

Treffpunkt Berlin

From Collections to Connections:
An Intercultural Public Library in Gesundbrunnen



Willkommen in Deutschland
Ein Modernes Einwanderungsland

2024

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INTRODUCTION

01

From Collections to Connections: An Intercultural Public Library in Gesundbrunnen

Societies around the world are getting increasingly culturally diverse, as global migration is becoming more prevalent. In 2020, there were 281 million international migrants worldwide¹ – meaning that one in every twenty-seven people is “a person who has moved away from his/her place [nation] of usual residence”.²

Germany is the second top destination for international migrants,³ and the topic of immigration carries great tension and controversy within its society. Since the 1950s, the country has received foreign guest workers, exiled ethnic Germans, and in recent years, waves of asylum seekers and refugees from abroad. Yet, for most of the 20th century, the federal government has packaged Germany as a “non-immigration country” (*Nichteinwanderungsland*).⁴

This attitude has changed in the past two decades, since the introduction of an Immigration Act in 2005.⁵ Most recently, the federal government has declared its ambition to become “A Modern Immigration Country” (*Ein Modernes Einwanderungsland*),⁶ and has passed the Skilled Workers Immigration Act.

With this, Germany is likely to continue receiving immigrants, whose integration is essential for the long-term sustainability of society. Integration is recognised as “an investment for the future”,⁷ which is facilitated

by federal, state, and civil society actors. It follows that “an opening of institutions oriented towards social diversity must be pushed”⁸ to support this process.

As such, the public library offers itself as a highly relevant institution and typology, providing “a gateway to a culturally diverse society in dialogue”.⁹ It hosts an array of programs, opportunities, and services for immigrants and locals to interact (Fig. 1).

Although library services historically revolved around an exclusive collection of printed knowledge, it has now evolved to become an inclusive “third place”,¹⁰ catering to public interests; facilitating real social connections amidst a digital society; and enabling knowledge interaction, generation, and dissemination in various media forms. In short, its has transformed from a space containing passive collections, to one that hosts active connections and creations. In the wider context of city development, it therefore becomes a socio-cultural core for the catchment population which it serves.



Figure 1
Various Programs Offered in Berlin’s Public Libraries

Source: Compiled by author, material from various sources and author’s photographs

[1] UNDESA Population Division, “International Migrant Stock 2020: Destination,” accessed November 10, 2023, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/content/international-migrant-stock>.
 [2] International Organization for Migration, *No. 34 International Migration Law: Glossary on Migration* (Geneva: IOM, 2019), 132, https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iml_34_glossary.pdf.
 [3] International Organization for Migration, *World Migration Report 2022* (Geneva: IOM, 2021), 25, <https://publications.iom.int/books/world-migration-report-2022>.
 [4] Vera Hanewinkel and Jochen Oltmer, “Historical and Current Development of Migration to and from Germany,” accessed November 9, 2023, <https://www.bpb.de/themen/migration-integration/laenderprofile/english-version-country-profiles/262758/historical-and-current-development-of-migration-to-and-from-germany/>.
 [5] Federal Ministry of Justice, “Act on the Residence, Economic Activity and Integration of Foreigners in the Federal Territory,” accessed November 10, 2023, https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/englisch_aufenthg/englisch_aufenthg.html.

[6] Die Bundesregierung, “Ein modernes Einwanderungsland für gemeinsamen Wohlstand,” accessed November 9, 2023, <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/themen/migration-und-integration/modernes-einwanderungsland-breg-2228428>.
 [7] Fachkommission Integrationsfähigkeit, *Shaping our immigration society together: Key Messages* (Berlin: Fachkommission Integrationsfähigkeit, 2020), <https://www.fachkommission-integrationsfaehigkeit.de/resource/blob/1786706/1840388/840586603204c05c1f67094413c64504/kernbotschaften-englisch-data.pdf>.
 [8] Ibid.
 [9] International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions and UNESCO, *IFLA/UNESCO Multicultural Library Manifesto* (IFLA/UNESCO, 2012), <https://repository.ifla.org/handle/123456789/731>.
 [10] Marie D. Martel and Bob White, “Third Place Libraries as a Space for Intercultural Participation: A Dynamic Learning Model for Creating Culturally Safe Environments,” accessed November 9, 2023, <https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/newlibrarianshipsymposia/newlibrarianshipsymposia/edi/16/>.

In a modern immigration society, the public library is expected to host an extensive variety of programs to facilitate social integration and cultural diversity. Each program demands particular technical and spatial requirements. In existing buildings, these demands are often not sufficiently responded to. This calls for a critical rethinking and exploration of the essential architectural parameters allowing this typology to meet its social ambitions.

This project shall therefore be led by the research question:

How can we design a public library that facilitates the integration of migrants into the local community?



Figure 2
Musical Performance in the WerkRaum of Bezirkszentralbibliothek Pablo Neruda

Source: Konzerthaus Berlin on Pablo-Neruda-Bibliothek Facebook Page, 2019

RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

02

The following terms are defined and conceptualised for understanding the project's aims:

Public Library

"The public library is an organisation established, supported, and funded by the community, either through local, regional or national government or through some other form of community organisation. It provides access to knowledge, information, lifelong learning, and works of the imagination through a range of resources and services and is equally available to all members of the community..."¹

In contrast to national, academic, and scientific libraries, the public library is largely driven by the interests of the catchment population which it serves. As a result, this particular type of library is typically free from mandated responsibilities (e.g. of archiving, collection), and most heterogenous in terms of program and media.

Furthermore, in an age of digital social platforms, the public library evolves into an important physical place where people informally exchange, build trust, and consequently social capital;² thus serving the *res publica* with an indispensable site of social communication.³

In specifically addressing culturally diverse societies, the IFLA has partnered with UNESCO in developing a Multicultural Library Manifesto.⁴ It emphasises that the multicultural library is not a "separate" or "additional" type of library, but an integrated service approach that all types of libraries should employ.

It outlines nine key missions, three of which this project's research particularly echoes with:

- Fostering cultural dialogue and supporting inclusion and participation of all diverse cultural backgrounds
- Encouraging linguistic diversity and respect for the mother tongue
- Promoting linguistic diversity and encouraging universal access to cyberspace

This project therefore explores the spatialisation and architectural response to these typological ideals, which thus far remain in the realm of schematic library management.

Migrant

"A person who moves away from his or her place of usual residence."⁵

Integration

"The two-way process of mutual adaptation between migrants and the societies in which they live, whereby migrants are incorporated into the social, economic, cultural and political life of the receiving community."⁶

These definitions provide a pragmatic overview for the project, but wider theoretical definitions are also considered for a more user-oriented understanding of this topic. In the academic field of integration research and relational sociology, the "migrants" and "non-migrants" involved in integration can be referred as "insiders" and "outsiders" respectively.⁷

With this understanding, current academic and institutional discourse describing integration as a "two-way process" can be critically dissected into three tacit stances:

1. Insiders are affected by the integration of outsiders;
2. Insiders can influence the integration of outsiders;
3. Insiders and outsiders integrate with each other.

Klarenbeek notes that most academics tend towards with the first two stances,⁸ and this is evident in Germany as well. By legislation, integration is seen as the process of going from a "foreigner" to a German, who is socially, culturally, economically, and legally a citizen.⁹ The foreigner is "expected to undertake commensurate integration efforts",¹⁰ such as taking language courses. Therefore, the foreign outsiders bear the main active responsibility in integrating, while the insiders and their institutions passively provide the means to do so.

The project will take this perspective on integration as a starting point - but it shall progress toward the third stance, in which insiders and outsiders are both active players in integration. This stance allows us to shift from merely solving the objective differences between people (e.g. whether you know the language or not; whether you have the same socio-economic opportunities; etc.) to generating relationships that can dissolve perceived differences. Other comparative studies of migrants also highlight the importance of generating relationships in terms of emotional integration, concluding that having "native friends might be the most relevant for of (social) contact".¹¹

[1] International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, *IFLA Publications 147: IFLA Public Library Service Guidelines* (Munich: K.G. Saur Verlag, 2010), 1.

[2] Marie D. Martel and Bob White, "Third Place Libraries as a Space for Intercultural Participation: A Dynamic Learning Model for Creating Culturally Safe Environments," accessed November 9, 2023, <https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/newlibrarianshipsymposia/newlibrarianshipsymposia/edi/16/>.

[3] Robert Kaltenbrunner, "Die digitalisierte Stadt – und was ihre Räume für die Res publica leisten müssen," 2. Digitalen Bibliothekspolitischen Bundeskongress (lecture, Berlin, March 26, 2021).

[4] International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions and UNESCO, *IFLA/UNESCO Multicultural Library Manifesto* (IFLA/UNESCO, 2012), <https://repository.ifla.org/handle/123456789/731>.

[5] International Organization for Migration, *No. 34 International Migration Law: Glossary on Migration* (Geneva: IOM, 2019), 132, https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iml_34_glossary.pdf.

[6] *Ibid.*, 106.

[7] Lea M. Klarenbeek, "Re-conceptualising 'integration as a two-way process,'" *Migration Studies* 9, no. 3 (2021): 902-921, <https://doi.org/10.1093/migration/mnz033>.

[8] *Ibid.*, 908.

[9] Federal Ministry of Justice, "Act on the Residence, Economic Activity and Integration of Foreigners in the Federal Territory," accessed November 10, 2023, https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/englisch_aufenthg/englisch_aufenthg.html.

[10] *Ibid.*

[11] Charlotte Clara Becker, "Migrants' Social Integration and Its Relevance for National Identification: An Empirical Comparison Across Three Social Spheres," *Frontiers in Sociology* 6, (January 2022): 1-15, <https://doi.org/10.3389/fsoc.2021.700580>.

Relevance

As elaborated in the introductory chapter, the project shall react on the global topics of migration, integration, and cultural diversity, by introducing a public library that architecturally responds to the process of integration. Extending from its typological trajectory, it shall offer a physical place of interaction amidst the age of digital social platforms. In the process of achieving this, new frameworks and analytical tools will be developed, filling the gap of how such diverse social ambitions can be architecturally designed for.

RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

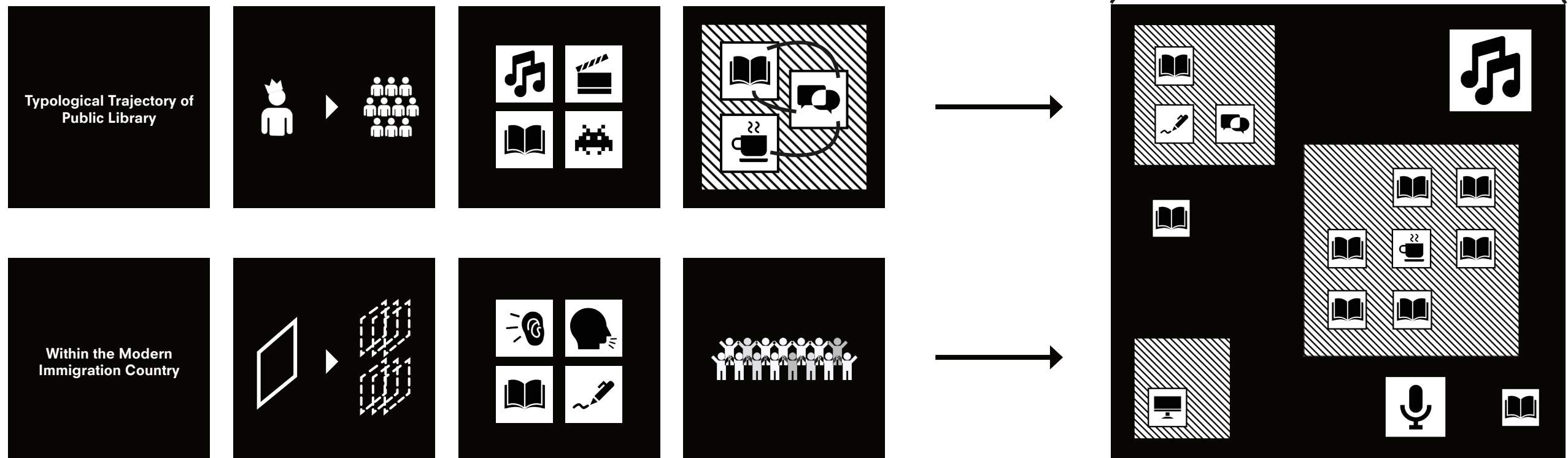


Figure 3
Overview of Project Ambitions
Source: Author

RESEARCH METHODS

03

Generation of Program List

Before selecting relevant case studies, a program list shall be generated for the project. It is an essential step for narrowing the project scope.

To do so, a framework for integration is developed based on the aforementioned social theories. Under this framework, new programs are brought into the public library; and existing public library programs are reorganised.

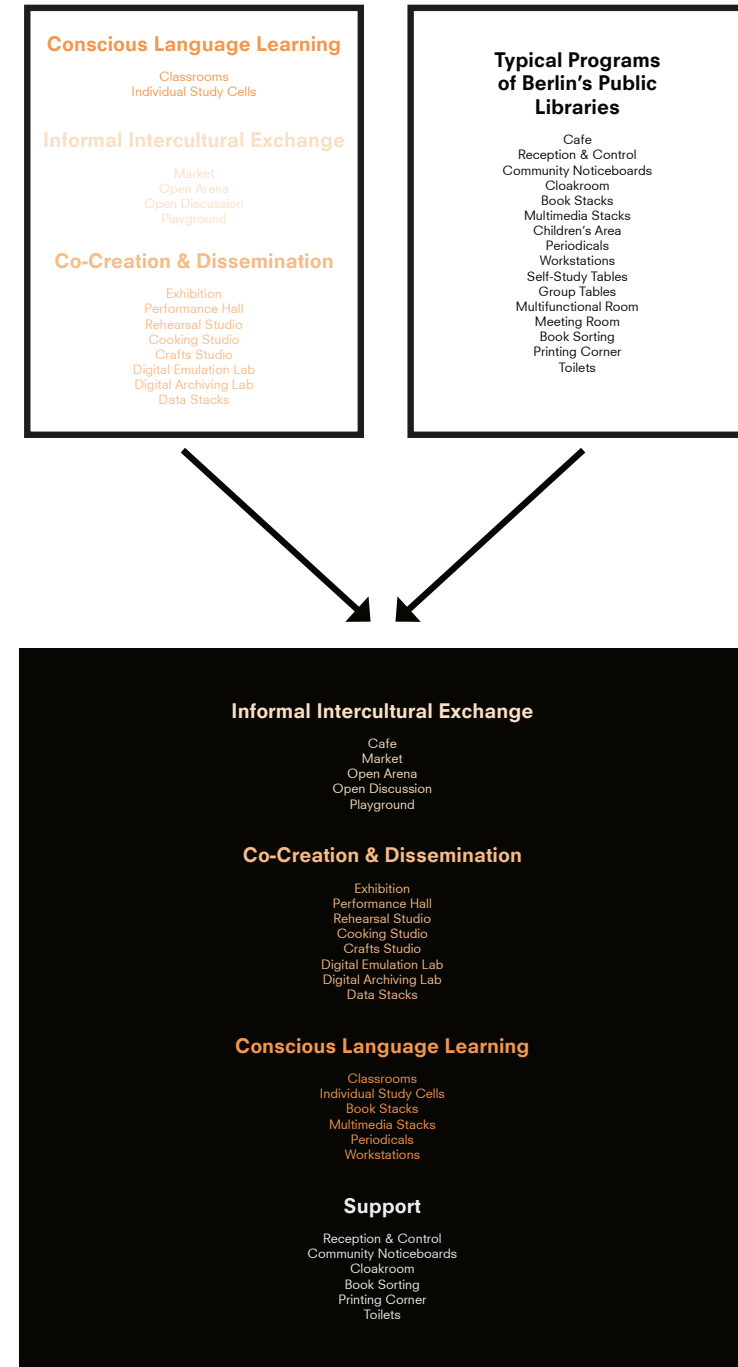


Figure 4
Diagram of Program List Generation

Source: Author

Case Studies

Nine key case studies are chosen and categorised in relation to the project's interests. They are understood and examined with the following analytical tools:

GFA Benchmarking

The overall GFA provides an understanding of the typical scale, and helps to redefine the catchment-to-area ratio for the project. The catchment refers to the population that the public library serves, and it is a key consideration in existing planning methods. The catchment-to-area ratio ensures that the library is spacious enough serve as a public place for this population.

The GFA is then broken down and analysed in two ways – firstly, by program (grouped with the framework); secondly, by open versus closed spaces. This provides an understanding of how the cases are typically composed.

Program List & Relation Diagramming

The program list informs the generation of programs for this project, in relation to what is already offered in Berlin's typical public libraries. It is also converted into an inventory of spaces to understand the volumetric needs for each program.

The relation diagram explores how programs are arranged and connected. This is done with respect to open versus closed spaces; sonic zones; and circulation.

Context Mapping

Online satellite maps help to examine the cases' relationship to its surrounding spatial fabric, and the programs available. As this is concerned with an urban scale, the findings can potentially become relevant site criteria.

