LIVING WITH THE OTHERS.

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Living with the others. Spatial transformations towards liveability of cities of social diversity: the case of the Schilderswijk, The Hague.
PREFACE

The present report is an explanatory documentation of the graduation project with the title: ‘Living with the other. Spatial transformations towards liveability of cities of social diversity: the case of the Schilderswijk’. The whole research is contacted under the thematic of the research group ‘Design of the Urban Fabric’ which is part of the Urbanism track of the MSc Architecture, Urbanism and Building Sciences in TU Delft University of Technology.

The report is comprised by several sections which do describe in detail the socio-spatial research which has been conducted. The first section highlights the motivation (Section 1) that led to the certain theme while immediately after (Section 2) follows the project definition. After describing the problem field and analysis, we derive to the problem statement which do actually make possible the definition of the main research question the present thesis is trying to answer. The methodology and the timeframe (Section 3) and the relevance of the project (Section 4) consist the following sections. Immediately after, the theoretical framework (Section 5) the conclusion of which led to the formation of the approach of the study (Section 6) can be found. Then, we have the sections of the social and spatial analysis (Sections 7 & 8) in detail, sections that finally lead to conclusions (Section 9) able to activate the concept for the study location (Section 10). This concept is translated into a design proposal (Section 12) after the definition of the pattern language mentioned at the Section 11. The Section 13 makes clearer how the general design looks like by providing the design of three critical locations. Finally, the effectiveness of the proposal is evaluated (Section 14) in various scales.
1
MOTIVATION
1. MOTIVATION

My motivation for the theme of this graduation project derives from personal experiences regarding urban life, experiences which during my trip in the world of architecture and urbanism turned into interesting questions for me to answer.

To begin with, I would like to state that I grew up with the stereotype that cities are dangerous. This belief was particularly formed by personal experiences coming from the places I lived and/or visited, from friends’ and family’s experiences but also from various incidents announced on news (Figure 1.1). According to Sandercock (2005), expressions of fear in cities are associated with expressions of fear of anything that differ from us. And this was exactly what my experiences of fear had to do with; expressions of anti-social phenomena caused in public spaces by minority groups; youngsters, drug users, illegal immigrants and other deprived social groups that took unofficially the ownership of public space or by the presence of undesired images like homeless people; images able to affect the mentality of an area. Another remarkable fact is the fact that in most of cases, my stories are associated with centrally located areas (Figure 1.2).

As a response to such incidents; the idea of avoiding to be part of specific parts of cities was really common for me and my acquaintances. We needed to get used to it if we wanted to be safe. The question though is why should users of public space accept that they will be excluded from certain parts of public networks -systems that are meant for all- because of the poor conditions of safety, a certain area offers? How can we live in harmony with any kind of social group that differs from us or act differently from us? Is it only a social matter or space has a responsibility on that? If so, how can we plan our cities in such a way that deprived areas where we live or cross by will be transformed into liveable areas and be given back to the cities’ public realm, enhancing an interesting street life? How urban planners can change the perception of urban life into a quality? Such problematics are deeply rooted in the present graduation project.
Figure 1.2. Omonoia Square in Athens, Greece. Public space as a territory of minority groups. | Source: www.skyscrapercity.com/showthread.php?t=890998 (edited by the author).
2
PROJECT DEFINITION
2.1. INTRODUCING THE PROBLEM FIELD

Cities are attractive places to live at. For one, this is a result of a high share of resources they offer to their citizens; cultural, educational, medical, leisure, shopping and social, and for another, a result of the interesting street life they provide them with (Glaser et al., 2012).

Cities in the European context presented a remarkable expansion between the years 1945 and 1996, an era which started after World War II and during which 33 million migrants and refugees approached Western Europe (Figure 2.1). Upcoming industrial revolution of that era in big European cities was the main focus of those populations who quickly formed a broad working class in those societies. Such demographic growth was a shock for the post-war Western Europe since up until then, Europe was the continent which was considered itself to be an exporter of population rather than a destination of substantial waves of immigration (Peach, 1997).

Population absorption by cities in search of a better future did not stop at the end of the era explained before. Globalization processes especially during the era of economic crisis which is currently on track, are still intensifying people movements. In order to understand the current situation it is enough to say that according to the World Health Organization the global urban population is expected to grow gradually more than 1% percent per year until 2030. Such values cannot be ignored given that the current, total population living in urban areas is already high; 54% (World Health Organization, 2015).

So, the influx of newcomers, a procedure which has started long time ago has created a new reality in our cities and especially for the cities of Western Europe (Figure 2.2). Cities of social diversity, comprised by different ethnic groups, colors, smells and needs is a common phenomenon of our era.

The coexistence of different social groups under the same urban fabric or alternatively the notion of the multiculturalism is something positive for the wellbeing of cities in an economic and social perspective (Jeffrey, 2012).
However, reality proves another aspect of multicultural societies. Multicultural residential neighborhoods and especially those who were defined during the 40s and 70s are experiencing liveability problems. **Liveability** is a notion associated with the quality of life and the wellbeing of individuals. Thus, such neighborhoods are experiencing decaying processes with similarities in factors leading to deterioration (Turkington, 2004) and are not considered as attractive living environments or competitive areas in a city context.

So, what we have at the end is socially, economically and ethnically fragmented cities and sometimes even racially ghettoized (Martiniello & Piquard, 2002). Such problems derive from the decisions regarding the formation of the built environment and the integration policies and approaches each country adopted for the newcomers. In a first place, the housing shortage and the quick demand for accommodating new population led to the production of estates with scarce emphasis on quality constructions (Andeweg et al., 2007). In addition to the insufficient technical quality of buildings, those urban areas were planned, based on inadequate urban layouts.

At the end we can conclude that **not all the inhabitants of cities of nowadays benefit from the available urban resources as there are social groups with a limited access to them:** physical, economical or both. Additionally, not all the parts of cities are considered a healthy, desired and safe place to be, not only from the perspective of the visitor but also from the perspective of the resident. In most of cases though, such problematics meet as economic and social issues affect one another. The result is remarkably non-liveable environments for their inhabitants who not only have to face their economic weaknesses but also a damaged living environment characterized by social exclusion, poor social interaction, stigmatization, highest crime rates, low levels of public and private amenities.

What is remarkable is the fact that deprived neighborhoods are in most of cases found **close to key locations** of cities, such as city centers or transportation hubs, something that makes the social segregation even more intense and hard to be understood. Figure 2.3 illustrates the geography of deprived neighborhoods in characteristic multicultural cities around Europe.

**Figure 2.2.** London as a great example of multicultural city of our era. *Source: www.amwl.com/Oxford-Street/1025.jpg (edited by the author).*
Figure 2.3. Clusters of unemployment in European context. The case of London, Brussels and Amsterdam. | Source: www.discovery.ucl.ac.uk/1417956/
Depending on the case, deprived neighborhoods play a specific functional role for each city (Figure 2.4): an arrival place for immigrant groups to come, a transition zone for those who want to climb the ladder of socio-economic structure or a shelter for those who cannot afford life anywhere else (Robson, Lymeropolou & Rae, 2009).

The role itself is not something negative as every part of a city has a specific main function and sometimes some of them need to contribute more for the benefit of the others. What can be mentioned as a core problematic though is the living conditions provided to such areas. It happens very often people of those districts to live not only under poor living conditions but also to face the bad reputation their living environment has, outside of its borders. Sometimes it does not only have to do with phenomena of racism or xenophobic panics but with real incidents happening within their borders and this is true as criminality appear more often at deprived areas.

The following words are a characteristic example of opinions (ODPM, 2005) regarding deprived areas and their impact on people:

‘People living in deprived neighborhoods are less likely to work, more likely to be poor and have lower life expectancy, more likely to live in poorer housing in unattractive local environments with high levels of anti-social behavior and lawlessness and more likely to receive poorer education and health services. Living in a deprived area adversely affects individuals’ life chances over and above what would be predicted by their personal circumstances and characteristics.’ (p. 6)

What is interesting though is the fact that the poor do not choose to live in areas with higher crime rates and worse pollution: they cannot afford not to. Normally, incomes of people determine the character of the neighborhood they can afford to live in. Thus, it is in the urban planners’ and designers’ hands to respond to this current challenge of dealing with deprived neighborhoods and provide all their people — no matter their income and place of residence — with equal possibilities for a liveable living environment.

Figure 2.4. Schematic representation of the classification of the role of deprived neighborhoods. | Source of data: (Robson, Lymeropolou & Rae, 2009)

Source of figure: Author
2.2. PROBLEM ANALYSIS

The aim of this graduation project is to understand the dynamics of deprived neighborhoods where a diverse social environment is a subject of discussion and finally to plan and design for a more liveable future of them.

The Dutch context was considered appropriate for the research of this problematic. For one, it is a characteristic multicultural context. According to the last Annual Report on Integration 2012, 20.9% of the total population of the country is non-indigenous population (Vliet, 2012) (Figure 2.5). For another, among the various social groups in urban environment, it is the non-indigenous population the ones that experience the higher deprivation.

2.2.1. GENERAL CONTEXT: The Netherlands

Immigrants are not equally distributed in the country. They most often live in the most urbanized areas of the country; the Randstad (Vliet, 2012) as there is the high concentration of resources. This fact is completely logical and proves the main aim of a migrant; no matter his origin, educational or economic status, he is always seeking for a work or better living conditions (Oxford dictionaries, 2015).

The typology of immigrants vary from labor immigrants whose main focus was and still is the industrial sector to high-skilled immigrants with higher ambitions and living standards. However, the non-Western populations are the ones that experience worse living conditions as several reports state that even the third generation of migrants are not yet integrated (Figure 9) into the Dutch society (Figures 2.7, 2.8 & 2.9). This is why this group of migrants will be the main focus of the research.

Nowadays, there are many discussions in the Dutch society regarding the formation of the built environment. The central government announced in 2007, the names of forty neighborhoods with a high priority for an urban renewal or regeneration approach (Figure 2.11). The selection of the neighborhoods was based on both residents’ opinion about their environment and factual indicators like income, work, educational background, street unsafety, quality of housing and nuisance (Government, 2014).

Main concept of the plans derived after this announcement for those areas is the rehabilitation of the notion of liveability; the quality of life. Liveability has to do with the relationship of a subject; organism, person or community with its surrounding. Most definitions about liveability of neighborhoods, consider the neighborhoods as the environment and the residents as the subject. Indicators like the presence of green spaces, housing density, attractiveness,
crime, vandalism, social and street safety and presence of amenities are those which can define the level of such relationship (Dorst, 2005a).

Neighborhoods with a high priority for an urban renewal are lacking those qualities. The higher concentration of such deprived neighborhoods are found in the Randstad (Figure 2.6), at areas where housing associations own the majority of properties and where different ethnic groups are settled, as we said before. This fact is not incidental. In fact, it is highly associated with the history of formation of the built environment.

The formation of the Dutch urban environment is a consequence of the long history of immigration of the Netherlands and is associated with the general context which was explained in the Section 2.1. The wealth of the country attracted immigrants, even from the middle ages. However, immigration started to be even more intense after World War II. Postwar migration was dominated by two groups. The first group was comprised by the immigrants from the former colonies of the country. Representative example are the population from the newly independent Indonesian republic and from the independent Suriname and Netherlands Antilles which entered the country around 1940-1950 and 1970-1980 respectively. The second group was comprised by guest workers from recruitment countries like Southern Europe (Italy, Portugal, Spain) and also Morocco and Turkey (MIGRATION, 2014).

Figure 2.6. This map of The Netherlands highlights the areas that score low in liveability, in a national level. | Source: (Marlet et al., 2003)
So, the era after World War II was the era of intense demographic growth (Hoekstra, 2013). The government tried to deal with the unequal analogy of housing shortage and demographic growth by providing housing associations with subsidies in order to build numerous houses. As a result, the high demands for covering the dire need for new houses was more important than the quality provided. Short-term solutions along with the limited knowledge of the constructors led to the formation of Dutch neighborhoods. Standardized, massive housing, sometimes high-rise that did not and still do not permit an active street-life is a main characteristic found instead. However, the following should be highlighted; buildings owned by housing associations are not only occupied by immigrants but also from indigenous population. However, different social and ethnic groups have different needs and thus space should take all those differences into account.

**Figure 2.7.** School drop-outs during the academic year 2009-2010 (percentage in relation to the population of every group)  
**Source of data:** (Ministry of Education, 2011).  
**Source of figure:** Author

**LEGEND**

- Native Dutch
- Western foreign background
- Non-western foreign background

**Figure 2.8.** Criminality rates of the year 2010 (Percentage of male suspects)  
**Source of data:** (Vliet, 2012).  
**Source of figure:** Author

**Figure 2.9.** Average income 1st January 2012 of people at the age of 20 and/or older  
**Source of data:** www.cbs.nl  
**Source of figure:** Author
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*Figure 2.10. List of the priority neighborhoods in the Netherlands. | Source of data: (Vliet, 2012) | Source of figure: Author*
2.2.2. THE CASE; SCHILDERSWIJK, THE HAGUE

INTRODUCTION

One of the densest urban environments in the Netherlands with a high concentration of non-western population; 25 non-western immigrants per 1000 inhabitants is the city of The Hague. The city is characterized by a variety of cultures, lifestyles, interests, levels of education and income. It attracts various groups; indigenous and non-indigenous populations for job opportunities but also students, tourists and conference participants from all around the world. The city functions as a socio-economic lift; people with low income or education enter the city asking for a better future (Haag, 2005).

The dominant area, among others, with a high share of immigrants, which is the main focus of the study is a neighborhood called Schilderswijk. It is enough to say that 89% of its total population is comprised by non-western immigrants (dominant; Turkish, Moroccan, Surinamese, Netherlands Antillean people) (Arjen Leerkes, 2010).
The area is situated in a really **strategic location**. Inhabitants of this area are in a physical proximity with both the city center and the Hollands Spoor Railway Station (Figure 2.11). Additionally, developments have already started at the southern part of the area, from the side of the Hollands Spoor Railway Station. All in all, we can say that the Schilderswijk is surrounded by vibrant parts of the city of The Hague. However, it is remarkable to see that the area scores the lower level of liveability in a city context (Figure 2.12).

**Figure 2.12.** Map that indicates the level of liveability in The Hague. | **Source of data:** www.leefbaarometer.nl/leefbaarheidskaarten | **Source of figure:** Author

![Map with liveability levels](image-url)
ECONOMIC POSITION

According to quantitative data, Schilderswijk is the poorest neighborhood in the Netherlands (CBS, 2014). The residents’ income is 28% below the national average and the total amount of residents that live under poverty is 3600 people who live in Schilderswijk West (CBS; Summary Poverty Survey 2013) (Figure 2.14). The area has also the largest percentage of households that depend on benefits; 75%. (Planbureau, 2013). It is remarkable that the area does not only have a poor economic background in a national level but also in a city context. Areas for instance where western immigrants live are completely different. People have their proper job and a better quality of life.

The local police also states that Schilderswijk is also suffering from illegal residence and labor (Arjen Leerkes, 2010). This phenomenon creates a feeling of unsafety among residents. According to the study though, residents underestimate the fear because people who have been threatened by this phenomenon, have already moved to other neighborhoods.

Concluding, it is remarkable to mention an interesting opinion of a former criminal and resident of the Schilderswijk from Suriname regarding his neighborhood (Figure 2.13). Specifically he says:

‘When you live among them you can never go up... I mean... I like to meet them but I want me and my children to become better in this life. They focus only on making easy money and I do not like this approach. This is why I moved to a smaller city. Immigrants are hardly found there and I feel that people face me equally’ (Interview 24, p.81).

Figure 2.13. Place of interview; an upcoming multicultural center organized by the interviewer. | Source: www.google.nl/maps (edited by the author).
**Figure 2.14.** A way for some residents to express their feelings regarding their personal economic position. | **Source:** Post on social media 1st January 2015, available on: www.instagram.com/p/x8quIN0I-K/?taken-by=toxicbeatofficial (edited by the author).
Figure 2.15. Districts in the four major cities of the Netherlands with a long-term low income for the year 2000. | Source of data: (CBS, 2014). Source of figure: Author
Figure 2.16. Long-term unemployment for the year 2014. | Source of data: www.leefbaarometer.nl | Source of figure: Author
SOCIO-SPATIAL DIMENSION

However, the problem does not only have an economic dimension but also a socio-spatial one. Public space is the open space of an area which can be a street, a park, a square and is a system accessible by all the residents. Its importance is significant something which has been highlighted a lot in the Jacobs’s (1961) idea according to which we can understand the conditions of an area if we take a look at the street-life.

In the case of the Schilderswijk, anti-social behavior in terms of, systematic burglaries, nuisance, violence, intimidation and drug usage are some of the undesired actions committed by inhabitants. It is interesting though to take a look at the age, the gender and the ethnicity of people who offend more often such actions (Figures 2.17 & 2.18). According to statistics, it is surprising that such actions are really common among young people even among children under the age of 12 (Official website of the neighborhood; www.schilderswijk.nl). Such age groups do represent the third or even the forth generation of immigrants. Their behavior, along with the socio-economic context of the area show that young people are still not really integrated in society, something that raises even more the need for taking actions.

Given that males are the dominant social group due to cultural characteristics of the ethnic groups settled in Schilderswijk, their appearance in public space is totally visible (Figures 2.19 & 2.20) in comparison to the female population. Thus, there is a feeling that public space belong to them. This along with the fact that anti-social behaviour is expressed among males, make residents consider public space unsafe and unattractive.

Figure 2.17a. An 83-year-old woman who was attacked in her appartment during the New Year’s Eve 2015 in her house in the Schilderswijk. | Source: www.trouw.nl

Figure 2.17b. Falckstraat in Schilderswijk, The Hague. A group of youngsters are gathering within public space, while one of them is standing at the metal fence. | Source: Author

LEGEND

- Over 35 burglaries
- 10-15 burglaries
- 5-10 burglaries
- 0-5 burglaries
- Public spaces of the study area.
- Borders of the study area.
- Division of the study area according to its zip-codes.
- Railway connections leading to Den Haag HS Railway Station.
- Water canals
Figure 2.18. Number of burglaries based on the zip-codes of the study location. | Source of data: www.politie.nl and personal observations. | Source of figure: Author
Figure 2.19. Intense appearance of the youngsters in public space | Source: Author
Figure 2.20. Younger boys also comprise dominant users of the public place. | Source: Author
Figure 2.21. Limited program of public space. | Source: Author
Figure 2.22. Wide sidewalks with no program where even football is prohibited. Such conditions set the ground for an anonymous public space-life. | Source: Author
Figure 2.23. Soil map of the city of The Hague associating with the social inequalities of the Schilderswijk. | Source of data: Archive of Stephan Bekx; policy advisor at the Municipality of The Hague. | Source of figure: Author
LOOKING BACK IN TIME_HISTORICAL DIMENSION

Even though Schilderswijk is a neighborhood with a similar context with the majority of the deprived neighborhoods in the Netherlands, it is important to highlight a unique characteristic that makes it different. Schilderswijk is a fragmented neighborhood before the immigrants’ concentration. It was from its birth a place of contrasts and fragmentation among dutch, social groups.

Main reason for that was the great difference in the quality of soil among districts in a city scale. Specifically, wealthy residents tended to be settle sandy parts of the soil while workers ended up in the peaty soil (Figure 2.23). This was exactly the case of the Schilderswijk. The neighborhood was the first working-class district to be formed on peaty soil, after the construction of the Hollands Spoor Railway Station in 1843.

Another remarkable characteristic of the neighborhood is the fact that almost the whole surface of it has been revitalized several times (Figure 2.25b, p.39). No matter all the efforts though, it is still considered an unliveable environment for the numerous nationalities that live currently there. Plans that tried to revitalize the area started to appear around mid-1950s. In 1966 a zoning plan under the title ‘Van Grijs naar Groen’ (which means ‘From grey to green’) which proposed tower-block housing able to permit a series of open spaces around, but it was never realized. In every plan which was realized the case was always property developments, something which is visible from the building age in the area (Figure 2.25b, p.39). This was a consequence of the direct need to host the high share of immigrants that constantly started to arrive in order to settle in the Schilderswijk. The high demand for numerous new houses, the time pressure and the limitation of abilities of the constructors led to fast design solutions (Interview 30 with Stephan Bekx; Policy advisor at the Municipality of The Hague. Appendix, p. 298) (Figure 2.24).

Stephan Bekx also mentions this fact as the main mistake the local authorities did, a mistake that created an anonymous living environment for this great variety of people with different beliefs, interests and needs.

Figure 2.24. Visualization of the crucial phenomenon of migration and the solutions to deal with it by the local authorities. | Source: Author
The Hague started being formed around key locations: Hofvijver lake, Buitenhof, Haagse Bos.

**17th Century** Canal formation according to the polder structure.

Formation of the city center of The Hague on sandy soil. Expansion of the city center towards South.

Figure 2.25a. Historical evolution of the study location. | Source of data: (Borger et al, 2011), www.haagsekaart.nl | Source of figure: www.haagsekaart.nl (edited by the author).
The city becomes the seat of government of the Kingdom of The Netherlands and the capital of Province of South Holland.

1843 Construction of the Den Haag HS Railway Station

1862 Agreement for the program for the South-West expansion of the city.

1843 Canal formation around the city center.

1850 Construction of the Hollands Spoor Railway Station.

1874 First buildings on the other side of the canal, around the Oranjeplein.
Addition of new public transportation lines (tram towards Scheveningen) create a feeling of the neighborhood as a close territory.

The neighborhood almost totally built. Visible restructure of the open public network as more open spaces are created.

The black and grey colors represent the only original building masses that remain the same from the year of their creation. The grades of the yellow color show building blocks that have been rebuilt. It is remarkable the amount of space which has been already reconstructed.

Schilderswijk as a residential area for the middle-class who left the city center.

Not many houses were along the street and people did not feel welcome in a city scale. Social decline until the end of the 19th century.

Massive social move out of the neighborhood something that lead to the creation of vacant spaces.

Housing stock shortage

'Gemeentelijke saneringsnote' imposed the re-make of big parts of the neighborhood.

The plan 'Van Grijs naar Groen': demolition of big part of the neighborhood in order to double the green spaces [not approved].

The city's market was moved from the city center to the vacant space between the intersection with the Hobbemstraat and the Hoefkade.

Figure 2.25b. Historical evolution of the study location. | Source of data: (Borger et al, 2011), www.haagsekaart.nl | Source of figure: www.haagsekaart.nl (edited by the author).
The black and grey colors represent the only building masses that remain the same from the year of their construction. On the other hand, even the great amount of building masses that have been reconstructed (grades of yellow), low liveability is still the case.

More open public spaces appear as a consequence of regeneration plans.
2.3. PROBLEM STATEMENT

The general problem this thesis project is dealing with is the issue of **unhealthy public life** in the Schilderswijk, The Hague. Incidents of nuisance, burglaries, violence, and intimidation are really common in the area and are mainly committed by young males or even by children under the age of 12, in public space. So, people, apart from their harsh economic conditions have to deal with **unsafety** and the bad reputation their area has outside of its borders.

At the same time, the relationship between the physical environment and its users is not really developed. Even though the area has a great amount of open spaces, wide sidewalks and a vibrant social environment, space seems not to welcome all the user groups while at the same time conflicts occur. This is a consequence of the limited program and opportunities that are not planned to cover the special needs of the various ethnic groups which are settled in the neighborhood. According to the literature an anonymous living environment can be a perfect setting for anti-social behavior. In the case of a multicultural environment though, that various conflicts exist anyway, the situation is more sensitive.

The rehabilitation of the relationship between the physical environment and the residents of the Schilderwijk towards liveability is of great importance. Everybody has the need to live in a safe and liveable environment. As such, new possibilities should provide this strategic location with reasons to survive, to stay attached to any big development that will touch its borders and prove and finally prove that multicultural environments can be a perfect place to live at.

**Figure 2.26.** Mismatch between the social and physical environment as the main problematic of the neighborhood. | **Source:** Author
2.4. RESEARCH & DESIGN QUESTIONS

MAIN RESEARCH & DESIGN QUESTION
As a consequence, of the previous sections, the main research and design question this graduation project answers through the whole research is the following:

‘Which spatial interventions and planning proposals could provide the multicultural environment of the Schilderswijk with a sustainable, liveable, environment?’

SUB-RESEARCH QUESTIONS
The answer to the main question will be provided through a process of answering several sub-research questions which will actually divide the main problematic into smaller problems.

The sub-research questions which are going to be answered are the following:

1. What does the notion of liveability mean?

2. What are the current approaches and policies to deal with socially diverse environments in the Netherlands?

3. What is according to literature the linkage between liveability and a healthy public life in a socially diverse environment?

4. Which are the spatial guidelines - principles that contribute to liveable environments according to general trends and theories?

5. Which parts of the public network of Schilderswijk promote a healthy public life and which should be strengthened?

6. Which parts of the public network of Schilderswijk express an anonymous living environment and how is this related to people’s behaviour in public space?

7. Which spatial interventions can facilitate the need for change?
Living with the others. Spatial transformations towards liveability of cities of social diversity: the case of the Schilderswijk, The Hague.
3
METHODOLOGY & TIMEFRAME
3.1. METHODOLOGY

This section explains all the various methods which have been selected for the research of the present thesis project and their translation into the scheme of methodology.

INTRODUCTION

In order to answer the former questions several methods will be used, namely; literature review, case studies, mapping, personal observations, interviews and workshops. They will be the catalysts that will lead to conclusions for each sub-research question and that will finally make the design proposal possible.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Literature review relates to almost all the sub-research questions. In a first place (Questions 1, 2, 3 & 4 at p. 4) we are talking about a review on literature papers, books regarding the Dutch policies for urban renewal of decaying neighborhoods and general theories regarding liveability, respectively. Their conclusions will be able to inform the direction of the research and form the context for the spatial analyses.

CASE STUDIES

Case studies is an important part of the research since at critical points, they can reveal a hint regarding solutions that can have an effective impact for the case of the Schilderswijk. Case studies of already implemented programmes on urban renewal in the Netherlands can reveal strong points of the approach but also missing links. Finally, case studies can reveal solutions for the last questions regarding design solutions of specific elements or systems that can fit to the context of the study location.

PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS

Observations through several site visits is one of the most important methods for the research of the present graduation project. Anti-social behaviour is an issue expressed by people and thus, understanding those specific people is of high priority. At the same time, site visits can contribute to the feeling of experiencing the space.

SNAPSHOT ANALYSIS

People’s activity is another important issue to be researched. Thus, snapshot analysis during different timeframes and days (or during a representative for the study location day) can provide a great impression of the geography of publicness.

MAPPING

Mapping is the method which can be used as a tool able to visualize data derived from other methods (ex. Literature, observations etc.). It is the method that combines layers and reveals points of interest that need to be researched further. On the other hand, mapping can stimulate the other methods, since the idea of what you need to map can come first. In the case of the fifth question for example, interest aspects to be mapped are the following: publicness of public space, typology of public space, relationship between building facades / entrances and the street, perceived safety, what kind of uses are there; mixed or mono-functional, if there is a diversity in building age and building conditions, diversity in building typology etc.

INTERVIEWS, WORKSHOP(S) & EVENTS

These kind of methods are interactive and totally interesting for approaching a social issue. Meeting people who either live at the area, or has a key position in the decision making in a city or neighborhood scale can be very valuable as they are the people who know the most about life and main problematics in the Schilderswijk. Interviews can be conducted formally or informally with people walking on streets. What is more, workshops in the form of organized specific activities (mapping, questionnaire) can provide an insight about the perceived level of liveability in the area (Question 5, p. 4). Finally, participation in related conferences and other events can be proved valuable for the strengthening of the theoretical background and the understanding of the social variable of the problem.

EXPLAINING THE METHODOLOGY

After mentioning all the methods which will be used, it is interesting to see how the methods, actions and deliverables will be organized methodologically.

First of all we can state that the methodology is consisted of two main parts. The first part is associated with the literature review while the second part has to do more with location-based analysis. Regarding the first part; literature review on the current approaches and policies that The Netherlands has adopted in order to deal with deprived neighborhood, will provide an insight about strong and weak points of the current approach. These conclusions
Figure 3.1. Methodology. The scheme shows how the whole research is structured connecting research questions with the appropriate methods and the expected products. | Source: Author
along with others coming from literature review on what is considered from the general theories as a liveable environment and which are the spatial requirements to achieve this environment can form a theoretical direction for the project. This new direction-approach can also form the notion of liveability for a socially diverse context.

