

# Design game

## GROUP 1

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Social Inequality in  
the city, Diversity  
and Design

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## Introduction

Social injustice is an issue that still strongly influences our urban spaces today. Subliminal mechanisms lead to the social exclusion of certain disadvantaged groups and to socio-spatial polarisation of whole neighbourhoods. Within the framework of the course Social Inequality in the City, Diversity and Design we were given insight into these mechanisms. Although social injustice is initially attributed to politics, the built environment is the main expression of these decisions. The course has illuminated how certain political decisions and policies are expressed in the built environment and how these spatial changes have serious consequences for the social environment. The effects of social inequality are complex and influenced by several dimensions like education, income and migration background. The extent of social inequality within cities can also be directly influenced through urban policies. Policies promoting gentrification of certain neighbourhoods, for example, can strongly impact which social group is able to live in specific areas of the city. However, policies can also aim to increase the liveability in cities. Through lectures, articles, and teaching material we were equipped with knowledge that was to be applied to a neighbourhood in The Hague.

The Hague is the most segregated city in the Netherlands and a prime example for the power (and lack thereof) of urban policies. The design presented in this paper looks at the case of a neighbourhood in the Southwest of the Hague. The whole Southwest has been negatively affected by past policies and is now known as a “problem area”. More specifically, the statistics show that in the Hague Southwest issue of long-term unemployment, poverty, debt, radicalisation, polarisation, feelings of insecurity, degeneration and health problems are more present than in the national average.<sup>1</sup> The specific neighbourhood we looked at is Dreven, Gaarden and Zichten. Next to the general challenges that the Southwest faces, this neighbourhood and its residents also face reconstruction which for some of the residents also means relocation in an unspecified amount of time. This poses a particular challenge, both for the residents and the design.

We attempted to tackle this challenge in a group of students with different study backgrounds. A strategic plan needed to be made, focusing on socio-physical interventions, with one of the main goals being to make it more attractive to live in and connect the residents. With the help of the different interesting lectures, observations, and the Buurtbakkie event, we were able to get an insight into the neighbourhood dynamics. Through these we decided to focus on multiple groups in the neighbourhoods, namely on children, parents and the elderly. After getting to know the neighbourhood and thinking about how to best address the issues that the people in these groups face, we decided it would be best to create multiple, smaller, decentralised

<sup>1</sup> Den Haag (Ed.). (2021). Dreven, Gaarden en Zichten: bouwen aan een betere buurt. Redirect. Retrieved April 6, 2022, from <https://www.denhaag.nl/nl/in-de-stad/wonen-en-bouwen/ontwikkelingen-in-de-stad/ontwikkelingen-den-haag-zuid-west/dreven-gaarden-en-zichten-bouwen-aan-een-betere-buurt.html/>



interventions instead of one large one. To make them as accessible as possible, these interventions are meant to be a part of day-to-day activities that the residents engage in. We have deliberately chosen to link these interventions to existing places of gathering. In doing so, we want to acknowledge the residents' routines and enrich them with our identified interventions and activities. By doing so, we aim to create a welcoming and familiar environment. The interventions created are related to seating, reading, gardening, drinking and playing. By offering several activities and linking them together, we want to address the needs of the residents on the one hand and on the other hand stimulate interaction among different age groups. We believe that these interventions will improve the neighbourhood's liveability and engage interaction among the residents.

The course literature we used was centred around the book *Public Space* (2008) written by Matthew Camona, an architect and researcher and his colleagues. This book is a valuable source as it talks about what constitutes a public space and how these spaces are best managed and maintained. We mainly rely on their definitions and interpretations. Furthermore we incorporated concepts developed by Jahn Gehl, an architect and urban design consultant. His strategies and ideas are touched upon in the book *Public Space*. Furthermore, we informed ourselves about the neighbourhood through the website of the municipality. The municipality's website had policy plans, information about the neighbourhood, interventions that were already done and interventions in other neighbourhoods that we could use. With regard to the respective design interventions, we have been inspired by successful reference projects.

This document will firstly provide some background information on the neighbourhood. Then it will address the methodology underlying the design. After having established this, each of the four assignments that laid the basis for this design will be addressed in turn, ranging from the first impressions, over the analyses, to our design proposal. It will be concluded with a short reflection on the assignment.





## Methodology

Our method of analysis was both quantitative and qualitative. These two methods were alternating and we were trying to understand them in connection to one another. First, we researched general information about the neighbourhood regarding its social makeup, quality and type of housing and its history regarding its reputation and reconstruction. For the qualitative analysis we first went to the neighbourhood for observations. We specified a route and already discussed topics, in order to know what we should focus on during our observations. As our target group were initially children, we were looking for outdoor places where children could spend their time - mostly likely playgrounds. Secondly, we were observing the quality of the public space regarding the amount of seating areas and the amount of greenery in the public space. Thirdly, we looked at where people are most likely to spend their time.

For the second part of the qualitative analysis, we were able to interview residents within the framework of the Buurtbakkie event. In total 5 interviews were conducted with people of various backgrounds and age groups. The quantitative analysis was conducted through studying different statistics from the neighbourhood. There were certain statistics we were closely studying such as the well-being in the neighbourhood, age groups, household composition and migration background. The quantitative analysis was conducted through studying different statistics from the neighbourhood. There were certain statistics we were closely studying such as the well-being in the neighbourhood, age groups, household composition and migration background.

With regard to the individual interventions, we were inspired by successful reference projects and integrated them into the design. It is important to emphasise that there were several limitations that influenced our research and our design decisions. First of all we were only able to spend 3 days in the neighbourhood with notably good weather conditions, which influenced the whole atmosphere and the fact that more people were outside. This would probably change in different weather conditions. To create more objective conclusions, we would need to go to the neighbourhood during various times and various seasons and weather conditions. Secondly we were not able to interview an ample amount of people in order to gain enough information. There are 10.935 residents in the neighbourhood. We would need to spend more time with them and talk to more people in a dedicated area to be able to make concrete conclusions about their needs. The interviews we conducted might show opinions, however we do not know how popular these opinions are. Also, we have entered the residents' space in an invasive manner, by opening the doors ourselves. This could have had an influence on residents' willingness to talk to us or share their views.

Lastly, we have to note we were informed about the poor conditions of the neighbourhood before hand, this could have led to bias that might have influenced our design decision. Due to the limited interviews we were able to conduct, we were mostly relying on our own impressions, which influenced our perception of the neighbourhood.



# Assignment 1



## Neighbourhood Changes in Dreven/Gaarden/Zichten

The Hague Southwest has been described as an area with “many problems” concerning various aspects. These include; long-term unemployment, poverty, debt, radicalisation, polarisation, increasing feelings of insecurity, degeneration, health problems and growing underprivileged young people in a socially weak environment. In an attempt to revitalise the area, a plan has been put into place by the municipality, which attempts to address six areas: citizen participation, safety, health, sport, low literacy and work. It includes three pillars: the first centring around local social participation projects; the second around resident well-being and development; the third around job-related skills and talents.<sup>1</sup>

In 2021, Dreven and Gaarden together had 10.935 inhabitants and Zichten had 7.930. The total amount of inhabitants means that these areas are seen as big neighbourhoods in the Netherlands.<sup>2</sup>

Currently, the municipality of The Hague is working on development in the neighbourhood. In collaboration with project designer Heijmans, Staedion, the housing corporation, wants to change the old buildings after World War II to make them a more suitable living area. These plans are very recent. In February 2022, they voted for the plans in the municipality. These plans are for the upcoming ten years. They can be divided in medium and long term plans. Medium actually means that they are more easily applied than the long term plans. They consist the following parts:

- Upgrading existing housing: The housing that cannot be renovated because they are too old will be demolished. Instead of these old houses, new social housing will come back. This part is for the long term.
- More and diverse housing. More housing so the neighbourhood can be expanded and diverse so different people can live in the neighbourhood: This is for the long term.
- More facilities, especially when there are more houses. This change is for the medium term.
- More effective use of green: This change is for the medium term.
- Mobility: It makes it safer for bicycles and walking people and creates new parking lots. This is for the long term.

An important part is that the municipality wants the inhabitants themselves to be part of the changes and help them with ideas.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>De Mos, R., Dubbe-  
laar, A. (2021). Hoop &  
Optimisme in een sterk  
Zuidwest. Hart voor Den  
Haag/ Groep De Mos.  
[https://denhaag.  
raadsinformatie.nl/  
document/9832167/2#-  
search=%22vrede-  
lust%22](https://denhaag.raadsinformatie.nl/document/9832167/2#-search=%22vrede-lust%22)

<sup>2</sup> [https://allecijfers.nl/  
buurt/zijden-steden-en-  
zichten-den-haag/](https://allecijfers.nl/buurt/zijden-steden-en-zichten-den-haag/)

<sup>3</sup>Den Haag (2021).  
Dreven, Gaarden  
en Zichten: bouw-  
en aan een betere  
buurt. [https://www.  
denhaag.nl/nl/in-de-  
stad/wonen-en-bou-  
wen/ontwikkelin-  
gen-in-de-stad/  
ontwikkelin-  
gen-den-haag-zuidwest/  
dreven-gaarden-en-  
zichten-bouwen-aan-  
een-betere-buurt.html/](https://www.denhaag.nl/nl/in-de-stad/wonen-en-bouwen/ontwikkelingen-in-de-stad/ontwikkelingen-den-haag-zuidwest/dreven-gaarden-en-zichten-bouwen-aan-een-betere-buurt.html/)



## History of the neighborhood

The neighbourhoods were built after WWII and were designed by Willem Dudok. The initial design of the neighbourhood was in four parts, but after some comments about more green areas, it ended up in two; Bouwlust and Vrederust. It consists of three parts:

1. Bouwlust (with Zichten)
2. Vrederust (with Dreven en Gaarden)
3. De Uithof (as a recreation centre)

Building the neighbourhood started in 1953, and because of the previous critics, multiple different architects worked on the project. The input of many different architects resulted in creating multiple small areas. The last buildings are from 1967. The initial plan was to incorporate a railroad and a highway, but this plan was never established. Instead, there are now football fields and gardening areas.<sup>4</sup>

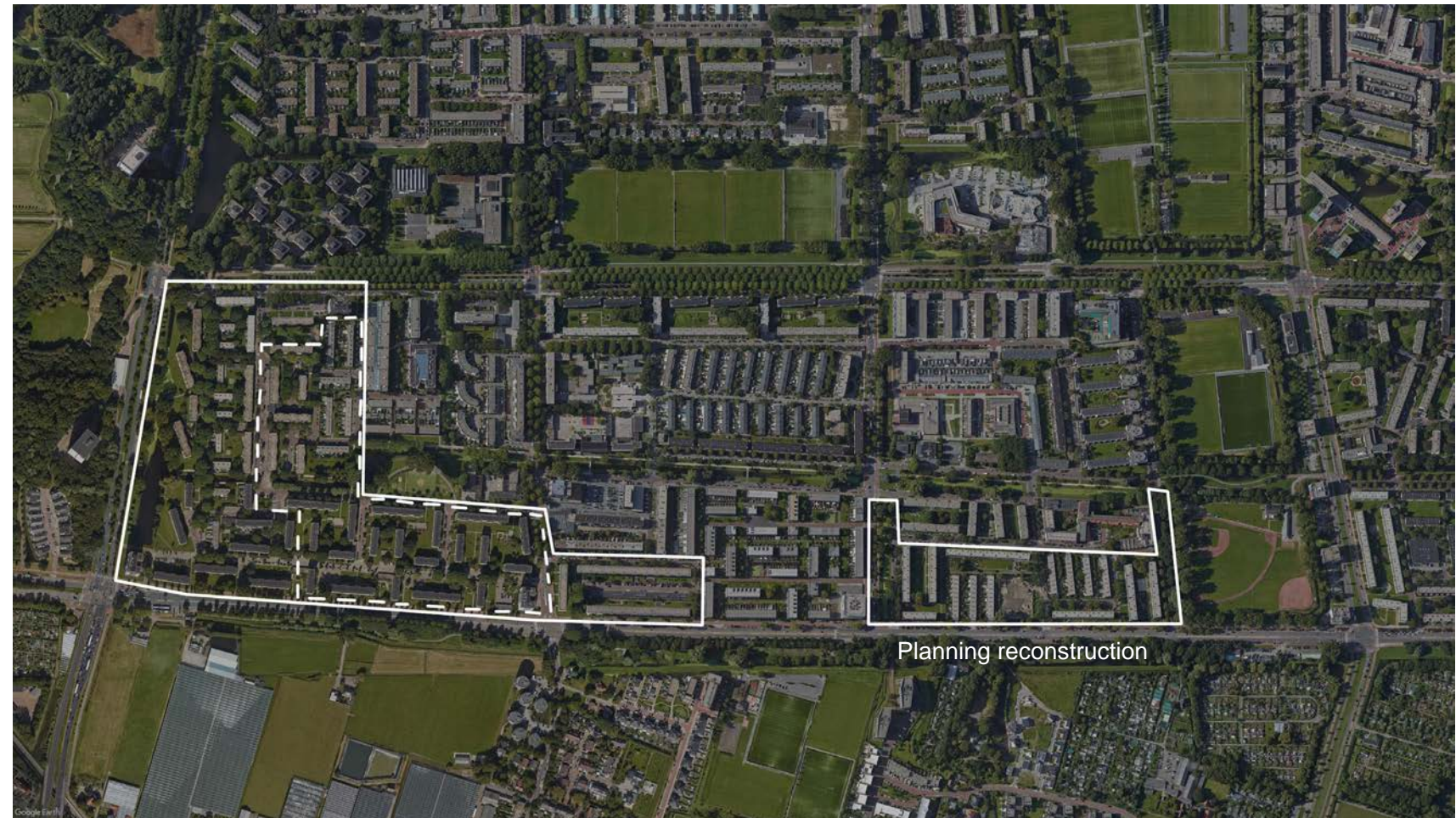
Staedion wants to rebuild the neighbourhoods of Bouwlust and Vrederust. This includes both rebuilding and renovation. The reason for this is the high rates of complaints about the housing in the area (i.e. complaints about drafts and mould). The reason for this is that the municipality appointed the area as a 'protected post-war area'. It is now part of cultural heritage. They are looking at the area to see if any change is possible (Vernimmen, n.d.).<sup>5</sup>

## Literature

To help us with the task, we will mainly use the literature from week three. This week, we learned about specific neighbourhood policies and the importance of observation. Two articles, in particular, are used. Firstly, the article of Bolt & Van Kempen (2013). They talk about the focus of local policies not only having to focus on physical change but also the composition of the neighbourhood. To add to this, they describe the adverse effects and how to overcome them, which we can use for our design. The second article is from Larkham (2018). In this article, they describe the use of observation.

We also looked at additional videos that explain relationships in the neighborhood. The changes do not happen without the contribution of the neighbourhood. Housing corporations in The Hague are actively involved in the ideas and the perspectives of the people living. In one of the municipality's videos, we see a meeting organised where people gather to be informed about the next steps and bring their thoughts and ideas to the table.<sup>6</sup>

Van der Velde, a member of the municipality, explains the importance



— Planned  
- - - Phase 1

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.stroom.nl/media/Wederopbouw\\_DenHaagZuidWest.pdf](https://www.stroom.nl/media/Wederopbouw_DenHaagZuidWest.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Vernimmen, P. (n.d.). De Dreven, De Gaarden en De Zichten. Stad-idsdenhaag. <https://www.stadswandeling-den Haag.nl/index.php/nl/blog-piet/item/29-de-dreven-de-gaarden-en-de-zichten>

<sup>6</sup> Gemeente Den Haag (8 September 2021). Be-woners en ondernemers denken mee in Zichten. YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74nJsb-HEZ8>





of the physical change and the construction of the neighbourhood to make it more liveable for the neighbours. His idea is to group the buildings around the green areas and expel the parking lots as much from the streets to focus on the liveability and the protection of green areas. Bolt & Van Kempen (2013) mentioned that the approach to neighbourhood composition is fundamental.

Larkham (2018) mentions the use of observation and its importance when tackling the possible adverse outcomes of neighbourhood changes. With the observations, we can see the neighbourhood construction, and in addition to that, we will understand the residents better and their needs when it comes to their position in the area. Another possible adverse effect of restructuring the neighbourhood is the process of relocation and moving out. In the same video, Luttik from Staedion, explains the help they will provide in this process. These aspects are crucial because restructuring, rebuilding, or neighbourhood changes involve processes before and after. Therefore, observations and analyses around this whole process must be included for the comfort and safety of the residents.

In the policy of the municipality regarding the neighbourhoods of Dreven, Gaarden, and Zichten, the following policy point is made: “The municipality and Staedion have indicated in a letter of intent (RIS300674) to join the forces to develop a plan for the Dreven, Gaarden, and Zichten neighbourhoods with which the neighbourhood regains the allure they originally had”. Although we can discuss to what extent we can rely on a letter of intent, this policy point shows the investment in the neighbourhoods’ experience of liveability from before to restructuring. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to understand the current situation from the perspective of the neighbours.





- Shops and services
- ✕ Bus and tram stops
- ▭ Playgrounds
- Schools and kindergardens



Preparations for the buurtbakkie

1 Itinerary and observations

While distributing the flyers for two apartment blocks on the Erasmusweg, we already understood the neighbourhood and its different spaces. However, because of the different factors we need to include in this design, we must understand what is happening on the streets. Therefore, we must plan action before going to the neighbourhood for observations.

Time	Activity
13:00	Arrival / meeting at tram station Revalidatiecentrum
13:15	Walk through the neighborhood following the map on figure 1
14:45	End of tour / observation
15:00	Preparing Buurtbakkie event
17:00	Start Buurtbakkie event



Map showing the planned route for the obsevat'ions

2 Preparing questions for Buurtbakkie

After the walk, we will go through the questions again, which we may adjust and elaborate based on our observations of the neighbourhood.

The questions are necessary for the preparation of the buurtbakkie to gain enough information during the event. This event is one of the only times we can talk to the inhabitants of the neighbourhood:

- Where do you hang out the most when you are outside?
- What paths do you walk the most?
- What areas do you dislike, and why?
- What areas do you use to meet up with people, and why?
- Do you like benches in the neighbourhood? Why would you think that it is important to have benches in the neighbourhood?
- If you could describe a dream neighbourhood, how would that look?
- Do you like to go outside by yourself, or would you rather do that with other people?
- Would you like to meet new people in the neighbourhood?
- If you could describe the neighbourhood in 3 words, which words would you use?
- Do you like coffee?
- Do you like making something for others? Like food, art, or music?
- What is the most important part of the neighbourhood to you?
- Elderly: do you like to see the kids playing/ doing activities around you?

