

An aerial photograph of a paved plaza with a grid of square tiles. In the center-left, a bronze statue of a figure with raised arms sits on a brick pedestal. A long shadow of the statue is cast to the left. To the right, a small figure of a person is walking, also casting a shadow.

THE INTERWOVEN CITY

reconnecting the social fabric to
urban layered heritage landscapes

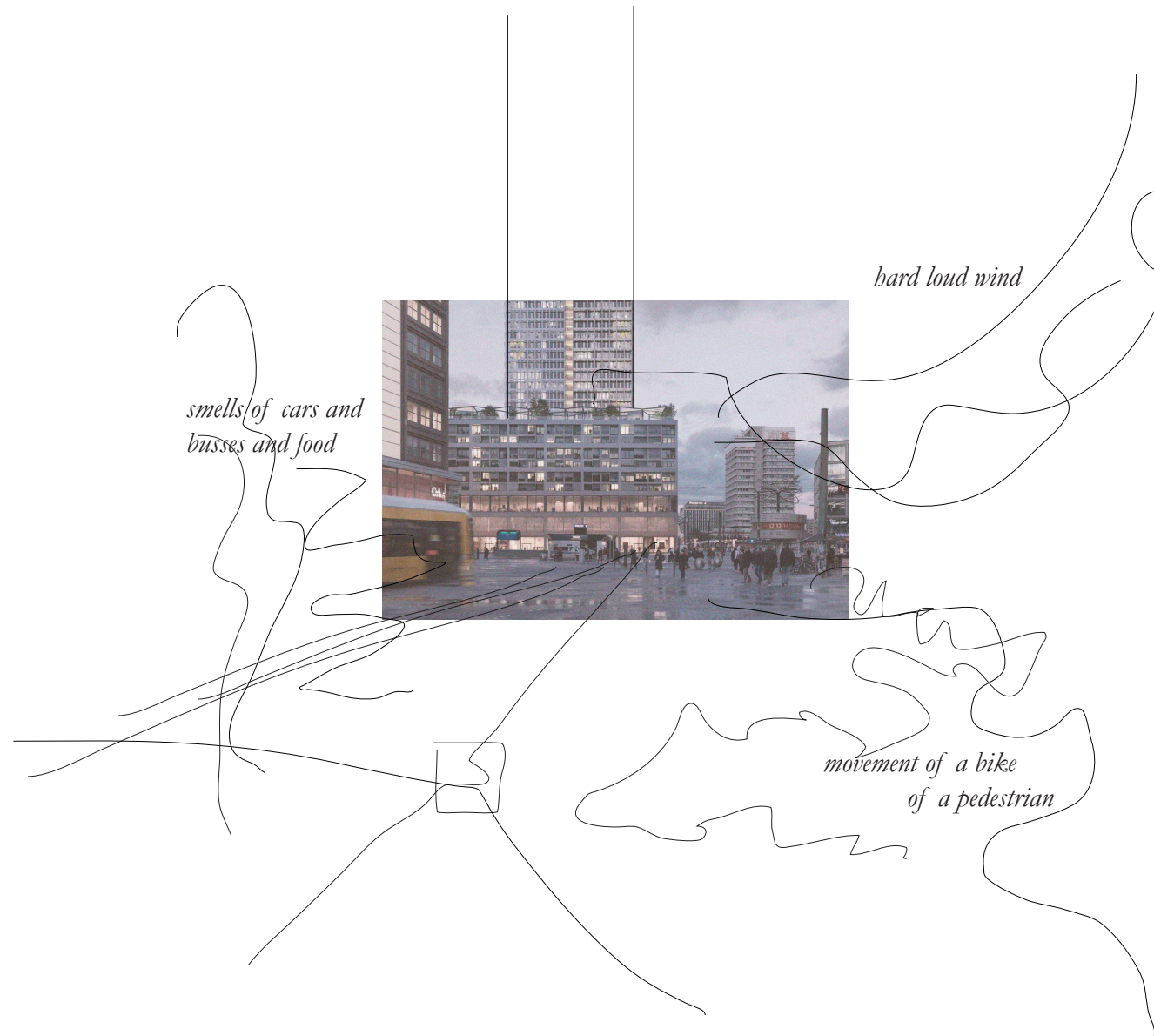
*P5 Presentation | Lise Ellens
Design of the urban fabric
26.07.2025*

- 1 Theory & topic
- 2 Analysis
- 3 Design projection
- 4 Conclusion & reflection

1. Theory & topic

‘The tendency (...) to focus one-sidedly on ecological issues has neglected the complex nature of landscape.’

(G. De Block, et al., 2019, p.5)



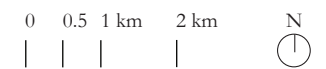
Context



“The new city, the postmodern city, has to be consumed primarily as a spectacle. The streets are not there to be used, but to be viewed, to become part of a broader space of consumption. They offer the individual a landscape to traverse, but one that is increasingly homogenized and emptied of historical and social significance.”

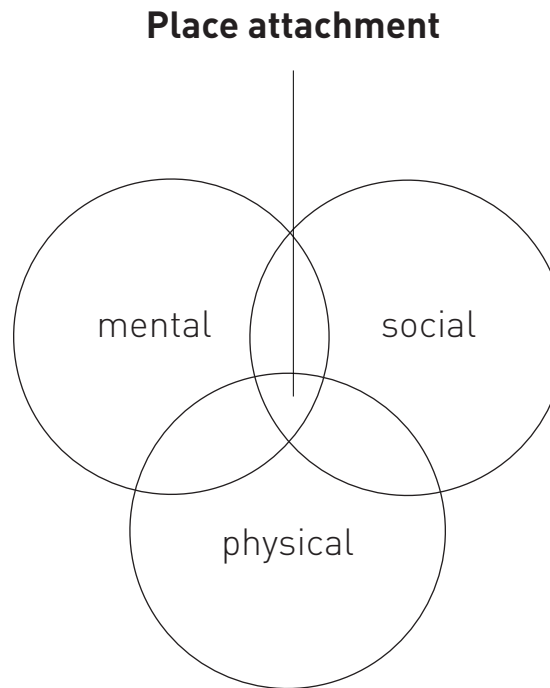
The Condition of Postmodernity (Harvey, 1989, p. 199)

- municipality border
- fire edge
- bombed area
- current center
- built environment



Location

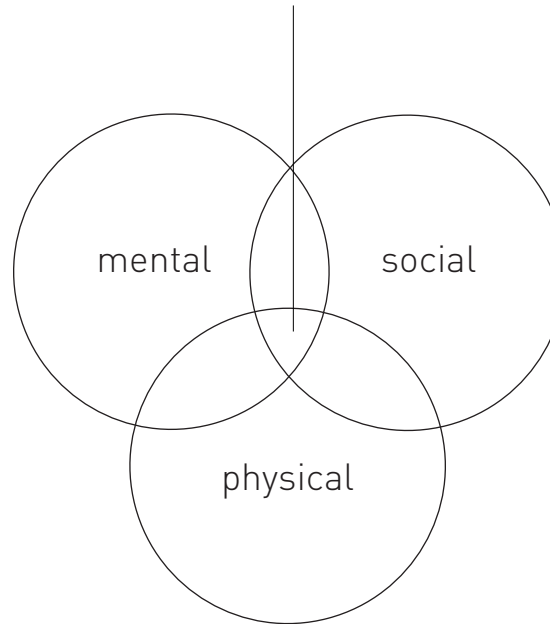
The three aspects of place attachment.
Based on Relph, Montgomery, Soja, etc.



Theory

Place attachment

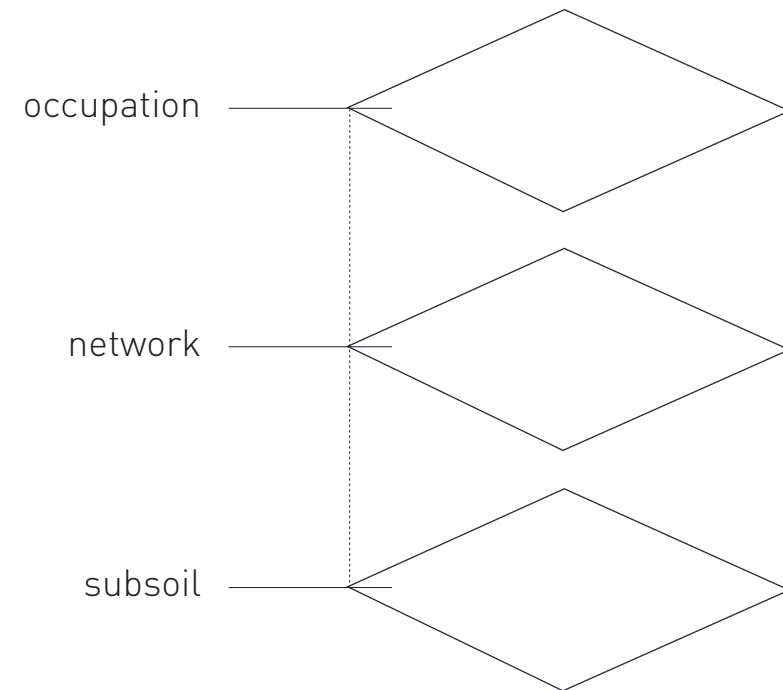
The **subjective and emotional meaning** attached to a place such as memories, identity and narratives.



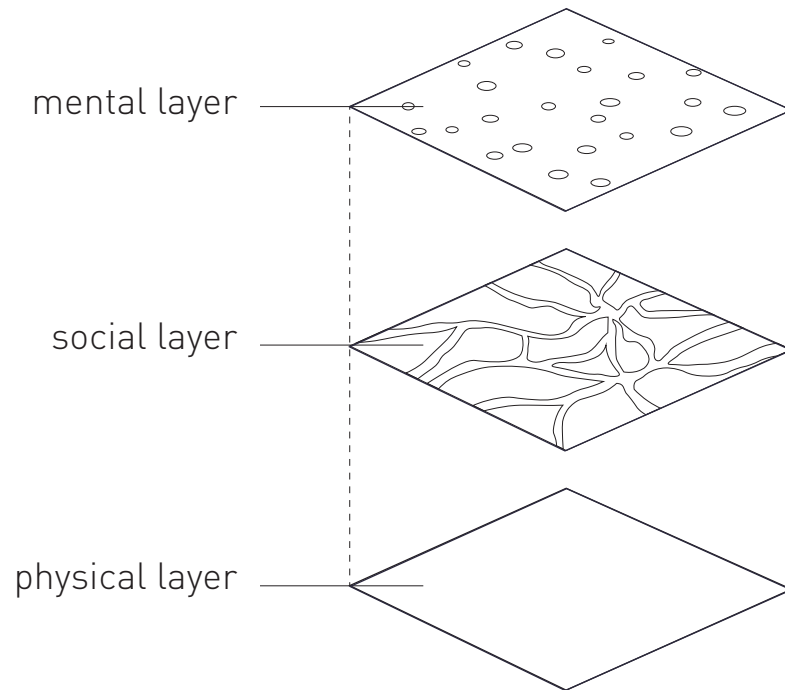
The way people **use** the space based on planned and unplanned **activity**

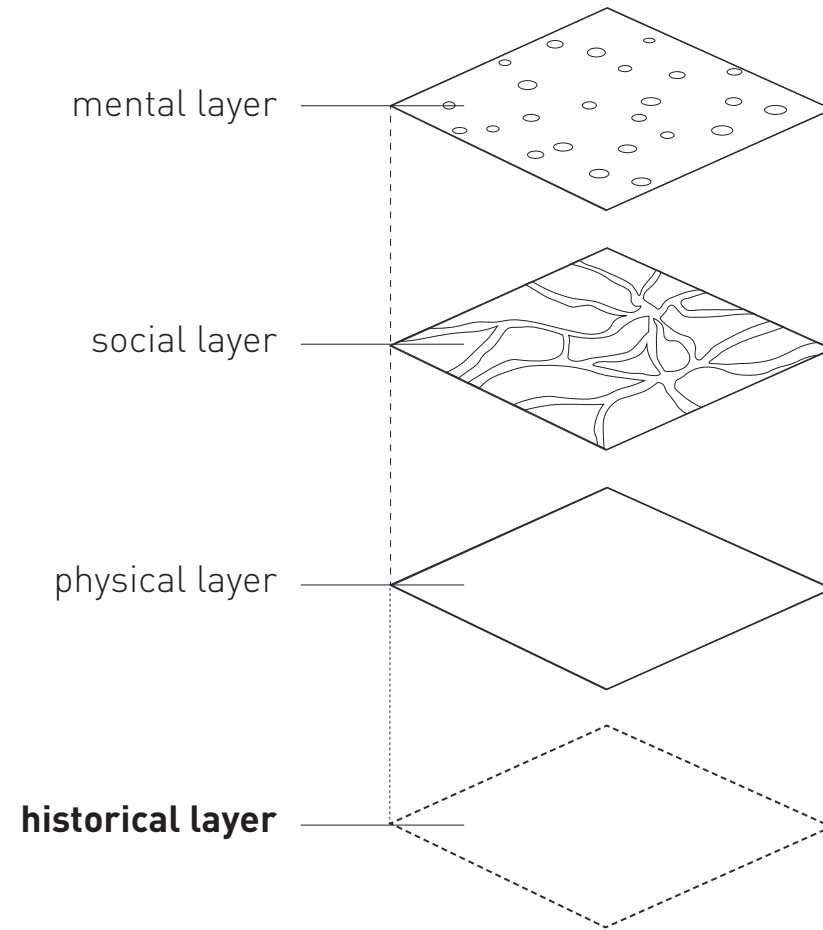
The physical structure that shapes the **spatial conditions** and **legibility**

Landscape layer approach

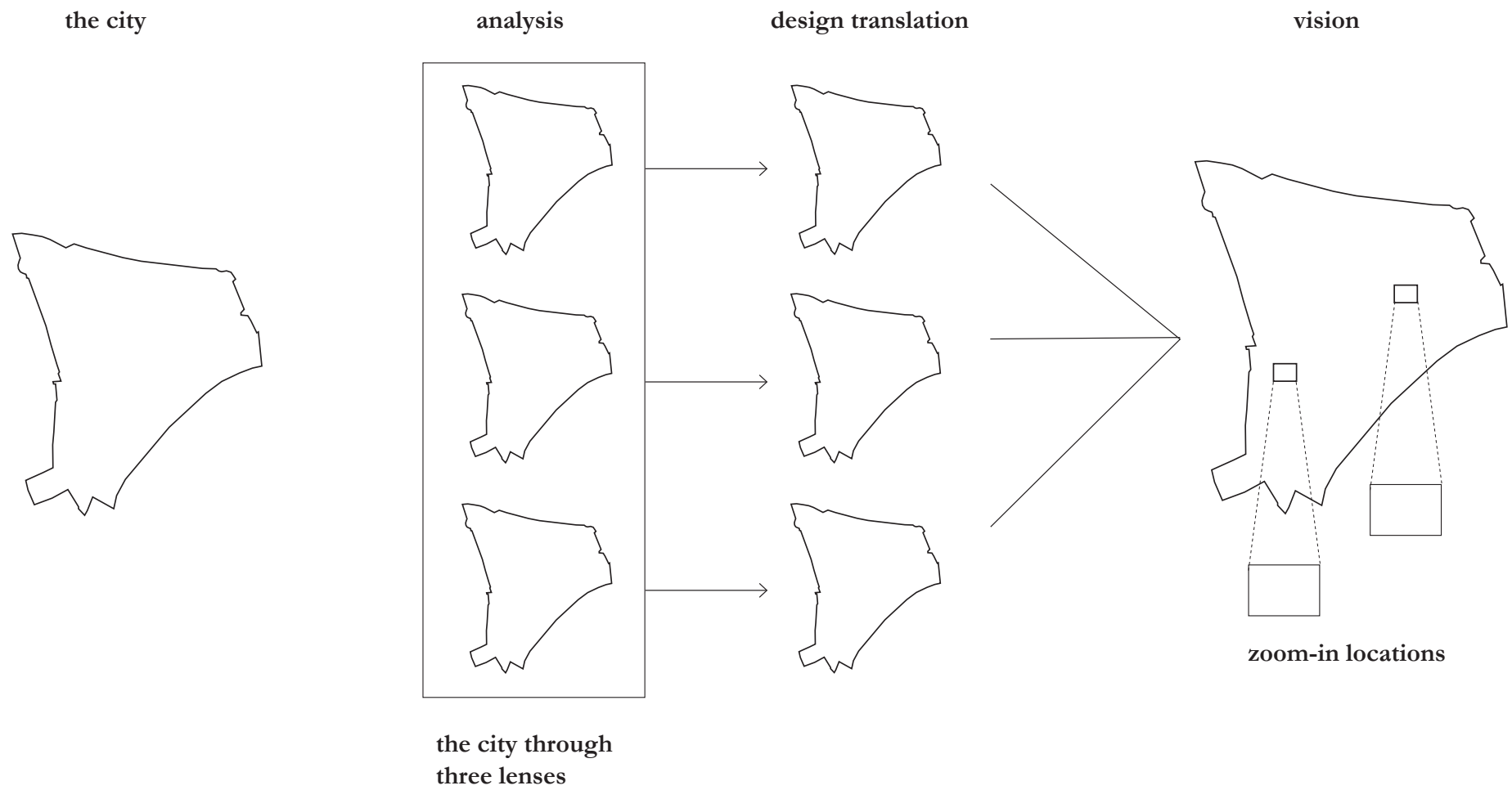


**Place attachment as
landscape layer approach**

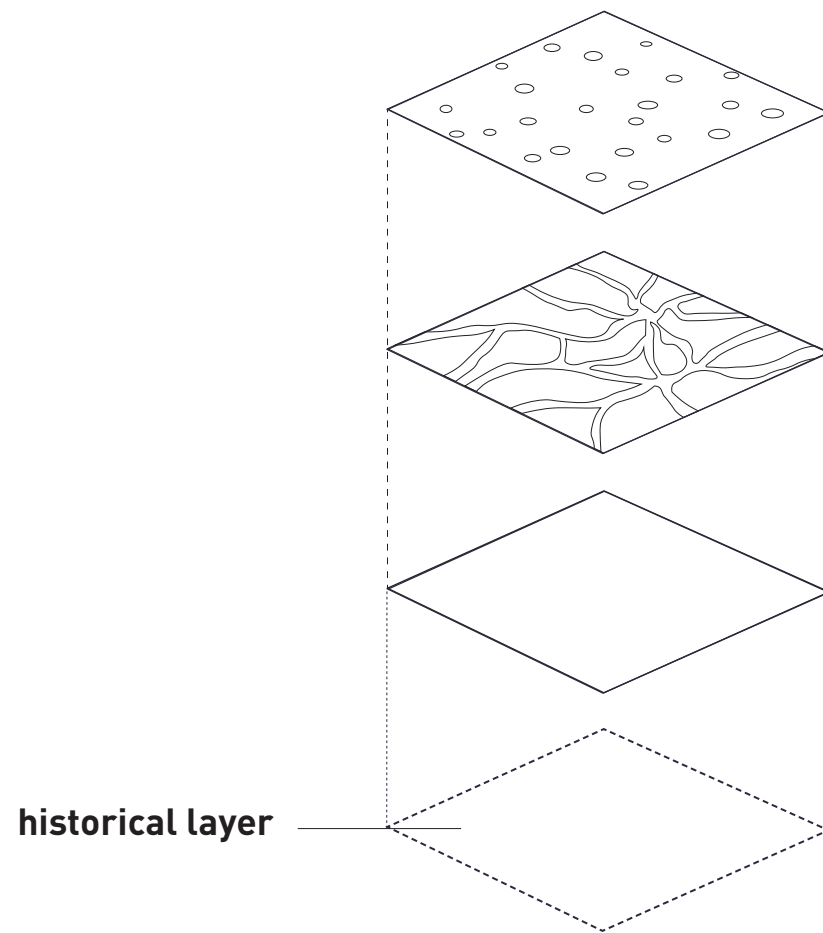




What can **urban green spaces** contribute to enhancing **public spaces**
as connectors to the social fabric in the **Stadsdriehoek** of Rotterdam?

