

REGAINING PUBLIC SPACE IN MODERN GREECE

THE CASE OF CHANIA



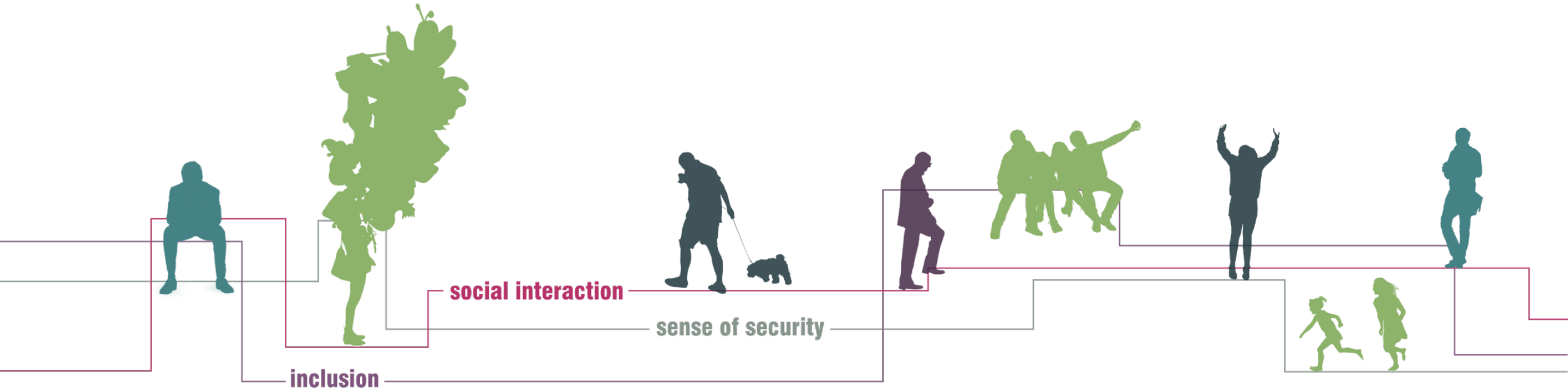
Research theme: Design of the Urban Fabric

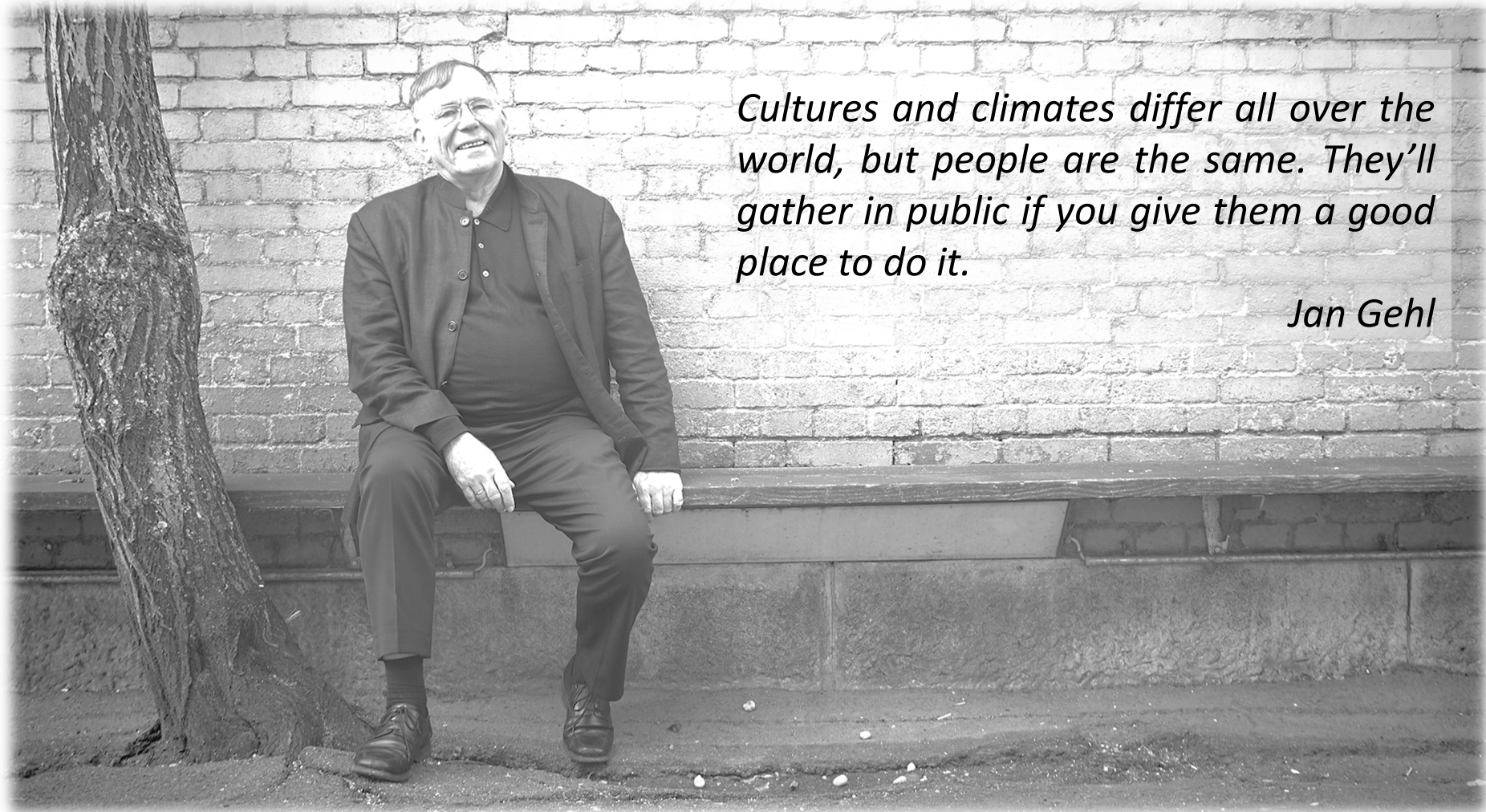
Mentor team: Maurice Harteveld

Arie Romein

Luiz De Carvalho Filho

External examiner: Remon Rooij





Cultures and climates differ all over the world, but people are the same. They'll gather in public if you give them a good place to do it.

Jan Gehl

Source: <https://www.archdaily.com/611964/jan-gehl-architects-know-very-little-about-people>, access: 24/05/2018 (edited by author)



Are people the same???

Regaining public space in modern Greece. The case of Chania (English)

Ανακτώντας τον δημόσιο χώρο στη σύγχρονη Ελλάδα. Η περίπτωση των Χανίων (Greek)

Het terugwinnen van openbare ruimte in modern Griekenland. De casus van Chania (Dutch)

Retomando o espaço público na Grécia moderna. O caso de Chania (Portuguese)

Modern Yunanistan'da kamusal alanin yeniden kazanilmasi. Hanya (ornegi) (Turkish)

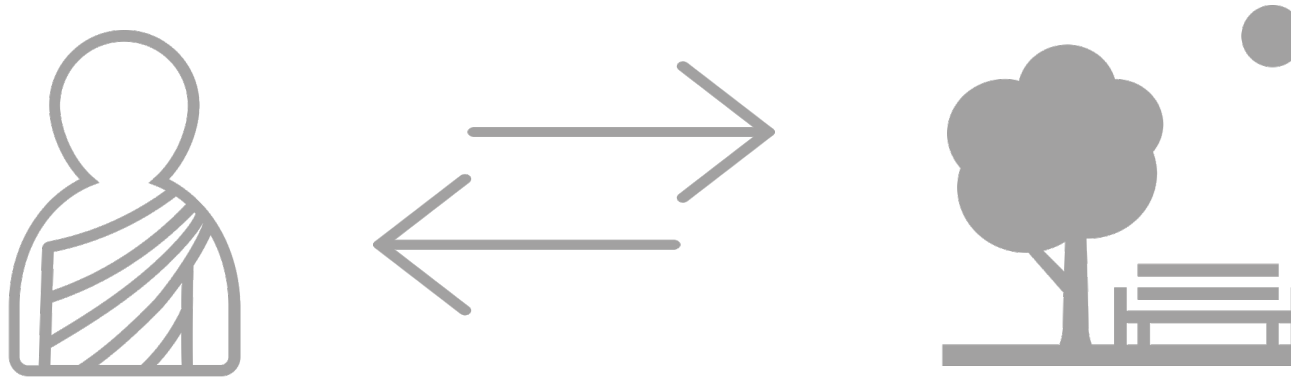
आधुनिक ग्रीस में सार्वजनिक स्थान प्राप्त करना। चानिया का मामला (Hindi)

现代希腊的公共空间重生---以哈尼亚为例 (Chinese)

Public space

- Controversial issue
- Ancient Greece
- Prototype of democratic public space

Relationship between Greek people and public space



BUT...

