

Next, Chinatown

Community Design for Transforming Rotterdam Chinatown



Urbanism


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Suzana Milinovic (second mentor)



What an urban design could be?



"Community design is about exploring how to manage just the 'right' connections and create 'abundant' lives."

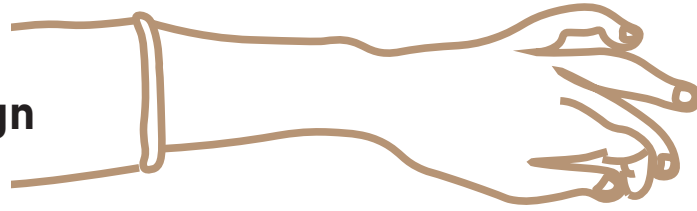


Yamazaki Ryo

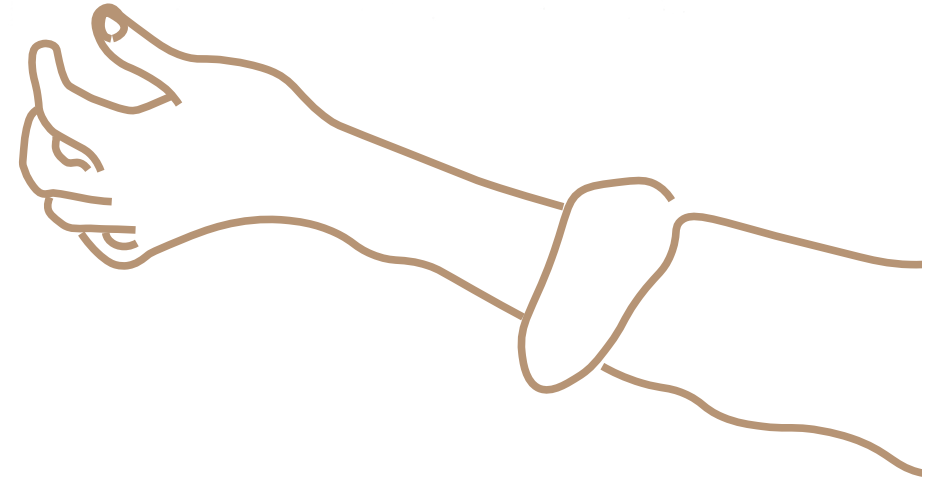
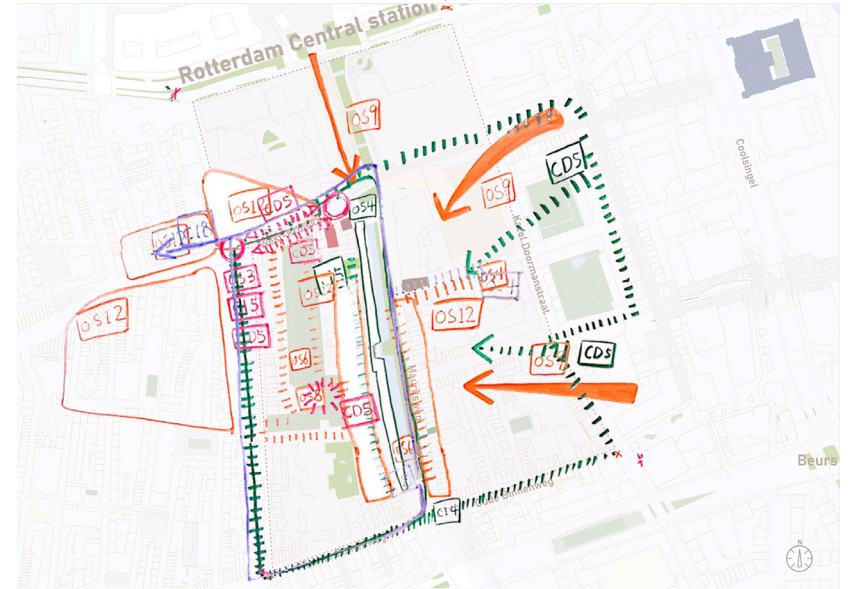


Image owner: Yuelai Liu

Community Design



- . Empower the community with **activating the existing resources**
- . **Spatial design as a tool** to facilitate the community development
- . Bottom-up **participatory management**





What is the role of a community designer?



All round player

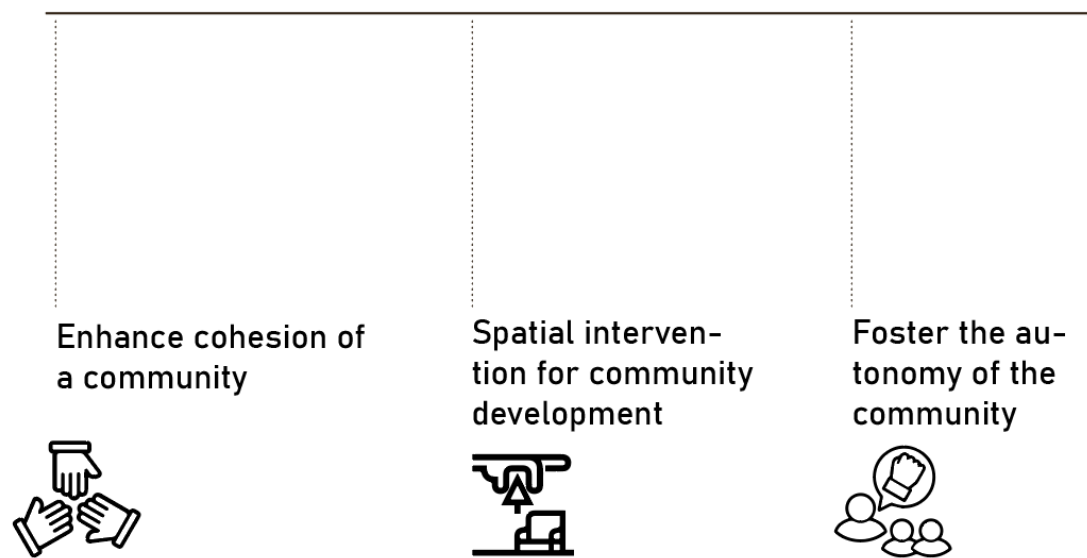


"without division of labor...experience a sense of fulfillment through systematic work ... infect the community with this passion"

(Ryo, 2016)

In this In this systematic, continuous work...

ROLE OF A COMMUNITY DESIGNER



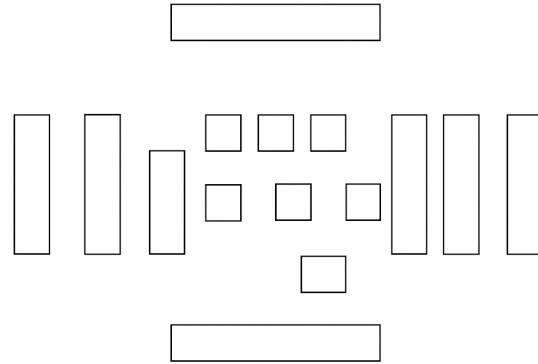


What is the relationship between a community and a city ?



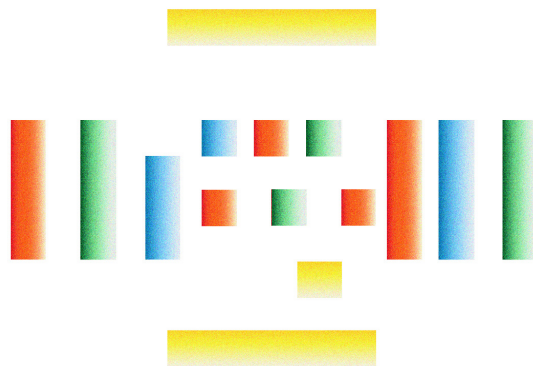
City is composed of different communities

Geo-community



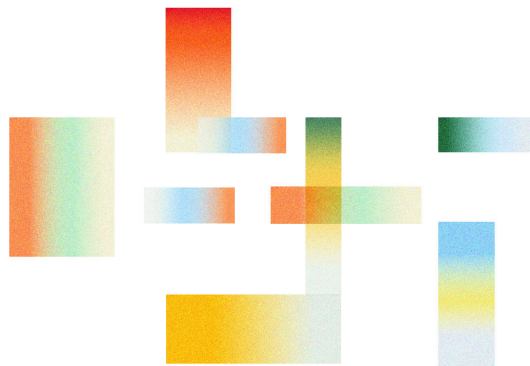


Add culture layer



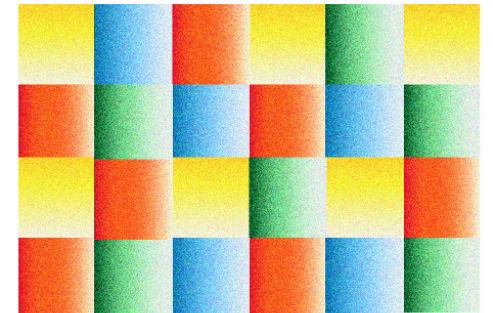
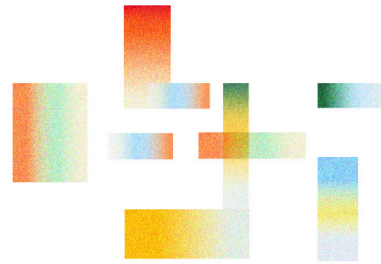
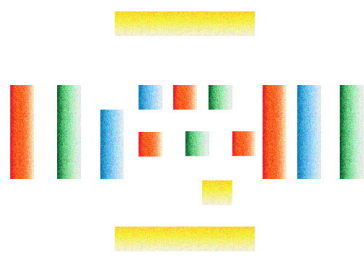


