Place Attachment in Heritage Renovation

Case Study: Esta ção Neighborhood in Faro City

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Research plan for MSc Architecture

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CONTENT

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE SURVEY
(GROUP WORK/ EXCERPT)

Fig 1-1 the cultural survey define the scope of Esta ção more than just Companhia Industrial and the dwelling block along Horta da Carreira, but also the surrounding area with similar building typology and Ria Formosa on the other side of the train track

The cultural significance group paper aims to (re)find the values of nature to enhance people's emotional attachment to Esta ção neighborhood, Faro. The research question is: How can the values on nature of different generations influence the emotional attachment to Esta ção, Faro and support the redesign of a vacant building?

The research will focus on the Esta ção neighborhood due to its complexity and potential for development. In 1889, the train's arrival drove the urban development around Station Square as the starting point for the neighborhood of Esta ção. Despite foreseeing the industrial factory, which became a landmark building later, most housing buildings were built around 1925. Nowadays, two major urban renewal initiatives are taking place in the neighborhood. On the one hand, the Municipality of Faro developed a rehabilitation program for the city with a concentration on its waterfront, which includes Esta ção. On the other hand, there is also a plan to demolish the entire industrial block for high-rise dwelling buildings. Therefore, the research defines three main problems for the neighborhood Esta ção: 1. Lack of connection with nature 2. Loss of place attachment in rapid urban renovation 3. Co-living of different age groups in the future.

In order to answer the main question from different perspectives, the research is divided into four topics as vacant buildings, the value of nature, place attachment, and nature attachment. Different age groups are the stakeholders of the research. As the sub-research for the third topic, this research paper will focus on the keyword "place attachment" and figure out how the "place" of place attachment means differently to different generations living or working in Esta ção.
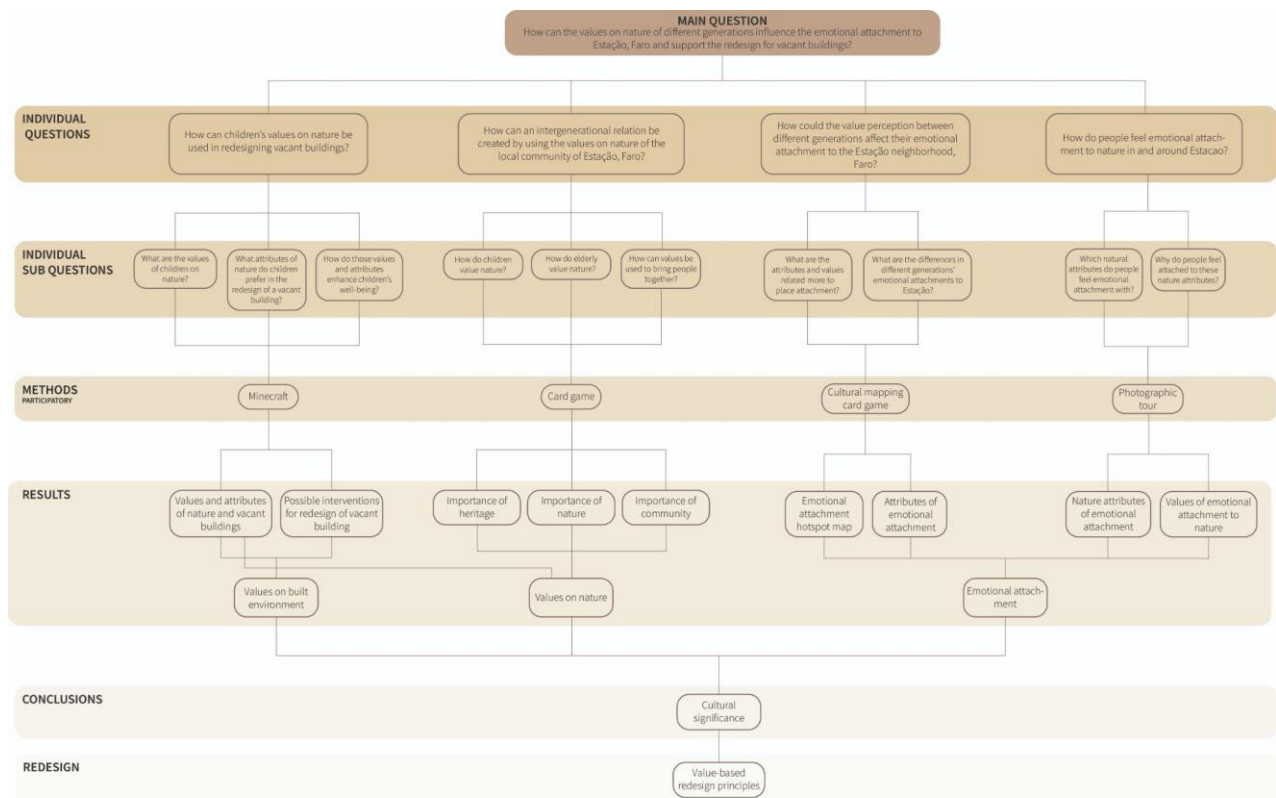