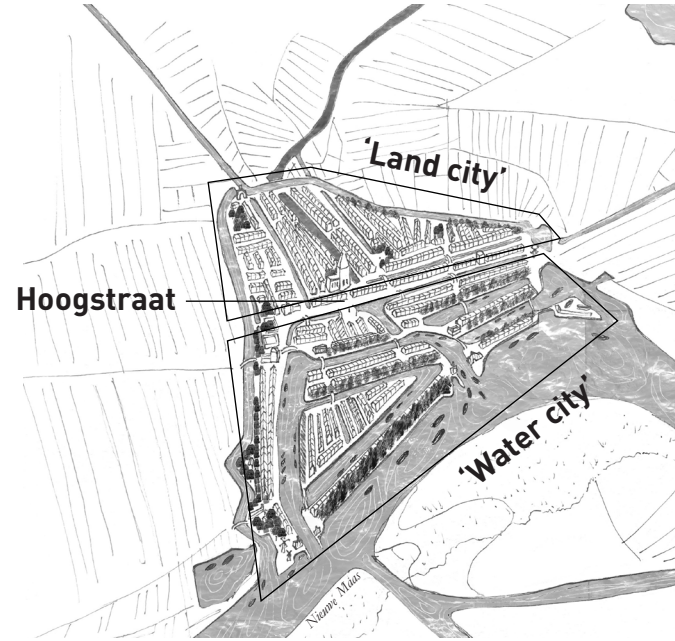


2. Analysis

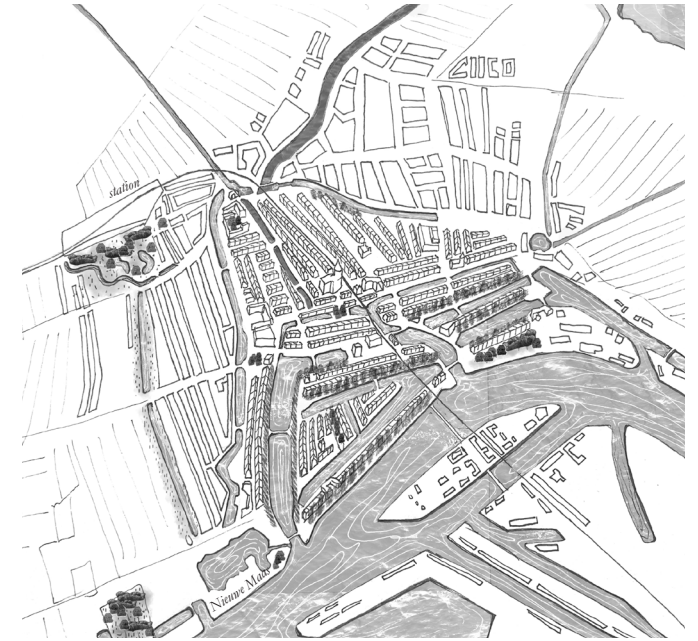




1340



1700



1900

water ●
 Rotte ●
 public green spaces 🌳

Historical analysis

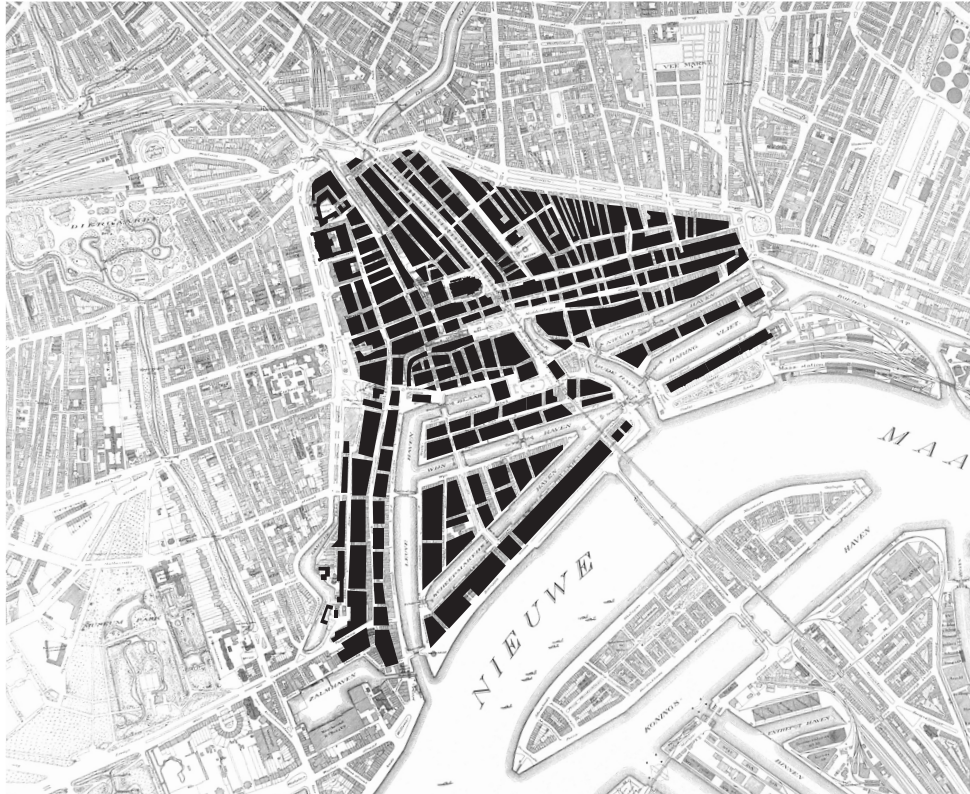
14 may 1940

- survived buildings
- fire zone / edge
- Stadsdriehoek
- == waterways 1940



0 100 200m 500m N

Historical analysis



1935



1995

Historical analysis

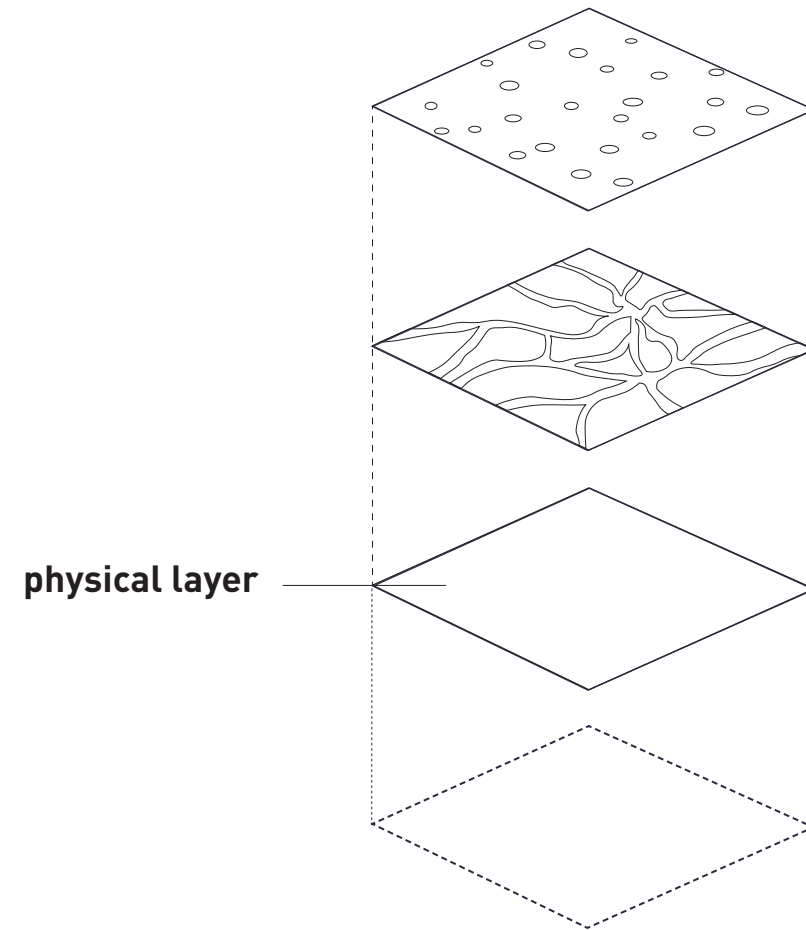
1935



1965

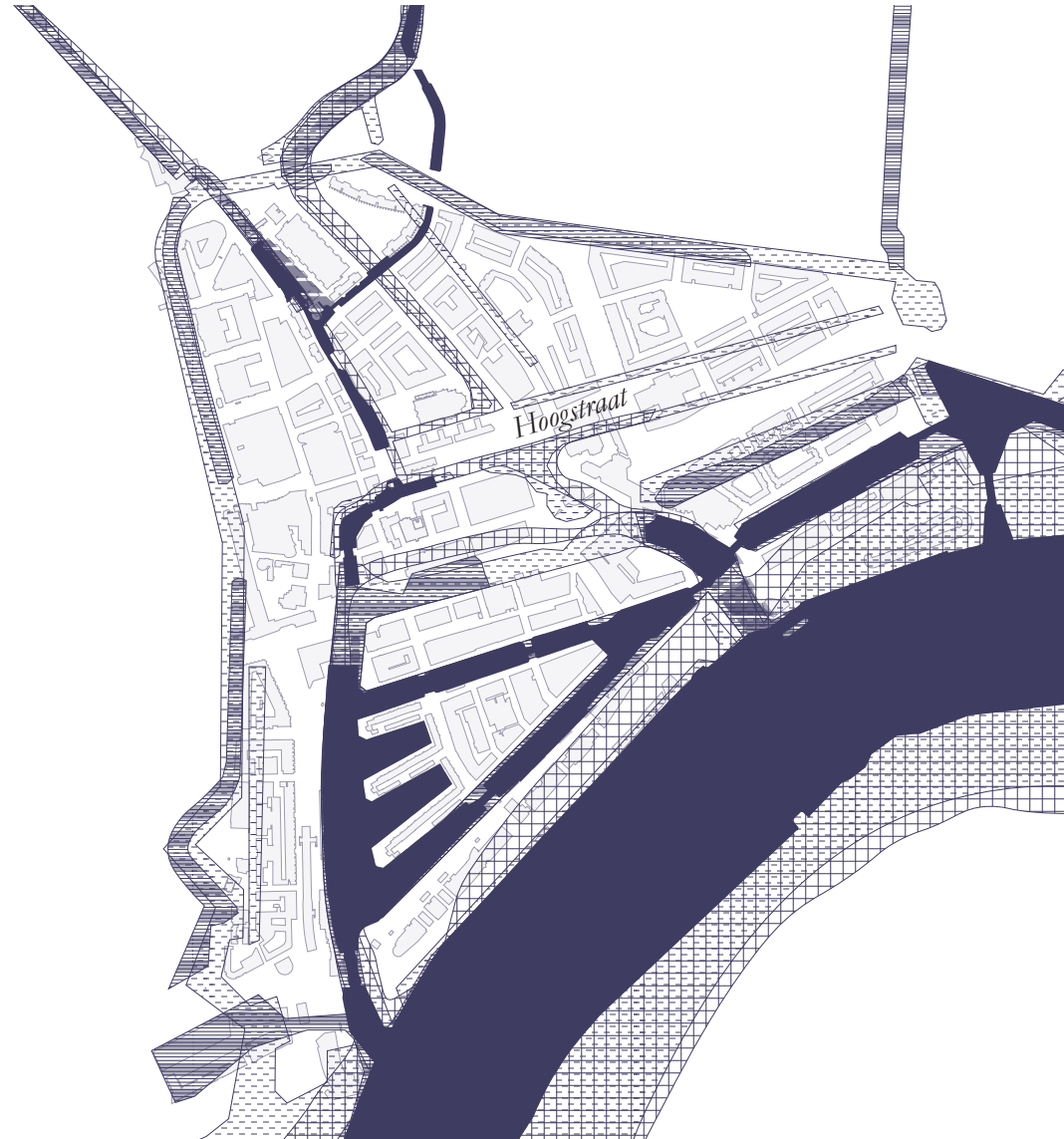


THE PHYSICAL LANDSCAPE

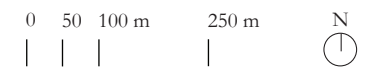


The physical structure that shapes the
spatial conditions and **legibility**

- ⊕ 1340
- ⊗ 1700
- ⊖ 1900
- ≡ 1930
- 1960
- 2025
- buildings 2025

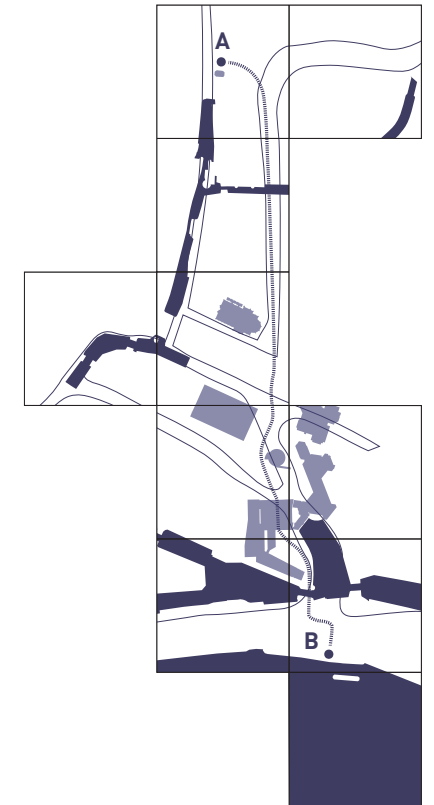


Historical waterways



Physical layer

Experience old course of the Rotte (Google Maps. (n.d.)



Physical layer

buildings

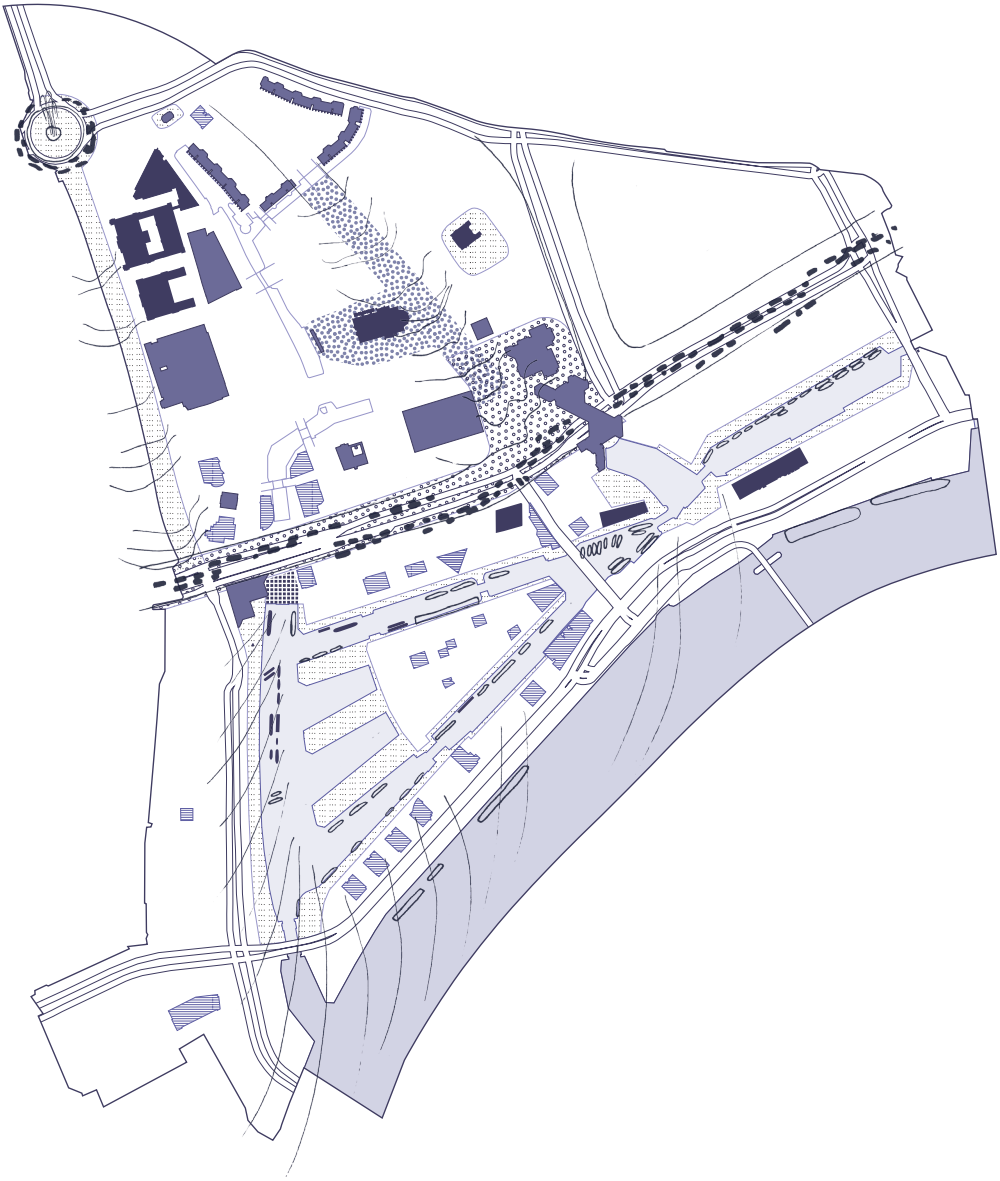
- historical
- iconic
- ▨ highrise

water

- canals
- Watercity/ old harbour
- river Maas

Public spaces with historical relevance

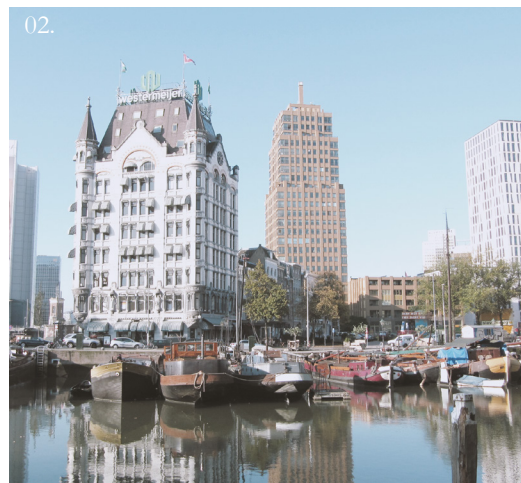
- ▨ Rotte and Laurenskerk
(1350 - 1600)
- ▨ Harbour and water defenses
(1500 - 1800)
- ▨ World war II (1940)
- ▨ Reconstruction
(1960 - 1990)



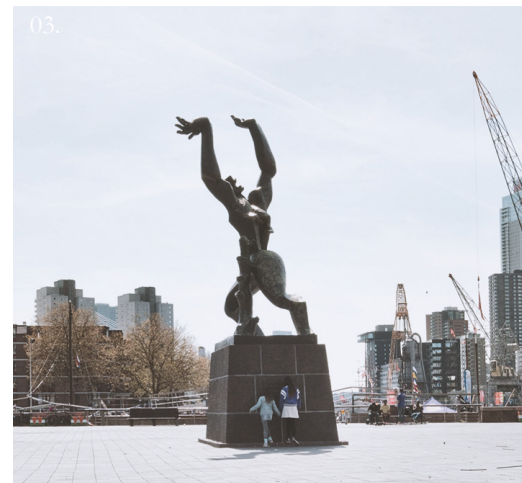
Physical layer



⚙️ Rotte and Laurenskerk
(1350 - 1600)



🌐 Harbour and water defenses
(1500 - 1800)

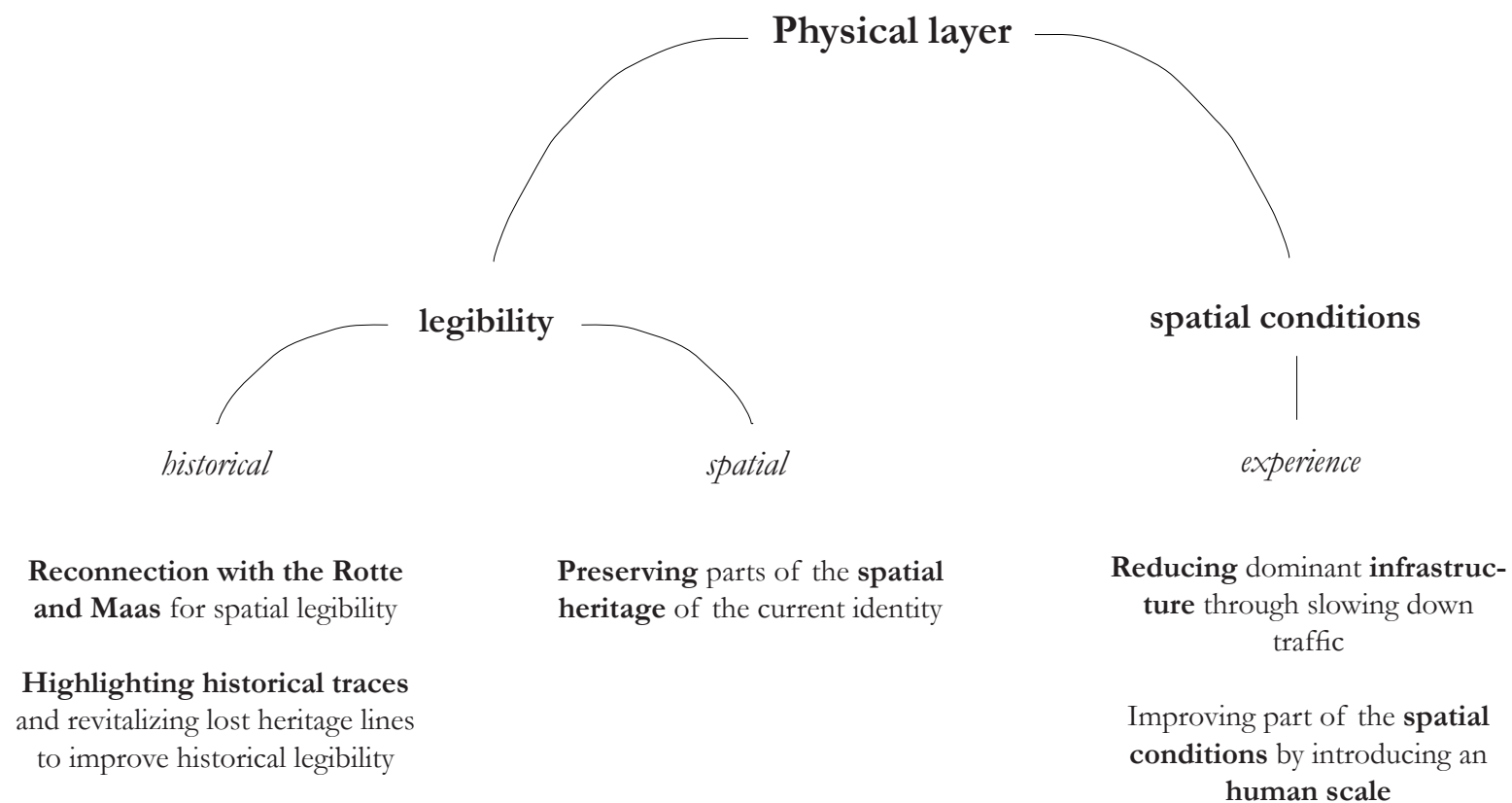


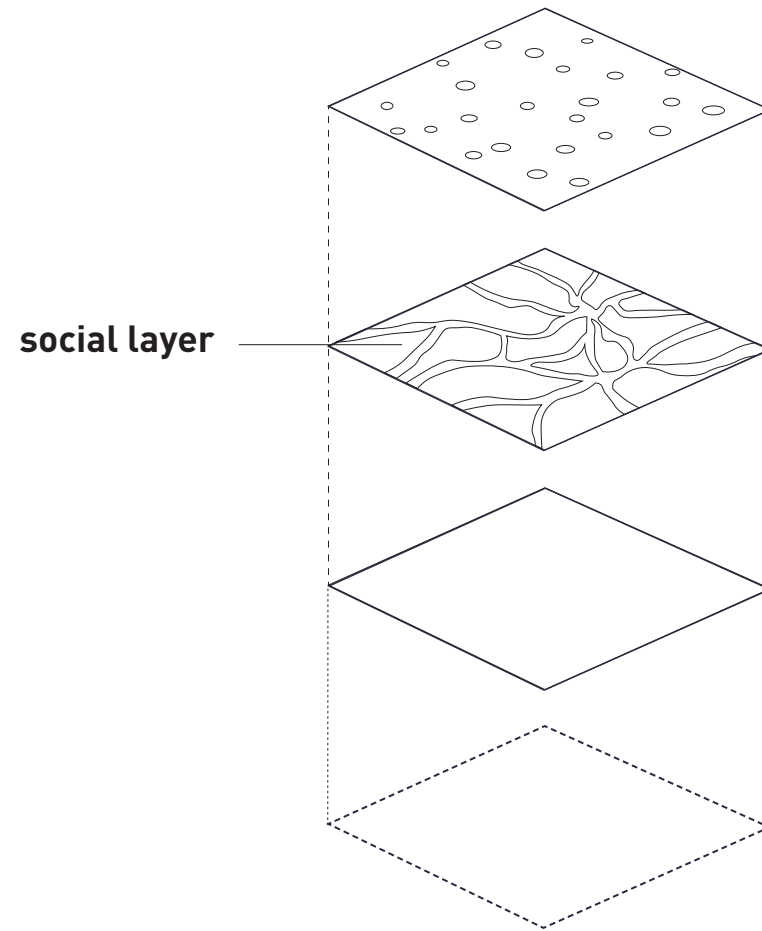
🌐 World war II (1940)



🌐 Reconstruction
(1960 - 1990)

