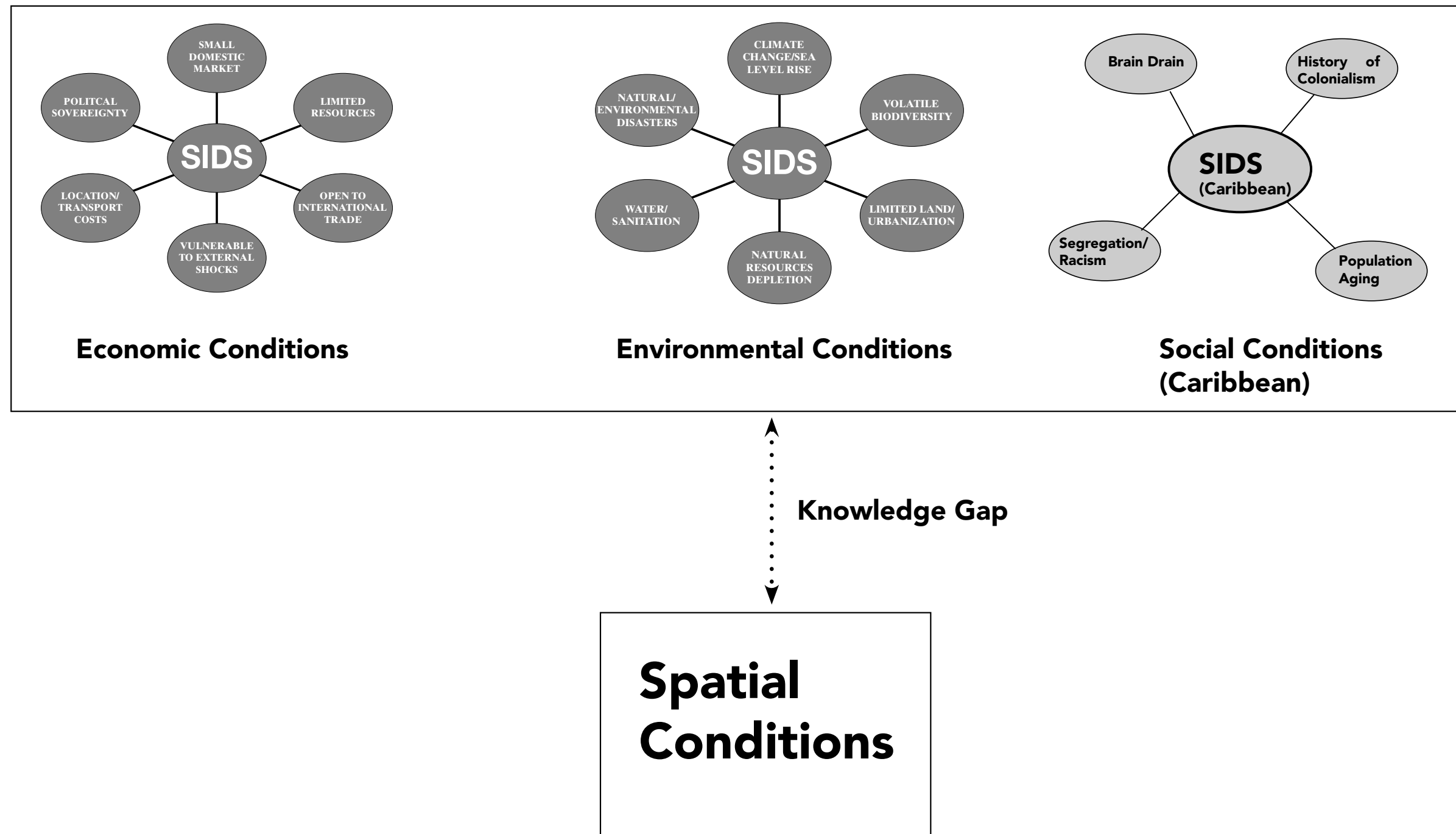


PLACES FOR US

Exploring Urban Design Principles for the locals of
Willemstad

1.Context > 2.Goal > 3.Analysis > 4.Vision > 5.Design > 6.Conclusions

Small Island Cities



Cities on small islands and their inhabitants deal with a unique set of economic, social and environmental challenges, because of their small scale and insularity. Currently, there is a gap in research on how these conditions are linked to the spatial context of these cities. Furthermore, there is a lack of an approach towards urban development that integrates these conditions

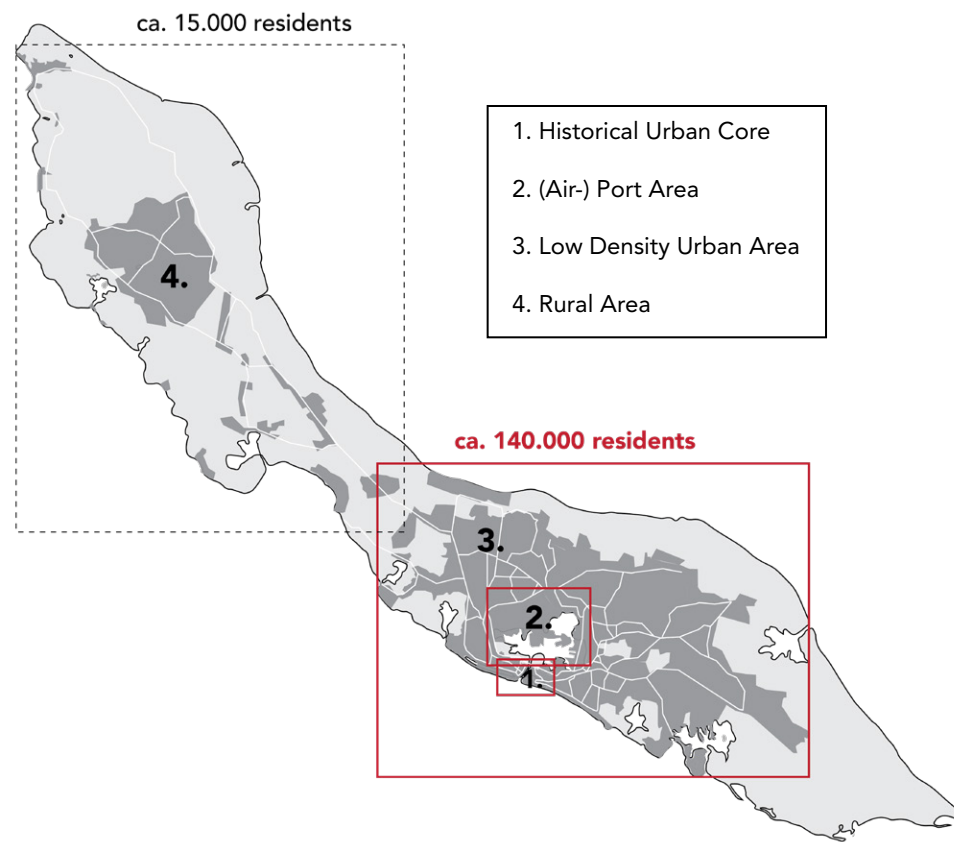
1.Context > 2.Goal > 3.Analysis > 4.Vision > 5.Design > 6.Conclusions

Small Island Cities



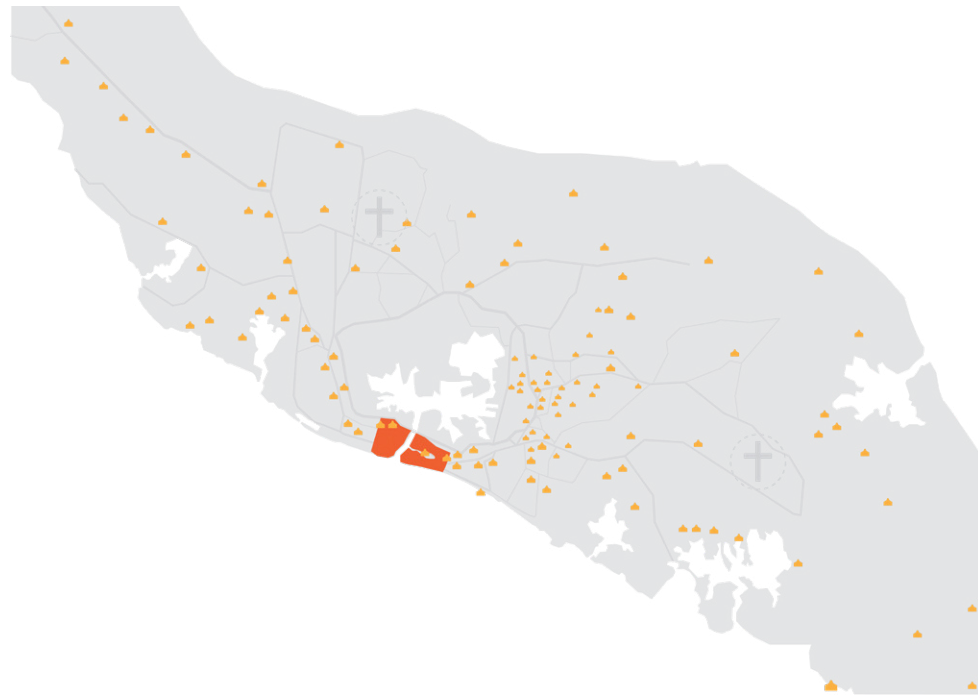
1.Context > 2.Goal > 3.Analysis > 4.Vision > 5.Design > 6.Conclusions

Willemstad

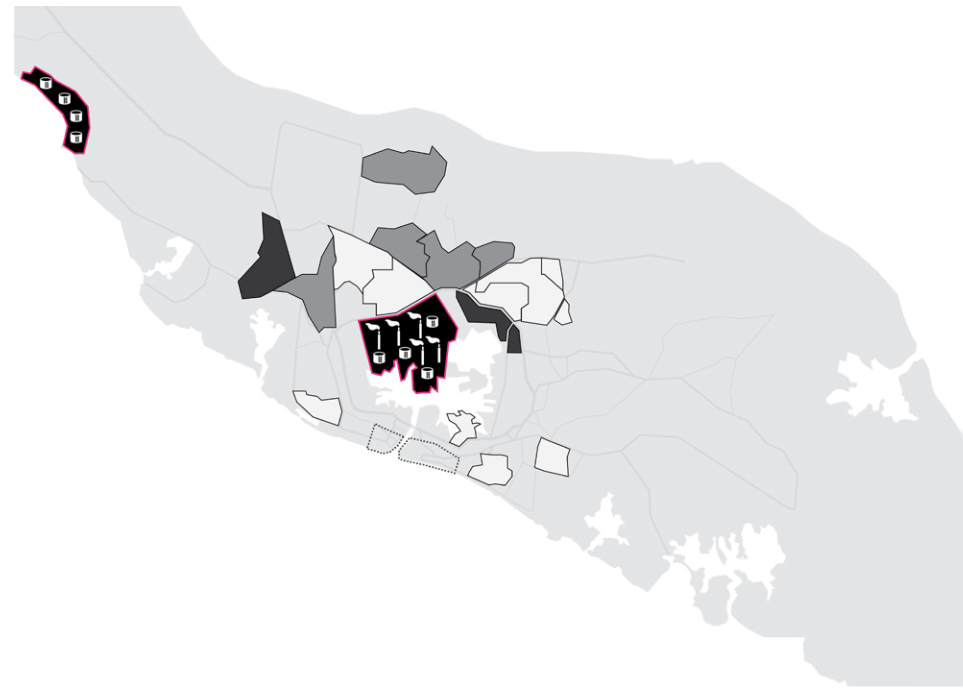


1.Context > 2.Goal > 3.Analysis > 4.Vision > 5.Design > 6.Conclusions

Historical Narrative of Spatial Development



1634-1864: The W.I.C. Period



1920-1970: The Shell Period

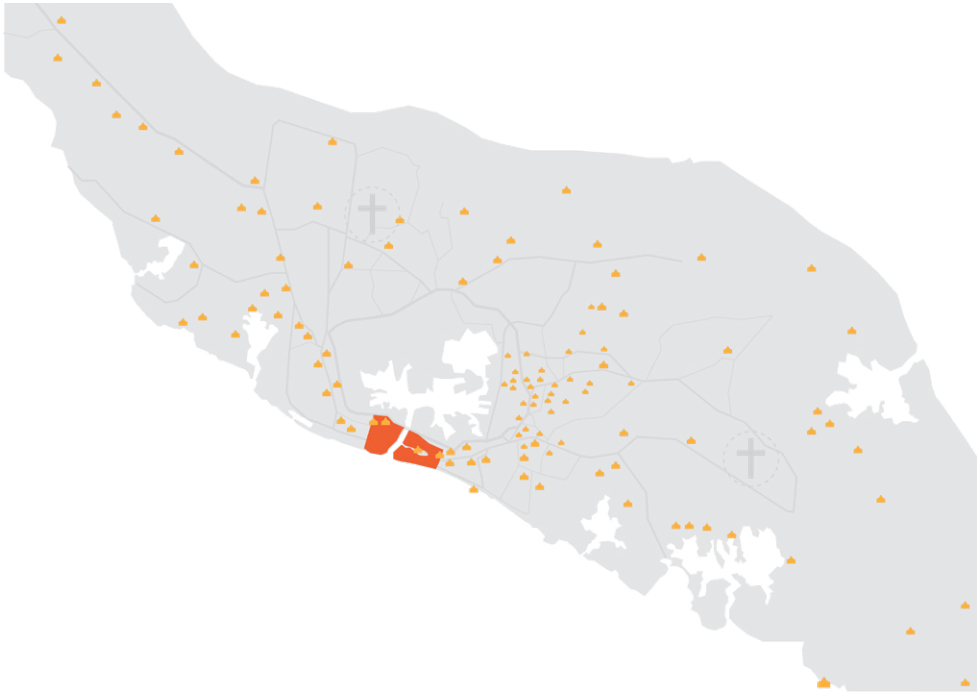


1970-2000s: Offshore Banking and Tourism

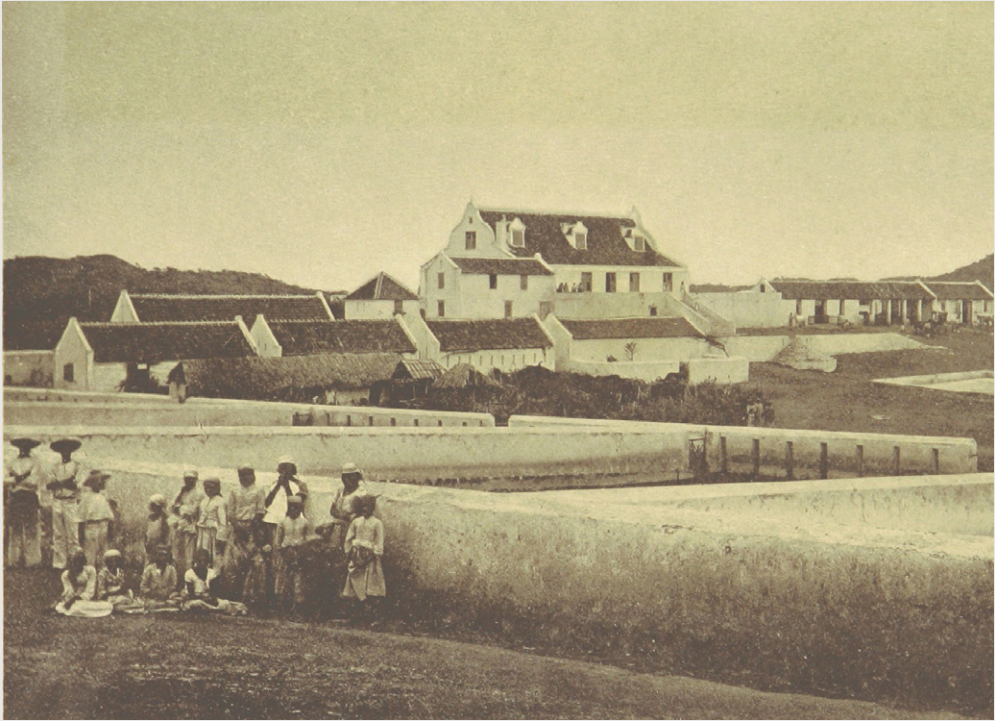
Repeating Pattern throughout the city's history:

- Urban Development as a result of foreigners establishing a new sectors of international businesses (export) in the city.
- This causing racial segregation within the local community, that manifests within the spatial structure of the city.
- Also causing pollution and destruction of ecosystems that are essential to the well-being of locals.

