

THE RIGHT TO URBAN SPACE

reaching Just environments
through the embracement of
diversity and disorder in the
urban realm.

P5 graduation presentation MSc urbanism
Willemijn Hoogland





THE RIGHT TO URBAN SPACE

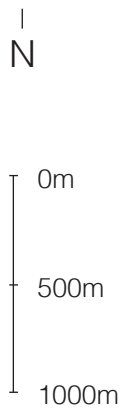
REACHING JUST
ENVIRONMENTS THROUGH
THE EMBRACEMENT OF
DIVERSITY AND DISORDER
IN THE URBAN REALM.



Het Parool / Hannah Bults



CBS / Nikki van Toorn



2002

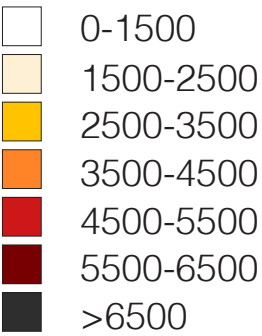


2012



2019

WOZ-value Amsterdam
(€/ m2)



'Amsterdam dreigt te disneyficeren'

Parool.nl, 2015



Bakker van Maanen/@FoodClicks



Author, 2023

Dertien euro voor één stroopwafel? Geen probleem voor deze toeristen in de binnenstad van Amsterdam



Parool / Angela Baas, 2024

Parool, 2014

'De yup neemt Amsterdam over'

Amsterdam is definitief bezet door rijke yuppen

de Volkskrant, 2001

Wonen in Amsterdam: straks alleen voor de rijken?

Amsterdam veryupt. Vooral in de oude stadsdelen Oost, Centrum en Oud-West komen steeds meer jonge draagkrachtige huizenkopers.

NOS, 2016



'Het is een blanke kakbuurt geworden met studenten en yuppen'

MARKTKOOPMAN ALBERT CUIJP

AT5.nl, 2020

Yuppenparadijs: hip en hoogopgeleid neemt Amsterdam over

het Parool, 2015



Ramon van Flymen. AFP. Netherlands OUT

Smooth Environments

perfectly designed urban environments that run *smoothly*

introduction

problematISATION

socio-spatial analysis

proposal

design

conclusion and reflection

smooth = matter of norms

introduction

problematISATION

socio-spatial analysis

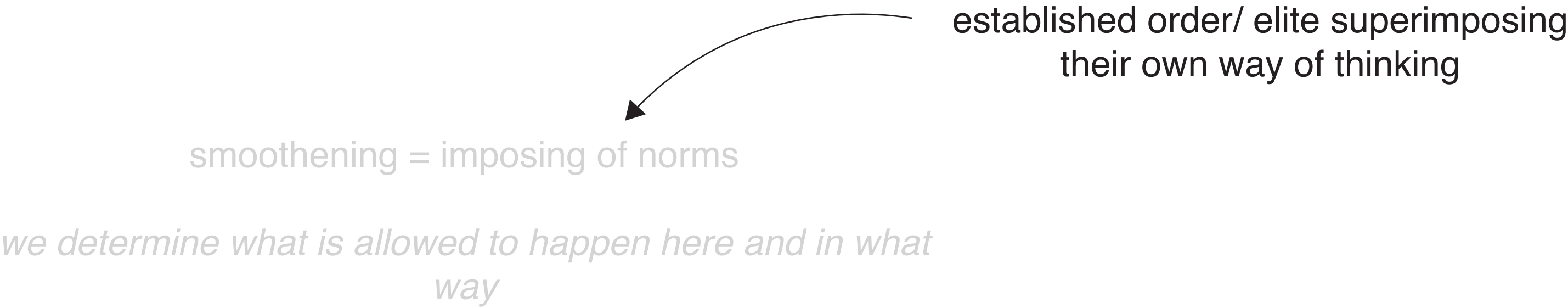
proposal

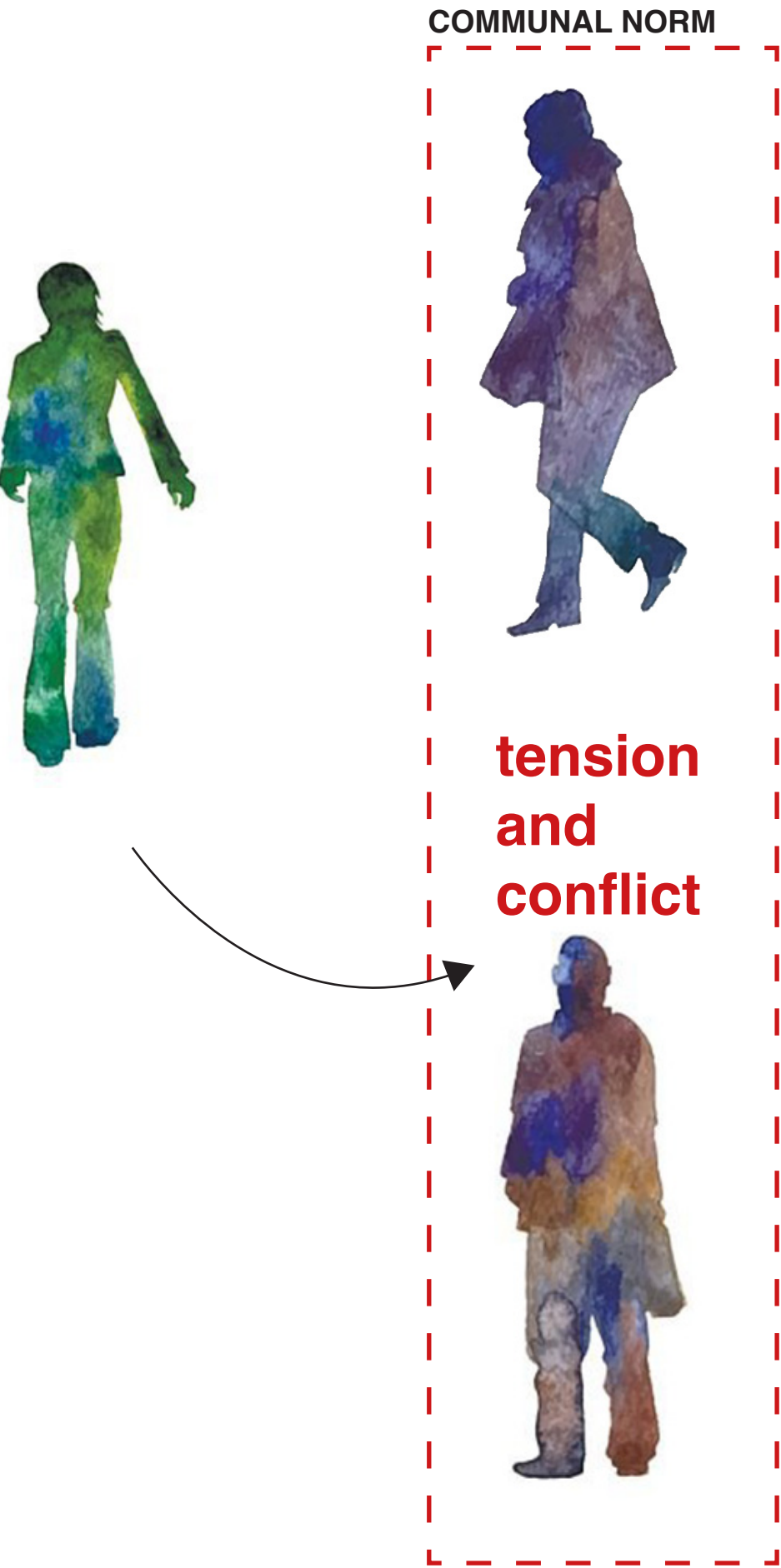
design

conclusion and reflection

smoothing = imposing of norms

we determine what is allowed to happen here and in what way





Sennett, R. (1970). The Uses of Disorder. Knopf.Universiteit Leuven.

TU Delft Centre for the Just City. (2022). Duty of Care Podcast: planning for solidarity with Stijn Oosterlynck.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

dominant norms are imposed that remove important complex layers that define a place while leaving out space for anything that is *other*. As a result, cities turn into **exclusive entities**, endangering their inclusive nature by leaving no (public) space for multiple types of citizens, modes of expression, modes of life, or possibilities to claim a part of the city and (re)shape it.

THESIS OBJECTIVES

This master thesis aims to understand how **smooth environments** are **manifested** and what its **socio-spatial consequences** are on the Just City. By doing so, this research explores alternative ways to move towards a more **Just urban environment**, by means of **spatial transformations**.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

What urban transformations can unlock spatial justice that embrace different norms, giving space to the other, within a smoothened environment of Amsterdam?

UNDERSTAND AND EXPOSE

1. How are smooth environments manifested in Amsterdam?
2. What are the socio-spatial implications of smooth environments in Amsterdam?

PROPOSE

3. How can smooth environments be understood as a progression of levels that positively contribute to the diversity of complex layers that comprise an urban space?
4. What spatial transformations can contribute to a Just urban environment, within a smoothened context of Amsterdam?

EXPOSE

introduction

problematISATION

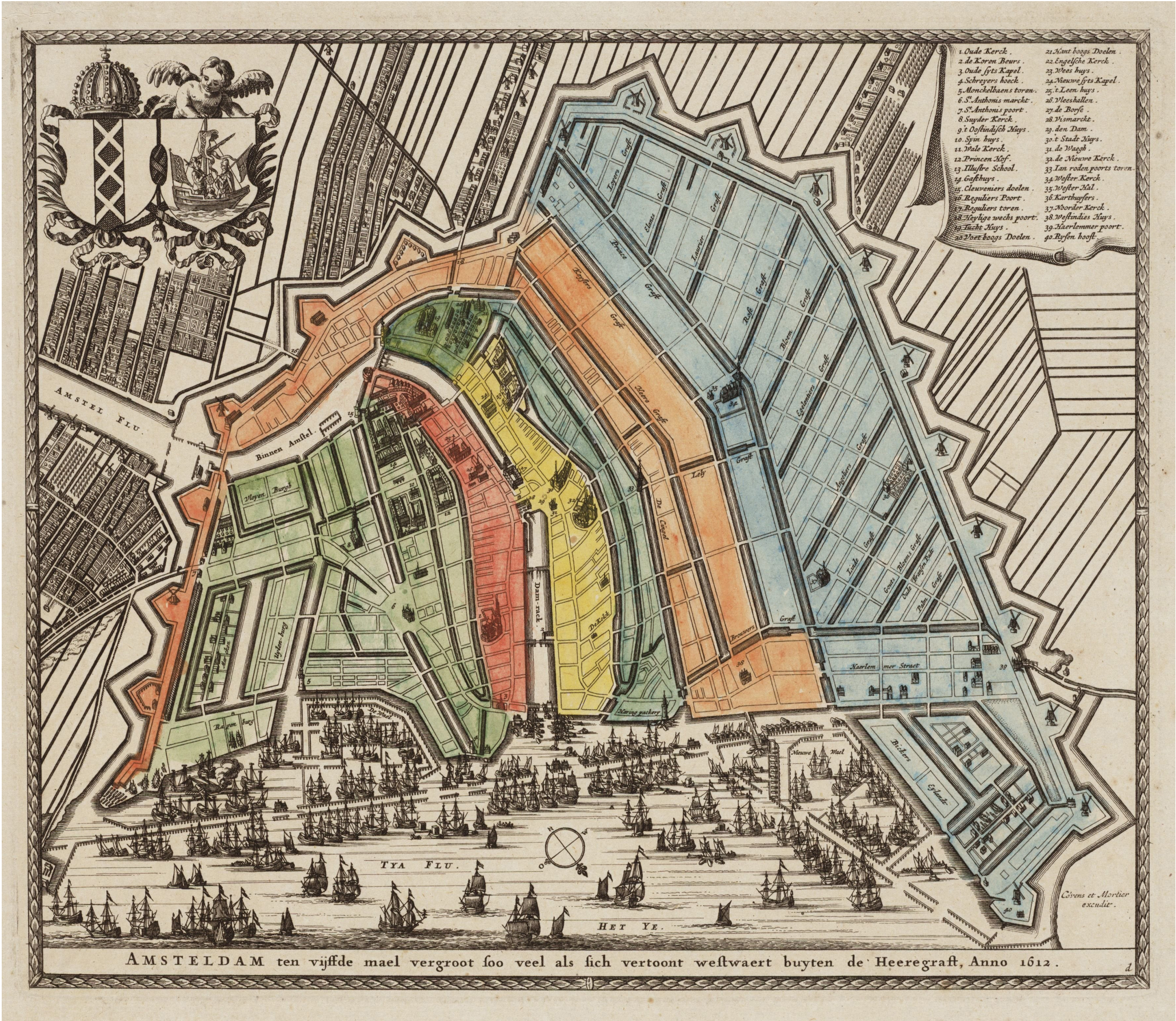
socio-spatial
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reflection

Our spatial environment plays a crucial role in existing powerstructures, and therefore actively shapes our perception of norms.



Map of Amsterdam 1662
Stadsarchief Amsterdam.



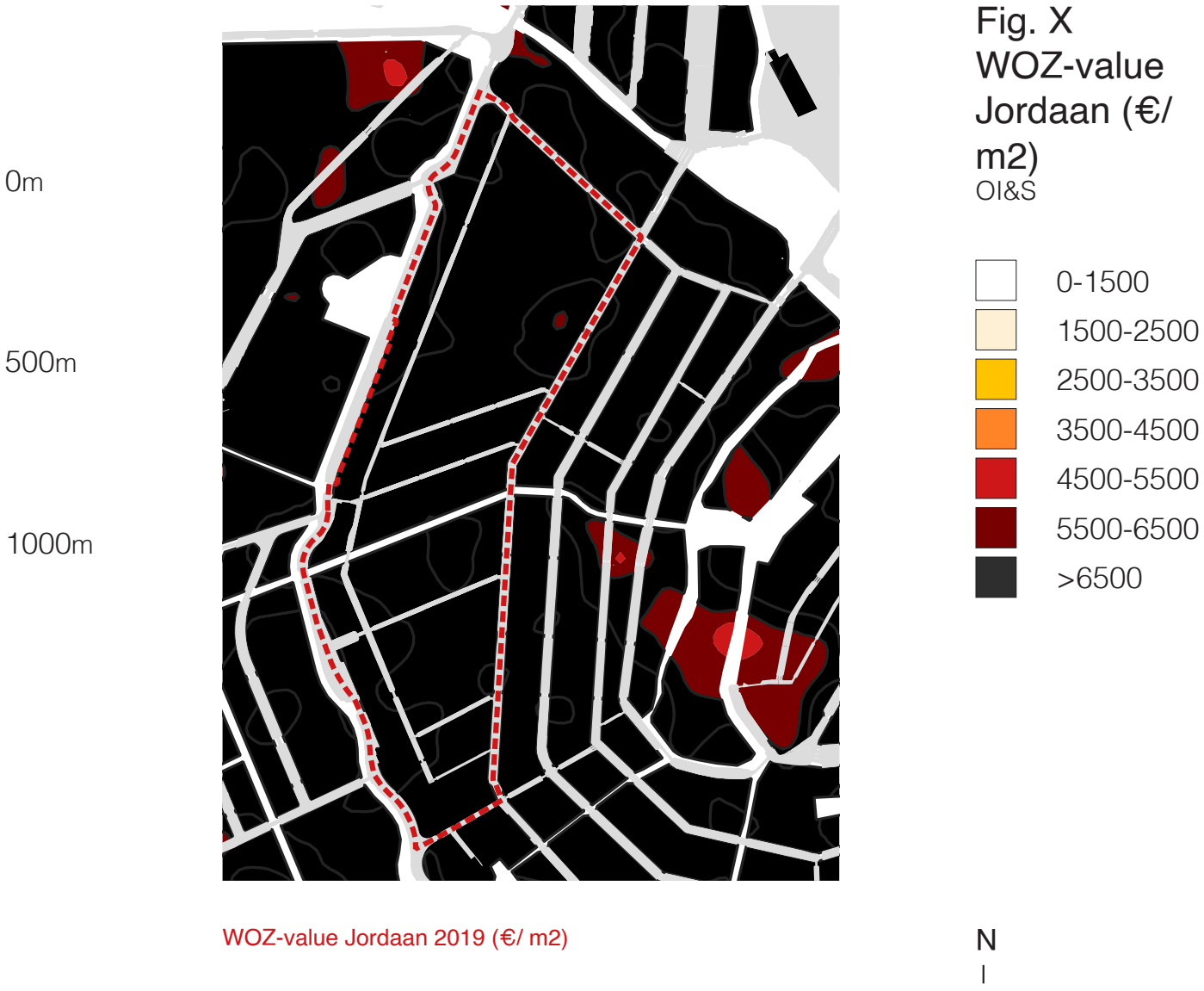
Gezicht op de Gouden Bocht Herengracht vanuit het oosten (1685)
Painted by Gerrit Berckheyde, 1685. Conducted from online archive of the Rijksmuseum on 13.12.2023



Goudsbloemgracht 1850
Stadsarchief Amsterdam



Goudsbloemgracht 1850
Stadsarchief Amsterdam



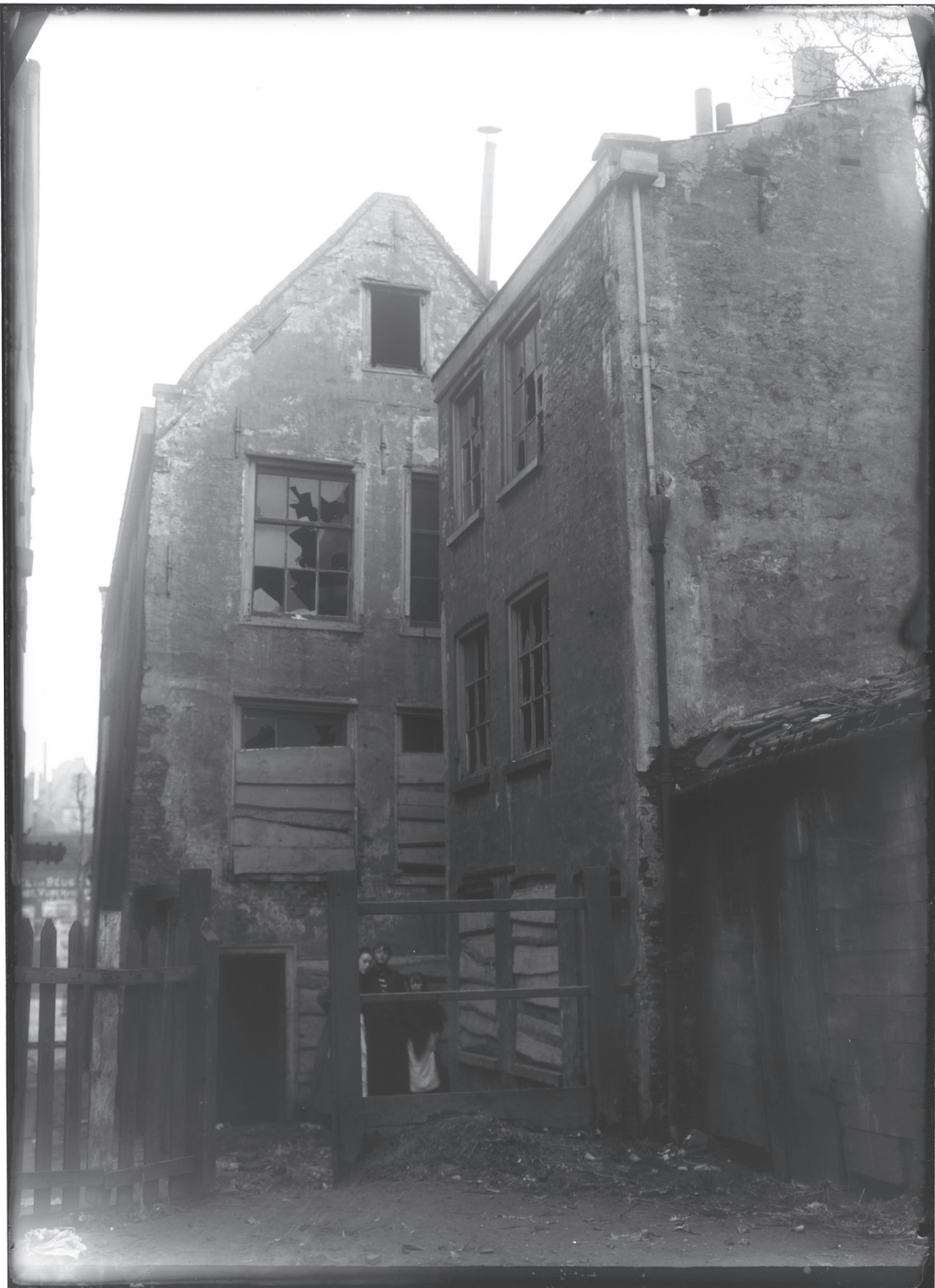
Nu is het een hippe stadswijk, met veel bovenmodale inkomens, modieuze restaurants en trendy cafés. Koffie drinken bij café Thijssen of Festina Lente, appeltaart bij Winkel, Italiaans bij Toscanini, Spaans bij Duende, een biologische markt op de zaterdagse Noordermarkt en een afzakkertje bij het Papeneiland. Er wonen nu ongeveer 18.000



Jordaan 1913
Archief van de Gemeentelijke Dienst Volkshuisvesting en rechtsvoorganger / Stadsarchief Amsterdam



