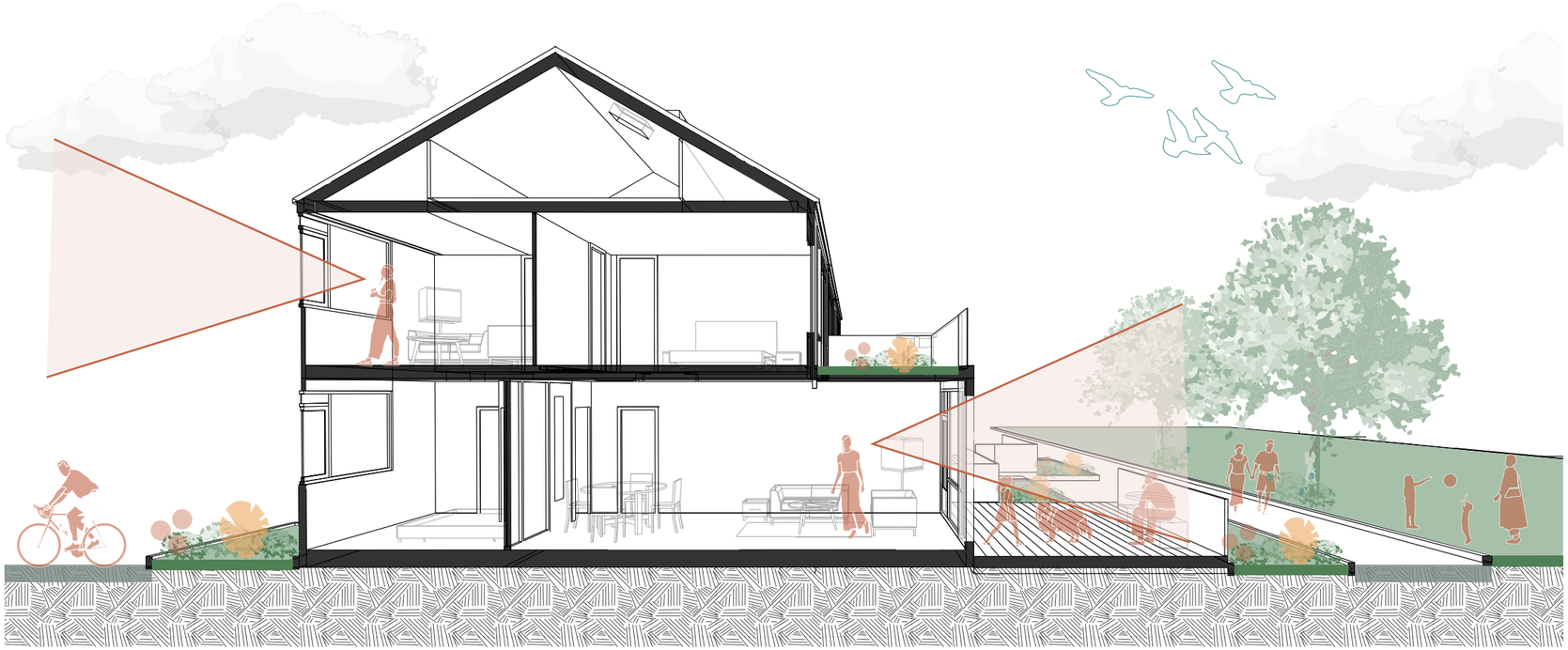
1 **Extension of indoor living** space to provide maximum privacy for the residents.



House Typology

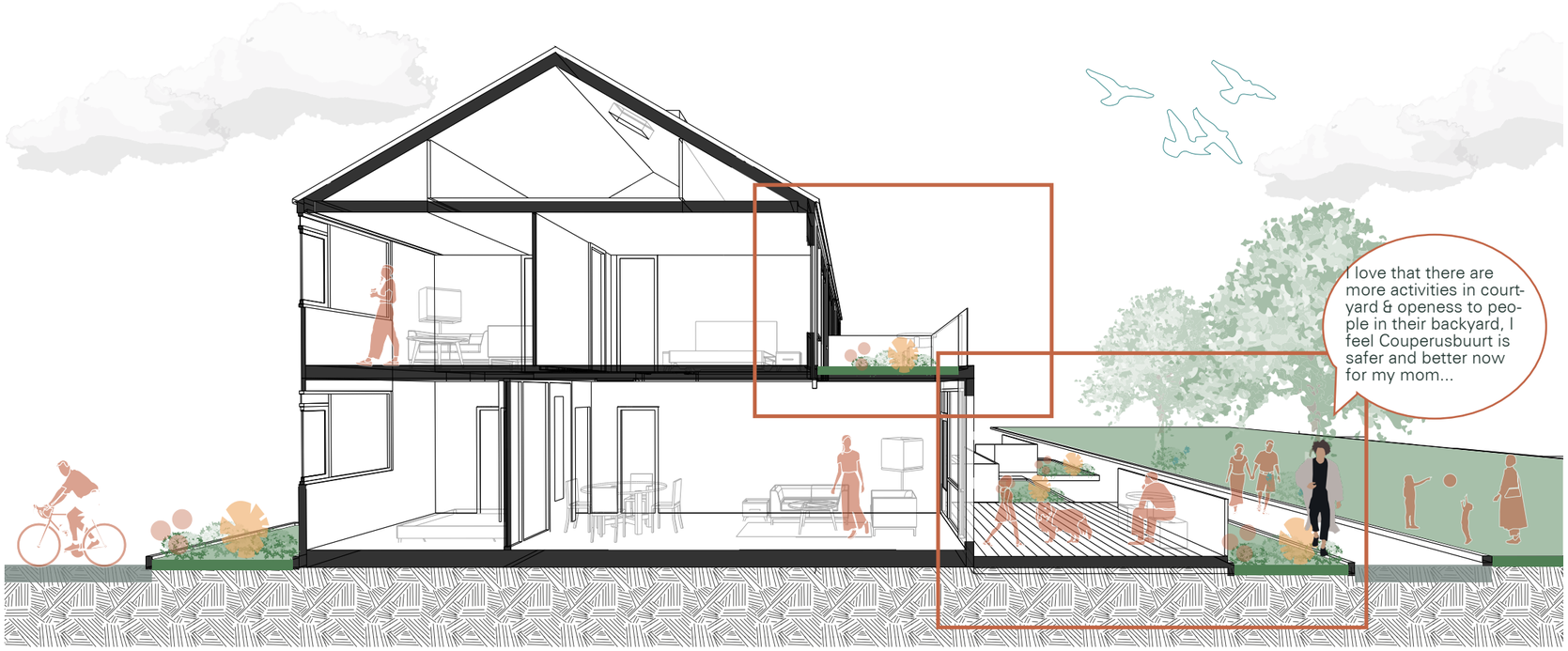
1. **Extension of indoor living** space to provide maximum privacy for the residents.

2. Active functions on different sides of houses (duplexhouses with 2 household) to **increase eye on the streets**

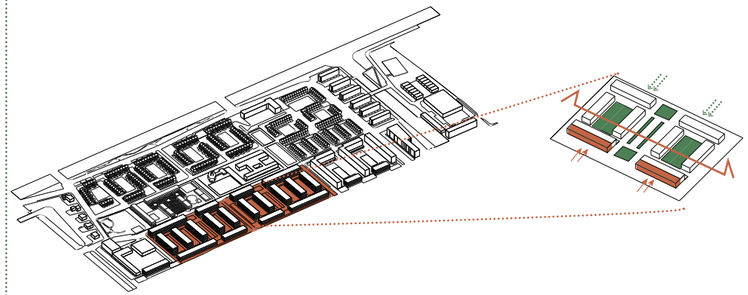


House Typology

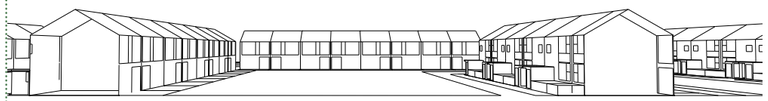
1. **Extension of indoor living** space to provide maximum privacy for the residents.
2. Active functions on different sides of houses (duplexhouses with 2 household) to **increase eye on the streets**
3. Facilitate maximum privacy by providing **private terrace and small garden** as buffer public street.