Physical layer

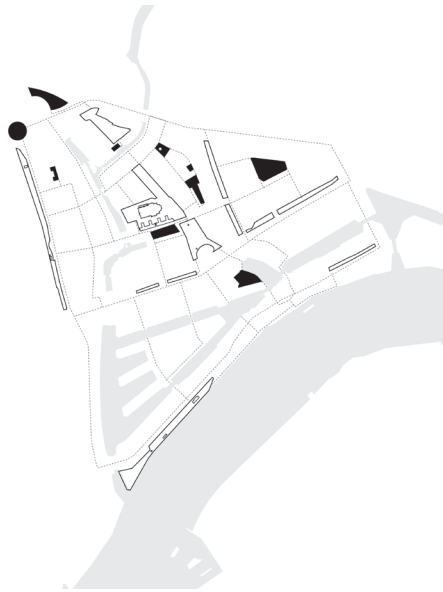




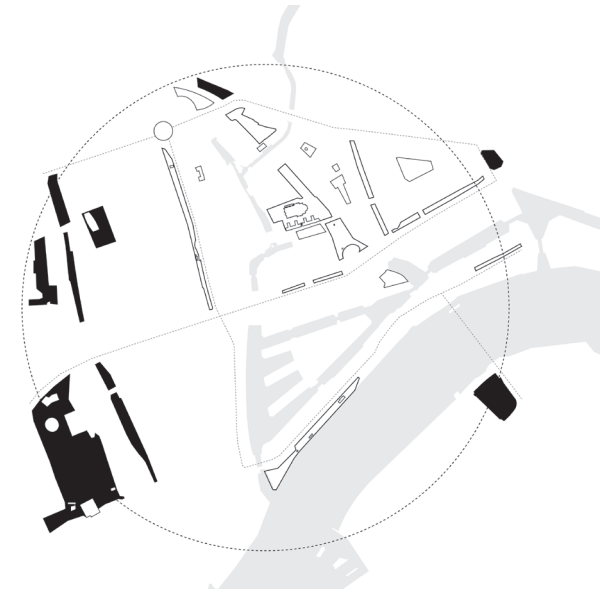
The way people **use** the space based on planned and unplanned **activity**



Main structures



Smaller public spaces within the network



(Important) public spaces surrounding the Stadsdriehoek

Social layer



(Whyte, 1980)

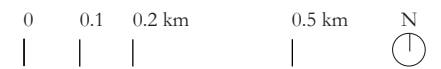
Urban spaces and the human experience within them (Whyte, 1980 & Lefebvre, 1991)

Social layer

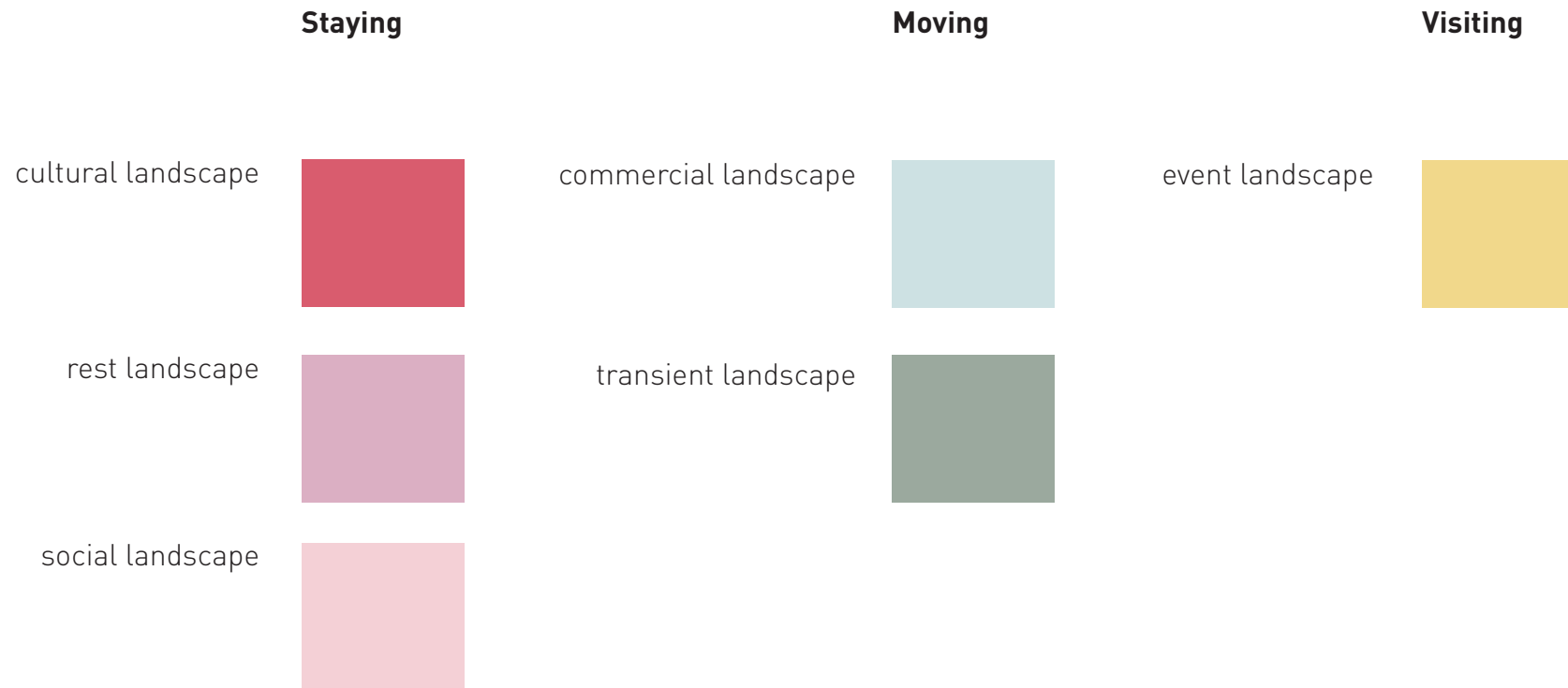
- cultural activities
- restaurants
- stores
- running activity
- playground
- public buildings



Movement according to activities and use
Data: OSM & Strava heatmap



Social layer



Social layer

Staying

cultural landscape



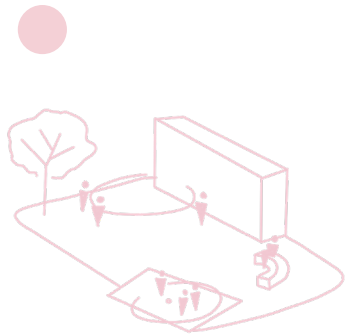
Staying

rest landscape



Staying

social landscape



11.

Moving commercial landscape



12.



An aerial photograph of a city intersection. On the left, a large, multi-story brick residential building with many windows and balconies stands. In front of it is a green space with trees and fallen autumn leaves. A road runs horizontally across the middle, with a white car and a green truck visible. To the right, the road curves, and a white van is driving. Further right, another large residential building is visible. The sky is overcast and grey.

Visiting

event landscape



national scale



city scale



community scale

Typologies

staying

- rest landscape
- cultural landscape
- social landscape

moving

- transient landscape
- commercial landscape

visiting

- event landscape

commercial typology
dominance

social & cultural
typology dominance

rest typology
dominance

**community
events**

**city scale
events**

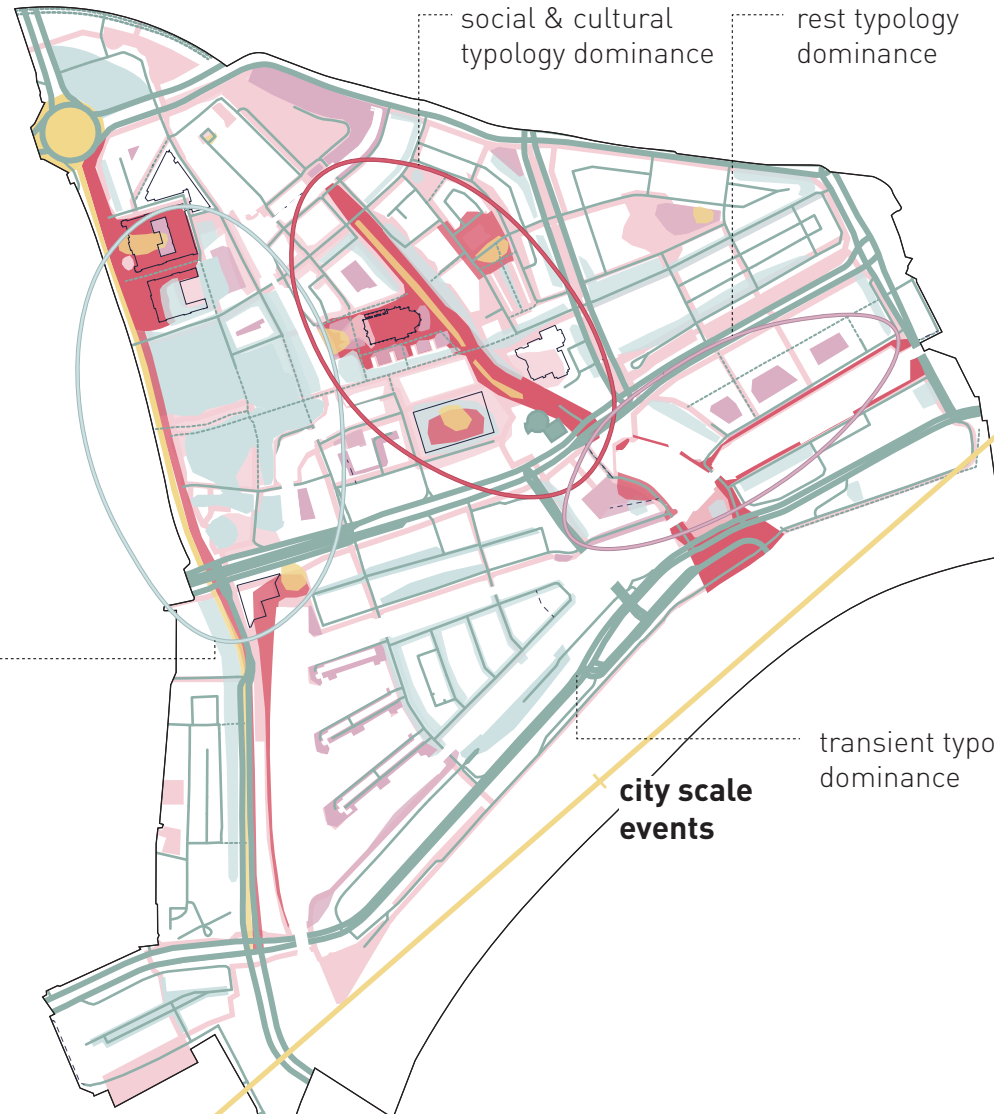
transient typology
dominance

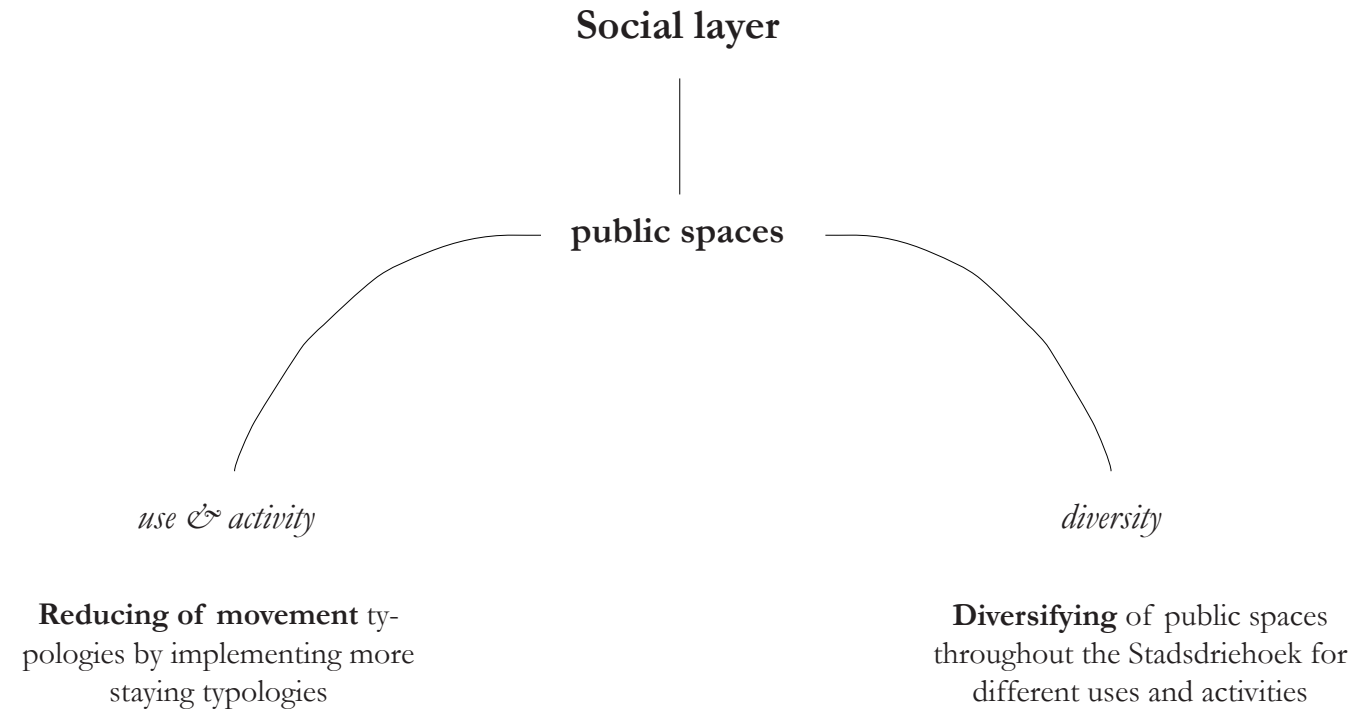
**national
events**



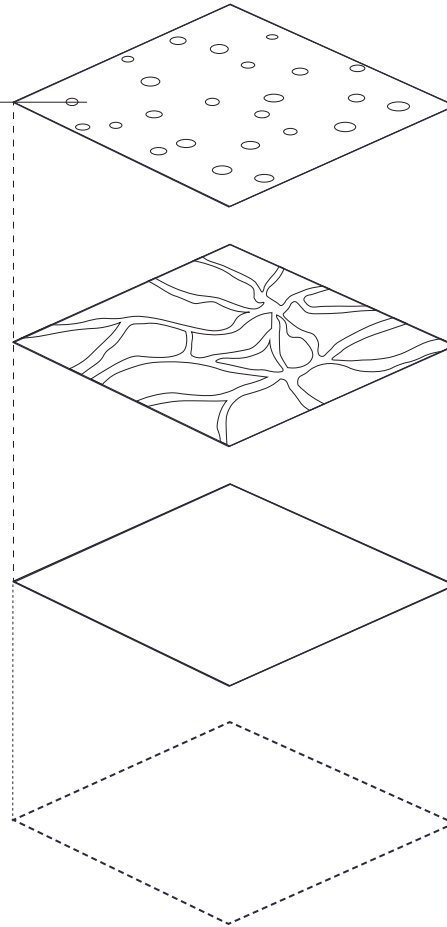
Social layer

Conclusion





mental layer

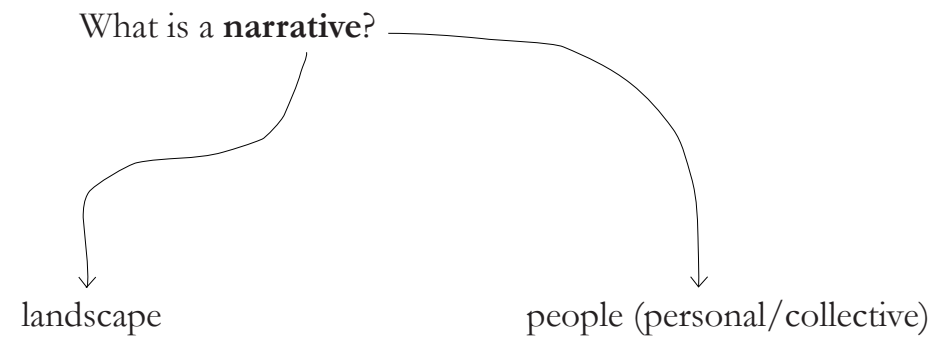


The **subjective and emotional meaning** attached to a place such as memories, identity and narratives.

The **subjective and emotional meaning**
attached to a place

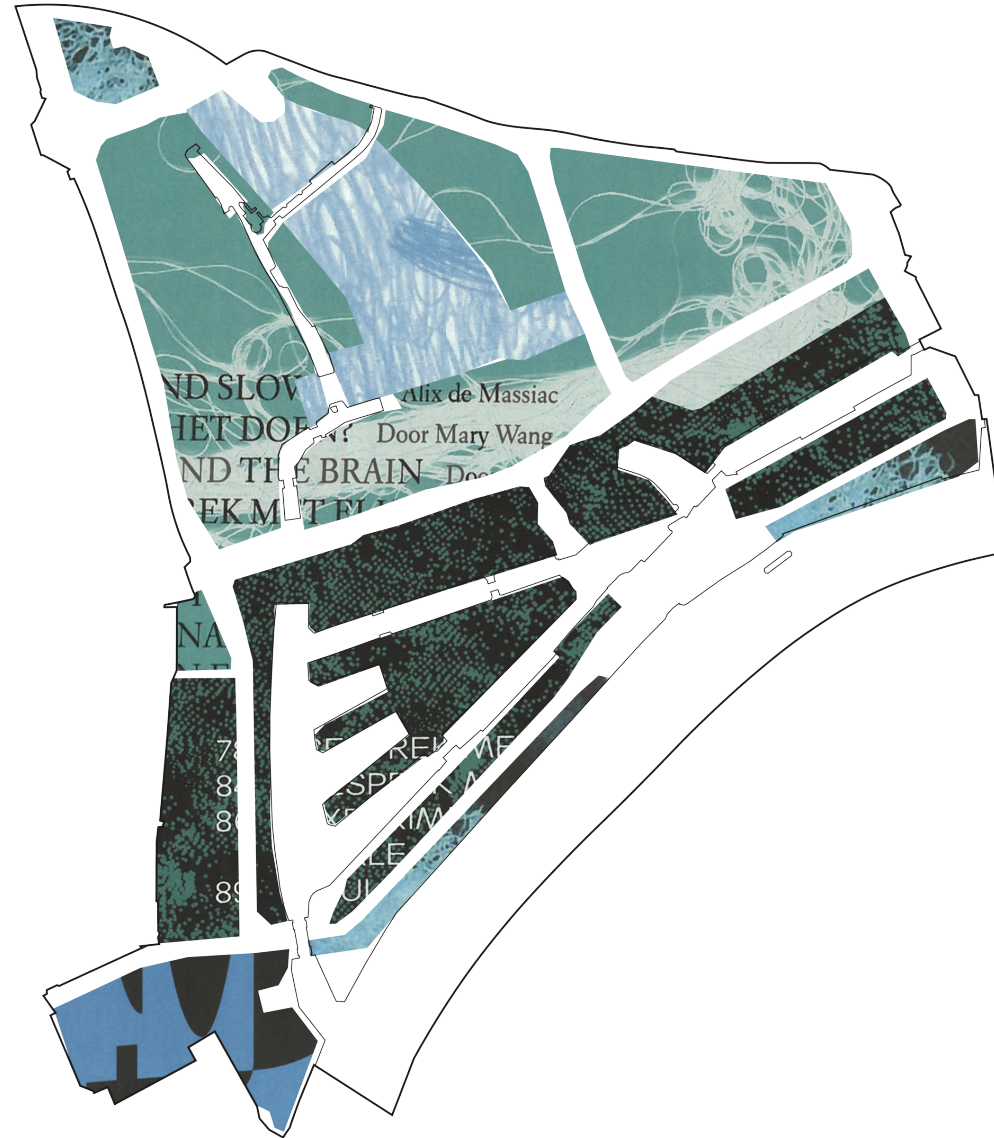
What is a **narrative**?

Mental layer



Landscape narratives

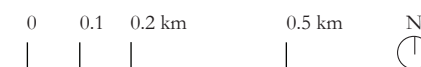
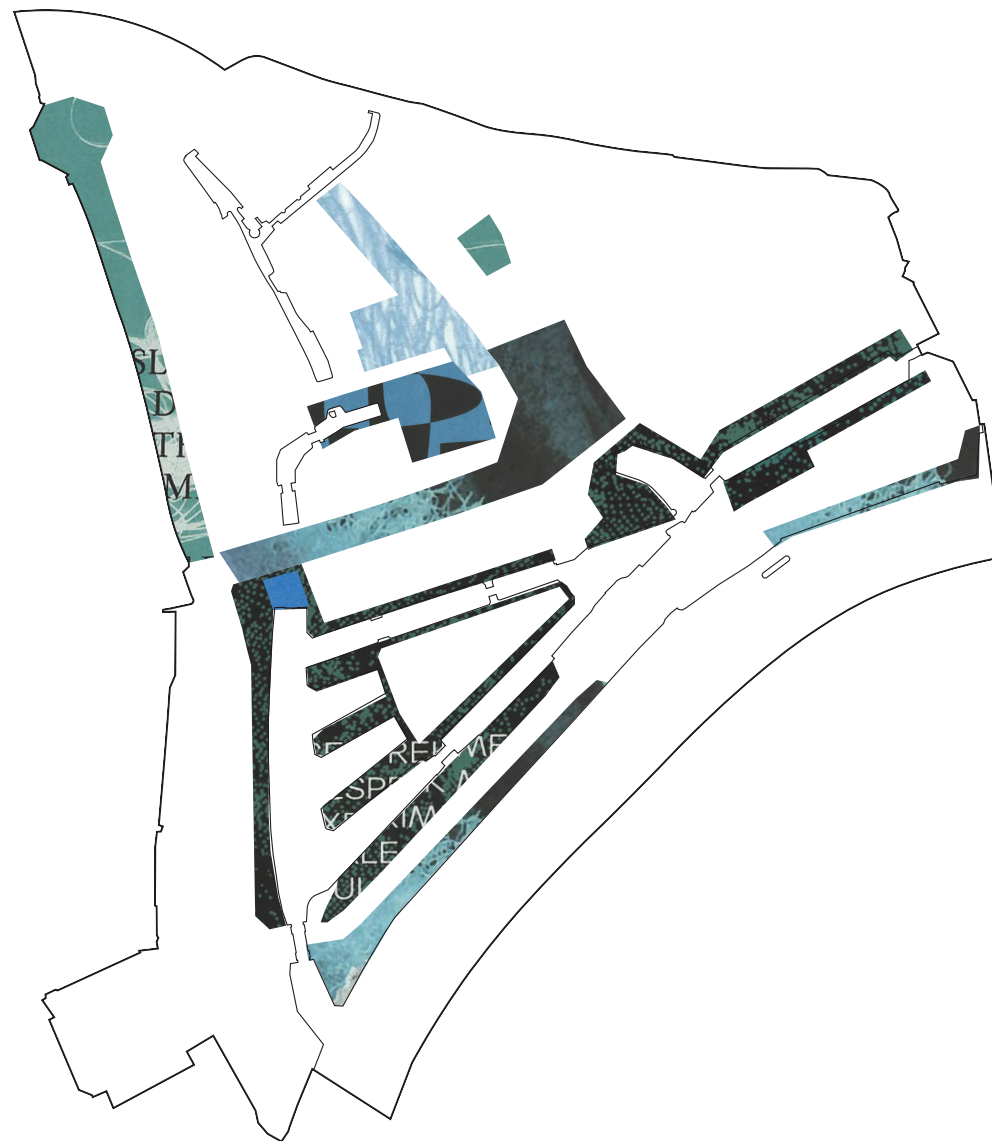
- 1350
- 1500
- 1650
- 1750
- 1900



