Modeling Temporary Urbanism in Groningen Inspired by Berlin's Practice: a Research-by-design Approach

Bachelor Thesis
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Abstract

This study explores the impact of temporary urbanism as a method to improve public spaces and community well-being. Groningen's transformation of its early expansion neighborhoods has similar sustainable aims as Berlin's transformation of its neighborhood under the Kiezblocks initiatives. While Berlin is using temporary urbanism practices to experiment with the neighborhoods, Groningen has top-down systematic approaches to this sustainable transformation. This research aims to enrich Groningen's neighborhood transformation inspired by Berlin's practice by modeling temporary changes in one of the early expansion neighborhoods, De Hoogte. By conducting qualitative observations and interviews in both neighborhoods, the challenges are addressed by modeled solutions. Results indicate that temporary urbanism interventions in Berlin's Kiezblocks have led to increased community engagement, improved safety, and enhanced environmental quality through the reduction of vehicular traffic and the creation of new spaces. These findings are used to model similar interventions in Groningen's De Hoogte neighborhood. Residents of De Hoogte expressed positive perceptions of these temporary changes, noting improvements in social interactions, safety, and overall quality of public spaces. The proposed implications include pop-up greenery, temporary street furniture, and pedestrian-friendly zones targeting local residents. Implementation could be led by municipal authorities, urban planners, and community organizations, with active resident participation. This research acts as a tool in sustainable transitions and citizen engagement and participation in Groningen. The relevance extends to urban areas globally and offers a simple yet effective approach for cities worldwide to improve neighborhoods, engage citizens, and create lively urban neighborhoods.
Keywords: temporary urbanism, urban planning and design, neighborhood planning, sustainable transition, quality of public spaces

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1. Introduction

The existing urban design structure of early expansion neighborhoods in Groningen (late 19th and early 20th centuries) presents several challenges related to the quality of public space, accessibility, and environmental sustainability. Issues such as parked vehicles and bicycles cluttering, the narrow residential streets, lack of green spaces leading to flooding, and limited connectivity to urban environmental structures contribute to a less-than-ideal living environment for residents. The municipality of Groningen (Gemeente Groningen, 2022, p. 181), therefore, has aspirations to turn these neighborhoods into more livable and sustainable neighborhoods based on the Woonerf principles, which prioritize pedestrians and cyclists over motor vehicles and enhance community well-being (Ben-Joseph,1995).

While these neighborhoods await redevelopment, temporary urbanism can be a tool for a smoother and more sustainable transition (Andres and Zhang, 2020). Temporary urbanism offers a flexible and adaptive approach to urban (re-)development, allowing street experimentation in underutilized spaces. Street experimentation involves implementing temporary or pilot projects within urban streetscapes to test new ideas, designs, or interventions and gather feedback before permanent changes, drawing from tactical urbanism, placemaking, and iterative design principles. Supporting this approach with the current global emphasis on sustainable transition is visible in policies such as the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (United Nations, 2015). Goal #11 delves into the importance of sustainable cities and communities by encouraging the development of policies and projects that emphasize inclusive and sustainable urbanization, protecting cultural and natural heritage, reducing the impact of disasters, improving environmental quality, and providing universal access to safe and green public spaces. These goals aim to foster economic, social, and environmental well-being while strengthening the resilience of cities and human settlements. In this regard, this research is modeling temporary urbanism through urban interventions to gain insights into what transformative changes can occur to make smoother transitions in the neighborhoods based on residential opinions about such changes.

Berlin, Germany, is transforming neighborhoods like that envisioned for De Hoogte in Groningen. The aim is to minimize vehicular traffic, improve public safety, and create pleasant public spaces through an initiative named "Kiezblocks." "Kieblocks" (n.d.) were inspired by the superblocks in Barcelona and present a collection of neighborhoods undergoing such transformation. Techniques used in these transformations are often temporary urban interventions that test solutions for the specific needs of specific neighborhoods. Berlin has a rich history of temporary urbanism, characterized by the temporary use of vacant or underutilized spaces for various cultural, social, and economic activities. These "interim" spaces, as explained by Colomb (2017), often emerge in areas undergoing transition or redevelopment, providing opportunities for experimentation, creativity, and community engagement. They have been instrumental in fostering cultural innovation, supporting small businesses, and revitalizing neglected urban areas. This research will be further enriched by research on the quality of public spaces in Kiezblocks to gain insights into temporary urbanism and its impacts on the urban environment and residential behavior.

So far, Kiezblocks in Berlin have not been widely researched about their impacts. This is understandable because of their relatively new emerging transition to Berlin neighborhoods since 2020 (European Public Health Alliance, 2021). This research aims to fill this gap. Furthermore, as temporary urbanism involves more bottom-up practice, this research acts as a tool for multiple actors in urban planning, such as neighborhood initiatives, city-level governance, or urban activists.

The aim of the research is to explore and examine the potential of temporary urbanism as a tool to facilitate the transition towards sustainable neighborhood (re)development faced by the early expansion neighborhood of De Hoogte in Groningen inspired by Berlin's practice. To help execute this, the main research question and subquestions are asked:

How can temporary urbanism, inspired by Berlin's Kiezblocks transformation, facilitate the transition towards sustainable (re)development in the neighborhood of De Hoogte in Groningen?
- **What kind of public places appear in the Kiezblock neighborhood transformation?**
- **What is the quality of the public spaces in the Kiezblock neighborhood created by temporary urbanism practice?**
- **What changes can be adopted from Berlin's study case to Groningen's neighborhood, De Hoogte, to increase the quality of public spaces?**
- **How could temporary urbanism interventions be modeled to align with the perceptions and preferences of residents and address the challenges of the De Hoogte neighborhood?**

2. Theoretical Framework

2.1. Sustainable Urban Development and Sustainability Transitions:

The concept of sustainable development (Sanei, et al., 2017) is grounded in meeting present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own. This approach, which targets the economy, environment, and society, is seen as a significant contributor to environmental protection. Understanding the criteria for sustainable urban spaces is essential for preventing social harm and enhancing the overall quality of life, with both direct and indirect components influencing environmental, social, and economic sustainability classifications. Sanei et al. (2017) further explore the design instructions for creating sustainable public spaces, as seen in Table 1. Understanding the criteria for sustainable urban spaces is essentially preventing social harm and improving environmental, social, and economic sustainability.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations (2015) provide a comprehensive framework for sustainable urban development. Goal #11 specifically focuses on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. This goal targets multiple principles of sustainable urban development; important for this thesis are the objectives of Target 11.3: "Enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated, and sustainable human settlement planning and management" (United Nations, 2015, p. 21). This emphasizes the role of community involvement and integrated planning in creating sustainable urban environments. Target 11.7: "Provide universal access to safe, inclusive, accessible green and public spaces, particularly for women and children, older persons, and persons with disabilities" United Nations, 2015, p. 22). Green spaces are essential for environmental sustainability and social well-being, offering areas for recreation, relaxation, and community gatherings. In addition to goal 11, goal 15 contributes to the broader objectives of sustainable urban development by stating, "Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems. Urban development should incorporate green spaces and preserve natural habitats to support biodiversity and ecosystem services" (United Nations, 2015, p. 14).

Parallel to sustainable urban development are sustainability transitions, as explored by researchers such as Frantzeskaki et al. (2018), Wolfram and Frantzeskaki (2016), Forrest and Wiek (2015), Pereira et al. (2015), Smith and Raven (2012), there is a growing recognition of the need for experimentation, protective spaces, and community engagement in driving transformative change. These studies highlight the importance of collaborative efforts, innovative approaches, and a deep connection to place in navigating the complex challenges of urban sustainability. By embracing these principles, cities can prompt positive change.

The key to the transition to sustainability is the concept of protective spaces or niches, as explained by Smith and Raven (2012). These niches provide a sheltered environment where novel ideas, technologies, and practices can develop and prosper away from the pressures of

mainstream socio-technical structures. Within these protective spaces, innovators are allowed to experiment, iterate, and refine their approaches without immediate competition. This environment encourages the development of new inventions that may lead to a broader systemic shift in the direction of sustainability. Furthermore, sustainability transition involves experimentation (Frantzeskaki et al., 2018), which entails actively testing new ideas, interventions, and policies in real-world settings to assess their feasibility, effectiveness, and societal acceptance. This process of learning by doing allows for the identification of promising solutions while uncovering potential barriers or unintended consequences. Moreover, sustainability transition emphasizes community engagement and empowerment (Forrest and Wiek, 2015). Communities can drive change from the grassroots level, advocate for sustainable practices, and shape local policies and initiatives. By involving diverse stakeholders in decision-making processes, sustainability transition becomes more inclusive, democratic, and reflective of the needs and aspirations of the people it seeks to serve.

Table 1: Adapted and adjusted table from Sanei, et al. (2017), the design instructions for creating sustainable public spaces.

Category	Subcategory	Instructions
Direct Effects	Social Instructions	• Residents feel a sense of belonging and maintain the area • Residents participate in activities and socialize • Residents take care of cleanliness and environmental issues • Safety and liveliness are improved through implemented solutions • Community programs support social issues and integration • Efforts aim to reduce social problems and promote acceptance among residents.
	Economic Instructions	• People can invest in the local economy • Efforts are made to conserve energy, water, and materials • The local economy can thrive • Opportunities for reusing environmental resources are available
	Environmental Instructions	• Using reusable and recyclable designs, adapting to climate change by transitioning to a low-carbon economy • Reducing waste and pollution, using eco-friendly materials, improving hygiene, and raising awareness about environmental issues • Ensuring comfortable climates, efficient lighting, natural ventilation, green areas, and water management systems. Using renewable resources at a sustainable rate • Avoiding waste beyond the environments capacity to absorb it • Developing renewable alternatives for nonrenewable resources.
Indirect Effects	Functional Instructions	• Prioritize user comfort and convenience, facilitating sitting, walking, and meeting daily needs • Ensure easy access for pedestrians and cyclists, linking to city services, transportation hubs, and neighboring areas • Create versatile spaces for sports, entertainment, and recreation, catering to various interests • Place amenities near main streets, busy routes, and activity hubs to improve accessibility and usage
	Aesthetical Instructions	• Aesthetic quality and night lighting • Dynamism and vitality provided by memorable and flexible spaces, through activities creating diversity and happiness
	Physical Instructions	• Ensure clear navigation with signage, balanced visuals, and human-scale design • Offer inclusive urban furniture for people of all ages and genders • Arrange furniture, pavements, and facades thoughtfully • Ensure easy movement and accessibility throughout the space • Prioritize safety, especially at night, and ensure accessibility for disabled individuals.

2.2. Temporary Urbanism as a Tool in Citizen Engagement and Participation:

This research works with concepts of temporary urbanism for sustainable transition, involving short-term interventions that prioritize social and environmental values (Andres and Zhang, 2020). These practices are characterized by their flexibility, adaptability, and focus on community engagement and environmental sustainability. Temporary urbanism aims to improve the space in a quick and low-cost way. Such temporary changes can be solutions to increase quality of life, stimulate social interactions, and improve health and well-being. Despite its growing popularity, temporary urbanism remains underexplored in academic research, particularly regarding its long-term impacts, scalability, and equity implications, necessitating more empirical studies to assess its effectiveness in achieving intended outcomes and implications for social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and economic development (Andres and Kraftl, 2021).

Ali Madanipour (2017) identifies various forms of temporary urbanism, including instrumental, existential, and experimental temporality. This research focuses on experimental temporality, using interventions to test new ideas and social adaptation, such as pilot projects for mobility solutions or pedestrian zones. While challenging traditional planning, temporary urbanism shares similarities with living labs and transitional experiments, both driving urban innovation and adaptation (Aernouts, Cognetti, and Maranghi, 2023).

Sustainable urban development demands community participation and engagement. In order to guarantee that urban development meets the needs and ambitions of the community, theories on community engagement stress the significance of engaging residents in decision-making processes. In this sense, a foundational theory is Arnstein's Ladder of Public Engagement (1969), depicting multiple stages of public engagement ranging from complete citizen control to non-participation. This model allows for an understanding of the range of community engagement, from providing citizens with information to establishing decision-making authority.

The importance of community engagement is further explored by Jane Jacobs' "Eyes on the Street" concept (1961). According to Jacobs, community involvement and active presence in public areas improve safety and encourage a sense of accountability and ownership among locals. Cities can encourage a sense of community engagement and overall well-being among their citizens by creating urban places that promote natural surveillance and contact between neighbors. In practice, involving the community through joint decision-making, workshops, and consultations ensures diverse voices are heard, including those from marginalized groups. Integrating Jacobs' theory into the discussion of temporary urbanism, it becomes evident that initiatives aimed at improving the quality of public spaces through temporary interventions can have a dual impact on community safety. Firstly, by activating underutilized areas and encouraging engagement, temporary urbanism promotes pedestrian activity and social interaction, enhancing natural surveillance and discouraging crime. Secondly, by addressing physical neglect, temporary interventions create welcoming environments that residents are more inclined to care for and protect.

Temporary urbanism is driven by neoliberal governance frameworks, which prioritize market-based solutions, deregulation, and privatization in urban development. In this context, temporary urbanism is often seen as a cost-effective way to address urban challenges while leveraging private sector investment and participation (Bragaglia & Rossignolo, 2021). However, if not implemented equitably, temporary urbanism has the potential to exacerbate existing inequalities and marginalize vulnerable populations.

Temporary urbanism can be essential in advancing sustainable transition in urban areas by encouraging experimentation, innovation, and community engagement. Sustainable transition presents the shift towards more environmentally and socially aware practices in urban development. Sustainable transition involves the integration of ecological, social, and economic considerations into decision-making processes to promote resilience, inclusivity, and sustainability in cities. This requires collaboration among diverse stakeholders, including

government agencies, businesses, civil society organizations, and local communities, to address complex urban challenges and create livable, resilient cities for future generations.

2.3. Quality of Public Space of Neighborhoods:

According to Sanei et al. (2017), the concept of public space is complex, defining physical attributes as well as social dynamics and cultural norms. It extends beyond physical boundaries to capture the interactions and engagements that occur within these spaces. Public spaces are those areas that are open to the general public, facilitating both individual and group activities. They have faced challenges in contemporary urban environments, where trends toward privatization and commercialization have led to their neglect or repurposing. Nowadays, there is a renewed interest in public space, driven by a desire for vibrant, inclusive communities. However, challenges persist, with many public spaces facing issues of control or segregation. Despite these challenges, public spaces remain important for public life and community well-being, necessitating ongoing evaluation and improvement. The role of urban designers is concerned with the quality of public space, working with factors such as access, control, equity, and social interaction. While much knowledge has been gathered on the nature and use of public space, more empirical research is needed to better measure its performance. Carr et al. (1992) and Gehl (1987) offer comprehensive frameworks for understanding and evaluating public space, emphasizing its responsiveness, democracy, and meaningfulness, as well as its ability to support various activities and provide a positive user experience. Ultimately, good public space should fulfill five dimensions (figure 1) of inclusiveness, meaning being accessible and open to everybody, creating meaningful activities that are safe, comfortable, and pleasurable to achieve social interaction and community well-being (Mehta, 2014).
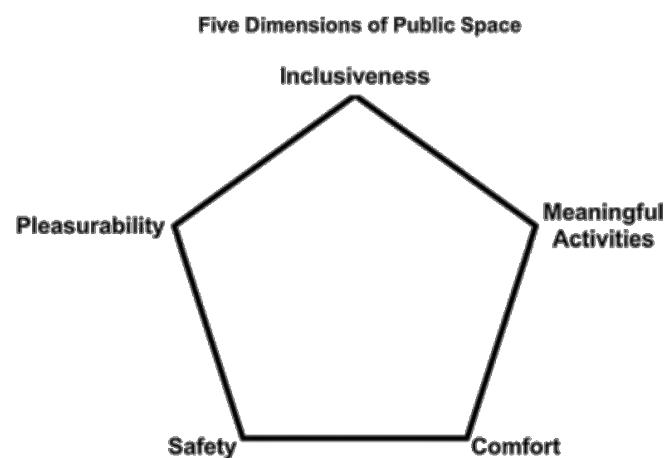

Figure 1: Five dimensions of public spaces by Mehta (2014)

2.4. De Hoogte Transition:

De Hoogte (Gemeente Groningen, 2022, p. 181), a residential area in Groningen's north, is bounded by Noorderstationsstraat, Groningen-Delfzijl railway, Asingastraat, and Bedumerweg. The area's history includes the former Boterdiep waterway and railway construction in 1884. The neighborhood, characterized by dense residential streets, faces challenges like flooding and lack of green spaces. Community initiatives like a picking garden improve local environments, while strategic frameworks aim to enhance mobility, green-blue connections, social interaction, and the overall neighborhood experience. Proposed solutions aim to model the Woonerf neighborhood (Ben-Joseph,1995), which refers to a type of neighborhood design that prioritizes pedestrians and cyclists over those of motor vehicles. Woonerfs typically feature shared spaces where cars are allowed, but they must travel at low speeds, often only at walking pace. This design encourages interaction between residents, creates a safer environment for pedestrians and cyclists, and enhances the overall quality of life in the neighborhood. Woonerfs includes features such as traffic calming measures, greenery, and shared public spaces. De Hoogte's vision includes restricting parking, converting streets into living spaces, and redesigning Bedumerweg as a green parkway.
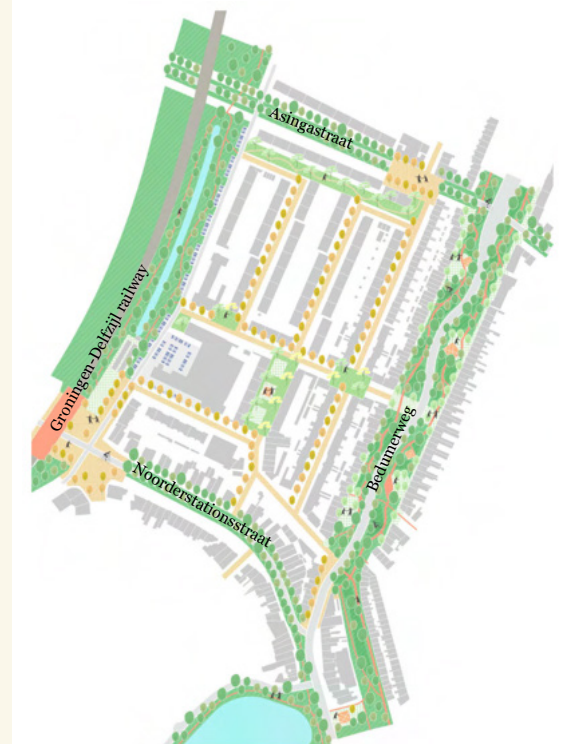
Figure 2: Illustration of transformation of De Hoogte (Gemeente Groningen, 2022)

2.5. Kiezblocks in Berlin:

Kiezblocks (Kiezblocks, n.d.; Wenke-Thiem, S., 2022), or neighborhood blocks, offer a solution to the increasing detachment of cities from people's needs. By restricting thorough car traffic, Kiezblocks reclaim streets for residents, enhancing safety and quality of life. These areas see reduced air pollution and noise, creating safer environments, particularly for families and seniors. The freed-up space allows for diverse uses like seating, greenery, and community squares, fostering neighborly interaction and strengthening community ties. Benefits extend to delivery services, as designated zones improve efficiency, while reduced traffic volume encourages alternative transportation methods. Pedestrian, bicycle, and public transport connections

Figure 3: Illustration of Kiezblock measures (Kiezblock, n.d.)

have become more attractive and time-efficient, benefiting local businesses and enhancing neighborhood livability. Importantly, Kiezblocks contributes to the sustainable city of the future by reducing emissions and promoting active lifestyles. Creating a Kiezblock involves community-driven initiatives presenting traffic flow plans to local authorities. Networking with neighborhoods and gathering support through resident applications are crucial steps.