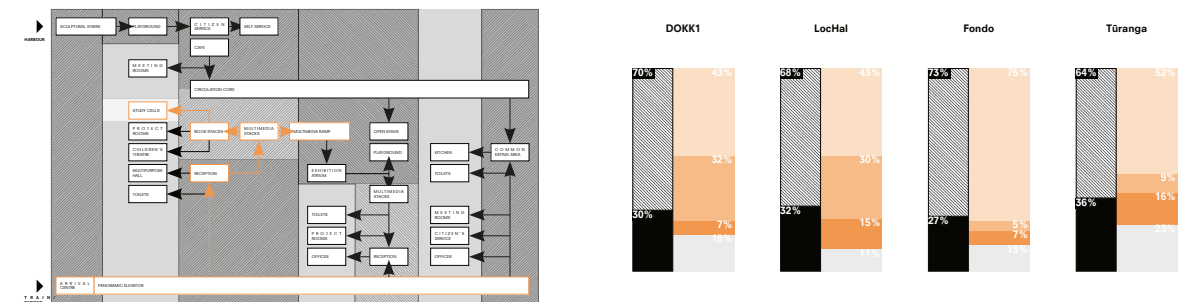
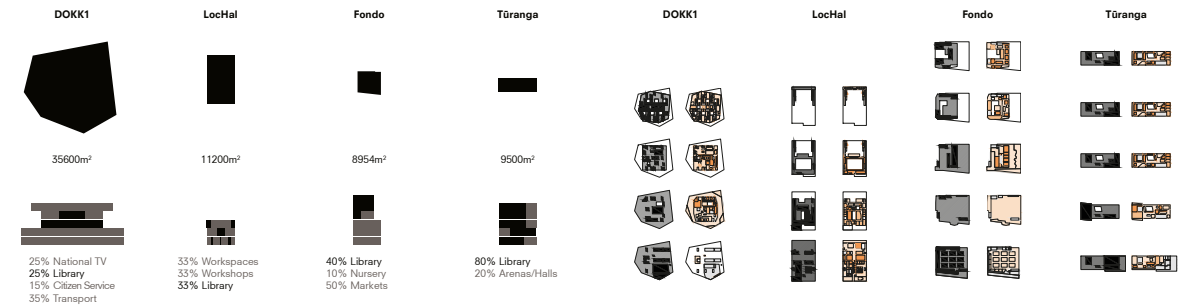
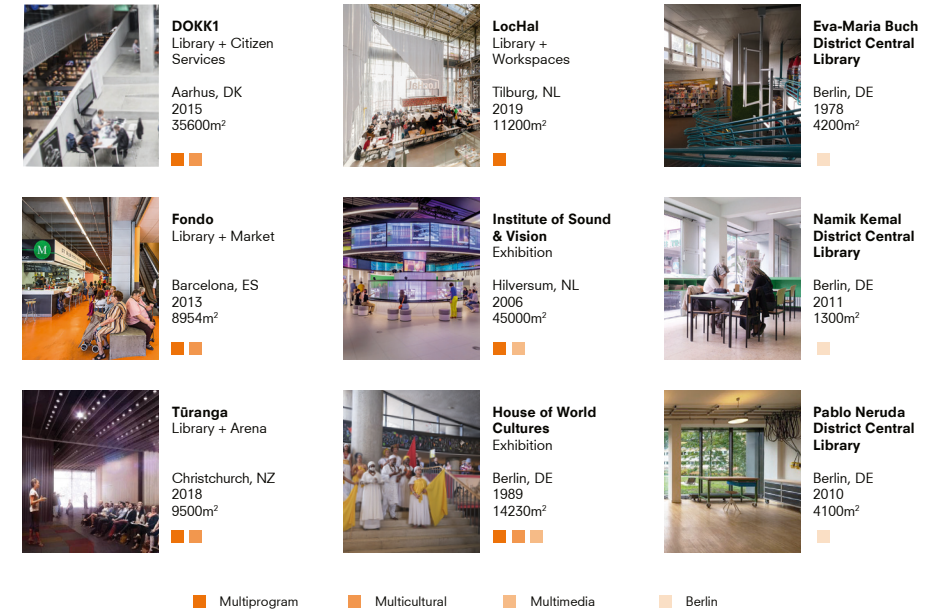


Figure 5 Case Study Selection and Analyses Samples

Source: Author

Criteria Mapping

Once there are criteria extracted from the group interests and this project, they shall be mapped. By deduction, it will reveal various site options.

Network Mapping

Since every public library is part of an existing organisational network of its own type; and one of other public buildings (e.g. markets, musea, schools), the project location should be understood in relation to these.

Historical Study

Any historic significance of the site should be understood as early as possible, to determine if or how it should be addressed by the project scope.

Physical Visit

By visiting in person, taking photographs, and conversing with people, the site's essence and atmosphere and relation to its catchment population can be understood.

Comparative Evaluation

After understanding the network, history, and atmosphere of each site option, their potentials can be compared to deduce an optimal site.

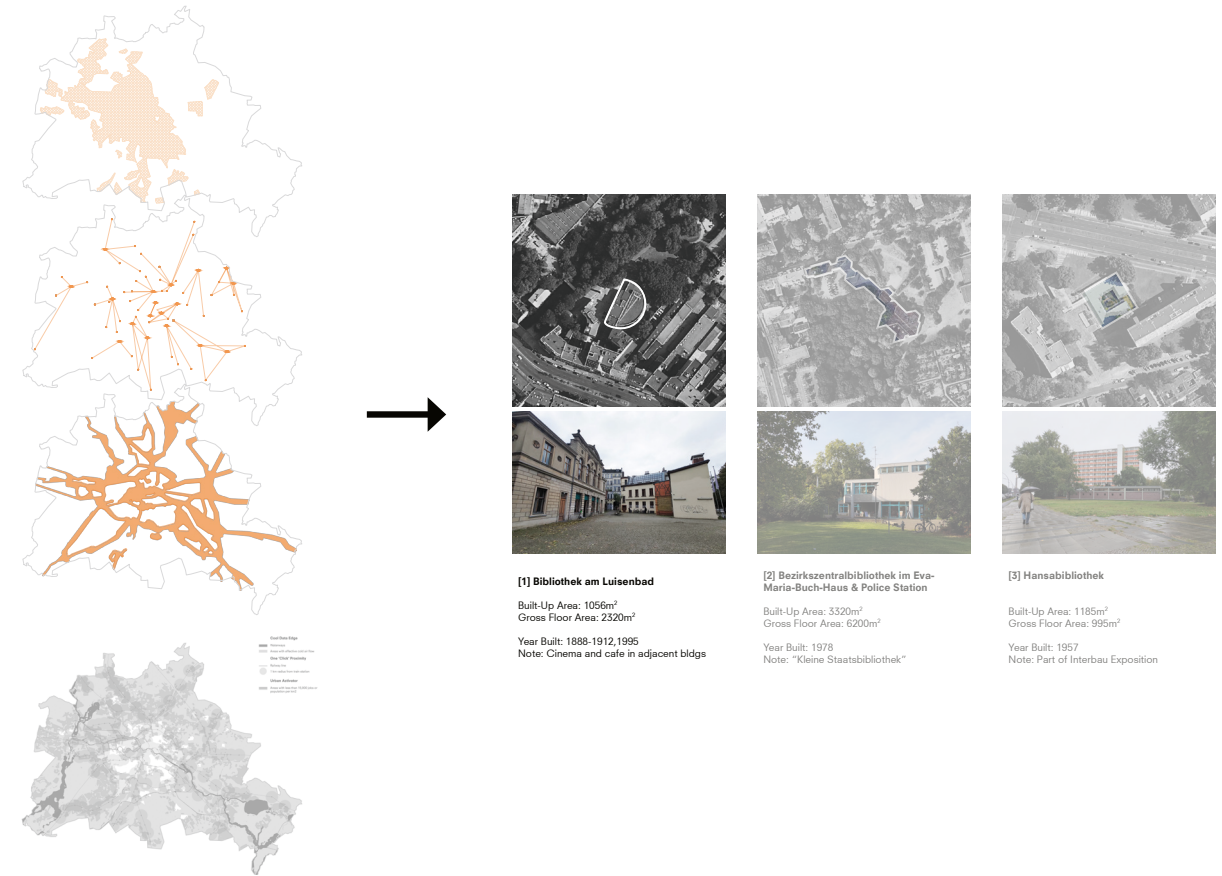


Figure 7
Overlaying Mappings to Extract Site Options for Evaluative Comparison

Source: Author

DESIGN BRIEF

04

AMBITIONS

a host & disseminator of diverse media

a social connector to facilitate integration

an upgraded futureproof district centre



Partner (Operator)



Main Client (Initiator)



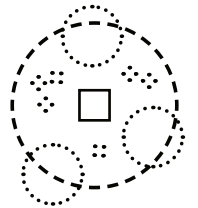
Partner (City Development)



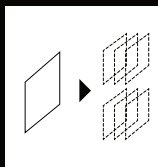
Sonic Haven



Diverse Population



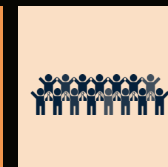
Future Demand



Digital Emulating, Archiving, Dissemination



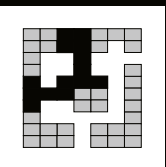
Conscious Language Learning



Informal Intercultural Exchange



Co-Creation & Dissemination



Futureproof Implant

Thematic Framework for Integration

Programs for this project are organised into a thematic framework, for a comprehensive integration experience.

Conscious Language Learning

Spaces where foreigners study the local language. This takes place in a landscape of knowledge, involving classrooms, individual study cells, and collection stacks.

The spatial language of the landscape is based off the book, the human body, and the value of inclusivity. The book's variable width translates into a variable shelf length, which can be configured infinitely in a horizontal plane. In contrast, the vertical height of the shelf is limited by human reach for ease of access, in order to maintain an inclusive and curious experience with knowledge.

Informal Intercultural Exchange

Spaces where foreigners and locals are able to casually converse and interact, such as markets, discussion cafe, and playgrounds. Locals will also take interest in this category, as the spaces are relevant to daily life.

These spaces are important for language learners, as they subconsciously absorb the meanings and conveyed messages behind the words being studied; and are able to apply what is learned in class.

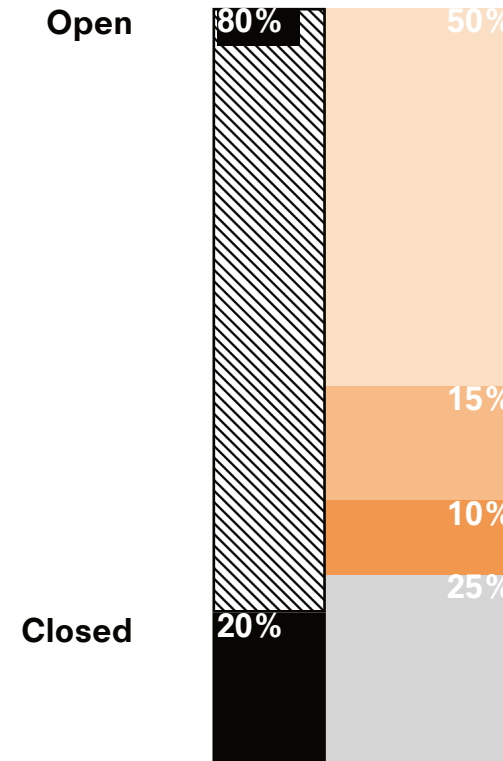
This is referred as "language acquisition" in Krashen's Theory of Second Language Acquisition, in distinction to pure "language learning".¹ It corresponds to the orientation component of BAMF's integration course.²

Co-Creation & Dissemination

Spaces where foreigners and locals actively come together to materialise and share their cultural products. This involves exhibition space, performance hall, various studios, and labs. As mentioned before, this category progresses the idea of integration into an active responsibility for both parties, and responds to the typological trajectory that the public library shifts from collections to connections and creations.

Alongside the framework, the proportion of open versus closed spaces is also introduced as a side ambition. By understanding which programs must be situated in closed or open conditions; and with or without particular technical requirements, the building's future possibilities can be designed.

Open



Closed

Informal Intercultural Exchange

- Discussion Cafe 300m²
- Market (district-level) 4000m²
- Open Arena (70 people) 200m²
- Playground (Reprovide) 3300m²

Co-Creation & Dissemination

- Exhibition 200m²
- Performance Hall (200 people) 485m²
- Rehearsal Studio (2 small & 1 big) 70m²
- Cooking Studio (4 big) 560m²
- Crafts Studio (1 big) 140m²
- Digital Studio (1 big) 280m²
- Workstations
- Printing Point
- Emulation
- Archiving

Conscious Language Learning

- Classrooms (4 small/2 big) 280m²
- Individual Study Cells (20 enclosed/40 open pods) 200m²
- Open Collections (Reprovide) 1000m²
- Book Stacks
- Multimedia Stacks
- Periodicals

Support

- Reception & Control 100m²
- Cloakroom 50m²
- Office 650m²
- Logistics Point 1700m²
- Market Loading Bay
- Market Waste Handling
- Library Closed Stacks
- Library Book Sorting Room
- Data Stacks 800m²
- Toilets 100m²

Figure 8
Program Stack & Breakdown

Source: Author

[1] Stephen Krashen, *Second Language Acquisition: Theory, Applications, and Some Conjectures* (Mexico City: Cambridge University Press, 2013).

[2] Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, "The Integration Course (DIN A2)," accessed January 20, 2024, <https://www.bamf.de/EN/Themen/Integration/ZugewanderteTeilnehmende/Integrationskurse/InhaltAblauf/inhaltAblauf-node.html>.