Mental layer

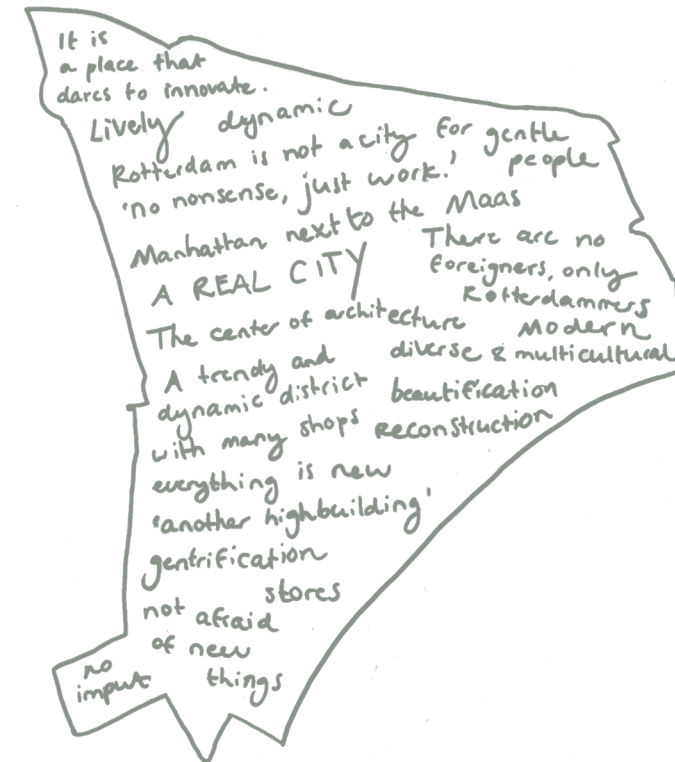
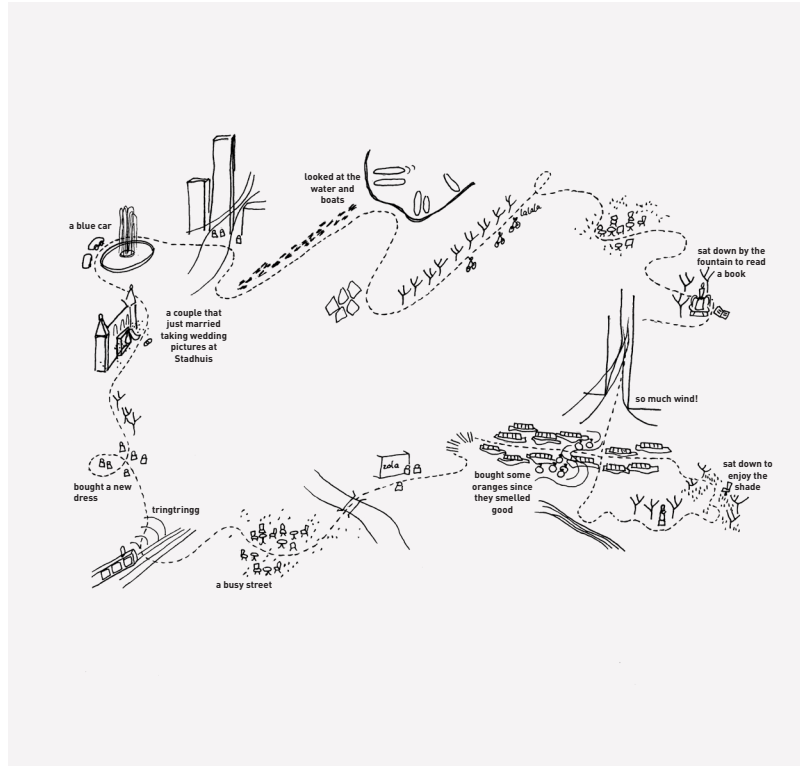
Landscape narratives

- 1350
- 1500
- 1650
- 1750
- 1900

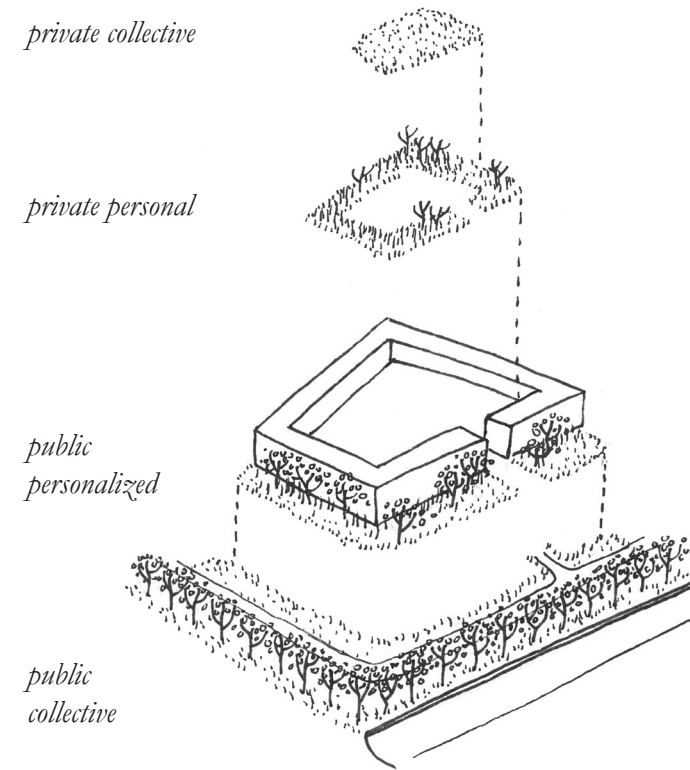
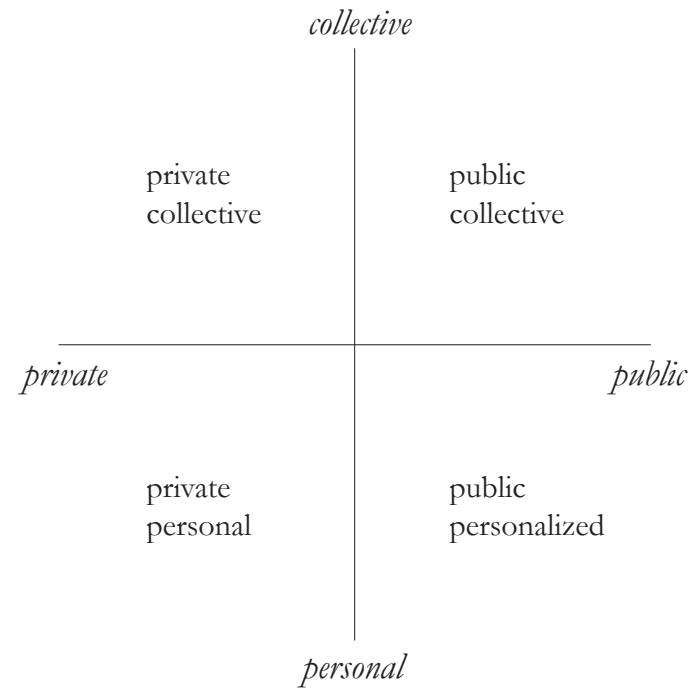


Mental layer

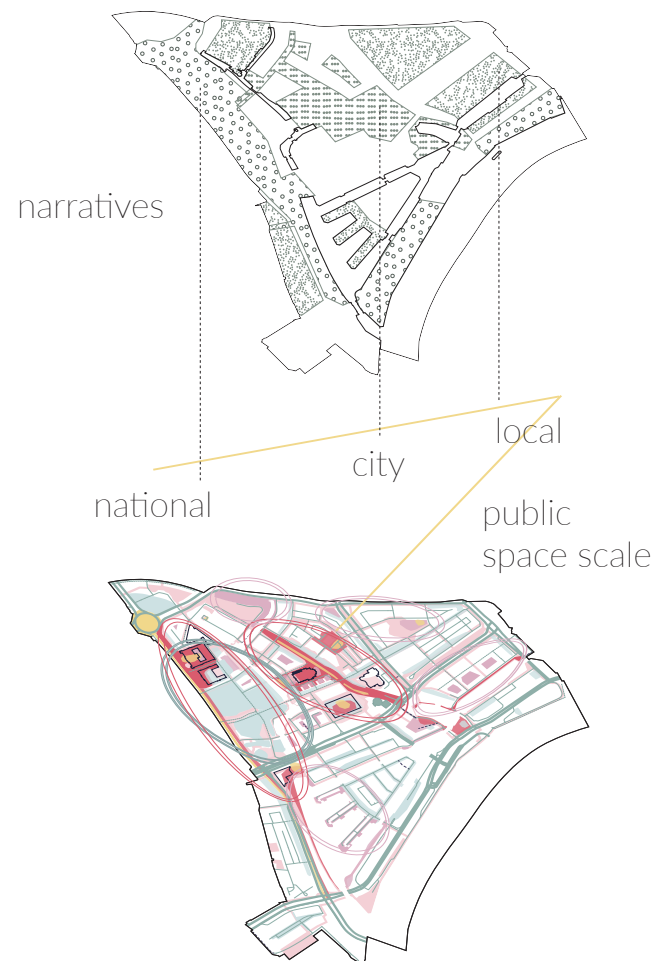
Personal vs collective narratives



Mental layer



SOCIAL LANDSCAPE >
SCALE OF PUBLIC SPACE



HISTORICAL & PHYSICAL
LANDSCAPE >
LOCATIONS OF HISTORICAL
SIGNIFICANCE



Mental layer

Narrative scales of public space

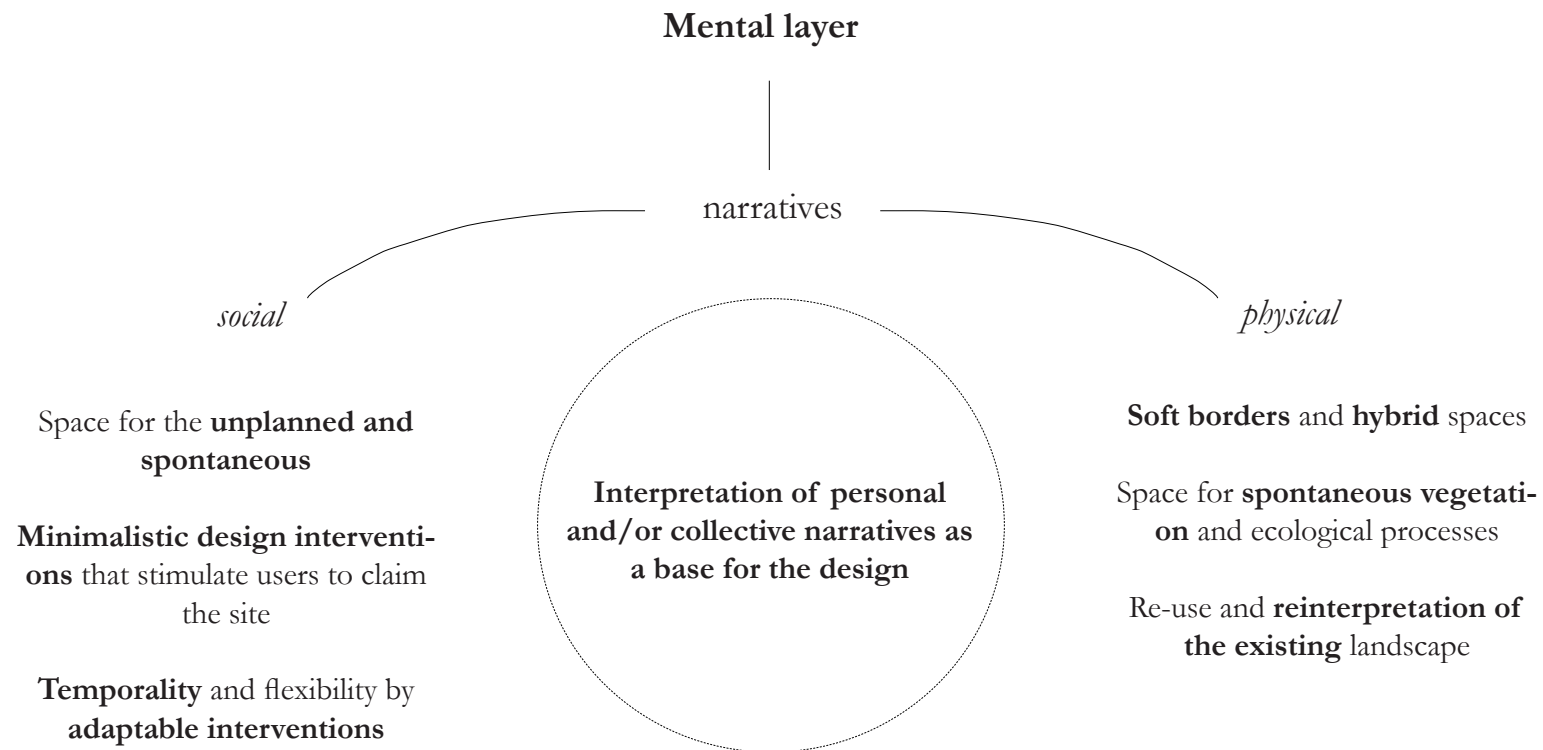
- collective national
- collective city scale
- community local

Historical presence in the landscape

- Rotte and Laurenskerk (1350)
- water defenses (1500)
- harbour (1650)
- World war II (1940)
- Reconstruction (1990)
- contemporary period (2020)



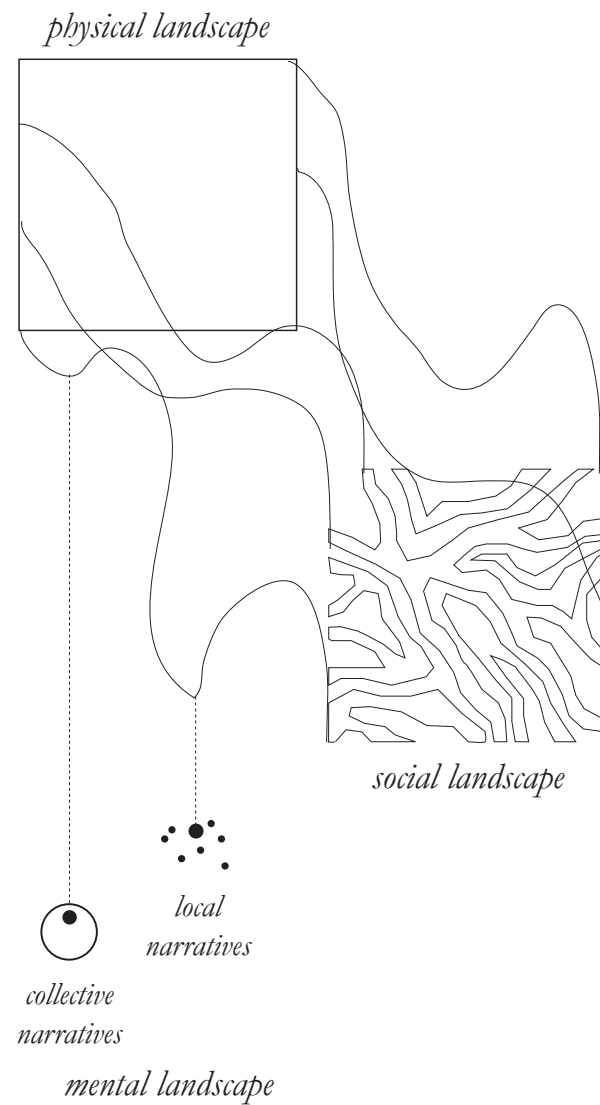
Mental layer



Improving the spatial conditions and legibility through heritage

Diversifying the landscape typologies with a focus on staying typologies for more social interaction

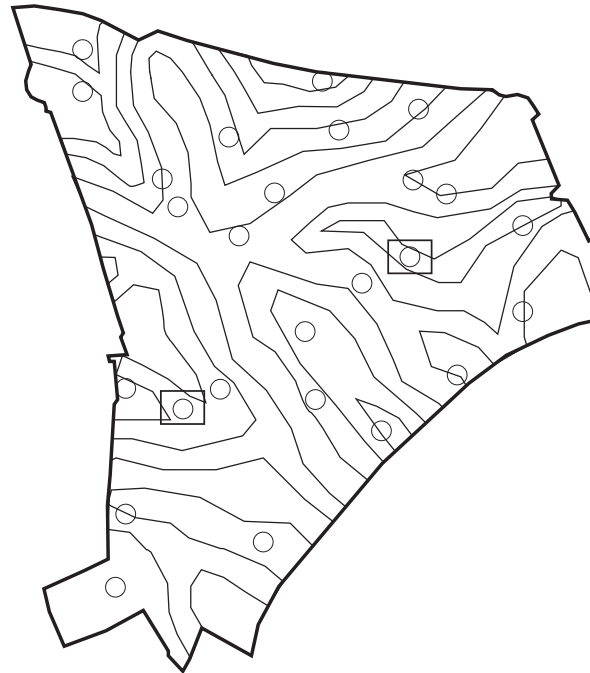
Implementing landscape, personal and/ or collective narratives based on location

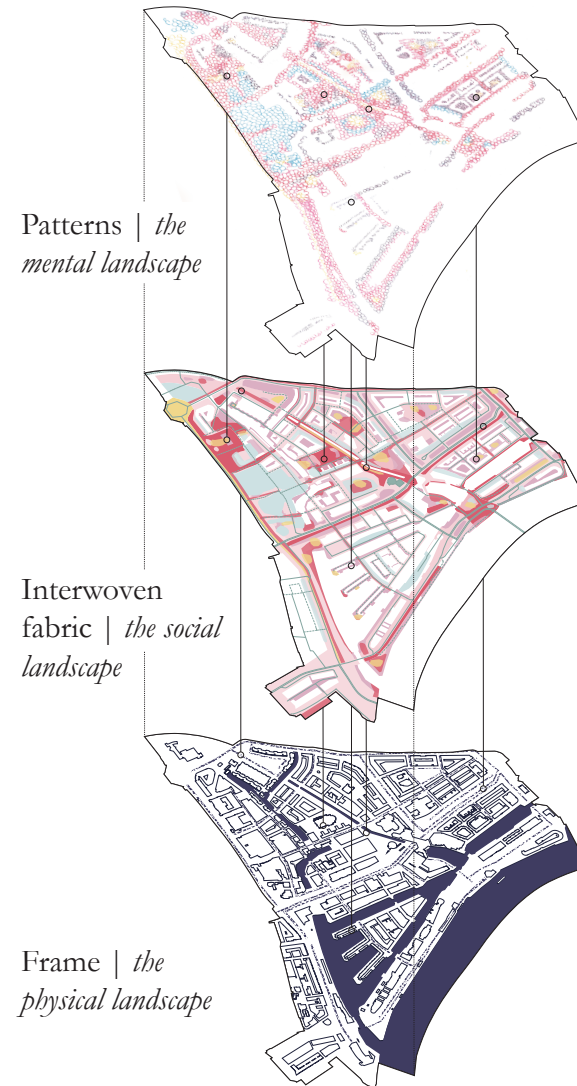
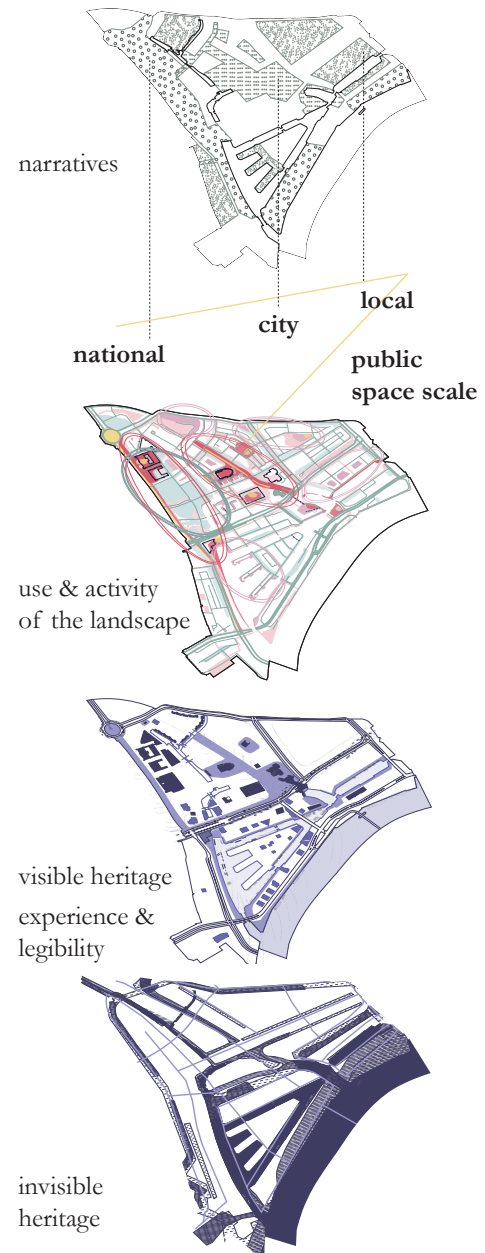