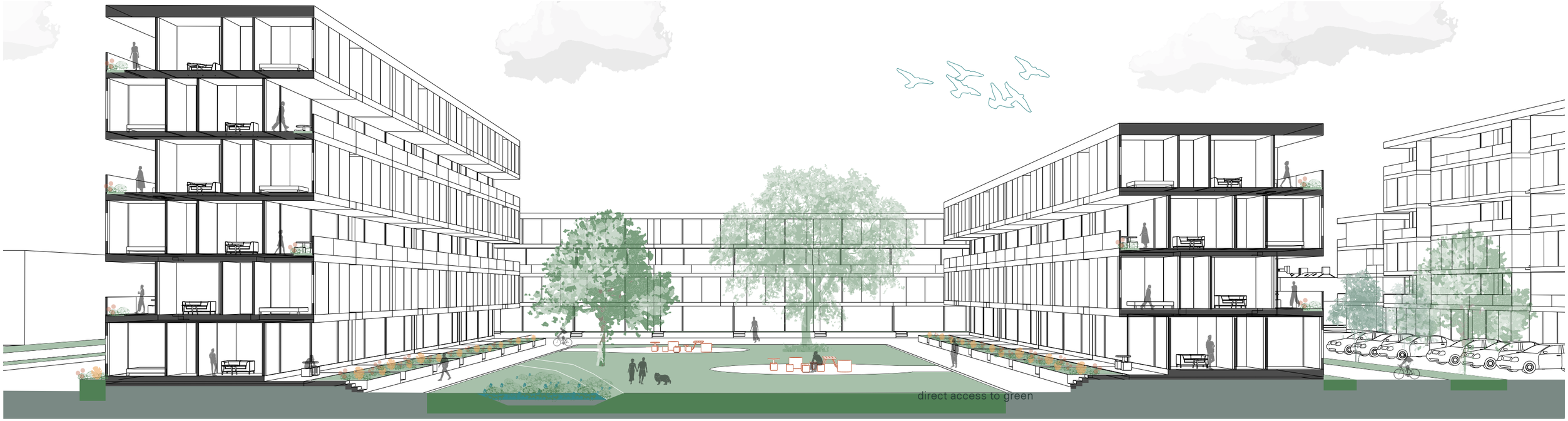
Keyplan



Current condition

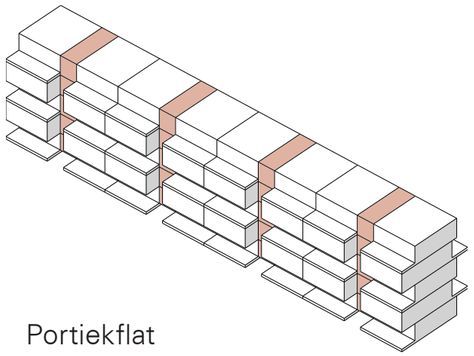


Urban Fabric Modification Area



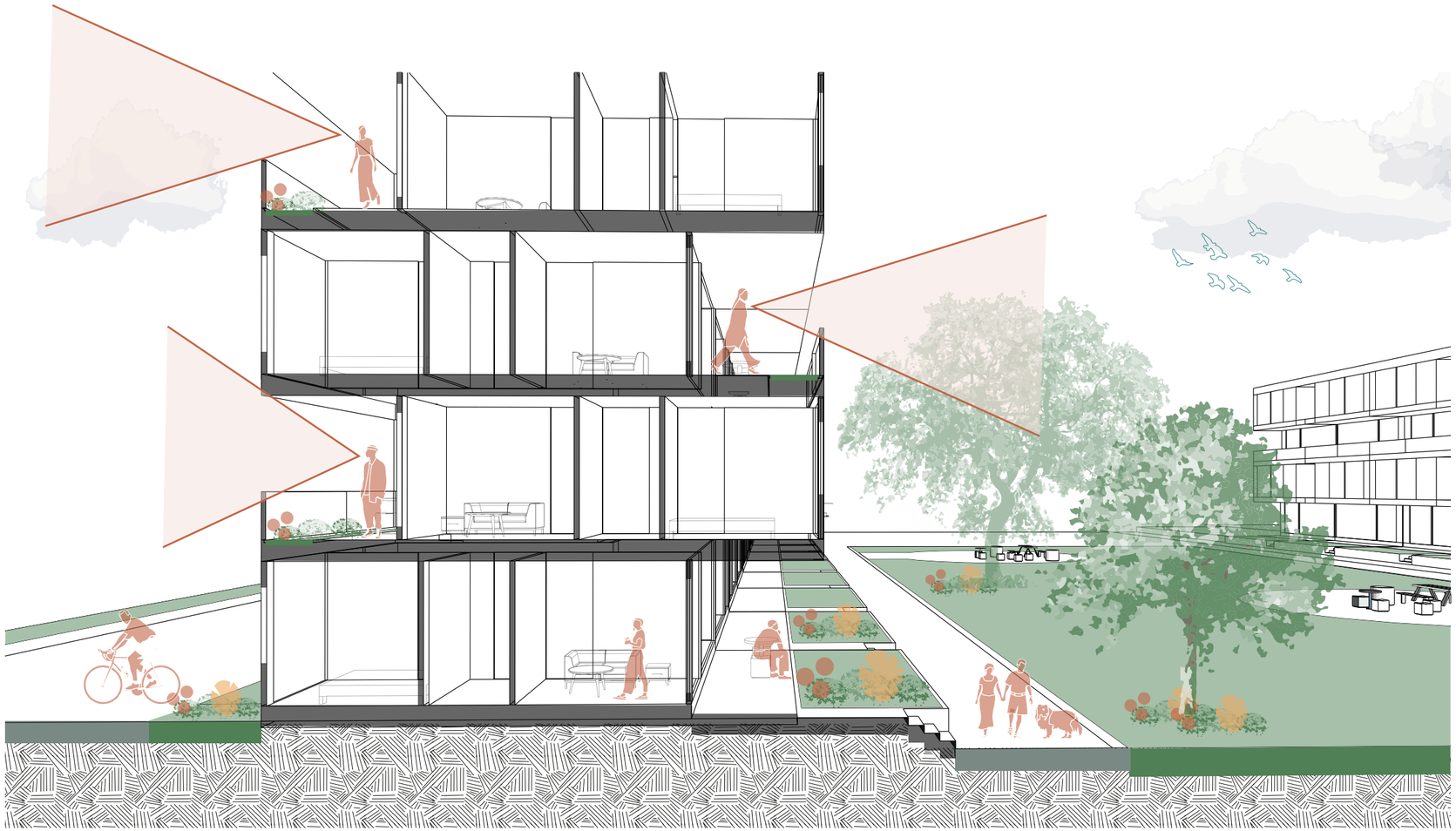
PRIVATE | SEMI PUBLIC | PRIVATE | PUBLIC