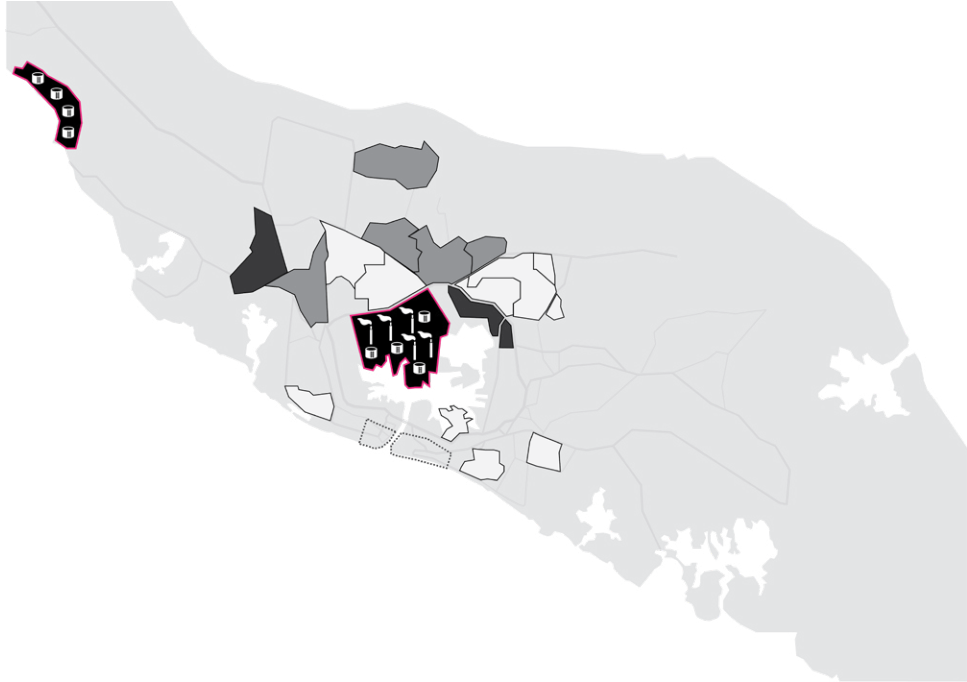
Historical Narrative of Spatial Development



1634-1864: The W.I.C. Period



Historical Narrative of Spatial Development



1920-1970: The Shell Period



Historical Narrative of Spatial Development



1970-2000s: Offshore Banking and Tourism

1.Context > 2.Goal > 3.Analysis > 4.Vision > 5.Design > 6.Conclusions

Current Situation: Well-Being of Locals

Specific Conditions affecting Well-Being of Locals:

- Social fabric that relies on chance encounters and cultural activities
- Import Dependency
- Lack of participation and ownership within export sector (main source of income)
- Brain Drain
- Pollution and ecosystem destruction caused by export businesses
- Natural Threats: Heat & Drought, Rising Sea-Levels and Hurricanes



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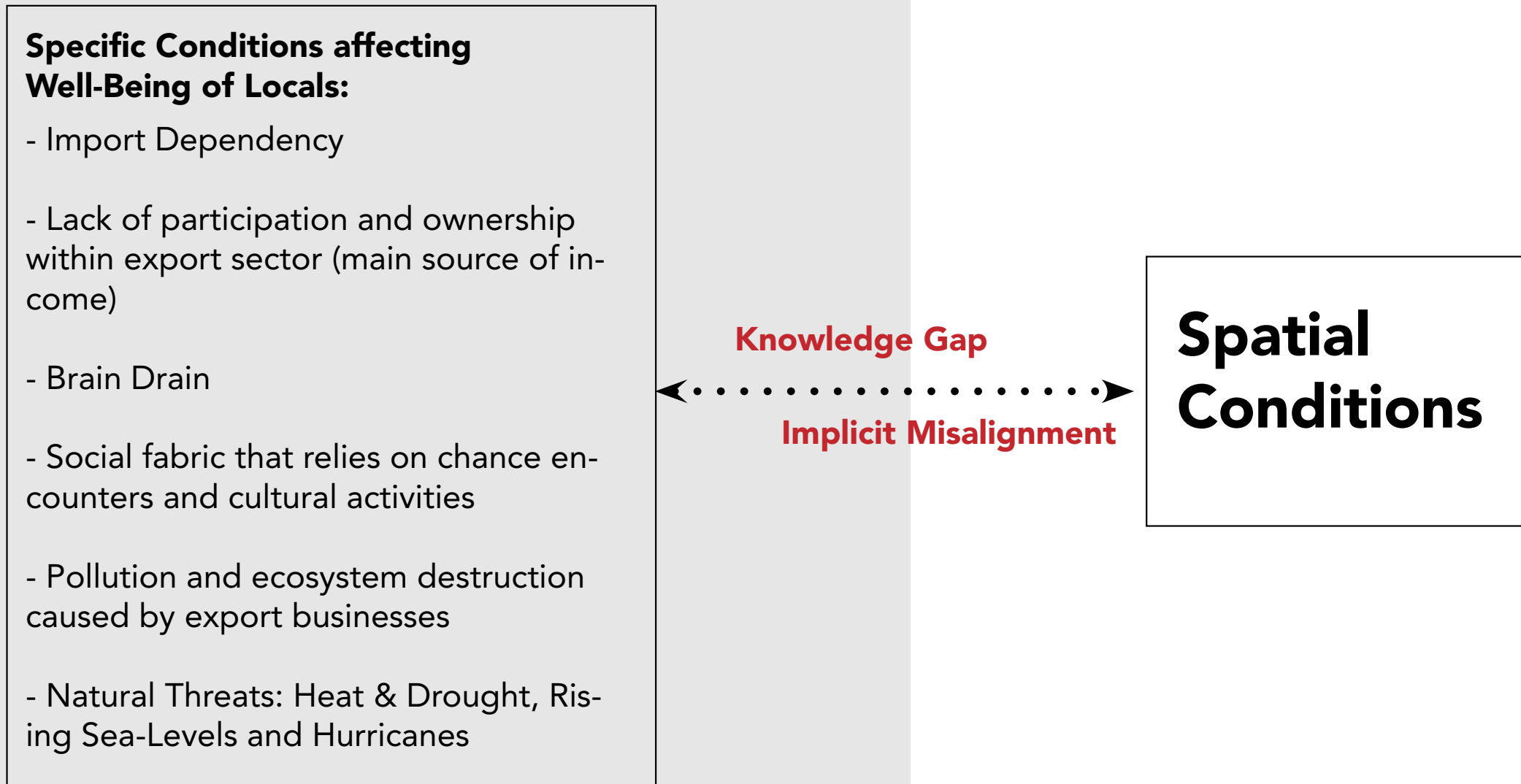


Current Situation: Well-Being of Locals

WHO IS A LOCAL?

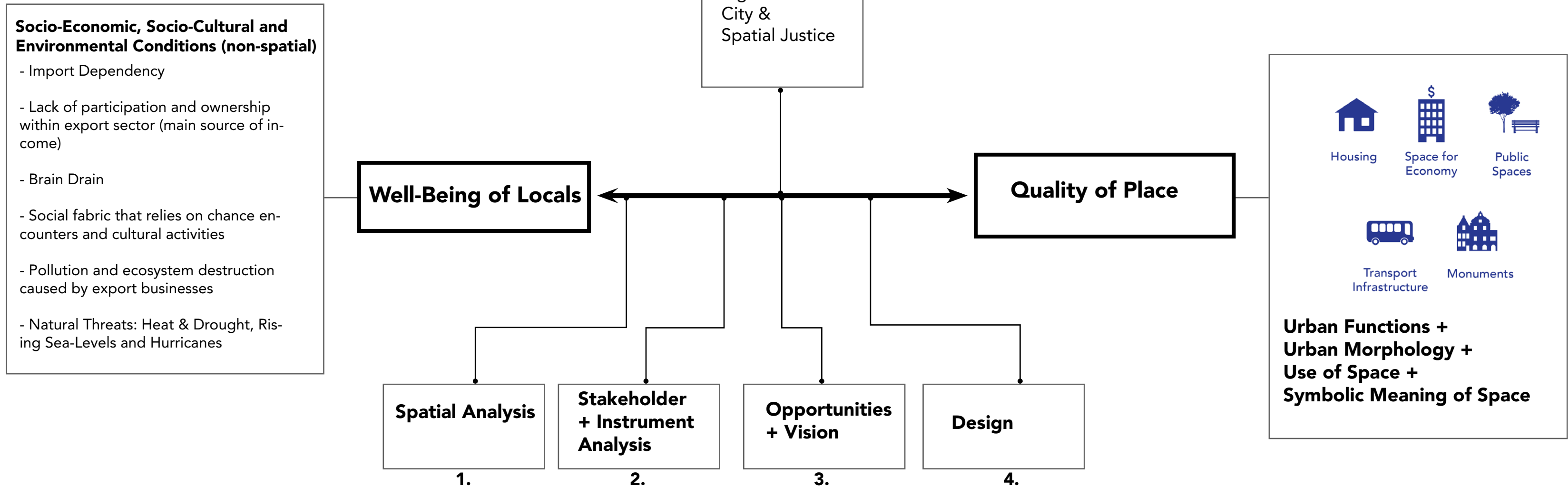
Those who are subjected to and can relate to the specific economic, social and environmental conditions found in Willemstad.

Problem



- **The current relationship between the well-being of the local population and Willemstad's spatial structure is not researched.**
- **The future of Willemstad's spatial structure and its effect on the well-being of locals is currently unpredictable.**
- **The future of the socio-economic, cultural and environmental conditions that affect the well-being of locals is unpredictable (Due to internal and external causes)**

Methodology



Main Goal:

Explore **urban design principles** for future spatial transformations of Willemstad that **prioritizes the well-being of locals**, by integrating some of their **unique economic, social and environmental challenges and opportunities**.

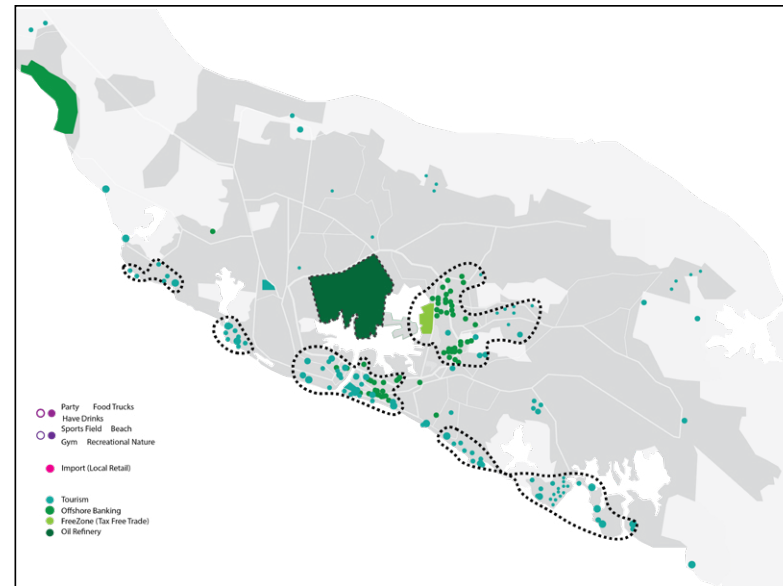
Sub Goals:

1. Get a better understanding of the extent to which the spatial structure of Willemstad is currently linked to the unique economic, social and environmental conditions that affect the well-being of the local population.
2. Identify the hurdles within the spatial planning system of Willemstad, that are currently preventing spatial developments that prioritize the well-being of locals to take place.
3. Identify opportunities for both the future spatial transformation and the spatial planning approach of the city, that can potentially lead to urban environments that actively benefit the locals.
4. Use design to create and test urban design principles, for future spatial transformation of Willemstad that benefit the economic, social and environmental well-being of the local population.

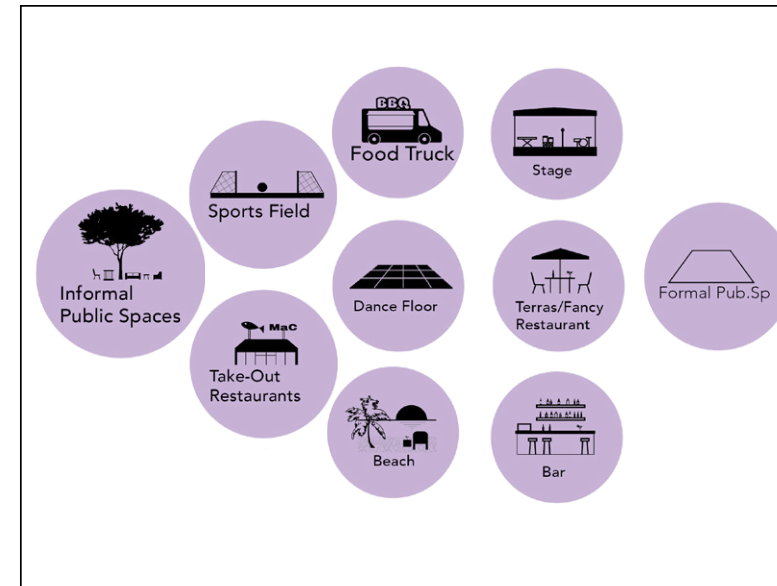
1.Context > **2.Goal** > 3.Analysis > 4.Vision > 5.Design > 6.Conclusions

Spatial Analysis

Well-Being of Locals



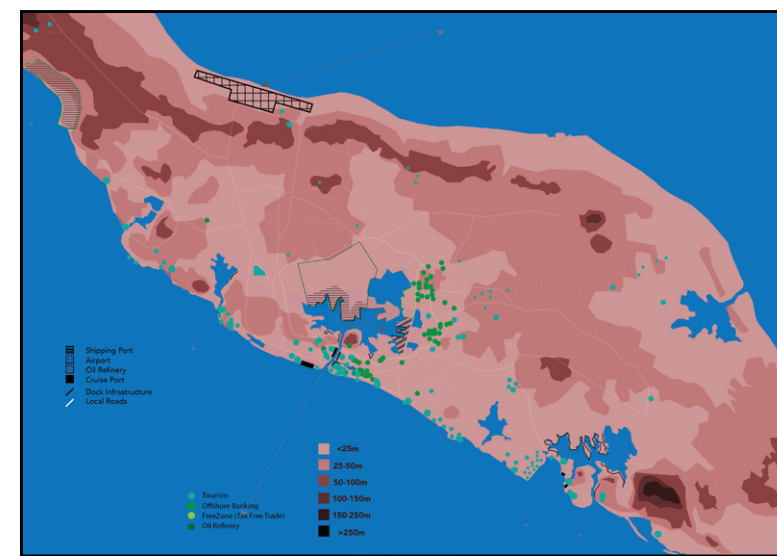
1. Economic Dependency & Segregation



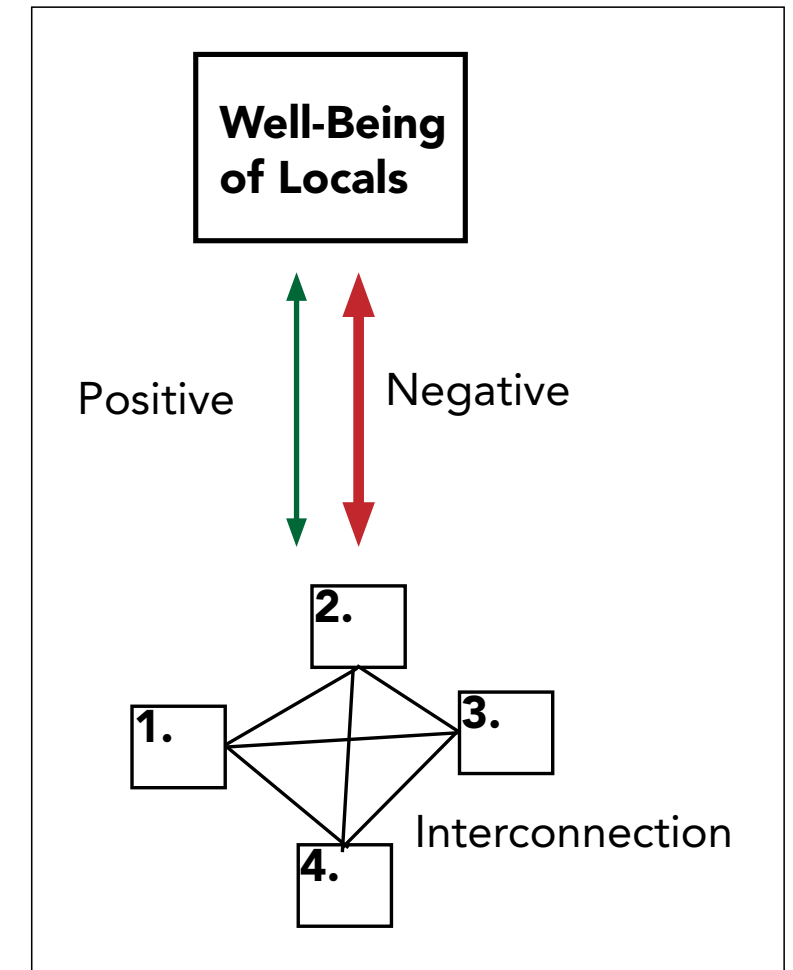
2. Social Interactions, Leisure & Culture