Community design and culture integration



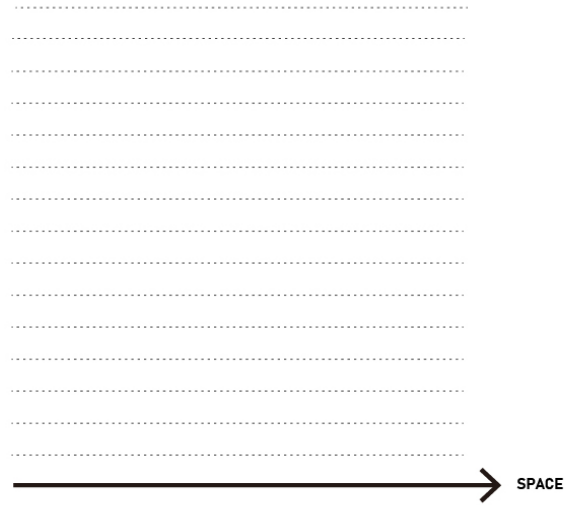


City is better knitted together

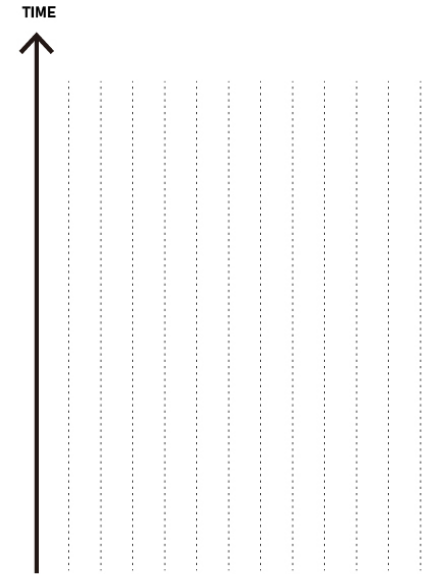




City is complex



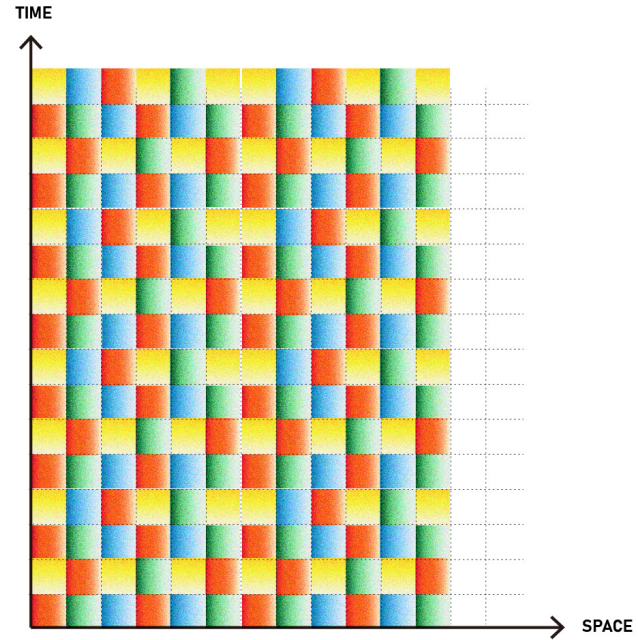
urban space is transforming



generation is transforming

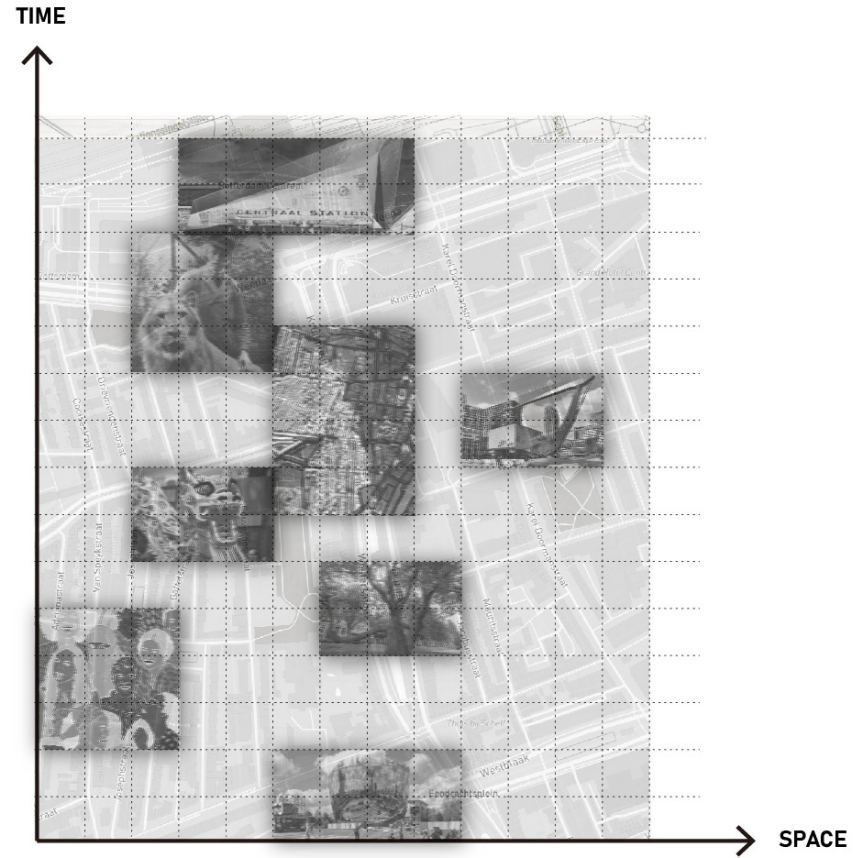


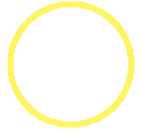
How to understand this complexity?



Maybe community design could be the answer

Rotterdam Chinatown as a case study

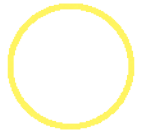




Culture Display

THE COMPLEXITY OF CHINATOWN



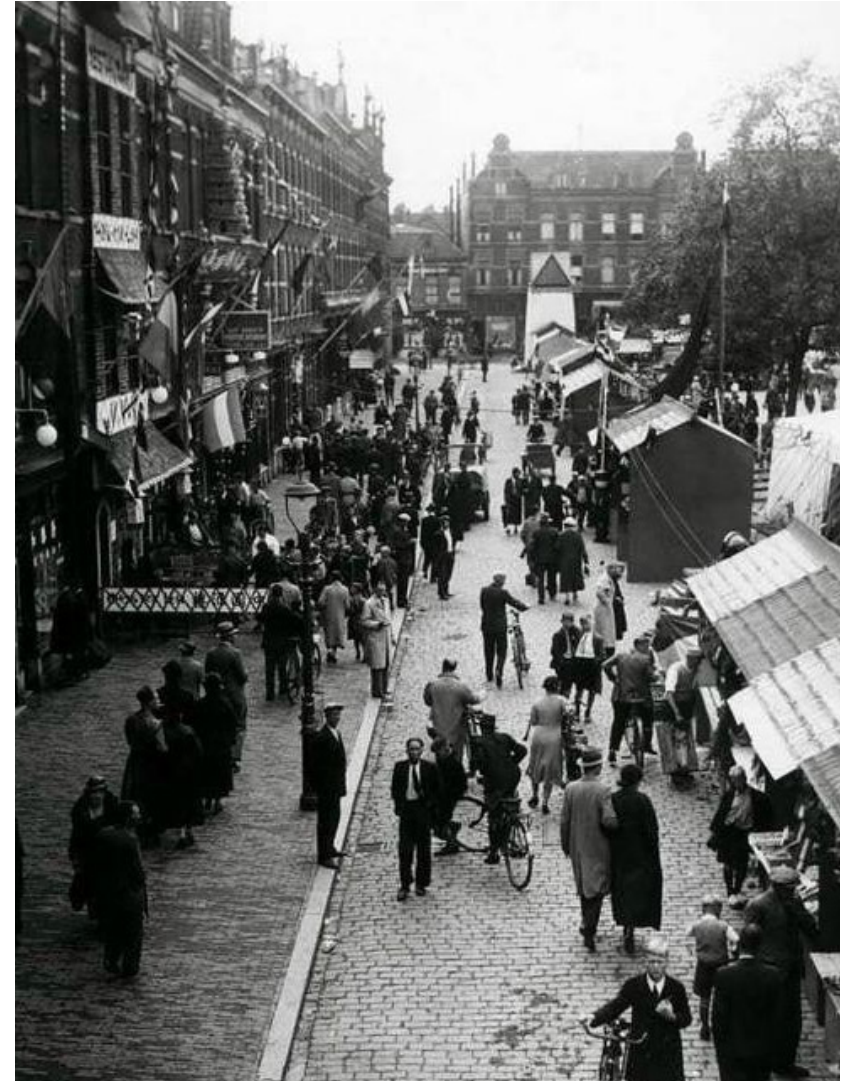


HISTORY OF CHINATOWN

Around 100 years ago, Chinese sailors arrived at the port of Katendrecht, Rotterdam

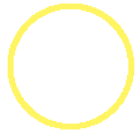


Katendrecht, Rotterdam in 1925
photo owned by KLM Aerocarto
retrieved from: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Maashaven_Rotterdam_1925_-_NL-RtSA_4029_PBK-4388-01.jpg



Chinese market at Katendrecht, Rotterdam, 1935.
Unknown photography

retrieved from: <https://rjb.x-cago.com/GARJB/2009/12/20091231/GARJB-20091231-0263/story.pdf>



THE COMPLEXITY OF CHINESE COMMUNITY IN NETHERLANDS

. Different Origins from different backgrounds

Chinese from



Overseas Chinese

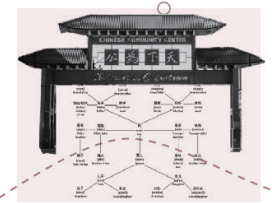
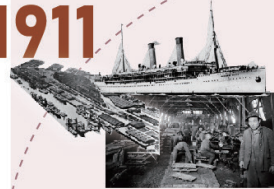


Other Chinese

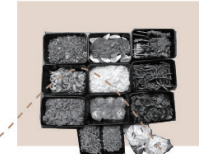


CHINESE ARRIVED NETHERLANDS

1911



PEANUT CAKE BUSINESS

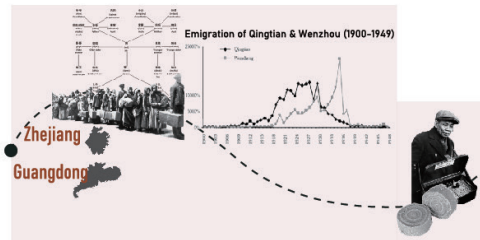


FIRST CHINESE ORGANIZATION ESTABLISHED

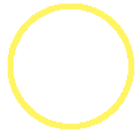


ECONOMIC CRISIS

1929



1970-80 CHINATOWN BOOM

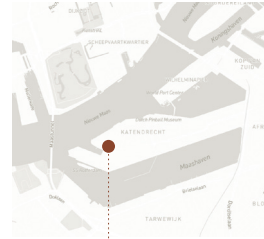


TRANSFORMING ROTTERDAM CHINATOWN

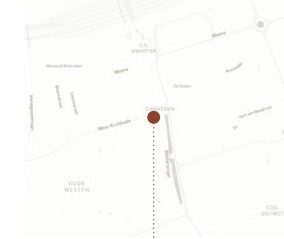
- . Chinatown moved location
- . Function remains
- . Chinese food + grocery



KATENDRECHT



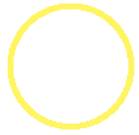
ROTTERDAM CENTRUM



OLD CHINATOWN (START FROM 1920)



NEW CHINATOWN (SINCE 1980)



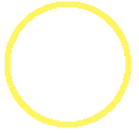
CHINATWON GROWS WITH ROTTERDAM CITY

1940 German bombing in Rotterdam



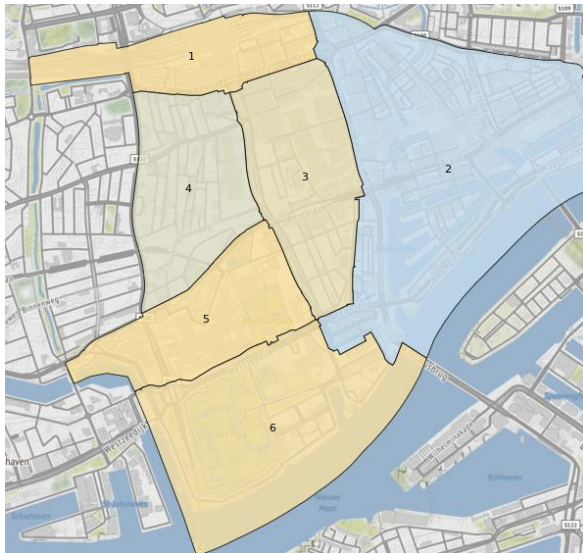
Rebuild after the war





CHINATWON GROWS WITH ROTTERDAM CITY

On the municiple border of two districts



Data source: <https://allcharts.info/the-netherlands/borough-rotterdam-centrum/>

Cool - Rotterdam commercial center

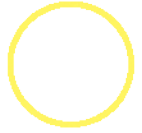
Shops and Offices



Oude Westen - Immigrant residential neighborhood

Residential buildings





CHINATWON MEANS MORE FOR ROTTERDAM CITY



- . Locate at the green axis of Rotterdam
- . According to city planning 2040
- . Expansion of Rotterdam centrum
- . Walking friendly city promote

