

# DESIGN GAME

## THE NEIGHBORHOOD FRAMEWORK



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## Chapter 1

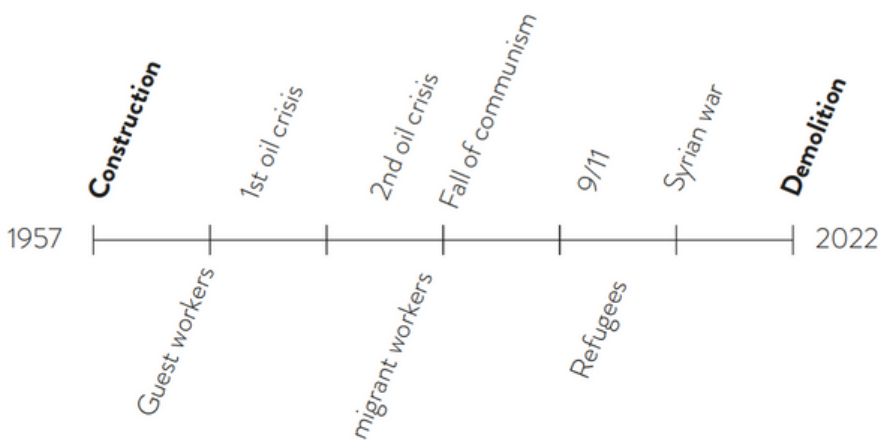
## INTRODUCTION

In the process of the design game, the challenge was to create a meeting space in a changing neighborhood. Not only the buildings and exterior of de Gaarden change; but the residents of the neighborhood will also change over time. With this design game, the aim was to provide a feasible, personalized and fitting solution to improve cohesion in the neighborhood.

De Gaarden is a neighborhood that is part of the Bouwlust/Vrederust in The Hague. The city of The Hague is both nationally and internationally known for its international institutions and as the political capital of the Netherlands (Wusten, 2006). Just outside of the city center, The Hague has multiple districts, each with its own character and identity. Bouwlust and Vrederust are characterized by their postwar architecture. It also has plenty of green space, contrary to most of the municipality. Besides this, the area is highly diverse with over two-thirds being populated by people with a migration background (AllCharts.info, 2022).



*Image 1.* De Gaarden in 1968, on the crossing with the Vrederustlaan. (Indebuurt, 2019).



*Image 2.* Summarized timeline demographic dynamics in De Gaarden.

## TIMELINE

De Gaarden was first constructed in 1957 and will be demolished starting in 2022 (Den Haag, 2022). Post-War in 1968, the residents in the neighborhood were white middle-class families. Over the past sixty years, some major events influenced the demographic composition of this neighborhood. These are shown on the top half of the timeline in image 2. On the bottom, it shows when different groups of people (with a migrant background) settled in de Gaarden.

## Chapter 1

## INTRODUCTION

## POST-WAR GAARDEN



**Image 3.** Post-War Gaarden in 1968, people iceskating. The silhouettes symbolize white male and middle-class inhabitants, who were illustrative of De Gaarden.

**Image 4.** An areal overview of the allocation of de Gaarden.

## PROBLEM STATEMENT

Since 2014, the municipality of The Hague has been planning to regenerate and densify the housing stock of the neighborhoods of Dreven, Gaarden, and Zichten in its southwest area (Den Haag, 2022). By 2025, up to 12,000 houses are expected to be built or renovated in the area. This project leads to forced mobility for at least a set period of time. This transition will affect all residents' way of life, as it will influence their local social networks. The neighborhoods are inhabited by citizens from diverse backgrounds, which translates into a multicultural community that also runs the risk of segregating itself, between languages and interests. While communal pride in the composition of the open and green spaces in the area has been taken into consideration, there is no explicitly outlined strategy to conserve a communal structure or preserve their sense of belonging.

For this, the research question is formulated as follows: *"How can we create a meaningful meeting space that feels homely to the residents of De Gaarden?"* The focus will be directed at the status holders in the area, the old and new residents, and the construction workers.



## Chapter 1

# INTRODUCTION

## Structure of the report

After this introduction on De Gaarden, this report is divided into five more chapters. Next up is Chapter 2, which offers a short account of the methodology of this research. This is followed by Chapter 3, for which the purpose was to understand ongoing neighborhood changes and to explain the identified mechanisms and designs that start the development.

In Chapter 4 the proposed meeting space is first introduced. This choice is substantiated by the observations and interviews done during the field research and by consulting good practices. This is followed by an overview of the relevant actors and their position in the project.

Chapter 5 then closes the report with a short account on the lessons learned by the research team regarding the analysis and contents of the project, as well as the approach of the design game. Finally, Chapter 6 provides a poster that summarizes the essence of the design game.

## Chapter 2

## APPROACH

**Deductive, qualitative research and social constructivism**

The research question of the current report influenced the methodology for this project, it is formulated as: *"How can we create a meaningful meeting space that feels homely to the residents of de Gaarden?"* Thus, the purpose of this research is solution-based. For this, deductive theory was used to frame the proposal to find a solution for the lack of social cohesion in de Gaarden (Bryman, 2016).

A qualitative research strategy is employed because words and the fluidity of individual experiences of the world took a central position in the project. The research and design process consisted of iterative practices research, heavily relying on the research team as they were charged with interpreting and making tangible the living spaces of other people, making sense of their surroundings and their expressions, and among each other the understanding of multiple viewpoints.

In line with qualitative research, even though it is informed by deductive theory, the interpretative framework the researchers were guided by is social constructivism (Creswell & Poth, 2018). This is a school of thought that holds the idea that reality is socially constructed based on lived experiences and interactions with others. Therefore, it is subjective and limited to changes over time and space. Precisely because of these features, it proved to be valuable to propose a tailored solution for de Gaarden to improve the social cohesion of the neighborhood.

**Data collection, quality of the research strategy, and ethical considerations**

Likewise, the data collection process was steered by the qualitative strategy and the selected research methods. The research methods consist of observations and semi-structured interviews, informed by desk research. Secondary sources were used in preliminary to get informed on the history of de Gaarden as well as statistics on the demographic composition of the neighborhood and to get insight into the regeneration plans of the municipality of The Hague for the area. Prior to the two site visits that took place on 9 March 2022, one of the researchers explored the area and took photos. The footage together with the preliminary research formed the foundation for observations and interviews. The de Gaarden neighborhood is a purposive sample, as it directly targets the aim of the research. For the fieldwork, the unit of analysis was de Gaarden for the observations and a combined random and criterion sampling of individual people as the unit of analysis for the interviews (Bryman, 2016).

Observations took place during the daytime by a mixed group of researchers of different disciplinary fields, taking full advantage of not only the five senses but also the combined (lived) experiences in the fields of architecture, history, and sociology (Creswell & Poth, 2018).

## Chapter 2

# APPROACH

The spatial components of the area as well as the habits of the neighbours were of special interest. It resulted in rich and diverse interpretations, which are also checked for researchers' bias due to the correction of fellow researchers and the background information through the preliminary research (Bryman, 2016).

Furthermore, the researchers changed their role during the observation back and forth from 'participant as observer' while interacting with people to 'observer as participant' as the team analysed the neighborhood visibly but inaccessible for interaction (Creswell & Poth, 2018). Additionally, an audit trail was kept in the form of field notes, photos and sketches to keep record of interpretations and for transparency (Bryman, 2016).

By means of interviews, more information was acquired from De Gaarden. Before the 'Buurtbakkie' activities, the neighborhood was informed of both the observations in the daytime and the possibility of a face-to-face visit by the researchers in the evening of 9 March (Creswell & Poth, 2018). Moreover, to further safe guard the integrity and ethical considerations in this research, the interview protocol incorporated test questions to evaluate the willingness of the interviewees to participate and the quality of the answers. Further, the interviews were semi-structured to allow for participant contributions. Additionally, interviews were strictly taken on a voluntary basis with adults over the age of 18 and boundaries were honoured with seriousness. Consent was only provided verbally due to the informal nature of the interview, however, this is not an implication since all interviewees are anonymous and no personal data was kept to circle back (Bryman, 2016). As was the case during the observations, for the interviews the research team also used its multidisciplinary nature as an advantage to holistically collect information.

Through the use of GIS mapping, patterns were identified that were linked to their geographic context. Analysed in conjunction with the preliminary research and the results of the data collection, it subsequently helped to narrow down the ideas about the meeting space. Comparative analysis of good practice in similar scales thus lead to the proposal for a neighborhood framework, to ameliorate the social cohesion in De Gaarden.

## Statement on professional integrity

Finally, the team of researchers deliberately used social constructivism, despite its subjective feature. Therefore, it is regarded the moral obligation of the team of researchers to be reflexive of bias and to communicate these to the audience (Bryman, 2016). Bias cannot be ruled out entirely, however, the research is carried out with due diligence, integrity and caution. Moreover, the researchers controlled for each other's intentions in every stage of the process. Therefore, the team work and the multidisciplinary approach are considered beneficial to the the production of an integrated and holistic proposal taking into account the wishes of the residents of De Gaarden (Essed, 2018). For this, it is argued that the level of professionalism is sufficient to support the credibility of this research. The audience is invited to inform the researchers of concerns regarding this subject.

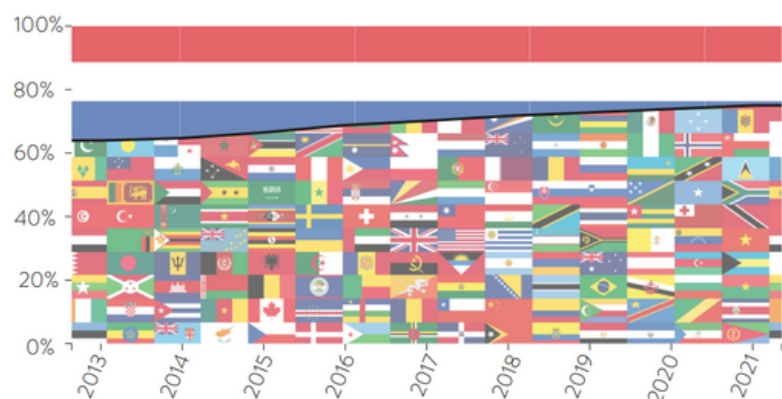
## PLANS, POLICIES, STRATEGIES & RENOVATIONS

Research revealed that citizens are often asked to engage in social programs that **fail to connect with the target group** in terms of scale, interest, and the timeframe of the project to cause real influence (Lydon et al., 2012). To overcome this limitation, this project aims to **engage citizens from a rudimentary stage to aid in its development**. This project is approached similarly to tactical urbanism by the use of this strategy. Principally, when it concerns the characteristics of offering a case-based solution some thumb rules must be respected: realistic expectations, the low risk versus possibly high reward, and the development of social capital have to be respected (Lydon et al., 2012).