This relationship was gradually lost...

Introducing the motivation of the project





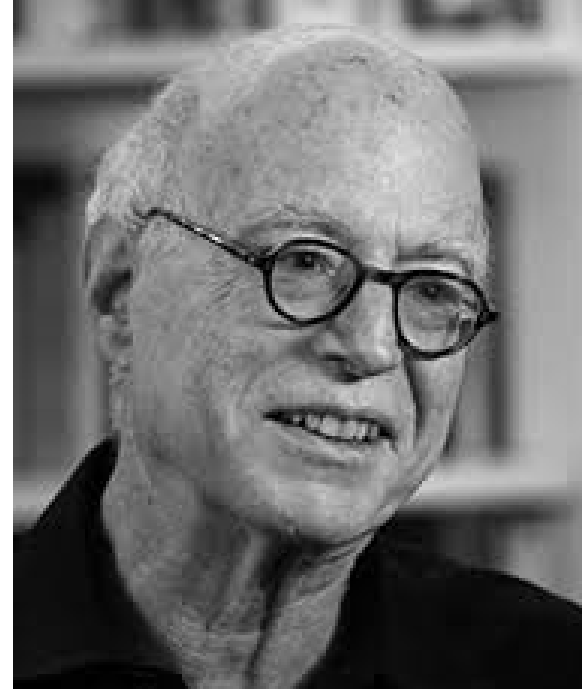
If it is the culture of Greek people to spend their free time in cafeterias and bars and not in public space, why should I change that?

Source: photograph by Vasiliki Molasi (edited by author)

Sociological approach



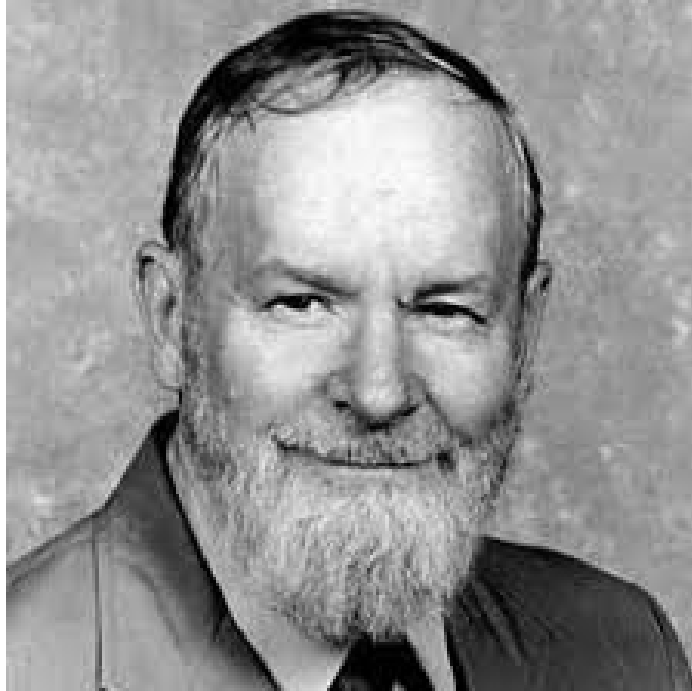
Hannah Arendt



Richard Sennett

free, open and accessible public spaces for all people

Urban approach



Ray Oldenburg



Manuel de Sola Morales

publicly-used spaces

Place of common interest and presence of people there

Personal approach



Clear division between public and private

Hybridization between public and private

Physically and easily accessible

Inclusion and social interaction

Not only economic profit

Cafes as important public spaces



The **public space** in Greece
is connected with the:



CULTURE

Choice of the case study



Alexandroupolis 58.000 people

Komotini 51.000 people

Xanthi 56.000 people

Katerini 56.000 people

Kalamata 54.000 people

Kavala 54.000 people

Lamia 52.000 people

Chania 54.000 people

Nafplio 34.000 people

Rethymno 37.000 people

The case: Chania



The case: Chania



Problem statement



Problems of accessibility and walkability

Urban voids

Ghettos

Which spatial interventions can improve the **quality** and reinforce the **appropriation** of public staying spaces, including the different user groups in Chania, based on their **socio-cultural background** and needs?

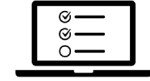
Sub-research questions & Methods

Research

a. How is the term *public space* defined in the present thesis?



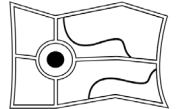
b. Which parameters can influence the appropriation and the quality of public space in the Greek context? How can these parameters be converted into urban form?



c. Which user groups does the present thesis take into consideration? What are the needs of the different user groups in correlation to the use of public space?

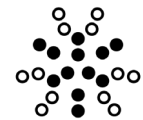


d. Which parts of the public network of Chania are publicly-used? Which of them do serve the needs of which user group and which should be improved?



Design

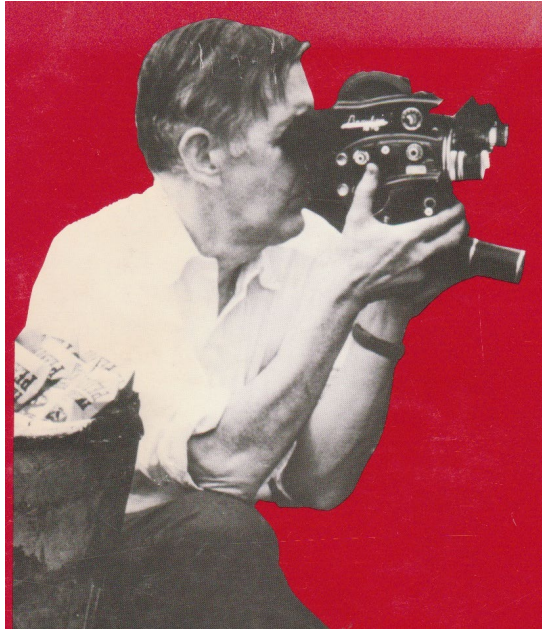
e. Which are the spatial characteristics and patterns that can translate the needs and desires of the various user groups into an inclusive and attractive urban environment?



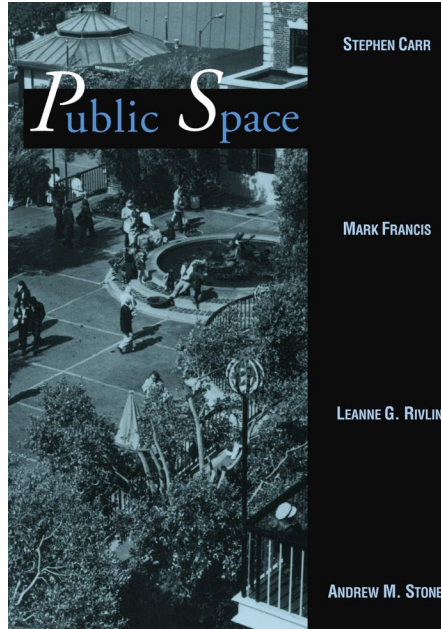
f. How can the socio-cultural background of Greek people be related to the physical form of public space and influence its design?