Fig 1-2 the diagram of group work questions and methods

As for the research methods, the group research will focus on Gaming as a participatory method that enables co-creation in cultural mapping or redesigning the urban landscape. By engaging the local community in research about values and the redesign process, both architects and citizens can learn about the importance of the living environment and be part of the design process. Eventually, there will be three games organized in the workshop: the first game is a card game based on the method of cultural mapping; the second game is based on the video and card game Reigns; the third game is in the video game Minecraft. For the research of place attachment, the following paper will further clarify the cultural mapping card game in the method chapter.

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Personal Fascination

As a positive bond connecting people with the physical and social settings of a place, place attachment support people's identity with the living environment and provides other psychological benefits (Brown, 2003), such as a positive place image or self-image (Chiara & Norma, 2010). Although there are occasional irrational effects, such as high levels of attachment making residents less aware of the natural risk (Rita, Susana, Saul & Óscar, 2017), place attachment is generally recognized as a positive emotional bond. When it is related to heritage, the attributes and values of heritage could be very strong factors for place attachment, but the question for getting them would be slightly different as "what matters to this place" for heritage and "what matters to me" for place attachment.

When people refer to where they live or work, what do they mean by "neighborhood" and what is meant by "place" when we acknowledge "place attachment"? What exactly are the heritage values, cultural resources, or physical environment that make people feel part of the place? What belongs here, what fits in the place, what makes it unique? I'm personally fascinated by these questions and I think they are also crucial for heritage redesign.

1.2 Problem Statement

Nowadays, intense reflection on place attachment in Estação is aroused with the rapid urban renovation. Take the ongoing project of demolishing the industrial heritage and replacing it with high-rise dwelling buildings for example, on the one hand, such rapid renovation on the block with conspicuous volume and historical value might negatively affect the legibility and place attachment for the community. On the other hand, significant transformations of the urban realm might also strengthen residents' relationships with places when the changes are perceived as attractive upgrading and as still familiar environments. (Timo, Adrienne, Corinne, Michael, 2016)

Fig 2-1 the comparison between the currently demolished factory and the high-rise dwelling project

1.3 Research Question

In order to facilitate the collaborative fieldwork workshop, this paper will focus on three different age groups: teenagers, adults, and the elderly. According to the different attachment degrees of participants in previous studies with different genders, levels of education, age, length of residence, and occupation (Chiara & Norma, 2010), therefore the place attachment between different generations will be worth exploring and comparing. Besides, Peter Laslett's theory (1991) about age groups suggests the differences in life status (immaturity - work-life - frailty) and degree of independence (dependency - responsibility - dependency) among the three groups of stakeholders, which are very likely to lead to the differences in attachment objects and the scope of the psychological neighborhood.

"Teenagers do not have adults' experience of working in the factory or the elderly's memory of factory history, are they still agree that the factory is a part of their neighborhood?" "In comparison to adults, the elderly and teenagers relies more on social network because of the dependency characteristic in their community life, does this mean the attachment to the physical environment is less important to them?" A series of similar place attachment questions need consideration in heritage renovation. Therefore, the research raises the following questions:

How could the value perception between different generations affect their place attachment to the Esta ção neighborhood, Faro?
1) What are the attributes and values related more to place attachment？
2) What are the differences in different generations' emotional attachments to Estação?
3) How could the value overlap of different generations help to enhance place attachment to the Esta ção neighborhood in heritage renovation?

RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

2.1 Theory and Hypothesis

What does the "place" of place attachment mean? A number of different models have been proposed in previous studies to clarify the definition and content of "place": (a) a particular position, location, or area in space. This is a general definition based on geographic logic, mainly reflected in the discussions about geographic scale (Cuba & Hummon, 1993), boundary (Tapsuwan, 2011), and home range (Powell & Mitchell, 2012). (b) According to the person–process–place (PPP) framework, the place dimension of place attachment is influenced by social and physical factors. (Kim and Rachel, 2004) The social settings include social arena and social symbol, the physical settings include built environments and natural environments. (c) Some place theorists identify three essential components for creating "place" as activities, physical attributes and conceptions. (Canter, 1997) (d) The meaning-mediated model of place attachment (Stedman, 2003) proposes that individuals do not become directly attached to the physical features of a place, but rather to the meaning that those features represent.
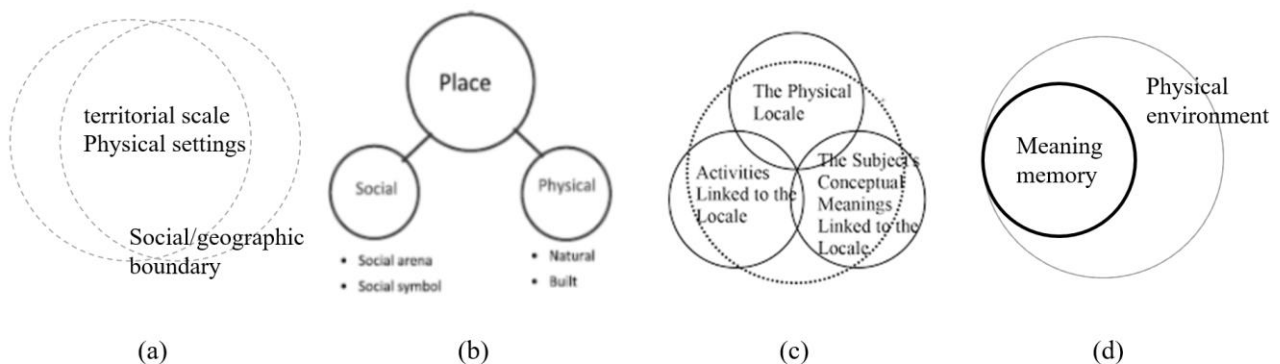

Fig 3-1 four typical models for the place dimension of place attachment

Based on the literature review, we could assume that the "place" is a spatial or psychological scope that can be described in a similar geographical manner, which includes three factors to which people can directly feel attached: physical settings, activities with people, and meanings. From the perspective of heritage, these factors are attributes (what is heritage) and the connections between people and place appear as place attachment when the values (why is it heritage) work. According to the extended attribute typology of Veldpaus (2015), physical setting belongs to tangible attributes, social network and meaning belong to intangible attributes. Besides, further discussion about value will be supported by Pereira Roders and Tarrafa Silva's research on cultural values assessment (2012), which clarifies eight types of values as ecological, age, scientific, aesthetical, historic, political, economic, and social ones.
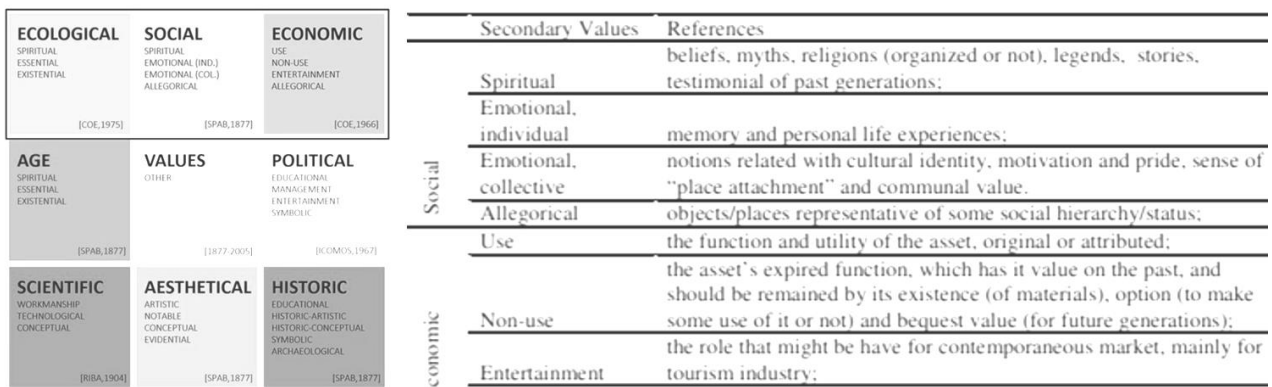
Fig 3-2 Pereira Roders and Tarrafa Silva's value types diagram and references

Some hypotheses can be set based on the theoretical background and analysis:

1) The social value in primary values and the emotional, symbolic, conceptual, spiritual values in secondary values might be more relevant to place attachment.

2) The adults and elderly might notice more values around the neighborhood and develop more personal meanings about them.

3) The elderly and teenagers might generate more place attachment to social networks because of the dependency characteristic in their community life.