3 Materials

- Camera
- Itinerary on Google maps
- Notebook for sketches during neighbourhood observation
- Notebook for Q&A Buurtbakkie



## Design development

### Analysis of the neighborhood

After a broad analysis of the neighbourhood, we realised that the neighbourhood is well equipped in terms of greenery and public spaces. However, there is a lack of activity. The numerous greenspaces were especially striking since they seem to be the perfect place for interaction. However, it became apparent quite quickly that most of these green spaces are not accessible, and the ones that are accessible lack a function. That means that the use of the greenspace as a public space is limited.

Furthermore, it became apparent that the neighbourhood is made up of people with a wide variety of migration backgrounds. This cultural diversity seems to present an obstacle to social interaction, as the amount of different languages creates a barrier. In addition, the neighbourhood is characterised by a large proportion of children, who unfortunately don't have enough space for interaction, as there is a low proportion of playgrounds compared to the number of children.

It is striking that the public spaces seem inviting at first and that there is spatially enough space for more interaction, but a lack of accessibility hinders this. On the one hand, the spaces are not properly designed in a way that people can interact, and on the other hand, there are not enough spaces designed for interaction in general. Certain places like some playgrounds and places in front of supermarkets and shops encourage interaction. Still, there is a lack of opportunities for interaction near the residents. This problem needs to be addressed, mainly because the lack of social interactions results in a significant proportion of the population living in loneliness.

The neighbourhood is soon facing a significant change by replacing run-down apartment buildings with new apartment buildings, which are supposed to improve the liveability of the inhabitants. However, even though a design-driven approach of this type might be a way to partially tackle this issue, establishing a strong social network among the inhabitants is even more critical.

### Public space as a generator for interaction

As already stated by Carmona et al., public spaces can positively impact the social life of the inhabitant, their health, the environment, and the economy. The upgrading or strategic design of public spaces can prevent several health issues like stress, mental health problems and heart attacks. Furthermore, public spaces can „promote neighbourliness and social cohesion“<sup>7</sup> and act as a „venue for social interchange and for supporting the social life of communities“<sup>8</sup>.

Precisely these aspects need to be addressed with our design approach. To create public spaces that stimulate these positive aspects, it is essential to understand the different activities in a public space. Carmen et al. explain this principle that the architect Jan Gehl described by stating that „public space activities are vital in the perception of public space“.<sup>9</sup> Gehl describes those activities in 3 different categories. On the one hand, there are the necessary activities; those are the activities that residents have to do to carry out the tasks of their day, such as going shopping or going to work or school. These activities already take place in the neighbourhood.

On the other hand, the optional activities make up the activities that inhabitants choose to do if the environment facilitates that, like going for a walk or sitting on a bench. This type of activity is already limited. As described before, some places have potential that is not yet exploited enough. The third type of activity we intend to address with our design approach is the resultant (social) activity, for example, random encounters with neighbours, playing with children, and general social interactivities. These types of interactions are dependent on and encouraged by the presence of other people in the public space.

<sup>7</sup> Matthew Carmona, Magalhães Claudio de, and Leo Hammond, „The Use and Nature of Public Space,“ in Public Space: The Management Dimension (Routledge, 2008), 7.

<sup>8</sup> Matthew Carmona, Magalhães Claudio de, and Leo Hammond, „The Use and Nature of Public Space,“ in Public Space: The Management Dimension (Routledge, 2008), 7.

<sup>9</sup> Matthew Carmona, Magalhães Claudio de, and Leo Hammond, „The Use and Nature of Public Space,“ in Public Space: The Management Dimension (Routledge, 2008), 11.



## Design approach

To enhance the optional and resultant (social) activities, our design approach focuses on implementing smaller decentralised interventions that intend to become part of the day-to-day activities. These interventions preferably enhance the liveability of the inhabitants by creating space for social interactions for all types of activities for children, parents and elderlies. Considering that a big part of the inhabitants is not fluent in speaking Dutch and thus avoid interaction for fear of being misunderstood, we want to strategically create places for children to come together. Children attract their parents, who, in turn, are encouraged to interact with each other. To make sure that these new places are used, it is important to us that we design something that creates a connection with the people and stimulates a sense of belonging. To achieve this, we want to use materials from the neighbourhood.

On the one hand, this should give the residents the feeling that these gathering places belong to them. On the other hand, we want the construction to become a project where the residents feel motivated to participate. This should lead to social connections in the making process, which can be deepened after completion. Children, in particular, should get the feeling that they are part of this project.

A sizeable connecting piece in the neighbourhood is the canal, which extends along the entire length of the neighbourhood. We see great potential in using the canal as a starting point for our interventions. The first step selected locations where the canal is interrupted by a path/road. These locations seem to be prone to interactions that are intended and unintended. Secondly, we would like to go deeper in the neighborhood to also create more intimate spaces.

The interventions' strategic placement creates visual references that stimulate the inhabitants to move around the neighbourhood. Through these small interventions, we are trying to revitalise the canal to make it a central point of the community, to which other activities and places can be connected in other more intimate parts of the neighborhood.





# Assignment 2



Taller buildings on the East of the neighborhood

## Neighbourhood Observation

Gaarden, Zichten and Dreven is a neighbourhood in the Southwest of the Hague. It is a so-called “problem neighbourhood”, where people of various backgrounds and incomes come together. Next to this, the area is renovated, and some houses will be torn down, which puts the residents in a challenging position of not knowing when they will be relocated. This can be a further obstacle for people of the neighbourhood to interact with each other. We attempt to create a design intervention that enables the residents to meet one another and consequently fosters at least some feeling of community in uncertain times. To understand what the community wants and needs, we first present findings from two observations: from walking around the neighbourhood and observations from the Buurtbakkie. We then look at statistics to understand possible structural issues in the neighbourhood.

## Observations

We went to the neighbourhoods Gaarden, Zichten and Dreven for observation on Thursday, 12 March. We arrived around 1 PM and left at 2:30 PM. The focus was mainly on the area of Zichten, but we also saw some parts of Gaarden and Dreven. Since it was mid-day, we did not see many people outside. This could be because of work, school or other occupations during the day. The people we saw on the streets were mostly elderly. The same observations were made on Monday when we distributed the flyers for the Buurtbakkie gathering.

The first thing we noticed during the observation was the start of the renovations of the flats in the area. There were a couple of construction workers when we visited, which also led to a lot of noise. Moreover, this gave the streets a messy look. Something that surprised us was the green areas in the neighbourhood. Those areas have a lot of potential, especially for children. However, we noticed the lack of good playgrounds for the children. Individual devices did not look attractive; they were, for example, torn down. In addition, children have to walk around and cross the streets to visit these playgrounds because there is no direct access to the devices, as seen in figure 1. This, of course, makes it difficult and dangerous for children to play freely around. Also, the streets are of deteriorated quality, as seen in figure 2 and figure 3. This makes them harder to walk on, but it is also not accessible for children to .

A positive thing we noticed was the lovely canals in the neighbourhood. Around the canals, there are green areas with benches, as we can see in figures 4 and 5. Sometimes we saw people sitting on these benches or using the path along the canal for a walk. We saw, for example, a woman eating on one of the benches, facing the buildings



that were being renovated. At the time we visited, she was the only one that made use of them. To conclude with another positive part, there were multiple supermarkets close by, like the Albert Heijn or the Aldi, so people can choose where they prefer to do their groceries. Alongside visual observations, we talked to residents to understand their feelings and wishes concerning the neighbourhood. We conducted five interviews with adult residents (16-80 years old), and the findings were similar for all of them: the residents do not interact with their neighbours. Some of them exchange greetings with people they regularly see, but there are no more in-depth conversations or exchanges. The interviewed people also mainly engage in leisure activities outside of the neighbourhood. The only activity that is commonly done within the neighbourhood is running errands. Occasionally but rarely, residents also go for a walk or a bike ride around the area. The following paragraph describes some of these encounters more specifically:

*As we observed these spaces, they didn't seem so inviting. We also talked with a group of friends around the age of 16, hanging out at one of their houses. One of the girls was holding an instrument, and a guy told us that there was a music instructor just around the corner. They said they like the neighbourhood and that there are a lot of friends nearby. However, after asking them what kind of meeting spaces they would like, there is a general lack of spaces where you can sit down and get a coffee or tea or a place where you could do something creative together.*

Furthermore, a woman around the age of 20 said she had just moved in and lived there through the “anti-squat” program. She hadn’t connected with any neighbours yet, except for the casual hello on the street, but she liked the quiet neighbourhood. She said that it would be easier for her to connect with others if there were a place where they could do something creative together. Lastly, we talked to a mother around the age of 40. She said she only goes outside and uses the neighbourhood to play with her son or do groceries. She added that there is a need for more sitting places to spend time outside.





## Buurtbakkie observations

On the evening of the same day, organised by the operating housing corporation Stadion, the Buurtbakkie event took place. This event takes place regularly in the neighbourhood and is a way for the housing corporation to connect with the residents. On this day, we had the chance to talk to different residents about their wishes for the neighbourhood concerning our design assignment. We met in the office of Stadion and went to different housing blocks equipped with some coffee and tea for the residents.

We were given the keys to the main entrances of the flat blocks and were then allowed to get in touch with residents on each floor. Close to the apartment blocks, we met a girl around ten. After school, around half-past three, she often plays with friends in the neighbourhood, either in the backyard or somewhere near the apartment block. The moment we were about to enter the first block, we were approached by a girl we estimated to be around 10-12 years old. She asked us what we were doing here. We explained our intentions and asked her about her attitude towards the neighbourhood, what she usually does after school and where she likes to spend time with her friends. She leaves school around half past three and often plays with friends in the neighbourhood, either in the backyard or somewhere on a playground nearby.

Next, we spoke to a resident in her twenties who often looks after her sister's child. She told us that it is challenging for her to be out and about with her toddler because there are very few play areas in general and none for toddlers. She also mentioned that she likes to walk along the canal but doesn't do it often. She mentioned that she would like to meet more neighbours but finds it hard to connect. She also mentioned she would like to have more cafés around.

The next woman we spoke to was about 30-40. When we asked her whether she engages in some activities around the neighbourhood and, if so, what kind. She looked perplexed and said she was so busy that she was happy to spend her free time with her son. When asked what she felt was missing in the neighbourhood, she explained that she would like to see more benches after some thought.

Afterwards, we spoke to a middle-aged man. We asked him what activities he engages in the neighbourhood and what he misses here. He explained that he doesn't spend that much time in the neighbourhood because he works most of the time, and when he does have leisure time, he visits his family and friends. He said that he only sleeps in his flat and doesn't spend his free time here when it comes down to it. When asked if he would like to interact more with his neighbours, he only replied that he is not friendly with the neighbours.

After some more short conversations, we concluded that most residents do not interact with the neighbours and do not do any activities in the neighbourhood because there are not many opportunities. Furthermore, people who work full time spend less time in the neighbourhood in their free time. It is also very noticeable that there are many children, but very few play facilities in the form of playgrounds or adequate playing equipment.



### Observations from a different day

We arrived at the neighbourhood on a Monday morning. The neighbourhood was quite empty, as we only saw a couple of older people on the scooters passing along the canal. A few younger people were walking along the canal, perhaps going to work or school, and one or two older people were sitting on a bench by the canal.

It was interesting to see a school alongside a mosque and a church. This area could be one of the centres of life in the neighbourhood. The houses close to the school on the North-Eastern side of the neighbourhood seemed new, and we assumed that the people living there were middle class. Adjacent to the school was a skatepark and a playground, on which the utilities were relatively sparsely configured. The drawings on the pavement were quite lovely, probably made by the school kids. Such chalk drawings were visible all along with the neighbourhood and not only on horizontal but also on vertical surfaces. The kids particularly enjoyed the jumping as can be seen on the images showing dispersed playground equipment. There were also a lot of trampolines just solely placed in the courtyards in the area.

A few nice spots along the canal were specifically dedicated to sitting, but with only one bench. Sometimes they were fenced off, next to the trash bins or on a busy highway. In the courtyards of the house, several concrete-paved spots were unproportional to the number of benches placed in such an area. Also, the paved area had a bizarre shape, as if some parts were cut off.

As we moved further into the neighbourhood, we noticed areas that were fenced with branches in front of people's houses on the northern side of the houses. Potentially, the residents wish to plant vegetables/fruits in the demarcated spot. However, there were also houses that already have their private gardens. There is a lower likelihood that these residents would be involved in the community gardens activity as they already take care of their own plot.

### Additional observations

- Further planting activity could be seen further on at the beginning of the Staedion planning area on the West - a mixed vegetable garden was placed in one of the courtyards.
- In one of the courtyards, a guy kicked a ball on an empty field.
- The neighbourhood had too many boards with warnings or announcements banning people from playing football or walking a dog.
- There were not many bicycles in the neighbourhood and a lot of cars. Surprisingly, even during this time of the day.
- There were a few statues (public art in the area).
- Two places in the neighbourhood had street art - one in the East and one in the South.
- When we left the neighbourhood, around noon, we saw a lot of mothers with children coming out who started sitting close to the playgrounds or partial playgrounds in the courtyards. They were walking with their kids along a canal.

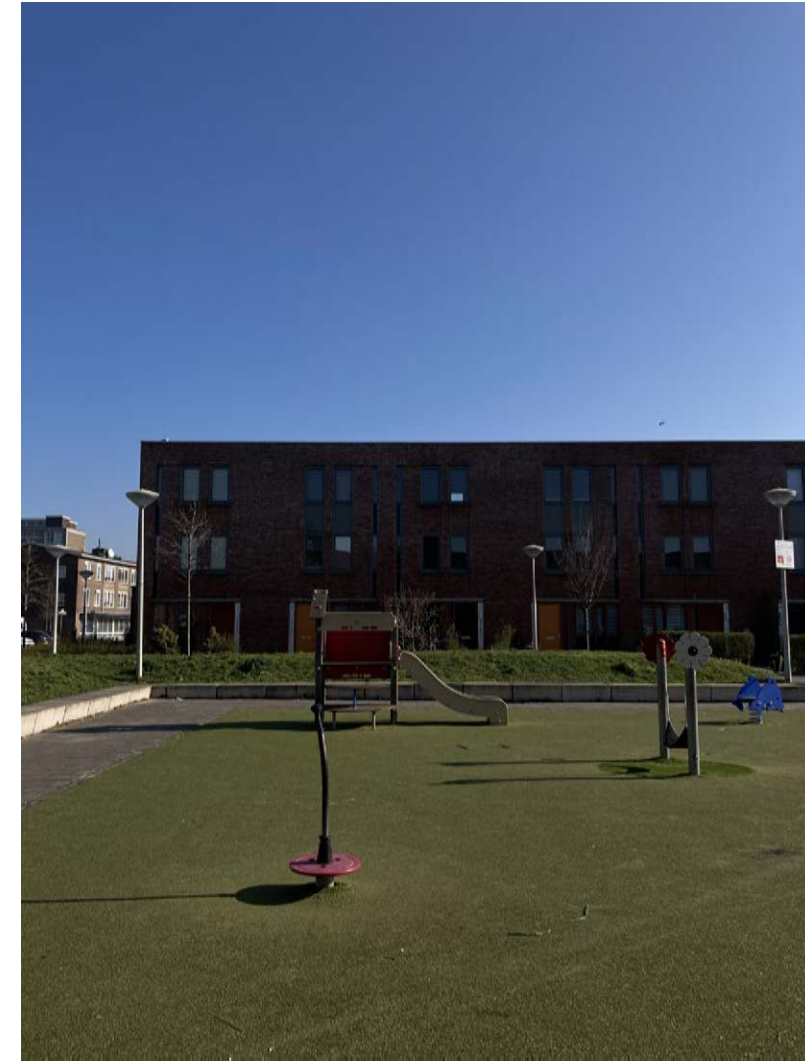




## Scattered tables

All around the neighborhood in almost every courtyard, there was this type of a wooden table. Usually it was placed on a grass as it can be seen on the pictures. Sometimes like on the picture in the top right corner, more tables were in one area. Sometimes, the table was placed next to a playground. Their placement seemed arbitrary. However, it is hard to say if people are sitting by the tables on the weekends or in their free time also because the courtyards are badly accessible.





## Official playgrounds

There were only a about 3-4 playgrounds in the neighborhood and mostly they were adjacent to a school. Some of them can be seen from the map but are not accessible by all children. These play-grounds had a little better facilities than the ones installed randomly.





## Pieces of a playground

As mentioned earlier, there were pieces of playground scattered around the neighborhood and no one was using them. Also it was hard to identify how they should be used, like the one in the top. Perhaps they were used for working out. Nevertheless their placement again seemed arbitrary.





## Unofficial playgrounds

There were a few areas that were turned into playgrounds in the courtyards of the houses, where the playground pieces were not scattered but grouped in one area. Still, no children were seen in the area. A lot of times the playgrounds were on a northern side. Another problem might be that playgrounds in the courtyard are badly accessible. However, mothers could still watch their children from the balcony.