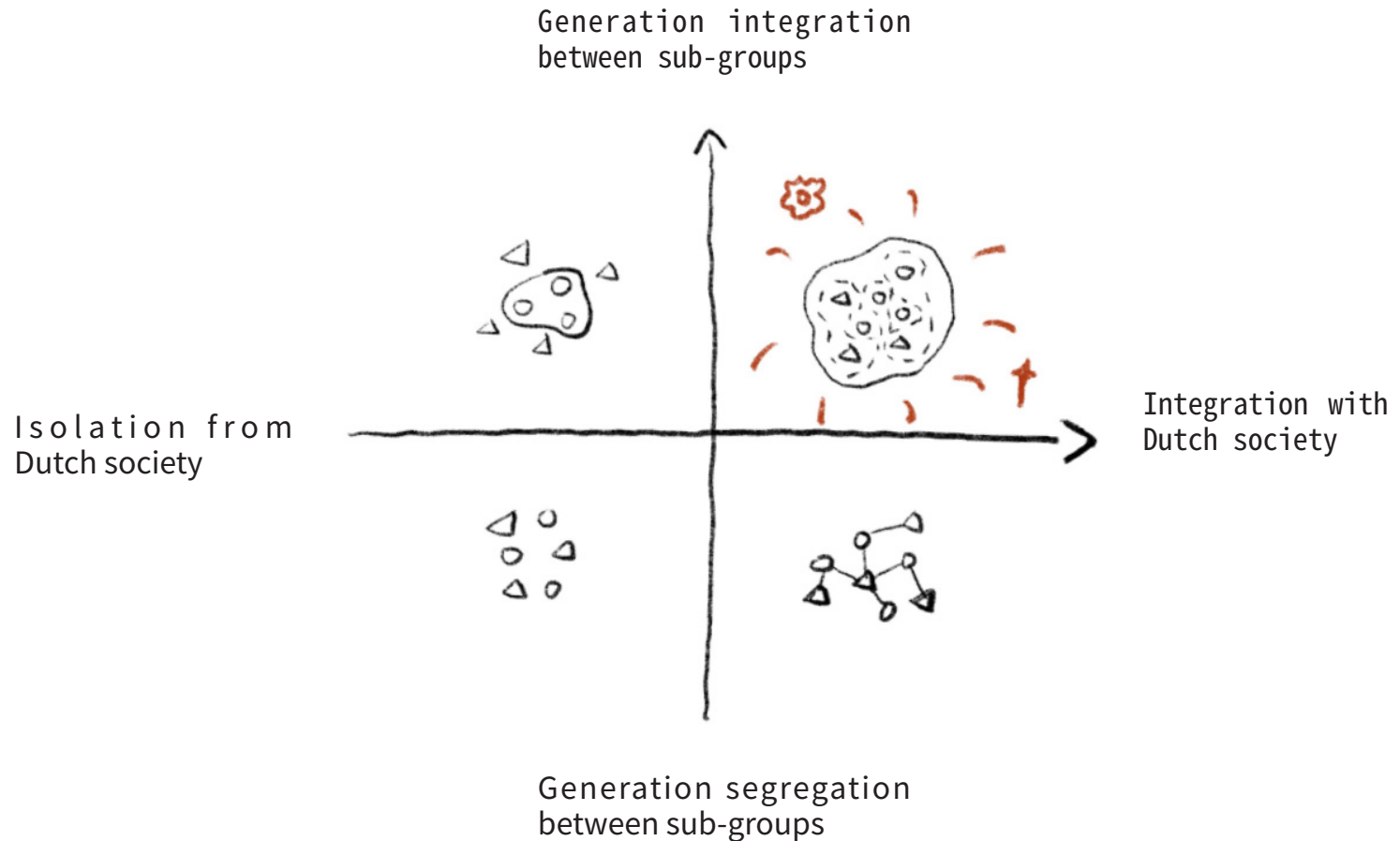


Design for transforming Rotterdam Chinatown



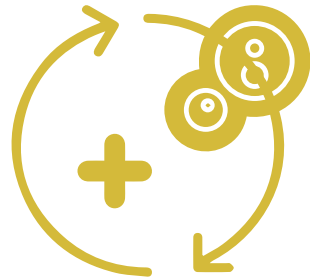
OBJECTIVE

Empower the **localization of Chinese community in Rotterdam** with globalized context by the approach of open space activation.

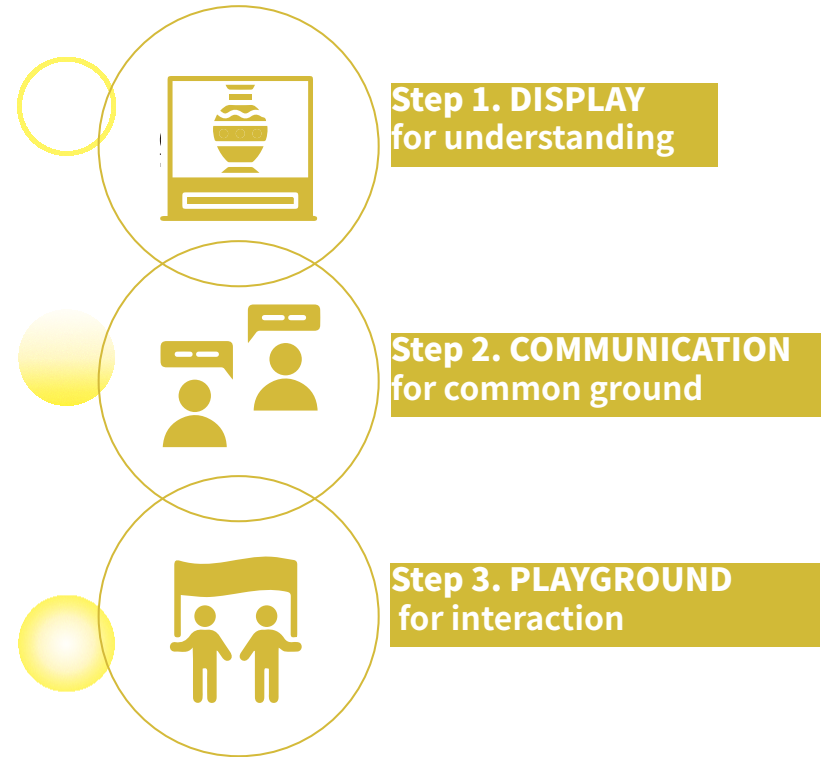


OBJECTIVE

Empower the localization of Chinese community in Rotterdam with **globalized context** by the approach of open space activation.



Cultural integration & regeneration



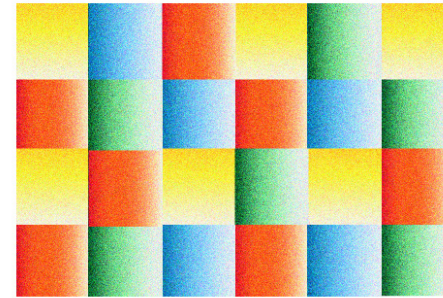
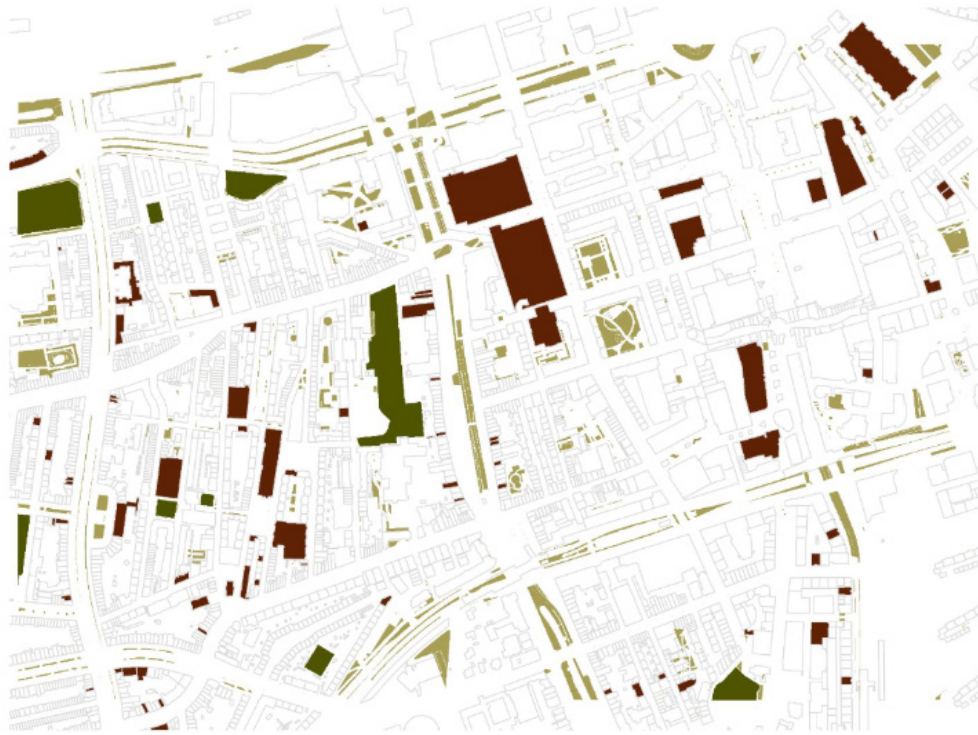
Step 1. DISPLAY
for understanding

Step 2. COMMUNICATION
for common ground

Step 3. PLAYGROUND
for interaction

OBJECTIVE

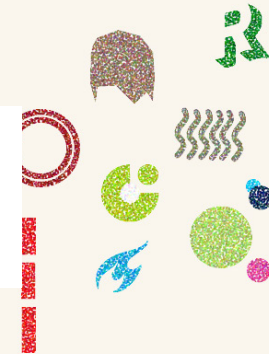
Empower the localization of Chinese community in Rotterdam with globalized context **by the approach of open space activation.**



ROTTERDAM CHINATOWN TRANSFORMATION
鹿特丹唐人街更新

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP
社區工作坊

Needs from Chinese community and
Chinatown community
Communication lounge



INVITATION

誠邀

Time: January 17th, 2023 9.30-11.30(GMT+1)

Location: GOETHE INSTITUT, Rotterdam

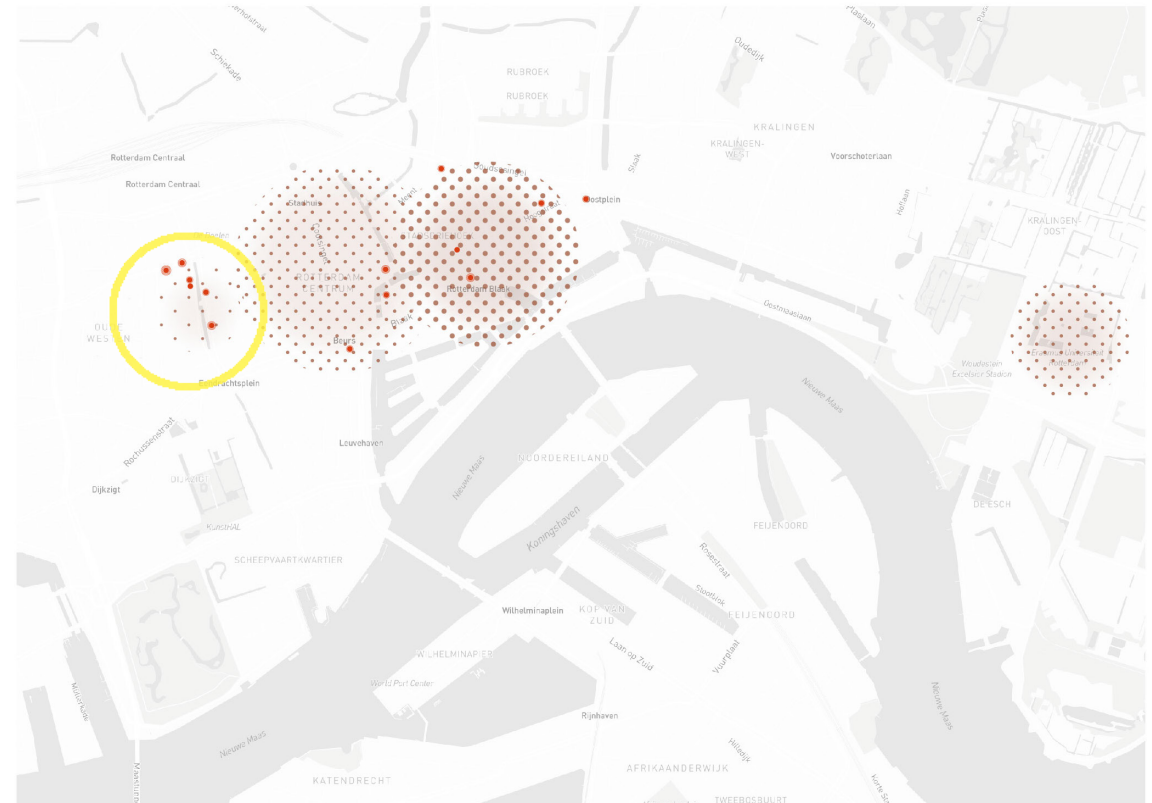
TRANSFORMING CHINESE GENERATIONS

According to 47 real responses

. Preferences of Chinatown use



. Young generation's references of city going



NEEDS FROM THIRD GENERATION

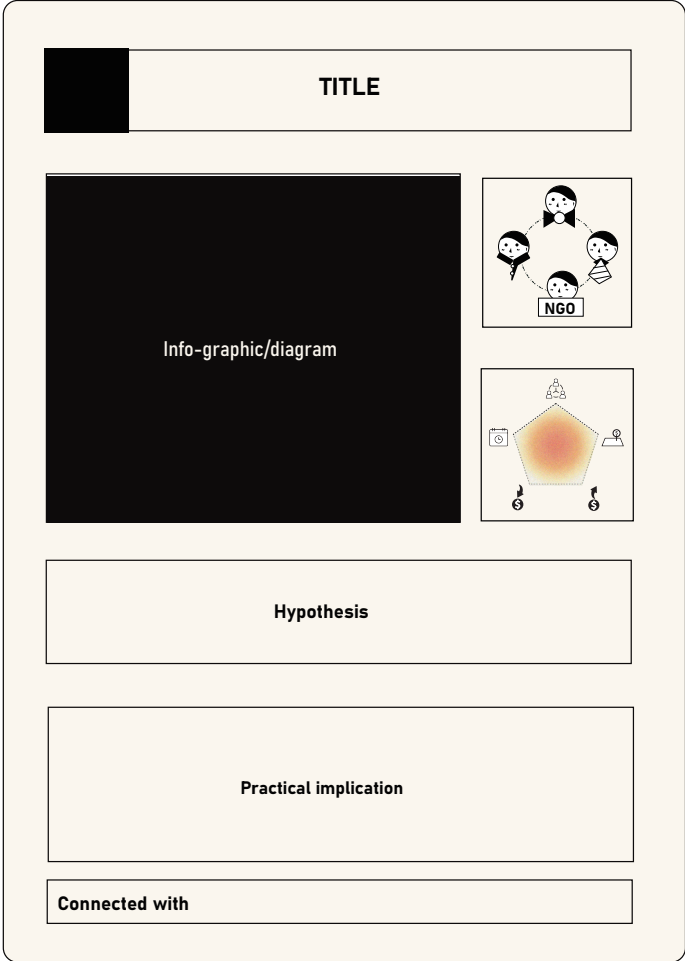
"Nothing special to do there only shopping and out-of-date restaurants."