In the current case of De Gaarden, the regeneration design that can be identified attracts and retains residents through various interventions that address the **physical quality of buildings and the surroundings** (Kleinhans, 2012). The goal of this is to altogether **tackle the multidimensional character of the problems** in the southwest area of The Hague. A point of interest is thus the side effects of **social mobility** in and out of the neighborhood that inevitably change the **demography and behavioral dynamics** in the southwest area (Kleinhans, 2012).

The southwest area of The Hague is an **ethnically diverse neighborhood** and is envisioned to further diversify after the regeneration, especially economically. In order to **increase social cohesion**, it must be considered that residents from ethnically diverse neighborhoods withdraw from social life into the private sphere. "Trust (even of one's own race) is lower, altruism and community cooperation rarer, friends fewer". "People living in ethnically diverse settings appear to 'hunker down'- that is to pull in like a turtle" (Putnam, 2007: 137).

### ETHNIC DIVERSITY



*Image 5.* Visual overview of the range of ethnicities in de Gaarden between 2013-2021.



In the short run, ethnic diversity tends to **weaken solidarity and social capital**: Inhabitants of all nationalities and ethnicities tend to 'hunker down' in ethnically mixed communities (Putnam, 2007).

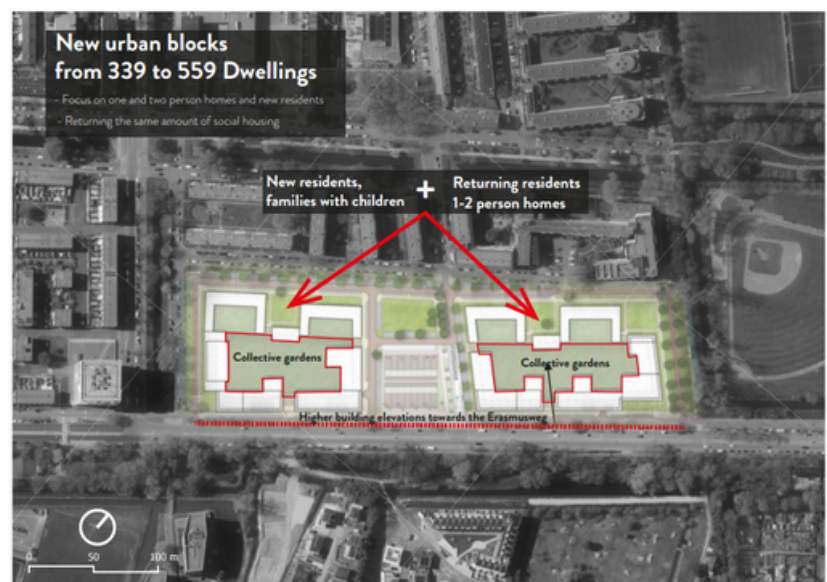
However, the positive impact of contact in a diverse neighborhood is at a height when the following criteria are respected: first and foremost, **common aims** must be accomplished, followed by **inter-group collaboration**, **equal status** amongst different ethnicities, the potential to form friendships, and **support for laws and customs** (Wickes et al., 2011). These social aspects of living and being able to flourish in a neighborhood need to be given the opportunity to develop.

For this, the current project aims to counteract and aid in the process of relocation and enhance the social neighbourhood cohesion by providing meeting places.

## DEMOLISHED



## REDEVELOPED



*Images 6 and 7.* Areal overview of the demolished area and the area which will be redeveloped. For now, it is visible that the green area and the status holders' area remain. This is the selected focus area to connect status holders to the rest of the neighborhood.

## GENERAL CONCLUSIONS, FIELDWORK PROPOSAL AND BRAINSTORM

### Connect different people

It is observed that a growing 75% of the population has a migrant background from, for example, Surinam, Aruba, Poland, Balkan countries, and Syria. Connecting these residents requires diverse representation and a strong incentive. For this, the first goal of this design is to connect different groups and individuals within the neighborhood.

### Comfort and consistency

Most of the current residents will be relocated for a period of 4-5 years during the demolition and construction plans. A block of status holders, a care home, and three adjacent portico flats are maintained during this process. This means that the remaining residents will be living on a construction site for ten years or more, especially the status holders will be close to the construction site. Therefore, the second goal is important to offer comfort and consistency in times of significant change.

### Unattractive return

Returning to the neighborhood is unattractive or not feasible for a lot of residents. Every house owner is given priority to one of the new dwellings that will become available during the redevelopment process. However, the precise area, neighbors, costs, availability of dwellings, dwelling types and time of return are uncertain, making returning unattractive. The third goal is to demonstrate awareness and sensitivity to make all residents, old and new, feel heard.

### Greenspace

Seeing that De Gaarde is characterized by its vast green spaces, these areas will remain untouched during the construction. For this reason, green spaces are used as a focus point in this design.

## Chapter 3

## ASSIGNMENT 1

The site was visited by the team of researchers made up of architects, historians and a sociologist.

Two types of analysis are performed during each of the two visits:

**1. In the spatial analysis of the neighborhoods, the team will observe:**

- Spatial perception of the area's open spaces, common spaces, and infrastructure.
- Availability of urban furniture for outdoor activities, such as seating, gathering, exercise, running, walking and moving in wheelchairs or with strollers.
- Availability of spaces for interaction with others.
- Identify mobility issues within the neighborhood, and accessibility to services.
- Observe the current condition of infrastructure and amenities.

**2. Exploration of the local social dynamics:**

- Existence of communal events or local neighborhood organizations for socializing.
- Interaction between residents with the same background.
- Interaction between residents with different backgrounds.
- Interaction between children.
- Perception of vulnerable groups, of the built environment and open spaces.

# ASSIGNMENT 1

## DESIGN REQUIREMENTS



- Consistency during big transitions in the neighborhood
- Informally connecting residents; activities, connecting person, services
- Multifunctional
- Feeling at home; inclusivity, warmth, colors, domestic objects, and materials
- Shelter from the elements: sun, wind, water, temperature, and sound
- Affordable, re-usable, and mobile
- Findable: wayfaring with sound, signs

## BRAINSTORM AND FIRST SKETCHES

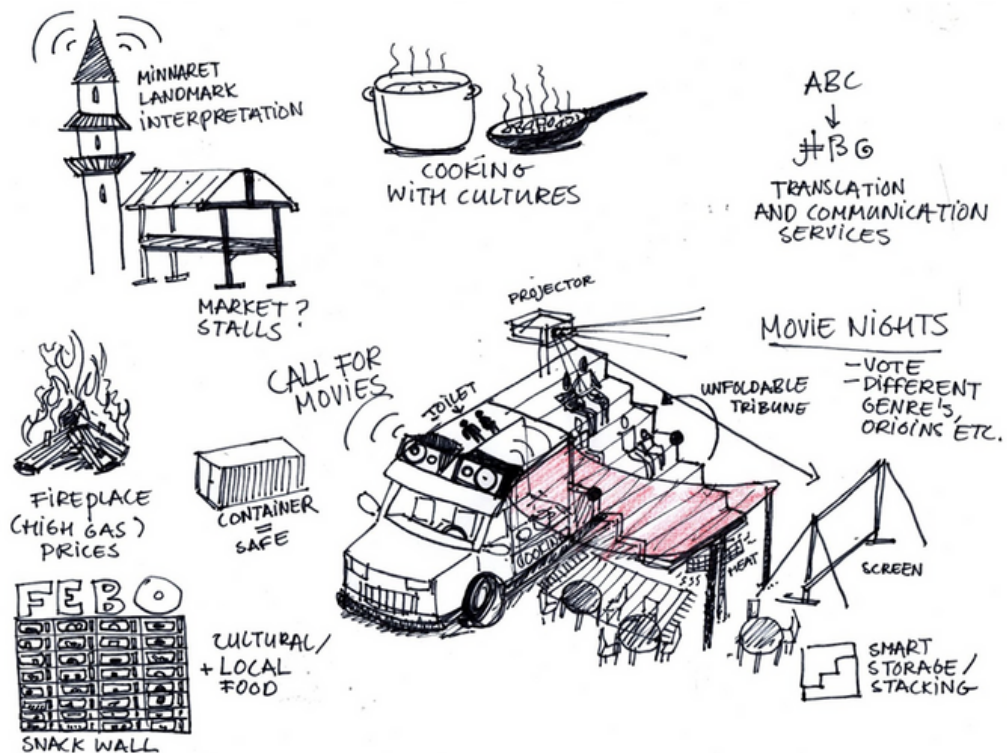
*Images 8-11.* First sketches of activities, ideas, and meeting spaces. What could be the possible functions and purposes of a communal space? For whom?





## Chapter 3

## ASSIGNMENT 1



Images 12-14. Sketches of (covered) spaces in which people can meet, play, or hang out together.



## Chapter 3

## ASSIGNMENT 2

We observed a lot of curtains and closed windows, so it was not possible to do the “Dutch peeking” through the windows. It was remarkable to see the different uses of the balconies. It differed from being a mini playground, being used for drying clothes, and sunbathing, to storage space. The construction of drying racks was different on every balcony too. We observed that the place is not friendly for having pets (dogs in particular) - for both keeping or letting them out. The sound of barking echoes between the flats and we didn't find a single dog-friendly ‘green space’.