Theoretical approach for attractive public spaces



William Whyte
The social life of small urban
spaces

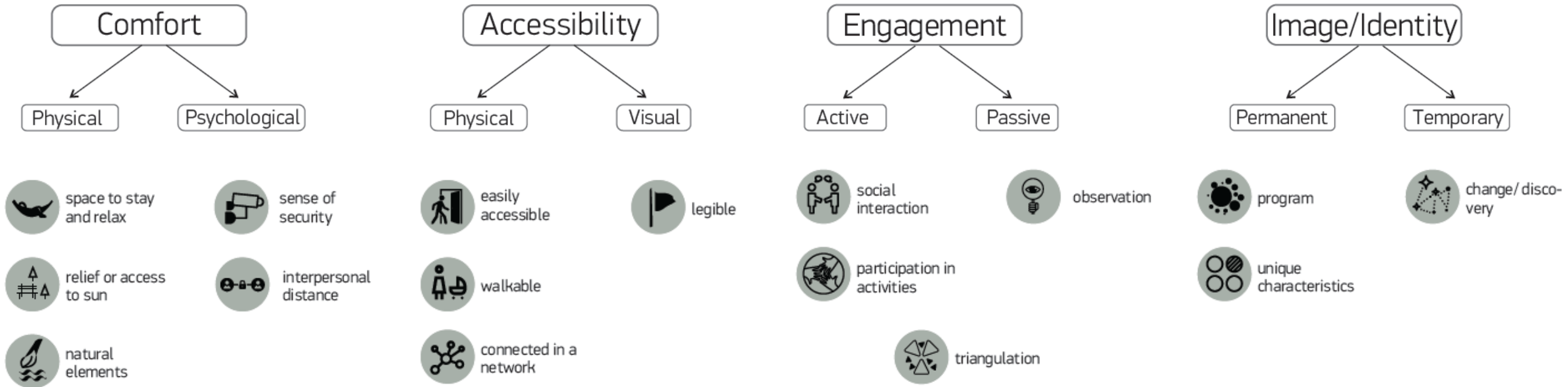


Stephen Carr
Public space

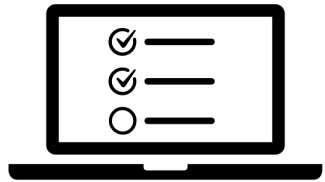


PPS
Project for public spaces

The new set of criteria



What about the Greek context?

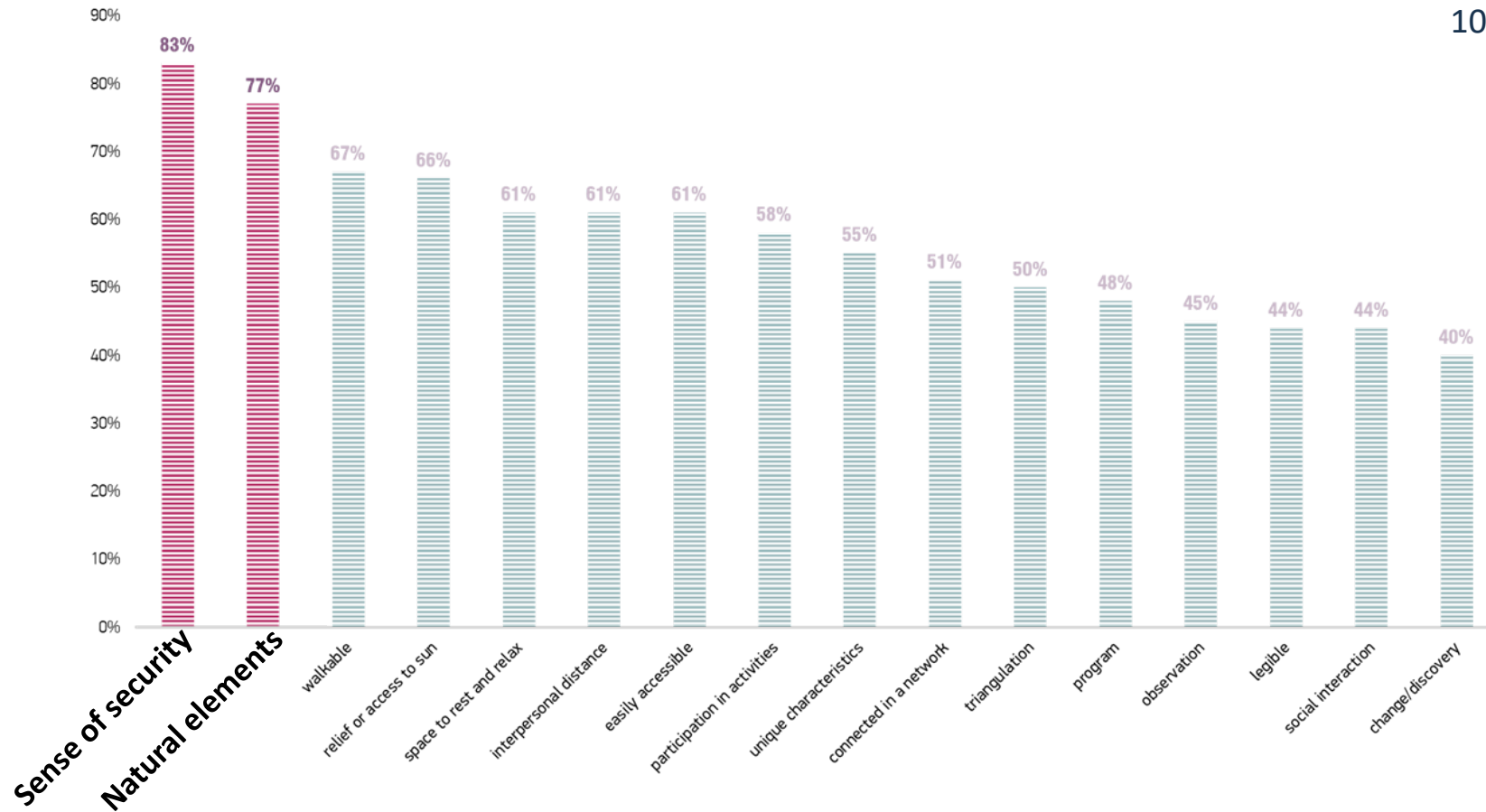
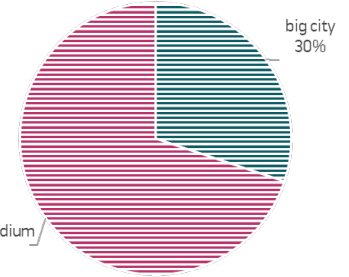


An online survey was conducted for evaluation of the criteria according to Greek people.

Results of online survey _ “top box” scores



103 participants



Interviews _ Public vs Private

Verify my initial hypothesis!