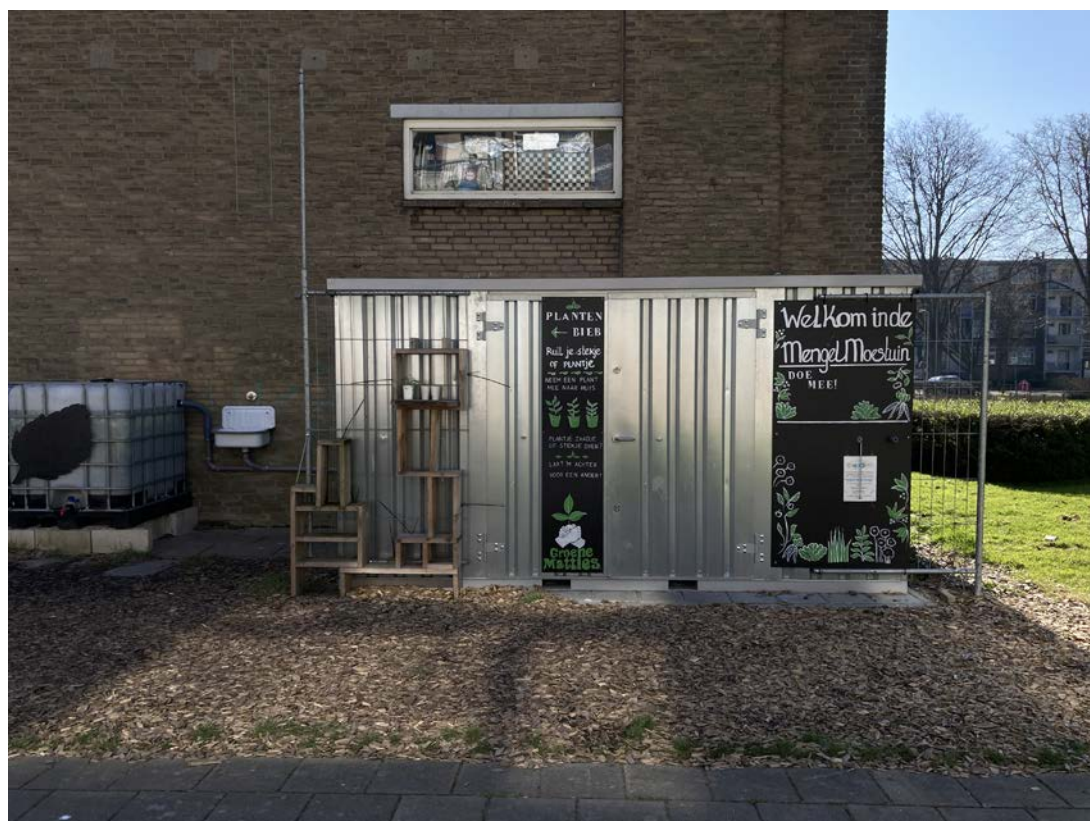
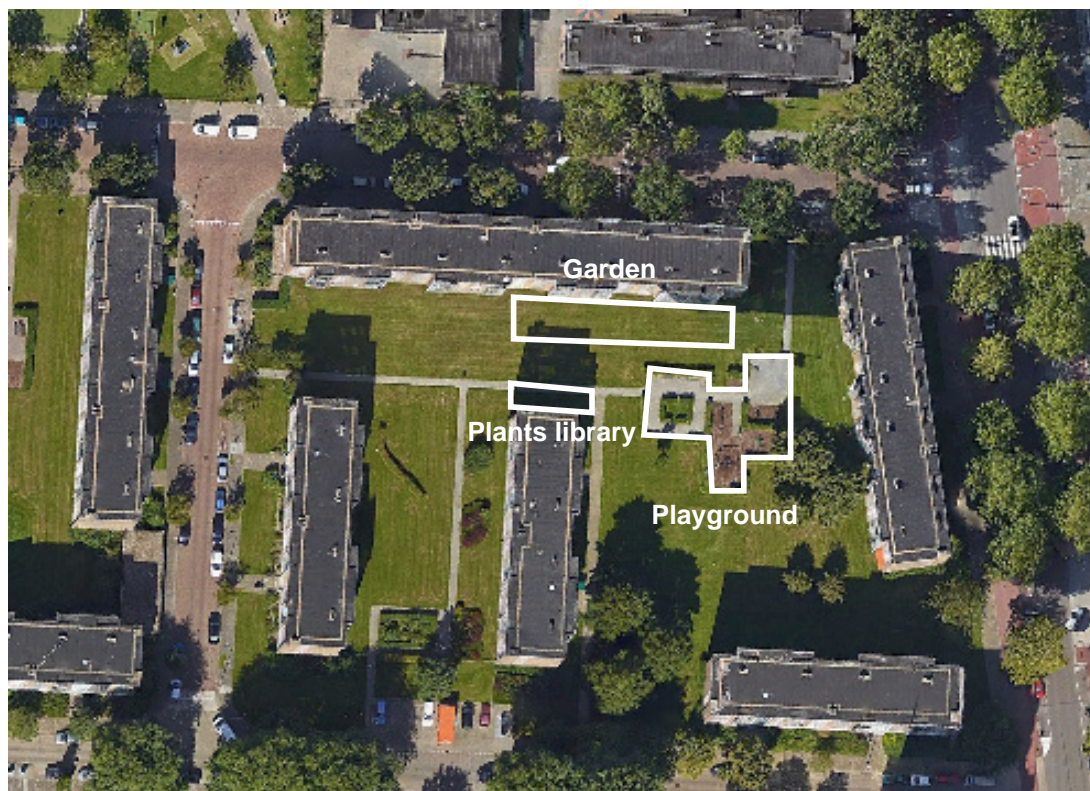




## Gardens

The residents started appropriating the space also by gardening. There were a few places in front of the houses where people started marking the space and planting.





## Garden and playground in one of the block

One part of the neighborhood surprised us because it not only had a nice playground but also quite big vegetable garden. In addition to the garden there was a plant library, where people could exchange their cutting or a plant, plant it and leave a word about it. They could also plant it at home. Next to it were some containers but I did not understand what they were.

Furthermore, this specific courtyard also had a nice playground, not just arbitrarily placed furniture and play utilities.

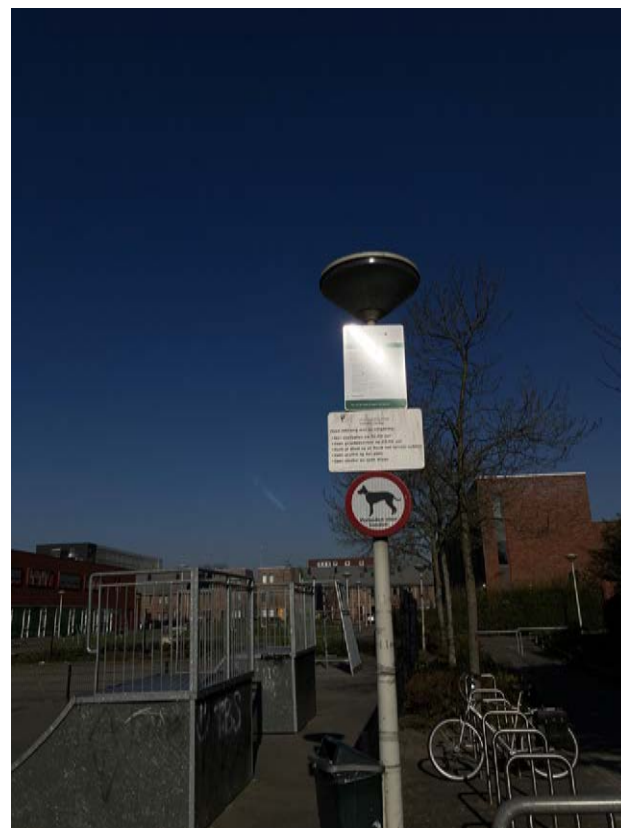




## Empty non-defined areas

There were so many places in the neighborhood that had a potential to be further developed. For example, there were concrete steps leading to a short hill and nothing on it except for a cigarette bud or paved concrete area with few benches and bins. This area was however missing an element that would spur any activity. A rectangular area was enclosed by a green fence with nothing inside of it - this place is practically unused.





## Signs

There were a lot of places marked with boards telling the inhabitants what is allowed and not allowed. Football and dog walking were mostly the activities that were banned. Boards are not pleasant addition to any neighborhood as it gives residents the feeling of a restraint. Constantly being told what to do in a public space makes a certain space private and non-welcoming.





## Children appropriating the space

Walking through the neighborhood, we can see that the children appropriated some spaces by drawing on the ground with chalk or on a piece of a building which was black. There were some drawings also on other spaces such as on a gas station.

Also there were a few boards with some signs and drawings that seemed like they were made for some sort of a game in the public space since they were scattered around the neighborhood.



Statistical Analysis

After conducting the interviews with the inhabitants of Dreven and Gaarden and observing the neighbourhood ourselves, we wanted to understand the social background of the residents from a more factual point of view. We believe that combining empirical and statistical analysis can only help us specify the design’s target group.

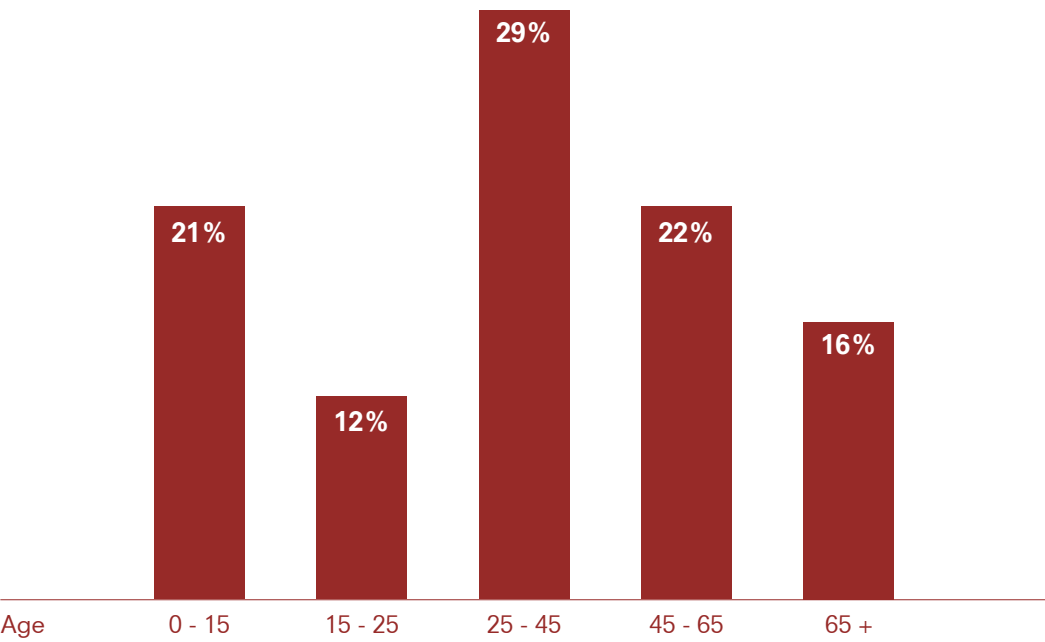
The population of Dreven and Gaarden is 10 935. Almost 75% of the population has a migration background. Compared to the entirety of the Dutch population, which is 25%, this number is much higher. The ethnic background of the people varies and includes people of both “western” (not specified in the statics) and of “non-western” backgrounds (mostly previous Dutch colonies - Morocco, Dutch Antilles, Surinam, or Turkey). Despite this diversity, the inhabitants of different backgrounds are not entirely interested in engaging with each other. However, assuming that such disinterest springs from a difference in backgrounds would be misleading - it might just as well be due to the lack of free time which the inhabitants might prefer to spend with their respective families or close friends rather than with neighbours.

Thirty-six per cent of households in the neighbourhood have kids. Considering our interviews and observations, there are not enough adequate spaces for children that enable them to play or at least meet each other. One-fifth of the neighbourhood comprises children under 15, whose time is mostly spent inside due to the lack of stimulation for activity outside. The backyards where kids might be able to do their activities are also not directly accessible, which makes them less attractive for the children. The number of kids in the neighbourhood is aligned with the national average. However, the children’s needs are not met. This should be considered in possible design interventions.

Sixteen per cent of residents are over 65, which is lower than the national average. They have benches to sit on but are rather dispersed along the canal, potentially discouraging them from even getting to the bench and meeting their fellow neighbours. This seems like an important aspect to consider for a possible designed space.

Another distressing statistic we found was the risk of having depression or anxiety. In Dreven en Gaarden, this is 57% above the national average of 45.9%. Although many unknown factors could influence this, segregation or lack of inclusion might play a role. It would be essential to be sensitive to this when designing for people in this neigh-

Neighbourhood Dreven en Gaarden, 2021, age groups.





bourhood in all aspects and without being invasive or patronising. People in Dreven en Gaarden are experiencing higher loneliness compared to the national average. Those numbers are 64% and 47%, respectively. Furthermore, the amount of people who feel severely lonely is twice as much as the national average of 11%. These measures are alarming. Primarily, we would like to focus on the spaces for children, although not making them too exclusive so that they could be still accessible to people of other age groups.

Although we could conclude that the neighbourhood is mainly composed of working and younger single people, those people are mostly not present in the neighbourhood during the day. Most working people do not have time to participate in leisure activities after work as they have to take care of their families. Children and mothers are most likely going to stay in the neighbourhood. They do not want to travel long distances - the transportation could become too complicated or expensive, significantly if the mothers raise more children.

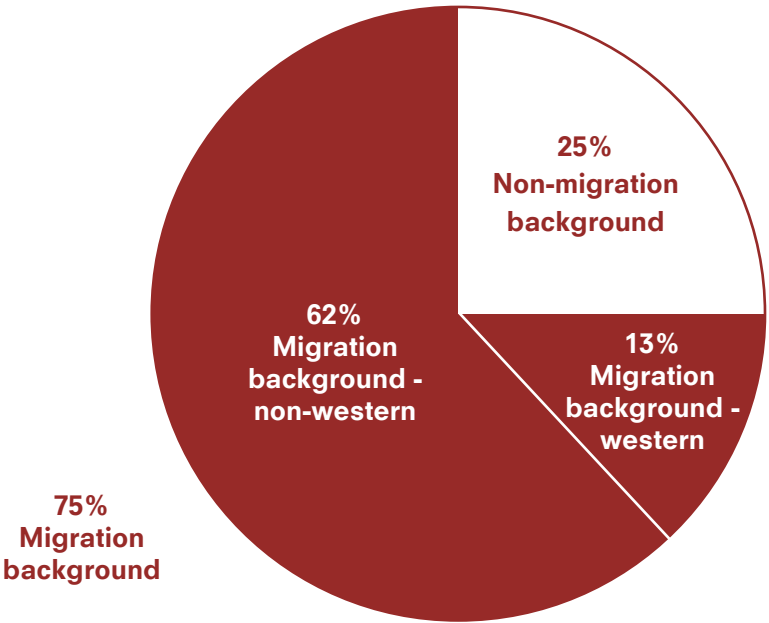
Conclusion

We can draw two conclusions from the above analysis: the observations have shown that the locals are not strongly motivated to meet others. However, there does seem to be a wish for more playing opportunities for children and seating opportunities for adults. The statistics added to this have helped us conclude that we would like to focus on the children in the neighbourhood. We hope that by enhancing the public spaces for children, we can also mobilise other people to participate in the same space and thus encourage interactions and connections.

Statistics gathered from

<https://allcharts.info/the-netherlands/neighborhood-dreven-en-gaarden-the-hague/>

[https://www.rivm.nl/media/smap/moeite\\_rondkomen.html?gemeente=%27s-Gravenhage](https://www.rivm.nl/media/smap/moeite_rondkomen.html?gemeente=%27s-Gravenhage)



Migration background of the neighborhood is 75% in comparison to the national average of 25%



# Assignment 3



Repetitive facade of a building in the neighborhood

<sup>1</sup> Matthew Carmona, Magalhães Claudio de, and Leo Hammond, "The Use and Nature of Public Space," in *Public Space: The Management Dimension* (Routledge, 2008), 19

## Involved stakeholders

Multiple stakeholders from private, public sector and the community are involved in the process and it is important they have a relationship established between them. The involvement of multiplicity of stakeholders is important also because their motivations and relationship to public space differs.<sup>1</sup> Private sector is more likely to be focused on the capital, while the public sector's priority should be the wellbeing of its residents. Below, we are introducing the most relevant stakeholders in for our specific project. Community initiatives can motivate the citizens, municipality oversees the process and ensures that the spaces will be safe and well-maintained, private investors will be financing the project while also gaining the residents trust and the residents will be mainly using the facilities provided.

### Neighbours/community:

The creation of new spaces comes with new opportunities for the community. Of course, the most important stakeholders are the residents of the neighbourhood. This includes both residents who are actively engaged in the neighbourhood (already) and those who are more passive. For residents who are actively engaged in the neighbourhood or wish to be, the project might provide an excellent opportunity to expand this engagement and possibly connect it to existing projects or create new ones. For the more passive residents, these new spaces might offer more opportunities for contact and a (hopefully) stronger feeling of community and with that livelihood. Considering the unstable housing circumstances that residents face, having such spaces might have an enormous impact, whether for mental health or simply for a feeling of togetherness with the community.

Within this group of residents, some are more vulnerable than others, and it is essential to note that the diverse population has multiple needs and wishes. As such, it is crucial to consider these various perspectives and needs of the community when creating new spaces to ensure that this space (at least in theory) is welcoming for everyone..

### Local libraries

To gain enough books for the project, we need used books from local libraries that they don't use anymore. Three local libraries can be contacted, namely: Bibliotheek Waterings veld, Bibliotheek Bouwlust and Bibliotheek Escamp. These stakeholders are very important for the implementation of the design game project. The profit for the stakeholders themselves is that they gain new customers after this since people are getting in touch with their books and maybe want to read more or can read more. With this, the libraries need to be local and close since not everyone can move far, for example, because they do not have a car. Nevertheless, it is also good for the reputation of



the library. The library is an external stakeholder since they do not have a direct linkage with the houses in the neighbourhood. They do not have high power but are of high interest in this project.

Since not everyone can read, it may be helpful to have someone who can read the books aloud. Bibliotheek Wateringse veld already does this for children. They might be able to extend this and also provide it for grownups. Of course, if this is not possible, it can also be done by someone in the neighbourhood.<sup>2</sup> Reading connects people and can bring people in contact with whom they usually would not be in contact.

Steadion

Steadion is a housing association in the Hague. They own 37.000 houses in the city, which means that one in seven homes in the Hague belongs to them. They have a few goals:

- An approach to the housing shortage
- Keeping nature and climate
- Increasing the neighbourhoods' resilience and quality of life

They see it as their mission to provide houses in neighbourhoods where people can pleasantly live together.<sup>3</sup> Steadion is an internal stakeholder since they are the owners of the houses in the neighbourhoods. So they do have a lot of power and interest in the project. Alongside the renovations, with this design game, we also want to improve the residents' quality of life within the means and goals of Steadion. It makes the neighbourhood more attractive. The association can profit from this since the neighbourhood is also more attractive to people outside the area. We also need the housing associations since the design game project takes place in their environment.