The approach and the new conditions for achieving liveability can then ‘inform’ the second part of the research and specifically the location-based analyses by giving to the whole procedure an exact direction able to illustrate the problem statement more accurately.

The analysis from this point is divided in two parts; the social and spatial analysis. The social analysis will provide a spatialization of the social dimension of the problematic while the spatial analysis an examination of the built environment regarding the level it provides social interaction. Main aim of such analyses is to merge the two dimensions and understand if the they affect one other and specifically the level to which the built environment promote the existence of anti-social phenomena and conflicts in public life. The possible places the two dimensions meet will be the areas of interventions.

At this point patterns will be used as a tool that can link the theoretical approach with a possible concept for the study location, a relationship which can finally lead to a design proposal. The process is not linear though and thus evaluation both on the design proposals and the pattern language are totally necessary (Figure 3.1).
3.2. TIMEFRAME

Figure 3.2. Timeframe. Scheme showing the timeframe on which the various steps of the research are based on. | Source: Author
4 RELEVANCE
At this section, it will be explained why the present project and actually its problematic is considered important for further research. The relevance of the project will be divided in a societal and scientific point of view.

4. RELEVANCE

4.1. SOCIETAL RELEVANCE
In a societal point of view, the topic is relevant for the Dutch society. For one, there have been many discussions for a long time regarding the low liveability of various Dutch neighbourhoods (Ministry of Interior and Kingdom Relations, 2015) mainly comprised by a high concentration of public housing and high share of mixed population. The problem though, still remains unsolved. For another, the situation cannot remain stable; according to estimations the most urbanized areas in the Netherlands, where the problem mainly exists, are going to experience a continuous influx of newcomers until 2040 (CBS) (Figure 4.1). This estimation should function as an alert for action from the side of the urban planners and designers in order to plan for this growth in advance. In such a way, fast and short-term solutions which as history has proved, they lead to unsustainable solutions, might be avoided. As a result, an anew research on the topic is considered necessary for exploring new sustainable possibilities for the wellbeing of people living in socially diverse environments.

At the same time though, the issue is relevant in the European context, as the effective regeneration of urban areas is one of the major challenges for societies across Europe (Stouten, 2010). These are mainly the largest Western European cities that are closely connected to the world economy, something which provide a great environment for economic activity and thus high concentration of less qualified immigrants (EU Regional Policy, 2011). Like the Dutch case, such cities experienced the same population forces at the past as it has already been mentioned. Such multicultural cities face decaying processes with similarities in factors leading to deterioration (Turkington, 2004), are not considered an attractive place to live, express low levels of competitiveness and are socially, economically, ethnically fragmented (Martiniello and Piquard, 2002). As a result, an effective regeneration approach for the Schilderswijk could be relevant in a certain level, as the general context is quite similar.

Finally, according to the World Health Organization, there is an estimation that the global urban population will be gradually growing until 2030; something which should not been ignored given that the current, total population living in urban areas is already high; 54% (World Health Organization, 2015). So, the gained knowledge might inform them at a certain level for urban change (if it cannot be totally transferable).

4.2. SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE
Living in a multicultural environment means that people need to share space with people who are not like them, so a mechanism that permits both parts to coexist harmoniously is of great importance (Sandercock, 2000a). There are a lot of references in literature about socio-spatial fragmentation of deprived social groups and many cases around the world about generations of migrants that can never climb the socio-economic ladder during their lives. Of course, we live at the era that economic crisis does not permit high investments, not to mention that planning requires time anyway. However, what reality proves is that we cannot handle the current situation.

Urbanism is the discipline which through the transformation of space can generate socioeconomic conditions. So, from a scientific point of view the profession of urbanist, even though it does not touch deeply notions like economy or social issues can provide a framework of possibilities. Such possibilities are endless and thus it is in our hand to reveal new and fresh approaches.

So, I see the relevance of the chosen topic and case as a new possibility. Metropolitan regions in the Netherlands are not so broad in comparison to other cities around the world and as a result the complexity can be much more understandable. Concluding, what if we use the case of Schilderswijk as an abstraction of a global issue in order to define a model of dealing with such sensitive communities?
Figure 4.1. Prognosis for population growth of the Dutch municipalities. The dark blue color represents a remarkable growth, while the dark brown a lower population growth. [Source: CBS (Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek), 2014]
5
THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK
5. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The present chapter includes all the theoretical notions and issues which are considered relevant with the topic and construct the framework on which the research will be based on.

CURRENT POLICIES AND APPROACHES REGARDING URBAN RENEWAL IN THE DUTCH CONTEXT

Urban renewal is a procedure that stimulates life of a place. According to Habraken (2005):

‘If built environment is an organism, it is so by virtue of human interventions: people imbue it with life and spirit of space. As long as they are actively involved and find a given built environment worth renewing, altering and expanding it endures. When they leave off, the environment dies and crumbles, pulled back down to the earth by the ineluctable force of gravity’ (p. 7).

However, attention should be paid to the line of planning it proposes in order to always lead to sustainable and liveable solutions.

The issue of decaying neighborhoods started to become more central in the big cities’ policy around 1994. Until 2000, the main focus was the reduction of the unprivileged socio-economic conditions of cities, while from then on, big cities’ policies started to promote physical programmes for urban renewal. The latter based on three main aspects; economic, spatial and social interventions. Reality though proves that the spatial aspect dominated the others and in some cases even played their role (van der Graaf, 2009).

Spatial interventions focused on large-scale urban renewal programmes and mainly property development; demolition of large parts of neighborhoods and replacement of them by a more diversified housing stock that could accommodate various population groups (van der Graaf, 2009). The purpose behind such restructuring was to improve living conditions of people and deal with the mismatch between the housing market, as well off groups would be attracted and benefit with their capital the deprived population. However, this plan did not have the desired results as the only groups that showed an interest to settle at such areas were (ex) students, young workers who just entered the housing market, social professionals who cannot afford the expensive housing of the city center and social climbers who had benn already living in these post-war areas.

Another policy which was also implemented in the city of Rotterdam the first decade of 21st century underlined that groups with a high share of members, needed to move out of the neighborhood, not to mention that poor newcomers were not permitted to have an entry. The whole plan based on the idea of social mixture which was considered to be the ingredients of social cohesion. As a response to its failure, the Vromraad (2006) argued that social mobility should be emphasized more, instead. As a result, policy-makers had to formulate their plans as opportunities for the people towards a socio-spatial approach; provision of education and labor market for the deprived groups and other possibilities for the middle class groups. The presence of the latter could facilitate social mobility but it is not the only case; investments in the human skills of the former groups are needed. In general, even if safety, liveability, housing prices and the number of better educated people have been increased in renewed areas, the middle class housing stock has not a remarkable growth not to mention that unemployment has improved partly among immigrants (Boelhouwer et al. 2006; Marlet & Van Woerkom, 2006).

Another important element, urban renewal approaches focuses on is the emotional ties of migrants. However, this issue has raised several conflicts so far due to politicians’ opinions. On one hand, they want migrants to feel like home while on the other hand there are opinions which want them to cut all emotional ties from their country of birth even if according to research on place attachment, a certain level of connection with the home country can facilitate the attachment to the new country. Finally, there were also plans which took into account thoughts to reattract original residents of the past.

Neighborhood identity is another characteristic of the Dutch policy regarding urban renewal. A conclusion derived from a meeting called by the Dutch Expertise Centre on Urban Renewal in 2006 was the following:

‘Searching for the identity of a renewal area can increase the quality of urban renewal programmes; the search unites all parties living and working in the neighborhood, stimulating cooperation and thoughts on the direction of change in...’
As a result, all the implemented programmes use the concept of **place identity** either as a way to enhance citizens’ participation in urban planning processes or as a quality which can attract middle class populations and thus improve neighborhood’s reputation. The phrase ‘a proud neighborhood where residents speak their mind’ is a characteristic example of branding space in order to attract middle or high income families, in an urban renewal project in Utrecht but it proved not so attractive at the end. Place identity has been used in other ways as well; as a generator of spatial segregation because of a grouping of different kind of identities among people that behave similarly. Such strategy was used in the city of Rotterdam. The conclusion from the evaluation of the multicultural housing project was the following:

‘It is more often an oriental gift wrapping for higher income groups, which enable them to feel on holiday in their own back garden, while little room and sympathy is left for the emancipation of ethnic and religious groups, who also try to claim an expressive place in the urban landscape’. Source: (van der Graaf, 2009), p.152.

The different uses of the ‘place identity’ represent the main aspects of the Dutch urban renewal policy. Firstly, participation of residents in urban renewal expresses the long tradition in the social aspect, while the trials of absorption of the middle class to newly deprived inner city areas represents the continuous conflicts on social mix within the physical aspect and ‘the deprivation policy’ (achterstandsbeleid) of the social aspect. Both scenarios of place identity function as a socio-cultural glue that can be applied to an area and connect their different groups, given that they focus more on values and characteristics of people than on identity of places. However, this approach of regeneration of a place is not totally complete as the exclusion of those that do not represent such values, are inevitable (van der Graaf, 2009).

Concluding, urban planners of Dutch cities are currently confronted with new dilemmas; how can they promote a diversity of identities, for all various groups, something which means different place identities without damaging the social cohesion and without creating ethnic and economic segregation.
LIVEABILITY IN MULTICULTURAL ENVIRONMENTS
The notion of liveability has to do with the relationship between a subject; organism, person or community with its surrounding. Most definitions about liveability of neighbourhoods consider the neighborhood as the environment and the residents as the subject. So, liveability is the quality of match between an individual and its living environment; comprised by social and physical environment (Dorst, 2005a). In order to achieve liveability, each individual needs to have a great match with both his social (residents and strangers) and physical environment (Figure 5.2). Finally we can mention that in terms of a sustainable future, this relationship needs to be related with the current and future human needs (UN, 1992 and 2002).

a. Perceived liveability

b. Presumed liveability

c. Apparent liveability

Figure 5.2. Various forms of liveability (translated by the author). | Source: (Dorst, 2000a), p. 80

SPATIAL CONDITIONS AS FACILITATORS OF HEALTHY AND LIVEABLE PUBLIC LIFE
People’ perception and thus appreciation for their living environment is usually affected by their personal and cultural characteristics (Gifford, 1997). Such appreciation is usually associated with theories like probabilistic functionalism (Brunswik, 1956) (Figure 5.3) or notions like perceived liveability (Dorst, 2005a) (Figure 5.2a). This fact is an indication that urban renewal is a transformation process where the public life in an eye-level should play an important role. This has also been expressed in the literature; top-down planning approaches in urban renewal proposals can destroy the social structures of the urban environment and thus, pose liveability. Jane Jacobs (1961) also emphasizes that only by understanding people’ behavior in a street level, can somebody perceive the complexity of the whole city in order to intervene.

The presence of people in the streets is a basic quality in cities. Jane Jacobs (1961) emphasizes three main qualities city streets should have in order to handle strangers and keep its users safe at the same time, a case which is totally relevant with the extreme case of a multicultural environment: clear demarcation of public and private space, presence of ‘eyes’ upon streets through the formation of the buildings and streets in such a way that residents control space for the wellbeing of people. Finally, sidewalks need to have users in a continuous way (Jacobs, 1961). She also emphasizes that diversity in a city street can be achieved by the presence of four conditions: more than
Figure 5.4. Spatial characteristics which promote liveable streets. | Source of data: (Jacobs, 1961) | Source of figure: Author

one primary functions, short blocks, buildings that vary in age and condition and finally sufficient dense concentration of people (Jacobs, 1961) (Figure 5.4).

If such conditions occur, effective economic conditions are created and finally the city life gets its best chances, something which stimulates the relation with the notion of liveability. **The necessity of distinctive zones:** a zone dedicated to transition, a zone of movements and an area with high quality for citizens to gather (Dorst, 2005b) have been emphasized in literature. It is actually what Habraken (2005) called **territorial depth** and what Dorst (2005b) mentions as privacy zoning (Figures 5.5 & 5.6). Both cases are based on the **theory of privacy:** the selective control over social interaction by individuals (Altman, 1975). The built environment is the mean by which privacy can be applied (Dorst, 2005b) something which is also expressed by Carmona (2003) who argues that the built environment expresses possibilities of people.

Figure 5.5. Privacy zoning as it has been formulated in the residential area of Tunjungan in Surabaya, Indonesia. The various zones which are provided, starting from 1 to 7 represent are: the bedroom, the family room, the guest room, the veranda, the front yard or bench in front of the house, the gang, the squares-crossroads and shops in the network of gangs. In general, the social structures work perfectly because of such formation of the physical environment. | Source of data: (Dorst, 2000b), p. 107 | Source of figure: Author

Figure 5.6. Territorial depth. Three crossings are needed to move from outside A to the deepest included territory C. | Source of data: (Habraken, 2005), p. 139 | Source of figure: Author
Dorst (2005b) also explains that the spatial equivalent of privacy control is the ‘territory’. According to Habraken (2005), territories are spaces where only specific items can have enter in their surface. Another definition given by Altman is that a territory involves the mutual exclusive use of areas and objects by persons or groups (Sundstrom and Altman, 1974). Territoriality is not always a negative feature of space as recognizable territories with the clear distinction of zones, as mentioned before, make the built environment legible. In case of absence of such clarity, the built environment is considered anonymous and thus comprises a perfect setting for anti-social behavior. This fact is relevant with multicultural environments as various reports usually associate anti-social phenomena with ethnic minorities. What literature suggest for creating liveable environments is the promotion of neighbourhoods where individuals have control over the amount of social interaction (Dorst, 2005b). However, social interaction is not always desirable as according to researches people in individualistic societies seem to be happier (Veenhoven, 1999) in comparison to collective societies. So, space through the physical form, can offer the possibility of social interaction in a first place and then people-residents can organize their social networks according to their willing (Figure 5.7). The following phrase stated by Frost (1914) shows that a clear definition of physical form can promote a healthy public life (Carmona, 2003):

Good fences make good neighbors (p. 276).

**SUSTAINABLE LIVEABILITY**

The notion of sustainable liveability do also plays a big role in the present project. Sustainable liveability associates human needs of the present and the future with liveability. This is stronger as an approach as liveability itself focuses on ‘here’ and ‘now’ and thus can be proved unsustainable for the future generations.

From all the human needs, sustainable liveability is connected with, control over social interaction is the most relevant need with the problem statement. Control is connected with the built environment which is actually the mean to achieve liveability. Depending on its conditions, different levels of social interaction are possible. In case of an anonymous built environment for example, anti-social behaviour is what we achieve. In case of an environment which promotes social interaction to the maximum level, we have a situation not desirable by people. As a result, the purpose of the theoretical framework is to associate all the theoretical theories mentioned before in a way that a clear connection between a sustainable, healthy public life and liveability is provided; selective control over social interaction (Figure 5.7).
**THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

**GENERAL CONTEXT**

**SUSTAINABLE LIVEABILITY**

**BASIC NEEDS FOR SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY IN RELATION TO THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HEALTH &amp; SECURITY</th>
<th>Basic need for every living being; construction demands, road safety, indoor air quality, social safety.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATERIAL PROSPERITY</td>
<td>Need to compare ourselves with others; diversity in lifestyles, income and culture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL RELATIONSHIP</td>
<td>Related to the needs of tolerance, participation in labour, individualisation; aspects related to social environment of the inhabitants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONTACT WITH NATURE</td>
<td>Presence of green (pots, parks, trees)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONTROL</td>
<td>over social interaction over the physical environment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**(Dorst, 2005)**

**BUILT ENVIRONMENT AS AN AGENT**

- Various scales
- Changeability
  - (Habraken, 1998)
- Need of sheltering
  - (Heidegger, 1971)
- Perceived individualization
  - Happiness

**ECOLOGICAL LIVEABILITY**

- ANONYMITY
  - High social interaction
  - Formal control
  - Not always desirable
  - Anti-social behaviour

- PRIVACY as a selective control of access and of social interaction
  - (Altman, 1975)

- LEGIBILITY for visitors, passers

- TERRITORIALITY
  - Control by inhabitants

**FUTURE NEEDS**

**FUTURE PROBLEMS**

- Nuisance
- Burglaries
- Violence & intimidation
- Lack of privacy
- [balconies as a secondary space, undefined & wide sidewalks, building entrances directly facing the sidewalk]
- Anonymous streetlife
- Monotony

**PLANS FOR THE CITY**

- Accupunctural interventions (Focus areas spread)
- Transformation
- Small-scale housing projects
- New actors (People & companies who want to invest)
- Economic regeneration
- Investments in public space
- Focus employment (Real needs)

- Interview 30. Stephan Bekx
- Revised report ‘Structuurvisie 2020’
- Municipal documents
- CBS
- http://www.schilderswijk.nl/
- Personal observations - analyses

**ROLE OF THE SCHILDERSWIJK**

- Element A
- Element B
- Element C

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**Figure 5.7.** Theoretical framework showing the linkage between (sustainable) liveability and the preconditions for a healthy public life. | **Source:** Author
6
APPRAOCHE
6. APPROACH

This chapter includes an explanation of the direction of the present thesis project. The approach is based on the conclusions of the theoretical framework that links liveability and healthy public life in cities.

REDEFINITION OF LIVEABILITY FOR SOCIALLY DIVERSE ENVIRONMENTS

According to literature, deprivation in the Dutch context with a high concentration of ethnic minorities is trying to be tackled more often through large-scale projects (with some exceptions in nowadays due to economic crisis). However, the emphasis is always given to the spatial redesign as spatial pillar plays the biggest role in urban renewal. At the same time, urban social policies seem to be aware of the notions of social cohesion and social mobility of the most unprivileged groups. From what mentioned before we can state that all the efforts, even if they have to do with the construction of new housing blocks with more capacity to host the middle class, with exchange of population or with branding a spatial identity, the target is always the same: social and housing mixture (Wassenberg, 2008). And this is not an irrational focus. However, the direct forces which are trying to make people masses move are not always desirable as people do not like big changes. Why should the middle or higher class be attracted by a newly built housing block among low-income people just because it is new and how an area where different values are divided spatially, can work in harmony without conflicts? Additionally, based on what liveability represents, quick and direct changes in population may destroy social stability something which makes the process of creating a relationship between individuals and their community even slower. All in all, The Netherlands is trying to bring liveability back by creating conditions of social diversity through spatial solutions with the hope of a direct benefit.

On the other hand, literature suggests diversity on physical form as a facilitators of healthy public life that does not only focus on property development. Some of the spatial conditions that promote liveability of an area are the following: a diverse street which is comprised by mixed functions, a clear demarcation of public and private space that provide control over social interaction and thus safety among residents and a good relationship between buildings and street.

The question that can be posed at this point is whether a focus on a diverse and flexible physical environment can be proved to be a more effective solution for the Dutch case. Literature supports this direction. In the document (EU Regional Policy, 2011) is mentioned the following:

A cohesive city is not necessarily a city with complete equality and a homogenous population, but a city where everybody is welcome and their integrity is respected. (p. 36)

Additionally, diversity appears to be a new trend in planning. It can be related to a varied physical design, a multiple social grouping which tries to exercise its right to the city or mixed uses. Jane Jacobs (1961) also associates physical, economic and social diversity and supports that physical diversity can play a key role in the production of the other two (Fainstein, 2005).

So, in that case, diversity on the physical environment can be seen as a mechanism that creates conditions for an interesting street-life where strangers will be present and controlled by the eyes of residents. This mechanism seems to be able to manage social diversity in a sustainable way and is an indirect way to promote social mixture at the same time. The idea behind is that by providing a diverse and flexible environment, residents enjoy an interesting environment not to mention that conflicts will be absorbed as people’s needs will be more able to be satisfied. At the same time, such conditions may gradually attract groups from a higher economic ladder. So, I see this approach as a challenge for bringing a new line for change in the Dutch context.

Giving that the main aim of the project is the provision of liveability in multicultural environments, an anew definition of the notion of liveability that shows where it meets the conclusions of theory, is considered necessary (Figure 6.1).

First of all, as it has already been mentioned, liveability is the quality of match between individuals and their living environment; social and physical. In a multicultural neighbourhood though, each individual has to face a more complex social environment (other ethnicities and strangers) but the same physical environment. In order to achieve liveability, each relationship (individual-social environment, individual-physical environment) should be strong. So, in order to achieve a good relationship among the community, tolerance is the most important precondition. As a result, in terms of physical transformation:
the built environment needs to enhance social interaction in the level that people desire. Here, the theory of privacy seems to be totally relevant. As such it will comprise the main focus of my study from now on. Secondly, in order to achieve a great attachment between an individual and the built environment, the latter should satisfy the needs of each individual. However, since different people have different needs and population can vary in terms of ethnicity but also can change radically through time, the design of the built environment should be flexible in order to sustain the result of this relationship.

![Diagram](image1)

Figure 6.1. The approach of the graduation project based on the findings of the theory and the preconditions of liveability in a multicultural environment. | Source: Author

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preconditions for liveability in a multicultural environment</th>
<th>Relationships that are needed to be satisfied</th>
<th>What is needed in order to have a great match?</th>
<th>What does it mean in spatial terms?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Diagram" /></td>
<td>Tolerance among other cultures.</td>
<td>Built environment need to enhance social interaction at a level that people desire (privacy theory, territoriality).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Diagram" /></td>
<td>The built environment has to satisfy people’ needs.</td>
<td>Diversity in physical form which can satisfy various groups and absorb conflicts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 6.2. The design goal of this thesis is to intervene to the zoning of space and mainly at the hybrid zones in order to motivate residents to use them. This will contribute to the appearance, experience and social connectedness of the study location. | Source: (Glaser et al., 2012).
7
SOCIAL ANALYSIS
DEFINING THE EXACT METHODS

As a conclusion from the previous section, the built environment has to provide people with conditions to be tolerant between one another and also to satisfy their needs. Thus, it is important to understand what is the existing level of tolerance among the various cultures living in the Schilderswijk and what is the existing level of satisfaction for their built environment. All in all, we speak about the perceived liveability (Figure 5.2), a notion which can definitely affect the image of the area.

The appropriate methods to understand the level of perceived liveability and the social variable of the problem in general are the following:

a. **personal observations**; several visits at the study location can provide an understanding of the social variable of the problem, not to mention that they can function as a visualization-spatialization of the incidents which will be mentioned by the interviewers.

b. **interviews**; is a method able to provide direct information regarding the qualities and weaknesses of the study location. It is more appreciated than any other mean of extracting such information like various municipal documents as they give the interviewer the possibility to grasp the diction of people’ speech, to understand their mentality, their feelings and thoughts regarding the problem.

c. **workshop with children**; an organized excercise meant for the the children can give a good insight of what is considered a quality or weakness, safe or unsafe from the most sensitive social group living in the neighborhood.

d. **snapshot analysis**; it can reveal a clear image of places that absorb people’ movements. At the same time, it can reveal where various groups of interest spend their time and the specific routes they follow.

Each method with its findings will be explained seperately at the following sections.

7. SOCIAL ANALYSIS

7.1. PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS

The field work in the form of regular visits at the study location was a great experience that provided a lot of information regarding the way people act in public space. Remarkable incidents happened during every single visit, incidents which have been illustrated in the map that follows.

Main **conclusions** regarding the social environment of Schilderswijk derived from this method are the following:

a. **Schilderswijk; a strong community.**

Schilderswijk has a series of open public spaces where people tend to gather (Figure 7.2), even if living in a deprived neighborhood is normally associated with no-go and thus ‘empty’ areas. What is remarkable though is the intense presence of dominant users in the public sphere. Specifically, we are talking about groups of people comprised by males and more often by boys, youngsters or men. This fact is driven by the cultural order which wants the role of men to be stronger (Appendix, p.296-297). However, the existing publicness by all users cannot be ignored (Figure 7.2).

b. **Dominant appearance of the youth in public space, especially the young men.**

Youth has a strong appearance in public space. They control the open public space (Figure 7.1) and this is visible when you hear the following phrase while walking, as you seem to be a stranger for them:

‘What are you doing here?’

What is more, the groups of youngsters have a specific structure. They are consisted of **leading members** (the older in age or those who have a scooter in their possession) and the **followers** of the leaders’ ideas. They both do not care about education. They **do swear a lot and are sarcastic**.

c. **Boys do also have a strong image in the public sphere.**

Boys can be seen everywhere within the territorial space of the neighborhood (Figure 2.20). They control space by asking you what you are doing at the space if you look different than them. They can even get your notebook out of your hands just because of curiosity. They swear a lot and sometimes they speak like men. However, this is not the norm as there are boys of that age who study hard in order to achieve their desired career.
Figure 7.1. Hobbemastraße in Schilderswijk, The Hague. Youngsters after riding the motorbike in the middle of the street and specifically in front of the tram lines blocking in this way the traffic. 
| Source: Author |

Figure 7.2. Teniersplantsoen, Schilderswijk. High concentration of people in public space. | Source: maps.google.com
FIGURE 7.3. PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS

LEGEND

- **Children**
- **Men**
- **Youngsters**
- People who throw trash on the streets.
- People who beg for money.
- **Me**
- **Dirty streets**
- Incidents where police needed to intervene.
- **Graffities indicating a conflict.**
- **Smoking**
- **Nuisance**
- Areas where anti-social phenomena constantly occur.
- **Train track**
- **Water canal**
7.2 INTERVIEWS

For the conduction of the interviews, all various age groups and actors; current and former residents, employees, people that express formal control and other key actors were taken into account. The interviewees who were selected at the streets, were selected equally in terms of space (Figure 7.4) so as the conclusions could represent every part of the neighborhood. Regarding the nature of the interviews; none of them were conducted within the context of a fixed questionnaire. This happened on purpose and the idea behind that was to let people that live or work at the neighborhood to share the thoughts and feelings that they consider worth-mentioning about the place. To enhance this non-programmed brainstorming of ideas, a lot of interviews were conducted in a spontaneous way with people who were using public space at that time of the site visit.

Figure 7.4. Illustration which shows the people who were interviewed and the places where interviews took place. | Source: Author
PRODUCTS OUT OF THE INTERVIEWS

Interviews were used as the main method for understanding people’ level of perceived liveability for their neighborhood, an information which can only be extracted by them. The whole process of listening to real-people’ voices explaining their problems and opinions had various advantages. For one, I had the opportunity to feel people’ mentality. For another, the regular visits which after a few months led to the phenomenon of meeting the same people at the streets, made me feel part of the neighborhood.

Out of the interviews, a series of products were produced. They are the followings:

full interviews; that include people’ speech in detail (Figure 7.6, p. 74-80).

Table of answers; a conclusional table which includes all the various issues mentioned by the interviewees (Figure 7.7). Main aim of this table is to show the appreciation or dissatisfaction of specific elements regarding the social or physical environment and finally provide conclusions regarding the perceived liveability, the main qualities and the weaknesses of the study location.

Finally, the spatial translation of people’ opinion combined with personal observations can lead to a map of incidents of anti-social behaviour (Figures 7.9 & 7.10) and a map of perceived qualities (Figure 7.8) of the area.

LEGEND

- Children
- Youngsters
- Adults
- Former residents
- Employees
- Formal control - key players

Living

Former living

Working
FIGURE 7.5. AREAS MENTIONED BY EVERY INTERVIEWEE

Legend

- **Green**: Appreciated areas
- **Red**: Areas associated with dissatisfaction.
- **Gray**: Interviewees are generally referred to the study location.

Source of figure: Author
01

Monique

Africa - around 30s - mother of 2.5-year-old twin boys

'I was born and lived in Africa until the age of 20. From then on I have been living in The Netherlands. At the beginning, I was living in Zwolle where life was very easy. When I met my husband and we decided to get married, I needed to move to Schilderswijk where life is very hard. In a first place, you cannot say anything about the place as our houses and everything look fine. Schilderswijk seems like other areas in the city. If you live here though, you can understand the difference! You feel it when you cannot imagine yourself wearing gold chains or carrying valuable stuff while walking at the streets because of the possibility that somebody may steal them. Additionally, we avoid to be at certain places like the place we are now, as boys are gathering and dominate the place even during the day, not to mention that this space is very dark during the night. It is not a safe place for nobody. I wish I could move to a more quite place like Rijswijk soon, because I do not want to grow up my children here. This is because living with other cultures is not easy. Children at school have bad manners and my children absorb them, something I realize when they come at home and behave differently from the way I teach them.