3. Conceptual Model
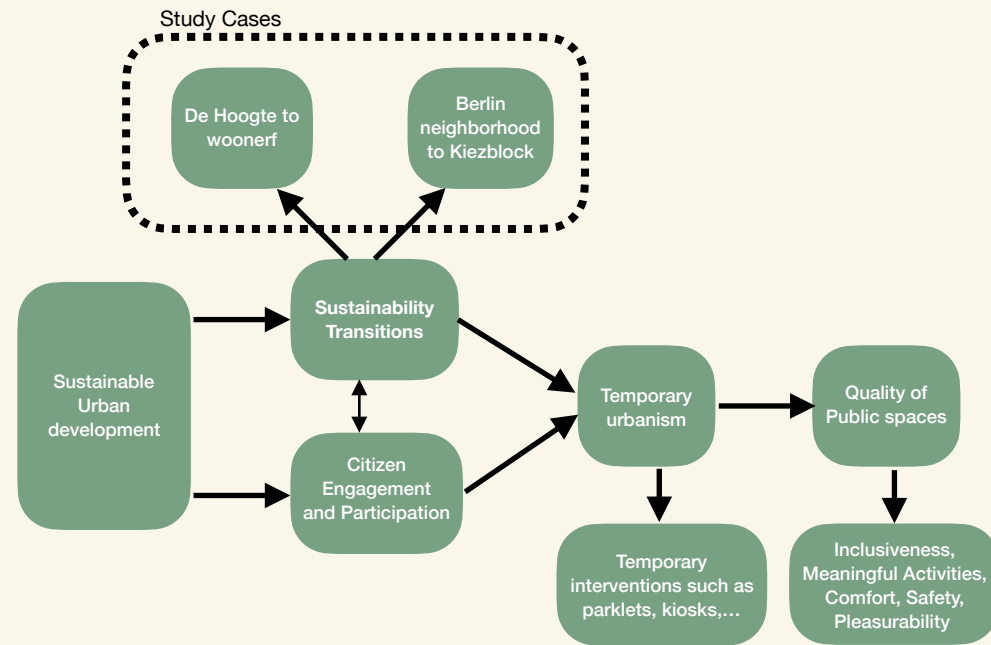
Figure 4: Conceptual model (Author, 2024)

Figure 5: Research Design (Author, 2024)

4. Methodology

This research uses a research-by-design approach (Colding, Marcus, and Barthel, 2023; Roggema, 2007), see figure 5, which involves using design concepts to explore solutions and takes theories and analysis of the De Hoogte neighborhood to model changes, which are later evaluated by residents. Based on these new changes, adjustments are applied, and the final result is the design solution, which can be altered again with the acquisition of new knowledge. The part of the reside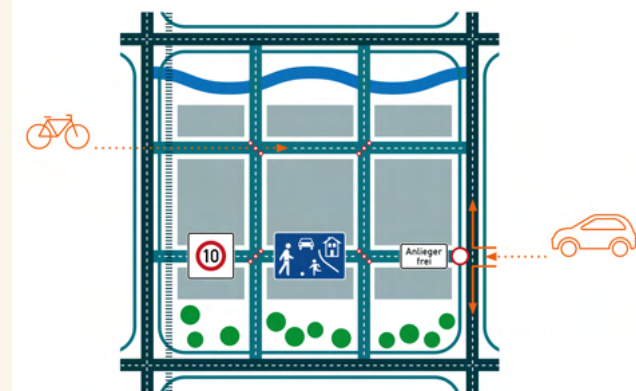ntial area of the De Hoogte neighborhood in Groningen envisioned by Municipality (Figure 6) had been selected to model temporary changes to the residential neighborhood based on "Effective Instructions in Design Process of Urban Public Spaces to Promote Sustainable Development" by Sanei, et al. (2017), precedents of temporary urban interventions, and the vision of Groningen Municipality (Gemeente Groningen, 2022). Further, the first version of modeled interventions was evaluated based on residential perceptions while further asking residents for the main perceived challenges. The input from interviews acts as a guide for generating changes to create a design framework. Further knowledge has been acquired through observations in Berlin's neighborhood, Kreuzberg in Lausitzer Platz (Figure 7). To gain insights into the transformative process of new emerging public spaces in Berlin's Kiezblocks, observations and interviews were conducted. This data was collected in greater collaboration with students from Stockholm University and Politecnico di Milano within the STONIE program organized by Erazmus+. Observations were translated into the Public Space Quality Index (PSQI) (Mehta, 2014), and further interviews were conducted to understand the social connections between the design of temporary changes at Lausitzer Platz. Knowledge from the case study has been implied to generate changes and create a design for the De Hoogte neighborhood.

Figure 6: Areal view of De Hoogte neighborhood in Groningen (Author, 2024)

Figure 7: Areal view of Lausitzer Platz in Berlin (Author, 2024)

4.1. Data Collection:

       This research project examines public space in Groningen and Berlin. In Groningen, site observations and interviews in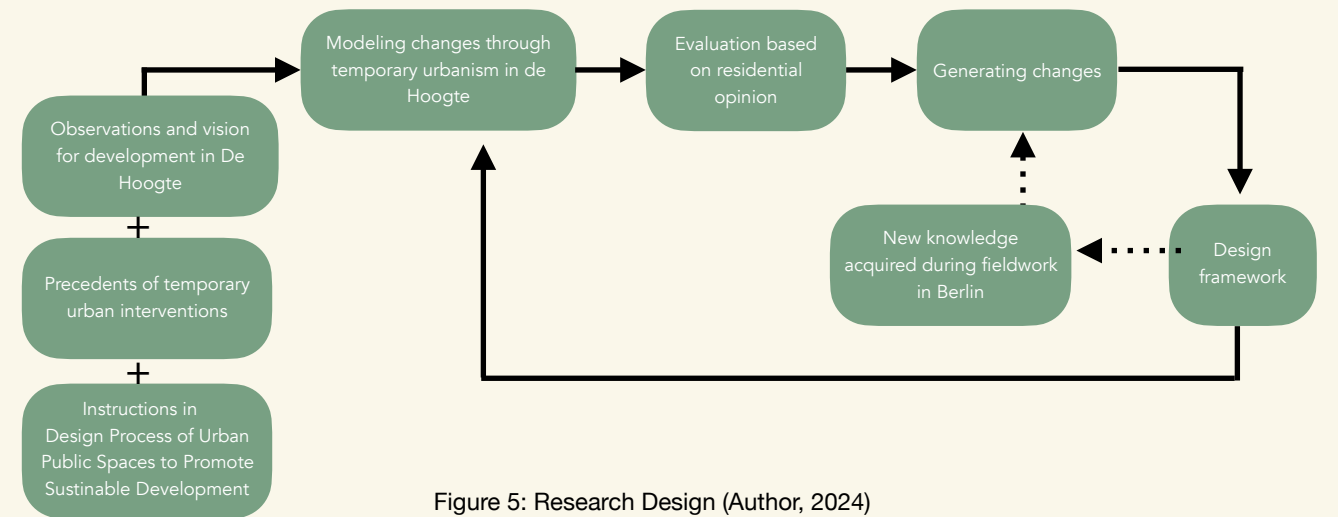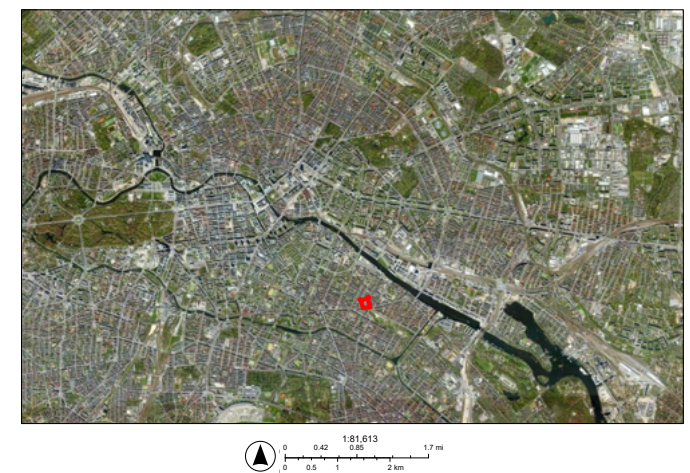 the De Hoogte neighborhood were conducted to model changes and gather resident feedback. In Berlin, observations and interviews at Lausitzer Platz aimed to understand public space quality and resident perceptions. The research design visualized in Figure 5 shows the steps and phases of the conducted methodology.

       In Groningen, the research began with a site visit of the De Hoogte neighborhood to understand the analysis made by Groningen Municipality, allocate potential locations for modeled interventions, and construct the Public Space Quality Index (PSQI) (Mehta, 2014). During site observations on two different days (29.03.2024 and 10.04.2024), pictures and notes were taken of areas planned for re-development to be used in modeling the changes. Subsequently, based on the first set of modeled changes to the neighborhood, interviews (appendix 1) were conducted on the 13th and 14th of April at different times of the day. Through visual aids, residents were asked to express their opinions on such interventions. This research was looking for a representative sample across neighborhood demographics. Conducting up to 6 interviews was enough because no new information was identified, and people across different ages, genders, and socio-economic backgrounds were interviewed.

       In Berlin, the methodology employed in Berlin's Kiezblocks at Lausitzer Platz to explore sustainable public spaces involved observations to examine the criteria suggested by Sanei et al. (2017) as essential for sustainable urban environments. Site observations, taken on April 29th, 30th, and May 1st, 2024, at 11:00-12:00, 15:00-16:00, and 21:00-22:00, were then translated into the PSQI (Mehta, 2014) to better understand the quality created by temporary urban interventions. The PSQI was constructed in collaboration with two students from the University of Stockholm, one student from the Polytechnical University of Milan, and one student from Groningen University during the STONIE program within the Erasmus+ framework, which helped reduce biases. To analyze the social aspects of the public spaces on a neighborhood scale, semi-structured interviews (appendix 4) were conducted on May 1st and 2nd, 2024, interviewing 13 people. Interviews were conducted by two groups of two students and one student individually.

4.2. Data analysis:

       Interviews conducted in De Hoogte were transcribed and coded in Atlas.ti, and the analyzed data are included in appendices 2,3. Insights from these interviews informed adjustments to temporary urban interventions and design proposals. Notes from Berlin interviews were analyzed in Atlas.ti (see appendices 4, 5, 6), guiding further refinements to the design proposal. The PSQI was calculated using Excel, with detailed tables in appendices 7 and 8 for De Hoogte and Lausitzer Platz, respectively. The privacy and confidentiality of participants were prioritized through informed consent and anonymized interviews. Interview recordings were securely stored on the University's X drive and deleted for privacy. The questions were stated as written down and not altered to steer the conversation in a certain direction to achieve certain results. The data was handled with confidentiality, and no participants were harmed or felt forced under any circumstances.

5. Results

5.1. De Hoogte Public Space Index:

It was observed that the De Hoogte neighborhood offers limited public spaces and a large number of parking spaces; Figure 9 showcases public spaces compared to parking spaces. As seen in the PSQI (Figure 10), all categories score low, which reveals that the neighborhood's public spaces are underperforming across all dimensions. The mid-range scores for inclusiveness and safety indicate some positive aspects but highlight significant areas for improvement. The lower scores for meaningful activities, comfort, and pleasurability suggest that users are not fully satisfied with their experiences in these spaces.

Inclusiveness (15.2/30):

The inclusiveness score of 15.2 indicates a moderate level of inclusiveness within the public spaces. While there are some efforts to make these spaces accessible and open to all community members, there is significant room for improvement. Factors contributing to this score include limited accessibility features for people with disabilities, lack of diverse cultural representation, or inadequate spaces for different age groups.

Meaningful Activities (12/30):

A score of 12 in meaningful activities indicates that public spaces provide limited opportunities for engagement and interaction. The low score is mainly associated with a lack of places for gathering and a range of activities and behaviors available. Enhancing these aspects would involve creating more opportunities for both passive and active engagement, such as sports, cultural events, or educational programs.

Comfort (11/30):

The comfort aspect scores the lowest at 11, indicating that the public spaces may not be providing a pleasant and accommodating environment for users. Issues contributing to this low score include insufficient seating, poor maintenance, limited shading, and weather protection. Improving comfort would address these factors to create a more welcoming and user-friendly environment.

Safety (15/30):

With a score of 15, safety matches inclusiveness but still only reaches the scale's midpoint. This suggests that while the public spaces are relatively safe, there are concerns that need to be addressed to improve this further. Potential issues include inadequate lighting after dark, insufficient surveillance, and areas that feel isolated and unsafe. Enhancing safety would involve measures such as increasing visibility, improving lighting, and fostering a sense of community surveillance.

Pleasurability (12/30):

The pleasurability score of 12 indicates that public spaces lack elements that make them enjoyable and interesting to users. This is seen in a lack of aesthetic appeal, insufficient green spaces, and a monotonous environment. Enhancing pleasurability would involve incorporating more natural elements, artistic features, and diverse landscaping to create visually appealing and enjoyable spaces.
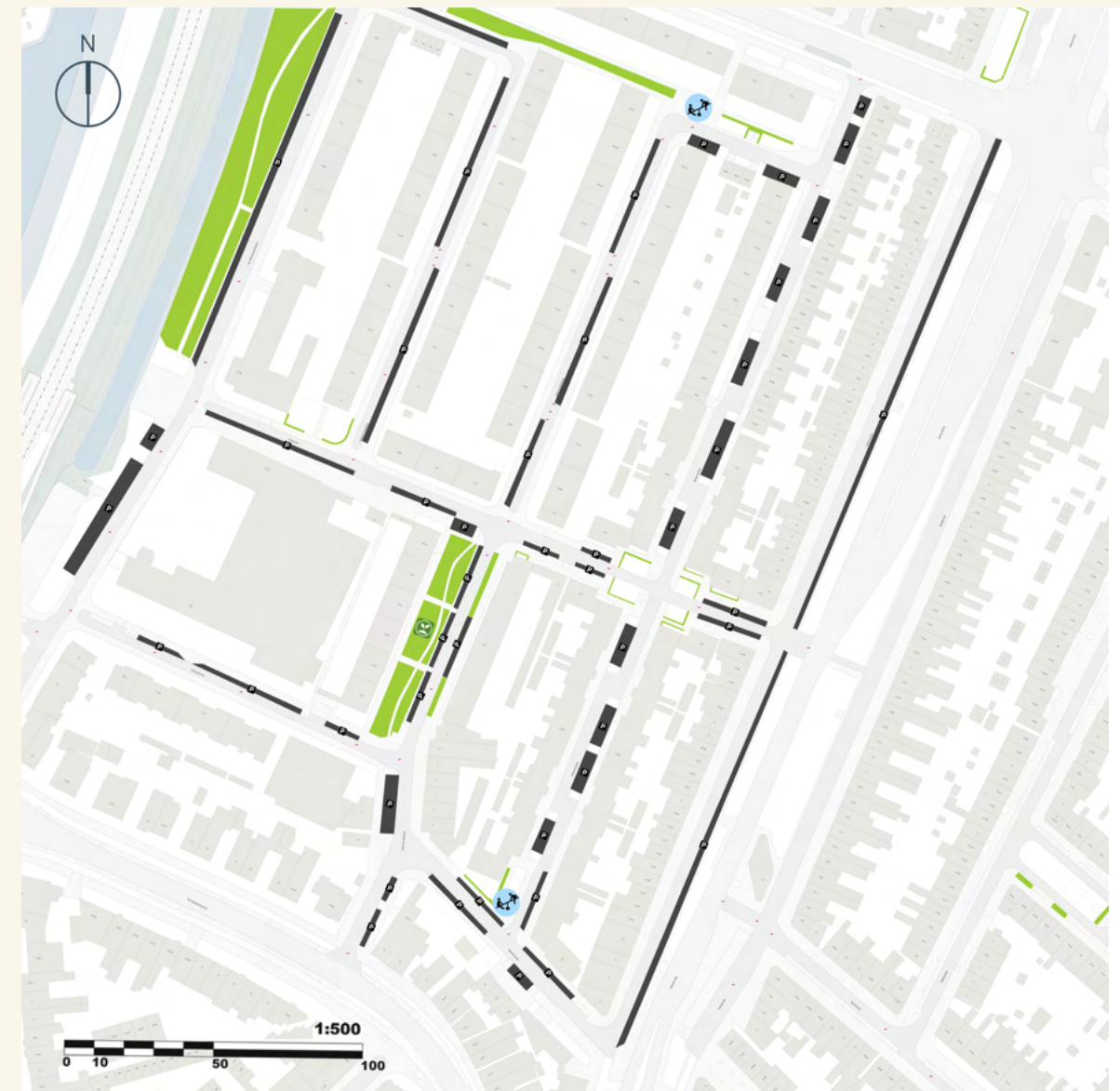
Figure 9: Illustrative map of public green spaces, playgrounds, and parking spaces (Author, 2024)

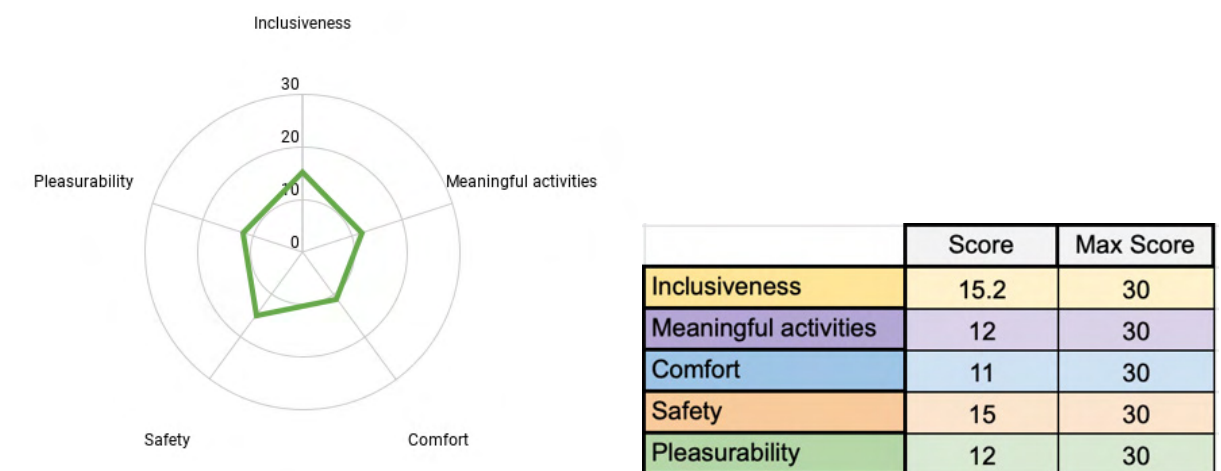|	Score	Max Score
Inclusiveness	15.2	30
Meaningful activities	12	30
Comfort	11	30
Safety	15	30
Pleasurability	12	30

Figure 10: Visualization of Public Space Quality Index for De Hoogte neighborhood (Author, 2024)

5.2. Interviews in De Hoogte:

Interviews provided a range of perspectives into the residential perception of specific challenges and preferences for temporary urban interventions in the De Hoogte neighborhood. The profile of respondents (Figure 11) was important in understanding factors such as age, gender, and occupation that influence perceptions and needs in the neighborhood. The research looks into the challenges and concerns, strengths, needs and desires, and suggestions identified by respondents (Figure 12).