3. Brain Drain & Education



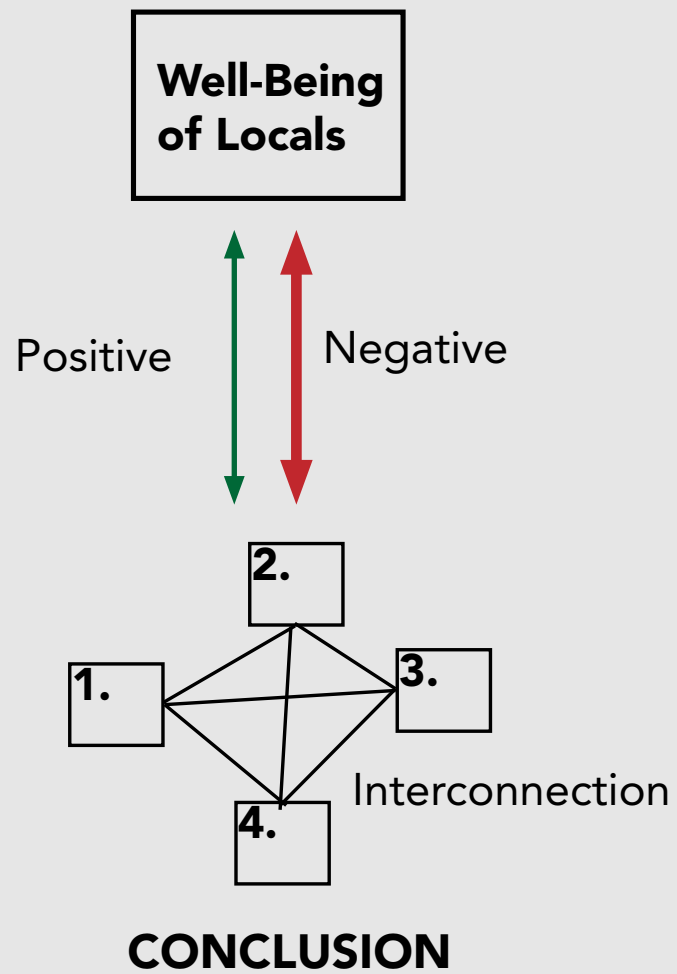
4. Ecosystems & Natural Threats



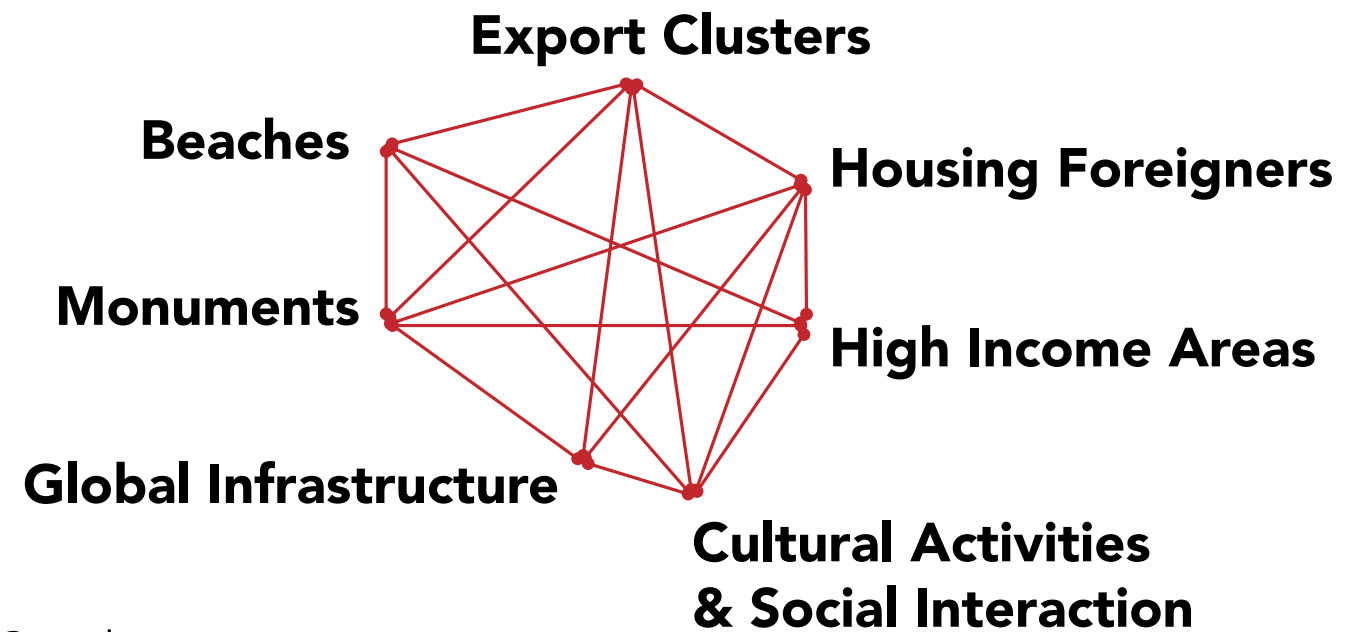
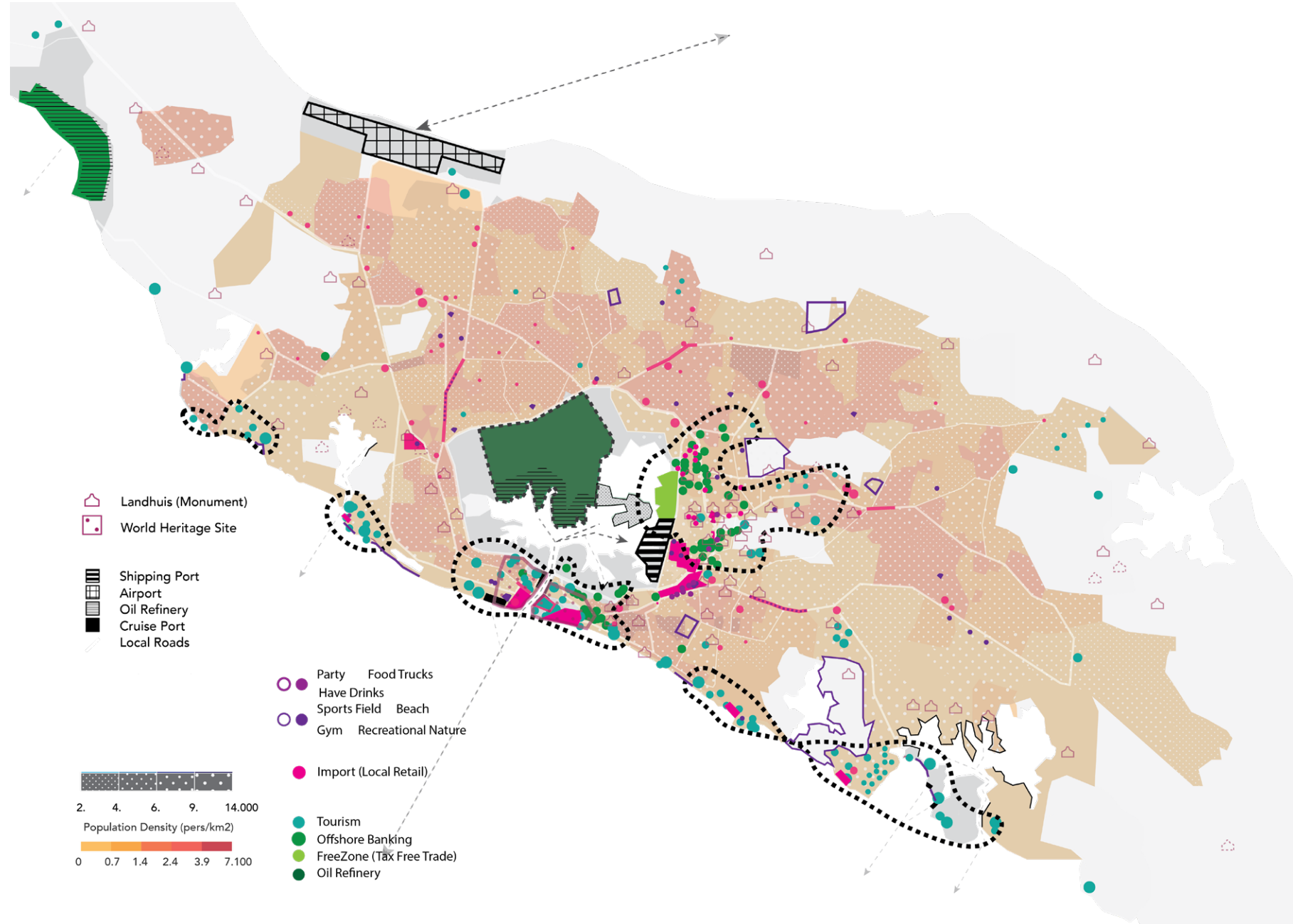
CONCLUSION

- There is Currently much room for improvement when it comes to how the Spatial Structure of Willemstad supports the Living Conditions of its Local Population
- There is strong interconnectedness in the spatial structure between the different socio-economic and environmental conditions affecting the living conditions of locals.

Spatial Analysis



1.Context > 2.Goal > **3.Analysis** > 4.Vision > 5.Design > 6.Conclusions



Stakeholder & Instrument Analysis

VVRP (Spatial Planning Department):

We do not get a coherent vision from the government on the future socio-economic and environmental development of the city. Therefore, we can not create a vision or any type of plan on the future spatial development of the city. Let alone one that directly integrates the well-being of the marginalized locals. Also, we lack capacity and are completely preoccupied with keeping the city's infrastructure functional.

Government:

When it comes to spatial development, we can not do it ourselves therefore, we need foreign developers to come and do it for us.

Foreign Developers:

My primary goal is to use this city and its resources to make myself richer. Seldom (never) is the well-being of the local population a goal for my developments. I already pay (reduced) taxes.

Locals:

I do not have any agency in how my city is developed.

Urban Designers:

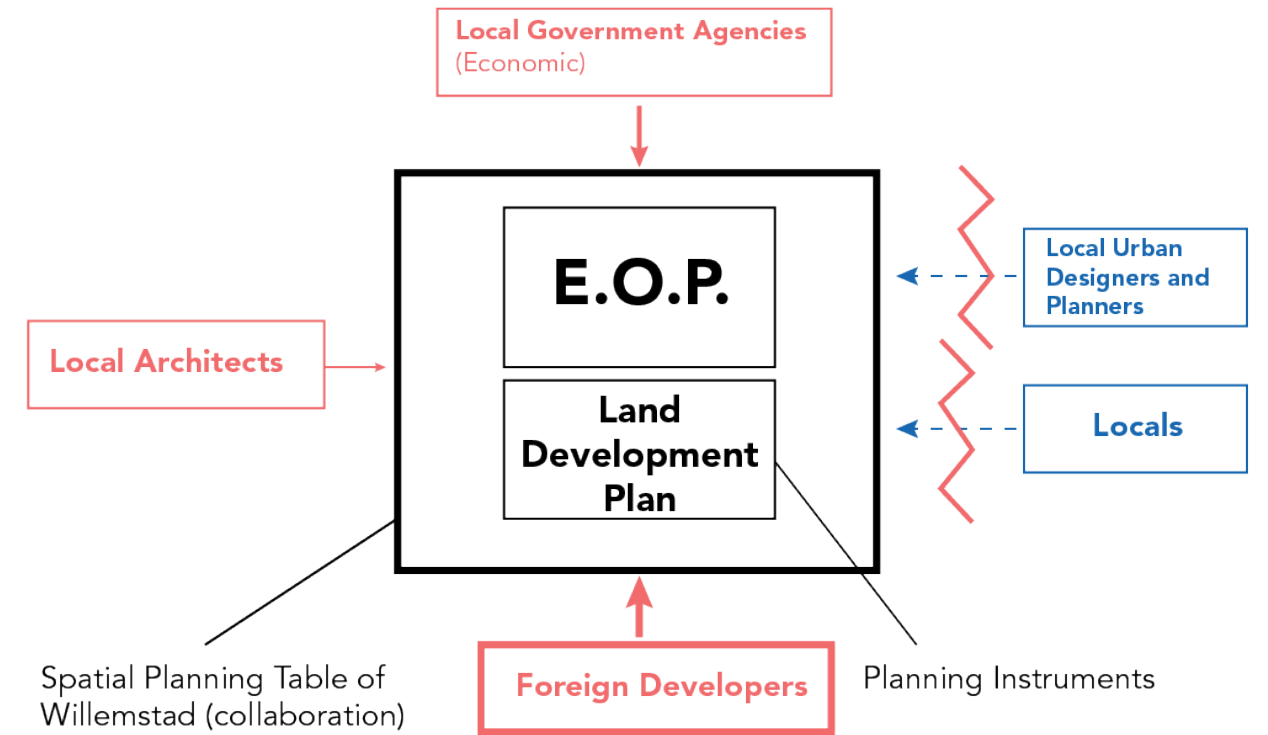
There is no point in making spatial designs on a urban scale (larger than individual buildings or plots). It will be shoved into a government drawer, never to be seen again.

Urban Designers have stopped dreaming about a desirable future for the city and its locals. They gave up.

However, they are the only stakeholders who simultaneously understand the spatial context of Willemstad and have the well-being of locals at heart

Everybody:

The current E.O.P. (land use plan) is very outdated. There is a need for a new approach towards urban development in the city



There is a lack of an Urban Planning and Design Approach that incorporates the Well-Being of the locals population as its (main) goal!

General lack of a vision for the spatial development of the city

There is no vision for the socio-economic, socio-cultural and environmental development of the locals.

Sense of Powerlessness and lack of agency amongst Locals and Local Urban Designers and Planners

Current Planning instruments (E.O.P.) is outdated and misaligned with trends in the city and its locals

1.Context > 2.Goal > **3.Analysis** > 4.Vision > 5.Design > 6.Conclusions

Stakeholder & Instrument Analysis



- There is a lack of an **Urban Planning and Design Approach** that incorporates the **Well-Being of the locals population** as its (main) goal!
- **General lack of a vision for the spatial development of the city**
- There is no vision for the **socio-economic, socio-cultural and environmental development of the locals.**
- **Sense of Powerlessness and lack of agency amongst Urban Designers and Planners**
- **Current Planning instruments (E.O.P.) is outdated and misaligned with trends in the city and its locals**