Municipality

The neighbourhoods belong to the municipality of The Hague. Since most houses are post-WWII, they want to improve the dwellings. They see this as a goal for the future. They have five main points:

1. Improving the houses, like mentioned above, is one of their main goals
2. New and diverse houses
3. More facilities
4. More green
5. Mobility<sup>4</sup>

The third goal is to be achieved with the design game project. We can improve the already existing facilities or even extend them with our idea. The neighbourhood can profit from this since it makes it more pleasant to live in, and for the municipality, it is an improvement since the neighbourhood is more attractive to outsiders. The municipality is an external stakeholder and does have power and interests in the project, the same as Steadion.

<sup>2</sup> Bibliotheek Den Haag. (2022). Bibliotheek Wateringse veld. Retrieved from <https://www.bibliotheek-denhaag.nl/bibliotheeken/detail.4653091.html/bibliotheek-wateringse-veld/>

<sup>3</sup> Steadion. (2022). Over Steadion - meer informatie. Retrieved from <https://www.staedion.nl/over-staedion/onze-organi-satie?lo-cal=en>

<sup>4</sup>Den Haag. (2022). Dreven, Gaarden en Zichten: bouwen aan een betere buurt. Retrieved from <https://www.denhaag.nl/nl/in-de-stad/wonen-en-bou-wen/ontwikkelin-gen-in-de-stad/ontwikke-lin-gen-den-haag-zuidwest/dreven-gaarden-en-zichten-bouwen-aan-een-betere-buurt.htm>





Schools

There are a few school in the neighbourhoods that count as stakeholders, namely: Openbare basisschool Erasmus, Openbaar Primair Speciaal Onderwijs De Piramide en Openbaar Primair Speciaal Onderwijs Anne Frank. The schools are internal stakeholders because they are directly connected with the neighbourhood.

Openbare basisschool Erasmus

This school is located in the neighbourhood of Vrederust. Their goal is to develop children on a safe and calm level. They also offer extra activities after school so that the children can develop further. Due to the extra activities, we think that this school is an important stakeholder; they can offer activities for children to improve their skills, especially when it comes to reading. They also offer sports, technical, and music opportunities to connect both the children and the parents.<sup>5</sup>

Openbaar primair speciaal onderwijs de Piramide

De Piramide is a school located in the neighbourhood Escamp. It is a special school for children with a disability or a long-term sickness. This is an important stakeholder since it allows every child to go to school and develop him or herself.<sup>6</sup> However, this school is less important in extra activities after school since the main focus is on children needing extra attention.

Openbaar primair speciaal onderwijs Anne Frank

The Anne Frank primary school is located at two locations in the Hague: one building for years one to four at the Beresteinlaan and one for years five to eight at the Laagveen. Anne Frank is a regular primary school, but they have a special class for new children in the Netherlands, so they offer language lessons, which are given in the Laagveen building.<sup>7</sup> This school is essential for the language barrier in the neighbourhood since they offer extra language lessons. Next to that, they have a lot of green areas where they can offer sports activities to connect the children.

<sup>5</sup> De Scholenwijzer. (2022). Erasmus. Retrieved from Erasmus (den Haag.nl)

<sup>6</sup> De Scholenwijzer. (2022). SO de Piramide. Retrieved from SO De Piramide (den Haag.nl)

<sup>7</sup> De Scholenwijzer. (2022). Anne Frank. Retrieved from Anne Frank - Beresteinlaan (den Haag.nl)



Openbare basisschool Erasmus



Openbaar primair speciaal onderwijs Anne Frank



Religious centres

Shalomkerk

The Southwest district consists of the Shalomkerk, the Abdijkerk and the Bosbeskapel. The Shalom Church is the meeting place in the Bouwlust-Vrederust district in The Hague Southwest. Every Sunday at 10:00 am, there is a church service with prayer, singing and reflection. Shalomkerk states that everyone is welcome in the church. After the service, coffee or tea is served in the upstairs room.<sup>8</sup>

Shalomkerk mentions “buurt-en kerkhuis” on their website, referring to being a “home” for the neighbourhood. According to them, Shalom is a place to share and celebrate life for the privileged and the underprivileged. It is a place for the residents to meet, learn and share passions and dreams.<sup>9</sup> The Shalomkerk organises different activities to bring the neighbourhood together. Examples of these activities are:

- Homework support
- Vegetable gardening
- B1 Dutch classes
- Coaching
- Social office hours
- Coffee mornings



<sup>8</sup> Shalomkerk The Hague (2021). Shalomkerk. <https://www.shalomkerk.nl/home/>

<sup>9</sup> Shalomkerk The Hague (2021). Buurt- en Kerkhuis. <https://www.shalomkerk.nl/buurt-en-kerkhuis/>

Mosque An-Nour

As a result of social renewal in the neighbourhoods of Schilderswijk, Spoorwijk and Transvaal at the end of the 1980s, several families of mainly Moroccan descent have moved to The Hague Southwest. Because of this, the need for a private prayer room in the neighbourhood arose.<sup>10</sup> Although the initial initiative was mainly based on the prayer area for the neighbours, the mosque grew into the neighbourhood and developed more facilities. On their website, the mosque community explains their four goals:

- Religious purposes
- Educational purposes
- Social activities
- Knowledge sharing

With each goal, there are different activities linked to it. For example, with education, the mosque provides different classes linked to religious knowledge like Arabic, teachings of the Quran, or basic understanding of Islam. On the other hand, the social activities are more directed to the open public, such as guided tours, creating a meeting space for the neighbours or organising working groups around tolerance.<sup>11</sup>



<sup>10</sup> Moskee An-Nour (2022). Over ons. <https://annour-moskee.nl/over-ons/>

<sup>11</sup> Moskee An-Nour (2022). Onze activiteiten: Maatschappij. <https://annourmoskee.nl/onze-activiteiten/maatschappij/>



Community centres

Allekantens Bouwlust

One very present community centre in the neighbourhood is “Allekantens Bouwlust”, which offers a comprehensive programme of different activities, ranging from Dutch lessons to sewing lessons to bingo nights and helping people build a job network. Their main goal is to help people “develop themselves”. They also strongly emphasised the importance of diversity in the neighbourhood. On their website, they have a project. For example, they ask people to contribute stories about the neighbourhood or specific neighbours to interview to illustrate the neighbourhood’s diversity and build a sense of community. This community centre might be interested in being involved and would have a lot to contribute to the project: they might have exciting connections to particular projects or have other resources (whether that be volunteers or physical resources) that could be involved in the projects. It even seems essential to include them in the project since they are trying hard to build a sense of community within the neighbourhood, which we hope to do. Not including them might lead to a conflict of interest or competition.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Allekantens, De Wijk, Retrieved: <https://allekantens.com/de-wijk/>

Community centre Lotje & De Kast van Lotje

The Lotje Foundation supports small-scale initiatives and projects to help children in The Hague, up to 18, who need help. Across The Hague, they have different community centres with similar projects. In Vredelust, The Lotje Foundation started an initiative called De Kast van Lotje (The closet of Lotje), where they provide clothes and toys for children in need. Not only are they giving them the stuff they need, but they also create a space to come together and have a drink together. They have close cooperation with family coaches or other health institutions to answer the needs of these families.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>13</sup> Stichting Lotje (2022). Hoe werkt de kast van Lotje? <https://www.stichtinglotje.nl>



## Residents

### Business owners

To carry out the plans, business owners are also involved. To start with a catering service for the truck. It is necessary to find a local catering service to provide drinks and small bites in a truck that drives by the seating areas. Since this goes together with Staedion, they can decide which catering service they want. Staedion can pay for the truck and gas and the local catering provides the food twice a week. There already is an ice cream truck that drives through the area, so the first step would be asking the ice cream truck. If there is no interest from local catering services, it is also possible that someone in the neighbourhood wants to do it for a salary.

Besides the catering, a carpenter is wishful for the gardens and the bookshelves. This carpenter can be hired by Staedion in the beginning of the project, preferably by someone that lives in the neighbourhood. When it is built already, the inhabitants can take care of it themselves. Only when it is really necessary, for example when a book shelf is broken, the carpenter can be hired again or it can be done on a voluntary basis. What is also voluntary are the gardeners. Inhabitants in the neighbourhood can apply for this task and help the gardens grow. Of course, they do not have to pay for the seeds themselves but they need to take care of it. If this is not going as planned, it is possible to hire a gardener to assist the voluntary gardeners. This gardener can be hired in the same place that offers the seeds for the gardens, so the cooperation is extended.

## Residents initiatives

### Mens en Tuin

“Mens en Tuin” has been a care garden in Moerwijk for more than 30 years. Their motto is vulnerability is a quality that creates room for gatherings. They explain that they try to create an environment for both the participants and the supervisors to be themselves. It is more than ‘just’ a garden. Every day ten to twelve people with different problems (e.g. psychological vulnerability, psychiatric disorder, intellectual disability, addictions or burnout) work in the garden under the supervisor of professional volunteers. Together with Mens en Tuin, the participants determine their own development goals.

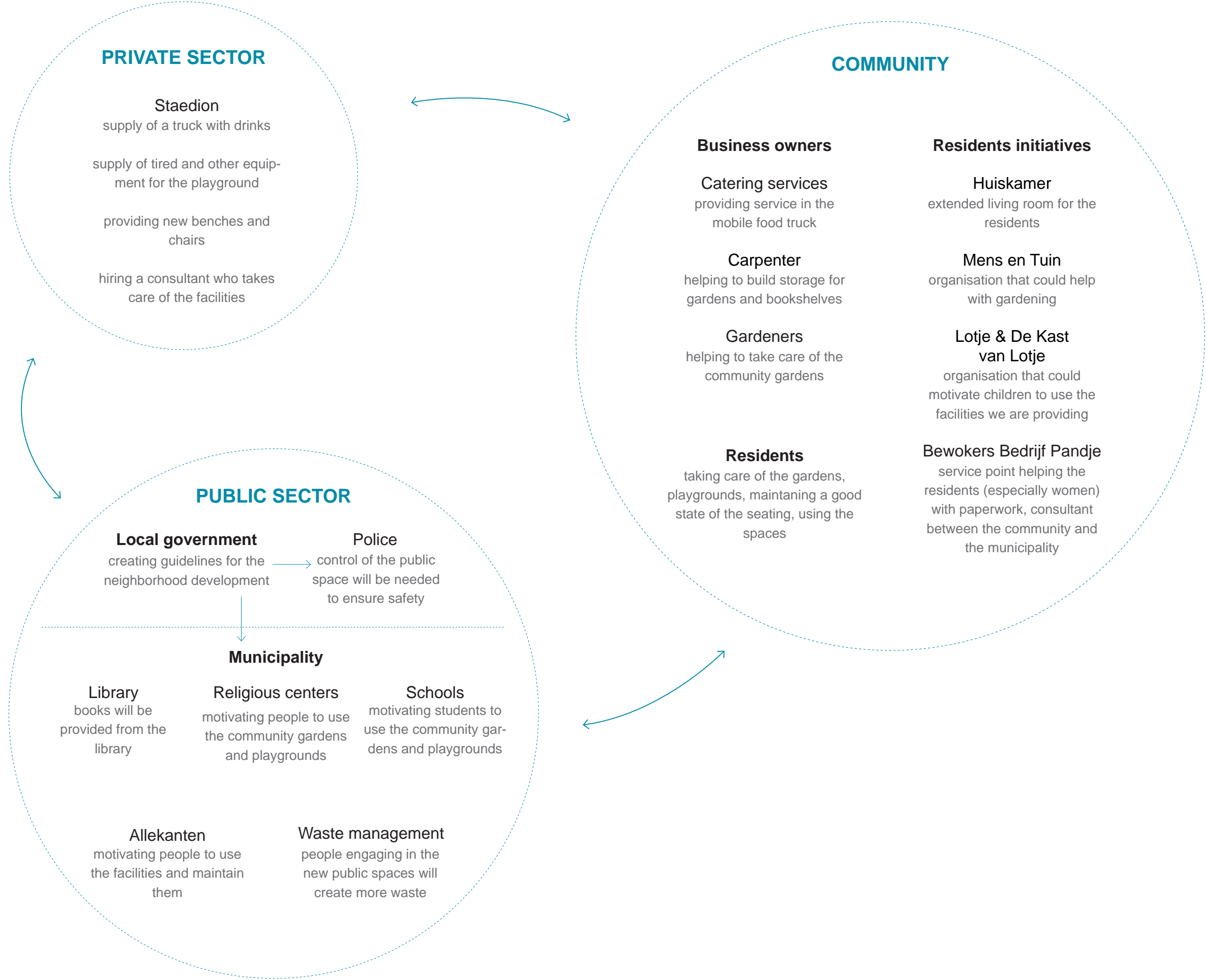
The garden is divided into eight themes: bees, water, herbs, vegetable, roses, forest, fruit and a bird garden. Their nursery specialises in bio-dynamic bee and butterfly plants, and in the vegetable garden shop, they sell the seeds, plants, soil and manure, various garden materials and handmade products. Different dimensions are being implemented. Therefore, Mens en Tuin, with their tremendous experience, is an excellent stakeholder in the garden project. Although their target group is not necessarily only limited to the scope of the neighbours, with the garden project, they can expand the existing project. Mens en Tuin can provide seeds for the garden pots, and now and then, volunteers from Mens en Tuin can guide groups of residents and educate them to continue the garden project sustainably.<sup>14</sup>



<sup>14</sup> Mens en Tuin (2022). Over Mens en Tuin. Retrieved from <https://www.mensen-tuin.nl/over-mens-en-tuin/>



Stakeholder diagram





Proposal for design

After our first impressions and ideas, we felt that the revitalisation of the canal has excellent potential to enrich the neighbourhood. However, our closer observations and the Buurtbakkie event led us to reconsider this idea. Instead of using the canal as a starting point, we looked at more minor neighbourhood parts. We noticed that a few very attractive places in the neighbourhood are unfortunately not sufficiently accessible. It is very noticeable that there is a lack of benches where they are needed. The neighbours also reported this we interviewed at Buurtbakkie, some of whom wished for more seating in the neighbourhood.

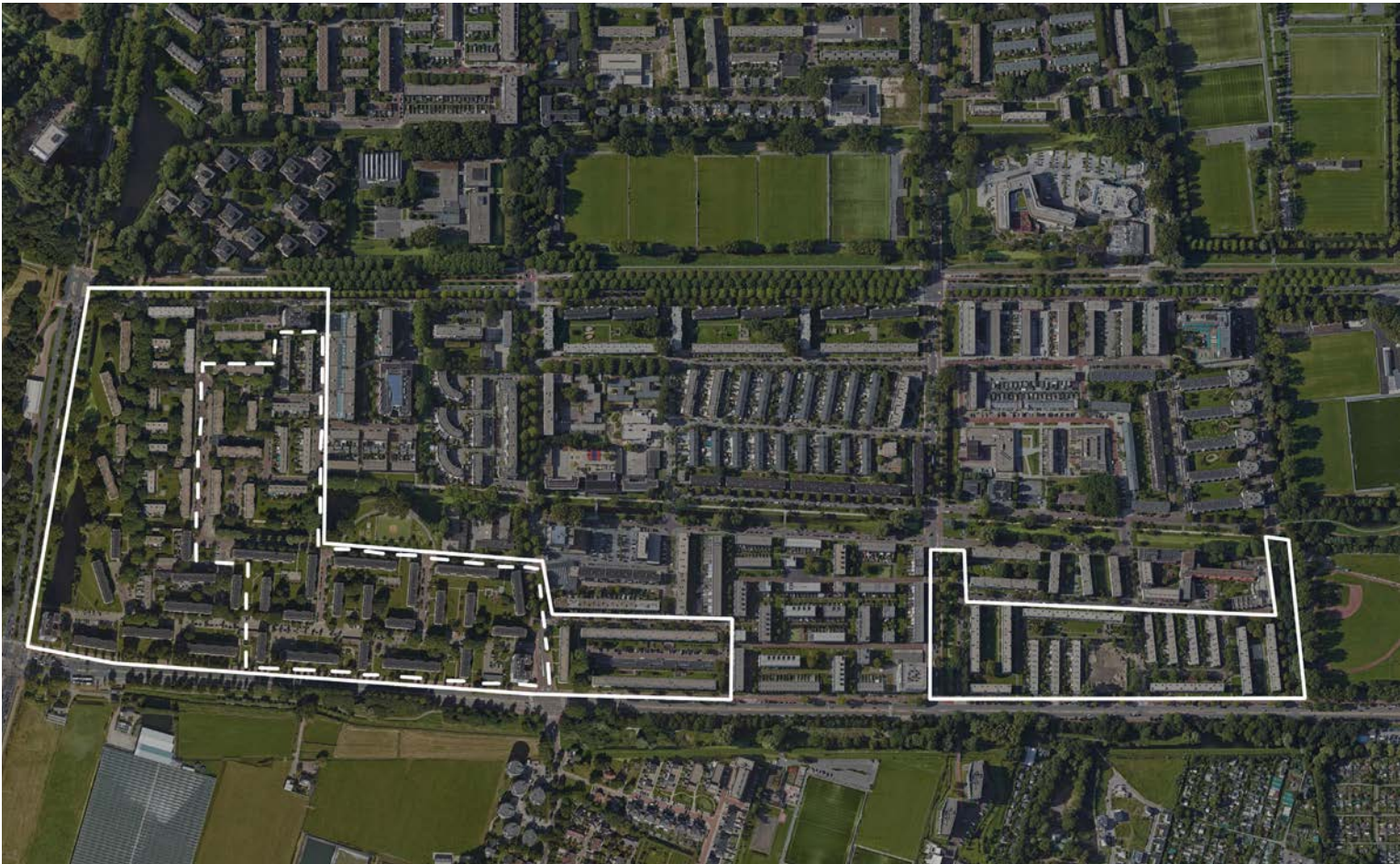
Furthermore, parents and children mentioned that they lacked places for children to stay. In our closer look at the neighbourhood, we found the same thing. There is some playground equipment, but it is randomly distributed and not related to each other, and the same applies to the seating areas. In addition, it is very noticeable that signs limit the use of community places such as courtyards. However, we have noticed that the residents appropriate the neighbourhood despite all these design obstacles. For example, football is played next to signs prohibiting it, families sit on oddly placed benches, and children find new ways to play with each other such as drawing with chalk. The residents find a way to overcome the design challenges - and this is exactly where we wanted to start!