On the contrary, one good aspect of living with other cultures is the food. I like the fact that I can easily access 'Haagse Markt' where I can find delicious products for low prices. On the other hand, it is a problem for me when I need just a few stuff like milk for the children and I cannot find a supermarket very close to my home. It is not always easy for me to move around with the children. Another thing I wish I could have in Schilderswijk is educational opportunities. I really want to study and have a proper job. However, education in 'Level 3' is difficult for me as the level to which I speak the Dutch language does not permit me to do so.'

02

Two woman in Teniersplantsoen

Morocco - 40s - 1st generation of immigrants

'We live in the Schilderswijk 25 years already. We are totally satisfied! We have everything we need; our desired products from the Markt and the local shops and also our family and friends. There are many beautiful parks like this and the Schalk Burgerplein where we go with our children but we normally come here as this is more accessible to us. There are also many schools and centers for our children, places that keep them occupied. What we feel is missing is places for little boys to play whilst there are enough for the girls and older boys. However, the latter dominate football fields and thus, those places are not safe for the former ones. Teenagers are the only ones that remain here during the night and sometimes they create troubles as far as we know.'

03

Il youngsters in Delftselaan

Morocco, Dutch Antilles, Turkey, Mexico - Between 14-17 years old

I tried to approach a group of youngsters as I was very curious to see the way they think and act. Conversation was almost impossible though. When I tried to make some questions to them like 'Are you students? Do you like the place where you live? Is Delftselaan your meeting point?' nobody wanted to answer. They were just laughing and phrases like the following were being asked:

- 'Are you from the police?'
- 'Oh look! Our friend is coming! He is the money maker of the Delftselaan, our boss.'
- 'Look over there! This is Baby’s shop. There, you can smoke and find everything you want.'

One of the youngsters was more capable of answering my questions but the others were telling him in Dutch 'tell her no'. After 10 minutes of trials to communicate with them, conversation needed to be stopped as for one it was not productive at all and for another, I started not to feel safe. Surprisingly, while I was leaving, I saw a boy around the age of ten watching them from far distance, trying to decide if he was allowed to enter the youngsters’ territory or not. Finally, he decided to leave and join the company of five young boys who were playing with a ball at a playground close to Delftselaan.

04

9 youngsters in Jan Pienemanstraat

Various ethnicities - Between 14-19 years old

The second group of youngsters approached me on their own while they saw me walking and carrying my map.

YOUNGSTERS: Hey, what are you doing here?
ME: What are all you people doing here?
YOUNGSTERS: We gathered all together in order to decide which is our next destination for a burglary. Look the man who is coming! He is our boss!

I tried to stand for a few minutes more with them even if dialogue was not productive, just to absorb information of any kind. It was then when I discovered that they do have their own hierarchy: leading members (the older ones or those who have a scooter), the followers of the leaders’ decisions and ideas. What is more they do not care about education and they swear a lot in a sarcastic way.
05  Sandra

‘I live in Schilderswijk in a pure dutch street and I really enjoy it! However, if I had the opportunity to buy a house, I would not buy it in Schilderswijk due to the combination of price-condition. I am satisfied now though. I enjoy the good food from the local shops and the Haagse Markt not to mention the privileged location close to the city center.

What is more, I feel totally safe in the area but this probably has to do with my profession and my own personality. People normally see me either wearing my NS uniform or with my tattoos. So, I probably look more extreme than they are! I can give you more examples! I have forgotten my bike unlocked around 6-7 times and nobody has ever stolen it. Additionally, I like to run around 2:00 after midnight and I feel totally safe even then. No matter how safe I feel though, there is a big group of people that creates troubles in public space. If authorities let them at the streets, things will remain the same forever. Those people are young, unemployed men and as a result they are trapped in this way of living.

However, what I do see as the main problematic in the neighborhood is the fact that people work a lot of hours something that make children to grow up alone at the streets. As a result, there are nasty children who do not respect other people. It is so sad that they do swear worse than adults, especially children at the age of 6-7.’

06  Nadir Heyjoum

‘It is magic how all these different people live together under the same land! See around and try to find a dutch person...none! You can find islands of different cultures; here where we are is the Moroccan part, the rest is more Turkish. Further, towards Transvaal you can find even a concentration of Greeks! This is magic! In general, do not believe what people say about our religion: Islam. All the bad aspects are created by media. People of Islam learn how to respect other cultures. I have travelled a lot in my life. I started from Morocco, I went to Spain for several years and then I came in the Schilderswijk. Even if I like living here I will go back to Morocco, soon. The trip of my life happened just in order to grow up my children. Now, they are adults and I can go back! My son is already making his plans for running his business. My daughter can study but close to our home. In such a way things are under control!’

07  Man walking along Jan van Gojenstraat

The Netherlands - 82 years old - whole-life resident of Schilderswijk

I live in Schilderswijk 82 years already, a whole life. The neighborhood has changed a lot but I am still here. I like living with other cultures. Only the young people create troubles, but we cannot say anything about it.

08  Redouan

Morocco - 28 years old - football coach at Teniersplantsoen

‘I was born in Schilderswijk in a totally problematic part of it where I still live! I am not thinking of going back to Morocco for no reason, even if Schilderswijk is the wrong place for me to live! My family is here, so my life is here.

Moroccan people are very strong. If you respect them, they will respect you. If not, they won’t! This is why they do create problems here. Dutch people and other authorities treat you differently if you say that you are Moroccan. However, if you mention that you work, they think ‘Oh you work, so you are a good person’. Otherwise, you are considered to be one of those who steal and who are criminals. When somebody steals something, they immediately blame Moroccan people. There are many incidents that even police ask us ‘why are you standing there?’, just because we look that we are about to commit something bad. There are also many cases that police hit our people. In general, we don’t live good here and there is no good place to be at this neighborhood! In a certain level it is true that Moroccans create many problems. But do you know why? For one, our people are not given any job. So, why should they continue studying at school? As a result, people at the age 18-30 do not work and fall in drugs usage. It is like you don’t want to steal but they force you to do so! I know that very well as in the past I was one of the bad guys, so I can feel their mentality. Now I have my job though, I have a normal life and sometimes when I see this different behaviour by people I just do not understand it. What I am only looking for is respect. Do not forget that we are people too! My parents worked for the Dutch fabrics so hard that now their bodies are damaged but it seems that this is not appreciated. We are already the third or even the forth generation of immigrants and we are still immigrants!

Through my occupation, I am trying to help young people. Sometimes for instance, I buy ice-cream for children who play at Teniersplantsoen from my own money in order to avoid the fact that they will steal ice-cream from any shop. Schilderswijk is a safe place only for people of the age 18+. Speaking about Tenniersplein; these young men play football and then climb on the net in order to chill over there. It is hard as a girl or woman to pass from here during the evening. Youngsters may bother you or even steal your mobile phone. This happen at my neighborhood as well. There, boys around the age 16-18 throw stones to policemen, bother passers by asking what they are doing to ‘their territory’ or even steal them.’
Living with the others. Spatial transformations towards liveability of cities of social diversity: the case of the Schilderswijk, The Hague.

09

The Netherlands - around 40s - employee at Jobanhof park

‘I used to live in Schilderswijk from the age of 18 till my 30s. The house where I was living needed to be demolished because of regeneration plans. From then on, I have been living in another part of the city, 10 years now. Of course, the municipality offered me another place to live within the neighborhood but I preferred to move somewhere else. For one, the suggested apartment was tiny and for another the area was suddenly extremely crowded.

Working and living in Schilderswijk was a perfect experience. I knew all the people here and people knew me. People are nice and what I do appreciate is the fact that there is the extended opening hours of the local shops.

Right now I do only work here and thus, I experience the place through my work. Me and my colleagues are trying to keep this place (Jobanhof) alive even if economic crisis affected the subsidies given by the municipality. We are motivated to work hard in order to teach children how to be closer to animals and thus acquire some important social values.

What I feel is missing from the place the most is youth centers and organizations for children and the youth. Families with a great amount of members live at very tiny apartments something that makes their daily lives very hard. There is no space for all these children to play and study properly at their homes. As a results, children are always outside growing up with a street mentality. This is why I suggest that actions able to promote communication between adults-society and children are of great importance.’

10

Morocco - 35s - 1st generation of immigrants

‘I work at the Schilderswijk every week, each time in a different playground and thus, I know every part of it. It is hard to define a good place in the neighborhood! I think that Tenier-splantsoen and Schalk Burgerplein are the ones that are generally considered a nice place to be as they offer a series of facilities: little farms where children can learn about animals, football fields and other playgrounds. However, personally, as a resident of Transvaal 3 years now (previously in Zoetermeer), there is nothing attractive for me in Schilderswijk. What I do enjoy though is the Haagse Markt, a place where I can find products even from my own country.’

11

Woman working at Sam Som

Unknown nationality - around 25s - employee at Sam Som

‘We are always open for any need of the residents. We are here to help and provide our services. We offer support to women through various educational programs; among them dutch courses. This is because we want to strengthen their ability to be active members of the dutch society. Along with that we are focusing on girls of the neighborhood. Surprisingly, they have an interest for playing football and thus we organize exercices and various events.’

12

The Netherlands - early 30s - street cleaner at Schilderswijk

‘I work in Schilderswijk and fortunately I live in a better area in The Hague, close to the embassies. This place is not interesting at all! Me and my colleagues clean various streets of the neighborhood and the amount of experiences we have had so far is just amazing. Last week, we saw two burnt cars at the Jacob Jordaanstraat. Additionally, a man who was driving a car stopped around the corner of Hooftskade-Koningstraat and shot his wife. This part of the neighborhood along the canal is actually very repulsive as weird people are always gather or walk. An incident with guns also happened in Hooftkade last week in a hairdresser’s between a client and the owner. It was probably an issue related to drug dealing, who knows. This part of Hooftkade is not safe anyway. Last week two cars stopped in the corner of Hooftkade-Koningstraat. Drivers looked like men with power but they were not policemen. They quickly exchanged some words and then they disappeared creating a frightening feeling to the passers. We hope that we will not be part of any problematic situation in the future as we just want to do our job here. However, I want to add something good about this place: the Turkish bakeries! You should try the food here yourself!’

13

Man walking along Wellingtonstraat

Serbia - around 45s - employee at Schiphol Airport

‘I work for KLM at the Schiphol airport. I prefer to live in Schilderswijk as life in Amsterdam, in areas where I can afford the rent, is much more expensive. However, I do not like life here. People do not pay attention for their place. Look all these trash and s__t at the streets. It is just unacceptable. For me this is a big problem. I wish I could move from that place, but I do not believe that this will happen soon.’

14

Four employees at the Oranjeplein

Various nationalities - early 40s - Employees at the Oranjeplein

‘There are no conflicts here. People coming from various cultural backgrounds do gather here. They enjoy the sun during sunny days while children play together...This area does not belong to Schilderswijk. Schilderswijk is further from here. It is the place where various “things” happen.’
Pakistan - early 30s - owner of cosmetic shop in Schilderswijk

'I have been working on this family job for 7 years. I thought that opening one more shop in The Hague would be a good option. And indeed, the location of this shop is very popular and attractive. So, even though profits are almost 50% less that the previous years due to economic crisis, my business is going well. The area is well connected by tram 11, 12, 6 and people are passing by the whole day. Another reason why people come to my shop is the fact that the products I sell are also valuable for the population that live in the neighborhood. Surinamese and Antilleans have problem with their hair and thus, they come to my place to find solutions. Apart from the market, nothing else bring people in Schilderswijk, as far as I know. I have heard many stories about criminality but I have never seen anything on my own. Probably because the police station is close to my shop.'

Speaking about the meaning of this project, we can simply say that children of this place need directly to be supported. Their daily lives do not represent the life a normal child would like to acquire. Personally, I would not like to live in Schilderswijk during my childhood for no reason! Children here do not know how to talk with 'u' (formal language). Of course, it is not their fault, nobody ever taught them to do so. These children grow up on the streets. There are many stories from local teachers stating that children go home and they find their door locked. Thus, they need to stay outside until their parents return home.'

The Netherlands - around 30s - football coach at Speeltuin Vermeerpark

'I work at this playground which is open in a daily basis till 7pm. Parents and children are always coming and the place is totally full. There are no divisions among cultures; children of one culture play with children of other cultures. There is really common though that children feel fear of being here without their parents even if we are here for them. There are a lot of youngsters spread within the neighborhood. Unfortunately there are not many places for the youth. Many libraries have been closed and thus youngsters hang out at places where smaller children play something that put pressure on them. The role of men is very strong at such cultures. In the house 'daddy is the boss' and when boys are outside, they try to acquire this role. So, they become the 'boss of the place.'

The Netherlands - organizer of the 'Politie kids' project

'Politie kids is a concept that has been running five years already. We took this initiative as a social change was a dire need. Schilderswijk is the area with the least witnesses in comparison to other areas in The Hague. This happens because people do not trust police and consider authorities to be their enemies. After a few years that the program has been already run, people seem to trust police more. The municipality is very interested in receiving a documentation with explanations regarding the level of its success. However, solutions for such social issues are very hard to be evaluated in such a short period of time.'
Living with the others. Spatial transformations towards liveability of cities of social diversity: the case of the Schilderswijk, The Hague.

18

What we feel is missing is a lot of open spaces. Children are involved in the project not to mention that children themselves feel part of the police department of the neighborhood: when they see us walking around they tell us 'Hello Mr. _____! We are the politie kids!' Through those children, their close relatives; brothers and sisters, are also being informed about our actions and intentions, something that contributes to the creation of a new image for the police.

In general, it is very hard to compare the neighborhood with the surrounding areas. Transvaal for instance has more open and greener public spaces but also room for running businesses. However, each area has its own problems which remain very local within the area’s borders! People make the place in a way! We can simply mention that the previous residents of this neighborhood were Dutch population moving away because of the fact that want to ‘cover’ any offence committed by their relatives. Koningstraat is another place with a bad name within the neighborhood. It is actually connected with historical facts. Incidents of pickpocketing or other undesired phenomena. After some years that this program has already been running, people seem to be satisfied. Specifically, parents are proud for the fact that their children are involved in the project not to mention that children themselves feel part of the police department of the neighborhood: when they see us walking around they tell us ‘Hello Mr. _____! We are the politie kids!’ Through those children, their close relatives; brothers and sisters, are also being informed about our actions and intentions, something that contributes to the creation of a new image for the police.

Speaking about the current public realm, I can say that in the past, happenings at the streets were worse than today. Today, there are about 25 people that cause problems and we know all of them! When the weather is fine, young people are at the streets. In Teniersplein for instance they make a lot of noise something that bothers residents that live at the surrounding buildings. We discuss all those problems with people who work at this place like Redouan (Interview DB, p.75) who is a football coach and come into contact with the youth in a daily basis. This open space is far from other open spaces and far from the police station and thus, the youth has a perfect ground to act. Additionally, nobody wants to speak about who committed something bad! Residents of Schilderswijk are coming from 110 different nationalities which means 110 different perceptions for the police. As a result, they are afraid to speak because of the fact that they are afraid of the consequences (due to this ‘cultural’ perception) or because of the fact that want to ‘cover’ any offence committed by their relatives. Koningstraat is another place with a bad name within the neighborhood. It is actually connected with historical facts. Incidents have been faced by adding more cameras for surveillance. Another issue that intensifies anti-social incidents in the neighborhood is the fact that there are numerous sensitive areas; places where people try to ‘find hope’ (prostitution or drugs); an example of this fact is the social pension in the Oranjeplein.

No matter all these incidents we should keep in mind that the neighborhood has a series of positive aspects. If you make a walk at the streets you will see for instance street cleaners twice per day. This is not a common phenomenon for the whole city. Authorities pay attention on this sensitive area. To sum up, we can say that strong collaboration among actors is needed in order to reach a more quiet future. Additionally, we should keep in mind that different approaches are needed; some areas need more involvement of residents while others, other kind of solutions, driven by authorities. A combination of the two approaches is also possible. An example of it is the Community Intervention Team which along with the police team of the Schilderswijk tries to reform social cohesion.
Aissa Chaatouf
Spain - police officer at the Hoefkade Police Station

Both interviews were conducted in the police station of Hoefkade, Schilderswijk. Information regarding the program of the Politie Kids were provided in detail. Their opinion regarding the social environment of the Schilderswijk have been included in the table of answers. Information regarding the program Politie kids have not been included, as the main principles of this initiative have already been explained in the Interviews 17 & 18.

Emanuel
Nigeria - 12 years old - student

'There is a very cozy place to be where you can interact with your neighbors. During rainy days, we do organize branches at local shops where we use products we ourselves grow, like herbs. Once per month we do also organize events with the whole community. This period we try to build some constructions able to permit us to meet here even when the weather is rainy.'

Maria Kritsioudi

'Is the community garden also available for residents of the Schilderswijk?'

'No, this is a different area, in all aspects! People here are more culturally mixed; Dutch and foreigners. We do also have a variety of low and high educated people and a high concentration of artistic people that take a series of interesting initiatives something which is not so typical for the community of Schilderswijk.'
Member of the new community center ‘Paratrixi’

Suriname - around 45s - former criminal

‘I used to live in the neighborhood for quite a lot of years but I have lost connection since I wasn’t here for 8 years...you know I was in prison. However, now I am back to life again and I chose to live far away from Schilderswijk. I like coming here to meet my friends and I do so once or twice per week but I want me and my children to become better in this life. When you live among these people here, you can never go up...I mean...People here focus on making easy money and I do not like this approach. This is why I moved to a smaller city where immigrants are hardly found and where people do not judge you like you are a criminal with no purpose.

However, me and my friends have an objective for this neighborhood; to provide young people with more opportunities. There are not places where they can study or spend their time in a creative way. This is why we chose to occupy this space and transform it into a multicultural center not only for people coming from Suriname but for everybody. We are thinking of offering a few computers and desks for them to study, organizing activities, games and events and also serving food for just a few cents of euro! Our main aim is not to earn money but just to meet each other here, providing at the same time opportunities to the youth. However, there is no budget and thus, we are trying to organize the space on our own. Children and teenagers that are passing by ask us about what we are doing. When we inform them, they are very excited and are looking forward for the opening day!’

Volunteer teacher at Stuka

The Netherlands - around 30s - volunteer teacher

‘I used to live in the neighborhood for 10 years but now I visit it only every Saturday because I work as a volunteer teacher. Personally, I see a big change in the mentality of young children. On one hand, they are very enthusiastic about studying and they have a lot of expectations for their future careers. If you ask them, they want to be doctors, engineers, teachers...important people! They come here every Saturday with lots of questions and study hard instead of playing outside. On the other hand, there are children at the streets, like those that are exactly outside, acting in an anti-social way.

From my experience though, as a former resident of the area, Schilderswijk has a few positive aspects; a lot of ethnic shops and a great position in a city scale.’

Students at Stuka

Children’ opinions regarding their neighborhood was discussed during the student workshop. Those opinions have been included both in the table of answers (Figure 7.7) and at the Section 7.3. Workshop with children.’

Figure 7.6. Full interviews. This figure includes all people’ stories and some pieces of them either in the form of a picture or their names written by them. | Source of images: INTERVIEWS 02, 03, 05, 12, 13, 16, 18, 19 & 23: Author, INTERVIEW 08: Politiekids workbook (see p.299), INTERVIEW 17: www.swsdh.nl/streetsporters/redouan-bennazzouz.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Haagse Markt &amp; Cultural land uses</th>
<th>Safety for children</th>
<th>Wish to stay forever at Schiederswijk</th>
<th>Condition of living environment</th>
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<th>Children's mentality</th>
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During the process of interviewing people, interviewers revealed a series of issues regarding the study location that are worth mentioning. All of them have been included in the present table of answers. The ones that will be taken into account in the following steps of the research are the following points, due to the fact that people mention them more often:

a. The majority of interviewers revealed children’s safety and mentality as important issues to be examined. Children grow up alone at the streets without parental surveillance or even the provision of basic goods; a warm plate of food, the ability to stay at home after school time (Interview 17, p.77). On the contrary, they walk alone even along streets characterized by intense traffic.

b. Youth comprises a conflicting social group that causes several conflicts in public space. This problematic is also associated with the lack of opportunities for them.

c. Most people consider facilities like youth centers or centers for the children as the ones that are missing. This fact is worth mentioning as lack of places meant for those groups indicate that they are not welcome in the public sphere.

d. The majority of the interviewers mentioned the location of the neighborhood (close to the city center) the existence of the ethnic shops and the Haagse Markt as the main qualities of the study location.

**MAPPING SOCIAL ANALYSIS**

The spatial translation of such opinions enriched by the personal observations will be illustrated at the following maps.
FIGURE 7.8. PERCEIVED QUALITIES

LEGEND
- Cultural commercial uses
- Appreciated public spaces
- Key routes that connect the study location with the city center.

EDUCATION
- Islamic schools
- Hindu schools
- Christian schools
- Schools, community centers and support schools, meant for all.

RELIGION
- Islamic religious buildings
- Hindu religious buildings
- Christian religious buildings
- Ravidassia religious buildings

Street network
Pedestrians paths
Train track area
Public spaces
Water canal
Bridges
FIGURE 7.9. INCIDENTS OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR
(BASED ON THE INTERVIEWS)

LEGEND

- Trash on the streets
- Dark streets during the night.
- Unsafe areas for children due to the presence of youngsters.
- Unsafe (parts of) streets due to constant incidents of anti-social behaviour or the presence of drugs, homeless people and prostitution.
- Problems with the formal control.
- Building facades ‘suffering’ from nuisance.
- Areas where conflicts between youngsters and outsiders/residents occur.
- Red light district
- Areas associated with drug dealing.
- Police Stations within the study area.

- Street network
- Pedestrian paths
- Train track area
- Open public spaces
- Main commercial activity
- Water canal
- Bridges
EVALUATION OF THE DATA OF INCIDENTS OF ANTI-SOCIAL PHENOMENA

The accuracy of the findings of the incidents of the anti-social phenomena within the neighborhood were evaluated by the formal control. Specifically, an interview were organized in the Police Station of Hoefkade, Schilderswijk with Maarten van Mierlo, police officer, in 13th March 2015 (Interview 18, p.78). During the long discussion, all the incidents mentioned by the interviewers but also noticed during the site visits proved to be accurate.
7.3. WORKSHOP WITH CHILDREN

INTRODUCING THE WORKSHOP
The main purpose of this workshop was to understand the thoughts of the social group which comprises the future of the study location regarding their living environment.

The workshop took place at the Stuka foundation in Schilderswijk on Saturday 13th December between 14:00 - 17:00 at “De Burcht” neighborhood center (Stortenbekerstraat 201, Den Haag). During that time, young boys at the age of 15-16 years old but also younger children were welcome to the neighborhood center in order to find a quiet place to do their homework and get support from the volunteer teachers.

From the group of 10 students who attended the studying session at that day, 4 participated in the workshop as they were the ones who knew the English language and were residents of the Schilderswijk (Figure 7.11).

PARTICIPANTS
a. Girl, 9 years old
b. Girl, 12 years old
c. Boy, 15 years old
d. Boy, 16 years old

(Personal data apart from the age of the children had not been asked to them for security purposes).

THE EXCERCISE
The exercise was divided in three sections (Figure 7.12) which were:

a. Discover your network; children were asked to identify on a map places were they are socially and physically associated (their house, their relatives' and/or friends' houses that they do normally visit, their school and other areas where they attend any activities or play with their friends. This part helped children to orientate themselves within the neighborhood and be ready for the next part of the exercise.

b. Define your neighborhood; after understanding their social network, children were able to map the borders of their neighborhood. Then, they were asked to characterize their neighborhood with three words and immediately after to map places they both like and dislike supporting at the same time their opinions with explanations. Finally, they had to draw ‘their street’ in order to show the elements which according to their opinion consist their immediate living environment.

c. Characterizing your neighborhood; at the final part of the exercise, children were asked to map areas where they both feel safe and unsafe, supporting once again their answers with explanations either written or oral.

CONCLUSIONS-FINDINGS OF THE WORKSHOP
The exercise provided a series of interesting conclusions. They are the following:

a. First of all, children seem to be active enough in their daily lives, something which is visible from the map of their public networks (Figure 7.13). However, their perception for their neighborhood’s borders is restricted as each and every one of them considers the area of his action as his neighborhood. What is remarkable is the fact that their perception for their neighborhood’s border do overlap with the sub-territories which consist Schilderswijk (Figure 7.20). This indicates that the main infrastructural lines function as borders for them. The only exceptions are the young boy (16 years old) who moves more in space and thus cross the borders of the sub-territories and the girl (12 years old) who visits both sides of Vaillantlaan (street which forms one of the border of the sub-territories) but this happens due to the fact that she lives along the street.

b. The feeling of the ‘bordered neighborhood’ and the strong image of the street is also visible in the sketches the children produced while visualizing their living environment (Figure 7.14).

c. Regarding the area’s safety; boys do not feel fear even if they mention some dangerous parts. On the contrary, the two little girls explain that they do not feel safe at specific places as boys are taking the ownership of space.
**Activity 1: Discover Your Network**

1. Can you find your house on the map? 🏡
2. Can you also find and map your best friend(s) house(s) that you visit? 🏡
3. Where is your school? 🏫
4. Are you doing sports or other hobbies? If so, where? ★
5. Where do you meet your friends? (example: cafes, squares, parks) 🔶

**Activity 2: Define Your Neighborhood**

6. Show your neighborhood on the map. 🏡
7. Write 3 words that characterize your neighborhood.
   
   a_________
   
   b_________
   
   c_________

8. What do you like the most from your neighborhood?

___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________

9. Is there anything you do not like and you would like it to be changed? Why?

___________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________________

10. How does your neighborhood look like? Draw key elements (examples: how the streets look like, if there are trees, if people are walking, talking).

**Activity 3: Characterizing Your Neighborhood**

11. Circle with green color safe areas of your neighborhood. (example: areas you feel safe and comfortable to be or meet friends).
12. Mark with a red color unsafe areas of your neighborhood. (example: dark streets during the night, areas where you feel discomfort to be or your parents do not let you be, areas where bad things happen)
13. Write a word with a red color for each and every one of them in order to explain why they are not safe.

*Figure 7.11. Student workshop at Stuka foundation. The two girls who participated in the workshop are completing the second part of the exercise. | Source: Author*

*Figure 7.12. The exercise of the workshop. | Source: Author*
FIGURE 7.13. CHILDREN’ PERCEPTION FOR THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD & THEIR PUBLIC NETWORKS

LEGEND

- Areas that the children consider as their neighborhood.
  - Their houses
  - Friends or relatives’ houses which they visit.
  - Their schools
  - Areas where they do sports or other facilities.
  - Areas where they meet their friends.

- Girl 9 years old
- Girl 12 years old
- Boy 15 years old
- Boy 16 years old

- Train track area

- Buildings
- Open public spaces
- Water canal
GIRL 9 YEARS OLD [INTERVIEW 26]
From the sketch of this girl, we see how the clear demarcation of the built environment by the street network affect children’s perception of the urban life.

GIRL 12 YEARS OLD [INTERVIEW 27]
Special part of a building as the main point that helps the child to orientate itself in space and recognize the place where it lives. Once again, the street functions as a divider of the built environment and thus urban life.

Figure 7.14. Hand drawing made by children who participated in the workshop. The drawings depict their perception for their living environment while the photographs depict the realistic conditions of those streets are shown at the photographs which are provided. | Source of drawings: Workshop in Stuka foundation. | Source of images: maps.google.com
BOY 16 YEARS OLD [INTERVIEW 29]
According to this boy, people living in the neighborhood do not interact with each other anymore, something which is totally visible from his sketch. Specifically, he stated that 'everybody cares only about their own issues, something that did not happen in the past to such an extend according to my parent'.

BOY 15 YEARS OLD [INTERVIEW 28]
This sketch depicts the only example that a child has a more liveable image for its living environment. The boy does even feel proud for the special design of the building in which he lives as he mentions that 'it is the most unique area within Schilderswijk'. Additionally, he appreciates a lot the two-storey dwellings of his street due to the fact that such conditions promote social interaction. Specifically, he says that he knows all his neighbors.
7.4. SNAPSHOT ANALYSIS

The main purpose of this method was to clarify which areas are the most attractive for people, which routes are mainly used for moving within the neighbourhood and where groups of interest are mainly concentrated.

In order to have a strong image of the area’s public life, the research were conducted through the whole neighbourhood. In this way, generalizations regarding the conclusions could be avoided.