Jordaan 1910: Wijdegang
Stadsarchief Amsterdam



Jordaan 1913
Archief van de Gemeentelijke Dienst Volkshuisvesting en rechtsvoorganger / Stadsarchief Amsterdam

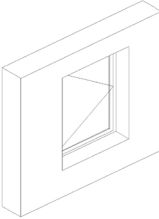




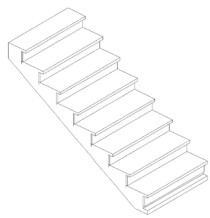
Opoe de Munck uit het raam. 1957
Alphen, O. Nieuwenhuijzen, K. / Stadsarchief Amsterdam



Opoe de Munck uit het raam. 1957
Alphen, O. Nieuwenhuijzen, K. / Stadsarchief Amsterdam

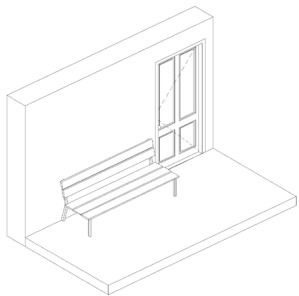


WINDOW



STAIRCASE

Palmgracht 73. 1956
Ruig, C. / Stadsarchief Amsterdam



STOEP

introduction

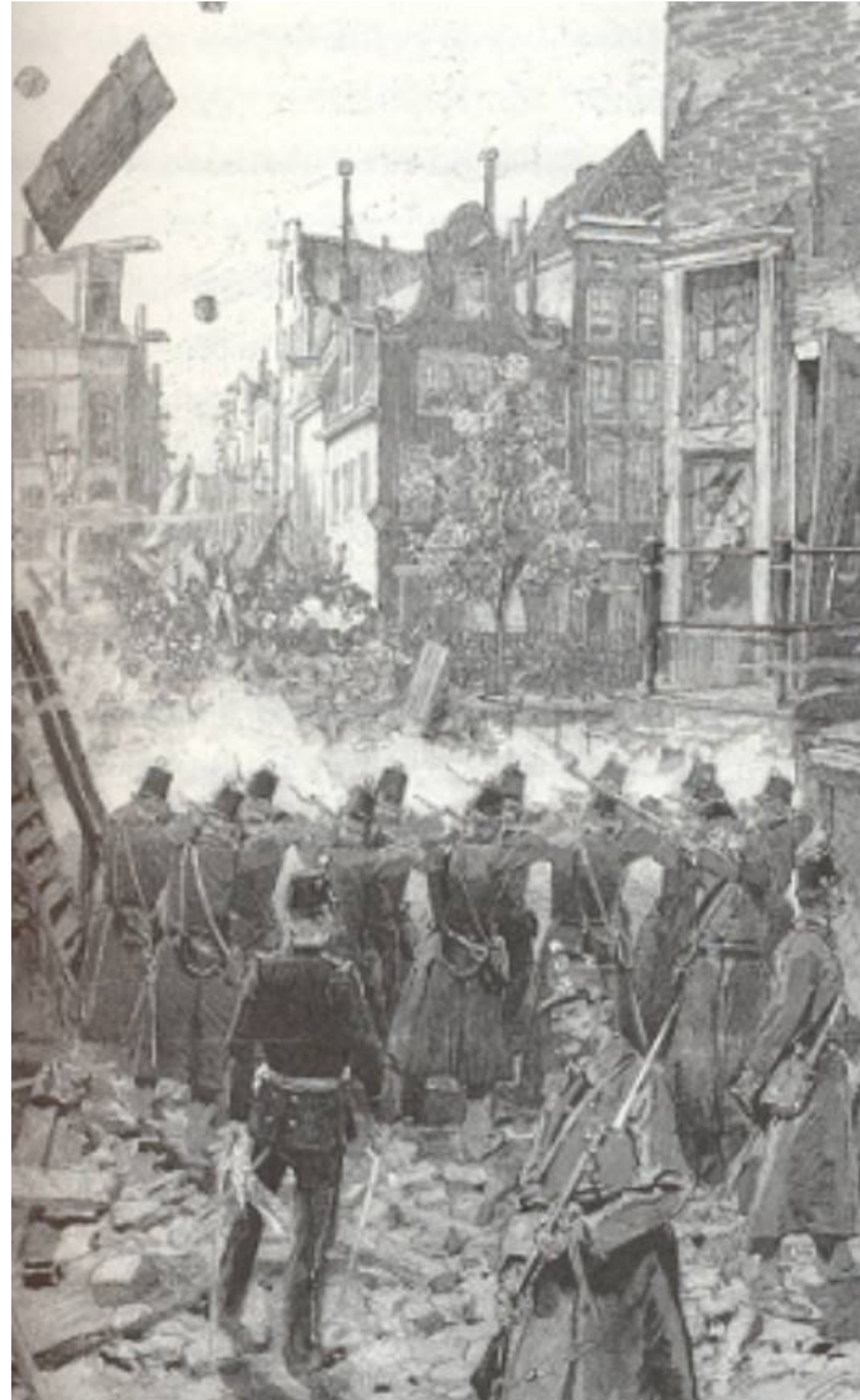
problematISATION

socio-spatial analysis

proposal

design

conclusion and reflection

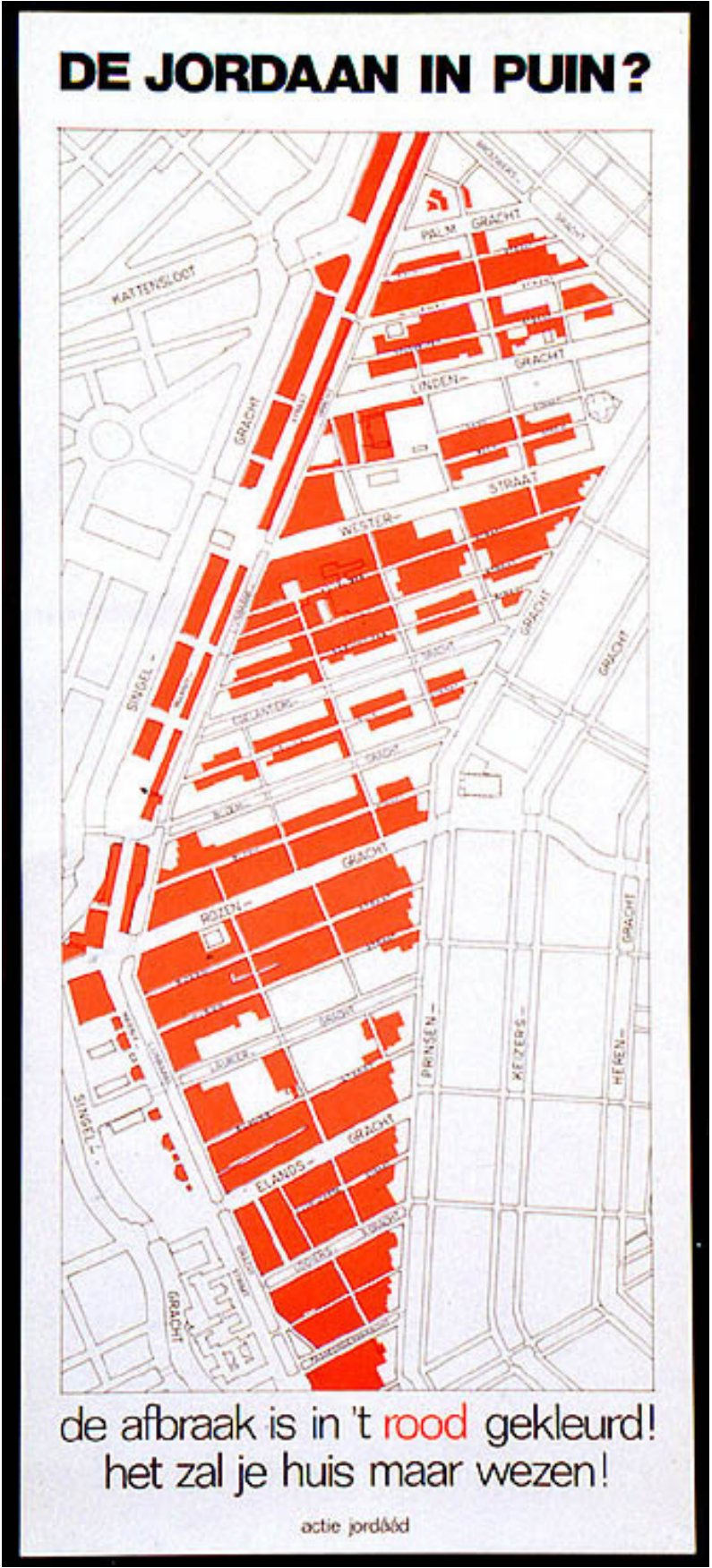


Publiek Domein – wiki

nothing can be made of the **slums** [...] the whole is only suitable for being demolished as a home after expropriation’ *(translated from Dutch)*.

Afdeeling Amsterdam van den Volksbond, & De Bussy, J. H. (1893)

to-be-demolished buildings Jordaan
amsterdamsebinnenstad.nl. Conducted on 16.12.2023
via <https://www.amsterdamsebinnenstad.nl/binnenstad/lamp/sanering.html>



0m
100m
200m



Newly constructed buildings in Jordaan

N
|

Legend

■ Buildings built after 1960

Data and cartographic references
Databank, Amsterdamse Federatie van Woningcorporaties / Platform Woningcorporaties Noordvleugel Randstad (PWNRR), peildatum 1-1-2022
PDOK
Gemeente Amsterdam - Ruimte en Duurzaamheid



Social housing and newly constructed buildings

Legend

- Social housing
- Buildings built after 1960

Data and cartographic references
Databank, Amsterdamse Federatie van Woningcorporaties / Platform Woningcorporaties Noordvleugel Randstad (PWNRR), peildatum 1-1-2022
PDOK
Gemeente Amsterdam - Ruimte en Duurzaamheid



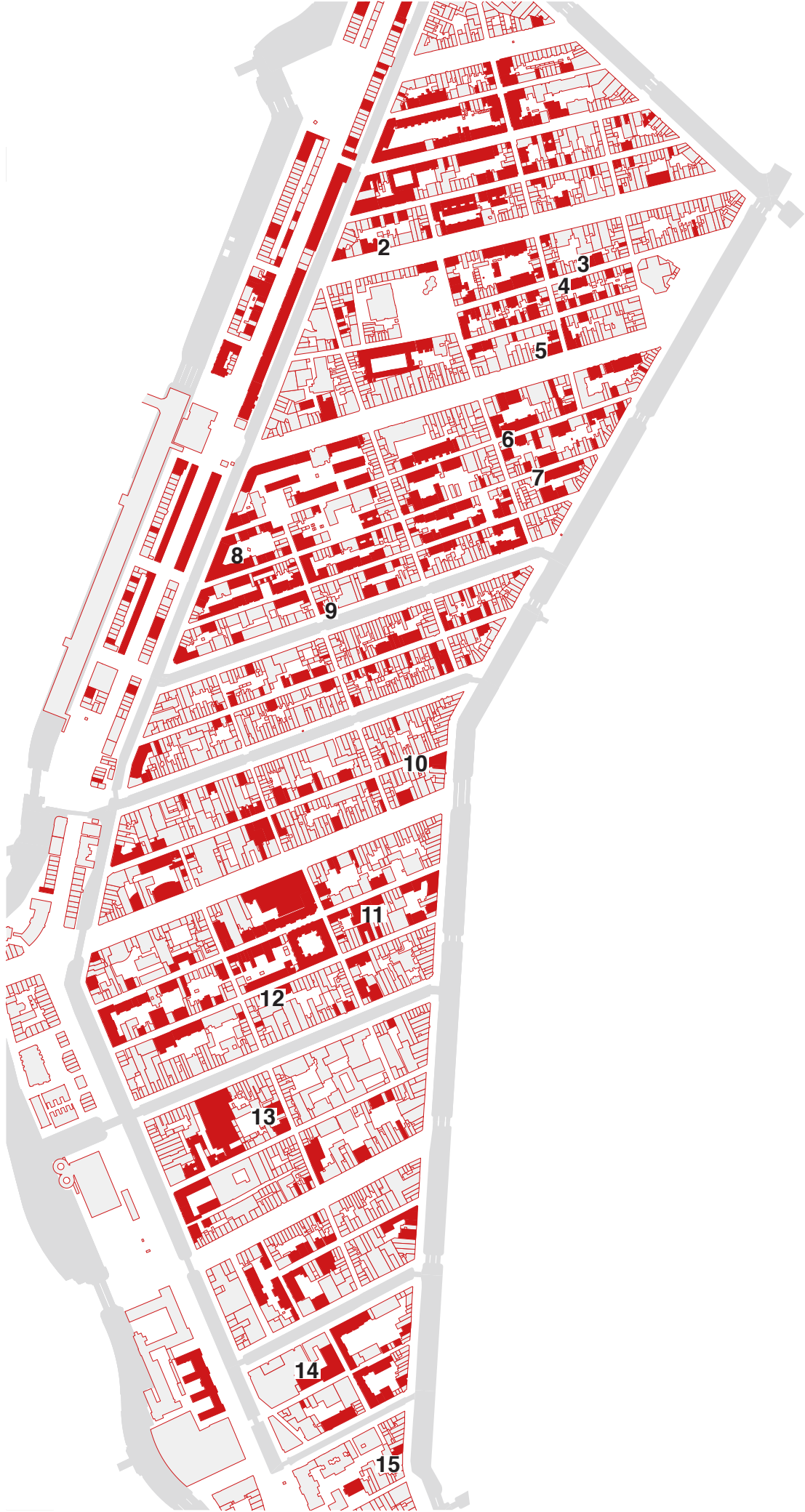
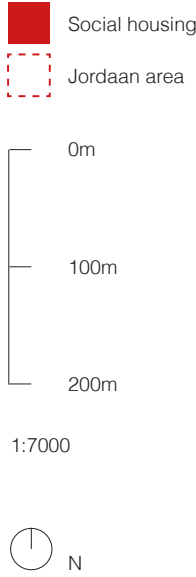
photos from fieldtrip 6.12.2023



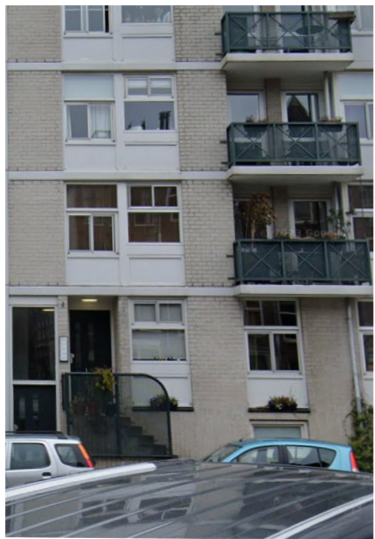
photos from fieldtrip 6.12.2023

Data and cartographic references
Databank, Amsterdamse Federatie van Woningcorporaties / Platform Woningcorporaties Noordvleugel Randstad (PWNRF), peildatum 1-1-2022
PDOK

Social Housing



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



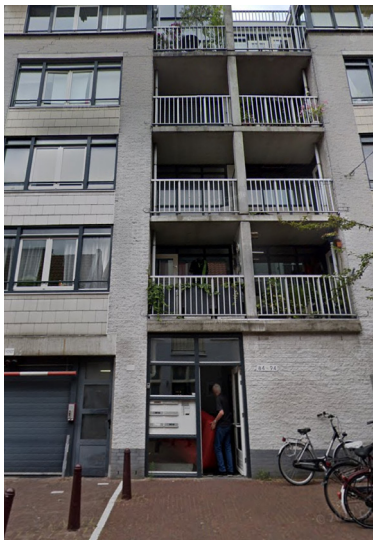
9



10



11



12



13



14



15

Google Maps. Conducted on 14.01.2024



photos from fieldtrip 6.12.2023



Google Maps. Conducted on 14.01.2024



Fig. 49: facade social housing
Google Maps. Conducted on 14.01.2024

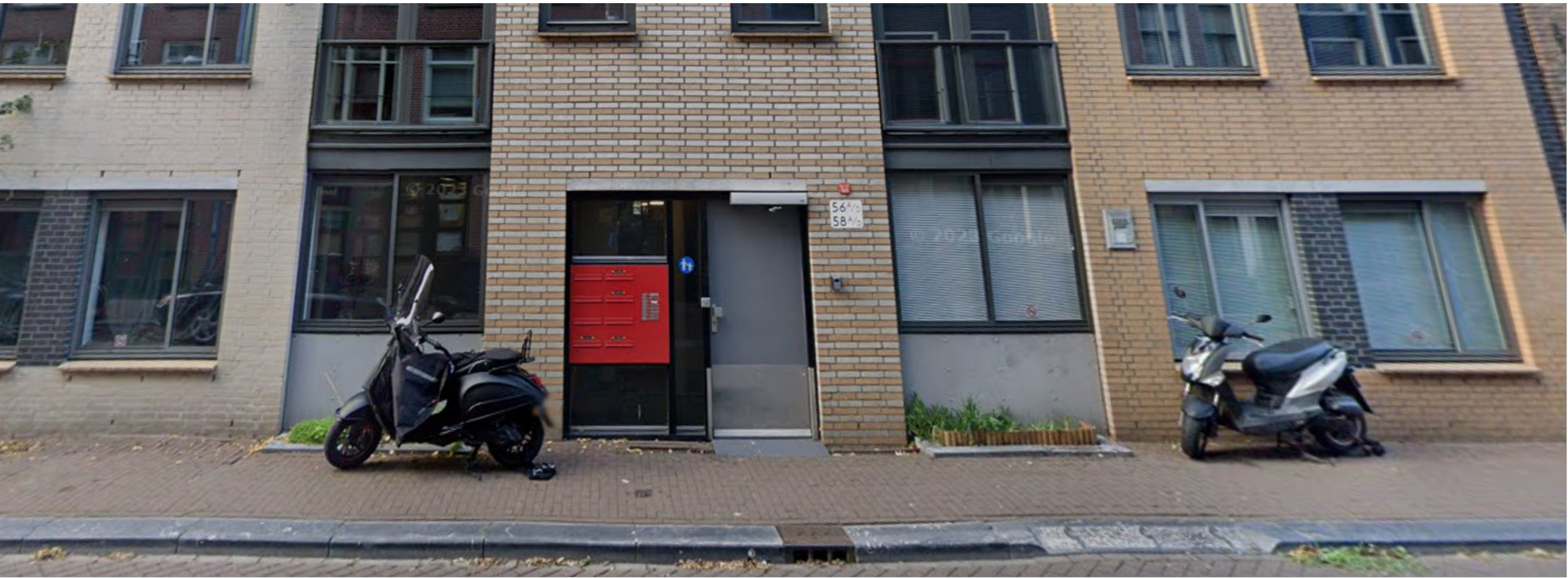


Fig. 49: facade social housing
Google Maps. Conducted on 14.01.2024

unequal distribution of opportunities to make a spatial claim

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unequal distribution of opportunities to make a spatial claim