Interviewees identified several positive aspects of De Hoogte, including its proximity to Norderplantsoen and the presence of essential amenities like supermarkets and cafes within walking distance. However, common challenges include insufficient green spaces within the neighborhood, limited social interaction areas, and occasional noise disturbances from neighbors. For instance, respondent 3 mentioned that while the neighborhood's proximity to Norderplantsoen is advantageous, within De Hoogte, there are few places to sit or socialize, particularly for dog owners. Similarly, respondent 4 noted the lack of social squares and green spaces, stating that most social activities require a short walk to other areas. Respondent 5 stressed the necessity of creating spaces for children that are inviting, colorful, and safe. While not feeling a strong need for child-specific spaces, others appreciated the idea of more inviting spaces for families. This reflects a need for more localized, accessible green and social spaces within the neighborhood itself. Every respondent expressed interest in interacting with at least one potential intervention and did not feel strong resentment against fewer parking spaces if a sufficient number of parking spaces were available.

Safety concerns were raised, particularly regarding encounters with intoxicated individuals, and respondents 1 and 3 labeled the neighborhood as a "ghetto." These safety risks, especially for children, were a significant concern. Despite recognizing the potential benefits of interventions, there were concerns about potential vandalism and undesirable use by certain individuals, which could discourage engagement and pose safety risks, especially for children.

	Age	Gender	Lenght of living in De Hoogte
Respondent 1	39	Female	+10 years
Respondent 2	24	Male	3 weeks
Respondent 3	25	Female	4 months
Respondent 4	22	Male	3 months
Respondent 5	40	Female	X years
Respondent 6	22	Female	3 years

Figure 11: Respondents' profil (Author, 2024)

Strengths:

Location

Calmness

Challenges/concerns:

Few meaningful public spaces are available

Little to no interaction with neighbors

Car-traffic concerns   High substance abuse presence in public spaces

Vandalism

"ghetto"

Needs/desires:

Fewer parking spaces

More greenery   More places for children

More amenities

Suggestions:

More education about gardening

Good construction quality   Remain cheap

More trash cans

Figure 12: Word frequency of challenges, strenghts, needs/desires, suggestions mentioned in the interviews (Author, 2024)

5.3. Lausitzer Platz Public Space Index

Lausitzer Platz (Kreuzberg, Berlin), a kiezblock, demonstrated how public spaces influence neighborhood development. Temporary urban interventions (community gardens, ping-pong tables, seating furniture, street art, and car-free streets) were added to enhance the area (Figure 13), facilitated by car-calming measures. This addresses the question: **"What public places appear in the Kiezblock neighborhood transformation?"** New observed spaces include green areas, pedestrian zones, recreational areas, and community gathering spots. Examining the quality of public spaces (figure 14) revealed both successful impacts of the development and areas needing further improvement, answering the research question, **"What is the quality of the public spaces in the Kiezblock neighborhood created by temporary urbanism practice?"**

Figure 13: Photodocumentation of temporary interventions in Lausitzer Platz taken on April 29th, 30th, and May 1st, 2024 (Author, 2024)

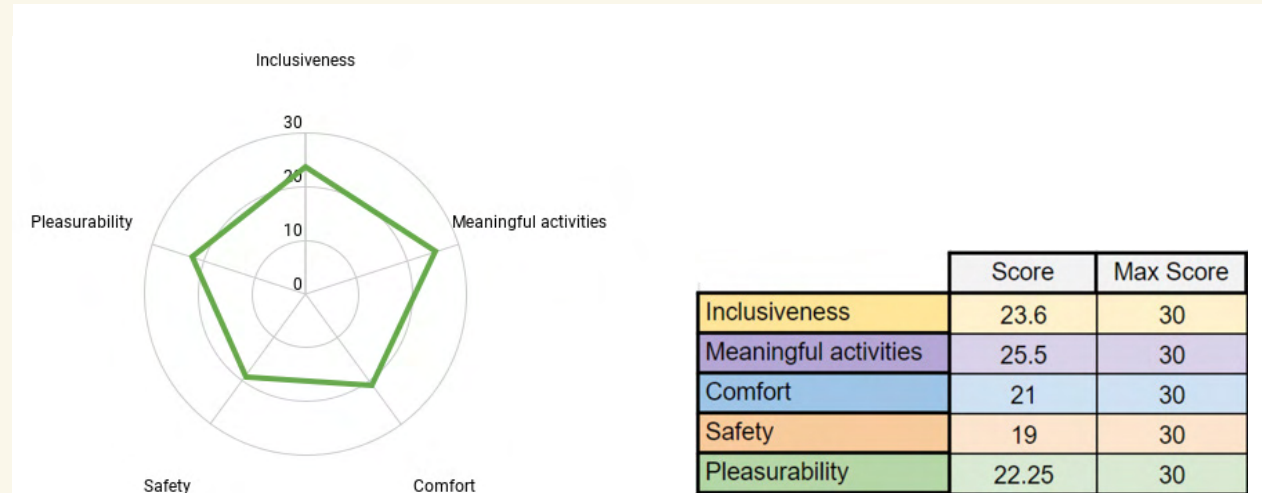|	Score	Max Score
Inclusiveness	23.6	30
Meaningful activities	25.5	30
Comfort	21	30
Safety	19	30
Pleasurability	22.25	30

Figure 14: Visualization of Public Space Quality Index for Lausitzer Platz (Author, 2024)

Inclusiveness (23.6/30):

Lausitzer Platz scored relatively high in creating open public spaces for multiple ethnicities, genders, and classes, accommodating various activities and behaviors, from leisure to cultural events and community gatherings, for diverse interests and preferences. Temporary interventions raised this diversity of activities. The place has open access without restrictive barriers, promoting inclusivity and equal opportunity for all individuals. Accessibility to people with mobility issues was examined as low due to the street design and multiple impairments on the ground; people were even observed falling due to the unevenness of the ground. While the place created multiple sources of passive surveillance after dark, the feeling of safety decreased due to poor lighting and a shift in activities to alcohol consumption and drug use, as well as mobility trends decreasing safety as multiple scooters were observed passing at high speed.

Meaningful activities (25.5/30):

Scoring the highest in creating meaningful activities, the place fosters community interaction and gatherings through designated spaces like benches, performance areas, or local restaurants, promoting a sense of belonging. It supports diverse activities and behaviors, including recreational activities, cultural events, and social interactions. Additionally, scoring high in offering adaptability with movable furniture and flexible layouts to meet changing user needs. Easy access to food options and various businesses and amenities at the periphery add liveliness and convenience. The presence of street art and shade structures enhance the visual appeal and comfort of the space, while observed efforts to minimize noise pollution by limiting car traffic and maintaining cleanliness by multiple trash bins and maintenance staff contribute to a welcoming atmosphere for all.

Comfort (21/30):

Providing comfort at Lausitzer Platz expressed in mainly providing accessible seating areas for all visitors, irrespective of purchasing goods or participating in activities, alongside seating options offered by surrounding businesses. Complementary furniture, street art, and playgrounds add to the plaza's appeal, prompting engagement and character. The plaza offered high climatic comfort through shade from green infrastructure. Regular upkeep and cleanliness convey a sense of care and increase comfort. Measures to restrict car traffic at the Lausitzer Platz mitigated noise pollution, proven by bordering areas presenting much higher noise nuisance.

Safety (19/30):

Scoring the lowest in safety, the main reason was seen in a public display of drug users and alcohol consumption, which highly relates to the social problem of drug use in Berlin. On the other hand, the perceived safety from traffic was seen as high due to the car-traffic limitations. Another limitation to safety was the poor lighting, especially after dark, which not only created a hazard for walking but diminished the ability to stay aware of one's surroundings.

Pleasurability (22.25/30):

Evaluating Lausitzer Platz on pleasurability scored relatively high. Identified concepts increasing pleasurability were the presence of memorable architectural or landscape features, which add to its identity and aesthetic appeal. Strategic placement of elements and landscaping created a sense of enclosure. Sensory complexity can be enriched by the density and variety of elements in the space, including visual focal points, personalized building facades, and articulated architectural features, enhancing the overall attractiveness and interest of the environment. Perceived attractiveness and interestingness are subjective but important aspects that contribute to the overall experience and enjoyment of Lausitzer Platz, influencing visitor satisfaction and continued support.

5.4. Interviews at Lausitzer Platz:

The interviews conducted at Lausitzer Platz reveal a range of perspectives on the impact of temporary urban interventions on the neighborhood. Figure 15 illustrates the terms most used in the interviews by the size of words, explaining the ambiance of the public space. Generally, the interventions have created a more inclusive and lively community space. Many interviewees, such as Interview 2, emphasized the family-friendly environment and sense of community created by the interventions, noting the safety improvements due to reduced car traffic and diverse activities for various demographics. Interviews 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 10 highlighted the increased social interactions and active use of public spaces for leisure, such as playing table tennis, gardening, and socializing, contributing to the area's vibrant atmosphere.

However, several issues persist, particularly regarding safety and cleanliness. Despite the positive changes, there are recurring concerns about drug use and inadequate lighting at night, which contribute to a perception of decreased safety after dark (Interviews 1, 3, 4, 9, 11). A maintenance worker (Interview 1) and other residents (Interviews 7, 11, 12) noted that the area often becomes overcrowded and littered, indicating that the increased usage has not been matched by sufficient maintenance efforts. Some residents pointed out that the planning process could be more inclusive and transparent (Interview 1), suggesting a need for better community consultation. In terms of the physical environment, there were mixed reviews. While the interventions have made the area more accessible and green, some interviewees (Interviews 2, 8, 11, 12) mentioned that improvements are still needed for people with disabilities and more consistent maintenance is required to keep the space clean and welcoming.

Figure 15: Word frequency of conducted interviews at Lausitzer Platz (Author, 2024)
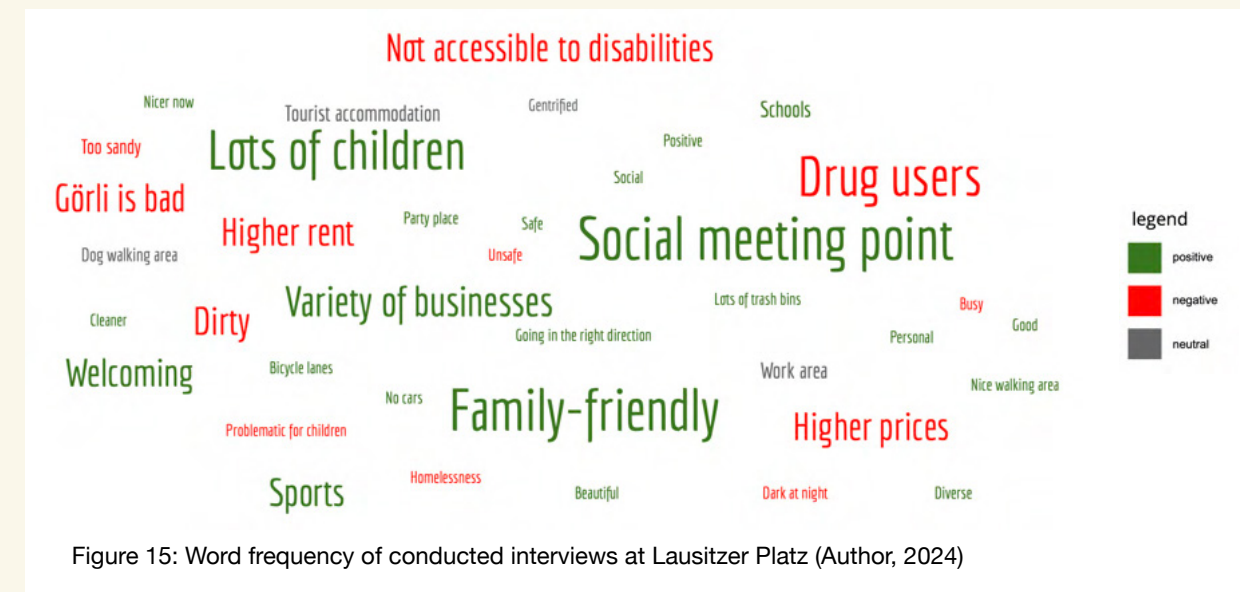
5.5. Identified effect of temporary urban intervention:

Temporary interventions have been proven to increase diverse activities and their adaptability to the behaviors in public spaces. They proved to initiate social engagement in public spaces of the neighborhood, and improvement of the place was observed from the interviews. An increase in recreational activities was achieved by the implementation of diverse interventions, making them accessible in terms of financial accessibility but less physically accessible, particularly for individuals with mobility issues. The most promising temporary interventions were ones for active leisure, which were created by implementing ping-pong tables, community gardening, and encouraging walking and cycling. Additionally, social ties and identity of the place were created by being able to personalize the place by these interventions and share the place with other people. While temporary urban interventions achieved meaningful activities for the residents, creating inclusive and pleasurable public spaces, they failed to address safety design features. The interventions fell short in addressing nighttime safety concerns, such as inadequate lighting.

6. Implications for De Hoogte

In response to the question of how temporary urbanism interventions can address challenges in the De Hoogte neighborhood while meeting residents' preferences, this research draws inspiration from interventions in Berlin's Lausitzer Platz and precedents of temporary interventions (Spontaneous Interventions, n.d.) It proposes modeled interventions in four strategic locations (Figure 16) to activate public spaces, considering the specific challenges faced by the neighborhood and guided by the vision of the Municipality of Groningen (Gemeente Groningen, 2022) for De Hoogte.

The identified challenges include issues with public space quality due to parked vehicles and bicycles, limited green spaces, lack of neighborhood amenities, and accessibility issues, along with the need for community cohesion. The selected sites for intervention include Johan de Wittstraat, the access point from the south near the train station intersection, the access point from the north at Asingastraat, and Bedumerweg.

The revitalization of Johan de Wittstraat (Figure 17, 18) involves restricting car access and parking to create space for temporary interventions and transforming the street section into the park as an extension of the community garden. Modeled interventions include movable benches, small garden parcels, shading structures, and potential events for recreational value and community engagement. Similarly, at the southern access point near the train station (Figure 19, 20), new amenities like a kiosk and seating arrangements are introduced to align with Groningen's vision for a social public space. At the northern access point (Figures 21, 22, 23), kiosks, street art, playground equipment, and temporary planters are implemented to create a playful environment and increase greenery. Along Bedumerweg (Figure 24, 25), interventions like parklets aim to improve the street's appeal, providing inviting seating areas to attract people to local businesses and enhance the recreation in the area.
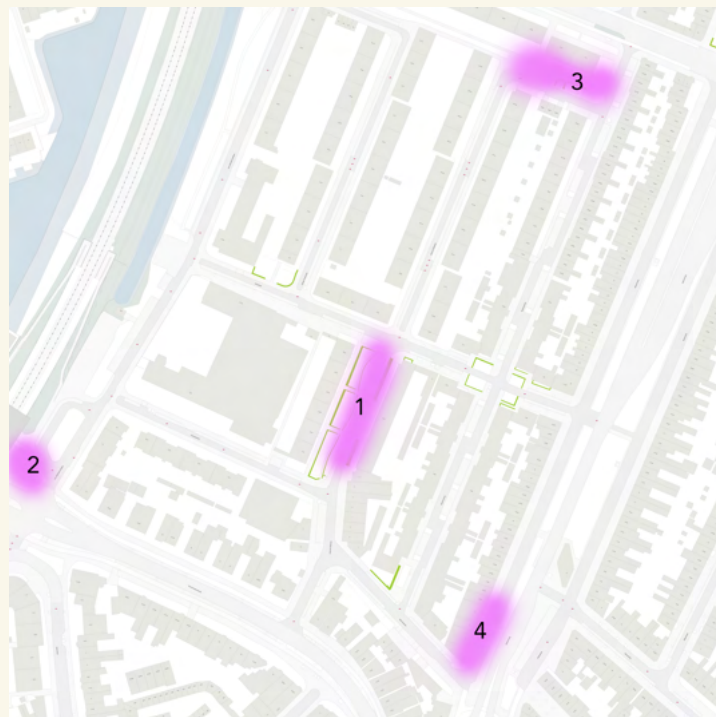
Figure 16: Site selections (Author, 2024)

Figure 17: Masterplan for the Johan de Wittstraat (Author, 2024)

Figure 18: Illustration for the Johan de Wittstraat (Author, 2024)

Figure 19: Masterplan for access point from the south (Author, 2024)

Figure 20: Illustration for access point from the south (Author, 2024)

Figure 21: masterplan for access point from the north (Author, 2024)