"CALM AND CONTENT.  
DISTANCE AND ANONYMITY  
UNDER THE SURFACE"

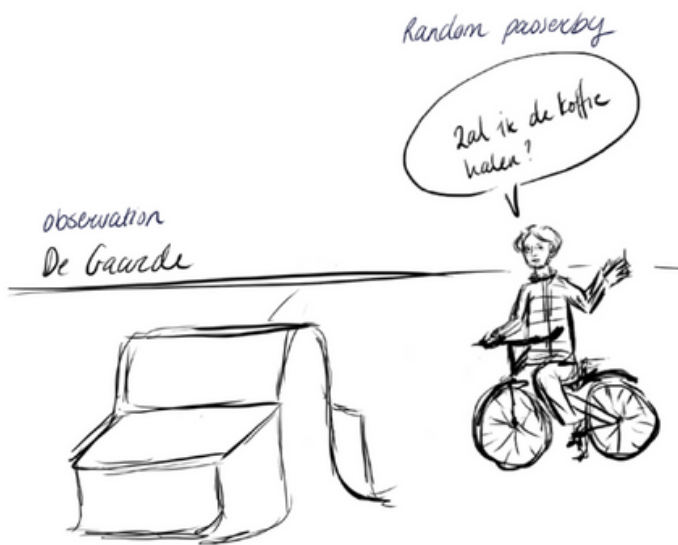


Image 18. Sketch of a spontaneous moment in the green area of de Gaarden.

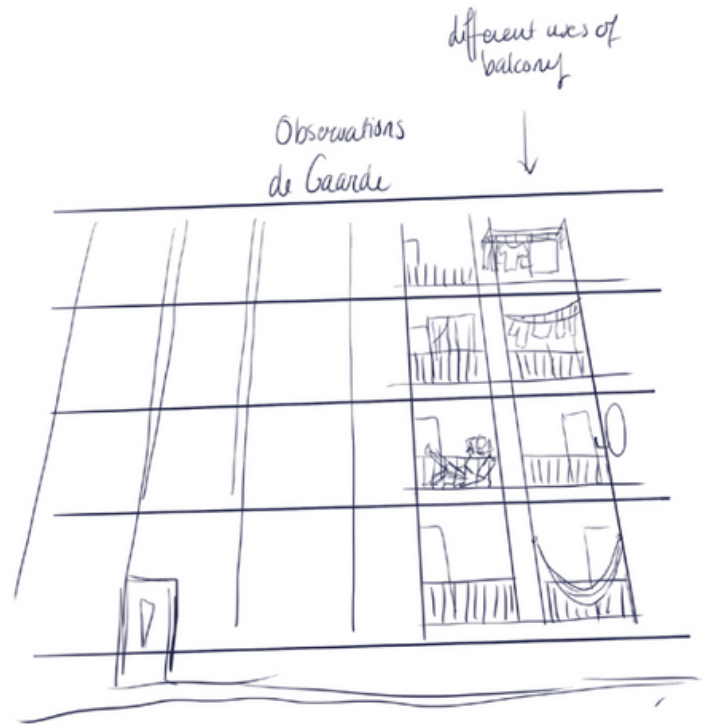


Image 17. We observed that a lot of balconies were used in different ways. Whereas one person used the balcony for hanging clothes, the other person used it for relaxing.

We also observed children using the green areas for picnicking. The green spaces are placed perfectly in between the flats so parents can watch their children from inside the flats.

While we were sitting on a bench at the Gaarde, a woman cycled past us on her bike, stopped, and spontaneously said: “Shall I get the coffee?”. As we were sitting in a central place, with a lot of activity, creating a meeting spot (with coffee possibly) would be one of the ideas to connect people. Additionally, the meeting (coffee) space could connect to the courtyard designs.



## ACTIVITIES - AFTERNOON // 15.45 - 19.15



*Image 19.* Sketch of the different people in de Gaarden in different places, based on our observations during the afternoon.

The area becomes more lively. Tram 9 towards the area is filled with predominantly middle-aged and young men, and mothers with children. People gather in front of the mosque, children play soccer, the birds are being fed and couples and families are on the go, getting in cars and walking around the area or sitting in the sun. The visit to the neighborhood showed a modest occupation of its open spaces during a normal day in the middle of the week.

When we met in the evening, families, working people, children, and teenagers were spotted arriving from work and school. Children and their parents make use of the playgrounds and grass fields across the neighborhood, after a long day of school. Swaths of small children form the clearest outdoors communities, while parents interact with each other for practical communication. Most sitting spots are close to playgrounds or areas where children can interact, which could inhibit the interaction of teenagers and childless adults in open spaces, since they may not want to sit and talk next to noisy children.



## BUURTBAKKIE - 7.00 TO 19.00

*Image 20.* Sketch of a family in de Gaarden, on the street during the buurtbakkie activity



**BUURTBAKKIE // 7.00-19.00**

This activity was organized by Staedion in the residential area Gaarden. Three days prior to the activity, residents received information flyers. On 10/03/2022 we rang doorbells to see if anyone was interested to come and join us. We knocked on the doors of several apartments in order to contact and invite neighbors to the meet-up activity. Out of the neighbors that answered the door, **most indicated that they were too busy**, many of them with children in their homes. It must be noted that the hour of the event clearly coincided with the end of several neighbors' working schedules. This does not indicate that there might be little interest, but that neighbors do not make use of the common spaces during the late evening. The single adults that were approached showed varying levels of interest in engaging with other neighbors.

## MAIN OBSERVATIONS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

*Images 21-25. Sketches of our observations and overall feelings during the day.*

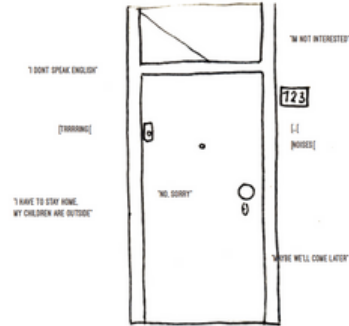
**Closed doors.** Some doors remained closed, and some people opened but were not interested. These are some of their responses.



**Public service.** A young man was seen in the morning, who was cleaning the streets with a tracksuit and headphones on later in the afternoon. We asked him if he would like something to drink or a chat. He answered it would be too much social interaction for him.



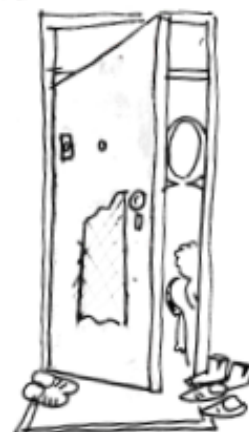
**Barricaded door.** After ringing a bell in the porticoes, a young mother opened while two kids peeked over the window frame. Her door was reinforced with some kind of chipboard. In front of the door, we spotted a door mat with various shoes. She said she would come after doing her groceries.



**Disappointment.** After we rang the doorbell on a house in the block for status holders, a little girl opened a French window on the first floor. She seemed very happy seeing all the snacks and drinks. The little girl nor her parents showed up.

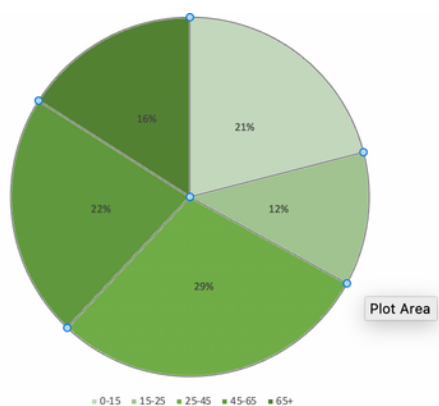


**Running around.** A group of cheerful teenage boys came up to our table and had something to drink with a piece of cake. They liked to play football in one of the courtyards, but the goals were too small. Also, they seemed interested in basketball.

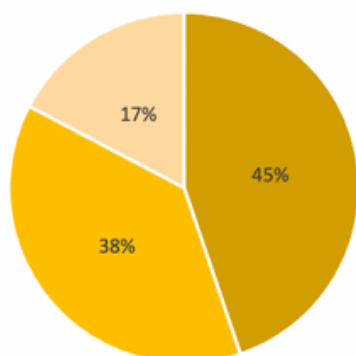


## ANALYSIS OF DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

In 2021, the population of Dreven and Gaarden mostly composed of a population of young adults between 26 and 45 years old, followed by middle-aged adults and children. This makes up the majority of our population and it could be our target population, as it was noticed that it is teenagers, children, and their parents that make the greatest use of public space in the neighborhood.

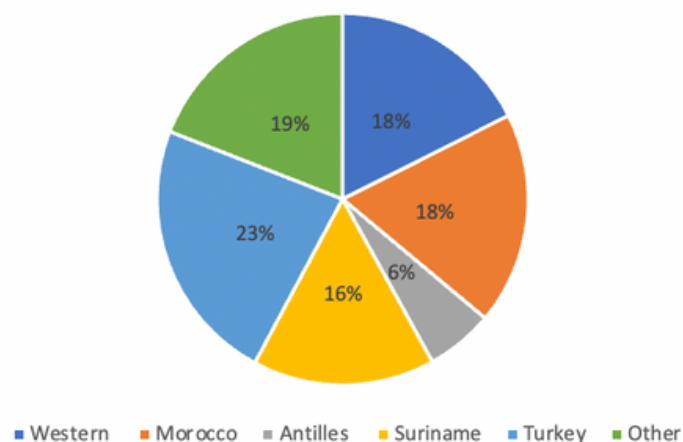


This pie chart shows the level of education of the residents aged 15-75. The largest group consists of residents with a low level of education (45%). This includes the VMBO, the first three years of HAVO or VWO, as well as entry training, former assistant training (MBO1), or practical education. The second largest group (38%) consists of individuals with a secondary education level, meaning



■ Low level of education ■ Secondary education level ■ High level of education

HAVO or VWO upper years, basic vocational training (MBO2), vocational training (MBO3), and intermediate management and specialty training (MBO4) (MBO4). The last group (17%) are people with a high level of education. This translated to education on an HBO or WO level.



This pie chart shows the migratory background of the population of Dreven and Gaarden. The biggest group, 23%, consists of residents with a Turkish migratory background. The second largest group is that of "Other", at 19%. This includes individuals non-Westerners excluding Morocco, the Netherlands Antilles, Aruba, Suriname, and Turkey. The next two groups are both 18%. The first one consists of Westerners. This means being of origin in Europe (excluding Turkey), North America and Oceania, Indonesia or Japan, and secondly, individuals with a Moroccan background. The last two groups are people with a Surinamese migratory background at 16% and, finally, at 6% residents with an Antillean migratory background.