**ORGANIZATION, ASSUMPTIONS & LIMITATIONS**

The organization of this method required the definition of a route within the neighborhood along with which all the streets could be visible and thus mapable (Appendix, p.304). For the feasibility of the completeness of the research, (as it had to be conducted on feet), an assumptions were made. Saturday was selected as the representative day for the conduction of the research, as Saturday is the most extreme situation of people’ movements due to the fact that the Haagse Markt is open. Additionally, due to the fact that the Haagse Markt; the main attractor of people in a city scale is open also on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 9:00-17:00 (www.dehaagsemarkt.nl), Saturdays can represent the image of the neighbourhood during the whole week.

The snapshot analysis was conducted on Saturdays in the following time periods: 8:00-11:00 (Figure 7.16), 11:00-14:00 (Figure 7.17) and 14:00-17:00 (Figure 7.18). The fact that time periods lasted for every three hours each, had to do with the long distance of the route (19.10 km) (Appendix, p.304) and the feasibility of the completeness of the research. Additionally, no research was made after 17:00 due to personal safety purposes.

Another limitation which should be taken into account is the fact that each time period was impossible to be finished within the three-hour period which were defined. Three Saturdays were needed for the completeness of the research. Those days were selected in a way that the weather conditions were similar. However, other socio-economic conditions may have affected the result. For instance, Saturday 7th March can be associated with the day that people have already got paid so they are more capable of spending money outside, contributing in this way to a more active public life, while on Saturday 28th February the opposite scenario is possible.

**CONCLUSIONS FROM THE SNAPSHOT ANALYSIS**

The snapshot analysis proved that Schilderswijk is a totally active community. People use almost all public spaces but also space becomes more public during the evening. What is remarkable is that the commercial lines are the ones that absorbs people’ movements, something which is totally visible in the maps (Figures 7.16, 7.17 & 7.18).

Another remarkable conclusion is how the users of space do change through time. Specifically, from the time period 11:00-14:00 to 14:00-17:00 youngsters become totally visible in space as on one hand, their number increases and on the other hand, they tend to use public parts of the public network.
FIGURE 7.16. SNAPSHOT ANALYSIS
DAY: Saturday
TIME PERIOD: [08:00-11:00]

WEATHER CONDITIONS

PART A [28 February 2015]
Average Temperature: 4.02 °C - Humidity: 81.5% - Precipitation: 0mm

PART B [7 March 2015]
Average Temperature: 7.35 °C - Humidity: 73.75% - Precipitation: 0mm

PART C [4 April 2015]
Average Temperature: 4.03 °C - Humidity: 87.00% - Precipitation: 0.23mm

LEGEND

WALKING
- Men
- Women
- Boys
- Girls
- Youngsters

STANDING OR SITTING
- Men
- Women
- Boys
- Girls
- Youngsters

CYCLISTS
- Men
- Women
- Boys
- Girls
FIGURE 7.17. SNAPSHOT ANALYSIS
DAY: Saturday
TIME PERIOD: [11:00-14:00]

WEATHER CONDITIONS

PART A (28 February 2015)
Average Temperature: 10.775 °C - Humidity: 57.5% - Precipitation: 0mm

PART B (7 March 2015)
Average Temperature: 12.675 °C - Humidity: 57.5% - Precipitation: 0mm

LEGEND

WALKING
- Men
- Women
- Boys
- Girls
- Youngsters

STANDING OR SITTING
- Men
- Women
- Boys
- Girls
- Youngsters

CYCLISTS
- Men
- Women
- Boys
- Girls
FIGURE 7.18. SNAPSHOT ANALYSIS
DAY: Saturday
TIME PERIOD: [14:00-17:00]

WEATHER CONDITIONS

PART A (28 February 2015)
Average Temperature: 10.9 °C - Humidity: 57% - Precipitation: 0mm

PART B (7 March 2015)
Average Temperature: 14.25 °C - Humidity: 52.75% - Precipitation: 0mm

PART C (21 March 2015)
Average Temperature: 10.5 °C - Humidity: 76% - Precipitation: 0.3mm

LEGEND

WALKING
- Men
- Women
- Boys
- Girls
- Youngsters

STANDING OR SITTING
- Men
- Women
- Boys
- Girls
- Youngsters

CYCLISTS
- Men
- Women
- Boys
- Girls
CONCLUSION

This map depicts the level of publicness of the open public network of the study location, based on the analysis of the people’ movements during the daytime. From this map, we can clearly detect a backbone of publicness consisted of the main commercial routes of the neighborhood. The rest streets which are part of the main street network are also public enough. What is remarkable though are the islands of publicness which do actually represent open public spaces in the middle of sub-territories with high concentration of people within the day.
Living with the others. Spatial transformations towards liveability of cities of social diversity: the case of the Schilderswijk, The Hague.
FIGURE 7.20. LEVEL OF PUBLICNESS OF THE OPEN PUBLIC SPACE (BASED ON LANDUSES)

LEGEND

- Residential uses
- Commercial uses
- Offices
- Education
- Sport facilities
- Open public spaces
- Religious buildings

Source of figure: Author

CONCLUSION

At this point, it is important to compare the previous image of publicness (Figure 7.19) with the publicness of the open public network which is based on the main landuses this time (Figure 7.20).

One of the main conclusions of this evolutionary diagram is the following: the main landuses are absorbed by certain routes which do anyway consist the main street paths in a neighborhood scale. At the same time, we can notice that in the middle of the closed territories these main streets create, only public functions: educational, religious and open public spaces can be found (Figure 7.20f).

Concluding, we can say that the two images (Figures 7.19 & 7.20) do have ‘similar behaviour’:

1. A main public network that divides the area in sub-territories
2. Sub-territories with a pure residential character
3. Islands of publicness in the middle of the sub-territories
8

SPATIAL ANALYSIS
8. SPATIAL ANALYSIS

After the completeness of the social analysis, it is important to analyze the spatial characteristics of the neighborhood. Such analysis will be based on the approach, the theory revealed (Section 6). As a result, it is important to examine the level of social interaction the built environment promotes and also the spatial limitations of the area.

Thus, two products will be produced:

a. **Map of spatial limitations**: it has to do with the spatial problems that limit the function of the neighborhood in terms of communication with its parts or with the surrounding areas.

b. **Map of social interaction**: the main purpose of which is to identify the areas where the built environment promotes social interaction and the areas where the spatial conditions need to be strengthened. Specifically, the analysis has to do with the quality of space between the vertical surfaces of the facades of the buildings and the street. In other words, we are talking about the territorial depth each street of the neighborhood provides.

**FIGURE 8.1. SPATIAL LIMITATIONS**

**LEGEND**

- Buildings with low-energy efficiency something which indicates poor building conditions.
- Dead-end streets related to open public spaces.
- Blind facades - walls
- Building blocks with high level of inner privacy.
- Streets with no green spaces.
- Water as a physical border.
- Train track area
- Water canal

0m 50m 150m 300m
Living with the others. Spatial transformations towards liveability of cities of social diversity: the case of the Schilderswijk, The Hague.

Source of figure: Author
CONCLUSION

The lines of this drawing represent the territorial depth ‘somebody needs to cross’ in order to reach the entrance of a building. Distinction between individual and collective entrances have been done as the way according to which the entrances have been formed, increases or decreases the territorial depth. Buildings with individual entrances which are attached to the facade are marked with a black color and represent a street where people are not willing to communicate with one another. If an individual entrance have been placed one step further the building facade (grey color), an intermediate space is formed, something that set conditions for social interaction. The latter is the most ideal situation as on one hand individual entrances secure the possibility of people’ presence at the streets and on the other hand, the intermediate space provide the place for the social exchange. Yards and green spaces are also included in the map.
FIGURE 8.3. CONCLUSIONAL MAP EXISTING POSSIBILITIES OF THE STREETS TO PROMOTE SOCIAL INTERACTION

LEGEND

Streets which do not promote social interaction due to their relationship with the buildings’ facades.

Collective social houses with limited amount of entrances and without the presence of semi-private spaces for people to interact.

Either collective or individual entrances organized in such a way that space for social exchange occurs.

Streets that promote social interaction due to their relationship with the buildings’ entrances.
9
MERGING SOCIAL & SPATIAL ANALYSIS
FIGURE 9.1. LAYERS WHICH COMBINE SOCIAL & SPATIAL ANALYSIS

**LAYER 1**
Public routes that on one hand are highly used by people but on the other hand the built environment does not promote a healthy public life and exchange along them.

**LAYER 2**
Areas where anonymity in urban form and anti-social phenomena meet.

**LAYER 3**
Areas where spatial problems-limitations meet anti-social phenomena.

**LEGEND**
- Poor building conditions
- Building blocks as closed territories.
- No-through streets

*Source of figure: Author*
Such information along with the qualities of the area (educational, religious and commercial functions) and other criteria (fastest routes between qualities) will play a key role for the strategy.

**LEGEND**

- **Red**: Public routes with high publicness where anonymity and thus, anti-social phenomena occurs.
- **Black**: Public spaces associated with conflicts or other expressions of anti-social phenomena.
- **Dark**: No-through streets associated with problematic public spaces.
- **Light Grey**: Buildings in a bad condition which are in a physical proximity with areas characterized by anti-social phenomena.

**Source of figure**: Author
10 CONCEPT
10. Concept

The conclusions of the social and spatial analysis indicated that Schilderswijk is an area with a strong and vibrant community which lacks certain conditions which are able to rehabilitate the notion of liveability. Specifically, **social analysis** revealed that the social groups that lack opportunities are the children and the youth; groups which form the future of the place. Such groups lack opportunities able to support their daily lives and raise their educational skills. At the same time, they are associated with conflicts in the public sphere, something that affects the social exchange among the rest of the residents and visitors alike. **Spatial analysis** do also confirm the limited amount of social exchange within the neighborhood due to the anonymous urban form.

As we saw at the Section 9, the social and spatial analyses meet under certain places; areas of interventions (Figure 9.2). By taking into account such areas that need to be redefined but also the qualities of the area which were revealed by people themselves (Figure 7.8), a concept can be formed.

The suggested concept for the study location is an application of the theory of privacy which was considered in Section 5 to be a way to solve anti-social behaviour and promote a healthy public life (Figure 5.7). All in all, the idea is to move from anonymity of the urban form towards a form that permit a selective control over social interaction. **More specifically, the main idea is to restructure the already fragmented by several infrastructural borders piece of land, which is called Schilderswijk, in a way that a clarity of territories; public, public-private, will be provided. A system of routes comprised by two separate public paths could facilitate the promotion of those territories. Specifically, the two territories that form the concept are the following:**

- **a. OPEN PUBLIC TERRITORY:** main aim of this territory is to make the area more attractive for the outsiders, those who keep in their minds a negative image for the neighborhood (Figure 10.1a). This is possible by investing on the area’s qualities; ethnic shops, Haagse Markt and its location (Figure 7.8) in order to attract them within its borders. By inviting people and provide them with conditions for social interaction with the locals, the image of the area can be changed; both locals and outsiders will change their perception for the social and physical environment of the study location. This fact can also provide a sort of ‘gentrification’ without the need of social mix.

- **b. RESIDENTIAL PUBLIC TERRITORY:** Main aim of this territory is the rehabilitation of the notion of liveability for the residents of the area in a daily basis (Figure 10.1b). What is of great importance in that case are the required conditions that for one should stimulate people’ movements within neighborhood letting them getting know their physical and social environment and for another should unify the various sub-territories and islands of publicness. At the same time the formation of the urban form should be generous towards people’ needs.
Figure 10.1. Two territories = Two system of public routes that comprise that concept. | Source: Author
Living with the others. Spatial transformations towards liveability of cities of social diversity: the case of the Schilderswijk, The Hague.
11

PATTERN LANGUAGE

‘Let’s build the alphabet of the space of justice’
**WHAT IS A PATTERN AND WHAT IS A PATTERN LANGUAGE?**

In order to provide a linkage between the theoretical-analytical stage of the present thesis project and the design, patterns will be used as a main method. **By patterns** we do not only mean a set of empirical rules that represent regularities of behaviour (Salingaros, 2000), a powerful tool that eliminates possibilities, but also a tool that allows alternative possibilities of design. However, a set of patterns themselves cannot provide a solution to a certain problem like words without connection rule cannot make up a coherent sentence (Salingaros, 2000). In other words, we are talking about the pattern language; a framework that permits a coherent combination among patterns that are meant for different purposes and scales like any other hierarchical structure which is dealing with a complex system. Such connections of patterns that are developed among patterns of the same level but also across levels is of great importance and it is the ones that can finally provide a methodological linkage between the theory and design.

**MAIN AIM OF THE PRESENT PATTERN LANGUAGE**

Main aim of the project in general is the rehabilitation of the notion of liveability in Schilderswijk, The Hague. As derived from the theoretical research (p.58-63), this is possible by formulating a physical environment able to create conditions for selective control over the social environment. At the same time though, the analysis showed that the most vulnerable groups of the neighborhood either because it is associated with conflicting situations or lack of amenities, are the children and the youth (Figure 7.7).

As a result, the patterns should provide the tools for setting a ground for a flexible design able to absorb conflicts among different social groups and also cover people’ needs. Thus, patterns need to be developed under the framework of territoriality (Figures 5.7 & 6.1). A separation according to scales have been made in order to secure the desired level of interaction in all territorial crossings (Figures 11.1 & 11.2); from the level that people walk at the streets and meet neighbors to the level people enter an open public territory and meet strangers. The scales will be explained in the following pages.

**STRUCTURE OF THE PATTERNS**

Each pattern is comprised by specific sections which are the following:

- **image:** that shows a case study that illustrates a good example of the suggested by the pattern solution or alternatively an impressive image related to the pattern’ s aim.

- **name and logo:** that briefly describes the goal of each pattern and visualizes it respectively.

- **hypothesis & added value to the hypothesis:** hypothesis represents the main challenge each pattern is trying to prove as knowledge while ‘the added value to hypothesis’ refers to the values this hypothesis provides to the vulnerable social group; children.

- **context:** that sets the reasoning why this pattern is considered necessary for the specific context of the study location.

- **solution & added value:** that describes the suggested solution for a certain problem supported by literature. Some solutions due to the fact that contribute to the issue of the children have also an ‘added value’ section which explains how the certain solution can tackle both problematics.

- **spatial requirements:** this chapter suggests certain spatial features which could provide such solutions or spatial restrictions that need to be secured for the effectiveness of the pattern.

- **schematic representation:** that shows in an abstract way the spatial meaning of the pattern.

---

Figure 11.1. Division of scales that construct the territorial structure of the neighborhood and thus the concept. | Source: Author
DEFINING THE PATTERN SCALES

As it has already been explained, patterns should construct the concept of the project in a strategic way. Before introducing the patterns (p.132-161) and their connections (Figure 11.3) that finally construct the pattern language, a division based on scales will be provided. Main aim of it is to define the required territorial structure, starting from the level of the entrances of the neighborhood until the level of the entrances to buildings (Figures II.1 & II.2).

1. The Neighborhood as a territory [Edges-openness of the area’s territory]

According to the explanation of Habraken for a territory, we can describe a neighborhood as a space into which only certain items may enter. The ability to move material things across its borders is the ultimate test of territorial control (Habraken, 2005). Thus, the aim of the patterns that belong to this scale is to define the places where the neighborhood as a closed territory can be opened to the surrounding territories and permit the inflow of outsiders. So, the main quality of this scale is the provision of the possibility of communication between the area and the surrounding qualities; areas that can provide the study location with people.

2. The neighborhood as a system

2a. Open public territory as a system

In a similar way with the example of a house, where a guests are welcome to have a sit, read a magazine but are not expected to move or rearrange furniture, outsiders can use public space belonging to another area but cannot intervene (Habraken, 2005). This is exactly the challenge of this scale; how urban form can provide a clear view of artifacts or areas of the public space that belong to a territory where outsiders can be the ‘guests of the residents’. Main quality of this scale is to change the image of the deprived neighborhood and provide a sort of gentrification by letting people getting know one another. So, the set of patterns that belong to this scale are mainly applicable to the open public territory as it will be defined later on.

2b. Residential public territory as a system

Patterns belonging to this scale, should provide conditions for a safe, attractive and liveable public network for the residents of the study area. It will be a closed to the outsiders territory where social exchange among various nationalities will occur in an harmonious way. In order to limit the flow of people from the open public territory to the residential public territory, a pattern has also been defined (Figure II.2) (meeting point of the scales 2a-2b).

3. Street-public space

Patterns belonging to this scale have as their main aim to provide for the public space; streets and open public spaces, certain principles that ensure a liveable environment in eye-level scale.

4. Personal territory

This scale is related to the theory of proxemics and specifically the idea of the personal space. Personal space is a territory each person carries with him while moving through space. What is worthmentioning is the fact that different cultures maintain different standards of personal space (Hall, 1990). Patterns belonging to this scale should make the borders of the multiethnic personal territories more flexible and open to ‘others’. 
QUALITY

Communication between the neighborhood and its surrounding key locations.

By using the neighborhood’s qualities as an attractor and by setting the ground for social exchange, the area acquires the possibility to change its image to the locals and outsiders alike.

Enhancement of locals’ movements within their whole territory by providing a safe and diverse, in terms of program and formation, living environment.

Liveable conditions of the public network in an eye-level.

Building tolerance among the various ethnic/age groups.

SCALE

NEIGHBORHOOD AS A TERRITORY
[Edges - Openness of the area’s territory]

NEIGHBORHOOD AS A SYSTEM

STREET - PUBLIC SPACE

PERSONAL TERRITORY

Open public territory

Residential public territory

Figure 11.2. Division of scales that construct the territorial structure, driven by the concept, combined with the appropriate patterns which are required for the completion of that target of each scale. | Source: Author
OPEN THE DOOR
CROSSING THE EDGES

I STREET, 1000 IMAGES

PEOPLE OVER CARS
PUBLIC SPACE AS A SYSTEM

LIVING & WORKING

ALL CAN BE SEEN, ALL CAN BE HEARD

SCHOOL AS COMMUNITY HUBS
SOCIAL GLUE

MEET THE OTHERS

LINE 1
LINE 2
LINE 3
LINE 4
LINE 5

SHOWS RELATIONSHIP AMONG LINES OF PATTERNS.

ONE LINE OF PATTERNS INFORMS ANOTHER.
PATTERN NETWORK

As it has already been mentioned (p. 126), a set of patterns alone cannot provide a solution to a certain problem like words without connection rule cannot make up a coherent sentence (Salingaros, 2000). As a result, a pattern network is considered necessary. Such network shows all the patterns that are related with each other. By relations we mean either patterns that in combination could solve a problematic or patterns that are affected by the usage of a related to it pattern.

Figure 11.3. Pattern network. This figure illustrates how the set of patterns are connected with each other. | Source: Author
Figure 11.4. The relationship between this figure and the deprived neighborhoods is associated with the following message: even if we are continuously mopping the floor, there is no possibility for our own world to stop being problematic, if we do not really decide to face the main source of the problem. Similarly, deprived neighborhoods which in many cases are fragmented pieces of land, could be revitalized by the provision of a generous connection with a bigger system which currently holds the door in between, closed. | Source: www.naked-organics.eu/who-is-buying-organic
1. OPEN THE DOOR

**a. Hypothesis.** Deprived areas can be revitalized through connections with existing centralities of surrounding, non-deprived areas.

**b. Context**

Schilderswijk is a deprived neighborhood situated in a strategic location though, as a high share of centralities (city center, Den Haag HS Railway Station, Megastore, China Town, Haagse Markt) or otherwise mobility environments are located at its surrounding districts. By mobility environments we mean places where mobility flows interconnect (Bertolini & Dijst, 2003), like railway stations, urban squares, parks or city centers. Such areas have a great potential for granting the diversity and the frequency of human contacts that are still essential for many urban activities. However, it is very common for deprived areas not to be connected with such places of interaction something that intensifies the social and economic fragmentation even if infrastructure is already there. This phenomenon maintains also the bad image the outsiders have acquired for deprived areas, an image that cannot change as long as they do not have any reason to visit those places.

**c. Solution**

By strengthening connections between deprived neighborhoods and the existing potential of people’s concentration these centralities offer, residents are immediately exposed to an environment where intense social exchange occurs, an exchange which belongs to a higher network. Similarly, multiple social groups of mobility environments can flow in deprived areas towards their key locations, as accessibility will be enhanced in both directions, an action that can transform the city into an open system of connected sub-systems where human interaction can take place (Bertolini & Dijst, 2003). It is obvious that such public paths are the most potential to form the entrances-exits between territories in cities.

**d. Spatial requirements**

In order to achieve that quality, the location of the connections and their nature should be researched. Regarding their location; such connections should be accommodated in the existing urban structure (Salingaros, 2005). Potential streets for carrying the quality are streets with existing potential of becoming important street networks (Jiang & Claramunt, 2004) and human activity nodes (Salingaros, 1998).

As it is obvious, land uses will play a significant role in the selection phase. However, new program can enrich the quality. Thus, the extension of the programme along the connecting lines towards the deprived areas either in the form of new permanent or temporary uses in vacant spaces or green spaces are totally necessary.

**e. Schematic representation**

![Diagram showing infrastructure that connects centralities in a city scale with centralities of deprived neighborhoods. What is worth mentioning is the selection of the appropriate location for the entrances-exits between territories. Source: Author]
Figure 11.6. Pedestrian bridge in La Roche-sur-Yon in France. The bridge provides a connection between the old city center and the newly built districts over the high-speed railway tracks. Main aim of the design and the color of the bridge is to highlight the urban significance of the pedestrian movements in the urban environments. [Source: www.dezeen.com/2010/03/09/pedestrian-bridge-for-la-roche-sur-yon-by-bernard-tschumi-and-hugh-dutton]
2. CROSSING THE EDGES

a. Hypothesis. Crossing a strong edge of a deprived neighborhood in a key location can enhance neighborhood’s liveability.

b. Context
What is worth mentioning regarding deprived neighborhoods is the following phrase; ‘the poverty that matters is not so much a material poverty, but rather a poverty of connections’ (UK think-tank Demos, 1997). A poverty of connections limits a person’s or group’s ability to influence the rest of the urban web in time and space and thus condemn residents to develop only local relationships, something that keep them away from the urban realm (Graham & Marvin, 2003). This phenomenon is of great importance as in a multicultural environment like Schilderswijk, local relationships are also conflicting.

Schilderswijk is a neighborhood defined by a series of soft and sharp borders: water, busy streets having the train track towards Den Haag HS Railway Station as the main divider. In this way, quality places and developments located on the other side of the edges, do not form a shared reality for the ethnic groups living in the area. This leads to social exclusion, uncontrolled dead-end streets and spaces with no meaning and possibility for social exchange. Such anonymity in the urban form is the first generator of anti-social behaviour.

However, overground pedestrian connections would be recommended in the case of Schilderswijk. This is because such a visible element, that can be associated with an iconic building, could attract more people and thus promote the desired level of social exchange, especially in an era that people are attracted by the image.

Spatial restrictions for the design of the overground connection are the height of the electric wires, in case of a connection over the train tracks and the minimum height a boat requires in order to pass under a bridge in case of a connection above water.

e. Schematic representation

f. Solution
Hardly defined borders of an area should be crossable at key locations. Such locations can be seen as providers of different groups of people able to stimulate social exchange in and out of the deprived area’s territory as locals and strangers will move through the connections on both directions. Main value of those entrances-exits towards city’s public realm is the enhancement of social cohesion of the deprived neighborhoods.

d. Spatial requirements
Regarding strong borders like train tracks or water, both overground and underground connections are possible as both solutions are being applied in The Netherlands (ex. Luchtsingel in Rotterdam | Source: www.zus.cc/work/urban_politics/155_Luchtsingel.php and the Maastunnel in Rotterdam).
Living with the others. Spatial transformations towards liveability of cities of social diversity: the case of the Schilderswijk, The Hague.

Figure 11.8. Place Bellecour in Lyon, France. This figur highlights how attractive is for people a diversity of images. | Source: www.prafulla.net/graphics/art-graphics/massive-3d-street-art-by-francois-abelanet
3. STREET, 1000 IMAGES

a. Hypothesis. Streets that provide a series of experiences under the concept of a specific identity, can change the image of deprived neighborhoods and improve the perceived liveability of locals.

Added value to the hypothesis. Streets with a clear structure of program can enhance children’s orientation in space.

b. Context

Cities nowadays are seeking for an idea able to give them a certain identity and urbanism is the field of study which should make this idea visible in the urban environment. Nowadays, culture is considered an upcoming strategy for urban regeneration of deprived areas.

The city of The Hague is a city that promotes its multicultural face as one of its main branding qualities - and part of these qualities is hidden in the Schilderwijk where series of cultural shops are concentrated in Hobbemastraat - its internationality and multi-ethnicity. Hobbemastraat has a great potential as its extensions touches China Town and is in general close to the city center. However, streetlife is not so attractive for outsiders due to the monofunctional character of the street (either commercial or residential) not to mention that it functions as a commercial corridor towards the Haagse Markt.

So, it seems that China Town and the Haagse Markt are the two important districts that leave out the potential of social exchange in Hobbemastraat even if publicness is very high. Undoubtedly, this issue affects the residents’ appreciation for their living environment. All in all, the urban environment fails in the field of reflecting the message of the city’s branding identity.

c. Solution

According to literature, in order to connect effectively two important nodes, two additional nodes need to be added in their in-between space (Salingaros, 1998). Pedestrians should be invited to go from one node to another through the straightest possible route, avoiding corners and level changes (Gehl, 1987). So, the solution for the activation of the Hobbemastraat would be to function as an additional node in-between the main ones. Through the provision of a wide range of activities (from commercial to public), the street will become more attractive for outsiders like any well planned mixed-use street. This will raise the reputation of the street due to the interesting streetlife and thus, the locals’ appreciation for their living environment.

Added value

At the same time, streets with a clear structure are more legible streets and thus, users like children can orientate themselves in space. This is a totally relevant issue for the Schilderswijk giving the fact that there are many incidents that children are moving around alone without parental surveillance.

d. Spatial Requirements

In order to restructure a street with a variety of experiences, the addition of programme is considered necessary. Depending on the situation, this can be applied either by new temporary uses (by appropriating the parking lots in a smart way or the surfaces of pavements) or permanent uses (in vacant spaces or by changing existing functions of ground floors).

e. Schematic representation

Figure 11.9. Additional in-between nodes as a tool in order to dynamically connect main centralities in a city scale. | Source: Author
Figure 11.10. A woman is carefully examining through the window all the movements of another woman who is standing for a few minutes outside of her front door. This is a great example proving that if certain conditions occur, control by residents can be exercised effectively. | Source: Author
4. 24 HOURS SAFE

a. **Hypothesis.** A diverse urban environment can promote safety of main streets day and night.

b. **Context**

Schilderswijk is a place where anti-social phenomena occur during the day, even along main streets with a high concentration of people. These phenomena are expressed mainly by the youth living in the area (Figure 7.1; where youngsters slow down traffic by riding their motorbikes in front of the tram lanes) and are more frequent during the night as the closed commercial uses and the absence of residents set a perfect ground for them to act accordingly.

c. **Solution**

Jacobs explains through her ‘eyes upon the street theory’ that increased street traffic, day and night acts as a tool against criminality and anti-social behaviour. This happens as possible offenders may believe that there is a greater likelihood to be seen or caught by others (Jacobs, 1961).

Thus, land uses like stores, bars and restaurants are uses able to provide streets with people and thus, *surveillance* day and night as they promote both residents and strangers to use sidewalks (Jacobs, 1961). However, in cases that shops are not able to stay open during weekends or late at night, residents should be able to express control over their territory. This is possible by a **clear demarcation between public and private space.**

d. **Spatial requirements**

In order to achieve such surveillance by land uses, land uses or other public functions need to be added where it is possible and necessary (ex. vacant spaces). In order to strengthen a more sustainable way of surveillance by locals, two conditions should be combined:

1. **In case of dealing with individual residential units:** front yards or transitional zones with a minimum width of 1 meter should be added. In this way, people would be more likely to be stay outside. Another solution in this direction would be the promotion of permeability of the living rooms so as the street could be visually accessible.