1.Context > 2.Goal > **3.Analysis** > 4.Vision > 5.Design > 6.Conclusions

Opportunities



Maripompoen: Beach Development for Locals



Social Housing that integrates local conditions

1.Context > 2.Goal > 3.Analysis > **4.Vision** > 5.Design > 6.Conclusions

Opportunities

Kaya-Kaya Party: Temporary Spatial Transformation for Locals



Claim Ruined Monuments



Public Places made by Locals



Places for Local Artists to get Exposure



New forms of Public Transportation



Places for Local Entrepreneurs



Places for Chance Encounters



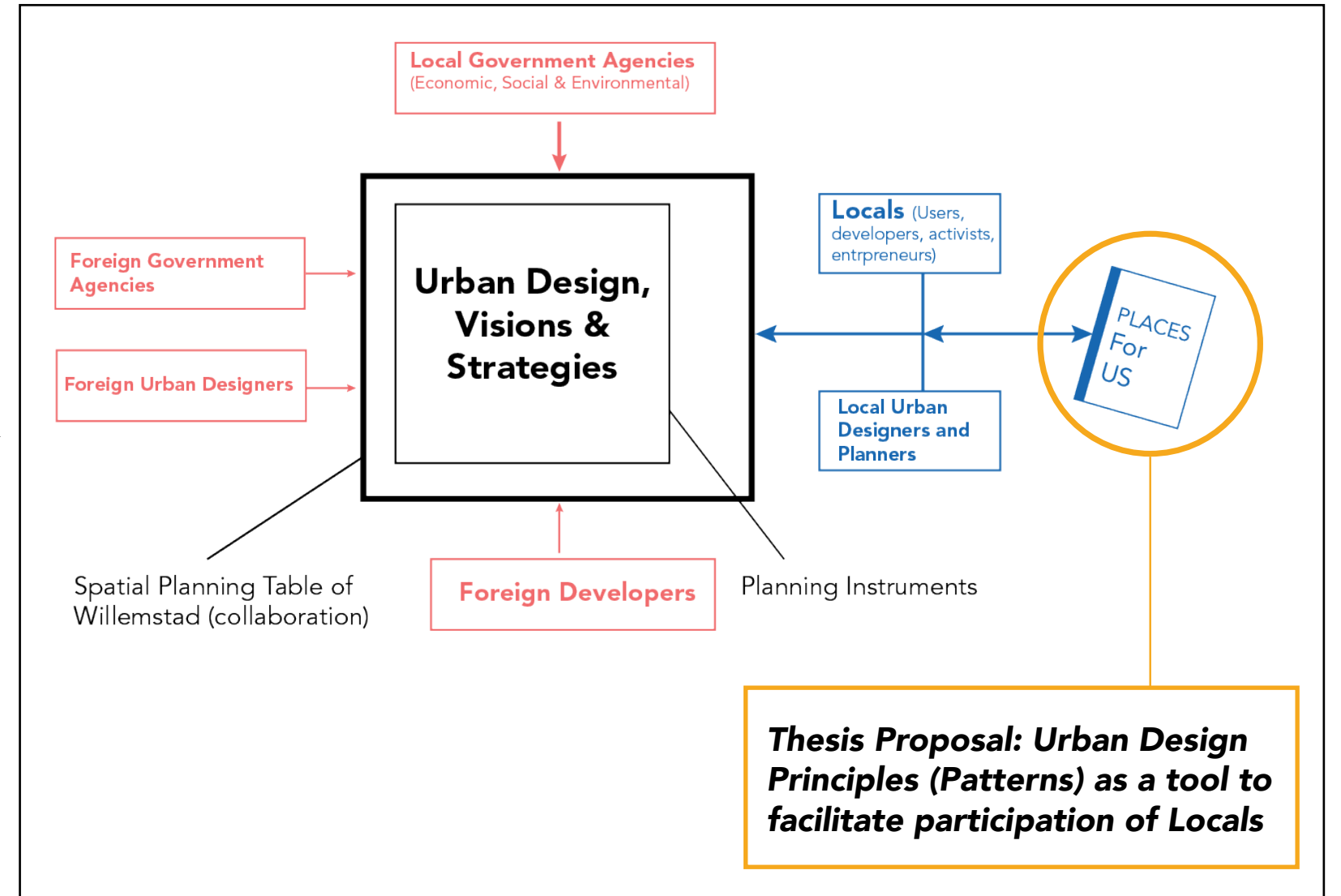
Urban Farming

Opportunities & Vision

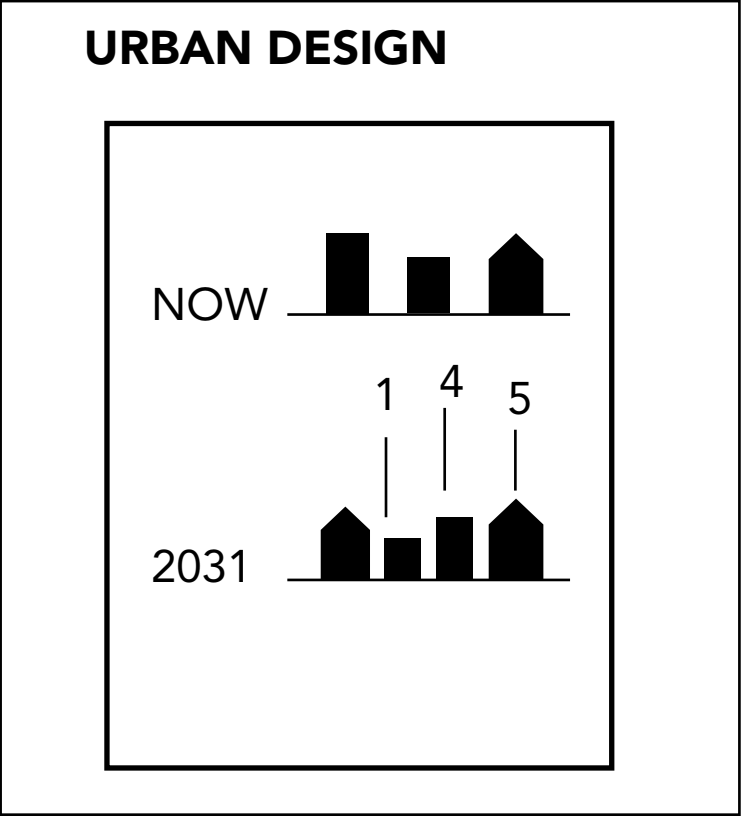
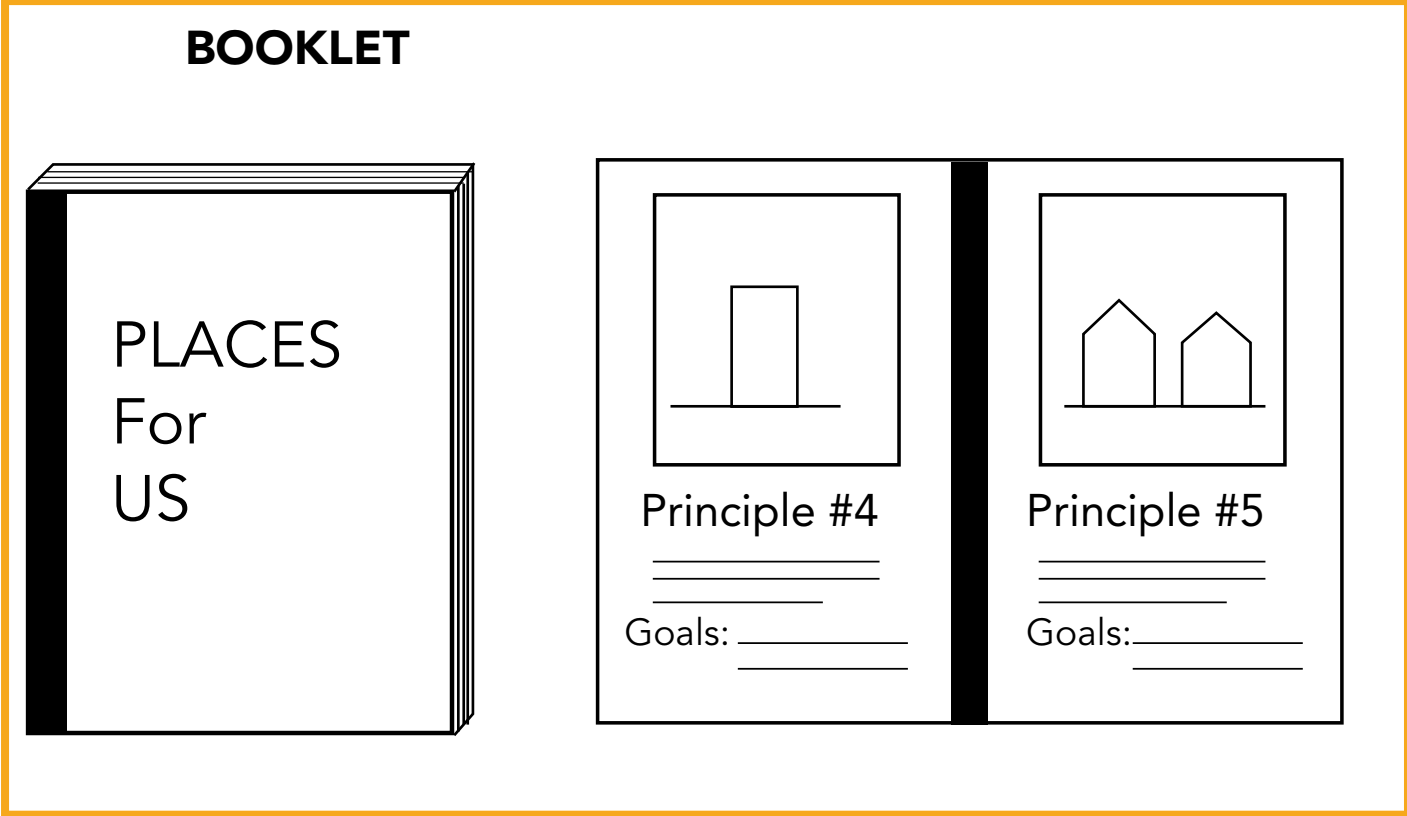
SPATIAL



PLANNING SYSTEM



Final Design Products



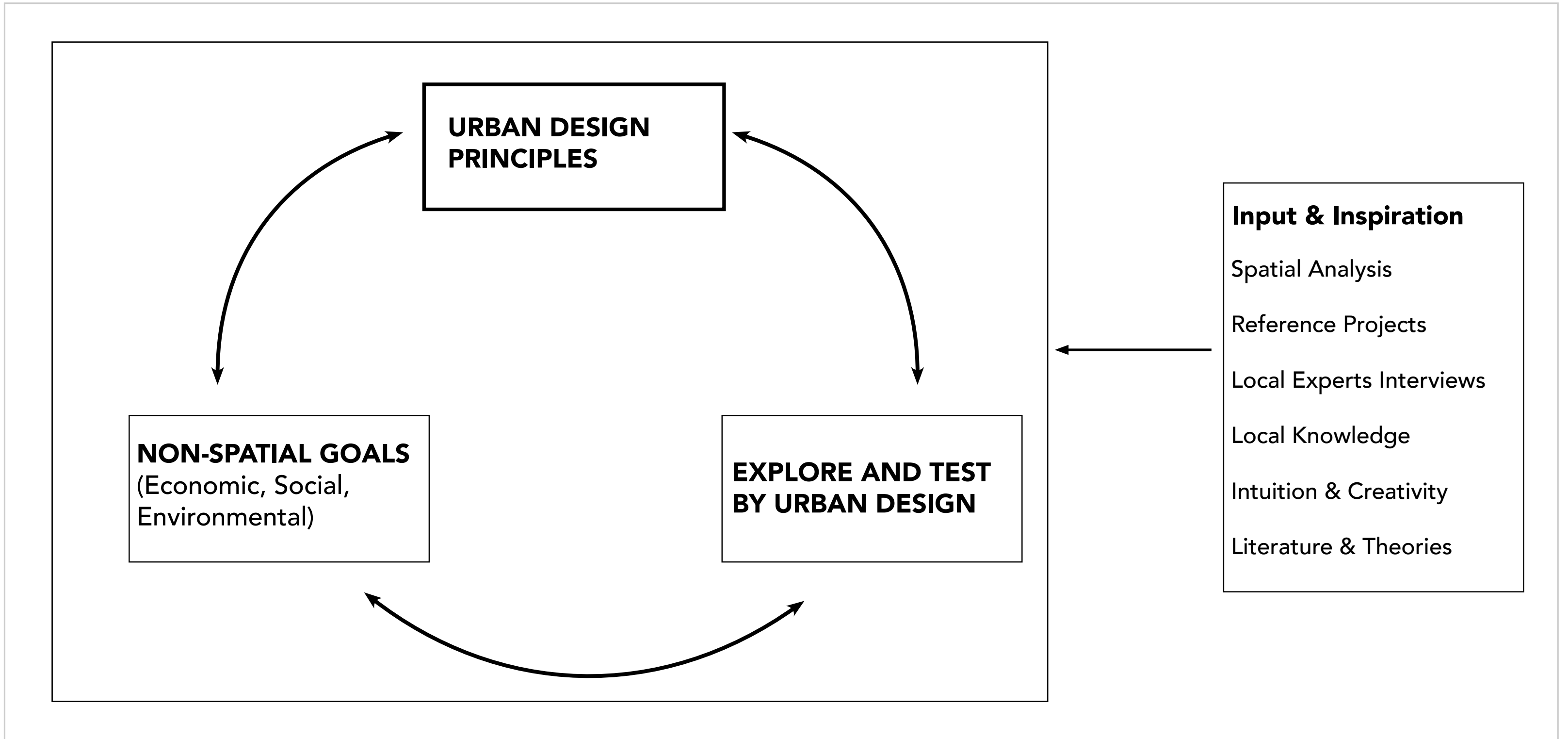
A set of GOALS for improving the Economic, Social and Environmental Well-Being of Locals

A set of URBAN DESIGN PRINCIPLES for improving the Well-Being of Locals

An EXAMPLE URBAN DESIGN SCENARIO showing the application of the UDP's in a selected Area

(Not a plan for real life implementation. Rather an example and inspiration for local planners)

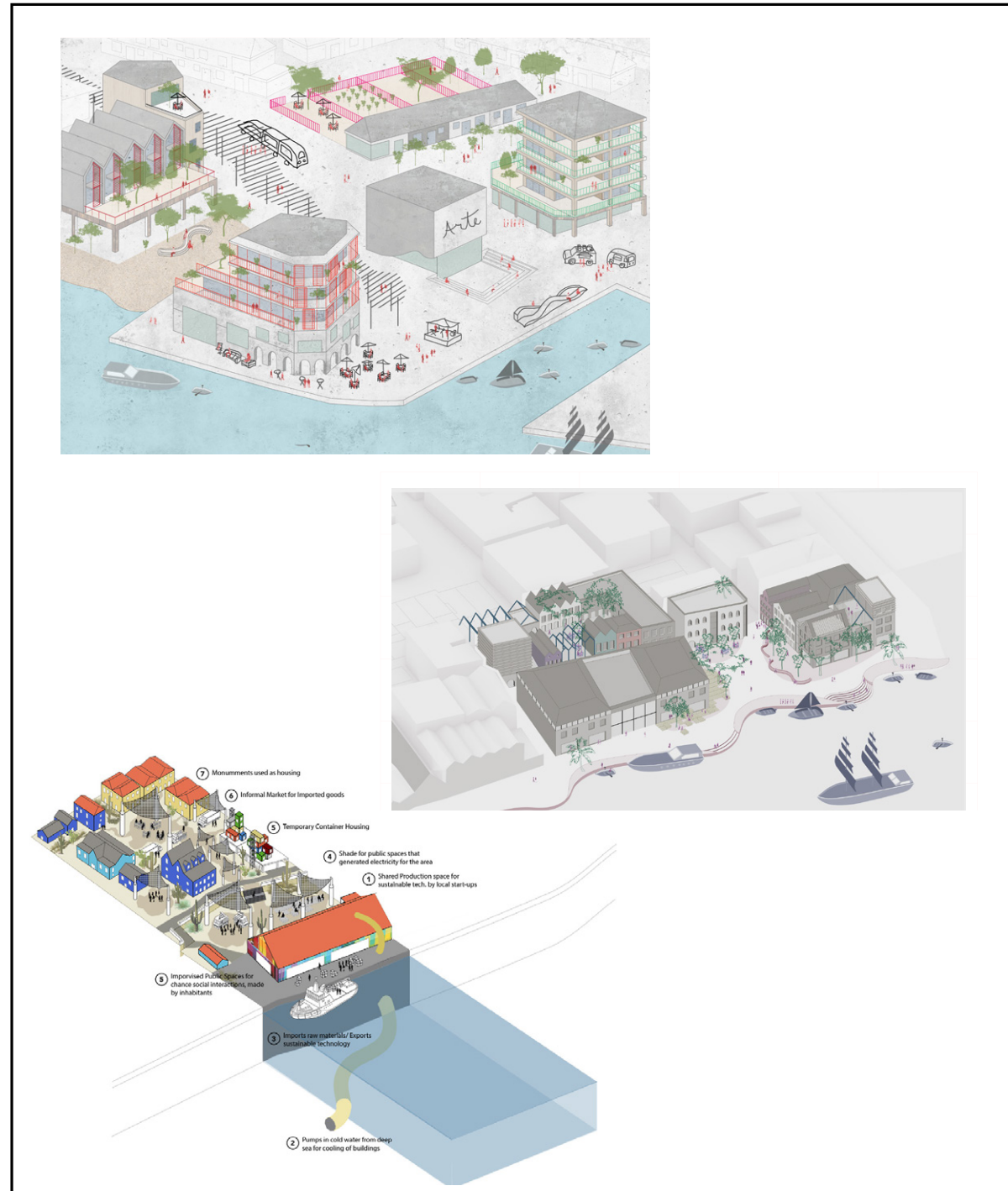
Design Process



The UDPs were found through an ITERATIVE and EXPLORATORY Design Process

1.Context > 2.Goal > 3.Analysis > 4.Vision > **5.Design** > 6.Conclusions

Design Process

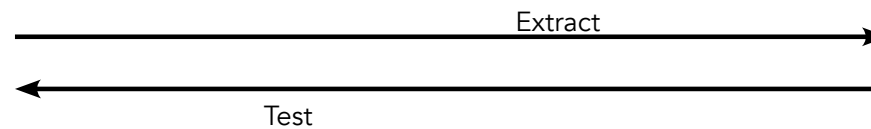


	Housing	Space for Economy	Public Spaces	Leisure Buildings	Transport Infrastructure	Monuments
Embracing Import Dependency	X	1	17	X	18	X
Export Businesses by Locals	X	2	9	X	6	3
Brain Drainers Return	11	2	4 22	7	8	14
>51% Locals	21	2	4 22	7	X	13
We Protect Our Nature	16	10	12	X	8	X
Protect Us from Nature	16 19 20	16 19 20	5	16 19 20	20	15

- Import Pick-Up points
- Spatial cluster of local-owned export businesses
- Shared production Facilities and workplaces for local-owned start-ups.
- Flexible public spaces for local cultural and leisure activities
- Shaded public spaces
- Accessible global shipping infrastructure
- Clusters of buildings that host local cultural and leisure functions
- A variety of sustainable modes of transportation
- Places for knowledge exchange between local start-ups
- Low waste production facilities
- Variety of housing options (types)
- Incorporate places for nature in public spaces
- Claim OUR monuments as part of our local identity
- Monuments as places for US to work, live, learn & play
- Monuments are already good at dealing with local climate
- Nature inclusive buildings
- Urban Farming
- Automated land and maritime imports distribution network
- Robust materialization of buildings
- Coastal protection against rising sea levels
- Multi-cultural living areas with >51% housing for locals
- A network of flexible/Informal public spaces

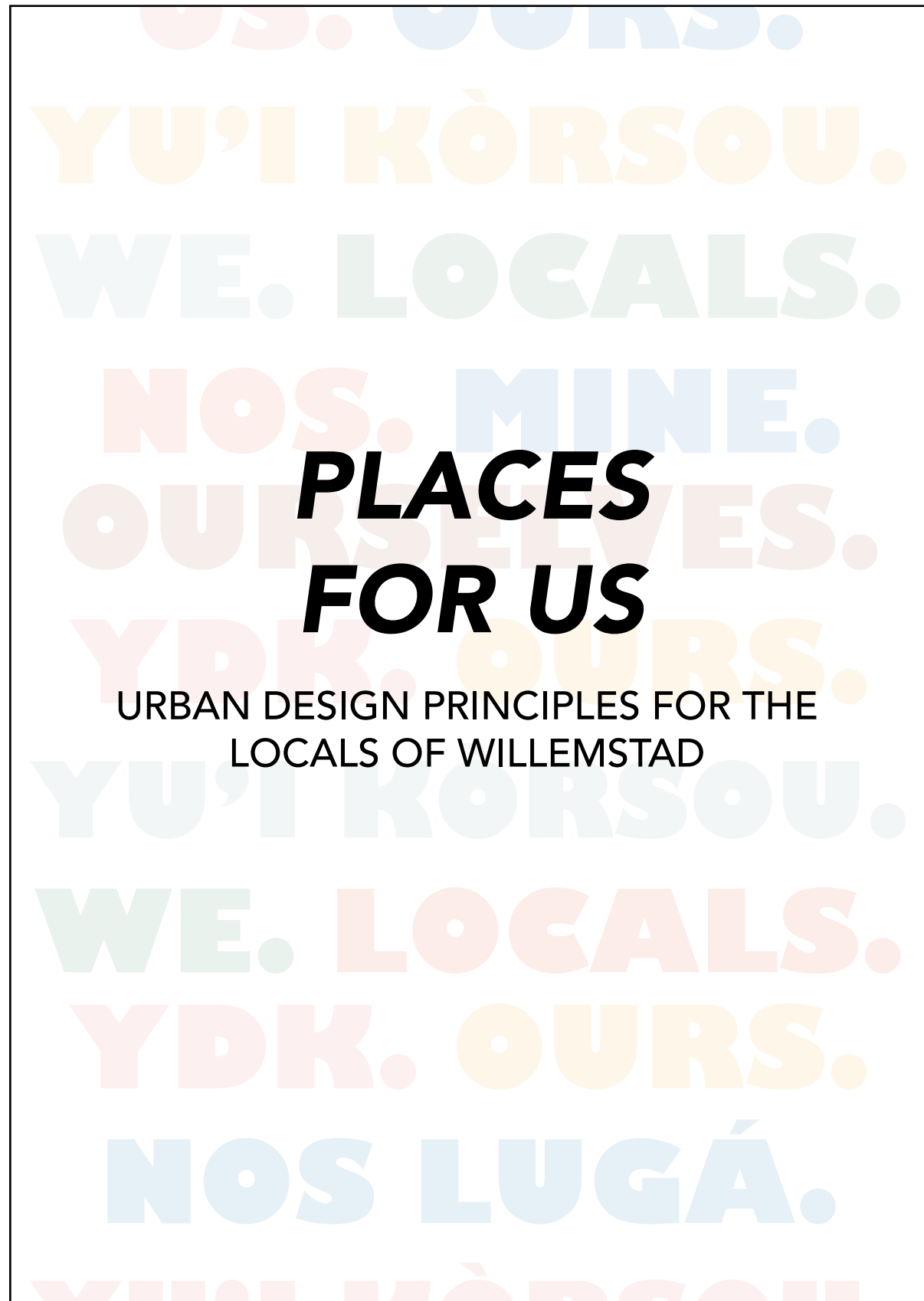
EXPLORE AND TEST BY URBAN DESIGN (Scenario Method)

URBAN DESIGN PRINCIPLES & NON-SPATIAL GOALS



1.Context > 2.Goal > 3.Analysis > 4.Vision > **5.Design** > 6.Conclusions

Final Design Products



PLACES FOR US

As locals, our well-being is dependent on a unique combination of factors; Our city is located on a small island and because of this we face very specific socio-economic challenges. We have a high dependency on Imports to put food on the table, clothes on our backs and pretty much any other consumption needs that we may have. Our Export sector on the other hand is the main source of income for our city. However, the sentiment exists amongst us that we are excluded from participation within this sector, especially when it comes to business ownership and leadership positions. We do not seem to be profiting optimally.