House Typology



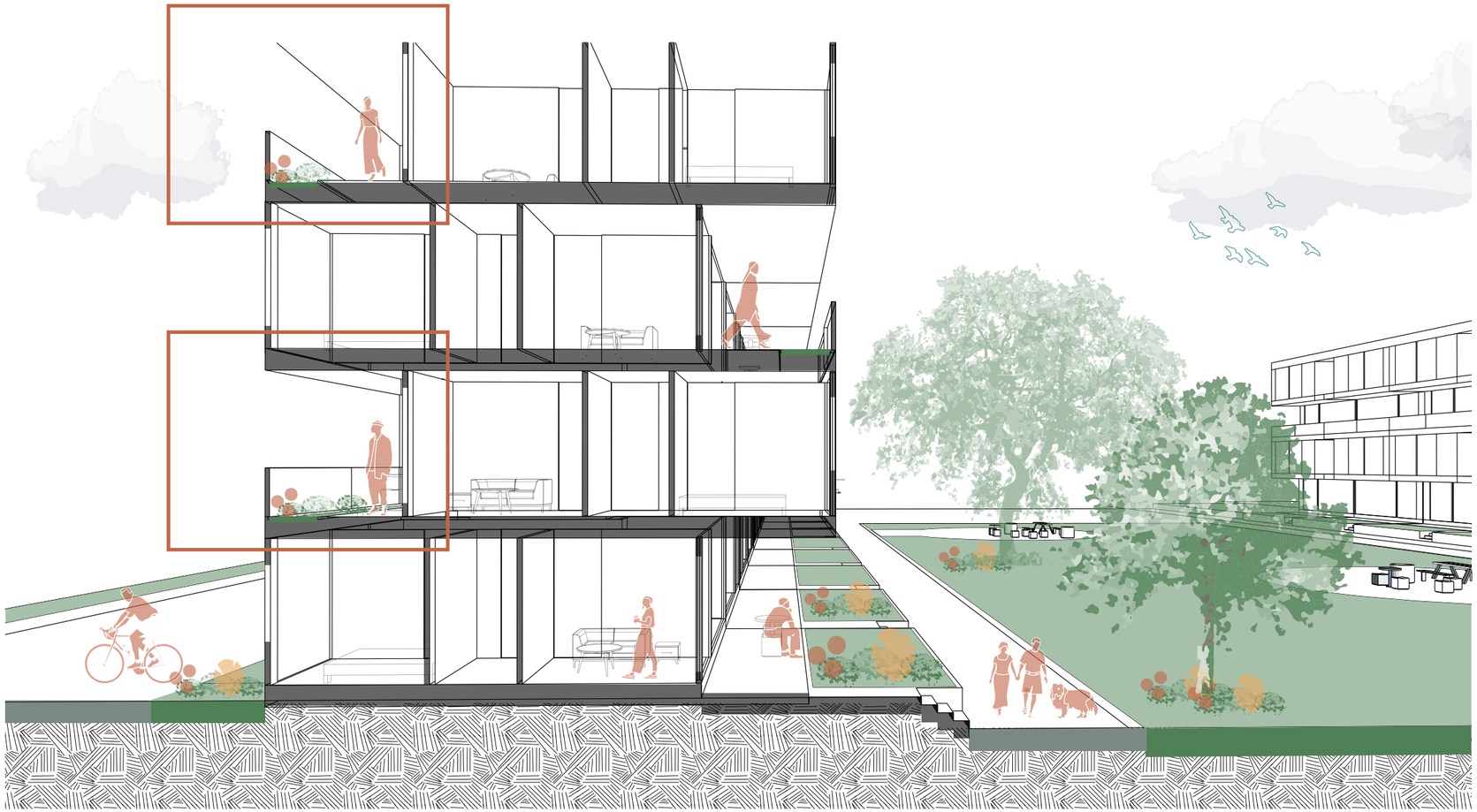
Portiekflat

1 Balcony on different sides of houses to **increase eye on the streets and create dynamic facades**



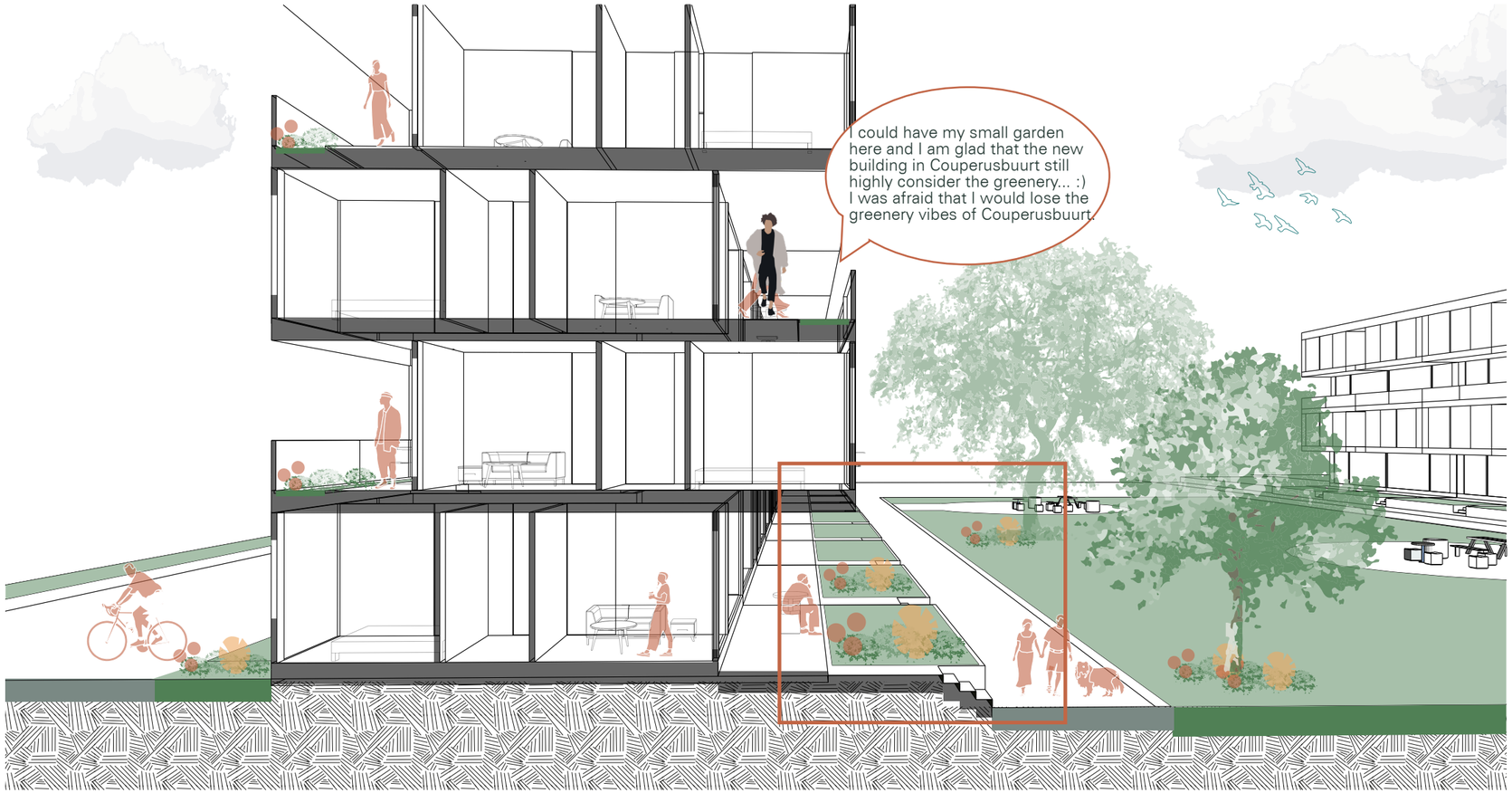
House Typology

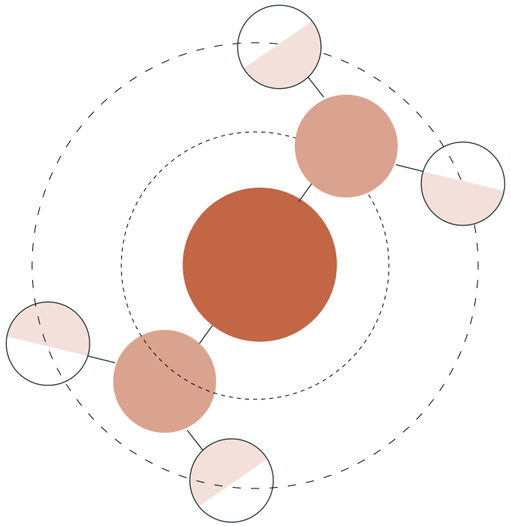
1. Balcony on different sides of houses to **increase eye on the streets and create dynamic facades**
2. Additional small private garden and private balcony **to promote privacy and equal rights of greenery**
3. Height differences private backyard to shared courtyard to create a **clear division of private-public area** without having high walls.



House Typology

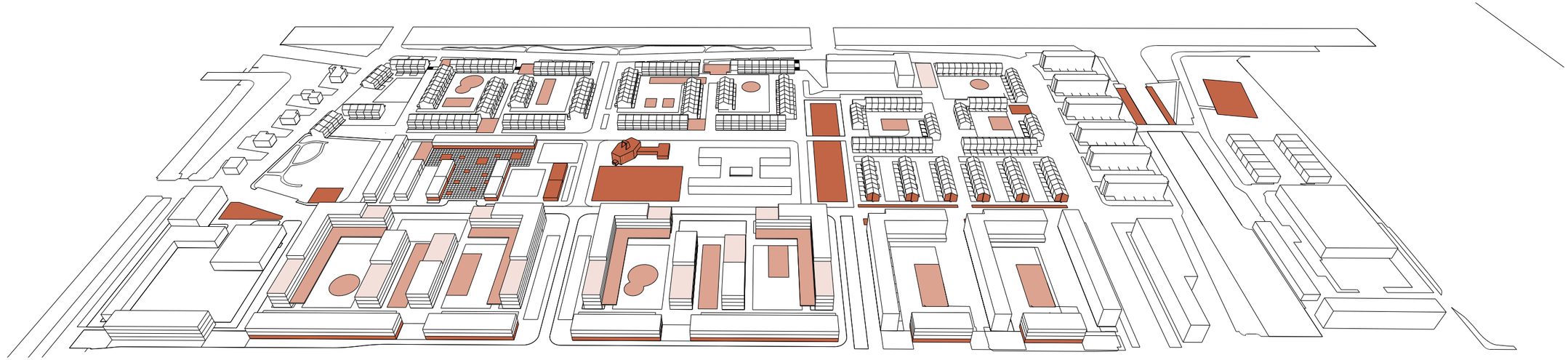
1. Balcony on different sides of houses to **increase eye on the streets and create dynamic facades**
2. Additional small private garden and private balcony **to promote privacy and equal rights of greenery**
3. Height differences private backyard to shared courtyard to create a **clear division of private-public area** without having high walls.