Conclusion analysis

3. Design projection

Conceptual vision



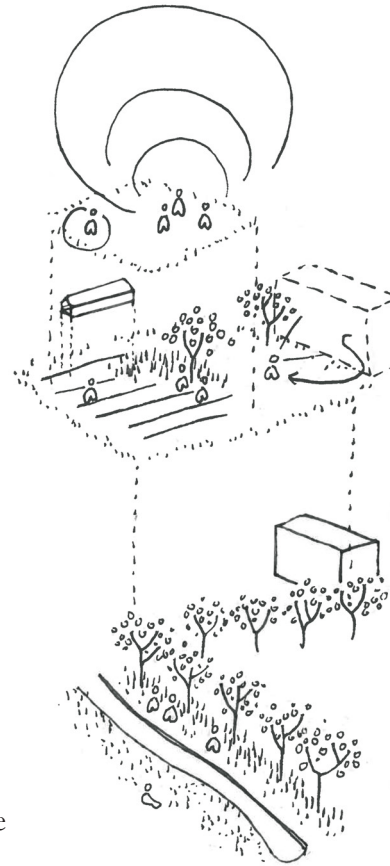


Analysis layers into vision

Patterns
personal and
collective narratives

Interwoven fabric
diversified public
space

Frame
urban green heritage
structures



Conceptual vision

Frame

physical elements

- water
- ⌚ tree lines
- buildings

Typologies

Public space as interwoven fabric

staying

- rest landscape
- cultural landscape
- social landscape

moving

- transient landscape

speed of movement

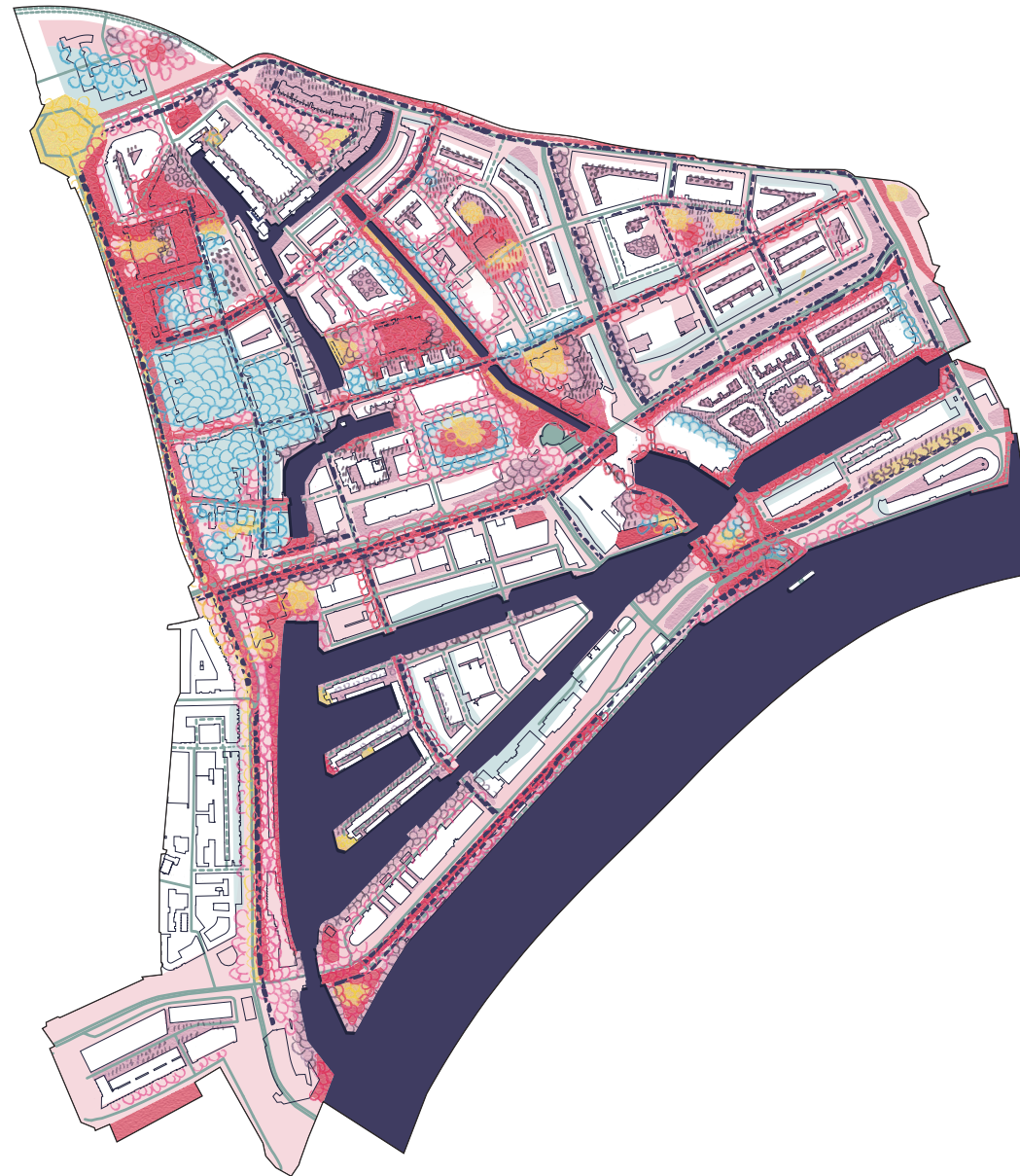
- fast (car)
- medium (car, bike)
- slow (bike, walk)
- commercial landscape

visiting

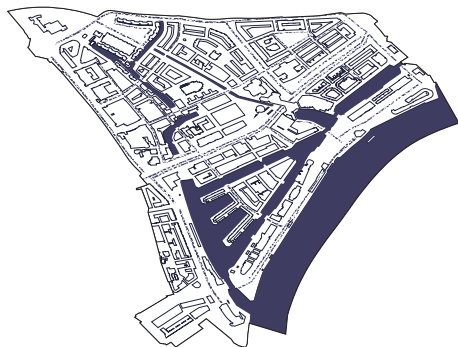
- event landscape

Patterns

- ⊗ personal private spaces
- ⊗ personalized public spaces
- ⊗ collective private spaces
- ⊗ collective public spaces



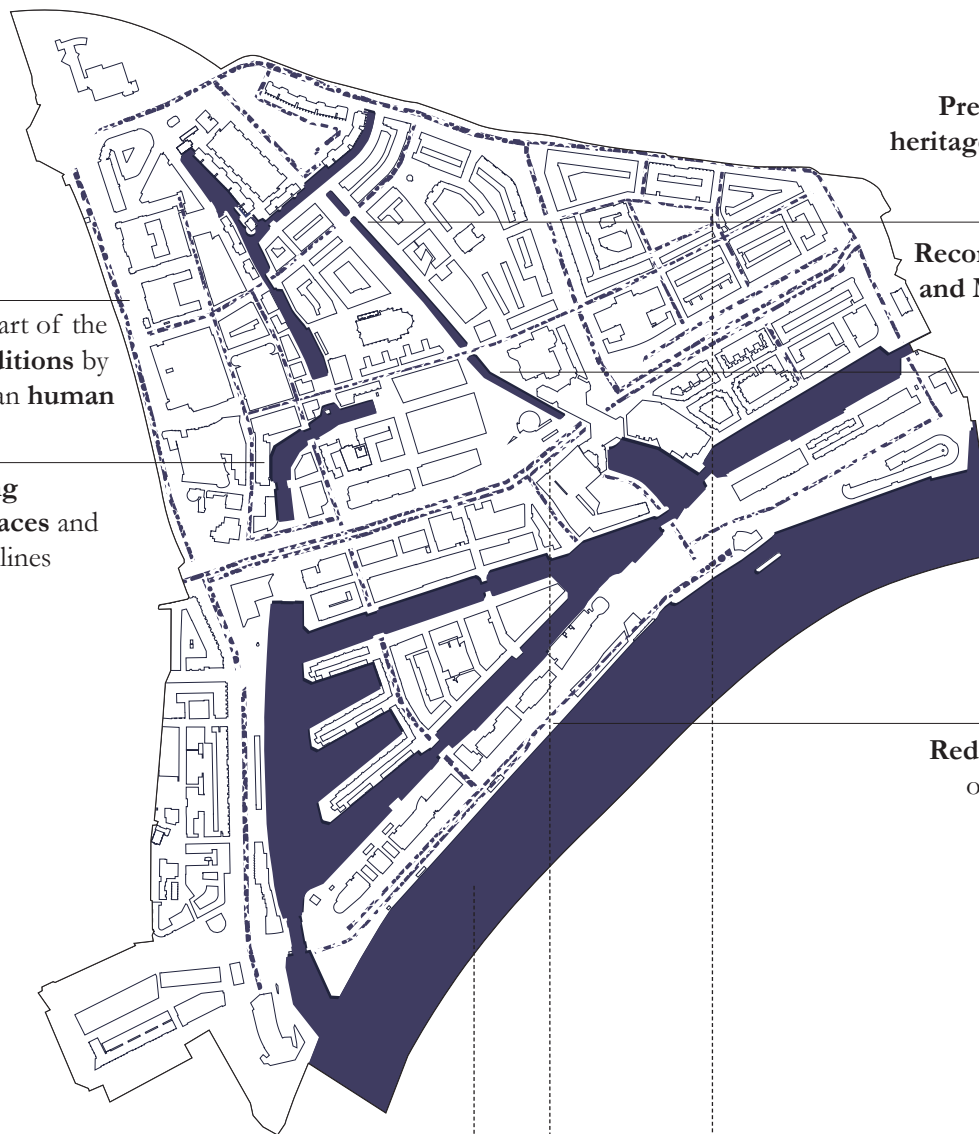
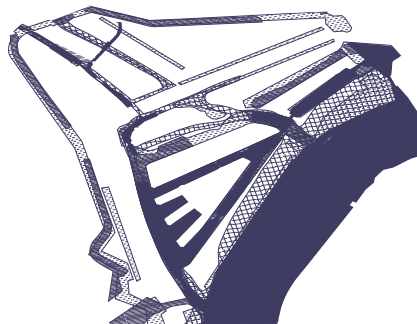
Conceptual vision



Improving part of the **spatial conditions** by introducing an **human scale**



Highlighting historical traces and lost heritage lines



Preserving spatial heritage of the current identity

Reconnection Rotte and Maas for spatial legibility

Reducing influence of disturbances

Frame
physical elements

water ●
tree lines 🌳
buildings —

0 50 100m 250 m N

Vision | the frame

Typologies

staying

- rest landscape
- cultural landscape
- social landscape

moving

- transient landscape
- commercial landscape

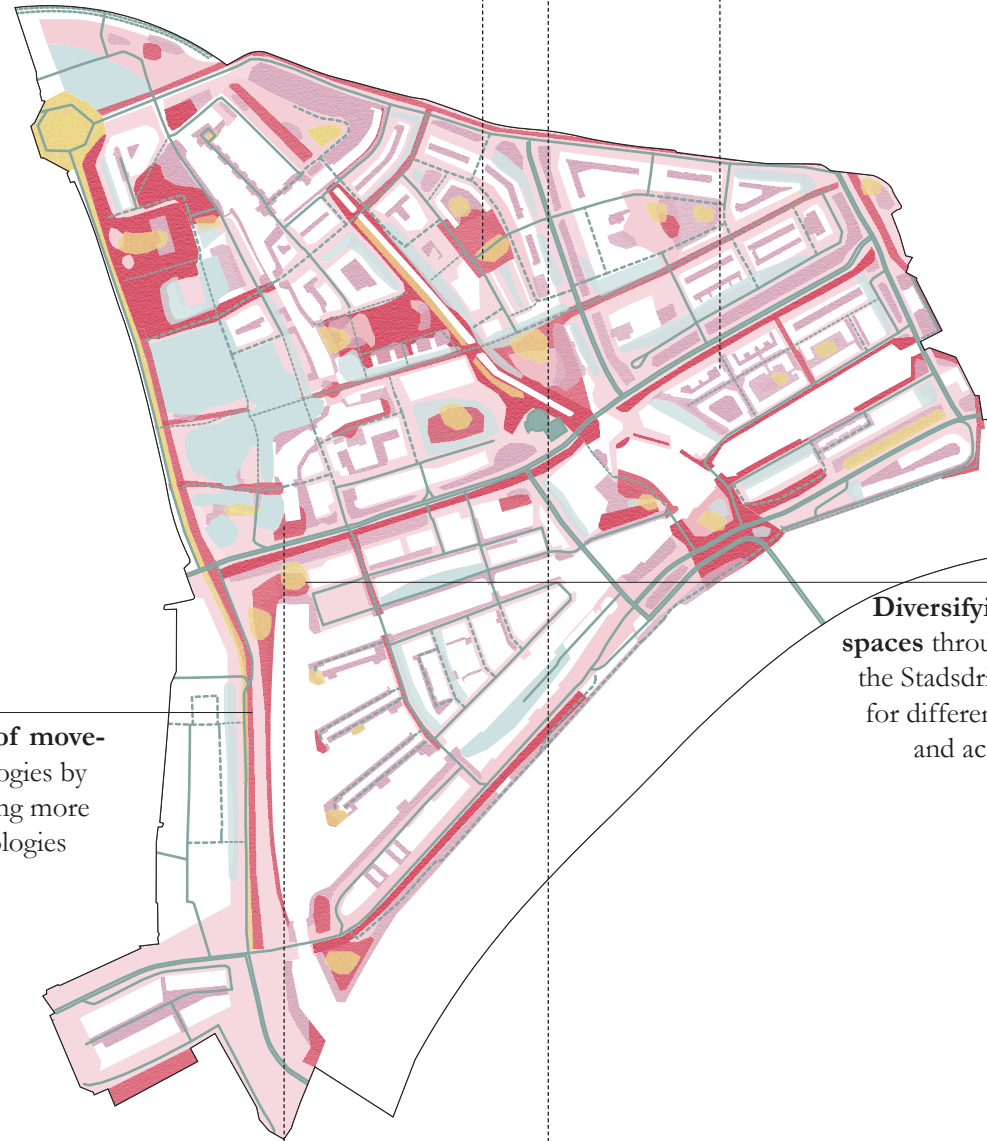
visiting

- event landscape

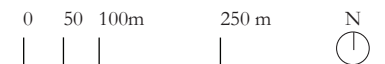
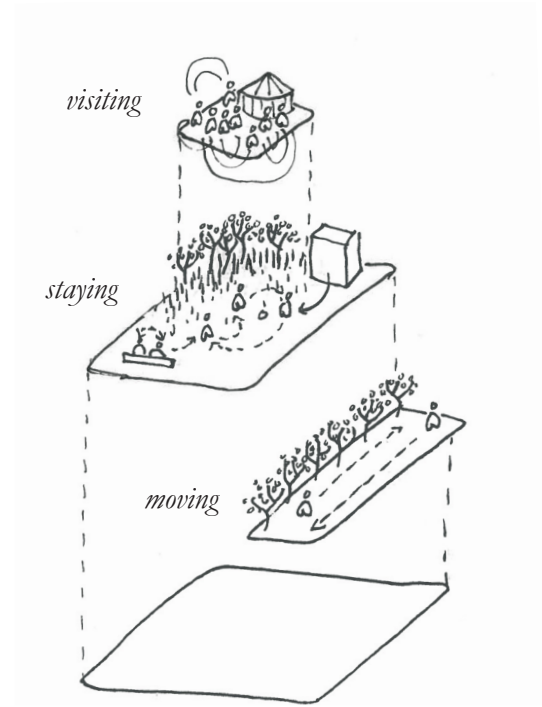
movement

- fast (car)
- medium (car, bike)
- slow (bike, walk)

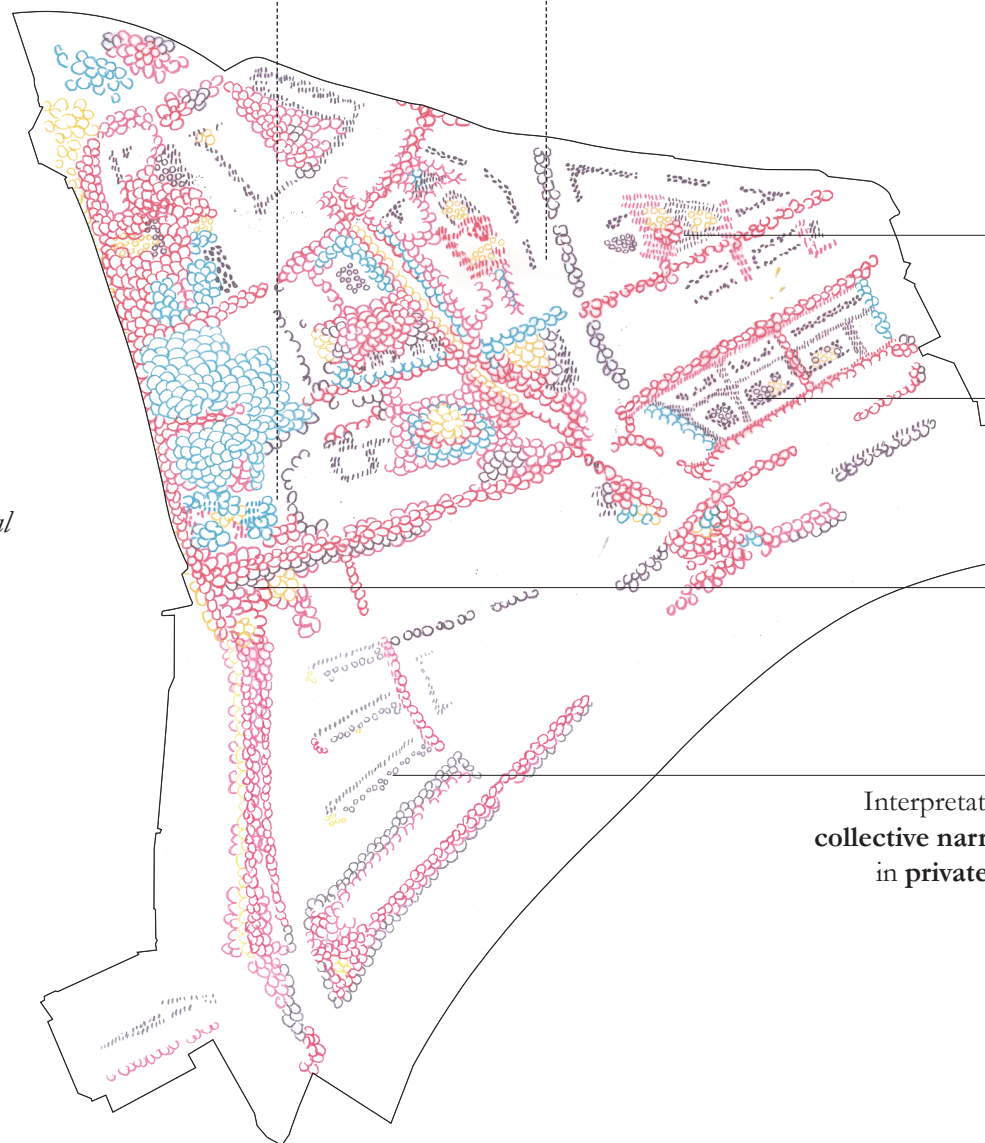
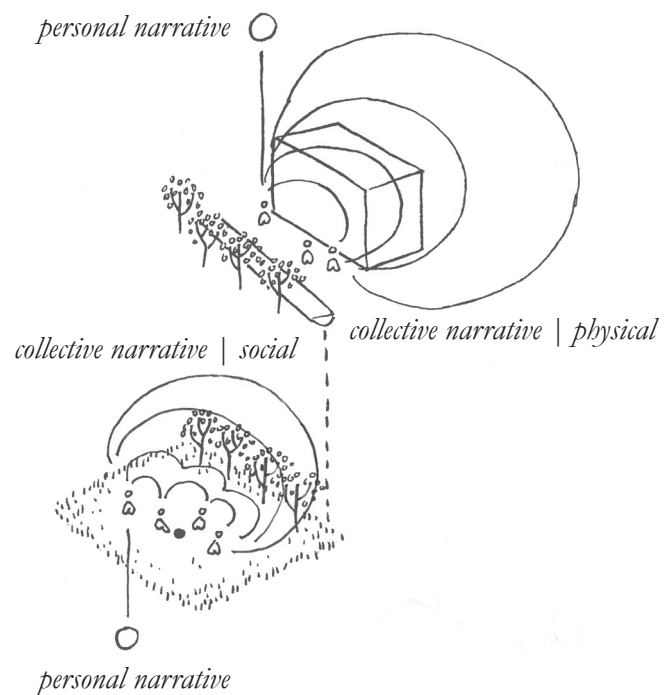
Reducing of movement typologies by implementing more staying typologies



Diversifying of spaces throughout the Stadsdriehoek for different uses and activities



Vision | the interwoven fabric



Interpretation of
personal narratives in
public space

Interpretation of
personal narratives in
private space

Interpretation of
collective narratives
in **public space**

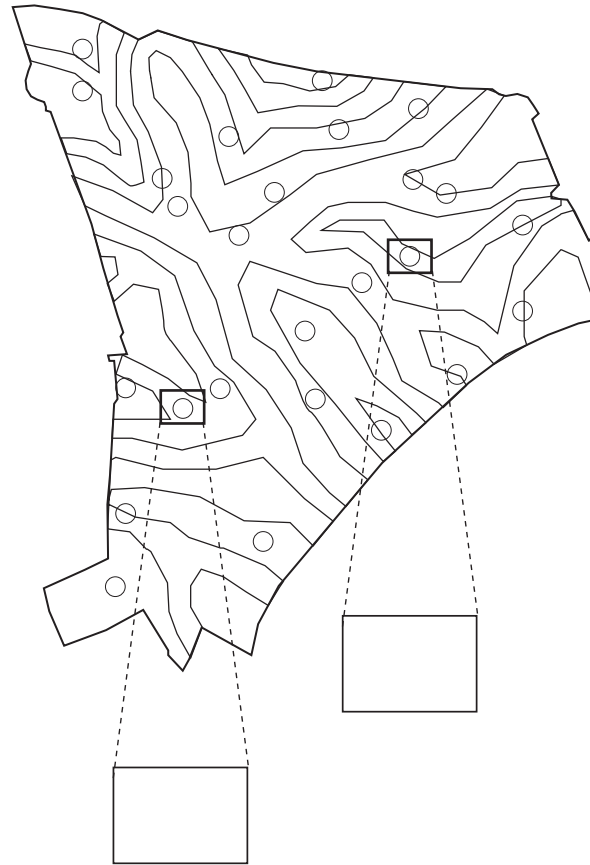
Interpretation of
collective narratives
in **private space**

- Patterns**
- personal private landscapes
 - personalized public landscapes
 - collective private landscapes
 - collective public landscapes

