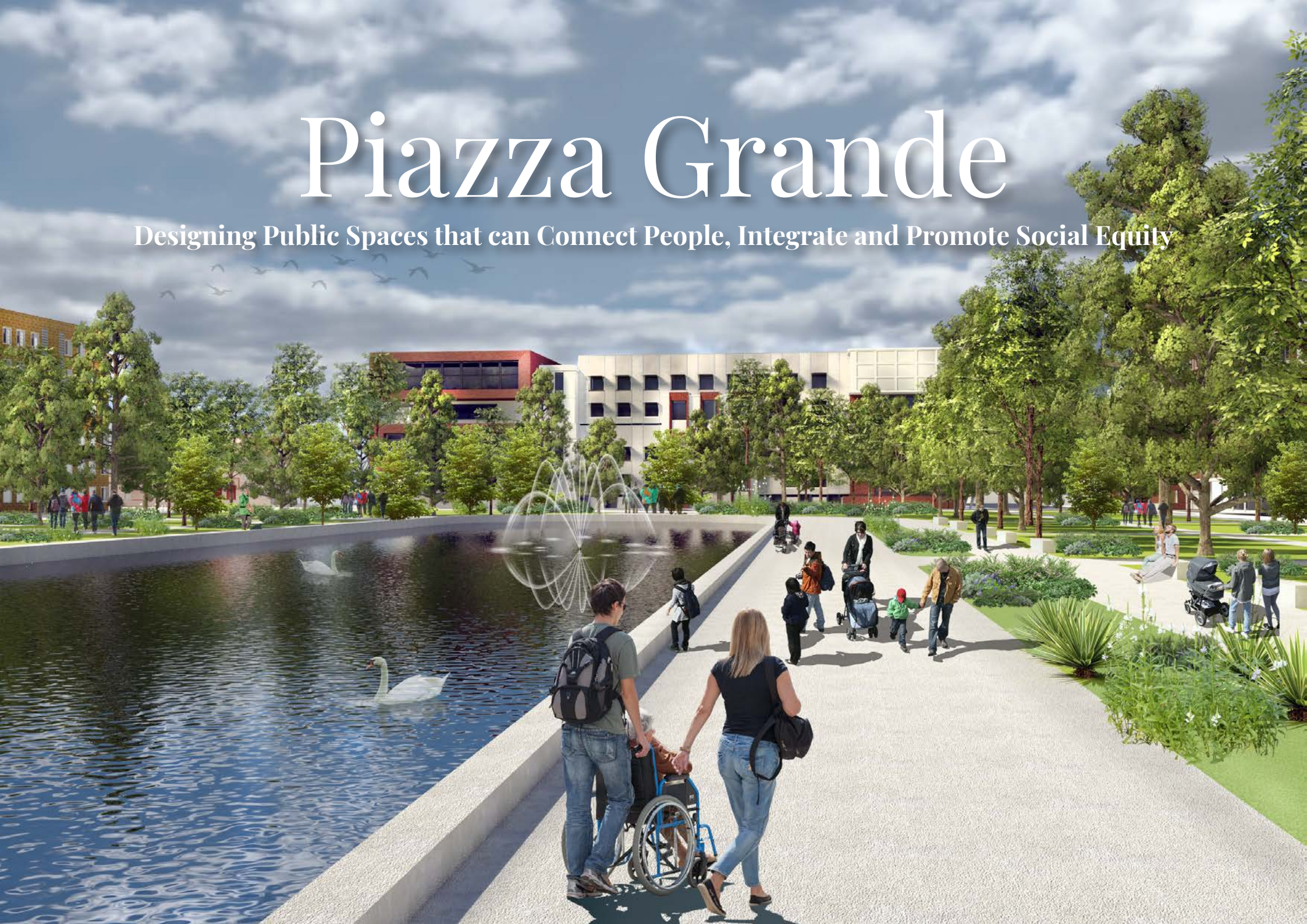


Piazza Grande

Designing Public Spaces that can Connect People, Integrate and Promote Social Equity



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Designing Public Spaces that can Connect People, Integrate and Promote Social Equity

Master Thesis Report

Sustainable Urban Design
School of Architecture, Lund University
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I also want to thank Andrea Arcidiacono, Professor of Urban Design at Politecnico di Milano, for introducing me to the urban context of Milano and also for providing the information and material to develop this project.

To C.P.I.A Milano and its coordinator, Teresa Arena, for being extremely kind and helpful to allow me in your classroom. Talking with almost 100 foreign students was the core of this project, and It could not be done without your help.

Finally, I want to thank SUDes people who helped and inspired me during these two years and allowing me to reach this degree; Lykke, Andreas, Peter, Fiona, Henrik, and many others; thank you all. And to all my classmates who also taught me and inspired me, I am very grateful.

I dedicate this work

To my Family,
for giving me all the love, a strong foundation,
and a belief in education. I will be forever grateful
for you.

To Life,
for always surprising me.

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Introduction



Piazza Delle Erbe, Turin.
Giovanni Michele Granieri
1756

“Una famiglia vera e propria non ce l’ho
e la mia casa è **Piazza Grande**,
a chi mi crede prendo amore e amore do,
quanto ne ho.”

DALLA, 1972.

For Italians, the “piazza”, the square, is not just the architectural space that characterizes cities and villages but an open air, urban living room, utmost expression of Italy’s identity. It is the pivot of each Italian town where history, architecture, and social relations become one. The piazza means belonging to a society and it means daily life.

“The piazza has a meaning that goes well beyond the description one will find on a dictionary. The piazza means that even the most lonely person can find someone to talk with. It means that, without spending a single cent in a restaurant or a movie theatre, he/she can have hours of social life, can feel a sense of belonging, can learn about births, deaths, marriages and can finally go home without that terrible feeling of estrangement which is typical of other cultures.”

POLIZZI, 2019.

Although its history, the piazzas reflected society’s values, culture, and challenges. Besides that, it often presented activities that created and strengthen social ties among its citizens.

Today Italian cities face a new social situation, that should be concerned while developing cities and urban spaces. And the Piazza, with its strong heritage value, should still be a place to connect people.

Context



Immigration in Italy

In the years of the 2010s, many countries worldwide experienced a significant inflow of thousands of migrants. This migratory flow happened mostly due to wars, conflicts, hunger, religious intolerance, terrible climate changes, human rights violations, hopelessness, and other problems.

As a result of this migrant flow, Italy became the 5th country in Europe to receive more immigrants. Today, 6 million immigrants are estimated to be living in Italy; this number represents 10% of the current country's population.

Milan

In Italy, the city of Milan has the highest concentration of newcomers. Today the migrant population represents 19% the city's population; this number is expected to rise in 30% by 2036 when the migration population will represent 22% of Milan's population.

This rise is an indicator of Milan's attractiveness – the more magnetic a metropolis, the higher number of newcomers. Numbers: 270.000 immigrants in Milan (30.000 of them are from the EU, and 240.000 are from outside the EU, which makes almost 90%).

From: 40% are from Asia, 22% from Africa and 18% from Central and South America, 10% EU, and 10% other places. Social Status: 92% of them come from developing countries, most of them have middle-low levels of Education.

Why Milan: Employment and Education opportunities are the most significant drivers. Family reunification in Milan also represents the choice of Milan.

Challenges

Although there is not strong social friction or physical segregation between natives and newcomers, social inequity is quite visible in the city.

Comparing social conditions between newcomers and native-born, 53% of extra-EU nationals work in manual and unqualified jobs, and only 9% of them work in management positions. For native-born Italians, 1,9% is working in low skilled jobs while 82,9% works in high skilled jobs.

As a result, newcomers receive significantly less income and work more hours than the national average, creating social and economic despair in society.

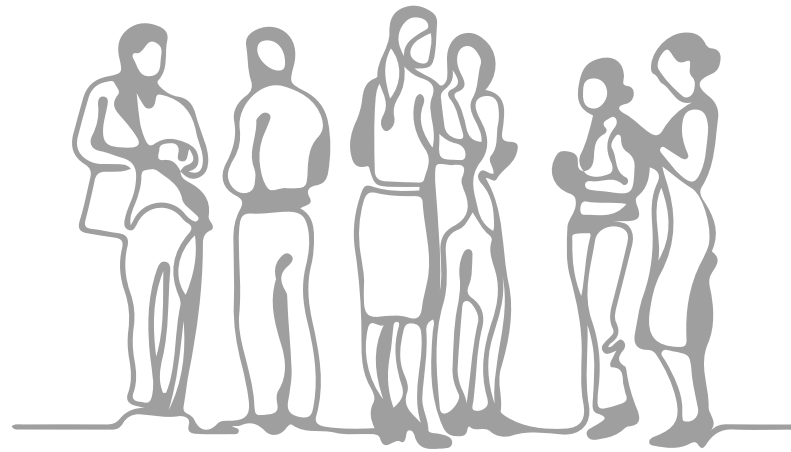


Therefore, this project aims to create work and educational opportunities to promote an equal lifestyle between newcomers and native-born.

Additionally, this project intends to increase social capital and develop a strong and resilient community by creating multiple social opportunities where new citizens and locals feel united.



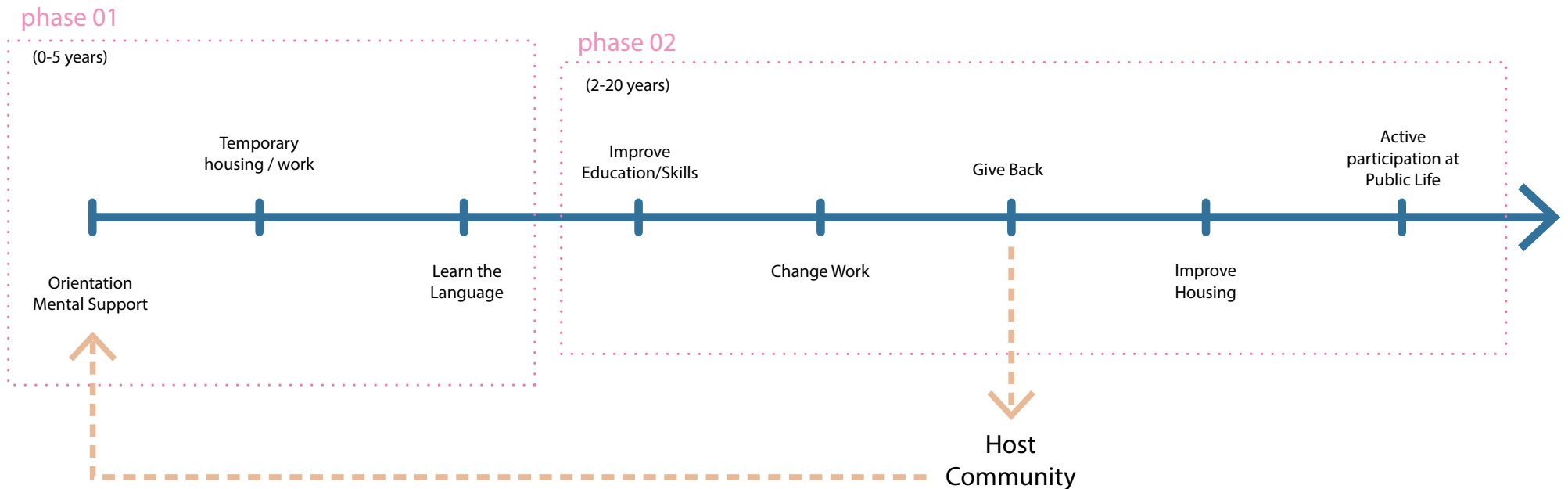
Integration Dimensions



Integration Dimensions

One of the biggest challenges many countries are facing today is to avoid social segregation and to create inclusive cities.

Looking deeper into this issue, the successful integration of newcomers depends on several levels or dimensions. Time, Space, and People have significant importance in the process of integration; wisely playing with these dimensions can determine the increase of social capital and foster a resilient community.



Time

According to the UN, it takes a minimum of 20 years for an immigrant to have the same work opportunities as a native-born, in other words, to be fully integrated into society.

Integration takes time, newcomer's needs and status development and tend to evolve in the process. Their housing, educational, professional, and family situations change over time.

During this process, the government and institutions must create initiatives to promote social and economic status to this specific group. Phase 2 of the Integration Timeline is crucial to develop social equity and avoid the creation of ghettos and stigmas, however, most public initiatives aim to focus often on Phase 01 problems neglecting more profound integration programs.

Space

The inclusion of migrants is sought not only thought labor insertion but also for extending the areas for their participation in the local public life. In this sense, Public Space is understood as a dimension that can connect the host community with newcomers. That can happen when Public Spaces welcome and allow multiple sorts of activities of different groups in the same space.

Designing parks, plazas, markets, civic buildings, business districts, and housing neighborhoods all in the same area is a way to bring different people together. These places have crucial importance for establishing social relationships and creating strong neighborhoods.

However, only providing public spaces in the city is not enough to create Inclusive Cities and Inclusive Communities. Today, we can see numerous established neighborhoods, such as @@@@ in Stockholm and many others, where the Public Spaces are not accessible and welcoming to all social groups.

Furthermore, when we talk regarding "accessibility," that actually involves not only physical accessibility but also, it implies providing diverse uses that can attract all kinds of people, also developing policies that can guarantee a mixed environment and, therefore, avoiding spatial segregation.

People

Connecting and engaging with people is a fundamental human need and key for our wellbeing. There are two scales of social interaction: "Strong ties," relationships with family and friends, and "Weak Ties," which happens spontaneously, face to face, and by chance, it can include a fleeting smile or a wave hello to an acquaintance.

In terms of integrations, these micro-interactions have significant importance in creating Inclusive Cities and develop a sense of belonging in the community. It provides newcomers the feeling of being acknowledged in the city and not ignored or invisible.

City design plays an essential role in providing and strengthen both types of ties. Urban designers and planners should see a single commute from home to work as an opportunity to develop those ties. In order to achieve stronger ties, it is essential to consider not only the urban form but also the building's uses, the street activities, and the human needs.

Making Multicultural Places



Making multicultural places

Placemaking, in a simple definition, is a way for design to bring people together and create strong and resilient communities. It is a form of using Public Spaces to gather people by promoting social actions where people with diverse backgrounds can participate together in the same space and activity.

Placemaking can improve the quality of the community and increase social capital. As a consequence, the active open Public Spaces - such as streets, parks, and squares - draw in additional people, benefit local businesses, and celebrate diversity.

It is necessary to notice that the most successful multicultural Public Spaces are not the ones with expensive physical design or fancy amenities. However, in fact, it is the places that can combine a pleasant Urban Form comfortable and safe for pedestrians with several social activities.

A painting activity in a public square, a community garden, and sportive activities are some of the tools that can promote placemaking. The critical aspect is making people getting to know each other and develop weak and strong ties. As a result of these interactions, communities become stronger, more tolerant, and more vibrant.

Lastly, successful multicultural environments are the ones where various groups are combined in comfortable and safe physical attributes, which can support the existence of several social circles.





Safe Urban Spaces



Attractive and well connected
Public Spaces



Multiple uses at one place



Get People Involved



Creative Placemaking



Focus on diverse types of interactions

Typologies of Public Spaces

As we saw up until now, providing attractive and active Public Spaces has a significant role in integrating and developing a strong community.

However, Public Spaces can vary in physical characteristics, scales, and functions. Therefore, when designing Public Spaces, it is vital to guarantee a diverse range of typologies that can provide an active and diverse use.

For this analysis, it was considered four typologies of public areas: The Big Square, The Neighborhood Square, The Big Green, and The Strolling Street.

Piazza del Campo, Siena.

1349.

130x70m

Context

Italy has a long history of designing squares; each piazza has a strong, unique identity that represents the image, culture, history, and character of that town or area at that time.

The open plan of the square allows flexibility in the types of activities and affordance. The slope also faces the tower providing an entertaining view.

Possibilities:

The open plan of the square provides flexibility in the types of activities that occur in the space. Public performances, summer movie nights, and other informal activities often occur in the center of the square because the downward slope of the space creates a natural amphitheater for spectators.

Urban Form:

1. **VISIBILITY:** Elements within the square, such as the tower or the open plan, can be visible from a distance. The ground floor activity of buildings entices pedestrians to move toward the square.

2. **OUTER SQUARE:** Active Business and mixed-use buildings.



Möllevångstorget, Malmo. 1906.

110x60m

Context:

One of the most popular squares and public spaces in Malmo. It is a very diverse place that attracts all residents. It is a great public space that promotes social connection with different groups of people.

Possibilities:

Big enough to place tents for the Food and flower market. The square also allows the gathering of people for political and democratic demonstrations.

Urban Form:

1. OUTER SQUARE: Although there are no attractions in the middle of the square. This place is surrounded by three active edges that significantly affect its accessibility and use, as do the buildings that surround it. An active and welcoming outer square is essential to the well-being of the inner square.

2. SIZE: Its size allows diverse use and supports a high number of people.



Plaça del la Revolució, Barcelona. 1868.

65x25m

Context:

Vila de Gràcia is a popular neighborhood in Barcelona, densely built, and very active. Its 5 small squares work as a getaway for its residents.

-Possibilities:

This typology of square works as a living room, it allows meeting with friends and neighbors. It helps to strengthen social networks, and it builds community.

-Urban Form:

1.SIZE: Face recognition occurs from a distance of about 70 to 50 meters, this way, squares in these dimensions provide a more comfortable staying and increase a sense of safeness.

2.ACCESS: This square can be easily accessible by foot: Surrounding streets are narrow; crosswalks are well marked; traffic moves slowly, and transit stops are located nearby.

3.OUTER SQUARE: Again, the outer square full of life and activities supports life in the inner square.