2.3 Model and Keywords

After the literature review, the research has formed a conceptual model for place attachment with related definitions. It is worth noting that the interconnections between physical settings, social networks, and meanings may suggest more observable values with different importance.
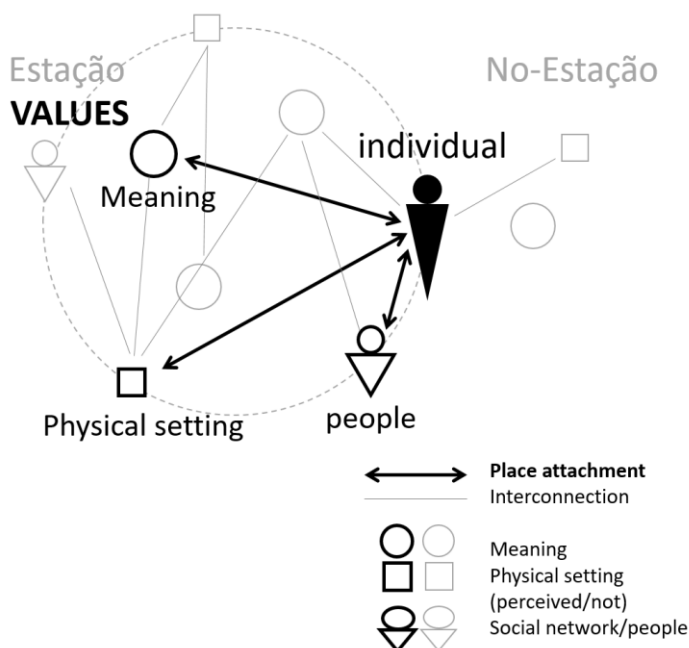
Place attachment: a bond between an individual or group and a place that can vary in terms of spatial level, degree of specificity, and social or physical features of the place, and is manifested through affective, cognitive, and behavioral psychological processes.

Place: a psychological environment as the collection of physical environments, personal meanings, and social network

Value：the importance or worth of something for someone, which is used in heritage to assess significance and prioritize resources

Taking a daily life situation as an example, a resident might like using a bar space for entertainment activities with friends, defining it as his or her place of escape and feeling attached to it. Although the scene keeps the same, the attribute people feel most important or feel directly attached to has different possibilities as "place of escape", "bar space", or "friend circle". They imply that the values of architectural heritage contribute to place attachment through different approaches. When stakeholders express "place of escape" and "bar space" preferentially, the emotional and social values of heritage directly lead to the generation of place attachment. When stakeholders express "friend circle" preferentially, the spatial quality and value of the building to support leisure activities is only one of the secondary reasons for place attachment.
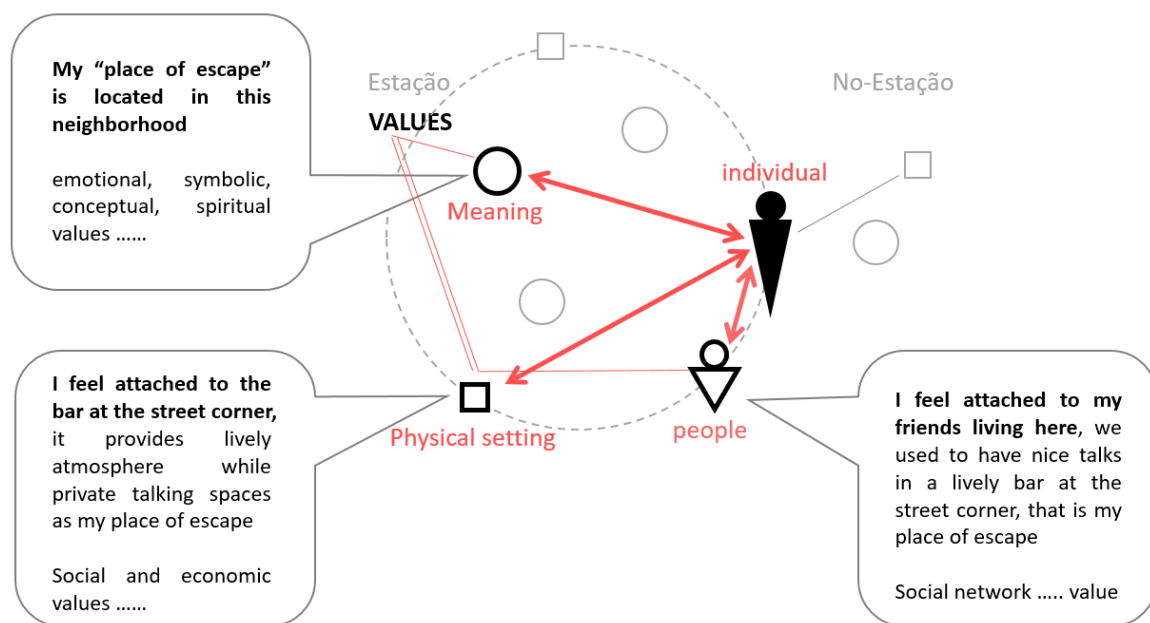
2.3 Methods