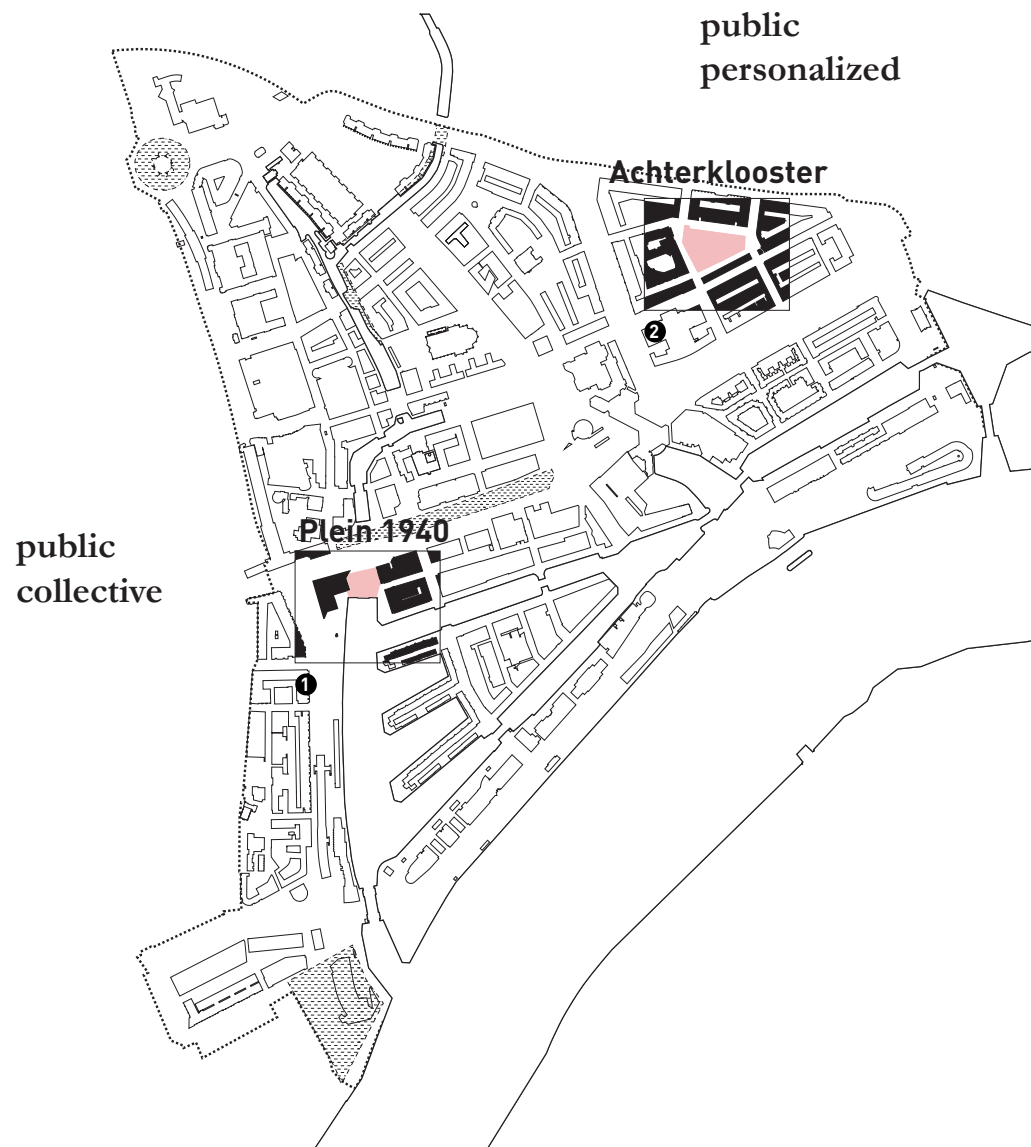


Vision | the patterns

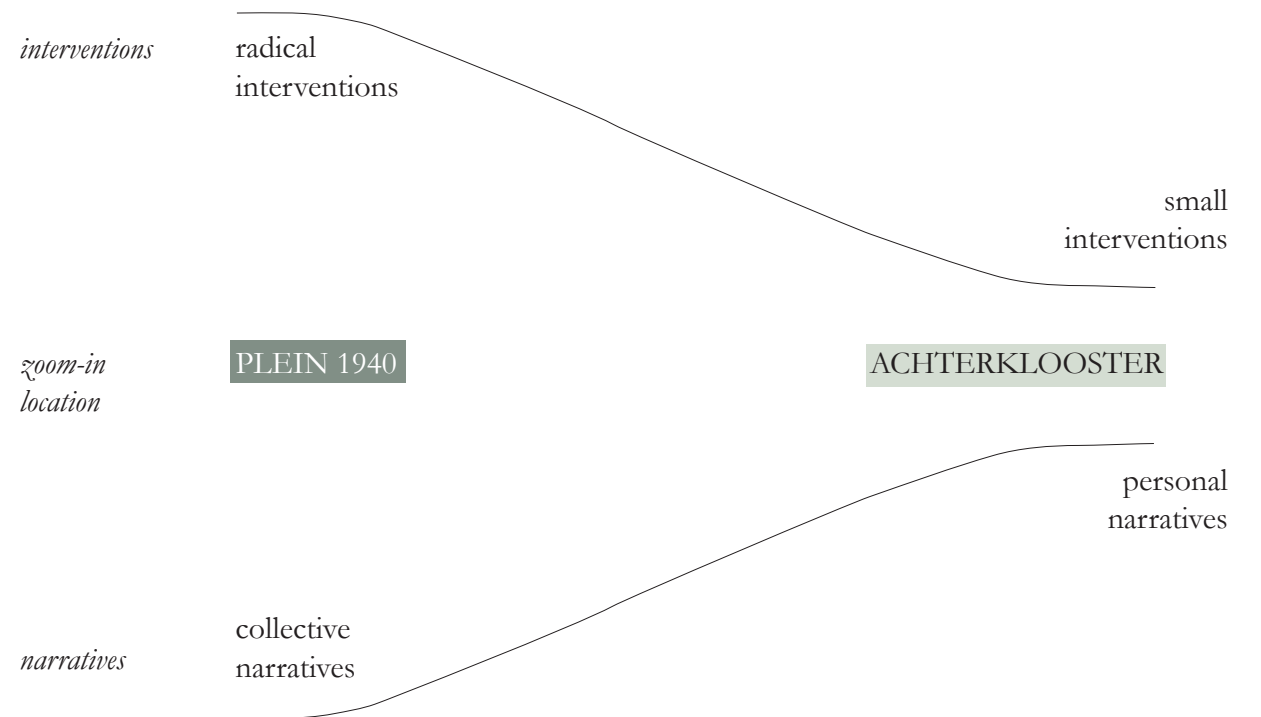
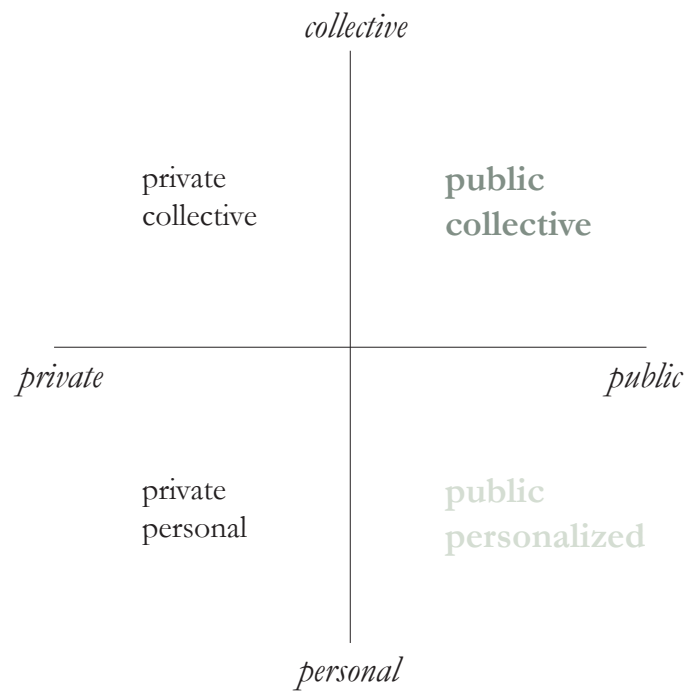
Zooming in



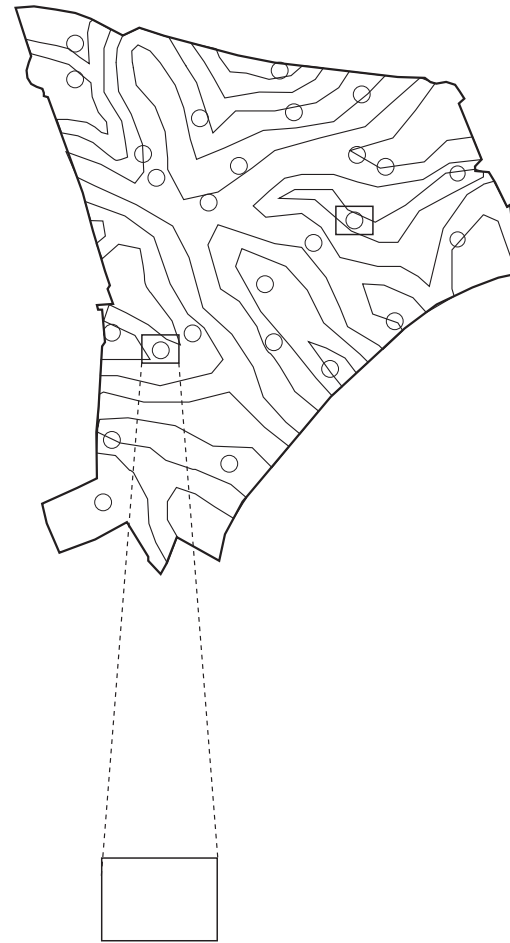
- chosen sites
- municipality Rotterdam
- future projects
- buildings



Two opposite public spaces



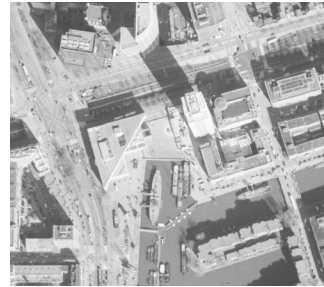
Approaching the public spaces



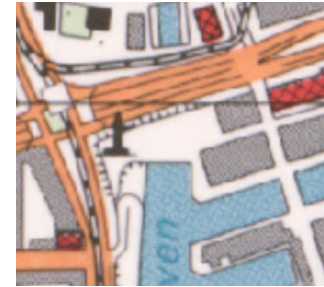
Plein 1940



2025



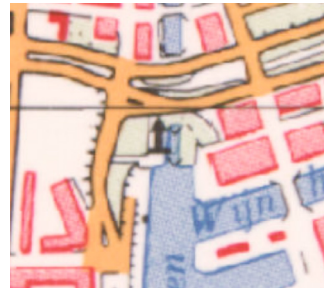
2005 | Maritiem museum
(since 1986)



1980



1970 | dolphinarium Dol-
firodam



1965



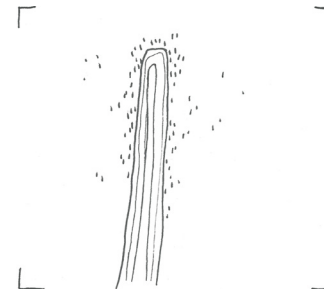
1960 | Statue of Zadkine
(since 1953)



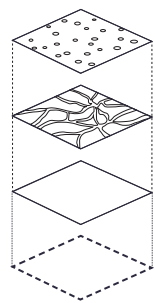
1935



1900

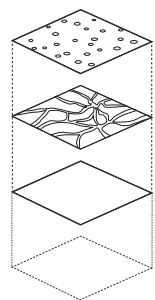


before 1598 | shallow creek

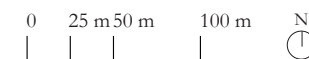
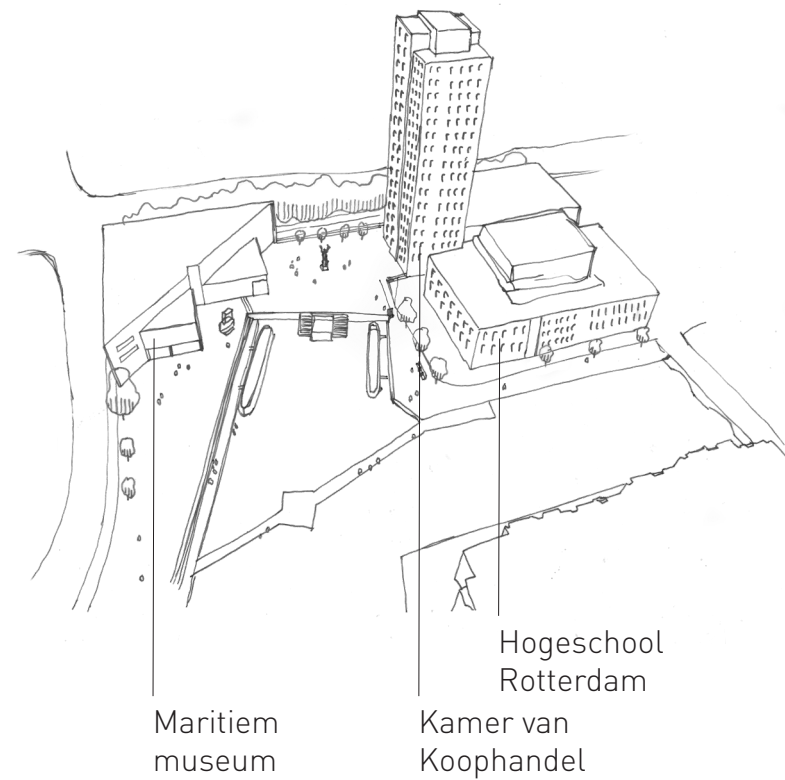


Historical layer

Plein 1940



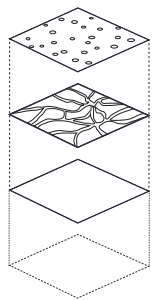
Mental & physical layer



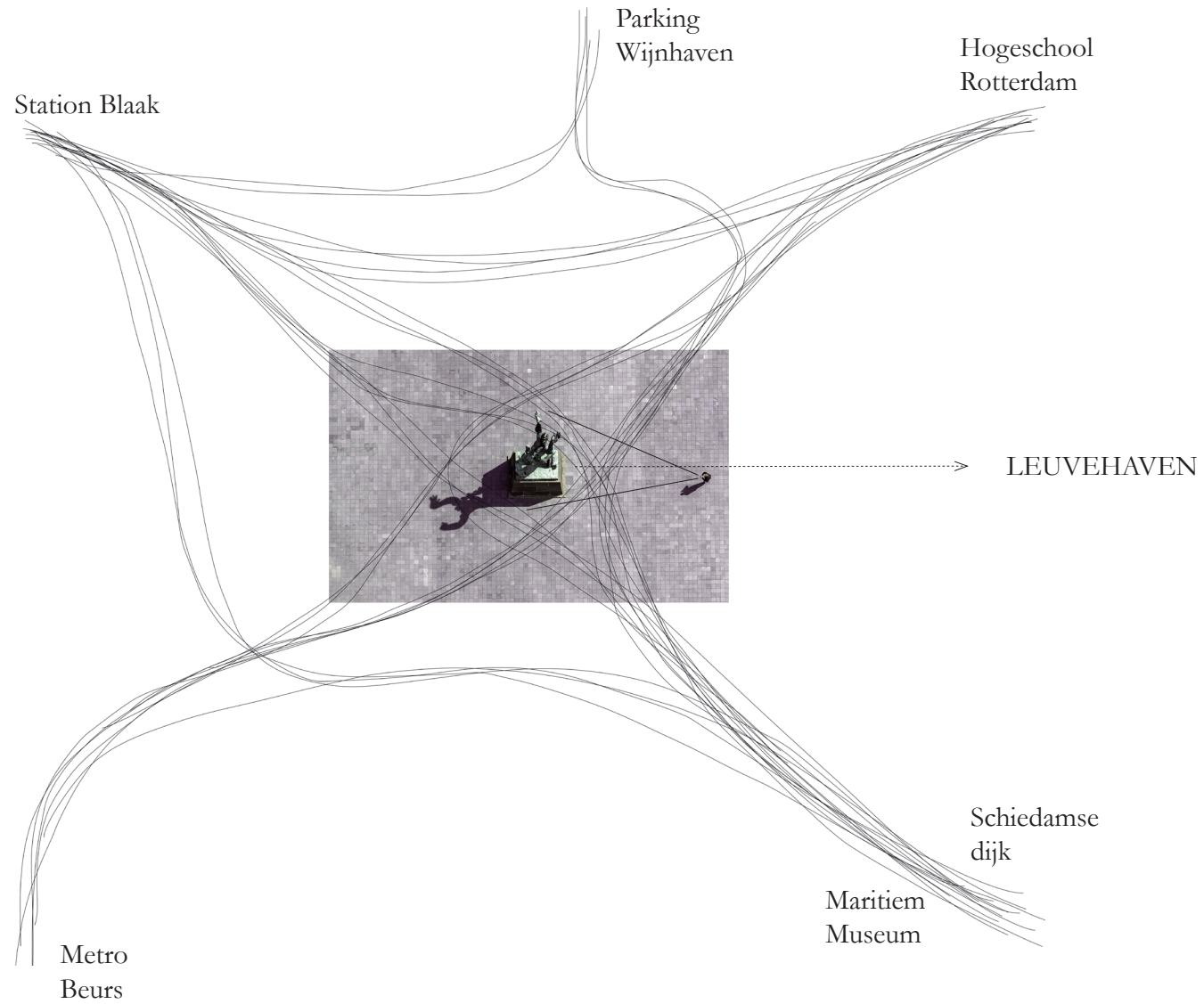
Plein 1940

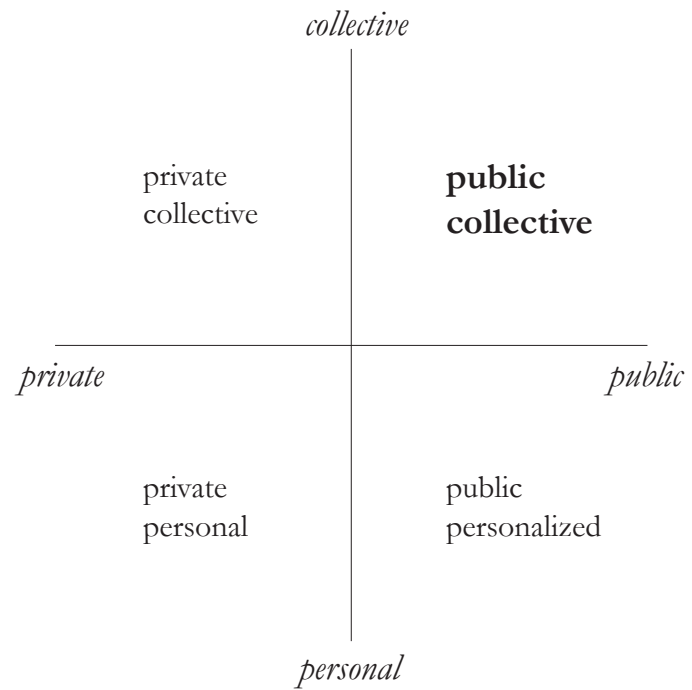
Social landscape typologies

- cultural
- transient
- event



Social layer





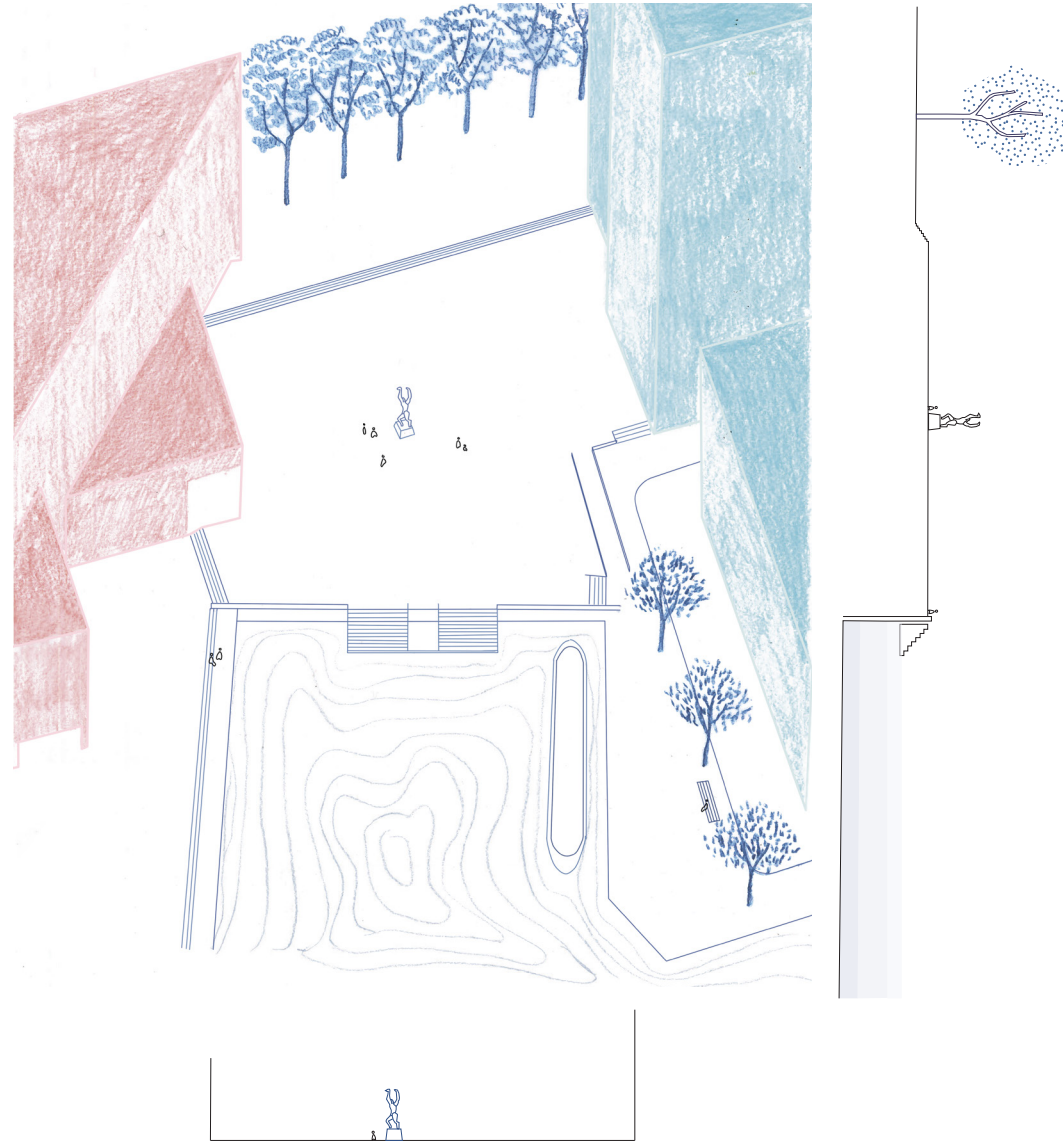
Design principles

mental - shared history

social - public interaction

physical - framed & public accessibility

- physical elements
- commercial building
- social building

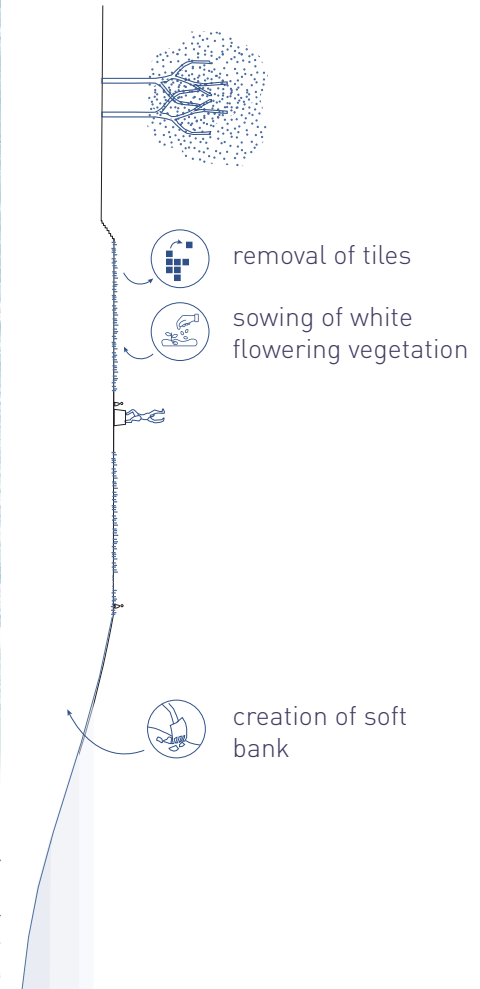
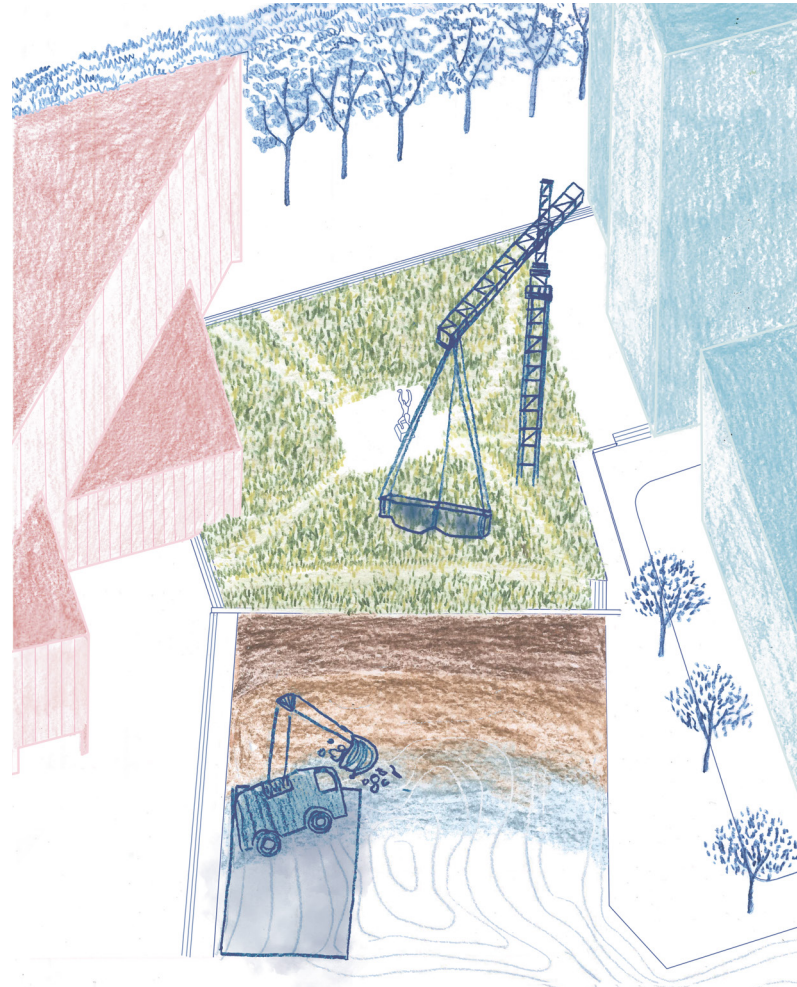