## Chapter 3

## ASSIGNMENT 2

**Target groups:**

Temporary group: how to connect the people who already live there? Connect the dots of different courtyards and cultures. Connect them with **Meals on Wheels**: a weekly organized open-for-everyone activity with food, prepared in a moveable kitchen. **Courtyard Cinema**: displaying a movie touching upon different cultures, afterward opening up a discussion space to talk about the movie. **A Central Coffee Place** functions as a meeting spot where people can get coffee, but also as an informal service spot, if you need someone to talk to, or if you need help reading/translating documents.

**Return group:**

Group of volunteers trying to connect people who have to move, with the people currently living in de Gaarden, possibly around the canal of the Gaarden because this part will remain.

**New group:**

Connect people from different backgrounds in a central space, around the small canal of the Gaarden, because that part will remain. We could build an extra bridge to make the green area more accessible from the other side of the canal.

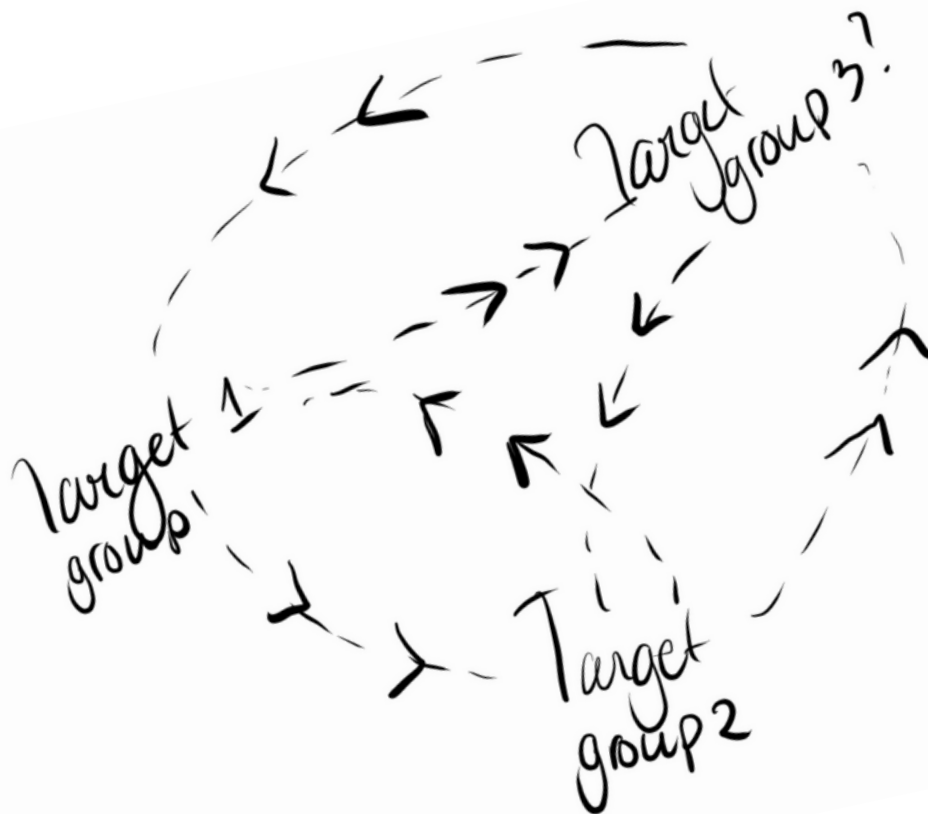


Image 26. Brainstorm of how target groups can be connected.



## GENERAL CONCLUSIONS AND IDEAS

### Use active water axis strategically

The water Singel and green axis are used frequently, especially by the elderly population walking or sitting - these points of convergence could be strategically used by us to attract people to the meeting space.

### Closed, empty, and unwelcome

Closed curtains make up for long, bare walls which make one feel unwelcome and somehow watched. A sign of anonymity, and uninvestedness in the collective.

### Big difference in demographics and activity morning-afternoon

In the morning a lot of elderly, women and some young children, whereas the afternoon is more lively, with children playing, families on the move and men sitting outside and coming back from work.

*But also...*

### Strong incentive

We want a combination of an informal, multifunctional meeting space combined with valuable services like legal assistance, translation services, or development and housing information. This will help to bring residents together. The informal atmosphere, a framework for expression and appropriation, and recurring events will make them stay.

### Neglected status holders

The status holders are content but lack interaction with locals. It feels they are forgotten, poorly informed about the development while they are at the center of it all. We want to give them more social information, interaction, belonging, and a right to existence.

### Focus on new and staying residents

We choose to focus on the new group of residents and the remaining residents, for we think a lot of relocated residents do not want or are not able to return. It is especially important to connect the status holders with other residents.



## Chapter 3

## ASSIGNMENT 2

Image 27. Collage of pictures from de Gaarden





# ASSIGNMENT 3



*Image 28.* Spatial analysis overview, and in yellow the area which we are thinking of using.

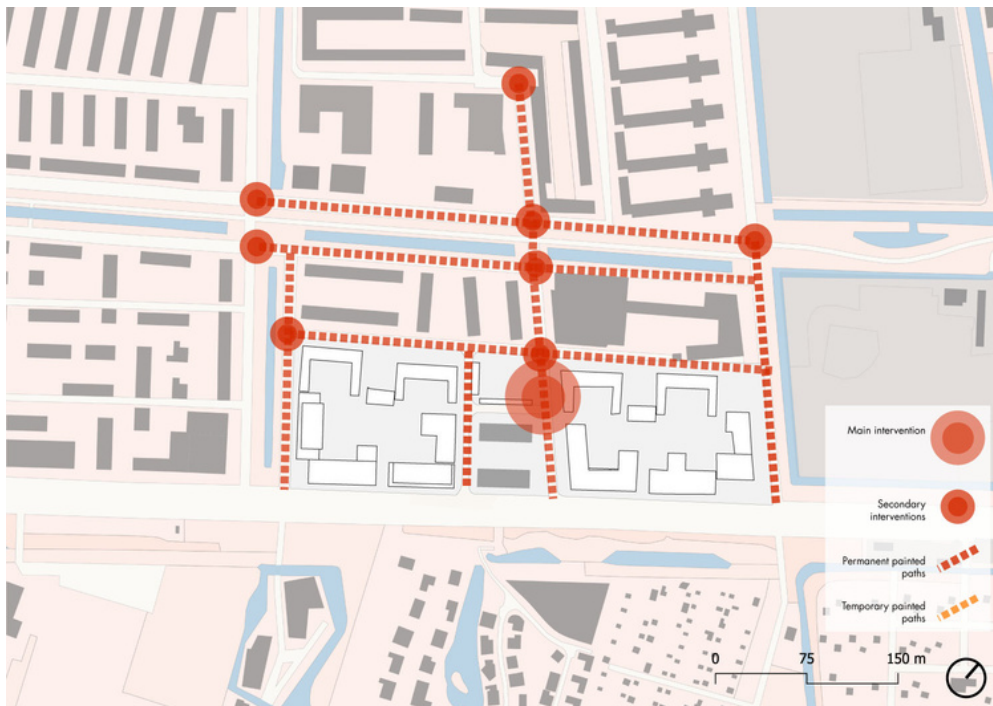
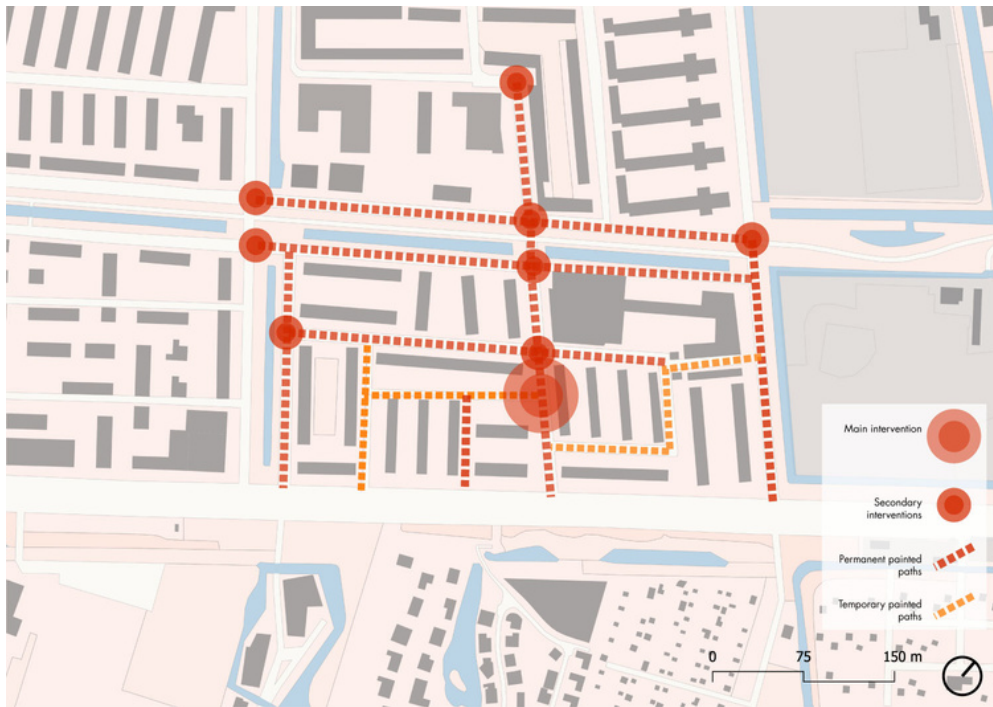
## SPATIAL ANALYSIS

We defined the areas where the interventions will be located across the neighborhood. The open space next to the buildings that house immigrants will be the location for the biggest structure since these will be the residents that will stay in the area throughout the renovations. **Satellite modules** will be placed across the area, preferably across the canals in the green space, and their design along with painted pathways will direct residents to the main structure.

We are thinking of using **scaffolding** and other building materials that will be present as the renovations begin, meant mostly for sitting and occupying it, without giving it more specific uses that would require more complex organization and interactions that the residents don't seem to have time for. The satellite modules will be smaller and will be fixed to the ground, to prevent manipulation and to create a semi-permanent visual and spatial connection to their surroundings. We suggest placing one or more time capsules within the main structure or its satellites. This way, we can involve and attract the entire neighborhood to our meeting space.