Figure 22: Illustration for access point from the north (Author, 2024)
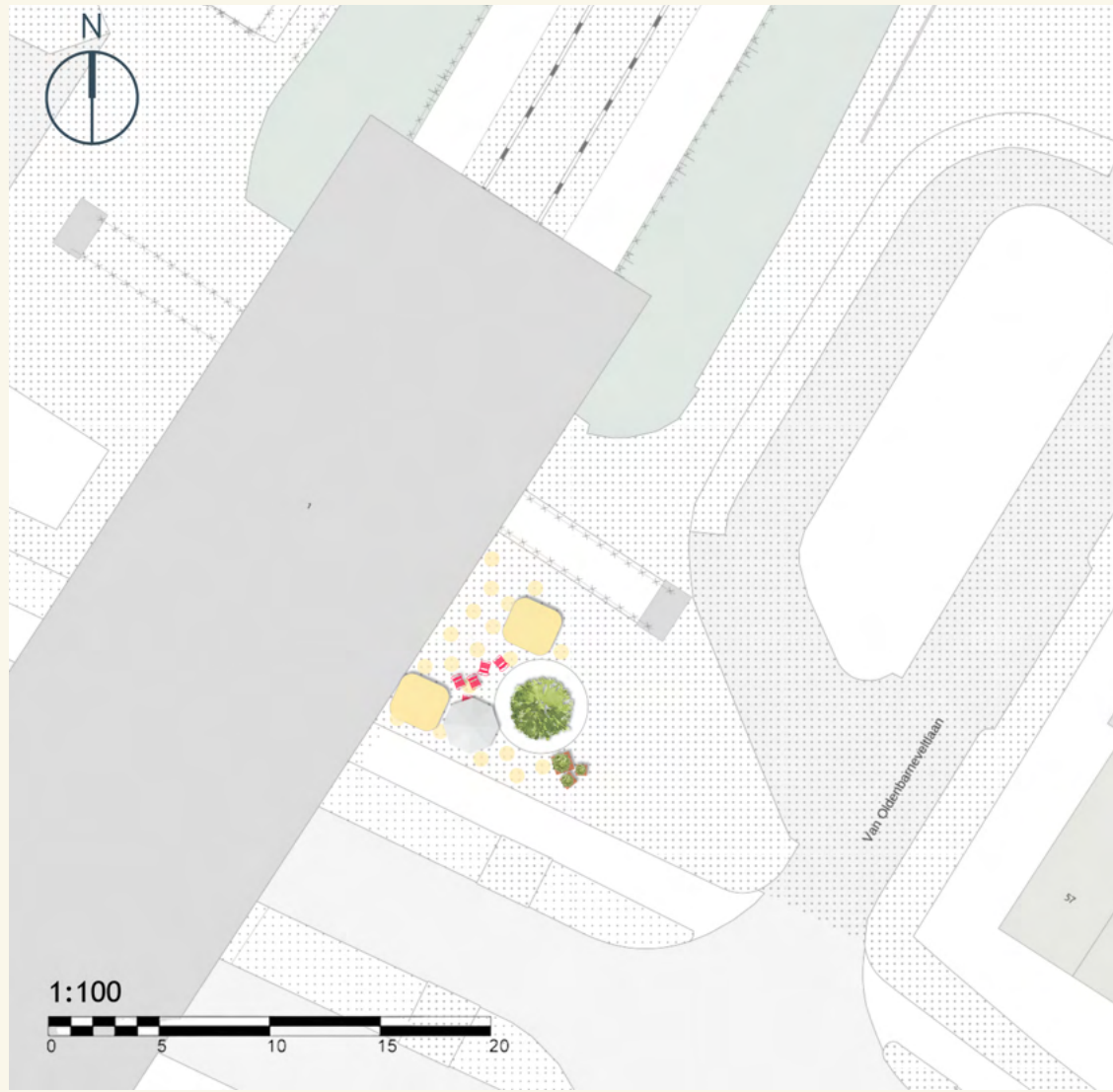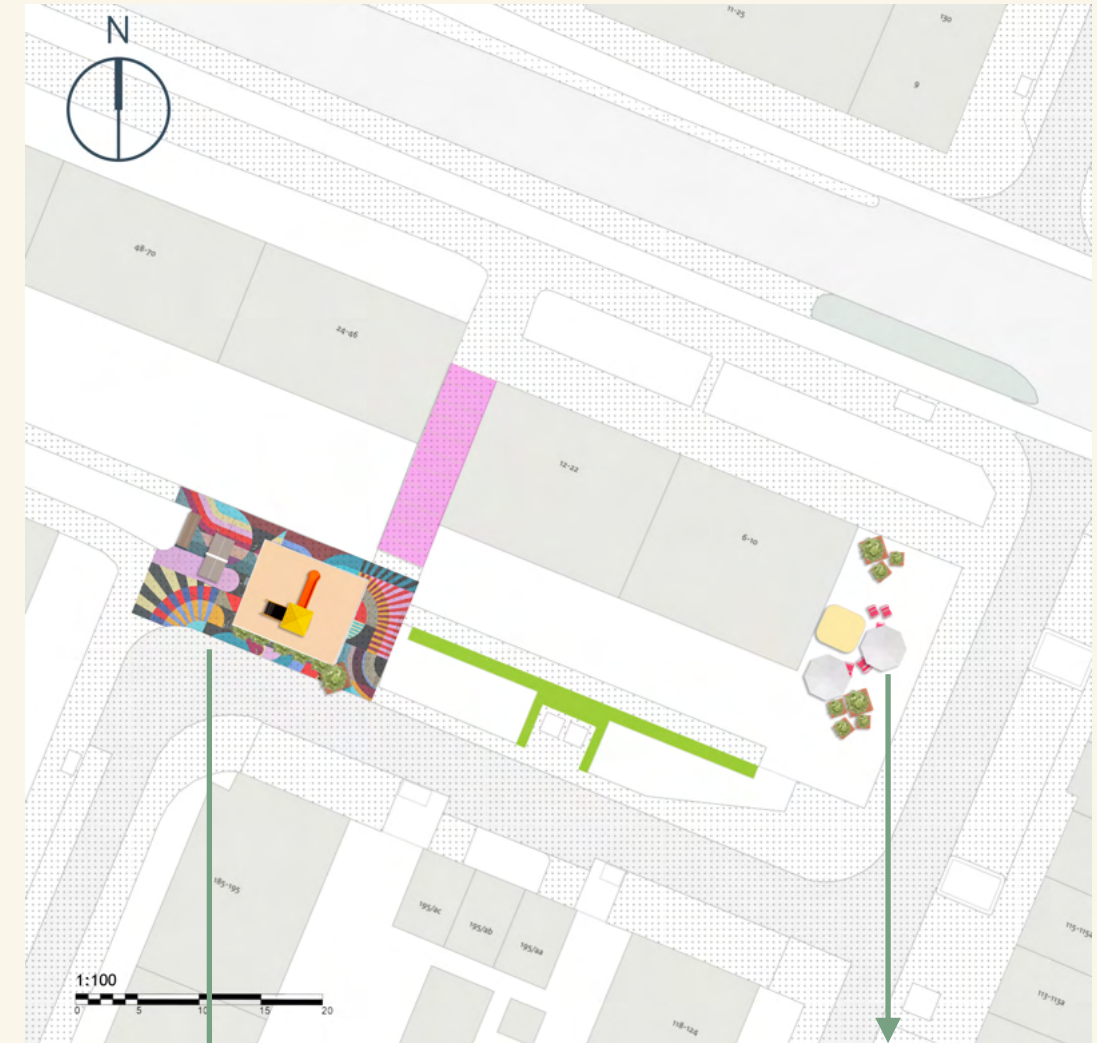

Figure 23: Illustration for playground at access point from the north (Author, 2024)

Figure 24: Masterplan for Bedumerweg (Author, 2024)

Figure 25: Illustration for Bedumerweg (Author, 2024)

7. Discussion:

To answer the main research question, **"What changes can be adopted from Berlin's study case to Groningen's neighborhood, De Hoogte, to increase the quality of public spaces?"**: several key points from theoretical frameworks and practical examples emerge. De Hoogte faces challenges typical of many urban neighborhoods, including issues with public space quality, community engagement, and sustainability. Actionable steps can be transferred from research on sustainable urban development, temporary urbanism, and case studies like Berlin's Kiezblocks.

De Hoogte's current condition is in need of protective spaces and community engagement, reflecting Frantzeskaki et al. (2018). In order to solve current social and environmental issues and assure long-term sustainable development, De Hoogte's future depends on these protected areas. Temporary urban interventions in Berlin serve as how experimental approaches can stimulate transformative change, supporting Smith and Raven's (2012) view of niches as innovation incubators. These interventions, characterized by flexibility and adaptability, offer a promising path for urban areas like De Hoogte. By experimenting with short-term solutions, not only Groningen can test new ideas. Future neighborhood planning in De Hoogte could benefit from adopting temporary interventions to address community needs and enhance urban life quality faster.

Sustainable urban development, as discussed by Sanei et al. (2017) with the United Nations (2015), especially Goal #11, stresses the importance of inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities. Future urban development strategies should prioritize enhancing inclusive urbanization and ensuring universal access to green and public spaces. For De Hoogte, this means integrating more green spaces and social interaction areas within the neighborhood for community well-being and environmental sustainability. Temporary urbanism, as discussed by Andres and Zhang (2020), offers a flexible, low-cost approach to improving urban spaces. This practice encourages community engagement, making it a valuable tool for sustainable urban development. In practice, De Hoogte incorporating temporary interventions, would benefit to rapidly address community needs and gather feedback, creating a participatory urban development process that is both inclusive and adaptive.

Responds from De Hoogte residents indicate a strong desire for more inviting spaces and greater involvement in the planning process. This corresponds with Arnstein's Ladder of Public Engagement (1969) and Jane Jacobs' "Eyes on the Street" concept (1961), both of which draw attention to the importance of active community involvement in improving safety and social cohesion in public spaces. Residents' engagement in the planning and implementation of urban interventions proved to be important for creating spaces that are responsive to their needs and preferences.

The analysis indicated that public spaces in De Hoogte provide limited opportunities for engagement and interaction, reflecting the importance of meaningful activities in the Lausitzer Platz case study. Temporary urban interventions like community gardens and seating areas proved to encourage community interaction and gatherings, creating a sense of belonging and enhancing the overall quality of public space. By implementing similar initiatives in De Hoogte, the quality of public spaces can be improved, particularly the safety and comfort aspects. While Lausitzer Platz almost forgot about the design for adequate lighting, lighting structures can address these concerns, and De Hoogte can implement these measures to increase natural surveillance. By redesigning streets into shared living spaces with greenery and traffic calming measures inspired by the kiezblock concept, De Hoogte can create pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods that prioritize comfort and community interaction over motor vehicle traffic. This

corresponds with the broader objectives of sustainable urban development, promoting environmental sustainability and enhancing the overall quality of life in the neighborhood.

8. CONCLUSION:

This research explored how temporary urbanism can facilitate sustainable transitions in De Hoogte, Groningen, by modeling interventions and engaging residents, emphasizing community participation and experimentation in urban development. The research employed a research-by-design approach, utilizing design concepts to explore solutions for the De Hoogte neighborhood in Groningen. Drawing inspiration from precedents of temporary urban interventions and the vision of Groningen Municipality, the study evaluated the effectiveness of modeled interventions through semi-structured interviews with residents. Additionally, observations and semi-structured interviews in Berlin's kiezblock neighborhood, Lausitzer Platz, provided perspectives on the transformative process of enhancing the quality of public spaces through temporary urbanism. Through a comprehensive data analysis process, including qualitative analysis of interviews and observational data, the study identified the positive impacts of temporary urban interventions in increasing diverse activities, initiating social engagement, and improving the overall quality of public spaces. Interventions such as community gardening, ping-pong tables, and seating arrangements not only enhanced recreational opportunities but a sense of belonging, personalization, and community engagement among residents, which is highly needed in the De Hoogte neighborhood in Groningen. Building on these findings, the proposed design for the De Hoogte neighborhood aims to address key challenges, including the quality of public space, lack of green spaces, limited neighborhood amenities, and accessibility issues. By implementing temporary interventions in strategic locations, such as Johan de Wittstraat, the access points to the neighborhood, and Bedumerweg, the implication aimed to activate public spaces, promote community interaction, and create an inviting environment for residents. Through the thoughtful integration of greenery, street furniture, and street art, the proposed interventions aim to enhance the overall quality and appeal of public spaces, creating a sense of personalization and ownership among residents while prompting a sustainable transition. The research has several limitations, including a small and potentially non-representative sample size in interviews, as well as a brief observation period that might not have captured long-term effects. The reliability of results may be affected by subjective biases in the Public Space Quality Index and qualitative data from interviews. Limited quantitative analysis and potential data coding inconsistencies could have an impact on accuracy. Future research should use broader samples, longer observation periods, and more quantitative analyses. This research serves as a resource for planners and community organizations aiming to implement fast solutions for enhancing the quality of public spaces while creating community engagement and participation.

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Appendix 1: Interview guide for De Hoogte

Introduction:

- Introduce myself: Name, occupation, nationality
- Anonymity and awareness of being recorded
  - Confirm that they are aware of being recorded; their responses will be used anonymously, and they can withdraw their response.
- Mark following
  - Age
  - Gender
  - Occupation

"Hello,

Thanks for participating in this research about the potential of transforming the De Hoogte neighborhood into a more lively and appealing one.

This research's main concepts are:

- **Temporary urbanism** is modeled in public spaces of a neighborhood, which refers to the testing of short-term changes in public spaces to see how they improve life in a neighborhood. This can be done through interventions such as street furniture, pop-up stores, street art, and others;
- **The quality of public spaces**, which looks into the public areas safety, accessibility, and enjoyment for everyone;
- **Sustainable transition,** referring to the process of shifting towards more environmentally friendly and social practices;
- **Transitional neighborhoods** refer to the neighborhoods that are changing their physical environment through redevelopment.

Do you understand these concepts, or would you like me to explain them a bit more?

Firstly, I would like to know about your perception of this neighborhood."

Perception about the neighborhood:

- Can you share your thoughts on the current state of this neighborhood? What do you like or dislike about this neighborhood?

(If one of the below questions has not been answered, follow asking them:)

- How do you feel about the public spaces around here? Do you find any of them particularly inviting or engaging?
- How do you perceive the presence of parked vehicles and bicycles in public spaces on the streets? How does this affect the overall atmosphere of the neighborhood?
- In your opinion, what do you think of the existing green spaces in the neighborhood? Would you like to see more green spaces, and if so, in what form?
- Do you feel amenities (such as grocery stores, cool cafes, parks to chill in, places to work out, and maybe even a few spots to grab a bite to eat) meet the needs of residents? Would you like to see some specific ones?
- Do you encounter any challenges or safety concerns related to pedestrian access and street design?

(Now mention the challenges presented by the Municipality and the vision for redevelopment)

Some of the challenges pointed out by the Groningen Municipality are:

- Congestion from parked vehicles and bicycles, narrow pavements, and elevated curbs make it challenging for pedestrian movement.
- The neighborhood lacks green spaces for water absorption, recreation, and creating a healthy environment.
- The neighborhood lacks essential amenities such as supermarkets or coffee shops, making it primarily a residential area with limited appeal to residents.

The interviewee is going to be shown visuals of modeled interventions.

Opinions on Sketched Interventions:

- After reviewing the sketches of the proposed temporary urban interventions, what are your initial impressions? Are there any concerns or suggestions you would like to share regarding these proposed changes?
- Do you think these interventions could address any of the aforementioned challenges?
- Would you be interested in engaging in these places after these interventions?
- How do you feel about the short-term spam of these interventions?
- Are there any other places you feel are important to change using these interventions?

Closure:

- Thank the participant
- Mention how the material will be used
- Confirm that they are aware their responses will be recorded, but in an anonymous manner, and also whether they consent for their responses to be used.
- Ask whether they have any further questions.

Appendix 2:
Visuals of modelled interventions

Location 1:

Location 2:

Location 3:

Location 4:

Appendix 2: Transcripts of interviews for De Hoogte residents

Interview 1 De Hoogte

Respondent 1: I'm the president. I'm the runner. I'm the garden keeper. Oh, it looks so beautiful. Everyone knows me, so everyone will recognize my answers. Like, oh, that must be Isabel. That must be her.
Interviewer: so just to start off, um, Could you say that you're, uh, you agree that you're going to be recorded?
Respondent 1: Yes.
Interviewer: Okay. Uh, what's your age?
Respondent 1: Um 39. 39,
interviewer: okay. And occupation? Like, do you work? Or Like,
Respondent 1: about none. Okay. I did my, uh, high school, and I did some horeca training. Okay. And detailhandel, like working shops, how you manage a shop and stuff. For address. I, I don't iker, I'm beekeeper. Oh. That kind of my grandpa education.
Interviewer: My, my grandpa kept bees. Yeah.
Respondent 1: Cool. Nice.
Interviewer: And, you know, everything probably.
Respondent 1: Yeah. A bit.
Interviewer: Uh, so thank you for participating in this research. Uh, this is looking into this particular neighborhood. Yeah. Uh, about how the public spaces are lively, what can be changed. Yeah. Uh, and few terms that my research is using is a temporary urbanism.
I don't know if you. It's like, uh, what can be done temporarily in a street to increase the livability in the neighborhood.
Respondent 1: We're going to get a really big increase here. Really, really huge one. Because if you turn around, the whole street, you already know about the plan.
Interviewer: Yeah, a bit, a bit.
Respondent 1: I'm the one who asked the gemeente if they want to remove it.
Interviewer: Oh, nice.
Respondent 1: So the street will be gone. The parking spaces will be gone. parking spaces will be, uh, herzien, will be, uh, re localized. Yeah. Yeah. In the, oh, oh, wait. In the, the neighborhood. So, there's only gonna be one, uh, parking space that's gonna be lost. So,
interviewer: yeah. Then you're a perfect respondent for my research because, uh, it is looking into, uh, this plan and how, uh, If like in the term in the space, how it can be changed if it's, uh, if the plan is not yet published, what changes can be done, uh, so far.
So it is looking also into quality of public spaces and, uh, the transformation of the neighborhood. So
Respondent 1: It will transform it incredibly, enormous. Yeah. Really huge, huge. It is a huge plan. Change will be, will be huge. Yeah, it is a huge plan.
Interviewer: And, uh, in the meantime, I'm looking into what can be done right now.
So, uh, maybe can you answer, like, what are your thoughts on the current state of the neighborhood? Like, what are the challenges? What is bad? What is good?
Respondent 1: Uh, only, uh, like, like how it's now laid out or the people for the people.
Interviewer: Oh, everything you mean
Respondent 1: ooh, yeah. People can only change themselves, so you cannot change them.
The only thing where you can start to make change, in the mentality of people, is with the children. Grown ups have their own plan, have their own vision, and most of the time will stick to it.
interviewer: Yeah.
Respondent 1: And children are open for new things.
interviewer: So you think that
So, based on this, do you think that it needs, like, more spaces for children?
Respondent 1: Hmm, no, no, no. Uh, I think education about gardening and animals, wildlife, is very, very important. Because even if they don't understand it, They will pick something up and that's where you start. That's where you plant the seeds for when they're 30 or 40 years old.
interviewer: Definitely. I agree.
Respondent 1: I started as well when I was four. So,
interviewer: So I know that you're doing this public garden. Uh, how do you feel about other public spaces? Is there like enough spaces for people to go in this neighborhood outside and to kind of socialize outside to talk to people outside?
Respondent 1: No, but I don't think a lot of people want it in the first place.
They don't need interaction with their neighbors or with other people. They will search out their own friends, their own familiar people and they will go there. But I think, uh, when, uh, more places like this will be created, people will more start to act on it and make use of it. So it may, may work like, uh, uh, Uniting.
interviewer: Yeah, yeah.
Respondent 1: Because this is the Hoogte, a ghetto. Normal, with normal people, it would work that way. Uh huh. But this is a special kind of breed, I think, so.
interviewer: Oh, you think?