overrepresentation of the dominant norm, and lacks diversity of norms



Transition smooth street and 'unsmooth' street
Author, 2024

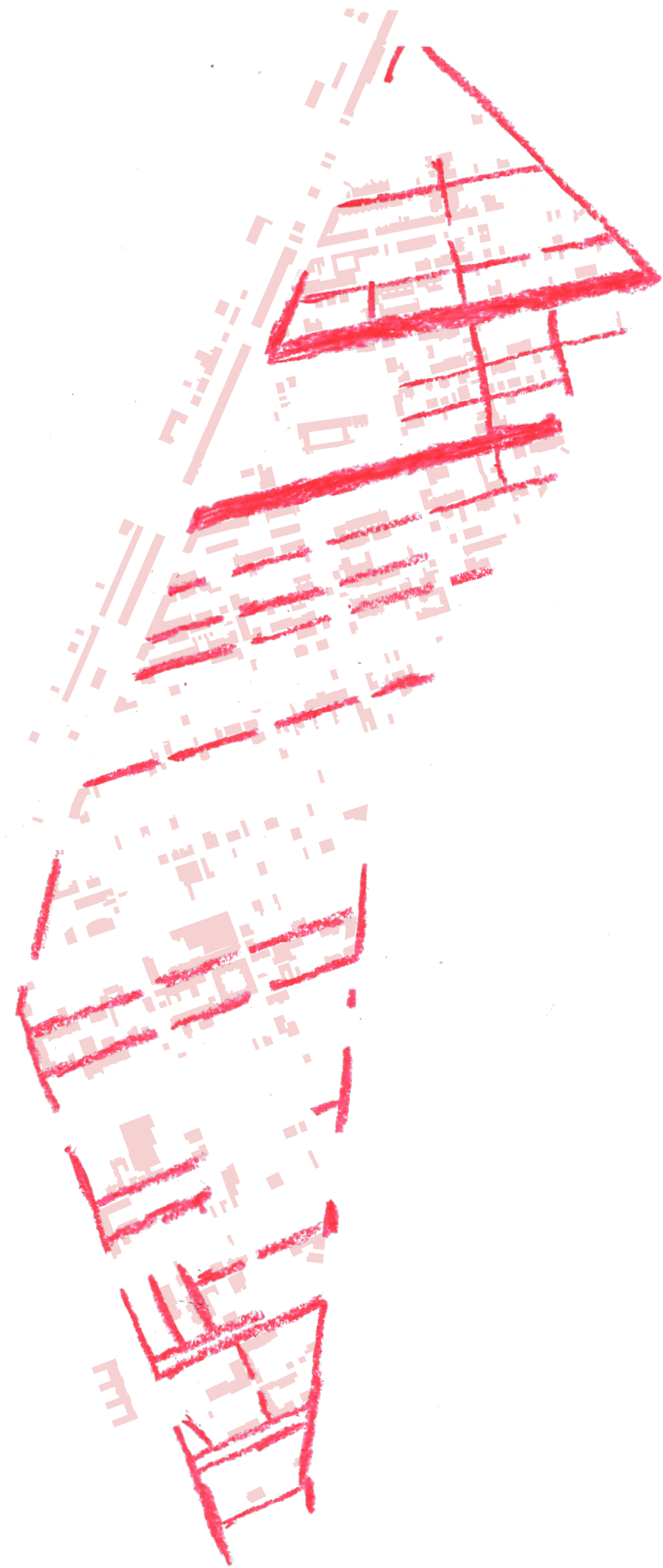
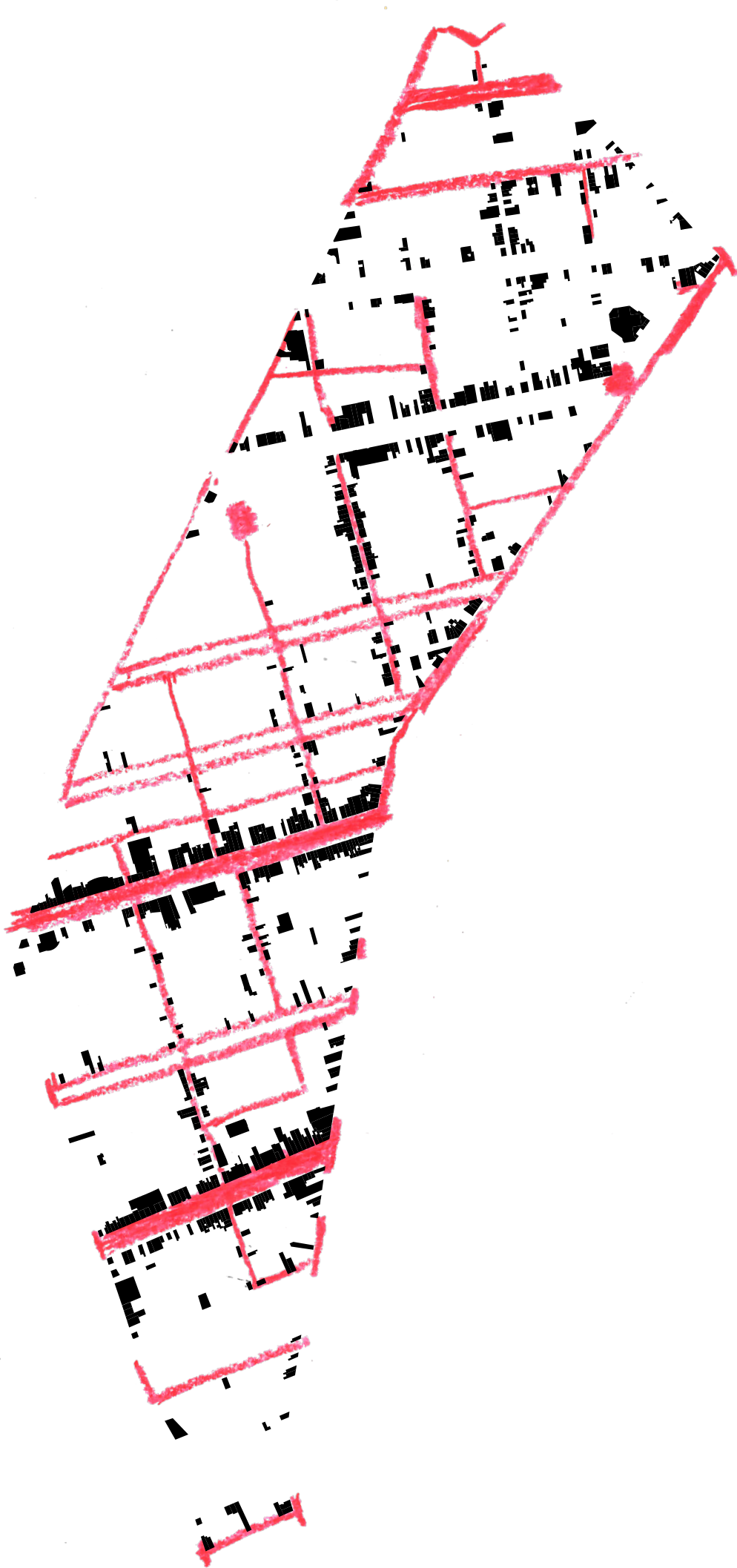


Smooth street and 'unsmooth' street

Author, 2024

left: smooth street and commercial ground floor program
right: unsmooth streets and social housing

detail level 1:5000 | N



Legend

- active ground floor program (commercial)
- smooth street
- social housing
- unsmooth street

‘in general, anything or anybody that deviates from the norm, is not welcome, and in most cases actively and rapidly removed’

(Boer, 2023: 28)

PROPOSE

introduction

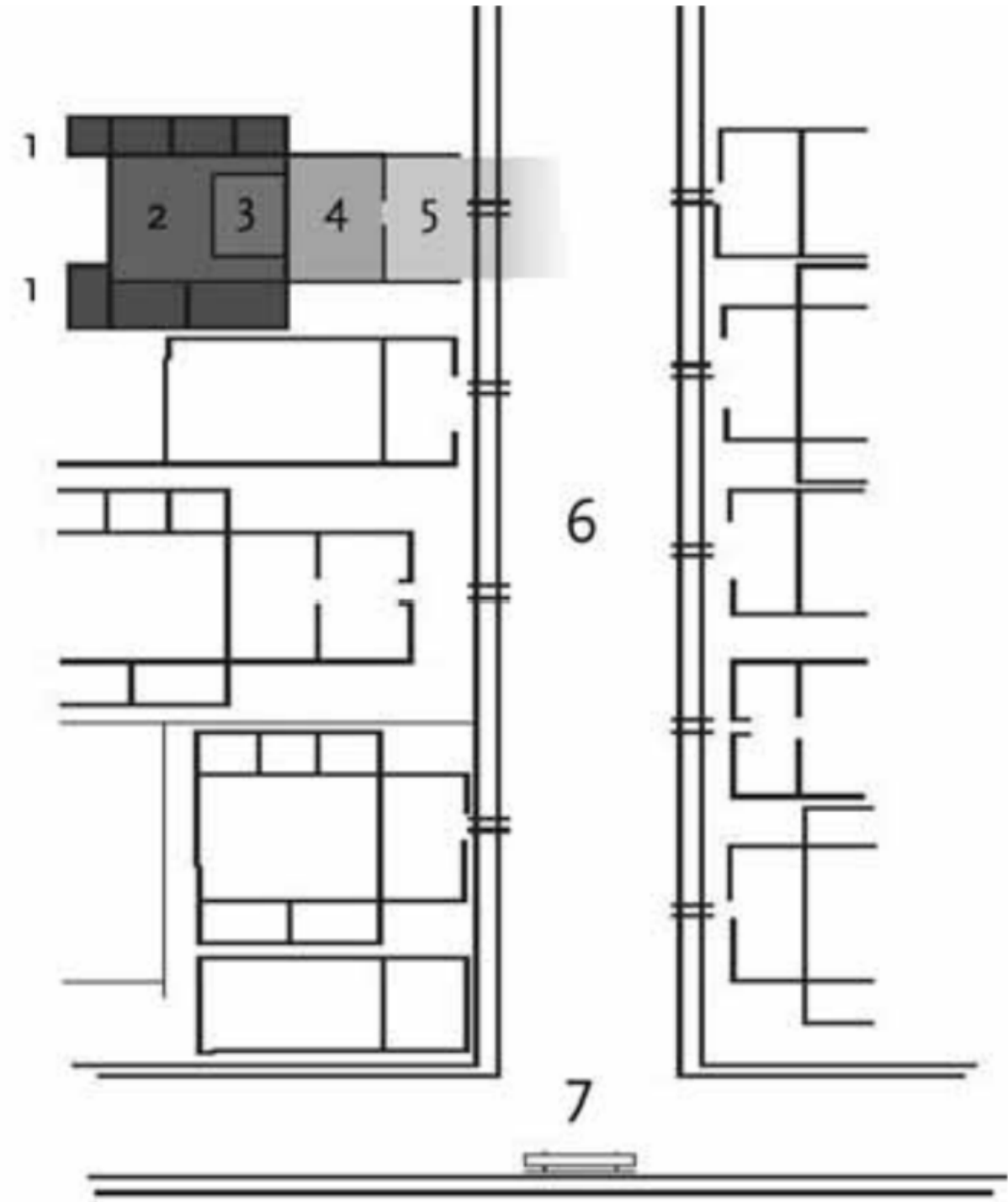
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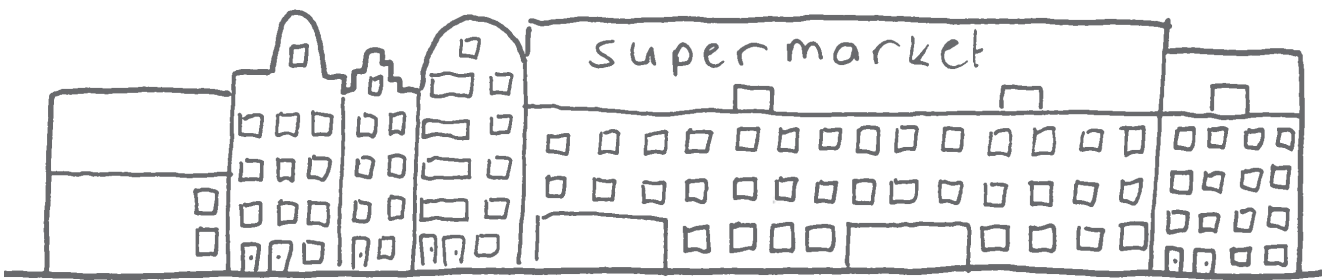


van Dorst, M. (2005). *Een duurzame leefbare woonomgeving [A sustainable living environment]*. Delft: Eburon.

Clossick, J. (2017). *The depth structure of a London high street: a study in urban order* (Doctoral dissertation, London Metropolitan University).

Habraken, N. J. (1998b). *The Structure of the Ordinary Form and Control in the Built Environment*. MIT Press

Hausleitner, B., BerghauserPont, M., vDorst, M. *Urban depth structures Spatial-functional variation between central lines and inner urban borders*. (unpublished).



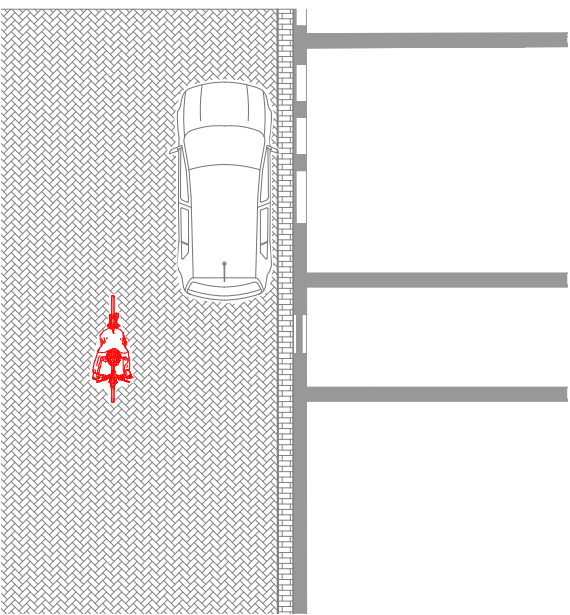
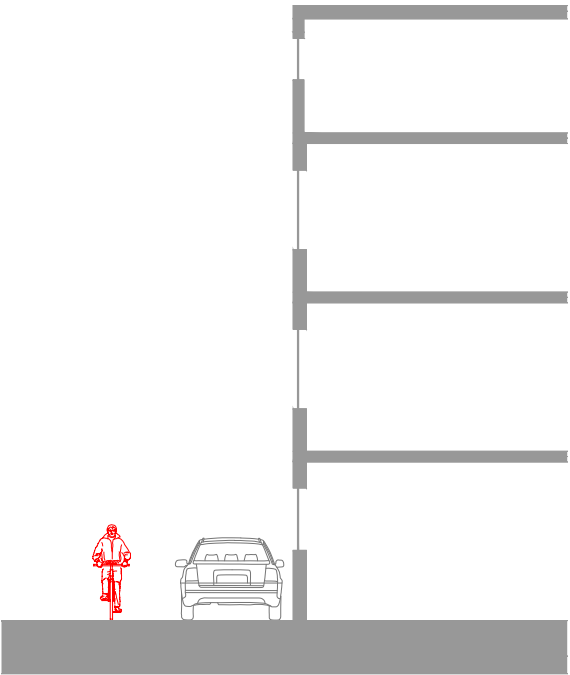
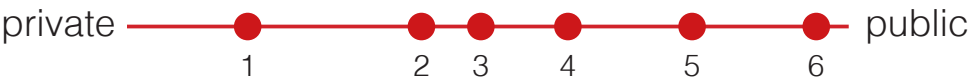
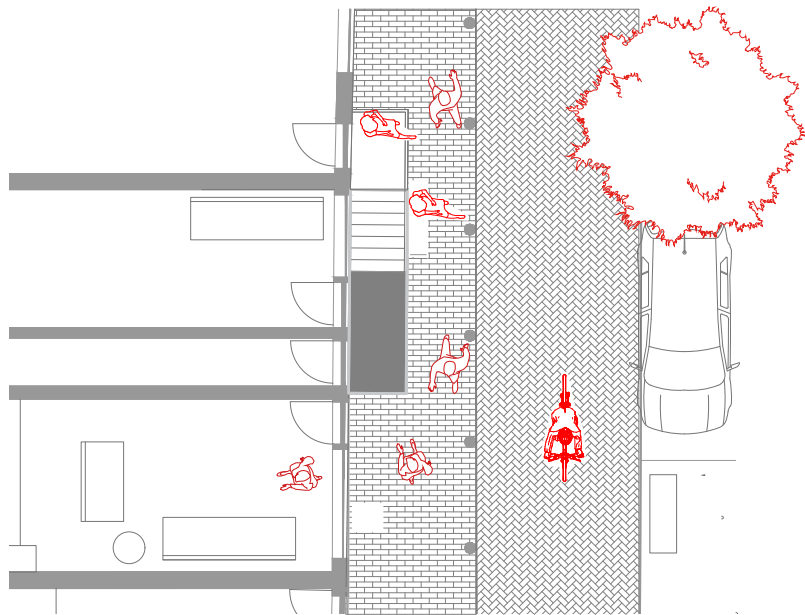
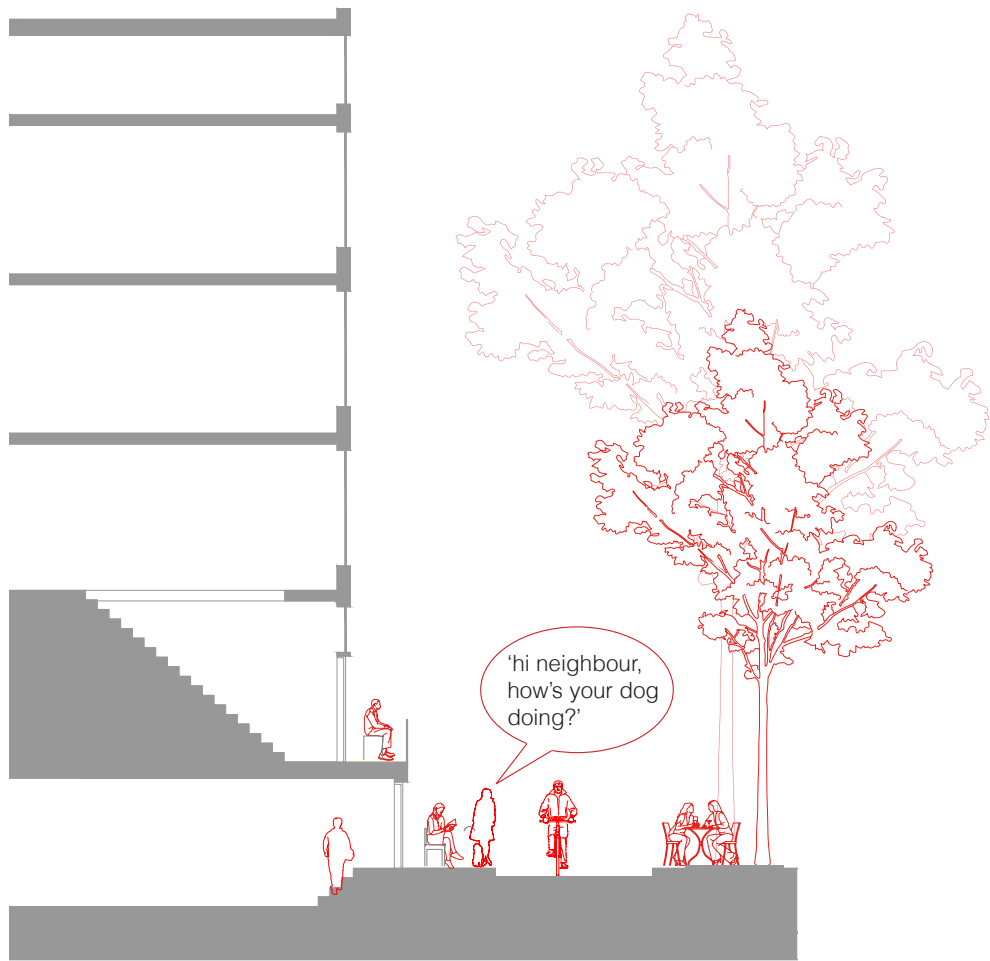
public territory

Marcia Stubbeman (cityseeker.com)



private territory

Willem Hogendoorn (indebuurt.nl/leiden)



‘Only in these cracks is an effective liminal possible where normative understandings of control can be challenged, and place for a counter-narrative can be established’.

(Ahmed, 2019: 153)