**Keychains** or locks can be locked into the scaffolding to emulate the practice of locking locks on bridges. These could be locks containing a message, a wish, or a lock for a couple. Within the scaffolding structures, there is the opportunity to **clip-on** bars, standing tables, and chairs to change the meeting space for different functions. The main scaffolding structure will have a roof. This corresponds with our idea of making it a **domestic space**.

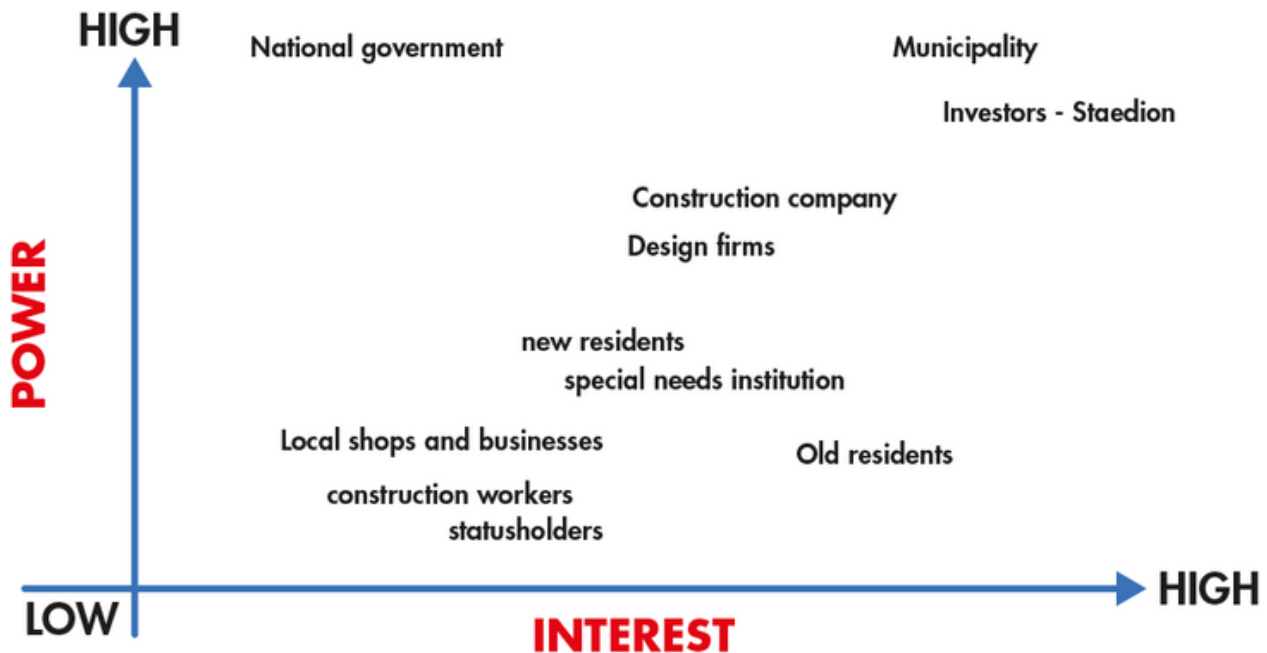
## ASSIGNMENT 3



*Image 29.* This map shows the area of de Gaarden, the different satellite structures, the main scaffolding structures, and the pathways from and to our meeting space.



## STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS



*Image 30.* This Stakeholder map shows the different stakeholders in the demolition and rebuilding process of De Gaarden.

#### Construction workers

- Present between 07.00-16.00, 10 years
- Benefit from a comfortable space to take a coffee or lunch break
- Construction company Heijmans
- Permanently stationed during the redevelopment
- Offices and canteens with water and electricity
- Benefits from a smooth and complaint-free process

#### Staying residents

- Parents with young children and the elderly in the mornings
- Families, children, elderly, men, and couples in the evenings

#### Housing corporation Steadion / Investor

- Limited amount of tenants present during the redevelopment
- Benefits from good placemaking and active neighborhood communities

#### New residents

- After working hours
- New flux of higher-income residents
- Interested in the development of (bought, rented) new housing
- Benefit from good neighbor relationships

#### Private investors

- Benefits from selling all new properties in the market segment.
- Benefit from a complaint-free process
- Benefit from good placemaking

#### Status holders

- Lack of connection and acknowledgment
- Benefit from social interaction, positive visibility, and a way of claiming their space in the neighborhood
- Benefit from good information about construction site activities

## Chapter 4

## ASSIGNMENT 3

## CONCLUSIONS

### Framework for appropriation

We want to enable user additions. The meeting space then becomes a framework for these user expressions, adaptations, and appropriations. The process of users adding to the framework will lead to more homeliness and identity over time. These communicative expressions can also spark interactions.

### Construction material re-use

We think of making a framework using scaffolding and materials found at the construction site, such as mesh textile and pallets as affordable, easily demountable, and locally sourced materials.

### Homely escape from the ordinary

The hybrid and imaginative character with a multifunctional, festival-like setup will attract many users and allow them to escape from the ordinary for a moment. The domestic character will create welcomeness and familiarity.

### Development, housing, and resident information point

Our meeting place can be combined with a center of operations for the redevelopment. This will include representatives from all concerning parties being present at certain times for questions, briefings, or just a coffee break for the construction workers. It becomes a place where new and current residents mix.

### Water and electricity through construction canteen

An extra advantage is, if these construction parties also bring their container canteens, then we might also be able to establish an easy access point for water and electricity. This enables a range of activities that can be organized at our place.

As a way of finding our meeting place, we want to spread a few wayfaring pavilions along the water axis.

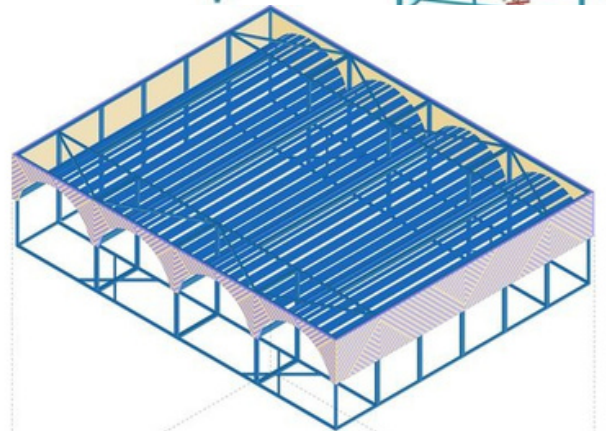
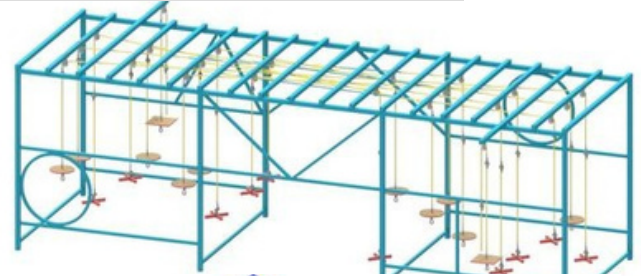
By adding user canvases of mesh wire, functioning like a pin-board or a lovers bridge full of locks

## Chapter 4

## ASSIGNMENT 3

## REFERENCES AND PLAN

*Images 31-36.* References, components, and ideas regarding our plan. What has already been created and what purpose did it have?



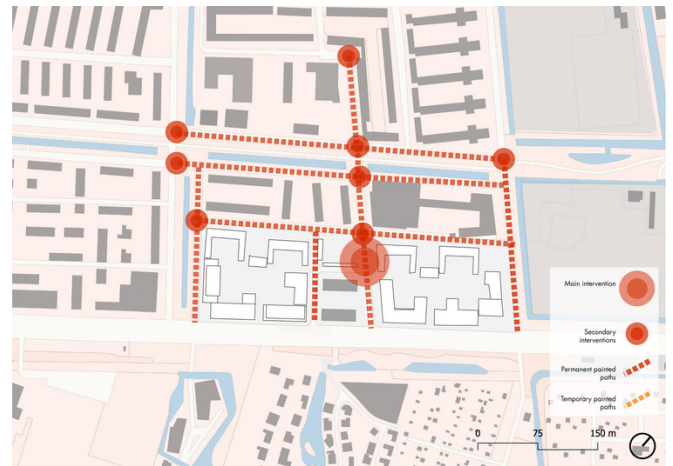
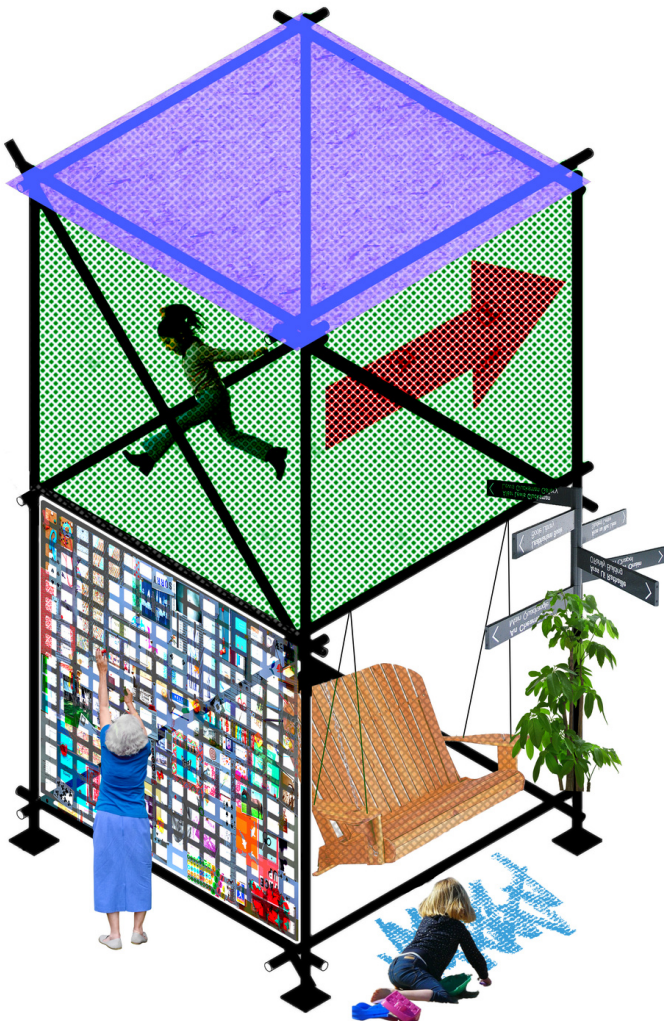
Inspiration:

- The Expanded Experiment: Semi-living scaffolding structure
- Architecture daily: Public Spaces with scaffolding



## FRAMEWORK AND WAYFARING

*Images 37-39.* Elaborated plan of the neighborhood framework. This is the first assembly with sketches of our structure and the map with the main structure and the satellite parts.