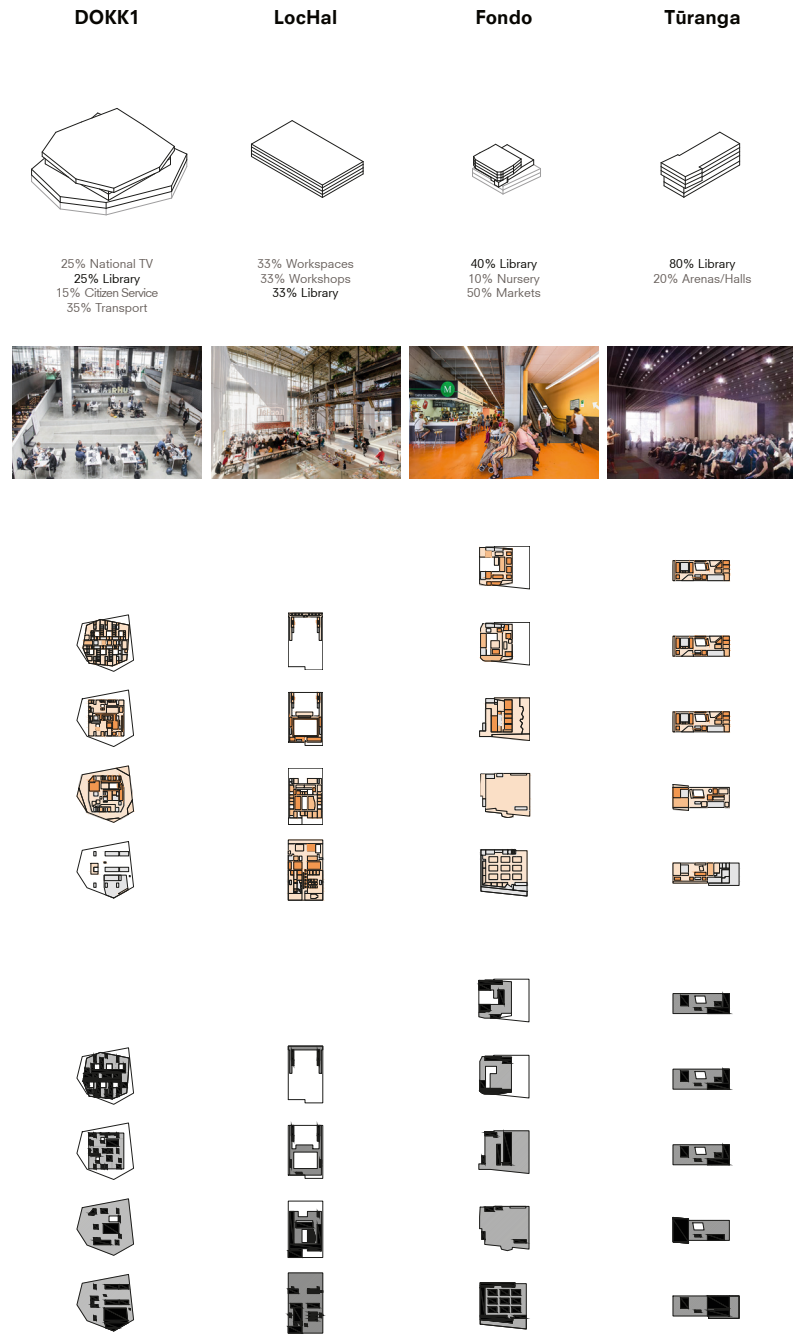


Figure 9
Program Composition Analyses

Source: Author

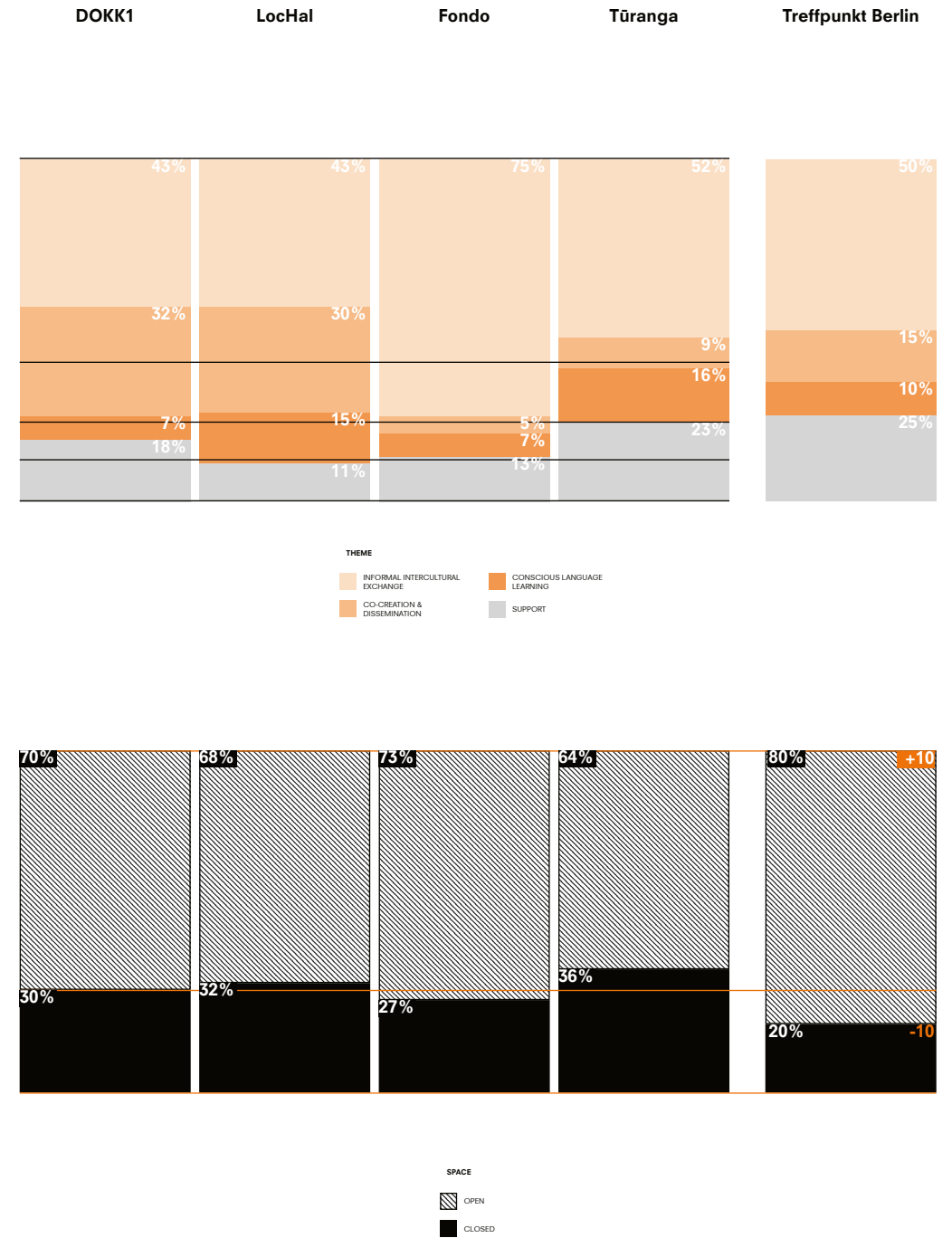
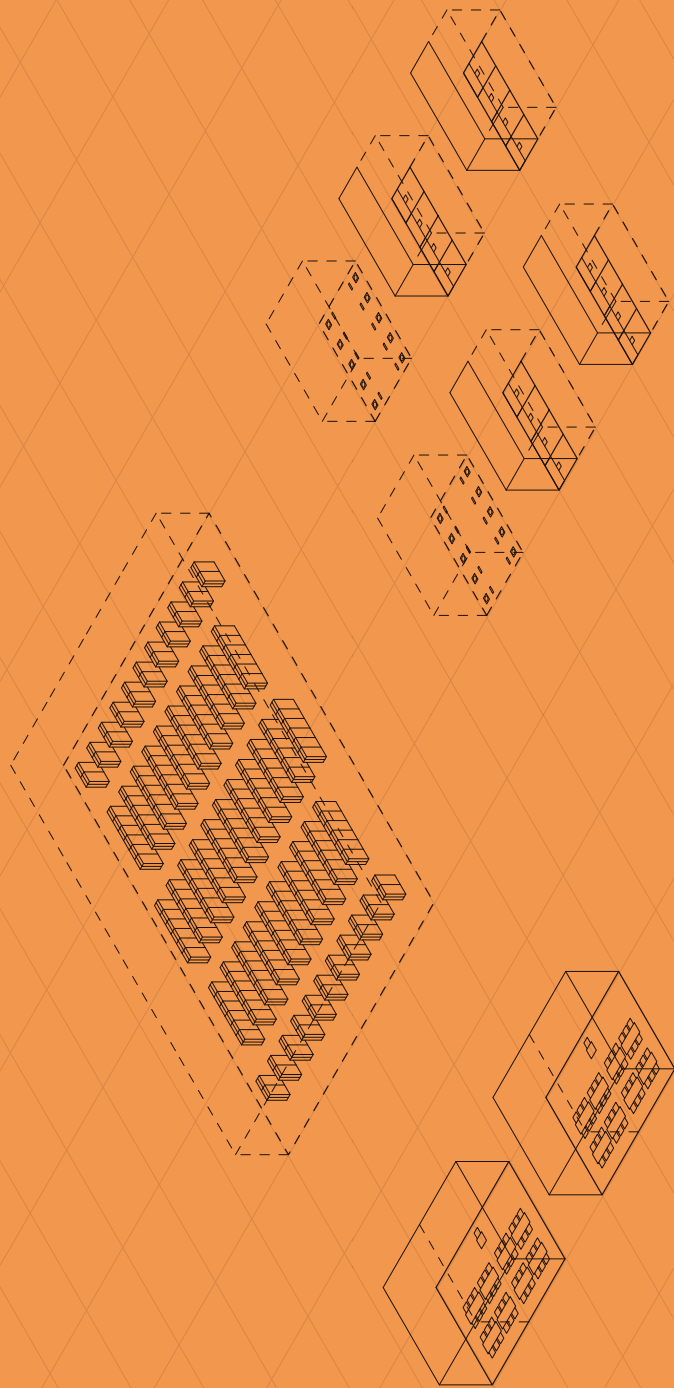


Figure 10
Program Stack Analyses

Source: Author

CONSCIOUS LANGUAGE LEARNING



individual study

open collections
landscape of knowledge

classrooms

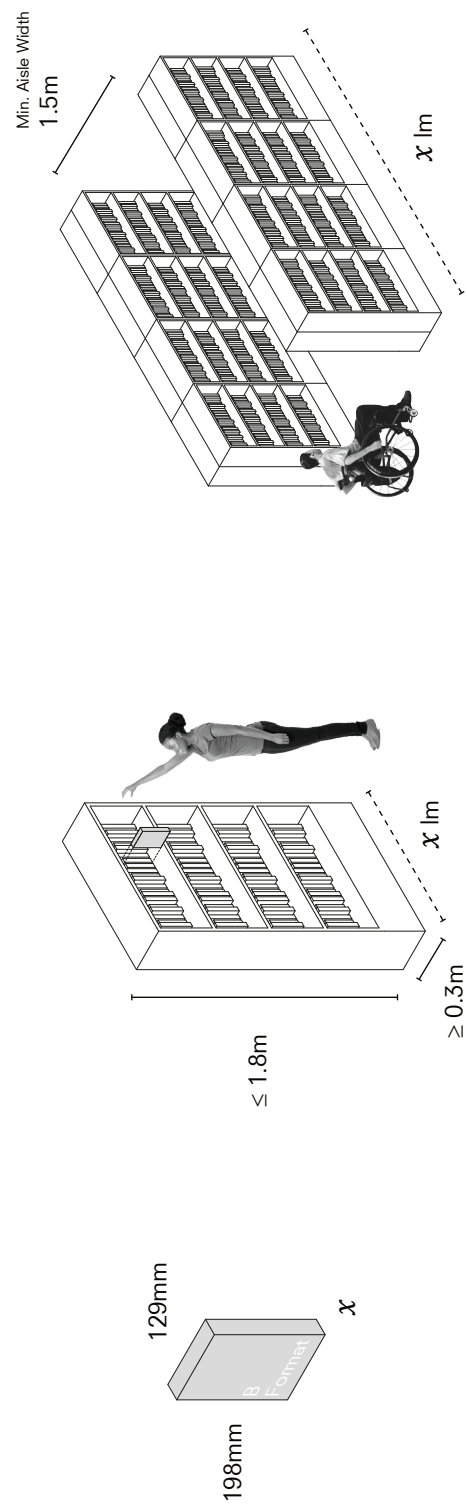
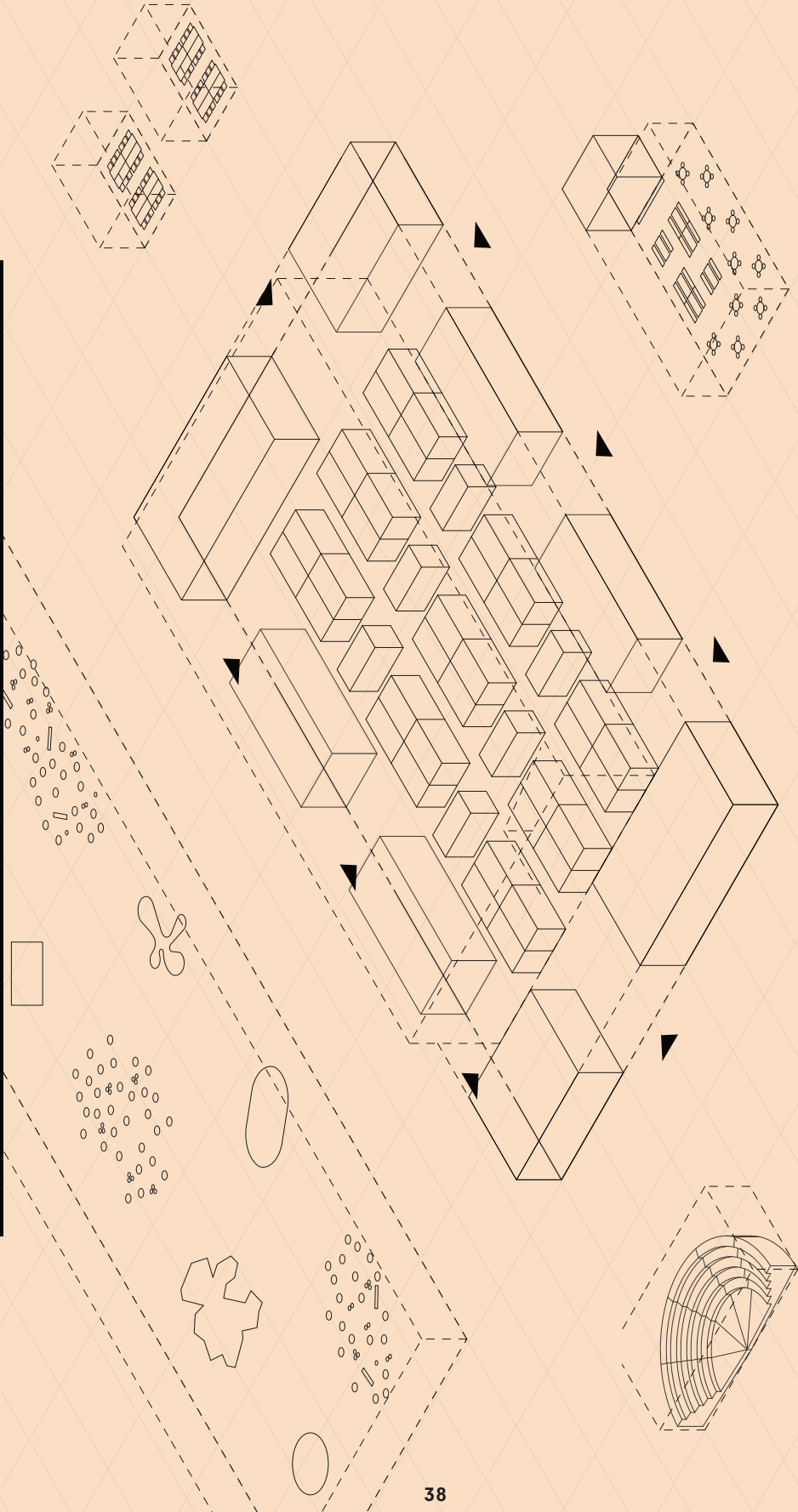


Figure 11
Spatial Definition of Conscious Language Learning Programs

Source: Author

INFORMAL INTERCULTURAL EXCHANGE



playground

open arena

market
hall of conversation

open discussion

discussion cafe

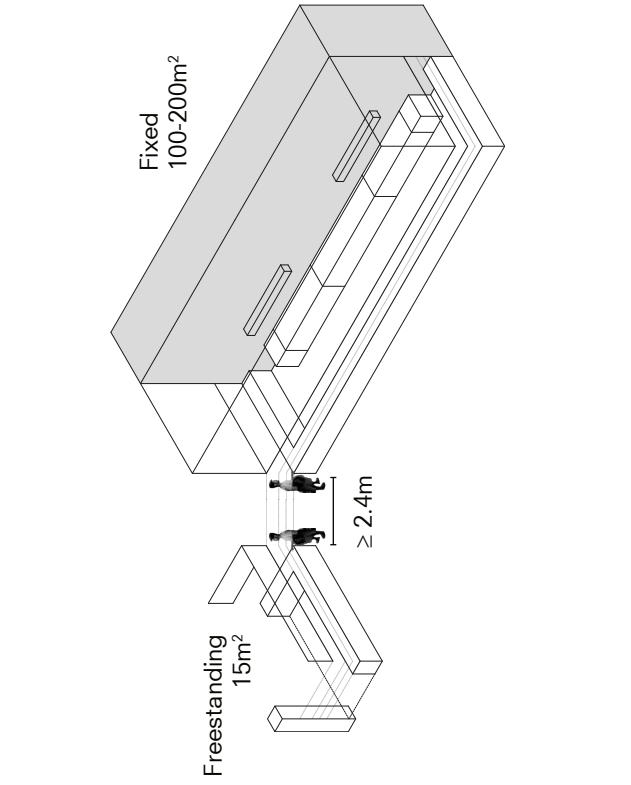
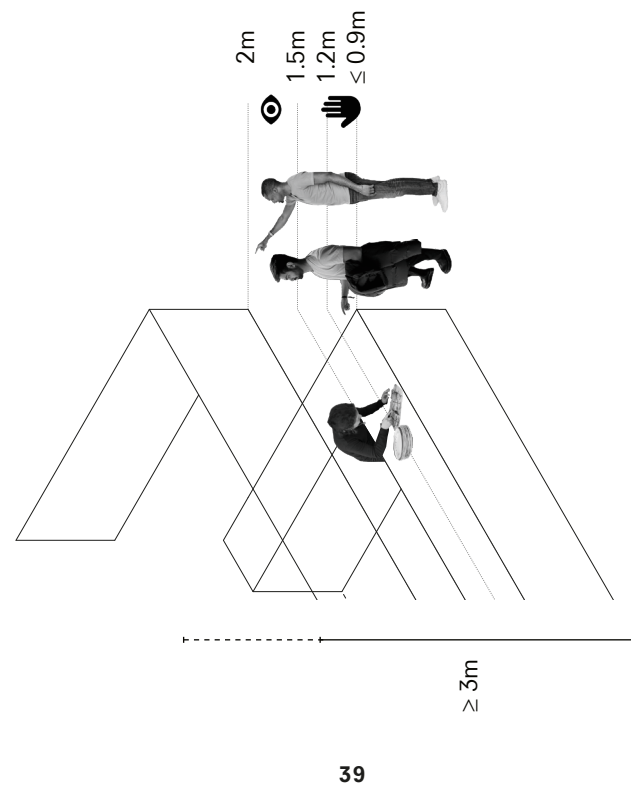