The value and attachment information will be gathered through the method of Cultural mapping card game. The first step of research is a general context study about possible physical settings, activities with people, and meanings in the neighborhood Estacio. The result will be compared with the lists in previous studies that are more likely to be relevant to place attachment. The information will be gathered through self-observation, the primary sources about the neighborhood, and orality with locals. As a result, the study will create three lists of possible attributes that are more specific and accurate for the locals to feel direct emotional attachments to.

During the workshop, these attributes will be color-divided by physical setting, activity-social network, and meaning on one-third sized card fragments. The game will invite participants to choose any number of initial fragments that are "important to my living in the Estação neighborhood" or "I feel an emotional attachment to". They will then choose one piece from each

of the other two color card pools (or write down extra reasons) that can support the attached object, thus forming a group of completed cards for themselves. The purpose of the game is to remind participants' emotional attachment as comprehensively as possible and provide useful sentences for value coding at the same time, because each card will fully explain the location, meaning, activity, and people involved when place attachment occurs.

Physical setting	Activity-people	Meaning
The train station	Relax with family	"Home"
The factory	Work with colleague	"where I grew"
The tower of factory	Leisure activity with friends	"where to get money"
The natonal park	Cultural events with public	"place of escape"
The Bombarada street	Active sports with ...	A memory place
The 19th century houses	Nature or urban viewing with ...	A beautiful place
The facade 19th century houses	Passing by	Symbol of culture
The public space or a bar	Dazing in the sun	Symbol of history
......	......	......

The [place] is important or useful for me

I could do [activity] with [people] here
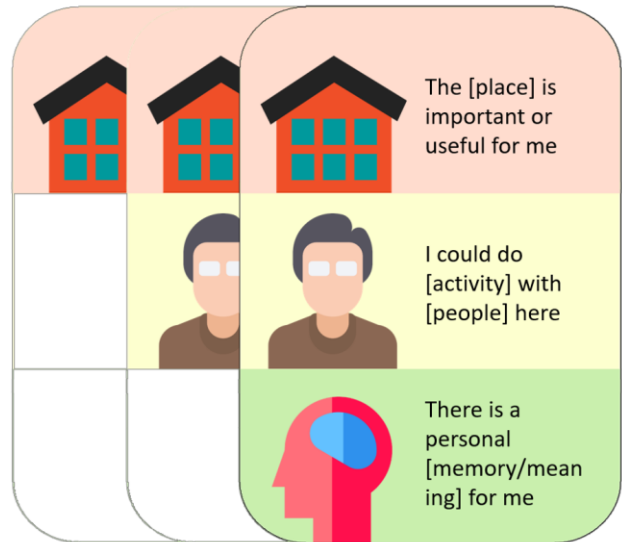
There is a personal [memory/meaning] for me

Fig 3-3 draft lists of physical settings, activities, meanings and the operation to from a place attachment card

After completing the cards, participants will get the same number of mapping locations as the completed cards and a certain number of semi-transparent cards for putting on the neighborhood map. The number of semi-transparent cards they get will depend on their results of answering five additional questions, such as "whether I feel the neighborhood of Esta ção is part of my life", to measure their level of place attachment. Based on the geographic center and self-decided overlapping of semi-transparent cards to form hotspots, participants can complete "My Neighborhood Esta ção" on the map, as the expected outcome of cultural mapping.