- As a way of finding our meeting place, we want to spread a few wayfaring pavilions along the water axis.
- By adding user canvases of mesh wire, functioning like a pin-board or a lovers bridge full of locks. The meeting space then becomes a framework for these user expressions, adaptations, and appropriations. The process of users adding to the framework will lead to more homeliness and identity over time.

Steel scaffolding frame  
Scaffolding mesh  
Cover sheet  
Metal mesh pinboard  
Hanging wooden bench

Modular, de-montable  
reclaiming the construction process

Different types TBD  
Seating, shelter, library, playground,  
pinboards, wayfaring signs





## THE CENTER



*Image 40.* Elaborated plan of the neighborhood framework, with a realistic view of our main structure.

We want to enable user additions because it will create a sense of belonging; communicate, spark interaction

We think of making a framework using scaffolding and materials found at the construction site, such as mesh textile and pallets as affordable, easily demountable, and locally sourced materials.

The hybrid and imaginative character with a multifunctional, festival-like setup will attract many users and allow them to escape from the ordinary for a moment. The domestic character will create welcomeness and familiarity.

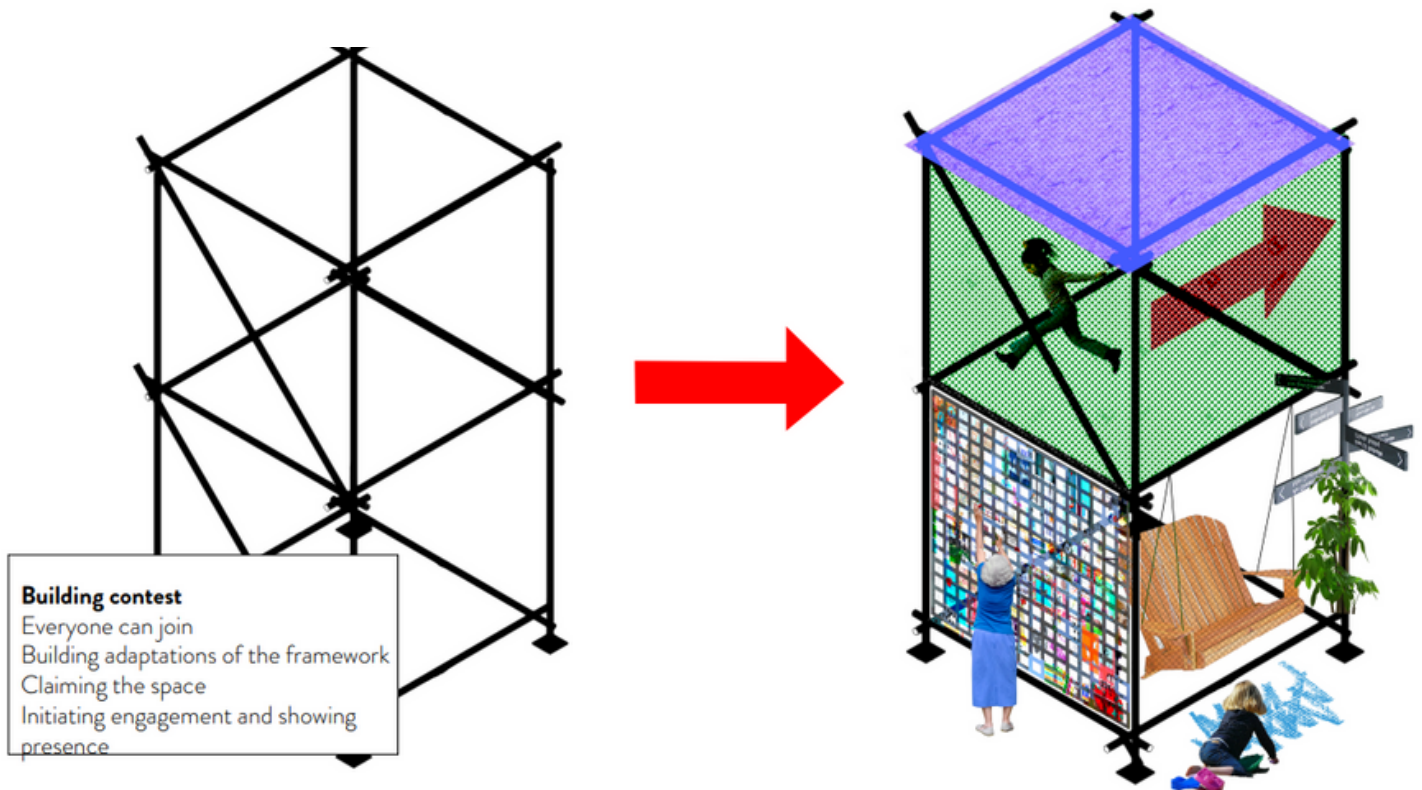
Our meeting place can be combined with a center of operations for the redevelopment. This will include representatives from all concerning parties being present at certain times for questions, briefings, or just a coffee break for the construction workers. It becomes a place where new and current residents mix.

An extra advantage is, if these construction parties also bring their container canteens, then we might also be able to establish an easy access point for water and electricity.

## Chapter 4

## ASSIGNMENT 3

## BUILDING CONTEST



*Image 41.* Elaborated plan of the neighborhood framework, with a realistic view of our main structure.

We want to create an incentive for the neighborhood to make the framework a personalized space. One of the incentives to attract people to the structure is a building contest in which people can 'claim' the space.

We want the building contest to be a returning event - every two months. Additionally, we want to attract people with smaller incentives; such as hanging lockers, a seasonal change of the structure, and the possibility to bring in second-hand items.

# ASSIGNMENT 4

## TARGET GROUP OF OUR FRAMEWORK

The residents that are currently living in the apartment complexes, who will be relocated in the future, play a vital role in our project, as they will make up a large percentage of the participants in our project. Our project benefits this stakeholder, as it offers a safe space to gather trustworthy and valuable information about the development. Furthermore, we create a space with the purpose that the original residents can voice their opinions and worries whilst still feeling welcome and at ease with their fellow neighbors.

An additional group benefiting from our project is the status holders. Status holders generally speaking struggle with integrating into the host society as they are often met with a hostile attitude. Our project will offer the status holders the opportunity to become more visible by being able to create spaces dedicated to them. Additionally, our construction makes it possible to make social connections, resulting in the possibility of creating a social network that helps in integrating into this neighborhood and also the Netherlands. The status holders in this area cluster in the recently built unit around Erasmusstraat 1571.

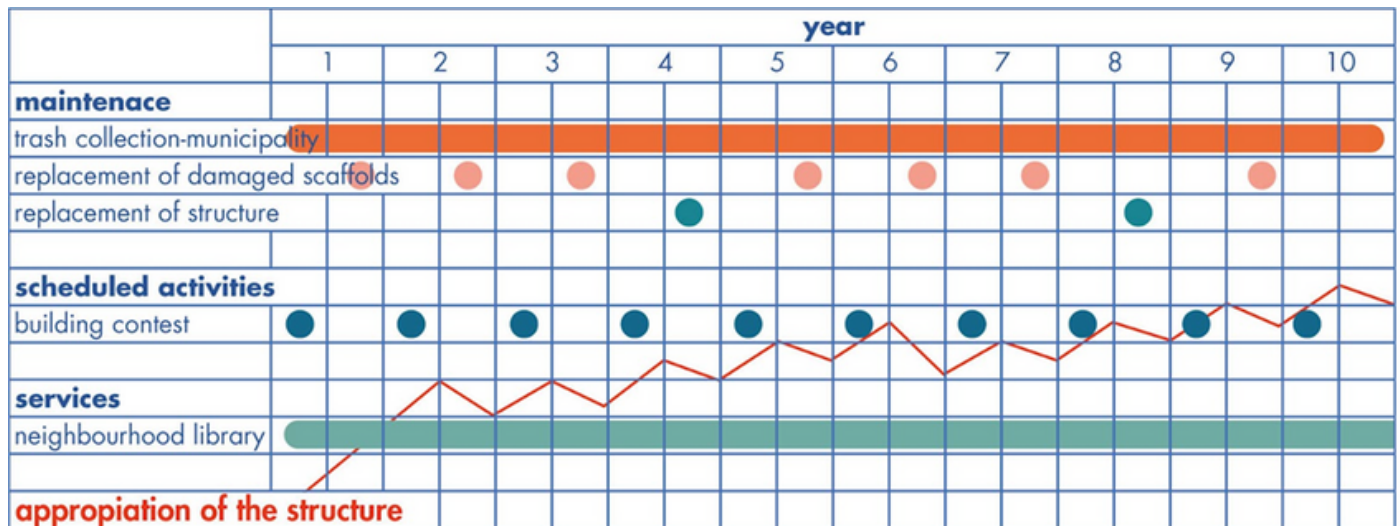
The construction company will benefit from a smooth process, as the neighborhood offers useful office spaces and canteens for support during the redevelopment. In regards to the other parties, representatives of the said construction company give information about funding and the initial organization of the event.

Our construction will also largely benefit the construction workers, as it can be used as a lovely, and spacious place to spend lunch or breaks in. This also allows the workers to socialize with other people using the space for their individual use, creating a harmonious community. Creating such a space is crucial for the construction workers as they will spend a lot of time working here, more precisely nine hours a day from 7:00 - 16: 00 for approximately 10 years.