Figure 12
Spatial Definition of Informal Intercultural Exchange Programs

Source: Author

CO-CREATION & DISSEMINATION

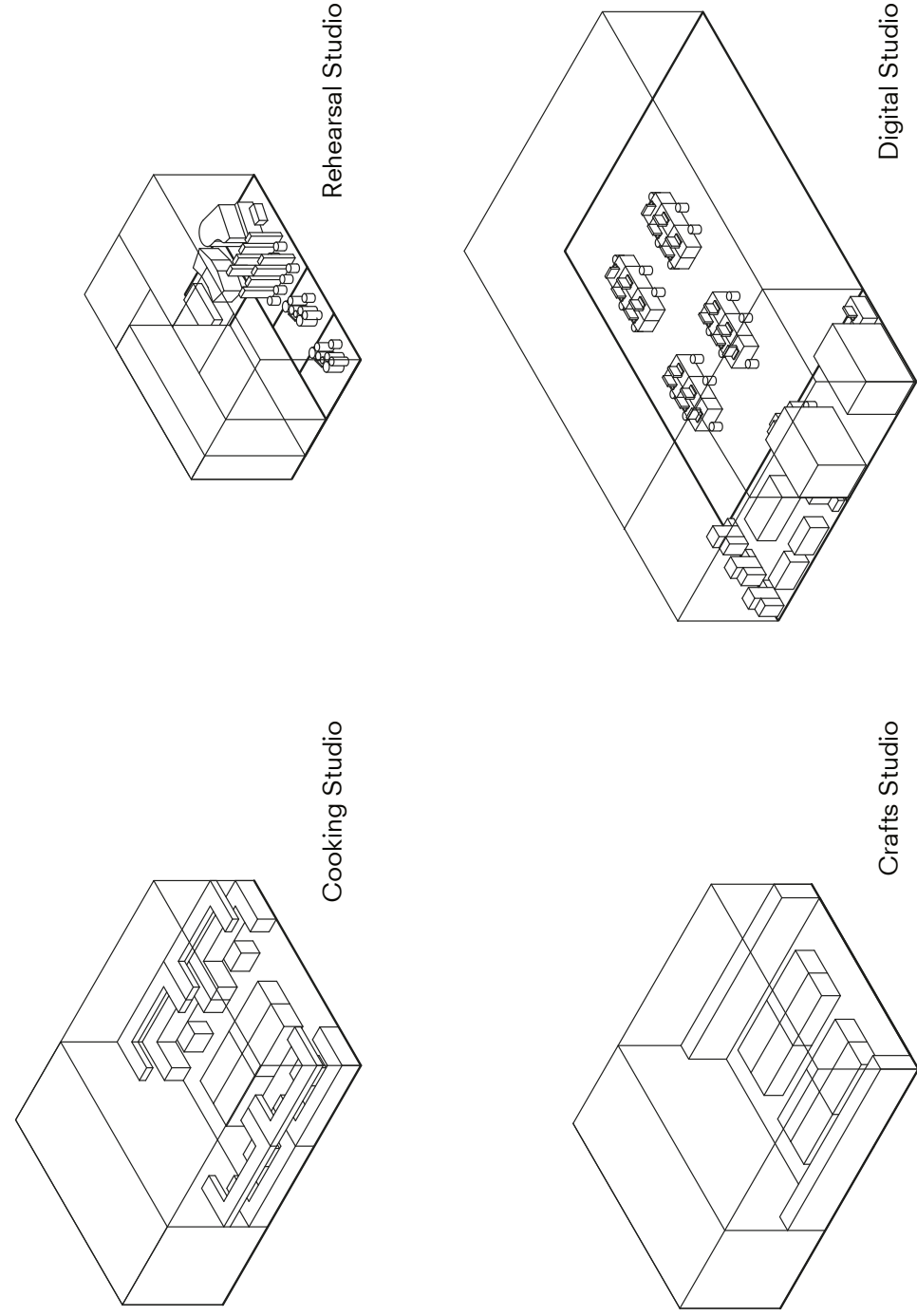
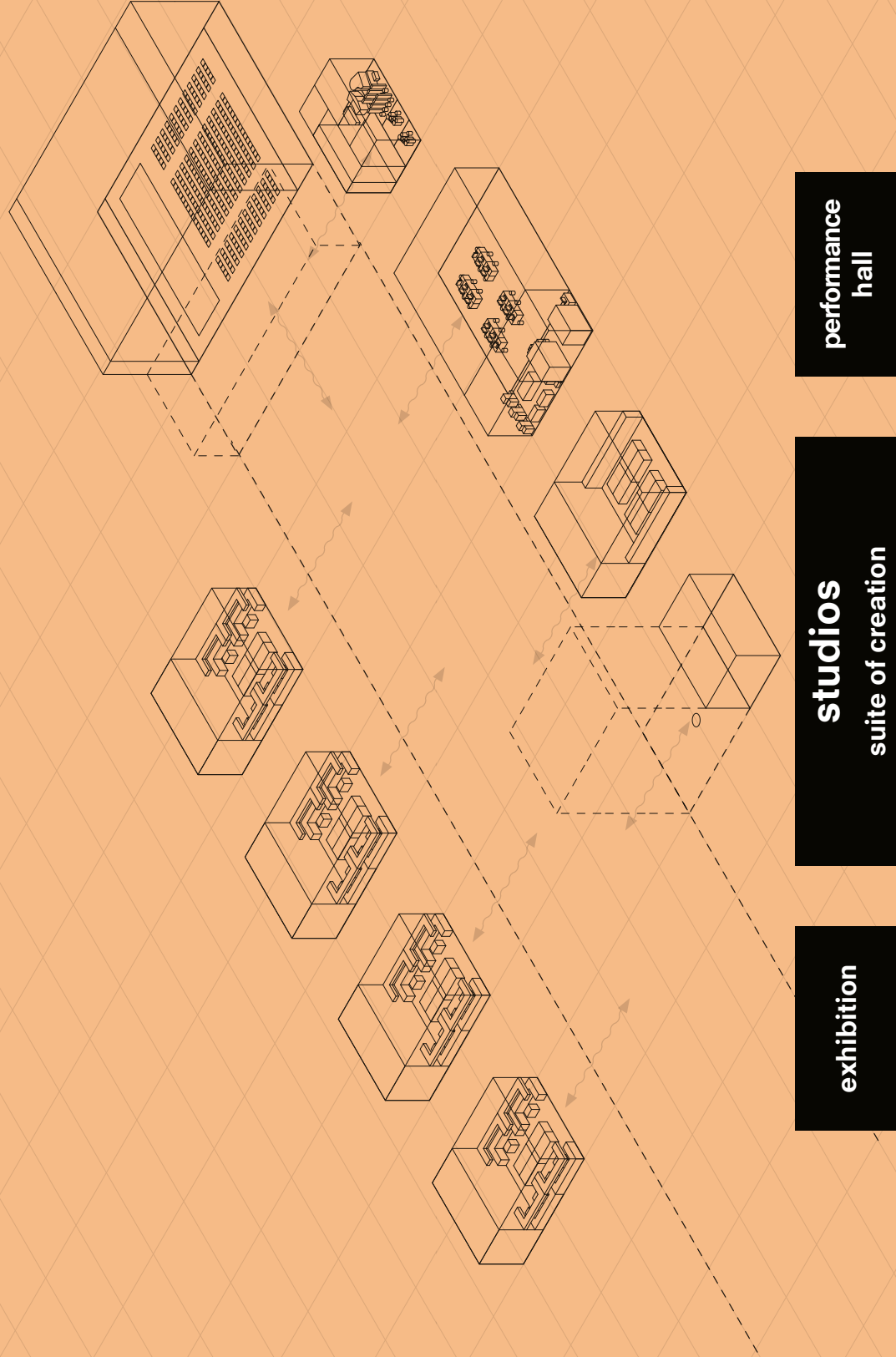
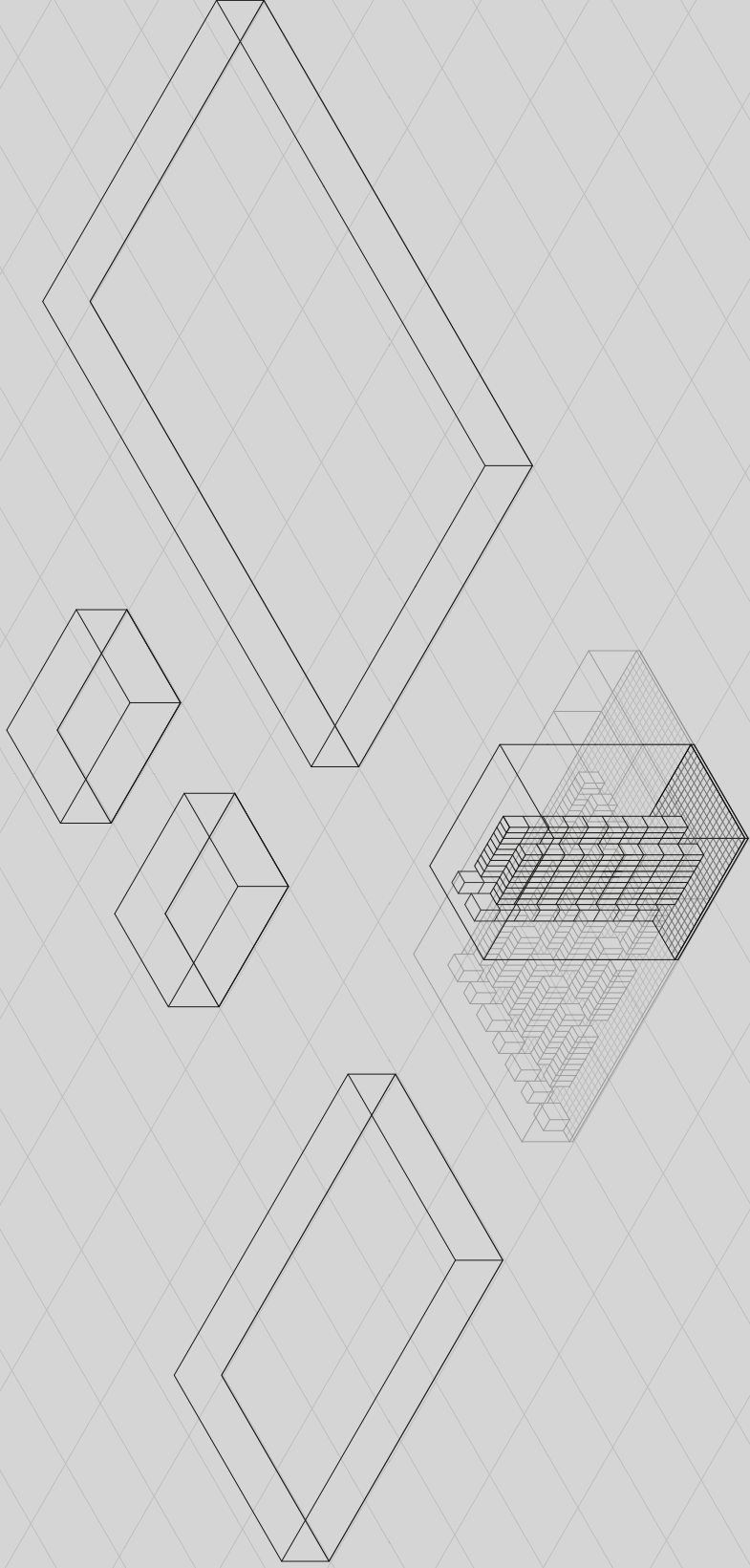


Figure 13
Spatial Definition of Co-Creation & Dissemination Programs

Source: Author

SUPPORT



offices

toilets

data stacks
tower of dissemination

control &
reception

logistics
point

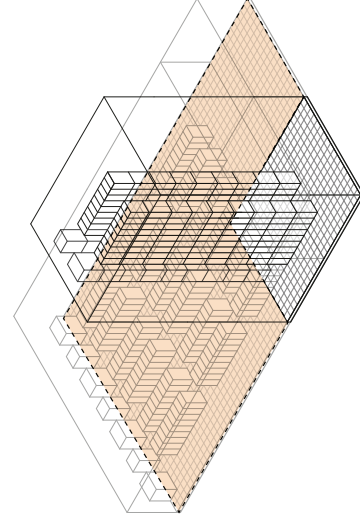
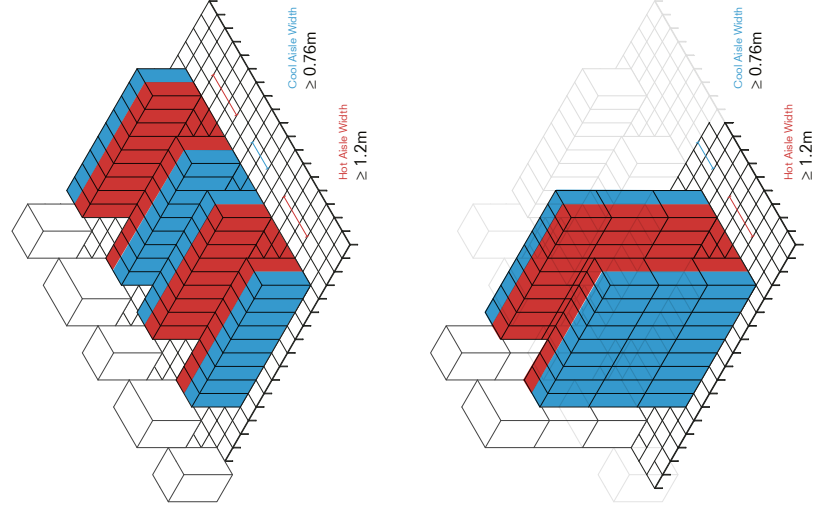
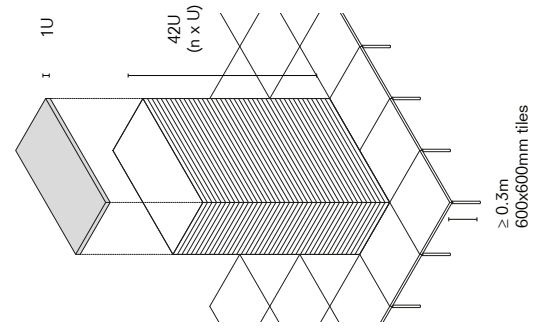


Figure 14
Spatial Definition of Support Programs

Source: Author

Program

Relations

Onion

Thematically, the programs should be organised like an onion. This entails that integration course participants must go through all themes before arriving at their class. Such an arrangement would encourage more chance encounters and exposure to others in the local community.

Sonic Organisation

Noise is a prevailing issue in Berlin's public libraries. It affects the user's experience and limiting libraries from simultaneously hosting multiple programs. The programs must therefore be organised by sound, and there must therefore be a transition between low and high sonic zones.

Program Clustering

Several adjacencies between programs are shared across the case studies. For example, cafes and open discussion areas benefit each other. Large halls require open discharge spaces to handle large flows before and after events. Such adjacencies should be integrated into the project.

Social Circulation Space

The atrium and social circulation space is a clear motif in all studies. This becomes a valuable architectural element for bridging across different zones and floors. These spaces should be aptly dimensioned, as its sizing would determine what can happen there (i.e. is it merely for circulation, or a place to sit with coffee?).