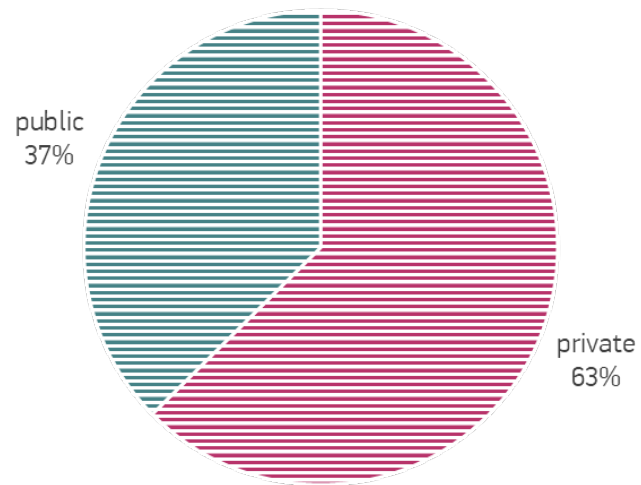


132 interviewees

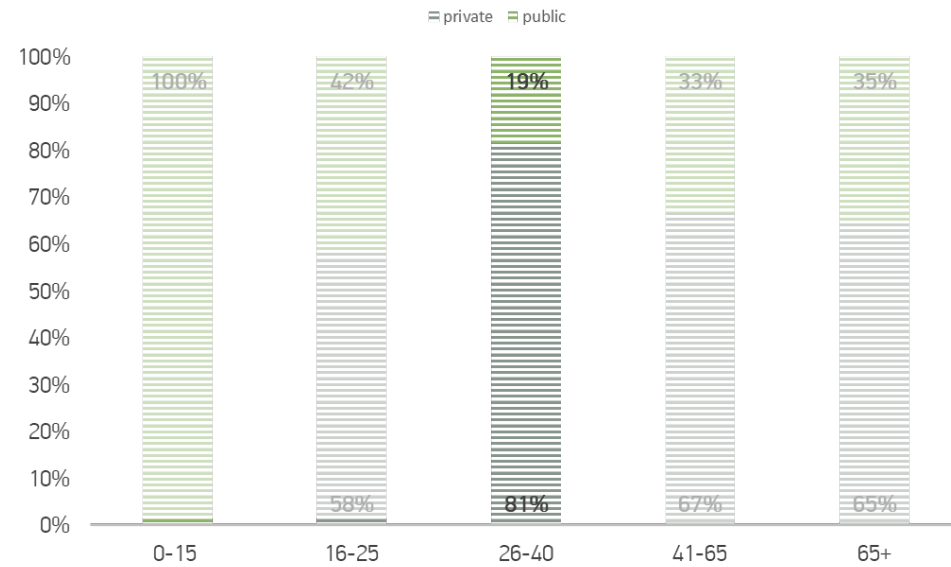


123 locals

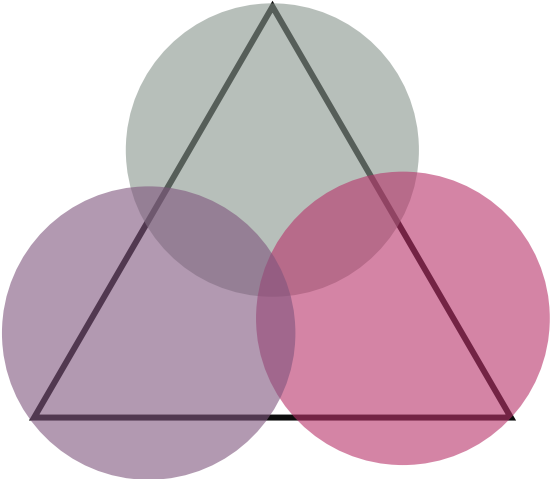
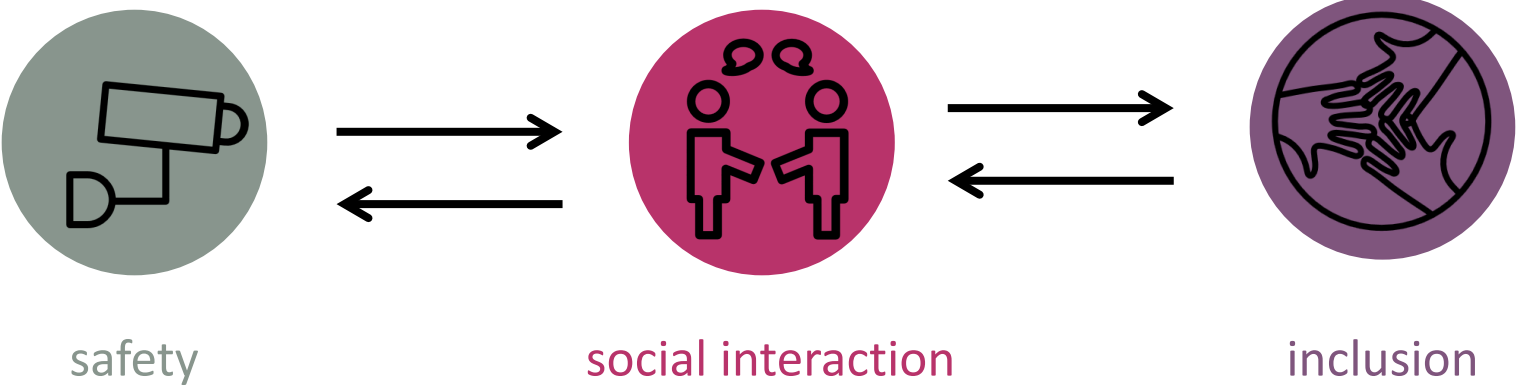
Public vs Private



Public vs Private per age group

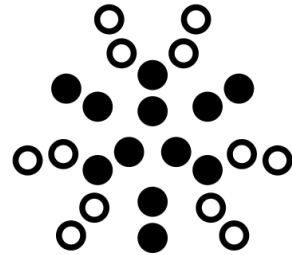


Goals to be achieved



Translation of the social-related concepts into form

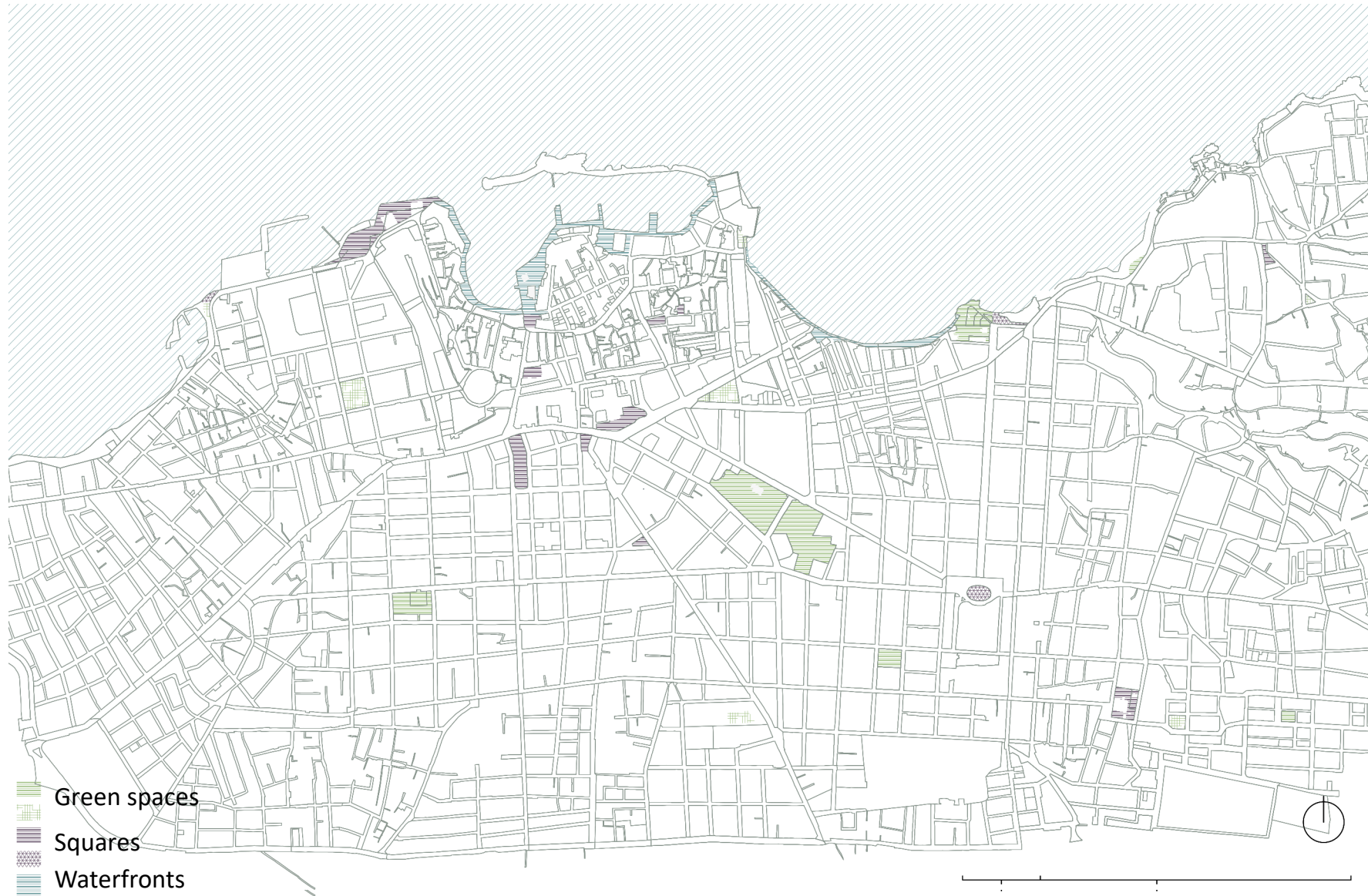
How can these concepts be transformed into spatial form?



Design patterns

Translation into form and bridge of the research with the design part

Types of public spaces



Problem statement's triptych characterization



The five testing locations



Scale of interventions



Vision for the city of Chania



Reclaim the **democratic public space** of ancient Greece in Greece of today.

Social cohesion among different social groups is not always the solution.

Accessibility of all public space

Indoor or outdoor public space **for gathering and interaction.**

Respect of locality, the mentality and the social cultural background of its residents.

Let's play!!!