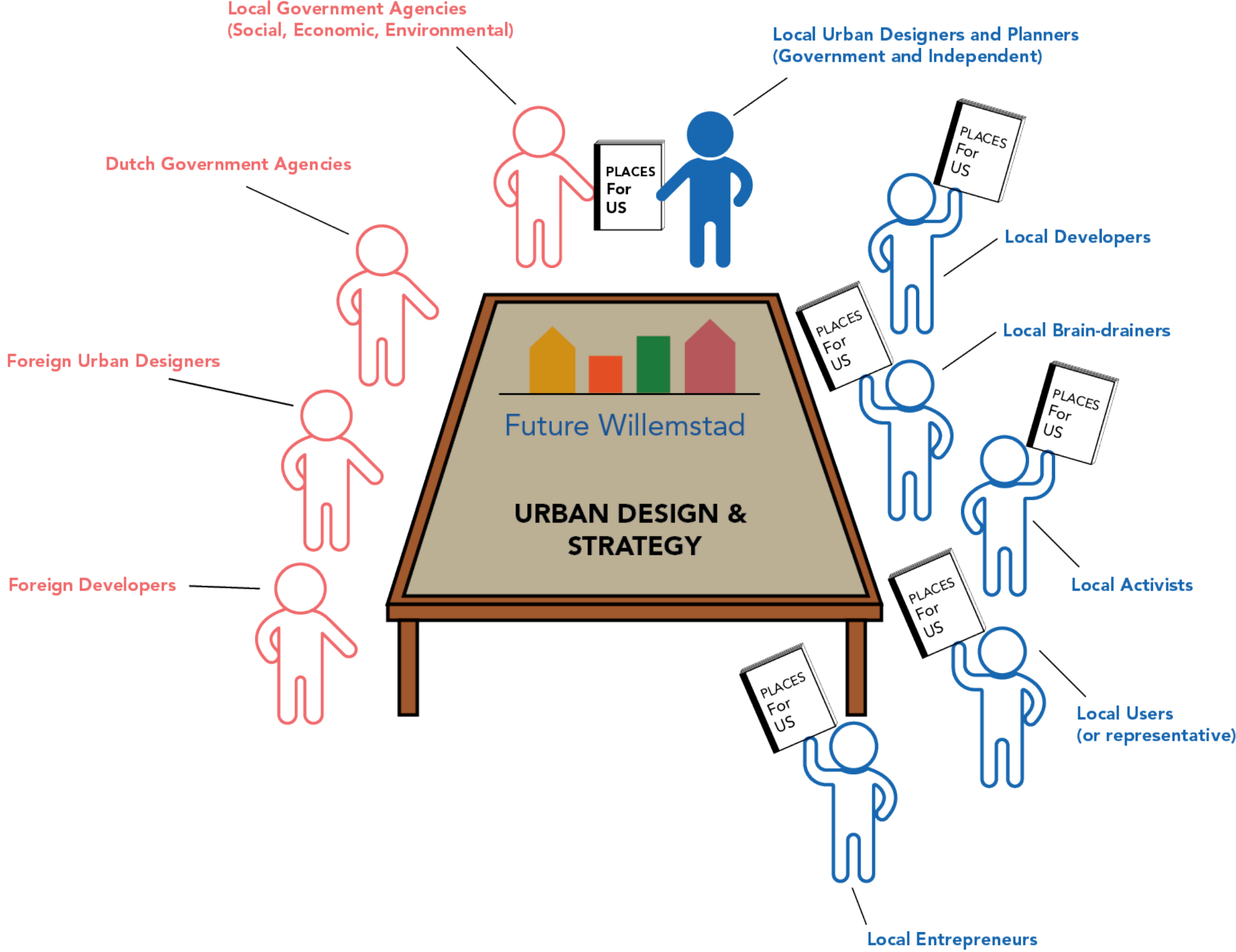
Because of our dependence on exports and our small islandness, we are also subjected to environmental vulnerabilities. We deal with dangerous amounts of air-pollution and our marine and coastal ecosystems are also subjected to a great deal of damage. We are also at extra risk to the dangers of climate change, especially rising sea levels, drought and the occasional hurricane. We also share a tough history of colonialism and slavery, that has shaped us. Luckily as a result of this we now have our own unique culture. We have our own language, music, food, dance, art and attitude towards life that we are proud of. We enjoy expressing this culture during our many celebrations across the city throughout the year. These celebrations play an important role in our community. It is during these chance encounters that we get the chance to interact, catch-up with each other and enjoy life.

Unfortunately, we are not aware of the important role that our built environment plays in supporting our well-being. This counts for both the positive and negative aspects of our lives. Most of us do not even acknowledge that we are living in a city, instead we identify ourselves as living on an island. We are also negligent of the fact that having access to the right spatial resources can drastically improve our economic, environmental and social conditions. Currently, we have very little input on how our built environment is developed. Spatial developments are dictated by foreign developers to fulfill their own goals, which usually do not directly include our well-being.

This booklet contains a set of socio-economic, socio-cultural and environmental GOALS and corresponding URBAN DESIGN PRINCIPLES for improving the well-being of US, the locals in Willemstad. The purpose of these urban design principles is to be used during the collaborative spatial planning process of making urban designs and strategies for the spatial development of Willemstad. As locals, it is our collective right to have a (few) seats at the city's spatial planning table.

I encourage you as a local to find the urban design principles that resonate the most with you, take them to the current established spatial planning system and demand urban designs and developments that include these principles. If you have your own demand for our future city that is not in this booklet, create your own urban design principle and add it to this growing collection of Places for Us!

Final Design Products



Final Design Products

GOALS FOR IMPROVING OUR WELL-BEING

Embrace OUR Import Dependency

Our Import Dependency is unavoidable. We can fight it or find ways to make the best out of it, by acknowledging its risk and building resilience. This includes symbiotic collaborations with big and small global and regional powers. It also includes efforts to achieve some forms of self-sustainability where possible.

Brain-Drainers Return

Our brain drainers have gone abroad and acquired a vast amount of knowledge on how the rest of the world works. Many of them have managed to acquire much success internationally. Their knowledge can play an important role in assisting the sustainable economic, social and even environmental development of locals. They are the ones who truly understand both the local and the global and can connect these two worlds, who are currently clashing in the city.

We Protect OUR Nature

Our city's own nature is essential for supporting our health and also our social interactions and leisure. However, both our own behaviour and that of foreigners developers have made significant contributions to its destruction. In the future, when we have control over developments, protecting and rebuilding our ecosystems should become one of our priorities.

Export Businesses By US

In order for us to profit optimally from this main source of income, we should start participating directly in the global economy. This goal proposes that we as locals start owning and running our own export businesses. This way we can determine our own export sector and sell products and services to the world that reflect our own identity and skills. To take on this challenge and navigate the complex world of internationalized business, collaboration between us is key.

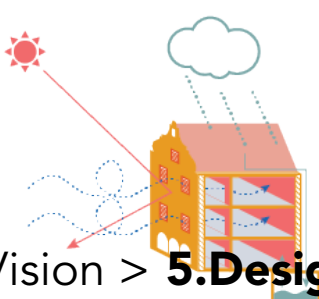
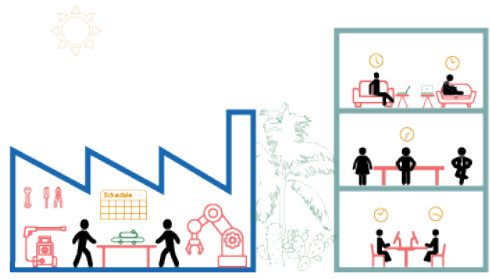
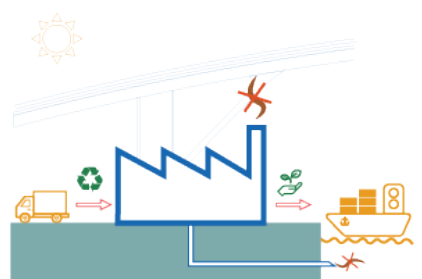
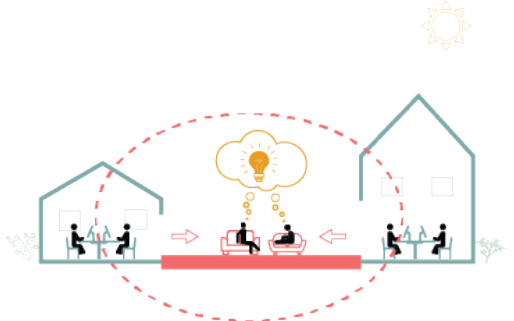
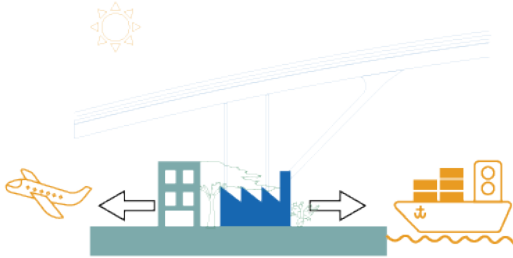
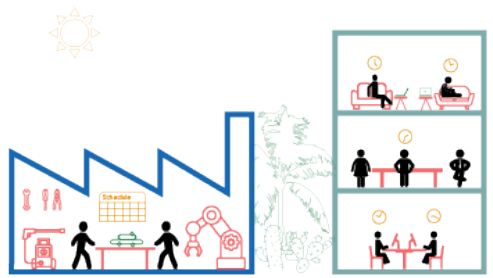
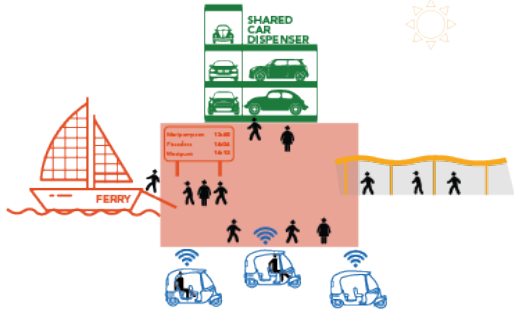
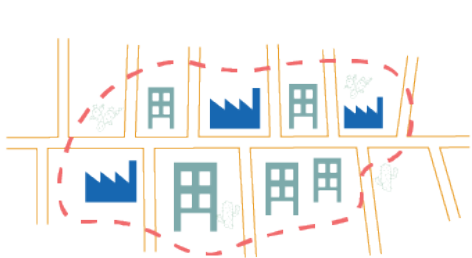
>51% Local Power

This goal is all about leadership and taking ownership. When it comes to especially economic and spatial processes in the city, locals often take the back seat, while foreigners determine developments. In the future, locals need to take the leading role. This does not mean that foreigners are no longer welcome in the city. To the contrary, they can play an important role in the development of local conditions. However, their decision making power should not be more than that of locals.

Protect US from Nature

With the looming threat of climate change, we should take a proactive role in protecting ourselves from the increasingly dangerous threat coming from nature. This means that we should start taking preventative measures in minimizing the negative effects of natural disasters on locals.

Final Design Products



1.Context > 2.Goal > 3.Analysis > 4.Vision > **5.Design** > 6.Conclusions

Final Design Products



Variety of Housing Options (Types)

Brain-Drainers of Willemstad have had the chance to live abroad and experience a wide range of housing options. Due to their high-skill level and sometimes high income, they have the choice to live and work anywhere they want. By increasing the variety of housing options, brain-drainers can have a comfortable living place in their own city, that matches their varied needs. Making Willemstad a more attractive place for them to settle.

Goals:

- >51% Locals
- Brain-Drainers Return

Combine with..

3	4	7	8
12	14	16	17
19	20	21	22



Claim Monuments as part of OUR local identity

The large amounts of tangible cultural heritage in Willemstad certainly has an added value. This value can be very practical (i.e. economic), however it can also have a more symbolic and emotional value. By claiming these spatial resources from foreigners, locals can directly benefit from this added value.

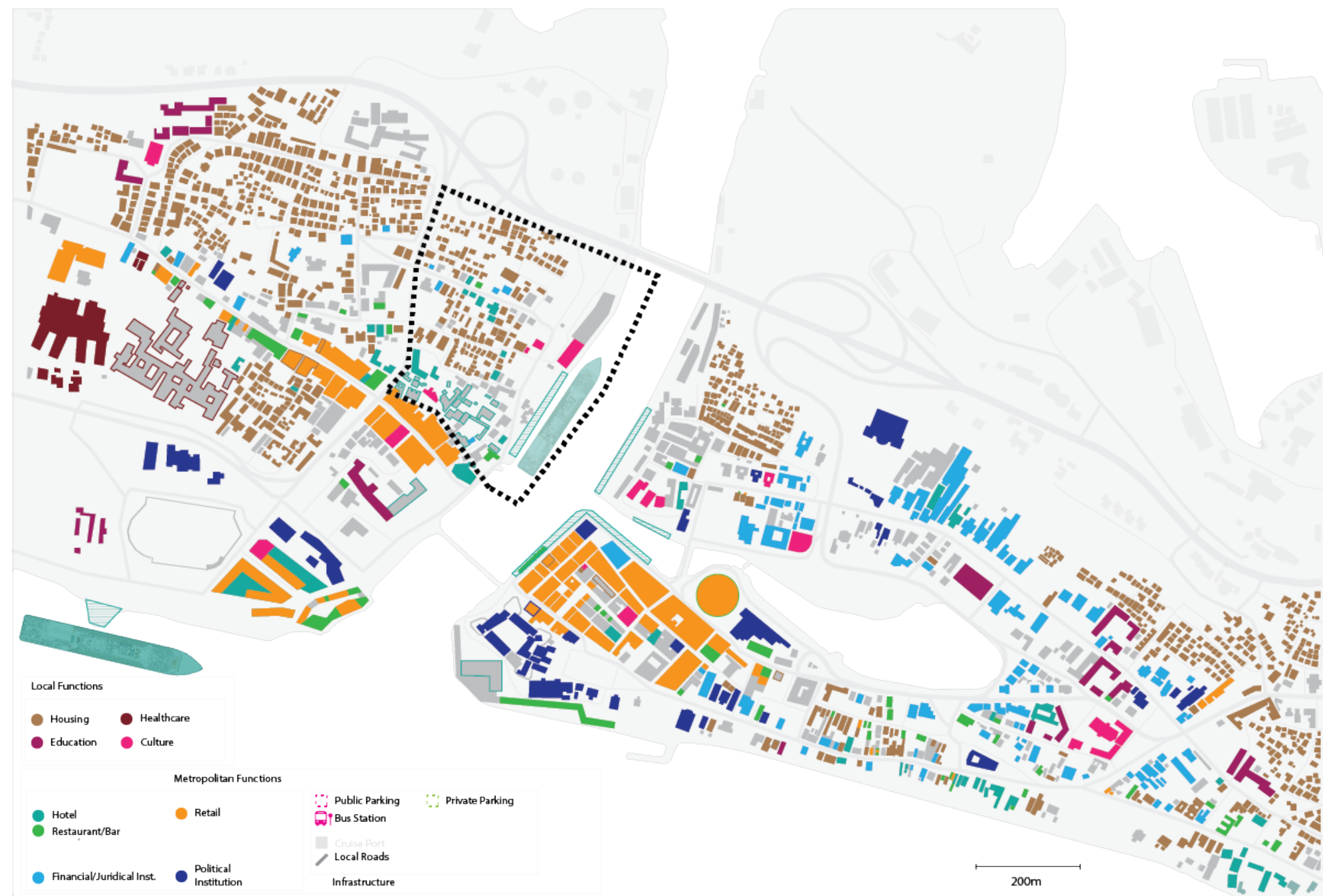
Goals:

- Export Businesses by US
- Brain-Drainers Return
- >51% Locals

Combine with..