4.COMFORT: The square provides protection from negative sensory influences, such as sun, traffic noise, which is important for creating a pleasant and comfortable environ-



Piazza di Santa Maria, Roma.

1143.

50x40m

Context:

Across the River Tiber, Trastevere is a mix of residents and tourists but very active and bohemian.

Possibilities:

Besides people commuting or visiting. Users can seat in cafes and bars, or sit by the water fountain.

Urban Form:

1. A NODE: The a square is located at a confluence of five streets, that ensure that it is well connected to the surrounding area and is a desirable thoroughfare.

2. ATTRACTIONS: The fountains in the middle provide a focal point and the steps become an informal seating.

3.IDENTITY: The building's materials and design can provide visual complexity and entertain the sigh. These elements help create a rich, inviting, and memorable experiences.



AL-AZHAR Park, Cairo.

2005.

1.200x400m

Context:

The area was used as an open dump for a long time. Very recently, this area was transformed into a large oasis in the middle of Cairo. The impact of Al-Azhar Park on the city is very positive.

Possibilities:

1. It provides a scape from the hectic urban life of Cairo.
2. There is an affordable fee that allows creating job opportunities for locals.
3. Provides many environmental benefits: decrease heat island effect, increase biodiversity

Urban Form:

1. **ATTRACTIVE:** Water elements, Buildings, Children's play area, amphitheater, playing fields, a viewing plaza, and a historical wall promenade.
2. **NAVIGATION:** This park has a continuous public realm that goes through all different attractions and landmarks. This keeps the park active, safe, and easy to navigate.



The Big Green

Bryant Park, New York. 1991.

160x160m

Context:

This urban park in the middle of Manhattan provides a rare open space for its users.

Possibilities:

The park is a social place where friends meet, eat lunch, chat, stroll, listen to music, work on the wireless network, or simply relax.

Urban Form:

1. OUTER SQUARE: The edges of this park are formed by “reading rooms”, with trees and seating places. It protects the inner square from the hectic city.

2. INNER SQUARE: The uniform, lush, green spread of grass works as a beach, the flexible furniture allows people to use the



La Rambla, Barcelona.

1703.

1.700x25m

Context:

Strolling is an activity that is accessible to almost everyone regardless their economical and social situation.

Possibilities:

In this park people can go for a run, walk, bike, watch plays at the apartment windows, meet friends. Besides the social aspect, this urban form motivates physical exercise.

Urban Form:

1.NAVIGATION: A successful continuous public realm is more attractive where there is few or non obstructions. Clear edges and continuous flow help people to navigate.

2.STIMULATION: A long walk can be monotonous sometimes, however the buildings, paths, vegetation, and details are proportioned so that pedestrians have pleasant spaces to interact in. It also allows several possibilities during a stroll that transforms into a good experience.



Corso Como Milan.

210x120m

Context:

During the interview and questionnaires, Corso Como was mentioned several times as a favorite place to stroll in Milan. The pedestrian flows continuously through Corso Garibaldi.

Possibilities:

This is pedestrians street is very popular to meet friends after work.

Urban Form:

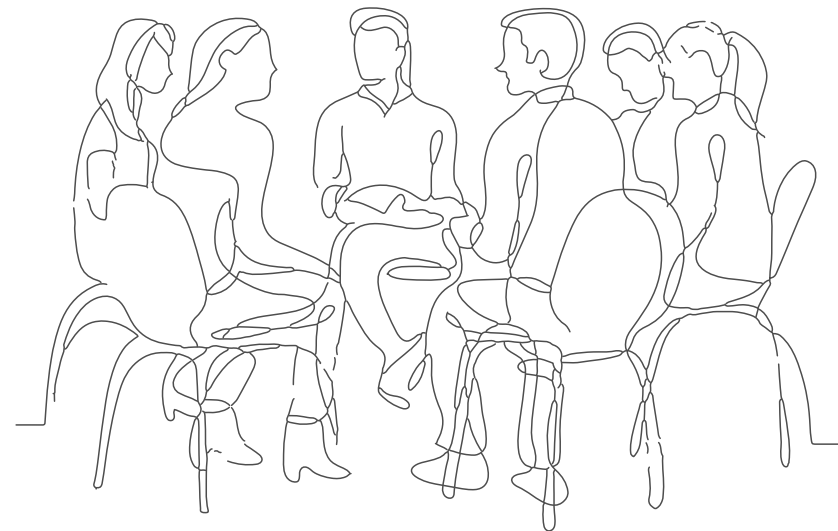
1.PATH: This street succeeds mostly because it is a connection between two important attraction points, Gae Aulenti Square and the city center.

2. Stimulus: Along the path, landscape elements stimulate different senses and transform the stroll into a pleasant walk.

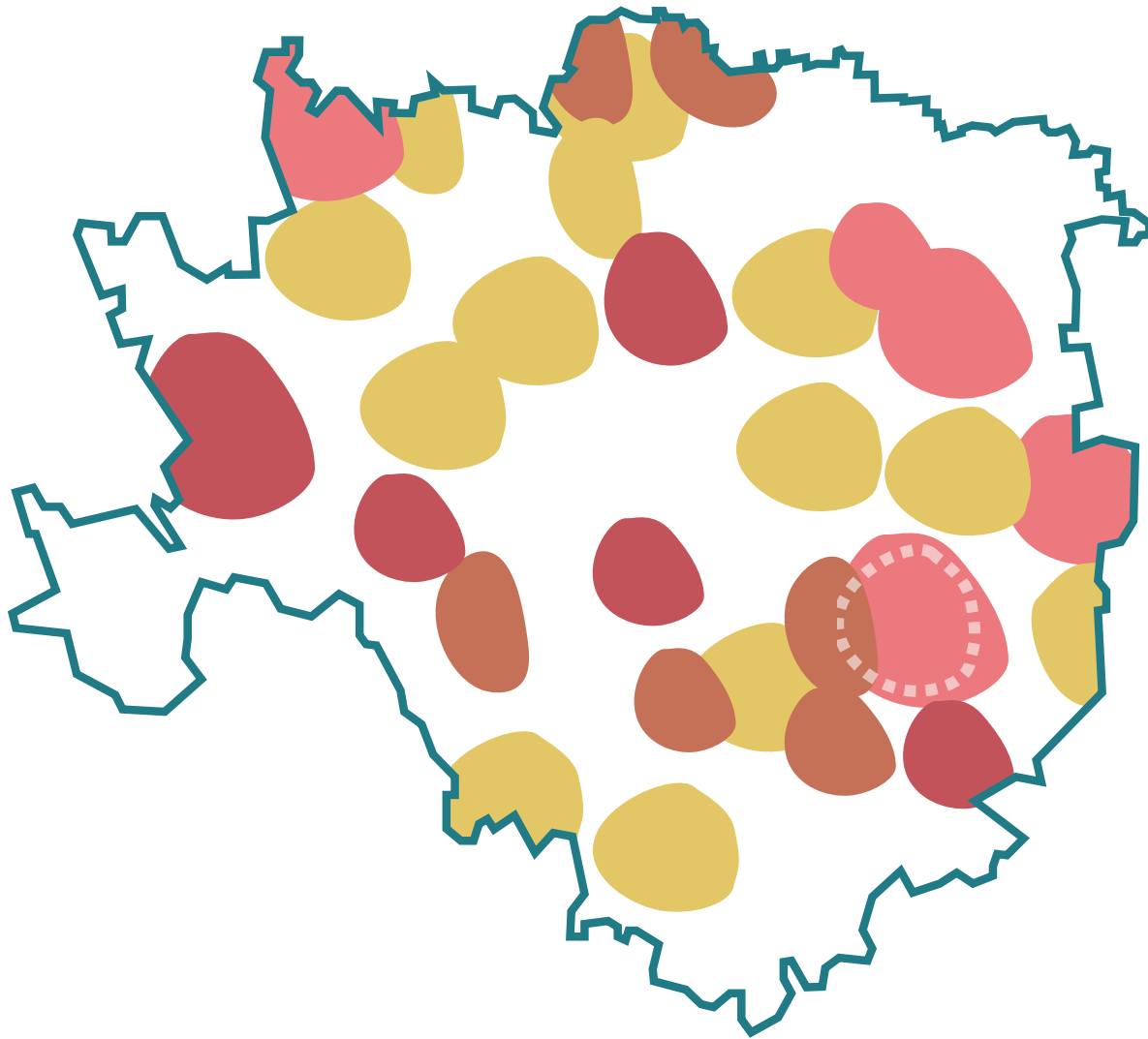
3. USES: A mixed-used street with outdoor seating (private and public) guarantees a continuous and active use.



The Community

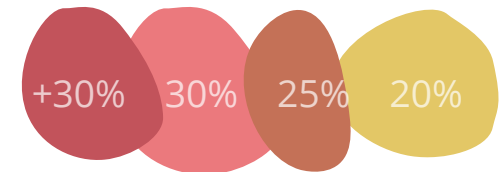


A diverse Enviroment



As mentioned before, Milan's population is formed by 20% of new comers and 80% native italians. Inside the city, the this proportion can also change depending on the area.

Most diverse areas are located at the city's boerder or next to the Central Station.

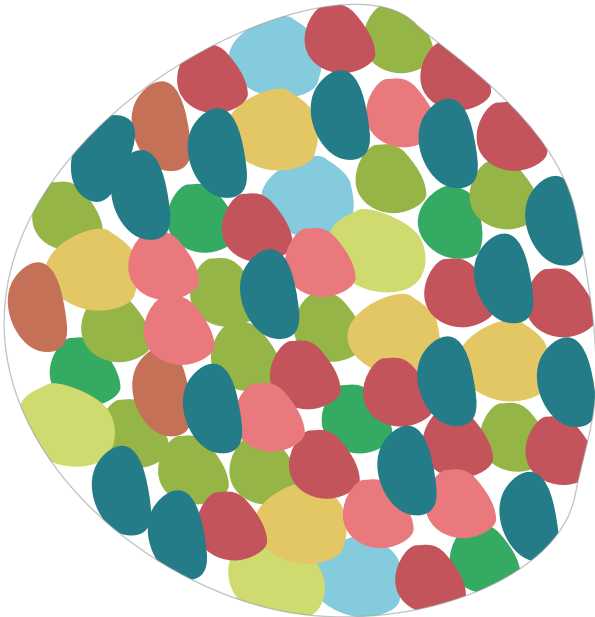


The surronding of site, Calvairate, presents 29,5% of newcomers, according to Corriere dela Sera, 2010.

A diverse Environment

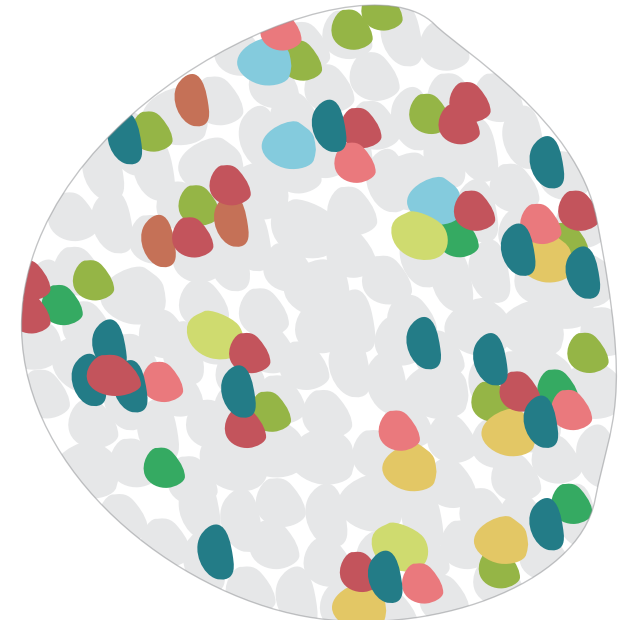
Inside the Calvaire neighborhood, or also known as the Orthomercato Area, also presents a intern diversity or migrants. Also according to the COrriere dela Sera,:

- 15% Filipines
- 14% Egypt
- 11% China
- 7% Peru
- 6% Sri Lanka
- 6% Romenia
- 5% Equator
- 3% Bangladesh
- 3% Ukrania
- 3% Marroco



Now, once it is possible to visualize the proportion of newcomers compared with the existing 70% of native italians, we realize the importance of this topic on this site.

Therefore, considering the connection of people and creating new ties are relevant for the area and for the city.



Community Participation

A design process is also a tool for social integration; it can create awareness about urbanity and the importance of lively public spaces. It can also stimulate migrant communities to engage in local policies and political participation.

Therefore, I proposed a workshop with several newcomers in Milan in order to understand their issues and concerns, and also understand how they see the site, what can be improved in the area and what is the dream of a good city.

I worked together with “C.P.I.A. 5 Milano | Centro Provinciale Istruzioni Adulti”. This Municipal Center for Adult Improvement is a governmental organization that teaches Italian



Questionnaire

Who are you?

Activity made with 98 people
January 15th and 16th.

City Game

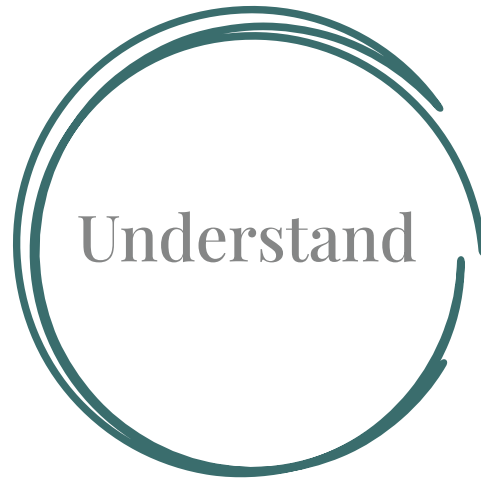
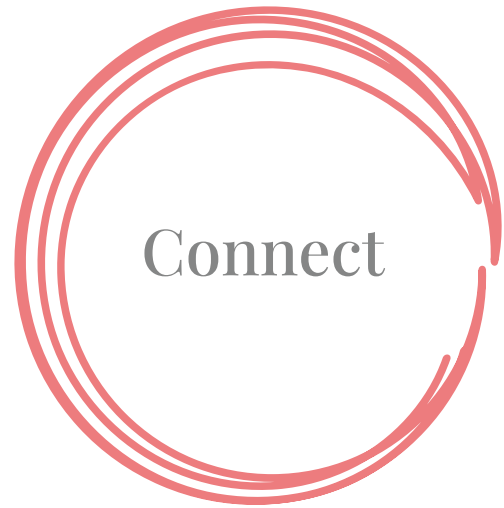
What is your dream?

Activity made with 12 people
February 27th and 28th.

Project Feed Back

Is this the Milan you want?

Online meetings with 5 people
May 10th and 15th




Questionnaires

A survey was applied to 98 students to grasp who are they, what are their issues, looking for problems and opportunities to promote an efficient integration.

The survey was applied during the classes of Italian at CPIA. The classes were taught in the morning and afternoon where 30% were men, and 70% women.

One-one interaction
Allows explore topics
Conduct the conversations
Go deeper into the stories



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TUTTE LE INFORMAZIONI SONO RISERVATE, NON È NECESSARIO NOME O IDENTIFICAZIONE.
LE INFORMAZIONI SARANNO UTILIZZATE IN UN PROGETTO URBANO PER UNA TESI IN UN DESIGN URBANO SOSTENIBILE.

1. Email: naadia.ABDALLA@outlook.it

2. Et : 43 anni

3. Paese di riferimento: Egitto

4. Mi piace vivere a Milano: s  / no
perch : I miei figli ^{sono} nati qui - anche il lavoro di il mio marito
perch  anche mi piace tanto

5. Quando non sono a casa, mi piace:

a. Fare lo shopping b. Parlare con le persone c. Essere n giro per la citt 

d. Fare lo sport e. Sedere in Piazza f. Mangiare

Altro: perch  c  tanti alberi

6. Per me   molto difficile a Milano:

a. Trovare lavoro b. Trovare alloggio/casa c. Educazione

d. Assistenza medica e. Attivit  di svago /culturale

Altro: prenotare gli appuntamenti con specialista medica

7. A milano, vorrei che ce ne fossero di pi :

vorrei che ce ne fossero il lavoro

8. Mi sento sicuro a Milano quando / non ho paura quando :

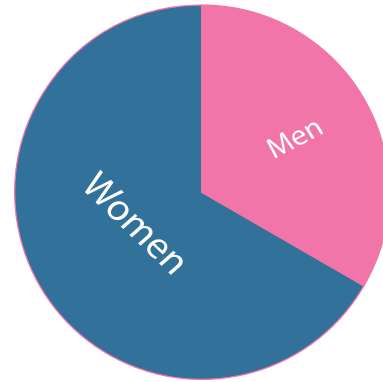
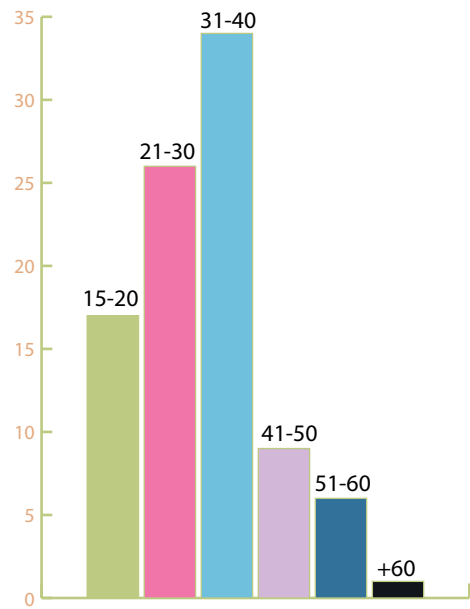
mi sento sicuro a milano quando lo ~~curare~~ ^{curare} i malati

9. Mi sento insicuro a Milano quando / ho paura quando:

mi sento insicuro quando non c  scuola e
lo ospedale



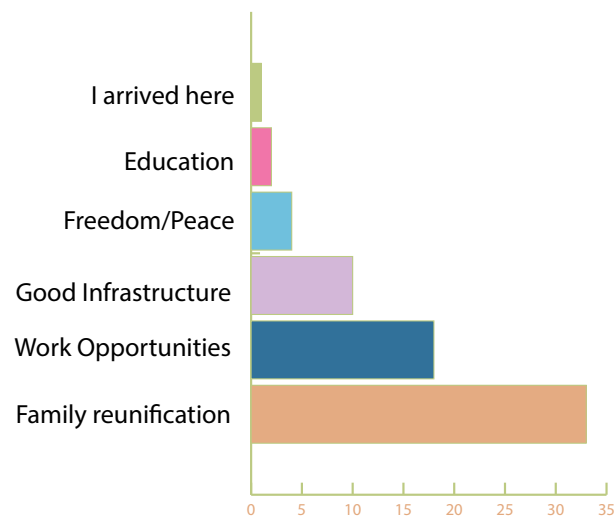
Who are you?