19718-1989
Cor van Weele / Stadsarchief Amsterdam



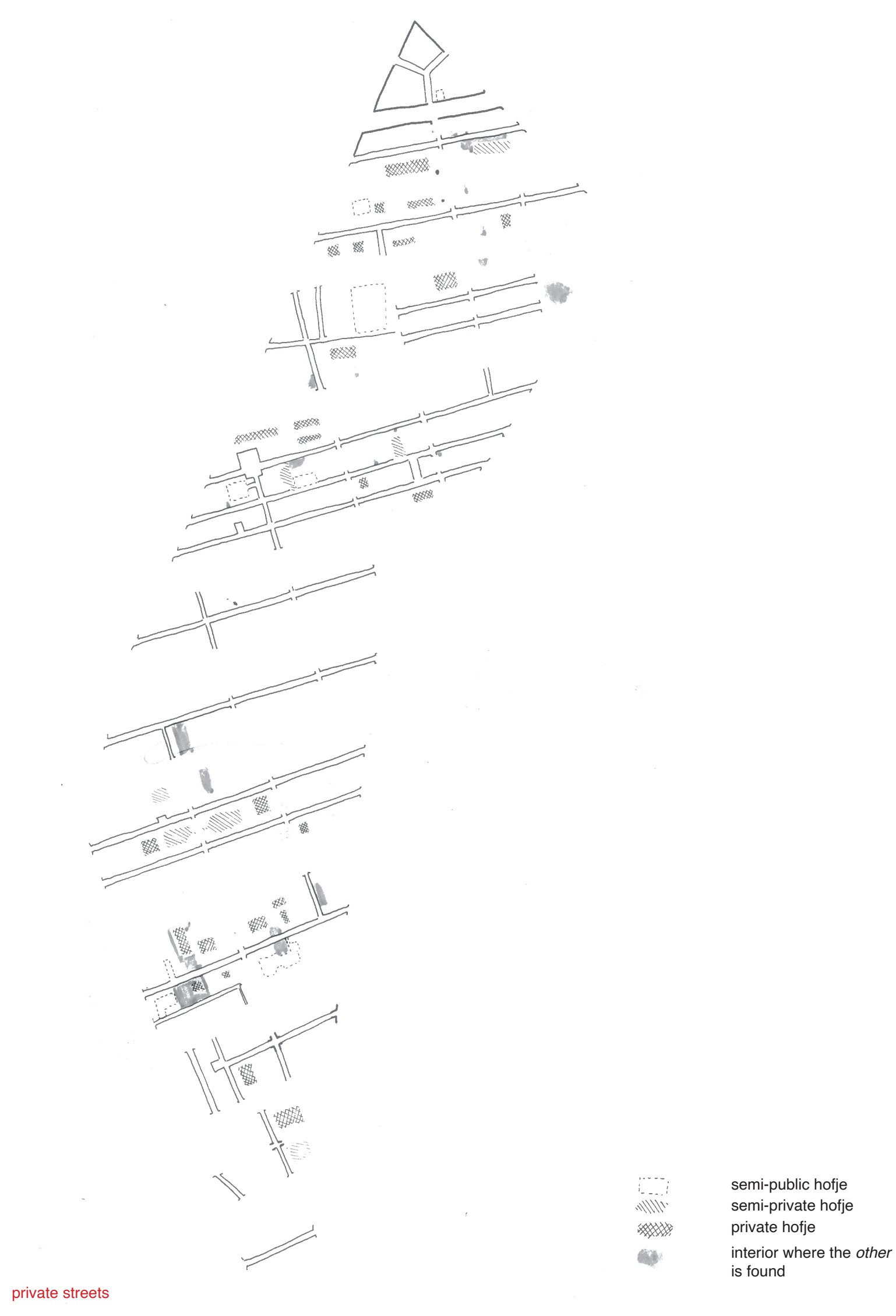
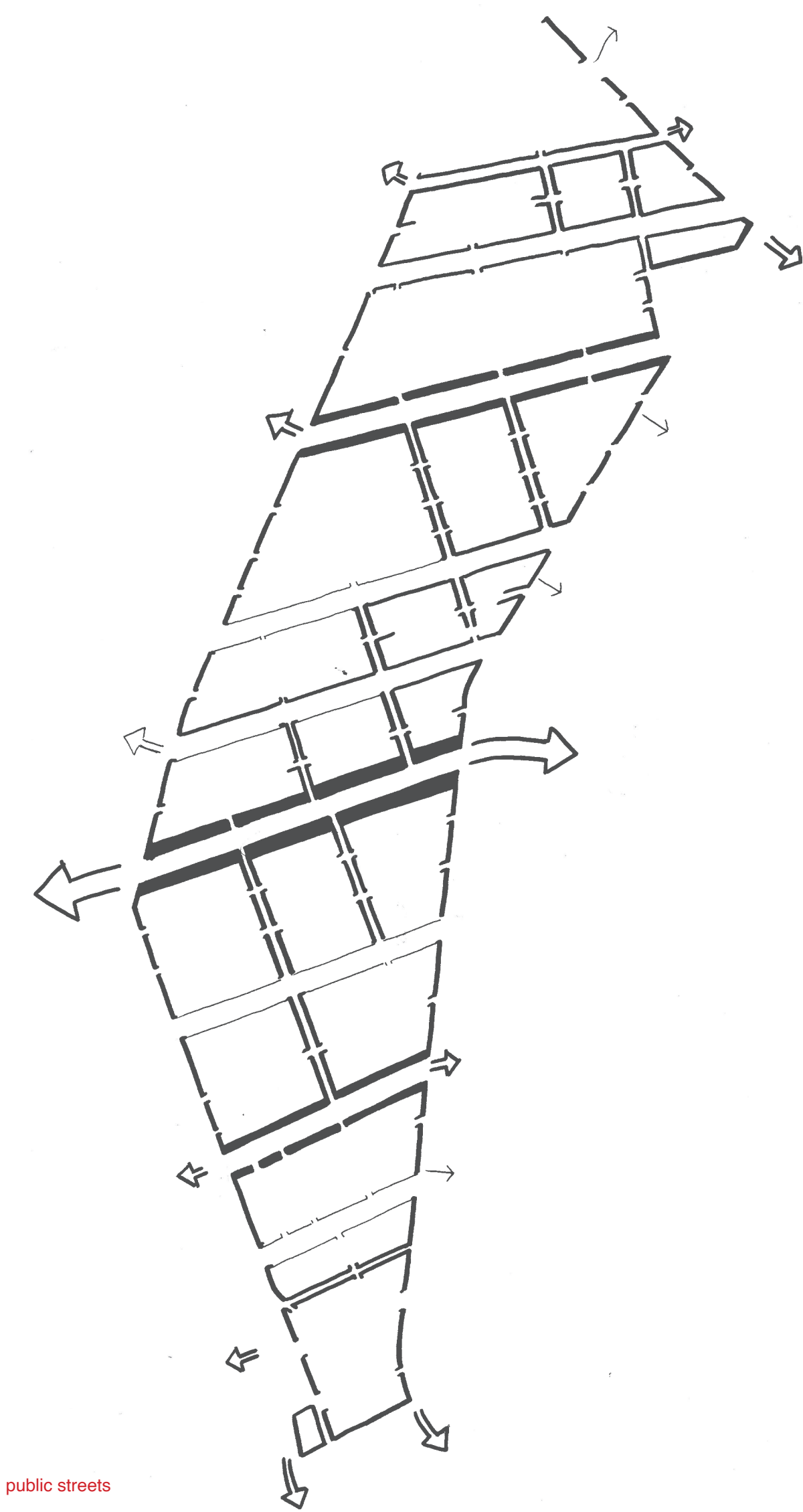
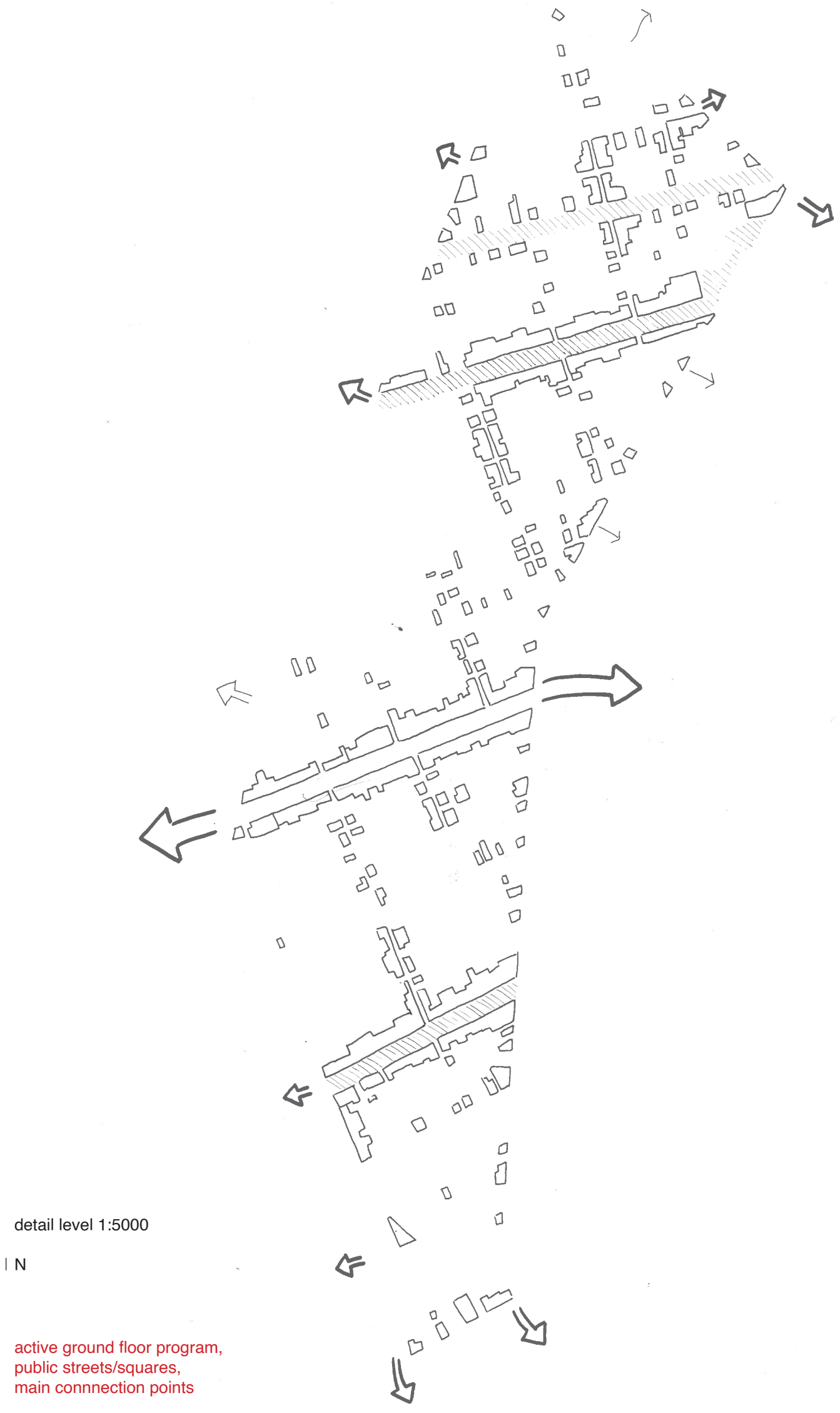
Kinderen in hun zelfgemaakte hutje, Jordaan. 1971
Alphen, O. Nieuwenhuijzen, K. / Stadsarchief Amsterdam

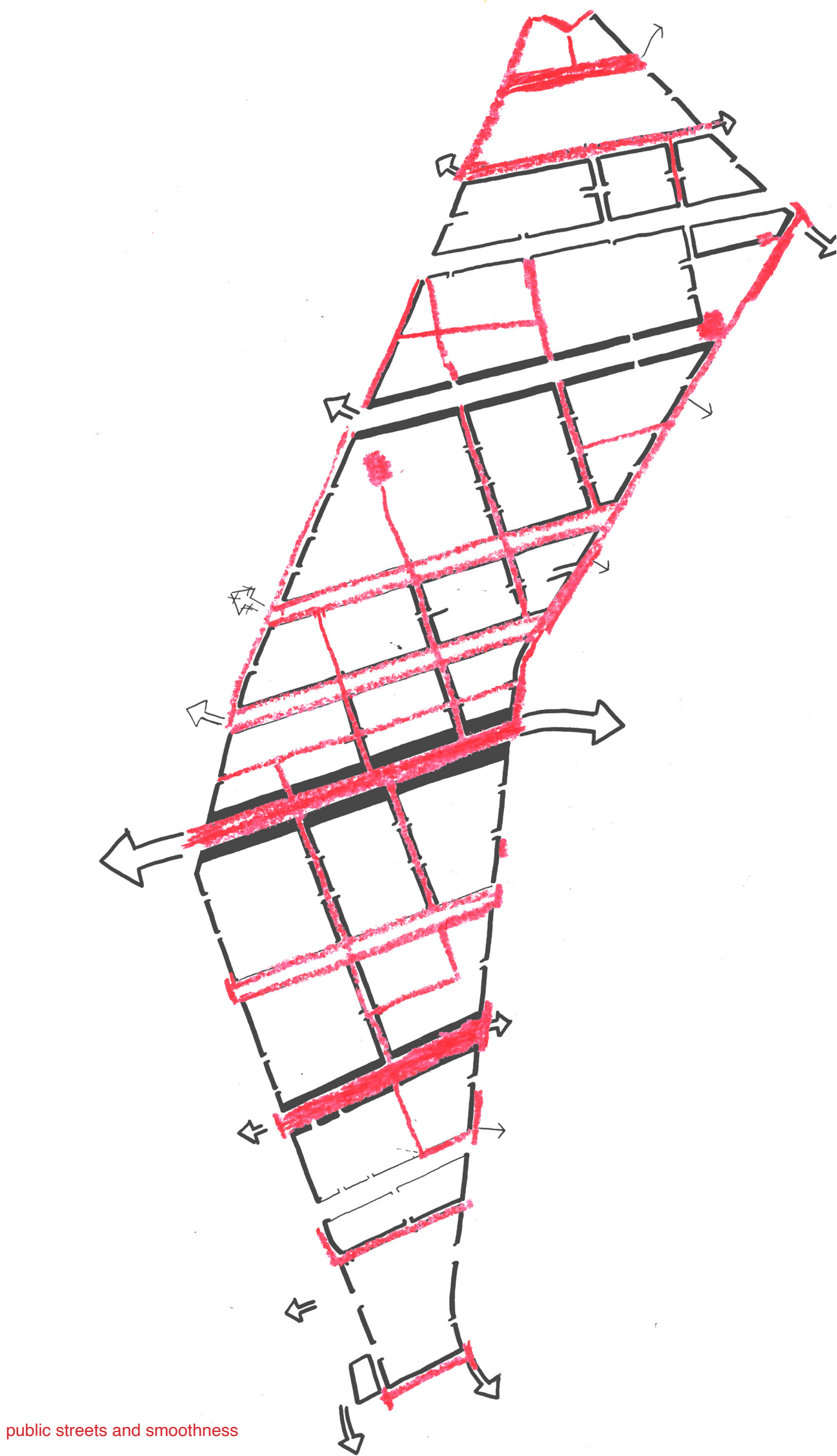


1957
Alphen, O. Nieuwenhuijzen, K. / Stadsarchief Amsterdam

URBAN DEPTH ANALYSIS

1. Predicted pedestrian flows
2. Ground-floor program
3. General program that is not related to dwelling (also of the other floors)





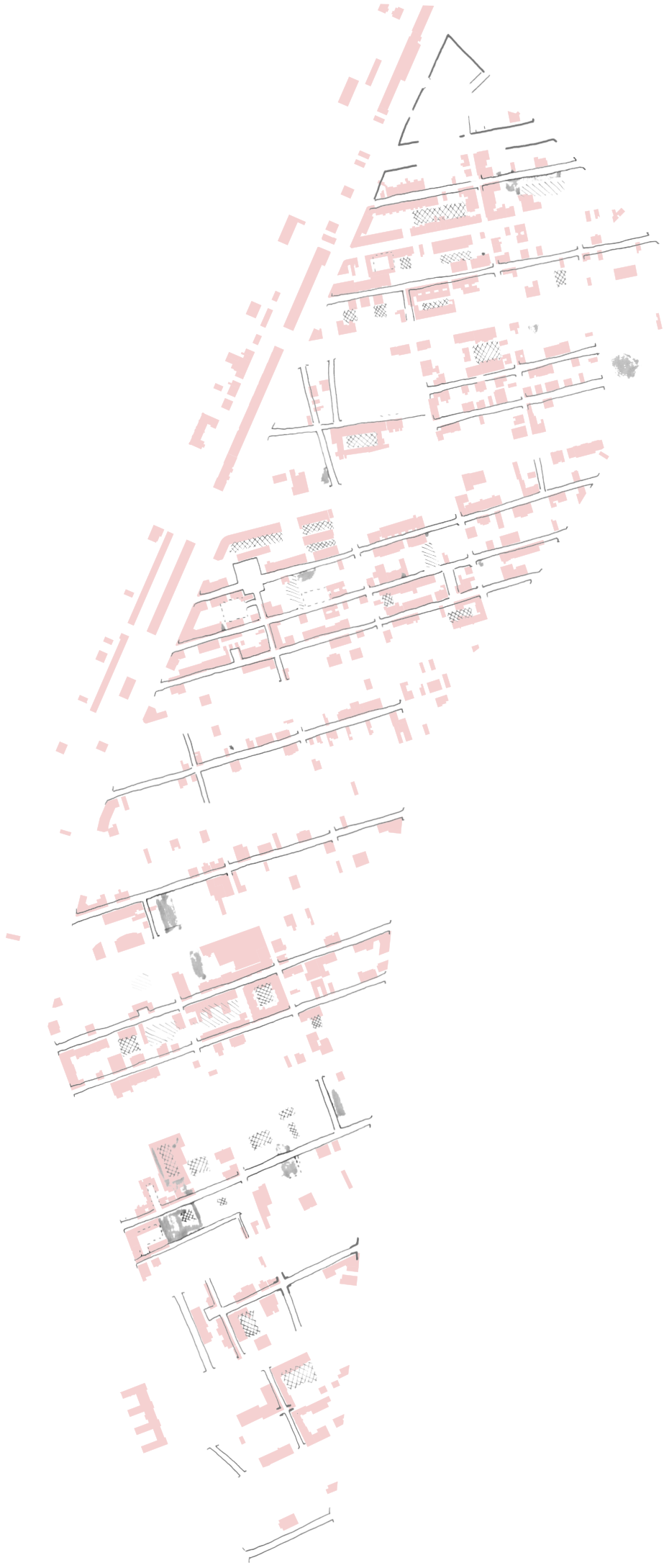
public streets and smoothness

legend

smooth street

public streets

detail level 1:5000



private streets

social housing

detail level 1:5000

| N



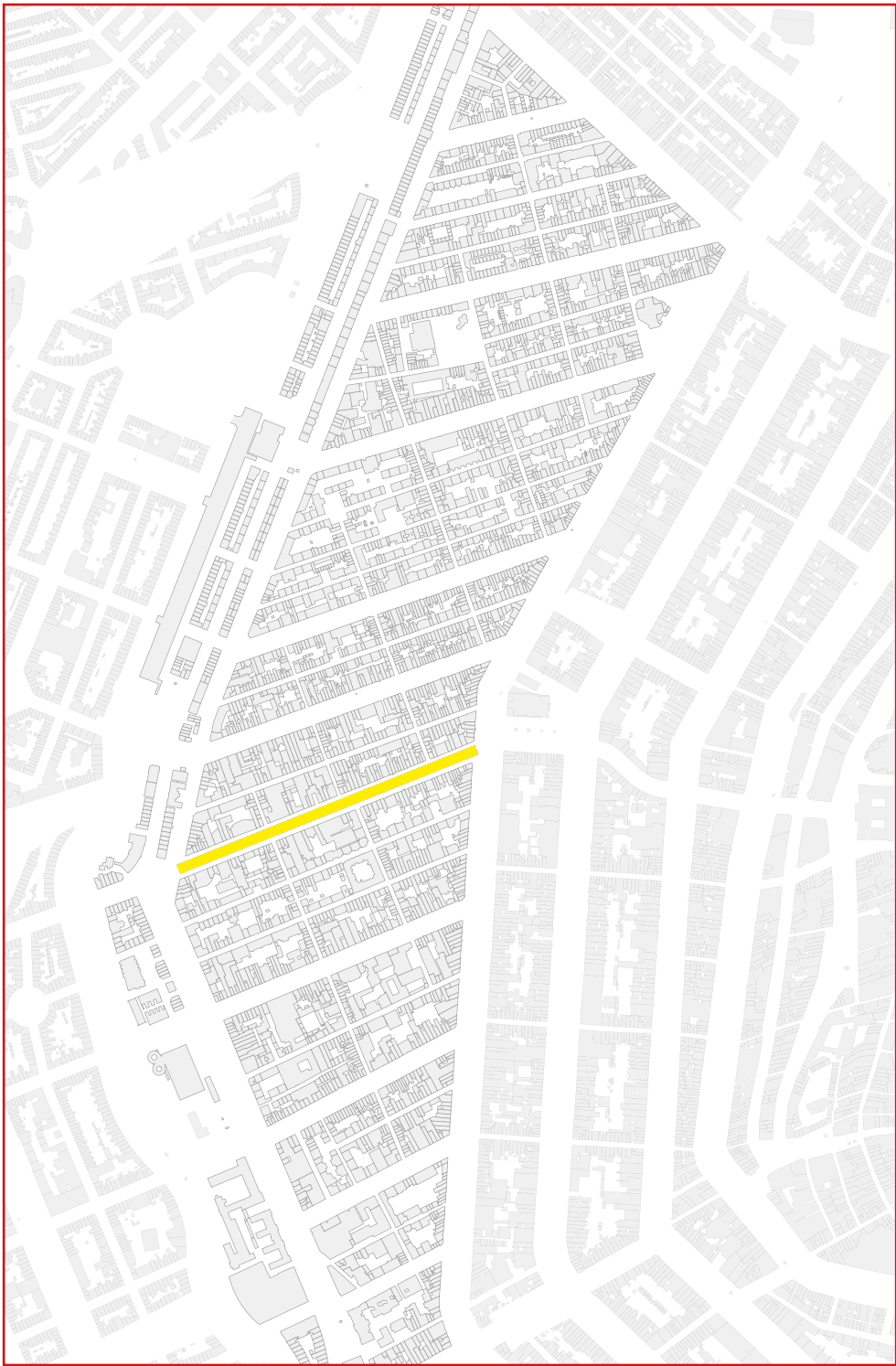
Rozengracht
Conducted from Google Maps, 3.05.'24