2. **In case of dealing with a social housing:** semi-private spaces should be created in front of the collective entrances, as a transition zone. These places should be equipped with sitting places, green or small spaces for children to play (desired situation). This will raise the possibility of a resident to be outside. Another solution would be the addition of closed building masses on the second or upper floors of residential buildings. In this way, the second and the upper floors will provide ‘their eyes upon the street’.

e. **Schematic representation**

![Schematic representation](image-url)
Figure 11.12. ‘Building blocks’ is an urban experiment that explores the notion of ‘sittability’ in Sydney, Australia. The project aims to soften the edges of a part of Sydney that has the potential to be warmer and more inclusive for people as a lot of pedestrians (tourists and workers) pass through it in a daily basis. The provision of mobile public art sculptures and the urban games invite people to explore a more active public life; to linger, to connect to enjoy the city and claim the streets as their own. [Source: www.jessscully.com/building-blocks]
5. AGORAS

a. Hypothesis. Streets with a high concentration of locals and strangers are the appropriate places for social exchange.

b. Context
What consists Schiderswijk is a clear network of main streets which absorb all the main activities leaving fragments of pure residential areas in the middle, where only educational, religious functions and public spaces can be found (Figure 7.20). The main street network is also characterised by a dense concentration of people movements; both locals and outsiders. No matter the potential of social exchange though, such movements are continuous, finding no place for dialogue.

c. Solution
As Jan Gehl (2001) describes in ‘Life Between Buildings’, there is an essential difference between places where people merely come and go and places where they stop and stay. They are those who include good opportunities for staying that make public spaces lively. As a result, streets with high concentration of various groups need to support land uses that permit the ‘sitting function’. Regarding the selection of the activities, a great potential have the following uses in public spaces: eating, reading, sleeping, knitting, playing chess, sunbathing, watching people, talking etc (Gehl, 2001).

d. Spatial requirements
One main issue that an urban planner should take into account for the implementation of this idea is the appropriation of space where such activities can be added; even the surface of a parking lot by paying the required fee.

Additionally, regarding the organization of such activities they should be in accordance with the edge effect (Gehl, 1987); the edge of an open public space is the most preferable location for standing or sitting as people firstly tend to occupy the borders and edges of it and only when edges are fully occupied people move inwards. However, there is a distinction between the two motions. Even though people prefer to sit at areas that face the pedestrian flow, their sitting is chosen more carefully that standing.

e. Schematic representation

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**Figure 11.13.** A sitting at the edges of a public street as a tool that stimulates dynamic or visual social interaction between people with different ‘social spaces’. | Source: Author
Living with the others. Spatial transformations towards liveability of cities of social diversity: the case of the Schilderswijk, The Hague.

Figure 11.14. Example of shared crossing that permits a smooth transition of pedestrians. | Source: www.smart-magazine.com/space/interview-ben-hamilton-baillie
6. PEOPLE OVER CARS

a. Hypothesis. A clearly defined crosswalk across a busy street is enough to prioritize pedestrians.

Added value to the hypothesis. Clearly defined crosswalks are safe and legible crosswalks for children.

b. Context
Vaillantlaan is the busiest street in the neighborhood during the day and night as it connects by car important points in a city scale. Publicness is high enough even if facilities are mainly concentrated in the crossroads. However, the environment is not liveable due to the absence of human scale; linear and strict building masses, wide-width street profile, wide-width pavements with no program and high traffic speed. These characteristics result in a street that divides the neighborhood in two main fragments.

Finally, we can say that shared spaces cannot only be applied at street crossings but also at commercial streets and streets with other important public functions.

e. Schematic representation

b. Context
Finally, we can say that shared spaces cannot only be applied at street crossings but also at commercial streets and streets with other important public functions.

e. Schematic representation

Figure 11.15. A clear demarcation of the crossing point across a busy street, as a tool to connect fragmented pieces of land belonging to a neighborhood. Such a dynamic connection is capable of stimulating people’ movements within the neighborhood. | Source: Author

Added value to the hypothesis. Clearly defined crosswalks are safe and legible crosswalks for children.

c. Solution
By prioritizing the pedestrian and the bike lanes that connect the two sides of busy streets at the main crossing and in additional ones -where schools or other public functions are located- people will undoubtfully feel that both sides of the street belong to the same shared territory.

Added value
Additionally, the appropriate reorganization of the crossing points can enhance the safety and legibility of movements in the city. This characteristic is of great value for the children of the neighborhood as there are many incidents that they walk alone at the streets (Figure 12.14).

d. Spatial requirements
A clear demarcation of the crossing point is of high importance. This is possible by using colors for the pavement as several case studies (ex. rainbow crossings) prove that colors can intensify safety. Another option is the design of shared spaces in combination with an establishment of a low speed limit (ex. 20 speed limit). At the same direction, special choices for the material (ex. brick, cobblestone, etc.) of the crosswalks can enhance visibility of the crosswalk and remind motorists that they share the street with pedestrians.
Figure 11.16. This figure illustrates a ‘cat café’ or otherwise, a furniture which has been designed in order to provide cats with their own space within the home, providing them with an area to play, sleep and relax. This case is trying to make visible how public space could function complementary in terms of program to the program of the rest of public spaces within the neighborhood. | Source: www.popupcity.net/the-emergence-of-the-urban-cat


7. PUBLIC SPACE AS A SYSTEM

a. Hypothesis. A complementary program among public spaces of a deprived neighborhood can intensify residents’ movements within their shared territory.

b. Context
Schilderswijk is comprised by a series of public spaces almost all of which experience a great level of publicness (Figure 7.19). However, their program do not vary, something that makes people to prefer the most popular ones due to the activities they offer or their size (ex. the small farm at Jobanhof is less popular in comparison to the wider open public space called Teniersplantsoen). Additionally, according to people’ opinions, locals tend to constantly visit the same public places with their children (Interview 02, p.74) due to the fact that their location is convenient for them. This fact though, is directly connected with the offered program of the public spaces and the existing quality of the infrastructure which leads to them. Given the fact that such characteristics are not developed within the neighborhood, people tend to get trapped in their own territory, having no curiosity to discover their neighborhood.

c. Solution
Like electrical or fluid flow occurs only between points of different potential, a neighborhood can only work if contrasting nodes are placed so as to provide active links like nodes (Salingaros, 1998). Translating this into public space, we can state that each public space should acquire a more specific character and should not repeat the program of the others. At the end, a strategic system of public spaces can be created able to enhance residents’ movements and thus, enrich their social interrelations within their own higher level of territory which is called neighborhood.

d. Spatial requirements
For the implementation of the idea, program transformation depending on the situation should happen. For the selection of them, the spatial needs of various users should be taken into account (Appendix, p. 294-297).

e. Schematic representation

Figure 11.17. This figure illustrates the desired situation of a system of open public spaces which is comprised by a series of diverse in terms of program public spaces. | Source: Author
Figure 11.18. Tuinstraat in Delft, The Netherlands. A clear demarcation between a public street and a liveable street through the usage of low, cylindrical columns. Only those columns are enough to maintain the quality of the Tuinstraat which is a street that works perfectly even during the winter, as people do always leave their personal, recreational objects (flower pots, children bicycles, tables etc) outside. | Source: Author
8. MEET THE OTHERS

a. **Hypothesis.** Clearly defined intersections of territories with different nature of users, can secure liveability.

b. **Context**
Coexistence of outsiders and locals is totally desired in key locations of deprived neighborhoods, as the latter do benefit from spaces with high potential in social exchange (Sampson, Morenoff & Earls, 1999). However, the movement of the outsiders is not always predictable due to the poor design of streets and thus, there is a great possibility that strangers enter private territories (residential parts of neighborhoods), territories with different levels of tolerance due to their multicultural character.

c. **Solution**
In order to achieve a desired level of privacy for the pure residential parts of the Schilderswijk, it is important that the crossing points between areas where public territories meet more private territories will be redefined. What is needed is a **clear demarcation between public and private areas** (Habraken, 2005), or alternatively, a **high level of closure** (Sampson, Morenoff & Earls, 1999). This may happen in multiple ways as it will be explained in the next paragraph. The key idea though, is that the urban form can guide the flow of people in certain paths.

d. **Spatial requirements**
In order to achieve that quality, elements like **rows of trees** that promote linearity and block visual contact could be used. Another spatial feature is the addition of **front yards or transition zones** at the second-hierarchy streets so as it will be understandable by strangers that this is a pure residential area and enter may not be desired by people who are sitting in the yards. The selection of **strong materials** for guiding the flow of people could also be helpful. This may happen under the concept of **shared space** according to which the whole street can function as a physical extention of the uses along the main streets, an action that makes the public paths even more legible. Finally, the use of **street art** can be a method of distracting people’ attention in crossing points of the territories, making the environment legible for children at the same time (as such features can function as reference points).

e. **Schematic representation**

![Schematic representation](image)

**LEGEND**
- Yards or transition zones between the street and the residential buildings.
- Residential functions
- Commercial functions

**Figure 11.19.** This figure illustrates the quality of securing the privacy of residential territories by various means that make clear to strangers that they may not have an enter. | **Source:** Author
Shoreditch district in eastern London has become one of the main attractions due to the street art it contains. The fact that people visit this place even if it is a place of dirty alleys, narrow corners and homeless people proves how important art is for people. | Source: www.ariana810.files.wordpress.com/2013/12/dsc02104.jpg
9. STREET VISUALLY DESIRED

a. Hypothesis. The use of colors and murals can revitalize public spaces in deprived areas.

Added value to the hypothesis. Color can build a positive perception of space for children.

b. Context
One of the main problematics in Schilderswijk is the anonymity of the living environment. This is a phenomenon highly depended on the typologies of the social housing found in the area; massive buildings characterized by a perfect linearity, absence of human scale and individual entrances. Such conditions of not interesting and grey facades do not stimulate a positive experience of space to passers. Demolition of building is a possible solution to the problematic. However, the neighborhood is consisted by newly built buildings (around 1990-2010) and thus, a more creative and economic solution should be found especially during economic crisis.

Added value
Colors is also a children’ preference for the design of public spaces (White & Stoecklin, 1998). According to Francis and Lorenzo (2008) and Owen (1988), children would use colors, if possible, as tools to promote a proper design of the physical environment. Such design would be a design able to distract their attention away from disorder in scale, function and form.

d. Spatial requirements
The implementation of such interventions requires the appropriation of certain surfaces; stores’ doors, blind walls, grey facades, electricity houses and secondary functions.

The choice of the colors should be in accordance with the children’ preferences (Gür & Zorlu, 2002) (Appendix, p.295).

e. Schematic representation

Figure 11.21. The importance of a street with aesthetic values for people of all ages. | Source: Author
'Feels like home' is a project implemented both in Istanbul and Berlin having as its main aim to redefine the perception of public space. | Source: www.sofiabempeza.org/Feels-like-home
10. LIVING & WORKING

a. Hypothesis. Buffer zones in front of residential and commercial uses can enhance residents’ control over space.

b. Context
One of the main typological characteristics of the main street network of Schilderswijk is the high concentration of commercial uses at the ground floors. Specifically, we are talking about clusters of ethnic shops (Figure 13.16) which invite high share of outsiders in a daily basis. However, the poor design of the ‘street life’ does not support enclosure, an issue that create a conflicting ground among passers/outsiders and people that live above such commercial floors.

c. Solution
The restructuring of the public paths based on a clear demarcation between private and public space -under the aim of the notion of territoriality- is the solution to the problem. Territoriality leads to the building of walls and fences. However, this should not be considered a negative action as a fence along a front garden is not a real physical barrier. On the contrary, it gives control to the owner and makes the public paths legible for visitors and people who are passing by (Dorst, 2005b).

d. Spatial requirements
The addition of transition zones depends on the typology of residences:

1. **In case of individual housing:** the addition of a yard could provide a physical barrier able to provide residents with control against the strangers.

2. **In case of a social housing:** the entrances can be moved towards the interior space, providing residents with a semi-public meeting space that informs at the same time strangers that they should not enter. This is possible as through this shared territory, residents have the ability to sit, grow flowers, getting know each other and of course, prohibit the entrance to strangers.

e. Schematic representation

**Figure 11.23.** Transition zones in front of building facades and areas where people can act on the pavements, as a tool to balance living and working/shopping/walking in a busy or popular street. | **Source:** Author
Figure 11.24: Targ Weglowy Square in Gdansk, Poland. Flexible public space, meant for all. Source: www.bustler.net/index.php/article/gdyby_group_project_shows_potential_of_empty_historic_targ_weglowy_square
11. ALL CAN BE HEARD, ALL CAN BE SEEN

a. Hypothesis. An appreciated public space is a public space that provides opportunities to all its users.

b. Context
Schilderswijk is a neighborhood with numerous well-designed public places almost all of which are used by locals and during the whole day (Figures 7.2, 7.16, 7.17, 7.18 & 7.19). However, participation does not necessarily mean absence of conflicts or dissatisfaction by all age groups. Children seem to be the main focus of the design as playgrounds are the dominant urban furniture of the public space (Figures 12.5 & 12.8). At the same time though, youth is also present, dominating the space or asking pressure to younger children. Additionally, according to adults’ opinion, there are no opportunities for them and they do mainly attend public spaces just for parental surveillance during children’ play.

c. Solution
According to literature, public life and thus public space is supposed to be ‘blind’ to sex, race and age not to mention that all people are supposed to enter the public and its discussions on identical terms (Young, 1990). Additionally, the true public realm is that portion of our everyday world which belongs to everybody and to which everybody ought to have equal access most of the time (Kunstler, 1996). As a result, public spaces in the Schilderswijk need to be meant for all users, even for the youth; the group which is considered undesirable or a source of anxiety (ex. strategy ‘all can be seen, all can be heard’; development of a skate ramp as youth facility in the city of Frankston).

d. Spatial requirements
In order to accommodate all possible users in public space, a translation of their needs into spatial needs -depending on their cultural orders and age- is of great importance (Appendix, p. 294-297).

e. Schematic representation

Figure 11.25. This figure illustrates the necessity of inclusion of all age and ethnic groups into each public space, if possible and necessary. | Source: Author
Figure 11.26. Hoefkade in Schilderswijk, The Hague, The Netherlands. People against the anonymous building masses where human scale is absent, in search of human contact. | Source: Author
12. HUMAN SCALE

a. Hypothesis. Human body measurements as the unit ofliveability.

b. Context
Cities nowadays tend to be well designed in a city scale rather than in an
eye-level scale. A liveable street characterized by a human-scale design is not
a shared quality of all districts in cities. And this is the moment anonymity with
all its drawbacks comes. This is also a reality in Schilderswijk, a place where
enormous building masses, undefined broad pavements, lack of green, limited
amount of front yards and individual entrances do not promote humans to
spend time at any place other than the officially defined public spaces.

c. Solution
Jan Gehl supports the opinion that the design of individual spaces and of
the details, down to the smallest component is determining factors to
quality of public spaces (Gehl, 1987). His approach is that human dimension
can function as a starting point for the design of a liveable urban environment.
Additionally, Whyte and Edward T. Hall mention that human behavior; the way
people walk, sit, relax, eat, flirt, shop, converse, etc. in certain kinds of spaces
is highly depended on the way such spaces are formed.

As such, the presence of human scale in the built environment of the Schilder-
swijk could benefit residents’ lives.

d. Spatial requirements
Possible spatial action for the implementation of this solution could be the
following; changes of the building typologies (extentions of the ground floors
towards the street with a maximum height of one storie, an action which could
strengthen the feeling of walking next to a low-height building), the addition
of yards, green spaces, places to sit etc.

e. Schematic representation

Figure 11.27. Possibilities for social exchange only by adding the idea of human scale in
a linear and anonymous building mass. [Source: Author]
Living with the others. Spatial transformations towards liveability of cities of social diversity: the case of the Schilderswijk, The Hague.

13. LIVING STREET

a. Hypothesis. A shared street can stimulate social activity, people’ movements and enhance safety.

Added value to the hypothesis. A shared street or even a shared crossing of a busy street, as a place for play.

b. Context
Schilderswijk has been described by locals as a district with a strong community (Figure 7.6). And indeed, people and especially young people and children are totally active members of public space as they have the need to act and interact with each other (Figures 7.1 & 7.2). They do gather in organized public spaces or they have even been seen playing along the streets. However, the street profiles with the typical structure of pavement-parking space-street along with the linear and dominant facades of the buildings, do not provide a safe environment for them to act at places other than the organized public spaces and thus, their action should be limited in a pavement with a maximum width of 1,5 meter.

c. Solution
The appropriate solution for this problematic is to give to the streets a different meaning; to design them as an element where pedestrians, cyclists, children’ movements and needs become more important than a mean of car transport. This idea, under the term ‘Woonerf’ which means ‘living street’, has been conceived in The Netherland. There are numerous examples so far proving the effectiveness of the solution, in terms of safety and generation of communal spirit (Hockenos, 2013).

Specifically, what makes such street profiles to work is the fact by blurring the boundary between people’ space and cars’ space people start feeling the ownership of the street while drivers feel like guests. The latter become more liable and are taught to calm down their speed through eye contact. All in all, we are talking about the idea of a ‘shared space’.

Added value
In various researches, unsafe spaces have a negative impact on children’ life and behaviour. Specifically, lack of perceived safety at place related to outdoor play make parents to prohibit children to be outside (Sheriff, 2001). Such societal fears though may be harmful for the vision of childhood (Sutton, 2008). On the contrary, such ‘child friendly streets’ do encourage children to play outside (Joseph, 1995), something which is extremely important especially for deprived areas. This is because in such areas, parks, streets and in general all the parts of the open public network are the main possible areas for children to play and recreate themselves (Sutton, 2008).

d. Spatial requirements
Shared spaces are more effective when they have origins or destinations within the local area. The removal of kerbs and the use of materials, suitable for pavements, improve the recognition of the shared space as a place where cars do not consider their enter as granted. Lighting should be also sufficient enough even in the form of lighting on the ground, coming from a street furniture, encouraging in this way continuous pedestrians’ flows even during the night (Edquist & Corben, 2012).

e. Schematic representation

Figure 11.29. Drivers are not the dominant users of the living street. | Source: Author
Figure 11.30. Giant board games in public space. Such activities can bring together people with different ethnic and social backgrounds and thus, provide social cohesion. [Source: www.giantgames.com.au/photos.html]
14. CULTURAL GLUE

a. Hypothesis. Community activities can be the cultural glue in a (conflicting) multicultural environment.

Added value to the hypothesis. Community activities can teach children how to be active citizens.

b. Context
Living in a socially diverse environment means living among people who not only have different beliefs but also have a different personal territorial space. This makes social exchange among them hard to happen. The social environment of Schilderswijk is comprised by more than 100 different nationalities. As a result, we can imagine how hard it is for people belonging to a specific ethnic group to understand the social limits of another ethnic group in order to interact without having conflicts with each other.

c. Solution
The establishment of temporary or permanent events (ex. giant board games, cultural events) (Figure 11.30) or community spaces like community gardens (Interview 23, p.79) are the most appropriate actions that can provide an effective ground for social exchange among the 100 different nationalities living in Schilderswijk.

Literature supports such idea. Specifically, ‘street play provides invaluable lessons of citizenship; the sharing of a space with other people and a cooperatively turning of a place into a place of shared meanings’. Additionally, ‘community gardens provide fresh products and plants from urban agriculture as well as satisfying labor, improvement of the sense of community in the neighborhoods, ecological awareness and connection to the environment’ (American Community Garden Association, 2007).

Added value
Children are the future generation of our cities. Thus, their future ability to transform barren spaces into places which are rich in meaning, depends on the skills they have developed during their childhood; the ability to transform a piece of sidewalk (Efroymson et al., 2009). This explains how community activities can benefit cities in a long-term perspective.

d. Spatial requirements
Main requirements for the implementation of this idea are the followings; the creation of the game and the appropriation of a space for inviting people to play. The size of this space depends on the needs of the game. However, the fact that the creation of the game can even be done by the community and also the fact that the study location acquires a series of open public spaces -either defined or undefined- make the idea easy to be implemented. Community activities like community gardens require the same conditions like the previous example; they can either be part of any open public space or even part of the inner parts of building block.

e. Schematic representation

Figure 11.31. This figure illustrates how social activities can merge personal territorial spaces of people belonging to various ethnic groups, through cooperation or even competition. | Source: Author

Figure 11.32. Desired structure of the open public network of the neighborhood. | Source: Author
Figure 11.33. Pootstraat in Delft, The Netherlands. | Source: Author
15. SCHOOLS AS COMMUNITY HUBS

a. Hypothesis. Schools can contribute to community development of a deprived area day and night.

Added value to the hypothesis. Children growing up in a caring community has a great potential of building tolerance towards their social environment.

b. Context
Schools are centers of exchanging knowledge, places where residents come into contact with each other, not to mention that they have access to local resources: funding, land and political goodwill (Connie, 2005). Schilderswijk has a great amount of educational institutions (Figure 7.8). However, a high share of them result -after school hours- in a fenced and passive plinth of the urban environment. At the same time, there are no sufficient places for the youth and children to spend creatively their time (Figure 12.15).

c. Solution
By taking advantage of the key role of school (in terms of the number of people they absorb and the socio-spatial possibilities they can offer), a school can: firstly, encourage a deep cross-cultural dialogue able to rehabilitate the relationship among the multicultural environment and secondly, provide public services to those that are disadvantaged. The main idea is the function of schools as community hubs for the neighborhood.

Defining the idea of the a school as a community hub
Generally speaking, a community hub is ‘a conveniently located public place that is recognized as valued by the local community, as a gathering place for people and an access point for a wide range of community activities, programs, services and events’ (Rossiter, 2007). Another definition states that the school as a community hub provides ‘collaboration between educational systems and the other sectors (community, business, local government and philanthropy) in order to support the learning and wellbeing of young people, especially of those being unprivileged’ (Black, 2009).

Community hubs can be more than a traditional neighborhood center. They can provide a mix of uses within the hub; facilities (ex. libraries) or services (ex. health care, social support, meeting places, space for events). Finally, community hubs can be places that enhance social exchange through space in a planned or incidental way.

d. Spatial requirements
For the implementation of the idea, such schools need to be equally distributed in the area; one school in each fragment of the neighborhood or one for a combination of fragments (when the distance from the school towards the heart of each fragment is walkable for both children and the elderly). Regarding the children for instance, the desired walkable distance from/to school is considered to be 0.375 miles or alternatively 603 meters (Zhu, 2012).

Regarding facilities: new ones (ex. libraries, sitting places, food banks) can be added within the school’ s property or alternatively people can just use existing installations of school. In case that the happenings are taking place outside of the school’ s space, appropriation of space will be an issue. If they cannot be combined within a defined public space, movable libraries or other facilities can be moved even in parking spaces, for a few hours, after paying a ticket for the parking lot.

Not planned meeting places (ex. benches, green) for parents and other users can be also included close to such community hubs.

e. Schematic representation

Figure 11.34. Possible structure of the ‘schools as community hubs’ idea within the territorial system of the study location. | Source: Author
Living with the others. Spatial transformations towards liveability of cities of social diversity: the case of the Schilderswijk, The Hague.
12

DESIGNING THE NEIGHBORHOOD
CONSTRUCTING THE STRATEGY

After the definition of the pattern language, it is significant to relate the pattern scales with the construction of the system of territories, as described in the concept (Figure 10.1). All in all, the idea behind this section is a clear definition of the concept in spatial terms. Thus, both the evolution of the construction of the concept and the key layers of it will be provided.

01
Borders that surround the study area.

02
All these borders transform the area into a closed territory.

03
The main street network of the neighborhood, a network defined by the existence of main land uses (Figure 7.20).

07
Those infrastructural lines are the ones that finally construct the ‘open public territory’, a territory where social exchange between locals and strangers is possible.

08
Islands of publicness; public spaces located in the middle of the sub-territories which are formed by the main street network (Figure 7.19).

09
Public functions that support community development, located also in the middle of sub-territories (Figure 7.19).
For the selection of the routes which are considered appropriate for the construction of the residential public territory, several layers have been combined. They are the following:

a. Routes with high publicness where the built environment does not allow social exchange (Figure 9.1.a) & the conflicting areas.

b. Community facilities with a cultural character which are considered a quality by people that have any kind of connection with the area (Figures 7.8 & 12.15).

c. Fastest connections between qualities.
FIGURE 12.2. STRUCTURE OF THE TERRITORIAL DEPTH

LEGEND

- Mobility environments; areas that can provide the neighborhood with flows of people.
- Entrances-exits of the neighborhood.
- Existing sub-territories as defined by the main streets and their commercial functions. The inner parts of those territories are pure residential areas (Figure 7.20).
- Open public network
- Less open public network
- Streets that construct the residential public territory.
- Crossing points from one sub-territory to another.
- Public spaces as parts of the residential public territory.

EXPLAINING THE TERRITORIAL SYSTEMS

The present figure illustrates the formation of the territorial systems and their interrelations. Qualities belonging to the surrounding areas of the neighborhood are in general considered to be mobility environments, places where different kind of people meet and move, and thus, they have been included in the territorial system. Such qualities are actually defining the appropriate locations for the entrances where strangers can enter the open public territory of the neighborhood. Strangers can move and act at the most public places of the neighborhood and their access to the residential public network will be avoided by certain design solution as they will be illustrated in the following section (Figure 13.25).

Regarding the residential public territory, we notice that the crossing points between sub-territories is of great importance. Specifically, crossings in the form of shared streets give the feeling to the residents that their path is not interrupted by cars. This characteristic contributes to a safer environment for all users, as well.
EXPLAINING THE NEW STREET NETWORK

In order to ensure the qualities each territorial system represents (p. 127-129), the street network needs to be formed in a way that promotes those qualities. Thus, public paths which absorb commercial activity should be transformed into **car-free streets during specific days and times of the week**: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays as they are the days during which the Haagse Markt (9:00-17:00) is open. However, as it has been revealed from the snapshot analysis (Figures 7.17 & 7.18), the streets become more public after 11:00 and thus, car-free streets can be suggested for the time period 11:00-17:00. A more analytical explanation regarding the realization of this plan will be provided later on at the design of the critical location a (p. 192-229).

Apart from the introduction of the car-free streets, there is a proposal for the **reduction of the speed limit of the Vaillantlaan, from 50km/h to 30km/h**. This limitation along with the **pedestrian-friendly design of the crossings points between sub-territories** ensure **safer people’ movements**.

Finally, **residential paths should prioritize pedestrians**. This will be possible through the usage of appropriate materials able to make clear that people have the first word.
FIGURE 12.5. EXISTING DOMINANT USERS OF THE OPEN PUBLIC SPACES

LEGEND

- For all users: strangers and locals.
- For all residents
- For residents living in a physical proximity.
- Boys
- Girls
- Youngsters
- Women
- Neutral
- For animals or pets.
- No users = No publicness
- Train track area
- Water canal

CONCLUSION

The effectiveness of the open public territory is something possible as paths belonging to it, do already absorb people from various districts of the city. Regarding the effectiveness of the residential public territory though; it needs to be designed in a way that it will be able to stimulate residents’ interest in moving within their neighborhood. Thus, the program of the open public spaces need to be complementary, as it has been defined by the Pattern 7; ‘Public space as a system’ (p.145).

In order to examine the current conditions regarding the program of the open public spaces, it is interesting to take a look at the dominant users of them, as they have been defined from the snapshot analysis (Figures 7.16, 7.17 & 7.18). In general, we can conclude that there is no room for all genders and age groups in the public sphere. The youth and the children are the most commonly found users of public space. Among them, girls are the least involved (Figure 12.6) users, something which is very visible while you walk along the public spaces of Schilderswijk. Another important characteristic which should be taken into account is the absence of adults from the public life.
Figure 12.6. Delftselaan in Schilderswijk, The Hague. Girls are trying to find their own space of activity within the open public space. | Source: Author.
Figure 12.7. Suze Robertsonstraat in Schilderswijk, The Hague. Sport fields among the most commonly found activities of the open public spaces in the neighborhood. What is remarkable of those activities is the fact that they stimulate the presence of boys and youngsters within the public sphere. | Source: Author
CONCLUSION

The current geography of the dominant users (Figure 12.5) is directly associated with the fact that the program of the open public spaces is not diverse enough to attract all users. So, apart from the cultural order that wants the woman more invisible in the public sphere, this limitation enhances more the formation of the dominant users.

So, specifically speaking, we can state that the program of the open public spaces is mainly consisted of places meant for children to play and sports while places for the recreation of both the adults and the elderly are hardly found.
FIGURE 12.9. RULES TOWARDS A MORE DIVERSE PROGRAM OF THE OPEN PUBLIC SPACES OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD

In this point, a set of rules have been defined able to create conditions for an open public network characterized by a diverse program and thus, the inclusion of all groups of interest. This will contribute to the idea of a complementary program of the public spaces, as mentioned before. The rules have been formed according to the specific context of Schilderswijk, as they do take into account both the qualities (Figure 7.8) and the problems (Figure 7.10) that need to be tackled.