Respondent 1: Yeah, I don't have my cell phone with me, but last week I, someone was hitting me because I told them not to pick the flowers.

Oh. They were telling me, like, no, the boards, the signs are only for this side. Yeah. Yeah. Well, I saw that she's cutting flowers as well. So I took the flowers out of their hands and I sent them off. And I was with my dog and I brought my dog back in and I was like, Oh, I was like, Oh, I know this kind of people. I worked with her again.

I know people. And I let them walk. So I kept my phone and they walked away. All grappling, all tulips. So I, on the end of the road, I asked him again, give the tulips back. I just told you not to pick them. Yeah, and I made it and bam, bam, bam, bam. And I was getting him out of there and bam, Oh

interviewer: wow, that is crazy.

I'm so sorry that happened.

Respondent 1: That is my neighborhood. She's like, I'm living there. I'm living in the next street. So I'm allowed to do this. She's not right in the head. Yeah, that's how the neighborhood is most most all the people a lot of nice people as well Most people and the nice people don't want to participate with that kind of people all the time so if you Get that kind of people out. Yeah, the other people won't come out.

interviewer: Yeah, I understand. I think you give the people Who you like who you would like normal Gives them a chance to participate with each other So I hope there will be more connections with normal people then maybe like more people would voice their opinions towards these like A bit crazy.

Respondent 1: Yeah. Yeah, exactly.

Yeah. But hey, it's the ghetto. You cannot ask for anything. I'm already getting this. That's, that's out there. I'm really, really happy with that.

interviewer: Oh yeah. That's crazy to think like how can, how much it can change. Yeah. But that the, that the gemeente is going to do it. That's, that's awesome.

But it's like out of there, out of space. Yeah. So what do you think about so many parking spaces?

Respondent 1: Oh, I've got a driver's license as well. I'm really Pro car Uhhuh, but it's not necessary everywhere. The street ain't necessary. Yes. If I'm gonna drive, I can take that road. I can take that road. This is not necessary.

So that's why I, I, uh, uh hmm. That's why I asked the main to remove it. Yeah. And I think if that's. A park, park, uh, a park part as well, with grass and a walking, you know what's gonna be there, right? Nothing special, but I think it will be, together, it will be really like an oasis.

interviewer: So your opinion towards the green spaces, I guess, very positive.

Respondent 1: Yeah, very, very positive. I'm a beekeeper, so I think every beekeeper should try to get things like this done. When you keep bees. They need food. I don't have to, uh, Give them, I have to ing them. I have to, um, make sure they got that food. Yeah. I cannot set a, a, a beehive in the neighborhood and don't, uh, do anything. I expect the go of the. Plans for me. I should participate in that myself as a beekeeper.

interviewer: Okay. And also I'm looking into the amenities of the neighborhood, which is like the shops or like the coffee shops or something like that.

Do you think there is like enough or should be more?

Respondent 1: Yeah. More, I miss the VOF's, the zelfstandige ondernemers, the ZZP'ers. I miss the little shops. Oh,

interviewer: okay.

Respondent 1: But they're more going away than they're coming in. We've got the sticker Frits who, uh, helped me with the, the signs. Okay. I make, I designed the signs myself.

interviewer: Oh, they're nice.

Respondent 1: Yeah, thanks. And there was a, uh, a man who had on the Azinga Straat, a sticker shop. So I designed them with him. And we printed them out there and I put them on the signs there. It was really fun to do, but he's gone now. That's, that's stuff I miss in the neighborhood. But you cannot ask people to keep on going with stuff, uh, with, uh, uh, bedrijven, who are not, uh, profit, profiting, who don't make any money.

And you work really hard for too, too less.

interviewer: Yeah, yeah, I understand.

Respondent 1: So yeah, what do I want? Yeah, supermarkets. We've got a lot of supermarkets. More and more normal markets, I think. Maybe that, that's The new part of the park will, uh, tribute to that to, to, to eventually to keep some markets every week or something with cheese and vegetables and stuff.

I don't know, but that's like five to 10 years then, but yeah, but there'll be like inviting space at least exactly and a usable space for that. Uh, if we want a Charles Dickens market, uh, with Christmas, it will be perfect here. Oh yeah. It will be definitely. You've got your, your walking pup. You can put the, uh, uh, tables with merchandise around it.

And people can walk through it, and you can have everywhere lights and stuff. Like, things like that, so you, you It gives a lot of possibilities. But I'm not sure the neighborhood will use them, or see them. Again, other neighborhoods will see it. Other people in other neighborhoods will see it. Will make use of it, but I'm not sure if it's happening here.

So pushing for it.

interviewer: Yeah, so based on, you know, the changes that are going to occur, uh, which I have this map that is as well,

Respondent 1: really, really great improvement. I'm for sure. I'm not even, I don't know even how out there the end plant is. I participate in the ideas, but I never looked what they made out of the designs I never saw.

interviewer: So. So basically what they want to do, they want to, uh, put all the car parking over here, which is, uh, next, this is the train station, so around the train station and they want to create like a huge park on this side.

Respondent 1: Yeah. Right. Yes. Yes. Oh, cool.

interviewer: And, uh, then within the streets, they're going parallel, uh, they want to increase the green spaces, uh, limit the parking and create a bit of like a social scene, uh, in the entrance of the, um, I think they're the right spots for it.

Respondent 1: Yeah, uh, so Oh nice

interviewer: But like this is a huge plan that can actually take Many years, uh, to, to develop. Yeah. So my research is looking into the temporary changes and I, um, modeled through temporary changes. Uh, and I would like to give you the pictures and maybe if you can say something about it.

So this is where the, yeah. Uh, this is, uh, the playground and in my idea, it needs to be more welcoming and something that sparks the initial participation. As you can see, I designed like, uh, this, uh, alleyway would be more inviting, there will be more green spaces and also like a pack up, uh, reading space.

Respondent 1: One thing, I love it, I love it, for the children it's perfect, yeah, but we've got a lot of Uh, alcoholics, junks, here, and they probably will, uh, use it to sleep in it. And, if I would have children, I, I prefer not to let them, uh, play on that kind of places. Not everyone has, has to have a disease or something, or to be dirty, but a lot will be.

And, it's, it's something you want to keep the children away from. But the idea is very cool, and I think it needs an upgrade. And, what, uh, once, like six years ago, I, Try to, uh, uh, here around the corner, there is an, uh, how do you say it? Kunst? Art? Yeah, yeah. Art thing. And I thought it was, uh, art. Like seventies playground shit or something that was done.

So I walked around with some children who were playing there. Like from, I want to ask the gemeente if they want to make a new playground for you, for you. What would you like? What would you have? I want to have as children here in the neighborhood. And they came up with their, uh, round, uh, swinging school, uh, uh, chairs.

They're around with, with, uh. Uh, ropes. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Those they really would like because, uh, they, one of those children said, I can change my little sister's diaper in it as well and stuff. I think, but again, same with that. People will sit in it. But, um, Mindersnel, uh, it will happen less, uh, with those, uh, swinging chairs than with those.

Yes. And they want the place to do a handstand. Against the wall, like. Upside down. And hot sand. Yeah. Like, like a space with a wall. And you've got, play, playing, uh, games. Oh, lang geleden, jonge Engels. Long time ago. You're good. They want, uh, for a game with, uh, like a tennis ball, you can throw it against the wall.

So, uh, empty wall with a few, like one meter, one and a half meter of, of, of sand. Uh, tiles table. Uh mm-Hmm. hard ground surface that can do all that kind of games. Mm-Hmm. and, uh, maybe a Hinkle Hle block. Hinkler. Like Yeah. Maybe. Stuff like that. They are good, good ideas. Um, uh, were the children there? I guess and what, uh, what I, uh, was trying to ask as well with the ti but it didn't work that time.

'cause it costs like 700 euros a month. Mm-Hmm. was a drinking point, right? They've got, uh, with the . waterbedrijf, the blue, uh, blue tap. You can press the button and there's water coming out. So it was something like that in the neighborhood as well. But it costs a lot of money. That is interesting. And the discussion with the neighbors was, like, one says, yeah, that's very nice when you're jogging or something, you can get fresh water.

I want it for the children, I want it for my dog. So that's just why. But others says, yeah, but you have to manage that yourself. If you're going to walk, you have to work on your own.

That's the neighborhood, their opinions.

One half wants it, and the other half says no, you have to take care of yourself.

And it costs a lot of money, that's why the gemeente says no. But if they're going to change everything, maybe that is changing as well. So that's why. Uh, and so

interviewer: for the parking spaces, if they're going to be reused, I also, uh, modeled a bit of like a seating place, which is, uh, known in many cities, many big cities like Berlin.

This is the Berlin. What do you think? Like, would this be used or?

Respondent 1: It will be used. Yeah. Again, the same with the playing ground, but it will be used. Definitely. Yeah. A lot of people will use it. There's a lot of people walking around here as well, but because of the overlaps, we've got number 36 on here, there's, there's, there's junks every day.

It's really, really hardcore. The hardcore you see on TV and the police, that's there. So, if we would get it here, then the overlast, the, the, the, uh, overlast, um, the, the, the, the, the problems those people give.

interviewer: The safety?

Respondent 1: Yeah, safety is gone. They will lay there, they will sleep there, they will use there, they will, they poop here, they piss here, they throw up here, they bleed all over the place and say they've got AIDS but they don't care if they've infected other people.

That's why I say, not every junk. Homeless people have AIDS, but they are here in the neighborhood and they spread it. They don't care. So, if you're asking, yeah. You can do a lot in the neighborhood, but if you don't change the mentality, then it will never help. But for the little children who grow up here, no.

This neighborhood is like anti conception for me. But there are people who are getting children, and for those children it will matter. At the end of the road, in their lives, it will make a change. Better view, colors, for little children. All the tulips. So, when I planted the tulips, the idea was, before everyone's cutting them away, if you're going through it with a buggy, the child will get all the tulips. Hidden nature in the child.

interviewer: That's cute.

Respondent 1: And the smells and the little animals, ladybugs

interviewer: yeah. And also the green spaces, they're thinking of adding way more green spaces. But to be honest, the narrow streets are kind of hard for any implication. So there needs to be some innovative solution. And for me, I designed like the pergolas. Which can Yeah, which can like, uh, hang the greenery, and that way it will be also more inviting.

Respondent 1: Make them very, uh, tight, so that people don't run, but it's very cool. Oh, thanks. And what, what, uh, I saw my, my little sister studied in London. Oh, okay. And, um, that's, that is, I will help you. But, uh, we're walking there by universities, that is like a mile road with only huge building, buildings.

Have you been there?

interviewer: Yes, yes.

Respondent 1: Uh, you know what I'm talking about. You've got the big trees over. Yeah. They're just on the side, but they grow over all the paths. And they're, uh, called the, uh, uh, uh, uh, zakdoekjesbomen. They're like, it looks like there are paper towels, white towels in them. Like [00:18:00] that kind of solution will help with the rainwater to provide and with the heat.
Yes. And this kind of stuff, it works as well. With the right plants around it, you will help the butterflies and the bees and stuff as well, huge. Yeah. Because butterflies, if you let them, uh, Passiflora or something, or, uh, Climop, hetera, uh, grow over them, butterflies can, uh, multiply on it. Yeah. Yeah. And virtual, you know, the drill blah blah blah.
Okay,

interviewer: I don't need to tell you to, uh, this is designed for the excess of the neighborhood. This is in the north and this is around the train station in the south. Since there are not many like local shops, local things to socialize, I designed like this module, uh, places where there can be like a coffee shop,

Respondent 1: You know, but in the Noorderstation, inside there is something like that, yeah, yeah, that will take away. So it would be meaning, uh, direct competition for him. Yeah, I know. But on the other side, It's very useful because you're in the middle of all the supermarkets. People will walk for, uh, uh, one or two things faster through this kind of point. I will walk here, then, then to a supermarket. So basically those are the points they want to create like a bit of a plaza. Is that in the North on the place where that, uh, bar was?

interviewer: Yes.

Respondent 1: Oh, finally, people are waiting for like 20 years on it. Yeah. It's already like 30 years. A place like this. Oh. And it was first a bar that was closed, then there was a giveaway shop in it with crackers. They kicked out. Then the whole place was bulldozed down, they put an aircon around it, so a lot of people were watching it like, uh, put flowers on it, do something with it.
Nothing. 20 years, nothing. So now there's gonna be something. Yay!

interviewer: That is like my plan that I want to propose.

Respondent 1: Good luck with that. Good luck. All the neighbors are four. Oh, okay.
Yay.

interviewer: So, yeah, thank you
for, uh, your opinion.

Respondent 1: Yeah, you're welcome. Cool that you're gonna try to, to, uh, make a better, better neighborhood.

interviewer: thank you so much. And I hope that it goes all well with the garden.

Respondent 1: Thanks, yeah.
Come back, uh, next year. Oh, I will. Next year. And you can enjoy it. Yeah, yeah. You can put towel on the, the, the grass. Oh, that would be so lovely.

interviewer: So, thank you so much for the participation.

Respondent 1: What's your name?

interviewer: Nina.

Respondent 1: Nina, cool.
You're welcome.

Interview 2 De Hoogte

interviewer: Could you maybe state that you're okay with me recording this?

respondent 2: Yes, I'm okay with this being recorded.

interviewer: Could you also state, uh, your age and occupation?

respondent 2: I am, uh, 24 years old. Occupation, was it work or?

interviewer: Yeah, yeah,

respondent 2: No, I'm studying still, medicine now.

interviewer: Okay, cool. Uh, so, thank you for participating in this research.
I'm Nina, and I'm studying spatial planning and design at RUG.
Uh, and I'm from Slovakia, and I'm looking in this neighborhood. And the changes that are going to occur and how the residents of this neighborhood particularly see any challenges and what is good, what is bad and stuff like that. And for my research, uh, that is looking into the temporary urbanism.
I don't know if you know this term.

respondent 2: No.

interviewer: So it is, uh, It is, uh, as a tool, it is used, uh, on changing physical environments on what can be done into this neighborhood into temporary term. So like, for example, a pop up store or, uh, artistic, um, like murals. Or some furniture and through this This research is looking into the quality of public spaces and kind of sustainable transformation of neighborhood.
So Do you have any opinions on this neighborhood?

respondent 2: Well, actually I moved here only three weeks ago. Okay, but I lived close by I don't know, I think as a student we have a bit of a different relation with the neighborhood than I think the people that stay here for like a longer period of time. Um, well, I would say I'm not really well connected with the neighbors.
 Um, I'm not necessarily spending all my time here in the street, per se. Um, I guess, I don't know. I don't know what I, what I would add here to, to make it, uh.

interviewer: Do you have any, like, problems with anything?

respondent 2: No. No. I think it's very calm maybe.

interviewer: Okay.
Do you like the calmness?

respondent 2: Yes, yes. Um, but I've never really been a party, I'd say. I've always been a party pooper. So I think I've always, because I play a lot of sports, So I like my sleep. And now that's really perfect for this. It's a bit of a combination between students that are a bit further ahead in their studies and then, I don't know, quite some foreign people as well maybe.
Yeah, I like it here. I think it's the best place I've stayed so far in my seven years of studying.

interviewer: Oh, okay.
What do you think about public spaces? Do you find that it's like enough to for like recreation here?

respondent 2: Like general Groningen, or specifically in this neighborhood, yeah Well, I've not walked around too much, I'm not sure if there's like a playground for the kids, I don't know There is one, like, right behind there, like right around the corner I guess maybe because I'm from the countryside So I've always had like a big garden, and, maybe for the kids to play football or something. It would be nice if there was some kind of, uh, grass field. I don't know if it's there. But for me personally, right now, I mean, I'm fine.

interviewer: How do you feel about the parking spaces?

respondent 2: Uh, I think it's okay.

interviewer: Yeah? Yeah. Uh, okay.

respondent 2: Yeah, I can sometimes borrow my dad's car, so it's pretty nice that you can park it in front of your house usually.
Yeah, yeah. Yeah.
Um, and I think the way they positioned it now is that it makes the street a bit, how do you say, more calm because it isn't, you can't go very fast, it's like, switching sides. So I think it's okay. Yeah. And I think there are enough spaces, to put it that way. I can always, yeah, place my car either there, or there, or there, so.

interviewer: Do you pay for the parking?

respondent 2: Uh, yes. Uh huh. Yes. But I think my housemate, uh, she is, uh, German. Um, she has like a yearly card or something.

interviewer: Mm hmm. Um, what about the green spaces in here? Do you, are you okay with it or?

respondent 2: Um, well, as being from the countryside, I would always like there being more nature. I guess it's okay. I have quite a bit of freedom, I would say. I think in the time I was closer to the Northern Plantsoen. Mm hmm. It was nice to have that around. I mean, it's not far from here either, but still, could be better, I guess.

interviewer: And what about the amenities? It's like grocery shops or like a coffee shop. Do you find them there enough here or close in proximity?

respondent 2: I think close enough. I mean the Jumbo is pretty close. They also have it there, I guess. Yeah, I think it's okay.

interviewer: And how do you feel about the safety in here?

respondent 2: I don't know. I've never felt, I've never felt unsafe.

interviewer: Okay, good.
Uh, so. Why I'm asking you this is because I look into the plan for this neighborhood that the municipality of Groningen has.
And I printed out this plan, which is kind of like a vision, not yet anything set in stone. Uh, so basically what it wants to do is increase, uh, the green spaces creating, this is the creating like a huge park here. Okay. And connecting on the all the streets the greenery to this side and removing park spaces Uh and putting them along this side.

respondent 2: Yeah

interviewer: Uh, so there will be very limited parking on the streets, which will create some space for recreation and that's why they kind of want to do like little squares here. Here will be like a Bigger plaza, they'll like welcome to access the neighborhood. Um, what do you think about this?

respondent 2: No, I think I mean for a student, it's fine.
We do everything by bike usually so lack of parking spaces and a bit more green seems nice. So this is then the big the biggest street. They're going to make a bit of a Like a curve. Yeah, like slow down the traffic and also where the traffic lights used to be then

interviewer: Oh

respondent 2: Because here's the norderplantsoen .
Yes. Yes And then Oh yeah,

interviewer: here. Yeah, this is basically standing like here.
So yeah, yeah, sorry.
So yeah, here are the traffic lights. Yeah,

respondent 2: okay. I mean, it's nice. I always prefer to be a bit more green and less cars even better, I guess. Uh huh.

interviewer: So based on this, um, I'm kind of proposing a plan what can be done in the meantime, because this is like a huge plan that take years.
Uh, and I would like to, uh, get your opinion on the plans on creating, uh, more lively public spaces and how the quality in public spaces could, uh, be improved. And I'm looking into the four locations here. So basically this access point, uh, which. As I said, it's like, about to increase, uh, the interactions between the residents.
Uh, then this street, which is, uh, the little playground and the, a lot of parking spaces. And this street, uh, because there is planning to be a lot new, um, green spaces. And so My visions for this. So this is like the first access point over

here. Uh, is to allow for new amenities to grow. Uh, it's temporarily putting like a pop up coffee shop or like whatever the neighborhood would like to see.