Publicity



Choose a card

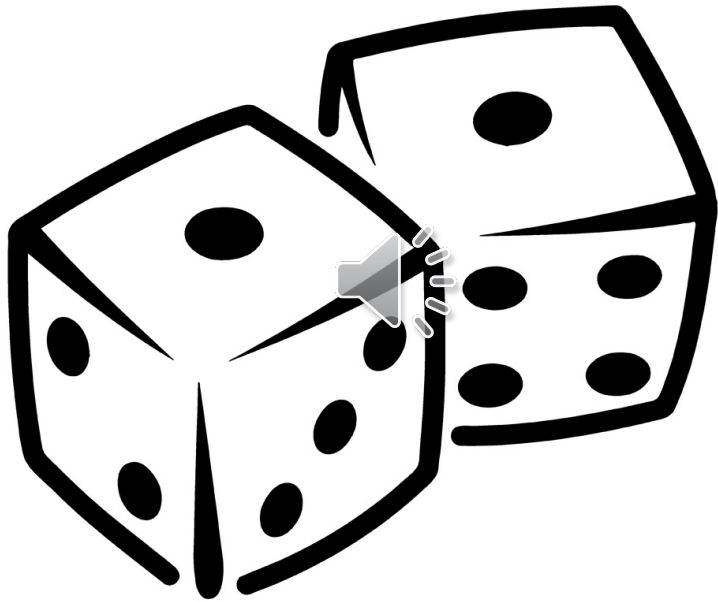


Take:

- the info cards of the square
- the masterplans
- the collages



Choose a pawn



Throw the dices

Arriving at Talos Square, the new *Sports square*



1/5

Πλατεία Τάλω / Talos Square



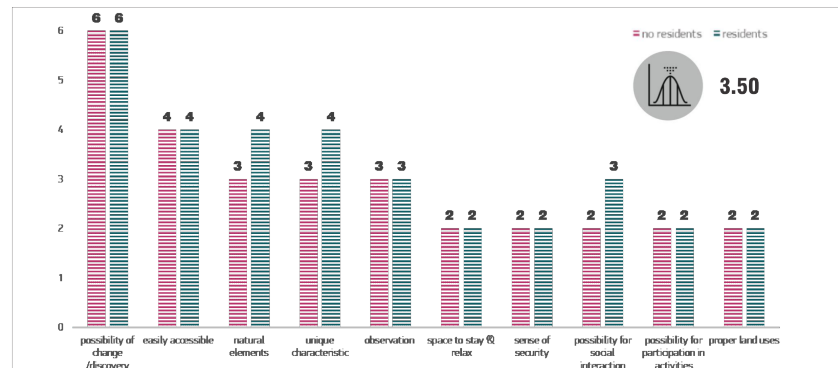
ΚΑΡΤΑ ΠΛΗΡΟΦΟΡΙΩΝ/ INFO CARD

Πλατεία Τάλω / Talos Square ---> Πλατεία του Αθλητισμού / Sports Square

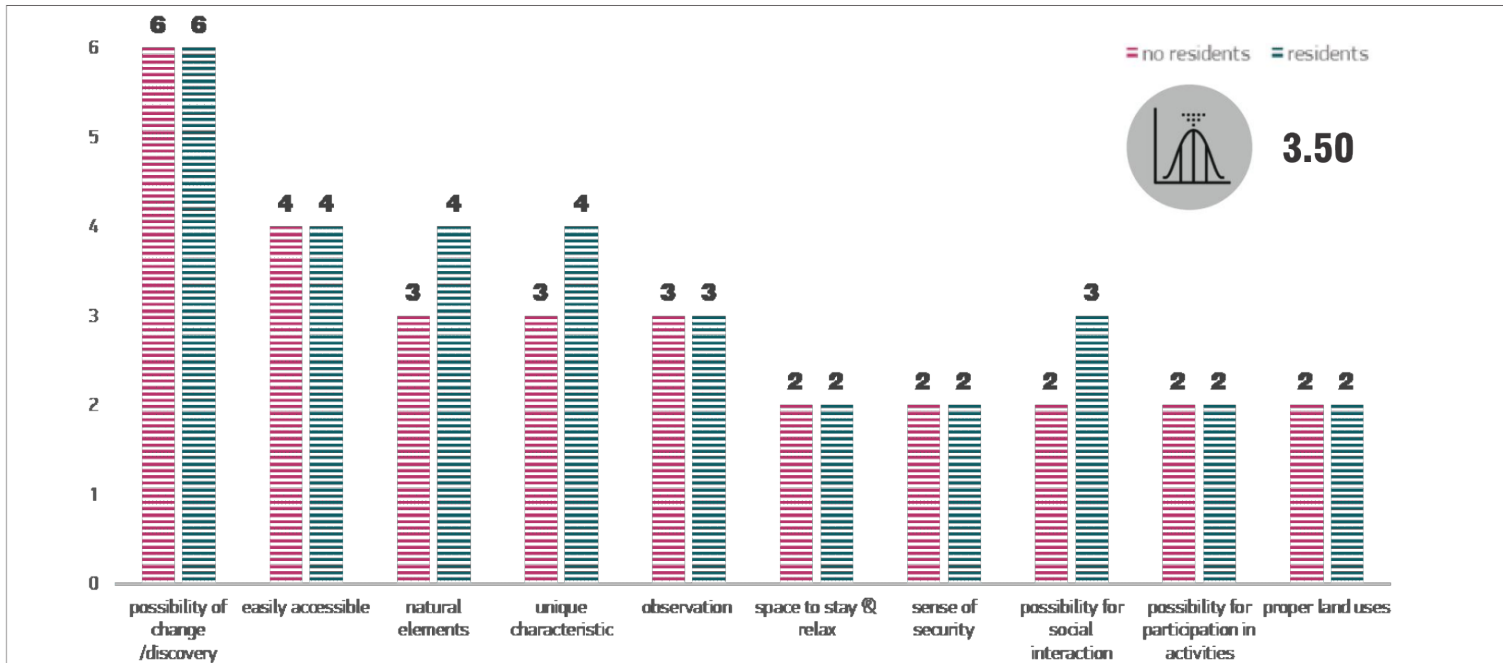


Η πλατεία Τάλω πήρε το όνομα της από τον μυθικό ήρωα Τάλω, φύλακα της Κρήτης. Βρίσκεται στο δυτικό άκρο του λιμανιού της παλιάς πόλης, κάτω από την δυτική τάφρο και το παλιό ιστορικό ξενοδοχείο Ξενία, το οποίο κατεδαφίστηκε το 2006. Στην πλατεία, βρίσκεται ένα γλυπτό-μνημείο στην μνήμη των θυμάτων του ναυαγίου του πλοίου «Ηράκλειον» το 1966. Ωστόσο, η τοποθέτηση και ο σχεδιασμός ενός μεγάλου χώρου στάθμευσης, αλλοιώνει την εικόνα του μνημείου και γενικότερα της πλατείας. Στο δυτικό άκρο της πλατείας, βρίσκονται σε χαμηλότερο επίπεδο τα εγκαταλελειμμένα αποδυτήρια και η πισίνα του ξενοδοχείου σε έναν μεγάλο ανεκμετάλλετο ελεύθερο χώρο κατά μήκος της ακτής Κανάρι. Παρόλο που η πλατεία βρίσκεται κατά μήκος του παραλιακού μετώπου στο τέλος του παλιού λιμανιού, οι περισσότεροι πεζοί σταματάνε τη βόλτα τους πριν την πλατεία και επιστρέφουν ξανά πίσω. Αυτό έχει ως αποτέλεσμα, η πλατεία να είναι σχεδόν πάντα άδεια και η παρουσία ανθρώπων εκεί να είναι μηδαμινή.

Talos Square took its name from the mythical hero Talos, guardian of Crete. It is located in the west end of the harbor of the old town, under the west trench and the old historical hotel Xenia, which was demolished in 2006. In the square, there is a sculpture-monument for the remembrance of the victims of the shipwreck of the ship "Heraklion" in 1966. However, the placement and the design of a big parking area, destroy the image of the monument and generally of the square. In the west edge of the square, the abandoned hotel's changing-rooms and swimming pool are located in a big unused place in a lower level along the waterfront, Kanari. Although the square is located along the waterfront, in the end of the old harbor, most of the pedestrians stop their stroll and retreat upon reaching the vicinity of the square. This has as a result, the square to be almost always empty and the presence of people there to be scant.