We are planning three different strategies. Firstly we want to enhance places with high potential through smaller interventions and make them useful for the residents. Due to the general complaints about the lack of seating, we want to focus on this. Furniture combined with planting should enhance areas that are only paved. In addition, plants have a calming effect, and trees radiate security.

Furthermore, we want to create public bookshelves connected to the seating. In principle, they function in the same way as libraries - except that they are free of charge, anyone can put books in and take them out, and accessible around the clock. Again, children and adults are addressed, and a sense of connection is created by sharing them with other residents.

Our second strategy is to address the children's needs in the neighbourhood specifically. Through our observations and surveys, we have noticed that they are the group that spends the most time in the neighbourhood but are least represented in the neighbourhood. Therefore, we want to address them by creating an entirely new place for them to interact. As already mentioned, the neighbourhood seems very attractive at first sight, but at second sight, there is an atmosphere of restriction that is created by all of the signs. We want to counteract this!

- Planned
- Phase 1



- Shops and services
- Bus and tram stops
- Playgrounds
- Schools and kindergardens





We want to offer children a place of free development, where they can do whatever they want, move entirely freely and just let off steam without disturbing anyone. While analysing the existing playgrounds, we noticed that children spend time on them alongside their parents and guardians. The playground becomes a place where different age groups spend time. By bringing their parents, children encouraged them to interact with each other. For this reason, these places should also appeal secondarily to adults.

Lastly, we want to create places of community that encourage interaction and create a sense of community. We consider it difficult to stimulate interaction in a neighbourhood where several languages are spoken. However, activities carried out together can make people feel connected to each other. We noticed that the creation of vegetable gardens in the neighbourhood is planned, which we also noticed during our first observations. Following that, we found smaller vegetable gardens for the residents appealing. Community gardens create spaces for residents to grow their fresh food, but they also enhance interaction and create social ties.

Through our interventions, we aim to address the needs of residents and build on what is already happening in the neighbourhood. The aim is to create places that encourage interaction and give residents the feeling that they are free to express themselves.







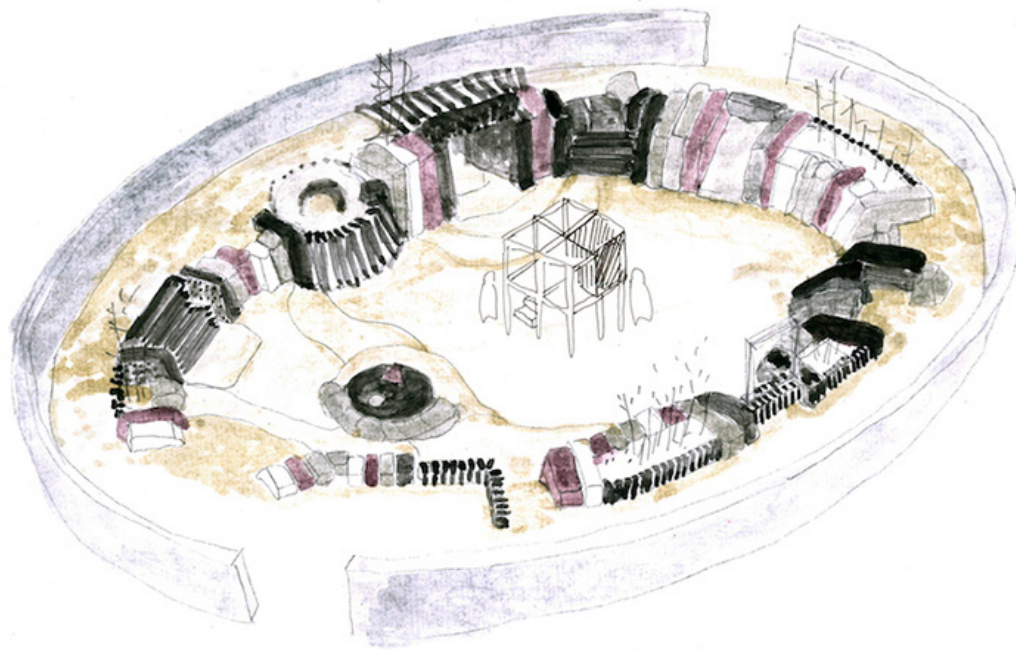
Assemble studio, Baltic Street Adventure Playground, 2014

Assemble studio did not create a playground but rather a framework for the children to develop their ideas and appropriate the space themselves. Everything is allowed; the space is minimally designed so that the kids can play entirely freely. We believe that such an approach is transferable (can be moved outside of the neighbourhood) and is ideal for developing children’s creativity.





## Inspiration



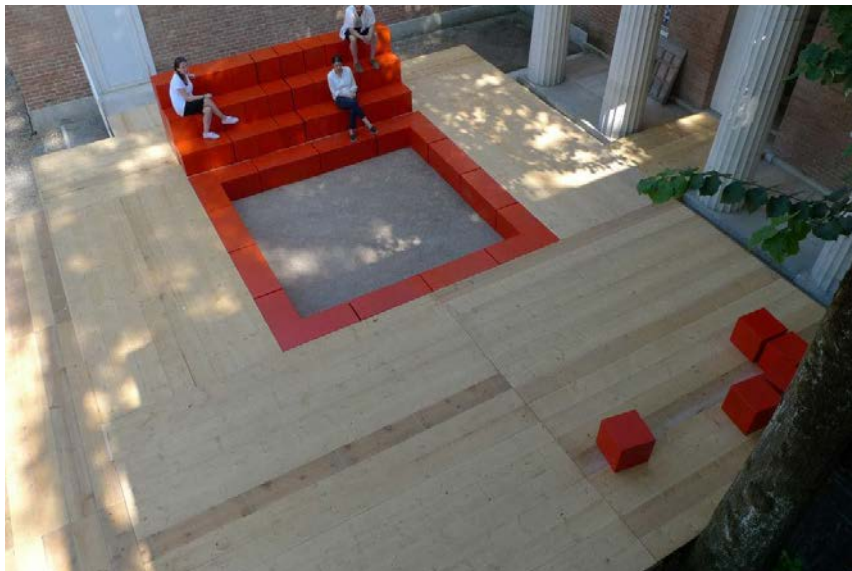
### muf, Golden Lane Estate Play Space, 2019

muf studio used a similar technique as Assemble studio by creating a framework for the children. They were commissioned to redesign a neglected playground. Their interventions were minimal, and they have used the children's input to develop the playground. The playground has many possibilities - hiding places, a stage, a slide, and things that kids can move around. By appropriating the space, the kids feel closer, like a community.



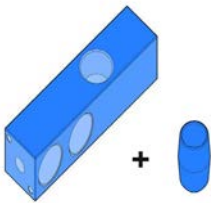


Inspiration



Interboro, Common-place, 2012

Interboro created a very simple intervention, which is easy to move around from one place to another. They have used a courtyard in the Venice biennale premises. An idea adapted from Hertzberger is very flexible and works as a lego in public space. Various spatial compositions can be created out of the cubes. Problems might be associated with the potential theft of the cubes. Nevertheless, we would like to adopt this idea as we believe that it allows for a fun and simple appropriation of the space.



Interboro, Ad-bloc, 2014

Another interesting project from Interboro was focused on creating a block for sitting that would simultaneously allow the citizens to sit next to greenery. We want to adopt this concept by creating a move-able garden. The residents could take care of the plants while sitting and enjoying the sun.



Design proposal  
analysis of locations

We were analysing possible locations in regards to possible activities. We distinguished between 3 different locations:

- Empty green areas
- Empty paved areas
- Playground
- Spots that are a beginning of a playground

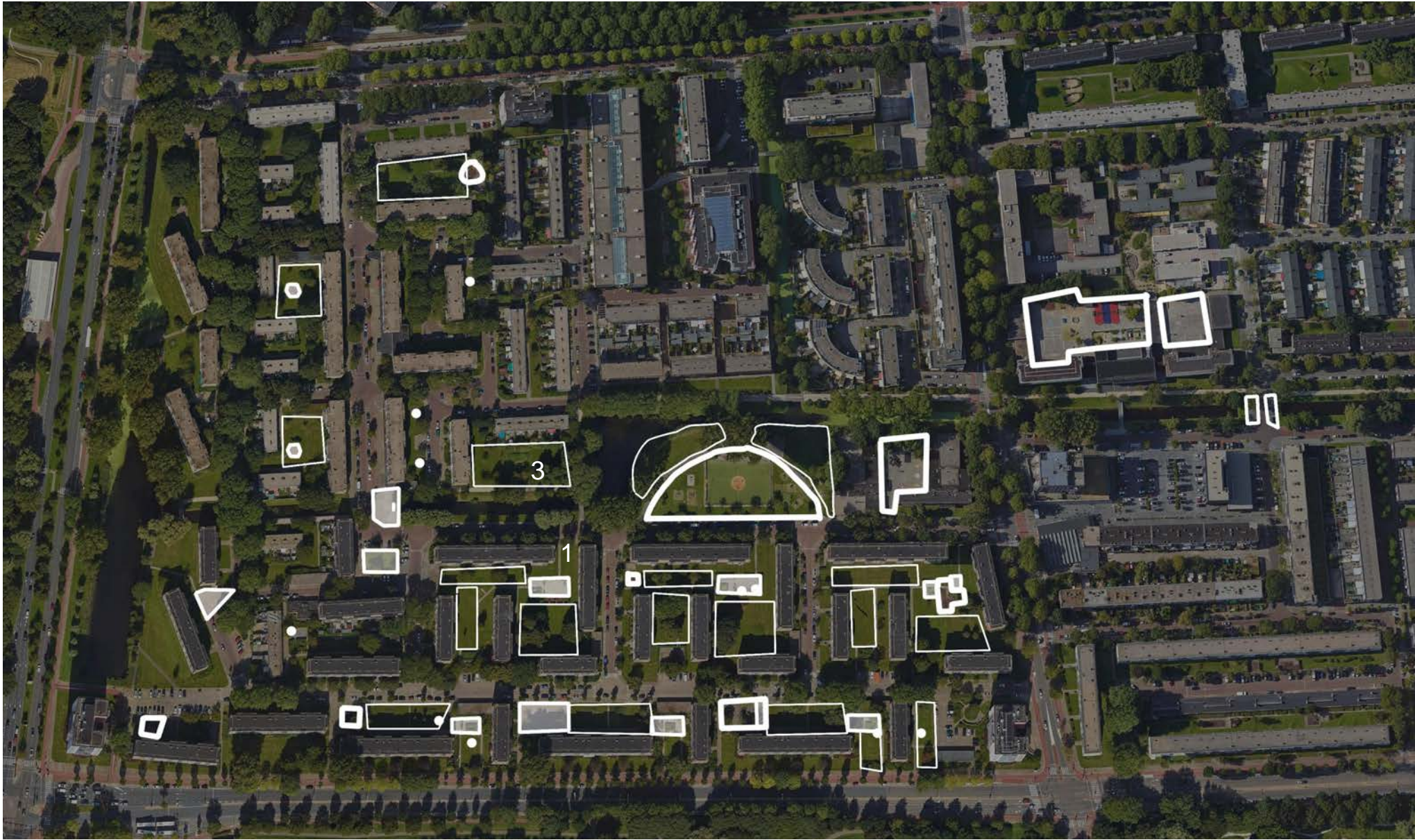
Empty areas give us enough space for placement of different activities. Their surface is guiding in which activity can be placed there. Green space is ideal for harvesting in the ground, while paved areas are more useful for creation of a seating. Already existing pieces of playground can be expanded to create a more cohesive space. We have focused on the Eastern location, although similar analysis can be conducted in the rest of the neighborhood.

The three images illustrate different atmosphere with different surfaces in the neighborhood. Location 1 is inside of the housing block, with more intimate atmosphere. Location 2 is still in close proximity to the neighbors but in a more exposed space. Location 3 is connected to the perceived center of the neighborhood, to the central artery which is the canal.

potential green area

potential paved area

Playgrounds





# Assignment 4



<sup>1</sup> Mike Lydon, Anthony Garcia, Tactical Urbanism (Springer, 2015), 1-24

<sup>2</sup> R. J. Kleinhans, Housing policy and Regeneration (Elsevier Ltd., 2012), 592

<sup>3</sup> Matthew Carmona, Magalhães Claudio de, and Leo Hammond, "The Use and Nature of Public Space," in Public Space: The Management Dimension (Routledge, 2008), 6

## Design Proposal

We are placing multiple meeting places in one neighborhood following the methodology of tactical urbanism - *an approach to neighborhood building and activation using short-term, low-cost, scalable interventions and policies*.<sup>1</sup> Such concept is suitable for this type of context as the residents will soon be dislocated and the neighborhood will change. By creating multiple places for meeting we are giving more opportunity to the residents for social interaction. One centralised spot would not be equally accessible to everyone and could not cater for different needs of the citizens. Additionally, the different spots have varied genius loci. While some of them that are placed in the courtyards are more intimate, enclosed, others are along the junctions on more visible spaces. Such strategy can be implemented also in other parts of the neighborhood.

We identified 5 types of activities that will be located in the neighborhood - seating, gardening, reading, drinking and playing. These activities should cater for different types of people. Also, the activities that we are using are producing more interaction - playgrounds are firstly connecting children with other children, then there is a potential that mothers will interact. Such connection already establishes sort of a relationship, even just as an acquaintance, on which the neighbors can further built up. According to Kleinhans, even basic interaction such as saying 'hello' or having a quick conversation can "create a basic level of understanding and trust between neighbors."<sup>2</sup> Additionally, the activities are in close proximity, therefore people with various or common interests are more likely to meet. We believe that through our interventions a sense of community can be established.

Our strategy is based on the appropriation of spaces already in the neighbourhood. We viewed these spaces as not entirely used because of the poor implementation of furniture or play facilities. Instead of finding new places within the neighbourhood, which are almost a blank slate, we are looking for places that indicate potential activity. In combination with determining strategic spots in the urban layout, we create various spaces with very simple, easily distinguishable interventions - standard benches, tables, and gardening spots.

We are avoiding the overdesign of public spaces, which various scholars have criticised.<sup>3</sup> Such an approach is criticised when the designers create an overly excessive design in a location that does not require spectacular interventions and tries to go against the natural state of things. By observing the neighbourhood, we noticed several activities already taking place. Vegetable community gardens, places to sit, and playgrounds are dispersed around the neighbourhood. We aim



at creating interventions “that should be considered creatively and sensitively, involving weighing-up and balancing options and impacts to find the ‘optimum’ given solution within the constraints set by context and resources”.<sup>4</sup> Thus, we are using not only the local shops, materials and resources, such as the soil itself but also the core of the community - its residents.

We aim to involve the community in the process of individualising the furniture.<sup>5</sup> Through such a process, people are more connected to the place. Not only individual but collective memories are established as well as the residents forming a community. We are preparing a framework for such a process by providing perfectly functioning furniture, utilities for gardening etc. The residents will then be encouraged to paint the furniture themselves. We also let them move the furniture around to facilitate “choice and the opportunity to communicate character and personality”.<sup>6</sup> The moveable furniture will be mostly placed in enclosed areas with enough social control - balconies facing the courtyard or occupation due to the added activities in the courtyard. However, to prevent crime, the furniture will be heavier, so that more people will be required to move it around. Placing movable seats in public spaces has been widely used in different cities (Figure 1). Such an approach allows people to sit without having to buy anything and maybe observe other people.

The neighbourhood will soon change. Due to this situation, we aim to address low-cost moveable furniture and place elements along the canal and roads - spaces that are the least likely to change. In the case of vegetable gardens, there is a possibility that they will be destroyed in some spaces. Unfortunately, the temporary strengthening of the community would be more valuable than the future damage. Community gardens provide an excellent arena for people to interact and get to know each other. Such spaces give people options to do their activities without necessarily interacting. Nevertheless, the advantage of community gardens is also nutritional and economic.<sup>7</sup>

According to Dines and Cattell,<sup>8</sup> people need a variety of spaces that would meet the needs of a diverse group of people. Ethnic diversity is a crucial aspect of the Dreven en Gaarden neighbourhood. We are assuming that people from different backgrounds have different preferences and needs. Due to these factors, we aim to create “spaces to linger as well as spaces of transit; spaces that bring people together and spaces of retreat”.<sup>9</sup> By defining several areas with different genius loci, we are targeting not only different age groups but also different personalities. In the case of a need for an encounter, people could gather close to the canal. Most people pass by the canal because the roads for cars are centred around it, and also important pedestrian junctions are crossing the canal. The canal is appealing also due to people’s natural evolutionary attraction to water. In this specific location, Gehl’s resultant activities are also possible.<sup>10</sup> People might be



Figure 1, Project “Sit Down” in Bratislava

<sup>4</sup> Matthew Carmona, Magalhães Claudio de, and Leo Hammond, “The Use and Nature of Public Space,” in *Public Space: The Management Dimension* (Routledge, 2008), 9

<sup>5</sup> *Environmental Psychology: Principles and Practice*, Edition: 5th, Chapter: 9, Publisher: Optimal Books, Editors: R. Gifford, 275

<sup>6</sup> Matthew Carmona, Magalhães Claudio de, and Leo Hammond, “The Use and Nature of Public Space,” in *Public Space: The Management Dimension* (Routledge, 2008), 14

<sup>7</sup> Esther J. Veen, *Community gardens in urban areas*, 24

<sup>8</sup> Nicholas Dines and Vicky Cattell, “Public spaces, social relations and well-being in East London” (The Policy Press, 2006), 15

<sup>9</sup> Nicholas Dines and Vicky Cattell, “Public spaces, social relations and well-being in East London” (The Policy Press, 2006), 15

<sup>10</sup> Jan Gehl, *Life Between buildings*, (Isalnd, 2008)



coming back from work, but they notice a truck selling coffee and people sitting around it, meaning that there is a high chance that they would stop by. As people attract people, the sheer presence of the residents would attract other residents to the activity happening. Maybe someone will see their neighbour in the crowd, which also already establishes a point of connection to the space itself. Whyte<sup>11</sup> has also stressed the importance of the excellent location being placed close to a busy road, where the physical and visual connections are good.