3	7	11	14
15	16	19	

Example Scenario Design: Otrobanda Wharf Area



LOCATION CHOICE

- Already Contains Spatial Resources that can be used to improve the well-being of locals in the future
- Locals are already living in this area and there are some small scale, bottom-up initiatives currently happening that have potential for having a positive impact on the conditions of the local population
- The location is also at risk for gentrification by foreign developers, if the current approach to urban development does not change

Example Scenario Design: Otrobanda Wharf Area



Luna Blou Theater (Monument).
(image: romywebb.se)

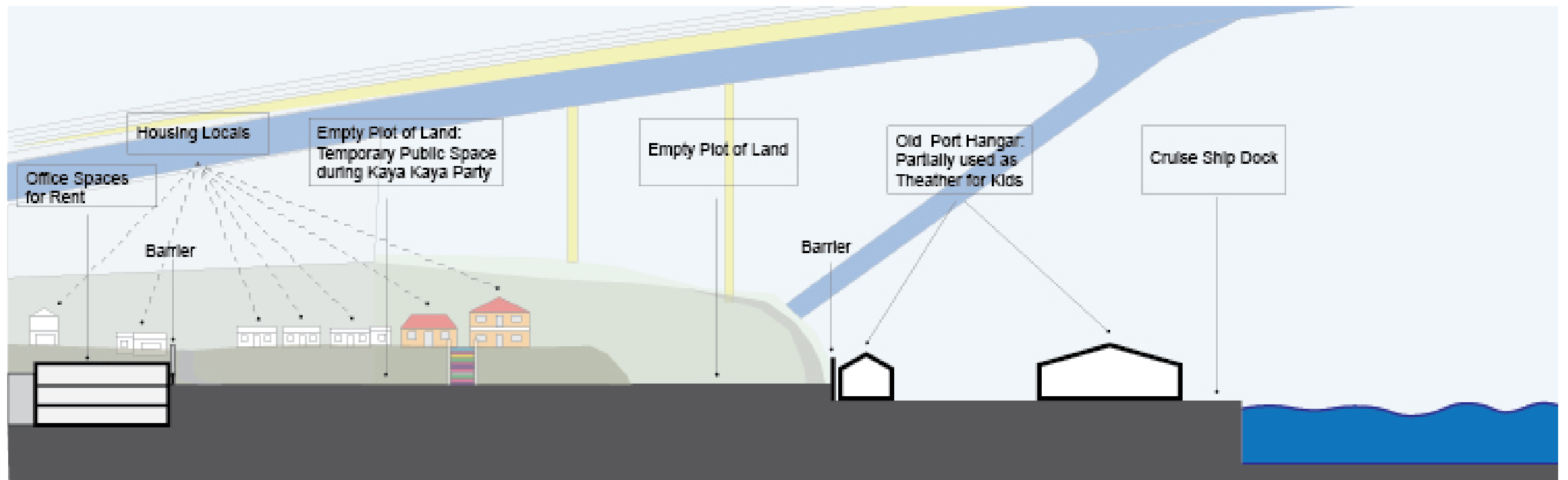


Design Location: Vacant Kura Hulanda Hotel
(image: Kim Annemarie)



Design Location: Vacant port infrastructure, partially used as performance space for local artists (image: Favela Painting)

Current Situation



Example Scenario Design: Otrabanda Wharf Area



SCENARIO DESCRIPTION Brain Drainers Take Over 2028

(Goal: Embrace import dependency)

Amazon starts a Caribbean branch of e-commerce and shipping in order to improve their public image. Effectively decreasing shipping times and costs. Willemstad becomes their pilot project

(Export businesses by US)

Rumors start buzzing in the local community that they can earn money by selling products and services to customers outside the city. This starts a trend of locally owned export businesses.

(Brain-Drainers Return)

Exited by this new economic opportunity, brain-drainers start moving back to Willemstad to start their own export businesses developing and selling sustainable technologies.

(>51% locals)

Realizing that working together and sharing resources is the key to growing their businesses, the brain drainers start a collaboration platform and decide to move together to the Otrabanda Wharf Area

(Protect US from nature)

Meanwhile, sea levels continue to rise dramatically and the hurricane belt has now expanded to include Willemstad due to climate change.

(Protect nature from US)

Traumatized by the effects of the oil refinery, that is now gone, brain drainers make a pact to have export businesses that produce as little pollution as possible to our ecosystems

(New Goal: Education that's relevant to US)

To stop brain drain, local officials open a Small Island University in this area. Here, students can research and develop ideas that deal with the specific problems facing small island cities

Example Scenario Design: Otrobanda Wharf Area




2

Spatial Cluster of Local-Owned export businesses


Agglomerations of complementary businesses are advantageous for their overall performance. Willemstad historically has only known clusters of export businesses owned by foreigners. As exports are the main source of income in Willemstad, a cluster of local-owned export businesses is a must.

Goals:

- Export Businesses by US

Combine with..

3	6	8	9
10	14	16	19
20			



11

Variety of Housing Options (Types)


Brain-Drainers of Willemstad have had the chance to live abroad and experience a wide range of housing options. Due to their high-skill level and sometimes high income, they have the choice to live and work anywhere they want. By increasing the variety of housing options, brain-drainers can have a comfortable living place in their own city, that matches their varied needs. Making Willemstad a more attractive place for them to settle.

Goals:

- >51% Locals
- Brain-Drainers Return

Combine with..

3	4	7	8
12	14	16	17
19	20	21	22



1

Import Pick-Up Points


Places within neighborhoods where locals can go and pick up products that they ordered online and have been shipped to the city from abroad through special deals with large global e-commerce business (Amazon). Which guarantee frequent shipping of products to the city at a price that is affordable to us locals.

Goals:

- Embracing Our Import Dependency
- Brain-Drainers Return

Combine with..

6	8	18	11
21			



22

A network of Flexible/ Informal Public Spaces

WE are not used to moving around in our neighborhoods. WE grab cars and go to destinations. This can create more movement.....

Goals:

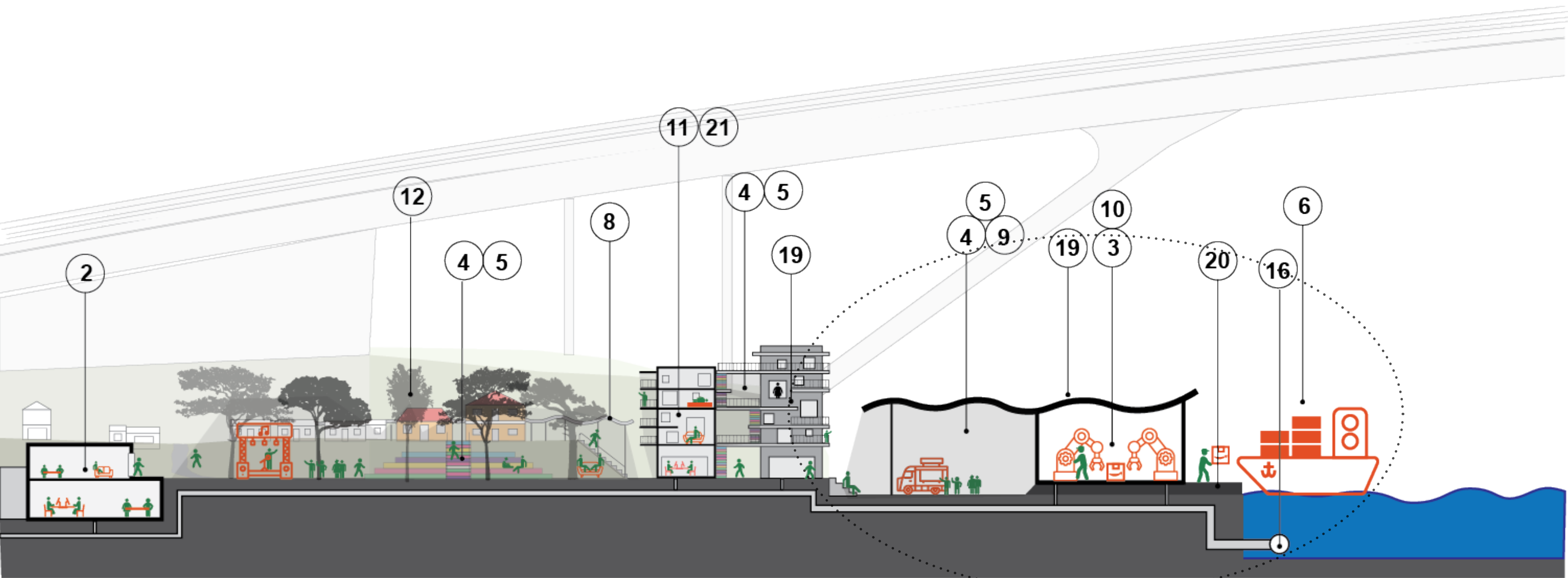
- Brain-Drainers Return
- >51% Locals

Combine with..

4	5	7	8
12	21		

1.Context > 2.Goal > 3.Analysis > 4.Vision > **5.Design** > 6.Conclusions

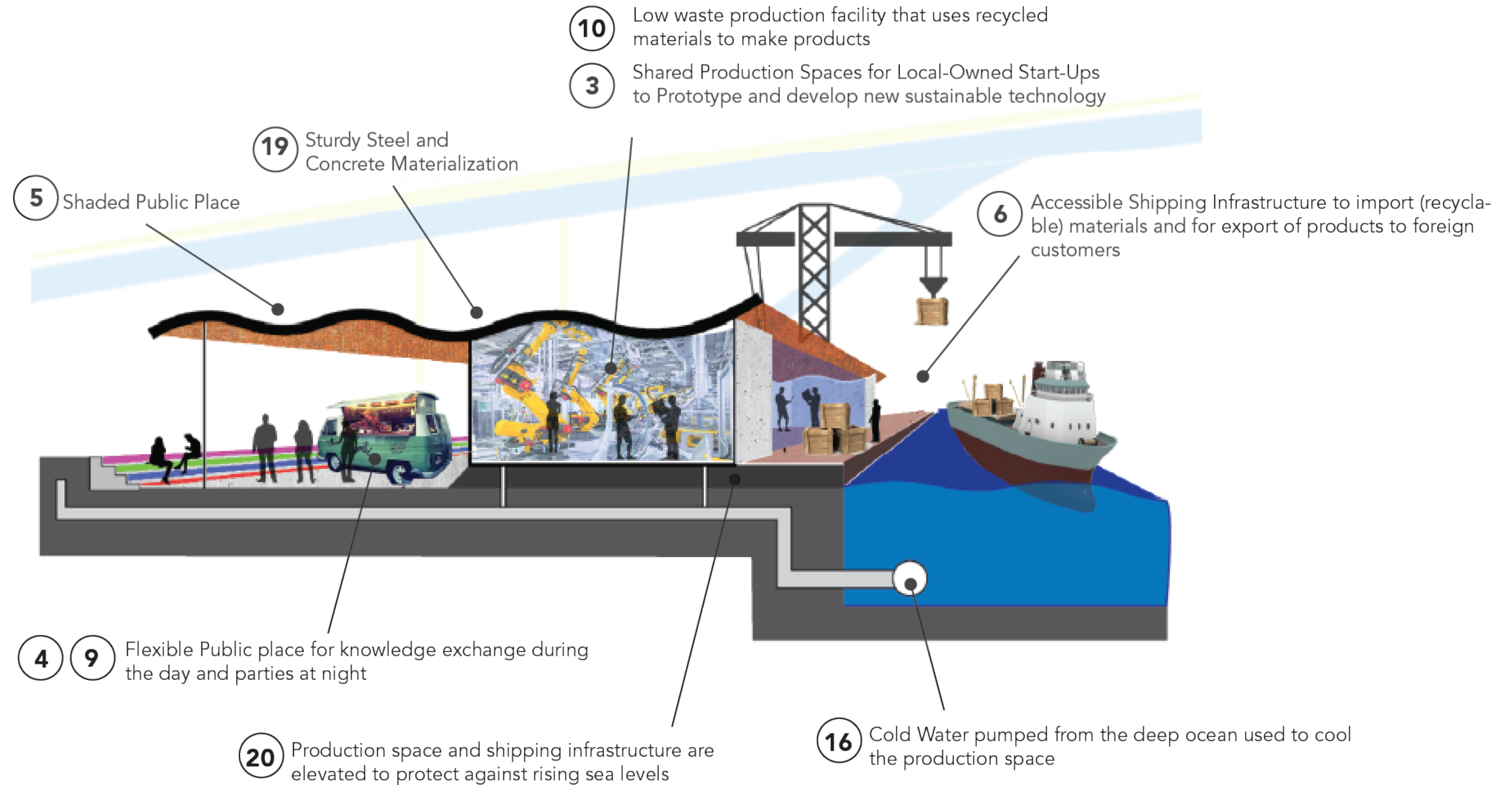
Example Scenario Design: Otrobanda Wharf Area