DESIGN BRIEF

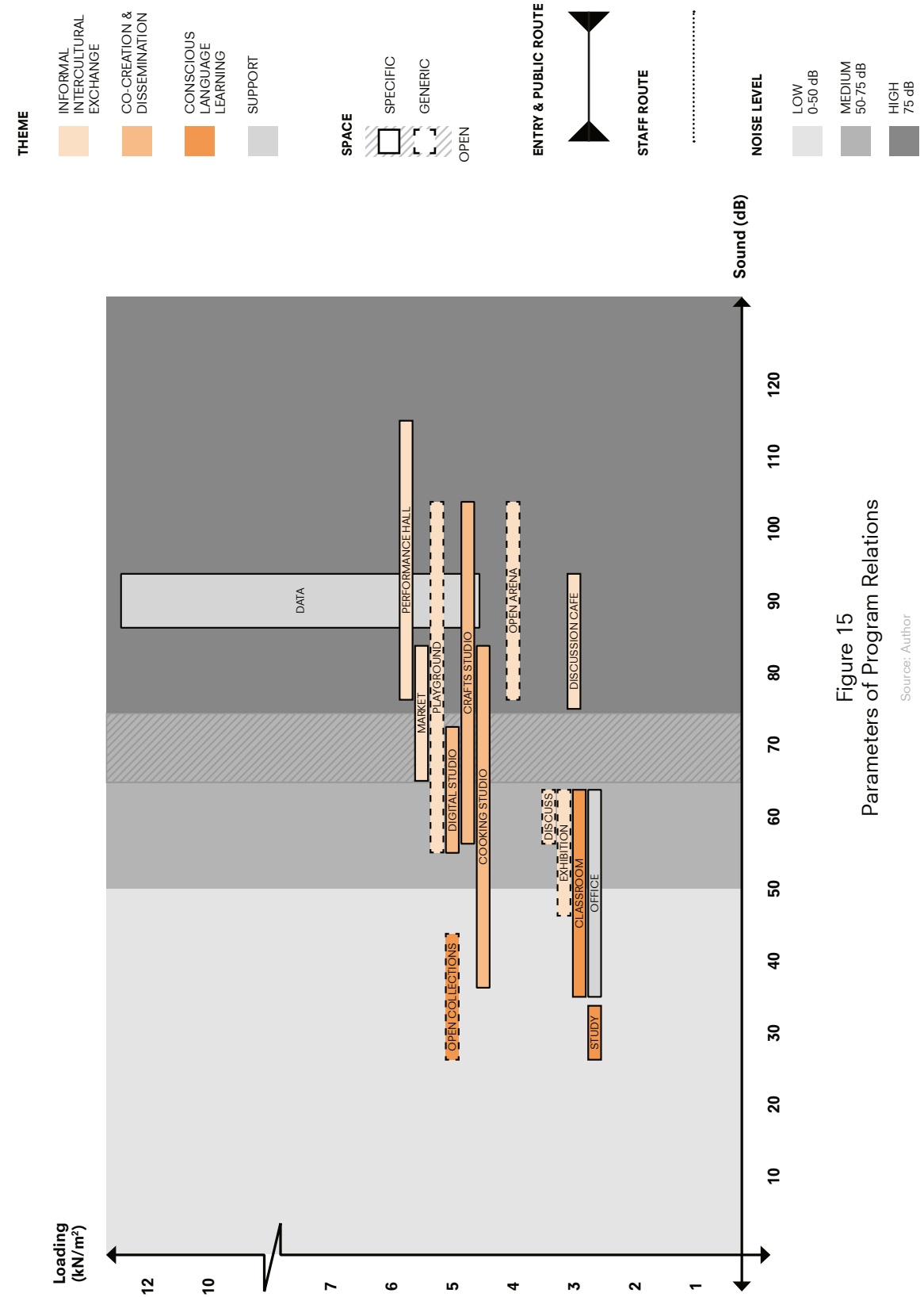


Figure 15
Parameters of Program Relations

Source: Author

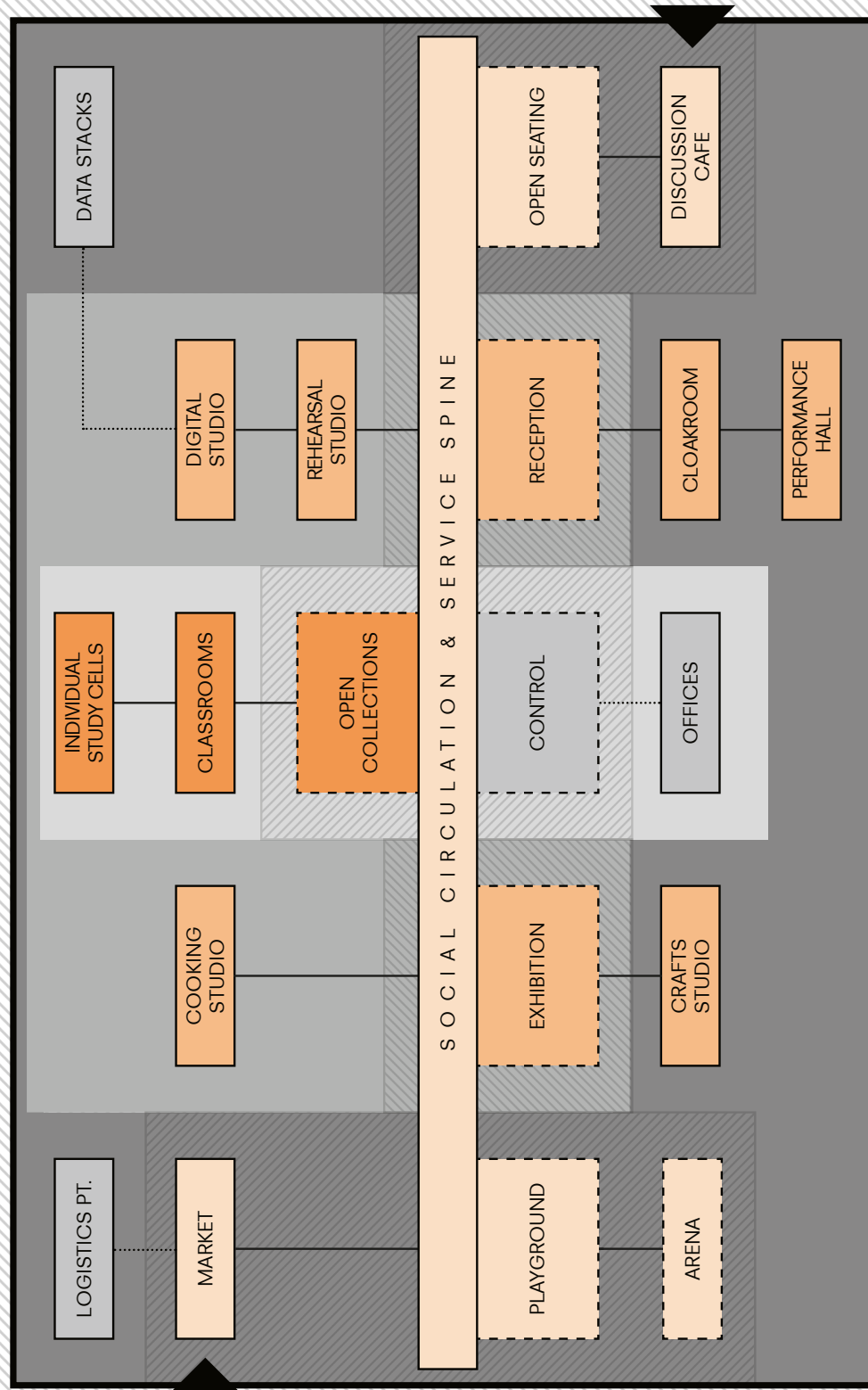
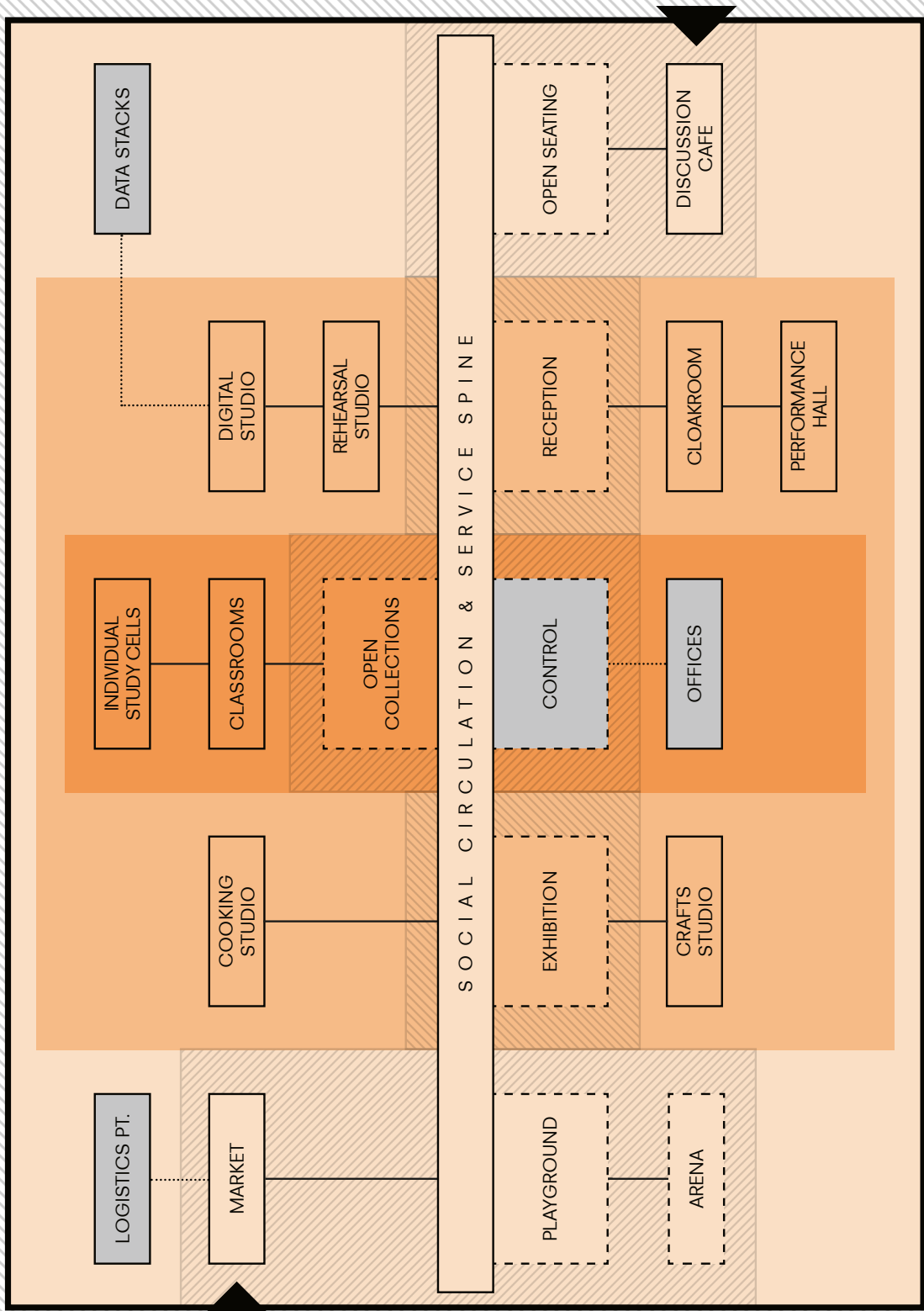


Figure 16
Overview of Program Relations

Source: Author

Scale & Surroundings

Taking the average of the most relevant case studies, the area-catchment ratio for this project is defined as 77m² / 1000 people. Taking the projected catchment population of 201100,¹ the derived total GFA for the project is 15500m².

In relation to surroundings, the case studies did not share obvious similarities in terms of form. However, they all have multiple entrances, and have at least one side with an open square or deep street, where occasional events and stalls can take place. This multidirectional approach allows surrounding events to provide human flow into the building. Thus they mutually benefit and activate each other.

For Treffpunkt Berlin, this finding translates into a suggested spatial idea of a flexible implant, which embeds itself into the urban fabric and can respond to future changes in urban form.

Furthermore, the programs of Informal Intercultural Exchange are encouraged to be at the entrance level, as a means to catch passersby.

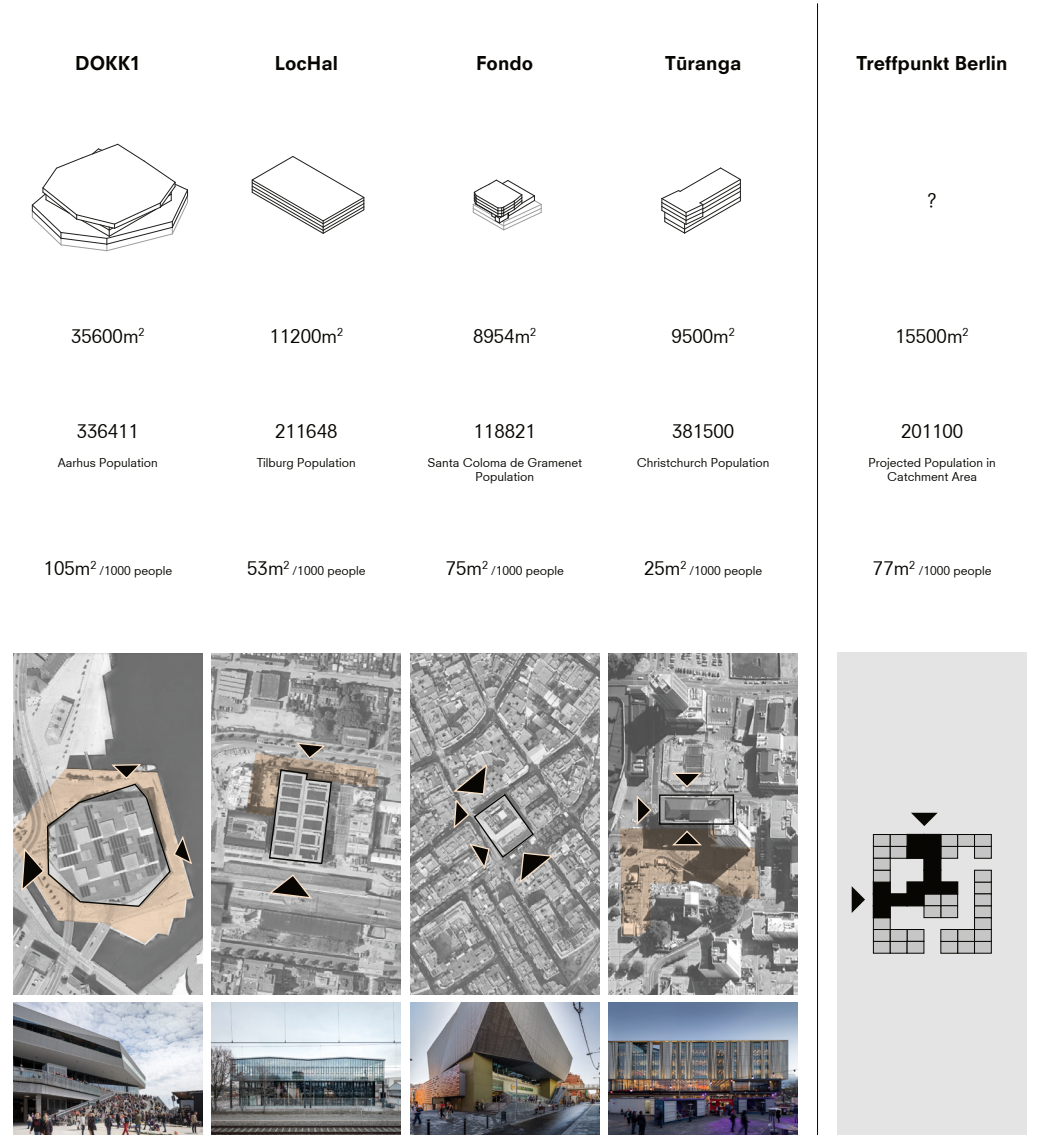


Figure 17
Scale & Surroundings Analyses

Source: Author, photos from various sources

[1] The projected catchment population was calculated using the average (6.4%) of predicted population growth in Mitte, Reinickendorf, and Pankow for 2040.

Senate Department for Urban Development, Building and Housing, "Bevölkerungsprognose für Berlin und die Bezirke 2021 – 2040," accessed January 20, 2024, <https://www.berlin.de/sen/sbw/stadtdaten/stadtwissen/bevoelkerungsprognose-2021-2040/>.

Main Client

Federal Office for Migration and Refugees

The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) is the main client and initiator of the project.

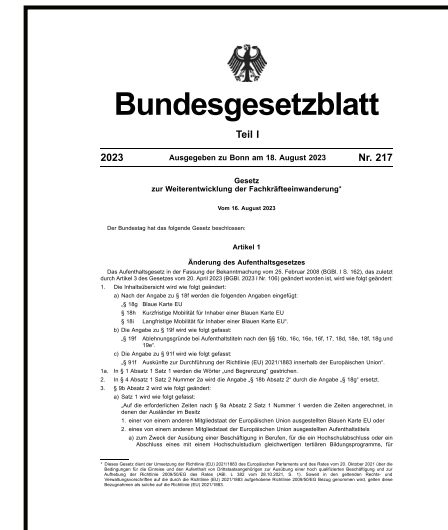
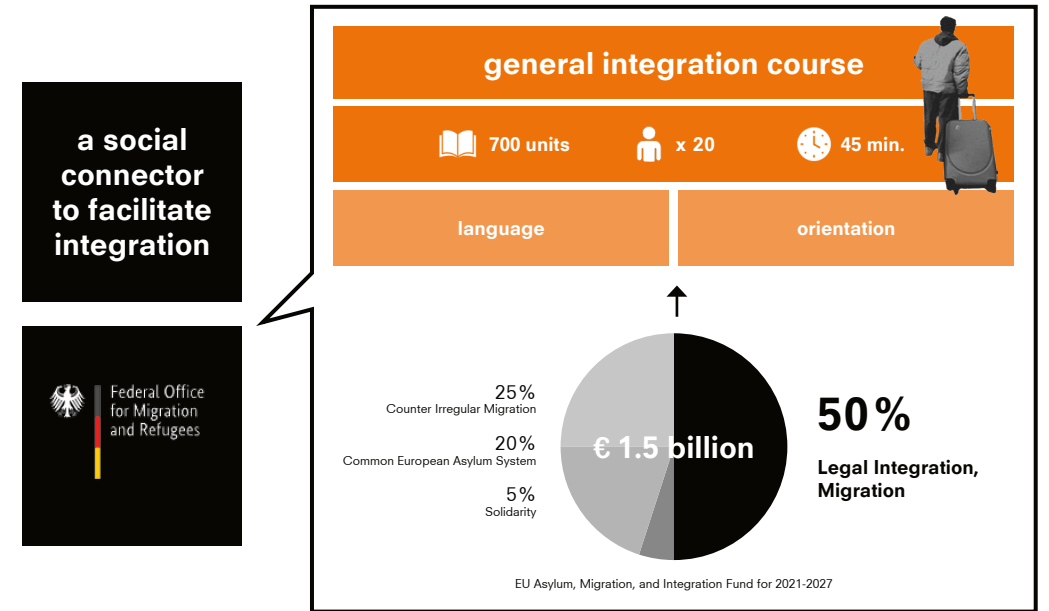
It is responsible for the integration courses (*Integrationskurs*) of foreign newcomers intending to live in Germany, as stipulated by the Residence Act.¹ They are funded by the EU's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, which has offered 1.5 billion Euros to Germany, with 50% used for legal integration and migration purposes.²

The objective of the course is to promote immigrants integration and social participation.³ The general course achieves this through two components: a language course and an orientation course.

The language course takes up 600 lesson units, in which participants will learn German up to level B1 of the CEFR. The course content is highly related to daily life activities, such as shopping, media, health, and employment. The orientation course takes up 100 lesson units, covering the German legal system, history, culture, and values. Each lesson unit is 45 minutes long, and the maximum class size is 20 people.⁴

Once both courses and their respective tests are sufficiently completed, the Integration Course Certificate can be obtained and the foreigner can be naturalised into a German citizen with seven years of legal residence.⁵

Recognising that district-level public libraries in Berlin act as social connectors, where foreign newcomers can have a more comprehensive integration experience, the project shall assume that BAMF partners with the Association of Public Libraries in Berlin, and the Berlin Senate Department for Urban Development, Building, and Housing.



“Germany needs 1.5 million new immigrants per year”

Chancellor Olaf Scholz

“a modern immigration country that not only accepts qualified immigration, but also wants it”

Federal Labour Minister Hubertus Heil

“Migration offers opportunities if the integration is successful.”

Report on the Framework of Sustainable Integration (2021)

Fachkräfteeinwanderungsgesetz
Skilled Workers Immigration Act (2023)

Figure 18
Ambitions of Main Client

Source: Compiled by author, material from various sources

[1] Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, “The Integration Course (DIN A2),” accessed January 20, 2024, <https://www.bamf.de/EN/Themen/Integration/ZugewanderteTeilnehmende/Integrationskurse/InhaltAblauf/inhalttaulauf-node.html>.

[2] Asyl-, Migrations- und Integrationsfonds (AMIF) “Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) 2021-2027,” accessed January 14, 2024, <https://www.eu-migrationsfonds.de/SharedDocs/Anlagen/EN/AMIF/flyer-amif.html>.

[3] Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, “The Integration Course (DIN A2),” accessed January 20, 2024, <https://www.bamf.de/EN/Themen/Integration/ZugewanderteTeilnehmende/Integrationskurse/InhaltAblauf/inhalttaulauf-node.html>.

[4] Zuzanna Hubschmann, “Migrant Integration Programs: The Case of Germany” (Global Migration Research Paper No. 11, The Graduate Institute Geneva, 2015), 20.

[5] Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, “Naturalisation in Germany,” accessed January 14, 2024, <https://www.bamf.de/EN/Themen/Integration/ZugewanderteTeilnehmende/Einbuergierung/einbuergierung.html>.

Partners

Association of Public Libraries in Berlin

The Association of Public Libraries in Berlin (VOEBB) is responsible for operating over 80 district and neighbourhood-level public libraries in the city.⁶ In response to their catchment populations, these libraries are offering a diversifying range of programs and media, but lack the support to do so.

Within this ambition, the VOEBB and its funder (the Berlin Senate Department of Culture and Community) often collaborates with other cultural institutions. The German Digital Library (DDB) is one example, which aims to create free and central access to Germany's cultural and scientific heritage. It has digitalised over 40 million digital assets for public education, research, and enjoyment, with contributions from 750 data-supplying cultural institutions.⁷

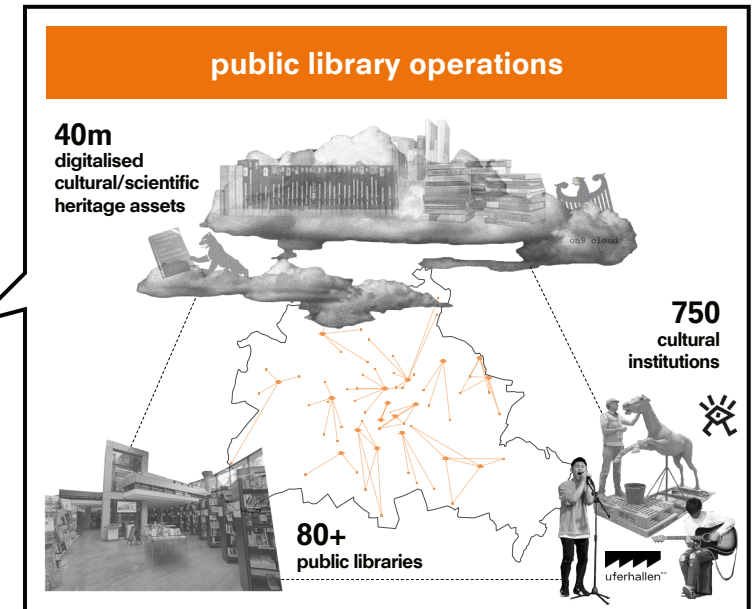
Thus, the VOEBB is not only looking to host diverse content, but also to digitalise and disseminate it to broader audiences.