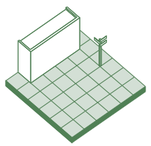


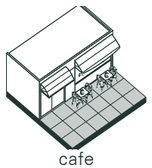
Scenario One: Centralised Collectivity

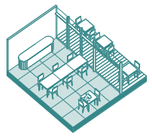
Toolbox of Neighbourhood Bearer

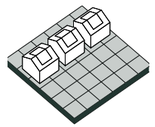


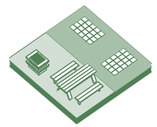
neighbourhood scale — blocks scale

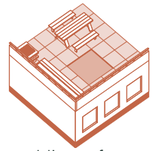

mural / landmark as node for elderly


cafe

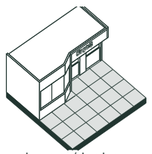

coworking space

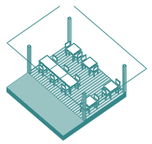

collective garbage bin

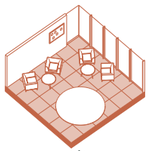

picnic area

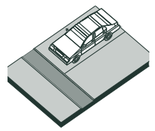

public rooftop

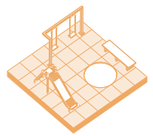
neighbourhood park


shops / bakery


meeting area

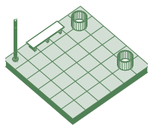

community room


car parking


playground

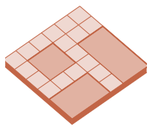
bench

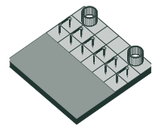
shared balcony


plaza

sports field

office

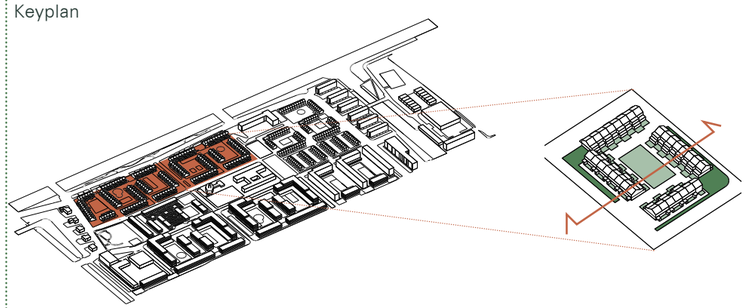

community garden


bicycle parking

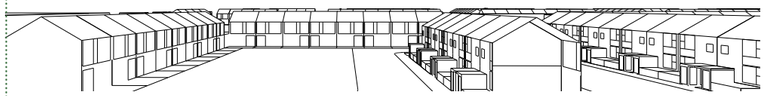
outdoor gym

ELABORATION | Exploration Design of Scenario Two

Keyplan



Current condition



PRIVATE | PUBLIC | PRIVATE | PUBLIC

Toolbox application

1 **Maximising courtyard capacity** as a social meeting space and to provide more living area as **a consequence of less indoor living** space in duplexhouses

playground

outdoor meeting x coworking area

picnic area

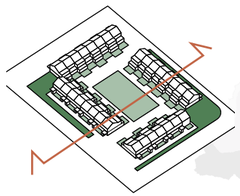
community garden

shared storage

2 **Relocating parking on street** into one collective parking space and placing more public amenities **to create a lively** residential street

bench

bicycle parking



PRIVATE | PUBLIC | PRIVATE | PUBLIC

Improving green quality (sustainability value)