"It's not a good neighborhood despite its central location. I feel unsafe there."

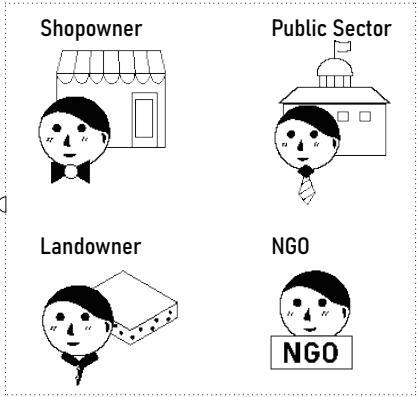


"I don't regard it as China town actually."

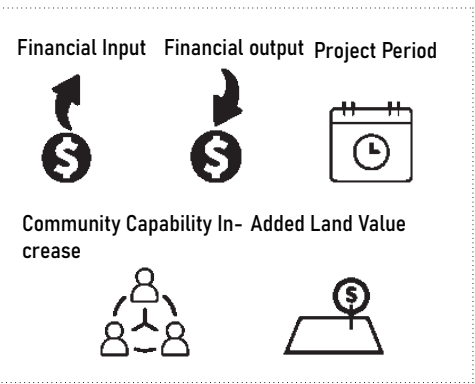
PATTERN LANGUAGE DESIGN



Involoved Stakeholders



Value Assessment





CD Community development

- CD1** Develop online-services
- CD2** Establish community fund
- CD3** Build website for Chinatown
- CD4** System visual design for Chinatown
- CD5** Build landmarks for Chinatown
- CD6** Chinese shop alliance with whole Rotterdam
- CD7** Products for Chinatown
- CD8** Provide job opportunities for the communities

OS Open space use

- OS1** add water elements
- OS2** Children-oriented facilities
- OS3** Renovate street façade
- OS4** Improve the space quality at night
- OS5** Activate use along open streets
- OS6** Restrict smoking area
- OS7** Increase the entertainment of the public space
- OS8** Activate Ouden Western park for public use
- OS9** Connect centrum area with Chinatown
- OS10** Re-plan the mobility route
- OS11** Walkable streets promot
- OS12** Empty house activation

CI Cultural Integration

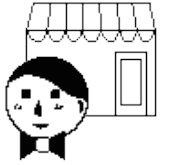
- CI1** Increase the number community center
- CI2** Provide rest spots near community centers
- CI3** Community gardens for co-maintenance
- CI4** Theme activities
- CI5** Facilities with culture elements
- CI6** Regularly conduct of cultural activities
- CI7** Empower local NGOs
- CI8** Diversify shop function& services

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

. 11 Chinatown stakeholders (5 Chinese community + 4 NGOs & public sector)
. January 17th, 2023. Goethe Institut



Shopowner



Landowner



Public Sector



NGO



DEVELOP THEIR ABILITY TO THINK FOR THEMSELVES ABOUT COMMUNITY ISSUES

Common language building



Participatory design

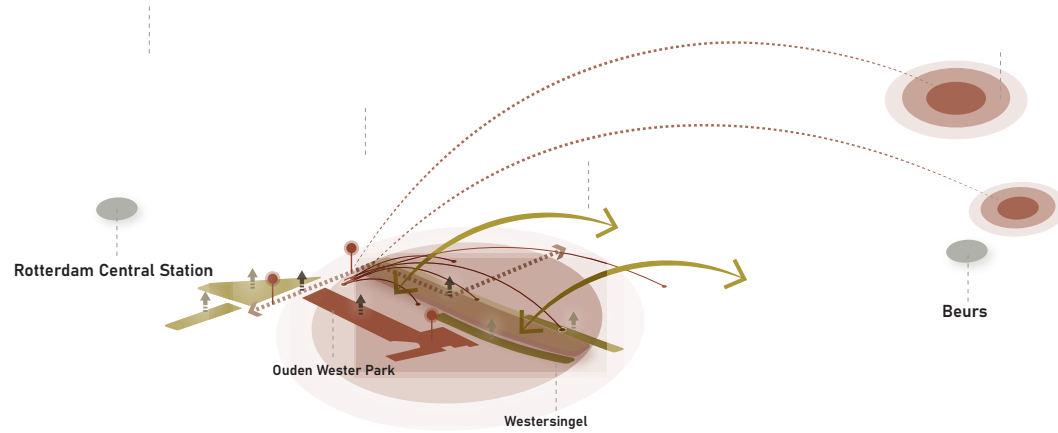


Open discussion



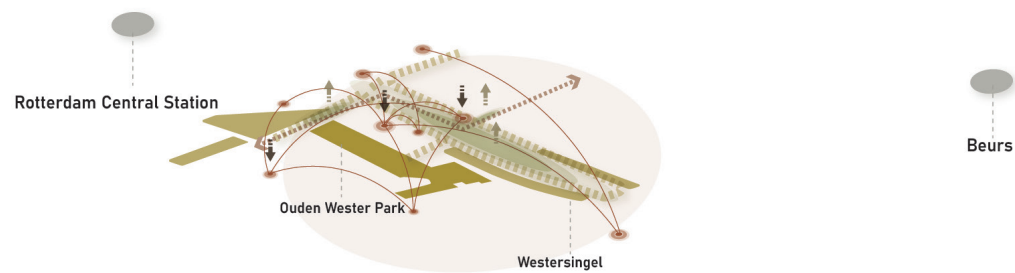
NEEDS FROM DIFFERENT COMMUNITY

Visions from Chinese community



<p>OS1 Facilities with culture events</p> <p>OS2 Regularly conduct of cultural activities</p> <p>OS3 Reinforce street layout</p> <p>OS4 Improve the space quality of night</p> <p>OS6 Theme activities</p>
<p>OS7 Build landmarks for Christmas</p> <p>OS8 Current outdoor area with Christmas</p> <p>OS12 Empty house activation</p> <p>OS8 Activate Beurs Meuse park for public use</p>

Visions from local NGO/NPO and municipality Rotterdam








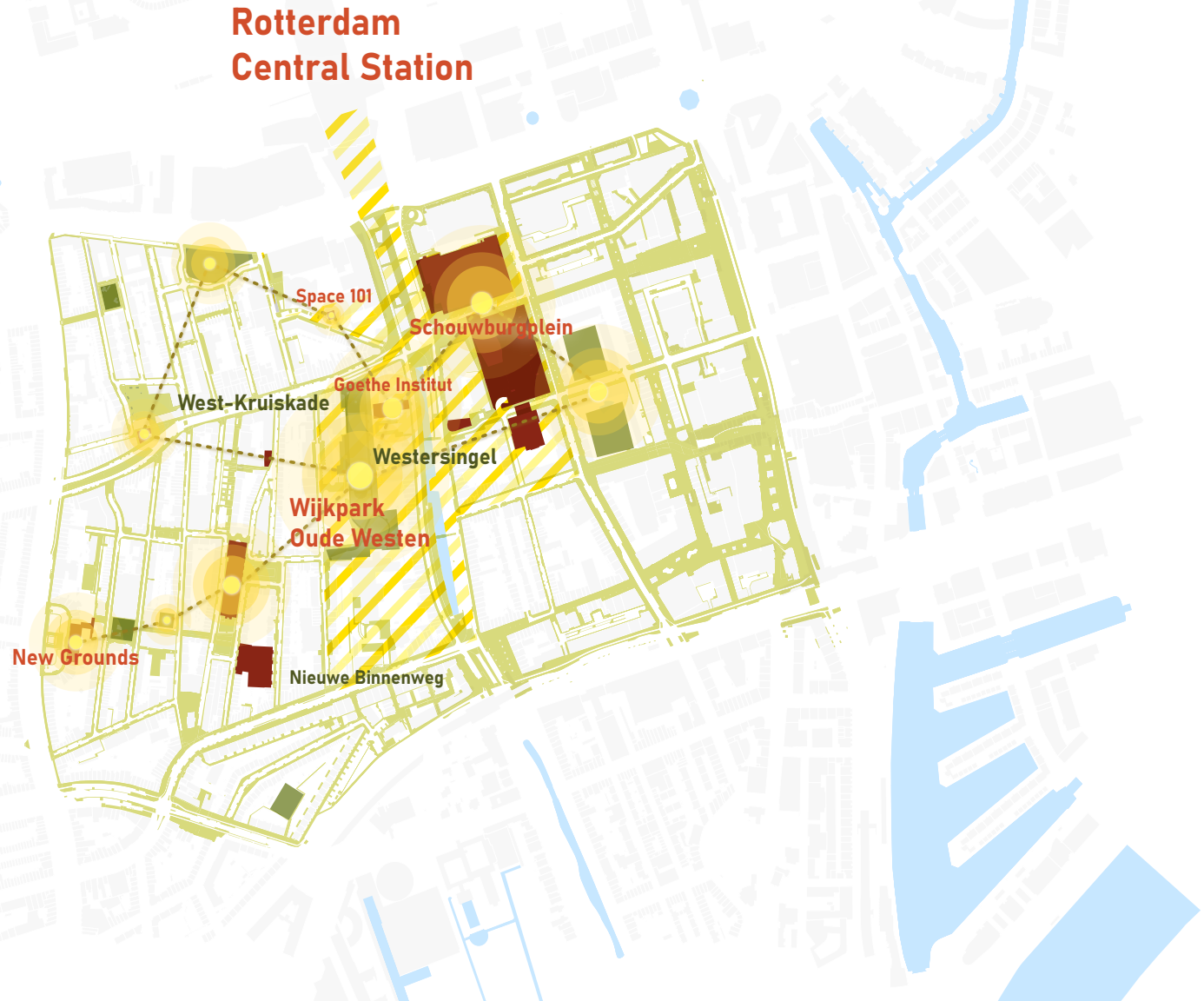
<p>OS7 Empower local NGOs</p> <p>OS10 To plan the mobility route</p> <p>OS3 Reinforce street layout</p> <p>OS4 Improve the space quality of night</p>
<p>OS4 Improve the space quality of night</p> <p>OS12 Empty house activation</p>

VISION MAKING SUMMARY

COMMON GROUND: LONGINGS FOR CONNECTIONS ON BOTH URBAN AND CULTURE LAYER



-  Pedstrain area
-  Green open space
-  Cultural open space
-  Threshold area
-  Connection spots





Manifestation Playground

Validation test with on-site experiment



The event showing a transforming Chiantown

RE-EVALUATE



Next Stop,
↳ Chinatown

Instagram: [chinatown.r.com](https://www.instagram.com/chinatown.r.com)