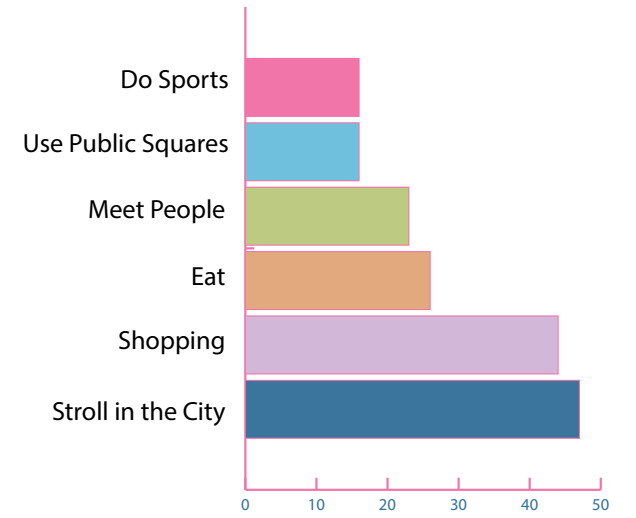
Why do you like Milan?



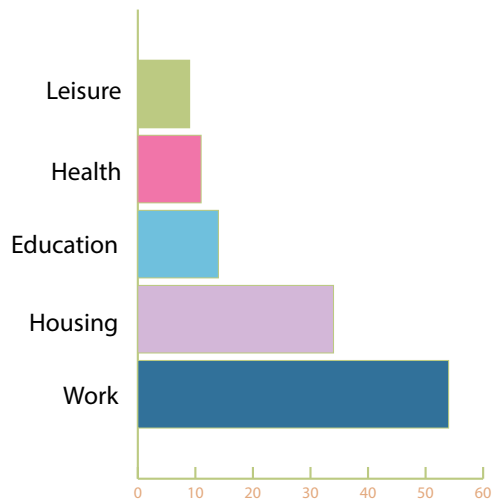
Why did you choose to come to Milan?



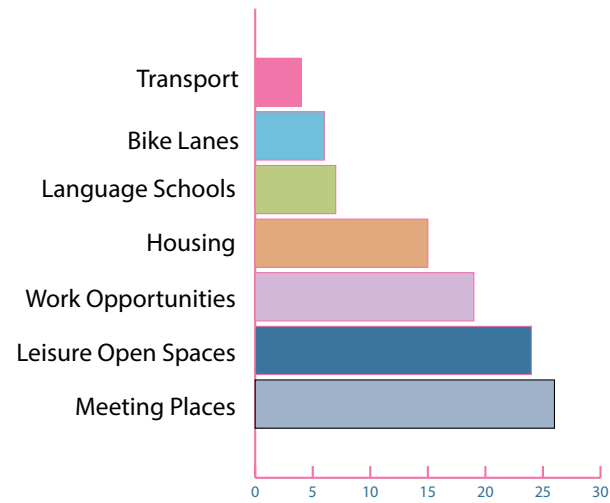
What do you do in Milan when you are not at home or work?



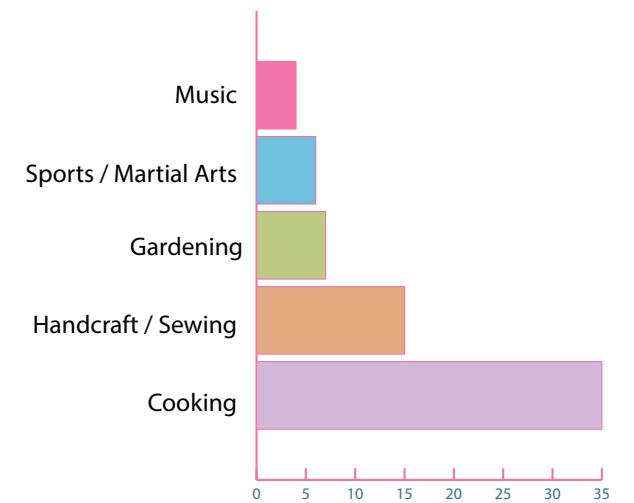
What do you struggle to find in Milan?



What do you think Milans needs more?



Which of these skills do you have?



Results

Families tend to stay in Milan.

The biggest issue for migrant families is finding work and a place to live.

Street shopping and walking in the city is the favorite leisure activity.

They like to use public space but still think the city could have more meeting places and activities outdoors.

During the day, men tend to work, and women tend to stay at home.

Most common skills: cooking, handcraft, and gardening.

City Game

This activity was made with 4 different groups, Total of 12 people.

- Group 1: 1 Chinese, 1 Egyptian, 1 Brazilian.
- Group 2: 1 Chinese, 1 Egyptian, 1 Filipino.
- Group 3: 1 Ghanaian, 2 Maldivian.
- Group 4: 1 Somalia, 1 Egyptian, 1 Chinese.

4 people (31-40 years old), 4 people (21-30),
2 people (41-50) 2 person (15-20)

Group work
Different perspectives at the Table
Urban Education
Allows Co-Creating

1 – Identify

Mark the places you know in the area



2 – Problematize:

What work in the area and what does not?



3 – Dream Landscape Cards

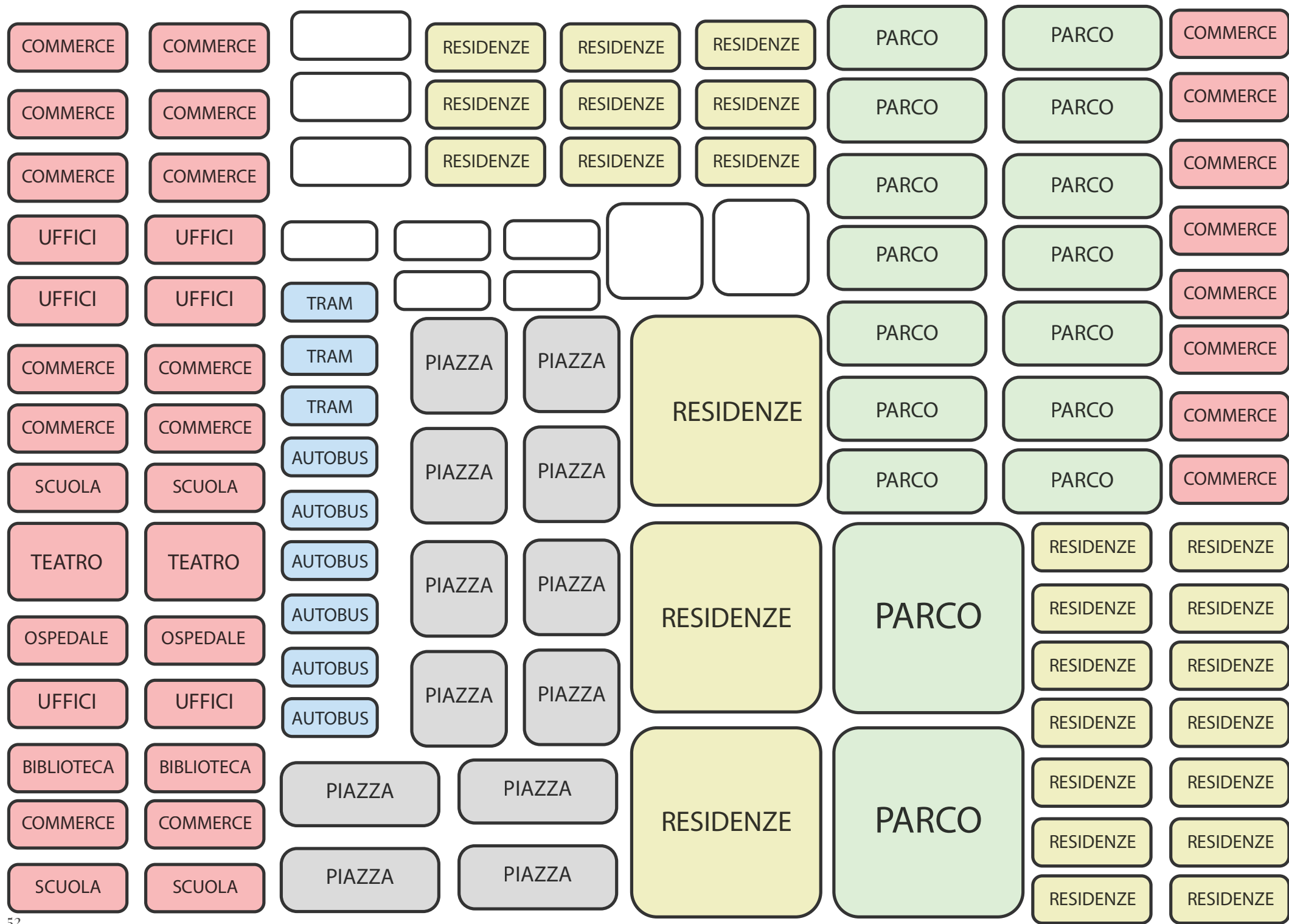


city game



4 – Plan Program Cards





Results

Negatives

Too much car traffic/ cars park on public spaces

Street too long to cross

Long and boring walk from the train Station to anywhere

It feels like a “corridor neighborhood”, lack of attractions

Unused lots, abandoned old buildings, closed facades, tall walls feel unsafe

Lack of permeability on ground floor

Positive

Everyday uses (school, supermarket...)

Good Public transport to all points of the city
Viale Corsica (mixed use, active street, safe)

The Site



CHARACTER

Milan is considered a leading alpha global city with strengths in art, business, design, education, entertainment, fashion, finance, media, services, research, and tourism.

Milaneses are proud to host creative and innovative mindsets; popular events such as Milan Fashion Week, Milan Furniture Fair, Expo 2015 strengthen this inventive character.

Milan is also a destination of 8 million visitors a year, attracted by its museums and art galleries, Architecture, and Urban Design.

CLIMATE AND TOPOGRAPHY

Milan's climate is similar to much of Northern Italy's inland plains, with hot, humid summers and cold, foggy winters. Temperature can vary from 37 Celcius in summer, to -1 in Winter.

The predominant wind is from East to West. Generally wind speeds range from 0 to 14 km/h - a calm, gentle breeze that rarely exceeds 29 km/h - a fresh breeze.

RELIGION

Milan's population, like that of Italy as a whole, is mostly Catholic. Also, the city is home to the largest Orthodox population in Italy. The Jewish community of Milan is the second most extensive in Italy, only after Rome.

Milan also hosts one of the largest Muslim groups in Italy. Finally, in Milan, Hindus and Sikhs are the largest communities in Europe, only after the ones in Britain.

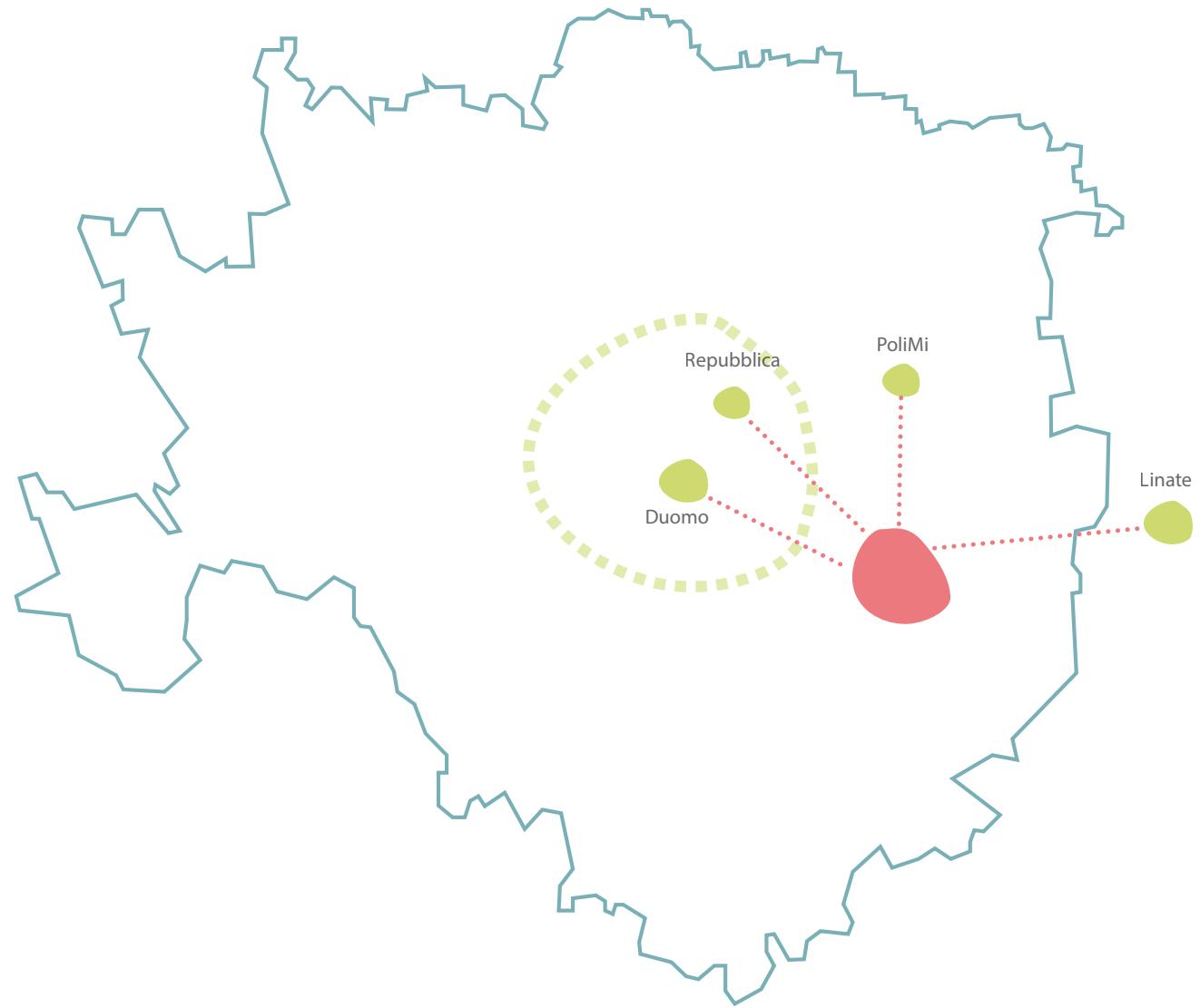


LOCATION

Although the site is located almost on the city's border, it has a good connection to many relevant places. Its location is 3 km from the city center, which takes about 40 minutes walking, or 20 minutes with the existing Tramline 16.

The site borders Viale Molise; this wide and car-oriented street leads to Politecnico di Milano (PoliMi) in 13 minutes by public transport, bus number 90. Additionally, the site's location is between the city center and the Linate Airport; this Airport is the closest to the center of Milan.

Finally, It is also important to mention the site holds a train station, "Porta Vittoria," where it is possible to take regional trains that connect the city of "Piacenza" with "Saronna" in a 150km line. This line also takes to "Repubblica" in 12 minutes; this station is known to be in the financial center of Milan and connects to other train lines and metro.





FIRST IMPRESSIONS

The first contact in the area was in 2019 when I was visiting a family member that lives in the area. At first glance, there were no visual stimulus or landmarks; in fact, the streets seemed to be invaded by cars with a lack of public attractions.

Looking further, Molise street (see images 1-2) is the main traffic artery; it holds the train station "Porta Vittoria," historical abandoned mansions, and 6-floor housing buildings. Besides that, the street's width (50 meters) can intimidate outdoor activities and discourage local business and community life.

On the north of the site (see images 3-4), a fenced green area covers the train tracks of the regional train at Porta Vittoria. It also works as a mental barrier for pedestrians to cross from North-South.

South of this green area (see images 5-6) shows fragile buildings that once used to be a Public Market up until the 1930s. It has been abandoned and locked for almost 100 years; thus, the structure has deteriorated and hard to recover.





1

5

4

4

8

2

3

6

7

ATTRACTIONS

As mentioned previously, the area lacks attraction uses and vibrant public spaces. The most popular destinations are located north of the site; Viale Corsica (1) as a shopping street with active groundfloor, and Esselunga (2) as an immense supermarket but lack of street connection.

Other more modest attractions are the train station (3), school (4), church (5), and medical clinic (6). It is also relevant the mention the site is close to a Wholesale Food Market (7). The Market sells food in enormous quantities for restaurants and other big markets; therefore, it is not a market that attracts people, but mostly trucks and big vehicles.