1 Landsacpe management of green covering to **reduce heat** and **promote biodiversity**

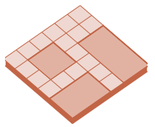
high shading
European beech

animal attractor bushes
Butterfly bush

medium shading
Lindens Tilia

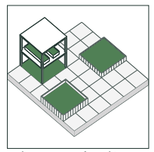
bushes/flower for planter
Little linda

2 Adding community garden in the courtyard to promote **social engagement** and **biodiversity**



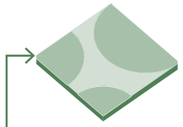
community garden

x



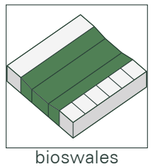
urban agriculture

3 Integrate bioswales to courtyard as **water catchment** area & promote **biodiversity**



neighbourhood park

x



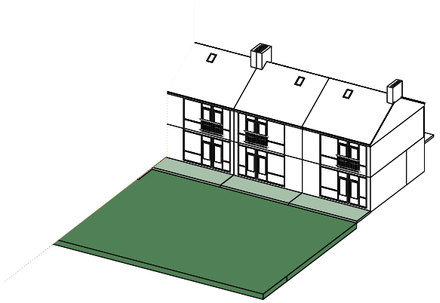
bioswales

wet plants
Watermint

wet plants
European speedwell or Brooklime

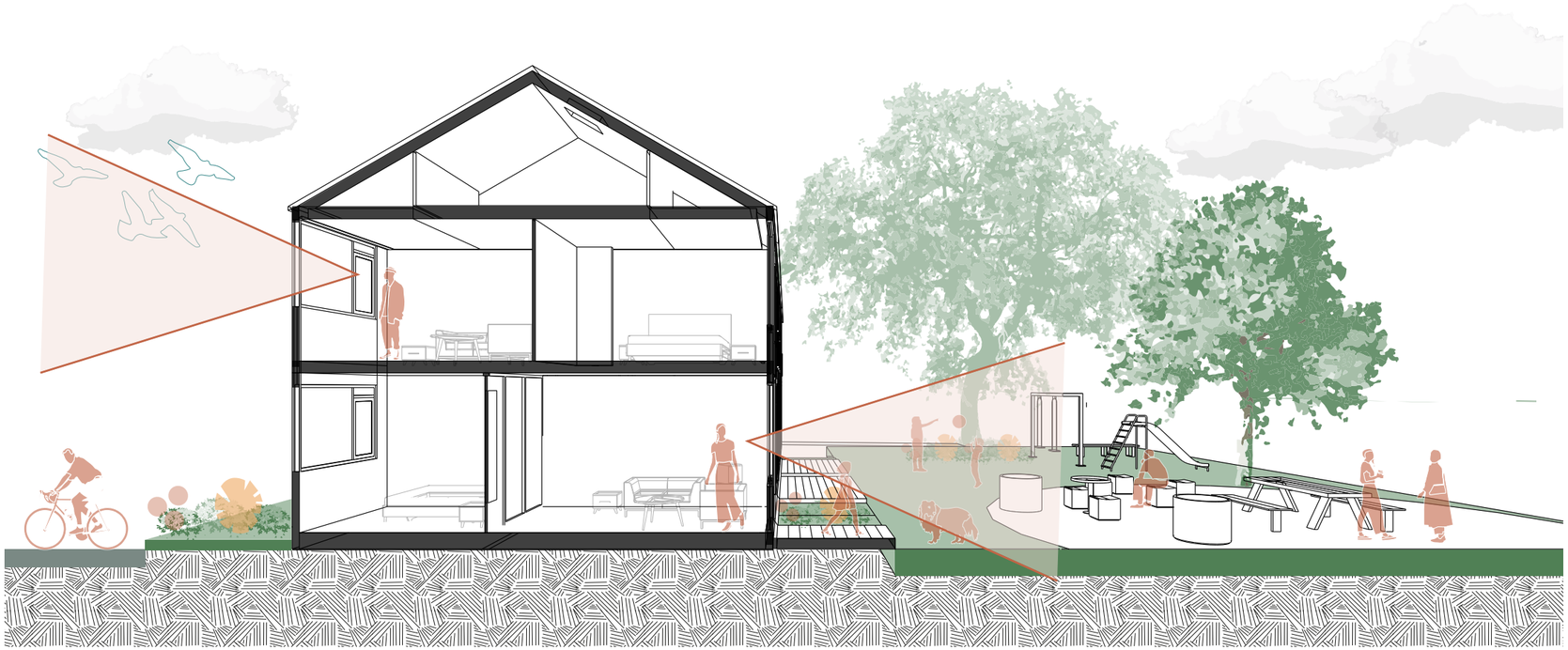
PRIVATE | PUBLIC | PRIVATE | PUBLIC

House Typology



Renovation principle

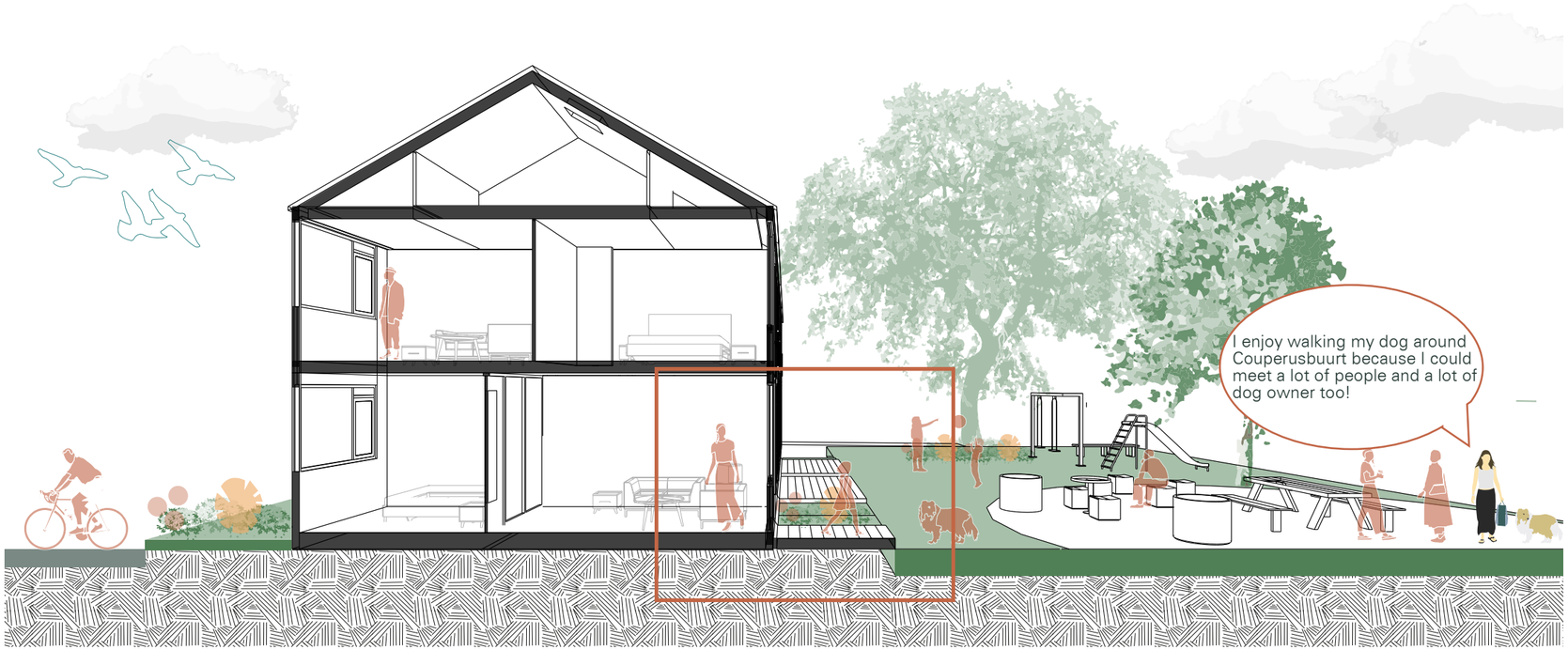
1. Living room function on different sides of houses (duplexhouses with 2 household) to **increase eye on the streets**



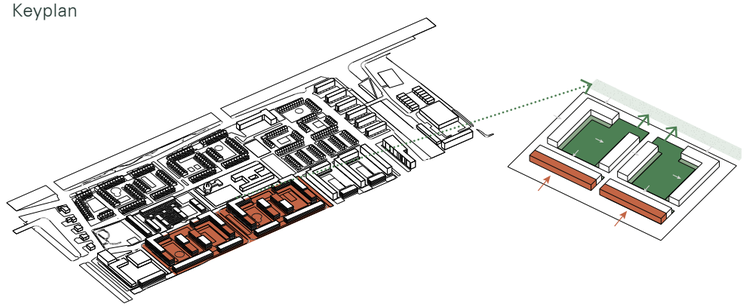
House Typology

1. Living room function on different sides of houses (duplexhouses with 2 household) to **increase eye on the streets**

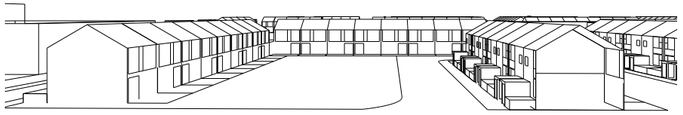
2. **Reduce private backyard** to maximise and promote social engagement in the shared courtyard



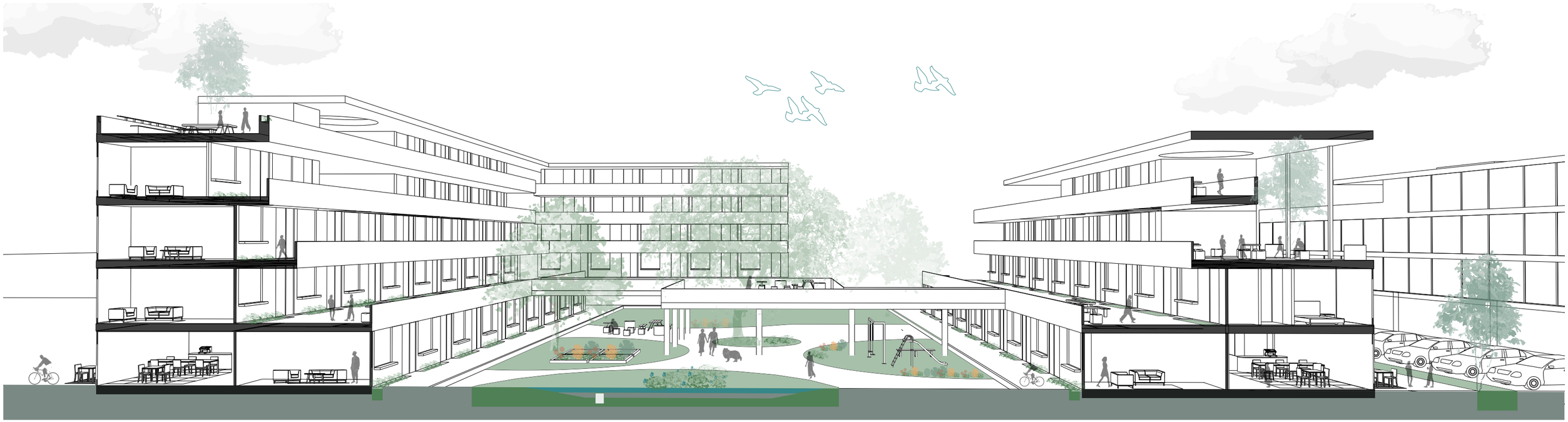
Keyplan



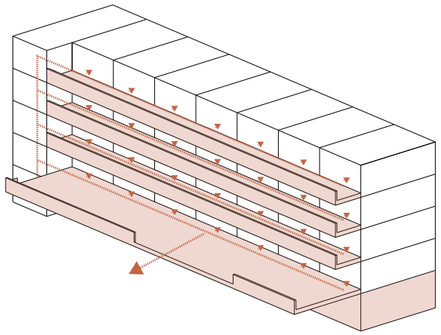
Current condition



Urban Fabric Modification Area



PUBLIC | PRIVATE | PUBLIC | PRIVATE | PUBLIC

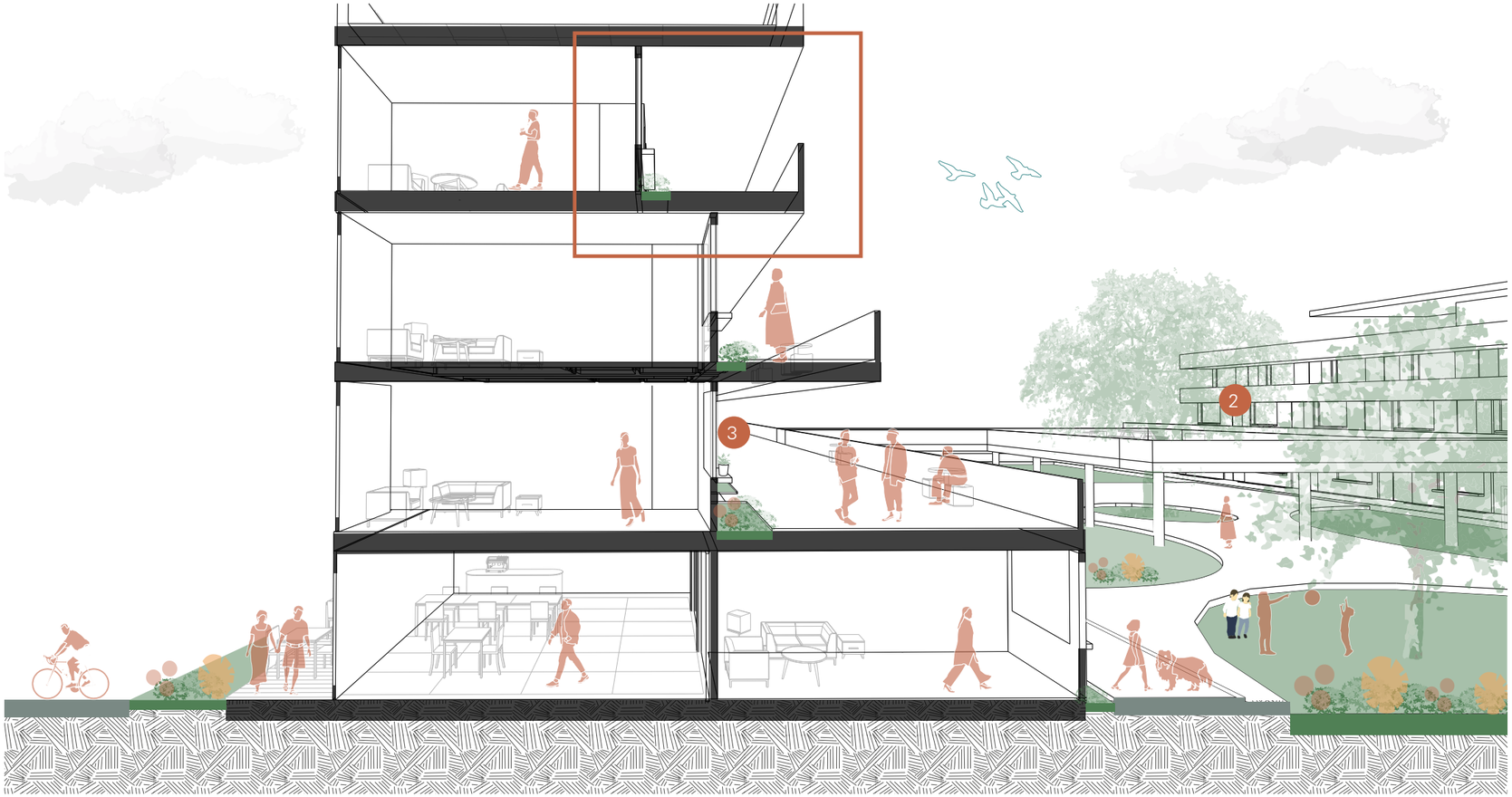


Galerijflat

Housing Typology

1 **Shared balcony** in galerijflat typology to promote social engagement

2 Connection to building across with small public function platform **to promote equal social engagement for all residents who live on the top floors and ground floor.**