Introducing Talos Square



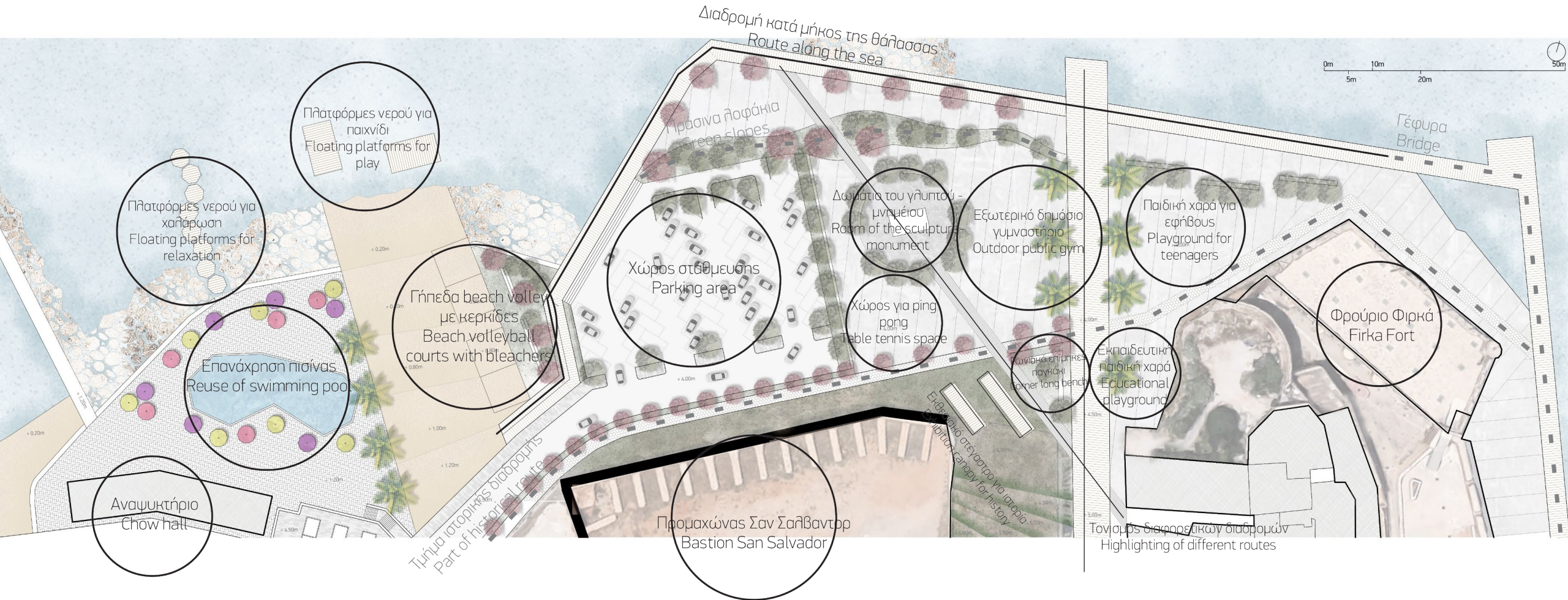
Big parking lot

Abandoned areas

Absence of people

1-10 rating scale

Talos Square





Pick a question card

Table tennis Beach volleyball courts

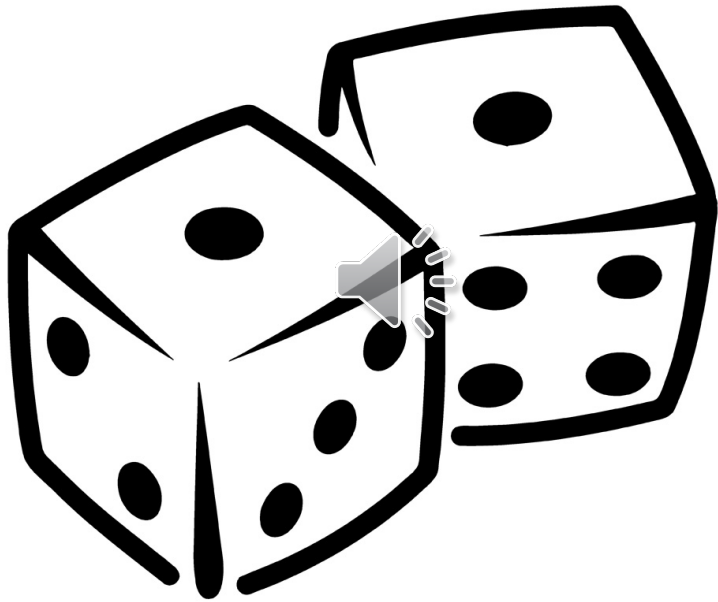
Οι δραστηριότητες της πλατείας προσανατολίζονται περισσότερο προς τον αθλητισμό. Μπορεί αυτό να κάνει τους ηλικιωμένους να μην νιώθουν ευπρόσδεκτοι σ' αυτή την πλατεία?

The activities of the square are highly oriented towards sport related activities. Does this characteristic lead to senior citizens feeling unwelcome in this square?