Source of figure: Author
**CONDITIONS**

03

Public spaces characterized by a remarkable size and that are meant for all.

04

Boys as the dominant user of space.

05

Public spaces along the residential public network.

06

Public amenities like water tanks and public toilets should be placed the maximum 600m from one other, as this distance is considered as the walkable distance for the most vulnerable group: children (Pattern 15, p.161).

**SOLUTION**

03

Different identities

04

Boys and girls should share public space.

05

Activities that deter outsiders from spending enough time at the public space.

**APPLICATION**

**POTENTIAL ADDED FACILITIES**

Open theater
Play with water
Seating steps

Facilities that both genders prefer or facilities that promote play in pairs, especially for the girls (Appendix, p.294-295).

Urban gym

Schools which are located in key locations and which represent a different cultural background from one another (ideas, religion), should be considered as the schools which should function as community hubs (Figure 7.8).
EXPLAINING THE SUGGESTED PROGRAM OF THE OPEN PUBLIC SPACES

Applying the rules which were defined before, the program of the open public spaces becomes more friendly and attractive to the various age groups and genders. The new uses provide a **flexibility** to users to act according to their current situation. For instance, if somebody finds it hard to exercise himself in a specific public space where a certain group dominates it, then he can sure that in a walking distance, only by following a safe route, another place for exercising himself is available for him. And what is remarkable is the fact that this place, even if it is located on the other part of a main street, it still belongs to his own neighborhood.

**LEGEND**

- Public space as a playground
- Sports
- Green park
- Recreation
- Educational character
- Commercial
- Community development
- Multicultural exchange
- Open public territory
- Residential public territory
- Haagse Hopjes; tiny community centers within the public spaces.
- Playgrounds
- Trees
- Basketball field
- Football field
- Farm
- Places for the animals
- Skating
- Open theater
- Urban games
- Urban gym
- Community activities
- Play with water
- Seating steps

Figure 12.11. Related pattern. | Source: Author
FIGURE 12.12. NEW DOMINANT USERS OF THE OPEN PUBLIC SPACES (EXPECTED SITUATION)

LEGEND

- For all users; strangers and locals.
- For all residents
- For residents living in a physical proximity.
- Boys
- Girls
- Youngsters
- Women
- Elderly
- For animals or pets.
- Train track area
- Water canal

EXPLAINING THE NEW GEOGRAPHY OF USERS OF THE PUBLIC NETWORK

At this point it is interesting to relate the new program of the open public network with the new geography of users. What we can state as a general conclusion is the fact that public spaces can now be used in a more systematic and flexible way by all residents. Figure 12.12 could also represent the new levels of publicness.

Additionally, it is interesting to mention that conflicting areas have been transformed into places for all or into places where the conflicting group; youth, is sharing the space with other users. What is more, the appearance of the adults and the elderly becomes even stronger and this is very important as it is totally beneficial for all social groups of a community to be visible in social life, as described in Pattern 11: ‘All can be heard, all can be seen’ (p. 153).
Figure 12.14. Crossing point between De Heemstraat - Delftselaan in Schilderswijk, The Hague. Boy crosses a busy street without parental surveillance; a totally common phenomenon in the study location. | Source: Author
Apart from the need for a complementary program of the public network, the latter should also cover people’ needs. According to analyses, children and youth are the social groups that need the greatest attention.

**Children** are the ones that lack parental care (Figure 12.14) or even the possibility to go and stay at home after school time. The interesting story of the **Eefje Koene** (Interview 17, p.77) according to which a boy was urinating at the front door of a residential building just because his parents were not at home, explains how dire is the need of caring about this group.

On the other hand, the **youth** has a limited amount of possibilities (Figure 12.15), as even the youth centers that are meant for them are insufficient.

The following paragraph provides a set of rules that explain how a caring environment could be strategically embedded in the design of the neighborhood.

**RULES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF CARING NEIGHBORHOOD FOR THE CHILDREN AND THE YOUTH**

In order to construct the caring face of the neighborhood, for the children and the youth, two dimensions have been considered important. What is remarkable is the fact that they derive from either the **qualities of the pattern language** and the **missing points** (Figure 7.7) of the neighborhood and which are related with those groups.

The two dimensions which should be strengthened combined with their rules are the following:

**a. SCHOOLS AS COMMUNITY HUBS**

- Schools that will play this role, should be equally distributed within the study location.
- They should be selected in a way that all different cultural schools (Hindu, Islamic, etc) (Figure 7.8) can contribute to a culturally diverse and coherent community.

**a. PROVISION OF CARING FACILITIES-PUBLIC GOODS**

- Fresh water and public toilets should be equally distributed within the sub-territories so as they can be accessible in a walking distance for the vulnerable users; children and of course the elderly.
FIGURE 12.15. COVERING THE NEEDS OF THE YOUTH & CHILDREN

LEGEND

EXISTING COMMUNITY FACILITIES
- Existing centers for children support.
  - Haagse Hopjes
- Politiekids program
- Existing centers for youth support.
- Community centers
- Cultural uses [theater, library, museum]

ADDED COMMUNITY FACILITIES
- New centers for children support.
- New centers for youth support.
- Schools as community hubs.
- Public toilets/water tanks

Open public territory
Residential public territory
Public functions [residential, educational]
Qualities in a city scale.

EXPLAINING THE CARING FACE OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD

The present map depicts the new image of the caring design of the neighborhood for the sensitive social groups. It illustrates both the existing places for the youth and the children but also the suggested ones. One of the main qualities of this ‘face’ of the strategy is the idea of the school as a community hub, as described in the homonymous pattern (Pattern 15, p.161). In general, schools offer their spatial facilities (either in their outer or their inner space) in order to provide the children and the youth with additional activities. At the same time, such spaces can be valuable for the children, as a place to spend their time when they are not capable of entering their houses. It is needless to say that such areas are in general places where the whole community can meet and interact with each other. Finally, public toilets and fresh water tanks are another elements totally significant to be added. Their equal distribution within the neighborhood’s sub-territories makes them easily accessible for all users.
The present map illustrates all the different kind of interventions in a socio-economic level, that have been proposed for the study location, during the current section.
FIGURE 12.18. CRITICAL LOCATIONS

In order to understand how important elements of the strategy function, three critical locations have been chosen. They are the following:

a. **Hobbemastraat & extensions;** it has to do with the design of the main corridor that strategically connects the area with the China Town district and the city center. The design will reveal how social interaction among strangers and locals will be possible through a diversity of images along the corridor. At the same time, it will be explained what kind of conditions should occur at the crossing points between the open public territory and the residential public territory so as no user will be bothered by the presence of ‘others’.

b. **Crossing at Vaillantlaan;** it has to do with the explanation of how the residential open territory can stimulate safe people’ movements, even at the extreme situation that a busy street -in terms of cars- is an obstacle.

c. **Teniersplantsoen;** this critical location will make clear how a public space can be a ‘place’ where different social, ethnic and age groups can coexist without conflicts.
13
DESIGN OF THE CRITICAL LOCATIONS
13.1 HOBBEAMAATRAAT & EXTENSIONS

**MAIN AIM**

The first critical location which is going to be redesigned is the commercial corridor called Hobbeamaatstraat and also its extensions along the water canal, towards the city center; Hooftskade, Groenewegje-Zuidwal and Groenewegje-Dunne Bierkade. This is because, this street has a strategic location in a city scale, as it has the potential to *facilitate a connection between the city center* (through the China Town district) and the *Haagse Markt* (Figure 13.1). The accumulation of people but also people’s opinions about it (Figure 7.7), do prove that a scenario of transforming the street into a main public path is more than relevant.

*However, why an existing public street with such qualities need to be redesigned?* The answer has to do with the lack of conditions that can stimulate social exchange, the lack of aesthetic appreciation and the unsafety for all users, but particularly for people who live along the street. What is more, the street as a physical *connector* between the city center, China Town and Haagse Markt is totally *unclear*.

Concluding, we can say that according to the strategy, the street is part of the *open public territory*, and thus, it should function as the *place where social interaction will take place between strangers and locals*. So, main aim of the redesign of the whole corridor is to transform it into a more vibrant, public street able to play a key role in a city and in a neighborhood scale. *By investing on the hidden treasure of the area; its local-ethnic shops, by bringing people together and provide them with conditions for social interaction, their perceived liveability for both locals and outsiders could be improved*.

At this stage it is important to analyze specific features of the street in order to understand its structure and its current function.

*Figure 13.1. Overview of the critical location a. | Source: maps.google.com (edited by the author).*
There are four distinctive parts which characterize the different situation and problematics that are found along the corridor. This is totally logical as both the programme and connectivity are changing along it. The four parts are the following:

**Part 1_Hobbemastraat a;** the pure **commercial part** of the street which has an interest in a city and neighborhood scale.

**Part 2_Hobbemastraat b;** a more **mixed part of the street in terms of land-uses**, which is not only consisted by commercial functions but also by a high share of cultural uses (ex. theater, sport center).

**Part 3_Hooftskade & Groenewegje-Zuidwal;** the part of the corridor with a ‘**community character**’ as it includes a series of
educational and religious buildings, but also functions like pharmacy etc. which seems to have importance in a local or in a neighborhood scale. The whole part is developed along the water.

**Part 4_Groenewegje & Dunne Bierkade;** which is the second part which is developed along the water canal and the one that can be characterized as the most residential part. However, offices, bars and restaurants are some of the functions that can be found among the residential parts.

No matter the different conditions and problematics, each part of the street has, it will not be designed as a separate entity. The main idea is the use of common elements (deriving from the pattern language) in order to enhance publicness and social interaction along the whole corridor.
CRITERIA ACCORDING TO WHICH THE AREA WILL BE ANALYSED

Hobbemastraat is the part of the open public territory which according to the strategy should be the place of social interaction between locals and strangers. The following criteria define certain qualities that the street should have in order to function accordingly. What is worth mentioning is the fact that those qualities are included in the qualities that the patterns of the second line represent (Figure II.2).

All in all, the criteria are the following:

a. **Attractiveness**: in terms of an attractive and diverse program of the buildings which are located along the street, able to attract people to explore it.
b. **Sittability**: which means that the street should give to people the possibility not only to walk but also to spend time and thus, interact with ‘others’.
c. **Liveliness**: this criterion has to do with the possibility of the street to be a place for people and not a place for cars.
d. **Aesthetic attractiveness**: which has to do with the provision of an appreciated by people environment able to change positively their perception for this neighborhood.
e. **Safety**: which has to do with the level to which, the build environment itself -either through land use or through the presence of activity-transition zones in front of the buildings meants for the locals- can build a sustainably controlled territory by locals. This is highly important given that this corridor will acquire an importance in a city scale, which means high share of strangers.

FIGURE 13.3. **ATTRACTIVENESS [BASED ON THE EXISTING LAND USES]**

What we notice in the figure above, regarding the current situation, is the fact that this corridor has a great potential to be a key line. This is because it absorbs a series of ethnic shops with a great diversity in terms of the origin of the products not to mention its relationship with the key locations of the Haagse Markt and the China Town. At the same time, there is a series of public functions. However, the area lacks areas for recreation.
LEGEND

- Public functions [religious, educational]
- Local ethnic shops owned by non-western foreigners.
- Multicultural shops
- Haagse Markt
- China Town
- Dutch shops

Open public spaces meant for recreation.
Shops with an international reputation.
Creative functions [culinary-artistic workshops]
Recreational functions [restaurants, cafes]
Low green spaces
Trees

Source of figure: Author
Fistly, we can say that even if the frequency of people that walk along the street in a daily basis is very high (Figure 7.16, 7.17 & 7.18), people do hardly sit or stand (Figure 13.5) along it. What is worth mentioning is the fact that the presented situation is measured for a busy day. Additionally, it is enough to say that the main concentration of people that are standing can be seen at the tram stops, at the ATM bank machines and outside of the existing bars, cafes or restaurants. Undoubtedly, this proves that people do not find the conditions to do so. The map proves the phenomenon of lack of places for people to sit at the public spaces (Figure 13.4).
In general, no matter the lack of areas to sit, Hobbemastraat and its extensions can be characterized as a public path. However, publicness does not necessarily mean liveliness. This is highly related with the limited amount of spaces for people to walk. Especially at the parts a and b of the corridor, the presence of people is unseen, as they are hidden under the stoas of the buildings with the same typology, not to mention that the whole width of the street has been given to cars (Figure 13.2).

Along the first and the second part of the street, it is very hard to see any element that contributes to its aesthetic attractiveness. Even trees have not been planned along them. On the contrary, the rest parts include great qualities like enough trees and the water canal.
LEGEND

- Walkable areas.

Source of figure: Author

LEGEND

- Trees
- Low green
- Yards, or spaces defined by flower pots.
- Pavements
- Water canal

Source of figure: Author
In general, along the whole street, functions that exercise control over the social environment, during the whole day, are hard to be found (Figure 13.8). Characteristic though is the fact that as long as we are moving from the part b towards part d, control is highly dependent on the residential uses. The absence of transition zones in front of them though, between the street and the buildings, make the surveillance by locals an impossible task.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is considered weak?</th>
<th>Possible action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part 1</strong></td>
<td>Lacks facilities that are active during the whole day, places to sit &amp; green areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Enhance surveillance by the 2nd or upper floors &amp; addition of sitting areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part 2</strong></td>
<td>Functions provide control over the social environment in a sporadic way &amp; pure residential parts do not stimulate people's movements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rezoning the plynth of the residential parts, activate vacancies &amp; create sitting areas.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Part 3

Surveillance highly dependent on residences, less public part.

Rezoning the plinth of the residential parts, activate existing qualities; water, existing functions & use open space of public functions.

Part 4

Not enough functions and thus, low publicness. Control is highly dependent on the residences.

Rezoning the plinth of the residential parts, activate existing qualities; water, existing function & add new functions in vacancies.

LEGEND

- Yellow: Function that expresses control until the afternoon.
- Red: Function that expresses control until the closing time of the commercial uses.
- Grey: Function that expresses control until late evening [restaurants, cafes].
- Black: Function that expresses control until midnight or later [bars].
- Dashed: Function that expresses control in a more sporadic way, having the potential to express control during the whole day [public functions, events].
- Green: Yards and transitions zones in front of the buildings that raise the possibility of eyes upon the street.
- Light blue: Residential uses that is unsure that they contribute to the public life of the street.
- Vacant space

Source of figure: Author
The new design of the street proposes only a few changes at the existing program. This happens only at the vacant buildings, where places for temporary events or places where culinary or art workshops could take place. However, the new pavement of the whole street, as a shared street provides a strong connection of all the diverse uses.

The new design includes a great variety of places to sit all along the street. This is totally important as sometimes a bench matters for transforming a space into a place that people have memories from.
LEGEND

- Benches
- Seating steps along the canal.
- Possibility to sit and interact at the parking spaces through the usage of hydraulic urban furniture (Figure 13.17).
- Element along the transition zones of the various functions where sitting or products’ display are possible.
- Possible areas to function as places of social exchange.

Public functions [religious, educational]
Local ethnic shops owned by non-western foreigners.
Multicultural shops
Haagse Markt
China Town
Dutch shops

Open public spaces meant for recreation.
Shops with an international reputation.
Creative functions [culinary-artistic workshops]
Recreational functions [restaurants, cafes]
Low green spaces
Trees

Source of figure: Author
Main interventions here, is the design of the street under the idea of a shared space. The street do also have the possibility to function as a car-free street (p.226-229). One of the main advantage of the new design is the stimulation of people’ movements, not only along the street but also across it.

As it is visible from the map (Figure 13.12), trees become a strong element of the whole street contributing in such a way to the aisthetic attractiveness of the corridor.
LEGEND

- Walkable areas
- Proposed areas which can be included in the open public territory/network and which can function as a place for social exchange.

LEGEND

- Trees
- Low green
- Yards
- Potential areas for becoming a green park along the street.
- Art in public space
- Water canal
- Shared street in one single surface.
Additionally, the new design introduces **transition zones** in front of the commercial and the residential uses, either in the form of a yards or a flexible empty space meant for covering any people’ need. This will undoubtedly increase the possibility of the locals to exercise a **sustainable form of control over the social environment**. Finally, it is worth mentioning that at places like the part a, where residential uses is more absent in the ground floor, control will be exercised from the second and the upper floors. This is possible to be realized with the addition of building masses as an extention of the facades, so as a clearer view towards the street will be provided.
LEGEND

- **Yellow**: Function that expresses control until the afternoon.
- **Red**: Function that expresses control until the closing time of the commercial uses.
- **Gray**: Function that expresses control until late evening [restaurants, cafes].
- **Black**: Function that expresses control until midnight or later [bars].
- **Dashed**: Functions that have had already or that have acquired after the design process, the possibility to express control in a more sporadic way within the whole day.
- **Green**: Yards and transitions zones in front of the buildings that raise the possibility of eyes upon the street.
- **Light Blue**: Residential uses that is unsure that they can contribute to the public life of the street.
- **Black and white**: Vacant space

*Source of figure: Author*
Buffer zone that functions either as a sitting area or as a place where local shops can display their products.

Hydraulic urban furniture can be used when the street is a car-free street. They can be hidden either in the parking areas or in other parts of the street.
NEW SITUATION

Remove the fence one step further. Thus, when the entrance to the sport center is not permitted, possibilities for sitting will occur anyway.

Source of figure: Author
Living with the others. Spatial transformations towards liveability of cities of social diversity: the case of the Schilderswijk, The Hague.
Figure 13.16. This image illustrates the current conditions of the part a of the corridor. | Source: maps.google.com
Figure 13.17. The new shared-space experience of the commercial part of Hobbemastraat.

*Source*: Author
**FIGURE 13.18. ACHIEVED QUALITIES**

- **Now a parking space.**
- **Later on, a seating area due to the usage of hydraulic, hidden urban furniture.**
- **Add green!**
- **Pavement as one surface that permits horizontal movement between facilities.**
- **Concrete stripes on the pavement as an extended line coming from the characteristic columns of the buildings.**
- **Feeling of human scale.**
- **Solar demarcation studs for defining the cars’ path, during the day and night.**
- **Control over the social environment from the second and the upper floors.**

*Source of figure: Author*
Living with the others. Spatial transformations towards liveability of cities of social diversity: the case of the Schilderswijk, The Hague.

FIGURE 13.19. SECTION C-C_PART 3 of the corridor

EXISTING SITUATION

NEW SITUATION

Source of figure: Author
FIGURE 13.20. SECTION D-D_PART 4 of the corridor

EXISTING SITUATION

NEW SITUATION

Source of figure: Author
Living with the others. Spatial transformations towards liveability of cities of social diversity: the case of the Schilderswijk, The Hague.
Figure 13.21. This image illustrates the current conditions of the third part of the corridor. | Source: www.maps.google.com
Living with the others. Spatial transformations towards liveability of cities of social diversity: the case of the Schilderswijk, The Hague.
Figure 13.22. Cultural events as small interventions with a high impact though, on bringing people with ethnic differences, together. | Source: Author
FIGURE 13.23. **THE IDEA**

Now a parking space.

Later on, a seating area due to the usage of hydraulic, hidden urban furniture.

Source of figure: Author
Figure 13.24. This image illustrates the current conditions of the crossing point between Hobbemastraat and the pure residential streets of the neighborhood. | Source: maps.google.com
Have a sit or eat something at the bakery! There is no need for you to move further towards the residential public territory!

Trees and yards as an element that block passers’ view towards the residential public territory.

Narrow, green, vertical paths that make the passer feel that a more ‘private space’ is hidden behind it.
Meet the others
Main pattern that represent the solutions-action for this crossing between the open public territory and the residential public territory.

Use of art on the facade of the sport center as an element able to attract people’ attention.

Figure 13.25. A special design for the crossings points of the open public territory and the residential public territory can provide a peaceful ground where strangers and locals can coexist. [Source: Author]
HOW WILL THE TRAFFIC BE INFLUENCED BY THE IDEA OF THE CAR-FREE STREET?

At this point it is important to explain how the idea of the car-free street will affect the flow of traffic in a city scale. Main intervention in this scale is the change of direction of the street called ‘Buitenom’ and the installation of traffic lights at its crossing with Vaillantlaan.

Figure 13.26. The existing situation of the street network of The Hague. | Source: Author
**EXISTING SITUATION**

**NEW SITUATION**

**LEGEND**
- The arrows show where the traffic has been moved.
- Main street network
- Car-free streets
- Added traffic lights

**Figure 13.27.** Zooming in to the existing conditions of the street network around the study location.  
*Source: Author*

**Figure 13.28.** Main interventions towards an effective function of the car-free streets are the following:  
(a) change of direction of the street called 'Buitenom',  
(b) installation of traffic lights at the crossing point of it with Vaillantlaan,  
(c) strengthening the role of specific streets.  
*Source: Author*
Regarding the street itself; Hobbemastraat will be car-free, only during the Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays (the days during which the Haagse Markt is open) from 9:00-17:00. However, as we saw from the snapshot analysis the street becomes more public after 11:00 (Figures 7.16, 7.17 & 7.18) and thus, it is more effective to function as a car-free street between 11:00-17:00. During that time, cars will be able to reach shops for transferring products or providing any other services.

During the time the street will function as a car-free street, it will be accessible only for emergency reasons by locals that live along the street or by the shop owners. Thus, movable columns will be used in order to prevent the flow of traffic. Some of them will be closed continuously letting only the tram to pass, while the rest can be used for the emergency reasons. Finally, out of the approximate number of 120 parking spaces which are currently available along the street (parts 1 and 2 which will function as a car-free street), the majority of them will be kept as a possibility, through the new design. Specifically, 50 cars will be permitted to stay parked within the car-free street during the time the street is closed in terms of car traffic. Residents and shop owners can arrange the way they will park their cars in a circular way, so as the decision will be fair for all. Additionally, there are parts of the streets connected to Hobbemastraat, which due to their direction they will not be used by cars during the car-free time, anyway. Those streets can have a free access for parking at their empty parking lots, during that time, for the residents and the shop owners alike.
FIGURE 13.30. THE STREET NETWORK RELATED TO HOBBEMASTRAAT (NEW SITUATION)

LEGEND

→ Direction of cars’ flow.
Possible areas for parking.
Car-free part of the street between 11:00-17:00 on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.
Protective-movable columns that can be opened only for the trams’ movements.
Protective-movable columns that can be opened only for an emergency.
Main commercial and public functions of the study location.
Public spaces

Source of figure: Author
13.2. CROSSING AT VAILLANTLAAN

The second location which was selected to be redesigned is one of the crossing points of Vaillantlaan. Vaillantlaan is the busiest street in the neighborhood in terms of car traffic, during the day and night (Figure 13.31). The street has a monotonous structure and function. Specifically, each direction of the street is comprised by two car lanes, a series of parking spaces on both sides, protected bike lanes and pavements (Figures 13.32 & 13.34). All the buildings at the surrounding area, have a residential function and this is why only a few collective entrances are found at their ground floors. This, along with the fact that the buildings are characterized by a strict linearity, generate to the passers, a feeling of walking next to a continuous wall.

The reason why this crossing was selected as a critical location is because of the leading role it can play in a neighborhood scale. By creating conditions that enhance people’ movements, people will be more willing to cross the street or alternative the borders of the sub-territories of their neighborhood and thus, be part of the program which is located on the other side of the car street.

In general, the crossing connects the public spaces of Teniersplantsoen (Critical location c, p.252-276) and the open public space next to Snijderstraat (Figure 13.34). The latter is consisted by different kind of spaces; various playgrounds, football field, places for groups to meet and what is worth mentioning is the fact that they are all attached to one single route. Due to the fact that the logic of this design is similar to the design of Teniersplantsoen, as it will be explained in section 13.3, the square will not be redesigned. The main focus will be on the crossing itself.

MAIN AIM

All in all, the key issue of this critical location is the illustration of a smooth and safe transition between qualities within the neighborhood, even in the extreme situation that pressure is exercised by a busy car street. In other words, the design of this crossing as it is part of the residential public network, will reveal how this network should function effectively.

Figure 13.31. In this figure, we can clearly see the role Vaillantlaan plays in a city scale in terms of car transportation. | Source: google.com/earth (edited by the author).
Figure 13.32. The current conditions of the crossing point at Vaillantlaan. Source: maps.google.com

Figure 13.33. View towards the only public function of the critical location. Source: maps.google.com
PEOPLE’ STORIES
People who were interviewed, made several references in relation to this critical location, the main of whose are the following:

‘...it is very common for parents to outsource the daily shopping like bread or vegetables to children. This fact becomes a problem when you see young children having to cover far distances or cross busy streets in terms of traffic, like Vaillantlaan; a non child-friendly environment.’ (Interview 17, p.77)

Additionally, the workshop with the children revealed that the main streets function as physical borders for them, something that pose limits in their movements through space (Figure 7.13).

LAYERS ACCORDING TO WHICH THE AREA WILL BE ANALYSED
By taking into account the fact that the crossing is part of the residential public network which according to the strategy should stimulate people’s movements with safety, a series of criteria will be analysed for the effectiveness of the final actions. Those criteria are actually the preconditions for achieving the desired conditions of the critical location and they are highly connected with the principles, the patterns of the line 3 are proposing (Figure 11.2).

a. Walkability: the level to which the built environment facilitates people’s movements.

b. The existing level of safety -translated in the privacy zoning- that currently provides or not, surveillance upon the street.

c. As we are talking about a crossing that needs to stimulate people’s movements, the aesthetics of the street are also important. Thus, the existing level of attractiveness will be examined.

d. Liveliness. This criterion is highly associated with possible functions, the street can acquire.
FIGURE 13.34. EXISTING SITUATION OF THE CROSSING OF VAILLANTLAAN

**LEGEND**

- Cars' direction
- Basisschool 't Palet
- Bike lanes
- Trees and low green
- Existing crossing
  - Traffic lights
  - Collective entrances belonging to social housing.
  - Individual entrances

*Source of figure: Author*
FIGURE 13.35. **WALKABILITY**

The existing areas where people can walk are restricted around the building masses, as the area has designed according to a simple typology of street-pavement. Additionally, there is only one crossing that makes transition from one side of the Vaillantlaan to the other possible which is activated only when the traffic light is green for the passers.

![Legend](image1.png)
- **Areas that permit people’s movements**
- **Bike lanes**

**Source of figure:** Author

---

FIGURE 13.36. **SAFETY**

In the present map, we can clearly see the lack of diversification in terms of the territorial depth. Passers can walk along the front entrances of people as there is no transition zones between the buildings and the street. This phenomenon prevent residents from being outside and control space.

![Legend](image2.png)
- **Entrances of public buildings**
- **Collective entrances of social housing**
- **Individual entrances**
- **Buildings**

**PRIVACY ZONING**
- **Main streets; main paths that permit people’s movements**

**Source of figure:** Author
FIGURE 13.37. **ATTRACTIVENESS**

As we can see at the present figure, the streets which are associated with the crossing do not include attractive elements in terms of aesthetics. The only exception is the limited amount of trees.

FIGURE 13.38. **LIVELINESS**

If we take a look at the map we can clearly see that the current design of the street gives more room for the usage of cars. On the contrary, there are no possibilities for people to sit, stand, talk with a neighbor etc.
Living with the others. Spatial transformations towards liveability of cities of social diversity: the case of the Schilderswijk, The Hague.

Source of figure: Author
**LEGEND**

- Main route that unifies important public spaces within the neighborhood and promotes social interaction. The route which should be seen as an art element has as its main idea to inform visually the drivers that this is not a typical street and thus, they should give priority to pedestrians.

- Flexible element along the main public route that forms a guideline for orientation, green spaces, a lighting element, an urban furniture or a playground.

- Individual or shared yards for residents’ activity.

- Buffer zones: flexible spaces in front of the social housing.

- Bike lanes as an extension of the existing ones, (visible on the pavement through the material), in order the cyclists to keep their orientation in space.

- Existing underground parking that can accommodate the cars which were supposed to park at the parking spaces along Vaillantlaan.

- Shared-street surface, 0.15 m higher than the rest parts of the streets, so as to make clear for the drivers that this is a different ‘driving zone’.

**FUNCTIONS:** 1. Spaces for social interaction and movements, 2. Sitting areas, 3. Area which functions as a buffer zone for the school when need be, 4. Green elements that ‘prohibit’ the entrance to the cars.