Senate Department for Urban Development, Building, and Housing

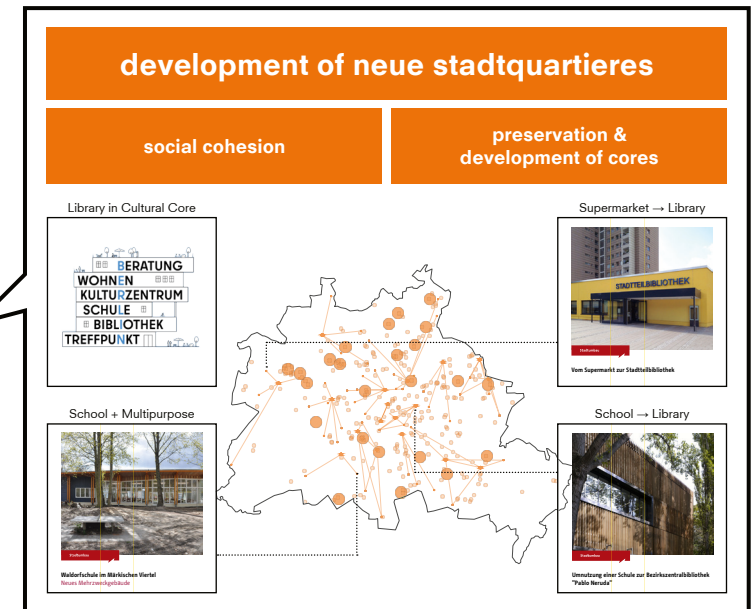
The Berlin Senate Department for Urban Development, Building, and Housing has recognised that immigration will bring additional pressure to the city's shortage of affordable housing.⁸ To meet this, there are plans to develop new urban living districts (*Neue Stadtquartiere*) in inner city areas, with federal support from the Urban Development Fund (*Städtebauförderung*).⁹

These districts shall be planned with the ideals of "Social Cohesion – Building Coexistence in the Neighbourhood Together" and "Living Town and City Centres – Preservation and Development of Town and City Cores",¹⁰ with the library envisioned as a part of multiple-use social infrastructures (*Mehrfachnutzung sozialer Infrastrukturen*) that activate the area.¹¹ Several projects have already been realised, involving conversion and extension works of existing cultural buildings.

a host & disseminator of diverse media



an upgraded futureproof district centre



[6] VOEBB, "Welcome to VOEBB: Catalogue," accessed January 20, 2024, <https://www.voebb.de/aDISWeb/app;jsessionid=7CE748AFBD7B2532E87C24366D2A9E1A.node1>.
 [7] Deutsche Digitale Bibliothek, "Who We Are," accessed January 20, 2024, <https://www.deutsche-digitale-bibliothek.de/content/wer-wir-sind>.
 [8] Senate Department for Urban Development, Building and Housing, "Berlin braucht Wohnungen," accessed January 20, 2024, <https://www.berlin.de/zuhause/berlin-braucht-wohnungen/>.
 [9] Senate Department for Urban Development, Building and Housing, "Zuhause in Berlin," accessed January 20, 2024, https://www.berlin.de/sen/sbw/_assets/ueber-uns/sensbw_imagebroschuere_zuhause_in_berlin-de.pdf?ts=1696263856.

[10] Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development, And building, "Holistic, Sustainable, Collaborative: 50 Years of the Urban Development Support Programme in Germany," accessed January 14, 2024, https://www.staedtebaufoerderung.info/EN/home/home_node.html;jsessionid=E9F337BC357543F1FDE8C6214475D47C.live21304.
 [11] Senate Department for Urban Development, Building and Housing, "Mehrfachnutzung (MFN) sozialer Infrastrukturen," accessed January 20, 2024, <https://www.berlin.de/sen/stadtentwicklung/planung/planungskoordination-soziale-infrastruktur/mehrfachnutzung-mfn/>.

Figure 19
Ambitions of Partners

Source: Compiled by author, material from various sources

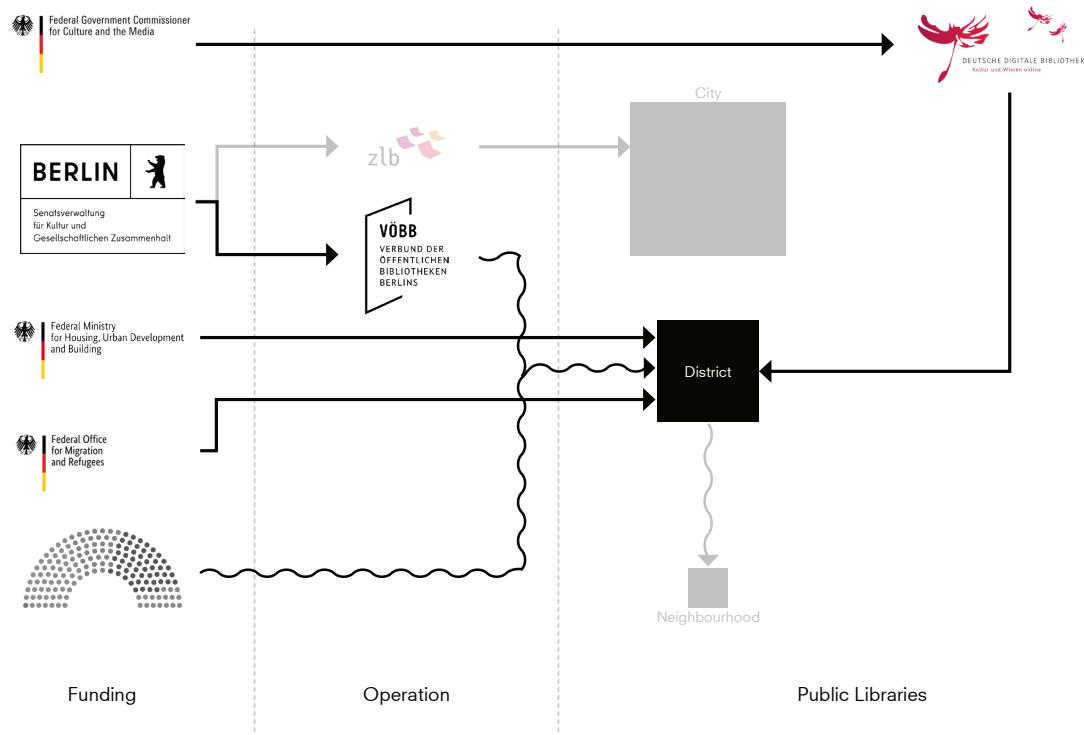


Figure 20
 Diversifying Funding for District-Level Libraries
 Source: Compiled by author, material from various sources



Figure 21
 Overview of Clients, Partners, Ambitions
 Source: Compiled by author, material from various sources

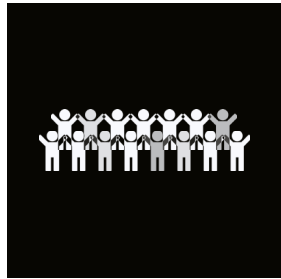
Site Criteria

In addition to the group criteria, there are three criteria developed in alignment with this project's ambitions.



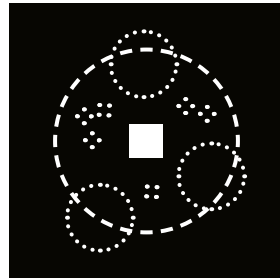
Sonic Haven

Capitalise on busy area of >60 dB while providing a quiet haven



Diverse Population

District with > 40% migrant population



Future Home

15 min from areas of future residential growth (e.g. Neue Stadtquartiere)



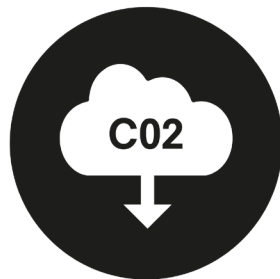
Decentralisation

1.5 km apart from existing & future data storages



Display

1 km from train station for high visibility & exposure






Decarbonisation

Passively reduce energy consumption & utilise wasted outputs

Figure 22
Site Criteria

Source: Author & Digitalisation Group

- Diverse Population**
 -  District with > 40% migrant population
- Sonic Haven**
 -  Area of > 60dB
- Existing Library Network**
 -  District Central
 -  Neighbourhood Branches
- Areas of Insufficient Supply vs Future Demand**
 -  Area with NSQ but not covered by existing district central library

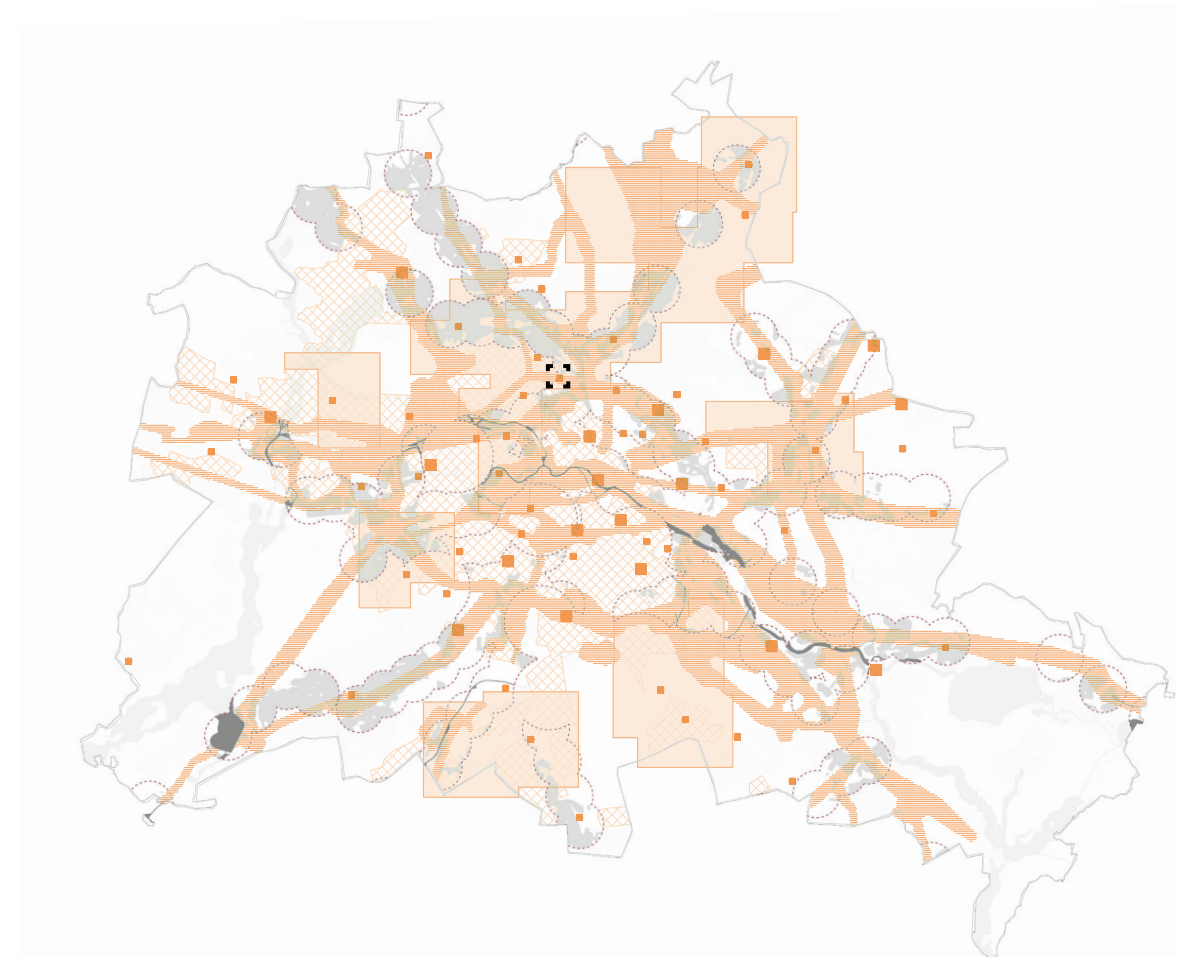


Figure 23
Mapping and Extracted Site Options

Source: Author

Site

City

The project site is in Gesundbrunnen, Mitte. It is the locality with the greatest proportion of residents with a migration background. Five Neue Stadtquartiere and thirty-one housing projects (offering over 200 units) is within a fifteen minute public transport radius.

The site lies within the tenement housing area (*Mietskaserne*) along the Wilhelmine Ring, in the Hobrecht Plan of 1862. The area is characterised by dense and large housing blocks built for the working class, with four to five storey high buildings. Within this dense urban fabric, Panke - the third longest river in Berlin - becomes an important incision that brings green open space into the cityscape.

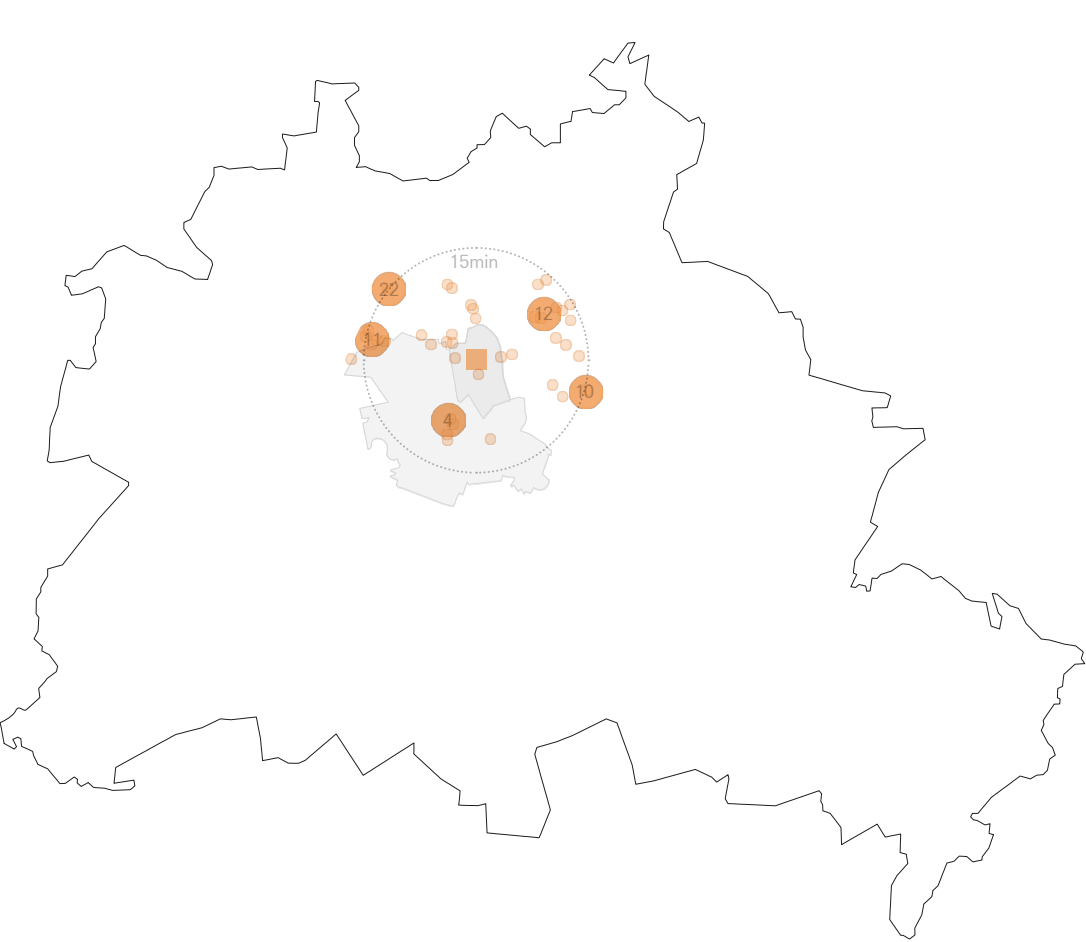


Figure 24
Proximity to Future Housing Developments
Source: Author



Figure 25
River Panke Bringing Green into City
Source: Author

District

At the centre of Gesundbrunnen, the site is highly accessible and bordered by multiple public transport networks, including the tram, U-Bahn, and S-Bahn. Gesundbrunnen is notably one of four Category 1 stations in Berlin - the other stations being the Hauptbahnhof, Sudkreuz, and Ostbahnhof.



Figure 26
Intersection of Public Transport

Source: Author



Figure 27
Comparison to Hobrecht Plan

Source: ZLB

Site

Block

The block is defined by Osloer Strasse, Prinzenallee, Badstrasse, and Koloniestrasse. It is bisected by Travemunder Strasse and River Panke, which brings main access points on the north and south. They are located along the axes of the tram and U-Bahn lines respectively.

In terms of land use, the block itself is a mixed area, primarily surrounded by housing.