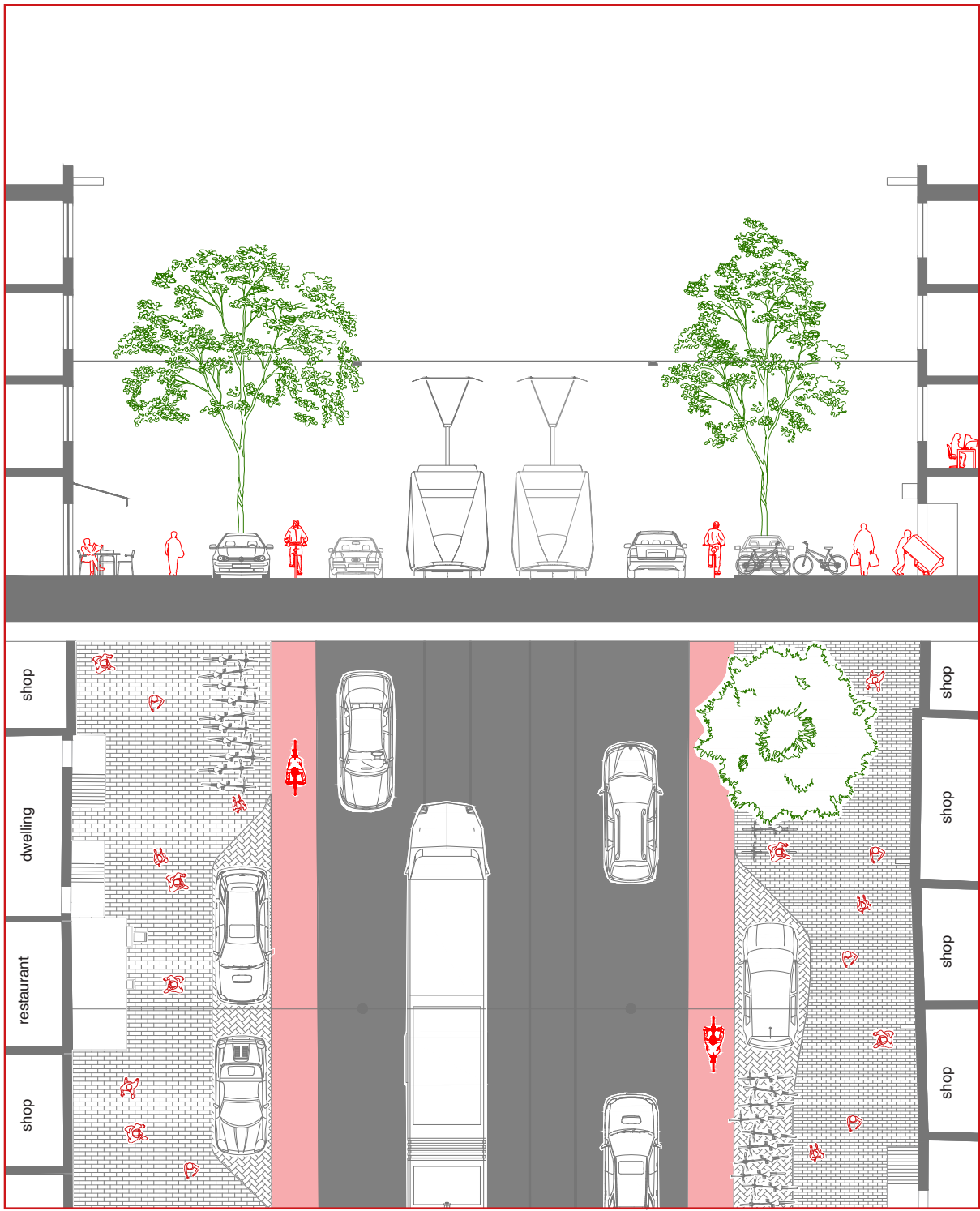
Rozengracht
Conducted from Google Maps, 3.05.'24



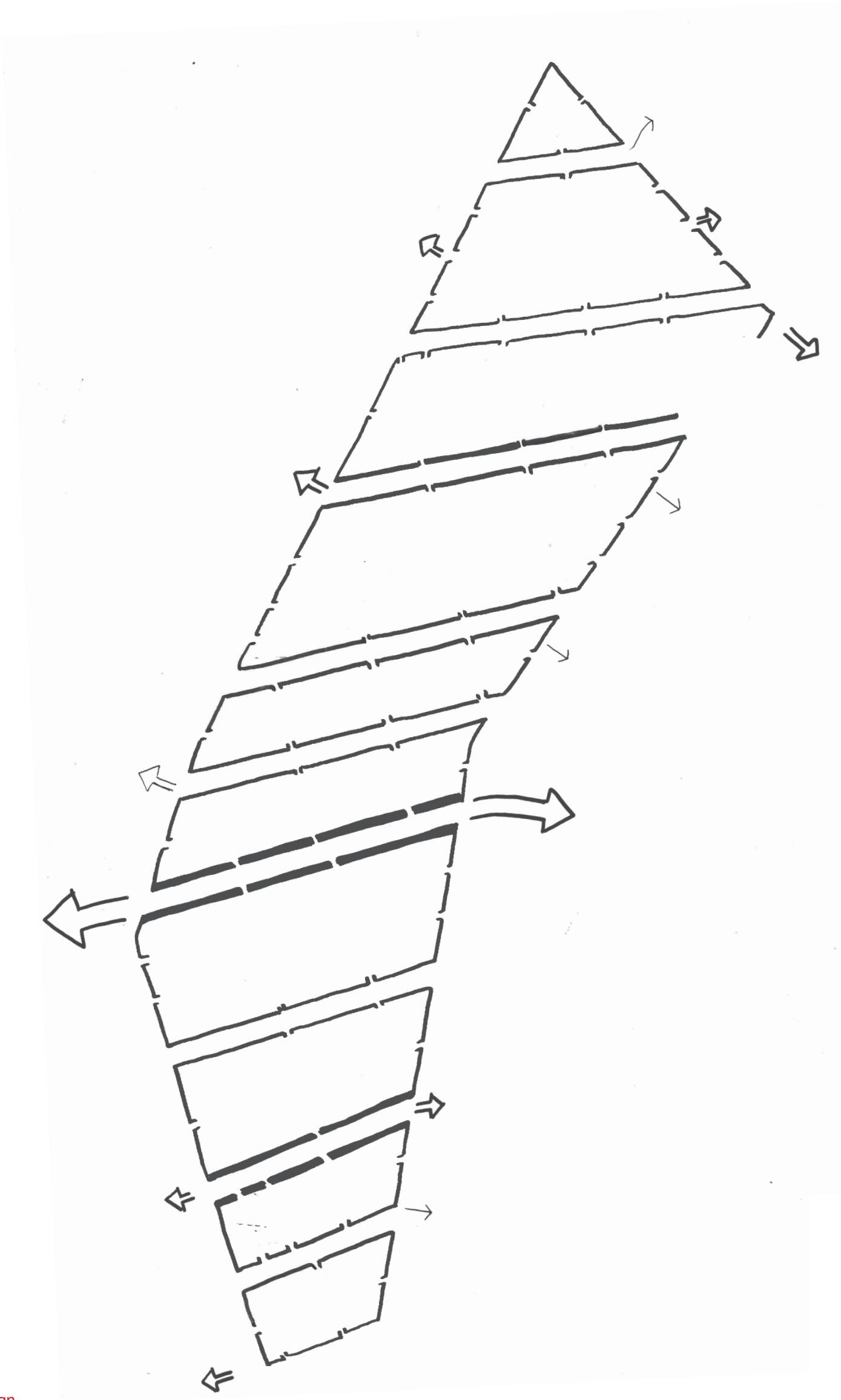
Rozengracht
Conducted from Google Maps, 3.05.'24



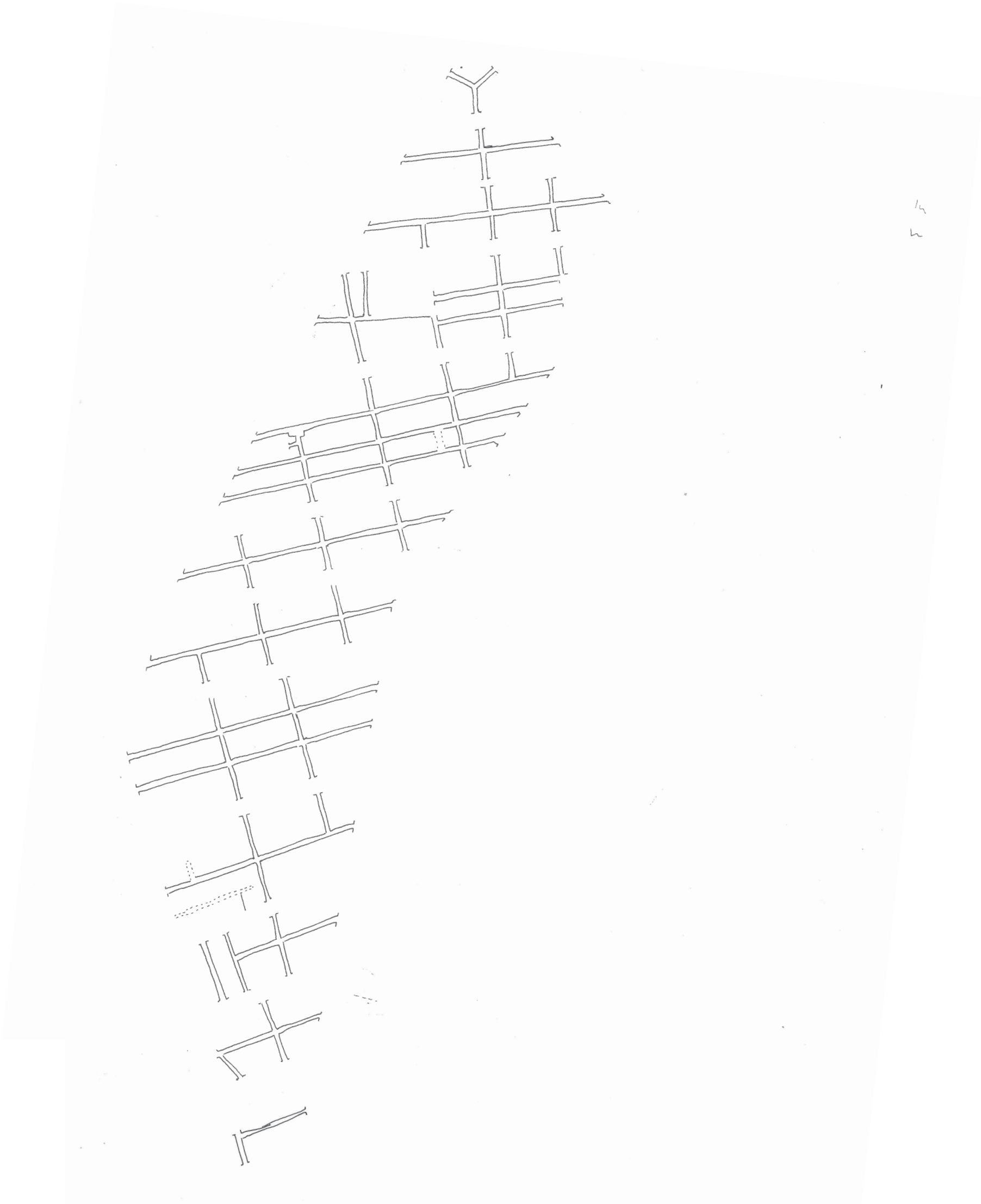
Location traffic Street



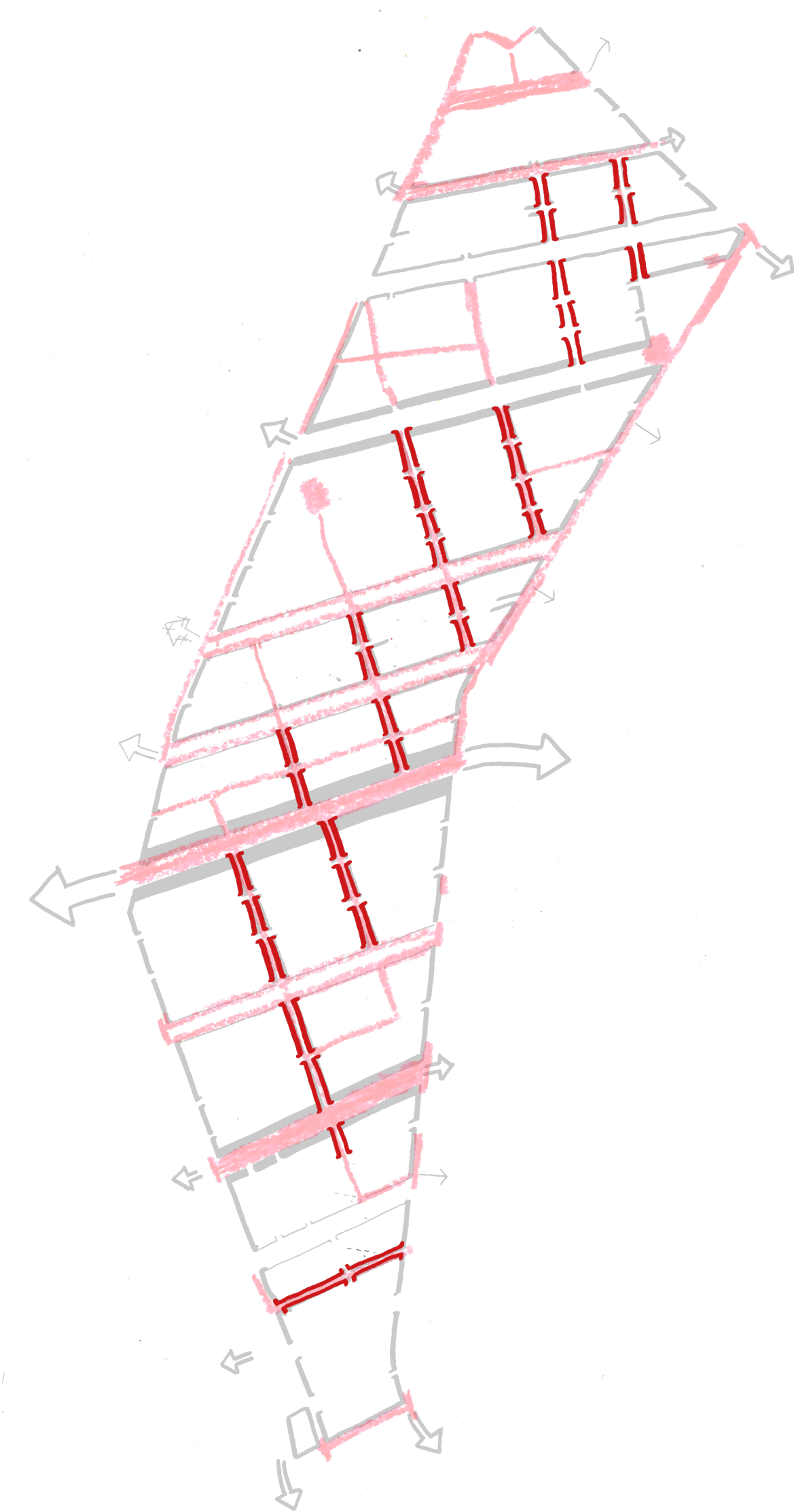
Traffic Street (1:200)