---

**Figure 13.39. The Design of the Crossing**

**Figure 13.40.** Schemes illustrating the main aim of the design solution; a direct connection between qualities that makes clear the key role of people’s activity. [Source: Author]
Living street

Through the use of the flexible and multipurpose, art element.

Through the use of the elevated platform that gives priority to pedestrians.

Teniersplantsoen

Figure 13.41. Scheme showing how the design solutions are associated with the patterns’ principles of the third line. | Source: Author
EXISTING SITUATION

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING

NEW SITUATION

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING

Source of figure: Author
FIGURE 13.43. SECTION B-B

EXISTING SITUATION

NEW SITUATION
13.2.1 DESIGN EVALUATION

FIGURE 13.44. WALKABILITY
The new design gives the possibility to passers to walk at any place of the crossing, even if some paths are highlighted more by the material. This happens just because the design has as its main aim to guide the flow of people towards the main qualities, offering them at the same time orientation in space.

Source of figure: Author

LEGEND
- Areas that permit people’ movements
- Bike lanes
- New platform 0.15m higher than the rest part of the street where people’ movements and cycling are prioritized under the concept of a shared street.
FIGURE 13.45. SAFETY
The new design provides a greater territorial depth. Yards have been added in front of the residential buildings in order to maximize the presence of residents in the public sphere and thus, provide more eyes upon the streets. At the same time, safety has been increased by the side of passers, as they can also control the social environment. This happens due to the fact that the streets now functions as a play or a seating element.

Source of figure: Author

LEGEND
- Entrances of public buildings
- Collective entrances of social housing
- Individual entrances
- Buildings

PRIVACY ZONING
- Main streets; main paths that permit people’ movements
- Interaction zone; part of the public network in a direct relationship with the main street that functions as a place where social interaction is possible.
- Yards/transition zones; buffer zones between pedestrian paths and the buildings.
Living with the others. Spatial transformations towards liveability of cities of social diversity: the case of the Schilderswijk, The Hague.

**Figure 13.46.** Illustrations of the desired conditions for safe movements or staying at the streets of the critical location. | **Source:** Author

- Added transition zones between the building facade and the street.
- Control by residents
- Control by passers or people who ‘use’ the street as a play or seating element.
- Decrease of car speed due to the street’s formation.
FIGURE 13.47. ATTRACTIVENESS
As we can see at the map, the presence of green is very intense, not to mention that the new play element along the route with its color and qualities, do contribute to the aesthetics of the place.

Source of figure: Author

LEGEND
- Low green
- Trees
- Graffiti
- Buildings
- Route that connects various qualities of the neighborhood and functions as an attractive, guiding element accompanied with an art element.
- Art element that can function as a seating, a playground or a lighting element.
Finally we can clearly see that the street has been transformed from a place dominated by cars to a place where the room is given to people.

**FIGURE 13.48. LIVELINESS**

Source of figure: Author
Figure 13.49. This image illustrates the current conditions of the crossing point at Vaillantlaan. | Source: maps.google.com
Figure 13.50. A liveable crossing at Vaillantlaan where people are welcome not only to walk safely but also to spend time like in any other open public space. | Source: Author
FIGURE 13.5I. ACHIEVED QUALITIES

Height difference between the street and the crossing, the intense green areas and the differences in materials, inform drivers, even from a far distance, for the shared street-crossing.

MATERIAL

Stronger material = stronger route

ANGLE

Angle between the route and cars’ path = priority to people.

Source of figure: Author
Flexible element that facilitates the complementary function of public spaces, as it always guides the flow of people between important qualities of public space.

More green spaces!

Liveliness

Safety = Light!

Source of figure: Author
13.3. TENIERSPLANTSOEN

The third location which were selected to be redesigned in further detail is the Teniersplantsoen; one of the biggest open public spaces within the neighborhood, almost in the heart of it. Its selection was based on two facts. Firstly, its high potential due to the existing program of the square (farm with animals, school) and at the surrounding buildings (community buildings; religious, community centers, school), its size and its existing high publicness (Figure 13.53), make this public space a great example able to show how space can function as a ground for social exchange among different cultures and age groups.

Secondly, a new design has a great challenge; to face through the selected design solutions the conflicts and incidents of anti-social behaviour that do currently occur (Figure 7.10).

PEOPLE’ STORIES
With a first sight, Teniersplantsoen is a totally ‘public’ place that functions properly. Stories of people though, highlight a different image for the square.

‘...What we feel is missing is places for little boys to play, whilst there are enough for the girls and older boys...’ (Interview 02, p.74)

‘...It is hard as a girl or woman to pass from here during the evening. Youngsters may bother you or even steal your mobile phone...’ (Interview 08, p.75)

‘...In Teniersplein for instance, they make a lot of noise something that bother residents that live at the surrounding buildings...’ (Interview 18, p.78)

‘...Speaking about Teniersplein: these young men play football and then climb on the net in order to chill over there. ...’ (Interview 08, p.75)

‘People who visit the community buildings at the surrounding buildings are not welcome in the inner part of public space (Personal observation).
Figure 13.52. Teniersplantsoen in Schilderswijk, The Hague. The community buildings are visible on the right side of the image. | Source: Author
LAYERS ACCORDING TO WHICH THE AREA WILL BE ANALYSED

As we have already mentioned, Teniersplantsoen is a big open space with a great potential to be a ‘place of social exchange’. As a result, the new design needs to set conditions for enhancing tolerance among cultures and dealing with the key issues of the surrounding area, as well (Figure 7.10).

In order to do so, the following layers should be analysed:

a. The level of the existing attractiveness & careness of the public space: what kind of uses are there and which are the actual users of them.

b. The existing level of integration of the qualities, located at the surrounding area of the public space.

c. The existing level of selective control over social interaction. This analysis has to do with the existing zones of public-private spaces that finally consist Teniersplantsoen.

d. The existing levels of safety. This layer has to do with the territorial control the users of space exercise.

ANALYSING THE LAYERS

FIGURE 13.54. ATTRACTIVENESS & CARENESS

Since we are going to talk about uses and users, it is interesting to see how users are changing through time. Their geography do not really change along the day with an exception of the period between 8:00-11:00 in the morning. During that time, mainly woman and girls can be found while afterwards boys and youngsters are obviously the most dominant users (Figure 13.53). One important conclusion though, is that we tend to see specific clusters of users defined of course by the existing program. Young boys and youngsters are mainly concentrated at the football field (Figure 13.54b). In the middle part, a high share of both girls and boys can be seen while men and women offer parental surveillance from the benches that are placed close to the playgrounds. A gap can also be seen at the place where the animal farm is located, since there is no entrance at this part of the square (Figure 13.54a).

LEGEND

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WALKING</th>
<th>STANDING OR</th>
<th>CYCLISTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>Men</td>
<td>Men</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>Boys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>Girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youngsters</td>
<td>Youngsters</td>
<td>Youngsters</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 13.53. Publicness of Teniersplantsoen during various time periods. | Source: Author
FIGURE 13.54a. EXISTING PROGRAM

LEGEND
- Religious buildings
- Playgrounds
- Community facilities [community gardens]
- Sports
- Educational or community uses
- Commercial uses
- Recreation [bars, restaurants, food]
- Services
- Places to sit, recreate or play
- Secondary functions
- Physical environment
- Vacancy

FIGURE 13.54b. EXISTING DOMINANT USERS

LEGEND
- Toddlers [18 months - 3 years]
- Pre-schoolers [3 years - 6 years]
- Middle childhood [6 years - 12 years]
- Children of all ages
- Youngsters or young men
- Youth
- Adults
- Elderly
- Residents
- People that visit the religious buildings
- Groups that prefer to be unseen in public space
- For all
- Public functions

Source of figure: Author
FIGURE 13.55. Social exchange_level of integration of the qualities, located at the surrounding area of the public space.

Even if publicness of Teniersplantsoen is very high during the whole day (Figure 13.53), accessibility seems not to be the case for the immediate surrounding. Public space does not invite the users of the surrounding buildings; religious buildings, multicultural centers, football field, residences, as fences block any dialogue between them.
Figure 13.56. The poor relationship between the public space and the social housing. | Source: Author

Figure 13.57. The poor relationship between the public space and the community buildings. The fence permits only visual contact among them. | Source: maps.google.com
As we can see at the map, the current design of the public space does not facilitate a diversity of privacy zoning. Thus, passers should either choose to be exposed to totally public parts -dominated by youth and children- or just leave the place.
FIGURE 13.59. SAFETY
This map shows the territorial control expressed by the dominant users. Children’ territory cannot be associated with unsafety. However, from a personal experience during a site visit, children have the power to come close to you, take your pen from your hand, even open the zip of your bag (Figure 7.3). As a result, their ability to exercise control over the social environment should not be ignored. The youngsters though, is the most powerful social group, as they make their presence in public space totally visible, especially during the evening and night.
Living with the others. Spatial transformations towards liveability of cities of social diversity: the case of the Schilderswijk, The Hague.
FIGURE 13.60. THE DESIGN OF TENIERSPLANTSOEN

LEGEND

- Main routes that unifies important public spaces within the neighborhood and promotes social interaction.
- Flexible element along the main route with a multiple function; it can guide people's movements, it can accommodate green spaces, it can be a light element, a seating place or a playground.
- Yards
- Buffer zones
- Public functions that play a big role for the community.
  - Existing graffities that depict the social and spatial characteristics of the study area.
  - New graffities which has as their main aim to revitalize the area.
- Trees


EXPLANATION OF No.19 BASISSCHOOL ‘T PALET AS A COMMUNITY HUB

Schools, as we have already mentioned, should play an important role for the vulnerable social group; children, even during the time the schools are normally closed. Basisschool ‘t Palet has a strategic position within Teniersplantsoen. Additionally, the existing situation do already prove that a lot of children spend their time at the square (Figure 13.57). Some of them, it is very likely that they have troubles at home and thus, they need support. As a result, Basisschool ‘t Palet can become a community hub by offering several services. Some of its rooms can be available and thus accessible for the children as an indoor space to play, study, or just spend their time inside, until their parents appear at their houses. Of course, this service can be possible under the surveillance of volunteer teachers, as it happens in other community centers within the neighborhood like the Stuka foundation (Source: www.stuka.nl).
Offered sitting places for the surrounding commercial and recreational functions. Through their provision, strangers can understand that this is the space where they can spend their time, while locals can visually orientate themselves for entering their shared territory.

The addition of transition zones in front of the residential buildings, meant for the residents' actions, creates more possibilities for social interaction and control over the social environment.

The addition of more space at the second floors of the residential buildings, in the form of balconies (Figure 11.27) or building masses that protrudes from the building facades, creates more possibilities for social exchange and control over the social environment. Such conditions are highly important given that the ground level of the buildings is occupied by secondary functions which means an anonymous building environment.

**Figure 13.61.** The principles for a liveable public space as defined from the patterns of the line 4 (Figure 11.2) are visible in the new design. | **Source:** Author
EXISTING SITUATION

NEW SITUATION

FIGURE 13.62. SECTION A-A

Source of figure: Author
13.3.1 DESIGN EVALUATION

**FIGURE 13.63. ATTRACTIVENESS & CARENESS**

The new design has as its main aim to attract a variety of users in terms of age groups and genders. The suggested program was selected according to people’s needs, based on their gender and cultural characteristics (Appendix, p.294-297). Now, the elderly and adults can also be seen at the public sphere, while children of all ages can find their place in space (People’s stories, p.252).

Attractiveness is not only a matter of the program though. Public space have been designed under the idea of unifying elements that promote social interaction. Thus, a certain route becomes the backbone of the residential public network, something which is visible even on the materials of the pavement. This route does not stop at the borders of Teniersplantsoen. It has been extended towards other public spaces of the network. Along this line, other elements can be found, elements that create the need for social interaction. The element follows the route in a continuous way and it can either be a lighting, when a few meters further it can become a seating, a closed box for people to sit and talk, a playground, even a building mass. At the end, this flexibility provides people with tolerance among other people that use the same elements for a different purpose.

All in all, one hand, we are talking about a programmatic attractiveness and on the other hand, attractiveness by certain elements which at the end can maximize social exchange.
FIGURE 13.63a. THE NEW PROGRAM

LEGEND
- Religious buildings
- Playgrounds
- Community facilities [community gardens]
- Sports
- Educational or community uses
- Commercial uses
- Recreation [bars, restaurants, food]
- Services
- Places to sit, recreate or play
- Secondary functions
- Physical environment
- Vacancy

FIGURE 13.63b. EXPECTED DISTRIBUTION OF USERS

LEGEND
- Toddlers [18 months - 3 years]
- Pre-schoolers [3 years - 6 years]
- Middle childhood [6 years - 12 years]
- Children of all ages
- Youngsters or young men
- Youth
- Adults
- Elderly
- Residents
- People that visit the religious buildings
- Groups that prefer to be unseen in public space
- For all
- Public functions

Source of figure: Author
The new design does not promote the usage of borders between the surrounding, public functions and the public space, anymore. As we see at the present figure of the new situation, specific stripes on the pavement, starting from the entrances of the buildings towards the square, have been covered by the same material with the public route, something that invites more people to visit the public space (Figures 13.65 & 13.66). Fences have only been kept at the farm and the football field for security and safety purposes, respectively.
Figure 13.66. The new design stimulates people from the community buildings to attend the public space through various actions: the usage of the same material for the main route of the public space and the routes that connect the latter with the community buildings, the opening of the borders between them and their visual communication which have been derived from the height difference between the square and the level of the community buildings. | Source: Author

Figure 13.67. Social exchange is also possible along the main public route. Specifically, it is the element that unifies all the various uses and thus, brings together the ‘conflicting social groups’; the youth and the elderly, creating conditions for their tolerant coexistence. | Source: Author
**FIGURE 13.68. SELECTIVE CONTROL OVER THE SOCIAL INTERACTION**

The new design provides a diversity in privacy zoning, something that makes tolerance among different age groups and ethnicities, possible.

**LEGEND**
- High publicness [open public territory]
- Public uses with high publicness in a sporadic way.
- Most public parts of the residential public territory.
- Public parts of the public network.
- Small paths or stairwells leading to residential space expansions.
- Transition zones as a space expansion of the residential or public functions.
- Private spaces [residential buildings]
- Art element

**EXISTING SITUATION**

**NEW SITUATION**

Source of figure: Author
Residents themselves can decide if they prefer low green in front of their houses and thus, less privacy or if they prefer to plant trees in order to create their own, hidden territory.

Residences are never connected immediately to the more public parts of the square.

Figure 13.69. Diversity of transition zones between the entrances of the residential buildings and the main public space. | Source: Author
FIGURE 13.70. **SAFETY**

In the new design proposal, the territorial spaces of the youth and the children are more limited. This is because, the new uses of the open public space are meant for all users. As such, ‘social territories’ are blending with each other, something which contributes to a safer social and thus, built environment.

**LEGEND**

- Toddlers (18 months - 3 years)
- Pre-schoolers (3 years - 6 years)
- Middle childhood (6 years - 12 years)
- Children of all ages
- Youngsters or young men
- Youth
- Adults
- Elderly
- Residents
- People that visit the religious buildings
- Groups that prefer to be unseen in public space
- For all
- Public functions

**EXISTING SITUATION**

**NEW SITUATION**

Source of figure: Author
Walk next to the football field or sit at the added seating steps to watch the match!

Figure 13.71. Illustration of the desired conditions for the transformation of a conflicting area into a liveable area. | Source: Author

Figure 13.72. Only by removing the two secondary corridors of the football field, people acquire the possibility to walk next to it or sit at the new steps attached on the secondary functions. | Source: Author
Living with the others. Spatial transformations towards liveability of cities of social diversity: the case of the Schilderswijk, The Hague.

VISUALIZATION OF THE PUBLIC SPACE WHICH IS MEANT FOR ALL

Community functions

Fences
Figure 13.73. This image illustrates the current conditions of Teniersplantsoen. | Source: maps.google.com
Living with the others. Spatial transformations towards liveability of cities of social diversity: the case of the Schilderswijk, The Hague.
Figure 13.74. Part of a main path which belongs to the residential public territory and crosses a public space for all. By public space for all, we mean a place which satisfies the needs of all users, bringing them at the same time together, in a way that the notions of tolerance and social exchange are the main qualities. | Source: Author.
FIGURE 13.75. ACHIEVED QUALITIES

Height difference as an invitation for people from the community buildings to attend the public space.

Element that guides your path, let you play and let you see during the night!

Social glue! Contrasting social groups come together under the main public path.

Connector of facilities

LIVING + ENJOYING

Coexistence of residential uses and highly public functions due to the variety of the privacy zoning.

Source of figure: Author
CONCLUSIONS
14.1. ANSWERING THE SUB-RESEARCH QUESTIONS

After the completion of the whole research and its design outcomes, the answer to the main research question should be provided. Given the fact that it was divided in sub-research questions, an answer to them is equivalent to the answer of the main research question.

SUB-RESEARCH QUESTION 1: What does the notion of liveability mean?

The notion of liveability is a notion which played a leading role during the research which was conducted for the present thesis project, as its rehabilitation was the main aim of it. According to literature, liveability is a great match between an individual and his living environment; physical and social environment. Even if this is a general answer to the question, the answer were enriched along the whole research and especially during the theoretical research, a process that made the definition of liveability more relevant for the multicultural context of the study location (Figure 6.1).

Specifically speaking, the conditions defined for the promotion of liveability in a multicultural environment are the following:

a. Tolerance among the social environment; which in spatial terms can be translated into the notion of privacy zoning and which is able to provide selective control over the social environment of a place.

b. The necessity that the living environment do satisfy people’ needs; which means a flexible program or elements able to satisfy the needs of all ethnic/age groups in the public sphere.

Such conditions were defined after the formation of the approach which was able to deal with the problem of the study location; mismatch between the social and physical conditions of the neighborhood, as anonymity of the physical environment in combination with the lack of socio-economic amenities, construct a perfect setting of anti-social phenomena.

SUB-RESEARCH QUESTION 2: What are the current approaches and policies to deal with socially diverse environments in the Netherlands?

The answer to this question were given through literature review and is of great importance as it gave an insight regarding the existing approaches according to which The Netherlands have been trying to approach problems in multicultural communities. Specifically, the literature research revealed that no matter of the action which is adopted in every case, main aim of the solutions is the diversity of lifestyles within deprived neighborhoods -through the attraction of the middle class- as a tool to promote gentrification.

SUB-RESEARCH QUESTION 3: What is according to literature the linkage between liveability and a healthy public life, in a socially diverse environment?

The answer to this question was given through literature review, as well, and functioned as a challenging question for observing a ‘possible’ alternative approach in order to deal with the multicultural environment of the Schilderswijk. The answer was hidden behind the notion of sustainable liveability; the physical environment needs to be formed in such a way that privacy as a selective control of access and of social interaction will be able to be attained (Figure 5.7). All in all, we are talking about the idea of a clear demarcation between public and private space that can give people with flexibility to act.

SUB-RESEARCH QUESTION 4: Which are the spatial guidelines/principles that contribute to a liveable environment according to general trends and theories?

Literature do also supports a diversity in urban form and program as a way to achieve a liveable environment. Characteristic examples of such principles are the following: multifunctional streets, variation in building age, eyes upon the streets, not too long building blocks (Figure 5.4).

[The findings of the sub-research questions 1-4, formed the main approach of the present thesis project: diversity of the urban form and program under the main thematic of privacy theory].

SUB-RESEARCH QUESTION 5: Which parts of the public network of the Schilderswijk promote a healthy public life and which should be strengthened?

For answering the present question, social research was conducted among the residents, employees and other authorities within the neighborhood (p.65-
SUB-RESEARCH QUESTION 6: Which parts of the public network of the Schilderswijk express an anonymous living environment and how is this related with people’s behaviour in public space?

Given the fact that according to theoretical findings, an anonymous built environment can provide the conditions for the generation of anti-social phenomena, research on the existing level of anonymity was considered totally necessary. Thus, spatial analysis of the urban form where conducted and two main products were produced; a map of the existing levels of privacy (Figure 8.2) and a maps of spatial limitations (Figure 8.1). The analysis shows several problems within the urban fabric of the neighborhood that promote anonymity like the linear building masses, the blind walls, the absence of human scale and transition zones that do not provide possibilities for people to stay outside and thus, interact with each other.

However, such data have no meaning if they are not related to the behaviour of the social environment. Thus, by merging the social and spatial analyses, we can see that anonymity of the urban form is directly associated with conflicting public spaces (Figure 9.2), as theory predicts.

SUB-RESEARCH QUESTION 7: Which spatial interventions can facilitate the need for change?

Spatial interventions or otherwise the design proposals for this certain problematic was the product of usage of a set of patterns, meant for bridging the gap between theory and design. Such patterns were based on the study location’s context and had as their main aim to construct what was suggested by theory: a clear territorial structure that defines the distinction between public and private space. The already fragmented neighborhood by the surrounded infrastructural lines (Figure 7.20), was considered the perfect setting to apply the theory of privacy. Specifically, a new system of public routes organised with a difference in territorial depth. The first kind of routes; the open public territory which was meant for all the residents and visitors alike, was the perfect place for letting people belonging to different social/ethnic backgrounds to interact with each other (Figure 12.2). The second kind of routes have to do with the residential public territory; paths that became more liveable under the aid of certain actions. Namely, we can mention the increase of the territorial depth by adding intermediate spaces (yards, green) between the building entrances and the street, with the same material in order to show the path to all users and transport them from place to place safely. Both territories include the principles of diversity of the urban form and program. Thus, certain elements that attract people’s activity have been designed in a way that they can be used by different users anytime, absorbing possible conflicts among them.
14.2 REFLECTION_CRITICAL VIEW ON THE PROJECT

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE RESEARCH AND DESIGN.

In order to provide a linkage between the theoretical-analytical stage of the present thesis project and the design, patterns were used as a main tool. By patterns, we not only mean a set of empirical rules that represent regularities of behavior, but also a powerful tool that eliminates possibilities and at the same time allow alternative possibilities of design. Through the provision of a pattern language; a framework that permits a coherent combination among patterns, a methodological linkage between the theory and design was possible.

Main aim of the project in general is the rehabilitation of the notion of liveability in the Schilderswijk, The Hague. This multicultural neighborhood, comprised by 110 different nationalities, is part of the city center (Figure 2.11) but lacks attention due to the image it has in a city context. It is the area that suffers from several incidents of anti-social behavior (Figure 7.10) and limited possibilities mainly for the youth and the children (Figure 12.15). As derived from the theoretical research, the rehabilitation of liveability is possible by creating conditions for selective control over the social environment (Figure 5.7). At the same time though, the analysis showed that the most vulnerable group of the neighborhood, either because it is associated with conflicting situations or because of the fact that it lacks amenities, is the children.

As a result, the defined patterns (p.125-161) provided the tools for setting a ground for a flexible design, able to absorb conflicts among different social groups and thus, they were developed under the framework of territorial control. A separation according to scales (Figure 11.2) happened in order to secure a desired level of interaction in all territorial crossings: from people that walk at the street and meet neighbors to the level that people enter a public territory and meet strangers. At the same time though, some of the solutions suggested by patterns are developed in a way that they have an added value for the most vulnerable users of the neighborhood; the children.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE THEME OF THE GRADUATION LAB AND THE SUBJECT/CASE STUDY WHICH WAS CHOSEN WITHIN THIS FRAMEWORK.

There are many reasons that explain the relevance of the topic in relation to the graduation, research theme. First of all, the location of the project is a distinctive part of the urban fabric of The Hague; as a result, we are talking about neighborhood scale. Additionally, the topic requires an understanding on dynamics and variables like the dynamics coming from the city center (since the area is actually part of it). Additionally, a more psychological-driven analysis was necessary as we are talking about a multicultural environment with several conflicts and various scales in terms of human behavior. Finally, main aim of the topic is the sustainable liveability that takes into account the current and future needs of people in order to transform the built environment according to certain principles. All the previous characteristics are main concerns of the research theme ‘Design of the Urban Fabric’.

Regarding the selection of the exact location of the case, even if a lot of similar neighborhoods could be chosen instead, Schilderswijk was considered the most suitable for two reasons. Firstly, the fact that The Hague is a reachable city from the city of Delft, gave me the possibility to carry out frequent site visits, a fact totally important for the topic. Under such conditions, an in-depth social analysis could be possible. Secondly, the fact that the neighborhood is part of the city center -with all the contrasts it may be equivalent- made the problematic really challenging.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE METHODOLOGICAL LINE OF APPROACH OF THE RESEARCH THEME & THE METHODS WHICH WERE CHOSEN IN THE PRESENT GRADUATION PROJECT.

The study of the Urban Fabric research theme suggests various methods in order to approach any topic. In my research, I combined several of those methods. As the topic is a topic with a strong social dimension, both a deep social and spatial analysis were considered important so as to examine where social and spatial problematics meet. For the social analysis, fieldwork was an important tool under the form of personal observations of people’ behavior, interviews of locals and key players of the area and also snapshot analysis for understanding people’ movements. Regarding the spatial analysis; morphological analysis about the level to which the formation of the built environment promotes social interaction, was conducted. The produced map (Figure 8.2) shows where privacy zoning is a key element or otherwise the actual relationship between the building entrances and the street. Additionally, typological analysis of the street network and the building conditions highlighted problem areas that need certain attention.

Interactive methods have also been used during other stages of the research. Specifically, a workshop with students of the neighborhood was organized in order to understand the way, the most vulnerable group does perceive its living environment. Additionally, during a meeting with representatives of the
formal control of the neighborhood, Maarten van Mierlo (Interview 18, p.78) evaluated the findings of the social analysis, as police more than anybody else knows well what is going on at the area. Finally, at the certain moment that the patterns were defined, a pattern workshop (Figure A14, p.310) was organized by students of the urbanism track, having as its main purpose to evaluate the effectiveness of the pattern language.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PROJECT AND THE WIDER SOCIAL CONTEXT.

The rehabilitation of the notion of liveability in Schilderswijk is a topic, totally relevant in a wider social context than that of the city of The Hague. First of all, we can state that the topic is relevant for the Dutch society in general. For one, there have been many discussions for a long time regarding the low liveability rates of various Dutch neighborhoods, mainly characterized by a high share of public housing and culturally mixed population. The problem though, still remains unsolved. For another, the situation is not stable; according to estimations, the most urbanized areas in the Netherlands, where the problem mainly exists, are going to experience a continuous influx of new-comers until 2040. This estimation should function as an alert for action from the side of the urban planners and designers in order to plan for this growth in advance. In such a way, fast and short-term solutions which as history has proved, lead to unsustainable solutions, might be avoided. As a result, an anew research on the topic, in search of sustainable possibilities for the wellbeing of people living in diverse urban environments, was considered necessary.

At the same time though, the issue is relevant in the European context, as the effective regeneration of the urban areas is one of the major challenges for societies across Europe. We are mainly talking about the largest Western European cities that are closely connected to the world’s economy, something which provides a great environment for economic activity and thus, high concentration of less qualified immigrants. Like the Dutch case, such cities experienced the same population forces in the past. Additionally, they face decaying processes with similarities in factors leading to deterioration, are not considered an attractive place to live, express low levels of competitiveness and are socially, economically, ethnically fragmented and sometimes racially ghettoized. As a result, an effective regeneration approach for the Schilderswijk can be considered relevant and transferable, as the general context is quite similar.

REFLECTING ON THE OUTCOME

The present thesis project provided a design proposal which has as its main aim to rehabilitate the notion of liveability, in the extreme situation of a socially diverse environment, consisted by more than 100 different nationalities and less than 10% of indigenous population. Thus, the sensitive, social composition of the study location was considered important to be taken in the center of the research. At the end, those people along with their conflicts and needs, became the protagons of the present design solution.

However, what is the future of the study location if people leave the area? Could the design benefits still remain meaningful for the neighborhood?

It is true that people movements can never be predicted, as they are influenced by various socio-economic factors. The new developments will revitalize the area, increase safety for all the users, not to mention that the area will become more attractive for visitors and residents alike. This may generate gentrification processes, after the attraction of the indigenous population in the neighborhood. Even if it is my firm belief that at least at the early stages, wealthier social groups will be more attracted by the open public territory, it is interesting to examine the extreme scenario that current residents will experience forces to move out from the residential public territory, due to the establishment of higher rental prices.