Current situation

0 5 m 10 m 20 m N

Plein 1940

- machines
- flowering vegetation
- creation of soft bank



Design through time
YEAR 1



0 5 m 10 m 20 m N

Plein 1940

Public collective narratives

Introduce porous spatial conditions that encourages adaptation of site through movement

social

Spatial collective narratives

Use spatial conditions as sensory design elements to reinforce the character

physical

Historical collective narratives

Showing traces of the Leuvehaven to reveal lost historical layers

historical

Preserving and framing of spatial openness as heritage

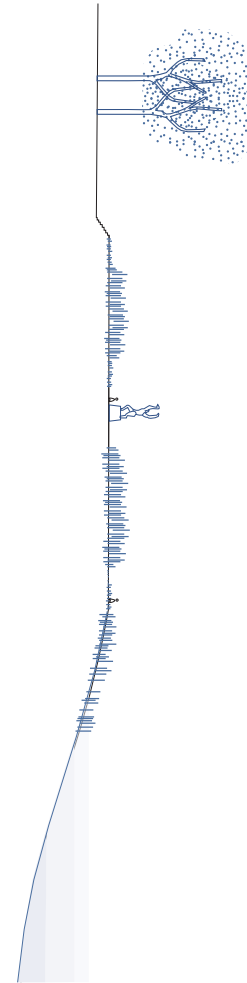
historical/physical



0 5 m 10 m 20 m N

Plein 1940

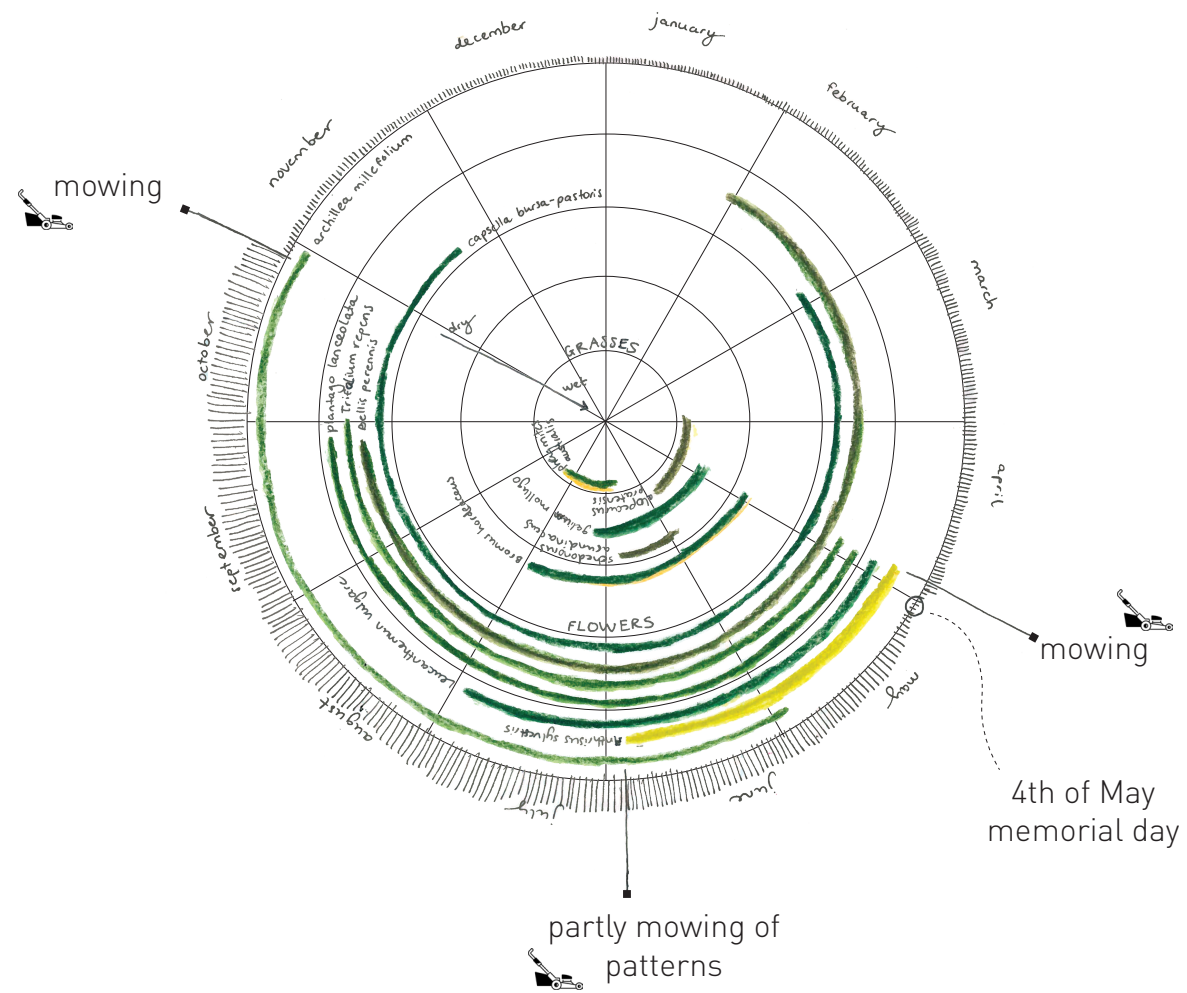
- white flowering vegetation
- mowed vegetation
- personal adaptations

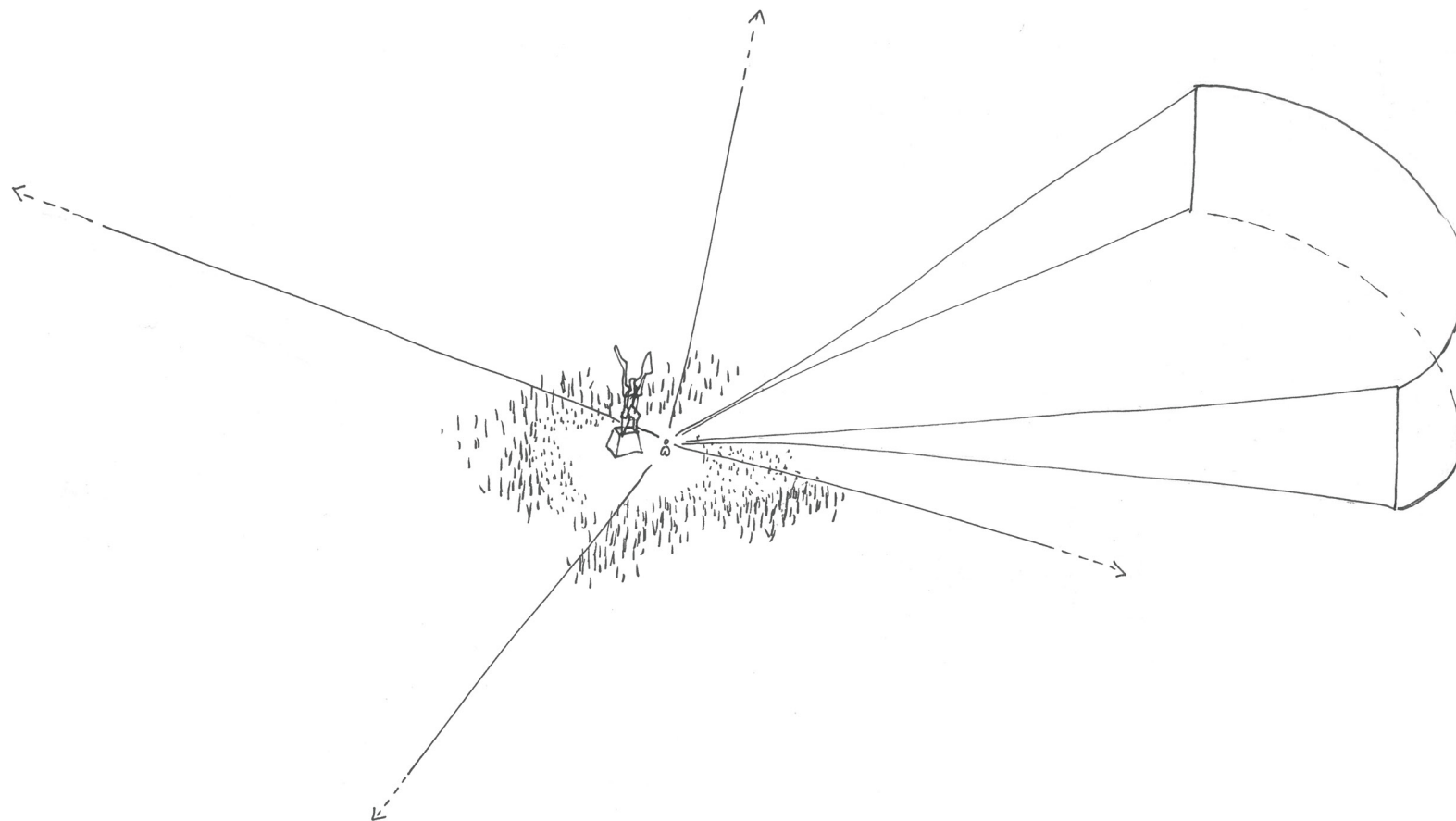


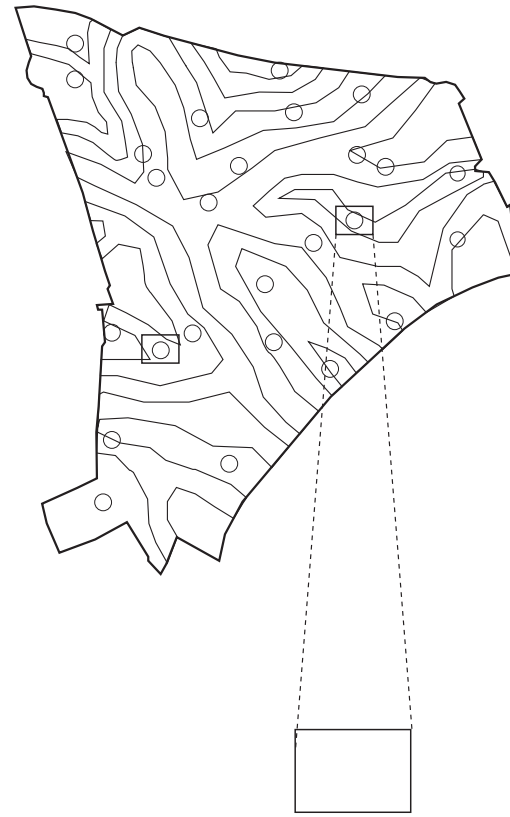
Design through time
YEAR 5

0 5 m 10 m 20 m N

Plein 1940



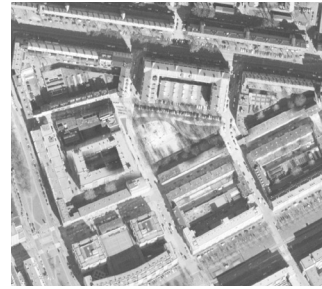




Achterklooster



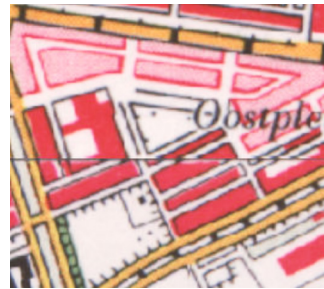
2025



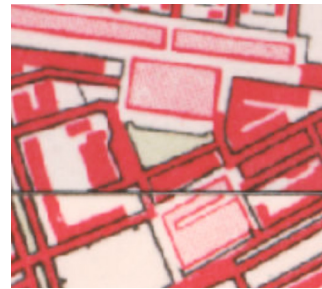
2005



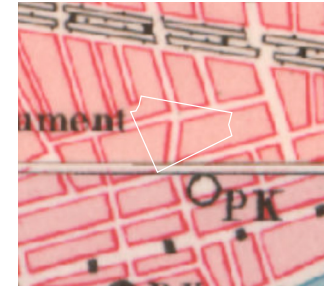
1990



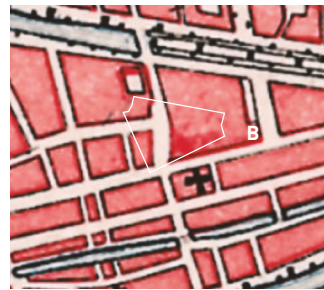
1970



1960 | reconstruction



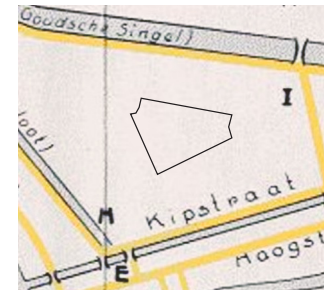
1935 | before reconstruction



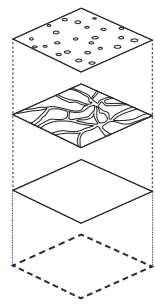
1900 | Church (+) and abandoned cemetery (B)



1700 | Orphanage (A) 1598-1940 en cemetery (B) since 1635



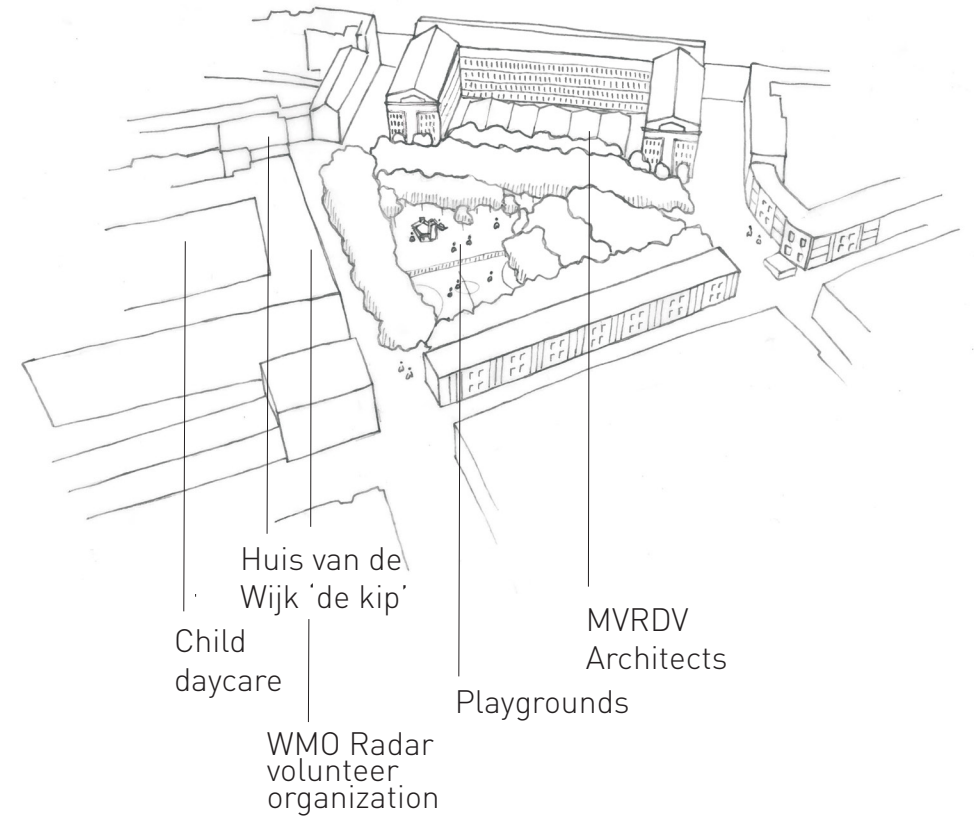
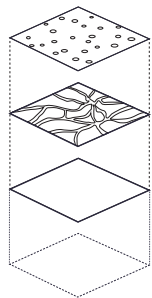
1360 | I is Carmelites-monastery



Historical layer

Achterklooster

- rest
- social
- transient

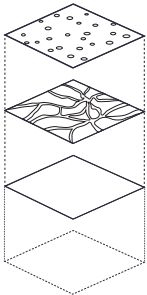


Social & physical layer

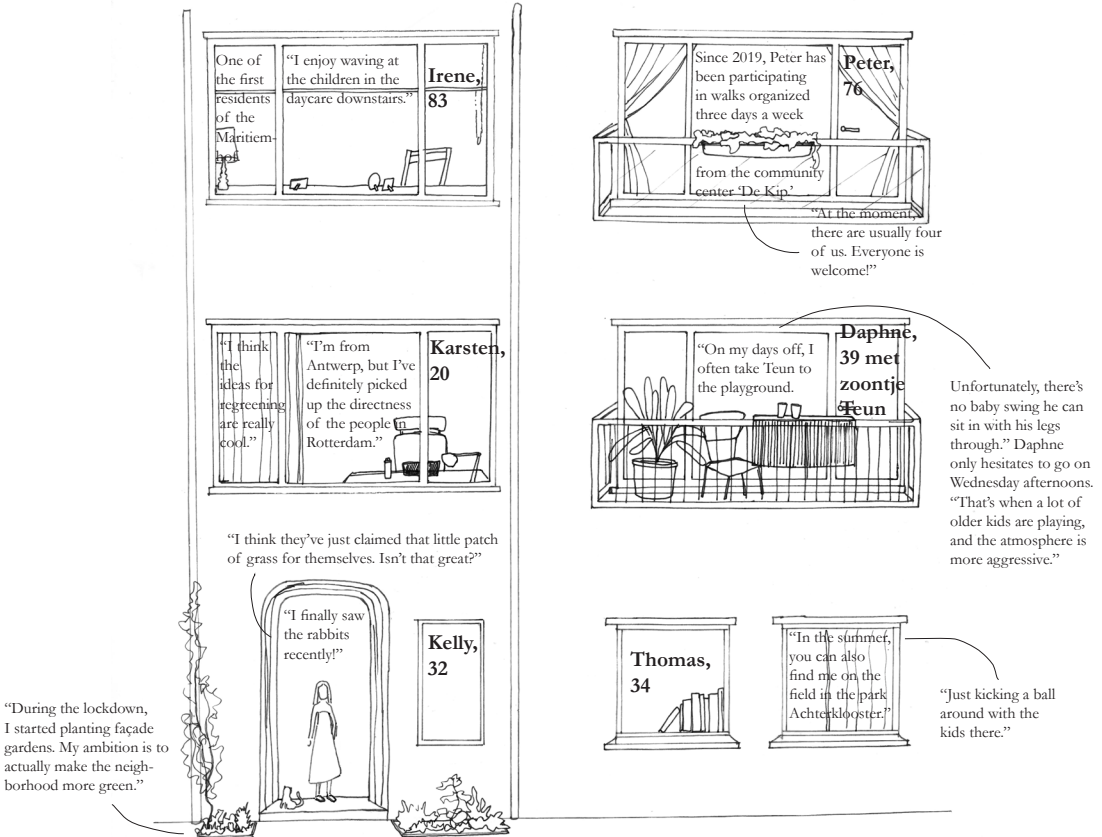
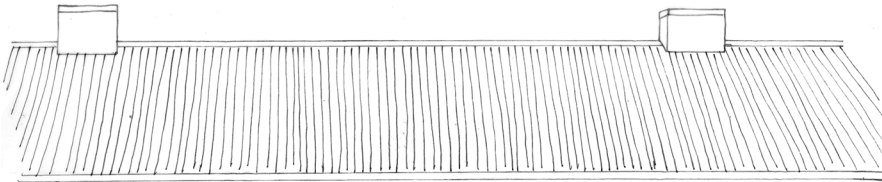
Achterklooster