Rich green areas and public spaces are also a rare urban element near the site. The most attractive and popular one is Parco Vittorio Formentano (8), which takes around 15min walk from the middle of the site.





DISTRICT CALVAIRATE

The area has several different districts, however the most relevant to mention here is the Calvairstate. Several social-housing buildings compose the district; these structures were built between 1933 - 1938, and it is home today for around 3.000 families.

The area was originally built to host tramway families of the Milanese transport company in small apartments. Today, because of its non-central location, it is quite cheap and attracts many low educated workers, among them many immigrants.

The area is one of the most multicultural areas in Milan. It is estimated that 35% of the district's inhabitants come from other countries outside the EU; its background ranges from Peru and Brazil - in South America -, India, Pakistan, China - in Asia- Nigeria, Egypt, Somalia - in Africa.

However, this diversity has not being celebrated by the community; quite the opposite, it is creating a stigma in the area. The abandoned aspect of the streets, combined with the lack of public attractions -both open spaces and buildings - creates a sense of unease and, with time, can contribute to the development of social ghettos.





●●●●● Tramline

▬ Train tracks

▬ Train tracks (underground)

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

As mentioned at the beginning of this analysis, the site hosts the translation Porta Vittoria; it connects the site regionally and locally to the city center of Milan. This station is a massive project of infrastructure with several levels underground and train tracks, however, the station is frequently empty (see image) and is known as a “ghost station.”

This lack of use reflects the lack of uses on the site around the station. Therefore, once the site can be developed with multiple uses and attractions, the station can be more active, safe, and accessible.

Besides the train station, there is a tram line that connects a wholesale food market to the city center. Once the Market is not oriented for people and pedestrians, the last tram stop is frequently empty; it takes from the Market about 2 to 5 people per travel.

In conclusion, many transport modes and infrastructure are already built; however, the site lacks uses that can attract people to use these transport modes.





BARRIERS

The site presents many types of barriers. The strongest one is the Train tracks that separate the area. Furthermore, the old Market area and the current Market also work as substantial barriers.

The first one is fenced and closes for visitors, and no uses are happening in the area. The current Market is also a barrier in two senses. The vast fenced area does not allow physical and visual permeability; finally, its use - oriented to restaurant and store owners - gives no possibilities to people accessing it.

All of these spaces with barriers work as isolates island where is friendly only for cars. For most pedestrians, the city ends at Viale Molise and continues on the other side of the tracks resulting in a gap in the middle of the city.





ON GOING PROJECTS

There is a project being developed by the municipality of Milan for the Market. The idea is to turn the space into a more accessible place for people and the local community.

The plan will keep the wholesale food Market; however, it will include a medium-scale Market for individuals and locals. Besides it, several public buildings are being developed in order to activate Via Varsavia.

Finally, the existing tram line will be extended up until the other side of the train tracks, connecting with the existing park on the other side.



4 Principles

Walkable streets and varied public spaces can enhance the sense of community, increase tolerance, and provide vital opportunities for social interaction and social cohesion. Following this concept, 4 rules were developed to be applied in the design proposal.

Accessible, well connected
and easy to navigate .



Walkable Streets featuring dense Living



Services and destinations that support local living.



Multiple, active and Attractive Public Spaces



Landscape Strategies



Green
connection

A GREEN BELT FOR MILAN

The future of well-being in cities needs new social and ecological solutions. The municipality of Milan is already working with an idea of strengthening and connecting green areas around the city to form a green belt that can support biodiversity, improve air quality, and improve the connection with greenery. It will embrace the city of Milan, which reconnects parks, agricultural areas, gardens, Villas, parks, and canals.

In this context, the project site also plays an active role in this concept. From the municipality plan, this project is adding another green connection that will enhance the green belt. Here it is proposed a massive green area - in the form of a park - can connect Parco Vittorio Formentano with Parco Guido Galli.



Boscoincittà



Parco Agricolo Sud Milano



Parco Nord



Villa Invernizzi



-  Site
-  Future Metro Line
-  Existing Tram Line
-  Existing Train Line
-  Proposed Tram Line

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

landscape strategies

CONNECTED WITH THE CITY

As described in the analysis, the site has an excellent location, and transportation infrastructure to the most popular places in Milan is not inadequate.

It is possible to take the Tram 16 and arrive at Piazza Duomo (1) in 20 minutes from the site. Also, from the “Porta Vittoria” Train Station (2), it is possible to commute to the “Repubblica” (3) financial district and several small cities regionally.

A new Metro line is also being constructed to connect the city center with Linate Airport (4); this will connect inhabitants in the area to the airport and the Metro system.

However, Viale Molise has a great potential to connect the Central Station (5) and the Politecnico di Milano (6) with a north-south tram line. It will activate the site, bring an abundant flow of people - mainly university students who are great to build an active neighborhood - and as a result, it will minimize the unfortunate stigma in the area.

Finally, It will improve the connection with the Central Station (5), and from there, people can travel long distances to Roma, Napoli, Venezia, or several countries outside Italy.