Housing Typology

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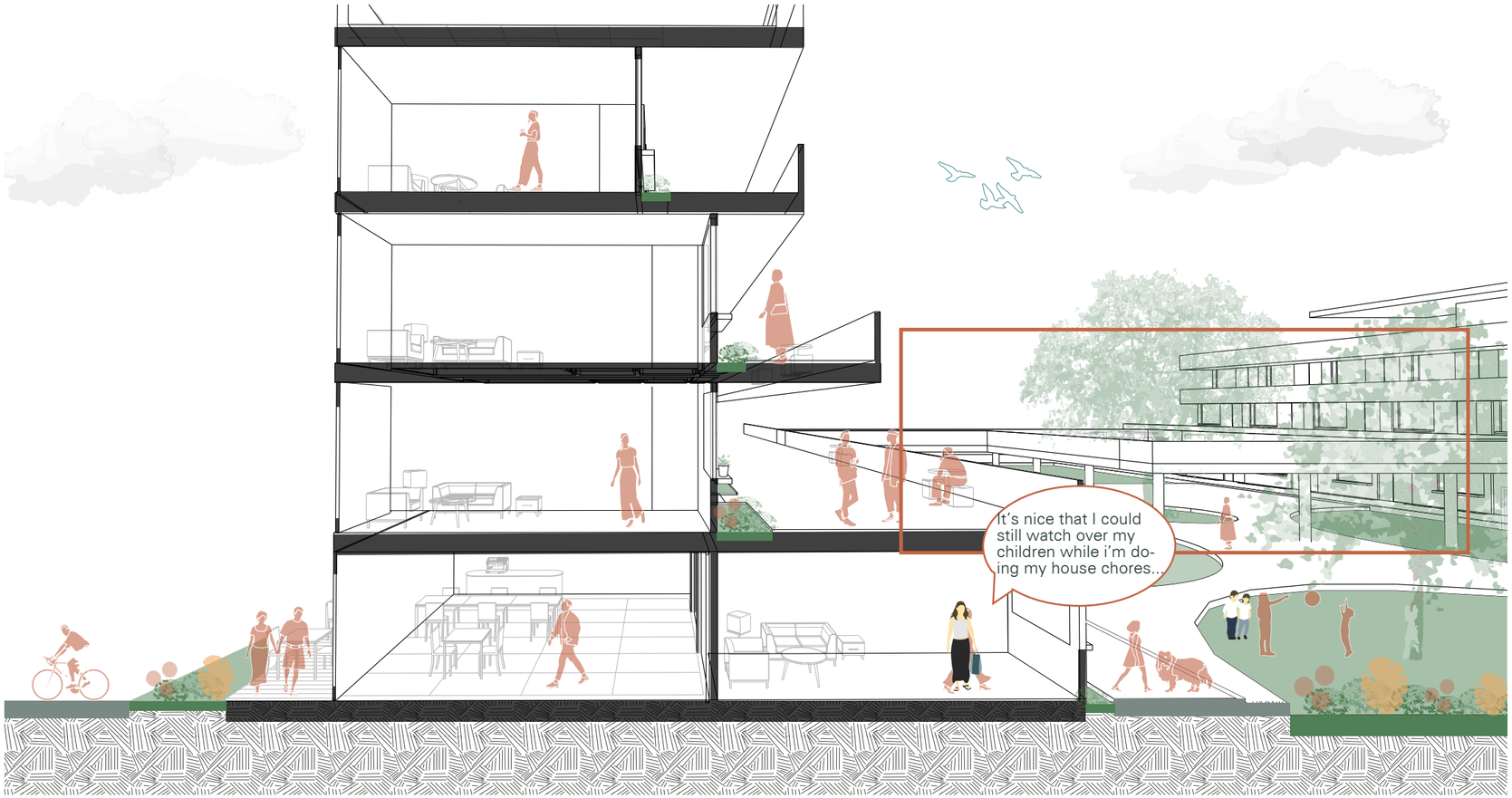
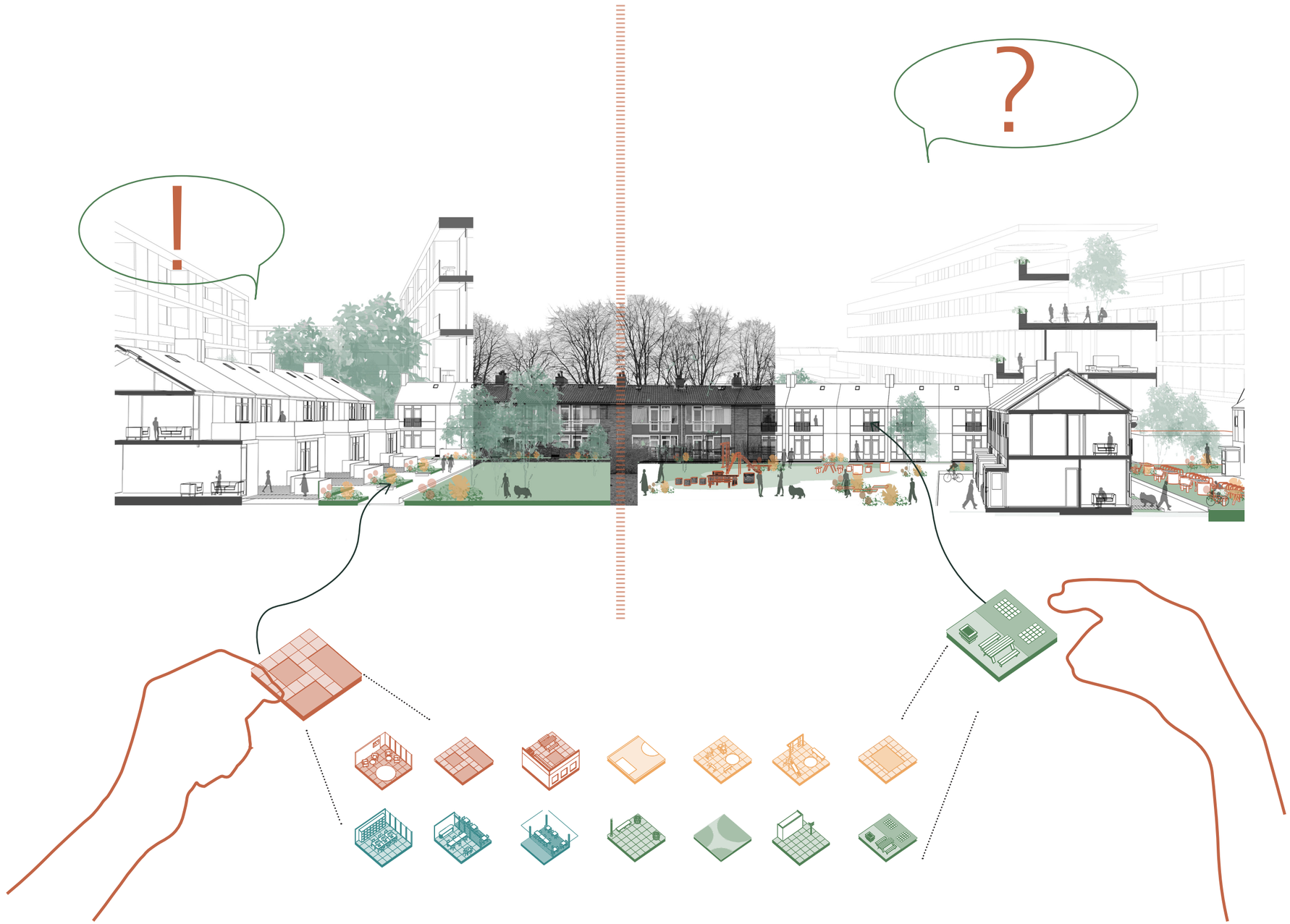