DESIGN BRIEF

Transportation & Accessibility



Axes



Access Point to Block

Land Use



Housing Area



Mixed Area



Public Area

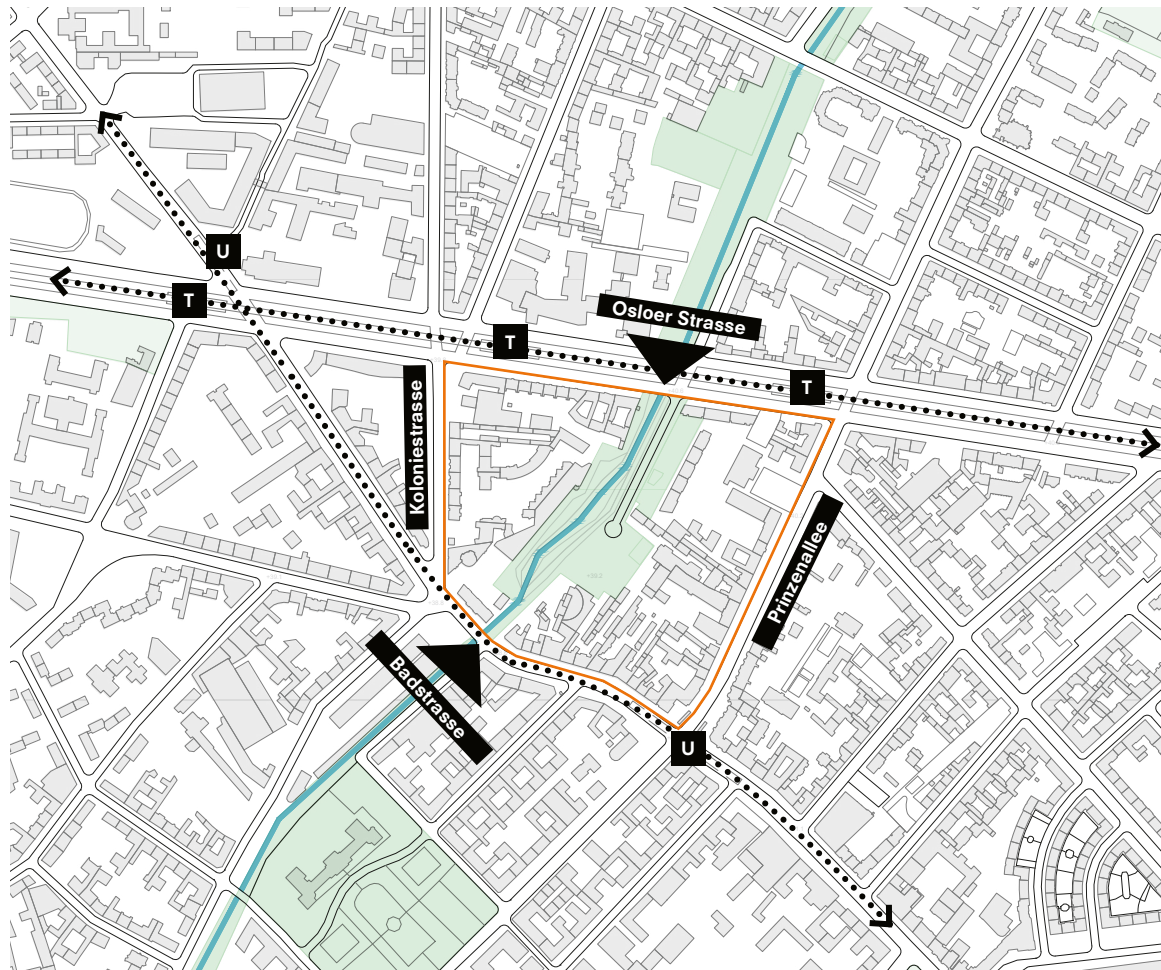


Figure 28
Main Access Points

Source: Author

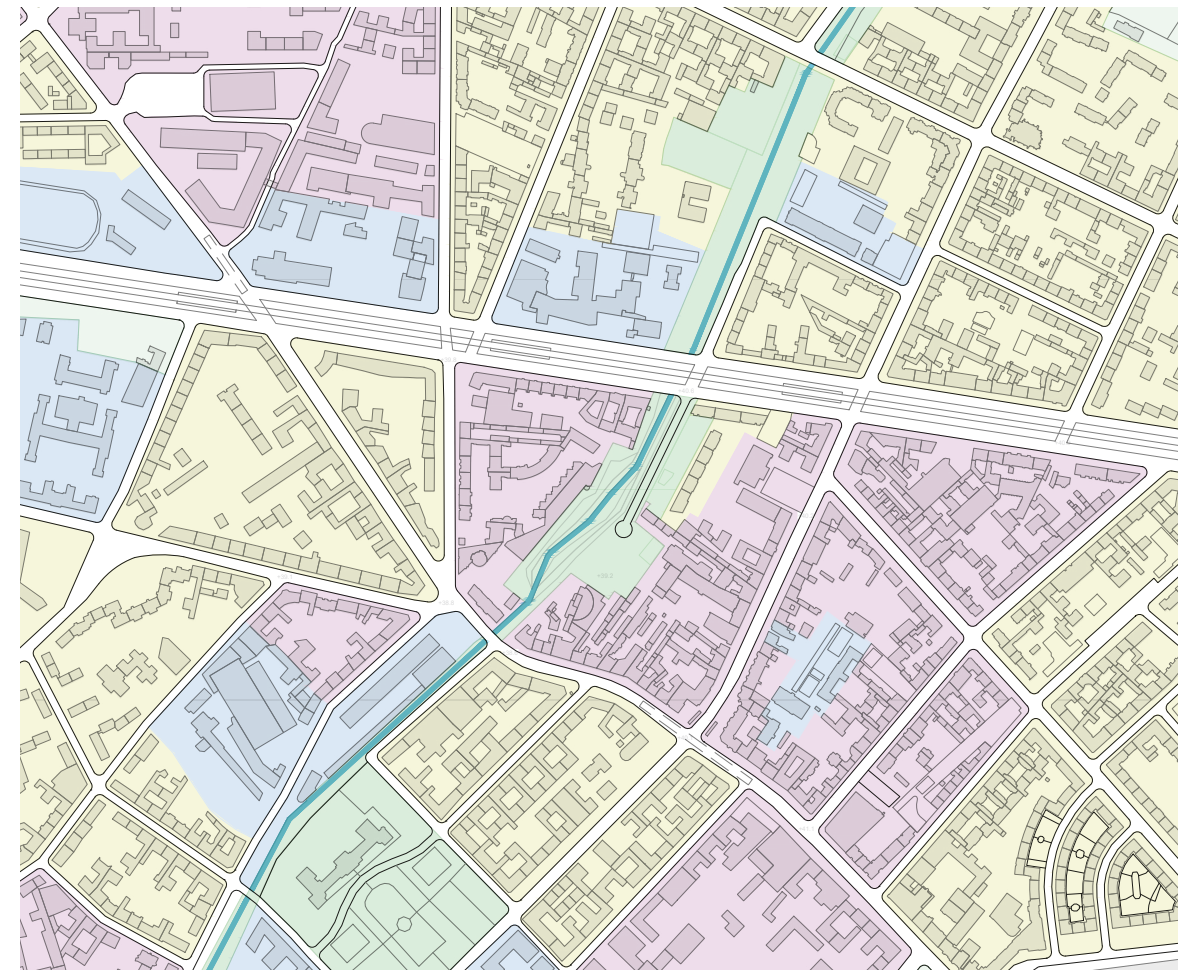


Figure 29
Land Use

Source: Author

Block

As the historic centre of Gesundbrunnen, there are multiple structures in the vicinity with protected monument status, whose facade must be respected.

In relation to the project program, Bibliothek am Luisenbad has a notable history of mixed-use expansion and preservation. Furthermore, the block was the site of weekly markets in the twentieth century. Before that, the district was also served by Markthalle XII.

Monument Ensemble Gesundbrunnen Zentrum

Historically/urban-design unit of built structures with a resulting increased value as evidence of certain historical/urban developments (e.g. village complex, town center or district).

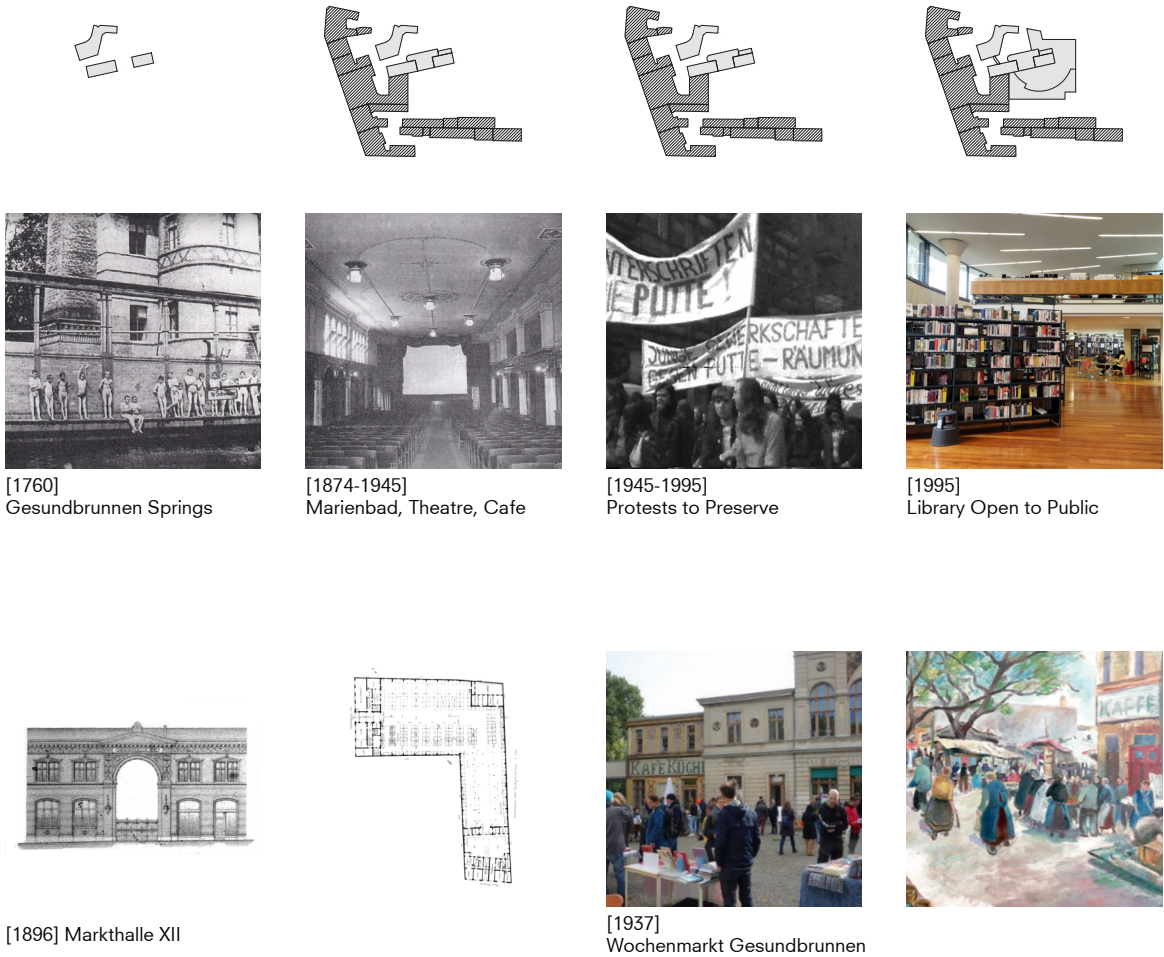


Figure 30
Monument Ensemble with Points of Interest

Source: Author

Block

Today, the block still contributes to a cultural ensemble, comprised of art centres, music & dance schools, workshops & studios, musea, youth associations, and schools.

 Cultural Ensemble



[1] Art Centre & Exhibition



[2] Music & Dance School



[3] Craft Workshops & Studios



[4] Mitte Museum



[5] Contemporary Art Museum



[6] Kindermuseum



[7] Youth Associations, Jungenclub



[8] Schools



Figure 31
Cultural Ensemble

Source: Author

Site

Plot

The starting conditions of the site involve:

Demolish Low-Intensity, Low-Use Buildings

Garages and gaming shops on 84-85 Prinzenallee should be demolished given their low intensity and use, as well as their ideal position opposite Gesundbrunnen Grundschule.

Re-define Open Spaces

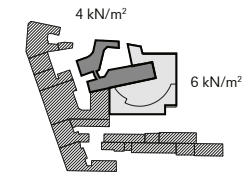
The open spaces of the block between River Panke and Prinzenallee are currently underused and undefined. The intervention should better utilise and shape these spaces.

Re-purpose Existing

With respect to the structural loading of Bibliothek am Luisenbad, its history and monument protection, it should be considered for conservation & repurposing.



[Demolish Low-Intensity, Low-Use Buildings]
84-85 Prinzenallee: Garages & Gaming Shops



[Re-purpose Existing]
Bibliothek am Luisenbad Extension



[Re-define Open Space]
Playground & Open Area Lacks Definition

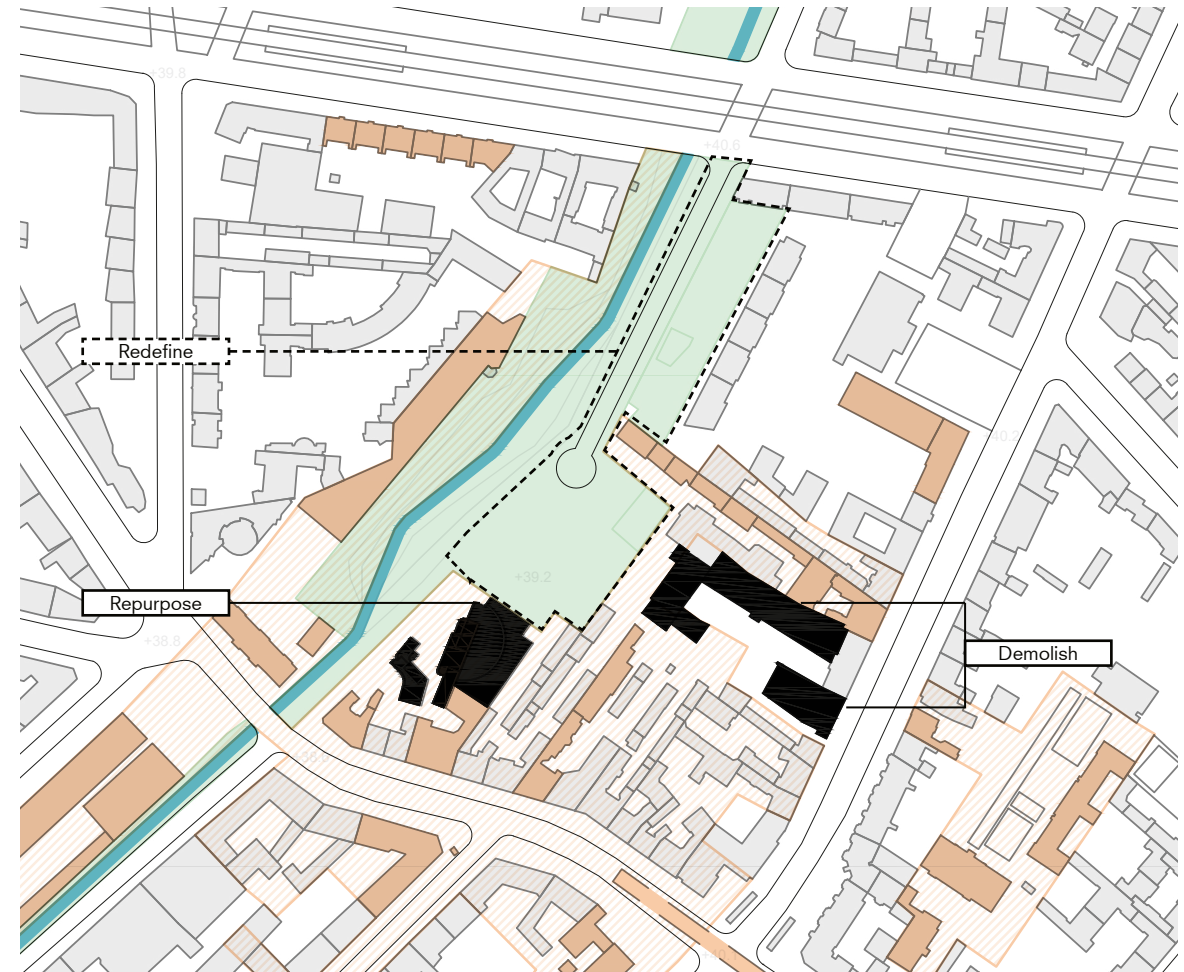


Figure 32
Demolish, Re-define, Re-purpose

Source: Author

Site


Plot

No-Build Zones

Owing to the sandy Holocene geology of Berlin and the high water table, any new buildings must be built beyond an offset of 2m, unless a direct relationship with the existing is desired.

Furthermore, the flood zone of River Panke cannot be built. Most of this zone is already within its engineered ditch, with a floodplain and running paths.

DESIGN BRIEF

-  **No-Build Zones**
- Sands from the Holocene**
Weaker than clay, new buildings encouraged to be constructed in phases.
>2m offset from existing building foundations
- Flood Zone**
Within engineered ditch of Panke
Cannot build upon this ground



Engineered Ditch



Facing Towards Badstrasse



Floodplain

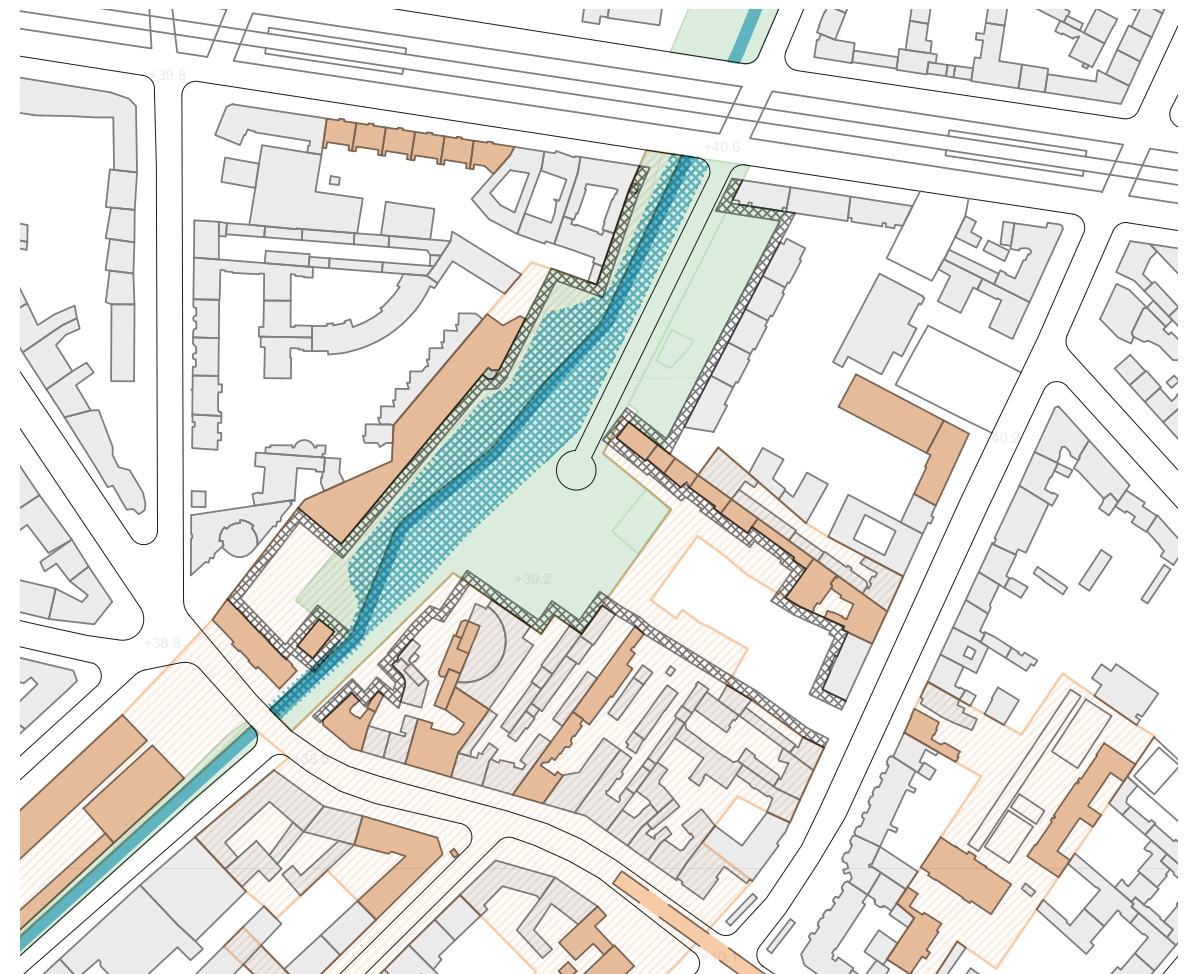


Figure 33
No-Build Zones

Source: Author

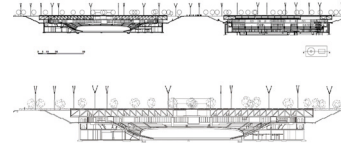
Plot

Buildable Site Boundary

This results in an irregular shaped site boundary, with a footprint of 22400m².