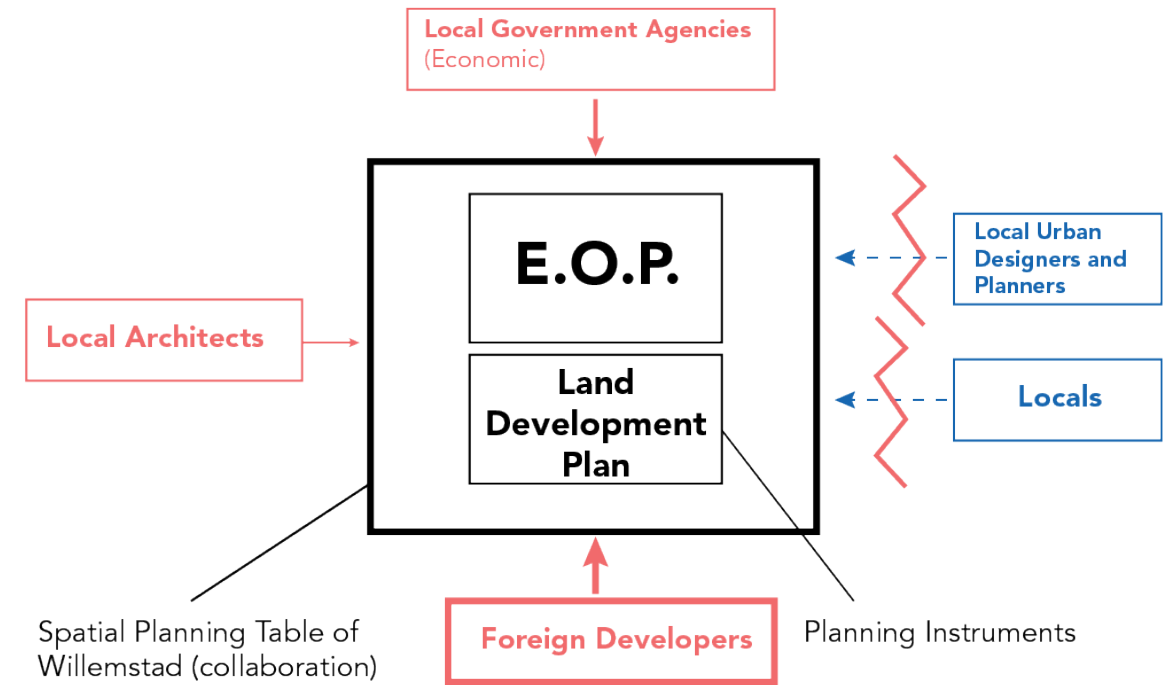
2028

1.Context > 2.Goal > 3.Analysis > 4.Vision > **5.Design** > 6.Conclusions

Example Scenario Design: Otrobanda Wharf Area



Conclusions and Recommendations



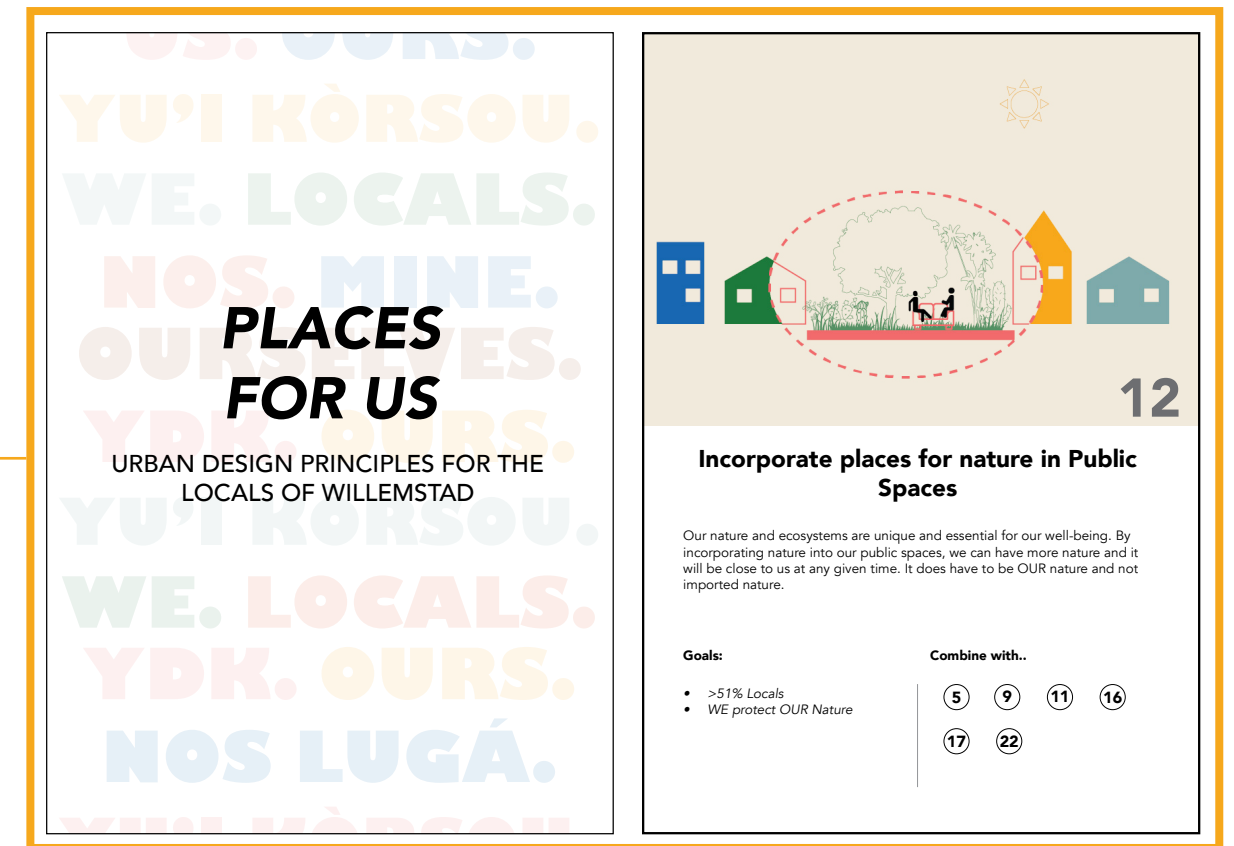
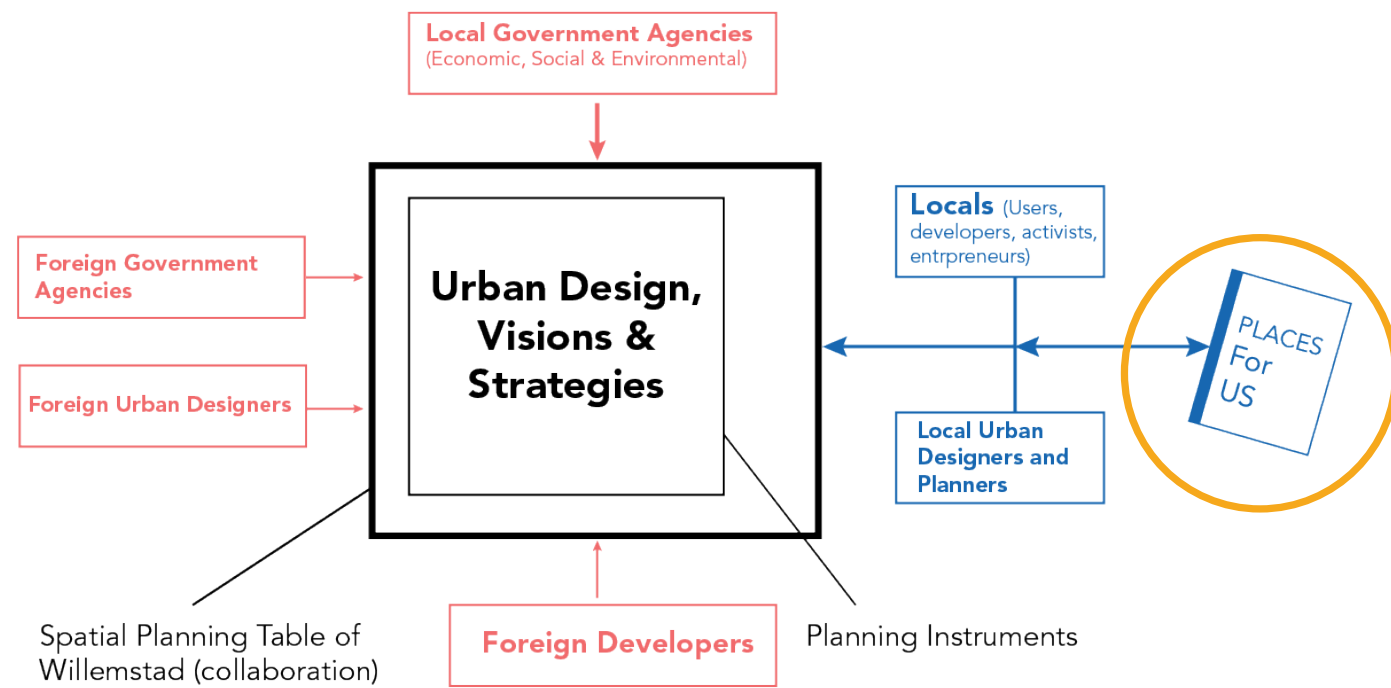
Analytical Framework

There are misalignments between locals and their spatial context, preventing their sustainable social, economic and environmental development.

Locals are not being included into the spatial planning and development process.

Local Urban Designers and Planners have implicit knowledge of the spatial context of Willemstad and an interest in improving the well-being of locals however, they also lack power and agency.

Current Spatial Planning instruments are outdated and do not explicitly integrate locals



Design Exploration

VISION: Spatial Development for locals and locals have the right to a (few) seat(s) at the spatial planning table of Willemstad. Local Urban Designers and Planners have the potential to and should facilitate this process

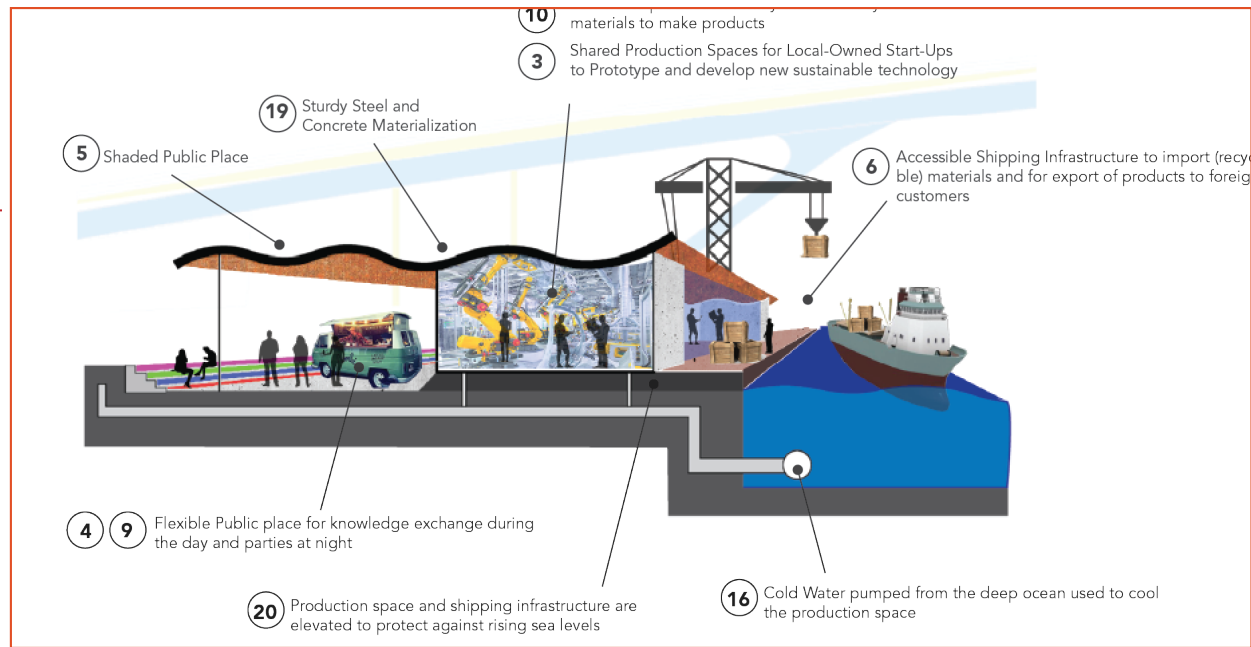
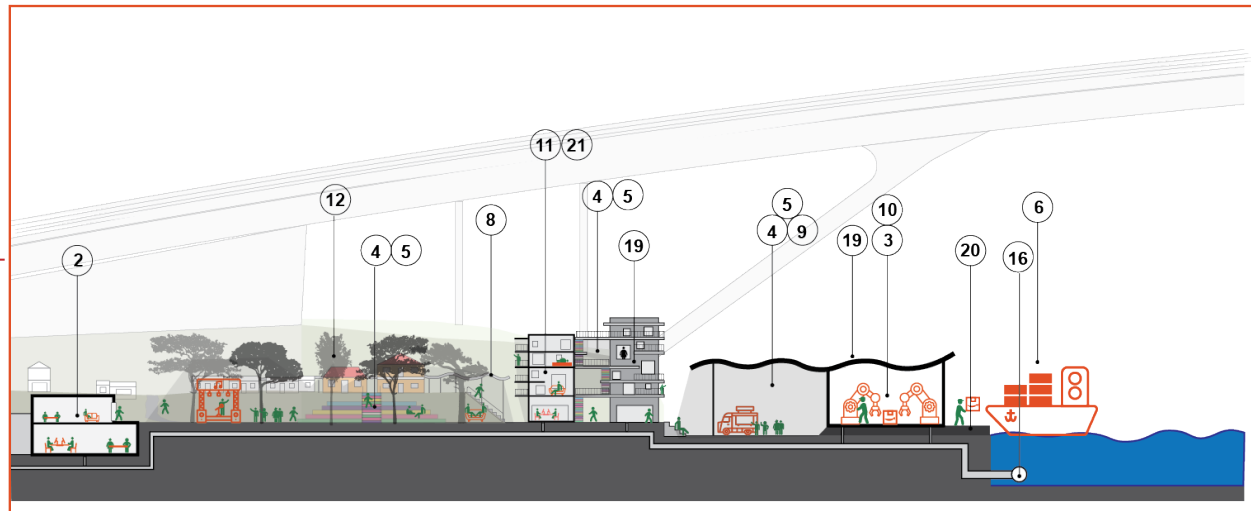
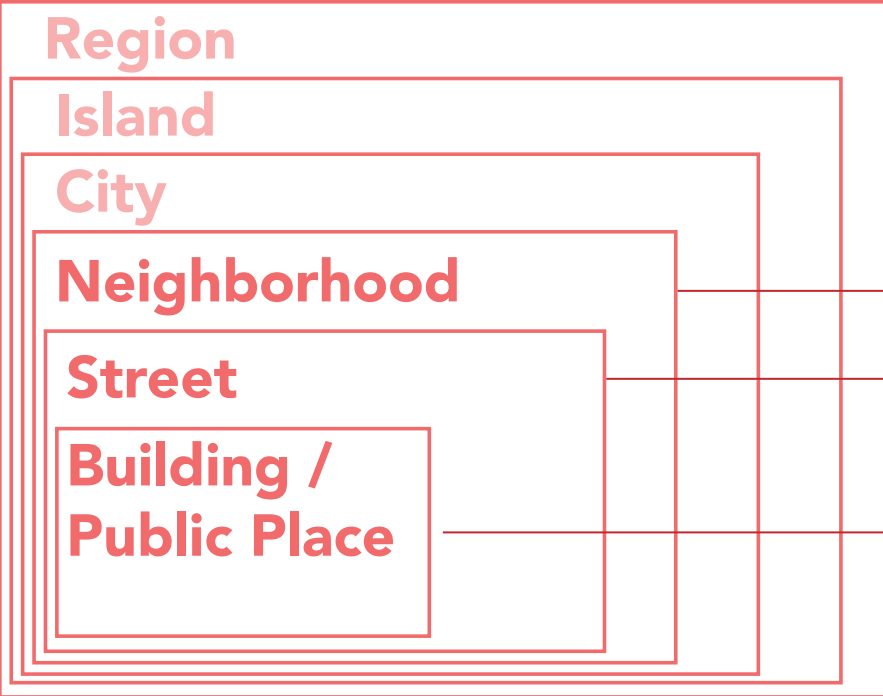
This project proposes a set of preliminary Urban Design Principles for improving the well-being of locals. These principles are meant to be used by locals during the spatial planning process of Willemstad

For these urban design principles to work, the current planning instruments of Willemstad needs to be updated. I propose a multi-scalar spatial framework for urban designs and strategies, that integrates economic, social and environmental factors

YU'I KÒRSOU.
 WE. LOCALS.
 NOS. MINE.
 OUI. ERES.
 YDK. OURS.
 YU'I KÒRSOU.
 WE. LOCALS.
 YDK. OURS.
 NOS LUGÁ.

PLACES FOR US

URBAN DESIGN PRINCIPLES FOR THE LOCALS OF WILLEMSTAD



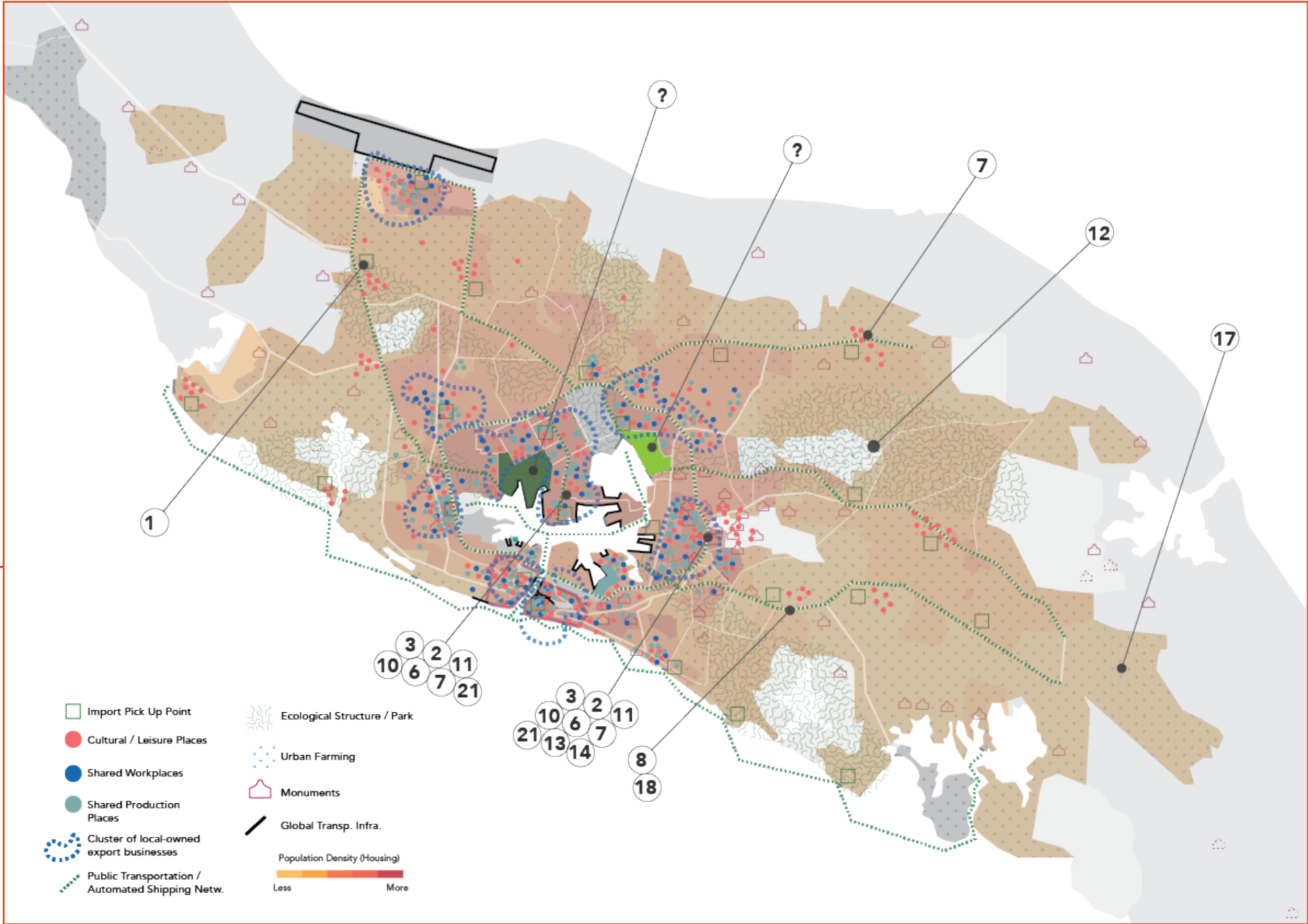
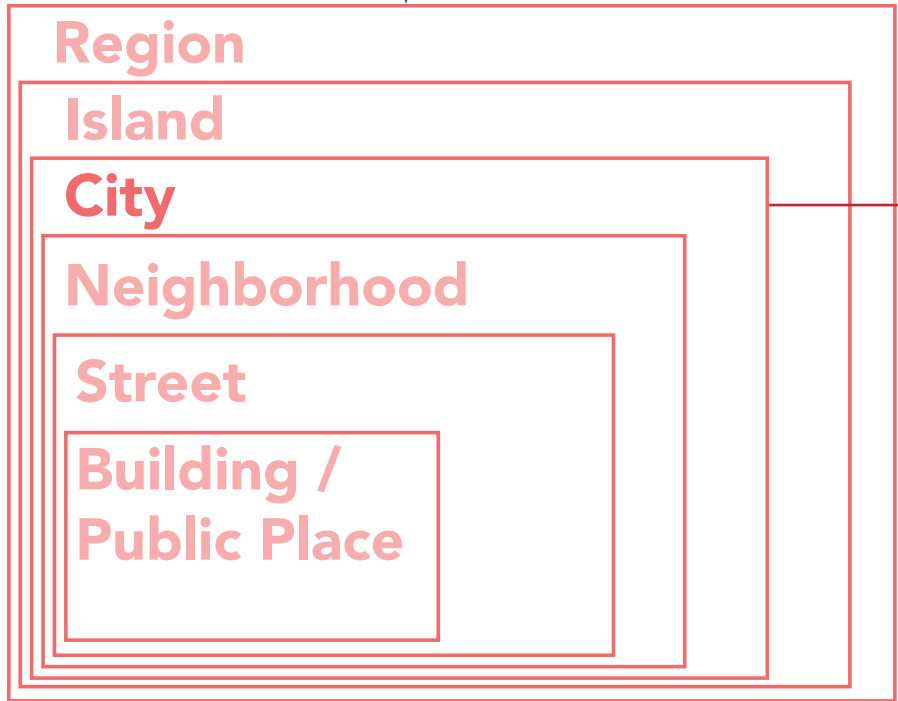
Spatial Framework for Urban Design