The neighborhood environment can bring more convenience to my life

I like to get involved in Estação neighborhood's activities

I feel the neighborhood of Estação is part of my life

I love the neighborhood of Estação

I don't want to move/ changing current working place

☐Yes[+5]　☐neutral [+3]　☐No[+1]
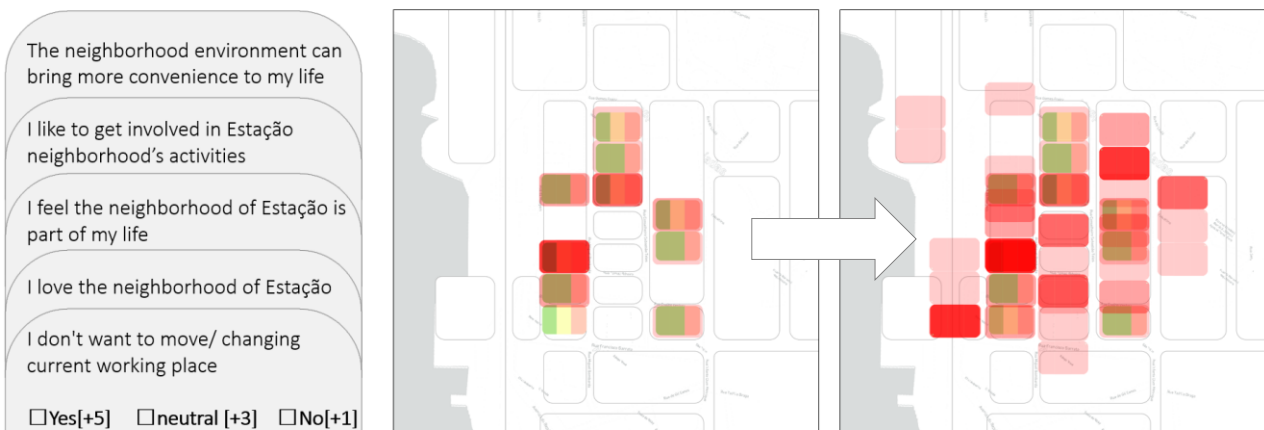
Fig 3-4 questions for measuring place attachment, the operation to form the attachment hotspot map, overlapping of the same group of stakeholders' map to define their "neighborhood Esta ção"

This part of the workshop can provide two groups of expected results: the first result is the different values with their frequency for different generations from the place attachment cards' value coding; the second result is the place-attachment hotspot map with the information about primary attachment attributes. Through the comparison between three groups of different stakeholders and the correlational study between values and place attachment, the research will be able to answer the research question.

Fig 3-5 design of neighborhood map for cultural mapping

RESEARCH TO DESIGN

Fig 4-1 Granby Winter Garden project from Assemble studio

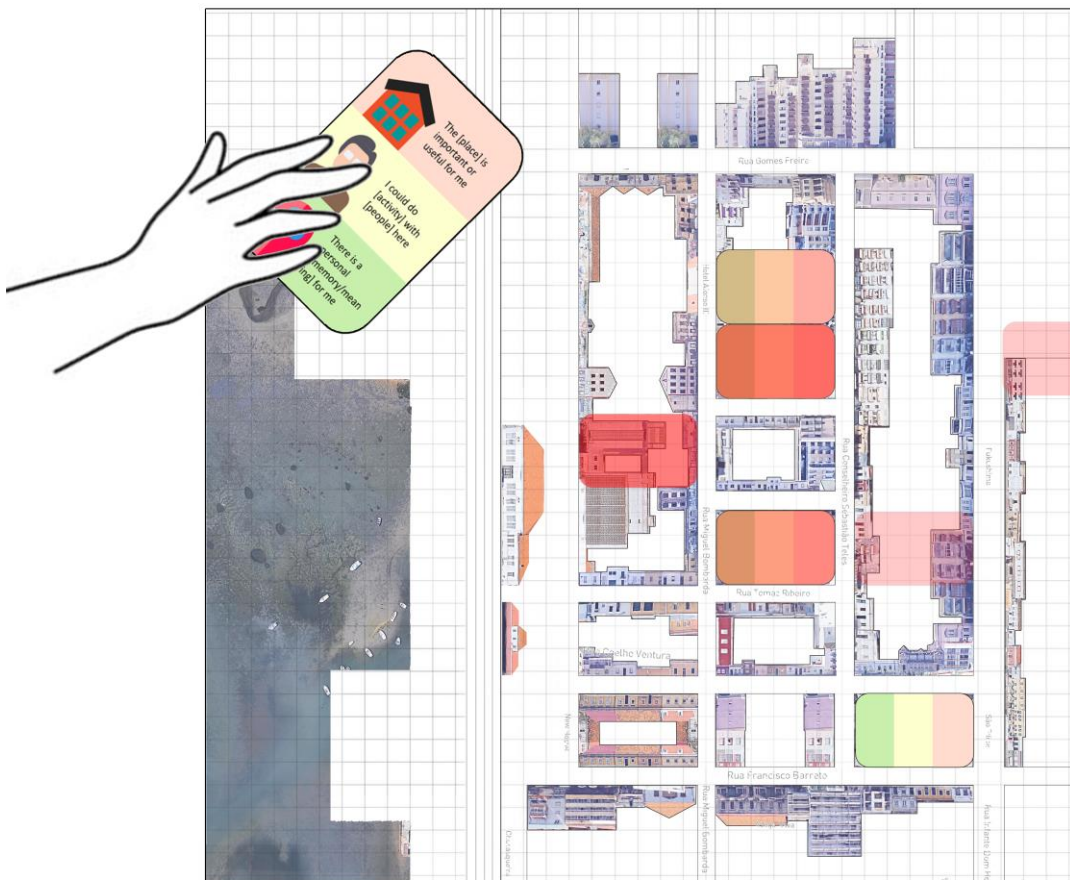After the research, the graduation project will further develop the concept of place attachment to support a value-based heritage redesign that can enhance the sense of place. By comparing the cultural maps and value perceptions of people with different degrees of attachment, the projects can get certain design principles for enhancing place attachment. As for the site, the design proposal tends to choose a part of the abandoned factory or one of the vacant historic dwelling buildings along Bombarada Street in the Estação neighborhood with further heritage impact assessment.