Enhancing the green character by **regreening the site**

Creating a **sustainable environment** for the city rabbits



Mental layer

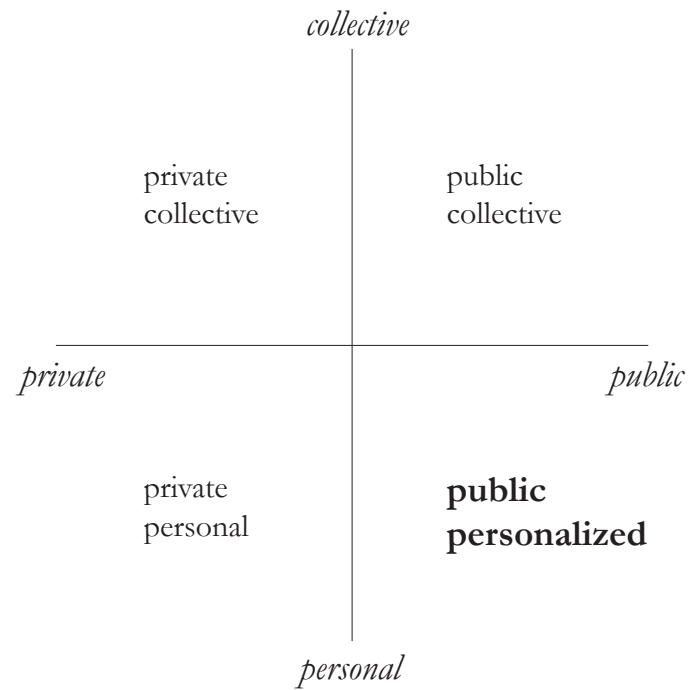


Introduce a **circular walking path** to provide a walkable site

Diversify play functions with playing elements for infants

Support spontaneous use with open lawns and **multi-purpose surfaces**

Achterklooster



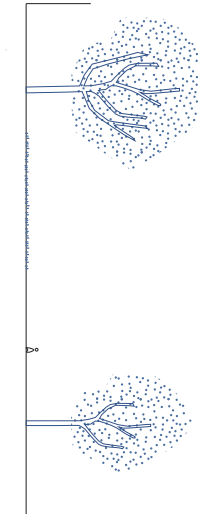
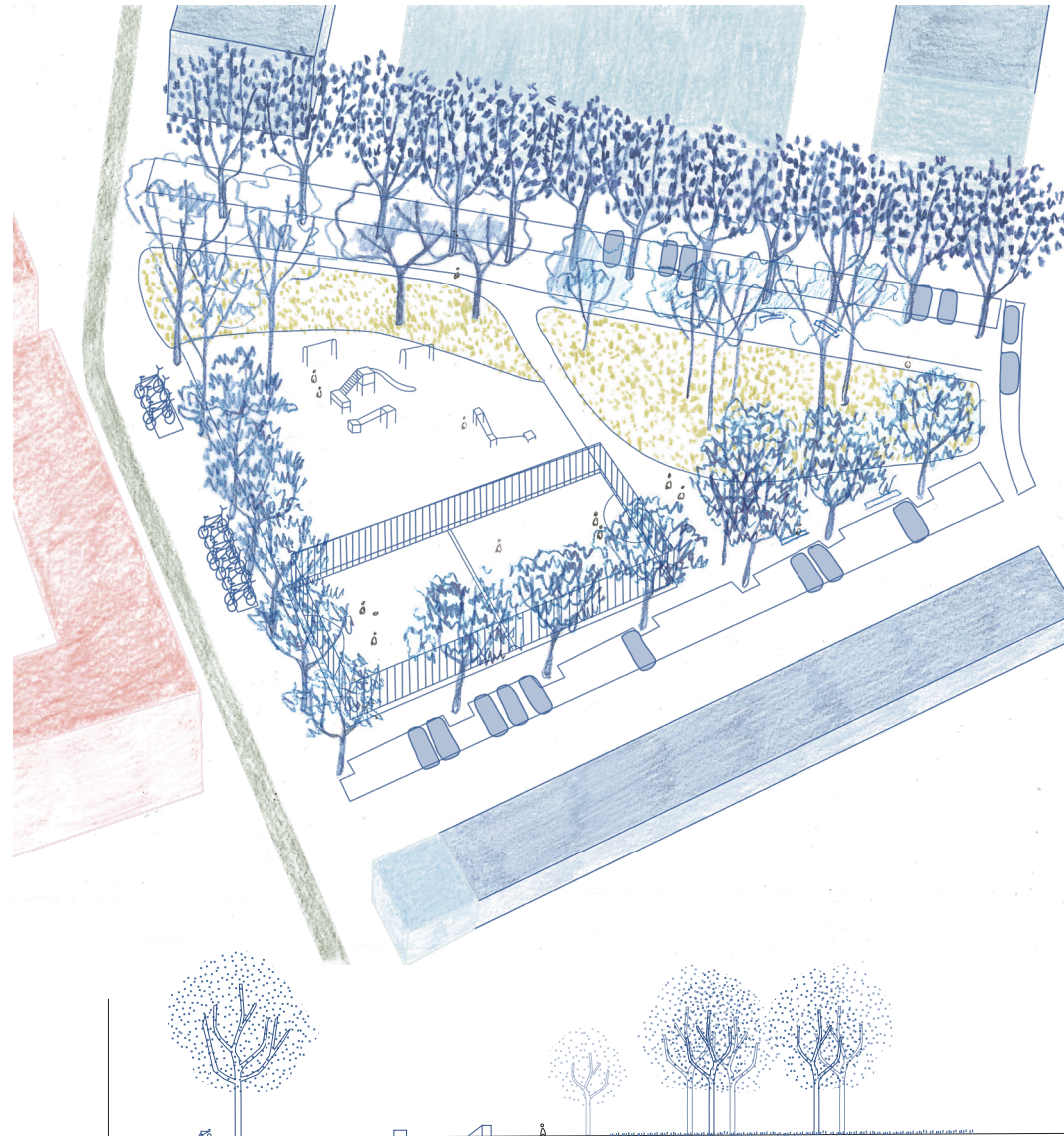
Design principles

mental - personal identity

social - informal interaction

physical - soft borders & private/public accessibility

- physical elements
- commercial building
- social building
- grassfield



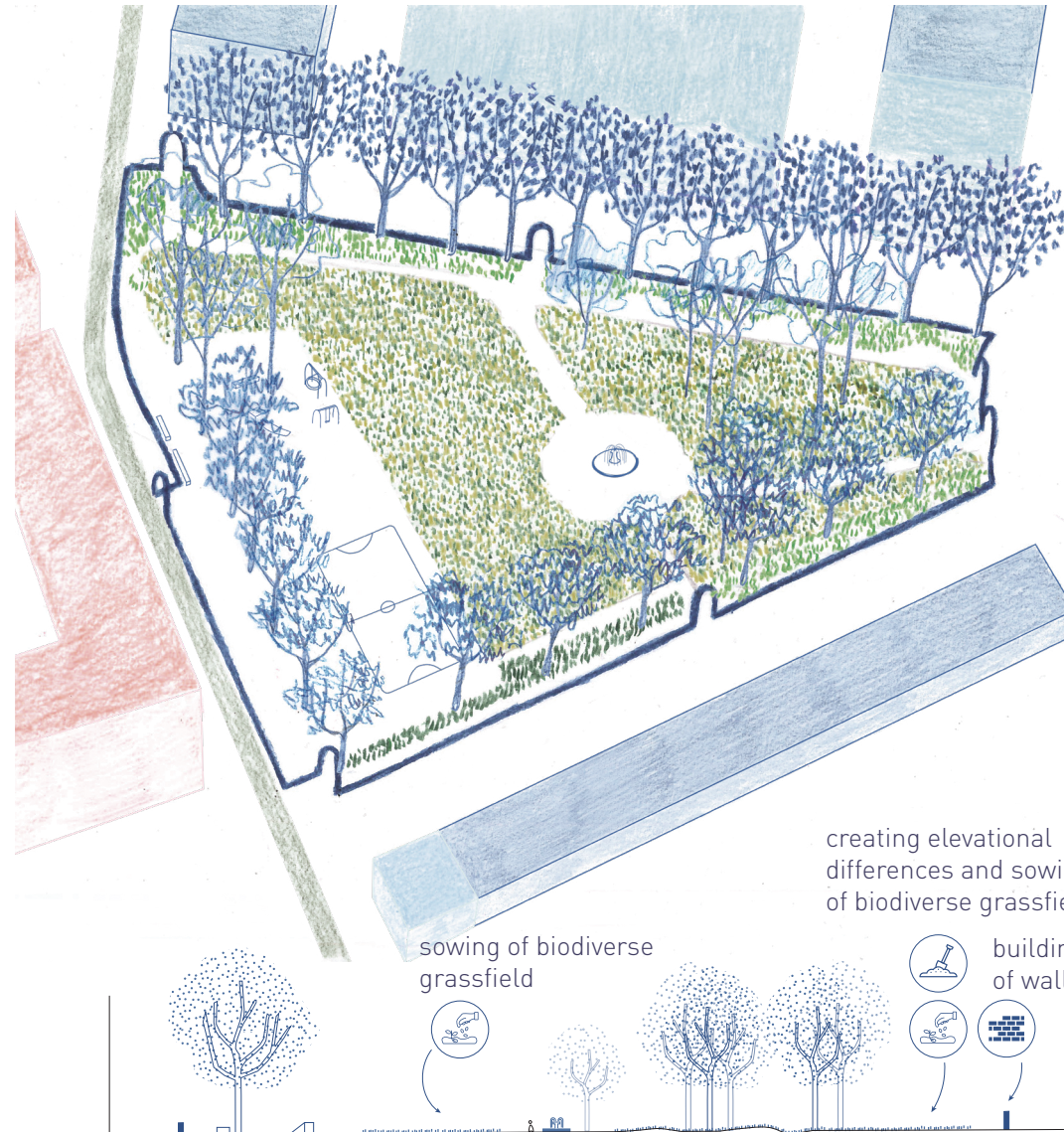
Current situation

0 5 m 10 m 20 m N

Achterklooster

Design through time
YEAR 1

- (bio)diverse grassfield
- flowering vegetation by neighborhood
- flowering vegetation by municipality



‘The monastery garden is a reflection of the community that lives around it.’

Sowing of vegetation by neighborhood

creating elevational differences and sowing of biodiverse grassfield

sowing of biodiverse grassfield

building of wall

0 5 m 10 m 20 m N

Achterklooster

Design through time
 YEAR 2 -
 EVERY WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

Neighborhood personal narratives

Include personalization
 by proposing flexible
 elements

Local personal narratives

Diversify play functions

social

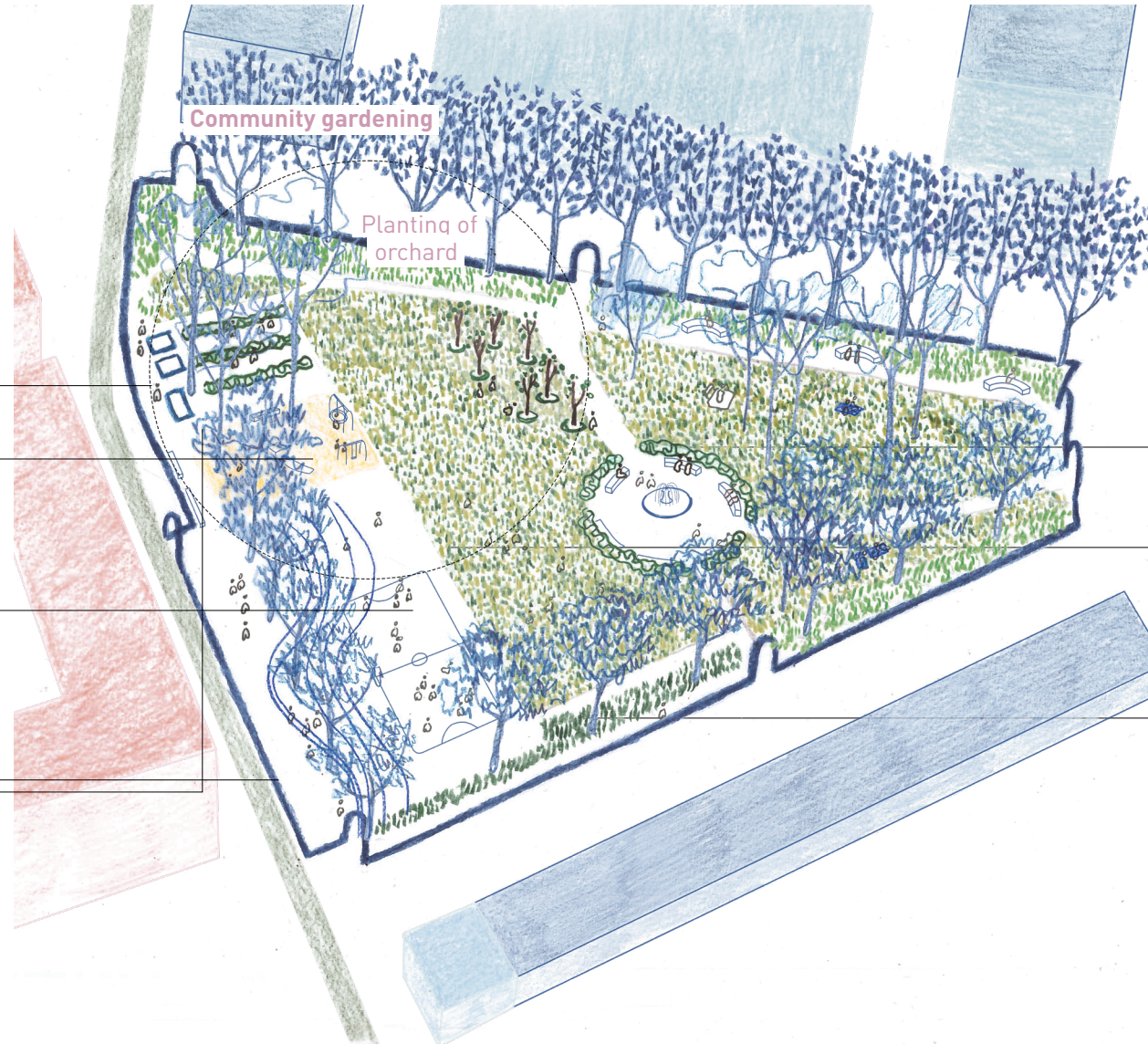
Support spontaneous
 use with open lawns
 and multipurpose sur-
 faces

social

Neighborhood historical narratives

Wall around the public
 space to make it feel
 more private and as a
 historical reference

historical



Local personal narratives

physical

Creating a better en-
 vironment for the city
 rabbits

physical

Enhancing the green
 character by regreening
 the site

social

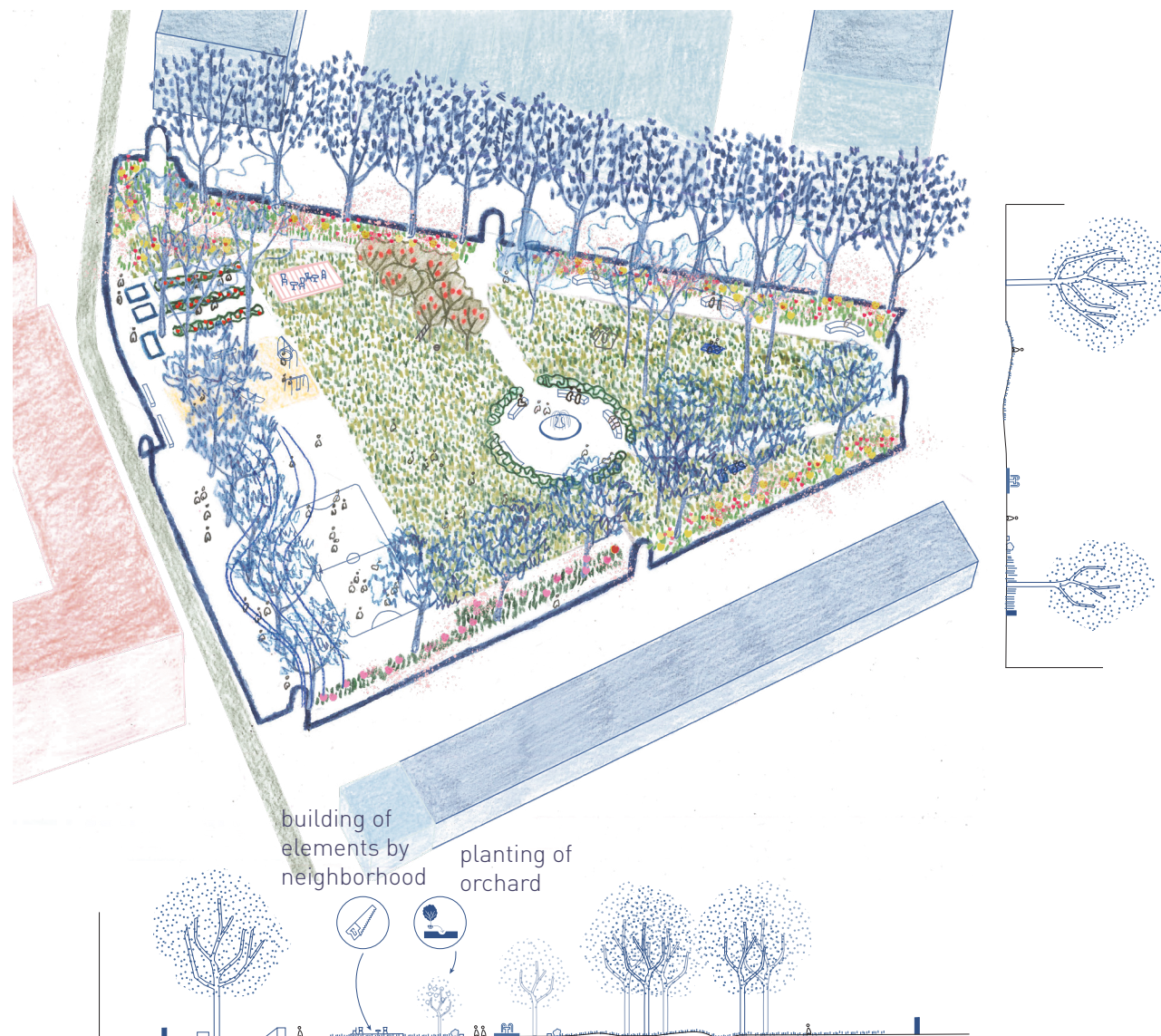
Introduce a circular
 walking path to provide
 a walkable site

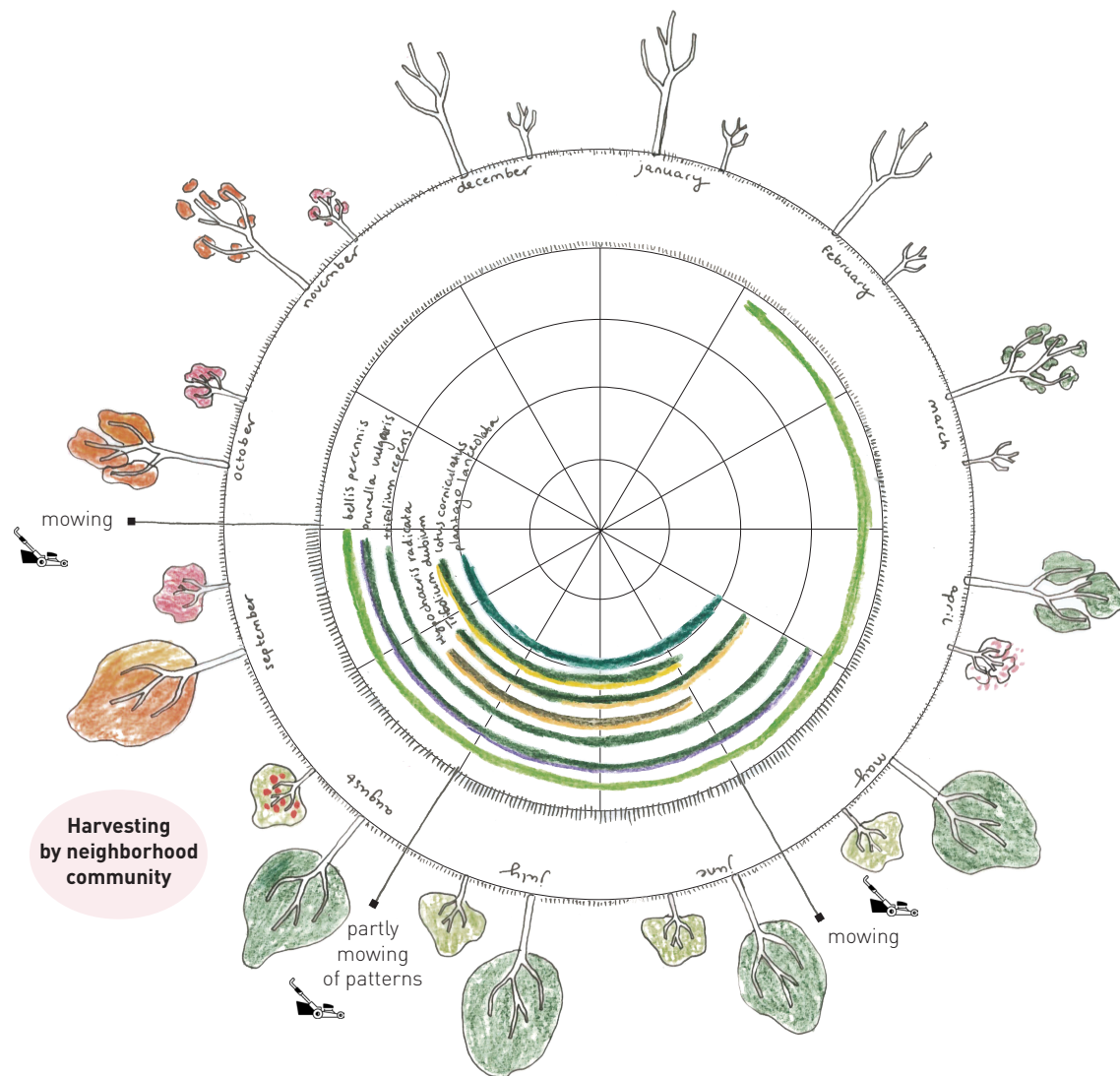
0 5 m 10 m 20 m N

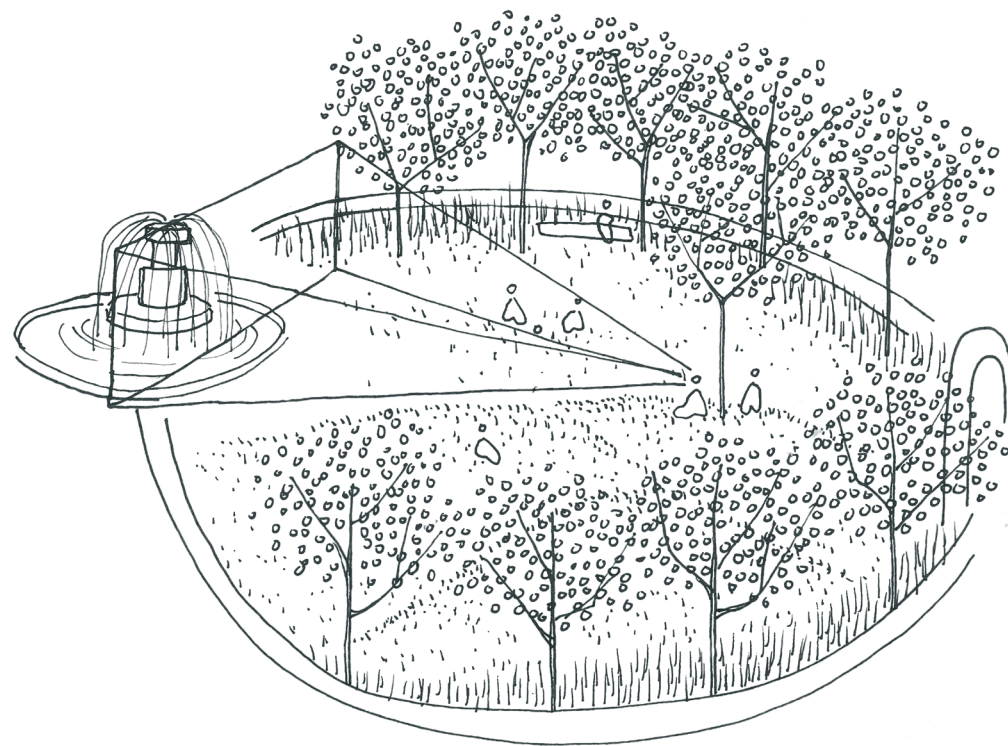
Achterklooster

Design through time
YEAR 5

- personal adaptation
- flowering vegetation of neighborhood
- harvesting of orchard







4. Conclusion & reflection

What can **urban green spaces** contribute to enhancing **public spaces** *as connectors to the social fabric* in the **Stadsdriehoek** of Rotterdam?

Physical - restore legibility & continuity

Social - diversify use & interaction

Mental - reconnect people through narrative & memory

Design approach through place attachment theory
The project in wider landscape architectural context

Thank you!

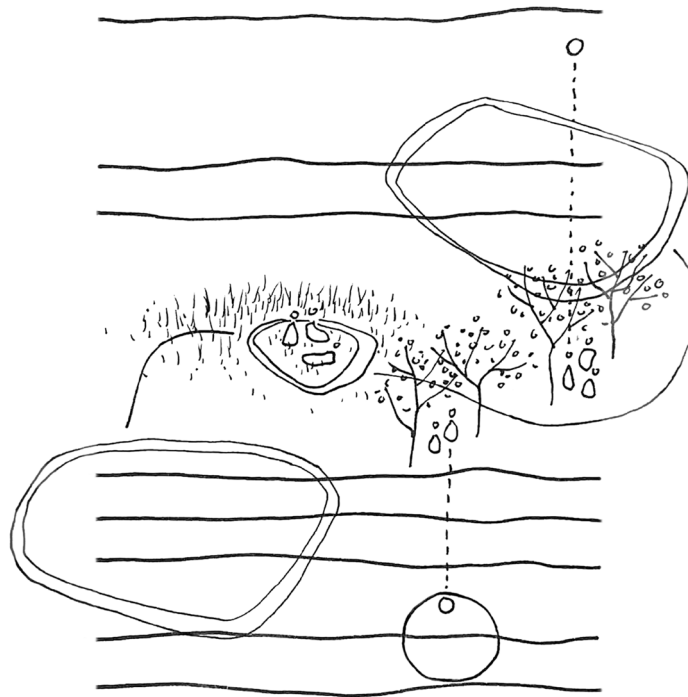


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