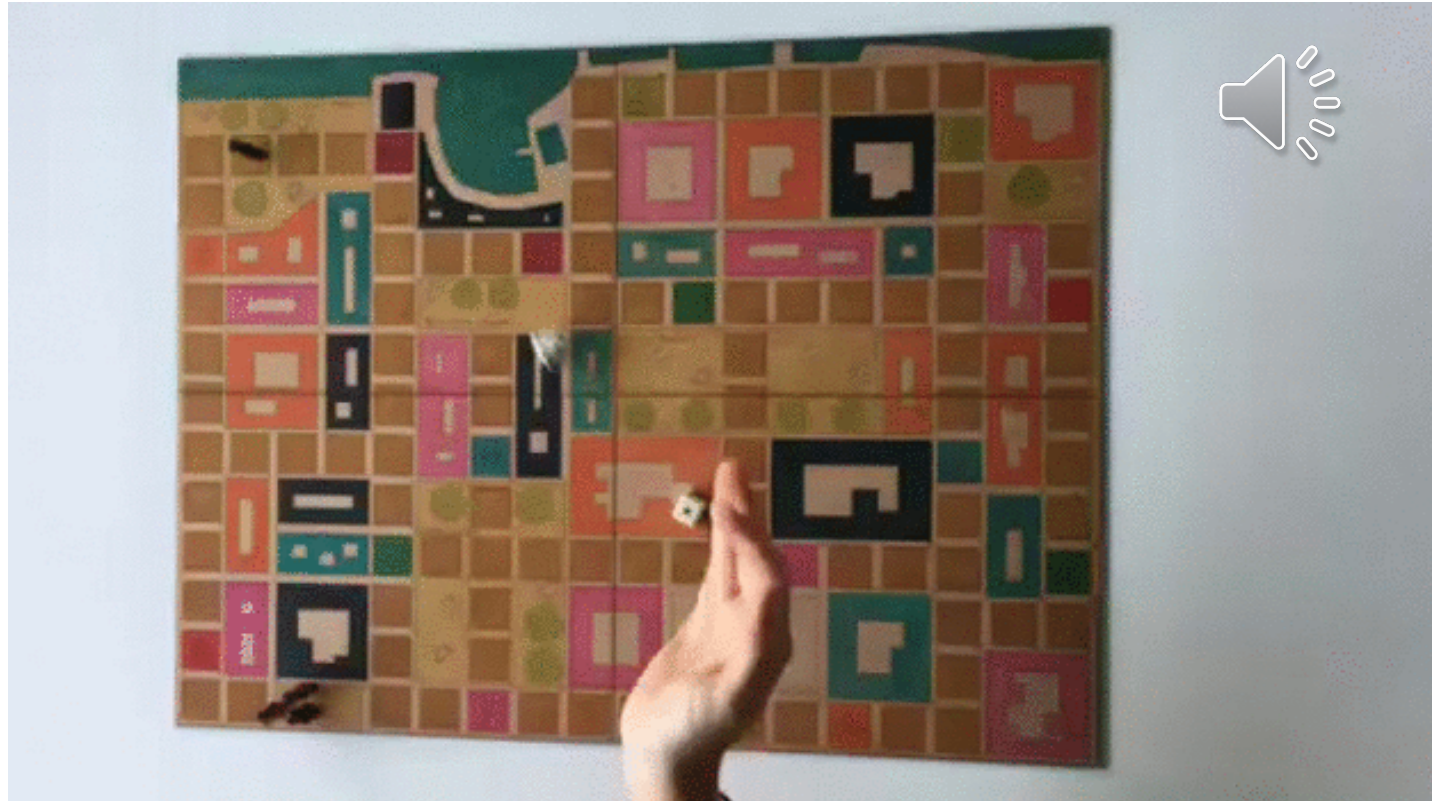
Skateboard court
Swimming pool

Running routes



Throw the dices

Arriving at Metropolis Square, the new *Religion square*



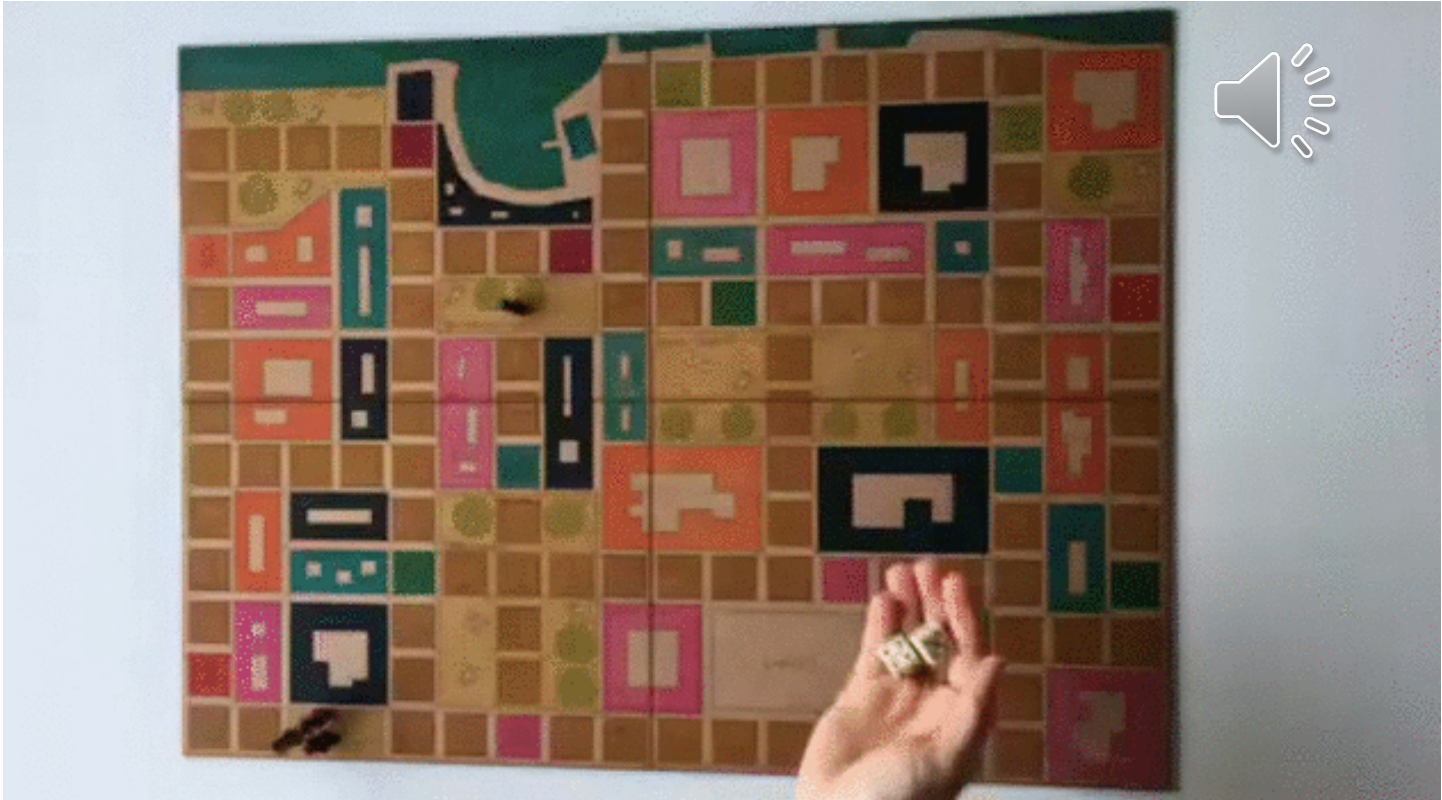
2/5

The Religion Square after the Orthodox mass

18/03/2018



Arriving at 1866 Square, the new *Multicultural square*



3/5

Multicultural Market-Kitchen Lab in the ex 1866 square

23/03/2018



Arriving at Market Square, the new *Central city square*



4/5

The Municipal Market as a theater scenery

15/05/2018



Arriving at Splanztia Square, the new *Square of Sycamore*



5/5

The Communal Garden of the *Square of Sycamore*

18/05/2018



All the squares visited

Talos Square



1866 Square



Splantzia Square



Market Square



Metropolis Square

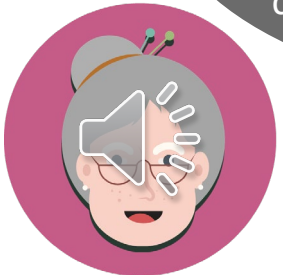


Second part of the game




Publicity

Discussions among players

A circular icon for Citizen A, a woman with grey hair, glasses, and a microphone icon over her face.

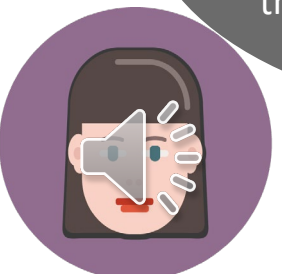
I think that we should design the 1866 Square, as it has a strategic point in the city and now it is occupied by marginalized groups. We should improve it to use it as citizens of the city, as well!

Citizen A

A circular icon for Citizen B, a man with black hair and a microphone icon over his face.


Yes, I agree with you! We should use it, as well. But also what impression would the tourists have of our city, if the first place that they meet is not so attractive?

Citizen B

A circular icon for Citizen C, a woman with dark hair and a microphone icon over her face.

I agree with you both but the Talos Square is close to the sea and is surrounded by so many historical monuments. It's a pity that people do not use it at all!

Citizen C

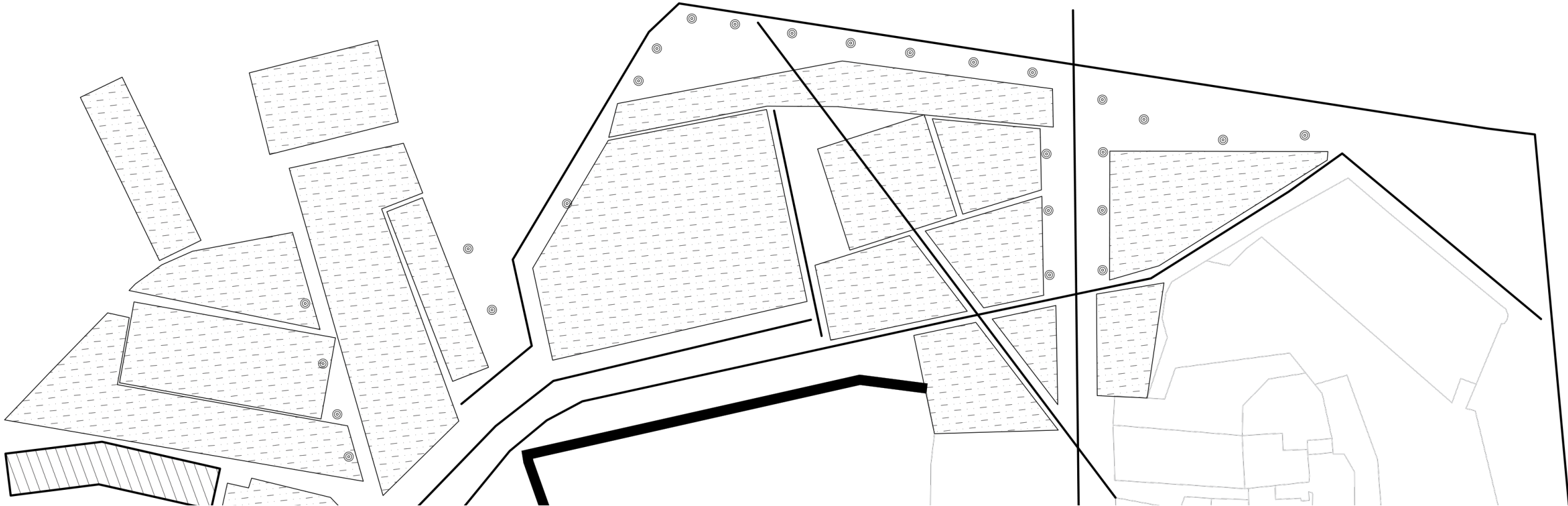
A circular icon for the Designer, a woman with brown hair wearing a black beret with a red feather.

I believe also that Talos Square should be the first square that we should design. It has the lowest average score and all the criteria have a value between 2 and 3. Since I am the designer, I have a double vote. So, we will design the Talos square!

Designer

Let's do it together!