The current reference is the winter garden renovation project from Assemble studio, which well promotes residents' place attachment to the neighborhood. From the perspective of social value, this design provides a warm environment for community activities. This decision enhances residents' attachment to public activities and social networks. From the perspective of aesthetics and historical value, the design maintains the continuity of the street façade and the legibility of the spatial characteristics, therefore maintaining residents' place attachment to the conception of style and historical significance. From the perspective of ecological value, this case introduces natural factors which are lacking in the community, helping to create the residents' place attachment to a different kind of physical setting.

DIAGRAM

Research plan

Place attachment — Heritage value

Faro, Portugal

Neighborhood Estação

Literature study

Space model

Stakeholders intergeneration

Context study

Research question: How could the value perception between different generations affect their place attachment to Estação?

Fieldwork

Data gathering

Cultural mapping method

Questionnaire method

Personal observation

attributes & attachment level

Value coding method

Redesign heritage choice

place-attachment hotspot map

relevant values with frequency

Data analysis

Comparison study

Building measurement

Different generations

Higher vs lower place-attachment community

+ Other group surveys

Cultural significance survey paper

Design proposal

Design question: How could the value of heritage be used to influence residents' place attachment in redesign project?

Place attachment design principles

Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA)

Technology study

Technology question: How to integrate social & ecological strategies for enhancing place attachment in a heritage redesign?

Value-based heritage redesign proposal

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APPENDIX

(a) Ethics review checklist (excerpt)

For the purposes of studying local community's place attachment, this research will be surveying 60 anonymous participants (20 teenagers, 20 adults, 20 elderly) through public space or street interview. The survey will explore the attributes people feel emotional attached to through questionnaire and cultural mapping activity. The research is funded internally and there are no research partners.

ISSUE	RISK ASSESSMENT – what risks could arise?	MITIGATION PLAN – what mitigating steps will you take?
A: Partners and collaboration		
B: Location		
4. Will the research take place in a country or countries, other than the Netherlands, within the EU?	This research will be applied in Faro city of Portugal, where local government might bring different legislative requirements. The research might need to apply for formal ethics approval locally or local authorization.	The research team has both experienced and local expertise on this project. This project will be assisted by colleagues who have been working here for a long time and the volunteers from Algarve University.
C: Participants		
7. Will the study involve participants who **may** be vulnerable and possibly (legally) unable to give informed consent?	Because the group of teenagers is one of the stakeholders for this research, this study might involve people below the age of 18 years who cannot legally give IC.	The field survey will tend to interview teenagers who are over the legal age (eg, college students aged 18-24 who have not yet had an independent financial life). If the research involves workshops in schools and childern are involved, we will provide their parents/legal guardians with a detailed Informed consent form.
D: Recruiting Participants		
E: Subject Matter		
19. Will the study involve discussion of personal sensitive data which could put participants at increased legal, financial, reputational, security or other risk? (e.g., financial data, location data, data relating to children or other vulnerable groups)	During the second step of marking "Personally Important Places" on the map in the survey, participants may mark the approximate location of their place of work or residence. Location data may pose a potential risk to participant security.	Cultural mapping activity do not collect precise residential address information. Participants have the right and will be informed that they could provide no information related to private locations if they want.
F: Research Methods		
28. Will your research involve face-to-face encounters with your participants and if so how will you assess and address Covid considerations?	The research involve face-to-face encounters with participants. There is the risk that researchers carry the Coronavirus or participants share interviewing equipment with other positive participants.	The researchers will conduct corona tests, wear masks, and disinfect experimental tools. The survey will ask interviewers about their health condition and provide free masks and sanitizing facilities.
G: Data Processing and Privacy		
30. Will the research involve collecting, processing and/or storing any directly identifiable PII including name or email address that will be used for administrative purposes only?	Personally Identifiable Information (PII) (used for administrative purposes) about name will have to be collected through informed consent form.	The informed / explicit consent will be documented, participant can revoke consent and demonstrate that revocation can be executed in practice. The research will process as little personal data as possible.
33. Will your research findings be published in one or more forms in the public domain, as e.g., Masters thesis, journal publication, conference presentation or wider public dissemination?	The research findings will be published in Masters thesis and education presentation.	Published content only includes collective research analysis and will not contain any personal information. Any PII will not be shared with anyone outside the research team.