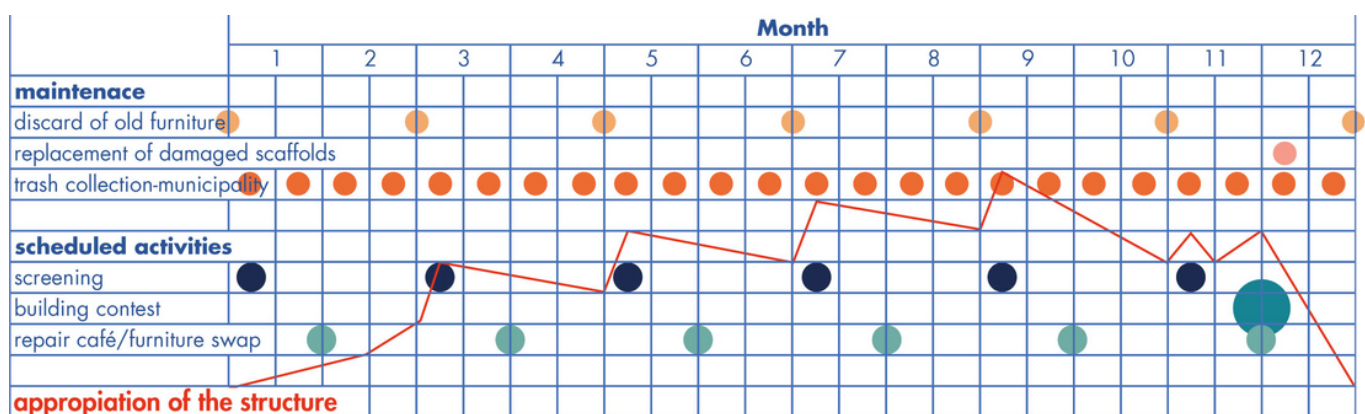
## Chapter 4

## ASSIGNMENT 4

In this section, we present a diagram that shows the attention points of maintenance, and activities throughout the course of a week, month, and year. The diagram shows the feasibility and efforts that should be made to maintain and develop the framework over time.








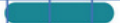





























The municipality will include the main structure and its satellites in its periodical cleaning of public spaces and trash collection. Trash will be collected twice a month. Furniture discarded from the furniture swap activities will be collected every month. The scaffolding will receive structural supervision visits every six months to account for damaged beams and to replace them if needed. If possible, all beams will be replaced every four years.





## Chapter 4

## ASSIGNMENT 4

	week						
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Children							
Teenagers							
Young adults							
Adults							
Elderly citizens							

The Community Service Center will hold the keys to the storage unit and will oversee the structure's condition. Complaints and requests for repairs and replacements will be channeled through them, to the sponsors of the project. The ONG, supported by sponsors, will organize, and hold the building contest at the end of every year and the screenings, for which they will take care and store the projector in their headquarters.

Permanent furniture pieces will be made of scaffolding and wood and will be welded and screwed into the main structure. The furniture swap activity consists of neighbors bringing their discarded but useable furniture to the main structure, instead of heavy disposal collection points. This furniture can be left and arranged within the structure for the inhabitants' interests or can also be appropriated and taken home by those who need it.

Electricity for the screenings and evening activities will be provided through generators from the construction companies per agreement with the NGO. The neighborhood library will be stocked with an initial variety of books but will be restocked and appropriated by the neighbors throughout the years.



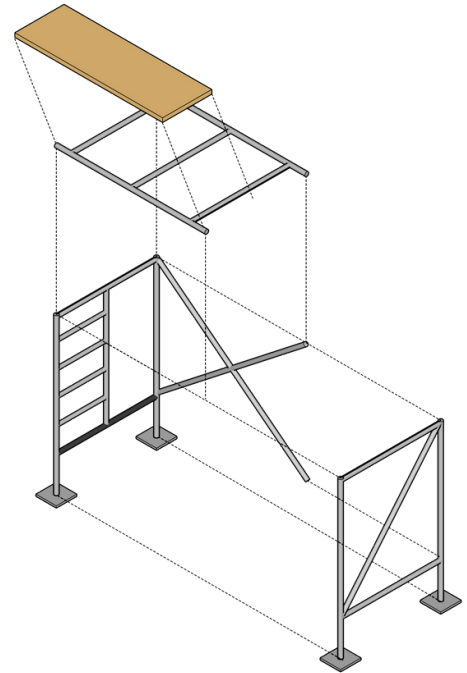
## Chapter 4

# ASSIGNMENT 4

## CONSTRUCTION

The structures will be built with scaffolding, but unlike temporary scaffolding, they will be welded to last longer. They will be screwed into the ground to prevent being moved from their designated spots. Plastic covers and the screen for projections will be attached through rings while wooden planks and the open library will also be screwed in.

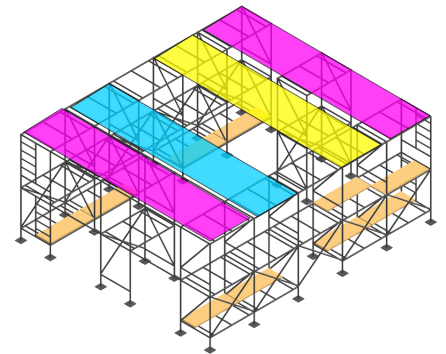
One block of the main structure will be walled with wooden panels and will serve as storage.



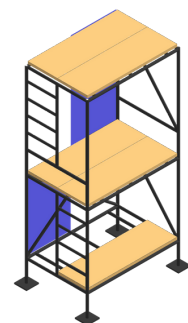
Images 42-44.

## MATERIALS REQUIRED FOR CONSTRUCTION

Structure for satellite modules (8)				
Class	Type	size	units per module	total
<b>Scaffold (standard diameter)</b>	Lateral column	1.219x1.930	2	16
	lateral column with ladder	1.219x1.930	2	16
	set of beams	1.829 x 1.219	3	24
	crossed beams	1.829 x 1.219	2	16
<b>Other materials</b>	steel slabs	1' x 1' x 0.5'	4	32
	screws	2" Ø	16	128
	MDF panel	2' x 6' x 1"	3	24
	plastic fabric	6' x 20'	1	8



Structure for main module				
Class	Type	size	units per module	total
<b>Scaffold (standard diameter)</b>	Lateral column	1.219x1.930	24	24
	lateral column with ladder	1.219x1.930	4	4
	set of beams	1.829 x 1.219	24	24
	long beams	7.84	8	8
	crossed beams	1.829 x 1.219	14	14
<b>Other materials</b>	steel slabs	1' x 1' x 0.5'	32	32
	screws	2" Ø	128	128
	MDF panel	2' x 6' x 1"	15	15
	plastic fabric	6' x 20'	5	5



## FUNDING AND PARTICIPATION

According to a scale of reference for the level of participation a project requires from people, by the largest private donor of subsidies in the Netherlands, there are six steps (VSBfonds, 2009). The design of 'the Framework' is constructed in such a way that the highest levels of participation can be met, which is paid work and paid work with assistance. However, more than likely the activities of 'the Framework' will require a medium level to low level of participation. This includes steps one to four. From bottom to top those are isolated, meaning a limited level of contact with the neighborhood. The threshold for the second step is to have physical contact with neighbors at least once a week, but the activities do not have to be structurally organized (VSBfonds, 2009). The third step is participation in organized activities. In the same way that steps two and three have the contact threshold of once a week, step four also includes it. In addition, it requires a person to perform work that is voluntary.

The positioning on the participation ladder is important when looking for investors for 'the Framework'. Moreover, the project's aim is to improve social cohesion in the neighborhood. Yet due to the intersection with renovations, a broader range of fundraising options is available. Although the project is aimed at low costs and reuse of materials, initial capital is needed to kick start the project. For this, some potential investors have been identified.

1. **VSBfonds** with the subsidy for creating the physical building of a community center (VSBFonds, n.d.)
2. **The Oranje Fonds** through donations, possible on many grounds. Particularly social projects aimed at cohesion and unity of peoples
3. **The municipality of The Hague** has a budget for activities in city districts. It is not structural and is meant for leisure activities and livelihood in the neighborhood, so it could include a cleaning service for example (Gemeente Den Haag, 2021)
4. The municipality of The Hague can also apply for the **Volkshuisvestingsfonds** of the central government of the Netherlands and commit itself to investments such as these.
5. **The European Union** also provides several options to apply for regional investments to social cohesion and the combat marginalization of communities
6. Finally, **private actors** such as banks may be interested in sponsoring 'the Framework'. It must be considered that the return for these investors is reasonable and not contradictory to the purpose and vision of the project.

## Chapter 5

## REFLECTION

This assignment is a practical example of how societies can be threatened by changes and, with this, weaken social cohesion. De Gaarden is one of the many examples of districts that will undergo a drastic change, considering the lingering housing crisis the Netherlands is currently dealing with (RTL Nieuws, 2021). Therefore, this project a potential model for future plans.

As in the real world, it was required for diverse people to work together, in order to deliver an integral proposal to solve a real-life problem. The combined knowledge of the disciplines and experiences was an asset for the research as well as enriching to the personal development of the researchers. It did, however, meant dealing with varying work ethics and hectic schedules. The latter resulted in strict online meetings. It was a learning process to improve group communication to find common ground. Unfortunately, not all brilliant ideas were incorporated so there was a degree of negotiation and critical thinking. Both are relevant to learning how to stand ground, but also be open to others' insights.

Through the overarching purpose of delivering a proposal for a meeting space in de Gaarden, the assignment also trained valuable research skills. Examples are ways to conduct proper observations, interviews, and how to be considerate as a researcher. It is the researchers' obligation to not only extract from participants or invade their neighborhood, but also to provide a contribution with public value. This proposal is at the service of the residents of de Gaarden and is intended to be a concrete, feasible, and structured plan.

Along the way, the importance of peer feedback was rediscovered as it sparked new ideas and better yet, identified weaknesses. The final lesson learned is that however significant the challenge of improving social cohesion may be, a socially aware project such as the Neighborhood Framework can be a nudge to change the lived experiences of the neighborhood and potentially having a positive effect on complicated problems such as social cohesion.