1.Context > 2.Goal > 3.Analysis > 4.Vision > 5.Design > **6.Conclusions**

YU'I KÒRSOU.
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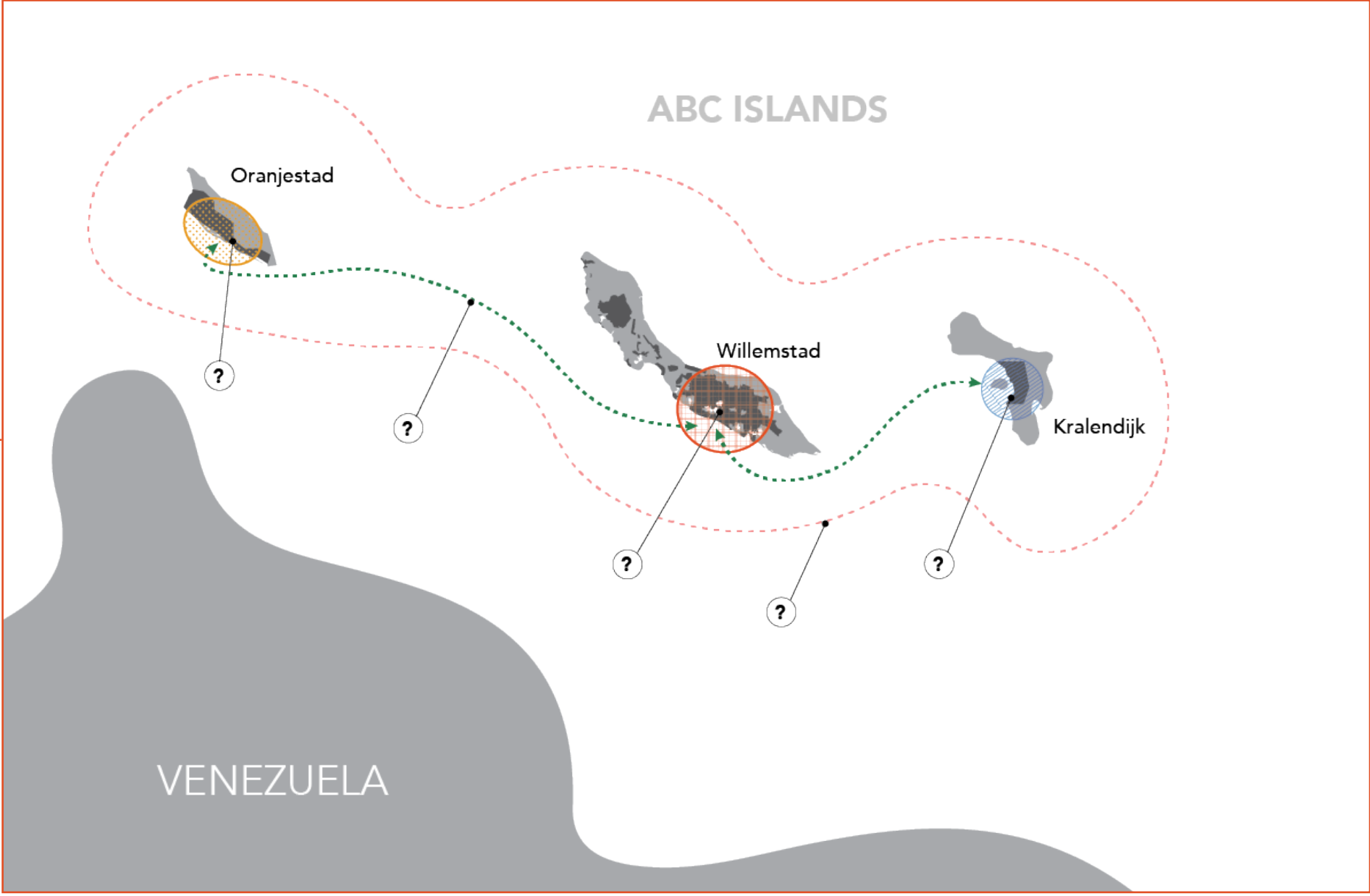
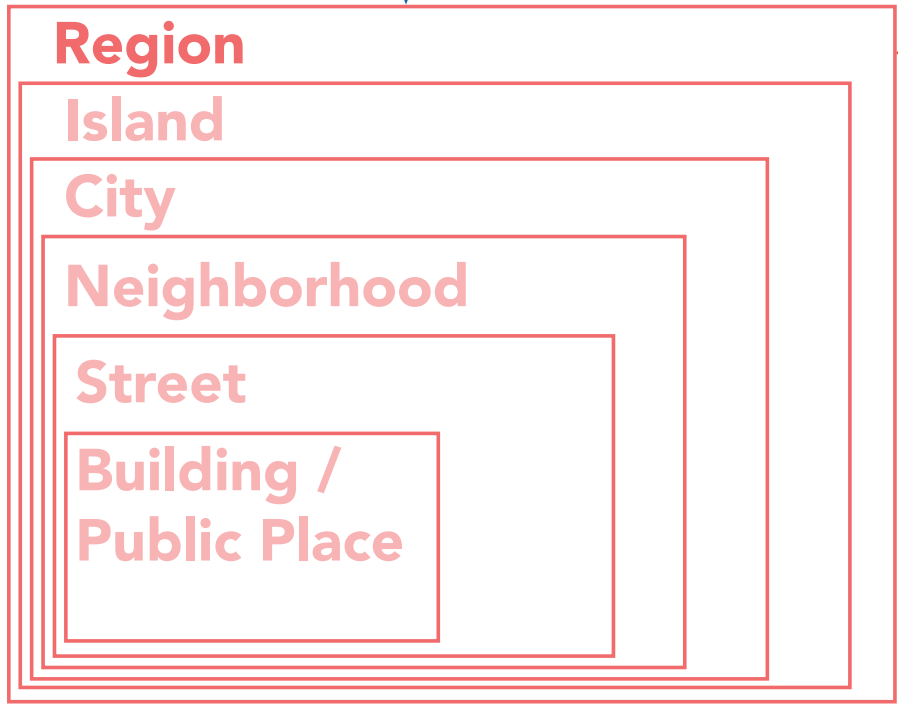
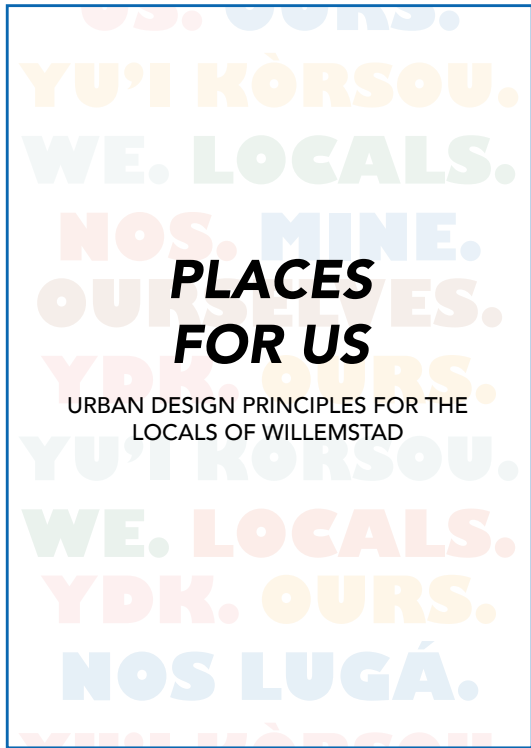
PLACES FOR US

URBAN DESIGN PRINCIPLES FOR THE LOCALS OF WILLEMSTAD



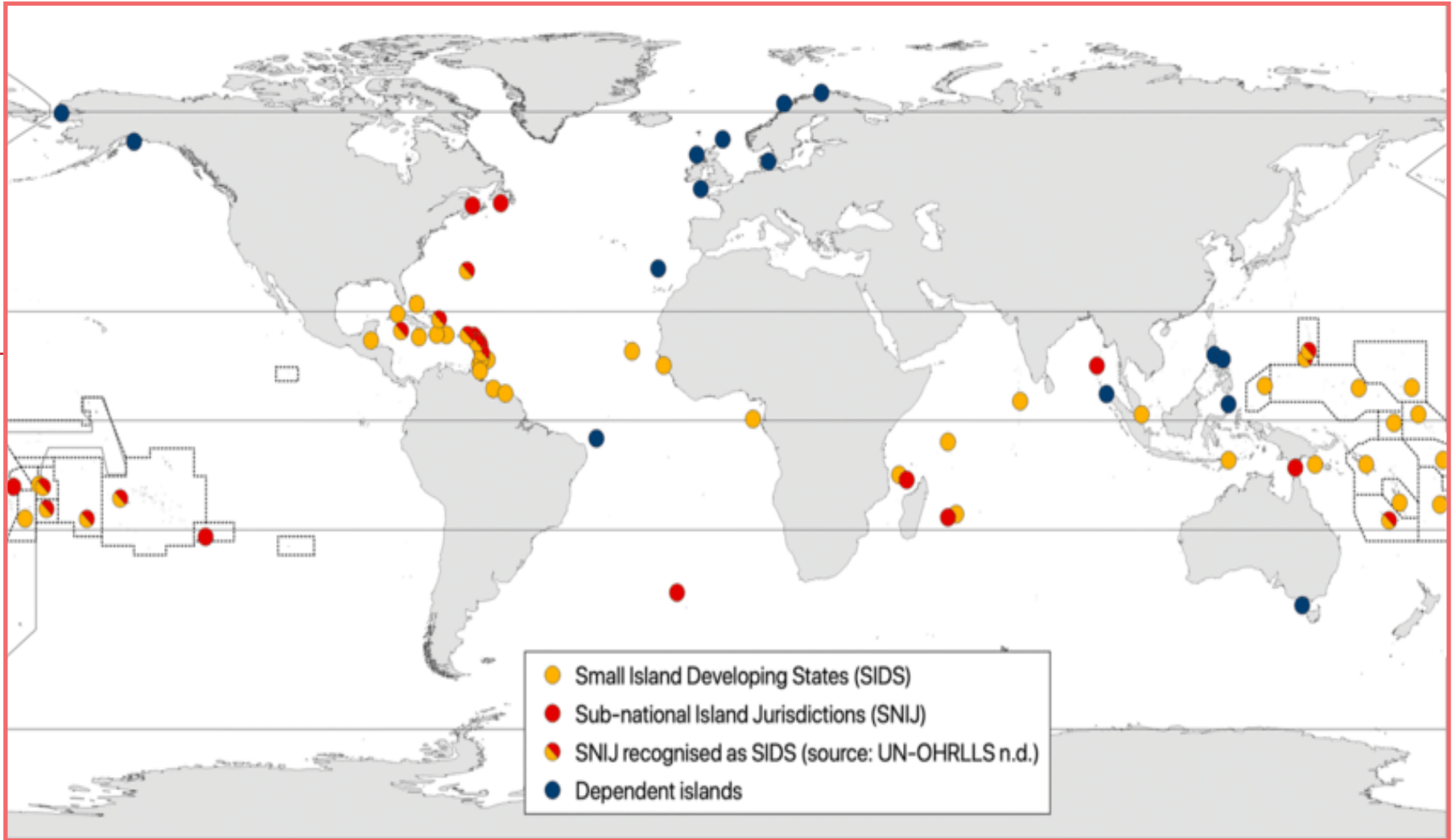
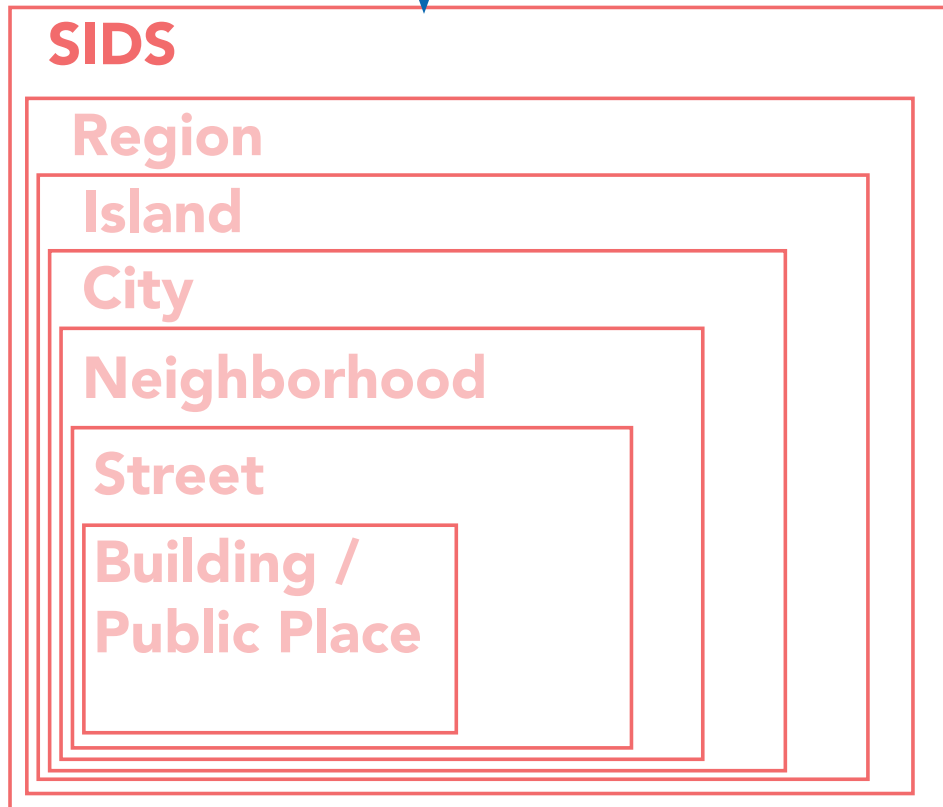
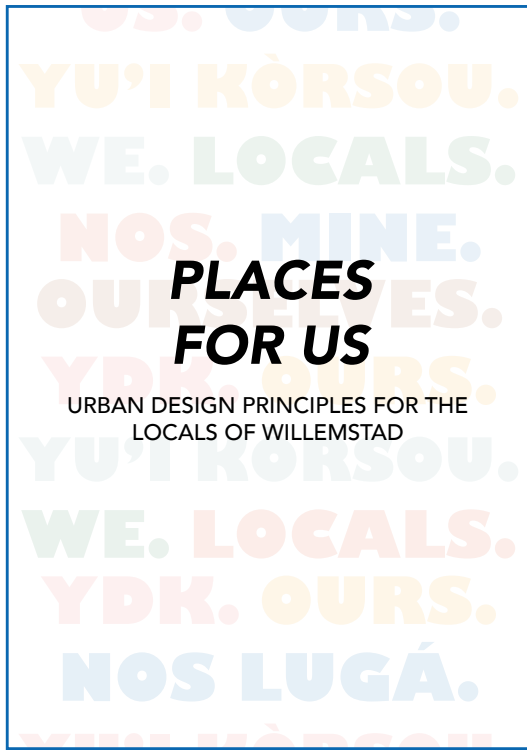
Spatial Framework for Urban Design

1.Context > 2.Goal > 3.Analysis > 4.Vision > 5.Design > **6.Conclusions**



Spatial Framework for Urban Design

1.Context > 2.Goal > 3.Analysis > 4.Vision > 5.Design > **6.Conclusions**



Spatial Framework for Urban Design

1.Context > 2.Goal > 3.Analysis > 4.Vision > 5.Design > **6.Conclusions**

Conclusions and Recommendations

Limitations and Recommendations



This project was an exploratory research. Its main contribution is identifying the problem and making it explicit (misalignment between locals and space)

The findings in this project are preliminary and are meant to inspire further research

In the future, I recommend a multi-disciplinary team of local experts to tackle this problem, with the necessary resources

The topic of Implementation of Urban Design into real life Urban Developments is a big problem and needs its own separate research

**Spatial Justice
& Right to the
City**

**Quality of
Place**

**Pattern
Language**

These spatial theories, although in the background, played an important role in inspiring the approach of the final project

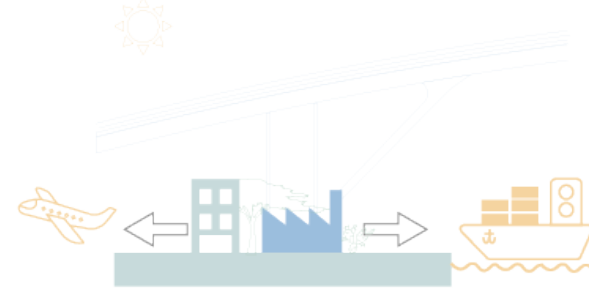
Future spatial research in Willemstad should include these theories

Further theoretical research is needed for Willemstad. Foreign theories need to be reinterpreted to fit this specific context.



The urban design principles found in this project can be further developed into a website or mobile app. Or turned into a stack of cards to be used as a game for collaboration between stakeholders. Locals (with help of Urban Designers) can add their own design principles

1.Context > 2.Goal > 3.Analysis > 4.Vision > 5.Design > **6.Conclusions**



THANK YOU!