唐人街遊

5th May
2023

INTEPRET



Westsingel



Westsingel







Goethe Institut



唐人
唐人
唐人

Chineses overseas

街
街
街

Chinatown

游
游
游

sightseeing





Top

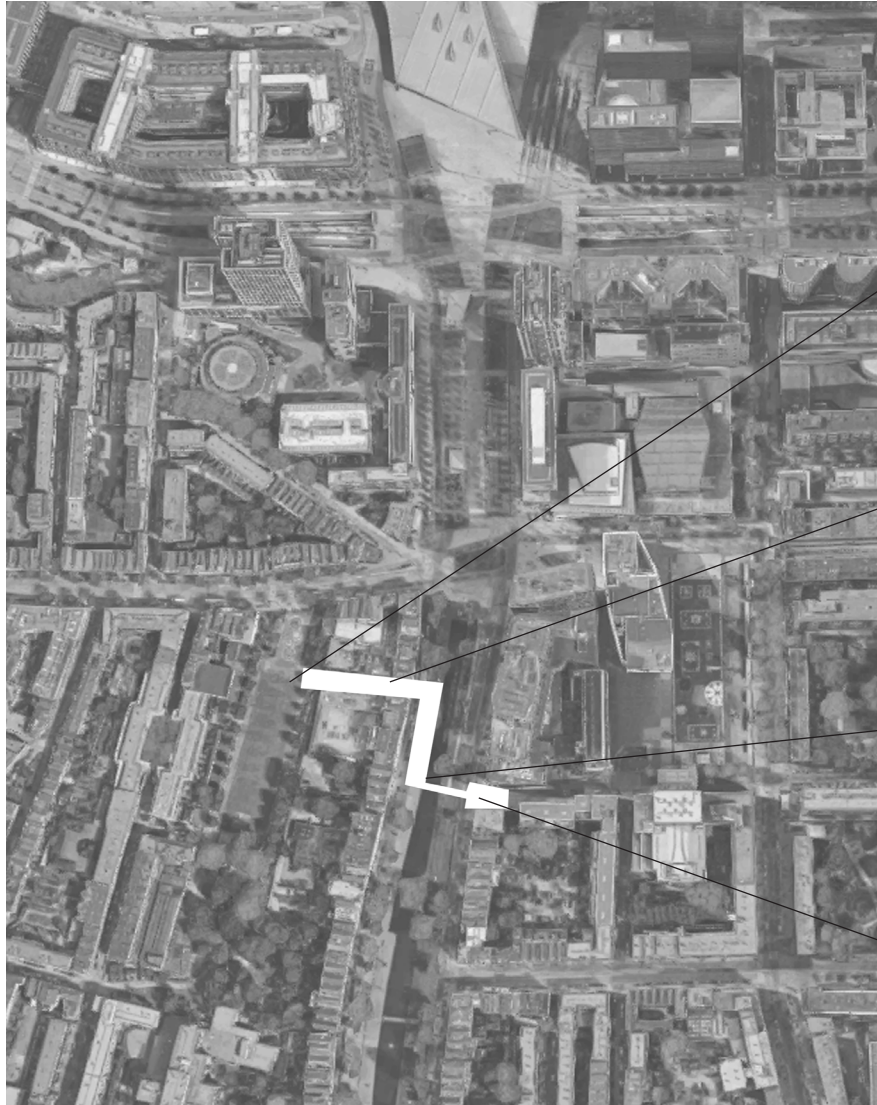


down



Designer

SEEKING NEUTRAL PLACES



Wijkpark Oude Westen
community park



Goethe Institut
Germany culture center



Westersingel
Public green space

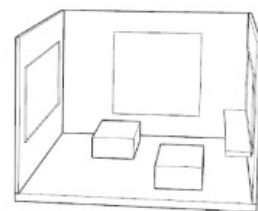
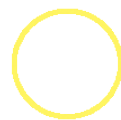


Mauritsweg
threshold between two districts

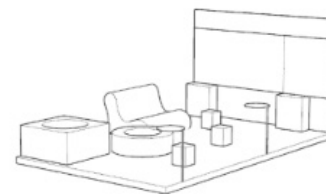
Image source: google map



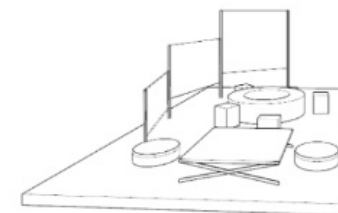
EXPERIMENT SPOT & THEME DESIGN



Culture Display



Communication Lounge



Manifestation Playground





Up
↑
Bottom



Coordinator

TEAM BUILDING((JANUARY 2ND - APRIL 29TH))

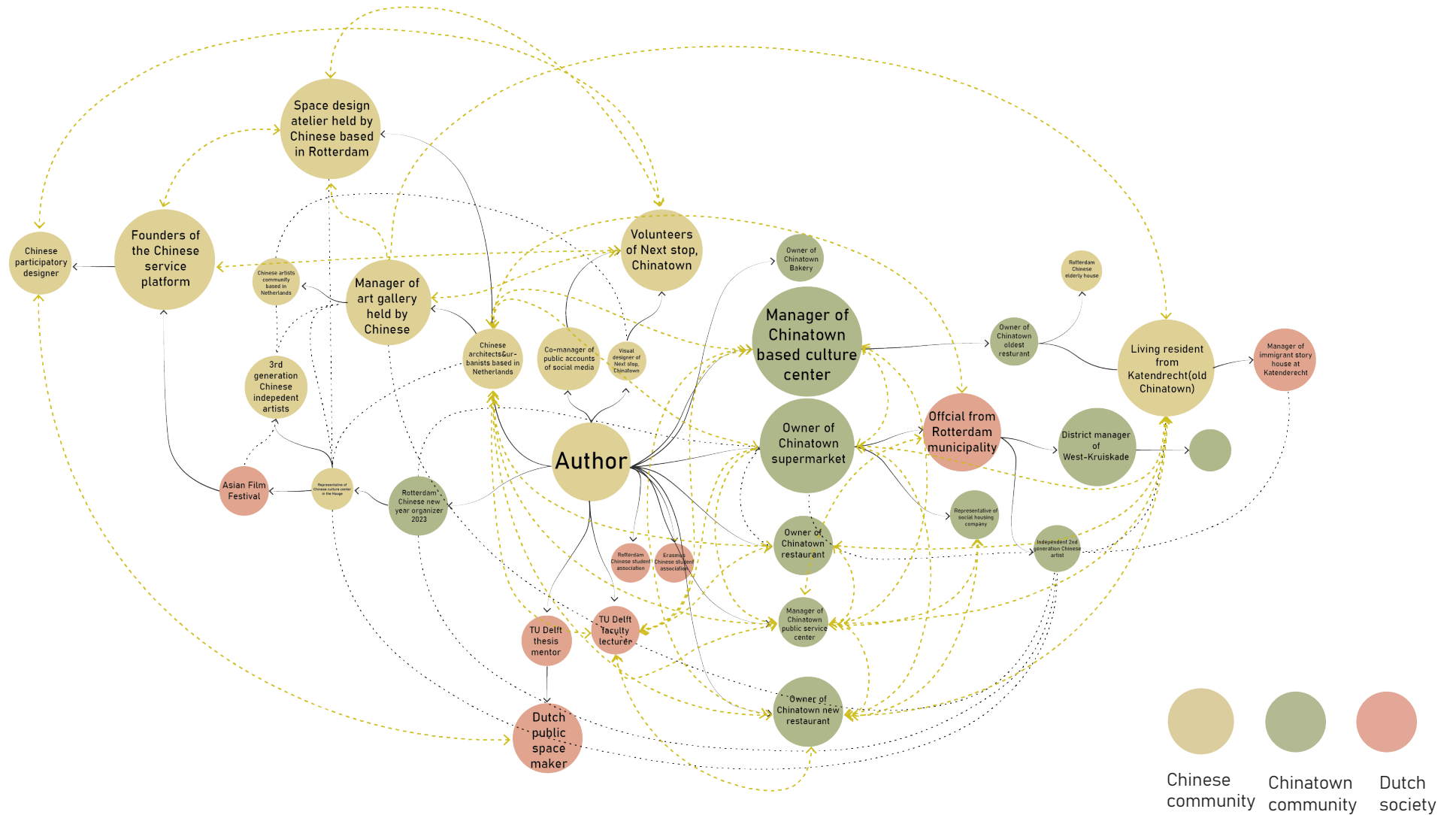
Guid tours of the proposed event site for the community



A project pitch to the community, and promote the significance of community development.



TEAM BUILDING (JANUARY 2ND - APRIL 29TH)



CURATION & DESIGN (FEBRUARY 26TH - APRIL 9TH)