Shared platform

Information Participate Contact us

IMAGINE

Couperusbuurt 2030

1

INVESTIGATION

of heritage value

2

INTEGRATION

with planning strategy

3

ELABORATION

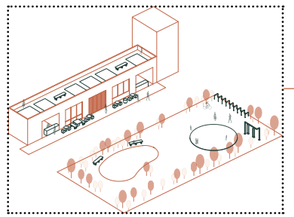
of design explorations

4

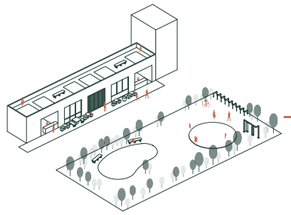
REFLECTION

conclusion & transferability

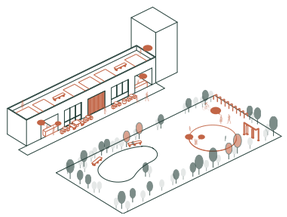
URBAN FORM



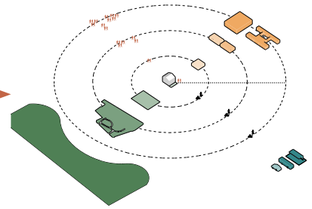
URBAN RESIDENTS



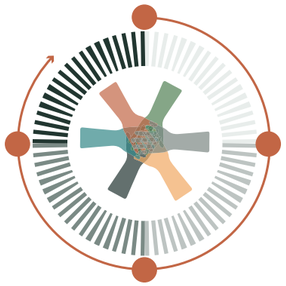
URBAN RESIDENTS



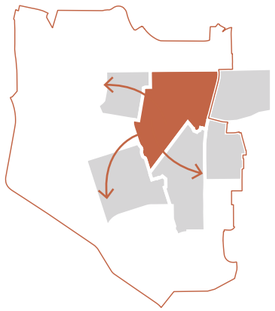
SPATIAL STRATEGY



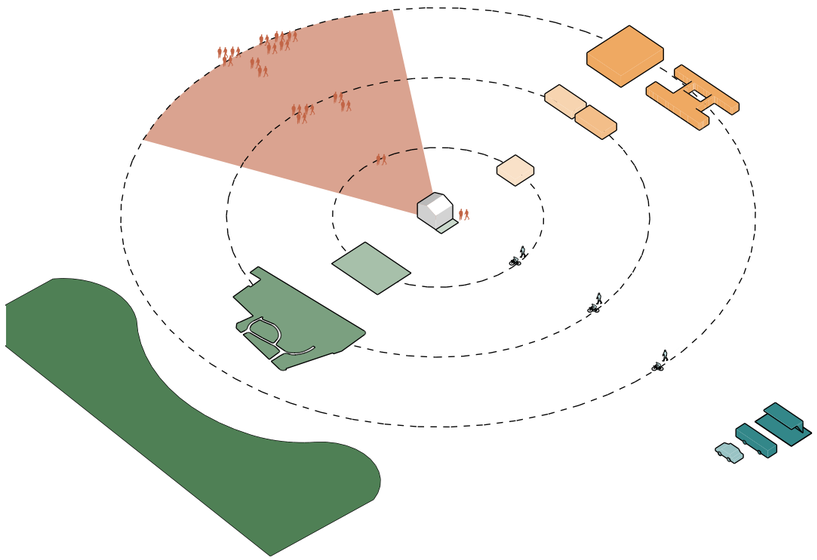
SOCIAL STRATEGY

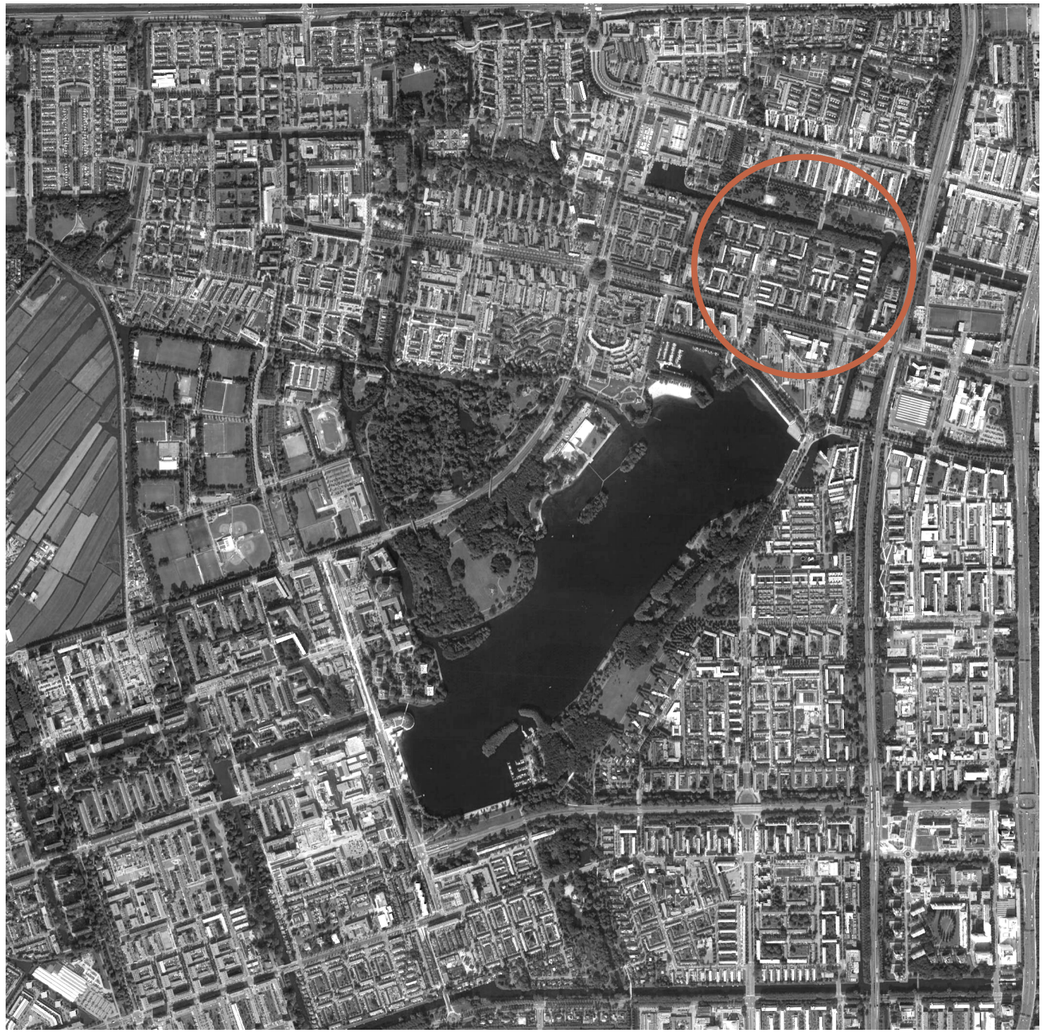


SCENARIO DESIGN



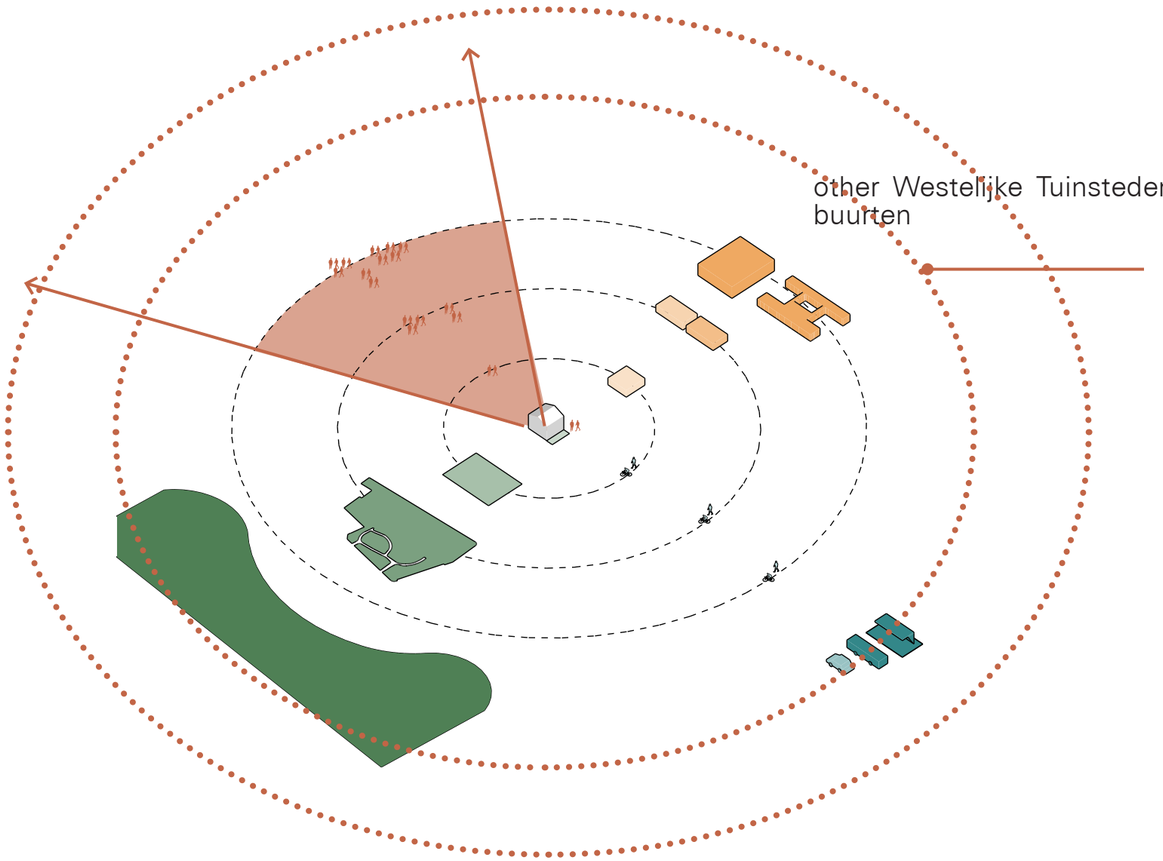
PROBLEMS | Densification pressure to the historical urban form