We are bringing the different services to the people rather than people coming to the services themselves. By placing bookshelves in different parts of the neighborhood, we are moving the contents of the library closer to them so they can readily use them. Truck with food and drinks can invigorate the public space: “when public spaces fail because they lack the necessary framework to facilitate human activity, food trucks often provide just the spark needed to bring them back to life, if only for a few hours a day.”<sup>12</sup>

Thus, we aim to use the half-empty spaces placed along the road. Lastly, we provide a space for the kids to finish the playground however they want to. Assemble and muf (Figure 2), practices using participatory methods, have used this approach and proved to be successful. Kids require a variety of space and surprises, so the playground should not just be sterile but varied in its functions.

By targeting variety of spaces with different activities, we believe that our project would be a successful addition to the neighborhood and the community. We believe that the placement in strategic points in the neighborhood and the activities will lead to more interaction between the residents and well-being of the community.




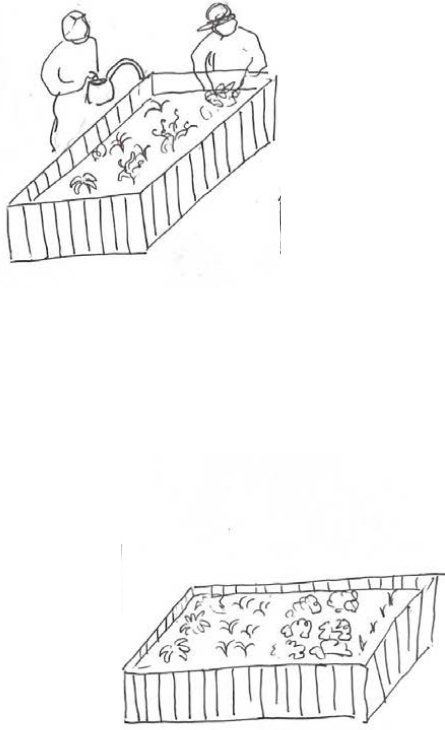
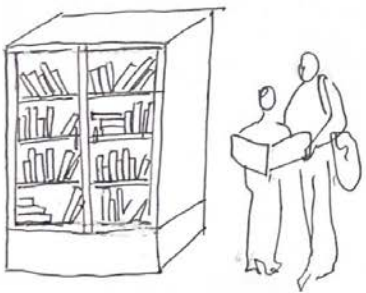


Figure 2, muf, playground

<sup>11</sup> Matthew Carmona, Magalhães Claudio de, and Leo Hammond, “The Use and Nature of Public Space,” in Public Space: The Management Dimension (Routledge, 2008), 14

<sup>12</sup> Mike Lydon, Anthony Garcia, Tactical Urbanism (Springer, 2015), 25-62



Category of activities

● SEATING	● GARDENING	● READING	● PLAYING	● DRINKING
 <p>moveable chairs, tables and benches, which will be made heavy enough so that they are moveable but not for long distances</p>	 <p>including vegatable gardens and flower gardens which will be planted right in the ground</p>	 <p>public book shelves which sides will be covered with blackboard foil so kids can draw on it with chalk</p>		 <p>truck with coffee and tea that drives around the neighbourhood</p>

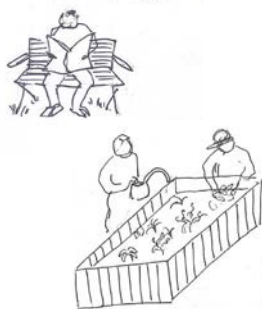
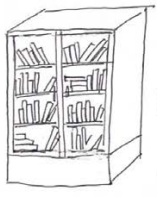
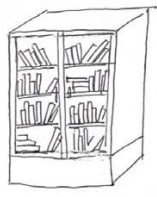
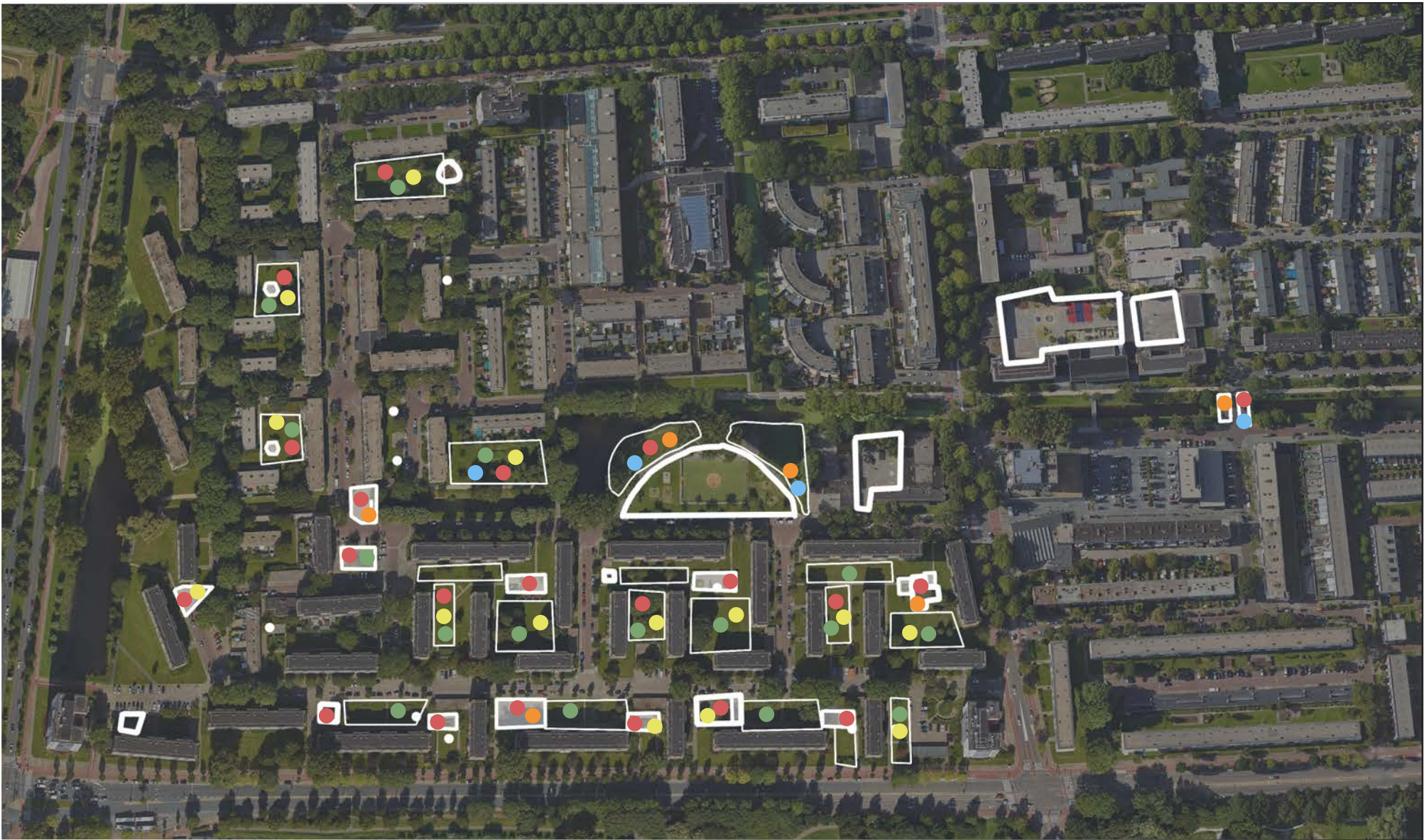


Mapping the locations

After defining the individual needs and activities and categorising them, we placed them in the neighbourhood. The mix of activities was essential to us because many residents visit our meeting places, so this compilation of activities should also reflect this diversity. In addition, it was essential to use the neighbourhood's existing qualities and build on them. For this reason, we looked at the paved areas and the areas which were landscaped since different qualities are associated with the nature of the soil.

For this reason, we placed seating options specifically on the paved area and selected the green area to create vegetable gardens. Existing play areas were supplemented with additional play equipment. Book boxes were placed in paved locations that appeared open and visible to a larger audience. The truck is designed to travel to these specific locations and offer drinks to children, seniors, parents, teens and young adults in the afternoons when the neighbourhood is busier or to adjust the offer according to the needs of the residents. By linking our interventions to existing public objects and seating areas, we do not create new places but improve places that already have potential. The mixture of different activities encourages interaction between different age groups and can therefore alleviate prejudices and biases.

- potential green area
- potential paved area
- Playgrounds





## Seating

Seating is an essential part of the project. As we noticed before and during the observations, the neighbourhood is full of green areas, canals and walking paths. Hence, these three aspects are our priority to make it more accessible and practical in use and focus more on the position of the seating areas. The seating area is made of wooden waterproof furniture. Staedion owns many properties in the neighbourhood, and its goal is to provide an excellent area to live in. We think in this case Staedion is responsible for providing the furniture. It is crucial to notice that the furniture is not attached but is heavy enough to stay in place and is theft-proof (i.e. chaining them). They are also not stored anywhere; they can be placed somewhere else in the neighbourhood whenever they need to be moved.

The seating areas already exist in the neighbourhood, so we think this part is the first step that has priority. The following order is seating, gardening, and the playgrounds where the bookshelves are built. Since we have different locations for the chairs, tables and benches, the busiest spots need to be provided first. This part will be available the entire year, including cold/ winter times.

The scale of this part is based on how many people live in different blocks of the area. In this case, we can target 10 per cent of the housing block based on the neighbour's needs, based on statistics and the houses themselves. Regarding the actors for the seating areas, the main actors are Staedion, which supplies the furniture, and the residents, who make use of the created spaces and should also actively be incorporated in the creation process. Since the project aims explicitly at older people and children, those are also the groups that should be most actively involved. In addition, residents can be consulted about the type of seating they prefer, where they would like it, etc., to ensure that these areas are attractive to the neighbours.

The maintenance of the seating should not be too high. However, there are some things to consider. For maintenance, the benches will need repainting to maintain their attractiveness. Another aspect to consider is that the benches might also be secured to ensure they will not be stolen. This management should mainly be the responsibility of Staedion. However, it would also be nice to find a way to actively incorporate residents, e.g. make them want to feel responsible to take care of the seating area. This could be in the form of scheduling events in which the furniture is painted as a group, the paint is supplied by Staedion.

## Policy programme theory

- **Context:** currently there are few options around the neighbourhood where the residents can sit down and relax. The few options that there are do not invite conversation (e.g. by facing away from one another) and are placed seemingly randomly. We aim to make these spaces more in number as well as more inviting. This will be achieved in the following way:
- **Input:** The seating requires a medium financial investment, which particularly concerns the acquisition of the seating. This seating will be paid for by Staedion. This is most probably a one-time investment, since the seating will only be replaced in emergencies. From a human resource and time perspective, the seating also does not require much: they only seem relevant throughout the placement of the seating and then possibly in case of sth. Breaking or needing a new coat of paint. This job will be taken on mainly by the residents.
- **Activities/Output:** Wooden waterproof furniture will be distributed more or less equally throughout the neighbourhood to create common places for the residents. This furniture will then be maintained by the residents (and Staedion in the rare case of something breaking, etc.)
- **Outcomes:** In line with our idea, this creates a more welcoming public space for the residents where they can simply sit down and relax or encounter others and engage with them if they would like to. This makes the neighbourhood more attractive for the residents as well as visitors and people that are considering moving to the area.





## Gardening

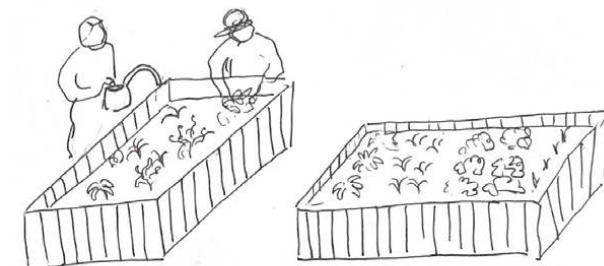
For the gardening part of gardening, we were thinking of different gardening pots in the neighbourhood. Mens en Tuin has been a “care garden” (translation Dutch: zorgtuin) in Moerwijk for more than thirty years, and since May 2018 in Westbroekpark under Greens in the Park The Hague. Mens en Tuin is an important actor in the gardening project for volunteers and pieces of equipment for the gardening pots. Volunteers can also make the gardening pots from the neighbourhood recruited through flyering. The pieces of equipment needed can be bought by Staedion, or create a partnership with a local store to buy seeds with discounts (e.g. Westland Florada). We saw that there are already some attempts at community gardens within the neighbourhood during the observations. It might be helpful to consult them and possibly ask for resources or tools to start the project.

Furthermore, some residents might own helpful tools that they are welcome to bring to the project. As mentioned before, the winter poses a particular challenge to the garden since the weather does not allow for much gardening. However, there might be some ways to make use of climate-resilient plants that can also grow in winter and thus engage in seasonal gardening. Some parts of the garden might have to be covered in winter, however it is also beneficial to the gardens if they are covered with snow, since snow has the ability to insulate the plants. We suggest that different projects could be carried out throughout the year. In spring, the garden can be cleaned and new seeds can be sown together with the residents. In summer, we suggest a communal strawberry picking and in autumn we propose a pumpkin painting event. In this way, the garden should become an integral part of the neighbourhood and reflect the different needs of the residents. The already existing gardening groups might again provide resources and materials for this or could be sponsored by a local crowd-fund.

Through a community event organised by Staedion and the residents' initiatives, the gardens can be introduced to the neighbourhood. Flyering is an effective way to make the residents aware of this project. The flyers need to be distributed at the end of April. The volunteers can then start with the seeds. The gardens will grow with time when the gardeners receive more seeds. Staedion can be the mediator between the volunteers of the gardens and the people or organisations who bring the seeds. They can also create a commission responsible for the growth of the gardens.

## Policy programme theory

- **Context:** Currently there are a couple of attempts throughout the neighbourhood for community gardening. However, there are still many green spaces that are not being made use of and simply empty. We aim to bring life into these areas by creating more opportunities for community gardening and through this, creating a communal activity for the residents.
- **Input:** The gardening required a small financial effort for acquiring the gardening pots and possible needed tools. This might be enabled through the organisation “mens en Tuin”. The human resources and time needed for this project are quite large, since it needs a lot of maintenance. This is, however, fundamental to the idea behind the project.
- **Activities/Output:** Gardening pots and such will be places around the green areas in the neighbourhoods. With the help of Mens en Tuin volunteers will be recruited for the maintenance of these areas. One particular group that will be targeted is elderly residents.
- **Outcomes:** This creates a space and an activity in which the residents can regularly and relatively easily participate in. Particularly for elderly people who experience more loneliness, this might be an activity that brings them outside and helps them meet other people in the neighbourhood.





## Reading

Next to the seating and playing areas, we want to create bookshelves with books where neighbours can share their books or choose a book for themselves to read. Minibieb is already an existing concept in the Netherlands. This is an organisation that places mini-libraries in cities where people can rent books for free. The residents can be motivated to help create those bookshelves, where we need volunteers again. Building these mini-libraries can be a communal activity, just like painting the seating area. Residents will create a feeling of belonging through self-made projects. This can be asked in the same way as gardening, through flyers and events that introduce the new bookshelves. When volunteering, they can also read to the children if they are open and willing. The books can be provided by libraries in the neighbourhood, namely Bibliotheek Wateringse veld, Bibliotheek Bouwlust and Bibliotheek Escamp.

The library concept is straightforward, but some questions arise: What happens to the books if they are super old? Who makes sure the books are taken care of and places new books on the shelves? The main actors here are Staedion, the residents and the library. The library will be the primary provider of the books, but residents are welcome to add or exchange their books. As such we hope that the inflow of new books will be ensured. The issue around old books might be a bit more complex. Older books might also attract fewer readers. Therefore, it might be an idea to allow residents to keep those books permanently. Otherwise, it might be an idea to repurpose old books by, for example, organising a crafts event in which these books are used for art projects. However, not all books will be repurposed and will thus have to be recycled. Here, volunteers with the help of Staedion will again be needed to regularly go through the library and see which books are too used. Another question concerns the opening times of the mini-library: it seems best if this is available day and night; the event (e.g., where people read out loud) might take place throughout the day.

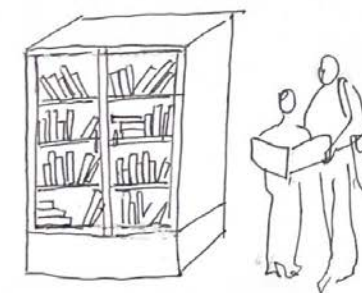
Through a participatory project, residents are encouraged to design the bookshelves. For this we need wood that can be obtained from local carpenters. These libraries will be created around the seating areas in order to provide places to read the books. Smaller events could be organised by Staedion and the residents' initiatives to encourage people to read together. The books are available all year round and fragile books can be stored by Staedion. As it is difficult to read books outside in winter, we would like to encourage Staedion and the residents' initiatives to make reading possible in their rooms.

For the scale of the bookshelves, we need to ask for advice from Minibieb. We can already start with a few library shelves to monitor how popular they are in the densest parts of the neighbourhoods. The

readings also occur in the more dense parts of the neighbourhoods, e.g. around the bigger playgrounds. To ensure that the collection of books is updated and generally maintained, the consultant hired by Staedion and volunteers from the neighbourhood check the bookshelves weekly.

## Policy programme theory

- **Context:** Currently there are few if not no activities for the residents, particularly the children, to engage in. We would like to contribute to the space by providing a sort of library that the residents and children can explore.
- **Input:** The main financial resource needed is the money for the books. These might even be provided for free or very little money by the local libraries. The bookshelves could be gathered from the neighborhood residents. Once everything is up, maintenance is very simple. Human resources might be required for things such as read-alouds for children.
- **Activities/Output:** Bookshelves will be distributed around the seating and playing areas in the neighbourhood. Residents can come and borrow books as well as add their own into the collections. In good weather some residents might organise a read-aloud for the children.
- **Outcomes:** An activity and a place that the residents can go and where children and adults can come together as well.





## Playing

It is essential to improve or add new playgrounds to ensure that the neighbourhood's children enjoy living there. However, we would like to propose a different type of playground equipment. Instead of expensive objects that are static, we propose small additional recyclable objects that can be added to the existing ones. The different objects can be obtained by different businesses, for this it can be advantageous to contact for example car businesses, carpenters or waste management companies in the area who could supply objects that could be of use for the playground (i.e. tires, wood). This organisation of new objects is done by stadion in combination with different residents' initiatives to make sure that the objects are also needed and wanted by the children. Asking for funding from the municipality can help to achieve this goal. The placement of the playgrounds can be combined with seating arrangements and gardening, this way different activities are placed in relation to each other which can stimulate interaction among all age groups.