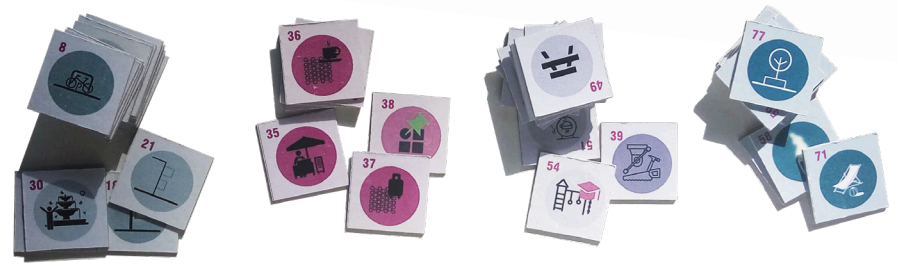
Designing the Talos Square_general masterplan

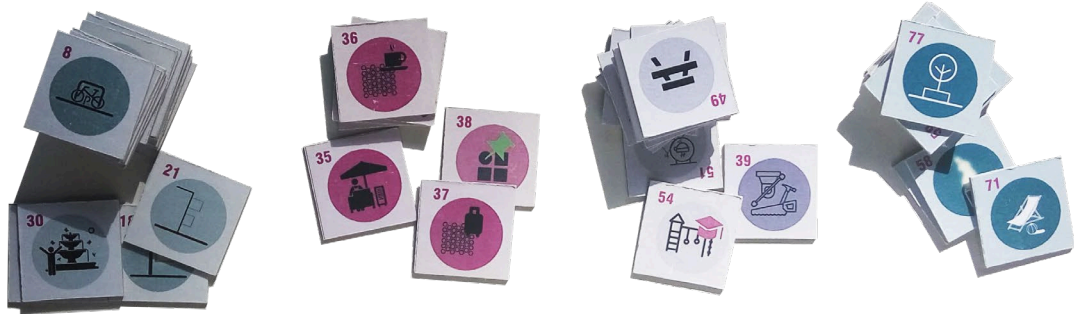


-  Areas
-  Buildings
-  Along lines
-  Spots



Pick up the flyers and the tokens





*Choose at least 2 patterns
of each category*

Structure of the design patterns

Sense of security



People over cars



Light lab



24/7 safe



Gathering outdoor spaces



Together but apart

21 guidelines in total

Social interaction



Conversation exchange



See and be seen

11 guidelines in total

Social inclusion



Build up together



Colorful is the new pink



Fitness for all



Multicultural glue



Alternative playgrounds



Learning History

no guidelines

Combined patterns

Sense of security

+

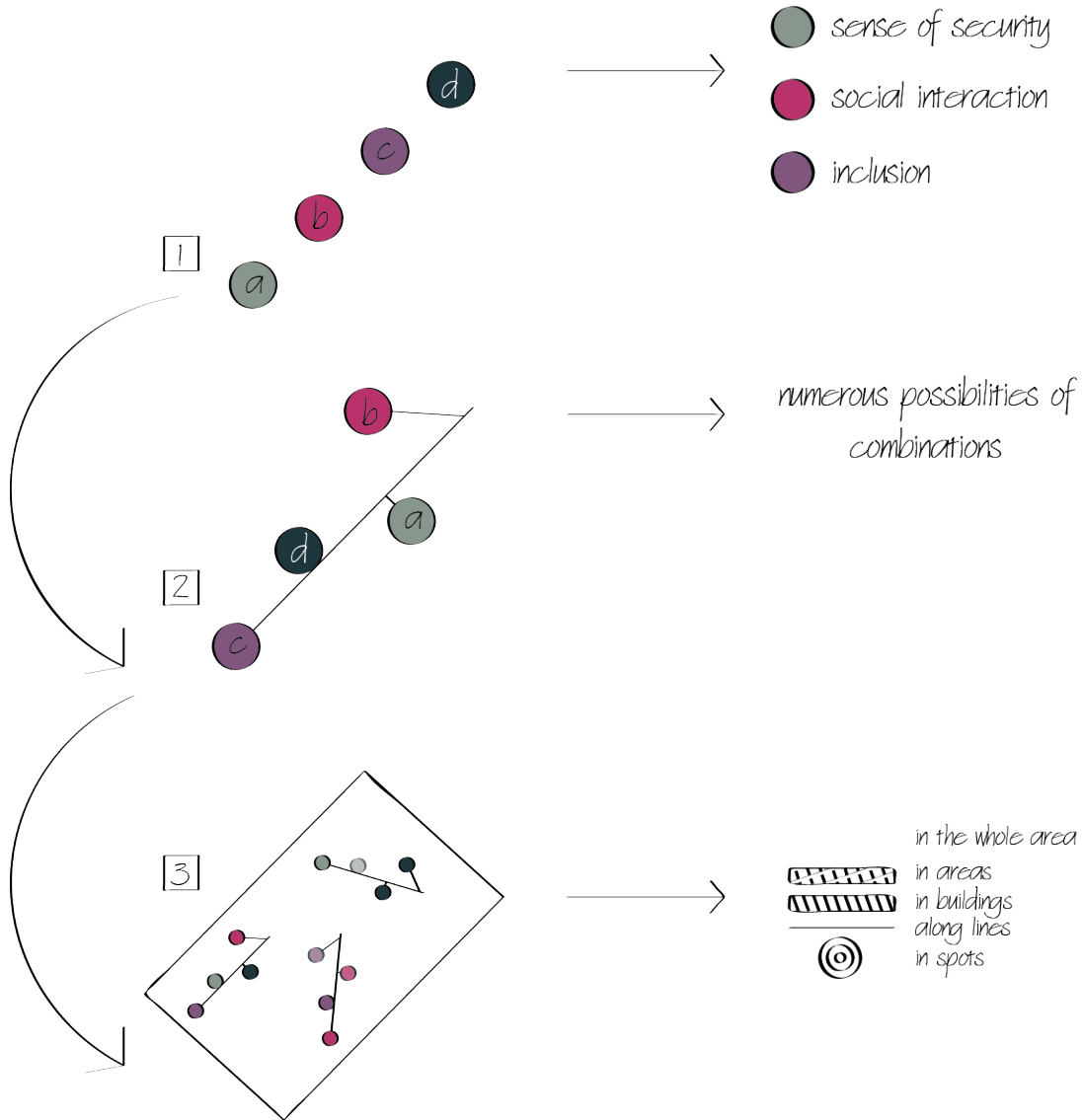
Social interaction

+

Social inclusion

no guidelines

Steps of implementation of sub-patterns in masterplan




All the sub-patterns

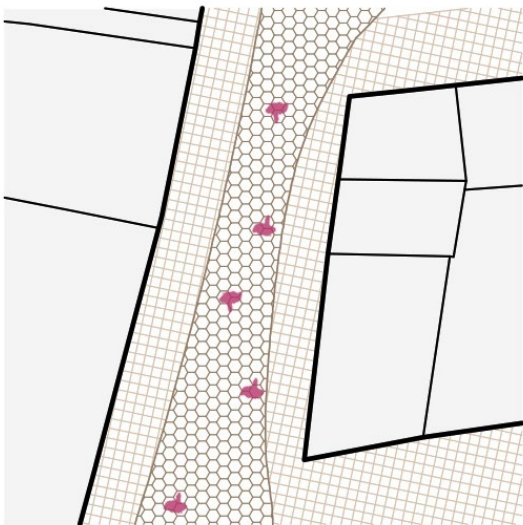
Possible combinations


Implementation to the masterplan

Rules/instructions of pedestrian friendly street



General pattern
People over cars
Guideline
Different types of streets





Sub-pattern
Pedestrian friendly street

Instructions/Rules

The new pedestrian friendly streets in the city will have a curvy shape and they will be paved. They will be disunited by the sidewalks with different materials, but they will be at the same level, to function as an entity. The existing pedestrianized streets will be distinguished by the squares, by using other materials.



A great public space should offer the criterion of change and discovery.

Online survey



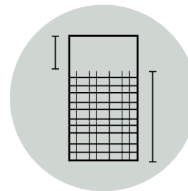
Modular movable box for different uses



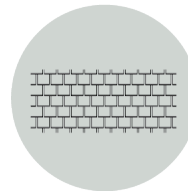
Colorful light bees



Trees are not only green



Proper ratio between street and sidewalks



Proper use of materials

In Chania there are not sidewalks to walk on. How can I visit a public space without being able to reach it?

Interviews

*Playgrounds attract many children and their parents.
Cafes are an integral part of Greek public spaces.*

Observations



Playgrounds



Food and coffee culture's amenities



Family café playgrounds



Multicultural shops



24/7 gym



Studying-working lab

"[...] bars, coffee shops, general stores, and other "third places" are central to local democracy and community vitality." Ray Oldenburg

Literature review

Fountains are important elements of Greek squares and generally a hallmark of Greek public spaces.



Water elements

Greek liveable examples

The end



Thank you for your attention!!!

This was not the end



Pick up a post card and write (briefly):

In your own words what is public space?

Τι είναι δημόσιος χώρος για σένα;