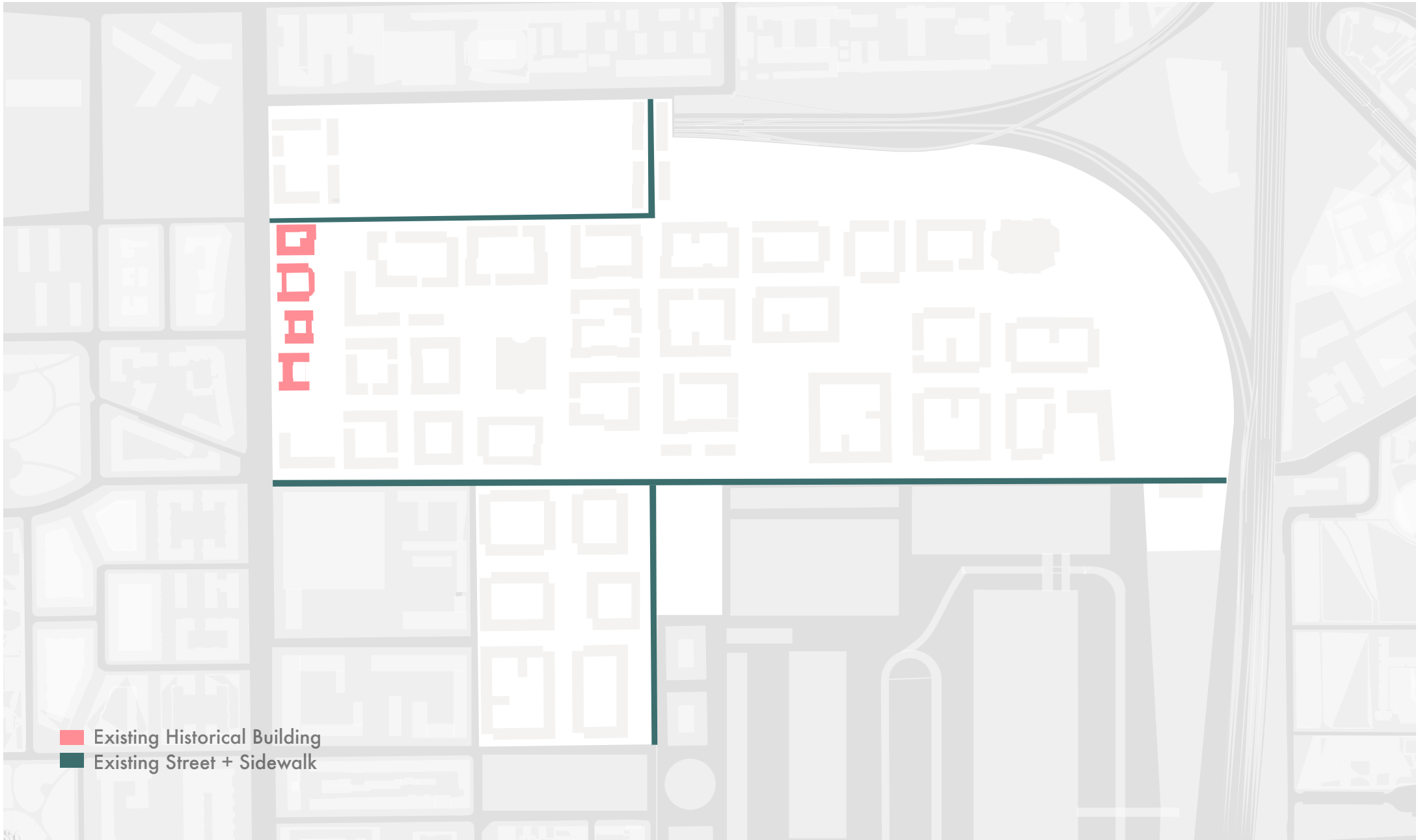


A lively student district in Bologna



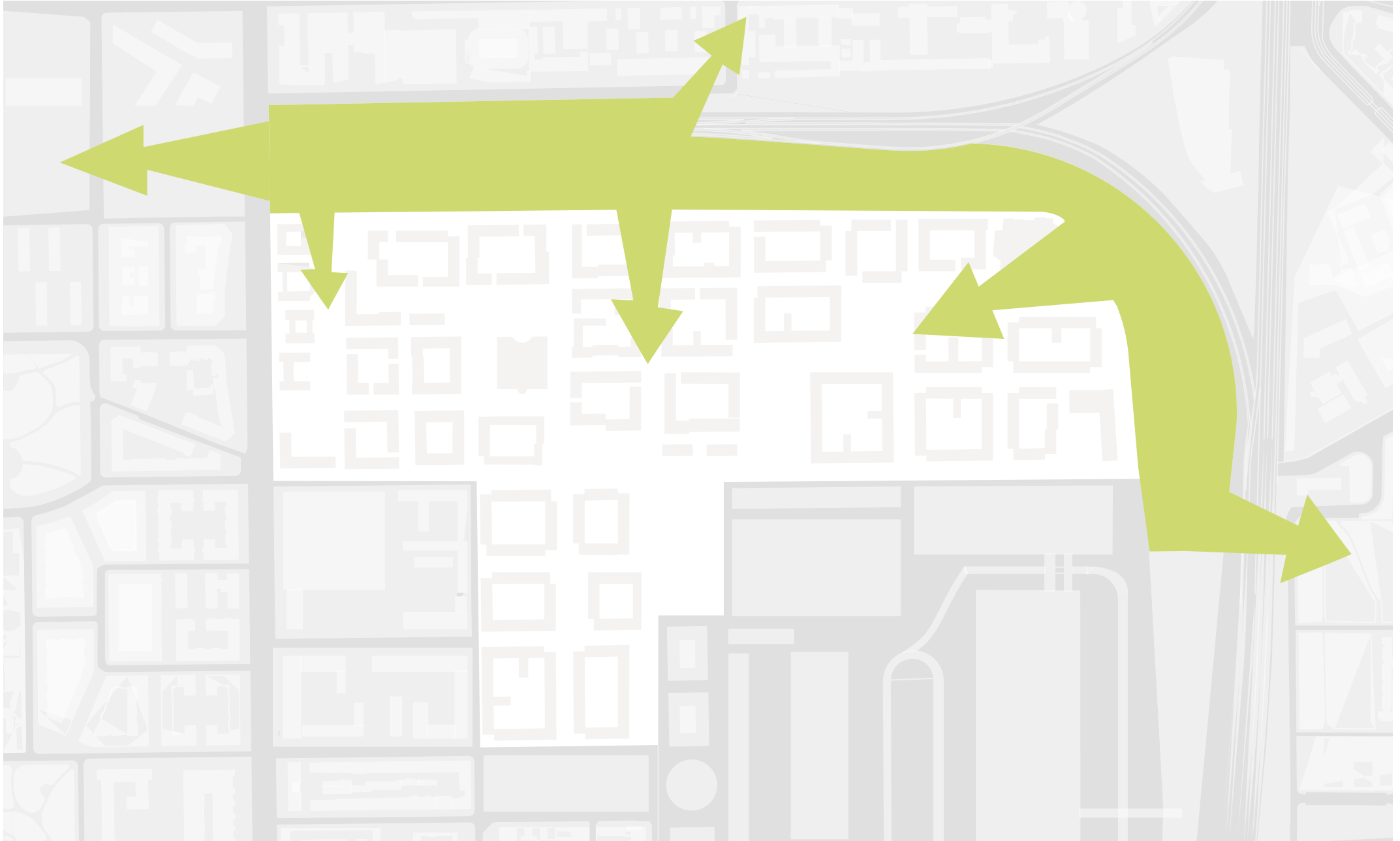
Local Strategies

Keeping Existing Structures

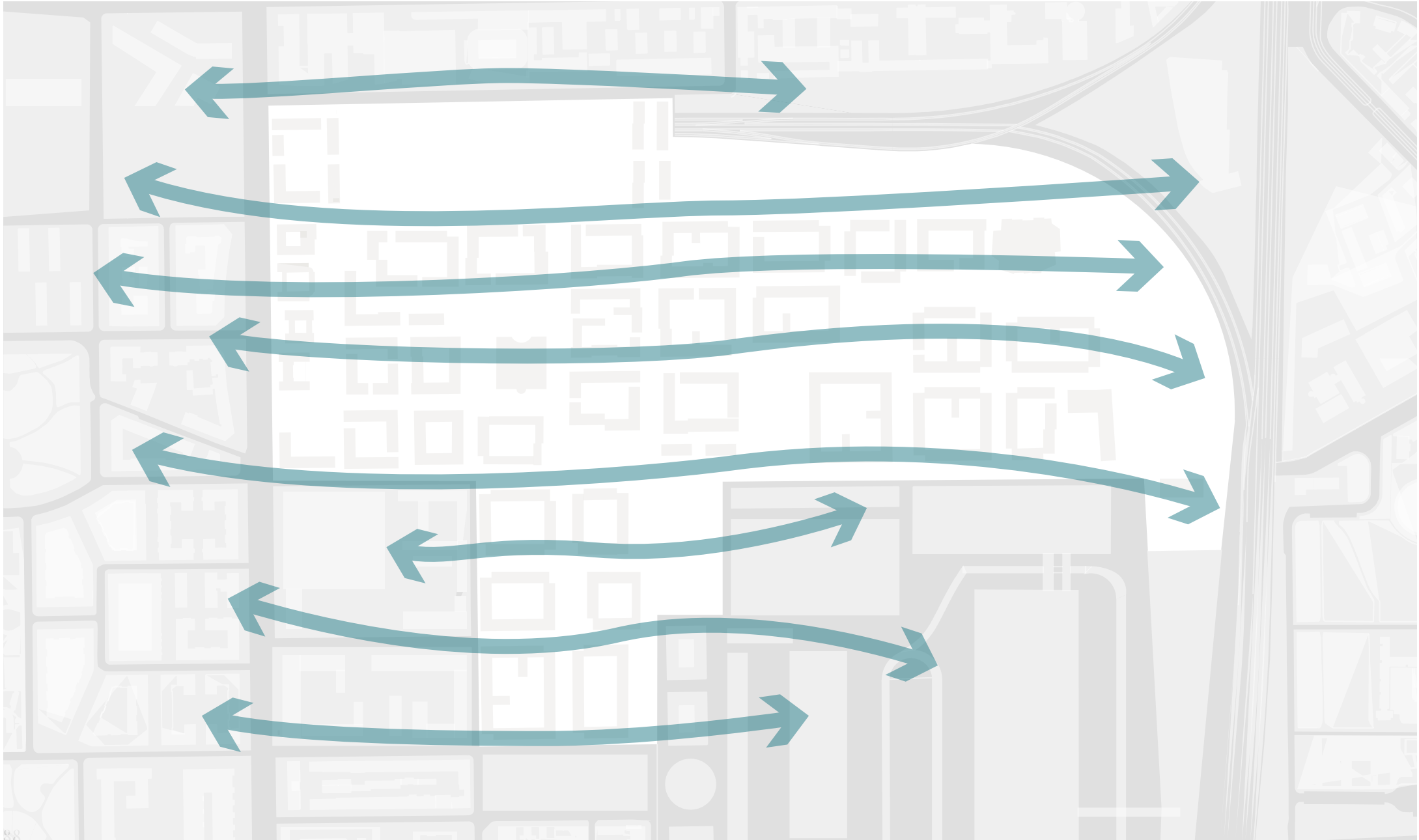


- Existing Historical Building
- Existing Street + Sidewalk

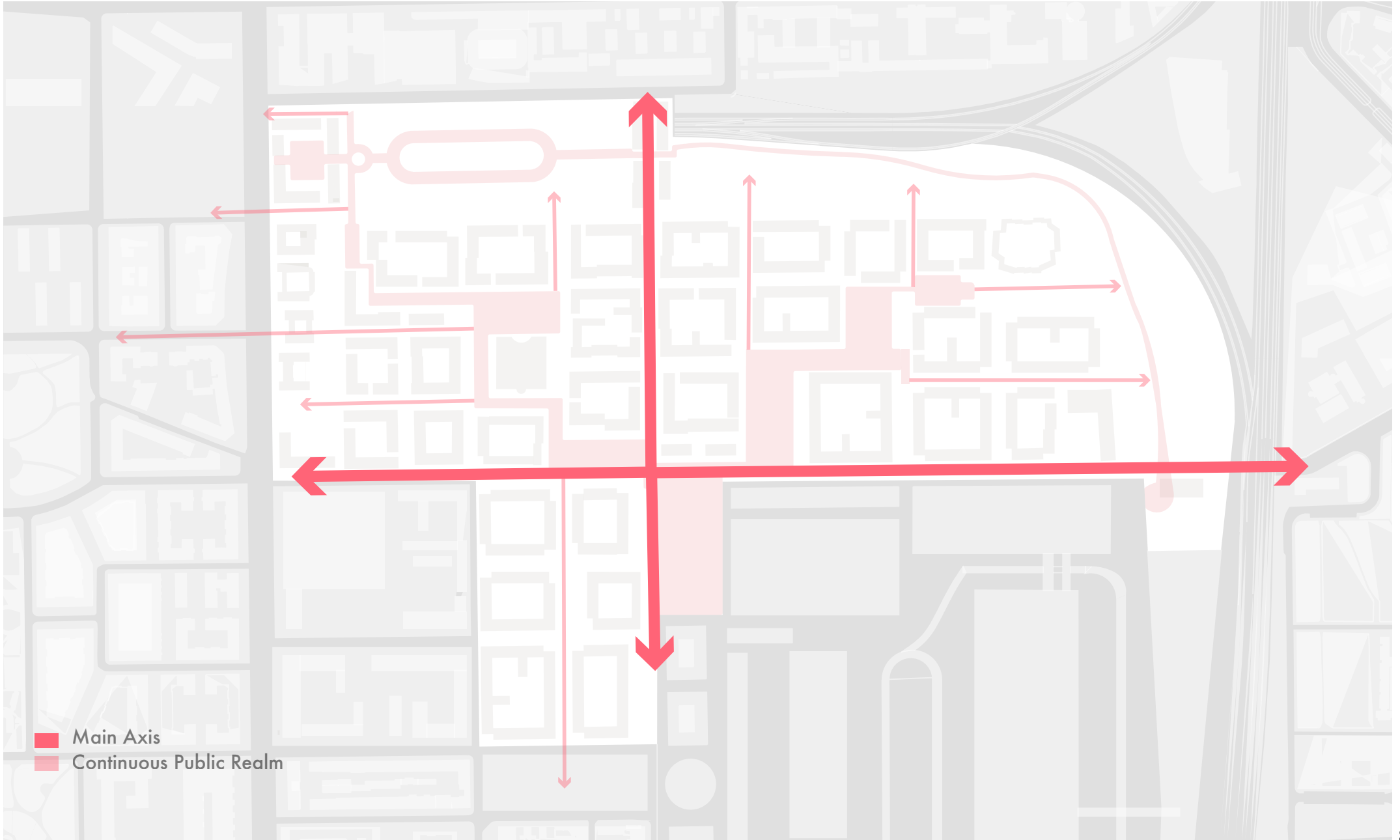
The Green Network



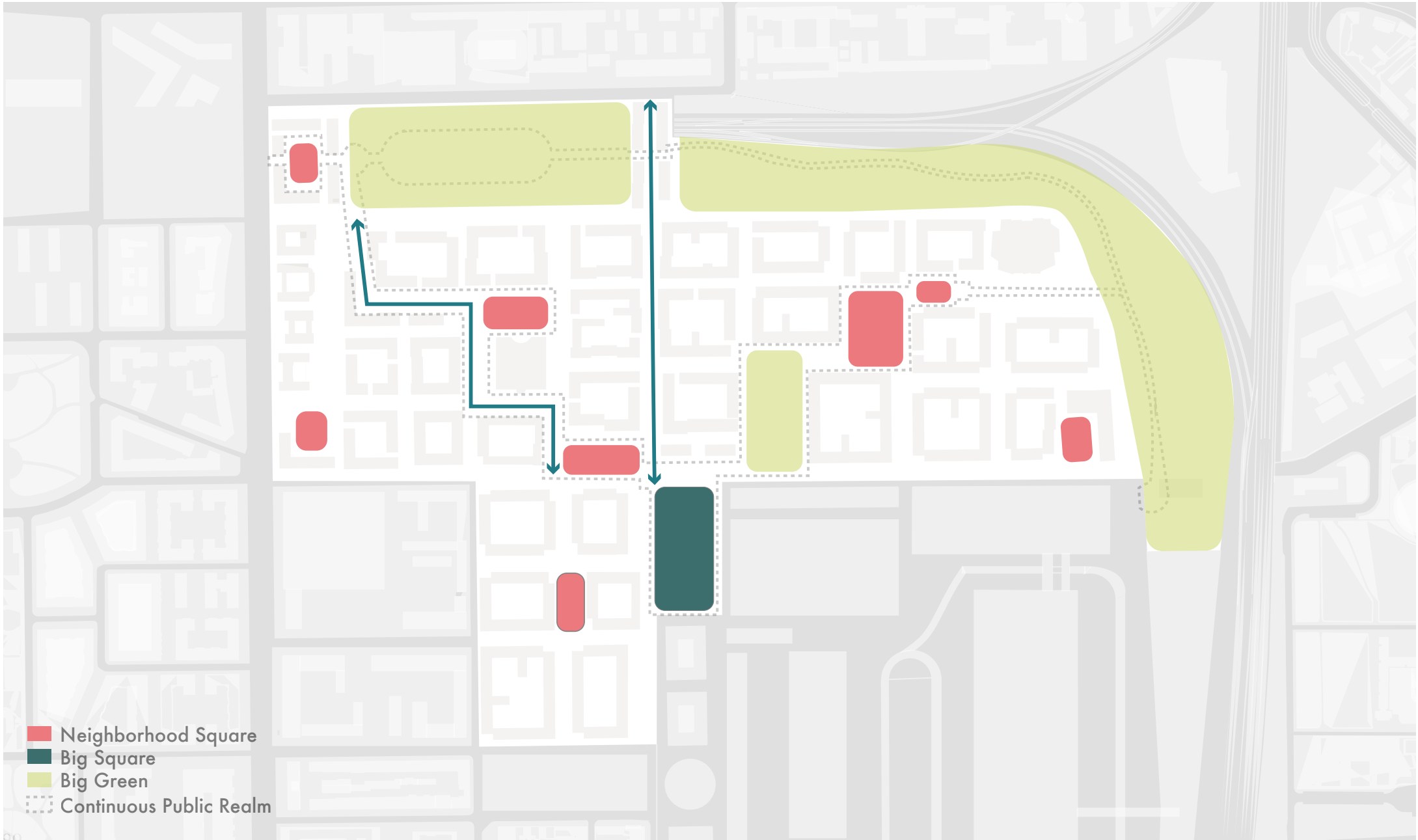
Allow Predominant Wind to Flow



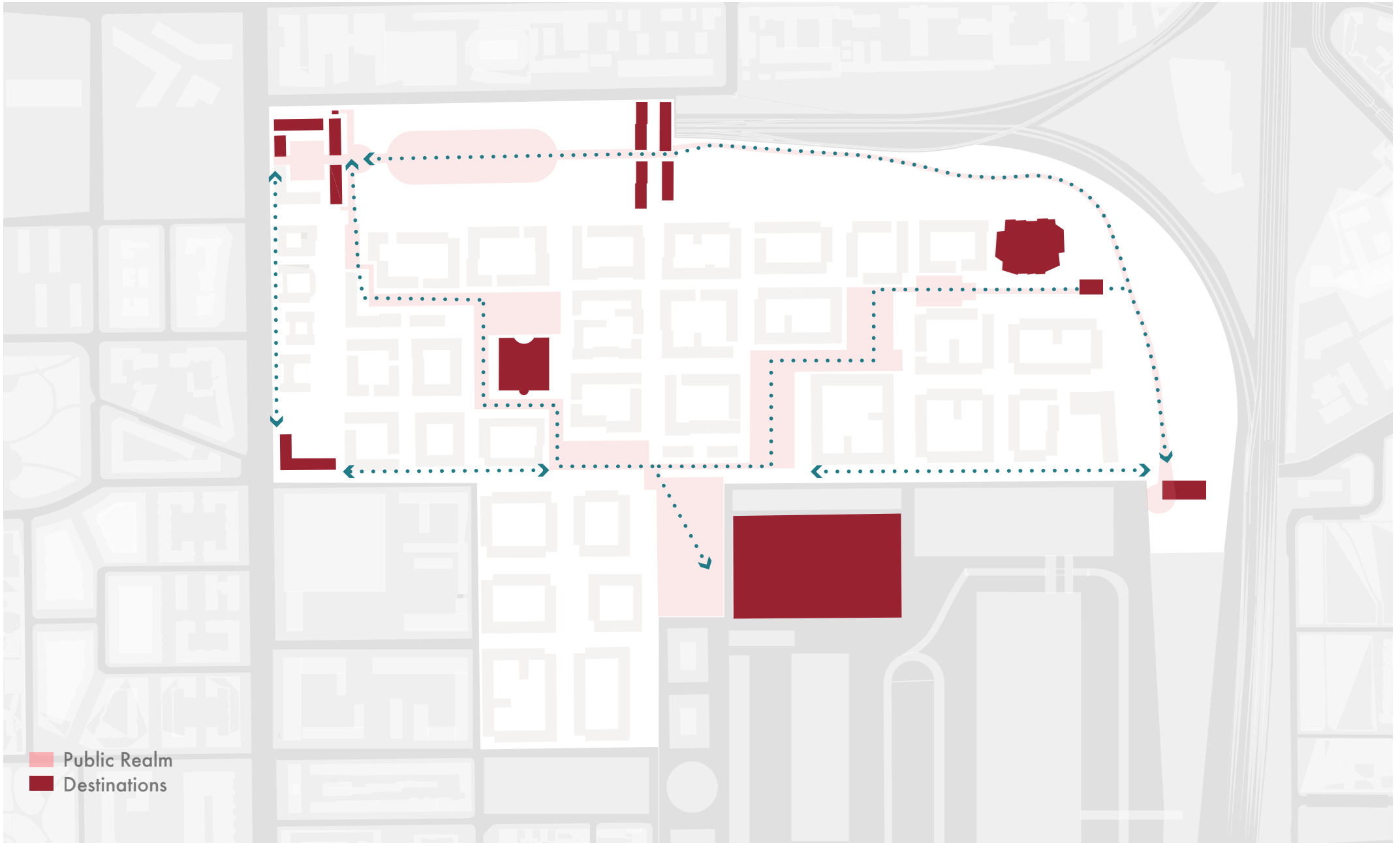
A continuous and well connected Public Realm



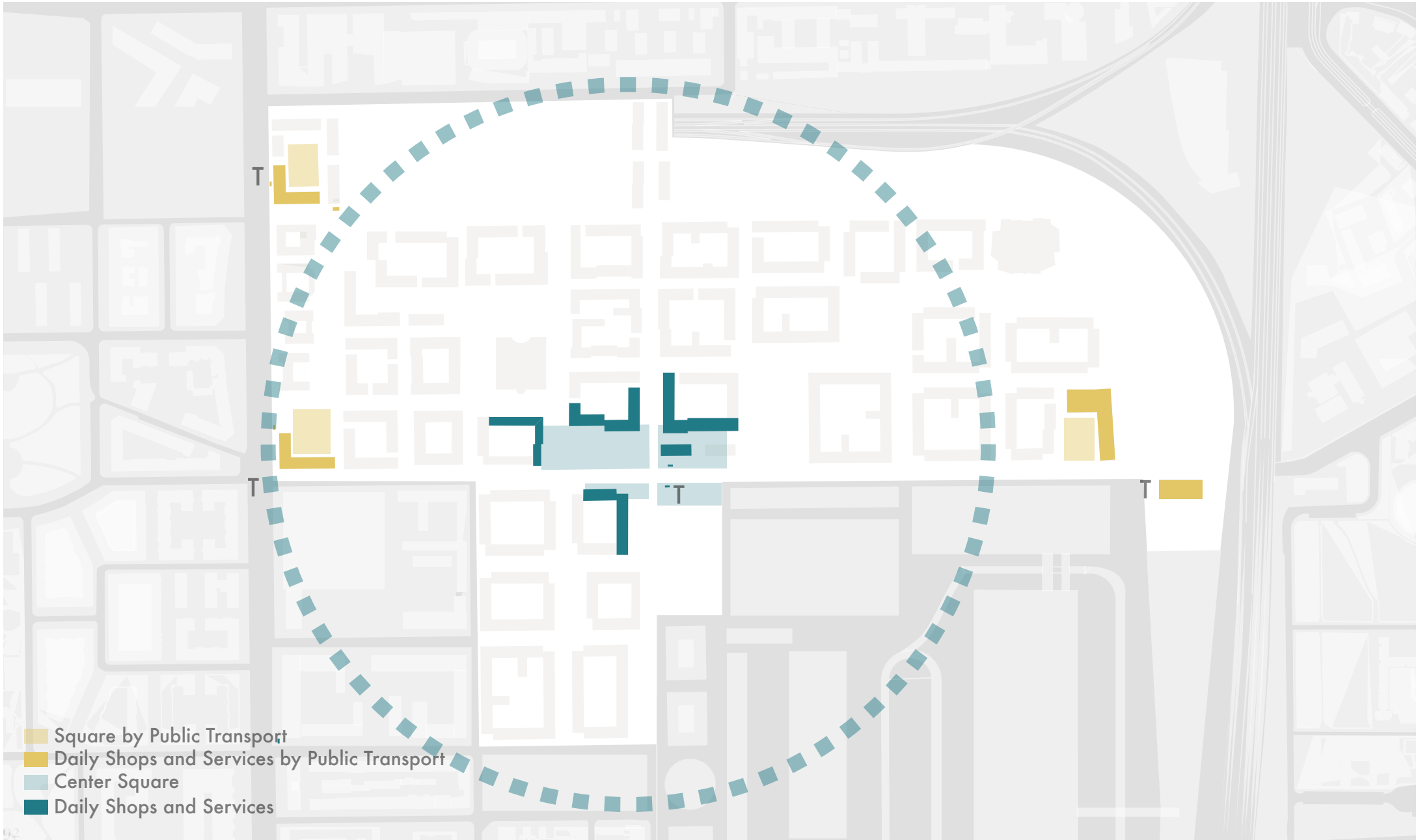
Diverse Typologies of Public Spaces



New Destinations connected to existing ones



A 10-minute neighborhood



Low traffic Streets

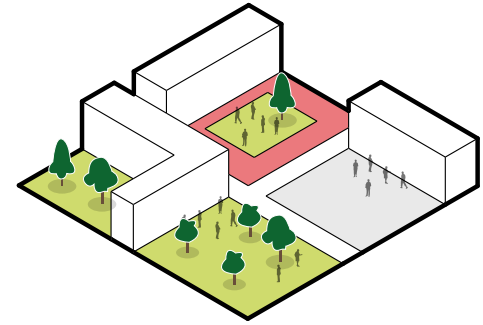
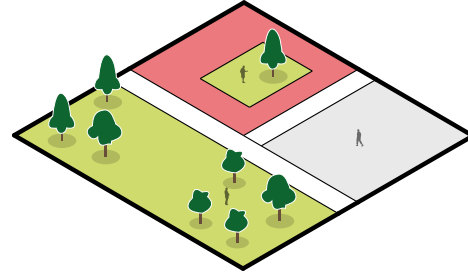
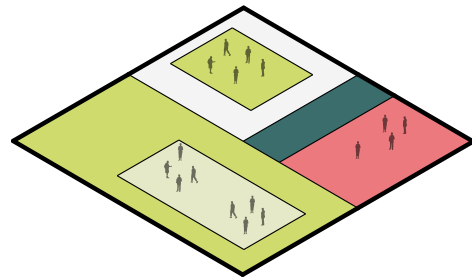
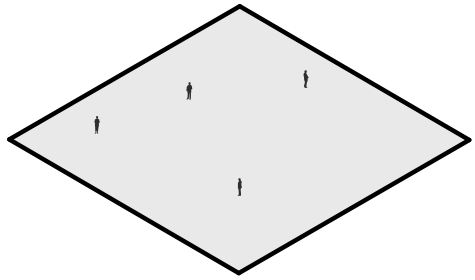


Active Groundfloor



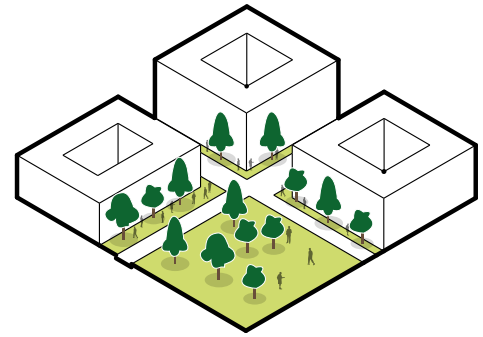
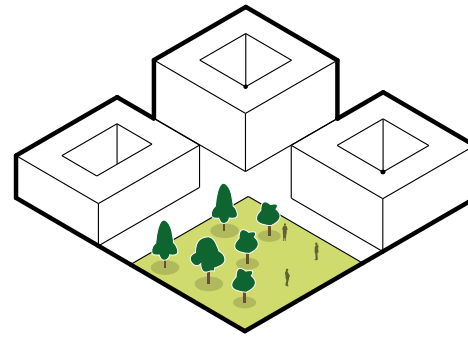
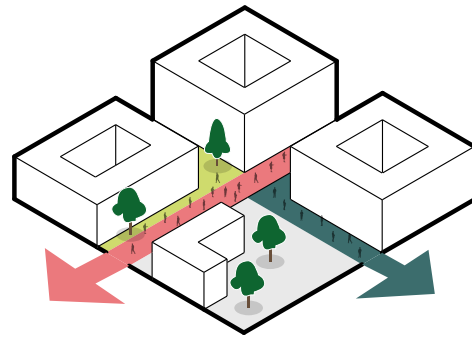
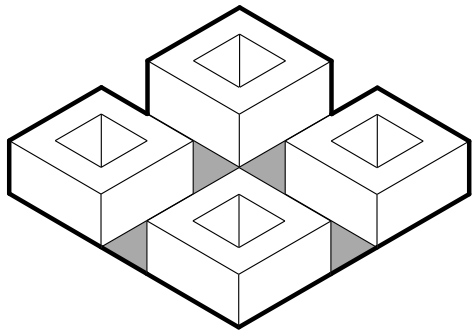
Urban Form & Typology Strategies

The Urban Form



Inviting Public Spaces for Social Mixing

Residence and work near Squares and Green Spaces



Continuous Public Realm and more Pedestrian Space

Continuous greenery Biodiversity

The Typology

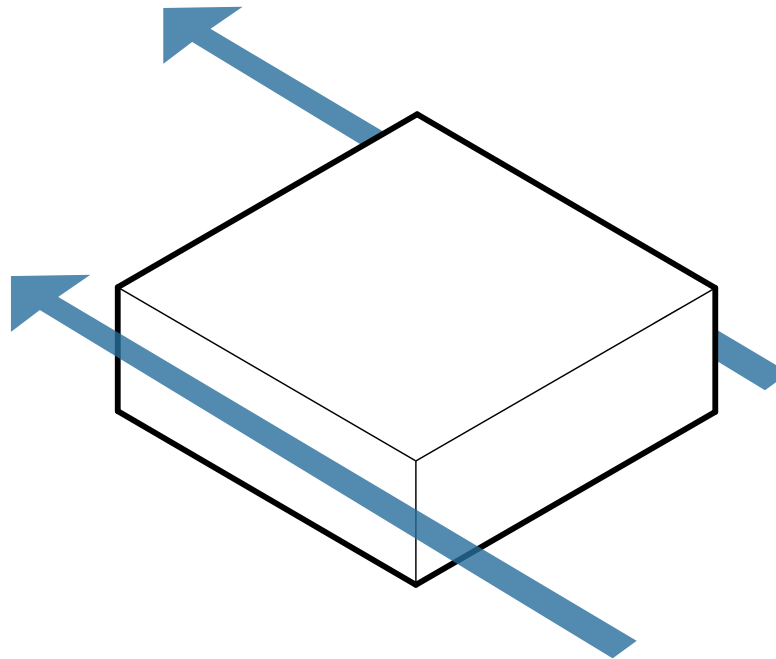
The robust proposed urban structure (more detailed in the next chapter) allows the development and implementation of several kinds of typologies.