(b) Informed consent form

Dear sir or madam,

You are being invited to participate in a research study titled "My Estação - mapping personal Neighborhood". This study is being done by Tao Qiyang, Sara Szulc, Willem Elskamp, Marloes Drijver, Ana Pereira Roders, Bruno Amaral de Andrade, and Ana Tarrafa Silva from the heritage and values architectural studio, Delft University of Technology, supported by Faro municipality.

The purpose of this research study is to find local communities' attachment attributes and the scope of their neighborhood, in order to study the place attachment situation of Estação to support the neighborhood renovation. It will take you approximately 20 minutes to complete. The data will only be used for education and academic publication in a collective manner. We will ask you to participate in a card game, make your own cards to find the things in the neighborhood that you feel attached to, and use the cards in cultural mapping to see the scope of your psychological neighborhood.

As with any other research activity, the risk of a breach is always possible. To the best of our ability, your answers in this study will remain confidential. This research is completely anonymous, collecting very few personal data (your age range and approximate location of living place). We will minimize any risks by safely storing the personally identifiable information in both the research and the Informed Consent form.

Please notice that your participation in this study is entirely voluntary and you can withdraw at any time. You are free to omit any questions. Contact details for the corresponding and Responsible Researcher are as follow. Name: Tao Qiyang, Phone number: +316 8408 0351, Email address: Q.Tao-1@student.tudelft.nl.

PLEASE TICK THE APPROPRIATE BOXES	Yes
A: GENERAL AGREEMENT – RESEARCH GOALS, PARTICPANT TASKS AND VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION	
1. I have read and understood the study information dated April 202, or it has been read to me. I have been able to ask questions about the study and my questions have been answered to my satisfaction.	☐
2. I consent voluntarily to be a participant in this study and understand that I can refuse to answer questions and I can withdraw from the study at any time, without having to give a reason.	☐
3. I understand that taking part in the study involves: selecting options from the attribute lists that research provides, writing notes about selecting reasons, answering several questionnaire questions, putting selected attributes on the map.	☐
4. I understand that I will be compensated for my participation by a little gift.	☐
5. I understand that the study will finish in around 20 minutes.	☐

PLEASE TICK THE APPROPRIATE BOXES	Yes
B: POTENTIAL RISKS OF PARTICIPATING (INCLUDING DATA PROTECTION)	
6. I understand that taking part in the study involves the Covid risks in face-to-face survey. I understand that these will be mitigated by disinfection apparatus provided by the researcher and my ability to ask for the experiment to stop at any point.	☐
7. I understand that taking part in the study also involves collecting specific personally identifiable information (PII) about name and associated personally identifiable research data (PIRD) about living place with the potential risk of my identity about security being revealed.	☐
8. I understand that some of this PIRD is considered as sensitive data within GDPR legislation, specifically location data. I could withdraw this part of information during the survey.	☐
9. I understand that the anonymous data collection and secure data storage will be taken to minimise the threat of a data breach, and protect my identity in the event of such a breach.	☐
10. I understand that personal information collected about me that can identify me, such as where I live, will not be shared beyond the study team.	☐
11. I understand that the (identifiable) personal data I provide will be destroyed within one year.	☐
C: RESEARCH PUBLICATION, DISSEMINATION AND APPLICATION	
12. I understand that after the research study the de-identified information I provide will be used for reports, publications, and project decision-making in education.	☐
13. I agree that my responses, views or other input can be quoted anonymously in research outputs	☐

Signatures

_____   _____   _____
Name of participant   Signature   Date

I, as researcher, have accurately read out the information sheet to the potential participant and, to the best of my ability, ensured that the participant understands to what they are freely consenting.

_____   _____   _____
Researcher name   Signature   Date