Working with the co-creative Dutch designer

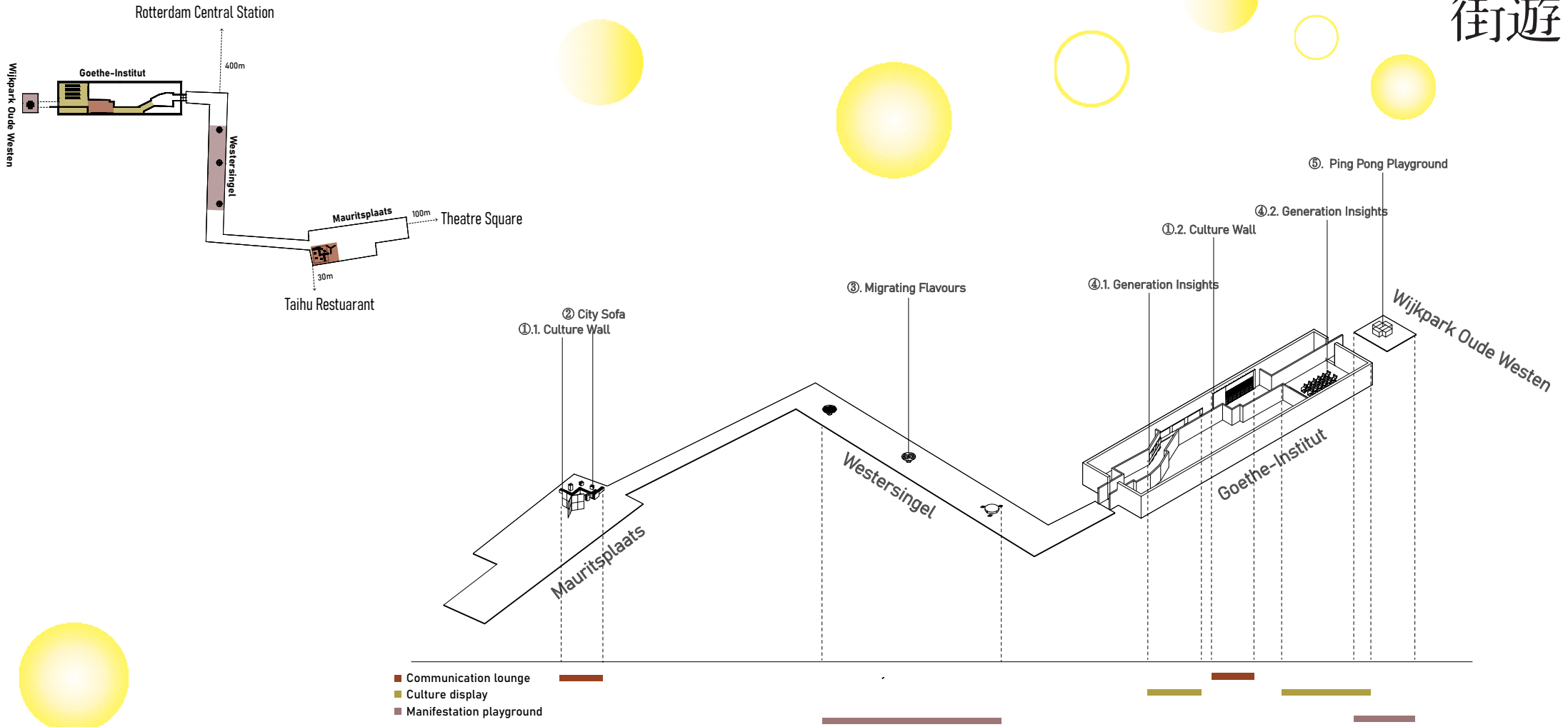


Organize different groups to have weekly meetings



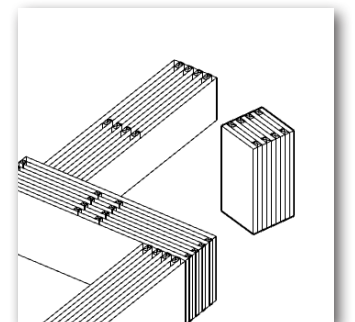
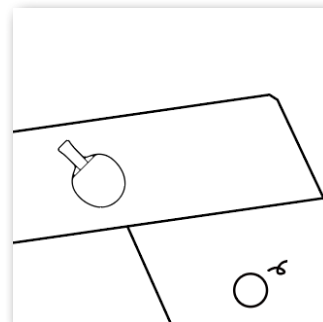
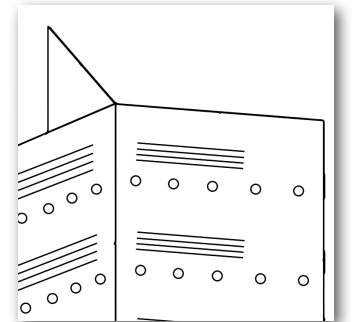
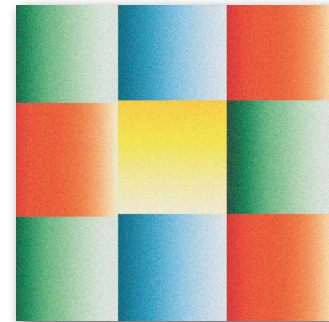
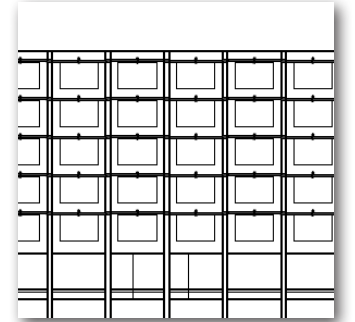
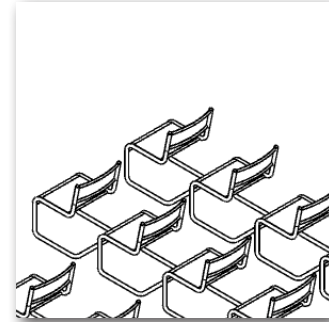
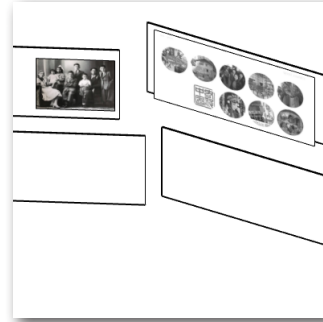
CURATION & DESIGN (FEBRUARY 26TH - APRIL 9TH)

Create a rhythm for urban experience with cultral expressions



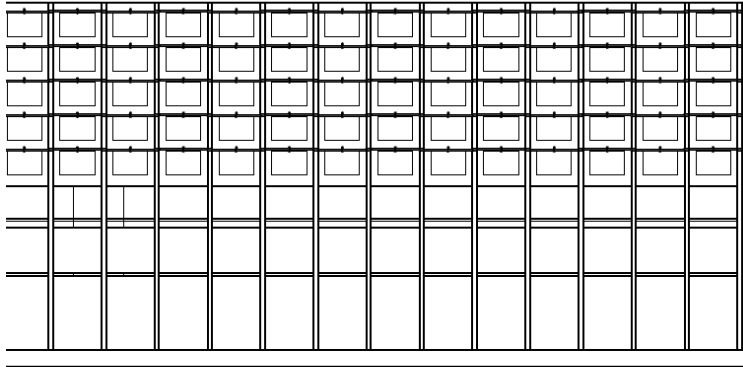
CURATION & DESIGN (FEBRUARY 26TH - APRIL 9TH)

3 major themes
4 spot locations
5 units
7 installations



FINAL IMPLEMENTATION (MAY 2ND-5TH)

Co-Creation | 8 core members



Co-construction | 42 volunteers



For the final outcome



RESULTS

Next Stop,
↳ Chinatown

Instagram: chinatown.r.com

唐人街遊

5th May

2023

292 visitors in attendance

13 countries visitors

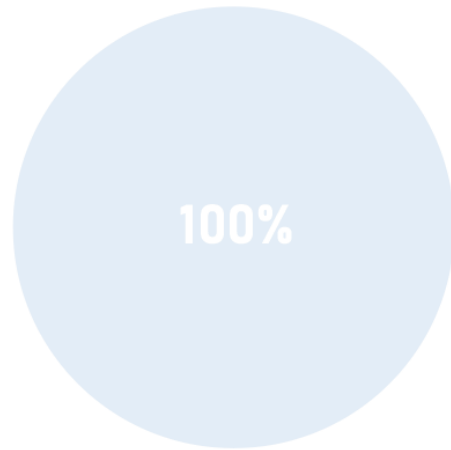
7218 online views

303 online followers

22 feedbacks

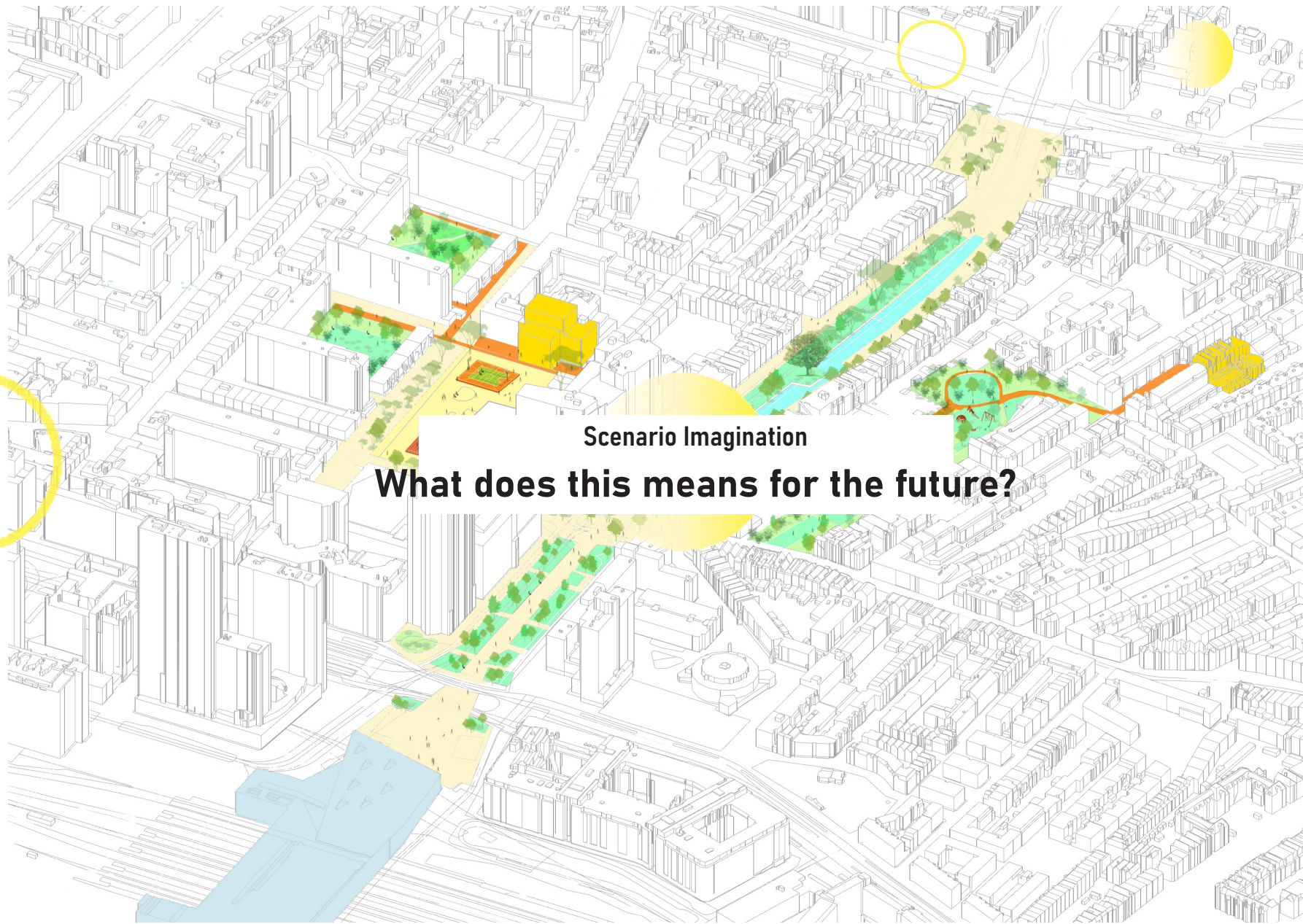


Would you like more activities like this?



● Yes!
● No





Scenario Imagination

What does this means for the future?

Refined Patterns for Rotterdam Chinatown

6 cards for open space use + 4 cards for culture integration

OS3 Renovate street façade





Hypothesis
Renew the street façade to make it more attractive, and make people be aware of this is Chinatown and with diverse cultures

Practical implication

- Storytelling about the living history of Chinese community could be the ornamental theme of the facade, which requires a linear corridor or wall facing public streets.
- Facade could be filled in with interactive open-ended questions in community spaces that allow people to meet and interact with each other.

Connected with: C15, OS8, OS9

OS4 Improve the space quality at night





Hypothesis
Secure the safety of the streets and public parks to improve the space quality at night

Practical implication

- Activating the indoor open spaces at night

C15 Facilities with culture elements





Hypothesis
Increase cultural facilities on public space in Chinatown

Practical implication

- Add cultural symbols, such as round table that as a symbology representing food culture fused eastern and western culture.
- Add sharing kitchen in community space, where locals can share cultures.
- Make the culture ornaments assemblable that can involve to build it up together.

Connected with: C14, OS3, OS8

C16 Regularly conduct of cultural activities





Hypothesis
Increase the frequency of holding cultural activities on agenda.

Practical implication

- Hold bottom-up organized and co-organized activities
- Set sport equipments which embolden competition and customize the theme
- Active organizers and casts of staff
- Sustainable fund support is fundamental

Connected with: C14, C17, OS8

OS8 Activate community park for public use





Hypothesis
Open the Ouden Western park for the public, instead just for community use, welcome all visitors

Practical implication

- Add sports equipment to get to know new people
- Add interactive installations
- Add comfortable seatings and communication zone
- Add dog/pet friendly spaces

Connected with: C15, C16, OS3

OS9 Connect Rotterdam centrum with Chinatown





Hypothesis
Expand the border of Chinatown areas, such as Beurs, Blaak etc

Practical implication

- Activate the green space and central to West-Kruiskade.
- Systematic visual design guide.
- Promote walkable streets and

Connected with: OS3, OS10

OS10 re-plan the mobility route





Hypothesis
Re-plan the mobility of the Chinatown area, and make it more comfortable for people walking

Practical implication

- Reduce the difficulty of public space to indoor space.
- Reduce on-street parking.
- Erase the driving road along Westersingel, and expand the pedestrian area with more green pavement

Connected with: OS9

C14 Theme activities organization for the community





Hypothesis
Organize theme activities with Chinatown entrepreneurs and community centers to attract public visitors with the same interests.

Practical implication

- Regularly conduct theme activities both inside and outside at public spaces.
- Find the embodiment topic that all cultures share the common ground and easy to start discussion, such as food and sports.
- Active activity actors and organizers are important to activate the atmosphere.

Connected with: C15, C16, C17, OS12

OS12 Empty house activation





Hypothesis
Activating the empty houses, rent it for temporary use as public services or cultural centers

Practical implication

- Activate the available space in culture space or community space.
- Separate different micro room within these space with diverse theme

Connected with: OS4, C17, C14

C17 Empower NGOs located in Chinatown





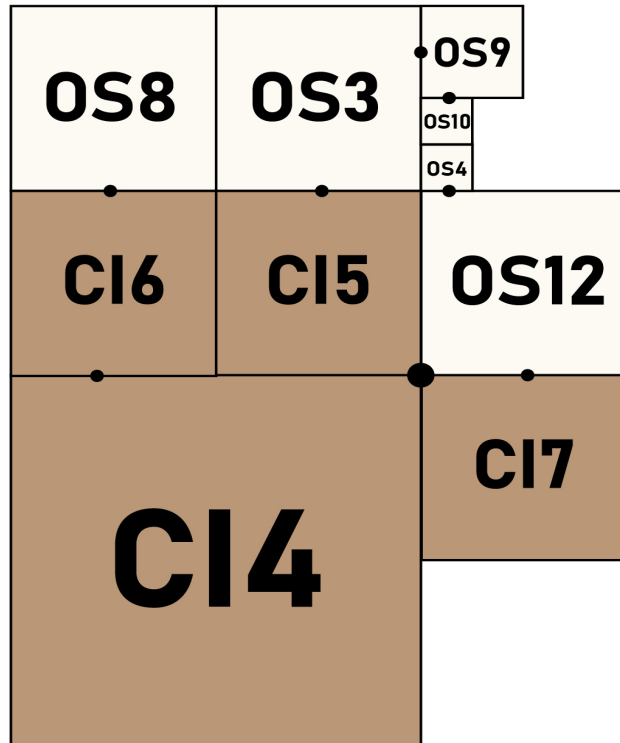
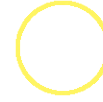
Hypothesis
Support cultural service centers with money, and participate in activities held by them. This help builds the cohesion of the community.