Uh, do you feel like you would participate in this?

respondent 2: If this would be here? Um, yeah, I guess so. I mean, if it's, especially in summertime, this When there are also other people there, I think it would be like more. I mean if I would be the only one I wouldn't usually like sit there by myself.

interviewer: Okay, okay

respondent 2: if there's like a crowd sort of Yeah, I think it would go with my housemates to grab a coffee or something.

interviewer: Okay Uh, so and this is the opposite side. This is on the train where the train station is Uh, also a few of the like pop up stores since there is not Uh any close proximity to this neighborhood like a proper. Uh Supermarket you have to always like cycle or something like that. Uh, I designed like also the same situation, uh where there will be like A coffee shop or a place to buy vegetables and uh kind of creating this interacting atmosphere Uh, do you feel like this would?

Also be inviting to you?

respondent 2: I think for a student it has to be cheap. So I mean, I don't mind riding my bike So I always go to Jumbo or either to the little there I mean if it has the same price, why not? But I guess it's because it would be too small Maybe that I wouldn't. I couldn't be able I wouldn't be able to get all my stuff at once So I have to go to the Jumbo anyway then So I think like a coffee stuff a coffee Store would be better or something I would do.

interviewer: Um, alright.

respondent 2: I mean, but I guess it would work because it's close to the railway station and people that are late or something.

interviewer: Do you go there often?

respondent 2: Nah, my parents also live close. So either I go there, uh, by bike. Which I just got from my parents, um, or my dad usually picks me up here because he works here as well.

So not really, but it could be next year because then I have to do my internships in the hospital. It could be in other place as well.

interviewer: And so the last place is uh, second of the last is where the playground is. I don't know. How you, how much you interact with children, but, uh, so to this day, the playground is not very used and it's kind of not inviting.

So how do you feel if like a little of the pop up, uh, temporary changes would be if like, uh, a new, Seating place for children would occur and they will invite more children. How do you feel about this?

respondent 2: I think it would be a good thing especially bringing the kids outside more instead of being on their phones or whatever I'm always more drawn to like a grass field, but, uh, maybe that's a bit too much for a pop up.

interviewer: Yeah.

respondent 2: Um, no, generally, I think it's a good thing.

interviewer: Okay. And also, uh, the municipality wants to remove parking spaces, not all, but definitely reduce the size of it. And therefore, in many cities, uh, what they are doing with the temporary changes, they're, uh, thinking of new like seating places. It's like this parklet.

Would you like to, like, go outside and sit in those if

respondent 2: If the sun is shining, definitely yes.

interviewer: Okay. If it's not, then absolutely not?

respondent 2: Well, if it's too cold, then no.

interviewer: Okay, cold

respondent 2: I'm always cold, so when the sun is shining, definitely, because I like to be outside as much as possible. Because that's what we also used to do in the time we started, where previously we had some chairs in the hallway and every time the sun was shining we put it out.

So I think these things, uh, would be nice, yeah

I mean, for me, the lack of parking spots wouldn't be a problem, but I'm not sure if, like, for non students, people that own a car, I think they maybe prefer to have their car parked in front of the house. But I mean, for me it wouldn't be a problem.

interviewer: Okay, great.

Uh, so yeah, these are the places. Uh, and based on this, do you feel, uh, like that would increase, uh, or like improve the quality of the public spaces here?

respondent 2: Um, it would definitely improve, but I'm not sure if it would change something about, like, the way people interact in this neighborhood. I feel generally people are okay ish, maybe some are more interacting than others. But generally I feel like people are interacting. And I'm not sure if these things would make a difference. But I mean, I'm studying medicine, so what do I know? But yeah, I think, for me, it would be nice to have these things. I guess, as a student, I'm also like, After, yeah, I think, in 14 months I will go somewhere else probably, if I have to. Um, [00:12:00] so, because it's so temporary then I feel like, yeah, all the interaction is nice, but I'm not going to make my friends here, because I will be moving soon anyway.

So, I don't know. For me personally, uh, it wouldn't make maybe too much of a difference. Um, but I guess it could be nice, yeah.

interviewer: Okay. Well, thank you so much for, uh, your participation and this will be used anonymously.

So I would not share this recording with anybody. Uh, and also the recording will be deleted and only the transcript will be used. Um, so if you have any questions for me now, okay. Uh, thank you so much.

Interview 3 De Hoogte

interviewer: Um, could you just say that you're okay with me recording this?

respondent 3: Yes, I am okay with you recording it.

interviewer: Okay, great. So my name is Nina. I'm, uh, studying at the RUG, uh, spatial planning and design. And I'm doing this research on this neighborhood because it is supposed to go, undergo some changes because there are some, uh, challenges in here.

Uh, so I'm looking into how temporary changes could, uh, Turn this neighborhood into a lively better place for well being and for health In few terms that my research is looking into is a temporary urbanism, which are the short term interventions as like Seating places for short term. It's kind of like an experimental thing to do in public space Uh, and then through this, I'm looking into the quality of public spaces and the transformation of the neighborhood.

Um, so do you understand?

respondent 3: Yes.

interviewer: Okay, great. Uh, could you maybe state your age, uh, and occupation?

respondent 3: 25, Working at hanze

interviewer: Oh, okay. Interesting, . Yeah. Um, how long have you been living here?

respondent 3: Uh, in this neighborhood for four months.

interviewer: Okay. Do you, um, Can you like share your thoughts on like the current state? How do you find it? Is it bad? Is it good?

respondent 3: I think it's fine because it's close to the norderplantsoen , but there could be more like little spots here to be with your dog, for example Now i'm with my dog, but um, yeah place nice places to sit or something Overall, it just kind of feels like somewhere to live and then you travel to go somewhere nicer.

interviewer: Mm hmm. Mm hmm. Uh, how do you feel about public spaces? Do you think that there are any or is it enough?

respondent 3: I think like the closest thing we have to that is the Norderplantsoen. But within the neighborhood, it's not. It doesn't really feel like there are many options. We have one small park to take dog leash off at least, but it's also right next to the main road.

So it's not really that enticing.

interviewer: How do you feel about the green spaces here? There's not enough. Okay. Okay. Uh, and what about the parking spaces? Are they maybe a hinder to you or is it actually okay?

respondent 3: For me, I don't drive a car, so I can't really say much about that.

interviewer: Um, and what about any amenities in the neighborhood?

Do you find it there enough or would you like any more?

respondent 3: I think it's fine. Like, We have a Yombo 10 minutes walking away at the Bearden, and there's a hairdresser, there's a nail salon, I think it's fine, there's a church.

interviewer: So to your lifestyle, it's enough?

respondent 3: Yeah, for me, I don't really need anything. I just need to be close enough to the supermarket and to a nice cafe, and we do have both, so that's nice.

interviewer: Okay,

uh, so let me present you a plan that is redesigning of this neighborhood, uh, by the municipality of Groningen. And basically, so we're standing kind of here. Uh, this is the train station. This is the park that you mentioned. Here is the norderplantsoen. And what they are trying to do is increase the green spaces.

So kind of the ecological transformation throughout the park here. Uh, the bedumweg . Um, and connect all the green spaces With the green, uh, greenery on the street and, uh, remove parking spaces. Uh, So that, uh, there will be more of like space for people to interact at the street. So here will be like a plaza in here. And within these places, there will be like a green garden or public space to interact with. Um, how do you feel about this?

respondent 3: Pretty good. Mostly because I have a dog, so it's nice to also just be able to go around the block and have somewhere pretty to walk. And also to talk with other people that have dogs.

Like, honestly, that's the main motivation. But it's like, it's also really nice just to have your greenies. Go to the park, but be in your own neighborhood. It's also nice.

interviewer: So the municipality basically said that the main challenges are the spaces are not used, uh, nicely for the people. So they want to turn these places. Do you feel like What the municipality is saying would address these challenges.

respondent 3: Yeah, I think so.

interviewer: So, uh, on that, I would like to show you other pictures. That is basically my proposal. Because this plan can take a couple years to establish. And it could, um, It could be different, seeing different changes in different, um, um, years.

So it's like a huge change to go for the neighborhood. And therefore my research is looking to temporary changes that could be done. And, uh, I modeled a few of the temporary, um, places. So I was looking at the access points in, uh, here in the north. In the south and at this, uh, streets, uh, because they want to increase the most of the greenery there. For the train station. Oh, yeah. This is, uh, basically, uh, a little square that is designed.

respondent 3: Mm hmm. Um. Much cuter.

interviewer: So what is the temporary intervention? Are these, like, kiosks?

respondent 3: Yeah.

interviewer: Uh, that are designed as, um, like a vegetable shop or a coffee shop.

To bring people there, uh, to give them their amenities if, uh, they need to go just, uh, for a quick shop. Um, how do you feel about it?
respondent 3: Really good.
interviewer: Would you engage in here?
respondent 3: Yeah, because I live like around the corner from here and I go this way to get to work. So it would be very nice if there was like a little coffee place or something that you can get like something on the way.
That would be really nice. And I also like the fairy lights in the trees. Just because it's nice like in the evening then it adds like. A nicer light to it. So I really liked it. Okay. What is this one though? The yellow one?
interviewer: Uh, it's also like a kiosk like this one. It's just turned a bit. Um, and they're also trying, the city is also trying to implement changes to the playgrounds.
I don't know how much you Yeah, I also walk here. Um, would you like to, in this neighborhood, for the playground to be increased in number and also Can enhance the niceness of the
respondent 3: I think it's nice
like adding more like a family vibe. That's Also nice to see even if i'm not using it myself, then it makes it more cozy
Yeah, so you actually want to see some yeah, I think it would be nice.
Okay
interviewer: um Okay. The next one is since the parking spaces will be removed there will be Space there that people can interact and many cities are actually doing The thing if the parking space is They're going to put like a seating or space to interact with. Uh, would you engage in this, uh, activity if possible?
respondent 3: I am not sure about this one, just because it's in like a weird position. But I can imagine like if I'm with a friend or something that we meet, then yeah, it's nice. But I'm not really sure about that one. Like if I would use it, because it's not really in like a green area. Yeah. It feels a bit awkwardly positioned.
interviewer: Yeah, yeah. Um, do you think that that, Uh, like if other people would interact with it, it would increase your, uh, interaction with it. If you, like, see people.
respondent 3: Yeah, maybe. Maybe, yeah.
interviewer: Okay, uh,
From the north. I don't know if you can recognize this place, but it's basically where, um, the other, um, like the main street, uh, Connecting, um, to the Vinkhuizen, I don't know if you know that neighborhood.
respondent 3: Yeah.
interviewer: And there are some shops, uh, where you want to go. So that is here. So basically this area, uh, they want to increase, uh, the interactant. So, um, currently there is like a fence and nothing is going on. It's like a green space there, but it's fenced up so nobody can go there. Uh. Would you actually like to go there or if it's too far or how do you feel about it?
respondent 3: I like this.
I like this one with like little seating next to maybe like a coffee place with some green on the fencing and stuff. Yeah. This I can imagine actually like Saying, okay, let's go there and oh, okay. Yeah, because I'm friends with some neighbors, but then it's nice if you have something just really close. Oh, yeah, let's go there.
interviewer: And within the green spaces, uh, there is, uh, an opportunity to in many places to actually seed more trees. But as you can see, the streets are very narrow and you can, you hardly can actually, like, do major changes to the streets. So, what do you feel about, like, maybe a vertical, uh, advancement, uh, into the greenery?
Just because, uh, If you place so many trees and so many like a little pause with plants, it's kind of hard to walk So, uh, in this way, it'll be only vertical but still yeah,
respondent 3: I think it's very cute. I think it's really nice This is also outside my house. I would appreciate that.
interviewer: Yeah, and uh, so these all changes that I presented you are only in the short term to kind of test Uh, how would you feel if this would like be happening in this neighborhood?
Like only For example, uh, two weeks this change would occur.
respondent 3: Fine.
interviewer: Yeah?
respondent 3: Yeah. Especially if it's for something like this, then it's like There's a goal in sight. I like it. Yeah.
interviewer: Okay. Well, thank you so much for the interview. Uh, it will be used anonymously. So, uh, I will not share this recording, um, nor your name. I don't know your name. Uh, do you have [00:10:00] any questions for me?
respondent 3: No.
interviewer: Okay. Thank you so much for your research. Thank you.
respondent 3: Yeah.

Interview 4

interviewer: Um, would you mind also stating that you're okay with me recording the, uh, the voice cover again?
respondent 4: Yeah, that's no issue.
interviewer: It's going to be used anonymously and, uh, I'm going to use only the transcripts. So the video recording is only going to be used to transcribe the voice.
Good. Okay. So, my name is Nina, and I'm studying the spatial planning and design, as I told you, and uh, I'm looking into this particular neighborhood, which is going to be changed a bit, like the city has a plan for it, and uh, my research

is looking into the temporary changes that could be done within the neighborhood, which means, um, like a little seating place for a bed, and uh, Like in art murals or pop up shops, like things like that, that could be done to, uh, address some challenges in the neighborhood.
Could you maybe state, uh, what's your occupation, age?
respondent 4: Yeah, sure. I live here. I'm 22. My occupation?
Oh, I'm a student, yeah. Okay,
interviewer: How long have you been living here?
respondent 4: For two, three months.
interviewer: Oh, okay. That's it too.
Not that long.
respondent 4: No.
interviewer: Um, okay. Do you maybe know, or do you have any opinions about the neighborhood?
What are the good things, what are the bad things?
respondent 4: Yeah, the good things. Or, yeah, the shots start with the good things of course. It's next to the Noorderplantsoen.
That's great.
interviewer: Yeah, the location.
respondent 4: Yeah, it's north of the Netherlands. And if you want, you can go on the Ringweg. You are just very good infrastructure. Also, nice neighbours.
interviewer: And the bad things? Do you think there are any?
respondent 4: Yeah, of course. Sometimes there are, uh, Geluidsoverlast, we call it in Dutch. People that are disturbing.
interviewer: Yeah,
respondent 4: that, that is a problem.
Sometimes from, uh, from the neighbour above, I think. Yeah. He keeps hours a day, he's singing for Allah. It's very hard. And another guy, he's, in a few weeks, he's screaming outside, loud.
interviewer: What do you think about the outside places?
respondent 4: Outside? Uh, the cafes and stuff.
interviewer: Yeah, like, uh, maybe, um, like this place, like social squares. Are there any or is it enough?
respondent 4: I don't think it's really for social.
You should go to there, but it's just a few minutes walking.
I mean, here, I haven't seen people meeting here before.
interviewer: Yeah, it's very quiet.
respondent 4: Yeah.
interviewer: Um, how do you feel about, uh, like parking spaces? Is it too much? Is it not enough?
respondent 4: I think it's good. When I had a car, uh, I bought it.
interviewer: Oh, you have a car?
respondent 4: Nah, kind of. Oh, okay. Yeah, I borrowed it. But, uh, it was great. It has also a parking license.
So then you can park it everywhere. Yeah, and it's good, but if you don't can if you can't get the parking license, uh huh Then you pay like 100 euros a year.
interviewer: Oh, that's not a lot.
respondent 4: No, it's just our city now That's very cheap.
interviewer: Yeah. Yeah,
 How do you also feel about the green spaces here
respondent 4: they have plans for improving it That's good.
interviewer: Yeah, you want it to improve
respondent 4: yes yeah,
interviewer: yeah. Uh, what about any amenities like, uh, cafes or park to chill or a grocery store? Do you find that there is enough?
respondent 4: Yeah, but I think it's a small bike just outside of the center.
interviewer: Mm hmm.
respondent 4: I think people just walk to there.
interviewer: Mm hmm. Would you maybe like to see any more here or do you like it as it is now?
respondent 4: Yeah. Um, okay. Maybe for people that are, don't like to jog or walk, very lazy people, hard people.
interviewer: So you wouldn't mind if there would be more?
respondent 4: No, no.
interviewer: Do you feel also safe here?
respondent 4: Um, Pooh. Yeah, good one.
interviewer: You don't really know?
respondent 4: No.
interviewer: Oh, that's fine.
respondent 4: I feel safe, but you can always face the wrong people, I guess, at night, when you're walking.
They'll say, hey, we got a fight. Yeah, that's not a safe situation.
interviewer: Okay. So let me present you, uh, the changes that the city's proposing. Uh, this is kind of only a vision. It is not really stated in plans. It's just what city kind of want to do. And. Move from here. So the main thing that you can see is like at a greenery.

There is a lot of a connection with bedumweg . The street is going to be turned into like a huge park, having this road kind of in this shape will slow down the traffic and also other streets will connect. The parks with the greenery and they also plan to have a car parking, uh, decrease. So no, or like limited parking on the streets and only parking on the outskirts of the the neighborhood.

Uh, that will also create more spaces for the people in the streets or in the squares. So there's planned like, uh, this big square, which is the guard, the public, uh, garden. Uh, there'll be like no access to cars and only like a green park. And, uh, the access points from the north will be, uh, turned into more of a public square.

And also, the square near the train station will be kind of turned into social activity. Um, how do you feel about this?

respondent 4: Yeah, it's okay.

interviewer: Yeah?

respondent 4: If you can't come here with a car, it's a little bit, uh, venomous.

interviewer: Mhm.

respondent 4: Because, yeah, you put it in front, you go to the door and you are there. Yeah. But, uh But now, if you would like Park your car here.

interviewer: How would you feel about it?

respondent 4: Yeah, good.

interviewer: Yeah,

respondent 4: sure. Yeah, it looks very nice a little bit more green I think for children also good.

interviewer: Uh, so my research is also looking into the temporary changes that could be done so based on this, uh, I was looking on the locations of the access points here here and uh, kind of this angle where The change is gonna occur And I have few models of, uh, what can be done temporarily.