From a ‘programmatic’ point of view, the proposal could function well even with indigenous population. This is because at the end, general values were achieved; safety, liveliness, inclusion of all age/social groups in public sphere, translated into a flexible space. The cultural orders of the various ethnic groups did not define the design in the form of cultural symbols visible in the public space but rather, enriched the design proposal, giving a deeper variation and flexibility to it. For instance, more spaces for people who prefer a more ‘private appearance’ in the public life were introduced in the form of seating element with curves which provide a closed, public connection, far from the heart of the open public spaces.

Now, from a point of view that focuses on the meaning of the strategy, in the case that the current population will be not the protagons anymore, we can state that the meaning of the clear territorial structure with the two different system of routes may be considered questionable. On one hand, diversity as well as clear demarcation between public and private spaces is always desirable by people, as such conditions give them the advantage of selective control over their social environment. However, the initial main idea for this territorial restructurement was to host different social and ethnic groups by letting them interact or keeping them out of the space of social exchange by giving them the possibility to do so. This idea as I mentioned before, is capable of surviving with indigenous population as well, but it may not be considered
a necessity in that case.

As a result, it would be important for certain policies to be established, policies that will provide more advantages for the non-indigenous population to stay at the area. This is possible giving the fact that migration rates are expected to be increased in a city scale and thus, new migrants can be placed in vacant places, if need be. This will not only support the design solution but at the same time will give a certain socio-spatial identity to the place which is called Schilderswijk, similarly to the clear character ‘China Town’ has in a city scale.

EVALUATION OF THE DESIGN AS A WHOLE

a. SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION

At this point it is crucial to evaluate the outcome of the present research, according to the general conditions which were defined by theory, as conditions to promote liveability in a multicultural context:

a. tolerance among the social environment; which in spatial terms is equivalent to a privacy zoning that provides selective control over the social environment of a place.

b. a living environment that satisfies people’ needs; which means a flexible program or elements able to satisfy the needs of all ethnic or age groups.

Through the research those conditions were translated into other criteria that include the qualities of the previous conditions but are more attached to the context of the study location. Specifically, according to people, the following criteria have a great importance but are the ones missing at the same time from their reality:

a. lack of caring facilities
b. unsafety in terms of people’ movements of all the users
c. lack of spatial opportunities for the youth and children (ex. community centers for the youth or the children)
d. unsafety in public life
e. no integration of all age groups in the public sphere and thus, no interaction among various social groups have been developed.

The proposed strategy for the design of the neighborhood tried to contribute to all these criteria, or otherwise to cover all the people’ necessities.

a. Specifically, a series of carrying functions were added in the form of fresh-water tanks and public toilets, so as each part of the neighborhood could provide this possibility to the vulnerable group of children (Figure 12.15).

b. A series of shared street crossings have been designed in key locations in order to stimulate people’ movements but also ensure a safe transition from place to place within the neighborhood (Figure 12.2).

c.d. Schools that share part of their facilities; either their outer space or specific inner rooms, play an important role for the community development of the children and youth but also the adults. What is more, additional youth centers have been placed in areas where conflicts by youth are considered a problem.

de. The new design proposal provides more possibilities for enhancing the level of social interaction among the various social groups. One hand the residential public territory makes use of the same elements in order to absorb and guide people within the neighborhood. At the same time, flexible elements, placed on both sides of the route are attractive elements meant for multi-purposes by different age groups during the whole day.

b. CONTRIBUTION IN A CITY SCALE

The city of The Hague promotes its multicultural character as it is a city which constantly attracts immigrants and all the administrative services related with that issue. However, even if the city wishes to promote such an image, at the same time, it is considered the most socially fragmented city in a national level (Interview with Stephan Bekx; Policy advisor at the Municipality of The Hague. Appendix, p. 298). This means that the strong character of multicultural districts have not been yet utilized in a creative way. Additionally, future migration will be increased within the following years, something that raises the need for dealing with socially fragmented pieces of urban land, as soon as possible.

The main line at the moment -from the side of the local authorities- is a series of accupunctural interventions for revitalizing ‘problem areas’, strengthening at the same time important corridors in a city scale. Another line is the transformation of vacant office spaces into residences, as a way to deal with the high demand of future migration.

As we see at the map (Figure 14.1), the edges between the city center and the Schilderswijk is one of the possible areas of interventions. It is the point where the ‘open public territory’ which dynamically connects the qualities of the area with the city center is located. Thus, the design proposal could enrich and inform the strategy of the city and this is very important as Schilderswijk.
RECOMMENDATIONS

The present thesis project is an example of how a deprived neighborhood with a multicultural context can become more liveable by redesigning the relationship between public and private space and providing a flexible program. Design solutions could undoubtedly function successfully in other cases as the design promotes *general values* like; safety, liveliness, a deeper territorial depth, flexible design elements able to be used both at the same time or during different time periods by various social groups, increasing in that way the possibilities for social exchange.

As a result, this thesis could function as a case study for locations with a similar context. However, the **point of attention should be at the definition of people’ needs**. The whole process of this graduation project showed that even if there are similar deprived neighborhoods with a high priority of regeneration processes (Figure 2.10), at the end, each and every one of them is different. And this is because the place is the people, and people are always different, even if they come from the same country of origin. In the case of this thesis project for instance, even if the strategy was meant for the good of all the residents, social analysis revealed a sensitivity of the youth and the children living in the area. As a result, the design proposal made those social groups the center of the solutions.

All in all, **an in-depth social analysis could provide a unique direction to any social-driven project**, a direction able to give shape and enrich the values of the elements which can be borrowed from this thesis project.

**EVALUATING THE METHODOLOGY**

Through this section, it is crucial to reflect on the methodology which was used for the structure of the present graduation project.

In general, methodology gave enough room for the social analysis, something which was proved to be totally helpful for the accurate completion of the research. This is because, until the P2 moment, the fact that the area was lacking opportunities for the youth and the children was not visible from any document which was researched up until then. As a result, even if social analysis was hard to be limited in time, as reaching people required certain patience, it was finally totally significant.

At this point though, it is important to be critical regarding the pattern language which played a leading role in bridging the gap between the theory and design. The final set of patterns where not developed immediately. Their initial statement were evaluated by students of Urbanism in the Faculty of Architecture of TU Delft, during a pattern workshop (Figure A14) (Appendix, p.310). Students criticized the effectiveness of each pattern, a process which contributed to a stronger definition of the final set of patterns. However, time limitations did not give enough room for reforming the patterns once again, after the first design proposal, so as both patterns and design could be attached even more.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Although this is an academic, thesis project, the time consumed for its completion, the pressure it put on me and to my social surrounding but also its happy moments, led this project to become a great part of my life. For this reason, I feel the need to transfer through this page a thankful message to all the people involved in this graduation project.

First of all, I would like to thank my first mentor; Birgit Hausleitner, for both the time consumed for our meetings and also for her great ideas that gave shape to my thoughts and ideas for this project. My second mentor; Lei Qu had also a valuable contribution to my project, as she provided me with great ideas from a different perspective, something that enriched my way of thinking. In addition, I would like to thank my external examiner; Martijn Stellingwerff. Even if I have met him only a few times, I really appreciated his open-minded comments as they helped me to plan the next steps of the research, after the P2 and P4 moments.

Additionally, I would like to thank all the people who gave me valuable information for understanding the area’ s problems and qualities. Firstly, I would like to thank the police officers from the Hoefkade Police Station in Schilderswijk, The Hague and specifically, I would like to thank Maarten van Mierlo. He showed a great interest for my research from the very beginning, contributing to it not only through the information he provided me with (Interview 18, p.78), regarding the area, but also through the fact that he evaluated the findings from my social research; incidents of anti-social phenomena (Figure 7.10). Secondly, I would like to thank the coordinators of the ‘Politiekids’ project; Jack Beugelsdijk (Interview 19, p.79) and Eefje Koene (Interview 17, p.77) who invited me to attend one of the sessions of this initiative (Appendix, p.299-301), something that enriched my perception for the social environment of the neighborhood.

I would also like to thank Sandra Sturris; volunteer teacher at Stuka foundation for helping me to arrange the workshops with the children. Additionally, I feel thankful to all the people (residents, former residents, employees, students etc) who participated in the interviews’ process, as their stories were the meaning and the heart of this project.

Finally, I would like to thank my family and close friends for their support and their patience during this stressful academic year.


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Living with the others. Spatial transformations towards liveability of cities of social diversity: the case of the Schilderswijk, The Hague.
APPENDIX
SPATIAL NEEDS OF VARIOUS AGE GROUPS

Main purpose of this section is to research the ‘spatial needs’ of the various age groups and genders, according to their expectations in terms of program, in public space.

TODDLERS: 18 months - 3 years

Children of this age are great explorers of the physical environment. They do so with all their senses. They like to observe characteristics of items but also to climb, run and slide.

Thus, elements like water, sand or even mud are attractive for them. Sand pits, water plays, easy jungle gyms are some of the activities that can be found in public space and stimulate their senses.

PRE-SCHOOLERS: 3 years - 6 years

Children of this age are mainly involved in social life. They start to develop their social skills through cooperative games with their ‘best friends’. Thus, through their play they do have the need to express their improved skills of speech, muscle coordination and physical agility.

There are many kind of spaces able to satisfy their needs. Among them, areas were they can climb or balance themselves, natural environment for them to discover (animal farm, plants and insects for observations). Additionally, they need areas where they can ride their bikes, areas to deal with water, places to hop and chase.

MIDDLE CHILDHOOD: 6 years - 12 years

Children of this age are more involved in social play and thus, the feeling of inclusion or exclusion is very high. Additionally, they tend to play in far distances from their home, as they are more independent. Thus, public spaces should be safe and challenging for them. Places for sports, climbing, exploring games, playing hopscotch, elastic jumping or more private spaces that permit them to develop imagination games (tents, tree houses) are some of the examples of suitable spaces for them. However, a lot of indoor activities like mind games (board games, dance, drama, craft skills) are also important for them.

TEENAGERS: 12 years - 18 years

Even if teenagers already start to have interests other than those younger children have, they do still have the need to play. Play can be in the form of sports, cultural activities or clubs for hobbies and other events.

YOUTH

Youth is a special group in our societies. In most of cases though, they are the social group which is stigmatized by the way they are dressed and act in public sphere. As a result, there are many examples of ‘not seen and not heard’ strategies: strategies that want young people to act in outskirts of towns or basements of shopping malls. On one hand, such actions ‘secure’ non-conflicting areas for all, while on the other hand, exclude the youth from the possibility to interact with other people in a city scale.

As it is logical, these strategies have failed due to the fact that they do not take into account the needs of young people. Young people have the need of an attractive, shared community space where they can be involved, act and remain visible. All in all, they need to observe the social and cultural capital of their communities and learn how to eliminate conflict. A safe place is the precondition to achieve those skills especially for young women.

To sum up, social integration, safety and freedom of movement are the physical and social qualities, young people are seeking for in public spaces (Clawla, 2002). At the same time though, a street is the place where young people want to express themselves without a close parental or adult control.

Spaces that can facilitate their needs are the following: sports that they can improve their skills with (ex. dance, music, art), youth clubs that can provide them with meeting places to play games, sport fields and courts or adventure challenges (ex. hiking, outdoor adventure games, rock climbing, access to arts and cultural facilities like theater or other events).

GENDER AND PLAY

Preschool children unlike younger ones that play with all genders, tend to play nearly three times more with children of the same sex, a fact increased over 11 times around the age of 6 (Maccoby & Jacklin’ s, 1987). Additionally, quality of play changes depending on the gender. Boys’ play is more active and forceful as they are involved in activities like fighting or taunting (Maccoby, 1990).
especially when they are among with each other (Fabes et al., 2003).

On the other side, girls are more often seen playing in pairs (Fabes et al., 2003). This difference among groups results in different kind of interaction; more conflicting and competitive relationship among boys and more sensitivity to others’ needs among girls. Additionally, girls are more often kept within the home environment to play for cultural and safety reasons.

Awareness of the aggressiveness which is developed at the early years of a child’s life is very crucial, as it is directly associated with the possibility of expression of anti-social behaviour.

**ELDERLY**

Elderly is one of the most sensitive groups, similarly to children, in cities. It is really common though, the fact that the built environment does not take into account their spatial needs.

Sunny parks and plazas where they can spend their time are of great importance for them but also according to theory, as the core areas for socializing with others are the sidewalks, plazas and parks. It is very often for the elderly to arrive alone at such areas with the purpose to meet their friends, play board games, chat or drink a cup of coffee. The following words expresses the importance of such values (Peñalosa, 2004; Efroymson et al., 2009):

’...the more civilized city is not the one with highways, but the one where a child in a tricycle can move about everywhere safely (p.64).

Taming the traffic is another important action which should be taken into account, as the physical movements of the elderly in space are not fast.

**ADULTS**

It is usually believed that adults are serious people being involved in serious activities. Additionally, they are mainly associated with going to shopping malls or eating in restaurants. However, nothing is more pleasant for them than to have outdoor, recreational opportunities. This may mean an enjoyable, pleasant park where they can observe, meet strangers and/or neighbors and learn how to love their cities (Efroymson et al., 2009).

Streets are not just a play space for children, they are also a play space for adults (Engwicht, 1999). So, play is also something adults are seeking for, through their children’ play, as it is an essential part of human being. ‘People watching’ is a form of adults’. During this play we can make up stories about others, stories which allow us to consider and weigh our own life choices and thus, to conclude to wiser decisions (Engwicht, 1999).
CULTURAL ORDER

“When public spaces are successful [...] they will increase opportunities to participate in communal activity. This fellowship in the open nurtures the growth of public life, which is stunted by the social isolation of ghettos and suburbs. In the parks, plazas, markets, waterfronts, and natural areas of our cities, people from different cultural groups can come together in a supportive context of mutual enjoyment. As these experiences are repeated, public spaces become vessels to carry positive communal meanings’. (Carr, Francis, Rivlin & Stone, 1993, p. 344).

MULTICULTURAL ASPECTS

At this point, it is important to understand the equivocal meaning of the words ‘public’ and ‘public sphere’ for various cultures, a meaning that can promote, or not, the success of public spaces. Characteristics and definitions of public spaces will be included in the research regarding the two most dominant cultures of the neighborhood; the Turkish and Moroccan. The intention of such characteristics is not to include them in public space in the form of ethnic symbol but rather to enrich the possibilities and diversity of the public space, by using values which are important by different cultures.

TURKISH CULTURE

Traditionally, the turkish social structure is embedded in religion, as religion functioned as a tool to unify multi-ethnic population during the establishment of the Turkish Republic. Additionally, even up until today, the political power over public space and specifically, the recreational uses, is totally high. The main line in general is the promotion of an ideology through public space, something which they tried to achieve through the addition of symbols like statues of political heroes or the organization of collective demonstrations in public space. Another characteristic of life in the public sphere was the clear position of genders. Men used to be totally visible in public spaces, while women were more invisible.

However, things are changing lately through different movements like the ‘Gezi movement’. As a result, both the idea of a public space as a propaganda machine and as a space that shows masculine attributes, have started to be eliminated. At the same time, they have started to illustrate how democratic public spaces can be constructed by mobilizing different genders under the same place.

CONCLUSION

The previous approaches and characteristics are not so relevant for the Turkish people living in the neighborhood. This is because of the fact that they are immigrants and thus, more open to the dutch culture and social challenges.

As a result, we can state that there is no need for keeping any characteristic of the traditional turkish ones like the invisible role of woman in public space. However, **any woman who still seeks for privacy in the public space, can select to do so, within the diverse program and elements of public space.**

Additionally, even if modernization processes are taking place in their country of origin, **religion is still an important part of the immigrants’ lives and thus, it should be integrated in the program of the public network.**

MOROCCAN CULTURE

The second biggest ethnic group in terms of population within the Schiderswijk is Moroccan people. The terms ‘public’ and ‘private’ space have a different meaning in their culture as well. Their definition have to do with the position of genders.

**Public space is considered the street and the market place where men can be found and interact.** It is the place where men shows their power over the world (state and domestic). On the other hand, **private space is considered the home where women do act** (Bellarbi, 1997; Bourqia, 1997). In other words, it is the place where the powerless people; women and children can be found.

It is remarkable though that such a strict dichotomy between the exterior/public space, where men show their power and the interior/private space, where this power is exercised, is an approach which is in accordance with the Arab-Muslim patriarchy (Mernissi, 1975). Such control is also promoted by the law; the 1993 Moroccan ‘Personal Status Code’ (Articles 34 & 35), according to which the man should have control over the wife, while the latter can leave the house when it is necessary.

Even if the dichotomy is so rigid, women are allowed to be seen in public space but not to spend a lot of time outside. Hammams (public baths) and hairdresser’s are some examples of places where women can go and feel free to talk, smoke and act. At the moment, feminization movements are trying to
strengthen women’ position, but even all the trials, some characteristics still remain the same. For instance, actions like women sitting alone in cafes, smoking or drinking in public space are considered a taboo. Additionally, women being outside, especially during the night feel unsafe due to the violating malespace. This phenomenon explains the absence of spontaneous mixity on the street.

It is remarkable though to mention that Moroccan immigrants living in Europe, consider Morocco as their private space, a space where their traditions are kept alive (Belarbi 1997). This implies that dichotomy is not totally present within immigrants. And indeed, from the social research of the present thesis we can also mention that Moroccan women have been seen to spend time in public space (Interview 02, p.74), having time as their only restriction. This is because they can stay outside only during the daytime.

**CONCLUSION**

Concluding we can state that even if the situation is getting better, the cultural meaning of the position of genders remains untouched. Specifically, there should be a variation in possibilities for holding places where women can stay together and interact. In such a way, a dialectic relationship between the ‘public and private spaces’, can give birth to a number of intermediate spaces.
INTERVIEW 30. STEPHAN BEKX

This interview was conducted in the City Hall of The Hague on Friday 21 November 2014 with Stephan Bekx; policy advisor in the municipality of The Hague. Main purpose of this interview was the provision of general information regarding the approaches, the local authorities adopt for deprived neighborhoods but also a reflection on the updated version of the ‘Structuurvisie Den Haag 2020’. At the same time, valuable data regarding the social environment of Schilderswijk were provided. References of the data derived from this interview have been included in the text of each section and can be found at the following pages: 34, 35, 59, 284 & 285.

Figure A1. Interior view of the City Hall of The Hague; the location of the interview. | Source: Author
PARTICIPATION IN A POLITIEKIDS’ SESSION

This session of the ‘Politiekids’ initiative took place on Wednesday 18 March 2015, in the Police Station ‘Hoefkade’ in Schilderswijk, The Hague. The purpose of this session was to inform children regarding how they can avoid a pickpocketing experience. The session lasted for three hours, between 12:00-15:00 and was divided in two parts; a field work where students had to inform passers about pickpocketing and a presentation regarding this anti-social phenomenon. The event was a valuable experience for the research of this graduation project, as I came into contact with an important initiative which focuses on the vulnerable group of the social environment of Schilderswijk, not to mention that through the direct contact with a high share of children, living in the neighborhood, I acquired the possibility to understand their mentality and the way they act in space.

Figure A2. Booklets including the knowledge a ‘Politiekid’ should have! Each booklet belongs to a specific child and is given back to it during the Politie kids’ sessions. | Source: Author
PART 1_FIELD WORK

The first part of the Politiekids’ session included a field work at the area around the Den Haag HS Railway Station, The Hague. Main purpose of it was the children to play the role of policemen and inform passers regarding how they can avoid pickpocketing.
PART 2_PRESENTATION

The second part of the Politiekids’ session included a presentation regarding pickpocketing, in the Police Station. During this part, Jack Beugelsdijk; the second organiser of this initiative, showed several videos of incidents of pickpocketing, trying in this way to explain to children the mentality of the perpetrators. Live representations of such incidents between the organiser and the children and related to the topic theory were also provided.

*Figure A5.* Eefje Koene while introducing the parts of the session. | *Source:* Author

*Figure A6.* Live representation of an incident of pickpocketing between children and Jack Beugelsdijk. | *Source:* Author
COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES FROM THE CHILDREN’ WORKSHOP

GIRL 9 YEARS OLD [INTERVIEW 26]

ACTIVITY 1. DISCOVER YOUR NETWORK

1. Can you find your house on the map? 📹
2. Can you also find and map your best friend(s) house(s) that you visit? 📚
3. Where is your school? 🏫
4. Are you doing sports or other hobbies? If so, where? 🏞
5. Where do you meet your friends? (example: cafes, squares, parks) ▲

ACTIVITY 2. DEFINE YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

6. Show your neighborhood on the map.  
7. Write 3 words that characterize your neighborhood.
   a. Nice  
   b. Big  
   c. Friendly
8. What do you like the most from your neighborhood?
   I love to play out sick with friends and
   people
9. Is there anything you do not like and you would like it to be changed? Why?
   We're not rich and i don't like
   like that
10. How does your neighborhood look like? Draw key elements (examples: how the streets look like, if there are trees, if people are walking, talking).

ACTIVITY 3. CHARACTERIZING YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

11. Circle with green color safe areas of your neighborhood. (example: areas you feel safe and comfortable to be or meet friends).
12. Mark with a red color unsafe areas of your neighborhood. (example: dark streets during the night, areas where you feel discomfort to be or your parents do not let you be, areas where bad things happen)
13. Write a word with a red color for each and every one of them in order to explain why they are not safe.

BOY 16 YEARS OLD [INTERVIEW 29]

ACTIVITY 1. DISCOVER YOUR NETWORK

1. Can you find your house on the map? 📹
2. Can you also find and map your best friend(s) house(s) that you visit? 📚
3. Where is your school? 🏫
4. Are you doing sports or other hobbies? If so, where? 🏞
5. Where do you meet your friends? (example: cafes, squares, parks) ▲

ACTIVITY 2. DEFINE YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

6. Show your neighborhood on the map.  
7. Write 3 words that characterize your neighborhood.
   a. Not what people think it is  
   b. Intimidating
8. What do you like the most from your neighborhood?
   (close to relatives and stores. Warm people. Not every-
   body)
9. Is there anything you do not like and you would like it to be changed? Why?
   No there isn't.
10. How does your neighborhood look like? Draw key elements (examples: how the streets look like, if there are trees, if people are walking, talking).

ACTIVITY 3. CHARACTERIZING YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

11. Circle with green color safe areas of your neighborhood. (example: areas you feel safe and comfortable to be or meet friends).
12. Mark with a red color unsafe areas of your neighborhood. (example: dark streets during the night, areas where you feel discomfort to be or your parents do not let you be, areas where bad things happen)
13. Write a word with a red color for each and every one of them in order to explain why they are not safe.

Figure A7. This figure illustrates the completed questionnaires by the children who participated in the Children' Workshop at the Stuka foundation. | Source: Author
BOY 15 YEARS OLD [INTERVIEW 28]

ACTIVITY 1: DISCOVER YOUR NETWORK

1. Can you find your house on the map?
2. Can you also find and map your best friend(s) house(s) that you visit?
3. Where is your school?
4. Are you doing sports or other hobbies? If so, where?
5. Where do you meet your friends? (example: cafes, squares, parks)

ACTIVITY 2: DEFINE YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

6. Show your neighborhood on the map.
7. Write 3 words that characterize your neighborhood.
   a) ________
   b) ________
   c) ________

8. What do you like the most from your neighborhood?
   ________________________________
   A. There is no discrimination like other ________
   places in The Hague.

9. Is there anything you do not like and you would like it to be changed? Why?
   ________________________________
   B. ________

10. How does your neighborhood look like? Draw key elements (examples: how the streets look like, if there are trees, if people are walking, talking).

ACTIVITY 3: CHARACTERIZING YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

11. Circle with green color safe areas of your neighborhood. (example: areas you feel safe and comfortable to be or meet friends).
12. Mark with a red color unsafe areas of your neighborhood. (example: dark streets during the night, areas where you feel discomfort to be or your parents do not let you be, areas where bad things happen).
13. Write a word with a red color for each and every one of them in order to explain why they are not safe.

GIRL 12 YEARS OLD [INTERVIEW 27]

ACTIVITY 1: DISCOVER YOUR NETWORK

1. Can you find your house on the map?
2. Can you also find and map your best friend(s) house(s) that you visit?
3. Where is your school?
4. Are you doing sports or other hobbies? If so, where?
5. Where do you meet your friends? (example: cafes, squares, parks)

ACTIVITY 2: DEFINE YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

6. Show your neighborhood on the map.
7. Write 3 words that characterize your neighborhood.
   a) ________
   b) ________
   c) ________

8. What do you like the most from your neighborhood?
   ________________________________
   That my friends live near by.

9. Is there anything you do not like and you would like it to be changed? Why?
   ________________________________
   There are too many children in the neighborhood.

10. How does your neighborhood look like? Draw key elements (examples: how the streets look like, if there are trees, if people are walking, talking).

ACTIVITY 3: CHARACTERIZING YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

11. Circle with green color safe areas of your neighborhood. (example: areas you feel safe and comfortable to be or meet friends).
12. Mark with a red color unsafe areas of your neighborhood. (example: dark streets during the night, areas where you feel discomfort to be or your parents do not let you be, areas where bad things happen).
13. Write a word with a red color for each and every one of them in order to explain why they are not safe.
PREPARING THE SNAPSHOT ANALYSIS

This section provides an insight regarding the route which was defined for the effective completion of the snapshot analysis. The initial products of the analysis have also been included.

**START**
Loosduinseweg - Zusterstraat

**END**
Den Haag HS Railway Station

Total distance of the route: 19.08 km

**LEGEND**
- Route which has been followed for the conduction of the snapshot analysis.
- Street network
- Public spaces

*Figure A8. This figure illustrates the route which was followed as a basis for covering the whole street network of Schilderswijk, during the conduction of the snapshot analysis. | Source: Author*
SNAPSHOT ANALYSIS (08:00 - 11:00)

Figure A9. This figure shows the data collected during the snapshot analysis for the time period between 8:00-11:00. The analysis was completed after three site visits. Each site visit is visible from the different color which has been used for its data. | Source: Author
SNAPSHOT ANALYSIS (11:00 - 14:00)

LEGEND

- 28 February 2015
- 7 March 2015

Figure A10. This figure shows the data collected during the snapshot analysis for the time period between 11:00-14:00. The analysis was completed after two site visits. Each site visit is visible from the different color which has been used for its data. | Source: Author
SNAPSHOT ANALYSIS (14:00 - 17:00)

Figure A11. This figure shows the data collected during the snapshot analysis for the time period between 14:00-17:00. The analysis was completed after three site visits. Each site visit is visible from the different color which has been used for its data. | Source: Author
Apart from the literature review, the theoretical framework were also affected by ideas which derived from several sources, one of which was the Interfaith Conference 2014: Faith & Justice. The conference took place in the ISS: Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, on Saturday 15 November 2014. Main aim of the it was to reveal how different cultures in cities can promote an interesting public life, rather than creating walls among various social groups. One of the main notions that played a key role to the present graduation project is the notion of ‘tolerance’. It was mentioned as a main precondition for bringing bridges among different cultures, during the group session: ‘Faith, justice and migration’ which I attended.

Furthermore, its contribution to my research was significant, as it helped me formulate my ideas and find the key line of the project. Specifically, one of the main conclusions-questions of the conference was: How can we create a culture of justice? The question generated a series of other questions to me with the following being the most important: What kind of space can facilitate this culture of justice?

Figure A12. This picture has been taken at the end of the Interfaith Conference 2014: Faith & Justice and depicts all the participants. | Source: ISS: Institute of Social Studies, The Hague
Figure A13. Snapshot from the fifth group session: Faith, justice and migration. | Source: ISS: Institute of Social Studies, The Hague
This pattern workshop was the second part of the pattern workshop led by Machiel van Dorst, Associate professor, Chair of Environmental Design, on Friday 27 March 2015. The second part of the workshop, were conducted on Tuesday 7 April 2015, between 10:00-14:00, among students of the Faculty of Architecture belonging to the Urbanism track. Then, the first definition of the pattern language, each student had developed so far and especially, its effectiveness was criticized. In the beginning, students had to study the patterns of the other students and then ‘judge’ them. For the latter, stickers with different colors were used (Figure A14). In the end, an in-depth discussion followed, during which explanations, suggestions and advice were given among students, for the effective completion of the pattern languages.

**Pattern that can work perfectly for the given social context of the study area.**

**Pattern which has a general interest and its values should be examined more in order to fit to the project’s context.**

**Pattern that raise doubts regarding its ability to work effectively.**

*Figure A14.* First definition of my patterns, as presented on the wall, during the pattern workshop. The stickers which are attached on the patterns represent the positive or negative comments of the students of Urbanism. | *Source: Author*