Practical implication

- Empower NGOs who have unbiased or neutral grounds, and have open-minded and welcoming quality.
- Empower NGOs with added culture values such as conduct language classes and provide skill courses to remain the operation of such institutes.
- Encourage local NGOs to share network and resources together.

Connected with: C14, C16, OS12

Values of Patterns

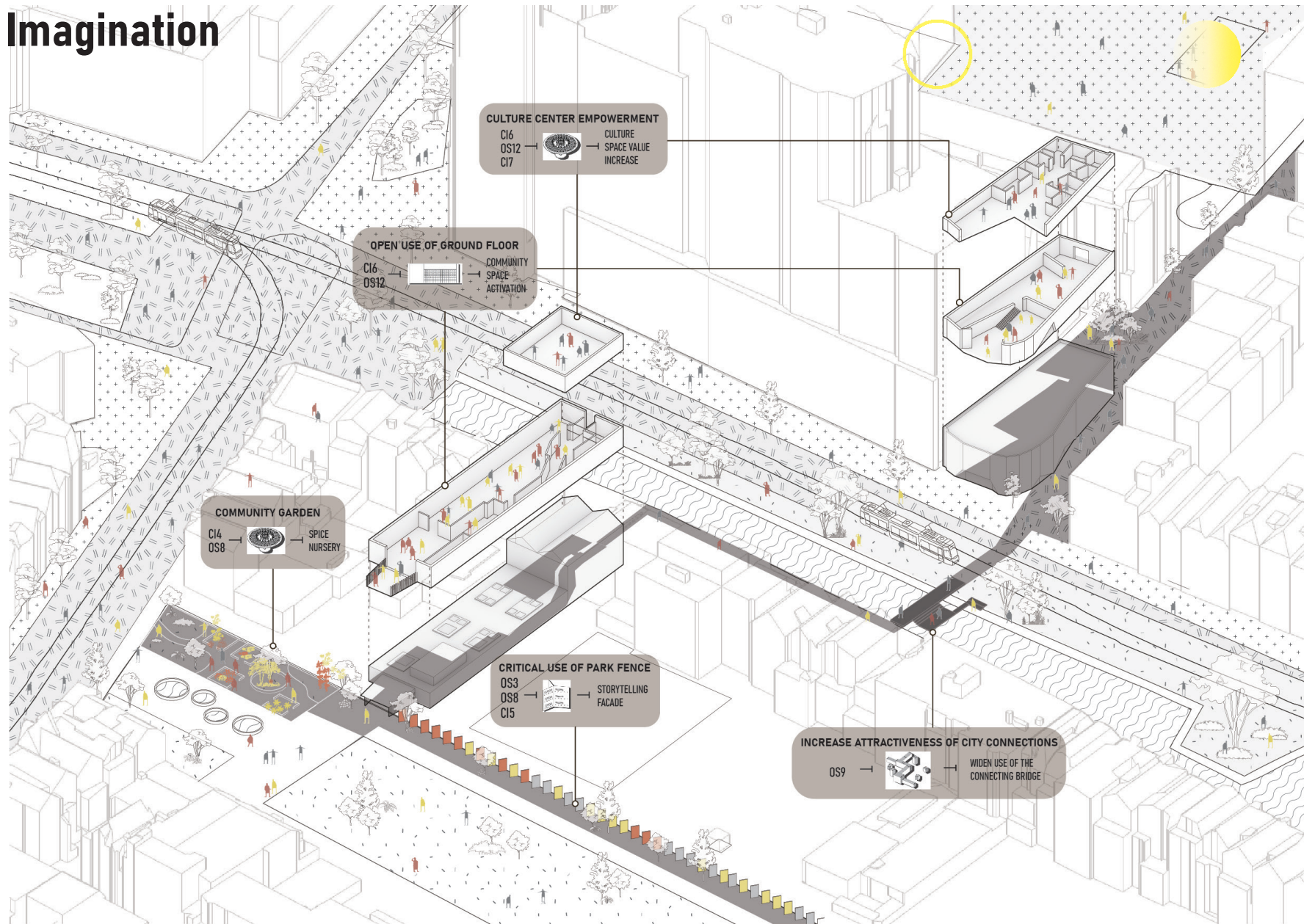


- OS3 Renovate street façade
- OS4 Improve space quality at night
- OS8 Activate community park for public use
- OS9 Connect Rotterdam centrum with Chinatown
- OS10 Replan the mobility route
- OS12 Empty house activation
- CI5 Facilities with culture elements
- CI6 Regularly conduct of cultural activities
- CI7 Empower NGOs located in Chiantown

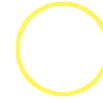


Theme activities organization for the community

Scenario Imagination



Connect Neighborhood with Chinatown



Designs for manifestation playground

Practice on live event at public space with food culture theme

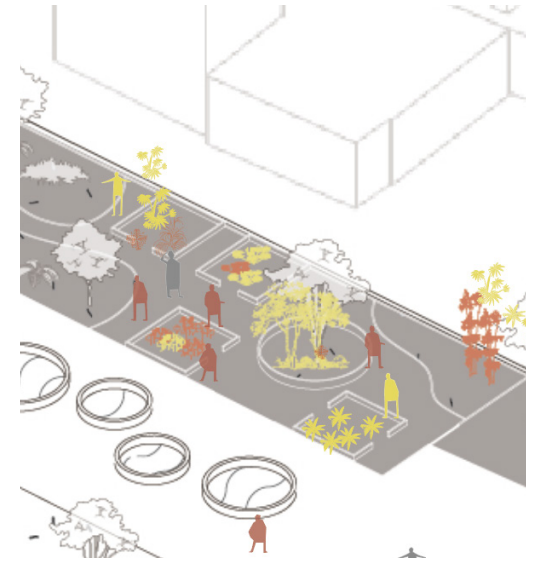
Assess and Learn from feedbacks & observation: people learned through food sharing

Propose strategy: set community garden

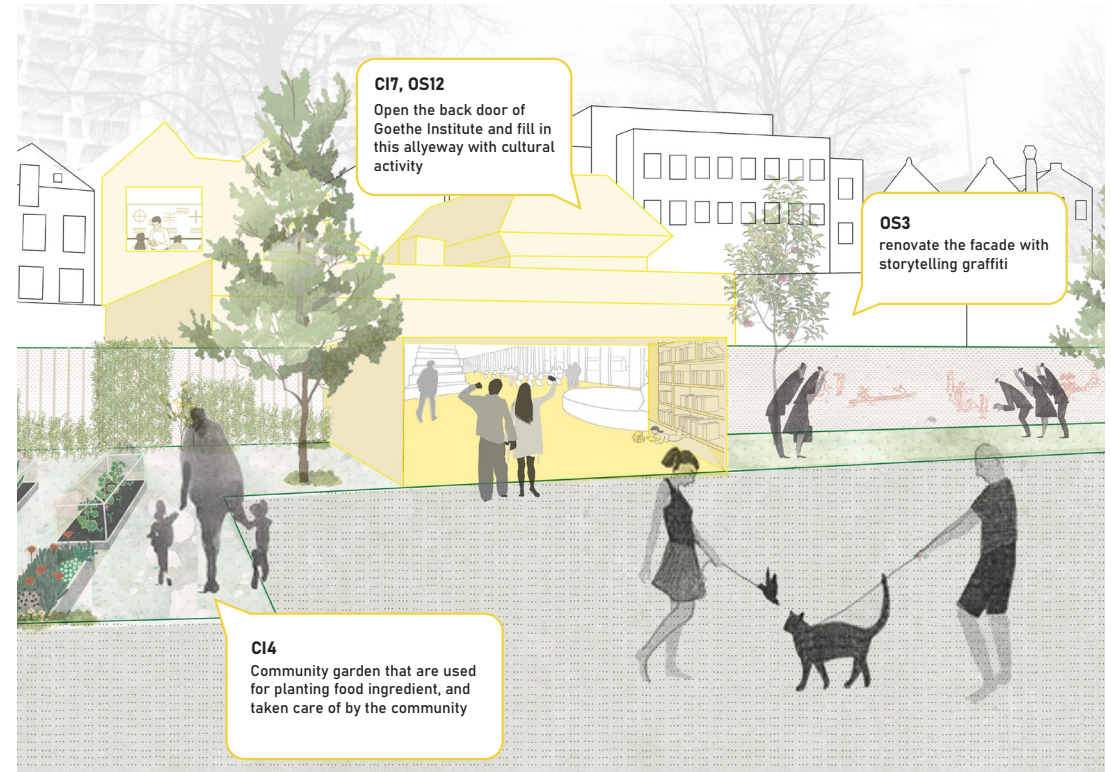
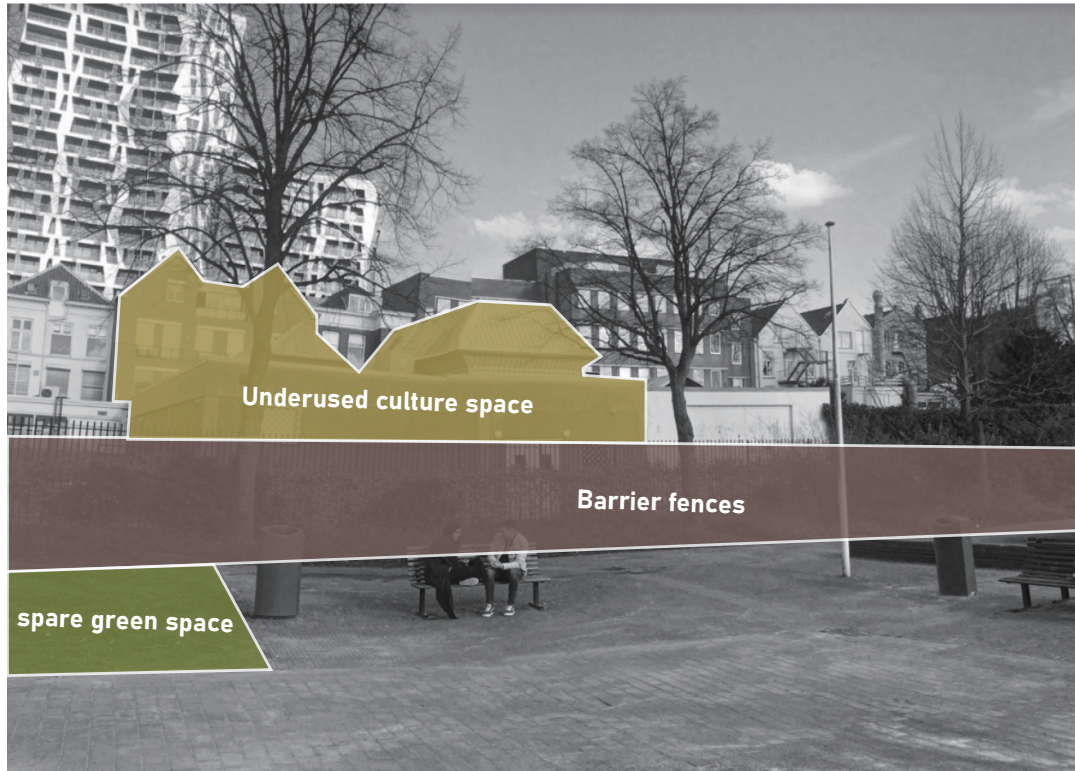
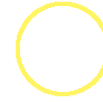