And I would like to see how do you think about it and if you would engage in these, um, these new interventions. So the first, uh, place is the access from the north. I don't know if you know [00:07:00] this place. Currently there is a fence and it is like not used at all. And it's been like that for a couple of years.

Uh, so. So it's like over here.

respondent 4: Oh, yeah. I think I know.

interviewer: Yeah. So, uh, this plan is showing, uh, like a kiosk situation, which will be only temporarily. So it can be removed or it can be placed in different places around the neighborhood to see how many people, uh, would actually go there if something like that would be changed here.

Do you think that this is like a good place or would you engage in here?

respondent 4: Yeah. And there some very good spots there.

interviewer: Mm-Hmm. .

Yeah.

respondent 4: I prove to walk.

interviewer: Mm-Hmm. .

Okay. You can also study there.

respondent 4: Yeah. Yeah. Like sit down and study. Oh. So yeah, yeah, yeah, it's also nice because you, you go out of your place.

interviewer: Mm-Hmm.

respondent 4: More people. It looks nice. That's a kiosk.

interviewer: And with that, uh, there is also in the close proximity in like here. There is a playground, which is not very used. It's, uh, small, so not many people can actually be there together. Uh, so there can be done like temporarily things for kids.

Uh, the visuals can enhance with like a art thing on the floor and the alleyway can also be interacted with. Uh, there is like an, I have another sketch somewhere. Uh, this. Yeah, something like this can be done temporarily to increase, uh, the children or families would actually go there. Uh, would you like to see this change in the neighborhood?

respondent 4: Yeah, this is good.

interviewer: Okay.

respondent 4: Yeah. This is the typical steegje, uh, this one, no? Oh yeah, this one. Yeah. Where you walk, uh, it looks like a ghetto city or town.

interviewer: Okay,

respondent 4: maybe that will, uh Partied up.

interviewer: Oh, yeah, yeah. Um, and the next thing is, since the parking spaces would be decreased, uh, many cities, what are they doing is using like this, Temporarily seating place, uh, it's called Parklet, uh, to, um, make more interactions with the surrounding for the people.

Uh, do you think that this is a good idea? Would it be some place that you would sit?

respondent 4: Well, I'm, I'm also curious if it would work.

interviewer: Mm-Hmm? . Why?

respondent 4: If people want to, uh, oh, okay. Sit there together and talk

interviewer: Uhhuh, .

respondent 4: I don't know. You don't think that it could happen? I don't know.

interviewer: Okay, okay, that's fine.

respondent 4: Maybe, maybe. Maybe we will, yeah.

interviewer: Okay, then, uh, when we're talking about the increasement of the green spaces, one challenge is that, like, it is quite narrow, so you cannot do much if you want still people to move around. If you put, like, a pot with the plants. It would be kind of hard to walk faster or like, um, walk around it.

So my plan is to do something vertical. Uh, do you think that this could, um, address the challenge of the green spaces? Would this be doable in this neighborhood?

respondent 4: What's the challenge?

interviewer: Like the challenge of low, uh, green spaces. So doing something like this vertically, do you think it's like, enough to do?

respondent 4: Yeah, good one. I think it's certainly a step, right?

interviewer: Mm

respondent 4: hmm. It's enough.

Yes, I don't think it doesn't really need that much. Because it's in the outskirts, kind of in the center.

interviewer: And since these all changes are only temporarily to kind of experiment with the, uh, public spaces outside. Um, how do you feel about it being here only for like two weeks or a few months to see how people interact with it? Would you like it to see it only for a few months?

respondent 4: People could interact with it?

interviewer: Yeah, like it's a experimental tool. So like you could put that here and see how people would interact with it. And when you see how people interact with it, you would put it back, like put it somewhere else. Like, it'll be only for a short time.

respondent 4: Yeah.

interviewer: How do you feel about this short time that it'll be?

respondent 4: Oh, yeah, sure.

interviewer: Yeah?

respondent 4: Yeah. You don't mind at all .

interviewer: Okay, okay.

respondent 4: It's just, um, uh, trying, right?

interviewer: Yeah, yeah. Okay, well, that is, uh, everything I wanted to ask you. Do you have any questions for me?

respondent 4: No, it's good.

interviewer: Okay. Uh, well, thank you so much. Uh, just to say again, it will be used anonymously, so I would not share the recording with anybody. It will only be transcribed, so, like, only the answers will be shared. Uh, in the analyzed way.

respondent 4: Yeah. Um, okay.

interviewer: Thank you so much.

respondent 4: Yeah, no problem. Yeah

Interview 5

interviewer: Um, hello, welcome to the interview, thanks for participating in this research, uh, could I just have you state that you confirm, uh, that you're aware that this is being recorded and that you're okay with it?

respondent 5: Yes, I am.

interviewer: Thank you. Could you also state your age, uh, gender, and how long you've been living in this neighborhood, and your occupation?

respondent 5: I am 40. I'm a full time worker and I've been living here for a few years. We've just, yeah, for a few years.

interviewer: Okay, um, so my research is looking into This neighborhood and analyzing the public spaces, particularly it is looking into the temporary changes that could be done to increase the quality of public spaces to have like a better transition towards what is planned by the city.

Um, The temporary changes could be modeled through some pop up shops or street art or street furniture for a short period of time. Um, the quality of spaces is referring to the safety and accessibility and enjoyment for everyone and the transitional neighborhood that I'm referring to is the change of the physical environment, uh, through the redevelopment.

Uh, do you understand these or do you need me to explain them more?

respondent 5: I think I got it.

interviewer: Okay Uh, so can you share maybe your thoughts on the current state of this neighborhood? What are um, would you like? What do you dislike about this neighborhood?

respondent 5: I think that it's Generally quite okay neighborhood just Because i'm a mother [00:02:00] Uh, I have to take my kids or like I like to take my kids to a playgrounds, but this Neighborhood really doesn't really provide us with anything like that, or if it does, it's really small and really far from where we live, uh, so therefore we have to go far to, um, yeah, to just go play out.

Um, another thing is,

interviewer: yeah, it's really,

respondent 5: I don't want to say polluted with cars, but there are But it's not really my issue. Like there is parking spaces, but it's not really my issue as I don't have a car. Um, but yeah, maybe some cafes could be implemented or like introduced into the neighborhood.

interviewer: How do you feel about the greenery? Is it enough or would you like to see more or what are your thoughts about it?

respondent 5: I think every neighborhood could welcome more green than there is. Just to, you know, um, refresh the air.

interviewer: Okay. Um, how do you feel about the safety of the neighborhood as a pedestrian?

respondent 5: I mean, it's not the greatest, but not the worst either. Like, there are some, um, Times when I don't feel safe, but yeah.

interviewer: Okay. Uh, well, the, why I'm asking you this is because the city is trying to implement changes to the neighborhood and they pointed out, uh, things that you also pointed out and their plan is to, um, increase the greenery, um, then also remove parking spaces from the streets. and create more social spaces between the streets, uh, for social interactions. So one place is up the north, uh, where they, where there is the main access. Uh, this place could be turned into kind of social plaza, uh, and also on the south where the train station is, they are also planning to create more social spaces. But within the other streets, uh, more greenery, when the more greenery will be added, few playgrounds could actually, uh, play a role. Like here, here, and here. Um, and my research is looking into how, uh, this is perceived. Uh, so could you maybe have, like, your, what are your thoughts about this?

respondent 5: Um, I really like the fact that you're trying to introduce more playgrounds. And like more greenery as that is what I find the most important currently for my children and for their safety.

interviewer: Okay, great. So, uh, based on this, uh, vision that the city has, uh, I did, uh, research into the temporary changes that could be done and I modeled them within, uh, a few places. One is here in the north, one is in the south, and then I look into this street and also this part, uh, on implementation of temporary changes. Uh, let's start with the north access. Uh, so this is my vision of the temporary change that can be done. It is a kiosk designed to be only temporarily there so it can be removed and can be placed to different places quite easily. And also the chairs are movable so it is all very, um, very flexible within the space. Uh, this would kind of, um, model a public space where people could interact. Since there is not a coffee shop within the neighborhood, uh, people could have like additional amenity in the neighborhood. How do you feel about this? Would you like to have this? Would you engage in it?

respondent 5: I really like it. Um, And I really like the fact that as you said it could be moved around to different parts of the neighborhood So everyone could have like an easy access

interviewer: Okay um, and then uh Also within the proximity, um since there is the playground A next, uh, thing to be modeled is this playground and how it can be more inviting to children, how, uh, children can engage more. Since you have kids, how do you feel about this? Would you like different changes or do you like the design of this? Would you like, uh, specific things to be added?

respondent 5: I like that it's colorful, for sure, because I think that's really engaging also for the children, too. Like it more but maybe what I would also um Appreciate would be like more swings more like, uh carousel types um Things I don't know how to call it at the playground just to have it like More because this seems a bit sad.

interviewer: Um, and also the fact that this is only temporarily, so it would only be here put into, for example, a few weeks or even a month. Uh, how do you feel about that? Would you still want it to be only for a few, few, only for a short term, like a few weeks?

respondent 5: I guess so, yes, but I have a question then, like, would you move? Like, would this stay? Like, where else would this be? Like, would this be completely removed if it was to be removed?

interviewer: Yeah, since, uh, since the city is actually, uh, making different plans, I'm only modeling temporary changes for the transition. So, uh, what can be done in the meanwhile for this transition, so it will be moved. Because different things will take place, but this would kind of show, uh, the city and also the citizen how the places want to be used by the residents.

respondent 5: Okay, okay. Thank you.

interviewer: Um, and also since the parking spaces will be decreased in number, Uh, many cities, what they're doing in this situation is putting, uh, different things into the parking spaces, for example, uh, for example, street furniture, such as this in a picture. And, um, this is basically a seating place with, uh, planting, uh, greenery. How do you feel? Would you engage in it?

respondent 5: I think it's really nice to have places to sit around in the neighborhood, uh, So maybe yes, probably. Okay. The only thing that I think would be also important to put in there is a trash can so people don't pollute.

interviewer: Okay. That's good. Um, and within the challenge of having, um, low number of the green spaces. The city is also proposing to connect all the green, uh, parks with, uh, the streets, uh, and put more greenery in it. Well, this is a nice thought, but it is actually quite challenging since the streets are narrow, as you may know. And, uh, so a few proposals can come up with, uh, the vertical use, uh, but sometimes, uh, the city wants to implement, like, green roofs. Uh, which can be cost and, um, can, can have high cost and also, uh, are for longer time to be implemented. So for the temporary changes, something like this, a structure can be put into the streets. Um, and the greenery would be kind of hang there. How do you feel about this? Would you actually appreciate it? Or you don't mind? What's being done?

respondent 5: It's a really nice I'm sorry. It's a really nice touch, the only thing I would be concerned about is that getting vandalized even though if it's like for a very short period of time, or like the plants getting stolen, or like also another, who would be taking care of that. Um, so.

interviewer: Yeah, yeah, there are valid questions, yeah. Um, and coming up to the last location is the train station plaza, which, uh, is, uh, which people want to see, uh, changes in there, and that could be done, um, That could be done, uh, by also implementing few kiosks that are only there for temporary use. Um, also putting maybe not only coffee shop but different uses for these kiosks as like a, a shop for vegetables or whatever, uh, the businesses would, would like to put in.
Um, do you think that this is something you would engage in?

respondent 5: Since we don't really live where the trains, like, station, train station is located, um, I'm not really sure because also, like, I really like the idea of the pop up, like, vegetable stands as, like, our neighborhood really likes, really likes, really lacks access to supermarkets.

Not, like, But there is no supermarket in the neighborhood. So maybe if this was like placed in different places throughout the neighborhood, then yes, definitely.

interviewer: Okay, uh, thank you so much for your input. Uh, this is basically, uh, all that I wanted to ask you. If you have any other questions for me, maybe?

respondent 5: No, but I really appreciate the work that you are doing, even though it's just a project. So I wish you good luck.

interviewer: Thank you so much. Uh, just to confirm, uh, this is recorded, which you said you're okay with, uh, and it will be used in anonymous manner. So this is, this recording will not be published. Uh, it will be only transcribed and the data from the transcription will be, um, used for, uh, my bachelor thesis. So thank you so much for participation and have a nice day.

respondent 5: You too.

Interview 6

Interviewer: So hello. Thanks for participating in my research that is focused on this neighborhood, particularly, and, um, mostly on the public spaces and how you think that they are and what can be done to change them. Can you confirm that you're aware that you're being recorded and that your response is going to be used for this research only anonymously?

Respondent 6: Yes.

Interviewer: Thank you. Can you also state your gender, age, occupation, and how long have you been living in the neighborhood?

Respondent 6: I am 21. I'm a fema 22. I am a female. And, um, I'm a full time student and part time worker. And, um, I've been living in this neighborhood for the last three years.

Interviewer: Uh, So, let me just, um, Say a bit more about the research concepts that I'm using.
So it is basically looking into the temporary urbanism, which is a method or tool used into the public spaces of the neighborhood, which refers to testing of short term changes in public spaces to see how they improve life in a neighborhood. Uh, and this could be done by using street furniture, pop up stores, uh, street art or other things that are only placed there temporarily.
Uh, then I'm looking into the quality of public spaces, which basically refers to the public areas, safety, accessibility, and enjoyment. And, uh, this is done because of the transition that this neighborhood is planned to go through, uh, which is also the term that my research is looking into and that refers to the changing of the physical environment through redevelopment.
Um, Do you understand these or should I explain them a bit more?

Respondent 6: No, I think it's pretty clear.

Interviewer: Okay, so can you share maybe your thoughts on the current state of the neighborhood, what you like and dislike?

Respondent 6: I, what I really like or like what I appreciate is the fact that the neighborhood itself is not really far from the city center, so it's quite accessible in this way.
However, um, there is not that much going on in the neighborhood or like, there is not that many places to go to as it's mainly just houses and, uh, yeah, apartments.

Interviewer: Okay, how do you feel about, uh, the greenery, uh, in this neighborhood?

Respondent 6: Yeah, like, along the streets there, like, we have a trace but what I really do miss, it's like maybe Parks. I know there is like the Nordernplantsoen pretty close But it's also really nice to have like a space like that within the neighborhood doesn't necessarily have to be big But something that makes it feel more

Interviewer: Local?

Respondent 6: Yeah, where people could meet up where people could hang out.

Interviewer: Hmm. And what about the Parking spaces.
Do you feel like they're useful? Would you like to see more or less?

Respondent 6: I think, for me personally, it doesn't really affect me as I don't own a car. But sometimes it gets too much with the cars and like, it's also kind of a neighborhood where a lot of families live. So maybe that's, in that sense, it's a bit, could be a bit dangerous or like, restricting, but I don't know, I don't really have a very strong opinion about that.

Interviewer: And how do you feel about the safety as a pedestrian in the streets?

Respondent 6: I mean, the country, the country, the neighborhood itself is not bad or like not unsafe, but of course, there are some interactions that are, um, A bit sketchy, but other than that, it's fine.

Interviewer: Okay. So thank you for answering these questions.
And I was asking you this because municipality of Croningham was also looking into the challenges that the neighborhood experiencing and few of that you mentioned are seen by the Croningham too. And what they are proposing is a plan for the neighborhood, which this is kind of the vision. They're Um, they're coming up for and you can see that they're implementing a lot of new spaces for the greenery, uh, having two major parks along this side and, uh, having other streets, uh, bringing more greenery to connecting it to the parks and that will allow.
Also for more recreation in the parks. Um, next on is reducing the number of parking spaces, which basically, um, puts all the parking spaces on the outskirts only, and that will create more spaces for the people to interact at the streets.
Uh, so therefore these places are kind of seen as the new social grounds, uh, where there are planned for, uh, social interactions.
And kind of creating the identity for the locals. Uh, what do you think about these?

Respondent 6: I really like the fact that there is going to be parks, uh, or like that there is the idea of having parks. Uh, one thing that I can see or like there might be a possibility that the people are not going to like the fact that the people's car parking spaces are going to be decreased within the neighborhood is like a lot of people own cars.
So that may be like the only issue or like, would it be compensated with the number of parking spaces on the outskirts? Or like,

Interviewer: I'm not really sure because this is only the vision that they're proposing, but I'm pretty sure like there will be an increase of parking spaces. But definitely cannot fit, uh, all the parking spaces that are within the neighborhood into these, so I'm not quite sure on that.
Um, okay, so thank you for sharing your opinions about this. Um, based on this, um, vision that the city proposed, uh, uh, my research were also looking into the temporary changes that I mentioned, uh, that could be done within this transition of the neighborhood. And, uh, can I present you with a few of the models, model changes that my research is proposing and can I get opinion on like what you think, what you like, what you dislike, what you engage in those, or do you think like they're not useful at all?
So the first one is actually the access point from the north, uh, where there is currently, um, a fence. And nothing is going on in that fence area. It's only greenery. Is unused, um, and within the amenities that are in the neighborhood, which is pretty low. Um, my proposal is to only test this with, uh, with a kiosk situation, uh, where there can be a coffee shop or an ice cream shop or different uses can be, uh, put there. And this area would become more of an social ground. There's quite a lot of space, but there is also a traffic that is kind of busy, uh, going this to the north of the Groningen. Uh, how do you feel about this?
Would you engage? Is there something that you would change or not do at all?

Respondent 6: Me personally, I would definitely engage because I like to have a cup of coffee or ice cream. So I think this is a really nice idea to have within the neighborhood, maybe even more kiosks because it's just nice to have stuff since there is nothing really much here and everyone likes to have, or at least I assume a lot of people like to have.
Um, access or easy access to like cafes or restaurants or stuff like that for leisure.

Interviewer: Okay, so the second area is the area right next to it where there is a little playground that, uh, it's not fully used. It's, it's. Sometimes used by families and Children, uh, but the area is not so much inviting as to looking into the urban design.
So this proposal, as you can see, is introducing some of the art that is going to be put on the ground, uh, pop up of things to encourage more activities towards Children. Uh, and some experimental installation is like this, um, alleyway. Which can increase the number from also the surrounding area, uh, for the children to interact with.
Um, I know that you don't have children, but how would you feel if, uh, Increasement of the playgrounds would be added to the neighborhood, so more children would be in the streets?

Respondent 6: Uh, so yeah, as you said, it's not really something that affects me, but it's something that affects a lot of families that live within this neighborhood with children.
I like the fact that it is colorful and that it's it seems really engaging and really nice. So I think People would appreciate this as there is not that many playgrounds around here

Interviewer: Would you appreciate seeing more children in the streets yourself?

Respondent 6: Very controversial question Yeah, I think it's just even if it doesn't affect me affect me it's something that It's really useful and really good for the community to build relationships from the very young age.