For this strategy plan, the block itself can be explored in different shapes and scales. It must consider the relationships between public and private, opened and closed, and always relating the design decisions with the distinct locations in this plan.

However, It is important that these typologies to-be-developed match with the following guidelines to result in a healthy, active, dense, and walkable neighborhood.

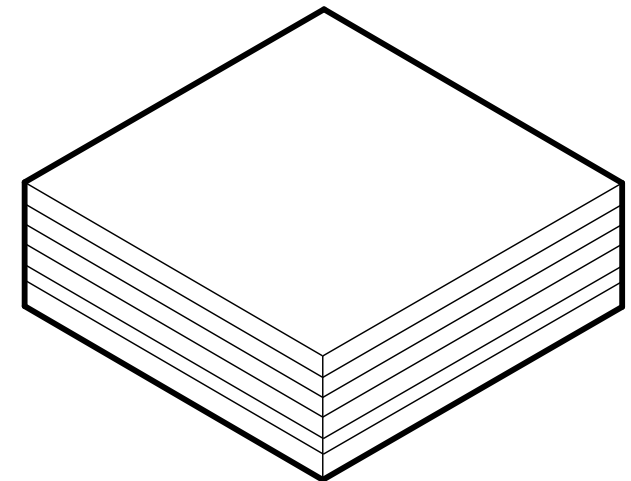
1

Create Wind
Corridors



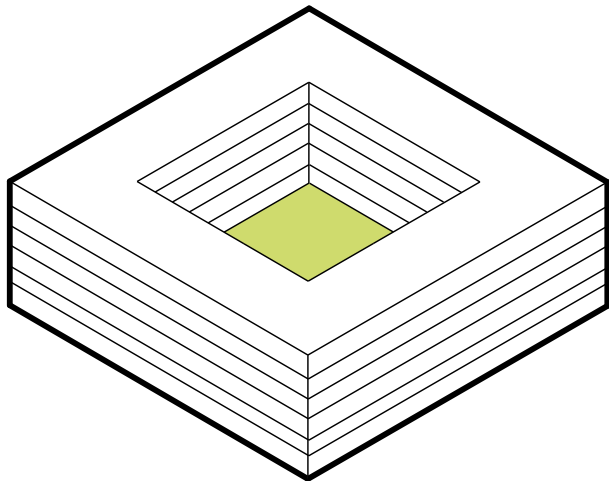
2

Density
400 people/ha



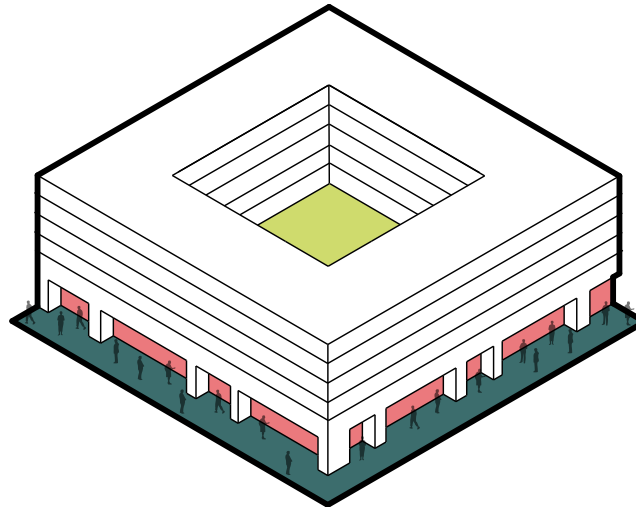
3

Community
Space



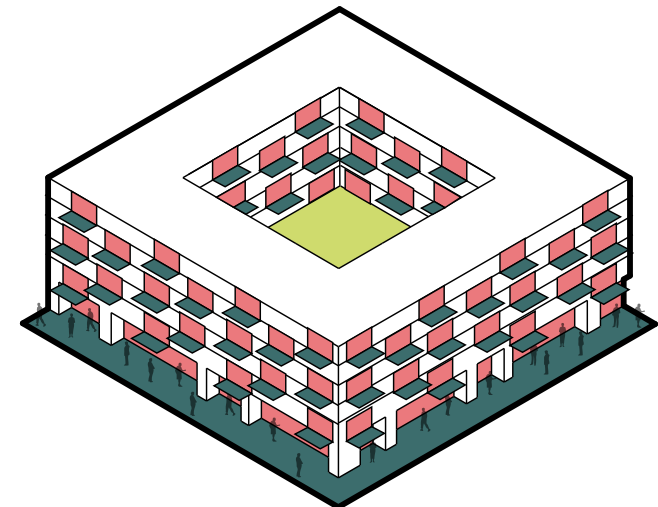
4

Soft Edges
and Permeable
Groundfloor

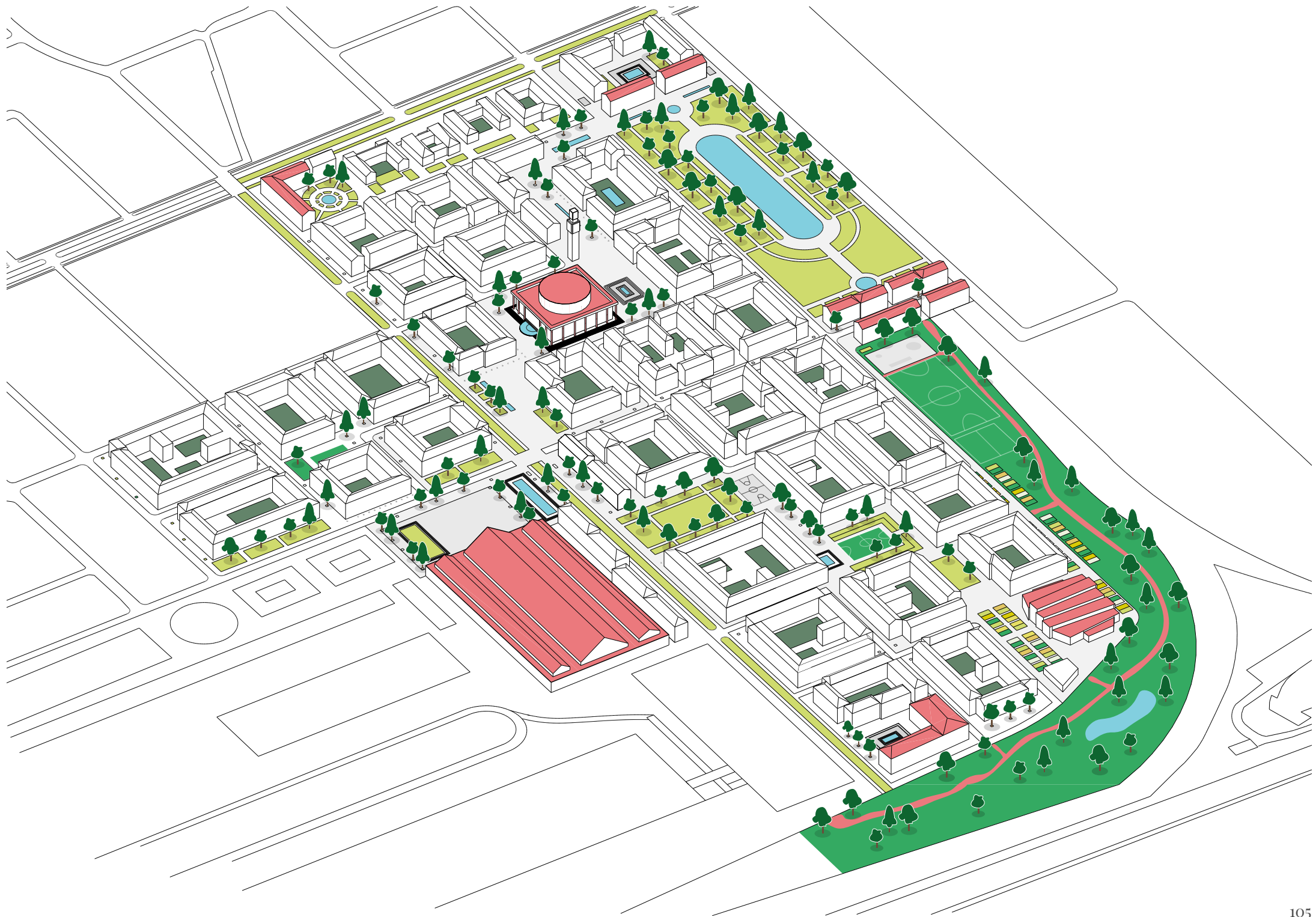


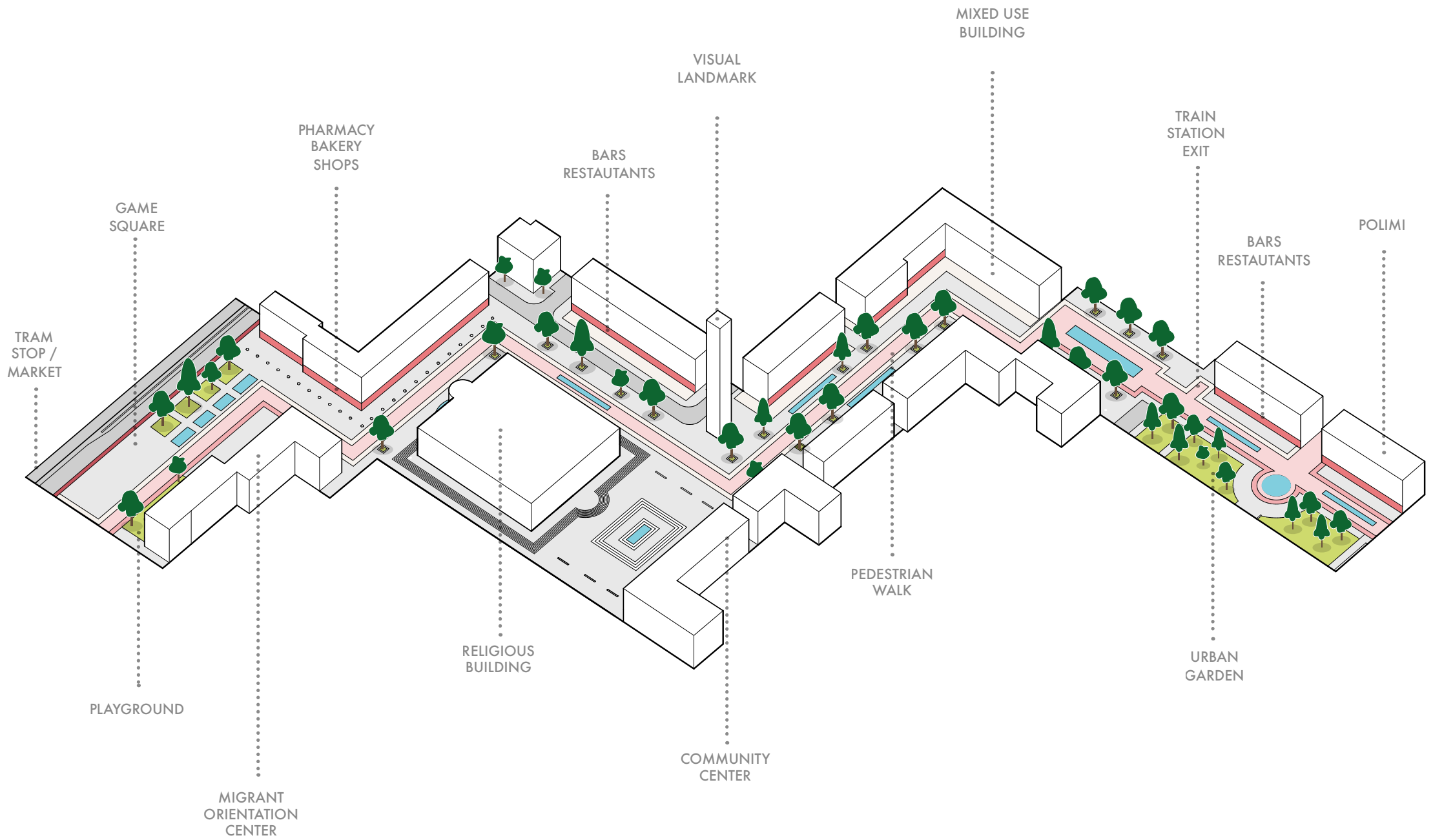
5

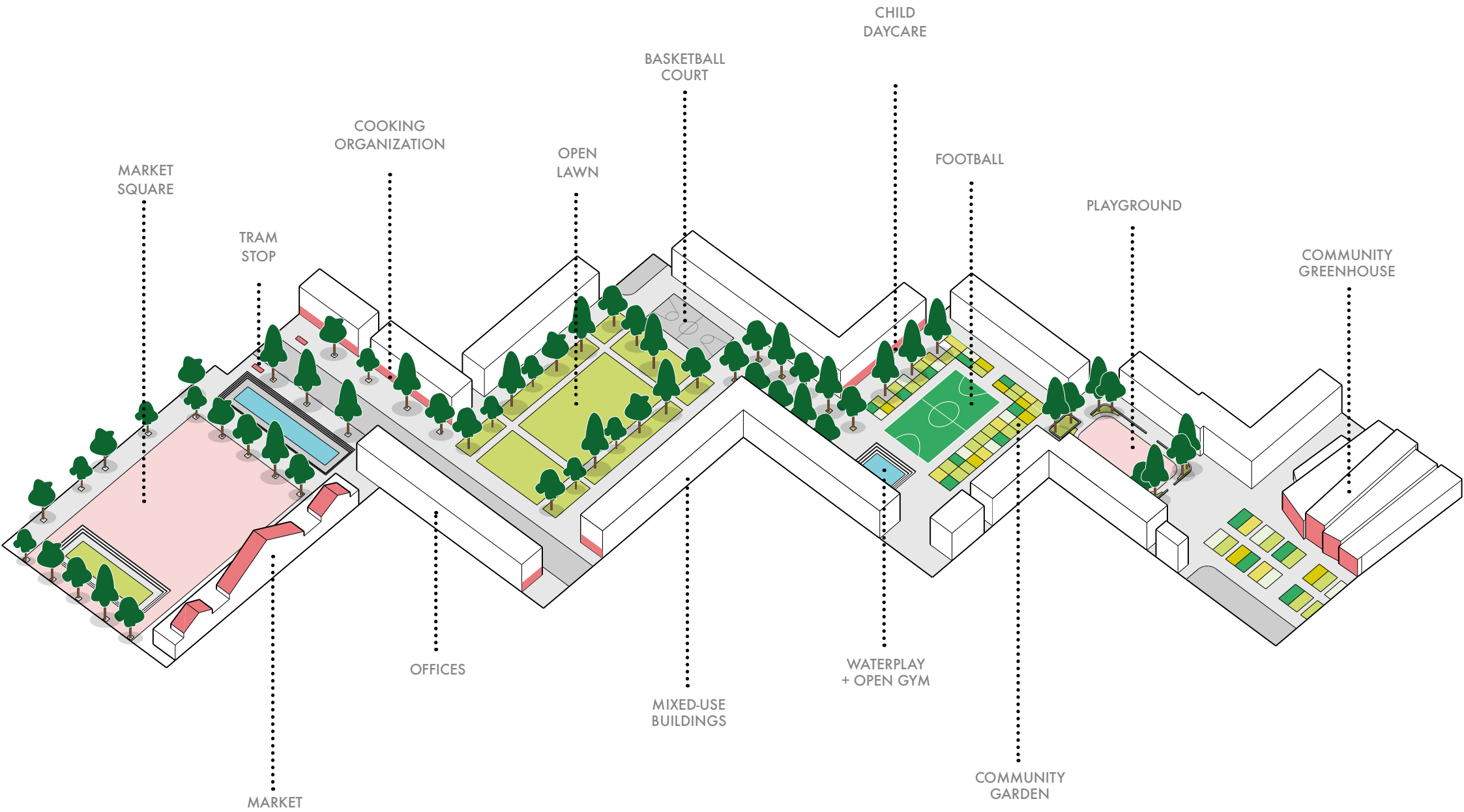
Contact with
the Outdoors



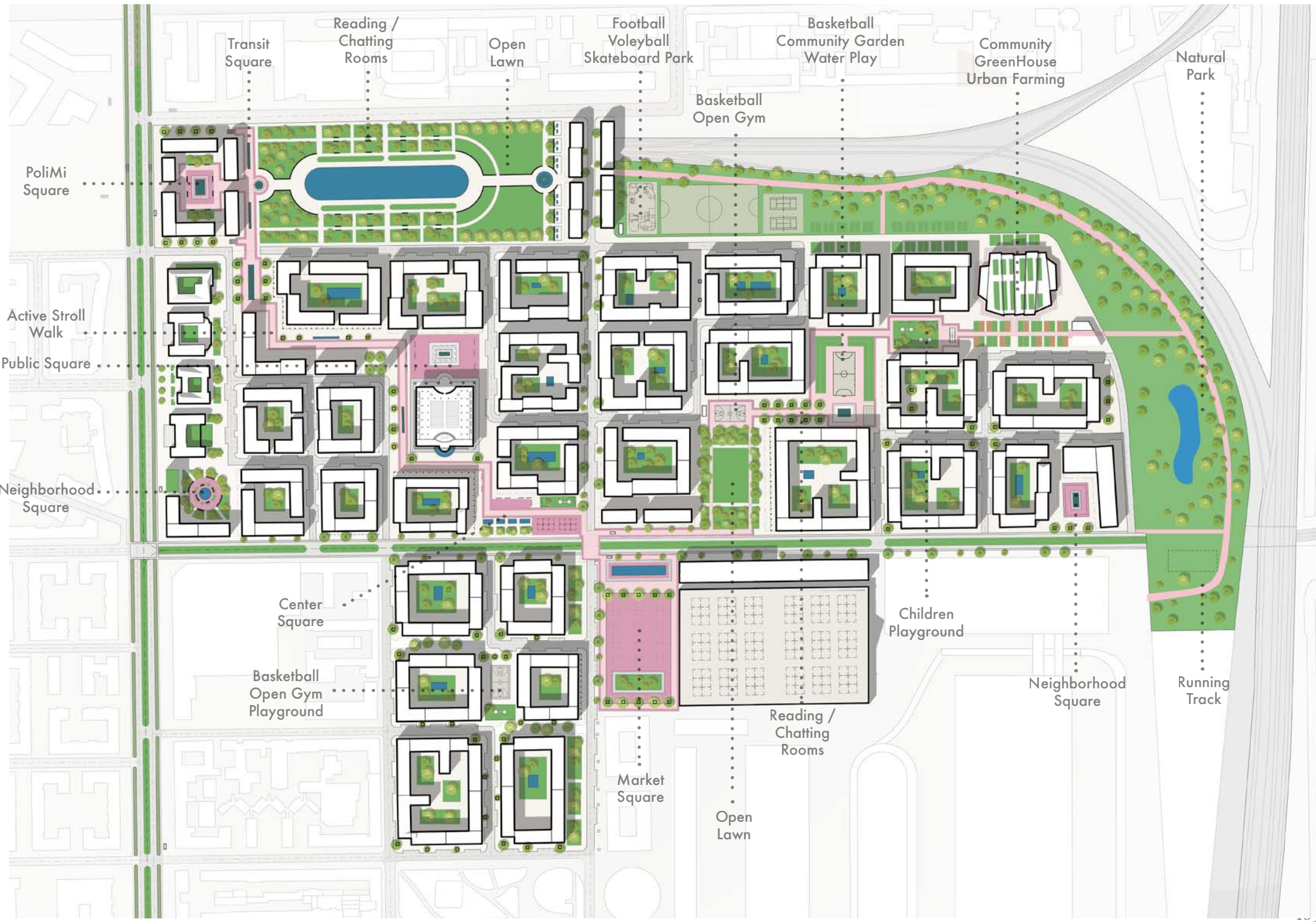
Design Proposal







The Public Spaces



Transit Square

Reading /
Chatting
Rooms

Open Lawn

Football
Volleyball
Skateboard Park

Basketball
Open Gym

Basketball
Community Garden
Water Play

Community
GreenHouse
Urban Farming

Natural
Park

PoliMi
Square

Active Stroll
Walk

Public Square

Neighborhood
Square

Center
Square

Basketball
Open Gym
Playground

Market
Square

Open
Lawn

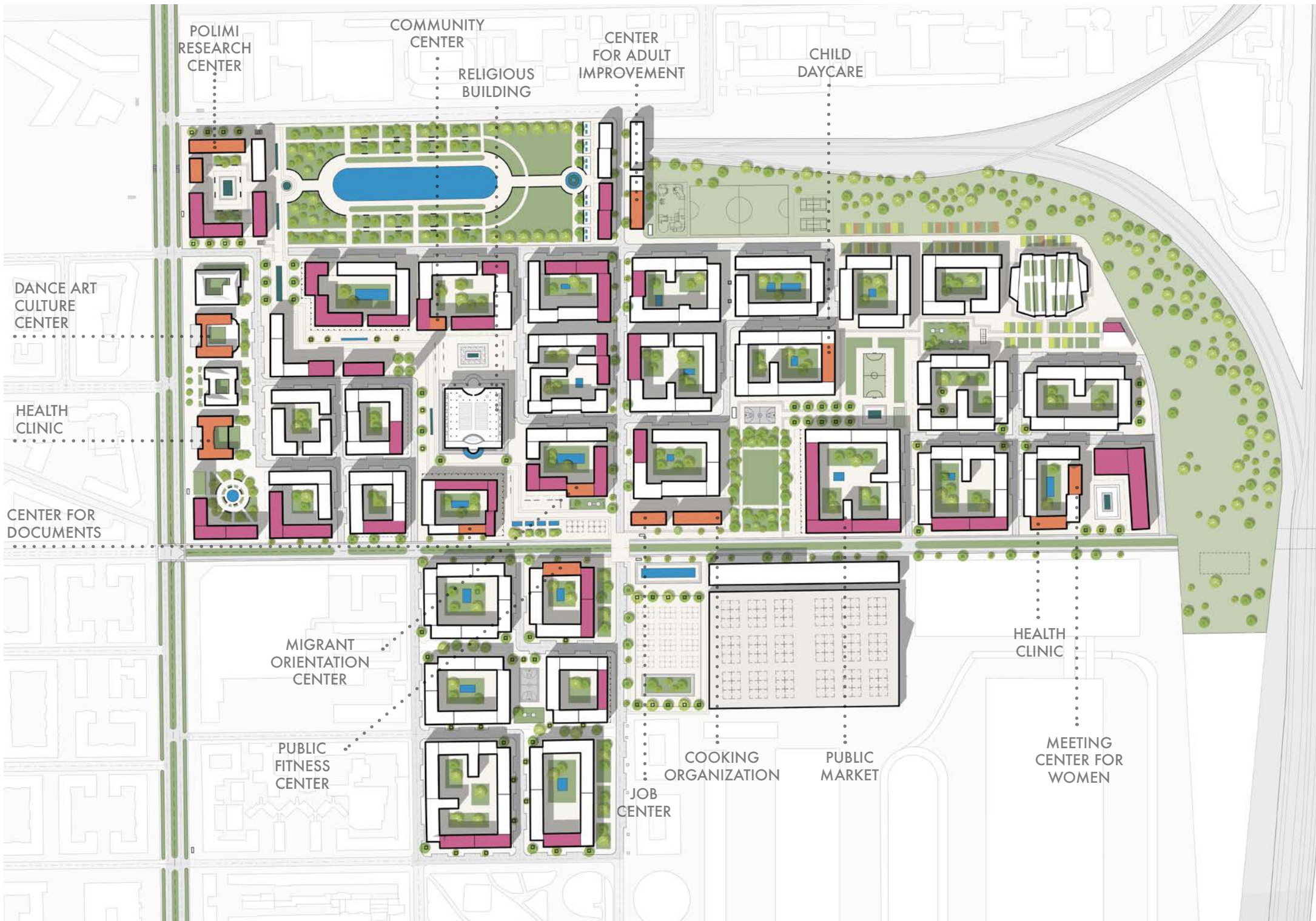
Reading /
Chatting
Rooms

Children
Playground

Neighborhood
Square

Running
Track

The Building Functions



POLIMI RESEARCH CENTER

COMMUNITY CENTER

CENTER FOR ADULT IMPROVEMENT

CHILD DAYCARE

RELIGIOUS BUILDING

DANCE ART CULTURE CENTER

HEALTH CLINIC

CENTER FOR DOCUMENTS

MIGRANT ORIENTATION CENTER

PUBLIC FITNESS CENTER

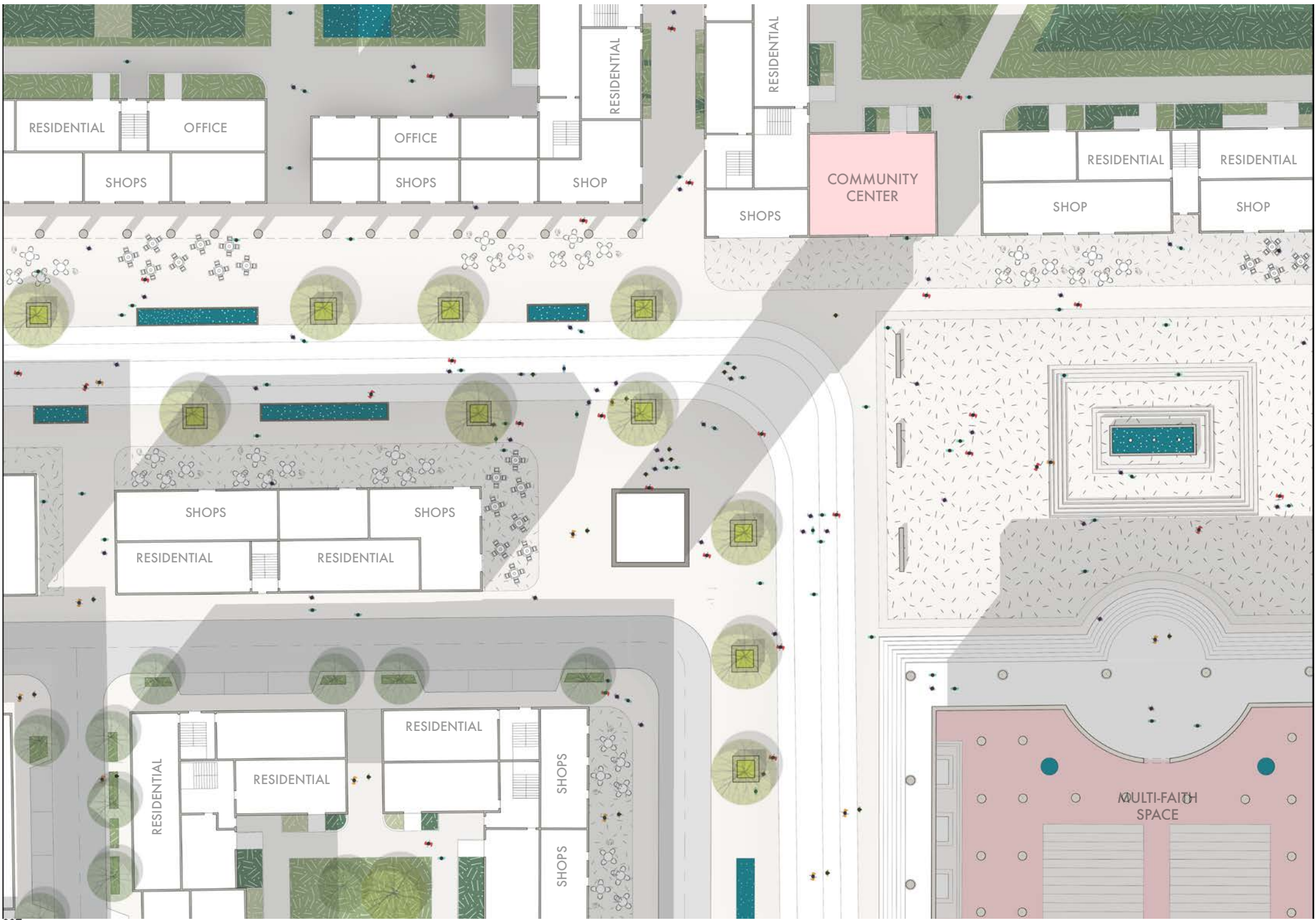
JOB CENTER

COOKING ORGANIZATION

PUBLIC MARKET

HEALTH CLINIC

MEETING CENTER FOR WOMEN



RESIDENTIAL

OFFICE

SHOPS

OFFICE

SHOPS

SHOP

RESIDENTIAL

RESIDENTIAL

SHOPS

COMMUNITY CENTER

RESIDENTIAL

RESIDENTIAL

SHOP

SHOP

SHOPS

SHOPS

RESIDENTIAL

RESIDENTIAL

RESIDENTIAL

RESIDENTIAL

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SHOPS