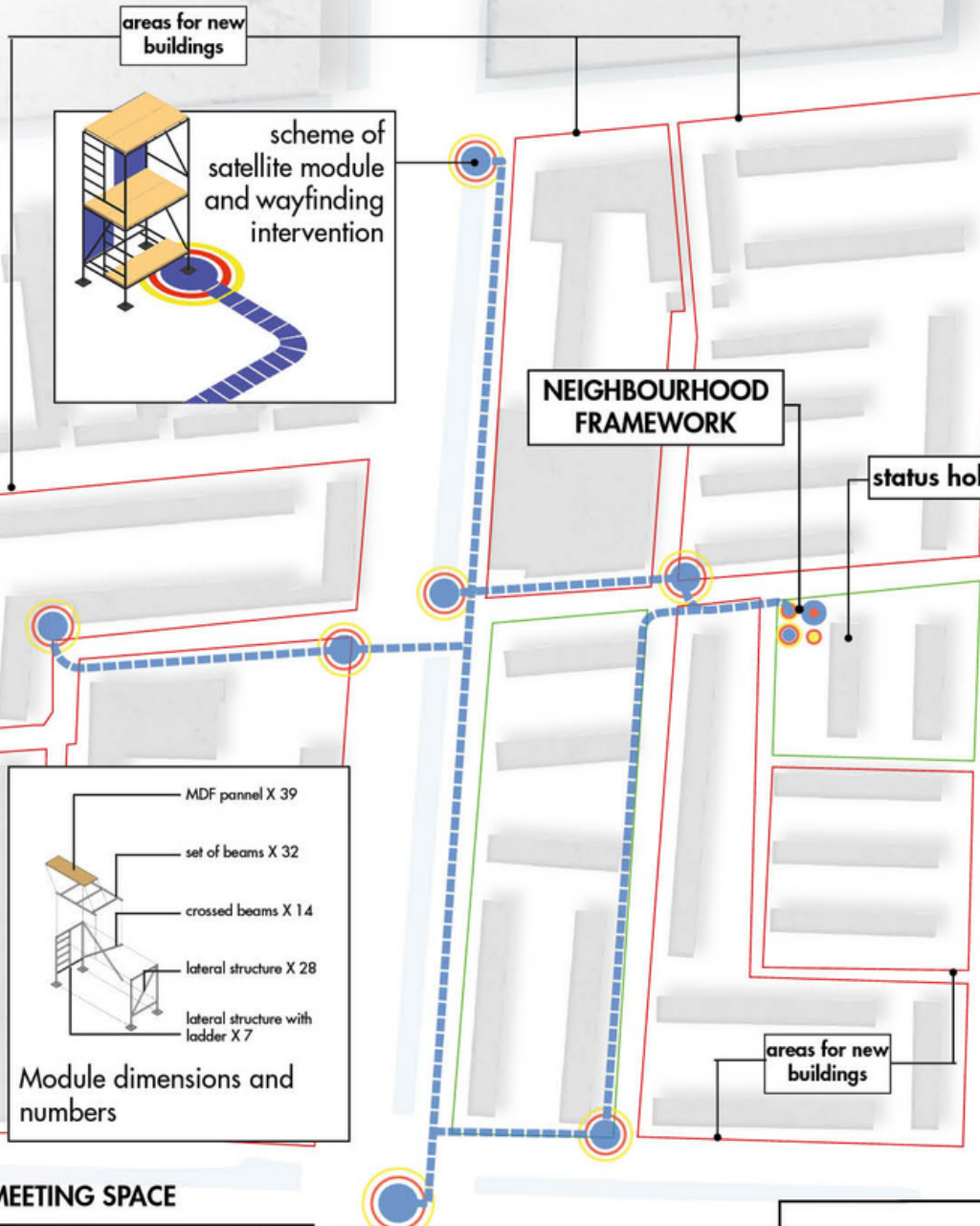


# the neighborhood framework

Chapter 6//Design game

Thomas Misset, Emilia Smith, Swelia Da Silva Antonio, Mariana Bobadilla García, Janey Franssen

Dr. Caroline Newton/Dr. Richard Cardoso



De Gaarden will experience great changes in the next years, as some of its buildings disappear and others get refurbished.

Neighbours might experience disturbances to their experience of their open spaces when they transit or visit them, in the middle of the noise, changing faces and changing buildings.

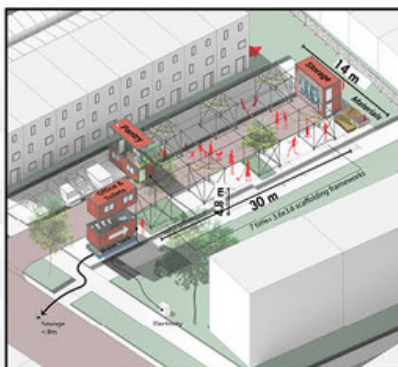
The Neighbourhood Framework seeks to give residents a circuit of urban references and meeting points, that will allow them to appropriate their open spaces during these following years.

Located next to THIS STREET, the main meeting structure will stay closest to the **status holders**, the residents that will not move from the area.

A network of colorful painted paths will lead residents and wanderers alike to this main **framework**, connected by **satellite modules** located in transited nodes of the neighbourhood.

The **structure** is made of scaffolding with modular sections, so it is very easy to set up and repair. Its colorful tents, textured fabrics and space to sit will differentiate it from other scaffolding around the construction area.

## THE MEETING SPACE



### Neighbour activities

- Parties
- community meetings
- children play dates
- random meetings
- place to sit
- place to rest
- place to drink a coffee with a friend
- open library

### Programmed activities

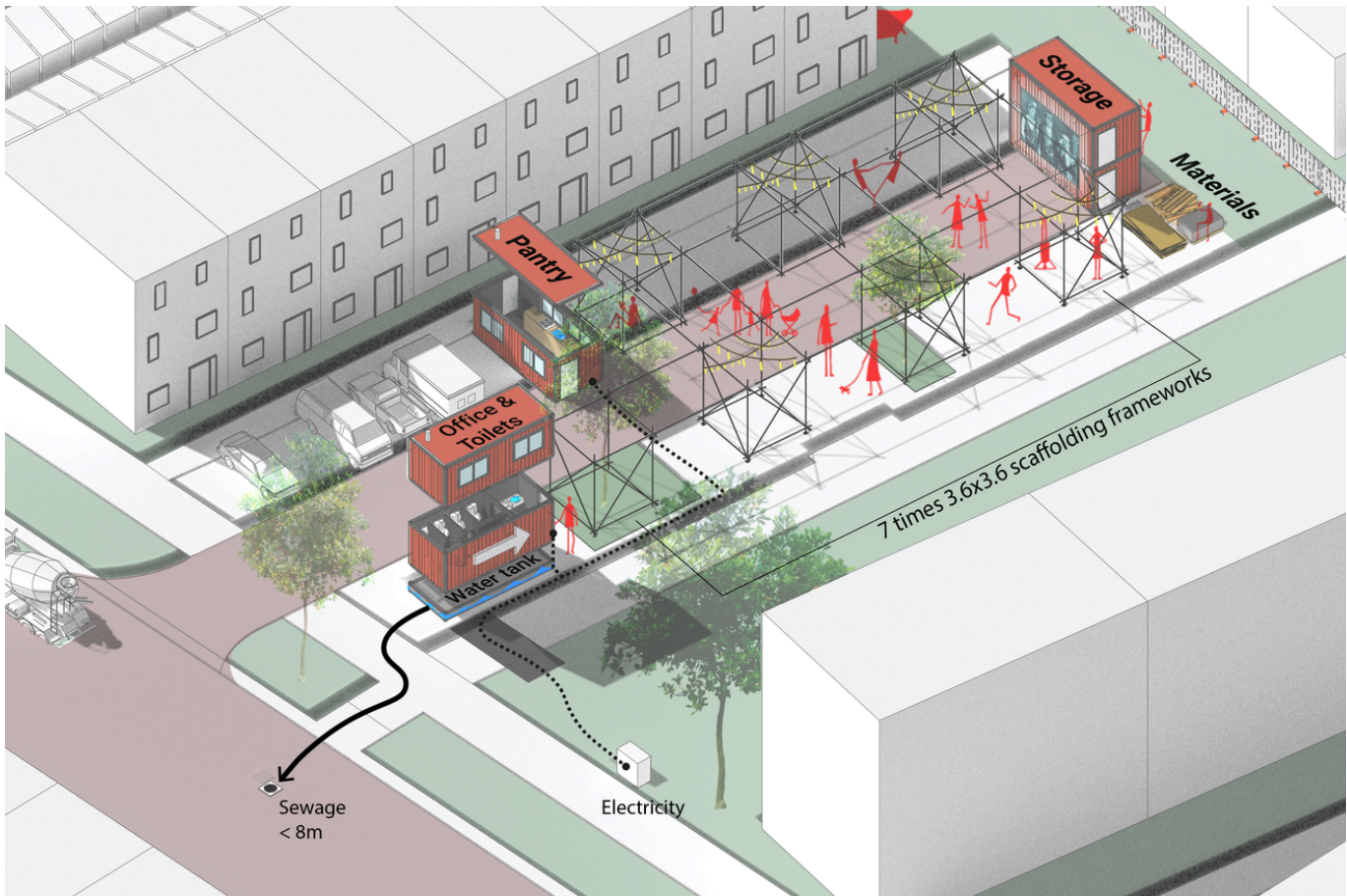
- Building contest
- Monthly film screenings
- Legal assistance meetings

**Furniture swap!!**

Bring your old furniture to refurbish the framework and exchange with neighbours!







## Context and program

The design occupies the former parking lot. This is the only space that will remain untouched in the redevelopment process. A number of containers, as provided by the construction company will offer some shelter from wind, sound, and sight while providing important amenities such as toilets, a small pantry, and material and furniture storage and an office and canteen for construction workers. The containers can also be used to attach a projector screen for movies.

In the design, a number of scaffolding frameworks of 3.6x3.6m are added. These become the units for the building contest, each contestant occupying one of the (now seven) tanks. This ensures enough room for diverse appropriations.

The toilets are connected to the main sewage canal under the road. If this is not possible, a replacable storage tank can be implemented. The electricity can be guided from a nearby transformer house, enabling the possibility of lights, heaters and electrical cooking/boiling water.



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## REFERENCE LIST

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