Interviewer: Uh, so within the increasement of the green spaces, even though there are a few parks to be established, uh, there are changes within all of the streets to increase green spaces and they can be quite difficult when you see how narrow the streets are. So My proposal is also introducing vertical interventions Where, uh, you can see this is kind of a pergola situation where the greenery is, uh, hanging and they would create not much as a hinder towards the space.
And, um, it is aiming at the increasement of the biodiversity and green spaces overall. How would you feel? Would you like these changes or you don't mind at all?

Respondent 6: I would, like, I I personally really, really like flowers and really like plants. So this is like a nice, um, touch up to the, to the streets. So yeah, I wouldn't mind at all.

Interviewer: Oh, that's good. Um, and then also when the parking spaces are going to be, uh, reused. That creates more space that can be done in the streets. How would you feel of a situation where there would be a street furniture put into these parking spaces? Would you engage in it?

Respondent 6: I think definitely as this neighborhood, as I said, that there is not really many places to just sit down and chill out.
So I think this is even if you wanted to take a break or like maybe you wanted to hang out with a friend But don't want to go too far. This is like a really nice spot As there would not be probably as many cars, uh frequenting.

Interviewer: Is there something maybe you can you would change about the design? Or is it okay with you?

Respondent 6: Um, I think personally, I don't know how durable the wood is But from my personal experience wood couldn't do that deteriorate very quickly. So maybe just some other material.

Interviewer: Um, and the last location is, uh, at the train station. Also kind of seen as an access point to the neighborhood because the parking is going to be located in there.
And what the municipality is trying to do is have like a social plaza there. Um, so my, uh, proposal is also doing field, the kiosk, um, they could have different uses. Um, this area is used mainly just for people to, uh, go to the train station. Uh, there is no sitting down. There is a restaurant, but it's not so much used.
Uh, I don't, I'm not really sure if you interact with this area, but if this will be introduced will you?

Respondent 6: I don't really take trains, so I'm not really in that area ever. Um, but I think what I really like about it is the vegetable pop up store or like the kiosk. And I think it would be nice to have it in more places around or like at least a couple because the nearest supermarket that we have here is either Yumbo or Lidl, which is pretty good.

Pretty quite far when you just want to go out and quickly get something, so.

Interviewer: Okay, and, uh, basically all of these changes that I, uh, showed you in the pictures are only gonna be used as like temporarily, uh, to experiment with the area. How would you feel if these changes would occur in different places for a shorter time?
Would you still like to see them or would you see it as like hinder to the environment?

Respondent 6: I think it's always really like nice to see changes like that because everyone likes leisure Everyone likes their free time. Mm hmm. And I think it's very important to spend some time like outside instead of inside, so maybe this would Invite more people to engage within a community of this neighborhood.
Even if it's just transitional, because you have to start the building the community somewhere.

Interviewer: Yeah. Uh, also do you think that, uh, these interventions could address any of the challenges that you talk about?

Respondent 6: In which way? What do you mean?

Interviewer: Uh, like the challenges that you mentioned that, uh, What you like about the neighborhood, what you don't like about the neighborhood.

Respondent 6: I mean, I like to have a cup of coffee. So if the kiosks were here, also the parks, I like to spend time out. But if I don't want to go too far, this is a very nice, welcoming change, even if it's for a short period of time.

Interviewer: Okay, great. Well, that is it. Thank you for the participation. And just to um, Preface again that this is not going to be, uh, shared with anybody, the recording only, uh, the answers will be analyzed and the analysis will be shared.
Uh, so it is going to be also used in an anonymous manner. Um, and yeah, thank you so much. If you have any questions for me, maybe.

Respondent 6: Do you see this as like a realistic plan that could work? The city of Groningen could, um, how do I say it? What's that word? Uh, could, like, go through with it.

Interviewer: Mm hmm. Oh, well, I think that it does not only depend on the city, but also on the neighborhood initiative. So, uh, if there would be something that more citizens would actually voice their opinions about like we want this and that, uh, there'll be a stronger will from the city to execute these decisions. Uh, but yeah, many of these could be actually done when you think that the traffic is going to be, uh, lowered.
Um, there will be a natural, uh, natural systems of the city to perform other things within the area. But as like other plans go many times, not everything is executed as it was shown. So I'm also curious how far it can be done. But also this is within so many years to come. So yeah, can change also.

Respondent 6: Yeah.
Yeah. That's, that's all I wanted to know.

Interviewer: Okay. Thanks.

Appendix 3: De Hoogte Interviews' Analysis

	1 Interview 1.docx ⊙ 11	2 Interview 2.docx ⊙ 6	5 Interview 3.docx ⊙ 6	3 Interview 4.docx ⊙ 7	6 Interview 5.docx ⊙ 10	4 Interview 6.docx ⊙ 7	Totals
🗀 neighborhood pe... ◇ 9 ⊙ 21	5	2	3	5	3	3	21
🗀 challenges ◇ 2 ⊙ 8	1		1	3	1	2	8
◇ physical challenges ⊙ 5	1		1		1	2	5
◇ social challenges ⊙ 3				3			3
🗀 needs/desires ◇ 4 ⊙ 9	4	1	1	1	2		9
◇ fewer parking spaces ⊙ 1	1						1
◇ more amenities ⊙ 2	1		1				2
◇ more greenery ⊙ 4	1	1		1		1	4
◇ more places for children ⊙ 2	1				1		2
🗀 strenghts ◇ 3 ⊙ 4		1	1	1		1	4
◇ calmness ⊙ 1		1					1
◇ location ⊙ 3			1	1		1	3
◇ social ⊙ 0							0
🗀 opinions about te... ◇ 6 ⊙ 24	6	4	3	2	5	4	24
◇ concerns ⊙ 3	2			1			3
◇ interest in engagement... ⊙ 6	1	1	1	2		1	6
◇ interest in engagement... ⊙ 1					1		1
◇ interest in engagement... ⊙ 6		2	1		1	2	6
◇ interest in engagement... ⊙ 4	1		1		1	1	4
◇ suggestions ◇ 4	2	1			1		4
Totals	27	14	15	19	19	17	111

Figure 11: analysis of coded interviews

Appendix 4: Interview guide for Lausitzer Platz location

•	Introduction of researchers/students: Name, occupation, nationality
"Hello, We are researching the Lausitzer Platz and its quality of public spaces and would like to know about your perception of this neighborhood." (Assuring voluntary participation)

- How come you're here at Lausitzer Platz and not any of the surrounding public spaces?
- In regards to activities in Lausitzer Platz, what do you do, with whom, and when?
- Have you seen any changes in the area over the last few years? If so, how has it changed from then to now? How has it changed people's behavior in how they socialize there?
- Do you have any perception of how social life changes from day to night? Is there any difference?
- Would you say that everybody is welcome here, or are some groups of people excluded?
- Do you have anything you would like to change with the area?

Appendix 5: Interview notes from Lausitzer Platz

Interview #1 (LAUSITZER PLATZ) Worker, cleaner
- Gorlitzer Park is not great, so everybody who comes to Lausitzer Platz becomes overcrowded sometimes.
- It is worse because drug use has increased.
- The planning process is more informative than in the past but still not so much consulting residents rather than informing, very unclear about the process.
- The main activities in the early hours are children playing and dog-walking
- Even with the campaign against trash, no change was observed from maintenance workers.

Interview #2 (LAUSITZER PLATZ) Woman, grandmother
- Does not live here but visits
- Positive feeling because it's safe, no cars are positive change, cleaner compared to elsewhere.
- Feels like living room, playing room, children's room
- It is now a family-friendly neighborhood; a lot of families are living here

- Very positive and personal feeling, everyone takes care of others, a lot of people know each other (social meeting point)
- Feeling really safe
- Likes cafès and restaurants
- Multicultural feeling
- Negative views are drugs but not enough to discourage coming here, became worse, the problem for children.

Interview #3 (LAUSITZER PLATZ), Tourist
- Come to eat breakfast here, and they are staying somewhere else
- Perceived the space as quite social today, with kids, people walking
- More bicycle zones in this part of the city and other parts should be improved by this example.

Interview #4 (LAUSITZER PLATZ), School social worker
- Works in the area
- Does not spend free time here except when kids are free from school + play basketball, and eat ice cream as social interaction.
- Thorough traffic before, but nicer now with no cars and more trashcans, which is a positive
- Good street for kids
- The place is for everyone
- No changes are needed; it is fine now
- it is going in the right direction
- Teachers have implied that this area is good, but the surrounding area around Görli is very different and worse than Lausitzer Platz.

Interviews #5 (LAUSITZER PLATZ), Bookstore worker
- He is here because he works here
- Hang out here with friends, play table tennis with kids
- Changes to Pedestrian Street in 2020, only been here for 2 year
- During the day, school and kids make it busy the days
- Evenings are busy until 22, then it is dead
- No experience of exclusion
- Happy with the area, and no changes are needed
- Changes that are in the talks, like more greenery, are welcome

Interview #6 (LAUSITZER PLATZ), Bar workers in their 30s
- Did not recognize change; feels like it is the same
- Not often here at night
- Nothing needs to be changed

Interview #7 (LAUSITZER PLATZ), Worker in their 20s
- Going to work in the area
- Meeting friends, working, good life
- Higher prices, more trash, good changes in the spring, people are coming here more, and with more kids
- Sometimes people are rude now, not everyone, in general, nice people, even homeless people.
- No change needed
- Feels like everyone is welcomed
- For one or two weeks, I would do a market and music over the summer, three months, gathering a neighborhood.

Interview #8 (LAUSITZER PLATZ), Resident couple in 20s
- Nearest to home, nice meeting place
- Smoke joints, drink beer, play ping pong, sit with friends, or rarely chill alone.
- Always the same: change between winter and summer (nobody in winter)
- During the daytime, families and children are in the area; during the night party crowd
- Not open for people with disabilities but more accessible for disabilities now with changes to the area, more open for everyone, more green areas instead of sands

Interview #9 (LAUSITZER PLATZ), Resident girls in teenage years
- Girls skipping school
- Perceived it as a beautiful plaza
- People can do what they want here; they are not discouraged from using drugs.
- More people at night
- More respectful people

Interview #10 (LAUSITZER PLATZ), Senior couple
- Waiting for daughter, something to eat
- The area seems dirtier now

Interview #11 (LAUSITZER PLATZ), Resident adult couple
- Lived here a long time
- Difficult to change apartments now, and have to keep it, more tourists, higher prices, homeless drugs after COVID
- Don't go out at night with a small child, because around the park it is not safe, and definitely not the surrounding area as Gorlitze Park.
- Everybody welcome
- Changes need to be made in helping addicts, making it safe for kids and development, and planting more trees.
- Great cars cannot go.

Interview #12 (LAUSITZER PLATZ), Resident teenage students
- In a group of friends (4)
- Students here
- Hang out, skip school
- Did not change much
- People are the same
- We don't go out here at night because it is not a young people - teens hotspot.
- Everybody is welcome here, but it is a chilled area
- Changes that could be made are more clean and maintained and making areas more green

Interview #13 (LAUSITZER PLATZ), Resident 20yrs
- Work and live here
- Friends, beer drinking, restaurants, relaxing
- A lot of change and gentrification a lot - examples of food market hall, cafes, bars, and original places that are not here anymore
- People change
- Now more crazy drunks and druggers, but still feels very safe
- There is a little bit dark way
- It is open-minded - More kids

Appendix 6: Code Document Analysis of Interviews at Lausitze Platz

		1 Interview 1	2 Interview 2	4 Interview 3	5 Interview 4	6 Interview 5	7 Interview 6
		3	9	2	2	1	1
◇ Negative	11	3					
◇ Neutral	3		1				1
◇ Positive	20		5	2	2	1	
Totals		3	6	2	2	1	1

		8 Interview 7	9 Interview 8	10 Interview 9	11 Interview 10	12 Interview 11	13 Interview 12	14 Interview 13	Totals
		4	3	1	1	5	1	5	
◇ Negative	11	2	1		1	2		2	11
◇ Neutral	3						1		3
◇ Positive	20	2	2	1		2	1	2	20
Totals		4	3	1	1	4	1	5	34

Appendix 7: Detailed categories and scores for the Public Space Quality Index in De Hoogte

Radar chart axes: Meaningful activities, Comfort, Safety, Pleasurability, Inclusiveness (scale 30 / 20 / 0)

Public Space Index, Lasitzer Platz

	Score	Max Score
Inclusiveness	15.2	30
Meaningful activities	12	30
Comfort	11	30
Safety	15	30
Pleasurability	12	30

No	Variables	Score	Weight	Result
1	Presence of people of diverse ages	1	0.4	0.4
2	Presence of people of different genders	3	0.4	1.2
3	Presence of people of diverse classes	2	0.4	0.8
4	Presence of people of diverse races	2	0.4	0.8
5	Presence of people with diverse physical abilities	0	0.4	0
6	Control of entrance to public space: lockable gates, fences etc	1	1	1
7	Range of activities and behaviours	1	1	1
8	Opening hours of public space	3	1	3
9	Presence of posted signs to exclude certain people/behaviours	1	1	1
10	Presence of surveillance cameras, security guards, guides etc	3	1	3
11	Perceived openness and accessibility	1	2	2
12	Perceived ability to conduct and participate in activities and events in space	1	1	1
13	Presence of community-gathering third places	1	2	2
14	Range of activities and behaviours	0	1	0
15	Space flexibility and suit user needs	1	1	1
16	Availability of food within or at the edges of the space	2	2	4
17	Variety of business and other uses at the edges of the space	1	2	2
18	Perceived suitability of space layout and design to activities and behavior	1	2	2
19	Perceived usefulness of business and other uses	1	1	1
20	Places to sit without paying for goods and activities	1	2	2
21	Seating provided by the bussines	1	1	1
22	Other furniture and artifacts in the space	1	1	1
23	Climatic comfort of the space- shade and shelter	1	2	2
24	Design elements discouraging use of space	1	1	1
25	Perceived physical condition and maintenance appropriate for the space	1	2	2
26	Perceived nuisance noise from traffic or otherwise	2	1	2
27	Visual and physical connection/openness to adjacent streets or spaces	2	1	2
28	Physical condition and maintenance appropriate for the space	1	1	1
29	Lighting quality in space after dark	1	1	1
30	Perceived safety from the presence of surveillance cameras, security guards, etc.	1	1	1
31	Perceived safety from crime during daytime	2	2	4
32	Perceived safety from crime after dark	1	2	2
33	Perceived safety from traffic	2	2	4
34	Presence of memorable architectural or landscape features	2	1	2
35	Sense of enclosure	2	1	2
36	Permeability of building facades on the streetfront	2	1	2
37	Personalization of the buildings on the streetfront	1	1	1
38	Articulation and variety in architectural features for building facades	1	1	1
39	Density of elements on sidewalk/street providing sensory complexity	2	1	2
40	Variety of elements on sidewalk/street providing sensory complexity	2	1	2
41	Perceived attractiveness of space	0	1	0
42	Perceived interestingness of space	0	1	0

Total 65.2
Percentage 43.47%
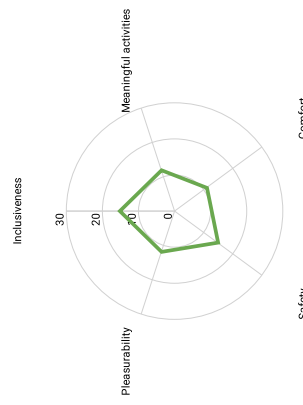
Appendix 8: Detailed categories and scores for the Public Space Quality Index in Lasitzer Platz

Radar chart axes: Meaningful activities, Comfort, Safety, Pleasurability, Inclusiveness (scale 30 / 10 / 0)

Public Space Index, Lasitzer Platz

	Score	Max Score
Inclusiveness	23.6	30
Meaningful activities	25.5	30
Comfort	21	30
Safety	19	30
Pleasurability	22.25	30

No	Variables	Score	Weight	Result
1	Presence of people of diverse ages	1.5	0.4	0.6
2	Presence of people of different genders	3	0.4	1.2
3	Presence of people of diverse classes	2.5	0.4	1
4	Presence of people of diverse races	2.5	0.4	1
5	Presence of people with diverse physical abilities	0.5	0.4	0.2
6	Control of entrance to public space: lockable gates, fences, etc	2	1	2
7	Range of activities and behaviors	3	1	3
8	Opening hours of public space	2	1	2
9	Presence of posted signs to exclude certain people/behaviours	2	1	2
10	Presence of surveillance cameras, security guards, guides etc.	3	1	3
11	Perceived openness and accessibility	2.5	1	2.5
12	Perceived ability to conduct and participate in activities and events in space	2	1	2
13	Presence of community-gathering third places	3	2	6
14	Range of activities and behaviors	2	1	2
15	Space flexibility and suit user needs	1.5	1	1.5
16	Availability of food within or at the edges of the space	3	2	6
17	Variety of business and other uses at the edges of the space	3	1	3
18	Perceived suitability of space layout and design to activities and behavior	2	2	4
19	Perceived usefulness of business and other uses	3	1	3
20	Places to sit without paying for goods and activities	2	2	4
21	Seating provided by business	3	1	3
22	Other furniture and artifacts in the space	1	1	1
23	Climatic comfort of the space- shade and shelter	3	2	6
24	Design elements discouraging use of space	2.5	1	2.5
25	Perceived physical condition and maintenance appropriate for the space	2	1	2
26	Perceived nuisance noise from traffic or otherwise	3	1	3
27	Visual and physical connection/openness to adjacent streets or spaces	2	1	2
28	Physical condition and maintenance appropriate for the space	2	1	2
29	Lighting quality in space after dark	1	1	1
30	Perceived safety from the presence of surveillance cameras, security guards, etc.	2	1	2
31	Perceived safety from crime during daytime	2	1	2
32	Perceived safety from crime after dark	2	2	4
33	Perceived safety from traffic	2.5	2	5
34	Presence of memorable architecture or landscape features	2	0.7	1.4
35	Sense of enclosure	2	0.7	1.4
36	Variety of sub-spaces	3	0.7	2.1
37	The density of elements in space provides sensory complexity	3	0.7	2.1
38	Variety of elements in space providing sensory complexity	3	0.7	2.1
39	Design elements providing focal points	0.5	0.7	0.35
40	Visual and physical connection/openness to adjacent streets or spaces	2	0.7	1.4
41	Permeability of building facades on the streetfront	2	0.7	1.4
42	Personalization of the buildings on the streetfront	3	0.7	2.1
43	Articulation and variety in architectural features of building facades	2	0.7	1.4
44	Perceived attractiveness of space	2	2	4
45	Perceived interestingness of space	2.5	1	2.5

Total 111.35
Percentage 74.23%