SHOPS

MULTI-FAITH SPACE



RESIDENTIAL

RESIDENTIAL

RESIDENTIAL

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RESIDENTIAL

CHILD DAYCAR

RESIDENTIAL

RESIDENTIAL

RESIDENTIAL

RESIDENTIAL

RESIDENTIAL



.....
TRAM
STOP /
MARKET

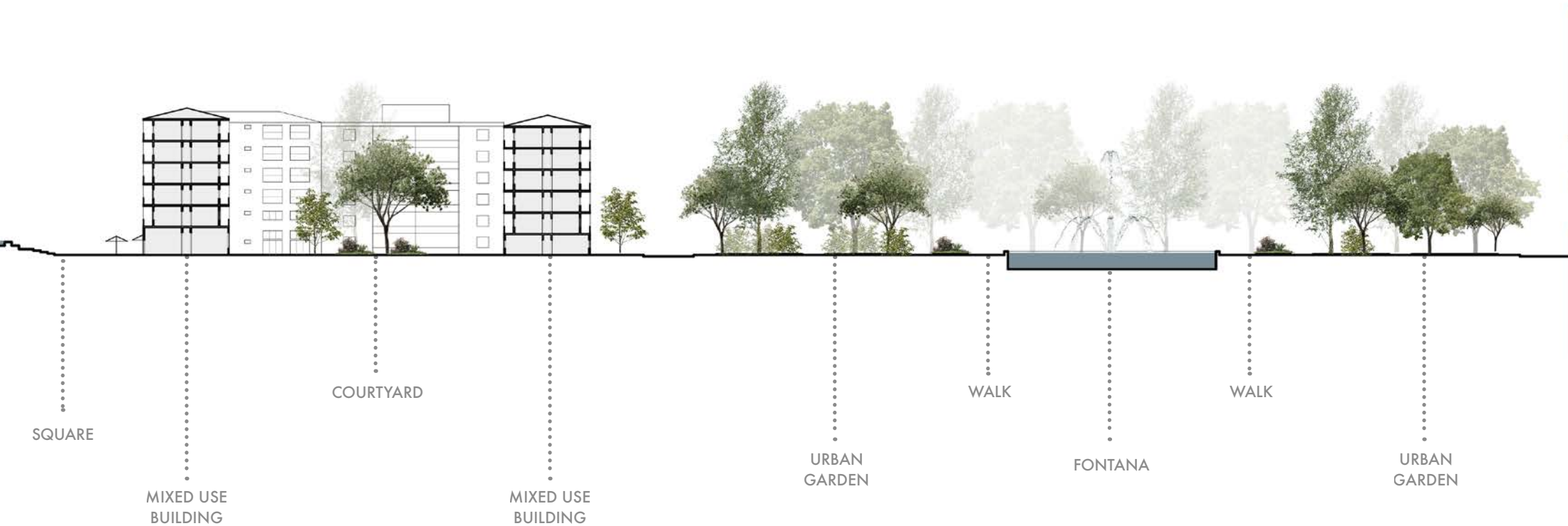
.....
COURTYARD

.....
PHARMACY
BAKERY
SHOPS

.....
FONTANA

.....
RELIGIOUS
BUILDING

.....
VISUAL
LANDMARK









Placemaking Strategies

To develop a strong and resilient community, Placemaking strategies are required to break mental barriers and develop social ties. Therefore, this project is presenting several strategies combined in three different groups:

Strategic Placemaking

strategic placemaking is targeted to a particular goal in addition to the creation of Places that can connect people. It may aim to develop activities that bring people together, attract businesses, and that catalyze substantial job creation and income growth.

Everyday 1000 kilos of wasted food is donated to "Banco Alimentare," a non-profit organization that collects the food and donate the poor people. The plan is also to donate part of this food to new Cooking Startups.

These Startups consist of mostly newcomer women that stay at home while the husband is out at work; they would organize themselves, develop cooking courses to the city's inhabitants, and open their own business, which will generate income growth in the community and promote economic gender equality. To achieve this goal, the process must be guided by non-profit organizations that can help this achievement.

The second strategy is to separate the rotten food donated from the Market and use it in the Urban Farmin and Urban Gardens as fertilizer. These spaces are also a Placemaking strategy, and it strengthens the connection between newcomers with native-born Italians; to reach this goal, it is essential to create policies that stimulate the garden work in exchange for



"Italy is a rich country; there is food for everyone. We just need to think about the people that need more."