Not every part of the neighbourhood will have the same size playgrounds. The size of the different areas as well as the location decides what kind of playground equipment is placed. For the smaller parts, there are going to be less devices. For larger areas, there can be more objects. If only the municipality and Steadion were involved in this process, it would be a top-down approach which we want to avoid by incorporating local organisations in order to be as close to the residents as possible. One organisation that can be asked is de Kast van Lotje. This foundation supports small-scale initiatives and projects to help children in the Hague. They started by providing clothes and toys for children in need. They have two crucial ground rules in their work. One is that innovation needs to imply a whole neighbourhood, and the second is that it is about children. They probably also have existing pieces of equipment that they can offer to the neighbourhood. With this, it is important not to waste old materials. It is not usable when it is impossible to move something without breaking it.

## Policy programme theory

- **Context:** Currently there are extremely few playing opportunities for the children in the area. There are some attempts at a playing area such as the odd rocking horse, but they are not very inviting and quite randomly placed. We aim to create multiple spaces around the neighbourhood that are more suitable for children to play in.
- **Input:** The playgrounds' largest cost will be financial. A variety of playground equipment will be needed and while some of it may be donated (e.g., used tires from carshops), others will need to be bought (second-hand objects are preferred). This task would mainly fall onto the municipality. Furthermore, financial and material support could be provided by "Kaast van Lotje". Once the basic equipment is available and set up throughout the neighbourhood by the municipality, little to no other resources will be needed. This also applies to time and human resources.
- **Activities/Output:** Smaller empty areas in the neighbourhood will receive single pieces of playground equipment and larger areas will receive more equipment. By doing so we create many opportunities for the children to play outside.
- **Outcomes:** Through this intervention, we will provide more viable opportunities for play for the children of the neighbourhood. This is a relief for them and their parents and enables the residents to meet people in the same period of life as themselves. Furthermore it strongly contributes to a positive perception of the neighbourhood both by outsiders and residents. Next to this, local collaboration is encouraged by working with Kaast van Lotje.





## Drinking

To organise an opportunity for the residents in the neighbourhood to have a coffee or tea, we attempt to organise a truck that runs through the neighbourhood regularly. This truck is provided by Staedion, but the organisation is carried out in close cooperation with the residents' initiatives and volunteers. Local catering services and residents who are interested will be involved in the provision of drinks and perhaps small bites. In this way, a cooperation with Staedion and smaller catering services is established, which is important to ensure that the needs of the residents are always met. Businesses that are interested in locating themselves in the neighbourhood can also be included, in this case Staedion could pay for the truck and the gas, but the owners have to drive the truck in the neighbourhood according to agreements. The truck can drive through the different areas in the neighbourhood with the new seating and playing facilities.

The truck could drive through the neighbourhood twice a week concerning the scheduling. The first time is a Friday afternoon from 5 PM to 8 PM when the weekend starts, and the second time can be on a Sunday during the day. Most people are free on Sunday so that the truck can drive around from 12 PM to 5 PM. For this truck, promotion with the exact times is important to motivate people to come by. The truck would be driving around certain spots in the neighbourhood where the specific furniture is located. The community's residents would be the primary target, but possible visitors to the area might also join. As soon as this part of the project is set up, the maintenance does not require much further consideration. It is pretty straightforward that those who organise and set up the truck continue to do so. One important consideration here, however, might be the question around funds. As mentioned above, Staedion might partially cover these, but there might be a need to include other sources. One more idea/consideration would be if it is possible to work together with the already existing ice-cream truck- then both parents and children are entertained and happy at the same time.

Notably, the truck is the last part of the steps. When the other interventions are finished and accepted by the neighbourhood, the truck will be added as an additional intervention.

## Policy programme theory

- **Context:** In the neighbourhood there are currently no opportunities for the adult residents to grab any sort of drink, something that they wish was available in their area. We would like to create an opportunity for them to do so and engage with their neighbours.
- **Input:** This intervention would require quite high financial, human, and time resources. Financially, a truck would have to be acquired that is available twice a week. Furthermore, materials and ingredients for serving coffee twice a week would have to be organised. There would however, also be an income since residents would buy the coffee or tea offered. The actual maintenance of the project will require a lot of volunteer time and energy since this project would take place twice a week for a couple of hours and also require some time to prepare. Thus this intervention would be quite costly.
- **Activities/Output:** A coffee and tea truck comes to the neighbourhood twice a week and sells cheap coffee and tea to the residents. There is a regular schedule which the truck follows to ensure that the residents know it is coming. Residents can come together and e.g. combine their visit to the Mini-library with their kids with grabbing a coffee.
- **Outcomes:** A place where adults can grab a coffee close to home. This could help to create a feeling of belonging for the residents. Furthermore, it provides ample opportunity for working together with local caterers of coffee shops to provide the coffee and tea. This would be beneficial for the local economy as well.





POLICY PROGRAMME THEORY





## Maintenance and management

To ensure the positive outcome of our design aspirations, the management and the maintenance of the spaces we create need to be taken into account. This is the only way to ensure that public space is preserved and retains its original role of addressing the needs of residents in the neighbourhood. According to Carmona et al., four important processes concerning public space management are essential. First of all, the usage of public space must be regulated and the possible conflicts that go along with it. This defines how public space can actually be used and what behaviour is allowed and what is not.<sup>13</sup>

Interestingly, there is a big difference between regulation and use in our neighbourhood. It is noticeable that the number of signs restricting the use of courtyards is largely ignored. Even though it is not allowed to play football, these rules are broken, and children still play football and appropriate the place. This suggests that needs are restricted by the regulation, which is an indicator to question the way the regulation has come about.

Another aspect is the maintenance routine, which ensures that the components of the public space can facilitate the needs of the residents and maintain the intended functions. To be precise, preserving the individual objects located in the public squares in the neighbourhood is a major challenge.<sup>14</sup> For example, it is very noticeable that the courtyards, which could function excellently as interactive recreational areas, lack equipment. Through interviews in the neighbourhood, it turns out that the neighbours would like to have more equipment, but it is no longer provided due to the problem of vandalism.

Furthermore, public space needs investments and ongoing resources in order to actually keep on existing. How the maintenance of the public space can be ensured depends very much on the financial resources that are available, which can be obtained through different sources.<sup>15</sup> In our case, the housing association Staedion plays a role here and the respective stakeholders, which we therefore intend to take into account for the maintenance and management of our interventions.

To fully understand in what forms our interventions will be maintained and managed, we need to understand the different mechanisms that drive the public spaces in our neighbourhood. Carmona et al. explained three different management models of public spaces: state-centred, market-centred, and community-centred. Even though these models are based in the UK, they are still helpful to understand our neighbourhood. In the following, we will look at aspects of the state-centred and community-centred models that can be found in our neighbourhood and that we want to build on.

<sup>13</sup> Matthew Carmona, Magalhães Claudio de, and Leo Hammond, "The Use and Nature of Public Space," in *Public Space: The Management Dimension* (Routledge, 2008), 66.

<sup>14</sup> Matthew Carmona, Magalhães Claudio de, and Leo Hammond, "The Use and Nature of Public Space," in *Public Space: The Management Dimension* (Routledge, 2008), 67.

<sup>15</sup> Matthew Carmona, Magalhães Claudio de, and Leo Hammond, "The Use and Nature of Public Space," in *Public Space: The Management Dimension* (Routledge, 2008), 67.

Carmona et al. explain the state-centred model as a model that relies entirely on the public sector and makes it responsible for managing the public space without any engagement of other sectors. This model is characterised by clear hierarchical structures and a clear separation between the service and the use. This aspect, in particular, represents a challenge. Because this clear division of the user and the service, makes visible that the users of the public space, referring to the inhabitants, do not have the power or influence to change the space. The space is regulated by the public sector and even if one can assume that decisions by the local government are based on elected local democracy and therefore are accountable, it is difficult to rely on it on a smaller scale.<sup>16</sup> The different routines and needs of the users need to be considered to ensure the effective maintenance of the public space. Policymakers need to actively address the users, understand their routines, and maintain the public space according to their needs. This can again be seen well in the example of the multiple signs in our neighbourhood. Some of them were put up by the municipality, and some seem to be outdated. In this case, it is important to emphasise that the municipality must actively try to understand the residents' routines and needs or involve them directly in the process.

The direct involvement of the residents is very important to place interventions in a context that is always very close to the needs of the residents. For this reason, we have taken into account aspects of the community-centred model described by Carmona et al. This model is most applicable in our neighbourhood, as we are not in a commercial context and do not want to occupy private spaces. This model does not leave the organisation of public space to the market or the government but actively involves community organisations because these groups do not derive any financial benefit from the public space but are right at the centre of the residents' needs. It would be better if local organisations were involved in the process because it is visible that there are social groups that are excluded in the public space.<sup>17</sup> For this reason, we want to integrate stakeholder groups in the neighbourhood that actively work together with residents into our design process. The current residents' initiatives are in close contact with the residents and the municipality. Furthermore, the religious institutions are a good connection point, as they also work to connect residents. Last but not least, schools and other educational institutions need to be integrated into the process to reach the underrepresented children.

According to Carmona et al.: "Well-defined public space management contracts with voluntary organisations exist side-by-side with much less formal agreements with ad-hoc residents' groups centred on the management of particular spaces whose existence and survival depend both on government funding and the capacity of the community in question for sustained collective action."<sup>18</sup>

<sup>16</sup> Matthew Carmona, Magalhães Claudio de, and Leo Hammond, "The Use and Nature of Public Space," in *Public Space: The Management Dimension* (Routledge, 2008), 72.

<sup>17</sup> Matthew Carmona, Magalhães Claudio de, and Leo Hammond, "The Use and Nature of Public Space," in *Public Space: The Management Dimension* (Routledge, 2008), 78..

<sup>18</sup> Matthew Carmona, Magalhães Claudio de, and Leo Hammond, "The Use and Nature of Public Space," in *Public Space: The Management Dimension* (Routledge, 2008), 78.



And that is where we see the core point that we want to build on because we already see these processes in our neighbourhood. In our case, many of the places we have chosen are managed by the Stadion housing association. This gives Stadion important access to the respective residents. However, it is important that this housing association also integrates the respective residents' initiatives in the neighbourhood more actively into the process. This would allow communities to decide on a smaller scale according to their own needs. In the next step, these decisions could be recognised by the housing association and directly by the municipality. The separation of the service and the use is reduced, and the interests can be integrated into a bottom-up process instead of a top-down process.

It is important to actively address the respective work areas with regard to maintenance. In addition, the different standards must go hand in hand with the capacities of the groups that take care of them. It is important to emphasise that the public sector provides technical and institutional support. Local standards and requirements defined on a smaller scale and tailored to the local context lead to success, according to Carmona et al.<sup>19</sup> However, these can lead to different demands and expectations within the same neighbourhood. This should be emphasised as an advantage because the wishes and needs of the residents in the neighbourhood are just as diverse as the residents themselves. For this reason, it is very important to integrate the residents, the users of our interventions, into the design process. The respective interventions should be appropriated and redesigned according to their needs, be it the colour of the chairs, the collection of the playground equipment, the size of the gardens or the beverage offerings of the truck.

After actively looking at the literature and seeing some parallels with our neighbourhood, we wanted to incorporate these ideas into our maintenance and management strategy. We see a lot of potential in involving the housing association in the process, but we believe that this can only be done effectively if the housing corporation connects with existing initiatives in the neighbourhood to achieve the greatest possible success. For this reason, we are engaging Staedion in an active exchange with residents' initiatives. Our interventions are only an impulse that should also encourage residents to actively present their needs in the neighbourhood in the future.

Therefore, in order to facilitate further interventions, we think that it would make the most sense for Staedion to hire a person who actively deals with the needs of the residents. This person is supposed to act as a link between the housing association, the residents and the already existing residents' initiatives and therefore operates as a consultant. In this way, a constant exchange between the different groups and interests will be ensured to guarantee that the needs of the residents are adequately addressed. Because these needs are not static but change depending on different factors like different season as well as the change of residents.

<sup>19</sup> Matthew Carmona, Magalhães Claudio de, and Leo Hammond, "The Use and Nature of Public Space," in *Public Space: The Management Dimension* (Routledge, 2008), 79.



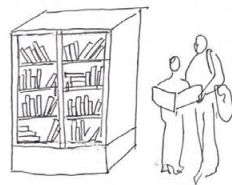


## Maintenance and management

### Reading

The book shelves are designed with the residents initiatives but is coordinated by Staedion. The books are obtained from the local library and in winter times the books are stored at Staedion.

For this we need wood that can be obtained from local carpenters. The organisation is done by Staedion and the consultant checks with volunteers weekly the books.



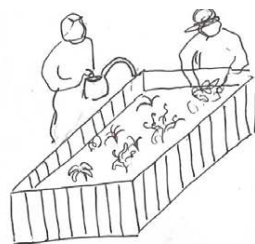
### Drinking

The Truck is supplied by Staedion, as well as maintained and managed. We are proposing a collaboration with existing catering facilities in the neighbourhood. This ensures that the truck represents the interests of the neighbourhood.



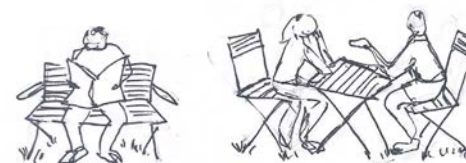
### Gardening

The garden is created with the residents and Stadion, Stadion is responsible for the utensils but residents can bring their own equipment. The aim is that Stadion will lead the project in the initial phase but the maintenance will be carried out by residents and volunteers in the next phase. Stadion is responsible for new equipment and seeds. These can be stored in a small garden shed, which is built together with the residents. The responsibility of this garden shed is given to a group of residents who live in the adjacent flats.



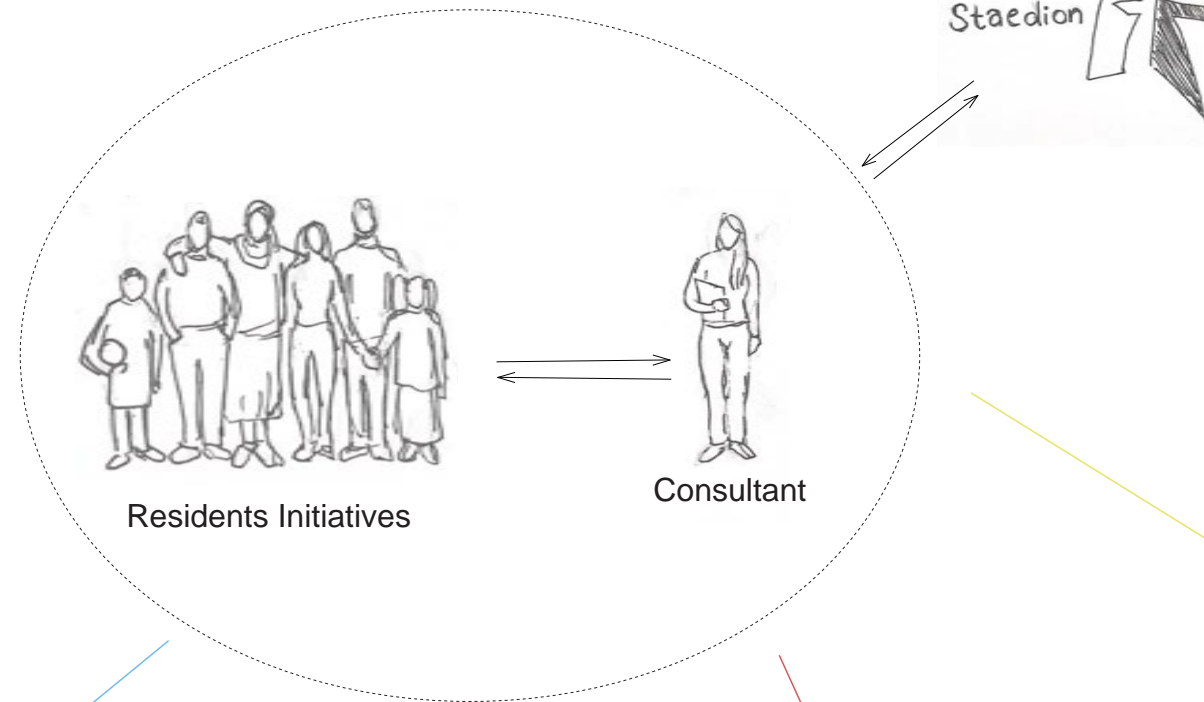
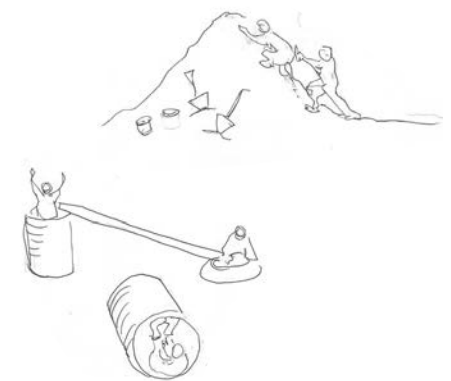
### Seating

The seating objects are provided by Stadion but to make the residents feel that these properties belong to them, we want to integrate the residents into the design process. We propose that residents are encouraged to paint the objects as part of a participatory event. The paint will be provided by Staedion. The objects should be heavy to counteract the risk of theft. It should be noted that Staedion will replace the objects in case of damage or wear. For this reason, the consultant must regularly check the objects.