public streets, according to design



private streets, according to design



legend

-  smooth street
-  public streets
-  streets of conflict

detail level 1:5000

I N



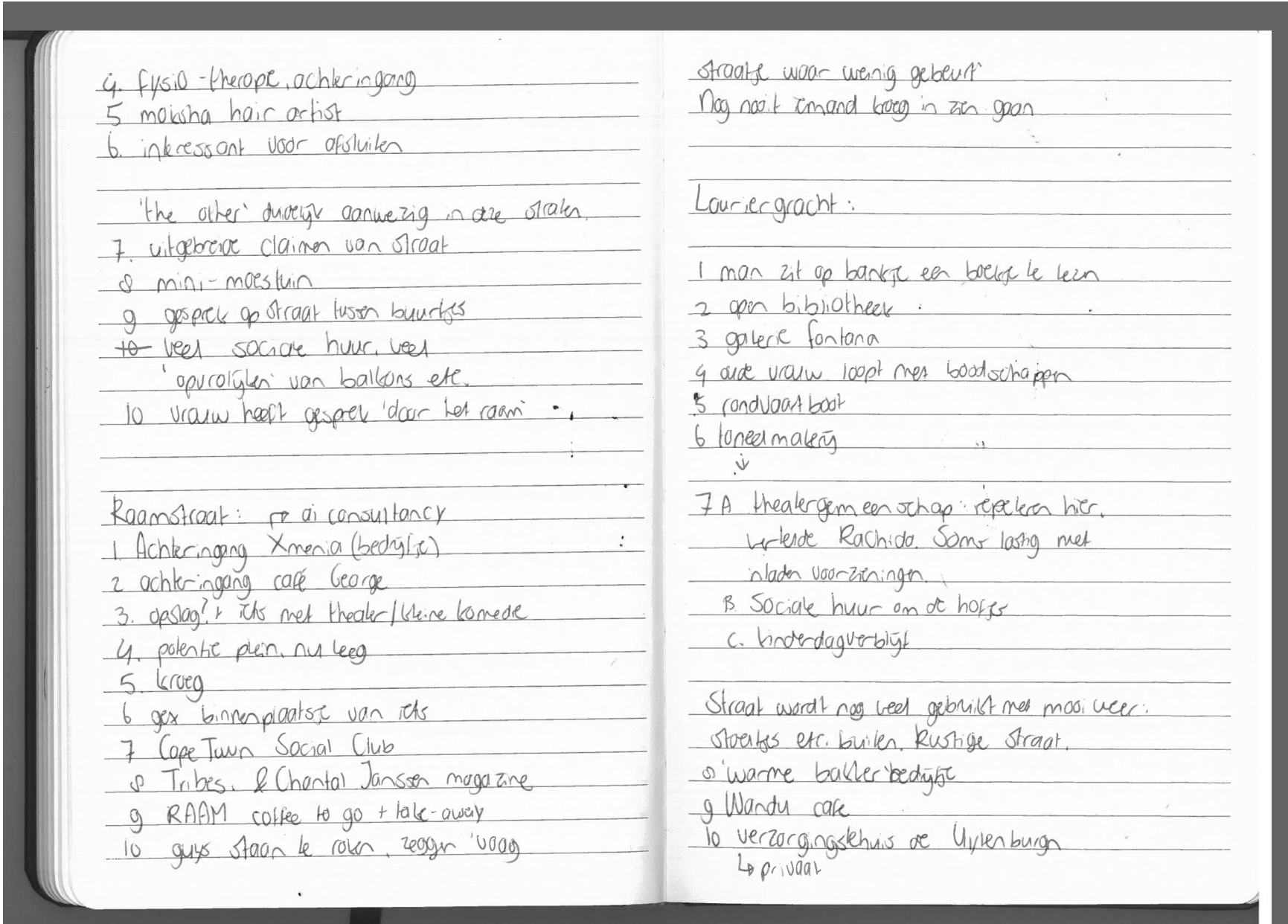
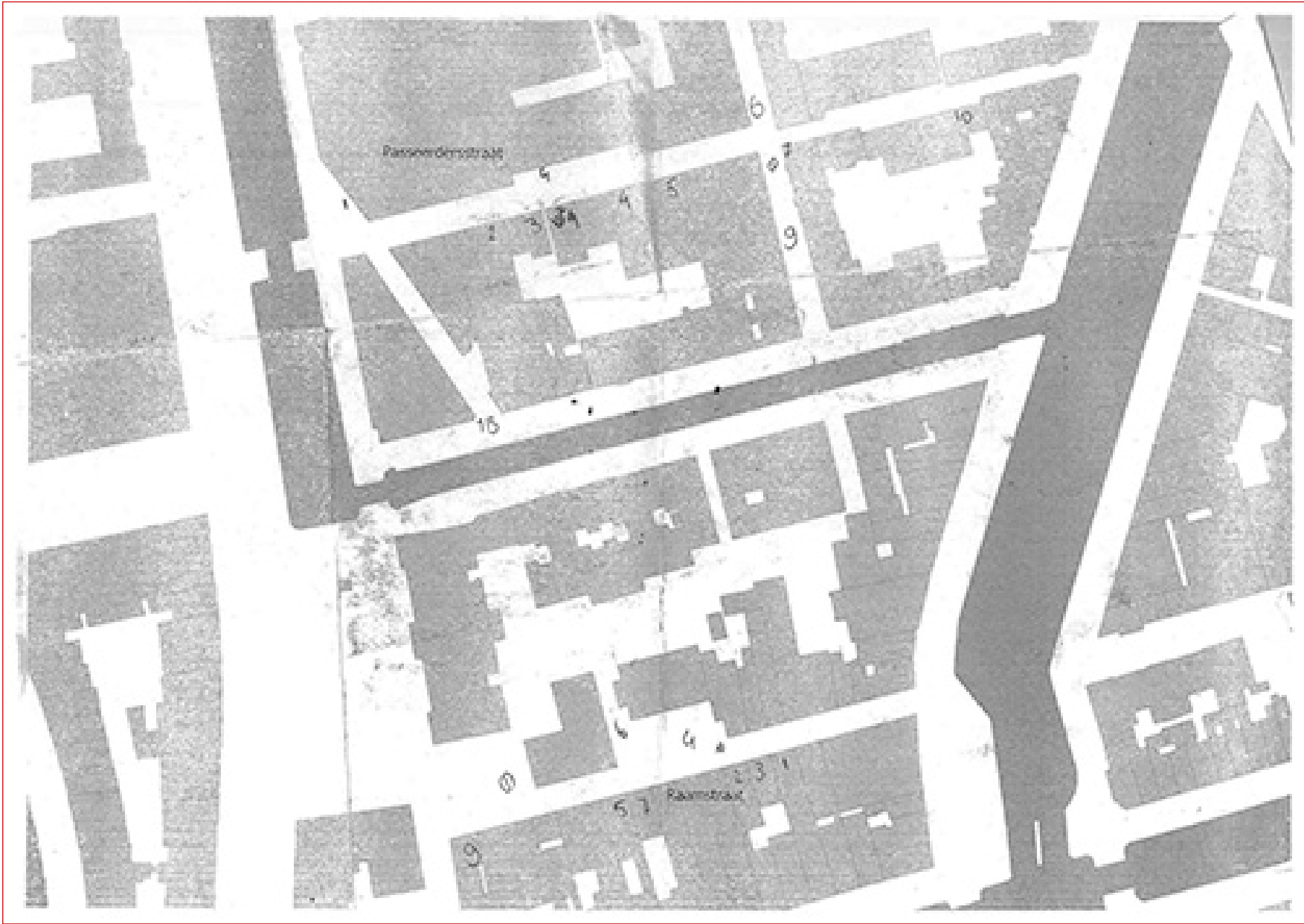
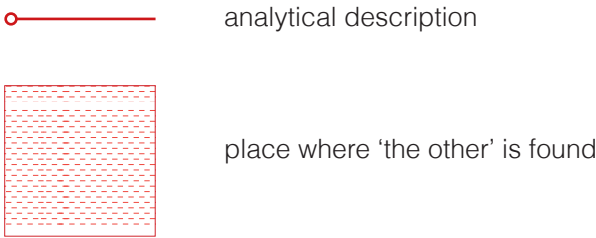
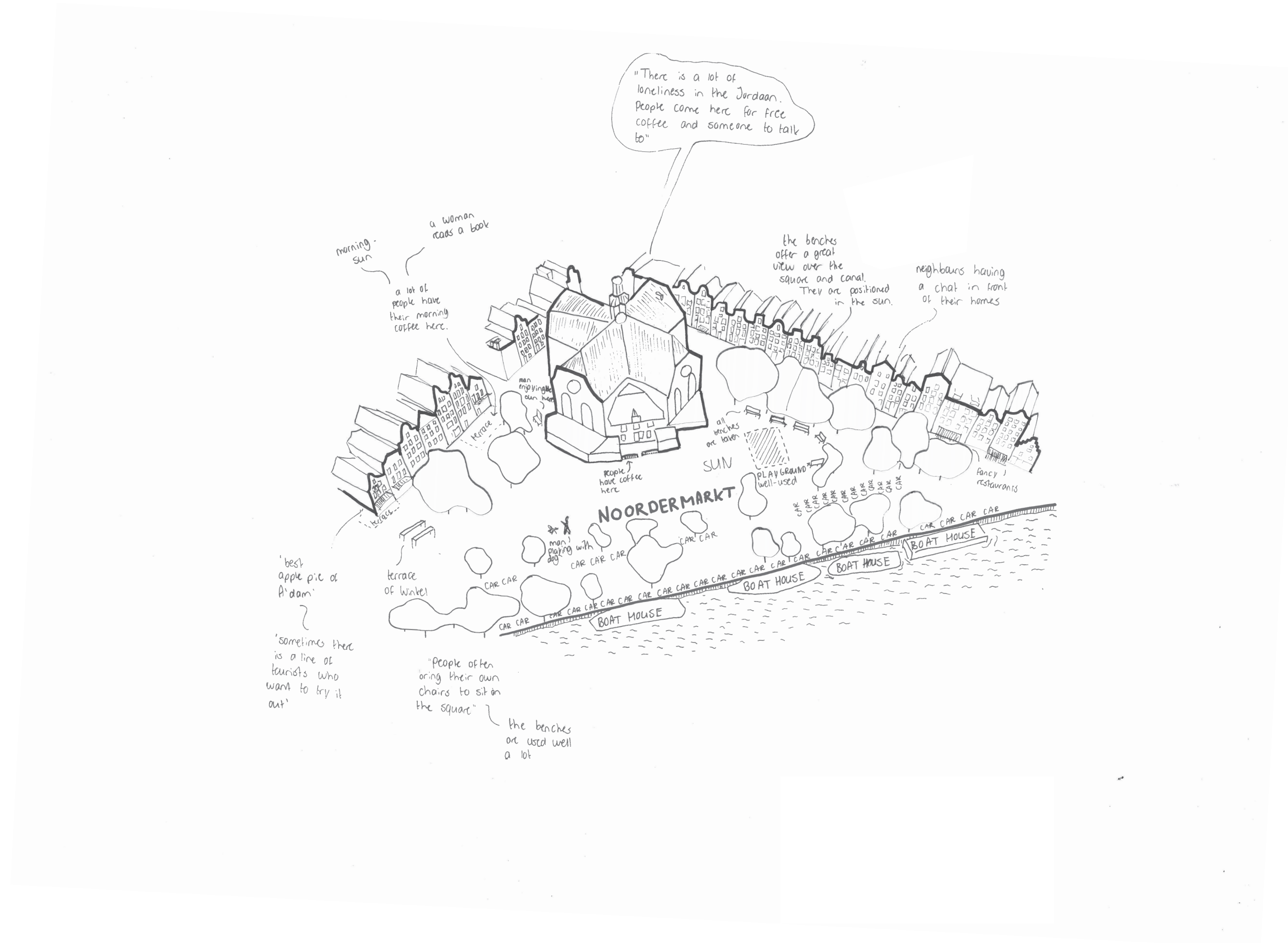
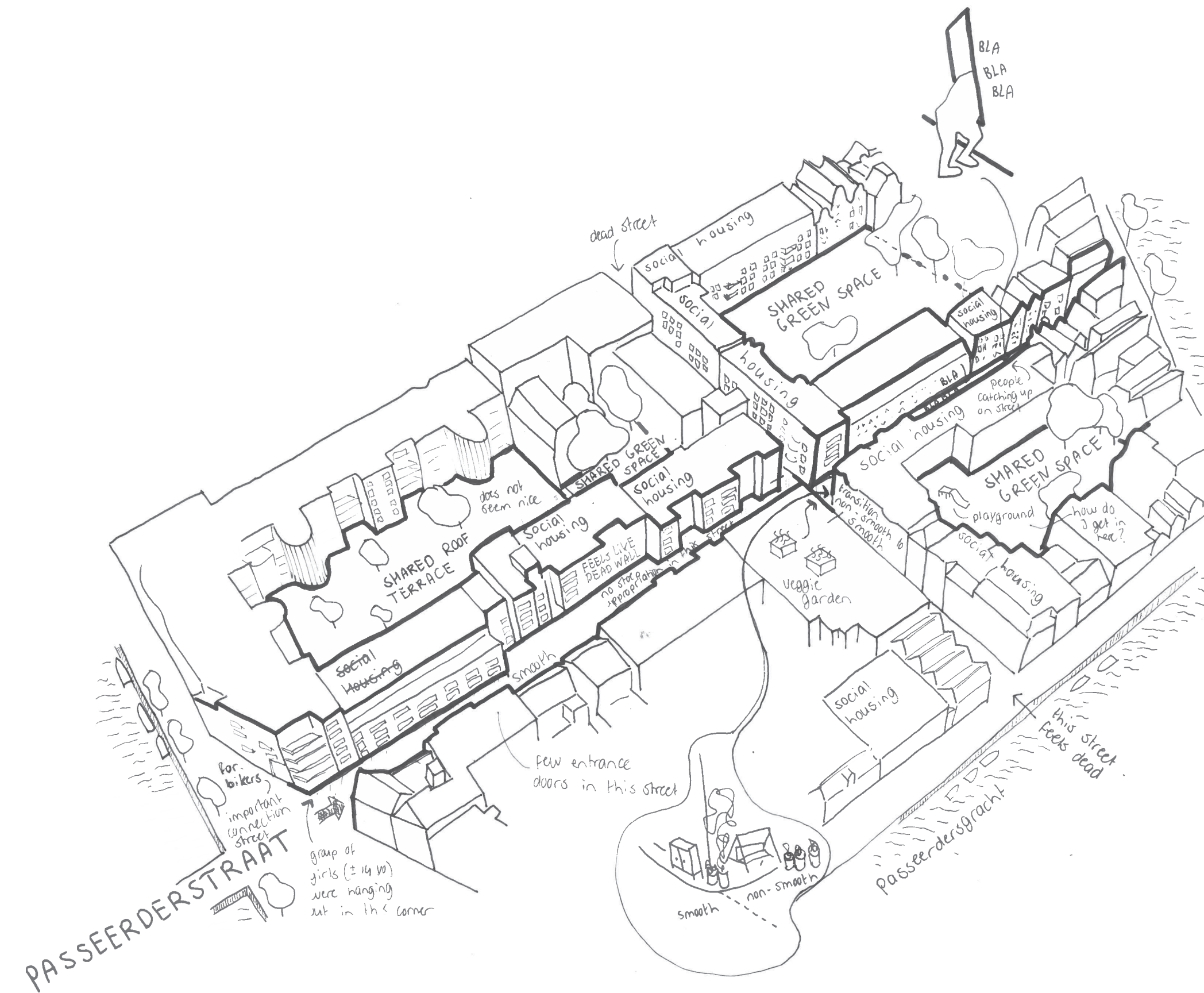


Fig.









introduction

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socio-spatial analysis

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conclusion and reflection

I planted these bushes in front of my house, so I don't have to look at the cars that are directly in front of my house.

it also functions as a curtain for me, to shield my private life from the public streets



so that those living in the street can use the street as an extension of their living space

I really want to get the opportunity to claim the space in front of my house

There are a lot of elderly and Jordaneers here

This photo is taken at the fabric market in the Jordaan

This market is here every Monday, and I visit it almost every week

it's really lively, and I like that!

not to buy fabrics, but mostly because I like the coziness and activities that are going on here

I try to claim the street by putting a bike here

the parked cars prevent me from doing that

during the summer, I just put my table in between the cars, next to the canal



This market has a special meaning for me, for my father made my graduation toga from the fabrics that I bought here

I cannot buy a Turkish pizza for €1.50 any more in the Jordaan

Many expensive shops have emerged in the Jordaan, making the neighbourhood more expensive

However, markets like the Noordermarkt are really verjupt (gentrified). A baguette costs almost €6,- which is really expensive

sometimes it feels like the cars have more right to the street than I do!

the cars are never from the people inside the social housing block, but from more fancy parts of the neighbourhood

the cars in front of my house block my view on the canal. This prevents me from making use of the street and takes away my living pleasure

this is my first own home in Amsterdam

I planted these bushes so that I look at greenery instead of cars



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Lack of urban furniture to sit on in public street
Author, 2024



Commercial urban furniture in public street
Author, 2024



Informal claims in parking lots in Jordaan
Author, 2024

other manifests itself in a different, more private,
urban depths of the Jordaan: the **safe spaces**.

1. Particular buildings with a social role



Jordanezen in Café Papeneiland
Author, 2023



Local Mosque
Author, 2024



Local Church
Author, 2024

2. Inner courtyards (hofjes)

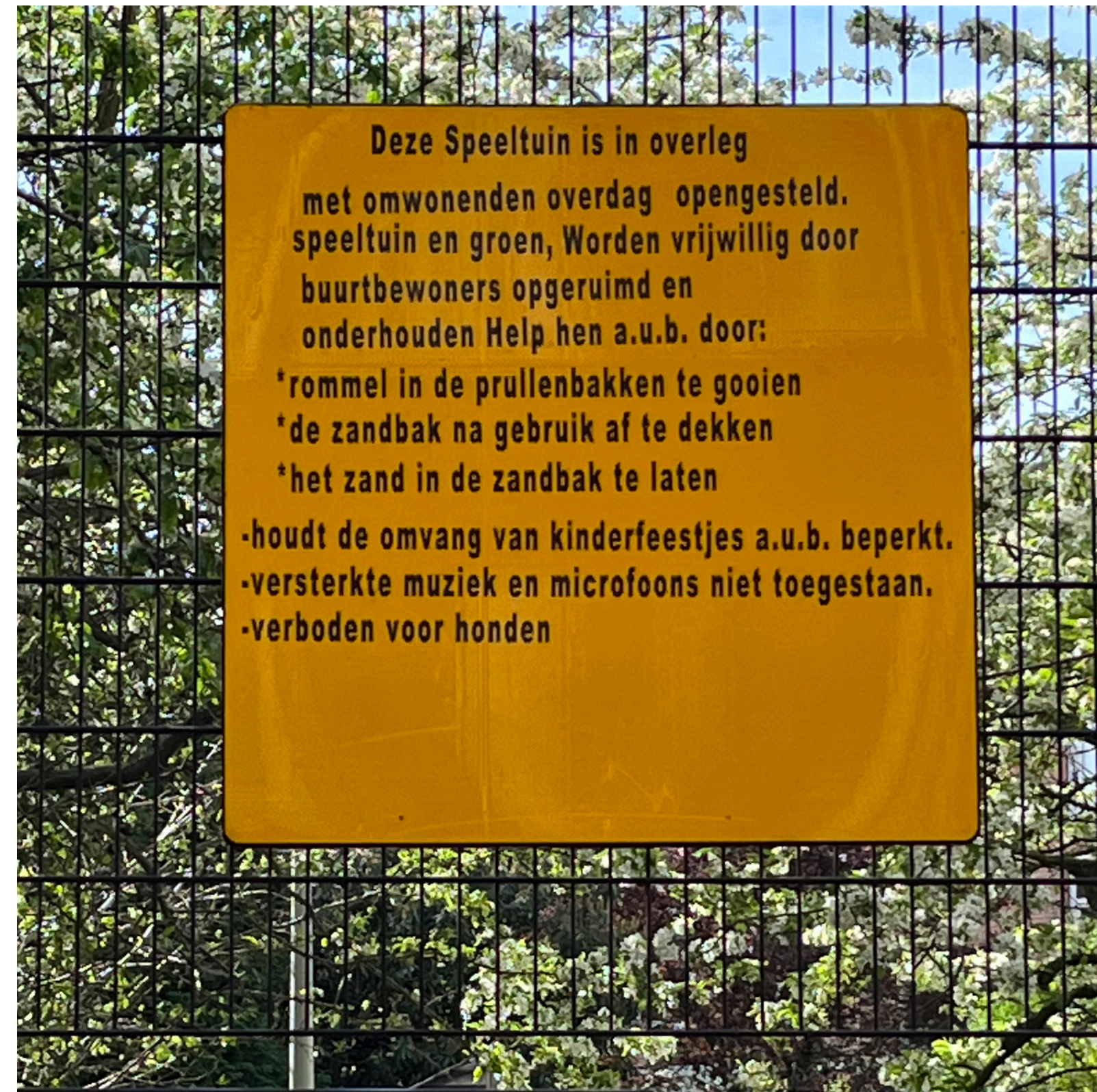


Different appropriations in hofjes, Jordaan
Author, 2023

3. informal or community-supportive ground floor program in very private streets

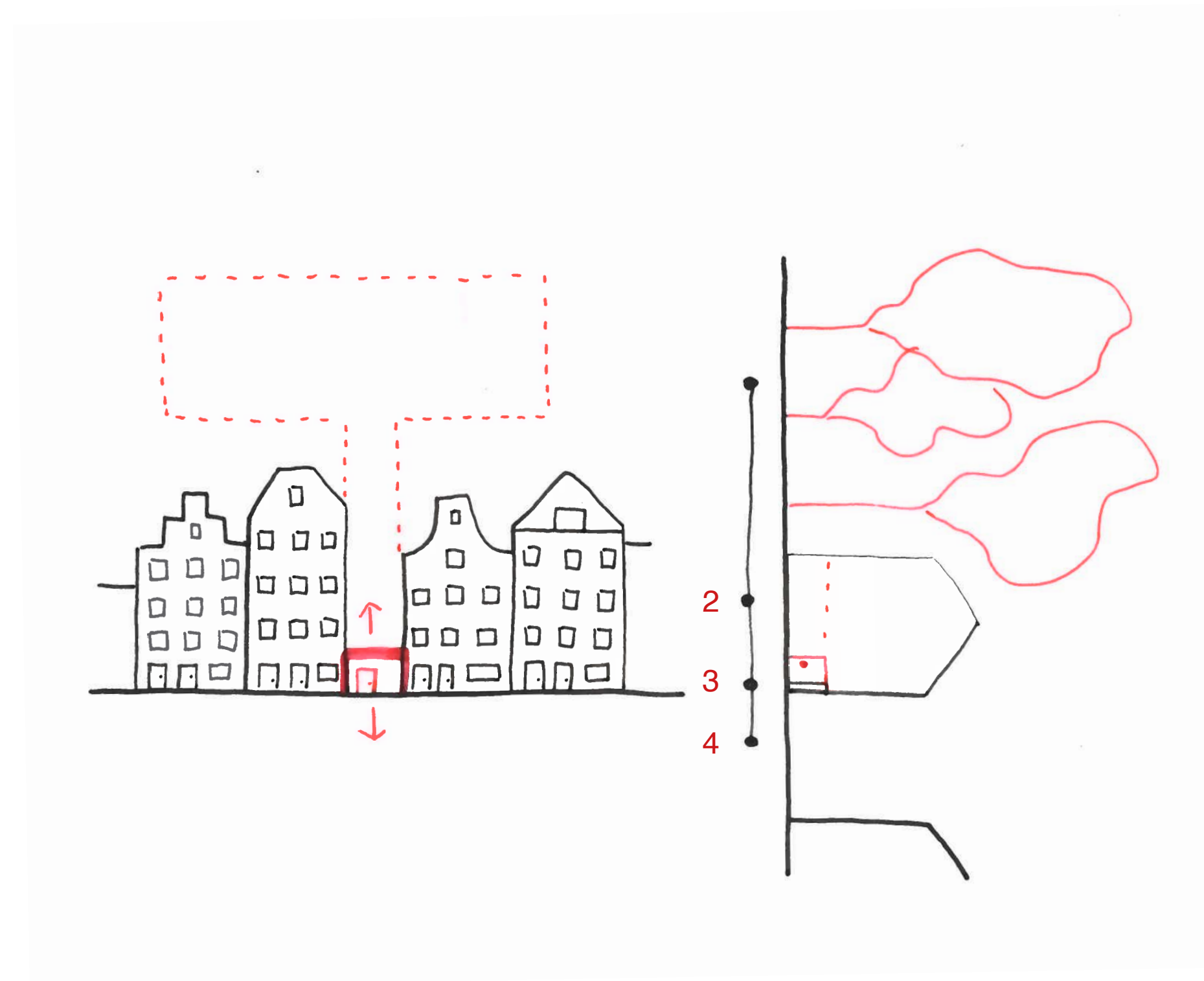


Informal ground-floor program, Jordaan
Author, 2023

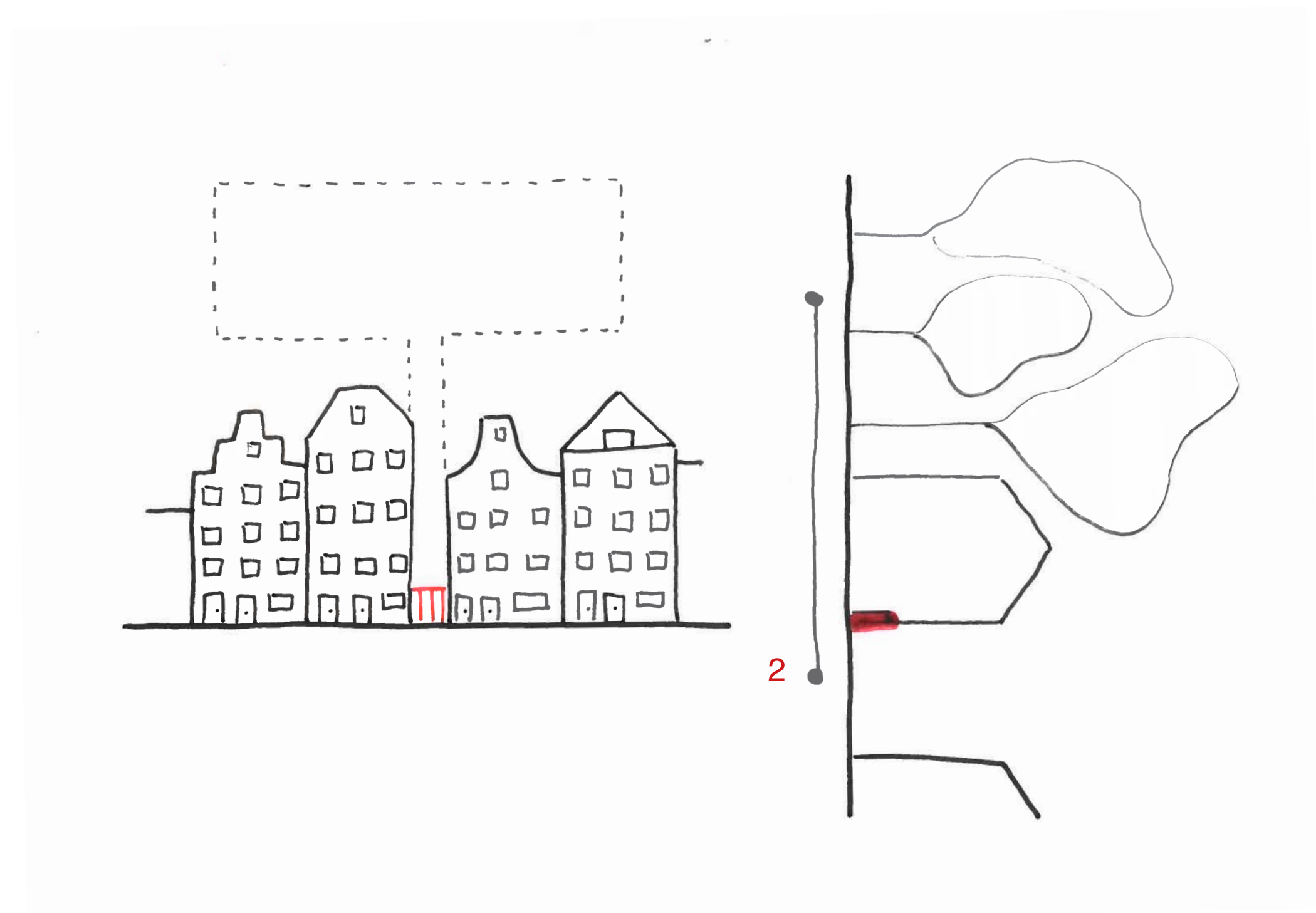


An increase in smoothness pressures the
'safe' spatial context in which the other feels
confident and secure enough to make a spatial
claim.