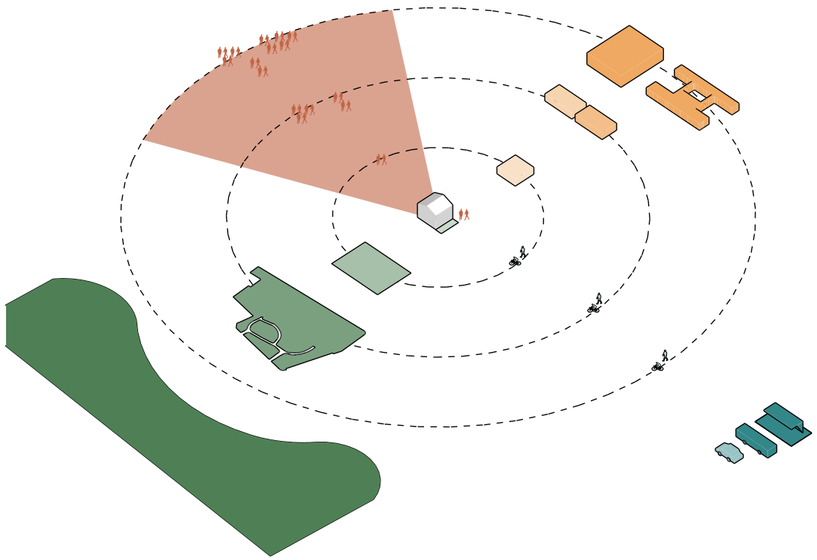


historical urban form

Catalyst of Collectivity Value in Renewal



Pilot Project for other Buurten



RENEWAL OF COUPERUSBUURT

INVESTIGATION

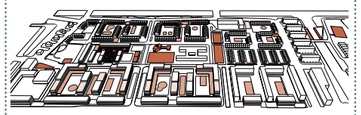
INTEGRATION

ELABORATION

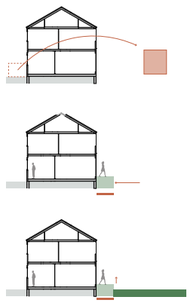
REFLECTION

Design scenarios

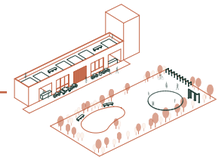
Distribution of neighbourhood bearer



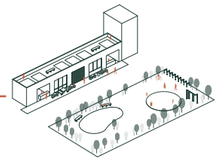
Design principles



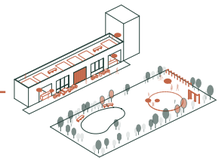
FORM



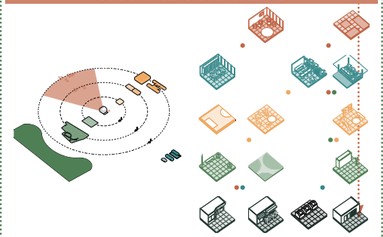
RESIDENTS



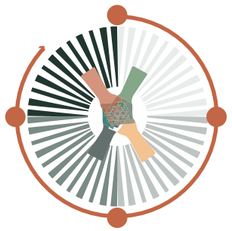
LIFE



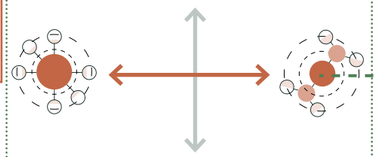
COMMUNITY-DRIVEN SPATIAL STRATEGY

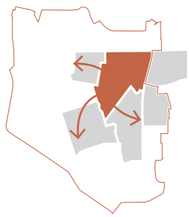


PARTICIPATORY PLANNING

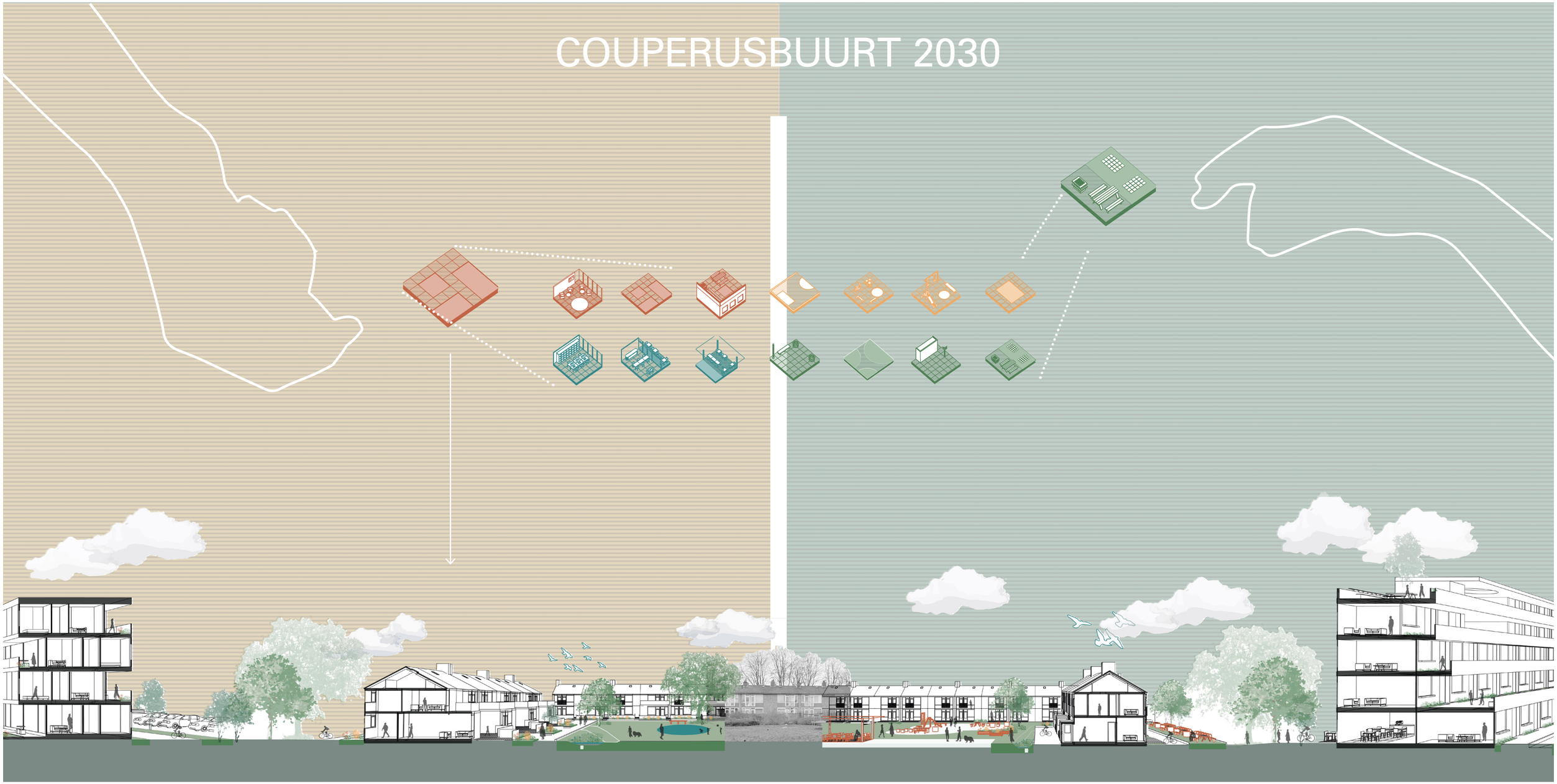


SCENARIOS OF COUPERUSBUURT





high transferability
moderate
low


COUPERUSBUURT 2030