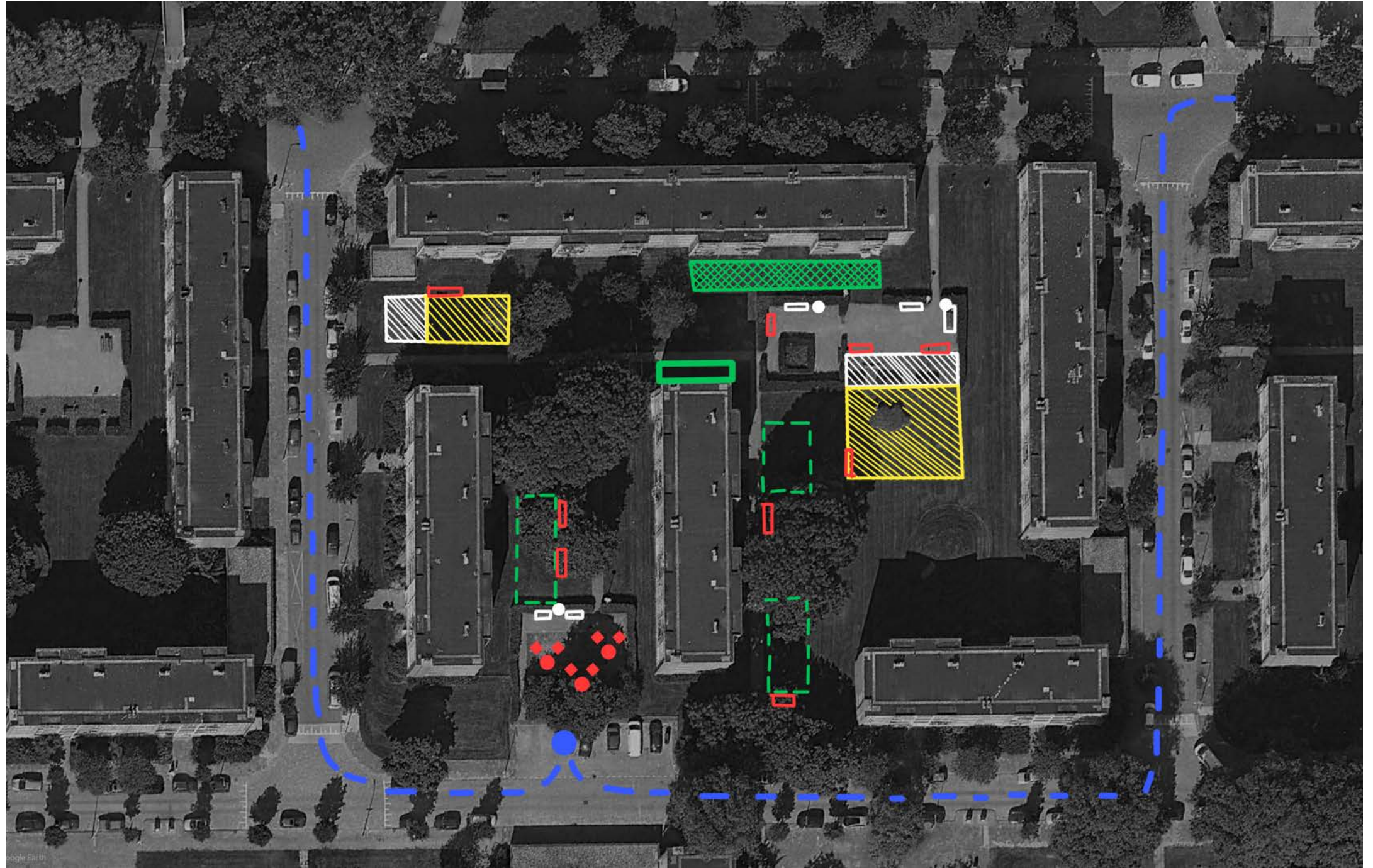


### Playing

The organisation of these objects is carried out by Staedion and the existing resident initiatives. The close relationship with the residents is important, in order to ensure that the new objects are actually needed and wanted. Because the objects are made of recycled materials, they do not require much maintenance, however in case of damage or the demand for other objects the Staedion is responsible to organize new objects with the help of the residents.







## Location 1

We have distinguished between the different locations based on their atmosphere, typology and existing infrastructure. This location is more enclosed and has dispersed benches and playground pieces. By adding more activities, we unify and activate the space. The different colours indicate the placement of different activities, primarily based on the existing infrastructure. Playgrounds are extended, and more benches are added, especially to the playground, where the mothers did not have a place to sit.

- food truck
- playground
- garden
- bookshelf
- sitting
- existing playground
- existing garden
- existing bench





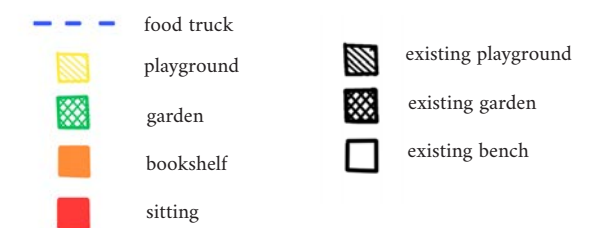




## Location 2

This area shows the relationship to the canal, and it is more connected to transport and movement. The activities are placed and enhanced along the road, sidewalk or a canal.

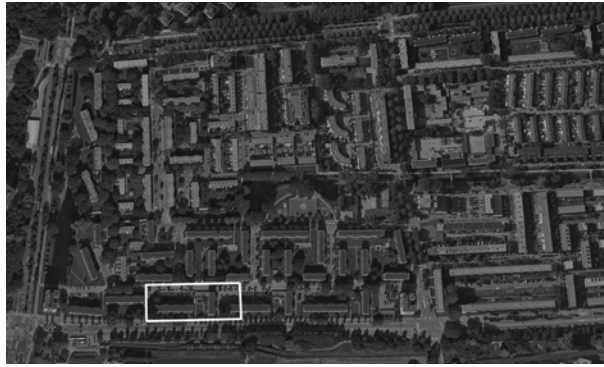
There is plenty of space next to the existing community garden. One side of the community garden has the potential to become a ‘crazy’ playground, while the community garden could extend to the other side. That part can also become an empty area where kids could play football. This specific area is in one of the nicest parts of the neighborhood due to the existing greenery and the canal.











### Location 3

The third location is adjacent to a less central road. The houses' composition is much more open to the street than "location one" and has plenty of greenery in front that is not really used. However, there are pieces in one place forming a beginning of a playground. We want to enhance the playground by extending it with new activities and adding more benches and tables so that mothers can sit there and watch their kids play, but also so that it can be used as a gathering place when the drinking truck comes around.

There is a huge unused green space on the other side, again with benches unequally distributed. We would like to bring the people together by introducing more benches, reading shelves and adding a community garden.

- food truck
- playground
- garden
- bookshelf
- sitting
- existing playground
- existing garden
- existing bench









## Reflection

Overall, the Design Game was an amazing experience in which we learned a lot. This section will give a short summary of the insights that we received through it, both on a content and an analysis level. Throughout the Design Game our team had some great experiences: We learned that it is immensely important to think about the stakeholders involved and how complex this network is. One major player here of course were the residents and their needs which we needed and wanted to address. We also learned that this is more easily said than done. Reaching out to the residents, as well as creating a certain level of trust is a challenging thing to do, especially in such a short period of time. Furthermore, in our encounters with the residents at the Buurtbakkie, we saw that there might not be a very strong interest on the residents' side concerning possible neighborhood change, or they at least did not express it explicitly.

Additionally, different residents of course all have different needs and desires that might be difficult to incorporate into one large intervention. Thus, we also learned that creating one grand intervention for all residents might not always be the most fruitful way to go. While it is very difficult to incorporate all different needs and desires, one way to get closer to doing so is by making multiple smaller interventions. This way changes are more feasible and accessible and interesting to many different people

Looking beyond the residents it was also a learning experience to consider how to identify and incorporate other (possible) stakeholders, particularly within the community. This also gave us the opportunity to think about ways in which to connect the residents to local actors such as libraries, the food industry, and general projects or organizations. This process also showed us that many great initiatives and spaces already exist; in creating a public space it seems to make sense to attempt to incorporate these instead of solely thinking of completely new things. This contributes to a community-based space. Similarly, we also learned to pay attention to what is already there concerning "material", such as for the playground.

Lastly, one great experience was working with this kind of inter-disciplinary team: not only did this broaden our horizons, but it also allowed us to exchange ideas and take various approaches to the issues at hand. By combining more architectural approaches with sociological and historical ones, we were able to all focus on different aspects of the project and optimally bring in our expertise and skills to create one common, well-informed design.



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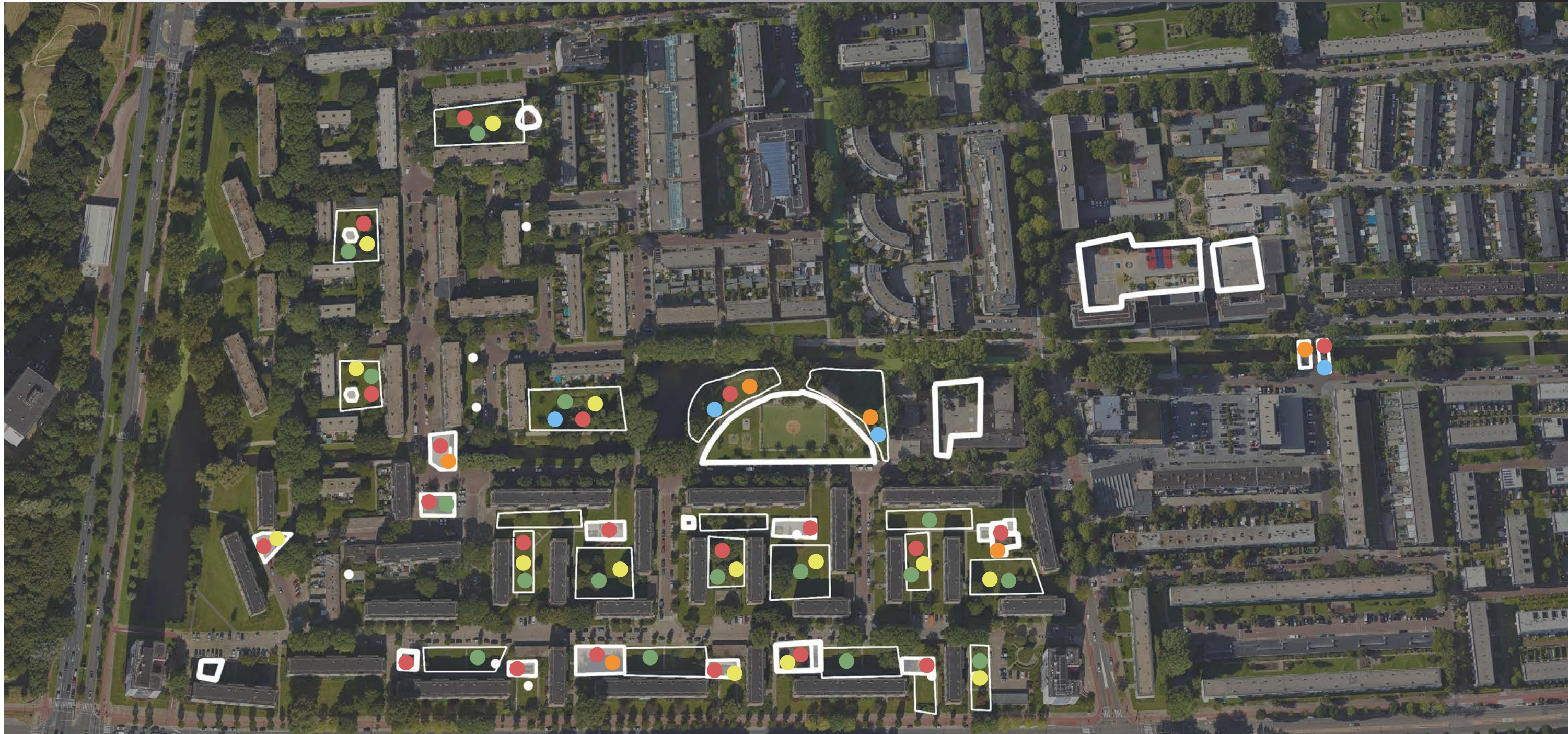
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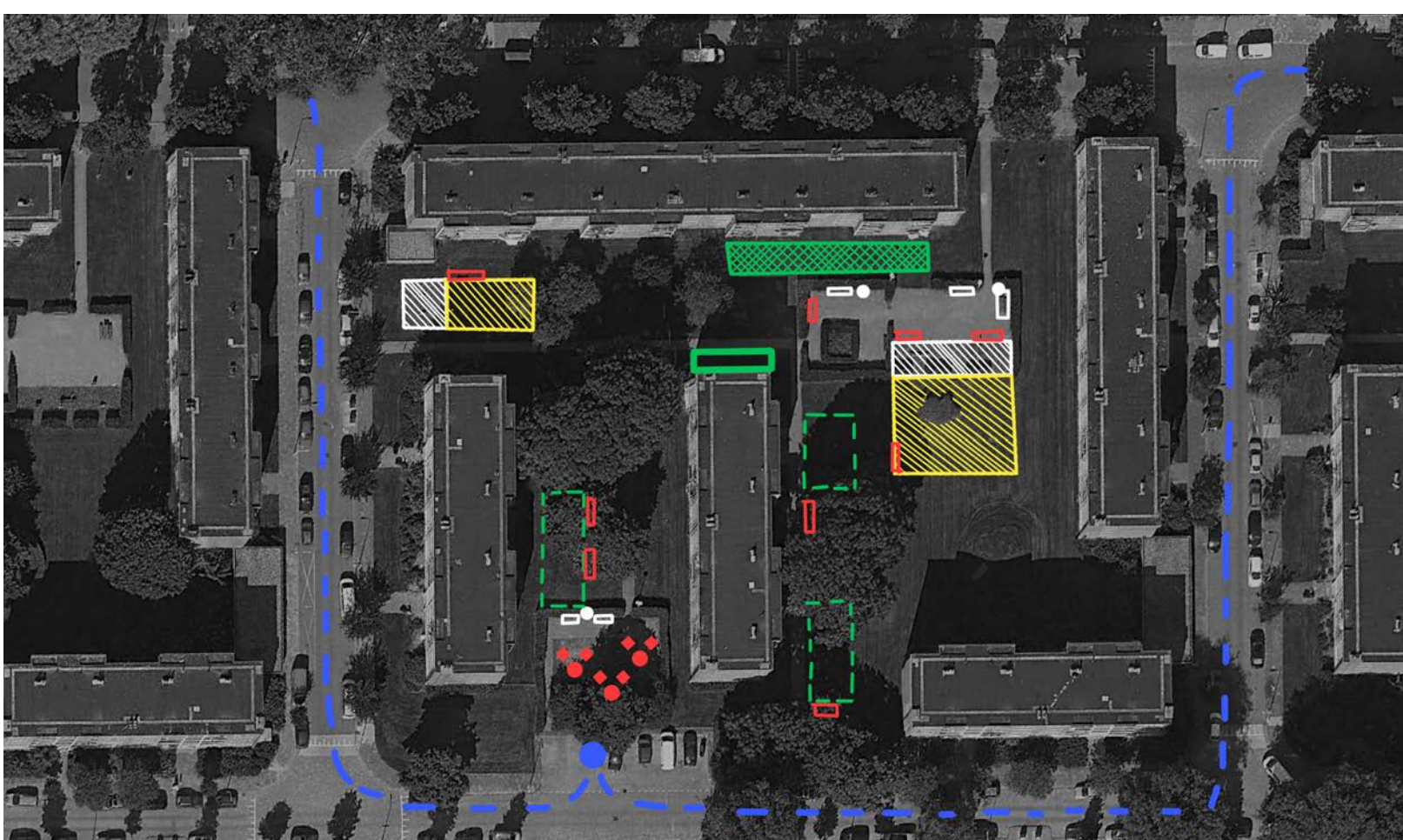
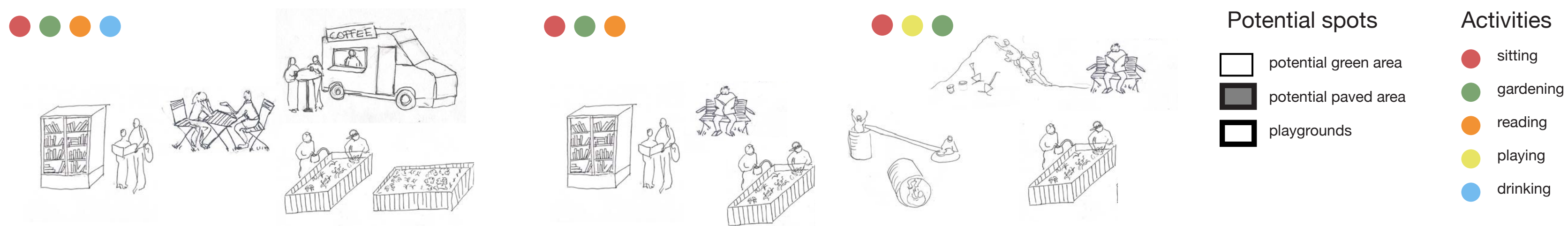
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# Design Game - Dreven de Gaarden



We are proposing smaller scale decentralized interventions that engage with the existing environment in order to stimulate interaction among the residents. For the purpose of implementing this approach profoundly we followed the methodology of tactical urbanism - an approach to neighborhood building and activation using short-term, low-cost, scalable interventions and policies.<sup>1</sup> Such concept is suitable for this type of context as the residents will soon be dislocated and the neighborhood will change. By creating multiple places for meeting we are giving more opportunity to the residents for social interaction. One centralized spot would not be equally accessible to everyone and could not cater for different needs of the citizens. Additionally, the different spots have varied genius locci. While some of them that are placed in the courtyards are more intimate, enclosed, others are along the junctions on more visible spaces. Such a strategy can be implemented also in other parts of the neighborhood.



### Location 1

We have distinguished between the different locations based on their atmosphere, typology and existing infrastructure.

This location is more enclosed and has dispersed benches and playground pieces. By adding more activities, we unify and activate the space. The different colours indicate the placement of different activities, primarily based on the existing infrastructure.

Playgrounds are extended, and more benches are added, especially to the playground, where the mothers did not have a place to sit.



## Location 2

This area shows the relationship to the canal, and it is more connected to transport and movement. The activities are placed and enhanced along the road, sidewalk or a canal.

There is plenty of space next to the existing community garden. One side of the community garden has the potential to become a 'crazy' playground, while the community garden could extend to the other side. That part can also become an empty area where kids could play football. This specific area is in one of the nicest parts of the neighborhood due to the existing greenery and the canal.



### Location 3

The third location is adjacent to a less central road. The houses' composition is much more open to the street than "location one" and has plenty of greenery in front that is not really used. However, there are pieces in one place forming a beginning of a playground. We want to enhance the playground by extending it with new activities and adding more benches and tables so that mothers can sit there and watch their kids play, but also so that it can be used as a gathering place when the drinking truck comes around.

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