old depth structure



new depth structure

introduction

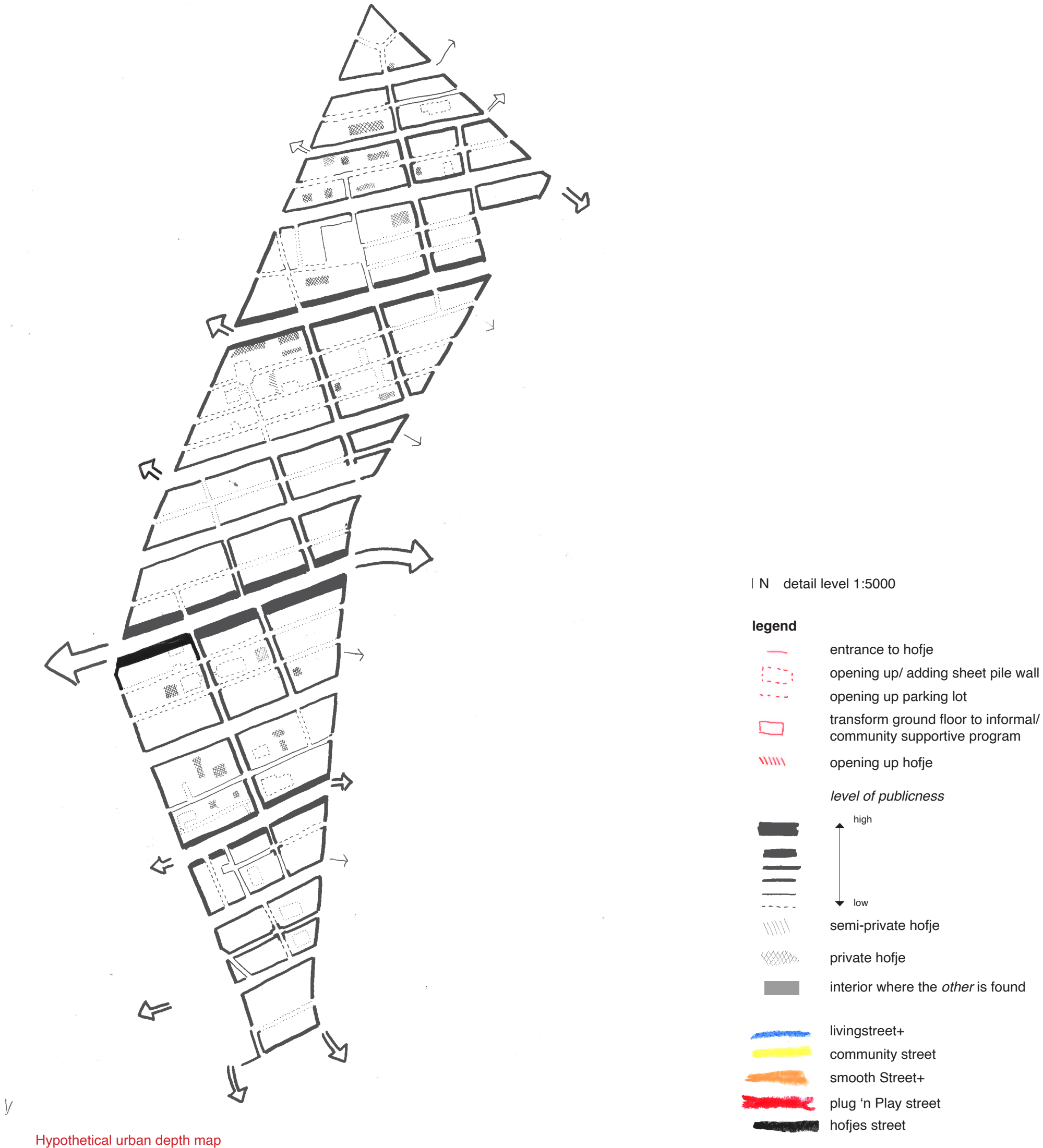
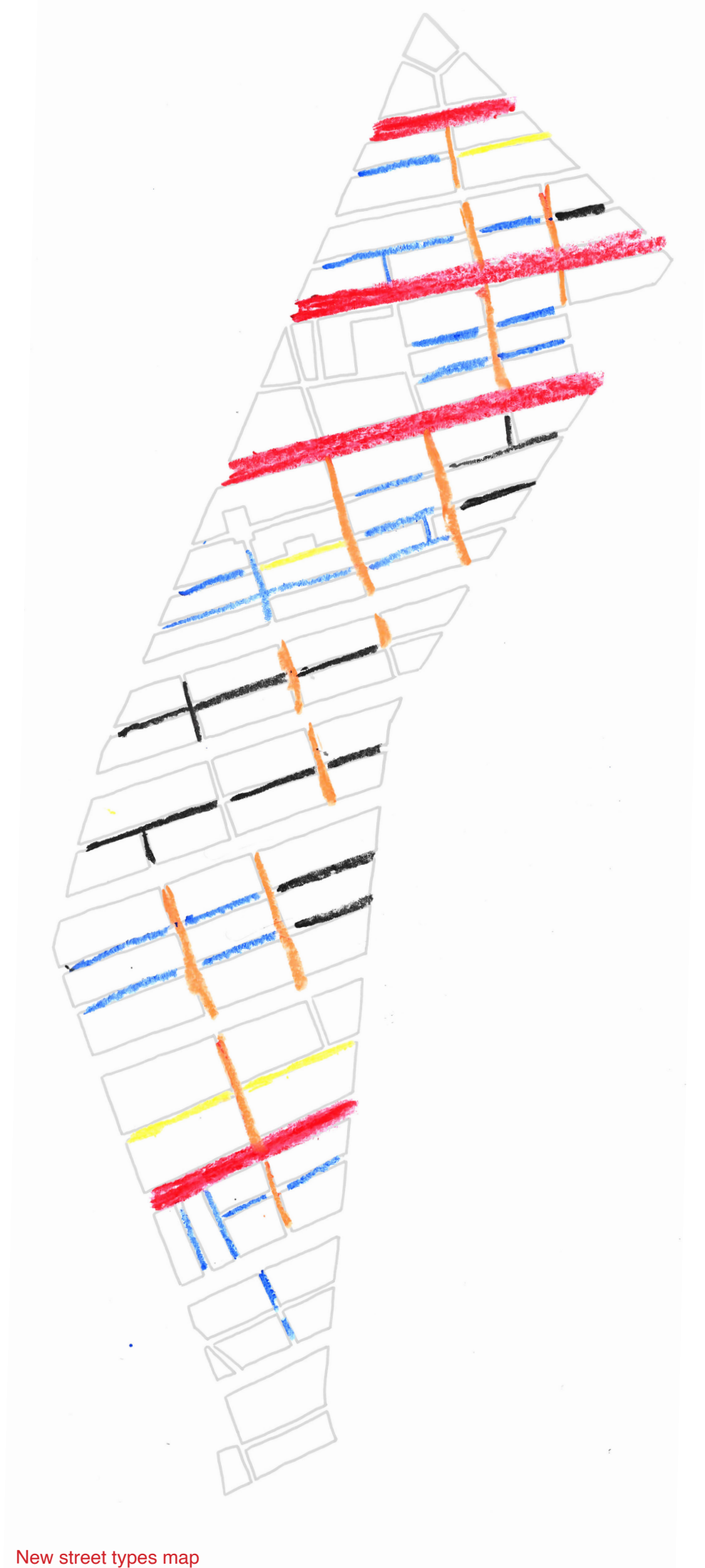
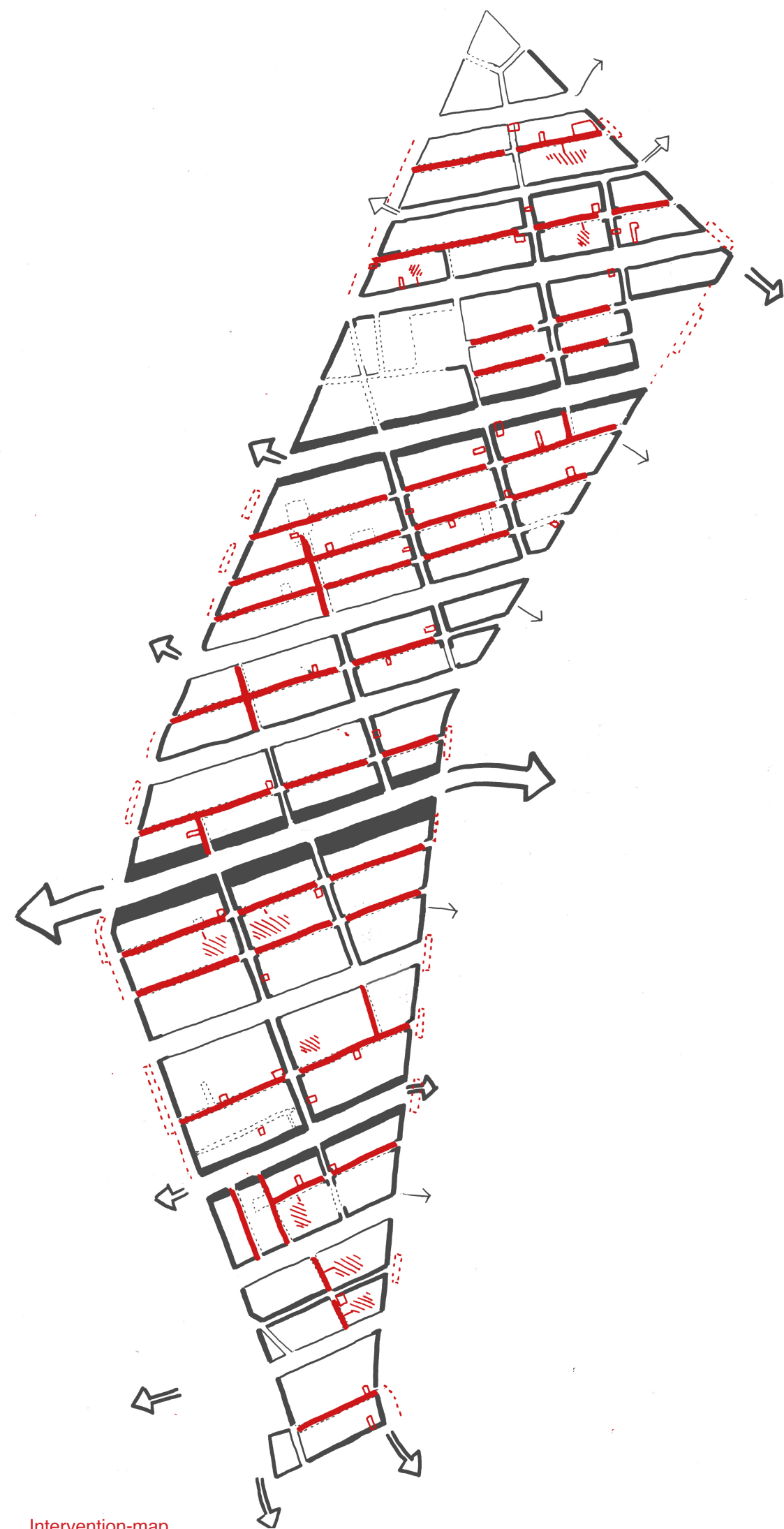
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LIVING STREET+

street type	description			urgencies
living street living street+	<p>The private living street already contains spaces where the other can manifest itself, like: shared green spaces or some form of social program. In order to create the spatial conditions in which the other then manifests itself in the public eye, it is interesting to take a look at specific living streets that offer the opportunities to extend the 'backdoor' realm onto the streets. This can be done through offering specific infrastructure on the street that supports the shared green spaces, or make sure that ground floor spaces can be used in an informal manner. The street here can serve as an addition to the existing spaces of gathering, to support and strengthen the local social structures: but into the more public realm of the Jordaan. The living street is specifically interesting for it already offers the spatial enclosure and understanding of a more private community street.</p>	<p>crucial aspects that define spatial condition of street type</p>	<p>1. private (low to medium score on Space Syntax map), so it can be partially cut off from traffic</p> <p>2.availability of shared green space;</p> <p>3.small-scaled street layout that offers architectural opportunity to transform ground-floor program into (informal) program</p> <p>4. existence of social housing alongside street</p>	<p>1.adding infrastructure in public realm that supports local activities in shared green space</p> <p>2.adding infrastructure in public realm that supports local social gathering</p>

private to semi-public

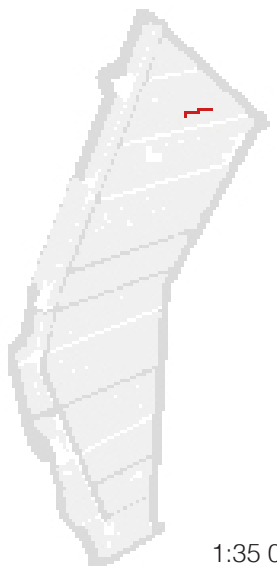
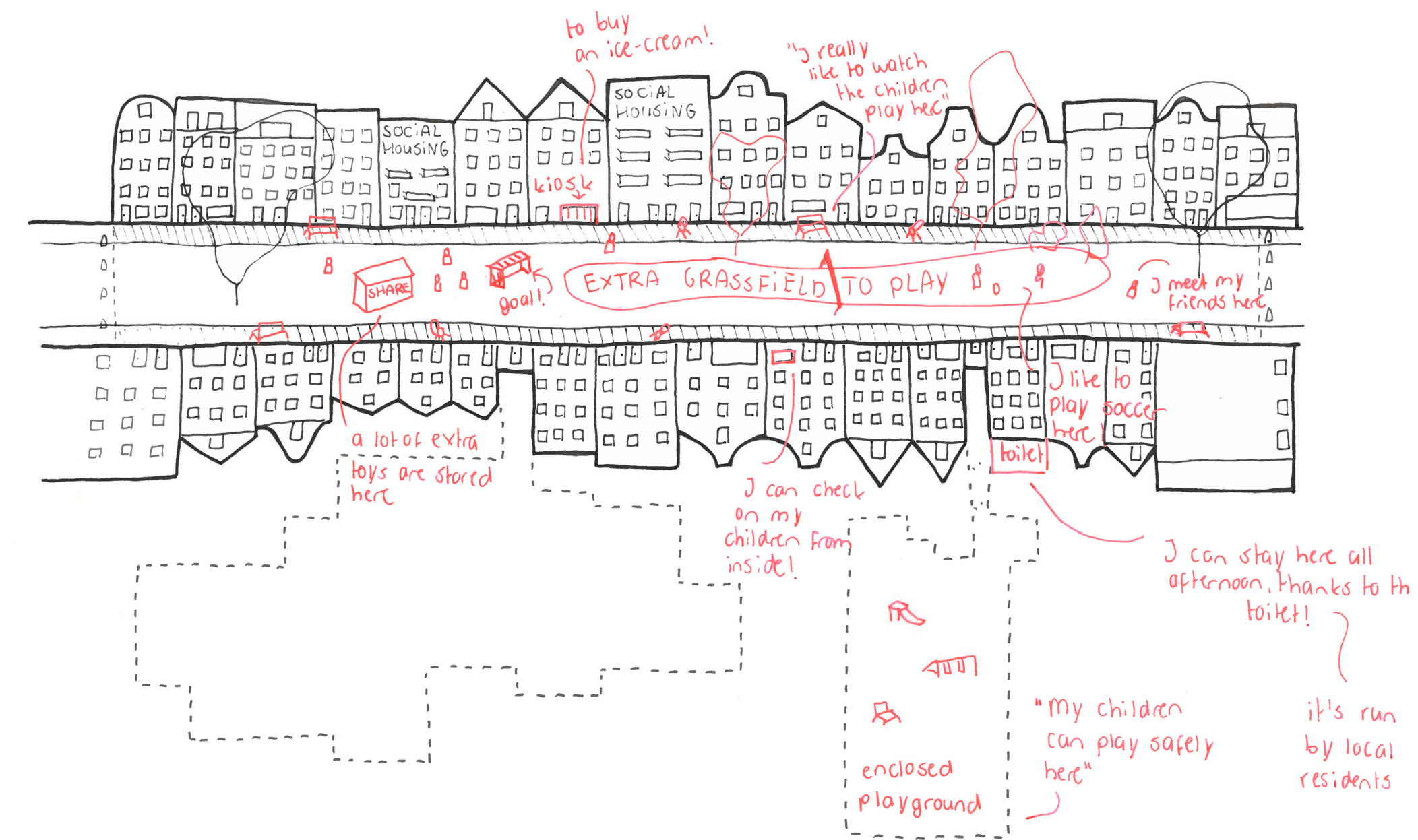


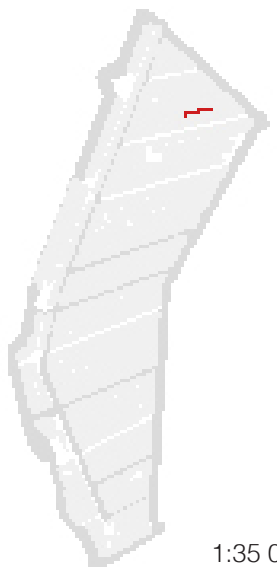
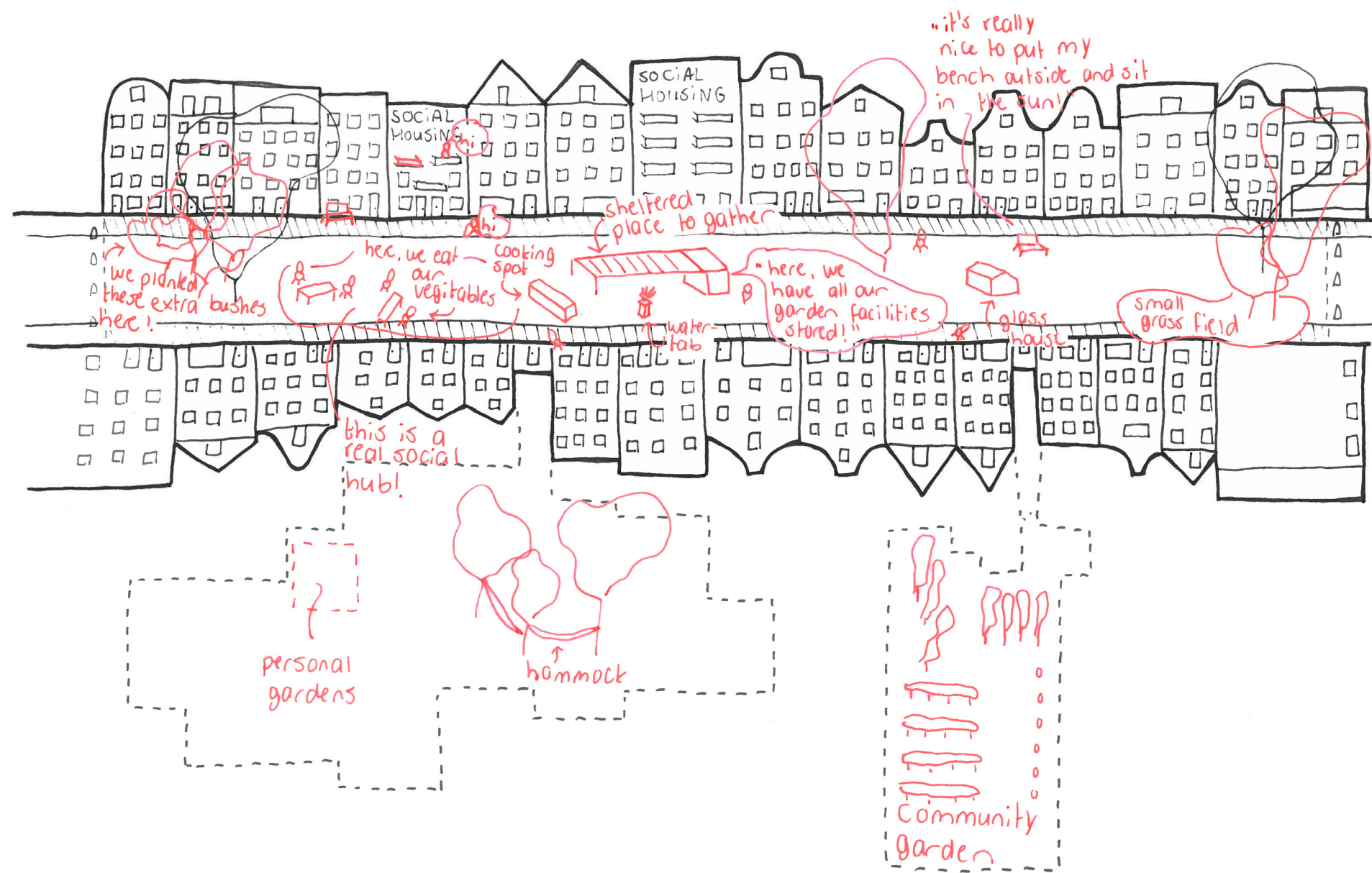
Fig. 118 living streets that have the opportunity for transformation to Livingstreet+ types