OS8 Activate community park for public use

CI4 Theme activities organization for the community



Connect Neighborhood with Chinatown





REFLECT MY ROLE IN THIS PROJECT



Top



down



Designer



as a filter



as a hyperlink

Up



Bottom

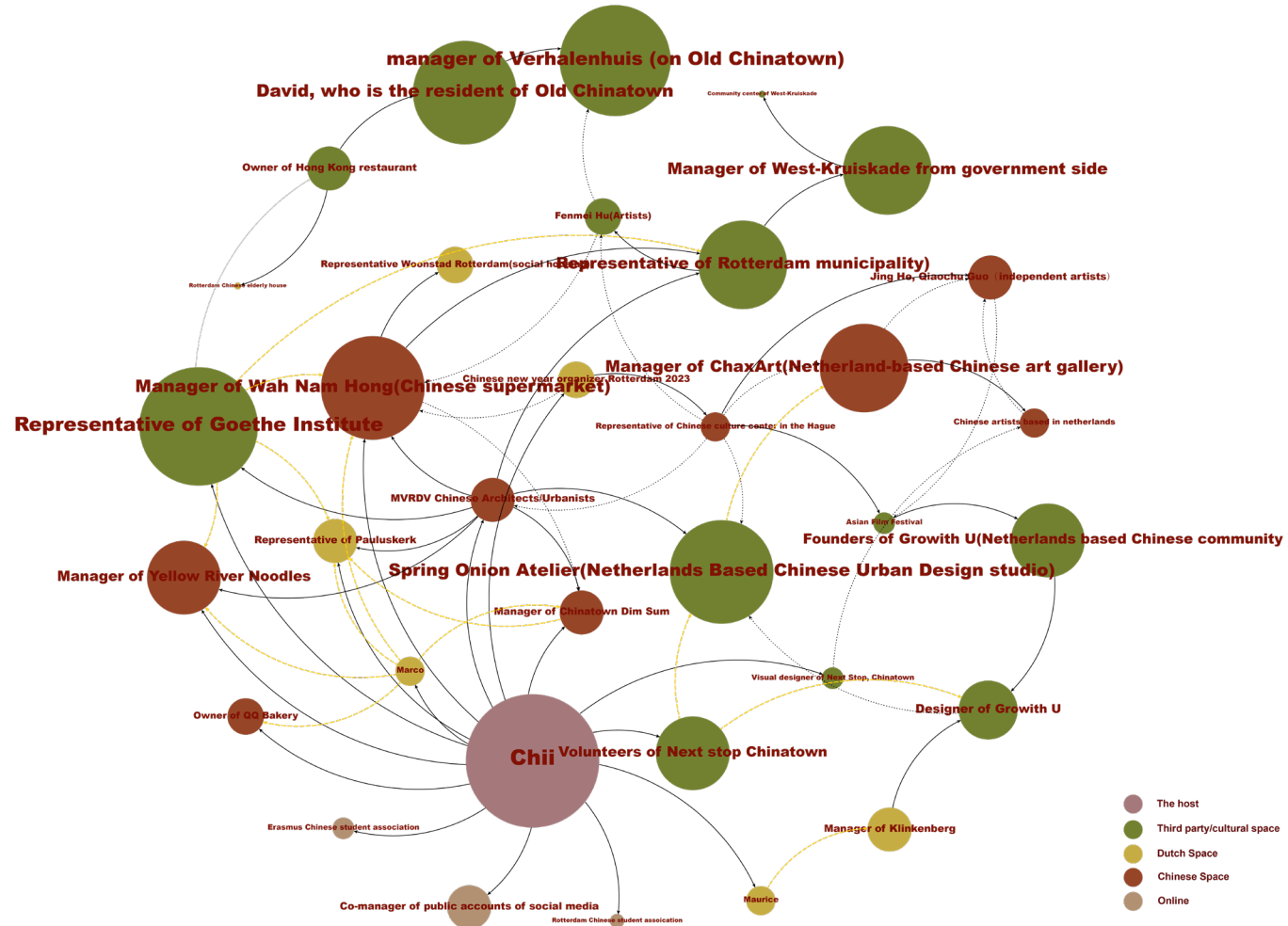


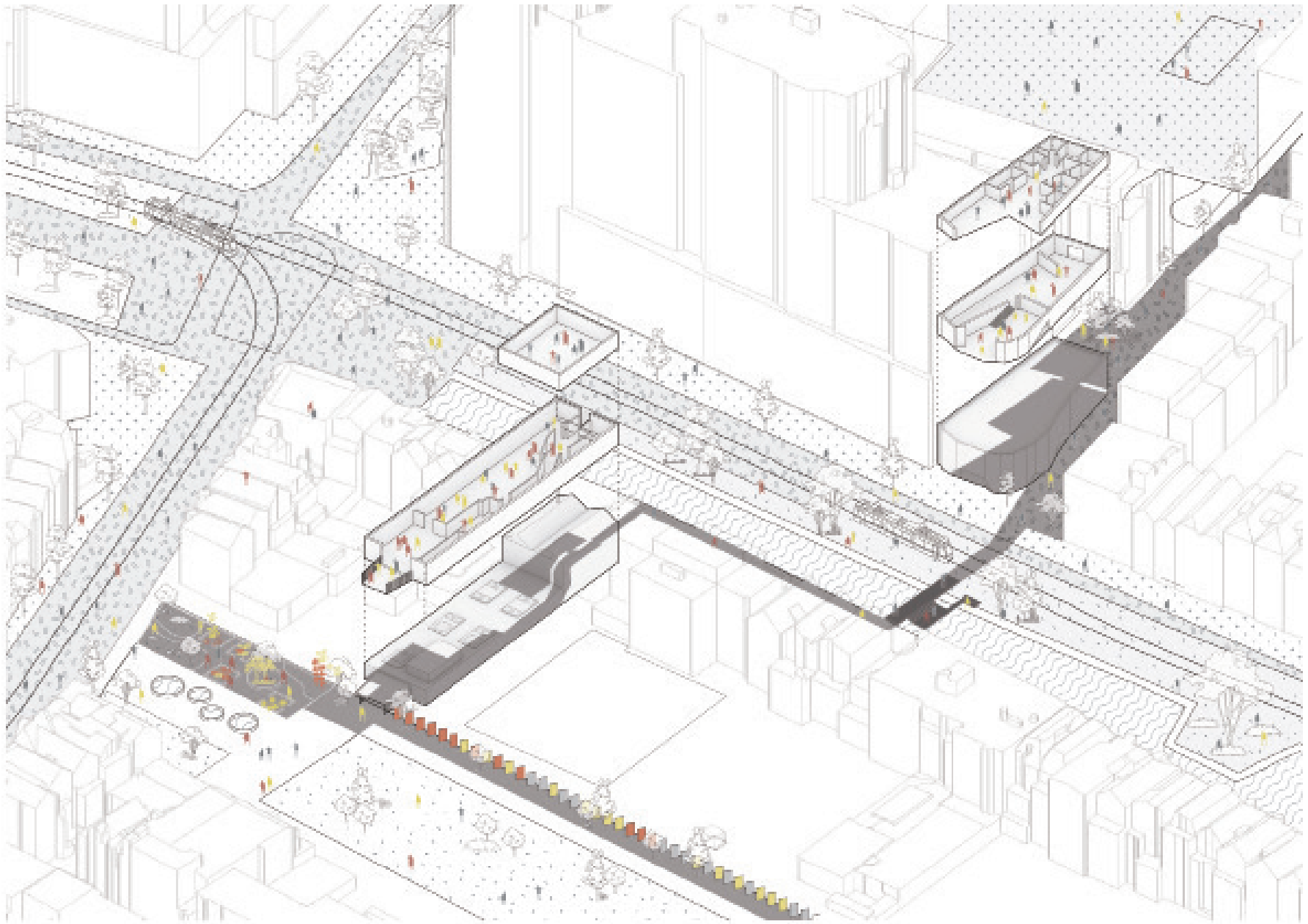
Coordinator

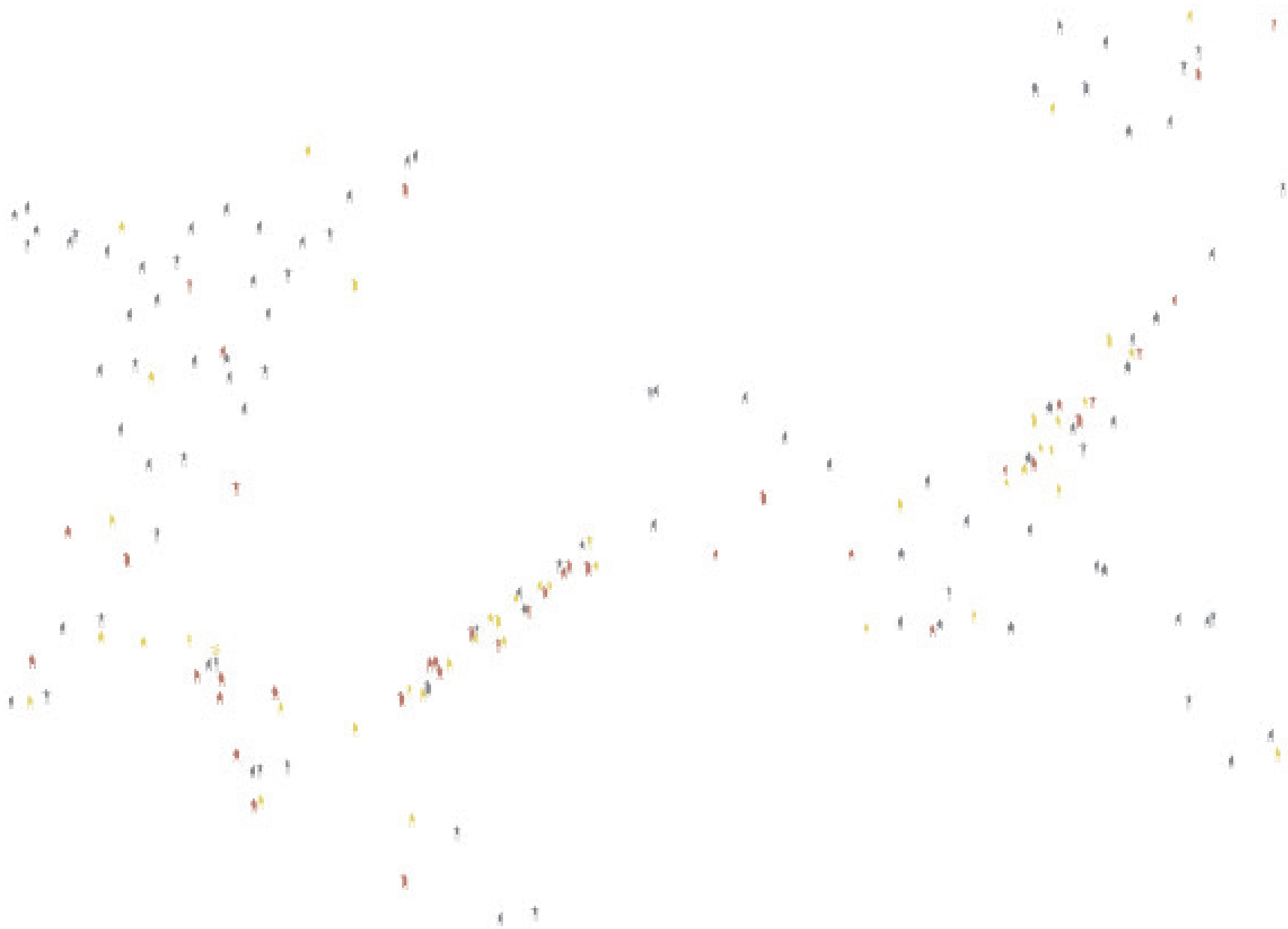


CONCLUSION

- Significance of neutral grounds

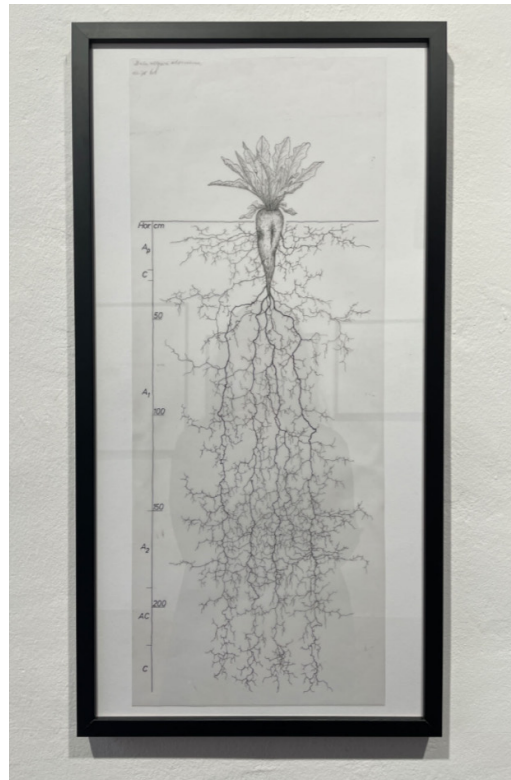








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Thanks for your attention !