Corresponding to projects of this scale, an underground level of up to 5m depth can be considered, with respect to sound and individual programmatic needs.

Reference Underground Projects



Velodrome & Stadium: 10m

Bibliothek am Luisenbad: 5m

Prinzenallee 47-50: 3m

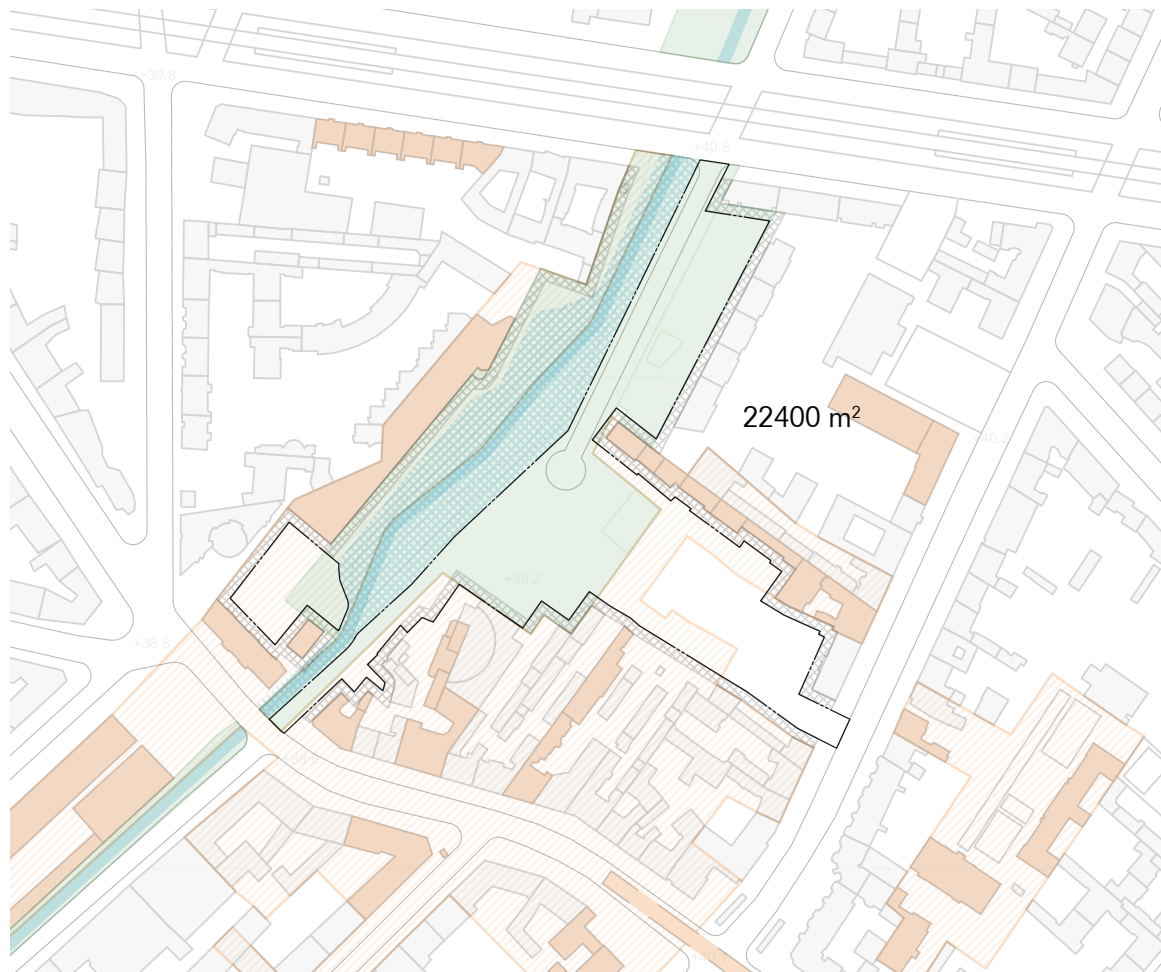


Figure 34
Buildable Site Boundary

Source: Author

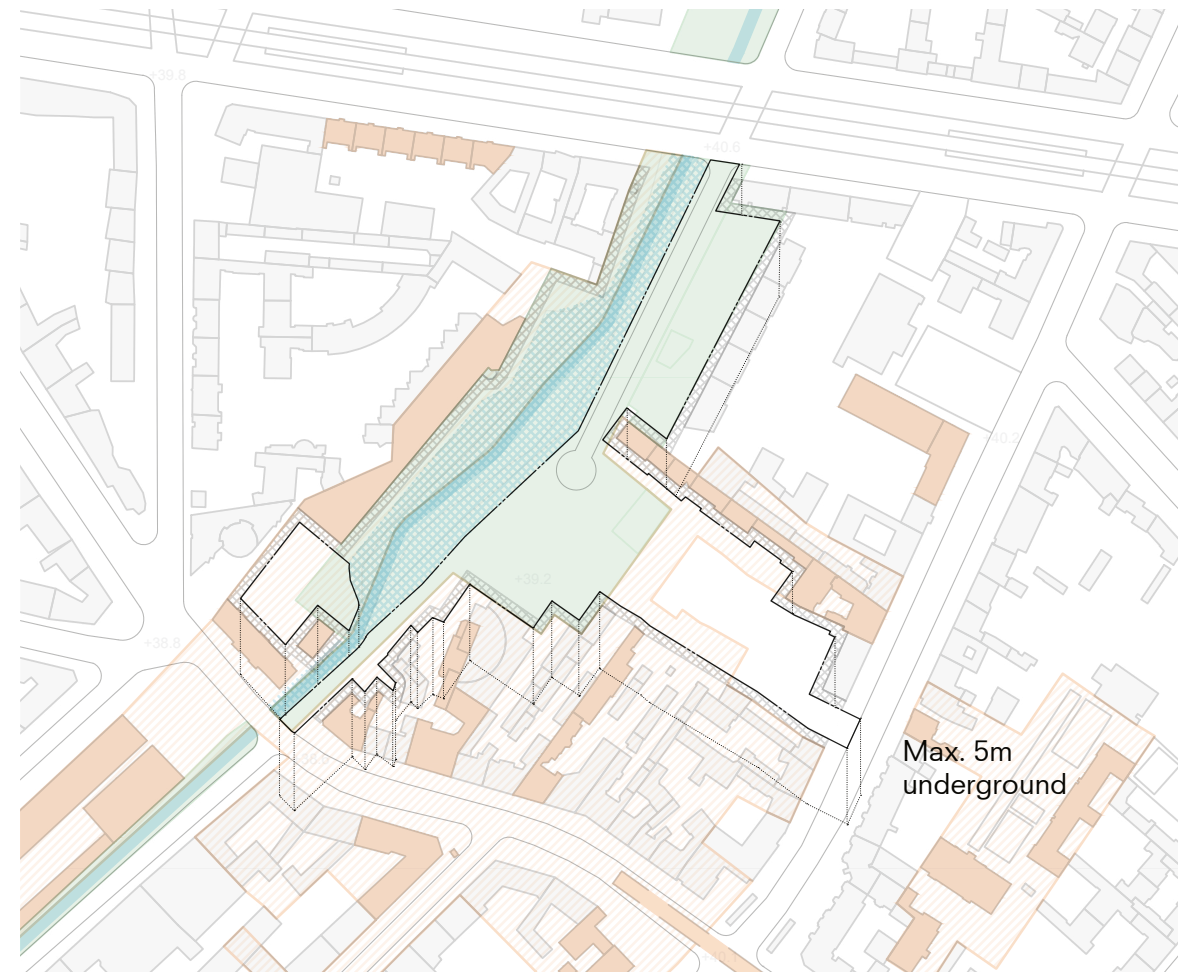


Figure 35
Underground Extent

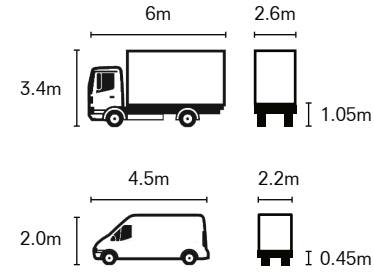
Source: Author; Reference Projects from Dominique Perrault Architecture, DDB, Chestnutt_Niess Architekten

Plot

Zoning

In terms of sound, the centre of the block provides a haven within the busy roads, and this sonic relationship should be maintained as much as possible.

In terms of logistics for the market, two logistics access points have been identified based on the manoeuvring space required for city vehicles & delivery vans.



Logistics Zone

For vehicles accommodating
FAO Combined Urban Market
with 10-15 tons/m² annual
throughput.

Manoeuvre space calculation:
 $2 \times (\text{vehicle length}) + 2\text{m}$

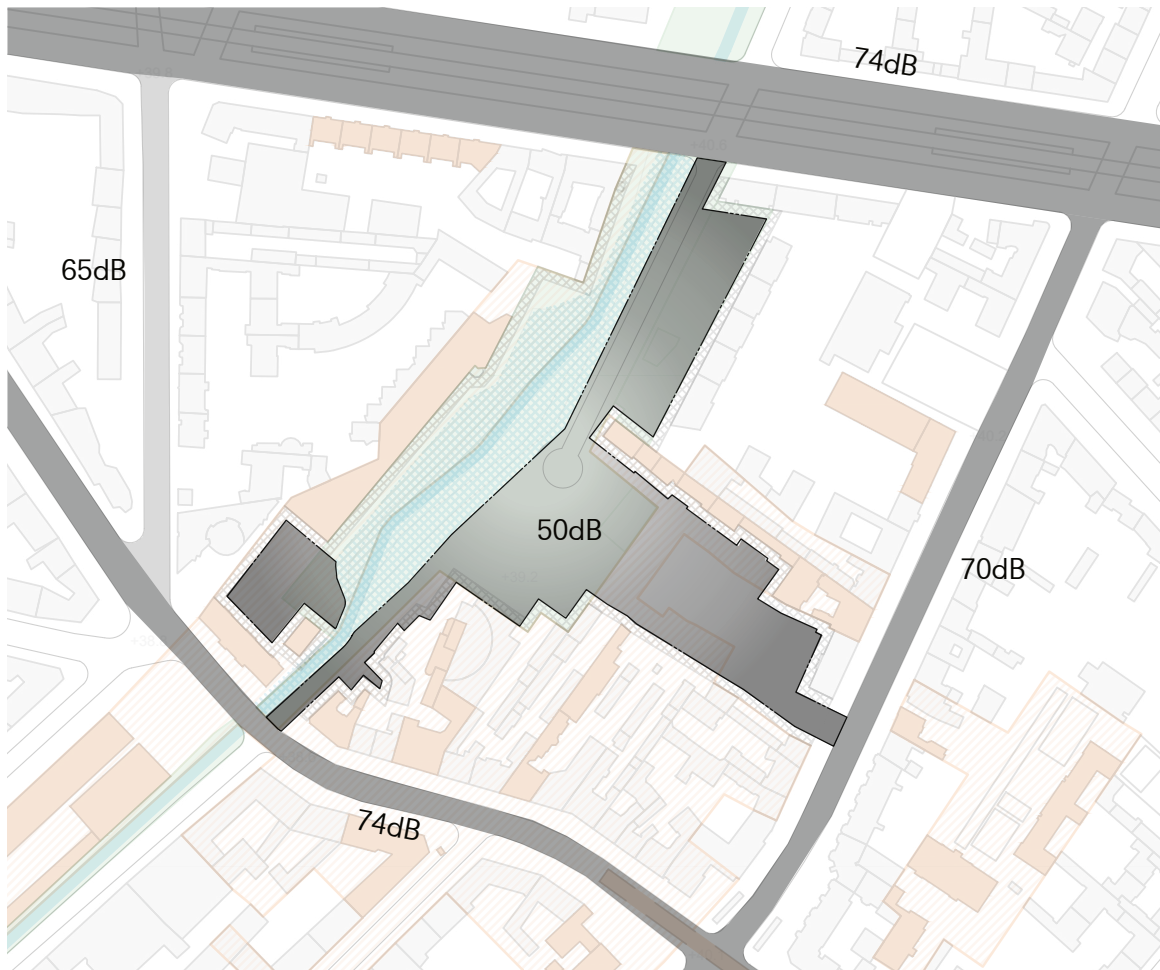


Figure 36
Sonic Zones
Source: Author

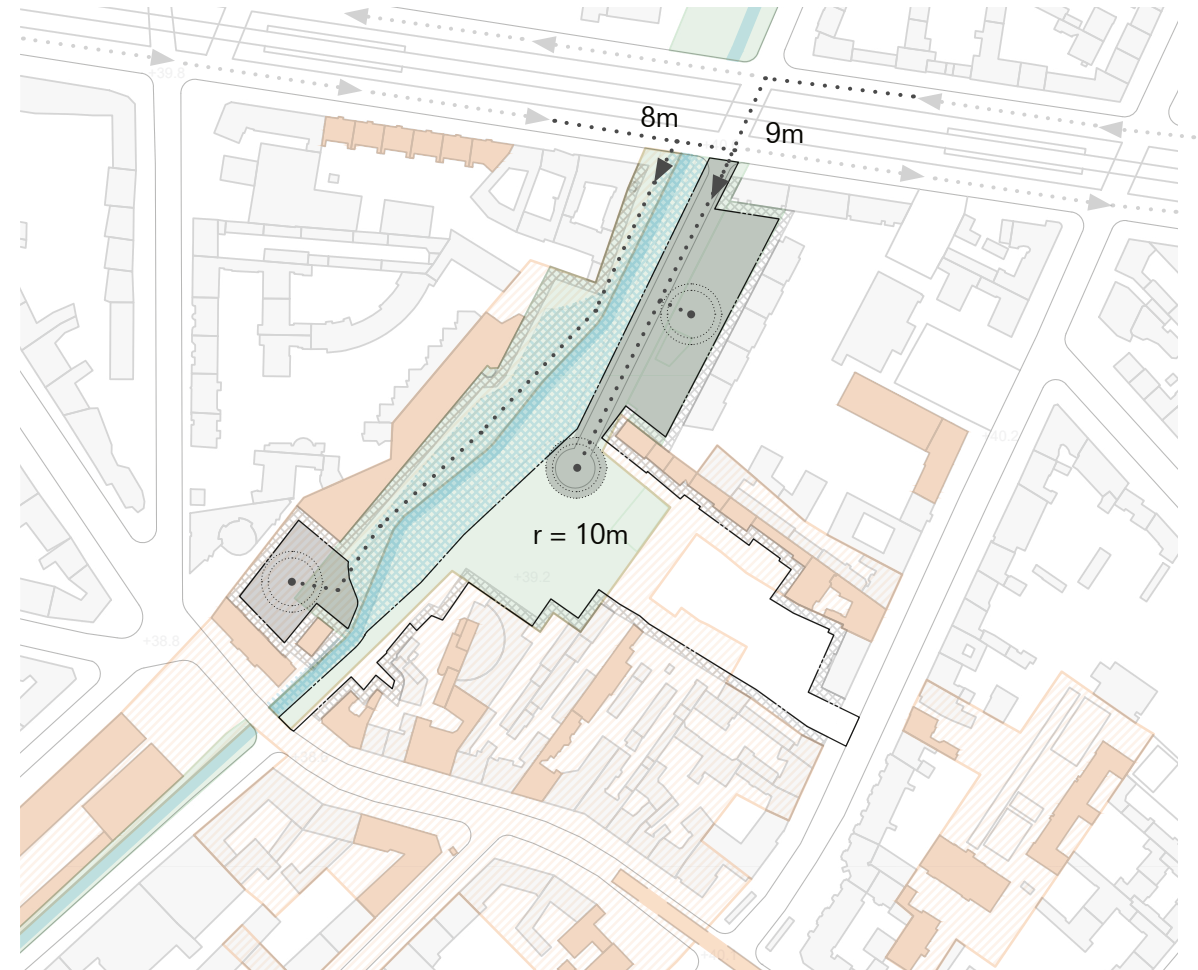


Figure 37
Logistics Zones
Source: Author

Site

Building

The plot was tested using a reference module derived from an inventory of programs, which was extracted from case studies.

In relation to the project ambitions, certain formal characteristics are desired at the urban scale. Evaluating each of these by site coverage, visibility, and expansion potential, a score is given, with additional weighting from the main ambition.

From these optioneering studies, it is suggested that a massing strategy with primarily a link/landscape character as a base, added with landmark elements as necessary, may be ideal.

PROJECT GFA: 15 500 M²

Buildable Area = 22400m²
(Block FSI = 1.0 to 2.0)

MINIMUM FSI: 0.7 **MAXIMUM COVERAGE: 70%**

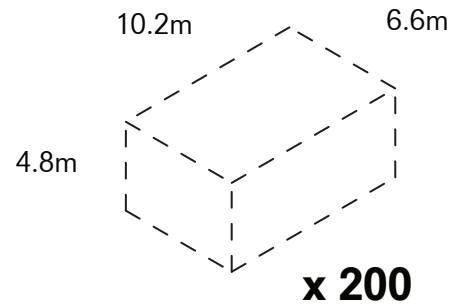


Figure 38
Reference Module
Source: Author

DESIGN BRIEF

Ambitions	a host & disseminator of diverse media	an upgraded futureproof district centre	a social connector to facilitate integration
	Landmark	Link	Landscape
Site Coverage			
	5% 1075m ²	27% 5985m ²	58% 12800m ²
Visibility			
Expansion			
Score	■■■■■■■■ 6	■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■ 9	■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■ 9

Figure 39
Massing Tests
Source: Author

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