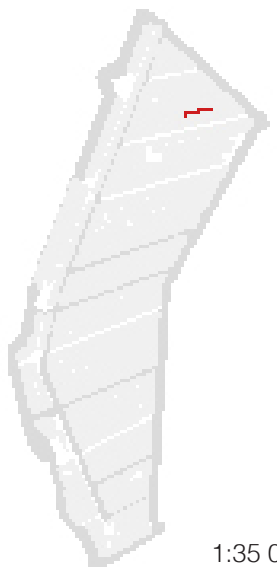
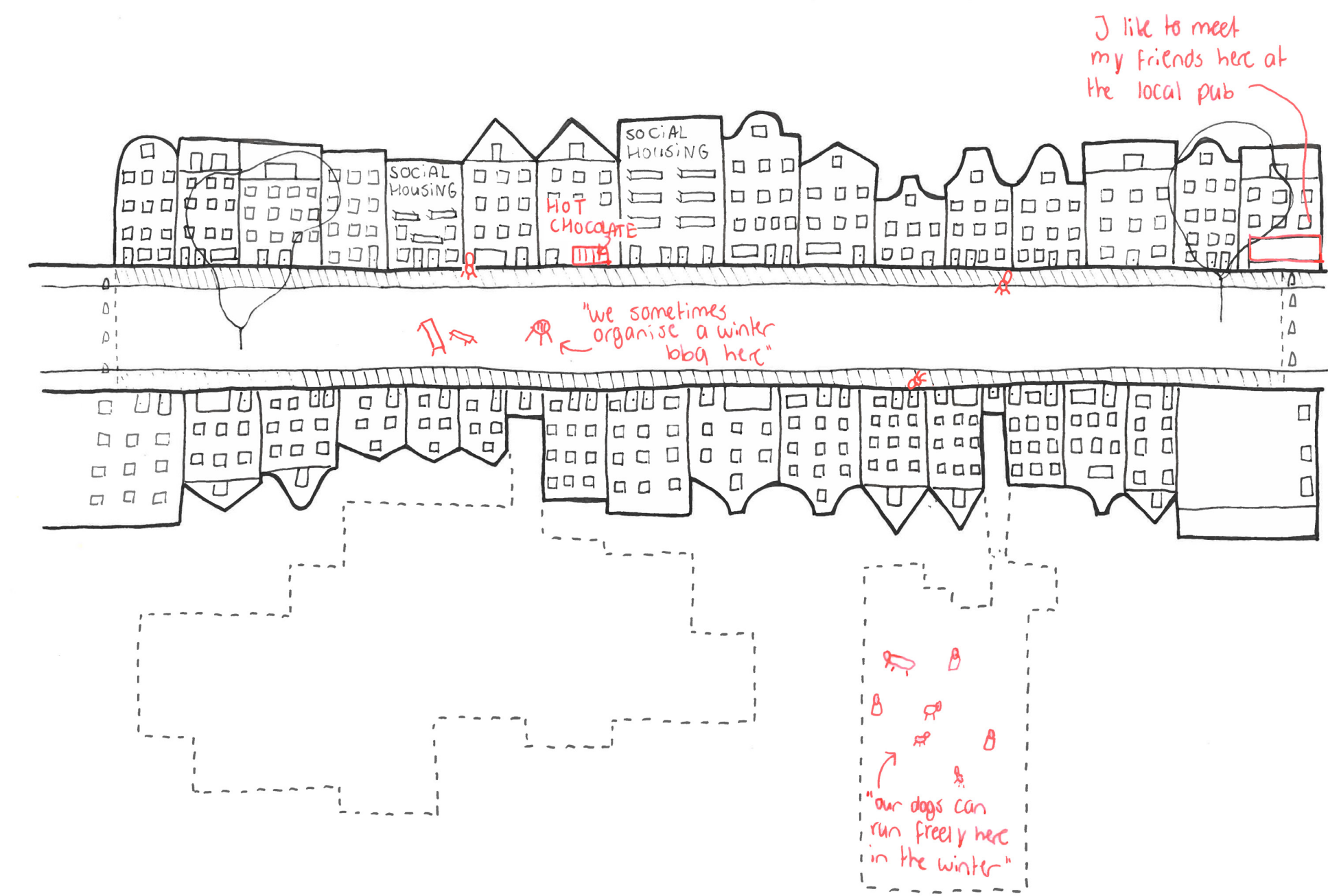


SPATIAL ADAPTATION FRAMEWORK









spatial elements catalogue

that enrich the depth structure that is needed for the other to manifest itself in the public eye

1. Membrane

(transition zones)

- T2 1A: difference in materialisation marks new territory (M)
- T2 1B: difference in height marks different territory (M)
- T2 1C: vertical objects mark new territory (M)
- T2 1D: green elements emphasize the more private territorial depth (M)
- T2 1E: small lamps hanging in-between the buildings emphasize the more private territorial depth (XS)
- T2 1E: opening up hofje for public (L)
- T2 1F: emphasising transition zone by employing a door in a brick facade (S)
- T2 1G: emphasising transition zone with narrow ally (S)
- T2 1H: assure visual connection with ground floor to emphasize the more private territorial depth (S)
- T2 1I: assure a distance of 2 meters from the dwellings as a public-private buffer to prevent individual blockings of depths (by closing curtains for example) (S)

2. Incomplete form

(porosities)

- T2 2A: opening up hofjes and allies to the public (L)
- T1 T2 2B: cutting off the street from traffic: increasing the opportunity to appropriate the entire street (L)
- T1 T2 2C: transformation of parking spaces into an extension of the local street space (L)
- 1 2D: opportunities for ground floor to to transform into informal shops (M)
- 1 2E: enable opportunity for local residents to appropriate the stoep and the street how they envision it (L)

3. Narratives of development

(informal appropriation)

- T2 3A: difference in materialisation marks new (more private) territory (M)
- 1 3B: opportunities for ground floor to to transform into informal shops (L)
- T2 3C: ensure entrances on the street side, also of social housing buildings (M)
- T2 3D: difference in materialisation marks new territory (M)
- T1 T2 1 3E: facilitate infrastructure that supports informalities (XS)

4. Democratic space

(space for different norms to interact)

- 1 4A: opportunities for ground floor program to to transform local ground floor into informal shops (L)
- 1 4B: accomodate extra space in front of corner-shops to facilitate a seating area (M)
- T1 T2 4C: ensure vertical depth: maintaining low-scale architecture (maximum of four floors) that promotes interaction on different levels (S)
- T1 4D: facilitate infrastructure that supports informalities (XS)
- T1 T2 4E: facilitate infrastructure that supports social gathering (XS)
- T2 1 4F: add green elements so the overall quality of the street is increased and more likely to be used (M)

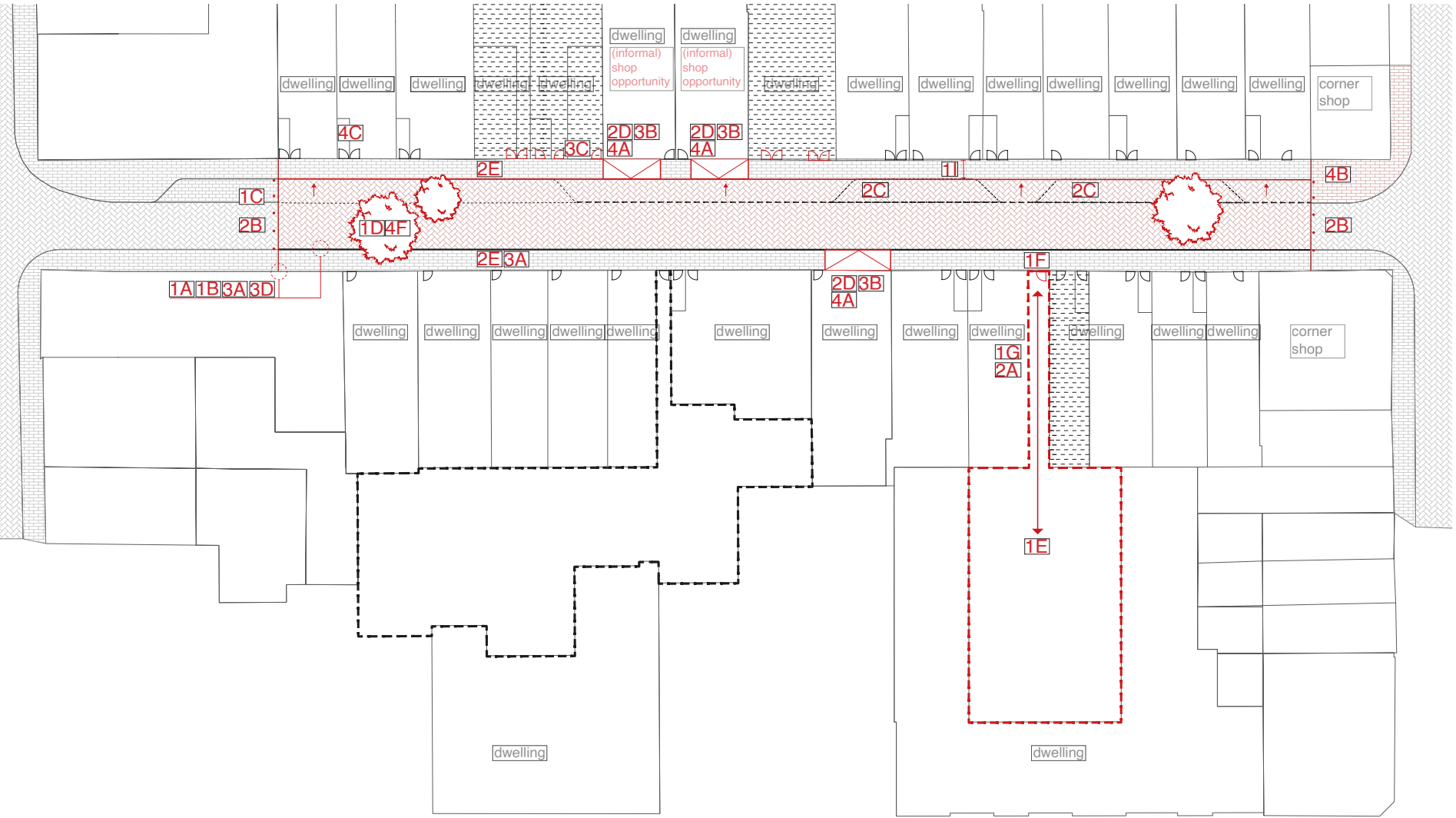
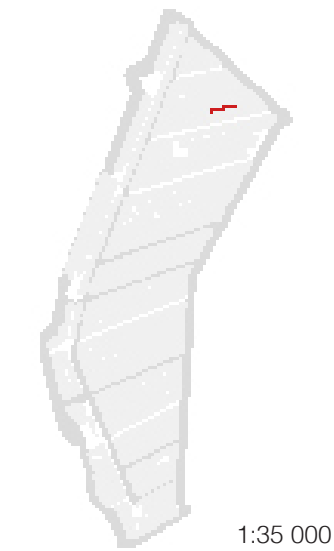


Fig. 131: Technical section Livingstreet+ (1:500)



legend

- transition in materialisation
- new end of stoep (2m in front of dwelling)
- existing end of stoep (2m in front of dwelling)
- ↑ expanding public street
- - - former edge of the public street
- - - removal parking lot
- - - existing hofje: publicly accessible
- - - existing hofje made publicly accessible
- ↔ new access to hofje
- ⊡ opportunity for (in)formal ground floor shop
- ☼ new green element
- ◐ existing ground-floor entrance
- ◑ new ground-floor entrance
- new vertical object (to block traffic and emphasize new territory)
- ▨ existing material stoep
- ▩ new material street
- ▩ existing material street
- ▩ new material stoep
- ▩ corner shop
- ▩ existing social housing

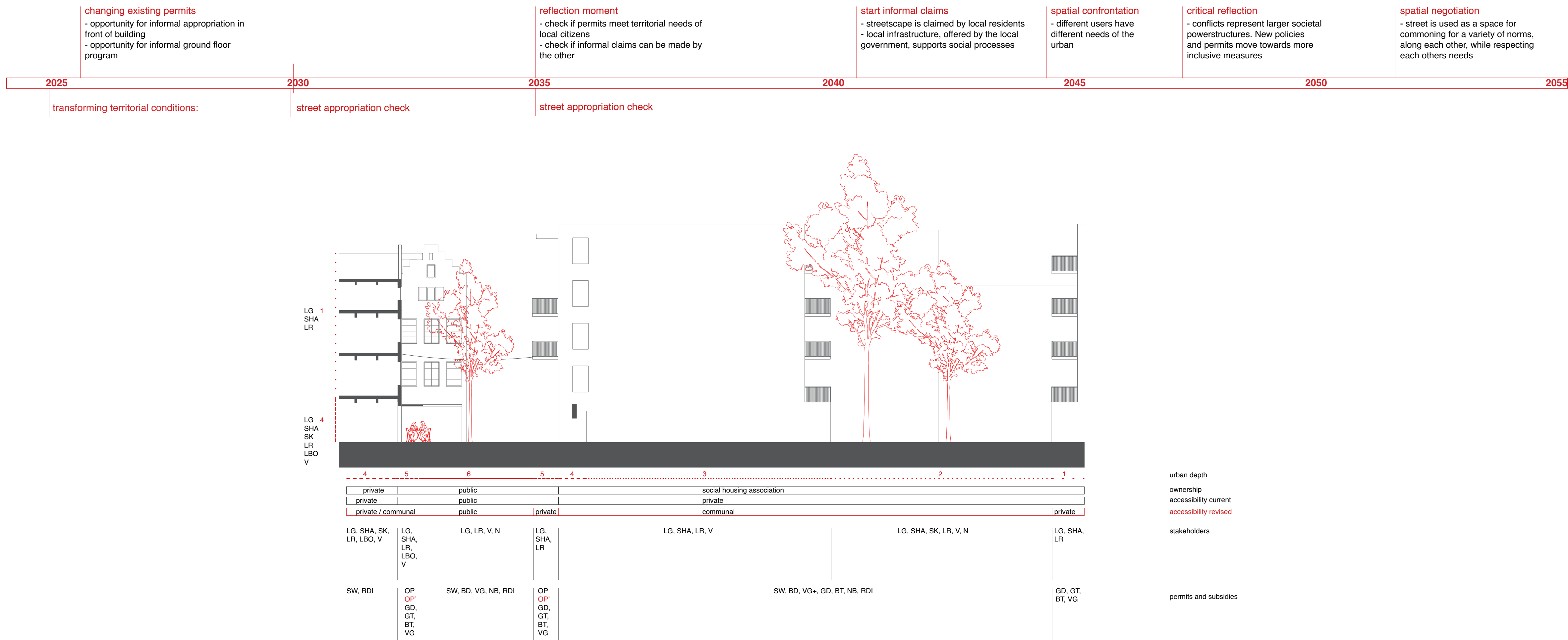
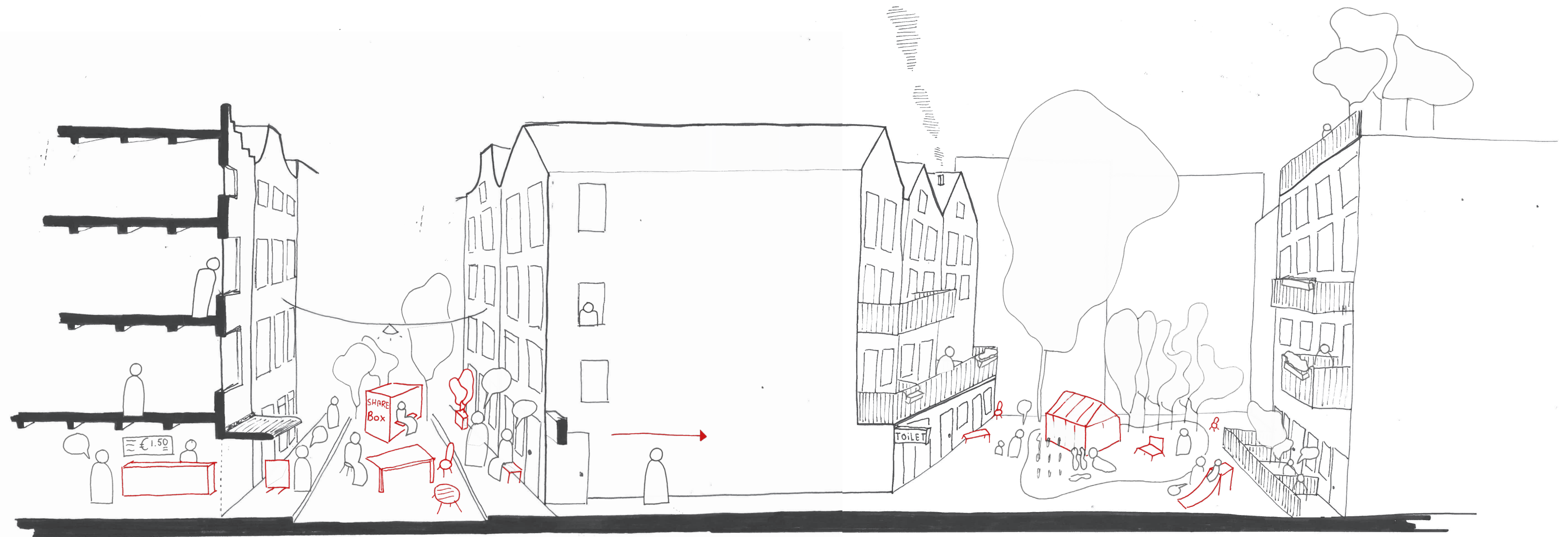
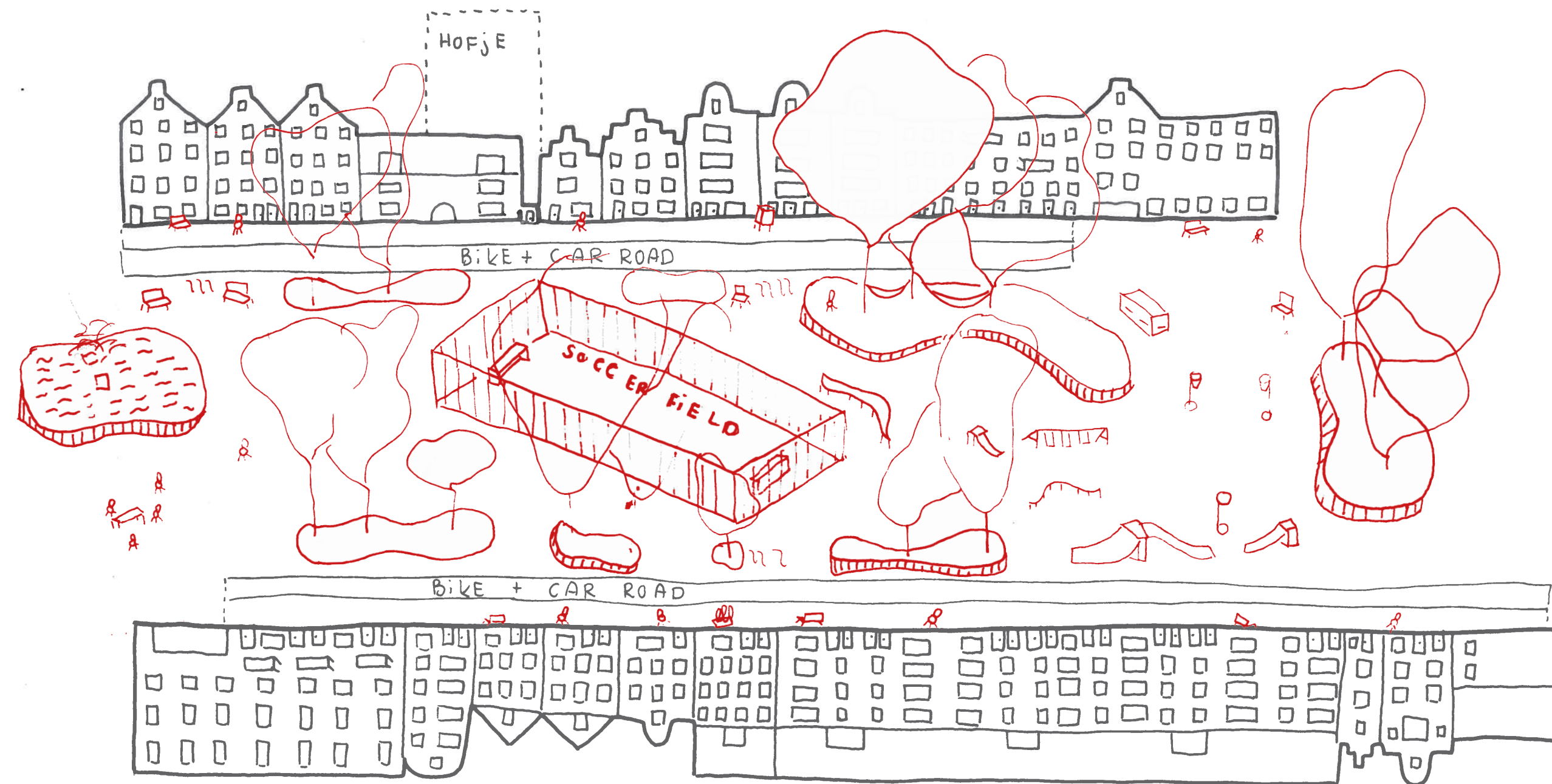


Fig. 123: Technical section Livingstreet+ (1:500) with stakeholders and ownership





introduction

problematISATION

socio-spatial
analysis

proposal

design

conclusion and
reflection

Main research question:

What urban transformations can unlock spatial justice that embrace different norms, giving space to the other, within a smoothened environment of Amsterdam?

***what is the role of urban space, and who has the
right to it?***