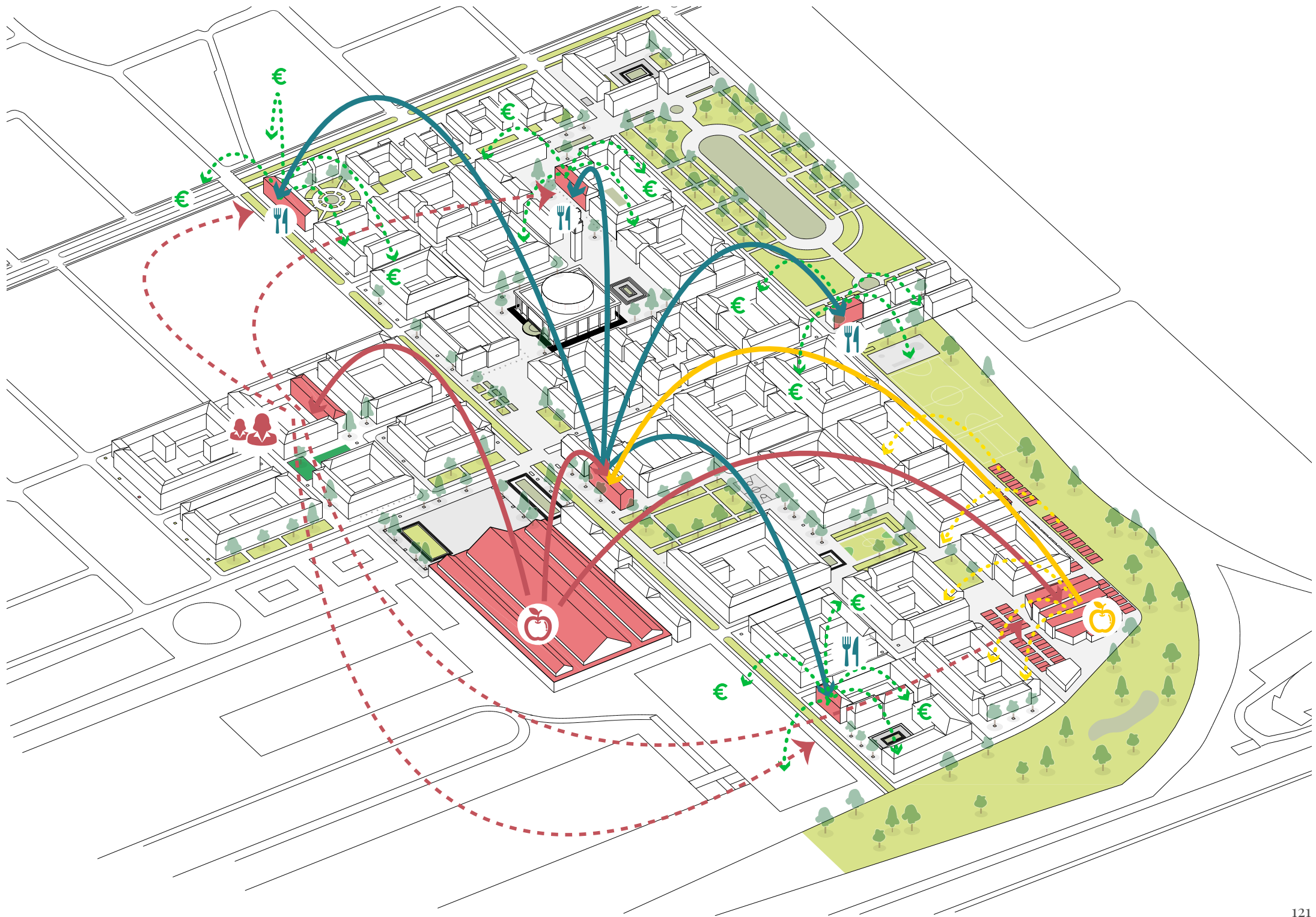
"Cooking is my super power".



"Planting together is an excellent way to get to know my neighbors."



"Having my own business will help provide a better future for my family."



Creative Placemaking

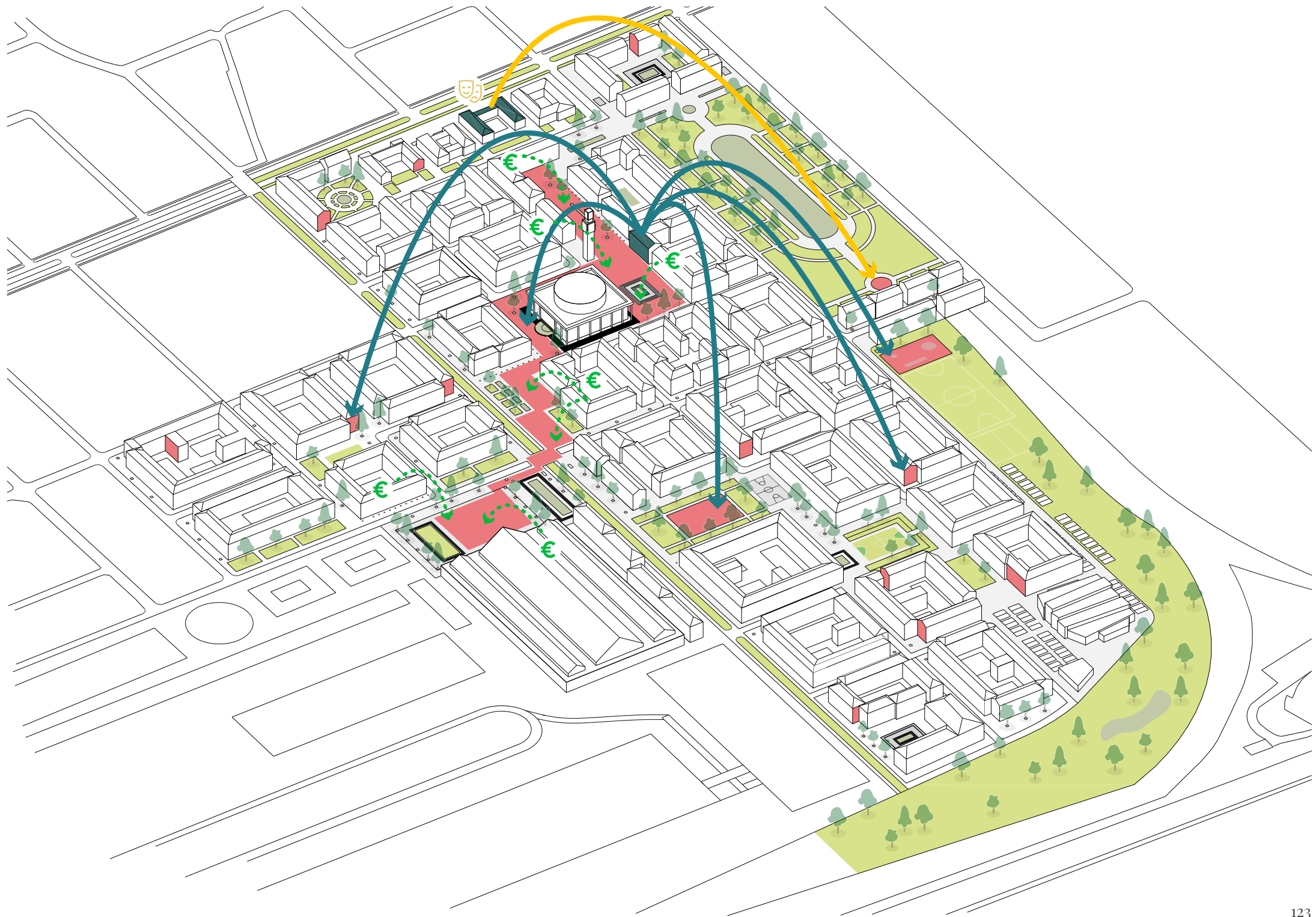
Creative Placemaking focuses on using the Arts and Cultural Activities - such as public art exhibitions, open-air performances, films in the square, and project installations - to bring people together.

For the success of Creative Placemaking, partners from community, public, private, and non-profit sectors strategically develop a physical and social aspect of an area based on arts and cultural activities. Creative placemaking stimulates public life and safety, strengthens the private sector and local business; and, transforms streetscapes bringing diverse people together.

The plan is to create an Art Center in one of the old abandoned Mansions at Viale Molise. People of all ages can take Dance classes, Theater, Music, Circus, and many others, including several diverse activities from foreign cultures. All of this vibrant art can be shown in public life, such as in squares and outdoor presentations.

Another strategy is to create a "Street Carnival" once a year with Music Bands, Street Food, Wine, Arts, and Games take place along the Pedestrian Street. For its success, local businesses, corporations, and offices must provide financial resources to organize the event. As a



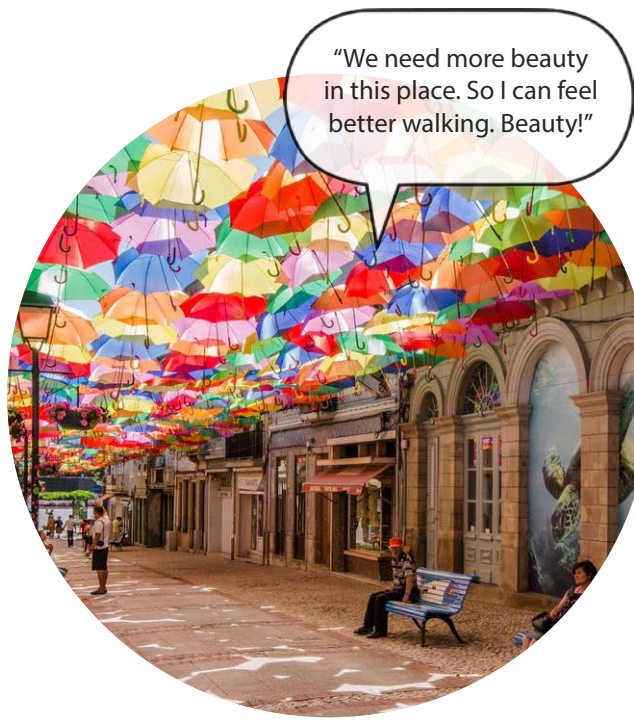


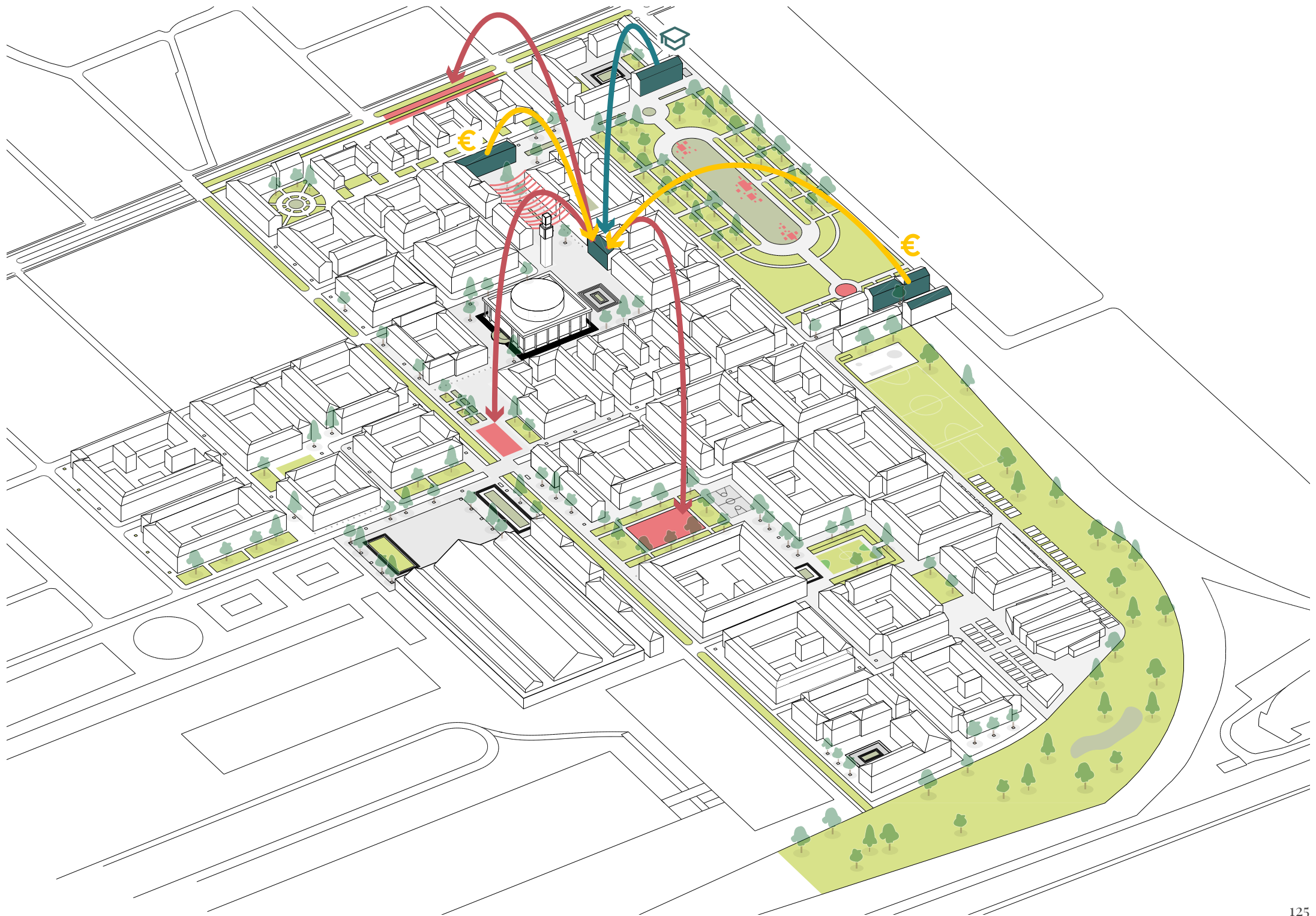
Tactical Placemaking

Tactical Placemaking is the strategy to increment and improve small-scale projects that can activate public spaces and bring people together. It is also described as “Lighter, Quicker, Cheaper,” taking the community’s creative force to create new kinds of public spaces, uses, and try out innovative solutions.

The plan is to work together between the Students of Architecture from Politecnico di Milano, the community, and financed by private sectors. Each semester, the students would have to design and construct a piece of interactive urban furniture on the site with the community.

Besides that initiative, during “Ferragosto,” Milan is mostly deserted once most people travel to the seaside to enjoy the summer and heat. However, many are not capable of affording a summer vacation and stay in the city; for those, the plan is to transform part of “Viale Molise” in an urban beach when closing one of the lanes to place sand, urban furniture and “Gelatto”.





Results in Numbers

Density

Site Area: 424.482m² 42ha
 Urban Area: 324.482m² 32ha

Residents: 13.500 people
 Dwelling Unities: 4.500

421 people/ha
 140 units/ha
 Floor Area Ratio 1.7

Open Spaces

Net Area

Park 100.000m²
 Public Open Spaces 40.000m²
 Private Courtyards 26.900m²

19m²/person
 The World Health Organization says that all cities and towns should have a minimum of 9 square meters (m²) of green space per person.

Uses

	Net Area	Unities
Residential	360.000m ²	4.500
Retail	100.000m ²	700
Offices	60.000m ²	60
Institutions	10.910m ²	5

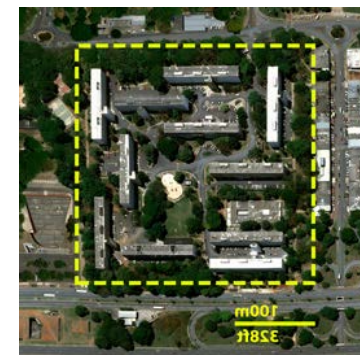
Plan: 21 shops/ha
 Malmo: 14 shops/ha

Comparison

Manhattan
 898 people/ha
 569 units/ha
 1.1 FAR
 Green - 29m²/capita



Brasilia - Super Bloco
 280 people/ha
 76 units/ha
 8 FAR
 Green - 100m²/capita



Reflections

The project presented here aims to highlight a design process involving people and communities. To implement this design, it is needed to produce a Phasing Plan and a Typology Plan.

The phasing plan should determine which points of interest are more relevant to develop according to the community, government, and private sector. Therefore, other participatory meetings must be held to create an accrued and precise phasing plan.

The Typology Plan can be done using the information and the results from the workshop - "City Game". All this data combined with professional knowledge can result in an attractive and diverse building typologies.

When I started this journey simply wanted to experiment with people and communities. This curiosity led me to incredible findings and, finally, it reflected in a design proposal.

Through this experience, I have noticed that working with people allows for endless possibilities. When working with participatory design, one can create infinite design processes involving the people and setting different goals.

To achieve deeper results, the participatory design must also include governmental agencies, community, volunteer organizations, youth/elderly groups, social experts, data scientists, and designers. This way we will hopefully be able to develop a design attitude, a design mindset where "every individual has something positive to contribute to the design process, and that everyone can be collaborators, not just consumers."

For me this is just the beginning of this journey, there is a lot more to challenge, to question, to rethink and innovate the way we approach design and planning the public spaces a lot more meaningful and purposeful.

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Piazza Grande

Designing Public Spaces that can Connect People, Integrate and Promote Social Equity

Master Thesis Report

Sustainable Urban Design
School of Architecture, Lund University
January, 2021.

Author: Marcio Thomasi da Silva

Supervisor: Jonna Ekholm
Examiner: Louise

Jury: Camilla H Möller and Lars-Henrik Ståhl



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